Partial transposition of random states and non-centered semicircular distributions

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Let W be a Wishart random matrix of size d^2 times d^2, considered as a block matrix with d times d blocks. Let Y be the matrix obtained by transposing each block of W. We prove that the empirical eigenvalue distribution of Y approaches a non-centered semicircular distribution when d tends to indinity. The proofs are based on the moments method. This matrix model is relevant to Quantum Information Theory and corresponds to the partial transposition of a random induced state. We show for example that a mixed state on C^d tensor C^d, obtained after tracing out a random pure state over some ancilla, is typically PPT (hence undistillable) for large d, whenever the dimension of the ancilla exceeds Cd^2 for some constant C (conjecturally, C=4).

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