

# Statistics of the Zeta zeros: Mesoscopic and macroscopic phenomena

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# The Riemann Zeta function

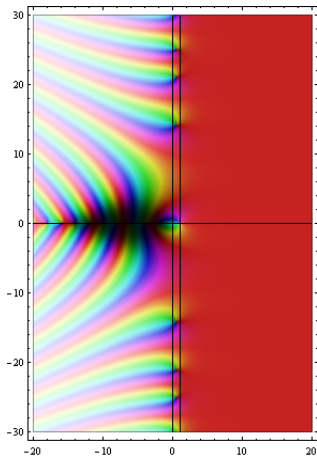
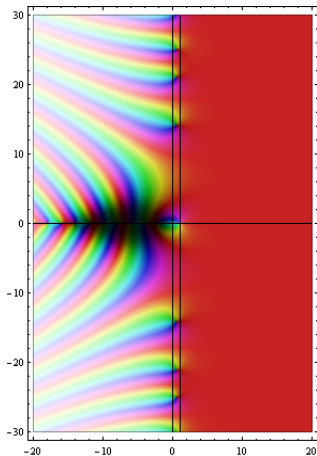


Figure:  $\zeta(s)$ . Hue is argument, brightness is modulus. Made with Jan Homann's ComplexGraph Mathematica code.

- Non-trivial zeros: those with real part in  $(0, 1)$ .
- First few:  
 $\frac{1}{2} + i14.13, \frac{1}{2} + i21.02, \frac{1}{2} + i25.01$ .
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- We assume the Riemann Hypothesis in what follows: all nontrivial zeros have the form  $\frac{1}{2} + i\gamma$ , for  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- Around height  $T$ , zeros have density roughly  $\log T/2\pi$ . More precisely:

## Theorem (Riemann - von Mangoldt)

$$\begin{aligned} N(T) &= \#\{\gamma \in (0, T), \zeta(\tfrac{1}{2} + i\gamma) = 0\} \\ &= \frac{T}{2\pi} \log\left(\frac{T}{2\pi}\right) - \frac{T}{2\pi} + O(\log T) \end{aligned}$$

# 1 and 2-level density

- **1-level density:** For large random  $s \in [T, 2T]$  and  $dx$  small,

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- **2-level density (pair correlation):** Does the presence of one zero in a location affect the likelihood of other zeros being nearby?

Conjecture:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}\left(\text{one } \gamma \in s + \frac{2\pi}{\log T} [x, x + dx], \text{ one } \gamma' \in s + \frac{2\pi}{\log T} [y, y + dy]\right) \\ \sim \left(1 - \left(\frac{\sin \pi(x-y)}{\pi(x-y)}\right)^2\right) dx dy \end{aligned}$$

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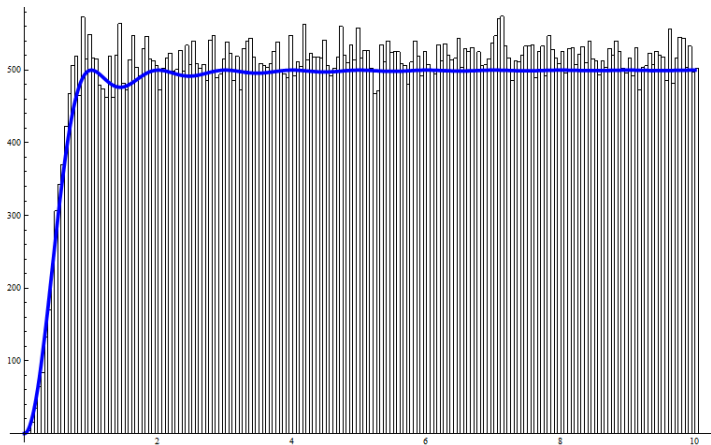
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- $1 - \left(\frac{\sin \pi(x-y)}{\pi(x-y)}\right)^2 \approx 0$  when  $x \approx y$ , so very low likelihood of two zeros being much nearer than average.
- Compare probability  $dx dy$  for poisson process.

# A histogram of the pair correlation conjecture



**Figure:** A histogram of  $\frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma - \gamma')$  for the first 10000 zeros, in intervals of size .05, compared to the appropriately scaled prediction  $1 - \left(\frac{\sin \pi x}{\pi x}\right)^2$ .



- **k-level density:** Conjecture:

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{one } \gamma_1 \in s + \frac{2\pi}{\log T} [x_1, x_1 + dx_1], \text{ one } \gamma_2 \in s + \frac{2\pi}{\log T} [x_2, x_2 + dx_2], \\ \dots, \text{ one } \gamma_k \in s + \frac{2\pi}{\log T} [x_k, x_k + dx_k])$$

$$\sim \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & S(x_1 - x_2) & \cdots & S(x_1 - x_k) \\ S(x_2 - x_1) & 1 & \cdots & S(x_2 - x_k) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ S(x_k - x_1) & S(x_k - x_2) & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix} dx_1 dx_2 \cdots dx_k$$

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where  $S(x) = \frac{\sin \pi x}{\pi x}$ .

- This is the same probability as

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{\log T}{2\pi} (\gamma_1 - s) \in [x_1, x_1 + dx_1], \dots, \frac{\log T}{2\pi} (\gamma_k - s) \in [x_k, x_k + dx_k]\right)$$

# A more formal statement and a comparison with the unitary group

More formally:

## Conjecture (GUE)

For fixed  $k$  and fixed  $\eta$  (Schwartz, say)

$$\frac{1}{T} \int_T^{2T} \sum_{\substack{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k \\ \text{distinct}}} \eta\left(\frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma_1 - s), \dots, \frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma_k - s)\right) ds \sim \int_{\mathbb{R}^k} \eta(x) \det_{k \times k}(S(x_i - x_j)) d^k x$$

This is known to be the case for unitary matrices. Let  $\mathcal{U}(N)$  be the Haar-probability space of  $N \times N$  random unitary matrices  $g$ , and label  $g$ 's eigenvalues  $\{e^{i2\pi\theta_1}, \dots, e^{i2\pi\theta_N}\}$  with  $\theta_j \in [-1/2, 1/2)$  for all  $j$ .

## Theorem (Dyson-Weyl)

For fixed  $k$  and  $\eta$ ,

$$\int_{\mathcal{U}(N)} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_k \\ \text{distinct}}} \eta(N\theta_{i_1}, \dots, N\theta_{i_k}) dg \sim \int_{\mathbb{R}^k} \eta(x) \det_{k \times k}(S(x_i - x_j)) d^k x$$

- The GUE conjecture implies: Given any fixed interval  $J$ , the random variable

$$\#_J\left(\left\{\frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma - s)\right\}\right) \quad s \in [T, 2T]$$

and the random variable

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# GUE restated

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- The GUE conjecture is *equivalent* to: For any fixed test function  $\eta$ , piecewise continuous and with compact support, the random variable

$$\sum_{\gamma} \eta\left(\frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma - s)\right)$$

and the random variable

$$\sum_j \eta(N\theta_j)$$

tend in distribution as  $T, N \rightarrow \infty$  to the same random variable.

For certain band-limited test functions, the GUE conjecture is known (on RH) to be true.

## Theorem (Montgomery, Hejhal, Rudnick-Sarnak)

For fixed  $k$  and  $\eta$  with  $\text{supp } \hat{\eta} \in \{y : |y_1| + \dots + |y_k| < 2\}$

$$\frac{1}{T} \int_T^{2T} \sum_{\substack{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k \\ \text{distinct}}} \eta\left(\frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma_1 - s), \dots, \frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma_k - s)\right) ds \sim \int_{\mathbb{R}^k} \eta(x) \det_{k \times k}(S(x_i - x_j)) d^k x$$

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If we limit our knowledge to what I have so far talked about, we suffer two restrictions:

(1) We can't say anything rigorous about the distribution of zeros when we 'count' with test functions that are too oscillatory (too narrowly concentrated, that is, by the uncertainty principle) at the microscopic level.

(2) We can't say anything about the distribution of zeros when counted by test functions that are not essentially supported at the microscopic level. We can't say anything, for instance, about the effect the position of a zero will have on the statistics of a zero a distance of 1 away.



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**Philosophy:** (1) is a serious obstruction to our knowledge of zeta statistics, (2) is not. Any question that can be asked about zeta zeros, provided answering it does not require counting with functions that are “too oscillatory” in the microscopic regime, can be rigorously answered.

## Theorem (Fujii)

Let  $n(T)$  be a function  $\rightarrow \infty$  as  $T \rightarrow \infty$  but so that  $n(T) = o(\log T)$ , and let  $s$  be random and uniformly distributed on  $[T, 2T]$ . Let

$J_T = [-n(T)/2, n(T)/2]$ , and define

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_T &= \#_{J_T}(\{\frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma - s)\}) \\ &= N(s + \frac{2\pi}{\log T} \cdot \frac{n(T)}{2}) - N(s - \frac{2\pi}{\log T} \cdot \frac{n(T)}{2})\end{aligned}$$

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we have

$$\mathbb{E} \Delta_T = n(T) + o(1)$$

$$\text{Var} \Delta_T := \mathbb{E}(\Delta - \mathbb{E}\Delta)^2 \sim \frac{1}{\pi^2} \log n(T)$$

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That  $n(T) = o(\log T)$  is important! Collections of zeros in this range are known as 'mesoscopic.'

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Heuristic conjecture of Berry (1989): *The zeros look like eigenvalues not only microscopically, but also mesoscopically.*

# Macroscopic collections of zeros

## Theorem (Backlund)

$$N(T) = \frac{1}{\pi} \arg \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} + i\frac{T}{2}\right) - \frac{T}{2\pi} \log \pi + 1 + S(T)$$

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and  $n(T) \rightarrow \infty$  we have

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This phase change does not correspond to phenomena in random matrix theory. What causes it?

# Macroscopic pair correlation 1

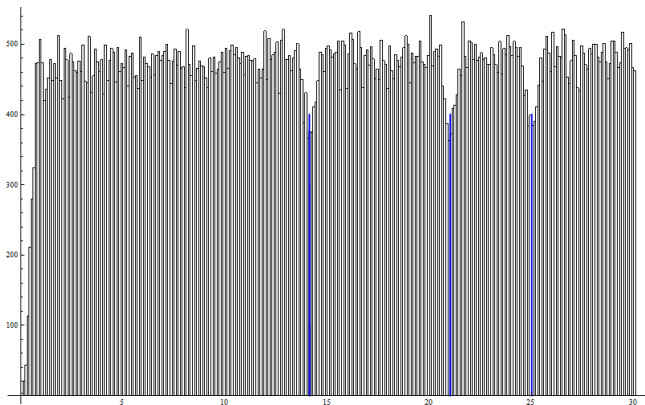


Figure: A histogram of  $\gamma - \gamma'$  for the first 5000 zeros, in intervals of size .1.

# Macroscopic pair correlation 2

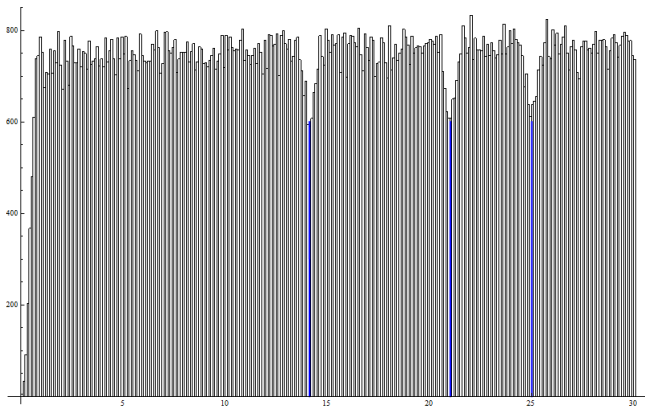


Figure: A histogram of  $\gamma - \gamma'$  for the first 7500 zeros, in intervals of size .1.

# Macroscopic pair correlation 3

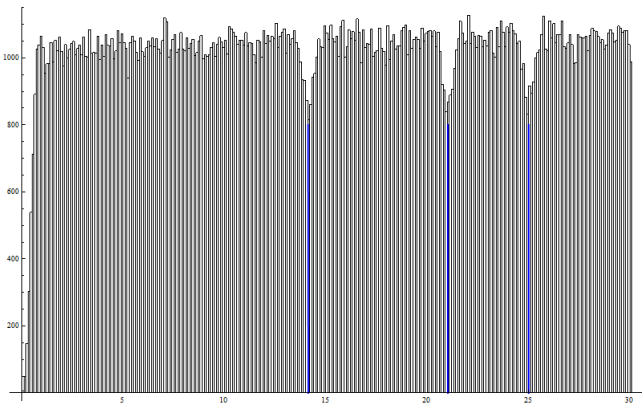


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# The Bogomolny - Keating prediction



**Figure:** A histogram of  $\gamma - \gamma'$  for the first 10000 zeros, in intervals of size .1, compared with the prediction of Bogomolny and Keating.

# Montgomery's strong pair correlation

## Theorem (Montgomery)

For fixed  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $w(u) = 4/(4 + u^2)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{T^{\frac{\log T}{2\pi}}} \sum_{0 \leq \gamma, \gamma' \leq T} e\left(\alpha \frac{\log T}{2\pi} (\gamma - \gamma')\right) w(\gamma - \gamma') \\ &= 1 - (1 - |\alpha|)_+ + o(1) + (1 + o(1)) T^{-2\alpha} \log T \\ &= (1 + o(1)) \int_{\mathbb{R}} e(\alpha x) w\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\log T}\right) \left[\delta(x) + 1 - \left(\frac{\sin \pi x}{\pi x}\right)^2\right] dx \end{aligned}$$

uniformly for  $|\alpha| \leq 1 - \epsilon$ .

For fixed  $M$ , this is conjectured to be true uniformly for  $\alpha \leq M$ .

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This has not only microscopic content, but first order macroscopic content! We can see, to first order, the histogram  $\gamma - \gamma'$  up to a microscopically blurred resolution.



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- By integrating the expression in  $\alpha$  against  $\hat{g}(\alpha)$ , for some  $\hat{g}$  supported in  $(-1, 1)$ , we obtain an asymptotic count of  $\gamma - \gamma'$  around 0 as counted by a microscopic (but band-limited) test function:  $g(\frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma - \gamma'))$ .

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- By integrating against  $\hat{g}(\alpha)e(-\alpha\frac{\log T}{2\pi}r)$ , we obtain an asymptotic count of  $\gamma - \gamma'$  microscopically near  $r$ :  $g(\frac{\log T}{2\pi}(\gamma - \gamma' - r))$ . This asymptotic is uniform in  $r$ .

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- By adding these microscopic counts at different  $r$ , we can obtain asymptotics of meso- and macroscopic counts, even against test functions not band limited.

# Macroscopic pair correlation: An exact formulation

## Theorem (R.)

For fixed  $\epsilon > 0$  and fixed  $\omega$  with a smooth and compactly supported Fourier transform,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{T} \sum_{0 < \gamma \neq \gamma' \leq T} \omega(\gamma - \gamma') e(\alpha \frac{\log T}{2\pi} (\gamma - \gamma')) \\ &= O_\delta\left(\frac{1}{T^\delta}\right) + \int_{\mathbb{R}} \omega(u) e(\alpha \frac{\log T}{2\pi} u) \left[ \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \left(\frac{\log(t/2\pi)}{2\pi}\right)^2 + Q_t(u) dt \right] du \end{aligned}$$

for any  $\delta < \epsilon/2$ , uniformly for  $|\alpha| < 1 - \epsilon$ .

where

$$\begin{aligned} Q_t(u) := & \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \left( \left(\frac{\zeta'}{\zeta}\right)'(1+iu) - B(iu) + \left(\frac{\zeta'}{\zeta}\right)'(1-iu) - B(-iu) \right. \\ & \left. + \left(\frac{t}{2\pi}\right)^{-iu} \zeta(1-iu)\zeta(1+iu)A(iu) + \left(\frac{t}{2\pi}\right)^{iu} \zeta(1+iu)\zeta(1-iu)A(-iu) \right), \end{aligned}$$

defined by continuity at  $u = 0$ , and

$$A(s) := \prod_p \frac{(1 - \frac{1}{p^{1+s}})(1 - \frac{2}{p} + \frac{1}{p^{1+s}})}{(1 - \frac{1}{p})^2} = \prod_p \left( 1 - \frac{(1 - p^{-s})^2}{(p-1)^2} \right) = 1 + O(s^2),$$

and

$$B(s) := \sum_p \frac{\log^2 p}{(p^{1+s} - 1)^2}.$$

# What produces the troughs?



$$\left(\frac{\zeta'}{\zeta}\right)'(1+iu) = \frac{d^2}{d^2 s} \log \zeta \Big|_{1+iu}$$

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$$\left(\frac{\zeta'}{\zeta}\right)'(1+iu) = H(u) - \sum_{\gamma} \phi(u - \gamma)$$

for  $H(u)$  regular and not too large when  $u \neq 0$ , and

$$\phi(x) := 2 \frac{\frac{1}{4} - x^2}{(\frac{1}{4} + x^2)^2}$$



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- It ends up that

$$\left(\frac{\zeta'}{\zeta}\right)'(1+iu) - B(iu) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k \left(\frac{\zeta'}{\zeta}\right)'(ks)$$

for  $c_k = \sum_{d|k} \mu(d)d$ .

# Macroscopic pair correlation: A reformulation for $|\alpha| < 1$

## Theorem

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$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{T} \sum_{0 < \gamma \neq \gamma' \leq T} \omega(\gamma - \gamma') e\left(\alpha \frac{\log T}{2\pi} (\gamma - \gamma')\right) \\ &= O_\delta\left(\frac{1}{T^\delta}\right) + \int_{\mathbb{R}} \omega(u) e\left(\alpha \frac{\log T}{2\pi} u\right) \left[ \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \left(\frac{\log(t/2\pi)}{2\pi}\right)^2 + \tilde{Q}_t(u) dt \right] du \end{aligned}$$

for any  $\delta < \epsilon/2$ , uniformly for  $|\alpha| < 1 - \epsilon$ .

where

$$\tilde{Q}_t(u) := \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \left( \sum \frac{\Lambda^2(n)}{n^{1+iu}} + \sum \frac{\Lambda^2(n)}{n^{1-iu}} + \frac{e\left(-\frac{\log(t/2\pi)}{2\pi} u\right) + e\left(\frac{\log(t/2\pi)}{2\pi} u\right)}{u^2} \right),$$

defined by continuity at  $u = 0$ .

# Another application of this philosophy: An analogue of the Strong Szegő Theorem

Theorem (R., Bourgade-Kuan)

Let  $n(T) \rightarrow \infty$ , but  $n(T) = o(\log T)$ . For a fixed  $\eta$  define

$$\Delta_{\eta, T} = \sum_{\gamma} \eta\left(\frac{\log T}{2\pi n(T)}(\gamma - s)\right),$$

For all  $\eta$  with compact support and bounded variation when  $\int |x| |\hat{\eta}(x)|^2 dx$  diverges, and nearly all such  $\eta$  when the integral converges, we have

$$\mathbb{E} \Delta_{\eta, T} = n(T) \int_{\mathbb{R}} \eta(\xi) d\xi + o(1),$$

$$\text{Var} \Delta_{\eta, T} \sim \int_{-n(T)}^{n(T)} |x| |\hat{\eta}(x)|^2 dx$$

and in distribution

$$\frac{\Delta_{\eta, T} - \mathbb{E} \Delta_{\eta, T}}{\sqrt{\text{Var} \Delta_{\eta, T}}} \Rightarrow N(0, 1)$$

as  $T \rightarrow \infty$ .

# Ideas in proof: Explicit formulas

Ex:  $\Lambda(n) \approx 1 - \sum_{\gamma} n^{-1/2+i\gamma} + \text{lower order}$

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$$\Rightarrow: dN(\xi) = \sum_{\gamma} \delta_{\gamma}(\xi) d\xi = \frac{\Omega(\xi)}{2\pi} + dS(\xi)$$

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Pair correlation  $\Leftrightarrow$  Knowing about  $dN(\xi_1 + t)dN(\xi_2 + t)$  on average  
 $\Leftrightarrow$  Knowing about  $dS(\xi_1 + t)dS(\xi_2 + t)$  on average



## Theorem (Riemann-Guinand-Weil)

*For nice  $g$*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \hat{g}\left(\frac{\xi}{2\pi}\right) dS(\xi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [g(x) + g(-x)] e^{-x/2} d(e^x - \psi(e^x))$$

Here  $\psi(x) = \sum_{n \leq x} \Lambda(n)$ .

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Here  $\psi(x) = \sum_{n \leq x} \Lambda(n)$ .

This is a Fourier duality between the error term of the prime counting function, and the error term of the zero counting function.

# Ideas in proof: Smooth averages

- Replace

$$\frac{1}{T} \int_T^{2T} \dots ds = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\mathbf{1}_{[1,2]}(s/T)}{T} \dots ds \text{ with } \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\sigma(s/T)}{T} \dots ds$$

for  $\hat{\sigma}$  compactly supported, and  $\sigma$  of mass 1 (so  $\hat{\sigma}(0) = 1$ ).

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for  $\hat{\sigma}$  compactly supported, and  $\sigma$  of mass 1 (so  $\hat{\sigma}(0) = 1$ ).

We want to know about:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\sigma(s/T)}{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} e(\alpha \frac{\log T}{2\pi} (\xi_1 - s) - \alpha \frac{\log T}{2\pi} (\xi_2 - s)) r\left(\frac{\xi_1 - s}{2\pi}\right) r\left(\frac{\xi_2 - s}{2\pi}\right) dS(\xi_1) dS(\xi_2) ds \\ &= \sum_{\varepsilon \in \{-1, 1\}^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{\sigma}\left(\frac{T}{2\pi}(\varepsilon_1 x_1 + \varepsilon_2 x_2)\right) \hat{r}(\varepsilon_1 x_1 - \alpha \log T) \hat{r}(\varepsilon_2 x_2 + \alpha \log T) \\ &\quad \times e^{-(x_1 + x_2)/2} d(e^{x_1} - \psi(e^{x_1})) d(e^{x_2} - \psi(e^{x_2})) \end{aligned}$$

This is really four integrals, over different measures:

$$d(e^{x_1} - \psi(e^{x_1})) d(e^{x_2} - \psi(e^{x_2})) = d(e^{x_1}) d(e^{x_2}) - d(e^{x_1}) d\psi(e^{x_2}) - d\psi(e^{x_1}) d(e^{x_2}) + d\psi(e^{x_1}) d\psi(e^{x_2})$$

The term  $\hat{\sigma}\left(\frac{T}{2\pi}(\varepsilon_1 x_1 + \varepsilon_2 x_2)\right)$  forces  $\varepsilon_1 x_1 + \varepsilon_2 x_2 = O(1/T)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} A &= O\left(\frac{1}{T^{1-\alpha}}\right) + \sum_{\varepsilon \in \{-1,1\}^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{\sigma}\left(\frac{T}{2\pi}(\varepsilon_1 x_1 + \varepsilon_2 x_2)\right) \hat{r}(\varepsilon_1 x_1 - \alpha \log T) \\ &\quad \times \hat{r}(\varepsilon_2 x_2 + \alpha \log T) e^{-(x_1+x_2)/2} d\psi(e^{x_1}) d\psi(e^{x_2}) \\ &= O\left(\frac{1}{T^{1-\alpha}}\right) + \sum_n \frac{\Lambda^2(n)}{n} [\hat{r}(-\log n - \alpha \log T) \hat{r}(\log n - \alpha \log T) \\ &\quad + \hat{r}(\log n - \alpha \log T) \hat{r}(-\log n - \alpha \log T)] \end{aligned}$$

- This can be untangled with some complex analysis to give the form we're after.
- Some additional work is needed to untangle  $dS(\xi_1 + t)dS(\xi_2 + t)$ .

# A more ambitious application: Moments

$$\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |\zeta(\frac{1}{2} + it)|^{2k} dt$$

$\leftrightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^1 \int_{\mathcal{U}(n)} |\det(1 - e^{i2\pi\theta} g)|^{2k} dg d\theta \\ &= \int_{\mathcal{U}(n)} |\det(1 - g)|^{2k} dg \end{aligned}$$

Macroscopic information in  
 $k$ -point correlation functions,  
with microscopic  
band-limitations: Fourier  
support in  
 $\{y : |y_1| + \dots + |y_k| \leq 2\}$

$\leftrightarrow$

Using only knowledge of the  
 $k$ -point correlation functions

$$\int \sum_{\substack{j_1, \dots, j_k \\ \text{distinct}}} \eta(e^{i2\pi\theta_{j_1}}, \dots, e^{i2\pi\theta_{j_k}}) dg$$

for  $\eta : \mathbb{T}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\text{supp } \hat{\eta} \subset \{r \in \mathbb{Z}^k : |r_1| + \dots + |r_k| \leq 2n\}$

# A more ambitious application: Moments

But with this information, we can deduce

$$\int |\det(1 - g)|^{2k} dg = \int \prod_{j=1}^n (2 - e^{i2\pi\theta_j} - e^{-i2\pi\theta_j})^k dg$$

for  $k = 1, 2$  but no higher.

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Classical knowledge about the zeta function, having nothing to do with random matrix theory, let's us rigorously deduce the asymptotics of

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Question: Is there a way to understand these computations in terms of macroscopic  $k$ -point correlation functions?

What about the conjectured asymptotics of higher moments? (Keating-Snaith conjecture)

Thanks:

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