

CHENNAI MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE

MASTERS THESIS

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# Random Spanning Trees

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*A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Master of Science*

*in the*

Computer Science at CMI

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I, Bhishmaraj S, declare that this thesis titled, “Random Spanning Trees” and the work presented in it are my own. I confirm that:

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- Where the thesis is based on work done by myself jointly with others, I have made clear exactly what was done by others and what I have contributed myself

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# *Abstract*

Faculty Name  
Computer Science at CMI

Master of Science

**Random Spanning Trees**

by Bhishmaraj S

The Thesis Abstract is written here (and usually kept to just this page). The page is kept centered vertically so can expand into the blank space above the title too....  
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## *Acknowledgements*

The acknowledgments and the people to thank go here, don't forget to include your project advisor. . .





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# List of Abbreviations

**LAH** List Abbreviations Here  
**WSF** What (it) Stands For





# 1 Introduction



## 2 Background

### 2.1 Markov Chains

#### 2.1.1 Fundamental theorem of Markov chain

#### 2.1.2 Markov chain tree theorem

### 2.2 Results from Spectral Graph Theory

#### 2.2.1 Kirchoff Matrix Tree Theorem

#### 2.2.2 Some properties of Laplacian

### 2.3 Electric Networks



## 3 Random Walk Approach

3.1 Aldous, Broder

3.2 Wilson



## 4 Matrix Approach

### 4.1 Colbourn, Day, Nel

### 4.2 Harvey, Xu

#### 4.2.1 Techniques used

##### Naive chain rule algorithm

**Input:**  $G = (V, E)$  and  $L_G^+$   
**Output:** Set of edges corresponding to a random spanning tree

```

1 for  $e = (u, v) \in E$  do
2    $R_e^{\text{eff}} = (\chi_u - \chi_v)^T L_G^+ (\chi_u - \chi_v);$ 
3   if  $(X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(R_e^{\text{eff}})) = 1$  then
4     Add edge  $e$  to the spanning tree;
5      $G = G/e;$ 
6   else
7      $G = G \setminus e;$ 
8   end
9   Update  $L_G^+;$ 
10 end
```

**Algorithm 1:** Sampling uniform spanning tree using chain rule

#### 4.2.2 Facts used

**Fact 1** (Woodbury matrix identity). *Let  $M \in \mathbb{M}_{n \times n}, U \in \mathbb{M}_{n \times k}, V \in \mathbb{M}_{n \times k}$ . Suppose  $M$  is non-singular then  $M + UV^T$  is non-singular  $\iff I + V^T M^{-1} U$  is non-singular. If  $M + UV^T$  is non-singular, then*

$$(M + UV^T)^{-1} = M^{-1} - \left( M^{-1} \cdot U \cdot (I + V^T M^{-1} U)^{-1} \cdot V^T \cdot M^{-1} \right)$$

*Proof.* TODO ■

**Fact 2.** *For any  $L \in \mathbb{M}_{n \times n}$  with  $\ker(L) = \text{span}(\mathbf{1})$ , we have  $LL^+ = I - \frac{\mathbf{1} \cdot \mathbf{1}^T}{n}$  and  $P := I - \frac{\mathbf{1} \cdot \mathbf{1}^T}{n}$  is called the **projection matrix**.*

**Fact 3** (Sub-matrices). *For all the results below,  $S$  denotes a index set and  $S^c$  denotes it's complement.*

1. *For any  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_{n \times n}$ ,  $(A + B)_{S,S} = A_{S,S} + B_{S,S}$*
2. *If  $C = D \cdot E \cdot F$  then  $C_{S,S} = D_{S,*} \cdot E \cdot F_{*,S}$*
3. *For  $A \in \mathbb{M}_{m \times n}, B \in \mathbb{M}_{n \times l}$ , If  $A_{S^c, S^c} = 0$  or  $B_{S^c, S^c} = 0$  then  $(AB)_{S,S} = A_{S,S} \cdot B_{S,S}$*

4. For any matrix  $C$  where  $C = D \cdot E \cdot F$ . If  $D_{*,S^c} = 0$  and  $F_{S^c,*} = 0$ , then  $C = D_{*,S} \cdot E_{S,S} \cdot F_{S,*}$

5.  $D = \begin{bmatrix} M & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $E = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ X & Y \end{bmatrix}$  where  $M, A \in \mathbb{M}_{n \times n}$  and If  $(MA - I)$  is invertible Then,

$$(DE - I)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} (MA - I)^{-1} & (MA - I)^{-1} \cdot M \cdot B \\ 0 & -I \end{bmatrix}$$

*Proof.*  $(DE - I)^{-1}$  can be computed using Shur's Complement (Wikipedia contributors, 2020).

Suppose  $N = \begin{bmatrix} P & Q \\ R & S \end{bmatrix}$  and Shur's complement of block  $S$  and  $P$  is

$$N/S := P - QS^{-1}R \quad N/P := S - RP^{-1}Q$$

Then

$$N^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} P^{-1} + (P^{-1}Q(N/P)^{-1}RP^{-1}) & -(P^{-1}Q(N/P)^{-1}) \\ -((N/P)^{-1}RP^{-1}) & (N/P)^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

In our case  $N = \begin{bmatrix} MA - I & MB \\ 0 & -I \end{bmatrix}$  and  $(N/P) = -I$ . From this it follows that

$$N^{-1} = (DE - I)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} (MA - I)^{-1} & (MA - I)^{-1} \cdot M \cdot B \\ 0 & -I \end{bmatrix}$$

■

**Fact 4.** Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_{n \times n}$  with  $B$  being symmetric PSD. Suppose  $x$  is an eigenvector of  $AB$  corresponding to eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . Then  $\sqrt{B}x$  is an eigenvector of  $\sqrt{B}A\sqrt{B}$  corresponding to eigenvalue  $\lambda$

**Fact 5** (Laplacian and graph connectivity). Let  $G$  be a graph with  $n$  vertices. Suppose  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n)$  be the eigenvalues corresponding to the eigenvectors  $(v_1, v_2 \dots v_n)$  of the Laplacian of  $G$  denoted as  $L_G$ .  $L_G$  is symmetric PSD with  $\lambda_1 = 0$  and  $v_1 = \mathbf{1}$ . The following properties relate the eigenvalues of  $L_G$  with the connectivity of  $G$ :

1.  $\lambda_2 > 0 \iff G$  is connected
2.  $G$  is disconnected  $\iff \exists z$  with  $z^T \mathbf{1} = 0$  and  $z^T L_G z = 0$

The above is true for  $L_G^+$  also

**Definition 1** ( $\chi_u$ ).  $\chi_u$  is a vector of size  $|V|$

$$\chi_u(i) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i = u \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Definition 2** (Uniform random spanning tree). Let  $\hat{T}$  be the random variable denoting a uniformly random spanning tree, then  $\mathbb{P}(\hat{T} = T) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{T}|}$ , where  $\mathcal{T}$  is the set of all spanning trees of  $G$ .



**Fact 6.** Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  with laplacian  $L_G$ , the effective resistance of an edge  $e = \{u, v\} \in E$  is

$$R_e^{\text{eff}} = (\chi_u - \chi_v)^T L_G^+ (\chi_u - \chi_v)$$

Then for any  $e \in E$  we have

$$\mathbb{P}(e \in \hat{T}) = R_e^{\text{eff}}$$

### 4.2.3 Recursive Algorithm with lazy updates

#### Deletion

**Lemma 1** (Formulas in **Theorem 1** are well defined). Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph and  $D \subseteq E$  then

$$(I - L_D L_G^+) \text{ is invertible} \iff G \setminus D \text{ is connected}$$

*Proof.* First let's show that If  $(I - L_D L_G^+)$  is singular then  $G \setminus D$  is disconnected

- Since  $(I - L_D L_G^+)$  is singular  $\exists x \neq 0$  s.t.  $(I - L_D L_G^+)x = 0$

$$\implies L_D L_G^+ x = x \quad (4.1)$$

$$\implies 1 \in \text{eigenvalues}(L_D L_G^+) \quad (4.2)$$

$$\implies 1 \in \text{eigenvalues}((L_G - L_{G \setminus D}) L_G^+) \quad (4.3)$$

- Let  $x \perp \mathbf{1}$  be an eigenvector of  $(L_G - L_{G \setminus D}) L_G^+$  with eigenvalue 1.

- By **Fact 4**,  $y = \frac{\sqrt{L_G^+} x}{\|\sqrt{L_G^+} x\|}$  is an eigenvector of  $\sqrt{L_G^+} (L_G - L_{G \setminus D}) \sqrt{L_G^+}$

$$= y^T \cdot \sqrt{L_G^+} (L_G - L_{G \setminus D}) \sqrt{L_G^+} \cdot y = 1 \quad (4.4)$$

$$= y^T \sqrt{L_G^+} L_G \sqrt{L_G^+} y = (HOW) y^T L_G^+ L_G y = y^T P y \quad (4.5)$$

$$= y^T \left( I - \frac{\mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{1}}{n} \right) y = y^T y - \left( \frac{y^T \mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{1} y}{n} \right) = (HOW) y^T y = 1 \quad (4.6)$$

- $\therefore y^T \sqrt{L_G^+} L_{G \setminus D} \sqrt{L_G^+} y = 0$  now if we consider  $z = \sqrt{L_G^+} y$  and show that  $z^T \mathbf{1} = 0$  then we can use **Fact 5** to complete the proof

$$y^T \sqrt{L_G^+} \mathbf{1} = x^T \sqrt{L_G^+} \sqrt{L_G^+} \mathbf{1} = 0 \text{ (HOW is 1 in kernel of } L_G^+ \text{)} \quad (4.7)$$

$$G \setminus D \text{ is disconnected} \quad (4.8)$$

Now to prove the converse, If  $G \setminus D$  is disconnected then  $I - L_D L_G^+$  is singular

- If  $G \setminus D$  is disconnected then  $\exists y \perp \mathbf{1}, \|y\| = 1$  we have

$$1. y^T \cdot \sqrt{L_G^+} \cdot L_{G \setminus D} \cdot \sqrt{L_G^+} \cdot y = 0 \text{ (HOW)}$$

$$2. y^T \cdot \sqrt{L_G^+} \cdot L_G \cdot \sqrt{L_G^+} \cdot y = y^T y = 1$$

- From (1) and (2) we get  $y^T \sqrt{L_G^+} (L_G - L_{G \setminus D}) \sqrt{L_G^+} y = 1$

$$\implies y^T \cdot \sqrt{L_G^+} \cdot L_D \cdot \sqrt{L_G^+} \cdot y = 1 \quad (4.9)$$

$$\implies 1 \in \text{eigenvalues}(L_D L_G^+) (HOW) \quad (4.10)$$

$$\implies (I - L_D L_G^+) \text{ is singular} \quad (4.11)$$

■

**Theorem 1** (Update identity for Deletion). *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph and  $D \subseteq E$ . If  $G \setminus D$  is connected then*

$$(L_G - L_D)^+ = L_G^+ - \left( L_G^+ \cdot (L_D L_G^+ - I)^{-1} \cdot L_D \cdot L_G^+ \right)$$

*Proof.* TODO

■

**Definition 3** (Submatrix).

**Corollary 1** (Improved **Theorem 1** for submatrix). *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph and  $D \subseteq G$ . For  $S \subseteq V$  define  $E[S]$  as  $(S \times S) \cap E$ . Suppose  $E_D \subseteq E[S]$  and  $G \setminus D$  is connected then*

$$(L_G - L_D)_{S,S}^+ = (L_G^+)_{S,S} - \left( (L_G^+)_{S,S} \cdot ((L_D)_{S,S} (L_G^+)_{S,S} - I)^{-1} \cdot (L_D)_{S,S} \cdot (L_G^+)_{S,S} \right)$$

*Proof.* TODO

■

**Definition 4** (Incidence Matrix). *Let  $G = (V, E)$ , given an edge  $e = u, v \in E$  the incidence vector of  $e$  is defined as  $v_e = (\chi_u - \chi_v)$ . Given a set of edges  $D = \{e_1, e_2 \dots e_m\} \subseteq E$ , the incidence matrix of  $D$  is defined as  $B_D = [v_{e_1} | v_{e_2} \dots | v_{e_m}]$*

**Definition 5** ( $G + ke$ ).  $G + ke$  is the weighted graph obtained by increasing  $e$ 's weight by  $k$

**Contraction**

**Lemma 2** (Formulas in **Theorem 2** are well defined). *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph. Given  $F \subseteq E$  with  $|F| = r$  and let  $B_F$  be the incidence matrix of  $F$ .*

$$B_F^T L_G^+ B_F \text{ is invertible} \iff F \text{ is a forest}$$

*Proof.* TODO

■

**Lemma 3** (Formulas in **Theorem 2** are well defined). *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph. Given  $F \subseteq E$  and let  $B_F$  be the incidence matrix of  $F$ . For any  $k > 0$ ,*

$$\text{If } F \text{ is a forest then } \left( \frac{I}{k} + B_F^T L_G^+ B_F \right) \text{ is invertible for any } k > 0$$

*Proof.* TODO

■

**Theorem 2** (Contraction update formula for finite  $k$ ). *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph. Given  $F \subseteq E$  and let  $B_F$  be the incidence matrix of  $F$ . For any  $k > 0$ ,*

$$(L_G + k L_F)^+ = L_G^+ - \left( L_G^+ \cdot B_F \cdot \left( \frac{I}{k} + B_F^T L_G^+ B_F \right)^{-1} \cdot B_F^T \cdot L_G^+ \right)$$

*Proof.* TODO ■

**Corollary 2** (Improves **Theorem 2** for sub-matrices). *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph. Given  $F \subseteq E$  and let  $B_F$  be the incidence matrix of  $F$ . Suppose  $F \subseteq E[S]$ , where  $S \subseteq V$ . For any  $k > 0$ ,*

$$(L_G + k L_F)_{S,S}^+ = (L_G^+)_{S,S} - \left( (L_G^+)_{S,S} (B_F)_{S,*} \left( \frac{I}{k} + (B_F^T)_{S,*} (L_G^+)_{S,S} (B_F)_{S,*} \right)^{-1} (B_F^T)_{S,*} (L_G^+)_{S,S} \right)$$

*Proof.* TODO ■

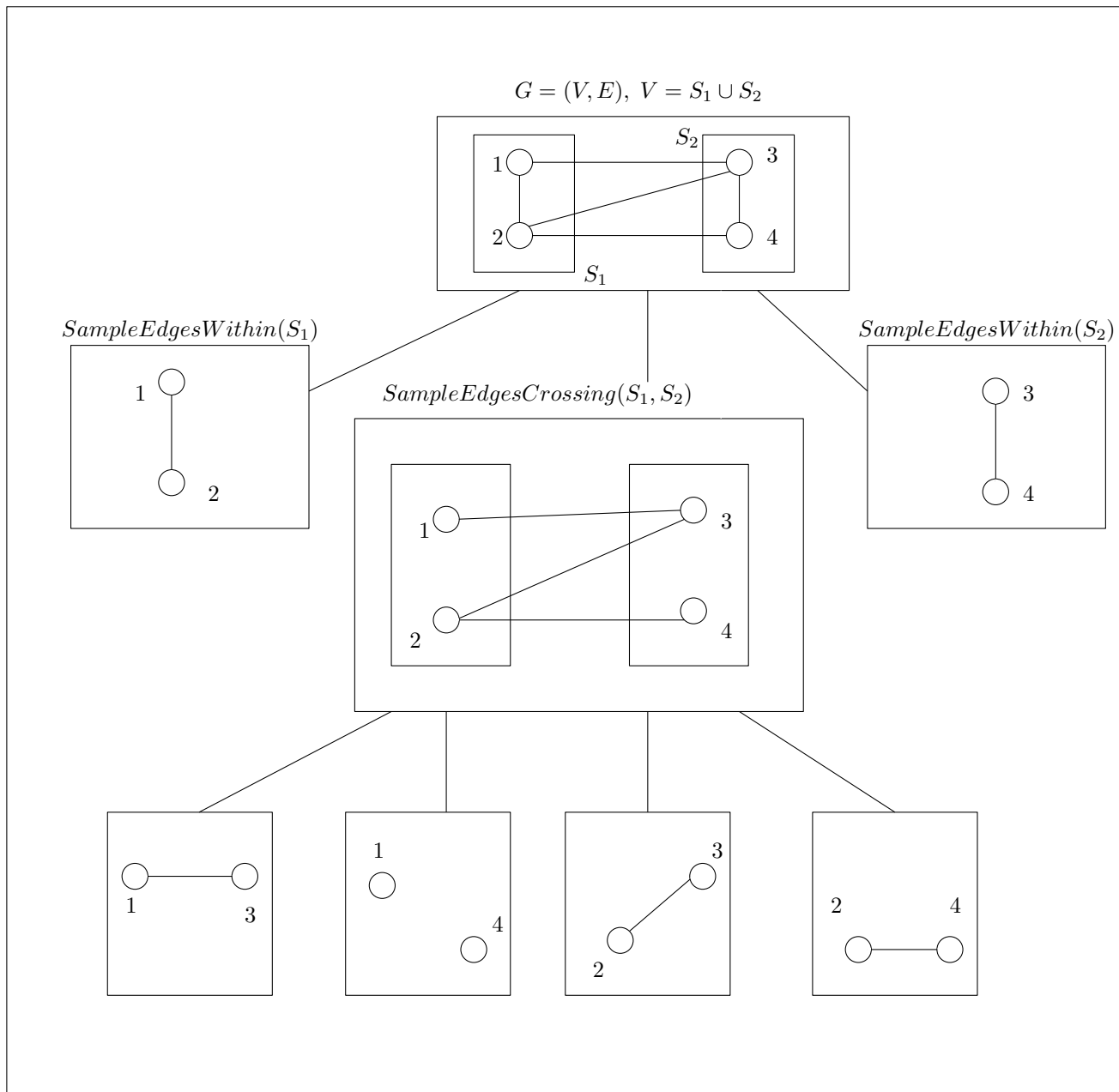
**Theorem 3** (Extends **Theorem 2** to  $k \rightarrow \infty$  case). *For a forest  $F_1 \subseteq E$ , let  $G(k) = G + k F_1$  as defined in **Definition 3**. Let  $F_2 \subseteq E$  be disjoint from  $F_1$  such that  $F_1 \cup F_2$  is a forest. Let  $B_{F_2}$  be the incidence matrix of  $F_2$ . For  $k > 0$  define  $N = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} L_{G(k)}^+$*

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} L_{G(k) + k F_2}^+ = N - \left( N \cdot B_{F_2} \cdot (B_{F_2}^T N B_{F_2}) \cdot B_{F_2}^T \cdot N \right)$$

$$\text{Also } \ker \left( \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} L_{G(k) + k F_2}^+ \right) = \text{span} (B_{F_1 \cup F_2} \cup \mathbf{1})$$

*Proof.* TODO ■

## 4.2.4 The updated algorithm



## 5 Laplacian Paradigm

### 5.1 Kelner, Madry



## 6 Conclusion





# Bibliography

Wikipedia contributors (2020). *Schur complement* — *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. [Online; accessed 28-May-2020]. URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Schur\\_complement&oldid=947233275](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Schur_complement&oldid=947233275).