

Hollywood's hippest mathematics: random matrix theory and the Riemann zeta function

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It has been over 50 years since random matrix theory and number theory met over a cup of tea at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton and 25 years since we learned how to model values of the Riemann zeta function using characteristic polynomials of random unitary matrices, and yet new bricks are still being added to this construction. I will give an introduction to this connection and discuss why random matrix theory is important in number theory and how several quirks of fate put me in the right place at the right time to be part of this story.