The Vertex Splitting Model

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Nordita Programme: Random geometry and applications

Outline

- Growing trees
- The vertex splitting model
- Vertex degree distribution
- Correlations of vertex degrees
- Subtree structure functions
- The Hausdorff dimension
- Mass distribution
- The infinte volume limit
- An exactly soluble special case Markovian self-similarity

Growing trees

- Galton-Watson trees
- Preferential attachment trees
- Phylogenetic trees, α and $\alpha \gamma$ models
- splitting vertex trees

F. David, M. Dukes, S. Stefansson and T.J.: J. Stat. Mech. (2009) P04009



- ▶ Degree of vertices is bounded by an integer d (we also discuss the case d = ∞)
- ▶ Nonnegative splitting weights w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_d
- n_j(T) = the number of vertices of degree j in a tree T
 p_j = Probability of choosing a vertex v ∈ T of degree j

$$p_j = rac{w_j}{\sum_i w_i n_i(T)}$$

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Splitting rules

The parameters of the model are

0	$w_{1,2}$	$w_{1,3}$	•••	$w_{1,d-1}$	$w_{1,d}$
$w_{2,1}$	$w_{2,2}$	$w_{2,3}$	• • •	$w_{2,d-1}$	$w_{2,d}$
$w_{3,1}$	$w_{3,2}$	$w_{3,3}$	• • •	$w_{3,d-1}$	0
$w_{4,1}$	$w_{4,2}$	$w_{4,3}$		0	0
1	÷	÷	[.]	÷	-
$\lfloor w_{d,1}$	$w_{d,2}$	0	• • •	0	0

a symmetric matrix of non-negative partitioning weights

- Split a vertex of degree i into vertices of degree k and i + 2 − k with probability w_{k,i+2−k}/w_i − all such splittings equally probable
- ► The splitting weights w₁, w₂,..., w_d are related to the partitioning weights by

$$w_i = rac{i}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{i+1} w_{j,i+2-j}.$$

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w_{i}	2,1	$w_{2,2}$	$w_{2,3}$	• • •	$w_{2,d-1}$	$w_{2,d}$
w_{z}	3,1	$w_{3,2}$	$w_{3,3}$	• • •	$w_{3,d-1}$	0
w.	1 ,1	$w_{4,2}$	$w_{4,3}$		0	0
		÷	÷	. · ·	÷	÷
$\lfloor w_{i}$	l,1	$w_{d,2}$	0	• • •	0	0

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A tree



























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Degree distribution

If we consider linear splitting weights

 $w_i = ai + b$.

the analysis simplifies due to the Euler relation for trees

$$\sum_{i=1}^d n_i(T) = |T|, \quad \sum_{i=1}^d i n_i(T) = 2(|T|-1).$$

The normalization factor $\sum_i w_i n_i(T)$ depends only on the size of the tree T.

Generating function

Let $p_t(n_1, \ldots, n_d)$ be the probability that the tree T at time t has $(n_1(T), \ldots, n_d(T)) = (n_1, \ldots, n_d)$. The probability genereting function

$$\mathcal{H}_t(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{n_1 + \cdots n_d = t} p_t(n_1, \ldots, n_d) x_1^{n_1} \cdots x_d^{n_d}$$

satisfies the equation

$$\mathcal{H}_{t+1}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{n_1+\dots+n_d=t} rac{p_t(n_1,\dots,n_d)}{\sum_{i=1}^d n_i w_i} \, \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot
abla(x_1^{n_1}\cdots x_d^{n_d}),$$

where $\mathbf{c}(\mathbf{x}) = (c_1(\mathbf{x}), c_2(\mathbf{x}), \dots, c_d(\mathbf{x}))$ with

$$c_i(\mathbf{x}) = rac{i}{2}\sum_{j=1}^{i+1} w_{j,i+2-j} x_j x_{i+2-j} \quad ext{ and } \quad
abla = \Big(\partial/\partial x_1, \dots, \partial/\partial x_d \Big).$$

Recurrence

- Begin with a tree T₀ at time 0
- At time t > 0 we have a tree T_t with n_i(T_t) vertices of degree i
- Let $\bar{n}_{t,i}$ denote the average of $n_i(T)$ over all trees that can arise at time t, i.e.

$$\overline{n}_{t,k} = \sum_{n_1+\ldots+n_d=t} p_t(n_1,\ldots,n_d)n_k = \partial_k \mathcal{H}_t(\mathbf{x})|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{1}},$$

Define

$$ho_{t,i} = rac{ar{n}_{t,i}}{t}$$

and we will use the notation

$$ho(t)=(
ho_{t,1},\ldots,
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• The recurrence for \mathcal{H}_t gives rise to a recurrence for $\rho(t)$.

$$\mathcal{H}_{t+1}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{W}(t)} \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \nabla \mathcal{H}_t(\mathbf{x}).$$

$$\implies \rho_{t+1,k} = \frac{t}{\mathcal{W}(t)} \left(-w_k \rho_{t,k} + \sum_{i=k-1}^d i w_{k,i+2-k} \rho_{t,i} \right) + t(\rho_{t,k} - \rho_{t+1,k}).$$

• Under mild conditions on the $w_{i,j}$ the limits

$$\lim_{t o\infty}
ho_{t,i}=
ho_i$$

exist and are the unique positive solution to the linear equations

$$ho_k=-rac{w_k}{w_2}
ho_k+\sum_{i=k-1}^d irac{w_{k,i+2-k}}{w_2}
ho_i.$$

► These values are independent of the initial tree.

 The proof uses the Perron–Frobenius theorem for "positive" matrices. • Under mild conditions on the $w_{i,j}$ the limits

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Perron-Frobenius

Theorem. Let A be a matrix with nonnegative matrix elements such that all the matrix elements of A^p are positive (A primitive) for some integer p. Then the eigenvalue of A with the largest absolute value is positive and simple. The corresponding eigenvector can be taken to have positive entries.

Iterating the recurrence equation for $\rho(t)$ we find

$$ho(t)=rac{1}{t}\prod_{i=1}^{t-1}\left(1+rac{1}{(2a+b)i-2a}B
ight)
ho_0$$

where *B* is a matrix with nonnegative entries except on the diagonal. If *B* is primitive and diagonalizable, then $\rho(t)$ converges to the normalized Perron-Frobenius eigenvector of *B*.

The B matrix

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} w_{1,2} & 2w_{1,3} & \cdots & (d-2)w_{1,d-1} & (d-1)w_{1,d} & 0\\ w_{2,1} & 2w_{2,2} & \cdots & (d-2)w_{2,d-2} & (d-1)w_{2,d-1} & dw_{2,d}\\ 0 & 2w_{3,1} & \cdots & (d-2)w_{3,d-3} & (d-1)w_{3,d-2} & dw_{3,d-1}\\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots\\ \vdots & & \ddots & (d-2)w_{d-1,1} & (d-1)w_{d-1,2} & dw_{d-1,3}\\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & (d-1)w_{d,1} & dw_{d,2} \end{bmatrix} - \operatorname{diag}(w_i)_{1 \le i \le d}$$
Examples

• d = 3 The matrix B is diagonalizable and

$$ho_1=
ho_3=2/7,\ \
ho_2=3/7$$

if the partitioning weights are chosen to be uniform, i.e.

$$w_{i,j} = w_{i+j-2} rac{2}{(i+j-2)(i+j-1)}.$$

- d = 4 Can again solve explicitly with uniform partitioning weights and get ρ_i's which vary with a and b.
- ▶ $d = \infty$ Do not have a proof of convergence but can solve the equation for the ρ_i 's

$$ho_k \sim rac{1}{k!} 2^{k-1} k^{-1-x}, \quad x=b/a$$
 $ho_k = rac{1}{e(k-1)!}, \quad a=0.$

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General splitting weights

• Use mean field theory for the normalization factor $\sum_{i} n_i(T) w_i \rightarrow t \sum_{i} \rho_i w_i.$

Equation for a steady state vertex distribution

$$ho_k = -rac{w_k}{w}
ho_k + \sum_{i=k-1}^d irac{w_{k,i+2-k}}{w}
ho_i,$$

subject to the constraints

$$ho_1+\ldots+
ho_d=1, \hspace{0.2cm} w_1
ho_1+\ldots+w_d
ho_d=w.$$

- There is a unique positive solution by the Perron-Frobenius theorem.
- For d = 3 and uniform partitioning weights we find

$$ho_3 \hspace{2mm} = \hspace{2mm} rac{7lpha-\sqrt{lpha\left(lpha+24\,eta+24
ight)}}{6(2lpha-eta-1)}$$

where $lpha=w_2/w_1$ and $eta=w_3/w_1.$

Comparison with simulations



FIGURE 4. The value of ρ_3 as given in (2.45) compared to results from simulations. Each point is calculated from 20 trees on 10000 vertices.

A comparison of the theoretical prediction with simulations in the case d=3 and uniform partitioning weights.

$$lpha=rac{w_2}{w_1}, \quad eta=rac{w_3}{w_1}$$

In a typical infinite tree, what is the proportion of edges whose endpoints have degrees j and $k \ ?$

Let $n_{j,k} =$ number of such edges in a finite tree of size t, where the vertex of degree j is closer to the root

Let
$$ho_{j,k} = \lim_{t o\infty} rac{n_{j,k}}{t}$$
. Then (for linear splitting weights)

$$egin{array}{rcl}
ho_{jk} &=& -rac{w_j+w_k}{w_2}
ho_{jk}+(j-1)rac{w_{j,k}}{w_2}
ho_{j+k-2} \ &+(j-1)\sum\limits_{i=j-1}^drac{w_{j,i+2-j}}{w_2}
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$$\rho_{j,k} = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{n_{j,k}}{t}$$
. Then (for linear splitting weights)
 $\rho_{jk} = -\frac{w_j + w_k}{w_2} \rho_{jk} + (j-1) \frac{w_{j,k}}{w_2} \rho_{j+k-2} + (j-1) \sum_{i=j-1}^d \frac{w_{j,i+2-j}}{w_2} \rho_{ik} + (k-1) \sum_{i=k-1}^d \frac{w_{k,i+2-k}}{w_2} \rho_{ji}.$

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ho_{ji}. \end{array}$$

Explicit solutions

Can solve in simple cases and find nontrivial correlations: In general "disassortative" i.e. vertices of high degree are unlikely to be neighbours.

Take d = 3, linear splitting weights and uniform partitioning weights. Then $\rho_1 = \rho_3 = 2/7$ and $\rho_2 = 3/7$. Let $y = w_3/w_2$. Then the solutions to the correlation equation are

$$egin{array}{rll}
ho_{21}&=&rac{4(3-y)}{7(11-2y)},&
ho_{31}&=&rac{10}{7(11-2y)},\
ho_{22}&=&rac{4y^2-12y+105}{7(2y+7)(11-2y)},&
ho_{32}&=&rac{2(-8y^2+18y+63)}{7(2y+7)(11-2y)},\
ho_{23}&=&rac{2(-4y^2+20y+21)}{7(2y+7)(11-2y)},&
ho_{33}&=&rac{8(3y-14)}{7(2y+7)(2y-11)}. \end{array}$$

Sum rules

The following sum rules hold:

These relations show that there are only two independent link densities, e.g. ρ_{21} and ρ_{22} .

Comparison with simulations



Nonlinear splitting weights

Taking d = 3 and general nonlinear splitting weights

$$ho_{21}=rac{1}{3}\,rac{\left(3+eta
ight)\left(7\,lpha-\gamma
ight)}{\left(2\,lpha-eta-1
ight)\left(3\,lpha+2\,eta+\gamma+6
ight)}$$

where $lpha=w_2/w_1$, $eta=w_3/w_1$ and $\gamma=\sqrt{lpha\left(lpha+24\,eta+24
ight)}.$



Comparison with simulations



FIGURE 17. The solution (5.5) for the density ρ_{22} plotted as a function of β for a few values of α . Each datapoint is calculated from simulations of 100 trees on 10000 vertices.

$$\begin{split} \rho_{22} &= \frac{16}{3} \Big(284 \alpha^2 \beta^4 \gamma - 177 \, \alpha^5 \beta \gamma + 3564 \, \alpha^3 + 18 \, \alpha^6 \gamma + 161 \alpha \, \beta^5 \gamma - 873 \, \gamma + 11979 \, \alpha^2 \beta^3 \\ &\quad -2259 \, \alpha^5 - 39 \, \alpha^6 \beta - 207 \, \alpha^5 \gamma + 6516 \, \alpha^2 \beta^4 - 5205 \, \alpha^5 \beta - 1419 \, \alpha^4 \beta \gamma + 996 \, \alpha \beta^5 \\ &\quad -5994 \, \alpha^4 - 892 \, \alpha^4 \beta^2 \gamma + 1543 \, \alpha^2 \beta^5 - 18 \, \alpha^7 - 668 \, \alpha^3 \beta^4 + 324 \, \alpha^2 \gamma + 909 \, \alpha \beta^3 \gamma \\ &\quad -2600 \, \alpha^5 \beta^2 - 975 \, \alpha^3 \beta^3 + 222 \, \alpha \beta^6 - 1533 \, \alpha^3 \beta^2 \gamma + 10206 \, \alpha^2 \beta^2 - 11799 \, \alpha^4 \beta \\ &\quad -5300 \, \alpha^4 \beta^3 - 1521 \, \alpha^3 \beta \gamma + 1899 \, \alpha^2 \beta^2 \gamma + 1059 \alpha^2 \beta^3 \gamma + 1269 \, \alpha^3 \beta^2 + 3240 \alpha^2 \beta \\ &\quad +756 \, \alpha \beta^3 + 4800 \, \alpha^3 \beta + 6 \, \beta^6 \gamma - 11703 \, \alpha^4 \beta^2 + 1728 \alpha^2 \beta \gamma - 162 \, \alpha^3 \gamma + 486 \alpha \, \beta^2 \gamma \\ &\quad +18 \, \beta^4 \gamma + 1530 \, \alpha \beta^4 + 624 \alpha \, \beta^4 \gamma - 772 \, \alpha^3 \beta^3 \gamma - 9 \, \alpha^6 + 24 \, \beta^5 \gamma \Big) \Big/ \left((3 \, \alpha + 2 \, \beta + \gamma + 6 \right) \\ &\quad \times \left(11 \, \alpha^2 + 25 \, \alpha \beta + 5 \, \alpha \gamma + 3 \, \beta \gamma + 12 \alpha + 4 \, \beta^2 \right) \left(-\alpha + \gamma \right) \left(1 - 2 \, \alpha + \beta \right) \left(7 \, \alpha + 2 \, \beta + \gamma \right) \right) \\ \end{split}$$

Subtree probabilities

- Label vertices in the tree by their time of creation
- Use linear weights
- Derive expressions for the probabilistic structure of the tree as seen from the vertex created at a given time
- Average over the creation time
- Introduce a scaling assumption
- Extract the Hausdorff dimension
- Get results which agree with simulations

- ▶ Begin with a tree consisting of a single vertex at time t = 0
- In a tree of size ℓ let p_R(ℓ; s) be the probability that the vertex created at time s ≤ ℓ is the root
- We find

$$p_R(\ell;s) = rac{1}{W(\ell-1)+w_1} W(\ell-1) p_R(\ell-1;s), \;\; s < \ell$$

$$p_R(\ell;\ell) = rac{1}{W(\ell-1)+w_1} \sum_{s=0}^{\ell-1} w_1 p_R(\ell-1;s), \;\; s=\ell$$

 $W(\ell) = (2a + b)\ell - a$ is a normalization factor.

Let $p_k(\ell_1, \ell_2, \ldots, \ell_k; s)$ be the probability that the vertex v created at time s has degree k, the root subtree has ℓ_1 links and the other subtrees incident on v have size ℓ_2, \ldots, ℓ_k . Denote the sum of the ℓ_i 's by ℓ . Then for k = 1 and $s < \ell$



and for k > 1 and $s < \ell$



Finally k > 1 and $s = \ell$



We average over *s* to get simpler recursions:

$$p_R(\ell+1) = \frac{\ell+1}{\ell+2} p_R(\ell).$$

$$p_{1}(\ell+1)$$

$$= \frac{\ell+1}{\ell+2} \frac{1}{W(\ell)+w_{1}} \Big[W(\ell)p_{1}(\ell) + \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} iw_{i+1,1} \sum_{\substack{\ell'_{1}+\dots+\ell'_{i} \\ =\ell}} p_{i}(\ell'_{1},\dots,\ell'_{i}) + 2\delta_{\ell 0}w_{1} \Big].$$
(3.11)

$$p_{k}(\ell_{1},\ldots,\ell_{k}) = \frac{\ell+1}{\ell+2} \frac{1}{W(\ell)+w_{1}} \Big[\delta_{k2} \delta_{\ell_{1}1} w_{1} p_{R}(\ell) + \sum_{i=1}^{k} W(\ell_{i}-1) p_{k}(\ell_{1},\ldots,\ell_{i}-1,\ldots,\ell_{k}) \\ + \sum_{i=k}^{d} (i-k+1) w_{k,i-k+2} \sum_{\substack{\ell'_{1}+\ldots+\ell'_{i+1-k}\\ =\ell_{1}-1}} p_{i}(\ell'_{1},\ldots,\ell'_{i+1-k},\ell_{2},\ldots,\ell_{k}) \\ + \sum_{j=2}^{k} \sum_{i=k-1}^{d} w_{k,i-k+2} \sum_{\substack{\ell'_{1}+\ldots+\ell'_{i+1-k}\\ =\ell_{j}-1}} p_{i}(\ell_{1},\ldots,\ell_{j-1},\ell'_{1},\ldots,\ell'_{i+1-k},\ell_{j+1},\ldots,\ell_{k}) \Big]$$

Finally we define the "two point functions" that are needed to calculate the Hausdorff dimension:

$$q_{ki}(\ell_1,\ell_2) = \sum_{\ell_1'+...+\ell_{k-i}'=\ell_1}\sum_{\ell_1''+...+\ell_i''=\ell_2}p_k(\ell_1',\ldots,\ell_{k-i}',\ell_1'',\ldots,\ell_i''),$$

which is the probability that *i* trees of total volume ℓ_1 , none of which contains the root, are attached to a vertex of order *k* in a tree of total volume $\ell = \ell_1 + \ell_2$. There are d(d-1)/2 such functions, $1 \le i \le k-1$.

The two point functions satisfy the recursion relation

$$\begin{aligned} q_{ki}(\ell_1, \ell_2) &= \frac{\ell+1}{\ell+2} \frac{1}{W(\ell) + w_1} \Big[\\ &\sum_{j=k-1}^d w_{k,j+2-k} \Big((j-i)q_{ji}(\ell_1 - 1, \ell_2) + iq_{j,j-(k-i)}(\ell_1, \ell_2 - 1) \Big) \\ &+ \Big(W(\ell_1 - 1) + (k - i - 1)(w_2 - w_3) \Big) q_{ki}(\ell_1 - 1, \ell_2) \\ &+ \Big(W(\ell_2 - 1) + (i - 1)(w_2 - w_3) \Big) q_{ki}(\ell_1, \ell_2 - 1) \\ &+ \delta_{k2} \delta_{\ell_1 1} w_1 p_R(\ell_2) + \delta_{i1} \delta_{\ell_2 1} w_{k,1} \sum_{\substack{\ell_1' + \dots + \ell_{k-1}' = \ell_1}} p_{k-1}(\ell_1', \dots, \ell_{k-1}') \Big] \end{aligned}$$

An almost closed system of linear equations.

- Let T be a tree with ℓ edges and v, w vertices of T.
- Denote the graph distance between v and w by $d_T(v, w)$.
- ▶ We define the radius of *T* as

$$R_T = rac{1}{(2\ell)}\sum_{v \in T} d_T(r,v)\,\sigma(v),$$

▶ We define the Hausdorff dimension of the tree, d_H, by the scaling law for large trees

$$\langle R_T
angle \ \sim \ \ell^{1/d_H} \qquad \ell
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Combinatorics



- Cutting the tree at an edge i we get two subtrees of size l₁ and l₂
- One can prove the following identity:

$$\sum_w d_T(v,w)\sigma(w) = \sum_i (2\ell_2(v;i)+1)$$

valid for any vertex v. We use it for v = r.

► The identity implies:

$$egin{aligned} R_T
angle &= rac{1}{2 \ell} \sum_T P(T) \sum_i (2 \ell_2(r;i)+1) \ &= rac{\ell+1}{2 \ell} \sum_{\ell_2=0}^\infty (2 \ell_2+1) \sum_{k=1}^d q_{k,k-1} (\ell-\ell_2;\ell_2) \end{aligned}$$



We use a scaling assumptions about the q functions

$$q_{ki}(\ell_1,\ell-\ell_1)=\ell^{-
ho}\omega_{ki}(\ell_1/\ell)+O(\ell^{
ho+1})$$

This scaling hypothesis has been tested by direct calculation for trees up to size 50.000.

► Inserting into the recurrence equation for q_{ki} keeping leading order terms in ℓ⁻¹ gives

$$(2-\rho)\overline{\omega}_{ki} = \frac{1}{w_2} \sum_{j=k-1}^d w_{k,j+2-k} \left((j-i)\overline{\omega}_{ji} + i\overline{\omega}_{j,j-(k-i)} \right) - \frac{w_k}{w_2}\overline{\omega}_{ki}.$$

- ▶ This is a Perron-Frobenius type equation. Gives ρ in principle.
- Can solve in simple cases and prove some bounds in more general cases.

Linear weights and d = 3



FIGURE 13. Equation (4.25) compared to simulations. The Hausdorff dimension, d_{H} , is plotted against $y = w_3/w_2$. The leftmost datapoint is calculated from 50 trees on 50000 vertices and the others are calculated from 50 trees on 10000 vertices.

General solution for d = 3

$$d_{H} = rac{(w_{2,2}-2w_{3,1})+\sqrt{(w_{2,2}-2w_{3,1})^2+8w_{3,1}(w_{2,1}+3w_{3,2})}}{(w_{2,2}-2w_{3,1})+\sqrt{(w_{2,2}-2w_{3,1})^2+16w_{3,1}w_{3,2}}}.$$



The mass distribution

Consider trees with vertices of order 1, 2 and 3, i.e. d = 3.



What is the distribution of the size of the left (or right) tree as the total size of the tree gets large?

Has been studied for preferential attachment trees and is well understood for generic trees.

We study this for the SV model with linear splitting weights.

Definitions

- Let v₀(N) = Probability that the left (or right) subtree is empty in a tree of size N
- Let v₁(N₁, N₂) = Probability that the left and right subtrees have sizes N₁ and N₂

• Put
$$F_0(z) = \sum_N z^N
u_0(N)$$

▶ Put
$$F(x,y) = \sum_{N_1,N_2} x^{N_1} y^{N_2}
u_1(N_1,N_2)$$

Equations

- ► The splitting rules give linear relations between v₀(N), v₁(N₁, N₂) with N₁ + N₂ = N − 1 and the same functions with N replaced by N + 1.
- ▶ Find linear PDEs for the generating functions *F*⁰ and *F*.

$$\begin{split} \partial_z F_0(z) &+ \frac{(\beta - \alpha + 1)z + \alpha - 1}{(1 - z)z} F_0(z) = \frac{(Az + B)z}{(1 - z)^2} \\ M(x)\partial_x F(x, y) + M(y)\partial_y F(x, y) + C(x, y)F(x, y) = D(x, y) \\ M(x) &= w_2(1 - x)x, \quad C(x, y) = 2w_2 + b - (w_2 + b - w_1 + w_{2,3})(x + y), \\ D(x, y) &= w_{3,1} \left(x^{-2}F_0(x) + y^{-2}F_0(y)\right) \end{split}$$

These equations can be solved in closed form.

Results

Use the scaling assumptions

$$u_1(xN,(1-x)N)\sim N^{-\lambda}$$

for 0 < x < 1 as $N
ightarrow \infty$ and

$$u_1(N_1,N_2)\sim N_1^{-\lambda_1}$$

for $N_2 \gg N_1 \gg 1$

 Scaling assumptions agree with explicit calculations of the ν-functions

►
$$\lambda = \lambda_1 = b/3 + 4/3$$
 ($w_i = ai + b, 2a + b = 1$)

In the infinite volume limit one of the subtrees is infinite with probability 1 and the size of the other one is distributed as N^{-λ}. Proven in a special case. Let Γ_N be rooted planar trees with vertices of degree at most D. Let μ_N be the probability measure on Γ_N induced by the vertex splitting procedure.

Theorem Assume that the partitioning weights $w_{1,k}$ are nonzero for k = 2, ..., D. Then the measures μ_N converge weakly as $N \to \infty$ to a probability measure μ on the set of infinite trees which is independent of the initial tree.
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$$d(T_1,T_2) = \inf\{R^{-1}: B_R(T_1) = B_R(T_2)\}$$

where $B_R(T)$ is the subtree of T spanned by vertices within distance R from the root.

The main problem is to prove the convergence of

 $\mu_N(\{T:B_R(T)=T_0\}$

as $N
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$$\mu_N(\{T:B_R(T)=T_0\}$$

as $N o \infty$.

Exactly soluble special case (S. Stefansson)

For linear splitting weights, D = 3 and if the splitting weight w_r of the root is defined in a special way, then the model becomes Markovian self-similar if $w_{2,2} = 2w_{3,2} = w_r$. This means that

 $P_N(T) = Q(N_1, N_2) P_{N_1}(T_1) P_{N_2}(T_2)$

where P_N is a probability distribution on the set of trees of size N, Q is a positive function and $N_{1,2}$ are the sizes of the left and right subtrees $T_{1,2}$ of T.

One can show explicitly that

- there is a unique spine
- the probability distribution for outgrowths from the spine can be described explicitly
- ► the Hausdorff dimension can be calculated and varies continuously with the parameters of the model from 1 to ∞
- There is a closed form for the ν functions.
- Can be generalized to trees with vertices of higher order.

Conclusions and problems

- The vertex splitting model encompasses a very large class of random growing trees as well as generic trees – in limiting cases at least.
- Can one generalize the exact solution in the MSS case to the general case?
- What are the spectral properties?
- How can one characterize the infinite volume limits?