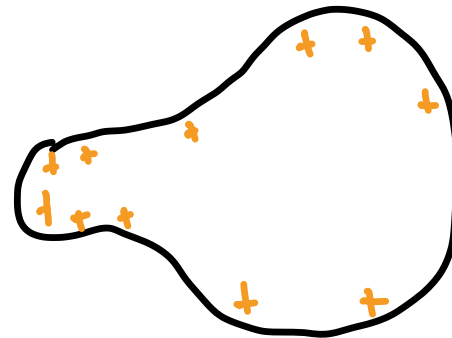
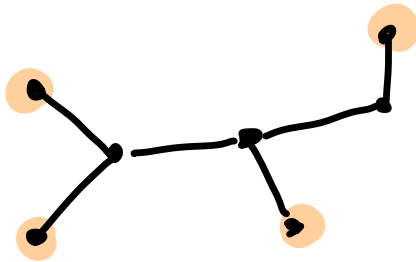


# Distance matrices & equilibrium measures

on trees



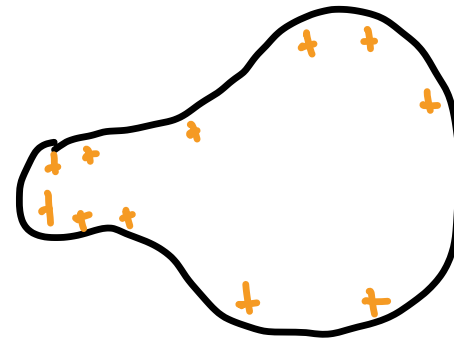
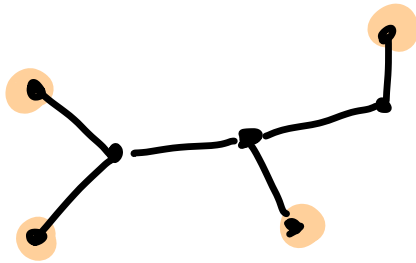
Harry Richman

7 December 2022

Matsen Lab, Fred Hutch

# Distance matrices & equilibrium measures

on trees

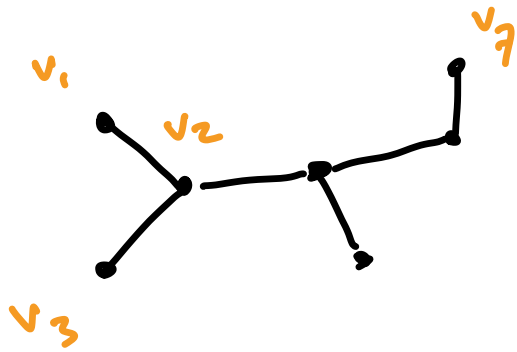


joint work w/  
Farbod Shokreh, Chenxi Wu  
U. Washington U. Wisconsin



# Distance matrices

Problem What does the determinant of a distance matrix tell us "combinatorially"?



tree

$$D = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & \dots & v_7 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ \vdots \\ v_7 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 4 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

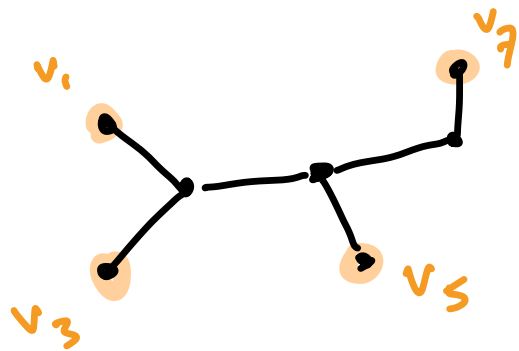
distance matrix

all nodes,  
internal included

# Distance matrices

Problem What does the determinant of a distance submatrix tell us "combinatorially"?

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 4 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



tree

$D[s]$  =  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & 4 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

e.g. only leaf nodes

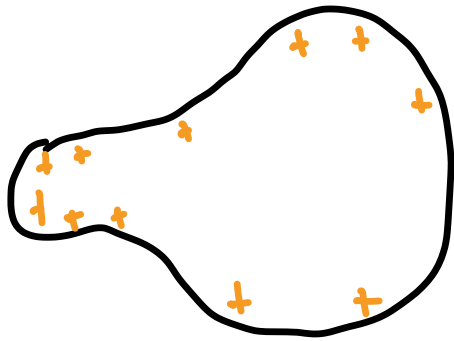
distance submatrix

# Equilibrium measures

→ "Potential theory"

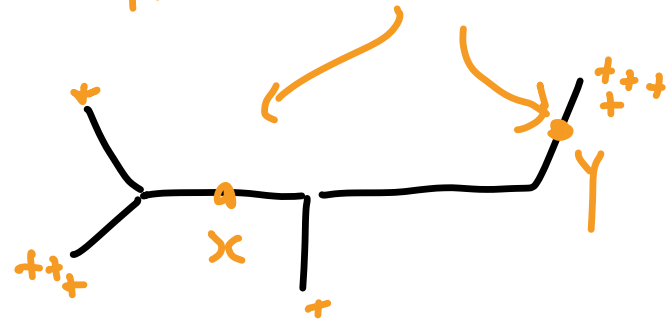
Problem How do particles "distribute" along a region, given repulsive potential  $U(x,y)$ ?

$$U(x,y) = -\ln|x-y|$$



2-dim region

$$U(x,y) = -\text{dist}(x,y)$$



1-dim tree

Problem What does the determinant of  
a distance matrix tell us "combinatorially"?



Problem How do particles "distribute" along  
a tree, given repulsion function  $U(x,y)$ ?

# Distance matrices

Problem What does the determinant of  
a distance matrix tell us "combinatorially"?



What do we mean?

Ex. Matrix tree theorem:

Laplacian matrix  $\rightsquigarrow$  number of  
spanning trees

Aside:

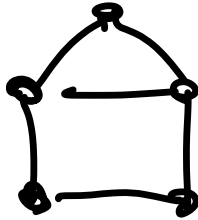
# Spanning trees

A spanning tree is a subgraph which

"spanning" • contains all vertices

"tree" • contains no cycles  
• is connected

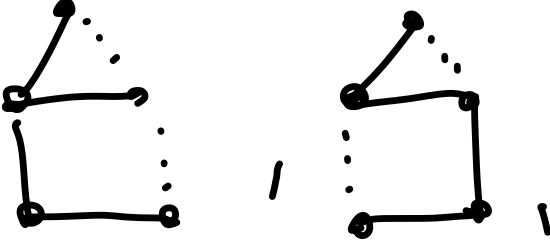
Ex.



G



Spanning trees



...

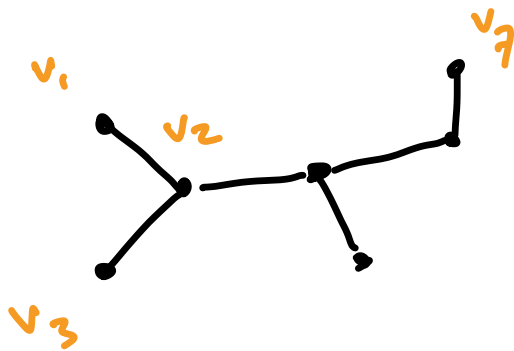
How many?



# Aside: Laplacian matrices

$$L = (\text{degree}) - (\text{adjacency matrix})$$

Problem What does the determinant of a Laplacian matrix tell us "combinatorially"?



tree

$$L = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & \dots & v_7 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ \vdots \\ v_7 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & & & & \\ -1 & 3 & -1 & & & \\ & -1 & 1 & & & \\ & -1 & & 3 & -1 & -1 \\ & & & -1 & 1 & \\ & & & & & 2 & -1 \\ & & & & & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Laplacian matrix

## Aside: Laplacian matrices

Problem What does the determinant of a Laplacian matrix tell us "combinatorially"?

Note:  $\det L = 0$  ☹

Theorem (Kirchhoff 1847, "Matrix-tree theorem")

Given graph  $G$ , Laplacian matrix  $L$

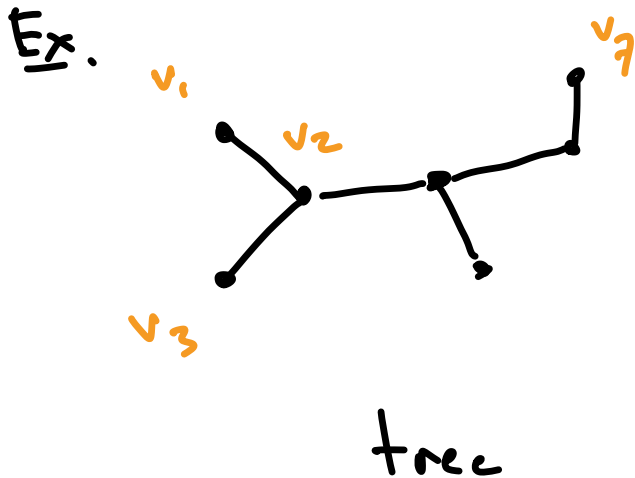
$$\det \underline{L[\bar{q}]} = \# \{ \text{spanning trees of } G \}$$

↓  
"q-reduced Laplacian", any  $q \in V$

# Aside: Laplacian matrices

Theorem (Kirchhoff)  $\det L[\bar{g}] = \# \{ \text{spanning trees of } G \}$

↓  
"reduced Laplacian"

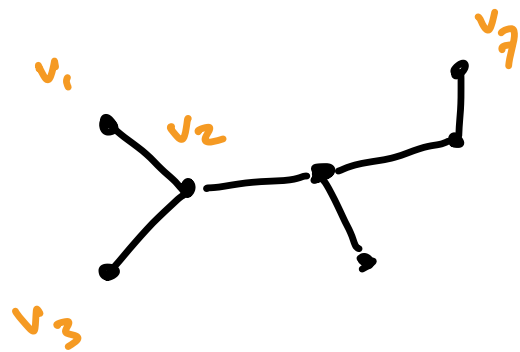


$$L = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & \dots & v_7 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ \vdots \\ v_7 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & & & & & \\ -1 & 3 & -1 & -1 & & & \\ & -1 & 1 & & & & \\ & & & 3 & -1 & -1 & \\ & & & -1 & 1 & & \\ & & & & & 2 & -1 \\ & & & & & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \det L[\bar{v}_i] = 1$$

# Distance matrices

Problem What does the determinant tell us ?



tree

$$D = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & \dots & v_7 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ \vdots \\ v_7 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 4 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

distance matrix

all nodes,  
internal included

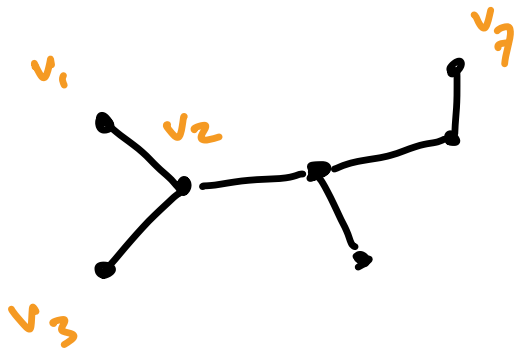
$$\Rightarrow \det D = \underline{192}$$



combinatorial info ?

# Distance Matrices

Problem What does the determinant tell us ?



tree

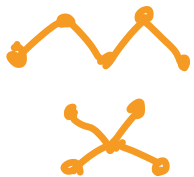
$$D = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & \dots & v_7 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ \vdots \\ v_7 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 4 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

distance matrix

all nodes,  
internal included

Theorem (Graham - Pollak, 1971)

$$\det D = (-1)^{n-1} 2^{n-2} (n-1)$$



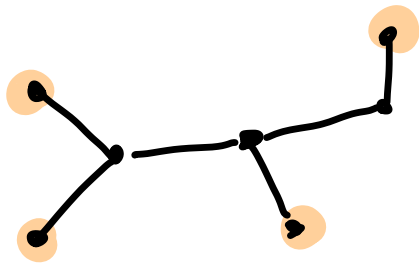
where  $n = \#$  of vertices



no  
combinatorics

# Distance matrices

Problem What does the determinant tell us ?



tree

$$D[s] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & 4 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{e.g. only} \\ \text{leaf nodes} \end{array}$$

distance submatrix

$$\leadsto \det D[s] = -252 \quad ??$$



No previously known combinatorial interpretation,

to my knowledge ...

# Distance Matrices

Thm (Graham - Pollak)

$$\det D = (-1)^{n-1} 2^{n-2} (n-1)$$

Theorem (R - Shokrieh - Wu)

Given a tree  $G = (V, E)$

a vertex subset  $S \subset V$

corresponding distance submatrix  $D[S]$ ,

then

$$\det D[S] = (-1)^{|S|-1} 2^{|S|-2} \left( (n-1) k_1(G; S) - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_2(G; S)} (\deg^{\circ}(F, *) - 2)^2 \right)$$

where  $n = \#$  vertices

$k_1(G; S) = \#$   $S$ -rooted spanning forests

$\mathcal{F}_2(G; S) = (S, *)$ -rooted spanning forests

$\deg^{\circ}(F, *) =$  out-degree of floating component

Rank:  $\mathcal{F}_1(G; S) \leftrightarrow$  spanning tree  $G/S$

## Distance Matrices: Spanning forests

Given graph  $G = (V, E)$

vertex subset  $S \subset V$

$K_1(G; S) = \#\mathcal{F}_1(G; S)$

How many?

Def'n An S-rooted spanning forest of  $G$  is a subgraph which

"spanning" • contains all vertices of  $G$

"forest" • contains no cycles

"S-rooted" • each connected component contains exactly one vertex of  $S$

$S =$  leaf set

" $\partial G$ "

Ex.  $\mathcal{F}_1(G; S) = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{graph 1} \\ \text{graph 2} \\ \dots \end{array} \right\}$



$$\# F_2(G; S) = ?$$

# Distance Matrices : spanning forests

Given graph  $G = (V, E)$

vertex subset  $S \subset V$

$F_2(G; S) \leftrightarrow$  2-comp. forests  
 $G/S$

Def'n An  $(S, *)$ -rooted spanning forest of  $G$  is a

subgraph which

"spanning"

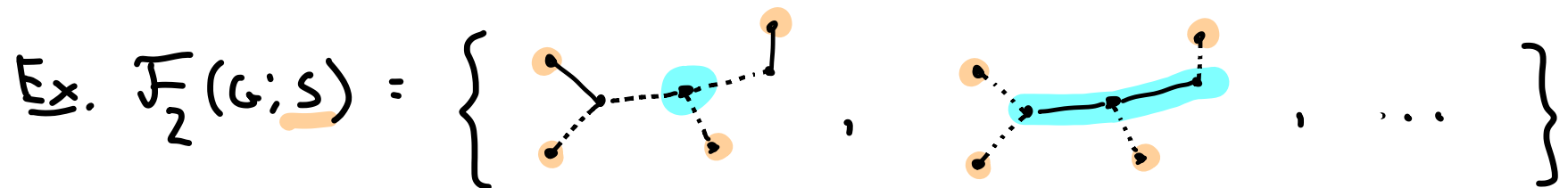
- contains all vertices of  $G$

"forest"

- contains no cycles

" $(S, *)$ -rooted"

- each connected component contains one vertex of  $S$ , PLUS a "floating" component  $\equiv F(*)$



# Distance Matrices : spanning forests

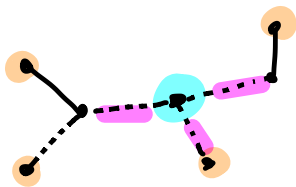
Given graph  $G = (V, E)$

vertex subset  $S \subset V$

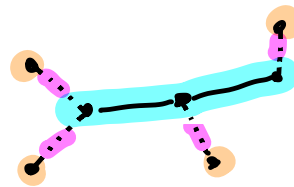
$(S, *)$ -rooted spanning forest  $F \in \mathcal{F}_2(G; S)$

Def'n The out-degree  $\deg^o(F, *)$  of the floating component is  $\# \{ \text{edges from } F(*) \text{ to outside} \} =: \# \partial F(*)$

Ex.

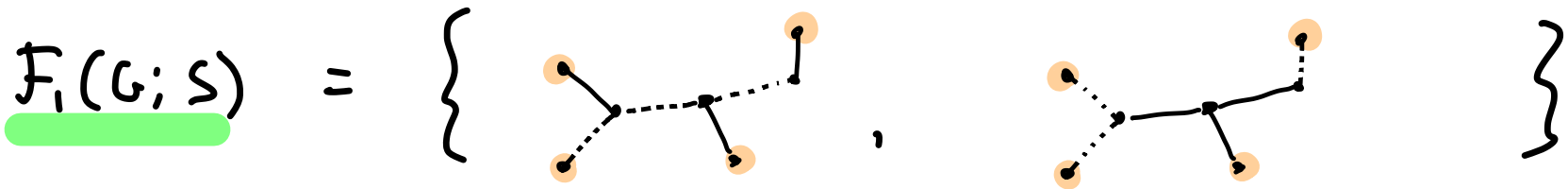


$$\deg^o(F, *) = 3$$

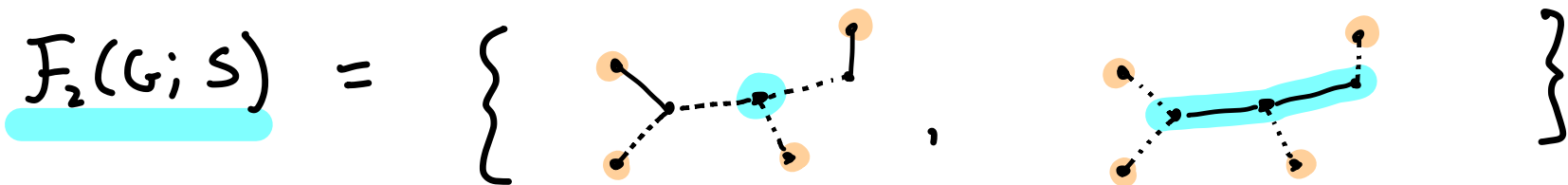


$$\deg^o(F, *) = 4$$

Aside: Transitions between  $\mathcal{F}_1(G; S)$  and  $\mathcal{F}_2(G; S)$   
 form interesting "dynamical system"



delete edge  $e \in T$   $\downarrow$   $\uparrow$  add edge  $e \in \partial F(x)$



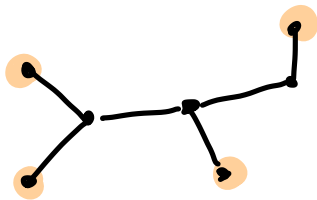
★ Fields Medal: June Huh

# Distance matrices

Theorem (R - Shokrieh - Wu)

$$\det D[S] = (-1)^{|S|-1} z^{|S|-2} \left( (n-1) \kappa(G; S) - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_2(G; S)} (\deg^o(F, *) - 2)^2 \right)$$

Ex.



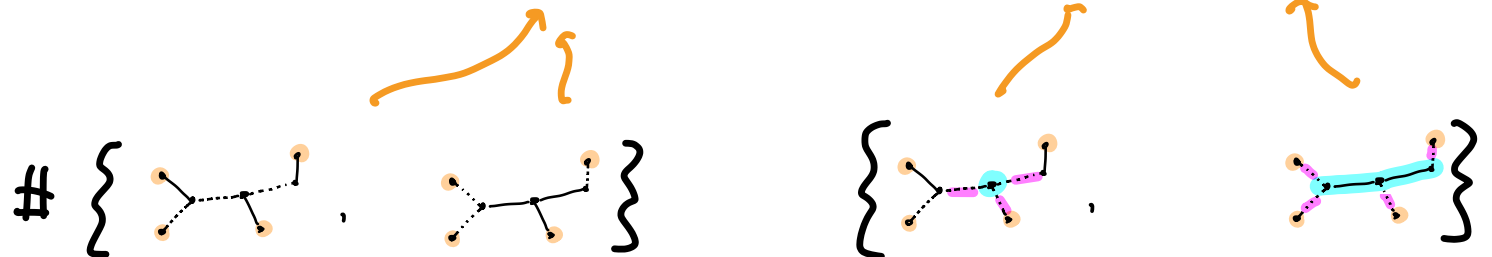
tree

$$D[S] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & 4 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

distance submatrix

$\Rightarrow \det D[S] = -252$

$$= (-1)^3 z^2 \left( (7-1) \cdot 13 - (5 \cdot 0^2 + 7 \cdot 1^2 + 2 \cdot 2^2) \right)$$



# Distance matrices

Theorem (R - Shokrieh - Wu)

$$\det D[S] = (-1)^{|S|-1} z^{|S|-2} \left( (n-1) \kappa(G; S) - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_2(G; S)} (\deg^{\circ}(F, *) - 2)^2 \right)$$

How to prove?



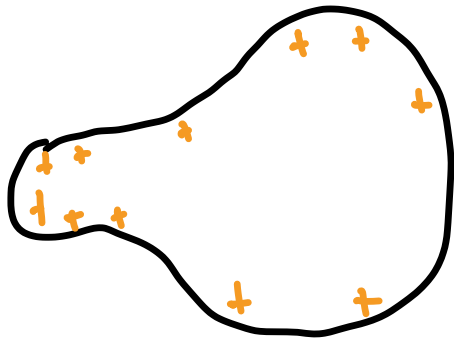
Equilibrium measures & potential

theory on trees

# Equilibrium measures $\rightsquigarrow$ "Potential theory"

Problem How do particles "distribute" along a planar region, given repulsive potential  $U(x, y)$ ?

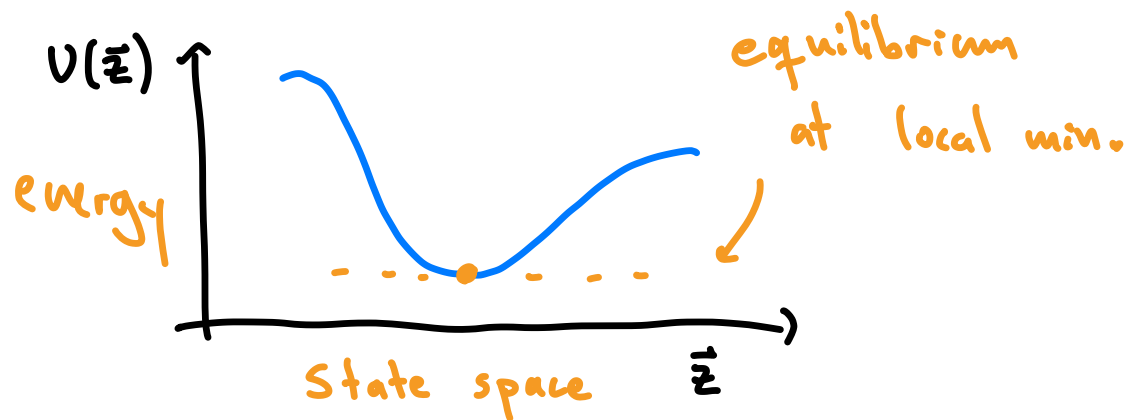
$$U(x, y) = -\ln|x - y|$$



2-dim region

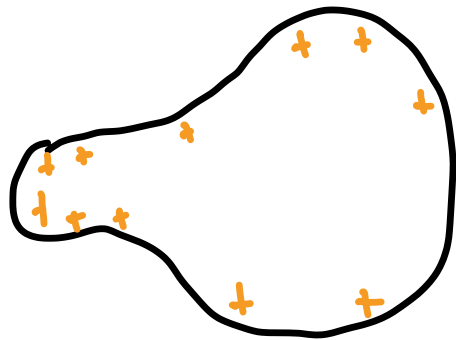
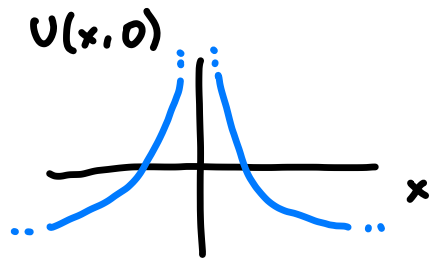
Physics view:

A system changes over time to lower its "potential energy"



# Equilibrium measures: planar case

For a planar region  $R \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ ,



2-dim region

① Two-point potential

$$U(x, y) = -\ln|x - y|$$

② Linearity of potential

$$U\left(\sum_i a_i x_i, \sum_j b_j y_j\right) = -\sum_i \sum_j a_i b_j \ln|x_i - y_j|$$

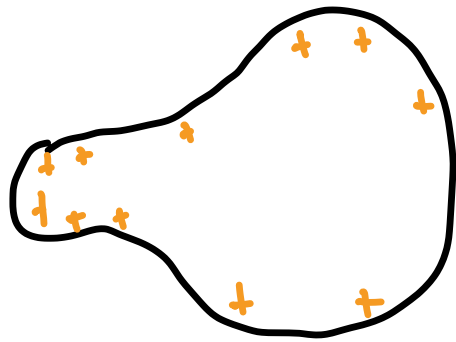
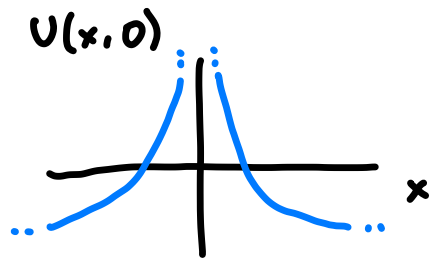
②' Continuous limit

$$U(\mu, \nu) = -\iint \ln|x - y| d\mu(x) d\nu(y)$$

# Equilibrium measures: planar case

Physics Fact: On region  $R \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ , equilibrium is

unique measure  $\mu = \mu_R$  on  $\partial R$  such that



2-dim region

- $\mu(\partial R) = 1$   $\rightarrow$  conservation of mass

- $\xi(\mu) := - \iint \log|x-y| d\mu(x) d\mu(y)$

is minimized

$\downarrow$   
 $V(\mu, \mu)$  self-repulsion potential

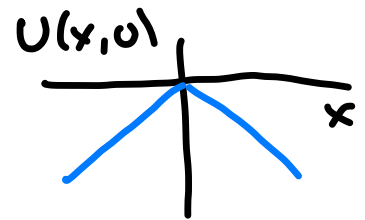


# Equilibrium measures: trees

Problem How do particles "distribute" along a tree, given repulsive potential  $U(x,y)$ ?



1-dim tree



① Two-point potential

$$U(x,y) = -\text{dist}(x,y)$$

② Linearity of potential

$$U\left(\sum_i a_i v_i, \sum_j b_j v_j\right) = -\sum_i \sum_j a_i b_j \text{dist}(v_i, v_j)$$

distance matrix!

$$= -\left( [a_1 \dots a_n] \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

# Equilibrium measures: trees $G, S \subset V$

(Math Def'n)

Physics Fact: The equilibrium vector is the (unique)

vector  $\vec{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^S$  satisfying

- $\vec{1} \cdot \vec{\mu} = 1$

→ "conservation  
of mass"

- $\Sigma(\vec{\mu}) = -\vec{\mu}^T D[S] \vec{\mu}$

is minimized



1-dim tree

# Equilibrium measures

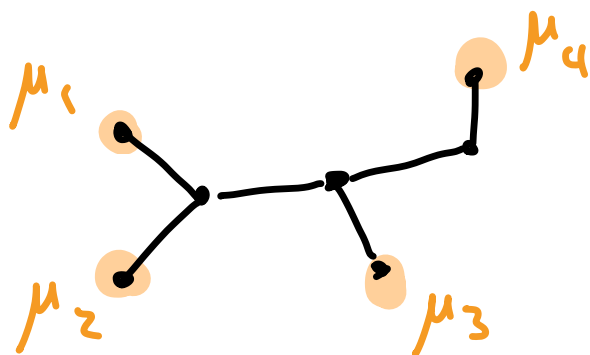
Physics Fact: The equilibrium is the unique vector  $\vec{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^S$  satisfying

$$\bullet \vec{1} \cdot \vec{\mu} = 1$$

$$\bullet \Sigma(\vec{\mu}) = -\vec{\mu}^T D[S] \vec{\mu}$$

is minimized

Ex. What happens in practice?



tree

$$D[S] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & 4 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

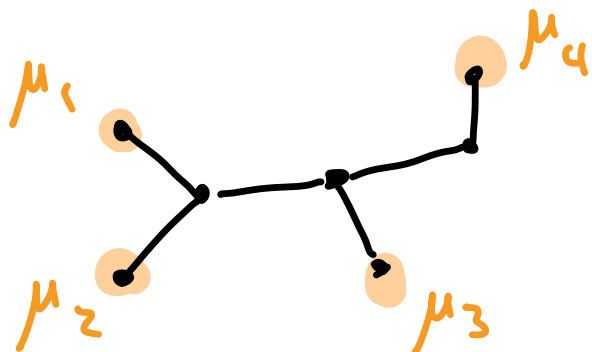
distance

submatrix

$\Rightarrow$  Computational demo, gradient descent

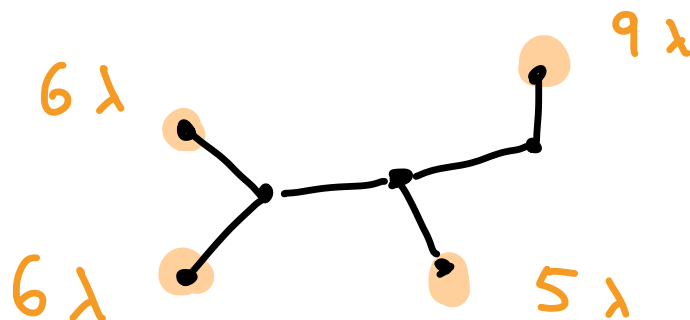
# Equilibrium measures

Ex.



$\rightsquigarrow$

Equilibrium



equilibrium  
ratio  
↓

$$D[S]_{\vec{\mu}^*} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & 4 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 6 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 63 \\ 63 \\ 63 \\ 63 \end{bmatrix}$$

distance  
submatrix

Recall:

$$\det D[S] = -252 = -4(63)$$

# Equilibrium measures

\* Technical detail:

$D[S]$  has signature  $(1, |S|-1)$

Theorem (Lagrange multipliers & linear algebra\*)

Suppose  $\vec{\mu}^*$  is the unique vector in  $\mathbb{R}^S$  satisfying

$$\bullet \vec{1} \cdot \vec{\mu} = 1$$

$$\bullet \Sigma(\vec{\mu}) = -\vec{\mu}^T D[S] \vec{\mu}$$

is minimized

Then

$$\Sigma(\vec{\mu}^*) = -\frac{\det D[S]}{\text{cof } D[S]}$$

$$\text{cof } A = \sum_{i,j} (-1)^{i+j} \det A_{i,j}$$

where  $\text{cof} =$  "sum of cofactors"

$\leadsto$  Goal: Compute  $\det D[S] = -(\text{cof } D[S]) \cdot \Sigma(\vec{\mu}^*)$

# Equilibrium measures

Goal: Compute  $\det D[S] = -(\text{cof } D[S]) \cdot \xi(\vec{\mu}^*)$

Theorem (Bapat - Sivasubramanian, et al.?)

The equilibrium vector  $\vec{\mu}^* = \sum_i \mu_i^* v_i$   
is

$$\mu_i^* = \frac{\sum_{T \in \mathcal{F}_i} (2 - \deg^0(T, i))}{2 \cdot \kappa_1(G; S)}$$

Equilibrium vector

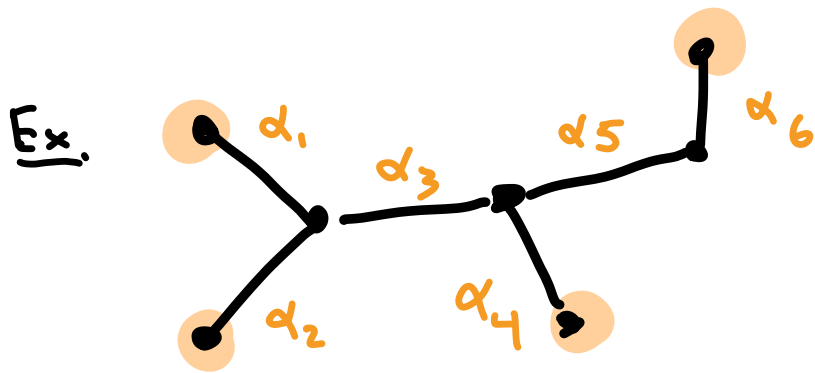
- $\vec{1} \cdot \vec{\mu} = 1$
- $\xi(\vec{\mu}) = -\vec{\mu}^T D[S] \vec{\mu}$   
is minimized

Theorem (Bapat - Sivasubramanian, 2011)

$$\text{cof } D[S] = (-2)^{|S|-1} \kappa_1(G; S)$$

# Generalizations : edge weights

Assign positive weight  $\alpha_e$  to each edge  $e \in E$



edge-weighted  
tree

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 & \dots \\ \alpha_1 & 0 & \alpha_2 & \\ \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 & \alpha_2 & 0 & \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

weighted  
distance  
matrix

Theorem (Bapat - Kirkland - Neumann, 2005)

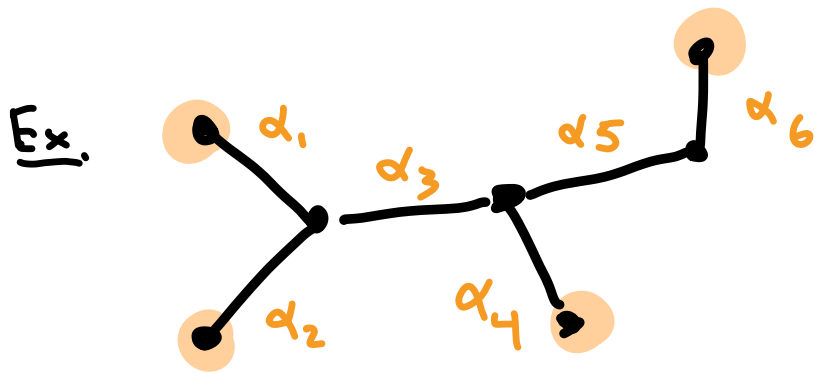
$$\det D = (-1)^{n-1} 2^{n-2} \left( \sum_E \alpha_e \prod_E \alpha_e \right)$$

Thm (Graham - Pollak)

$$\det D = (-1)^{n-1} 2^{n-2} (n-1)$$

# Generalizations : edge weights

Assign positive weight  $\alpha_e$  to each edge  $e \in E$



edge-weighted tree

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 & \dots \\ \alpha_1 & 0 & \alpha_2 & \\ \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 & \alpha_2 & 0 & \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

weighted distance matrix

Theorem (R-Shokrieh - Wu)

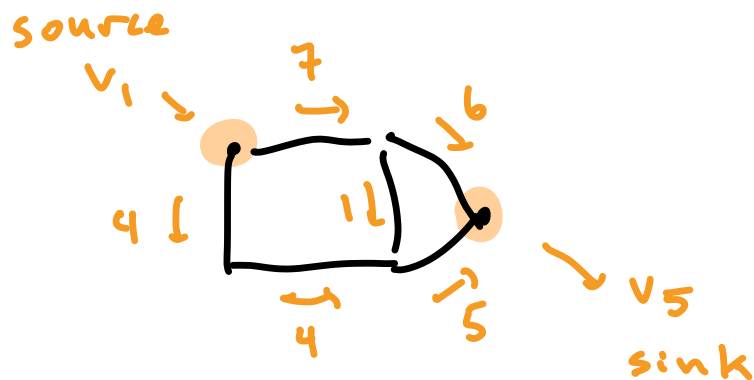
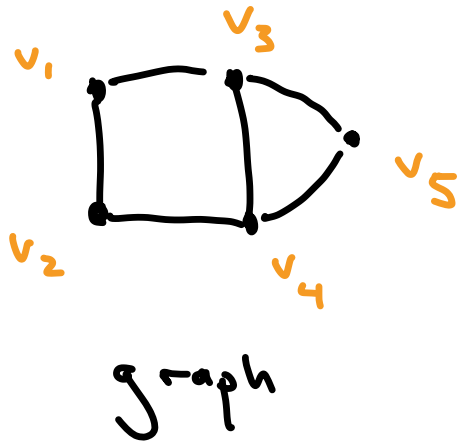
$$\det D[S] = (-1)^{|S|-1} 2^{|S|-2} \left( \sum_E \alpha_e \sum_{T \in \mathcal{F}_1} w(T) - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_2} (\deg^0(F, *) - 2)^2 w(F) \right)$$

edge weights



# Generalizations : graphs w/ cycles

Ex.

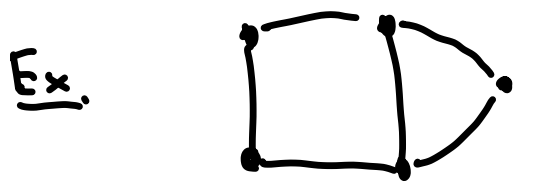


$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

effective resistance matrix

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 8/11 & 8/11 & 10/11 & 13/11 \\ 8/11 & 0 & 10/11 & 8/11 & 13/11 \\ 8/11 & 10/11 & 0 & 6/11 & 7/11 \\ 10/11 & 8/11 & 6/11 & 0 & 7/11 \\ 13/11 & 13/11 & 7/11 & 7/11 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Generalizations : "continuous" graphs



graph  $G$

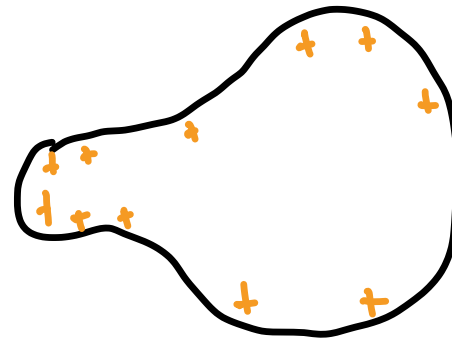
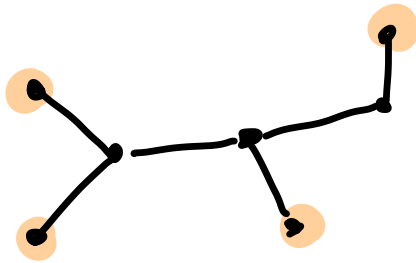


metric graph  $\Gamma$

Theorem (R-S-W) Calculate equilibrium measure  $\mu^*$  on  $\Gamma$  and "resistance energy"

$$\mathcal{E}(\mu^*) := - \int_{\Gamma} \int_{\Gamma} r(x,y) d\mu^*(x) d\mu^*(y)$$

Thank you!



Harry Richman

7 December 2022

Matsen Lab, Fred Hutch



Remark Flavors of discretization

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y$$

	continuous mass $n_i \in \mathbb{R}$	discrete mass $m_i \in \mathbb{Z} = Y$
continuous space $X: \mathbb{R}$ or $\Gamma$	"classical" physics, potential theory	algebraic curves & divisors, tropical geometry, divisor theory
discrete space $X: G$	linear algebra $\text{Mat}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{R}^n$	$\text{Mat}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{Z}), \mathbb{Z}^n$ critical group, sandpile group