Preface

The idea of writing this monograph came about through discussions which we held as participants in the activities of an annual program "Probability and Statistics in Complex Systems" of the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications at the University of Minnesota (IMA) which was hosted there during the 2003/04 academic year. In the course of interactions with the Institute's visitors and guests, we came to a realization that many of the ideas and techniques developed recently for analyzing asymptotic behavior of random matchings are relatively unknown and could be of interest to a broader community of researchers interested in the theory of random matrices and statistical methods for high dimensional inference. In our IMA discussions it also transpired that many of the tools developed for the analysis of asymptotic behavior of random permanents and the likes may be also useful in more general context of problems emerging in the area of complex stochastic systems. In such systems, often in the context of modeling, statistical hypothesis testing or estimation of the relevant quantities, the distributional properties of the functionals on the entries of random matrices are of concern. From this viewpoint, the interest in the laws of various random matrix functionals useful in statistical analysis contrasts with the interest of a classical theory of random matrices which is primarily concerned with asymptotic distributional laws of eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

The text's content is drawn from the recent literature on questions related to asymptotics for random permanents and random matchings. That material has been augmented with a sizable amount of preliminary material in order to make the text somewhat self-contained. With this supplementary material, the text should be accessible to any mathematics, statistics or engineering graduate student who has taken basic introductory courses in probability theory and mathematical statistics.

The presentation is organized in seven chapters. Chapter 1 gives a general introduction to the topics covered in the text while also providing the reader with some examples of their applications to problems in stochastic complex systems formulated in terms of random matchings. This preliminary chapter makes a connection between random matchings, random permanents and U-statistics. Also a concept of a P- statistic, which connects the three concepts is introduced there. Chapter 2 builds upon these connections and contains a number of results for a general class of random matchings which, like for instance the variance formula for a P-statistic, are fundamental to the developments further in the text. Taken together the material of Chapters 1 and 2 should give the reader the necessary background to approach the topics covered later in the text.

Chapters 3 and 4 deal with random permanents and a problem of describing asymptotic distributions for a "classical" count of perfect matchings in random bipartite graphs. Chapter 3 details a relatively straightforward but computationally tedious approach leading to central limit theorems and laws of large numbers for random permanents. Chapter 4 presents a more general treatment of the subject by means of functional limit theorems and weak convergence of iterative stochastic integrals. The basic facts of the theory of stochastic integration are outlined in the first sections of Chapter 4 as necessary.

In Chapter 5 the results on asymptotics of random permanents are extended to P-statistics, at the same time covering a large class of matchings. The limiting laws are expressed with the help of multiple Wiener-Itô integrals. The basic properties of a multiple Wiener-Itô integral are summarized in the first part of the chapter. Several applications of the asymptotic results to particular counting problems introduced in earlier chapters are presented in detail.

Chapter 6 makes a connection between P-statistics and matchings on one side and the "incomplete" U-statistics on the other. The incomplete permanent design is analyzed first. An overview of the analysis of both asymptotic and finite sample properties of P-statistics in terms of their variance efficiency as compared with the corresponding "complete" statistics is presented. In the second part minimum rectangular designs (much lighter that permanent designs) are introduced and their efficiency is analyzed. Also their relations to the concept of mutual orthogonal Latin squares of classical statistical design theory is discussed there.

Chapter 7 covers some of the recent results on the asymptotic lognormality of sequences of products of increasing sums of independent identically distributed random variables and their U-statistics counterparts. The developments of the chapter lead eventually to a limit theorem for random determinants for Wishart matrices. Here again, similarly as in some of the earlier-discussed limit theorems for random permanents, the lognormal law appears in the limit.

We would like to express our thanks to several individuals and institutions who helped us in completing this project. We would like to acknowledge the IMA director, Doug Arnold who constantly encouraged our efforts, as well as our many other colleagues, especially André Kézdy, Ofer Zeitouni and Shmuel Friedland, who looked at and commented on the various finished and not-so-finished portions of the text. We would also like to thank Ewa Kubicka and Grzegorz Kubicki for their help with drawing some of the graphs presented in the book. Whereas the idea of writing the current monograph was born at the IMA, the opportunity to do so was also partially provided by other institutions. In particular, the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute in Durham, NC held during 2005/6 academic year a program on "Random Matrices and High Dimensional Inference" and kindly invited the first of the authors to participate in its activities as a long term visitor. The project was also supported by local grants from the Faculty of Mathematics and Information Science of the Warsaw University of Technology, Warszawa, Poland and from the Department of Mathematics at the University of Louisville.

Louisville, KY and Warszawa (Poland)
July 2007

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Springer

http://www.springer.com/978-0-387-75145-0

Symmetric Functionals on Random Matrices and Random Matchings Problems

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2008, XIV, 184 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-0-387-75145-0