

Extreme value theory for stable random fields indexed by finitely generated free groups

- Parthail Roy, Indian Statistical Institute

Joint work with Sourav Sarkar: arXiv:1608.03887
(based on his master's dissertation)

$(G, \cdot) =$ ctble group with identity element e
(possibly noncommutative and in most cases, finitely generated)

$(S, \mathcal{S}, \mu) =$ a σ -finite measure space

Defn: $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ is called a nonsingular / quasi-invariant G -action on $(S, \mathcal{S}, \mu)$ if

① each $\phi_t : (S, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow (S, \mathcal{S})$ is mble

② $\phi_e = \text{id}_S$

③ $\phi_{t_1 t_2} = \phi_{t_2} \circ \phi_{t_1} \quad \forall t_1, t_2 \in G$

} These statements can also hold modulo μ -null sets.

④ $\mu \circ \phi_t \sim \mu \quad \forall t \in G$

↑ This is a measure since ② + ③ $\Rightarrow \phi_t = (\phi_{t^{-1}})^{-1}$.

Here " $\sim$ " denotes equivalence of measures (i.e., having same null sets).

Clearly, $\boxed{\text{measure-preserving } G\text{-action}} \begin{matrix} \Rightarrow \\ \Leftarrow \end{matrix} \boxed{\text{nonsingular } G\text{-action}}$
 $\Updownarrow$
 $\mu \circ \phi_t = \mu \quad \forall t \in G$

We shall see two examples later (one is measure-preserving and the other is nonsingular but not measure-preserving).

Such group actions arise naturally in many contexts and we shall focus on their relation to "left stationary symmetric α -stable (S α S)" random fields indexed by G .

$\boxed{\text{Ergodic theoretic properties of nonsingular } G\text{-actions}}$

$\longleftrightarrow$

$\boxed{\text{Probabilistic properties of stationary S}\alpha\text{S random fields indexed by } G}$

Qn) What is a random field?

Ans) A random field is a collection of random variables (i.e., real-valued measurable functions) defined on a common probability space and indexed by a "multi-dimensional object".

* ($\mathbb{Z}^d$ or $\mathbb{R}^d$ or a group or a manifold, etc.)

In our case the indexing set will be G .)

$(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ = a probability space on which all the random variables (in this talk) are defined

$(X_t)_{t \in G}$ = a random field indexed by G , i.e., ~~for~~ for each $t \in G$, $X_t: (\Omega, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}})$ is a mble map.

Defn: (X_t) is called (left) stationary if

$$(X_{s+t})_{t \in G} \stackrel{d}{=} (X_t)_{t \in G}, \quad \left[\text{"} \stackrel{d}{=} \text{" denotes equality of finite-dimensional distributions} \right]$$

i.e., $\forall k \geq 1, \forall t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k \in G, \forall s \in G$ and $\forall B \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^k}$,

$$P(\underbrace{\{ \omega \in \Omega : (X_{s+t_1}(\omega), \dots, X_{s+t_k}(\omega)) \in B \}}_{\in \mathcal{F}}) = P(\underbrace{\{ \omega \in \Omega : (X_{t_1}(\omega), \dots, X_{t_k}(\omega)) \in B \}}_{\in \mathcal{F}})$$

We fix $\alpha \in (0, 2)$ for the entire talk.

Defn: A random variable $X: (\Omega, \mathcal{F}) \xrightarrow{\text{mble}} (\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}})$ is said to follow a symmetric α -stable (S α S) distribution if

$$\exists \sigma \in (0, \infty) \text{ such that } \int_{\Omega} \exp\{i\theta X(\omega)\} dP(\omega) = \exp\{-\sigma^\alpha |\theta|^\alpha\}$$

for all $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

$\int_{\Omega}$

Fourier transform / characteristic function of X

Defn: $(X_t)_{t \in G}$ is called an S α S random field if each finite linear combination of X_t 's follow an S α S distribution.

Remark: $\alpha=2$ corresponds to the Gaussian case - we shall only be concerned about the non-Gaussian situation.

Thm (Rosinski (1995, 2000)): A random field $(X_t)_{t \in G}$ is a (left)-stationary S&S random field if and only if there exist a σ -finite measure space $(S, \mathcal{S}, \mu)$, a function $f \in L^\alpha(S, \mu) := \{f: (S, \mathcal{S}) \xrightarrow{\text{mble}} (\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}}): \|f\|_\alpha := (\int_S |f(s)|^\alpha \mu(ds))^{1/\alpha} < \infty\}$, ($\|\cdot\|_\alpha$ is a norm when $\alpha \in [1, 2)$ but not when $\alpha \in (0, 1)$) a nonsingular/quasi-invariant G -action $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ on $(S, \mathcal{S}, \mu)$ such that $\forall k \geq 1$, and $\forall t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k \in G$,

$$(*) \dots \int_{\Omega} \exp\left\{i \sum_{j=1}^k \theta_j X_{t_j}(\omega)\right\} dP(\omega) = \exp\left\{-\left\|\sum_{j=1}^k \theta_j f_{t_j}\right\|_\alpha^\alpha\right\}, \quad (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k,$$

where $\forall t \in G$,

$$f_t(s) = \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{"cocycle" wrt } \{\phi_t\}_{t \in G} \\ \text{(just assume it to be } \equiv +1 \text{ for simplicity)}}}{\pm} f \circ \phi_t(s) \left(\frac{d\mu \circ \phi_t}{d\mu}\right)^{1/\alpha}, \quad s \in S.$$

Remarks: ① The above theorem was actually proved by Rosinski (1995) for $G = \mathbb{Z}$ and Rosinski (2000) for $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$. Same proof, with a bit of care about the side of multiplication, applies to any ctble group G .

② $(*) + (**) \Rightarrow$ left stationarity of $(X_t)_{t \in G}$

Sketch of proof: Fix $k \geq 1$, $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k, s \in G$, $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k \in \mathbb{R}$.

$$\text{Then } (*) + (**) \Rightarrow \int_{\Omega} \exp\left\{i \sum_{j=1}^k \theta_j X_{s+t_j}(\omega)\right\} dP(\omega) = \int_{\Omega} \exp\left\{i \sum_{j=1}^k \theta_j X_{t_j}(\omega)\right\} dP(\omega)$$

$$\xrightarrow[\text{inversion}]{\text{Fourier}} (X_{s+t})_{t \in G} \stackrel{d}{=} (X_t)_{t \in G}.$$

③ Left stationarity of $(X_t)_{t \in G}$ induces a natural action of G on $\mathbb{R}^G$ by "left-translation", which preserves the "law of $(X_t)_{t \in G}$ ", i.e., the probability measure on $\mathbb{R}^G$ defined by $P_x(\cdot) := P(\{\omega \in \Omega: (X_t(\omega): t \in G) \in \cdot\})$.

When seen at the Fourier transform level, this action becomes nonsingular.

④ $(**)$ is not unique but there is a rigidity result (of ~~Hardin~~ L^α -spaces due to Hardin (1981, 1982)) that makes it "more or less unique ergodic theoretically." Therefore, we shall say $(X_t)_{t \in G}$ is generated/induced by $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ (and f).

Defⁿ: Suppose $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ is a nonsingular G -action on $(S, \mathcal{S}, \mu)$.

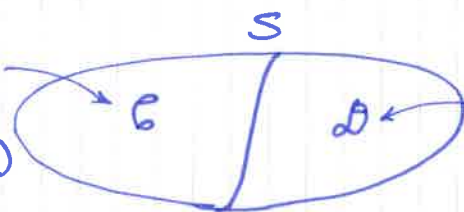
$W \in \mathcal{S}$ is called a wandering set for $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ if $\forall t, t' \in G$ with $t \neq t'$, $\phi_t(W) \cap \phi_{t'}(W) = \emptyset$.

Example: $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is translation on $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Leb})$: $\forall t \in \mathbb{Z}$,
 $\phi_t(s) = s + t, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}$.

This is a measure-preserving (and hence nonsingular) $\mathbb{Z}$ -action. Clearly $W^* = (0, 1]$ is a wandering set.

Hopf decomposition: (unique modulo μ)

Has no wandering subset of +ve μ -measure (conservative part)



$$\left. \begin{aligned} \phi_t(E) &= E \\ \phi_t(D) &= \emptyset \end{aligned} \right\} \forall t \in G$$

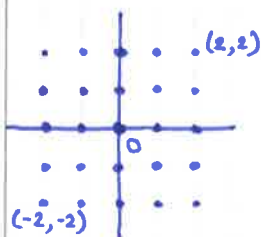
$D = \bigcup_{t \in G} \phi_t(N^*)$ for some wandering set N^* (dissipative part)

In the previous example, $E = \emptyset$ and $D = \mathbb{R}$ (in fact $W^* = (0, 1]$ proves that $D = \mathbb{R}$).

Remark: Roughly speaking, the points in the conservative part tend to come back while the points in the dissipative part tend to move away by the group action.

We first consider $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$ and a stationary SxS random field $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$.

$$E_n := \{t = (t^{(1)}, t^{(2)}, \dots, t^{(d)}) \in \mathbb{Z}^d : \text{each } t^{(i)} \in [-n, n]\}, \quad n \geq 1.$$



E_2 for $d=2$

For $a_n > 0, b_n > 0 \quad \forall n \geq 1$, we write

$$a_n = \Theta(b_n) \quad \text{to mean} \quad \frac{a_n}{b_n} \rightarrow C > 0.$$

In this notation, $|E_n| = (2n+1)^d = \Theta(n^d)$.

$$\forall n \geq 1, \text{ define } M_n(w) = \max_{\substack{t \in E_n \\ m \leq t}} |X_t(w)|, \quad w \in \Omega.$$

Easy to check: $M_n(w) \nearrow \infty$ (as $n \rightarrow \infty$) for P -almost all $w \in \Omega$.

(Qn^{2d}) How fast does M_n grow as $n \rightarrow \infty$?

As we shall see, the answer is connected to the Hopf decomposition of the underlying nonsingular $\mathbb{Z}^d$ -action.

Before writing down the answer to this question, we shall introduce two important notations.

Defⁿ: Take $0 < C_n \nearrow \infty$. ① We write $M_n = \textcircled{H}_p(C_n)$ (and say that M_n grows like C_n in probability) if as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$\frac{M_n}{C_n} \rightarrow Z_\alpha$ (a strictly +ve random variable) in distribution, i.e., $\forall 0 < a < b < \infty$,

$$P(\{\omega \in \Omega: a < \frac{M_n(\omega)}{C_n} < b\}) \rightarrow P(\{\omega \in \Omega: a < Z_\alpha < b\}).$$

In this talk, Z_α will always be (a positive multiple of) an α -Frechet random variable. In each situation, the +ve constant has been evaluated although it differs from one result to another. Ignoring this constant, Z_α satisfies

$$P(\{\omega \in \Omega: Z_\alpha(\omega) \leq x\}) = \exp\{-x^{-\alpha}\}, \forall x > 0.$$

② We write $M_n = o_p(C_n)$ (and say that M_n grows strictly slower than C_n in probability) if $M_n/C_n \rightarrow 0$ in distribution, i.e., $\forall \epsilon > 0$, $P(\{\omega \in \Omega: \frac{M_n(\omega)}{C_n} < \epsilon\}) \rightarrow 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Remark: Clearly, ① and ② cannot occur together. In fact, if ① happens along a subsequence, then also ② cannot happen. Conversely, occurrence of ② prevents ① from happening even along a subsequence.

Answer to $(\mathbb{Q}_n^{\mathbb{Z}^d})$:

Thm: ($d=1$: Samorodnitsky (2004); $d>1$: R. and Samorodnitsky (2008))

$\{\phi_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$ has μ -null dissipative part $\Rightarrow M_n = o_p(n^{d/\alpha})$.

$\{\phi_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$ has nontrivial dissipative part $\Rightarrow M_n = \textcircled{H}_p(n^{d/\alpha})$.

Intuition: No dissipative part $\Rightarrow$ Stronger dependence among X_t 's $\Rightarrow$ Slower growth of M_n .

Finitely generated free group: F_2 (with loss of generality ①)

$D = \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\}$. (No relations except $a \cdot a^{-1} = a^{-1} \cdot a = b \cdot b^{-1} = b^{-1} \cdot b = e$)

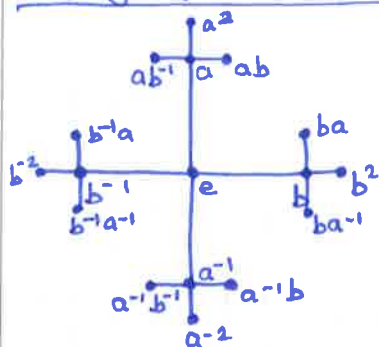
F_2 = all possible reduced words that can be formed using D

$\cdot$ = "concatenation followed by reduction"

(e.g., $a^2 b^3 a^{-1} b^2 \cdot b^{-2} a^4 b^{-1} a^2 = a^2 b^3 a^3 b^{-1} a^2$)

Easy to check: $(F_2, \cdot)$ is a noncommutative group.
 e = empty word.

Cayley graph of F_2 with generating set $D = \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\}$



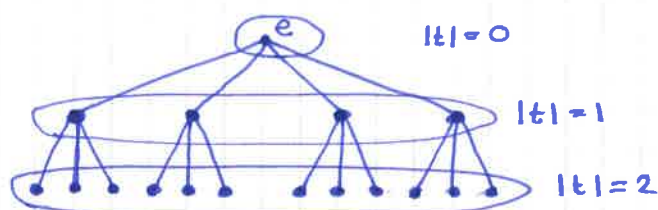
$$V = F_2$$

$$E = \{(g_1, g_2) : g_1^{-1}g_2 \in D\}$$

$$D = D^{-1} \Rightarrow \text{undirected graph}$$

$$e \notin D \Rightarrow \text{no self-loop}$$

Clearly, the Cayley graph is a homogeneous/regular tree of degree 4.



$\forall t \in F_2$, $|t|$ = Cayley graph distance between e and t ,

$$E_n = \{t \in F_2 : |t| \leq n\}, n \geq 1 \Rightarrow |E_n| = (3^n).$$

In general, for any finitely generated c.t.b.l.e. group $(G, \cdot)$, with identity element e and a symmetric generating set $D (= D^{-1}) \not\subset \{e\}$, we can define the Cayley graph similarly.

Let $d(u, v) =$ minimum number of edges required in the Cayley graph to travel from u to v , $u, v \in G$.
 $=$ Cayley graph distance between u and v .

$$E_n = \{t \in G : |t| := d(t, e) \leq n\}, n \geq 1.$$

For a stationary SRS random field $(X_t)_{t \in G}$, define $\forall n \geq 1$,

$$M_n(w) = \max_{t \in E_n} |X_t(w)|, w \in \Omega.$$

Again, $M_n(w) \nearrow \infty$ for P -almost all $w \in \Omega$.

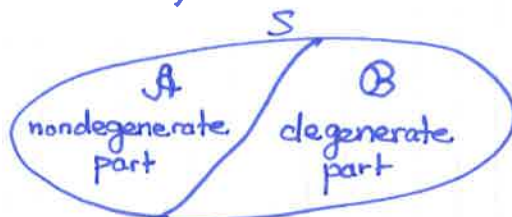
(Q_n^G) How fast does M_n grow as $n \rightarrow \infty$?

This question is too general to give a specific answer to. We shall state that a general decomposition exists that is connected to this question and establish that for $G = F_2$, this will not coincide with the Hopt decomposition.

Answer to $(\mathbb{Q}_n^G)$:

Thm: (Sarkar and R. (2016+)) $\exists$ unique decomp $\mathcal{A}$ modulo μ

$$\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{A} \\ \Rightarrow \mathcal{B} \supseteq \mathcal{B}$$



$$\left. \begin{aligned} \phi_t(\mathcal{A}) &= \mathcal{A} \\ \phi_t(\mathcal{B}) &= \mathcal{B} \end{aligned} \right\} \forall t \in G$$

$\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ has μ -null nondegenerate part $\Rightarrow M_n = o_p(|E_n|^{1/\alpha})$.
 $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ has nontrivial nondegenerate part $\Rightarrow M_{n_k} = \bigoplus_p (|E_{n_k}|^{1/\alpha})$
 for some subseq (n_k) of (n) .

Quick observation: $G = \mathbb{Z}^d \Rightarrow \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}$.

$(\mathbb{Q}_n^{F_2})$ What happens (to the decomposition $S = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B}$) when $G = F_2$?

Why F_2 (or F_d , $d \geq 2$)?

Twofold motivation:

- ① Ergodic theory becomes more nontrivial as we pass from amenable to nonamenable groups (and F_d is an important test-case): see, for example, Tao(2015) on failure of pointwise and maximal ergodic theorems (in L^1) for a measure-preserving action of F_2 .
- ② By passing to the Cayley graph, we shall obtain a stationary S&S random field indexed by a homogeneous tree of even (in this case, four) degree. Such fields are important; see, e.g., Pemantle(1995) for importance of tree indexed processes in probability theory, statistical physics, fractal geometry, branching models, etc. However, no stationary S&S random field has been constructed on a tree so far.

Remarks: ① We shall see that a different ergodic theoretic phenomenon is obtained in case of F_2 due to its nonamenability. This is more precisely, the boundary between degenerate and nondegenerate parts will differ from the Hopf boundary.

② The only known example (to us) of a stable (more generally, regularly varying) fields indexed by a tree is branching random walk (introduced by Durrett(1979, 1983)) with regularly varying steps. But this class is, by construction, nonstationary.

Answer to $(\mathbb{Q}_n^{F_2})$: Recall $G = F_2 \Rightarrow |E_n| = \bigoplus (3^n)$.

Thm (Sarkar and R. (2016+)) If $G = F_2$, then $\exists$ unique (modulo μ) decomposition

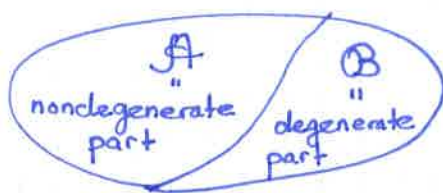
$$\mathcal{A} \subsetneq \mathcal{A}$$

$\downarrow$

$$\mathcal{B} \subsetneq \mathcal{C}$$

$\downarrow$

$$\mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{A} \neq \emptyset$$



$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Phi_t(\mathcal{A}) &= \mathcal{A} \\ \Phi_t(\mathcal{B}) &= \mathcal{B} \end{aligned} \right\} \forall t \in F_2.$$

$$\{\Phi_t\}_{t \in F_2} \text{ has } \mu\text{-null nondegenerate part} \Rightarrow M_n = o_p(3^{n/\alpha})$$

$$\{\Phi_t\}_{t \in F_2} \text{ has nontrivial nondegenerate part} \Rightarrow \forall \text{ subseq } (n_k) \text{ of } (n), \\ \exists \text{ a further subseq } (n_{k_v}) \\ \text{such that } M_{n_{k_v}} = \bigoplus_p (3^{n_{k_v}/\alpha}).$$

We have an example that shows $\mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{A} \neq \emptyset$.

Example: (The boundary action of F_2 and ω -induced stationary S&S random field. This action was pointed out to us by Kingshook Biswas and Mahan Mj.)

Take $S = \partial F_2 =$ all infinite length reduced words that can be formed using $D = \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\}$.

For all $g \in F_2 \setminus \{e\}$, $C_g (\subseteq \partial F_2)$ denotes the ^{tsoa}set of all infinite length reduced words whose "initial segment" is g (e.g., $C_a =$ ^{tsoa}words starting with a , etc.)

$$S = \sigma \left(\bigcup_{g \in F_2 \setminus \{e\}} C_g \right).$$

Easy to check (using Kolmogorov Consistency Thm): $\exists$ unique prob measure μ on $(S = \partial F_2, S)$ such that

$$\mu(C_g) = \frac{1}{4 \times 3^{|g|-1}} \quad \forall g \in F_2 \setminus \{e\}.$$

μ is called the uniform measure on $S = \partial F_2$.

Remark: $(S = \partial F_2, \mu)$ is a Furstenberg-Poisson boundary of F_2 and μ is the Patterson-Sullivan measure on the ~~boundary~~ boundary ∂F_2 .

$G = F_2$ acts canonically on $(S = \partial F_2, \mathcal{S}, \mu)$ by "left-concatenation by the inverse followed by reduction": e.g., $\phi_{ba^{-1}}(baba\dots) = a^2 baba\dots$.

Remark: Usually one takes "left-concatenation followed by reduction". Here we left-concatenate by the inverse so as to match of defⁿ of group action: $\phi_{t_1, t_2} = \phi_{t_2} \circ \phi_{t_1}$. This defn ensures left-stationarity of the induced random field.

Grigorchuk, Kaimanovich and Nagnibeda (2012): $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in F_2}$ defined above is a nonsingular action whose dissipative part is μ -null, i.e., it is a conservative F_2 -action.

Sarkar and R. (2016+): (a) The degenerate part $\mathcal{B}$ of the above action is μ -null. In other words, the boundary action is nondegenerate.

(b) If $(X_t)_{t \in F_2}$ is a left stationary $S \times S$ random field generated by $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in F_2}$ defined above and $f \equiv 1$ (with trivial cocycle), then

$$M_n = \bigoplus_p (3^{n/\alpha}) \quad \text{even though the action is conservative.}$$

In particular, the degenerate-nondegenerate decomposition is strictly different from the Hopf decomposition for $G = F_2$. In other words, a new transition boundary is obtained here.

Now let us go back to a general stationary $S \times S$ random field $(X_t)_{t \in F_2}$ generated by any nonsingular action $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in F_2}$.

Thm: (Sarkar and R. (2016+)) If $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in F_2}$ is dissipative, i.e., its conservative part is μ -null, then $M_n = \bigoplus_p (3^{n/\alpha})$.

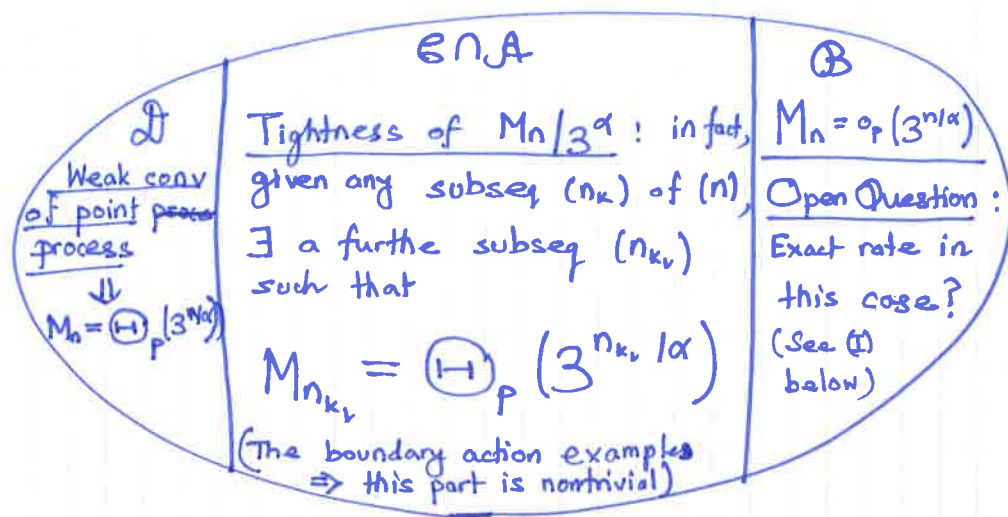
In fact, we have a point process convergence result in this case (from which $M_n = \bigoplus_p (3^{n/\alpha})$ follows by a continuous mapping argument) and the limiting point process is novel, which we have termed as a "randomly thinned cluster Poisson process".

Remarks: (1) For $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$, a similar point process convergence (see Resnick and Samorodnitsky (2004), R. (2010)) holds but the limit is a vanilla cluster Poisson process with no thinning. This shows that thinning is perhaps a "non-amenable phenomenon".

(2) In our case, the (positive) constant obtained in the limit of $3^{-n/\alpha} M_n$ (in the distributional sense) is also much more delicate than the one obtained in the lattice case in Samorodnitsky (2004), R. and Samorodnitsky (2008).

A "thousand word ~~by~~ summary" of our results when $G = F_d$, $d \geq 2$.

Note: Hopf decomposition and our degenerate-nondegenerate decomposition induce the following partition: $S = \mathbb{A} \cup (C \cap \mathbb{A}) \cup \mathbb{B}$.



Open problems:

- (I) In case of $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$, using structure theorem for finitely generated abelian groups, a better rate was obtained in some cases; see R. and Samorodnitsky (2008). Since there is no structure theorem for finitely generated nonabelian groups, this question becomes very challenging.
- (II) Samorodnitsky (in a personal communication): Is it possible to characterize all finitely generated ctble group G for which a new transition boundary will be observed?
- (III) $\bullet$ Ergodicity, large deviations, etc. in the sum- and ~~max-stable~~ max-stable random fields indexed by F_d , $d \geq 2$.
- (IV) Stationary SRS random fields indexed by more complicated groups, not necessarily ctble (say, Lie groups)?
- (V) What if the underlying tree becomes random (say Galton-Watson)?