

# TIME-CONVERGENT RANDOM MATRICES FROM MEAN-FIELD PINNED INTERACTING EIGENVALUES

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#### Abstract

We study a multivariate system over a finite lifespan represented by a Hermitian-valued random matrix process whose eigenvalues (i) interact in a mean-field way and (ii) converge to their weighted ensemble average at their terminal time. We prove that such a system is guaranteed to converge in time to the identity matrix that is scaled by a Gaussian random variable whose variance is inversely proportional to the dimension of the matrix. As the size of the system grows asymptotically, the eigenvalues tend to mutually independent diffusions that converge to zero at their terminal time, a Brownian bridge being the archetypal example. Unlike commonly studied random matrices that have non-colliding eigenvalues, the proposed eigenvalues of the given system here may collide. We provide the dynamics of the eigenvalue gap matrix, which is a random skew-symmetric matrix that converges in time to the 0 matrix. Our framework can be applied in producing mean-field interacting counterparts of stochastic quantum reduction models for which the convergence points are determined with respect to the average state of the entire composite system.

*Keywords:* Mean-field interacting systems; pinned diffusions; quantum reduction; random matrix

2020 Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 60G

Secondary 60H

# 1. Introduction

Starting with the seminal work of [53] for analysing level spacing distributions of nuclei in nuclear physics, random matrix theory has proven to be a fruitful research avenue, with deep mathematical results that have found many applications in numerous fields, including superconductors ([8, 11, 27]), quantum chromodynamics ([7, 51, 54]), quantum chaos ([14, 28, 49]), RNA folding ([12, 46, 52]), neural networks ([24, 45, 48]), number theory ([30, 35, 44]), portfolio optimization ([36, 37, 40]), and many others. In random matrix theory, one often starts with an  $n \times n$  random matrix for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$  and moves on to studying the statistical behaviour of its eigenvalues. Such a program has given us an important family of non-colliding interacting stochastic processes (that model the dynamics of the eigenvalues) through Dyson's Brownian motion and its generalizations ([4, 20, 22, 23, 39]), which are linked to harmonic Doob transforms in Weyl chambers ([26, 33]). As part of the literature, we can also see non-intersecting paths over finite-time horizons, whereby all the eigenvalues are conditioned to converge to a fixed value at some fixed future point in time;

Received 29 October 2021; revision received 10 April 2022.

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see for example Airy processes ([1–3, 32, 47]), Pearcey processes ([13, 15, 16, 50]), and the temporally inhomogeneous non-colliding diffusions with their path-configuration topologies ([34]).

In this paper, we are also interested in finite-time systems with time-convergent behaviour, but whose eigenvalues interact in a *mean-field* way rather than in a non-colliding manner as above. We additionally ask the corresponding matrices to converge to a random variable governed by the distribution of all the interacting eigenvalues at a fixed future time, instead of a set of deterministic points as above. Accordingly, we aim to construct random matrices with interacting eigenvalues to represent multivariate systems for which their terminal probability distribution is determined by the weighted ensemble average of the eigenvalues of the system at that future point in time. We do this by starting from the eigenvalue dynamics and constructing a family of mean-field eigenvalues in the spirit of the pinned interacting particles of [42], while accounting for situations where the dominance of an eigenvalue in determining the average state of the system can be non-homogeneous. The framework also enables us to study the space asymptotics of the system as  $n \to \infty$ , when Kolmogorov's strong law property holds. In fact, we shall prove that the iterated limits with respect to the size of the system *n* and the time evolution *t* are commutative—i.e. the limiting behaviours of our random matrices are consistent and exchangeable across space and time.

Our motivation arises from producing an alternative framework within quantum measurement theory in addressing the problem of consistent collapse dynamics of wave functions. Consequently, our work may lend itself as a mean-field counterpart to finite-time stochastic quantum reduction models—see [5, 6, 17, 18, 25, 31, 41, 43]—whereby the collapse of the energy-based eigenstates is now governed by the average state of the full composite system. In this paper, we shall establish the mathematical groundwork, leaving the detailed study of this application for separate work.

For the rest of this paper, we fix a finite time horizon  $\mathbb{T} = [0, T]$  for some  $T < \infty$  and define  $\mathbb{T}_{-} = [0, T)$ . We represent the space of  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrices by  $\mathbb{H}^n$  and the group of  $n \times n$  unitary matrices by  $\mathbb{U}^n$  for  $n \ge 2$ . We reserve bold capital letters to stand for matrix-valued processes, where  $\{H_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}} \in (\mathbb{H}^n \times \mathbb{T})$  and  $\{U_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}} \in (\mathbb{U}^n \times \mathbb{T})$ . Using the spectral decomposition theorem, we can unitarily diagonalize every element of  $\mathbb{H}^n$  by

$$\boldsymbol{H}_t(n) = \boldsymbol{U}_t(n)\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_t(n)\boldsymbol{U}_t^*(n) \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{T},$$

where  $\mathbf{\Lambda}_t(n) = \text{diag}\{\lambda_t^{(1,n)}, \dots, \lambda_t^{(n,n)}\}\$  is a diagonal matrix of eigenvalues for which the initial state is  $\mathbf{\Lambda}_0(n)$ . We denote by  $\{A_t^{(n)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  the process that encodes the weighted ensemble average of the eigenvalues via the following:

$$A_t^{(n)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \beta^{(i,n)} \lambda_t^{(i,n)} \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{T},$$

with  $|\beta^{(i,n)}| < \infty$ . We choose the coefficient vector  $\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)} = [\beta^{(1,n)}, \dots, \beta^{(n,n)}]^{\top}$  normalized so that

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\beta^{(i,n)} = 1.$$
(1)

If each  $\beta^{(i,n)} \ge 0$ , then  $A_t^{(n)}$  is a convex combination of the eigenvalue vector

$$\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t^{(n)} = [\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t^{(1,n)}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t^{(n,n)}]^\top,$$

for every  $t \in \mathbb{T}$ . If each  $\beta^{(i,n)} = 1$ , then  $\{A_t^{(n)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  is the standard ensemble average process of the vector-valued process  $\{\lambda_t^{(n)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$ .

For our stochastic framework,  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \le \infty}, \mathbb{P})$  is our probability space, where we work with mutually independent standard  $(\mathbb{P}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\})$ -Brownian motions  $\{W_t^{(i)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  for all  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , where  $\mathcal{I} = \{1, \ldots, n\}$ . In addition, we let  $\{Z^{(i)} : i \in \mathcal{I}\}$  be independent identically distributed Gaussian variables to represent the initial values  $\lambda_0^{(i,n)}$ , where  $Z^{(i)} \sim \mathcal{N}(z, \kappa)$  for some  $z \in (-\infty, \infty)$  and  $\kappa \in [0, \infty)$ —we take the degenerate Gaussian case  $\kappa = 0$  as  $Z^{(i)} = z$ . The dynamics of each eigenvalue  $\{\lambda_t^{(i,n)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  is governed by the interacting system of stochastic differential equations (SDEs) given by

$$d\lambda_{t}^{(i,n)} = f(t) \left( A_{t}^{(n)} - \lambda_{t}^{(i,n)} \right) dt + \sigma \left( \rho \, dB_{t} + \sqrt{1 - \rho^{2}} \, dW_{t}^{(i)} \right),$$
  
$$\lambda_{0}^{(i,n)} = Z^{(i)}$$
(2)

for all  $t \in \mathbb{T}_-$  and  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , where  $f : \mathbb{T}_- \to \mathbb{R}$  is a continuous measurable function that satisfies

$$\int_0^t \exp\left(-\int_s^t f(u)\,\mathrm{d}u\right)\,\mathrm{d}s < \infty,$$

and  $\sigma \neq 0$ ,  $\rho \in [-1, 1]$ , and  $\{B_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  is an independent ( $\mathbb{P}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\}$ )-Brownian motion that models common noise in the system. The conditional expectation problem given by

$$v(t, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(n)}) = \mathbb{E}\left[ \exp\left(-\int_{t}^{T} h(s) \, \mathrm{d}s\right) \psi(A_{T}^{(n)}) \middle| \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{t}^{(n)} = \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(n)} \right],$$

for some  $\psi : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  and integrable function  $h : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{R}$ , can be computed by solving the partial differential equation

$$\frac{\partial v(t, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(n)})}{\partial t} - h(t)v(t, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(n)}) + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \frac{\partial v(t, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(n)})}{\partial \lambda^{(i,n)}} f(t) \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \beta^{(i,n)} \lambda^{(i,n)} - \lambda^{(i,n)}\right) \\ + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \frac{\partial^2 v(t, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(n)})}{\partial \lambda^{(i,n)} \partial \lambda^{(i,n)}} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \rho^2 \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}, j \neq i} \frac{\partial^2 v(t, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(n)})}{\partial \lambda^{(i,n)} \partial \lambda^{(j,n)}} = 0,$$

with the boundary condition given by

$$v(T, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(n)}) = \psi\left(\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i\in\mathcal{I}}\beta^{(i,n)}\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(i,n)}\right).$$

The SDE in (2) is a mean-field model. In the classical setting where *f* is constant and  $\rho = 0$ , the mean-field limits as  $n \to \infty$  are mutually independent Ornstein–Uhlenbeck processes. We also refer to [21], where *f* is constant but  $\rho \neq 0$ . In order to achieve our objective of producing random matrices that converge to the random weighted ensemble average  $A_T^{(n)} I(n)$  as  $t \to T$  (where

I(n) is the  $n \times n$  identity matrix), we will require f to be a *strictly non-constant* function—i.e. one of the conditions we shall ask from f will nullify the situation where f can be a constant. Accordingly, if we choose  $\rho = 0$ , the decoupling property of mean-field models is still maintained, but where the individual eigenvalues tend to mutually independent pinned diffusions (see [29, 38]) as  $n \to \infty$ : essentially re-coupling at time T, unlike Ornstein–Uhlenbeck processes. Therefore, we will encounter examples where we get mutually independent  $\alpha$ -Wiener bridges (see [9, 10]) in the mean-field limit, where the Brownian bridge is the archetypal subclass. In fact, we shall see that the mean-field limits ( $n \to \infty$ ) and the eigenvalue gaps (for any n) are both driven by pinned diffusions.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we study several mathematical properties of the system in (2) and their implications on  $\{H_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  as  $t \to T$  and  $n \to \infty$ . We also provide some numerical simulations for demonstration purposes. Section 3 is the conclusion.

#### 2. Main results

For the remainder of this paper, we let the components of the diagonal matrix process  $\{\Lambda_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  be governed by the system of SDEs given in (2), and choose any continuously unitary process  $\{U_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  when working with  $H_t(n) = U_t(n)\Lambda_t(n)U_t^*(n)$  for  $t \in \mathbb{T}$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $Z^{(i)} = \hat{Z} \sim \mathcal{N}(z, \kappa)$  for each  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ . Also let  $G^{(n)} \sim \mathcal{N}(z, \Gamma^{(n)})$  be a Gaussian random variable with

$$\Gamma^{(n)} = \kappa + \sigma^2 T \left( \rho^2 + \frac{1 - \rho^2}{n^2} || \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)} ||_{L^2}^2 \right),$$

where  $||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n (\beta^{(j,n)})^2$ . If the map  $f: \mathbb{T}_- \to \mathbb{R}$  in (2) satisfies

- (i)  $\lim_{t\to T} \int_0^t f(s) \, ds = \infty$ , and
- (*ii*)  $\int_0^{\tau} f(s) \, \mathrm{d}s < \infty$  for any  $\tau \in \mathbb{T}_-$ ,

then the following holds:

$$\lim_{t \to T} \lambda_t^{(i,n)} \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} G^{(n)}.$$
(3)

*Proof.* Using (2), the weighted ensemble average process has the representation

$$A_t^{(n)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta^{(j,n)} \lambda_t^{(j,n)} = \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_t + \frac{\sigma \sqrt{1-\rho^2}}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta^{(j,n)} W_t^{(j)}, \tag{4}$$

since we have the normalization condition  $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta^{(i,n)} = n$ . The solution of (2) is thus given by

$$\lambda_t^{(i,n)} = \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_t + \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta^{(j,n)} W_t^{(j)} + \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(i)} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \beta^{(j,n)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(j)} \right)$$

$$= \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_{t} + \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^{2}} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta^{(j,n)} W_{t}^{(j)} \right) + \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^{2}} \left( \gamma(t) Y_{t}^{(i)} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta^{(j,n)} \gamma(t) Y_{t}^{(j)} \right),$$
(5)

where we define the function  $\gamma : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$  and the process  $\{Y_t^{(i)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  as follows:

$$\gamma(t) = \exp\left(-\int_0^t f(u) \,\mathrm{d}u\right) \text{ and } Y_t^{(i)} = \int_0^t \gamma(s)^{-1} \,\mathrm{d}W_s^{(i)}, \text{ for } t \in \mathbb{T}_-.$$

Since affine transformations of Gaussian processes are Gaussian,  $\lambda_t^{(i,n)}$  is Gaussian for any  $t \in \mathbb{T}_-$  and  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ . Following the arguments of [29, 38], we apply Itô's integration-by-parts formula to get

$$d\left(\gamma(t)^{-1}W_t^{(i)}\right) = dY_t^{(i)} - W_t^{(i)}\frac{\gamma'(t)}{\gamma^2(t)} dt$$

where  $\gamma'(t) = d\gamma(t)/dt$ . Hence, computing the derivative and integrating over time, we have

$$\gamma(t)^{-1}W_t^{(i)} = Y_t^{(i)} - \int_0^t W_s^{(i)} \frac{\gamma'(s)}{\gamma^2(s)} \, \mathrm{d}s = Y_t^{(i)} + \int_0^t W_s^{(i)} \frac{f(s)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}s$$

Rearranging the terms and multiplying both sides by  $\gamma(t)$ , we reach

$$Y_t^{(i)} = \gamma(t)^{-1} W_t^{(i)} - \int_0^t W_s^{(i)} \frac{f(s)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}s$$
  
$$\Rightarrow \gamma(t) Y_t^{(i)} = W_t^{(i)} - \int_0^t W_s^{(i)} U(s, t) \, \mathrm{d}s.$$

where we have

$$U(s, t) = f(s)\gamma(s)^{-1}\gamma(t).$$

Since  $\lim_{t\to T} \int_0^t f(s) \, ds = \infty$  and  $\int_0^\tau f(s) \, ds < \infty$  for any  $\tau \in \mathbb{T}_-$ , we have

$$\int_0^\tau U(s, t) \, \mathrm{d}s = \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(\tau)} - \gamma(t) \Rightarrow \lim_{t \to T} \int_0^\tau U(s, t) \, \mathrm{d}s = 0,$$
$$\int_0^t U(s, t) \, \mathrm{d}s = 1 - \gamma(t) \Rightarrow \lim_{t \to T} \int_0^t U(s, t) \, \mathrm{d}s = 1,$$

for any  $\tau \in \mathbb{T}_-$ , which implies that  $U : \mathbb{T}^2 \to \mathbb{R}_+$  is an approximation to the identity as in [38]. This means we have the following convergence:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\lim_{t \to T} \left(W_t^{(i)} - \int_0^t W_s^{(i)} U(s, t) \,\mathrm{d}s\right) = 0\right) = 1,\tag{6}$$

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given that the Brownian motion  $\{W_t^{(i)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  has continuous sample paths  $\mathbb{P}$ -almost surely (a.s.). Therefore, we have

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\lim_{t \to T} \gamma(t) Y_t^{(i)} = 0\right) = 1,$$
$$\mathbb{P}\left(\lim_{t \to T} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma(t) Y_t^{(j)} = 0\right) = 1,$$

which in turn gives us the following:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\lim_{t \to T} \left(\gamma(t)Y_t^{(i)} - \frac{1}{n}\sum_{j=1}^n \gamma(t)Y_t^{(j)}\right) = 0\right) = 1.$$

Therefore, taking the limit as  $t \to T$  of  $\lambda_t^{(i,n)}$  as solved in (5), we get

$$\lim_{t \to T} \lambda_t^{(i,n)} = \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_T + \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta^{(j,n)} W_T^{(j)} \right) \mathbb{P}\text{-a.s.},\tag{7}$$

which provides  $L^1$ -convergence as  $\lambda_t^{(i,n)}$  is Gaussian for  $t \in \mathbb{T}_-$ . Since  $\hat{Z}$  is mutually independent from  $\{B_t\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  and  $\{W_t^{(i)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$ , it follows that

$$\hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_T + \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta^{(j,n)} W_T^{(j)} \right) \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} \hat{Z} + \sigma \sqrt{\rho^2 + \frac{1 - \rho^2}{n^2}} ||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2 X_T$$
$$\sim \mathcal{N} \left( z, \kappa + \sigma^2 T \left( \rho^2 + \frac{1 - \rho^2}{n^2} ||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2 \right) \right), \tag{8}$$

given that  $\{X_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  is a standard  $(\mathbb{P}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\})$ -Brownian motion, where  $X_T \sim \mathcal{N}(0, T)$ .

When each eigenvalue process in the system starts from the same random number  $\hat{Z}$ , the terminal random variable to which each eigenvalue  $\{\lambda_t^{(i,n)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  converges no longer depends on the index *i*. In addition, if we set  $\beta^{(i,n)} = 1$  for all  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , then we get

$$\Gamma^{(n)} \mapsto \kappa + \sigma^2 T\left(\rho^2 + \frac{1-\rho^2}{n}\right).$$

The result below demonstrates the convergence behaviour of the matrix system when the initial condition is a constant.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Keep the conditions of Lemma* 2.1, *where the initial state*  $\hat{Z} = z$  *is fixed for all*  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ . *Then, with*  $G^{(n)} \sim \mathcal{N}(z, \Gamma^{(n)})$  *where* 

$$\Gamma^{(n)} = \sigma^2 T \left( \rho^2 + \frac{1 - \rho^2}{n^2} || \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)} ||_{L^2}^2 \right), \tag{9}$$

 $\square$ 

the following holds:

$$\lim_{t \to T} \boldsymbol{H}_t(n) \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} \boldsymbol{G}^{(n)} \boldsymbol{I}(n), \tag{10}$$

where I(n) is the  $n \times n$  identity matrix.

*Proof.* If  $\hat{Z} = \lambda_0^{(i)} = z$  is a fixed number for all  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , this equivalently sets  $\kappa = 0$  in (8), where we get the terminal random variable that satisfies

$$z + \sigma \rho B_T + \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta^{(j,n)} W_T^{(j)} \right) \sim \mathcal{N} \left( z, \sigma^2 T \left( \rho^2 + \frac{1 - \rho^2}{n^2} || \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)} ||_{L^2}^2 \right) \right).$$
(11)

As seen from (3), the terminal law is independent of the index  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , which provides us with the observation

$$\lim_{t \to T} \lambda_t^{(i,n)} \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} G^{(n)} \Rightarrow \lim_{t \to T} \mathbf{\Lambda}_t(n) \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} G^{(n)} \mathbf{I}(n).$$
(12)

Hence, using (12), we get

$$\lim_{t \to T} \boldsymbol{H}_t(n) \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} \boldsymbol{U}_T(n) \boldsymbol{G}^{(n)} \boldsymbol{I}(n) \boldsymbol{U}_T^*(n)$$
$$= \boldsymbol{G}^{(n)} \boldsymbol{U}_T(n) \boldsymbol{U}_T^*(n)$$
$$= \boldsymbol{G}^{(n)} \boldsymbol{I}(n).$$

since  $\{U_t(n)\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  is a continuous unitary matrix process, which completes the proof.

If  $\hat{Z} = z$  and  $\rho = 0$ , then  $G^{(n)} \sim \mathcal{N}(z, n^{-2}\sigma^2 T ||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2)$ —if the system starts from a fixed value and there is no common noise factor in the system, Proposition 2.1 shows us that the system converges to the identity matrix scaled by a Gaussian random variable whose variance is inversely proportional to the dimension of the matrix, as  $t \to T$ . For us, the case where  $\hat{Z} = 0$  is of fundamental importance; for this case, if we also have  $\beta^{(j,n)} = 1$ , then the law further simplifies to  $G^{(n)} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, n^{-1}\sigma^2 T)$ .

**Corollary 2.1.** Keep the conditions of Lemma 2.1. Then  $\{H_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  converges to the weighted ensemble average of its eigenvalues  $A_T^{(n)}I(n)$  as  $t \to T$ ,  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s.

*Proof.* From Equations (4) and (7), we see that each eigenvalue process  $\{\lambda_t^{(i,n)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  converges to the weighted ensemble average  $A_T^{(n)}$  as  $t \to T$ ,  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s. Thus, we have the following:

$$\lim_{t\to T} \mathbf{\Lambda}_t(n) = A_T^{(n)} \mathbf{I}(n).$$

The result follows since  $\{U_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  is a continuous unitary process.

Every unitary matrix has an exponential representation in terms of some Hermitian matrix. If  $\{U_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  is deterministic with

$$U_t(n) = e^{iV(n)\mu(t)}.$$

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where *V* is a Hermitian matrix and  $\mu : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{R}$  is a differentiable function, then  $\{H_t(n)\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  is governed by

$$\boldsymbol{H}_{t}(n) = \int_{0}^{t} \mathcal{L}\left[i\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial s}\boldsymbol{V}(n), \boldsymbol{H}_{s}(n)\right] \mathrm{d}s + \boldsymbol{U}_{t}(n) \left(\int_{0}^{t} \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{s}(n)\right) \boldsymbol{U}_{t}^{*}(n), \quad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{T}_{-}, \quad (13)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}$  is the commutator with

$$\mathcal{L}\left[i\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial t}V(n),\boldsymbol{H}_{t}(n)\right] = i\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial t}\left(V(n)\boldsymbol{H}_{t}(n) - \boldsymbol{H}_{t}(n)V(n)\right)$$

This follows since  $dU_t(n) d\Lambda_t(n) = d\Lambda_t(n) dU_t^*(n) = dU_t(n) dU_t^*(n) = 0$ , and using Itô's integration-by-parts formula,

$$\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{H}_t(n) = \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{U}_t(n)\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_t(n)\boldsymbol{U}_t^*(n) + \boldsymbol{U}_t(n)\,\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_t(n)\boldsymbol{U}_t^*(n) + \boldsymbol{U}_t(n)\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_t(n)\,\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{U}_t^*(n),$$

where we have  $d\Lambda_t(n)$  from (2). Also, since  $U_t(n) = e^{iV(n)\mu(t)}$ , we further get

$$d\boldsymbol{U}_{t}(n)\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{t}(n)\boldsymbol{U}_{t}^{*}(n) = i\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial t}\boldsymbol{V}(n)\boldsymbol{U}_{t}(n)\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{t}(n)\boldsymbol{U}_{t}^{*}(n) dt = i\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial t}\boldsymbol{V}(n)\boldsymbol{H}_{t}(n) dt,$$
$$\boldsymbol{U}_{t}(n)\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{t}(n) d\boldsymbol{U}_{t}^{*}(n) = -i\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial t}\boldsymbol{U}_{t}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{t}(n)\boldsymbol{V}(n)\boldsymbol{U}_{t}^{*}(n) dt = -i\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial t}\boldsymbol{H}_{t}(n)\boldsymbol{V}(n) dt,$$

which provides us with

$$\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{U}_t(n)\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_t(n)\boldsymbol{U}_t^*(n) + \boldsymbol{U}_t(n)\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_t(n)\,\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{U}_t^*(n) = \mathcal{L}\left[i\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial t}\boldsymbol{V}(n),\,\boldsymbol{H}_t(n)\right]\,\mathrm{d}t.$$

Thus, if a random matrix process satisfies the SDE (13), where its eigenvalues  $\{\Lambda_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  are driven by (2) with the conditions in Lemma 2 met, then we are working with a system where  $\lim_{t\to T} H_t(n) = A_T^{(n)} I(n)$ .

The eigenvalues of  $\{H_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  are Gaussian, and the following result provides their covariance structure, which in turn generalizes the covariance trajectories of [42]. Without loss of much generality, we shall set  $\hat{Z} = 0$  as a fundamental scenario for the analyses below.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Keep the conditions of Proposition* 2.1 *with*  $\hat{Z} = 0$ *. Then* 

$$\mathbb{E}[\lambda_{t}^{(i,n)}\lambda_{t}^{(j,n)}] = \sigma^{2}t\left(\rho^{2} + \frac{(1-\rho^{2})||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^{2}}^{2}}{n^{2}}\right) + \sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})\mathbf{1}(i=j)\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}}\,\mathrm{d}s$$
$$+ \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n}\left((\beta^{(i,n)}+\beta^{(j,n)})\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)}\,\mathrm{d}s - 2\frac{||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^{2}}^{2}}{n}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)}\,\mathrm{d}s\right)$$
$$- \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n}\left((\beta^{(i,n)}+\beta^{(j,n)})\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}}\,\mathrm{d}s - \frac{||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^{2}}^{2}}{n}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}}\,\mathrm{d}s\right)$$
(14)

*is the covariance process of the system for*  $i, j \in I$ *, where* 1(.) *is the indicator function.* 

*Proof.* Note that  $\mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)}] = 0$  when  $\hat{Z} = 0$ . Hence,  $\mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)}\lambda_t^{(j,n)}]$  is the covariance at every  $t \in \mathbb{T}$ . Using (5) with  $\hat{Z} = 0$  for any  $i, j \in \mathcal{I}$ , we have

$$\begin{split} \psi_t^{(i,j)} &= \sigma^2 \rho^2 B_t^2 \\ &+ \sigma \rho B_t \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \beta^{(k,n)} W_t^{(k)} + \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(i)} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \int_0^t \beta^{(k,n)} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(k)} \right) \\ &+ \sigma \rho B_t \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{l=1}^n \beta^{(l,n)} W_t^{(l)} + \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(j)} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{l=1}^n \int_0^t \beta^{(l,n)} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(l)} \right). \end{split}$$

For the full product, we thus have

$$\begin{split} \lambda_{t}^{(i,n)} \lambda_{t}^{(j,n)} &= \psi_{t}^{(i,j)} + \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n^{2}} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{l=1}^{n} \beta^{(k,n)} \beta^{(l,n)} W_{t}^{(k)} W_{t}^{(l)} \\ &+ \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta^{(k,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} W_{t}^{(k)} dW_{s}^{(j)} \\ &+ \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n} \sum_{l=1}^{n} \beta^{(l,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)^{2}} dW_{s}^{(i)} dW_{s}^{(i)} \\ &+ \sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2}) \int_{0}^{t} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}} dW_{s}^{(i)} dW_{s}^{(j)} \\ &- \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n} \sum_{l=1}^{n} \beta^{(l,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}} dW_{s}^{(i)} dW_{s}^{(l)} \\ &- \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n^{2}} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{l=1}^{n} \beta^{(k,n)} \beta^{(l,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)^{2}} dW_{s}^{(l)} dW_{s}^{(k)} \\ &- \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{l=1}^{n} \beta^{(k,n)} \beta^{(l,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}} dW_{s}^{(l)} dW_{s}^{(k)} \\ &+ \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n^{2}} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{l=1}^{n} \beta^{(k,n)} \beta^{(l,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}} dW_{s}^{(l)} dW_{s}^{(k)}. \end{split}$$
(15)

Next, we take the expectation of the product above. First, since  $\{B_t\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  is a mutually independent Brownian motion, we get the following:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\psi_t^{(i,j)}\right] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sigma^2 \rho^2 B_t^2\right]$$
$$= \sigma^2 \rho^2 t.$$

All Brownian motions  $\{W_t^{(i)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  are mutually independent. Using Itô isometry, we have

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta^{(k,n)} \mathbb{E} \left[ \int_{0}^{t} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(k)} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(j)} \right] = \beta^{(j,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}s$$
$$\sum_{l=1}^{n} \beta^{(l,n)} \mathbb{E} \left[ \int_{0}^{t} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(l)} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(l)} \right] = \beta^{(i,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}s$$
$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{l=1}^{n} \beta^{(k,n)} \beta^{(l,n)} \mathbb{E} \left[ \int_{0}^{t} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(k)} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(l)} \right] = ||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^{2}}^{2} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}s$$

In addition, we have the following:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{l=1}^{n} \beta^{(l,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(i)} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(l)}\right] = \beta^{(i,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}} \, \mathrm{d}s,$$
$$\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta^{(k,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(j)} \, \mathrm{d}W_{s}^{(k)}\right] = \beta^{(j,n)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}} \, \mathrm{d}s.$$

Summing all the components, we have the following:

$$\mathbb{E}[\lambda_{t}^{(i,n)}\lambda_{t}^{(j,n)}] = \sigma^{2}\rho^{2}t + \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n^{2}}\sum_{k=1}^{n}(\beta^{(k,n)})^{2}\mathbb{E}\left[W_{t}^{(k)}W_{t}^{(k)}\right] + \sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})\mathbf{1}(i=j)\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}}ds + \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})}{n}(\beta^{(i,n)}+\beta^{(j,n)})\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)}ds - 2\frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^{2}}^{2}}{n^{2}}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)}ds - \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^{2}}^{2}}{n}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)^{2}}ds + \frac{\sigma^{2}(1-\rho^{2})||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^{2}}^{2}}{n^{2}}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{\gamma(t)^{2}}{\gamma(s)^{2}}ds, \quad (16)$$

which completes the proof.

The covariance structure in [42] becomes the following corollary of Proposition 2.2.

**Corollary 2.2.** *Keep the conditions of Proposition* 2.1 *with*  $\hat{Z} = 0$ *, and set*  $\beta^{(i,n)} = 1$  *for all*  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ . *Then the following holds:* 

$$\mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)}\lambda_t^{(j,n)}] = \sigma^2 t \left(\rho^2 + \frac{(1-\rho^2)}{n}\right) + \sigma^2 (1-\rho^2) \left(\mathbf{1}(i=j) \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)^2}{\gamma(s)^2} \, \mathrm{d}s - \frac{1}{n} \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)^2}{\gamma(s)^2} \, \mathrm{d}s\right),$$
(17)

as the covariance process of the system for  $i, j \in I$ , where 1(.) is the indicator function.

The next result consolidates Proposition 2.1 with the limiting behaviour of the covariance structure given in Proposition 2.2.

**Corollary 2.3.** *Keep the conditions of Proposition* 2.1 *with*  $\hat{Z} = 0$ *. Then* 

$$\lim_{t \to T} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)} \lambda_t^{(j,n)}] = \sigma^2 T\left(\rho^2 + \frac{(1-\rho^2)}{n^2} ||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2\right).$$

*Proof.* Since we have the conditions (i)  $\lim_{t\to T} \int_0^t f(s) \, ds = \infty$  and (ii)  $\int_0^{\tau} f(s) \, ds < \infty$  for any  $\tau \in \mathbb{T}_-$ , we must have, for  $k \in [1, \infty)$ , the following:

$$\lim_{t \to T} \int_0^t kf(s) \, \mathrm{d}s = \infty,$$
$$\int_0^\tau kf(s) \, \mathrm{d}s < \infty$$

for any  $\tau \in \mathbb{T}_-$ . Hence, we define the scaled function

$$g_k(t) = kf(t)$$

for all  $t \in \mathbb{T}$  and let

$$\Psi_k(t) = \gamma(t)^k = \exp\left(-\int_0^t g_k(u) \,\mathrm{d}u\right) \quad \text{and} \quad Z_t = \int_0^t \Psi_k(s)^{-1} \,\mathrm{d}s, \text{ for } t \in \mathbb{T}_-.$$

Using integration by parts, we get

$$d\left(\Psi_k(t)^{-1}t\right) = dZ_t - t\frac{\Psi'_k(t)}{\Psi_k(t)^2} dt \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Psi_k(t)^{-1}t = Z_t - \int_0^t s\frac{\Psi'_k(s)}{\Psi_k(s)^2} ds,$$

and therefore,

$$\Psi_k(t)^{-1}t = Z_t + \int_0^t s \frac{g_k(s)}{\Psi_k(s)} \,\mathrm{d}s \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Psi_k(t)Z_t = t - \int_0^t s V_k(s, t) \,\mathrm{d}s,$$

where  $V_k(s, t) = g_k(s)\Psi_k(s)^{-1}\Psi_k(t)$ . Using the continuity of the function *t*, and taking steps similar to those of Lemma 2.1, we thus have

$$\lim_{t \to T} \left( t - \int_0^t s V_k(s, t) \, \mathrm{d}s \right) = 0, \tag{18}$$

which implies that

$$\begin{split} &\lim_{t \to T} \left( \sigma^2 (1 - \rho^2) \mathbf{1}(i = j) \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)^2}{\gamma(s)^2} \, \mathrm{d}s \right) = 0, \\ &\lim_{t \to T} \left( \frac{\sigma^2 (1 - \rho^2)}{n} \left( (\beta^{(i,n)} + \beta^{(j,n)}) \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}s - 2 \frac{||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2}{n} \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}s \right) \right) = 0, \\ &\lim_{t \to T} \left( \frac{\sigma^2 (1 - \rho^2)}{n} \left( (\beta^{(i,n)} + \beta^{(j,n)}) \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)^2}{\gamma(s)^2} \, \mathrm{d}s - \frac{||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2}{n} \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)^2}{\gamma(s)^2} \, \mathrm{d}s \right) \right) = 0, \end{split}$$

if we choose k = 1 and k = 2. The result then follows from Proposition 2.2.

Time-convergent random matrices

In random matrix theory, it is typical to see non-colliding eigenvalues; this behaviour arises endogenously from many random Hermitian matrices studied in the literature where the matrix entries are continuous semimartingales (see Bru's theorem [19, 34]). On the other hand, we start with the eigenvalue matrix { $\Lambda_t(n)$ }<sub> $t \in \mathbb{T}$ </sub>, which may collide. For eigenvalue gap dynamics, we have the following result.

**Proposition 2.3.** *Keep the conditions of Lemma* 2.1. *Let*  $\{S_t(n)\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  *be a matrix-valued process where each element is given by* 

$$S_t^{(i,j)} = \lambda_t^{(i,n)} - \lambda_t^{(j,n)},$$

so that  $S_t(n)$  is a skew-symmetric matrix with zero diagonals for all  $t \in \mathbb{T}$ . Then the following holds:

$$S_t^{(i,j)} \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} \sigma \sqrt{2(1-\rho^2)} \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}\hat{W}_s^{(i,j)} \quad \text{for } i \neq j \quad \text{and} \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{T}_-,$$

where  $\{\hat{W}_{t}^{(i,j)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  is a standard  $(\mathbb{P}, \{\mathcal{F}_{t}\})$ -Brownian motion. Hence,

$$\lim_{t\to T} \mathbf{S}_t(n) = \mathbf{0}(n).$$

*Proof.* It is clear that  $S_t(n)$  is a skew-symmetric matrix with zero diagonals. Using (5), we have

$$S_t^{(i,j)} = \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(i)} - \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(j)} \right)$$
$$\stackrel{\text{law}}{=} \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \sqrt{2} \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}\hat{W}_s^{(i,j)}.$$

Finally,  $\lim_{t\to T} S_t(n) = \mathbf{0}(n)$  follows from (6) since  $\{\hat{W}_t^{(i,j)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  has continuous paths  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s.  $\Box$ 

The result essentially shows that the expected distance between any pair of eigenvalues is itself a Gaussian process with zero mean, which shows that the eigenvalues collide on average. Note also that each eigenvalue gap process  $\{S_t^{(i,j)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  above is a diffusion that is pinned to zero at time *T*.

We shall now take limits with respect to the size of the system, that is, as  $n \to \infty$ , to get the mean-field limits of the interacting eigenvalues. First, we label the following assumption that we shall use when we study convergence properties with respect to the size.

Assumption 2.1. Kolmogorov's strong law property holds:

$$\mathcal{K} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\beta^{(k)})^2}{k^2} < \infty, \tag{19}$$

where  $\beta^{(k)} = \beta^{(k,n)}$  for all  $k \le n$ .

As an example, if we set  $\beta^{(k)} = 1$ , then  $\mathcal{K} = \pi^2/6$ . We are now in a position to state the following result.

**Proposition 2.4.** Keep the conditions of Lemma 2.1 and define

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\lambda_t^{(i,n)} \triangleq \xi_t^{(i)},$$

given that (19) holds. Then

$$\xi_t^{(i)} = \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_t + \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(t)}{\gamma(s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(i)} \right),\tag{20}$$

for  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ . If  $\rho = 0$  and  $\hat{Z} = 0$ , then the  $\{\xi_t^{(i)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  are mutually independent.

*Proof.* Since Kolmogorov's strong law property (19) holds, the strong law of large numbers gives the following limits:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta^{(j,n)} W_{t}^{(j)} = 0,$$
(21)
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{\gamma(t)}{t} \beta^{(j,n)} dW_{s}^{(j)} = 0,$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} n \sum_{j=1}^{r} \int_{0} \gamma(s)^{p} \quad \text{The SDE since }$$

which hold  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s., since we have  $\int_0^t \gamma(t)^2 \gamma(s)^{-2} ds < \infty$ . The SDE given in (20) then follows from (5). The mutual independence when  $\rho = 0$  and  $\hat{Z} = 0$  is due to mutually independent Brownian motions  $\{W_t^{(i)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  across  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ .

**Example 2.1.** If  $f(t) = \theta^t \log(\theta) / (\theta^T - \theta^t)$  for some  $\theta \in (1, \infty)$  for  $t \in \mathbb{T}_-$ , then

$$\xi_t^{(i)} = \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_t + \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \int_0^t \frac{(\theta^T - \theta^t)}{(\theta^T - \theta^s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(i)} \right). \tag{22}$$

Note that if  $\theta = \exp(1)$ , then  $f(t) = \exp(t)/(\exp(T) - \exp(t))$  for  $t \in \mathbb{T}_-$ .

**Example 2.2.** If  $\rho = 0$  and  $f(t) = \cot(T - t)$  for  $t \in \mathbb{T}_-$ , then

$$\xi_t^{(i)} = \hat{Z} + \sigma \int_0^t \frac{\sin(T-t)}{\sin(T-s)} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(i)},\tag{23}$$

given that  $T < \pi$  holds.

**Example 2.3.** If  $\hat{Z} = 0$ ,  $\rho = 0$ , and  $f(t) = \alpha/(T - t)$  for  $t \in \mathbb{T}_-$  for some  $\alpha \in (0, \infty)$ , then the mean-field limit consists of mutually independent  $\alpha$ -Wiener bridges for  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , where

$$\xi_t^{(i)} = \sigma \int_0^t \frac{(T-t)^{\alpha}}{(T-s)^{\alpha}} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(i)}.$$
(24)

More specifically, if we have  $\alpha = 1$  and  $\sigma = 1$ , then each  $\{\xi_t^{(i)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  is a mutually independent standard Brownian bridge.

The mean-fields given in (22), (23), and (24) are examples amongst many others that can be found by choosing different f that satisfy the conditions in Lemma 2.1.

**Remark 2.1.** If there is no common noise in the system with  $\rho = 0$  and we have  $\hat{Z} = 0$ , then the following holds:

$$S_t^{(i,j)} \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} \sqrt{2}\xi_t^{(i)} \text{ for } t \in \mathbb{T} \text{ and } i \neq j.$$

Hence, each gap process  $\{S_t^{(i,j)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  for any matrix dimension *n* behaves as the (scaled) mean-field limit of the system as  $n \to \infty$ . However,  $\{S_t^{(i,j)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  are not mutually independent across  $i, j \in \mathcal{I}$  even when  $\rho = 0$ .

Proposition 2.5 below provides us with a consistency result for the system, where the double limits of every  $\{\lambda_t^{(i,n)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  as  $n \to \infty$  and  $t \to T$  are exchangeable; that is, the order of taking these limits does not matter.

Proposition 2.5. Keep the conditions of Lemma 2.1 and let (19) hold. Then

$$\lim_{t \to T} \lim_{n \to \infty} \lambda_t^{(i,n)} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \lim_{t \to T} \lambda_t^{(i,n)}$$
$$= \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_T \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{I}, \mathbb{P}\text{-}a.s.$$

*Proof.* Using (20) and the convergence in (6), we get the following double limit:

$$\lim_{t \to T} \lim_{n \to \infty} \lambda_t^{(i,n)} = \lim_{t \to T} \xi_t^{(i)}$$
$$= \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_T \quad \mathbb{P}\text{-a.s.}$$

When we start with  $\lim_{t\to T} \lambda_t^{(i,n)}$ , using (7) and (21), we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \lim_{t \to T} \lambda_t^{(i,n)} = \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_T + \lim_{n \to \infty} \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta^{(j,n)} W_T^{(j)} \right)$$
$$= \hat{Z} + \sigma \rho B_T,$$

 $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s. Hence, the iterated limits commute for any  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ .

If  $\hat{Z} = 0$  and if there is no common noise with  $\rho = 0$ , it can be seen from Proposition 2.5 that the entire system converges to zero in the above double limits, irrespective of their order. If  $\hat{Z} = 0$  but  $\rho \neq 0$ , then the system converges to the same random variable dictated by the common noise. Note also that if  $\rho \in \{-1, 1\}$ , then the whole system is essentially driven by the common noise process  $\{B_t\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$ , which can be seen from (5).

#### 2.1. A numerical study of eigenvalue convergence

To demonstrate how the system of eigenvalues behaves as  $t \to T$  and  $n \to \infty$ , we shall provide numerical simulations. We discretize the SDE in (2) using the Euler–Maruyama scheme over the lattice  $0 = t_0 \le t_1 \le ... \le t_m \le T$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}_+$ . We denote our numerical approximation of  $\{\lambda_t^{(i,n)}\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  by  $\{\hat{\lambda}_{t_k}^{(i,n)}\}_{t_k\in\mathbb{T}}$  for  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , and work with the following:

$$\hat{\lambda}_{t_{k+1}}^{(i,n)} = \hat{\lambda}_{t_k}^{(i,n)} + f(t_k) \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta^{i,n} \hat{\lambda}_{t_k}^{(j,n)} - \hat{\lambda}_{t_k}^{(i,n)} \right) \delta + \sigma \left( \rho \left( B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k} \right) + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( W_{t_{k+1}}^{(i,n)} - W_{t_k}^{(i,n)} \right) \right), \text{ for every } i \in \mathcal{I}, \quad (25)$$

 $\Box$ 

where we set  $\hat{\lambda}_{t_0}^{(i,n)} = 0$ ,  $\delta = T/m$ , and  $t_k = k\delta$ . As an example, we choose  $f(t) = \theta^t \log(\theta)/(\theta^T - \theta^t)$  for some  $\theta \in (1, \infty)$ , as in Example 2.1, so that

$$\lambda_t^{(i,n)} = \sigma \rho B_t + \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta^{(j,n)} W_t^{(j)} + \int_0^t \frac{(\theta - \theta^t)}{(\theta - \theta^s)} \, \mathrm{d} W_s^{(i)} \right)$$
$$- \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \int_0^t \frac{(\theta - \theta^t)}{(\theta - \theta^s)} \beta^{(j,n)} \, \mathrm{d} W_s^{(j)} \right)$$

for every  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , where we set T = 1 for parsimony. We also choose m = 1000 for the time lattice, so that every time-step we move on is  $\delta = 0.001$ . For the averaging coefficients  $\beta^{(j,n)}$  for j = 1, ..., n, we choose the following scheme as an example:

$$\beta^{(j,n)} = \frac{2jn}{n(n+1)}$$
$$\Rightarrow \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta^{(j,n)} = n.$$

Hence, our choice satisfies the normalization condition in (1). In addition, we have the limit

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \sigma^2 T \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \frac{||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2}{n^2} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\sigma^2 T \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}}{n^2} \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{4j^2 n^2}{(n^2 + n)^2}$$
$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{4\sigma^2 T \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}}{(n^2 + n)^2} \sum_{j=1}^n j^2$$
$$= 0, \tag{26}$$

which implies that  $\Gamma^{(n)}$  in (9) as provided in Proposition 2.1 converges to the following:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \Gamma^{(n)} = \sigma^2 T \rho^2.$$

The convergence in (26) further gives us

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)} \lambda_t^{(j,n)}] = \sigma^2 t \rho^2 + \sigma^2 (1-\rho^2) \mathbf{1}(i=j) \int_0^t \frac{(\theta-\theta^i)^2}{(\theta-\theta^s)^2} \, \mathrm{d}s$$

by Proposition 2.2. Finally, we thus have the double limit of the covariance process given by

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \lim_{t \to T} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)} \lambda_t^{(j,n)}] = \lim_{t \to T} \lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)} \lambda_t^{(j,n)}]$$
$$= \sigma^2 T \rho^2.$$

If there is no common noise in the system with  $\rho = 0$ , the variance of the system converges to zero as  $n \to \infty$  and  $t \to T$ . If there is common noise with  $\rho \neq 0$ , there is irreducible variance in the system at these limits. For the simulations below, we shall set  $\sigma = 1$  without loss of much generality.

2.1.1. *No common noise*  $\rho = 0$ . First, we consider the case where there is no common noise in the system, and gradually increase the dimension of the matrix process  $\{H_t(n)\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$ . From Proposition 2.1, for any fixed *n*, we have the terminal law

$$\lim_{t\to T} \boldsymbol{H}_t(n) \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \, \Gamma^{(n)}\right) \boldsymbol{I}(n),$$

where the variance in our example is given by

$$\Gamma^{(n)} = \sigma^2 T \frac{||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2}{n^2} = \frac{4}{(n^2 + n)^2} \sum_{i=1}^n j^2,$$
(27)

with  $\sigma = 1$  and T = 1. From Corollary 2.1, we also know that this is the law of the weighted ensemble average of the eigenvalues  $A_T^{(n)}$ .

For our simulations below, we begin with the case where we set  $\theta = 2$ . Note that  $\theta$  has no impact on the terminal law of the system at time *T*, which can also be seen from (27); however, this parameter affects the covariance structure of the system *until* time *T*. Since every eigenvalue has to converge in time to the same random variable  $A_T^{(n)}$ , different choices of  $\theta$ can be interpreted as controls on the speed of convergence to  $A_T^{(n)}$ . In other words, even if the covariance of the system may increase with different choices of  $\theta$ , all the eigenvalues of the system must converge to the same random value nonetheless, which creates different pressure points on the system. Therefore, we shall later change this parameter to demonstrate its impact on the trajectories of the eigenvalues.

In Figure 1, we have n = 10, n = 100, n = 500, and n = 5000. Note that the system ends up closer to zero at time *T* as we increase the dimension of  $\{H_t(n)\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$ . This is no surprise, since the variance of the terminal distribution is inversely proportional to *n*. For the given choices of *n*, we thus have  $\Gamma^{(10)} \approx 0.1273$ ,  $\Gamma^{(100)} \approx 0.0133$ ,  $\Gamma^{(500)} \approx 0.0027$ , and  $\Gamma^{(5000)} \approx 0.0003$ , respectively. In Figure 2, we plot the terminal law of each case in accordance with the eigenvalue trajectory plots above. By (26), the terminal law converges (in terms of distributions) to Dirac at zero as  $n \to \infty$ . In Figure 3, we provide an example where we keep n = 5000 but choose  $\theta = 2 \times 10^6$ . As discussed above, this doesn't change the terminal law, and hence we still have  $\Gamma^{(5000)} \approx 0.0003$ . However, the shape of the evolution changes: note how the maximum covariance of the system is shifted closer to *T*, relative to the case of  $\theta = 2$  at the bottom right of Figure 1. As a result, the pressure to converge to  $A_T^{(n)}$  increases with increasing  $\theta$  as  $t \to T$ .

2.1.2. Common noise  $\rho \neq 0$ . We shall now admit common noise in the system with  $\rho = 0.5$  as an example. Now the variance in our example is given by

$$\Gamma^{(n)} = \sigma^2 T \left( 0.25 + \frac{0.75 ||\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}||_{L^2}^2}{n^2} \right) = 0.25 + \frac{3}{(n^2 + n)^2} \sum_{j=1}^n j^2,$$

with  $\sigma = 1$  and T = 1. Instead of gradually increasing the dimension of  $\{H_t(n)\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  as before, we shall start with n = 5000 to avoid repetition. Moreover, we shall provide simulations for both  $\theta = 2$  and  $\theta = 2 \times 10^6$  to compare these two cases. First, we provide a sample for  $\theta = 2$  in Figure 4.

Finally, we set  $\theta = 2 \times 10^6$  in Figure 5. Note that the maximum variance is again shifted towards T as we increase  $\theta$ , which in turn increases the pressure to converge to  $A_T^{(n)}$ .



FIGURE 1. Top left and right: n = 10 and n = 100. Bottom left and right: n = 500 and n = 5000.



FIGURE 2. Top left and right: n = 10 and n = 100. Bottom left and right: n = 500 and n = 5000.



FIGURE 3. Left: n = 5000,  $\theta = 2 \times 10^6$ ,  $\rho = 0$ . Right: distribution of  $A_T^{(n)}$ .



FIGURE 4. Left: n = 5000,  $\theta = 2$ ,  $\rho = 0.5$ . Right: Distribution of  $A_T^{(n)}$ .

Because of the common noise factor, we have  $\Gamma^{(5000)} \approx 0.2502$  instead of  $\Gamma^{(5000)} \approx 0.0003$  as when we had  $\rho = 0$ . This is a considerable increase in the variance of the random terminal value, the ensemble average  $A_T^{(n)}$ , which is why we have a higher probability of getting eigenvalue trajectories that end up away from zero as  $t \to T$ .



FIGURE 5. Left: n = 5000,  $\theta = 2 \times 10^6$ ,  $\rho = 0.5$ . Right: Distribution of  $A_T^{(n)}$ .

We have only considered a specific model of a system that can be studied as part of our proposed framework. Many other examples can be constructed by choosing different f, as long as it satisfies the conditions in Lemma 2.1. We shall briefly discuss another example, which yields mutually independent  $\alpha$ -Wiener bridges as  $n \to \infty$ , where we have

$$\lambda_t^{(i,n)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n W_t^{(j)} + \int_0^t \frac{(T-t)^{\alpha}}{(T-s)^{\alpha}} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(i)} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \int_0^t \frac{(T-t)^{\alpha}}{(T-s)^{\alpha}} \, \mathrm{d}W_s^{(j)},\tag{28}$$

for  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ . Using Corollary 2.2, we get the covariance process

$$\mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)}\lambda_t^{(j,n)}] = \begin{cases} \frac{t}{n} + \mathbf{1}(i=j)\frac{T\left(1 - \left(\frac{T-t}{T}\right)^{2\alpha}\right) - t}{2\alpha - 1} - \frac{T\left(1 - \left(\frac{T-t}{T}\right)^{2\alpha}\right) - t}{n(2\alpha - 1)}, & \alpha \neq \frac{1}{2}, \\ \frac{t}{n} + \mathbf{1}(i=j)(t-T)\log\left(\frac{T-t}{T}\right) - \frac{(t-T)}{n}\log\left(\frac{T-t}{T}\right), & \alpha = \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases}$$
(29)

Note that for  $\alpha \neq \frac{1}{2}$ ,

$$\lim_{t \to T} \frac{T\left(1 - \left(\frac{T-t}{T}\right)^{2\alpha}\right) - t}{2\alpha - 1} = \lim_{t \to T} \frac{T-t}{2\alpha - 1} - \lim_{t \to T} \frac{T\left(\frac{T-t}{T}\right)^{2\alpha}}{2\alpha - 1}$$
$$= 0.$$

Also, for  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$ , using l'Hôpital's rule, we have

$$\lim_{t \to T} (t - T) \log\left(\frac{T - t}{T}\right) = \frac{\log\left(\frac{T - t}{T}\right)}{(t - T)^{-1}}$$
$$= \lim_{t \to T} \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log\left(\frac{T - t}{T}\right)}{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (t - T)^{-1}}$$
$$= \lim_{t \to T} \frac{(t - T)^{-1}}{-(t - T)^{-2}}$$
$$= \lim_{t \to T} (T - t)$$
$$= 0.$$

This means that for any fixed *n*, we get the following covariance time-limit:

$$\lim_{t \to T} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)} \lambda_t^{(j,n)}] = \frac{T}{n}.$$
(30)

On the other hand, we get the covariance space-limit

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)} \lambda_t^{(j,n)}] = \begin{cases} \mathbf{1}(i=j) \frac{T\left(1 - \left(\frac{T-t}{T}\right)^{2\alpha}\right) - t}{2\alpha - 1}, & \alpha \neq \frac{1}{2}, \\ \mathbf{1}(i=j)(t-T) \log\left(\frac{T-t}{T}\right), & \alpha = \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases}$$
(31)

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We thus have the commutative double limit of the covariance:

$$\lim_{t \to T} \lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)} \lambda_t^{(j,n)}] = \lim_{n \to \infty} \lim_{t \to T} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_t^{(i,n)} \lambda_t^{(j,n)}]$$
$$= 0.$$

We shall omit further numerical simulations for this family of eigenvalues in order to avoid repetition.

## 2.2. Different systems with the same terminal laws

One of the key observations from Proposition 2.1 is that the terminal law of  $\{H_t(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$ does not depend on the choice of f (as long as it satisfies the aforementioned conditions). This means that we can work with multiple matrix systems with different eigenvalue dynamics driven by different f functions, and still converge to random variables equal in law to each other. More precisely, let  $\{H_t^{(k)}(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  be a Hermitian-valued process, where  $\{\Lambda_t^{(k)}(n)\}_{t\in\mathbb{T}}$  is its corresponding eigenvalue matrix process, with  $H_t^{(k)}(n) = U_t^{(k)}(n)\Lambda_t^{(k)}(n)U_t^{*(k)}(n)$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{T}$ and  $k = 1, \ldots, m$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}_+$ . We denote the individual eigenvalues by

$$\mathbf{\Lambda}_t^{(k)}(n) = \operatorname{diag}\{\lambda_t^{(1,n,k)}, \ldots, \lambda_t^{(n,n,k)}\},\$$

where the initial states are  $\mathbf{\Lambda}_{0}^{(k)}(n) = \mathbf{0}$ . We again let  $\{A_{t}^{(n,k)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  be the weighted ensemble average process given by

$$A_t^{(n,k)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \beta^{(i,n,k)} \lambda_t^{(i,n,k)} \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{T},$$

with  $|\beta^{(i,n,k)}| < \infty$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta^{(i,n,k)} = n$ . For the following arguments, we also set

$$\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n,k)} = \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n,l)} = \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}$$

for k, l = 1, ..., m. As before, eigenvalue dynamics form an interacting system of SDEs

$$d\lambda_t^{(i,n,k)} = f^{(k)}(t) \left( A_t^{(n,k)} - \lambda_t^{(i,n,k)} \right) dt + \sigma \left( \rho \, dB_t^{(k)} + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \, dW_t^{(i,k)} \right), \tag{32}$$

for all  $t \in \mathbb{T}_-$  and  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , and k = 1, ..., m, where each  $f^{(k)} : \mathbb{T}_- \to \mathbb{R}$  is a continuous measurable function satisfying

$$\int_0^t \exp\left(-\int_s^t f^{(k)}(u)\,\mathrm{d} u\right)\,\mathrm{d} s<\infty,$$

and  $\sigma \neq 0$  and  $\rho \in [-1, 1]$ . Here,  $\{W_t^{(i,k)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  and  $\{B_t^{(k)}\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$  are mutually independent standard  $(\mathbb{P}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\})$ -Brownian motions.

**Proposition 2.6.** Let each map  $f^{(p)}$  satisfy

- (i)  $\lim_{t\to T} \int_0^t f^{(p)}(s) \, ds = \infty$ , and
- (*ii*)  $\int_0^{\tau} f^{(p)}(s) \, \mathrm{d}s < \infty$  for any  $\tau \in \mathbb{T}_-$ ,

for p = 1, ..., m. Then the following holds:

$$\lim_{t \to T} \boldsymbol{H}_t^{(k)}(n) \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} \lim_{t \to T} \boldsymbol{H}_t^{(l)}(n),$$

for every k, l = 1, ..., m.

*Proof.* The statement follows from  $\Lambda_0^{(k)}(n) = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n,k)} = \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n,l)} = \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)}$  for every  $k, l = 1, \ldots, m$  and using Proposition 2.1.

Finally, using the mutual independence of all the  $(\mathbb{P}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\})$ -Brownian motions above, the time limit of the ensemble average of the matrices can easily be computed:

$$\lim_{t \to T} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^{m} \boldsymbol{H}_{t}^{(k)}(n) \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} \boldsymbol{R}^{(n)} \boldsymbol{I}(n),$$

where  $R^{(n)} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Theta^{(n)})$  with

$$\Theta^{(n)} = \frac{\sigma^2 T}{m} \left( \rho^2 + \frac{1 - \rho^2}{n^2} || \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(n)} ||_{L^2}^2 \right).$$

Therefore, without knowing the details about each  $f^{(k)}$  that dictates the stochastic dynamics of the underlying eigenvalues for each  $\{H_t^{(k)}(n)\}_{t \in \mathbb{T}}$ , we can still derive conclusions about the limiting behaviour of these matrices as discussed above.

## 3. Conclusion

We studied a multivariate system modelled by a random matrix whose eigenvalues interact in a mean-field way and converge in time to their weighted ensemble average. We produced a class of Hermitian-valued processes that converge to the identity matrix scaled by a Gaussian random variable with variance inversely proportional to the size of the system. As future research, the framework can be extended so that there are *multiple* distinct time points over the evolution of the system at which the eigenvalues converge to their respective weighted ensemble averages in a *successive* manner. For this direction, a different but related framework was studied in [43] to analyse energy-based quantum state reduction phenomena when quantum observables are measured sequentially at different times. We believe that the mathematical machinery we have provided in this paper can be used to produce mean-field interacting counterparts of such quantum reduction models.

#### Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to the anonymous referee for their review of the paper.

### **Funding information**

There are no funding bodies to thank in relation to the creation of this article.

#### **Competing interests**

There were no competing interests to declare which arose during the preparation or publication process of this article.

#### Data

The data related to the simulations are available from the author upon request.

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