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Filtrations associated to some two-to-one transformations

Christophe Leuridan

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Abstract

The aim of the present paper is the study of filtrations indexed by the non-positive integers associated to (non-invertible) measure-preserving maps. We establish a necessary and sufficient conditions for the filtration associated to some skew-products to be Kolmogorovian, i.e. to have a trivial tail σ -field at time $-\infty$. This condition improves on Meilijson's result.

More specifically, we focus on dyadic filtrations associated to two-to-one maps provided by skew-products, like $[\text{Id}, T]$ or $[T^{-1}, T]$. Determining whether or not these filtrations are product-type (i.e. can be generated by some sequence of independent random variables) is often difficult, although Vershik's criteria provide tools to investigate this question.

In this paper, we revisit many classical examples of filtrations associated to two-to-one maps provided by skew-products. The first examples are rather simple and are given as an illustration of Vershik's intermediate criterion. The last two ones are much more involved and yield non-product-type filtrations. Our purpose is to give a more complete and readable presentation of the proofs already existing.

MSC Classification : 37A05,60J05.

Keywords : measure-preserving maps, skew products, dyadic filtrations, product-type filtration, standardness, Vershik's criteria, split-word process, nibbled-word process.

1 Introduction

The classification up to isomorphism of the measure-preserving maps in probability spaces is one of the main topics in ergodic theory and the notion of entropy is a key notion in this theory. Classical ergodic properties (ergodicity, mixing property, exactness, 'Bernoulliness') are also invariant by isomorphisms, so they can be used to prove that two dynamical systems are not isomorphic. When one works with non-invertible measure-preserving maps, it is also interesting to study the standardness or non-standardness of 'the' associated filtration. Let us explain how to construct this filtration.

1.1 Filtration associated to a measure-preserving map

Let (E, \mathcal{E}, π) be a probability space and R be a measure-preserving map on (E, \mathcal{E}, π) . The sequence of σ -fields $(R^{-n}\mathcal{E})_{n \geq 0}$ is non-increasing. Reverting time yields a filtration (namely a non-decreasing family of σ -fields) indexed by the non-positive integers.

To give a probabilistic interpretation, fix a random variable Z taking values in E , with law π , defined on some probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$. Assume the existence of a

transition kernel K such that

$$\forall y \in E, \quad \forall B \in \mathcal{E}, \quad K(y, B) = \pi[Z \in B | R(Z) = y].$$

One gets a stationary Markov process with transition kernel K by setting

$$\forall n \leq 0, \quad Z_n := R^{|n|} \circ Z.$$

Its natural filtration (indexed by the non-positive integers) is given by

$$\forall n \leq 0, \quad \mathcal{F}_n^Z := \sigma((Z_k)_{k \leq n}) = \sigma(Z_n) = Z^{-1}(R^n \mathcal{E}).$$

Of course, looking at this filtration is interesting only when the measure-preserving map R is not invertible. In this case, many ergodic properties of R can be viewed as properties of the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ thus defined.

For example, one can check ¹ that the tail σ -field at time $-\infty$ is

$$\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z := \bigcap_{n \leq 0} \mathcal{F}_n^Z = Z^{-1} \left(\bigcap_{n \leq 0} R^n \mathcal{E} \right).$$

Therefore, the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ is *Kolmogorovian* (namely $\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$ is trivial under \mathbf{P}) if and only if the transformation R is *exact* (namely $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} R^{-n} \mathcal{E}$ is trivial under π).

Another interesting property is *dyadicity*. By definition, one says that a filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ on $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$ has *independent increments* if for every $n \leq 0$, one can find a random variable ξ_n , independent of \mathcal{F}_{n-1} such that $\mathcal{F}_n = \mathcal{F}_{n-1} \vee \sigma(\xi_n)$. Such an independent complement is called an *innovation at time n* since it carries the ‘new information’ at time n . Furthermore, if each innovation ξ_n is uniform on some finite set possibly depending on n (respectively some set of size 2), the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is *poly-adic*, (respectively *dyadic*).

One checks that the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ associated to the transformation R is dyadic if and only if R is *two-to-one*, namely if for π -almost every $y \in E$, the probability measure $K(y, \cdot)$ has two atoms, each one having measure $1/2$.

For example, the map $R_2 : x \mapsto [2x]$ from $\mathbf{I} := [0, 1[$ to itself preserves the uniform measure on \mathbf{I} , and is two-to-one since the associated transition kernel K is given by

$$\forall y \in \mathbf{I}, \quad K(y, \cdot) = \frac{1}{2}(\delta_{y/2} + \delta_{(1+y)/2}).$$

Actually, R_2 acts as a Bernoulli shift on the dyadic expansions. Indeed, if the dyadic expansion of $x \in \mathbf{I}$ is

$$x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_n(x)}{2^n},$$

then the dyadic expansion of $R_2(x)$ is

$$[2x] = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{a_n(x)}{2^{n-1}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_{n+1}(x)}{2^n}.$$

¹The σ -field $Z^{-1}(\bigcap_{n \leq 0} R^n \mathcal{E})$ is contained in $\mathcal{F}_n^Z = Z^{-1}(R^n \mathcal{E})$ for every $n \leq 0$, hence in $\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$. Conversely, if $A \in \mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$, then for each $n \leq 0$, one can find $B_n \in R^n \mathcal{E}$ such that $A = Z^{-1}(B_n)$. The set $B := \liminf_{n \rightarrow -\infty} B_n$ belongs to $\bigcap_{n \leq 0} R^n \mathcal{E}$ and one has $A = Z^{-1}(B)$. The reverse inclusion follows.

Furthermore, if Z is a uniform random variable with values on \mathbf{I} , the natural filtration of the process $(Z_n)_{n \leq 0}$ defined by $Z_n = R_2^{|n|}(Z)$ is also the natural filtration of the i.i.d. sequence $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ defined by $\xi_n = a_{1-n}(Z)$. By Kolmogorov's zero-one law, the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ is Kolmogorovian since it is *product-type* (namely generated by some sequence independent random variables).

Yet, Vershik [20, 21] discovered that Kolmogorovian dyadic filtrations are not necessarily product-type and he provided counterexamples with the help of criteria which characterize the *product-type* filtrations among the dyadic filtrations. Vershik's theory has been transcribed into the language of stochastic processes by Émery & Schachermayer ([3]), and then par Laurent ([9, 10, 11]).

In the present paper, we will apply these criteria to well-known examples of dyadic filtrations associated to two-to-one measure-preserving maps. The existing proofs of their productness or non-productness are scattered in the literature, are sometimes incompletely given and difficult to read, at least for probabilists. All these examples are provided by skew products.

1.2 Skew products

Let F be a countable set with size ≥ 2 and μ a probability measure on F giving positive mass to every point of F . Call S the Bernoulli shift on $F^{\mathbf{Z}^-}$ defined by

$$S(f)(n) := f(n-1) \text{ for every } f \in F^{\mathbf{Z}^-} \text{ and } n \in \mathbf{Z}_-.$$

Here, we define Bernoulli shifts on $F^{\mathbf{Z}^-}$ instead of $F^{\mathbf{Z}^+}$ because we will work with filtrations indexed by the non-positive integers.

Given a family $(T_k)_{k \in F}$ of invertible, measure-preserving maps on some probability space (G, \mathcal{G}, Q) , we define the skew product $R = S \times (T_k)_{k \in F}$ by

$$R(f, g) := (S(f), T_{f(0)}(g)).$$

The transformation R thus defined preserves the measure $\mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}^-} \otimes Q$ and is not invertible. More precisely, the inverse images by R of any element $(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \in F^{\mathbf{Z}^-} \times G$ are the elements $(\tilde{f}x, T_x^{-1}\tilde{g})$, where $\tilde{f}x \in F^{\mathbf{Z}^-}$ is the sequence obtained by concatenation of \tilde{f} and x , namely defined by $(\tilde{f}x)(0) = x$ and $(\tilde{f}x)(n) = \tilde{f}(n+1)$ for every $n \leq -1$.

Fix an $F^{\mathbf{Z}^-} \times E$ -valued random variable $Z = (\xi, \gamma)$ with law $\mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}^-} \otimes G$. Then the law of Z given $R(Z)$ is given by the following transition kernel

$$\forall (\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \in F^{\mathbf{Z}^-} \times G, \quad K((\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}), \cdot) = \sum_{x \in F} \mu\{x\} \delta_{(\tilde{f}x, T_x^{-1}\tilde{g})}.$$

Moreover, the random variable ξ_0 has law μ and is independent of $R(Z) = (S(\xi), T_{\xi_0}(\gamma))$. Therefore, if we set

$$\forall n \leq 0, \quad \gamma_n := T_{\xi_{n+1}} \circ \dots \circ T_{\xi_0}(\gamma) \text{ and } Z_n := R^{|n|}(Z) = (S^{|n|}(\xi), \gamma_n),$$

then the recursion relation $\gamma_n = T_{\xi_n}^{-1}(\gamma_{n-1})$ shows that

- the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ has independent increments and the process $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is a sequence of innovations, namely

$$\forall n \leq 0, \mathcal{F}_n^Z = \mathcal{F}_{n-1}^Z \vee \sigma(\xi_n) \text{ with } \xi_n \text{ independent of } \mathcal{F}_{n-1}^Z;$$

- the processes $(\gamma_n)_{n \leq 0}$ and $(Z_n)_{n \leq 0}$ are stationary Markov chains whose evolutions are governed by the sequence $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$, since for every $n \leq 0$, $\gamma_n = T_{\xi_n}^{-1} \circ \gamma_{n-1}$;
- if for Q -almost every $z \in G$, the images $(T_k(z))_{k \in F}$ are pairwise distinct, then the processes $(\gamma_n)_{n \leq 0}$ and $(Z_n)_{n \leq 0}$ generate the same filtration since for every $n \leq 0$, the knowledge of $(\gamma_k)_{k \leq n}$ is sufficient to recover $(\xi_k)_{k \leq n}$.

This last remark will be used to give simpler descriptions of the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^\gamma)_{n \geq 0}$.

A first question is to determine when the transformation R is exact, namely when the tail σ -field $\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$ is trivial.

In section 2, we prove the following characterization for the particular case where the transformations T_k are the powers of a same invertible transformation T , namely when $F \subset \mathbf{Z}$ and $T_k = T^k$ for every $k \in F$. In this case, the skew product R will be denoted by $S \times T$.

Theorem 1 *Call d the greatest common divisor of all differences $k - \ell$ where k and ℓ range over F . Then $S \times T$ is exact (namely $\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}$ is trivial) if and only if T^d is ergodic.*

The difficult part in theorem 1 is the implication T^d ergodic $\Rightarrow S \times T$ exact. This implication improves on Meilijson's sufficient conditions (see [14]):

$$(d = 1 \text{ and } T \text{ ergodic}) \Rightarrow S \times T \text{ exact,}$$

$$(T^n \text{ ergodic for every } n \geq 1) \Rightarrow S \times T \text{ exact.}$$

Actually, the skew products considered by Meilijson are the natural extensions of the skew products considered by us, since Meilijson works with a bilateral shifts (whereas our shift S is unilateral), so the exactness of 'our' skew product is replaced by a slightly weaker property, namely the K -automorphism property of Meilijson's skew product. Our proof involves the spectral measure of T and differs from Meilijson's proof.

Assume that F is finite and μ is uniform, so the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ is poly-adic. A much more involved question is to determine when $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ is *product-type*, namely when it can be generated by some sequence of independent random variables. By Kolmogorov zero-one law, the triviality of the tail σ -field $\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$ is necessary. But this condition is far from being sufficient in spite of the fact that $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is a sequence of innovations. Actually, the sequence of innovations $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ may generate a filtration which is strictly included in $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ even if $\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$ is trivial. However, in some cases, the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ can be generated by some other sequence of independent random variables, but in other cases it cannot (see examples below).

1.3 Examples of two-to-one skew products

To get two-to-one skew products, we focus on the particular case where F is a pair $\{k_1, k_2\}$ and μ is the uniform measure on F . Then, when one only looks at the second component in the product $F^{\mathbf{Z}} \times E$, the apparent effect of the transformation $S \times (T_k)_{k \in F}$ is to apply at random T_{k_1} or T_{k_2} , that is why the skew product $S \times (T_k)_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ is simply denoted by denoted by $[T_{k_1}, T_{k_2}]$. In this case, the innovations $(\xi_n)_{n \geq 0}$ are uniform on the pair F , so the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is dyadic. We now present classic examples of such transformations, from the simplest to the hardest, where the associated filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$ is known to be product-type or not product-type.

The first two examples are given in Vershik's original paper [20]. The first one is only mentioned at page 744, without any proof. A proof is given in [13] in a slightly more general context. In [4], Feldman and Rudolph prove a general result: the filtration associated to $[I, T]$ is product-type when T is rank-1. This condition includes all pure-point spectrum transformations and in particular irrational rotations of the circle.

Theorem 2 (*Vershik*) *If T is an irrational rotation on the circle, then the filtrations associated to $[T, \text{Id}]$ and $[T, T^{-1}]$ are product-type. Hence, the natural filtration of an irrational random walk on the circle indexed by the non-positive integers is product-type.*

Theorem 3 (*Vershik*) *Let $\Gamma = \langle a, b \rangle$ be the free group with two generators a, b . Set $G = \{0, 1\}^\Gamma$ endowed with the uniform measure, and call T_a, T_b the translations on G defined by $T_a g(x) = g(a^{-1}x)$, $T_b g(x) = g(b^{-1}x)$. Then the filtration associated to $[T_a, T_b]$ is not product-type. Hence, the natural filtration of a random walk on G with steps given by T_a^{-1}, T_b^{-1} and indexed by the non-positive integers is not product-type.*

Let us also mention that Rudolph et Hoffman's result in [8]: if T is an irrational rotation on the circle, then $[T, \text{Id}]$ is equivalent to a unilateral Bernoulli shift. In other words, the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ associated to $[T, \text{Id}]$ can be generated by some i.i.d sequence $(\eta_n)_{n \leq 0}$ such that the process $((Z_n, \eta_n))_{n \leq 0}$ is stationary.

The next result was conjectured by Vershik and proved by Hecklen and Hoffman in [6].

Theorem 4 (*Heicklen - Hoffman*) *If T is a non-trivial bilateral Bernoulli shift, then the filtrations associated to $[T, \text{Id}]$ and $[T, T^{-1}]$ are not product-type. Hence, the natural filtration of a symmetric random walk in a random scenery on \mathbf{Z} indexed by the non-positive integers is not product-type.*

Using Sinai's theorem (namely, every automorphism of a Lebesgue space with positive entropy admits a non-trivial bilateral Bernoulli shift as a factor), one can deduce the following generalisation.

Corollary 5 *Let T be any automorphism of a Lebesgue space with positive entropy. Then the filtrations associated to $[T, \text{Id}]$ and $[T, T^{-1}]$ are not product-type.*

What happens for automorphisms with null entropy? We saw that when T is an irrational rotation, $[T, \text{Id}]$ and $[T, T^{-1}]$ provide product-type filtrations. Yet, Hoffman constructed an automorphism T with null entropy such that $[T, \text{Id}]$ provides a not-product-type filtration [7].

Theorem 6 (*Hoffman*) *One can construct an automorphism of a Lebesgue space with null entropy such that the filtration associated to $[T, \text{Id}]$ is not product-type.*

The proofs of these results rely on Vershik's criteria. The original proofs are written in the language of ergodic theory and in an allusive way (some notations are not defined and some proofs are omitted), so they are difficult to read, at least for probabilists. The purpose of the present paper is to explain Vershik's criteria with a probabilist point of view and to provide proofs that are more accessible to non-specialists.

Plan of the paper

In section 2, we establish general results on skew products and we prove theorem 1.

In section 3, we introduce Vershik's criteria to characterize product-type filtrations among dyadic filtrations indexed by the non-positive integers.

In section 4, we prove theorems 2 and 3 to warm-up.

Sections 5 and 6 are devoted to the proof of theorem 4, corollary 5 and theorem 6.

Last, section 7 provides the proof of some auxiliary results.

2 Proof of theorem 1

To prove that $S \times T$ is exact if and only if T^d is ergodic, we use a characterization of the ergodicity of T^d involving the spectral measures associated to T . Let us recall the definition of these measures. More details can be found in [2], chapter 1, section 4. Denote by \mathbf{U} the unit circle of \mathbf{C} . Since T is an automorphism of the probability space (G, \mathcal{G}, Q) , the Koopman operator $U_T : f \mapsto f \circ T$ from $L^2(Q)$ to $L^2(Q)$ is unitary. For every $f \in L^2(Q)$, there exists a unique finite measure σ_f on \mathbf{U} such that

$$\forall k \in \mathbf{Z}, \int_{\mathbf{U}} z^k d\sigma_f(z) = \langle f, U_T^k f \rangle_{L^2(Q)} = \int_G \bar{f} \times (f \circ T^k) dQ.$$

The measure σ_f thus defined is called the spectral measure of U_T associated to f .

Lemma 7 *Let $d \geq 1$ be an integer, $\mathbf{U}_d = \{z \in \mathbf{U} : z^d = 1\}$ and*

$$L^2(Q)_0 = \{g \in L^2(Q) : \int_{\mathbf{U}} g dQ = 0\}.$$

Then T^d is ergodic if and only if $\sigma_g(\mathbf{U}_d) = 0$ for every $g \in L^2(Q)_0$.

Proof. Call P_d the orthogonal projection on $\text{Ker}(U_T^d - \text{Id})$. Let $f \in L^2(Q)$. Then

$$\|P_d f\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 = \langle f, P_d f \rangle_{L^2(Q)} \text{ and } P_d f = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} f \circ T^{kd} \text{ in } L^2(Q),$$

by Von Neumann ergodic theorem (see for example [15], chapitre 2) applied to T^d . Thus

$$\|P_d f\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \langle f, f \circ T^{kd} \rangle_{L^2(Q)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{\mathbf{U}} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} z^{kd} \right) d\sigma_f(z) = \sigma_f(\mathbf{U}_d)$$

by Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem, since

$$\forall z \in \mathbf{U}, \quad \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} z^{kd} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbf{U}_d}(z).$$

But T^d is ergodic if and only if $\text{Ker}(U_T^d - \text{Id})$ contains only the Q -almost surely constant functions, namely if $P_d f = 0$ for every $f \in L^2(Q)_0$. Lemma 7 follows.

We will also use the following result on characteristic functions.

Lemma 8 Let μ be a probability measure on \mathbf{Z} . Call F its support, d the greatest common divisor of all differences $k - \ell$ where k and ℓ range over F . For every $z \in \mathbf{U}$, set

$$\forall z \in \mathbf{U}, \quad \varphi(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} \mu\{k\} z^k = \sum_{k \in F} \mu\{k\} z^k.$$

The function φ thus defined is the characteristic function of μ . Then $|\varphi(z)| = 1$ if and only if z belongs to \mathbf{U}_d .

Proof. Fix $k_0 \in F$ and let $z \in \mathbf{U}$.

For every $z \in \mathbf{U}_d$ and $k \in F$, $z^{k-k_0} = 1$ since d divides $k - k_0$, hence we get $\varphi(z) = z^{k_0}$, so $|\varphi(z)| = 1$.

Conversely, if $|\varphi(z)| = 1$, then equality holds in the triangle inequality

$$|\varphi(z)| \leq \sum_{k \in F} |\mu(k) z^k| = 1,$$

so the complex numbers $\mu(k) z^k$ lie on a same half-line with origin 0, namely $\mathbf{R}_+ z^{k_0}$. Since $|z| = 1$, we get that $z^k = z^{k_0}$ for every $k \in F$, so $z^{k-\ell} = 1$ for every $(k, \ell) \in F^2$. But Bézout's lemma tell us that d can be written as some (finite) linear combination with integer coefficients of the differences $k - \ell$ where (k, ℓ) ranges over F^2 . Hence $z^d = 1$, which achieves the proof.

We now prove theorem 1.

Proof. As we have done in the introduction, we fix a random variable $Z = (\xi, \gamma)$ with law $\pi = \mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}^-} \otimes Q$, and we set for every $n \leq 0$,

$$Z_n = (S \times T)^{|n|}(Z) = (S^{|n|}(\xi), T^{\xi_{n+1} + \dots + \xi_0}(\gamma)).$$

Then $S \times T$ is exact if and only if $\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$ is trivial, namely if $\mathbf{E}[R | \mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z] = \mathbf{E}[R]$ a.s. for every $R \in L^2(\mathcal{F}_0^Z)$. But the set of all $R \in L^2(\mathcal{F}_0^Z)$ satisfying this equality is a closed linear subspace of $L^2(\mathcal{F}_0^Z)$, so one needs only to consider the case where

$$R = \mathbf{I}_{\{(\xi_{m+1}, \dots, \xi_0) = (x_{m+1}, \dots, x_0)\}} f(\gamma),$$

with $m \leq 0$, $(x_{m+1}, \dots, x_0) \in F^{|m|}$ and $f \in L^2(Q)$.

Set $S_n = -\xi_{n+1} - \dots - \xi_0$ for every $n \leq 0$ ² and $s_m = -x_{m+1} - \dots - x_0$. Then the random variable R above can be written

$$R = \mathbf{I}_{\{(\xi_{m+1}, \dots, \xi_0) = (x_{m+1}, \dots, x_0)\}} f\left(T^{s_m}(T^{-S_m}(\gamma))\right).$$

Since $T^{-S_m}(\gamma)$ is \mathcal{F}_m^Z -measurable whereas $(\xi_{m+1}, \dots, \xi_0)$ is independent of \mathcal{F}_m^Z , one has

$$\mathbf{E}[R | \mathcal{F}_m^Z] = c f\left(T^{s_m}(T^{-S_m}(\gamma))\right) \text{ with } c := \mu\{x_{m+1}\} \cdots \mu\{x_0\}.$$

In the same way, for every $n \geq 0$, the random variable $T^{-S_{m-n}}(\gamma)$ is \mathcal{F}_{m-n}^Z -measurable whereas the random variable $S_m - S_{m-n} = \xi_{m-n+1} + \dots + \xi_m$ is independent of \mathcal{F}_{m-n}^Z and has distribution μ^{*n} , so

$$\mathbf{E}[R | \mathcal{F}_{m-n}^Z] = c \sum_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} \mu^{*n}(k) (f \circ T^{s_m - k})(T^{-S_{m-n}}(\gamma)).$$

²We choose this definition with the minus signs to have the same recursion relation as in the usual random walks, namely $S_n = S_{n-1} + \xi_n$.

Call g the orthogonal projection of f on $L^2(Q)_0$ and φ thus defined is the characteristic function of μ , like in lemma 8. Since the law of $T^{-S_{m-n}}(\gamma)$ is Q , and since T preserves Q , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}(\mathbf{E}[R|\mathcal{F}_{m-n}^Z]) &= c^2 \sum_{k,\ell \in \mathbf{Z}} \mu^{*n}(k)\mu^{*n}(\ell) \text{Cov}(f \circ T^{S_{m-k}}(\gamma), f \circ T^{S_{m-\ell}}(\gamma)) \\
&= c^2 \sum_{k,\ell \in \mathbf{Z}} \mu^{*n}(k)\mu^{*n}(\ell) \langle g \circ T^{S_{m-k}}, g \circ T^{S_{m-\ell}} \rangle_{L^2(Q)} \\
&= c^2 \int_{\mathbf{U}} \left(\sum_{k,\ell \in \mathbf{Z}} \mu^{*n}(k)\mu^{*n}(\ell) z^{k-\ell} \right) d\sigma_g(z) \\
&= c^2 \int_{\mathbf{U}} \left| \sum_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} \mu^{*n}(k) z^k \right|^2 d\sigma_g(z) \\
&= c^2 \int_{\mathbf{U}} |\varphi(z)|^{2n} d\sigma_g(z).
\end{aligned}$$

On the one hand, $\mathbf{E}[R|\mathcal{F}_{m-n}^Z] \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbf{E}[R|\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z]$ in $L^2(P)$ by the backwards martingale convergence theorem. On the other hand and $|\varphi(z)| \leq 1$ for every $z \in \mathbf{U}$ with equality if and only if $z \in \mathbf{U}_d$. Hence, letting n go to infinity, we get

$$\text{Var}(\mathbf{E}[R|\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}]) = c^2 \sigma_g(\mathbf{U}_d).$$

Hence theorem 1 follows, by lemma 7.

Remark : the implication ‘ $\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$ trivial $\implies T^d$ ergodic’ can be proved directly as follows. Assume that $\mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$ is trivial. By definition of d , the support F of μ is contained in some coset $r + d\mathbf{Z}$, so the random variables $\xi_{-n+1} + \dots + \xi_0$ takes values in $nr + d\mathbf{Z}$.

Let $B \in \mathcal{G}$ be a subset such that $T^{-d}(B) = B$. Since the subsets $T^k(B)$, $k \in \mathbf{Z}$, are also invariant by T^d , we get that for every $n \geq 0$,

$$\{\gamma \in B\} = \{T^{\xi_{-n+1} + \dots + \xi_0}(\gamma) \in T^{rn}(B)\} = \{(S \times T)^n(\xi, \gamma) \in F^{\mathbf{Z}^-} \times T^{rn}(B)\}.$$

Hence $\{\gamma \in B\} \in \mathcal{F}_{-\infty}^Z$, so $Q(B) = \mathbf{P}[\gamma \in B] \in \{0, 1\}$. The ergodicity of T^d follows.

3 Vershik’s tools

In this section, we introduce Vershik’s standardness criteria. Most of the material of this section is abridged from [12].

3.1 Immersion, productness and standardness

Unless otherwise specified, the filtrations $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ considered here are defined on a given probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$, are indexed by the non-positive integers, and have essentially separable σ -field \mathcal{F}_0 . This means that \mathcal{F}_0 can be generated by countably many events (modulo the null sets), or equivalently that the Hilbert space $L^2(\mathcal{F}_0)$ is separable.

An important notion in the theory of filtrations is the notion of immersion.

Definition 9 *Let $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ and $(\mathcal{G}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ be two filtrations. One says that $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is immersed in $(\mathcal{G}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ if for every $n \leq 0$, $\mathcal{F}_n \subset \mathcal{G}_n$ and \mathcal{F}_0 and \mathcal{G}_n are conditionally independent with regard to \mathcal{F}_n . An equivalent definition is that every martingale in $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is still a martingale in $(\mathcal{G}_n)_{n \leq 0}$.*

We refer the reader to [3] or [10] to find more details on this notion. In the present paper, the immersions will follow from the next lemma.

Lemma 10 *Let $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ and $(\mathcal{G}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ be two filtrations such that $\mathcal{F}_n \subset \mathcal{G}_n$ for every $n \leq 0$. If $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ and $(\mathcal{G}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ admit a common sequence of innovations, then $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is immersed in $(\mathcal{G}_n)_{n \leq 0}$.*

We now introduce the notion of standard filtration.

Definition 11 *A filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is standard if it is isomorphic to another filtration (possibly defined on another probability space) which is immersed in some product-type filtration (having also essentially a separable final σ -field).*

Actually, when Vershik defined standardness, he considered only poly-adic filtrations, and he defined standardness as productness: according to Vershik's definition, standard poly-adic filtrations are product-type poly-adic filtrations. Fortunately, these two definitions of standardness coincide on poly-adic filtrations.

Theorem 12 *Every poly-adic filtration immersed in some product-type filtration is also product-type.*

Actually, this non-trivial statement is a key result in Vershik's theory and relies on Vershik's second level criterion, stated later in this section.

We now introduce the three Vershik's properties (first level, intermediate and second level, according to the terminology used by Émery, Schachermayer and Laurent) which leads to the three corresponding Vershik's criteria. Defining the three Vershik's properties is interesting since each of them helps to understand the other ones, although we essentially use Vershik's intermediate criteria in the present paper.

3.2 Vershik's first level property

Let $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ be a poly-adic filtration: for each $n \leq 0$ one can find a uniform random variable ξ_n with values in some finite set F_n such that ξ_n is an *innovation at time n* of the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$, namely

$$\mathcal{F}_n = \mathcal{F}_{n-1} \vee \sigma(\xi_n) \quad \text{mod } \mathbf{P}, \quad \text{with } \xi_n \text{ independent of } \mathcal{F}_{n-1}.$$

One can check that the sequence of sizes $(|F_n|)_{n \leq 0}$ is uniquely determined. This sequence is called the *adicity* of the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$.

When $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is dyadic, the set F_n can be chosen to be independent of n . For example, we will take $F = \{0, 1\}$ (respectively $F = \{-1, 1\}$) when we work with the filtration associated to $[\text{Id}, T]$ (respectively $[T, T^{-1}]$).

A first important thing to understand is the way to get sequences of innovations from the original one.

Lemma 13 *From $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$, one can get another sequence of innovations as follows: for each $n \leq 0$, fix any \mathcal{F}_{n-1} -measurable random permutation Σ_n on F_n and set $\eta_n = \Sigma_n(\xi_n)$. Actually, one can check that every sequence of innovations of $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ with values in the sets $(F_n)_{n \leq 0}$ can be obtained in this way.*

Note that the set $\prod_{n \leq 0} F_n$ can be viewed as the set of all branches of an infinite tree: the vertices at level h are the elements of $\prod_{-h+1 \leq n \leq 0} F_n$, and the children of a vertex $(x_{-h+1}, \dots, x_0) \in \prod_{-h+1 \leq n \leq 0} F_n$ are the vertices $(x_{-h}, x_{-h+1}, \dots, x_0)$ with $x_{-h} \in F_{-h}$. The map which transforms $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ into $(\eta_n)_{n \leq 0}$ provided by lemma 13 acts as a random automorphism on this tree.

A second important thing to understand is that two different systems of innovations do not carry the same information. The simplest example to see that is the situation where $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ are (independent and) uniform on $\{-1, 1\}$ and $\eta_n = \xi_{n-1}\xi_n$ for every $n \leq 0$. By lemma 13, $(\eta_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is still a sequence of innovations, but the sequence $(\eta_n)_{n \leq 0}$ carries less information than the sequence $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$, since ξ_0 is independent of $(\eta_n)_{n \leq 0}$.

This remark opens the possibility for the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ to be product-type even if it is not generated by the original sequence of innovations $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$. The example of the simple irrational random walk on the circle \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z} , indexed by \mathbf{Z}_- , whose filtration is product-type although it is not generated by the sequence of steps, shows that this situation can actually occur, as we shall see in section 4.

The possibility or the impossibility of choosing a good sequence of innovations to approach some random variable leads Vershik's first level property.

Fix a separable complete metric space (A, d) , endowed with the Borel σ -field. Denote by $L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$ the set of all classes modulo almost sure equality of \mathcal{F}_0 -measurable random variables X taking values in A , such that for some (equivalently, for all) $a \in A$, the real-random variable $d(a, X)$ is integrable. Endow $L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$ with the distance defined by $d_1(X, Y) = \mathbf{E}[d(X, Y)]$.

Definition 14 (First level Vershik property) *Let $X \in L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$. One says that X satisfies Vershik's first level property if for every $\varepsilon > 0$, one can approach X by some measurable function of finitely many innovations of the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ so that the distance in $L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$ is at most ε .*

3.3 Vershik's intermediate property

For the sake of simplicity, we focus on dyadic filtrations only, although the definitions and theorems below can be extended to poly-adic filtrations. Actually, the simplifications occur essentially in the notations, since we work with the powers F^h of a fixed set F instead of products like $\prod_{-h+1 \leq n \leq 0} F_n$.

In the whole subsection, we fix a dyadic filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ and a sequence $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ of innovations taking values in a set F of size 2. As before, (A, d) denotes a separable complete metric space, endowed with the Borel σ -field.

The definition of Vershik's intermediate criterion relies on split-words processes, on the quotients of ℓ^1 -metrics on the sets A^{F^h} , $h \geq 0$ by the action of binary tree automorphisms, and on the notion of dispersion.

Definition 15 (Split-word processes with given final value and innovations) *Let $X \in L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$. For every $n \leq -1$, there exists an \mathcal{F}_n -measurable random map W_n from $F^{|n|}$ to A such that for each $(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \in A^{|n|}$, $X = W_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0)$ almost surely on the event $\{(\xi_{n+1}, \dots, \xi_0) = (x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0)\}$. Such a random map is almost surely unique. The process $(W_n, \xi_n)_{n \geq 0}$ thus defined is the split-word process associated to X , to the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ and to the sequence of innovations $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$.*

The existence and the essential uniqueness that legitimise the definition above will be established in section 7.

Note that W_0 is the map which sends the empty sequence $() \in F^0$ on X . Informally, if we want at time $n \leq 0$ to predict the future value of X , there are $2^{|n|}$ possible (non necessarily distinct) values, one for each possible value of $(\xi_{n+1}, \dots, \xi_0)$. By definition, $W_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0)$ is the value of X that we will get if $(\xi_{n+1}, \dots, \xi_0) = (x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0)$.

The recursion formula $W_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) = W_{n-1}(\xi_n, x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0)$ shows that the process $(W_n, \xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is an inhomogeneous Markov chain and that $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is a sequence of innovations of the the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^{W, \xi})_{n \leq 0}$. Hence the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^{W, \xi})_{n \leq 0}$ is immersed in the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$.

Moreover, if one fixes a total order on the pair F , and endowes each $F^{|n|}$ with the lexicographic order, then each W_n can be viewed as a word of length $2^{|n|}$ on the alphabet A , namely the word $(W_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0))_{(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \in F^{|n|}}$. Furthermore, W_n is the left half or the right half of W_{n-1} according to the value of ξ_n . This explains the terminology ‘split-word process’ used. Note that the alphabet can be uncountable and that the successive letters are not assumed to be independent unlike in the standard split-word process considered by Smorodinsky [18], Laurent [9], Ceillier [1].

We now give a formal model of the automorphism group G_h of the binary tree with given height $h \geq 0$. Call

$$T_h = \bigcup_{i=0}^h F^i$$

the set of all sequences of elements of F with length $\leq h$. The set T_h can be viewed as the set of all vertices of a binary tree with height $h \geq 0$: the root is the empty sequence $()$, and the children of a given vertex $(x_0, \dots, x_{i-1}) \in F^i$ with $i \leq h-1$ are the two vertices $(x_0, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i)$ where x_i ranges over F .

Assume now that $h \geq 1$. To each family of permutations $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{h-1}}$, we associate a permutation $g_\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}(T_h)$ preserving this tree structure by setting

$$g_\sigma(x_1, \dots, x_i) = (\sigma() (x_1), \sigma(x_1) (x_2), \dots, \sigma(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}) (x_i))$$

for every $(x_1, \dots, x_i) \in T_h$. In this formula, the permutations associated to the shortest sequences are performed first, and the permutation $\sigma(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$ acts on the subtrees under the vertex (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}) .

Note that for every $\sigma, \tau \in \mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{h-1}}$, $g_\tau \circ g_\sigma = g_{\tau\sigma}$ if one defines $\tau\sigma$ by

$$\tau\sigma(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i) = \tau(g_\sigma(x_1, \dots, x_i)) \circ \sigma(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i).$$

This justifies the following definition.

Definition 16 (Automorphism group of the binary tree T_h) *The set $G_h := \mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{h-1}}$ endowed with the multiplication thus defined is a group and is isomorphic to the group $(\{g_\sigma : \sigma \in G_h\}, \circ)$, so we view G_h as the automorphism group of the binary tree T_h . We get an action of the group G_h on the set A^{F^h} by setting*

$$\forall(\sigma, w) \in G_h \times A^{F^h}, \quad \sigma \cdot w := w \circ g_\sigma^{-1}.$$

When $F = \{-1, 1\}$, the set $\mathfrak{S}(F)$ is the pair $\{\text{Id}, -\text{Id}\}$. Figure 1 below gives an example of the action of such an automorphism on T_3 . The left part of figure 3.3

represents T_3 , the values of σ on each vertex of T_2 (the $+$ and $-$ stand for Id and $-\text{Id}$) and w : the images of the elements of $\{-1, 1\}^3$ ordered in lexicographic order are denoted by a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h . The right part indicates the images of each vertex of T_3 and $\sigma \cdot w$.

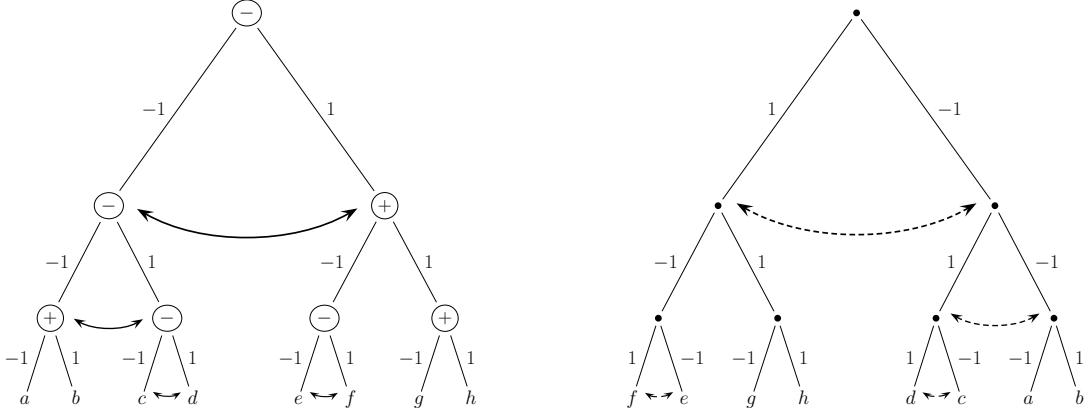


Figure 1: The map $\sigma: T_2 \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ is represented by the symbols \ominus and \oplus on all vertices of the left tree but the leaves. The permutation $g_\sigma: T_3 \rightarrow T_3$ sends each vertex of the left tree on the vertex on the right tree corresponding to the same label. The maps $w: \{-1, 1\}^3 \rightarrow A$ and $g_\sigma \cdot w: \{-1, 1\}^3 \rightarrow A$ can be identified with the words $abcde fgh$ and $feghdcab$ respectively.

We now define a metric and a metric modulo the binary tree automorphisms on A^{F^h} .

Definition 17 (Metric and pseudo-metric on A^{F^h}) For every u and v in A^{F^h} , set

$$\delta_{-h}(u, v) = \delta_h(u, v) = \frac{1}{2^h} \sum_{(x_1, \dots, x_h) \in F^h} d(u(x_1, \dots, x_h), v(x_1, \dots, x_h)),$$

$$d_{-h}(u, v) = d_h(u, v) = \min_{g \in G_h} \delta_h(u, g \cdot v).$$

Definition 18 (Dispersion of an integrable random variable) Let (E, \mathcal{E}) be any measurable space, e be a measurable pseudo-distance on (E, \mathcal{E}) , and X be a random variable with values in (E, \mathcal{E}) . By definition, the dispersion of a random variable X with regard to e , denoted by $\text{disp}(X, e)$, is the expectation of $e(X', X'')$ where X' and X'' are two independent copies of X defined on a same probability space.

Definition 19 (Vershik's intermediate property) Let $X \in L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$ and $(W_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be the split-word process associated to X , to the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ and to the sequence of innovations $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$. One says that X satisfies Vershik's intermediate criterion if $\text{disp}(W_n, d_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow -\infty$.

Actually, Vershik's intermediate criterion does not depend on the choice of the sequence of innovations considered. Indeed, replacing $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ by another sequence of innovations interchanges the letters in the split-word process associated to X according to an automorphism of the infinite binary tree. This operation preserves the dispersion of W_n since the pseudo-metric d_n identifies words which are in the same orbit modulo the tree isomorphisms.

3.4 Vershik's second level property

Keep the notations of the last subsection. Defining Vershik's second level property requires to construct a tower of measures with the help of Kantorovich-Rubinstein metrics.

Definition 20 (Kantorovich-Rubinstein metric) *Let (E, ρ) be a non-empty separable metric space. Call E' the set of all probability measures on $(E, \mathcal{B}(E))$ having a finite first moment, namely the set of all probability measures μ on $(E, \mathcal{B}(E))$ such that for some (equivalently, for all) $a \in E$,*

$$\int_E \rho(a, x) \, d\mu(x) < +\infty.$$

The Kantorovich-Rubinstein metric on E' is defined by

$$\rho'(\mu, \nu) = \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \int_{E^2} \rho(x, y) \, d\pi(x, y),$$

where $\Pi(\mu, \nu)$ denotes the set of all probability measures on $(E^2, \mathcal{B}(E^2))$ with margins μ and ν .

One can check that the metric ρ' is measurable with regard to the topology of narrow convergence. The topology defined by ρ' is finer than the topology of narrow convergence, and these two topologies coincide when (E, ρ) is compact.

The space (E', ρ') is still a separable metric space, thus the construction above can be iterated. Moreover, (E', ρ') is complete (or compact) whenever (E, ρ) is.

Definition 21 (Progressive predictions and Vershik's second level property)

Let $X \in L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$. The Vershik's progressive predictions of X with regard to $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ are the random variables $\pi_n X \in L^1(\mathcal{F}_n; A^{(n)})$ defined recursively by $\pi_0 X = X$ taking values in $(A^{(0)}, d^{(0)}) = (A, d)$, and for every $n \leq -1$, $\pi_n X = \mathcal{L}(\pi_{n-1} X | \mathcal{F}_n)$, taking values in $(A^{(n)}, d^{(n)}) = ((A^{(n-1)})', (d^{(n-1)})')$. One says that X satisfies Vershik's second level property if $\text{disp}(\pi_n X, d^{(n)}) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow -\infty$.

Actually the quantities $\text{disp}(\pi_n X, d^{(n)})$ considered in Vershik's second level property are the same as the quantities $\text{disp}(W_n, d_n)$ considered in Vershik's intermediate property, so these two properties are equivalent. One can check that they are also equivalent to the first level property. The equality $\text{disp}(\pi_n X, d^{(n)}) = \text{disp}(W_n, d_n)$ follows from the next proposition, which can be proved by recursion.

Proposition 22 *Define recursively the map $i_n : A^{F^{|n|}} \rightarrow A^{(n)}$ for every $n \leq 0$ by $i_0 = \text{Id}_A$ and for every $n \leq 0$*

$$i_{n-1}(w) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in F} \delta_{i_n(w(x, \cdot))}.$$

Then i_n is an isometry from the pseudo-metric space $(A^{F^{|n|}}, d_n)$ to the metric space $(A^{(n)}, d^{(n)})$. Moreover, given $X \in L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$, the Vershik's progressive predictions of X can be derived from the split-word process $(W_n)_{n \leq 0}$ associated to X by the formula $\pi_n X = i_n(W_n)$.

3.5 Vershik's standardness criteria

We keep the notations of the last subsection. Since the three Vershik's properties (first level, intermediate, and second level) are equivalent, we do not distinguish them below. We can now state Vershik's standardness criteria.

Theorem 23 (Vershik standardness criteria), *Let $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ be a dyadic filtration such that \mathcal{F}_0 is essentially separable. Then $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is product-type if and only if for every separable complete metric space (A, d) , every random variable in $L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$ satisfies Vershik's property.*

Actually, the properties below simplify a bit the verification of Vershik's criteria.

Proposition 24 (Stability properties)

1. *The set of all random variables in $L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$ which satisfy Vershik's property is closed in $L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$.*
2. *If $W \in L^1(\mathcal{F}_0; A)$ satisfies Vershik's property then every measurable function of W with values in some separable complete metric space satisfies Vershik's property.*
3. *Let $n \leq 0$ and $W \in L^1(\mathcal{F}_n; A)$. Endow F with the discrete metric and $A \times F^{|n|}$ with the product metric. If W satisfies Vershik's property, then the random variable $(W, \xi_{n+1}, \dots, \xi_0)$ with values in the product $A \times F^{|n|}$ satisfies Vershik's property.*

These stability properties allow us to restrict the class of separable complete metric spaces considered. For example, one can consider only \mathbf{R} endowed with the usual metric, or the class of all finite subsets of \mathbf{N} endowed with the discrete metric. And in many cases, the checking work can be reduced much more.

Proposition 25 (Natural filtrations of Markov processes) *Let $(X_n)_{n \leq 0}$ be a (possibly inhomogeneous) Markov process in which each random variables X_n takes values in some separable bounded complete metric space (possibly depending on n). Assume that the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^X)_{n \leq 0}$ is dyadic.*

1. *Then $(\mathcal{F}_n^X)_{n \leq 0}$ is product-type if and only if each X_n satisfies Vershik's property.*
2. *When the Markov process $(X_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is stationary, $(\mathcal{F}_n^X)_{n \leq 0}$ is product-type if and only X_0 satisfies Vershik's property.*

4 First examples of application of Vershik's criterion

In this section, we apply Vershik's criterion to two rather simple situations, namely $[T, T^{-1}]$ where T is an irrational rotation on the circle, and $[T_a, T_b]$ where T_a and T_b are shifts related to the free group with generators a and b .

4.1 $[T, T^{-1}]$ when T is an irrational rotation on the circle

Let $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z}$, d be the quotient pseudo-metric on \mathbf{T} of the usual metric on \mathbf{R} , and Q be the uniform measure on \mathbf{T} . Actually, d is a metric on \mathbf{T} , is invariant by translation, and bounded above by $1/2$. Fix an irrational real number α and let T be the translation $x \mapsto x + \alpha$ on \mathbf{T} . Let $F = \{-1, 1\}$, μ be the uniform law on F , and set $\pi = \mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}} \times Q$.

Since T is an automorphism of $(\mathbf{T}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{T}), Q)$, the transformation $[T, T^{-1}]$ preserves μ . Moreover, T^2 is ergodic since 2α is irrational, so $[T, T^{-1}]$ is exact, namely the filtration associated to $[T, T^{-1}]$ is Kolmogorovian. We will show that this filtration is standard.

To study this filtration, we fix a random variable γ with law Q and an independent i.i.d. sequence $(\xi_k)_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ of random variables with law μ . We define a symmetric simple random walk on \mathbf{Z} by

$$\begin{aligned} S_n &= -\xi_{n+1} - \cdots - \xi_0 & \text{if } n \leq 0, \\ S_n &= \xi_1 + \cdots + \xi_n & \text{if } n \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

with the convention $S_0 = 0$. Hence $S_n - S_{n-1} = \xi_n$ for every $n \in \mathbf{Z}$.

For every $n \in \mathbf{Z}$, set $\gamma_n = T^{-S_n}\gamma = \gamma - S_n\alpha$ and $Z_n = ((\xi_{k+n})_{n \leq 0}, \gamma_n)$. Then for every $n \leq 0$, $\gamma_n = \gamma_{n-1} - \xi_n\alpha$. As observed in the introduction, the process $(\gamma_n)_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$ is a stationary random walk governed by the sequence $(\xi_k)_{k \leq 0}$, and ‘the’ filtration associated to $[T, T^{-1}]$ is the natural filtration of $(\gamma_n)_{n \leq 0}$. By proposition 25, one only needs to check that γ_0 satisfies Vershik’s first level property.

Fix $\varepsilon > 0$. Since α is irrational, the set $\mathbf{Z} + 2\alpha\mathbf{Z}_+$ is dense in \mathbf{R} , so the classes modulo 1 of the elements of $2\alpha\mathbf{Z}_+$ form a dense subset of \mathbf{T} . Hence, \mathbf{T} can be covered by finitely many balls, $B(2\alpha\ell, \varepsilon/2)$ for $\ell \in \llbracket 0, L \rrbracket$, say. Almost surely, the sequence $(S_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is unbounded, so $\mathbf{P}[\max(S_0, \dots, S_N) - \min(S_0, \dots, S_N) \geq L] \geq 1 - \varepsilon$ whenever the integer N is sufficiently large.

Fix such an integer N and set

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &= \inf\{t \geq -N : d(\alpha(S_t - S_{-N}), \gamma_t) < \varepsilon/2\} \\ &= \inf\{t \geq -N : d(2\alpha(S_t - S_{-N}), \gamma_{-N}) < \varepsilon/2\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then with probability $\geq 1 - \varepsilon$, the balls $B(2\alpha S_k, \varepsilon/2)$ for $k \in \llbracket 0, N \rrbracket$ cover \mathbf{T} . The same result holds with the balls $B(2\alpha(S_t - S_{-N}), \varepsilon/2)$ for $t \in \llbracket -N, 0 \rrbracket$ since $(\xi_{-N+1}, \dots, \xi_0)$ has the same law as (ξ_1, \dots, ξ_N) . Hence $P[\tau \leq 0] \geq 1 - \varepsilon$.

For every $t \in \llbracket -N + 1, 0 \rrbracket$, the event $\{\tau < t\} = \{\tau \leq t - 1\}$ belongs to \mathcal{F}_{t-1}^γ so the random variable η_t defined by

$$\eta_t = (\mathbf{1}_{\{t \leq \tau\}} - \mathbf{1}_{\{t > \tau\}})\xi_t$$

is an innovation at time t of the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^\gamma)_{n \leq 0}$ and the random variable

$$\tilde{\gamma}_0 := \alpha \sum_{t=-N+1}^0 \eta_t$$

is a measurable function of $\eta_{-N+1}, \dots, \eta_0$. On the event $\{\tau \leq 0\}$, we have

$$\tilde{\gamma}_0 = \alpha \sum_{t=-N+1}^{\tau} \xi_t - \alpha \sum_{t=\tau+1}^0 \xi_t = \alpha(S_\tau - S_{-N}) - \alpha(S_0 - S_\tau),$$

so

$$d(\tilde{\gamma}_0, \gamma_0) = d(\alpha(S_\tau - S_{-N}), \gamma_\tau) < \varepsilon/2.$$

Hence

$$\mathbf{E}[d(\tilde{\gamma}_0, \gamma_0)] \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}P[\tau \leq 0] + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{P}[\tau > 0] \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon.$$

The proof is complete.

Alternative proof using Vershik's intermediate criterion. The split-word process associated to the random variable γ_0 and to the innovations $(\xi_k)_{k \leq 0}$ is $(W_n)_{n \leq 0}$, where W_n is the map from $\{-1, 1\}^{|n|}$ to \mathbf{T} defined by

$$\forall n \leq 0, W_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) = \gamma_n - \alpha(x_{n+1} + \dots + x_0).$$

To show that $\text{disp}(W_n, d_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow -\infty$, we consider two independent copies γ'_n and γ''_n of the random variable γ_n , defined on a same probability space $(\bar{\Omega}, \bar{\mathcal{A}}, \bar{\mathbf{P}})$ and call W'_n and W''_n the corresponding copies of W_n .

Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Set

$$\tau_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) = \inf \{t \in \llbracket n, 0 \rrbracket : |\gamma'_n - \gamma''_n - 2\alpha(x_{n+1} + \dots + x_t)| \leq \varepsilon/2\},$$

with the convention $\inf \emptyset = +\infty$. Since the validity of the inequality $\tau_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \leq t$ depends only on (x_{n+1}, \dots, x_t) , we can define an automorphism of the binary tree with height $|n|$ as follows: for every $t \in \llbracket -n, -1 \rrbracket$ and $(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_t) \in \{-1, 1\}^{t+n}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_t) &= -\text{Id} & \text{if } t < \tau_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0), \\ \sigma_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_t) &= -\text{Id} & \text{if } t \geq \tau_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0). \end{aligned}$$

If $\tau_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) = t \in \llbracket -n, 0 \rrbracket$, then

$$\begin{aligned} W'_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) - W''_n(g_\sigma(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0)) &= \gamma'_n - \alpha(x_{n+1} + \dots + x_0) - \gamma''_n \\ &\quad + \alpha(-x_{n+1} - \dots - x_t + x_{t+1} + \dots + x_0) \\ &= \gamma'_n - \gamma''_n - 2\alpha(x_{n+1} + \dots + x_t). \end{aligned}$$

Hence $d(W'_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0), W''_n(g_\sigma(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0))) \leq \varepsilon/2$ whenever $\tau_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \leq 0$. Since d is bounded above by $1/2$, we get

$$\text{disp}(W_n, d_n) \leq d_n(W'_n, W''_n \circ g_\sigma) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2^{|n|}} \sum_{(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \in \{-1, 1\}^{|n|}} \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) > 0\}}.$$

In this formula, the mean over all $(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \in \{-1, 1\}^{|n|}$ is the probability that a random walk on \mathbf{T} with uniform initial position and with uniformly steps in $\{-\alpha, \alpha\}$ does not reach the ball $B(0, \varepsilon/2)$ in at most $|n|$ steps. This probability goes to 0, so $\text{disp}(W_n, d_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow -\infty$. Hence $\gamma(0)$ satisfies Vershik's intermediate criterion.

Remark 26 Let α_1 and α_2 be two real numbers α_1 and α_2 such that $\alpha_1 - \alpha_2$ is irrational. Call T_1 and T_2 the translations $x \mapsto x + \alpha$ on \mathbf{T} . Then the filtration associated to $[T_1, T_2]$ is product-type.

Proof. Let $\alpha = (\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)/2$ and $\beta = (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)/2$. Consider again the process $(\gamma_n)_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$ defined above. The process $(\gamma'_n)_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$ defined by $\gamma'_n = \gamma_n - n\beta$ generates the same filtration as $(\gamma_n)_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$, which is product-type by theorem 2. But for every $n \leq 0$,

$$\gamma'_n = \gamma_{n-1} - \xi_n \alpha - n\beta = \gamma'_{n-1} - \xi_n \alpha - \beta = \begin{cases} \gamma'_{n-1} - \alpha_1 & \text{if } \xi_n = 1 \\ \gamma'_{n-1} - \alpha_2 & \text{if } \xi_n = -1 \end{cases} .$$

Since $T_1(x) \neq T_2(x)$ for every $x \in \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z}$, one deduces that the natural filtration of the process $(\gamma'_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is ‘the’ filtration associated to $[T_1, T_2]$.

4.2 Filtration associated to $[T_a, T_b]$, where T_a and T_b are shifts related to the free group with generators a and b

We prove the following slight generalization of Vershik’s theorem:

Let $\Gamma = \langle a, b \rangle$ be the free group with two generators a, b . Let A be a countable alphabet endowed with the discrete metric d and with a probability measure ν which gives a positive probability to each letter. The translations T_a and T_b on the set $G = A^\Gamma$ defined by $T_a g(x) = g(a^{-1}x)$ and $T_b g(x) = g(b^{-1}x)$ preserve the measure $Q := \nu^{\otimes \Gamma}$. Moreover, the filtration associated to $[T_a, T_b]$ is not product-type. Hence, the natural filtration of a random walk on G with steps given by T_a^{-1}, T_b^{-1} and indexed by the non-positive integers is not product-type.

Let γ be a random variable taking values in G , with law Q and $\xi = (\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ be a sequence of independent uniform random variables taking values in $F := \{a, b\}$, independent of γ . Set $Z = (\xi, \gamma)$. Then ‘the’ filtration associated to $[T_a, T_b]$ is the natural filtration of the process $(Z_n)_{n \leq 0}$ defined by

$$Z_n = [T_a, T_b]^{|n|}(Z) = ((\xi_{k+n})_{n \leq 0}, \gamma_n) \text{ where } \gamma_n = T_{\xi_{n+1}} \circ \dots \circ T_{\xi_0}(\gamma).$$

A recursion shows that for every $n \leq 0$ and $y \in \Gamma$,

$$\gamma_n(y) = \gamma(\xi_0^{-1} \dots \xi_{n+1}^{-1} y).$$

We want to apply Vershik’s intermediate criterion to the random variable $\gamma(1)$, where 1 is the identity element of the group Γ . Since $\gamma(1) = \gamma_n(\xi_{n+1} \dots \xi_0)$ and since random map γ_n is \mathcal{F}_n^Z -measurable, the split-words process associated to the random variable $\gamma(1)$ and to the sequence of innovations $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is given by

$$\forall n \leq 0, \quad \forall (x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \in F^{|n|}, \quad W_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) = \gamma_n(x_{n+1} \dots x_0).$$

Since Γ is the free group generated by a and b , the map $(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \mapsto x_{n+1} \dots x_0$ from $F^{|n|}$ to Γ is injective, so the ‘letters’ of the ‘word’ W_n , namely the random variables $W_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0)$ where $(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \in F^{|n|}$ are independent and equidistributed. Therefore, up to the numbering of the positions, the process $(W_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is the process studied by Smorodinsky in [18].

Let δ_n be the Hamming distance on $A^{F^{|n|}}$ (defined as the proportion of sites at which two maps in $A^{F^{|n|}}$ disagree), G_n the automorphism group of the binary tree with height $|n|$ and d_n be the quotient pseudo-distance of d_n by G_n . Let γ' and γ'' be two independent copies of γ , defined on a same probability space $(\overline{\Omega}, \overline{\mathcal{A}}, \overline{\mathbf{P}})$. Then γ' and γ'' are also independent copies of γ_n . Call W'_n and W''_n the corresponding copies of W_n , and S_n the number of sites in $F^{|n|}$ at which W'_n and W''_n disagree.

Since Γ is the free group generated by a and b , the map $(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \mapsto x_{n+1} \cdots x_0$ from $F^{|n|}$ to Γ is injective. Since γ' and γ'' are two independent i.i.d processes, we derive that S_n has a binomial distribution with parameters $2^{|n|}$ and p , where

$$p = 1 - \sum_{z \in A} \nu\{z\}^2 > 0.$$

By the large deviation inequality (see lemma 45), one gets for every $\varepsilon \in]0, p[$,

$$P[\delta_n(W'_n, W''_n) \leq \varepsilon] = P[S_n \leq 2^{|n|}\varepsilon] \leq f_p(\varepsilon)^{2^{|n|}} \text{ where } f_p(\varepsilon) = \left(\frac{p}{\varepsilon}\right)^\varepsilon \left(\frac{1-p}{1-\varepsilon}\right)^{1-\varepsilon}.$$

For every $\sigma \in G_n$, the random map $W''_n \circ \sigma$ is independent of W'_n and has the same law as W_n . Since the size of G_n is $2^{2^{|n|}-1}$, we get

$$P[d_n(W'_n, W''_n) \leq \varepsilon] = P[\exists \sigma \in G_n : \delta_n(W'_n, W''_n \circ g_\sigma) \leq \varepsilon] \leq \frac{1}{2} (2f_p(\varepsilon))^{2^{|n|}}.$$

The limit of $2f_p(\varepsilon)$ as ε tends to 0 is $2(1-p)$.

If $p > 1/2$, then choosing ε sufficiently small yields $P[d_n(W'_n, W''_n) \leq \varepsilon] \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow -\infty$, so $\text{disp}(W_n, d_n)$ remains bounded away from 0 since

$$\text{disp}(W_n, d_n) = \mathbf{E}[d_n(W'_n, W''_n)] \geq \varepsilon P[d_n(W'_n, W''_n) \leq \varepsilon].$$

Hence the random variable $\gamma(1)$ does not satisfy Vershik's criterion.

If $p \leq 1/2$, one can fix a positive integer d and consider the split-word process associated to the random variable $(\gamma(1), \dots, \gamma(a^{d-1}))$ with values in A^d , namely the process $(\widetilde{W}_n)_{n \leq 0}$ where \widetilde{W}_n is the map from $F^{|n|}$ to A given by

$$\widetilde{W}_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) = (\gamma_n(x_{n+1} \cdots x_0), \dots, \gamma_n(x_{n+1} \cdots x_0 a^{d-1})).$$

Replacing γ_n with γ' and γ'' yields two independent copies \widetilde{W}'_n and \widetilde{W}''_n . Since the products $x_{n+1} \cdots x_0 a^k$ with $(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) \in F^{|n|}$ and $k \in \llbracket 0, d-1 \rrbracket$ are all different, the number of sites in $F^{|n|}$ at which \widetilde{W}'_n and \widetilde{W}''_n disagree has a binomial distribution with parameters $2^{|n|}$ and p_d , where

$$p_d = 1 - \left(\sum_{z \in A} \nu\{z\}^2 \right)^d.$$

If d is chosen sufficiently large, $p_d > 1/2$ so the same argument as above applies and the random variable $(\gamma(1), \dots, \gamma(a^{d-1}))$ does not satisfy Vershik's criterion.

In all cases, the natural filtration of the process $(Z_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is not product type. The proof is complete.

Remark 27 *The same argument as the argument given at the end of subsection 5.3 shows that this conclusion still holds if the alphabet (A, d) is replaced by any separable complete metric space.*

5 Proof of theorem 4 and corollary 5

We now focus with the transformation $[T, T^{-1}]$, when T is a Bernoulli shift. We will see at the end of the section why the situation is essentially the same if one looks at $[T, \text{Id}]$.

Thus, in the whole section, F denotes the pair $\{-1, 1\}$, so $\mathfrak{S}(F) = \{-\text{Id}, \text{Id}\}$, and μ denotes the uniform law on the pair F . We fix a separable complete metric space (A, d) , called alphabet A , endowed with a non-trivial probability measure Q . Let T be the shift on $G = A^{\mathbf{Z}}$ defined by $T(g)(s) = g(s - 1)$. Then the transformation $[T, T^{-1}]$ is the map from $F^{\mathbf{Z}^-} \times A^{\mathbf{Z}}$ to itself defined by

$$[T, T^{-1}](f, g) = \left((f(k - 1))_{k \leq 0}, (g(s - f(0)))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}} \right).$$

This maps preserves the probability measure $\pi = \mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}^-} \otimes \nu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}$.

Let $(\xi_n)_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$ and $\gamma = (\gamma(s))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}}$ be two independent random variables with respective laws $\mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}$ and $\nu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}$, defined on same probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$. Then $Z := ((\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}, \gamma)$ is a random variable with law π . For every $n \leq 0$, let

$$Z_n = [T, T^{-1}](Z) = ((\xi_{k+n})_{k \leq 0}, (\gamma(s - \xi_0 - \dots - \xi_{n+1}))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}})$$

By definition, the filtration associated to $[T, T^{-1}]$ is the natural filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ of the process $(Z_n)_{n \leq 0}$ thus defined.

5.1 Random walk in a random scenery and nibbled words process

Let $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$ be the symmetric simple random walk on \mathbf{Z} by

$$\begin{aligned} S_n &= -\xi_{n+1} - \dots - \xi_0 & \text{if } n \leq 0, \\ S_n &= \xi_1 + \dots + \xi_n & \text{if } n \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

with the convention $S_0 = 0$. The random variables $(\xi_n)_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$ are the steps for this symmetric simple random walk since $S_n - S_{n-1} = \xi_n$ for every $n \in \mathbf{Z}$.

The i.i.d. process γ is independent of this random walk and we view it as a random scenery: the random variable $\gamma(s)$ is the color at the site s . At time n , the position of the symmetric random walk is S_n , and the color seen at this position is $\gamma(S_n)$. The process $((\xi_n, \gamma(S_n)))_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$ is called a *random walk in a random scenery* and the shifted map $\gamma(S_n + \cdot)$ is the scenery viewed from the position S_n . A survey of the results involving $[T, T^{-1}]$ and the random walk in a random scenery (in \mathbf{Z}^d) can be found in Steif's paper [19].

For every $n \leq 0$, $Z_n = ((\xi_{k+n})_{k \leq 0}, \gamma(S_n + \cdot))$ so $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ is the natural filtration of the process $(\xi_n, \gamma(S_n + \cdot))_{n \leq 0}$. Actually, $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ is also the natural filtration of the process $(\gamma(S_n + \cdot))_{n \leq 0}$ since $T^{-1}(g) \neq T(g)$ for $\nu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}^-}$ -almost every $g \in A^{\mathbf{Z}}$. Using the recurrence of the symmetric simple random on \mathbf{Z} , one could check that $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ is also the natural filtration of the process $((\xi_n, \gamma(S_n)))_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$. We shall not use these refinements.

From the process $((\xi_n, \gamma(S_n + \cdot)))_{n \leq 0}$, we define a process $(W_n)_{n \leq 0}$ by

$$W_n = (\gamma(S_n + i))_{i \in I_n} \text{ where } I_n = I_{|n|} = \{-|n|, 2 - |n|, \dots, |n| - 2, |n|\}.$$

Note that I_n is exactly the set of all possible values of the sum $x_{n+1} + \dots + x_0$ when x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0 range over $F = \{-1, 1\}$.

The process $(W_n, \xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ thus defined was studied by Laurent in [9] and called *nibbled-word process*. The properties follow immediatly from its definition.

Proposition 28 (Properties of the process $(W_n, \xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$) For every $n \leq 0$,

- the random word W_n is the projection on A^{I_n} of the random variable $\gamma(S_n + \cdot)$, therefore it is \mathcal{F}_n^Z -measurable.
- the random word W_n is made with $|n| + 1$ letters chosen independently in the alphabet A according to the law ν ;
- since $W_n = (W_{n-1}(\xi_n + k))_{k \in I_n}$, one gets W_n from W_{n-1} by suppressing the first letter if $\xi_n = 1$ and the last letter if $\xi_n = -1$;
- the random variable ξ_n is uniform on $F = \{-1, 1\}$ and independent on \mathcal{F}_{n-1}^Z , therefore $\mathcal{F}_{n-1}^{W, \xi} = \sigma((W_k, \xi_k)_{k \leq n-1})$.

As a result, $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is a sequence of innovations of the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^{W, \xi})_{n \leq 0}$, so $(\mathcal{F}_n^{W, \xi})_{n \leq 0}$ is dyadic. But $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is also a sequence of innovations of the larger filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$, hence $(\mathcal{F}_n^{W, \xi})_{n \leq 0}$ is immersed in $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$.

Therefore, to prove that $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ is not product-type, it is sufficient to prove that $(\mathcal{F}_n^{W, \xi})_{n \leq 0}$ is not product-type. By lemma 23, it is sufficient to check that the random variable $\gamma(0) = \gamma(S_0) = W_0(0)$ does not satisfy the Vershik property. We will work with the Vershik intermediate property, so we introduce the split-word process associated to $\gamma(0)$ and to the innovations $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$. This processus is closely related to the nibbled-word process introduced above. Some notations are necessary to spell out this relation.

Definition 29 Let $n \leq 0$. Call s_n the map from $F^{|n|}$ to I_n defined by $s_n(x_{n+1} \cdots, x_0) = x_{n+1} + \cdots + x_0$. To every word $w \in A^{I_n}$, we associate its extension $\bar{w} = w \circ s_n \in A^{F^{|n|}}$.

Figure 2 illustrates the example where $n = -3$ and w sends $-3, -1, 1, 3$ on a, b, c, d respectively (so w is identified with the word $abcd$). Each element of F^3 is viewed as a leaf of the binary tree with height 3. The map \bar{w} send the elements of F^3 in lexicographic order on a, b, b, c, b, c, c, d .

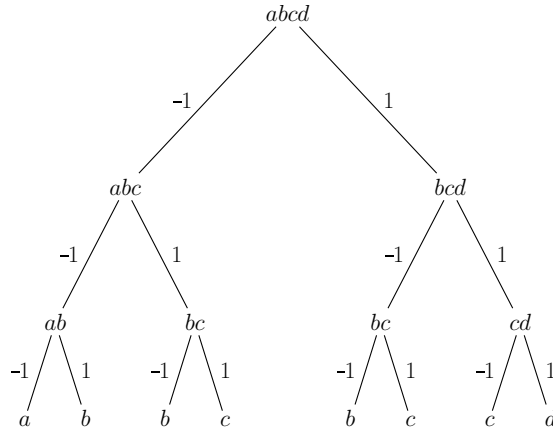


Figure 2: $\bar{w}: F^3 \rightarrow A$ when $w = abcd \in A^{I_3}$.

Proposition 30 *The split-word process associated to the random variable $\gamma(0)$ and to the innovations $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is $(\overline{W}_n, \xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$. This process generates the same filtration as the nibbled-word process $(W_n, \xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$.*

Proof. For every $n \leq 0$, the random map \overline{W}_n is \mathcal{F}_n^Z -measurable and

$$\gamma(0) = \gamma(S_n + \xi_{n+1} + \dots + \xi_0) = W_n(\xi_{n+1} + \dots + \xi_0) = \overline{W}_n(\xi_{n+1}, \dots, \xi_0),$$

so $\gamma(0)$ coincides with $\overline{W}_n(x_{n+1} \dots, x_0)$ on the event $\{(\xi_{n+1}, \dots, \xi_0) = (x_{n+1} \dots, x_0)\}$. Last, \overline{W}_n generates the same filtration as W_n since the map $w \mapsto w \circ s_n$ from A^{I_n} to $A^{F^{|n|}}$ is injective. The result follows.

To negate Vershik's intermediate criterion, we use the metric δ_n and the pseudo-metric d_n on $A^{F^{|n|}}$ introduced in definition 17. We have to show that $\text{disp}(\overline{W}_n, d_n)$ does not tend to 0 as n goes to $-\infty$. This leads us to search positive lower bounds for the expectation of $d_n(\overline{u}, \overline{v})$, where u and v are chosen independently in A^{I_n} according to the law $\nu^{\otimes I_n}$.

5.2 Key-lemmas

Keep in mind the notations introduced in section 3. We begin with the case where A is countable and d is the discrete metric on A . Thus, δ_n is the Hamming metric on $A^{F^{|n|}}$ (normalized to vary between 0 and 1), and d_n is the quotient pseudo-metric by the action of the automorphism group of the binary tree with height $|n|$.

To get a positive lower bound of $\text{disp}(\overline{W}_n, d_n)$ for arbitrary large (negative) integers n , we will make a recursion. The next lemma will help us to start the recursion. This lemma is stated and its proof is outlined in [6].

Before stating it, we must define the adjoint of a word. To handle with non-negative integers, we denote by h , or by H the height of the trees considered.

Definition 31 *Let $w \in A^{I_h}$. Call $w^r \in A^{I_h}$ the word obtained by reversing the word w , namely $w^r(i) = w(-i)$ for every $i \in I_h$.*

If w can be identified with a word compound with two alternating letters (for example $ababa \dots$), we define its adjoint $w^ \in A^{I_h}$ as the word obtained from w by switching these two letters (for example $babab \dots$).*

Otherwise, we define its adjoint by $w^ = w^r$.*

Note that the only possibility for $w^* \neq w^r$ only when w is a word with odd length and compound with two alternating letters; in this case, w is palindromic. Moreover, the reversal map and the adjoint map are involutions and they commute.

Lemma 32 *Let $u, v \in A^{I_h}$. Then \overline{u} and \overline{v} belong to the same orbit under the action of G_h if and only if $v = u$ or $v = u^*$.*

Proof. The 'if' part will not be used in the sequel and can be proved directly. Indeed, $\overline{u^r} = \sigma \cdot \overline{u}$ where $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{h-1}}$ is the map which sends every vertex of T_{h-1} on $-\text{Id}$. Moreover, if $u = abab\dots$ then for every $(x_1, \dots, x_h) \in F^h$, $\overline{u}(x_1, \dots, x_h)$ is a or b according the number of 1 among x_1, \dots, x_h is even or odd. The converse holds for $\overline{u^*}(x_1, \dots, x_h)$.

Therefore, $\overline{u^r} = \sigma \cdot \overline{u}$ where $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{h-1}}$ is the map which sends the root $()$ on $-\text{Id}$ and every other vertex on Id .

We now prove the ‘only if’ part, by recursion on h . The result is immediate when $h = 0$ or $h = 1$.

Let $h \geq 2$. Assume that the result holds at the rank $h - 1$. Let $u, v \in A^{I_h}$ and $\sigma \in F^{T_{h-1}}$ such that $\overline{v} = \overline{u} \circ g_\sigma$.

1. Case where $\sigma() = \text{Id}$. Call σ_1 et σ_{-1} the elements of $F^{T_{h-2}}$ defined by $\sigma_1(x) = \sigma(1, x)$ and $\sigma_{-1} = \sigma(-1, x)$ for every $x \in T_{h-2}$. Let $u_+ = (u(i+1))_{i \in I_{h-1}}$ and $u_- = (u(i-1))_{i \in I_{h-1}}$ be the words obtained from u by suppressing the first and the last letter. Then for every $(x_1, \dots, x_h) \in F^h$,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{v_{x_1}}(x_2, \dots, x_h) &= v_{x_1}(x_2 + \dots + x_h) \\ &= v(x_1 + \dots + x_h) \\ &= \overline{v}(x_1, \dots, x_h) \\ &= \overline{u}(x_1, g_{\sigma_{x_1}}(x_2, \dots, x_h)) \\ &= u(x_1 + s_{h-1}(g_{\sigma_{x_1}}(x_2, \dots, x_h))) \\ &= u_{x_1}(s_{h-1}(g_{\sigma_{x_1}}(x_2, \dots, x_h))) \\ &= \overline{u_{x_1}}(g_{\sigma_{x_1}}(x_2, \dots, x_h)). \end{aligned}$$

Using the recursion hypothesis, we get

$$\begin{cases} \overline{v_-} = \overline{u_-} \circ g_{\sigma_{-1}} \\ \overline{v_+} = \overline{u_+} \circ g_{\sigma_1} \end{cases} \quad \text{so} \quad \begin{cases} v_- = u_- \text{ or } (u_-)^* \\ v_+ = u_+ \text{ or } (u_+)^* \end{cases}.$$

Four cases have to be considered.

1. If $v_- = u_-$ and $v_+ = u_+$, then $v = u$.
2. If $v_- = u_-$ and $v_+ = (u_+)^*$, then
 - either u_+ has the form $ababa\dots$ and v_+ has the form $babab$, hence the equality $v_- = u_-$ entails $a = b$, so $v_+ = u_+$ and $v = u$;
 - or $(u_+)^* = (u_+)^r$, hence the equalities $v_- = u_-$ and $v_+ = (u_+)^r$ yield that for every $i \in I_{h-1} \setminus \{h-1\}$, $u_+(i) = u_-(i+2) = v_-(i+2) = v_+(i) = u_+(-i)$, so $(u_+)^r = u_+$ and $v = u$.
3. If $v_- = (u_-)^*$ and $v_+ = u_+$, we get in the same way $v = u$.
4. If $v_- = (u_-)^*$ and $v_+ = (u_+)^*$, then at least one of the three following cases below occurs:
 - u_+ has the form $ababa\dots$ and v_+ has the form $babab\dots$, so the equality $v_- = (u_-)^*$ forces the alternation of the letters a and b to occur from the very beginning of the words u and v , and $v = u^*$.
 - u_- has the form $ababa\dots$ and v_- has the form $babab\dots$, so we get in the same way that $v = u^*$.
 - $v_+ = (u_+)^r$ and $v_- = (u_-)^r$, namely for every $i \in I_{h-1}$, $v(i+1) = u(-i+1)$ and $v(i-1) = u(-i-1)$. Hence, for every $j \in I_{h-2}$, $v(j+2) = u(-j) = v(j-2)$, so v has the form $ababa\dots$. Therefore, $u = ababa\dots = v$ if h is odd, and $u = babab\dots = v$ if h is even.

2. Case where $\sigma() = -\text{Id}$. Since $\overline{v^r} = \overline{u} \circ g_{-\sigma}$ and $-\sigma() = \text{Id}$, the first case already proved can be applied to u et v^r , so $v^r = u$ or $v^r = u^*$, which yields the desired result.

Hence, in all cases, one has $v = u$ or $v = u^*$. The proof is complete.

The next lemma will provide the recursion step. It is buried in the proof of Hecklen and Hoffman [6] but deserves to be given separately for the sake of clarity. The proof we give is close to Hoffman's proof but we change some constants and use sharpest inequalities to get better bounds.

Lemma 33 *Let $C \geq 2$, $\eta > 0$, $\epsilon = (1 - 3C^{-2})\eta > 0$ and two integers entiers $h \geq 1$ et $H \geq C^6 h$. Set $D = H - h$.*

If $u, v \in A^{I_H}$ satisfy $d_H(\overline{u}, \overline{v}) < \epsilon$, then there exists i, j, k, l in I_D such that $|i| \leq C(\sqrt{H} - \sqrt{h})$, $|j| \leq C(\sqrt{H} - \sqrt{h})$, $j - i > 2C\sqrt{h}$ and

$$d_h\left(\overline{u(i+\cdot)}|_{I_h}, \overline{v(k+\cdot)}|_{I_h}\right) < \eta,$$

$$d_h\left(\overline{u(j+\cdot)}|_{I_h}, \overline{v(l+\cdot)}|_{I_h}\right) < \eta.$$

Proof. Fix $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{H-1}}$ such that $\delta_H(\overline{u}, \overline{v \circ g_\sigma}) < \epsilon$.

Split each H -uple $x = (x_1, \dots, x_H) \in F^H$ into $y = (x_1, \dots, x_D) \in F^D$ and $z = (x_{D+1}, \dots, x_H) \in F^h$. Set $s(y) = x_1 + \dots + x_D$, $s(z) = x_{D+1} + \dots + x_H$ and call σ_y the element of $\mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{h-1}}$ defined by $\sigma_y(z_1, \dots, z_i) = \sigma(y, z_1, \dots, z_i)$ for every $0 \leq i \leq h-1$ and $(z_1, \dots, z_i) \in F^i$. Then

$$\overline{u}(x) = u(s(y) + s(z)) = \overline{u(s(y) + \cdot)}|_{I_h}(z),$$

and

$$\overline{v}(g_\sigma(x)) = v\left(s(g_\sigma(y)) + s(g_{\sigma_y}(z))\right) = \overline{v\left(s(g_\sigma(y)) + \cdot\right)}|_{I_h}(g_{\sigma_y}(z)).$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_H(\overline{u}, \overline{v \circ g_\sigma}) &= 2^{-D} \sum_{y \in F^D} \delta_h\left(\overline{u(s(y) + \cdot)}|_{I_h}, \overline{v\left(s(g_\sigma(y)) + \cdot\right)}|_{I_h} \circ g_{\sigma_y}\right) \\ &\geq 2^{-D} \sum_{y \in F^D} d_h\left(\overline{u(s(y) + \cdot)}|_{I_h}, \overline{v\left(s(g_\sigma(y)) + \cdot\right)}|_{I_h}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$E_1 = \left\{y \in F^D : d_h\left(\overline{u(s(y) + \cdot)}|_{I_h}, \overline{v\left(s(g_\sigma(y)) + \cdot\right)}|_{I_h}\right) \geq \eta\right\},$$

$$E_2 = \left\{y \in F^D : |s(y)| > C(\sqrt{H} - \sqrt{h})\right\} \text{ and } E = F^D \setminus (E_1 \cup E_2).$$

Since $\delta_H(\overline{u}, \overline{v \circ g_\sigma}) < \epsilon$, Markov inequality shows that $\mu^{\otimes D}(E_1) \leq \epsilon/\eta = 1 - 3C^{-2}$.

But when y is chosen according to the probability measure $\mu^{\otimes D}$, $s(y)$ has expectation 0 and variance D , so Bienaymé-Chebycheff inequality yields

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^{\otimes D}(E_2) &\leq \frac{H - h}{C^2(\sqrt{H} - \sqrt{h})^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{C^2} \times \frac{\sqrt{H} + \sqrt{h}}{\sqrt{H} - \sqrt{h}} \\ &= \frac{1}{C^2} \times \left(1 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{H/h} - 1}\right) \\ &\leq \frac{9}{7C^2} \text{ since } \sqrt{H/h} \geq C^3 \geq 8. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\mu^{\otimes d}(E) \geq \frac{3}{C^2} - \frac{9}{7C^2} = \frac{12}{7C^2}.$$

But $s(F^D) = I_D = \{2k - D : k \in \llbracket 0, d \rrbracket\}$ and for every $k \in \llbracket 0, d \rrbracket$,

$$\mu^{\otimes d} \{y \in F^D : s(y) = 2k - D\} = \frac{1}{2^D} \binom{D}{k} \leq \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi D}},$$

by lemma 46 in section 7. Since $2C\sqrt{h} \geq 4$, any interval $J \subset \mathbf{R}$ with length $2C\sqrt{h}$ contains at most $(3/2)C\sqrt{h}$ points of I_D , so

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^{\otimes d} \{y \in F^D : s(y) \in J\} &\leq \frac{3}{2}C\sqrt{h} \times \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi D}} \\ &= \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \times \frac{C}{\sqrt{C^6 - 1}} \\ &\leq \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{7\pi}} \times \frac{1}{C^2} \text{ since } C^6 - 1 \geq \frac{63}{64}C^6 \\ &< \frac{12}{7C^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\mu^{\otimes d}(E) \geq 12/(7C^2)$, we deduce that $\max s(E) - \min s(E) > 2C\sqrt{h}$. Choosing y_1 and y_2 in E achieving the minimum and the maximum of s over E and setting $i = s(y_1)$, $j = s(y_2)$, $k = s(g_\sigma(y_1))$, $l = s(g_\sigma(y_2))$ yields the result.

We now introduce some notations to continue the proof.

Notations 34 For every $H \in \mathbf{Z}_+$ and $C > 0$, we define the C -middle of I_H by

$$I_{H,C} = I_H \cap [-C\sqrt{H}, C\sqrt{H}].$$

For every $u \in A^{I_H}$, $C > 0$ and $\epsilon > 0$, let

$$\Theta_{\epsilon,C}(u) = \{w \in A^{I_H} : \exists v \in A^{I_H}, w = v \text{ on } I_{H,C} \text{ and } d_H(\bar{u}, \bar{v}) < \epsilon\}.$$

Last, set

$$p_H(\epsilon, C) = \max_{u \in A^{I_H}} \mathbf{P}[W_{-H} \in \Theta_{\epsilon,C}(u)].$$

Remark 35 The larger is C , the smaller is the set $\Theta_{\epsilon,C}(u)$. If $C \geq \sqrt{H}$, $I_{H,C} = I_H$ so $\Theta_{\epsilon,C}(u)$ is the set of all $w \in I_H$ such that $d_H(\bar{u}, \bar{w}) < \epsilon$. Therefore, in all cases,

$$\mathbf{P}[d_H(\bar{u}, \overline{W_{-H}}) < \epsilon] \leq \mathbf{P}[W_{-H} \in \Theta_{\epsilon,C}(u)] \leq p_H(\epsilon, C),$$

so

$$\mathbf{E}[d_H(\bar{u}, \overline{W_{-H}})] \geq \epsilon \mathbf{P}[d_H(\bar{u}, \overline{W_{-H}}) \geq \epsilon] \geq \epsilon(1 - p_H(\epsilon, C)).$$

Since this inequality holds for every $u \in A^{I_H}$, we get

$$\text{disp}(\overline{W_{-H}}, d_H) \geq \epsilon(1 - p_H(\epsilon, C)).$$

The remark above explains the interest to bound $\epsilon(1 - p_H(\epsilon, C))$ away from 0 to negate Vershik's intermediate criterion. The last lemma provides the inequality below.

Corollary 36 *Take, like in the previous lemma, $C \geq 2$, $\eta > 0$, $\epsilon = (1 - 3C^{-2})\eta > 0$ and two integers $h \geq 1$ and $H \geq C^6 h$. Then*

$$p_H(\epsilon, C) \leq C^2 H^3 p_h(\eta, C)^2 / 2.$$

Proof. Let $X = (X_k)_{k \in I_H}$ be a random word whose letters are chosen independently and according to the law ν .

On the event $\{X \in \Theta_{\epsilon, C}(u)\}$, there exists some $v \in A^{I_H}$ such that X coincides with v on $I_{H, C}$ and $d_H(\bar{u}, \bar{v}) < \epsilon$. Let $D = H - h$. The last lemma provides the existence of i, j, k, l in I_D such that $|i| \leq C(\sqrt{H} - \sqrt{h})$, $|j| \leq C(\sqrt{H} - \sqrt{h})$, $j - i > 2C\sqrt{h}$ and

$$d_h(\overline{v(i + \cdot)}|_{I_h}, \overline{u(k + \cdot)}|_{I_h}) < \eta,$$

$$d_h(\overline{v(j + \cdot)}|_{I_h}, \overline{u(l + \cdot)}|_{I_h}) < \eta.$$

The inequalities satisfied by i and j entail

$$i + I_{h, C} \subset I_{H, C}, \quad j + I_{h, C} \subset I_{H, C}, \quad \text{and} \quad (i + I_{h, C}) \cap (j + I_{h, C}) = \emptyset.$$

Therefore, the random variables $X(i + \cdot)|_{I_h}$ and $X(j + \cdot)|_{I_h}$ coincide on $I_{h, C}$ with $v(i + \cdot)|_{I_h}$ and $v(j + \cdot)|_{I_h}$ and they are independent.

This shows that this event $\{X \in \Theta_{\epsilon, C}(u)\}$ is contained in the union of the events

$$\{X(i + \cdot)|_{I_h} \in \Theta_{\eta, C}(u(k + \cdot)|_{I_h}); X(j + \cdot)|_{I_h} \in \Theta_{\eta, C}(u(l + \cdot)|_{I_h})\}$$

over all (i, j, k, l) satisfying the conditions above. Each one of these events has probability $\leq p_h(\eta, C)^2$, and since $C(\sqrt{H} - \sqrt{h}) \leq C\sqrt{H} - 1$, the number of 4-uples (i, j, k, l) considered is bounded above by $(C\sqrt{H})^2 / 2 \times (D + 1)^2 \leq C^2 H^3 / 2$. The result follows.

5.3 End of the proof

We begin with the case where the alphabet (A, d) is countable and endowed with the discrete metric.

To prove theorem 4, we show that $\gamma(0)$ does not satisfy Vershik's intermediate criterion. By remark 35, it suffices to find sequences $(C_k)_{k \geq 0}$, $(H_k)_{k \geq 0}$, and $(\epsilon_k)_{k \geq 0}$ tending respectively to $+\infty$, $+\infty$ and $\epsilon_\infty > 0$, such that the probabilities $p_{H_k}(\epsilon_k, C_k)$ tend to 0. Lemma 32 and corollary 36 enable us to do that.

Lemma 37 *Let q be the mass of the heaviest atom of ν (so $0 < q < 1$). Define the sequences $(C_k)_{k \geq 0}$, $(H_k)_{k \geq 0}$, $(\epsilon_k)_{k \geq 0}$ and $(\alpha_k)_{k \geq 0}$ by $C_0 = 2$, H_0 equals the square of some even positive integer, $\epsilon_0 = 2^{-H_0}$, $\alpha_0 = 2q^{C_0\sqrt{H_0}+1}$ and for every $k \geq 1$,*

$$C_k = k + 1, \quad H_k = C_k^6 H_{k-1}, \quad \epsilon_k = \epsilon_{k-1}(1 - 3C_k^{-2}), \quad \alpha_k = C_k^2 H_k^3 \alpha_{k-1}^2 / 2.$$

Then for every $k \in \mathbf{N}$,

$$p_{H_k}(\epsilon_k, C_k) \leq \alpha_k.$$

Moreover, the sequence $(\epsilon_k)_{k \geq 0}$ has a positive limit and if H_0 is large enough, the sequence $(\alpha_k)_{k \geq 0}$ tends to 0.

Proof. We make a recursion on the integer k .

Given $u, v \in A^{I_{H_0}}$, the inequality $d_{H_0}(\bar{u}, \bar{v}) < \epsilon_0 = 2^{-H_0}$ holds only when \bar{u} and \bar{v} belong to a same orbite under the action of G_{H_0} , namely when $v = u$ or $v = u^*$, thanks to lemma 32. But $I_{H_0, C_0} = \{2j - C_0\sqrt{H_0} : j \in \llbracket 0, C_0\sqrt{H_0} \rrbracket\}$, hence for every $u \in A^{I_{H_0}}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}[X \in \Theta_{\epsilon_0, C_0}(u)] &\leq \mathbf{P}[X = u \text{ sur } I_{H_0, C_0}] + \mathbf{P}[X = u^* \text{ sur } I_{H_0, C_0}] \\ &\leq 2q^{C_0\sqrt{H_0}+1} = \alpha_0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $p_{H_0}(\epsilon_0, C_0) \leq \alpha_0$

Let $k \geq 1$. Assume $p_{H_{k-1}}(\epsilon_{k-1}, C_{k-1}) \leq \alpha_{k-1}$. Then corollary 36 applied to $C = C_k \geq 2$, $h = H_{k-1}$, $H = C^6 h = H_k$, $\eta = \epsilon_{k-1}$ and $\epsilon = (1 - 3C_k^{-2})\eta = \epsilon_k$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} p_{H_k}(\epsilon_k, C_k) &\leq C_k^2 H_k^3 p_{H_{k-1}}(\epsilon_{k-1}, C_k)^2 / 2 \\ &\leq C_k^2 H_k^3 p_{H_{k-1}}(\epsilon_{k-1}, C_{k-1})^2 / 2 \text{ since } C_k \geq C_{k-1} \\ &\leq C_k^2 H_k^3 \alpha_{k-1}^2 / 2 = \alpha_k, \end{aligned}$$

which achieves the recursion.

Next,

$$\epsilon_k = \epsilon_0 \prod_{i=1}^k \left(1 - \frac{3}{(i+1)^2}\right) \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \epsilon_0 \prod_{n \geq 2} \left(1 - \frac{3}{n^2}\right) = 2^{-H_0} \frac{\sin(\pi\sqrt{3})}{-2\pi\sqrt{3}} > 0.$$

Last, equality $\log_2 \alpha_k = 2 \log_2 \alpha_{k-1} + 3 \log_2 H_k + 2 \log_2 C_k - 1$, yields by recursion

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{-k} \log_2 \alpha_k &= \log_2 \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k 2^{-i} (3 \log_2 H_i + 2 \log_2 C_i - 1), \\ &= (2\sqrt{H_0} + 1) \log_2 q + 3 \log_2 H_0 \\ &\quad + 18 \sum_{i=1}^k 2^{-i} \log_2((i+1)!) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^k 2^{-i} \log_2(i+1). \end{aligned}$$

But

$$\sum_{i=1}^{+\infty} 2^{-i} \log_2((i+1)!) = \sum_{i=1}^{+\infty} 2^{-i} \sum_{j=2}^{i+1} \log_2 j = \sum_{j=2}^{+\infty} \log_2 j \sum_{i=j-1}^{+\infty} 2^{-i} = 4 \sum_{j=2}^{+\infty} 2^{-j} \log_2 j.$$

Hence

$$2^{-k} \log_2 \alpha_k \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow +\infty} (2\sqrt{H_0} + 1) \log_2 q + 3 \log_2 H_0 + 76 \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-j} \log_2 j.$$

Since $q < 1$ and

$$76 \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-j} \log_2 j < 55,7 < +\infty,$$

we get a negative limit provided H_0 is large enough, which yields the convergence of $(\alpha_k)_{k \geq 0}$ to 0. The proof is complete

Remark 38 When $q = 1/2$, one can choose $H_0 = 44^2 = 1936$, which is far less than the choice $H_0 = 40000$ made by Heicklen and Hoffman.

We now deduce the result in the general case, namely when (A, d) is a separable metric complete space endowed with a non-trivial probability measure ν . Recall that we chose a random variable $Z = ((\xi_k)_{k \leq 0}, (\gamma(s))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}})$ with law $\mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}^-} \otimes \nu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}$ and defined ‘the’ filtration of $[T, T^{-1}]$ as the natural filtration of the process $(Z_n)_{n \leq 0}$ defined by

$$Z_n = [T, T^{-1}](Z) = ((\xi_{k+n})_{k \leq 0}, (\gamma(s - \xi_0 - \dots - \xi_{n+1}))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}}).$$

Fix a Borel subset B of A such that $p := \nu(B) \in]0, 1[$, set $Z' = ((\xi_k)_{k \leq 0}, (\mathbf{1}_B(\gamma(s)))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}})$ and call T' the shift on $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbf{Z}}$, endowed with the probability $\mathcal{B}(1, p)^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}$. Then the law of Z' is $\mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}^-} \otimes \mathcal{B}(1, p)^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}$, so ‘the’ filtration of $[T', T'^{-1}]$ is the natural filtration of the process $(Z'_n)_{n \leq 0}$ defined by

$$Z'_n = [T', T'^{-1}](Z') = ((\xi_{k+n})_{k \leq 0}, (\mathbf{1}_B(\gamma(s - \xi_0 - \dots - \xi_{n+1})))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}}).$$

The filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^{Z'})_{n \leq 0}$ is contained in $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$, and admits $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ as sequence of innovations, like $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$. Hence $(\mathcal{F}_n^{Z'})_{n \leq 0}$ is dyadic and immersed in $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$. We have proved that $(\mathcal{F}_n^{Z'})_{n \leq 0}$ is not product-type hence $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ cannot be product-type thanks to corollary 12.

Actually, the conclusion still holds if one replaces $[T, T^{-1}]$ by any $[T^{k_1}, T^{k_2}]$ where k_1 and k_2 are two distinct integers. Indeed, the random variables $(\gamma(s))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}}$ are i.i.d, so this replacement preserves the law of the split-word process associated to the random variable $\gamma(0)$ up to a renumbering of the sites.

5.4 proof of corollary 5

Let T be an automorphism of a Lebesgue space (G, \mathcal{G}, Q) , with positive entropy. By Sinai’s factor theorem [5], one can find a measurable partition $\alpha = \{A_1, A_2\}$ of (G, \mathcal{G}, Q) into two blocks of positive probability such that the partitions $(T^{-k}\alpha)_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ are independent.³ For each $g \in G$, call $\varphi(g)$ the only index in $\{1, 2\}$ such that set $g \in A_{\varphi(g)}$, and set

$$\Phi(g) = (\varphi(T^k(g)))_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} \in \{1, 2\}^{\mathbf{Z}}.$$

The sequence $\Phi(g)$ thus defined is called the α -name of g .

By construction, the random variables $\varphi \circ T^k$, defined on the probability space (G, \mathcal{G}, Q) , are independent and have the same distribution. Call ν this distribution and T_B be the shift on $\{1, 2\}^{\mathbf{Z}}$. Then $\Phi(Q) = \nu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}$ and $T_B \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ T$, so the Bernoulli shift $(\{1, 2\}^{\mathbf{Z}}, \mathcal{P}(\{1, 2\})^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}, \nu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}, T_B)$ is a factor of the dynamical system (G, \mathcal{G}, Q, T) .

Choose a random variable $Z = ((\xi_k)_{k \leq 0}, \gamma)$ with law $\mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}^-} \otimes Q$. Then ‘the’ filtration associated to $[T, T^{-1}]$ is the natural filtration of the process $(Z_n)_{n \leq 0}$ defined by

$$Z_n = [T, T^{-1}](Z) = ((\xi_{k+n})_{k \leq 0}, T^{\xi_0 + \dots + \xi_{n+1}}(\gamma)).$$

In the same way, the law of the random variable $Z' := ((\xi_k)_{k \leq 0}, \Phi(\gamma))$ is $\mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}^-} \otimes \nu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}$ so ‘the’ filtration associated to $[T_B, T_B^{-1}]$ is the natural filtration of the process $(Z'_n)_{n \leq 0}$ defined by $Z'_n = [T_B, T_B^{-1}](Z')$. But the equality $T_B \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ T$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} Z'_n &= ((\xi_{k+n})_{k \leq 0}, T_B^{\xi_0 + \dots + \xi_{n+1}}(\Phi(\gamma))) \\ &= ((\xi_{k+n})_{k \leq 0}, \Phi(T^{\xi_0 + \dots + \xi_{n+1}}(\gamma))) \end{aligned}$$

³By definition, $T^{-k}\alpha = \{T^{-k}(A_1), T^{-k}(A_2)\}$.

Therefore, the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^{Z'})_{n \leq 0}$ is contained in $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$, and admits $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ as sequence of innovations, like $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$. Hence $(\mathcal{F}_n^{Z'})_{n \leq 0}$ is dyadic and immersed in $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$. We have proved that $(\mathcal{F}_n^{Z'})_{n \leq 0}$ is not product-type hence $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ cannot be product-type thanks to corollary 12.

6 Proof of theorem 6

We now present a slight variant of Hoffman's example of an automorphism T of Lebesgue probability space such that $[T, \text{Id}]$ is not standard. We modify some numerical values, to be more 'parcimonious' and we detail the proof, following Hoffman's strategy.

6.1 Construction of null-entropy shifts

Let A be a finite alphabet with size ≥ 2 . In the whole section, T denotes the bilateral shift $(x_k)_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} \mapsto (x_{k+1})_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ on $A^{\mathbf{Z}}$. The purpose of this subsection is to construct a shift-invariant probability measure Q on $A^{\mathbf{Z}}$ such that T is ergodic and has null entropy under Q .

The 'cut-and-stack' procedure provides a lot of such probability measures. A general treatment of this kind of construction can be found in [17]. Yet, we restrict ourselves to a particular subclass which includes Hoffman's example and enables a more elementary definition.

We fix two sequences $(N_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $(\ell_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of positive integers (tending to infinity) such that $N_n \geq 2$ and $N_{n-1}\ell_{n-1}$ divides ℓ_n for every $n \geq 2$. For every $n \geq 1$, we define a family of distinct elements $B_{n,0}, \dots, B_{n,N_n-1}$ of A^{ℓ_n} , called the n -blocks, as follows ⁴.

The 1-blocks are the elements of A , so $\ell(1) = 1$ and $N(1) = |A|$. When $n \geq 2$, each block $B_{n,i}$ is obtained as a concatenation of $(n-1)$ -blocks in such a way that the number of occurrences of $B_{n-1,j}$ in $B_{n,i}$ does not depend on i and j : this is the major simplification with regard to the general 'cut-and-stack' constructions, and that is why we assume that $N_{n-1}\ell_{n-1}$ divides ℓ_n .

The admissible concatenations, and the sequences $(N_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $(\ell_n)_{n \geq 1}$ will be specified later. For now, we explain how to derive a shift-invariant probability measure from this block structure. Informally, the typical sample paths under the probability measure Q are for each $n \geq 1$ infinite concatenations of n -blocks. To construct the probability measure Q , we construct a compatible family of finite-dimensional marginals.

Proposition 39 *For every integer $d \geq 0$, every word $w \in A^d$ and every word $B = (b_0, \dots, b_{\ell-1})$ with length $\ell \geq d$, set*

$$N(w, B) = \sum_{k=0}^{\ell-d} |\{k \in \llbracket 0, \ell-d \rrbracket : w = (b_k, \dots, b_{k+d-1})\}| \text{ and } p(w|B) = \frac{N(w, B)}{\ell - d + 1},$$

so $N(w, B)$ and $p(w|B)$ are respectively the number of occurrences and the frequency of occurrence of w among the subwords of B with length d . Then

⁴We index the n -blocks by $\llbracket 0, N_n - 1 \rrbracket$ instead of $\llbracket 0, N_n \rrbracket$ to handle simpler formulas. For the same reason, we view each word with length ℓ as a map from $\llbracket 0, \ell - 1 \rrbracket$ to A .

1. Let $(i_n)_{n \geq 1}$ a sequence such that $i_n \in \llbracket 0, N_n - 1 \rrbracket$ for every $n \geq 1$. Then $p(w|B_{n,i_n})$ has a limit $p_d(w)$ as n goes to infinity, and this limit $p_d(w)$ does not depend on the choice of $(i_n)_{n \geq 1}$.
2. The maps $w : A^d \rightarrow [0, 1]$ thus defined are the marginals of some shift-invariant probability measure Q on $A^{\mathbf{Z}}$.

Proof. For every $n \geq 2$, $\ell_n \geq N_{n-1}\ell_{n-1} \geq 2\ell_{n-1}$. A recursion yields $\ell_n \geq 2^{n-1}$, so ℓ_n goes to infinity and the series $\sum_n 1/\ell_n$ converges.

1. Fix a word w with length d . Let $n \geq 2$ such that $\ell_{n-1} \geq d$ and $i \in \llbracket 0, N_n - 1 \rrbracket$. Let M_n the integer such that $\ell_n = M_n N_{n-1} \ell_{n-1}$. Then by construction, the block $B_{n,i}$ is a concatenation of $(n-1)$ -blocks in which each $B_{n-1,j}$ is involved M_n times.

We obtain the subwords of $B_{n,i}$ with length d by choosing $k \in \llbracket 0, \ell_n - d \rrbracket$ and by looking at the letters at positions $k+1, \dots, k+d$. For most of these k , the interval $\llbracket k+1, k+d \rrbracket$ is entirely contained in some subinterval $\llbracket q\ell_{n-1}, (q+1)\ell_{n-1} - d \rrbracket$ with $q \in \llbracket 0, M_n N_{n-1} \rrbracket$. The restriction of $B_{n,i}$ to these subintervals are precisely the $(n-1)$ -blocks, each block $B_{n-1,j}$ occurring M_n times. Since there are exactly $M_n N_{n-1} (d-1)$ remaining k , we get

$$0 \leq N(w, B_{n,i}) - M_n \sum_{j=1}^{N_{n-1}} N(w, B_{n-1,j}) \leq M_n N_{n-1} (d-1).$$

Dividing by $\ell_n = M_n N_{n-1} \ell_{n-1}$ yields

$$0 \leq \frac{N(w, B_{n,i})}{\ell_n} - \frac{1}{N_{n-1}} \sum_{j=1}^{N_{n-1}} \frac{N(w, B_{n-1,j})}{\ell_{n-1}} \leq \frac{d-1}{\ell_{n-1}}. \quad (1)$$

The same inequality holds if $N(w, B_{n,i})/\ell_n$ is replaced by its mean value over all $i \in \llbracket 0, N_n - 1 \rrbracket$. Hence, the convergence of these means follows from the convergence of the series $\sum_n 1/\ell_{n-1}$. Using equality 1 again together with the convergence $(\ell_n - d + 1)/\ell_n \rightarrow 1$ yields item 1.

2. Let $d \geq 0$ and $w \in A^d$. Then

$$p_d(w) = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} p(w|B_{n,1}) \geq 0.$$

In particular, $p_0() = 1$, where $() \in A^0$ denotes the empty word. Moreover,

$$N(w, B_{n,1}) = \sum_{a \in A} N(wa, B_{n,1}) + \mathbf{1}_{\{B_{n,1} \text{ ends with } w\}}.$$

Dividing by ℓ_n and letting n go to infinity yields

$$p_d(w) = \sum_{a \in A} p_{d+1}(wa).$$

In the same way, we get

$$p_d(w) = \sum_{a \in A} p_{d+1}(aw).$$

Therefore $(p_d)_{d \geq 0}$ is a sequence of probability measures on the products $(A^d)_{d \geq 0}$ such that each p_d is image of p_{d+1} by the projection on the first d , or on the last d components. Item 2 follows, by Kolmogorov extension theorem.

We now construct a stationary process $\gamma = (\gamma(k))_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ with law Q . To do so, we index the letters of the n -blocks by the set $\llbracket 0, \ell_n - 1 \rrbracket$. Recall that every n -block is a concatenation of $(n-1)$ -blocks in which each one of the N_{n-1} different $(n-1)$ -blocks occurs exactly M_n times. Hence, the beginning of the $(n-1)$ -blocks in any n -block are the positions $q\ell_{n-1}$ with $q \in \llbracket 0, M_n N_n - 1 \rrbracket$.

Proposition 40 *Let $(I_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of independent uniform random variables taking values in the sets $(\llbracket 0, N_n - 1 \rrbracket)_{n \geq 1}$, defined on some large enough large enough probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$. Then*

1. *One can construct a sequence $(U_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of uniform random variables taking values in the sets $(\llbracket 0, \ell_n - 1 \rrbracket)_{n \geq 1}$ such that*
 - (a) *for all $n \geq 1$, U_n is independent of $(I_m)_{m \geq n}$;*
 - (b) *the sequence of random intervals $(\llbracket -U_n, \ell_n - 1 - U_n \rrbracket)_{n \geq 1}$ is increasing;*
 - (c) *for all $n \geq 2$ and $k \in \llbracket -U_{n-1}, \ell_{n-1} - 1 - U_{n-1} \rrbracket$,*

$$B_{n, I_n}(U_n + k) = B_{n-1, I_{n-1}}(U_{n-1} + k).$$

2. *The intervals $\llbracket -U_{n-1}, \ell_{n-1} - 1 - U_{n-1} \rrbracket$ cover \mathbf{Z} almost surely, so one can define a process $\gamma = (\gamma(k))_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ by $\gamma(k) = B_{n, I_n}(U_n + k)$ whenever $k \in \llbracket -U_n, \ell_n - 1 - U_n \rrbracket$.*
3. *The law of the process thus defined is Q .*

Proof. In the statement above, saying that the probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$ is large enough means that one can define a uniform random variable with values in $[0, 1]$ which is independent on the sequence $(I_n)_{n \geq 1}$.

1. We construct the sequence $(U_n)_{n \geq 1}$ recursively.

First, we set $U_1 = 0$. Since $\ell_1 = 1$, the random variable U_1 is uniform on the set $\llbracket 0, \ell_1 - 1 \rrbracket$.

Let $n \geq 2$. Assume that U_1, \dots, U_{n-1} are constructed, that U_{n-1} is uniform on $\llbracket 0, \ell_{n-1} - 1 \rrbracket$ and U_{n-1} is independent of $(I_m)_{m \geq n}$. Conditionally on (U_1, \dots, U_{n-1}) and on the whole sequence $(I_m)_{m \geq 1}$, choose D_n uniformly among the M_n beginnings of the blocks $B_{n-1, I_{n-1}}$ in the block B_{n, I_n} . Then for every $k \in \llbracket 0, \ell_{n-1} \rrbracket$, $B_{n, I_n}(D_n + k) = B_{n-1, I_{n-1}}(k)$. Moreover, the random variable D_n is uniform on $\{q\ell_{n-1} : q \in \llbracket 0, M_n N_n - 1 \rrbracket\}$ and independent on $(U_{n-1}, (I_m)_{m \geq n})$, so D_n, U_{n-1} and $(I_m)_{m \geq n}$ are independent by the recursion hypothesis. Hence the random variable $U_n := U_{n-1} + D_n$ is uniform on $\llbracket 0, \ell_n - 1 \rrbracket$ and independent of $(I_m)_{m \geq n}$. Moreover, $U_{n-1} \leq U_n \leq U_{n-1} + (M_n N_n - 1)\ell_{n-1} = U_{n-1} + \ell_n - \ell_{n-1}$. Item 1 follows.

2. Fix $k \in \mathbf{Z}$. For every large enough n , $\ell_n \geq |k|$, so

$$\mathbf{P}[k \notin \llbracket -U_n, \ell_n - 1 - U_n \rrbracket] = \begin{cases} \mathbf{P}[U_n < -k] & \text{if } k \leq 0 \\ \mathbf{P}[\ell_n - 1 - U_n < k] & \text{if } k \geq 0 \end{cases} = \frac{|k|}{\ell_n}.$$

Since $\ell_n \rightarrow +\infty$, item 2 follows.

3. For every $n \leq 0$, consider the process $\gamma^{(n)} = (\gamma^{(n)}(k))_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ given by

$$\gamma^{(n)}(k) = B_{n, I_n}((U_n + k) \bmod \ell_n),$$

where $(U_n + k) \bmod \ell_n$ denotes the remainder of $U_n + k$ modulo ℓ_n . The process $\gamma^{(n)}$ thus defined is ℓ_n -periodic and stationary, since the process $((U_n + k) \bmod \ell_n)_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ is stationary and independent of I_n . But the process $\gamma^{(n)}$ coincides with γ on the random interval $\llbracket -U_n, \ell_n - 1 - U_n \rrbracket$. Since the intervals $\llbracket -U_n, \ell_n - 1 - U_n \rrbracket$ increase to \mathbf{Z} almost surely, γ is the almost sure limit of the processes $\gamma^{(n)}$, so it is stationary. Hence we only need to check that for every $d \geq 0$, the law of $\gamma_{0:d-1} := (\gamma(0), \dots, \gamma(d-1))$ is p_d . Let $w \in A^d$. Using twice that for every $n \geq 0$, U_n is independent of I_n , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}[\gamma_{0:d-1} = w] &= \lim_n \mathbf{P}[(\gamma_0, \dots, \gamma_{d-1}) = w ; d-1 \leq \ell_n - 1 - U_n] \\ &= \lim_n \mathbf{P}[(B_{n, I_n}(U_n), \dots, B_{n, I_n}(U_n + d - 1)) = w ; U_n \leq \ell_n - d] \\ &= \lim_n \frac{1}{\ell_n} \sum_{u=0}^{\ell_n - d} \mathbf{P}[(B_{n, I_n}(u), \dots, B_{n, I_n}(u + d - 1)) = w] \\ &= \lim_n \frac{1}{\ell_n - d + 1} \sum_{u=0}^{\ell_n - d} \mathbf{P}[(B_{n, I_n}(u), \dots, B_{n, I_n}(u + d - 1)) = w] \\ &= \lim_n \mathbf{E}[p(w|B_{n, I_n})] \\ &= p_d(w). \end{aligned}$$

Item 3 follows.

We now deduce some properties on the shift T under the probability Q .

Proposition 41 1. For every $d \geq 0$, $w \in A^d$, and Q -almost every $(x_k)_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} \in A^{\mathbf{Z}}$,

$$\lim_{L \rightarrow +\infty} p(w|(x_0, \dots, x_{L-1})) = p_d(w).$$

2. T is ergodic under Q .

3. If $\ell_n^{-1} \log_2 N_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow +\infty$, then T has null entropy under Q .

Proof. 1. Since Q is the law of the process γ constructed in proposition 40, it gives full measure to the set of sample paths $(x_k)_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ such that for every $n \geq 0$, there exists $u_n \in \llbracket 0, \ell_n - 1 \rrbracket$ such that for every slice $(x_{-u_n + q\ell_n}, \dots, x_{-u_n + q\ell_n + \ell_n - 1})$ is an n -block. Roughly speaking, every typical sample path can be obtained for each n as a shifted infinite concatenation of n -blocks.

Fix such a path and $\varepsilon > 0$. Provided $n \geq 0$ is large enough, one has

$$\forall i \in \llbracket 0, N_n - 1 \rrbracket, \quad |p(w|B_{n, i}) - p_d(w)| \leq \varepsilon/3,$$

and more generally,

$$\forall i_1, \dots, i_n \in \llbracket 0, N_n - 1 \rrbracket, \quad |p(w|B_{n, i_1} \dots B_{n, i_m}) - p_d(w)| \leq 2\varepsilon/3,$$

since the edge effect at the boundaries of the n -blocks is small if ℓ_n is large with regard to d . Given $L \geq 2\ell_n$, the word (x_0, \dots, x_{L-1}) can be split into $m(L) := \lfloor L/\ell_n \rfloor - 1$ n -blocks, namely $(x_{-u_n + q\ell_n}, \dots, x_{-u_n + q\ell_n + \ell_n - 1})$ with $q \in \llbracket 1, m(L) \rrbracket$, plus two pieces of n -blocks. If L is large enough with regard to ℓ_n , the effect of these two pieces is small, so $|p(w|(x_0, \dots, x_{L-1})) - p_d(w)| \leq \varepsilon$. Item 1 follows.

2. Call $(X_k)_{k \in \mathbf{Z}}$ the coordinate process on $A^{\mathbf{Z}}$ and \mathcal{I} the σ -field of all T -invariant subsets of $A^{\mathbf{Z}}$. Let $d \geq 0$ and $w \in A^d$. Birkhoff ergodic theorem and item 1 yield the almost sure equalities

$$\begin{aligned}
Q[(X_0, \dots, X_{d-1}) = w | \mathcal{I}] &= \lim_{L \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{L} \sum_{k=0}^{L-1} \mathbf{1}_{\{(X_0, \dots, X_{d-1}) = w\}} \circ T^k \\
&= \lim_{L \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{L} \sum_{k=0}^{L-1} \mathbf{1}_{\{(X_k, \dots, X_{k+d-1}) = w\}} \\
&= \lim_{L \rightarrow +\infty} p(w | (X_0, \dots, X_{L+d-2})) \\
&= p_d(w) = Q[(X_0, \dots, X_{d-1}) = w].
\end{aligned}$$

Since T preserves Q and A is finite, the almost sure equality $Q(\Gamma | \mathcal{I}) = Q(\Gamma)$ holds for every subset Γ of $A^{\mathbf{Z}}$ depending on finitely many coordinates, and therefore for every measurable subset of $A^{\mathbf{Z}}$. The ergodicity of T under Q follows.

3. The entropy of T is

$$h(T) = \lim_{L \rightarrow +\infty} H(X_0, \dots, X_{L-1})/L = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} H(X_0, \dots, X_{\ell_n})/(\ell_n + 1).$$

Almost surely, the string (X_0, \dots, X_{ℓ_n}) is the concatenation of the last k letters of some n -block and the first $\ell_n - k + 1$ letters of some n block, with $k \in \llbracket 1, \ell_n \rrbracket$. Hence, the number of possible values of (X_0, \dots, X_{ℓ_n}) is at most $\ell_n \times N_n^2$, so $H(X_0, \dots, X_{\ell_n}) \leq \log_2 \ell_n + 2 \log_2 N_n$. Item 4 follows.

We now give a precise description of the block structure in a slight variant of Hoffman's example.

The 1-blocks are the elements of A . By assumption $|A| \geq 2$. Once the $(n-1)$ -blocks $B_{n-1,0}, \dots, B_{n-1, N_{n-1}-1}$ are constructed⁵, the n -blocks are defined by

$$\forall i \in \llbracket 0, n^4 - 1 \rrbracket, \quad B_{n,i} = ((B_{n-1,1})^{n^{5i}} \dots (B_{n-1, N_{n-1}})^{n^{5i}})^{n^{5(n^4-1-i)}},$$

so the length of $B_{n,i}$ is $\ell_n = n^{5(n^4-i-1)} \times N_{n-1} \times n^{5i} \times \ell_{n-1} = n^{5(n^4-1)} N_{n-1} \ell_{n-1}$, each block $B_{n-1,j}$ occurs exactly $n^{4(n^2-1)}$ times in $B_{n,i}$, and the number of different n -blocks is $N_n = n^4$.

The successive repetitions of a same $(n-1)$ -block inside an n -block form what we call an n -region. The length of the of the n -regions in $B_{n,i}$, namely $r_{n,i} = n^{5i} \ell_{n-1}$, depends highly on i . For every integers $k \geq 0$ and $\ell \geq 1$, denote by $\lfloor k/\ell \rfloor$ and $k \bmod \ell$ the quotient and the remainder of k modulo ℓ . Then by construction,

$$\forall i \in \llbracket 0, n^2 - 1 \rrbracket, \quad \forall k \in \llbracket 0, \ell_n - 1 \rrbracket, \quad B_{n,i}(k) = B_{n-1, (\lfloor k/r_{n,i} \rfloor \bmod N_{n-1})} (k \bmod \ell_{n-1}).$$

By proposition 41, T has null entropy under Q since $\ell_n^{-1} \log_2 N_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow +\infty$. Moreover, T is ergodic under Q , so $[T, \text{Id}]$ is exact by theorem 1. The filtration associated to $[T, \text{Id}]$ is dyadic and Kolmogorovian and we want to prove that it is not product-type.

⁵We index the n -blocks by $\llbracket 0, N_n - 1 \rrbracket$ instead of $\llbracket 1, N_n \rrbracket$ to handle simpler formulas. For the same reason, we view each word with length ℓ as a map from $\llbracket 0, \ell - 1 \rrbracket$ to A .

6.2 Non-standardness of $[T, \text{Id}]$

The description of the associated to $[T, \text{Id}]$ is close to the description of the ordinary $[T, T^{-1}]$ filtration that we made in the previous section: we take two independent random variables $(\xi_n)_{n \in \mathbf{Z}}$ and $\gamma = (\gamma(s))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}}$ with values in $F^{\mathbf{Z}}$ and $A^{\mathbf{Z}}$, defined on a same probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$ with respective law $\mu^{\otimes \mathbf{Z}}$ and Q . But this time $F = \{0, 1\}$, so μ is the uniform law on $\{0, 1\}$, and $(\gamma(s))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}}$ is no more an i.i.d. sequence.

Set $S_n = -\xi_{n+1} - \dots - \xi_0$ for every $n \leq 0$ and let $Z := ((\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}, (\gamma(s))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}})$. Then ‘the’ filtration associated to $[T, \text{Id}]$ is the natural filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$ of the process $(Z_n)_{n \leq 0}$ defined by

$$Z_n = [T, \text{Id}](Z) = ((\xi_{k+n})_{k \leq 0}, (\gamma(S_n + s))_{s \in \mathbf{Z}}).$$

By construction, $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is a sequence of innovations of the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n^Z)_{n \leq 0}$.

By lemma 23, it is sufficient to check that the random variable $\gamma(0)$ does not satisfy the Vershik intermediate property. To do this, it is convenient to introduce the nibbled-word process $(W_n, \xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ by

$$\forall n \leq 0, \quad W_n = (\gamma(S_n + i))_{i \in \llbracket 0, |n| \rrbracket}.$$

The set $\llbracket 0, |n| \rrbracket$ is exactly the set of all possible values of the sum $x_{n+1} + \dots + x_0$ when x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0 range over $F = \{0, 1\}$, we can define a map s_n from $F^{|n|}$ to $\llbracket 0, |n| \rrbracket$ by $s_n(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_0) = x_{n+1} + \dots + x_0$. To every word $w \in A^{I_n}$, we associate its extension $\bar{w} = w \circ s_n \in A^{F^{|n|}}$.

As in section 5, we check the split-word process associated to $\gamma(0)$ and to the innovations $(\xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$ is $(\bar{W}_n, \xi_n)_{n \leq 0}$. For every $n \geq 2$, let

$$h_n := (\ell_n / N_n)^2 = (r_{n, N(n)-1})^2 = (\ell_{n-1} n^{5(n^4-1)})^2.$$

Note that h_n is even. We define a decreasing sequence $(\varepsilon_n)_{n \geq 2}$ of positive real numbers by $\varepsilon_2 = 2^{-h(2)}$ and for every $n \geq 3$,

$$\varepsilon_n = \varepsilon_{n-1} \left(1 - \frac{3}{(n-1)^3} - \frac{4}{(n-1)^4} - \frac{1}{n^2} \right).$$

This sequence has a positive limit ε_∞ .

To negate the Vershik intermediate property, we have to show that $\text{disp}(\bar{W}_{-h_n}, d_{-h_n})$ is bounded away from 0. This will follow from the next lemma.

Lemma 42 *Let $n \geq 2$. Let w' and w'' be two words in $A^{\llbracket 0, h_n \rrbracket}$ whose restrictions to the middle interval $M_n := \llbracket (h_n/2) - n\sqrt{h_n}, (h_n/2) + n\sqrt{h_n} \rrbracket$ are entirely contained in two different n -blocks, namely $B_{n, i'}$ and $B_{n, i''}$, with $i' \neq i''$. Then $d_{h_n}(\bar{w}', \bar{w}'') \geq \varepsilon_n$.*

Before proving lemma 42, let us deduce that the random variable $\gamma(0)$ does not satisfy the Vershik intermediate property. Fix $n \geq 2$. For every $(x_{-h_n+1}, \dots, x_0) \in F^{h_n}$,

$$\bar{W}_{-h_n}(x_{-h_n+1}, \dots, x_0) = W_n(x_{-h_n+1} + \dots + x_0) = \gamma(S_{-h_n} + x_{-h_n+1} + \dots + x_0).$$

Let γ' and γ'' be two independent copies of γ defined on some probability space $(\bar{\Omega}, \bar{\mathcal{A}}, \bar{\mathbf{P}})$. The shifted process $\gamma(S_{-h_n} + h_n/2 + \cdot)$ has the same law as γ , so one gets two independent

copies of W_{-h_n} by setting $W'_{-h_n}(i) = \gamma'(i - h_n/2)$ and $W''_{-h_n}(i) = \gamma''(i - h_n/2)$. The interest of this translation is that when n is large, the binomial law with parameters h_n and $1/2$ gives probability close to 1 to the interval $\llbracket h_n/2 - n\sqrt{h_n}, h_n/2 + n\sqrt{h_n} \rrbracket$, so most of the values

$$\overline{W'_{-h_n}}(x_{-h_n+1}, \dots, x_0) = W'_{-h_n}(x_{-h_n+1} + \dots + x_0) = \gamma'_{x_{-h_n+1} + \dots + x_0 - h_n/2}$$

are provided by the restriction of γ' to the interval $\llbracket -n\sqrt{h_n}, n\sqrt{h_n} \rrbracket$.

Following the construction of proposition 40, one may assume that the processes γ' and γ'' derive from two independent copies $(I'_n, U'_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $(I''_n, U''_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of the sequence $(I_n, U_n)_{n \geq 1}$. Then the restriction of γ' to the interval $\llbracket -U'_n, \ell_n - 1 - U'_n \rrbracket$ is a time-translation of the n -block B_{n, I'_n} , and a same statement holds for γ'' .

Therefore, when the three following conditions hold

- $I'_n \neq I''_n$,
- $\llbracket -n\sqrt{h_n}, n\sqrt{h_n} \rrbracket \subset \llbracket -U'_n, \ell_n - 1 - U'_n \rrbracket$,
- $\llbracket -n\sqrt{h_n}, n\sqrt{h_n} \rrbracket \subset \llbracket -U''_n, \ell_n - 1 - U''_n \rrbracket$,

lemma 42 applies, so $d_{h_n}(\overline{W'_{-h_n}}, \overline{W''_{-h_n}}) \geq \varepsilon_n$. But by independence of the random variables I'_n, U'_n, I''_n, U''_n the probability that these three conditions hold is

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{N(n)}\right) \times \left(1 - \frac{2n\sqrt{h_n}}{\ell_n}\right)^2 = \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^4}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n^3}\right).$$

Hence

$$\text{disp}(\overline{W_{-h_n}}, d_{-h_n}) = \overline{\mathbf{E}}[d_{h_n}(\overline{W'_{-h_n}}, \overline{W''_{-h_n}})] \geq \varepsilon_n \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^4}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n^3}\right),$$

which remains bounded away from 0. Theorem 6 follows.

We now prove lemma 42.

Proof. We argue by recursion. To make the notations lighter, we will introduce a symbol \mathbb{M} to denote arithmetic means: given any non-empty finite set E ,

$$\mathbb{M}_{x \in E} \text{ stands for } \frac{1}{|E|} \sum_{x \in E}.$$

First, assume that $n = 2$. The assumption $i' \neq i''$ and the construction of the 2-blocks prevent w'' to be equal to w' or to its adjoint w'^* (which is the reversed word w'^r since w' is not 2-periodic). By lemma 32, their extensions w' and w'' belong to two different orbit modulo the action of the automorphism group of the binary tree with height h_2 , so $d_{h_2}(\overline{w'}, \overline{w''}) \geq 2^{-h_2} = \varepsilon_2$.

Now, let $n \geq 3$. Assume that the implication is established at level $n - 1$. Let $i' < i''$ in $\llbracket 0, N_n - 1 \rrbracket$, and take two subwords w' of $B_{n, i'}$ and w'' of $B_{n, i''}$ having length $h_n + 1$: there exist two integers u' and u'' in $\llbracket 0, \ell_n - h_n - 1 \rrbracket$, such that for every $s \in \llbracket 0, h_n \rrbracket$, $w'(s) = B_{n, i'}(u' + s)$ and $w''(s) = B_{n, i''}(u'' + s)$.

Remind the notations of subsection 22. For every non-negative integer h , we view the set $T_h = \bigcup_{i \in \llbracket 0, h \rrbracket} F^i$ as the binary tree with height h . To each $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{h_n-1}}$, we associate the automorphism of T_{h_n} given by

$$g_\sigma(x_{-h_n+1}, \dots, x_0) = (x_{-h_n+1}^\sigma, \dots, x_0^\sigma),$$

where

$$\forall t \in \llbracket -h_n + 1, 0 \rrbracket, \quad x_t^\sigma := \sigma(x_{-h_n+1}, \dots, x_{t-1})(x_t).$$

Given $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{h_n-1}}$, we have to prove that

$$\delta_{h_n}(\overline{w'}, \overline{w''} \circ g_\sigma) \geq \varepsilon_n.$$

Split each h_n -uple $(x_{-h_n+1}, \dots, x_0) \in F^{h_n}$ into $y = (x_{-h_n+1}, \dots, x_{-h_{n-1}}) \in F^{h_n-h_{n-1}}$ and $z = (x_{-h_{n-1}+1}, \dots, x_0) \in F^{h_n}$. Call σ_y the element of $\mathfrak{S}(F)^{T_{h_n-1}}$ defined by $\sigma_y(z_1, \dots, z_i) = \sigma(y, z_1, \dots, z_i)$ for every $0 \leq i \leq h_n - 1$ and $(z_1, \dots, z_i) \in F^i$. Set $s(y) = x_{-h_n+1} + \dots + x_{-h_{n-1}}$, $s(z) = x_{-h_{n-1}+1} + \dots + x_0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{h_n}(\overline{w'}, \overline{w''} \circ g_\sigma) &= \prod_{y \in F^{h_n-h_{n-1}}} \prod_{z \in F^{h_n-1}} \mathbf{1}_{\{\overline{w'}(yz) \neq \overline{w''} \circ g_\sigma(yz)\}} \\ &= \prod_{y \in F^{h_n-h_{n-1}}} \delta_{h_{n-1}}(\overline{w'}(y, \dots), \overline{w''} \circ g_\sigma(y, \dots)). \end{aligned}$$

But for every $y \in F^{h_n-h_{n-1}}$ and $z \in F^{h_n}$,

$$\overline{w'}(y, z) = w'(s(yz)) = w'(s(y) + s(z)),$$

$$\overline{w''}(g_\sigma(y, z)) = \overline{w''}(g_\sigma(y)g_{\sigma_y}(z)) = w''(s(g_\sigma(y)) + s(g_{\sigma_y}(z))),$$

so

$$\overline{w'}(y, \dots) = \overline{(w'(s(y) + \cdot))|_{\llbracket 0, h_{n-1} \rrbracket}},$$

$$(\overline{w''} \circ g_\sigma)(y, \dots) = \overline{(w''(s(g_\sigma(y)) + \cdot))|_{\llbracket 0, h_{n-1} \rrbracket}} \circ g_{\sigma_y}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{h_n}(\overline{w'}, \overline{w''} \circ g_\sigma) &= \prod_{y \in F^{h_n-h_{n-1}}} \delta_{h_{n-1}}(\overline{(w'(s(y) + \cdot))|_{\llbracket 0, h_{n-1} \rrbracket}}, \overline{(w''(s(y^\sigma) + \cdot))|_{\llbracket 0, h_{n-1} \rrbracket}} \circ g_{\sigma_y}) \\ &\geq \prod_{y \in F^{h_n-h_{n-1}}} d_{h_{n-1}}(\overline{(w'(s(y) + \cdot))|_{\llbracket 0, h_{n-1} \rrbracket}}, \overline{(w''(s(y^\sigma) + \cdot))|_{\llbracket 0, h_{n-1} \rrbracket}}). \end{aligned}$$

To apply the recursion hypothesis, we look at the restrictions of $w'(s(y) + \cdot)$ and $w''(s(y^\sigma) + \cdot)$ to the interval M_{n-1} . For every $k \in M_{n-1}$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} w'(s(y) + k) &= B_{n, i'}(u' + s(y) + k) \\ &= B_{n-1, (\lfloor (u' + s(y) + k)/r_{n, i'} \rfloor \bmod N_{n-1})}((u' + s(y) + k) \bmod \ell_{n-1}), \end{aligned}$$

and $w''(s(y^\sigma) + k)$ is given by a similar formula. Set

$$\begin{aligned} J'(y) &:= \lfloor (u' + s(y) + h_{n-1}/2)/r_{n, i'} \rfloor \bmod N_{n-1}, \\ J''(y^\sigma) &:= \lfloor (u'' + s(y^\sigma) + h_{n-1}/2)/r_{n, i''} \rfloor \bmod N_{n-1}, \\ K'(y) &:= (u' + s(y) + h_{n-1}/2) \bmod \ell_{n-1}, \\ K''(y^\sigma) &:= (u'' + s(y^\sigma) + h_{n-1}/2) \bmod \ell_{n-1}, \\ \Lambda_{n-1} &:= \llbracket (n-1)\sqrt{h_{n-1}}, \ell_{n-1} - 1 - (n-1)\sqrt{h_{n-1}} \rrbracket. \end{aligned}$$

If $K'(y)$ and $K''(y^\sigma)$ belong to the interval Λ_{n-1} , the restrictions of $w'(s(y) + \cdot)$ and $w''(s(y^\sigma) + \cdot)$ to the interval M_{n-1} are entirely contained respectively in $B_{n-1, J'(y)}$ and

$B_{n-1, J''(y^\sigma)}$. Therefore, since the random variables $Y := (\xi_{-h_n+1}, \dots, \xi_{-h_{n-1}})$ and $Y^\sigma := (\xi_{-h_n+1}^\sigma, \dots, \xi_{-h_{n-1}}^\sigma)$ are uniform on $F^{h_n-h_{n-1}}$, the recursion hypothesis yields

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{h_n}(\overline{w'}, \overline{w''} \circ g_\sigma) &\geq \bigvee_{y \in F^{h_n-h_{n-1}}} \varepsilon_{n-1} \mathbf{1}_{\{K(y) \in \Lambda_{n-1}; K''(y^\sigma) \in \Lambda_{n-1}; J'(y) \neq J''(y^\sigma)\}} \\ &= \varepsilon_{n-1} \mathbf{P}[K(Y) \in \Lambda_{n-1}; K''(Y^\sigma) \in \Lambda_{n-1}; J'(Y) \neq J''(Y^\sigma)]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\delta_{h_n}(\overline{w'}, \overline{w''} \circ g_\sigma) \geq \varepsilon_{n-1} \left(\mathbf{P}[J'(Y) \neq J''(Y^\sigma)] - 2\mathbf{P}[K(Y) \notin \Lambda_{n-1}] \right). \quad (2)$$

To bound above $\mathbf{P}[K(Y) \notin \Lambda_{n-1}]$, we note that $s(Y)$ has a binomial distribution with parameters $h_n - h_{n-1}$ and $1/2$. By lemma 46, for all $k \in \llbracket 0, \ell_{n-1} \rrbracket$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}[K(Y) = k] &= \sum_{q \in \mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{P}\left[s(Y) = \ell_{n-1}q + k - u' - \frac{h_{n-1}}{2}\right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\ell_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{h_n - h_{n-1}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\ell_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{\ell_{n-1} \sqrt{n^5(n^4-1) - N_{n-1}^{-2}}} \\ &\leq \frac{3}{2\ell_{n-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\mathbf{P}[K(Y) \notin \Lambda_{n-1}] \leq \frac{3}{2\ell_{n-1}} \times 2(n-1)\sqrt{h_{n-1}} = \frac{3(n-1)}{N_{n-1}} = \frac{3}{(n-1)^3}. \quad (3)$$

We now want to bound above $\mathbf{P}[J'(Y) = J''(Y^\sigma)]$. To do this, we set $D = n^8 r_{n,i'}^2$, so $n^4 r_{n,i'} = \sqrt{D} \leq n^{-1} r_{n,i''}$ and $D \leq n^{-2} (r_{n, N_{n-1}})^2 \leq h_n/9 \leq h_n - h_{n-1}$, and we split Y and Y^σ into two independent parts, namely

$$\begin{aligned} Y_1 &:= (\xi_{-h_n+1}, \dots, \xi_{-h_{n-1}-D}) \quad \text{and} \quad Y_2 := (\xi_{-h_{n-1}-D+1}, \dots, \xi_{-h_{n-1}}), \\ (Y^\sigma)_1 &:= (\xi_{-h_n+1}^\sigma, \dots, \xi_{-h_{n-1}-D}^\sigma) \quad \text{and} \quad (Y^\sigma)_2 := (\xi_{-h_{n-1}-D+1}^\sigma, \dots, \xi_{-h_{n-1}}^\sigma), \end{aligned}$$

Then we show that the law of $J'(Y)$ given Y_1 is spread out on the whole interval $\llbracket 0, N_{n-1} - 1 \rrbracket$ whereas the law of $J''(Y^\sigma)$ given Y_1 is mainly concentrated on at most two points.

On the one hand, one checks that

$$J'(Y) = \left\lfloor \frac{(u' + s(Y) + h_{n-1}/2) \bmod r_{n,i'} N_{n-1}}{r_{n,i'}} \right\rfloor$$

Using the equality $s(Y) = s(Y_1) + s(Y_2)$, that $s(Y_2)$ has a binomial distribution with parameters D and $1/2$, and lemma 46 again, one gets that for all $k \in \llbracket 0, r_{n,i'} N_{n-1} - 1 \rrbracket$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}[(u' + s(Y) + h_{n-1}/2) \bmod r_{n,i'} N_{n-1} = k | \sigma(Y_1)] &\leq \frac{1}{r_{n,i'} N_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{D}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{r_{n,i'} N_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{n^4 r_{n,i'}} \\ &\leq \frac{2}{r_{n,i'} N_{n-1}} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, for every $j \in \llbracket 0, N_{n-1} - 1 \rrbracket$,

$$\mathbf{P}[J'(Y) = j | \sigma(Y_1)] \leq \frac{2}{N_{n-1}}.$$

On the other hand, $s(Y^\sigma) = s(Y_1^\sigma) + s(Y_2^\sigma)$ and Y_1^σ is a function of Y_1 , whereas Y_2^σ is independent of Y_1 and has the same law as Y_2 . Hence

$$\text{Var}\left(u' + s(Y^\sigma) + \frac{h_{n-1}}{2} \mid \sigma(Y_1)\right) = \text{Var}(s(Y_2^\sigma)) = \frac{D}{4}.$$

Set

$$M = r_{n,i''}^{-1} \mathbf{E}\left[u' + s(Y^\sigma) + \frac{h_{n-1}}{2} \mid \sigma(Y_1)\right], \quad M_- = \left\lfloor M - \frac{1}{2} \right\rfloor, \quad M_+ = \left\lceil M + \frac{1}{2} \right\rceil.$$

Then Bienaymé-Chebycheff inequality yields

$$\mathbf{P}\left[\left|u' + s(Y^\sigma) + \frac{h_{n-1}}{2} - r_{n,i''} M\right| \geq \frac{r_{n,i''}}{2} \mid \sigma(Y_1)\right] \leq \frac{D}{r_{n,i''}^2} \leq \frac{1}{n^2},$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \frac{1}{n^2} &\leq \mathbf{P}\left[\left|\frac{u' + s(Y^\sigma) + \frac{h_{n-1}}{2}}{r_{n,i''}} - M\right| < \frac{1}{2} \mid \sigma(Y_1)\right] \\ &\leq \mathbf{P}\left[\left[\frac{u' + s(Y^\sigma) + \frac{h_{n-1}}{2}}{r_{n,i''}}\right] \in \{M_-; M_+\} \mid \sigma(Y_1)\right] \\ &\leq \mathbf{P}\left[J''(Y^\sigma) \in \{M_- \bmod N_{n-1}; M_+ \bmod N_{n-1}\} \mid \sigma(Y_1)\right]. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the conditional laws of $J'(Y)$ and $J''(Y^\sigma)$ given Y_1 yields

$$\mathbf{P}[J'(Y) = J''(Y^\sigma)] \leq \frac{4}{N_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{4}{(n-1)^4} + \frac{1}{n^2}. \quad (4)$$

Plugging inequalities 3 and 4 into inequality 2 yields

$$\delta_{h_n}(\bar{w}', \bar{w}'' \circ g_\sigma) \geq \varepsilon_{n-1} \left(1 - \frac{3}{(n-1)^3} - \frac{4}{(n-1)^4} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right) = \varepsilon_n.$$

The proof is complete.

7 Annex

7.1 Useful results on Polish spaces

Fix a non-empty separable complete metric space (A, d) , endowed with the Borel σ -field. We begin with a lemma abridged from de la Rue's paper on Lebesgue spaces [16].

Lemma 43 *Fix a countable basis $(B_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of bounded open sets (for example, the balls whose center lies in some countable dense subset and whose radius is the inverse of a positive integer). Let $C = \{0, 1\}^\infty$ and $\Phi : A \rightarrow C$ be the map defined by $\Phi(x) = (\mathbf{1}_{B_n}(x))_{n \geq 1}$. Then Φ is injective, $\Phi(A)$ is a Borel subset of the compact set C and $\Phi^{-1} : \Phi(A) \rightarrow A$ is a Borel map.*

Proof. First, note that the sets $(B_n)_{n \geq 1}$ separate the points of A , so the map Φ is injective. Moreover, for every $y = (y_n)_{n \geq 1} \in C$ and $n \geq 1$, set $B_n^{y_n} = B_n$ if $y_n = 1$, $B_n^{y_n} = B_n^c$ if $y_n = 0$. Then

$$\Phi^{-1}(\{y\}) = \bigcap_{n \geq 1} B_n^{y_n}.$$

When B is a bounded subset in (A, d) , denote by $\text{diam}(B)$ its diameter. For every $n \geq 1$, set $I_n = \{m \geq 1 : \overline{B_m} \subset B_n \text{ and } \text{diam}(B_m) \leq \text{diam}(B_n)/2\}$. Then the set $\Phi(A)$ is the set of all $y = (y_n)_{n \geq 1} \in C$ satisfying the three conditions below:

1. For every $N \geq 1$, $B_1^{y_1} \cap \dots \cap B_N^{y_N} \neq \emptyset$.
2. There exists $n \geq 1$ such that $y_n = 1$.
3. For every $n \geq 1$ such that $y_n = 1$, there exists $m \in I_n$ such that $y_m = 1$.

Indeed, these conditions are necessary for y to be in $\Phi(A)$ since $(B_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is a countable basis $(B_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of bounded open sets in the metric space (A, d) . Conversely, these conditions ensure that the diameter of the non-empty closed subset $F_N := \overline{B_1^{y_1}} \cap \dots \cap \overline{B_N^{y_N}}$ tends to 0 as N goes to infinity. Since (A, d) is complete, and $(F_N)_{N \geq 1}$ is a non-increasing sequence, its intersection is a single set $\{x\}$. To see that $\Phi(x) = y$, we have to check that for every $n \geq 1$, x belongs to $B_n^{y_n}$. If $y_n = 0$, this is true since $B_n^{y_n} = B_n^c$ is closed. If $y_n = 1$, then $y_m = 1$ for some $m \in I_n$, so $x \in \overline{B_m} \subset B_n$. This proves the characterization above, so $\Phi(A)$ is a Borel subset of C .

For every closed subset F in (A, d) , $(\Phi^{-1})^{-1}(F) = \Phi(F)$ is still a Borel subset of C , since the induced metric space (F, d_F) is complete and separable, and $(F \cap B_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is a countable basis of bounded open sets in (F, d_F) . Hence, $\Phi^{-1} : \Phi(A) \rightarrow A$ is a Borel map. The proof is complete.

We now state and prove the lemma which legitimates the definition 15.

Lemma 44 *On a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$, let \mathcal{F} be a sub- σ -field, ξ a random variable taking values in a countable set F , independent of \mathcal{F} , and X an $\mathcal{F} \vee \sigma(\xi)$ -measurable random variable taking values in A . Given $x \in F$, one can find an \mathcal{F} -measurable random variable W_x taking values in A such that X and W_x coincide on the event $\{\xi = x\}$. If $\mathbf{P}[\xi = x] > 0$, such a random variable is almost surely unique.*

Proof. Let $\Phi : A \rightarrow C$ be the map defined in lemma 43. We will only use the injectivity of Φ and the measurability of Φ^{-1} . Denote by $\Phi_n = \mathbf{1}_{B_n}$ the n -th component of Φ .

We begin with the almost sure uniqueness when $\mathbf{P}[\xi = x] > 0$. If W_x exists, then for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\Phi_n(X) \mathbf{1}_{\{\xi = x\}} = \Phi_n(W_x) \mathbf{1}_{\{\xi = x\}}.$$

Conditioning by \mathcal{F} yields

$$\mathbf{E}[\Phi_n(X) \mathbf{1}_{\{\xi = x\}} | \mathcal{F}] = \Phi_n(W_x) \mathbf{P}[\xi = x].$$

This formula shows that the random variables $\Phi(W_x)$ is completely determined (almost surely). By injectivity of Φ , the almost sure uniqueness of W_x follow.

Now, let us prove the existence. First, one checks that $\mathcal{F} \vee \sigma(\xi)$ is the exactly the set of all events of the form

$$E = \biguplus_{x \in F} (E^x \cap \{\xi = x\}),$$

where $(E^x)_{x \in F}$ is a family of events in \mathcal{F} . Observe that if E is given by this formula then $E \cap \{\xi = x\} = E^x \cap \{\xi = x\}$ for every $x \in F$.

Fix $x \in F$. For every $n \geq 1$, $\{X \in B_n\} \in \mathcal{F} \vee \sigma(\xi)$, so one can find an event $E_n^x \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $\{X \in B_n\} \cap \{\xi = x\} = E_n^x \cap \{\xi = x\}$. The random variable $Y^x = (Y_n^x)_{n \geq 1}$ with values in C and defined by $Y_n^x = \mathbf{1}_{E_n^x}$ is \mathcal{F} -measurable.

Fix $a \in A$. We can define an \mathcal{F} -measurable-random variable W_x with values in A by

$$\begin{aligned} W_x(\omega) &:= \Phi^{-1}(Y^x(\omega)) \text{ if } Y^x(\omega) \in \Phi(A), \\ W_x(\omega) &:= a \text{ otherwise.} \end{aligned}$$

On the event $\{\xi = x\}$, one has $Y^x = (\mathbf{1}_{E_n^x})_{n \geq 1} = (\mathbf{1}_{\{X \in B_n\}})_{n \geq 1} = \Phi(X) \in \Phi(A)$, so $W_x = \Phi^{-1}(\Phi(X)) = X$. The proof is complete.

7.2 Inequalities involving binomial coefficients

Lemma 45 *Let S_n be a binomial random variable with parameters $n \geq 1$ and $p \in]0, 1[$. For every $\varepsilon \in]0, p[$,*

$$P[S_n \leq n\varepsilon] \leq f_p(\varepsilon)^n \text{ where } f_p(\varepsilon) = \left(\frac{p}{\varepsilon}\right)^\varepsilon \left(\frac{1-p}{1-\varepsilon}\right)^{1-\varepsilon}.$$

Proof. Let $x \in]0, 1[$. Then Markov's inequality yields

$$P[S_n \leq n\varepsilon] \leq P[x^{S_n} \geq x^{n\varepsilon}] \leq x^{-n\varepsilon} \mathbf{E}[x^{S_n}] = (x^{-\varepsilon}(1-p+px))^n.$$

Choosing

$$x = \frac{\varepsilon}{p} \times \frac{1-p}{1-\varepsilon}$$

to minimize the right-hand side yields the desired inequality.

Lemma 46 *Let $D \geq 1$ be an integer.*

1. *The map $k \mapsto \binom{D}{k}$ increases on $[0, D/2] \cap \mathbf{Z}$ and decreases on $[D/2, D] \cap \mathbf{Z}$. The maximum is achieved when $k = \lfloor D/2 \rfloor$ and when $k = \lceil D/2 \rceil$.*
2. *For every $k \in \llbracket 0, D \rrbracket$,*

$$\frac{1}{2^D} \binom{D}{k} \leq \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi D}}.$$

3. *Fix $L \geq 1$. For every $r \in \mathbf{Z}$,*

$$\left| \sum_{q \in \mathbf{Z}} \frac{1}{2^D} \binom{D}{Lq+r} - \frac{1}{L} \right| \leq \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi D}} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{D}},$$

with the convention $\binom{D}{k} = 0$ whenever $k \in \mathbf{Z} \setminus \llbracket 0, D \rrbracket$.

Proof. For every $k \in \llbracket 0, D-1 \rrbracket$,

$$\binom{D}{k+1} / \binom{D}{k} = \frac{D-k}{k+1} \begin{cases} > 1 & \text{if } 2k+1 < D \\ = 1 & \text{if } 2k+1 = D \\ < 1 & \text{if } 2k+1 > D \end{cases}.$$

Distinguishing two cases, according to the parity of D , yields item 1.

For every integer $n \geq 1$, set

$$r_n = \sqrt{n} \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} = \sqrt{n} \frac{1}{2^{2n-1}} \binom{2n-1}{n-1}$$

Since

$$\frac{r_{n+1}}{r_n} = \frac{\sqrt{n+1}}{\sqrt{n}} \times \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{(2n+1)(2n+2)}{(n+1)^2} = \frac{n+1/2}{\sqrt{n(n+1)}} > 1,$$

the sequence $(r_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is increasing. But Stirling's formula shows that it converges to $1/\sqrt{\pi}$. Hence $r_n \leq 1/\sqrt{\pi}$ for every $n \geq 1$. Item 2 follows.

For every $r \in \mathbf{Z}$, set

$$S_r = \sum_{q \in \mathbf{Z}} p_{Lq+r} \text{ where } p_k = \frac{1}{2^D} \binom{D}{k}.$$

First, let us prove that for every r and s ,

$$|S_r - S_s| \leq \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi D}}.$$

By symmetry, one needs only to bound above $S_r - S_s$. Using the L -periodicity of the map $k \mapsto p_k$ and the symmetry $p_{D-k} = p_k$ for every $k \in \mathbf{Z}$, one may assume that $r \leq s \leq D/2 < r + L \leq s + L$. In this case, one has

$$\begin{aligned} S_s - S_r &= \sum_{q \leq 0} (p_{Lq+s} - p_{Lq+r}) + \sum_{q \geq 1} (p_{Lq+s} - p_{Lq+L+r}) - p_{L+r} \\ &\geq 0 + 0 - \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi D}}, \end{aligned}$$

by item 1 and 2. The desired upper bound of $|S_r - S_s|$ and item 3 follow, by taking the mean over all $s \in \llbracket 0, L-1 \rrbracket$, since $S_0 + \dots + S_{L-1} = 1$.

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