

HYPERPLANE
ARRANGEMENTS,
RANDOM WALKS
AND
EIGENVALUES

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Let

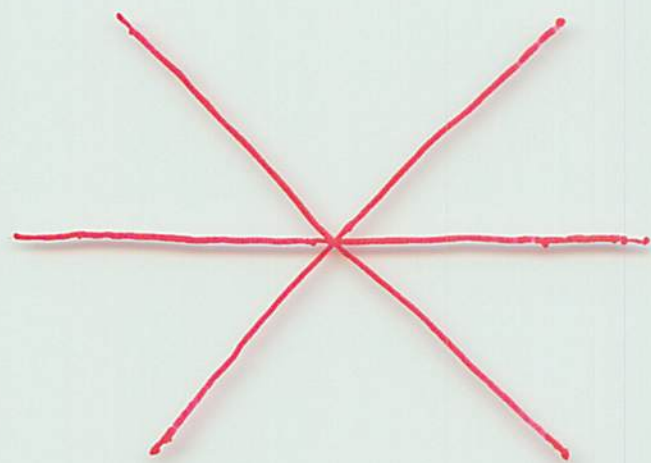
A = affine hyperplane arrangement in
 $V = \mathbb{R}^n$

C_A = set of chambers (regions)

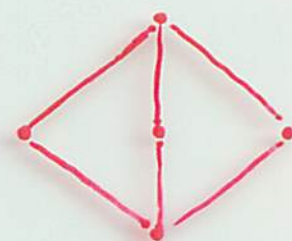
F_A = set of faces

\mathcal{L} = intersection poset of A with minimum element $\hat{0} = V$

w = probability measure on F_A



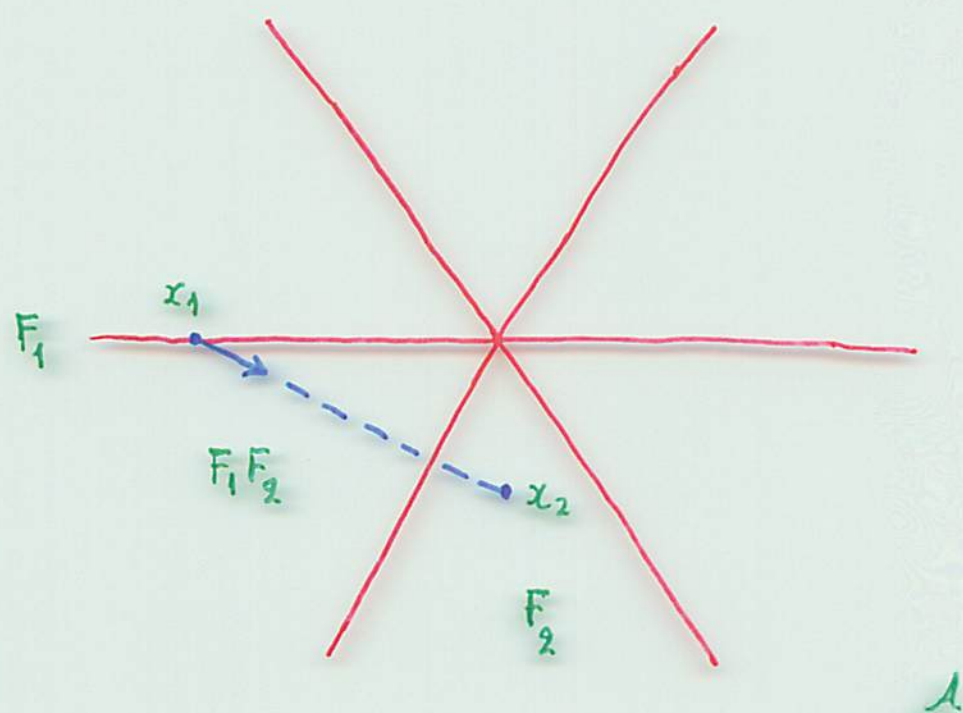
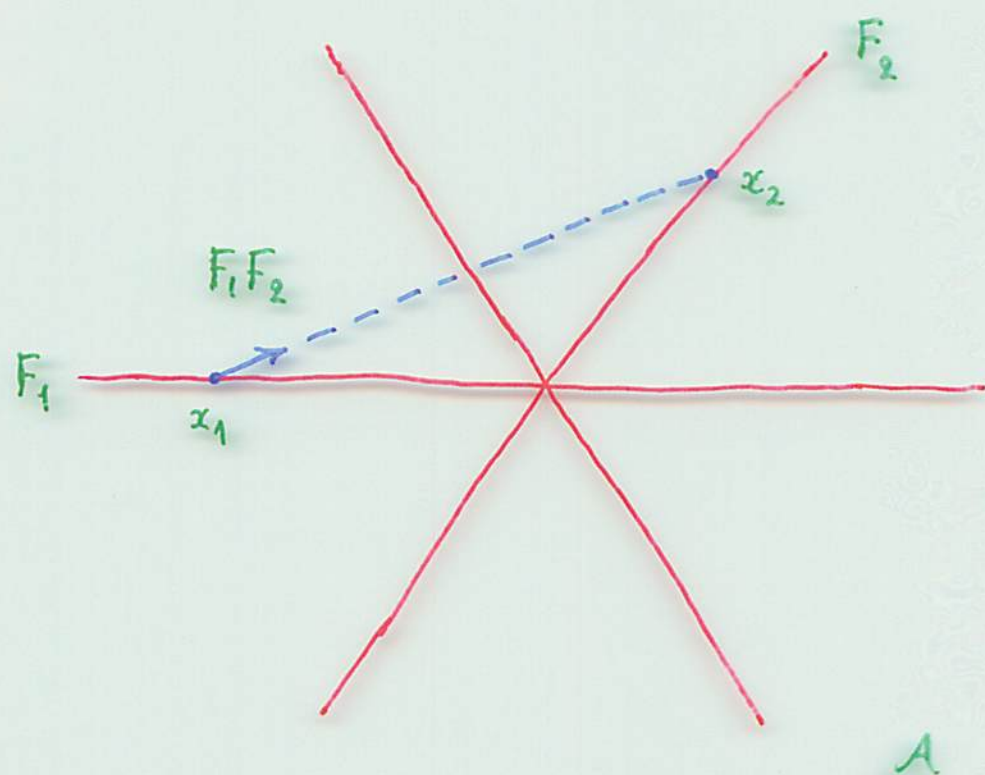
A



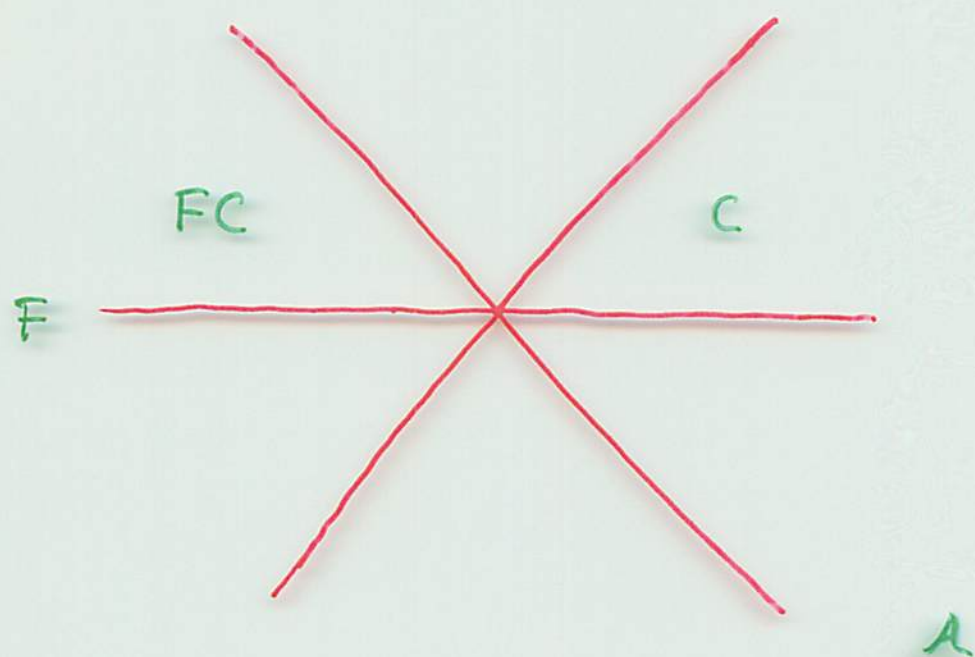
$\hat{0} = V$

\mathcal{L}

There is a product on the set \mathcal{F}_A which turns it into a semigroup :



Recall that for all $F \in \mathcal{F}_A$ and $C \in \mathcal{C}_A$ we have $FC \in \mathcal{C}_A$.



Bidigare, Hanlon and Rockmore defined a random walk on \mathcal{C}_A with transition matrix satisfying

$$K(C, C') = \sum_{\substack{FC = C' \\ F \in \mathcal{F}_A}} w(F)$$

for $C, C' \in \mathcal{C}_A$.

Some definitions

A probability distribution π on \mathcal{C}_A is stationary for K if

$$K^{\ell}(C, C') \rightarrow \pi(C') \quad \text{as } \ell \rightarrow \infty$$

for all $C, C' \in \mathcal{C}_A$. When it exists, it is characterized by

$$\sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}_A} \pi(C) K(C, C') = \pi(C')$$

for all $C' \in \mathcal{C}_A$.

For probability distributions P, Q on a finite set X we define the total variation distance

$$\|P - Q\|_{TV} = \max_{A \subseteq X} |P(A) - Q(A)|.$$

We are interested in the rate of convergence of $\|K_C^{\ell} - \pi\| \rightarrow 0$ as $\ell \rightarrow \infty$.

Theorem (BHR, 1999) The characteristic polynomial of the matrix K is equal to

$$\det(xI - K) = \prod_{W \in \mathcal{L}} (x - \lambda_W)^{m_W},$$

where

$$\lambda_W = \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_A \\ F \subseteq W}} w(F)$$

is an eigenvalue,

$$m_W = |\mu_L(\hat{o}, W)| = (-1)^{\text{codim}(W, V)} \mu_L(V, W)$$

and μ_L is the Möbius function on \mathcal{L} .

Corollary (Las Vergnas, Zaslavsky, 1975)

$$\sum_{W \in \mathcal{L}} |\mu_L(\hat{o}, W)| = \# \mathcal{C}_A.$$

Theorem (Brown - Diaconis, 1998)

- (a) The matrix K is diagonalizable over \mathbb{R} .
- (b) K has a unique stationary distribution π if and only if for each $H \in \mathcal{A}$ there exists a face $F \in \mathcal{F}_A$ such that $F \not\subseteq H$ and $w(F) > 0$.

Moreover, assuming π exists :

- (c) Sample without replacement from w , thus getting an ordering F_1, \dots, F_m of the set $\{F \in \mathcal{F}_A : w(F) > 0\}$. Then $C = F_1 F_2 \dots F_m$ is a chamber distributed from π .
- (d) We have

$$\|K_C^\ell - \pi\|_{TV} \leq \sum_{H \in \mathcal{A}} \lambda_H^\ell,$$

where K_C^ℓ is the distribution of the chain started from $C \in \mathcal{C}_A$ after ℓ steps, i.e. $K_C^\ell(C') = K^\ell(C, C')$.

Example Suppose A is an essential, central arrangement of hyperplanes in $V = \mathbb{R}^3$.



Five hyperplanes in \mathbb{R}^3

Theorem (Billera - Brown - Diaconis, 1999) If w is supported and is uniform on the one-dimensional faces of A , then

$$\pi(C) = \frac{i-2}{2(f_0-2)},$$

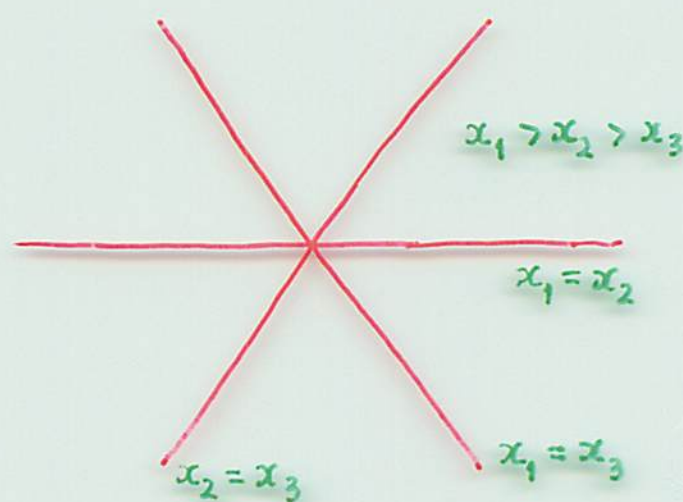
where i is the number of facets (sides) of $C \in \mathcal{C}_1$ and f_0 is the number of one-dimensional faces of A .

The braid arrangement

Let

$$\mathcal{A} = \{x_i - x_j = 0 : 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$$

be the braid arrangement in \mathbb{R}^n .



There are bijections

- $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{A}} \cong$ symmetric group S_n of permutations of $[n] := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
- $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{A}} \cong$ set of ordered partitions (B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k) of the set $[n]$

mapping e.g. $\tau \in S_n$ to the chamber

$$x_{\tau(1)} > x_{\tau(2)} > \dots > x_{\tau(n)}.$$

Moreover, if

- $F_A \ni F \iff (B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k) = B$
- $C_A \ni C \iff \tau \in S_n,$

then $FC \in C_A$ corresponds to the permutation obtained from B by linearly ordering each block B_i according to τ .

Example: If $n=9$ and

$$\tau = (8, 1, 4, 7, 9, 2, 6, 3, 5)$$

$$B = (\{6, 9\}, \{1, 3, 7\}, \{4\}, \{2, 5, 8\}),$$

then the action of B on τ results in the permutation

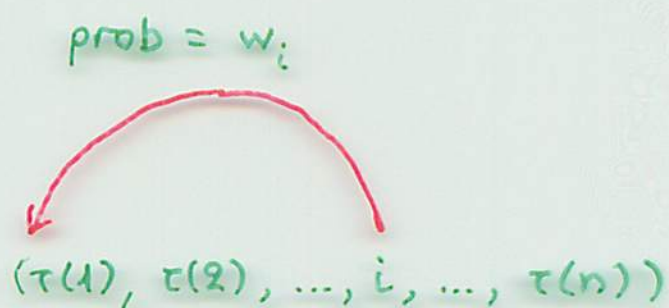
$$\tau' = (9, 6, 1, 7, 3, 4, 8, 2, 5) \in S_9.$$

Two interesting measures on \mathcal{F}_1 :

RANDOM TO TOP: Let w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n be positive numbers summing to 1 and let

$$\omega(\{i\}, [n] \setminus \{i\}) = w_i \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n$$

and $\omega(B) = 0$ for other ordered partitions B .



Thus the BHR walk proceeds by selecting the coordinate of a permutation $\tau \in S_n$ equal to i with probability w_i and moving it in front.

Corollary (i) (Phatarfod, 1991) For each subset $s \subseteq [n]$ (other than those with $n-1$ elements) there exists an eigenvalue

$$\lambda_s = \sum_{i \in s} w_i$$

of K of multiplicity equal to the number of permutations $\tau \in S_n$ with set of fixed points equal to s .

(ii) The stationary distribution π is given by

$$\pi(\tau) = \frac{w_{\tau(1)} w_{\tau(2)} \cdots w_{\tau(n)}}{(1 - w_{\tau(1)}) (1 - w_{\tau(1)} - w_{\tau(2)}) \cdots (1 - w_{\tau(1)} - \cdots - w_{\tau(n-1)})}.$$

(iii) If $w_1 = w_2 = \cdots = w_n = 1/n$ then

$$\|K_\tau^L - \pi\|_{TV} \leq \binom{n}{2} \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right)^L.$$

It gets $n \log n$ steps for the walk to reach stationarity.

INVERSE α -SHUFFLES: Let $\alpha \geq 2$ be an integer. Assign weight (measure) $1/\alpha^n$ to each of the α^n weak ordered set partitions

$$(B_1, B_2, \dots, B_\alpha)$$

of $[n]$ (and zero otherwise).

Example: For $\alpha = 2$ the BHR walk proceeds by selecting some of the coordinates of a permutation $\tau \in S_n$, uniformly at random, and moving them in front, keeping their relative order as in τ .

$$(8, 1, 4, 7, 9, 2, 6, 3, 5)$$



$$(8, 1, 4, 7, 9, 2, 6, 3, 5)$$



$$(8, 4, 2, 6, 3, 1, 7, 9, 5)$$

Corollary

(i) (Hanlon, 1990 ; Bayer-Diaconis, 1992)

The eigenvalues of K are $1, 1/a, 1/a^2, \dots, 1/a^{n-1}$.

The multiplicity of $1/a^i$ is equal to the number of permutations $\tau \in S_n$ with $n-i$ cycles.

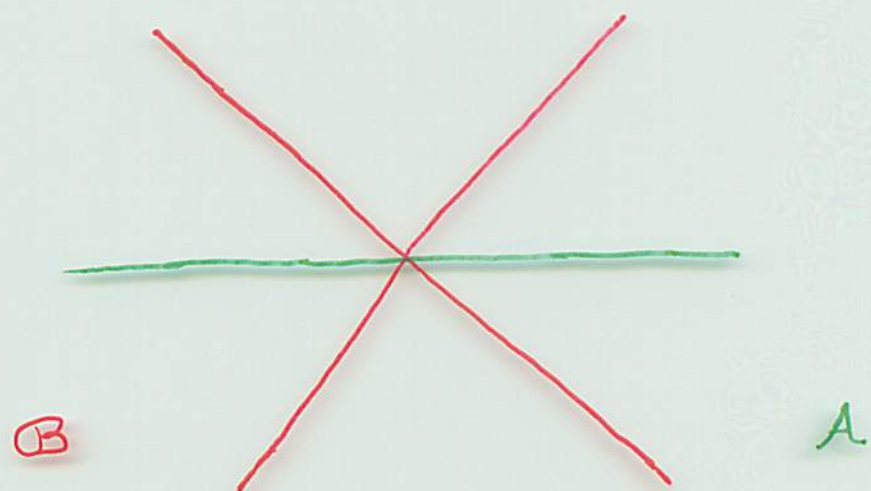
(ii) The stationary distribution π is uniform on S_n and

$$\|K_\tau^\ell - \pi\|_{TV} \leq \binom{n}{a} (1/a)^\ell$$

for every $\ell = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

It takes $\frac{3}{2} \log_a n$ steps for the walk to reach stationarity if $a=2$ (Aldous-Diaconis, 1986 ; Bayer-Diaconis, 1992) ; the answer is $\frac{3}{2} \log_a n$ in general.

Let \mathcal{A} be any arrangement in $V = \mathbb{R}^n$
 and $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ be a subarrangement.



Recall that

$$K_A(c, c') = \sum_{Fc = c'} w(F), \quad c, c' \in \mathcal{C}_A$$

is the transition matrix of the BHR walk
 on \mathcal{C}_A . At each step of the walk,
 record the chamber $D \in \mathcal{C}_B$ of \mathcal{B} in
 which the current chamber $C \in \mathcal{C}_A$ lies.

This process defines a Markov subchain of the Markov chain

$$C_0, F_1 C_0, F_2 F_1 C_0, F_3 F_2 F_1 C_0, \dots$$

Indeed, given $D, D' \in \mathcal{C}_B$ and choosing $C \in \mathcal{C}_A$ with $C \subseteq D$, the probability

$$K_B(D, D') = \sum_{\substack{C' \in \mathcal{C}_A \\ C' \subseteq D'}} K_A(C, C')$$

of moving from D into D' is independent of the chamber $C \subseteq D$ of A chosen.

Question: What can one say about the analysis of these subchains on \mathcal{C}_B ?

Note: In a special case, this was considered by J.-C. Uyemura Reyes, 2002.

Motivation: Let A be the braid arrangement in $V = \mathbb{R}^n$, so that $B \in A$ corresponds to a simple graph $G \subseteq \binom{[n]}{2}$ on the node set $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

- If $G = \{\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \dots, \{1, k\}\}$ for some k , $2 \leq k \leq n$, then the subchain records the position of 1 relative to each of $2, \dots, k$ at each step of the walk.
- If $G = \binom{[k]}{2}$ for some $2 \leq k \leq n$, then the subchain records the position of $1, 2, \dots, k$ relative to each other.
- If $G = \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}, \dots, \{n-1, n\}\}$, then the subchain records the descent set

$$\text{Des}(\tau^{-1})$$

of the permutation τ^{-1} .

Back to the general case of an arrangement \mathcal{A} in $V = \mathbb{R}^n$, subarrangement $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ and probability measure w on $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{A}}$.

Lemma: We have

$$K_{\mathcal{B}}(D, D') = \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{B}} \\ FD = D'}} w^*(F)$$

for $D, D' \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{B}}$, where

$$w^*(F) = \sum_{\substack{E \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{A}} \\ E \subseteq F}} w(E)$$

for $F \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Note: For W in the intersection poset $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{B}}$ of \mathcal{B} we have

$$\sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{B}} \\ F \subseteq W}} w^*(F) = \lambda_W = \sum_{\substack{E \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{A}} \\ E \subseteq W}} w(E).$$

Corollary: (A - Diaconis, 2008)

Let \mathcal{L}_B denote the intersection poset of B and μ_B denote the Möbius function of \mathcal{L}_B .

(a) The matrix K_B is diagonalizable over \mathbb{R} and its eigenvalues are included among those of K_A . Specifically,

$$\det(xI - K_B) = \prod_{w \in \mathcal{L}_B} (x - \lambda_w)^{n_w},$$

where

$$n_w = |\mu_B(\hat{0}, w)| = (-1)^{\text{codim}(w, v)} \mu_B(v, w).$$

(b) K_B has a unique stationary distribution π_B if and only if for each $H \in B$ there exists a face $E \in \mathcal{F}_A$ such that $E \not\leq H$ and $\omega(E) > 0$.

Moreover, assuming π_B exists :

(c) Sample without replacement from ω , thus getting an ordering E_1, E_2, \dots, E_m of $\{E \in \mathcal{F}_A : \omega(E) > 0\}$. Let $C = E_1 E_2 \dots E_m \in \mathcal{C}_A$ and assume that π_A exists. Then the unique $D \in \mathcal{C}_B$ which contains C is a chamber distributed from π_B .

Equivalently, we have

$$\pi_B(D) = \sum_{\substack{C \in \mathcal{C}_A \\ C \subseteq D}} \pi_A(C)$$

for each $D \in \mathcal{C}_B$.

(d) We have

$$\|K_B^\ell - \pi_B\|_{TV} \leq \sum_{H \in \mathcal{B}} \lambda_H^\ell,$$

where $K_B^\ell(D') = K_B^\ell(D, D')$ for some arbitrary but fixed initial chamber $D \in \mathcal{C}_B$ and every $D' \in \mathcal{C}_B$.

Subarrangements of the braid arrangement

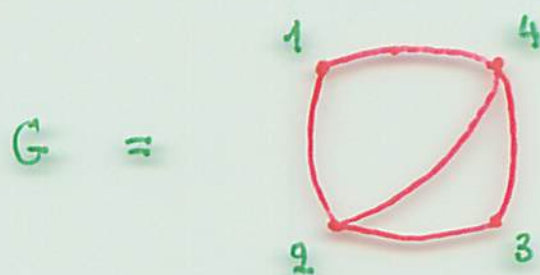
Let \mathcal{A} be the braid arrangement in \mathbb{R}^n .

Then $\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{A}$ is the graphical arrangement corresponding to a simple graph

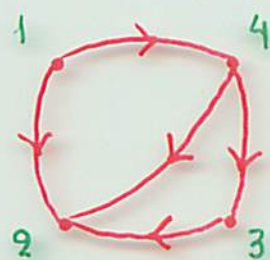
$$G \in \binom{[n]}{2}$$

on the node set $[n]$ and $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{B}}$ bijects to the set of acyclic orientations of G .

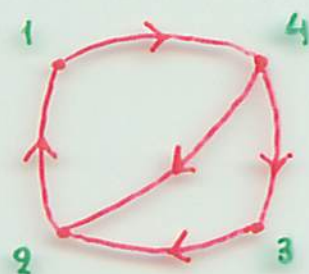
Example:



\mathcal{B} consists of $x_1 = x_2$, $x_1 = x_4$, $x_2 = x_3$, $x_2 = x_4$, $x_3 = x_4$.



acyclic



not acyclic

Lets focus on our two standard measures on \mathcal{F}_A .

RANDOM TO TOP: We are given positive numbers w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n summing to 1, assigned to the nodes $1, 2, \dots, n$ of G .



The walk proceeds from the current acyclic orientation of G by picking node i with probability w_i and redirecting towards i every edge of G incident to i .

Corollary: (i) The corresponding transition matrix K on the set of acyclic orientations of G (is diagonalizable over \mathbb{R} and) satisfies

$$\det(xI - K) = \prod_{s \in [n]} (x - \lambda_s)^{m_s}$$

where

$$\lambda_s = \sum_{i \in s} w_i$$

and

$$m_s = \sum_{t \supseteq s} (-1)^{|t \setminus s|} n_t,$$

where n_t is the number of acyclic orientations of $G \setminus t$.

(ii) The stationary distribution is given by

$$\pi(o) = \sum_{\tau \in L(o)} \frac{w_{\tau(1)} w_{\tau(2)} \cdots w_{\tau(n)}}{(1 - w_{\tau(1)}) (1 - w_{\tau(1)} - w_{\tau(2)}) \cdots (1 - w_{\tau(1)} - \cdots - w_{\tau(n-1)})}$$

where $L(o)$ is the set of linear extensions of the acyclic orientation o of G , i.e. permutations $\tau \in S_n$ such that $\tau^{-1}(i) < \tau^{-1}(j)$ whenever there is an edge $j \rightarrow i$ in o .

(iii) We have

$$\|K^e - \pi\|_{TV} \leq \sum_{\{i,j\} \in G} (1 - w_i - w_j)^e.$$

In particular

$$\|K^e - \pi\|_{TV} \leq m \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right)^e,$$

where m is the number of edges of G , if $w_1 = w_2 = \dots = w_n = \frac{1}{n}$.

INVERSE α -SHUFFLES: The walk proceeds from a given acyclic orientation of G by picking uniformly at random a weak ordered set partition

$$(B_1, B_2, \dots, B_\alpha)$$

of the node set $[n]$, with α parts, and redirecting from v to u each edge $\{u, v\}$ of G with $u \in B_i$, $v \in B_j$ and $i < j$.

Corollary: (i) The corresponding transition matrix K is diagonalizable over \mathbb{R} and satisfies

$$\det(xI - K) = \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} \left(x - \frac{1}{a_i}\right)^{m_i}$$

where

$$\chi_G(q) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (-1)^i m_i q^{n-i}$$

is the chromatic polynomial of G .

(i) The stationary distribution is given by

$$\pi(o) = \frac{e(o)}{n!},$$

where $e(o)$ is the number of linear extensions of the acyclic orientation o of G .

(ii) We have

$$\|K^e - \pi\|_{TV} \leq \frac{m}{a^e},$$

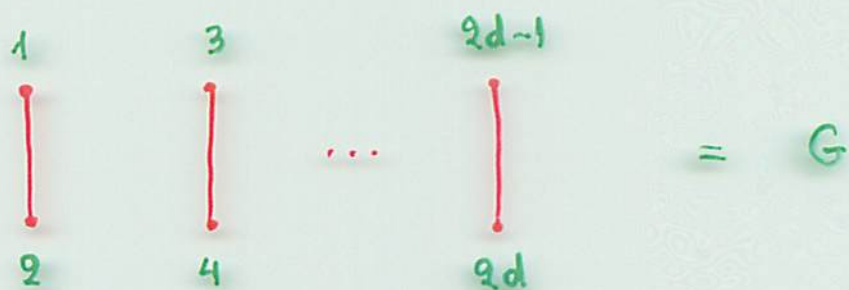
where m is the number of edges of G .

Back to the random to top measure. Assume that $w_1 = w_2 = \dots = w_n = 1/n$, so that

$$\pi(o) = \frac{e(o)}{n!},$$

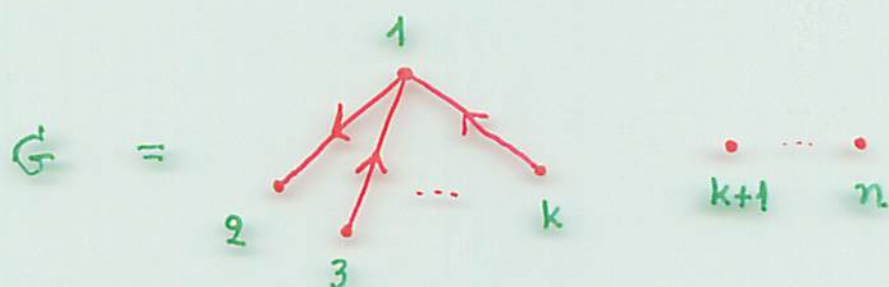
as before.

Example: Let $G = \{\{1,2\}, \{3,4\}, \dots, \{2d-1, 2d\}\}$, so that $n = 2d$.



The acyclic orientations of G are in one-to-one correspondence with the vertices of the d -dimensional cube $[0,1]^d$ and our random walk is the familiar nearest neighbor random walk on $[0,1]^d$.

Example: Let $G = \{\{1,2\}, \{1,3\}, \dots, \{1,k\}\}$, so the set of acyclic orientations of G bijects to the set of subsets of $\{2,3,\dots,k\}$.



Corollary (i) The eigenvalues of the transition matrix K are the following:

$$\begin{cases} 1, & \text{with multiplicity one,} \\ \frac{n-i-1}{n}, & \text{with multiplicity } \binom{k-1}{i} \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq k-1. \end{cases}$$

(ii) In the stationary distribution, our subset has $0, 1, \dots$ or $k-1$ elements with equal probability $1/k$ and each subset of $\{2,3,\dots,k\}$ with i elements has chance

$$\frac{1}{k \cdot \binom{k-1}{i}}.$$

iii) We have

$$\|K^{\ell} - \pi\|_{TV} \leq (k-1) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right)^{\ell}.$$

We can also prove

$$\|K^{\ell} - \pi\|_{TV} \leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^{\ell}$$

using the following:

Lemma: (Brown - Diaconis, 1998) For any BHR walk on an arrangement A we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|K^{\ell} - \pi\|_{TV} &\leq \text{Prob} \{F_1 \dots F_{\ell} \notin \mathcal{C}_A\} \\ &\leq \sum_{H \in A} \lambda_H^{\ell}. \end{aligned}$$

New Proof: By a coupling argument. ■

Corollary: In the above situation, $\|K^{\ell} - \pi\|_{TV}$ is bounded above by the probability that ℓ vertices of G , chosen uniformly at random (with repetition allowed) do not cover all edges of G .

Example: Let $G = \{\{1,2\}, \{2,3\}, \dots, \{n-1,n\}\}$.



The acyclic orientations of G are again in bijection with the subsets of $[n-1]$.

Corollary (i) The eigenvalues of the transition matrix K are $0, 1/n, \dots, \frac{n-2}{n}$ and 1 . For $0 \leq k \leq n$, the multiplicity of the eigenvalue k/n is equal to the number of compositions of n with exactly k parts equal to 1 .

(ii) The stationary distribution π satisfies

$$\pi(S) = \frac{1}{n!} \# \{ \tau \in S_n : \text{Des}(\tau) = S \}$$

for each $S \subseteq [n-1]$.

(iii) We have

$$\|K^{\ell} - \pi\|_{TV} \leq (n-1) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right)^{\ell}.$$

Enumeration of walks and eigenvalues

Let $A = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{C}^{r \times r}$ be a matrix and
let

$$f(A, \ell) = \text{tr}(A^\ell) = \sum_i a_{ii_1} a_{i_1 i_2} \cdots a_{i_{\ell-1} i}$$

for $\ell \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$.

Lemma: If $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_r \in \mathbb{C}$ are numbers
such that

$$f(A, \ell) = \lambda_1^\ell + \lambda_2^\ell + \cdots + \lambda_r^\ell$$

for all $\ell \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$, then $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_r$ are
the eigenvalues of the matrix A .

Example: If $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times 2}$, then



$$\begin{aligned} f(A, \ell) &= \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } \ell \text{ even,} \\ 0, & \text{if } \ell \text{ odd} \end{cases} \\ &= 1^\ell + (-1)^\ell \end{aligned}$$

and hence 1 and -1 are the eigenvalues of A .

Proof of BHR: In view of the Lemma, it suffices to show that

$$f(K, \ell) = \sum_{W \in \mathcal{L}} m_W \lambda_W^\ell$$

for $\ell = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, where $m_W = |\mu_\ell(\hat{0}, W)|$. By definition, we have

$$f(K, \ell) = \sum_{C \in G_\lambda} \sum_{F_1 F_2 \dots F_\ell C = C} w(F_1) w(F_2) \dots w(F_\ell).$$

Also, by Las Vergnas - Zaslavsky we have

$$\# \{C \in \mathcal{C}_\lambda : FC = C\} = \sum_{\substack{\text{aff}(F) \subseteq W \\ W \in \mathcal{L}}} m_W$$

for every $F \in \mathcal{F}_\lambda$. Hence

$$f(K, \ell) =$$

$$\sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}_A} \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_A \\ FC = C}} \sum_{F_1 \dots F_\ell = F} \omega(F_1) \omega(F_2) \dots \omega(F_\ell) =$$

$$\sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_A} \# \{ C \in \mathcal{C}_A : FC = C \} \sum_{F_1 F_2 \dots F_\ell = F} \omega(F_1) \omega(F_2) \dots \omega(F_\ell) =$$

$$\sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_A} \sum_{\substack{\text{aff}(F) \subseteq W \\ W \in \mathcal{L}}} m_W \sum_{F_1 F_2 \dots F_\ell = F} \omega(F_1) \omega(F_2) \dots \omega(F_\ell) =$$

$$\sum_{W \in \mathcal{L}} m_W \sum_{\text{aff}(F_1 \dots F_\ell) \subseteq W} \omega(F_1) \omega(F_2) \dots \omega(F_\ell) =$$

$$\sum_{W \in \mathcal{L}} m_W \sum_{F_1, \dots, F_\ell \subseteq W} \omega(F_1) \omega(F_2) \dots \omega(F_\ell) =$$

$$\sum_{W \in \mathcal{L}} m_W \left(\sum_{F \subseteq W} \omega(F) \right)^\ell = \sum_{W \in \mathcal{L}} m_W (\lambda_W)^\ell.$$