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► **To cite this version:**

Johannes Sjöstrand, Martin Vogel. General Toeplitz Matrices Subject to Gaussian Perturbations. Annales Henri Poincaré, 2021, 22, pp.49-81. 10.1007/s00023-020-00970-w . hal-02975968

**HAL Id: hal-02975968**

**<https://hal.science/hal-02975968v1>**

Submitted on 23 Oct 2020

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# GENERAL TOEPLITZ MATRICES SUBJECT TO GAUSSIAN PERTURBATIONS

JOHANNES SJÖSTRAND AND MARTIN VOGEL

ABSTRACT. We study the spectra of general  $N \times N$  Toeplitz matrices given by symbols in the Wiener Algebra perturbed by small complex Gaussian random matrices, in the regime  $N \gg 1$ . We prove an asymptotic formula for the number of eigenvalues of the perturbed matrix in smooth domains. We show that these eigenvalues follow a Weyl law with probability sub-exponentially close to 1, as  $N \gg 1$ , in particular that most eigenvalues of the perturbed Toeplitz matrix are close to the curve in the complex plane given by the symbol of the unperturbed Toeplitz matrix.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULT

Let  $a_\nu \in \mathbf{C}$ , for  $\nu \in \mathbf{Z}$  and assume that

$$(1.1) \quad |a_\nu| \leq \mathcal{O}(1)m(\nu),$$

where  $m : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow ]0, +\infty[$  satisfies

$$(1.2) \quad (1 + |\nu|)m(\nu) \in \ell^1,$$

and

$$(1.3) \quad m(-\nu) = m(\nu), \quad \forall \nu \in \mathbf{Z}.$$

Let

$$(1.4) \quad p(\tau) = \sum_{-\infty}^{+\infty} a_\nu \tau^\nu,$$

act on complex valued functions on  $\mathbf{Z}$ . Here  $\tau$  denotes translation by 1 unit to the right:  $\tau u(j) = u(j - 1)$ ,  $j \in \mathbf{Z}$ . By (1.2) we know that  $p(\tau) = \mathcal{O}(1) : \ell^2(\mathbf{Z}) \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathbf{Z})$ . Indeed, for the corresponding operator norm, we have

$$(1.5) \quad \|p(\tau)\| \leq \sum |a_j| \|\tau^j\| = \|a\|_{\ell^1} \leq \mathcal{O}(1) \|m\|_{\ell^1}.$$

From the identity,  $\tau(e^{ik\xi}) = e^{-i\xi}e^{ik\xi}$ , we define the symbol of  $p(\tau)$  by

$$(1.6) \quad p(e^{-i\xi}) = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} a_\nu e^{-i\nu\xi}.$$

It is an element of the Wiener algebra [BöSi99] and by (1.2) in  $C^1(S^1)$ .

We are interested in the *Toeplitz matrix*

$$(1.7) \quad P_N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1_{[0,N]} p(\tau) 1_{[0,N]},$$

acting on  $\mathbf{C}^N \simeq \ell^2([0, N[)$ , for  $1 \ll N < \infty$ . Furthermore, we frequently identify  $\ell^2([0, N[)$  with the space  $\ell^2_{[0,N]}(\mathbf{Z})$  of functions  $u \in \ell^2(\mathbf{Z})$  with support in  $[0, N[$ .

The spectra of such Toeplitz matrices have been studied thoroughly, see [BöSi99] for an overview. Let  $P_\infty$  denote  $p(\tau)$  as an operator  $\ell^2(\mathbf{Z}) \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathbf{Z})$ . It is a normal operator and by Fourier series expansions, we see that the spectrum of  $P_\infty$  is given by

$$(1.8) \quad \sigma(P_\infty) = p(S^1).$$

The restriction  $P_{\mathbf{N}} = P_\infty|_{\ell^2(\mathbf{N})}$  of  $P_\infty$  to  $\ell^2(\mathbf{N})$ , is in general no longer normal, except for specific choices of the coefficients  $a_\nu$ . The essential spectrum of the Toeplitz operator  $P_{\mathbf{N}}$  is given by  $p(S^1)$  and we have point spectrum in all loops of  $p(S^1)$  with non-zero winding number, i.e.

$$(1.9) \quad \sigma(P_{\mathbf{N}}) = p(S^1) \cup \{z \in \mathbf{C}; \text{ind}_{p(S^1)}(z) \neq 0\}.$$

By a result of Krein [BöSi99, Theorem 1.15] the winding number of  $p(S^1)$  around the point  $z \notin p(S^1)$  is related to the Fredholm index of  $P_{\mathbf{N}} - z$ :  $\text{Ind}(P_{\mathbf{N}} - z) = -\text{ind}_{p(S^1)}(z)$ .

The spectrum of the Toeplitz matrix  $P_N$  is contained in a small neighborhood of the spectrum of  $P_{\mathbf{N}}$ . More precisely, for every  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$(1.10) \quad \sigma(P_N) \subset \sigma(P_{\mathbf{N}}) + D(0, \epsilon)$$

for  $N > 0$  sufficiently large, where  $D(z, r)$  denotes the open disc of radius  $r$ , centered at  $z$ . Moreover, the limit of  $\sigma(P_N)$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  is contained in a union of analytic arcs inside  $\sigma(P_{\mathbf{N}})$ , see [BöSi99, Theorem 5.28].

We show in Theorem 1.1 below that after adding a small random perturbation to  $P_N$ , most of its eigenvalues will be close to the curve  $p(S^1)$  with probability very close to 1. See Figure 1 below for a numerical illustration.

**1.1. Small Gaussian perturbation.** Consider the random matrix

$$(1.11) \quad Q_\omega \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Q_\omega(N) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (q_{j,k}(\omega))_{1 \leq j,k \leq N}$$

with complex Gaussian law

$$(Q_\omega)_*(d\mathbb{P}) = \pi^{-N^2} e^{-\|Q\|_{\text{HS}}^2} L(dQ),$$

where  $L$  denotes the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbf{C}^{N \times N}$ . The entries  $q_{j,k}$  of  $Q_\omega$  are independent and identically distributed complex Gaussian random variables with expectation 0, and variance 1, i.e.  $q_{j,k} \sim \mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{C}}(0,1)$ .

We recall that the probability distribution of a complex Gaussian random variable  $\alpha \sim \mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{C}}(0,1)$ , is given by

$$\alpha_*(d\mathbb{P}) = \pi^{-1} e^{-|\alpha|^2} L(d\alpha),$$

where  $L(d\alpha)$  denotes the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbf{C}$ . If  $\mathbb{E}$  denotes the expectation with respect to the probability measure  $\mathbb{P}$ , then

$$\mathbb{E}[\alpha] = 0, \quad \mathbb{E}[|\alpha|^2] = 1.$$

We are interested in studying the spectrum of the random perturbations of the matrix  $P_N^0 = P_N$ :

$$(1.12) \quad P_N^\delta \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P_N^0 + \delta Q_\omega, \quad 0 \leq \delta \ll 1.$$

**1.2. Eigenvalue asymptotics in smooth domains.** Let  $\Omega \Subset \mathbf{C}$  be an open simply connected set with smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ , which is independent of  $N$ , satisfying

- (1)  $\partial\Omega$  intersects  $p(S^1)$  in at most finitely many points;
- (2)  $p(S^1)$  does not self-intersect at these points of intersection;
- (3) these points of intersection are non-critical, i.e.

$$dp \neq 0 \text{ on } p^{-1}(\partial\Omega \cap p(S^1));$$

- (4)  $\partial\Omega$  and  $p(S^1)$  are transversal at every point of the intersection.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $p$  be as in (1.6) and let  $P_N^\delta$  be as in (1.12). Let  $\Omega$  be as above, satisfying conditions (1) - (4), pick a  $\delta_0 \in ]0, 1[$  and let  $\delta_1 > 3$ . If*

$$(1.13) \quad e^{-N^{\delta_0}} \leq \delta \ll N^{-\delta_1},$$

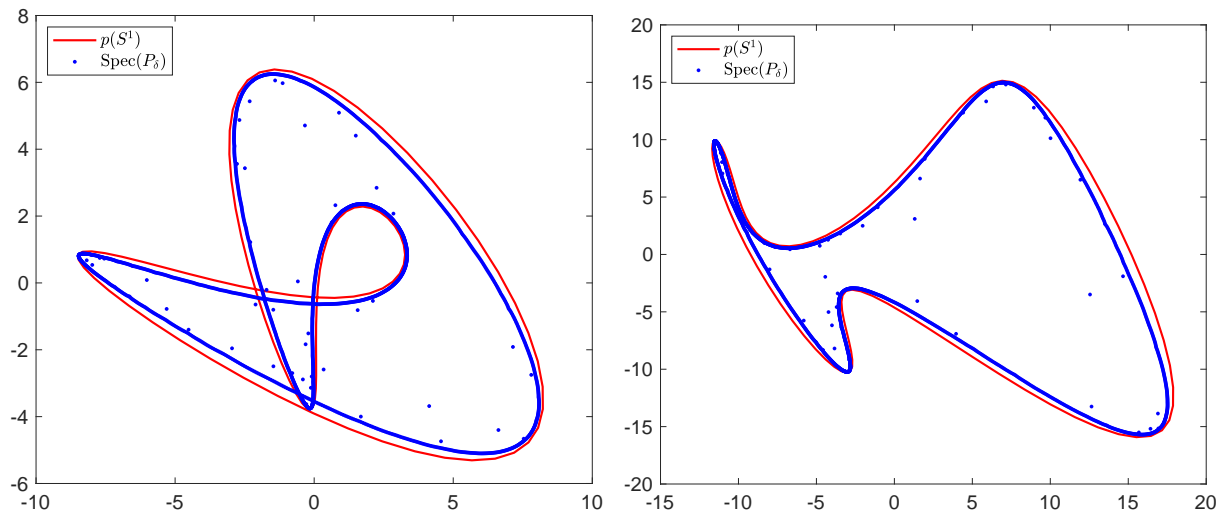
then there exists  $\varepsilon_N = o(1)$ , as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , such that

$$(1.14) \quad \left| \#(\sigma(P_N^\delta) \cap \Omega) - \frac{N}{2\pi} \int_{S^1 \cap p^{-1}(\Omega)} L_{S^1}(d\theta) \right| \leq \varepsilon_N N,$$

with probability

$$(1.15) \quad \geq 1 - e^{-N^{\delta_0}}.$$

In (1.14) we view  $p$  as a map from  $S^1$  to  $\mathbf{C}$ . Theorem 1.1 shows that most eigenvalues of  $P_N^\delta$  can be found close to the curve  $p(S^1)$  with probability subexponentially close to 1. This is illustrated in Figure 1 for two different symbols. The left hand side of Figure 1



**Figure 1.** The left hand side shows the spectrum of the perturbed Toeplitz matrix with symbol defined in (1.16), (1.17) and the right hand side shows the spectrum of the perturbed Toeplitz matrix with symbol defined in (1.18), (1.17). The red line shows the symbol curve  $p(S^1)$ .

shows the spectrum of a perturbed Toeplitz matrix with  $N = 2000$  and  $\delta = 10^{-14}$ , given by the symbol  $p = p_0 + p_1$  where

$$(1.16) \quad p_0(1/\zeta) = -\zeta^{-4} - (3 + 2i)\zeta^{-3} + i\zeta^{-2} + \zeta^{-1} + 10\zeta + (3 + i)\zeta^2 + 4\zeta^3 + i\zeta^4$$

and

$$(1.17) \quad p_1(1/\zeta) = \sum_{\nu \in \mathbf{Z}} a_\nu \zeta^\nu, \quad a_0 = 0, \quad a_{-\nu} = 0.7|\nu|^{-5} + i|\nu|^{-9}, \quad a_\nu = -2i\nu^{-5} + 0.5\nu^{-9} \quad \nu \in \mathbf{N}.$$

The red line shows the curve  $p(S^1)$ . The right hand side of Figure 1 similarly shows the spectrum of the perturbed Toeplitz matrix given by  $p = p_0 + p_1$  where  $p_1$  is as above and

$$(1.18) \quad p_0(1/\zeta) = -4\zeta^1 - 2i\zeta^2 + 2i\zeta^{-1} - \zeta^{-2} + 2\zeta^{-3}.$$

In our previous work [SjVo19], we studied Toeplitz matrices with a finite number of bands, given by symbols of the form

$$(1.19) \quad p(\tau) = \sum_{j=-N_-}^{N_+} a_j \tau^j, \quad a_{-N_-}, a_{-N_-+1}, \dots, a_{N_+} \in \mathbf{C}, \quad a_{\pm N_\pm} \neq 0.$$

In this case the symbols are analytic functions on  $S^1$  and we are able to provide in [SjVo19, Theorem 2.1] a version of Theorem 1.1 with a much sharper remainder estimate. See also [Sj19, SjVo16], concerning the special cases of large Jordan block matrices  $p(\tau) = \tau^{-1}$  and large bi-diagonal matrices  $p(\tau) = a\tau + b\tau^{-1}$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbf{C}$ . However, Figure 1 suggests that one could hope for a better remainder estimate in Theorem 1.1 as well.

Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.2 below can be extended to allow for coupling constants with  $\delta_1 > 1/2$ . Furthermore, one can allow for much more general perturbations, for example perturbations given by random matrices whose entries are iid copies of a centred random variables with bounded fourth moment. However, both extensions require some extra work which we will present in a follow-up paper.

**1.3. Convergence of the empirical measure and related results.** An alternative way to study the limiting distribution of the eigenvalues of  $P_N^\delta$ , up to errors of  $o(N)$ , is to study the *empirical measure* of eigenvalues, defined by

$$(1.20) \quad \xi_N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\lambda \in \text{Spec}(P_N^\delta)} \delta_\lambda$$

where the eigenvalues are counted including multiplicity and  $\delta_\lambda$  denotes the Dirac measure at  $\lambda \in \mathbf{C}$ . For any positive monotonically increasing function  $\phi$  on the positive reals and random variable  $X$ , Markov's inequality states that  $\mathbb{P}[|X| \geq \varepsilon] \leq \phi(\varepsilon)^{-1} \mathbb{E}[\phi(|X|)]$ , assuming that the last quantity is finite. Using  $\phi(x) = e^{x/C}$ ,  $x \geq 0$ , with a sufficiently large  $C > 0$ , yields that for  $C_1 > 0$  large enough

$$(1.21) \quad \mathbb{P}[\|Q_\omega\|_{\text{HS}} \leq C_1 N] \geq 1 - e^{-N^2}.$$

If  $\delta \leq N^{-1}$ , then (1.5) and the Borel-Cantelli Theorem shows that, almost surely,  $\xi_N$  has compact support for  $N > 0$  sufficiently large.

We will show that, almost surely,  $\xi_N$  converges weakly to the push-forward of the uniform measure on  $S^1$  by the symbol  $p$ .

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $\delta_0 \in ]0, 1[$ , let  $\delta_1 > 3$  and let  $p$  be as in (1.4). If (1.13) holds, i.e.*

$$e^{-N^{\delta_0}} \leq \delta \ll N^{-\delta_1}$$

then, almost surely,

$$(1.22) \quad \xi_N \rightharpoonup p_* \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} L_{S^1} \right), \quad N \rightarrow \infty,$$

weakly, where  $L_{S^1}$  denotes the Lebesgue measure on  $S^1$ .

This result generalizes [SjVo19, Corollary 2.2] from the case of Toeplitz matrices with a finite number of bands to the general case (1.4).

Similar results to Theorem 1.2 have been proven in various settings. In [BaPaZe18a, BaPaZe18b], the authors consider the special case of band Toeplitz matrices, i.e.  $P_N$  with  $p$  as in (1.19). In this case they show that the convergence (1.22) holds weakly in probability for a coupling constant  $\delta = N^{-\gamma}$ , with  $\gamma > 1/2$ . Furthermore, they prove a version of this theorem for Toeplitz matrices with non-constant coefficients in the bands, see [BaPaZe18a, Theorem 1.3, Theorem 4.1]. They follow a different approach than we do: They compute directly the  $\log |\det \mathcal{M}_N - z|$  by relating it to  $\log |\det M_N(z)|$ , where  $M_N(z)$  is a truncation of  $M_N - z$ , where the smallest singular values of  $M_N - z$  have been excluded. The level of truncation however depends on the strength of the coupling constant and it necessitates a very detailed analysis of the small singular values of  $M_N - z$ .

In the earlier work [GuWoZe14], the authors prove that the convergence (1.22) holds weakly in probability for the Jordan bloc matrix  $P_N$  with  $p(\tau) = \tau^{-1}$  (1.4) and a perturbation given by a complex Gaussian random matrix whose entries are independent complex Gaussian random variables whose variances vanishes (not necessarily at the same speed) polynomially fast, with minimal decay of order  $N^{-1/2+}$ . See also [DaHa09] for a related result.

In [Wo16], using a replacement principle developed in [TaVuKr10], it was shown that the result of [GuWoZe14] holds for perturbations given by complex random matrices whose entries are independent and identically distributed random complex random variables with expectation 0 and variance 1 and a coupling constant  $\delta = N^{-\gamma}$ , with  $\gamma > 2$ .

**1.4. Notation.** We will frequently use the following notation: when we write  $a \ll b$ , we mean that  $Ca \leq b$  for some sufficiently large constant  $C > 0$ . The notation  $f = \mathcal{O}(N)$  means that there exists a constant  $C > 0$  (independent of  $N$ ) such that  $|f| \leq CN$ . When we want to emphasize that the constant  $C > 0$  depends on some parameter  $k$ , then we write  $C_k$ , or with the above notation  $\mathcal{O}_k(N)$ .

**Acknowledgments.** The first author acknowledges support from the 2018 S. Bergman award. The second author was supported by a CNRS Momentum fellowship. We are grateful to Ofer Zeitouni for his interest and a remark which lead to a better presentation of this paper. We are grateful to the referee for pointing out a mistake affecting the range of the exponent  $\delta_1$ .

## 2. THE UNPERTURBED OPERATOR

We are interested in the Toeplitz matrix

$$(2.1) \quad P_N = 1_{[0,N]} p(\tau) 1_{[0,N]} : \ell^2([0, N]) \rightarrow \ell^2([0, N])$$

for  $1 \ll N < \infty$ , see also (1.7). Here we identify  $\ell^2([0, N])$  with the space  $\ell^2_{[0, N]}(\mathbf{Z})$  of functions  $u \in \ell^2(\mathbf{Z})$  with support in  $[0, N[$ . Sometimes we write  $P_N = P_{[0, N]}$  and identify  $P_N$  with  $P_I = 1_I p(\tau) 1_I$  where  $I = I_N$  is any interval in  $\mathbf{Z}$  of “length”  $|I| = \#I = N$ .

Let  $P_{\mathbf{N}} = P_{[0, +\infty[}$  and let  $P_{\mathbf{Z}/\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z}}$  denote  $P = p(\tau)$ , acting on  $\ell^2(\mathbf{Z}/\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z})$  which we identify with the space of  $\tilde{N}$ -periodic functions on  $\mathbf{Z}$ . Here  $\tilde{N} \geq 1$ . Using the discrete Fourier transform, we see that

$$(2.2) \quad \sigma(P_{\mathbf{Z}/\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z}}) = p(S_{\tilde{N}}),$$

where  $S_{\tilde{N}}$  is the dual of  $\mathbf{Z}/\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z}$  and given by

$$S_{\tilde{N}} = \{e^{ik2\pi/\tilde{N}}; 0 \leq k < \tilde{N}\}.$$

Let

$$(2.3) \quad p_N(\tau) = \sum_{|\nu| \leq N} a_\nu \tau^\nu = \sum_{\nu \in \mathbf{Z}} a_\nu^N \tau^\nu, \quad a_\nu^N = 1_{[-N, N]}(\nu) a_\nu.$$

and notice that

$$(2.4) \quad P_N = 1_{[0, N[} p_N(\tau) 1_{[0, N[}.$$

We now consider  $[0, N[$  as an interval  $I_N$  in  $\mathbf{Z}/\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z}$ ,  $\tilde{N} = N + M$ , where  $M \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$  will be fixed and independent of  $N$ . The matrix of  $P_N$ , indexed over  $I_N \times I_N$  is then given by

$$(2.5) \quad P_N(j, k) = a_{\tilde{j}-\tilde{k}}^N, \quad j, k \in I_N \subset \mathbf{Z}/\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z},$$

where  $\tilde{j}, \tilde{k} \in \mathbf{Z}$  are the preimages of  $j, k$  under the projection  $\mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}/\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z}$ , that belong to the interval  $[0, N[ \subset \mathbf{Z}$ .

Let  $\tilde{P}_N$  be given by the formula (2.4), with the difference that we now view  $\tau$  as a translation on  $\ell^2(\mathbf{Z}/\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z})$ :

$$(2.6) \quad \tilde{P}_N = 1_{I_N} p_N(\tau) 1_{I_N}.$$

The matrix of  $\tilde{P}_N$  is given by

$$(2.7) \quad \tilde{P}_N(j, k) = \sum_{\substack{\nu \in \mathbf{Z}, \\ \nu \equiv j-k \pmod{\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z}}}} a_\nu^N, \quad j, k \in I_N.$$

Alternatively, if we let  $\tilde{j}, \tilde{k}$  be the preimages in  $[0, N[$  of  $j, k \in I_N$ , then

$$(2.8) \quad \tilde{P}_N(j, k) = \sum_{\hat{j} \in \mathbf{Z}; \hat{j} \equiv \tilde{j} \pmod{\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z}}} a_{\hat{j}-\tilde{k}}^N.$$

Recall that the terms in (2.7), (2.8) with  $|\nu| > N$  or  $|\hat{j} - \tilde{k}| > N$  do vanish. This implies that with  $\tilde{j}, \tilde{k}$  as in (2.8),

$$(2.9) \quad \tilde{P}_N(j, k) - P_N(j, k) = a_{\tilde{j}-\tilde{N}-\tilde{k}}^N + a_{\tilde{j}+\tilde{N}-\tilde{k}}^N.$$

Here

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{j} - \tilde{N} &\in [0, N[-\tilde{N} = [-\tilde{N}, N - \tilde{N}[ = [-N - M, -M], \\ \tilde{j} + \tilde{N} &\in [0, N[+\tilde{N} = [\tilde{N}, N + \tilde{N}[ = [N + M, 2N + M]. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\tilde{k} \in [0, N[$  we have for the first term in (2.9) that  $|\tilde{j} - \tilde{N} - \tilde{k}| = \tilde{k} + M + (N - \tilde{j})$  with nonnegative terms in the last sum. Similarly for the second term in (2.9), we have  $|\tilde{j} + \tilde{N} - \tilde{k}| = \tilde{j} + M + (N - \tilde{k})$  where the terms in the last sum are all  $\geq 0$ .

It follows that the trace class norm of  $P_N - \tilde{P}_N$  is bounded from above by

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j < -M, k \geq 0} |a_{j-k}| + \sum_{j \geq N+M, k < N} |a_{j-k}| &= \sum_{k \geq 0, j \leq -M} |a_{j-k}| + \sum_{k \leq 0, j \geq M} |a_{j-k}| \\ &\leq 2C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} m(M+k+j) = 2C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)m(M+k) \\ &= 2C \sum_{k=M}^{\infty} (k+1-M)m(k). \end{aligned}$$

By (1.2), it follows that

$$(2.10) \quad \|P_N - \tilde{P}_N\|_{\text{tr}} \leq 2C \sum_{k=M}^{+\infty} (k+1-M)m(k) \rightarrow 0, \quad M \rightarrow \infty,$$

uniformly with respect to  $N$ . Here  $\|A\|_{\text{tr}} = \text{tr}(A^*A)^{1/2}$  denotes the Schatten 1-norm for a trace class operator  $A$ .

**Remark 2.1.** To illustrate the difference between  $P_N$  and  $\tilde{P}_N$  let  $N \gg 1$ ,  $M > 0$  and consider the example of  $p(\tau) = \tau^n$ , so  $a_n = 1$ , for some fixed  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ , and  $a_\nu = 0$  for  $\nu \neq n$ . Since  $P_N(j, k) = a_{j-k}^N$ , we see that

$$P_N(j, k) = \begin{cases} 1, & \tilde{j} = n + \tilde{k} \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

In other words  $P_N = (J^*)^n$  where  $J$  denotes the  $N \times N$  Jordan block matrix. The matrix elements of  $\tilde{P}_N$  on the other hand are given by  $\tilde{P}_N(j, k) = a_{j-\tilde{N}-\tilde{k}}^N + a_{j-\tilde{k}}^N + a_{j+\tilde{N}-\tilde{k}}^N$ , so

$$\tilde{P}_N(j, k) = \begin{cases} 1, & \tilde{j} = n + \tilde{k} \\ 1, & \tilde{j} = n + \tilde{k} - (N + M) \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

So  $\tilde{P}_N = P_N + J^{(N+M-n)}$ , when  $n \geq M$ , otherwise  $\tilde{P}_N = P_N$ .

### 3. A GRUSHIN PROBLEM FOR $P_N - z$

Let  $K \Subset \mathbf{C}$  be an open relatively compact set and let  $z \in K$ . Consider

$$(3.1) \quad J = [-M, 0[, \quad I_N = [0, N[$$

as subsets of  $\mathbf{Z}/(N+M)\mathbf{Z}$  so that

$$J \cup I_N = \mathbf{Z}/(N+M)\mathbf{Z} =: \mathbf{Z}_{N+M}$$

is a partition. Recall (2.3), (2.6) and consider

$$p_N(\tau) - z : \ell^2(\mathbf{Z}_{N+M}) \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathbf{Z}_{N+M})$$

and write this operator as a  $2 \times 2$  matrix

$$(3.2) \quad p_N - z = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{P}_N - z & R_- \\ R_+ & R_{+-}(z) \end{pmatrix},$$

induced by the orthogonal decomposition

$$(3.3) \quad \ell^2(\mathbf{Z}_{N+M}) = \ell^2(I_N) \oplus \ell^2(J).$$

The operator  $p_N(\tau)$  is normal and we know by (2.2) that its spectrum is

$$(3.4) \quad \sigma(p_N(\tau)) = p_N(S_{N+M}).$$



Replacing  $\tilde{P}_N$  in (3.2) by  $P_N$  (2.4), we put

$$(3.5) \quad \mathcal{P}_N(z) = \begin{pmatrix} P_N - z & R_- \\ R_+ & R_{+-}(z) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then, by (2.10),

$$(3.6) \quad \|\mathcal{P}_N(z) - (p_N - z)\|_{\text{tr}} \leq 2C \sum_{k=M}^{+\infty} (k+1-M)m(k) =: \epsilon(M).$$

If  $\epsilon(M) < \text{dist}(z, p_N(S_{N+M})) =: d_N(z)$ , then  $\mathcal{P}_N(z)$  is bijective and

$$(3.7) \quad \|\mathcal{P}_N(z)^{-1}\| \leq \frac{1}{d_N(z) - \epsilon(M)}.$$

Write,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_N(z) &= p_N(\tau) - z + \mathcal{P}_N(z) - (p_N(\tau) - z) \\ &= (p_N(\tau) - z) \left(1 + (p_N(\tau) - z)^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_N(z) - (p_N(\tau) - z))\right). \end{aligned}$$

Here,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \det \left(1 + (p_N(\tau) - z)^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_N(z) - (p_N(\tau) - z))\right) \right| \\ & \leq \exp \|(p_N(\tau) - z)^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_N(z) - (p_N(\tau) - z))\|_{\text{tr}} \\ & \leq \exp(\epsilon(M)/d_N(z)), \end{aligned}$$

so

$$(3.8) \quad |\det \mathcal{P}_N(z)| \leq |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)| e^{\epsilon(M)/d_N(z)}.$$

Similarly from

$$\begin{aligned} p_N(\tau) - z &= \mathcal{P}_N(z) + p_N(\tau) - z - \mathcal{P}_N(z) \\ &= \mathcal{P}_N(z) \left(1 + \mathcal{P}_N(z)^{-1}(p_N(\tau) - z - \mathcal{P}_N(z))\right), \end{aligned}$$

we get

$$(3.9) \quad |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)| \leq |\det \mathcal{P}_N(z)| e^{\frac{\epsilon(M)}{d_N(z) - \epsilon(M)}}.$$

In analogy with (3.5), we write

$$(3.10) \quad \mathcal{P}_N(z)^{-1} = \mathcal{E}_N(z) = \begin{pmatrix} E^N & E^N_+ \\ E^N_- & E^N_{-+} \end{pmatrix} : \ell^2(I_N) \oplus \ell^2(J) \rightarrow \ell^2(I_N) \oplus \ell^2(J),$$

where  $J, I_N$  were defined in (3.1), still viewed as intervals in  $\mathbf{Z}_{N+M}$ . From (3.7) we get for the respective operator norms:

$$(3.11) \quad \|E^N\|, \|E^N_+\|, \|E^N_-\|, \|E^N_{-+}\| \leq (d_N(z) - \epsilon(M))^{-1}.$$

#### 4. SECOND GRUSHIN PROBLEM

We begin with a result, which is a generalization of [SjZw07, Proposition 3.4] to the case where  $R_{+-} \neq 0$ .

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{H}_2, \mathcal{H}_\pm, \mathcal{S}_\pm$  be Banach spaces. If*

$$(4.1) \quad \mathcal{P} = \begin{pmatrix} P & R_- \\ R_+ & R_{+-} \end{pmatrix} : \mathcal{H}_1 \times \mathcal{H}_- \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_2 \times \mathcal{H}_+$$

*is bijective with bounded inverse*

$$\mathcal{E} = \begin{pmatrix} E & E_+ \\ E_- & E_{-+} \end{pmatrix} : \mathcal{H}_2 \times \mathcal{H}_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_1 \times \mathcal{H}_-,$$

and if

$$(4.2) \quad \mathcal{S} = \begin{pmatrix} E_{-+} & S_- \\ S_+ & 0 \end{pmatrix} : \mathcal{H}_+ \times \mathcal{S}_- \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_- \times \mathcal{S}_+$$

is bijective with bounded inverse

$$\mathcal{F} = \begin{pmatrix} F & F_+ \\ F_- & F_{-+} \end{pmatrix} : \mathcal{H}_- \times \mathcal{S}_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_+ \times \mathcal{S}_-,$$

then

$$(4.3) \quad \mathcal{T} = \begin{pmatrix} P & R_- S_- \\ S_+ R_+ & S_+ R_{+-} S_- \end{pmatrix} =: \begin{pmatrix} P & T_- \\ T_+ & T_{+-} \end{pmatrix} : \mathcal{H}_1 \times \mathcal{S}_- \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_2 \times \mathcal{S}_+$$

is bijective with bounded inverse

$$(4.4) \quad \mathcal{G} = \begin{pmatrix} G & G_+ \\ G_- & G_{-+} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} E - E_+ F E_- & E_+ F_+ \\ F_- E_- & -F_{-+} \end{pmatrix} : \mathcal{H}_2 \times \mathcal{S}_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_1 \times \mathcal{S}_-.$$

*Proof.* We can essentially follow the proof of [SjZw07, Proposition 3.4]. We need to solve

$$(4.5) \quad \begin{cases} Pu + R_- S_- u_- = v \\ S_+ R_+ u + S_+ R_{+-} S_- u_- = v_+. \end{cases}$$

Putting  $\tilde{v}_+ = R_+ u + R_{+-} S_- u_-$ , the first equation is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} Pu + R_- S_- u_- = v \\ R_+ u + R_{+-} S_- u_- = \tilde{v}_+, \end{cases} \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \mathcal{P} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ S_- u_- \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v \\ \tilde{v}_+ \end{pmatrix},$$

and hence to

$$(4.6) \quad \begin{cases} u = Ev + E_+ \tilde{v}_+ \\ S_- u_- = E_- v + E_{-+} \tilde{v}_+. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, we can replace  $u$  by  $\tilde{v}_+$  and (4.5) is equivalent to

$$(4.7) \quad \begin{pmatrix} E_{-+} & S_- \\ S_+ & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{v}_+ \\ -u_- \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -E_- v \\ v_+ \end{pmatrix}$$

which can be solved by  $\mathcal{F}$ . Hence, (4.7) is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{v}_+ = -F E_- v + F_+ v_+ \\ -u_- = -F_- E_- v + F_{-+} v_+, \end{cases}$$

and (4.6) gives the unique solution of (4.5)

$$\begin{cases} u = (E - E_+ F E_-) v + E_+ F_+ v_+ \\ u_- = F_- E_- v - F_{-+} v_+. \end{cases} \quad \square$$

**4.1. Grushin problem for  $E_{-+}(z)$ .** We want to apply Proposition 4.1 to  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(z) = \mathcal{P}_N(z)$  in (3.5) with the inverse  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_N(z)$  in (3.10), where we sometimes drop the index  $N$ . We begin by constructing an invertible Grushin problem for  $E_{-+}$ :

Let  $0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_M$  denote the singular values of  $E_{-+}(z)$ . Let  $e_1, \dots, e_M$  denote an orthonormal basis of eigenvectors of  $E_{-+}^* E_{-+}$  associated to the eigenvalues  $t_1^2 \leq \dots \leq t_M^2$ . Since  $E_{-+}$  is a square matrix, we have that  $\dim \mathcal{N}(E_{-+}(z)) = \dim \mathcal{N}(E_{-+}^*(z))$ <sup>1</sup>. Using the spectral decomposition  $\ell^2(J) = \mathcal{N}(E_{-+}^* E_{-+}) \oplus_{\perp} \mathcal{R}(E_{-+}^* E_{-+})$  together with the fact that  $\mathcal{N}(E_{-+}^* E_{-+}) = \mathcal{N}(E_{-+})$  and  $\mathcal{R}(E_{-+}^*) = \mathcal{N}(E_{-+})^{\perp}$ , it follows that  $\mathcal{R}(E_{-+}^*) =$

<sup>1</sup>Here  $\mathcal{N}(A)$  and  $\mathcal{R}(A)$  denote the nullspace and the range of a linear operator  $A$ .

$\mathcal{R}(E_{-+}^*E_{-+})$ . Similarly, we get that  $\mathcal{R}(E_{-+}) = \mathcal{R}(E_{-+}E_{-+}^*)$ . One then easily checks that  $E_{-+} : \mathcal{R}(E_{-+}^*E_{-+}) \rightarrow \mathcal{R}(E_{-+}E_{-+}^*)$  is a bijection. Similarly,  $E_{-+}^* : \mathcal{R}(E_{-+}E_{-+}^*) \rightarrow \mathcal{R}(E_{-+}^*E_{-+})$  is a bijection. Let  $f_1, \dots, f_{M_0}$  denote an orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{N}(E_{-+}^*(z))$  and set

$$f_j = t_j^{-1}E_{-+}e_j, \quad j = M_0 + 1, \dots, M.$$

Then,  $f_1, \dots, f_M$  is an orthonormal basis of  $\ell^2(J)$  comprised of eigenfunctions of  $E_{-+}E_{-+}^*$  associated with the eigenvalues  $t_1^2 \leq \dots \leq t_M^2$ . In particular,  $\sigma(E_{-+}E_{-+}^*) = \sigma(E_{-+}^*E_{-+})$  and

$$(4.8) \quad E_{-+}e_j = t_j f_j, \quad E_{-+}^*f_j = t_j e_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, M.$$

Let  $0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_k$  be the singular values of  $E_{-+}(z)$  in the interval  $[0, \tau]$  for  $\tau > 0$  small. Let  $\mathcal{S}_+, \mathcal{S}_- \subset \ell^2(J)$  be the corresponding (sums of) spectral subspaces for  $E_{-+}E_{-+}^*$  and  $E_{-+}^*E_{-+}$  respectively, corresponding to the eigenvalues  $t_1^2 \leq t_2^2 \leq \dots \leq t_k^2$  in  $[0, \tau^2]$ . Using (4.8), we see that the restrictions (denoted by the same symbols)

$$E_{-+} : \mathcal{S}_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_-, \quad E_{-+}^* : \mathcal{S}_- \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_+,$$

have norms  $\leq \tau$ . Also,

$$(4.9) \quad E_{-+} : \mathcal{S}_+^\perp \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_-^\perp, \quad E_{-+}^* : \mathcal{S}_-^\perp \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_+^\perp$$

are bijective with inverses of norm  $\leq 1/\tau$ .

Let  $S_+$  be the orthogonal projection onto  $\mathcal{S}_+$ , viewed as an operator  $\ell^2(J) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_+$ , whose adjoint is the inclusion map  $\mathcal{S}_+ \rightarrow \ell^2(J)$ . Let  $S_- : \mathcal{S}_- \rightarrow \ell^2(J)$  be the inclusion map. Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be the operator in (4.2) with  $\mathcal{H}_\pm = \ell^2(J)$ , corresponding to the problem

$$(4.10) \quad \begin{cases} E_{-+}g + S_-g_- = h \in \ell^2(J), \\ S_+g = h_+ \in \mathcal{S}_+, \end{cases}$$

for the unknowns  $g \in \ell^2(J)$ ,  $g_- \in \mathcal{S}_-$ . Using the orthogonal decompositions,

$$\ell^2(J) = \mathcal{S}_+^\perp \oplus \mathcal{S}_+, \quad \ell^2(J) = \mathcal{S}_-^\perp \oplus \mathcal{S}_-,$$

we write  $g = \sum_1^k g_j e_j + g^\perp$  and  $h = \sum_1^k h_j f_j + h^\perp$ . Then, (4.10) is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} g^\perp = (E_{-+})^{-1}h^\perp \\ \begin{pmatrix} g_j \\ g_-^j \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -t_j \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h_j \\ h_+^j \end{pmatrix}, \quad j = 1, \dots, M, \end{cases}$$

where we also used that  $g_- = \sum_1^k g_-^j f_j$  and  $h_+ = \sum_1^k h_+^j e_j$ . It follows that

$$(4.11) \quad \begin{cases} g = (E_{-+})^{-1}h^\perp + \sum_1^k h_+^j e_j \\ g_- = \sum_1^k h^j f_j - \sum_1^k t_j h_+^j f_j. \end{cases}$$

Hence, the unique solution to (4.10) is given by

$$(4.12) \quad \begin{pmatrix} g \\ g_- \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{F} \begin{pmatrix} h \\ h_+ \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} F & F_+ \\ F_- & F_{-+} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h \\ h_+ \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$(4.13) \quad \begin{aligned} F &= E_{-+}^{-1} \Pi_{\mathcal{S}_+^\perp}, \quad F_+ = S_+^*, \\ F_- &= S_-^*, \quad F_{-+} = -E_{-+}|_{\mathcal{S}_+} : \mathcal{S}_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_-. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $\Pi_B$  denotes the orthogonal projection onto the subspace  $B$  of  $A$ , viewed as a self-adjoint operator  $A \rightarrow A$ . Notice that  $F = \Pi_{S_{\pm}^+} F$  and that

$$(4.14) \quad F_{-+} = - \sum_1^k t_j f_j \circ e_j^*, \quad \text{i.e. } F_{-+} u = - \sum_1^k t_j (u|e_j) f_j.$$

Using as well (4.9), we have

$$(4.15) \quad \|F\| \leq 1/\tau, \quad \|F_+\|, \|F_-\| \leq 1, \quad \|F_{-+}\| \leq \tau.$$

**4.2. Composing the Grushin problems.** From now on we assume that

$$(4.16) \quad 0 < \alpha \ll 1, \quad \epsilon(M) \leq \alpha/2,$$

and the estimates below will be uniformly valid for  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ ,  $N \gg 1$ , where  $K$  is some fixed relatively compact open set in  $\mathbf{C}$  and

$$(4.17) \quad \gamma_\alpha = \{z \in \mathbf{C}; \text{dist}(z, \gamma) \leq \alpha\}, \quad \gamma = p(S^1).$$

We apply Proposition 4.1 to  $\mathcal{P}_N$  in (3.5) with the inverse  $\mathcal{E}_N$  in (3.10), and to  $\mathcal{S}$  defined in (4.10) with inverse in  $\mathcal{F}$  in (4.12). Let  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ , then

$$(4.18) \quad \mathcal{T}_N = \begin{pmatrix} P_N - z & R_- S_- \\ S_+ R_+ & S_+ R_{+-} S_- \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} P_N - z & T_- \\ T_+ & T_{+-} \end{pmatrix} : L^2(I_N) \times \mathcal{S}_- \rightarrow L^2(I_N) \times \mathcal{S}_+,$$

defined as in (4.3), is bijective with the bounded inverse

$$(4.19) \quad \mathcal{G}_N = \begin{pmatrix} G_-^N & G_+^N \\ G_-^N & G_{-+}^N \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} E^N - E_+^N F E_-^N & E_+^N F_+ \\ F_- E_-^N & -F_{-+} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $S_{\pm}$  have norms  $\leq 1$ , we get

$$(4.20) \quad \|T_{\pm}\| \leq \|R_{\pm}\| = \mathcal{O}(1),$$

uniformly in  $N$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $z \in K$ . Also, since the norms of  $E^N, E_+^N, E_-^N$  are  $\leq 2/\alpha$  (uniformly as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ) by (3.11), we get from (4.4), (4.15), that

$$(4.21) \quad \|G^N\| \leq \frac{2}{\alpha} + \frac{4}{\tau\alpha^2}, \quad \|G_{-+}^N\| \leq \tau, \quad \|G_{\pm}^N\| \leq \frac{2}{\alpha}.$$

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $K \Subset \mathbf{C}$  be an open relatively compact set, let  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ , and let  $\tau > 0$  be as in the definition of the Grushin problem (4.10). Then, for  $\tau > 0$  small enough, depending only on  $K$ , we have that  $G_+^N$  is injective and  $G_-^N$  is surjective. Moreover, there exists a constant  $C > 0$ , depending only on  $K$ , such that for all  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$  the singular values  $s_j^+$  of  $G_+^N$ , and  $s_j^-$  of  $(G_-^N)^*$  satisfy*

$$(4.22) \quad \frac{1}{C} \leq s_j^{\pm} \leq \frac{2}{\alpha}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq k(z) = \text{rank}(G_{\pm}^N).$$

*Proof.* To ease the notation we will omit the sub-/superscript  $N$ . We begin with the injectivity of  $G_+$ . From

$$(4.23) \quad \begin{pmatrix} P - z & T_- \\ T_+ & T_{+-} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G & G_+ \\ G_- & G_{-+} \end{pmatrix} = 1,$$

we have  $T_+ G_+ + T_{+-} G_{-+} = 1$  which we write  $T_+ G_+ = 1 - T_{+-} G_{-+}$ . Here

$$\|T_{+-} G_{-+}\| \leq \|R_{+-}\| \tau = \mathcal{O}(\tau),$$

where we used that  $\|R_{+-}\| \leq \|p(\tau) - z\| = \mathcal{O}(1) \|m\|_{\ell^1}$ , thus the error term above only depends on  $K$ . Choosing  $\tau > 0$  small enough, depending on  $K$  but not on  $N$ , we get that

$\|T_{+-}G_{+-}\| \leq 1/2$ . Then  $1 - T_{+-}G_{+-}$  is bijective with  $\|(1 - T_{+-}G_{+-})^{-1}\| \leq 2$  and  $G_+$  has the left inverse

$$(4.24) \quad (1 - T_{+-}G_{+-})^{-1}T_+$$

of norm  $\leq 2\|R_+\| = \mathcal{O}(1)$ , depending only on  $K$ .

Now we turn to the surjectivity of  $G_-$ . From

$$\begin{pmatrix} G & G_+ \\ G_- & G_{-+} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} P - z & T_- \\ T_+ & T_{+-} \end{pmatrix} = 1,$$

we get

$$\begin{pmatrix} (P - z)^* & T_+^* \\ T_-^* & T_{+-}^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G^* & G_-^* \\ G_+^* & G_{-+}^* \end{pmatrix} = 1,$$

and as above we then see that  $G_-^*$  has the left inverse  $(1 - T_{+-}^*G_{-+}^*)^{-1}T_-^*$ . Hence  $G_-$  has the right inverse

$$(4.25) \quad T_-(1 - G_{-+}T_{+-})^{-1},$$

of norm  $\leq 2\|R_-\| = \mathcal{O}(1)$ , depending only on  $K$ .

The lower bound on the singular values follows from the estimates on the left inverses of  $G_+$  and  $G_-^*$ , and the upper bound follows from (4.21).  $\square$

## 5. DETERMINANTS

We continue working under the assumptions (4.16), (4.17). Additionally, we fix  $\tau > 0$  sufficiently small (depending only on the fixed relatively compact set  $K \Subset \mathbf{C}$ ) so that  $\|T_{+-}G_{+-}\|, \|G_{-+}T_{+-}\|$  (both  $= \mathcal{O}(\tau)$ ) are  $\leq 1/2$ , which implies that  $G_+$  is injective and  $G_+$  is surjective, see Proposition 4.2. Here, we sometimes drop the sub-/superscript  $N$ .

From now on we will work with  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ . The constructions and estimates in Section 3 are then uniform in  $z$  for  $N \gg 1$  and the same holds for those in Section 4.

**Remark 5.1.** *To get the  $o(N)$  error term in Theorem 1.1, we will take  $\alpha > 0$  arbitrarily small, and  $M > 1$  large enough (but fixed) so that  $\epsilon(M) \leq \alpha/2$ , see (2.10) as well as  $N > 1$  sufficiently large. In the following, the error terms will typically depend on  $\alpha$ , although we will not always denote this explicitly, however they will be uniform in  $N > 1$  and in  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ .*

**5.1. The unperturbed operator.** For  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ , we have  $d_N(z) \geq \alpha$  and (3.8), (3.9) give

$$(5.1) \quad |\det \mathcal{P}_N(z)| \leq e^{\epsilon(M)/\alpha} |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)|,$$

$$(5.2) \quad |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)| \leq e^{2\epsilon(M)/\alpha} |\det \mathcal{P}_N(z)|,$$

where we also used that

$$\frac{\epsilon(M)}{d_N(z) - \epsilon(M)} \leq \frac{\epsilon(M)}{\alpha - \epsilon(M)} \leq \frac{2\epsilon(M)}{\alpha},$$

by the second inequality in (4.16). Recall here that  $p_N(\tau)$  acts on  $\ell^2(\mathbf{Z}/\tilde{N}\mathbf{Z})$ ,  $\tilde{N} = N + M$ .

By the Schur complement formula, we have

$$(5.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \det(P_N - z) &= \det \mathcal{P}_N(z) \det E_{-+}(z), \\ \det(P_N - z) &= \det \mathcal{T}_N(z) \det G_{-+}(z), \end{aligned}$$

so

$$(5.4) \quad \frac{\det \mathcal{T}_N}{\det \mathcal{P}_N} = \frac{\det E_{-+}}{\det G_{-+}}.$$

Recall from the Section 4.1 that the singular values of  $E_{-+}$  are denoted by  $0 \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \leq \dots \leq t_M$  and that those of  $G_{-+}$  are  $t_1, \dots, t_k$ , where  $k = k(z, N)$  is determined by the condition  $t_k \leq \tau < t_{k+1}$ . Thus

$$\left| \frac{\det E_{-+}}{\det G_{-+}} \right| = \prod_{k+1}^M t_j$$

and we get (since  $\tau \ll 1$ )

$$\tau^M \leq \left| \frac{\det E_{-+}}{\det G_{-+}} \right| \leq \left( \frac{2}{\alpha} \right)^M.$$

Since  $\tau > 0$  is small, but fixed depending only on  $K$ , we have uniformly for  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ ,  $N \gg 1$ :

$$(5.5) \quad |\ln |\det E_{-+}| - \ln |\det G_{-+}|| \leq \mathcal{O}(1)$$

and by (5.4)

$$(5.6) \quad |\ln |\det \mathcal{T}_N| - \ln |\det \mathcal{P}_N|| \leq \mathcal{O}(1).$$

From (5.1), (5.2), we get

$$(5.7) \quad |\ln |\det \mathcal{P}_N| - \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)|| \leq \mathcal{O}(1),$$

hence

$$(5.8) \quad |\ln |\det \mathcal{T}_N| - \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)|| \leq \mathcal{O}(1).$$

**5.2. The perturbed operator.** We next extend the estimates to the case of a perturbed operator

$$(5.9) \quad P_N^\delta = P_N + \delta Q,$$

where  $Q : \ell^2(I_N) \rightarrow \ell^2(I_N)$  satisfies

$$(5.10) \quad \delta \|Q\| \ll 1.$$

**Proposition 5.2.** *Let  $K \Subset \mathbf{C}$  be an open relatively compact set and suppose that (4.16) hold. Recall (4.17) and (3.5), if  $\delta \|Q\| \alpha^{-1} \ll 1$ , then for all  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$*

$$(5.11) \quad \mathcal{P}_N^\delta = \begin{pmatrix} P_N^\delta - z & R_- \\ R_+ & R_{+-}(z) \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{P} + \begin{pmatrix} \delta Q & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

is bijective with bounded inverse

$$(5.12) \quad \mathcal{E}_N^\delta = \begin{pmatrix} E_-^\delta & E_+^\delta \\ E_-^\delta & E_{+-}^\delta \end{pmatrix}.$$

Recall (4.18), if  $\delta \|Q\| \alpha^{-2} \ll 1$ , then for all  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$

$$(5.13) \quad \mathcal{T}_N^\delta = \begin{pmatrix} P_N^\delta - z & T_- \\ T_+ & T_{+-} \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{T}_N + \begin{pmatrix} \delta Q & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

is bijective with bounded inverse

$$(5.14) \quad \mathcal{G}_N^\delta = \begin{pmatrix} G_-^\delta & G_+^\delta \\ G_-^\delta & G_{+-}^\delta \end{pmatrix},$$

with

$$(5.15) \quad G_{-+}^\delta(z) = G_{-+} - G_- \delta Q (1 + G \delta Q)^{-1} G_+.$$

Moreover,  $\|\mathcal{E}_N^\delta\| \leq 4/\alpha$ ,  $\|\mathcal{G}_N^\delta\| \leq \mathcal{O}(\alpha^{-2})$ , uniformly in  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$  and  $N > 1$ .

*Proof.* We sometimes drop the subscript  $N$ . By (3.10),

$$\mathcal{P}^\delta \mathcal{E} = 1 + \begin{pmatrix} \delta Q E & \delta Q E_+ \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By (3.11), it follows that  $\|E\| \leq 2/\alpha$ , so if  $\delta\|Q\|\alpha^{-1} \ll 1$ , then by Neumann series argument, the above is invertible and

$$(5.16) \quad \mathcal{E} \left( 1 + \begin{pmatrix} \delta Q E & \delta Q E_+ \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right)^{-1}$$

is a right inverse of  $\mathcal{P}^\delta$ , of norm  $\leq 2\|\mathcal{E}\| \leq 4/\alpha$ . Since  $\mathcal{P}^\delta$  is Fredholm of index 0, this is also a left inverse. The proof for  $\mathcal{T}_N^\delta$  is similar, using that  $\|G\| = \mathcal{O}(\alpha^{-2})$  by (4.21), since  $\tau > 0$  is fixed. Finally, the expression (5.15) follows easily from expanding (5.16).  $\square$

We drop the subscript  $N$  until further notice. By (5.13), we have

$$(5.17) \quad \|\mathcal{T} - \mathcal{T}^\delta\|_{\text{tr}} \leq \delta\|Q\|_{\text{tr}}.$$

Recall from the text after (2.10) the definition of the Schatten norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\text{tr}}$ . Write,

$$\mathcal{T}^\delta = \mathcal{T}(1 - \mathcal{T}^{-1}(\mathcal{T} - \mathcal{T}^\delta)),$$

where

$$(5.18) \quad \|\mathcal{T}^{-1}(\mathcal{T} - \mathcal{T}^\delta)\|_{\text{tr}} \leq \mathcal{O}(\delta)\|Q\|_{\text{tr}}.$$

Here, we used that  $\|\mathcal{T}^{-1}\| = \|\mathcal{G}\| = \mathcal{O}(1)$ , by (4.21) and the fact that  $\tau > 0$  is fixed. We recall that the estimates here depend on  $\alpha$ , yet are uniform in  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$  and  $N > 1$ . It follows that

$$|\det(1 - \mathcal{T}^{-1}(\mathcal{T} - \mathcal{T}^\delta))| \leq \exp\|\mathcal{T}^{-1}(\mathcal{T} - \mathcal{T}^\delta)\|_{\text{tr}} \leq \exp(\mathcal{O}(\delta)\|Q\|_{\text{tr}}),$$

and

$$(5.19) \quad \begin{aligned} |\det \mathcal{T}_\delta| &= |\det \mathcal{T}| |\det(1 - \mathcal{T}^{-1}(\mathcal{T} - \mathcal{T}^\delta))| \\ &\leq \exp(\mathcal{O}(\delta)\|Q\|_{\text{tr}}) |\det \mathcal{T}|. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly from the identity

$$\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}^\delta(1 - \mathcal{T}_\delta^{-1}(\mathcal{T}^\delta - \mathcal{T})),$$

(putting  $\delta$  as a subscript whenever convenient), we get

$$(5.20) \quad |\det \mathcal{T}| \leq \exp(\mathcal{O}(\delta)\|Q\|_{\text{tr}}) |\det \mathcal{T}^\delta|,$$

thus

$$(5.21) \quad |\ln |\det \mathcal{T}_\delta| - \ln |\mathcal{T}| \leq \mathcal{O}(\delta)\|Q\|_{\text{tr}}.$$

Assume that (uniformly in  $N > 1$  and independently of  $\alpha$ )

$$(5.22) \quad \delta\|Q\|_{\text{tr}} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)$$

and recall (5.8). Then

$$(5.23) \quad |\ln |\det \mathcal{T}_\delta| - \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)| \leq \mathcal{O}(1).$$

Notice that the error term depends on  $\alpha$ . Using also the general identity (cf. (5.3)),

$$(5.24) \quad \det(P_N^\delta - z) = \det \mathcal{T}^\delta(z) \det G_{-+}^\delta(z),$$

we get

$$(5.25) \quad \ln |\det(P_N^\delta - z)| = \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)| + \ln |\det G_{-+}^\delta| + \mathcal{O}(1),$$

uniformly for  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ ,  $N \gg 1$ .

## 6. LOWER BOUNDS WITH PROBABILITY CLOSE TO 1

We now adapt the discussion in [SjVo19, Section 5] to  $\mathcal{T}^\delta$ . Let

$$(6.1) \quad P_N^\delta = P_N + \delta Q_\omega, \quad Q_\omega = (q_{j,k}(\omega))_{1 \leq j,k \leq N},$$

where  $0 \leq \delta \ll 1$  and  $q_{j,k}(\omega) \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$  are independent normalized complex Gaussian random variables. Recall from (1.21) that

$$(6.2) \quad \mathbf{P}[\|Q_\omega\|_{\text{HS}} \leq C_1 N] \geq 1 - e^{-N^2},$$

for some universal constant  $C_1 > 0$ . In the following we restrict the attention to the case when

$$(6.3) \quad \|Q_\omega\|_{\text{HS}} \leq C_1 N,$$

and (as before)  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ ,  $N \gg 1$ . We assume that

$$(6.4) \quad \delta \ll N^{-3/2}.$$

Then

$$\delta \|Q\|_{\text{tr}} \leq \delta N^{1/2} \|Q\|_{\text{HS}} \leq \delta C_1 N^{3/2} \ll 1,$$

and the estimates of the previous sections apply.

Let  $\mathcal{Q}_{C_1 N}$  be the set of matrices satisfying (6.3). As in [SjVo19, Section 5.3] we study the map (5.15), i.e.

$$(6.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}_{C_1 N} \ni Q \mapsto G_{-+}^\delta(z) &= G_{-+} - G_- \delta Q (1 + G \delta Q)^{-1} G_+ \\ &= G_{-+} - \delta G_- (Q + T(z, Q)) G_+, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$(6.6) \quad T(z, Q) = \sum_1^\infty (-\delta)^n Q (GQ)^n,$$

and notice first that by (4.21)

$$(6.7) \quad \|T\|_{\text{HS}} \leq \mathcal{O}(\delta \alpha^{-2} N^2).$$

We strengthen the assumption (6.4) to

$$(6.8) \quad \delta \ll N^{-2} \alpha^2.$$

At the end of Section 4 we have established the uniform injectivity and surjectivity respectively for  $G_+$  and  $G_-$ . This means that the singular values  $s_j^\pm$  of  $G_\pm$  for  $1 \leq j \leq k(z) = \text{rank}(G_-) = \text{rank}(G_+)$  satisfy

$$(6.9) \quad \frac{1}{\alpha} \leq s_j^\pm \leq \frac{2}{\alpha}$$

This corresponds to [SjVo19, (5.27)] and the subsequent discussion there carries over to the present situation with the obvious modifications. Similarly to [SjVo19, (5.42)] we strengthen the assumption on  $\delta$  to

$$(6.10) \quad \delta \ll N^{-3} \alpha^2$$

Notice, that assumption (6.10) is stronger than the assumptions on  $\delta$  in Proposition 5.2. The same reasoning as in [SjVo19, Section 5.3] leads to the following adaptation of Proposition 5.3 in [SjVo19]:



**Proposition 6.1.** *Let  $K \subset \mathbf{C}$  be compact,  $0 < \alpha \ll 1$  and choose  $M$  so that  $\epsilon(M) \leq \alpha/2$ . Let  $\delta$  satisfy (6.10). Then the second Grushin problem with matrix  $\mathcal{T}^\delta$  is well posed with a bounded inverse  $\mathcal{G}^\delta$  introduced in Proposition 5.2. The following holds uniformly for  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ ,  $N \gg 1$ :*

*There exist positive constants  $C_0, C_2$  such that*

$$\mathbf{P} \left( \ln |\det G_{-+}^\delta(z)|^2 \geq -t \text{ and } \|Q\|_{\text{HS}} \leq C_1 N \right) \geq 1 - e^{-N^2} - C_2 \delta^{-M} e^{-t/2},$$

when

$$t \geq C_0 - 2M \ln \delta, \quad 0 < \delta \ll N^{-3} \alpha^2.$$

## 7. COUNTING EIGENVALUES IN SMOOTH DOMAINS

In this section we will prove Theorem 1.1. We will begin with a brief outline of the key steps:

We wish to count the zeros of the holomorphic function  $u(z) = \det(P_N^\delta - z)$ , which depends on the large parameter  $N > 0$ , in smooth domains  $\Omega \Subset \mathbf{C}$  as in Theorem 1.1.

1. We work in some sufficiently large but fixed compact set  $K \Subset \mathbf{C}$  containing  $\Omega$ . In Section 7.1, we begin by showing that  $u(z)$  satisfies with probability close to 1 an upper bound of the form

$$(7.1) \quad \ln |u(z)| \leq N(\phi(z) + \varepsilon),$$

for  $z \in K$ . Here,  $0 < \varepsilon \ll 1$  and  $\phi(z)$  is some suitable continuous subharmonic function. Next, we will show that  $u(z)$  satisfies for any fixed point  $z_0$  in  $K \setminus \Gamma_\alpha$  a lower bound of the form

$$(7.2) \quad \ln |u(z_0)| \geq N(\phi(z_0) - \varepsilon)$$

with probability close to 1. Here,  $\Gamma_\alpha$  denotes the set  $\gamma_\alpha$  suitably enlarged to be a compact set with smooth boundary, see Figure 2 for an illustration. The function  $\phi$  will be constructed in the following way: Outside  $\Gamma_\alpha$  we set  $\phi(z)$  to be  $\ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)|$ , which in view of (5.25) and Proposition 6.1 yields the estimates (7.1), (7.2) outside  $\Gamma_\alpha$ . Inside  $\Gamma_\alpha$  we set  $\phi$  to be the solution to the Dirichlet problem for the Laplace operator on  $\Gamma_\alpha$  with boundary conditions  $\phi|_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha} = \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)||_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha}$ . Since  $\ln |u(z)|$  is subharmonic we have that the bound (7.1) holds in all of  $K$ .

2. In Section 7.2, we will use (7.1), (7.2) and [Sj10, Theorem 1.1] (see also [Sj19, Chapter 12]) to estimate the number of zeros of  $u$  in  $\Omega$  and thus the number of eigenvalues of  $P_N^\delta$  in  $\Omega$ , i.e.

$$(7.3) \quad \#(\sigma(P_N^\delta) \cap \Omega) = \#(u^{-1}(0) \cap \Omega) \sim \frac{N}{2\pi} \int_\Omega \Delta \phi L(dz),$$

see (7.22) below.

3. In Section 7.3, we study the measure  $\Delta \phi$  by analysing the Poisson and Green kernel of  $\Gamma_\alpha$ . We will use this analysis to give precise error estimates on the asymptotics (7.3) and we will show that  $\frac{N}{2\pi} \Delta \phi$  integrated over  $\Omega$  is, up to a small error, given by the number of eigenvalues  $\lambda_j$  of  $p_N(\tau)$  (3.4) in  $\Omega$ , i.e.

$$\frac{N}{2\pi} \int_\Omega \Delta \phi L(dz) = \#\{\lambda_j \in \Omega\} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha N),$$

see (7.53) below. This, in combination with (7.3), see (7.22) below, will let us conclude Theorem 1.1.

**7.1. Estimates on the log-determinant.** We work under the assumptions of Proposition 6.1 and from now on we assume that  $\delta$  satisfies (1.13), i.e.

$$(7.4) \quad e^{-N^{\delta_0}} \leq \delta \ll N^{-\delta_1},$$

for some fixed  $\delta_0 \in ]0, 1[$  and  $\delta_1 > 3$ . Notice that (6.10) holds for  $N > 1$  sufficiently large (depending on  $\alpha$ ). Then with probability  $\geq 1 - e^{-N^2}$  we have  $G_{-+}^\delta(z) = \mathcal{O}(1)$  for every  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ , hence by (5.25)

$$(7.5) \quad \ln |\det(P_N^\delta - z)| \leq \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)| + \mathcal{O}(1).$$

On the other hand, by (5.25) and Proposition 6.1, we have for every  $z \in K \setminus \gamma_\alpha$  that

$$(7.6) \quad \ln |\det(P_N^\delta - z)| \geq \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)| - \frac{t}{2} - \mathcal{O}(1)$$

with probability

$$(7.7) \quad \geq 1 - e^{-N^2} - C_2 \delta^{-M} e^{-t/2},$$

when

$$(7.8) \quad t \geq C_0 - 2M \ln \delta.$$

Next we enlarge  $\gamma_\alpha$  to  $\Gamma_\alpha$ , away from a neighbourhood of the region  $\partial\Omega \cap \gamma$ , so that  $\Gamma_\alpha$  has a smooth boundary. More precisely: Let  $g \in C^\infty(\mathbf{C}; \mathbf{R})$  be a boundary defining function of  $\Omega$ , so that  $g(z) < 0$  for  $z \in \Omega$  and  $dg \neq 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ . Then, for  $C > 0$  sufficiently large and  $\alpha > 0$  sufficiently small, we define

$$(7.9) \quad \Gamma_\alpha^0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \gamma_\alpha \cup \{z \in \mathbf{C}; g(z) < -1/C\} \cup \{z \in \mathbf{C}; g(z) > 1/C \text{ and } |z| \leq C\},$$

Notice that due to the assumption that the intersection of  $\partial\Omega$  with  $\gamma$  is transversal, the boundary of  $\Gamma_\alpha^0$  may be only Lipschitz near the intersection points

$$\{z_0, \dots, z_q\} = \partial\gamma_\alpha \cap \partial G, \quad \text{where } G \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{z \in \mathbf{C}; |g(z)| \leq 1/C\}.$$

By the assumptions on  $\Omega$  we have that  $q < \infty$ . Away from these points, we have that  $\partial\Gamma_\alpha^0$  is smooth. To remedy this lack of regularity we will slightly deform  $\Gamma_\alpha^0$  in an  $\alpha$ -neighborhood of these points.

Pick  $z_0 \in \partial\gamma_\alpha \cap \partial G$ . Since  $\partial\gamma_\alpha \cap D(z_0, \alpha)$  and  $\partial G \cap D(z_0, \alpha)$  are transversal to each other, it follows that there exists new affine coordinates  $\tilde{z} = U(z - z_0)$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^2 \simeq \mathbf{C} \ni z = (z^1, z^2)$  being the old coordinates, where  $U$  is orthogonal, and smooth functions  $f_1, f_2$  independent of  $\alpha$ , such that  $\gamma_\alpha \cap D(z_0, \alpha)$  takes the form

$$A = \{z \in D(z_0, \alpha); \tilde{z}^2 \leq f_2(\tilde{z}^1), |\tilde{z}^1| < \alpha, \|\tilde{z}\| < \alpha\},$$

and that  $(\mathbf{C} \setminus \mathring{G}) \cap D(z_0, \alpha)$  takes the form

$$B = \{z \in D(z_0, \alpha); \tilde{z}^2 \leq f_1(\tilde{z}^1), |\tilde{z}^1| < \alpha, \|\tilde{z}\| < \alpha\}.$$

Here,  $f_1$ , respectively  $f_2$ , is (after translation and rotation) a smooth local parametrization of  $\partial G$ , resp.  $\partial\gamma_\alpha$ , near  $z_0$ . Moreover,  $f_2(0) = f_1(0)$  and the transversality assumption yields that  $\tilde{z}^1 = 0$  is the only point in the interval  $] -\alpha, \alpha[$  where  $f_2(\tilde{z}^1) = f_1(\tilde{z}^1)$ .

Then,  $\Gamma_\alpha^0 \cap D(z_0, \alpha)$  takes the form

$$A \cup B = \{z \in D(z_0, \alpha); \tilde{z}^2 \leq \max\{f_1(\tilde{z}^1), f_2(\tilde{z}^1)\}, |\tilde{z}^1| < \alpha, \|\tilde{z}\| < \alpha\}.$$

Continuing, let  $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbf{R}; [0, 1])$  so that  $\chi = 1$  on  $[-1/4, 1/4]$  and  $\chi = 0$  outside  $] -1/2, 1/2[$ , and let  $C > 0$  be sufficiently large. Set

$$f(t) = \left(1 - \chi\left(\frac{t}{\alpha}\right)\right) \max\{f_1(t), f_2(t)\} + \chi\left(\frac{t}{\alpha}\right) \frac{\alpha}{C}, \quad t \in ] -\alpha, \alpha[.$$

which is a smooth function. Then, let  $\Gamma_\alpha^1$  be equal to  $\Gamma_\alpha^0$  outside  $D(z_0, \alpha)$ , and equal to

$$\{z \in D(z_0, \alpha); \tilde{z}^2 \leq f(\tilde{z}^1), |\tilde{z}^1| < \alpha, \|\tilde{z}\| < \alpha\},$$

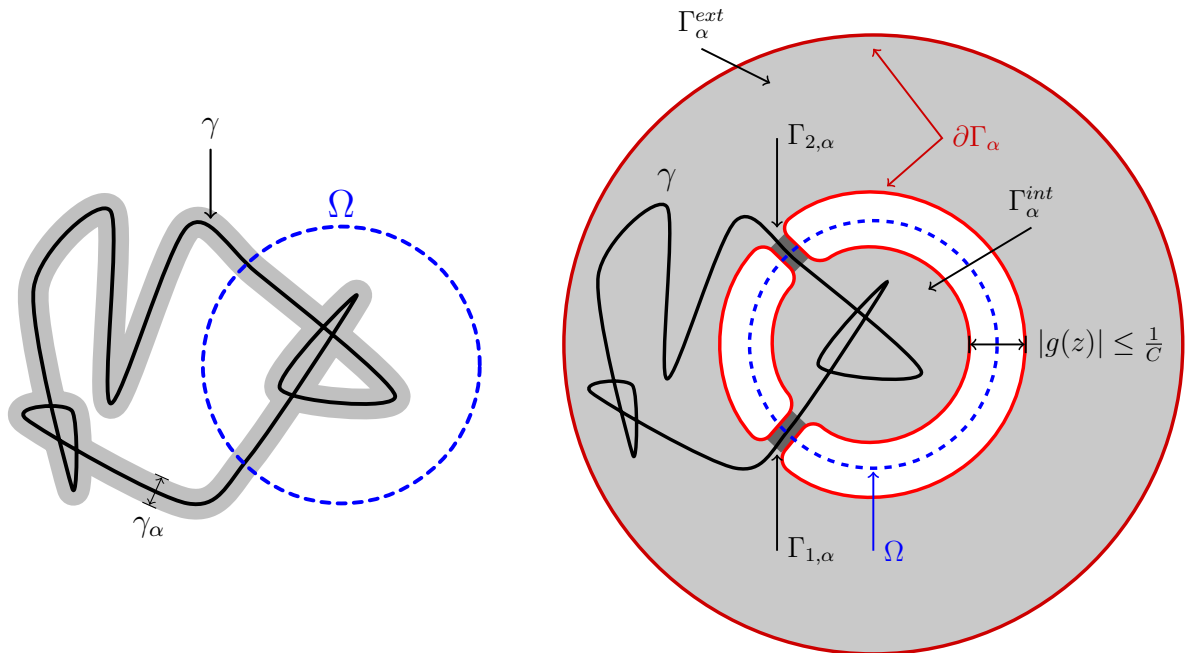
inside  $D(z_0, \alpha)$ . Summing up, we have that the boundary of  $\Gamma_\alpha^1$  is smooth at  $z_0$  and  $\Gamma_\alpha^0 \subset \Gamma_\alpha^1$ .

Next, we perform the same procedure for  $\Gamma_\alpha^1$  at the point  $z_1$  and obtain  $\Gamma_\alpha^2$  whose boundary is smooth at  $z_0$  and  $z_1$  and which contains  $\Gamma_\alpha^1$ . Continuing in this way until  $z_q$ , and defining

$$(7.10) \quad \Gamma_\alpha \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Gamma_\alpha^q,$$

we have that  $\Gamma_\alpha$  has a smooth boundary and it contains  $\Gamma_\alpha^0$  (7.9), and thus  $\gamma_\alpha$ . Figure 2 below presents an illustration of this "fattening" of  $\gamma_\alpha$ .

**Remark 7.1.** Notice that the deformation of the boundary of  $\Gamma_\alpha^0$  (7.9) has been done in such a way that the rescaled domain  $\frac{1}{\alpha}\Gamma_\alpha$  has a smooth boundary which can be locally parametrised by a smooth function  $f$  with  $\partial^\beta f = \mathcal{O}(1)$ ,  $\beta \in \mathbf{N}$ , uniformly in  $\alpha$ .



**Figure 2.** The left hand side shows the curve  $\gamma$  surrounded by the tube  $\gamma_\alpha$  and the domain  $\Omega$  (dashed line) where we are counting the eigenvalues of  $P_N^\delta$ . The right hand side shows the same picture with  $\gamma_\alpha$  enlarged to  $\Gamma_\alpha = \Gamma_\alpha^{\text{ext}} \cup \Gamma_\alpha^{\text{int}} \cup \Gamma_{1,\alpha} \cup \Gamma_{2,\alpha}$ , i.e. the whole grey area. The decomposition into an "exterior" part, an "interior" part and into the thin tubes  $\Gamma_{j,\alpha}$  connecting exterior and interior will play a role in the proof of Lemma 7.3.

Continuing, we define  $\phi(z) = \phi_N(z)$  by requiring that

$$(7.11) \quad N\phi(z) = \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)| \text{ on } K \setminus \Gamma_\alpha,$$

and

$$(7.12) \quad \phi(z) \text{ is continuous in } K \text{ and harmonic in } \mathring{\Gamma}_\alpha$$

Here we assume that  $K$  is large enough to contain a neighborhood of  $\Gamma_\alpha$ . Choose

$$(7.13) \quad t = N^{\epsilon_0},$$

for some fixed  $\epsilon_0 \in ]0, 1[$  with  $\delta_0 < \epsilon_0$ , see (7.4), (1.13). Then

$$C_2 \delta^{-M} e^{-t/2} = \exp(\ln C_2 - M \ln \delta - N^{\epsilon_0}/2),$$

and we require from  $\delta$  that

$$\ln C_2 - M \ln \delta - N^{\epsilon_0}/2 \leq -N^{\epsilon_0}/4,$$

i.e.

$$\ln \delta \geq \frac{\ln C_2}{M} - \frac{N^{\epsilon_0}}{4M}.$$

This is fulfilled if  $N \gg 1$  and

$$\ln \delta \geq -\frac{N^{\epsilon_0}}{5M},$$

i.e.

$$(7.14) \quad \delta \geq \exp\left(-\frac{1}{5M} N^{\epsilon_0}\right)$$

and (7.13), (7.14) imply (7.8) when  $N \gg 1$ . Notice that (7.4) implies (7.14) for  $N \gg 1$ .

Combining (7.6), (7.11), (7.13) and (7.14), we get for each  $z \in K \setminus \Gamma_\alpha$  that

$$(7.15) \quad \ln |\det(P_N^\delta - z)| \geq N(\phi(z) - \epsilon_1),$$

with probability

$$(7.16) \quad \geq 1 - e^{-N^2} - e^{-N^{\epsilon_0}/4}$$

where

$$(7.17) \quad \epsilon_1 = N^{\epsilon_0-1}.$$

Here and in the following, we assume that  $N \geq N(\alpha, K)$  sufficiently large.

On the other hand, with probability  $\geq 1 - e^{-N^2}$ , we have by (7.5)

$$(7.18) \quad \ln |\det(P_N^\delta - z)| \leq N(\phi(z) + \epsilon_1)$$

for all  $z \in K \setminus \Gamma_\alpha$ . Then, since the left hand side in (7.18) is subharmonic and the right hand side is harmonic in  $\Gamma_\alpha$ , we see that (7.18) remains valid also in  $\Gamma_\alpha$  and hence in all of  $K$ .

**7.2. Counting zeros of holomorphic functions with exponential growth.** Let  $\Omega \in \mathbf{C}$  be as in Theorem 1.1, so that  $\partial\Omega$  intersects  $\gamma$  at finitely many points  $\tilde{z}_1, \dots, \tilde{z}_{k_0}$  which are not critical values of  $p$  and where the intersection is transversal. Choose  $z_1, \dots, z_L \in \partial\Omega \setminus \Gamma_\alpha$  such that with  $r_0 = C_0\alpha$ ,  $C_0 \gg 1$ , we have

$$(7.19) \quad \frac{r_0}{4} \leq |z_{j+1} - z_j| \leq \frac{r_0}{2}$$

where the  $z_j$  are distributed along the boundary in the positively oriented sense and with the cyclic convention that  $z_{L+1} = z_1$ . Notice that  $L = \mathcal{O}(1/\alpha)$ . Then

$$\partial\Omega \subset \bigcup_1^L D(z_j, r_0/2)$$

and we can arrange so that  $z_j \notin \Gamma_\alpha$  and even so that

$$(7.20) \quad \text{dist}(z_j, \Gamma_\alpha) \geq \alpha,$$

for  $\alpha > 0$  sufficiently small.

Choose  $K$  above so that  $\bar{\Omega} \Subset K$ . Combining (7.18) and (7.15) we have that  $\det(P_N^\delta - z)$  satisfies the upper bound (7.18) for all  $z \in K$  and the lower bound (7.15) for  $z = z_1, \dots, z_L$  with probability

$$(7.21) \quad \geq 1 - \mathcal{O}(\alpha^{-1})(e^{-N^2} + e^{-N^{\epsilon_0}/4}).$$

Since  $\phi$  is continuous and subharmonic, we can apply [Sj10, Theorem 1.1] (see also [Sj19, Chapter 12]) to the holomorphic function  $\det(P_N^\delta - z)$  and get

$$(7.22) \quad \left| \#(\sigma(P_N^\delta) \cap \Omega) - \frac{N}{2\pi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta\phi L(dz) \right| \leq \mathcal{O}(N) \times \left( L\epsilon_1 + \int_{\partial\Omega + D(0, r_0)} \Delta\phi L(dz) + \sum_1^L \int_{D(z_j, r_0)} \Delta\phi(z) \left| \ln \frac{|z - z_j|}{r_0} \right| L(dz) \right)$$

with probability (7.21).

Recall that  $L = \mathcal{O}(1/\alpha)$  (hence  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  for every fixed  $\alpha$ ).  $\Delta\phi$  is supported in  $\Gamma_\alpha$  and the number of discs  $D(z_j, r_0)$  that intersect  $\Gamma_\alpha$  is  $\leq \mathcal{O}(1)$  uniformly with respect to  $\alpha$ . Also  $\ln(|z - z_j|/r_0) = \mathcal{O}(1)$  on the intersection of each such disc with  $\Gamma_\alpha$ . Since  $\epsilon_1 = N^{\epsilon_0 - 1}$ , we get from (7.22):

$$(7.23) \quad \left| \#(\sigma(P_N^\delta) \cap \Omega) - \frac{N}{2\pi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta\phi L(dz) \right| \leq \mathcal{O}(N) \left( \mathcal{O}_\alpha(N^{\epsilon_0 - 1}) + \int_{(\gamma \cap \partial\Omega) + D(0, 2r_0)} \Delta\phi(z) L(dz) \right).$$

**7.3. Analysis of the measure  $\Delta\phi$ .** By (3.4) we have that

$$(7.24) \quad \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)| = \sum_1^{N+M} \ln |z - \lambda_j|,$$

where

$$\lambda_j = p \left( \exp \frac{2\pi i j}{N+M} \right), \quad 1 \leq j \leq N+M,$$

and this expression is equal to  $N\phi(z)$  in  $K \setminus \Gamma_\alpha$ .

Define

$$(7.25) \quad \psi(z) = \phi(z) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_1^{N+M} \ln |z - \lambda_j|,$$

so that  $\psi$  is continuous away from the  $\lambda_j \in \gamma$ ,

$$(7.26) \quad \psi(z) = 0 \text{ in } \mathbf{C} \setminus \Gamma_\alpha,$$

$$(7.27) \quad \psi \upharpoonright_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha} = 0,$$

$$(7.28) \quad \Delta\psi = -\frac{2\pi}{N} \sum_1^{N+M} \delta_{\lambda_j} \text{ in } \overset{\circ}{\Gamma}_\alpha.$$

It follows that in  $\Gamma_\alpha$ :

$$(7.29) \quad \psi(z) = -\frac{2\pi}{N} \sum_1^{N+M} G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j),$$

where  $G_{\Gamma_\alpha}$  is the Green kernel for  $\Gamma_\alpha$ .

$\phi$  is harmonic away from  $\partial\Gamma_\alpha$ , so for  $\phi$  as a distribution on  $\mathbf{C}$ , we have  $\text{supp } \Delta\phi \subset \partial\Gamma_\alpha$ . Now  $\psi - \phi$  is harmonic near  $\partial\Gamma_\alpha$ , so  $\Delta\psi = \Delta\phi$  near  $\partial\Gamma_\alpha$ . In the interior of  $\Gamma_\alpha$  we have

(7.28) and in order to compute  $\Delta\psi$  globally, we let  $v \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{C})$  and apply Green's formula to get

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Delta\psi, v \rangle &= \langle \psi, \Delta v \rangle = \int_{\Gamma_\alpha} \psi \Delta v L(dz) \\ &= \int_{\Gamma_\alpha} \Delta\psi v L(dz) + \int_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha} \psi \partial_\nu v |dz| - \int_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha} \partial_\nu \psi v |dz|. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $\nu$  is the exterior unit normal and in the last term it is understood that we apply  $\partial_\nu$  to the restriction of  $\psi$  to  $\overset{\circ}{\Gamma}_\alpha$  then take the boundary limit. (7.27), (7.28), (7.29) imply that in the sense of distributions on  $\mathbf{C}$ ,

$$(7.30) \quad \Delta\psi = -\frac{2\pi}{N} \sum_1^{N+M} \delta_{\lambda_j} + \frac{2\pi}{N} \partial_\nu \left( \sum_1^{N+M} G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(\cdot, \lambda_j) \right) L_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha}(dz)$$

where  $L_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha}$  denotes the (Lebesgue) arc length measure supported on  $\partial\Gamma_\alpha$ .

By the preceding discussion we conclude that

$$(7.31) \quad \Delta\phi = \frac{2\pi}{N} \left( \sum_1^{N+M} \partial_\nu G_{\gamma_\alpha}(\cdot, \lambda_j) L_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha}(dz) \right).$$

Each term in the sum is a non-negative measure of mass 1:

$$(7.32) \quad \int \partial_\nu G(z, \lambda_j) L_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha}(dz) = 1.$$

Before continuing we will present two technical lemmas.

**Lemma 7.2.** *Let  $X \Subset \mathbf{C}$  be an open relatively compact, simply connected domain with smooth boundary. Let  $u \in C^\infty(\overline{X})$  with  $u|_{\partial X} = 0$ . Let  $z_0 \in \partial X$  and let  $\widetilde{W} \Subset W \Subset \mathbf{C}$  be two open relatively compact small complex neighborhoods of  $z_0$ , so that the closure of  $\widetilde{W}$  is contained in  $W$ . If  $u$  is harmonic in  $X \cap W$ , then for any  $s \in \mathbf{N}$*

$$(7.33) \quad \|u\|_{H^s(X \cap \widetilde{W})} \leq \mathcal{O}_{s, \widetilde{W}}(1) \|u\|_{H^0(X \cap W)}.$$

Here  $H^s$  are the standard Sobolev spaces.

*Proof.* The proof is standard, and we present it here for the reader's convenience.

1. Let  $W_1 \Subset W \Subset \mathbf{C}$  be two open relatively compact small complex neighborhoods of  $z_0$ , so that the closure of  $W_1$  is contained in  $W$ . Let  $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbf{C}; [0, 1])$  be so that  $\chi = 1$  on  $W_1$  and  $\text{supp } \chi \subset W$ . Integration by parts then yields that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{X \cap W} |\chi \nabla u|^2 dx &= \int_{X \cap W} \chi \nabla u \cdot (\nabla(\chi \bar{u}) - \bar{u} \nabla \chi) dx \\ &= - \int_{X \cap W} \chi \bar{u} \nabla(\chi \nabla u) + \chi \bar{u} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \chi dx \\ &= -2 \int_{X \cap W} \chi \bar{u} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \chi dx. \end{aligned}$$

In the last equality we used as well that  $u$  is harmonic in  $X \cap W$ . By the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

$$\|\chi \nabla u\|_{L^2(X \cap W)}^2 \leq \mathcal{O}(1) \|\chi \nabla u\|_{L^2(X \cap W)} \|u\|_{L^2(X \cap W)},$$

which implies that

$$\|\chi \nabla u\|_{L^2(X \cap W)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1) \|u\|_{L^2(X \cap W)}.$$

Hence,

$$(7.34) \quad \|u\|_{H^1(X \cap W_1)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1) \|u\|_{L^2(X \cap W)}.$$

2. Since  $W$  is small, we may pass to new local coordinates  $y$ , and we can suppose that  $z_0 = 0$  and that locally  $\partial X = \{y_2 = 0\}$ . If  $\phi$  is a local diffeomorphism realizing this change of variables then the Laplacian can be formally written in the new coordinates as

$$(7.35) \quad L \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} {}^t((\phi')^{-1}\nabla_y) \cdot ((\phi')^{-1}\nabla_y), \quad \text{with } \Delta_x = (\phi^{-1})^* \circ \Delta \circ \phi^*.$$

Here,  $L$  is an elliptic 2nd order differential operator, and  $\phi'$  is the Jacobian map associated with the diffeomorphism  $\phi$ .

Working from now on in these new coordinates, we proceed by an induction argument: suppose that

$$(7.36) \quad \|u\|_{H^{s+1}(X \cap W_1)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|u\|_{H^s X \cap W}.$$

holds for some  $s \in \mathbf{N}$ . Here we write as well  $W, W_1$  for the respective sets in the new coordinates to ease notation. We want to show that we then also have

$$(7.37) \quad \|u\|_{H^{s+2}(X \cap W_2)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|u\|_{H^{s+1} X \cap W_1}.$$

where  $W_2 \Subset W_1$  is a slightly smaller neighborhood of  $z_0 = 0$ , whose closure is contained inside  $W_1$ .

Let  $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbf{C}; [0, 1])$  be so that  $\chi = 1$  on  $W_2$  and  $\text{supp } \chi \subset W_1$ . Let  $\partial_{t,j}u(y) := t^{-1}(u(y + te_j) - u(y))$ , where  $x \in \mathbf{C} \simeq \mathbf{R}^2$  and  $e_1, e_2$  is the standard orthonormal basis of  $\mathbf{R}^2$ . Then, by the hypothesis (7.36) applied to  $\partial_{t,j}\chi u$ , for  $|t| \ll 1$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|\partial_{t,1}\chi u\|_{H^{s+1}(X \cap W_1)} &\leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|\partial_{t,1}\chi u\|_{H^s(X \cap W)} \\ &\leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|\chi \partial_{t,1}u\|_{H^s(X \cap W)} + \mathcal{O}(1)\|[\partial_{t,1}, \chi]u\|_{H^s(X \cap W)} \\ &\leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|u\|_{H^{s+1}(X \cap W_1)} + \mathcal{O}(1)\|u\|_{H^s(X \cap W_1)}, \end{aligned}$$

uniformly in  $|t| \ll 1$ . In the last inequality we used as well that  $\chi \partial_{t,1}u$  and  $[\partial_{t,1}, \chi]u = (\partial_{t,1}\chi)u(\cdot + te_1)$  are supported in  $W_1$  for  $|t| \ll 1$ . Performing the limit  $t \rightarrow 0$ , we get

$$(7.38) \quad \|\partial_{y_1}\chi u\|_{H^{s+1}(X \cap W_1)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|u\|_{H^{s+1} X \cap W_1}.$$

Thus, for  $j = 1, 2$ , we have that

$$(7.39) \quad \|\partial_{y_1}\partial_{y_j}\chi u\|_{H^s(X \cap W_1)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|\partial_{y_1}u\|_{H^{s+1}(X \cap W_1)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|u\|_{H^{s+1}(X \cap W_1)}.$$

By (7.35), it follows that there exists some smooth function  $a \neq 0$ , such that

$$(7.40) \quad \partial_{y_2}^2 \chi u = \frac{1}{a}L\chi u - \tilde{L}\chi u,$$

where  $\tilde{L}$  is a second order differential operator with smooth coefficients and which does not contain the derivative  $\partial_{y_2}^2$ . Since  $u$  is harmonic in  $X \cap W$  it follows that  $L\chi u = [L, \chi]u$ . Since  $[L, \chi]$  is a differential operator of order 1, it follows from (7.40) and (7.39) that

$$(7.41) \quad \|\partial_{y_2}\chi u\|_{H^{s+1}(X \cap W_1)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\sum_1^2 \|\partial_{y_j}\partial_{y_2}\chi u\|_{H^s(X \cap W_1)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|u\|_{H^{s+1}(X \cap W_1)}.$$

In combination with (7.38) this yields

$$(7.42) \quad \|u\|_{H^{s+2}(X \cap W_2)} \leq \|\chi u\|_{H^{s+2}(X \cap W_1)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|u\|_{H^{s+1} X \cap W_1}.$$

Thus, by choosing a decreasing sequence of nested compact neighborhoods of  $z_0$ , say  $\tilde{W} = W_{s+1} \Subset W_s \cdots \Subset W_0 = W$ , we may iterate the estimate (7.36), which then in combination with (7.34) yields (7.33).  $\square$

**Lemma 7.3.** *There exists a  $C > 0$  independent of  $\alpha > 0$ , such that for any  $1 \leq j \leq N+M$*

$$(7.43) \quad |\partial_\nu G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j)| \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} e^{-\frac{|z-\lambda_j|}{C\alpha}},$$

for  $z \in \partial\Gamma_\alpha \cap \text{neigh}(\gamma \cap \partial\Omega)$ ,  $\lambda_j \in \Gamma_\alpha$ ,  $|z - \lambda_j| \geq \alpha/C$ . (7.43) also holds when  $z \in \partial\Gamma_\alpha$ ,  $\lambda_j \in \Gamma_\alpha$ ,  $|z - \lambda_j| \geq \alpha/C$  and  $(z, \lambda_j) \in (\Omega \times (\mathbf{C} \setminus \Omega)) \cup ((\mathbf{C} \setminus \Omega) \times \Omega)$ .

*Proof.* 1. By scaling of the harmonic function  $G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(\cdot, \lambda_j)$  by a factor  $1/\alpha$ , it suffices to show that

$$(7.44) \quad |G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j)| \leq e^{-\frac{|z-\lambda_j|}{C\alpha}},$$

for  $(z, \lambda_j)$  as after (7.43) with the difference that  $z$  now varies in  $\Gamma_\alpha$  instead of  $\partial\Gamma_\alpha$ .

To see this, recall from the construction of  $\Gamma_\alpha$  after (7.8) that  $\text{dist}(\partial\Gamma_\alpha, \lambda_j) \geq \alpha$  and fix a point  $z_0 \in \partial\Gamma_\alpha$ , let  $C_1 > 0$  be sufficiently large so that for any  $z \in D(z_0, \alpha/C_1) \cap \Gamma_\alpha$  we have that  $(z, \lambda_j)$  satisfies the conditions after (7.43) with  $z$  varying in  $D(z_0, \alpha/C_1) \cap \Gamma_\alpha$  instead of  $\partial\Gamma_\alpha$ .

Let  $u(z) := G_{\gamma_\alpha}(\alpha z, \lambda_j)$ ,  $z \in \frac{1}{\alpha}\Gamma_\alpha$ , be the scaled function, and recall Remark 7.1. Let  $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbf{C}; [0, 1])$  be so that  $\chi = 1$  on  $D(z_0/\alpha, 1/(4C_1))$ ,  $\text{supp } \chi \subset D(z_0/\alpha, 1/2C_1) =: W'$  and  $\partial^\beta = \mathcal{O}(1)$ , uniformly in  $\alpha$  for any  $\beta \in \mathbf{N}^2$ . Moreover, put  $W = D(z_0/\alpha, 1/C_1)$ .

Then  $\chi u \in H^s(\Gamma_\alpha \cap W')$  for any  $s > 0$ . We can find an extension  $v \in H^s(\mathbf{R}^2)$  of  $\chi u$  so that  $\|v\|_{H^s} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|\chi u\|_{H^s(\Gamma_\alpha \cap W')}$ . Using the Fourier transform, we see that for  $s > 2$  and for  $z \in D(z_0/\alpha, 1/(4C_1))$

$$(7.45) \quad |\nabla v(z)| \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|\xi|\widehat{v}\|_{L^2} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|\xi|\langle \xi \rangle^{-s}\|_{L^2}\|v\|_{H^s} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|\chi u\|_{H^s(\Gamma_\alpha \cap W')}.$$

By Lemma 7.2 and (7.44), we see that

$$(7.46) \quad |\partial_\nu v(z)| \leq \mathcal{O}(1)\|u\|_{L^\infty(\Gamma_\alpha \cap W)} \leq \mathcal{O}(1)e^{-\frac{|z-\lambda_j/\alpha|}{C}},$$

and

$$(7.47) \quad |\alpha(\partial_\nu G_{\Gamma_\alpha})(\alpha z, \lambda_j)| \leq \mathcal{O}(1)e^{-\frac{|z-\lambda_j/\alpha|}{C}},$$

which implies (7.44) after rescaling and potentially slightly increasing the constant  $C > 0$ .

2. We decompose  $\Gamma_\alpha$  as  $\Gamma_\alpha^{int} \cup \Gamma_\alpha^{ext} \cup \Gamma_{1,\alpha} \cup \dots \cup \Gamma_{T,\alpha}$ , where  $\Gamma_\alpha^{int}$  and  $\Gamma_\alpha^{ext}$  are the enlarged parts of  $\Gamma_\alpha$  with  $\Gamma_\alpha^{int} \subset \Omega$ ,  $\Gamma_\alpha^{ext} \subset \mathbf{C} \setminus \Omega$  and  $\Gamma_{1,\alpha}, \dots, \Gamma_{T,\alpha}$  are the regular parts of width  $2\alpha$ , corresponding to the segments of  $\gamma$ , that intersect  $\partial\Omega$  transversally, see Figure 2 for an illustration. Here,  $T$  is the number of intersections of  $\gamma$  with  $\partial\Omega$ , notice that  $T$  is finite and independent of  $N, \alpha$ .

For simplicity, we assume that  $\Gamma_\alpha^{int}$  and  $\Gamma_\alpha^{ext}$  are connected and that each segment  $\Gamma_{k,\alpha}$  links  $\Gamma_\alpha^{int}$  to  $\Gamma_\alpha^{ext}$  and crosses  $\partial\Omega$  once. We may think of  $\Gamma_\alpha$  as a graph with the vertices  $\Gamma_\alpha^{int}$ ,  $\Gamma_\alpha^{ext}$  and with  $\Gamma_{k,\alpha}$  as the edges.

Let first  $\lambda_j$  belong to  $\Gamma_\alpha^{int}$ . We apply the first estimate in Proposition 2.2 in [Sj10] or equivalently Proposition 12.2.2 in [Sj19] and see that  $-G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j) \leq \mathcal{O}(1)$  for  $z \in \Gamma_\alpha$ ,  $|z - \lambda_j| \geq 1/\mathcal{O}(1)$ . Here and in the following the constants  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  are independent of  $j$  and  $\alpha$ . Furthermore, the notation  $1/\mathcal{O}(1)$  means  $1/C$  for some sufficiently large constant  $C > 0$ .

Possibly, after cutting away a piece of  $\Gamma_{k,\alpha}$  and adding it to  $\Gamma_\alpha^{int}$ , we may assume that  $-G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j) \leq \mathcal{O}(1)$  in  $\Gamma_{k,\alpha}$ . Consider one of the  $\Gamma_{k,\alpha}$  as a finite band with the two ends given by the closure of the set of  $z \in \partial\Gamma_{k,\alpha}$  with  $\text{dist}(z, \partial\Gamma_\alpha) < \alpha$ . Let  $G_{\Gamma_{k,\alpha}}$  denote the Green kernel of  $\Gamma_{k,\alpha}$ . Then the second estimate in the quoted proposition applies and we find

$$-G_{\Gamma_{k,\alpha}}(x, y) \leq \mathcal{O}(1)e^{-|x-y|/(\alpha\mathcal{O}(1))}, \text{ when } x, y \in \Gamma_{k,\alpha}, |x - y| \geq \alpha/\mathcal{O}(1).$$



Let

$$u = \chi G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(\cdot, \lambda_j) \upharpoonright_{\Gamma_{k,\alpha}},$$

where  $\chi \in C^\infty(\Gamma_{k,\alpha}; [0, 1])$  vanishes near the ends of  $\Gamma_{k,\alpha}$ , is equal to 1 away from an  $\alpha$ -neighborhood of these end points and with the property that  $\nabla\chi = \mathcal{O}(1/\alpha)$ ,  $\nabla^2\chi = \mathcal{O}(1/\alpha^2)$ . Then  $u|_{\partial\Gamma_{k,\alpha}} = 0$  and  $\Delta u = \mathcal{O}(\alpha^{-2})$  is supported in an  $\alpha$ -neighborhood of the union of the two ends and hence of uniformly bounded  $L^1$ -norm. Now we apply the second estimate in the quoted proposition to  $u = \int G_{\Gamma_{k,\alpha}}(\cdot, y)\Delta u(y)L(dy)$  and we see that

$$(7.48) \quad G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(\cdot, \lambda_j) = \mathcal{O}(e^{-1/(\alpha\mathcal{O}(1))}).$$

in  $\{x \in \Gamma_{k,\alpha}; \text{dist}(x, \partial\Omega \cap \Gamma_{k,\alpha}) \leq 1/\mathcal{O}(1)\}$ . Here, we also recall that  $\lambda_j \in \gamma \Subset \mathring{\Gamma}_\alpha$ . Varying  $k$ , we get (7.48) in  $\{x \in \Gamma_\alpha; \text{dist}(x, \partial\Omega \cap \Gamma) \leq 1/\mathcal{O}(1)\}$ . Applying the maximum principle to the harmonic function  $G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(\cdot, \lambda_j) \upharpoonright_{(\mathbb{C} \setminus \Omega) \cap \Gamma_\alpha}$ , we see that (7.48) holds uniformly in  $(\mathbb{C} \setminus \Omega) \cap \Gamma_\alpha$ .

Similarly, we have (7.48) uniformly in

$$\{x \in \Gamma_\alpha; \text{dist}(x, \partial\Omega \cap \gamma) \leq 1/\mathcal{O}(1)\} \cup (\Omega \cap \Gamma_\alpha),$$

when  $\lambda_j \in \Gamma^{ext}$  and we have shown (7.44), (7.43) when  $\lambda_j \in \Gamma^{int} \cup \Gamma^{ext}$ . Similarly, we have (7.43) when  $\lambda_j \in \gamma_{k,\alpha}$  is close to one of the ends.

It remains to treat the case when  $\lambda_j \in \gamma_{k,\alpha}$  is at distance  $\geq 1/\mathcal{O}(1)$  from the ends of  $\gamma_{k,\alpha}$ . Defining  $u = \chi G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(\cdot, \lambda_j) \upharpoonright_{\gamma_{k,\alpha}}$  as before we now have

$$\Delta u = [\Delta, \chi]G_{\Gamma_\alpha(\cdot, \lambda_j)} + \delta_{\lambda_j},$$

where the first term in the right hand side has its support in an  $\alpha$ -neighborhood of the union of the ends and is  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  in  $L^1$ . By the second part of the quoted proposition we have

$$(7.49) \quad u(x) = \mathcal{O}(1) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\mathcal{O}(1)\alpha} \min(\text{dist}(x, \text{ends}(\gamma_{k,\alpha})), |x - \lambda_j|)\right),$$

away from an  $\alpha$ -neighborhood of ends  $(\gamma_{k,\alpha}) \cup \{\lambda_j\}$ . Here ends  $(\gamma_{k,\alpha})$  denotes the union of the two ends of  $\gamma_{k,\alpha}$ . Since  $u$  is harmonic away from  $\lambda_j$  and from  $\alpha$ -neighborhoods of the ends, we get from (7.49) that

$$(7.50) \quad \nabla u(x) = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\mathcal{O}(1)\alpha} \min(\text{dist}(x, \text{ends}(\gamma_{k,\alpha})), |x - \lambda_j|)\right),$$

which gives (7.43) near  $\partial\Omega \cap \gamma$ . By using the maximum principle as before, we can extend the validity of (7.43) to all of  $\partial\Gamma_\alpha \setminus D(\lambda_j, \alpha/\mathcal{O}(1))$ .  $\square$

Continuing, notice that by (3.4), (7.24)

$$(7.51) \quad \#\{\sigma(P_{S_{\tilde{N}}}) \cap \eta\} = \#\{\widehat{S}_{\tilde{N}} \cap p_N^{-1}(\eta)\}, \quad \tilde{N} = N + M,$$

for  $\eta \subset \gamma$ . Since two consecutive points of  $\widehat{S}_{\tilde{N}}$  differ by an angle of  $2\pi/\tilde{N}$  and by the assumptions (1)-(4) prior to Theorem 1.1, we get that

$$\#\{\lambda_j; \text{dist}(\lambda_j, \partial\Omega \cap \gamma) < 4r_0\} = \mathcal{O}(\alpha N)$$

and also

$$\#\{\lambda_j; \text{dist}(\lambda_j, \partial\Omega \cap \gamma) \in [2^k r_0, 2^{k+1} r_0]\} = \mathcal{O}(\alpha 2^k N), \quad k = 2, 3, \dots$$

From (7.43) and (7.31) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{N}{2\pi} \int_{(\partial\Omega \cap \gamma) + D(0, 2r_0)} \Delta\phi L(dz) &= \sum_j \int_{((\partial\Omega \cap \gamma) + D(0, 2r_0)) \cap \partial\Gamma_\alpha} \partial_\nu G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j) L(dz) \\
&= \mathcal{O}(\alpha N) + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\lambda_j: \\ \text{dist}(\lambda_j, \partial\Omega \cap \gamma) \in [2^k r_0, 2^{k+1} r_0[}} e^{-2^k/\mathcal{O}(1)} \\
(7.52) \quad &= \mathcal{O}(1) \left( \alpha N + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} e^{-2^k/\mathcal{O}(1)} \alpha 2^k N \right) \\
&= \mathcal{O}(\alpha N) + \mathcal{O}(1) N \alpha \int_0^\infty e^{-t/\mathcal{O}(1)} dt \\
&= \mathcal{O}(\alpha N).
\end{aligned}$$

Combining (7.32) and (7.43), we get when  $\text{dist}(\lambda_j, \partial\Omega \cap \gamma) \geq 2r_0$ :

$$\int_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha \cap \Omega} \partial_\nu G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j) L_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha}(dz) = \begin{cases} 1 + \mathcal{O}(1)e^{-\text{dist}(\lambda_j, \partial\Omega \cap \gamma)/\mathcal{O}(\alpha)}, & \text{when } \lambda_j \in \Omega, \\ \mathcal{O}(1)e^{-\text{dist}(\lambda_j, \partial\Omega \cap \gamma)/\mathcal{O}(\alpha)}, & \text{when } \lambda_j \notin \Omega. \end{cases}$$

We now get

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{N}{2\pi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta\phi L(dz) &= \sum_{j: \text{dist}(\lambda_j, \gamma \cap \partial\Omega) \leq 4r_0} \int_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha \cap \Omega} \partial_\nu G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j) L_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha}(dz) \\
&+ \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\lambda_j \in \Omega, \\ \text{dist}(\lambda_j, \gamma \cap \partial\Omega) \in [2^k r_0, 2^{k+1} r_0[}} \int_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha \cap \Omega} \partial_\nu G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j) L_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha}(dz) \\
&+ \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\lambda_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \Omega, \\ \text{dist}(\lambda_j, \gamma \cap \partial\Omega) \in [2^k r_0, 2^{k+1} r_0[}} \int_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha \cap \Omega} \partial_\nu G_{\Gamma_\alpha}(z, \lambda_j) L_{\partial\Gamma_\alpha}(dz) \\
(7.53) \quad &= \mathcal{O}(\alpha N) + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\lambda_j \in \Omega, \\ \text{dist}(\lambda_j, \gamma \cap \partial\Omega) \in [2^k r_0, 2^{k+1} r_0[}} (1 + \mathcal{O}(1)e^{-2^k/\mathcal{O}(1)}) \\
&+ \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\lambda_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \Omega, \\ \text{dist}(\lambda_j, \gamma \cap \partial\Omega) \in [2^k r_0, 2^{k+1} r_0[}} \mathcal{O}(1)e^{-2^k/\mathcal{O}(1)} \\
&= \#\{\lambda_j \in \Omega\} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha N).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus (7.23) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
\#(\sigma(P_N^\delta) \cap \Omega) &= \#(\{\lambda_j\} \cap \Omega) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha N) + \mathcal{O}_\alpha(N^{\epsilon_0}) \\
(7.54) \quad &= \frac{N}{2\pi} \left( \int_{S^1 \cap p^{-1}(\Omega)} L_{S^1}(d\theta) \right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha N) + \mathcal{O}_\alpha(N^{\epsilon_0}) + o(N),
\end{aligned}$$

with a probability as in (7.21) which is bounded from below by the probability (1.15) for  $N > 1$  sufficiently large. Here and in the next formula we view  $p_N$  and  $p$  as maps from

$S^1$  to  $\mathbf{C}$ . In the second equality we used that by (7.51)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \#(\{\lambda_j\} \cap \Omega) &= \frac{\tilde{N}}{2\pi} \int_{S^1 \cap p_N^{-1}(\Omega)} L_{S^1}(d\theta) + \mathcal{O}(1) \\
 (7.55) \qquad &= \frac{N}{2\pi} \int_{S^1 \cap p_N^{-1}(\Omega)} L_{S^1}(d\theta) + \mathcal{O}(M) \\
 &= \frac{N}{2\pi} \int_{S^1 \cap p^{-1}(\Omega)} L_{S^1}(d\theta) + o(N),
 \end{aligned}$$

where we used that  $p_N \rightarrow p$  uniformly on  $S^1$  and where the measure  $L_{S^1}(d\theta)$  in the integral denotes the Lebesgue measure on  $S^1$ .

Theorem 1.1 follows by taking  $\alpha > 0$  in (7.54) arbitrarily small and  $N > 1$  sufficiently large.

## 8. CONVERGENCE OF THE EMPIRICAL MEASURE

In this section we present a proof of Theorem 1.2 following the strategy of [SjVo19, Section 7.3]. An alternative, and perhaps more direct way, to conclude the weak convergence of the empirical measure from a counting theorem as Theorem 1.2, has been presented in [SjVo19, Section 7.1].

Recall the definition of the empirical measure  $\xi_N$  (1.20). By (1.21), (1.5) combined with a Borel Cantelli argument, it follows that almost surely

$$(8.1) \quad \text{supp } \xi_N \subset \overline{D(0, \|p\|_{L^\infty(S^1)} + 1)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} K \subset D(0, \|p\|_{L^\infty(S^1)} + 2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} K'$$

for  $N$  sufficiently large. For  $p$  as in (1.4), put

$$(8.2) \quad \xi = p_* \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} L_{S^1} \right)$$

which has compact support,

$$(8.3) \quad \text{supp } \xi = p(S^1) \subset K.$$

Here,  $\frac{1}{2\pi} L_{S^1}$  denotes the normalized Lebesgue measure on  $S^1$ .

We recall [SjVo19, Theorem 7.1]:

**Theorem 8.1.** *Let  $K, K' \in \mathbf{C}$  be open relatively compact sets with  $\overline{K} \subset K'$ , and let  $\{\mu_n\}_{n \in \mathbf{N}} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{C})$  be as sequence of random measures so that almost surely*

$$\text{supp } \mu_n \subset K \text{ for } n \text{ sufficiently large.}$$

*Suppose that for a.e.  $z \in K'$  almost surely*

$$U_{\mu_n}(z) \rightarrow U_\mu(z), \quad n \rightarrow \infty,$$

*where  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{C})$  is some probability measure with  $\text{supp } \mu \subset K$ . Then, almost surely,*

$$\mu_n \rightharpoonup \mu, \quad n \rightarrow \infty, \quad \text{weakly.}$$

This Theorem is a modification of a classical result which allows to deduce the weak convergence of measures from the point-wise convergence of the associated Logarithmic potentials, see for instance [Ta12, Theorem 2.8.3] or [BoCa13].

In view of Theorem 8.1 it remains to show that for almost every  $z \in K'$  we have that  $U_{\xi_N}(z) \rightarrow U_\xi(z)$  almost surely, where

$$U_{\xi_N}(z) = - \int \log |z - x| \xi_N(dx), \quad U_\xi(z) = - \int \log |z - x| \xi(dx).$$

For  $z \notin \sigma(P_N^\delta)$

$$(8.4) \quad U_{\xi_N}(z) = -\frac{1}{N} \log |\det(P_N^\delta - z)|.$$

For any  $z \in \mathbf{C}$  the set  $\Sigma_z = \{Q \in \mathbf{C}^{N \times N}; \det(P_N + \delta Q - z) = 0\}$  has Lebesgue measure 0, since  $\mathbf{C}^{N \times N} \ni Q \mapsto \det(P_N^\delta - z)$  is analytic and not constantly 0. Thus  $\mu_N(\Sigma_z) = 0$ , where  $\mu_N$  is the Gaussian measure given in after (1.11), and for every  $z \in \mathbf{C}$  (8.4) holds almost surely.

Let  $\delta$  satisfy (1.13) for some fixed  $\delta_0 \in ]0, 1[$  and  $\delta_1 > 3$ . Pick a  $\varepsilon_0 \in ]\delta_0, 1[$ . Let  $z \in K' \setminus p(S^1)$ . Recall (4.17). For  $\alpha > 0$  sufficiently small, we have that  $z \in K' \setminus \gamma_\alpha$ .

Put  $t = N^{\varepsilon_0}$  as in (7.13), which together with (7.14) implies (7.8) when  $N \gg 1$ . Since (1.13) implies (7.14), it follows by combining (7.14), (7.5), (7.6) and (7.7) that

$$(8.5) \quad \left| \frac{1}{N} \log |\det(P_N^\delta - z)| - \phi(z) \right| \leq \mathcal{O}(N^{\varepsilon_0 - 1}).$$

with probability  $\geq 1 - e^{-N^2} - e^{-N^{\varepsilon_0/4}}$ . Here,  $\phi(z) := N^{-1} \ln |\det(p_N(\tau) - z)|$ , since  $z \notin \gamma_\alpha$ .

Using a Riemann sum argument and the fact that  $p_N \rightarrow p$  uniformly on  $S^1$ , we have that

$$(8.6) \quad |\phi(z) + U_\xi(z)| \longrightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } N \rightarrow \infty.$$

Thus, by (8.5), (8.6), we have for any  $z \in K' \setminus p(S^1)$  that

$$(8.7) \quad |U_{\xi_N}(z) - U_\xi(z)| = o(1)$$

with probability  $\geq 1 - e^{-N^2} - e^{-N^{\varepsilon_0/4}}$ . By the Borel-Cantelli theorem it follows that for every  $z \in K' \setminus p(S^1)$

$$(8.8) \quad U_{\xi_N}(z) \longrightarrow U_\xi(z), \quad \text{as } N \rightarrow \infty, \text{ almost surely,}$$

which by Theorem 8.1 concludes the proof of Theorem 1.2.

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