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Approximation of a free Poisson process by systems of freely independent particles

Marek Bożejko

Instytut Matematyczny, Uniwersytet Wrocławski, Pl. Grunwaldzki 2/4, 50-384 Wrocław, Poland; e-mail: bozejko@math.uni.wroc.pl

José Luís da Silva

Universidade da Madeira, Edifício da Penteada, Caminho da Penteada, 9020-105, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal; e-mail: luis@uma.pt

Tobias Kuna

University of Reading, Department of Mathematics, Whiteknights, PO Box 220, Reading RG6 6AX, U.K.

e-mail: t.kuna@reading.ac.uk

Eugene Lytvynov

Department of Mathematics, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, U.K.; e-mail: e.lytvynov@swansea.ac.uk

Abstract

Let σ be a non-atomic, infinite Radon measure on \mathbb{R}^d , for example, $d\sigma(x) = z dx$ where $z > 0$. We consider a system of freely independent particles x_1, \dots, x_N in a bounded set $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, where each particle x_i has distribution $\frac{1}{\sigma(\Lambda)} \sigma$ on Λ and the number of particles, N , is random and has Poisson distribution with parameter $\sigma(\Lambda)$. If the particles were classically independent rather than freely independent, this particle system would be the restriction to Λ of the Poisson point process on \mathbb{R}^d with intensity measure σ . In the case of free independence, this particle system is not the restriction of the free Poisson process on \mathbb{R}^d with intensity measure σ . Nevertheless, we prove that this is true in an approximative sense: if bounded sets $\Lambda^{(n)}$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) are such that $\Lambda^{(1)} \subset \Lambda^{(2)} \subset \Lambda^{(3)} \subset \dots$ and $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda^{(n)} = \mathbb{R}^d$, then the corresponding particle system in $\Lambda^{(n)}$ converges (as $n \rightarrow \infty$) to the free Poisson process on \mathbb{R}^d with intensity measure σ . We also prove the following N/V -limit: Let $N^{(n)}$ be a deterministic sequence of natural numbers such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} N^{(n)} / \sigma(\Lambda^{(n)}) = 1$. Then the system of $N^{(n)}$ freely independent particles in $\Lambda^{(n)}$ converges (as $n \rightarrow \infty$) to the free Poisson process. We finally extend these results to the case of a free Lévy white noise (in particular, a free Lévy process) without free Gaussian part.

Keywords: Completely random measure; freely independent particle systems; free Poisson process; free Lévy process; N/V -limits.

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1 Introduction

Let $\Gamma(\mathbb{R}^d)$ denote the configuration space of an (infinite) system of identical particles in \mathbb{R}^d . By definition, $\Gamma(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is the collection of all sets $\gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ which are locally finite. A probability measure on $\Gamma(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is called a point process, see e.g. [12]. In statistical mechanics, a point process describes the state of a system of particles in the continuum. Although every realistic system has only a finite number of particles, many important physical phenomena can only be described by infinite particle systems, see e.g. [8, 20].

An infinite system of particles without interaction is described by a Poisson point process. Let σ be a non-atomic, infinite Radon measure on \mathbb{R}^d , for example $d\sigma(x) = z dx$, where $z > 0$. A Poisson point process on \mathbb{R}^d with intensity measure σ is the probability measure π on $\Gamma(\mathbb{R}^d)$ whose Fourier transform is given by the formula (5) below. The measure π can also be uniquely characterized by the following property: For $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the number of particles of a configuration γ which belong to Λ has Poisson distribution with parameter $\sigma(\Lambda)$, and given that $\gamma \cap \Lambda = \{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ the particles x_1, \dots, x_N are independent and the distribution of each particle x_i on Λ is $\frac{1}{V} \sigma$. Here, $\mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$ denotes the collection of all bounded Borel subsets of \mathbb{R}^d , and $V = \sigma(\Lambda)$ is the volume of Λ .

The Poisson point process π can be derived through the N/V -limit. More precisely, let us consider an isotone sequence of sets $\Lambda^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$, i.e., $\Lambda^{(1)} \subset \Lambda^{(2)} \subset \Lambda^{(3)} \subset \dots$, and assume that $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda^{(n)} = \mathbb{R}^d$. Denote $V^{(n)} := \sigma(\Lambda^{(n)})$ and let $N^{(n)}$ be natural numbers such that the condition (6) below is satisfied. Then the Poisson point process π is equal to the limit (as $n \rightarrow \infty$) of the system of $N^{(n)}$ independent particles in $\Lambda^{(n)}$ such that the distribution of each particle on $\Lambda^{(n)}$ is $\frac{1}{V^{(n)}} \sigma$.

This result admits a generalization to measure-valued Lévy processes on \mathbb{R}^d , which are probability measures on $\mathbb{K}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, e.g. [13–15]. Here $\mathbb{K}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ denotes the space of all discrete signed Radon measures on \mathbb{R}^d , i.e., signed Radon measures of the form $\sum_i s_i \delta_{x_i}$, where $s_i \neq 0$ and δ_{x_i} denotes the Dirac measure with mass at x_i . The points x_i may be interpreted as locations of particles (or some organisms in biological interpretation). The weights s_i are a certain attribute attached to these particles (organisms). Note that the set $\{x_i\}$ is not necessarily locally finite. For a large class of measure-valued Lévy processes, $\{x_i\}$ is even dense in \mathbb{R}^d a.s. [15].

In free probability, the notion of independence of random variables is replaced by Voiculescu's definition of free independence of noncommutative probability spaces. This has led to a deep theory, in which many results are noncommutative analogs of fundamental results of classical probability theory, see e.g. [18, 26, 27]. Let us specifically mention the paper [3], which studies stable laws and domains of attraction in free probability theory and establishes the Bercovici–Pata bijection between the infinitely divisible distributions on \mathbb{R} and the freely infinitely divisible distributions on \mathbb{R} . See also [1, 5, 26] for discussions of free Lévy processes.

An analog of the classical Poisson distribution on \mathbb{R} with parameter α is the free

Poisson distribution with parameter α , also known as the Marchenko–Pastur distribution. This distribution can be derived as the limit (as $n \rightarrow \infty$) of the n th free convolution power of the distribution $(1 - \frac{\alpha}{n})\delta_0 + \frac{\alpha}{n}\delta_1$, where $\alpha > 0$ is a parameter of the distribution. It should be stressed that the free Poisson distribution is not discrete: it has density with respect to the Lebesgue measure and possibly one atom, see e.g. [18].

As shown in [1, 26], the Poisson point process with intensity σ also has a counterpart in free probability. According to [6], the free Poisson process on \mathbb{R}^d is a real algebra generated by a family of bounded selfadjoint operators $A(f)$ in the full Fock space over $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, \sigma)$, and the vacuum state on this algebra plays the role of an expectation. Here f belongs to the class of bounded measurable functions on \mathbb{R}^d with compact support. The operators $A(f)$ resemble the commuting operators in the symmetric Fock space over $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, \sigma)$ which identify the Poisson point process, see e.g. [16, 23].

In the case of the one-dimensional underlying space \mathbb{R} , Ben Arous and Kargin [2] gave a rigorous meaning to the heuristic notion of a system of N freely independent, identically distributed particles. Furthermore, it follows from [2, Theorem 2] that the N/V -limit holds for a free Poisson process on \mathbb{R} . More precisely, if the condition (6) below is satisfied, the free Poisson process with intensity measure σ can be approximated by a system of $N^{(n)}$ freely independent particles in $\Lambda^{(n)}$ such that the distribution of each particle on $\Lambda^{(n)}$ is $\frac{1}{V^{(n)}} \sigma$.

The first result of the present paper states that the N/V -limit holds for a free Poisson process on any underlying space \mathbb{R}^d (and even on any locally compact Polish space). We prove the convergence of the corresponding moments, which is stronger than the weak convergence shown in [2] in the case of the underlying space \mathbb{R} . Furthermore, our proof of this result is significantly shorter and simpler than the proof in [2]. We also extend the N/V -limit to the case of a free Lévy white noise as defined in [6]. In particular, such a result holds for a free Lévy process without free Gaussian part [1].

The main result of the paper concerns a noncommutative probability space $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda), \tau_\Lambda)$ which describes a system of N freely independent particles in a set $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$ which have distribution $\frac{\sigma}{V}$, where the number of particles, N , is random and has the (classical) Poisson distribution with parameter $\sigma(\Lambda)$. Here $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$ is an algebra of (unbounded) linear operators in a certain Hilbert space and τ_Λ is a trace on this algebra. As mentioned above, if the particles were independent rather than freely independent, then this particle system would be precisely the restriction to Λ of the Poisson point process on \mathbb{R}^d with intensity measure σ . However, in our noncommutative setting, $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda), \tau_\Lambda)$ is not the restriction to Λ of the free Poisson process with intensity σ . Nevertheless, we prove that, if $(\Lambda^{(n)})_{n=1}^\infty$ is an isotone sequence of sets from $\mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$ whose union is \mathbb{R}^d , then the probability spaces $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda^{(n)}), \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}})$ converge, in the sense of moments, to the free Poisson process on \mathbb{R}^d with intensity σ .

The latter result can be interpreted as follows. Let $\Theta, \Lambda \in \mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be such that $\Theta \subset \Lambda$ and the set Λ is much larger than Θ . Then the restriction to Θ of the noncommutative

probability space $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda), \tau_\Lambda)$ is very close to the restriction to Θ of the free Poisson process on \mathbb{R}^d with intensity σ . We also extend this result to the case of a free Lévy white noise (in particular, a free Lévy process).

We stress that, for the results of this paper, it is principal that both the underlying space and the intensity measure of the free Poisson process are infinite.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we briefly recall some definitions and properties related to the classical Poisson point process, a measure-valued Lévy process, and a Lévy white noise. Although we do not use these results directly in this paper, they are needed to better understand analogy and differences between the classical and the free cases. In Section 3 we recall the definition of free independence, namely in terms of cumulants which is more convenient for applications. Moreover we define the free Lévy white noise. In Section 4, we construct noncommutative probability spaces which describe systems of freely independent, identically distributed particles, and free probability counterparts of discrete random measures $\sum_{i=1}^N s_i \delta_{x_i}$ such that the pairs (s_i, x_i) are independent and identically distributed. In Section 5, we formulate the results of the paper. Finally, in Section 6 we prove the results.

2 A measure-valued Lévy process and a Lévy white noise

Let X be a locally compact Polish space. Let $\mathcal{B}(X)$ denote the Borel σ -algebra on X , and let $\mathcal{B}_0(X)$ denote the collection of all Borel sets in X which have compact closure. A measure on $(X, \mathcal{B}(X))$ is called *Radon* if it takes finite values on each set from $\mathcal{B}_0(X)$. A *signed Radon measure on X* is a difference of two Radon measures on X . Let $\mathbb{M}(X)$ denote the collection of all signed Radon measures on X . The space $\mathbb{M}(X)$ is equipped with the vague topology, and let $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{M}(X))$ denote the corresponding Borel σ -algebra.

The *configuration space* $\Gamma(X)$ is defined as the collection of all sets $\gamma \subset X$ that are locally finite. Usually, a configuration $\gamma \in \Gamma(X)$ is identified with the measure $\gamma = \sum_{x \in \gamma} \delta_x$, where δ_x denotes the Dirac measure with mass at x . Under this identification, the configuration γ becomes a Radon measure on X , so we have the inclusion $\Gamma(X) \subset \mathbb{M}(X)$. Below it should always be clear from the context which of the two interpretations of a configuration we are currently using.

A measurable mapping η from a probability space into $\mathbb{M}(X)$ is called a (*signed*) *random measure on X* , see e.g. [12, 14]. If η takes a.s. values in $\Gamma(X)$, then η is called a (*simple*) *point process*. (In particular, any probability measure on $\mathbb{M}(X)$ or $\Gamma(X)$ identifies a random measure or a point process, respectively.)

A random measure η is called *completely random* if, for any mutually disjoint sets $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_n \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, the random variables $\eta(\Lambda_1), \dots, \eta(\Lambda_n)$ are independent [13, 14].

Let us fix a reference measure σ on X . We assume that σ is a non-atomic Radon measure and $\sigma(X) = \infty$.

Assume that a completely random measure η has in addition the property that, for any two sets $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$ such that $\sigma(\Lambda_1) = \sigma(\Lambda_2)$, the random variables $\eta(\Lambda_1)$ and $\eta(\Lambda_2)$ have the same distribution. Then, in e.g. [15, 24], such a random measure was called a *measure-valued Lévy process on X* . If $X = \mathbb{R}$, σ is the Lebesgue measure, and $L_t := \eta([0, t])$, then $(L_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is just a classical Lévy process of bounded variation. The following proposition describes the measure-valued Lévy process on X in terms of their Fourier transform.

Proposition 1 ([13, 14]). *(i) Let η be a random measure on X , and let μ denote the distribution of η . Then η is a measure-valued Lévy process on X if and only if there exists a measure ν on $\mathbb{R}^* := \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ which satisfies*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^*} \min\{1, |s|\} d\nu(s) < \infty, \quad (1)$$

and the Fourier transform of μ is given by

$$\int_{\mathbb{M}(X)} e^{i\langle f, \eta \rangle} d\mu(\eta) = \exp \left[\int_{X \times \mathbb{R}^*} (e^{isf(x)} - 1) d\sigma(x) d\nu(s) \right], \quad f \in B_0(X). \quad (2)$$

Here $B_0(X)$ is the set of all bounded measurable functions on X with compact support, and $\langle f, \eta \rangle := \int_X f d\eta$.

(ii) Let μ denote the distribution of a measure-valued Lévy process on X . Let $\mathbb{K}(X)$ denote the set of all signed discrete Radon measures on X , i.e.,

$$\mathbb{K}(X) := \left\{ \eta = \sum_i s_i \delta_{x_i} \in \mathbb{M}(X) \mid s_i \neq 0, x_i \in X \right\}.$$

Then $\mu(\mathbb{K}(X)) = 1$.

If the measure μ has Fourier transform (2), then ν is called the *Lévy measure of μ* .

Remark 2. Assume in addition that X is a smooth Riemannian manifold. Let ν be a measure on \mathbb{R}^* which does not satisfy (1) but satisfies the following weaker assumption:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^*} \min\{1, s^2\} d\nu(s) < \infty. \quad (3)$$

Then, instead of a measure-valued Lévy process η , one may consider the associated *centered generalized stochastic process with independent values*, $\tilde{\mu}$, see [10]. In e.g. [7], $\tilde{\mu}$ is also called the *centered Lévy white noise measure*. Let us explain this in more detail. Let

$$\mathcal{D}(X) \subset L^2(X, \sigma) \subset \mathcal{D}'(X)$$

be the standard triple of spaces in which $\mathcal{D}(X)$ is the nuclear space of smooth, compactly supported functions on X and $\mathcal{D}'(X)$ is the dual space of $\mathcal{D}(X)$ with respect to zero space $L^2(X, \sigma)$, see e.g. [4, Chap. 11, Sect. 1]. Evidently, $\mathbb{M}(X) \subset \mathcal{D}'(X)$. For simplicity of notations, let us also assume that the following stronger assumption holds:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^*} s^2 d\nu(s) < \infty, \quad (4)$$

Then there exists a (centered) probability measure $\tilde{\mu}$ on $\mathcal{D}'(X)$ which has Fourier transform

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}'(X)} e^{i\langle f, \omega \rangle} d\tilde{\mu}(\omega) = \exp \left[\int_{X \times \mathbb{R}^*} (e^{isf(x)} - 1 - isf(x)) d\sigma(x) d\nu(s) \right], \quad f \in \mathcal{D}(X).$$

Here for $\omega \in \mathcal{D}'(X)$ and $f \in \mathcal{D}(X)$, we denote by $\langle f, \omega \rangle$ the dual pairing between ω and f .

By choosing in Proposition 1 the measure ν to be δ_1 , we get the *Poisson point process on X with intensity measure σ* , whose distribution we denote by π . We have $\pi(\Gamma(X))=1$ and π has Fourier transform

$$\int_{\Gamma(X)} e^{i\langle f, \gamma \rangle} d\pi(\gamma) = \exp \left[\int_X (e^{if(x)} - 1) d\sigma(x) \right], \quad f \in B_0(X). \quad (5)$$

Remark 3. Let us equip $\mathbb{R}^* = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ with a metric such that a set $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^*$ is compact in \mathbb{R}^* if and only if Λ is compact in \mathbb{R} . In particular, for any compact set Λ in \mathbb{R}^* the distance (in \mathbb{R}) from Λ to zero is strictly positive. We construct the following measurable injective (but not surjective) mapping

$$\mathbb{K}(X) \ni \eta = \sum_i s_i \delta_{x_i} \mapsto \mathcal{R}(\eta) := \{(x_i, s_i)\} \in \Gamma(X \times \mathbb{R}^*),$$

see [11, Theorem 6.2]. As easily seen, the pushforward of the measure μ from Proposition 1 under \mathcal{R} is the Poisson point process on $X \times \mathbb{R}^*$ with intensity measure $\sigma \otimes \nu$.

Now we will formulate two results of the classical probability theory whose analogs we want to derive in the free setting.

Proposition 4. *Let $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$ with $\sigma(\Lambda) > 0$. Let $(x_i)_{i=1}^\infty$ be a sequence of independent random points in Λ with distribution $\sigma_\Lambda := \frac{1}{\sigma(\Lambda)} \sigma$. Let N be a random variable which has Poisson distribution with parameter $\sigma(\Lambda)$, and let N be independent of $(x_i)_{i=1}^\infty$. We define π_Λ as the distribution of the point process $\sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{x_i}$. Then π_Λ is the restriction to the set Λ of the Poisson point process π , i.e., the pushforward of π under the measurable mapping*

$$\Gamma(X) \ni \gamma \mapsto \gamma \cap \Lambda \in \Gamma(\Lambda),$$

which coincides with the Poisson point process on Λ with intensity σ .

Remark 5. Quite often, Proposition 4 is used as the definition of the Poisson point process π , i.e., one defines π as the unique probability measure on $\Gamma(X)$ such that, for each $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, the restriction of π to Λ is equal to the measure π_Λ from Proposition 4.

Proposition 6 (*N/V-limit*). *Let $\Lambda^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, be such that $\Lambda^{(1)} \subset \Lambda^{(2)} \subset \Lambda^{(3)} \subset \dots$ and $\bigcup_{n=1}^\infty \Lambda^{(n)} = X$, i.e., $\Lambda^{(n)} \nearrow X$. Denote $V^{(n)} := \sigma(\Lambda^{(n)})$, $V^{(n)} \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Let $N^{(n)} \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, be such that*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N^{(n)}}{V^{(n)}} = 1. \quad (6)$$

(Note that the numbers $N^{(n)}$ are not random.) For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we define $\rho^{(n)}$ as the distribution of the point process

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N^{(n)}} \delta_{x_i^{(n)}}, \quad (7)$$

where $x_i^{(n)}$ are independent random points in $\Lambda^{(n)}$ with distribution $\sigma^{(n)} := \frac{1}{V^{(n)}} \sigma$. Then

$$\rho^{(n)} \rightarrow \pi \quad \text{weakly as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

For a proof of Proposition 6, see e.g. [19].

Remark 7. In view of Remark 3, the result of Proposition 6 can be extended to a measure μ from Proposition 1. More precisely, let $\Lambda^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, $\Lambda^{(n)} \nearrow X$, let $\Delta^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^*)$, $\Delta^{(n)} \nearrow \mathbb{R}^*$, let $V^{(n)} := \sigma(\Lambda^{(n)})\nu(\Delta^{(n)})$, and let $N^{(n)} \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfy (6). For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we define $\rho^{(n)}$ as the distribution of the random measure

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N^{(n)}} s_i^{(n)} \delta_{x_i^{(n)}}, \quad (8)$$

where $(x_i^{(n)}, s_i^{(n)})$ are independent random points in $\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}$ with distribution $\frac{1}{V^{(n)}} \sigma \otimes \nu$. Then $\rho^{(n)} \rightarrow \mu$ weakly as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Furthermore, it can be shown that, if X is a smooth Riemannian manifold and condition (3) is satisfied, then $\tilde{\rho}^{(n)} \rightarrow \tilde{\mu}$ weakly as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Here $\tilde{\rho}^{(n)}$ is the centered random measure $\rho^{(n)}$, i.e., the distribution of the random measure

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N^{(n)}} s_i^{(n)} \delta_{x_i^{(n)}} - \left(N^{(n)} \int_{\Delta^{(n)}} s \, d\nu^{(n)}(s) \right) \sigma^{(n)}.$$

Let us also mention a characterization of a measure-valued Lévy process through cumulants. Assume that the measure ν on \mathbb{R}^* satisfies

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^*} |s|^n \, d\nu(s) < \infty \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (9)$$

Then the measure μ from Proposition 1 has all moments finite, i.e., for any $f \in B_0(X)$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{K}(X)} |\langle f, \eta \rangle|^n d\mu(\eta) < \infty.$$

According to the classical definition of cumulants, for any $f_1, \dots, f_n \in B_0(X)$, the cumulant $C^{(n)}(\langle f_1, \cdot \rangle, \dots, \langle f_n, \cdot \rangle)$ is defined recurrently by the following formula, which connects the cumulants with the moments:

$$\int_{\mathbb{K}(X)} \langle f_1, \eta \rangle \langle f_2, \eta \rangle \cdots \langle f_n, \eta \rangle d\mu(\eta) = \sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{P}(n)} \prod_{B \in \theta} C(B; \langle f_1, \cdot \rangle, \dots, \langle f_n, \cdot \rangle).$$

Here $\mathcal{P}(n)$ denotes the collection of all set partitions of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and for each $B = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \subset \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$,

$$C(B; \langle f_1, \cdot \rangle, \dots, \langle f_n, \cdot \rangle) := C^{(k)}(\langle f_{i_1}, \cdot \rangle, \dots, \langle f_{i_k}, \cdot \rangle).$$

A direct calculation shows that the cumulants of μ are given by

$$C^{(n)}(\langle f_1, \cdot \rangle, \dots, \langle f_n, \cdot \rangle) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^*} s^n d\nu(s) \int_X f_1(x) f_2(x) \cdots f_n(x) d\sigma(x), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (10)$$

In particular, the cumulants of the Poisson point process π are given by

$$C^{(n)}(\langle f_1, \cdot \rangle, \dots, \langle f_n, \cdot \rangle) = \int_X f_1(x) f_2(x) \cdots f_n(x) d\sigma(x), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (11)$$

Remark 8. If the measure ν satisfies (9) for $n \geq 2$, then the first cumulant of the measure $\tilde{\mu}$ given in Remark 2 is equal to zero, while the cumulants $C^{(n)}$ for $n \geq 2$ are still given by formula (10).

3 Free independence and free Lévy white noise

Let us recall the definition of free independence and free Lévy white noise.

Let \mathcal{A} be a von Neumann algebra of bounded linear operators acting in a separable Hilbert space, and let τ be a faithful normal trace which satisfies the condition $\tau(\mathbf{1}) = 1$. The pair (\mathcal{A}, τ) is called a *W*-probability space*. An element $a \in \mathcal{A}$ is called a *noncommutative random variable*.

Let $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ be subalgebras of \mathcal{A} . The algebras $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ are called *freely independent* if, for any numbers $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ($m \geq 2$) such that $i_l \neq i_{l+1}$ for $l = 1, \dots, m-1$, and for all $a_l \in \mathcal{A}_{i_l}$ with $\tau(a_l) = 0$, $l = 1, \dots, m$, we have

$$\tau(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_m) = 0.$$

Selfadjoint elements $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{A}$ are called *freely independent* if the algebras $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ that they respectively generate are freely independent.

The above definition of free independence is not very convenient for applications. Speicher [21] (see also [22]) gave an equivalent definition based on the idea of free cumulants.

A set partition $\theta = \{B_1, \dots, B_k\}$ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ is called *non-crossing* if there do not exist $B_i, B_j \in \theta$, $i \neq j$, for which the following inequalities hold: $x_1 < y_1 < x_2 < y_2$ for some $x_1, x_2 \in B_i$ and $y_1, y_2 \in B_j$. We denote by $\mathcal{NP}(n)$ the collection of all non-crossing set partitions of $\{1, \dots, n\}$.

For $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{A}$, the free cumulant $R^{(n)}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ is defined recurrently by the following formula:

$$\tau(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n) = \sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(n)} \prod_{B \in \theta} R(B; a_1, \dots, a_n), \quad (12)$$

where for each $B = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \subset \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ with $i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k$,

$$R(B; a_1, \dots, a_n) := R^{(k)}(a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_k}). \quad (13)$$

Theorem 9 ([21]). *The selfadjoint elements $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{A}$ are freely independent if and only if, for each $k \geq 2$ and any indices $i_1, \dots, i_k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that there exist $i_l \neq i_m$, we have*

$$R^{(k)}(a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_k}) = 0.$$

Analogously to [6], we will now define a free Lévy white noise. Let us first recall several definitions related to the Fock space. Let H be a real separable Hilbert space. We denote by $\mathcal{F}(H)$ the (full) Fock space over H :

$$\mathcal{F}(H) := \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} H^{\otimes n}.$$

where $H^{\otimes 0} := \mathbb{R}$. The vector $\Omega = (1, 0, 0, \dots)$ is called the *vacuum*.

For $h \in H$, we define a *creation operator* $a^+(h)$ as a bounded linear operator in $\mathcal{F}(H)$ satisfying

$$a^+(h)f^{(n)} = h \otimes f^{(n)}, \quad f^{(n)} \in H^{\otimes n}.$$

The adjoint of $a^+(h)$ is an *annihilation operator*, which satisfies

$$a^-(h)f_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes f_n = (h, f_1)_H f_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes f_n, \quad f_1, \dots, f_n \in H.$$

For a bounded linear operator L in H , we define a bounded linear operator $a^0(L)$ in $\mathcal{F}(H)$ by

$$a^0(L)\Omega := 0, \quad a^0(L)f_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes f_n = (Lf_1) \otimes f_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes f_n, \quad f_1, \dots, f_n \in H.$$

Let ν be a measure on \mathbb{R}^* which satisfies

$$\nu(\{s \in \mathbb{R}^* \mid |s| > R\}) = 0 \quad \text{for some } R > 0 \quad (14)$$

and

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^*} |s| d\nu(s) < \infty. \quad (15)$$

Remark 10. In fact, instead of requiring (14) and (15), we could have supposed that ν satisfies (9). However, the operators appearing below would be, generally speaking, unbounded and we would have to specify their domain. Still the results of the paper which hold under the assumptions (14) and (15) would remain true under the weaker assumption (9).

Let $f \in B_0(X)$. We define $f \otimes \text{id} : X \times \mathbb{R}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f \otimes \text{id}(x, s) := f(x)s$. By (14) and (15),

$$f \otimes \text{id} \in L^2(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu) \cap L^1(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu) \cap L^\infty(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu).$$

So, we define a selfadjoint bounded linear operator

$$A(f) := a^+(f \otimes \text{id}) + a^0(f \otimes \text{id}) + a^-(f \otimes \text{id}) + \int_X f d\sigma \int_{\mathbb{R}^*} s d\nu(s) \quad (16)$$

in $\mathcal{F}(L^2(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu))$. When defining the operator $a^0(f \otimes \text{id})$ we identified the function $f \otimes \text{id}$ with the operator of multiplication by this function acting in $L^2(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu)$.

Let \mathcal{A} denote the real algebra generated by the operators $(A(f))_{f \in B_0(X)}$. We define a trace τ on \mathcal{A} by

$$\tau(a) = (a\Omega, \Omega)_{\mathcal{F}(L^2(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu))}, \quad a \in \mathcal{A}. \quad (17)$$

A straightforward calculation shows that, for any $f_1, \dots, f_n \in B_0(X)$, the n th free cumulant is given by

$$R^{(n)}(A(f_1), \dots, A(f_n)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^*} s^n d\nu(s) \int_X f_1(x)f_2(x) \cdots f_n(x) d\sigma(x), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (18)$$

compare with (10). Hence, by Theorem 9, for any $f_1, \dots, f_n \in B_0(X)$ such that $f_i f_j = 0$ σ -a.e. if $i \neq j$, the noncommutative random variables $A(f_1), \dots, A(f_n)$ are freely independent. In particular, for any mutually disjoint sets $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_n \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, the noncommutative random variables $A(\Lambda_1), \dots, A(\Lambda_n)$ are freely independent. Here, for $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, we denote $A(\Lambda) := A(\chi_\Lambda)$, where χ_Λ is the indicator function of Λ .

Furthermore, for any $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$ with $\sigma(\Lambda_1) = \sigma(\Lambda_2)$, we have

$$\tau(A(\Lambda_1)^n) = \tau(A(\Lambda_2)^n) \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Hence the selfadjoint operators $A(\Lambda_1)$ and $A(\Lambda_2)$ have the same spectral measure at the vacuum state Ω . Thus, we can think of the family of operators $(A(f))_{f \in B_0(X)}$ as a *free Lévy white noise with Lévy measure ν* .

In the case where $\nu = \delta_1$, the operators $A(f)$ act in the Fock space $\mathcal{F}(L^2(X, \sigma))$ and have the form

$$A(f) := a^+(f) + a^0(f) + a^-(f) + \int_X f d\sigma. \quad (19)$$

Their free cumulants are given by

$$R^{(n)}(A(f_1), \dots, A(f_n)) = \int_X f_1(x) f_2(x) \cdots f_n(x) d\sigma(x), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (20)$$

compare with (11). The operators $(A(f))_{f \in B_0(X)}$ are called a *free Poisson process on X with intensity measure σ* .

In the case where condition (14) is satisfied, but instead of (15) the weaker condition (4) holds, we still have

$$f \otimes \text{id} \in L^2(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu) \cap L^\infty(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu).$$

So, we define selfadjoint operators

$$\tilde{A}(f) := a^+(f \otimes \text{id}) + a^0(f \otimes \text{id}) + a^-(f \otimes \text{id}) \quad (21)$$

in $\mathcal{F}(L^2(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu))$. We similarly define $(\tilde{\mathcal{A}}, \tau)$ and we get $R^{(1)}(\tilde{A}(f)) = 0$ and

$$R^{(n)}(\tilde{A}(f_1), \dots, \tilde{A}(f_n)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^*} s^n d\nu(s) \int_X f_1(x) f_2(x) \cdots f_n(x) d\sigma(x), \quad n \geq 2.$$

Hence $(\tilde{A}(f))_{f \in B_0(X)}$ is a *centered free Lévy white noise with Lévy measure ν* , compare with Remarks 2 and 8.

Remark 11. Let $X = \mathbb{R}$ and let $d\sigma(x) = dx$ be the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R} . Let ν be a measure on \mathbb{R}^* which satisfies (4), (14). For each $t \geq 0$, we define $L(t) := \tilde{A}(\chi_{[0,t]})$. Then $(L(t))_{t \geq 0}$ is a centered free Lévy process without free Gaussian part, see [1].

4 Freely independent particles

In this section we will construct systems of freely independent particles in a finite volume.

4.1 N freely independent particles

Assume $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$. Let P_Λ be a probability measure on Λ and let $N \in \mathbb{N}$, $N \geq 2$. Assume that x_1, \dots, x_N are independent random points in Λ which have distribution P_Λ . We consider a point process $\gamma = \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{x_i}$. We wish to introduce a counterpart of such a point process in which the particles x_1, \dots, x_N are freely independent. This is done by generalizing the approach of Ben Arous and Kargin [2] in the case $X = \mathbb{R}$.

If we fix a function $f \in B_0(X)$ and integrate f with respect to γ , we get the random variable

$$\sum_{i=1}^N f(x_i), \quad (22)$$

which is a sum of N independent identically distributed random variables $f(x_i)$. Since each x_i has distribution P_Λ , we may think of each random variable $f(x_i)$ as the operator of multiplication by the function f acting in the Hilbert space $L^2(\Lambda, P_\Lambda)$. We denote this operator by $M(\Lambda; f)$. Thus, we may think of the classical random variable (22) as the bounded linear operator

$$\sum_{i=1}^N M_i(\Lambda; f)$$

acting in the tensor product $L^2(\Lambda, P_\Lambda)^{\otimes N}$, where the i th operator $M_i(\Lambda; f)$ is the $M(\Lambda; f)$ operator acting in the i th space of the tensor product $L^2(\Lambda, P_\Lambda)^{\otimes N}$.

To construct the free version, let us consider the algebra generated by the (commutative) operators $(M(\Lambda; f))_{f \in B_0(X)}$ in $L^2(\Lambda, P_\Lambda)$. We define a trace τ_Λ on this algebra by setting, for any $f_1, \dots, f_k \in B_0(X)$,

$$\tau_\Lambda(M(\Lambda; f_1) \cdots M(\Lambda; f_k)) := (M(\Lambda; f_1) \cdots M(\Lambda; f_k) 1, 1)_{L^2(\Lambda, P_\Lambda)} = \int_\Lambda f_1 \cdots f_k dP_\Lambda. \quad (23)$$

The next step is to construct the free product of N copies of this (commutative) W^* -probability space, see e.g. [17, 18]. For the reader's convenience, let us briefly recall this construction.

We define a Hilbert space

$$H := \{f \in L^2(\Lambda, P) \mid \langle f \rangle = 0\},$$

where $\langle f \rangle := \int_\Lambda f dP_\Lambda$ and the Hilbert space H is equipped with the scalar product of $L^2(\Lambda, P_\Lambda)$. Let H_1, \dots, H_N denote N copies of the space H . We define a Hilbert space

$$\mathcal{H}(\Lambda, N) := \mathbb{R} \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{N} \\ l_1, \dots, l_k \in \{1, \dots, N\} \\ l_j \neq l_{j+1}, j=1, \dots, k-1}} H_{l_1} \otimes H_{l_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes H_{l_k}.$$

We set $\Psi_N := (1, 0, 0, \dots) \in \mathcal{H}(\Lambda, N)$. For any $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ and $f \in B_0(X)$, we define a bounded linear operator $M_i(\Lambda; f)$ in $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda, N)$ by setting

$$M_i(\Lambda; f)\Psi_N := \langle f \rangle \Psi_N + [f]_i,$$

where $[f]_i := f - \langle f \rangle \in H_i$, and for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and any $g_j \in H_{l_j}$, $j = 1, \dots, k$ with $l_j \neq l_{j+1}$, we set: if $i \neq l_1$,

$$M_i(\Lambda; f)g_1 \otimes g_2 \otimes \dots \otimes g_k := \langle f \rangle g_1 \otimes g_2 \otimes \dots \otimes g_k + [f]_i \otimes g_1 \otimes g_2 \otimes \dots \otimes g_k$$

and if $i = l_1$,

$$M_i(\Lambda; f)g_1 \otimes g_2 \otimes \dots \otimes g_k := \langle fg_1 \rangle g_2 \otimes \dots \otimes g_k + [fg_1]_i \otimes g_2 \otimes \dots \otimes g_k.$$

We denote by $\mathcal{M}(\Lambda, N)$ the algebra generated by all the operators $M_i(\Lambda; f)$ in $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda, N)$, and by $\mathcal{M}_i(\Lambda, N)$ the subalgebra of $\mathcal{M}(\Lambda, N)$ that is generated by the operators $M_i(\Lambda; f)$ with a fixed $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$. We define a trace $\tau_{\Lambda, N}$ on $\mathcal{M}(\Lambda, N)$ by

$$\tau_{\Lambda, N}(a) := (a\Psi_N, \Psi_N)_{\mathcal{H}(\Lambda, N)}, \quad a \in \mathcal{M}(\Lambda, N). \quad (24)$$

Then the subalgebras $\mathcal{M}_i(\Lambda, N)$ with $i = 1, \dots, N$ are freely independent in the W^* -probability space $(\mathcal{M}(\Lambda, N), \tau_{\Lambda, N})$. Furthermore, for each fixed i , we have

$$\tau_{\Lambda, N}(M_i(\Lambda; f_1) \dots M_i(\Lambda; f_k)) = \tau_{\Lambda}(M(\Lambda; f_1) \dots M(\Lambda; f_k)). \quad (25)$$

For each $f \in B_0(X)$, we now set

$$A(\Lambda, N; f) := \sum_{i=1}^N M_i(\Lambda; f). \quad (26)$$

The operators $(A(\Lambda, N; f))_{f \in B_0(X)}$ may be thought of as a system of N freely independent particles in Λ such that each particle has distribution P_{Λ} . We denote by $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda, N)$ the subalgebra of $\mathcal{M}(\Lambda, N)$ that is generated by the operators $(A(\Lambda, N; f))_{f \in B_0(X)}$. Thus, we have constructed the W^* -probability space $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda, N), \tau_{\Lambda, N})$.

4.2 Poisson-distributed random number of freely independent particles

Next, let us consider the case where the number of particles, N , is random and has Poisson distribution with parameter $\alpha > 0$. To realize this situation, we proceed as follows. For a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} and a constant $c > 0$, we denote by \mathcal{H}^c the Hilbert space which coincides with \mathcal{H} as a set but the scalar product in \mathcal{H}^c is equal to the scalar product in \mathcal{H} times c .

We also denote $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda, 0) := \mathbb{R}$, $\Psi_0 := 1 \in \mathcal{H}(\Lambda, 0)$, and $A(\Lambda, 0; f) := 0$ for all $f \in B_0(X)$. This corresponds to the case when there are no particles in Λ . In particular, Ψ_0 may be thought of as the indicator function of an empty set.

We define a Hilbert space

$$\mathcal{H}(\Lambda) := \bigoplus_{N=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}(\Lambda, N) \frac{\alpha^N}{N!} e^{-\alpha}.$$

We denote by $\mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}}(\Lambda)$ the dense subset of $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda)$ which consists of all finite sequences $(F_0, F_1, \dots, F_k, 0, 0, \dots)$ with $F_i \in \mathcal{H}(\Lambda, i)$, $i = 1, \dots, k$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

For each $f \in B_0(X)$, we define a (Hermitian) linear operator $A(\Lambda; f)$ in $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda)$ with domain $\mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}}(\Lambda)$ by

$$A(\Lambda; f) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} A(\Lambda, N; f),$$

where each operator $A(\Lambda, N; f)$ acts in $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda, N)$. Evidently, each operator $A(\Lambda; f)$ maps $\mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}}(\Lambda)$ into itself.

We denote by $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$ the algebra generated by the operators $(A(\Lambda; f))_{f \in B_0(X)}$. A trace τ_{Λ} on $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$ is given by

$$\tau_{\Lambda}(a) := \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} (a \Psi_N, \Psi_N)_{\mathcal{H}(\Lambda, N)} \frac{\alpha^N}{N!} e^{-\alpha}, \quad a \in \mathcal{A}(\Lambda). \quad (27)$$

As easily seen, the series in formula (27) indeed converges for each $a \in \mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$.

Remark 12. As the operators $A(\Lambda; f)$ are unbounded, strictly speaking $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda), \tau_{\Lambda})$ is not a W^* -probability space. We will call it a *noncommutative probability space*.

4.3 Discrete measures with freely independent atoms and weights

Let $\Delta \in \mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^*)$ and let $P_{\Lambda \times \Delta}$ be a probability measure on $\Lambda \times \Delta$. Let $N \in \mathbb{N}$, $N \geq 2$. Assume that $(x_1, s_1), \dots, (x_N, s_N)$ are independent random points in $\Lambda \times \Delta$ which have distribution $P_{\Lambda \times \Delta}$. We consider a random discrete measure which has atoms at the points x_i and weights s_i : $\eta = \sum_{i=1}^N s_i \delta_{x_i}$. Analogously to subsec. 4.1, we may now easily introduce a free analog of this random measure. Indeed, integrating a function $f \in B_0(X)$ with respect to η , we get a random variable

$$\sum_{i=1}^N s_i f(x_i), \quad (28)$$

which is a sum of N independent identically distributed random variables $s_i f(x_i)$.

So, starting with the Hilbert space $L^2(\Lambda \times \Delta, P_{\Lambda \times \Delta})$ instead of $L^2(\Lambda, P_\Lambda)$, we define a Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda \times \Delta, N)$ analogously to $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda, N)$. Using the function $f \otimes \text{id}$ instead of f , we define bounded linear operators $M_i(\Lambda \times \Delta; f)$ in $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda \times \Delta, N)$. Analogously to subsec. 4.1, we define an algebra $\mathcal{M}(\Lambda \times \Delta, N)$, a trace $\tau_{\Lambda \times \Delta}$ on it, and subalgebras $\mathcal{M}_i(\Lambda \times \Delta, N)$, which are freely independent. Finally, we define operators $A(\Lambda \times \Delta, N; f)$ and the corresponding subalgebra $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda \times \Delta, N)$. (We have used obvious notations.) The W^* -probability space $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda \times \Delta, N), \tau_{\Lambda \times \Delta, N})$ is the required free analog of the random measure (28).

Let us also note that, analogously to subsec. 4.2, we may also construct a noncommutative probability space corresponding to the case where the number of particles, N , in $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda \times \Delta, N)$ is random and has Poisson distribution with parameter α . We denote the corresponding operators by $A(\Lambda \times \Delta; f)$, and the noncommutative probability space by $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda \times \Delta), \tau_{\Lambda \times \Delta})$.

5 Approximations

In this section, we will formulate the main results of the paper, the proofs will be given in Section 6 below.

Our first result is the free counterpart of Proposition 6.

Theorem 13 (*N/V limit for the free Poisson process*). *Let $\Lambda^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and $\Lambda^{(n)} \nearrow X$. Denote $V^{(n)} := \sigma(\Lambda^{(n)})$, $V^{(n)} \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Let $N^{(n)} \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, be such that (6) holds. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, consider the W^* -probability space*

$$(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}), \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}), \quad (29)$$

constructed in subsec. 4.1, which describes $N^{(n)}$ freely independent particles in $\Lambda^{(n)}$ with distribution $\sigma^{(n)} = \frac{1}{V^{(n)}}\sigma$. Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, the W^ -probability space (29) converges to the W^* -probability space (\mathcal{A}, τ) of the free Poisson process on X with intensity σ . The convergence is in the sense of moments, i.e., for any $f_1, \dots, f_k \in B_0(X)$,*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_k)) = \tau(A(f_1) \cdots A(f_k)). \quad (30)$$

Here, for each $f \in B_0(X)$, $A(f)$ is the operator in $\mathcal{F}(L^2(X, \sigma))$ defined by (19), and τ is given by formula (17) with $\nu = \delta_1$.

Remark 14. In the case $X = \mathbb{R}$, Theorem 2 in [2] implies that the W^* -probability space (29) converges weakly to the W^* -probability space (\mathcal{A}, τ) , i.e., for each $f \in B_0(X)$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f)^k) = \tau(A(f)^k). \quad (31)$$

However, in the noncommutative setting, formula (31) does not imply the stronger statement (30).

The following statement is a free analog of Remark 7.

Corollary 15 (*N/V limit for the free Lévy white noise*). Assume that a measure ν on \mathbb{R}^* satisfies (14) and (15). Let $\Lambda^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, $\Lambda^{(n)} \nearrow X$, let $\Delta^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^*)$, $\Delta^{(n)} \nearrow \mathbb{R}^*$, let $V^{(n)} := \sigma(\Lambda^{(n)})\nu(\Delta^{(n)})$, and let $N^{(n)} \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfy (6). For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, consider the W^* -probability space

$$(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}), \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}), \quad (32)$$

constructed in subsec. 4.3, which describes the sum of $N^{(n)}$ freely independent random measures $s_i \delta_{x_i}$, where each (s_i, x_i) is a random point in $\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}$ with distribution $\frac{1}{V^{(n)}} \sigma \otimes \nu$. Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, the W^* -probability space (32) converges to the W^* -probability space (\mathcal{A}, τ) which describes the free Lévy white noise with Lévy measure ν . The convergence is in the sense of moments, i.e., for any $f_1, \dots, f_k \in B_0(X)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ = \tau(A(f_1) \cdots A(f_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Here, for each $f \in B_0(X)$, $A(f)$ is the operator in $\mathcal{F}(L^2(X \times \mathbb{R}^*, \sigma \otimes \nu))$ defined by (16), and τ is given by (17).

If instead of (15), the measure ν satisfies the weaker assumption (4), we still have the following approximation of the centered free Lévy white noise with Lévy measure ν : for any $f_1, \dots, f_k \in B_0(X)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}(\tilde{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots \tilde{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ = \tau(\tilde{A}(f_1) \cdots \tilde{A}(f_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

Here

$$\tilde{A}(\Lambda \times \Delta, N; f) := A(\Lambda \times \Delta, N; f) - \tau_{\Lambda \times \Delta, N}(A(\Lambda \times \Delta, N; f))$$

and $\tilde{A}(f)$ is defined by (21).

According to Proposition 4, in the classical case the measure π_Λ is precisely the restriction to Λ of the Poisson point process π . As will be seen from the proof of Theorem 16 below, a direct analog of this fact is not true in the free case, i.e., the free counterpart of π_Λ is not the restriction to Λ of the free Poisson process.

Theorem 16 (*approximation of the free Poisson process*). Let $\Lambda^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and $\Lambda^{(n)} \nearrow X$, $\sigma(\Lambda^{(n)}) \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, consider the noncommutative probability space $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda^{(n)}), \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}})$, constructed in subsec. 4.2, which describes $N^{(n)}$ freely independent particles in $\Lambda^{(n)}$ with distribution $\sigma^{(n)}$, where $N^{(n)}$ is a random number which has Poisson distribution with parameter $\sigma(\Lambda^{(n)})$. Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, the noncommutative probability space $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda^{(n)}), \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}})$ converges to the W^* -probability

space (\mathcal{A}, τ) of the free Poisson process on X with intensity σ . The convergence is in the sense of moments, i.e., for any $f_1, \dots, f_k \in B_0(X)$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) = \tau(A(f_1) \cdots A(f_k)). \quad (35)$$

Here, the operators $A(f_i)$ and the state τ are as in Theorem 13.

The corresponding result also holds for a free Lévy white noise.

Corollary 17 (approximation of the free Lévy white noise). *Assume that a measure ν on \mathbb{R}^* satisfies (14) and (15). Let $\Lambda^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(X)$, $\Lambda^{(n)} \nearrow X$, let $\Delta^{(n)} \in \mathcal{B}_0(\mathbb{R}^*)$, $\Delta^{(n)} \nearrow \mathbb{R}^*$, and let $V^{(n)} := \sigma(\Lambda^{(n)})\nu(\Delta^{(n)})$. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, consider the noncommutative probability space*

$$(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}), \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}}), \quad (36)$$

constructed in subsec. 4.3, which describes a sum of $N^{(n)}$ freely independent random measures $s_i \delta_{x_i}$, where each (s_i, x_i) is a random point in $\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}$ with distribution $\frac{1}{V^{(n)}} \sigma \otimes \nu$, and $N^{(n)}$ is a random number which has Poisson distribution with parameter $V^{(n)}$. Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, the noncommutative probability space (36) converges (in the sense of moments) to the W^* -probability space (\mathcal{A}, τ) which describes the free Lévy white noise with Lévy measure ν .

If instead of (15), the measure ν satisfies the weaker assumption (4), we still have the following approximation of the centered free Lévy white noise with Lévy measure ν : for any $f_1, \dots, f_k \in B_0(X)$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}}(\tilde{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots \tilde{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}; f_k)) = \tau(\tilde{A}(f_1) \cdots \tilde{A}(f_k)). \quad (37)$$

Here $\tilde{A}(f)$ is defined by (21), and

$$\tilde{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}; f) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \tilde{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N; f),$$

where the operator

$$\tilde{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N; f) := A(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N; f) - \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N}(A(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N; f))$$

acts in $\mathcal{H}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N)$.

Remark 18. The results of this section may be seen as the free analogs of equivalence of ensembles for the ideal gas, cf. [9].

6 Proofs

The results presented in the lemma below are well known and can be easily derived from the definition of a free cumulant.

Lemma 19. *Let \mathcal{A} be an algebra and let τ be a trace on \mathcal{A} . Let the free cumulants on \mathcal{A} be defined through (12). The following statements hold.*

(i) *For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exist $c_\theta \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(n)$ such that*

$$R^{(n)}(a_1, \dots, a_n) = \sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(n)} \prod_{B \in \theta} c_\theta \tau(B, a_1, \dots, a_n), \quad a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{A}. \quad (38)$$

Here, for each $B = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \subset \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ with $i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k$,

$$\tau(B; a_1, \dots, a_n) := \tau(a_{i_1} \cdots a_{i_k}).$$

Furthermore, for the partition θ which has only one element, $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, we have $c_\theta = 1$.

(ii) *For any $a \in \mathcal{A}$, denote $\tilde{a} := a - \tau(a)$. Then $R^{(1)}(\tilde{a}) = 0$, any for any $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{A}$ with $n \geq 2$,*

$$R^{(n)}(\tilde{a}_1, \dots, \tilde{a}_n) = R^{(n)}(a_1, \dots, a_n). \quad (39)$$

Proof of Theorem 13. By (12) and (38), formula (30) is equivalent to the following statement: for any $f_1, \dots, f_k \in B_0(X)$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}^{(k)}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_k)) = R^{(k)}(A(f_1), \dots, A(f_k)) \quad (40)$$

(we used obvious notations). By Theorem 9 and formulas (25), (26), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & R_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}^{(k)}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ &= \sum_{i_1=1}^{N^{(n)}} \cdots \sum_{i_k=1}^{N^{(n)}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}^{(k)}(M_{i_1}(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M_{i_k}(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{N^{(n)}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}^{(k)}(M_i(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M_i(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ &= N^{(n)} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}^{(k)}(M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

Here, for $f \in B_0(X)$, $M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f)$ is the operator of multiplication by the function f in $L^2(\Lambda^{(n)}, \sigma^{(n)})$, the (commutative) algebra generated by these operators is equipped with the trace $\tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}$, see (23), and $R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}^{(k)}$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$ are the corresponding free cumulants.

By Lemma 19, (i) and the formula (23) with $\Lambda = \Lambda^{(n)}$ and $P_\Lambda = \sigma^{(n)} = \frac{1}{V^{(n)}}\sigma$, there exist bounded sequences of real numbers, $(c_2^{(n)})_{n=1}^\infty, \dots, (c_k^{(n)})_{n=1}^\infty$, which depend on f_1, \dots, f_k but are independent of $N^{(n)}$, such that

$$R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}^{(k)}(M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) = \frac{1}{V^{(n)}} \int_{\Lambda^{(n)}} f_1(x) \cdots f_k(x) d\sigma(x) + \sum_{j=2}^k \frac{c_j^{(n)}}{(V^{(n)})^j}. \quad (42)$$

By (41) and (42), we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}^{(k)}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_k)) = \int_X f_1(x) \cdots f_k(x) d\sigma(x),$$

which, in view of (20), gives (40). \square

Proof of Corollary 15. The proof of formula (33) is similar to the proof of (30). Indeed, analogously to (42), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & R_{\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}}^{(k)}(M(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ &= \frac{1}{V^{(n)}} \int_{\Lambda^{(n)}} f_1(x) \cdots f_k(x) d\sigma(x) \int_{\Delta^{(n)}} s^k d\nu(s) + \sum_{j=2}^k \frac{c_j^{(n)}}{(V^{(n)})^j}, \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_{\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}}^{(k)}(A(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, A(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}, N^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ &= \int_X f_1(x) \cdots f_k(x) d\sigma(x) \int_{\mathbb{R}^*} s^k d\nu(s). \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

By (18), formula (33) holds.

Formula (34) is proven as follows. In view of Lemma 19, (ii), it suffices to show that, under the assumptions (14) and (4), formula (44) holds for $k \geq 2$. Note that

$$\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \left(\frac{1}{\nu(\Delta^{(n)})} \int_{\Delta^{(n)}} s d\nu(s) \right) < \infty.$$

Using this, one can easily show that the constants $c_j^{(n)}$ from (43) satisfy, for $j \geq 2$,

$$\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{|c_j^{(n)}|}{\nu(\Delta^{(n)})^j} < \infty.$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{|c_j^{(n)}|}{(V^{(n)})^j} = \frac{|c_j^{(n)}|}{\nu(\Delta^{(n)})^j \sigma(\Lambda^{(n)})^j} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty,$$

which implies (44) for $k \geq 2$. \square

Proof of Theorem 16. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, denote $V^{(n)} := \sigma(\Lambda^{(n)})$. Let $f_1, \dots, f_k \in B_0(X)$. We have, by (12), (27) and (41),

$$\begin{aligned}
& \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) \\
&= \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N; f_k)) \frac{(V^{(n)})^N}{N!} e^{-V^{(n)}} \\
&= e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N}{N!} \sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{N}\mathcal{P}(k)} \prod_{B \in \theta} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}, N}(B; A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N; f_1), \dots, A(\Lambda^{(n)}, N; f_k)) \\
&= e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N N^{i-1}}{(N-1)!} \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{N}\mathcal{P}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)). \quad (45)
\end{aligned}$$

Here $|\theta|$ denotes the number of sets in the partition θ and

$$R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) := \prod_{B \in \theta} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(B; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)).$$

Let us consider the term in the sum $\sum_{i=1}^k$ in (45) which corresponds to $i = 1$. The only partition $\theta \in \mathcal{N}\mathcal{P}(k)$ with $|\theta| = 1$ is $\theta = \{\{1, \dots, k\}\}$. Hence, by (12) and (23), this term is equal to

$$\begin{aligned}
& e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N}{(N-1)!} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}^{(k)}(M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) \\
&= V^{(n)} \left(\tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{N}\mathcal{P}(k) \\ |\theta| \geq 2}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) \right) \\
&= \int_{\Lambda^{(n)}} f_1(x) \cdots f_k(x) d\sigma(x) \\
&\quad - V^{(n)} \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{N}\mathcal{P}(k) \\ |\theta| \geq 2}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)). \quad (46)
\end{aligned}$$

By (45) and (46), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) = \int_{\Lambda^{(n)}} f_1(x) \cdots f_k(x) d\sigma(x) \\
&+ e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{i=2}^k \sum_{N=2}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N (N^{i-1} - 1)}{(N-1)!} \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{N}\mathcal{P}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)). \quad (47)
\end{aligned}$$

We denote, for each partition $\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k)$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$I^{(n)}(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k) := \prod_{B \in \theta} I^{(n)}(B; f_1, \dots, f_k), \quad (48)$$

where for $B = \{i_1, \dots, i_l\} \in \theta$

$$I^{(n)}(B; f_1, \dots, f_k) = \int_{\Lambda^{(n)}} f_{i_1}(x) \cdots f_{i_l}(x) d\sigma(x). \quad (49)$$

Consider any $\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k)$ with $|\theta| = 2$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) &= \frac{1}{(V^{(n)})^2} I^{(n)}(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k) \\ &- \sum_{\substack{\pi \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\pi| \geq 3, \pi \leq \theta}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\pi; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

Here $\pi \leq \theta$ denotes that the partition π is finer than the partition θ , i.e., each element of π is a subset of some element of θ .

Recall that, for $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$, $i \geq j$, the *Stirling number of the second kind*, $S(i, j)$, denotes the number of ways to partition a set of i elements into j nonempty subsets. Let $\pi \in \mathcal{NP}(k)$ with $|\pi| \geq 3$. For $l \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ with $l \leq |\pi|$, we denote by $\text{NS}(\pi, l)$ the number of non-crossing partitions $\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k)$ such that $|\theta| = l$ and $\pi \leq \theta$. Note that the number of all partitions θ of $\{1, \dots, k\}$ such that $|\theta| = l$ and $\pi \leq \theta$ is equal to $S(|\pi|, l)$. Hence, $\text{NS}(\pi, l) \leq S(|\pi|, l)$.

By (47)–(50), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1)) &- \sum_{i=1,2} \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} I^{(n)}(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k), \\ &= e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{i=3}^k \sum_{N=2}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N}{(N-1)!} \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ &\quad \times (N^{i-1} - 1 - (N-1) \text{NS}(\theta, 2)) \\ &= e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{i=3}^k \sum_{N=2}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N}{(N-1)!} (N^{i-1} - 1 - (N-1) S(i, 2)) \\ &\quad \times \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ &\quad + (V^{(n)})^2 \sum_{i=3}^k \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) (S(i, 2) - \text{NS}(\theta, 2)). \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

Note that

$$0 \leq S(i, 2) - NS(\theta, 2) \leq S(k, 2). \quad (52)$$

Furthermore, as easily seen from Lemma 19, (i), there exists a constant $C_2 > 0$ such that, for each $i \in \{3, \dots, k\}$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} |R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k))| \leq \frac{C_2}{(V^{(n)})^3}. \quad (53)$$

Therefore, by (51)–(53),

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) &= \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta| \leq 2}} I^{(n)}(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k) \\ &+ e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{i=3}^k \sum_{N=2}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N}{(N-1)!} (N^{i-1} - 1 - (N-1)S(i, 2)) \\ &\times \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) + r_2^{(n)}, \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

where $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r_2^{(n)} = 0$.

This procedure can be iterated, which is shown in the following lemma. Below we will use the standard notation $(N)_j := N(N-1)(N-2) \cdots (N-j+1)$, the *falling factorial*.

Lemma 20. *For each $m \in \{2, \dots, k\}$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) &= \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta| \leq m}} I^{(n)}(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k) \\ &+ e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{i=m+1}^k \sum_{N=2}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N K(N, i, m)}{(N-1)!} \\ &\times \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) + r_m^{(n)}, \end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

where $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r_m^{(n)} = 0$ and

$$K(N, i, m) := N^{i-1} - 1 - (N-1)_1 S(i, 2) - (N-1)_2 S(i, 3) - \cdots - (N-1)_{m-1} S(i, m). \quad (56)$$

In particular, for $m = k$,

$$\tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1)) = \sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k)} I^{(n)}(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k) + r_k^{(n)}. \quad (57)$$

Here $I(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k)$ is defined analogously to (48), (49) with $\Lambda^{(n)}$ being replaced with X .

Proof. We prove formula (55) by induction on m . We have already shown that (55) holds for $m = 2$, see (54). So assume that (55) holds for $m \in \{2, \dots, k-1\}$, and we have to prove (55) for $m+1$. The key observation here is that

$$K(N, m+1, m) = (N-1)_m, \quad (58)$$

which is equivalent to the following classical identity for the Stirling numbers of the second kind:

$$N^m = \sum_{j=1}^m S(m, j)(N)_j,$$

see e.g. [25, Theorem 13.5]. The rest of the proof is similar to the way we derived formula (54) from (47).

Indeed, for each $\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k)$ with $|\theta| = m+1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) &= \frac{1}{(V^{(n)})_{m+1}} I^{(n)}(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k) \\ &- \sum_{\substack{\pi \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\pi| \geq m+2, \pi \leq \theta}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\pi; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

Then, by (55)–(59),

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1)) &= \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta| \leq m+1}} I^{(n)}(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k) \\ &+ e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{i=m+2}^k \sum_{N=2}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N (K(N, i, m) - (N-1)_m S(i, m+1))}{(N-1)!} \\ &\times \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) + r_{m+1}^{(n)} \end{aligned} \quad (60)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} r_{m+1}^{(n)} &:= e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{i=m+2}^k \sum_{N=2}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N (N-1)_m (S(i, m+1) - \text{NS}(\theta, m+1))}{(N-1)!} \\ &\times R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)) + r_m^{(n)}. \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

Note that, in (61),

$$0 \leq S(i, m+1) - \text{NS}(\theta, m+1) \leq S(k, m+1).$$

Hence, analogously to (53), there exists a constant $C_{m+1} > 0$ such that, for each $i \in \{m+2, \dots, k\}$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k) \\ |\theta|=i}} |R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k))| \leq \frac{C_{m+1}}{(V^{(n)})^{m+2}}. \quad (62)$$

By (61) and (62), $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r_{m+1}^{(n)} = 0$. The definition (56) gives rise to

$$K(N, i, m) - (N-1)_m S(i, m+1) = K(N, i, m+1).$$

Hence, by (60), the induction step is proven. \square

By (57),

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1)) = \sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k)} I(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k).$$

But by (12), (13), and (20),

$$\tau(A(f_1) \cdots A(f_k)) = \sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k)} I(\theta; f_1, \dots, f_k),$$

which implies (35). \square

Proof of Corollary 17. The first statement trivially follows from the proof of Theorem 16. To prove formula (37), we proceed as follows. Using Lemma 19, we get, analogously to (45),

$$\begin{aligned} & \tau_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\tilde{A}(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}; f_1) \cdots A(\Lambda^{(n)} \times \Delta^{(n)}; f_k)) \\ &= e^{-V^{(n)}} \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \frac{(V^{(n)})^N N^{i-1}}{(N-1)!} \sum_{\substack{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k;2) \\ |\theta|=i}} R_{\Lambda^{(n)}}(\theta; M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_1), \dots, M(\Lambda^{(n)}; f_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (63)$$

Here $\mathcal{NP}(k;2)$ denotes the collection of all non-crossing partitions θ of $\{1, \dots, k\}$ such that each set $B \in \theta$ has at least two elements. Completely analogously to the proof of Theorem 16, we show that the right hand side of (63) converges to

$$\sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{NP}(k;2)} R(\theta; A(f_1), \dots, A(f_k)) = \tau(\tilde{A}(f_1) \cdots \tilde{A}(f_k)).$$

\square

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