

# Confinement of Unimodal Distributions in High Dimension and an FKG-Gaussian Correlation Inequality

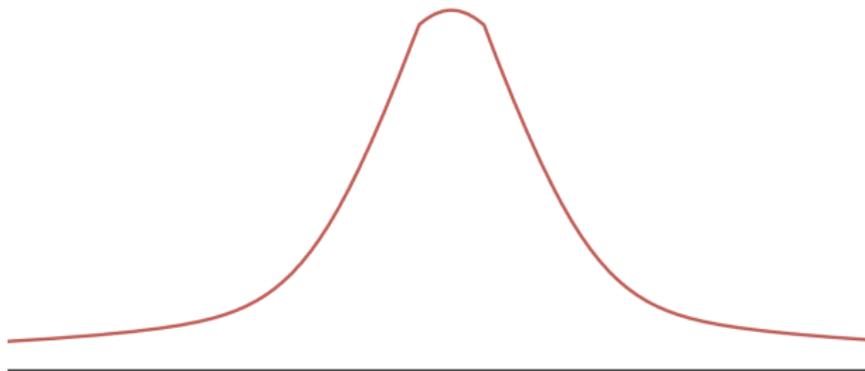
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# Motivation: Unimodal Probability Distributions

Probability distributions take many forms. Which are simplest?

In 1-dimension, the **unimodal** distributions form a very nice class.



# Reminders on Log-Concavity

A strict notion of unimodality is **log-concavity**.  $d\mu(x) = \rho(x)dx$  is:

- **Log-concave** if  $\log \rho(x)$  is concave.
- **$M$ -log-concave** if for positive-definite  $M$  and all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ :

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- $\mu$  inherits functional inequalities from  $\gamma_M$  [Bakry-Emery].
  - Spectral gap, isoperimetry, concentration.

# Unimodality without Concentration

Unfortunately, some unimodal distributions do not behave so nicely.  
Consider the two-component Gaussian mixture

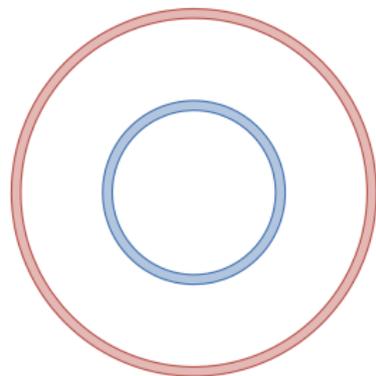
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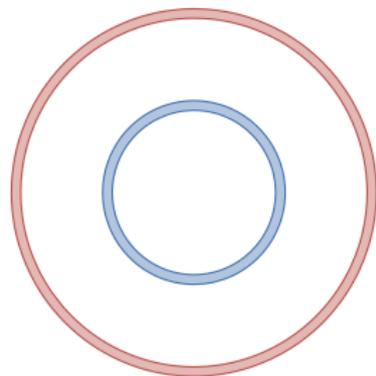


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This talk will provide one such tool.

- Results show **confinement**, which is weaker than concentration.

- 1 Ginzburg–Landau Surfaces and Main Results
- 2 Confinement from the Gaussian Correlation Inequality
- 3 The FKG-Gaussian Correlation Inequality
- 4 Putting it all together

# Discrete Gaussian Free Fields

Warmup: Gaussian free field (GFF) on locally finite graph  $G = (V, E)$ :

- Fix finite  $\Lambda \subseteq V$ , e.g.  $[-L, \dots, L]^d \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^d$ . Set  $\varphi(v) = 0$  for all  $v \notin \Lambda$ .

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- GFF is the random function  $\varphi : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with density:

$$d\mu_{G,\Lambda,GFF}(\varphi) = \frac{1}{Z_{G,\Lambda,GFF}} \exp\left(-\sum_{e=\{v,v'\} \in E} \frac{1}{2} |\varphi(v) - \varphi(v')|^2\right) \prod_{v \in \Lambda} d\varphi(v)$$

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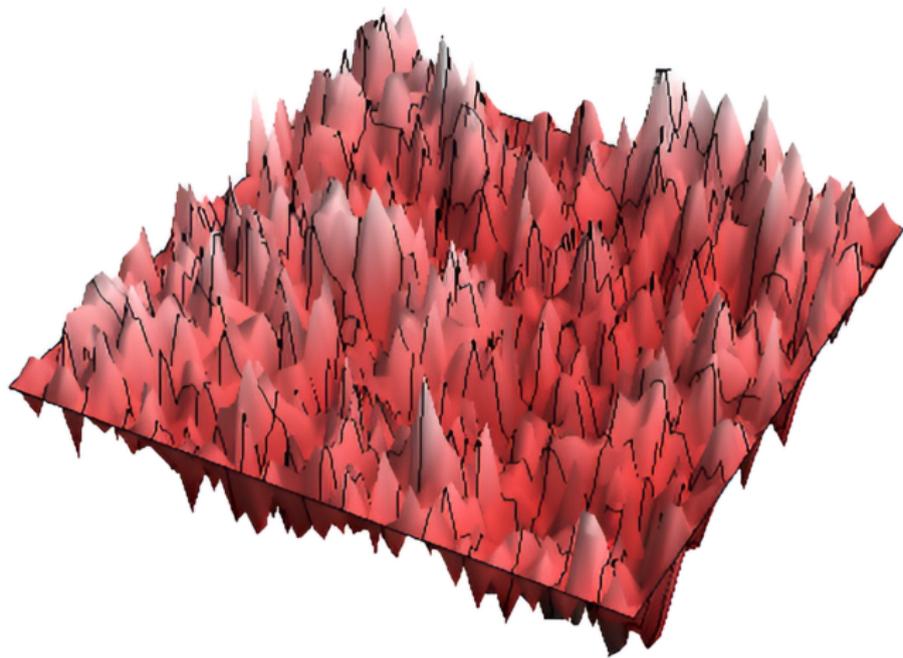
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- Models fluctuations of random interfaces.
- Lots of probabilistic interest, notably on  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  (extreme values, LQG).



Picture of GFF by Sam Watson. Here  $\Lambda = [-L, \dots, L]^2 \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2$ .

Well-known link between GFF and electrical networks:

- Let  $R_{\text{eff}}(\cdot)$  be effective resistance on  $G$ . Then

$$\mathbb{E}^{\mu_{G,\Lambda}, \text{GFF}}[\varphi(v)^2] = R_{\text{eff}}(v \leftrightarrow \partial\Lambda).$$

- More generally,  $\mathbb{E}[(\varphi(v) - \varphi(w))^2] = R_{\text{eff}}(v \leftrightarrow w)$ .
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Definition of effective resistance: the **energy** of  $f : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is

$$\mathcal{E}(f) = \sum_{e \in E} f(e)^2.$$

$R_{\text{eff}}(v \leftrightarrow w)$  is the minimum energy of any  $v \rightarrow w$  unit flow.

More general Ginzburg–Landau surfaces use non-quadratic interactions:

$$d\mu_{G,\Lambda,U}(\varphi) \equiv \frac{1}{Z_{G,\Lambda,U}} \exp\left(-\sum_{e \in E} U(\nabla\varphi(e))\right) \prod_{v \in \Lambda} d\varphi(v).$$

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- First rigorous study in [Brascamp-Lieb-Lebowitz 1975].
- Names: “Ginzburg–Landau”, “ $\nabla\varphi$ ”, “anharmonic crystal”.
- Dynamics, large deviations, fluctuations,  $\mathbb{Z}$ -valued analogs,...  
[Funaki-Spohn 97, Naddaf-Spencer 97, Deuschel-Giacomin-Ioffe 00, Sheffield 03, Miller 11, Armstrong-Dario 22, Armstrong-Wu 23...].

# Localization

We will consider the question of **localization**.

## Question

Are fluctuations of  $\varphi(v_0)$  stochastically bounded on large domains  $\Lambda \uparrow V$ ?  
If so, we say the model is **localized**. Otherwise **delocalized**.

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- Localization implies existence of infinite volume Gibbs measures.
  - One can even take this as the definition of localization.
- GFF on  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  localizes iff  $d \geq 3$ .
  - Equivalent to transience/recurrence since

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- On  $[-L, \dots, L]^2 \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2$ , one has  $\mathbb{E}[\varphi(\vec{0})^2] \approx \log L$ .
- Conjecture of [Brascamp-Lieb-Lebowitz 1975]: localization is determined by the **geometry** of  $G$ , not the potential  $U$ .
  - Proved delocalization for very general  $U \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$  on  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ .

# Localization of Ginzburg–Landau Random Surfaces

Localization is known for various  $U$  (often focused on lattices):

- Strongly convex potentials with  $\inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}} U''(x) \geq c > 0$ .
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- $e^{-U(x)}$  is a mixture of centered Gaussians (will explain soon) [Biskup-Kotecky 07, Biskup-Spohn 11, Brydges-Spencer 12, Ye 19,...].
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- [Magazinov-Peled 22]: convex  $U$  with  $U''(x) > 0$  for a.e.  $x$ .
- Still open for **Hammock potential**  $U(x) = \infty \cdot 1_{|x|>1}$ . This gives a uniformly random 1-Lipschitz  $\varphi : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

# Main Result: Localization for Monotone Potentials

We prove localization for **monotone** potentials.

## Definition ( $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ -monotonicity)

$U$  is  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ -monotone if it is even, increasing on  $\mathbb{R}^+$ , and  $U'(x) \geq \min\left(\varepsilon x, \frac{1+\alpha}{x}\right)$  for all points of differentiability  $x \geq 0$ .

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Let  $G$  be transient, and  $U$  be ( $\alpha, \varepsilon$ )-monotone for  $\alpha > 2$ . Then  $\mathbb{P}^{\mu_{G,\Lambda,U}}[|\varphi(v_0)| \geq t] \leq O(t^{-\alpha})$  uniformly in  $\Lambda \subseteq V$ , for any  $v_0 \in V$ .

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- $U_e$  can depend on edge  $e$ , as long as  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$  are uniform.
- If  $G$  is transient and **transitive**,  $\varphi(v_0)$  is tight even for  $\alpha = \varepsilon$ .
  - $\approx$  minimal condition for  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-U(x)} dx < \infty$  so  $Z_{G,\Lambda,U} < \infty$ .

# Extreme Values of the Field

These bounds are often sharp enough to understand  $\max_{v \in \Lambda} |\varphi(v)|$ .

## Theorem (Extreme Values from Polynomial Bounds)

Let  $U$  be  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ -monotone with  $\sup_{x \geq 1} |U(x) - (1 + \alpha) \log x| < \infty$  and  $\alpha > 2$ . As  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^d$  varies for  $d \geq 3$ , the laws of

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- Lower bound: condition outside a large independent set  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \Lambda$ .
- Upper bound: Markov with extra tricks to get  $2d\alpha$  in the exponent. (Split  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  into  $2d$  transient subgraphs containing the vertex  $v$ ...)

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- Similar condition for stretched exponential tails.
  - Monotonicity condition:  $U'(x) \geq \min(\varepsilon x, \varepsilon x^{\beta-1})$ , for  $\beta \in (0, 2]$ .

# General Statement without Graphs

The graph structure is irrelevant in the main result!

Let  $U$  be  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ -monotone for  $\alpha > 2$ , and  $l_1, \dots, l_j : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be linear.

Choose  $\varphi, \tilde{\varphi} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  from densities:

$$\varphi \sim \exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^j -U(l_i(\varphi))\right) d\varphi / Z_{\vec{\ell}, U},$$

$$\tilde{\varphi} \sim \exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^j -l_i(\tilde{\varphi})^2\right) d\tilde{\varphi} / Z_{\vec{\ell}, GFF}.$$

Fix any other linear function  $l_* : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $l_*(\varphi)$  is bounded **on the same scale** as the centered Gaussian  $l_*(\tilde{\varphi})$ , with  $\alpha$ -power tails.

- Recovering GFF/Ginzburg-Landau: set  $l_e(\varphi) = \varphi(v) - \varphi(v')$ .

# Preview of the Proof

The proof has two core components:

- 1 Handle the case that  $U = V$  takes the form:

$$e^{-V(x)} = \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-x^2/2\xi^2}}{\xi\sqrt{2\pi}} d\rho(\xi).$$

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- 2 Reduce to this case using the FKG-Gaussian correlation inequality. Amounts to **domination by mixtures of centered Gaussians**.
    - Dominating Gaussian mixtures must have special structure.
    - Perfectly suited for products of 1-dimensional functions.

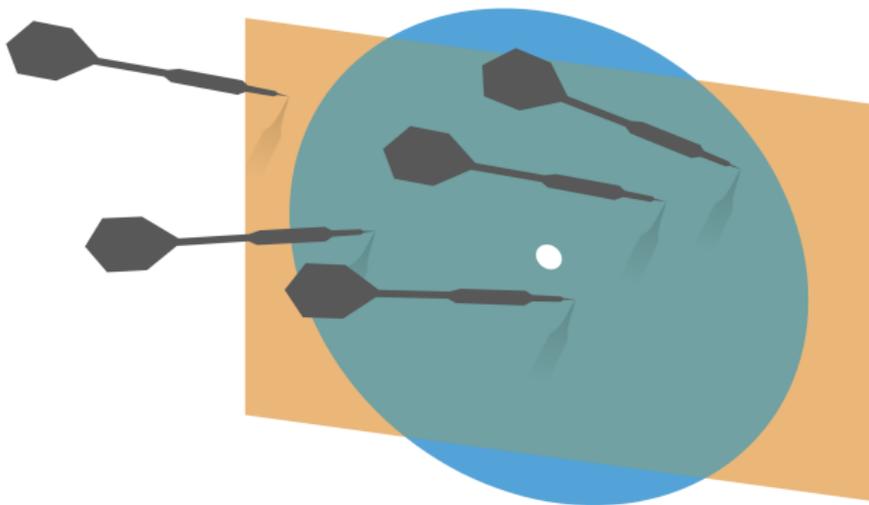
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# Royen's Gaussian Correlation Inequality

## Theorem (Royen 2014)

Let  $\gamma$  be a centered Gaussian measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $K_1, K_2 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  symmetric convex sets (i.e.  $K_i = -K_i$ ). Then  $1_{K_1}$  and  $1_{K_2}$  have non-negative correlation under  $\gamma$ , i.e.

$$\gamma(K_1 \cap K_2) \geq \gamma(K_1)\gamma(K_2).$$



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History (see 2017 Quanta article):

- Conjectured by [Dunnet-Sobel 55], [Gupta-Eaton-Perlman-Savage-Sobel 72].
- [Khatri 67, Sidak 67, Pitts 77, Schechtman-Schlumprecht-Zinn 98, Hargé 99]: special cases such as  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .
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Proof idea: for  $x, y \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \gamma$ , equivalent to

$$\mathbb{P}[x \in K_1 \wedge x \in K_2] \geq \mathbb{P}[x \in K_1, y \in K_2].$$

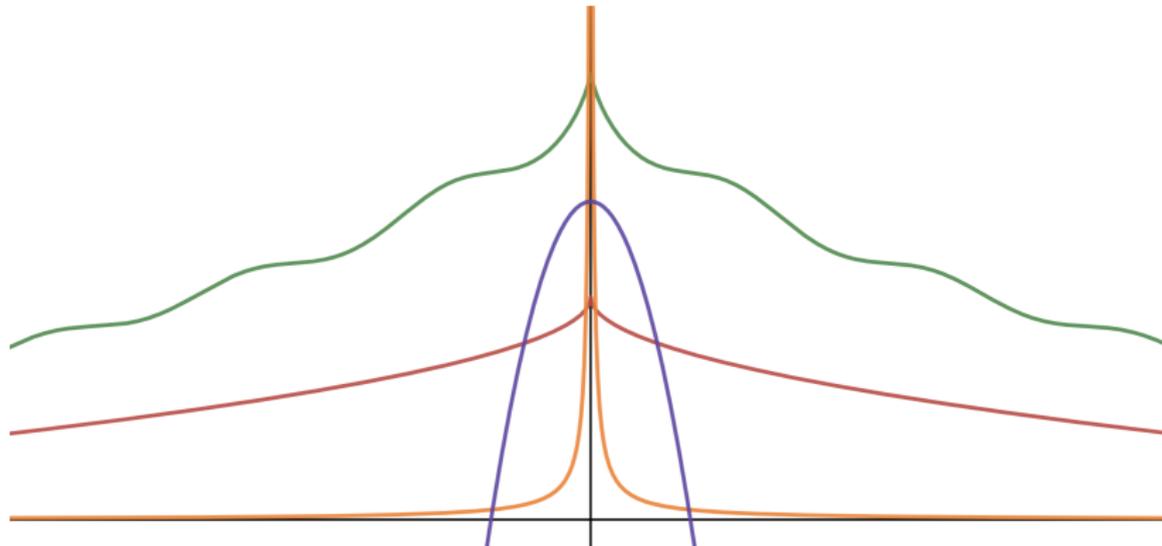
Royen showed  $f(t) = \mathbb{P}[x \in K_1 \wedge \sqrt{1-t}x + \sqrt{t}y \in K_2]$  is decreasing.

# Symmetric Quasi-Concave Functions

## Definition

$f : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is symmetric quasi-concave (SQC) if:

- $f(x) = f(-x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ .
- All super-level sets  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : f(x) \geq \lambda\}$  are convex.



GCI: if  $K_1, K_2 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  are symmetric convex, then

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By level sets, if  $f_1, \dots, f_{m+1} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  are symmetric quasi-concave,

$$\mathbb{E}^\gamma[f_1 f_2 \dots f_{m+1}] \geq \mathbb{E}^\gamma[f_1 f_2 \dots f_m] \cdot \mathbb{E}^\gamma[f_{m+1}].$$

(Products of SQC functions need not be SQC, hence the middle step.)

# GCI Yields Confinement

If  $f_1, \dots, f_{m+1} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  are symmetric quasi-concave,

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Suppose  $\gamma$  is centered Gaussian and  $\frac{dv}{d\gamma} = f_1 f_2 \dots f_m$  is a product of SQC functions. Then

$$v(K) = \mathbb{E}^\gamma \left[ \frac{dv}{d\gamma} \cdot 1_K \right] \stackrel{\text{GCI}}{\geq} \mathbb{E}^\gamma \left[ \frac{dv}{d\gamma} \right] \cdot \gamma(K) = \gamma(K)$$

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This is a form of **Gaussian domination**. We say  $v \preceq_{\text{con}} \gamma$ .

## Definition

$v \preceq_{\text{con}} \gamma$  if  $\gamma(K) \leq v(K)$  for all symmetric convex sets  $K$ .

## Application: an Easier Case of Localization

Consequence: localization on all transient  $G$  if  $U'(x) \geq \varepsilon x$  for all  $x \geq 0$ .

Why? Domination by rescaled GFF  $\gamma_\varepsilon$  with potential  $U_\varepsilon(x) = \varepsilon x^2/2$ .

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Conclusion:  $\mu_{G,\Lambda,U} \preceq_{\text{con}} \gamma_\varepsilon$ . Localization on all transient  $G$ .

This method **requires** that  $U(x) \geq \Omega(x^2)$ .  $\mu$  must have subgaussian tails to be dominated by a single Gaussian.

- 1 Results on Ginzburg–Landau Model
- 2 Confinement from the Gaussian Correlation Inequality
- 3 The FKG-Gaussian Correlation Inequality**
- 4 Putting it all together

# GCI For Gaussian Mixtures

For heavy-tailed distributions, we cannot hope for Gaussian domination.

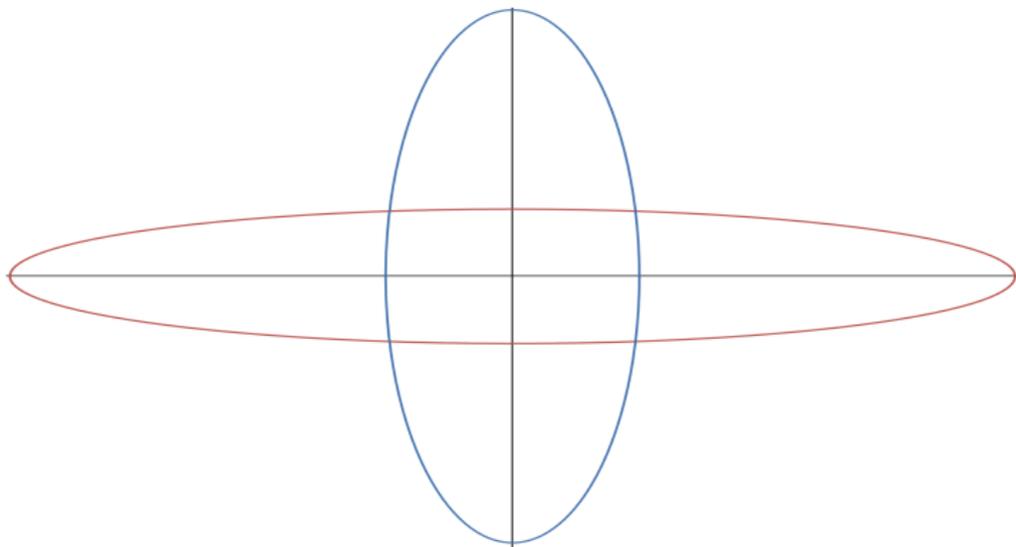
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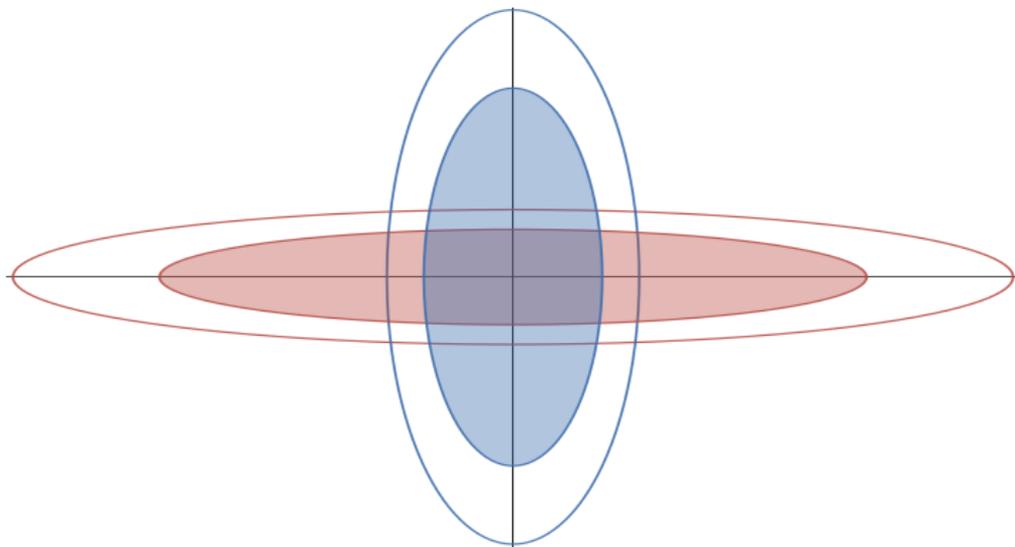


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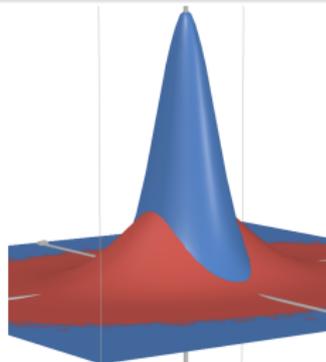
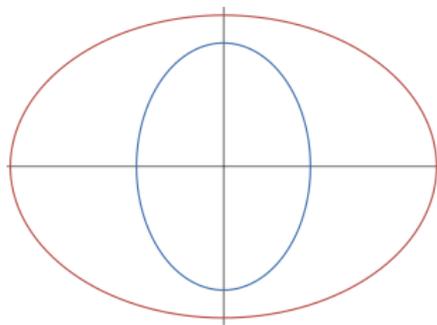
If the Gaussians have **comparable covariance**, GCI extends!!

## Theorem

Let  $\Sigma_1 \succeq_{PSD} \Sigma_2 \succeq_{PSD} 0$  be symmetric matrices. Let  $d\gamma_1(x) \propto e^{-\langle x, \Sigma_1 x \rangle}$  and  $d\gamma_2(x) \propto e^{-\langle x, \Sigma_2 x \rangle}$ . Then GCI holds for  $\mu = p\gamma_1 + (1-p)\gamma_2$ :

$$\mu(K \cap K') \geq \mu(K)\mu(K')$$

for any symmetric convex sets  $K, K'$  and  $0 \leq p \leq 1$ .



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$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mu}(K') &= q\tilde{\gamma}_1(K') + (1-q)\tilde{\gamma}_2(K') \stackrel{GCI}{\geq} q\gamma_1(K') + (1-q)\gamma_2(K') \\ &\stackrel{Rearr}{\geq} p\gamma_1(K') + (1-p)\gamma_2(K') = \mu(K'). \end{aligned}$$

# GCI For Totally Ordered Gaussian Mixtures

We can generalize further! Suppose:

- 1  $\mu = p_1\gamma_1 + \dots + p_j\gamma_j$ , with totally ordered inverse covariances  $\Sigma_1 \succeq_{PSD} \Sigma_2 \succeq_{PSD} \dots \succeq_{PSD} \Sigma_j$ .
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We need these two functions on  $\{1, 2, \dots, j\}$  to be positively correlated with respect to the probability measure  $\mathbb{P}[i] = p_i$ .

This is the rearrangement inequality, a special case of FKG.

# Log-Supermodular Gaussian Mixtures (LSGM)

## Example ( $2 \times 2$ Lattice)

Let  $p_{1,1}p_{2,2} \geq p_{1,2}p_{2,1}$ . Suppose  $d\gamma_{i,j}(x) \propto e^{-\langle x, \Sigma_{i,j}x \rangle}$  with:

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## Definition (Log-Supermodular Gaussian Mixture)

An LSGM on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a Gaussian mixture  $\Gamma_{\nu, \Sigma} = \int \gamma_{\xi} d\nu(\xi)$ . such that:

- $d\nu(x) = f(x)dx$  is log-supermodular on  $\mathbb{R}_+^k$ :

$$f(\xi)f(\xi') \leq f(\xi \wedge \xi')f(\xi \vee \xi'), \quad \forall \xi, \xi' \in \mathbb{R}_+^k.$$

- $d\gamma_{\xi}(x) \propto e^{-\langle x, \Sigma(\xi)x \rangle}$ , for some  $\Sigma : \mathbb{R}_+^k \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_+^n$ .
- $\Sigma$  is order-reversing from  $\preceq_{\text{coord}}$  to  $\preceq_{\text{PSD}}$ .

# The FKG-Gaussian Correlation Inequality

## Theorem (FKG-GCI)

For any LSGM  $\Gamma_{\nu, \Sigma}$  and symmetric convex  $K_1, K_2$ :

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For Ginzburg-Landau, it remains to express  $\mu_{G, \Lambda, U}$  as  $\tilde{\Gamma}$  above.

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$$K = \{v : |\langle v, x \rangle| \leq C\}$$

a **symmetric slab**. Then for centered Gaussian  $\gamma$ ,

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Instead of  $\preceq_{\text{con}}$ , one may consider the weaker relation

$$v \preceq_{\text{slab}} \mu$$

if  $v(K) \geq \mu(K)$  for all symmetric slabs  $K$ . Then slab GCI yields a slab-FKG-GCI inequality. This will recover all our localization results, since they concern 1-dimensional projections of  $\varphi$ .

- ① Ginzburg–Landau Surfaces and Main Results
- ② Confinement from the Gaussian Correlation Inequality
- ③ The FKG-Gaussian Correlation Inequality
- ④ **Putting it all together**

# Log-Supermodular Gaussian Mixtures from Ginzburg-Landau

Dominating LSGMs will be  $\mu_{G,\Lambda,V}$  where  $V$  takes the form:

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The Gibbs measure is a mixture of GFFs with random resistances  $\xi_e$ .

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# Log-Supermodular Gaussian Mixtures from Ginzburg-Landau

Dominating LSGMs will be  $\mu_{G,\Lambda,V}$  where  $V$  takes the form:

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Encoding: inverse covariance  $\Sigma(\vec{\xi})$  given by

$$\langle \varphi, \Sigma(\vec{\xi})\varphi \rangle = \sum_{e \in E(G)} (\varphi(v) - \varphi(v'))^2 / \xi_e^2.$$

- Clearly  $\Sigma$  is order-reversing from  $\preceq_{coord}$  to  $\preceq_{PSD}$ .

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- Elementary fact: if  $A, B, C \succeq_{PSD} 0$ , then

$$\det(A) \det(A + B + C) \leq \det(A + B) \det(A + C).$$

- This yields log-supermodularity, since  $\Sigma(\vec{\xi}) = \sum_{e \in E} F(\xi_e)$  is additive.

# Dominating Monotone Potentials by Gaussian Mixtures

If  $U'(x) \geq V'(x)$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ , the Radon–Nikodym derivative

$$\frac{d\mu_{G,\Lambda,U}}{d\mu_{G,\Lambda,V}} \propto \prod_{e \in E} e^{-U(\nabla\varphi(e)) + V(\nabla\varphi(e))}$$

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Further,  $\mu_{G,\Lambda,V}$  is dominated by the “naive product” LSGM:

$$\mu_{G,\Lambda,V} \preceq_{\text{con}} \int \mu_{G,\vec{\xi},GFF} \prod_{e \in E} d\rho(\xi_e).$$

Indeed the presence of  $G \setminus \{e\}$  only makes  $\xi_e$  smaller, so one gets stochastic domination of  $\vec{\xi}$  by  $\prod_{e \in E} \rho(\xi_e)$ . **This reduces localization to studying GFFs with IID edge resistances.**

# Dominating Monotone Potentials by Gaussian Mixtures

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## Lemma

*There exist potentials  $V(\rho)$  in centered Gaussian mixture form such that:*

- 1  $V'(x) \leq \min\left(\varepsilon x, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{x}\right), \quad \forall x \geq 0.$
- 2  $V'(x) \leq \min\left(\varepsilon x, \frac{1+\alpha}{x}\right)$  and  $\rho([t, \infty)) \leq O(t^{-\alpha}), \quad \forall t \geq 0.$
- 3  $V'(x) \leq \min\left(\varepsilon x, \varepsilon x^{\beta-1}\right)$  and  $\rho([t, \infty)) \leq e^{-\Omega(t^\beta)}, \quad \forall t \geq 0.$

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**Proof Idea:** Explicit construction. Match tail of  $\rho$  to the decay rate.

- 1  $\rho([t, \infty)) \asymp t^{-\varepsilon}.$
- 2  $\rho([t, \infty)) \asymp t^{-\alpha}.$
- 3  $\rho([t, \infty)) \asymp e^{-t^\beta}.$  □

## Theorem

Fix  $\alpha > 2$  and transient  $G$ . Let  $U$  be  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ -monotone. Then

$$\mathbb{P}^{\mu_{G,\Lambda},U}[|\varphi(v)| \geq t] \leq O(t^{-\alpha})$$

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Consider the energy-minimizing unit flow  $v \rightarrow \infty$  in the **unweighted**  $G$ . Its **weighted** energy is random and upper bounds  $R_{\text{eff}}^{(\xi)}(v \leftrightarrow \infty)$ . This is  $\sum_e a_e \xi_e^2$ , where  $\sum_e a_e = R_{\text{eff}}(v \leftrightarrow \infty) < \infty$ . Now use e.g. Jensen.  $\square$

## Theorem

*Suppose  $U$  is  $(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ -monotone, and  $p$ -bond percolation on  $G$  has transient infinite cluster for  $p \in [1 - \delta, 1]$ . Then  $\text{Law}(\varphi(v))$  is tight as  $\Lambda \uparrow \infty$ .*

(The condition holds for all transient transitive  $G$  by [Hutchcroft 23].)

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**Proof:** take  $\xi_e \sim \rho$  independent. Consider edges with  $\xi_e \leq M$ , where

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By definition, these edges form a transient infinite cluster  $\mathcal{C}$ .

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By definition, these edges form a transient infinite cluster  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Let  $w \in \mathcal{C}$  be the closest point to  $v$ . Then both  $R_{\text{eff}}^{(\xi)}(v \leftrightarrow w)$  and  $R_{\text{eff}}^{(\xi)}(w \leftrightarrow \partial\Lambda)$  are tight. Hence  $R_{\text{eff}}^{(\xi)}(v \leftrightarrow \partial\Lambda)$  is also tight.  $\square$

## A Remark on Monotonicity

We used that if  $U'(x) \geq V'(x)$  for all  $x \geq 0$ , then

$$\mu_{G,\Lambda,U} \preceq_{\text{con}} \mu_{G,\Lambda,V}.$$

This holds edge-by-edge. Hence if  $\beta_e \geq 1$  for each  $e \in E(G)$ , then

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I.e. for Gaussian-mixture potentials  $V$ , “stiffening the springs” improves confinement. [BLL75] gives a **counterexample** for

$$V(x) = x^2 + \varepsilon x^4.$$

## IV. STIFFENING THE SPRINGS DOES NOT NECESSARILY DECREASE $\langle x_0^2 \rangle$

Consider the following case with three particles, i.e.

$H = v(x) + v(x-y) + v(y-z) + v(z) + \alpha v(x-z)$  and  $x_0 = y$ . Let  $v(x) = x^2 + \varepsilon x^4$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We want to show that increasing  $\alpha$  from 0 can decrease  $\langle x_0^2 \rangle$ . Let  $g_\infty$  (resp.  $g_0$ ) be  $\langle x_0^2 \rangle$  for  $\alpha = \infty$  (resp.  $\alpha = 0$ ). Then  $g_\infty = 2 \int y^2 G(y) / \int G(y)$  and  $g_0 = \int y^2 F(y) / \int F(y)$ , with  $G(y) = \exp(-2v(y))$  and  $F(y) = R(y)^2$  where  $R = \exp(-v) * \exp(-v)$ . A simple calculation shows that for the pure harmonic case ( $\varepsilon = 0$ ),  $g_0 = g_\infty = 1/2$ . When  $\varepsilon > 0$  it is impossible to calculate the integrals, but it is possible to calculate  $g_i = dg_i/d\varepsilon|_{\varepsilon=0}$ . One finds that  $g_\infty = -3/4$  and  $g_0 = -9/8$ . Thus, for small, positive  $\varepsilon$ ,  $g_\infty > g_0$ , which is the contradiction we wished to demonstrate.

- ① Ginzburg–Landau Surfaces and Main Results
- ② Confinement from the Gaussian Correlation Inequality
- ③ The FKG-Gaussian Correlation Inequality
- ④ Putting it all together
- ⑤ **Another Application: the Fröhlich Polaron**

# The Fröhlich Polaron

Let  $d\mathbb{Q}(B)$  be the law of 3-dimensional Brownian motion.

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Given coupling strength  $\alpha \gg 1$  and time-horizon  $T \gg \alpha$ , the **Polaron path measure**  $\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T}$  is the reweighted law on paths  $B : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ :

$$d\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T}(B) \equiv \frac{1}{Z_{\alpha, T}} \exp \left( \alpha \int_0^T \int_0^T \frac{e^{-|t-s|}}{\|B_t - B_s\|} dt ds \right) d\mathbb{Q}(B).$$

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Obtained by Feynman's path integral applied to a quantum operator (modeling an electron in crystal). The “effective mass” is

$$m_{eff}(\alpha) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3T}{\mathbb{E}^{\hat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T}} \|B_T\|^2} \stackrel{?}{\approx} C_* \alpha^4.$$

[Fröhlich 37, Landau-Pekar 48, Feynman 55, Lieb 77, Donsker-Varadhan 83, Spohn 87, Lieb-Thomas 97, Lieb-Seiringer 17, Mukherjee-Varadhan 18 & 20, Dybalski-Spohn 20, Betz-Polzer 21 & 22, Brooks-Seiringer 22, S 22 ]

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Wiener measure  $\mathbb{Q}$  is Gaussian.  $B_{[0, T]} \mapsto \frac{e^{-|t-s|}}{\|\mathbf{B}_t - \mathbf{B}_s\|}$  is SQC for any  $(s, t)$ .

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In fact, the Coulomb interaction is a mixture of centered Gaussians:

$$\frac{1}{x} = \sqrt{2/\pi} \int_0^\infty e^{-u^2 x^2 / 2} du.$$

Hence  $\hat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T}$  is an (infinite dimensional) LSGM and obeys GCI.

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Now the mixture comes **inside** the exponent. The resulting Gaussian mixture representation of  $\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T}$  is indexed by a deformed Poisson process on weighted time-intervals  $([s, t]; u)$ .

## Theorem (Mukherjee-Varadhan 20)

The Polaron path measure  $\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T}$  has a mixture-of-Gaussian representation

$$\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T}(B_{[0, T]}) = \int Q_{\xi}(B_{[0, T]}) \widehat{\Theta}_{\alpha, T}(d\xi).$$

Here  $\xi = \{([s_i, t_i], u_i)\}_{i=1}^n$  is a point process of weighted intervals, and  $dQ_{\xi}(B_{[0, T]}) \propto e^{-\sum_{i=1}^n u_i^2 \|B(t_i) - B(s_i)\|^2} d\mathbb{Q}(B_{[0, T]})$ .

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- Ergodic limit  $(\widehat{\Theta}_{\alpha, T}, \widehat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T}) \rightarrow (\widehat{\Theta}_{\alpha, \infty}, \widehat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, \infty})$  as  $T \rightarrow \infty$ .
- Functional CLT for  $\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, \infty}$  [Mukherjee-Varadhan 20, Betz-Polzer 21].
  - Rigorizes path integral connection [Spohn 87, Dybalski-Spohn 20].
- Applied to show  $m_{\text{eff}}(\alpha) \gtrsim \alpha^{2/5}$  [Betz-Polzer 22].
- [S 22, Brooks-Seiringer 22]:  $\frac{\alpha^4}{C \log(\alpha)^6} \leq m_{\text{eff}}(\alpha) \leq C_* \alpha^4 + \alpha^{4-\varepsilon}$ .

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Theorem (Bazaes-Mukherjee-S-Varadhan 24; predicted in Landau-Pekar 1948)

If  $T^{0.1} \geq \alpha \gg 1$ , then  $\mathbb{E}^{\hat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T}} \|\mathbf{B}_T\|^2 \leq O(T\alpha^{-4})$ . I.e.  $m_{\text{eff}}(\alpha) \geq \Omega(\alpha^4)$ .

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Here FKG-GCI is “technical glue” for monotonicity and local-to-global arguments. Some direct consequences:

- $\alpha \mapsto m_{\text{eff}}(\alpha)$  is strictly increasing.
- $\mathbb{E} \hat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T_1+T_2} \|\mathbf{B}_{T_1+T_2}\|^2 \leq \mathbb{E} \hat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T_1} \|\mathbf{B}_{T_1}\|^2 + \mathbb{E} \hat{\mathbb{Q}}_{\alpha, T_2} \|\mathbf{B}_{T_2}\|^2$ .
- Universality: can replace  $1/x$  by “more attractive” potentials.

Idea: find many “interval chains”  $[s_1, t_1], [s_2, t_2], \dots$  with  $t_k \approx s_{k+1}$ .

The FKG-Gaussian correlation inequality is a general tool to prove confinement of high-dimensional **unimodal** probability distributions.

# Conclusion

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- Sharp bounds for Ginzburg–Landau and Polaron models:

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- Anything similar without origin-symmetry? E.g. non-zero tilts.