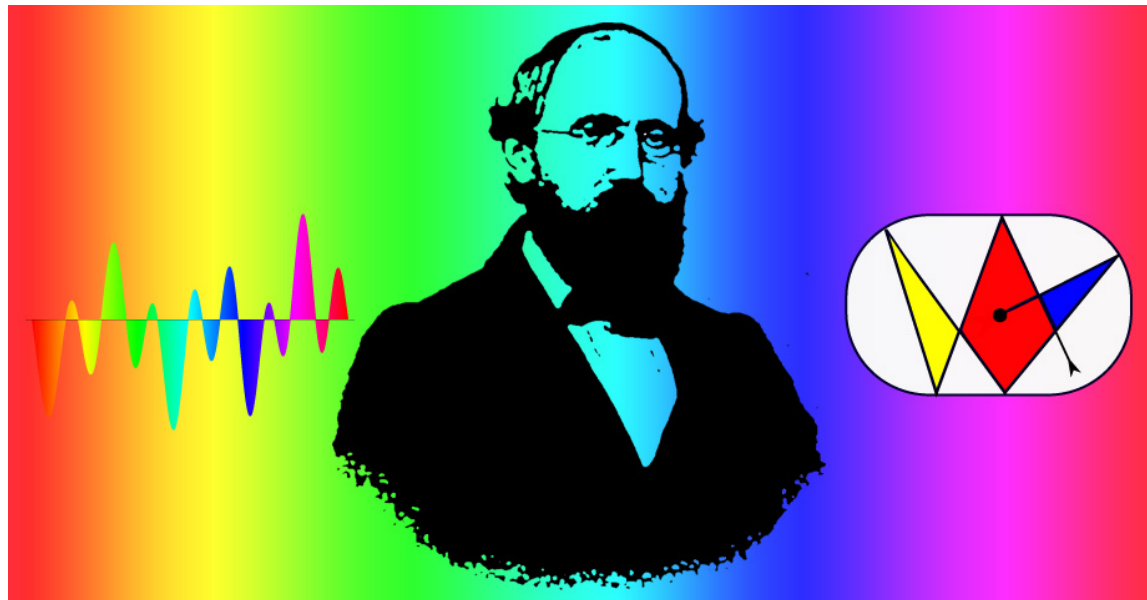


# A spectral realization of the Riemann zeros

Germán Sierra

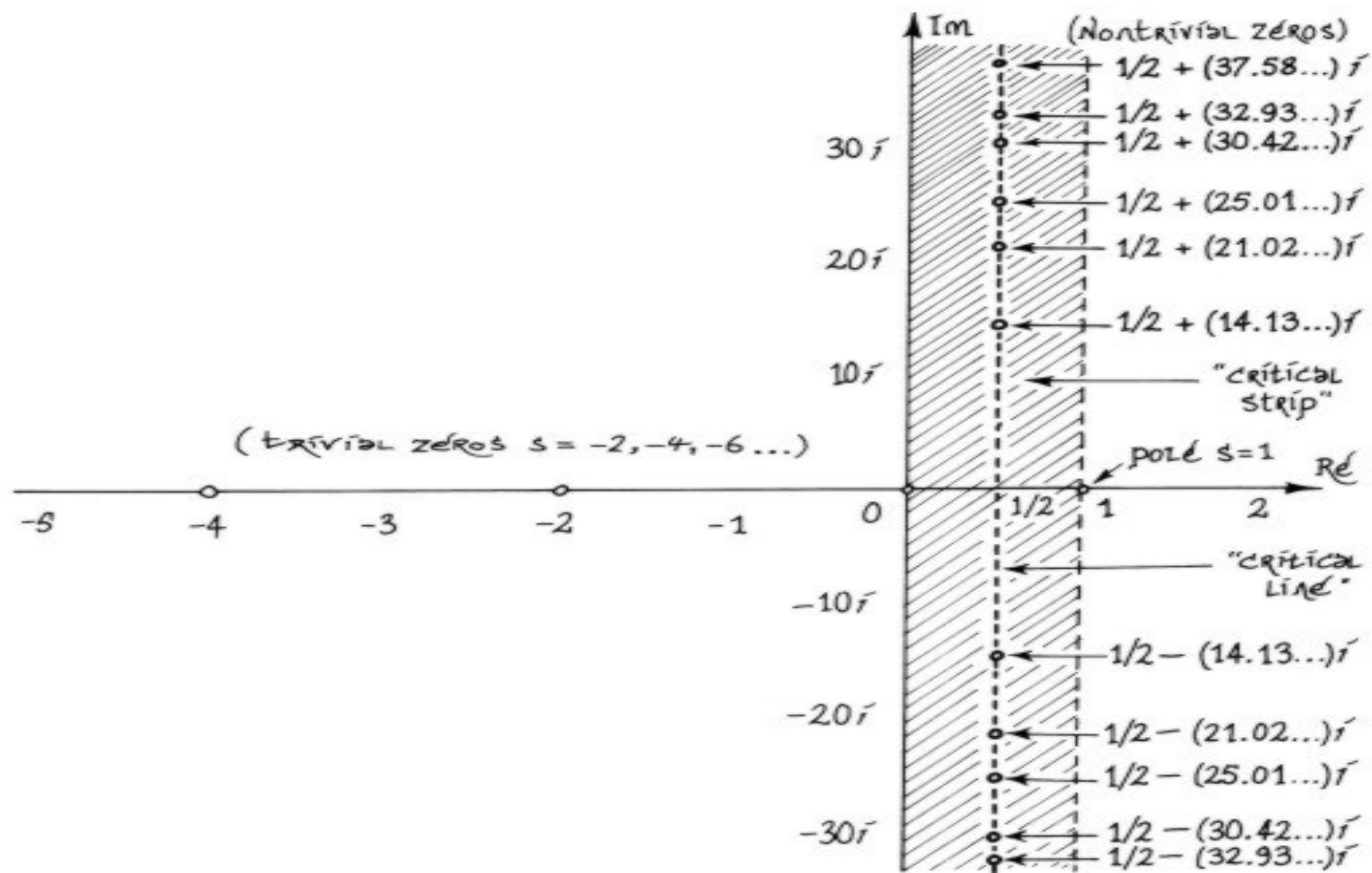
Instituto de Física Teórica UAM-CSIC, Madrid

Talk at the RSME 2015 Congress, Granada, 3rd February 2015



# The Riemann Hypothesis (1859)

The complex zeros of the zeta function  $\zeta(s)$  have real part equal to  $1/2$





# Polya and Hilbert Conjecture (1910)

$$s_n = \frac{1}{2} + i E_n, \quad E_n = \text{energies}$$





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$E_n$  : eigenvalues of a Hamiltonian  $H \rightarrow$  RH true





# Polya and Hilbert Conjecture (1910)



$$s_n = \frac{1}{2} + i E_n, \quad E_n = \text{energies}$$

$E_n$  : eigenvalues of a Hamiltonian  $H \rightarrow$  RH true

$$\det(E - H) \propto \zeta(1/2 + i E)$$

This conjecture inspired the spectral approach to the RH

The problem is to find  $H$ : the Riemann operator

## Outline

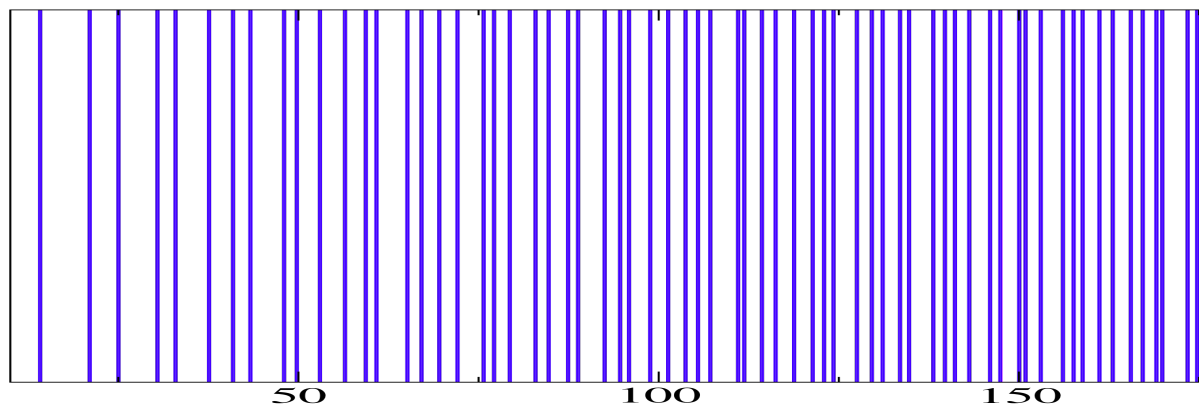
- Hints supporting the Polya-Hilbert conjecture.
- $H = xp$  model of Berry, Keating and Connes
- A modified model  $H = x(p + 1/p)$
- $xp$  and the Dirac equation
- An ideal optical model of the prime numbers
- Spectral realization of the Riemann zeros

Based on:

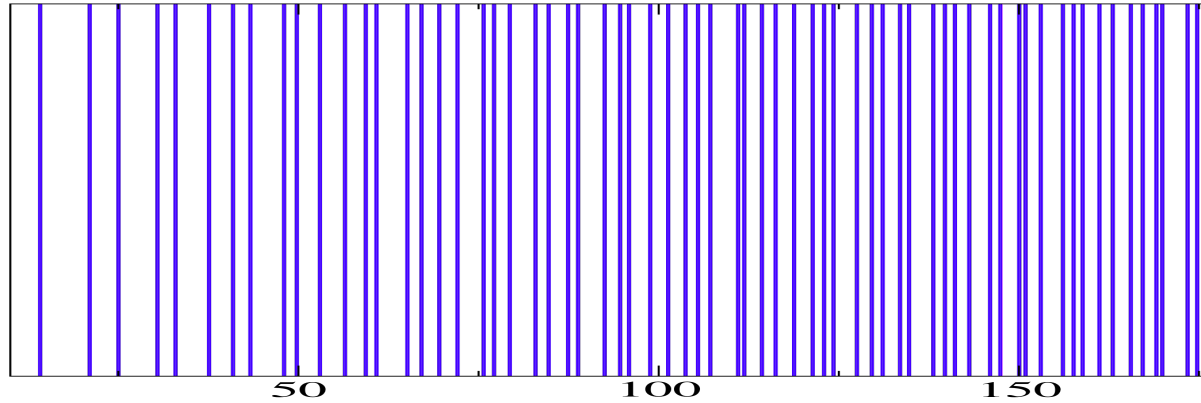
"The  $H=xp$  model revisited and the Riemann zeros", (with J. Rodriguez-Laguna)  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 2011

"The Riemann zeros as energy levels of a Dirac fermion in a potential built from the prime numbers in Rindler spacetime"  
J. of Phys. A 2014; arxiv: 1404.4252

# The Riemann zeros as spectrum

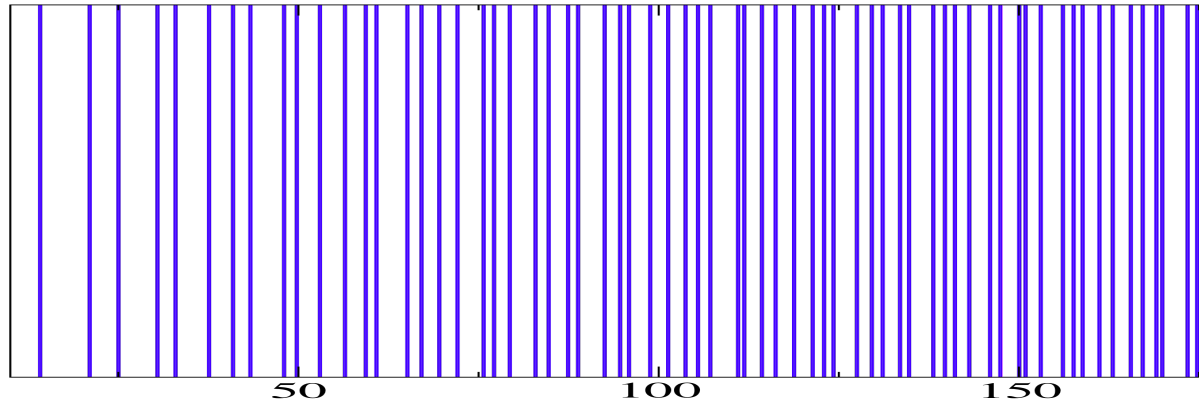


# The Riemann zeros as spectrum



$$N_R(E) = \langle N(E) \rangle + N_{fl}(E)$$

# The Riemann zeros as spectrum



$$N_R(E) = \langle N(E) \rangle + N_{fl}(E)$$

Average  $\langle N(E) \rangle \approx \frac{E}{2\pi} \left( \log \frac{E}{2\pi} - 1 \right) + \frac{7}{8} + O(E^{-1})$

Fluctuation  $N_{fl}(E) = \frac{1}{\pi} \operatorname{Arg} \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + iE\right) = O(\log E)$



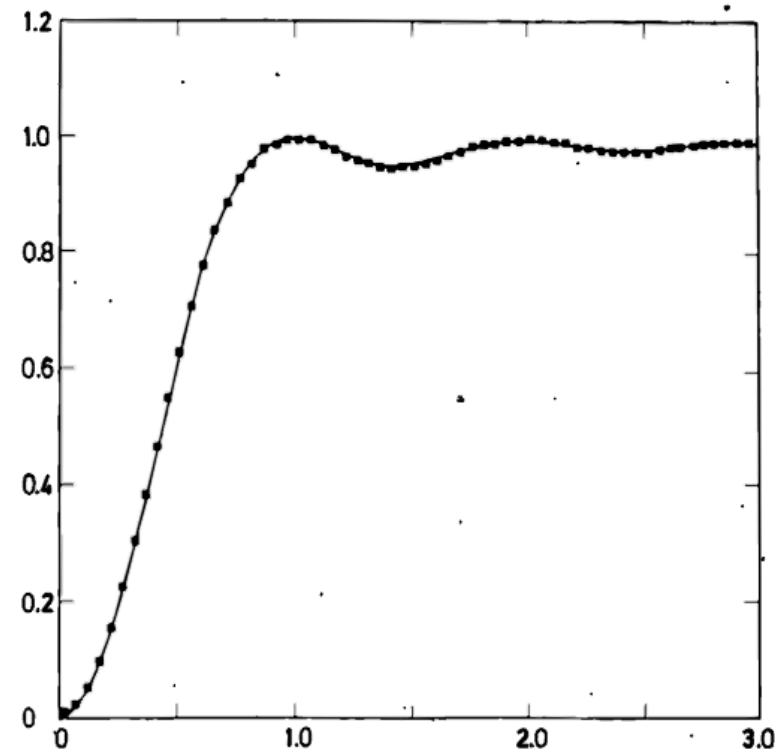
## Montgomery-Odlyzko law [70-80's]



The fluctuations of the zeros satisfy the Gaussian Unitary Ensemble

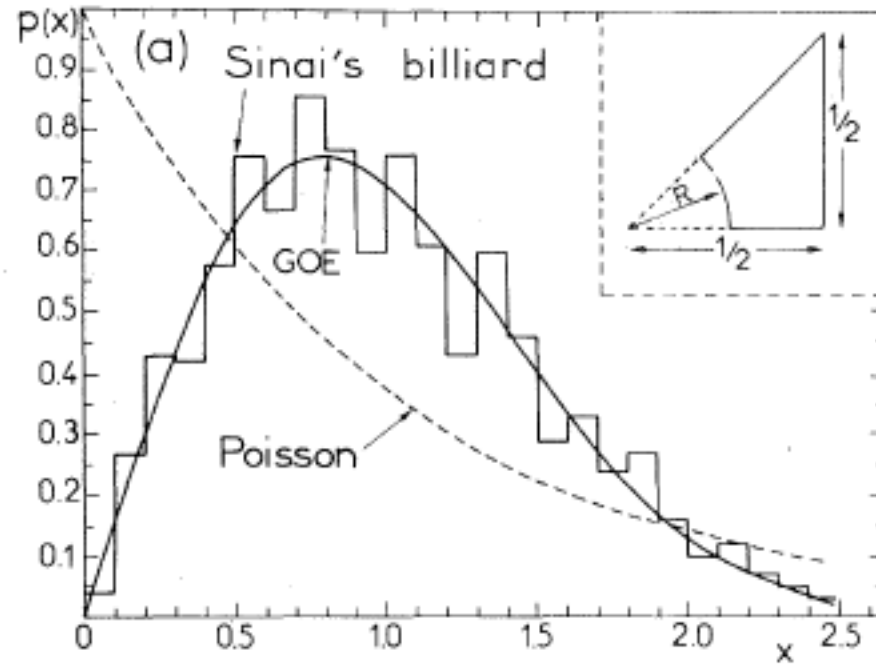
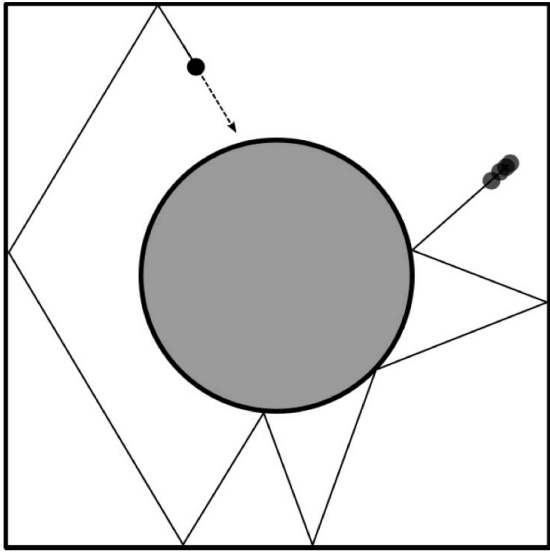
GUE pair correlation function

$$R_2(x) = 1 - \left( \frac{\sin \pi x}{\pi x} \right)^2$$



The zeros behave as the eigenvalues of an random hermitean matrix.  
Hence time reversal invariance is broken.

## Quantum chaos: Sinai billiard



Bohigas, Giannoni, Schmit (84)

Would the Riemann zeros be the spectrum of a quantum billiard?

Berry's quantum chaos proposal (80's):

- H classical chaotic
- H breaks time reversal (GUE – statistics)
- H is quasi-one dimensional



*Periodic orbits  $\leftrightarrow$  prime number ( $p$ )*

*Period  $\leftrightarrow \log p$*

Promise: The quantization of H will give the Riemann zeros



Based on an analogy between the number theory formula

$$N_{fl}(E) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \sum_p \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m p^{m/2}} \sin(m E \log p)$$

and Gutzwiller semiclassical formula

$$N_{fl}(E) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{\alpha} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m 2 \sinh(m \lambda_{\alpha} / 2)} \sin(m E T_{\alpha})$$



Log of primes numbers are “periods”

Riemann zeros are “energies”

## The Berry-Keating/Connes model (1999):



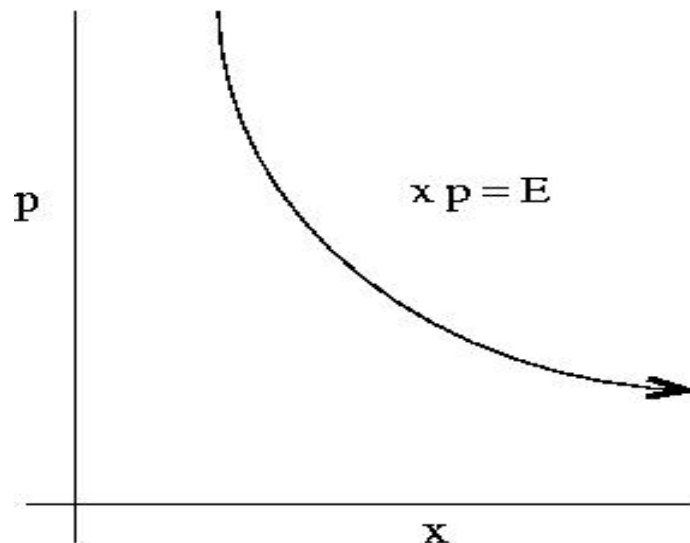
The Riemann Hamiltonian is a quantization of

$$H = xp$$

## The classical $H = xp$ model

The classical trajectories are hyperbolae in phase space

$$x(t) = x_0 e^t, p(t) = p_0 e^{-t}, E = x_0 p_0$$

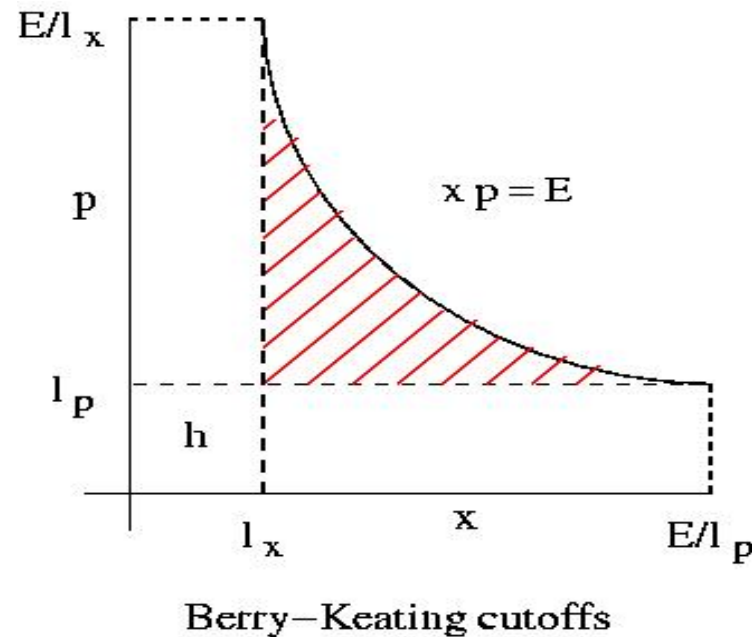


Unbounded  
trajectories

Time Reversal Symmetry is broken (  $x \rightarrow x, p \rightarrow -p$  )

# Berry-Keating regularization

Planck cell in phase space:  $|x| > \ell_x, |p| > \ell_p, h = \ell_x \ell_p = 2\pi \ (\hbar = 1)$

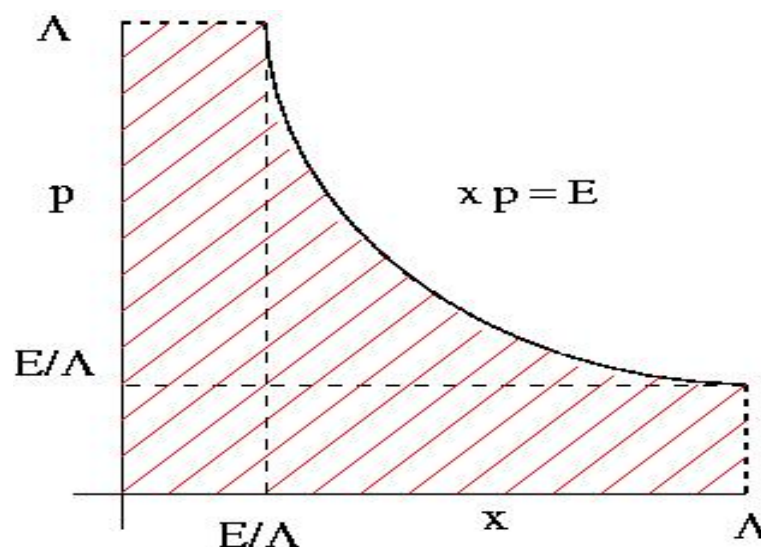


Number of semiclassical states  $N_{sc}(E) \approx \frac{E}{2\pi} \log \frac{E}{2\pi} - \frac{E}{2\pi} + \frac{7}{8}$

Agrees with number of zeros asymptotically (average term)

# Connes regularization

Cutoffs in phase space:  $|x| < \Lambda, |p| < \Lambda$



Connes cutoffs

Number of semiclassical states  $N_{sc}(E) \approx \frac{E}{2\pi} \log \frac{\Lambda^2}{2\pi} - \frac{E}{2\pi} \log \frac{E}{2\pi} + \frac{E}{2\pi}$

As  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$  spectrum = continuum - Riemann zeros

The zeros are missing spectral in a continuum

Are there quantum versions of the Berry-Keating/Connes “semiclassical” models?

## *OUTLINE*

I) Quantize  $H = xp$   $\longrightarrow$  Continuum spectrum

II)  $H = x(p + 1/p)$   $\longrightarrow$  Discrete spectrum

III) Reformulation of  $x(p + 1/p)$  using the Dirac equation

IV) Introduce the prime numbers in an ideal model of mirrors

V) The final model

## Quantization of $H = xp$

Define the normal ordered operator in the half-line

$$H_0 = \frac{1}{2}(x \hat{p} + \hat{p} x) = -i\left(x \frac{d}{dx} + \frac{1}{2}\right) \quad 0 < x < \infty$$

$H$  is a self-adjoint operator: eigenfunctions

$$\phi_E(x) = \frac{1}{x^{1/2 - iE}}$$

The spectrum is a continuum  $E \in (-\infty, \infty)$



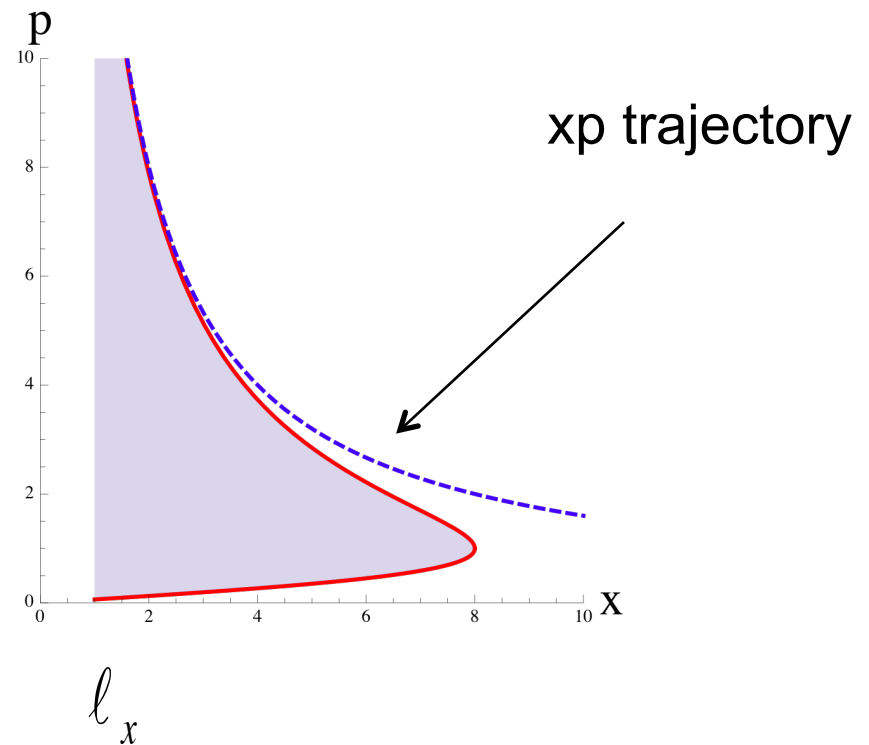
# The xp model revisited

(with J. Rodriguez-Laguna 2011)

$$H = x \left( p + \frac{\ell_p^2}{p} \right), \quad x \geq \ell_x$$

Classical trajectories are bounded and periodic

The semiclassical spectrum agrees with the smooth zeros



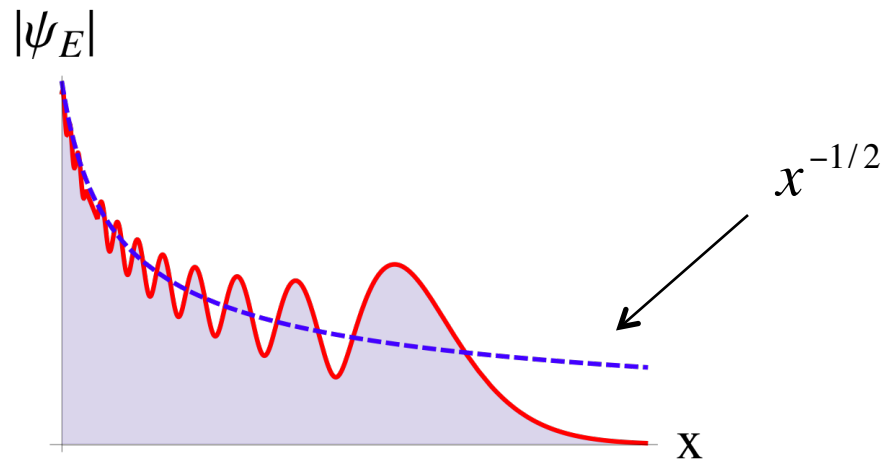
## Quantization

$$H = \sqrt{x} \left( \hat{p} + \frac{\ell_p^2}{\hat{p}} \right) \sqrt{x}$$

$$\hat{H}\psi(x) = -ix^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \hbar \frac{d}{dx} \left\{ x^{\frac{1}{2}} \psi(x) \right\} + \ell_p^2 \int_{\ell_x}^{\infty} \frac{dy}{\hbar} \theta(y-x) y^{\frac{1}{2}} \psi(y) \right]$$

## Eigenfunctions

$$\psi_E(x) = x^{\frac{iE}{2\hbar}} K_{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{iE}{2\hbar}} \left( \frac{\ell_p x}{\hbar} \right) \sim \begin{cases} x^{-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{iE}{\hbar}} & x \ll x_m(E) \\ x^{-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{iE}{2\hbar}} e^{-\ell_p x/\hbar} & x \gg x_m(E) \end{cases}$$



H is selfadjoint acting on the wave functions satisfying

$$\hbar \ell_x^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{i\vartheta} \psi(\ell_x) + \ell_p \int_{\ell_x}^{\infty} dx x^{\frac{1}{2}} \psi(x) = 0.$$

Which yields the eq. for the eigenvalues

$$K_{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{iE_n}{2\hbar}} \left( \frac{\ell_x \ell_p}{\hbar} \right) - e^{i\vartheta} K_{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{iE_n}{2\hbar}} \left( \frac{\ell_x \ell_p}{\hbar} \right) = 0.$$

$\vartheta$  parameter of the self-adjoint extension

$$\vartheta = 0 \Leftrightarrow E_n, -E_n, \quad E_0 = 0 \quad \text{Periodic}$$

$$\vartheta = \pi \Leftrightarrow E_n, -E_n, \quad E_0 \neq 0 \quad \text{Antiperiodic}$$

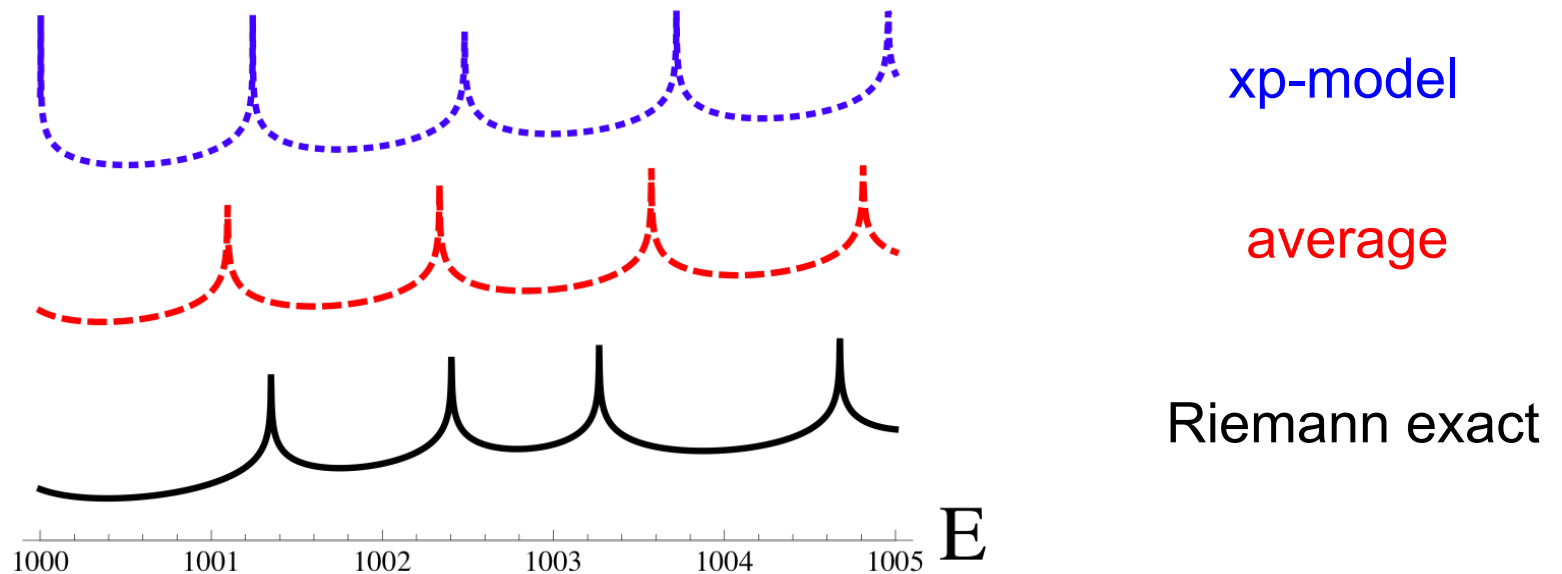
Riemann zeros also appear in pairs and 0 is not a *zero*, i.e.  $\zeta(1/2) \neq 0$

$$\longrightarrow \vartheta = \pi$$

In the limit  $E / \ell_x \ell_p \gg 1$   $\ell_x \ell_p = 2\pi$

$$n(E) \approx \frac{E}{2\pi} \left( \log \frac{E}{2\pi} - 1 \right) + \frac{1}{2} + O(1/E)$$

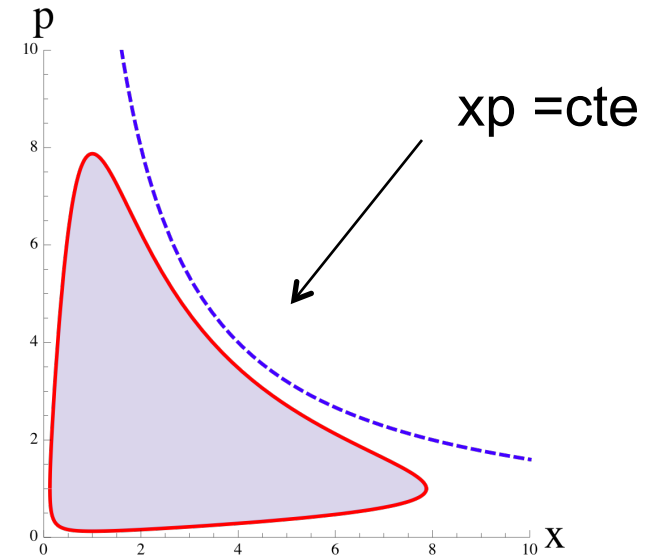
Agrees with first two terms in Riemann formula



## Berry-Keating modification of xp (2011)

$$H = \left( x + \frac{\ell_x^2}{x} \right) \left( p + \frac{\ell_p^2}{p} \right), \quad x \geq 0$$

$$\hat{H} = \left( x + \frac{\ell_x^2}{x} \right)^{1/2} \left( \hat{p} + \frac{\ell_p^2}{\hat{p}} \right) \left( x + \frac{\ell_x^2}{x} \right)^{1/2}$$



$$N_{t, \alpha=0}(t) = \frac{t}{2\pi} \left( \log \left( \frac{t}{2\pi} \right) - 1 \right) - \frac{8\pi}{t} \log \left( \frac{t}{2\pi} \right) + \dots$$

Same as Riemann but the 7/8 is also missing

$$H = \sqrt{x} \left( \hat{p} + \frac{\ell_p^2}{\hat{p}} \right) \sqrt{x}$$

$$\hat{H} = \left( x + \frac{\ell_x^2}{x} \right)^{1/2} \left( \hat{p} + \frac{\ell_p^2}{\hat{p}} \right) \left( x + \frac{\ell_x^2}{x} \right)^{1/2}$$

Average Riemann zeros

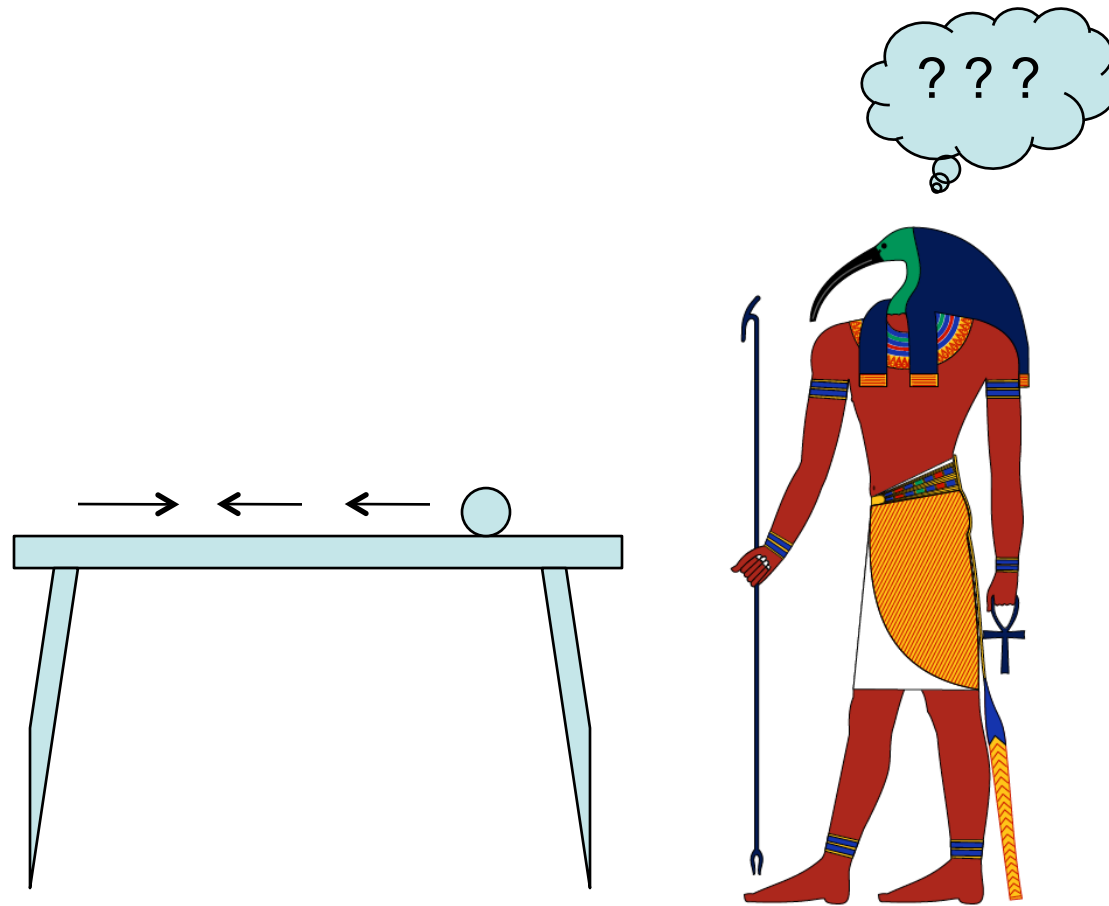
The fluctuations are NOT explained

Reason: they are non chaotic Hamiltonians. All orbits are periodic.  
No relation with prime numbers.

Moreover the system must be quasi-one dimensional

Egyptian Paradox: how to get chaos in a 1D billiard?

## Egyptian Paradox: how to get chaos in a 1D billiard?



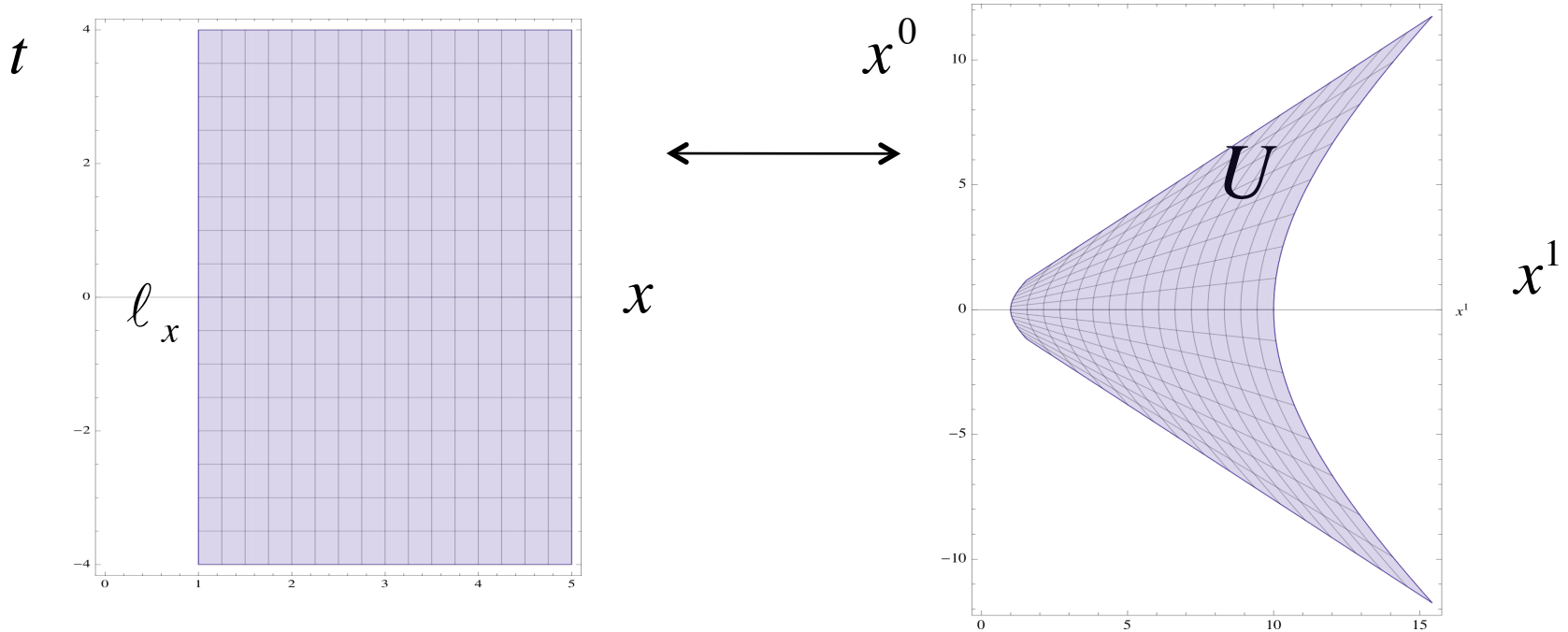


# The $x(p+1/p)$ model and the Dirac equation

$\ell_x$

Change of  
variables

$$t = \frac{1}{2} \log(x^0 + x^1), \quad x = \sqrt{(x^1)^2 - (x^0)^2}$$



Rindler coordinates

$$x^0 = \rho \sinh \phi, \quad x^1 = \rho \cosh \phi$$

Minkowski metric

$$ds^2 = d\rho^2 - \rho^2 d\phi^2$$

Domain U:

$$\rho \geq \ell_x$$

## Special relativity

$\rho = \ell = cte$  = worldline of an observer moving with

uniform acceleration =  $1/\ell$

$\phi$  = Rindler time

The domain U is invariant under the shifts of  $\phi$

$\partial / \partial \phi$  Killing vector of the metric

## Dirac fermion in Rindler space

(GS 2014)

$$S = \frac{i}{2} \int_U d^2x \bar{\psi} (\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu + m) \psi$$

Dirac equation

$$i \partial_\phi \chi = H_R \chi, \quad \chi = \begin{pmatrix} \chi_- \\ \chi_+ \end{pmatrix}$$

Rindler Hamiltonian

$$H_R = \begin{pmatrix} -i(\rho \partial_\rho + 1/2) & m \rho \\ m \rho & i(\rho \partial_\rho + 1/2) \end{pmatrix}$$

Two copies of the quantum xp one for each chirality

Boundary condition

$$-i e^{i\vartheta} \chi_- = \chi_+ \quad \text{at} \quad \rho = \ell_x$$

The eigenfunctions of  $H_R$

$$\chi_{\pm}(\rho, \phi) = e^{-iE\phi \mp i\pi/4} K_{1/2 \pm iE}(m\rho)$$

The boundary condition gives the eigenvalue equation

$$e^{i\vartheta} K_{1/2 - iE}(m\ell_x) - K_{1/2 + iE}(m\ell_x) = 0$$

We recover the spectrum of the  $x(p+1/p)$  model

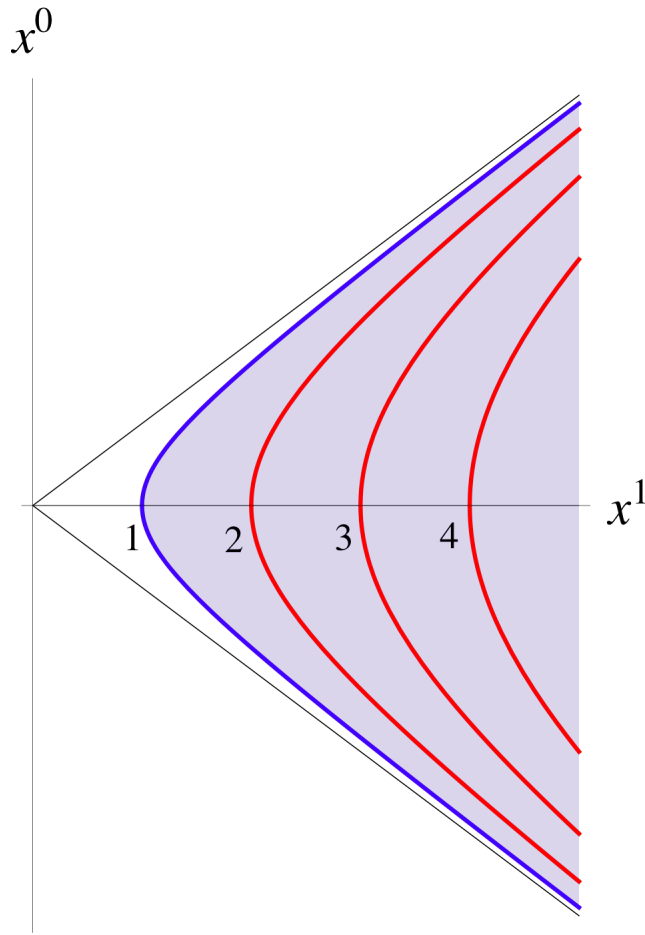
$\ell_p$  the mass and  $1/\ell_x$  the  
acceleration of the boundary

How to include the fluctuations?

Resolution of the “egyptian” paradox

## An ideal optical model

Moving mirror: is a mirror whose acceleration is constant  $a_n = 1/\ell_n$



First mirror is perfect ( $n=1$ )

Mirrors  $n=2,3,\dots$  Are semitransparent (beam splitters)

$$\ell_n = \ell_1 \sqrt{n}$$

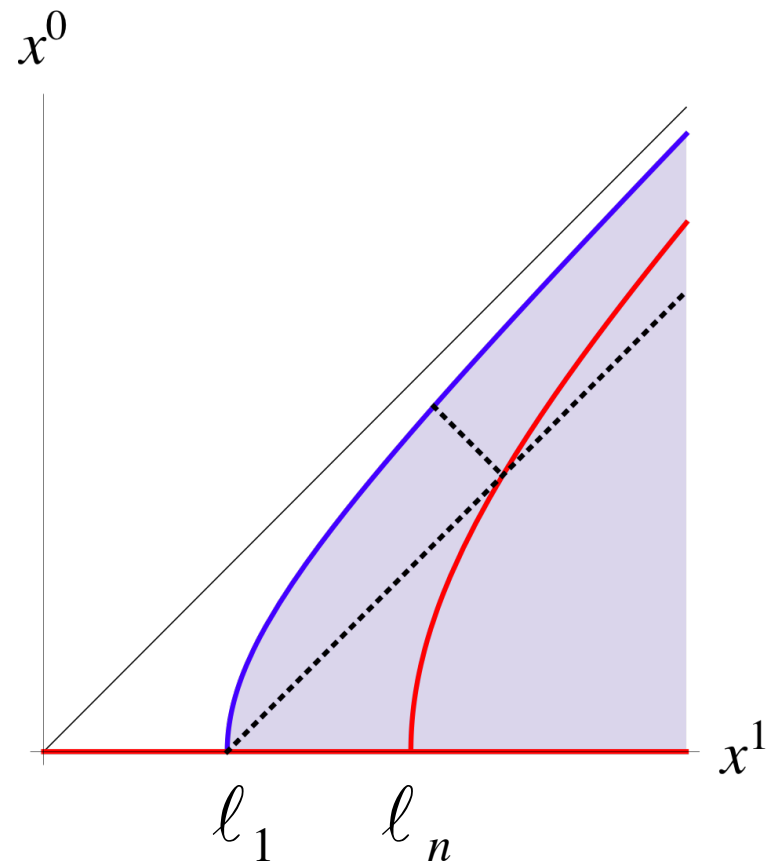
Light ray trajectory:  $A \rightarrow B$

$$(\rho_A, \phi_A) \rightarrow (\rho_B, \phi_B) \quad d\rho = \pm \rho d\phi \rightarrow \phi_B - \phi_A = \left| \log \frac{\rho_B}{\rho_A} \right|$$

Periodic trajectory:

$$\ell_1 \longrightarrow \ell_n \longrightarrow \ell_1$$

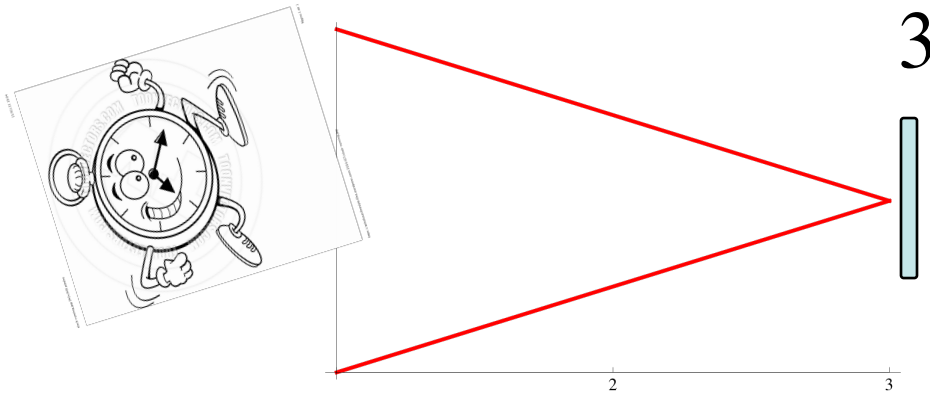
$$\tau_n = 2 \log \frac{\ell_n}{\ell_1} = \log n$$





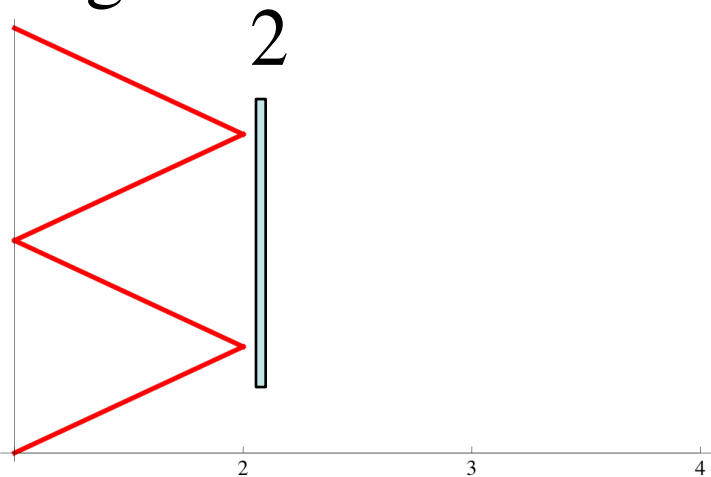
prime numbers correspond to unique paths

$$\tau = \log 3$$

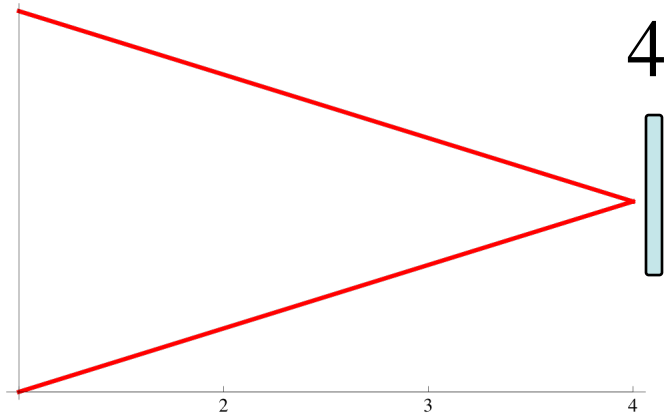


composite numbers correspond to different paths with same period

$$\tau = 2\log 2$$



$$\tau = \log 4$$



Geometrical Optics  Prime numbers

Geometrical Optics  Prime numbers

Physical Optics  Riemann zeros

Interference

## The final model

- light-rays  $\longrightarrow$  massless fermions

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reflection amplitudes  $r_n$

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The fermion moves freely between the mirrors with Hamiltonian

$$H_R = \begin{pmatrix} -i(\rho \partial_\rho + 1/2) & 0 \\ 0 & i(\rho \partial_\rho + 1/2) \end{pmatrix}$$

## The final model

- light-rays  $\longrightarrow$  massless fermions
- moving mirrors  $\longrightarrow$  delta potentials at  $\ell_n$   
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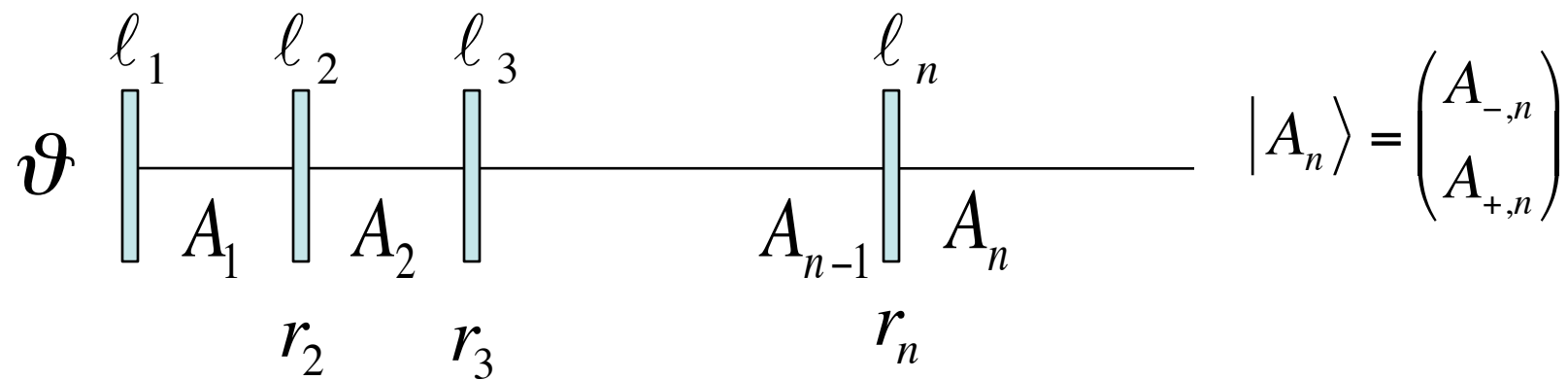
$$H_R = \begin{pmatrix} -i(\rho \partial_\rho + 1/2) & 0 \\ 0 & i(\rho \partial_\rho + 1/2) \end{pmatrix}$$

Eigenfunctions (chiral)

$$\chi_{\mp,n} \propto A_{\mp,n} \rho^{-1/2 \pm iE}, \quad \rho \in (\ell_n, \ell_{n+1})$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \ell_1 \qquad \ell_2 \qquad \ell_3 \qquad \qquad \qquad \ell_n \\
 \begin{array}{c} \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \\ \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \\ \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \end{array} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \\ \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \\ \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \end{array} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \\ \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \\ \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \end{array} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \\ \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \\ \textcolor{lightblue}{|} \end{array} \\
 A_1 \qquad A_2 \qquad \qquad \qquad A_{n-1} \qquad A_n \\
 r_2 \qquad r_3 \qquad \qquad \qquad r_n
 \end{array}
 \quad
 |A_n\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} A_{-,n} \\ A_{+,n} \end{pmatrix}$$





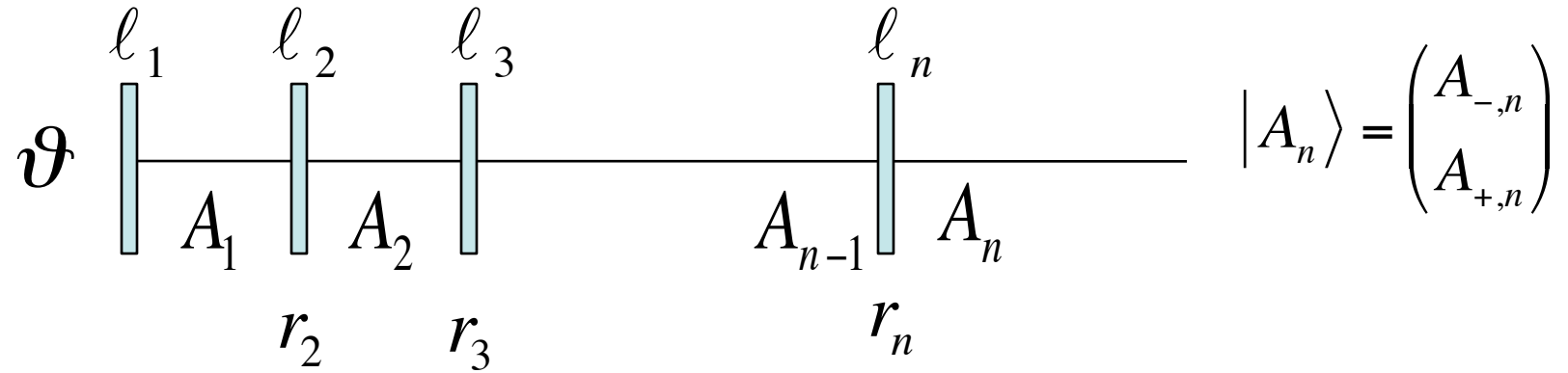
Boundary condition at  $\ell_1 \longrightarrow |A_1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ e^{i\vartheta} \end{pmatrix}$

$$\vartheta \quad \begin{array}{c} \ell_1 \quad \ell_2 \quad \ell_3 \quad \quad \quad \ell_n \\ \hline \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \quad A_1 \quad \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \quad A_2 \quad \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \quad \quad \quad \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \quad A_{n-1} \quad \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \quad A_n \\ r_2 \quad r_3 \quad \quad \quad r_n \end{array} \quad |A_n\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} A_{-,n} \\ A_{+,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Boundary condition at  $\ell_1 \longrightarrow |A_1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ e^{i\vartheta} \end{pmatrix}$

Matching condition at  $\ell_{n>1} \longrightarrow |A_{n-1}\rangle = T_n |A_n\rangle$

$$T_n = \frac{1}{1 - r_n^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + r_n^2 & 2r_n \ell_n^{-2iE} \\ 2r_n \ell_n^{2iE} & 1 + r_n^2 \end{pmatrix}$$



Boundary condition at  $\ell_1 \longrightarrow |A_1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ e^{i\vartheta} \end{pmatrix}$

Matching condition at  $\ell_{n+1} \longrightarrow |A_{n+1}\rangle = T_n |A_n\rangle$

$$T_n = \frac{1}{1 - r_n^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + r_n^2 & 2r_n \ell_n^{-2iE} \\ 2r_n \ell_n^{2iE} & 1 + r_n^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Norm of states  $\langle \chi | \chi \rangle = \int_{\ell_1}^{\infty} d\rho \left( \chi_-^* \chi_- + \chi_+^* \chi_+ \right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log \frac{\ell_{n+1}}{\ell_n} \langle A_n | A_n \rangle$

Solution in the reflectionless limit:  $r_n = O(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$

$$T_n = e^{\tau_n} + O(\varepsilon^2) \qquad \tau_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2r_n \ell_n^{-2iE} \\ 2r_n \ell_n^{2iE} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution in the reflectionless limit:  $r_n = O(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$

$$T_n = e^{\tau_n} + O(\varepsilon^2) \quad \tau_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2r_n \ell_n^{-2iE} \\ 2r_n \ell_n^{2iE} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Recursive solution

$$|A_k\rangle = e^{-\tau_k} \cdots e^{-\tau_2} |A_1\rangle \approx \exp\left(-\sum_{n=1}^k \tau_n\right) |A_1\rangle$$

Solution in the reflectionless limit:  $r_n = O(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$

$$T_n = e^{\tau_n} + O(\varepsilon^2) \quad \tau_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2r_n \ell_n^{-2iE} \\ 2r_n \ell_n^{2iE} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Recursive solution

$$|A_k\rangle = e^{-\tau_k} \cdots e^{-\tau_2} |A_1\rangle \approx \exp\left(-\sum_{n=1}^k \tau_n\right) |A_1\rangle$$

$$\langle A_k | A_k \rangle \approx e^{2R_k} \left(1 - \cos(\Phi_k - \vartheta)\right) + e^{-2R_k} \left(1 + \cos(\Phi_k - \vartheta)\right)$$

$$e^{-i\Phi_k} R_k = \sum_{n=1}^k r_n \ell_n^{-2iE}$$

## The Riemann model

$$\ell_n = \sqrt{n}, \quad r_n = \varepsilon \frac{\mu(n)}{n^\sigma}$$

## Moebius function

For prime numbers

$$\mu(p) = -1, \quad \mu(p_1 p_2) = 1, \quad \mu(p_1 \cdots p_r) = (-1)^r$$

$$\mu(p^2) = 0, \quad \mu(\cdots p^2 \cdots) = 0$$

Fermi like-statistics

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} \qquad \frac{1}{\zeta(s)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(n)}{n^s}$$



## The Riemann model

$$\ell_n = \sqrt{n}, \quad r_n = \varepsilon \frac{\mu(n)}{n^\sigma}$$

$$e^{-i\Phi_\infty} R_\infty = \frac{\varepsilon}{\zeta(\sigma + iE)}$$

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$$\ell_n = \sqrt{n}, \quad r_n = \varepsilon \frac{\mu(n)}{n^\sigma}$$

$$e^{-i\Phi_\infty} R_\infty = \frac{\varepsilon}{\zeta(\sigma + iE)}$$

For  $\sigma > 1/2$  the spectrum is a continuum

## The Riemann model

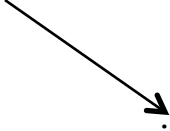
$$\ell_n = \sqrt{n}, \quad r_n = \varepsilon \frac{\mu(n)}{n^\sigma}$$

$$e^{-i\Phi_\infty} R_\infty = \frac{\varepsilon}{\zeta(\sigma + iE)}$$

For  $\sigma > 1/2$  the spectrum is a continuum

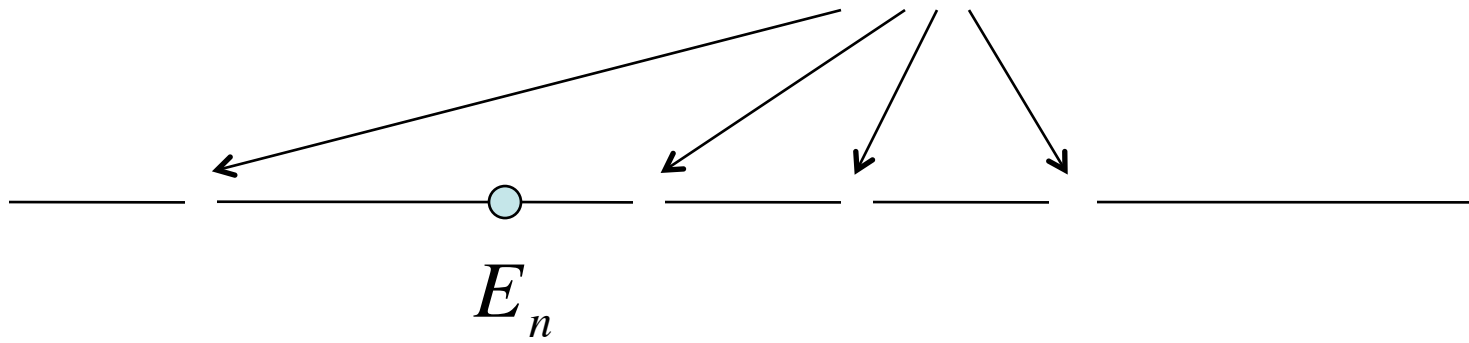
For  $\sigma = 1/2$  the Riemann zeros are bound states if

$$\vartheta = -\theta(E_n) + \pi(n + 1/2)$$

$$\zeta(1/2 + iE) = Z(E) e^{-i\theta(E)}$$


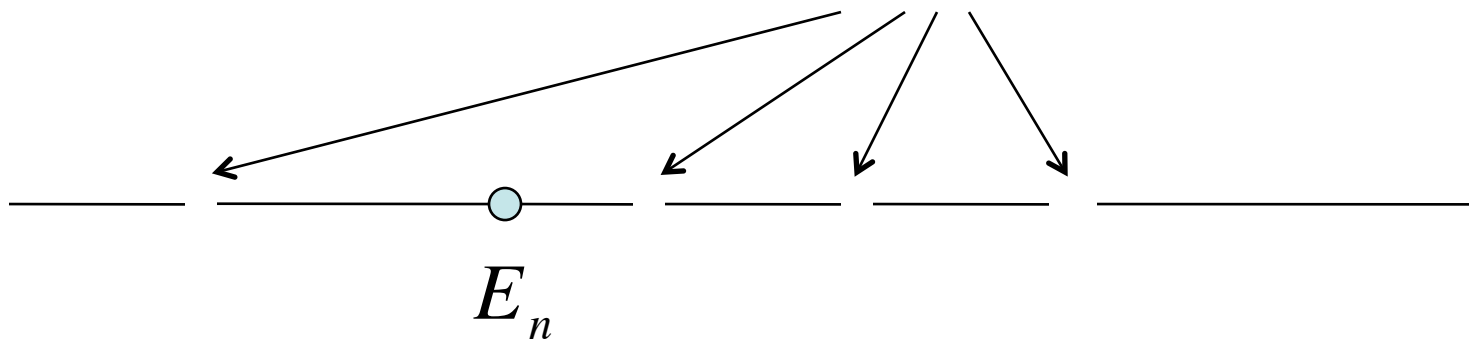
Norm of the state is  $\langle \chi | \chi \rangle \approx \varsigma \left( 1 + \frac{2\varepsilon}{|Z'(E_n)|} \right)$

For other values of  $\vartheta$  the zeros are missing spectral lines



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Moreover under certain assumptions one can show that there are not zeros outside the critical line

-> Proof of the Riemann hypothesis

# Conclusions and further work

- The Dirac model with delta function potentials related to prime numbers provide a spectral realization of the Riemann zeros
- The realization is close to the Connes one (zeros =missing lines) but contains the zeros by fine tuning of the parameter  $\vartheta$
- Using the equivalence principle (gravity = acceleration) one can formulate the model in terms of static mirrors in a gravitational field
- The model can be generalized to Dirichlet L- functions associated to Dirichlet characters  $\chi$ 
$$r_n = \varepsilon \frac{\mu(n) \chi(n)}{n^\sigma}$$
- Basis for a rigorous proof of the Riemann hypothesis

Thanks for your attention