

# The speed of a branching system of $(L,1)$ random walks in random environment

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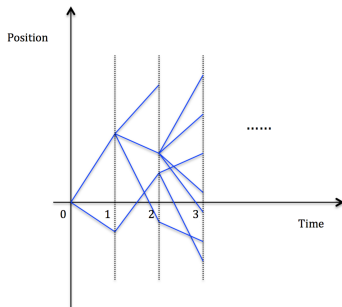
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- Model and background
- Main results
- A sketch of the proof
- References

# Branching Random Walk

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- An initial particle is at the origin of  $\mathbb{R}$ , which forms the 0th generation.
- It gives birth to offspring particles that form the first generation. Their displacement from their parent are described by a point process  $\Theta$ .

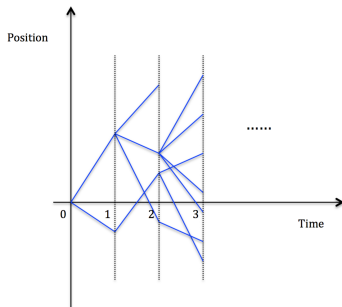


- Résvése(1994), Shi Zhan(2016).

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- Asmussen,S., Kaplan,N.(1976), Biggins,J.D.(1990).

## Branching random walk in random environment

### Branching random walk with random environment in time

- the distributions of offspring and the distribution of the displacement of the children may vary from generation to generation according to a random environment
- Biggins and Kyprianou (2004);
- Gao,Z., Liu,Q., Wang,H.(2012): Central limit theorems for a counting measure;
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- ◇ the offspring distribution of a particle situated at  $z$  depends on a random environment indexed by its situation  $z$ , while the moving mechanism is controlled by a fixed deterministic law, e.g. Greven, A., den Hollander, F. (1992);
- ◇ the reproduction law depends on the location, and each particle has almost surely at least one offspring.
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    - If  $m > m_c$ , there is infinitely often at least one particle with positive location;
    - If  $m \leq m_c$ , there is no particle in  $\mathbb{N}$  at time  $n$  for  $n$  large enough.
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If  $m < m_c$ , the rightmost particle goes to  $-\infty$  with a negative speed;

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- Zhang(2013): Central limit theorem for the counting measure  $Z_n(\cdot)$  in the annealed case.

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★ Consider a branching system of  $(L,1)$  random walks in random environment (BSRWRE)

- branching random walk with random environment **in location**
- particles reproduce with a fixed reproduction law;
- move as  $(L,1)$  random walk in random environment  $X_n$ .

★ If  $X_n \rightarrow -\infty$ , there is for our model a competition between the environment and the branching process.

- **random walk in random environment**: pushing the particle to  $-\infty$ ;
- **branching process**: creates new particle and then increases the possibility that some particles go very far on the right.

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Study the asymptotic behavior of the rightmost particle, conditionally on the survival of the branching process.

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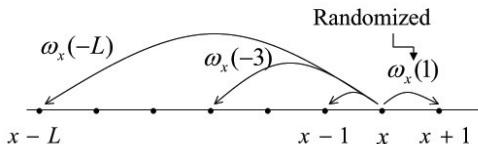
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## ★ (L,1) random walks in random environment

- Random environment:  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P, \theta)$ , where  $(\omega_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \Omega$  i.i.d.
- Random walk:  $\{X_n, n \geq 0\}$  is a time homogeneous Markov chain with transition probability

$$P_\omega(X_{n+1} = x + l | X_n = x) = \omega_x(l), \quad x \in \mathbb{Z}, l \in \{-L, \dots, -1, 1\}.$$



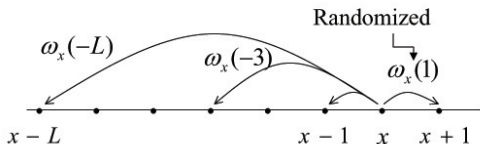
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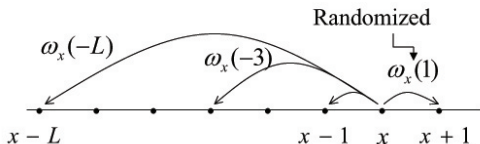


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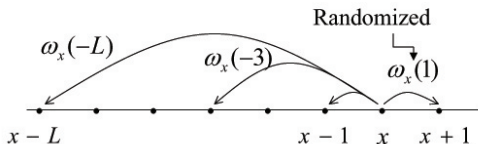


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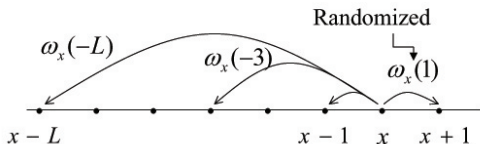


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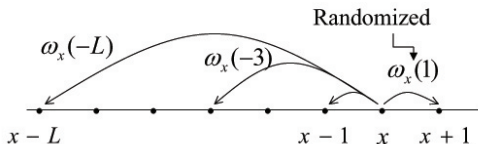


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- **quenched law:**  $P_\omega$ , which is defined on the path space  $(\mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}, \mathcal{G})$ .
- **annealed law:**  $\mathbb{P} = P \otimes P_\omega$ , which is defined on the space  $(\Omega \times \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}, \mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{G})$

$$\mathbb{P}(F \times G) = \int_F P_\omega(G) P(d\omega) \quad F \in \mathcal{F}, G \in \mathcal{G}.$$

★ **branching system:** Galton-Watson process  $\Gamma$ .

- $p_k \geq 0$  and  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} p_k = 1$ ;
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For each given environment, the particle system behaves like this

- At time  $n = 0$ , there is only one particle, located at 0.
- At time  $n = 1$ , the particle moves to 1 with probability  $\omega_0(1)$ , or to  $-l$  with probability  $\omega_0(-l)$ , where  $-l \in \{-L, \dots, 1\}$ . Arriving at the new location, it gives birth to  $k$  offspring with probability  $p_k$ , and dies.
- At time  $n = 2$ , each particle moves independently, according to the probabilities for random walk in random environment. Then it produces new offspring independently, with the same reproduction law as before, and dies.
- Iterating this procedure, we obtain a branching system of random walks in random environment.

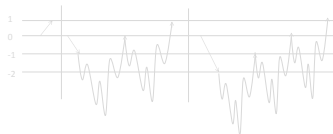
Let  $T_n$  be the hitting time of  $(L,1)$  random walk in random environment, and

$$\lambda_{crit} = \sup\{\lambda : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log E_\omega(e^{\lambda T_n}, T_n < +\infty) < +\infty, \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log E_\omega(e^{\lambda T_{-n}}, T_{-n} < +\infty) < +\infty\}.$$

## Proposition 1

$\lambda_{crit}$  is deterministic.

The idea of the proof. By the decomposition for stopping time  $T_1$ , we have



$$E_{\theta\omega}(e^{\lambda T_1}) = \omega_1(1)e^\lambda + \omega_1(-1)e^\lambda E_{\theta\omega}(e^{\lambda(T_1 \circ \theta^{-1})})E_{\theta\omega}(e^{\lambda T_1}) \\ + \omega_1(-2)e^\lambda E_{\theta\omega}(e^{\lambda(T_1 \circ \theta^{-2})})E_{\theta\omega}(e^{\lambda(T_1 \circ \theta^{-1})})E_{\theta\omega}(e^{\lambda T_1}).$$

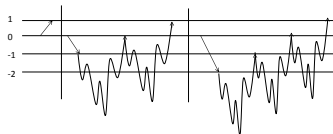
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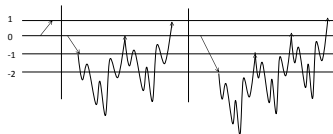
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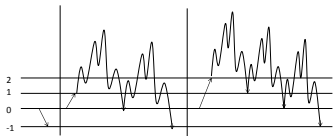
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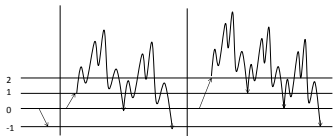


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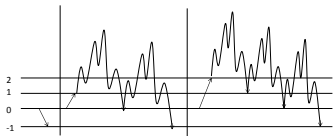


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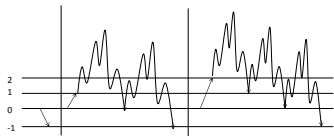


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Define

$$\bar{M}_i = \begin{pmatrix} a_i(1) & \cdots & a_i(L-1) & a_i(L) \\ 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $a_i(l) = \frac{\omega_i(-l) + \cdots + \omega_i(-L)}{\omega_i(1)}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Let  $\gamma_L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|M(n-1, 0)\|$ ,  $P$ -a.s. be the top Lyapunov exponent of random matrix  $M$ .

## Lemma (Brémont(2002))

For  $(L, 1)$  random walk in random environment,

- (i) If  $\gamma_L > 0$ ,  $X_n \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s.
- (ii) Under the condition of (IM),

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{X_n}{n} = \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}(\pi(\omega))}, \quad \mathbb{P} - a.s.$$

## Main result

Let  $m_n^*$  denote the location of the rightmost particle at time  $n$ , and

$$m_c = \exp(\lambda_{crit}).$$

### Theorem

Suppose  $\gamma_L > 0$ ,  $\Gamma$  be the Galton-Watson process governing the branching system.

(i) If  $1 < m < m_c$ , then

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m_n^*}{n} < 0 \mid \Gamma \text{ survives} \right) = 1;$$

(ii) If  $m > m_c$ , then

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m_n^*}{n} > 0 \mid \Gamma \text{ survives} \right) = 1;$$

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## Precise formulation of the model

- $\lambda(x, n)$  denotes the number of particles located at  $x$  at time  $n$ ;
- $m_n^* = \max\{x \in \mathbb{Z}, \lambda(x, n) > 0\}$ ;
- $\{Z(x, n, \mu)\}$  i.i.d., independent of  $\omega$ , s.t.  $\mathbb{P}(Z(x, n, \mu) = p_k)$ ;
- $\{X(x, n, \mu)\} \sim U[0, 1]$  i.i.d.;
- $\mathcal{F}_\omega(n) = \sigma(\lambda(x, k), 0 \leq k \leq n, x \in \mathbb{Z})$ .

Then

$$\lambda(x, n+1) = \sum_{\mu=1}^{\lambda(x-1, n)} \mathbf{1}_{X(x-1, n, \mu) \leq \omega_{x-1}} Z(x-1, n, \mu) + \sum_{\mu=1}^{\lambda(x+1, n)} \mathbf{1}_{X(x+1, n, \mu) \leq \omega_{x+1}} Z(x+1, n, \mu)$$

**Lemma (Révész(1994), Devulder,A.(2007))**

For  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\forall 0 \leq n \leq N$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$E_\omega(\lambda(x, N) | \mathcal{F}_\omega(n)) = m^{N-n} \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}} \lambda(y, n) P_\omega(X_{p+N-n} = x | X_p = y);$$

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## Lemma (Yilmaz 2009)

Suppose

(A1) there exists a  $r > 0$ , such that  $\int |\log \omega_0(j)|^{1+r} d\mathbb{P} > \infty$  for each  $j \in \{-L, \dots, -1, 1\}$ ;

(A2) there exists a  $\delta > 0$ , such that  $\mathbb{P}(\omega_0(\pm 1) \geq \delta) = 1$ .

Then  $(L, 1)$  random walk in random environment  $X_n$  satisfies a quenched large deviation principle with deterministic, convex and continuous rate function  $I_\eta^q$ ,

$$I_\eta^q(v) = \begin{cases} \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}} \{ \lambda - v \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log E_\omega(e^{\lambda T_n}, T_n < +\infty) < +\infty \} & v > 0, \\ \lambda_{crit} & v = 0, \\ \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}} \{ \lambda - |v| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log E_\omega(e^{\lambda \bar{T}_{-n}}, \bar{T}_{-n} < +\infty) < +\infty \} & v < 0 \end{cases}$$

# Properties of the rate function

We need the properties of the rate function  $I_\eta^q(v)$  on  $(u, 1)$ , where  $u < 0$ .

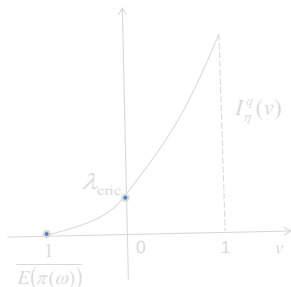
- $I_\eta^q(v)$  is convex and continuous at 0.

- Note that

$$\frac{X_n}{n} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}(\pi(\omega))}, \quad \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s.}$$

Then  $I_\eta^q\left(\frac{1}{\mathbb{E}(\pi(\omega))}\right) = 0$ , where  $\frac{1}{\mathbb{E}(\pi(\omega))} < 0$ .

- The shape of the  $I_\eta^q$





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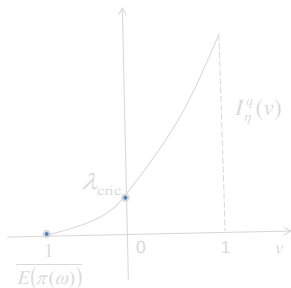
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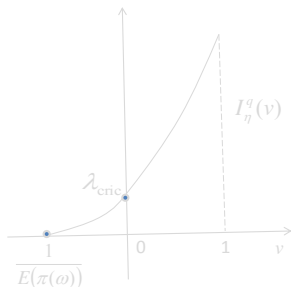
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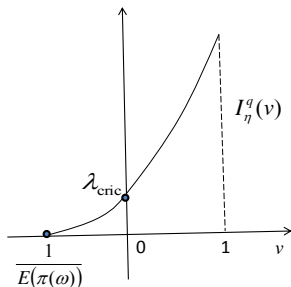
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## In the case of $1 < m < m_c$

In the case of  $1 < m < m_c = \exp(I_\eta^q(0))$ ,

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$$\begin{aligned} P_\omega\{\lambda[(-\alpha n, +\infty), n] \geq 1\} &\leq E_\omega\left[\sum_{x=-\alpha n}^{+\infty} \lambda(x, n)\right] \\ &= m^n P_\omega(X_n \geq -n\alpha) \leq \exp\{n[\log m - I_\eta^q(-\alpha) + \varepsilon]\}, \mathbb{P}\text{-a.s.} \end{aligned}$$

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By Borel-Cantelli Lemma, we have

$$P_\omega \{ \lambda [ (-\alpha n, +\infty), n ] \geq 1, i.o. \} = 0, \mathbb{P}\text{-a.s.}$$

That is,

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In the case of  $m > m_c = \exp(I_\eta^q(0))$ ,

Step 1. Aim: Construct a supercritical Galton-Watson tree  $T$ , whose vertices of the  $n$ th generation are particles which are at a positive location at time  $nk_\omega$ .

Basic idea: Hammersley(1974), Biggins(1977), Devulder(2007).

We first fix constants  $k_\omega$  and  $\Lambda_\omega$ :

- Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$ , s.t.  $\log m > I_\eta^q(0) + \varepsilon$ ;
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Construct recursively a supercritical tree  $\{Y_n\}$ , s.t. at each time  $nk_\omega$ , there are at least  $Y_n$  particles located in  $\mathbb{N}$ .

- $Y_0 = 1, \quad Y_1 = \lambda(\mathbb{N}, k_\omega).$
- Suppose that at time  $nk_\omega$  there are at least  $Y_n$  particles in  $\mathbb{N}$ .  
(We only consider these  $Y_n$  particles and ignore all the other particles which are possibly surviving at time  $nk_\omega$ .)
- The number of particles located in  $\mathbb{N}$  at time  $(n+1)k_\omega$  and generated by these  $Y_n$  particles is greater than or equal to the number of particles located in  $\mathbb{N}$  at time  $(n+1)k_\omega$ , and is greater than or equal to the number of particles generated by  $Y_n$  particles all of which are located at 0 at time  $nk_\omega$ .
- Thus, at time  $(n+1)k_\omega$ , there are at least  $Y_{n+1}$  particles in  $\mathbb{N}$ ,

$$Y_{n+1} := \sum_{i=1}^{Y_n} X_{n,i}, \quad \text{where } X_{n,i} \stackrel{d}{=} Y_1$$

and are independent (given  $\omega$ ).

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- Thus, at time  $(n+1)k_\omega$ , there are at least  $Y_{n+1}$  particles in  $\mathbb{N}$ ,

$$Y_{n+1} := \sum_{i=1}^{Y_n} X_{n,i}, \text{ where } X_{n,i} \stackrel{d}{=} Y_1$$

and are independent (given  $\omega$ ).



## In the case of $m > m_c$

Construct recursively a supercritical tree  $\{Y_n\}$ , s.t. at each time  $nk_\omega$ , there are at least  $Y_n$  particles located in  $\mathbb{N}$ .

- $Y_0 = 1$ ,  $Y_1 = \lambda(\mathbb{N}, k_\omega)$ .
- Suppose that at time  $nk_\omega$  there are at least  $Y_n$  particles in  $\mathbb{N}$ .  
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Note that

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The constructed G-W tree is supercritical, and

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_\omega(\cap_{l \geq n} \{Y_l \geq 2^l\}) > 0, \mathbb{P}\text{-a.s.}$$

Remark:

- When  $T$  survives,  $Y_n \geq 2^n$  as  $n$  large enough.
- With a positive probability, there is an exponential number of particles in  $\mathbb{N}$  at time  $nk_\omega$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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*Proof.* Let  $B(k_\omega)$  denote the total number of particles at time  $k_\omega$ , satisfies  $E_\omega(B(k_\omega)^2) < \infty$ . As a consequence, we have  $E_\omega((Y_1)^2) < \infty$ .

Since  $E_\omega(Y_1) = \Lambda_\omega > 2$ , which is greater than 1, there exists a random variable  $W_\omega$ , satisfying  $P_\omega(W_\omega > 0) > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s., and

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**Step 2. Aim:** Some of the particles originated from  $T$  will go far enough.

For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $A \in \mathbb{N}$ , and any integer  $N$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & P_\omega \{ \lambda([A, +\infty), nk_\omega + N) = 0 \mid \mathcal{F}_\omega(nk_\omega) \} \\ &= \prod_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} \prod_{l=1}^{\lambda(x, nk_\omega)} P_\omega \{ \lambda([A, +\infty), N) = 0 \} = \prod_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} [P_\omega^x(\lambda([A, +\infty), N) = 0)]^{\lambda(x, nk_\omega)} \end{aligned}$$

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Let  $a \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\varepsilon' > 0$ . Then there exist  $M_\omega \in \mathbb{N}$ , s.t.  $\forall N \geq M_\omega$ ,

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If  $q_N$  denotes the probability that the Galton-Watson tree  $\Gamma$  extinct before time  $N$ , we notice that for  $N \geq M_\omega$ ,

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Let  $E_1(\omega, n) = \{Y_n \geq 2^n\}$ , and notice that  $q_N \leq q_\infty \in [0, 1)$ .

As a consequence, on  $E_1(\omega, n)$ , we obtain for  $N \geq M_\omega$ ,

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Let  $N_n = 2 \lfloor \frac{n \log 2}{4(I_\eta^q(a) + \varepsilon')} \rfloor$ . For all large  $n$ , we obtain on  $E_1(\omega, n)$ ,

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where  $C > 0$  is a constant. Hence

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### Lemma

*Let  $m_n^*$  denote the location of the rightmost particle at time  $n$ . For almost all environment  $\omega$ , there exists a real number  $S_\omega > 0$ , such that*

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Step 3. Aim: Although  $T$  only has a positive survival probability, there are always particles going very far, as long as the branching process  $\Gamma$  survives.

- Define the event

$$A(S) = \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m_n^*}{n} \geq S \right\}.$$

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- Define  $E_3(N) = \{B(N) \geq r^N\}$ , where  $B(N)$  denote the total number of particles at time  $N$ ,  $1 < r < m$ . Then

$$\{\Gamma \text{ survives}\} = \liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} E_3(N),$$



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- Define  $E_3(N) = \{B(N) \geq r^N\}$ , where  $B(N)$  denote the total number of particles at time  $N$ ,  $1 < r < m$ . Then

$$\{\Gamma \text{ survives}\} = \liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} E_3(N),$$

Step 3. Aim: Although  $T$  only has a positive survival probability, there are always particles going very far, as long as the branching process  $\Gamma$  survives.

- Define the event

$$A(S) = \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m_n^*}{n} \geq S \right\}.$$

- $\{P_{\theta^{i\omega}}(A(S))\}_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$  is a stationary sequence, and nondecreasing. Thus  $P_{\theta^{i\omega}}(A(S)) = P_\omega(A(S))$ ,  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s.,  $\forall i \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
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- On  $E_3(N)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & P_\omega \left( \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m_n^*}{n} < S \mid \mathcal{F}_\omega(N) \right) \\ & \leq \prod_{x \in \mathbb{Z}} (1 - P_{\theta^x \omega}[A(S)])^{\lambda(x, N)} \leq [1 - P_\omega[A(S)]]^{r^N}. \end{aligned}$$

- Since  $P_\omega(A(S_\omega)) > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left( P_\omega \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m_n^*}{n} < S_\omega \mid \mathcal{F}_\omega(N) \right\} \cap E_3(N) \right) \\ & \leq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} [1 - P_\omega(A(S_\omega))]^{r^N} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

- This yields

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m_n^*}{n} > 0 \mid \Gamma \text{ survives} \right) = 1.$$

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**Thanks for your attention**