Contents

Introduction vii

Chapter 1. Unitary Matrix Ensembles 1
1.1. Unitary ensemble with real analytic interaction 1
1.2. Ensemble of eigenvalues 3
1.3. Recurrence equations and discrete string equations for orthogonal polynomials 9
1.4. Deformation equations for the recurrence coefficients 13
1.5. Differential equations and Lax pair for the ψ-functions 16

Chapter 2. The Riemann – Hilbert Problem for Orthogonal Polynomials 19
2.1. The Cauchy transform and its properties 19
2.2. The Riemann – Hilbert problem 20
2.3. Distribution of eigenvalues and equilibrium measure 22
2.4. The Deift – Zhou steepest descent method 27
2.5. Solution of the RHP for $\mathbf{X}_N(z)$ 45
2.6. Asymptotics of the recurrence coefficients 47
2.7. Universality in the random matrix model 50

Chapter 3. Discrete Orthogonal Polynomials on an Infinite Lattice 55
3.1. The discrete log gas ensemble 55
3.2. Interpolation problem 56
3.3. Equilibrium measure 57
3.4. The g-function 61
3.5. Reduction of IP to RHP 62
3.6. First transformation of the RHP 65
3.7. Second transformation of the RHP 66
3.8. Model RHP 67
3.9. Parametrix at band-void edge points 68
3.10. Parametrix at the band-saturated region end points 70
3.11. The third and final transformation of the RHP 74
3.12. Asymptotics of recurrence coefficients 75
3.13. Universality in the discrete log gas ensemble 76

Chapter 4. Introduction to the Six-Vertex Model 81
4.1. Definition of the model 81
4.2. Height function and reduction of parameters 82
4.3. Mappings of the six-vertex model onto other ensembles 84
4.4. Exact solution of the six-vertex model for a finite n 88

Chapter 5. The Izergin–Korepin Formula 93
5.1. The Yang – Baxter equation 96
5.2. A proof of Proposition 5.1.1 100
5.3. The recursion equation for Z_n 101
5.4. The inhomogeneous model on the free fermion line 103
5.5. The homogeneous limit 105

Chapter 6. Disordered Phase 109
6.1. Main results 109
6.2. Rescaling of the weight 113
6.3. Equilibrium measure 114
6.4. Riemann – Hilbert analysis 128
6.5. Estimates on the jumps for $\mathbf{X}_n$ 133
6.6. Evaluation of $\mathbf{X}_1$ 135
6.7. Proof of Proposition 6.1.2 139
6.8. The constant term 139

Chapter 7. Antiferroelectric Phase 143
7.1. Introduction 143
7.2. Jacobi theta functions: Definitions and properties 144
7.3. Main result: Asymptotics of the partition function 148
7.4. Equilibrium measure 149
7.5. Riemann – Hilbert analysis 160
7.6. Evaluation of $\mathbf{X}_1$ 173
7.7. The constant term 192

Chapter 8. Ferroelectric Phase 197
8.1. Introduction and formulation of the main results 197
8.2. Meixner polynomials 198
8.3. Two interpolation problems 200
8.4. Evaluation of the ratio h_k/h_k^{Q} 201
8.5. Evaluation of the constant factor 204
8.6. Ground state configuration 206

Chapter 9. Between the Phases 209
9.1. The critical line between the ferroelectric and disordered phases 209
9.2. The critical line between the antiferroelectric and disordered phases 212
9.3. The order of the phase transitions 214

Bibliography 221