

# From B-trees to large Pólya urns

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## A continuous-time branching process

$(X(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is a continuous-time multitype branching process, with  $m$  types (colors),  $m \geq 2$

Any particle of type  $j$  is equipped with a  $\mathcal{Exp}(m+j-1)$  clock.

When a clock rings,

- **one** particle of type  $j+1$ ,      if  $j = 1, \dots, m-1$
- **two** particles of type 1,      if  $j = m$ .

$0 < \tau_1 < \dots < \tau_n < \dots$  are the jump times

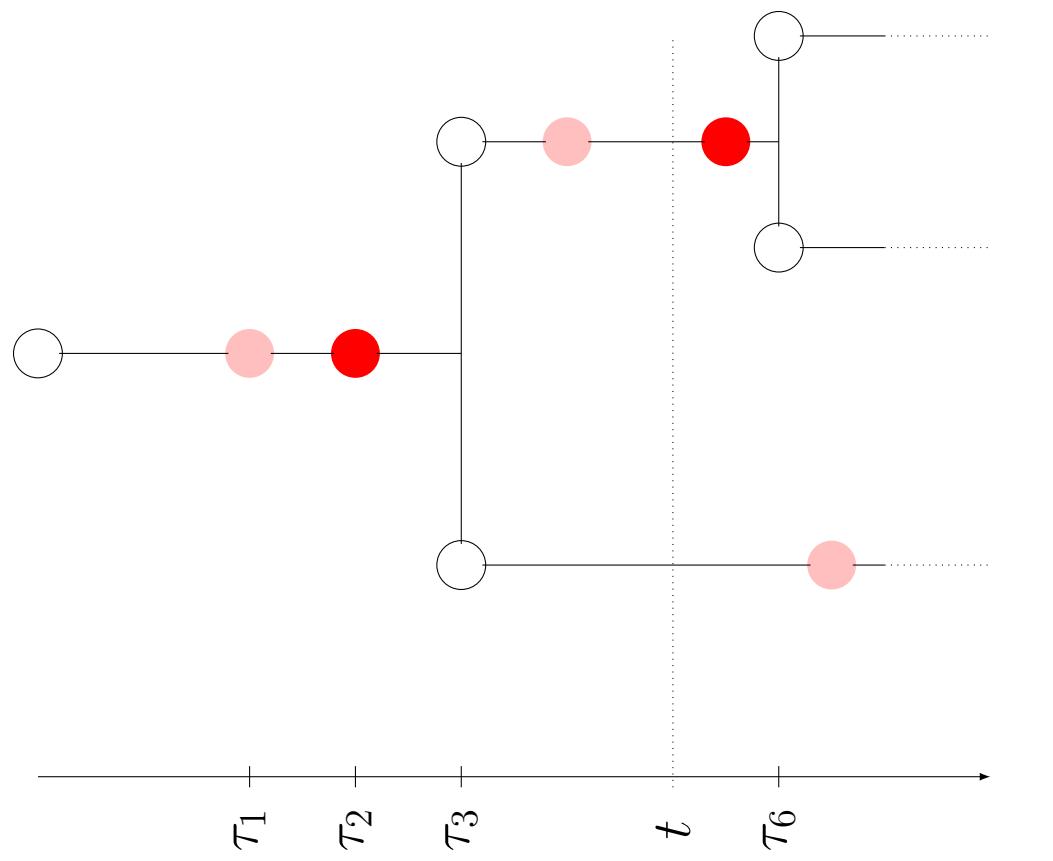
Composition vector

$$X(t) = \begin{pmatrix} X(t)^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ X(t)^{(m)} \end{pmatrix}$$

$X(t)^{(j)} = \#$  particles of type  $j$  alive at time  $t$ .

$$\boxed{m = 3}$$

*type* 1 = *white*  
*type* 2 = *pink*  
*type* 3 = *red*



$$X(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$e^{-tA_m}X(t)$  is a vector-valued martingale.

where  $A_m$  is the transition matrix:

$$A_m = \begin{pmatrix} -m & -(m+1) & & & \\ m & m+1 & -(m+2) & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & \ddots & -(2m-2) \\ & & & & 2m-2 & -(2m-1) \end{pmatrix}^{2(2m-1)}.$$

The eigenvalues are simple, solution of the

Characteristic equation:  $(\lambda + m) \dots (\lambda + 2m - 1) = \frac{(2m)!}{m!}$

$$\lambda_1 = 1$$

$\lambda_2, \overline{\lambda_2} =$  conjugate eigenvalues with the greatest real part  $< 1$ .

$$\sigma_2 := \Re(\lambda_2).$$

## 2 different asymptotics:

- Gaussian: when  $m \leq 59$ , then  $\sigma_2 < \frac{1}{2}$  and

$$X(t) = e^{t\xi} v_1(1 + o(1)) + e^{t/2} \sqrt{\xi} G(1 + o(1))$$

where  $v_1$  is an eigenvector for 1;

$\xi$  is Gamma-distributed

$G$  is a Gaussian vector, independant of  $\xi$   
 the convergence in the first term holds a.s. and in  $L^p$   
 the convergence in the second term holds in distribution.

- non Gaussian: when  $m \geq 60$ , then  $\frac{1}{2} < \sigma_2 < 1$  and

$$X(t) = e^{t\xi} v_1(1 + o(1)) + \Re(e^{\lambda_2 t} W^{CT} v_2)(1 + o(1)) + o(e^{\sigma_2 t})$$

where

$v_1, v_2$  are deterministic vectors

$W^{CT}$  is a  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued martingale's limit

$o(\cdot)$  means a.s. and in any  $L^p, p \geq 1$

Goal: distribution of  $W^{CT}$

Where does the asymptotic expansion come from?

$A_m$  = transition matrix associated with  $X(t)$

$e^{-tA_m}X(t)$  is a vector-valued martingale.

Spectral decomposition:

$$X(t) = u_1(X(t))v_1 + \textcolor{red}{u}_2(X(t))v_2 + \overline{u}_2(X(t))\overline{v}_2 + \dots$$

where

$u_1$  = coordinate of the first projection along  $v_1$

$\textcolor{red}{u}_2 =$  **second**

$$(e^{-\lambda_1 t}u_1(X(t)))_{t \geq 0} \quad \text{and} \quad (\textcolor{red}{e}^{-\lambda_2 t}u_2(X(t)))_{t \geq 0}$$

are continuous-time  **$L^p$ -bounded** martingales.

Notation:

$$\xi := \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} e^{-t}u_1(X(t))$$

$$W^{CT} := \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} e^{-\lambda_2 t}u_2(X(t))$$

Summarizing:

$$\xi := \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} e^{-t} u_1(X(t)) \quad \textcolor{red}{W^{CT}} := \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} e^{-\lambda_2 t} u_2(X(t))$$

Theorem ( $\sim$  Janson, CLP): for  $m \geq 60$ ,

$$X(t) = e^t \xi v_1(1 + o(1)) + \Re(e^{\lambda_2 t} \textcolor{red}{W^{CT}} v_2)(1 + o(1)) + o(e^{\sigma_2 t})$$

where

$v_1, v_2$  are deterministic vectors

$\textcolor{red}{W^{CT}}$  is a  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued martingale's limit

$o(\cdot)$  means a.s. and in any  $L^p, p \geq 1$ .

## Dislocation equations - branching property

Adopt the notations:

$X_{\textcolor{red}{k}}(t) := X(t)$  starting from  $(0, \dots, \underset{k}{1}, \dots, 0)$ , one particle of type  $\textcolor{red}{k}$ .  
 $W_{\textcolor{red}{k}} := W^{CT}$  starting from  $(0, \dots, \underset{k}{1}, \dots, 0)$ , one particle of type  $\textcolor{red}{k}$ .

$\forall t > \tau$  (the first splitting time),

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textcolor{red}{X}_1(t) \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} X_2(t - \tau^{(1)}) \\ X_2(t) \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} X_3(t - \tau^{(2)}) \\ \vdots \\ X_{m-1}(t) \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} X_m(t - \tau^{(m-1)}) \\ X_m(t) \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} \textcolor{red}{X}_1^{(1)}(t - \tau^{(m)}) + \textcolor{red}{X}_1^{(2)}(t - \tau^{(m)}) \end{array} \right.$$

where  $\tau^{(k)}$  is  $\mathcal{E}xp(m+k-1)$  distributed;  $\textcolor{red}{X}_1^{(1)}$  and  $\textcolor{red}{X}_1^{(2)}$  are independent copies of  $\textcolor{red}{X}_1$ , independent of  $\tau^{(m)}$ .

Take projections, renormalize, take the limit,  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ :

$$\tau^{(k)} \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} \text{Exp}(m+k-1)$$

$$W_1 \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} e^{-\lambda_2 \tau^{(1)}} W_2$$

$$W_2 \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} e^{-\lambda_2 \tau^{(2)}} W_3$$

...

$$W_{m-1} \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} e^{-\lambda_2 \tau^{(m-1)}} W_m$$

$$W_m \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} e^{-\lambda_2 \tau^{(m)}} \left( W_1^{(1)} + W_1^{(2)} \right)$$

which gives a fixed point equation on  $W_1$  only:

$$W_1 \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} e^{-\lambda_2 (\tau^{(1)} + \dots + \tau^{(m)})} \left( W_1^{(1)} + W_1^{(2)} \right).$$

$W_1 \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} V^{\lambda_2} \left( W_1^{(1)} + W_1^{(2)} \right)$	where $V = e^{-(\tau^{(1)} + \dots + \tau^{(m)})}$
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$$\stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} \text{Beta}(m, m)$$

More on the smoothing equation:

$$W \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} V^{\lambda_2} (W^{(1)} + W^{(2)})$$

$$\text{where } V \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} Beta(m, m)$$

- Th 1: existence and unicity (contraction method)
- Th 2: existence and exponential moments (cascade)
- Th 3: support and density % Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{C}$  (Liu's method)
  - ← discrete analogous process?

## B-tree

$$X_n = \begin{pmatrix} X_n^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ X_n^{(\underline{m})} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{counts the number of final internal nodes in a B-tree of size } n.$$

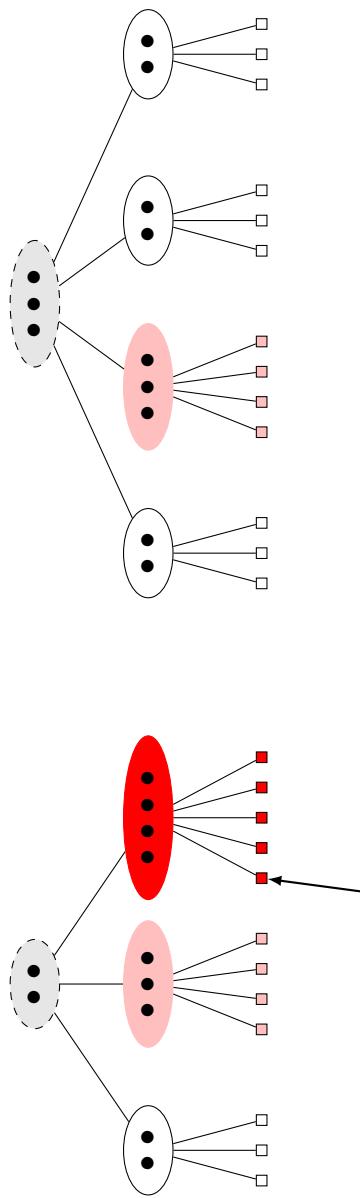
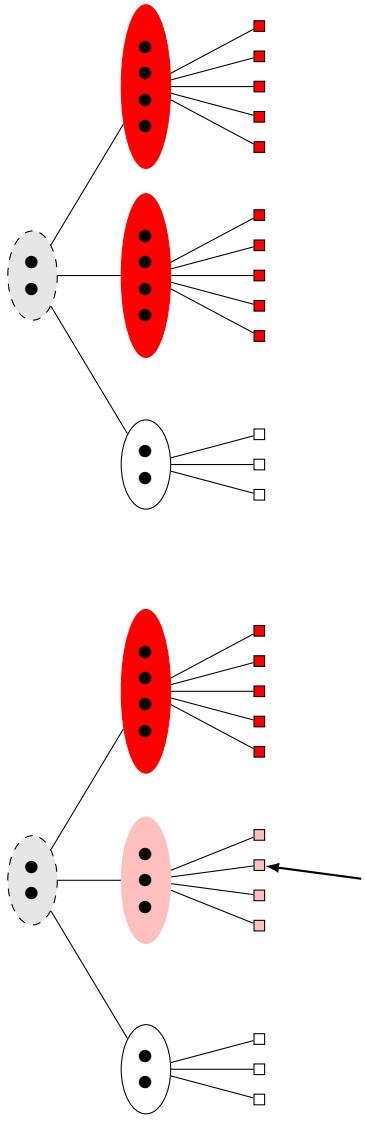
A **B-tree** with parameter  $\underline{m}$  is a **search tree** where

- all the leaves are at the same level
- in a node: between  $\underline{m} - 1$  and  $2\underline{m} - 2$  keys
- insertion of a new key occurs at a leaf  
(and the leaves are equally likely)

$$\boxed{m=3}$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{11} \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}_{12}$$

$2 \leq \# \text{ keys} \leq 4$   
 3 colors: white, pink, red



$$R_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 4 & 5 \\ 6 & -4 & -5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

## B-tree

$$X_n = \begin{pmatrix} X_n^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ X_n^{(m)} \end{pmatrix} \text{ counts the number of final internal nodes in a B-tree of size } n.$$

$$G_n = \begin{pmatrix} G_n^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ G_n^{(m)} \end{pmatrix} \text{ counts the number of different gaps in a B-tree of size } n.$$

$$[G_n = DX_n]$$

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} m & & & \\ & m+1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 2m-1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$(G_n)$  is a Pólya urn process, with replacement matrix

$$R_m = \begin{pmatrix} -m & m+1 & & \\ & -(m+1) & m+2 & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 2m \\ & & & -(2m-2) & 2m-1 \\ & & & & -(2m-1) \end{pmatrix}.$$

## Asymptotics of the gap process ( $G_n$ )

Asymptotics of the node process ( $X_n$ )

Theorem ( $\sim$  Janson):

- Gaussian if  $m \leq 59$ ,

$$\frac{G_n - nv_1}{\sqrt{n}} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\mathcal{D}} G$$

- non Gaussian: when  $m \geq 60$

$$G_n = nv_1 + 2\Re(n^{\lambda_2} W^{DT} v_2) + o(n^{\sigma_2})$$

where

$\rightarrow v_1, v_2$  are deterministic vectors

$\rightarrow W^{DT}$  is a  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued martingale's limit

$\rightarrow o(\ )$  means a.s. and in any  $L^p, p \geq 1$ .

$$W^{DT} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^{\lambda_2}} u_2(G_n).$$

Goal: distribution of  $W^{DT}$

## Connexion DT-CT

$$W^{CT} \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} \xi^{\lambda_2} W^{DT}$$

where  $\xi$  is Gamma-distributed.

$W^{DT}$  is a solution of the fixed point distributional equation

$$W \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} V_1^{\lambda_2} W^{(1)} + V_2^{\lambda_2} W^{(2)}$$

Two proofs:

- connexion and moments
- tree structure and original Pólya urn argument  
(ask to Cécile Mailler)  
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Now the last part (C)

Properties of  $\textcolor{red}{W}$  solution of

$$W \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} V_1^{\lambda_2} W^{(1)} + V_2^{\lambda_2} W^{(2)}$$

$$W \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} V^{\lambda_2} (W^{(1)} + W^{(2)})$$

or

- Th 1: existence and unicity (contraction method)
- Th 2: existence and exponential moments (cascade)
- Th 3: support and density % Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{C}$  (Liu's method)

**Theorem 1** *The distributional equation*

$$W \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} V^{\lambda_2} (W^{(1)} + W^{(2)})$$

admits a unique solution  $W$  in the space  $\mathcal{M}_2(C)$  of probability measures with a second moment and a given expectation  $C$ .

Hints of proof:

→ Banach fixed point theorem on  $\mathcal{M}_2(C)$  endowed with the Wasserstein distance.

→ simple computations:

$$2\mathbb{E}(V^s) = \frac{(2m)\dots(m+1)}{(2m-1+s)\dots(m+s)}$$

$$\bullet \lambda_2 \text{ solution of } (\lambda+m)\dots(\lambda+2m-1) = \frac{(2m)!}{m!} \implies \mathbb{E}(V^{\lambda_2}) = \frac{1}{2}$$

- The smoothing transform is  $\frac{1}{\frac{1}{2} + \Re(\lambda_2)}$ -Lipschitz and  $\Re(\lambda_2) > \frac{1}{2} \implies$  contraction

**Theorem 2** Let  $W$  be a solution of

$$W \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} V^{\lambda_2} (W^{(1)} + W^{(2)})$$

There exist some constants  $C > 0$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that for all  $t \in \mathbb{C}$  with

$$|t| \leq \varepsilon, \quad \mathbb{E} e^{\langle t, W \rangle} \leq e^{m\Re(t) + C|t|^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{E} e^{|tW|} \leq 4e^{m|t| + 2C|t|^2}. \quad (1)$$

Hints of proof:

→ introduce the **cascade**

$$(A_u)_{u \in U} \text{ iid}, A_u \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} V^{\lambda_2}$$

$$u = u_1 u_2 \dots u_{n-1}$$

$$Y_n = 2mV^{\lambda_2} \sum_{|u|=n-1} A_{u_1} A_{u_1 u_2} \dots A_{u_1 \dots u_{n-1}}$$

so that

$$Y_{n+1} = V^{\lambda_2} \left( Y_n^{(1)} + Y_n^{(2)} \right),$$

$(Y_n)$  is a martingale, bounded in  $L^2$  (computation) since  $\Re(\lambda_2) > \frac{1}{2}$ .

$$Y_n \rightarrow Y_\infty \text{ a.s. and in } L^2,$$

→ prove the theorem for  $Y_\infty$ , by recursivity on  $Y_n$ .

**Theorem 3** Let  $W$  be a solution of

$$W \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} V^{\lambda_2} (W^{(1)} + W^{(2)})$$

- (i) The support of  $W$  is the whole complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ ;
- (ii)  $W$  is absolutely continuous relatively to Lebesgue's measure on  $\mathbb{C}$ .

$W$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued

$\lambda_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ , the support of  $V^{\lambda_2}$  is a **spiral**

the sum is mixing the supports. So ??

Hints of proof (à la Liu):

→ the support is  $\mathbb{C} \iff z \in Supp(W) \implies 2^n v^{\lambda_2} z \in Supp(W)$   
+ **arithmetical argument**.

→ equation written on the Fourier transform, and Fourier inversion. Relies  
on the fact that  **$W$  is non lattice**.

## Open questions = More on $W$

- Is it a known distribution?
- Exact size of the moments
- Shape of the density
- Exploit  $W^{C^T}$  infinitely divisible, self-decomposable.