

# The Longest Path in a Random Graph: Directed Case

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- ▶  $D'_{n,N}$  uniform random digraph with  $n$  vertices and  $N$  edges

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- ▶ Note: We can just work with  $D_{n,p}$  instead of  $D'_{n,N}$  by coupling



## Main Theorem ( $D'_{n,N}$ )

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## Main Theorem ( $D_{n,p}$ )

For  $\alpha > 1$  there are positive numbers  $c, K$  and  $\theta < 1$  such that

$$\Pr[D_{n,\frac{\alpha}{n}} \text{ contains a directed path of length } cn] > 1 - K\theta^n.$$

Here and onwards we let  $p = \frac{\alpha}{n}$

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3. Use a branching process to analyze it (can have infinitely many points)
4. Show that  $cn$  generations occur in the branching process (i.e. a  $cn$  dipath in the first process) well before we have used up all the points in the first process

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Issue: The distributions keep changing. Ex. the probability that  $v_1$  has  $k$  children is  $\binom{n-1}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-1-k}$  while the probability that its first child has  $l$  is  $\binom{n-1-k}{l} p^l (1-p)^{n-1-k-l}$  and so on...

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5. If tree dies out, pick unused vertex with smallest index and restart the process until no vertices remain unused

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Note: BFS can only give us at most a  $\log n$  path but *DFS* can potentially give us much longer paths

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- ▶ At each level assign a random order to the branches so the "leftmost infinite path" (**LIP**) is well defined
- ▶ Recall: Since  $\lambda > 1$  there exists  $Q = Q(\lambda, m)$  such that the probability of extinction is  $Q < 1$

Let  $T$  denote the total population until extinction conditioned on process dying. Let  $T_1, T_2, \dots$  be a sequence of independent RVs distributed according to  $T$  and set  $S_k = T_1 + \dots + T_k$

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## Claim 3

For all  $m$ , extinction probability  $Q = Q(\lambda, m) < Q_0 = Q_0(\lambda) < 1$ .

- ▶ Claim 3 and independence  $\implies$  first  $\epsilon n$  processes go extinct with probability at most  $Q_0^{\epsilon n}$



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- ▶ At most  $\frac{\delta}{2}n$  vertices used by taking the corresponding points to the left of **LIP** (inclusive) at level  $cn$ . This also gives us the  $cn$  directed path.
- ▶ We had a surplus of  $\delta n$  vertices in the original graph process so we are done!

## Proof of Claim 3

Let  $f(x) = \sum_{k \geq 0} \lambda_k x^k$ . Since  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Ch}] = \lambda > 1$  it is well known that  $Q$  is the unique root of the equation  $Q = f(Q)$  for  $0 \leq Q < 1$ .

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Note that  $f(x) = (1 - p + px)^m = (1 - \frac{\lambda(1-x)}{m})^m$  and is monotone increasing in  $m$  since for  $C = \lambda(1-x)$  by AM-GM

$$1 \cdot \left(1 - \frac{C}{m}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{C}{m}\right) \leq \left(\frac{1 + m\left(1 - \frac{C}{m}\right)}{m+1}\right)^{m+1} = \left(1 - \frac{C}{m+1}\right)^{m+1}.$$

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Also,  $f(x) \leq e^{-\lambda(1-x)}$  and thus  $Q < Q_0 < 1$  for all  $m$  where  $Q_0$  is the unique solution on  $(0, 1)$  to  $Q_0 = e^{-\lambda(1-Q_0)}$ . Equivalently,  $Q_0 = \frac{x}{\lambda}$  where  $x$  is unique value in  $(0, 1)$  for which  $xe^{-x} = \lambda e^{-\lambda}$ .



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Lastly show  $\mathbb{E}[e^{t_0 T}] \leq K$  for  $t_0 = t_0(\lambda) > 0$  and  $K = K(\lambda) > 0$

## (Sketchy) Proof of Claim 1 Cont'd

Let  $\bar{T}$  be the total population and  $\bar{t}_l = \Pr[\bar{T} = l]$ , then we have  $\bar{t}_0 = 0$  and  $\bar{t}_\infty = 1 - Q$ , and for  $l \geq 1$

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Then  $\bar{g}(x) = \sum_{l=1} \bar{t}_l x^l$  satisfies  $\bar{g}(x) = x f(\bar{g}(x))$  so it is defined uniquely for  $x < 1$  (By LIFT) and so  $\bar{g}(x) < Q$

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By a continuity argument  $\bar{g}(x)$  can be defined up to  $y_0 = \frac{x_0}{f(x_0)}$  where  $x_0 = \frac{1-p}{(m-1)p}$  is the maximum of  $\frac{x}{f(x)}$  under the assumption  $\bar{g} < x_0$



## (Sketchy) Proof of Claim 1 Cont'd

$T$  is total population conditioned of the process going extinct. Thus

$$t_l = \Pr[T = l] = \Pr[\bar{T} = l | \bar{T} < \infty] = \frac{\bar{t}_l}{Q}$$

$$\mathbb{E}T = g'(1) = \frac{1}{1-f'(Q)} \sim \frac{1}{1-\lambda Q} \text{ where } g(x) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} t_l x^l = \bar{g}(x)/Q$$

## (Sketchy) Proof of Claim 1 Cont'd

$T$  is total population conditioned on the process going extinct.

Thus

$$t_l = \Pr[T = l] = \Pr[\bar{T} = l | \bar{T} < \infty] = \frac{\bar{t}_l}{Q}$$

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## (Sketchy) Proof of Claim 1 Cont'd

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$$\text{Now } \mathbb{E}e^{t_0 T} = g(e^{t_0}) \leq g(y_0) = \frac{x_0}{Q} < \frac{1}{Q}.$$

## (Sketchy) Proof of Claim 1 Cont'd

$T$  is total population conditioned on the process going extinct.

Thus

$$t_l = \Pr[T = l] = \Pr[\bar{T} = l | \bar{T} < \infty] = \frac{\bar{t}_l}{Q}$$

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$$\text{Now } \mathbb{E}e^{t_0 T} = g(e^{t_0}) \leq g(y_0) = \frac{x_0}{Q} < \frac{1}{Q}.$$

We are done as  $Q$  is an increasing function in  $m$  so  $\frac{1}{Q}$  is uniformly bounded in  $m$  as needed

The proof of claim 2 can be done by a similar approach to the proof of claim 1. That is, we define an appropriate RV, bound the MGF and use this to derive the concentration bound.

Thank you!