Asymptotics of greedy energy sequences on the unit circle and the sphere

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Joint work with R.E. McCleary

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Energy of a point configuration

Let $\omega = (x_1, \dots, x_N)$ be a tuple of $N \ge 2$ points in \mathbb{R}^p . With $|x_i - x_j|$ denoting the Euclidean distance between x_i and x_j :

The logarithmic energy of ω is

$$E_0(\omega) := \sum_{i \neq j} \log \frac{1}{|x_i - x_j|} = 2 \sum_{i < j} \log \frac{1}{|x_i - x_j|}.$$

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For a parameter $\lambda > 0$, the λ -energy of ω is

$$H_{\lambda}(\omega) := \sum_{i \neq j} |x_i - x_j|^{\lambda} = 2 \sum_{i < j} |x_i - x_j|^{\lambda}.$$

Optimal energy configurations

Let $K \subset \mathbb{R}^p$ be a compact set, not finite. Throughout the talk, K satisfies these conditions.

The energy functionals E_0 and E_s , s>0, are lower semicontinuous functions of (x_1,\ldots,x_N) , so they attain their minimum value on $K^N=K\times\cdots\times K$. That is, for each $N\geq 2$, there exists $\omega_{N,s}\in K^N$, in general not unique, such that

$$E_s(\omega_{N,s}) = \min_{\omega \in K^N} E_s(\omega).$$

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In the logarithmic case (s=0), and for $K\subset\mathbb{C}$, the configurations $\omega_{N,0}$ are called **Fekete sets** on K. In general, the configurations $\omega_{N,s}$ are called N-point minimal s-energy configurations on K.

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Clearly, for each $\lambda > 0$ and $N \ge 2$, there exists $\omega_{N,\lambda} \in K^N$, in general not unique, such that

$$H_{\lambda}(\omega_{N,\lambda}) = \max_{\omega \in K^N} H_{\lambda}(\omega).$$

 $\omega_{N,\lambda}$ is an N-point maximal λ -energy configuration on K.



Logarithmic energy in the plane

Let $\mathcal{P}(K)$ be the space of all Borel probability measures on K. Assume $K \subset \mathbb{C}$. For $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(K)$,

$$egin{align} \mathit{I}_0(\mu) &:= \iint \log rac{1}{|x-y|} \, d\mu(x) \, d\mu(y), \ U^\mu(z) &:= \int \log rac{1}{|z-t|} \, d\mu(t). \ \end{align*}$$

Let

$$W_0(K) := \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(K)} I_0(\mu)$$
 (Robin constant of K) $C_0(K) := e^{-W_0(K)}$ (Logarithmic capacity of K)

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Theorem (Fekete-Szegő)

If $(\omega_{N,0})_{N\geq 2}$ is a sequence of Fekete sets on K, then $\left(\frac{E_0(\omega_{N,0})}{N(N-1)}\right)_{N\geq 2}$ is monotonically increasing and its limit is $W_0(K)$.

If $C_0(K) > 0$, then $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{x \in \omega_{N,0}} \delta_x \stackrel{*}{\longrightarrow} \mu_K$, where μ_K is the equilibrium measure for K.

Edrei-Leja sequences

In a 1939 work, A. Edrei introduced the following inductive construction of a sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$ on a compact set $K \subset \mathbb{C}$:

- 1) Pick $a_0 \in K$ arbitrarily. Let a_0 be the first selected point of the sequence.
- 2) For each $n \ge 1$, assuming that a_0, \dots, a_{n-1} have been selected, pick the next point of the sequence $a_n \in K$ so that

$$\prod_{i=0}^{n-1} |a_n - a_i| = \max_{z \in K} \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} |z - a_i|.$$
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(1) is equivalent to

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \log \frac{1}{|a_n - a_i|} = \inf_{z \in K} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \log \frac{1}{|z - a_i|},$$

or

$$E_0((a_0,\ldots,a_{n-1},a_n))=\inf_{z\in K}E_0((a_0,\ldots,a_{n-1},z)).$$



$$\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{E_0(\alpha_N)}{N^2}=W_0(K). \tag{2}$$

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The proof is short: For every $N \ge 2$, $E_0(\alpha_N) \ge E_0(\omega_{N,0})$, so by Fekete-Szegő,

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If $W_0(K) = +\infty$, we are done. Suppose $W_0(K) < +\infty$ (or $C_0(K) > 0$).

$$E_0(\alpha_N) = 2\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j < i} \log \frac{1}{|a_i - a_j|} \le 2\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j < i} \log \frac{1}{|z - a_j|}, \quad \forall z \in K.$$

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Integrating this inequality with respect to $d\mu_K(z)$,

$$E_0(\alpha_N) \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j < i} U^{\mu_K}(a_j) \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j < i} W_0(K) = N(N-1)W_0(K).$$

and the result follows. Q.E.D.

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If $C_0(K) > 0$, then (2) implies $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \delta_{a_i} \stackrel{*}{\longrightarrow} \mu_K$.

6/33

On the unit circle S^1 , N-point Fekete sets are the configurations formed by N equally spaced points, such as the set of all Nth roots of unity. Also, $E_0(\omega_{N,0}) = -N \log N$, for all $N \ge 2$.

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For an Edrei-Leja sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$ on S^1 , what is the behavior of $E_0(\alpha_N)$, $\alpha_N=(a_0,\ldots,a_{N-1})$, as $N\to\infty$?

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Edrei's result shows that

$$\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{E_0(\alpha_N)}{N^2}=0=W_0(S^1).$$

Is $E_0(\alpha_N) \sim -N \log N$?

In a work on interpolatory properties of Edrei-Leja sequences on the unit circle, J-P. Calvi and P. Van Manh proved the following identity:

Theorem (Calvi, Van Manh, 2011)

Let $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$ be an Edrei-Leja sequence on S^1 . For all $n \ge 1$,

$$\prod_{i=0}^{n-1} |a_n - a_i| = 2^{\tau(n)}$$

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In particular, for every k > 1, the first 2^k points of an Edrei-Leja sequence are equally spaced on S^1 .

Using the identity of Calvi and Van Manh, it was shown by López and Wagner (2015) that

$$\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{E_0(\alpha_N)}{N\log N}=-1.$$

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In view of this, it's natural to study the sequence $(E_0(\alpha_N) + N \log N)_N$ (second-order asymptotics).

Theorem (López, Wagner, 2015)

For every N > 2.

$$0 \leq \frac{E_0(\alpha_N) + N \log N}{N} < \log(4/3).$$

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So the sequence $\frac{E_0(\alpha_N)}{-N \log N}$ converges, but the sequence $\frac{E_0(\alpha_N)+N \log N}{N}$ diverges!



The sequence $\frac{E_0(\alpha_N)+N\log N}{N}$

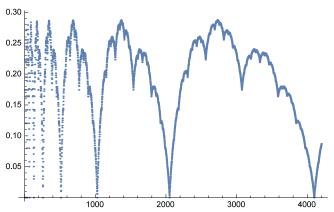


Figure: The first 4200 points of the sequence $\frac{E_0(\alpha_N)+N\log N}{N}$. The limsup is $\log(4/3)\approx 0.2876$.

We have a **doubling periodicity** property: For all $N \ge 2$,

$$\frac{E_0(\alpha_N) + N\log N}{N} = \frac{E_0(\alpha_{2N}) + 2N\log(2N)}{2N}$$

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General result: Suppose $K \subset \mathbb{C}$ is compact, $C_0(K) > 0$, $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is an Edrei-Leja sequence on K, and let

$$P_N(z) := \prod_{n=0}^{N-1} (z - a_n),$$

 $\|P_N\|_K := \sup_{z \in K} |P_N(z)|.$

Leja and Górski proved

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} \|P_N\|_K^{1/N} = C_0(K). \tag{3}$$

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In the case of the unit circle $K = S^1$, $C_0(S^1) = 1$, so (3) implies

$$\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{\log\|P_N\|_{\mathcal{S}^1}}{N}=\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{\log(2)\tau(N)}{N}=0.$$

So $\log ||P_N||_{S^1} = o(N)$.

Theorem (López, McCleary)

On the unit circle, for all $N \ge 1$,

$$0<\frac{\log\|P_N\|_{\mathcal{S}^1}}{\log(N+1)}\leq 1.$$

The upper bound is attained iff $N = 2^k - 1$, $k \ge 1$. Also,

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Proof.

By Calvi-Van Manh, $\|P_N\|_{S^1} = 2^{\tau(N)}$. The τ function has the property

$$N \ge 2^{\tau(N)} - 1, \qquad N \ge 1,$$

with equality iff $N = 2^k - 1$ for some $k \ge 1$. We have

$$\frac{\log \|P_N\|_{\mathcal{S}^1}}{\log (N+1)} = \frac{\log (2^{\tau(N)})}{\log (N+1)} \leq \frac{\log (N+1)}{\log (N+1)} = 1.$$

Also, $\log ||P_N||_{S^1} > 0$ since $||P_N||_{S^1} \ge 2$.

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Also, $\log \|P_N\|_{S^1} > 0$ since $\|P_N\|_{S^1} \ge 2$. Taking $N = 2^k$, we have $\|P_{2^k}\|_{S^1} = 2$, so $\log \|P_{2^k}\|_{S^1}/\log(2^k+1) \longrightarrow 0$ as $k \to \infty$.

The sequence $\frac{\log \|P_N\|_{S^1}}{\log(N+1)}$

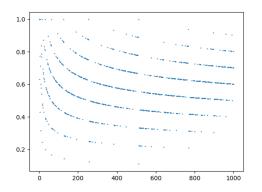


Figure: The first 1000 points of the sequence $\frac{\log ||P_N||_{S^1}}{\log(N+1)}$

We have $\tau(N) = \tau(2N)$ for all N, so for each m > 1, the subsequence

$$\left(\frac{\log \|P_{2^k(2^m-1)}\|_{S^1}}{\log(2^k(2^m-1)+1)}\right)_{k=0}^{\infty}$$

decreases from 1 to 0 (the numerator is the constant).

13/33

λ -energy on the unit sphere S^d

Let $\lambda > 0$.

For configurations $\omega=(x_1,\ldots,x_N)$ on the unit sphere $S^d\subset\mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ we consider the λ -energy

$$H_{\lambda}(\omega) := \sum_{i \neq j} |x_i - x_j|^{\lambda} = 2 \sum_{i < j} |x_i - x_j|^{\lambda}.$$

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For $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{S}^d)$, let

$$I_{\lambda}(\mu) := \iint |x-y|^{\lambda} d\mu(x) d\mu(y).$$

We say that σ is a **maximal distribution** if

$$I_{\lambda}(\sigma) = \sup_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(S^d)} I_{\lambda}(\mu).$$

Let σ_d denote the normalized uniform (Lebesgue) measure on S^d .

For the continuous energy problem we have:

Theorem (G. Björck, 1956)

For $0 < \lambda < 2$, the measure σ_d is the unique maximal distribution in $\mathcal{P}(S^d)$. For $\lambda = 2$, a distribution $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}(S^d)$ is maximal if and only if its center of mass is at the origin. For $\lambda > 2$, a distribution $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}(S^d)$ is maximal if and only if it is of the form $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}(\delta_a + \delta_{-a})$ for some $a \in S^d$.

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So the most interesting range for the λ -energy problem on S^d is $0 < \lambda < 2$, independently of d.

On S^1 , for $0 < \lambda < 2$, the *N*-point configurations $\omega_{N,\lambda}$ that satisfy

$$H_{\lambda}(\omega_{N,\lambda}) = \max_{\omega \in (S^1)^N} H_{\lambda}(\omega)$$

are the configurations formed by N equally spaced points.

Greedy λ -energy sequences

Given $\lambda > 0$, a sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty} \subset S^d$ is a **greedy** λ -energy sequence on S^d if for every $n \geq 1$,

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Greedy λ -energy sequences

Given $\lambda > 0$, a sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty} \subset S^d$ is a **greedy** λ -energy sequence on S^d if for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} |a_n - a_k|^{\lambda} = \max_{x \in S^d} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} |x - a_k|^{\lambda}.$$

Notation:

$$\alpha_{N,\lambda} := (a_0, \dots, a_{N-1})$$

$$\sigma_{N,\lambda} := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \delta_{a_k}$$

$$U_{N,\lambda}(x) := \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} |x - a_k|^{\lambda}$$

The following properties are valid in any dimension $d \ge 1$.

1) **Symmetry property:** Let $\lambda > 0$ be arbitrary. For every $k \ge 0$,

$$a_{2k+1}=-a_{2k}.$$

More precisely, after a_0, \ldots, a_{2k} have been selected, there is a unique possible choice of a_{2k+1} , which is $-a_{2k}$.

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- 3) If $\lambda > 2$, the greedy λ -energy sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$ concentrates on the opposite points $a_0, -a_0$:

$$\{a_{2k},a_{2k+1}\}=\{a_0,-a_0\}, \qquad \text{for all } k\geq 0.$$

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4) If $\lambda=2$, the sequence $(\sigma_{N,2})$ may be divergent, but any convergent subsequence converges to a measure σ with center of mass at the origin.

First order asymptotics

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Using classical arguments, one can prove: For any greedy λ -energy sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^\infty\subset S^d$,

$$\lim_{N\to\infty} \frac{H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda})}{N^2} = I_{\lambda}(\sigma_d), \qquad \alpha_{N,\lambda} = (a_0, \dots, a_{N-1}),$$

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{U_{N,\lambda}(a_N)}{N} = I_{\lambda}(\sigma_d), \qquad U_{N,\lambda}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} |x - a_k|^{\lambda}.$$

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These limits suggest the analysis of the sequences $(H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda}) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_d)N^2)$ and $(U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_d)N)$. We have analyzed these sequences in the case d=1 (the unit circle).

Binary representation of energy and potential in the case d = 1

Let's define

$$\mathcal{L}_{\lambda}(\textit{N}) := \sum_{0 \leq \textit{k} \neq \ell \leq \textit{N}-1} |e^{\frac{2\pi \textit{i} \textit{k}}{\textit{N}}} - e^{\frac{2\pi \textit{i} \ell}{\textit{N}}}|^{\lambda} \qquad (\lambda \text{-energy of the \textit{N}-th roots of unity})$$

$$\mathcal{U}_{\lambda}(\textit{N}) := \sum_{k=0}^{\textit{N}-1} |e^{rac{2\pi ik}{N}} - e^{rac{\pi i}{N}}|^{\lambda} \qquad ext{(potential of the \textit{N}-th roots of unity at } e^{rac{\pi i}{N}})$$

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Lemma (López, McCleary)

Suppose that $N \geq 2$ has the binary representation

$$N = 2^{n_1} + 2^{n_2} + \cdots + 2^{n_p}, \qquad n_1 > n_2 > \cdots > n_p \ge 0.$$

Then.

$$U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) = \sum_{k=1}^p \mathcal{U}_{\lambda}(2^{n_k}),$$

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Then.

$$U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) = \sum_{k=1}^{p} \mathcal{U}_{\lambda}(2^{n_k}),$$

$$H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda}) = \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \left(\sum_{j=k+1}^{p} 2^{n_j - n_k} \right) \mathcal{L}_{\lambda}(2^{n_k+1}) + \sum_{k=1}^{p} \left(1 - \sum_{j=k+1}^{p} 2^{n_j - n_k + 1} \right) \mathcal{L}_{\lambda}(2^{n_k}).$$

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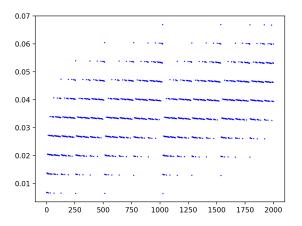


Figure: The first 2000 points of the sequence $(U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N)$ for $\lambda = 0.01$

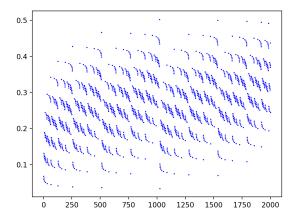


Figure: The first 2000 points of the sequence $(U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N)$ for $\lambda = 0.1$

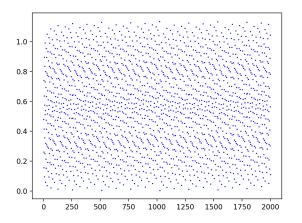


Figure: The first 2000 points of the sequence $(U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N)$ for $\lambda = 0.7$

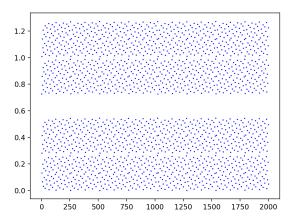


Figure: The first 2000 points of the sequence $(U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N)$ for $\lambda = 1$

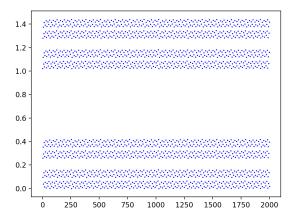


Figure: The first 2000 points of the sequence $(U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N)$ for $\lambda = 1.3$

Theorem (López, McCleary)

Let $0 < \lambda < 2$, and let $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty} \subset S^1$ be a greedy λ -energy sequence. Then, the sequence $(U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N)_{N=1}^{\infty}$ is bounded and divergent. For every $N \geq 1$,

$$0 < U_{N,\lambda}(a_N) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N < I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)$$

and we have

$$\lim_{N\to\infty}\inf_{N\to\infty}\left(U_{N,\lambda}(a_N)-I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N\right)=0, \\ \lim\sup_{N\to\infty}\left(U_{N,\lambda}(a_N)-I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N\right)=I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1).$$

The sequence $(H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda}) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N^2)$

Let

$$\kappa_{\lambda}(N) = \begin{cases} N^{1-\lambda} & 0 < \lambda < 1, \\ \log N & \lambda = 1, \\ 1 & 1 < \lambda < 2. \end{cases}$$

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For any $0 < \lambda < 2$, the sequence

$$\left(\frac{H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda}) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N^2}{\kappa_{\lambda}(N)}\right)_{N=2}^{\infty}$$

is bounded and divergent.

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In contrast, for the *N*-th roots of unity, its energy $\mathcal{L}_{\lambda}(N)$ satisfies, for all $0 < \lambda < 2$,

$$\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{\mathcal{L}_{\lambda}(N)-I_{\lambda}(\sigma_{1})N^{2}}{N^{1-\lambda}}=(2\pi)^{\lambda}\,2\zeta(-\lambda),$$

as shown by Brauchart-Hardin-Saff, where $\zeta(s)$ is the Riemann zeta function.

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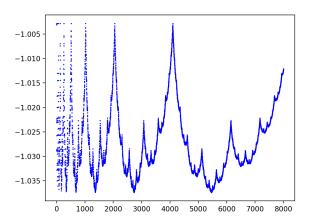


Figure: The first 8000 points of the sequence $\left(\frac{H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda})-I_{\lambda}(\sigma_{1})N^{2}}{N_{\lambda}^{1}-\lambda}\right)$ for $\lambda=0.1$

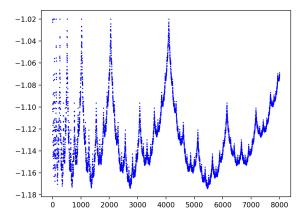


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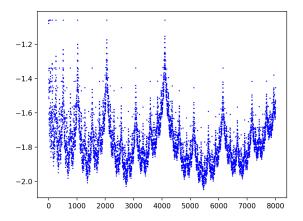


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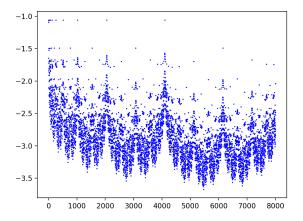


Figure: The first 8000 points of the sequence $\left(\frac{H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda})-I_{\lambda}(\sigma_{1})N^{2}}{N^{1-\lambda}}\right)$ for $\lambda=0.9$

Class of functions $G(\vec{\theta}, \lambda)$:

Given an odd integer $M = 2^{t_1} + 2^{t_2} + \cdots + 2^{t_{p-1}} + 1$, $t_1 > t_2 > \cdots > t_{p-1} > 0$, we construct the vector

$$\vec{\theta} = \vec{\theta}_M = \left(\frac{2^{t_1}}{M}, \frac{2^{t_2}}{M}, \dots, \frac{2^{t_{p-1}}}{M}, \frac{1}{M}\right).$$

Let Θ be the collection of all such vectors (of any length).

Given $\vec{\theta} = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_p) \in \Theta$, let

$$G(\vec{\theta},\lambda) := \sum_{k=1}^{p} \theta_k^{-\lambda} (2(2^{-\lambda} - 1) \left(\sum_{j=k+1}^{p} \theta_j \right) + \theta_k).$$

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For $0 < \lambda < 1$, let

$$g(\lambda) := \sup_{\vec{\theta} \in \Theta} G(\vec{\theta}, \lambda).$$

This function takes values > 1.

Theorem

Let $0 < \lambda < 1$, and let $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty} \subset S^1$ be a greedy λ -energy sequence. Then, the sequence

$$\left(\frac{H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda}) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_1)N^2}{N^{1-\lambda}}\right)_{N=2}^{\infty} \tag{4}$$

is bounded and divergent, and we have

$$\begin{split} &\limsup_{N \to \infty} \frac{H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda}) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_{1})N^{2}}{N^{1-\lambda}} = (2\pi)^{\lambda} \, 2\zeta(-\lambda), \\ &\liminf_{N \to \infty} \frac{H_{\lambda}(\alpha_{N,\lambda}) - I_{\lambda}(\sigma_{1})N^{2}}{N^{1-\lambda}} = g(\lambda) \, (2\pi)^{\lambda} \, 2\zeta(-\lambda). \end{split}$$

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For every $\vec{\theta} \in \Theta$, the value $G(\vec{\theta}, \lambda)(2\pi)^{\lambda} 2\zeta(-\lambda)$ is a limit point of (4).

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Note that for $0 < \lambda < 1$, we have $\zeta(-\lambda) < 0$ and $g(\lambda) > 1$, so indeed $\lim \inf < \lim \sup$. We don't have an explicit expression for $g(\lambda)$.

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32 / 33

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