

Bálint Tóth:

Scaling limits for  
self-interacting random  
walks and diffusions, (2)

lecture notes for  
Berlin-Zürich Summer  
School on

Stochastic Models of  
Complex processes

31 Aug-4 Sept 2009

Limit theorems for the "Myopic" (or "True")  
self avoiding RW with edge repulsion  
on  $\mathbb{Z}$ . (based on BT '95)

$X(n)$  nearest neighbour walk on  $\mathbb{Z}$

$$U(n, x) = \# \{ m \in [0, n) : X(m) = x, X(m+1) = x+1 \}$$

= no. of upcrossings  $(x) \rightarrow (x+1)$

$$D(n, x) = \# \{ m \in [0, n) : X(m) = x+1, X(m+1) = x \}$$

= no. of downcrossings  $(x+1) \rightarrow (x)$

$$H(n, x) = U(n, x) + D(n, x)$$

= total no of jumps  $(x) \leftrightarrow (x+1)$

( $h(n, x + \frac{1}{2})$  in the notation of previous lecture)

$$Z(n, x) = -H(n, x) + H(n, x-1)$$

= negative gradient of  $H(n, \cdot)$

law:

$$P(X(n+1) = x \pm 1 \mid \text{past}) = \frac{r(\pm Z(n, x))}{r(Z(n, x)) + r(-Z(n, x))}$$

where  $r: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ , nondecreasing  
non-constant

\* interpretation as deposition/domain growth  
model (at blackboard)

Stopping times ("inverse local times") :

$$T_{x,r}^U := \inf \{n : U(n,x) = r\}$$

$$T_{x,r}^D := \inf \{n : D(n,x) = r\}$$

Local time profile at inverse local times

$$\Lambda_{x,r}^*(y) := H(T_{x,r}^*, y)$$

$$* = U, D$$

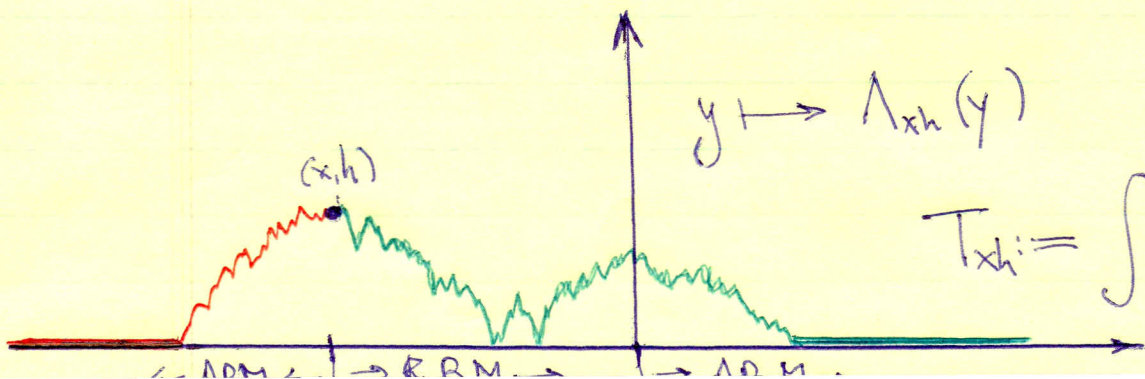
$$x \in \mathbb{Z}, r \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$y \in \mathbb{Z}$$

} fixed

RAB (= reflecting/absorbed Brownian motion) :

$$x \in \mathbb{R}, h \in [0, \infty) \text{ fixed}$$



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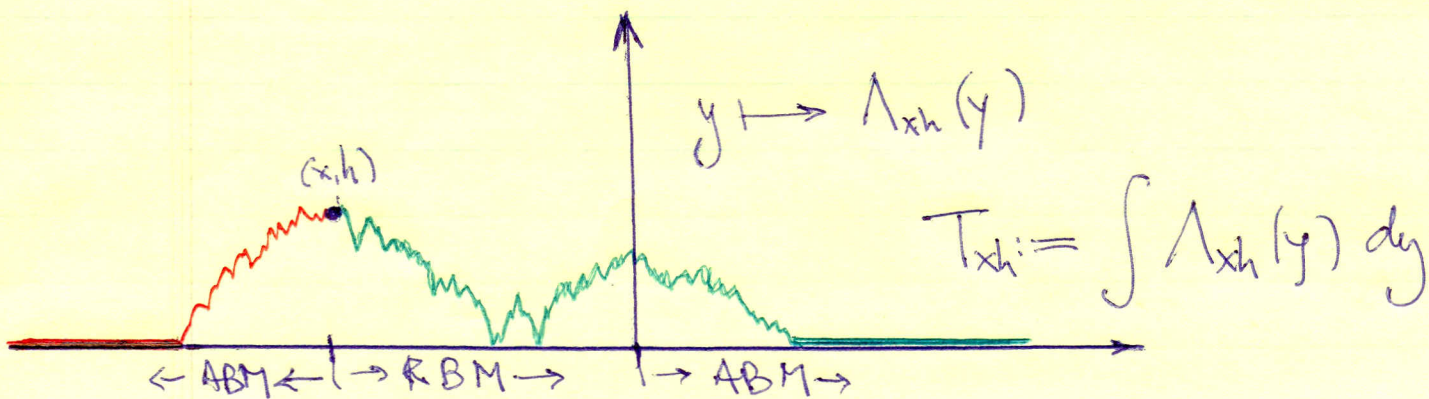
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RAB (= reflecting/absorbed Brownian motion) :

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Limit thm. for the local time process.

Theorem 1.  $x \in \mathbb{R}, h \in \mathbb{R}_+$  fixed

$$\frac{\Lambda_{[Nx], [\sqrt{N}\sigma h]}^*([Ny])}{\sigma \cdot \sqrt{N}} \Rightarrow \Lambda_{x,h}(y)$$

in Skorohod top, as process

$\sigma$  explicit constant, in terms of the rate function  $\Gamma(z)$  (later...)

Corollary:

$$\frac{T_{[Nx], [N\sigma h]}^*}{2\sigma N^{3/2}} \Rightarrow T_{x,h}$$

Compare with "classical" Ray-Knight  
(on blackboard...)

Further notation needed:

$$g(t; x, h) := \frac{\partial}{\partial t} P(T_{x,h} < t)$$

= density of distrib. of  $T_{x,h}$

$$\hat{g}(\lambda; x, h) := \lambda \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\lambda t} g(t; x, h) dt$$

$$= \lambda \cdot \mathbb{E} \left( e^{-\lambda T_{x,h}} \right)$$

Note:  $(x, h)$  are parameters of the distribution density  $g(t; x, h)$

Scaling:  $\alpha > 0$

$$\alpha g(\alpha t; \alpha^{2/3} x, \alpha^{1/3} h) = g(t; x, h)$$

$$\alpha \cdot \hat{g}(\alpha^{-1} \lambda; \alpha^{2/3} x, \alpha^{1/3} h) = \hat{g}(\lambda; x, h)$$

follows from Brownian scaling

Theorem 2: Fix  $t > 0$ .

$(x, h) \mapsto p(t; x, h)$  is a probability distribution density on  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+$ .

Remark: Non-trivial, computationally tricky proof involving Airy ...

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Look for asymptotic distribution of  $X(n)$

$$H(n) := H(n, X(n))$$

let  $\Theta_s$  be independent geometric r.v.

$$\mathbb{P}(\Theta_s = n) = (1 - e^{-s})e^{-s/n}$$



Theorem 3

$$\left( \sigma^{2/3} N^{-2/3} X(\theta_{s/N}), \sigma^{1/3} N^{-1/3} H(\theta_{s/N}) \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{P}}(s; \cdot, \cdot)$$

local limit thm for  $(X(n), H(n))$  stopped  
at independent geometric stopping times

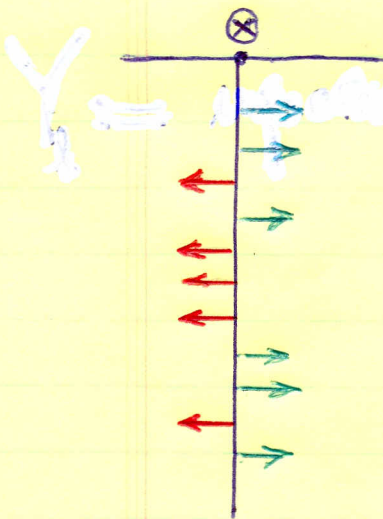
Morally:

$$\left( \sigma^{2/3} N^{-2/3} X(N), \sigma^{1/3} N^{-1/3} H(N) \right) \Rightarrow \rho(t; \cdot, \cdot)$$

Tauberian inversion missing.

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Main idea of proof of Theorem 1:



sequence of consecutive left-right jumps from site  $\otimes$ . Only the order matters not the time spans between consecutive jumps:

generalized Polya urn scheme

actually:  $\{ \#(\rightarrow) - \#(\leftarrow) \}$  is a birth-death process

independent for  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  !!!

with law:

$$P(z \rightarrow z+1) = p(z) \quad P(z \rightarrow z-1) = q(z)$$

$x < 0$

$x = 0$

$x > 0$

$P(z) \sim r(-z-1)$        $r(-z)$        $r(-z+1)$

$q(z) \sim r(2z+1)$        $r(2z)$        $r(2z-1)$

Yet another Markov chain: the previous

b-d chain stopped at down-steps

Markov chain on  $\mathbb{Z}$  with transition

matrix

$$P_{xy} = \begin{cases} \prod_{z=x}^y p(z) \cdot q(y+1) & y \geq x-1 \\ 0 & y < x-1 \end{cases}$$

geometrically ergodic with explicitly

computed stationary distribution

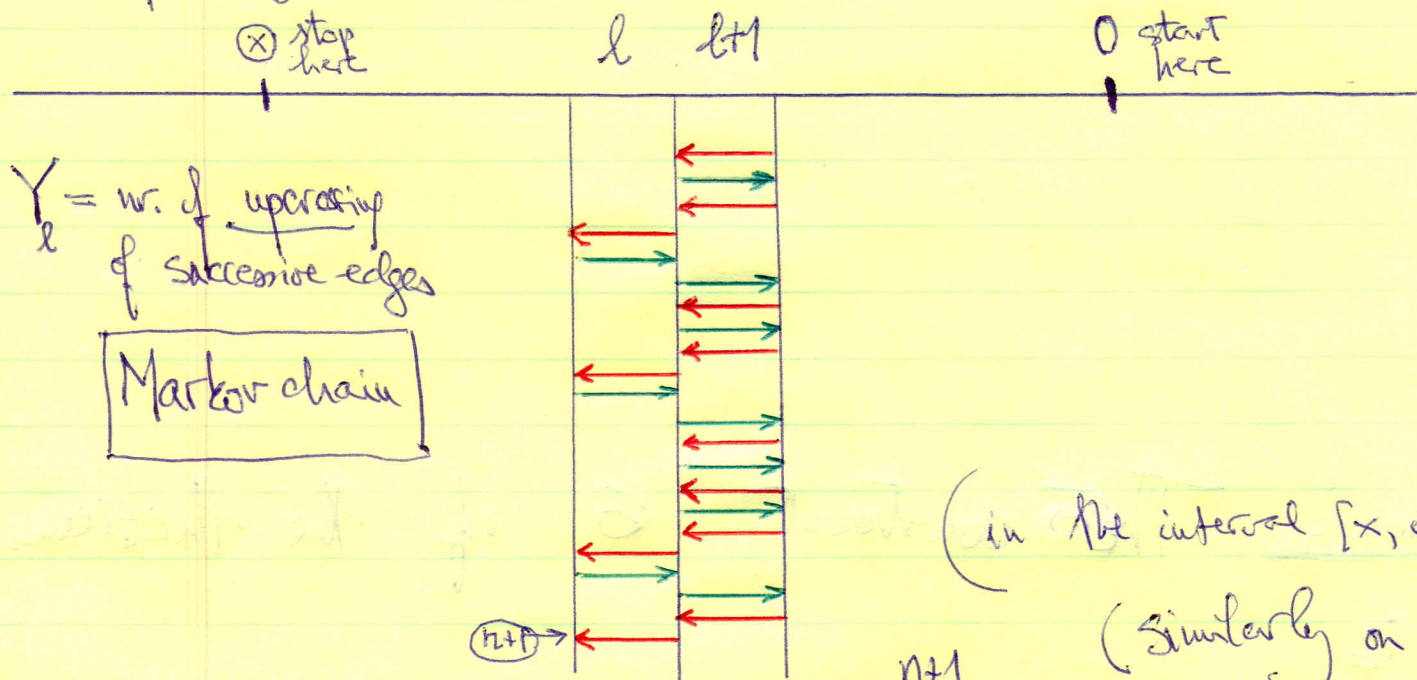
$$\pi(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x} \prod_{z=0}^{x-1} \frac{p(z)}{q(z)} & x \geq 0 \\ \frac{1}{-x} \prod_{z=x+1}^{-1} \frac{q(z)}{p(z)} & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$x \leq y : \pi(y) / \pi(x) = \prod_{z=x+1}^y \frac{p(z)}{q(z)}$$

~~$\pi(x) = \pi(x+1) - \pi(x)$~~

$\pi(x)$  decays fast (at least exponentially)  
at  $x \rightarrow \pm \infty$

The Markov chain has very strong ergodic properties.



$$P(Y_{l+1} - Y_l = z \mid Y_l = n) = P_{0, z-1}^{n+1}$$

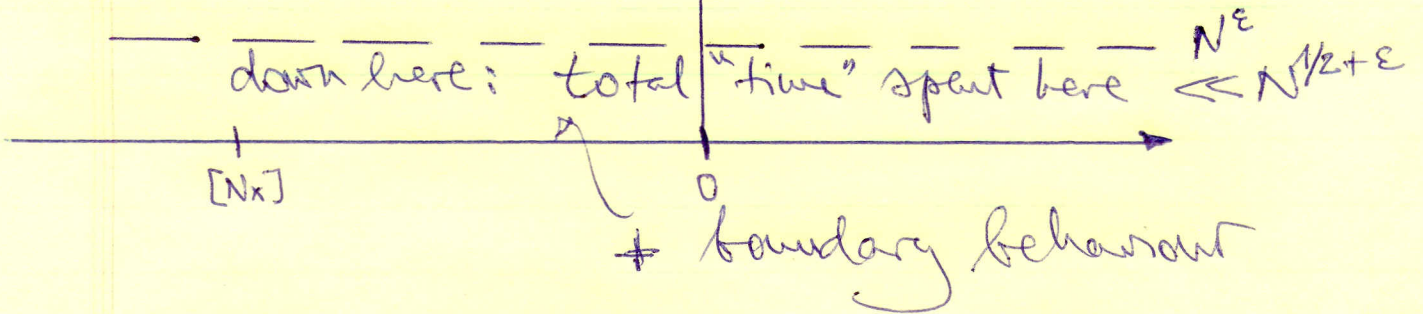
If  $n \gg 1$ :

$$P_{0, z-1}^{n+1} \approx \pi(z-1) = \frac{1}{z} \prod_{k=1}^{z-1} \frac{\Gamma(-2k+1)}{\Gamma(2k-1)} = M(2z)$$

turn page  $\rightarrow$  %

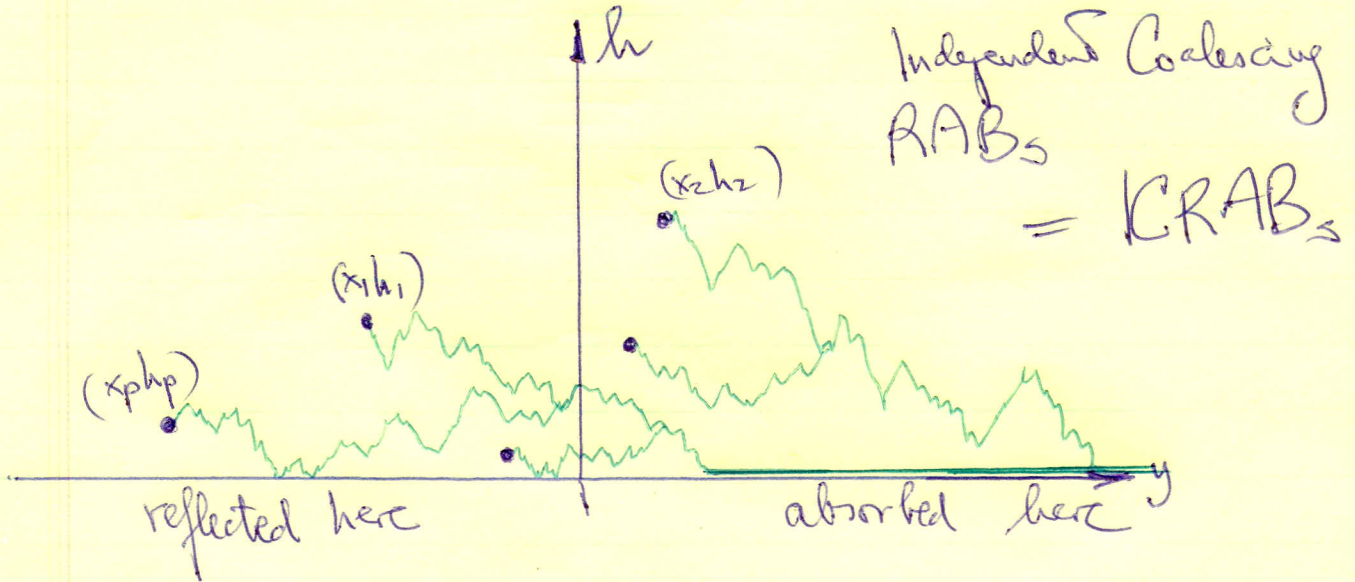
Coagulation:

up here: couple with r.w.  
with step distribution  $\mathcal{P}(x)$



very much technical (see the papers.)

Joint distributions for stopping at  $p \geq 1$  inverse local times:



$$\left\{ \bigwedge_{x_j, h_j} (y_j) : j=1, 2, \dots, p \right\} \quad y_j \geq x_j$$

- each one separately is a RAB
- they are independent as long as they stay apart
- they stick together at first encounter

Theorem 4: Fix  $(x_i, h_i) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+$   $i=1, 2, \dots, p$

$$\left( \frac{\Lambda_{[Nx_i], [Nh_i]}^*(Ny_i)}{2\sigma\sqrt{N}} : i=1, 2, \dots, p ; y_i \geq x_i \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \left( \Lambda_{x_i, h_i}(y_i) : i=1, 2, \dots, p ; y_i \geq x_i \right)$$

as processes

Independence is surprising!

Compare with similar theorem for ordinary RW.

Proof of Thm 2 relies on detailed computations with various objects: Brownian excursions, Itô's intensity measure, Biswas's characterization, Bessel bridges, etc..

Proof of Thm 3 straightforward ...

Related results:

① limit theorems for a wide class of self-interacting RW-s with

$$P(X^{(n+1)} = x \pm 1 \mid \text{past}, X^{(n)} = x) = w(l(n, x \pm \frac{1}{2}))$$

---

$$w(l(n, x + \frac{1}{2})) + w(l(n, x - \frac{1}{2}))$$

with various weight functions  $w$

BT '96-97  
...

② very similar asymptotics for continuous time, site-repulsion (BT, B. Vets' '08)

③ repulsion on oriented edges:  
very different asymptotics (BT, B. Vets' '08)

Related to rotor-router model. See also  
R. Kapri - D. Dhar '09

### Major open problems:

① This proof is partly "combinatorial", it relies on some details of the model.

Find robust "universal" proof.

Robust superdiffusive lower bound

$$E(X(t)^2) \geq c \cdot t^{5/8}$$

[P. Tarrés, B.T., B. Vallée '09]

② Relate the distribution  $f(t; x, h)$  with

Airy processes



Stationary initial conditions - environment seen

from the point of view of the moving particle

State space:

$$\omega_i = l_{i-\frac{1}{2}} - l_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\Omega := \left\{ \underline{\omega} = (\omega_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} : \omega_0 \in 2\mathbb{Z}+1; \omega_i \in 2\mathbb{Z}+1 \right\}$$

(could be the other way)

$$R: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega \quad (R\underline{\omega})_i = \omega_{i+1} + \delta_{i,0} - \delta_{i,-1}$$

$$L: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega \quad (L\underline{\omega})_i = \omega_{i-1} - \delta_{i,0} + \delta_{i,+1}$$

$$F: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega \quad (F\underline{\omega})_i = -\omega_i$$

$$R^{-1}: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega \quad (R^{-1}\underline{\omega})_i = \omega_{i-1} + \delta_{i,0} - \delta_{i,+1}$$

$$(L^{-1}\underline{\omega})_i = \omega_{i+1} - \delta_{i,0} + \delta_{i,-1}$$

$$R^{-1} = F R F, \quad L^{-1} = F L F$$

$$p(\underline{\omega}) = \frac{r(\omega_0)}{r(\omega_0) + r(-\omega_0)}; \quad q(\underline{\omega}) = \frac{r(-\omega_0)}{r(\omega_0) + r(-\omega_0)}$$

$$f: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega ,$$

$$(Pf)(\underline{\omega}) = p(\underline{\omega})f(R\underline{\omega}) + q(\underline{\omega})f(L\underline{\omega})$$

This is the transition operator of the process of the "environment seen from the point of view of the moving particle"

Stationary measure: (untitled)

$$\left. \begin{matrix} M_{\text{even}} \\ M_{\text{odd}} \end{matrix} \right\} \text{probab measures on } \left\{ \begin{matrix} 2\mathbb{Z} \\ 2\mathbb{Z}+1 \end{matrix} \right.$$

$$M_{\text{even}}(2\mathbb{Z}) \sim \prod_{k=1}^{|\mathbb{Z}|} \frac{\Gamma(-2k+1)}{\Gamma(2k-1)}$$

$$M_{\text{odd}}(2\mathbb{Z}+1) \sim M_{\text{even}}(2\mathbb{Z}) / \Gamma(2\mathbb{Z}+1) = M_{\text{even}}(2\mathbb{Z}+2) / \Gamma(-2\mathbb{Z}-1)$$

$$\tilde{\mu} = \dots \mu_{\text{even}} \times \mu_{\text{even}} \times \mu_{\text{odd}} \times \mu_{\text{even}} \times \mu_{\text{even}}$$

$$p(\underline{\omega}) = (r(\underline{\omega}_0) + r(-\underline{\omega}_0)) / (2 \sum r(2z+1) M_{\text{odd}}(2z+1))$$

$$\mu(d\underline{\omega}) = p(\underline{\omega}) \tilde{\mu}(d\underline{\omega})$$

! is stationary (+ ergodic) for the transition kernel

$$\mu P = \mu$$

Proof:

$$\int (Pf)(\underline{\omega}) d\mu(\underline{\omega}) =$$

$$\int (Pf)(\underline{\omega}) p(\underline{\omega}) d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{\omega}) =$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \int \{ r(\underline{\omega}) f(R\underline{\omega}) + r(\exists\underline{\omega}) f(L\underline{\omega}) \} d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{\omega}) =$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \int \{ r(\bar{R}^{-1}\underline{\omega}) d\tilde{\mu}(\bar{R}^{-1}\underline{\omega}) + r(\bar{L}^{-1}\underline{\omega}) d\tilde{\mu}(\bar{L}^{-1}\underline{\omega}) \} f(\underline{\omega})$$

Main identities:

$$r(\underline{R}\underline{\omega}) d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{R}\underline{\omega}) = r(\underline{\omega}) d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{\omega})$$

$$r(\underline{JL}\underline{\omega}) d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{L}\underline{\omega}) = r(\underline{J}\underline{\omega}) d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{\omega})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{R}\underline{\omega})}{d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{\omega})} &= \frac{M_{\text{odd}}(\omega_{-1}+1)}{M_{\text{even}}(\omega_{-1})} \cdot \frac{M_{\text{even}}(\omega_0-1)}{M_{\text{odd}}(\omega_0)} = \\ &= \frac{r(\omega_0)}{r(\omega_{-1}+1)} = \frac{r(\underline{\omega})}{r(\underline{R}\underline{\omega})} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{L}\underline{\omega})}{d\tilde{\mu}(\underline{\omega})} &= \frac{M_{\text{odd}}(\omega_{+1}-1)}{M_{\text{even}}(\omega_{+1})} \cdot \frac{M_{\text{even}}(\omega_0+1)}{M_{\text{odd}}(\omega_0)} = \\ &= \frac{r(-\omega_0)}{r(-\omega_{+1}+1)} = \frac{r(\underline{J}\underline{\omega})}{r(\underline{JL}\underline{\omega})} \end{aligned}$$

□

Reversed chain:

$$\int d\mu(\underline{\omega}) g(\underline{\omega}) (Pf)(\underline{\omega}) =$$

$$= \int d\mu(\underline{\omega}) g(\underline{\omega}) (p(\underline{\omega}) f(R\underline{\omega}) + q(\underline{\omega}) f(L\underline{\omega}))$$

= ... using the same identities ...

$$= \int d\mu(\underline{\omega}) (p(\underline{\omega}) g(R^{-1}\underline{\omega}) + q(\underline{\omega}) g(L^{-1}\underline{\omega})) f(\underline{\omega})$$

$$(P_g^*)(\underline{\omega}) = p(\underline{\omega}) g(R^{-1}\underline{\omega}) + q(\underline{\omega}) g(L^{-1}\underline{\omega})$$

$$P^* = J P J$$

Yaglom reversibility:

$$\eta^*(t) := J \eta(-t) \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} \eta(t) !$$

More on this later ...