

PIOTR GRACZYK  
LAREMA, UNIVERSITÉ D'ANGERS, FRANCE

**Analysis of Wishart matrices:**

**Riesz and Wishart laws on graphical cones**

**Letac-Massam conjecture**

Joint work with H. Ishi, S. Mamane, H. Ochiai

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[Faraut, Koranyi, *Analysis on Symmetric Cones*, Oxford Press, 1994], Chapter VII "The Gamma function of a symmetric cone":

*" Here begins the serious study of analysis on symmetric cones"*

$\Omega \in V = \mathbb{R}^n$ : proper ( $\bar{\Omega} \cap (-\bar{\Omega}) = \{0\}$ ) open convex cone

$\Omega^*$ : open dual cone =  $\{y \in V \mid (x, y) > 0 \ \forall x \in \bar{\Omega} \setminus \{0\}\}$

## Characteristic function of a cone

$$\varphi_{\Omega}(x) = \int_{\Omega^*} e^{-(x,y)} dy = \mathcal{L}_{(\Omega^*, Leb)}(Leb_{\Omega^*})(x)$$

**Properties of  $\varphi_{\Omega}$ :** If  $g \in GL(V)$  is an automorphism of  $G$  (i.e.  $g\Omega = \Omega$ ), we have

$$\varphi_{\Omega}(gx) = |\det g|^{-1} \varphi_{\Omega}(x).$$

Consequently,  $\varphi_{\Omega}(x)dx$  is the **invariant measure of the cone  $\Omega$** :

$$\int_{\Omega} f(gx) \varphi_{\Omega}(x) dx = \int_{\Omega} f(x) \varphi_{\Omega}(x) dx.$$

**Example**  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^+$ .

It is

a self-dual cone:  $\Omega^* = \mathbb{R}^+$

a homogeneous cone:

$\forall x, y > 0 \exists c \in \text{Aut}(\Omega) = \mathbb{R}^+ \quad y = cx.$

Self-dual homogeneous cones are called **symmetric cones**.

Characteristic function and invariant measure of  $\mathbb{R}^+$ :

$$\varphi_{\mathbb{R}^+}(x) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-xy} dy = \frac{1}{x}, \quad x > 0$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} f(cx) \frac{1}{x} dx = \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \frac{1}{x} dx, \quad c > 0$$

Gamma function. For  $s > 0$

$$\Gamma(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x} x^{s-1} dx = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x} x^s \varphi_{\mathbb{R}^+}(x) dx$$

Gamma integral. For  $s > 0$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{R}^+, \frac{dx}{x}}(x^s)(y) = \mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{R}^+}(x^{s-1})(y) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-xy} x^{s-1} dx = \Gamma(s) y^{-s}$$

The **Riesz distributions**  $R_s$  on  $\mathbb{R}^+$  are defined by

$$\mathcal{L}(R_s)(y) = y^{-s} = \text{a power function}$$

Riesz distributions on  $\mathbb{R}^+$  are positive measures if and only if  $s > 0$ . Then they have density  $R_s(x) = x^{s-1}/\Gamma(s)$ .

Gamma integrals are **important in statistics**:

$$\text{the functions : } x \mapsto \frac{e^{-xy}}{\mathcal{L}(R_s)(y)} R_s(x) =: \gamma_{s,y}(x)$$

are probability densities for  $s, y > 0$ .

They are **GAMMA** densities on  $\mathbb{R}^+$  (interpolation of  $\chi_n^2$ )

Their Laplace transform:  $\mathcal{L}(\gamma_{s,y})(z) = (1 + zy^{-1})^{-s}$ .

If  $\mu$  is a measure on a cone  $\Omega \subset V = \mathbb{R}^n$ , then the family of probability measures

$$\gamma_y(dx) = \frac{e^{-(x,y)}}{\mathcal{L}(\mu)(y)} \mu(dx)$$

is called **exponential family** generated by  $\mu$ .

Cone of positive definite symmetric matrices

$$S_n = \text{Sym}^+(n, \mathbb{R})$$

Crucial in multivariate statistics.

Generalized power function of matrix argument  $x \in S_n$

$$\Delta_{\underline{s}}(y) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{\det y_{\leq i}}{\det y_{< i}} \right)^{s_i} \quad \text{"past power function"}$$

If  $y = \text{diag}(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ , we have  $\Delta_{\underline{s}}(y) = \prod_{i=1}^n y_i^{s_i}$

For constant  $\underline{s} = s(1, \dots, 1)$ , we have  $\Delta_{\underline{s}}(y) = (\det y)^s$

Gamma integrals on  $S_n$ : [Siegel integrals](#)(1935, number theory), appeared before in statistics(Wishart 1928), computed by Ingham (1933).

Characteristic function and invariant measure density

$$\varphi_{S_n}(x) = (\det x)^{-\frac{n+1}{2}}$$

**Gamma function of  $S_n$ :** for  $s_j > \frac{j-1}{2}$  and  $c_n = (2\pi)^{\frac{n(n-1)}{4}}$

$$\Gamma_{S_n}(\underline{s}) = \int_{S_n^+} e^{-tr(x)} \Delta_{\underline{s}}(x) \varphi_{S_n}(x) dx = c_n \prod_i \Gamma(s_j - \frac{j-1}{2})$$



## Gamma-Siegel integral

$$\int_{S_n^+} e^{-\text{tr}(xy)} \Delta_{\underline{s}}(x) \varphi_{S_n}(x) dx = \Gamma_{S_n}(\underline{s}) \Delta_{\underline{s}}(y^{-1}) = \Gamma_{S_n}(\underline{s}) \delta_{-\underline{s}}(y)$$

where  $s_j > \frac{j-1}{2}$  and  $\delta_{\underline{s}}(y)$  is the "future power function":

$$\delta_{\underline{s}}(y) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{\det y_{\geq i}}{\det y_{> i}} \right)^{s_i}.$$

**A.c. Riesz measures**  $R_{\underline{s}}(x) = \Delta_{\underline{s}}(x) \varphi_{S_n}(x) / \Gamma_{S_n}(\underline{s})$

have Laplace transform  $\Delta_{\underline{s}}(y^{-1}) = \delta_{-\underline{s}}(y)$ .

(There exist also singular positive Riesz measures)

Exp. families of Riesz measures: Wishart measures  $\gamma_{\underline{s},y}$

The parameter  $\underline{s}$  is called the **shape parameter**,  $y$  is the **scale parameter**

The density of  $\gamma_{\underline{s},y}$ :

$$e^{-tr(xy)} \frac{\Delta_{\underline{s}}(x) \varphi_{S_n}(x)}{\Gamma_{S_n}(\underline{s}) \delta_{-\underline{s}}(y)}$$

The Laplace transform of  $\gamma_{\underline{s},y}$ :

$$\mathcal{L}(\gamma_{\underline{s},y})(z) = \frac{\delta_{-\underline{s}}(y+z)}{\delta_{-\underline{s}}(y)}$$

In the case of **one-dimensional shape parameter**  $\underline{s} = s(1, \dots, 1)$ , we have  $\delta_{\underline{s}}(y) = (\det y)^s$  and

$$\mathcal{L}(\gamma_{s,y})(z) = (\det(y+z) \det(y^{-1}))^{-s} = \det(I + zy^{-1})^{-s}$$

Important direction of modern multivariate statistics:  
Wishart laws and Riesz measures  
on subcones  $\Omega$  of  $S_n$ .

Cones of matrices with obligatory zeros and dual cones

WHY CONES WITH OBLIGATORY ZEROS APPEAR  
IN STATISTICS:

$X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)^t$  a Gaussian vector  $N(\mathbf{m}, \Sigma)$ .

Some entries of the vector  $X$  are supposed to be  
**conditionally independent** knowing others

## Conditional independence in a.c. case

$X = (X_1, X_2, X_3)$  : Random vector

$f_{X_1, X_2, X_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  : density function

$X_1$  and  $X_3$  are conditionally independent knowing  $X_2$

$$\Leftrightarrow f_{X_1, X_3 | X_2 = x_2} = f_{X_1 | X_2 = x_2} f_{X_3 | X_2 = x_2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow f_{X_1, X_2, X_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = F(x_1, x_2)G(x_2, x_3)$$

$$X \sim N(0, \Sigma), \quad \Sigma \in S_3^+$$

$$f_{X_1, X_2, X_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (\det 2\pi\Sigma)^{-1/2} \exp(-{}^t x \Sigma^{-1} x / 2)$$

Put  $\sigma := \Sigma^{-1}$ . Mixing  $x_1$  and  $x_3$  can be avoided only when  $\sigma_{13} = 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & f_{X_1, X_2, X_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3) \\ &= (2\pi)^{-3/2} (\det \sigma)^{1/2} \exp\left(-(\sigma_{11}x_1^2 + 2\sigma_{12}x_1x_2 + \sigma_{22}x_2^2)/2\right) \\ & \quad \times \exp\left(-(\sigma_{23}x_2x_3 + \sigma_{33}x_3^2)/2\right) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$(X_1 \perp X_3) | X_2 \Leftrightarrow \sigma_{13} = 0$$

The matrix  $\sigma = \Sigma^{-1}$  has obligatory zeros  $\sigma_{13} = \sigma_{31} = 0$

The position of zeros in  $\Sigma^{-1}$  is encoded by a graph

$G = (V, E)$  : undirected graph

$V = \{1, \dots, r\}$  : the set of vertices

$E \subset V \times V$  : the set of edges

$i \sim j \Leftrightarrow (i, j) \in E$

$Z_G := \{x \in \text{Sym}(r, \mathbb{R}) \mid x_{ij} = 0 \text{ if } i \neq j \text{ and } i \not\sim j\}$

$P_G := Z_G \cap S_r^+$  a sub-cone of  $S_r^+$

$X \sim N(0, \Sigma), \quad \Sigma^{-1} \in P_G$

$\Leftrightarrow X_i$  and  $X_j$  are **conditionally independent** knowing all other components if  $i \neq j$  and  $i \not\sim j$

**Example 1**  $(X_1 \perp X_3) \mid X_2$  corresponds to  $G$ : 1–2–3

**Example 1.** Graph  $G = A_3$ : 1–2–3

$$Z_G := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & 0 \\ x_{12} & x_{22} & x_{23} \\ 0 & x_{23} & x_{33} \end{pmatrix} \mid x_{ij} \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$P_G := Z_G \cap S_3^+$$

This cone is **homogeneous**

( $GL(P_G)$  acts transitively on  $P_G$ )

$$Z_G^* := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \xi_{11} & \xi_{12} & * \\ \xi_{12} & \xi_{22} & \xi_{23} \\ * & \xi_{23} & \xi_{33} \end{pmatrix} \mid x_{ij} \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_G^* = Q_G &:= \left\{ \xi \in Z_G^* \mid \operatorname{tr} x\xi > 0 \text{ for all } x \in \overline{\Omega_1} \setminus \{0\} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \xi \in Z_G^* \mid \begin{vmatrix} \xi_{11} & \xi_{12} \\ \xi_{12} & \xi_{22} \end{vmatrix} > 0, \begin{vmatrix} \xi_{22} & \xi_{23} \\ \xi_{23} & \xi_{33} \end{vmatrix} > 0, \xi_{33} > 0 \right\} \end{aligned}$$



**Example 2.** Graph  $G = A_4$ : 1–2–3–4

$$Z_G := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{21} & 0 & 0 \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & x_{32} & 0 \\ 0 & x_{32} & x_{33} & x_{43} \\ 0 & 0 & x_{43} & x_{44} \end{pmatrix} \mid x_{11}, \dots, x_{44} \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$P_G := Z_G \cap S_4^+$$

This cone is **non-homogeneous**

$$\begin{aligned} P_G^* = Q_G &:= \left\{ \xi \in Z_G^* \mid \text{tr } x\xi > 0 \text{ for all } x \in \overline{\Omega_1} \setminus \{0\} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \xi \in Z_G^* \mid \begin{vmatrix} \xi_{11} & \xi_{12} \\ \xi_{12} & \xi_{22} \end{vmatrix} > 0, \begin{vmatrix} \xi_{22} & \xi_{23} \\ \xi_{23} & \xi_{33} \end{vmatrix} > 0, \begin{vmatrix} \xi_{33} & \xi_{34} \\ \xi_{34} & \xi_{44} \end{vmatrix} > 0, \xi_{44} > 0 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

## Theory of graphical models

started in 1976 by Lauritzen and Speed,  
is for **decomposable** graphs  $G$

$G$  is **decomposable**

$\Leftrightarrow G$  has **no cycle of length  $\geq 4$**  as an induced subgraph

**Example:**  $A_4 = 1-2-3-4$  from Example 2

$\Omega_G \subset Z_G$  is **homogeneous** if and only if

$G$  is **decomposable and  $A_4$ -free** (Letac-Massam, Ishi)

## Wishart distributions for decomposable graphs

A seminal paper:

G. Letac and H. Massam,  
*Wishart distributions for decomposable graphs*,  
The Annals of Statistics, **35** (2007), 1278–1323.

Letac-Massam power functions on  $Q_{A_n}$

$$H(\alpha, \beta, \eta) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} |\eta_{\{i:i+1\}}|^{\alpha_i}}{\prod_{i=2}^{n-1} \eta_{ii}^{\beta_i}}$$

This definition comes from the graph theory  
(CLIQUES  $\{i, i + 1\}$ , SEPARATORS  $\{i\}$ )

**Our approach to Wishart theory for decomposable graphs:**

**Consider analogs of “future” and “past” power functions**

$$\delta_{\underline{s}}(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta_{\underline{s}}(x)$$

**for all eliminating orders of vertices**

There are many (but not all) orders of vertices  $1, 2, \dots, n$  that we **should consider** in order to have a harmonious theory of Riesz and Wishart distributions on the cones related to graphs.

These orders are called *eliminating orders of vertices*.

Let  $v^+$  be the set of future(w.r. to the order) neighbours (w.r. to the graph) of  $v$ .

An **eliminating order** of the vertices of  $G$  is a permutation  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  of  $V$  such that for all  $v$ , the set  $v^+$  is a complete graph

**Example.** For the graph  $A_3 : 1 - 2 - 3$ :  
the orders  $1 \prec 2 \prec 3$ ,  $1 \prec 3 \prec 2$ ,  $3 \prec 2 \prec 1$  and  
 $3 \prec 1 \prec 2$  are eliminating orders  
 $2 \prec 1 \prec 3$  and  $2 \prec 3 \prec 1$  are not eliminating.

**Proposition.** All eliminating orders on  $A_n$  are obtained  
by an **intertwining of two sequences**

$$1 \prec 2 \prec 3 \prec \dots \prec M - 1 \prec M$$

$$n \prec n - 1 \prec \dots \prec M + 2 \prec M + 1 \prec M$$

for an  $M \in V$ .

## Power functions

Notations:

$v^- = \mathbf{all}$  the predecessors of  $v$  w.r. to  $\prec$

$v^+ =$  future **neighbours** of  $v$ .

We define power functions

$$\Delta_{\underline{s}}^{\prec}(y) := \prod_{v \in V} \left( \frac{\det y_{\{v\} \cup v^-}}{\det y_{v^-}} \right)^{s_v} \quad (y \in P_G),$$

$$\delta_{\underline{s}}^{\prec}(\eta) := \prod_{v \in V} \left( \frac{\det \eta_{\{v\} \cup v^+}}{\det \eta_{v^+}} \right)^{s_v} \quad (\eta \in Q_G)$$

where  $\det y_{\emptyset} = 1 = \det \eta_{\emptyset}$ .

In this research and lecture:

## RECENT RESULTS ON RIESZ MEASURES AND WISHART DISTRIBUTIONS FOR GRAPHS

$$A_n = 1 - 2 - \dots - n$$

From now on,

$$G = A_n = 1 - 2 - \dots - n$$

$Q_{A_n}$  and  $P_{A_n}$  are important non-homogeneous ( $n \geq 4$ ) cones appearing in the statistical theory of graphical models

They correspond to the practical model of **nearest neighbour interactions**:

in the Gaussian character  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ , **non-neighbours**  $X_i, X_j$ ,  $|i - j| > 1$  are **conditionally independent** with respect to other variables.



**Theorem 0.** Let  $M$  be the maximal element with respect to an eliminating order  $\prec$ ,  $M = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Then for all  $y \in P_G$ ,

$$\delta_{\underline{s}}^{\prec}(\pi_{Z_G^*}(y^{-1})) = \Delta_{-\underline{s}}^{\prec}(y) = \Delta_{-\underline{s}}^{(M)}(y)$$

*Proof.* Direct computation.

**Corollary.** The power functions  $\delta_{\underline{s}}^{\prec}(\eta)$  and  $\Delta_{-\underline{s}}^{\prec}(y)$  depend only on  $M$ , the maximal element of  $\prec$ .

Formulas for the power functions may be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(y) &= y_{11}^{s_1 - s_2} |y_{\{1:2\}}|^{s_2 - s_3} \dots |y_{\{1:M-1\}}|^{s_{M-1} - s_M} \\ &\times |y|^{s_M} \\ &\times |y_{\{M+1:n\}}|^{s_{M+1} - s_M} \dots y_{nn}^{s_n - s_{n-1}} \end{aligned}$$

For  $2 \leq M \leq n - 1$ ,

$$\delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{M-1} |\eta_{\{i:i+1\}}|^{s_i} \prod_{i=M+1}^n |\eta_{\{i-1:i\}}|^{s_i}}{\prod_{i=2}^{M-1} \eta_{ii}^{s_{i-1}} \cdot \eta_{MM}^{s_{M-1} - s_M + s_{M+1}} \cdot \prod_{i=M+1}^{n-1} \eta_{ii}^{s_{i+1}}}$$

= a Letac-Massam power function H

$\delta_{\underline{s}}^{(1)}, \delta_{\underline{s}}^{(n)}$  are not covered by Letac-Massam approach.

For  $n \geq 2$  define  $\varphi_n : Q_{A_n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  by

$$\varphi_n(\eta) = \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} |\eta_{\{i,i+1\}}|^{-3/2} \prod_{i \neq 1, n} \eta_{ii}$$

For  $n = 1$  set

$$\varphi_1(\eta) = \eta^{-1}.$$

We will see that  $\varphi_n$  is the **characteristic function of the cone  $Q_{A_n}$** .

## Laplace transform of power functions

**Theorem 1.** For all  $n \geq 1$ ,  $1 \leq M \leq n$  and  $y \in P_{A_n}$ ,

$$\int_{Q_{A_n}} e^{-\text{tr}(y\eta)} \delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) \varphi_n(\eta) d\eta = \pi^{(n-1)/2} \Gamma_{Q_{A_n}}(\underline{s}) \Delta_{-\underline{s}}^{(M)}(y)$$

$$\text{where } \Gamma_{Q_{A_n}}(\underline{s}) = \left\{ \prod_{i \neq M} \Gamma\left(s_i - \frac{1}{2}\right) \right\} \Gamma(s_M).$$

The integral converges if and only if  $s_i > \frac{1}{2}$ , for all  $i \neq M$  and  $s_M > 0$ .

**Theorem 2.** For all  $n \geq 1$ , for all  $1 \leq M \leq n$  and for all  $\eta \in Q_{A_n}$ ,

$$\int_{P_{A_n}} e^{-\text{tr}(y\eta)} \Delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(y) dy = \pi^{(n-1)/2} \Gamma_{P_{A_n}}(\underline{s}) \delta_{-\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) \varphi_n(\eta).$$

$$\text{where } \Gamma_{P_{A_n}}(\underline{s}) = \left\{ \prod_{i \neq M} \Gamma(s_i + \frac{3}{2}) \right\} \Gamma(s_M + 1).$$

The integral converges if and only if  $s_i > -\frac{3}{2}$ , for all  $i \neq M$  and  $s_M > -1$ .

### Corrolary 3.

$$\left(\frac{4}{\pi^2}\right)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \int_{P_{A_n}} e^{-\text{tr}(y\eta)} dy = \varphi_n(\eta).$$

Thus, up to a factor,  $\varphi_n$  is the **characteristic function** of the cone  $Q_{A_n}$ .

**Method: Recurrent constructions of the cones  $P_{A_n}$  and  $Q_{A_n}$  from the cones  $P_{A_{n-1}}$  and  $Q_{A_{n-1}}$ .**

(Two versions of  $A_{n-1}$ :  $2 - \dots - n$  and  $1 - \dots - (n-1)$ )

Let  $\Phi_n : \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \times P_{A_{n-1}} \longrightarrow P_{A_n}$ ,  $(a, b, z) \longmapsto y$

and  $\tilde{\Phi}_n : \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \times P_{A_{n-1}} \longrightarrow P_{A_n}$ ,  $(a, b, z) \longmapsto \tilde{y}$

$$y = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ b & \dots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots & & & z \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ b & \dots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^T$$

$$\tilde{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 & \dots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & b & 1 \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} & & & 0 \\ & & & \vdots \\ & z & & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & a \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 & \dots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & b & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The maps  $\Phi_n$  and  $\tilde{\Phi}_n$  are bijections.

Let  $\Psi_n : \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \times Q_{A_{n-1}} \longrightarrow Q_{A_n}$ ,  $(\alpha, \beta, x) \longmapsto \eta$   
and  $\tilde{\Psi}_n : \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \times Q_{A_{n-1}} \longrightarrow Q_{A_n}$ ,  $(\alpha, \beta, x) \longmapsto \tilde{\eta}$

$$\eta = \pi \left( \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ \beta & \cdots & & \\ 0 & & \cdots & \\ \vdots & & & \cdots \\ 0 & \dots\dots\dots & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right)^T \left( \begin{array}{cccc} \alpha & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & & & x \\ \vdots & & & \\ 0 & & & \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ \beta & \cdots & & \\ 0 & & \cdots & \\ \vdots & & & \cdots \\ 0 & \dots\dots\dots & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \right)$$

$$\tilde{\eta} = \pi \left( \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ 0 & \cdots & & \\ 0 & & \cdots & \\ \vdots & & & \cdots \\ 0 & \dots\dots\dots & \beta & 1 \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{cccc} & & 0 & \\ & x & \vdots & \\ & & 0 & \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \alpha \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ 0 & \cdots & & \\ \vdots & & & \cdots \\ 0 & \dots\dots\dots & \beta & 1 \end{array} \right)^T \right)$$

The maps  $\Psi_n$  and  $\tilde{\Psi}_n$  are bijections.



for all  $M = 2, \dots, n$ ,

$$\Delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(y) = a^{s_1} \Delta_{(s_2, \dots, s_n)}^{(M)}(z);$$

$$\delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) = \alpha^{s_1} \delta_{(s_2, \dots, s_n)}^{(M)}(x).$$

For  $M = 1, \dots, n - 1$  we use  $\tilde{y} = \tilde{\Phi}_n(a, b, z)$  and  $\tilde{\eta} = \tilde{\Psi}_n(\alpha, \beta, x)$ :

$$\Delta_{\underline{s}}^{(1)}(\tilde{y}) = a^{s_n} \Delta_{(s_1, \dots, s_{n-1})}^{(1)}(z);$$

$$\delta_{\underline{s}}^{(1)}(\tilde{\eta}) = \alpha^{s_n} \delta_{(s_1, \dots, s_{n-1})}^{(1)}(x).$$

Jacobians:  $J(\Phi_n)(a, b, z) = J(\tilde{\Phi}_n)(a, b, z) = a$ ,  
 $J(\Psi_n)(\alpha, \beta, x) = x_{22}$ ,  $J(\tilde{\Psi}_n)(\alpha, \beta, x) = x_{n-1, n-1}$ .

**Proof of Theorem 1,  $M > 1$ :** We proceed by induction

For  $n = 1$ ,

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-y\eta} \delta_s^{(1)}(\eta) \varphi_{A_1}(\eta) d\eta = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-y\eta} \eta^{s-1} d\eta = \Gamma(s) y^{-s}.$$

Assume that the assertion holds for some number of vertices  $n - 1$ .

Let  $y = \Phi_n(a, b, z)$  and let us make the change of variable  $\eta = \Psi_n(\alpha, \beta, x)$ .

The induction hypothesis gives

$$\int_{Q_{A_{n-1}}} e^{-\text{tr}(zx)} \delta_{(s_2, \dots, s_n)}^{(M)}(x) \varphi_{A_{n-1}}(x) dx = \pi^{(n-2)/2} \left\{ \prod_{i \neq 1, M} \Gamma\left(s_i - \frac{1}{2}\right) \right\} \Gamma(s_M) \Delta_{-(s_2, \dots, s_n)}^{(M)}(z),$$

if and only if  $s_i > \frac{1}{2}$ , for all  $i \neq M$  and  $s_M > 0$ .

The change of variable  $\eta = \Psi_n(\alpha, \beta, x)$  gives  $d\eta = x_{22}d\alpha d\beta dx$ . Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{Q_{A_n}} e^{-\text{tr}(y\eta)} \delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) \varphi_{A_n}(\eta) d\eta \\
&= \int_0^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty \int_{Q_{A_{n-1}}} e^{-(a\alpha + ax_{22}(b+\beta)^2 + \text{tr}(zx))} \times \\
&\times \alpha^{s_1} \delta_{(s_2, \dots, s_n)}^{(M)}(x) x_{22}^{-1/2} \alpha^{-3/2} \varphi_{A_{n-1}}(x) x_{22} d\alpha d\beta dx \\
&= \int_0^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty \int_{Q_{A_{n-1}}} e^{-(a\alpha + ax_{22}(b+\beta)^2 + \text{tr}(zx))} \times \\
&\times \alpha^{s_1 - 3/2} \delta_{(s_2, \dots, s_n)}^{(M)}(x) \varphi_{A_{n-1}}(x) x_{22}^{1/2} d\alpha d\beta dx,
\end{aligned}$$

Now, use the Gaussian integral

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ax_{22}(b+\beta)^2} d\beta = \pi^{1/2} a^{-1/2} x_{22}^{-1/2}$$

and the gamma integral

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-a\alpha} \alpha^{s_1-3/2} d\alpha = a^{-s_1+1/2} \Gamma(s_1 - \frac{1}{2}),$$

that is finite if and only if  $s_1 > \frac{1}{2}$ ,

we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{Q_{A_n}} e^{-\text{tr}(y\eta)} \delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) \varphi_{A_n}(\eta) d\eta \\
&= \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} a^{-s_1} \Gamma\left(s_1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \int_{Q_{A_{n-1}}} e^{-\text{tr}(zx)} \delta_{(s_2, \dots, s_n)}^{(M)}(x) \varphi_{A_{n-1}}(x) dx \\
&= \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} a^{-s_1} \Gamma\left(s_1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \pi^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \left\{ \prod_{i \neq 1, M} \Gamma\left(s_i - \frac{1}{2}\right) \right\} \Gamma(s_M) \Delta_{-(s_2, \dots, s_n)}^{(M)}(z)
\end{aligned}$$

# LETAC-MASSAM CONJECTURE

This conjecture was formulated in

G. Letac and H. Massam,  
*Wishart distributions for decomposable graphs*,  
The Annals of Statistics, **35** (2007), 1278–1323.

Recall Letac-Massam power functions on  $Q_{A_n}$

$$H(\alpha, \beta, \eta) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} |\eta_{\{i:i+1\}}|^{\alpha_i}}{\prod_{i=2}^{n-1} \eta_{ii}^{\beta_i}}$$

The Laplace transform formula  $\forall y \in P_{A_n}$

$$\int_{Q_{A_n}} e^{-\text{tr}(y\eta)} H(\alpha, \beta, \eta) \varphi_{Q_{A_n}}(\eta) d\eta = C_{\alpha, \beta} H(\alpha, \beta, \pi^{-1}(y)),$$

will be referred to as the **Letac-Massam (LM)** formula on  $Q_{A_n}$ .



There are  $2n - 3$  parameters  $\alpha, \beta$  in  $H(\alpha, \beta, \cdot)$ .

By [L-M], the LM formula holds for "well chosen"  $\alpha, \beta$ , i.e.  $\alpha, \beta$  verifying **Letac-Massam conditions**:

$$(C) \quad \alpha_{j,j+1} = \beta_{j+1} \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq M - 2,$$

$$\alpha_{j,j+1} = \beta_j \text{ if } M + 1 \leq j \leq n - 1$$

$$(I) \quad \alpha_{j,j+1} > \frac{1}{2} \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, n - 1,$$

$$\alpha_{M-1,M} + \alpha_{M,M+1} - \beta_M > 0$$

for some  $M = 2, \dots, n - 1$ .

**Remarks.** (C) limits the number of "free" parameters  $\alpha, \beta$  to  $n$ .

There are  $n$  parameters  $s_i$  indexing the power function  $\delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta)$ .

$$H(\alpha, \beta, \eta) = \delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) \text{ if and only if (C) holds true.}$$

Recall

**Theorem 1.** For all  $n \geq 1$ ,  $1 \leq M \leq n$  and  $y \in P_{A_n}$ ,

$$\int_{Q_{A_n}} e^{-\text{tr}(y\eta)} \delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) \varphi_n(\eta) d\eta = \pi^{(n-1)/2} \Gamma_{Q_{A_n}}(\underline{s}) \Delta_{-\underline{s}}^{(M)}(y)$$

where  $\Gamma_{Q_{A_n}}(\underline{s}) = \left\{ \prod_{i \neq M} \Gamma(s_i - \frac{1}{2}) \right\} \Gamma(s_M)$ .

The integral converges if and only if  $s_i > \frac{1}{2}$ , for all  $i \neq M$  and  $s_M > 0$ .

Define  $r_i = \alpha_i - \beta_{i+1}$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq n-3$  and  $p_i = \alpha_i - \beta_i$ , for all  $3 \leq i \leq n-1$ . We have

$$H(\alpha, \beta, \eta) = \delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) \prod_{i=2}^{M-1} \eta_{ii}^{r_{i-1}} \prod_{i=M+1}^{n-1} \eta_{ii}^{p_i},$$

where  $s_i = \alpha_i$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq M-1$ ;  $s_i = \alpha_{i-1}$ , for all  $M+1 \leq i \leq n$  and  $\beta_M = s_{M-1} - s_M + s_{M+1}$ .

We have proved

**L-M CONJECTURE** Letac-Massam formula on  $Q_{A_n}$  holds if and only if conditions (C) and (I) are satisfied

Recall that (C) is equivalent to

$$H(\alpha, \beta, \eta) = \delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta)$$

for some  $M = 2, \dots, n - 1$

(I) is equivalent to “ $\delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}$  admits Laplace transform”

Thus the functions  $\delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}$  are more natural as power functions on  $Q_G$  than  $H(\alpha, \beta, \eta)$ .

# OUTLINE OF THE PROOF OF the L-M CONJECTURE on $Q_{A_n}$

Letac-Massam Conjecture for power functions  $\delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}$  and  $\Delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}$

Let  $\varphi(y) = \pi(y^{-1})$ .

The Letac-Massam formula is equivalent, for each  $2 \leq M \leq n - 1$ , to

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{Q_{A_n}} e^{-\text{tr}(y\eta)} \delta_{\underline{s}}^{(M)}(\eta) \prod_{i=2}^{M-1} \eta_{ii}^{r_i-1} \prod_{i=M+1}^{n-1} \eta_{ii}^{p_i} \varphi_{Q_{A_n}}(\eta) d\eta \\ = C_{\alpha,\beta} \Delta_{-\underline{s}}^{(M)}(y) \prod_{i=2}^{M-1} \varphi(y)_{ii}^{r_i-1} \prod_{i=M+1}^{n-1} \varphi(y)_{ii}^{p_i}. \end{aligned}$$

The Letac-Massam conditions (C) are equivalent to the following  $n - 2$  alternative conditions:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
 p_3 = & p_4 = & \dots = & p_{n-1} = 0 & \text{or} & \\
 r_1 = & p_4 = & \dots = & p_{n-1} = 0 & \text{or} & \\
 \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \text{or} & \\
 r_1 = & \dots = & r_{n-4} = & p_{n-1} = 0 & \text{or} & \\
 r_1 = & \dots = & r_{n-4} = & r_{n-3} = 0. & & 
 \end{array} \tag{1}$$

We express, for each  $M$ , the constant  $C_{\alpha,\beta}$  as a function of  $M, \underline{s} = (s_i), (r_i)$  and  $(p_i)$ .

**Lemma 4.** If the LM formula holds for all  $y \in P_{A_n}$  then we have

$$C_{\alpha,\beta} = \pi^{(n-1)/2} \times \left\{ \prod_{i \neq M} \Gamma\left(s_i - \frac{1}{2}\right) \right\} \Gamma(s_M) \prod_{2 \leq i < M} \frac{\Gamma(s_i + r_{i-1})}{\Gamma(s_i)} \prod_{M < i \leq n-1} \frac{\Gamma(s_i + p_i)}{\Gamma(s_i)}.$$

If  $y$  is diagonal, then LM formula holds if and only if  $s_i > \frac{1}{2}$  for  $i \neq M$ ,  $s_m > 0$ ,  $s_i + r_{i-1} > 0$  for  $2 \leq i < M$  and  $s_i + p_i > 0$  for  $M < i \leq n - 1$ .

*Proof* We take  $y$  diagonal. The proof is a by-product of the main induction proof.

We prove the Letac-Massam conjecture by induction on  $n$ . The proof of the initiation part ( $n = 4$ ) and the heredity part ( $n \geq 5$ ) are the same, so they are given together.

**Step 1 (descent in Letac-Massam formula, from  $Q_{A_n}$  to  $Q_{A_{n-1}}$ ).**

*Let  $n \geq 4$ ,  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1})$  and  $\beta = (\beta_2, \dots, \beta_{n-1})$ .*

*Suppose that the Letac-Massam formula holds for  $H_n(\alpha, \beta, \cdot)$  on  $Q_{A_n}$ . Then the Letac-Massam formula holds on*

*$Q_{A_{n-1}}$  for:*

*(i) the function  $H_{n-1}((\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-2}), (\beta_2, \dots, \beta_{n-2}), \cdot)$  and the graph  $1 - \dots - (n - 1)$*

*(ii) the function  $H_{n-1}((\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}), (\beta_3, \dots, \beta_{n-1}), \cdot)$  and the graph  $2 - \dots - n$ .*



**Proof of Step 1.** We choose  $2 \leq M \leq n - 2$ . For all  $y \in P_{A_n}$ , let, successively,  $y = \tilde{\Phi}_n(a, b, z)$  and  $z = \Phi_{n-1}(a, b, Z)$ . One easily checks that  $\varphi(y)_{ii} = \varphi(z)_{ii} = \varphi(Z)_{ii}$ . **Integration on  $Q_{A_n}$  with two successive changes of variables  $\eta = \tilde{\Psi}_n(\alpha, \beta, x)$  and then  $x = \Psi_{n-1}(\alpha, \beta, X)$  gives**

$$\int_{Q_{A_{n-2}}} e^{-\text{tr}(ZX)} \delta_{(s_2, \dots, s_{n-1})}^{(M)}(X) \prod_{i=2}^{M-1} X_{ii}^{r_{i-1}} \prod_{i=M+1}^{n-1} X_{ii}^{p_i} \varphi_{Q_{A_{n-2}}}(X) dX \quad (2)$$

$$= C_{\alpha, \beta}^{(n-2)} \Delta_{-(s_2, \dots, s_{n-1})}^{(M)}(Z) \prod_{i=2}^{M-1} \varphi(Z)_{ii}^{r_{i-1}} \prod_{i=M+1}^{n-1} \varphi(Z)_{ii}^{p_i}.$$

where  $C_{\alpha, \beta}^{(n-2)} = \frac{C_{\alpha, \beta}}{\pi \Gamma(s_1 - \frac{1}{2}) \Gamma(s_n - \frac{1}{2})}$ .

Now, we apply **one more change of variable**  $X = \tilde{\Psi}_{n-2}(\alpha, \beta, U)$  in formula (2) and we set  $Z = \tilde{\Phi}_{n-2}(a, 0, T)$ . Let  $F(\alpha, \beta, U)$  be the integrated function. We first compute  $J = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} F d\alpha d\beta = 2 \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} F d\alpha d\beta$ . Using the change of variables  $u = a\alpha, t = aU_{n-2, n-2}\beta^2$  we get

$$J = 2a^{-p_{n-1}} \times \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(a\alpha + aU_{n-2, n-2}\beta^2)} \alpha^{s_{n-1} - \frac{3}{2}} (a\alpha + a\beta^2 U_{n-2, n-2})^{p_{n-1}} d\alpha d\beta = a^{-(s_{n-1} + p_{n-1})} U_{n-2, n-2}^{-1/2} \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(u+t)} u^{s_{n-1} - \frac{3}{2}} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} (u+t)^{p_{n-1}} du dt$$

Now, using the change of variables  $u = u, v = u + t$ , we get (with a change of variable  $x = u/v$ )

$$J = a^{-(s_{n-1} + p_{n-1})} U_{n-2, n-2}^{-1/2} \int_0^{\infty} \left( \int_0^v u^{s_{n-1} - \frac{3}{2}} (v-u)^{-\frac{1}{2}} du \right) e^{-v} v^{p_{n-1}} dv = a^{-(s_{n-1} + p_{n-1})} U_{n-2, n-2}^{-1/2} B\left(s_{n-1} - \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right) \Gamma(s_{n-1} + p_{n-1}) \quad (3)$$

We get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{Q_{A_{n-3}}} e^{-\text{tr}(TU)} \delta_{(s_2, \dots, s_{n-2})}^{(M)}(U) \prod_{i=2}^{M-1} U_{ii}^{r_{i-1}} \prod_{i=M+1}^{n-2} U_{ii}^{p_i} \varphi_{Q_{A_{n-3}}}(U) dU \\
& = C_{\alpha, \beta}^{(n-3)} \Delta_{-(s_2, \dots, s_{n-2})}^{(M)}(T) \prod_{i=2}^{M-1} \varphi(T)_{ii}^{r_{i-1}} \prod_{i=M+1}^{n-2} \varphi(T)_{ii}^{p_i},
\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where

$$C_{\alpha, \beta}^{(n-3)} = \frac{C_{\alpha, \beta}}{\pi^{\frac{3}{2}} \Gamma(s_1 - \frac{1}{2}) \Gamma(s_n - \frac{1}{2}) \Gamma(s_{n-1} - \frac{1}{2})} \times \frac{\Gamma(s_{n-1})}{\Gamma(p_{n-1} + s_{n-1})}. \tag{5}$$

By the same argument as to obtain formula (2), we observe that the Letac-Massam formula pour la fonction  $H_{n-1}((\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-2}), (\beta_2, \dots, \beta_{n-2}), \cdot)$  on  $Q_{A_{n-1}}$  and the graph  $1 - 2 - \dots - (n - 1)$  is equivalent to formula (4).

By a mirror argument, with the change of variables  $X = \Psi_{n-2}(\alpha, \beta, U)$  in (2), we get the Letac-Massam formula for  $H_{n-1}((\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}), (\beta_3, \dots, \beta_{n-1}), \cdot)$  and the graph  $2 - \dots - n$ .

*Proof of Lemma 4.* For  $y$  diagonal, formula (5) leads by induction to formula from Lemma 4, observing that the last equation we get is

$$a^{-s_M} \int_0^\infty e^{-ax} x^{s_M} \frac{dx}{x} = C_{\alpha, \beta}^{(1)} a^{-s_M}$$

so that  $C_{\alpha, \beta}^{(1)} = \Gamma(s_M)$ .

**Step 2 (induction step).** *The Letac-Massam conjecture on  $Q_{A_{n-1}}$  implies the Letac-Massam conjecture on  $Q_{A_n}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $n \geq 4$ . Suppose that the Letac-Massam formula holds for some  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  and suppose that the Letac-Massam conjecture is true on  $Q_{A_{n-1}}$ .

For  $n \geq 5$ , we use Step 1 and the induction hypothesis. Thus one of the following  $n - 3$  conditions has to be satisfied: for an  $M \in \{2, \dots, n - 2\}$

$$r_1 = \dots = r_{M-2} = p_{M+1} = \dots = p_{n-2} = 0,$$

and, simultaneously, one of the following  $n - 3$  "shifted" conditions has to be satisfied: for an  $M \in \{2, \dots, n - 2\}$

$$r_2 = \dots = r_{M-1} = p_{M+2} = \dots = p_{n-1} = 0.$$

This implies that either conditions (C) are satisfied or

$$p_3 = \dots = p_{n-2} = 0; r_2 = \dots = r_{n-3} = 0. \quad (6)$$

Let us assume this **exceptional case**. The equality  $r_{M-1} = 0$  implies  $s_M = s_{M+1}$  and  $p_M = 0$  implies  $s_M = s_{M-1}$ . Also, from  $p_j = r_{j-1}$  for all  $3 \leq j \leq n-2$ , we get  $s_2 = \dots = s_{M-1}$  and  $s_{M+1} = \dots = s_{n-1}$ . Thus,  $s_2 = \dots = s_{n-1} = s$ . In the case (6), using the formula for  $\varphi(Z)_{ii}$ , formula (2) reduces to

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{Q_{A_{n-2}}} e^{-\text{tr}(ZX)} \delta_{(s, \dots, s)}^{(M)}(X) X_{22}^{r_1} X_{n-1, n-1}^{p_{n-1}} \varphi_{Q_{A_{n-2}}}(X) dX \\ &= C_{\alpha, \beta}^{(n-2)} |Z|^{-s} \left( \frac{|Z_{\{3:n-1\}}|}{|Z|} \right)^{r_1} \left( \frac{|Z_{\{2:n-2\}}|}{|Z|} \right)^{p_{n-1}}. \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

**A TRICK: take SECOND DERIVATIVE with respect to  $Z_{n-2,n-1}$  and restrain to  $Z_{n-2,n-1} = 0$**

The derivatives of all orders of the integral (7) can be computed under the integral sign. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{Q_{A_{n-2}}} e^{-\text{tr}(ZX)} \delta_{(s,\dots,s)}^{(M)}(X) X_{22}^{r_1} X_{n-1,n-1}^{p_{n-1}} X_{n-2,n-1}^2 \varphi_{Q_{A_{n-2}}}(X) dX \\ &= \frac{C_{\alpha,\beta}^{(n-2)}}{4} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial Z_{n-2,n-1}^2} \left( |Z|^{-s} \left( \frac{|Z_{\{3:n-1\}}|}{|Z|} \right)^{r_1} \left( \frac{|Z_{\{2:n-2\}}|}{|Z|} \right)^{p_{n-1}} \right). \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

**LHS:** Let us change the variables  $X = \tilde{\Psi}_{n-2}(\alpha, \beta, U)$  and set  $Z = \tilde{\Phi}_{n-2}(a, 0, T)$ , i.e.  $Z_{n-2, n-1} = 0$ . Similarly as in the proof of (4) in Step 1, we find that the left hand side of (8) is

$$a^{-(s+p_{n-1}+1)} \Gamma(s + p_{n-1} + 1) B\left(s - \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right) \times \quad (9)$$

$$\int_{Q_{A_{n-3}}} e^{-\text{tr}(TU)} \delta_{(s, \dots, s)}^{(M)}(U) U_{22}^{r_1} U_{n-2, n-2} \varphi_{Q_{A_{n-3}}}(U) dU.$$



**RHS** is standard, using Leibniz formula. We get that for  $Z_{n-2,n-1} = 0$ , the right hand side of (8) is

$$\frac{C_{\alpha,\beta}^{(n-2)}}{2} a^{-(s+p_{n-1}+1)} |T|^{-(s+r_1+1)} |T_{\{3:n-2\}}|^{r_1-1} \times$$

$$\left[ (s+r_1+p_{n-1}) |T_{\{3:n-2\}}| |T_{\{2:n-3\}}| - r_1 |T_{\{3:n-3\}}| |T| \right].$$

(10)

Equating (10) and (9), we obtain

$$\int_{Q_{A_{n-3}}} e^{-\text{tr}(TU)} \delta_{(s, \dots, s)}^{(M)} U_{22}^{r_1} U_{n-2, n-2} \varphi_{Q_{A_{n-3}}}(U) dU = \frac{sd(s, r_1, T)}{s + p_{n-1}} \left[ (s + r_1 + p_{n-1}) |T_{\{3:n-2\}}| |T_{\{2:n-3\}}| - r_1 |T_{\{3:n-3\}}| |T| \right], \quad (11)$$

where  $d(s, r_1, T) = C_{\alpha, \beta}^{(n-3)} |T|^{-(s+r_1+1)} |T_{\{3:n-2\}}|^{r_1-1}$ .

Formula (11) is supposed to be true for our  $p_{n-1} = \alpha_{n-1} - \beta_{n-1}$ . It is surely true for  $p_{n-1} = 0$ , because the Letac-Massam conditions (1) are then satisfied. Equating (11) for these two values of  $p_{n-1}$ , and noting that by Lemma 4 the constant  $C_{\alpha,\beta}^{(n-3)}$  does not depend on  $p_{n-1}$ , we get

$$\frac{s[(s + r_1 + p_{n-1})|T_{\{3:n-2\}}||T_{\{2:n-3\}}| - r_1|T_{\{3:n-3\}}||T|]}{s + p_{n-1}} = (s + r_1)|T_{\{3:n-2\}}||T_{\{2:n-3\}}| - r_1|T_{\{3:n-3\}}||T|,$$

which is equivalent to

$$r_1 p_{n-1} \left( |T_{\{3:n-2\}}||T_{\{2:n-3\}}| - |T_{\{3:n-3\}}||T| \right) = 0,$$

where for  $n = 5$  we set  $|T_{\{3:n-3\}}| = 1$ .

We observe that  $|T_{\{3:n-2\}}||T_{\{2:n-3\}}| - |T_{\{3:n-3\}}||T| \neq 0$ , for example for  $T$  such that  $T_{ii} = 2$  for all  $2 \leq i \leq n-2$ ,  $T_{i,i+1} = T_{i+1,i} = 1$  for  $2 \leq i \leq n-3$  and  $T_{ij} = 0$  for all other  $i, j$  (in this case, this expression equals 1).

Thus, for  $n \geq 5$ , in the exceptional case (6), we also have  $r_1 = 0$  or  $p_{n-1} = 0$ .

In both cases we fall in the Letac-Massam conditions (C) and the proof of the induction step is finished.

For  $n = 4$ , we get formula (2) for  $M = 2$ , the computations are simpler (no use of Leibniz formula is needed), and no condition  $s_2 = s_3 = s$  appears. The analogue of formula (11) is

$$\Gamma(s_3 + p_3 + 1)B(s_3 - \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}) \int_0^\infty e^{-tu} u^{s_2} u \frac{1}{u} du =$$

$$\frac{C_{\alpha,\beta}^{(2)}}{2} (s_2 + p_3) t^{-(s_2+1)}, \quad t > 0.$$

After substitution of the constant  $C_{\alpha,\beta}^{(2)} = \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} \Gamma(s_2) \Gamma(s_3 - \frac{1}{2}) \frac{\Gamma(s_3 + p_3)}{\Gamma(s_3)}$  one gets

$$(s_3 + p_3)s_2 = s_3(s_2 + p_3)$$

equivalent to  $r_1 p_3 = 0$ , so  $r_1 = 0$  or  $p_3 = 0$ .

We get the Letac-Massam conditions for  $Q_{A_4}$ .