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# SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF THE GRAM MATRIX OF MIXTURE MODELS

FLORENT BENAYCH-GEORGES AND ROMAIN COUILLET

**ABSTRACT.** This text is devoted to the asymptotic study of some spectral properties of the Gram matrix  $W^T W$  built upon a collection  $w_1, \dots, w_n \in \mathbb{R}^p$  of random vectors (the columns of  $W$ ), as both the number  $n$  of observations and the dimension  $p$  of the observations tend to infinity and are of similar order of magnitude. The random vectors  $w_1, \dots, w_n$  are independent observations, each of them belonging to one of  $k$  classes  $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k$ . The observations of each class  $\mathcal{C}_a$  ( $1 \leq a \leq k$ ) are characterized by their distribution  $\mathcal{N}(0, p^{-1}C_a)$ , where  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  are some non negative definite  $p \times p$  matrices. The cardinality  $n_a$  of class  $\mathcal{C}_a$  and the dimension  $p$  of the observations are such that  $n_a/n$  ( $1 \leq a \leq k$ ) and  $p/n$  stay bounded away from 0 and  $+\infty$ . We provide deterministic equivalents to the empirical spectral distribution of  $W^T W$  and to the matrix entries of its resolvent (as well as of the resolvent of  $WW^T$ ). These deterministic equivalents are defined thanks to the solutions of a fixed-point system. Besides, we prove that  $W^T W$  has asymptotically no eigenvalues outside the bulk of its spectrum, defined thanks to these deterministic equivalents. These results are directly used in our companion paper [9], which is devoted to the analysis of the spectral clustering algorithm in large dimensions. They also find applications in various other fields such as wireless communications where functionals of the aforementioned resolvents allow one to assess the communication performance across multi-user multi-antenna channels.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

**1.1. Introduction.** In this article, we consider the Gram matrix  $W^T W$ , where  $W = [w_1, \dots, w_n]$ ,  $w_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$ , is a collection of independent random vectors. Each  $w_i$  belongs to one of  $k$  classes  $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k$ , with  $\mathcal{C}_a$  ( $1 \leq a \leq k$ ) the class of vectors distributed as  $\mathcal{N}(0, p^{-1/2}C_a)$ , where  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  are some non negative definite  $p \times p$  matrices.

This  $k$ -fold class setting comes in naturally in the field of machine learning and in statistical problems such as kernel spectral clustering (see the companion paper [9], where the present results find direct applications). Clustering algorithms are methods used to discover unknown subgroups or clusters in data: they seek partitions of the data into distinct groups so that the observations within each group are the most similar to one another

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and the observations belonging to different groups are the most dissimilar from each other. The most commonly used such algorithms are  $k$ -means, the hierarchical clustering and EM [12, 15]. Spectral clustering techniques (see *e.g.* [20, 17]) make use of the spectrum of a similarity matrix of the data or of a more involved derived version of it (such as the associated *Laplacian matrix*) to perform dimensionality reduction before clustering in fewer dimensions, usually thanks to one of the previously mentioned algorithms. More specifically, given  $n$  observations  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}^p$  one wants to cluster, one chooses a similarity measurement, such as  $\kappa(x_i, x_j) := f(\frac{\|x_j - x_i\|^2}{p})$ , for a well chosen decreasing function  $f$ , and defines the *similarity matrix*  $A := [\kappa(x_i, x_j)]_{i,j=1}^n$ . Then, each observation  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$  is replaced by its projection  $y_i$  onto the linear span of the  $k$  leading eigenvectors of the similarity matrix  $A$  or of its “Laplacian”  $L := [\frac{\kappa(x_i, x_j)}{\sqrt{d_i d_j}}]_{i,j=1}^n$ , where, for each  $i$ ,  $d_i := \sum_j \kappa(x_i, x_j)$ , and  $k$ -means (or another aforementioned standard algorithms) is then performed on  $y_1, \dots, y_n$ . It appears in our companion article [9] that, when the observations  $x_i$  belong to classes, such that  $x_i = \mu_a + p^{1/2}w_i$  for some  $w_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, p^{-1}C_a)$  when falling in class, say,  $\mathcal{C}'_a$ , the performance of the clustering algorithm relies on theoretical results on the spectrum and the resolvent of the aforementioned matrix  $W^\top W$ , some of which are stated and proved here.

Another class of applications is found in the field of wireless communications, where, letting  $W_a = [w_{\sum_{j=1}^{a-1} n_j + 1}, \dots, w_{\sum_{j=1}^a n_j}] \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n_j}$ ,  $w_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, p^{-1}C_a)$  be the communication channel between a  $p$ -antenna transmitter and an  $n_a$ -antenna receiver and  $\sigma^2$  some ambient noise variance, functionals of the type  $\log \det(WW^\top + \sigma^2 I_p)$  or  $\text{tr } W_a^\top W_a (WW^\top + \sigma^2 I_p)^{-1}$  are instrumental to evaluate the maximally achievable communication rate across the channel, see *e.g.* [16, 8].

The purpose of the present paper is to prove several technical results concerning the resolvent matrices of  $W^\top W$  and  $WW^\top$ , which are then used, along with other arguments, to obtain a deterministic equivalent for the empirical spectral measure of  $W^\top W$  as  $n, p \rightarrow \infty$  while  $n/p$  remains away from 0 and  $\infty$ , and to show that no eigenvalue can be found at macroscopic distance from the support of this measure. Some of these results and related questions (which we sometimes rederive for completion) can be found scattered in the literature: as in [8], where the same model is considered but only linear functionals of the empirical spectral measure of  $W^\top W$  are considered, or in [22, 21, 10, 1] where the spectral analyses of different models are considered, leading in particular to analogous equations to those introduced in Proposition 3 below (some of the results of [22, 21] are immediate corollaries of our present results), or else in [3, 4, 5, 7, 19], where the question of isolated eigenvalues of related matrix models was also considered.

**1.2. Model presentation.** Let us start by introducing some notations. *In what follows, everything, when not mentioned as constant or fixed, depends implicitly on the parameters  $n, p, \dots$  introduced below.*

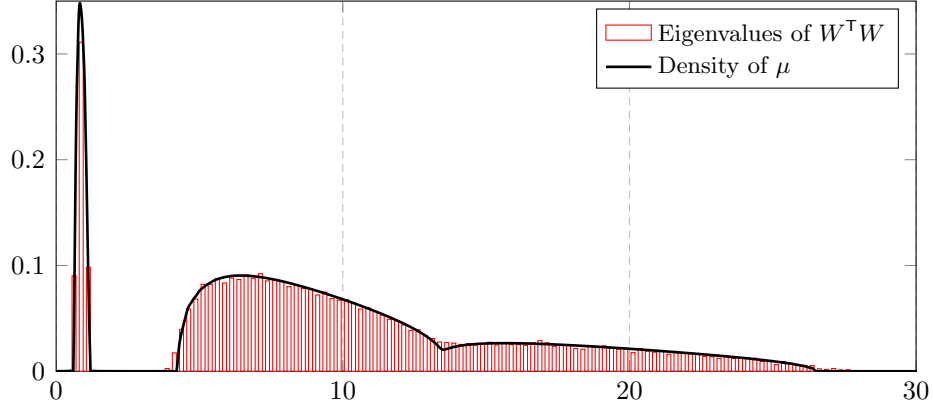


FIGURE 1. Eigenvalues of  $W^T W$  (across 1 000 realizations) versus  $\mu$ ,  $n = 32$ ,  $p = 256$ ,  $k = 3$ ,  $c_1 = 1/8$ ,  $c_2 = 5/8$ ,  $c_3 = 1/4$ ,  $[C_a]_{ij} = (8(a-1) + 1)[(a-1)/5]^{|i-j|}$ . The density of  $\mu$  is computed as detailed in Remark 4.

Let  $k$  be fixed,  $n, p, n_1, \dots, n_k$  be some positive integers all tending to infinity such that  $n_1 + \dots + n_k = n$  and such that the ratios

$$c_0 = \frac{p}{n}, \quad c_a = \frac{n_a}{n} \quad (a = 1, \dots, k)$$

all stay bounded away from 0 and  $+\infty$ . We also introduce some positive semi-definite  $p \times p$  matrices  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  which we suppose to be bounded, in operator norm, by a constant, and some standard real Gaussian matrices

$$Z_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n_1}, \dots, Z_k \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n_k}$$

and define the  $p \times n$  random matrix  $W$  by

$$W := p^{-1/2} [C_1^{1/2} Z_1, \dots, C_k^{1/2} Z_k].$$

In what follows, we will be interested in the *empirical spectral distribution*  $\mu_{W^T W}$  of  $W^T W$  (*i.e.* the uniform probability measure on the spectrum of  $W^T W$ ) and in the matrix entries of the *resolvents*

$$Q_z := (W^T W - z)^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{Q}_z := (W W^T - z)^{-1}.$$

**1.3. Main results.** Recall that everything, when not mentioned as *constant*, depends implicitly on the parameters  $n, p, z, \dots$ . On the contrary, a *constant* element is non random and independent of all other parameters. Two elements are said to be at a *macroscopic distance* from each other if there is a constant  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that their distance is lower-bounded by  $\varepsilon$ . We define the *Stieltjes transform* of a probability measure  $\mu$  as the function

$$m_\mu(z) := \int \frac{\mu(dt)}{t - z}.$$

**Theorem 1.** *The measure  $\mu$  defined by its Stieltjes transform*

$$m_\mu(z) = c_0 \sum_{a=1}^k c_a g_a(z), \quad (1)$$

where the vector  $(g_1(z), \dots, g_k(z))$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ , is defined by Proposition 3, is a deterministic probability measure (depending on  $n, p, \dots$ ) with compact support  $\mathcal{S}$  such that we have the almost sure convergences

$$\mu_{W^\top W} - \mu \longrightarrow 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{dist}(\text{Spec}(W^\top W), \mathcal{S} \cup \{0\}) \longrightarrow 0. \quad (3)$$

Besides, if the matrices  $C_1, \dots, C_k, I_p$  are all positive definite and linearly independent,  $m_\mu(z)$  extends continuously from  $\mathbb{C}^+ := \{z \in \mathbb{C}, \Im(z) > 0\}$  to  $\mathbb{C}^+ \cup \mathbb{R}^*$  and, except for a possible atom at zero,  $\mu$  has a continuous density given by  $\frac{1}{\pi} \Im(m_\mu(x))$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}^*$ ).

**Remark 2.** We believe that the technical assumption that  $C_1, \dots, C_k, I_p$  are all positive definite and linearly independent to obtain a continuous limiting density can be relaxed. As it stands though, since an  $\varepsilon$  perturbation of  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  can always ensure these conditions while modifying  $\text{Spec}(W^\top W)$  in a controlled manner, we have that for all large  $n, p$ ,  $\text{Spec}(W^\top W)$  is close to a spectrum having continuous deterministic equivalent and still defined by the equations of Proposition 3 below, with some slightly perturbed versions of the matrices  $C_a$ .

The vector  $(g_1(z), \dots, g_k(z))$  mentioned in Theorem 1 is defined explicitly in the following proposition.

**Proposition 3** (Definition of  $g_1(z), \dots, g_k(z)$ ). *For any  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ , there is a unique vector  $(g_1(z), \dots, g_k(z)) \in \mathbb{C}^k$  (depending on  $n, p, \dots$ ) such that for each  $a$ ,*

$$\Im z \Im g_a(z) \geq 0, \quad \Im z \Im(z g_a(z)) \geq 0, \quad c_0 |g_a(z)| \leq (\Im z)^{-1} \quad (4)$$

and

$$c_0 g_a(z) = -\frac{1}{z} \frac{1}{1 + \tilde{g}_a(z)}, \quad \tilde{g}_a(z) = -\frac{1}{z} \frac{1}{p} \text{tr} C_a \left( I_p + \sum_{b=1}^k c_b g_b(z) C_b \right)^{-1}. \quad (5)$$

Besides, the first two inequalities in (4) are in fact strict and the functions  $c_0 g_a(z)$  ( $a = 1, \dots, k$ ) are the Stieltjes transforms of some  $\mathbb{R}_+$ -compactly supported probability measures  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k$ .

**Remark 4.** It appears in the proof of Proposition 3 that the functions  $g_a$  (hence the function  $m_\mu$ , by (1)) can be computed numerically in a very efficient way thanks to a fixed point convergence. Then, choosing  $z = x + i\eta$  close to the real line, we get a good approximation of the measure  $\mu$  of Theorem 1 as  $\mu \approx \frac{1}{\pi} \Im(m_\mu(x + i\eta)) dx$ .

At the core of the proof of Theorem 1 is the following result. For  $A, B$  some random square matrices with the size tending to infinity, the notation  $A \leftrightarrow B$  stands for the fact that we have the convergences in probability  $\frac{1}{n} \text{tr} D(A - B) \rightarrow 0$  and  $d_1^\top (A - B) d_2 \rightarrow 0$  for all deterministic matrix  $D$  and deterministic vectors  $d_i$  of bounded norms.

**Proposition 5** (Deterministic Equivalents). *Let  $\mathcal{S} := \cup_{a=1}^k \text{supp}(\nu_a)$ . For any  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  at macroscopic distance from  $\mathcal{S} \cup \{0\}$ , we have*

$$Q_z \leftrightarrow \bar{Q}_z := c_0 \text{diag} \{g_a(z) 1_{n_a}\}_{a=1}^k \quad (6)$$

$$\tilde{Q}_z \leftrightarrow \bar{\tilde{Q}}_z := -\frac{1}{z} \left( I_p + \sum_{a=1}^k c_a g_a(z) C_a \right)^{-1}. \quad (7)$$

Proposition 5 by itself finds immediate applications in the aforementioned area of wireless communications, where functionals of the type  $-\frac{1}{p} \log Q_x$  or  $w_i^* Q_x w_i$  are fundamental quantities to evaluate achievable communication rates [8], or in machine learning where some more involved linear statistics of the Gram matrix  $XX^\top$ , with  $X = p^{-\frac{1}{2}}[\mu_1 1_{n_1}^\top, \dots, \mu_k 1_{n_k}^\top] + W$  a Gaussian mixture sample, carries relevant information for data classification and clustering [9]. For these applications, further results such as central limit theorems [16] or higher order statistics are required. For completion, we provide below some additional results that come in handy into this scope.

**Proposition 6** (Further Deterministic Equivalents). *For any  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$  at macroscopic distance from  $\mathcal{S} \cup \{0\}$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{z_1} \mathcal{D}_a Q_{z_2} &\leftrightarrow \bar{Q}_{z_1} \mathcal{D}_a \bar{Q}_{z_2} + \sum_{b=1}^k R_{ab}(z_1, z_2) \bar{Q}_{z_1} \mathcal{D}_b \bar{Q}_{z_2} \\ \tilde{Q}_{z_1} C_a \tilde{Q}_{z_2} &\leftrightarrow \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_1} C_a \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_2} + \sum_{b=1}^k R_{ba}(z_1, z_2) \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_1} C_b \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_2} \\ \frac{1}{p} \tilde{Q}_{z_1} W \mathcal{D}_a W^\top \tilde{Q}_{z_2} &\leftrightarrow z_1 z_2 c_0 c_a g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2) \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_1} C_a \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_2} \end{aligned}$$

where  $R(z_1, z_2)_{ab} = \frac{c_a}{c_b} [(I_k - \Omega(z_1, z_2))^{-1} \Omega(z_1, z_2)]_{ab}$  with, for  $1 \leq a, b \leq k$ ,

$$\Omega(z_1, z_2)_{ab} = c_0 c_b z_1 g_a(z_1) z_2 g_a(z_2) \frac{1}{p} \text{tr} C_a \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_1} C_b \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_2}.$$

Although it appears only at this point, the matrix  $\Omega(z_1, z_2)$  is a cornerstone of the proof of Theorem 1. It is in particular related to the derivative of the  $g_a(z)$ 's introduced in Proposition 3 as follows

$$\{g'_a(z)\}_{a=1}^k = c_0 (I_k - \Omega(z, z))^{-1} \{g_a^2(z)\}_{a=1}^k.$$

## 2. PROOFS: PRELIMINARY APPROXIMATION LEMMA

Here, we denote the Hadamard product (*i.e.* entry-wise product) of matrices or vectors by  $\odot$ . We shall also use both superscript notations  $(\cdot)^\top$  and  $(\cdot)^*$  to denote transpose and Hermitian transpose of matrices and vectors.

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $z, \underline{z} \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$  and  $(g_a)_{a=1}^k, (\underline{g}_a)_{a=1}^k \in \mathbb{C}^k$  such that for each  $a$ ,*

$$\Im(z)\Im(g_a) \geq 0, \quad \Im(z)\Im(zg_a) \geq 0, \quad c_0|g_a| \leq |\Im z|^{-1} \quad (8)$$

*(and the same for  $\underline{g}_a, \underline{z}$ ) and  $(\varepsilon_a)_{a=1}^k, (\underline{\varepsilon}_a)_{a=1}^k, (\eta_a)_{a=1}^k, (\underline{\eta}_a)_{a=1}^k \in \mathbb{C}^k$  such that for each  $a = 1, \dots, k$ , we have*

$$c_0g_a = \frac{1}{-z(1 + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + \eta_a)} + c_0\varepsilon_a \quad ; \quad c_0\underline{g}_a = \frac{1}{-\underline{z}(1 + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + \underline{\eta}_a)} + c_0\underline{\varepsilon}_a,$$

with

$$\bar{\bar{Q}} := -z^{-1} \left( I_p + \sum_{a=1}^k c_a g_a C_a \right)^{-1} \quad ; \quad \bar{\bar{Q}} := -\underline{z}^{-1} \left( I_p + \sum_{a=1}^k c_a \underline{g}_a C_a \right)^{-1}.$$

Then:

(i) *We have*

$$(I - \Omega)(\underline{g} - g) = c_0(\underline{z} - z + \underline{z}\underline{\eta} - z\eta) \odot (\underline{g} - \underline{\varepsilon}) \odot (g - \varepsilon) + \underline{\varepsilon} - \varepsilon$$

for

$$\Omega = \Omega(z, \underline{z}, g, \underline{g}, \varepsilon, \underline{\varepsilon}, \eta, \underline{\eta}) := [c_0 z \underline{z} (\underline{g}_a - \underline{\varepsilon}_a)(g_a - \varepsilon_a) c_b \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}}]_{a,b=1}^k.$$

(ii) *For  $C := \max_a \|C_a\|$ , we have*

$$\rho(\Omega) \leq 1 - \min \left\{ \frac{(\Im z)^2}{|z|(|\Im z| + C)}, \frac{(\Im \underline{z})^2}{|\underline{z}|(|\Im \underline{z}| + C)} \right\}^2 + \|\varepsilon\|_\infty + \|\underline{\varepsilon}\|_\infty + c_0(|z|\|\eta\|_\infty + |\underline{z}|\|\underline{\eta}\|_\infty).$$

(iii) *There are  $P, Q$  some polynomials with non negative coefficients and  $c_1 > 0$  such that for  $\alpha := \max\{\|\varepsilon\|_\infty, \|\underline{\varepsilon}\|_\infty, \|\eta\|_\infty, \|\underline{\eta}\|_\infty\}$ , we have*

$$\alpha \leq c_1 \min\{|\Im z|^4, |\Im \underline{z}|^4, |z|^{-3}, |\underline{z}|^{-3}\} \implies \|\underline{g} - g\| \leq (|\underline{z} - z| + \alpha) P(|z| + |\underline{z}|) Q(|\Im z|^{-1} + |\Im \underline{z}|^{-1}).$$

*Proof.* Note first that by the hypotheses  $zg_a, \underline{z}\underline{g}_a \in \mathbb{C}^+$ , we have that  $\|\bar{\bar{Q}}\| \leq |\Im z|^{-1}$ . It follows that

$$|c_0g_a| \geq |z|^{-1} \frac{1}{1 + C|\Im z|^{-1} + |\eta_a|}, \quad (9)$$

for  $C = \max_a \|C_a\|_\infty$ . The same kind of inequalities hold for  $\bar{\bar{Q}}$  and  $\underline{g}_a$ .

We have

$$c_0(\underline{g}_a - g_a) = c_0(\underline{\varepsilon}_a - \varepsilon_a) + c_0(\underline{g}_a - \underline{\varepsilon}_a) - c_0(g_a - \varepsilon_a)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= c_0(\underline{\varepsilon}_a - \varepsilon_a) + \frac{1}{z(1 + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + \eta_a)} - \frac{1}{\underline{z}(1 + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + \underline{\eta}_a)} \\
&= c_0(\underline{\varepsilon}_a - \varepsilon_a) + \frac{\underline{z} - z + \underline{z}\underline{\eta}_a - z\eta_a + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr}(C_a(\underline{z}\bar{\bar{Q}} - z\bar{\bar{Q}}))}{z\underline{z}(1 + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + \eta_a)(1 + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + \underline{\eta}_a)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Now, one has to notice that as  $\bar{\bar{Q}}^{-1} + \underline{z}I_p = -\underline{z} \sum_{b=1}^k c_b \underline{g}_b C_b$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
z \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + z\underline{z} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} \bar{\bar{Q}} &= z \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} (\bar{\bar{Q}}^{-1} + \underline{z}) \bar{\bar{Q}} \\
&= -z\underline{z} \sum_{b=1}^k c_b \underline{g}_b \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}}
\end{aligned}$$

In the same way, as  $\bar{\bar{Q}}^{-1} + zI_p = -z \sum_{b=1}^k c_b g_b C_b$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\underline{z} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + z\underline{z} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} \bar{\bar{Q}} &= z \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} (\bar{\bar{Q}}^{-1} + z) \bar{\bar{Q}} \\
&= -z\underline{z} \sum_{b=1}^k c_b g_b \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}}
\end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{tr}(C_a(\underline{z}\bar{\bar{Q}} - z\bar{\bar{Q}})) &= \underline{z} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + z\underline{z} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} \bar{\bar{Q}} - (z \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + z\underline{z} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} \bar{\bar{Q}}) \\
&= z\underline{z} \sum_{b=1}^k c_b \underline{g}_b \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}} - z\underline{z} \sum_{b=1}^k c_b g_b \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}} \\
&= z\underline{z} \sum_{b=1}^k c_b (\underline{g}_b - g_b) \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}}
\end{aligned}$$

and that

$$\begin{aligned}
c_0(\underline{g}_a - g_a) &= c_0(\underline{\varepsilon}_a - \varepsilon_a) + \frac{\underline{z} - z + \underline{z}\underline{\eta}_a - z\eta_a + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr}(C_a(\underline{z}\bar{\bar{Q}} - z\bar{\bar{Q}}))}{z\underline{z}(1 + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + \eta_a)(1 + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} + \underline{\eta}_a)} \\
&= c_0(\underline{\varepsilon}_a - \varepsilon_a) + c_0^2(\underline{g}_a - \underline{\varepsilon}_a)(g_a - \varepsilon_a) \times \\
&\quad \left( \underline{z}\underline{\eta}_a - z\eta_a + (\underline{z} - z) + z\underline{z} \sum_{b=1}^k c_b (\underline{g}_b - g_b) \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

We directly deduce (i).

To prove (ii), let us first treat the case where  $\underline{z} = z^*$  and  $\underline{\varepsilon}_a = \varepsilon_a^*$ ,  $\underline{g}_a = g_a^*$  for each  $a$ . If  $\Im(z) > 0$  (the other case can be treated in the same way), it is easy to see that  $\Omega$  has



positive entries (as  $\operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{Q} C_b \bar{Q} = \operatorname{tr} C_a^{1/2} \bar{Q} C_b^{1/2} (C_a^{1/2} \bar{Q} C_b^{1/2})^*$ ) and that we have, by (i),

$$(I - \Omega)\mathfrak{S}(g) = c_0 \mathfrak{S}(z) |g - \varepsilon|^2 + \underbrace{\frac{c_0}{2} (\eta \underline{z} - \eta z) + \frac{1}{2} (\underline{\varepsilon} - \varepsilon)}_{:= \kappa}.$$

Thus  $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}^k$  and if  $u = (u_1, \dots, u_k)$  is a left eigenvector of  $\Omega$  associated with  $\rho(\Omega)$  such that for all  $a$ ,  $u_a \geq 0$  and  $\sum_{a=1}^k u_a = 1$  (as per Lemma 17 in the appendix), then we have

$$(1 - \rho(\Omega)) \sum_{a=1}^k u_a \mathfrak{S}(g_a) = c_0 \mathfrak{S}(z) \sum_{a=1}^k u_a |g_a - \varepsilon_a|^2 + u^\top \kappa,$$

which implies, using successively (8) and (9),

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \rho(\Omega) &= c_0 \frac{\sum_{a=1}^k u_a |g_a|^2}{\sum_{a=1}^k u_a \mathfrak{S}(c_0 g_a) (\mathfrak{S}(z))^{-1}} + u^\top \kappa \\ &\geq c_0^2 \frac{\sum_{a=1}^k u_a |g_a|^2}{\sum_{a=1}^k u_a (\mathfrak{S}(z))^{-2}} + u^\top \kappa \\ &= (c_0 \mathfrak{S}(z))^2 \sum_{a=1}^k u_a |g_a|^2 + u^\top \kappa \\ &\geq \left( \frac{(\mathfrak{S}z)^2}{|z|(|\mathfrak{S}z| + C)} \right)^2 + u^\top \kappa, \end{aligned}$$

so that the spectrum of  $\Omega$  is contained in the ball with center 0 and radius

$$1 - \left( \frac{(\mathfrak{S}z)^2}{|z|(|\mathfrak{S}z| + C)} \right)^2 + \|\varepsilon\|_\infty + c_0 |z| \|\eta\|_\infty.$$

To treat the general case, just use Lemmas 18 and 19 from the appendix and notice that

$$|\operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{Q} C_b \bar{Q}| = |\operatorname{tr} C_a^{1/2} \bar{Q} C_b^{1/2} C_b^{1/2} \bar{Q} C_a^{1/2}| \leq \sqrt{\operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{Q} C_b \bar{Q} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{Q} C_b \bar{Q}}$$

from which it follows that  $\rho(\Omega(z, \underline{z}, \dots)) \leq \sqrt{\rho(\Omega(z, z^*, \dots)) \rho(\Omega(\underline{z}, \underline{z}^*, \dots))}$  and then use  $\sqrt{AB} \leq \max(A, B)$  for  $A, B > 0$ .

At last, (iii) follows from the formula of the inverse of a matrix in terms of the determinant and of the minors.  $\square$

### 3. PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3

**3.1. Uniqueness.** Note that for each fixed  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ , if there exist two vectors

$$(g_1(z), \dots, g_k(z)) \quad \text{and} \quad (\underline{g}_1(z), \dots, \underline{g}_k(z))$$

satisfying (4) and the equations (5), then one can apply Lemma 7 with  $\varepsilon = \eta = 0$ : by (i), we get that  $(I - \Omega)(\underline{g} - g) = 0$ , whereas by (ii) we know that  $\rho(\Omega) < 1$ , which implies that  $g = \underline{g}$ .

**3.2. Existence.** Note first that one can focus on  $\mathbb{C}^+$  and then extend to  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$  by the formula  $g_a(z^*) = g_a(z)^*$ . We shall first prove that there is a unique collection of functions of  $z$  satisfying the weakened version of conditions (4) given by (10) and the equations (5).

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the set of analytic functions  $g : \mathbb{C}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$ ,

$$\Im g(z) \geq 0, \quad \Im(zg(z)) \geq 0, \quad c_0|g(z)| \leq |\Im z|^{-1} \quad (10)$$

For  $\eta > 0$ , we define, for  $g, \underline{g} \in \mathcal{L}$ ,

$$d_{\mathcal{L},\eta}(g, \underline{g}) := \sup_{\Im z \geq \eta} |\underline{g}(z) - g(z)|.$$

By the analytic continuation principle, this is obviously a distance.

**Lemma 8.**  $d_{\mathcal{L},\eta}$  is a complete distance on  $\mathcal{L}$ .

*Proof.* Note first that by Montel theorem  $\mathcal{L}$  is a compact subset of the set of analytic functions on  $\mathbb{C}^+$  endowed with the topology of uniform convergence on compact sets. Let  $(g_n)$  be a Cauchy sequence in  $(\mathcal{L}, d_{\mathcal{L},\eta})$ . Then there is an analytic function  $g$  defined on  $\{z; \Im z > \eta\}$  such that on  $\{z; \Im z > \eta\}$ ,  $(g_n)$  converges uniformly to  $g$ . Besides, any accumulation point of  $(g_n)$  in the set of analytic functions on  $\mathbb{C}^+$  endowed with the topology of uniform convergence on compact sets coincides with  $g$  on  $\{z; \Im z > \eta\}$ , hence  $g$  is the restriction to  $\{z; \Im z > \eta\}$  of an element of  $\mathcal{L}$ , and  $(g_n)$  converges to  $g$  in  $(\mathcal{L}, d_{\mathcal{L},\eta})$ .  $\square$

We denote  $\mathcal{L}^k = \mathcal{L} \times \cdots \times \mathcal{L}$ .

**Lemma 9.** Let  $\Psi : \mathcal{L}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^k$  be defined by  $\Psi(g_1, \dots, g_k) = (f_1, \dots, f_k)$ , where

$$c_0 f_a(z) = - \frac{1}{z - \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a (I_p + \sum_{b=1}^k c_b g_b(z) C_b)^{-1}} \quad (a = 1, \dots, k) \quad (11)$$

Then  $\Psi$  is well defined and admits a unique fixed point in  $\mathcal{L}^k$ .

*Proof.* Let us first make two remarks. First, for  $C, D$  some non negative definite Hermitian matrices,  $\operatorname{tr} CD = \operatorname{tr} C^{1/2} D^{1/2} (C^{1/2} D^{1/2})^* \geq 0$ . By linear combination, if  $C, D$  are only Hermitian matrices,  $\operatorname{tr} CD \in \mathbb{R}$ . Secondly, let  $A$  be an invertible matrix such that  $A = X + iY$ , with  $X, Y$  Hermitian matrices such that  $Y$  non negative definite. Then

$$A^{-1} = A^{-1} A^* (A^{-1})^* = A^{-1} X (A^{-1})^* - i A^{-1} Y (A^{-1})^*$$

has a skew-Hermitian part which has the form  $i$  times a non positive definite matrix.

From both of these remarks, we deduce that for  $g_1, \dots, g_k \in \mathbb{C}$ , we have

$$\Im g_1 \geq 0, \dots, \Im g_k \geq 0 \implies \Im \operatorname{tr} C_a (I_p + \sum_{b=1}^k c_b g_b C_b)^{-1} \leq 0$$

and

$$\Im(zg_1) \geq 0, \dots, \Im(zg_k) \geq 0 \implies \Im \operatorname{tr} C_a(zI_p + \sum_{b=1}^k c_b z g_b C_b)^{-1} \leq 0,$$

so that  $\Psi : \mathcal{L}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^k$  is well defined.

Let now  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that for any  $p \times p$  matrices  $X, Y$ ,

$$\|Y - I_p\|, \|X - I_p\| \leq \varepsilon \implies \|Y^{-1} - X^{-1}\| \leq 2\|Y - X\|.$$

Let  $\eta_0 > 0$  be such that

$$\sum_{b=1}^k c_b \eta_0^{-1} \|C_b\| \leq \varepsilon.$$

Now, fix  $g, \underline{g} \in \mathcal{L}^k$  and set  $f, \underline{f} := \Psi(g), \Psi(\underline{g})$ . For any  $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$  such that  $\Im z \geq \eta_0$ , and any  $a = 1, \dots, k$ , we have, for  $G := \sum_{b=1}^k c_b g_b(z) C_b$  and  $\underline{G} := \sum_{b=1}^k c_b \underline{g}_b(z) C_b$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\underline{f}_a(z) - f_a(z)| &= \frac{c_0^{-1}}{\left| \left( z - \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} \frac{C_a}{I_p + G} \right) \left( z - \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} \frac{C_a}{I_p + \underline{G}} \right) \right|} \left| \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} (C_a((I_p + G)^{-1} - (I_p + \underline{G})^{-1})) \right| \\ &\leq 2c_0^{-1} k (\Im z)^{-2} \max_a \|C_a\|^2 \max_a |\underline{g}_a(z) - g_a(z)| \end{aligned}$$

We deduce that for  $\eta_0$  large enough, if one endows  $\mathcal{L}^k$  with the product distance defined by  $d_{\mathcal{L}, \eta}$ , then  $\Psi$  is a contraction. By the previous lemma, it allows one to conclude.  $\square$

**3.3. Conclusion of the proof.** The functions  $g_1, \dots, g_k$  are analytic on  $\mathbb{C}^+$  and satisfy (10) and the equations (5). Using  $\Im(zg(z)) \geq 0$  in (5), one easily gets that for each  $a$ ,

$$\lim_{\Im z \rightarrow +\infty} c_0 z g_a(z) = -1.$$

This proves that the  $c_0 g_a$ 's are the Stieltjes transforms of some probability measures  $\nu_a$ , hence that for each  $a$ ,

$$\Im g_a(z) > 0, \quad c_0 |g_a(z)| \leq |\Im z|^{-1}$$

Besides, as

$$\Im(zg_a(z)) \geq 0,$$

the  $g_a$ 's are supported on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ , hence  $\Im(zg_a(z)) > 0$ .

Now, it remains to prove that the  $\nu_a$ 's have compact supports. For any  $d, \varepsilon > 0$ , let  $\mathcal{F}_{d, \varepsilon}$  denote the set of continuous functions  $g : \{z; \Re z \geq d, \Im z \geq 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that for all  $z \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $g(z) \in \mathbb{R}$  and for all  $z \notin \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\Im g(z) \geq 0, \quad \Im(zg(z)) \geq 0, \quad |g(z)| \leq \varepsilon.$$

Clearly, when endowed with the distance

$$d_{\mathcal{F}_{d, \varepsilon}}(g, \underline{g}) := \sup_{\Re z \geq d, \Im z \geq 0} |\underline{g}(z) - g(z)|,$$

$\mathcal{F}_{d,\varepsilon}$  is a complete metric space. Let  $\Phi : \mathcal{F}_{d,\varepsilon}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{d,\varepsilon}^k$  be defined by  $\Phi(f_1, \dots, f_k) = (h_1, \dots, h_k)$ , where

$$c_0 h_a(z) = -\frac{1}{z - \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} \frac{C_a}{I_p + \sum_{b=1}^k c_b f_b(z) C_b}} \quad (a = 1, \dots, k) \quad (12)$$

Then by the same kind of computations as in the proof of Lemma 9, one proves that for  $a$  large enough and  $\varepsilon$  small enough,  $\Phi$  is well defined and admits a unique fixed point in  $\mathcal{F}_{d,\varepsilon}^k$ . By the pointwise uniqueness we already proved, this fixed point must coincide with the vector  $(g_1, \dots, g_k)$  on  $\{z; \Re z \geq d, \Im z > 0\}$ . We deduce that the functions  $g_1, \dots, g_k$  can be extended as continuous functions on  $\mathbb{C}^+ \cup [d, +\infty)$  taking real values on  $[d, +\infty)$ . By [2, Th. 2.4.3], we conclude that the measures  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k$  have supports contained in  $[0, d]$ .

#### 4. PROOF OF PROPOSITION 5

In this section we shall use the notation  $u_p = O(v_p)$  for a sequence  $u_p$  possibly depending on other parameters  $(i, i', z, \dots)$  such that there are some polynomials  $P, Q$  with non negative coefficients such that uniformly in all parameters,

$$u_p \leq v_p P(|z|) Q(|\Im z|^{-1}).$$

For  $M = M_p$  a matrix,  $M_p = O_{\|\cdot\|}(v_p)$  means that the operator norm  $\|M\|$  of  $M$  satisfies

$$\|M\| = O(v_p).$$

Also, for  $X$  a (possibly multidimensional) random variable, we set

$$\overset{\circ}{X} := X - \mathbb{E}X.$$

At last, for each  $a = 1, \dots, k$ , we define  $j_a \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$  as the column vector with  $i$ -th entry equal to 1 if  $n_1 + \dots + n_{a-1} < i \leq n_1 + \dots + n_a$  and to 0 otherwise and set  $\mathcal{D}_a$ , the diagonal  $n \times n$  matrix with diagonal  $j_a$ .

**4.1. Boundedness of  $WW^\top$ .** We shall use the following lemma, following from the fact that

$$WW^\top = p^{-1} \sum_{a=1}^k C_a^{1/2} Z_a Z_a^\top C_a^{1/2}$$

and that as is well known (e.g. by [11, Lem. 7.3]), there are  $t_0, c_0 > 0$  constant such that for all  $t > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\max_{a=1, \dots, k} p^{-1} \|Z_a Z_a^\top\| > t_0 + t\right) \leq e^{c_0 n(t-t_0)}. \quad (13)$$

**Lemma 10.** *There are  $t_0, c_0 > 0$  constant such that for all  $t > 0$ ,*

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\max_{a=1, \dots, k} \|WW^\top\| > t_0 + t\right) \leq e^{c_0 n(t-t_0)}. \quad (14)$$

**4.2. Loop equations.** We shall prove the following lemma in the next sections. For short, we shall denote  $Q_z$  by  $Q$ .

**Lemma 11.** *The matrix  $\mathbb{E}Q$  is a diagonal matrix with diagonal entries that are constant along the classes, i.e. of the form  $\sum_{a=1}^k \alpha_a \mathcal{D}_a$ , with  $\alpha_a \in \mathbb{C}^+$ . Besides, for  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ ,*

$$\mathbb{E}Q = -z^{-1}(I_n + \mathbb{E}D)^{-1} + O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1}) \quad (15)$$

$$\mathbb{E}\tilde{Q} = -z^{-1} \left( I_p + \sum_{a=1}^k \mathbb{E} \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(\mathcal{D}(j_a)Q) C_a \right)^{-1} + O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1}) \quad (16)$$

where

$$D := \sum_{a=1}^k \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(\tilde{Q} C_a) \mathcal{D}_a. \quad (17)$$

The fact that the matrix  $\mathbb{E}Q$  is diagonal follows from the Neumann expansion for  $|z|$  large enough (and from analytic continuation for small  $z$ ) and from the fact that the  $Z_a$ 's are independent and with symmetric distribution. The fact that it is of the form given here follows from the invariance of the law of  $W^\top W$  under conjugation by the appropriate permutation matrices (those with all cycles contained in a class).

For each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , we denote by  $C(i)$  the covariance matrix of the  $i$ -th column of  $p^{1/2}W$ , so that  $C(i) = C_a$  if  $n_1 + \dots + n_{a-1} < i \leq n_1 + \dots + n_{a-1} + n_a$ .

**4.2.1. Computations on  $Q$ .** By the resolvent identity,

$$Q = z^{-1}W^\top WQ - z^{-1}I_n$$

so that, using Stein Lemma (see in appendix),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}Q_{ii'} &= z^{-1}(W^\top WQ)_{ii'} - \delta_{ii'}z^{-1} \\ &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + z^{-1}\mathbb{E} \sum_{j,l} w_{ji}w_{jl}Q_{li'} \\ &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + z^{-1} \sum_{j,l,m} \mathbb{E}w_{ji}w_{mi}\mathbb{E}\partial_{w_{mi}}w_{jl}Q_{li'} \\ &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1} \sum_{j,l,m} C(i)_{jm} \{ \mathbb{1}_{(m,i)=(j,l)} \mathbb{E}Q_{li'} - \mathbb{E}w_{jl}(Q([\delta_{ri}w_{ms} + \delta_{si}w_{mr}]_{r,s=1}^n)Q)_{li'} \} \end{aligned}$$

where we used the fact that  $\mathbb{E}w_{ji}w_{mi} = p^{-1}C(i)_{jm}$ . With  $E_{ij}$  the matrix with unique non-zero entry  $[E_{ij}]_{ij} = 1$ ,

$$\partial_{w_{mi}}Q = -Q(\partial_{w_{mi}}W^\top W)Q = -Q(E_{im}W + W^\top E_{mi})Q = -Q([\delta_{ri}w_{ms} + \delta_{si}w_{mr}]_{r,s=1}^n)Q$$

from which, after replacement, we get

$$\mathbb{E}Q_{ii'} = -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1} \sum_{j,l,m} C(i)_{jm} \{ \mathbb{1}_{(m,i)=(j,l)} \mathbb{E}Q_{li'} - \mathbb{E}w_{jl}(Q([\delta_{ri}w_{ms} + \delta_{si}w_{mr}]_{r,s=1}^n)Q)_{li'} \}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= -\delta_{ii'} z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} Q_{ii'} \operatorname{tr} C(i) - (pz)^{-1} \sum_{j,l,m,s} C(i)_{jm} \mathbb{E} w_{jl} Q_{li} w_{ms} Q_{si'} \\
&\quad - (pz)^{-1} \sum_{j,l,m,r} C(i)_{jm} \mathbb{E} w_{jl} Q_{lr} w_{mr} Q_{ii'} \\
&= -\delta_{ii'} z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} Q_{ii'} \operatorname{tr} C(i) - (pz)^{-1} \sum_{j,m} C(i)_{jm} \mathbb{E} (WQ)_{ji} (WQ)_{mi'} \\
&\quad - (pz)^{-1} \sum_{j,m} C(i)_{jm} \mathbb{E} (WQW^\top)_{jm} Q_{ii'} \\
&= -\delta_{ii'} z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} Q_{ii'} \operatorname{tr} C(i) - (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} (QW^\top C(i) WQ)_{ii'} \\
&\quad - (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} \operatorname{tr} (WQW^\top C(i)) Q_{ii'}
\end{aligned}$$

Besides, it is easy to see that  $WQW^\top = WW^\top \tilde{Q} = z\tilde{Q} + I_p$  which entails

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} Q_{ii'} &= -\delta_{ii'} z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} Q_{ii'} \operatorname{tr} C(i) - (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} (QW^\top C(i) WQ)_{ii'} \\
&\quad - (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} \operatorname{tr} ((z\tilde{Q} + 1)C(i)) Q_{ii'} \\
&= -\delta_{ii'} z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} Q_{ii'} \operatorname{tr} C(i) - (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} (QW^\top C(i) WQ)_{ii'} - p^{-1} \mathbb{E} \operatorname{tr} (\tilde{Q}C(i)) Q_{ii'} \\
&\quad - (pz)^{-1} \operatorname{tr} (C(i)) \mathbb{E} Q_{ii'} \\
&= -\delta_{ii'} z^{-1} - (pz)^{-1} \mathbb{E} (QW^\top C(i) WQ)_{ii'} - \mathbb{E} p^{-1} \operatorname{tr} (\tilde{Q}C(i)) Q_{ii'}
\end{aligned}$$

In other words, if one defines

$$M_1 := \frac{1}{z} \sum_{a=1}^k \mathbb{E} \mathcal{D}_a Q W^\top C_a W Q = \frac{1}{z} \sum_{a=1}^k \mathbb{E} \mathcal{D}_a W^\top \tilde{Q} C_a \tilde{Q} W, \quad (18)$$

then we have, for  $D$  as in (17) and  $\mathring{D} := D - \mathbb{E}D$ ,

$$-z\mathbb{E}Q = I_n + z\mathbb{E}DQ + zp^{-1}M_1 \quad (19)$$

$$= I_n + z\mathbb{E}D\mathring{D}Q + zp^{-1}(M_1 + p\mathbb{E}\mathring{D}Q). \quad (20)$$

Now, as clearly  $\|M_1\| = O(1)$  and, by Lemma 15,

$$\|\mathbb{E}\mathring{D}Q\| \leq \mathbb{E}\|\mathring{D}\| \|Q\| \leq \frac{1}{|\mathfrak{S}z|} \mathbb{E}\|\mathring{D}\| \leq \frac{1}{|\mathfrak{S}z|} \sum_{a=1}^k \sqrt{\operatorname{Var}(p^{-1} \operatorname{tr}(\tilde{Q}C_a))} = O(p^{-1})$$

it follows that

$$-z\mathbb{E}Q = I_n + z\mathbb{E}D\mathring{D}Q + O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1}),$$

and

$$-z\mathbb{E}Q(I_n + \mathbb{E}D) = I_n + O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1}),$$

which implies

$$\mathbb{E}Q = -z^{-1}(I_n + \mathbb{E}D)^{-1} + O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1}).$$

This proves (15).

4.2.2. *Computations on  $\tilde{Q}$ .* By the resolvent identity, we have here  $\tilde{Q} = z^{-1}WW^\top\tilde{Q} - z^{-1}I_p$  so that, by Stein Lemma again,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}\tilde{Q}_{ii'} &= z^{-1}(WW^\top\tilde{Q})_{ii'} - \delta_{ii'}z^{-1} \\ &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + z^{-1}\mathbb{E}\sum_{j,l}w_{ij}w_{lj}\tilde{Q}_{li'} \\ &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + z^{-1}\sum_{j,l,m}\mathbb{E}w_{ij}w_{mj}\mathbb{E}\partial_{w_{mj}}w_{lj}\tilde{Q}_{li'} \\ &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1}\sum_{j,l,m}C(j)_{im}\{\mathbb{1}_{(m,j)=(l,j)}\mathbb{E}\tilde{Q}_{li'} - \mathbb{E}w_{lj}(\tilde{Q}([\delta_{rm}w_{sj} + \delta_{sm}w_{rj}]_{r,s=1}^p)\tilde{Q})_{li'}\}\end{aligned}$$

where we used the fact that  $\mathbb{E}w_{ij}w_{mj} = p^{-1}C(j)_{im}$  and that

$$\partial_{w_{mj}}\tilde{Q} = -\tilde{Q}(\partial_{w_{mj}}WW^\top)\tilde{Q} = -\tilde{Q}(E_{mj}W^\top + WE_{jm})\tilde{Q} = -\tilde{Q}([\delta_{rm}w_{sj} + \delta_{sm}w_{rj}]_{r,s=1}^p)\tilde{Q}.$$

We get, somewhat similarly as previously

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}\tilde{Q}_{ii'} &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1}\sum_j\mathbb{E}(C(j)\tilde{Q})_{ii'} - (pz)^{-1}\sum_{j,l,m,s}C(j)_{im}\mathbb{E}w_{lj}\tilde{Q}_{lm}w_{sj}\tilde{Q}_{si'} \\ &\quad - (pz)^{-1}\sum_{j,l,m,r}C(j)_{im}\mathbb{E}w_{lj}\tilde{Q}_{lr}w_{rj}\tilde{Q}_{mi'} \\ &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + (pz)^{-1}\sum_j\mathbb{E}(C(j)\tilde{Q})_{ii'} - (pz)^{-1}\sum_{a=1}^k\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q}W\mathcal{D}(j_a)W^\top\tilde{Q})_{ii'} \\ &\quad - (pz)^{-1}\sum_{a=1}^k\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q})_{ii'}\text{tr}(W\mathcal{D}(j_a)W^\top\tilde{Q}) \\ &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + z^{-1}\sum_{a=1}^k\frac{c_a}{c_0}\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q})_{ii'} - (pz)^{-1}\sum_{a=1}^k\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q}W\mathcal{D}(j_a)W^\top\tilde{Q})_{ii'} \\ &\quad - (pz)^{-1}\sum_{a=1}^k\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q})_{ii'}\text{tr}(\mathcal{D}(j_a)W^\top\tilde{Q}W)\end{aligned}$$

Using  $W^\top\tilde{Q}W = W^\top WQ = zQ + I_n$ , we then obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}\tilde{Q}_{ii'} &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} + z^{-1}\sum_{a=1}^k\frac{c_a}{c_0}\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q})_{ii'} - (pz)^{-1}\sum_{a=1}^k\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q}W\mathcal{D}(j_a)W^\top\tilde{Q})_{ii'} \\ &\quad - \sum_{a=1}^k\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q})_{ii'}\frac{1}{p}\text{tr}(\mathcal{D}(j_a)Q) - z^{-1}\sum_{a=1}^k\frac{c_a}{c_0}\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q})_{ii'} \\ &= -\delta_{ii'}z^{-1} - (pz)^{-1}\sum_{a=1}^k\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q}W\mathcal{D}(j_a)W^\top\tilde{Q})_{ii'} - \sum_{a=1}^k\mathbb{E}(C_a\tilde{Q})_{ii'}\frac{1}{p}\text{tr}(\mathcal{D}(j_a)Q).\end{aligned}$$

Thus for

$$M_2 := \frac{1}{z} \sum_{a=1}^k \mathbb{E}(C_a \tilde{Q} W \mathcal{D}(j_a) W^\top \tilde{Q}), \quad (21)$$

we have

$$-z\mathbb{E}\tilde{Q} = I + z \sum_{a=1}^k \mathbb{E} \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(\mathcal{D}_a Q) C_a \tilde{Q} + zp^{-1} M_2,$$

*i.e.*

$$\mathbb{E}(I_p + \sum_{a=1}^p \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(Q \mathcal{D}_a) C_a) \tilde{Q} = -z^{-1}(I_p - p^{-1} M_2),$$

so that, for

$$K := \mathbb{E} \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(\mathcal{D}_a Q) \tilde{Q} - \mathbb{E} \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(\mathcal{D}_a Q) \mathbb{E} \tilde{Q},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \tilde{Q} &= (\mathbb{E}(I_p + \sum_{a=1}^p \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(Q \mathcal{D}_a) C_a))^{-1} \mathbb{E}(I_p + \sum_{a=1}^p \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(Q \mathcal{D}_a) C_a) \mathbb{E} \tilde{Q} \\ &= (\mathbb{E}(I_p + \sum_{a=1}^p \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(Q \mathcal{D}_a) C_a))^{-1} \left( \mathbb{E}(I_p + \sum_{a=1}^p \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(Q \mathcal{D}_a) C_a) \tilde{Q} - K \right) \\ &= -(\mathbb{E}(zI_p + \sum_{a=1}^p \frac{z}{p} \text{tr}(Q \mathcal{D}_a) C_a))^{-1} + p^{-1} (\mathbb{E}(zI_p + \sum_{a=1}^p \frac{z}{p} \text{tr}(Q \mathcal{D}_a) C_a))^{-1} M_2 \\ &\quad - (\mathbb{E}(zI_p + \sum_{a=1}^p \frac{z}{p} \text{tr}(Q \mathcal{D}_a) C_a))^{-1} K \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Note that for any  $a \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ , by Lemma 15,

$$\|K\| = \left\| \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(\mathcal{D}_a Q) - \mathbb{E} \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(\mathcal{D}_a Q) \right) \tilde{Q} \right] \right\| \leq \frac{1}{|\Im z|} \sqrt{\text{Var} \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(\mathcal{D}_a Q)} = O(p^{-1}).$$

Besides, we also have  $\|M_2\| = O(1)$  and

$$\left\| \left( \mathbb{E} \left( zI_p + \sum_{a=1}^p zp^{-1} \text{tr}(Q \mathcal{D}_a) C_a \right) \right)^{-1} \right\| \leq |\Im z|^{-1},$$

hence

$$\mathbb{E} \tilde{Q} = -z^{-1} \left( I_p + \sum_{a=1}^k \mathbb{E} \frac{1}{p} \text{tr}(\mathcal{D}(j_a) Q) C_a \right)^{-1} + O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1}).$$

This proves (16).



4.2.3. *Consequences of the loop equations: proof of Lemma 11.* We have proved

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}Q &= -z^{-1}(I_n + \mathbb{E}D)^{-1} + O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1}) \\ \mathbb{E}\tilde{Q} &= -z^{-1}\left(I_p + \sum_{a=1}^k \mathbb{E}\frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr}(\mathcal{D}(j_a)Q)C_a\right)^{-1} + O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1})\end{aligned}$$

for  $D = \sum_{a=1}^k \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr}(\tilde{Q}C_a)\mathcal{D}_a$ . This is precisely the content of Lemma 11. It also implies that, for the key complex quantities

$$G_a = G_a(z) := \mathbb{E}\frac{1}{c_0 n_a} \operatorname{tr}(\mathcal{D}(j_a)Q) = \mathbb{E}\frac{1}{p c_a} \operatorname{tr}(\mathcal{D}(j_a)Q), \quad \tilde{G}_a(z) := \mathbb{E}\frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr}(\tilde{Q}C_a), \quad (23)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}c_0 G_a &= -z^{-1}(1 + \tilde{G}_a)^{-1} + O(p^{-1}) \\ \tilde{G}_a &= -z^{-1}\frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a (I + \sum_{b=1}^k c_b G_b C_b)^{-1} + O(p^{-1}),\end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

which implies that

$$c_0 G_a = \frac{1}{-z + \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a (I + \sum_{b=1}^k c_b G_b C_b)^{-1} + O(p^{-1})}. \quad (25)$$

4.3. **Proof of Proposition 5.** It follows from Lemma 7 and from (25) that, for  $G_a$  as defined in (23) and for  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$|g_a(z) - G_a(z)| = O(p^{-1}). \quad (26)$$

From Lemma 11, we deduce that, with the notations of Proposition 5,

$$\mathbb{E}Q_z - \bar{Q}_z = O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1}), \quad \mathbb{E}\tilde{Q}_z - \bar{\tilde{Q}}_z = O_{\|\cdot\|}(p^{-1}). \quad (27)$$

By the concentration Lemma 15, we immediately deduce Proposition 5 as long as  $z$  stays at a macroscopic distance from  $\mathbb{R}$ .

To extend the result to all  $z$ 's taken at a macroscopic distance from  $\mathcal{S} \cup \{0\}$ , we shall prove next that the spectrum of  $W^\top W$  remains almost surely away from  $\mathcal{S} \cup \{0\}$  (thus proving in passing (3) of Theorem 1). Let  $\mathcal{I}$  be a closed interval of  $\mathbb{R}$  at a macroscopic distance from  $\mathcal{S} \cup \{0\}$ . There is  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that the distance from  $\mathcal{I}$  to  $\mathcal{S} \cup \{0\}$  is at least  $2\varepsilon$ . Let  $\eta > 0$  such that  $(2\varepsilon^2 + \eta^2)^{1/2} - \eta = \varepsilon$ . We have

$$\sup_{x \in \mathcal{I}} \|\bar{Q}_{x+i\eta}\| \leq (4\varepsilon^2 + \eta^2)^{-1/2}.$$

We deduce that for  $p$  large enough,

$$\sup_{x \in \mathcal{I}} \|\mathbb{E}Q_{x+i\eta}\| \leq (3\varepsilon^2 + \eta^2)^{-1/2}.$$

Hence by measure concentration (using the arguments of the proof of [18, Cor. 6]), with probability tending to one,

$$\sup_{x \in \mathcal{I}} \sup_{\lambda \in \text{Spec}(W^\top W)} |\lambda - (x + i\eta)|^{-1} = \sup_{x \in \mathcal{I}} \|Q_{x+i\eta}\| \leq (2\varepsilon^2 + \eta^2)^{-1/2},$$

*i.e.* that

$$\inf_{x \in \mathcal{I}} \inf_{\lambda \in \text{Spec}(W^\top W)} |\lambda - (x + i\eta)| \geq (2\varepsilon^2 + \eta^2)^{1/2},$$

which implies finally that

$$\inf_{x \in \mathcal{I}} \inf_{\lambda \in \text{Spec}(W^\top W)} |\lambda - x| \geq (2\varepsilon^2 + \eta^2)^{1/2} - \eta = \varepsilon.$$

This being true for any such interval  $\mathcal{I}$ , by the union bound and Lemma 10, we have the sought for result.

**4.4. Proof of Proposition 6.** Our first interest is on  $Q_{z_1} \mathcal{D}_a Q_{z_2}$ . By the resolvent identity  $W^\top W Q_z - z Q_z = I_p$  applied to either of the two matrices  $Q_{z_1}$  or  $Q_{z_2}$ , along with Stein's lemma and the results from Proposition 5, we then get (technical details, similar to previous derivations, are omitted)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[Q_{z_1} \mathcal{D}_a Q_{z_2}]_{ij} &= -\frac{1}{z_1} [\mathcal{D}_a \bar{Q}_{z_2}]_{ij} - \sum_{b=1}^k \tilde{g}_b(z_1) [\mathcal{D}_b \bar{Q}_{z_1} \mathcal{D}_a \bar{Q}_{z_2}]_{ij} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{z_1} \sum_{b=1}^k r_{ab}(z_1, z_2) \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{D}_b \bar{Q}_{z_2}]_{ij} + O(p^{-1}) \end{aligned}$$

where we defined

$$r_{ab}(z_1, z_2) := \mathbb{E} \left[ p^{-1} \text{tr} \left( \mathcal{D}_a W^\top \tilde{Q}_{z_1} C_b \tilde{Q}_{z_2} W \right) \right].$$

Similarly, we find

$$\mathbb{E}[\tilde{Q}_{z_1} W \mathcal{D}_a W^\top \tilde{Q}_{z_2}]_{ij} = z_1 z_2 g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2) c_a c_0 \mathbb{E}[\tilde{Q}_{z_1} C_a \tilde{Q}_{z_2}]_{ij} + O(p^{-1}) \quad (28)$$

which introduces the term  $\mathbb{E}[\tilde{Q}_{z_1} C_a \tilde{Q}_{z_2}]_{ij}$ . This term is also similarly treated and gives

$$\mathbb{E}[\tilde{Q}_{z_1} C_a \tilde{Q}_{z_2}]_{ij} = [\bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_1} C_a \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_2}]_{ij} + \sum_{b=1}^k r_{ba}(z_1, z_2) [\bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_1} C_b \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_2}]_{ij} + O(p^{-1}).$$

To wrap up the various results, we need to identify precisely  $r_{ab}(z_1, z_2)$ . To this end, from (28), we find

$$\begin{aligned} r_{ab}(z_1, z_2) &= z_1 z_2 g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2) c_a c_0 \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{p} \text{tr} \left( C_a \tilde{Q}_{z_1} C_b \tilde{Q}_{z_2} \right) \right] + O(p^{-1}) \\ &= z_1 z_2 g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2) c_a c_0 \frac{1}{p} \text{tr} \left( C_a \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_1} C_b \bar{\tilde{Q}}_{z_2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$+ z_1 z_2 g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2) c_a c_0 \sum_{d=1}^k r_{da}(z_2, z_1) \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} \left( C_d \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_1} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_2} \right) + O(p^{-1}).$$

From the definition of  $r_{ab}(z_1, z_2)$ , it is clear that  $r_{da}(z_2, z_1) c_a g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2) = r_{ad}(z_1, z_2) c_d g_d(z_1) g_d(z_2)$ . Thus, the above formula can be rewritten

$$\begin{aligned} r_{ab}(z_1, z_2) - z_1 z_2 c_0 \sum_{d=1}^k r_{ad}(z_1, z_2) c_d g_d(z_1) g_d(z_2) \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} \left( C_d \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_1} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_2} \right) \\ = z_1 z_2 c_0 c_a g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2) \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} \left( C_a \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_1} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_2} \right) + O(p^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

This can be further rewritten under a matrix form which, after basic manipulations, leads finally to

$$r_{ab}(z_1, z_2) = [R(z_1, z_2)]_{ab} + O(p^{-1})$$

with  $R(z_1, z_2)$  defined in the statement of the lemma. The fact that  $(I_k - \Omega(z_1, z_2))^{-1}$  in the expression of  $R(z_1, z_2)$  is well-defined as an inverse matrix is a consequence of  $\rho(\Omega(z_1, z_2)) < 1$  by Lemma 7-(ii) with  $\varepsilon = \eta = 0$ , for every  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ . The proof of the proposition is then completed by applying the concentration result from Lemma 15.

## 5. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

The proof of (2) follows directly from Proposition 5. As for the proof of (3), it was already obtained in the proof of Proposition 5. Let us then prove the remaining second part of Theorem 1.

For  $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$ , denote  $g(z) = (g_1(z), \dots, g_k(z))^T$  with  $g_1(z), \dots, g_k(z)$  defined by Proposition 3. By Lemma 7-(i) with  $\varepsilon = 0$ ,  $\eta = 0$ , we have, for any  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$(I_k - \Omega(z_1, z_2)) (g(z_1) - g(z_2)) = (z_1 - z_2) c_0 g(z_1) \odot g(z_2) \quad (29)$$

where

$$\Omega(z_1, z_2) := c_0 z_1 z_2 \left\{ c_b g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2) \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_1} C_b \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_2} \right\}_{a,b=1}^k.$$

However, it is not convenient for our present investigation to work with  $\Omega(z_1, z_2)$  which does not exhibit enough symmetry. We shall then proceed next by left-multiplying both sides of (29) by  $\operatorname{diag}(c)^{\frac{1}{2}} \operatorname{diag}(g(z_1) \odot g(z_2))^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ , where the complex square root is defined thanks to the natural definition of the argument on  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}_+$  (resp.  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}_-$ ) if  $\Im z_1 \Im z_2 > 0$  (resp. if  $\Im z_1 \Im z_2 < 0$ ). This entails

$$(I_k - \Upsilon(z_1, z_2)) \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{c_a} g_a(z_1) - g_a(z_2)}{\sqrt{g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2)}} \right\}_{a=1}^k = (z_1 - z_2) c_0 \left\{ \sqrt{c_a g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2)} \right\}_{a=1}^k$$

where we defined

$$\Upsilon(z_1, z_2)_{ab} := c_0 z_1 z_2 \sqrt{c_a c_b} \sqrt{g_a(z_1) g_b(z_1) g_a(z_2) g_b(z_2)} \frac{1}{p} \operatorname{tr} C_a \bar{Q}_{z_1} C_b \bar{Q}_{z_2}.$$

The matrix  $\Upsilon(z_1, z_2)$  is “more” symmetrical than  $\Omega(z_1, z_2)$  but satisfies only  $\Upsilon(z_1, z_2)_{ab} = \Upsilon(z_2, z_1)_{ba}$ , which shall not be good enough in what follows. To symmetrize this expression further, observe that, exchanging  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ , we also get

$$(I_k - \Upsilon(z_2, z_1)) \left\{ \sqrt{c_a} \frac{g_a(z_1) - g_a(z_2)}{\sqrt{g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2)}} \right\}_{a=1}^k = (z_1 - z_2) c_0 \left\{ \sqrt{c_a g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2)} \right\}_{a=1}^k$$

so that, summing up the two equations leads to

$$(I_k - \Xi(z_1, z_2)) \left\{ \sqrt{c_a} \frac{g_a(z_1) - g_a(z_2)}{\sqrt{g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2)}} \right\}_{a=1}^k = (z_1 - z_2) c_0 \left\{ \sqrt{c_a g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2)} \right\}_{a=1}^k$$

where

$$\Xi(z_1, z_2) := \frac{1}{2} (\Upsilon(z_1, z_2) + \Upsilon(z_2, z_1)).$$

In particular,

$$(I_k - \Xi(z, z^*)) \left\{ \sqrt{c_a} \frac{\Im(g_a(z))}{|g_a(z)|} \right\}_{a=1}^k = \Im(z) c_0 \left\{ \sqrt{c_a} |g_a(z)| \right\}_{a=1}^k$$

where  $\Xi(z, z^*)$  is real positive and symmetric. Hence, by Lemma 17, we may take  $x$  with positive entries a left eigenvector of  $\Xi(z, z^*)$  with eigenvalue  $\rho(\Xi(z, z^*))$ . Multiplying by  $x$  on the left, we get  $\rho(\Xi(z, z^*)) < 1$ . Thus,  $\Xi(z, z^*)$  is invertible for every  $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$  and we thus have

$$\left\{ \sqrt{c_a} \frac{\Im(g_a(z))}{|g_a(z)|} \right\}_{a=1}^k = \Im(z) c_0 (I_k - \Xi(z, z^*))^{-1} \left\{ \sqrt{c_a} |g_a(z)| \right\}_{a=1}^k. \quad (30)$$

Using now the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} |\operatorname{tr}(AB + CD)|^2 &= \left| \operatorname{tr} \left( [A \ C] \begin{bmatrix} B \\ D \end{bmatrix} \right) \right|^2 \\ &\leq \operatorname{tr} \left( [A \ C] \begin{bmatrix} A^* \\ C^* \end{bmatrix} \right) \operatorname{tr} \left( [B^* \ D^*] \begin{bmatrix} B \\ D \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &= \operatorname{tr}(AA^* + CC^*) \operatorname{tr}(BB^* + DD^*) \end{aligned}$$

applied to  $A = C_a^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{Q}_{z_1} C_b^{\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $B = C_b^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{Q}_{z_2} C_a^{\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $C = C_b^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{Q}_{z_1} C_a^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , and  $D = C_a^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{Q}_{z_2} C_b^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , we find that

$$|\Xi(z_1, z_2)_{ab}|^2 \leq \Xi(z_1, z_1^*)_{ab} \Xi(z_2, z_2^*)_{ab}$$

and thus, from Lemma 19, we get that  $\rho(\Xi(z_1, z_2)) < 1$  for each  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}^+$ . But since  $\Xi(z, z^*)_{ab} \leq \|\Xi(z, z^*)\| = \rho(\Xi(z, z^*)) < 1$  for symmetric matrices, we have in addition  $|\Xi(z_1, z_2)_{ab}|^2 \leq 1$  for each  $a, b$  so that, by e.g.,  $A^{-1} = \frac{\text{adj}(A)}{\det A}$ , we finally get

$$\|(I_k - \Xi(z_1, z_2))^{-1}\| \leq \frac{K}{|1 - \rho(\Xi(z_1, z_2))|^k} \quad (31)$$

for some constant  $K > 0$ , and in particular

$$\left\{ \frac{\sqrt{c_a} g_a(z_1) - g_a(z_2)}{\sqrt{g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2)}} \right\}_{a=1}^k = (z_1 - z_2) c_0 (I_k - \Xi(z_1, z_2))^{-1} \left\{ \sqrt{c_a g_a(z_1) g_a(z_2)} \right\}_{a=1}^k. \quad (32)$$

With this identity at hand, we shall show that  $g(z)$  admits a limit as  $z \in \mathbb{C}^+ \rightarrow x \in \mathbb{R}^*$ . This will be sufficient by [21, Theorems 2.1–2.2] to ensure that  $\mu$  admits a continuous density on  $\mathbb{R}^*$ .

Recall first the notation

$$\tilde{g}_a(z) := \frac{1}{p} \text{tr } C_a \bar{Q}_z, \quad \bar{Q}_z = -z^{-1} \left( I_p + \sum_{b=1}^k c_b g_b(z) C_b \right)^{-1}$$

(so that  $c_0 g_a(z) = -z^{-1} (1 + \tilde{g}_a(z))^{-1}$ ). Then we have the following first result.

**Lemma 12.** *For any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $g(z)$  is bounded on  $\{z \in \mathbb{C}^+; |z| > \varepsilon\}$ .*

*Proof.* Note first that, by the inequality  $|\text{tr } AB^*|^2 \leq \text{tr } AA^* \text{tr } BB^*$  with  $B = I$ ,

$$|\tilde{g}_a(z)|^2 = \left| \frac{1}{p} \text{tr } C_a^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{Q}_z C_a^{\frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 \leq \frac{1}{p} \text{tr } C_a \bar{Q}_z C_a \bar{Q}_{z^*}$$

so that

$$c_0 c_a |z g_a(z) \tilde{g}_a(z)|^2 \leq c_0 c_a |z g_a(z)|^2 \frac{1}{p} \text{tr } C_a \bar{Q}_z C_a \bar{Q}_{z^*} = \Xi(z, z^*)_{aa}.$$

Since  $\Xi(z, z^*)_{aa} \leq \rho(\Xi(z, z^*)) < 1$ , we thus get that for each  $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$ ,  $c_0 c_a |z g_a(z) \tilde{g}_a(z)|^2 < 1$ . Hence, if  $|g_a(z_n)| \rightarrow \infty$  on some sequence with  $|z_n| > \varepsilon$ , this implies that  $|\tilde{g}_a(z_n)| \rightarrow 0$ . But by definition,  $|g_a(z_n)| = |z_n c_0 (1 + \tilde{g}_a(z_n))|^{-1}$ , which is thus bounded, contradicting the assumption. We conclude that  $g_a(z)$  must remain bounded on  $\{z \in \mathbb{C}^+; |z| > \varepsilon\}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 13.** *Under the additional assumptions of Theorem 1, for any  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^*$ ,  $g(z)$  admits a finite limit as  $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$  tends to  $x_0$ .*

*Proof.* If not, by the previous lemma, one can find two sequences  $z_n^1, z_n^2 \in \mathbb{C}^+$  tending to  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^*$  such that  $g(z_n^1) \rightarrow g^1$  and  $g(z_n^2) \rightarrow g^2$ ,  $g^1 \neq g^2$ . From (32),

$$\left\{ \frac{\sqrt{c_a} g_a(z_n^1) - g_a(z_n^2)}{\sqrt{g_a(z_n^1) g_a(z_n^2)}} \right\}_{a=1}^k = (z_n^1 - z_n^2) c_0 (I_k - \Xi(z_n^1, z_n^2))^{-1} \left\{ \sqrt{c_a g_a(z_n^1) g_a(z_n^2)} \right\}_{a=1}^k. \quad (33)$$

Since  $z_n^1, z_n^2 \rightarrow x_0$ ,  $z_n^1 - z_n^2 \rightarrow 0$ . Also, since  $g(z_n^1), g(z_n^2)$  are bounded by the previous lemma, we get that  $(z_n^1 - z_n^2)c_0\sqrt{c_a g_a(z_n^1)g_a(z_n^2)} \rightarrow 0$ . It thus remains to show that  $(I_k - \Xi(z_n^1, z_n^2))^{-1}$  has uniformly bounded spectral norm, which, by (31), is equivalent to showing that

$$\limsup_n \rho(\Xi(z_n^1, z_n^2)) < 1.$$

Recall first that we obtained, from Lemma 19 and

$$|\Xi(z_n^1, z_n^2)_{ab}|^2 \leq \Xi(z_n^1, (z_n^1)^*)_{ab} \Xi(z_n^2, (z_n^2)^*)_{ab},$$

that  $\rho(\Xi(z_n^1, z_n^2)) \leq \sqrt{\rho(\Xi(z_n^1, (z_n^1)^*))\rho(\Xi(z_n^2, (z_n^2)^*))}$ . Since  $\rho(\Xi(z, z^*)) < 1$  for each  $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$ , in the limit, this only ensures that  $\limsup_n \rho(\Xi(z_n^1, z_n^2)) \leq 1$ . We may thus show that the inequality  $|\Xi(z_n^1, z_n^2)_{aa}|^2 \leq \Xi(z_n^1, (z_n^1)^*)_{aa} \Xi(z_n^2, (z_n^2)^*)_{aa}$  is strict, uniformly in  $n$ , for each  $a$ . To this end, we shall use the second part of Lemma 19.

Letting  $U_n^1 := C_a^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^1} C_a^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $U_n^2 := C_a^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{\bar{Q}}_{(z_n^2)^*} C_a^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , we wish to show that, uniformly on  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ ,

$$\liminf_n \text{tr}(U_n^1 - \lambda U_n^2)(U_n^1 - \lambda U_n^2)^* > 0.$$

For this, note that, for each  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ ,

$$\text{tr}(U_n^1 - \lambda U_n^2)(U_n^1 - \lambda U_n^2)^* = \text{tr} C_a^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^1} \Delta_n^Q \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^2}^* C_a \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^2} (\Delta_n^Q)^* \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^1}^* C_a^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

with

$$\Delta_n^Q := (\lambda z_n^1 - (z_n^2)^*) I_p + \sum_{i=1}^k c_i (\lambda z_n^1 g_i(z_n^1) - (z_n^2)^* g_i((z_n^2)^*)) C_i.$$

From the fact that  $\text{tr} ABA^* \geq \lambda_{\min}(B) \text{tr} AA^*$  when  $B$  is nonnegative definite, we then get

$$\text{tr}(U_n^1 - \lambda U_n^2)(U_n^1 - \lambda U_n^2)^* \geq \lambda_{\min} \left( \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^2}^* C_a \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^2} \right) \lambda_{\min} \left( \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^1}^* C_a \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^1} \right) \text{tr} \Delta_n^Q (\Delta_n^Q)^*.$$

Exploiting the invertibility of  $C_a$  along with the fact that  $\|\bar{\bar{Q}}_z^{-1}\|$  is bounded uniformly on  $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$  away from zero (by the previous lemma), we then get that

$$\liminf_n \lambda_{\min} \left( \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^2}^* C_a \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^2} \right) \lambda_{\min} \left( \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^1}^* C_a \bar{\bar{Q}}_{z_n^1} \right) > 0.$$

By the boundedness of  $g$  away from zero, we also have

$$\lim_n \text{tr} \Delta_n^Q (\Delta_n^Q)^* = \text{tr} \Delta^Q (\Delta^Q)^*$$

with

$$\Delta^Q = x_0 \left[ (\lambda - 1) I_p + \sum_{i=1}^k c_i (\lambda g_i^1 - (g_i^2)^*) C_i \right].$$

By linear independence of the matrices  $C_1, \dots, C_k, I_p$ , the quantity above cannot be zero unless  $\lambda = 1$  and  $g_i^1 = (g_i^2)^*$  for each  $i$ . But  $\Im(g_i^1), \Im(g_i^2) \geq 0$  so that this implies  $g_i^1 = g_i^2 \in \mathbb{R}$  for each  $i$ . But this is forbidden by assumption, and thus

$$\inf_{\lambda \in \mathbb{C}} \liminf_n \operatorname{tr}(U_n^1 - \lambda U_n^2)(U_n^1 - \lambda U_n^2)^* > 0. \quad (34)$$

This ensures (possibly over a converging subsequence, which exists for all quantities here are bounded) that

$$\lim_n \operatorname{tr} U_n^1 (U_n^1)^* \operatorname{tr} U_n^2 (U_n^2)^* > \lim_n |\operatorname{tr} U_n^1 U_n^2|^2.$$

Indeed, uniformly over  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , (34) (applied to  $\lambda = x/\sqrt{2}$  and  $ix/\sqrt{2}$ ) ensures that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_n \operatorname{tr} U_n^1 (U_n^1)^* + \frac{1}{2} x^2 \lim_n \operatorname{tr} U_n^2 (U_n^2)^* &> \sqrt{2} x \lim_n \Re(\operatorname{tr} U_n^1 (U_n^2)^*) \\ \lim_n \operatorname{tr} U_n^1 (U_n^1)^* + \frac{1}{2} x^2 \lim_n \operatorname{tr} U_n^2 (U_n^2)^* &> \sqrt{2} x \lim_n \Im(\operatorname{tr} U_n^1 (U_n^2)^*). \end{aligned}$$

Taking squares left and right on both equations, summing, and taking square-roots left and right on the result, this gives, uniformly on  $x$ ,

$$\lim_n \operatorname{tr} U_n^1 (U_n^1)^* + \frac{1}{2} x^2 \lim_n \operatorname{tr} U_n^2 (U_n^2)^* - \sqrt{2} x \lim_n |\operatorname{tr} U_n^1 (U_n^2)^*| > 0,$$

the left-hand side of which is a polynomial in  $x$  with discriminant  $2 \lim_n |\operatorname{tr} U_n^1 (U_n^2)^*|^2 - 2 \lim_n \operatorname{tr} U_n^1 (U_n^1)^* \lim_n \operatorname{tr} U_n^2 (U_n^2)^*$  which is positive.

All this finally proves, by Lemma 19, that  $\limsup_n \rho(\Xi(z_n^1, z_n^2)) < 1$  and therefore, recalling (31), the left-hand side of (33) converges to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , and so must the left-hand side. But since  $g(z)$  is bounded away from zero, this implies that  $g^1 = g^2$ , which goes against the assumption.  $\square$

By [21, Theorems 2.1–2.2], we then get that  $\Im(g_a(z))$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{R}^*$  and  $\nu_a$  has continuous derivative  $f_a(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \Im(g_a(x))$ . As  $\mu = \sum_{a=1}^k c_a \nu_a$ , the result follows.

## APPENDIX A. MULTIDIMENSIONAL STEIN FORMULA

**Lemma 14.** *Let  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_d)$  be a centered Gaussian vector and  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a  $\mathcal{C}^1$  function with derivatives having at most polynomial growth. Then for all  $i_0 = 1, \dots, d$ ,*

$$\mathbb{E}[X_{i_0} f(X_1, \dots, X_d)] = \sum_{k=1}^d \mathbb{E}[X_{i_0} X_k] \mathbb{E}[(\partial_k f)(X_1, \dots, X_d)].$$

*Proof.* If the covariance matrix  $C$  of the  $X_i$ 's is  $I$ , then the result follows from a one-dimensional integration by parts. For a more general covariance matrix  $C$ , introduce a standard Gaussian vector  $Y$ , so that as  $X \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} AY$  for  $A := C^{1/2}$  and the function

$$g(y_1, \dots, y_d) := f \circ A(y_1, \dots, y_d).$$

Then by the  $C = I$  case, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[X_{i_0} f(X_1, \dots, X_d)] &= \sum_j A_{i_0 j} \mathbb{E}[Y_j g(Y_1, \dots, Y_d)] \\
&= \sum_j A_{i_0 j} \mathbb{E}[(\partial_j g)(Y_1, \dots, Y_d)] \\
&= \sum_j A_{i_0 j} \sum_k A_{kj} \mathbb{E}[(\partial_k f)(X_1, \dots, X_d)] \\
&= \sum_k C_{i_0 k} \mathbb{E}[(\partial_k f)(X_1, \dots, X_d)]
\end{aligned}$$

□

## APPENDIX B. CONCENTRATION

The following lemma can be found for example in [2, Sec. 4.4.1].

**Lemma 15.** *Let  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_d)$  be a standard real Gaussian vector and  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a  $C^1$  function with gradient  $\nabla f$ . Then we have*

$$\text{Var}(f(X)) \leq \mathbb{E} \|\nabla f(X)\|^2, \quad (35)$$

where  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the standard Euclidian norm.

Besides, if  $f$  is  $k$ -Lipschitz, then for any  $t > 0$ , we have

$$\mathbb{P}(|f(X) - \mathbb{E}f(X)| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-\frac{t^2}{2k^2}}. \quad (36)$$

To apply this lemma, we shall use the following lemma. All matrix spaces, here, are endowed with the norm  $\sqrt{\text{Tr } MM^*}$ .

**Lemma 16.** *Let  $f$  be a real (resp. complex) function on  $\mathbb{R}^+$  such that  $x \mapsto f(x^2)$  is  $c$ -Lipschitz. Then the functions  $\varphi, \psi$ , defined on the set of  $p \times n$  complex matrices by  $\varphi(X) = f(XX^*)$  and  $\psi(X) = f(X^*X)$  are  $c$ -Lipschitz (resp.  $2c$ -Lipschitz).*

*Proof.* The complex case is directly deduced from the real one by writing  $f = \Re(f) + \Im(f)$ . So let us suppose that  $f$  is real-valued. Let  $g : x \mapsto f(x^2)$  and  $N := p + n$ . We know, by [6, Lem. A.2], that the extension of  $g$  to the set of  $N \times N$  Hermitian matrices is  $c$ -Lipschitz. Then, the conclusion follows from the fact that for any  $p \times n$  complex matrix  $X$ ,  $\varphi(X)$  and  $\psi(X)$  are the respective  $p \times p$  upper-left corner and  $n \times n$  lower-right corner of the  $N \times N$  matrix  $g(M)$ , with

$$M := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & X \\ X^* & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

□



## APPENDIX C. NONNEGATIVE MATRICES

The results stated here can be found in [13, 14].

**Lemma 17** (Nonnegative Matrices and Dominant Eigenvectors). *If  $A \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times n}$  is nonnegative (resp., positive), then  $\rho(A)$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  having an eigenvector with nonnegative (resp., positive) entries.*

**Lemma 18** (Spectral Radii). *Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  be such that  $|A_{ij}| \leq B_{ij}$  for all  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ . Then, with  $\rho$  the spectral radius,*

$$\rho(A) \leq \rho(B).$$

**Lemma 19** (Cauchy-Schwarz for Spectral Radii (adapted from [14, Lemma 5.7.9])). *Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times n}$  be non negative matrices and  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  be such that  $C_{ij} \leq \sqrt{A_{ij}B_{ij}}$ . Then,*

$$\rho(C) \leq \sqrt{\rho(A)\rho(B)}.$$

*Besides, if, for each  $i$ , either both the  $i$ -th row and the  $i$ -th column of  $C$  are null or there exists  $j$  such that  $C_{ij} < \sqrt{A_{ij}B_{ij}}$ , then the inequality is strict.*

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