

Concepts in Stochastic Models & Processes

I. Stochastic model & process.

- Why is it important?

- Statistical mechanics :

If we solve it deterministically, then we have to work w/ system of N mols of equations.

→ let them behave randomly, and study their macroscopic behavior!

- Ising model, percolation, random graph, Brownian motion,

- Preliminary : Probability theory.

- Probability space : $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$.

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \cdot \Omega : \text{space of states.} \\ \cdot \mathcal{F} : \sigma\text{-algebra.} \\ \cdot \mathbb{P} : \text{probability measure } (\mathbb{P}[\Omega] = 1) \end{array} \right.$

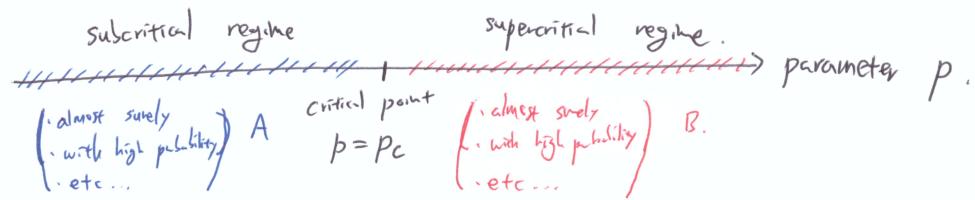
- $A \in \mathcal{F}$: event.

- $X : \mathcal{F}\text{-measurable functn on } \Omega$: random variable.

- $E[X] := \int_{\Omega} X d\mathbb{P}$: expectation.

II. Phase transition

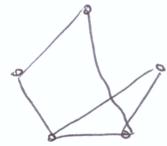
- When we have a family of models, parametrized by a variable, we often can observe a "phase transition" phenomenon.



- e.g. 1. Erdős-Renyi graph.

Erdős-Renyi graph $G_{n,p} \subseteq K_n$ ($p \in [0, 1]$)

$$\mathbb{P}_p[G_{n,p} = G] = p^{\# \text{edges in } G} \cdot (1-p)^{\binom{n}{2} - \# \text{edges in } G}$$



Q. Given a graph H , what is the probability that $H \subseteq G_{n,p}$?

$H = \Delta$: let $T = \# \text{ of } \Delta \text{ in } G_{n,p}$.

$$\mathbb{E} T = \binom{n}{3} \cdot p^3 \rightarrow \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \ll \frac{1}{n} \\ \infty & \text{if } p \gg \frac{1}{n} \end{cases}$$

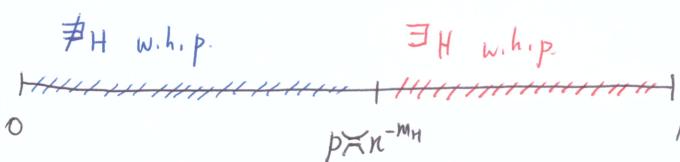
$$\mathbb{E} T^2 = \sum_{\Delta} \mathbb{E} \Delta^2 + \sum_{\Delta_1 \neq \Delta_2} \mathbb{E} \Delta_1 \Delta_2 = \binom{n}{3} \cdot p^3 + 3 \binom{n}{3} \binom{n-3}{3} \cdot p^5 + \left[\binom{n}{3} \binom{n-3}{3} + 3 \binom{n}{3} \binom{n-2}{2} \right] \cdot p^6$$

(Second moment method) $\mathbb{P}[T = 0] \leq \mathbb{P}[|T - \mathbb{E} T| \geq \mathbb{E} T] \stackrel{\text{Chebyshev}}{\leq} \frac{\text{Var } T}{(\mathbb{E} T)^2} \rightarrow 0 \text{ if } p \gg \frac{1}{n}$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{P}[H \subseteq G_{n,p}] \rightarrow \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \ll \frac{1}{n} \\ 1 & \text{if } p \gg \frac{1}{n} \end{cases}$$

(Erdős-Renyi, Bollobás) $\forall H, m_H := \min \left\{ \frac{v_K}{e_K} : K \leq H \right\}$

$$\mathbb{P}[H \subseteq G_{n,p}] \rightarrow \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \ll n^{-m_H} \\ 1 & \text{if } p \gg n^{-m_H} \end{cases}$$





- e.g. 2. Percolation.

- d -dim'l hypercubic lattice $L^d = (\mathbb{Z}^d, E^d)$, $p \in [0, 1]$.

- Percolation: $\omega \in \Omega = \{0, 1\}^{E^d}$. $\omega(e) \sim \text{Ber}(p)$ i.i.d. $\forall e \in E^d$.

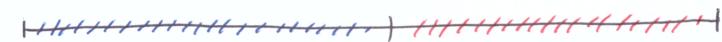
- Q. What is the probability that we have an infinite cluster?

- $\theta(p) := \mathbb{P}_p[0 \text{ is in an } \infty \text{ cluster}]$.

$$p_c := \sup \{ p : \theta(p) = 0 \}$$

- FACT)

$\# \infty \text{ cluster a.s.}$ $\exists! \infty \text{ cluster, a.s.}$



$$0 \qquad \qquad p = p_c \qquad \qquad 1$$

$(\because \# \exists : \text{Use 0-1 law.}$
 $\exists! : \text{Pretty complicated... Read [Grimmett '99 - Percolation].})$

- e.g. 3. 2-dim'1 Ising model.

+	-	+	-
-	+	-	+
+	-	+	-
-	+	-	+

- $\Lambda = [0, L]^2 \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2$ box, $\sigma \in \{+1, -1\}^\Lambda = \mathcal{S}$
- Hamiltonian: $H(\sigma) = -J \sum_{x \sim y} \mathbb{1}_{\{\sigma_x = \sigma_y\}} - h \sum_x \mathbb{1}_{\{\sigma_x = +1\}}$
- $IP_\beta[\sigma] = \frac{1}{Z_\beta} e^{-\beta H(\sigma)}$ "Gibbs measure" inverse temperature $\beta = \frac{1}{k_B T} > 0$

- let $h=0$. (Zero magnetic field), $J=1$.

Passing to weak limit as $L \rightarrow \infty$,

we can define an Ising model on \mathbb{Z}^2 .

- Q. For two sites $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, how are σ_x, σ_y correlated?

- FACT) For $\beta_c = \log(1+\sqrt{2})$,

$$IP_\beta[\sigma_x = \sigma_y] - \frac{1}{2} \xrightarrow{|x-y| \rightarrow \infty} \begin{cases} 0 & \text{exponentially fast if } \beta < \beta_c \\ C(\beta) > 0 & \text{if } \beta > \beta_c \end{cases}$$

~~exp decaying correlation (disordered)~~ ~~ferromagnetic (ordered)~~
~~high-temp.~~ $\beta = \beta_c$ ~~low-temp.~~



III. Glauber dynamics. & mixing time

- Random process.

÷ Basically, it is a collection of random variables (X_t) , where $t \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ or $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.

- It is called a Markov chain if it is "memoryless",

i.e., the conditional distribution of future states depends only upon the present state:

$$\mathbb{P}[X_t \in A | \mathcal{F}_s] = \mathbb{P}[X_t \in A | X_s] \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{F}, s \leq t.$$

- Markov Chain Monte Carlo algorithm.

- Q. Given a stochastic model, how can we sample (simulate) it?

- Idea: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC).

Construct a Markov chain on the state space

whose stationary measure is the probability measure we want.

(Classical FACT) If an ergodic Markov chain X_t has stationary measure \mathbb{P} ,

$$\text{then } \mathbb{P}_{X_0}^t \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P} \quad \forall X_0 \in \Omega.$$

※ Total variation distance

$$\|\mathbb{P}_1 - \mathbb{P}_2\|_{TV} := \sup_{A \in \mathcal{F}} |\mathbb{P}_1[A] - \mathbb{P}_2[A]|. \quad (\in [0, 1]).$$

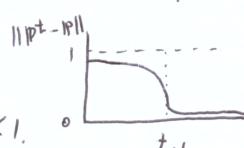
- Mixing time.

$$t_{\text{mix}}(\varepsilon) := \inf \left\{ t : \max_{X_0 \in \Omega} \|\mathbb{P}_{X_0}^t - \mathbb{P}\|_{TV} \leq \varepsilon \right\}. \quad 0 < \varepsilon < 1.$$

Conventionally, write $t_{\text{mix}} = t_{\text{mix}}(\frac{1}{4})$. (We may pick any $\varepsilon < \frac{1}{2}$).

- Cutoff:

: A family of processes exhibits cutoff if $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t_{\text{mix}}(\varepsilon)}{t_{\text{mix}}(1-\varepsilon)} = 1 \quad \forall 0 < \varepsilon < 1$.

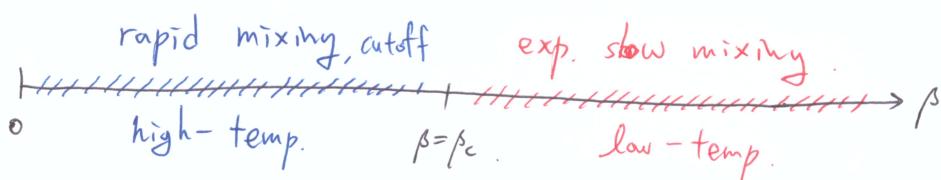


- Glauber dynamics.
 - Return to the finite-volume Ising model on $\Delta = [0, L]^2$.
 - Equip $\Omega = \{\pm 1\}^{\Delta}$ w/ a set of undirected edges E
 $\vdash \sigma \sim \sigma' \quad \text{if} \quad \sigma_x \neq \sigma'_x \quad \text{exactly at one site.}$
 - Glauber dynamics (τ_t) on Ω :
 \vdash continuing the Markov process w/ transition rates
 $c_\beta(\sigma, \sigma') = \begin{cases} e^{-\beta[H(\sigma') - H(\sigma)]} & \text{if } \sigma \sim \sigma' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

"single spin flip"

→ We have stationary measure Π , that is reversible & ergodic.

- FACT) $\cdot \beta < \beta_c : t_{\text{mix}} = O(L^2 \log L)$: "coupon-collecting time"
 $\cdot \beta > \beta_c : t_{\text{mix}} \geq e^{c(\beta) \cdot L} \quad \exists c(\beta) > 0$.
[Lubetzky-Sly '14]



↪ This is a pretty universal picture!

IV. Metastability.

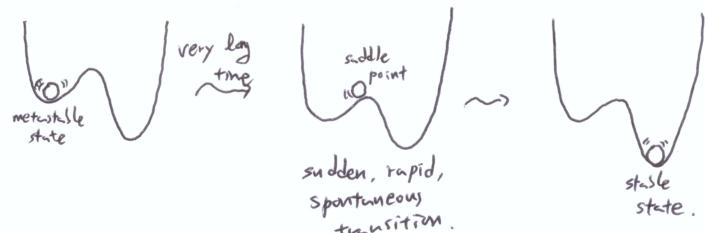
- Metastability

- "Spontaneous transition from a 'fake' stable state to the stable state"

- e.g. • supercooled water



- diffusion w/ gradient drift



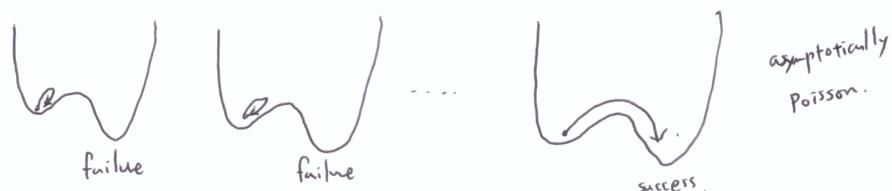
- Common indicators.

- exponential hitting time : $\mathbb{Z}_n = \inf \{ t : X_t^n \in S \}$.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\log \mathbb{E}_{\text{im}} \mathbb{Z}_n}{n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \exists c > 0.$$

(cf. large deviations, Friedman-Wentzell theory.)

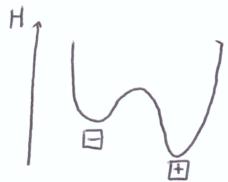
- "independent" attempts : $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_n}{\mathbb{E} \mathbb{Z}_n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Exp}(1)$ in distribution.



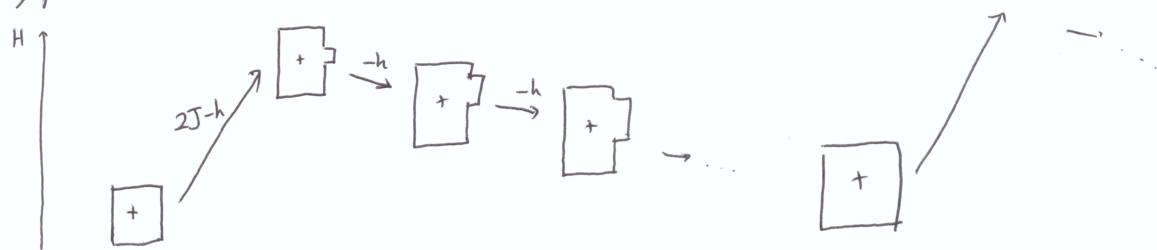
- Metastability of Glauber dynamics.

- Now we consider $\Lambda = [0, L]^2$ torus, $J > 0$, $h \in (0, 2J)$.

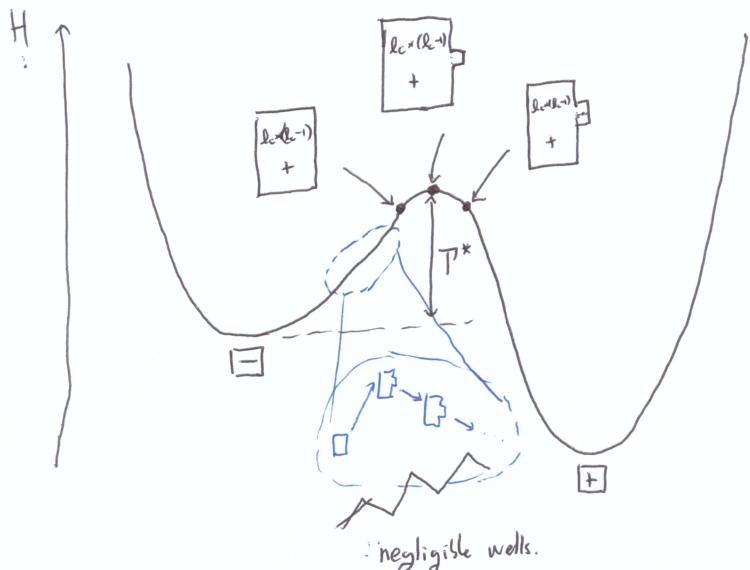
- metastable state $\square \Leftrightarrow \tau_x = -1 \forall x$
- stable state $\blacksquare : \tau_x = +1 \forall x$



- typical (most-likely) path $\square \rightarrow \blacksquare$



- critical droplet size $l_c = \lceil \frac{2J}{h} \rceil$



FACT)

$$\mathbb{E} \Sigma_{\square \rightarrow \blacksquare} \sim K e^{\beta T^*} \quad \text{where} \quad T^* = J \cdot (4l_c) - h \cdot (l_c(l_c-1)+1)$$

$$K = \frac{3}{4(2l_c-1)} \frac{1}{|\Lambda|}$$

(See [Bovier-Hollander '15 - Metastability].)