

Random Matrices from the Classical Compact Groups

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▶ $\mathbb{Sp}(2n)$: $U \in M_n(\mathbb{H}), UU^* = I_n$

▶ **Alternatively:** $U \in \mathbb{U}(2n), UJU^* = J$, with $J = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & I_n \\ -I_n & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$

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- ▶ **Curiosity:** We understand the matrix groups better if we know what a random element is like.
- ▶ **Randomized algorithms:** Sometimes any random thing will do the job (but it's still hard to write a deterministic algorithm!)

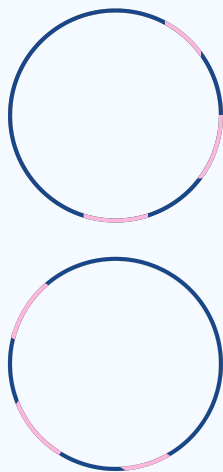
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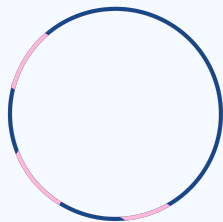
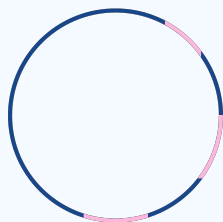
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U is a Haar random matrix on $\mathbb{O}(n)$ iff for $S \subseteq \mathbb{O}(n)$ and any deterministic $A \in \mathbb{O}(n)$:

$$\mathbb{P}[U \in S] = \mathbb{P}[U \in A \cdot S] = \mathbb{P}[U \in S \cdot A]$$



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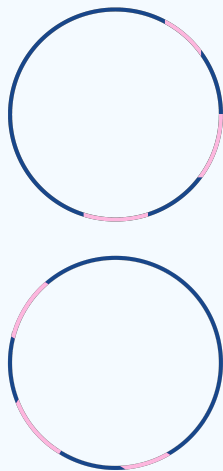
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$$U \stackrel{d}{=} AU \stackrel{d}{=} UA$$



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- ▶ Fill an empty $n \times n$ matrix with i.i.d. Gaussians, and perform the Gram-Schmidt process.
- ▶ Fill the first column of a matrix with a vector chosen uniformly from the sphere $\mathbb{S}^{n-1} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$. Then fill the second column with a vector chosen uniformly in the orthogonal complement of the first. And so on.

Eigenvalues

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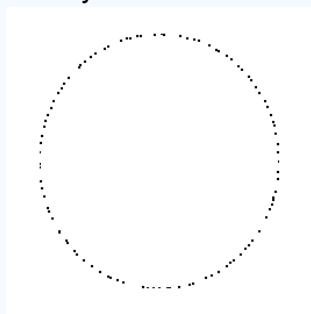
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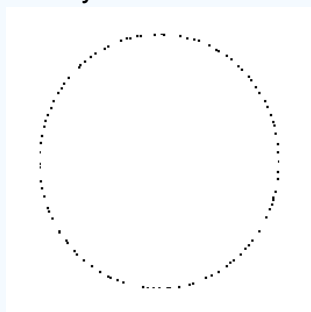


The eigenvalues of a
 100×100 random unitary matrix

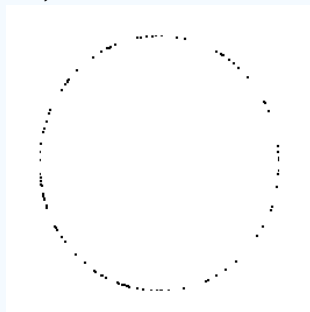
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100 i.i.d. uniform random
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E. Rains

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The empirical spectral measure is a handy way to encode the set of eigenvalues as one object to study.

Limiting eigenvalue densities via the empirical spectral measure

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The **semi-circle law**: The empirical spectral measure of a Wigner random matrix converges weakly almost surely to the semi-circular distribution $\frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{4 - x^2} \mathbb{1}_{[-2,2]}(x) dx$.

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Roughly, if A is an $n \times n$ Wigner random matrix and n is large, then if $(\alpha, \beta) \subseteq [-2, 2]$,

$$\frac{\#\{\text{eigenvalues of } A \text{ in } (\alpha, \beta)\}}{n} \approx \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{4 - x^2} dx.$$

Distances between probability measures

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For probabilities μ and ν on a space X ,

$$W_1(\mu, \nu) = \inf_{\substack{\pi(A \times X) = \mu(A) \\ \pi(X \times A) = \nu(A)}} \int |x - y| d\pi(x, y)$$

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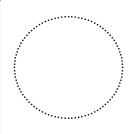
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Eigenvalue repulsion quantified

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- ▶ All the entries have the same individual distributions, and all are roughly Gaussian (mean 0 and variance $\frac{1}{n}$ in $\mathbb{O}(n)$) when n is large.
- ▶ The entries aren't too dependent.

Theorem (T. Jiang)

Let X be an $n \times n$ matrix of i.i.d. Gaussians, and let U be the result of performing the Gram-Schmidt process on X , so that U is a Haar random orthogonal matrix.

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Bottom line: in this rather weak sense, a random orthogonal matrix is like a matrix of i.i.d. Gaussians, as long as you only consider the first $o\left(\frac{n}{\log(n)}\right)$ columns.

Theorem (Chatterjee–M.)

Let $U \in \mathbb{O}(n)$ be a random orthogonal matrix, let $A_1, \dots, A_k \in \mathbb{O}(n)$ be orthonormal (w.r.t. $\langle A, B \rangle = \text{Tr}(AB^T)$), and let

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Bottom line: In this stronger sense, a random matrix is like a matrix of i.i.d. Gaussians at **rank $o(n)$** .

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$$\mathbb{P} [|F(U) - \mathbb{E}F(U)| > t] \leq Ce^{-cnt^2}.$$

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By concentration of measure, this means

$$\mathbb{P}\left[|W_1(\mu_n, \nu) - \mathbb{E}W_1(\mu_n, \nu)| > t\right] \leq Ce^{-cn^2t^2}.$$

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$\implies W_1(\mu_n, \nu)$ is typically within about $\frac{1}{n}$ of its mean.

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Practical conclusion: If your problem is about the **metric structure** of the data (finding the closest pair, most separated pair, minimum spanning tree of a graph, etc.), there is no need to work in the high-dimensional space that the data naturally live in.

The Johnson–Lindenstrauss Lemma

Lemma (J–L)

Let $\{x_j\}_{j=1}^n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$, let U be a random $d \times d$ orthogonal and let P be the $k \times d$ matrix which is the first k rows of U ; that is, P is a projection of \mathbb{R}^d onto a random k -dimensional subspace.

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P is a projection of \mathbb{R}^d onto a random k -dimensional subspace.

If $k = \frac{a \log(n)}{\epsilon^2}$, then with probability at least $1 - \frac{C}{n^{\frac{ac}{9}-2}}$ (with C, c coming from the concentration inequality),

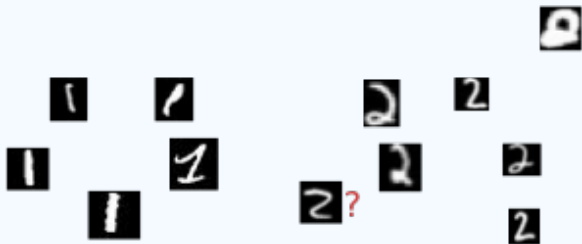
$$(1 - \epsilon) \|x_i - x_j\|^2 \leq \left(\frac{d}{k}\right) \|Px_i - Px_j\|^2 \leq (1 + \epsilon) \|x_i - x_j\|^2$$

for all $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

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Consider the following problem: You are given a reference set \mathcal{X} of n points in \mathbb{R}^d . Now given a query point $q \in \mathbb{R}^d$, find the closest point in \mathcal{X} to q .

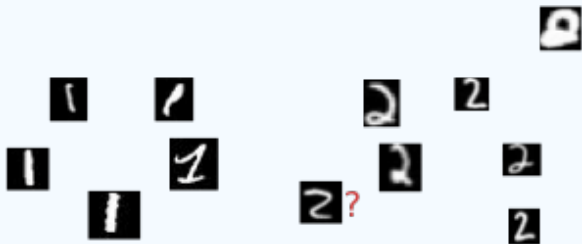


P. Indyk

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The naïve approach – calculate each distance and keep track of the best so far – runs in $O(nd)$ steps.

Application: Finding the closest point

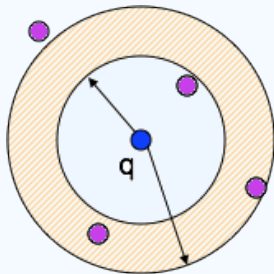
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Application: Finding the closest point

Relaxing the problem:

If you project onto a random subspace of dimension about $\log(n)$, distances are approximately preserved.

This means that while the algorithm might not return the absolute closest point, the point that it returns will be almost as close to q as the true closest point is.



P. Indyk

More carefully, suppose that P is one of the good random projections so that

$$(1 - \epsilon)\|q - x_i\|^2 \leq \left(\frac{d}{k}\right) \|Pq - Px_i\|^2 \leq (1 + \epsilon)\|q - x_i\|^2$$

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If Px_i is the closest point to Pq (and so our randomized algorithm returns x_i), but the true closest point to q is x_j , then

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And after projecting, the naïve approach runs in $O(n \log(n))$ steps, instead of $O(n^2)$.

Other neat stuff: powers of random matrices

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Theorem (Rains 1997)

Let $U \in \mathbb{U}(n)$ be a random unitary matrix, and let $m \geq n$. Then the *eigenvalues of U^m* are distributed exactly as n *i.i.d. uniform points on \mathbb{S}^1* .

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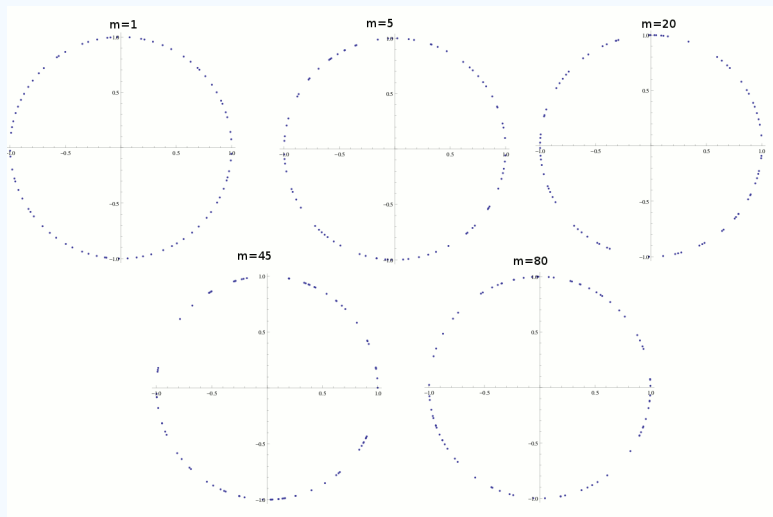
Theorem (Rains 2003)

Let $m \leq N$ be fixed. Then

$$[\mathbb{U}(N)]^m \stackrel{\text{e.v.d.}}{=} \bigoplus_{0 \leq j < m} \mathbb{U}\left(\left\lceil \frac{N-j}{m} \right\rceil\right),$$

where $\stackrel{\text{e.v.d.}}{=}$ denotes equality of eigenvalue distributions.

Other neat stuff: powers of random matrices



The eigenvalues of U^m for $m = 1, 5, 20, 45, 80$, for U a realization of a random 80×80 unitary matrix.

Other neat stuff: self-similarity

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- ▶ Take a random $nm \times nm$ unitary matrix, and zoom in on $[-\frac{\pi}{m}, \frac{\pi}{m})$: let $\mathcal{N}_\theta^{(m)}$ be the number of eigenvalue angles in $[-\frac{\theta}{m}, \frac{\theta}{m})$.

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Theorem (E.M.–M. Meckes, 2016)

For $n, m \geq 1$,

$$d_{TV}(\mathcal{N}_\theta, \mathcal{N}_\theta^{(m)}) \leq \frac{2\sqrt{mn}\theta^2}{3\pi}.$$

Other neat stuff: the Riemann zeta function

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Q: What to the eigenvalues of a random unitary matrix look like?

Other neat stuff: the Riemann zeta function

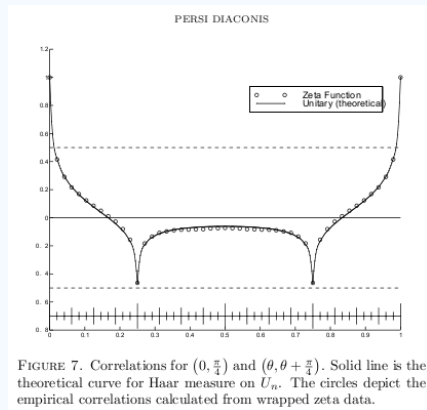
Q: What do the eigenvalues of a random unitary matrix look like?

A: Like the zeroes of the Riemann zeta function.

Other neat stuff: the Riemann zeta function

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Thank you.