

Polynomial Chaos and Scaling Limits of Disordered Systems

4. Free energy estimates. Introduction to marginal relevance.

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Overview

In the previous lecture we constructed **continuum partition functions** \mathcal{Z}^W and we used them to define a **continuum disordered model** \mathcal{P}^W

In this lecture we show how the continuum objects \mathcal{Z}^W and \mathcal{P}^W yield quantitative information on the discrete model (**free energy estimates**)

We will focus on **Pinning models** (rather than DPRE)

In the last part we will introduce **marginally relevant models**

(Pinning for $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, DPRE for $d = 2$, 2d Stochastic Heat Equation)

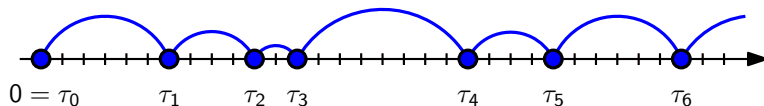
Outline

1. Pinning models
2. Weak disorder regime
3. The marginally relevant regime

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Ingredients: renewal process & disorder



Discrete **renewal process** $\tau = \{0 = \tau_0 < \tau_1 < \tau_2 < \dots\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}_0$

Gaps $(\tau_{i+1} - \tau_i)_{i \geq 0}$ are **i.i.d.** with polynomial-tail distribution:

$$\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(\tau_1 = n) \sim \frac{c_K}{n^{1+\alpha}}, \quad c_K > 0, \quad \alpha \in (0, 1)$$

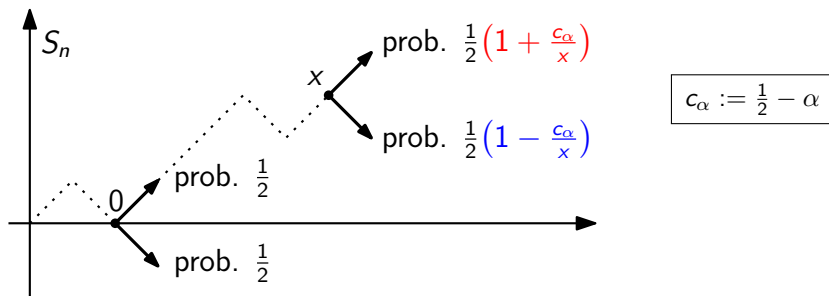
$\tau = \{n \in \mathbb{N}_0 : S_n = 0\}$ zero level set of a Markov chain $S = (S_n)_{n \geq 0}$

Disorder $\omega = (\omega_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$: i.i.d. real random variables with law \mathbb{P}

$$\lambda(\beta) := \log \mathbb{E}[e^{\beta \omega_1}] < \infty \quad \mathbb{E}[\omega_1] = 0 \quad \text{Var}[\omega_1] = 1$$

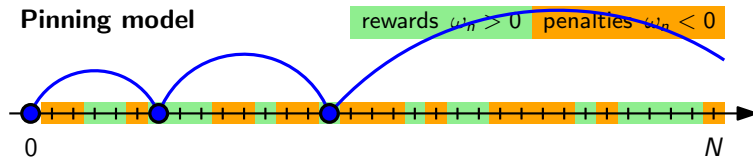
Bessel random walks

For $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ the α -Bessel random walk is defined as follows:



- ▶ $(\alpha = \frac{1}{2})$ **no drift** ($c_\alpha = 0$) \rightsquigarrow simple random walk
- ▶ $(\alpha < \frac{1}{2})$ drift **away** from the origin ($c_\alpha > 0$)
- ▶ $(\alpha > \frac{1}{2})$ drift **toward** the origin ($c_\alpha < 0$)

Disordered pinning model



$N \in \mathbb{N}$ (system size) $\beta \geq 0$, $h \in \mathbb{R}$ (disorder strength, bias)

The pinning model

Gibbs change of measure $\mathbf{P}_N^\omega = \mathbf{P}_{N,\beta,h}^\omega$ of the renewal distribution \mathbf{P}^{ref}

$$\frac{d\mathbf{P}_N^\omega}{d\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}}(\tau) := \frac{1}{Z_N^\omega} \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^N (\beta \omega_n + h - \lambda(\beta)) \mathbb{1}_{\{n \in \tau\}} \mathbb{1}_{\{S_n=0\}} \right)$$

The phase transition

How are the typical paths τ of the pinning model \mathbf{P}_N^ω ?

Contact number $\mathcal{C}_N := |\tau \cap (0, N]| = \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{1}_{\{n \in \tau\}} = \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{1}_{\{S_n=0\}}$

Theorem (phase transition)

\exists *continuous, non decreasing, deterministic critical curve* $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta)$:

► *Localized regime*: for $h > \mathbf{h}_c(\beta)$ one has $\mathcal{C}_N \approx N$

$$\exists \mu = \mu_{\beta, h} > 0 : \quad \mathbf{P}_N^\omega \left(\left| \frac{\mathcal{C}_N}{N} - \mu \right| > \varepsilon \right) \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{} 0 \quad \omega\text{-a.s.}$$

► *Deocalized regime*: for $h < \mathbf{h}_c(\beta)$ one has $\mathcal{C}_N = O(\log N)$

$$\exists A = A_{\beta, h} > 0 : \quad \mathbf{P}_N^\omega \left(\frac{\mathcal{C}_N}{\log N} > A \right) \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{} 0 \quad \omega\text{-a.s.}$$

Estimates on the critical curve

For $\beta = 0$ (homogeneous pinning, no disorder) one has $\mathbf{h}_c(0) = 0$

What is the behavior of $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta)$ for $\beta > 0$ small ?

Theorem ($P(\tau_1 = n) \sim \frac{c_K}{n^{1+\alpha}}$)

- ▶ $(\alpha < \frac{1}{2})$ *disorder is irrelevant*: $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta) = 0$ for $\beta > 0$ small
[Alexander] [Toninelli] [Lacoin] [Cheliotis, den Hollander]
- ▶ $(\alpha \geq \frac{1}{2})$ *disorder is relevant*: $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta) > 0$ for all $\beta > 0$
 - ▶ $(\alpha > 1)$ $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta) \sim C \beta^2$ with explicit $C = \frac{\alpha}{1+\alpha} \frac{1}{2E(\tau_1)}$
[Berger, C., Poisat, Sun, Zygouras]
 - ▶ $(\frac{1}{2} < \alpha < 1)$ $C_1 \beta^{\frac{2\alpha}{2\alpha-1}} \leq \mathbf{h}_c(\beta) \leq C_2 \beta^{\frac{2\alpha}{2\alpha-1}}$ $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta) \sim \hat{C} \beta^{\frac{2\alpha}{2\alpha-1}}$
using continuum model!
[Derrida, Giacomin, Lacoin, Toninelli] [Alexander, Zygouras] [C., Torri, Toninelli]
 - ▶ $(\alpha = \frac{1}{2})$ $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta) = e^{-\frac{c+o(1)}{\beta^2}}$ [Giacomin, Lacoin, Toninelli] [Berger, Lacoin]

Discrete free energy and critical curve

Partition function $\mathbf{Z}_N^\omega := \mathbb{E} \left[e^{H_N(\tau)} \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[e^{\sum_{n=1}^N (h + \beta \omega_n - \Lambda(\beta)) \mathbb{1}_{\{n \in \tau\}}} \right]$

Consider first the regime of $N \rightarrow \infty$ with **fixed** β, h

► **Free energy** $\mathbf{F}(\beta, h) := \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mathbf{Z}_N^\omega \geq 0 \quad \mathbb{P}(\mathrm{d}\omega)\text{-a.s.}$

$$\mathbf{Z}_N^\omega \geq \mathbb{E} \left[e^{H_N(\tau)} \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau \cap (0, N] = \emptyset\}} \right] = \mathbb{P}(\tau \cap (0, N] = \emptyset) \sim \frac{(\text{const.})}{N^\alpha}$$

► **Critical curve** $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta) = \sup\{h \in \mathbb{R} : \mathbf{F}(\beta, h) = 0\}$ **non analyticity!**

(convexity) $\frac{\partial \mathbf{F}(\beta, h)}{\partial h} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E}_N^\omega \left[\frac{\mathcal{C}_N}{N} \right] \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{if } h > \mathbf{h}_c(\beta) \\ = 0 & \text{if } h < \mathbf{h}_c(\beta) \end{cases}$

$\mathbf{F}(\beta, h)$ and $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta)$ depend on the law of τ and ω

Universality as $\beta, h \rightarrow 0$? **YES**, connected to continuum model

A word on critical exponents

The free energy $\mathbf{F}(\beta, h)$ is **non analytic** at the critical point $h = \mathbf{h}_c(\beta)$

$$\mathbf{F}(\beta, h) = 0 \quad (h < \mathbf{h}_c(\beta)) \quad \mathbf{F}(\beta, h) > 0 \quad (h > \mathbf{h}_c(\beta))$$

What is the behavior of $\mathbf{F}(\beta, h)$ as $h \downarrow \mathbf{h}_c(\beta)$?

For $\beta = 0$ the model is **exactly solvable**: $\mathbf{h}_c(0) = 0$ and

$$\mathbf{F}(0, h) - \mathbf{F}(0, \mathbf{h}_c(0)) \sim C (h - \mathbf{h}_c(0))^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \quad (\alpha \in (0, 1))$$

Smoothing inequality [Giacomin, Toninelli]

$$\mathbf{F}(\beta, h) - \mathbf{F}(\beta, \mathbf{h}_c(\beta)) \leq \frac{C}{\beta^2} (h - \mathbf{h}_c(0))^2$$

- ▶ For $\alpha > \frac{1}{2}$ disorder makes phase transition smoother!
Also $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta) \neq \mathbf{h}_c(0)$ for every $\beta > 0 \rightsquigarrow$ **disorder relevance**
- ▶ For $\alpha < \frac{1}{2}$ and for $\beta > 0$ small $\mathbf{F}(\beta, h) \approx \mathbf{F}(0, h) \rightsquigarrow$ **irrelevance**

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Continuum partition functions

Build **continuum partition functions** for Pinning Model with $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ (disorder relevant) following “usual” approach [C, Sun, Zygouras 2015+]

We need to rescale

$$\beta = \beta_N = \frac{\hat{\beta}}{N^{\alpha-1/2}} \quad h = h_N = \frac{\hat{h}}{N^\alpha}$$

(Note that $h_N \approx \beta_N^{\frac{2\alpha}{2\alpha-1}} \approx \mathbf{h}_c(\beta_N)$)

One has $\mathbf{Z}_N^{\mathbf{w}} \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} \mathcal{Z}^{\mathbf{w}}$ with

$$\mathcal{Z}^{\mathbf{w}} := 1 + C \int_{0 < t < 1} \frac{dW_t^{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}}{t^{1-\alpha}} + C^2 \int_{0 < t < t' < 1} \frac{dW_t^{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}} dW_{t'}^{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}}{t^{1-\alpha} (t' - t)^{1-\alpha}} + \dots$$

where $W_t^{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}} := \hat{\beta} W_t + \hat{h} t$ and $C = \frac{\alpha \sin(\alpha\pi)}{\pi c_K}$

Continuum partition functions

Exercise

Recalling that

$$\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(n \in \tau) = \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_n = 0) \sim \frac{c}{n^{1-\alpha}}$$

check that β_N and h_N are the correct scaling (polynomial chaos)

Like for DPRE we build constrained partition functions: $0 \leq s < t < \infty$

$$\mathcal{Z}^W(s, t) = \text{scaling limit of } \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}}[e^{H_{[Ns, Nt]}^\omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{Nt \in \tau\}} | Ns \in \tau]$$

We show that they satisfy continuity, strict positivity, semigroup

Theorem [C., Sun, Zygouras 2015+b]

We can build a continuum disordered Pinning model \mathcal{P}^W as a random probability law on the space of closed subsets of $[0, 1]$

Continuum free energy

In analogy with the discrete model, define

Continuum free energy $\mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}) := \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}^W(0, t) \quad \text{a.s.}$

(existence and self-averaging need some work)

Again $\mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}) \geq 0$ and define

Continuum critical curve $\mathcal{H}_c(\hat{\beta}) := \sup \{ \hat{h} \in \mathbb{R} : \mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}) = 0 \}$

Scaling relations

$$\forall c > 0 : \quad \mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}^W(ct) \stackrel{d}{=} \mathcal{Z}_{c^{\alpha-\frac{1}{2}}\hat{\beta}, c^{\alpha}\hat{h}}^W(t) \quad (\text{Wiener chaos exp.})$$

$$\mathcal{F}(c^{\alpha-\frac{1}{2}}\hat{\beta}, c^{\alpha}) = c \mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h})$$

$$\mathcal{H}_c(\hat{\beta}) = \mathcal{H}_c(1) \hat{\beta}^{\frac{2\alpha}{2\alpha-1}}$$

Interchanging the limits

Can we relate continuum free energy to the discrete one?

By construction of continuum partition functions

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}^W(t) \stackrel{d}{=} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{Z}_{\beta_N, h_N}^W(Nt)$$

Assuming uniform integrability of $\log \mathbf{Z}^W$ (OK)

$$\mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{E}[\log \mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}^W(t)] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[\log \mathbf{Z}_{\beta_N, h_N}^W(Nt)]$$

Assuming we can interchange the limits $N \rightarrow \infty$ and $t \rightarrow \infty$

$$\mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{Nt} \mathbb{E}[\log \mathbf{Z}_{\beta_N, h_N}^W(Nt)] = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N \mathbf{F}(\beta_N, h_N)$$

Setting $\delta = \frac{1}{N}$ for clarity, we arrive at...

Interchanging the limits

Conjecture

$$\mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbf{F}(\hat{\beta}\delta^{\alpha-\frac{1}{2}}, \hat{h}\delta^{\alpha})}{\delta}$$

Theorem [C., Toninelli, Torri 2015]

For all $\hat{\beta} > 0$, $\hat{h} \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\eta > 0$ there is $\delta_0 > 0$ such that $\forall \delta < \delta_0$

$$\mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h} - \eta) \leq \frac{\mathbf{F}(\hat{\beta}\delta^{\alpha-\frac{1}{2}}, \hat{h}\delta^{\alpha})}{\delta} \leq \mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h} + \eta)$$

This implies Conj. and

$$\mathbf{h}_c(\beta) \sim \mathcal{H}_c(\beta) \sim \mathcal{H}_c(1) \beta^{\frac{2\alpha}{2\alpha-1}}$$

For **any** discrete Pinning model with $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$, the free energy $\mathbf{F}(\beta, h)$ and the critical curve $\mathbf{h}_c(\beta)$ have a **universal shape** in the regime $\beta, h \rightarrow 0$

Interchanging the limits

Very delicate result. How to prove it?

- ▶ Assume that there is a continuum Hamiltonian:

$$\mathbf{Z}^{\omega} = \mathbf{E}[e^{\mathbf{H}_{Nt}^{\omega}}] \quad \mathcal{Z}^{\omega} = \mathcal{E}[e^{\mathcal{H}_t^{\omega}}]$$

- ▶ Couple \mathbf{H}_{Nt}^{ω} and \mathcal{H}_t^{ω} on the same probability space in such a way that the difference $\Delta_{N,t} := \mathbf{H}_{Nt}^{\omega} - \mathcal{H}_t^{\omega}$ is “small”
- ▶ Deduce that

$$\mathbb{E}[\log \mathbf{Z}^{\omega}] \leq \mathbb{E}[\log \mathcal{Z}^{\omega}] + \log \mathbb{E}\mathbf{E}[e^{\Delta_{N,t}}]$$

and show that the last term is “negligible”

Problem: there is no continuum Hamiltonian!

Solution: perform **coarse-graining** and define an “effective” Hamiltonian (drawing!)

The DPRE case

What about the DPRE?

We can still define discrete $\mathbf{F}(\beta)$ and continuum $\mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta})$ free energy

Since $\mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}) \sim \mathcal{F}(1)\beta^4$ we can hope that

$$\mathbf{F}(\beta) \sim \mathcal{F}(1)\beta^4 \quad \text{as } \beta \rightarrow 0$$

provided the “interchanging of limits” is justified

N. Torri is currently working on this problem. A finer coarse-graining is needed, together with sharper estimates on continuum partition functions

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The marginal case

We consider simultaneously different models that are **marginally relevant**:

- ▶ Pinning Models with $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$
- ▶ DPRE with $d = 2$ (RW attracted to BM)
- ▶ DPRE with $d = 1$ (RW with Cauchy tails: $P(|S_1| > n) \sim \frac{c}{n}$)
- ▶ Stochastic Heat Equation in $d = 2$

All these different models share a crucial feature: **logarithmic overlap**

$$\mathbf{R}_N = \begin{cases} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(n \in \tau)^2 \\ \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_n = x)^2 \end{cases} \sim C \log N$$

More generally: **\mathbf{R}_N diverges as a slowly varying function**

The marginal case

Analogy between Pinning model with $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$ and DPRE with $d = 2$

$$\mathbf{Z}_{\text{Pin}}^{\omega} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(n \in \tau) \mathbf{X}_n + \dots$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_{\text{DPRE}}^{\omega} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_n = x) \mathbf{X}_{n,x} \right) + \dots$$

Note that $\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_n = x) \sim \frac{1}{n} g_1\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$ (recall that $d = 2$)

Then the random variable in parenthesis has variance

$$\sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_n = x)^2 \sim \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^2} g_1\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{n}}\right)^2 \sim \frac{\|g_1\|_2^2}{n}$$

hence we can replace it by $\frac{\|g_1\|_2^2}{\sqrt{n}} \mathbf{X}_n \rightsquigarrow$ Pinning! ($\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(n \in \tau) \sim \frac{c}{\sqrt{n}}$)

Relevant vs. marginal regime

For computation we focus on **Pinning model** (for simplicity $h = 0$)

Look at relevant case $\alpha > \frac{1}{2}$ ($\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(n \in \tau) \sim \frac{1}{n^{1-\alpha}}$) $\beta \sim \frac{\hat{\beta}}{N^{\alpha-\frac{1}{2}}}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{z}_N^{\omega} &= \sum_{k=0}^N \beta^k \sum_{0 < n_1 < \dots < n_k \leq N} \prod_{i=1}^k \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(n_i - n_{i-1} \in \tau) \mathbf{x}_{n_i} \\
 &= \sum_{k=0}^N \beta^k \sum_{0 < n_1 < \dots < n_k \leq N} \frac{\mathbf{x}_{n_1} \mathbf{x}_{n_2} \dots \mathbf{x}_{n_k}}{n_1^{1-\alpha} (n_2 - n_1)^{1-\alpha} \dots (n_k - n_{k-1})^{1-\alpha}} \\
 &= \sum_{k=0}^N \left(\frac{\beta \sqrt{N}}{N^{1-\alpha}} \right)^k \sum_{0 < n_1 < \dots < n_k \leq N} \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \mathbf{x}_{n_1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \mathbf{x}_{n_2} \dots \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \mathbf{x}_{n_k}}{\left(\frac{n_1}{N}\right)^{1-\alpha} \left(\frac{n_2}{N} - \frac{n_1}{N}\right)^{1-\alpha} \dots \left(\frac{n_k}{N} - \frac{n_{k-1}}{N}\right)^{1-\alpha}} \\
 &\xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \hat{\beta}^k \int_{0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k \leq 1} \frac{d\mathbf{W}_{t_1} d\mathbf{W}_{t_2} \dots d\mathbf{W}_{t_k}}{t_1^{1-\alpha} (t_2 - t_1)^{1-\alpha} \dots (t_k - t_{k-1})^{1-\alpha}}
 \end{aligned}$$

For $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$ last step breaks down $\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \notin L^2([0, 1])$ How to make sense?

Relevant vs. marginal regime

Always in the relevant case $\alpha > \frac{1}{2}$ (setting $\chi = 2(1 - \alpha) < 1$)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[\mathbf{Z}_N^\omega] &\xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \hat{\beta}^k \int_{0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k \leq 1} \frac{dt_1 dt_2 \dots dt_k}{t_1^\chi (t_2 - t_1)^\chi \dots (t_k - t_{k-1})^\chi} \\ &\leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \hat{\beta}^k \frac{\Gamma(1 - \chi)^{k+1}}{\Gamma((1 - \chi)(k + 1))} \leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \hat{\beta}^k \frac{c_1^k}{(c_2 k)!} < \infty \end{aligned}$$

The $k!$ makes the series converge for all $\hat{\beta} > 0$

It arises from the constraint $0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k \leq 1$

Exercise

Prove “by bare hands” that (probabilistic argument!)

$$\int_{0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k \leq 1} \frac{dt_1 dt_2 \dots dt_k}{t_1^\chi (t_2 - t_1)^\chi \dots (t_k - t_{k-1})^\chi} \leq e^{-Ck \log k}$$

Relevant vs. marginal regime

In the marginal regime $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{z}_N^\omega &= \sum_{k=0}^N \beta^k \sum_{0 < n_1 < \dots < n_k \leq N} \frac{\overset{\text{red}}{X}_{n_1} \overset{\text{red}}{X}_{n_2} \cdots \overset{\text{red}}{X}_{n_k}}{\sqrt{n_1} \sqrt{n_2 - n_1} \cdots \sqrt{n_k - n_{k-1}}} \\ &= 1 + \beta \sum_{0 < n \leq N} \frac{\overset{\text{red}}{X}_n}{\sqrt{n}} + \beta^2 \sum_{0 < n < n' \leq N} \frac{\overset{\text{red}}{X}_n \overset{\text{red}}{X}_{n'}}{\sqrt{n} \sqrt{n' - n}} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Goal: find the **joint limit in distribution** of all these sums

Linear term is easy ($\overset{\text{red}}{X}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ by Lindeberg): asympt. $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$

$$\sigma^2 = \beta^2 \sum_{0 < n \leq N} \frac{1}{n} \sim \beta^2 \log N$$

We then rescale

$$\beta = \beta_N \sim \frac{\hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{\log N}}$$

Other terms converge?

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