



The Brownian Rabbit and scaling limits of preferential attachment trees





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I. PREFERENTIAL ATTACHMENT AND INFLUENCE OF THE SEED

II. LOOPTREES AND PREFERENTIAL ATTACHMENT

III. EXTENSIONS AND CONJECTURES



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TREES BUILT BY PREFERENTIAL ATTACHMENT



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(animation of preferential attachment here)

This is the preferential attachement model (Szymánski '87; Albert & Barabási '99; Bollobás, Riordan, Spencer & Tusnády '01).

INFLUENCE OF THE SEED



Question (Bubeck, Mossel & Rácz): What is the influence of the seed tree?

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Four simulations of $T_n^{(S_1)}$ for n = 5000:



Four simulations of $T_n^{(S_2)}$ for n = 5000:





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For finite trees S_1 and S_2 , set

$$\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{S}_1, \mathbf{S}_2) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbf{d}_{\mathsf{TV}}(\mathsf{T}_n^{(\mathsf{S}_1)}, \mathsf{T}_n^{(\mathsf{S}_2)}),$$

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where d_{TV} denotes the total variation distance for random variables taking values in the space of finite trees $(d_{TV}(X, Y) = \sup_{A} |\mathbb{P}(X \in A) - \mathbb{P}(Y \in A)|)$.

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Proposition (Bubeck, Mossel & Rácz '14)

The function d is a pseudo-metric.

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Conjecture (Bubeck, Mossel & Rácz '14)

The function d is a metric on trees with at least 3 vertices.

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For finite trees S_1 and S_2 , set

$$d(S_1, S_2) = \lim_{n \to \infty} d_{TV}(T_n^{(S_1)}, T_n^{(S_2)}),$$

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- \bigwedge The graph structure of $T_n^{(S)}$ is that of preferential attachment.

Our observables: embeddings of decorated trees

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If T is a plane tree, $D_{\tau}(T)$ denotes the number of decorated embeddings of τ in T.

I.e. $D_{\tau}(T)$ is the number of ways to embed τ in T s.t. each arrow pointing to a vertex of τ is associated with a corner of T adjacent to the corresponding vertex (distinct arrows associated with distinct corners).



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Hence there exist constants α_n , β_n such that

$$M_2(n) = \alpha_n D_{\tau_2}(T_n^{(S)}) - \beta_n$$

is a martingale.

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- What about $D_{\tau_3}(T_n^{(S)})$?

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Hence there exist constants a_n , b_n , c_n such that

$$M_{3}(n) = a_{n}D_{\tau_{3}}(T_{n}^{(S)}) + b_{n}D_{\tau_{2}}(T_{n}^{(S)}) - c_{n}$$

is a martingale.



Proposition.

There exists a partial order \preccurlyeq on decorated trees, such that for every decorated tree τ , there exist constants $\{c_n(\tau, \tau') : \tau' \preccurlyeq \tau, n \ge 2\}$ such that, for every seed S,

$$\mathsf{M}_{\tau}^{(S)}(\mathfrak{n}) = \sum_{\tau' \preccurlyeq \tau} c_{\mathfrak{n}}(\tau, \tau') \cdot \mathsf{D}_{\tau'}(\mathsf{T}_{\mathfrak{n}}^{(S)})$$

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More generally:

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$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathsf{d}_{\mathsf{TV}}(\mathsf{T}_n^{(S_1)}, \mathsf{T}_n^{(S_2)}) \ge \liminf_{n \to \infty} \mathsf{d}_{\mathsf{TV}}(\mathsf{M}_\tau^{(S_1)}(n), \mathsf{M}_\tau^{(S_2)}(n))$$

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 $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathsf{d}_{\mathsf{TV}}(\mathsf{T}_n^{(S_1)},\mathsf{T}_n^{(S_2)}) \geqslant \liminf_{n\to\infty} \mathsf{d}_{\mathsf{TV}}(\mathsf{M}_\tau^{(S_1)}(n),\mathsf{M}_\tau^{(S_2)}(n)) > 0.$

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 $\wedge \rightarrow$ Answer: no.

Discrete looptrees

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Figure : A plane tree τ and its associated discrete looptree Loop(τ).

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Figure : A plane tree τ and its associated discrete looptree $\text{Loop}(\tau)$.

We view $Loop(\tau)$ as a compact metric space.

Scaling limits of trees built by preferential attachment

Theorem (Curien, Duquesne, K., Manolescu).

There exists a random compact metric space $\mathcal{L}^{(S)}$ such that:

$$n^{-1/2} \cdot \text{Loop}(\mathsf{T}_n^{(S)}) \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{a.s.} \mathcal{L}^{(S)},$$

where the convergence holds almost surely for the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Gromov-Hausdorff}}$ topology.

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We will see that $n^{1/2}$ is the order of large degrees in $T_n^{(S)}$.

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Figure : The looptree of a large tree built by preferential attachement.

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Proposition (Rémy '85)

For every fixed $n \ge 1$, the tree B_n is uniformly distributed over the set of all binary trees with n + 1 labeled leaves.

↓ Useful notation: for $1 \le i \le n$, denote by Span(B_n ; $A_0, A_1, \ldots, A_{i-1}$) the subtree of B_n spanned by the leaves $A_0, A_1, \ldots, A_{i-1}$.

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For n = 5, Span(B_5 ; A_0).

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Proposition (Peköz, Ross, Röllin '14)

There is a coupling between Rémy's algorithm and preferential attachment such that the degree of i at time n in $T_n^{-\circ}$ is the distance of A_i to Span $(B_n; A_0, A_1, \ldots, A_{i-1})$ for every $1 \leq i \leq n$.

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 \bigwedge **Idea**: if, at time n, a new edge is joined to vertex i in $T_n^{-\circ}$, then split an edge of the path going from A_i to $\text{Span}(B_n; A_0, A_1, \dots, A_{i-1})$.

 $26 / -\pi$

To simplify, we consider the case $S = -\infty$ of a *planted* tree with one vertex (i.e. a unique vertex with a half-edge attached to it).

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We have:

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 $\checkmark \rightarrow$ Key fact: Rémy's algorithm converges to the Brownian Continuum Random Tree.

What is the Brownian Continuum Random Tree?

First define the contour function of a tree:





What is the Brownian Continuum Random Tree?

Knowing the contour function, it is easy to recover the tree by gluing:

(animation here)

What is the Brownian Continuum Random Tree?

The Brownian tree $\ensuremath{\mathbb{T}}$ is obtained by gluing from the Brownian excursion e.



Figure : A simulation of e.

A simulation of the Brownian CRT



Figure : A non isometric plane embedding of a realization of $\mathbb{T}_e.$

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Then

$$\mathfrak{n}^{-1/2} \cdot \operatorname{Glu}(\mathbf{B}_n) \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{a.s.} \mathcal{L}.$$

and hence

$$n^{-1/2} \cdot \operatorname{Loop}(\mathsf{T}_n^{-\circ}) \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{a.s.} \mathcal{L},$$

I. PREFERENTIAL ATTACHMENT AND INFLUENCE OF THE SEED

II. LOOPTREES AND PREFERENTIAL ATTACHMENT

III. EXTENSIONS AND CONJECTURES



Let μ be a critical $(\sum_{i \ge 0} i\mu_i = 1)$ probability measure on $\{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$ and let \mathcal{T}_n be a μ -Galton–Watson tree conditioned to have n vertices.

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Theorem (Curien, Haas & K. '13).
If
$$\mu$$
 has finite variance σ^2 (and an exponential moment), then
 $n^{-1/2} \cdot \text{Loop}(\mathfrak{T}_n) \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{} \frac{(d)}{n \to \infty} \quad \frac{2}{\sigma} \cdot \frac{1}{4} \left(\sigma^2 + 4 - (\mu_0 + \mu_2 + \mu_4 + \cdots) \right) \cdot \mathfrak{T}_e.$



Figure : A non isometric plane embedding of a realization of a looptree of a large critical Galton–Watson tree with finite variance.



Theorem (Curien & K. '13). Fix $\alpha \in (1, 2)$ and assume that $\mu_i \sim C/i^{1+\alpha}$ as $i \to \infty$. There exists a random compact metric space \mathcal{L}_{α} such that

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and is called the stable looptree of index α . In addition, $\mathcal{L}_{3/2}$ is the scaling limit of the boundary of (critical) site percolation on Angel & Schramm's Uniform Infinite Planar Triangulation.



Figure : A non isometric plane embedding of a realization of $\mathcal{L}_{3/2}$, the stable looptree of index 3/2.

Conjectures: back to preferential attachment

Question.

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For every plane trees S_1, S_2 , we have $\lim_{n \to \infty} d_{TV}(T_n^{(S_1)}, T_n^{(S_2)}) = d_{TV}(\mathcal{L}^{(S_1)}, \mathcal{L}^{(S_2)}).$