Random Dynamics and its Applications

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Abstract. Random transformations emerge in a natural way as a model for description of a physical system whose evolution mechanism depends on time in a stationary way. This leads to the study of actions of compositions of different maps chosen from a typical sequence of transformations. The question whether such actions are chaotic can be dealt with employing the random thermodynamic formalism developped in recent years. This theory has nice applications to random networks, fractal dimensions of random sets and other models.

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1. Introduction

Evolution of many physical systems can be better described by compositions of different maps, i.e. time dependent transformations, rather than by repeated application of exactly the same transformation. It is natural to study such problems for typical in some sense sequences of maps which leads to the framework of random transformations.

This set up was discussed already in Ulam and von Neumann [UN] and in Kakutani [Ka] in connection with random ergodic theorems. Later this topic was studied in the framework of the relativized ergodic theory (Thouvenot [Th], Ledrappier and Walters [LW]) but the real push this subject received in 80-ies when stochastic flows appearing as solutions of stochastic differential equations provided a rich source of random diffeomorphisms (see references and the historical review in Arnold [Ar]). This prompted, in particular, the book [Ki1] which, in turn, played a role in motivating other work such as the general relativized variational principle (Bogenschütz [Bo]) and some results in smooth random dynamics. Further developments of the latter included random invariant manifolds, Lyapunov exponents, and a random bifurcation theory (see Arnold [Ar] and references there), random versions of the Margulis-Ruelle entropy inequality (see Kifer [Ki1], Liu and Qian [LQ], Bahnmüller and Bogenschütz [BB]) and of the Pesin entropy formula and the corresponding characterization of the random Sinai-Ruelle-Bowen measures (see Ledrappier and Young [LY], Liu and Qian [LQ], Bahnmüller and Liu [BL]), and the random thermodynamic formalism (see Kifer [Ki2], Bogenschütz and Gundlach [BG], Khanin and Kifer [KK]).

The formal set up consists of a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$ together with a $P-$preserving ergodic invertible map $\theta : \Omega \to \Omega$, of another measurable space $(\mathbf{X}, \mathcal{B})$, and of a measurable subset X of $\mathbf{X} \times \Omega$ with fibers $X^\omega = \{x \in \mathbf{X} : (x,\omega) \in X\} \in \mathcal{B}$. The dynamics is given by a mesurable map $\tau : X \to X$ which is a skew product transformation $\tau(x,\omega) = (F_\omega x, \theta\omega)$ where the fiber maps $F_\omega : X^\omega \to X^{\theta\omega}$ with the composition rule $F_\omega^n = F_{\theta^{n-1}\omega} \circ \cdots \circ F_{\theta\omega} \circ F_\omega : X^\omega \to X^{\theta^n\omega}$ are called random transformations.

Theory of random transformations concerns mainly with actions of F_ω^n for typical $\omega \in \Omega$, i.e. except of ω's forming a set of zero $P-$measure. I shall discuss here only certain aspects of ergodic theory of random transformations related mainly to the random thermodynamic formalism which is crucial in describing chaotic (stochastic) spatial behaviour of compositions F_ω^n for typical ω. Familiar signs of stochastic behavior are the central limit theorem (CLT), the law of iterated logarithm (LIL), large deviations (LD) etc. which hold true for some classes of random transformations such as random expanding in average maps, random subshifts of finite type and certain random hyperbolic diffeomorphisms. The theory has applications to random networks, computations of fractal dimensions of random sets, and to random walks with stationarily changing distributions which also will be discussed in this paper. Recently random diffeomorphisms were employed in some models of statistical physics (see Ruelle [Rue]).

2. Random Thermodynamic Formalism

Let $\mathcal{P}_P(X)$ be the space of probability measures on X whose marginal on Ω coincides with P. I assume that all spaces under consideration are Borel subsets of Polish spaces, and so any $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_P(X)$ has an essentially unique desintegration $\mu(dx, d\omega) = \mu^\omega(dx)P(d\omega)$ with $\mu^\omega, \omega \in \Omega$ being a measurable family of probability measures on X^ω. It is easy to see that μ is $\tau-$invariant if and only if $F_\omega\mu^\omega = \mu^{\theta\omega}$ $P-$almost surely (a.s.). Accordingly, a measurable set $A \subset X$ is $\tau-$invariant if and only if its fibers $A^\omega = \{x : (x,\omega) \in A\}$ satisfy $F_\omega A^\omega = A^{\theta\omega}$ $P-$a.s.

Given $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_P(X)$ the relativized or fiber entropy $h_\mu^{(r)}(\tau)$ of τ can be defined as the conditional entropy of τ with respect to the $\sigma-$algebra $\pi^{-1}\mathcal{A}$ where $\pi : X \to \Omega$ is the natural projection to the second factor (see [LW], [Ki1], [Bo]). Another way to obtain $h_\mu^{(r)}(\tau)$, somewhat similar to the deterministic case, is via finite partitions $\mathcal{R} = \{R_1, ..., R_n\}$ of X into measurable sets. Set $R_i^\omega = \{x : (x,\omega) \in R_i\}$ and $\mathcal{R}^\omega = \{R_1^\omega, ..., R_n^\omega\}$ then $P-$a.s.,

$$h_\mu^{(r)}(\tau) = \sup_{\mathcal{R}} \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} H_{\mu_\omega}\left(\bigvee_{i=0}^{n-1} (F_\omega^i)^{-1}\mathcal{R}^{\theta^i\omega}\right). \tag{2.1}$$

Existence of this limit follows from Kingman's subadditive ergodic theorem (see [Ki1]).

Assume now that $\mathbf{X}$ is compact and the fibers X^ω are Borel subsets of $\mathbf{X}$. For continuous random transformations F_ω and any measurable function g on X such that $g_\omega(x)$ is continuous in x and $\sup_x |g_\omega(x)| \in L^1(\Omega, P)$ introduce another useful quantity, called the relativized (fiber) topological pressure $Q_\tau(g)$, by

$$Q_\tau(g)=\sup_{\mu\in\mathcal{P}_P(X)}\Big(\int g\,d\mu+h_\mu^{(r)}(\tau)\Big). \tag{2.2}$$

The number $Q_\tau(0)$ denoted by $h_{\mathrm{top}}^{(r)}(\tau)$ is called the relativized topological entropy. Actually, similarly to the deterministic case the proper definition of $Q_\tau(g)$ is via $(\omega,n,\varepsilon)-$separated sets (see [Ki1] and [Bo]) and then (2.2), called the relativized variational principle, is derived as a theorem. Under rather general conditions, called (random) expansivity, one can show that $h_\mu(\tau)$ is upper semicontinuous in μ, and so the supremum in (2.2) is attained at some $\mu\in\mathcal{P}_P(X)$ which is called an equilibrium state. If a maximizing measure is unique it has usually nice properties. Equilibrium states are related to Gibbs measures and both have their roots in statistical mechanics where g plays the role of a potential.

Next, I shall describe specific models of random transformations which will appear in the following exposition. I shall start with random subshifts of finite type (see [BG] and [KK]) where $X^\omega=X_A^\omega=\{x=(x_0,x_1,...):x_i\in\{1,...,\ell(\theta^i\omega)\}$ and $a_{x_ix_{i+1}}(\theta^i\omega)=1\,\forall i=0,1,...\}$, $\ell:\Omega\to\mathbb{Z}_+=\{1,2,...\}$ satisfies $0<\int\log\ell dP<\infty$, and $A(\omega)=((a_{ij}(\omega))$, $\omega\in\Omega$ is a measurable family of $\ell(\omega)\times\ell(\theta\omega)-$ matrices with 0 and 1 entries such that $P-$a.s. $A(\omega)$ has no zero row. Random transformations F_ω act on X^ω as left shifts $(F_\omega x)_i=x_{i+1}$. A random subshift of finite type is called topologically mixing if there exists a $\mathbb{Z}_+-$ valued random variable $0<N=N_\omega<\infty$ so that $P-$a.s. $A(\theta^{-N}\omega)\cdots A(\theta^{-2}\omega)A(\theta^{-1}\omega)$ is a matrix with positive entries. The random Ruelle-Perron-Frobenius (RPF) operator $\mathcal{L}_g^\omega$ corresponding to a function $g=g_\omega(x)$ on X maps functions on X^ω to functions on $X^{\theta\omega}$ by the formula

$$\mathcal{L}_g^\omega q(x)=\sum_{y\in F_\omega^{-1}x}e^{g_\omega(y)}q(y). \tag{2.3}$$

Suppose that $E\sup_x|g_\omega(x)|<\infty$ and

$$|g_\omega(x)-g_\omega(y)|\le K_g(\omega)(\mathrm{dist}(x,y))^\kappa \tag{2.4}$$

for some $\kappa>0$ and a random variable $K_g(\omega)>0$ with $E|\log K_g|<\infty$, where $\mathrm{dist}(x,y)=e^{-\min\{i\ge0:x_i\ne y_i\}}$ and E denotes the expectation on $(\Omega,\mathcal{A},P)$. Then the random RPF theorem ([KK], [BG]) yields that there exists a unique positive random variable $\lambda=\lambda_\omega$ with $E|\log\lambda|<\infty$, a positive function $h=h_\omega(x)$, and $\nu\in\mathcal{P}_P(X)$ having desintegrations ν^ω such that

$$\mathcal{L}_g^\omega h_\omega=\lambda_\omega h_{\theta\omega},\ (\mathcal{L}_g^\omega)^*\nu^{\theta\omega}=\lambda_\omega\nu^\omega,\text{ and }\int_{X^\omega}h_\omega d\nu^\omega=1. \tag{2.5}$$

Then the relativised topological pressure of g has the form $Q_\tau(g)=\int\log\lambda_\omega dP(\omega)$ and $\mu\in\mathcal{P}_P(X)$ having desintegrations μ^ω satisfying $d\mu^\omega=h_\omega d\nu^\omega$ is $\tau-$invariant and it is the unique equilibrium state for g.

This set up is quite appropriate to study randomly evolving graphs or random networks $\mathcal{N}$ where $V(\omega)=\{1,2,...,\ell(\omega)\}$ is the set of vertices for an (evironment) ω and I connect by an arrow $i\in V(\omega)$ to $j\in V(\theta\omega)$ iff $a_{ij}(\omega)=1$. A sequence $(i_0,i_1,...,i_n)$ is a path in $\mathcal{N}$ iff $a_{i_k i_{k+1}}(\theta^k\omega)=1\,\forall k=0,1,...,n-1$. The topologically mixing condition formulated above yields that for any $i\in V(\omega)$ and $j\in V(\theta^n\omega)$ with n sufficiently large there exists a path of length n in $\mathcal{N}$ starting at i and ending at j. In the next section I shall formulate general limit theorems which can be applied, in particular, to describe statistical properties of paths in such random networks. More general models of multidimensional random subshifts of finite type and of random sofic shifts, which also have combinatorial applications, were studied in [Ki3] and [GK2], respectively.

By constructing random Markov partitions and employing random subshifts of finite type one can study also random (spatially uniform) hyperbolic diffeomorphisms which have random expanding and contracting (in average) invariant subbundles (see [Li], [GK1]). As an example of this situation take, for instance, $F_\omega=f_\omega^{n(\omega)}$ where f_ω is a random diffeomorphism whose all realizations belong to a small C^2 neighborhood of one Anosov diffeomorphism (or a diffeomorphism having a basic hyperbolic set) and $n=n(\omega)$ is a random variable taking values $0,1,2,...$ with $0<\int\log(1+n)dP<\infty$. Another interesting example of a random Anosov diffeomorphism is due, essentially, to Arnoux and Fisher. Let $\sigma:\Omega\to\Omega$ be a $P-$preserving ergodic invertible map and assume that $\theta=\sigma^2$ is also ergodic. Random transformations here are automorphisms of the torus $\mathbb{T}^2$ given by $F_\omega=\begin{pmatrix}1+n(\omega)n(\sigma\omega) & n(\sigma\omega)\\ n(\omega) & 1\end{pmatrix}$ where $n=n(\omega)$ is a $\mathbb{Z}_+-$valued random variable with $\log n\in L^1(\omega,P)$. Denote by $[k_1,k_2,...]$ the continued fraction $\dfrac{1}{k_1+\dfrac{1}{k_2+\cdots}}$ and set $a(\omega)=[n(\omega),n(\sigma\omega),n(\sigma^2\omega),...]$, $b(\omega)=[n(\sigma^{-1}\omega),n(\sigma^{-2}\omega),...]$. Define $\xi(\omega)=\begin{pmatrix}a(\omega)\\ -1\end{pmatrix}$, $\eta(\omega)=\begin{pmatrix}1\\ b(\omega)\end{pmatrix}$, $\lambda(\omega)=a(\omega)a(\sigma\omega)$ and $\gamma(\omega)=(b(\sigma\omega)b(\sigma^2\omega))^{-1}$. Then $F_\omega\xi(\omega)=\lambda(\omega)\xi(\theta\omega)$, $F_\omega\eta(\omega)=\gamma(\omega)\eta(\theta\omega)$, $\lambda(\omega)<1$, $\gamma(\omega)>1$, and so, ξ and η span the contracting and expanding (in average) directions, respectively. Allowing also zero values of $n(\omega)$ one can achieve even that the angles between these directions may approach zero arbitrarily close. All these constructions fall into a more general class of random diffeomorphisms having in the tangent bundle random invariant (expanding in average) cone families (see [GK1]).

In the continuous time case the situation is more complicated and, essentially, no ergodic theory of random (spatially uniform) hyperbolic flows exists, as yet, which could provide constructions of equilibrium states via a thermodynamic formalism approach (cf. [GK1]). A successful theory should include natural perturbation models such as a random flow generated by a random vector field whose all realizations are close to a deterministic vector field generating an Anosov flow. Meanwhile, only simple examples can be dealt with. Consider, for instance, a random flow F^t_ω given by the equation $\frac{dF^t_\omega x}{dt}=q_{\theta^t\omega}(F^t_\omega x)B(F^t_\omega x)$ where θ^t is an ergodic $P-$preserving flow on Ω, q_ω is a measurable family of smooth positive functions on a compact Riemannian manifold M, and B is a vector field generating a transitive Anosov flow f^t on M. Then F_ω^t is obtained from f^t by the random time change and both flows have the same orbits. Using a Markov partition for f^t one can represent F_ω^t as a suspension over a random subshift of finite type with a random ceiling function bounded away from zero and infinity (see [Ki6]).

Another model I have in mind is the case of expanding in average smooth random maps considered in [KK] which can be studied directly without a symbolic representation. Assume for simplicity that all X^ω's coincide with one compact connected $d-$dimensional C^2 Riemannian manifold M and all $F_\omega : M \to M$ are C^2 endomorphism of M such that $\log \|DF_\omega^{-1}\|, \log\|DF_\omega\| \in L^1(\Omega, P)$ and $\int \log \|DF_\omega^{-1}\| dP(\omega) < 0$ where DF is the differential of F and $\|\cdot\|$ is the supremum norm. The random RPF operator $\mathcal{L}_g^\omega$ is defined again by (2.3) and if $g'_\omega s$ are Hölder continuous, i.e. (2.4) is satisfied with an integrable $\log K_g$, then the random RPF theorem holds true yielding a random variable $\lambda_\omega > 0$, a function $h = h_\omega(x) > 0$ on $M \times \Omega$, and probability measures ν^ω on M satisfying (2.5) so that $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_P(X)$ with desintegrations μ^ω satisfying $d\mu^\omega = h_\omega d\nu^\omega$ is the unique equilibrium state for g. Both in this model and in the case of random Anosov (hyperbolic) diffeomorphisms there are relativized Sinai-Ruelle-Bowen measures μ_{SRB} having special properties which are equilibrium states for the functions $\varphi_\omega^u(x)$ equal minus logarithm of the Jacobian of either D_xF_ω (in the expanding case) or of the restriction of D_xF_ω to the random expanding subbundle (in the hyperbolic case).

3. Limit theorems for random transformations

In this section I shall formulate the LD, CLT, and LIL results for random transformations F_ω belonging to one of the specific classes considered in the previous section. Set $I_g(\nu) = Q_\tau(g) - \int g d\nu - h_\nu^{(r)}(\tau)$ if $\nu \in \mathcal{P}_P(X)$ and ν is $\tau-$invariant, while $I_g(\nu) = \infty$, otherwise, and put $J_{g,q}(r) = \inf\{I_g(\nu) : \int q d\nu = r\}$ if a $\nu \in \mathcal{P}_P(X)$ satisfying conditions in brackets exists and $J_{g,q}(r) = \infty$, otherwise.

3.1. Theorem. *(cf.[Ki2]) Suppose that Ω is a locally compact space. Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_P(X)$ with desintegrations $d\mu(x,\omega) = d\mu^\omega(x)dP(\omega)$ be the unique equilibrium state for a function g satisfying conditions of the corresponding RPF-theorem (i.e. (2.4) holds true). Set $\zeta_{x,\omega}^n = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \delta_{\tau^k(x,\omega)}$, where δ_z is the Dirac measure at z, and $S_nq(x,\omega) = n\int q d\zeta_{x,\omega}^n = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} q \circ \tau^k(x,\omega)$. Then for each bounded continuous function q and any numbers $r_1 < r_2$,*

$$(3.1)\qquad -\inf_{r\in[r_1,r_2]} J_{g,q}(r) \geq \limsup_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mu^\omega\{x \in X^\omega : \frac{1}{n} S_n q(x,\omega) \in [r_1,r_2]\}$$

$$\geq \liminf_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mu^\omega\{x \in X^\omega : \frac{1}{n} S_n q(x,\omega) \in (r_1,r_2)\} \geq -\inf_{r\in(r_1,r_2)} J_{g,q}(r)$$

$P-a.s.$ The large deviations estimates for occupational measures $\zeta_{x,\omega}^n$, i.e. the upper and lower bounds for the limits of $n^{-1}\log\mu^\omega\{x \in X^\omega : \zeta_{x,\omega}^n \in G\}$, (with G being a closed or open set of probability measures on $\mathbf{X}\times\Omega$) hold true, as well, with

the rate functional $I_g(\nu)$. In the case of random expanding in average transformations of a compact Riemannian manifold M or random Anosov diffeomorphisms the results remain true if μ^ω is replaced by the normalized Riemannian volume m on M and one takes $g_\omega(x) = \varphi^u_\omega(x)$.

Observe, that $I_g(\nu) = 0$ and $J_{g,q}(r) = 0$ if and only if $\nu = \mu$ and $r = \int q d\mu$. Therefore, (3.1) estimates large deviations from the ergodic theorem, i.e. it describes the decay of $\mu-$measure of points having irregular with respect to μ behavior.

In the case of random subshifts of finite type Theorem 3.1 can be modified to become a combinatorial statement on random networks (see [Ki5]). For $\alpha = (\alpha_0, ..., \alpha_n)$ with $a_{\alpha_i,\alpha_{i+1}}(\theta^i\omega) = 1\, \forall i = 0, ..., n-1$ set $C^\omega_\alpha = \{x \in X^\omega_A : x_i = \alpha_i\, \forall i = 0, 1, ...n\}$ which is called an $n-$cylinder set. Denote by $\Pi^\omega_n(a, b)$ the set of all $n-$cylinders $C^\omega_{\alpha_0,...,\alpha_n}$ with $\alpha_0 = a \in V(\omega)$ and $\alpha_n = b \in V(\theta^n\omega)$ and by $|R|$ the cardinality of a set R. Let $I(\nu) = I_0(\nu) = h^{(r)}_{\text{top}}(\tau) - h^{(r)}_\nu(\tau)$ if $\nu \in \mathcal{P}_P(X)$ and ν is $\tau-$invariant, while $I(\nu) = \infty$, otherwise, and put $J_q(r) = J_{0,q}(r)$. Then for any bounded continuous function q, $a \in V(\omega)$, $b_n \in V(\theta^n\omega)$, $x_\alpha \in C^\omega_\alpha$, and numbers $r_1 < r_2$ with probability one as $n \to \infty$, $|\Pi^\omega_n(a, b_n)|^{-1}|\{C^\omega_\alpha \in \Pi^\omega_n(a, b_n) : n^{-1}(S_nq)(x_\alpha, \omega) \in (r_1, r_2)\}| \asymp \exp(-n \inf_{r\in(r_1,r_2)} J_q(r))$. Here $\asymp$ means that both sides of the formula have the same logarithmic asymptotical behavior in the sense of inequalities in (3.1). In particular, if I assign to each edge e of the network $\mathcal{N}(\omega)$ its length $l_\omega(e)$ and set $q_\omega(x) = l_\omega(x_0, x_1)$, which gives a continuous function, then this yields large deviations for the average length of paths with n vertices. The corresponding second level of large deviations estimates $|\Pi^\omega_n(a, b_n)|^{-1}|\{C^\omega_\alpha \in \Pi^\omega_n(a, b_n) : \zeta^n_{x_\alpha,\omega} \in G\}| \asymp \exp(-n \inf_{\nu\in G} I(\nu))$ for occupational measures holds true, as well.

Next, I formulate the CLT and the LIL from [Ki6]. Let μ be as in Theorem 3.1 and $\varphi = \varphi_\omega(x)$ satisfying $\int \varphi_\omega d\mu^\omega = 0$ be a Hölder continuous in x random function with an exponent $\kappa > 0$ and a random variable K_φ, i.e. φ satisfies (2.4). For a random variable $L = L(\omega)$ and a constant C set $Q_{L,C} = \{\omega : L(\omega) \le C\}$ and $k_{L,C}(\omega) = \min\{n : \theta^n\omega \in Q_{L,C}\}$. I say that the L, C integrability condition for φ holds true if $\int (\sum_{i=0}^{k_{L,C}-1}(\|\varphi\| + K_\varphi) \circ \theta^i)^2 dP < \infty$ where $\|\varphi\|_\omega = \sup_x |\varphi_\omega(x)|$.

3.2. THEOREM. *There exist a random variable $L = L(\omega)$ and a constant C (which can be written explicitly for specific models above) such that if the L, C integrability condition holds true then $P-$a.s. the limit $\sigma^2 = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} \int (\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \varphi_{\theta^j\omega} \circ F^j_\omega)^2 d\mu^\omega$ exists and for $P-$a.a. ω and any number a,*

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mu^\omega \left\{ x \in X^\omega : n^{-1/2} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (\varphi \circ \tau^i)(x, \omega) \le a \right\} = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^a e^{-\frac{u^2}{2\sigma^2}} du \tag{3.2}$$

where in the case $\sigma = 0$, the normal distribution in the right hand side of (3.2) should be understood as the Dirac measure at 0.

Assuming that $\sigma > 0$ the invariance principle for the LIL holds true. Namely, if $\zeta(t) = (2t \log\log t)^{1/2}$ and $\eta_n(t) = (\zeta(\sigma^2 n))^{-1}(\sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \varphi \circ \tau^j + (nt - k)\varphi \circ \tau^k)$ for $t \in [\frac{k}{n}, \frac{k+1}{n})$, $k = 0, 1, ..., n-1$ then $\mu-$a.s. the set of limit points in $C[0, 1]$ of *functions* $\eta_n(t)$ *as* $n \to \infty$ *coincides with the set of absolutely continuous* $\eta \in C[0,1]$ *with* $\int_0^1 (\dot{\eta}(t))^2 dt \le 1$.

The role of $L = L(\omega)$ emerging in Theorem 3.2 is to offset the nonuniformity in ω of the models above so that, for instance, F_ω^n will be uniformly expanding for $n \ge L(\omega)$ or, in the case of random subshifts of finite type, all matrices $A(\omega)A(\theta\omega)\cdots A(\theta^n\omega)$ will be positive for any $n \ge L(\omega)$. In addition, $L(\omega)$ bounds some parameters related to the functions g_ω and φ_ω appearing in Theorem 3.2.

Observe that Theorem 3.2 yields fiber-wise CLT and LIL for some deterministic skew product transformations. For instance, consider an expanding map of the 3-dimensional torus $\mathbb{T}^3 = \mathbb{T}^1 \times \mathbb{T}^2$ given by the formula $\tau(x,y) = (F_y x, \theta y)$ where θ is an ergodic automorphism of $\mathbb{T}^2$ and $F_y x = \gamma(y) + n(y)x \,(\mathrm{mod}\, 1)$ where $\gamma(y) \in \mathbb{R}$, $n(y) \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ are measurable functions with $0 < \int_{\mathbb{T}^2} \log n(y) dy < \infty$. Since both θ and F_y's preserve the Lebesgue measures (denoted Leb below) on $\mathbb{T}^2$ and on $\mathbb{T}^1$, respectively, I can view F_y's as "random" expanding maps of $\mathbb{T}^1$ with $\Omega = \mathbb{T}^2$, P =Leb, $M = \mathbb{T}^1$, and μ^y =Leb (which is a "random" Gibbs measure corresponding to the function $g_y = \log n(y)$). Theorem 3.2 yields now that for Leb-a.a.y, Leb$\{x : \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} \varphi \circ \tau^l(x,y) \le a\}$ converges as $n \to \infty$ to the right hand side of (3.2) and the corresponding LIL follows, as well.

4. Fractal dimensions of random sets

Any $x \in [0,1)$ can be represented in the form of a "random base expansion"

$$x = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{x_i(\omega)}{\ell(\omega)\ell(\theta\omega)\cdots\ell(\theta^i\omega)},\ x_i(\omega) \in \{0, 1, ..., \ell(\theta^i\omega) - 1\} \tag{4.1}$$

where, again, ℓ is a $\mathbb{Z}_+-$valued random variable satisfying $0 < \int \log \ell dP < \infty$. To make this representation unique one can forbid the tails of the form $x_i(\omega) = \ell(\theta^i\omega) - 1\, \forall i \ge n$. Identify 0 and 1 then $F_\omega x = \ell(\omega)x$ (mod 1) can be considered as a random expanding transformation of the unit circle $\mathbb{T}^1$. If $\tau(x,\omega) = (F_\omega x, \theta\omega)$ is the skew product transformation and $\phi(x,\omega) = x_0(\omega)$ then

$$x_i(\omega) = (\phi \circ \tau^i)(x,\omega). \tag{4.2}$$

Observe that all F_ω preserve the Lebesgue measure m on $[0,1)$ and the corresponding measure $m \times P$ is $\tau-$invariant, has the (maximal) relativized entropy $\int \log \ell dP$, and it is the unique equilibrium state for the function $-\log \ell$. Moreover, it is ergodic, and so $m \times P-$a.s., $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x_i(\omega) = \frac{1}{2} \int (\ell - 1) dP$ assuming that the right hand side exists. In view of (4.2) and Theorem 3.1 one has the large deviations estimates for $m\{x : \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x_i(\omega) \in [r_1, r_2]\}$. Furthermore, by Theorem 3.2 $P-$a.s. for any number a, $\lim_{n\to\infty} m\{x : n^{-1/2} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (x_i(\omega) - \frac{1}{2}(\ell(\theta^i\omega) - 1)) \le a\} = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^a e^{-\frac{u^2}{2\sigma^2}} du$. Moreover, σ can be computed here precisely since, when ω is fixed, $x_0(\omega), x_1(\omega), ...$ are independent random variables (with stationarily changing distributions) on the space $([0,1], m)$, which gives $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{12} \int (\ell^2 - 1) dP$ provided the right hand side exists.

Consider the sequence space $X^\omega = \{x = (x_0, x_1, ...) : x_i \in \{0, 1, ..., \ell(\theta^i\omega) - 1\}\}$ and the map $\pi^\omega : [0,1) \to X^\omega$, $\pi^\omega(x) = (x_0(\omega), x_1(\omega), ...)$ then $F_\omega \pi^\omega = \pi^\omega f_\omega$ where f_ω is the left shift on X^ω. Thus π^ω is a semi-conjugacy and, in fact, this symbolic representation comes from the random Markov partition of $[0,1)$ into $\ell(\omega)$ equal subintervals.

A measurable set $G \subset \mathbb{T}^1 \times \Omega$ is $\tau-$invariant iff $F_\omega G^\omega = G^{\theta\omega}$ where $G^\omega = \{x : (x,\omega) \in G\}$. Such sets can be obtained, for instance, considering x whose expansion (4.1) does not contain certain prescribed digits which may be called random Cantor sets. Assuming that all G^ω are compact one has the following formula for their Hausdorff dimension (see [Ki4]),

$$HD(G^\omega) = \frac{h^{(r)}_{\text{top}}(\tau, G)}{\int \log \ell dP} \;\; P-\text{a.s.} \tag{4.3}$$

where $h^{(r)}_{\text{top}}(\tau, G)$ is the relativised tological entropy of τ restricted to G. Next, I consider another class of random invariant sets which are dense in $[0,1)$. Set $N^\omega_{kl}(x,n) = |\{j \geq 0, j < n : \ell(\theta^j\omega) = k,\, x_j(\omega) = l-1\}|$ and $N^\omega_l(x,n) = \sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}_+} N^\omega_{kl}(x,n)$ where $|\{\cdot\}|$ denotes the cardinality of a set $\{\cdot\}$. Let $r = (r_k, k \in \mathbb{Z}_+)$ be an infinite probability vector and $A = (a_{kl},\, k,l \in \mathbb{Z}_+)$ be an infinite probability matrix such that $a_{kl} = 0$ unless $l \leq k$. Define the sets $U^\omega_r = \left\{x \in [0,1) : \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} N^\omega_l(x,n) = r_l \; \forall l \in \mathbb{Z}_+\right\}$ (i.e. prescribing frequencies of digits) and $V^\omega_A = \left\{x \in [0,1) : \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} N^\omega_{kl}(x,n) = q_k a_{kl} \; \forall k,l \in \mathbb{Z}_+\right\}$ where $q_k = P\{\ell = k\}$.

4.1. Theorem. *([Ki4]) With probability one,*

$$HD(V^\omega_A) = \frac{-\sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}_+} q_k \sum_{l\leq k} a_{kl} \log a_{kl}}{\int \log \ell dP} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} H_A, \tag{4.4}$$

and so $HD(V^\omega_A) = 1$ iff $a_{kl} = k^{-1}$ for all $l \leq k$ and any $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ such that $q_k \neq 0$. In the last case with probability one V^ω_A has also the Lebesgue measure one. The sets U^ω_r have the Lebesgue measure one for P-a.a.ω iff $r_l = \sum_{k\geq l} q_k k^{-1}$ for all $l \in Z_+$ (which is a random version of Borel's normal number theorem). Furthermore, for P-a.a.ω, $HD(U^\omega_r) = \sup_{A\in\mathcal{A}_{qr}} H_A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} H$, where the supremum is taken over the set $\mathcal{A}_{qr}$ of all infinite probability matrices $A = (a_{kl})$ such that $a_{kl} = 0$ unless $l \leq k$ and $qA = r$ with q and r considered as the row vectors. The set $\mathcal{A}_{qr}$ is nonempty iff $\sum_{l\in F} q_l \geq \sum_{l\in F} r_l$ for any filter $F \in \mathcal{F}$ in $\mathbb{Z}_+$, (i.e. if $l \in F$ and $l \leq k$ then $k \in F$). If $\mathcal{A}_{qr}$ is empty then with probability one U^ω_r is empty too.

The expression in the numerator of the right hand side of (4.4) is the fiber entropy of certain random Bernoulli measure which emerges naturally in the proof. Computations of dimensions of different other invariant sets of random tranformations, as well as multidimensional generalizations, can be found in [Ki4].

5. "Random" random walks on groups

Markov chains with random transition probabilities emerge directly from random subshifts of finite type taken with random Markov measures but also they are closely related ideologically to random transformations (cf. [Ki6]). In this section I consider random walks with stationarily changing distributions on discrete groups and demonstrate how a relativized entropy like characteristic describes their asymptotic behavior.

Let G be a discrete group and $\mu^\omega, \omega \in \Omega$ be a measurable family of probability measures on G. Next, I consider the Markov chain X_n^ω with random transitions on G, which I call "random" random walk, with $n-$step transition probabilities

$$P^\omega(n, g_1, g_2) = \mu^\omega * \mu^{\theta\omega} * \cdots * \mu^{\theta^{n-1}\omega}(g_2 g_1^{-1}) \tag{5.1}$$

where $*$ denotes the usual convolution of measures on groups. Following [Rub] call a measurable in ω and x function h random harmonic if

$$\sum_{r \in G} P^\omega(1, g, r) h_{\theta\omega}(r) = \sum_{r \in G} h_{\theta\omega}(rg)\mu^\omega(r) = h_\omega(g). \tag{5.2}$$

The next natural goal is to describe spaces of random harmonic functions which is related to the asymptotic behavior of X_n^ω.

Suppose that h is random harmonic and $c(\omega) = \sup_x |h_\omega(x)| < \infty$. Since I assume that θ is ergodic it follows from (5.2) that c is constant $P-$a.s., and so h is bounded. Let e be the identity of G and P^ω be the path distribution of the Markov chain X_n^ω, $n \geq 0$, $X_0^\omega = e$. Is is easy to see that $h_{\theta^n\omega}(gX_n^\omega)$ is a martingale under P^ω, and so for all $g \in G$ and $P^\omega-$a.a. paths $\xi \in G^{\mathbb{Z}_+}$ the limit $\lim_{n\to\infty} h_{\theta^n\omega}(gX_n^\omega) = \varphi_\omega(g\xi)$ exists where $g\xi = (g\xi_0, g\xi_1, ...)$ for $\xi = (\xi_0, \xi_1, ...)$ determines the action of G on paths $\xi \in G^{\mathbb{Z}_+}$. Moreover, for any $g \in G$, $P-$a.a.ω, and $P^\omega-$a.a.ξ one has $\varphi_\omega(g\xi) = \varphi_{\theta\omega}(g\sigma\xi)$ where σ is the left shift. Let $\tau(\xi, \omega) = (\sigma\xi, \theta\omega)$ and $\mathcal{F}$ be the $\sigma-$algebra of $\tau-$invariant measurable sets from $G^{\mathbb{Z}_+} \times \Omega$. Set $\mathcal{F}^\omega = \{A^\omega = \{\xi : (\xi, \omega) \in A\} : A \in \mathcal{F}\}$ and let π_ω be the factorizing map of $(G^{\mathbb{Z}_+}, P^\omega)$ to the quotient space corresponding to the measurable partition attached to $\mathcal{F}^\omega$. Then one has a Poisson type representation $h_\omega(g) = \int \varphi_\omega \circ \pi_\omega dg\nu^\omega$ where $\nu^\omega = \pi_\omega P^\omega$ satisfying $\mu^\omega * \nu^{\theta\omega} = \nu^\omega$ is naturally to call a random harmonic measure.

For any probability measure η on G set $H(\eta) = -\sum_{g \in \mathrm{supp}\eta} \eta(g) \log \eta(g)$ and assume that $\int H(\mu^\omega) dP(\omega) < \infty$. Let $\mu_n^\omega = \mu^\omega * \mu^{\theta\omega} * \cdots \mu^{\theta^{n-1}\omega}$ and $\mathbf{h}_n^\omega = H(\mu_n^\omega)$. Then $\mathbf{h}_{n+m}^\omega \leq \mathbf{h}_n^\omega + \mathbf{h}_m^{\theta^n\omega}$ and by the subadditive ergodic theorem $P-$a.s. the limit, called the fiber (or relativized) Avez entropy, $\mathbf{h}(G, \mu) = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n}\mathbf{h}_n^\omega$ exists and it is not random. Let G^ω be the support of the measure $\sum_{n=1}^\infty 2^{-n}\mu_n^\omega$ and assume that $G^\omega = G$ $P-$a.s.

5.1. Theorem. *(i) For $P-$a.a.ω $P^\omega-$a.s., $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mu_n^\omega(X_n^\omega) = -\mathbf{h}(G, \mu)$; (ii) $\mathbf{h}(G, \mu) = 0$ iff there are no random bounded harmonic functions except $\mu-$a.s. constants (where $d\mu(\xi, \omega) = d\mu^\omega(\xi) dP(\omega)$).*

In some cases, for instance, when G is a free group, one can also obtain Hausdorff dimensions of random harmonic measures via $\mathbf{h}(G, \mu)$ and the speed of convergence of X_n^ω to infinity. Other results concerning this set up will appear in a forthcoming paper joint with Kaimanovich and Rubshtein. Results on "random" random walks on continuous groups, in particular, products of independent random matrices with stationarily changing distributions will appear elsewhere.

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