

The melonic universality class

Răzvan Gurău

IHES, 2017

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Random Tensors
- 3 The $1/N$ expansion and SYK model(s)
- 4 Conclusion

Holography

Holography: in a theory with gravity one must have a correspondence between a volume of space and the boundary enclosing it (black hole entropy).

Gravity in $AdS_{d+1} \times \text{Compact} \Leftrightarrow CFT_d$.

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Find interesting examples of (near) CFT_1 !

An “interesting” CFT_1 should...

Exhibit non trivial scaling dimension (**conformal** weight Δ) in the infrared

$$G(\tau_1 - \tau_2) \sim \frac{1}{|\tau_1 - \tau_2|^{2\Delta}}, \quad \tilde{G}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau \frac{1}{|\tau|^{2\Delta}} e^{i\omega\tau} \sim |\omega|^{2\Delta-1}$$

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Feynman graph with

- E edges $\rightarrow \Lambda^{(2\Delta-1)E}$
- V vertices, $E - V + 1$ loop integrals $\rightarrow \Lambda^{E-V+1}$

$$\Lambda^{2E\Delta-V} = \Lambda^{\overbrace{2E}^{qV} \Delta-V} = \Lambda^{(\Delta q-1)V} \Rightarrow \text{marginal } \Delta q = 1, \quad G(\tau) \sim \frac{1}{|\tau|^{\frac{2}{q}}}$$

The two point function

Schwinger Dyson equation:

$$G = \frac{1}{\underbrace{C^{-1}}_{\omega^{\alpha \geq 0}} - \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{C}{\omega^{\alpha \geq 0}} + \frac{C}{\omega^{\alpha \geq 0}} \textcircled{\Sigma} \frac{C}{\omega^{\alpha \geq 0}} + \frac{C}{\omega^{\alpha \geq 0}} \textcircled{\Sigma} \frac{C}{\omega^{\alpha \geq 0}} \textcircled{\Sigma} \frac{C}{\omega^{\alpha \geq 0}} + \dots$$

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$\Sigma = \text{Complicated function}(G)$

$$\Sigma(\tau_1 - \tau_2) = \underbrace{J \times 0}_{\text{massless, no tadpole}} + J^2 [G(\tau_1 - \tau_2)]^{q-1} + \dots$$

$$\dots \text{ (}\Sigma\text{)} \dots = \text{ (}\Sigma\text{)} \text{ with } G \text{ loops} + \dots$$

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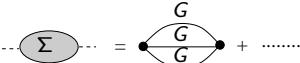
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Simple equation if the rest is suppressed: $\delta(\tau) = J^2 \int du G(u - \tau) [G(u)]^{q-1}$

The $\nu \in$ prescription

$$G(\tau) = b \frac{\text{sgn}(\tau)}{|\tau|^{\frac{2}{q}}} \quad \delta(\tau) = J^2 b^q \int du \frac{\text{sgn}(u - \tau)}{|u - \tau|^{\frac{2}{q}}} \left(\frac{\text{sgn}(u)}{|u|^{\frac{2}{q}}} \right)^{q-1} \sim \frac{J^2 b^q}{|\tau|}$$

but $\delta(\tau) \neq \frac{1}{|\tau|}$ and the integral over u diverges in 0... **regularization?**

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$$G = b \frac{\text{sgn}(\tau)}{|\tau|^{\frac{2}{q}}} \rightarrow G^\epsilon = \frac{b}{2\imath \sin(\frac{\pi}{q})} \left(\frac{1}{(\epsilon - \imath\tau)^{\frac{2}{q}}} - \frac{1}{(\epsilon + \imath\tau)^{\frac{2}{q}}} \right)$$

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Theorem

Let $A^\epsilon(\tau)$ be:

$$A^\epsilon(\tau) = J^2 \int du G^\epsilon(u-\tau) [G^\epsilon(u)]^{q-1}.$$

Then, for any $\epsilon > 0$, $A^\epsilon(\tau)$ is a distribution (either on the space of test function with compact support or on Schwartz functions) and, in the sense of distributions,

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} A^\epsilon(\tau) = \delta(\tau).$$

Melonic theories

Are there theories such that $\Sigma = J^2 G^{q-1}$?

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Yes: “Melonic” theories built on random tensors!

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Random tensors

Random Tensors generalize Random Matrices to higher dimension.

Random matrices

J. Wishart (1928) statistical analysis of large samples

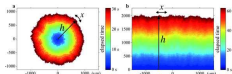
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- Growing interfaces fluctuations



- Spacing between perched birds (parked cars)



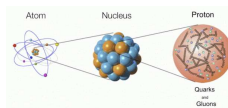
- Distinguish “signal” from “noise”



A. Chakraborty (2011) identify DNA sectors in HIV that rarely undergo multiple mutations

Quantum Chromodynamics and random matrices

Strong interaction: quarks bind into protons and neutrons which form nuclei.



$SU(3)$ gauge theory with 6 flavors of quarks:

$$L = \sum_f \bar{\psi}_f (\not{\partial} \gamma^\mu D_\mu - m) \psi_f - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} [G_{\mu\nu} G^{\mu\nu}] ,$$

3 components

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu - ig A_\mu^a T^a , \quad G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{Z} [D_\mu, D_\nu]$$

3x3 hermitian traceless matrix

Endgame: expectations of gauge invariant observables (the Wilson loop \leftrightarrow quark confinement):

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int [d\bar{\psi} d\psi dA] \mathcal{O} e^{iL}$$

The $1/N$ expansion in random matrices

Random $N \times N$ matrices:

- Feynman expansion in **embedded graphs** (combinatorial maps) \leftrightarrow discretized surfaces.
- Have **built in scales**: the size of the matrix, N (number of degrees of freedom).

Canonical framework for the study of random surfaces (1980 onward): string theory, quantum gravity in $D = 2$, integrability, conformal field theory, invariants of algebraic curves, etc.

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$1/N$ expansion indexed by the **genus**

Higher dimensions

Generalize matrix models to higher dimensions

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Proposals in the 90s: tensor models and group field theories (Ambjørn, Durhuus, Jonsson, Boulatov, Ooguri).

But no progress for twenty years: no $1/N$ expansion could not be found!

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$1/N$ in 2010/2011.

150+ papers: A Baratin, D. Benedetti, J. Ben Geloun, V. Bonzom, S Carrozza, S. Dartois, T. Delepouve, A. Eichhorn, L. Freidel, T. Koslowski, T. Krajewski, V. Lahoche, L. Lioni, D. Oriti, V. Rivasseau, A. Riello, J.P. Ryan, D.O. Samary, M. Smerlak, L. Sindoni, A. Tanasa, F. Vignes-Tourneret, etc.

0-dimensional gauge theories

Random matrices \Leftrightarrow 0-dimensional gauge theories for at most two copies of the unitary (orthogonal, etc) group:

$$Z = \int [dA] e^{N\text{Tr}[S(A)]}, \quad A \rightarrow UAU^\dagger \quad U \in \mathcal{U}(N)$$

$$Z = \int [dM dM^\dagger] e^{N\text{Tr}[S(MM^\dagger)]}, \quad M \rightarrow UMV^\dagger, \quad M^\dagger \rightarrow VM^\dagger U^\dagger \quad U \in \mathcal{U}(N), \quad V \in \mathcal{U}(N)$$

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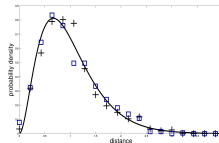
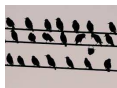
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So where are the birds?

$$S(A) = -A^2/2 \xrightarrow{\text{eigenvalues}} Z = \int \left(\prod_i d\lambda_i \right) \underbrace{\left(\prod_{i < j} |\lambda_i - \lambda_j|^2 \right)}_{\text{eigenvalue repulsion}} \underbrace{e^{-\frac{N}{2} \sum_i \lambda_i^2}}_{\text{confining potential}}$$



Gap distribution at large N fits the distribution of the spacing between perched birds (squares) or parked cars (crosses)! (Šeba 2013)

Tensor models

Tensor Models are 0-dimensional *gauge theories* with gauge group the tensor product of $D \geq 3$ copies of the *unitary* (orthogonal, etc.) group.

The field \rightarrow rank D **complex** tensor (no symmetry) transforming in the external tensor product of D fundamental representations of $\mathcal{U}(N)^{\otimes D}$:

$$T'_{b^1 \dots b^D} = \sum_a U_{b^1 a^1}^{(1)} \dots U_{b^D a^D}^{(D)} T_{a^1 \dots a^D}, \quad \bar{T}'_{p^1 \dots p^D} = \sum_q \bar{U}_{p^1 q^1}^{(1)} \dots \bar{U}_{p^D q^D}^{(D)} \bar{T}_{q^1 \dots q^D}$$

The **action** and the gauge invariant **observables** \rightarrow **invariants** built out of the tensor and its dual.

Tensor invariants as Colored Graphs

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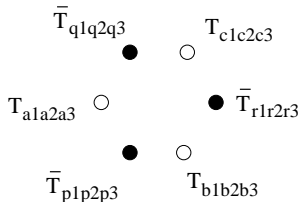
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White (black) vertices for T (\bar{T}).



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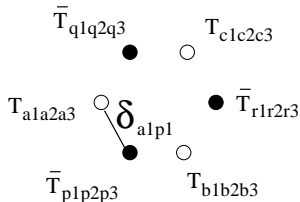
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Edges for $\delta_{a^c q^c}$



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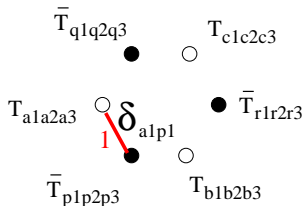
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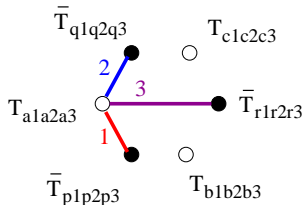
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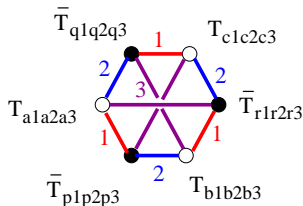
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$$D = 3, \quad \sum \delta_{a^1 p^1} \delta_{a^2 q^2} \delta_{a^3 r^3} \delta_{b^1 r^1} \delta_{b^2 p^2} \delta_{b^3 q^3} \delta_{c^1 q^1} \delta_{c^2 r^2} \delta_{c^3 p^3} \\ T_{a^1 a^2 a^3} T_{b^1 b^2 b^3} T_{c^1 c^2 c^3} \bar{T}_{p^1 p^2 p^3} \bar{T}_{q^1 q^2 q^3} \bar{T}_{r^1 r^2 r^3}$$

White (black) vertices for T (\bar{T}).

Edges for $\delta_{a^c q^c}$ colored by c , the position of the index.



Tensor invariants as Colored Graphs

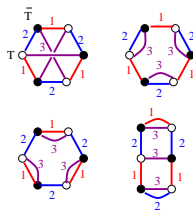
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$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}(T, \bar{T}) = \sum_{\underline{v}} \prod_{\underline{v}} T_{a_{\underline{v}}^1 \dots a_{\underline{v}}^D} \prod_{\bar{\underline{v}}} \bar{T}_{q_{\bar{\underline{v}}}^1 \dots q_{\bar{\underline{v}}}^D} \prod_{c=1}^D \prod_{e^c=(w, \bar{w})} \delta_{a_w^c q_{\bar{w}}^c}$$

White (black) vertices for T (\bar{T}).

Edges for $\delta_{a^c q^c}$ colored by c , the position of the index.



Single trace models

The **field** \rightarrow tensor:

$$T'_{b^1 \dots b^D} = \sum_a U_{b^1 a^1}^{(1)} \dots U_{b^D a^D}^{(D)} T_{a^1 \dots a^D}$$

The **action** \rightarrow "single trace" invariant:

$$S(T, \bar{T}) = \sum T_{b^1 \dots b^D} \bar{T}_{q^1 \dots q^D} \prod_{c=1}^D \delta_{b^c q^c} + \sum_{\substack{\text{connected graphs } \mathcal{B} \\ \text{with } D \text{ colors}}} t_{\mathcal{B}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}(T, \bar{T})$$

The **partition function**:

$$Z(t_{\mathcal{B}}) = \int [d\bar{T} dT] e^{-N^{D-1} S(T, \bar{T})}$$

The gauge invariant **observables**:

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}(T, \bar{T})$$

Objective: $\ln Z, \langle \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_1}(T, \bar{T}) \dots \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_1}(T, \bar{T}) \rangle$

Feynman expansion

$$S(T, \bar{T}) = \sum T_{b^1 \dots b^D} \bar{T}_{q^1 \dots q^D} \prod_{c=1}^D \delta_{b^c q^c} + \sum_{\substack{\text{connected graphs } \mathcal{B} \\ \text{with } D \text{ colors}}} t_{\mathcal{B}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}(T, \bar{T}),$$

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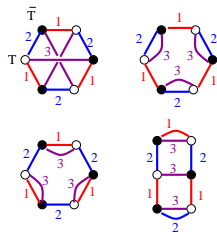
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Feynman expansion:

- Taylor expand in $t_{\mathcal{B}} \rightarrow$ graphs with D colors



$$Z(t_{\mathcal{B}}) = \sum \int_{T, \bar{T}} e^{-N^{D-1} (\sum T_{b^1 \dots b^D} \bar{T}_{q^1 \dots q^D} \prod_{c=1}^D \delta_{b^c q^c})} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_1}(T, \bar{T}) \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_2}(T, \bar{T}) \dots$$

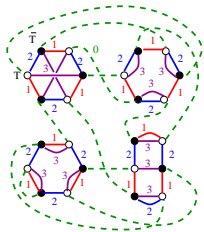
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Feynman expansion:

- Taylor expand in $t_{\mathcal{B}}$ → graphs with D colors
- compute the Gaussian integrals (Wick theorem) → graphs with $D + 1$ colors



$$Z(t_{\mathcal{B}}) = \sum_{\text{graphs } \mathcal{G} \text{ with } D+1 \text{ colors}} A(\mathcal{G})$$

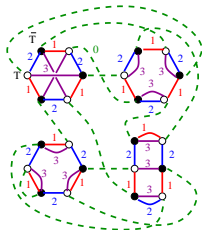
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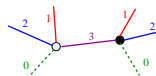


$$Z(t_{\mathcal{B}}) = \sum_{\text{graphs } \mathcal{G} \text{ with } D+1 \text{ colors}} A(\mathcal{G})$$

Each graph \mathcal{G} is embedded in a D dimensional space (Poincaré dual to a triangulation)

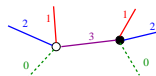
Colored graphs and vertex colored triangulations

White and black $D + 1$ valent **vertices** connected by **edges** with colors $0, 1 \dots D$.



Colored graphs and vertex colored triangulations

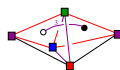
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Vertex \leftrightarrow D simplex with colored vertices .

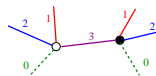


Edges \leftrightarrow gluings along $D - 1$ **simplices** respecting **all** the colorings



Colored graphs and vertex colored triangulations

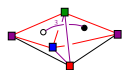
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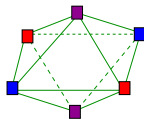
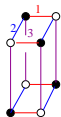
Vertex \leftrightarrow D simplex with colored vertices .



Edges \leftrightarrow gluings along $D - 1$ **simplices** respecting **all** the colorings



Invariants Tr_B : **graphs with D colors**, $D - 1$ dimensional **boundary triangulations**.



Observables and expectations

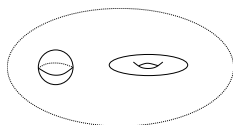
Observables = invariants $\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}$ encoding **boundary triangulations**.

Expectations =

$$\langle \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_1} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_2} \dots \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_q} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z(t_{\mathcal{B}})} \int [d\bar{T} dT] \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_1} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_2} \dots \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_q} e^{-N^{D-1} S(T, \bar{T})}$$

correlations between **boundary states** given by **sums over all bulk triangulations** compatible with the boundary states

- $\langle \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_1} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_2} \rangle_c = \langle \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_1} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_2} \rangle - \langle \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_1} \rangle \langle \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}_2} \rangle$: transition amplitude between the boundary states \mathcal{B}_1 and \mathcal{B}_2



- **canonical** measure over triangulations.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Random Tensors
- 3 The $1/N$ expansion and SYK model(s)**
- 4 Conclusion

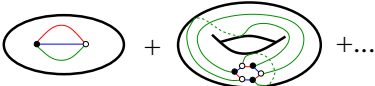
The $1/N$ expansion for matrices

$$Z = \int [dM dM^\dagger] e^{-N \left\{ \text{Tr}[MM^\dagger] - \sum_{p \geq 1} \frac{z^p}{p} \text{Tr}[(MM^\dagger)^p] \right\}}$$

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- perturbative expansion indexed by graphs **embedded in surfaces**

$$\ln Z = \sum_{\substack{\text{connected} \\ 2+1 \text{ colored graphs } \mathcal{G}}} A(\mathcal{G})$$


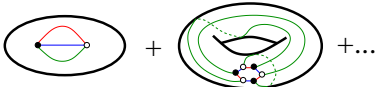
- the scaling with N senses the **topology** (genus $g(\mathcal{G}) \geq 0$):

$$A(\mathcal{G}) \sim N^{2-2g(\mathcal{G})}$$

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- G. 't Hooft (1974) \rightarrow reorganize the perturbative series in powers of $1/N$:

$$\frac{1}{N^2} \ln Z = \underbrace{\sum_{g \geq 0} \left(\frac{1}{N} \right)^{2g}}_{\text{expansion in topologies}} \underbrace{\sum_{\substack{g(\mathcal{G})=g \\ \text{connected} \\ 2+1 \text{ colored graphs } \mathcal{G}}} \frac{1}{p(\mathcal{G})} z^{p(\mathcal{G})}}_{\text{convergent sum at fixed topology}} \leftarrow \text{number of white vertices}$$

What replaces the genus?

The key in $D = 2$ is the Euler relation relating the number of vertices and faces (bi-colored cycles) of a graph

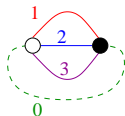
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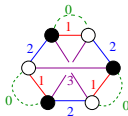
Theorem

For any D and any connected \mathcal{G} , with $2p(\mathcal{G})$ vertices and $F(\mathcal{G})$ faces there exists a **non negative integer** $\omega(\mathcal{G})$ such that

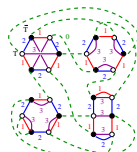
$$F(\mathcal{G}) = \frac{1}{2}D(D-1)p(\mathcal{G}) + D - \frac{2}{(D-1)!}\omega(\mathcal{G}), \quad \omega(\mathcal{G}) \geq 0.$$



$$\omega(\mathcal{G}) = 0$$



$$\omega(\mathcal{G}) = 4$$



$$\omega(\mathcal{G}) = 14$$

The $1/N$ expansion in $D \geq 3$

$$S(T, \bar{T}) = \sum T_{a^1 \dots a^D} \bar{T}_{q^1 \dots q^D} \prod_{i=1}^D \delta_{a^i q^i} - \sum_{\mathcal{B}} N^{-\frac{2}{(D-2)!} \omega(\mathcal{B})} \frac{z^{\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{B})}}{p(\mathcal{B})} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}(T, \bar{T})$$

$$Z = \int [d\bar{T} dT] e^{-N^{D-1} S(T, \bar{T})}$$

Theorem

The free energy of this model admits the $1/N$ expansion:

$$\frac{1}{N^D} \ln Z = \sum_{\omega \geq 0} N^{-\frac{2}{(D-1)!} \omega} \sum_{\substack{\mathcal{G} \text{ connected bipartite} \\ D+1 \text{ colored graphs}}}^{\omega(\mathcal{G})=\omega} \frac{1}{p(\mathcal{G})} z^{\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{G})} .$$

Similar $1/N$ expansions exist for arbitrary observables.

Topology and the $1/N$ expansion

For $D \geq 3$ there does not exist a unique topological invariant that discriminates the topologies.

The $1/N$ expansion **can not be indexed by a topological invariant**: $\omega(\mathcal{G})$ mixes topological and triangulation dependent information.

Topology and the $1/N$ expansion

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The $1/N$ expansion **can not be indexed by a topological invariant**: $\omega(\mathcal{G})$ mixes topological and triangulation dependent information.

- melonic graphs, $\omega(\mathcal{G}) = 0$, are **spheres**
- at any degree, only a **finite** number of topologies contribute.
- if a topology contributes at some degree, then it contributes an **infinite number** of triangulations

- a topology contributes to an **infinite number** of degrees.

Leading order

Leading order $\omega(\mathcal{G}) = 0$:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N^D} \ln Z = \sum_{\substack{\mathcal{G} \text{ connected bipartite} \\ D+1 \text{ colored graphs}}}^{\omega(\mathcal{G})=0} \frac{1}{p(\mathcal{G})} z^{p(\mathcal{G})} .$$

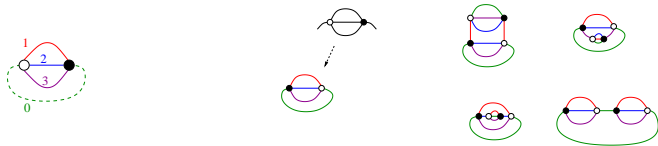
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Theorem

Graphs of degree 0 are melonic.



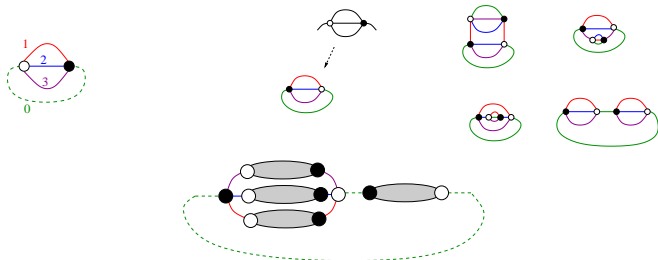
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Theorem

Graphs of degree 0 are melonic.



Melonic theories

Whenever a random tensor is present, melonic graphs dominate.

In some cases: the self energy factors at leading order in terms of the two point function.

In general: random tensors are universal.

A first example: The SYK model

Vector Majorana fermions $\chi_a(\tau)$, q -body interaction with **quenched** random couplings:

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \sum_a \int \chi_a \partial_\tau \chi_a + \sum_{a_1 \dots a_q} J_{a_1 \dots a_q} \int_\tau \chi_{a_1} \dots \chi_{a_q},$$

$$d\nu(J) = e^{-\frac{N^{(q-1)}}{J^2} \sum_a (J_{a_1 \dots a_q})^2}$$

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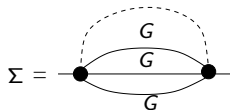
$$d\nu(J) = e^{-\frac{N^{(q-1)}}{J^2} \sum_a (J_{a_1 \dots a_q})^2}$$

$G(\tau_1, \tau_2) \rightarrow$ the disorder average of the thermal two point function:

$$G(\tau_1, \tau_2) = \int d\nu(J) \left[\frac{\int [d\chi] e^{-S} \chi(\tau_1) \chi(\tau_2)}{\int [d\chi] e^{-S}} \right]$$

The disorder average (random tensor): melonic at leading order in N

$$\Sigma = J^2 G^{q-1}$$



Melons in the SYK model

Theorem

Gaussian distribution: $\bar{T} \cdot T$

- for any \mathcal{B} with $2p(\mathcal{B})$ vertices, there exists a unique “order of convergence” $\Omega(\mathcal{B}) \geq \omega(\mathcal{B}) \geq 0$ and a unique $R(\mathcal{B})$ positive integer such that:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N^{-1+\Omega(\mathcal{B})} \int [d\bar{T} dT] e^{-\frac{N^{D-1}}{c} \bar{T} \cdot T} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}(\bar{T}, T) = C^{p(\mathcal{B})} R(\mathcal{B})$$

- furthermore, the scaling in N is the unique scaling such that:
 - $\Omega(\mathcal{B}) \geq 0$ for all \mathcal{B} .
 - $\forall \mathcal{B}$ there exists an infinite family of invariants \mathcal{B}' such that $\Omega(\mathcal{B}) = \Omega(\mathcal{B}')$.
- finally, if $\omega(\mathcal{B}) = 0$ then $\Omega(\mathcal{B}) = 0$ and $R(\mathcal{B}) = 1$.

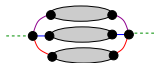
Tensor SYK models

Promote everybody to tensor fields (Witten, 2016) $\chi_{a^1 \dots a^D}(\tau)$:

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \sum \int \chi \partial_\tau \chi + J \sum \int_\tau \underbrace{\chi \dots \chi}_{D+1},$$

$$Z = \int [d\chi] e^{-S}, \quad G = \frac{1}{Z} \int [d\chi] e^{-S} \chi \chi$$

Melonic at leading order in $1/N$:



$$\Sigma = J^2 G^D$$

Why Tensor SYK?

- Eliminates the quenching without drowning the fermions (Witten)
- Number of fields does not proliferate for $N \rightarrow \infty$: as in QCD, it is the gauge group which grows (Witten)
- Solves the question of the singlets: only gauge invariant observables (Klebanov)
- Better controlled $1/N$ series (Klebanov)

Universality

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Theorem

Invariant distribution: $S = \bar{T} \cdot T + \sum_{\mathcal{B} \text{ connected}} t_{\mathcal{B}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}(\bar{T}, T)$

- in the large N limit

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N^{-1+\Omega(\mathcal{B})} \int \frac{[d\bar{T}dT]}{Z} e^{-N^{D-1}S(\bar{T}, T)} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}(\bar{T}, T) = G^{p(\mathcal{B})} R(\mathcal{B})$$

- the covariance (two point function) G :

$$1 - G - GV'_{\text{melo}}(G) = 0, \quad V_{\text{melo}}(x) = \sum_{\mathcal{B} \text{ melonic}} t_{\mathcal{B}} x^{p(\mathcal{B})}.$$

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The bottom line

Random tensors:

- **canonical** path integral formulation.
- **built in** scales (tensors of size N^D).
- **new universal $1/N$ expansion, melons dominate.**
- “interesting” CFT_1 s, random geometries in arbitrary dimension, etc.



SYK model(s):

- \mathbb{Z}_2 prescription preserving the symmetry, reproducing the conformal limit at $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.