

# S-transform in finite free probability

Daniel Perales Anaya  
Texas A&M University

Probabilistic Operator Algebra Seminar

August 23, 2024

Joint work with Octavio Arizmendi, Katsunori Fujie and Yuki Ueda  
(arXiv:2408.09337).

- 1 Main theorem
- 2 Prelim: Finite Free probability
- 3 Finite  $S$ -transform
- 4 Proof of main theorem
  - ▶ New results on differentiation
  - ▶ A partial order on polynomials
- 5 Applications

# Polynomials

$\mathcal{P}_d(S) :=$  monic polynomials of degree  $d$  with all its roots contained in the set  $S \subset \mathbb{C}$ .

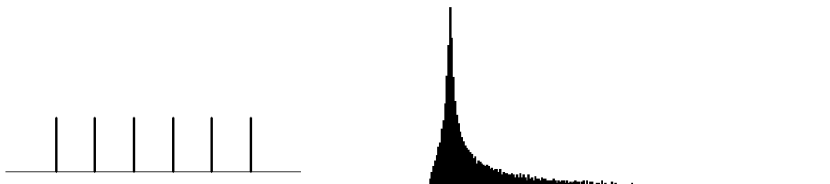
For  $p \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{C})$  we use the notation:

$$p(x) = \prod_{k=1}^d (x - \lambda_k(p)) = \sum_{k=0}^d x^{d-k} (-1)^k \binom{d}{k} \tilde{e}_k(p).$$

**Roots:**  $\lambda_1(p), \dots, \lambda_d(p)$ .

**Coefficients:**  $\tilde{e}_k(p) := \frac{1}{\binom{d}{k}} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq d} \lambda_{i_1}(p) \cdots \lambda_{i_k}(p)$ .

**Empirical root distribution:**  $\mu \llbracket p \rrbracket := \frac{1}{d} \sum_{i=1}^d \delta_{\lambda_i(p)}$



# Main Theorem

For  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ , its  $S$ -transform [Voiculescu '87] is

$$S_\mu(z) := \frac{1+z}{z} \Psi_\mu^{-1}(z) \quad \text{for } z \in (\mu(\{0\}) - 1, 0),$$

where

$$\Psi_\mu(z) := \int_0^\infty \frac{tz}{1-tz} \mu(dt), \quad z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}.$$

Main tool for **free multiplicative convolution**:  $S_{\mu \boxtimes \nu}(z) = S_\mu(z) S_\nu(z)$ .

## Theorem (Arizmendi, Fujie, P, Ueda '24)

$(p_d)_{d \in \mathbb{N}}$  sequence with  $p_d \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  and  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ . The following are equivalent:

- 1  $\mu \llbracket p_d \rrbracket \rightarrow \nu$  weakly as  $d \rightarrow \infty$ .
- 2 For every  $t \in (0, 1 - \mu(\{0\}))$ ,

$$\lim_{\substack{d \rightarrow \infty \\ \frac{k}{d} \rightarrow t}} \frac{\tilde{e}_{k-1}^{(d)}(p_d)}{\tilde{e}_k^{(d)}(p_d)} = S_\nu(-t).$$

**Corollary.** Under some assumptions,

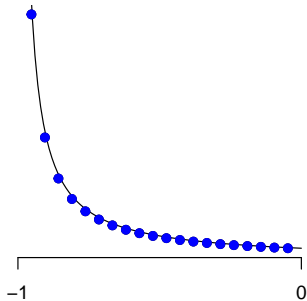
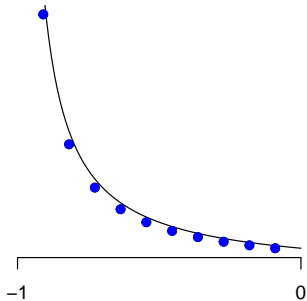
$$\left( \tilde{e}_k^{(d)}(p_d) \right)^{\frac{1}{d}} = \exp \left( - \int_0^t \log S_\nu(-x) dx \right).$$

## Theorem (Arizmendi, Fujie, P, Ueda '24)

$(p_d)_{d \in \mathbb{N}}$  sequence with  $p_d \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  and  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ . Then

$$\mu \llbracket p_d \rrbracket \rightarrow \nu \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \lim_{\substack{d \rightarrow \infty \\ \frac{k}{d} \rightarrow t}} \frac{\tilde{e}_{k-1}^{(d)}(p)}{\tilde{e}_k^{(d)}(p)} = S_\nu(-t). \quad \text{for } t \in (0, 1 - \mu(\{0\}))$$

Laguerre of parameter 1 for  $d = 10$  and  $d = 20$ .

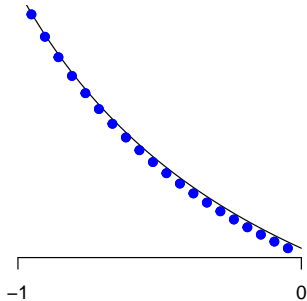
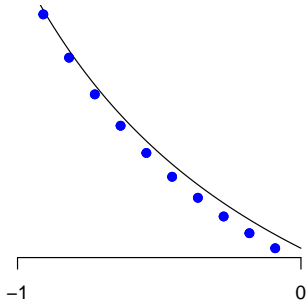


## Theorem (Arizmendi, Fugie, P, Ueda '24)

$(p_d)_{d \in \mathbb{N}}$  sequence with  $p_d \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  and  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ . Then

$$\mu \llbracket p_d \rrbracket \rightarrow \nu \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \lim_{\substack{d \rightarrow \infty \\ \frac{k}{d} \rightarrow t}} \frac{\tilde{e}_{k-1}^{(d)}(p)}{\tilde{e}_k^{(d)}(p)} = S_\nu(-t). \quad \text{for } t \in (0, 1 - \mu(\{0\}))$$

Laguerre of parameter 2 for  $d = 10$  and  $d = 20$ .



# Finite Free Probability

## Definition

Given  $p, q \in \mathcal{P}_d$ , their **multiplicative and additive convolutions** are the polynomials  $p \boxtimes_d q \in \mathcal{P}_d$  and  $p \boxplus_d q \in \mathcal{P}_d$  with coefficients

$$\tilde{e}_k(p \boxtimes_d q) = \tilde{e}_k(p) \tilde{e}_k(q), \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, d,$$

$$\tilde{e}_k(p \boxplus_d q) = \sum_{i+j=k} \binom{k}{i} \tilde{e}_i(p) \cdot \tilde{e}_j(q), \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, d.$$

$\boxplus_d$  **preserves real roots (Walsh 1922)** If  $p, q \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{R})$  then  $p \boxplus_d q \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{R})$ .

$\boxtimes_d$  **preserves positive real roots (Szegő 1922)** If  $p, q \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{>0}) \Rightarrow p \boxtimes_d q \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{>0})$ .

**Basic properties:** interpretation in terms of differential operators, bilinear, commutative, associative, identity ( $x^d$  for  $\boxplus_d$ ,  $(x-1)^d$  for  $\boxtimes_d$ ), preserve interlacing, preserve root separation.

**Preserves interlacing:** If  $p, \tilde{p}, q \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{R})$ , then  $p \preceq \tilde{p} \Rightarrow p \boxplus_d q \preceq \tilde{p} \boxplus_d q$ .

$$p \preceq \tilde{p} \quad \text{means} \quad \lambda_1(p) \leq \lambda_1(\tilde{p}) \leq \lambda_2(p) \leq \lambda_2(\tilde{p}) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_d(p) \leq \lambda_d(\tilde{p})$$



**[Marcus, Spielman, Srivastava '15]** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be  $d \times d$  selfadjoint matrices with characteristic polynomials  $p = \chi(A)$  and  $q = \chi(B)$ . Then

$$p \boxplus_d q = \mathbb{E}_Q[\chi(A + QBQ^*)] \quad \text{and} \quad p \boxtimes_d q = \mathbb{E}_Q[\chi(AQBQ^*)]$$

where  $Q \sim$  Haar measure over unitary (orthogonal or permutation) matrices.

**[Marcus '16]** Establishes a connection with free probability:

When  $d \rightarrow \infty$ , finite free convolutions should tend to free convolutions ( $\boxplus_d \rightarrow \boxplus$ ).

Studies *Finite Free Probability* and gives basic examples like LLN, CLT, Poisson limit.

**Formally**, consider sequences  $\mathfrak{p} = (p_d)_{d=1}^\infty$  and  $\mathfrak{q} = (q_d)_{d=1}^\infty$  with  $p_d, q_d \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R})$  and limiting measures  $\nu(\mathfrak{p}), \nu(\mathfrak{q}) \in \mathcal{M}_c(\mathbb{R})$ :  $\mu \llbracket p_d \rrbracket \rightarrow \nu(\mathfrak{p})$  and  $\mu \llbracket q_d \rrbracket \rightarrow \nu(\mathfrak{q})$ .

**[Marcus '16, Arizmendi, P '16].** Then  $\mu \llbracket p_d \boxplus_d q_d \rrbracket \rightarrow \nu(\mathfrak{p}) \boxplus \nu(\mathfrak{q})$

**[Arizmendi, Garza-Vargas, P '21].** Then  $\mu \llbracket p_d \boxtimes_d q_d \rrbracket \rightarrow \nu(\mathfrak{p}) \boxtimes \nu(\mathfrak{q})$ .

# Finite $S$ -transform

## Theorem (Arizmendi, Fujie, P, Ueda '24)

$(p_d)_{d \in \mathbb{N}}$  sequence with  $p_d \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  and  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ . Then

$$\mu \llbracket p_d \rrbracket \rightarrow \nu \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \lim_{\substack{d \rightarrow \infty \\ \frac{k}{d} \rightarrow t}} \frac{\tilde{e}_{k-1}^{(d)}(p)}{\tilde{e}_k^{(d)}(p)} = S_\nu(-t). \quad \text{for } t \in (0, 1 - \mu(\{0\}))$$

## Definition

The **finite S-transform** of  $p \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{>0})$  is the map

$$S_p^{(d)} : \left\{ -\frac{d}{d}, -\frac{d-1}{d}, \dots, -\frac{2}{d}, -\frac{1}{d} \right\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0}$$
$$-\frac{k}{d} \mapsto \frac{\tilde{e}_{k-1}^{(d)}(p)}{\tilde{e}_k^{(d)}(p)}$$

## Properties:

- $S_{p \boxtimes_d q}^{(d)}\left(-\frac{k}{d}\right) = S_p^{(d)}\left(-\frac{k}{d}\right) S_q^{(d)}\left(-\frac{k}{d}\right)$ . (direct from def of  $\boxtimes_d$ )
- $S_p^{(d)}\left(-\frac{k+1}{d}\right) > S_p^{(d)}\left(-\frac{k}{d}\right)$ . (by Newton inequalities)
- $S_p^{(d)}\left(-\frac{k}{d}\right) S_{p \langle -1 \rangle}^{(d)}\left(-\frac{d+1-k}{d}\right) = 1$ .

# Proof of main theorem

# Intuition: Multiplicative LLN

Given  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{>0})$ , the (*shifted*)  $T$ -transform is the function  $T_\mu : (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  with

$$T_\mu(t) = \frac{1}{S_\mu(t-1)} \quad \text{for } t \in (0, 1).$$

[Tucci '10, Haagerup and Möller '13]

there exists a limiting measure

$$\Phi(\mu) := \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (\mu^{\boxtimes m})^{(1/m)}, \quad \text{char. by}$$

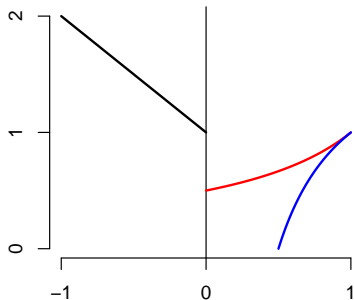
$$F_{\Phi(\mu)}(T_\mu(t)) = t \quad \text{for all } t \in (0, 1).$$

[Fujie and Ueda '23]

Given  $p \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ , there exists

$$\Phi_d(p) := \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (p^{\boxtimes_d m})^{(1/m)},$$

$$\text{with roots } \lambda_k(\Phi_d(p)) = \frac{\tilde{e}_k^{(d)}(p)}{\tilde{e}_{k-1}^{(d)}(p)}.$$



## Basic tool: differentiation

For  $k \leq d$ , denote by  $\partial_{k|d} : \mathbb{P}_d \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_k$  the operation  $\partial_{k|d} p := \frac{p^{(d-k)}}{(d)^{d-k}}$ . Then:

- $\tilde{e}_j^{(k)}(\partial_{k|d} p) = \tilde{e}_j^{(d)}(p) \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq k$

$$\partial_{k|d}(p \boxplus_d q) = (\partial_{k|d} p) \boxplus_k (\partial_{k|d} q)$$

$$\partial_{k|d}(p \boxtimes_d q) = (\partial_{k|d} p) \boxtimes_k (\partial_{k|d} q)$$

- $\kappa_m^{(j)}(\partial_{j|d} p) = \kappa_m^{(d)}\left(\text{Dil}_{\frac{1}{d}} p^{\boxplus_d \frac{d}{j}}\right)$ , where

$$\kappa_j^{(d)}(p) := d^{j-1} \sum_{\pi \in P(j)} c(\pi) \tilde{e}_\pi^{(d)}(p)$$

This yields a **new proof** of the following:

**[Hoskins–Kabluchko '21, Arizmendi–Garza–Vargas–P '23]**

Let  $\mathbf{p} = (p_d)_{d=1}^\infty$  be a sequence of polynomials such that  $\mu \llbracket p_d \rrbracket \rightarrow \nu(\mathbf{p})$  real measure determined by moments. Then

$$\partial_{k|d} p_d \rightarrow \text{Dil}_t(\mu^{\boxplus 1/t}) \quad \text{as } d \rightarrow \infty, \text{ and } \frac{k}{d} \rightarrow t \in (0, 1)$$

## Case 1: compact support away from 0

### Theorem

Assume the roots of the polynomials are contained in  $C = [\alpha, \beta] \subset (0, \infty)$ . Then

$$\lim_{\substack{d \rightarrow \infty \\ \frac{k}{d} \rightarrow t}} S_{p_d}^{(d)} \left( -\frac{k}{d} \right) = S_\mu(-t).$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_p^{(d)} \left( -\frac{k}{d} \right) &= \frac{\tilde{e}_{k-1}^{(d)}(p)}{\tilde{e}_k^{(d)}(p)} \\ &= \frac{\tilde{e}_{k-1}^{(k)}(\partial_{k|d} p)}{\tilde{e}_k^{(l)}(\partial_{k|d} p)} \\ &= \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{1}{\lambda(\partial_{k|d} p)} = -G_{\mu[\partial_{k|d} p]}(0) \end{aligned}$$

Then take limits and use relation from free probability that roughly says:

$$S_\mu(-t) = S_{\text{Dil}_t(\mu^{\boxplus 1/t})}(-1) = \int_0^\infty x^{-1} \mu_t(dx) = -G_{\text{Dil}_t(\mu^{\boxplus 1/t})}(0)$$

Requires several steps, that gradually generalizing the previous ones.

- **Compact interval containing 0.** To avoid problems with  $\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{1}{\lambda(\partial_{k|d} p)}$  we show that for  $t \approx \frac{k}{d}$  small enough, there exists  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $\partial_{k|d} p \in \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq \varepsilon})$  (roots are uniformly bounded away from 0).

**Intuition:** For  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  and  $t$  small enough, then  $\mu^{\boxplus 1/t} \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq \varepsilon})$ .

The proof of the uniform bound requires two main ingredients:

- 1 Show the bound for polynomials of the form  $x^j(1-x)^{d-j}$ .  
(Classic result on the asymptotics of Jacobi polynomials)
  - 2 Use a partial order on polynomials to reduce to the previous case.
- **Case with unbounded support.** We use cut-up and cut-down measures, and the partial order on polynomials to reduce to the bounded case.  
Note: We can also generalize the results on differentiation and fractional convolution to allow unbounded support.
  - **Converse implication.** Follows from the first implication and Helly's Selection Theorem.

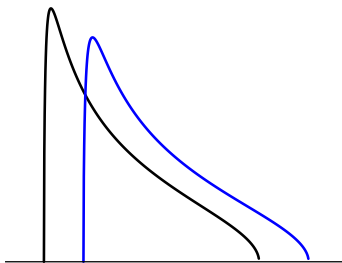


## A partial order on polynomials

**Partial order on measures.** Given  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R})$  we say that  $\mu \ll \nu$  if their cumulative distribution functions satisfy  $F_\mu(t) \geq F_\nu(t)$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**[Bercovici, Voiculescu '93]** for measures  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $\mu \ll \nu$ ,

- if  $\rho \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R})$ , then  $(\mu \boxplus \rho) \ll (\nu \boxplus \rho)$ , and
- if  $\rho \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ , then  $(\mu \boxtimes \rho) \ll (\nu \boxtimes \rho)$ .



## A partial order on polynomials

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- if  $\rho \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ , then  $(\mu \boxtimes \rho) \ll (\nu \boxtimes \rho)$ .

**A partial order on polynomials:** Given  $p, q \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{R})$  we say that  $q$ , denoted  $p \ll q$  if  $\lambda_i(p) \leq \lambda_i(q)$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$ . Equivalently if  $\mu \ll [p] \ll \mu \ll [q]$ .

**Theorem (Arizmendi, Fujie, P, Ueda '24)**

$\boxplus_d$  and  $\boxtimes_d$  preserve  $\ll$ . Namely, for  $p, q \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $p \ll q$ .

- 1 If  $r \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{R})$ , then  $(p \boxplus_d r) \ll (q \boxplus_d r)$ .
- 2 If  $r \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ , then  $(p \boxtimes_d r) \ll (q \boxtimes_d r)$ .
- 3  $(\partial_{k|d} p) \ll (\partial_{k|d} q)$ .
- 4  $\Phi_d(p) \ll \Phi_d(q)$ .

# Applications

## Theorem (Arizmendi, Fujie, P, Ueda '24)

$$\mu \ll [p_d] \rightarrow \mu \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mu \ll [\Phi_d(p_d)] \rightarrow \Phi(\mu).$$

Conjectured in [Fujie and Ueda, '23].

## Proposition (Arizmendi, Fujie, P, Ueda '24)

Consider sequences  $\mathbf{p} = (p_d)_{d=1}^{\infty}$  and  $\mathbf{q} = (q_d)_{d=1}^{\infty}$  with  $p_d, q_d \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  and limiting measures  $\nu(\mathbf{p}), \nu(\mathbf{q}) \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ . Then  $\mu \ll [p_d \boxtimes_d q_d] \rightarrow \nu(\mathbf{p}) \boxtimes \nu(\mathbf{q})$ .

An extension of the result in [Arizmendi, Garza-Vargas, P'23] to **unbounded** measures, but only when supported in  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ .

# Hypergeometric polynomials

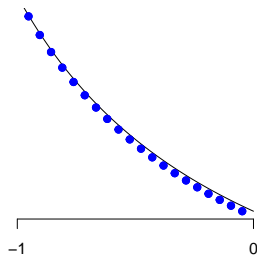
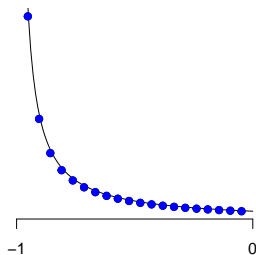
For  $a_1, \dots, a_i, b_1, \dots, b_j \in \mathbb{R}$ , consider  $p_d = \mathcal{H}_d \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} b_1, \dots, b_j \\ a_1, \dots, a_i \end{smallmatrix} \right] \in \mathbb{P}_d$  with coefficients

$$\tilde{e}_k^{(d)} \left( \mathcal{H}_d \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} b_1, \dots, b_j \\ a_1, \dots, a_i \end{smallmatrix} \right] \right) := d^{k(i-j)} \frac{\prod_{s=1}^j (b_s d)^k}{\prod_{r=1}^i (a_r d)^k} \quad \text{where } (d)^k := \frac{d!}{(d-k)!}.$$

Then its finite  $S$ -transform is

$$S_{p_d}^{(d)} \left( -\frac{k}{d} \right) = \frac{\prod_{r=1}^i (a_r - \frac{k-1}{d})}{\prod_{s=1}^j (b_s - \frac{k-1}{d})} \longrightarrow \frac{\prod_{r=1}^i (a_r + t)}{\prod_{s=1}^j (b_s + t)} = S_\mu(t)$$

This limit was also obtained recently in **[Morales, Martinez-Finkelshtein, P ' 24]**



# Finite free multiplicative Poisson's law of small numbers

**[Bercovici, Voiculescu '92]:** for  $\lambda \geq 0$  and  $\beta \in \mathbb{R} \setminus [0, 1]$  there exists a measure  $\Pi_{\lambda, \beta} \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  with  $S$ -transform given by

$$S_{\Pi_{\lambda, \beta}}(t) = \exp\left(\frac{\lambda}{t + \beta}\right).$$

It can be understood as a free multiplicative Poisson's law.

## Proposition (Arizmendi, Fujie, P, Ueda '24)

Let  $\lambda \geq 0$  and  $\beta \in \mathbb{R} \setminus [0, 1]$ , and

$$p_d(x) := \left(x - \frac{\beta-1}{\beta}\right)(x-1)^{d-1} = \mathcal{H}_d\left[\frac{\beta-\frac{1}{d}}{\beta}\right].$$

Then

$$\mu \left[ \left[ p_d^{\boxtimes d^k} \right] \right] \rightarrow \Pi_{\lambda, \beta} \quad \text{as } d \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{with } \frac{k}{d} \rightarrow \lambda.$$

## Finite Free max-convolution powers

**[Ben Arous, Voiculescu '06]** Given  $\nu_1, \nu_2 \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R})$ , define the free max-convolution measure  $\nu_1 \boxplus \nu_2$ , with

$$F_{\nu_1 \boxplus \nu_2}(x) := \max\{F_{\nu_1}(x) + F_{\nu_2}(x) - 1, 0\} \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

**[Ueda '21]** Given  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R})$  and  $t \geq 1$ , define the convolution powers  $\nu^{\boxplus t}$

$$F_{\nu^{\boxplus t}}(x) := \max\{tF_{\nu}(x) - (t-1), 0\},$$

Then, for  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ , one has that  $\Phi(\text{Dil}_{1/t}(\mu^{\boxplus t})) = \Phi(\mu)^{\boxplus t}$ .

### Definition (Arizmendi, Fujie, P, Ueda '24)

Given  $p \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R})$  and  $1 \leq k \leq d$ , define  $p^{\boxplus \frac{d}{k}} \in \mathbb{P}_k(\mathbb{R})$  with roots

$$\lambda_j \left( p^{\boxplus \frac{d}{k}} \right) = \lambda_j(p) \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k.$$

### Proposition (Arizmendi, Fujie, P, Ueda '24)

Let  $p \in \mathbb{P}_d(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ . Then  $\Phi_k(\partial_{k|d} p) = (\Phi_d(p))^{\boxplus \frac{d}{k}}$ .

- Using hypergeometric polynomials and multiplicative convolution, we can provide some **finite analogue of free stable laws**.
- We can extend the definition of the finite  $S$ -transform to include **symmetric polynomials** in the real line. Similar to how it is done in [Arizmendi, Pérez-Abreu '09] for free probability.

Can we generalize this type of results to measures on the complex plane?



Thanks!