

Random walks in semigroups:  
stability and sensitivity

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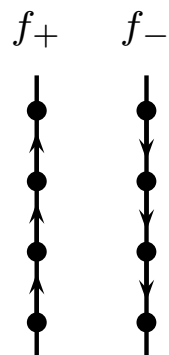
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A talk on RW

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Durham

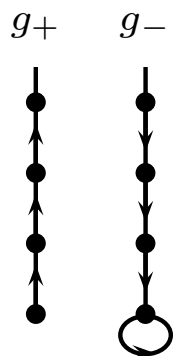
EXAMPLE 1 (trivial).  $f_-, f_+ : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ ,



$$f_-(x) = x - 1, \quad f_+(x) = x + 1$$

$$f_a(x) = x + a$$

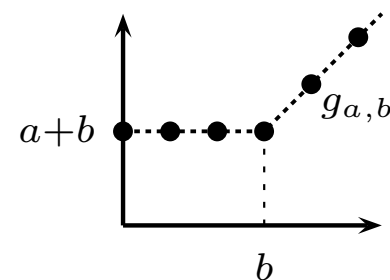
EXAMPLE 2.  $g_-, g_+ : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$ ,



$$g_+(x) = x + 1, \quad g_-(x) = \max(0, x - 1),$$

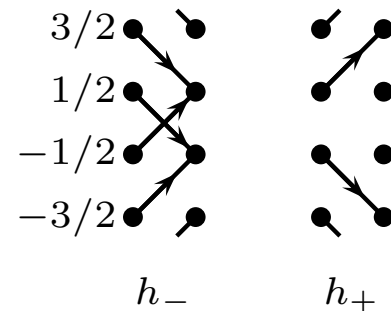
$$g_{a,b}(x) = a + \max(x, b)$$

for  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $b \geq 0$ ,  $a + b \geq 0$ .

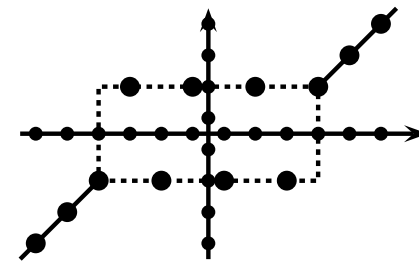


EXAMPLE 3.  $h_-, h_+ : \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 h_-(x) &= x - 1 \\
 h_+(x) &= x + 1 \quad \text{for } x \in (\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}) \cap (0, \infty), \\
 h_-(-x) &= -h_-(x), \quad h_+(-x) = -h_+(x).
 \end{aligned}$$



$$h_{a,b}(x) = \begin{cases} x + a & \text{for } x \geq b, \\ x - a & \text{for } x \leq -b, \\ (-1)^{b-x}(a + b) & \text{for } -b \leq x \leq b; \end{cases}$$



$$b, a + b \in (\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}) \cap (0, \infty) = \{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \dots\}.$$

In fact,  $|h_{a,b}(x)| - \frac{1}{2} = g_{a,b}(|x| - \frac{1}{2})$ .

Algebraically:

| semigroup | generators | relations               |
|-----------|------------|-------------------------|
| $G_1$     | $f_-, f_+$ | $f_- f_+ = 1 = f_+ f_-$ |
| $G_2$     | $g_-, g_+$ | $g_+ g_- = 1$           |
| $G_3$     | $h_-, h_+$ | $h_+ h_- = 1$           |

$f_a = f_+^a$  or  $f_-^{-a}$  for  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ;

$g_{a,b} = g_-^b g_+^{a+b}$  for  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $b \geq 0$ ,  $a + b \geq 0$ ;

the same for  $h_{a,b}$ .

$G_1$  is commutative;  $G_2$  and  $G_3$  are isomorphic, noncommutative.

Example 1: a representation of  $G_1$ ; Example 2: a representation of  $G_2$ ;

Example 3: a two-sheeted representation of  $G_2$ ? What about three-sheeted?

Random walk in a semigroup  $G$  with given generators  $x_-, x_+$ :

$$\xi_n(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots) = x_{\omega_1} \dots x_{\omega_n} \text{ for } \omega_1, \omega_2, \dots = \pm 1.$$

Perturbation:

$$\xi_n = \xi_n(\omega_1, \dots), \quad \xi'_n = \xi_n(\omega'_1, \dots),$$

$$\mathbb{E}\omega_k\omega'_k = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{for } k \notin A, \\ 0 & \text{for } k \in A; \end{cases}; \quad |A| = \varepsilon n. \quad \mathbb{E}\omega_k\omega'_l = 0 \text{ for } k \neq l.$$



Equivalent in the commutative case.

DEF. A function  $\varphi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $n$ -stable if  $\mathbb{E}|\varphi(\xi_n) - \varphi(\xi'_n)|^2 \leq \varepsilon$  for all  $\varepsilon \in \{\frac{1}{n}, \frac{2}{n}, \dots, 1\}$ .

DEF. Metric  $\rho_n$  on  $G$  (possibly  $+\infty$ ):

$$\rho_n(x, y) = \sup\{|\varphi(x) - \varphi(y)| : \varphi \text{ is } n\text{-stable}\}.$$

Depends on  $A$  (left,  $\dots$ , scattered), unless  $G$  is commutative.

EXAMPLE 1 (commutative;  $G_1 = \{f_a : a \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cong \mathbb{Z}$ )

$$\rho_n(f_a, f_{a+2}) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty;$$

$$\rho_n(f_a, f_{a+1}) = \infty.$$

$$\varphi(x) = \text{const} \cdot \frac{x}{\sqrt{n}} \text{ is } n\text{-stable.}$$

Roughly, an  $n$ -stable function of  $f_a \in G_1$  is a continuous function of  $a/\sqrt{n}$  and  $(-1)^a$ .

And no wonder;  $\xi_n = f_a$  with  $a + n \in 2\mathbb{Z}$  always.

EXAMPLE 2 (noncommutative;  $G_2 = \{g_{a,b} : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, b \geq 0, a + b \geq 0\}$ )

$\xi_n = g_{a,b}$  with  $n + a \in \mathbb{Z}$  always (but  $b$  can be of any parity).

$A = \text{[rectangle with shaded right end]}$  : an  $n$ -stable function of  $g_{a,b} \in G_2$  is a continuous function of  $a/\sqrt{n}$  and  $(-1)^a$ , but arbitrary function of  $b$ .

$A = \text{[rectangle with shaded left end]}$  : ... continuous function of  $(a - b)/\sqrt{n}$  and  $(-1)^{a-b}$ , but arbitrary function of  $a + b$ .

$A = \text{[rectangle with shaded left and right ends]}$  : continuous function of  $a/\sqrt{n}$ ,  $b/\sqrt{n}$ ,  $(-1)^a$  and  $(-1)^b$ .

$A = \text{[rectangle with shaded center and green arrows pointing outwards]}$  : the same.

$A = \text{[rectangle with shaded center and green arrows pointing inwards]}$  : continuous function of  $a/\sqrt{n}$ ,  $b/\sqrt{n}$  and  $(-1)^a$ .

Just two-sheeted! (representation of  $G_2$ )

Different modes of perturbation lead to different scaling limits.

discrete time  
*n*-stable?

scaling  
 →  
 limit

continuous time



yes

yes

classical

yes

no

nonclassical

no

not at all

$G_1$

classical (Brownian motion, white noise)

$G_2$

nonclassical (Warren's noise of splitting)

$\{-1, +1\}$

not at all



Homomorphism  $G_2 \rightarrow G_1$ ,

$$g_- \mapsto f_- ,$$

$$g_+ \mapsto f_+ ,$$

$$g_{a,b} = g_-^b g_+^{a+b} \mapsto f_-^b f_+^{a+b} = f_a .$$

Random walk in  $G_2$ ,

$$g_{\omega_1} \cdots g_{\omega_n} = g_{a_n, b_n} ,$$

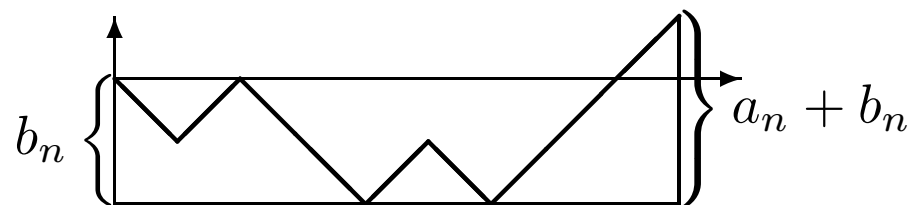
and in  $G_1$ ,

$$f_{\omega_1} \cdots f_{\omega_n} = f_{a_n} , \quad a_n = \omega_1 + \cdots + \omega_n ,$$

related:

$$b_n = 0 - \min(a_0, \dots, a_n) ,$$

$$a_n + b_n = a_n - \min(a_0, \dots, a_n) .$$



Scaling limit:

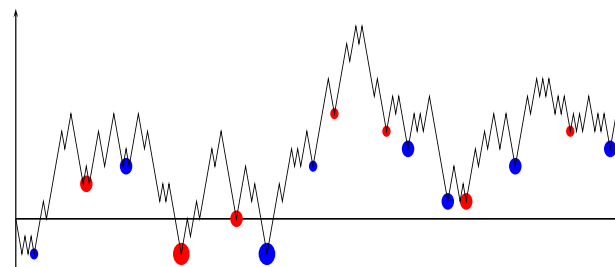
$$\frac{a_k}{\sqrt{n}} \rightarrow w\left(\frac{k}{n}\right), \quad w = \text{Brownian motion},$$

$$\frac{b_k}{\sqrt{n}} \rightarrow - \min_{[0, k/n]} w(\cdot),$$

$$(-1)^{b_k} = (-1)^{\sqrt{n} \min_{[0, k/n]} w(\cdot)} \rightarrow ?$$

Warren's noise of splitting:

Brownian paths with **independent**  
random signs attached to local minima.



(countable, dense)