On the mixing time of switch Markov chains



Tamás Róbert Mezei Combinatorics seminar, 29 October 2020

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Introduction, background

- Given a non-negative integer sequence d of even sum, $\mathcal{G}(d)$ be the set of simple graph with degree sequence d (vertices are labeled)
- Problem: take a sample $G \in \mathcal{G}(d)$ uniformly and randomly $(\min d \ge 1, \max d \le n-1)$
- Motivation:
 - Randomized approximate counting: Jerrum, Valiant, Vazirani (1986)
 - Hypothesis testing, statistics
 - There is usually only one observed network, so experiments cannot be repeated
 - Null model: structure of network explained by the properties of the deg. sequence
 - Via sampling, statistical parameters of the null model can be measured
 - Benchmarking software, algorithms, simulations (network science)

$\bigvee_{v_1} \qquad \bigvee_{v_2} \qquad \bigvee_{v_3} \qquad \bigvee_{v_4} \qquad \bigvee_{v_5} \qquad \bigvee_{v_6}$

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- Take a random complete matching between the half-edges ($||d||_1 \in 2\mathbb{N}$).
- The resulting object may contain loops and multiedges.

Theorem (Bollobás, 1980)

The number of r-regular simple graphs on n (labeled) vertices is asymptotic to

$$e^{-\lambda-\lambda^2}\cdot \frac{(2m)!}{m!2^m(r!)^n}$$

where $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}(r-1)$ and $m = \frac{1}{2}rn$. (Bollobás actually enumerated most simple graphs with $\Delta \le \sqrt{2\log n} - 1$).

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• $r = \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{\log n}) \implies$ with probability $\geq (\operatorname{poly}(n))^{-1}$, the configuration model does not produce loops or multiedges.

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- $r = \Omega\left((\log n)^{1/2+\varepsilon}\right) \implies$ the probability that the configuration model does not produce a loop or a multiedge tends to 0 superpolynomially as $n \to \infty$.

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- A. Békéssy, P. Békéssy, J. Komlós 1972: asymptotic enumeration of $p,q\mbox{-}{\rm regular}\;m+n$ vertex bipartite graphs

The algorithms below start with a sample from the configuration model then try to fix loops and multiedges; if they can't, the sample is **rejected**.

Theorem (McKay and Wormald, 1990)

Uniformly generate simple graphs satisfying $\Delta \leq \mathcal{O}\left(m^{\frac{1}{4}}\right)$ in $\mathcal{O}(\Delta^4 n^2)$ expected time. Uniformly generate r-regular graphs for $r = o\left(n^{\frac{1}{3}}\right)$ in $\mathcal{O}(nr^3)$ expected time.

Theorem (Gao and Wormald, 2017)

Uniformly generate r-regular graphs for $r = o(\sqrt{n})$ in $\mathcal{O}(nr^3)$ expected time.

Theorem (Gao and Wormald, 2018)

Uniformly generate graphs whose degree sequence obeys a power-law distribution bound for some $\gamma>2.8811$.

- The previous results all depend on the asymptotic counting of the number of realizations of the respective degree sequences
- Instead of exactly sampling the uniform distribution on $\mathcal{G}(d)$, allow an ε difference in total variation.

Definition (Polynomial-time approximate uniform sampler)

An algorithm running in $\operatorname{poly}(n) \cdot \log \varepsilon^{-1}$ (expected) time s.t. the ℓ_1 -distance of the sample distribution is ε close to the uniform distribution is called a polynomial-time approximate uniform sampler.

Markov chain Monte Carlo methods

Definition (discrete time finite Markov chain)

- + π_0 : initial prob. distribution on Ω
- $\cdot \ \pi_t = \pi_0 P^t$
- $p_{ij} = p_{ji} \forall i, j \implies \pi \equiv |\Omega|^{-1}$ is a stationary distribution: $\pi = P\pi$



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Convergence theorem, rate of convergence

Theorem

If $G(\mathcal{M})$ is connected and aperiodic, then $\pi_t(\omega_j) \to \pi(\omega_j)$ as $t \to \infty$ for any π_0 .

- Convergence is exponentially quick, i.e., $|\pi_t(\omega_j) \pi(\omega_j)| \le \mu^t$ for some $\mu \in [0, 1)$.
- · Let λ_2 be the second largest eigenvalue of *P*, then $\mu \leq \lambda_2$ (lazy chain)
- To get an approximate sampler, it is sufficient to have

$$\begin{split} t \geq \frac{1}{1 - \lambda_2} \left(\log |\Omega| - \log \varepsilon \right) \\ t \cdot \log \lambda_2 \leq t(\lambda_2 - 1) \leq \log \varepsilon - \log |\Omega| \\ \hline \left| \left| \pi_t(\omega_j) - \pi(\omega_j) \right| \leq \left(\lambda_2\right)^t \leq \varepsilon / |\Omega| \right] \end{split}$$

The Sinclair method for estimating the eigenvalue-gap ($\pi\equiv 1/|\Omega|$)

Let f be a multicommodity-flow which sends a commodity of quantity 1 between each pair of states $\omega_i, \omega_i \in \Omega$ in the Markov-graph $G(\mathcal{M})$.



 $au_{\mathcal{M}}(arepsilon)$ is the min. time s.t. $|\pi_0 P^t - \pi| \leq arepsilon$ holds $orall t \geq au_{\mathcal{M}}(arepsilon)$

 $\rho(f):$ max amount of flow through any $\omega\in\Omega$

 $\ell(f)$: max length of a flow in f

On average, the flow through an $\omega \in \Omega$ is at most $\ell(f) \frac{\binom{|\Omega|}{2}}{|\Omega|}$

Theorem (Sinclair, 1988)

$$\text{The mixing time } \tau_{\mathcal{M}}(\varepsilon) \leq \left(\max_{p_{ij} \neq 0} \frac{1}{p_{ij}}\right) \cdot \frac{\rho(f) \cdot \ell(f)}{|\Omega|} \cdot \left(\log |\Omega| - \log \varepsilon\right)$$

Rapid mixing

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Definition (Rapid/fast mixing)

We say that a Markov-chain ${\mathcal M}$ is rapidly mixing if

 $\tau_{\mathcal{M}}(\varepsilon) \leq \operatorname{poly}(\log |\Omega|, -\log \varepsilon).$

In our applications we will have

$$\log |\Omega| \le \log(n^{\alpha} |\mathcal{G}(d)|) \le \alpha \log n + m \log 2m,$$

thus rapid mixing implies that there exists a polynomial time approximate sampler.

Jerrum-Sinclair chain

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{State space: } \Omega = \mathcal{G}(d) \cup \bigcup_{i,j \in V} \mathcal{G}(d+\mathbb{1}_i+\mathbb{1}_j).\\ \text{Transitions: u.a.r. choose } a,b \in V(G)\text{, then} \end{array}$



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• if $G \in \mathcal{G}(d)$ and $ab \notin E(G)$, add ab to G.



Jerrum-Sinclair chain

State space: $\Omega = \mathcal{G}(d) \cup \bigcup_{i,j \in V} \mathcal{G}(d + \mathbb{1}_i + \mathbb{1}_j).$ Transitions: u.a.r. choose $a, b \in V(G)$, then

- if $G \in \mathcal{G}(d)$ and $ab \notin E(G)$, add ab to G.
- if $G \notin \mathcal{G}(d)$, $ab \in E(G)$, and $\deg_G(a) > d(a)$, then delete ab from E(G). If $\deg_{G-ab}(b) < d(b)$, then u.a.r. add an edge to b.



The state space of the JS-chain: $\mathcal{G}'(d) := \mathcal{G}(d) \cup \bigcup_{i,j \in V} \mathcal{G}(d + \mathbbm{1}_i + \mathbbm{1}_j)$

To get a sample from $\mathcal{G}(d)$ in reasonable time by the JS-chain, we must have

Definition

 $|\mathcal{G}'(d)| \le \operatorname{poly}(n) \cdot |\mathcal{G}(d)| \quad \forall d \in \mathcal{D}.$

where $n = \dim(d)$. In this case, we call an infinite \mathcal{D} a *P*-stable class of degree sequences.

Theorem (Jerrum and Sinclair 1990)

The JS-chain is rapidly mixing on degree sequences from a P-stable class.

Theorem

The degree sequences $d \in [1,\Delta]^n$ satisfying

 $\Delta \leq 2\sqrt{n}-2, \ d \in \mathbb{N}^n$

for any n are P-stable.

Theorem

The degree sequences d satisfying

$$(\Delta-\delta+1)^2\leq 4\delta(n-\Delta+1),\;d\in\mathbb{N}^n$$



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Switch Markov chains

Proposed for bipartite graph by Kannan, Tetali, Vempala (1997)

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State space: the set of realizations \mathcal{G}(d) of a deg. seq. d
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Transitions: exchange edges with non-edges along a randomly chosen alternating C_4 (least perturbation)



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Rapid mixing	ofthe	Switch	Markov	chain	shown	by
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regular	Cooper, Dyer, Greenhill 2007	Erdős, Miklós, Soukup 2013	Greenhill 2011

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Δ	$\leq c\sqrt{m}$	Greenhill 2015	Erdős, Miklós, M, Solt	ész 2018							
$[\delta,$	Δ]-type	Amanatidis and Kleer 2019	Erdős, Miklós, M, Solt	ész 2018							

Early results - bipartite degree sequences

PL Erdős, TRM, I Miklós, D Soltész (2018)

Theorem

Let d be a bipartite degree sequence. On the set of d satisfying

$$\Delta \le \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sqrt{m},$$

the switch Markov chain is rapidly mixing. (Moreover, the set is P-stable).

Theorem

Let d be a bipartite degree sequence on U and V as classes. On the set of d satisfying

$$(\Delta_V-\delta_V-1)^+\cdot (\Delta_U-\delta_U-1)^+ \leq \max\left(\delta_V(|V|-\Delta_U),\delta_U(|U|-\Delta_V)\right),$$

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$$\left(\Delta_V - \delta_V\right) \cdot \left(\Delta_U - \delta_U\right) \leq 4 \cdot \min\left(\delta_V(|V| - \Delta_U), \delta_U(|U| - \Delta_V)\right),$$

the switch Markov chain is rapidly mixing. (Moreover, the set is P-stable).

Early results - directed degree sequences

PL Erdős, TRM, I Miklós, D Soltész (2018)

Theorem

Let d be a directed degree sequence. On the set of d satisfying

$$\Delta_{\text{out}}, \Delta_{\text{in}} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sqrt{m-4},$$

the switch Markov chain is rapidly mixing. (Moreover, the set is P-stable).

Theorem

Let d be a directed degree sequence. On the set of d satisfying

$$(\Delta_{\mathrm{out}} - \delta_{\mathrm{out}}) \cdot (\Delta_{\mathrm{in}} - \delta_{\mathrm{in}}) \leq \max\left(\delta_{\mathrm{out}}(n - \Delta_{\mathrm{in}} - 1), \delta_{\mathrm{in}}(n - \Delta_{\mathrm{out}} - 1)\right) + \mathcal{O}(n),$$

the switch Markov chain is rapidly mixing. (Moreover, the set is *P*-stable).

PL Erdős, TRM, I Miklós, D Soltész (2018)

The proof of the theorems on the previous slides contain the main ideas to proving the following result:

Theorem (unpublished)

The switch Markov chain is rapidly mixing on bipartite and directed *P*-stable degree sequences.

Goal: extend the theorem to simple graphs

Unified method to prove rapid mixing of switch chains on *P*-stable degree sequences

Primitive circuit trails

PL Erdős, C Greenhill, TRM, I Miklós, D Soltész, L Soukup (2019+)

Definition

A closed walk $v_1v_2, v_2v_3, v_3v_4 \dots, v_{2k-1}v_{2k}, v_{2k}v_1$ (indices taken from $\mathbb{Z}/2k\mathbb{Z}$) which

- \cdot does not traverse the same edge twice and
- + for any $i \neq j$ it satisfies $v_i = v_j \Leftrightarrow i \equiv j+1 \pmod{2}$

is called a primitive circuit trail.

Definition

We say that C is an alternating primitive circuit trail in X, if

- * $v_{2i-1}v_{2i}\notin E(X)$ and
- $\cdot \ v_{2i}v_{2i+1} \in E(X)$

for $1 \leq i \leq k$.

PL Erdős, C Greenhill, TRM, I Miklós, D Soltész, L Soukup (2019+)

Let ${\mathfrak M}$ denote a graph model, e.g.: simple, bipartite, directed, etc.

Theorem

Let X be an arbitrary \mathfrak{M} graph which contains an alternating primitive circuit trail C that traverses each of the vertices of X.

If for any such X there exists a sequence of switches transforming X into $X \triangle E(C)$ s.t.

- + the length of the sequence is $\leq \operatorname{poly}_{\mathfrak{M}}(|V(X)|)$, and
- for any intermediate graph Z in the sequence and any \mathfrak{M} graph Y s.t. $E(C) \subseteq E(X) \triangle E(Y)$, there exists a graph $Z' \in \mathcal{G}'(d(Y))$ such that $\ell_1(A_X + A_Y - A_Z, A_{Z'}) \leq c_{\mathfrak{M}}$

then the switch Markov chain is rapidly mixing on P-stable ${\mathfrak M}$ degree sequences.

- $\cdot \ C = (v_1v_2, \dots, v_{15}v_{16}, v_{16}v_1)$
- Goal: find switch sequence $X, Z_1, Z_2, \dots, X \triangle E(C)$
- C is a bipartite primitive circuit \implies C is a cycle



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- red: original state in *X*, blue edge: flipped



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- red: original state in *X*, blue edge: flipped
- $A_X + A_Y A_Z$: takes 0 1everywhere, except maybe at most two +2 on blue non-edge chords, and at most one -1 on a blue chord.



- * $A_X + A_Y A_Z$ is 0 1 everywhere, except the first row
- The row of v_1 contains at most two +2 and at most one -1 entries

$A_X + A_Y - A_Z$									
Vertices	v_2	v_4				v_{2j}		v_{2k}	
v_1	0	1				2		0	
:	÷	÷	·	÷	·	÷	·	÷	
:	:	:	·	:	·	:	·	:	
v_{2k-1}									

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v_1	0	1				2		0	
÷	÷	÷	۰.	÷	·	÷	·	÷	
	÷	÷	·.	÷	·.	÷	·.	÷	
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$A_X + A_Y - A_Z$										
Vertices	v_2	v_4		$v_{2\ell}$		v_{2j}		v_{2k}		
v_1	0	1		0		2		0		
:	÷	÷	·	\wedge	·	÷	·	÷		
v_{2i-1}				1		0		÷		
÷	÷	÷	·	÷	·.	÷	·	÷		
v_{2k-1}										
		Min	. row	sum	in v_1					

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Vertices	v_2	v_4		$v_{2\ell}$		v_{2j}		v_{2k}			
v_1	0	1		-1		2		0			
÷	:	:	·	\wedge	÷.	÷	·	÷			
v_{2i-1}				0		0		÷			
÷	÷	÷	·	÷	<i>ъ</i> .	÷	·	÷			
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$A_X + A_Y - A_Z$ +switch											
Vertices	v_2	v_4		$v_{2\ell}$		v_{2j}		v_{2k}			
v_1	0	1		0		1		0			
÷	÷	÷	·	\wedge	·	÷	·	÷			
v_{2i-1}				-1		1		÷			
÷	÷	÷	·	÷	·	÷	·	÷			
v_{2k-1}											
	Min. row sum in v_1										

- $A_X + A_Y A_Z$ is 0 1 everywhere, except the first row
- The row of v_1 contains at most two +2 and at most one -1 entries
- With (at most two) switches and increasing the -1 entry by one, we turned $A_X + A_Y A_Z$ into the adjacency matrix of some $Z' \in \mathcal{G}(d(Y) + \mathbb{1}(v_{2i-1}) + \mathbb{1}(v_{2\ell}))$

	$A_X + A_Y - A_Z + switch + v_{2i-1}v_{2\ell}$									
Vertices	v_2	v_4		$v_{2\ell}$		v_{2j}		v_{2k}		
v_1	0	1		0		1		0		
:	÷	÷	·	\wedge	·	÷	·	÷		
v_{2i-1}				0		1		÷		
:	÷	÷	·	÷	·	÷	·	÷		
v_{2k-1}										
Min. row sum in v_1										

PL Erdős, C Greenhill, TRM, I Miklós, D Soltész, L Soukup (2019+)

- Suppose $v_1 = v_8$
- red: original state in *X*, blue edge: flipped



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Directed graphs

Let $D = (\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}, A)$ be directed graph. Let $X(D) = \left(\{v_i^1 \mid 1 \le i \le n\}, \{v_i^2 \mid 1 \le i \le n\}; \{v_i^1 v_j^2 \mid \overrightarrow{v_i v_j} \in A\}\right)$ $\mathcal{G}(\vec{d}) \longleftrightarrow \left\{ G \in \mathcal{G}_{\text{bipartite}}\left(\vec{d}_{\text{in}}, \vec{d}_{\text{out}}\right) \ |v_i^1 v_i^2 \notin E(G) \right\}$ x_{1}^{2} x_{2}^{1} x_3 x_{2}^{2} x_{3}^{1} x_1 x_2 x_{2}^{2} x_{1}^{1}

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Comparison to other stability based results

Other notions of stability

Definition (strong stability)

 $\exists k \; \forall d \in \mathcal{D} \; \forall d' \leq d \; \text{s.t.} \; \|d' - d\|_1 \leq 2 \; \text{we have} \; \max_{G' \in \mathcal{G}(d')} \min_{G \in \mathcal{G}(d)} |E(G) \bigtriangleup E(G')| \leq k$

Theorem (Amanatidis and Kleer 2019)

The switch chain is rapidly mixing on **strongly-stable** deg. sequences (simple, bipartite).

The proof relies on the rapid mixing of the JS-chain (it seems the proof cannot be extended beyond *P*-stable).

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Definition (*k*-stability)

 $\forall d \in \mathcal{D} \; \forall d' \in \mathbb{N}^n \text{ s.t. } \|d' - d\|_1 \leq k \text{ we have } |\mathcal{G}(d')| \leq \operatorname{poly}(n) \cdot |\mathcal{G}(d)|$

where $n = \dim(d)$. In this case, we call \mathcal{D} a *k*-stable class of degree sequences.

Theorem (Gao and Greenhill 2020+)

The switch Markov-chain is rapidly mixing on **8-stable** deg. sequences (simple, directed).

Bounds on the mixing time of the switch chain	
for typical known rapidly mixing classes of simple degree sequences	
Amanatidis and Kleer (strongly stable)	$\tau(\varepsilon) \leq n^{48} \cdot (m \log 2m - \log \varepsilon)$
Gao and Greenhill (8-stable)	$\tau(\varepsilon) \leq n^{42} \cdot (m \log 2m - \log \varepsilon)$
<i>P</i> -stable	$\tau(\varepsilon) \leq n^{30} \cdot (m \log 2m - \log \varepsilon)$

- *P*-stability \Leftrightarrow 2-stability.
- Both strong stability and 8-stability imply *P*-stability.
- Almost all of the known rapid mixing regions are 8-stable and strongly-stable
- The above table tries to compare apples to oranges, the bounds are not verbatim quoted.

Heavy-tailed degree sequences

Suppose
$$d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \ldots \geq d_n.$$
 Let $J(d) = \sum_{i=1}^{a_1} d_i.$

Theorem (Gao and Greenhill 2020+)

The set of degree sequences d satisfying

```
m(d) > J(d) + 9\Delta(d) + 23
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is 8-stable (hence P-stable).

Theorem (Gao and Greenhill 2020+)

The set of degree sequences d satisfying

 $m(d) > J(d) + 3\Delta(d) + 1$

is both strongly-stable and P-stable.

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These results contain deg. sequences that obey a power-law distribution-bound for $\gamma>2$

Beyond *P*-stability...?

For all $n,k\in\mathbb{Z}^+$, let us define the bipartite degree sequence

Let the set of degree sequences which are k-close to h in ℓ_1 -norm be

$$B_k(d) = \left\{ d' \in \mathbb{N}^n \; \Big| \; \|d' - d\|_1 \leq k \right\}$$

Theorem (PL Erdős, E Győri, TRM, I Miklós, D Soltész 2020+)

For any $c \in \mathbb{R}^+$, the switch Markov chain is rapidly mixing on the non-P-stable class

$$\bigcup_{k=1}^\infty B_{c\sqrt{\log n}}(h_n)$$

Thank you for attending my ZOOM presentation!

Homepage: https://trm.hu

Full papers

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0201995
https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.06600
https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.02308

Theorem (Svante Janson 2006)

Let $(G_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence of random multigraphs generated by the configuration model, such that $e(G_n) = \Theta(n)$. Then

$$\liminf_{n \to \infty} \Pr(G_n \text{ is simple}) \Leftrightarrow \sum_{v \in V(G_n)} d_{G_n}(v)^2 = \mathcal{O}(n)$$

Theorem (Svante Janson 2020)

By randomly switching, TV dist goes to 0.

- Use the Jerrum-Sinclair result: construct a multicommodity-flow that sends a 1-flow between any two realizations in the Markov-graph such that no realization is overloaded
- Determining a flow between any two $X, Y \in \mathcal{G}(d)$
 - Decompose $E(X)\Delta E(Y)$ into red/blue alternating circuit trails: the red and blue degrees are the same in $E(X)\Delta E(Y)$, because X and Y share the same degree sequence.
 - · Decompose alternating circuit trails into primitive alternating circuit trails
 - Process primitive circuits: exchange edges with non-edges via the previous algorithm



- Let s be a complete matching between the red and blue edges at each vertex
- Thus $E(\mathbf{X}) \triangle E(\mathbf{Y}) = W_1 \uplus ... \uplus W_k$, where each W_i is an alternating-circuit
- Exchange the edges with non-edges in each alternating primitive circuit trail



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