

# From the KPZ equation to the directed landscape

Xuan Wu

University of Chicago

Random growth models and KPZ universality

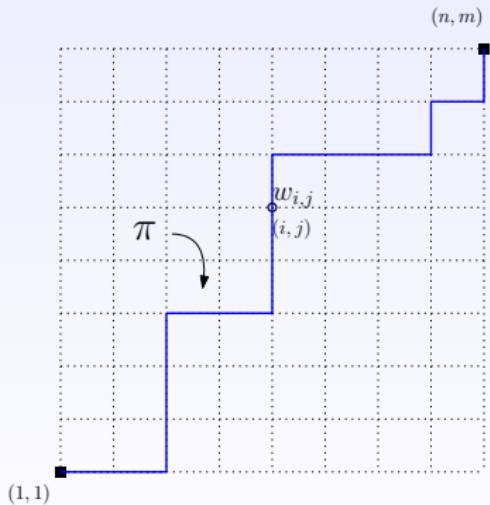
# Outline

- Directed polymer and KPZ equation
- Main result
- Ideas of proof

# Directed polymer and KPZ equation

# Discrete directed polymers

$$w(\pi) = \sum_{(i,j) \in \pi} w_{i,j}$$

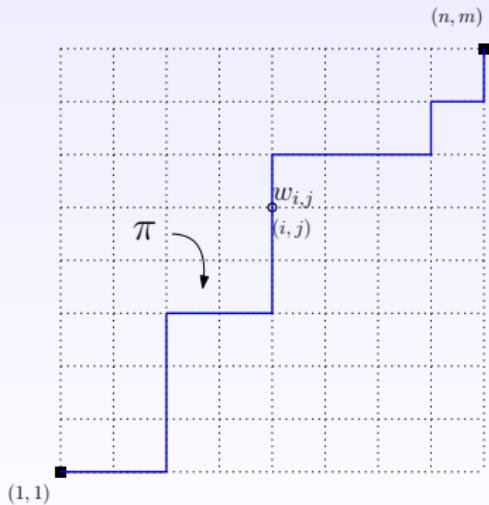


Partition function:  $\mathcal{Z} = \sum_{\pi} \exp(w(\pi))$

Free energy:  $\mathcal{H} = \log \mathcal{Z}$

# Discrete directed polymers

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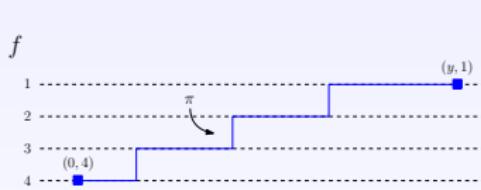
Partition function:  $\mathcal{Z} = \sum_{\pi} \exp(w(\pi))$

Free energy:  $\mathcal{H} = \log \mathcal{Z}$

Integrable weight:  $-w_{ij} \sim \text{log-gamma}$  [Seppäläinen 12]

# Semi-discrete directed polymers

$$f(\pi) = \sum_i (f_i(t_i) - f_i(t_{i+1}))$$

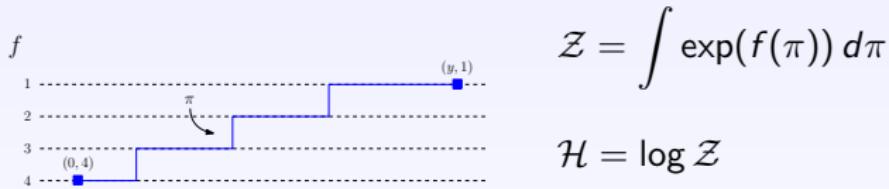


$$\mathcal{Z} = \int \exp(f(\pi)) d\pi$$

$$\mathcal{H} = \log \mathcal{Z}$$

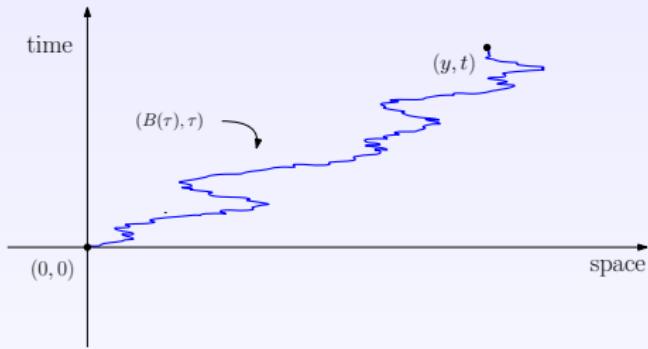
# Semi-discrete directed polymers

$$f(\pi) = \sum_i (f_i(t_i) - f_i(t_{i+1}))$$



Integrable weight:  $f \sim$  i.i.d. Brownian motion [O'Connell-Yor 02]

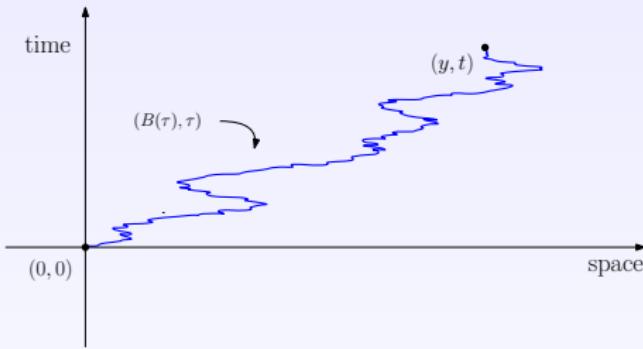
# Continuum directed polymers



$$\mathcal{Z}(t, y) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( \int_0^t \xi(\tau, B(\tau)) d\tau \right) \right]$$

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# Continuum directed polymers



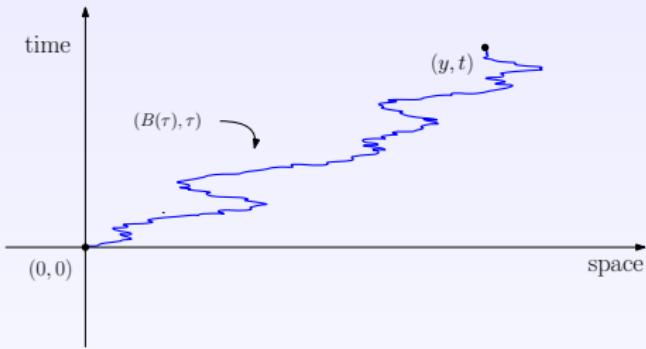
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Theorem (Alberts-Khanin-Quastel 14)

*Discrete directed polymers*  $\longrightarrow$  *Continuum directed polymers*

# Continuum directed polymers



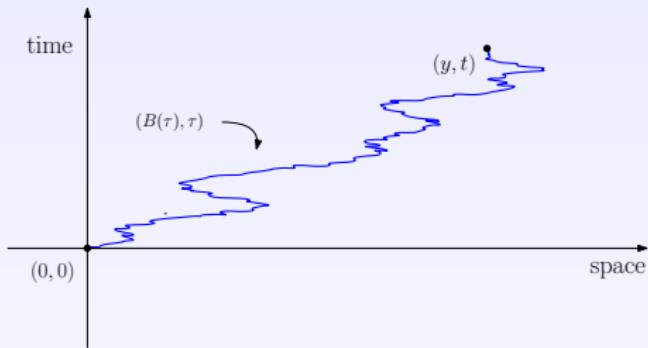
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Theorem (Nica 21)

OY semi-discrete directed polymers  $\longrightarrow$  Continuum directed polymers

# Continuum directed polymers

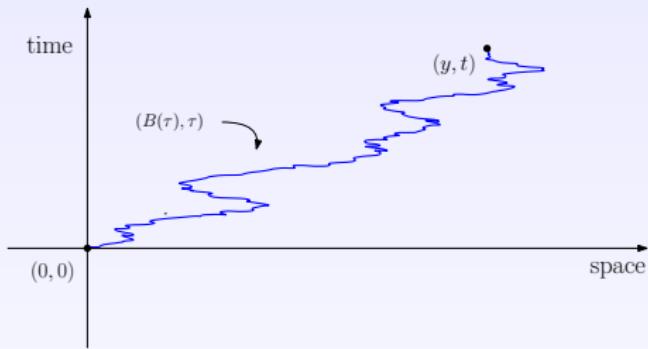


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$$\mathcal{H}(t, y) = \log \mathcal{Z}(t, y)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \mathcal{Z}(t, y) &= \frac{1}{2} \partial_{yy} \mathcal{Z}(t, y) + \xi \cdot \mathcal{Z}(t, y) \\ \mathcal{Z}(0, y) &= \delta(y)\end{aligned}$$

# Continuum directed polymers



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$$\partial_t \mathcal{H}(t, y) = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{yy} \mathcal{H}(t, y) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_y \mathcal{H}(t, y))^2 + \xi$$

$$\mathcal{H}(0, y) = \log \delta(y)$$

# Kardar-Parisi-Zhang equation

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \mathcal{H}(t, y) &= -\frac{1}{2} \partial_{yy} \mathcal{H}(t, y) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_y \mathcal{H}(t, y))^2 + \xi \\ \mathcal{H}(0, y) &= f(y)\end{aligned}$$

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Theorem (Balázs-Quastel-Seppäläinen 11)

Take  $f(y) = \exp(B(y))$ . Then when  $t$  goes to infinity,

$$\text{Var}(\mathcal{H}(t, y)) \sim t^{2/3}.$$

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Take  $f(y) = \log \delta(y)$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}(t, 0) \xrightarrow{1:2:3} \text{Tracy-Widom GUE}$ .

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Theorem (Quastel-Sarkar 23 and Virág 20)

For a wide class of initial data  $f(y)$ ,  $\mathcal{H}(t, y) \xrightarrow{1:2:3} \text{KPZ fixed point}$ .

# Kardar-Parisi-Zhang equation

$$\partial_t \mathcal{H}_i(t, y) = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{yy} \mathcal{H}_i(t, y) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_y \mathcal{H}_i(t, y))^2 + \xi$$

$$\mathcal{H}_i(s_i, y) = f_i(y)$$

$$i = 1, 2, \dots, m$$

# Kardar-Parisi-Zhang equation

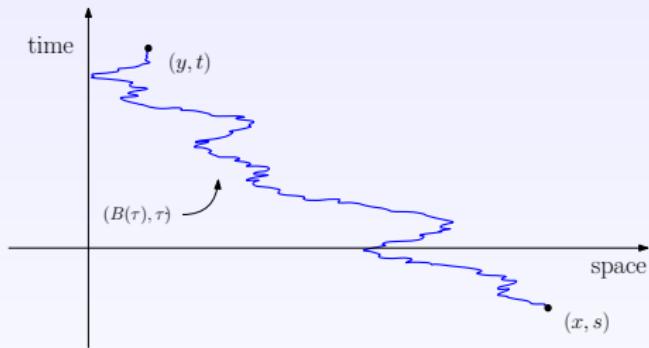
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$$i = 1, 2, \dots, m$$

$$\mathcal{H}_i(t, y) = \log \int \exp(\mathcal{H}(t, y | s_i, x) + f_i(x)) \, dx$$

# Narrow wedge solutions



$$\mathcal{Z}(t, y | s, x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( \int_s^t \xi(\tau, B(\tau)) d\tau \right) \right]$$

$$\mathcal{H}(t, y | s, x) = \log \mathcal{Z}(t, y | s, x)$$

# Kardar-Parisi-Zhang equation

$$\partial_t \mathcal{H}_i(t, y) = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{yy} \mathcal{H}_i(t, y) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_y \mathcal{H}_i(t, y))^2 + \xi$$

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Theorem (Alberts-Janjigian-Rassoul-Agha-Seppäläinen 22)  
 $\mathcal{H}(t, y | s, x)$  form a random continuous function.

# Main result: convergence of the KPZ equation

Theorem 1 (W. 23)

$$\mathcal{H}(t, y | s, x) \xrightarrow{1:2:3} \mathcal{L}(t, y | s, x).$$

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Implication: **all initial value problems converge simultaneously!**

# Directed landscape

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- constructed by Dauvergne-Ortmann-Virág 23
- $\mathcal{L}(1, 0 | 0, 0)$  is the Tracy-Widom GUE
- $\mathcal{L}(1, y | 0, 0) + y^2$  is the Airy<sub>2</sub> process

# Main result: convergence of the KPZ equation

Theorem 1 (W. 23)

$$\mathcal{H}(t, y | s, x) \xrightarrow{1:2:3} \mathcal{L}(t, y | s, x).$$

- To  $\mathcal{L}(1, 0 | 0, 0)$ . [Amir-Corwin-Quastel 11]
- To  $\mathcal{L}(t, y | 0, 0)$ . [Quastel-Sarkar 23] and [Virág 20]

Today:

- To  $\mathcal{L}(t, y | s, x)$  [W. 23]

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Airy sheet:  $\mathcal{S}(x, y) := \mathcal{L}(1, y | 0, x)$

KPZ sheet:  $\mathcal{H}^T(x, y) := \mathcal{H}(T, y | 0, x)$

# Main result: convergence of the KPZ equation

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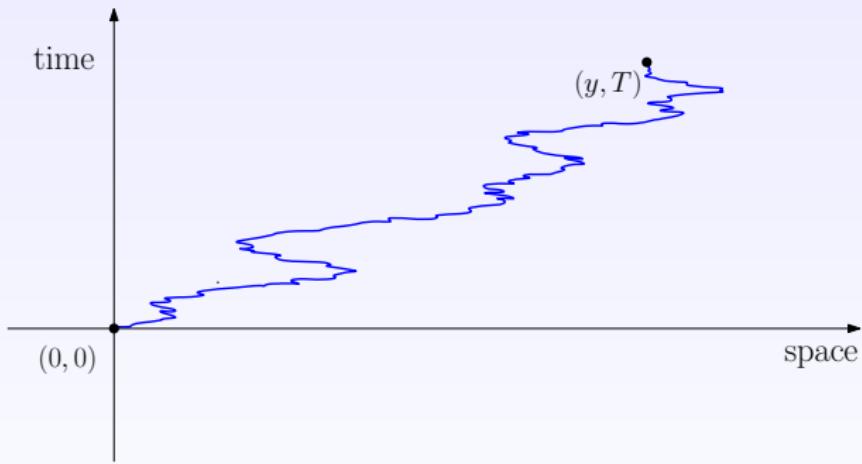
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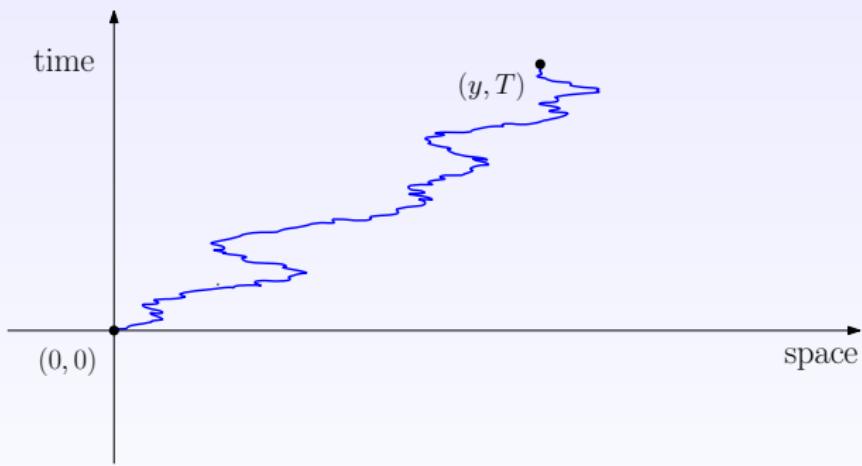
## Theorem 2 (W. 23)

$$KPZ\ sheet \xrightarrow{1:2:3} Airy\ sheet.$$

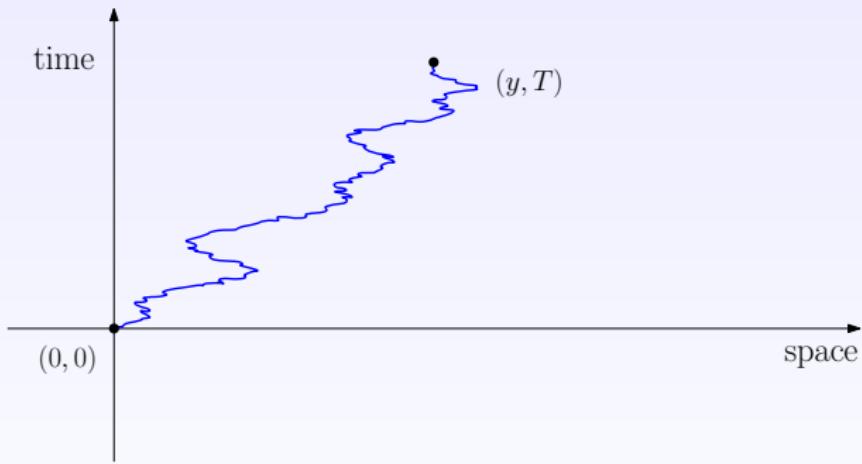
# RSK correspondence of white noise



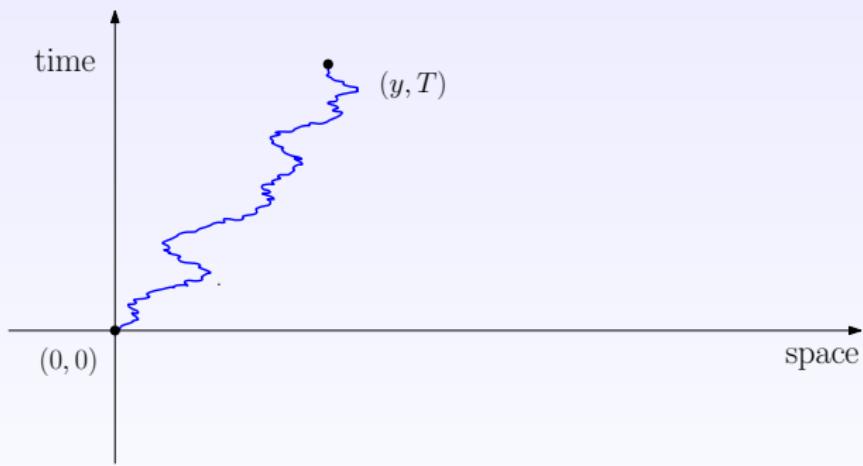
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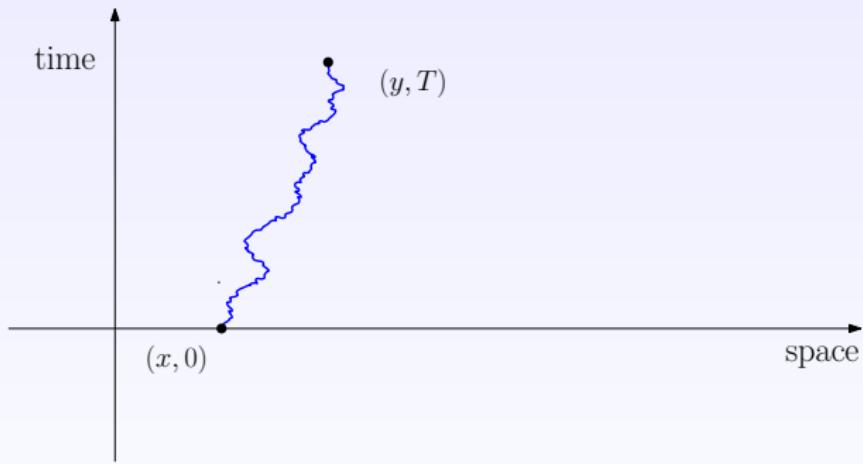
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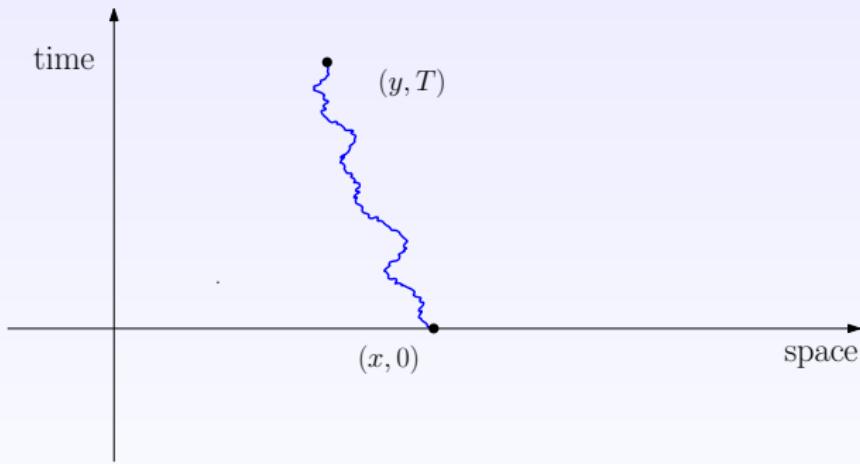
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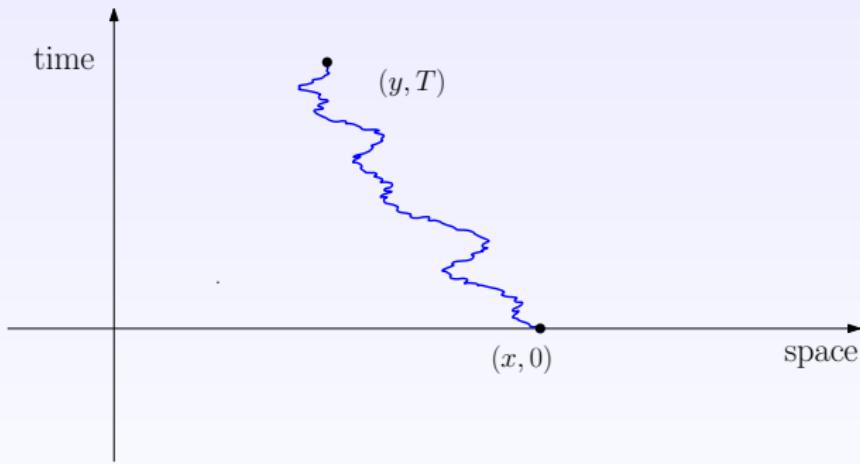
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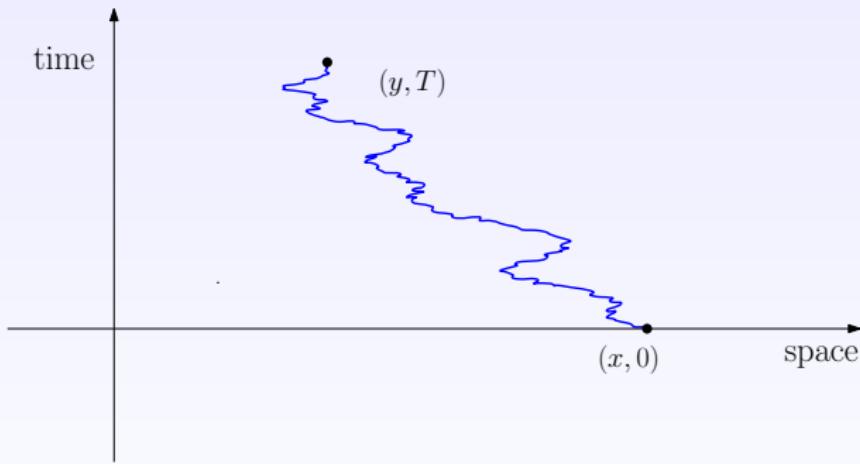
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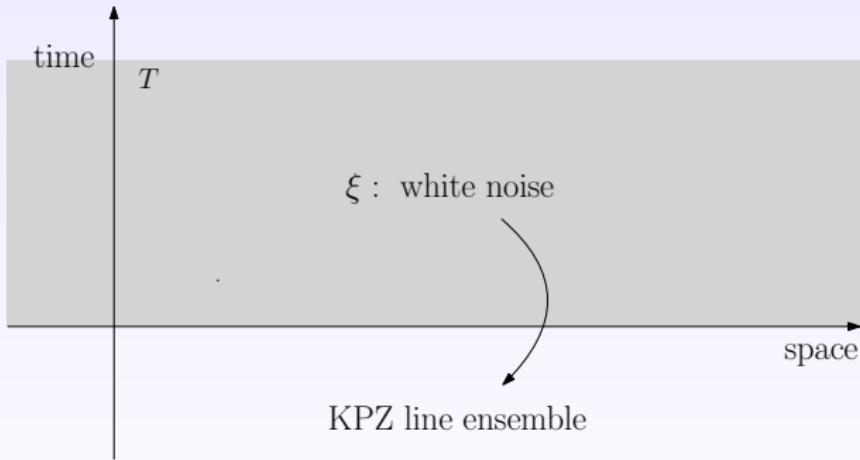
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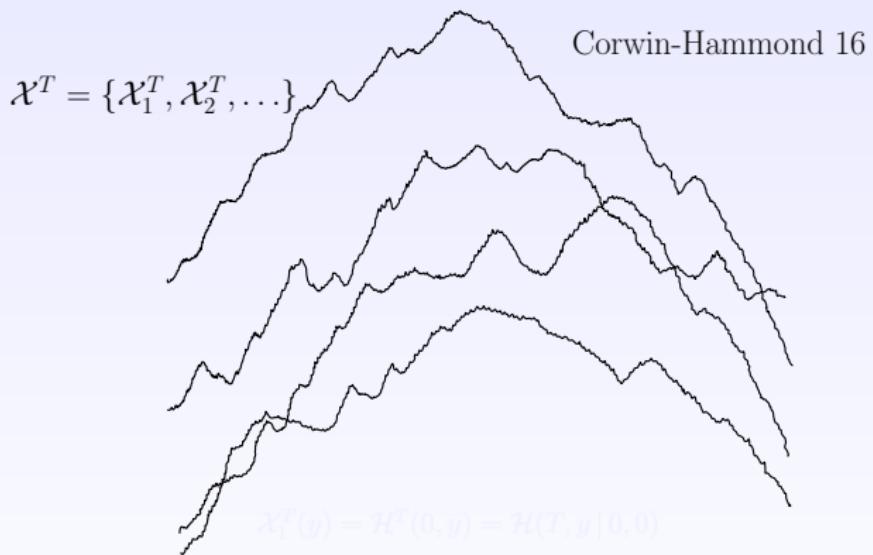
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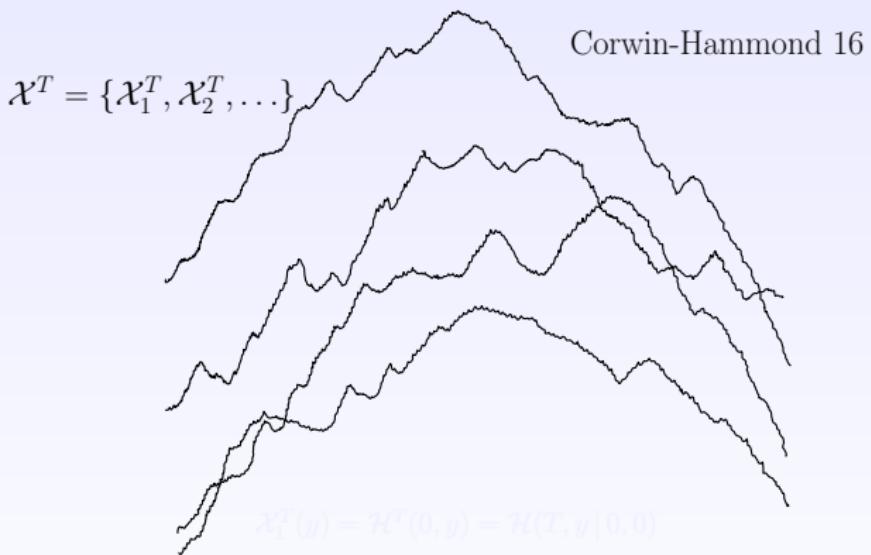
# RSK correspondence of white noise



# KPZ line ensemble



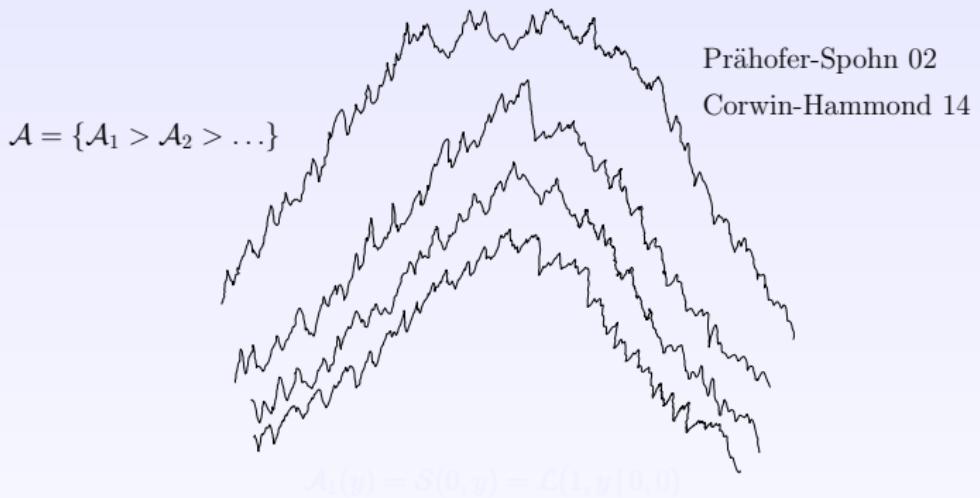
# KPZ line ensemble



Theorem (QS 23, V 20, Dimitrov-Matetski 18, W. 22)

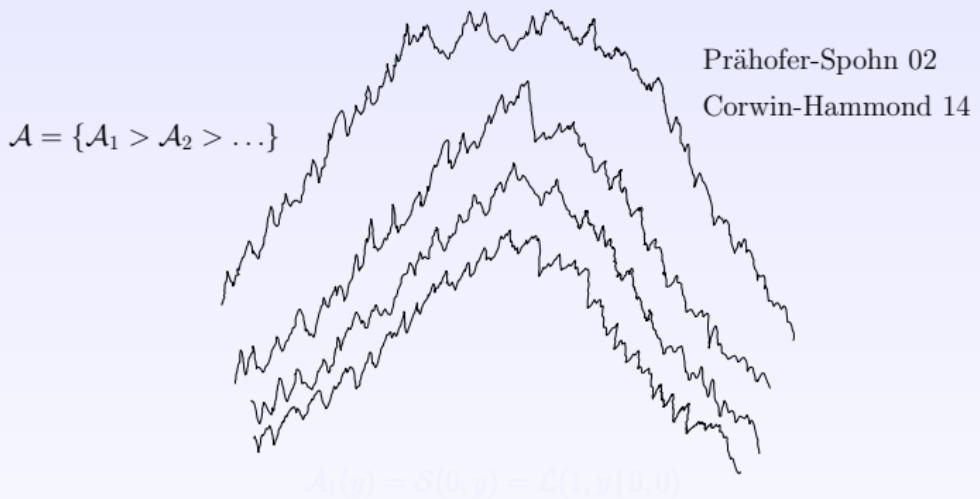
KPZ line ensemble  $\xrightarrow{1:2:3}$  Airy line ensemble.

# Airy line ensemble



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# Airy line ensemble

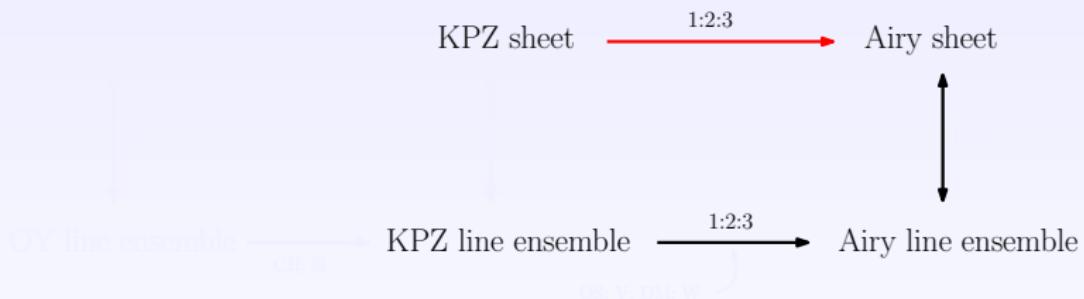


Dauvergne-Ortmann-Virág 23

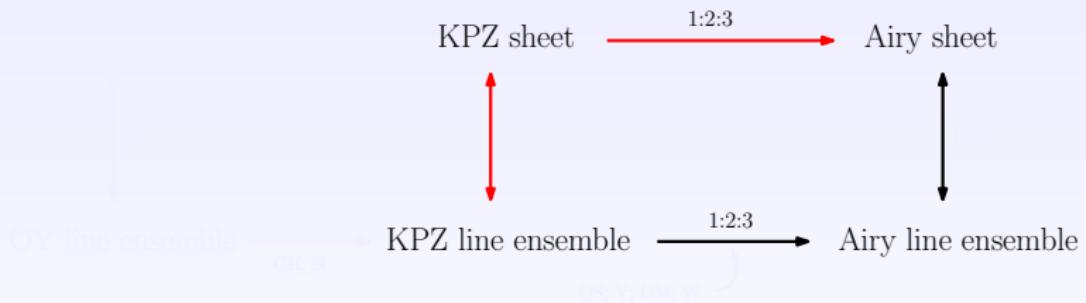
$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_2, 1)] - \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_1, 1)] = S(x, y_2) - S(x, y_1)$$

$$z_k = -\sqrt{k/(2x)}$$

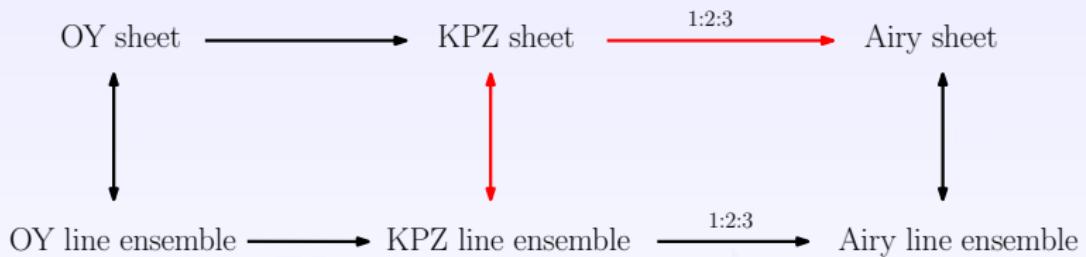
# Big picture



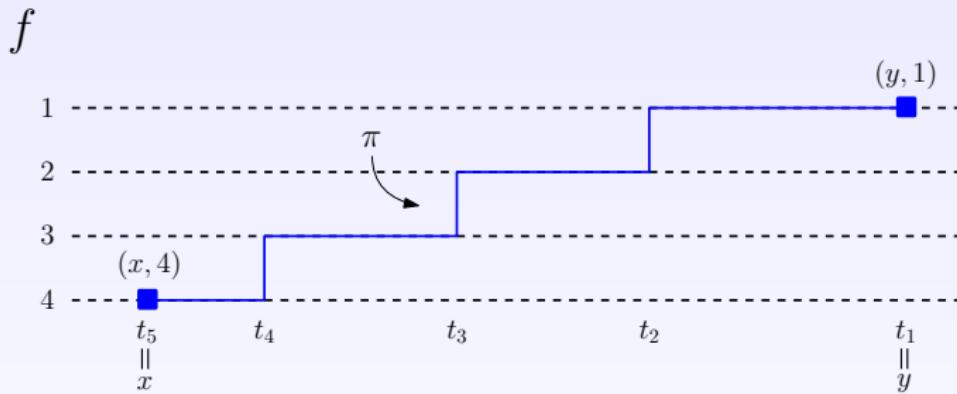
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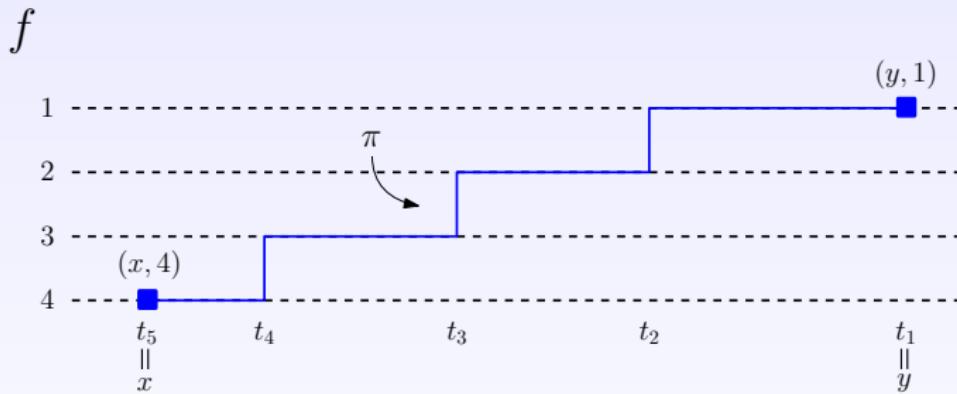


# Semi-discrete directed polymers



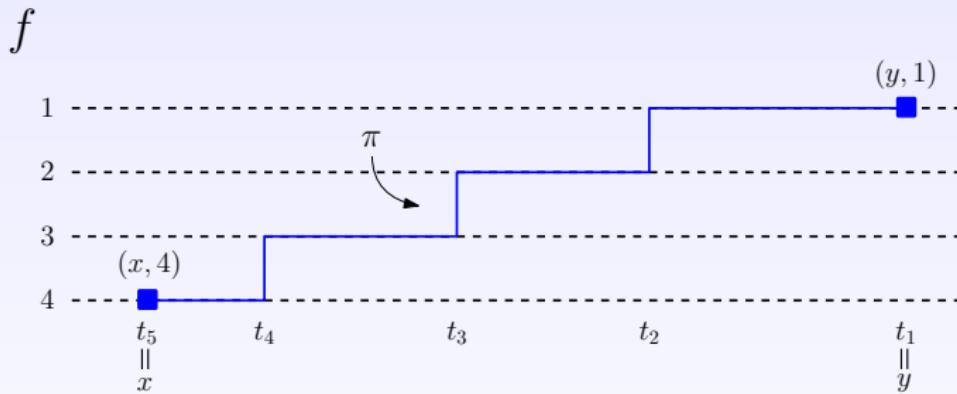
$$\begin{aligned}f(\pi) = & (f_4(t_4) - f_4(t_5)) + (f_3(t_3) - f_3(t_4)) \\& + (f_2(t_2) - f_2(t_3)) + (f_1(t_1) - f_1(t_2))\end{aligned}$$

# Semi-discrete directed polymers



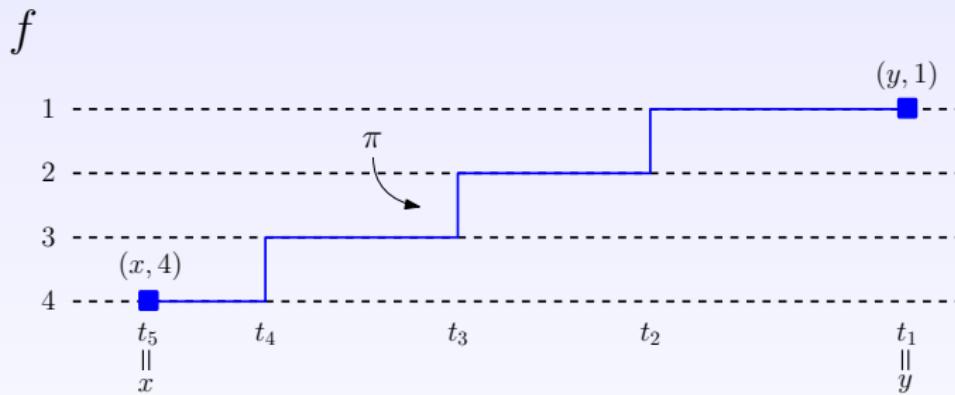
$$f[(x, 4) \rightarrow (y, 1)] = \log \int \exp(f(\pi)) d\pi$$

# Semi-discrete directed polymers



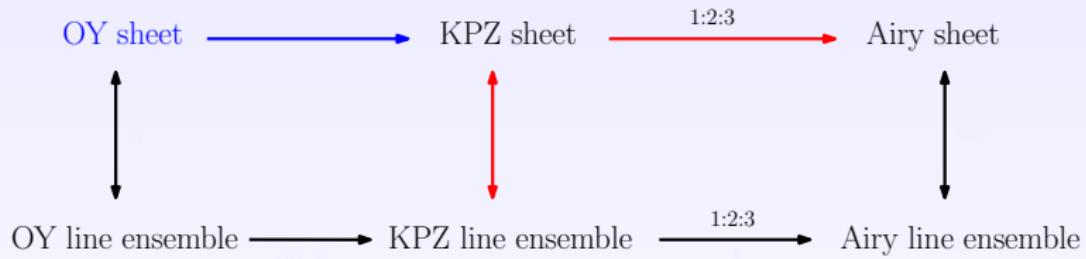
$$f[(x, 4) \xrightarrow{\beta} (y, 1)] = \beta^{-1} \log \int \exp(\beta f(\pi)) d\pi$$

# Semi-discrete directed polymers



$$f[(x, 4) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y, 1)] = \max f(\pi)$$

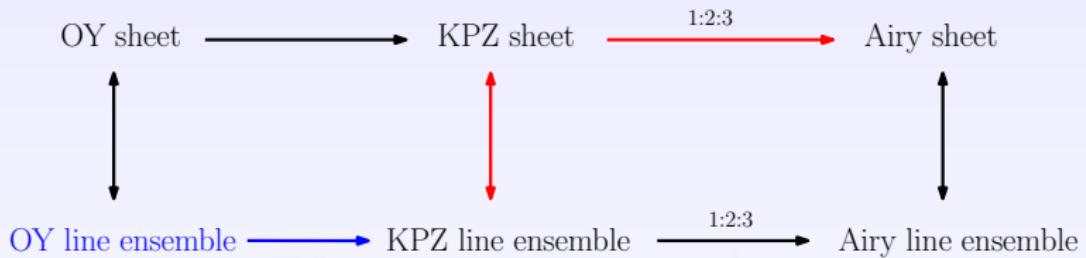
# Big picture



Theorem (Nica 21)

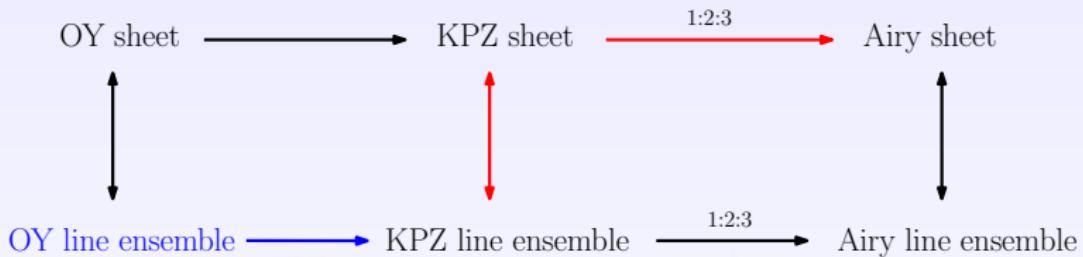
*O'Connell-Yor sheet*  $\rightarrow$  *KPZ sheet*.

# Big picture



OY line ensemble = gRSK transform of Brownian motions [O'Connell 12]

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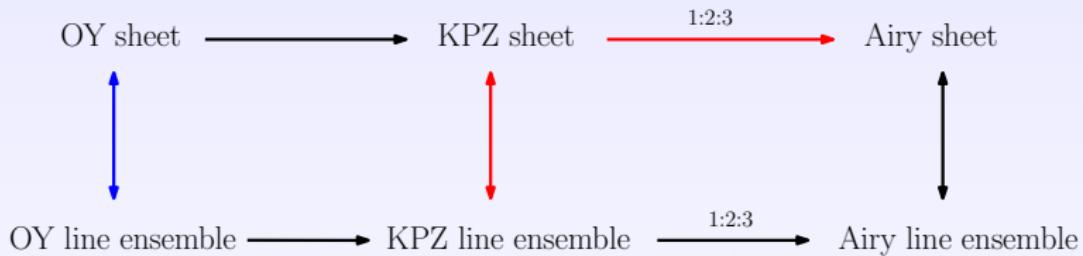


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Theorem (Corwin-Hammond 16, Nica 21)

*OY line ensembles*  $\longrightarrow$  *KPZ line ensemble*.

# Big picture

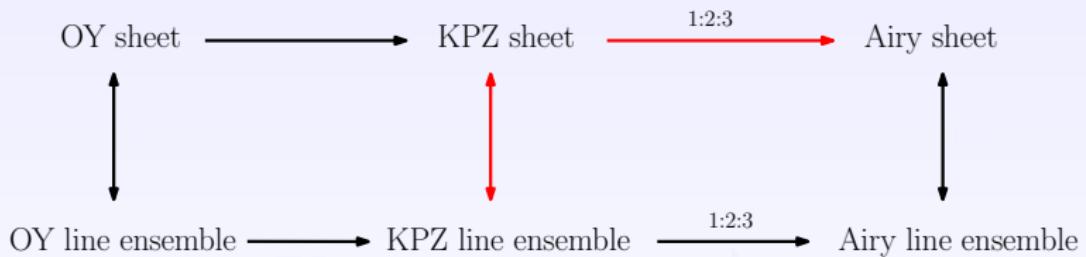


Theorem (Corwin 21)

$$f = \{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n\}$$

$$f[(x, n) \rightarrow (y, 1)] = \mathcal{W}f[(x, n) \rightarrow (y, 1)]$$

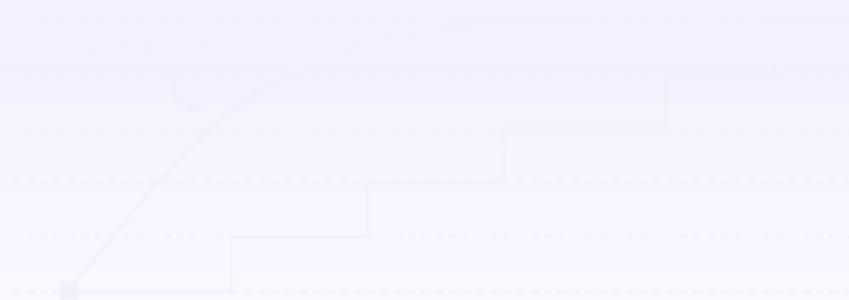
# Big picture



# Ideas of proof

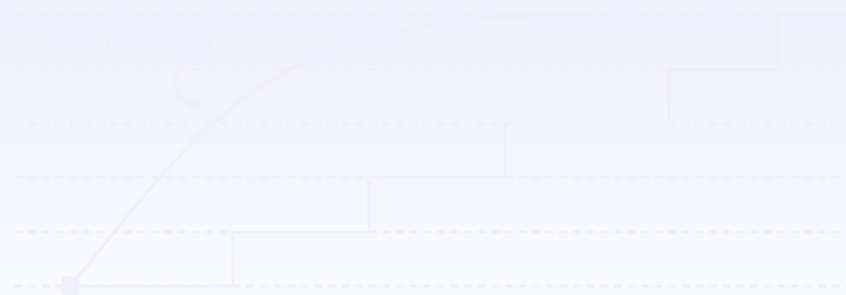
# Main difficulty

$$\mathcal{H}^{T,n}(x, y) = \mathcal{X}^{T,n}[(-\sqrt{nT} + x, n) \rightarrow (y, 1)] + C(T, n)$$



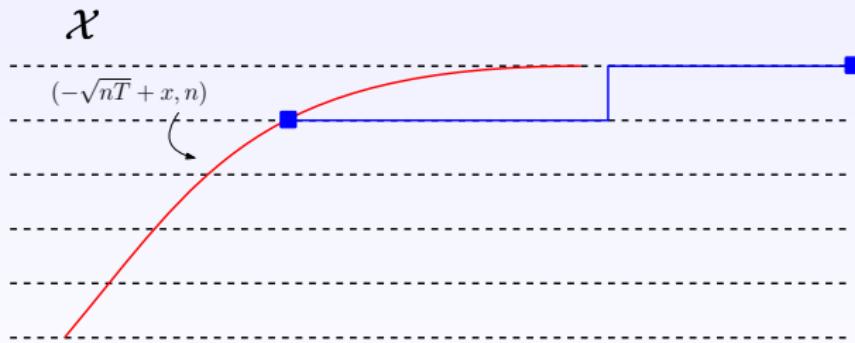
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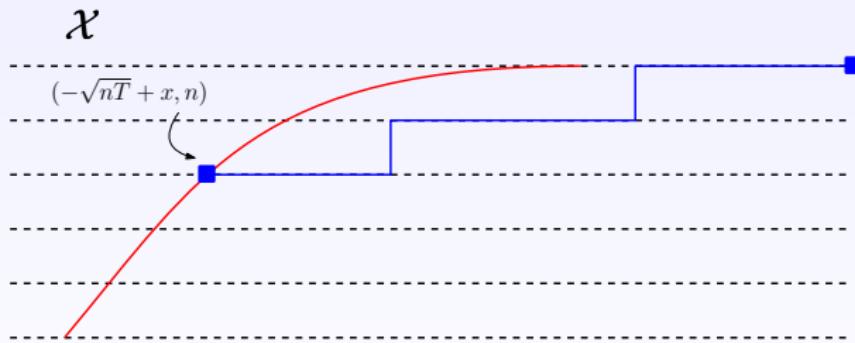
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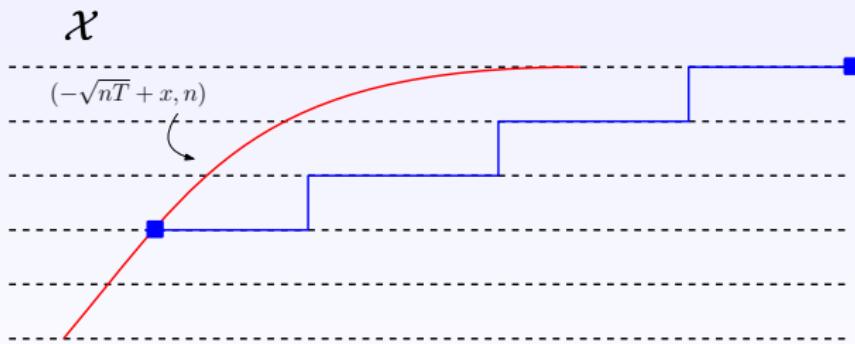
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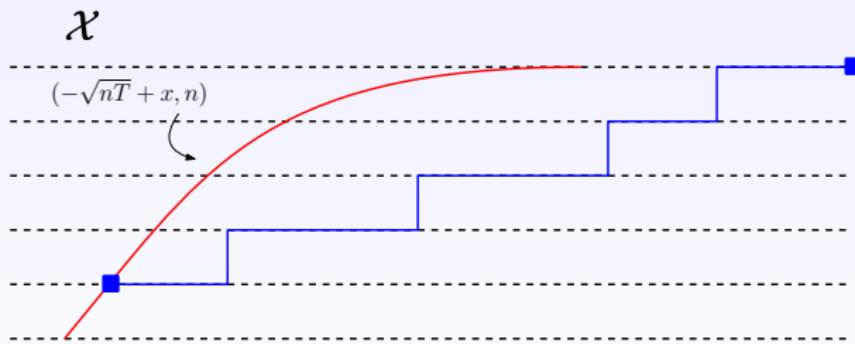
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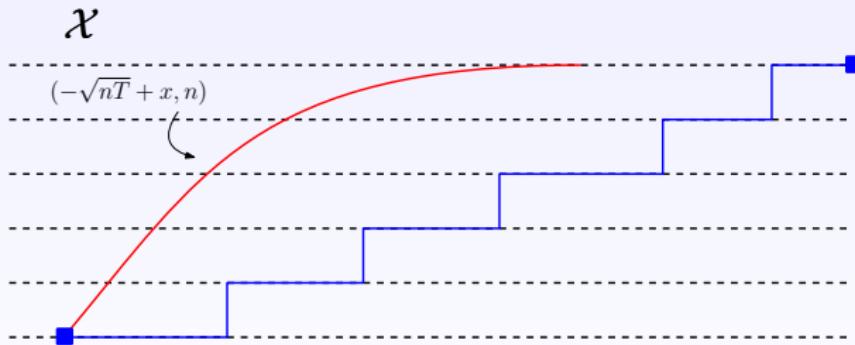
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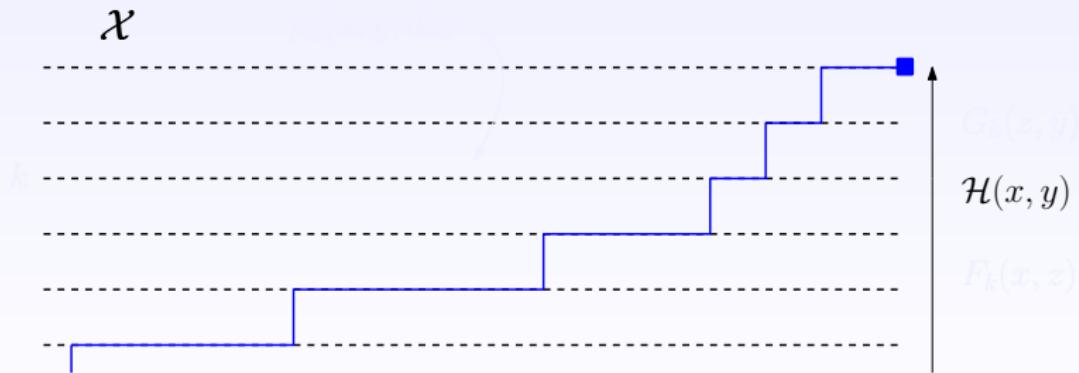
# Main difficulty

$$\mathcal{H}(x, y) = \mathcal{X}[(-\sqrt{nT} + x, n) \rightarrow (y, 1)]$$



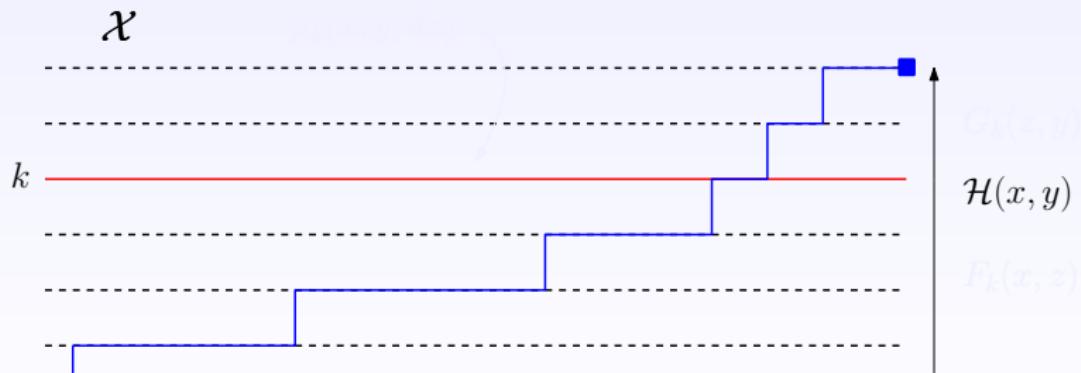
# Truncation

$$\mathcal{H}(x, y) = \mathcal{X}[(-\sqrt{nT} + x, n) \rightarrow (y, 1)]$$



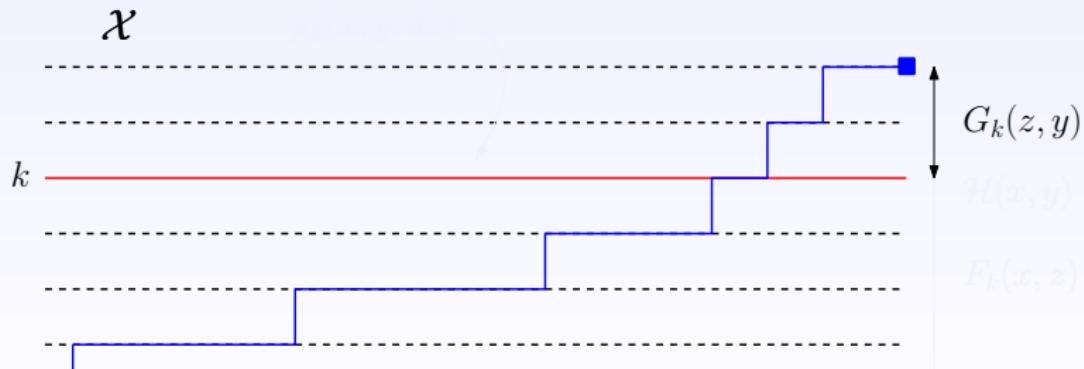
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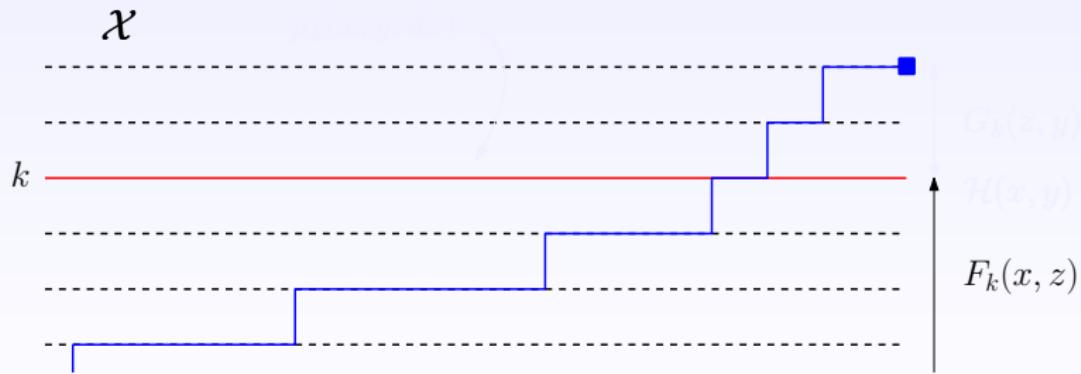
# Truncation

$$G_k(z, y) = \mathcal{X}[(z, k) \rightarrow (y, 1)]$$



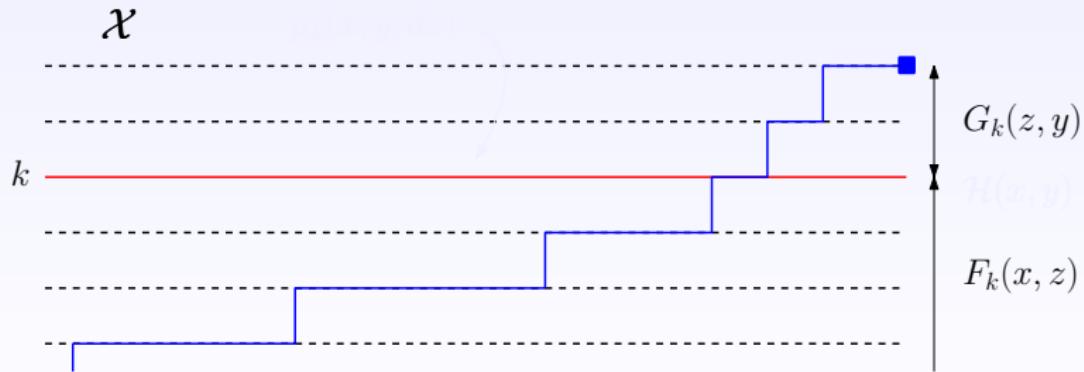
# Truncation

$$F_k(x, z) = \mathcal{X}[(-\sqrt{nT} + x, n) \rightarrow (z, k+1)]$$



# Truncation

$$\exp(\mathcal{H}(x, y)) = \int \exp(F_k(x, z) + G_k(z, y)) dz$$



# Busemann functions

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_2, 1)] - \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_1, 1)] = \mathcal{S}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{S}(x, y_1)$$

$$G(x, y) - G(z, y)$$

$$H(x, y) - H(x, z)$$

so  $G(x, y) - G(z, y) = H(x, y) - H(x, z)$

# Busemann functions

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_2, 1)] - \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_1, 1)] = \mathcal{S}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{S}(x, y_1).$$

$$G_k(z_k, y_2) - G_k(z_k, y_1)$$

$$H(x, y) - H(x, z)$$

# Busemann functions

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_2, 1)] - \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_1, 1)] = \mathcal{S}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{S}(x, y_1).$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G}_k(z_k, y_2) - \mathcal{G}_k(z_k, y_1)}{\mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1)}$$

# Busemann functions

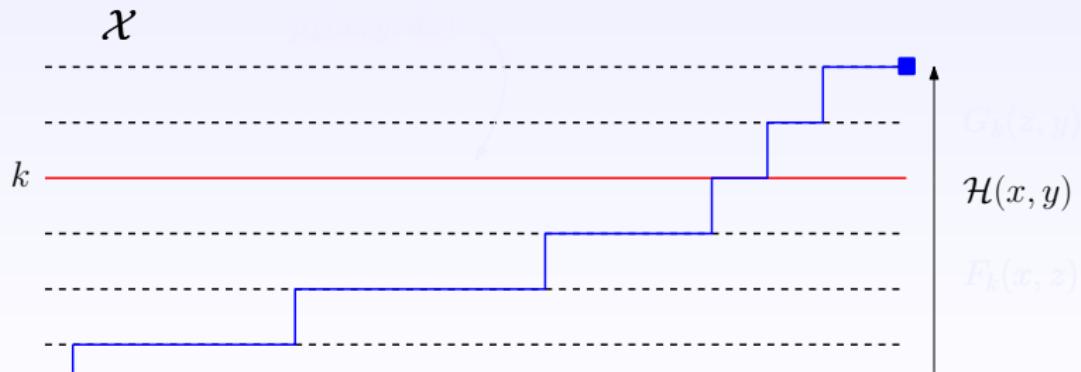
$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_2, 1)] - \mathcal{A}[(z_k, k) \xrightarrow{\infty} (y_1, 1)] = \mathcal{S}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{S}(x, y_1).$$

$$G_k(z_k, y_2) - G_k(z_k, y_1) \qquad \qquad \qquad \mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1)$$

Compare  $G_k(z_k, y_2) - G_k(z_k, y_1)$  and  $\mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1)$

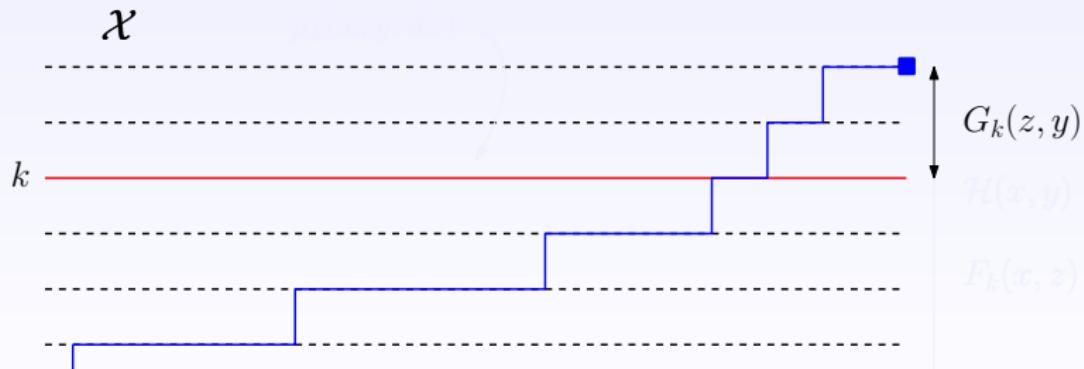
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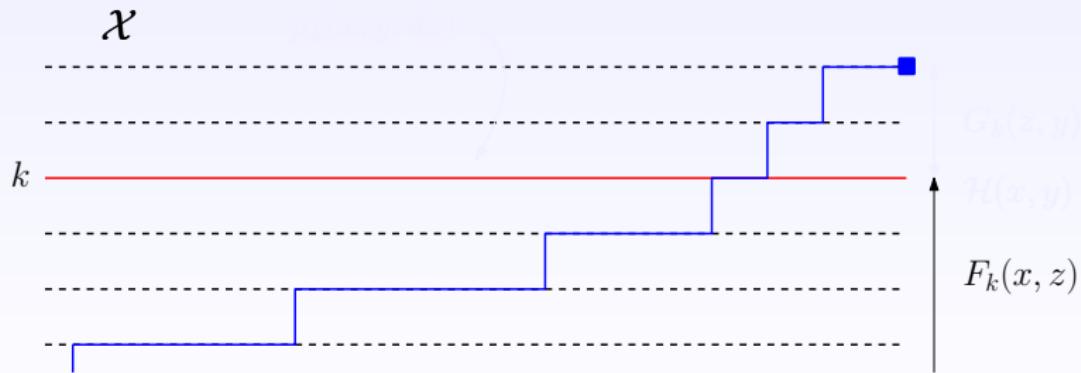
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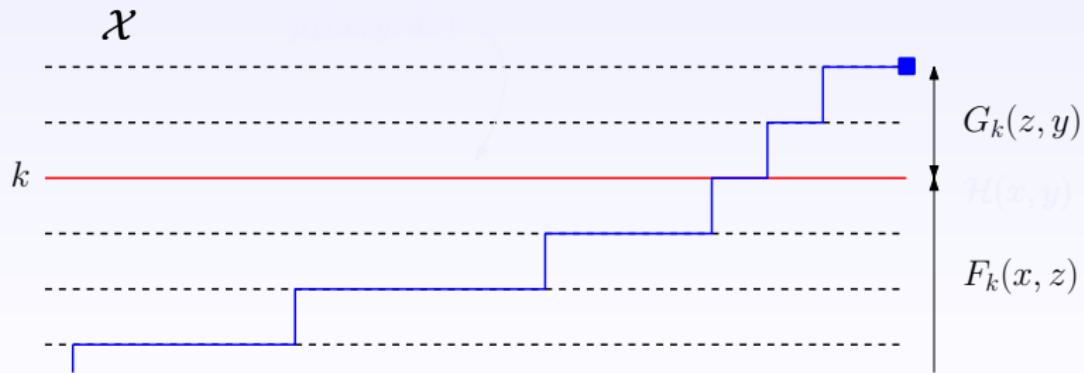
# Truncation

$$F_k(x, z) = \mathcal{X}[(-\sqrt{nT} + x, n) \rightarrow (z, k+1)]$$



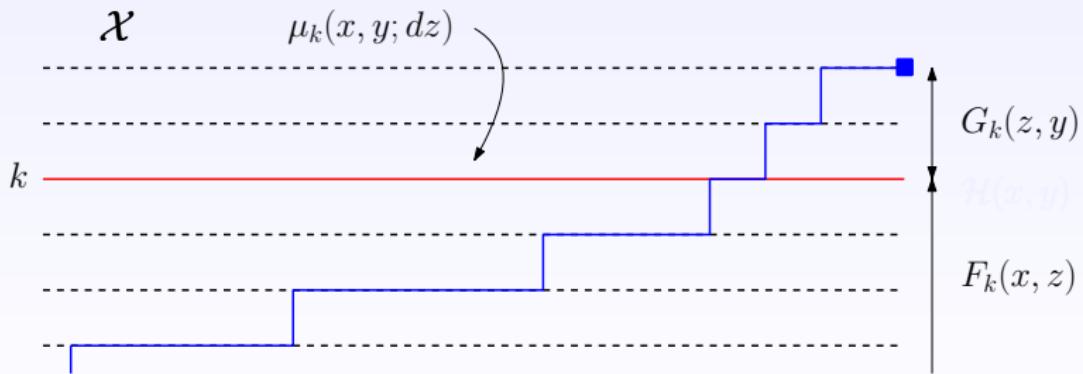
# Truncation

$$\exp(\mathcal{H}(x, y)) = \int \exp(F_k(x, z) + G_k(z, y)) dz$$



# Truncation

$$\mu_k(x, y; dz) = \exp(-\mathcal{H}(x, y) + F_k(x, z) + G_k(z, y)) dz$$



# Ideas

- Control the difference between  $\mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1)$  and  $G_k(z, y_2) - G_k(z, y_1)$  by  $\mu_k$ .
- Determine  $\mu_k$  by  $F_k$ .
- Compute the limit of  $F_k$ .

# Busemann functions

## Lemma

For  $y_2 \geq y_1$ ,

$$-\log \int_{y_1}^{y_2} m(x, y_2, dz) \geq$$

$$\mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1) - G_k(z, y_2) + G_k(z, y_1)$$

# Busemann functions

## Lemma

For  $y_2 \geq y_1$ ,

$$-\log \int_{-\infty}^z \mu_k(x, y_2; dz') \geq \mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1) - G_k(z, y_2) + G_k(z, y_1)$$

# Busemann functions

## Lemma

For  $y_2 \geq y_1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} -\log \int_{-\infty}^z \mu_k(x, y_2; dz') &\geq \\ \mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1) - G_k(z, y_2) + G_k(z, y_1) \\ &\geq \log \int_z^\infty \mu_k(x, y_1; dz') \end{aligned}$$

# Busemann functions

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} & \exp(\mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1)) \\ &= \int \exp(G_x(z', y_2) - G_x(z', y_1)) \mu_x(x, y_1, dz') \\ &\quad \int \exp(-G_x(z''(z', y_2) - z''(z', y_1)) \mu_x(x, y_1, dz'') \end{aligned}$$

□

# Busemann functions

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} & \exp(\mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1)) \\ &= \int \exp(G_k(z', y_2) - G_k(z', y_1)) \mu_k(x, y_1; dz') \end{aligned}$$

$$= \int \exp(G_k(z', y_2) - G_k(z', y_1)) \mu_k(x, y_1; dz')$$



# Busemann functions

Proof.

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□

# Busemann functions

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}& \exp(\mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1)) \\&= \int \exp(G_k(z', y_2) - G_k(z', y_1)) \mu_k(x, y_1; dz') \\&\geq \int_{\textcolor{red}{z}}^{\infty} \exp(G_k(z', y_2) - G_k(z', y_1)) \mu_k(x, y_1; dz') \\&\geq \exp(G_k(\textcolor{red}{z}, y_2) - G_k(\textcolor{red}{z}, y_1)) \cdot \int_{\textcolor{red}{z}}^{\infty} \mu_k(x, y_1; dz')\end{aligned}$$

□

# Busemann functions

## Lemma

For  $y_2 \geq y_1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} -\log \int_{-\infty}^z \mu_k(x, y_2; dz') &\geq \\ &\mathcal{H}(x, y_2) - \mathcal{H}(x, y_1) - G_k(z, y_2) + G_k(z, y_1) \\ &\geq \log \int_z^\infty \mu_k(x, y_1; dz') \end{aligned}$$

# Busemann functions

## Lemma

For  $y_2 \geq y_1$ ,

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Need to understand  $\mu_k$

## Determine $\mu_k$

$\mu_k(x, y; dz)$  is largely determined by  $F_k(x, z)$  because  $F_k(x, z)$  is very sensitive in  $x$ .

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### Lemma

*Suppose  $\mathcal{H}(x, y)$  does not depend on  $x$ .*

## Determine $\mu_k$

$\mu_k(x, y; dz)$  is largely determined by  $F_k(x, z)$  because  $F_k(x, z)$  is very sensitive in  $x$ .

### Lemma

Suppose  $\mathcal{H}(x, y)$  does not depend on  $x$ . Then  $\mu_k(x, y; dz)$  is a delta measure at  $z_k$ .  $z_k$  solves  $(\partial F_k / \partial x)(x, z_k) = 0$ .

## Determine $\mu_k$

$$\mathcal{H}(x, y) = \log \int \exp(F_k(x, z) + G_k(z, y)) dz$$

## Determine $\mu_k$

$$\mathcal{H}(x, y) = \log \int \exp(F_k(x, z) + G_k(z, y)) dz$$

Proof.

$$0 = \int \frac{\partial F_k}{\partial x}(x, z) \mu_k(x, y; dz) \quad (1)$$

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$$\mathcal{H}(x, y) = \log \int \exp(F_k(x, z) + G_k(z, y)) dz$$

Proof.

$$0 = \int \frac{\partial F_k}{\partial x}(x, z) \mu_k(x, y; dz) \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int \frac{\partial F_k}{\partial x}(x, z) \frac{\partial G_k}{\partial y}(z, y) \mu_k(x, y; dz) \\ &\quad - \int \frac{\partial F_k}{\partial x}(x, z) \mu_k(x, y; dz) \int \frac{\partial G_k}{\partial y}(z, y) \mu_k(x, y; dz) \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$



## Determine $\mu_k$

$\mu_k(x, y; dz)$  is largely determined by  $F_k(x, z)$  because  $F_k(x, z)$  is very sensitive in  $x$ .

### Lemma

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Need to understand  $F_k$

# Limit of $F_k$

$$F_k^{T,n}(x, z) = \mathcal{X}^{T,n}[(-\sqrt{nT} + x, n) \rightarrow (z, k+1)]$$

## Lemma

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_k^{T,n}(x, z) \stackrel{d}{=} \mathcal{X}^T[(0, k+1) \rightarrow (x, 1)] + T^{-1}zx \leftarrow k \text{ levels}$$

Key lemma:  $f = \{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n\}$

# Limit of $F_k$

$$F_k^{T,n}(x, z) = \mathcal{X}^{T,n}[(-\sqrt{nT} + x, n) \rightarrow (z, k+1)] \leftarrow \text{**n - k - 1** levels}$$

**Lemma**

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_k^{T,n}(x, z) \stackrel{d}{=} \mathcal{X}^T[(0, k+1) \rightarrow (x, 1)] + T^{-1}zx \leftarrow \text{k levels}$$

**Key**  $\quad I = \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n\}$

# Limit of $F_k$

$$F_k^{T,n}(x, z) = \mathcal{X}^{T,n}[(-\sqrt{nT} + x, n) \rightarrow (z, k+1)] \leftarrow \textcolor{red}{n-k-1} \text{ levels}$$

Lemma

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_k^{T,n}(x, z) \stackrel{d}{=} \mathcal{X}^T[(0, k+1) \rightarrow (x, 1)] + T^{-1}zx \leftarrow \textcolor{blue}{k} \text{ levels}$$

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Key  $f = \{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n\}$

$$(\mathcal{W}f)[(x, n) \rightarrow (z, k+1)] = (\mathcal{W}R_z f)[(z-x, k+1) \rightarrow (z, 1)] + \mathcal{W}f_{k+1}(z)$$

## Limit of $F_k$

$$F_k^{T,n}(x,z) = \mathcal{X}^{T,n}[(-\sqrt{nT} + x, n) \rightarrow (z, k+1)] \leftarrow n - k + 1 \text{ levels}$$

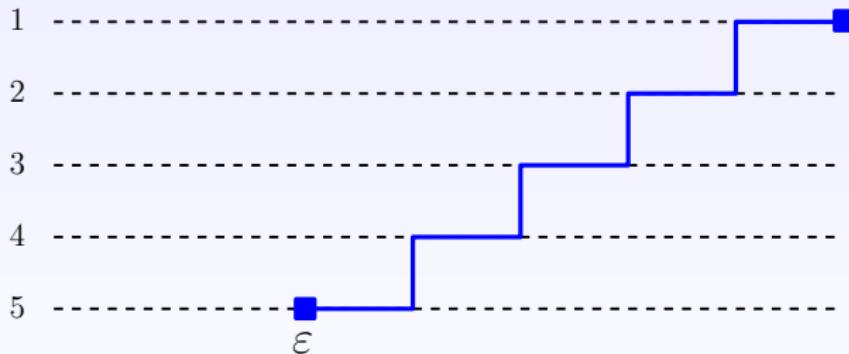
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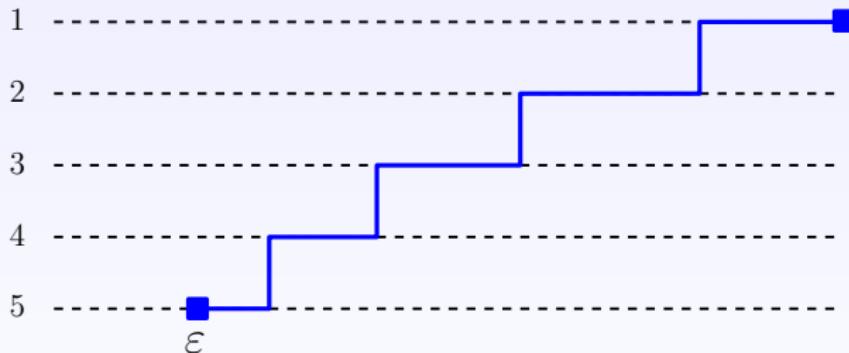
# Concentration

$\mathcal{W}f$



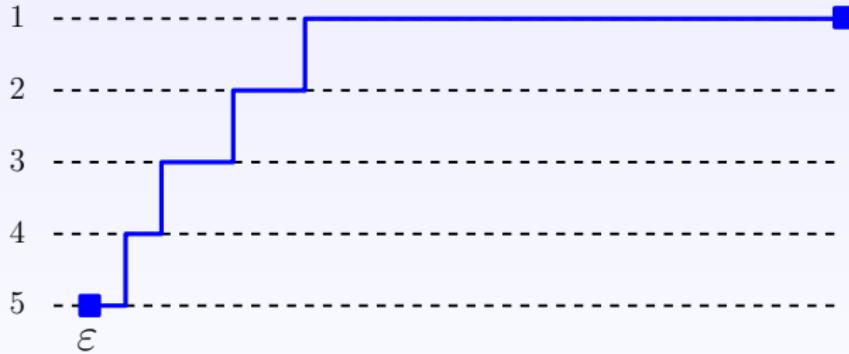
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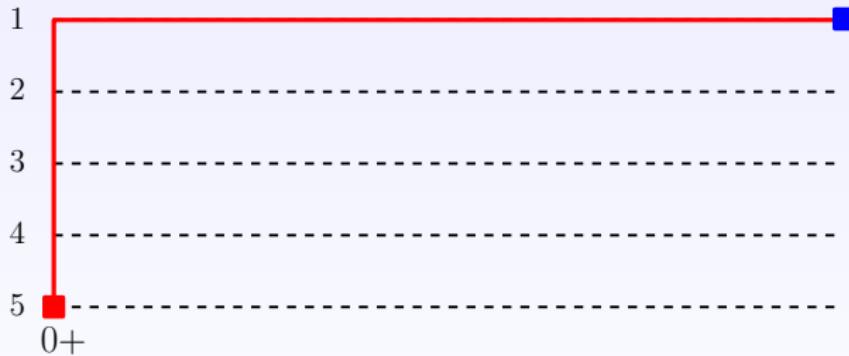
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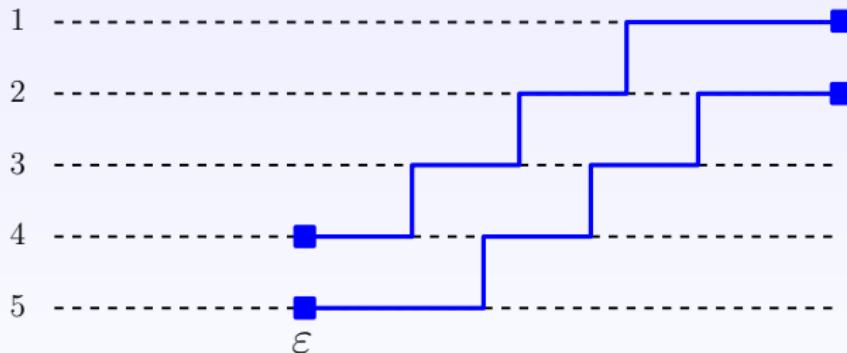
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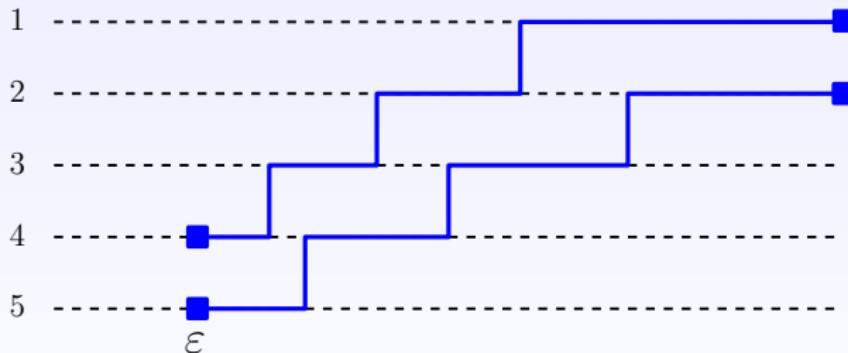
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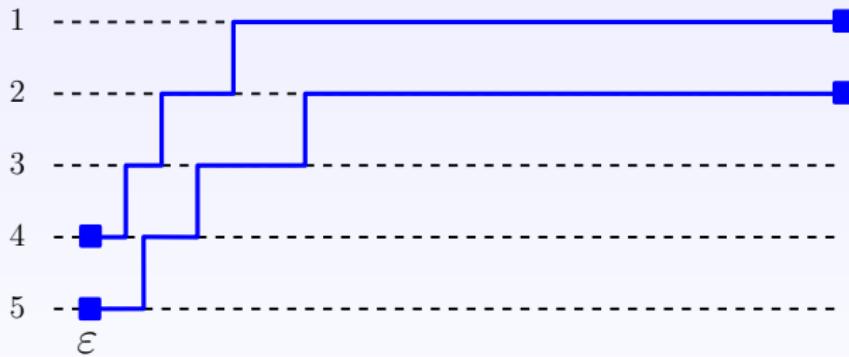
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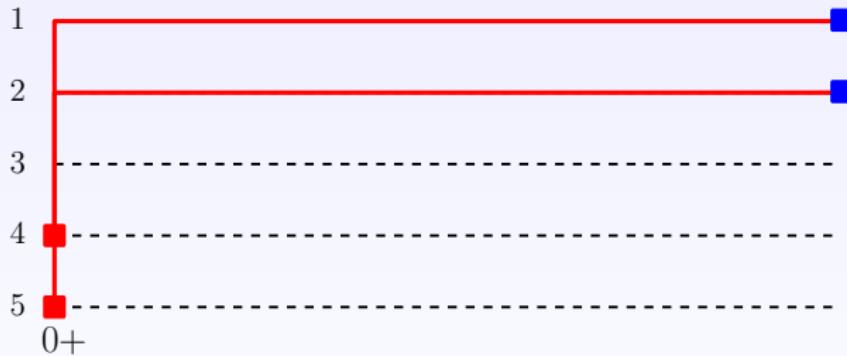
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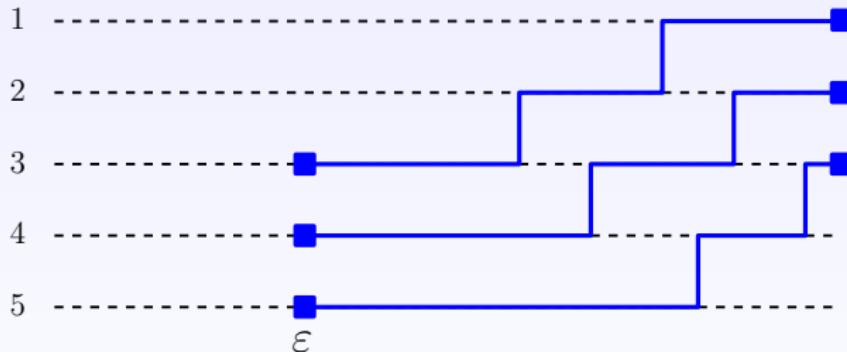
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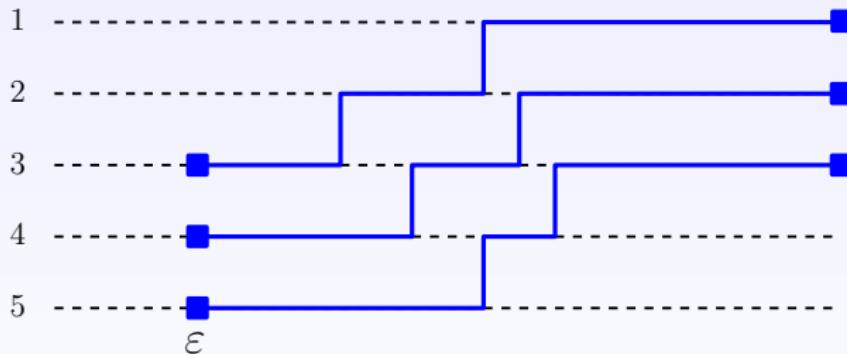
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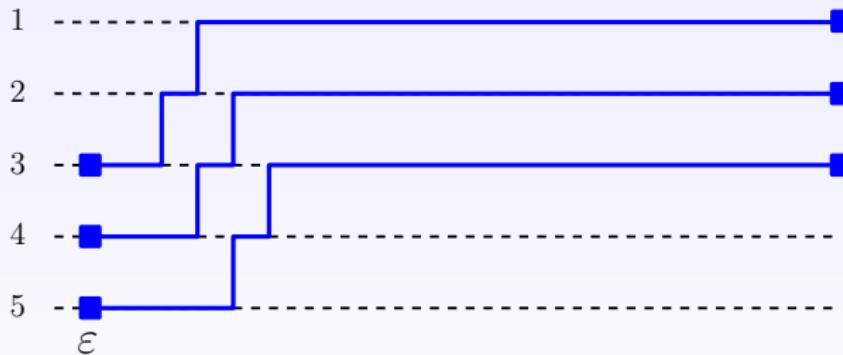
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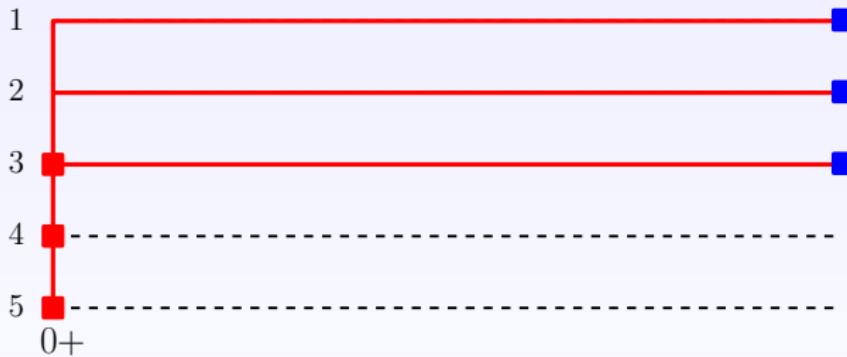
# Concentration

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# **Happy birthday Timo!**