On Planar Graphs of Uniform Polynomial Growth

Farzam Ebrahimnejad

joint work with James R. Lee













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where $d_G(u, v)$ is the shortest path distance between u and v.

• We are interested in how |B(v, R)| grows as a function of *R*.



|B(v,0)|=1



|B(v,1)|=3



|B(v,R)| = 2R + 1



$$\frac{B(v,R)}{=\Theta(R)} = 2R + 1$$



$$\frac{B(v, R)}{= \Theta(R)}.$$



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|B(v,0)| = 1



|B(v,1)|=5



|B(v,2)| = 13



$$|B(v,R)| = 2R^2 - 2R + 1$$



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|B(v,R)|



 $|B(v,R)| \le (2R+1)^2$



$(R+1)^2 \le |B(v,R)| \le (2R+1)^2$





|B(v,0)| = 1



|B(v,1)| = 3



|B(v,2)| = 7



 $|B(v, R)| = 2^{R+1} - 1$



 $|B(v, R)| = 2^{R+1} - 1$ = $\Theta(2^R)$.

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for some constants $0 < c \leq C$.

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Examples

- The *d*-dimensional grid has R^d uniform growth, which is polynomial in R.
- The *infinite binary tree* has 2^R uniform growth, which is exponential in *R*.
- Not all graphs have uniform volume growth.

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If *G* is a *vertex-transitive* planar graph of uniform growth, then the growth is either linear, quadratic, or exponential.

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Theorem [Benjamini - Schramm '01]

For all $\alpha \ge 1$, there exists an (infinite) planar graph of uniform growth R^{α} .









Theorem [Benjamini - Schramm '01]

The sequence of random rooted graphs $(Q_1, \rho_1), (Q_2, \rho_2), \ldots$, where ρ_i is chosen uniformly among the vertices of Q_i , has a subsequential limit (Q_{∞}, ρ) .



Defined as the distributional limit of a random uniform triangulation of the 2-sphere [Angel - Schramm '03].

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Drawn by Igor Kortchemski

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• Balls of radius *R* in the UIPT almost surely have volume $R^{4+o(1)}$ [Angel '03].



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Theorem [E - Lee '21]

For all $\alpha > 2$, there exists a (unimodular) planar graph of uniform growth R^{α} in which the complements of all balls are connected.





Outline

✓ Planar graphs of uniform polynomial growth > 2.

- - ✓ Their "structure".

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Up next . . .

- ✓ Planar graphs of uniform polynomial growth > 2.
 - ✓ Their "structure".
 - Up next . . .
 - □ Random walks.
 - □ Effective resistances.
 - \Box Our construction(s).

Random Walks






















Recurrence vs. Transience



An (infinite) graph *G* is recurrent if for (all) $v_0 \in V(G)$, the random walk starting from v_0 returns to v_0 almost surely.





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- Distributional limits of random rooted finite planar graphs are almost surely *recurrent* when the degree of the root has an exponential tail
 [Benjamini Schramm '01, Gurel Gurevich Nachmias '12].

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 [Benjamini Schramm '01, Gurel Gurevich Nachmias '12].
 - This includes the Benjamini Schramm constructions and the UIPT.

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- ◎ Further conjectured to be true for *doubling* planar graphs.











Theorem [Doyle - Snell '84]

G = (V, E) is recurrent if and only if $R_{\text{eff}}(v, \infty) = \infty$ for $v \in V$. Where

$$R_{\rm eff}(v,\infty) = \lim_{R\to\infty} R_{\rm eff}(v,V \setminus B(v,R)).$$

How to Bound the Effective Resistance?



$$R_{\text{eff}}(u,v) \gtrsim \frac{1}{|S_1|} + \frac{1}{|S_2|} + \dots + \frac{1}{|S_n|}$$



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Linear-sized Separators in \mathbb{Z}^2



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$$= \infty$$













$$R_{\rm eff}(v,\infty) \ge \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} R_{\rm eff}\left(B(v,2^k), V \smallsetminus B(v,2^{k+1})\right)$$



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Cannon's Conjecture ['94]

Let Γ be a Gromov hyperbolic group whose visual boundary $\partial_{\infty}\Gamma$ is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 . Then $\partial_{\infty}\Gamma$ is *quasisymmetric* to \mathbb{S}^2 .

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Source: Cannon - Floyd - Parry '01

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Theorem [E - Lee '21]

For α , $\epsilon > 0$, there is a unimodular random planar graph G = (V, E) of almost sure uniform growth R^{α} that further almost surely satisfies

 $R_{\text{eff}}(B(v,R), V \smallsetminus B(v,10R)) \lesssim_{\epsilon} 1/R^{1-\epsilon}.$

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Planar graphs with uniform polynomial growth are all *recurrent*.

- Easy to show that it holds for *all* graphs of growth $O(R^2)$.
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Theorem [E - Lee '21]

For all $\alpha > 2$, there is a *transient* planar graph of uniform growth R^{α} .

The Construction(s)









◎ Obesrvation: $A \circ (B \circ C) = (A \circ B) \circ C$.

 $\{\mathbf{G}^n:n\geq 1\}$

G =

 $\{\mathbf{G}^n:n\geq 1\}$



G =

- 3 ——

 $\{\mathbf{G}^n:n\ge 1\}$


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G² =

$\{\mathbf{G}^n:n\geq 1\}$











 $\{\mathbf{H}^n:n\geq 1\}$



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H² =

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$$|B_{\mathbf{H}^n}(v, 3^{n+1})| = 12^n$$

Lemma: $|B_{\mathbf{H}^n}(v, R)| \approx R^{\log_3 12}$



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$$|B_{\mathbf{H}^n}(v, 3^{n+1})| = 12^n$$

∘ $|\mathbf{H}^n| = 12^n$



- ◎ $|B_{\mathbf{H}^n}(v, 3^{n+1})| = 12^n$ ∘ $|\mathbf{H}^n| = 12^n$
 - $3^n \leq \operatorname{diam}(\mathbf{H}^n) \leq 3^{n+1}$

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The Transient Construction T_{∞}



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$$R_{\rm eff}(u \leftrightarrow \infty) \lesssim \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{H}^i)$$

$$R_{\text{eff}}(u \leftrightarrow \infty) \lesssim \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{H}^{i})$$
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Generalizations



Theorem [Lee '17]

Suppose (G, ρ) is a unimodular random planar graph and *G* almost surely has uniform polynomial growth of degree *d*. Then:

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Theorem [E - Lee '21]

For $d \ge 2$ and $\epsilon > 0$, there is a unimodular random planar graph (G, ρ) that almost surely has uniform polynomial growth of degree d and

$$\mathbb{E}\left[d_G(X_0, X_t) \mid X_0 = \rho\right] \succeq_{\epsilon} t^{1/(\max(2, d-1) + \epsilon)}.$$

For all $\alpha > 2$, we can construct a transient planar graph of uniform growth R^{α}

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- and the speed of the random walk is $t^{1/(\max(2,d-1)+\epsilon)}$.

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- \odot Can we get rid of the ϵ in the effective resistance / random walk speed bound?
 - In particular is there a planar graph of uniform polynomial growth *α* > 2 in which the random walk is diffusive?
- Other applications?
 - Sphere-packable generalizations.



Thank you!