

DYNAMICAL BOREL-CANTELLI LEMMAS

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1999–2015

Motivation 1: Borel-Cantelli Lemma

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Motivation 1: Borel-Cantelli Lemma

Given a probability space (X, μ) , a sequence of subsets A_k of X and $x \in X$, look at the number of sets A_k that contain x :

$$S_\infty(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \#\{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid x \in A_k\} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 1_{A_k}(x)$$

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(ii) If $\sum \mu(A_k) = \infty$ and A_k are independent, then $S_\infty(x) = \infty$, a.e.

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(ii) If $\sum \mu(A_k) = \infty$ and A_k are independent, then $S_\infty(x) = \infty$ a.e., i.e. almost every point $x \in X$ belongs to infinitely many A_k .

Furthermore,

$$\frac{S_N(x)}{E_N} \rightarrow 1 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty, \text{ a.e.}$$

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Here $S_N(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \#\{1 \leq k \leq N \mid x \in A_k\} = \sum_{k=1}^N 1_{A_k}(x)$

and $E_N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{k=1}^N \mu(A_k) = E[S_N]$.

Motivation 2: Birkhoff's Theorem

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$T : (X, \mu) \curvearrowright$ ergodic

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$\forall B \subset X$ with $\mu(B) > 0$, define $A_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} T^{-k}(B)$; then

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$$S_\infty(x) = \#\{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid T^k x \in B\} = \infty \text{ a.e.}$$

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$$\frac{S_N(x)}{E_N} \xrightarrow[\text{a.e.}]{} 1 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty.$$

This, in particular, gives the optimal rate of approximation of arbitrary point of $[0, 1]$ by orbit points $T^k x$ for a.e. $x \in [0, 1]$.

Motivation 4: the Khintchine-Groshev-Schmidt Theorem

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and assume that

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Then

$$\frac{S_N(x)}{E_N} \xrightarrow[\text{a.e.}]{} 1 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty.$$

In particular, almost every Y lies in infinitely many A_k .

Even though in the above theorem the sets A_k are not in the form $T^{-k}B_k$, in [K–Margulis 1999] it was explained, following an earlier work of [Sullivan 1982] and [Dani 1985], how the set-up of the previous slide is related to certain flows on the homogeneous space of unimodular lattices in \mathbb{R}^{m+n} .

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Following that work, we met with Kolya and started thinking about what else could be done...

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(A necessary condition: $E_\infty = \infty$, will always assume that.)

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Weak Mixing Criterion [Chernov-K 2001]: T is weakly mixing



every sequence $\{B_k\}$ that contains only finitely many distinct sets, none of them of measure zero, is BC.

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$$\begin{aligned} E[(S_N - E_N)^2] &\leq 2 \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{\ell=k}^N \left(\mu(T^{-(\ell-k)}B_\ell \cap B_k) - \mu(B_s)\mu(B_r) \right) \\ &= o(N^2) \quad \text{and } E_N \asymp N \end{aligned}$$

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for some subsequence $\{N_k\}$, $S_{N_k}/E_{N_k} \xrightarrow[\text{a.e.}]{} 1 \Rightarrow S_\infty = \infty$ a.e.

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Converse – by looking at irrational rotations. □

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Proposition [Chernov-K 2001]. If μ is non-atomic, then for any μ -preserving transformation T of X there exists a sequence $\{B_k\}$ with $E_\infty = \infty$ and $S_\infty < \infty$ a.e., hence not BC.

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Proof. Start with $\{A_n\}$ with convergent some of measures, then derive. □

Therefore to prove BC or sBC properties for certain classes of sequences (containing infinitely many distinct sets) it is necessary to impose certain restrictions on the sets B_k .

A natural restriction:

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Then almost all orbits $\{T^k x\}$ will get into infinitely many such balls whenever r_k decays slowly enough \Rightarrow a quantitative strengthening of density of almost all orbits (in other words, all points $x_0 \in X$ can be “well approximated” by orbit points $T^k x$ for almost all x).

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(**Variants:** sequences of neighborhoods of other sets;
under an additional assumption of E_N diverging fast enough).

Tool: quasi-independence of translates $T^{-k}B_k$ and $T^{-\ell}B_\ell$
for large $|k - \ell|$.

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Lemma [[?–Cassels–Schmidt–Sprindžuk](#)] Assume that

$$\exists C > 0 : E [(S_{M,N} - E_{M,N})^2] \leq C \cdot E_{M,N} \text{ for all } N \geq M \geq 1. \quad (1)$$

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Proof. Chebyshev's Inequality and a carefully arranged subdivision of $\{1, \dots, N\}$. □

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For example, starting with symbolic dynamics...

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Let \mathbf{A} be a transitive stochastic matrix and let $\Sigma = \Sigma_{\mathbf{A}}$ be the **topological Markov chain** given by \mathbf{A} :

$$\Sigma = \{\underline{\omega} \in \{1, \dots, M\}^{\mathbb{Z}} : \mathbf{A}_{\omega_i \omega_{i+1}} = 1 \quad \forall i \in \mathbb{Z}\}, \quad \sigma := \text{the left shift.}$$

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Theorem=Definition. [Bowen] For any Hölder continuous potential $\psi : \Sigma \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ there is a unique σ -invariant Gibbs measure μ on Σ and constants $a_1, a_2 > 0$ and P (the topological pressure of ψ) such that for every $\underline{\omega} \in \Sigma$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$,

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Fact. [Bowen] Let B_1, B_2 be cylinders defined on intervals in \mathbb{Z} with gap at least L . Then

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Application: to Anosov diffeomorphisms via Markov partitions [Chernov-K 2001].

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- ▶ [Gorodnik–Shah 2010] flows on homogeneous spaces (generalizing Maucourant and deriving applications to number theory)
- ▶ [Gupta–Nicol–Ott 2010, Haydn–Nicol–Persson–Vaienti 2011] non-uniformly hyperbolic dynamical systems
- ▶ [Chaika–Constantine 2012] rotations and interval exchanges (the first theorem of that kind is due to [Kurzweil 1955])
- ▶ [Dolgopyat–Fayad–Vinogradov 201?] total translations, using equidistribution on homogeneous spaces
- ▶ and many many more...

The argument described above has been repeatedly exploited, with some modifications, in many subsequent papers:

- ▶ [Maucourant 2006] geodesic flows on hyperbolic manifolds
- ▶ [Kim 2007, Gouëzel 2007] non-uniformly expanding interval maps
- ▶ [Kim–Galatolo 2007] generic interval exchanges
- ▶ [Gorodnik–Shah 2010] flows on homogeneous spaces (generalizing Maucourant and deriving applications to number theory)
- ▶ [Gupta–Nicol–Ott 2010, Haydn–Nicol–Persson–Vaienti 2011] non-uniformly hyperbolic dynamical systems
- ▶ [Chaika–Constantine 2012] rotations and interval exchanges (the first theorem of that kind is due to [Kurzweil 1955])
- ▶ [Dolgopyat–Fayad–Vinogradov 201?] total translations, using equidistribution on homogeneous spaces
- ▶ and many many more...

THANK YOU!