

The mean-field dual of systems with cooperative reproduction

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Continuous-time Markov chains

Let S be a finite set and let $G : S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfy

- ▶ $G(x, y) \geq 0 \ \forall x \neq y,$
- ▶ $\sum_y G(x, y) = 0.$

Then G is a *Markov generator* and

$$P_t = e^{tG} := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (tG)^n,$$

defines a semigroup of probability kernels on S , i.e., $P_t(x, y) \geq 0$ and $\sum_y P_t(x, y) = 1$. For each probability law μ on S , there exists a Markov process $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ with initial law $\mathbb{P}[X_0 = x] = \mu(x)$ ($x \in S$) and transition probabilities

$$\mathbb{P}[X_u = y \mid (X_s)_{s \leq t}] = P_{u-t}(X_t, y) \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (y \in S).$$

Stochastic flows

Let \mathcal{M} be a set whose elements are maps $m : S \rightarrow S$ and let $(r_m)_{m \in \mathcal{M}}$ be nonnegative constants. Then

$$Gf(x) := \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_m \{f(m(x)) - f(x)\}$$

defines a Markov generator. Let ω be a Poisson point set on $\mathcal{M} \times \mathbb{R}$ with intensity $r_m dt$. We may order the elements of

$$\omega_{s,u} := \{(m, t) \in \omega : t \in (s, u]\} = \{(m_1, t_1), \dots, (m_n, t_n)\}$$

in such a way that $t_1 < \dots < t_n$. Then

$$\mathbf{X}_{s,u} := m_n \circ \dots \circ m_1.$$

defines a stochastic flow: $\mathbf{X}_{t,u} \circ \mathbf{X}_{s,t} = \mathbf{X}_{s,u}$ a.s.

(Poisson construction of Markov processes) Define maps $(\mathbf{X}_{s,t})_{s \leq t}$ as above in terms of a Poisson point set ω . Let X_0 be an S -valued random variable, independent of ω . Then

$$X_t := \mathbf{X}_{0,t}(X_0) \quad (t \geq 0)$$

is a Markov process with generator G .

Remark The sample paths of X are right-continuous because we defined $\omega_{s,u} := \{(m, t) \in \omega : t \in (s, u]\}$.

The contact process

Let (Λ, E) be a finite graph with vertex set Λ and edge set E .

Let $S := \{0, 1\}^\Lambda$.

For each $i \in \Lambda$, define a *death map* $\text{dth}_i : S \rightarrow S$ by

$$\text{dth}_i(x)(k) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j = k, \\ x(k) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

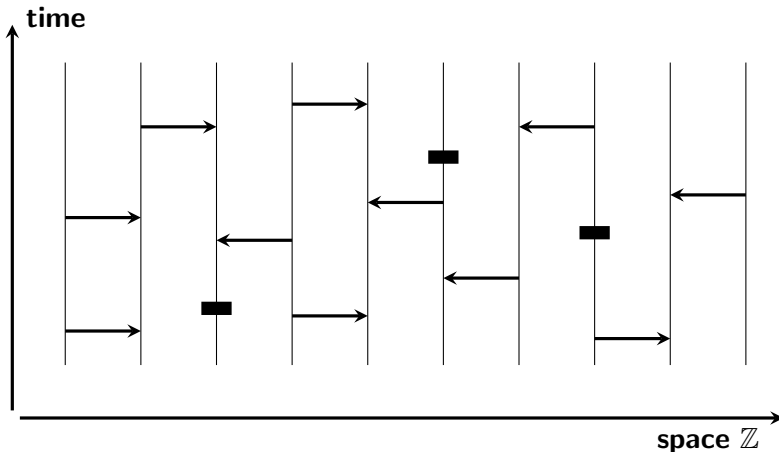
For each (i, j) with $\{i, j\} \in E$, define a *reproduction map* $\text{rep}_{ij} : S \rightarrow S$ by

$$\text{rep}_{ij}(x)(k) := \begin{cases} x(i) \vee x(j) & \text{if } k = j, \\ x(k) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Fix $\lambda \geq 0$ and give death and reproduction maps the rates

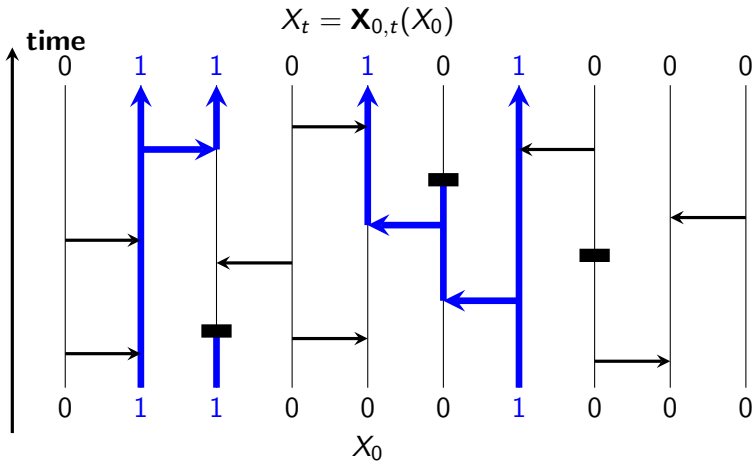
$$r_{\text{dth}_i} := 1 \quad \text{and} \quad r_{\text{rep}_{ij}} := \lambda.$$

The graphical representation



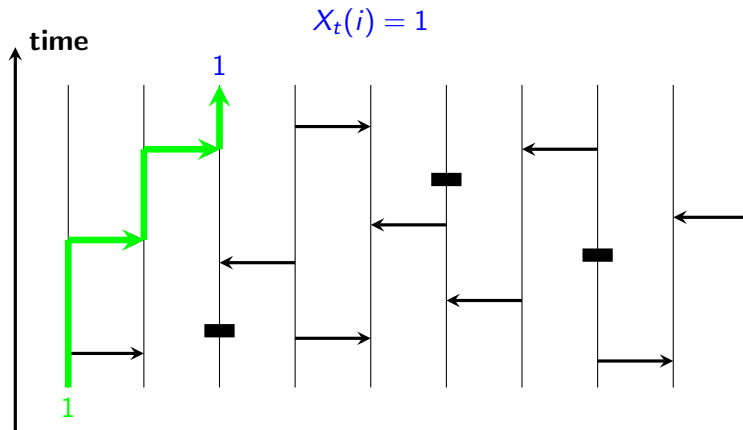
We denote rep_{ij} by an arrow from i to j
and dth_i by a rectangle at i .

The graphical representation

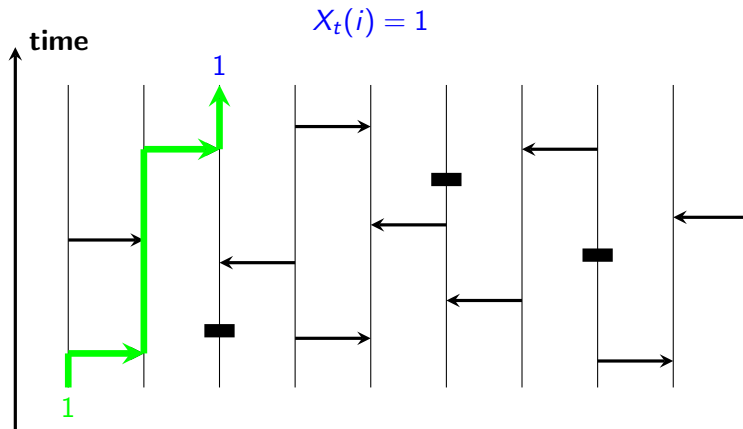


The map $x \mapsto \mathbf{X}_{0,t}(x)$.

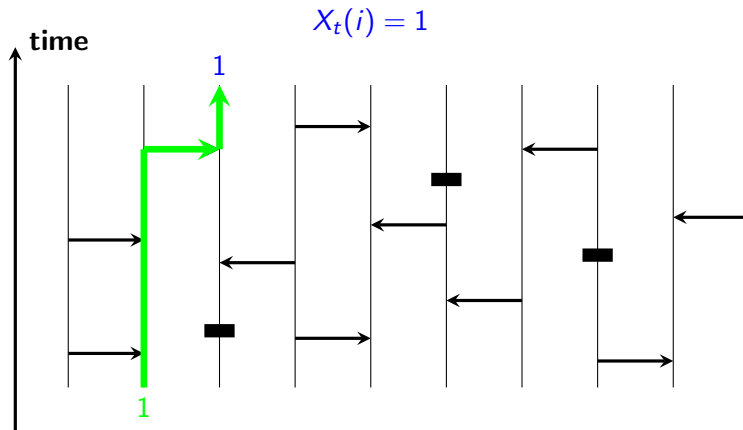
Open paths


$$X_t(i) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \exists \text{ open path from } (j, 0) \text{ with } X_0(j) = 1 \text{ to } (i, t).$$

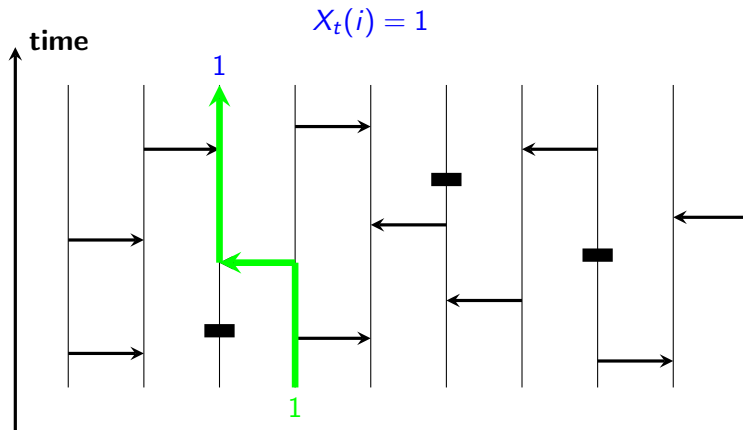
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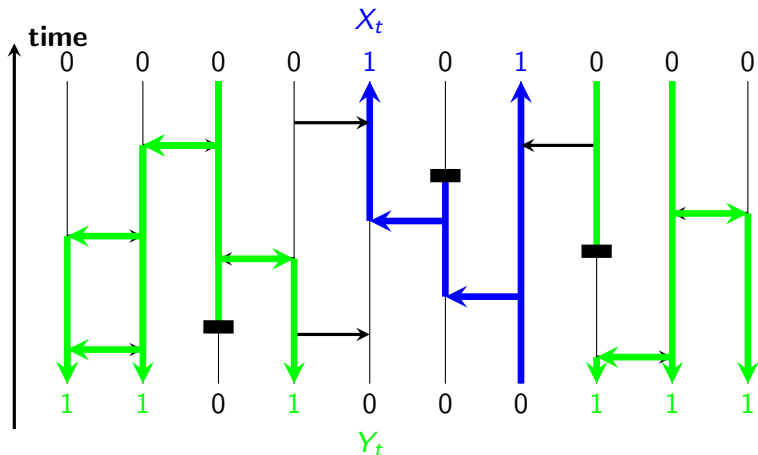
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Dual process



All open paths with given endpoints form a *dual process*.

$$\mathbb{P}[X_t \cap Y_0 \neq \emptyset] = \mathbb{P}[X_0 \cap Y_t \neq \emptyset] \quad (t \geq 0).$$

Cooperative reproduction

Let (Λ, E) be a finite graph with vertex set Λ and edge set E .

Let $S := \{0, 1\}^\Lambda$.

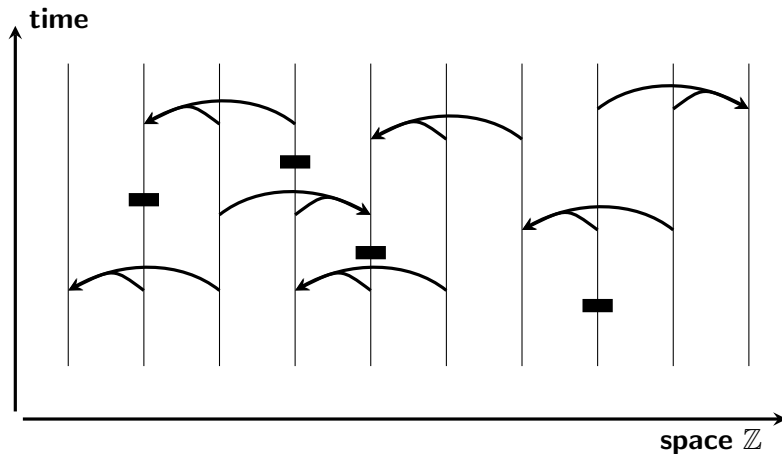
For each (i, j, k) with $\{i, j\} \in E$ and $\{j, k\} \in E$, define a *cooperative reproduction map* $\text{coop}_{ijk} : S \rightarrow S$ by

$$\text{coop}_{ijk}(x)(l) := \begin{cases} (x(i) \wedge x(j)) \vee x(k) & \text{if } l = k, \\ x(l) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Give death and cooperative reproduction maps the rates

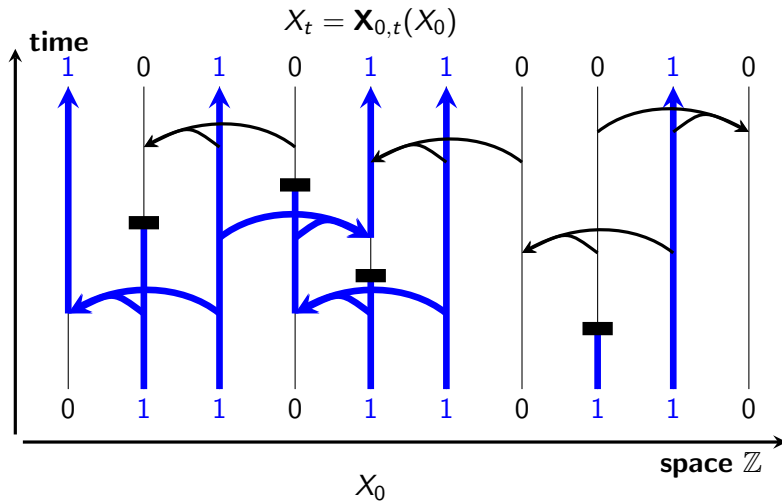
$$r_{\text{dth}_i} := 1 \quad \text{and} \quad r_{\text{coop}_{ijk}} := \alpha.$$

The graphical representation



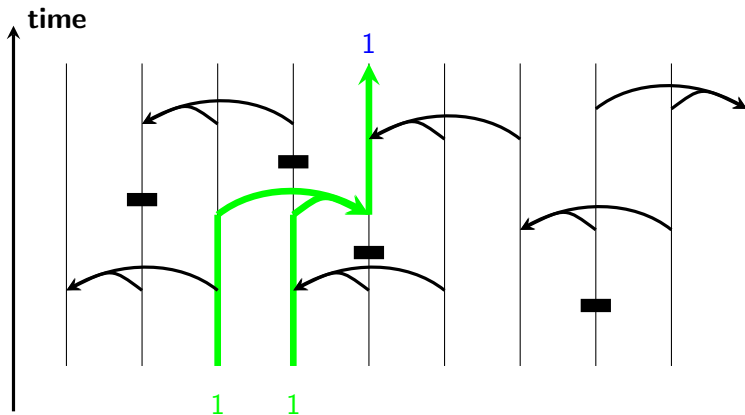
We denote coop_{ijk} by a suitable symbol
and denote dth_i as before.

The graphical representation

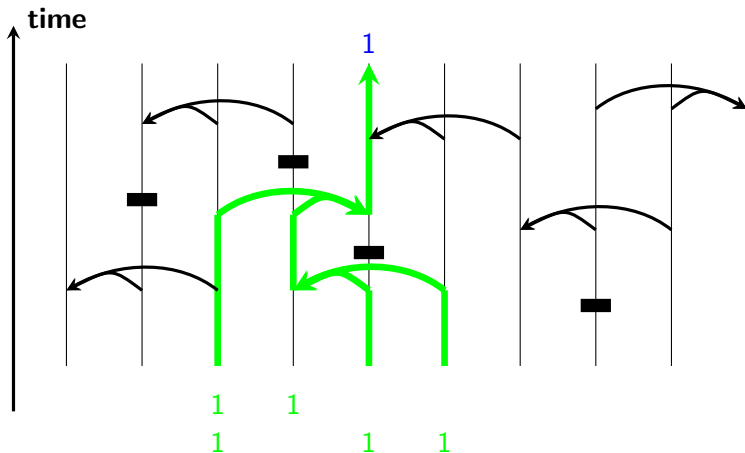


The map $x \mapsto \mathbf{X}_{0,t}(x)$.

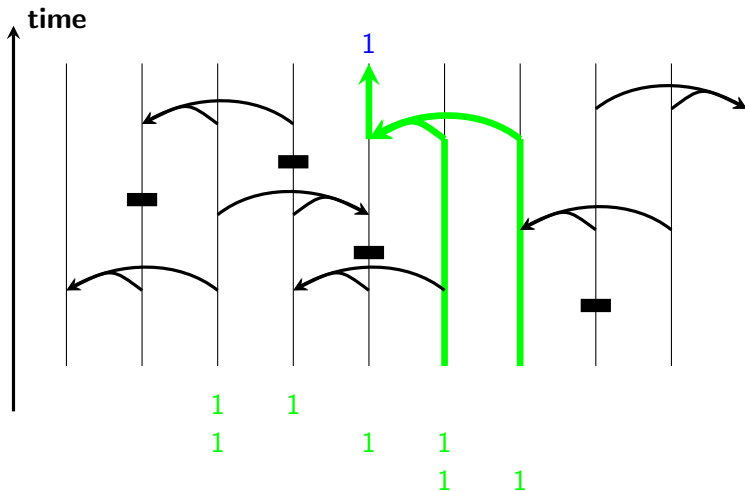
Open paths



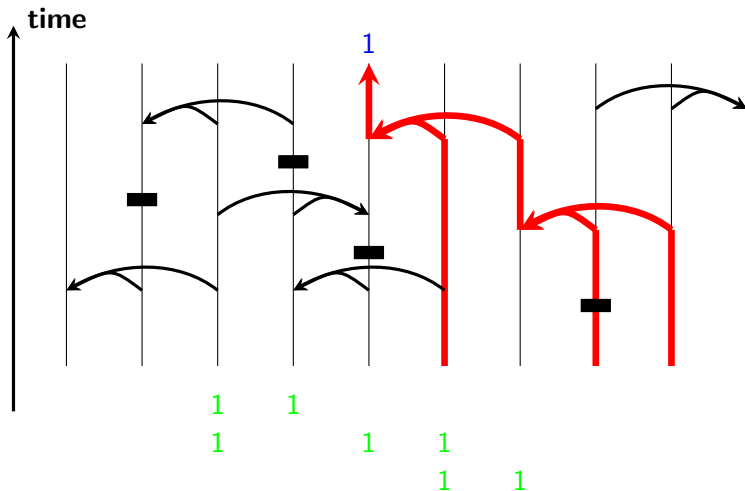
Open paths



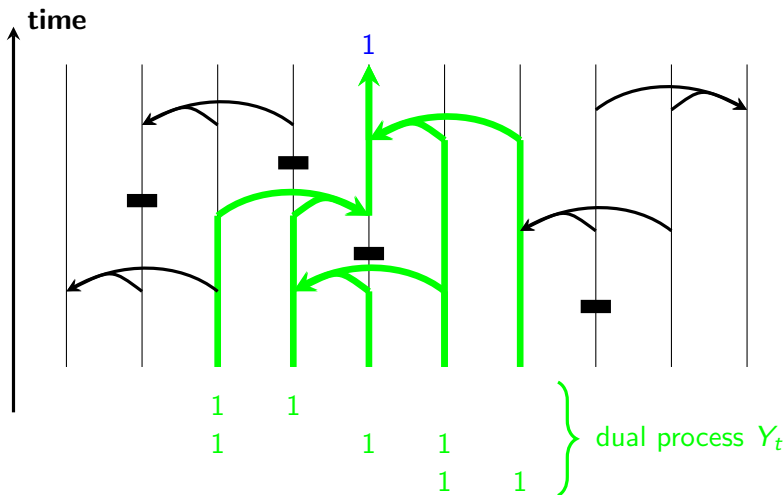
Open paths



Open paths



Open paths



$$\mathbb{P}[X_t \geq y \text{ for some } y \in Y_0] = \mathbb{P}[X_0 \geq y \text{ for some } y \in Y_t].$$

The dual process

The dual process Y_t takes value in $\mathcal{H}_0(\Lambda)$, where:

$$S_{\text{fin}}(\Lambda) := \{y : \Lambda \rightarrow \{0, 1\} : \sum_i y(i) < \infty\}.$$

$$\mathcal{H}_0(\Lambda) := \{Y \subset S_{\text{fin}}(\Lambda) : Y \text{ is finite and each } y \in Y \text{ is a minimal element of } Y\}.$$

Pathwise duality:

$$1_{\{X_t \geq y \text{ for some } y \in Y_0\}} = 1_{\{X_0 \geq y \text{ for some } y \in Y_t\}} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

We can view $Y \in \mathcal{H}_0(\Lambda)$ as a *hypergraph* with vertex set Λ and set of *hyperedges* Y .

The mean-field limit of the contact process

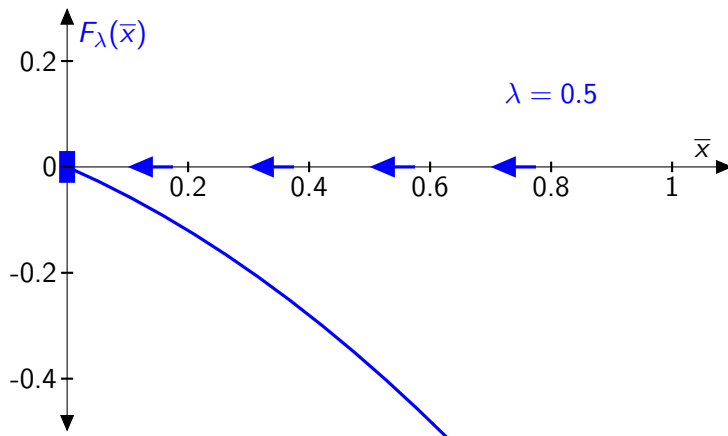
Consider the contact process on the complete graph K_N , where the following maps are applied with the following rates:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{rep}_{ij} & \text{with rate} & \lambda N/N^2 \quad \forall 1 \leq i, j \leq N, \\ \text{dth}_i & \text{with rate} & 1N/N \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq N. \end{array}$$

Then the fraction of occupied sites $\bar{X}_t := N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N X_t(i)$ converges to the solution of the *mean-field ODE*

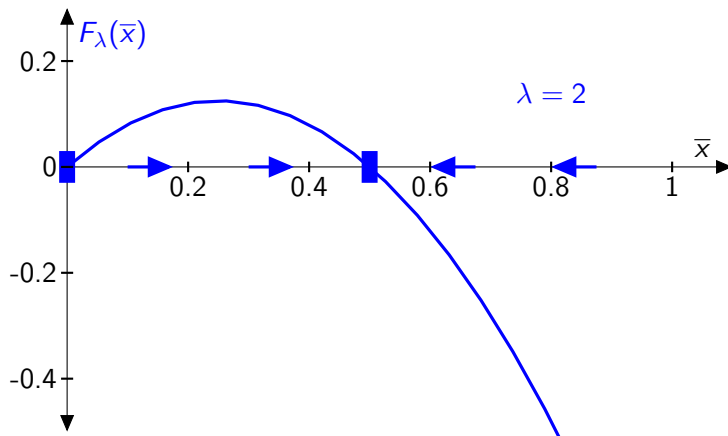
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{X}_t = \lambda \bar{X}_t (1 - \bar{X}_t) - \bar{X}_t =: F_\lambda(\bar{X}_t).$$

The mean-field limit of the contact process



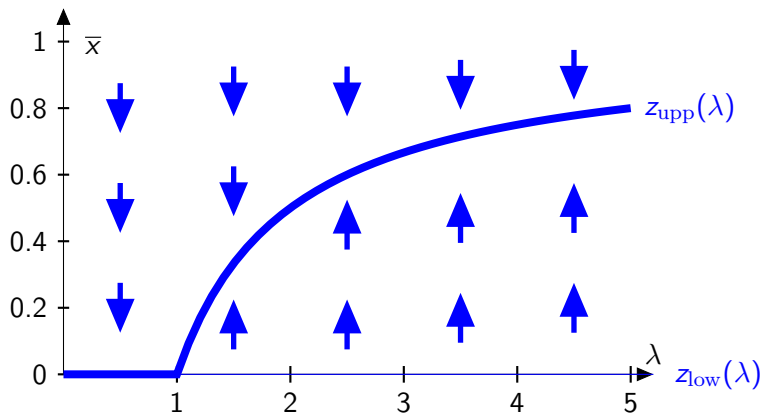
For $\lambda < 1$, the equation $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{X}_t = F_\lambda(\bar{X}_t)$ has a single, stable fixed point $\bar{x} = 0$.

The mean-field limit of the contact process



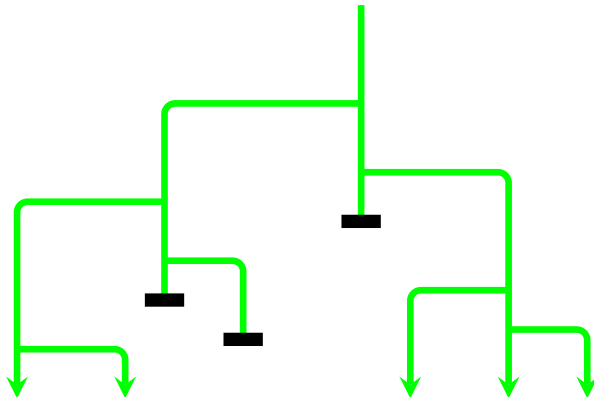
For $\lambda > 1$, the fixed point at 0 becomes unstable and a new, stable fixed point appears.

The mean-field limit of the contact process



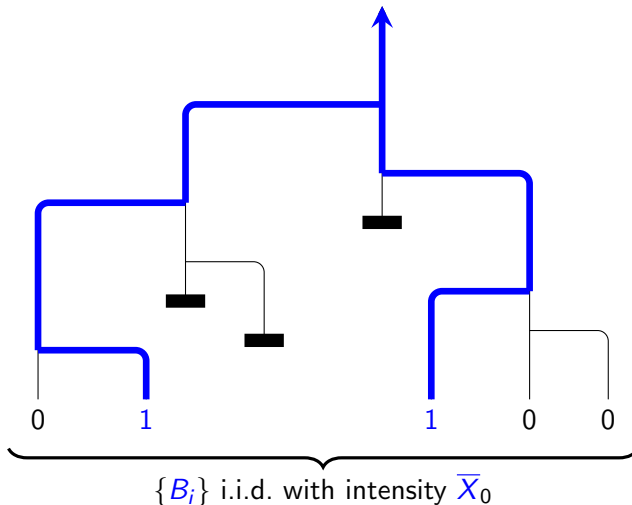
Fixed points of $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{X}_t = F_\lambda(\bar{X}_t)$ for different values of λ .

Mean-field limit of the dual process



In the mean-field limit, the dual process is a *branching process*.

Mean-field limit of the dual process



Mean-field duality

Let Y be an \mathbb{N} -valued random variable. Let $(B_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_+}$ be i.i.d. Bernoulli random variables with $\mathbb{P}[B_i = 1] = \bar{x}$, independent of Y . Define

$$\text{Thin}_{\bar{x}}(Y) := \sum_{i=1}^Y B_i.$$

Let $(\bar{Y}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a Markov process in \mathbb{N} that jumps

$y \mapsto y + 1$ with rate λy and $y \mapsto y - 1$ with rate y .

Then

$$\mathbb{P}[\text{Thin}_{\bar{x}_0}(\bar{Y}_t) \neq 0] = \mathbb{P}[\text{Thin}_{\bar{x}_t}(\bar{Y}_0) \neq 0],$$

where $(\bar{X}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ solves the mean-field ODE

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{X}_t = \lambda \bar{X}_t (1 - \bar{X}_t) - \bar{X}_t.$$

The survival probability

The survival of the \mathbb{N} -valued branching process $(\overline{Y}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ started in $\overline{Y}_0 = 1$ is given by

$$\mathbb{P}^1[\overline{Y}_t \neq 0 \ \forall t \geq 0] = z_{\text{upp}}(\lambda).$$

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}^1[\text{Thin}_1(\overline{Y}_t) \neq \emptyset] \\ &= \mathbb{P}^1[\text{Thin}_{\overline{X}_t}(1) \neq \emptyset] = \overline{X}_t \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} z_{\text{upp}}(\lambda). \end{aligned}$$



The mean-field limit of cooperative reproduction

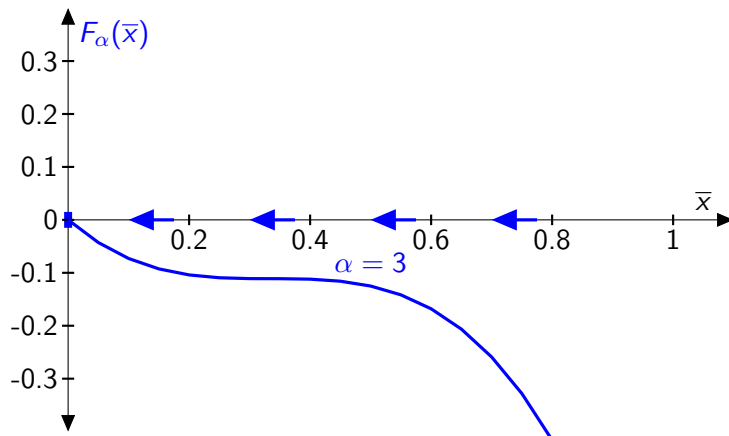
Consider a cooperative reproduction process on the complete graph K_N , where the following maps are applied with the following rates:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{coop}_{ijk} & \text{with rate} & \alpha N/N^3 \quad \forall 1 \leq i, j, k \leq N, \\ \text{dth}_i & \text{with rate} & 1N/N \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq N. \end{array}$$

Then the fraction of occupied sites $\bar{X}_t := N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N X_t(i)$ converges to the solution of the *mean-field ODE*

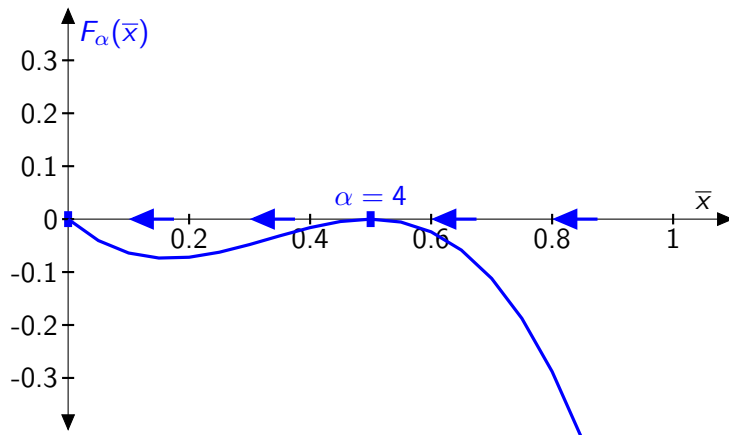
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{X}_t = \alpha \bar{X}_t^2 (1 - \bar{X}_t) - \bar{X}_t =: F_\alpha(\bar{X}_t).$$

The mean-field of cooperative reproduction



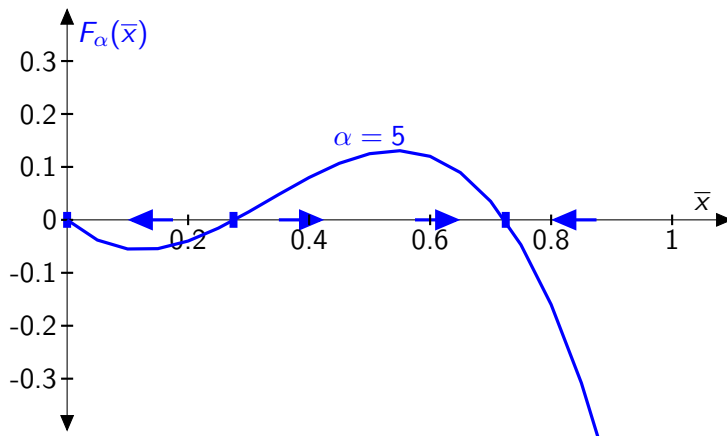
For $\alpha < 4$, the equation $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{X}_t = F_\alpha(\bar{X}_t)$ has a single, stable fixed point $\bar{x} = 0$.

The mean-field of cooperative reproduction



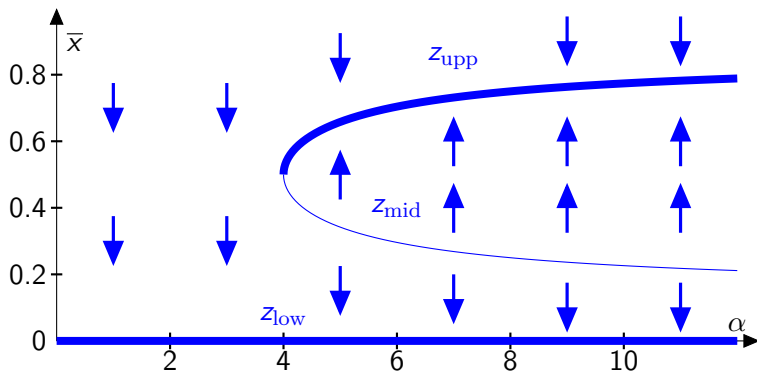
For $\alpha = 4$, a second fixed point appears at $\bar{x} = 0.5$.

The mean-field of cooperative reproduction



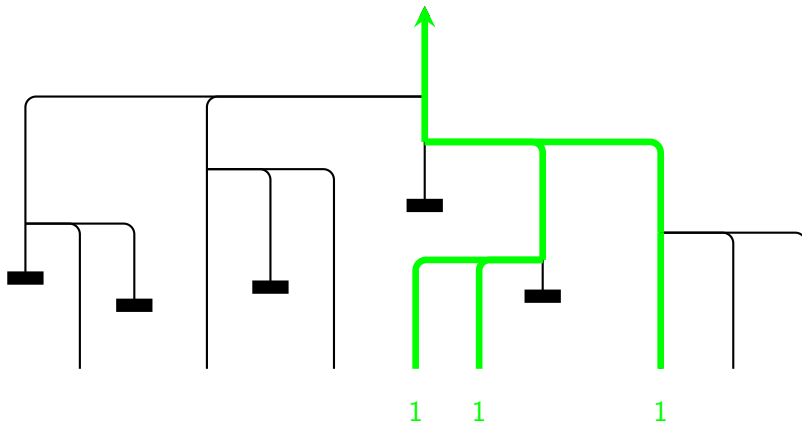
For $\alpha > 4$, there are two stable fixed points and one unstable fixed point, which separates the domains of attraction of the other two.

The mean-field of cooperative reproduction



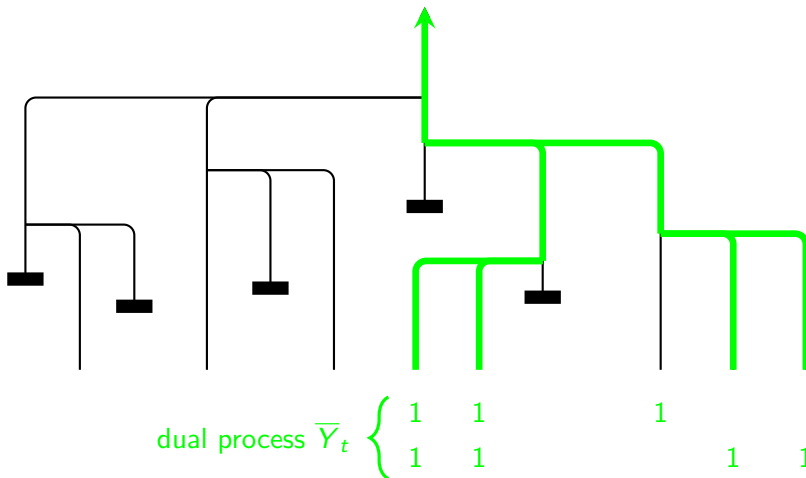
Fixed points of $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{x}_t = F_\alpha(\bar{x}_t)$ for different values of α .

Mean-field limit of the dual process



The mean-field dual can be embedded in a branching process.

Mean-field limit of the dual process



The mean-field dual

For $Y, Y' \in \mathcal{H}_0(\mathbb{N}_+)$, write $Y \sim Y'$ if they are equal up to a permutation of \mathbb{N}_+ . Denote the corresponding equivalence class by $\overline{Y} := \{Y' \in \mathcal{H}_0(\mathbb{N}_+) : Y \sim Y'\}$ and set $\overline{\mathcal{H}}_0(\mathbb{N}_+) := \{\overline{Y} : Y \in \mathcal{H}_0(\mathbb{N}_+)\}$.

We view \overline{Y}_t as a Markov process in $\overline{\mathcal{H}}_0(\mathbb{N}_+)$.

Let $B = (B_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_+}$ be i.i.d. Bernoulli with $\mathbb{P}[B_i = 1] = \overline{x}$. Define

$$\text{Thin}_{\overline{x}}(Y) := \{y \in Y : B \geq y\}.$$

Then

$$\mathbb{P}[\text{Thin}_{\overline{x}_0}(\overline{Y}_t) \neq \emptyset] = \mathbb{P}[\text{Thin}_{\overline{x}_t}(\overline{Y}_0) \neq \emptyset],$$

where $(\overline{x}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ solves the mean-field ODE

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \overline{x}_t = \alpha \overline{x}_t^2 (1 - \overline{x}_t) - \overline{x}_t.$$

The survival probability

Let $\{\{1\}\}$ denote the simplest possible initial state for $(\overline{Y}_t)_{t \geq 0}$, i.e., the hypergraph with a single vertex and a single hyperedge. Then

$$\mathbb{P}^{\{\{1\}\}}[\overline{Y}_t \neq \emptyset \ \forall t \geq 0] = z_{\text{upp}}(\lambda).$$

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}^{\{\{1\}\}}[\text{Thin}_1(\overline{Y}_t) \neq \emptyset] \\ &= \mathbb{P}^1[\text{Thin}_{\overline{X}_t}(\{\{1\}\}) \neq \emptyset] = \overline{X}_t \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} z_{\text{upp}}(\lambda). \end{aligned}$$



Distribution determining functions

The law of an \mathbb{N} -valued random variable Y is uniquely determined by the function $\phi : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ defined as

$$\phi(\bar{x}) := \mathbb{P}[\text{Thin}_{\bar{x}}(Y) \neq \emptyset] = \mathbb{E}[1 - (1 - \bar{x})^Y].$$

But the law of an $\overline{\mathcal{H}}_0$ -valued random variable \overline{Y} is *not* uniquely determined by the analogue function.

What have we missed?

Coupled processes

Recall that $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is constructed from a stochastic flow $(\mathbf{X}_{s,u})_{s \leq u}$. Using *the same* stochastic flow, we can *couple* processes started in initial states X_0^1, \dots, X_0^n by setting

$$X_t^k := \mathbf{X}_{0,t}(X_0^k) \quad (t \geq 0, k = 1, \dots, n).$$

The coupled process $(X_t^1, \dots, X_t^n)_{t \geq 0}$ is a Markov process.
Pathwise duality:

$$\begin{aligned} & 1_{\{X_t^1 \geq y \text{ for some } y \in Y_0\}} 1_{\{X_t^2 \geq y \text{ for some } y \in Y_0\}} \\ &= 1_{\{X_0^1 \geq y \text{ for some } y \in Y_t\}} 1_{\{X_0^2 \geq y \text{ for some } y \in Y_t\}} \quad \text{a.s.} \end{aligned}$$

And similarly for three or more coupled processes.

The n -variate mean-field ODE

On the complete graph, let

$$\mu_t^{(n)}(x) := N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n 1_{\{(X_t^1, \dots, X_t^n) = x\}} \quad (x \in \{0, 1\}^n).$$

In the mean-field limit, $(\mu_t^{(n)})_{t \geq 0}$ solves an ODE.

$$\text{Test}_\mu(Y)(k) := 1_{\{B^k \geq y \text{ for some } y \in Y\}} \quad (k = 1, \dots, n),$$

where $(B_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_+} = (B_i^1, \dots, B_i^n)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_+}$ are i.i.d. with law μ . Then

$$\mathbb{P}[\text{Test}_{\mu_0^{(n)}}(\bar{Y}_t) = x] = \mathbb{P}[\text{Test}_{\mu_t^{(n)}}(\bar{Y}_0) = x] \quad (x \in \{0, 1\}^n).$$

The n -variate equation tells us how \bar{Y}_t reacts to thinnings with *correlated* Bernoulli random variables.

The big picture

Our aim is to understand the asymptotics as $t \rightarrow \infty$ of the random map $\mathbf{X}_{0,t}$ on the complete graph K_N when N is large. More precisely, we are interested in the limit $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty}$ (in this order).

This leads us to study the asymptotics as $t \rightarrow \infty$ of:

- ▶ the *mean-field dual* \overline{Y}_t
- ▶ solutions $(\mu_t^{(n)})_{t \geq 0}$ of the *n-variate* mean-field ODE.

In particular, we want to understand $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mu_t^{(n)}$ for different initial states $\mu_0^{(n)}$ and what they tell us about \overline{Y}_t .

Moment measures

Let Ber_z denote the Bernoulli distribution with mean z , i.e., $\text{Ber}_z(0) := 1 - z$ and $\text{Ber}_z(1) := z$.

For any probability measure μ on $[0, 1]$, define $\mu^{(n)}$ on $\{0, 1\}^n$ by

$$\mu^{(n)}(x^1, \dots, x^n) := \int \mu(d\omega) \prod_{k=1}^n \text{Ber}_{\omega}(x^k).$$

Then $\mu^{(n)}$ is the n -th moment measure of μ .

Examples: For $z \in [0, 1]$, define

$$\underline{\mu}_z := \delta_z \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\mu}_z := (1 - z)\delta_0 + z\delta_1.$$

Then

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \underline{\mu}_z^{(n)} &= \mathbb{P}[(X^1, \dots, X^n) \in \cdot], \\ \bar{\mu}_z^{(n)} &= \mathbb{P}[(X, \dots, X) \in \cdot], \end{aligned} \right\} \quad X, X^1, \dots, X^n \text{ i.i.d. } \text{Ber}_z.$$

The higher-level ODE

Define $\psi : \mathcal{P}([0, 1]) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}([0, 1])$ by

$$\psi(\mu) := \mathbb{P}[\omega_1 + (1 - \omega_1)\omega_2\omega_3 \in \cdot] \quad \text{with } \omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3 \text{ i.i.d. } \mu.$$

Proposition If $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$ solves the *higher-level ODE*

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mu_t = \alpha(\psi(\mu_t) - \mu_t) + (\delta_0 - \mu_t),$$

then its n -th moment measures $(\mu_t^{(n)})_{t \geq 0}$ solve the n -variate ODE.

Remark Not every solution of the n -variate ODE arises in this way.

Upper and lower invariant measures

For measures μ, ν on $[0, 1]$, define the *convex order*

$$\mu \leq_{\text{cv}} \nu \iff \int f d\mu \leq \int f d\nu \quad \forall \text{convex } f.$$

Let $(\underline{\mu}_{z,t})_{t \geq 0}$ denote the solution of the higher-level ODE with initial state $\underline{\mu}_{z,0} := \underline{\mu}$.

Proposition If $z = z_{\text{low}}, z_{\text{mid}}, z_{\text{upp}}$ is a fixed point of the mean-field ODE, then

- (a) $\bar{\mu}_z$ is a fixed point of the higher-level ODE.
- (b) There exists a fixed point $\underline{\nu}_z$ of the higher-level ODE such that $\underline{\mu}_{z,t} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} \underline{\nu}_z$.
- (c) Any fixed point ν of the higher-level ODE with mean z satisfies $\underline{\nu}_z \leq_{\text{cv}} \nu \leq_{\text{cv}} \bar{\mu}_z$.

Fixed points and domains of attraction

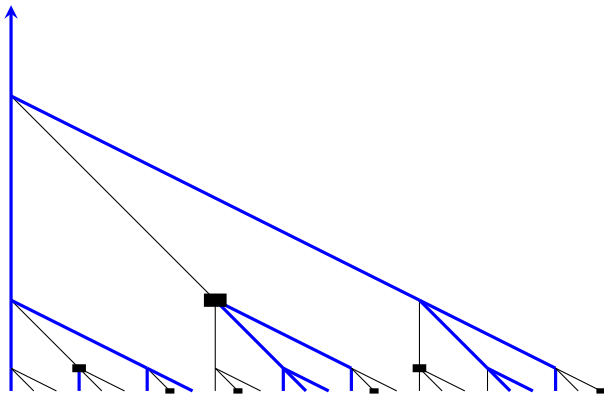
Write $\bar{\mu}_{\text{low}} := \bar{\mu}_{z_{\text{low}}}$ etc.

Proposition $\underline{\nu}_{\text{low}} = \bar{\mu}_{\text{low}}$ and $\underline{\nu}_{\text{upp}} = \bar{\mu}_{\text{upp}}$, but $\underline{\nu}_{\text{mid}} \neq \bar{\mu}_{\text{mid}}$.

Theorem Let $\alpha > 4$ and let $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a solution of the higher-level ODE with $\int x \mu_0(dx) = z$.

- (a) If $z > z_{\text{mid}}$, then $\mu_t \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} \bar{\mu}_{\text{upp}}$.
- (b) If $z < z_{\text{mid}}$, then $\mu_t \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} \bar{\mu}_{\text{low}}$.
- (c) If $z = z_{\text{mid}}$ and $\mu_0 \neq \bar{\mu}_{\text{mid}}$, then $\mu_t \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} \underline{\nu}_{\text{mid}}$.
- (d) If $\mu_0 = \bar{\mu}_{\text{mid}}$, then $\mu_t = \bar{\mu}_{\text{mid}} \quad \forall t \geq 0$.

A random tree process



In a 3-regular tree, place death symbols with probability $1/(1 + \alpha)$ and color the leaves blue with probability z_{mid} . In the limit of an infinite tree, this yields a stationary picture. Such a process is called a *Random Tree Process*. A Markov chain with *tree-like time*.

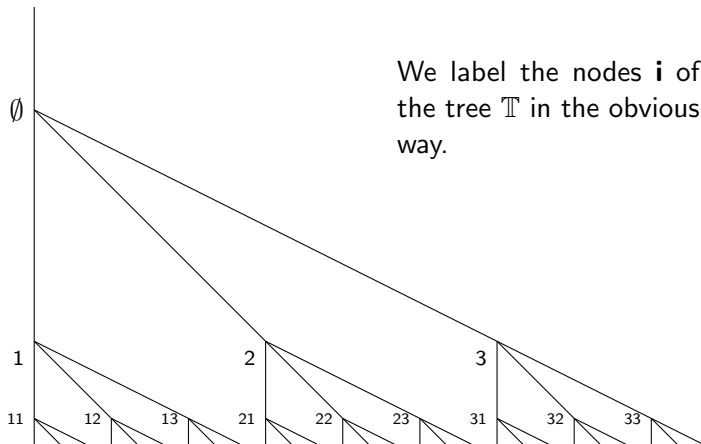
Each fixed point $z = z_{\text{low}}, z_{\text{mid}}, z_{\text{upp}}$ of the mean-field ODE defines a Random Tree Process (RTP).

Following Aldous and Bandyopahyay [AB '04], we call a RTP *endogenous* if the state at the root (blue or black) is a function of the random variables at the nodes (death or coop maps).

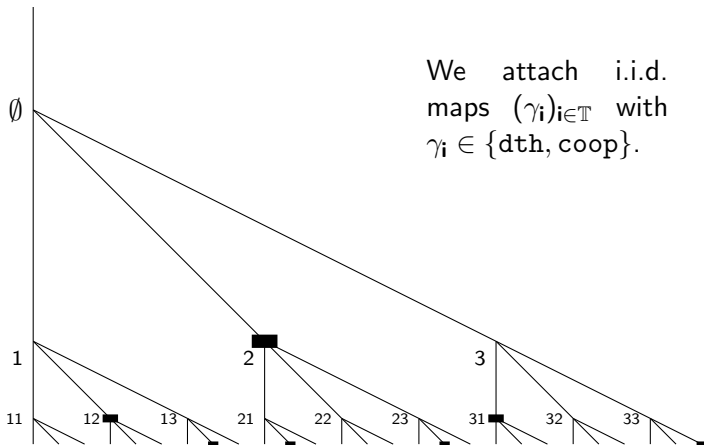
Proposition The RTPs corresponding to z_{low} and z_{upp} are endogenous, but the RTP corresponding to z_{mid} is not.

Proof Following [AB '04], this follows from an analysis of the bivariate ODE. Alternatively, for z_{low} and z_{upp} , in [AB '04] it is proved that for monotone systems, the RTP corresponding to a lower or upper fixed point is always endogenous. ■

A random tree process

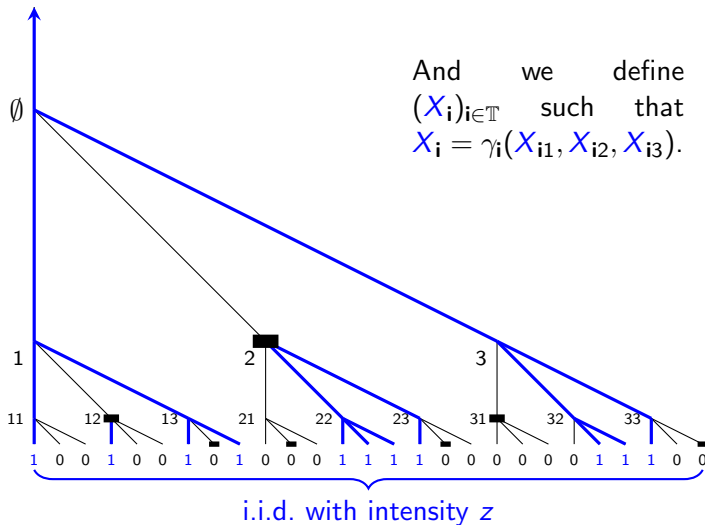


A random tree process



A random tree process

And we define $(\mathbf{x}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{T}}$ such that $\mathbf{x}_i = \gamma_i(\mathbf{x}_{i1}, \mathbf{x}_{i2}, \mathbf{x}_{i3})$.



A higher level RTP

The Random Tree Process $(\gamma_i, X_i)_{i \in \mathbb{T}}$ is endogenous iff

$$X_\emptyset = \mathbb{P}[X_\emptyset = 1 \mid (\gamma_i)_{i \in \mathbb{T}}] \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Observation: Setting

$$\omega_i := \mathbb{P}[X_i = 1 \mid (\gamma_{ij})_{j \in \mathbb{T}}]$$

defines a *higher-level RTP* $(\check{\gamma}_i, \omega_i)_{i \in \mathbb{T}}$ corresponding to the *higher-level maps*

$$\text{cöop}(\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3) = \omega_1 + (1 - \omega_1)\omega_2\omega_3 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{dřh}(\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3) := 0.$$

Moreover

$$\underline{\nu}_{\text{mid}} = \mathbb{P}[\omega_\emptyset \in \cdot].$$

A discrete evolution

On finite trees, if we assign the leaves i.i.d. ω_i with law μ_0 , then t levels above this the ω_i are i.i.d. with law μ_n , where

$$\mu_n = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + 1} \psi(\mu_{n-1}) + \frac{1}{\alpha + 1} \delta_0.$$

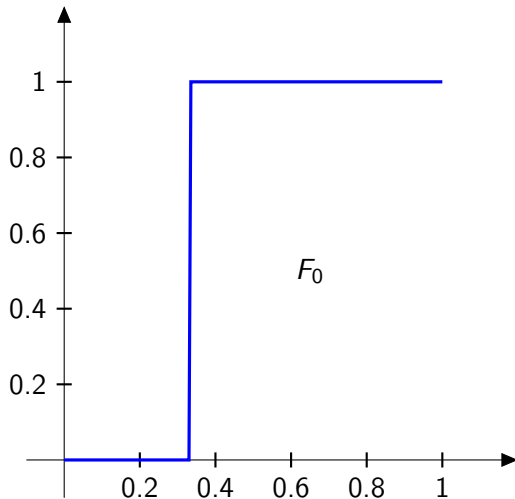
We start with $\mu_0 = \delta_{z_{\text{mid}}}$ and plot the distribution function

$$F_n(s) := \mu([0, s]) \quad (s \in [0, 1])$$

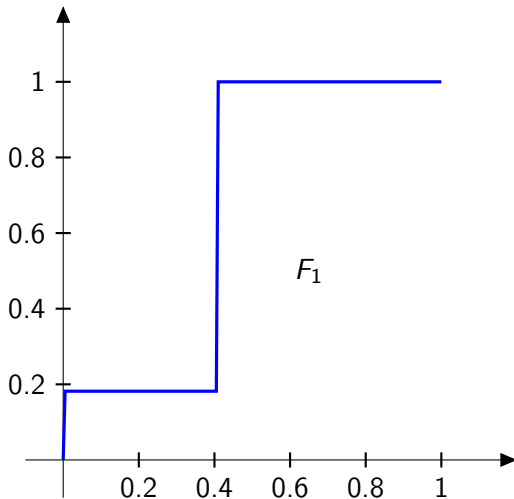
for the parameters $\alpha = 9/2$, $z_{\text{mid}} = 1/3$, $z_{\text{upp}} = 2/3$.

As $n \rightarrow \infty$, this converges to the distribution function of $\underline{\nu}_{\text{mid}}$.

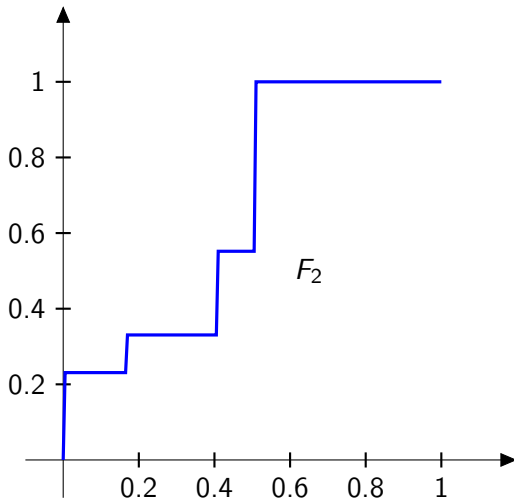
Numerical results



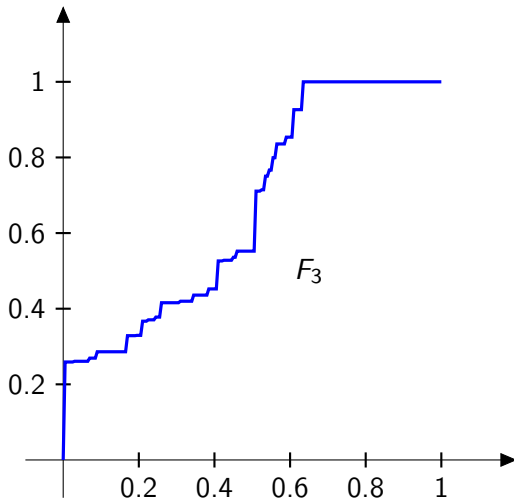
Numerical results



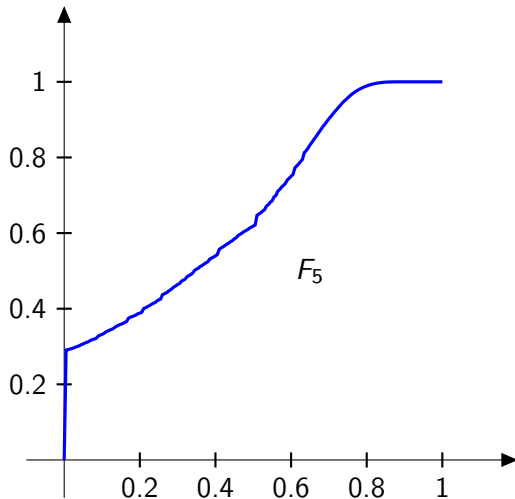
Numerical results



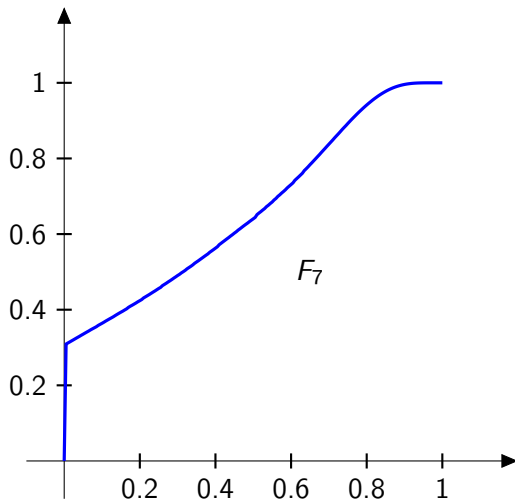
Numerical results



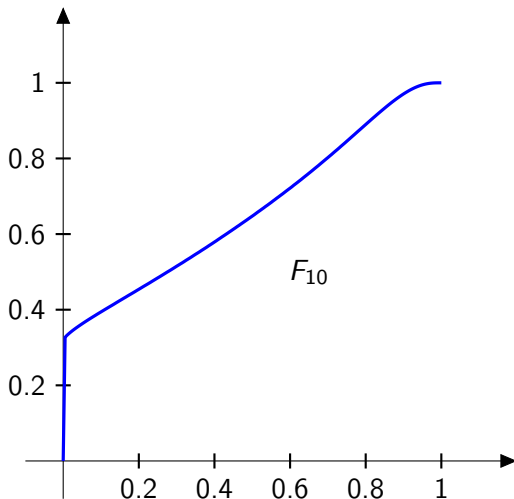
Numerical results



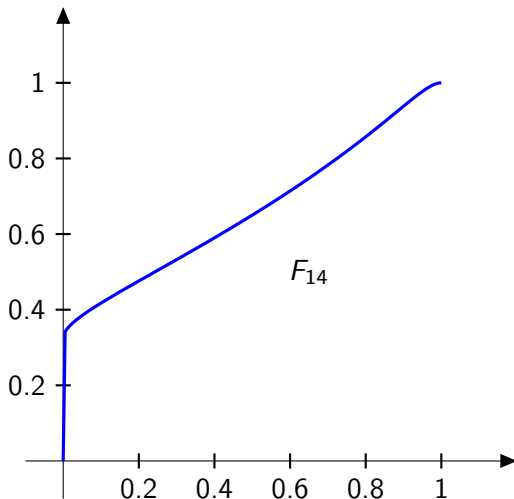
Numerical results



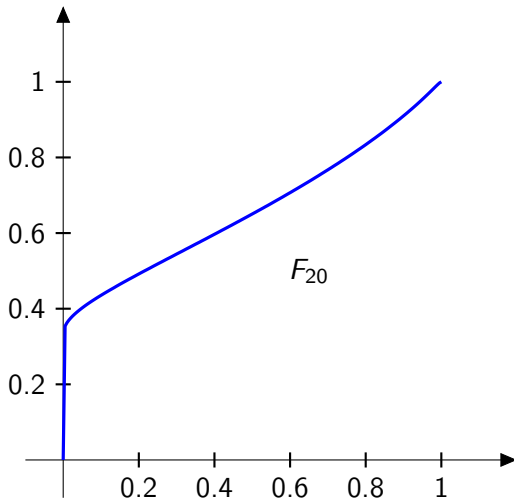
Numerical results



Numerical results



Numerical results



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