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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ratios of characteristic polynomials in complex matrix models

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Abstract

We compute correlation functions of inverse powers and ratios of characteristic polynomials for random matrix models with complex eigenvalues. Compact expressions are given in terms of orthogonal polynomials in the complex plane as well as their Cauchy transforms, generalizing previous expressions for real eigenvalues. We restrict ourselves to ratios of characteristic polynomials over their complex conjugate.

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1. Main results

The theory of random matrices has found many applications in different branches of physics [1] as well as in mathematics. One possibility to study the correlation functions of matrix eigenvalues, which can then be mapped to various physical or mathematical quantities, is to compute ratios of characteristic polynomials as their generating functional. Such correlation functions can also be studied in their own right, as they enjoy a direct physical interpretation as well. While the most general generating functional is known for real eigenvalues, much less was known until recently for complex eigenvalues. Characteristic polynomials of the corresponding non-Hermitian operators play an important role, for example, in scattering in quantum chaos, as reviewed in [2], or in quantum chromodynamics [3, 4].

Our purpose is to generalize the result [5] for arbitrary products of characteristic polynomials and their complex conjugates of not necessarily the same order, to ratios of such objects. We restrict ourselves to the case of matrix models with a complex eigenvalue representation, to make the technique of orthogonal polynomials available. The difficulty in the complex plane is that in general neither the three-step recursion relation nor the Christoffel–Darboux formula hold in general. We will still be able to show that part of the results of [6]

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generalizes to complex eigenvalues, where streamline proofs of the previous achievements [7, 8] for real eigenvalues are given.

The partition function of a complex (matrix) eigenvalue model is defined as

$$Z_N \equiv \prod_{i=1}^N \left(\int_D dw(z_i, \bar{z}_i) \right) |\Delta_N(\{z\})|^2, \qquad \Delta_N(\{z\}) \equiv \prod_{i>j}^N (z_i - z_j), \quad (1.1)$$

where we have introduced the Vandermonde determinant $\Delta_N(\{z\})$ stemming from the Jacobian of the diagonalization. We suppose that the probability measure $\mathrm{d}w(z,\bar{z}) = \mathrm{d}z\,\mathrm{d}\bar{z}w(z,\bar{z})$ can be written in terms of eigenvalues and factorizes, and thus that equation (1.1) is invariant under permutations of the eigenvalues $z_{i=1,\dots,N}$. The weight function $w(z,\bar{z})$ depending both on z and \bar{z} shall be strictly positive on the domain of integration D. D can be either a compact set or the full complex plane. Furthermore we require that all moments exist, $\int_D \mathrm{d}w(z,\bar{z})z^k < \infty$ for all $k=0,1,\dots$ Examples for such general weight functions and domains D are given in [5]. Under such conditions a unique set of orthogonal polynomials in the complex plane can be introduced using the Gram–Schmidt procedure. The monic polynomials $\pi_k(z) = z^k + \cdots$ of degree k follow from

$$\int_{D} dw(z,\bar{z})\pi_{k}(z)\overline{\pi_{j}(z)} = \delta_{k,j}r_{k},$$
(1.2)

with their squared norms $r_k > 0$ being strictly positive. We note that in contrast to the weight, the polynomials $\pi_k(z)$ only depend on z and not its complex conjugate \bar{z} . The corresponding Cauchy transform in the complex plane is given by

$$h_n(\bar{\epsilon}) \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_D dw(z, \bar{z}) \frac{\pi_n(z)}{\bar{z} - \bar{\epsilon}}.$$
 (1.3)

Note that the pole $\bar{\epsilon}$ is an integrable singularity in the complex plane. If we want to allow for the Hermitian limit to be taken we have to require $\bar{\epsilon} \notin \bar{D}$. In that case D has to become compact at least in the large-N limit. The Cauchy transforms $h_n(\bar{\epsilon})$ only depend on $\bar{\epsilon}$ and not on ϵ . Another possible Cauchy transform, dividing $\pi_n(z)$ by $z - \epsilon$, is not needed as it can be expressed through the $\pi_{k < n}(z)$ and $h_0(\epsilon)$. Expectation values of observables of symmetric functions of the eigenvalues $f_N \equiv f_N(z_1, \ldots, z_N)$ can be defined as

$$\langle f_N \rangle_w \equiv \frac{1}{Z_N} \prod_{i=1}^N \left(\int_D \mathrm{d}w(z_i, \bar{z}_i) \right) f_N(z_1, \dots, z_N) |\Delta_N(\{z\})|^2. \tag{1.4}$$

Our objects of interest are ratios of characteristic polynomials $D_N[\mu]$ and their conjugates,

$$D_N[\mu] \equiv \prod_{i=1}^N (\mu - z_i) \qquad \text{and} \qquad D_N^{\dagger}[\bar{\epsilon}] \equiv \prod_{i=1}^N (\bar{\epsilon} - \bar{z}_i). \tag{1.5}$$

We can now state our main result, generalizing [8] (see also theorem 2.13 of [6]).

Theorem. Let $\{\mu_j\}_{j=1,\dots,L}$ and $\{\bar{\epsilon}_k\}_{k=1,\dots,M}$ be pairwise non-degenerate complex variables. For $0 \leq M \leq N$ it holds

$$\left\langle \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{L} D_{N}[\mu_{j}]}{\prod_{k=1}^{M} D_{N}^{\dagger}[\bar{\epsilon}_{k}]} \right\rangle_{w} = \frac{(-1)^{\frac{M(M-1)}{2}} \prod_{j=N-M}^{N-1} \left(\frac{2\pi}{ir_{j}}\right)}{\Delta_{L}(\{\mu\}) \Delta_{M}(\{\bar{\epsilon}\})} \begin{vmatrix} h_{N-M}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) & \cdots & h_{N+L-1}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ h_{N-M}(\bar{\epsilon}_{M}) & \cdots & h_{N+L-1}(\bar{\epsilon}_{M}) \\ \pi_{N-M}(\mu_{1}) & \cdots & \pi_{N+L-1}(\mu_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ \pi_{N-M}(\mu_{L}) & \cdots & \pi_{N+L-1}(\mu_{L}) \end{vmatrix} . \tag{1.6}$$

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The following two special cases are worth mentioning. For L=0 and $M\neq 0$, that is for inverse powers only, we obtain a determinant composed purely of Cauchy transforms, equation (1.3), generalizing the results of [8] (see also theorem 2.10 in [6]). In the opposite case, for $L\neq 0$ and M=0 with only products, we partially recover the result of [5] in terms of polynomials only. The theorem as well as the special cases trivially carry over to the complex conjugate expressions. The limit of coinciding variables, e.g. $\mu_i=\mu_j$, can easily be taken, leading to derivatives of the polynomials and Cauchy transforms.

2. Proofs

The proof will very closely follow the steps taken in [6]. Because of the Heine formula it is well known that orthogonal polynomials with respect to a given weight can be expressed through characteristic polynomials,

$$\langle D_N[\mu] \rangle_w = \pi_N(\mu). \tag{2.1}$$

In the following, it will be useful to consider a generalized measure,

$$dw^{[\ell,m]}(z,\bar{z}) \equiv \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{\ell} (\mu_j - z)}{\prod_{k=1}^{m} (\bar{\epsilon}_k - \bar{z})} dw(z,\bar{z}), \qquad \ell, m \geqslant 0,$$

$$(2.2)$$

as well as the corresponding quantities equations (1.1)–(1.4).³ The expectation value in the theorem is then proportional to 'orthogonal polynomials' with respect to equation (2.2), $\pi_N^{[L-1,M]}(\mu_L)$. We will explicitly construct such polynomials by requiring

$$\int_{D} dw^{[\ell,m]}(z,\bar{z})\pi_{j}^{[\ell,m]}(z)\bar{z}^{k} = 0, \qquad j > k \geqslant 0.$$
(2.3)

They can be interpreted as bi-orthogonal polynomials [9]. Let us stress, however, that our result equation (1.6) can be entirely formulated in terms of truly orthogonal polynomials and their Cauchy transforms, which form a bona fide scalar product.

Our proof goes in four steps. We consecutively construct the polynomials $\pi_n^{[\ell,0]}(z)$, $\pi_n^{[0,m]}(z)$, the Cauchy transform of the latter $h_n^{[0,m]}(z)$, and finally $\pi_n^{[\ell,m]}(z)$. In this way, we first show the special cases M=0 and L=0 respectively, before arriving at equation (1.6).

Step 1. Let us define for $\ell \geqslant 1$

$$q_{n}^{[\ell,0]}(z) \equiv \begin{vmatrix} \pi_{n}(\mu_{1}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell}(\mu_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ \pi_{n}(\mu_{\ell}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell}(\mu_{\ell}) \\ \pi_{n}(z) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell}(z) \end{vmatrix},$$
(2.4)

for which it holds

$$\int_{D} dw(z,\bar{z}) q_{n}^{[\ell,0]}(z) \bar{z}^{j} = 0, \qquad 0 \leqslant j \leqslant n-1.$$
 (2.5)

Because of $q_n^{[\ell,0]}(\mu_j)=0, j=1,\ldots,\ell$, the ratio $\frac{q_n^{[\ell,0]}(z)}{(\mu_1-z)\cdots(\mu_\ell-z)}$ is a polynomial of degree 4 n. It can thus be written as a linear combination of the polynomials $\pi_{0,\ldots,n}(z)$ forming a complete

³ The superscript [0, 0] is sometimes dropped, corresponding to the previous definitions.

 $^{^4}$ The fact that the degree is n and not less can be shown by induction.

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set. Consequently

$$\int_{D} dw^{[\ell,0]}(z,\bar{z}) \left[\frac{q_n^{[\ell,0]}(z)}{(\mu_1 - z) \cdots (\mu_\ell - z)} \right] \bar{z}^j = 0, \quad \text{for } 0 \leqslant j < n.$$
 (2.6)

In order to achieve a monic normalization, we can expand equation (2.4) with respect to the last row, and take $z \to \infty$ to read off the generalized Christoffel formula in the complex plane

$$\pi_{n}^{[\ell,0]}(z) = \frac{1}{(z-\mu_{1})\cdots(z-\mu_{\ell})} \begin{vmatrix} \pi_{n}(\mu_{1}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell}(\mu_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ \pi_{n}(\mu_{\ell}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell}(\mu_{\ell}) \\ \pi_{n}(z) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell}(z) \end{vmatrix} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} \pi_{n}(\mu_{1}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell-1}(\mu_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ \pi_{n}(\mu_{\ell}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell-1}(\mu_{\ell}) \end{vmatrix}^{-1}.$$
(2.7)

These polynomials were previously computed in [9]. The denominator is non-vanishing due to the non-degeneracy of the μ_j . Because of the relation (2.1) for the general weight $\pi_N^{[j,0]}(\mu_{j+1}) = \langle D_N[\mu_{j+1}] \rangle_{w^{[j,0]}}$, and the observation that the expectation value can be written as a telescope product,

$$\left\langle \prod_{j=1}^{L} D_{N}[\mu_{j}] \right\rangle_{w} = \prod_{j=1}^{L} \langle D_{N}[\mu_{j}] \rangle_{w^{[j-1,0]}} = \prod_{j=0}^{L-1} \pi_{N}^{[j,0]}(\mu_{j+1}), \tag{2.8}$$

we can deduce equation (1.6) for M = 0 upon using equation (2.7).

Step 2. Next we define

$$q_n^{[0,m]}(z) \equiv \begin{vmatrix} h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_1) & \cdots & h_n(\bar{\epsilon}_1) \\ \vdots & & & \\ h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_m) & \cdots & h_n(\bar{\epsilon}_m) \\ \pi_{n-m}(z) & \cdots & \pi_n(z) \end{vmatrix},$$

$$(2.9)$$

which automatically implies

$$\int_{D} dw(z,\bar{z}) \frac{q_n^{[0,m]}(z)}{\bar{z} - \bar{\epsilon}:} = 0, \qquad j = 1, \dots, m.$$
(2.10)

For $0 \le j < n$ we can decompose

$$\frac{\bar{z}^{j}}{\prod_{k=1}^{m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{k}-\bar{z})} = \sum_{k=1}^{m} \frac{a_{k}}{\bar{\epsilon}_{k}-\bar{z}} + p(\bar{z}), \tag{2.11}$$

where $p(\bar{z})$ is a polynomial of degree < n - m. Consequently

$$\int_{D} dw^{[0,m]}(z,\bar{z}) q_{n}^{[0,m]}(z) \bar{z}^{j} = \sum_{k=1}^{m} a_{k} \int_{D} dw(z,\bar{z}) \frac{q_{n}^{[0,m]}(z)}{\bar{\epsilon}_{k} - \bar{z}} + \int_{D} dw(z,\bar{z}) q_{n}^{[0,m]}(z) p(\bar{z}) = 0$$
(2.12)

vanishes due to equation (2.10) in the first sum and orthogonality in the second term. In monic normalization we thus have the generalized Uvarov formula

$$\pi_{n}^{[0,m]}(z) = \begin{vmatrix} h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) & \cdots & h_{n}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) & \cdots & h_{n}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) \\ \pi_{n-m}(z) & \cdots & \pi_{n}(z) \end{vmatrix} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) & \cdots & h_{n-1}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) & \cdots & h_{n-1}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) \end{vmatrix}^{-1}.$$
(2.13)

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Step 3. Let $0 \le m \le n$. The Cauchy transform of equation (2.13) for the measure $dw^{[0,m]}(z)$ can be expressed in terms of the $h_n(\bar{z})$ by writing

$$h_n^{[0,m]}(\bar{\epsilon}) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_D dw^{[0,m]}(z,\bar{z}) \frac{\pi_n^{[0,m]}(z)}{\bar{z} - \bar{\epsilon}} = \sum_{j=1}^{m+1} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \prod_{k \neq j} \frac{(-1)^m}{\bar{\epsilon}_j - \bar{\epsilon}_k} \int_D dw(z,\bar{z}) \frac{\pi_n^{[0,m]}(z)}{\bar{z} - \bar{\epsilon}_j}.$$
(2.14)

Only the term in $\bar{\epsilon} \equiv \bar{\epsilon}_{m+1}$ is non-vanishing, and thus we obtain from equation (2.13)

$$h_{n}^{[0,m]}(\bar{\epsilon}) = \frac{(-1)^{m}}{(\bar{\epsilon} - \bar{\epsilon}_{m}) \cdots (\bar{\epsilon} - \bar{\epsilon}_{1})} \begin{vmatrix} h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) & \cdots & h_{n}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) \\ \vdots & & \\ h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) & \cdots & h_{n}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) \\ h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}) & \cdots & h_{n}(\bar{\epsilon}) \end{vmatrix} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) & \cdots & h_{n-1}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) \\ \vdots & & \\ h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) & \cdots & h_{n-1}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) \end{vmatrix}^{-1}.$$

$$(2.15)$$

These expressions can be used in the following identity for an inverse characteristic polynomial

$$\begin{split} \left\langle D_{N}^{\dagger}[\bar{\epsilon}]^{-1}\right\rangle_{w} &= \frac{1}{Z_{N}} \prod_{i=1}^{N} \left(\int_{D} \mathrm{d}w(z_{i}, \bar{z}_{i}) \right) \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{|\Delta_{N}(\{z\})|^{2}}{\prod_{k \neq j} \bar{z}_{j} - \bar{z}_{k}} \frac{1}{\bar{\epsilon} - \bar{z}_{j}} \\ &= N \frac{Z_{N-1}}{Z_{N}} \int_{D} \mathrm{d}w(z_{N}, \bar{z}_{N}) \frac{\pi_{N-1}(z_{N})}{\bar{\epsilon} - \bar{z}_{N}} \\ &= -2\pi \mathrm{i}N \frac{Z_{N-1}}{Z_{N}} h_{N-1}(\bar{\epsilon}). \end{split}$$
(2.16)

After decomposing the inverse product we have used the identity $\frac{|\Delta_N(\{z\})|^2}{\prod_{k< N} \bar{z}_N - \bar{z}_k} = |\Delta_{N-1}(\{z\})|^2 \times \prod_{k< N} (z_N - z_k)$ as well as the permutation symmetry of the integrand to deduce this generalized Heine formula for the Cauchy transform. In order to apply equation (2.15) we rewrite identically

$$\left\langle \prod_{j=1}^{M} D_{N}^{\dagger} [\bar{\epsilon}_{j}]^{-1} \right\rangle_{w} = \frac{Z_{N}^{[0,M]}}{Z_{N-1}^{[0,M-1]}} \frac{Z_{N-1}^{[0,M-1]}}{Z_{N-2}^{[0,M-2]}} \cdots \frac{Z_{N-M}^{[0,0]}}{Z_{N}^{[0,0]}}.$$
 (2.17)

From equation (2.16) valid for the general weight equation (2.2) we can conclude

$$\frac{Z_{N-k}^{[0,m]}}{Z_{N-k-1}^{[0,m-1]}} = -2\pi i (N-k) h_{N-k-1}^{[0,m-1]} (\bar{\epsilon}_m), \tag{2.18}$$

writing the expectation value as a ratio of partition functions. It is a well-known fact that the partition function equation (1.1) can be expressed in terms of the norms equation (1.2), $Z_N = N! \prod_{j=0}^{N-1} r_j$, or equivalently $(N-k) = Z_{N-k}/(r_{N-k}Z_{N-k-1})$. Replacing this factor in equation (2.18) and inserting it into equation (2.17) all partition functions cancel and we obtain

$$\left\langle \prod_{j=1}^{M} D_{N}^{\dagger} [\bar{\epsilon}_{j}]^{-1} \right\rangle_{w} = \prod_{j=1}^{M} \frac{-2\pi i}{r_{N-j}} h_{N-j}^{[0,M-j]} (\bar{\epsilon}_{M-j+1}). \tag{2.19}$$

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Together with equation (2.15) this leads to the theorem equation (1.6) in the special case of L=0.

Step 4. We can now give the polynomials with respect to the most general weight equation (2.2),

$$\pi_{n}^{[\ell,m]}(z) = \frac{1}{(z - \mu_{\ell}) \cdots (z - \mu_{1})} \begin{vmatrix} h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) & \cdots & h_{n+\ell}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) & \cdots & h_{n+\ell}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) \\ \pi_{n-m}(\mu_{1}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell}(\mu_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ \pi_{n-m}(\mu_{\ell}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell}(\mu_{\ell}) \\ \pi_{n-m}(z) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell}(z) \end{vmatrix} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) & \cdots & h_{n+\ell-1}(\bar{\epsilon}_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ h_{n-m}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) & \cdots & h_{n+\ell-1}(\bar{\epsilon}_{m}) \\ \pi_{n-m}(\mu_{1}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell-1}(\mu_{1}) \\ \vdots & & & \\ \pi_{n-m}(\mu_{\ell}) & \cdots & \pi_{n+\ell-1}(\mu_{\ell}) \end{vmatrix},$$
(2.20)

holding for $0 \le m \le n$. If we define by $q_n^{[\ell,m]}(z)$ the determinant in the numerator it holds

$$0 = q_n^{[\ell,m]}(\mu_1) = \dots = q_n^{[\ell,m]}(\mu_\ell),$$

$$0 = \int_D dw(z,\bar{z}) \frac{q_n^{[\ell,m]}(z)}{\bar{\epsilon}_1 - \bar{z}} = \dots = \int_D dw(z,\bar{z}) \frac{q_n^{[\ell,m]}(z)}{\bar{\epsilon}_m - \bar{z}}.$$
(2.21)

This can be seen following the same lines as in the previous steps, and thus that equation (2.20) is correct including its normalization. In order to prove equation (1.6) we decompose

$$\left\langle \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{L} D_{N}[\mu_{j}]}{\prod_{k=1}^{M} D_{N}^{\dagger}[\bar{\epsilon}_{k}]} \right\rangle_{w} = \left\langle \prod_{j=1}^{L} D_{N}[\mu_{j}] \right\rangle_{w^{[0,M]}} \cdot \left\langle \prod_{j=1}^{M} D_{N}^{\dagger}[\bar{\epsilon}_{j}]^{-1} \right\rangle_{w}
= \prod_{j=0}^{L-1} \pi_{N}^{[j,M]}(\mu_{j+1}) \left\langle \prod_{j=1}^{M} D_{N}^{\dagger}[\bar{\epsilon}_{j}]^{-1} \right\rangle_{w} .$$
(2.22)

Inserting equation (2.20) and the previous result equation (2.19) from step 3 the theorem equation (1.6) follows.

3. Conclusions

We have computed the correlation functions of arbitrary products of characteristic polynomials over arbitrary products of complex conjugate characteristic polynomials for random matrix models with complex eigenvalues. This extends previous results for only products of mixed characteristic polynomials and their conjugates [5] (see also [9]). From the result [5] we expect that more general correlation functions of mixed ratios will contain both polynomials and Cauchy transforms as well as the various kernels constructed out of them, as introduced in [8] in the real case. This would be needed to compare for example to the matrix model result (without eigenvalue representation) [10], where the average of the inverse of a single characteristic polynomial and its complex conjugate was computed. We hope that our results will help us to further clarify the issue of complex matrix model universality [11], with an extension of the results [8, 12] being desirable.

When writing up our results the preprint [13] appeared, which partly overlaps. There, ratios of mixed characteristic polynomials and their conjugates are expressed in terms of three different kernels, providing formulae of the two-point functions type.

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