

Tau functions as Widom constants

Oleg Lisovyy

Orléans, 14/06/2018

Motivation:

- ▶ isomonodromic deformations of linear ODEs with rational coefficients
- ▶ simplest cases described by **Painlevé equations**
- ▶ for example, **Painlevé VI** corresponds to rank 2 **Fuchsian** system with 4 regular singularities at $0, t, 1, \infty$:

$$\partial_z \Phi = \Phi A(z), \quad A(z) = \frac{A_0}{z} + \frac{A_t}{z-t} + \frac{A_1}{z-1}$$

- ▶ monodromy representation

$$\rho : \pi_1(\mathbb{CP}^1 \setminus \{4 \text{ pts}\}) \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$$

- ▶ Riemann-Hilbert correspondence: système linéaire \mapsto monodromie
- ▶ $A_{0,t,1}$ and $A_\infty := -A_0 - A_t - A_1$ are 2×2 matrices with eigenvalues $\pm\theta_{0,t,1,\infty}$, and isomonodromy equations are

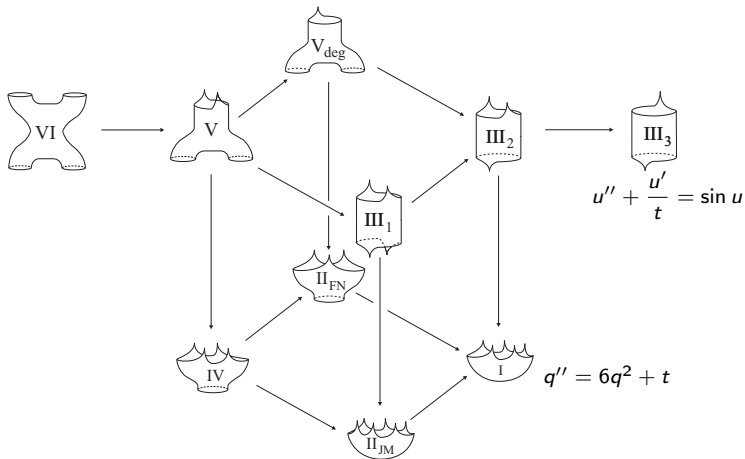
$$\frac{dA_0}{dt} = \frac{[A_0, A_t]}{t}, \quad \frac{dA_1}{dt} = \frac{[A_1, A_t]}{t-1}, \quad A_\infty = \text{const.}$$

Painlevé VI:

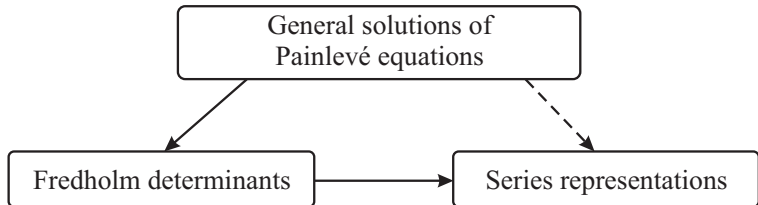
$$\left(t(t-1)\zeta''\right)^2 = -2 \det \begin{pmatrix} 2\theta_0^2 & t\zeta' - \zeta & \zeta' + \theta_0^2 + \theta_t^2 + \theta_1^2 - \theta_\infty^2 \\ t\zeta' - \zeta & 2\theta_t^2 & (t-1)\zeta' - \zeta \\ \zeta' + \theta_0^2 + \theta_t^2 + \theta_1^2 - \theta_\infty^2 & (t-1)\zeta' - \zeta & 2\theta_1^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ $\zeta(t) = (t-1) \operatorname{Tr} A_0 A_t + t \operatorname{Tr} A_1 A_t = t(t-1) \frac{d}{dt} \ln \tau$
- ▶ $\tau(t)$ is the Painlevé VI **tau function**
- ▶ résolution = inversion de l'application de Riemann-Hilbert

Geometric confluence diagram [Chekhov, Mazzocco, Rubtsov, '15]:



	PVI	PV	PIII ₁	PIII ₂	PIII ₃	PIV	PII	PI
#(parameters)	4	3	2	1	0	2	1	0



- ▶ block integrable kernels
- ▶ Widom's constants

- ▶ summation over partitions/Young diagrams

General solution of PVI [Gamayun, Iorgov, OL, '12]:

PVI tau function is a Fourier transform of $c = 1$ Virasoro conformal block:

$$\tau(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{in\eta} \mathcal{B}(\vec{\theta}, \sigma + n, t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{in\eta} \underbrace{\theta_\infty \mid \sigma + n \mid \theta_0}_{\theta_1 \mid \theta_t} (t)$$

- ▶ $\mathcal{B}(\vec{\theta}, \sigma, t) = t^{\sigma^2 - \theta_0^2 - \theta_t^2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B_k(\vec{\theta}, \sigma) t^k$
- ▶ B_k determined by commutation relations of Vir
- ▶ as $c \rightarrow \infty$ (Vir $\rightarrow \mathfrak{sl}_2$), conformal block $\mathcal{B}(t) \sim {}_2F_1(t)$
- ▶ all 4 parameters $(\theta_0, \theta_t, \theta_1, \theta_\infty)$
- ▶ 2 integrals of motion (σ, η)

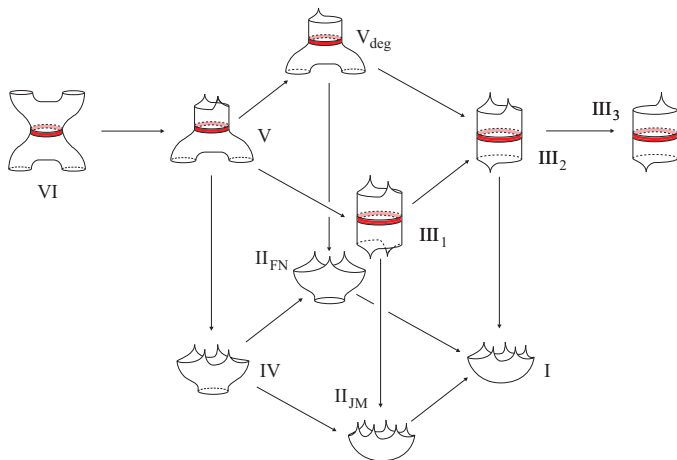
- ▶ AGT correspondence [Alday, Gaiotto, Tachikawa, '09]:

$$\mathcal{B}(t) = \mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}(t) = \begin{array}{l} \text{sum over pairs} \\ \text{of Young diagrams} \end{array} \quad [\text{Nekrasov, '04}]$$

- ▶ series representation for PVI tau function

$$\tau(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{in\eta} \sum_{\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{Y}} \mathcal{B}_{\lambda, \mu}(\vec{\theta}, \sigma + n) t^{(\sigma+n)^2 + |\lambda| + |\mu|}$$

- ▶ proof in [Gavrylenko, OL, '16]
- ▶ similar expansions in other cross-ratios: $1 - t$, $\frac{1}{t}$, $\frac{1}{1-t}$, $\frac{t}{t-1}$, $\frac{t-1}{t}$
- ▶ expansions for PV and PIII_{1,2,3} at $t = 0$ have very similar structure



- ▶ PVI, PV, PIII_{1,2,3} surfaces may be cut into solvable pieces



Gauss



Whittaker



Bessel

- ▶ More surprisingly, Fourier transform also appears in “irregular type” expansions for PI–PV at $t = \infty$.

Goals

“Painlevé project”:

- ▶ develop a general approach that would allow to derive systematically (asymptotic) series for PI-PV functions
- ▶ explicit expressions for coefficients of the series + connection formulas (in terms of monodromy of the associated linear problem)

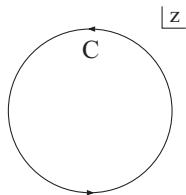
Beyond isomonodromic setting:

- ▶ give a “good” (non-log-derivative) definition of the tau function; in particular, define a tau function for arbitrary Riemann-Hilbert problem

Riemann-Hilbert setup

- ▶ let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a circle centered at the origin
- ▶ pick a loop $J(z) \in \text{Hom}(\mathcal{C}, \text{GL}_N(\mathbb{C}))$
- ▶ $J(z)$ continues into an annulus $\mathcal{A} \supset \mathcal{C}$

$$J(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} J_k z^k,$$



Two Riemann-Hilbert problems:

direct : $J(z) = \Psi_-(z)^{-1} \Psi_+(z)$

dual : $J(z) = \bar{\Psi}_+(z) \bar{\Psi}_-(z)^{-1}$

Main definition: The tau function of RHPs defined by (\mathcal{C}, J) is defined as Fredholm determinant

$$\tau[J] = \det_{H_+} (\Pi_+ J^{-1} \Pi_+ J \Pi_+),$$

where $H = L^2(\mathcal{C}, \mathbb{C}^N)$ and Π_+ is the orthogonal projection on H_+ along H_- .

Properties:

- ▶ dual RHP is solvable iff the operator $P := \Pi_+ J^{-1} \Pi_+$ is invertible on H_+ , in which case $P^{-1} = \bar{\Psi}_+ \Pi_+ \bar{\Psi}_-^{-1} \Pi_+$
- ▶ likewise, for direct RHP and $Q := \Pi_+ J \Pi_+$, with $Q^{-1} = \Psi_+^{-1} \Pi_+ \Psi_- \Pi_+$
- ▶ if either direct or dual RHP is not solvable, then $\tau[J] = 0$

Main definition: The tau function of RHPs defined by (\mathcal{C}, J) is defined as Fredholm determinant

$$\tau[J] = \det_{H_+} (\Pi_+ J^{-1} \Pi_+ J \Pi_+),$$

where $H = L^2(\mathcal{C}, \mathbb{C}^N)$ and Π_+ is the orthogonal projection on H_+ along H_- .

Example: scalar case ($N = 1$)

- ▶ direct and dual factorization coincide
- ▶ $J(z) = (1 - t_1 z)^{\nu_1} (1 - t_2/z)^{\nu_2}$ with $|z| = 1$ and $|t_1|, |t_2| < 1$, then

$$\tau[J] = (1 - t_1 t_2)^{\nu_1 \nu_2}$$

Remark. $\tau[J]$ appears [Widom, '76] in the asymptotics of determinant of **block Toeplitz** matrix with symbol $J = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} J_k z^k$,

$$T_K[J] = \begin{pmatrix} J_0 & J_{-1} & \dots & J_{-K+1} \\ J_1 & J_0 & \dots & J_{-K+2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ J_{K-1} & J_{K-2} & \dots & J_0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In this context, $\tau[J]$ is called **Widom's constant**.

- ▶ strong Szegő for $N = 1$: $\tau[J] = \exp \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k (\ln J)_k (\ln J)_{-k}$
- ▶ no nice general formula for $N \geq 2$

Lemma: If the direct RHP is solvable, then $\tau[J]$ may also be written as

$$\tau[J] = \det_H(\mathbf{1} + K), \quad K = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a_{+-} \\ a_{-+} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \text{End}(H_+ \oplus H_-),$$

where $a_{\pm\mp} : H_{\mp} \rightarrow H_{\pm}$ are integral operators

$$(a_{\pm\mp} f)(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C a_{\pm\mp}(z, z') f(z') dz',$$

with block integrable kernels

$$a_{\pm\mp}(z, z') = \pm \frac{\mathbf{1} - \Psi_{\pm}(z) \Psi_{\pm}(z')^{-1}}{z - z'}.$$

Proof. We have $a_{\pm\mp} = \Psi_{\pm} \Pi_{\pm} \Psi_{\pm}^{-1} - \Pi_{\pm}$. □

In our applications:

- ▶ Ψ_{\pm} (**direct** factorization) are given and define the jump $J = \Psi_-^{-1} \Psi_+$
- ▶ Ψ_{\pm} are expressed via classical special functions (Gauss, Kummer & Bessel for PVI, PV, PIII's)
- ▶ **dual** factorization ($\bar{\Psi}_{\pm}$ in $J = \bar{\Psi}_+ \bar{\Psi}_-^{-1}$) is a problem to be solved

Differentiation formula

Theorem: Let $(z, t) \mapsto J(z, t)$ be a smooth family of $GL(N, \mathbb{C})$ -loops which depend on an extra parameter t and admit both direct and dual factorization. Then

$$\partial_t \ln \tau [J] = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ J^{-1} \partial_t J \left[\partial_z \bar{\Psi}_- \bar{\Psi}_-^{-1} + \Psi_+^{-1} \partial_z \Psi_+ \right] \right\} dz.$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \ln \det_{H_+} PQ &= \operatorname{Tr}_{H_+} (\partial_t P P^{-1} + Q^{-1} \partial_t Q) = \\ &= \operatorname{Tr}_H \left(\Pi_+ J^{-1} \partial_t J (\bar{\Psi}_- \Pi_- \bar{\Psi}_-^{-1} - \Pi_-) + (\Psi_+^{-1} \Pi_+ \Psi_+ - \Pi_+) J^{-1} \partial_t J \right) \end{aligned}$$

Given $\tilde{d}(z, z') = \frac{\Psi_+(z)^{-1} \Psi_+(z') - \mathbf{1}}{z - z'}$, we have $\tilde{d}(z, z) = \Psi_+^{-1} \partial_z \Psi_+$. □

► due to [Widom, '74]; rediscovered by [Its, Jin, Korepin, '06]

Corollary: in isomonodromic RHPs,

Widom's constant $\tau [J] \simeq$ Jimbo-Miwa-Ueno tau function

Isomonodromic example

Fuchsian system with 4 regular singularities at $0, t, 1, \infty$:

$$\partial_z \Phi = \Phi A(z), \quad A(z) = \frac{A_0}{z} + \frac{A_t}{z-t} + \frac{A_1}{z-1}$$

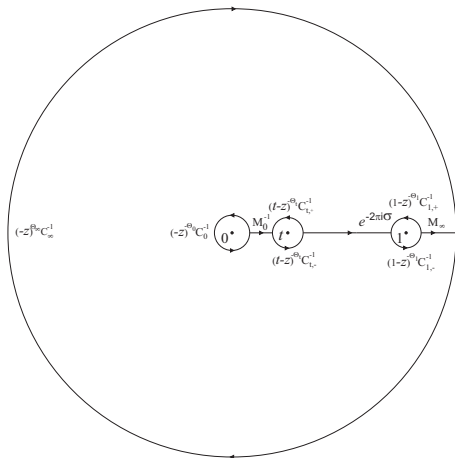
- ▶ arbitrary rank: $A_{0,t,1} \in \text{Mat}_{N \times N}(\mathbb{C})$
- ▶ generic case: $A_{0,t,1}$ and $A_\infty := -A_0 - A_t - A_1$ are diagonalizable
- ▶ fix the diagonalizations $A_\nu = G_\nu^{-1} \Theta_\nu G_\nu$ with diagonal Θ_ν
- ▶ eigenvalues of A_ν are assumed distinct mod \mathbb{Z}

There exist unique fundamental solutions $\Phi^{(\nu)}(z)$, holomorphic on the universal covering of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, t, 1\}$ and such that

$$\Phi^{(\nu)}(z) = \begin{cases} (\nu - z)^{\Theta_\nu} G^{(\nu)}(z), & \text{for } \nu = 0, t, 1, \\ (-z)^{-\Theta_\infty} G^{(\infty)}(z), & \text{for } \nu = \infty, \end{cases}$$

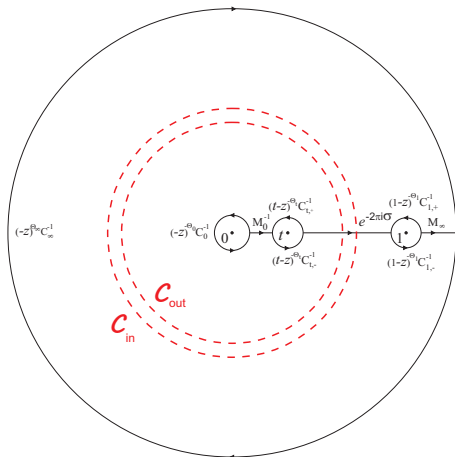
where $G^{(\nu)}(z)$ is holomorphic and invertible in a finite open disk around $z = \nu$ and satisfies $G^{(\nu)}(\nu) = G_\nu$.

Dual RHP₁ for $\tilde{\Psi}$



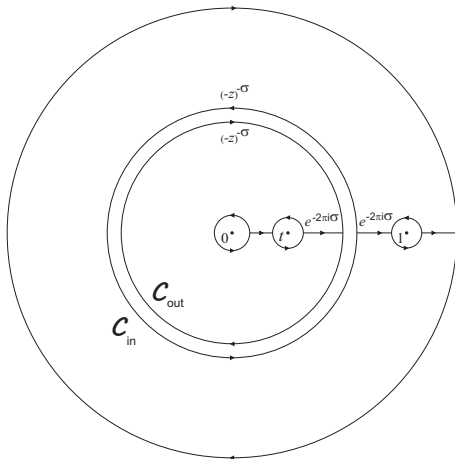
$$\tilde{\Psi}(z) = \begin{cases} G^{(\nu)}(z), & z \in D_{\nu}, \\ \Phi(z), & z \notin \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \cup \bar{D}_0 \cup \bar{D}_t \cup \bar{D}_1 \cup \bar{D}_{\infty}. \end{cases}$$

Dual RHP₁ for $\tilde{\Psi}$

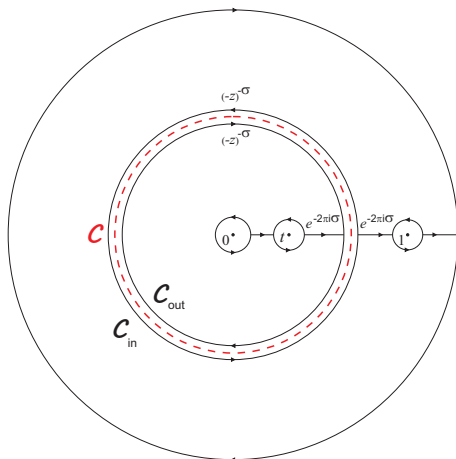


$$\hat{\Psi}(z) = \begin{cases} (-z)^{-\Theta} \tilde{\Psi}(z), & z \in \mathcal{A}, \\ \tilde{\Psi}(z), & z \notin \bar{\mathcal{A}}. \end{cases}$$

Dual RHP₂ for $\hat{\Psi}$

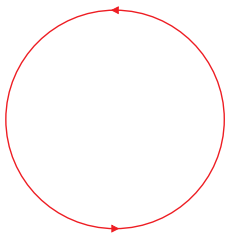


Dual RHP₂ for $\hat{\Psi}$



$$\bar{\Psi}(z) = \begin{cases} \Psi_+(z)^{-1} \hat{\Psi}(z), & \text{outside } C, \\ \Psi_-(z)^{-1} \hat{\Psi}(z), & \text{inside } C. \end{cases}$$

Dual RHP₃ for $\bar{\Psi}$



$$\bar{\Psi}(z) = \begin{cases} \Psi_+(z)^{-1} \hat{\Psi}(z), & \text{outside } \mathcal{C}, \\ \Psi_-(z)^{-1} \hat{\Psi}(z), & \text{inside } \mathcal{C}. \end{cases}$$

- ▶ contour \mathcal{C} (single circle !), smooth jump $J : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{GL}(N, \mathbb{C})$ given by

$$J(z) = \Psi_-(z)^{-1} \Psi_+(z) = \bar{\Psi}_+(z) \bar{\Psi}_-(z)^{-1}$$

- ▶ we are in the previously described setup!

Widom's differentiation formula

$$\partial_t \ln \tau [J] = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C \text{Tr} \left\{ J^{-1} \partial_t J \left[\partial_z \bar{\Psi}_- \bar{\Psi}_-^{-1} + \Psi_+^{-1} \partial_z \Psi_+ \right] \right\} dz.$$

implies that

$$\partial_t \ln \tau [J] = \underbrace{\frac{\text{Tr} A_0 A_t}{t} + \frac{\text{Tr} A_t A_1}{t-1}}_{\partial_t \ln \tau_{\text{JMU}}(t)} - \frac{\text{Tr} A_0^+ A_t^+}{t},$$

so that in turn

$$\tau_{\text{JMU}}(t) = t^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{Tr}(\mathfrak{S}^2 - \Theta_0^2 - \Theta_t^2) \tau [J].$$

► Recall that

$$\tau [J] = \det(\mathbf{1} + K), \quad K = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a_{+-} \\ a_{-+} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$a_{\pm\mp}(z, z') = \pm \frac{\mathbf{1} - \Psi_{\pm}(z) \Psi_{\pm}(z')^{-1}}{z - z'}.$$

- $\tau_{\text{JMU}}(t)$ for 4-point system written via auxiliary [3-point solutions](#)
- hypergeometric representations for $N = 2 \implies$ PVI tau function !

For $N = 2$:

$$a_{+-}(z, z') = \frac{(1 - z')^{2\theta_1} \begin{pmatrix} K_{++}(z) & K_{+-}(z) \\ K_{-+}(z) & K_{--}(z) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} K_{--}(z') & -K_{+-}(z') \\ -K_{-+}(z') & K_{++}(z') \end{pmatrix} - \mathbf{1}}{z - z'},$$

$$a_{-+}(z, z') = \frac{\mathbf{1} - (1 - \frac{t}{z'})^{2\theta_t} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{K}_{++}(z) & \bar{K}_{+-}(z) \\ \bar{K}_{-+}(z) & \bar{K}_{--}(z) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{K}_{--}(z') & -\bar{K}_{+-}(z') \\ -\bar{K}_{-+}(z') & \bar{K}_{++}(z') \end{pmatrix}}{z - z'}$$

with

$$K_{\pm\pm}(z) = {}_2F_1 \left[\begin{matrix} \theta_1 + \theta_\infty \pm \sigma, \theta_1 - \theta_\infty \pm \sigma \\ \pm 2\sigma \end{matrix} ; z \right],$$

$$K_{\pm\mp}(z) = \pm \frac{\theta_\infty^2 - (\theta_1 \pm \sigma)^2}{2\sigma(1 \pm 2\sigma)} z {}_2F_1 \left[\begin{matrix} 1 + \theta_1 + \theta_\infty \pm \sigma, 1 + \theta_1 - \theta_\infty \pm \sigma \\ 2 \pm 2\sigma \end{matrix} ; z \right],$$

$$\bar{K}_{\pm\pm}(z) = {}_2F_1 \left[\begin{matrix} \theta_t + \theta_0 \mp \sigma, \theta_t - \theta_0 \mp \sigma \\ \mp 2\sigma \end{matrix} ; \frac{t}{z} \right],$$

$$\bar{K}_{\pm\mp}(z) = \mp t^{\mp 2\sigma} e^{\mp i\eta} \frac{\theta_0^2 - (\theta_t \mp \sigma)^2}{2\sigma(1 \mp 2\sigma)} \frac{t}{z} {}_2F_1 \left[\begin{matrix} 1 + \theta_t + \theta_0 \mp \sigma, 1 + \theta_t - \theta_0 \mp \sigma \\ 2 \mp 2\sigma \end{matrix} ; \frac{t}{z} \right].$$

Schematically,

$$\tau_{\text{JMU}} \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \text{---} \\ 0 \quad \text{---} \quad \infty \\ \text{---} \\ | \end{array} \right) \tau_{\text{JMU}} \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \text{---} \\ 0 \quad \text{---} \quad \infty \\ \text{---} \\ | \end{array} \right) \det \left(\begin{array}{cc} \mathbf{1} & a_{+-} \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \text{---} \\ 0 \quad \text{---} \quad \infty \\ \text{---} \\ | \end{array} \right) \\ a_{-+} \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \text{---} \\ 0 \quad \text{---} \quad \infty \\ \text{---} \\ | \end{array} \right) & \mathbf{1} \end{array} \right)$$

Similarly, for a linear system with 2 irregular singularities

$$\tau_{\text{JMU}} \left(\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \infty \end{array} \right) \tau_{\text{JMU}} \left(\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \infty \end{array} \right) \det \left(\begin{array}{cc} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{a}_{+-} \left(\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \infty \end{array} \right) \\ \mathbf{a}_{-+} \left(\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \infty \end{array} \right) & \mathbf{1} \end{array} \right)$$

$\tau_{\text{JMU}} \left(\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \infty \end{array} \right) =$

Series representations

Given $K \in \mathbb{C}^{\mathfrak{X} \times \mathfrak{X}}$, we can expand Fredholm determinant

$$\det(\mathbf{1} + K) = \sum_{\mathfrak{y} \in 2^{\mathfrak{X}}} \det K_{\mathfrak{y}} = 1 + \sum_{m \in \mathfrak{X}} K_{mm} + \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{m, n \in \mathfrak{X}} \begin{vmatrix} K_{mm} & K_{mn} \\ K_{nm} & K_{nn} \end{vmatrix} + \dots$$

- ▶ in the Fourier basis,

$$a_{\pm\mp} (z, z') = \sum_{p, q \in \mathbb{Z}'_+} a_{\mp q}^{\pm p} z^{-\frac{1}{2} \pm p} z'^{-\frac{1}{2} \pm q},$$

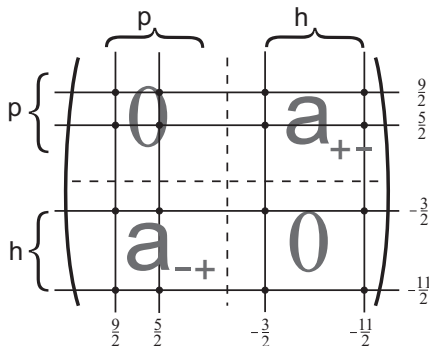
with $a_{\mp q}^{\pm p} \in \text{Mat}_{N \times N}(\mathbb{C})$.

- ▶ multi-indices m, n, \dots of principal minors

$$\det K_{\mathfrak{y}} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a_h^p \\ a_p^h & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

incorporate **color** indices $\alpha = 1, \dots, N$ and (half-)integer **Fourier** indices

$N = 1$ case:

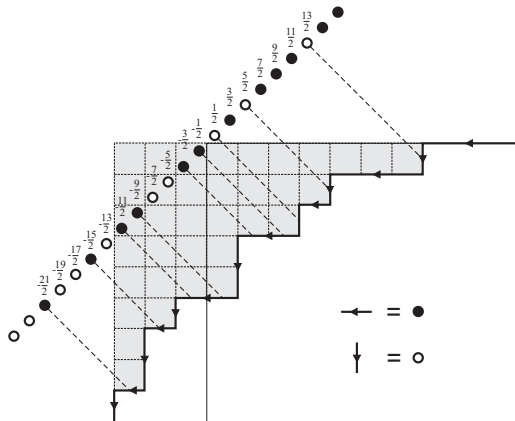


- combinatorial expansion

$$\det(\mathbf{1} + K) = \sum_{(p,h)} (-1)^{|p|} \det a_h^p \det a_p^h,$$

with balance condition $|p| = |h|$

- Fourier indices in p and h are resp. positive and negative



- ▶ A **Maya diagram** is a map $m : \mathbb{Z}' \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ subject to the condition $m(p) = \pm 1$ for all but finitely many $p \in \mathbb{Z}'_{\pm}$ (positions of **particles** and **holes**)
- ▶ Maya diagram = charged partition/Young diagram
- ▶ $\text{charge}(m) = \#(\text{particles}) - \#(\text{holes})$ (zero for balanced diagrams)

Isomonodromic examples

Explicit computation of elementary determinants $\det a_h^p$, $\det a_p^h$:

- ▶ a variant of [Tracy-Widom conditions](#)

$$\partial_z \Psi_{\pm}(z) = \Psi_{\pm}(z) A_{\pm}(z) + z^{-1} \Lambda_{\pm}(z) \Psi_{\pm}(z),$$

with $A_{\pm}(z)$ [rational](#) in z and $\Lambda_{\pm}(z)$ [polynomial](#) in $z^{\pm 1}$.

- ▶ acting with $\mathcal{L}_0 = z\partial_z + z'\partial_{z'} + 1$ e.g. on

$$\frac{1 - \Psi_+(z)\Psi_+(z')^{-1}}{z - z'} = \sum_{p,q \in \mathbb{Z}'_+} a_{-q}^p z^{-\frac{1}{2}+p} z'^{-\frac{1}{2}+q}$$

yields a system of linear matrix equations on Fourier modes a_{-q}^p thanks to the fact that $\mathcal{L}_0 \frac{1}{z-z'} = 0$.

- ▶ PVI, V, III semisimple cases ($N = 2$) \implies [Cauchy determinants](#)

$$\det \frac{f_{p,\alpha} g_{q,\beta}}{p + q + \sigma_{\alpha} + \sigma_{\beta}}$$

Conclusions

1. A **tau function** (= **Widom's constant**) can be assigned to “any” RHP.
2. Given the direct factorization of the jump matrix, $\tau [J]$ may be written as a Fredholm determinant with a block integrable kernel.
3. Principal minor expansion of this determinant in the Fourier basis leads to combinatorial series over tuples of partitions.
4. In RHPs of isomonodromic origin, $\tau [J] \simeq \tau_{\text{JMU}}$
5. Integral kernels and coefficients of combinatorial series can be computed explicitly when auxiliary solutions from the direct factorization have hypergeometric representations; in particular, for PVI, PV and PIIs.
6. Results can be generalized to many-oval contour (e.g. **Garnier system**)

References

- [1] M. Cafasso, P. Gavrylenko, OL, [arXiv:1712.08546 \[math-ph\]](#); à paraître dans Comm. Math. Phys.
- [2] A. Its, OL, A. Prokhorov, [arXiv:1604.03082 \[math-ph\]](#); Duke Math. J. **167**, (2018), 1347–1432.