

Polynomial Chaos and Scaling Limits of Disordered Systems

2. Continuum model and free energy estimates

Francesco Caravenna

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

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$$\mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega \xrightarrow[\delta \rightarrow 0]{d} \mathbf{Z}^W \text{ (scaling limits of discrete partition functions)}$$

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- ▶ Sharp asymptotics on the discrete model, in terms of **free energy** and **critical curve**

For this we will focus on **Pinning models** (rather than DPRE)

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1. White noise and Wiener chaos
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3. The continuum DPRE
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We can define single stochastic integrals $W(f) := \int f(x) W(dx)$

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Wiener chaos expansion

Any r.v. $X \in L^2(\Omega_W)$ measurable w.r.t. $\sigma(W)$ can be written as

$$X = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} W^{\otimes k}(f_k) \quad \text{with} \quad f_k \in L^2_{\text{sym}}((\mathbb{R}^d)^k)$$

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Consider the “stochastic Riemann sum” (multi-linear polynomial)

$$\Psi_\delta := \sum_{\substack{(z_1, \dots, z_k) \in (\mathbb{T}_\delta)^k \\ z_i \neq z_j \quad \forall i \neq j}} f(z_1, \dots, z_k) X_{z_1} X_{z_2} \cdots X_{z_k}$$

where $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is (say) continuous.

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$$(\sqrt{v_\delta})^k \Psi_\delta \xrightarrow[\delta \rightarrow 0]{d} \int_{(\mathbb{R}^d)^k} g(z_1, \dots, z_k) W(dz_1) \cdots W(dz_k)$$

(Check the variance!)

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1d rescaled RW $S_t^\delta := \sqrt{\delta} S_{t/\delta}$ lives on $\mathbb{T}_\delta = ([0, 1] \cap \delta\mathbb{N}_0) \times \sqrt{\delta}\mathbb{Z}$

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Replacing $X_{t,x} = e^{(\beta \omega_{(t,x)} - \lambda(\beta))} - 1 \approx \beta Y_{t,x}$ with $Y_{t,x}$ i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{z}_N^\omega &= 1 + \beta\sqrt{\delta} \sum_{(t,x) \in \mathbb{T}_\delta} g_t(x) Y_{t,x} \\
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Constrained partition functions

We have constructed \mathcal{Z}^W = “free” partition function on $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$
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Four-parameter random process $\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x)) \rightsquigarrow$ regularity?

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- ▶ **Semigroup (Chapman-Kolmogorov):** for all $s < r < t$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (r, z)) \mathcal{Z}^W((r, z), (t, x)) dz$$

(Inherited from discrete partition functions: [drawing!](#))

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For a.e. realization of W the following properties hold:

- ▶ **Continuity:** $\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x))$ is jointly continuous in (s, y, t, x) (on the domain $s < t$)
- ▶ **Positivity:** $\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x)) > 0$ for all (s, y, t, x) satisfying $s < t$
- ▶ **Semigroup** (Chapman-Kolmogorov): for all $s < r < t$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (r, z)) \mathcal{Z}^W((r, z), (t, x)) dz$$

(Inherited from discrete partition functions: [drawing!](#))

How to prove these properties?

The 1d Stochastic Heat Equation

The four-parameter field $\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x))$ solves the 1d SHE

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \mathcal{Z}^W = \frac{1}{2} \Delta_x \mathcal{Z}^W + \hat{\beta} W \mathcal{Z}^W \\ \lim_{t \downarrow s} \mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x)) = \delta(y - x) \end{cases}$$

Checked directly from Wiener chaos expansion ([mild solution](#))

It is known that solutions to the SHE satisfy the properties above

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- ▶ Prove continuity by Kolmogorov criterion, showing that

$$\frac{\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x))}{g_{t-s}(x - y)} \text{ is continuous also for } t = s$$

- ▶ Use continuity to prove semigroup for all times
- ▶ Use continuity to deduce positivity for close times, then bootstrap to arbitrary times using semigroup

Outline

1. White noise and Wiener chaos
2. Continuum partition functions
3. The continuum DPRE
4. Pinning models

A naive approach

Consider DPRE in $d = 1$ (random walk + disorder)

$$\mathbf{P}^\omega(\mathcal{S}) \propto e^{\sum_{n=1}^N \beta \omega(n, \mathcal{S}_n)} \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(\mathcal{S})$$

Can we define its **continuum analogue** (BM + disorder)?

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$$\mathcal{P}^W(dB) \propto e^{\int_0^1 \hat{\beta} W(t, B_t) dt} \mathcal{P}^{\text{ref}}(dB)$$

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NO! The problem is more subtle (and interesting!)

Partition functions and f.d.d.

Start from **discrete**: distribution of DPRE at two times $0 < t < t' < 1$

$$\mathbf{P}_\delta^\omega(S_t^\delta = x, S_{t'}^\delta = x') = \frac{\mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega((0, 0), (t, x)) \mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega((t, x), (t', x')) \mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega((t', x'), (1, \star))}{\mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega((0, 0), (1, \star))}$$

(drawing!) Analogous formula for any finite number of times

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$$\frac{\mathcal{P}^W(X_t \in dx, X_{t'} \in dx')}{dx dx'}$$

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Relation with Wiener measure

The law of the continuum DPRE is a **random** probability

$$\mathcal{P}^W(X \in \cdot) \quad (\text{quenched law})$$

for the process $X = (X_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$ [Probab. kernel $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{[0,1]}$]

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Proof. The factor \mathcal{Z}^W in $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$ cancels the denominator in the f.d.d. for \mathcal{P}^W

Since $\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{Z}^W((s,y), (t,x))] = g_{t-s}(x-y)$ one gets f.d.d. of BM □

Absolute continuity properties

Theorem

$$\forall A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{[0,1]} : P(BM \in A) = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{P}^W(X \in A) = 1 \quad \text{for } \mathbb{P}\text{-a.e. } W$$

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$$\mathcal{P}^W(X \text{ has Hölder paths with exp. } \frac{1}{2}-) = 1 \quad \text{for } \mathbb{P}\text{-a.e. } W$$

We can thus realize \mathcal{P}^W as a law on $C([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$, for \mathbb{P} -a.e. W

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NO! “ $\forall A$ ” and “for \mathbb{P} -a.e. W ” cannot be exchanged!

Singularity properties

Theorem

The law \mathcal{P}^W is **singular** w.r.t. Wiener measure, for \mathbb{P} -a.e. W .

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In a sense, the laws \mathcal{P}^W are just *barely* not absolutely continuous w.r.t. Wiener measure (“stochastically absolutely continuous”)

Proof of singularity

Let $(X_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$ be the canonical process on $C([0,1], \mathbb{R})$ [$X_t(f) = f(t)$]

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- ▶ \mathcal{P}^W is **singular** w.r.t. \mathcal{P}^{ref} if and only if $R_\infty^W = 0$

Proof of singularity

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- ▶ Switch from \mathbb{E} to equivalent law $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}$ to cancel the denominator
- ▶ For fixed X , the $\mathcal{Z}^W((t_i^n, X_{t_i^n}), (t_{i+1}^n, X_{t_{i+1}^n}))$'s are **independent**

We need to exploit translation and scale invariance of their laws

Proof of singularity

Lemma 1 (Translation and scale invariance)

If we set $\Delta_i^n := \frac{X_{t_{i+1}^n} - X_{t_i^n}}{\sqrt{t_{i+1}^n - t_i^n}}$ we have

$$\frac{\mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}}^W((t_i^n, X_{t_i^n}), (t_{i+1}^n, X_{t_{i+1}^n}))}{g_{\frac{1}{2^n}}(X_{t_{i+1}^n} - X_{t_i^n})} \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{\mathcal{Z}_{\frac{\hat{\beta}}{2^{n/4}}}^W((0, 0), (1, \Delta_i^n))}{g_1(\Delta_i^n)}$$

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Lemma 2 (Expansion)

For $z \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$ (say)

$$\frac{\mathcal{Z}_{\varepsilon}^W((0, 0), (1, z))}{g_1(z)} = 1 + \varepsilon X_z + \varepsilon^2 Y_{\varepsilon, z}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X_z] = 0 \quad \mathbb{E}[X_{\varepsilon, z}] = 0 \quad \mathbb{E}[X_z^2] \leq C \quad \mathbb{E}[Y_{\varepsilon, z}^2] \leq C \quad \text{unif. in } \varepsilon, z$$

Proof of singularity

By Taylor expansion, for fixed $\gamma \in (0, 1)$

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{Z_\varepsilon^W((0,0), (1,z))}{g_1(z)} \right)^\gamma \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[(1 + \varepsilon X_z + \varepsilon^2 Y_{\varepsilon,z})^\gamma \right]$$

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(★) First order terms vanish (★) $\gamma(\gamma-1) < 0$

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(\star) First order terms vanish (\star) $\gamma(\gamma-1) < 0$ (\star) For some $c > 0$

Estimate is uniform over $z \in \mathbb{R}$ \rightsquigarrow We can set $z = \Delta_i^n$ and $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2^{n/4}}$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[(R_n^W(X))^\gamma] = \prod_{i=0}^{2^n-1} \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{Z_\varepsilon^W((0,0), (1, \Delta_i^n))}{g_1(\Delta_i^n)} \right)^\gamma \right] \leq e^{-c\varepsilon^2 2^n} = e^{-c2^{n/2}}$$

which vanishes as $n \rightarrow \infty$



Proof of Lemma 1

Introducing the dependence on $\hat{\beta}$

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}}^W((s, y), (t, x)) \stackrel{d}{=} \mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}}^W((0, 0), (t - s, x - y))$$

transl. invariance

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transl. invariance + diffusive rescaling (prefactor, new $\hat{\beta}$) (drawing!)

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Convergence of discrete DPRE

- ▶ \mathbf{P}_δ^ω = law of discrete DPRE (recall that $S_t^\delta := \sqrt{\delta}S_{t/\delta}$)
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Does \mathbf{P}_δ^ω converge in distribution toward \mathcal{P}^W as $\delta \rightarrow 0$?

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The answer is positive... almost surely ;-)

Statement for Pinning model proved in [C., Sun, Zygouras 2016]

Details need to be checked for DPRE (stronger assumptions on RW ?)

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Tomorrow we will see how the continuum model \mathcal{P}^W can tell quantitative information on discrete models \mathbf{P}_δ^ω (**free energy estimates**)

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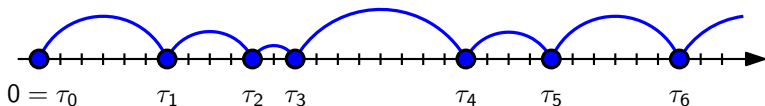
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Fix such a coupling: for a.e. (ω, W) the f.d.d. of \mathbf{P}_δ^ω converge weakly to those of \mathcal{P}^W . It only remains to prove tightness of $\mathbf{P}_\delta^\omega(\cdot)$.

Outline

1. White noise and Wiener chaos
2. Continuum partition functions
3. The continuum DPRE
4. Pinning models

Ingredients: renewal process & disorder

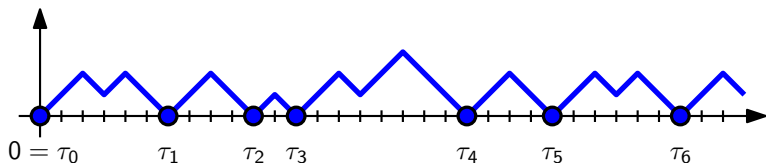


Discrete **renewal process** $\tau = \{0 = \tau_0 < \tau_1 < \tau_2 < \dots\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}_0$

Gaps $(\tau_{i+1} - \tau_i)_{i \geq 0}$ are **i.i.d.** with polynomial-tail distribution:

$$\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(\tau_1 = n) \sim \frac{c_K}{n^{1+\alpha}}, \quad c_K > 0, \quad \alpha \in (0, 1)$$

Ingredients: renewal process & disorder



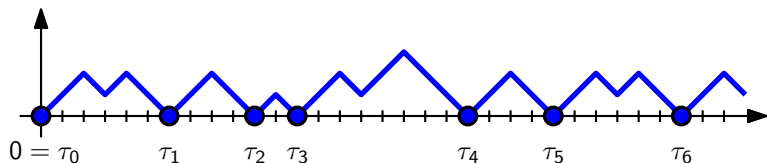
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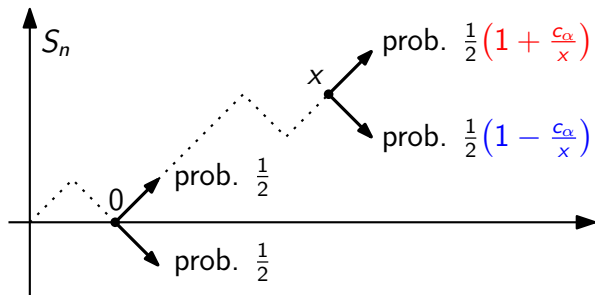
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Disorder $\omega = (\omega_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$: i.i.d. real random variables with law \mathbb{P}

$$\lambda(\beta) := \log \mathbb{E}[e^{\beta \omega_1}] < \infty \quad \mathbb{E}[\omega_1] = 0 \quad \text{Var}[\omega_1] = 1$$

Bessel random walks

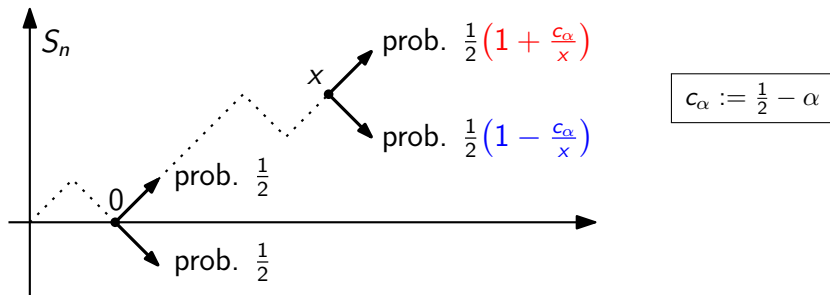
For $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ the α -Bessel random walk is defined as follows:



$$c_\alpha := \frac{1}{2} - \alpha$$

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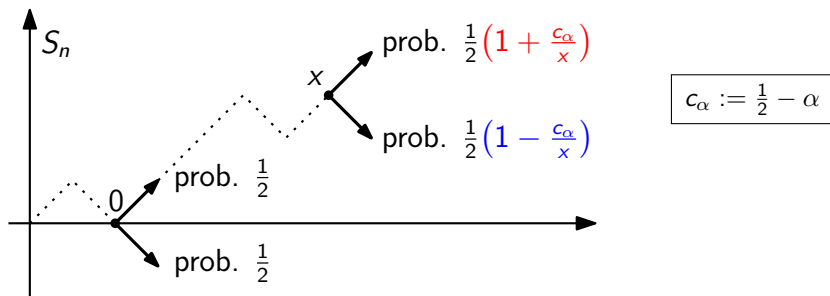
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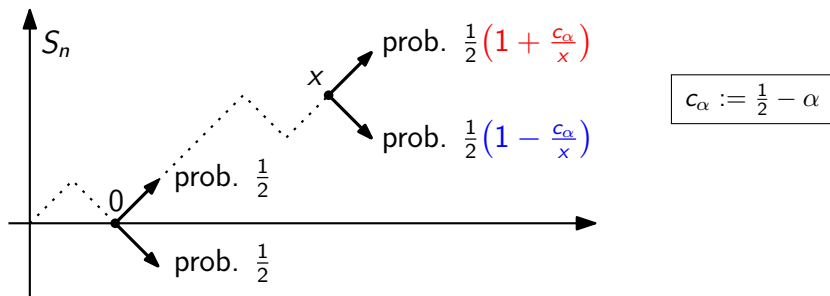
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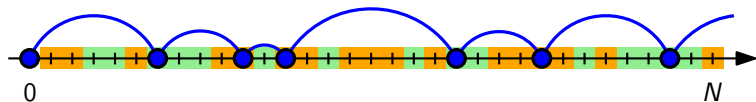


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Disordered pinning model

Free renewal

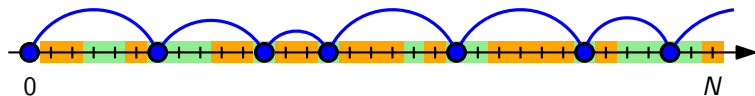
rewards $\omega_n > 0$ penalties $\omega_n < 0$



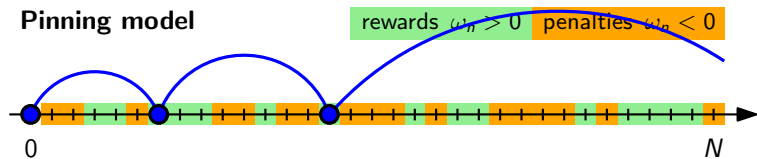
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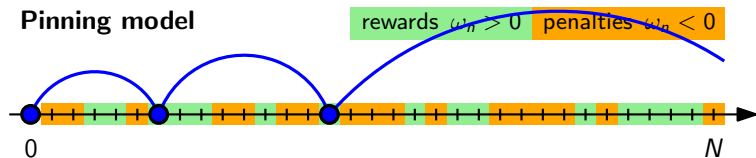


Disordered pinning model



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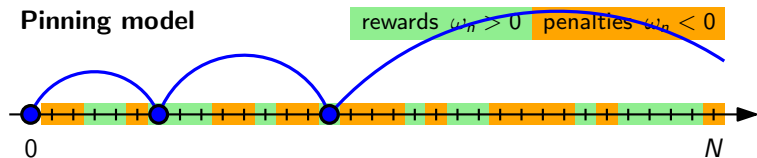
Pinning model



$N \in \mathbb{N}$ (system size) $\beta \geq 0$, $h \in \mathbb{R}$ (disorder strength, bias)

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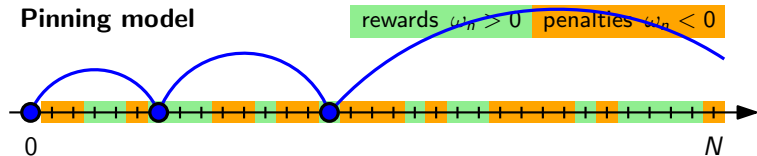
The pinning model

Gibbs change of measure $\mathbf{P}_N^\omega = \mathbf{P}_{N,\beta,h}^\omega$ of the renewal distribution \mathbf{P}^{ref}

$$\frac{d\mathbf{P}_N^\omega}{d\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}}(\tau) := \frac{1}{Z_N^\omega} \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^N (\beta \omega_n + h - \lambda(\beta)) \mathbb{1}_{\{n \in \tau\}} \right)$$

Disordered pinning model

Pinning model



$N \in \mathbb{N}$ (system size) $\beta \geq 0$, $h \in \mathbb{R}$ (disorder strength, bias)

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How are the typical paths τ of the pinning model \mathbf{P}_N^ω ?

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\exists *continuous, non decreasing, deterministic critical curve* $h_c(\beta)$:

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$$Z_N^\omega := \mathbb{E} \left[e^{H_N(\tau)} \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[e^{\sum_{n=1}^N (h + \beta \omega_n - \Lambda(\beta)) \mathbb{1}_{\{n \in \tau\}}} \right]$$

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Universality as $\beta, h \rightarrow 0$? YES, connected to continuum model

Continuum partition functions

Build [continuum partition functions](#) for Pinning Model with $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ (disorder relevant) following “usual” approach [C, Sun, Zygouras 2015+]

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One has $\mathbf{Z}_N^\omega \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{d} \mathcal{Z}^W$ with

$$\mathcal{Z}^W := 1 + C \int_{0 < t < 1} \frac{dW_t^{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}}{t^{1-\alpha}} + C^2 \int_{0 < t < t' < 1} \frac{dW_t^{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}} dW_{t'}^{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}}{t^{1-\alpha} (t' - t)^{1-\alpha}} + \dots$$

where $W_t^{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}} := \hat{\beta} W_t + \hat{h} t$ and $C = \frac{\alpha \sin(\alpha\pi)}{\pi c_K}$

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In analogy with the discrete model, define

$$\text{Continuum free energy} \quad \mathcal{F}(\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}) := \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}^W(0, t) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

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$$\forall c > 0: \quad \mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}, \hat{h}}^W(ct) \stackrel{d}{=} \mathcal{Z}_{c^{\alpha - \frac{1}{2}}\hat{\beta}, c^{\alpha}\hat{h}}^W(t) \quad (\text{Wiener chaos exp.})$$

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Can we relate continuum free energy to the discrete one?

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Assuming uniform integrability of $\log \mathbf{Z}^\omega$ (OK)

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Can we relate continuum free energy to the discrete one?

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Setting $\delta = \frac{1}{N}$ for clarity, we arrive at...

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Theorem [C., Toninelli, Torri 2015]

For all $\hat{\beta} > 0$, $\hat{h} \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\eta > 0$ there is $\delta_0 > 0$ such that $\forall \delta < \delta_0$

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For **any** discrete Pinning model with $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$, the free energy $\mathbf{F}(\beta, h)$ and the critical curve $h_c(\beta)$ have a **universal shape** in the regime $\beta, h \rightarrow 0$

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Solution: perform **coarse-graining** and define an “effective” Hamiltonian

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N. Torri is currently working on this problem. A finer coarse-graining is needed, together with sharper estimates on continuum partition functions

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