Infinite Rémy bridges

Steven N. Evans

U.C. Berkeley

August, 2017



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Collaborators

Rudolf Grübel Hannover



Anton Wakolbinger Frankfurt



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August , 2017 2 / 40

Binary trees

- Write $\{0,1\}^* := \bigsqcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \{0,1\}^k$ for the set of finite words drawn from the alphabet $\{0,1\}$ (with the empty word \emptyset allowed).
- A binary tree is a finite subset $\mathbf{t} \subset \{0,1\}^{\star}$ with the properties:
 - $v_1 \ldots v_k \in \mathbf{t} \Longrightarrow v_1 \ldots v_{k-1} \in \mathbf{t}$,
 - $v_1 \dots v_k \mathbf{0} \in \mathbf{t} \iff v_1 \dots v_k \mathbf{1} \in \mathbf{t}$.



Figure: A binary tree is just a finite rooted tree in which every individual has zero or two children and we can distinguish left from right.

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- Call the empty word \emptyset the root of the tree.
- A binary tree has 2n+1 vertices for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$: n+1 leaves and n interior vertices.
- The number of binary trees with 2n + 1 vertices is the Catalan number $C_n := \frac{1}{n+1} {2n \choose n}$.

 Rémy's (1985) algorithm generates a sequence of random binary trees T₁, T₂,... such that T₁ is the unique binary tree ℵ := {Ø, 0, 1} with 3 vertices and T_n is uniformly distributed on the set of binary trees with 2n + 1 vertices.

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Example of one iteration of Rémy's algorithm



Figure: First step in an iteration of Rémy's algorithm: pick a vertex v uniformly at random.

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Figure: Second step in an iteration of Rémy's algorithm: cut off the subtree rooted at v and attach a copy of \aleph to the end of the edge that previously led to v.

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Figure: Third step in an iteration of Rémy's algorithm: re-attach the subtree rooted at v to one of the two leaves of the copy of \aleph , and re-label the vertices appropriately. The solid circle is the new location of v and the open circles are the clones of v.

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Infinite Rémy bridges

- A segment in a metric space (X, d) is the image of an isometry α : [a, b] → X. The endpoints of the segment are α(a) and α(b).
- An \mathbb{R} -tree is a metric space (X, d) with the following properties.
 - For all $x, y \in X$ there is a segment in X with endpoints $\{x, y\}$.
 - If two segments of (X, d) intersect in a single point, which is an endpoint of both, then their union is a segment.
- Fact: If (X, d) is an \mathbb{R} -tree, then for all $x, y \in X$ there is a unique segment in X with endpoints $\{x, y\}$.

- Marchal (2003) showed that Rémy's sequence of trees thought of as \mathbb{R} -trees with unit edge lengths converge almost surely in a suitable sense to a random \mathbb{R} -tree \mathcal{T} called Aldous' Brownian continuum random tree (CRT) after rescaling the edge lengths by $n^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ at step n.
- Conversely, Le Gall (1999) showed that if one successively samples points in a conditionally independent manner from the Brownian CRT \mathcal{T} using the associated mass measure on the leaves and thinks of the trees induced by the sampled leaves as (combinatorial) binary trees, then the resulting process is Rémy's chain.
- It follows from Hewitt-Savage that the limit Brownian CRT T generates the tail σ -field of the Rémy chain up to null sets.

- Conditioning the Rémy chain on the event $\{\lim_{n\to\infty} n^{-\frac{1}{2}}T_n = t\}$ produces a Markov chain that has the same backward transition probabilities as $(T_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ itself and a trivial tail σ -field.
- We call Markov chain that starts at ℵ and has the same backward transition probabilities as (T_n)_{n∈ℕ} an infinite Rémy bridge.
- We say that an infinite Rémy bridge with a trivial tail σ -field is extremal.
- By general theory, any infinite Rémy bridge is a mixture of extremal ones.
- What are all the extremal infinite Rémy bridges?

- An infinite Rémy bridge evolves backwards in time as follows:
 - Pick a leaf uniformly at random.
 - Delete the chosen leaf and its sibling.
 - Close up the gap if there is one.

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Figure: First step in a backward transition of an infinite Rémy bridge: pick a leaf w uniformly at random.

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Figure: Second step in a backward transition of an infinite Rémy bridge: delete the chosen leaf w and its sibling.

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Figure: Third step in a backward transition of an infinite Rémy bridge: close up the gap.

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Radix sort trees

- The radix sort tree for a collection of distinct inputs $z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_n \in \{0, 1\}^{\infty}$ is the tree $R(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_n)$ with leaves $\zeta_1, \zeta_2, \ldots, \zeta_n \in \{0, 1\}^*$, where ζ_i is the shortest prefix of z_i that is not a prefix of ζ_j for $j \neq i$.
- Note that $R(z_1, \ldots, z_n) = R(z_{\sigma(1)}, \ldots, z_{\sigma(n)})$ for any permutation σ of [n].
- The possible radix sort trees are the trees such that if $v_1 \dots v_{\ell-1} v_\ell$ is a leaf, then $v_1 \dots v_{\ell-1} \bar{v}_\ell$ is a vertex, where $\bar{0} := 1$ and $\bar{1} := 0$.



Figure: The radix sort tree for the inputs $z_1 = 100 * **, z_2 = 0 * **, z_3 = 101 * **.$

PATRICIA trees

- Write Φ for the map that takes a tree, removes the vertices with outdegree 1, and "closes up the gaps" to produce a binary tree.
- The PATRICIA ("Practical Algorithm To Retrieve Information Coded In Alphanumeric") tree for a collection of inputs z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_n is the binary tree $\overline{R}(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_n) := \Phi \circ R(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_n).$



Figure: The PATRICIA tree for the inputs $z_1 = 100 * **, z_2 = 0 * **, z_3 = 101 * **.$

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 Given i.i.d. {0,1}[∞]-valued random variables Z₁, Z₂,... with common distribution some diffuse probability measure ν, set

$${}^{\nu}\bar{R}_n := \bar{\mathbf{R}}(Z_1,\ldots,Z_{n+1}).$$

• The Markov chain $({}^{\nu}\bar{R}_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ is an extremal infinite Rémy bridge.

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Yet another example: the zig-zag chain

- Let $((U_n,\eta_n))_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ be an infinite sequence of independent identically distributed $[0,1]\times\{0,1\}$ -valued random variables such that
 - U_n has the uniform distribution on [0, 1],
 - $\mathbb{P}\{\eta_n = 0\} = 1 p \text{ and } \mathbb{P}\{\eta_n = 1\} = p,$
 - U_n and η_n are independent.
- Let σ_n be the random permutation of [n] such that $U_{\sigma_n(1)} < U_{\sigma_n(2)} < \ldots < U_{\sigma_n(n)}$.

• For
$$k \in [n]$$
, put $\epsilon_{n,k} = \eta_{\sigma_n(k)}$.

- Set $S_n := \bigcup_{k \in [n]} \{ \epsilon_{n,1} \dots \epsilon_{n,k}, \epsilon_{n,1} \dots \epsilon_{n,(k-1)} \overline{\epsilon}_{n,k} \}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$
- The tree S_n consists of a single path of length n with obligatory leaves attached.
- The process evolves by inserting an additional independent random step into the path at a uniformly chosen position. The step is to the left with probability 1-p and to the right with probability p.
- The Markov chain $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an extremal infinite Rémy bridge.



Figure: A possible realization at time n = 9 of the zig-zag chain.

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- Fix an infinite Rémy bridge $(T_n^{\infty})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.
- By Kolmogorov's extension theorem, there is a Markov process $(\tilde{T}_n^{\infty})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the random element \tilde{T}_n^{∞} is a leaf-labeled binary tree with n + 1 leaves labeled by [n + 1] and the following hold.
 - The binary tree obtained by removing the labels of \tilde{T}_n^∞ is T_n^∞ .
 - For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the conditional distribution of \tilde{T}_n^{∞} given T_n^{∞} is uniform over the (n+1)! possible labelings of T_n^{∞} .
 - In going backward from time n+1 to time $n,\,\tilde{T}_{n+1}^\infty$ is transformed into \tilde{T}_n^∞ as follows:
 - The leaf labeled n+2 is deleted, along with its sibling.
 - If the sibling of the leaf labeled n + 2 is also a leaf, then the common parent (which is now a leaf) is assigned the sibling's label.

- We will use the labeling and a projective limit construction to build an infinite binary-tree-like structure for which N plays the role of the leaves.
- The "subtree spanned by the leaves labeled by [n+1]" in the projective limit will be essentially \tilde{T}_n^{∞} , and hence the projective limit will encode the whole of $(\tilde{T}_n^{\infty})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ (and hence the whole of $(T_n^{\infty})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$).

Most recent common ancestors

- If $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ are the labels of two leaves T_n^{∞} that are represented as the words $u_1 \dots u_k$ and $v_1 \dots v_\ell$ in $\{0, 1\}^*$, then set $[i, j]_n := u_1 \dots u_m = v_1 \dots v_m$, where $m := \max\{h : u_1 \dots u_h = v_1 \dots v_h\}$.
- That is, $[i, j]_n$ is the most recent common ancestor in T_n^{∞} of the leaves labeled i and j.



- Define an equivalence relation \equiv on the Cartesian product $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ by declaring that $(i',j') \equiv (i'',j'')$ if and only if $[i',j']_n = [i'',j'']_n$ for some (and hence all) n such that $i',j',i'',j'' \in [n+1]$.
- Write $\langle i,j\rangle$ for the equivalence class of the pair (i,j).
- Think of $\langle i, j \rangle$ as the being the most recent common ancestor of the leaves *i* and *j* and of such points being interior vertices of a tree-like object.

Ordering equivalence classes - below and to the left

- Define a partial order $<_L$ on the set of equivalence classes by declaring for $(i',j'), (i'',j'') \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ that $\langle i',j' \rangle <_L \langle i'',j'' \rangle$ if and only if for some (and hence all) n such that $i',j',i'',j'' \in [n+1]$ we have $[i',j']_n = u_1 \dots u_k$ and $[i'',j'']_n = u_1 \dots u_k 0v_1 \dots v_\ell$ for some $u_1, \dots, u_k, v_1, \dots, v_\ell \in \{0,1\}$.
- Interpret the ordering $\langle i', j' \rangle <_L \langle i'', j'' \rangle$ as the "vertex" $\langle i'', j'' \rangle$ being below and to the left of the "vertex" $\langle i', j' \rangle$.



Figure: Configuration leading to $\langle i,j
angle <_L \langle k,\ell
angle$ in the projective limit.

Ordering equivalence classes - below and to the right

- Similarly, define another partial order \langle_R by declaring that $\langle i', j' \rangle \langle_R \langle i'', j'' \rangle$ if and only if for some (and hence all) n such that $i', j', i'', j'' \in [n+1]$ we have $[i', j']_n = u_1 \dots u_k$ and $[i'', j'']_n = u_1 \dots u_k \mathbf{1} v_1 \dots v_\ell$ for some $u_1, \dots, u_k, v_1, \dots, v_\ell \in \{0, 1\}$.
- Interpret the ordering $\langle i',j'\rangle <_R \langle i'',j''\rangle$ as the "vertex" $\langle i'',j''\rangle$ being below and to the right of the "vertex" $\langle i',j'\rangle$.



Figure: Configuration leading to $\langle i,j
angle <_R \langle k,\ell
angle$ in the projective limit.

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- Define a third partial order < on the set of equivalence classes of $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ by declaring that $\langle i', j' \rangle < \langle i'', j'' \rangle$ if either $\langle i', j' \rangle <_L \langle i'', j'' \rangle$ or $\langle i', j' \rangle <_R \langle i'', j'' \rangle$.
- Interpret the ordering $\langle i',j'\rangle < \langle i'',j''\rangle$ as the "vertex" $\langle i'',j''\rangle$ being below the "vertex" $\langle i',j'\rangle$.

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The equivalence relation \equiv and the partial orders $<_L$, $<_R$, and < have the following properties.

(A) For $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$, $(i, j) \equiv (j, i)$. (B) For $i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}$ $(i, j) \not\equiv (k, k)$ unless i = j = k. (C) Fix $f, g, h, i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}$. If $\langle f, g \rangle <_L \langle h, i \rangle$ and $\langle h, i \rangle <_R \langle j, k \rangle$, then $\langle f, g \rangle <_L \langle j, k \rangle$. Similarly, if $\langle f, q \rangle <_R \langle h, i \rangle$ and $\langle h, i \rangle <_L \langle j, k \rangle$, then $\langle f, q \rangle <_R \langle j, k \rangle$. (D) For $h, i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}$, • $\langle h,i \rangle <_L \langle j,k \rangle$ if and only if $\langle h,i \rangle <_L j$ and $\langle h,i \rangle <_L k$; • $\langle h,i \rangle <_B \langle j,k \rangle$ if and only if $\langle h,i \rangle <_B j$ and $\langle h,i \rangle <_B k$; • $\langle h,i\rangle = \langle j,k\rangle$ if and only if either $\langle h,i\rangle \leq_L j$ and $\langle h,i\rangle \leq_R k$ or $\langle h,i\rangle \leq_L k$ and $\langle h,i\rangle \leq_B j$ (E) For $h, i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}$, $\langle h, i \rangle < \langle j, k \rangle$ if and only if $\langle h, i \rangle <_L \langle j, k \rangle$ or $\langle h, i \rangle <_R \langle j, k \rangle$. (F) For distinct $i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}$ there exist $\ell, m \in \{i, j, k\}$ such that $\langle \ell, m \rangle < p$ for all $p \in \{i, j, k\}.$

- A didendritic system is a set $\mathcal{N} \times \mathcal{N}$ for some non-empty (possibly infinite) set \mathcal{N} that is equipped with an equivalence relation \equiv , equivalence classes $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, and partial order $<_L$, $<_R$, and < on the equivalence classes such that (A) (F) hold (with \mathbb{N} replaced by \mathcal{N}).
- We have coined the word "didendritic" from the Greek roots " $\delta \iota \varsigma$ " = "two, twice or double" and " $\delta \epsilon \nu \delta \rho \iota \tau \eta \varsigma$ " = "of or pertaining to a tree, tree-like" as an adjective meaning "binary tree-like".
- A finite didendritic system is the same things as a leaf-labeled binary tree.
- A didendritic system on \mathbb{N} is the same things as a sequence of leaf-labeled trees $(\tilde{\mathbf{t}}_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ with the property that the leaves of $\tilde{\mathbf{t}}_n$, $n\in\mathbb{N}$, are labeled by [n+1] and the sequence is is consistent in the sense that $\tilde{\mathbf{t}}_n$ is produced from $\tilde{\mathbf{t}}_{n+1}$ by:
 - deleting leaf labeled n+2 along with its sibling;
 - if the sibling was also a leaf, assigning its label to the common parent (which is now a leaf).

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- Given a didendritic system $\mathbf{D} = (\mathcal{N}, \equiv, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, <_L, <_R, <)$ and a permutation σ of \mathcal{N} the didendritic system $\mathbf{D}^{\sigma} = (\mathcal{N}, \equiv^{\sigma}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle^{\sigma}, <_L^{\sigma}, <_R^{\sigma}, <^{\sigma})$ is defined by
 - $(i',j') \equiv^{\sigma} (i'',j'')$ if and only if $(\sigma(i'),\sigma(j')) \equiv (\sigma(i''),\sigma(j''))$,
 - $\langle i,j \rangle^{\sigma}$ is the equivalence class of the pair (i,j) for the equivalence relation \equiv^{σ} ,
 - $\langle h,i\rangle^{\sigma} <_{L}^{\sigma} \langle j,k\rangle^{\sigma}$ if and only if $\langle \sigma(h),\sigma(i)\rangle <_{L} \langle \sigma(j),\sigma(k)\rangle$,
 - $\langle h,i\rangle^{\sigma} <_{R}^{\tilde{\sigma}} \langle j,k\rangle^{\sigma}$ if and only if $\langle \sigma(h),\sigma(i)\rangle <_{R} \langle \sigma(j),\sigma(k)\rangle$,
 - $\langle h,i \rangle^{\sigma} < \stackrel{n}{\sigma} \langle j,k \rangle^{\sigma}$ if and only if $\langle \sigma(h), \sigma(i) \rangle < \langle \sigma(j), \sigma(k) \rangle$.

• A random didendritic system $\mathbf{D} = (\mathbb{N}, \equiv, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, <_L, <_R, <)$ is exchangeable if for each permutation σ of \mathbb{N} such that $\sigma(i) = i$ for all but finitely many $i \in \mathbb{N}$ the random didendritic system \mathbf{D}^{σ} has the same distribution as \mathbf{D} .

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- The random didendritic system on N corresponding to the labeled version of an infinite Rémy bridge is exchangeable.
- Conversely, the sequence of random labeled binary trees produced from an exchangeable random didendritic system by successively restricting to [n+1], $n \in \mathbb{N}$, is the labeled version of an infinite Rémy bridge.

 \bullet An exchangeable random didendritic system ${\bf D}$ is ergodic if

$$\mathbb{P}(\{\mathbf{D}\in A\} \triangle \{\mathbf{D}^{\sigma}\in A\}) = 0$$

for some measurable set A for all permutations σ of \mathbb{N} with $\sigma(i) = i$ for all but finitely many $i \in \mathbb{N}$ implies that

$$\mathbb{P}\{\mathbf{D}\in A\}\in\{0,1\}.$$

- Any exchangeable random didendritic system is a mixture of ergodic exchangeable random didendritic systems.
- An infinite Rémy bridge is extremal if and only if the corresponding exchangeable random didendritic system is ergodic.

- Consider a complete separable \mathbb{R} -tree S and a distinguished point $\rho \in S$.
- Define a partial order \prec on S by declaring that $x \prec y$ if $[\rho, x] \subsetneq [\rho, y]$.
- Given $x, y \in \mathbf{S}$ define $x \land y \in \mathbf{S}$ by $[\rho, x \land y] = [\rho, x] \cap [\rho, y]$.
- Observe that $x \land y \preceq x, x \land y \preceq y$, and for any $z \in \mathbf{S}$ with $z \preceq x$ and $z \preceq y$ we have $z \preceq x \land y$.

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Building a didendritic system on $\mathbb N$ from a $\mathbb R\text{-tree}\colon \mathsf{Step}\ 2$

- Let $\{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ be a subset of **S**.
- Suppose that for distinct $i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}$, one of

$$x_i \land x_j = x_i \land x_k \prec x_j \land x_k,$$
$$x_j \land x_k = x_j \land x_i \prec x_k \land x_i,$$

or

$$x_k \downarrow x_i = x_k \downarrow x_j \prec x_i \downarrow x_j$$

holds.



Figure: Although this \mathbb{R} -tree is not "binary", the required condition holds for the given choice of x_i, x_j, x_k .

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- Define an equivalence relation \equiv on $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ by declaring that
 - $(i,i) \equiv (j,k)$ if and only if $x_i = x_j = x_k$ (equivalently, i = j = k),
 - for $h \neq i$ and $j \neq k$, $(h, i) \equiv (j, k)$ if and only if $x_h \land x_i = x_j \land x_k$.
- Write $\langle i, j \rangle$ for the \equiv -equivalence class of (i, j).
- For simplicity, write i for $\langle i, i \rangle$.

- Define a partial order < on $\{\langle i,j
 angle: i,j\in\mathbb{N}\}$ by declaring that
 - for $\langle i,j \rangle \neq k$, $\langle i,j \rangle < k$ if and only if $i \neq j$ and $x_i \land x_j \preceq x_k$ (in particular, $\langle i,j \rangle < i$ and $\langle i,j \rangle < j$ for $i \neq j$),
 - for $h \neq i$ and $j \neq k$, $\langle h, i \rangle < \langle j, k \rangle$ if and only if $x_h \land x_i \prec x_j \land x_k$.

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- Suppose further that for distinct $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ there are elements w(i, j) of the set $\{\frown, \frown\}$ with the following properties:
 - For $i \neq j$, $w(i,j) = \frown$ if and only if $w(j,i) = \frown$.
 - For distinct $i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}$, if $x_i \land x_j = x_i \land x_k \prec x_j \land x_k$, then w(i, j) = w(i, k).
- FACT: There is a unique pair of partial orders $<_L$ and $<_R$ on $\{\langle i,j \rangle: i,j \in \mathbb{N}\}$ such that

$$\langle i,j \rangle <_L i \text{ and } \langle i,j \rangle <_R j \iff w(i,j) = \curvearrowright.$$

• END RESULT: The objects \mathbb{N} , \equiv , $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, $<_L$, $<_R$, < form a didendritic system

- Start with a complete separable \mathbb{R} -tree S and a distinguished point $\rho \in S$, and suitably randomize the above construction as follows.
- Fix a diffuse probability measure μ on **S** and take $\{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ to be a realization of $\{\xi_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$, where $(\xi_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ are i.i.d. with common distribution μ .
- Require that μ is such that almost surely for distinct $i,j,k\in\mathbb{N},$ one of

$$\begin{split} \xi_i &\land \xi_j = \xi_i \land \xi_k \prec \xi_j \land \xi_k, \\ \xi_j &\land \xi_k = \xi_j \land \xi_i \prec \xi_k \land \xi_i, \end{split}$$

or

$$\xi_k \land \xi_i = \xi_k \land \xi_j \prec \xi_i \land \xi_j$$

holds.

• Define the equivalence relation \equiv , equivalence classes $\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle$, and partial order < as above.

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- Construct a sequence of i.i.d. [0, 1]-valued r.v. (U_n)_{n∈ℕ} with common uniform distribution.
- Define $\{\frown, \frown\}$ -valued r.v. $w(i, j), i, j \in \mathbb{N}, i \neq j$, by setting

 $w(i,j) := W(\xi_i, U_i, \xi_j, U_j)$

for a function $W: \mathbf{S} \times [0,1] \times \mathbf{S} \times [0,1] \to \{\frown,\frown\}$ such that almost surely:

- for $i \neq j$, $W(\xi_i, U_i, \xi_j, U_j) = \cap$ if and only if $W(\xi_j, U_j, \xi_i, U_i) = \cap$;
- for distinct i, j, k, if $\xi_i \land \xi_j = \xi_i \land \xi_k \prec \xi_j \land \xi_k$, then $W(\xi_i, U_i, \xi_j, U_j) = W(\xi_i, U_i, \xi_k, U_k)$.
- Define partial orders $<_L$ and $<_R$ as above.

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- The above construction builds an ergodic exchangeable random didendritic system (and hence an extremal infinite Rémy bridge).
- Conversely, any ergodic exchangeable random didendritic system (and hence any extremal infinite Rémy bridge) arises from this construction this converse takes a lot of work and involves the Aldous-Hoover-Kallenberg theory of exchangeable arrays. Moreover, there are parallels with graph limits and graphons.