Pathwise duality for monotone interacting particle systems.

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Monday, January 8th, 2024

Let G = (V, E) be a graph with vertex set V and edge set E.

An *automorphism* of G is a bijection $\psi : V \to V$ such that $\{\psi(v), \psi(w)\} \in E \iff \{v, w\} \in E$.

We say that G is vertex transitive if for each $v, w \in V$ there exists an automorphism ψ such that $\psi(v) = w$.

If G is vertex transitive then each vertex v has the same degree

$$\Delta := \# \big\{ w \in V : \{ v, w \} \in E \big\}.$$

We call Δ the degree of G.

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Let G = (V, E) be a vertex transitive graph of degree $\Delta \ge 2$. Let $S := \{0, 1\}^V$ be the space of all functions $x : V \to \{0, 1\}$. Vertices with x(i) = 0 and = 1 are called *vacant* and *occupied*. Let $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ and $\delta \ge 0$ be constants.

Consider the Markov process $(X_t)_{t\geq 0}$ with state space S that evolves as follows:

- With rate 1 α, each vacant vertex selects one neighbouring vertex uniformly at random and becomes occupied if this neighbour is occupied.
- With rate α, each vacant vertex selects two neighbouring vertices uniformly at random from all ways to do so, and becomes occupied if both these neighbours are occupied.
- With rate δ , each occupied vertex becomes vacant.

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Let
$$S_{\mathrm{fin}} := \left\{ x \in S : |x| < \infty \right\}$$
 with $|x| := \sum_{i \in S} x(i)$.

Let $\underline{0}, \underline{1} \in S$ denote the all zero and all one configurations. We say that the process with parameters α and δ survives if

$$\mathbb{P}^{x} ig[X_t
eq \underline{0} \ orall t \geq 0 ig] > 0 \quad ext{for some } x \in S_{ ext{fin}}.$$

Standard theory for monotone systems implies that

$$\mathbb{P}^{\underline{1}}[X_t \in \cdot] \underset{t \to \infty}{\Longrightarrow} \overline{\nu},$$

where $\overline{\nu}$ is the *upper invariant law*. For all values of α and δ ,

• either $\overline{\nu}$ is *trivial* in the sense that $\overline{\nu} = \delta_0$,

• or $\overline{\nu}$ is *nontrivial* in the sense that $\overline{\nu}(\{\underline{0}\}) = 0$.

If $\overline{\nu}$ is nontrivial, then we say the process is *stable*.

For $\alpha = 0$ the process is a *contact process* with infection rate 1 and death rate δ .

Self-duality of the contact process implies:

stability \Leftrightarrow survival.

In fact

$$\mathbb{P}^{\mathsf{x}}\big[X_t \neq \underline{0} \ \forall t \ge 0\big] = \int \overline{\nu}(\mathrm{d} y) \mathbb{1}_{\big\{x \land y \neq \underline{0}\big\}}.$$

For $\alpha = 1$ the process has only *cooperative branching*.

On $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$ with nearest-neighbour edges, the process cannot escape (hyper-) rectangles and hence does not survive for any $\delta > 0$.

On the other hand, a result of Lawrence Gray (1999) shows that in dimensions $d \ge 2$ the upper invariant law is nontrivial for δ small enough.

Numerical data



Conjectured phase diagram



Conjectured phase diagram



Define branching maps, cooperative branching maps, and death maps by

$$ext{bra}_{ij}(x)(k) := \left\{egin{array}{ll} x(i) \lor x(j) & ext{if } k = j, \ x(k) & ext{otherwise.} \end{array}
ight.$$
 $ext{cob}_{ii'j}(x)(k) := \left\{egin{array}{ll} (x(i) \land x(i')) \lor x(j) & ext{if } k = j, \ x(k) & ext{otherwise.} \end{array}
ight.$
 $ext{dth}_j(x)(k) := \left\{egin{array}{ll} 0 & ext{if } k = j, \ x(k) & ext{otherwise.} \end{array}
ight.$

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Let
$$\mathcal{N}_j := \{i \in V : \{i, j\} \in E\}$$

and $\mathcal{N}_j^2 := \{(i, i') \in V : \{i, j\} \in E, \ \{i, j\} \in E, \ i \neq i'\}.$

Then the generator of the process can be written as

$$egin{aligned} Lf(x) &:= (1-lpha) \sum_{j \in V} rac{1}{|\mathcal{N}_j|} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_j} \left\{ f\left(\mathtt{bra}_{ij}(x)
ight) - f\left(x
ight)
ight\} \ &+ lpha \sum_{j \in V} rac{1}{|\mathcal{N}_j^2|} \sum_{(i,i') \in \mathcal{N}_j^2} \left\{ f\left(\mathtt{cob}_{ii'j}(x)
ight) - f\left(x
ight)
ight\} \ &+ \delta \sum_{j \in V} \left\{ f\left(\mathtt{dth}_j(x)
ight) - f\left(x
ight)
ight\}. \end{aligned}$$

We wish to construct the process from a *graphical representation* by applying these maps at Poisson times.



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We equip $S = \{0, 1\}^V$ with the product topology. Let T be a finite set and $f : S \to T$. We define the set of *relevant* vertices for $f : S \to T$ as

$$\mathcal{R}(f) := \left\{ i \in V : \exists x \in S \text{ s.t. } f(x^{i,0})
eq f(x^{i,1})
ight\}$$

with

$$x^{i,\sigma}(k) := \left\{egin{array}{ll} \sigma & ext{if } k=i, \ x(k) & ext{otherwise.} \end{array}
ight.$$

Lemma $f: S \to T$ is continuous if and only if

(i)
$$\mathcal{R}(f)$$
 is finite,
(ii) $x = y$ on $\mathcal{R}(f)$ implies $f(x) = f(y)$.

For a map $m: S \to S$ and $i \in V$, we define $m[i]: S \to \{0, 1\}$ by

$$m[i](x) := m(x)(i) \qquad (x \in S, i \in V).$$

We denote the set of vertices that can be affected by m by

$$\mathcal{D}(m) := ig\{i \in V: \exists x \in S ext{ s.t. } m(x)(i)
eq x(i)ig\}.$$

Def A map $m: S \rightarrow S$ is *local* if

(i) *m* is continuous,

(ii) $\mathcal{D}(m)$ is finite.

Based on information from finitely many vertices, finitely many vertices change their value.

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Consider a generator of the form

$$Lf(x) := \sum_{m \in \mathcal{G}} r_m \{f(m(x)) - f(x)\},\$$

where G is a countable collection of local maps and $(r_m)_{m \in G}$ are nonnegative rates.

Let μ be the measure on $\mathcal{G}\times\mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$\mu(\{m\}\times[s,t]):=r_m(t-s) \qquad (m\in\mathcal{G},\ s\leq t).$$

Let ω be a Poisson point set on $\mathcal{G} \times \mathbb{R}$ with intensity μ .

Elements of ω are pairs (m, t) that have the interpretation that at time t, the local map m should be applied.

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Let $\omega_{s,u} := \{(m, t) \in \omega : s < t \le u\}$ $(s \le u)$. If μ is a finite measure, then we can define random maps $(X_{s,u})_{s \le u}$ by

The random maps $(\mathbb{X}_{s,u})_{s \leq u}$ form a *stochastic flow:*

$$\mathbb{X}_{s,s} = 1$$
 and $\mathbb{X}_{t,u} \circ \mathbb{X}_{s,t} = \mathbb{X}_{s,u}$ $(s \leq t \leq u).$

Let X_0 be independent of ω , and let $s \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$X_t := \mathbb{X}_{s,s+t}(X_0) \qquad (t \ge 0)$$

defines a Markov process $(X_t)_{t\geq 0}$ with generator L_{-}

More generally, assume that

$$\sup_{i\in\Lambda} \sum_{\substack{m\in\mathcal{G}\\\mathcal{D}(m)\ni i}} r_m \big(1+|\mathcal{R}(m([i]))|\big)<\infty.$$

Then almost surely, for each $i \in V$ and $u \in \mathbb{R}$, there exists a piecewise constant, left-continuous process

$$\left(\mathbb{X}_{u-t,u}[i]\right)_{t\geq 0}$$

taking values in the (countable!) space of continuous functions $C(S, \{0, 1\})$, such that for all $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough

$$\mathbb{X}_{u-t-\varepsilon,u}[i] = \begin{cases} \mathbb{X}_{u-t,u}[i] \circ m & \text{if } \exists (m,t) \in \omega \text{ s.t.} \\ & \mathcal{D}(m) \cap \mathcal{R}(\mathbb{X}_{u-t,u}[i]) \neq \emptyset, \\ \mathbb{X}_{u-t,u}[i] & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



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The dual process

Recall that $S := \{0, 1\}^V$. We set $T := \{0, 1\}$ and let $\mathcal{L}_+(S, T)$ denote the set of functions $f : S \to T$ that are lower semi-continuous, monotone, and satisfy $f(\underline{0}) = \underline{0}$.

Let $S_{\text{fin}}^+ := \{x \in S : 0 < |x| < \infty\}$. A minimal element of a set $Y \subset S_{\text{fin}}^+$ is an $y \in Y$ such that $\nexists y' \neq y, \ y' \leq y, \ y' \in Y$. We set $Y^\circ := \{y \in Y : y \text{ is minimal}\},$

$$\mathcal{H} := \big\{ Y \subset S_{\mathrm{fin}}^+ : Y^\circ = Y \big\}.$$

Proposition Each $Y \in \mathcal{H}$ defines a function $f_Y \in \mathcal{L}_+(S, T)$ via

$$f_Y(x) := 1_{\{\exists y \in Y \text{ s.t. } x \ge y\}} \qquad (x \in S),$$

and $\mathcal{H} \ni Y \mapsto f_Y \in \mathcal{L}_+(S, T)$ is a bijection.

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For any $f \in \mathcal{L}_+(S, T)$, let

$$Y(f) := \left\{ x \in S_{\mathrm{fin}}^+ : f(x) = 1 \right\}^\circ$$

denote the set of minimal configurations y such that f(y) = 1. Then $f \mapsto Y(f)$ is the inverse of $Y \mapsto f_Y$.

Set $\mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}} := \{ Y \in \mathcal{H} : |Y| < \infty \}$ and $\mathcal{C}_+(S, T) := \{ f \in \mathcal{L}_+(S, T) : f \text{ is continuous} \}.$ Then $f \in \mathcal{C}_+(S, T) \Leftrightarrow Y(f) \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}}.$

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Duality

Define $\psi : S \times \mathcal{H} \to T$ by

$$\psi(x, Y) := \mathbb{1}_{\{\exists y \in Y \text{ s.t. } x \ge y\}} \qquad (x \in S, \ Y \in \mathcal{H}).$$

There exists random maps $\mathbb{Y}_{u,s}:\mathcal{H}\to\mathcal{H}\ (u\geq s)$ such that

$$\psi(\mathbb{X}_{s,u}(x), Y) = \psi(x, \mathbb{Y}_{u,s}(Y)) \qquad (x \in S, Y \in \mathcal{H}, s \leq u).$$

These form a *dual stochastic flow*

$$\mathbb{Y}_{s,s} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{Y}_{t,s} \circ \mathbb{Y}_{u,t} = \mathbb{Y}_{u,s} \qquad (u \ge t \ge s).$$

If Y_0 is independent of $(\mathbb{Y}_{u,s})_{u\geq s}$ and $u\in\mathbb{R}$, then

$$Y_t := \mathbb{Y}_{u-t,u}(Y_0) \qquad (t \ge 0)$$

defines a Markov process $(Y_t)_{t\geq 0}$ with state space \mathcal{H} .

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Duality

There exists a metrisable topology on $\mathcal H$ such that

$$Y_n \to Y \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \psi(x, Y_n) \to \psi(x, Y) \quad \forall x \in S_{\text{fin}}.$$

The space \mathcal{H} is compact under this topology.

We define a partial order on ${\mathcal H}$ by

$$Y_1 \leq Y_2 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \psi(x, Y_1) \leq \psi(x, Y_2).$$

The least element of ${\mathcal H}$ in this order is \emptyset and the greatest element is

$$\top := \big\{ \mathbb{1}_{\{i\}} : i \in V \big\}.$$

One has

$$\mathbb{P}^{\top}\big[Y_t \in \,\cdot\,\big] \underset{t \to \infty}{\Longrightarrow} \overline{\mu},$$

where $\overline{\mu}$ is the *upper invariant law* of the dual process.

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Either μ̄ is trivial in the sense that μ̄ = δ_Ø,
or μ̄ is nontrivial in the sense that μ̄({Ø}) = 0.
If μ̄ is nontrivial, then we say the dual process (Y_t)_{t≥0} is stable.
We say that the dual process survives if

 $\mathbb{P}^{Y}[Y_{t} \neq \emptyset \ \forall t \geq 0] > 0 \quad \text{for some } Y \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}}.$

Theorem [Gray '86, Latz & S. '23] One has

X is stable \Leftrightarrow Y survives, X survives \Leftrightarrow Y is stable

The main novelty of our work is the construction of $(Y_t)_{t\geq 0}$ for infinite initial states.

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Let $\mathcal{H}_1 := \{ Y \in \mathcal{H} : |y| = 1 \ \forall y \in Y \}.$ We can naturally identify $Y \in \mathcal{H}_1$ with $x \in S$ defined as

$$x(i) = 1 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad 1_{\{i\}} \in Y.$$

If all maps $m \in \mathcal{G}$ are *additive* in the sense that

$$m(x \lor y) = m(x) \lor m(y)$$
 $(x, y \in S),$

then the dual stochastic flow $(\mathbb{Y}_{u,s})_{u\geq s}$ maps \mathcal{H}_1 into itself and the corresponding Markov process on $\mathcal{H}_1 \cong S$ is itself an additive particle system.

In particular, the contact process is additive and its dual is also a contact process.

Conjectured phase diagram



If X is stable but does not survive, then Y is unstable but survives. We believe that for each $i \in \mathbb{Z}^2$,

$$\begin{split} & \mathbb{P}^{\{1_{\{i\}}\}} \big[Y_t \neq \emptyset \; \forall t \geq 0 \big] > 0, \\ & \mathbb{P}^{\{1_{\{i\}}\}} \big[Y_t \underset{t \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} \emptyset \big] = 1. \end{split}$$

On the event $\{Y_t \neq \emptyset \ \forall t \geq 0\}$, we conjecture that

$$\inf\left\{|y|: y \in Y_t\right\} \xrightarrow[t \to \infty]{} \infty \qquad \text{a.s.}$$

This means that as $t \to \infty$, the maps $\mathbb{X}_{u-t,t}[i] \in \mathcal{C}_+(S, T)$ have the property that $\mathbb{X}_{u-t,t}[i](x) = 1$ requires |x| to be ever larger.

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Let G = (V, E) be the complete graph $G = K_N$ with N vertices. In the mean-field limit $N \to \infty$, the frequency of ones

$$P_t := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \in V} X_t(i)$$

solves the mean-field equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\boldsymbol{p}_t = \alpha \boldsymbol{p}_t^2 (1 - \boldsymbol{p}_t) + (1 - \alpha) \boldsymbol{p}_t (1 - \boldsymbol{p}_t) - \delta \boldsymbol{p}_t.$$
(1)

Define a (nonlinear) semigroup $(T_t)_{t\geq 0}$ of operators acting on [0,1] by

$$\mathsf{T}_t(p) := p_t$$
 where $(p_t)_{t\geq 0}$ solves (1) with $p_0 = p$.

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The mean-field limit



Fixed points of the mean-field equation for $\alpha = 0.5$ and their domains of attraction, as a function of δ .

The mean-field limit



Fixed points of the mean-field equation for $\alpha = 0.95$ and their domains of attraction, as a function of δ . Recall $\mathbf{T}_t(p) := p_t$ where $(p_t)_{t \ge 0}$ solves (1) with $p_0 = p$.

Our aim is to show that there exist random maps $F_t : \{0, 1\}^{\nabla S_t} \to \{0, 1\}$ such that

$$\mathsf{T}_t(\boldsymbol{p}) := \mathbb{P}\big[\mathsf{F}_t\big((\boldsymbol{X}_{\mathsf{i}})_{\mathsf{i}\in\boldsymbol{\nabla}\mathbb{S}_t}\big) = 1\big],$$

where $(X_i)_{i \in \nabla S_t}$ are i.i.d. with intensity p.

We can think of F_t as the mean-field limit of $\mathbb{X}_{u-t,t}[i]$.

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For (notational) simplicity we concentrate on the case $\alpha = 1$ (only cooperative branching). Define $cob : \{0,1\}^3 \rightarrow \{0,1\}$, and $dth : \{0,1\}^0 \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ by

$$cob(x_1, x_2, x_3) := x_1 \lor (x_2 \land x_3),$$
$$dth(\emptyset) := 0.$$

We set $\kappa(cob) := 3$ and $\kappa(dth) := 0$. Let $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{T}^3$ denote the space of all words $\mathbf{i} = i_1 \cdots i_n$ made from the alphabet $\{1, 2, 3\}$.



We view \mathbb{T}^3 as a tree with root $\varnothing,$ the word of length zero.



We attach i.i.d. maps $(\gamma_i)_{i\in\mathbb{T}}$ to the nodes, with

$$\mathbb{P}[\gamma_{\mathbf{i}} = cob] = rac{1}{1+\delta} \quad ext{and} \quad \mathbb{P}[\gamma_{\mathbf{i}} = dth] = rac{\delta}{1+\delta}.$$

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Let ${\mathbb S}$ be the random subtree of ${\mathbb T}$ defined as

$$\mathbb{S} := \{i_1 \cdots i_n \in \mathbb{T} : i_m \le \kappa(\gamma_{i_1 \cdots i_{m-1}}) \ \forall 1 \le m \le n\}.$$

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For any rooted subtree $\mathbb{U} \subset \mathbb{S}$, let

$$\nabla \mathbb{U} := \left\{ i_1 \cdots i_n \in \mathbb{S} : i_1 \cdots i_{n-1} \in \mathbb{U}, \ i_1 \cdots i_n \notin \mathbb{U} \right\}$$

denote the boundary of \mathbb{U} relative to \mathbb{S} .

Image: A = A = A



Given $(X_i)_{i \in \nabla U}$, we inductively define $(X_i)_{i \in U}$ by

$$X_{\mathbf{i}} = \gamma_{\mathbf{i}} (X_{\mathbf{i}1}, \dots, X_{\mathbf{i}\kappa(\gamma_{\mathbf{i}})})$$
 $(\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{U}),$



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 $(\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{U}),$



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Let $(\sigma_i)_{i \in \mathbb{T}}$ be i.i.d. exponentially distributed with mean $(1 + \delta)^{-1}$, independent of $(\gamma_i)_{i \in \mathbb{T}}$, and set

$$\begin{split} \tau_{\mathbf{i}}^* &:= \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} \sigma_{i_1 \cdots i_m} \quad \text{and} \quad \tau_{\mathbf{i}}^{\dagger} &:= \tau_{\mathbf{i}}^* + \sigma_{\mathbf{i}} \qquad (\mathbf{i} = i_1 \cdots i_n), \\ \mathbb{S}_t &:= \left\{ \mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{S} : \tau_{\mathbf{i}}^{\dagger} \leq t \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \mathbb{S}_t = \left\{ \mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{S} : \tau_{\mathbf{i}}^* \leq t < \tau_{\mathbf{i}}^{\dagger} \right\}. \end{split}$$

Let \mathcal{F}_t be the filtration

$$\mathcal{F}_t := \sigma \left(\nabla \mathbb{S}_t, (\gamma_i, \sigma_i)_{i \in \mathbb{S}_t} \right) \qquad (t \ge 0).$$

Theorem [Mach, Sturm, S. '20]

$$\mathsf{T}_t(\boldsymbol{p}) := \mathbb{P}\big[\mathsf{F}_{\mathbb{S}_t}\big((X_{\mathsf{i}})_{\mathsf{i}\in\nabla\mathbb{S}_t}\big) = 1\big]$$

where $(X_i)_{i \in \nabla S_t}$ are i.i.d. with intensity p and independent of \mathcal{F}_t .



For any rooted subtree $\mathbb{U}\subset\mathbb{T},$ let

$$\partial \mathbb{U} := \left\{ i_1 \cdots i_n \in \mathbb{T} : i_1 \cdots i_{n-1} \in \mathbb{U}, \ i_1 \cdots i_n \notin \mathbb{U} \right\}$$

denote the boundary of \mathbb{U} relative to \mathbb{T} .

For each fixed point p of the mean-field equation, there exists a *Recursive Tree Process* (*RTP*) $(\gamma_i, X_i)_{i \in \mathbb{T}}$, unique in law, such that:

- (i) $(\gamma_i)_{i \in \mathbb{T}}$ are i.i.d. with law as before.
- (ii) For finite U ⊂ T, the r.v.'s (X_i)_{i∈∂U} are i.i.d. with intensity p and independent of (γ_i)_{i∈U}.

(iii) $X_{\mathbf{i}} = \gamma_{\mathbf{i}} (X_{\mathbf{i}1}, \dots, X_{\mathbf{i}\kappa(\gamma_{\mathbf{i}})})$ $(\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{T}).$

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Fixed points of the mean-field equation for $\alpha = 1$ and their domains of attraction, as a function of δ . Aldous and Bandyopadyay (2005) say that an RTP is endogenous if

 X_{\varnothing} is measurable w.r.t. the σ -field generated by $(\gamma_i)_{i \in \mathbb{T}}$.

In our case, it has been shown that the RTP's corresponding to the stable fixed points p_{low} and p_{up} are endogenous but the RTP corresponding to the unstable fixed point p_{mid} is not.