

Poincaré, modified logarithmic Sobolev and isoperimetric inequalities for Markov chains with non-negative Ricci curvature

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Overview of the talk

Introduction

Main result: convergence to equilibrium of the zero-range process

- The zero-range process

- Bound on mixing time and interpretation

From geometry to inequalities

- Setup

- Ricci for discrete processes

- Modified Logarithmic Sobolev inequality for discrete processes with non-neg Ricci

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Poincaré, modified logarithmic Sobolev and isoperimetric inequalities for Markov chains with non-negative Ricci curvature

as a follow up of

Ricci curvature of finite markov chains via convexity of the entropy

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2. This is done via an interpretation of the semigroup as a gradient flow of the Shannon entropy
3. Leading to a synthetic notion of Ricci curvature to study contraction properties

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3. Leading to a synthetic notion of Ricci curvature to study contraction properties

New ingredients (content of the new paper): functional inequalities and applications to bounds on the mixing time of the chain and to its convergence to equilibrium

- ▶ Geometric structure on space of Markov chains
- ▶ Synthetic notion of Ricci curvature ($\text{Ric} \geq 0$)
- ▶ Analogous version of functional inequalities for Markov chains
- ▶ Bounds on mixing time and rate of convergence to equilibrium (among others)

The zero-range process I

Consider K interacting particles on the complete graph with L sites.

The state space is $\mathcal{X}_{K,L} = \{\eta \in \mathbb{N}^L : \sum_i \eta_i = K\}$.

The zero-range process with **constant rates** can be described as:

1. Choose a site i uniformly at random
 - 1.1 If $\eta_i = 0$, do nothing
 - 1.2 Else, choose another site j uniformly at random and move 1 particle from i to j

$\eta^{i,j}$ denotes the new configuration after such a move.

$$Q_{K,L}(\eta, \theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{L} & \theta = \eta^{i,j} \text{ for some } i, j \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Invariant measure is the uniform measure $\pi_{K,L}$.

The zero-range process II

Good model for:

- ▶ traffic flow
- ▶ population dynamics
- ▶ particle physics
- ▶ ... any system in which deciding to move depends on the surroundings

EB: se trovi il nome specifico di modelli in traffico flow, population design, etc. aggiungili

Main result and interpretation

Convergence to equilibrium

The constant-rate zero range process with K particles and L sites has mixing time bounded by

$$\tau_{\text{mix}}(\varepsilon) \leq KL \log L \left(\frac{1}{8} - \frac{\log \varepsilon}{c} \right) \quad (1)$$

for some universal constant c .

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★ This is exponential convergence to equilibrium! ★

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Setup

Finite space of states \mathcal{X} , irreducible, reversible Markov kernel Q and stationary measure π

$$Q(x, y)\pi(x) = Q(y, x)\pi(y)$$

Operator L acting on functions $\psi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

$$L\psi(x) = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{X}} (\psi(y) - \psi(x))Q(x, y)$$

is the generator of a continuous time Markov chain.

Space of probability densities

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X}) := \left\{ \rho : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+ : \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \rho(x) \pi(x) = 1 \right\}$$

Distance \mathcal{W}

We define a discrete transport distance, by analogy with the Wasserstein distance. For $\rho_0, \rho_1 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X})$,

$$\mathcal{W}(\rho_0, \rho_1)^2 := \inf_{\rho, \psi} \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \sum_{x, y \in X} (\psi_t(x) - \psi_t(y))^2 \hat{\rho}_t(x, y) Q(x, y) \pi(x) dt.$$

where the infimum runs over all sufficiently regular curves satisfying a continuity equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} \rho_t(x) + \sum_{y \in \mathcal{X}} (\psi_t(y) - \psi_t(x)) \hat{\rho}_t(x, y) Q(x, y) = 0, & \forall x \in \mathcal{X}, \\ \rho|_{t=0} = \rho_0, & \rho|_{t=1} = \rho_1. \end{cases}$$

and $\hat{\rho}(x, y) := \theta(\rho(x), \rho(y))$ which is the logarithmic mean.

Endowing \mathcal{X} with this distance, we interpret the Markov semigroup

$P_t = e^{tL}$ as a gradient flow of Shannon's entropy

$$\mathcal{H}(\rho) := \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \rho(x) \log \rho(x) \pi(x)$$

Ricci for discrete processes

Entropic Ricci curvature for discrete space

(\mathcal{X}, Q, π) has entropic Ricci curvature bounded from below by $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$ if for any geodesic $\{\rho_t\}_{t \in [0,1]}$ on $(\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X}), \mathcal{W})$ we have

$$\mathcal{H}(\rho_t) \leq (1-t)\mathcal{H}(\rho_0) + t\mathcal{H}(\rho_1) - \frac{\kappa}{2}t(1-t)\mathcal{W}(\rho_0, \rho_1)^2$$

In this case, we write $\text{Ric}(\mathcal{X}, Q, \pi) \geq \kappa$.

Ricci for the zero-range process

In another contribution, M. Fathi and J. Maas provide explicit ways of computing bounds on Ricci for discrete processes

They show that for the ZRP with *increasing* rates, Ricci is positive

The ZRP with *constant* rates has $\text{Ric} \geq 0$

The Modified log-Sobolev inequality I

Modified logarithmic Sobolev inequality

Bound on the entropy in terms of a norm of the gradient of our observable:

$$\mathcal{H}(\rho) \leq \frac{1}{2\lambda} \int \rho |\nabla \log \rho|^2 d\pi = \frac{1}{2\lambda} \mathcal{I}(\rho) \quad (\text{MLSI})$$

where \mathcal{I} is the Fisher information.

From MLSI to entropy decay

Interpreting the markov semigroup P_t as the heat semigroup, we get that fisher information is the derivative of the entropy.

Hence

$$\mathcal{H}(P_t\rho) \leq \frac{1}{2\lambda} \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{H}(P_t\rho) \quad (\text{MLSI})$$

Using Gronwall's inequality, this yields an estimate on entropy decay

$$\mathcal{H}(P_t\rho) \leq e^{-2\lambda t} \mathcal{H}(\rho)$$

that quantifies **convergence to equilibrium**.

From entropy decay to bound on mixing time

We look at convergence to equilibrium in terms of the **mixing time** of the Markov chain.

Total variation mixing time of a Markov chain

For $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\tau_{\text{mix}}(\varepsilon) := \inf \left\{ t > 0 : \|P_t^* \delta_x - \pi\|_{TV} < \varepsilon \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{X} \right\}$$

Since

$$\|\nu - \pi\|_{TV}^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}(\nu) \quad (\text{Pinsker inequality})$$

we can use MLSI to bound τ_{mix} .

Convergence to equilibrium

Assume $\text{Ric}(\mathcal{X}, Q, \pi) \geq 0$ and the diameter of (\mathcal{X}, d_W) is $\leq D$. If a MLSI with constant $\lambda = \frac{c}{D^2}$ holds, then

$$\tau_{\text{mix}}(\varepsilon) \leq D^2(1/8 - c \log \varepsilon)$$

for some universal constant c

Modified Log-Sobolev inequality for the zero-range process

Diameter bound

There is a constant $c > 0$ such that the diameter of $(\mathcal{X}_{K,L}, d_{\mathcal{W}})$ is bounded by $cK\sqrt{L\log L}$

So, for the zero range process with constant uniform rates, a MLSI with constant $\frac{c}{K^2 L \log L}$ holds.

Convergence of the ZRP

The total variation mixing time of the zero range process on $\mathcal{X}_{K,L}$ with constant uniform rates is

$$\tau_{\text{mix}}(\varepsilon) \leq KL \log L \left(\frac{1}{8} - \frac{\log \varepsilon}{c} \right)$$

for some universal constant c .

Other examples I

lalaland

Additional formulas

The distance \mathcal{W} on $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X})$ induces a distance on \mathcal{X} by restricting to Dirac masses, i.e. for $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$

$$d_{\mathcal{W}}(x, y) := \mathcal{W}(\delta_x, \delta_y)$$