



# Evolutionary Graph Theory

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# Population Genetics Models

Model the forces that produce and maintain genetic evolution within a population.

**Mutation:** the process by which one individual (gene) changes.  
**Simulation wants to study the drift of the population:** how the frequency of mutants in the total population evolves.

**The Moran Process** P. Moran: *Random processes in genetics*  
Cambridge Ph. Soc. 1958

- Start with  $n$  individuals. Randomly select one to mutate.
- Select randomly an individual  $x$  to replicate.
- Select randomly another  $y$  to die.
- Replace  $y$  by a clone of  $x$ .

Stochastic process. At time  $t$  the number mutants evolves in  $\{-1, 0, +1\}$ .



# Evolutionary graph theory (EGT)

Lieberman, Hauert, Nowak: *Evolutionary dynamics on graphs*  
Nature 2005 (LHN)

*EGT studies how the topology of interactions between the population affects evolution.*

Graphs have two types of vertices: **mutants** and **non-mutants**.

The **fitness**  $r$  of an agent denotes its reproductive rate.

Mutants have fitness  $r \in \Theta(1)$ , non-mutants have fitness 1.

Mutants and non-mutants extend by cloning **one of their neighbors**.

# Moran process on Evolutionary Graphs

Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , with  $|V| = n$ , and an  $r > 0$ , we start with all vertices non-mutant.

- at  $t = 0$  create uniformly at random a mutant in  $V$

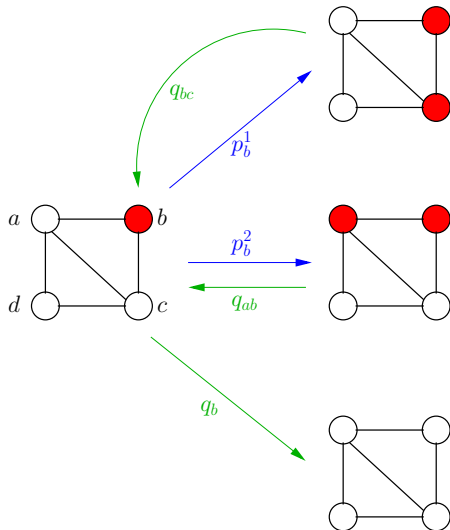
At any time  $t > 0$ , assume we have  $k$  mutant and  $(n - k)$  non-mutant vertices. Define total fitness at time  $t$  by

$$W_t = kr + (n - k):$$

- Choose  $u$  with probability  $\frac{r}{W_t}$  if  $u$  is mutant and  $\frac{1}{W_t}$  otherwise,
- choose uniformly at random a  $v \in \mathcal{N}(u)$ , and replace  $v$  with the clone of  $u$

The process is Markovian, depending on  $r$  it tends to one of the two **absorbing states**: **extinction** or **fixation**.

# Example of Moran process



where:

$$p_b^1 = \frac{r}{3+r} \cdot \frac{1}{2}$$

$$p_b^2 = \frac{r}{3+r} \cdot \frac{1}{2}$$

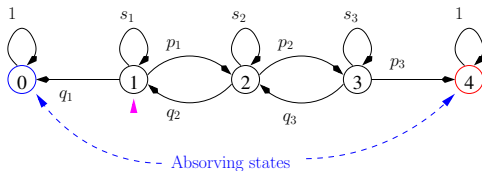
$$q_{ab} = \frac{1}{2+2r} \cdot \frac{5}{6}$$

$$q_{bc} = \frac{1}{(n-1)+r} \cdot \frac{5}{6}$$

$$q_b = \frac{2}{3+r} \cdot \frac{1}{3}$$

# Moran Process

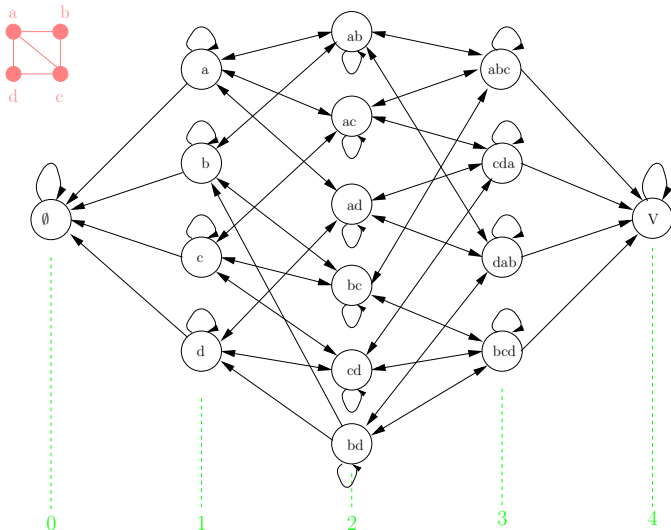
This random process defines discrete, transient Markov chain, on states  $\{0, 1, \dots, n-1, n\}$  with two absorbing states:  $n$  fixation (all mutant) and  $0$  extinction (all non-mutant).



The fixation probability  $f_G(r)$  of  $G$  is the probability that a single mutant will take over the whole  $G$ . The extinction probability of  $G$  is  $1 - f_G(r)$ .

# The Markov chain of configurations

A **configuration** is a set  $S \subseteq V$  of mutants.



# Properties of $f_G(r)$

Given  $G = (V, E)$  connected and a fitness  $r > 0$ , for any  $S \subset V$  let  $f_{G,r}(S)$  denote the fixation probability, when starting with a set  $S$  of mutants.

Notice  $f_G(r) = \sum_{v \in V} f_{G,r}(\{v\})$ .

The case  $r = 1$  is denoted neutral drift.

Shakarian, Ross, Johnson, Biosystems 2012

For any  $r \geq 1$ ,  $f_G(r) \geq f_G(1)$

Díaz,Goldberg,Mertzios,Richerby,Serna,Spirakis, SODA-2012  
(DGMRSS)

For any undirected  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $f_G(1) = \frac{1}{n}$ .



# Bounding $f_G(r)$

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be any undirected connected graph, with  $|V| = n$ .

(DGMRSS)

For any  $r \geq 1$ ,  $\frac{1}{n} \leq f_G(r) \leq 1 - \frac{1}{n+r}$ , are bounds on the fixation probability for  $G$ .

Merzios, Spirakis: ArXiv-2014

For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$f_G(r) \leq 1 - \frac{1}{n^{\frac{3}{4} + \epsilon}}.$$

# Questions to study

Given a connected graph  $G = (V, E)$  (strongly connected is case of digraphs), and a fitness  $r$ :

*1.- Is it possible to compute exactly the fixation probability  $f_G(r)$ ?*

Difficult for some graphs. For a given  $G$  the number of constraints and variables is equal to the number of possible configurations of mutants/non-mutants in  $G \sim 2^n$ .

*2.- Given  $G$ , is it possible to compute the expected number of steps until arriving to absorption?*

## Isothermal graphs (LHN)

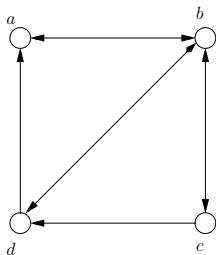
Given a directed  $\vec{G} = (V, \vec{E})$ ,  $\forall i \in V$  let  $\deg^+(i)$  be its outgoing degree:

Define the stochastic matrix  $W = [w_{ij}]$ , where  $w_{ij} = 1/\deg^+(i)$  if  $(i, j) \in \vec{E}$  and  $w_{ij} = 0$  otherwise.

The same definition of  $W$  applies to undirected  $G$ , with  $w_{ij} = 1/\deg(i)$ .

The **temperature** of  $i \in V$  is  $T_i = \sum_{j \in V} w_{ji}$

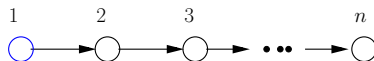
A graph  $\vec{G}$  is **isothermal** if  $\forall i, j \in V, T_i = T_j$ .



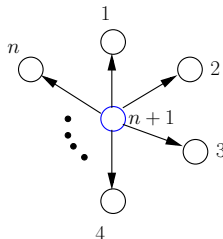
$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$T_b = 2 \text{ and } T_c = 1/3$$

# Computing the fixation probability



If  $\vec{G}$  is a digraph with a single source then  $f_{\vec{G}}(r) = \frac{1}{n}$ .



## Isothermal Theorem (LHN)

For a strongly connected graph  $\vec{G}$  s.t.  $\forall i, j \in V$  we have  $T_i = T_j$  (i.e.  $W$  is bi-stochastic) then

$$f_{\vec{G}}(r) = \frac{1 - \frac{1}{r}}{1 - \frac{1}{r^n}} \equiv \rho$$

# Undirected graphs

The isothermal theorem also applies to undirected graphs.

Given  $G$  undirected and connected, then

$G$  is  $\Delta$ -regular iff  $W$  is bi-stochastic.

If  $G$  is undirected and connected then

$f_G(r) = \rho = \frac{1-1/r}{1-1/r^n}$  iff  $G$  is  $\Delta$ -regular.

For example, if  $G$  is  $C_n$  or  $K_n$  then  $f_G(r) = \rho$ .

Notice:

- if  $r > 1$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_G(r) = 1 - \frac{1}{r}$ .
- if  $r < 1$  then  $f_G(r) = \frac{r^n - r^{n-1}}{r^n - 1} \rightarrow$  exponentially small.

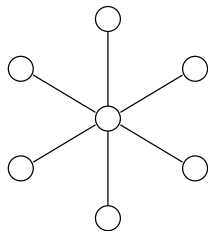
# Amplifiers and suppressors

Given  $G$  (directed or undirected) and  $r$ ,  $G$  is said to be an **amplifier** if  $f_G(r) > \rho$ .  $G$  is said to be a **suppressor** if  $f_G(r) < \rho$ .

## The star

(LHN), (Broom, Rychtá. Proc.R. Soc. A 2008)

For  $r > 1$   $f_G(r) = \frac{1 - \frac{1}{r^2}}{1 - \frac{1}{r^{2n}}} > \rho$



The star is an amplifier

# Suppressors

The **directed line** and the **burst** have fixation probability  $\frac{1}{n} < \rho$ , therefore they are examples of suppressors.

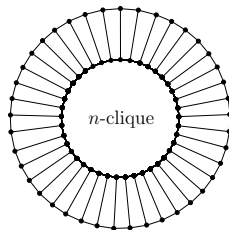
How about non-directed graphs as suppressors?

Mertzios, Nikolettseas, Ratopoulos, Spirakis, TCS 2013

## The urchin

For  $r < 4/3$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_G(r) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{r}\right) < \rho$$



The urchin is an undirected graph suppressor

# Absorption time for undirected graphs

Given undirected connected  $G = (V, E)$ , with  $|V| = n$ , run a Moran process  $\{S_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ , where  $\{S_t\}$  set of mutants at time  $t$ .

Define the **absorption time**  $\tau = \min\{t \mid S_t = \emptyset \vee S_t = V\}$ .

## Theorem DGMRSS

Given  $G$  undirected, for the Moran process  $\{S_t\}$  starting with  $|S_1| = 1$ :

1. If  $r < 1$ , then  $\mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq \frac{r}{r-1} n^3$ ,
2. if  $r > 1$ , then  $\mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq \frac{r}{r-1} n^4$ ,
3. if  $r = 1$ , then  $\mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq n^6$ .



## Sketch of the proof

We bound  $\mathbf{E}[\tau]$  using a potential function that decreases in expectation until absorption.

Define the **potential function**  $\phi(S) = \sum_{v \in S} \frac{1}{\deg(v)}$

Notice  $\phi(\{v\}) \geq 1/n$  and  $0 \leq \phi(S_\tau) \leq n$

Use the following result from MC (Hajek, Adv Appl. Prob. 1983)

If  $\{X_t\}_{t \geq 0}$  is a MC with state space  $\Omega$  and there exist constants  $k_1, k_2 > 0$  and a  $\phi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}$  s.t.

(1)  $\phi(S) = 0, \exists S \in \Omega,$

(2)  $\phi(S) \leq k_1,$

(3)  $\mathbf{E}[\phi(X_t) - \phi(X_{t+1}) \mid X_t = S] \geq k_2, \forall t \geq 0$  s.t.  $\phi(S) > 0,$

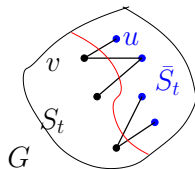
then  $\mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq k_1/k_2$ , where  $\tau = \min\{t \mid \phi(S) = 0\}.$

# Sketch of the proof

To compute evolution of

$$\mathbf{E}[\phi(S_{t+1}) - \phi(S_t)].$$

To show that the potential decreases (increases) monotonically for  $r < 1$  ( $r > 1$ ), consider the contribution of each  $(u, v)$  in the cut for  $S_{t+1} = S_t \cup \{v\}$  and to  $S_{t+1} = S_t \setminus \{v\}$ .



1. For  $r < 1$ ,  $\mathbf{E}[\phi(S_{t+1}) - \phi(S_t)] < \frac{r-1}{n^3} < 0$ .
2. For  $r > 1$ ,  $\mathbf{E}[\phi(S_{t+1}) - \phi(S_t)] \geq (1 - \frac{1}{r})\frac{1}{n^3}$ .
3. For  $r = 1$ ,  $\mathbf{E}[\phi(S_{t+1}) - \phi(S_t)] = 0$ .

# Domination argument for $r < 1$

For any fixed initial  $S \subset V$ :

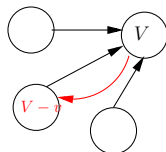
Let  $\{Y_i\}_{i \geq 0}$  be a stochastic process as Moran's, except if it arrives to state  $V$ , u.a.r. choose  $v$  and exit to state  $V \setminus \{v\}$ .

Let  $\tau' = \min\{i \mid Y_i = \emptyset\}$

Then,

$$\mathbf{E}[\tau \mid X_0 = S] \leq \mathbf{E}[\tau' \mid Y_0 = S] \leq \frac{1}{1-r} n^3 \phi(S)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq \frac{1}{1-r} n^3.$$



# Domination argument for $r > 1$

For any fixed initial  $S \subset V$ :

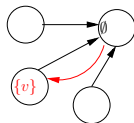
Define a process  $\{Y_i\}_{i \geq 0}$  as in Moran's, except if arrives to state  $\emptyset$ , u.a.r. choose  $v$  and exit to state  $\{v\}$ .

Let  $\tau' = \min\{i \mid Y_i = V\}$

Then,

$$\mathbf{E}[\tau \mid X_0 = S] \leq \mathbf{E}[\tau' \mid Y_0 = S] \leq \frac{rn^3}{r-1}(\phi(G) - \phi(S))$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq \frac{r}{r-1}n^4.$$



## Proof for $r = 1$

For undirected  $G = (V, E)$  with  $r = 1$ ,

$$\mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq \phi(V)^2 n^4 \leq n^6.$$

In this case  $\mathbf{E}[\phi(S_t) - \phi(S_{t-1})]$  does not change

$\Rightarrow$  Use a martingale argument

At each  $t$ , the probability that  $\phi$  changes is  $\geq 1/n^2$ , and it changes by  $\leq 1/n$ .

Dominated by process  $Z_t(\phi_t)$ , which increases in expectation until stopping time, when the process absorbs.

Then  $\mathbf{E}[Z_\tau] \geq \mathbf{E}[Z_0]$  and we get a bound for  $\mathbf{E}[\tau]$ .

# Aproximating $f_G(r)$

A **FPRAS** for a function  $f$ : A **randomized algorithm**  $A$  such that, given a  $0 \leq \epsilon \leq 1$ , for any input  $x$ ,

$$\Pr[(1 - \epsilon)f(x) \leq A(x) \leq (1 + \epsilon)f(x)] \geq \frac{3}{4},$$

with a running time  $\leq \text{poly}(|x|, 1/\epsilon)$ .

## Corollary to absorption bounds

- ▶ There is an **FPRAS** for computing the **fixation** probability, for any fixed  $r \geq 1$ .
- ▶ There is an **FPRAS** for computing the **extinction** probability, for any fixed  $r < 1$ .

# Absorption time $\Delta$ -regular graphs, $r > 1$

Díaz, Goldberg, Richerby, Serna. ArXive 2014

Recall the upper bound for absorption time undirected  $G$  is  $\frac{r}{r-1} n^4$ .

**Theorem** If  $G = (V, E)$  is a connected  $\Delta$ -regular graph with  $|V| = n$ , the upper bound to the expected absorption time is

$$\mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq \frac{r}{r-1} n^2 \Delta.$$

Sketch of proof

For any  $\emptyset \subseteq S \subseteq V$ , use  $\phi(S) = \sum_{v \in S} \frac{1}{\deg(v)} = \frac{|S|}{\Delta}$   
and  $\phi(V) = \frac{n}{\Delta}$ .

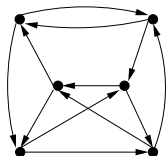
$$\mathbf{E}[\phi(S_{t+1}) - \phi(S_t)] = \frac{r-1}{W_{t+1}} \frac{1}{\deg(u)\deg(v)} = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{\Delta^2 n}\right)$$

# $\Delta$ -regular digraphs

**$\Delta$ -regular digraph:**  $\forall v, \deg^-(v) = \deg^+(v) = \Delta$ .

Recall for regular digraphs:

- Fixation probability is  $\rho$ , independent of the particular topology of the graph.
- As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\rho \rightarrow 1 - \frac{1}{r}$ ,  
therefore the expected number of **active steps**  $\rightarrow n(1 - \frac{1}{r})$ , independently of the graph.





# Expected absorption time for regular digraphs, $r > 1$

The expected absorption time does depend on the graph.

**Theorem** Let  $G$  be a strongly connected  $\Delta$ -regular  $n$ -vertex digraph. Then the expected absorption time is

$$\left(\frac{r-1}{r^2}\right)nH_{n-1} \leq \mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq n^2\Delta,$$

where  $H_n$  is the  $n$ th. Harmonic number.

## Corollaries

- For  $K_n$  ( $\Delta = n - 1$ )  $\Rightarrow \mathbf{E}[\tau] = \Omega(n \log n)$  and  $\mathbf{E}[\tau] = O(n^3)$ .
- For  $C_n \Rightarrow \mathbf{E}[\tau] = \Omega(n \log n)$  and  $\mathbf{E}[\tau] = O(n^2)$ .

# Undirected $\Delta$ -regular and isoperimetric inequality

Given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$ , the **isoperimetric number** (Harper, J. Comb. Theory 1966) is defined as

$$i(G) = \min_S \left\{ \frac{|\delta S|}{|S|} \mid S \subset V, 0 < |S| \leq |V|/2 \right\},$$

where  $\delta S$  is the set of edges in the cut between  $S$  and  $V \setminus S$ .

**Proposition** If  $G$  is  $\Delta$ -regular undirected (*good expander*)

$$\mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq \frac{2\Delta n H_n}{i(G)}.$$

For some  $\Delta$ -reg.  $G$  the isoperimetric bound improves the general theorem.

# Applications of the isoperimetric result

- The  $K_n$  has  $i(G) = \Theta(1/\sqrt{n}) \Rightarrow$   
 $\mathbf{E}[\tau] = \Theta(n \log n)$  ( $\mathbf{E}[\tau] = O(n^3)$ ).
- The  $\sqrt{n} \times \sqrt{n}$ -grid has  $i(G) = \Theta(1/\sqrt{n}) \Rightarrow$   
 $\mathbf{E}[\tau] = O(n^{3/2} \log n)$  ( $\mathbf{E}[\tau] = O(n^2)$ ).
- The  $C_n$  has  $i(G) = 4/n \Rightarrow$   
 $\mathbf{E}[\tau] = O(n^2 \log n)$  ( $\mathbf{E}[\tau] = O(n^2)$ ).

Bolobás, Eur. J. Comb. 1988: *For  $\Delta \geq 3$  there is a number  $0 < \nu < 1$  such that, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , for almost all undirected  $\Delta$ -regular  $G$ ,  $i(G) = \nu\Delta/2$ .*

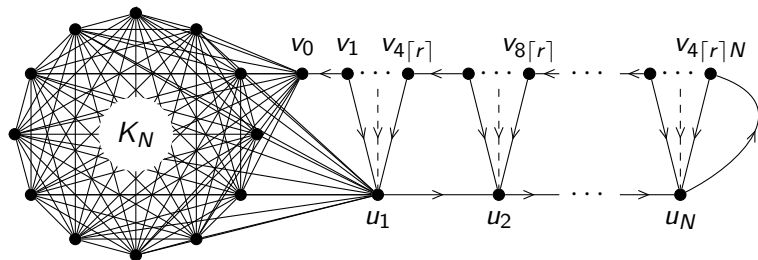
- Bollobás result  $\Rightarrow$  for almost all undirected  $\Delta$ -regular  $G$ ,  
 $\mathbf{E}[\tau] = O(n \log n)$ .

# Worst absorption time for directed graphs

Recall the absorption time of undirected graphs  $\mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq O(n^4)$ .

**Theorem** There is an infinite family of strongly connected digraphs such that the expected absorption time for an  $n$  vertex graph is

$$\mathbf{E}[\tau] = 2^{\Omega(n)}.$$



# Domination

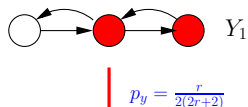
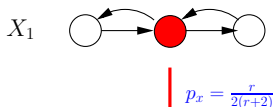
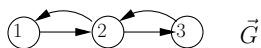
Given a Moran's process  $\{X_t\}$  on  $G$ , intuition says that for any  $S$  and any  $S' \subset S$ ,  $f_S(r) > f_{S'}(r)$  and  $\tau(S) < \tau(S')$ .

$\therefore$  To analyze  $\{X_t\}$ , we can couple it with a process  $\{Y_t\}$ , which is easier to analyze (*for instance by allowing transitions that create new mutants but forbidding some of the transitions removing mutants*).

Then we **must ensure** that for every  $t > 1$ , if  $X_1 \subseteq Y_1 \Rightarrow X_t \subseteq Y_t$ .

**NOT ALWAYS TRUE** for discrete Moran's processes

# Counterexample



Coupling  $\{X_i\}$  and  $\{Y_i\}$  fails as for  $r > 1$ ,

$$\Pr[X_2 \not\subseteq Y_2] > 0$$

# Continuous time process

To use domination for the discrete processes  $\{X_i\}$  and  $\{Y_i\}$ , consider the continuous versions  $\tilde{X}[t]$  and  $\tilde{Y}[t]$ , where vertex  $v$  with fitness  $r_v \in \{1, r\}$  waits an amount of time which follows an exponential distribution with parameter  $r_v$ .

The discrete Moran process is recovered by taking the sequence of configurations each time a vertex reproduces.

**Notice:** in continuous time, each  $v$  reproduces at a rate given by  $r_v$ , independently of the other vertices, while in discrete time the population "coordinates" before deciding who is next to reproduce.

# Coupling Lemma and consequences

**Coupling Lemma** For  $\vec{G} = (V, \vec{E})$ , let  $X \subseteq Y$  and  $1 \leq r \leq r'$ . Let  $\tilde{X}[t]$  and  $\tilde{Y}[t]$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) be the continuous-time Moran process on  $G$  with mutant fitness  $r$  and  $r'$ , and with  $\tilde{X}[0] = X$  and  $\tilde{Y}[0] = Y$ . There is a coupling between the two processes s. t.  $\tilde{X}[t] \subseteq \tilde{Y}[t]$ ,  $\forall t \geq 0$ .

**Theorem** For any  $\vec{G}$ , if  $0 < r \leq r'$  and  $S \subseteq S'$  then

$$f_{\vec{G},r}(S) \leq f_{\vec{G},r'}(S').$$

**Corollary** (*Monotonicity*)

For any  $\vec{G}$  and  $0 < r \leq r'$  then,  $f_{\vec{G}}(r) \leq f_{\vec{G}}(r')$ .

**Corollary** (*Subset domination*)

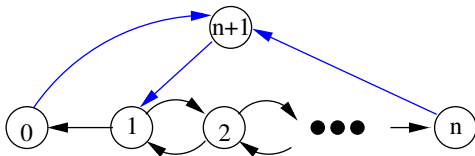
For any  $\vec{G}$  and  $0 < r$  then, if  $S \subseteq S'$  then  $f_{\vec{G},r}(S) \leq f_{\vec{G},r}(S')$ .



## Glimpse of proof for

$$\left(\frac{r-1}{r^2}\right)nH_{n-1} \leq \mathbf{E}[\tau] \leq n^2\Delta,$$

Dominate the process by a Markov chain:



Solve difference equation to find the expected number of active steps going from state  $j$  to state  $n+1$ .

Compute bound on the time you spend in each state  $j$ .

Thank you for your attention