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Manon Defosseux

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# BROWNIAN PATHS IN AN ALCOVE AND THE LITTELMANN PATH MODEL

WHAT WE KNOW WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE HOPE

MANON DEFOSSEUX

ABSTRACT. We present some results about connections between Littelmann paths and Brownian paths in the framework of affine Lie algebras. We expect that they will be the first steps on a way which could hopefully lead to a Pitman type theorem for a Brownian motion in an alcove associated to an affine Weyl group.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

A Pitman's theorem states that if  $\{b_t, t \geq 0\}$  is a one dimensional Brownian motion, then

$$\{b_t - 2 \inf_{0 \leq s \leq t} b_s, t \geq 0\}$$

is a three dimensional Bessel process, i.e. a Brownian motion conditioned in the sense of Doob to remain forever positive [10]. Philippe Biane, Philippe Bougerol and Neil O'Connell have proved in [2] that a similar theorem exists in which the real Brownian motion is replaced by a Brownian motion on a finite dimensional real vector space. A finite Coxeter group acts on this space and the positive Brownian motion is replaced by a conditioned Brownian motion with values in a fundamental domain for the action of this group. In that case, the second process is obtained by applying to the first one Pitman transformations in successive directions given by a reduced decomposition of the longest word in the Coxeter group.

The paper [3] gives a similar representation theorem for a space-time Brownian motion  $\{(t, b_t) : t \geq 0\}$  conditioned to remain in the cone

$$\mathcal{C}' = \{(t, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} : 0 \leq x \leq t\}.$$

Actually  $\mathcal{C}'$  is a fundamental domain for the action on  $\mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}$  of an affine Coxeter group of type  $A_1^1$ , which is not a finite group. This affine Coxeter group is generated by two reflections and it could be natural to think that one could obtain a space-time Brownian motion conditioned to remain in  $\mathcal{C}'$  applying successively to a space-time Brownian motion two Pitman transformations corresponding to these two reflections. We have proved with Philippe Bougerol in [3] that this is not the case. Actually a Lévy type transformation has to be added at the end of the successive Pitman transformations if we want to get a Pitman's representation theorem in this case.

It is now natural to ask if such a theorem exists for the other affine Coxeter groups. We will focus on Coxeter groups of type  $A_n^1$ , with  $n \geq 1$ . Such a Coxeter group is the Weyl group of a type  $A$  extended affine Lie algebra. The presence of the Lévy transformations in the case when  $n = 1$  makes the higher rank statement

quite open. When  $n = 1$ , the proof of [3] rests on an approximation of the affine Coxeter group by a sequence of dihedral groups for which the results of [2] are applicable. Such an approximation does not exist for a higher rank. Nevertheless, another approximation exists of the Brownian model that we are interested in. It involves the Littelmann path model. The two models are connected via a semiclassical approximation. The Littelmann's model is a combinatorial model which allows to describe weight properties of some particular representations of Kac-Moody algebras. Philippe Biane, Philippe Bougerol and Neil O'Connell pointed out in [1] the fundamental fact that the Pitman transformations are intimately related to the Littelmann path model. In the case of an affine Lie algebra, the Littelmann framework allows to construct random paths which approximate the Brownian paths that we are interested in. The knowledge of the properties of the Littelmann paths gives then a way to get a better understanding of those of the Brownian paths. This approach didn't lead for the moment to a Pitman type theorem. Nevertheless, we have obtained several non trivial results that we present here. In particular, we prove the convergence of the string coordinates arising in the framework of the Littelmann path model towards their analogs defined for the Brownian paths. Besides we use the Littelmann path approach to try to guess which correction could be needed if a Pitman type theorem existed in this case. We present it here, with encouraging simulations. Notice that the space component of a space-time Brownian motion conditioned to remain in an affine Weyl chamber is equal, up to a time inversion, to a Brownian motion conditioned to remain in an alcove, so that our suggestion provides also a suggestion for a Pitman's theorem for this last conditioned process.

These notes are organized as follows. In section 2 we recall the necessary background about affine Lie algebras and their representations. The Littelmann path model is explained briefly in section 3 where we recall in particular the definition of the string coordinates. Random Littelmann paths associated to representations of an affine Lie algebra are introduced in section 4. We define a space-time Brownian motion conditioned to remain in an affine Weyl chamber in section 5. In section 6 we explain what we know about the connection between the Brownian paths and the Littelmann paths in the framework of affine Lie algebras. In particular we prove the convergence of the string coordinates associated to our random Littelmann paths towards their analogs for Brownian paths. Section 7 is devoted to explain what is missing in the perspective of a Pitman type theorem. Finally in section 8 we use the description of the highest weight Littelmann modules given in [9] to suggest transformations which could play the role of the Lévy transformations in the case when  $n$  is greater than one.

## 2. BASIC DEFINITIONS

This section is based on [7]. In order to make the paper as easy as possible to read, we consider only the case of an extended affine Lie algebra of type  $A$ . For this we consider a realization  $(\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}, \widehat{\Pi}, \widehat{\Pi}^\vee)$  of a Cartan matrix of type  $A_n^1$  for  $n \geq 1$ . That is to say

$$\widehat{\Pi} = \{\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_n\} \subset \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^* \text{ and } \widehat{\Pi}^\vee = \{\alpha_0^\vee, \dots, \alpha_n^\vee\} \subset \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}$$

with

$$\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } i = j \\ -1 & \text{if } |i - j| \in \{1, n\} \text{ when } n \geq 2 \\ -2 & \text{if } |i - j| = 1 \text{ when } n = 1, \end{cases}$$

and  $\dim \widehat{\mathfrak{h}} = n + 2$ , where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is the canonical pairing. We consider an element  $d \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}$  such that

$$\langle \alpha_i, d \rangle = \delta_{i0},$$

for  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$  and define  $\Lambda_0 \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*$  by

$$\langle \Lambda_0, d \rangle = 0 \text{ and } \langle \Lambda_0, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle = \delta_{i0},$$

for  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ . We consider the Weyl group  $\widehat{W}$  which is the subgroup of  $\text{GL}(\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*)$  generated by the simple reflexions  $s_{\alpha_i}$ ,  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ , defined by

$$s_{\alpha_i}(x) = x - \langle x, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \alpha_i, \quad x \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*,$$

$i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ , and equip  $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*$  with a non degenerate  $\widehat{W}$ -invariant bilinear form  $(\cdot | \cdot)$  defined by

$$\begin{cases} (\alpha_i | \alpha_j) = 2 & \text{if } i = j \\ (\alpha_i | \alpha_j) = -1 & \text{if } |i - j| \in \{1, n\} \text{ when } n \geq 2 \\ (\alpha_i | \alpha_j) = -2 & \text{if } |i - j| = 1 \text{ when } n = 1, \\ (\alpha_i | \alpha_j) = 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$(\Lambda_0 | \Lambda_0) = 0$  and  $(\alpha_i | \Lambda_0) = \delta_{i0}$ ,  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ . We consider as usual the set of integral weights

$$\widehat{P} = \{\lambda \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^* : \langle \lambda, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}, i \in \{0, \dots, n\}\},$$

and the set of dominant integral weights

$$\widehat{P}^+ = \{\lambda \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^* : \langle \lambda, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{N}, i \in \{0, \dots, n\}\}.$$

For  $\lambda \in \widehat{P}_+$  we denote by  $V(\lambda)$  the irreducible highest weight module of weight  $\lambda$  of an affine Lie algebra of type  $A_n^1$  with  $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}$  as a Cartan subalgebra and  $\widehat{\Pi}$  as a set of simple roots. We consider the formal character

$$\text{ch}_\lambda = \sum_{\beta \in \widehat{P}} m_\beta^\lambda e^\beta,$$

where  $m_\beta^\lambda$  is the multiplicity of the weight  $\beta$  in  $V(\lambda)$ . If  $\widehat{\nu} \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*$  satisfies  $(\widehat{\nu} | \alpha_0) > 0$  then the series

$$\sum_{\beta \in \widehat{P}} m_\beta^\lambda e^{(\beta | \widehat{\nu})},$$

converges and we denote by  $\text{ch}_\lambda(\widehat{\nu})$  its limit.

### 3. LITTELMANN PATH MODEL

From now on we work on the real vector space

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^* = \mathbb{R}\Lambda_0 \oplus \bigoplus_{i=0}^n \mathbb{R}\alpha_i.$$

In this section, we recall what we need about the Littelmann path model (see mainly [9] for more details, and also [8]). Fix  $T \geq 0$ . A path  $\pi$  is a piecewise linear function  $\pi : [0, T] \rightarrow \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  such that  $\pi(0) = 0$ . We consider the cone generated by  $\widehat{P}_+$

$$\mathcal{C} = \{\lambda \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^* : \langle \lambda, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \geq 0, i \in \{0, \dots, n\}\}.$$

A path  $\pi$  is called dominant if  $\pi(t) \in \mathcal{C}$  for all  $t \in [0, T]$ . It is called integral if

$$\min_{t \in [0, T]} \langle \pi(t), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ for all } i \in \{0, \dots, n\}.$$

**Pitman's transforms, Littellmann module.** We define the Pitman's transforms  $\mathcal{P}_{\alpha_i}$ ,  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ , which operate on the set of continuous functions  $\eta : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  such that  $\eta(0) = 0$ . They are given by

$$\mathcal{P}_{\alpha_i}\eta(t) = \eta(t) - \inf_{s \leq t} \langle \eta(s), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \alpha_i, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}_+,$$

$i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ . Let us fix a sequence  $(i_k)_{k \geq 0}$  with values in  $\{0, \dots, n\}$  such that

$$(1) \quad |\{k : i_k = j\}| = \infty \text{ for all } j \in \{0, \dots, n\}.$$

Given an integral dominant path  $\pi$  defined on  $[0, T]$ , such that  $\pi(T) \in \widehat{P}_+$ , the Littellmann module  $B\pi$  generated by  $\pi$  is the set of paths  $\eta$  defined on  $[0, T]$  such that it exists  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \eta = \pi$ . This module doesn't depend on the sequence  $(i_k)_{k \geq 0}$  provided that it satisfies condition (1).

For an integral dominant path  $\pi$ , one defines  $\mathcal{P}$  on  $(B\pi)^{\star\infty}$ , where  $\star$  stands for the usual concatenation (not the Littellmann's one), letting for  $\eta \in (B\pi)^{\star\infty}$

$$\mathcal{P}\eta(t) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \eta(t), \quad t \geq 0.$$

Note that for any  $u \in \mathbb{R}_+$  it exists  $k_0$  such that

$$\mathcal{P}\eta(t) = \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{k_0}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_0} \eta(t), \quad t \in [0, u],$$

and that the definition of  $\mathcal{P}$  does not depend on the order in which the Pitman's transforms are applied provided that each of them is applied infinitely many times.

**String coordinates, Littellmann transforms.** In the following, the sequence  $(i_k)_{k \geq 0}$  can't be chosen arbitrarily. It is important that

$$(2) \quad \text{for each } k \geq 0, s_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots s_{\alpha_{i_1}} s_{\alpha_{i_0}} \text{ is a reduced decomposition.}$$

It is the case for instance if  $i_k = k \bmod (n)$ , for every  $k \geq 0$ . Let us fix from now a sequence  $\mathbf{i} = (i_k)_{k \geq 0}$  such that (2) is satisfied (then condition (1) is also satisfied). For a dominant path  $\pi$  defined on  $[0, T]$ , we consider the application  $\mathbf{a}^{\mathbf{i}}$  from  $B\pi$  to the set of almost zero nonnegative integer sequences  $\ell^{(\infty)}(\mathbb{N})$  such that for  $\eta \in B\pi$ ,  $\mathbf{a}^{\mathbf{i}}(\eta)$  is the sequence of integers  $(a_k^{\mathbf{i}})_{k \geq 0}$  from  $\ell^{(\infty)}(\mathbb{N})$  defined by the identities

$$(3) \quad \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_m}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \eta(T) = \eta(T) + \sum_{k=0}^m a_k^{\mathbf{i}} \alpha_{i_k}, \quad m \geq 0.$$

Notice that we will most often omit  $\mathbf{i}$  in  $\mathbf{a}^{\mathbf{i}}$  and  $a_k^{\mathbf{i}}$ ,  $k \geq 0$ . Let us give the connection with the Littellmann model described in [9]. Let

$$w^{(p)} = s_{\alpha_{i_p}} \dots s_{\alpha_{i_1}} s_{\alpha_{i_0}},$$

for any  $p \geq 1$ . Notice that the reflexions are not labeled in the same order as in [9]. Nevertheless the path operators  $e_{i_k}$  and  $f_{i_k}$  defined in [9] are applied in the same order here. For a tuple  $\underline{a} = (a_0, \dots, a_p) \in \mathbb{N}^{p+1}$  we write  $f^{\underline{a}}$  for

$$f^{\underline{a}} := f_{i_0}^{a_0} \dots f_{i_p}^{a_p}.$$

For a dominant integral path  $\pi$  and  $\eta \in B\pi$  such that  $\eta = f^{\underline{a}}\pi$  for  $\underline{a} = (a_0, \dots, a_p)$ , one says that  $\underline{a}$  is an adapted string for  $\eta$  if  $a_0$  is the largest integer such that  $e_{i_0}^{a_0} \eta \neq 0$ ,  $a_1$  is the largest integer such that  $e_{i_1}^{a_1} e_{i_0}^{a_0} \eta \neq 0$  and so on. Actually, given  $\eta$ ,  $a_0, a_1, \dots$ , are exactly the ones defined by (3). In particular the application  $\mathbf{a}^{\mathbf{i}}$  is injective on  $B\pi$ . Peter Littellmann describes its image in [9]. For this he defines  $\mathcal{S}_{w^{(p)}}$  as the set of all  $\underline{a} \in \mathbb{N}^{p+1}$ , such that  $\underline{a}$  is an adapted string of  $f^{\underline{a}}\pi$  for some

dominant integral path  $\pi$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{w^{(p)}}^\lambda$  as the subset  $\{\underline{a} \in \mathcal{S}_{w^{(p)}} : f^{\underline{a}}\pi_\lambda\}$  where  $\pi_\lambda$  is a dominant integral path ending at  $\lambda \in P_+$ . The set  $\mathcal{S}_{w^{(p)}}^\lambda$  can be identified with the vertices of the crystal graph of a Demazure module. It depends on  $\pi_\lambda$  only through  $\lambda$ . If we let

$$B(\infty) = \bigcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{S}_{w^{(p)}} \quad \text{et} \quad B(\lambda) = \bigcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{S}_{w^{(p)}}^\lambda,$$

proposition 1.5 of [9] gives the following one, which will be essential to try to guess what the Lévy transformations could be for  $n \geq 2$ .

**Proposition 3.1.**

$$\begin{aligned} B(\lambda) &= \{\underline{a} \in B(\infty) : a_p \leq \langle \lambda - \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} a_k \alpha_{i_k}, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle, \forall p \geq 0\} \\ &= \{\underline{a} \in B(\infty) : a_p \leq \langle \lambda - \omega(\underline{a}) + \sum_{k=0}^p a_k \alpha_{i_k}, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle, \forall p \geq 0\} \\ &= \{\underline{a} \in B(\infty) : \langle \omega(\underline{a}) - \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} a_k \alpha_{i_k} - \frac{1}{2} a_p \alpha_{i_p}, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle \leq \langle \lambda, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle, \forall p \geq 1\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\omega(\underline{a}) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \alpha_{i_k}$ , which is the opposite of the weight of  $\underline{a}$  in the crystal  $B(\infty)$  of the Verma module of highest weight 0.

#### 4. RANDOM WALKS AND LITTELMANN PATHS

Let us consider a path  $\pi_{\Lambda_0}$  defined on  $[0, 1]$  by

$$\pi_{\Lambda_0}(t) = t\Lambda_0, \quad t \in [0, 1],$$

and the Littelmann module  $B\pi_{\Lambda_0}$  generated by  $\pi_{\Lambda_0}$ . We fix an integer  $m \geq 1$ , choose  $\widehat{\nu} \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  such that  $\langle \alpha_0 | \widehat{\nu} \rangle > 0$ . Littelmann path theory ensures that

$$\text{ch}_{\Lambda_0}(\widehat{\nu}/m) = \sum_{\eta \in B\pi_{\Lambda_0}} e^{\frac{1}{m}(\eta(1)|\widehat{\nu})}.$$

We equip  $B\pi_{\Lambda_0}$  with a probability measure  $\mu^m$  letting

$$(4) \quad \mu^m(\eta) = \frac{e^{\frac{1}{m}(\eta(1)|\widehat{\nu})}}{\text{ch}_{\Lambda_0}(\widehat{\nu}/m)}, \quad \eta \in B\pi_{\Lambda_0}.$$

One considers a sequence  $(\eta_i^m)_{i \geq 0}$  of i.i.d random variables with law  $\mu^m$  and a random path  $\{\pi^m(t), t \geq 0\}$  defined by

$$\pi^m(t) = \eta_1^m(1) + \cdots + \eta_{k-1}^m(1) + \eta_k^m(t - k + 1),$$

when  $t \in [k - 1, k[$ , for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . The Littelmann's path theory implies immediately the following proposition.

**Proposition 4.1.** *The random process  $\{\mathcal{P}(\pi^m)(k), k \geq 0\}$  is a Markov chain starting from 0 with values in  $\widehat{P}_+$  and transition probability*

$$Q(\lambda, \beta) = \frac{\text{ch}_\beta(\widehat{\nu}/m)}{\text{ch}_\lambda(\widehat{\nu}/m) \text{ch}_{\Lambda_0}(\widehat{\nu}/m)} M_{\lambda, \Lambda_0}^\beta, \quad \lambda, \beta \in P_+,$$

where  $M_{\lambda, \Lambda_0}^\beta$  is the number of irreducible representations in the isotypic component of highest weight  $\beta$  in  $V(\lambda) \otimes V(\Lambda_0)$ .

**Remark 4.2.** If  $\delta$  is the lowest positive null root, i.e.  $\delta = \sum_{i=0}^n \alpha_i$ , then  $V(\lambda)$  and  $V(\beta)$  are isomorphic for  $\lambda = \beta \bmod \delta$ . Thus  $\{\mathcal{P}(\pi^m)(k), k \geq 0\}$  remains markovian in the quotient space  $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^*/\mathbb{R}\delta$ . This is this process that interests us.

## 5. A CONDITIONED SPACE-TIME BROWNIAN MOTION

One considers the decomposition

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^* = \mathbb{R}\Lambda_0 \oplus \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^* \oplus \mathbb{R}\delta$$

where  $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^* = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \mathbb{R}\alpha_i$  and one identifies  $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^*/\mathbb{R}\delta$  with  $\mathbb{R}\Lambda_0 \oplus \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$ . We let  $\mathfrak{h}^* = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \mathbb{C}\alpha_i$ . We denote by  $R_+$  the set of positive roots in  $\mathfrak{h}^*$ , by  $\rho$  the corresponding Weyl vector, i.e.  $\rho = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha \in R_+} \alpha$ , by  $P_+$  the corresponding set of dominant weights, i.e.

$$P_+ = \{\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^* : \langle \lambda, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{N} \text{ for } i \in \{1, \dots, n\}\},$$

and by  $W$  the subgroup of  $\widehat{W}$  generated by the simple reflexion  $s_{\alpha_i}$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . The bilinear form  $(\cdot | \cdot)$  defines a scalar product  $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  so that we write  $\|x\|^2$  for  $(x|x)$  when  $x \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$ . One considers a standard Brownian motion  $\{b_t : t \geq 0\}$  in  $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  with drift  $\nu \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  and  $\{B_t = t\Lambda_0 + b_t : t \geq 0\}$ , which is a space-time Brownian motion. We define the function  $\pi$  on  $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*$  letting

$$\pi(x) = \prod_{\alpha \in R_+} \sin \pi(\alpha|x),$$

for  $x \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*$  and for  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R}_+ \Lambda_0 + \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$ , we let

$$\psi_{\lambda_1}(\lambda_2) = \frac{1}{\pi(\lambda_1/t_1)} \sum_{w \in \widehat{W}} \det(w) e^{(w\lambda_1, \lambda_2)}.$$

where  $t_1 = (\delta|\lambda_1)$ . Using a Poisson summation formula, Igor Frenkel has proved in [6] (see also [5]) that if  $\lambda_1 = t_1\Lambda_0 + x_1$  and  $\lambda_2 = t_2\Lambda_0 + x_2$ , for  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$ , then  $\frac{\psi_{\lambda_1}(\lambda_2)}{\pi(\lambda_2/t_2)}$  is proportionnal to

$$(5) \quad \left(\frac{t_1 t_2}{2\pi}\right)^{-n/2} e^{\frac{t_1}{2t_2}(\lambda_2, \lambda_2) + \frac{t_2}{2t_1}(\lambda_1, \lambda_1)} \sum_{\mu \in P_+} \chi_{\mu}(e^{x_2/t_2}) \chi_{\mu}(e^{-x_1/t_1}) e^{-\frac{1}{2t_1 t_2} (2\pi)^2 \|\mu + \rho\|^2},$$

where  $\chi_{\mu}$  is the character of the representation of highest weight  $\mu$  of the underlying semi-simple Lie algebra having  $\mathfrak{h}$  as a Cartan subalgebra, i.e.

$$\chi_{\mu}(\beta) \propto \frac{1}{\pi(\beta)} \sum_{w \in W} e^{2i\pi(w(\mu+\rho)|\beta)}, \quad \beta \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*.$$

We consider the cone  $\mathcal{C}'$  which is the cone  $\mathcal{C}$  viewed in the quotient space, i.e.

$$\mathcal{C}' = \{\lambda \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^*/\mathbb{R}\delta : \langle \lambda, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \geq 0, i = 0, \dots, n\},$$

and the stopping time  $T = \inf\{t \geq 0 : B_t \notin \mathcal{C}'\}$ . One recognizes in the sum over  $P_+$  of (5), up to a positive multiplicative constant, a probability density related to the heat Kernel on a compact Lie group (see [6] or [5] for more details). As the function  $\pi$  is a positive function on the interior of the cone  $\mathcal{C}'$  vanishing on its boundary, one obtains easily the following proposition. We let  $\widehat{\nu} = \Lambda_0 + \nu$ .

**Proposition 5.1.** *The function*

$$\lambda \in \mathcal{C}' \rightarrow e^{-(\widehat{\nu}|\lambda)} \psi_{\widehat{\nu}}(\lambda)$$

is a constant sign harmonic function for the killed process  $\{B_{t \wedge T} : t \geq 0\}$ , vanishing only on the boundary of  $\mathcal{C}'$ .

**Definition 5.2.** We define  $\{A_t : t \geq 0\}$  as the killed process  $\{B_{t \wedge T} : t \geq 0\}$  conditioned (in Doob's sense) not to die, via the harmonic function  $e^{-(\widehat{\nu}|\cdot)} \psi_{\widehat{\nu}}(\cdot)$ .

## 6. WHAT WE KNOW

We suppose from now that  $\widehat{\nu} = \Lambda_0 + \nu$  in (4), where  $\nu \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  such that  $\widehat{\nu} \in \mathcal{C}'$ .

**6.1. Convergence of the random walk and the Markov chain.** The Fourier transform of  $\eta_1^m(1)$  can be written with the character  $\text{ch}_{\Lambda_0}$  and the following lemma is easily obtained using a Weyl character formula and formula (5).

**Lemma 6.1.** *For  $x \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ , one has*

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}(e^{(x|\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{[mt]} \eta_i^m(1))}) = e^{\frac{t}{2}((x+\nu|x+\nu) - (\nu|\nu))}.$$

As the coordinate of  $\sum_{i=1}^{[mt]} \eta_i^m(1)$  along  $\Lambda_0$  is  $[mt]$ , the previous lemma shows that the random walk whose increments are distributed according to  $\mu^m$  converges in  $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^*/\mathbb{R}\delta$  after a renormalisation in  $1/m$  towards a space-time Brownian motion. By analyticity, lemma implies also the convergence of the joint moments.

**Lemma 6.2.** *The joint moments of  $\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{[mt]} \eta_i^m(1)$  converge in the quotient space towards the ones of  $B_t$ .*

One can show as in [4] that the Markov chain converges too in the quotient space. One has the following proposition where convergences are convergences in finite-dimensional distribution. We denote by  $\lceil \cdot \rceil$  the ceiling function.

**Proposition 6.3.** *In the quotient space  $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^*/\mathbb{R}\delta$  one has the following convergences.*

(1) *The sequence*

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{m} \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil) : t \geq 0 \right\}, \quad m \geq 1,$$

*converges towards  $\{B_t : t \geq 0\}$  when  $m$  goes to infinity.*

(2) *The sequence*

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{m} \mathcal{P} \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil) : t \geq 0 \right\}, \quad m \geq 1,$$

*converges towards  $\{A_t : t \geq 0\}$  when  $m$  goes to infinity.*

Now we want to prove that the first sequence of the proposition is tight in order to prove that the string coordinates associated to the Littelmann path model converges towards their analogs defined for the Brownian paths.



**6.2. Convergence of the string coordinates.** We want to prove that for any integer  $k$

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{m} \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil) : t \geq 0 \right\} \text{ and } \left\{ \frac{1}{m} \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \pi^m(mt) : t \geq 0 \right\}$$

converges in the quotient space towards

$$\{ \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} B(t) : t \geq 0 \},$$

when  $m$  goes to infinity. For this we will prove that the sequence  $\{ \frac{1}{m} \pi^m(mt) : t \geq 0 \}$ ,  $m \geq 1$ , is tight. We begin to establish the following lemmas, which will be used to control the increments.

**Lemma 6.4.** *For  $x \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ , one has*

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}(e^{(x | \frac{1}{\sqrt{m}} \eta_1^m(1))}) = e^{\frac{1}{2}(x|x)}$$

and the joint moments of the projection of  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{m}} \eta_1^m(1)$  on  $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  converge towards the ones of a standard Gaussian random variable on  $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$ .

*Proof.* We use the character formula and formula (5) for the first convergence and analyticity for the convergence of the moments.  $\square$

In lemma 6.5 and its corollary, for a path  $\eta$  defined on  $[0, 1]$ ,  $a_0(\eta)$  is the first string coordinate of  $\eta$  corresponding to the sequence  $\mathbf{i} = i_0, i_1, \dots$ , that is to say  $a_0(\eta) = -\inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta(s), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle$ .

**Lemma 6.5.** *For  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $u \in \mathbb{C}$ ,*

$$\mathbb{E}(e^{(u \alpha_{i_0} | \eta_1^m(1))} | \langle \eta_1^m(1) + a_0(\eta_1^m) \alpha_{i_0}, \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle = r) = \frac{s_r(e^{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha_{i_0} | u \alpha_{i_0} + \bar{v}/m)})}{s_r(e^{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha_{i_0} | \bar{v}/m)})},$$

where  $s_r(q) = \frac{q^{r+1} - q^{-(r+1)}}{q - q^{-1}}$ ,  $q > 0$ .

*Proof.* We use the description of the cone of string coordinates in proposition 3.1 and the fact that there is no condition for the first string coordinate in  $B(\infty)$ .  $\square$

As  $\langle \eta_1^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle$  admits a Laplace transform defined on  $\mathbb{R}$ , which implies in particular that the moments of each order of  $\langle \eta_1^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle$  exist, the lemma has the following corollary.

**Corollaire 6.6.**

$$\mathbb{E}(\langle \eta_1^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle^4) = \mathbb{E}([\langle \eta_1^m(1) + a_0(\eta_1^m) \alpha_{i_0}, \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle + 1]^4)$$

As the Littelmann module  $B\pi$  does not depend on the sequence  $\mathbf{i} = (i_k)_{k \geq 0}$ , corollary implies immediately the following proposition.

**Proposition 6.7.** *For all  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ ,*

$$\mathbb{E}(\langle \eta_1^m(1) - \inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_1^m(s), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \alpha_i, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle^4) \leq \mathbb{E}(\langle \eta_1^m(1), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle^4)$$

**Proposition 6.8.** *One has for any  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ ,  $m \geq 1$ ,  $t \geq 0$ ,*

$$|\langle \pi^m(mt) - \pi^{(n)}(\lceil mt \rceil), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle| \leq \sum_{j=0}^n \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1) - \inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s), \alpha_j^\vee \rangle \alpha_j, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle$$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} & |\langle \pi^m(mt) - \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle| \\ & \leq \max(\langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle - \inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle, \sup_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle - \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

Besides

$$\langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle - \inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \leq \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^{(n)}(1) - \inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^{(n)}(s), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \alpha_i, \alpha_i^\vee$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle - \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle &= \sup_{s \leq 1} (\delta - \sum_{j \neq i} \alpha_j |\eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s)|) - (\delta - \sum_{j \neq i} \alpha_j |\eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1)|) \\ &= \sup_{s \leq 1} (s - \sum_{j \neq i} (\alpha_j |\eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s)|)) - (1 - \sum_{j \neq i} (\alpha_j |\eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1)|)) \\ &\leq \sum_{j \neq i} (\alpha_j |\eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1)|) - \inf_{s \leq 1} ((\alpha_j |\eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s)|)) \\ &\leq \sum_{j \neq i} \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1) - \inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s), \alpha_j^\vee \rangle \alpha_j, \alpha_j^\vee \end{aligned}$$

□

**Lemma 6.9.** *It exists  $C$  such that for any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $m \geq 1$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , one has*

$$\mathbb{P}(\sum_{j=0}^n \langle \frac{1}{m} \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(1) - \inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \frac{1}{m} \eta_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m(s), \alpha_j^\vee \rangle \alpha_j, \alpha_j^\vee \geq \epsilon) \leq \frac{C}{\epsilon^4 m^2}$$

*Proof.* It comes from lemma 6.4 and proposition 6.7. □

**Proposition 6.10.** *In the quotient space  $\{\frac{1}{m} \pi^m(mt) : t \geq 0\}$  converges in a sense of finite dimensional law towards  $\{B(t) : t \geq 0\}$ .*

*Proof.* It comes from the convergence of  $\{\frac{1}{m} \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil) : t \geq 0\}$ , lemma 6.9 and proposition before. □

**Proposition 6.11.** *In the quotient space, the sequence  $\{\frac{1}{m} \pi^m(mt), t \geq 0\}$ ,  $m \geq 1$ , is tight.*

*Proof.* It is enough to prove that for any  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ ,  $\epsilon, \eta > 0$ , it exists an integer  $k$  such that

$$(6) \quad \limsup_m k \max_{0 \leq l \leq k-1} \mathbb{P}(\sup_{0 \leq r \leq 1/k} \frac{1}{m} \langle \pi^m((r + l/k)m) - \pi^m(lm/k), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \geq \eta) \leq \epsilon.$$

We write that  $|\langle \pi^m(ms) - \pi^m(mt), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle|$  is smaller than

$$\begin{aligned} & |\langle \pi^m(ms) - \pi^m(\lceil ms \rceil), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle| + |\langle \pi^m(\lceil ms \rceil) - \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle| \\ & \quad + |\langle \pi^m(mt) - \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle|. \end{aligned}$$

One has for  $m, k \geq 1, l \leq k - 1$

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{r \leq 1/k} \frac{1}{m} \langle \pi^m((r + l/k)m) - \pi^m(\lceil (r + l/k)m \rceil), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \geq \eta\right) \\ & \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{r \leq 1/k} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=0}^n \langle \eta_{\lceil (r+l/k)m \rceil}^m(1) - \inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_{\lceil (r+l/k)m \rceil}^m(s), \alpha_j^\vee \rangle \alpha_j, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle \geq \eta\right) \\ & \leq \lceil \frac{m}{k} \rceil \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{j=0}^n \frac{1}{m} \langle \eta_1^m(1) - \inf_{s \leq 1} \langle \eta_1^m(s), \alpha_j^\vee \rangle \alpha_j, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle \geq \eta\right) \leq \lceil \frac{m}{k} \rceil \frac{C}{\eta^4 m^2}. \end{aligned}$$

We prove in a standard way that  $\{\frac{1}{m} \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil) : t \geq 0\}$  satisfies (6) for a particular integer  $k$ , which achieves the prove.  $\square$

Thanks to the Skorokhod representation theorem we can always suppose and we suppose that the first convergence in proposition 6.3 is a locally uniform almost sure one. We have now all the ingredients to obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 6.12.** *For every  $t \geq 0$ , and any sequence  $(i_k)_k$  of integers in  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ ,*

$$\frac{1}{m} \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \pi^m(mt) \text{ and } \frac{1}{m} \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil),$$

*converge towards  $\mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} B(t)$ .*

The theorem proves in particular that the string coordinates associated to the Littellmann path model converges towards their analogs defined for the Brownian paths. Actually for any  $t \geq 0$ , if we consider the random sequence  $(x_k^m(t))_k$  defined by

$$\mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \pi^m(t) = \pi^m(t) + \sum_{i=0}^k x_k^m(t) \alpha_{i_k},$$

and  $(x_k(t))_k$  defined by

$$\mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} B(t) = B(t) + \sum_{i=0}^k x_k(t) \alpha_{i_k},$$

then the previous theorem shows that for every  $k \geq 0$  and  $t \geq 0$

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{m} x_k^m(mt) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{m} x_k^m(\lceil mt \rceil) = x_k(t).$$

We can prove that this convergence remains true in law for  $t = \infty$  provided that  $\langle \widehat{\nu}, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle > 0$  for every  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ . In that case, one has the following convergence, which is proved in the appendix.

**Proposition 6.13.** *For all  $k$ ,  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{m} x_k^m(\infty) = x_k(\infty)$ .*

## 7. WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

We have proved in [3] that when  $n = 1$ ,

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \frac{1}{m} \pi^m(mt) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}} \dots \mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_0}} \frac{1}{m} \pi^m(mt),$$

is not true as the righthand side limit in  $k$  doesn't even exist. Nevertheless we have proved that this identity becomes true if we replace the last Pitman transformation  $\mathcal{P}_{\alpha_{i_k}}$  by a modified one which is a Lévy transformation  $\mathcal{L}_{\alpha_{i_k}}$ . We would like to show that a similar result exists for  $A_n^1$ , with  $n$  greater than 1, but we didn't manage to

get it for the moment. Before saying what the correction could be, it is with no doubt interesting to compare graphically the curves obtained applying successively Pitman transformations to a simulation of a Brownian curve with the ones obtained when at each stage these transformations are followed with a Lévy transformation. On the picture 1 the paths of the first sequence of paths are represented in blue, whereas the ones of the second sequence are represented in yellow. The red curve is the image of the simulation of the Brownian curve (which is a piecewise linear curve) by  $\mathcal{P}$ . We notice that there is an explosion phenomenon for the blue curves which doesn't exist for the yellow ones.

### 8. WHAT WE HOPE

Let us try now to guess what the Lévy transforms could become for  $n$  greater than 1. For an integral path  $\pi$  defined on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  such that for all  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ ,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \langle \pi(t), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle = +\infty,$$

the string coordinates for  $T = \infty$  are well defined, and if we denote them by  $\underline{a}$ , one can let and we let  $\omega(\pi) = \omega(\underline{a})$ , where  $\omega$  is defined in proposition 3.1. Suppose now that  $\widehat{\nu}$  in (4) satisfies  $\langle \widehat{\nu}, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle > 0$  for all  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ . In this case, the random string coordinates  $x_k^m(\infty)$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , and  $\omega(\pi^m)$  are well defined. Then for any  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  the law of  $x_k^m(t)$ ,  $k \geq 0$  given that  $\mathcal{P}\pi^m(t) = \lambda$  is the law of  $x_k^m(\infty)$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , given that  $(x_k^m(\infty))_{k \geq 0}$  belongs to  $B(\lambda)$  i.e.

$$\forall p \geq 1, \langle \omega(\pi^m) - \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} x_k^m(\infty) \alpha_{i_k} - \frac{1}{2} x_p^m(\infty) \alpha_{i_p}, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle \leq \langle \lambda, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle.$$

We can prove that  $\frac{1}{m} \omega(\pi^m)$  converges almost surely in the quotient space when  $m$  goes to infinity towards a limit that we denote by  $\omega(B)$ . To prove this convergence it is enough to understand the distribution of the weights in a Verma module, which is not difficult. Thus the quantities

$$\frac{1}{m} \langle \omega(\pi^m) - \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} x_k^m(\infty) \alpha_{i_k} - \frac{1}{2} x_p^m(\infty) \alpha_{i_p}^\vee, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle, \quad p \geq 1,$$

converge almost surely towards

$$\langle \omega(B) - \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} x_k(\infty) \alpha_{i_k} - \frac{1}{2} x_p(\infty) \alpha_{i_p}^\vee, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle, \quad p \geq 1,$$

when  $m$  goes to infinity. For  $n = 1$ , because of the inequalities defining  $B(\lambda)$ , it is essential for the proofs that

$$\langle \omega(B) - \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} x_k(\infty) \alpha_{i_k} - \frac{1}{2} x_p(\infty) \alpha_{i_p}^\vee, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle,$$

converges to 0 when  $p$  goes to infinity. It allows to prove that all the convergences obtained for the string coordinates in a continuous analog of  $B(\infty)$  remains true when string coordinates are conditioned to belong to a continuous analog of  $B(\lambda)$ . So we are going to suppose that this convergence remains true for  $n \geq 2$ .

**Assumptions 8.1.** *We suppose that*

$$\langle \omega(B) - \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} x_k(\infty) \alpha_{i_k} - \frac{1}{2} x_p(\infty) \alpha_{i_p}, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle,$$

*converges almost surely towards 0 when  $p$  goes to infinity.*

Moreover the following assumptions are supposed to be true. They are natural if we think that a Pitman–Lévy type theorem exists for  $n \geq 2$ , which is for us a strong hope rather than a strong conviction.

**Assumptions 8.2.** *We suppose from now that the following assertions are true.*

(1) *It exists a sequence  $(u_p)$  with values in  $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  such that*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} x_k(\infty) \alpha_{i_k} + u_p,$$

*converges almost surely in the quotient space  $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathbb{R}}^*/\mathbb{R}\delta$  towards  $\omega(B)$  when  $p$  goes to  $+\infty$ .*

(2) *The sequence  $(x_p(\infty))_p$  converges almost surely towards  $l \in \mathbb{R}$  as  $p$  goes to infinity.*

(3)  *$\sum_{k=0}^p (x_k(\infty) - l) \alpha_{i_k}$ , or equivalently (under assumption (2)),  $\sum_{k=0}^p (x_k(\infty) - x_p(\infty)) \alpha_{i_k}$ , converges in the quotient space when  $p$  goes to infinity.*

**Remark 8.3.** In the case when  $n = 1$ , one has  $\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} x_p(\infty)_p = 2$  and one can take for instance  $u_p = \frac{1}{2} x_p(\infty) \alpha_{i_p}$ , or  $u_p = \alpha_{i_p}$ ,  $p \geq 0$ .

Under assumptions 8.2, it exists  $u \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$  such that

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} u_p + x_p(\infty) \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} \alpha_{i_k} = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} u x_p(\infty),$$

Under assumption 8.1,  $u$  must satisfies

$$\forall p \geq 0, \langle u - \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \alpha_{i_k} - \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{i_p}, \alpha_{i_p}^\vee \rangle = 0.$$

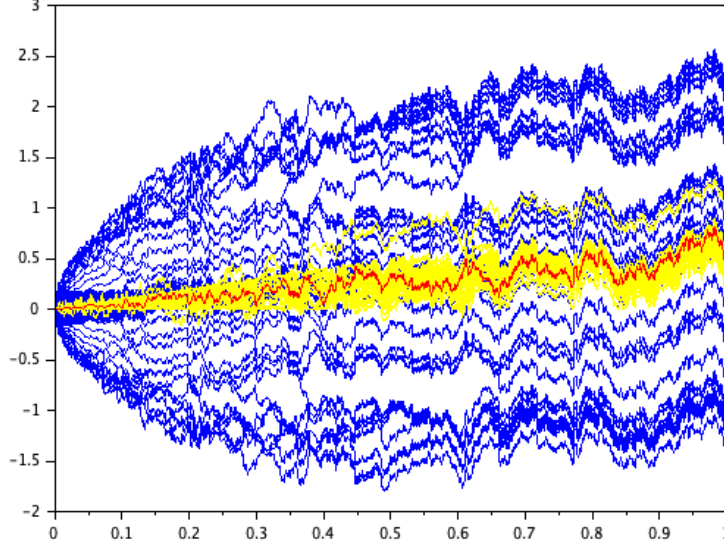
It exists only one such a  $u$  in  $\mathfrak{h}^*$ .

The hope is that for all  $t \geq 0$ , almost surely,

$$B(t) - \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} x_k(t) \alpha_{i_k} - x_p(t) \left( u - \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} \alpha_{i_k} \right),$$

converges in the quotient space towards  $A(t)$  when  $p$  goes to infinity.

For  $n = 1$ , and  $i = 0, 1, 0, \dots$ , one can take  $u = \alpha_0/2$ , which gives the proper correction.

FIGURE 1. Successive transformations of a Brownian curve for  $A_1^1$ 9. THE CASE OF  $A_2^{(1)}$ 

We explicit the expected correction in the case when  $n = 2$ , and  $\mathbf{i} = 0, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . In that case one obtains that  $u = \frac{1}{3}(\alpha_0 - \alpha_2)$ . For  $\eta(t) = t\Lambda_0 + f(t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$  where  $f : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\alpha_1 + \mathbb{R}\alpha_2$  is a continuous function starting from 0, we let for  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$

$$\mathcal{P}_i\eta(t) = \eta(t) - \inf_{s \leq t} \tilde{\alpha}_i(\eta(s))\alpha_i,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_i\eta(t) = \eta(t) - \frac{1}{3} \inf_{s \leq t} \tilde{\alpha}_i(\eta(s))(\alpha_i - \alpha_{i+2}),$$

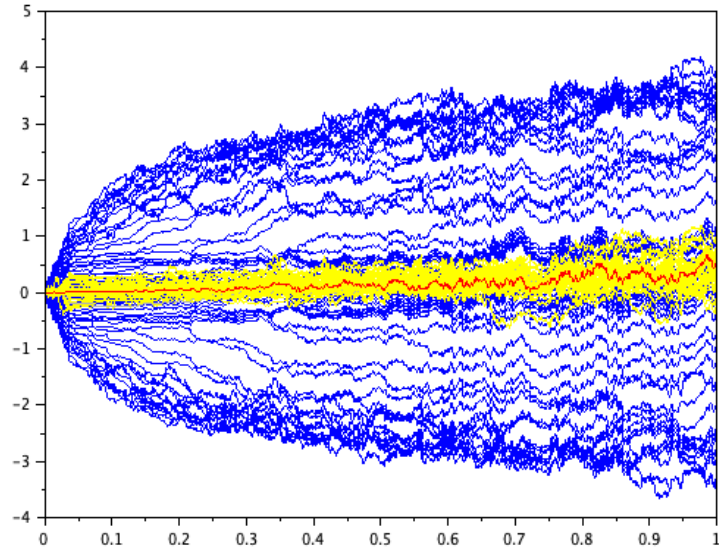
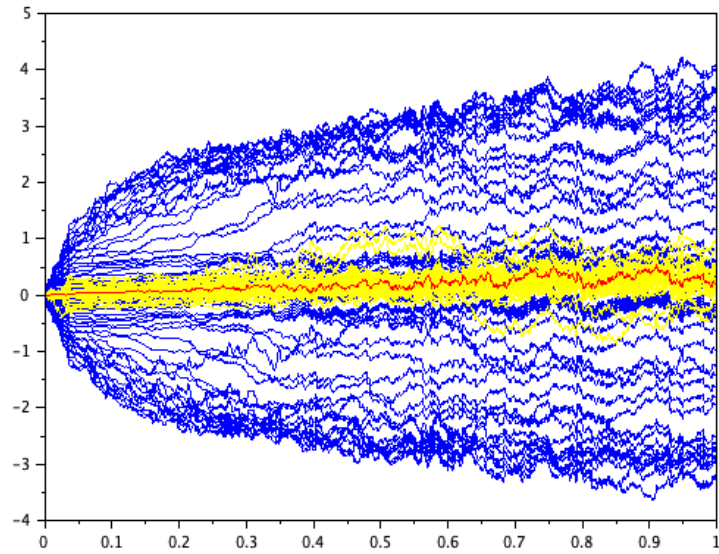
where  $\alpha_3 = \alpha_0$ .

We hope that in the quotient space, for all  $t \geq 0$ , almost surely,

$$\lim_k \mathcal{L}_k \mathcal{P}_{k-1} \dots \mathcal{P}_0 B(t) = A(t),$$

where the subscripts in the Pitman and the Lévy transformations must be taken modulo 3.

In figures 2 and 3 we have represented successive transformations of a simulated brownian curve (evaluating on  $\alpha_1^\vee$  and  $\alpha_2^\vee$ ), with a correction and with no correction, similarly as in figure 1. We notice that the explosion phenomenon persists when there is no correction whereas it disappears with the expected needed correction. It gives some hope that the "conjecture" is true.

FIGURE 2. Successive transformations of a Brownian curve on  $\alpha_1^\vee$ FIGURE 3. Successive transformations of a Brownian curve on  $\alpha_2^\vee$

## 10. APPENDIX

**Lemma 10.1.** *Let  $S_k^m = \sum_{i=1}^k X_i^m$ , where  $X_i^m$ ,  $i \geq 0$ , are independent identically distributed random variables such that the Laplace transform of  $X_1^m$  converges to the one of  $X$  when  $m$  goes to infinity. We suppose that  $\mathbb{E}(X) > 0$ . Then for any real  $a$  such that  $0 < a < \mathbb{E}(X)$  it exists  $\theta > 0, m_0 \geq 0$  such that for all  $m \geq m_0, k \geq 0$ ,*

$$\mathbb{P}(S_k^m < ka) \leq e^{-k\theta}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\rho = \mathbb{E}(X)$ ,  $c = \rho - a$ . Choose  $\lambda > 0$  such that  $\mathbb{E}(e^{-\lambda(X-\rho)}) \leq e^{\lambda c/4}$ . After that we choose  $m_0$  such that for  $m \geq m_0$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}(e^{-\lambda(X_1^m - \rho)}) \leq e^{\lambda c/4} \mathbb{E}(e^{-\lambda(X-\rho)}) \leq e^{\lambda c/2}.$$

One has

$$\mathbb{P}(S_k^m < k(\rho - c)) = \mathbb{P}(e^{-\lambda S_k^m} > e^{-\lambda k(\rho - c)}) \leq (e^{\lambda(\rho - c)} \mathbb{E}(e^{-\lambda X_1^m}))^k \leq e^{-k\lambda c/2}.$$

□

*Proof of proposition 6.13.* Let us prove that it is true for  $k = 0$ . Proposition will follow by induction. We have seen that for any  $T \geq 0$ , almost surely

$$\liminf_m \inf_{t \leq T} \frac{1}{m} \langle \pi^m(mt), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle = \inf_{t \leq T} \langle B(t), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle.$$

Suppose that  $\langle \hat{\nu}, \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle > 0$ . Then  $\inf_{t \geq 0} \langle B(t), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle > -\infty$ , and we want to prove that

$$\liminf_m \inf_{t \geq 0} \frac{1}{m} \langle \pi^m(mt), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle = \inf_{t \geq 0} \langle B(t), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle.$$

It is enough to prove that for any  $\epsilon > 0$  it exists  $T, m_0 \geq 0$  such that for any  $m \geq m_0$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(\inf_{t \geq T} \pi^m(mt) < 0) \leq \epsilon.$$

For this let

$$S_k^m = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{m+1} \sum_{j=1}^m \langle \eta_{(i-1)m+j}^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle.$$

It satisfies the hypothesis of the previous lemma, with

$$X_i^m = \frac{1}{m+1} \sum_{j=1}^m \langle \eta_{(i-1)m+j}^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle,$$

which converges in law towards  $\langle B_1, \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle$  as  $m$  goes to infinity. One has

$$S_k^m = \frac{1}{m+1} \sum_{i=1}^{mk} \langle \eta_i^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle = \frac{1}{m+1} \pi^m(mk).$$

We let  $\rho = \mathbb{E}(\langle B_1, \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle) = \langle \hat{\nu}, \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0, 0 < a < b < \rho$ . As  $ka + (b-a)\sqrt{k} \leq bk$ , for all  $k \geq 1$ , we choose  $\theta > 0, m_0 \geq 0$ , such that for all  $k \geq 0, m \geq m_0$ ,

$$(7) \quad \mathbb{P}(S_k^m < ka + (b-a)\sqrt{k}) \leq e^{-k\theta},$$

i.e.

$$\mathbb{P}(\langle \pi^m(mk), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle < a(m+1)k + (b-a)(m+1)\sqrt{k}) \leq e^{-k\theta}.$$



One has for  $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$

$$\left\{ \inf_{t \geq N} \frac{1}{m} \langle \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle < at \right\} \subset \cup_{k \geq N} \cup_{0 \leq p \leq m} \{ \langle \pi^m(mk + p), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle \leq a(mk + p) \},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \left( \inf_{t \geq N} \frac{1}{m} \langle \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle < at \right) &\leq \mathbb{P}(\cup_{k \geq N} \{ \langle \pi^m(mk), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle \leq a(m+1)k + (b-a)(m+1)\sqrt{k} \}) \\ &\quad + \mathbb{P}(\cup_{k \geq N} \{ \sup_{0 \leq p \leq m} | \langle \pi^m(mk + p), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle - \langle \pi^m(mk), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle | \geq (b-a)(m+1)\sqrt{k} \}) \end{aligned}$$

Thanks to the lemma 7 we can choose and we choose  $N$  such that the first probability is smaller than  $\epsilon$ . Besides

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \left( \sup_{0 \leq p \leq m} | \langle \pi^m(mk + p), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle - \langle \pi^m(mk), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle | \geq (b-a)(m+1)\sqrt{k} \right) \\ \leq \frac{1}{(b-a)^4(m+1)^4 k^2} \mathbb{E} \left( \sup_{0 \leq p \leq m} | \langle \pi^m(mk + p), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle - \langle \pi^m(mk), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle |^4 \right) \end{aligned}$$

One has

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^m(mk + p) &= \sum_{i=1}^{mk+p} \langle \eta_i^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle - \mathbb{E} \langle \eta_i^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle + (mk + p) \mathbb{E} \langle \eta_1^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle \\ &= Y^m(mk + p) + (mk + p) \mathbb{E} \langle \eta_1^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where  $Y^m(mk + p)$ ,  $p \in \{0, \dots, m\}$ , is a martingale. A maximale inequality and the fact that  $\mathbb{E} \langle \eta_1^m(1), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle \sim \langle \hat{\nu}, \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle$  imply that it exists  $C$  such that

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \sup_{0 \leq p \leq m} | \langle \pi^m(mk + p), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle - \langle \pi^m(mk), \alpha_{i_0}^\vee \rangle | \geq (b-a)(m+1)\sqrt{k} \right) \leq C/k^2.$$

Since proposition 6.8 and lemma 6.9 ensure that  $\pi^m(mt) - \pi^m(\lceil mt \rceil)$  is bounded by a random variable  $\xi_{\lceil mt \rceil}^m$  satisfying for any  $u > 0$

$$\mathbb{P}(\xi_k^m/m \geq u\sqrt{k}) \leq \frac{\tilde{C}}{k^2 m^2},$$

one obtains the proposition.  $\square$

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