

The circular law under log-concavity

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Definition

For an $n \times n$ matrix A let μ_A denote its spectral measure, i.e.

$$\mu_A = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\lambda_i(A)},$$

where $\lambda_i(A)$ are the eigenvalues of A .

Theorem (Tao, Vu (2008))

Let $(X_{ij})_{i,j < \infty}$ be an infinite array of i.i.d. mean zero, variance one complex random variables. Let $A_n = (X_{ij})_{i,j \leq n}$. Then the spectral measure of $n^{-1/2}A_n$ converges almost surely as $n \rightarrow \infty$ to the uniform measure on the unit disc.

Previous contributions:

Ginibre, Mehta, Girko, Edelman, Bai, Götze-Tikhomirov, Pan-Zhou

Question:

- Can the independence assumption on the entries of A_n be relaxed?
- The first idea: independent entries \rightarrow independent rows with some geometric condition?
- The second idea: dependent rows, but an additional symmetry assumption?

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Existing results:

- random Markov matrices - Bordenave, Caputo, Chafaï (2008)
- ± 1 matrices with a given row sum - Nguyen, Vu (2012)
- uniform doubly-stochastic matrices - Nguyen (2012)
- truncations of random unitary matrices – Dong, Jiang, Li (2012)
- matrices with independent log-concave isotropic rows – R.A. (2010-2013)
- matrices with log-concave isotropic unconditional distribution – Chafaï, R. A. (2013)

Isotropy, log-concavity

- A random vector X in \mathbb{R}^n is **isotropic** if

$$\mathbb{E}X = 0$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}X \otimes X = \text{Id}$$

or equivalently for all $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$\mathbb{E}\langle X, y \rangle^2 = |y|^2.$$

- A random vector X in \mathbb{R}^n is log-concave if its law μ satisfies a Brunn-Minkowski type inequality

$$\mu(\theta A + (1 - \theta)B) \geq \mu(A)^\theta \mu(B)^{1-\theta}.$$

Theorem (Borell)

A random vector not supported on any $(n - 1)$ dimensional hyperplane is log-concave iff it has density of the form $\exp(-V(x))$, where $V: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty]$ is convex.

Theorem (R.A. (2010–2013))

Let A_n be a sequence of $n \times n$ random matrices with independent rows $X_1^{(n)}, \dots, X_n^{(n)}$ (defined on the same probability space). Assume that for each n and $i \leq n$, $X_i^{(n)}$ has a log-concave isotropic distribution. Then, with probability one, the spectral measure $\mu_{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}A_n}$ converges weakly to the uniform distribution on the unit disc.

Strategy of proof (Girko)

Definition

Let μ be a probability measure on \mathbb{C} integrating $\log(|\cdot|)$ at infinity. The logarithmic potential of μ is defined as

$$U_{\mu}(z) = \int_{\mathbb{C}} \log(|x - z|) d\mu(x).$$

Fact

$$\mu = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \Delta U_{\mu}.$$

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For the empirical spectral measure of $n^{-1/2}A_n$,

$$\begin{aligned} U_{\mu_n}(z) &= \frac{1}{n} \log |\det(n^{-1/2}A_n - z)| = \frac{1}{2n} \log |\det(A_n - z)|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int \log x d\nu_{z,n}(x), \end{aligned}$$

where $\nu_{z,n}$ is the empirical spectral measure of the (Hermitian) matrix $(n^{-1/2}A_n - z)(n^{-1/2}A_n - z)^*$.

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- Prove that $(\mu_n)_n$ is tight and $\nu_{z,n}$ converge weakly. Use the log-potential to identify the limit.

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Strategy

- Prove that $(\mu_n)_n$ is tight and $\nu_{z,n}$ converge weakly. Use the log-potential to identify the limit.
- Problem: singularities of the logarithm
- One needs to show that for all z , $\log(\cdot)$ is a.s. uniformly integrable with respect to the random measures $\nu_{z,n}$

Log-concave toolkit

Theorem (Prekopa-Leindler (1970's))

Marginals of log-concave isotropic random vectors are themselves isotropic and log-concave.

Theorem (Hensley (1980))

The density of a one-dimensional variance one log-concave variable is bounded by a universal constant.

Theorem (Klartag's thin shell concentration (2007))

Let X be an isotropic log-concave random vector in \mathbb{R}^n . There exist numerical positive constants C and c such that for all $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$,

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\left| \frac{|X|^2}{n} - 1 \right| \geq \varepsilon \right) \leq C \exp(-c\varepsilon^C n^c).$$

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- We are interested in convergence of the empirical spectral measure of $(n^{-1/2}A_n - z\text{Id})(n^{-1/2}A_n - z\text{Id})^*$.
- By general properties of random matrices with independent rows (exponential concentration for the Stieltjes transform), it is enough to prove the convergence of expected spectral measure.

Lemma (folklore(?)) – Corollary to Azuma's inequality

Let A be any $n \times N$ random matrix with independent rows and let $S: \mathbb{C}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the Stieltjes transform of the spectral measure of $H = AA^$. Then for any $\alpha = x + iy \in \mathbb{C}_+$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$,*

$$\mathbb{P}(|S_n(\alpha) - \mathbb{E}S_n(\alpha)| \geq \varepsilon) \leq C \exp(-cn\varepsilon^2 y^2).$$

Theorem (R.A. (2011), following Dozier-Silverstein)

Let $N = N_n$ and assume that $n/N \rightarrow c > 0$. Let R_n be a deterministic $n \times N$ matrix such that the spectral measure of $\frac{1}{N}R_nR_n^*$ converges to some probability measure H . Let A_n be an $n \times N$ random matrix with independent rows $X_i = X_i^{(n)}$ such that

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sup_{\|C\| \leq 1} \frac{1}{N} \mathbb{E} |\langle CX_i, X_i \rangle - \text{tr } C| = o(1).$$

Then the spectral measure of the matrix $M_n = \frac{1}{N}(R_n + A_n)(R_n + A_n)^*$ converges a.s. to a deterministic probability measure μ , whose Stieltjes transform $S(z) = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{x-z} \mu(dx)$ is characterized by

$$S(z) = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\frac{t}{1+cS(z)} - (1+S(z))z + 1 - c} H(dt).$$

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- One can state a more general condition, which works when the rows are dependent. Examples: 1) a generalization of a recent result by O'Rourke for random matrices with decaying correlations, 2) random matrices with exchangeable entries.

Uniform integrability of the $\log(\cdot)$

Following Tao and Vu, one needs three ingredients

- a polynomial bound on the largest singular value
- a polynomial bound on the smallest singular value
- a bound on the distance of a single row of the matrix from the span of some other k -rows. It should be with high probability of the order $\sqrt{n-k}$.

- largest singular value

Theorem (Litvak, Pajor, Tomczak-Jaegermann, R.A. (2010))

With high probability we have

$$\|A\| \leq C\sqrt{n}.$$

In fact for the circular law a weaker bound suffices, so one can simply use Klartag' thin shell or Paouris large deviation inequality for the Hilbert-Schmidt (Euclidean) norm of the matrix.

- smallest singular value

Proposition

Let A_n be an $n \times n$ matrix with independent log-concave isotropic rows and let M_n be any deterministic matrix. Let σ_n be the smallest singular value of $A_n + M_n$. Then with probability at least $1 - n^{-2}$,

$$\sigma_n \geq cn^{-4}.$$

- largest singular value

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Proof (now standard, following Rudelson-Vershynin).

Let X_i be the rows of $A_n + M_n$. We have

$$\sigma_n \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \min_{i \leq n} (\text{dist}(X_i, \text{span}\{X_j\}_{j \neq i})).$$

LHS easily bounded by independence of rows and bounded density of marginals. □

Digression: $M_n = 0$

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Let A_n be an $n \times n$ matrix with independent log-concave isotropic rows and let σ_n be the smallest singular value of A_n . Then for every $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sigma_n \leq c\varepsilon n^{-1/2}\right) \leq C\varepsilon \log^2\left(\frac{2}{\varepsilon}\right).$$

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Problems:

- get rid of the log,
- extend to nonzero M_n (for Gaussian matrix - Sankar, Spielman, Teng (2003)).

- distance from the subspace

We need a good lower estimate on $\text{dist}(X, E)$, where E is a deterministic subspace of \mathbb{C}^n of dimension k .

For \mathbb{R}^n it follows directly from Klartag's result, since $P_{E^c}X$ is an isotropic log-concave random vector on E^c (by Prekopa-Leindler) and thus

$$\mathbb{P}\left(|P_{E^c}X|^2 - (n - k)| \geq \varepsilon(n - k)\right) \leq C \exp(-c\varepsilon^C(n - k)^C).$$

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- Instead of Klartag's result one may also use the following

Theorem (Paouris (2009))

Let X be an isotropic log-concave random vector in \mathbb{R}^n and let A be an $n \times n$ real nonzero matrix. Then for $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\varepsilon \in (0, c_1)$,

$$\mathbb{P}(|AX - y| \leq \varepsilon \|A\|_{HS}) \leq \varepsilon^{c_1} (\|A\|_{HS} / \|A\|),$$

where $c_1 > 0$ is a universal constant.

Here (after passing to real matrices) $\|A\|_{HS} = \sqrt{n - k}$, $\|A\| \leq 1$.

Definition

A random vector $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ is called **unconditional** if its distribution is equal to the distribution of $(\varepsilon_1 X_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n X_n)$ for any choice of $\varepsilon_j \in \{-1, +1\}$.

Beyond independent rows (joint work with D. Chafaï)

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Theorem (Chafaï, R.A. (2013))

Let us identify the space of $n \times n$ real matrices with \mathbb{R}^{n^2} in a natural way. Assume that for each n , A_n is a random matrix with log-concave isotropic unconditional distribution. Then, with probability one, the empirical spectral measure of $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}A_n$ converges to the uniform measure on the unit disc.

Remark:

There are models with log-concave isotropic distribution for which the limiting spectral measure is not the circular law (Feinberg-Zee, Guionnet-Krishnapur-Zeitouni).

Convergence of $\nu_{z,n}$

Theorem (R.A. (2010))

Let $A_n = [X_{ij}^{(n)}]_{1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq n}$. Let us assume that the following assumptions are satisfied

- (A1) for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $\sup_n \max_{i \leq n, j \leq n} \mathbb{E} |X_{ij}^{(n)}|^k < \infty$,
- (A2) for every n, i, j , $\mathbb{E}(X_{ij}^{(n)} | \mathcal{F}_{ij}) = 0$, where \mathcal{F}_{ij} is the σ -field generated by $\{X_{kl}^{(n)} : (k, l) \neq (i, j)\}$,
- (A3) $|R_n|/\sqrt{n}, |C_n|/\sqrt{n} \rightarrow 1$ in probability, where R_n and C_n are resp. random row and column of A_n .

Then the expected spectral measure of

$$(n^{-1/2} A_n - z \text{Id})(n^{-1/2} A_n - z \text{Id})^*$$

converges to a measure which does not depend on the distribution of A_n .

Convergence of $\nu_{Z,n}$

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- In the log-concave unconditional case the assumptions are satisfied thanks to Klartag's thin shell inequality
- This gives convergence of $\mathbb{E}\nu_{Z,n}$ to the same measure as in the Gaussian case.
- The a.s. convergence follows by concentration implied by the Poincaré inequality for unconditional log-concave measures, applied to the Stieltjes transform of $\nu_{Z,n}$

Theorem (Klartag)

If X is an isotropic unconditional log-concave random vector in \mathbb{R}^n , then for every smooth $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\text{Var}f(X) \leq C \log^2(n+1) \mathbb{E}|\nabla f(X)|^2.$$

The largest singular value

Theorem (Latała)

Let X be an unconditional isotropic log-concave random vector in \mathbb{R}^n and let Y be a random vector in \mathbb{R}^n whose components are i.i.d. standard symmetric exponential variables. Then for every norm $\|\cdot\|$ on \mathbb{R}^n and every $t > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}(\|X\| \geq t) \leq C\mathbb{P}(\|Y\| > t/C).$$

Combining this with known bounds on the operator norm of random matrices with i.i.d. entries and the Poincaré inequality for the exponential distribution, we get

Lemma

Let M_n be a deterministic $n \times n$ matrix with $\|M_n\| \leq R\sqrt{n}$ for some $R > 0$. Then for all $t \geq 1$,

$$\mathbb{P}(\|A_n + M_n\| \geq (R + C)\sqrt{n} + t) \leq 2\exp(-ct).$$

The smallest singular value

Lemma (Chafaï, R.A.)

Let A_n be an $n \times n$ random matrix with log-concave isotropic unconditional distribution and let M_n be a deterministic $n \times n$ matrix. Then

$$\mathbb{P}(s_n(A_n + M_n) \leq n^{-6.5}) \leq Cn^{-3/2}.$$

- A better but still suboptimal result can be obtained
- Can one get $\mathbb{P}(s_n(A_n + M_n) \leq \varepsilon n^{-1/2}) \leq C\varepsilon \log^C(1/\varepsilon)$ at least for $M_n = 0$?
- The proof uses the fact that conditional distribution of a single column given all the remaining columns is log-concave and unconditional. It is not isotropic, but by isotropy, Hensley and Markov's ineq. one can get a lower bound on conditional variances. Then we again use the boundedness of density for one-dimensional log-concave vectors.

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$$\text{dist}(Z_{k+1}, H) \geq c_R \sqrt{n - k}.$$

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Some (not too well motivated) questions:

- What is the right probability bound?
- Does a similar bound hold without unconditionality (i.e. for log-concave isotropic matrices)?
- Is the dependence on R necessary?

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- $X = (X_1\varepsilon_1, \dots, X_n\varepsilon_n)$, where ε 's – i.i.d. Rademachers
- By applying Talagrand's concentration inequality to ε 's we get that

$$\mathbb{P}_\varepsilon \left(\text{dist}(X, H)^2 \leq c \sum_{i=1}^{n-k} \sum_{j=1}^n X_j^2 |\mathbf{e}_{ij}|^2 \right) \leq 2 \exp \left(-c \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n-k} \sum_{j=1}^n X_j^2 |\mathbf{e}_{ij}|^2}{\max_j X_j^2} \right).$$

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- $\max_j |X_j|$ can be controlled easily by log-concavity, so it remains to prove that with high probability

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- for this we prove that with high probability
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Thus for each i there are at least $\alpha n/2$ j 's s.t. $|X_j| \geq \theta$ and $|e_{ij}| \geq \theta/\sqrt{n}$, which gives

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-k} \sum_{j=1}^n X_j^2 |e_{ij}|^2 \geq \frac{\theta^4 \alpha}{2} (n-k)$$

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- To prove 1) and 2) one uses the fact that unconditional log-concave measures satisfy the hyperplane conjecture so, their densities in dimension m are bounded by C^m .

Thank you