

An extension of the algebraic Aldous diffusion: or how to make money fast

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\mathfrak{T}_n : set of trees with n labelled leaves and no degree 2 vertex.

Goal : study the limit of a Markov chain on \mathfrak{T}_n , as $n \rightarrow +\infty$.

How does the chain work ?

Remove a leaf uniformly at random, reattach it with a specific rule.

Why do we expect a limit ?

- The chain is parameterized by $\gamma \in (1, 2]$ and the limit was already shown when $\gamma = 2$.
- The invariant distributions of the chains converge to the same limit one obtains by only attaching leaves.

What about combinatorics ?

The chains converge to a limit process whose operators admit a spectral decomposition with a simple combinatorial description.

1. Definitions and context

- 1.1 Attachment rule, and the limit tree it produces.
- 1.2 Leaf-constant chain on \mathfrak{T}_n .
- 1.3 Theory of algebraic measure trees, and limit when $\gamma = 2$.

2. The limit process

- 2.1 Extension of the theory of algebraic measure trees.
- 2.2 Limit process in the case $\gamma \in (1, 2]$.

3. Spectral decomposition

- 3.1 Spectrum and eigenspaces of the limit generator.
- 3.2 Consequences for the limit process.
- 3.3 (If time permits...) Sketch of proof.

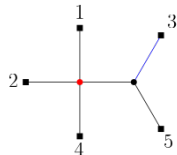
The attachment rule

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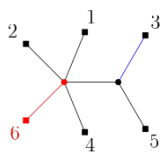
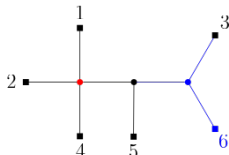
Marchal's algorithm (2008) : generates random trees $(T_n)_{n \geq 2}$

1. Given T_n (a.s. in \mathfrak{T}_n), put weight $\gamma - 1$ on each edge of T_n and $d - 1 - \gamma$ on each branch point with degree d of T_n .

2. Attach a leaf labelled $n + 1$ to an edge or branch point of T_n sampled proportionally to the weights and define T_{n+1} as the newly created random tree in \mathfrak{T}_{n+1} .



Marchal's algorithm



Initial tree with 5 leaves.

The blue edge is selected.

The red branch point is selected.

\mathfrak{M}_γ^n : law of T_n on \mathfrak{T}_n

Special case ($\gamma = 2$) : Rémy's algorithm (1980)

$\mathfrak{M}_2^n =$ uniform distribution on binary leaf-labelled trees

Metric trees and Gromov-Hausdorff-Prokhorov convergence

Real tree (T, d) : geodesic metric space with no subset homeomorphic to a circle.

$x, y \in T$: segment $[x, y]$ is the geodesic path from x to y

$x \in T$: $\text{deg}(x)$ = number of connected components of $T \setminus \{x\}$

Metric tree (T, d) : metric space that can be isometrically embedded into a real tree and contains all its branchpoints.

\mathbb{M} : space of (probability) measured compact metric spaces (up to measure preserving isometry).

d_{GHP} metric on \mathbb{M} given for $\mathcal{X} = (X, d_X, \mu_X), \mathcal{Y} = (Y, d_Y, \mu_Y)$:

$$d_{GHP}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) = \inf_{\varphi_X, \varphi_Y} (d_{\text{Hausdorff}}(\varphi_X(X), \varphi_Y(Y)) + d_{\text{Prokhorov}}(\varphi_{X*} \mu_X, \varphi_{Y*} \mu_Y))$$

where the infimum is over metric spaces Z and isometric injections $\varphi_X : X \rightarrow Z, \varphi_Y : Y \rightarrow Z$.

d_{GHP} makes \mathbb{M} complete. [Abraham, Delmas, Hoscheit, 13']

The stable trees

Theorem (Curien & Haas, 2012)

$$n^{-\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma}} T_n^\gamma \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow +\infty]{\text{GHP}} \mathcal{T}_\gamma \quad \text{a.s.}$$

where \mathcal{T}_γ is a random real tree called a γ -stable tree.

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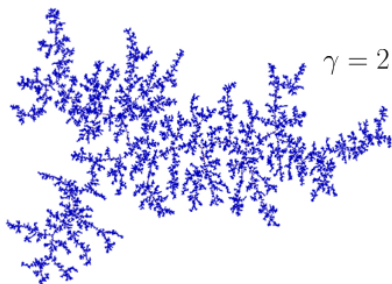
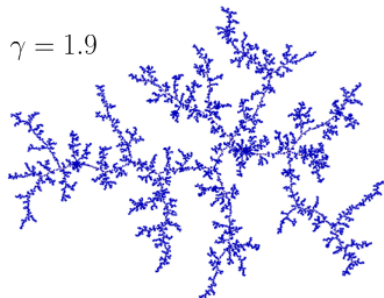
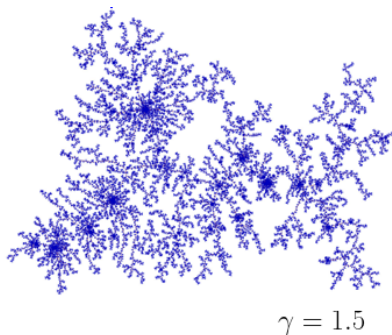
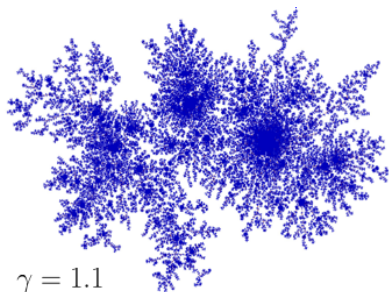
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- Self-similarity (sample two leaves, the trees branching from the path between them are independent factored stable trees)

Illustrations (courtesy of I. Kortchemski)



The Markov chain on \mathfrak{T}_n

$X^n := (X_k^n)_{k \geq 0}$ Markov chain on \mathfrak{T}_n that moves as follows :

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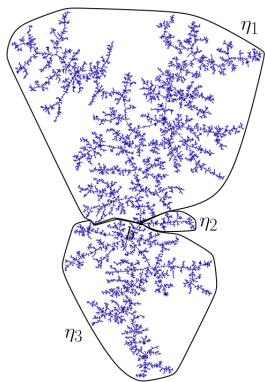
"Real world" motivation :

asymptotic study of phylogenetics MCMC-type algorithms.

Ω_n^γ : generator of continuous-time version with total rate $\sim \gamma n^2$.

Aldous's observation and conjecture ($\gamma = 2$)

Fix a branch point b and consider the proportions of leaves $\eta(b) := (\eta_1, \eta_2, \eta_3) \in \Delta_3$ branching from it.



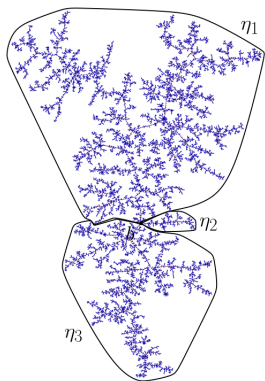
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(1) : generator of a Wright-Fisher diffusion with **negative** mutation rate.



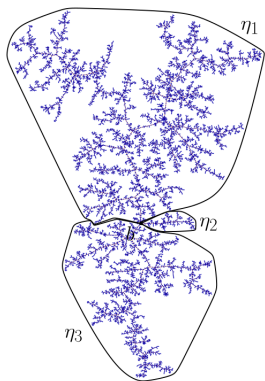
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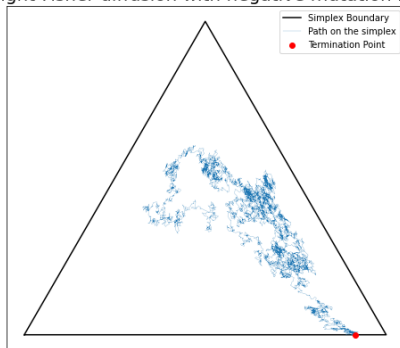
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Wright-Fisher diffusion with negative mutation rate



More generally :

Take k leaves and look at the mass distribution along the edges of the shape they induce : we obtain a similar diffusion on Δ_{2k-3} .

Question (Aldous, 1999) : Are we observing functionals of some limit tree diffusion (later nicknamed "Aldous diffusion") that is stationary w.r.t. the law of the Brownian tree ?

Proposed solutions

Long standing problem as the metric dynamics appears to be difficult to track. Two teams have proposed solutions :

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- The process has to be started at the invariant distribution.
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2. [Löhr, Mytnik, Winter : 2018-2023]

- Decided to "forget" the metric and consider equivalence classes that they developed under the name of "algebraic measure trees". But :
- Their process can be started at any "reasonable" tree.
- Once the theory is developed, it reduces to a classical martingale problem.

Second process referred to as the "**algebraic**" **Aldous diffusion**.

Algebraic measure trees [L., W. 18']

Let T be any set and $c : T^3 \rightarrow T$ symmetric such that :

- For all $x, y \in T$, $c(x, x, y) = x$.
- For all $x, y, z \in T$, $c(x, y, c(x, y, z)) = c(x, y, z)$.
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Classical trees definitions (degree, segment, subtree...) can be defined from c , and c induces a topology on T which is consistent with the metric when (T, c) is derived from a metric tree.

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\mathbb{T} := set of (equivalence classes of) AMTs

$\mathbb{T}^{[n]}$:= AMTs with n leaves and uniform distribution on the leaves

$\tilde{\mathbb{T}}$:= AMTs with no atom outside leaves, $\tilde{\mathbb{T}}_2$:= binary AMTs in $\tilde{\mathbb{T}}$

\mathbb{T}^c := AMTs with diffuse measure

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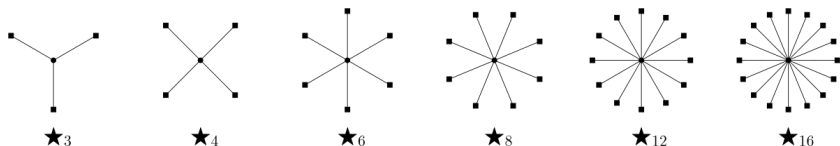
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The limit process is Feller, continuous, ergodic and symmetric for the law of an "algebraic" Brownian tree.

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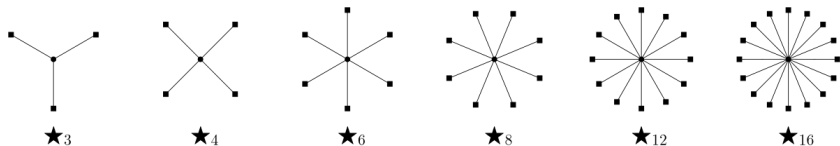
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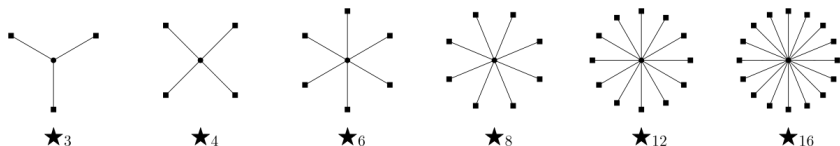


Solution : define a topology that makes star trees converge.

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Problem : the sample shape topology can be extended to $\tilde{\mathbb{T}}$ but is no longer compact (star trees admit no convergent subsequence).



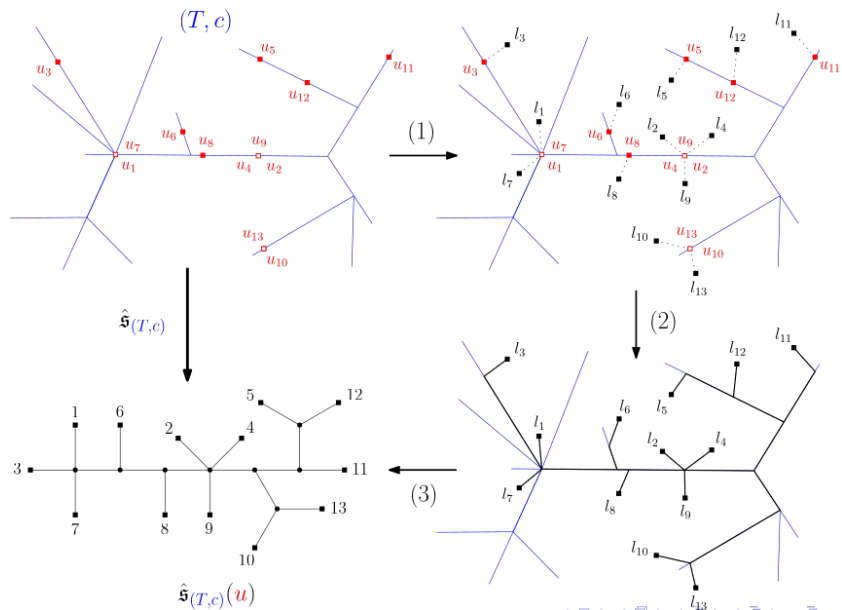
Solution : define a topology that makes star trees converge.

Topology based on sampling subtrees called "hierarchies" :

[Forman, Haulk, Pitman 18'; Forman 20']

1. Take m points $u := (u_1, \dots, u_m) \in T^m$ in a tree (T, c) .
2. Attach a leaf l_k on each of the points u_k ($1 \leq k \leq m$).
3. Define the hierarchy $\hat{s}_{(T, c)}(u)$ induced by u in (T, c) as the labelled tree in \mathfrak{T}_m induced by the leaves (l_1, \dots, l_m) in (T, c) .

Illustration of a sampled hierarchy



Sample hierarchy topology

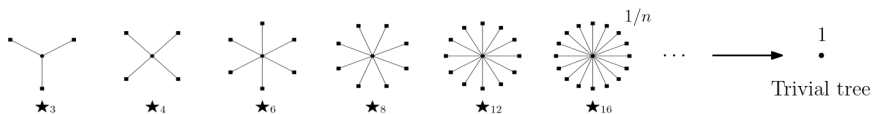
For $m \geq 3$, $t \in \mathfrak{T}_m$ and $[T, c, \mu] \in \mathbb{T}$,

$$\Psi^{m,t}([T, c, \mu]) := \int_{T^m} \hat{s}_{(T,c)}(u) \mu^{\otimes m}(du).$$

$\Psi^{m,t}([T, c, \mu])$: probability of obtaining the hierarchy $t \in \mathfrak{T}_m$ if we sample m points from $[T, c, \mu]$.

Sample hierarchy topology on \mathbb{T} : induced by $(\Psi^{m,t})_{m \geq 3, t \in \mathfrak{T}_m}$.

In this topology, the star trees converge to an atom of mass 1.



More generally : accumulation of mass results in creation of atoms.

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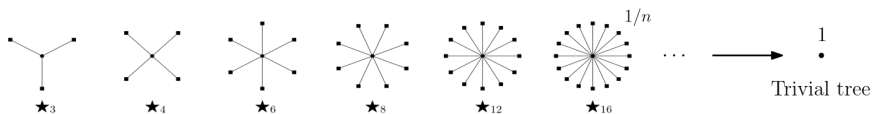
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Theorem

The sample hierarchy topology on \mathbb{T} is compact.

Convergence of the chains

Hierarchy polynomials : linear combinations Ψ of $(\Psi^{m,t})_{m \geq 3, t \in \mathfrak{T}_m}$, dense subalgebra of cont. functions on \mathbb{T} (Stone-Weierstrass).

Theorem (Convergence of generators)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_{\mathcal{T} := [T, c, \mu] \in \mathbb{T}^{[n]}} |\Omega_n^\gamma \Psi(\mathcal{T}) - \Omega_\infty^\gamma \Psi(\mathcal{T})| = 0,$$

where

$$\Omega_\infty^\gamma \Psi^{m,t}(\mathcal{T}) := \int_{T^m} \Omega_m^\gamma \mathbf{1}_{\{t\}}(\hat{\mathfrak{s}}(u)) \mu^{\otimes m}(du).$$

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The chains converge in law (for the sample hierarchy topology) to a limit process $X := (X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+}$ on \mathbb{T} with (pre)generator Ω_∞^γ .

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The chains converge in law (for the sample hierarchy topology) to a limit process $X := (X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+}$ on \mathbb{T} with (pre)generator Ω_∞^γ .

Properties in common with $\gamma = 2$: X is continuous, Feller, ergodic, reversible for the law \mathcal{M}_γ of an algebraic γ -stable tree.

Difference : X can be started at any point of \mathbb{T} .

Spectral decomposition of the limiting generator

Π_m : hierarchy polynomials of order $\leq m$ (for $m \geq 3$).
(= linear combinations from $\{\Psi^{k,t} : k \in \llbracket 3, m \rrbracket, t \in \mathfrak{T}_k\}$)

Observation : for $m \geq 3$, $\Psi^{m,t} = \sum_{t' \in \mathfrak{T}_{m+1} : t \nearrow t'} \Psi^{m,t'}$.
 $\implies \Pi_m = \text{Vect}(\{\Psi^{m,t} : t \in \mathfrak{T}_m\})$.

Set $\lambda_3 := 0$ and $\lambda_m := m((m-2)\gamma - 1)$ for $m \geq 4$.

$V_m \subset \Pi_m$: subspace of Π_m that can be described explicitly.

Theorem (Eigendecomposition of the generator in $L^2(\mathcal{M}_\gamma)$)

For $m \geq 3$, $-\lambda_m$ is an eigenvalue of Ω_∞^γ with eigenspace V_m .
Moreover, we have the orthogonal direct sum

$$L^2(\mathcal{M}_\gamma) = \bigoplus_{m \geq 3} V_m,$$

$\dim(V_3) = 1$, and $\dim(V_m) = |\mathbb{T}^{[m]}| - |\mathbb{T}^{[m-1]}|$ for $m \geq 4$.

Combinatorial description of the eigenspaces $(V_m)_{m \geq 4}$

Π_m : linear combinations of $\{\Psi^{m,t} : t \in \mathfrak{T}_m\}$

$\alpha : \mathfrak{T}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^{[m]}$: canonical map (forgets labels)

Observation : for all $t, t' \in \mathfrak{T}_m$ s.t. $\alpha(t) = \alpha(t')$, $\Psi^{m,t} = \Psi^{m,t'}$.

\implies For $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{T}^{[m]}$, define

$$\Psi^{m,\mathcal{T}} = \sum_{t \in \alpha^{-1}(\{\mathcal{T}\})} \Psi^{m,t}.$$

$\Psi^{m,\mathcal{T}}$: probability of sampling the unlabelled shape \mathcal{T} .

Proposition : The family $\{\Psi^{m,\mathcal{T}} : \mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{T}^{[m]}\}$ is a basis for Π_m .

$\implies \dim(\Pi_m) = |\mathbb{T}^{[m]}|$.

V_m : polynomials $\sum_{\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{T}^{[m]}} \alpha_{\mathcal{T}} \Psi^{m,\mathcal{T}}$ such that, for all $\mathcal{S} \in \mathbb{T}^{[m-1]}$,

$$\sum_{\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{T}^{[m]}} \pi_{\gamma}(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T}) \alpha_{\mathcal{T}} = 0,$$

$\pi_{\gamma}(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T})$: probability of getting \mathcal{T} from \mathcal{S} with Marchal's algorithm.

$\implies \dim(V_m) = |\mathbb{T}^{[m]}| - |\mathbb{T}^{[m-1]}| \implies \Pi_m := \bigoplus_{k=3}^m V_m$

Illustration of the eigenspaces structure (V_3 to V_5)

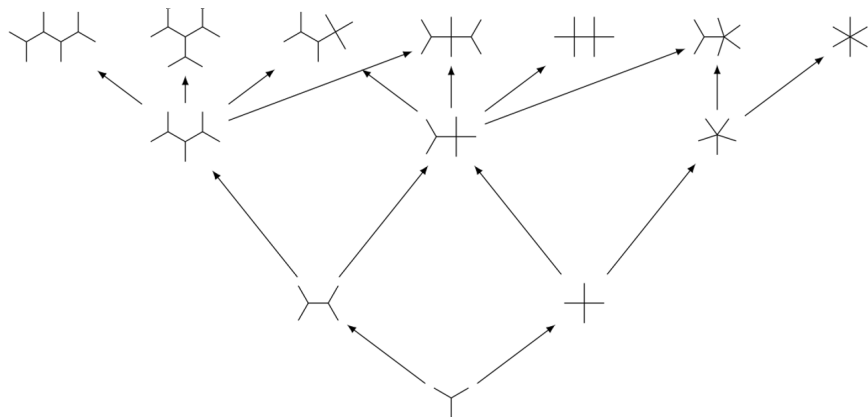


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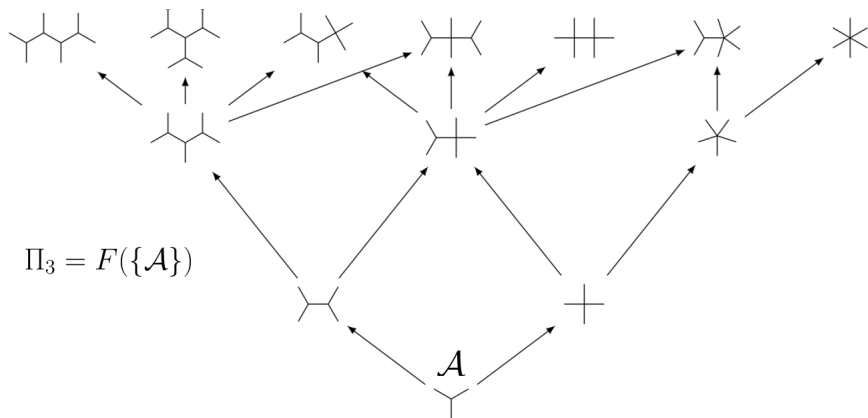


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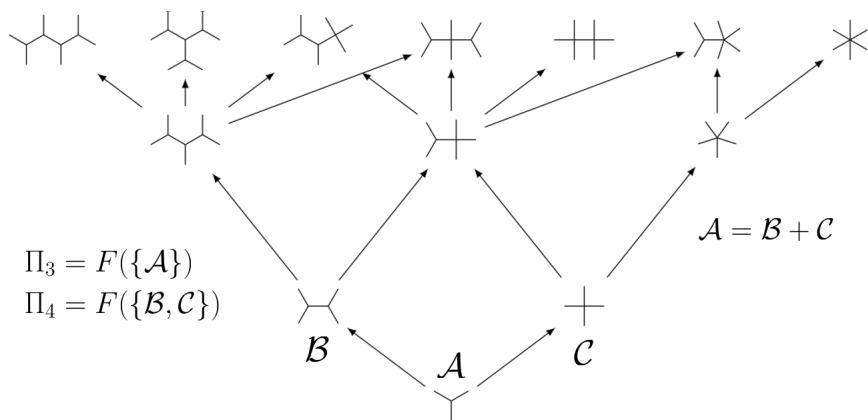


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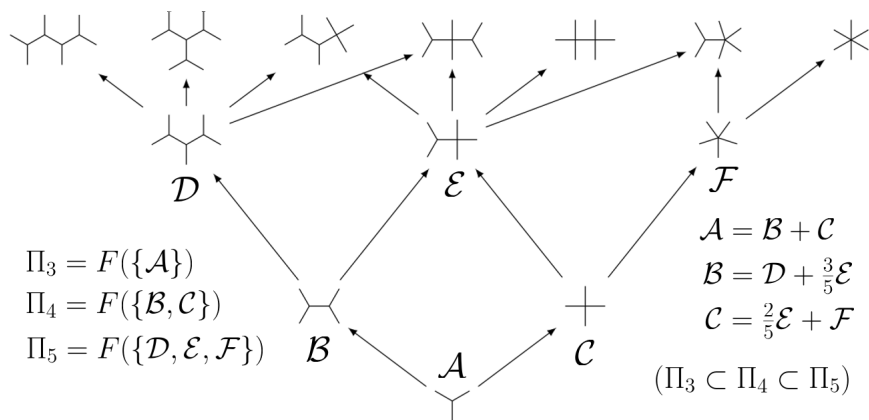


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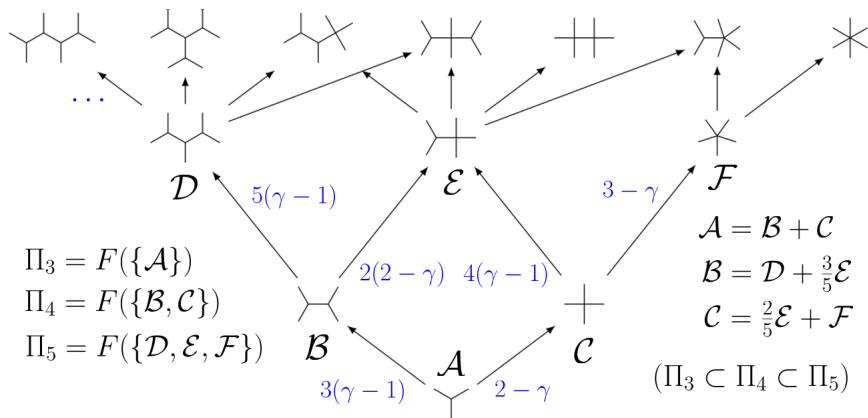
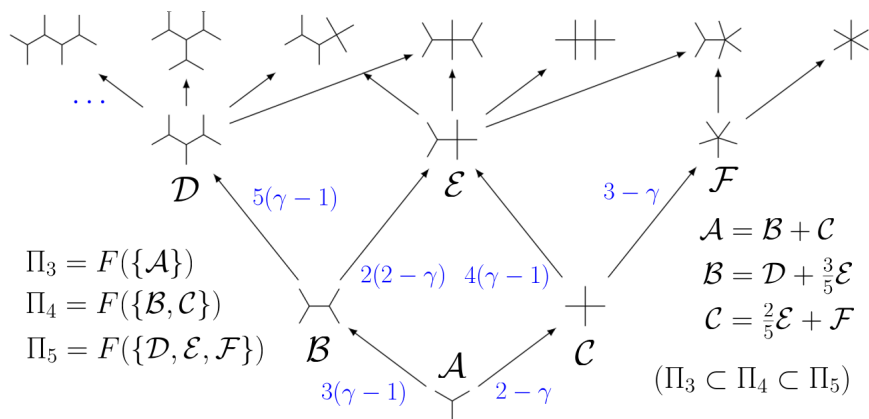


Illustration of the eigenspaces structure (V_3 to V_5)



$$V_3 = \Pi_3, V_4 = \{\alpha_B \mathcal{B} + \alpha_C \mathcal{C} \in \Pi_4 : 3(\gamma - 1)\alpha_B + (2 - \gamma)\alpha_C = 0\},$$

$V_5 =$ subspace of $\alpha_D \mathcal{D} + \alpha_E \mathcal{E} + \alpha_F \mathcal{F} \in \Pi_5$ such that

$$5(\gamma - 1)\alpha_E + 2(2 - \gamma)\alpha_E = 0,$$

$$4(\gamma - 1)\alpha_E + (3 - \gamma)\alpha_F = 0.$$

Eigenstructure of the continuous-time Markov chain

For $m \geq 3$, let $s_m : \mathbb{R}^{\mathfrak{I}_m} \rightarrow \Pi_m$ be the linear surjection given by

$$s_m \left(\sum_{t \in \mathfrak{I}_m} \alpha_t \mathbb{1}_{\{t\}} \right) = \sum_{t \in \mathfrak{I}_m} \alpha_t \Psi^{m,t}$$

Corollary : Ω_m^γ has eigenvalues $\{-\lambda_k : k \in \llbracket 3, m \rrbracket\}$ with respective eigenspaces $\{s_m^{-1}(V_k) : k \in \llbracket 3, m \rrbracket\}$.

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Sketch of proof : Recall that

$$\Omega_\infty^\gamma \Psi^{m,t}([T, c, \mu]) = \int_{T^m} \Omega_m \mathbb{1}_{\{t\}}(\hat{\mathfrak{s}}(u)) \mu^{\otimes m}(du).$$

For all $f := \sum_{t \in \mathfrak{I}_m} \alpha_t \mathbb{1}_{\{t\}} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathfrak{I}_m}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $[T, c, \mu] \in \mathbb{T}$,

$$(\Omega_\infty^\gamma - \lambda) s_m f([T, c, \mu]) = 0 \iff \int_{T^m} (\Omega_m^\gamma - \lambda) f(\hat{\mathfrak{s}}(u)) \mu^{\otimes m}(ds) = 0.$$

By density, $(\Omega_\infty^\gamma - \lambda) s_m f \equiv 0 \iff (\Omega_m^\gamma - \lambda) f \equiv 0$.

But $(\Omega_\infty^\gamma - \lambda) s_m f \equiv 0$ iff $\exists k \in \llbracket 3, m \rrbracket$ s.t. $\lambda = \lambda_k$ and $s_m f \in V_k$.

Eigenstructure of the discrete-time Markov chain

M_m^γ : transition matrix of the discrete-time Markov chain on \mathfrak{T}_m .

Corollary : M_m^γ has eigenvalues $\{1 - \frac{\lambda_k}{\lambda_m} : k \in \llbracket 3, m \rrbracket\}$ with respective eigenspaces $\{s_m^{-1}(V_k) : k \in \llbracket 3, m \rrbracket\}$.

Proof : Observe that $M_m^\gamma = I_m + \frac{1}{\lambda_m} \Omega_m^\gamma$.

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$$\tau_{\text{rel}}^m = \frac{\lambda_m - \lambda_4}{\lambda_m} = \frac{m((m-2)\gamma - 1)}{4(2\gamma - 1)} = \Theta(m^2)$$

τ_{rel}^m : relaxation time of the discrete-time Markov chain on \mathfrak{T}_m .

The order of τ_{rel}^m is consistent with [Sørensen 21'].

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Open question : mixing time of order m^2 ?

Spectral decomposition of the L^2 semigroup

$(P_t)_{t \geq 0}$: Markov semigroup of the process X (with generator Ω_∞^γ)

Theorem

For $t > 0$, there exists $\varphi_t \in L^2(\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\otimes 2})$ such that, for $f \in L^2(\mathcal{M}_\gamma)$,

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In particular, P_t is self-adjoint and trace-class on $L^2(\mathcal{M}_\gamma)$ with spectrum $\{e^{-\lambda_m t} : m \geq 3\}$ and eigenspaces $\{V_m : m \geq 3\}$.

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For all $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ continuous for the sample hierarchy topology,

$$\sup_{\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{T}} |P_t f(\mathcal{T}) - \mathcal{M}_\gamma(f)| \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow +\infty} 0.$$

Conjecture : continuity of the integral kernel

Recall : $(P_t)_{t \geq 0}$ semigroup of the limit process X , satisfying

$$P_t f(\cdot) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi_t(\cdot, \mathcal{T}) \mathcal{M}_\gamma(d\mathcal{T}), \quad \forall f \in L^2(\mathcal{M}_\gamma).$$

Conjecture :

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Sufficient condition :

Find orthonormal basis $(\phi_{m,k})_k$ of V_m with $\sup_k \|\phi_{m,k}\|_\infty \ll e^{m^2}$.

Why ?
$$\varphi_t(\cdot, \cdot) = \sum_{m \geq 3} e^{-\lambda_m t} \sum_{k=1}^{\dim(V_m)} \phi_{m,k}(\cdot) \phi_{m,k}(\cdot) \in L^2(\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\otimes 2})$$

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Consequences if the conjecture is true :

- \implies Convergence in the stronger sample shape topology
- \implies Strong Feller property
- \implies The diffusion instantaneously enters \mathbb{T}^c and stays within it ("big bang" phenomenon when started from the trivial tree)

Generator of the Markov chain

Ω_n^γ : generator of the continuous-time Markov chain on \mathfrak{T}_n .

$$\Omega_n^\gamma f(\mathbf{t}) := \sum_{l=1}^n \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{t}_{\wedge l})} \pi_{\mathbf{t}_{\wedge l}}^\gamma(h) \left(f(\mathbf{t}^{(l,h)}) - f(\mathbf{t}) \right),$$

where

- $\mathbf{t}_{\wedge l}$: labelled tree \mathbf{t} with the leaf labelled l removed,
- $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{t}_{\wedge l})$: set of edges and branch points of $\mathbf{t}_{\wedge l}$,
- $\pi_{\mathbf{t}_{\wedge l}}^\gamma(h)$: Marchal's weight associated to h in $\mathbf{t}_{\wedge l}$, i.e.
$$\pi_{\mathbf{t}_{\wedge l}}^\gamma(h) = \begin{cases} \gamma - 1, & \text{if } h \text{ is a leaf} \\ d - 1 - \gamma, & \text{if } h \text{ is a branch point of degree } d \geq 3 \end{cases}$$
- $\mathbf{t}^{(l,h)}$: labelled tree \mathbf{t} after the leaf l has been moved to h .

Total Marchal's weight on a tree \mathbf{t} with n leaves :

$$\pi_{\mathbf{t}}^\gamma(\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{t})) := \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{t})} \pi_{\mathbf{t}}^\gamma(h) = (n - 1)\gamma - 1.$$

Derivation of the eigenvalues

Ω_∞^γ : generator of the limiting process, acting on $\bigcup_{m \geq 3} \Pi_m$.

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega_\infty^\gamma \Psi^{m,t}(T) &:= \int_{T^m} \Omega_m^\gamma \mathbb{1}_{\{t\}}(t') \hat{s}_* \mu^{\otimes m}(dt') \\ &= \int_{\mathfrak{T}_m} \sum_{l=1}^m \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}(t_{\wedge l}')} \pi_{t_{\wedge l}'}^\gamma(h) \left(\mathbb{1}_{\{t\}}(t'^{(l,h)}) - \mathbb{1}_{\{t\}}(t') \right) \hat{s}_* \mu^{\otimes m}(dt')\end{aligned}$$

But, $t'^{(l,h)} = t \implies t_{\wedge l} = t_{\wedge l}' \quad \& \quad \exists! h_l \in \mathcal{H}(t_{\wedge l}), t^{(l,h_l)} = t$.

$$\begin{aligned}\implies \Omega_\infty^\gamma \Psi^{m,t} &= \sum_{l=1}^m \left(\pi_{t_{\wedge l}'}^\gamma(h_l) \Psi^{m,t_{\wedge l}'} + \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}(t_{\wedge l}')} \pi_{t_{\wedge l}'}^\gamma(h) \Psi^{m,t} \right) \\ \implies (\Omega_\infty^\gamma + m((m-2)\gamma - 1)) \Psi^{m,t} &= \sum_{l=1}^m \pi_{t_{\wedge l}'}^\gamma(h_l) \Psi^{m,t_{\wedge l}'} \in \Pi_{m-1} \\ \implies \Omega_\infty^\gamma \text{ is triangular with eigenvalues } &(-m((m-2)\gamma - 1))_{m \geq 3}.\end{aligned}$$

Derivation of the eigenspaces

Recall :

$$(\Omega_\infty^\gamma + \lambda_m) \Psi^{m,t} = \sum_{l=1}^m \pi_{t \wedge l}^\gamma(h_l) \Psi^{m-1, t \wedge l}, \quad \Psi^{m,T} := \sum_{t \in \mathfrak{a}^{-1}(\{T\})} \Psi^{m,t}$$

V_m : subspace of $\Psi := \sum_{T \in \mathbb{T}^{[m]}} \alpha_T \Psi^{m,T} = \sum_{t \in \mathfrak{I}_m} \alpha_{\mathfrak{a}(t)} \Psi^{m,t}$ s.t.

$$(\Omega_\infty^\gamma + \lambda_m) \Psi = 0 \iff \sum_{t \in \mathfrak{I}_m} \alpha_{\mathfrak{a}(t)} \sum_{l=1}^m \pi_{t \wedge l}^\gamma(h_l) \Psi^{m-1, t \wedge l} = 0$$

$$\iff \sum_{s \in \mathfrak{I}_{m-1}} \Psi^{m-1,s} \sum_{t \in \mathfrak{I}_m: s \nearrow t} \pi(s, t) \alpha_{\mathfrak{a}(t)} = 0$$

$$\iff \sum_{S \in \mathbb{T}^{[m]}} \Psi^{m-1,S} \sum_{T \in \mathbb{T}^{[m]}: S \nearrow T} \pi(S, T) \alpha_T = 0$$

$\pi(s, t)$ (resp. $\pi(S, T)$) : probability to get from s to t (resp. S to T).

Because $(\Psi^{m-1,S})_{S \in \mathbb{T}^{[m-1]}}$ is linearly independent :

$$\iff \forall S \in \mathbb{T}^{[m-1]}, \quad \sum_{T \in \mathbb{T}^{[m]}: S \nearrow T} \pi(S, T) \alpha_T = 0$$

Last slide.

Thank you for your attention.

