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Relaxed Sector Condition and Random Walk
in Divergence Free Random Drift Field

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**Relaxed Sector Condition and
Random Walk in Divergence Free Random Drift Field**

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Notation:

$$(\Omega, \pi, \tau_z : z \in \mathbb{Z}^d)$$

probability space
with ergodic \mathbb{Z}^d -action

$$\mathcal{E} = \{e \in \mathbb{Z}^d : |e| = 1\}$$

possible steps of the rw

$$v_e : \Omega \rightarrow [-1, 1], \quad e \in \mathcal{E}$$

- $v_e(\omega) + v_{-e}(\tau_e \omega) \equiv 0$

vector field

- $\sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} v_e(\omega) \equiv 0$

divergence-free

- $\int_{\Omega} v_e(\omega) d\pi(\omega) = 0,$

no overall drift

$$V_e(\omega, x) := v_e(\tau_x \omega)$$

the vector field over \mathbb{Z}^d

Helmholtz's Theorem:

$d = 2$: The **height function**: $\mathbb{Z}_*^2 := \mathbb{Z}^2 + (1/2, 1/2)$.

There exists $H : \Omega \times \mathbb{Z}_*^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ scalar field with stationary increments such that

$$V = \text{curl } H, \quad V_e(x) = H\left(x + \frac{e + \tilde{e}}{2}\right) - H\left(x + \frac{e - \tilde{e}}{2}\right)$$

$d = 3$: The **stream field**: $\mathbb{Z}_*^3 := \mathbb{Z}^2 + (1/2, 1/2, 1/2)$.

There exists $H_e : \Omega \times \mathbb{Z}_*^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $e \in \mathcal{E}$, vector field with stationary increments such that

$$V = \text{curl } H, \quad V_e(\omega, x) = \dots \text{explain in plain words}$$

Examples and essentially different cases:

- H stationary + ergodic + bounded [S.M. Kozlov (1985)]:

$$h \in \mathcal{L}^\infty, \quad H(\omega, x) = h(\tau_x \omega) - h(\omega)$$

- H stationary + ergodic + unbounded + $\text{curl } H$ bounded:

$$h \in \mathcal{L}^2 \setminus \mathcal{L}^\infty, \quad H(\omega, x) = h(\tau_x \omega) - h(\omega)$$

this is the case discussed today. H_{-1} -condition ✓

- H {stationary + ergodic} increments (but not stationary).
+ $\text{curl } H$ bounded. $\text{No } H_{-1}$ -condition, superdiffusive.
- randomly oriented Manhattan-lattice
- six-vertex / square ice ($d = 2$)
- dimer tiling ($d = 2$)

The **random walk in random environment**: $0 < \varepsilon < 1/(2d)$, fixed

$$\mathbf{P}_\omega(X_{n+1} = x + e \mid X_0^n, X_n = x) = \frac{1}{2d} + \varepsilon V_e(\omega, x)$$

The **environment process**:

$$\eta_n := \tau_{X_n} \omega$$

Stationary and ergodic Markov process on (Ω, π) . (Due to div-freeness.)

Some **operators** on the Hilbert space $\mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \pi)$:

$$\mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \pi)\text{-gradient : } \quad \nabla_e f(\omega) := f(\tau_e \omega) - f(\omega)$$

$$\nabla_e^* = \nabla_{-e}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \pi)\text{-Laplacian : } \quad \Delta f(\omega) := \frac{1}{d} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} (f(\tau_e \omega) - f(\omega))$$

$$\Delta^* = \Delta \leq 0$$

$$\text{multiplication ops. : } \quad M_e f(\omega) := v_e(\omega) f(\omega)$$

$$M_e^* = M_e$$

A commutation relation – due to div-freeness of v :

$$\sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} M_e \nabla_e + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \nabla_e M_{-e} = 0$$

The **transition operator / infinitesimal generator** of the environment process:

$$L = P - I = \frac{1}{2}\Delta + \varepsilon \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} M_e \nabla_e =: -S + A$$

Martingale decomposition of the displacement:

$$\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \varphi(\omega) := \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} v_e(\omega) e$$

Then:

$$Y_n := X_n - \varepsilon \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \varphi(\eta_k)$$

is a martingale with stationary+ergodic increments.

$$X_n = Y_n + \varepsilon \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \varphi(\eta_k)$$

Goal: understand diffusive behaviour of $\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \varphi(\eta_k)$.

Relaxed Sector Condition [I. Horváth, B. Tóth, B. Vető (2012)]

Theorem: Efficient martingale approximation (a la Kipnis-Varadhan) holds for $\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \varphi(\eta_k)$ if

- (1) " $S^{-1/2}AS^{-1/2}$ " is skew self-adjoint
(not just skew symmetric).
- (2) $\varphi \in \text{Ran}(S^{-1/2})$ H_{-1} -condition

Remarks:

- (1) Extends Varadhan et al.'s *Graded Sector Condition*.
- (2) Proof: partly reminiscent of Trotter-Kurtz.

Two possible definitions of " $S^{-1/2}AS^{-1/2}$ ":

$$B := \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \left((-\Delta)^{-1/2} \nabla_e \right) M_e (-\Delta)^{-1/2} = " S^{-1/2}AS^{-1/2} "$$

on $\mathcal{C} := \text{Dom}(-\Delta)^{-1/2} = \text{Ran}(-\Delta)^{1/2}$

$$\tilde{B} := (-\Delta)^{-1/2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} M_e \left((-\Delta)^{-1/2} \nabla_e \right) = " S^{-1/2}AS^{-1/2} "$$

on $\tilde{\mathcal{C}} := \{f \in \mathcal{L}^2 : \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} M_e \left((-\Delta)^{-1/2} \nabla_e \right) f \in \text{Dom}(-\Delta)^{-1/2}\}$

Facts (easy): (1) B is *skew symmetric* on \mathcal{C} .

(2) $\mathcal{C} \subset \tilde{\mathcal{C}}$ and $\tilde{B}|_{\mathcal{C}} = B$.

(3) $\tilde{B} = \overline{\tilde{B}}$ and $\tilde{B} = -B^*$.

Wanted: $\overline{B} = \tilde{B}$, or, equivalently $\overline{B} = -B^*$

What is missing from skew self-adjointness of " $S^{-1/2}AS^{-1/2}$ "?

von Neumann's criterion:

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} B \text{ skew symmetric, and} \\ \overline{\text{Ran}(B \pm I)} = \mathcal{H} \end{array} \right) \Leftrightarrow \left(\begin{array}{l} B \text{ essentially} \\ \text{skew self-adjoint} \end{array} \right)$$

Needed:

$$\sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} M_e \left((-\Delta)^{-1/2} \nabla_e \right) \psi = (-\Delta)^{1/2} \psi \quad \Rightarrow \quad \psi = 0.$$

Warning: Formal manipulation deceives: $\psi \notin \text{Dom}(-\Delta)^{-1/2}$!

Raise it to the lattice \mathbb{Z}^d : change of notation: from now on:
 ∇, Δ, \dots = lattice gradient, lattice Laplacian, \dots

Wanted:

NO nontrivial scalar field $\psi : \Omega \times \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with stationary increment, and $\mathbf{E}(\psi) = 0$ solves the PDE

$$\Delta \psi = V \cdot \nabla \psi. \quad (1)$$

$$\text{" } \psi = (-\Delta)^{-1/2} \psi \text{ ", } \quad \nabla \psi(\omega, x) = (-\Delta)^{-1/2} \nabla \psi(\tau_x \omega)$$

Note similarity: No sublinearly growing harmonic function on \mathbb{Z}^d .

H₋₁ assumed:

The height function/stream field is stationary, \mathcal{L}^2 . Hence

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-1} \mathbf{E} \left(X_n^2 \right) < \infty.$$

Let ψ be solution of (1). Then $n \mapsto R_n := \psi(X_n)$ is a martingale with stationary and ergodic increments.

$$\rho^2 := \mathbf{E} \left((R_{n+1} - R_n)^2 \right),$$

$$(1 - 2d\varepsilon) \|\psi\|^2 \leq \rho^2 \leq (1 + 2d\varepsilon) \|\psi\|^2$$

and

$$n^{-1/2} R_n \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2)$$

IF

$$\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} |x|^{-1} |\Psi(x)| = 0 \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (2)$$

then $\rho = 0$, ✓.

Naïve guess: (2) holds for 0-mean fields with stationary increments. ($d = 1$: ergodic theorem. Generally no true in $d \geq 2$.)

Proof of (2) in $d = 2$:

Maximum principle: $\max_{x \in \Lambda} |\Psi(x)| = \max_{x \in \partial \Lambda} |\Psi(x)|$

By ergodic thm: $N^{-1} \max_{x \in \partial[-N, N]^2} |\Psi(x)| \xrightarrow{\mathbf{P}} 0,$

Thus: $N^{-1} \max_{x \in [-N, N]^2} |\Psi(x)| \xrightarrow{\mathbf{P}} 0,$

Altogether:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{P}\left(|R_n| > \varepsilon \sqrt{n}\right) \\ &= \mathbf{P}\left(|R_n| > \varepsilon \sqrt{n}, |X_n| > K \sqrt{n}\right) + \mathbf{P}\left(|R_n| > \varepsilon \sqrt{n}, |X_n| \leq K \sqrt{n}\right) \\ &\leq \mathbf{P}\left(|X_n| > K \sqrt{n}\right) + \mathbf{P}\left(\max_{|x| \leq K \sqrt{n}} |\Psi(x)| > \varepsilon \sqrt{n}\right) \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$