

Binary search trees of permutation samples

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Full version at [arXiv:2403.03151](https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.03151)

Outline

- I. BSTs and permutons
- II. Universality of the height
- III. Proof ideas

I. BSTs and permutons

Binary Search Trees

A Binary Search Tree (BST) is a rooted labeled binary tree such that: for each vertex v , all labels of vertices in its left-subtree are smaller than that of v (resp. right-subtree, greater).

I. BSTs and permutons

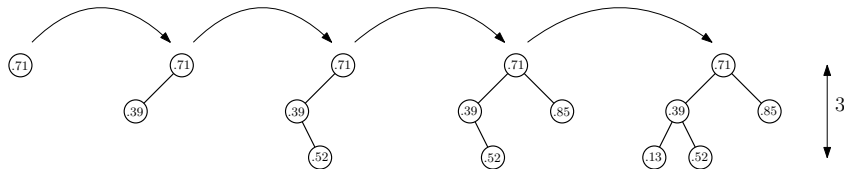
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BST associated with a sequence of distinct numbers

Let $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$ be a sequence of distinct numbers. We can construct a BST $\mathcal{T}\langle y \rangle$ by successively adding leaves with those labels.

Construction of $\mathcal{T}\langle y \rangle$ with $y = (.71, .39, .52, .85, .13)$:



I. BSTs and permutons

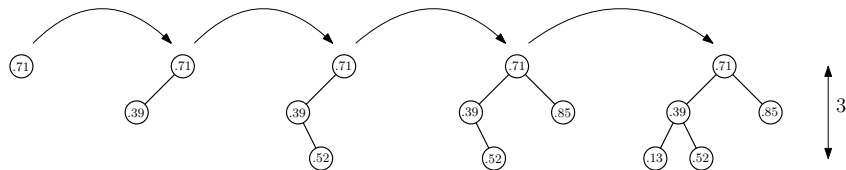
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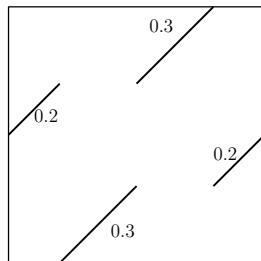
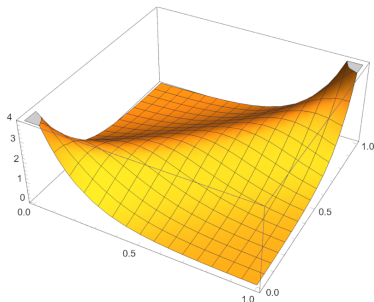
Rem: same shape as $\mathcal{T}\langle \sigma \rangle$ with $\sigma = (4, 2, 3, 5, 1)$.

I. BSTs and permutons

Permutons

A *permuton* (or *copula*) is a probability measure μ on $[0, 1]^2$ with uniform marginals:

$$\forall t \in [0, 1], \quad \mu([0, t] \times [0, 1]) = \mu([0, 1] \times [0, t]) = t.$$



I. BSTs and permutons

Permuton samples

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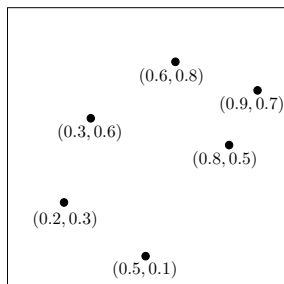
Define a reordering $(x_{(1)}, y_{(1)}), \dots, (x_{(n)}, y_{(n)})$ by $x_{(1)} < \dots < x_{(n)}$. There exists a unique permutation $\sigma = \sigma(\mathcal{P})$ such that $(y_{(1)}, \dots, y_{(n)})$ and $(\sigma(1), \dots, \sigma(n))$ are in the same relative order.

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\mathcal{P}

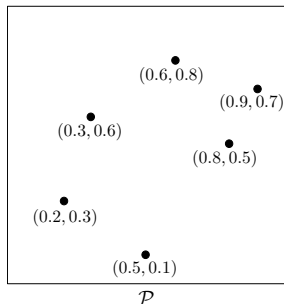
$$(y_{(1)}, \dots, y_{(6)}) = (0.3, 0.6, 0.1, 0.8, 0.5, 0.7)$$

$$\sigma\langle \mathcal{P} \rangle = (2, 4, 1, 6, 3, 5)$$

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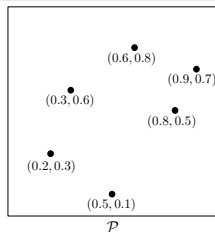
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Rem: if $\mu = \text{Leb}_{[0,1]^2}$ then σ_μ^n is uniformly random.

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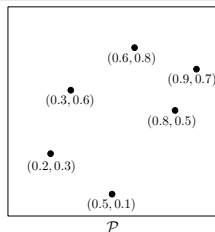
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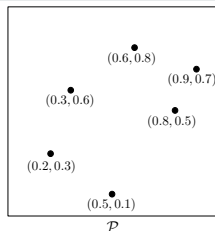
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- Continuous deformation of the uniform distribution
- Highly non-parametric, wide range of distributions
- Insight on the links between random permutations and their limit permuton

I. BSTs and permutons

BST of a point process

Let $\mathcal{P} = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ with no common x- or y-coordinate.

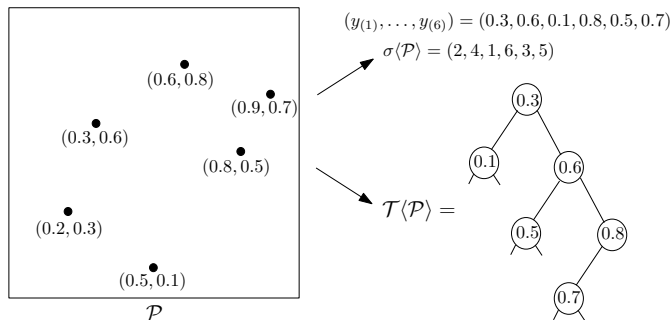
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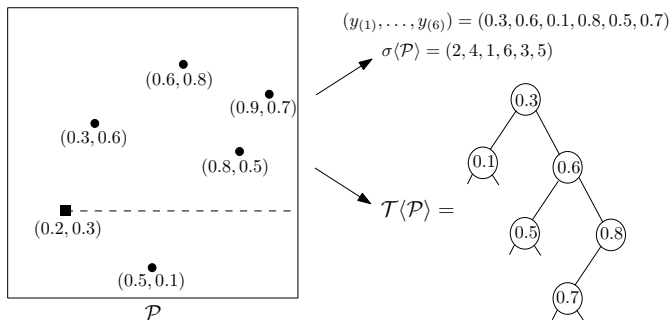
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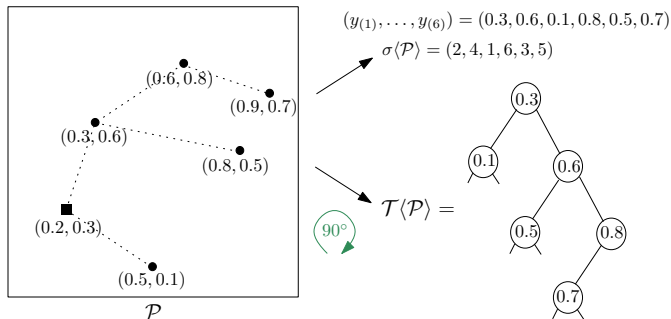
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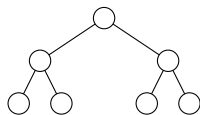
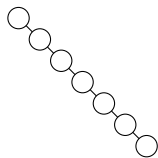
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$$n \geq h(\mathcal{T}\langle\sigma(1), \dots, \sigma(n)\rangle) \geq \log_2(n+1)$$



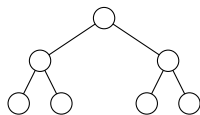
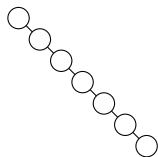
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Depending on the law of σ , asymptotic results for $h(\mathcal{T}\langle\sigma\rangle)$?

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Devroye '86

If $\sigma_n \sim \text{Unif}(\mathfrak{S}_n)$ then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\frac{h(\mathcal{T}\langle\sigma_n\rangle)}{c^* \log n} \rightarrow 1$$

in probability and in L^p for all $p \geq 1$, where $c^* \geq 2$ solves $c \log(2e/c) = 1$.

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Let $q \in [0, 1]$. The Mallows distribution $M_{n,q}$ is defined by:

$$\forall \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n, \quad M_{n,q}(\sigma) \propto q^{\text{inv}(\sigma)}.$$

Addario-Berry – Corsini '21

If $\sigma_n \sim M_{n,q_n}$ where $n(1 - q_n)/\log n \rightarrow 0$, then:

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Let $\theta \geq 0$. The record-biased distribution $R_{n,\theta}$ is defined by:

$$\forall \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n, \quad R_{n,\theta}(\sigma) \propto \theta^{\text{rec}(\sigma)}.$$

Corsini '23

If $\sigma_n \sim R_{n,\theta}$ where $\theta \leq c^*$, then:

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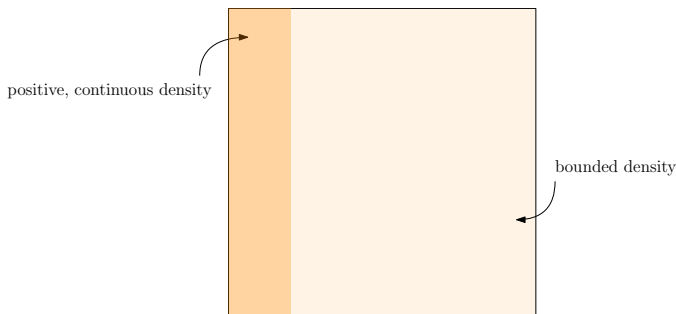
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Corsini – D. – Féray '24

Let μ be a permuton with a bounded density on $[0, 1]^2$, which is continuous and positive on a neighborhood of $\{0\} \times [0, 1]$. Then:

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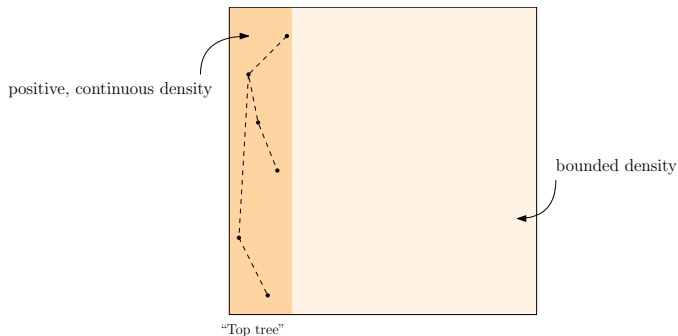
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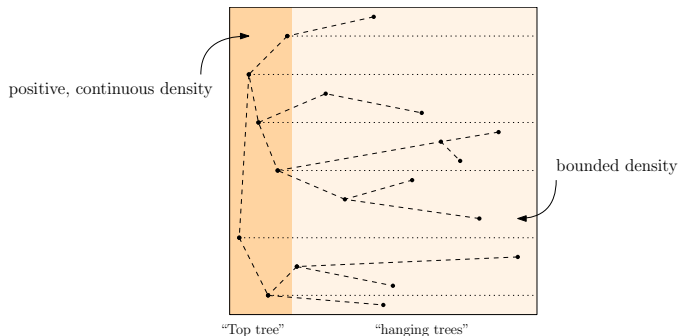
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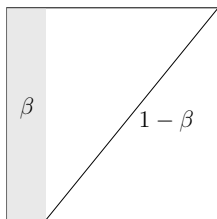
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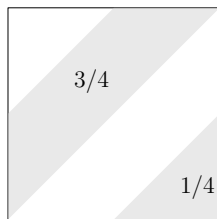
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Necessity of assumptions:

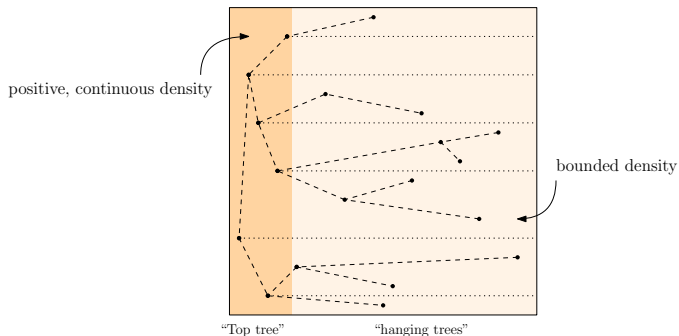


Height $\sim c_\beta \log n$ for some $c_\beta > c^*$



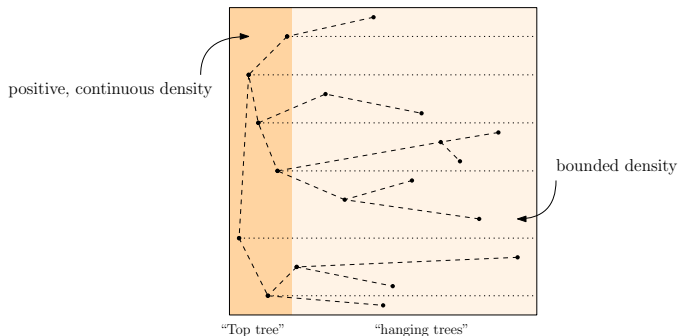
Height $\geq c\sqrt{n}$

III. Proof ideas



$$h(\mathcal{T}_{\text{top}}) \leq h(\mathcal{T}(\sigma_{\mu}^n)) \leq h(\mathcal{T}_{\text{top}}) + 1 + \max_k h(\mathcal{T}_{\text{hanging}}^k)$$

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Two steps:

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This is mainly done via coupling techniques and deviation estimates.

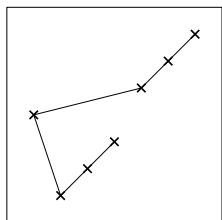
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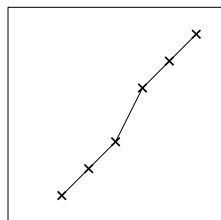
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Problem: taking out a point might double the height...



height = 4



height = 6

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Definition

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Let $\mathcal{P}_- \subseteq \mathcal{P}_+$ be two point sets.

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If C is a chain of maximal size in $\mathcal{T}\langle\mathcal{P}_+\rangle$ then:

$$h(\mathcal{T}\langle\mathcal{P}_-\rangle) \geq h(\mathcal{T}\langle\mathcal{P}_+\rangle) - |C \cap (\mathcal{P}_+ \setminus \mathcal{P}_-)|.$$

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$$h(\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{P}_-)) \geq h(\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{P}_+)) - |C \cap (\mathcal{P}_+ \setminus \mathcal{P}_-)|.$$

If $\mathcal{P}_- \subseteq \mathcal{P} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_+$, we can apply this lemma twice: with $\mathcal{P}_- \subseteq \mathcal{P}$, and with $\mathcal{P} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_+$. Thus:

$$h(\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{P}_+)) - \underbrace{|C_+ \cap (\mathcal{P}_+ \setminus \mathcal{P})|}_{\text{negligible?}} \leq h(\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{P})) \leq h(\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{P}_-)) + \underbrace{|C \cap (\mathcal{P} \setminus \mathcal{P}_-)|}_{\text{negligible?}}$$

III. Proof ideas

Hyp: μ has a density ρ , bounded above and below on $[0, \beta] \times [0, 1]$.

Goal: height of the top tree.

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Using Devroye's result:

If $\rho(x, y) = 1$, then σ_ρ^n is uniform and $h(\mathcal{T}\langle\sigma_\rho^n\rangle) \sim c^* \log n$.

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- Hanging trees: the largest vertical gap of the points on the left is $\mathcal{O}(\log(n)/n)$, then deviation estimates for $h(\mathcal{T}_{\text{hanging}}^k)$ by comparison with longest monotone subsequences.

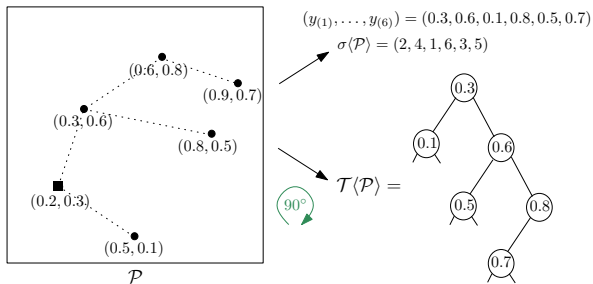
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Using Devroye's result:

If $\rho(x, y) = f(x) \cdot g(y)$, then σ_ρ^n is uniform and $h(\mathcal{T}\langle\sigma_\rho^n\rangle) \sim c^* \log n$.

→ if ρ on $[0, \beta] \times [0, 1]$ is close to a function that only depends on y , then the top tree is close to the BST of a uniform permutation.

- Hanging trees: the largest vertical gap of the points on the left is $\mathcal{O}(\log(n)/n)$, then deviation estimates for $h(\mathcal{T}_{\text{hanging}}^k)$ by comparison with longest monotone subsequences.
- Another result: the *subtree size convergence*. The BST of a permutation sample is not “balanced” in the same way as the BST of a uniform permutation.



Thank you for your attention!

