

# Geodesic tracking for random walks on groups

Giulio Tiozzo  
Harvard University

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**Question:** What happens in the long run/on average?

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The sequence

$$x_0, w_1 x_0, w_2 x_0, \dots, w_n x_0, \dots$$

is called a **sample path**.

## An example: the free group $F_2$

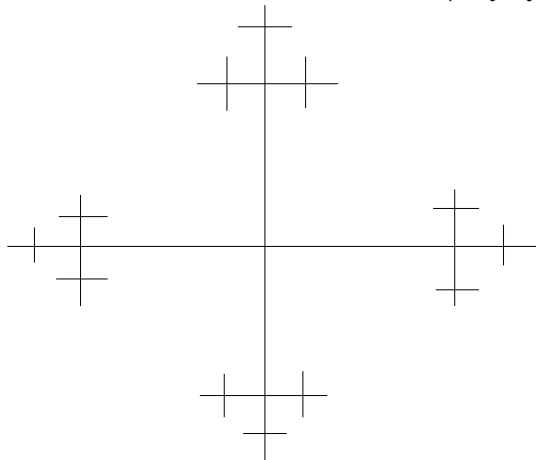
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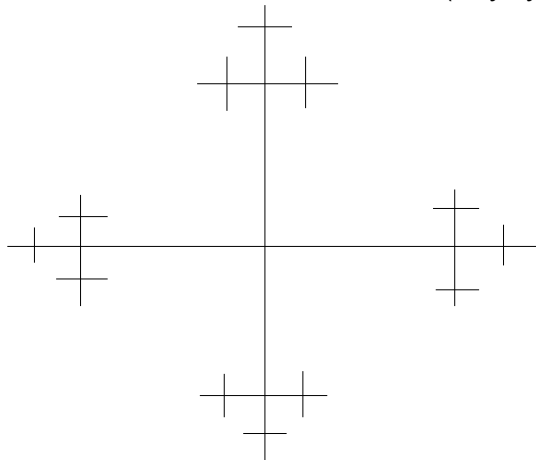
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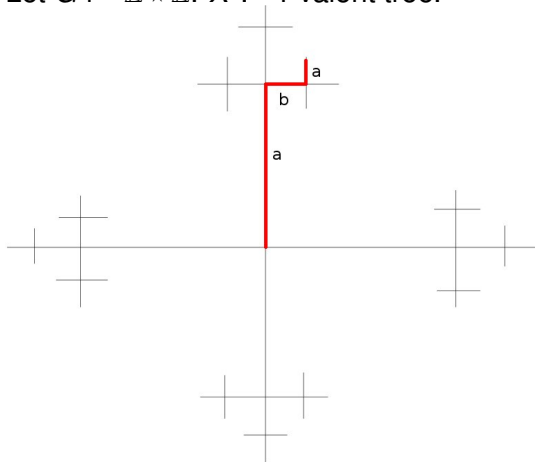
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How about 3. ?

## Sublinear tracking

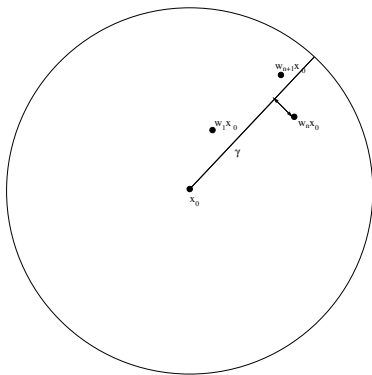
We say that a random walk on  $G$  acting on the geodesic metric space  $(X, d)$  has the **Sublinear Tracking property (ST)** if for almost every sample path  $w_n$  there exists a geodesic ray  $\gamma : [0, \infty) \rightarrow X$  such that

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If  $G = GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ , you get Oseledets' **multiplicative ergodic theorem**.

2. Kaimanovich's criterion: sublinear tracking allows one to identify the **Poisson boundary** of the walk

$$H^\infty(G, \mu) = L^\infty(\partial X, \nu)$$

# History

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- ▶ discrete groups of isometries of CAT(0) spaces [Karlsson-Margulis, '99]

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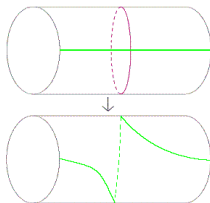
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E.g.: Dehn twist around a curve





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[Duchin, '05] (ST) with restriction to thick part.

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## Corollary

*Poisson boundary = Thurston boundary [Kaimanovich-Masur]*

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- ▶ Note:  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  is NOT stably visible.

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## Corollary

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- ▶ *Gromov-hyperbolic groups;*

# Sublinear tracking for stably visible spaces

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*Let  $X$  admit a stably visible compactification, and  $\mu$  be a prob. measure on  $G$ , such that the group generated by its support is non-elementary, and with finite first moment.*

*Then there exists  $A \geq 0$  such that for almost every sample path  $w_n$  there is a geodesic ray  $\gamma : [0, \infty) \rightarrow X$  which tracks the sample path at sublinear distance:*

$$\frac{d(w_n x_0, \gamma(An))}{n} \rightarrow 0.$$

## Corollary

*The sublinear tracking property holds for:*

- ▶ *Gromov-hyperbolic groups;*
- ▶ *groups with infinitely many ends;*

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## Corollary

*The sublinear tracking property holds for:*

- ▶ *Gromov-hyperbolic groups;*
- ▶ *groups with infinitely many ends;*
- ▶ *relatively hyperbolic groups.*

# The end

Thank you!