

Continuous time simple random walk on a graph $\Gamma = (G, E)$.

Let G be an infinite (connected) graph. For $x, y \in G$ let

$$\mu_{xy} = \mu_{yx} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \{x, y\} \text{ is an edge,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Define the *vertex degree* $\mu_x = \mu(x) = \sum_y \mu_{xy}$.

Assume $\mu(x) < \infty$ for all $x \in G$, and extend μ to a measure on G . Set $V(x, r) = \mu(B(x, r))$.

Dirichlet form:

$$\mathcal{E}(f, f) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y} (f(x) - f(y))^2 \mu_{xy}.$$

The CTSRW on Γ is the process

$$Y = (Y_t, t \in [0, \infty), P^x, x \in G)$$

associated with the Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, L^2(G, \mu))$.

Y waits at a point x for an exponential time with mean 1, then moves to $y \sim x$ with probability μ_{xy}/μ_x .

Heat kernel:

$$q_t(x, y) = \frac{P^x(Y_t = y)}{\mu_y}.$$

Laplacian:

$$\mathcal{L}f(x) = \frac{1}{\mu_x} \sum_y \mu_{xy} (f(y) - f(x)).$$

Heat equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} q_t(x_0, x) = \mathcal{L}q_t(x_0, x).$$

Discrete Gauss-Green:

$$\mathcal{E}(f, g) = (-\mathcal{L}f, g), \text{ where } (\cdot, \cdot) \text{ is the inner product in } L^2(G, \mu).$$

Random walk on \mathcal{C}_∞ This is just the CTSRW on the graph $(\mathcal{C}_\infty(\omega), \mathcal{O}(\omega)|_{\mathcal{C}_\infty(\omega)})$. More precisely, we have two probability spaces:

1. (Ω, \mathbb{P}_p) - the space for the percolation process.
2. $\Omega' (= D([0, \infty), \mathbb{Z}^d) \text{ for example})$ - the space carrying the random walk. For each $\omega \in \Omega$, and $x \in \mathcal{C}_\infty(\omega)$ we then have the probability law P_ω^x for Y started at x . Write $q_t^\omega(x, y)$ for the heat kernel of Y .

Brief History

1. De Masi, Ferrari, Goldstein, Wick 1989: CLT and (‘annealed’) invariance principle.
2. Grimmett, Kesten, Zhang, 1993: Y is recurrent if $d = 2$ and transient if $d \geq 3$.
3. Benjamini & Schramm (unpublished):

$$\mathbb{E}_p q_t^\omega(x, x) \geq ct^{-d/2}.$$

4. Benjamini, R. Lyons, Schramm 1999: bounded harmonic functions on \mathcal{C}_∞ are constant. (Also results on general transitive graphs.)
5. Heicklen & Hoffmann (2001–2006):

$$\mathbb{E}_p(q_t^\omega(x, x) | x \in \mathcal{C}_\infty) \leq ct^{-d/2}(\log t)^{\delta_d}.$$

6. Mathieu & Remy (Ann Prob 2004): An isoperimetric inequality on \mathcal{C}_∞ which implies that \mathbb{P}_p a.s. on $\{\omega : x \in \mathcal{C}_\infty(\omega)\}$,

$$q_t^\omega(x, x) \leq ct^{-d/2}, \quad t \geq t_0(x, \omega).$$

7. Benjamini & Mossel (PTRF 2003): spectral gap inequalities for balls in \mathcal{C}_∞ .
8. MB (Ann Prob 2004): Gaussian upper and lower bounds on $q_t^\omega(x, y)$.
9. Sidoravicius & Sznitman (PTRF 2004), Berger & Biskup (PTRF 2007), Mathieu & Piatnitski (preprint 2005): quenched invariance principle.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $p > p_c$. For each $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ there exist r.v. $T_x(\omega)$ with*

$$\mathbb{P}_p(T_x \geq n; x \in \mathcal{C}_\infty) \leq c \exp(-n^{\varepsilon_d})$$

and (non-random) constants $c_i = c_i(d, p)$ such that for $x, y \in \mathcal{C}_\infty(\omega)$:

$$q_t^\omega(x, y) \leq \frac{c_1}{t^{d/2}} e^{-c_2|x-y|^2/t} \quad \text{for } t \geq T_x(\omega) \vee |x - y|. \quad (GUB)$$

$$q_t^\omega(x, y) \geq \frac{c_3}{t^{d/2}} e^{-c_4|x-y|^2/t} \quad \text{for } t \geq T_x(\omega) \vee |x - y|. \quad (GLB)$$

Note also

$$q_t^\omega(x, y) \geq \frac{c_3}{t^{d/2}} e^{-c_4|x-y|^2/t} \quad \text{for } t \geq T_x(\omega) \vee |x - y|^{3/2}. \quad (GLB')$$

Remarks.

1. CTSRW on \mathbb{Z}^d satisfies (GB) = (GUB) + (GLB) with $T_x \equiv 1$.
2. We need $t \geq D = |x - y|$ for Gaussian behaviour. If $t \ll D$ then (even for \mathbb{Z}^d)

$$P^x(Y_t = y) \approx e^{-cD} P(\text{Poisson}(t) = D) \approx e^{-cD} e^{-cD \log(D/t)}.$$

3. There exist ‘long range’ bounds (Carne-Varopoulos, Davies) which give good upper bounds for any infinite graph. These bounds are:

$$q_t(x, y) \leq c \exp(-c_1 d(x, y)^2/t).$$

GUB follow if $D^2 \geq at \log t$, or $t < D^2/\log D$. For when a is large enough

$$e^{-c_1 D^2/2t} \leq e^{-(c_1 a)/2 \log t} = t^{-ac_1/2} < t^{-d/2}$$

4. The real zone of interest for these bounds is when

$$0 \leq D \leq (ct \log t)^{1/2}.$$

GLB' is $D \leq t^{2/3}$ so contains this zone.

5. Applications of the bounds often need control on $T_x(\omega)$ as well.

6. These bounds also hold (with minor modifications since \mathcal{C}_∞ is bipartite) for the discrete time walk on \mathcal{C}_∞ .

A guide to how one proves this is:

Theorem 3.2. (*Delmotte, (1999), simplified.*) *Let Γ be an infinite connected graph. The following are equivalent:*

(a) Γ satisfies (V_d) and (famPI) :

$$c_1 r^d \leq \mu(B(x, r)) \leq c_2 r^d \quad \text{for } x \in G, r \geq 1.$$

(b) $q_t(x, y)$ satisfies GB with $T_x \equiv 1$,

(c) Γ satisfies Parabolic Harnack Inequality (PHI) and (V_d) .

Note: 1. The more general version of this theorem, uses ‘volume doubling’ rather than (V_d) .

2. (famWkPI) works as well as (famPI) .

3. Γ satisfies (famPI) if for all $B = B(x, r)$ one has the PI:

$$\int_B |f - \bar{f}_B|^2 d\mu \leq C_P r^2 \mathcal{E}_B(f, f) \quad (PI)$$

4. The hard implication is $(a) \Rightarrow (b), (c)$. Delmotte proved $(a) \Rightarrow (c)$ using Moser’s argument.

5. This extends to graphs earlier work on manifolds (Grigoryan, Saloff-Coste), metric spaces (Sturm).

(V_d) and **(famWkPI)** on \mathcal{C}_∞

Volume. We have

$$\theta(p) = \mathbb{P}_p(|\mathcal{C}(x)| = \infty) = \mathbb{P}_p(x \in \mathcal{C}_\infty).$$

So by the ergodic theorem if Q_n is the box side n centre 0,

$$\frac{|\mathcal{C}_\infty \cap Q_n|}{|Q_n|} \rightarrow \theta(p).$$

Dividing a very big box into big boxes one deduces

$$\mathbb{P}_p(c_1 R^d \leq |B_\omega(x, R)|) \geq 1 - e^{-cR^\delta}.$$

Also $|B_\omega(x, R)| \leq cR^d$ always.

Poincaré inequalities. Using the isoperimetric inequality one gets

$$\mathbb{P}_p(\text{(wkPI) holds for } B_\omega(x, R)) \geq 1 - e^{-cR^\delta}.$$

Hence by Borel-Cantelli for each x one has (V_d) and (wkPI) for $B(x, R)$ for all $R \geq R_x(\omega)$.