

# Universality in Marginally Relevant Disordered Systems

(joint work with R. Sun and N. Zygouras)

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# Overview

We consider **disordered systems** that are **marginally relevant**

- ▶ **Directed Polymers** in Random Environment with  $d = 2$
- ▶ **Disordered Pinning Models** with  $\alpha = 1/2$  (tail exponent)
- ▶ **Stochastic Heat Equation** (SHE) with  $d = 2$
- ▶ **Directed Polymer with Cauchy tails** with  $d = 1$   $[P(S_1 > \pm n) \sim \frac{c}{n}]$

We present some results on the the **scaling limits** of these models

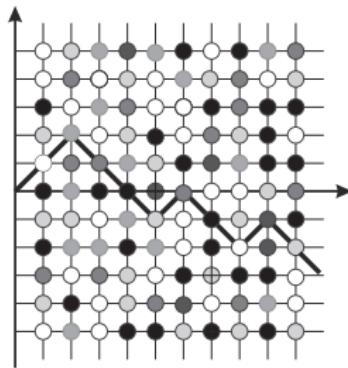
The key focus will be on **partition functions**

For simplicity, we only give statements for Directed Polymer  
(but switch to Pinning for proofs)

# Outline

1. Directed Polymer
2. Main Results
3. Sketch of the proof

# Directed Polymer in Random Environment



- ▶ **Reference Model:** random walk  $(S_n)_{n \geq 0}$  on  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  (zero mean, finite variance, law  $\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}$ )
- ▶ **Disorder:** i.i.d.  $(\omega_{n,x})_{n \in \mathbb{N}_0, x \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$   
 $\lambda(\beta) := \log \mathbb{E}[e^{\beta \omega_{n,x}}] < \infty$  ( $\beta > 0$  small)  
(zero mean, unit variance, law  $\mathbb{P}$ )

## Directed polymer in random environment

$$\mathbf{P}_N^\omega(S) = \frac{1}{Z_N^\omega} e^{\sum_{n=1}^N (\beta \omega_{n,S_n} - \lambda(\beta))} \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S)$$

RW paths in corridors of large  $\omega > 0$  have high probability (energy gain)  
... but such paths are few! (entropy loss)  $\rightsquigarrow$  Who wins?

# Disorder Relevance

- ▶  $[d \geq 3, \beta > 0 \text{ small}] \quad \mathbf{P}_N^\omega \text{ "similar" to } \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}} \quad (\text{entropy wins})$

$$\frac{S_N}{\sqrt{N}} \text{ under } \mathbf{P}_N^\omega \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad \mathbb{P}(d\omega)\text{-a.s.}$$

i.e. the same under  $\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}$  [Imbrie, Spencer 1988] [Bolthausen 1989]

- ▶  $[d \leq 2, \text{ any } \beta > 0] \quad \mathbf{P}_N^\omega \text{ "different" from } \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}} \quad (\text{energy wins})$

$$\max_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \mathbf{P}_N^\omega(S_N = x) \geq c > 0 \quad \mathbb{P}(d\omega)\text{-a.s.}$$

unlike  $\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_N = x) = O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right) = o(1)$  [Carmona, Hu 2002]

[Comets, Shiga, Yoshida 2003]

(Conj. super-diffusivity!) [Vargas 2007]

Disorder is “irrelevant” for  $d \geq 3$ , while it is “relevant” for  $d \leq 2$

# Partition function

The normalizing constant  $Z_N^\omega$  is called **partition function**

$$Z_N^\omega = \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[ e^{\sum_{n=1}^N (\beta \omega_{n,S_n} - \lambda(\beta))} \right] = \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[ e^{\beta \sum_{n=1}^N \omega_{n,S_n}} \right] e^{-\lambda(\beta)N}$$

## Martingale argument

$$\mathbb{P}(d\omega)\text{-a.s.} \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} Z_N^\omega = Z_\infty^\omega$$

Note that for  $\beta = 0$  (trivially)  $Z_\infty^\omega = 1$

- ▶  $[d \geq 3] \exists \beta_c > 0$  such that  $Z_\infty^\omega \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{if } \beta \leq \beta_c \text{ (weak disorder)} \\ = 0 & \text{if } \beta > \beta_c \text{ (strong disorder)} \end{cases}$
- ▶  $[d \leq 2] Z_\infty^\omega = 0$  for all  $\beta > 0$  (strong disorder), i.e.  $\beta_c = 0$

# Intermediate disorder regime

Case  $d \leq 2$ : any **fixed** disorder strength  $\beta > 0$ , **no matter how small**, has dramatic effects in the large scale regime  $N \rightarrow \infty$

## Intermediate disorder regime?

Can we **tune**  $\beta = \beta_N \rightarrow 0$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and see interesting effects ?

Find the (vanishing) window for  $\beta$  in which “**strong disorder emerges**”

### Case $d = 1$ [Alberts, Khanin, Quastel '14]

If  $\beta_N = \frac{\hat{\beta}}{N^{1/4}}$  then  $Z_N^\omega \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} \mathcal{Z}^W$  where the limit is **random**

$$\mathcal{Z}^W > 0 \text{ for all } \hat{\beta} > 0 \quad \lim_{\hat{\beta} \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{Z}^W = 1 \quad \lim_{\hat{\beta} \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{Z}^W = 0$$

Strong disorder emerges on the scale  $\beta \propto N^{-1/4}$  (no “phase transition”)

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# Marginal relevance

(Marginal) relevance holds at the **critical dimension  $d = 2$**

## Logarithmic replica overlap

$$R_N := \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[ \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{1}_{\{S_n = S'_n\}} \right] = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^2} P(S_n = x)^2 \sim c \log N$$

The same scaling  $R_N \sim c \log N$  happens for:

- ▶ random walks on  $\mathbb{Z}$  with **Cauchy tails**
- ▶ renewal processes with **tail exponent  $1/2$**  ( $\rightsquigarrow$  Pinning Model)

The next result applies to **any of these models**

# Main result 1: log-normality

Theorem 1. [C., Sun, Zygouras '15]

Rescaling  $\beta := \frac{\hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{c \log N}}$  the partition function converges in distribution

$$Z_N^{\omega} \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} Z^W = \begin{cases} \text{log-normal} & \text{if } \hat{\beta} < 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } \hat{\beta} \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

For  $\hat{\beta} < 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} Z^W &= \exp \left\{ \int_0^1 \frac{\hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{1 - \hat{\beta}^2 t}} dW_t - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{\hat{\beta}^2}{1 - \hat{\beta}^2 t} dt \right\} \\ &\stackrel{d}{=} \exp \left\{ \sigma_{\hat{\beta}} W_1 - \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\hat{\beta}}^2 \right\} \quad \text{with} \quad \sigma_{\hat{\beta}} = \log \frac{1}{1 - \hat{\beta}^2} \end{aligned}$$

# Some comments

- **Universality across models.** All marginally relevant Directed Polymer and Pinning models exhibit the same limit in distribution for  $Z_N^\omega$

The same also for the 2d Stochastic Heat Equation (see below)

- **Phase transition** (weak to strong disorder) at scale  $\beta = \frac{\hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{c \log N}}$  with finite critical point  $\hat{\beta}_c = 1$

The same intermediate disorder scale appears in [Lacoin '10] and [Berger, Lacoin '15] where they obtain **free energy estimates**

$\hat{\beta}_c = 1$  (threshold for  $Z_N^\omega \rightarrow 0$ ) corresponds to  $\mathbb{E}[(Z_N^\omega)^2] \rightarrow \infty$

(unlike Directed Polymer for  $d \geq 3$  or Gaussian Multiplicative Chaos)

- **Key challenge.** Identify the limit for  $\hat{\beta}_c = 1$  (work in progress)

## Main result 2: different starting points

Let  $Z_N^\omega(x)$  be the partition function for the RW starting at  $x\sqrt{N}$

$$Z_N^\omega(x) = \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[ e^{H^\omega(S)} \mid S_0 = x\sqrt{N} \right] \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^2)$$

We look at  $Z_N^\omega(x)$  as a **random field** on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Scaling limit?

Henceforth we fix  $\beta = \frac{\hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{c \log N}}$  with  $\hat{\beta} < 1$  ("weak disorder" regime)

**Theorem 2a.** [C., Sun, Zygouras '15]

$Z_N^\omega(x)$  and  $Z_N^\omega(x')$  are asymptotically independent for  $x \neq x'$

**Corollary**

$$\langle Z_N^\omega, \phi \rangle \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{\mathbb{P}} \langle 1, \phi \rangle \quad \text{for every } \phi \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^2)$$

# Main result 2: multi-scale correlations

Dependence in  $Z_N^\omega(x), Z_N^\omega(x')$  at which scale of  $|x - x'|$ ? **All scales!**

Introduce the shorthand :  $e^Y := e^{Y - \frac{1}{2}\text{Var}[Y]}$

**Theorem 2b.** [C., Sun, Zygouras '15]

Fix  $x = x_N, x' = x'_N$  such that

$$|x - x'| \asymp (\sqrt{N})^{\zeta-1} \quad \zeta \in [0, 1]$$

Then

$$(Z_N^\omega(x), Z_N^\omega(x')) \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} ( : e^Y : , : e^{Y'} : )$$

where  $Y, Y'$  are joint  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\hat{\beta}}^2)$  with

$$\text{Cov}[Y, Y'] = \log \frac{1 - \zeta \hat{\beta}^2}{1 - \hat{\beta}^2}$$

# Main result 2: diffusivity

Similar results can be given for the **point to point** partition function

This yields result on the polymer endpoint distribution (always for  $\hat{\beta} < 1$ )

## Diffusivity

- Central Limit Theorem

$$\mathbf{P}_N^\omega \left( \frac{S_N}{\sqrt{N}} \in \cdot \right) \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} N(0, 1) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{P}(d\omega)\text{-probability}$$

- Local Limit Theorem with **random corrections**

$$\sqrt{N} \mathbf{P}_N^\omega \left( S_N = \lfloor x\sqrt{N} \rfloor \right) \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} \left( : e^{Y_x} : \right) \frac{e^{-|x|^2/2}}{2\pi}$$

# Main result 3: fluctuations

We have seen that  $Z_N^\omega(x) \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{\mathbb{P}} 1$  (as a Schwartz distribution on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ )

This can be viewed as a LLN. Here is the corresponding CLT.

**Theorem 3.** [C., Sun, Zygouras '15]

$$Z_N^\omega(x) \stackrel{\textcolor{red}{d}}{\approx} 1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\log N}} \mathbf{G}(x) \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}'$$

where  $\mathbf{G}(x)$  is a generalized Gaussian field on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with

$$\text{Cov} [\mathbf{G}(x), \mathbf{G}(x')] \sim C \log \frac{1}{|x - x'|}$$

More precisely

$$\left\langle \sqrt{\log N} (Z_N^\omega - 1), \phi \right\rangle \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{\textcolor{red}{d}} \langle \mathbf{G}, \phi \rangle \quad \forall \phi \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^2)$$

# What about $\hat{\beta} = 1$ ?

For  $\hat{\beta} = 1$ :  $Z_N^\omega(x) \rightarrow 0$  in law  $\mathbb{V}\text{ar}[Z_N^\omega(x)] \rightarrow \infty$

However, covariances are finite for  $x \neq x'$ : [Bertini, Cancrini '95]

$$\mathbb{C}\text{ov}[Z_N^\omega(x), Z_N^\omega(x')] \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{} K(x, x') < \infty$$

$$\text{where } K(x, x') \sim C \log \frac{1}{|x - x'|}$$

It follows that  $\mathbb{V}\text{ar}[\langle Z_N^\omega, \phi \rangle] \rightarrow (\phi, K\phi) < \infty$

## Conjecture

For  $\hat{\beta} = 1$  the partition function  $Z_N^\omega(x)$  has a **non-trivial limit** in law  
(in the space of **Schwartz distributions** on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ )

# The 2d Stochastic Heat Equation

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u(t, x) = \frac{1}{2} \Delta_x u(t, x) + \beta \dot{W}(t, x) u(t, x) \\ u(0, x) \equiv 1 \end{cases} \quad (t, x) \in [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^2$$

where  $W(dt, dx)$  is (space-time) white noise on  $[0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^2$

Space mollification:  $W_\delta(dt, x) := \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^2} \frac{1}{\delta} j\left(\frac{x-y}{\sqrt{\delta}}\right) W(dy, dt)$

## Generalized Feynman-Kac Formula

[Bertini, Cancrini '95]

$$u_\delta(t, x) \stackrel{d}{=} E_{\frac{x}{\sqrt{\delta}}} \left[ \exp \left\{ \int_0^{\frac{t}{\delta}} \left( \beta W_1(ds, B_s) - \frac{1}{2} \beta^2 ds \right) \right\} \right]$$

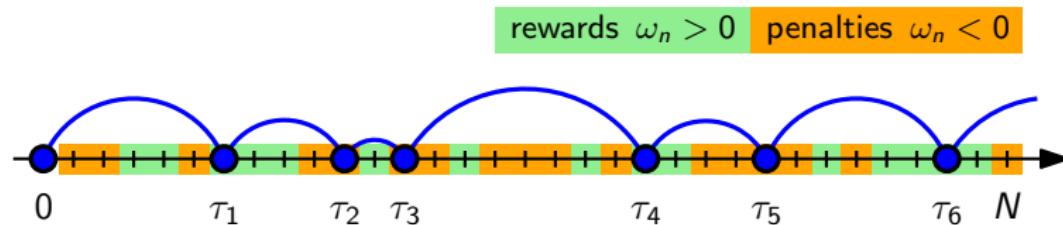
By “soft arguments”  $u_\delta(t, x) \stackrel{d}{\approx} Z_N^\omega$  for  $N = \frac{t}{\delta}$  (2d Directed Polymer)

Theorems 1, 2, 3 apply verbatim to  $u_\delta(t, x)$

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# Disordered pinning model



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

$$\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(\tau_{i+1} - \tau_i = n) \sim \frac{C}{n^{1+\alpha}}, \quad C > 0, \quad \alpha \in (0, 1)$$

$$\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(n \in \tau) \sim \frac{C}{n^{1-\alpha}} \quad (\text{heavy-tailed renewal theory})$$

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

[Alexander, Berger, Derrida, Giacomin, Lacoin, Toninelli, Zygouras, ...]

# Partition function

Pinning model is disorder irrelevant if  $\alpha < \frac{1}{2}$ , disorder relevant if  $\alpha > \frac{1}{2}$ .

For  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$  it is marginally relevant (analogous to 2d Directed Polymer)

Let us look at the partition function:

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_N^\omega &= \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[ e^{\sum_{n=1}^N (\beta \omega_n - \lambda(\beta)) \mathbb{1}_{\{n \in \tau\}}} \right] \\
 &= \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[ \prod_{n=1}^N e^{(\beta \omega_n - \lambda(\beta)) \mathbb{1}_{\{n \in \tau\}}} \right] = \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[ \prod_{n=1}^N (1 + \mathbf{X}_n \mathbb{1}_{\{n \in \tau\}}) \right] \\
 &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(n \in \tau) \mathbf{X}_n + \sum_{0 < n < m \leq N} \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(n \in \tau, m \in \tau) \mathbf{X}_n \mathbf{X}_m + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{X}_n = e^{\beta \omega_n - \lambda(\beta)} - 1$

$Z_N^\omega$  is multi-linear polynomial of  $\mathbf{X}_n$ 's! (decoupled  $\tau$  and  $\omega$ )

# Partition function

$$X_n \approx \beta Y_n \text{ with } Y_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad P(n \in \tau) \approx n^{-(1-\alpha)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Z_N^{\omega} &= 1 + \beta \sum_{0 < n \leq N} \frac{Y_n}{n^{1-\alpha}} + \beta^2 \sum_{0 < n < m \leq N} \frac{Y_n Y_m}{n^{1-\alpha} (m-n)^{1-\alpha}} + \dots \\ &= 1 + \frac{\beta}{N^{1-\alpha}} \sum_{t \in (0,1] \cap \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{N}} \frac{Y_t}{t^{1-\alpha}} + \left( \frac{\beta}{N^{1-\alpha}} \right)^2 \sum_{s < t \in (0,1] \cap \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{N}} \frac{Y_s Y_t}{s^{1-\alpha} (t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \dots \end{aligned}$$

Write  $Y_t = N^{\frac{1}{2}}(W_{t+\frac{1}{N}} - W_t)$  (stochastic Riemann sum) and rescale

$$\beta = \frac{\hat{\beta}}{N^{\alpha - \frac{1}{2}}}$$

We now assume that  $\alpha > \frac{1}{2}$  (so that  $\beta \rightarrow 0$ ) and we get:

# Partition function

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_N^{\omega} &\xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} 1 + \hat{\beta} \int_0^1 \frac{dW_t}{t^{1-\alpha}} + \hat{\beta}^2 \int_{0 < s < t < 1} \frac{dW_s dW_t}{s^{1-\alpha} (t-s)^{1-\alpha}} + \dots \\
 &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \hat{\beta}^k \int_{0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k < 1} \frac{dW_{t_1} \dots dW_{t_k}}{t_1^{1-\alpha} (t_2 - t_1)^{1-\alpha} \dots (t_k - t_{k-1})^{1-\alpha}}
 \end{aligned}$$

where the series converges in  $L^2$ , for any  $\hat{\beta} \in (0, \infty)$

What happens for  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$ ? Integrals ill-defined since  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \notin L^2_{\text{loc}}$

# The marginal regime $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_N^{\omega} &= 1 + \beta \sum_{0 < n \leq N} \frac{Y_n}{\sqrt{n}} + \beta^2 \sum_{0 < n < m \leq N} \frac{Y_n Y_m}{\sqrt{n} \sqrt{m-n}} + \dots \\
 &= 1 + \beta \Sigma_1 + \beta^2 \Sigma_2 + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

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

$\Sigma_1$  is easy: by the CLT

$$\Sigma_1 \approx \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2) \quad \text{where} \quad \sigma^2 = \beta^2 \sum_{0 < n \leq N} \frac{1}{n} \sim \beta^2 \log N$$

We then rescale

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

Other terms converge?

# The right time scale

$$\beta \Sigma_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\log N}} \sum_{0 < n \leq N} \frac{Y_n}{\sqrt{n}} \approx \int_{1 < t < N} \frac{W(dt)}{\sqrt{t(\log N)}} = \int_{0 < a < 1} B(da) = B_1$$

Time change  $t = f(a) := N^a$  for  $0 < a < 1$

$$\frac{W(df(a))}{\sqrt{f'(a)}} \stackrel{d}{=} B(da) \quad \text{for another Brownian motion } B$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta^2 \Sigma_2 &= \frac{1}{\log N} \sum_{0 < m < n \leq N} \frac{Y_m Y_n}{\sqrt{m} \sqrt{n-m}} \approx \frac{1}{\log N} \int_{1 < s < t < N} \frac{W(ds) W(dt)}{\sqrt{s} \sqrt{t-s}} \\ &\approx \frac{1}{\log N} \int_{\substack{1 < s < N \\ 1 < u < N}} \frac{W(ds) W(s+du)}{\sqrt{s} \sqrt{u}} \\ &\approx \int_{\substack{0 < a < 1 \\ 0 < b < 1}} \frac{W(dN^a)}{\sqrt{N^a(\log N)}} \frac{W(N^a + dN^b)}{\sqrt{N^b(\log N)}} \approx \int_{\substack{0 < a < 1 \\ 0 < b < 1}} B(da) \tilde{B}_a(db) \end{aligned}$$

# Decoupling of scales

$$B(da) \propto W(dN^a) \quad B_a(db) \propto W(N^a + dN^b)$$

- Case  $a < b$ . Then  $N^a \ll N^b$  hence  $W(N^a + dN^b) \approx W(dN^b)$

This means that  $B_a(db) \approx B(db)$  hence

$$\beta^2 \Sigma_2^< \approx \int_{0 < a < b < 1} B(da) B(db) = \frac{(B_1)^2 - 1}{2}$$

- Case  $a > b$ . Then  $N^a \gg N^b$  hence  $W(N^a + dN^b)$  is approx. independent of  $W(dN^b)$ . It follows that

$$\beta^2 \Sigma_2^> = \int_{0 < b < a < 1} B(da) \tilde{B}_a(db) \approx \int_{0 < b < a < 1} \Gamma(da, db)$$

where  $\Gamma$  is a two-dimensional white noise!

# Wrapping up

We have shown that

$$\beta \Sigma_1 \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} B_1 \quad \beta^2 \Sigma_2 \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} \frac{(B_1)^2 - 1}{2} + \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{2})$$

For  $\beta^3 \Sigma_3$  there is a similar decomposition

$$\beta^3 \Sigma_3 \approx \int_{\substack{0 < a < 1 \\ 0 < b < 1 \\ 0 < c < 1}} B(da) \tilde{B}_a(db) \hat{B}_{a,b}(dc) \quad (\text{"correlated" BMs})$$

The **running maxima** of  $(a, b, c)$  determine the limit of  $\beta^3 \Sigma_3$

- ▶ Decompose  $(a_1, \dots, a_k)$  in subsequences corresp. to running maxima
- ▶ Each subsequence  $(a_i, \dots, a_j)$ , of length  $d = j - 1 + i$ , gets an independent  $d$ -dim. white noise  $\Gamma_d(da_i, \dots, da_j)$
- ▶ Integrate white noises and re-sum the series  $\rightsquigarrow$  log-normal

# Fourth moment theorem

## 4th Moment Theorem

[de Jong 90] [Nualart, Peccati, Reinert 10]

Consider a multi-linear polynomial  $Y_N = \sum_{|I|=\ell} \psi_N(I) \prod_{i \in I} Y_i$

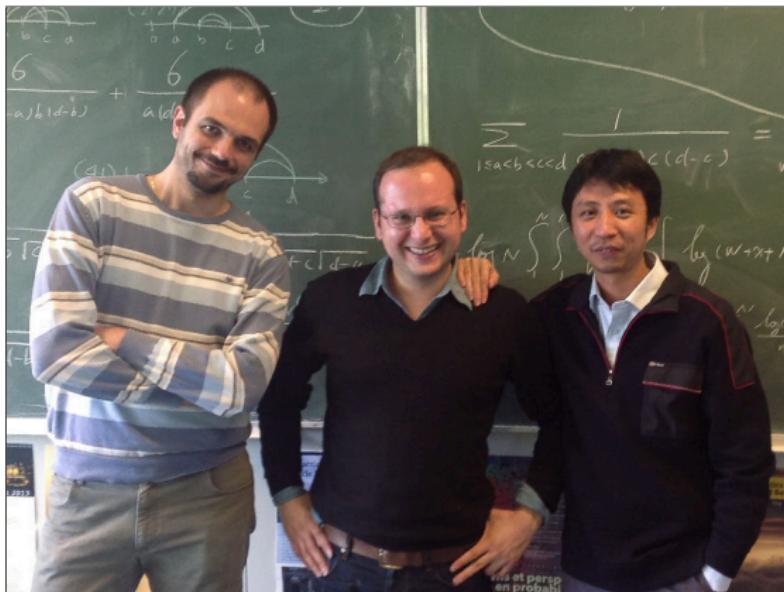
which is **homogeneous** (of degree  $\ell$ )

- ▶  $\max_i \psi_N(i) \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{} 0$  (in case  $\ell = 1$ ) [Small influences!]
- ▶  $\mathbb{E}[(Y_N)^2] \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{} \sigma^2$
- ▶  $\mathbb{E}[(Y_N)^4] \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{} 3\sigma^4$

Then

$$Y_N \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

# Thanks



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