

# WILSON LOOPS, SHOCK WAVES AND RANDOM MATRICES

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Quantum Field Theory in Extreme Environments :

60th birthdays of Jean-Paul Blaizot and Lenny McLerran

April 23-25, 2009, Saclay - Paris

(based on ongoing work with Jean-Paul Blaizot

PRL 101 (2008) 100102 ,

(hep-th) 0902.2223

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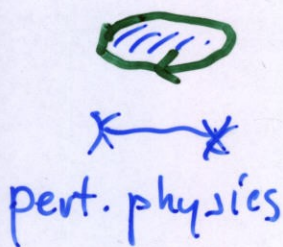
## OUTLINE:

- "Phase transition" in large  $N$  Yang-Mills
- Dynamics of eigenvalues of Wilson loop, shock waves and inverse spectral cascade
- Finite  $N$  as viscosity in the spectral flow
- Colored catastrophes and universality

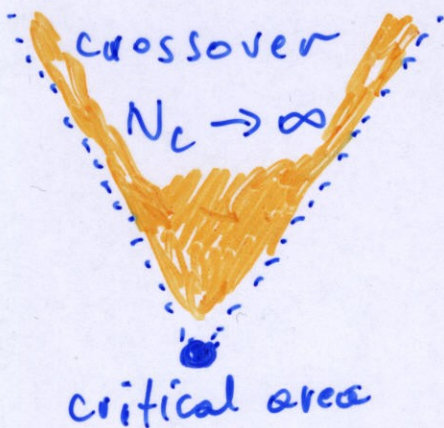
• Large  $N_c$  YM  $\leftrightarrow$  "classical limit" ( $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ )

$$W(C) = \langle P \exp i \oint A_\mu dx \rangle_{YM}$$

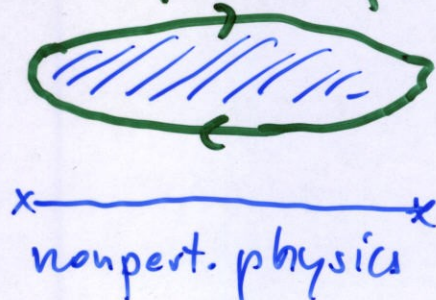
• Small loop



medium loop



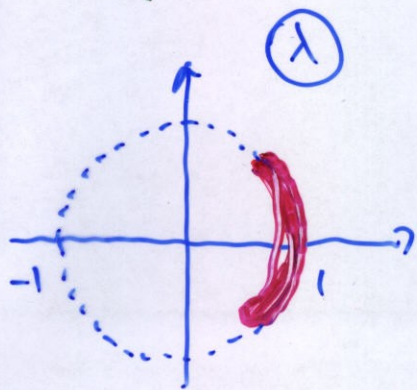
large loop



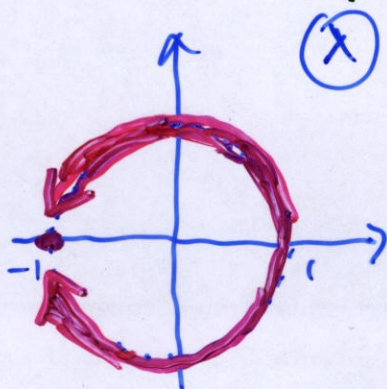
Narayanan & Neuberger, hep-th 0711.4551

• Can we achieve "classical" picture for this transition?

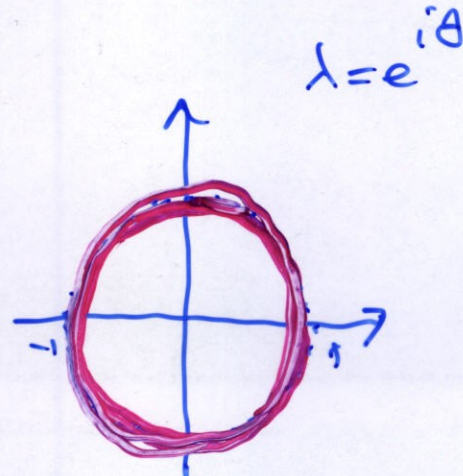
• Eigenvalues of Wilson loop



"ordered" phase



critical area  
of Wilson loop  
 $A^* = 4$

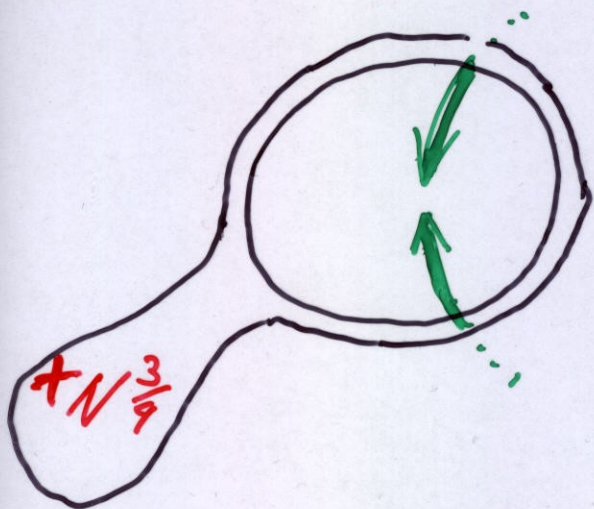


"disordered" phase

Durhuus - Olesen phase transition

# WILSON LOOPS "20 years after..."

(Numerical studies on the lattice (Narayanan & Neuberger, 2006, 2007))



UNIVERSALITY AT THE CLOSURE  
OF THE GAP ( $d=2,3,4$  YM)

$$Q_N = \langle \det(z - W(A)) \rangle$$

$$\left(\frac{4N}{3}\right)^{1/4} Q_N(z=e^{i\theta}, A) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} du e^{-u^4 - \alpha u^2 + \xi u}$$

$$\alpha = (3N)^{1/2} \left(\frac{A^*}{A} - 1\right) \quad ; \quad \xi = 12^{1/4} N^{3/4} f(\theta)$$

• Wilson loops in the 80-90'ties ( $d=2, N_c \rightarrow \infty$ )

• Spectral moments

$$W_n(A) = \langle \text{tr} W^n(A) \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} d\theta e^{in\theta} g(\theta, A) = \frac{1}{n} L_{1/n-1}^1(nA) e^{-nA/2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \oint \frac{dz}{2\pi i} \left(1 + \frac{1}{z}\right)^n e^{-nA(z + \frac{1}{z})} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n^{3/2}} \cdot \text{oscill} & A < A^* \\ \frac{1}{n^{4/2}} & A = A^* \\ \frac{1}{n^{3/2}} e^{-nf(A)} & A > A^* \end{cases}$$

• generating function  $F(\theta, A)$ :  $g(\theta, A) = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} F(\theta - i\epsilon, A)$

$$F(\theta, A) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} d\alpha \frac{g(\alpha, A)}{\theta - \alpha} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} d\alpha g(\alpha, A) \cot\left(\frac{\theta - \alpha}{2}\right)$$

$$= i \left( \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} W_n(A) e^{-in\theta} \right)$$

• dynamical equation for  $F(\theta, A)$

$$\partial_A F(\theta, A) + F(\theta, A) \partial_{\theta} F(\theta, A) = 0$$

$(F = \pi H[g(\theta)] + i\pi g(\theta))$  "Kramers-Kronig"

Olesen, Durhuus, Rossi, Kazakov, Douglas, Gross, Kostov, Gopakumar, Metytsin, Migdal, Makeenko ...

Voiculescu (Free Random Variables) ...

Complex analogon of Burgers equation (?)

$$\partial_t f(\theta, t) + f(\theta, t) \partial_{\theta} f(\theta, t) = v_s \partial_{\theta\theta} f(\theta, t)$$

## • Solution of complex Burgers

→ Method of characteristics = trick to convert PDE into ODE

$$\partial_A F + F \partial_\theta F = 0$$

$$F(A=0, \theta) = F_0(\theta)$$

$$F(A, \theta) = F_0(\xi)$$

$$\xi = \theta - A F_0(\xi)$$

straight lines on which velocity is constant  
 "position" "time" "velocity"

- Singularity  $\frac{\partial F}{\partial \theta} = \infty$   $\frac{\partial F}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial \xi} \frac{d\xi}{d\theta} = \frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial \xi}}{\frac{d\theta}{d\xi}}$

$$0 = \frac{d\theta}{d\xi} = 1 + A F_0'(\xi)$$

- Expanding around singularity

$$F_0(\xi) \Big|_{\text{sing}} = F_0(\xi_s) + \frac{dF_0}{d\xi} (\xi - \xi_s) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2 F_0}{d\xi^2} (\xi - \xi_s)^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \frac{d^3 F_0}{d\xi^3} (\xi - \xi_s)^3$$

$$= -\frac{1}{A}$$

can be zero at inflexion point

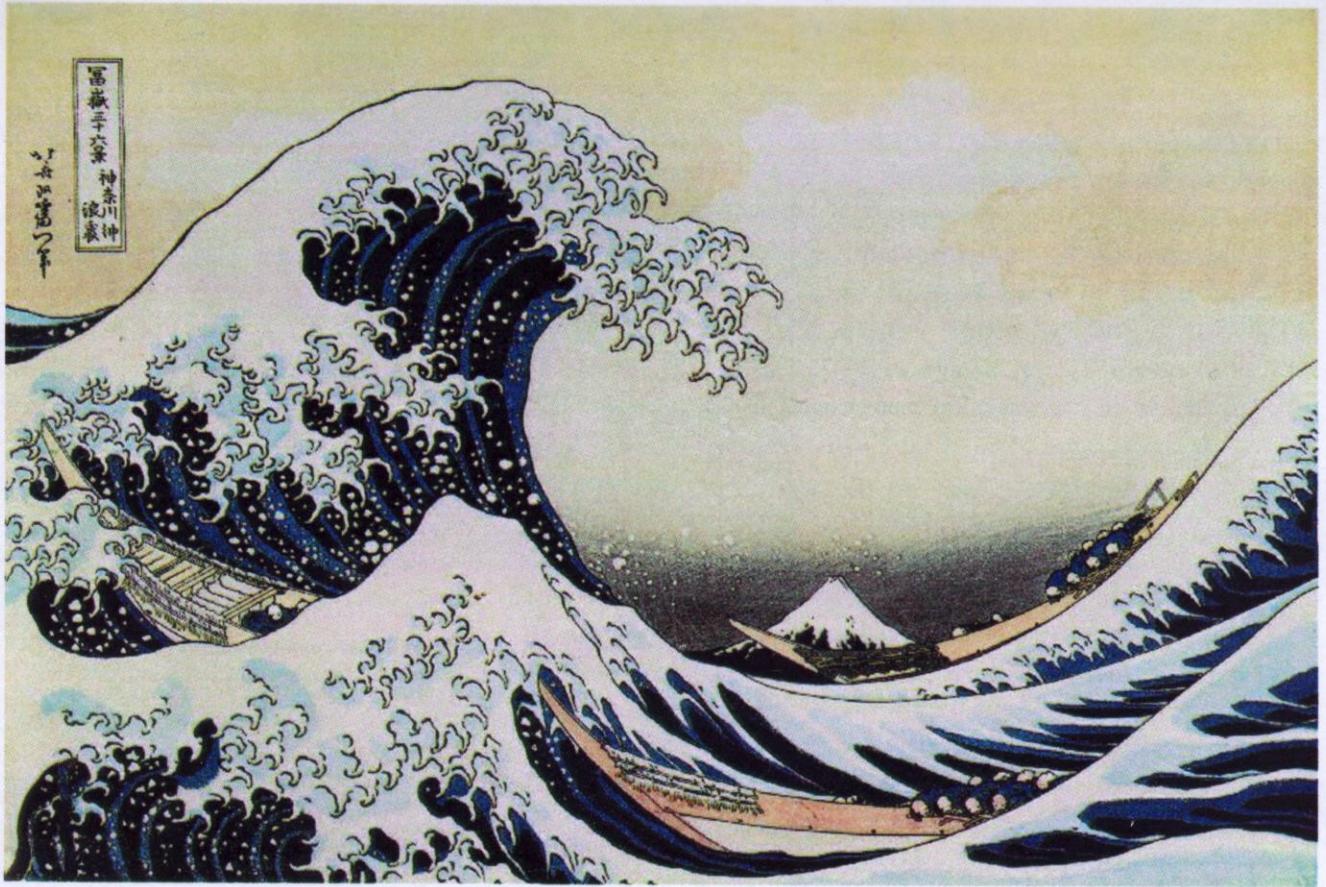
- Tracing complex singularities teaches us on Fourier components (moments)

$$(\theta - \theta_s)^k \leftrightarrow w_n = |n|^{-(k+1)} e^{-n \text{Im} \theta_s} \text{Re} e^{in \text{Re} \theta_s}$$

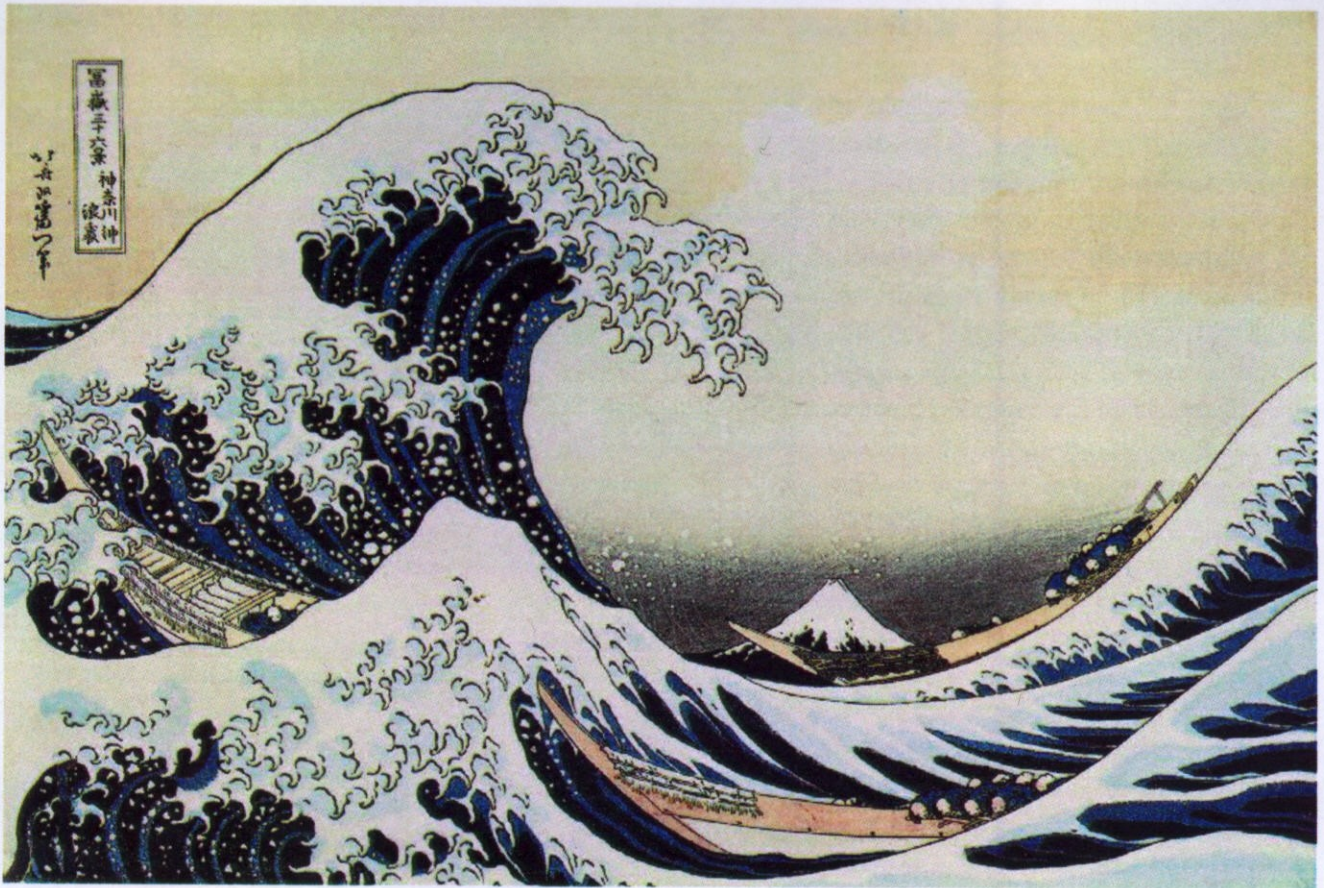
## THREE REGIMES:

- GAPPED PHASE: LAMINAR "FLOW", REAL SQUARE ROOT SINGULARITY AT THE EDGE OF THE SPECTRUM (SPECTRAL MOMENTS  $\omega_n \sim n^{-(\frac{1}{2}+1)}$  x OSCILLATIONS)
- CRITICAL POINT: (TSUNAMI) TWO SQUARE ROOT SINGULARITIES COLLIDE AT  $A = \pi$  FORMING CUBIC ROOT SINGULARITY (SPECTRAL MOMENTS  $\omega_n \sim n^{-(\frac{1}{3}+1)}$ )
- GAPLESS PHASE: SQUARE ROOT SINGULARITIES EVOLVE ALONG IMAGINARY AXIS (SPECTRAL MOMENTS  $\omega_n \sim n^{-(\frac{1}{2}+1)}$  x EXPONENTIAL DAMPING)

HIGH FOURIER MODES ARE BEING "EATEN"  
BY LOWER ONES (INVERSE SPECTRAL TURBULENT CASCADE).  
AT  $A = \infty$  ONLY CONSTANT MODE SURVIVES  
(DISORDER)







"Behind the Great Wave at Kanagawe" (by Mokusei)  
Color woodcut, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

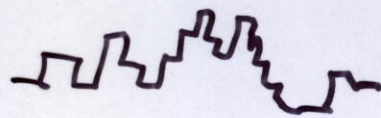
ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSALITY IN  $d=2,3,4$  ???  
(FINITE  $N$  SCALING) ???

.. "After considerable and fruitless effort to develop a Newtonian theory of ensembles, we discovered that the correct procedure is quite different and much simpler. The  $x_i$  should be interpreted as positions of particles in Brownian motion..."

Freeman J. Dyson, J. Math. Ph. 3 (1962) 1191

# RANDOM WALKER VS RANDOM CROWD

## • Random walker (Abelian additive case)



(i)  $x \rightarrow x + \delta x$

$$dx(t) = e(x) dt + dB(t)$$

increment = drift + noise

$$\langle \delta x^2(t) \rangle \sim dt$$

(Einstein's diffusion)

Langvin picture - realization of stochastic process

## (ii) Smoluchowski - Fokker-Planck picture

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} p(x(t)) = \left( e(x) \partial_x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \right) p(x(t))$$

↑ from drift      ↑ from noise

## • Random crowd (Non-Abelian additive case)

$$H \rightarrow H + \delta H$$

Matrix elements  $\xrightarrow{\text{Jacobian!}}$  Matrix eigenvalues

$$V \equiv \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j) \sim e^{\sum_i i c_i \ln(x_i - x_i)}$$

Effective potential (or singular electric field  $\propto \frac{1}{x_i - x_j}$ )

$$\langle \delta x_i \rangle = E(x_i) dt$$

$$\langle \delta x_i^2 \rangle \sim dt$$

Interacting Brownian walk (nonlinearities)

Exact equation:

$$\frac{\partial \bar{f}(x,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{f}(x,t)}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int dy \frac{\bar{f}(x,y,t)}{x-y}$$

$$\langle AB \rangle \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle$$

$$\bar{f}(x) = N \rho$$

$$\bar{f}(x,y) = N(N-1) \rho(x,y)$$

$$\tau = Nt$$

$$\bar{f}(x,y) = \bar{f}(x) \bar{f}(y) + \bar{\rho}_{\text{conn}}(x,y)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho(x)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \rho(x) \int dy \frac{\rho(y)}{x-y} = \frac{1}{2N} \frac{\partial^2 \rho(x)}{\partial x^2} + \int dy \frac{\rho_{\text{conn}}(x,y)}{x-y}$$

vanishes when  $N \rightarrow \infty$

•  $N \rightarrow \infty$   $\partial_\tau G(z,\tau) + G(z,\tau) \partial_z G(z,\tau) = 0$

$$G(z,\tau) = \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} \frac{1}{z - H(\tau)} \right\rangle = \int \frac{\rho(y,\tau) dy}{z-y}$$

•  $N$  finite (time dep. orthogonal polynomials)  $\pi_k(z,\tau)$

$$f_k(z,\tau) \equiv 2v_s \partial_z \ln \pi_k(z,\tau) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{z - \bar{x}_i(\tau)}$$

$$\partial_\tau f_k + f \partial_z f_k = -v_s \partial_z^2 f_k$$

$$v_s = \frac{1}{2N}$$

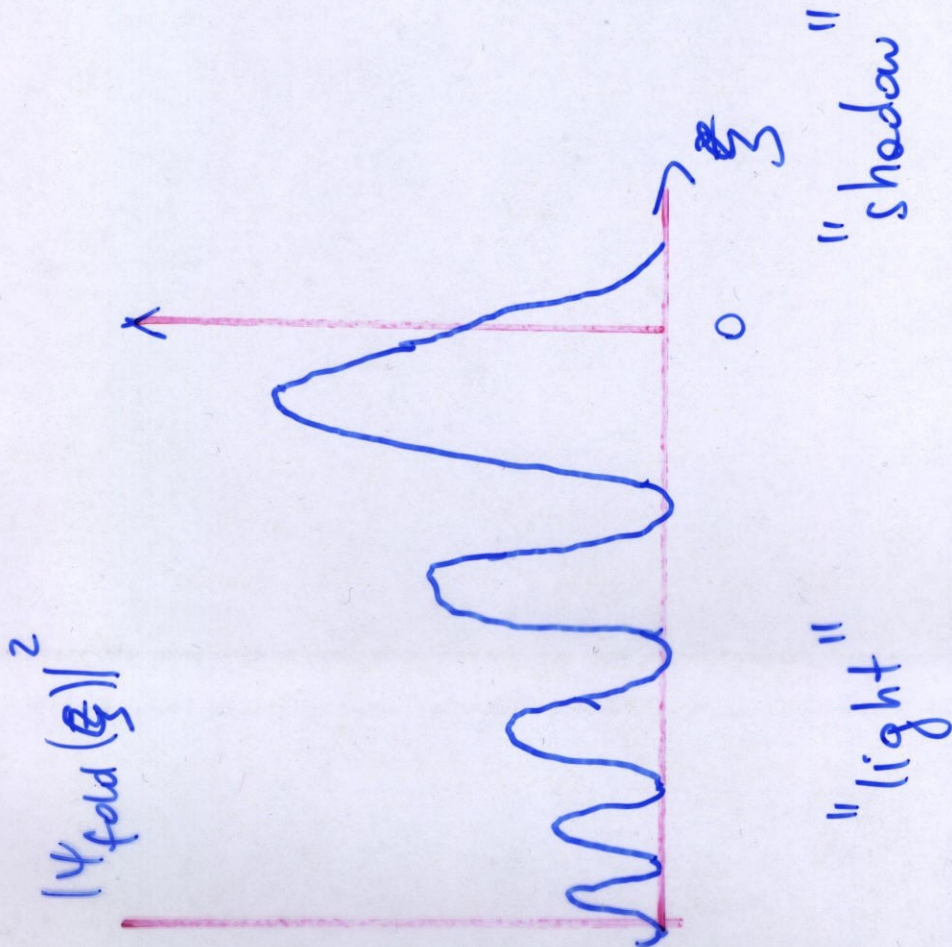
• Since  $\langle \det(z - H(\tau)) \rangle = \pi_N(z,\tau)$

$$\frac{1}{N} \partial_z \ln \langle \det(z - H) \rangle \underset{N \rightarrow \infty}{\approx} \frac{1}{N} \partial_z \langle \ln \det(z - H) \rangle = G(z)$$

Exact Burgers equation for characteristic polynomials

• At the edge: Universal prechock

(Airy function)



## Multiplicative random walks

- Abelian (trivial):  $e^{x+y} = e^x e^y$  (lognormal pdf)
- Non-Abelian (Wilson loop): Non-trivial  $e^{A+B} \neq e^A e^B$

BUT

- SFD EXACTLY SOLVABLE (CALOGERO-SUTHERLAND MODEL)
- HIERARCHY OF BURGERS EQUATIONS FOR CERTAIN "MONIC" POLYNOMIALS (BLAIZOT, JANIK, MAN)
- EXACT BURGERS EQUATION FOR DENSITY OF YANG-LEE ZEROS (NEUBERGER)

$$\phi_N(y, A) = \frac{1}{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \ln \left( e^{N/2(\tau/2 - y)} \langle \det(e^y - W(A)) \rangle \right)$$

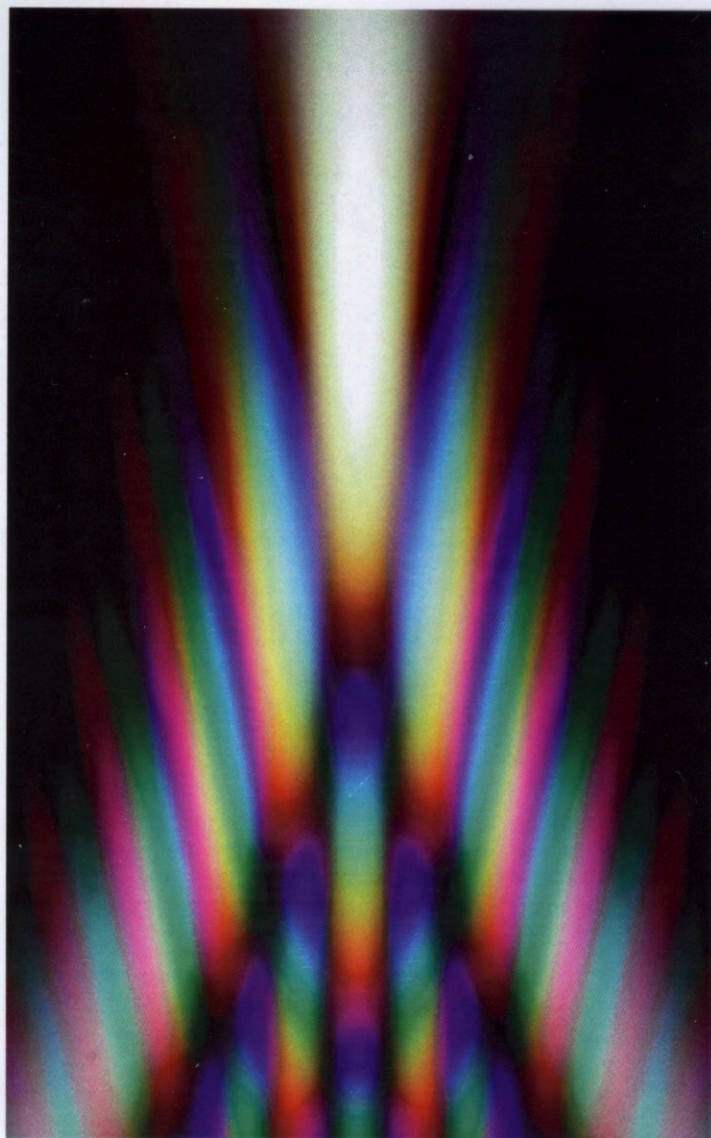
$$\frac{\partial \phi_N}{\partial A} + \phi_N \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \phi_N = \frac{1}{2N} \frac{\partial^2 \phi_N}{\partial y^2}$$

- Novel feature - due to boundary conditions, "left" and "right" Airy preshocks can collide forming "Pearcey preshock"



- UNIVERSALITY  $\equiv$  CENTRAL LIMIT THEOREM FOR LARGE UNITARY MATRICES

(sir M. Berry)



Modulus of cusp catastrophe (Pearcey)

Interference "fringes" scale in  
an anisotropic way ( $N^{1/2}$  versus  $N^{3/4}$ )

# ANALOGY WITH "CLASSICAL PHYSICS":

## MORPHOLOGY OF SINGULARITY (THOM, BERRY, HOWLS)

### GEOMETRIC OPTICS ( $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ )

- TRAJECTORIES: RAYS OF LIGHT
- INTENSITY SURFACE: CAUSTICS

$$N = \infty \quad \text{YM} \quad v_5 = \frac{1}{2N} = 0$$

- TRAJECTORIES: CHARACTERISTICS
- SINGULARITIES OF SPECTRAL FLOW

### WAVE OPTICS ( $k \rightarrow 0$ )

$$\text{FINITE } N \quad \text{YM} \quad (\text{viscosity} \rightarrow 0)$$

} UNIVERSAL SCALING: ARNOLD ( $\mu$ ) and BERRY ( $\delta$ ) INDICES }

### "WAVE PACKET" SCALING (INTERFERENCE)

$$\Psi \approx \frac{1}{\lambda^\mu} \psi \left( \frac{x}{\lambda^{\delta_x}}, \frac{y}{\lambda^{\delta_y}} \right)$$

$$\bullet \text{ fold } \mu = \frac{1}{6}, \quad \delta = \boxed{\frac{2}{3}}, \quad \text{Airy}$$

$$\bullet \text{ cusp } \mu = \frac{1}{4}, \quad \delta_x = \boxed{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \delta_y = \boxed{\frac{3}{4}}$$

Pearcey

### $\Upsilon$ -L ZEROS SCALING (FINITE $N$ )

- $\Upsilon$ -L zeroes of Wilson loop

$$\bullet N^{\boxed{\frac{2}{3}}} \text{ scaling at the edge}$$

$$\bullet N^{\boxed{\frac{1}{2}}} \text{ and } N^{\boxed{\frac{3}{4}}} \text{ scaling}$$

at the closure of the gap  
(Neuberger results for  $d=2,3,4$ )



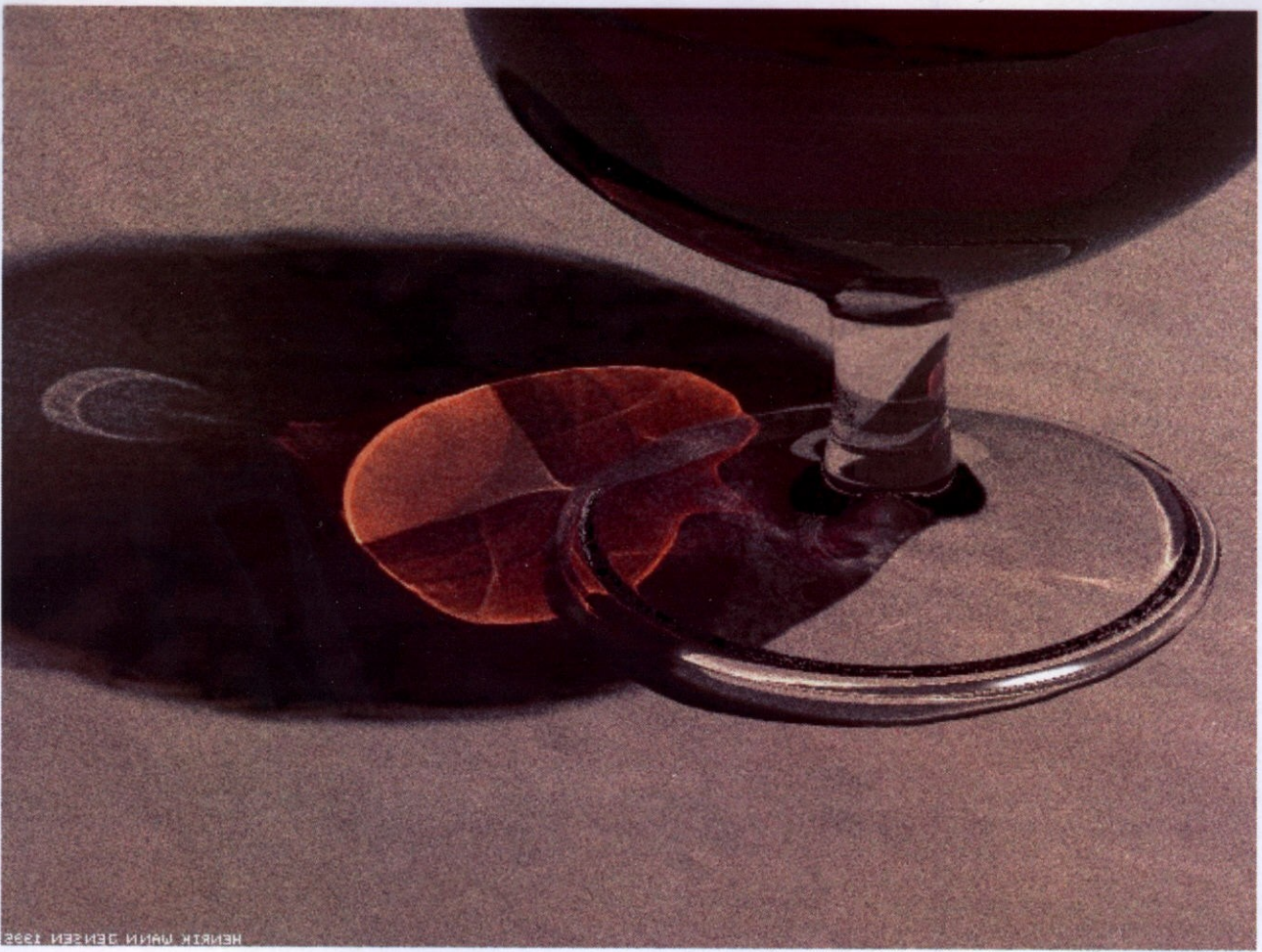
## CONCLUSIONS:

- "DISORDERED PHASE" REPRESENTS NON-ABELIAN CLT  
(NON-LINEAR EFFECTS, SHOCK WAVES)
- FINITE  $N \rightarrow$  VISCOSITY
- NEW PARADIGM: CONFINED PHASE IS "NATURAL",  
DECONFINEMENT IS A CHALLENGE
- INTERDISCIPLINARY ANALOGIES: (MESOSCOPIC SYSTEMS),  
(KPZ), (DIFFRACTION CATASTROPHES), (GEOSTROPHIC EQUATIONS..)

## CHALLENGES

- DYNAMICS OF  $d=3, d=4$  YM (RENORMALIZATION OF THE W. LOOP)
- FINITE  $T$  PICTURE
- HOW FAR CAN "PLATONIAN SHADOW" OF FULL YM DYNAMICS  
CAN HELP US TO UNDERSTAND YM?
- MATTER FIELDS
- SUPERSYMMETRIC GENERALIZATIONS

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HENRIK WANN DENZEN 1992

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,  
JEAN-PAUL AND LARRY !!!