

RANDOM MATRICES AND APPLICATIONS

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This will be an introductory lecture to the random matrix theory (RMT) which lies at the intersection of linear algebra, probability theory, and analysis. Random matrices were introduced in the first half of the 20th century motivated by applications in statistics and nuclear physics, and now this is a very active research field with various applications in different areas of mathematics, physics, numerical analysis, economics etc. Depending on the probability distributions of entries and on symmetry classes of matrices there arise many different classes (ensembles) of random matrices. We are mainly interested in the corresponding eigenvalues and eigenvectors and in the spectral properties of matrices as matrix-size tends to infinity. In this lecture we will start with basic definitions and discuss the main questions and concepts of RMT. Then we will present some results and methods of proofs. In particular we will discuss analogs of the classical law of large numbers and central limit theorem in RMT.