

# Distributions of sums of the divisor function over function fields

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# Polynomials over finite fields

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$$f(T) = a_n T^n + \cdots + a_0 = a_n P_1^{e_1} P_2^{e_2} \cdots P_s^{e_s}$$



# The Riemann zeta function over finite fields

$$\zeta_q(s) = \sum_{\substack{f \in \mathbb{F}_q[T] \\ f \text{ monic}}} \frac{1}{|f|^s} = \prod_{\substack{\ell \text{ irreducible} \\ \text{monic}}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{|\ell|^s}\right)^{-1}$$

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$\zeta_q(s)$  has no zeros, the Riemann hypothesis is true!

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## Examples

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## Examples

$$\mathbb{F}_q(T), \quad \mathbb{F}_q[x, y]/(y^2 - x^3 + x) = \mathbb{F}_q(x)(\sqrt{x^3 - x}).$$

# Primes in function fields

A **prime** of the function field  $K$  is a discrete valuation ring  $R$  with maximal ideal  $P$  such that  $\mathbb{F}_q \subseteq R \subset K$  and the quotient field of  $R$  is  $K$ .

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For  $\mathbb{F}_q(T)$ , we get

$$\{\text{monic irreducible polynomials}\} \cup P_\infty.$$

## Some background on $\zeta_K(s)$

$$\zeta_K(s) := \sum_{A \geq 0} \frac{1}{|A|^s} = \prod_P \left(1 - \frac{1}{|P|^s}\right)^{-1}, \quad \operatorname{Re}(s) > 1,$$

where  $A \geq 0$  are **effective divisors** (formal products of primes with positive exponents).

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### Example

$$\zeta_{\mathbb{F}_q(T)}(s) := \prod_P \left(1 - \frac{1}{|P|^s}\right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{(1 - q^{-s})(1 - q^{1-s})}$$

The extra factor (compared to  $\zeta_q(s)$ ) comes from  $P_\infty$ , which has degree 1.

# The Weil conjectures (Dwork, Grothendieck and Deligne)

## ► Rationality

$$\zeta_K(s) = \frac{L_K(q^{-s})}{(1 - q^{-s})(1 - q^{1-s})} \quad L_K(u) \in \mathbb{Z}[u],$$
$$\deg L_K = 2g. \quad g = \text{genus}$$

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## ► Riemann hypothesis

$$L_K(q^{-s}) = \prod_{j=1}^{2g} (1 - \pi_j q^{-s}), \quad |\pi_j| = \sqrt{q}.$$



# Dirichlet $L$ -functions over function fields

A Dirichlet character is a map

$$\chi : (\mathbb{F}_q[T]/(D(T)))^* \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$$

extended to  $\mathbb{F}_q[T]$  by periodicity and with the condition that

$$\chi(A) = 0 \text{ when } (A, D) \neq 1.$$

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Since  $\sum_{\deg f=n} \chi(f) = 0$  for  $n \geq \deg D$ , we get a finite sum with finitely many zeros:

$$L(s, \chi) = \sum_{\deg f < \deg D} \frac{\chi(f)}{|f|^s}.$$

# Quadratic Dirichlet characters

$q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Let  $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[T]$ ,  $P$  monic irreducible,

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Extend multiplicatively (Jacobi symbol).

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Odd iff  $\deg(D)$  is odd, since

$$\left(\frac{\alpha}{P}\right) = \alpha^{\frac{q-1}{2} \deg(P)} \quad \alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q.$$



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If  $\deg D = 2g + 1$ ,

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The Weil conjectures imply

- ▶  $\mathcal{L}(u, \chi_D)$  is a polynomial of degree  $2g$ .
- ▶ Functional equation  $\mathcal{L}(u, \chi_D) = (qu^2)^g \mathcal{L}\left(\frac{1}{qu}, \chi_D\right)$ .
- ▶ Riemann Hypothesis, the zeros of  $\mathcal{L}(u, \chi_D)$  at  $|u| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{q}}$ .

# L-functions and Random Matrix Models

$$\mathcal{L}(u, \chi) = \prod_{j=1}^{2g} (1 - \pi_j(\chi)u) = \det(1 - uq^{\frac{1}{2}}\Theta_\chi),$$

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Katz and Sarnak (1999): the statistics for the zeroes in families of  $L$ -functions, in the limit when the conductor of the  $L$ -functions gets large, follow the distribution laws of classical random matrices.

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$$\sum_{n \leq x} d_k(n) = \operatorname{Res}_{s=1} \frac{x^s \zeta(s)^k}{s} + \Delta_k(x) = xP_{k-1}(\log x) + \Delta_k(x).$$

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$$\frac{1}{X} \int_X^{2X} \Delta_k(x)^2 dx \sim c_k X^{1-\frac{1}{k}}.$$

Cramér (1922)  $k = 2$ , Tong (1956)  $k \geq 3$  under RH.

# The divisor function - Two types of arithmetic questions

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$$\mathcal{S}_{d_k; X; Q}(A) := \sum_{\substack{n \leq X \\ n \equiv A \pmod{Q}}} d_k(n)$$

$$\text{Var}(\mathcal{S}_{d_k; X; Q}) := \frac{1}{\phi(Q)} \sum_{\substack{A \pmod{Q} \\ (A, Q) = 1}} |\mathcal{S}_{d_k; X; Q}(A) - \langle \mathcal{S}_{d_k; X; Q} \rangle|^2$$

# Distributions over arithmetic progressions

Selberg  $Q < X^{2/3-\varepsilon}$ ,

$$S_{d_2; X; Q}(A) = \frac{X p_Q(\log(X))}{\Phi(Q)} + O(X^{1/3+o(1)})$$

$\text{Var}(S_{d_2; X; Q})$  studied by Motohashi (1973), Blomer (2008), and Lau and Zhao (2012), for  $Q$  prime:

▶ If  $1 \leq Q < X^{1/2+\varepsilon}$ ,

$$\text{Var}(S_{d_2; X; Q}) \ll X^{1/2} + \left(\frac{X}{Q}\right)^{2/3+\varepsilon}$$

▶ If  $X^{1/2} < Q < X$ ,

$$\text{Var}(S_{d_2; X; Q}) = \frac{X}{Q} p_3 \left( \log \left( \frac{Q^2}{X} \right) \right) + O \left( \left( \frac{X}{Q} \right)^{5/6} (\log X)^3 \right)$$

and Kowalski and Ricotta (2014) for  $k \geq 3$  ( $Q^{k-\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon} < X < Q^{k-\varepsilon}$ ).

# Distributions over arithmetic progressions

Conjecture (Keating, Rodgers, Roditty-Gershon, and Rudnick (2018))

For  $Q$  prime,  $Q^{1+\varepsilon} < X < Q^{k-\varepsilon}$ , as  $X \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\text{Var}(S_{d_k; X; Q}) \sim \frac{X}{Q} a_k \gamma_k \left( \frac{\log X}{\log Q} \right) (\log Q)^{k^2-1}.$$

where

$$\gamma_k(c) = \frac{1}{k! G(1+k)^2} \int_{[0,1]^k} \delta_c(w_1 + \dots + w_k) \prod_{i < j} (w_i - w_j)^2 d^k w,$$

where  $\delta_c(w) = \delta(w - c)$  is the delta distribution translated by  $c$ , and  $G$  is the Barnes  $G$ -function  $G(1+k) = 1! \dots (k-1)!$  and

$$a_k = \prod_p \left( \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)^{k^2} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\Gamma(k+j)}{\Gamma(k)j!} \right)^2 \frac{1}{p^j} \right).$$



# The divisor function over function fields

$f \in \mathbb{F}_q[T]$  monic,  $q$  odd prime power.

$$d_k(f) := \#\{(f_1, \dots, f_k) : f = f_1 \cdots f_k, f_j \text{ monic}\}.$$

$$\zeta_q(s)^k = \sum_{\substack{f \in \mathbb{F}_q[T] \\ f \text{ monic}}} \frac{d_k(f)}{|f|^s}, \quad \operatorname{Re}(s) > 1.$$

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## The secular coefficients

Let  $U$  be an  $N \times N$  matrix. The **secular coefficients**  $\operatorname{Sc}_j(U)$  are the coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of  $U$ :

$$\det(1 + xU) = \sum_{j=0}^N \operatorname{Sc}_j(U) x^j.$$

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$$\langle \mathcal{S}_{d_k;n;Q} \rangle \sim \frac{q^n \binom{n+k-1}{k-1}}{\Phi(Q)}$$

# Distribution on arithmetic progressions

$$S_{d_k;n;Q}(A) := \sum_{\substack{f \text{ monic, } \deg(f)=n \\ f \equiv A \pmod{Q}}} d_k(f).$$

$$\langle S_{d_k;n;Q} \rangle \sim \frac{q^n \binom{n+k-1}{k-1}}{\Phi(Q)}$$

Theorem (Keating, Rodgers, Roditty-Gershon, and Rudnick (2018))

If  $Q$  is  $\square$ -free and  $n \leq k(\deg(Q) - 1)$ , as  $q \rightarrow \infty$

$$\text{Var}^*(S_{d_k;n;Q}) \sim \frac{q^n}{|Q|} \int_{U(\deg(Q)-1)} \left| \sum_{\substack{j_1 + \dots + j_k = n \\ 0 \leq j_1, \dots, j_k \leq \deg(Q)-1}} \text{Sc}_{j_1}(U) \cdots \text{Sc}_{j_k}(U) \right|^2 dU,$$

where  $U(N)$  is the set of  $N \times N$  unitary matrices  
 ( $UU^* = U^*U = I$ ) with respect to the Haar probability measure.

# Computing the integral

Keating, Rodgers, Roditty-Gershon, and Rudnick (2018) work with the integral

$$I_k(n; N) = \int_{U(N)} \left| \sum_{\substack{j_1 + \dots + j_k = n \\ 0 \leq j_1, \dots, j_k \leq N}} \text{Sc}_{j_1}(U) \cdots \text{Sc}_{j_k}(U) \right|^2 dU$$

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and find that

$$I_k(n; N) = \gamma_k(c) N^{k^2-1} + O_k(N^{k^2-2}),$$

where  $c = n/N$  and  $\gamma_k(c)$  is a piecewise continuous polynomial function.

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$$I_k(n; N) = \gamma_k(c) N^{k^2-1} + O_k(N^{k^2-2}),$$

where  $c = n/N$  and  $\gamma_k(c)$  is a piecewise continuous polynomial function. For example,

$$\gamma_2(c) = \begin{cases} \frac{c^3}{3!} & 0 \leq c \leq 1, \\ \frac{(2-c)^3}{3!} & 1 \leq c \leq 2. \end{cases}$$



# Unitary and symplectic matrices

The results described in the previous slides correspond to unitary matrices ( $UU^* = U^*U = I$ ).

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What about symplectic distributions?

A  $2N \times 2N$  matrix  $S$  with real coefficients is symplectic if

$$M^T \Omega M = \Omega,$$

where

$$\Omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_N \\ -I_N & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$



## Finding a problem leading to symplectic distributions...

Keating, Rodgers, Roditty-Gershon, and Rudnick (2018) work with **odd primitive characters with conductor  $Q$   $\square$ -free** to pick up the congruence condition.

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☹ It is not easy to detect squares with  $\chi_D = \left(\frac{D}{\cdot}\right)$ .

😊 Second attempt:  $\chi_P = \left(\frac{P}{\cdot}\right)$ ,  $P$  monic and irreducible.

# Distribution of quadratic residues modulo $P$

$$\mathcal{S}_{d_k, n}^S(P) := \sum_{\substack{f \text{ monic, } \deg(f)=n \\ f \equiv \square \pmod{P} \\ P \nmid f}} d_k(f),$$

where  $P$  is a monic irreducible polynomial of degree  $2g + 1$ .

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where  $P$  is a monic irreducible polynomial of degree  $2g + 1$ .

Theorem (Kuperberg and L. (2022))

As  $q \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\mathcal{S}_{d_k, n}^S(P) \sim \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{f \text{ monic, deg}(f)=n \\ P \nmid f}} d_k(f) \sim \frac{q^n}{2} \binom{k+n-1}{k-1}.$$

Let  $n \leq 2gk$ . As  $q \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\text{Var}^*(\mathcal{S}_{d_k, n}^S) \sim \frac{q^n}{4} \int_{\text{Sp}(2g)} \left| \sum_{\substack{j_1 + \dots + j_k = n \\ 0 \leq j_1, \dots, j_k \leq 2g}} \text{Sc}_{j_1}(U) \dots \text{Sc}_{j_k}(U) \right|^2 dU.$$

# Ingredients in the proof - the mean

$P$  monic irreducible of degree  $2g + 1$ .

$$S_{d_k, n}^S(P) = \sum_{\substack{f \text{ monic} \\ \deg(f) = n, P \nmid f}} d_k(f) \left( \frac{1 + \chi_P(f)}{2} \right)$$

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$$S_{d_k, n}^S(P) \sim \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{f \text{ monic} \\ \deg(f) = n, P \nmid f}} d_k(f) \sim \frac{q^n}{2} \binom{k + n - 1}{k - 1}$$

Look for the coefficient of  $u^n$  in the generating function.

$$\sum_{\substack{f \text{ monic} \\ P \nmid f}} d_k(f) u^{\deg(f)} = \left( \frac{1 - u^{2g+1}}{1 - qu} \right)^k$$

# Ingredients in the proof - the $L$ -function

$$\mathcal{L}(u, \chi_D) = \sum_{f \text{ monic}} \chi_D(f) u^{\deg(f)} = \det(1 - uq^{1/2} \Theta_{\chi_D}).$$

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to express

$$\begin{aligned} M(n; d_k \chi_D) &:= \sum_{\substack{f \text{ monic} \\ \deg(f) = n}} d_k(f) \chi_D(f) \\ &= (-1)^k q^{n/2} \sum_{\substack{j_1 + \dots + j_k = n \\ 0 \leq j_1, \dots, j_k \leq 2g}} S_{C_{j_1}}(\Theta_{\chi_D}) \cdots S_{C_{j_k}}(\Theta_{\chi_D}) \end{aligned}$$

for  $n \leq 2gk$ .

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for  $n \leq 2gk$ .

It is  $O\left(q^{\frac{n}{2}}\right)$  by the Riemann Hypothesis.

## Ingredients in the proof - Extraction of the variance

$$\text{Var}^*(\mathcal{S}_{d_k,n}^S) = \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{P}_{2g+1}} \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}_{2g+1}} \left| \mathcal{S}_{d_k,n}^S(P) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{f \text{ monic} \\ \deg(f)=n, P \nmid f}} d_k(f) \right|^2$$

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# Ingredients in the proof - Extraction of the variance

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 \text{Var}^*(\mathcal{S}_{d_k, n}^S) &= \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{P}_{2g+1}} \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}_{2g+1}} \left| \mathcal{S}_{d_k, n}^S(P) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{f \text{ monic} \\ \deg(f)=n, P \nmid f}} d_k(f) \right|^2 \\
 &= \frac{1}{4\#\mathcal{P}_{2g+1}} \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}_{2g+1}} |M(n; d_k \chi_P)|^2 \\
 &= \frac{q^n}{4\#\mathcal{P}_{2g+1}} \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}_{2g+1}} \left| \sum_{\substack{j_1 + \dots + j_k = n \\ 0 \leq j_1, \dots, j_k \leq 2g}} S_{c_{j_1}}(\Theta_{\chi_P}) \cdots S_{c_{j_k}}(\Theta_{\chi_P}) \right|^2
 \end{aligned}$$

# Ingredients in the proof - Equidistribution

$\mathcal{H}_{2g+1} = \square$ -free monic polynomials of degree  $2g + 1$

Theorem (Katz & Sarnak (1999))

Let  $F$  be  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued central continuous function on  $\mathrm{Sp}(2g)$ . Then

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{H}_{2g+1}} \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{H}_{2g+1}} F(Q) = \int_{\mathrm{Sp}(2g)} F(U) dU.$$

# Ingredients in the proof - Equidistribution

$y^2=D(x)$ : But  
I'm the symplectic one!

$y^2=P(x)$ : You  
ain't the only one!



# Ingredients in the proof - Monodromy and equidistribution

Theorem (Katz, personal communication)

Let  $F$  be  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued central continuous function on  $\mathrm{Sp}(2g)$  and let  $\sigma$  be any fixed partition of  $2g + 1$ . Then

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{H}_\sigma} \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{H}_\sigma} F(Q) = \int_{\mathrm{Sp}(2g)} F(U) dU.$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{d_1, \dots, d_n} = \left\{ f \in \mathcal{H}_{2g+1}, : f = \prod_i^n f_{d_i}, f_{d_i} \text{ monic, } \deg(f_{d_i}) = d_i \right\}$$



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The monodromy group of  $y^2 = f(x)$  with  $f(x) \in \mathcal{H}_{d_1, \dots, d_n}$  is a subgroup of  $\mathrm{Sp}(2g)$ .

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It contains the monodromy of  $y^2 = (x - t)f_{2g}(x)$  with  $f_{2g}(x) \in \mathcal{H}_{d_1-1, \dots, d_n}$  and parameter  $t$ , known to be  $\mathrm{Sp}(2g)$ .

# Ingredients in the proof - Monodromy and equidistribution

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Use inclusion-exclusion to prove the same for

$$\mathcal{P}_{d_1, \dots, d_n} = \left\{ f \in \mathcal{H}_{2g+1}, : f = \prod_i^n f_{d_i}, f_{d_i} \text{ monic and irreducible} \right. \\ \left. \deg(f_{d_i}) = d_i \right\}.$$

# Understanding the integral

$$I_{d_k,2}^S(n; N) := \int_{\mathrm{Sp}(2N)} \left| \sum_{\substack{j_1 + \dots + j_k = n \\ 0 \leq j_1, \dots, j_k \leq 2N}} \mathrm{Sc}_{j_1}(U) \cdots \mathrm{Sc}_{j_k}(U) \right|^2 dU.$$

# Understanding the integral - Symmetric function theory

Bump and Gamburd (2006), Medjedovic and Rubinstein (2021)

$$\int_{\mathrm{Sp}(2N)} \prod_{i=1}^r \det(1 + x_i U) dU = \sum_{\substack{\lambda_1 \leq 2N \\ \lambda \text{ even}}} s_{\lambda}(x_1, \dots, x_r),$$

where  $s_{\lambda}$  is a Schur function, a generating polynomial counting semi-standard Young tableaux. (A similar identity exists for Unitary matrices, also due to Bump and Gamburd.)

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$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathrm{Sp}(2N)} \det(1 + xU)^k \det(1 + yU)^k dU &= \sum_{\substack{\lambda_1 \leq 2N \\ \lambda \text{ even}}} s_\lambda(\underbrace{x, \dots, x}_k, \underbrace{y, \dots, y}_k) \\ &= \sum_{m, n=0}^{2Nk} J_{d_k, 2}^S(m, n; N) x^m y^n. \end{aligned}$$

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$$I_{d_k, 2}^S(n; N) := J_{d_k, 2}^S(n, n; N).$$



# Understanding the integral - Symmetric function theory

- ▶ Let  $c = \frac{n}{2N}$ . Then

$$I_{d_k,2}^S(n; N) = \# \left( \Lambda_{2k^2+k-2} \cap (2N \cdot V_c^S) \right),$$

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By Ehrhart theory,  $I_{d_k,2}^S(cN; N)$  is a **polynomial in  $N$  of degree  $2k^2 + k - 2$** .

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- ▶ Medjedovic and Rubinstein (2021) use the Desarmenien–Stembridge–Proctor formula,

$$\sum_{\substack{\lambda_1 \leq 2N \\ \lambda \text{ even}}} s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_r) = \prod_{i=1}^r \frac{1}{1-x_i^2} \prod_{i < j} \frac{1}{1-x_i x_j} \frac{\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq r} [x_i^{j-1} - x_i^{2N+2r+1-j}]}{\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_r)}.$$

## Computing the integral - 0-swaps terms

For  $n \leq N$ , we have

$$I_{d_k,2}^S(n; N) = \frac{1}{G(1+k)} \sum_{\substack{\ell=0 \\ \ell \equiv n \pmod{2}}}^n \binom{\frac{n-\ell}{2} + \binom{k+1}{2} - 1}{\binom{k+1}{2} - 1}^2 \binom{\ell + k^2 - 1}{k^2 - 1}.$$

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$k = 1$

$$\int_{\mathrm{Sp}(2N)} \mathrm{Sc}_n(U)^2 dU = \frac{2n+3}{4} + \frac{(-1)^n}{4} \quad \gamma_{d_1}^S(c) = \begin{cases} c & 0 \leq c \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ 1-c & \frac{1}{2} \leq c \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

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$k = 2$

$$\int_{\mathrm{Sp}(2N)} \left| \sum_{\substack{j_1+j_2=n \\ 0 \leq j_1, j_2 \leq 2N}} \mathrm{Sc}_{j_1}(U) \mathrm{Sc}_{j_2}(U) \right|^2 dU \rightarrow \gamma_{d_2}^S(c) = \begin{cases} \frac{c^8}{840} & 0 \leq c \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ \frac{(2-c)^8}{840} & \frac{3}{2} \leq c \leq 2. \end{cases}$$

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## Back to the rationals

Conjecture (Kuperberg and L. (2022++))

Let  $p$  be a prime and define

$$S_{d_k; x}^S(p) = \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ n \equiv \square \pmod{p} \\ p \nmid n}} d_k(n).$$

Let  $x^{1/k} \leq y$ . For  $y \leq p \leq 2y$ ,

$$\text{Var}_{p \in [y, 2y]} \left( S_{d_k; x}^S(p) \right) \sim a_k^S \frac{x}{4} \gamma_{d_k}^S \left( \frac{\log x}{\log y} \right) (\log y)^{2k^2+k-2},$$

where

$$a_k^S = \prod_p \left\{ \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)^{k(2k-1)} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p}\right)^{-1} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}}\right)^{-2k} + \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}}\right)^{-2k} \right) + \frac{1}{p} \right] \right\}.$$



$$\text{Var}_{p \in [y, 2y]} \left( S_{d_k; x}^S(p) \right) := \frac{1}{y} \sum_{y < p \leq 2y} \left( \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ n \equiv \square \pmod{p} \\ p \nmid n}} d_k(n) - \left\langle S_{d_k; x}^S(p) \right\rangle \right)^2,$$

where

$$\left\langle S_{d_k; x}^S(p) \right\rangle := \frac{1}{y} \sum_{y < p \leq 2y} \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ n \equiv \square \pmod{p} \\ p \nmid n}} d_k(n).$$

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Thank you very much for your attention!