18.338 Eigenvalues of Random Matrices

Suggested Projects List

Proposal Due Date: Wed Apr. 2, 2012

Notes

Please hand in hardcopy or email to Bernie Wang (ywang02@mit.edu). It would be GREAT if you can tell us something about the projects you are interested in before this Friday (3/23/2012).

Computational

1. Take as many code in the course notes as you can and turn them into Julia. Complain to Jeff when things do not work. Try parallelism also, we can supply a large computer with Julia installed.
2. Write a MATLAB code to demonstrate Yau's recent universality spacing laws, see *Universality of Local Spectral Statistics of Random Matrices*.
3. Look up the presentation *Numerical calculation of random matrix distributions and orthogonal polynomials* given by Sheehan Olver (specifically the pictures on page 26, 27 and 47). Use his Mathematica code to reproduce his pictures and possibly explore a RMT experiment, but anyway explain what these pictures represent.
4. We have Folkmar Bornemann's code, just ask Bernie for a copy. Try out as many features as you can and tell us what you see. If possible, match a random matrix Monte-Carlo experiment. Compute some fancy quantities, for example, (8.15) as we did in class. The manual of this code is *On the Numerical Evaluation of Distributions in Random Matrix Theory: A Review*.
5. Modernize the Beta Estimator for the spacing data previously done by Cy Chan in 2006, and maybe relate it to Machine learning (see Ben Taska's papers on Geometry of Diversity and Determinantal Point Processes.)
6. On Haar measure, look up the talk *On Powers of a Random Orthogonal Matrix* and the paper *The "north pole problem" and random orthogonal matrices* by Muirhead, and do a numerical experiment to verify their results, and there may be a Jack polynomial proof. Also consider other Haar measure experiments, ask us for ideas.
7. Expand Bernie's Jack Polynomial code and demonstrate the orthogonality of the multivariate Hermite, Laguerre and Jacobi polynomials or do your own. Ask Bernie for his code.
8. Explore determinantal process numerically.
9. Rewrite Odlyzko's Riemann Zeta Root finder in MATLAB, see *On the Distribution of Spacings between Zeros of the Zeta Function*. (You will REALLY understand Riemann Zeta function if you do!)
10. Read up to page 4 of *The distribution of zeros of the derivative of a random polynomial* by Pemantle and Rivin. Redo more carefully the experiments in MATLAB or Julia. The paper mentions experiments but not so much what they saw.

Theoretical

1. Give a presentation and write a summary about Brownian Carousels (Balint Virag and collaborators).
2. Read Zonal Spherical function on Wikipedia and tell us (with presentation and writeup) that story: Gelfand pairs, the Laplace-Beltrami Operator, and perhaps hypergeometric functions.

3. Extend the known table for $p(n,k)$ the probability that `a=randn(n)` has k real eigenvalues. (Read *How many eigenvalues of a random matrix are real* by Edelman and the table in page 9 of the thesis *On the computation of probabilities and eigenvalues for random and non-random matrices* by Sundaresh. Notice that there are three conjectures. This could also be a computational project.

4. Do the following

   (a) Explain the Weingarten formula for Haar measure (See p380 of *Lectures on the Combinatorics of Free Probability* by Nica & Speicher) and find out if there is a real version ($\beta = 1$). (Maybe hard: analyze the (computational) complexity of this formula.)

   (b) What do Schur Polynomials tell us? Compare and contrast.

5. Consider computing an exact formula for $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Tr}(A^k)]$ where A is an instance of β-Hermite ensemble. There is a method implemented in **MOPS**. Alternatively, one can also try to use the Tridiagonal ensembles which has the best computational complexity.

6. Read the paper *Symmetry Classes of Disordered Fermions* by Zirnbauer et al. (Book by Audrey Terras may be useful.) If you are interested in this, ask us for an email that you might find interesting.

7. Generalize orthogonal polynomial theory to multivariate polynomial theory, specifically what is the analog of the three-term recurrence. Look up the literature for the differential equations perhaps Forrester, Askey, etc.

8. Read the Tracy-Widom Law and explain it. The reference can be the last paper in handout 1 or Section 3.8 of *An Introduction to Random Matrices* by Anderson, Guionnet & Ofer Zeitouni.

9. Give a presentation and write a summary about Random Matrix Theories in Quantum Physics. One reference is *Random Matrix Theories in Quantum Physics: Common Concepts*.

10. Give a presentation and write a summary about RMT applications in Wireless communication. One reference might be *Random matrix theory and wireless communications* by Tulino & Verdus.