

# *Integrable particle systems and Macdonald processes*

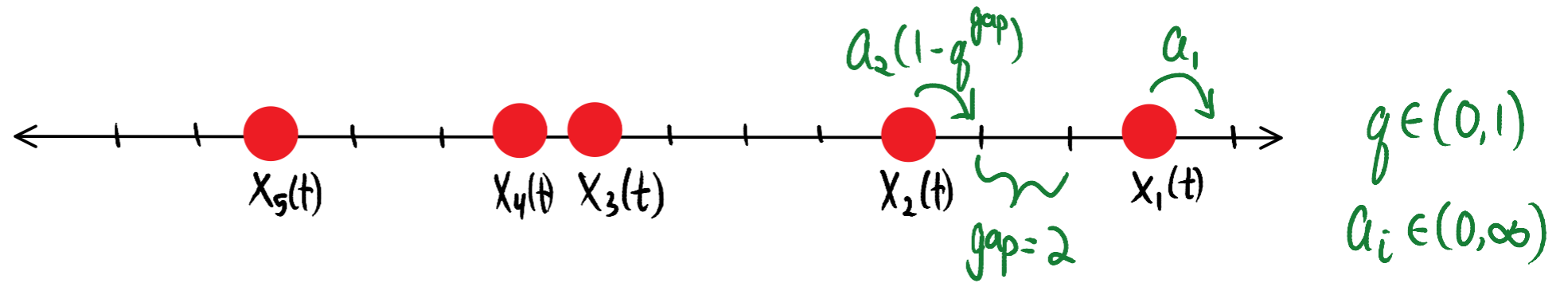
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## Lecture 4

- ◆ Expectations of  $q$ -TASEP observables solve integrable many body systems which can be solved via variant of Bethe ansatz
- ◆ Limit to directed polymers shows this is rigorous replica method
- ◆ Also applies to discrete  $q$ -TASEPs,  $q$ -PushASEP, and ASEP

q-TASEP:



Restrict to  $N$  particle state space

$$X^N = \left\{ \vec{X} := (X_0, X_1, \dots, X_N) \in \{\infty\} \times \mathbb{Z}^N : \infty = X_0 > X_1 > X_2 > \dots > X_N \right\}$$

Generator acts on  $f: X^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

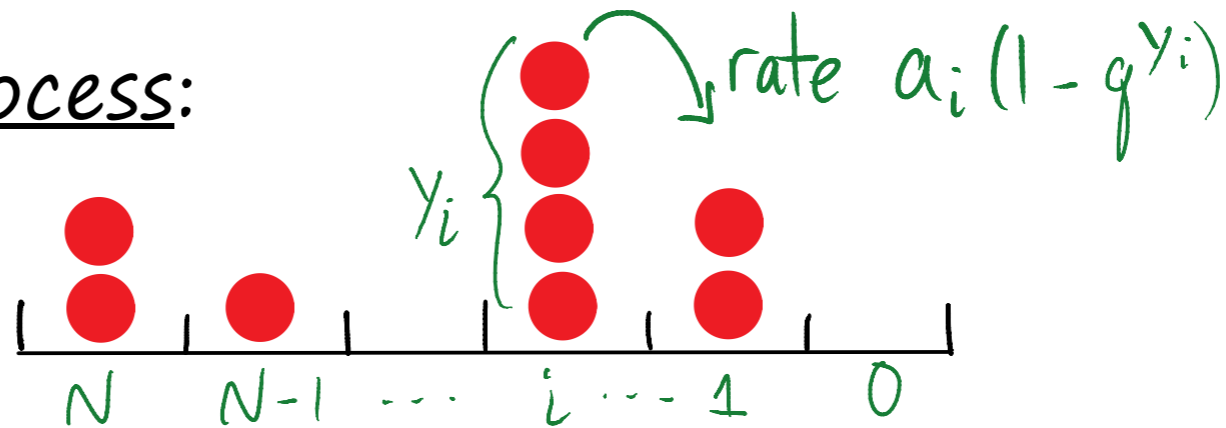
$$\left( \mathcal{L}^{q\text{-TASEP}} f \right) (\vec{X}) = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i (1 - q^{X_{i-1} - X_i - 1}) \left( f(\vec{X}_i^+) - f(\vec{X}) \right)$$

$\vec{X}_i^+ = (X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{i+1}, \dots, X_N)$

Natural initial condition is step where  $X_i(0) = -i$ ,  $i \geq 1$

(When  $q=0$ , we recover the usual TASEP)

q-Boson particle process:



$N+1$  site state space  $\mathbb{Y}^N = \{ \vec{y} = (y_0, y_1, \dots, y_N) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^{\{0,1,\dots,N\}} \}$

$\mathbb{Y}_k^N = \{ \vec{y} \in \mathbb{Y}^N : \sum y_i = k \}$

Generator acts on  $h: \mathbb{Y}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

$$\left( \mathcal{L}^{q\text{-TazRP}} h \right) (\vec{y}) = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i (1 - q^{y_i}) \left( h(\vec{y}^{i,i-1}) - h(\vec{y}) \right)$$

$= (y_0, \dots, y_{i-1}+1, y_i-1, \dots, y_N)$

[Sasamoto-Wadati '98] stochastic representation of q-Bosons

[Balazs-Komjathy-Seppalainen '08] stationary 1/3 exponent

Duality: Suppose  $X(t) \in \bar{X}$  and  $y(t) \in Y$  independent Markov processes and  $H: \bar{X} \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $X(t)$  and  $y(t)$  are dual with respect to  $H$  if for all  $x, y$ , and  $t$

$$\mathbb{E}^x [H(X(t), y)] = \mathbb{E}^y [H(x, y(t))].$$

- Duality leads to hidden evolution equations for expectations of observables corresponding to the duality function.

Theorem [Borodin-C-Sasamoto '12]:  $q$ -TASEP  $\vec{X}(t) \in \bar{X}^N$   
 and  $q$ -Bosons  $\vec{y}(t) \in \bar{Y}^N$  are dual with respect to

$$H(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \prod_{i=0}^N q^{(x_i + i)y_i}$$

(convention that if  $y_0 > 0$ ,  $H \equiv 0$ )

Proof: Suffices to show that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{L}^{q\text{-TASEP}} H(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) & \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbb{L}^{q\text{-TASEP}} H(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \\ & \stackrel{||}{=} \sum_{i=1}^N a_i (1 - q^{x_{i-1} - x_i - 1}) (q^{y_i} - 1) \prod_{j=0}^N q^{(x_j + j)y_j} \\ & = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i (1 - q^{y_i}) (q^{x_{i-1} - x_i - 1} - 1) \prod_{j=0}^N q^{(x_j + j)y_j} \end{aligned}$$

□

Purpose of duality (for us):

If  $\vec{y} = (0, 0, \dots, 0, k)$  then

$$h(t; \vec{y}) := \mathbb{E}^{\vec{x}} [H(\vec{x}(t), y)] = \mathbb{E}^{\vec{x}} [q^{k(x_w(t)+N)}]$$

Duality implies that for  $\vec{x}$  fixed,  $h(t; \vec{y})$  solves the

True evolution equation:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} h(t; \vec{y}) = L^{q\text{-TAZRP}} h(t; \vec{y}) \\ h(0; \vec{y}) = H(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \quad [= h_0(\vec{y})] \end{cases}$$

True evolution equation splits according to number of particles

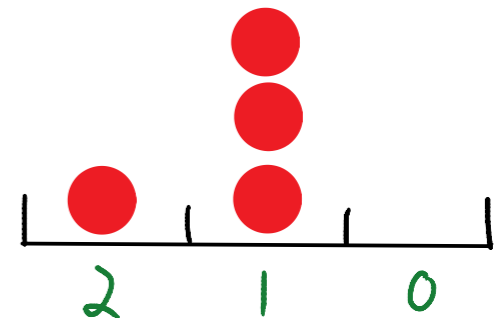
$$W_{\geq 0}^k := \{ \vec{n} = (n_1, \dots, n_k) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^k : n_1 \geq n_2 \geq \dots \geq n_k \geq 0 \}$$

Encode  $\vec{y} \in Y_k^N$  by an ordered list of particle locations

$$Y_k^N \ni \begin{array}{ccc} \vec{y} & \longleftrightarrow & \vec{n}(\vec{y}) \\ \vec{y}(\vec{n}) & \longleftarrow & \vec{n} \end{array} \in W_{\geq 0}^k$$

Example:  $N = 2$ ,  $k = 4$

$$\vec{y} = (0, 3, 1) \longleftrightarrow \vec{n} = (1, 1, 1, 2)$$





We can encode true evolution equation in the  $\vec{n}$  coordinates by writing  $q(t; \vec{n}) := h(t; \vec{y}(\vec{n}))$ ,  $q_0(\vec{n}) := h_0(\vec{y}(0))$

- $k=1$ : single particle, so  $\vec{n}=(n)$ , then

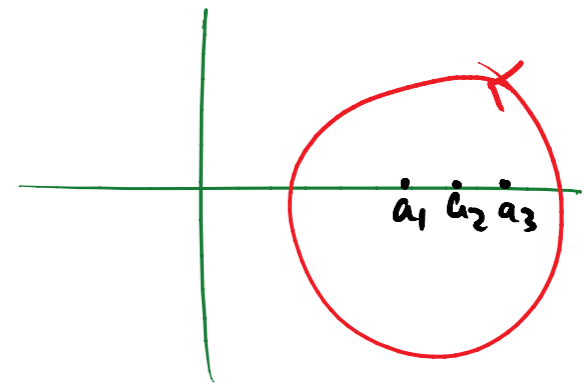
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d}{dt} q(t; n) = a_n(1-q) \nabla q(t; n) \\ q(t; 0) \equiv 0 \\ q(0; n) = q_0(n) \end{array} \right.$$

$$[(\nabla f)(n) := f(n-1) - f(n)]$$

For step initial data  $X_i + i = 0$  so  $H(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \equiv 1$  and so too  $g_0 \equiv 1$

Claim:  $E^{\text{step}} [q^{X_n(t)+n}] = g(t;n) = \frac{-1}{2\pi i} \oint g_z(t;n) \frac{dz}{z}$

where  $g_z(t;n) = \prod_{m=1}^n \frac{a_m}{a_m - z} e^{(q-1)tz}$



Proof: Check free equation, zero boundary condition, and initial data. □

•  $k=2$ : two particles, so  $\vec{n} = (n_1, n_2)$

◦ If  $n_1 > n_2$

$$\frac{d}{dt} g(t; \vec{n}) = \sum_{i=1}^2 a_{n_i} (1-q) \nabla_i g(t; \vec{n})$$

*acts as  $\nabla$  on  $n_i$  coordinate*

◦ If  $n_1 = n_2$

$$\frac{d}{dt} g(t; \vec{n}) = a_{n_2} (1-q^2) \nabla_2 g(t; \vec{n})$$

Not constant coefficient, so unclear how to solve...

•  $k > 2$ : there are different equations for each type of clustering (i.e., many body interactions)

Proposition: (Free evolution eqn with  $k-1$  boundary conditions):

If  $u: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  solves

- For all  $\vec{n} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^k$ ,  $t \geq 0$ ,

Free evolution eqn 
$$\frac{d}{dt} u(t; \vec{n}) = \sum_{i=1}^k a_{n_i} (1-q) \nabla_i u(t; \vec{n})$$

- For all  $\vec{n} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^k$  such that  $n_i = n_{i+1}$

Boundary conditions 
$$(\nabla_i - q \nabla_{i+1}) u(t; \vec{n}) = 0$$

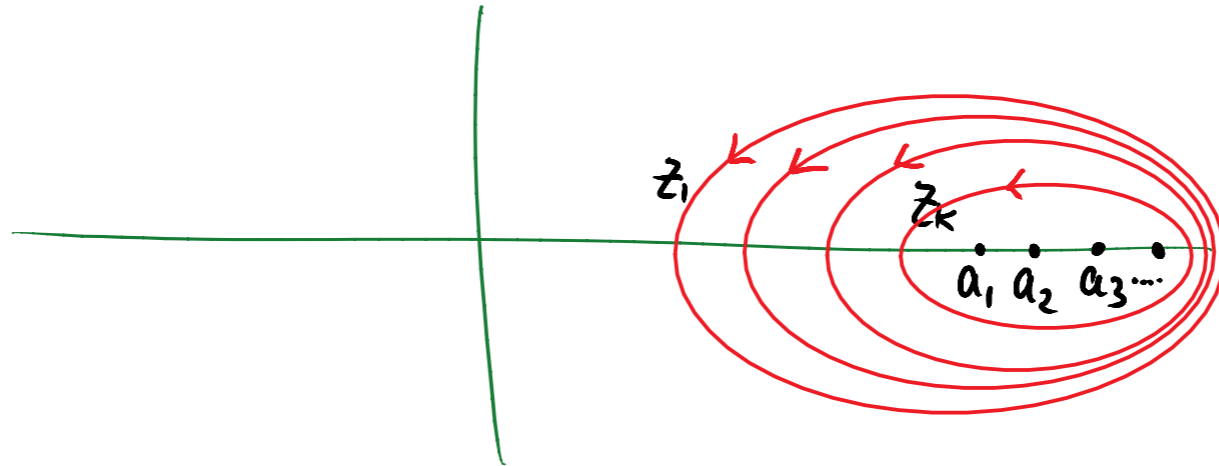
- For all  $\vec{n} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^k$  such that  $n_k = 0$ ,  $u(t; \vec{n}) \equiv 0$

- For all  $\vec{n} \in W_{\geq 0}^k$ ,  $u(0; \vec{n}) = g_0(\vec{n})$

Then, restricted to  $\vec{n} \in W_{\geq 0}^k$ ,  $g(t; \vec{n}) = u(t; \vec{n})$ .

Theorem: For step initial condition (i.e.,  $g_0(\vec{n}) = 1$ ) we have

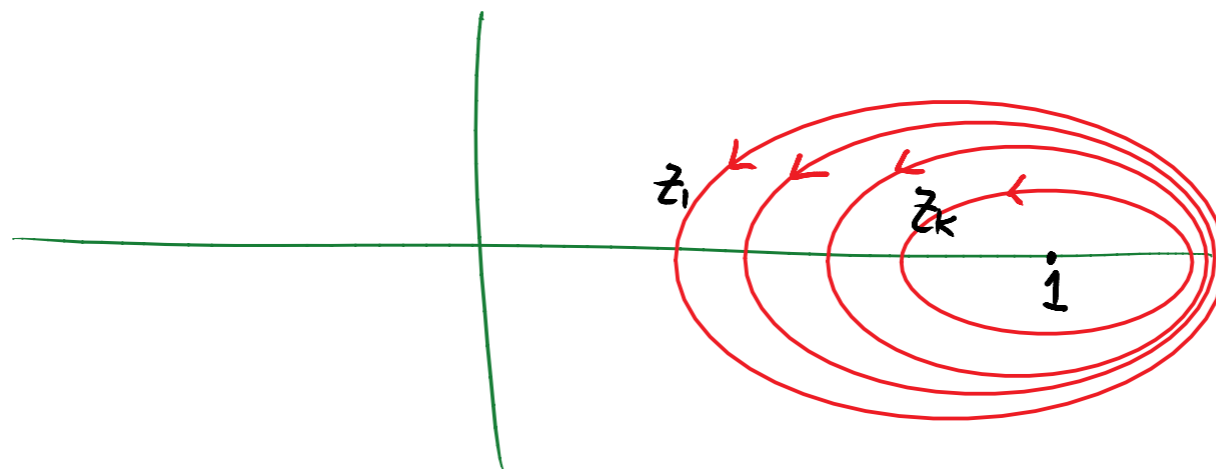
$$U(t; \vec{n}) = \frac{(-1)^k q^{k(k-1)/2}}{(2\pi i)^k} \oint \dots \oint \prod_{1 \leq A < B \leq k} \frac{z_A - z_B}{z_A - q z_B} \prod_{j=1}^k g_{z_j}(t; n_j) \frac{dz_j}{z_j}$$



Proof: Only new aspect is boundary condition. Applied to integrand brings out factor of  $z_i - q z_{i+1}$ . Contour symmetry and integrand asymmetry shows integral is zero. □

Implies joint moment formulas. For example, if all  $a_i \equiv 1$

$$E^{\text{step}} \left[ q^{K(X_n(t)+n)} \right] = \frac{(-1)^k q^{k(k-1)/2}}{(2\pi i)^k} \int \cdots \int \prod_{1 \leq A < B \leq k} \frac{z_A - z_B}{z_A - qz_B} \prod_{j=1}^k \frac{e^{(q-1)tz_j}}{(1-z_j)^n} \frac{dz_j}{z_j}$$



Success in using moments to asymptotically study one-point distribution, though multi-point distributions remain open

True evolution equation also equivalent to a certain  $q$ -deformed discrete delta Bose gas

$$\frac{d}{dt} g(t; \vec{n}) = H g(t; \vec{n})$$

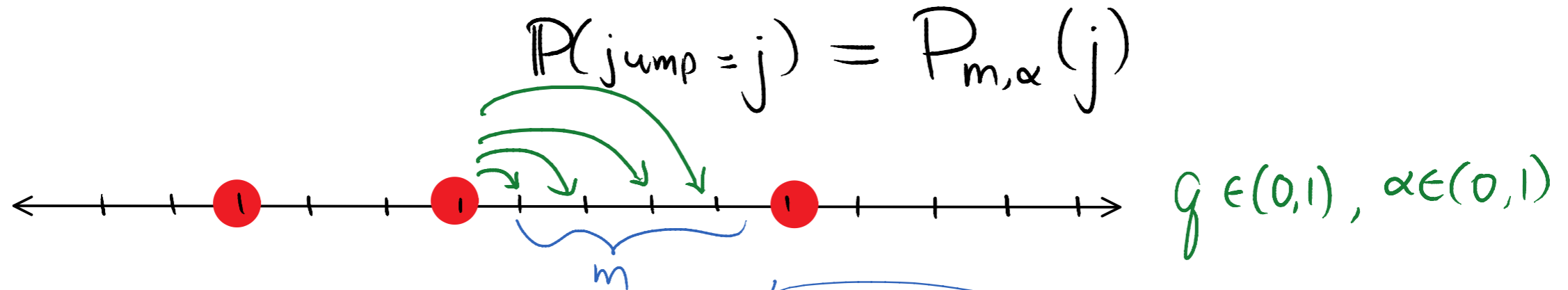
with Hamiltonian

$$H = (1-q) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^k \nabla_j + (1-q^{-1}) \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq k} \delta_{n_i = n_j} q^{j-i} \nabla_j \right]$$

subject to Bosonic symmetry and zero boundary condition

Integrability (equiv. to free eqn with  $k-1$  B.C.s) not obvious for this system (Note: not all delta Bose gases are integrable)

(Parallel) Geometric discrete time  $q$ -TASEP [Borodin-C '13]:

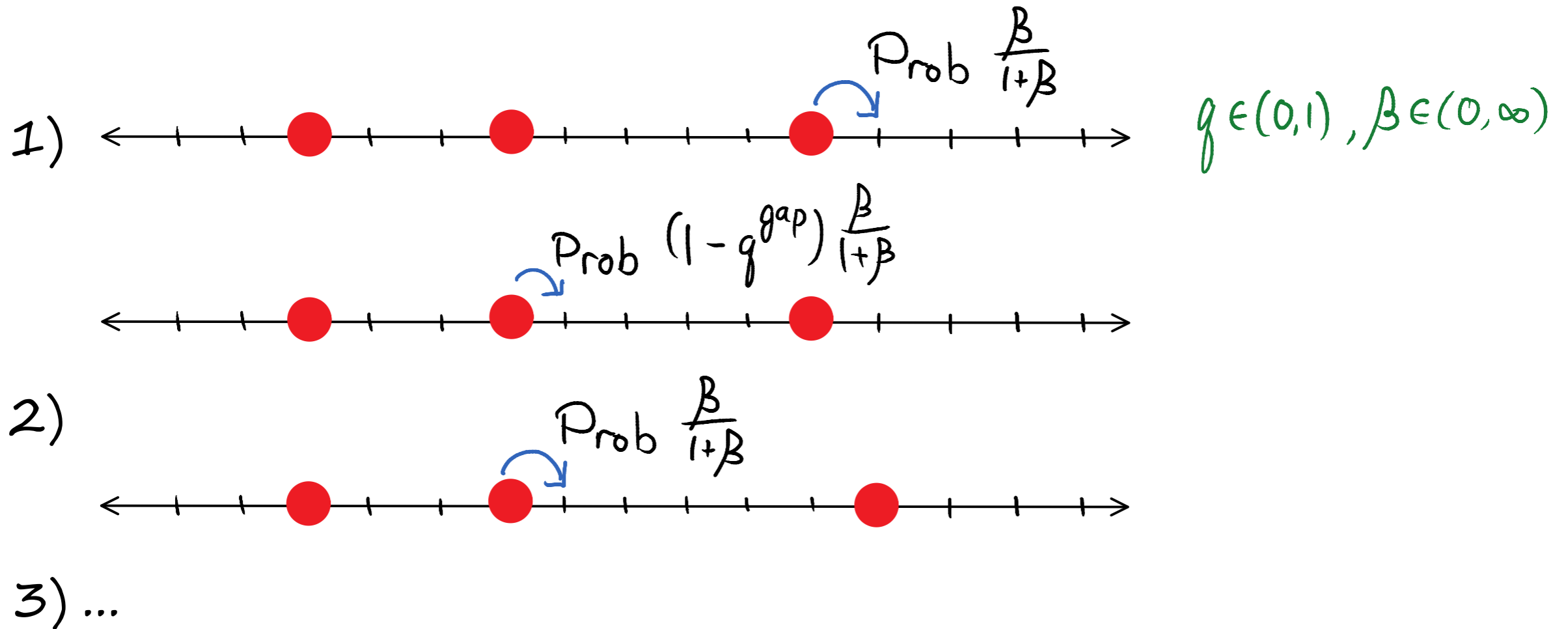


$$P_{m,\alpha}(j) = \alpha^j (\alpha; q)_{m-j} \frac{(q; q)_m}{(q; q)_{m-j} (q; q)_j} \quad \Downarrow_{0 \leq j \leq m} \quad \left[ (a; q)_n = \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} (1 - aq^j) \right]$$

At  $q=0 \rightarrow$  parallel geometric TASEP with blocking  
 [Warren-Windridge '09]



(Sequential) Bernoulli discrete time  $q$ -TASEP [Borodin-C '13]:

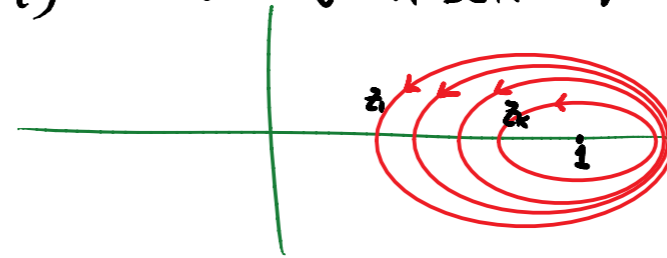


At  $q=0 \rightarrow$  sequential Bernoulli TASEP [Borodin-Ferrari '08]

$q$ -TASEP joint moments satisfy various many body systems

Theorem [Borodin-C '13]: For  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq \dots \geq n_k > 0$

$$\mathbb{E}^{\text{step}} \left[ \prod_{j=1}^k q^{X_{n_j}(t) + n_j} \right] = \frac{(-1)^k q^{k(k-1)/2}}{(2\pi i)^k} \oint \dots \oint \prod_{1 \leq A < B \leq k} \frac{z_A - z_B}{z_A - q z_B} \prod_{j=1}^k \frac{1}{(1 - z_j)^{n_j}} \frac{f(q z_j)}{f(z_j)} \frac{dz_j}{z_j}$$



$$f(z) = \begin{cases} e^{tz}, & \text{Poissonian continuous } q\text{-TASEP} \\ \left( \frac{1}{(\alpha z; q)_\infty} \right)^t, & \text{Geometric discrete } q\text{-TASEP} \\ (1 + \beta z)^t, & \text{Bernoulli discrete } q\text{-TASEP} \end{cases}$$

$q$ -TASEP satisfies:
 
$$\begin{cases} d q^{X_n(t)+n} = (1-q) \nabla q^{X_n(t)+n} dt + q^{X_n(t)+n} dM_n(t) \\ q^{X_n(0)+n} \equiv 1 \text{ (step)}, \quad q^{X_0(t)+0} \equiv 0 \text{ (} X_0 = \infty \text{)} \end{cases}$$

↑ Martingale

Theorem [Borodin-C '11]: For  $q$ -TASEP with step init. cond.

scale  $q = e^{-\varepsilon}$ ,  $t = \varepsilon^{-2} \tau$ ,  $X_n(t) = \varepsilon^{-2} \tau - (n-1)\varepsilon^{-1} \log \varepsilon^{-1} - \varepsilon^{-1} F_\varepsilon(\tau, n)$

and call  $Z_\varepsilon(\tau, n) = \exp\left\{-\frac{3\tau}{2} + F_\varepsilon(\tau, n)\right\}$ . Then as  $\varepsilon \searrow 0$ ,

$Z_\varepsilon(\cdot, \cdot) \Rightarrow Z(\cdot, \cdot)$  where  $Z$  solves the semi-discrete SHE:

$$\begin{cases} dZ(\tau, n) = \nabla Z(\tau, n) d\tau + Z(\tau, n) dB_n(\tau) \\ Z(0, n) = \mathbb{1}_{n=0}, \quad Z(\tau, 0) \equiv 0 \end{cases}$$

← ind. BM's

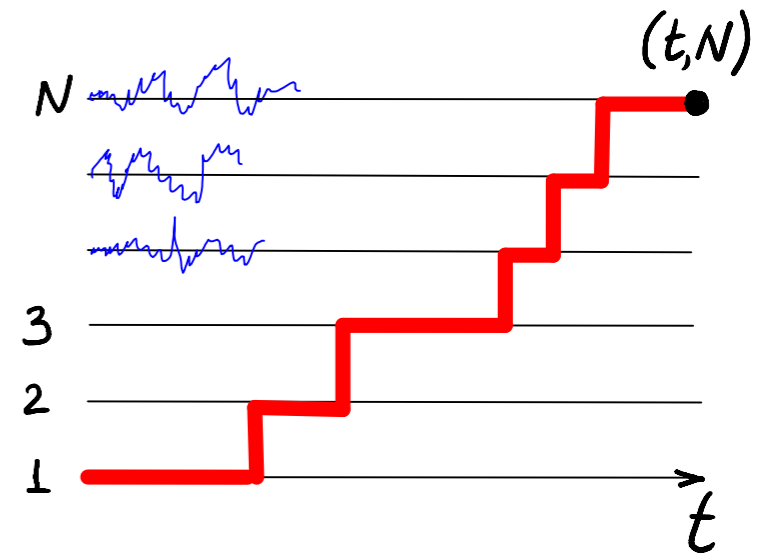
# Partition function for a semi-discrete directed random polymer

$$Z_t^N = \int_{0 < s_1 < \dots < s_{N-1} < t} e^{B_1(0, s_1) + B_2(s_1, s_2) + \dots + B_N(s_{N-1}, t)} ds_1 \dots ds_{N-1}$$

$B_1, \dots, B_N$  are independent Brownian motions

$$B_k(\alpha, \beta) := B_k(\beta) - B_k(\alpha) = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \dot{B}_k(x) dx$$

[O'Connell-Yor 2001]



$$u(t, N) := e^{-3t/2} Z_t^N = e^{-3t/2} \int_{0 < s_1 < \dots < s_{N-1} < t} e^{B_1(0, s_1) + \dots + B_N(s_{N-1}, t)} ds$$

satisfies

$$\frac{\partial u(t, N)}{\partial t} = (u(t, N-1) - u(t, N)) + \dot{B}_N(t) \cdot u(N, t)$$

with  $u(0, N) = \delta_{1N}$ .

This is a discrete analog of the stochastic heat equation

$$u_t = \frac{1}{2} \Delta u + \dot{W} \cdot u$$

where  $\dot{W}$  is the space-time white noise.

The path integral is the Feynman-Kac solution

The semi-discrete Brownian directed polymer is exactly solvable.

Theorem (Borodin-Corwin, 2011) The Laplace transform of the polymer partition function  $Z_t^N$  can be written as a Fredholm determinant

$$\langle e^{-u Z_t^N} \rangle = \det(\mathbb{1} + K_u)_{L^2(\mathbb{C})}$$

where

$$K_u(v, v') = \frac{i}{2} \int_{-i\infty + \frac{1}{2}}^{i\infty + \frac{1}{2}} \left( \frac{\Gamma(v-1)}{\Gamma(s+v-1)} \right)^N \frac{u^s e^{vts + \frac{ts^2}{2}}}{s+v-v'} \frac{ds}{\sin \pi s}.$$

Corollary (B-C, B-C-Ferrari, 2011-12) Set  $F_t^N = \log Z_t^N$ . For any  $\varepsilon > 0$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P} \left\{ \frac{F_{\varepsilon N}^N - N \bar{f}_{\varepsilon}}{N^{1/3}} \leq r \right\} = F_{\text{GUE}} \left( \left( \frac{g_{\varepsilon}}{2} \right)^{-1/3} r \right)$$

This leads to a rigorous derivation of  $\mathbb{E}[e^{-\xi Z(\tau, n)}] = \det(I + \tilde{K}_\xi)$   
and proof that logarithm of semi-discrete SHE has GUE  
Tracy-widom scaling limit under  $\tau^{1/3}$  scaling (Ferrari's talk)

Under weak noise scaling [Alberts-Khanin-Quastel '12] the  
semi-discrete SHE converges weakly to the continuum SHE  
[Moreno Flores-Remenik-Quastel '13]:

$$\partial_t Z(t, x) = \frac{1}{2} \partial_x^2 Z(t, x) + Z(t, x) \xi(t, x), \quad Z(0, x) = \delta_{x=0}$$

(space time white noise)

Thus a second proof of SHE Laplace transform Fredholm det.  
[Sasamoto Spohn '10, Amir-C-Quastel '10, Calabrese-Le Doussal-Rosso '10, Dotsenko '10]

Feynman-Kac representation leads to semi-discrete polymer [O'Connell-Yor '01] and continuum random polymer.

Replica method [Molchanov '86, Kardar '87] shows that joint moments  $E[\prod_{j=1}^k Z(\tau, n_j)]$ ,  $E[\prod_{j=1}^k Z(t, x_j)]$  satisfy delta Bose gases

$$H = \sum_{j=1}^k \nabla_j + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq k} \mathbb{1}_{n_i = n_j}, \quad H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^k \partial_{x_j}^2 + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq k} \delta_{x_i = x_j}$$

Both can be written as free evolution eqn. with  $k-1$  B.C.'s and solved by limits of the  $q$ -TASEP nested contour formulas.

However, these moments grow like  $e^{ck^2}$ ,  $e^{ck^3}$  and hence do not characterize the distribution of  $Z$  (replica trick).



General coupling const. version ( $c < 0$  repulsive,  $c > 0$  attractive)

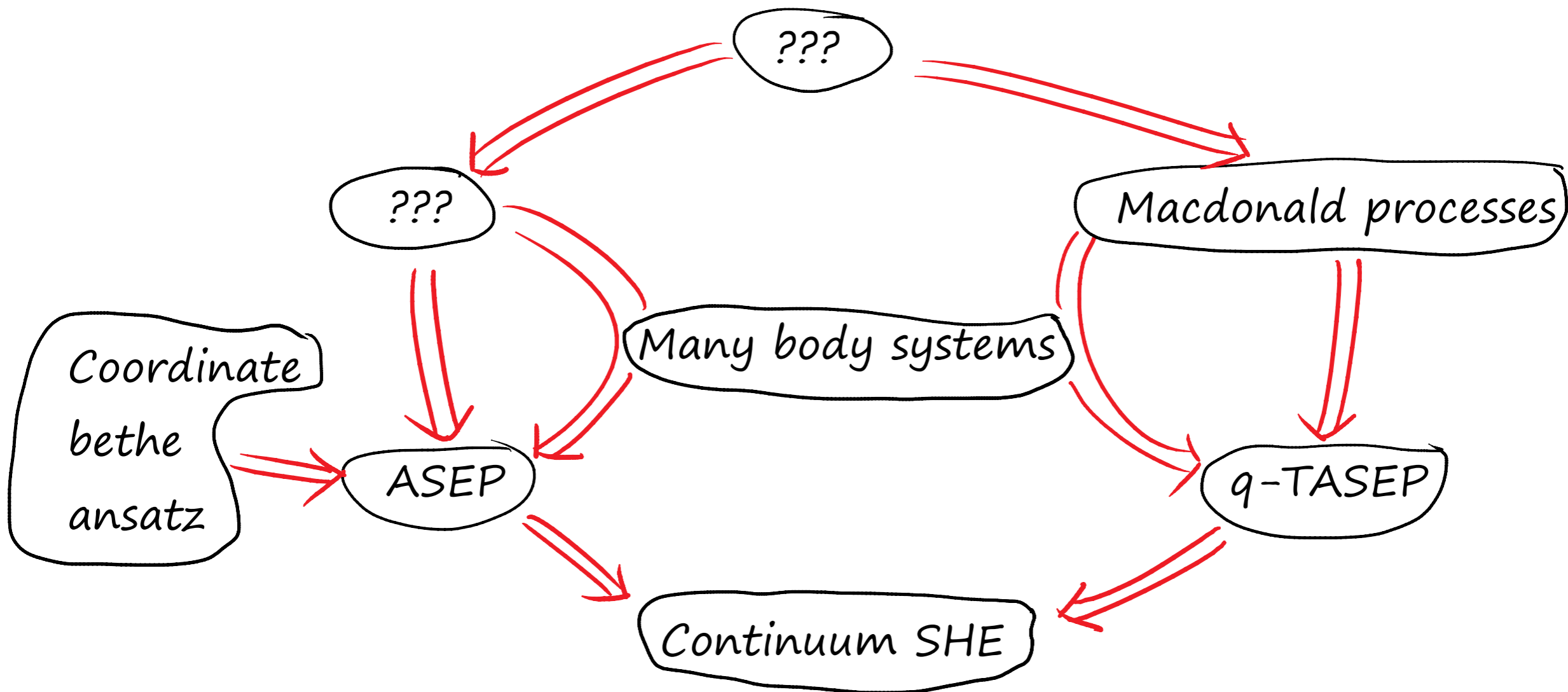
$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u(t; \vec{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^k \partial_{x_j}^2 u(t; \vec{x}), \\ (\partial_{x_i} - \partial_{x_{i+1}} - c) u(t; \vec{x}) \Big|_{x_i \nearrow x_{i+1}} = 0, \quad u(0; \vec{x}) = \delta_{\vec{x}=0} \end{cases}$$

is solved (in  $x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_k$ ) by the nested contour integral formula

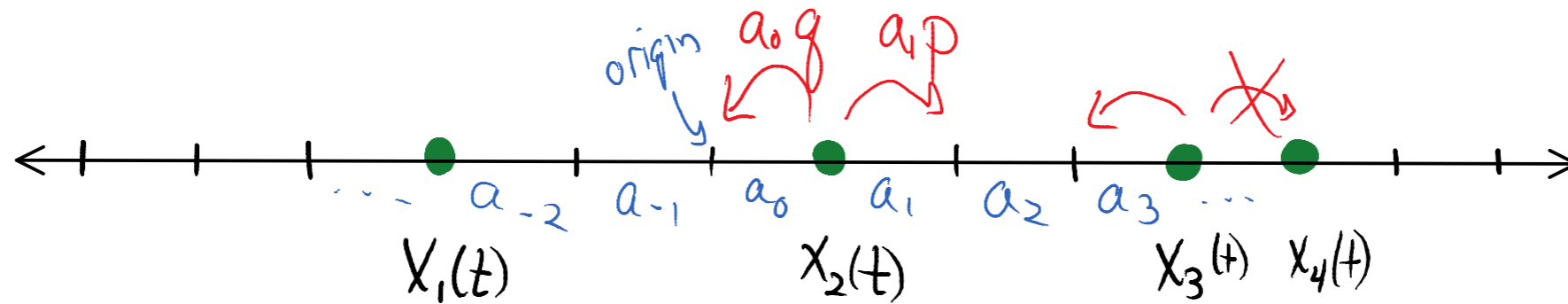
$$u(t; \vec{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^k} \int \dots \int \prod_{1 \leq A < B \leq k} \frac{z_A - z_B}{z_A - z_B - c} \prod_{j=1}^k e^{x_j z_j + \frac{t}{2} z_j^2} d\bar{z}_j$$

where  $z_j$  is integrated over  $\alpha_j + i\mathbb{R}$ , with  $\alpha_1 > \alpha_2 + c > \alpha_3 + 2c > \dots$

Many body systems approach reveals parallel formulas.  
Is there a higher structure which accounts for this?



# Asymmetric simple exclusion (particle) process



Particles attempt continuous time random walks, jumping left over bond  $i \leftrightarrow i+1$  at rate  $a_i q$  and right at rate  $a_i p$ . If the destination is occupied, the jump is suppressed.

State space for  $k$  particles:  $W^k = \{x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_k\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^k$ .

Generator  $(L^{k, \text{part}} f)(\vec{x})$  for  $\vec{x} \in W^k$ .

e.g.  $k=1$   $(L^{1, \text{part}} f)(x) = a_x p [f(x+1) - f(x)] + a_{x-1} q [f(x-1) - f(x)]$

# Asymmetric simple exclusion (occupation) process

$$\eta(t) = \{\eta_x(t)\}_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{Z}}, \quad \eta_x(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{particle at } x, \text{ time } t \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Dynamics: for each  $y$   $\begin{cases} \eta \mapsto \eta^{y,y+1} & \text{at rate } a_y p & \text{if } (\eta_y, \eta_{y+1}) = (1,0) \\ \eta \mapsto \eta^{y,y+1} & \text{at rate } a_y q & \text{if } (\eta_y, \eta_{y+1}) = (0,1) \end{cases}$

$$(L^{\text{occ}} f)(\eta) = \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}} a_y (p \eta_y (1 - \eta_{y+1}) + q (1 - \eta_y) \eta_{y+1}) [f(\eta^{y,y+1}) - f(\eta)]$$

Assume that  $q \geq p \geq 0$  so  $P/q =: \gamma \leq 1$  ( $p+q=1$ ) and  $C < a_x < C^{-1}$

Define:  $N_x = N_x(\eta) = \sum_{y \leq x} \eta_y$

Theorem [Borodin-C-Sasamoto '12]: For any  $k > 0$ , the ASEP particle process  $\vec{X}(t)$  (with  $p \leftrightarrow q$  switched) and the ASEP occupation process  $\eta(t)$  are dual with respect to

$$H(\eta, \vec{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^k \tau^{N_{x_i}(\eta)} \eta_{x_i}$$

(i.e.  $\mathbb{E}^{\eta}(H(\eta(t), \vec{x})) = \mathbb{E}^{\vec{x}}(H(\eta, \vec{x}(t)))$  for all  $\eta \in \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ ,  $\vec{x} \in W^k$ ,  $t \geq 0$ )

If all bond jump rates parameters  $a_i \equiv 1$  then the processes are also dual with respect to

$$G(\eta, \vec{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^k \tau^{N_{x_i}(\eta)}$$

## Remarks on the duality.

- When  $p=q$ , the H-duality describes correlation functions and is much more general.
- When all  $a_i \equiv 1$ , H-duality shown previously [Schutz '97] via related quantum spin chain  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -symmetry.
- When  $k=1$ , the G-duality is Gartner's microscopic ASEP Hopf-Cole transform.

Proof: Directly from studying the effect of applying the Markov generators to the duality function.

From duality to determinants:

1. Duality lead to system of ODEs for  $h(t, \vec{x}) := \mathbb{E} \left[ \prod_{i=1}^k \tau^{N_{x_i-1}(z(t))} z_x(t) \right]$
2. For  $a_i \equiv 1$  / step initial data, solve ODEs via a "nested contour integral ansatz" (relies on integrability)
3. Combine integral solutions to yield formula for  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \tau^{n N_x(z(t))} \right]$
4. Deform nested-contours to coincide and track residues
5. Form generating function ( $\tau$ -Laplace transform) and identify Fredholm determinant (Mellin Barnes/Cauchy type).

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{(\tau^{N_x(t)})_{\tau}^{\infty}} \right] = \det(I + K_{\mathfrak{g}})$$

Let's focus on steps 1 and 2.

Duality provides a non-trivial coupled system of ODEs:

Since  $\mathbb{E}^{\eta}[H(\eta(t), \vec{x})] = \mathbb{E}^{\vec{x}}[H(\eta, \vec{x}(t))] =: h(t, \vec{x})$

$$\frac{d}{dt} h(t, \vec{x}) = (L^{k, \text{part}})^* h(t, \vec{x}) \quad , \quad h(0, \vec{x}) = H(\eta, \vec{x}) .$$

But how to solve? For  $k > 1$  the generator depends on  $\vec{x}$  !

First idea (from Bethe, cf. Tracy-Widom ASEP papers):

Try to solve "free" system of ODEs on all of  $\mathbb{Z}^k$  with boundary conditions on  $W^k$ .



Proposition: If  $u: \mathbb{Z}^k \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  solves

Free ODEs

$$1. \frac{d}{dt} u(t, \vec{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^k (L^{i, \text{part}})^* u(t, \vec{x})$$

Boundary condition

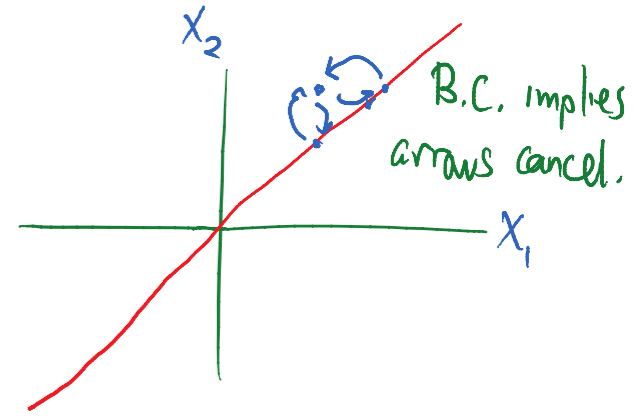
$$2. \text{ For all } \vec{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^k : x_{i+1} = x_i + 1 \text{ for some } i,$$

$$p u(t, \vec{x}_{i+1}^-) + q u(t, \vec{x}_i^+) = u(t, \vec{x})$$

Initial data

$$3. \text{ For all } \vec{x} \in W^k, u(0, \vec{x}) = H(\gamma, \vec{x})$$

Then for all  $t \geq 0, \vec{x} \in W^k, h(t, \vec{x}) = u(t, \vec{x})$



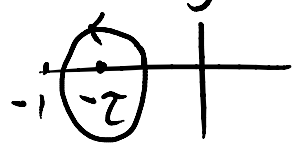
(Note: Since system of ODEs is infinite, we must also impose an exponential growth condition; and we can weaken initial data to weakly converge, as is useful in our contour integral formulas we find)

Assume from now on step initial condition ( $\gamma_x = \mathbb{1}_{x \geq 1}$ ) and  $a_i \equiv 1$

How to solve this system of ODEs?

$$K=1: \quad h_z(t, x) := \exp \left\{ -\frac{z(p-q)^2}{(1+z)(p+qz)} t \right\} \left( \frac{1+z}{1+z/\tau} \right)^{x-1} \frac{1}{\tau+z}$$

solves the "free" evolution eqn. for all  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-\tau\}$ .

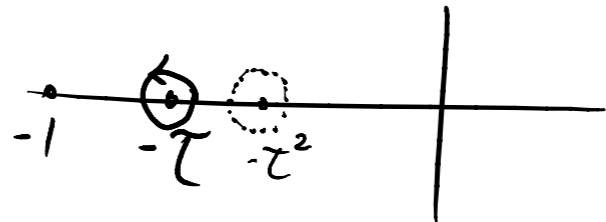
$$U(t, x) = \oint^{\text{step}} \left[ \tau^{N_{x-1}(\gamma(t))} \gamma_x(t) \right] = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int h_z(t, x) dz$$


Proof: Check by residues that  $U(0, x) = \tau^{x-1} \mathbb{1}_{x \geq 1}$

For  $k > 1$  we use an idea inspired from the theory of Macdonald processes  $\rightarrow$  "nested contour integral ansatz"

Theorem [Borodin-C-Sasamoto '12]: For all  $k \geq 1$ ,

$$U(\vec{x}; t) = \frac{\tau^{k(k-1)/2}}{(2\pi i)^k} \int \cdots \int \prod_{1 \leq A < B \leq k} \frac{z_A - z_B}{z_A - \tau z_B} \prod_{i=1}^k h_{z_i}(t, x_i) dz_i$$

Where contour of integration is  to avoid poles of  $z_A - \tau z_B$ .

Restricting to  $\vec{x} \in W^k$  yields:

$$\mathbb{E}^{\text{step}} \left[ \prod_{i=1}^k \tau^{N_{x_i-1}(\gamma(t))} \gamma_x(t) \right]$$

Assume  $x_2 = x_1 + 1$  and check boundary cond.  
 Try to apply it to integrand  $\Rightarrow$  brings out factor  $(z_1 - \tau z_2)$ . Cancels with  $\prod_{A < B}$  term.  
 What remains is  $\iint (z_1 - z_2) G(z_1) G(z_2) = 0$ .

Suitable combinations of  $E^{\text{step}} \left[ \prod_{i=1}^k \tau^{N_{x_i-1}(\gamma(t))} \gamma_{x(t)} \right]$  yields  $E^{\text{step}} \left[ \tau^{n N_x(\gamma(t))} \right]$

Theorem [Borodin-C-Sasamoto '12]: For step initial condition ASEP with  $a_i \equiv 1$  and  $p < q$  (hence  $\tau = p/q < 1$ ,  $\delta = q - p > 0$ )

$$E \left[ \frac{1}{(\mathcal{S} \tau^{N_x(\gamma(t))}; \tau)_{\infty}} \right] \cong \frac{\det(I + K_S)}{\det(I - S \tilde{K})} \begin{matrix} L^2 \left( \begin{matrix} \circ \\ -i \quad -\tau \quad 0 \end{matrix} \right) \\ \text{Mellin Barnes type} \end{matrix} \\ \cong \frac{1}{(\mathcal{S}; \tau)_{\infty}} \det(I - S \tilde{K}) \begin{matrix} L^2 \left( \begin{matrix} \circ \\ -i \quad -\tau \end{matrix} \right) \\ \text{Cauchy type} \end{matrix}$$

$$K_S(w, w') = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int \frac{\pi ds}{\sin(\pi s)} (-s)^s \frac{g(w)}{g(\tau^s w)} \frac{1}{w' - \tau^s w} \quad // \quad \tilde{K}(w, w') = \frac{e^{\varepsilon'(w)t}}{\tau w - w'}$$

$$g(w) = e^{\delta t \frac{\tau}{\tau+w}} \left( \frac{\tau}{\tau+w} \right)^x \quad // \quad \varepsilon'(w) = -\frac{1}{q} \frac{w \delta^2}{(1+w)(\tau+w)}$$

Corollary [Tracy-Widom '09, Borodin-C-Sasamoto '12]:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}^{\text{step}} \left( \frac{N_0(\gamma(t/\delta)) - t/4}{t^{1/3}} \geq -r \right) = F_{\text{GUE}}(2^{4/3} r)$$

Recovering the celebrate Tracy-Widom / Johansson result.

Remarks:

- Mellin Barnes Fredholm det. new and easy for asymptotics
- Inversion of Cauchy Fredholm det. equivalent to initial det. in [Tracy-Widom '09]
- Completely parallel to  $q$ -TASEP formulas

Coordinate approach of [Tracy-Widom '08-'09]:

- Study  $k$  particle ASEP and use coordinate Bethe ansatz (cf. [Schutz '97] for  $k=2$ ) to compute Green's functions.
- Manipulate formulas to extract one-point marginal.
- Approach step initial condition by taking  $k$  to infinity and observe an integral transform of Cauchy type Fredholm det.
- Functional analysis to rework for asymptotic analysis.

Using  $k$ -particle Green's functions can write solution of duality ODEs as  $k!$   $k$ -fold contour integrals [Imamura-Sasamoto '11].

Equivalence to nested formula is non-trivial.