

The replica method

(from the physics point of view)

The replica method

When n is small, we have: $\mathbb{E}[Z^n] = \mathbb{E}[e^{n \log Z}] \approx \mathbb{E}[1 + n \log Z] \approx 1 + n \mathbb{E}[\log Z]$

In particular: $\mathbb{E}[\log Z] = \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}[Z^n] - 1}{n}$

In the replica heuristic, we evaluate $\mathbb{E}[Z^n]$ for integer values of n in \mathbb{N} ...

... somehow assume the expression we find is valid when n is in \mathbb{R} ...

... and send $n \rightarrow 0$ & $N \rightarrow \infty$, while being careless in the order of limits!

Let us see how it works on
the random field Ising model

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{S}) \equiv - \sum_i h_i S_i - \frac{N}{2} \left(\frac{\sum_i S_i}{N} \right)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
Z_N^n &= \left(\sum_{\{S\}} e^{\beta \frac{N}{2} \left(\frac{\sum_i S_i}{N} \right)^2 + \beta \sum_i h_i S_i} \right)^n = \prod_{\alpha=1}^n \left(\sum_{\{S^\alpha\}} e^{\beta \frac{N}{2} \left(\frac{\sum_i S_i^\alpha}{N} \right)^2 + \beta \sum_i h_i S_i^\alpha} \right) \\
&= \prod_{\alpha=1}^n \left(\sum_{\{S^\alpha\}} N \int dm_\alpha \delta \left(Nm_\alpha - \sum_i S_i^\alpha \right) e^{\beta \frac{N}{2} m_\alpha^2 + \beta \sum_i h_i S_i^\alpha} \right) \\
&\propto \prod_{\alpha=1}^n \left(\sum_{\{S^\alpha\}} \int dm_\alpha \int d\hat{m}_\alpha e^{i\hat{m}_\alpha (Nm_\alpha - \sum_i S_i^\alpha)} e^{\beta \frac{N}{2} m_\alpha^2 + \beta \sum_i h_i S_i^\alpha} \right) \\
&\propto \prod_{\alpha=1}^n \left(\int dm_\alpha \int d\hat{m}_\alpha e^{iN\hat{m}_\alpha m_\alpha + \beta \frac{N}{2} m_\alpha^2} \sum_{\{S^\alpha\}} e^{\beta \sum_i h_i S_i^\alpha - i\hat{m}_\alpha \sum_i S_i^\alpha} \right) \\
&\propto \prod_{\alpha=1}^n \left(\int dm_\alpha \int d\hat{m}_\alpha e^{iN\hat{m}_\alpha m_\alpha + \beta \frac{N}{2} m_\alpha^2} \prod_i 2 \cosh(\beta h_i - i\hat{m}_\alpha) \right) \\
\mathbb{E} [Z_N^n] &\propto \int \left(\prod_{\alpha=1}^n dm_\alpha d\hat{m}_\alpha \right) e^{i \sum_\alpha N \hat{m}_\alpha m_\alpha + \beta \frac{N}{2} m_\alpha^2} \mathbb{E} \left[\prod_\alpha 2 \cosh(\beta h - i\hat{m}_\alpha) \right]^N
\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{E} [Z_N^n] \propto \int \left(\prod_{\alpha=1}^n dm_{\alpha} d\hat{m}_{\alpha} \right) e^{i \sum_{\alpha} N \hat{m}_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} + \beta \frac{N}{2} m_{\alpha}^2} \mathbb{E} \left[\prod_{\alpha} 2 \cosh(\beta h - i \hat{m}_{\alpha}) \right]^N N^{2/2}$$

“Replica Symmetric assumption”

The integral will be (exponentially) dominated by values of m_{α} and \hat{m}_{α} such that:

$$m_{\alpha} = m \forall \alpha$$

$$\hat{m}_{\alpha} = \hat{m} \forall \alpha$$

$$\mathbb{E} [Z_N^n] \propto \int dm d\hat{m} e^{nN(i\hat{m}m + \beta \frac{1}{2} m^2)} \mathbb{E} [(2 \cosh(\beta h - i\hat{m}))^n]^N$$

n is ≈ 0 , so we can use again the Replica trick!

$$\mathbb{E} [X^n] = \mathbb{E} [e^{n \log X}] \approx \mathbb{E} [1 + n \log X] \approx 1 + n \mathbb{E} [\log X] \approx e^{n \mathbb{E} [\log X]}$$

$$\mathbb{E} [Z_N^n] \propto \int dm d\hat{m} e^{nN(i\hat{m}m + \beta \frac{1}{2} m^2)} e^{nN \mathbb{E} [\log(2 \cosh(\beta h - i\hat{m}))]}$$

Saddle point integral \rightarrow

$$\mathbb{E} [Z_N^n] \propto e^{nN \text{Extr}_{m, \hat{m}} \left((i\hat{m}m + \beta \frac{1}{2} m^2) + \mathbb{E} [\log(2 \cosh(\beta h - i\hat{m}))] \right)}$$

Extremization $i\hat{m} = -\beta m \rightarrow$

$$\mathbb{E} [Z_N^n] \propto e^{nN \text{Extr}_m \left(-\beta \frac{1}{2} m^2 + \mathbb{E} [\log(2 \cosh(\beta(h + m)))] \right)}$$

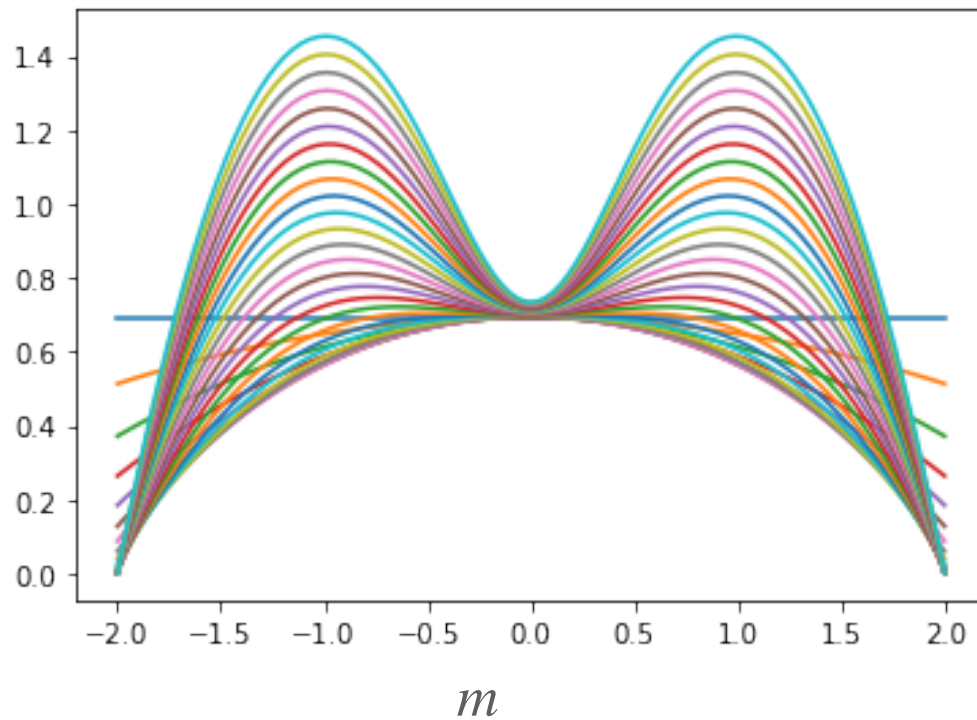
$$\frac{\mathbb{E} [\log Z_N]}{N} \rightarrow \text{Extr}_m \Phi_{\text{RS}}(m) \quad \Phi_{\text{RS}}(m) \equiv -\beta \frac{1}{2} m^2 + \mathbb{E} [\log(2 \cosh(\beta(h + m)))]$$

$$\frac{\mathbb{E} [\log Z_N]}{N} \rightarrow \text{Extr}_m \Phi_{\text{RS}}(m) \quad \Phi_{\text{RS}}(m) \equiv -\beta \frac{1}{2} m^2 + \mathbb{E} [\log(2 \cosh(\beta(h + m)))]$$

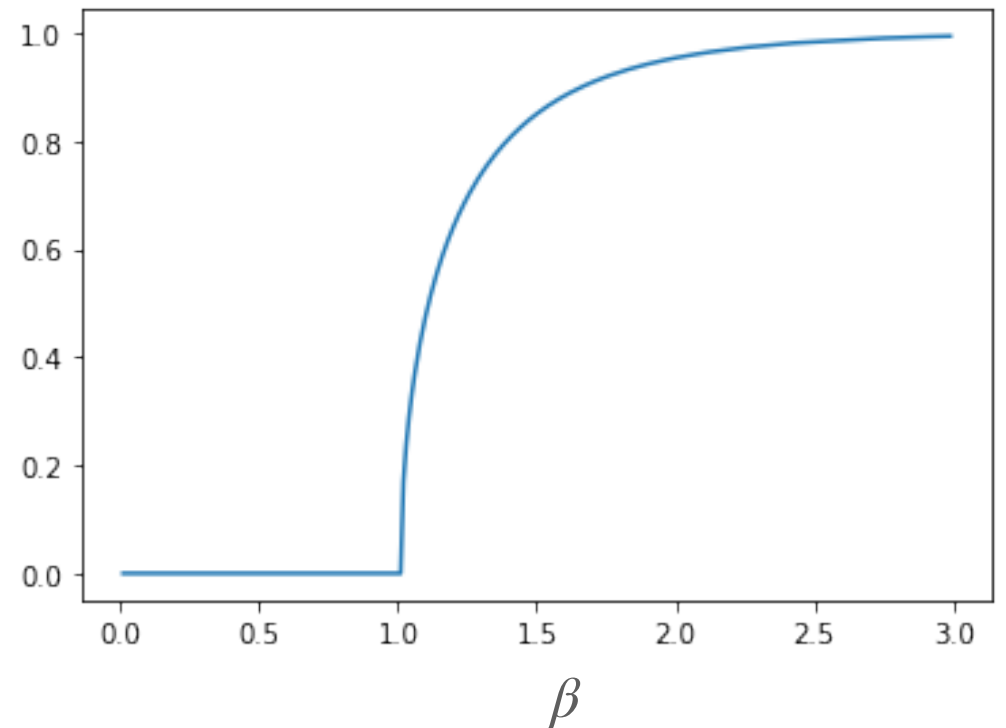
The extremizer m^* follows the fixed point equations $m^* = \mathbb{E} [\tanh(\beta(h + m^*))]$

Example for $h \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.1)$

$\Phi_{\text{RS}}(m)$ for $\beta = 0, \dots, 3$



m^* vs β



$$\frac{\mathbb{E} [\log Z_N]}{N} \rightarrow \text{Extr}_m \Phi_{\text{RS}}(m) \quad \Phi_{\text{RS}}(m) \equiv -\beta \frac{1}{2} m^2 + \mathbb{E} [\log(2 \cosh(\beta(h + m)))]$$

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Minimal cost vs variance Δ of the random field

