

# Probabilistic Cellular Automata: a statistical mechanics point of view

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# Outline

- 1 Framework
- 2 Static Probability models for interacting sites: Gibbs measures
- 3 Loss of ergodicity at infinite volume for a potential-related family of PCA dynamics
  - Motivation of the class of reversible PCA dynamics
  - Finitely many interacting sites (finite volume)
  - Infinitely-many interacting sites (infinite volume)
- 4 Synchronisation for PCA with spin space  $[0, 1]$

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# Probabilistic Cellular Automata

Terminology: PCA = random CA = stochastic CA  
= locally interacting Markov chains

- $G = (V, E)$  is a graph whose nodes are the elementary entities usually  $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$  or  $G = \Lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^d$
- $S$  a finite space (possible states of an entity)  
e.g.  $S = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $S = \{-1, +1\}$ ...
- $\eta := (\eta_k)_{k \in \Lambda}$  is called a **configuration**
- **local** updating **stochastic** rule:  $p_k(s|\eta)$ ,  $k \in G$ ,  $s \in S$ ,  $\eta \in S^V$ 
  - $p_k(\cdot|\sigma)$  is a probability on  $S$
  - $\exists V_k \in V$

$$p_k(s|\eta) = p_k(s|\eta_{V_k})$$

# Mathematical Probability framework

- it is a stochastic Markov process  $(\sigma(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  with discrete-time on the state space  $S^\Lambda$
- challenge: understand the dynamical evolution in a **statistical point of view**
- A state of the system is a probability measure on the configurations space  $S^\Lambda$ .
- P is said to be a (finite volume) PCA (**synchronous**) dynamics if

$$P_\Lambda^\tau(\eta, \sigma) = \prod_{k \in \Lambda} p_k(\sigma_k | \eta_{\Lambda \setminus \tau \Lambda^c})$$

- P is said to be a (infinite volume) PCA dynamics if

$$P(\eta, \sigma) = \bigotimes_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^d} p_k(\sigma_k | \eta)$$

## Some historial references following this point of view

- Piatetski-Shapiro
- Toom, Vasilyev, Stavskaja, Mitjushin, Kurdumov, Pirogov, 1970–1978; Dawson, 1974
- Kozlov, Vasilyev, 1980
- Künsch, 1984; Malyshev, Ignatyuk, 1987
- Georges, Le Doussal, 1989
- Lebowitz, Maes, Speer, 1990 – Maes, Shlosman 1991

# Some remarks

- no general theory, no general results
- only few general results from Markov Processes general theory
- statistical point of view on the dynamical evolution, **long-time behaviour**
- state of the system is a probability distribution  $\mu$  on  $S^\Lambda$
- candidates for equilibrium/steady states reached in the long-time behaviour are **stationary distributions**  $\mu$  which are probability distributions invariant w.r.t. dynamics *i.e.*

$$\mathbb{P}(\sigma(0) = \cdot) = \mu(\cdot) \Rightarrow \forall n \geq 1, \mathbb{P}(\sigma(n) = \cdot) = \mu(\cdot)$$

or, equivalently  $\mu P = \mu$

# Detailed balance

- The Markov dynamics is said to be **reversible** if there exists a probability distribution  $\mu$  such that

$$P(d\sigma|\eta)\mu(d\eta) = P(d\eta|\sigma)\mu(d\sigma).$$

It means, that the distribution of the process, starting with  $\mu$  as initial distribution is invariant under time-reversal.

- In particular, such a distribution is a stationary distribution.



# Example: Stavskaja Model on $\mathbb{Z}$

$$S = \{0, 1\}, G = \mathbb{Z}, V_k = \{k-1, k\}$$

$$p_k(1|\sigma) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \sigma_k = \sigma_{k-1} = 1, \\ \varepsilon \in [0, 1] & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- **finitely-many** interacting sites  $\Lambda \Subset \mathbb{Z}$ : since  $\sigma \equiv 1$  is absorbing, long-time behaviour is absorption in  $\delta_{\underline{+1}}$
- **infinitely-many** interacting sites  $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}$ , it exists  $\varepsilon^* > 0$  such that
  - with  $\varepsilon > \varepsilon^*$ , the dynamics is **ergodic**

$$\forall \mu \text{ starting distribution, } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_\mu(\sigma(n) = \cdot) = \delta_{\underline{+1}}$$

- with  $\varepsilon < \varepsilon^*$ , the dynamics is non-ergodic, in particular

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_{\delta_{\underline{0}}}(\sigma(n) = \cdot) = \mu_\varepsilon(\cdot) \neq \delta_{\underline{+1}}.$$

and every stationary distribution translation-invariant is of the form

$$\alpha \mu_\varepsilon + (1 - \alpha) \delta_{\underline{+1}}, \quad \alpha \in [0, 1].$$

See [Leontovitch & Vaserstein, 1970] and more new results [Mendonça 2011] ↻

# Questions

- May be the non-trivial  $\mu_\varepsilon$  is due to the deterministic component of the updating rule ?
- How are these stationary distributions like ?
- Why do we care about infinitely-many interacting entities ?

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# Static probability models for interacting sites

**Aim:** try to find candidates and characterise the equilibrium distributions of these dynamics, on the infinite space  $S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$

$$E = S^\Lambda, \Lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^d, S = \{-1, +1\}, |E| = 2^{|\Lambda|}$$

**Energy**  $H_\Lambda(\eta) = - \sum_{i \sim j} J_{i,j} \eta_i \eta_j$

$$\mathbb{P}_\Lambda^\tau(\{\omega : \sigma(\omega) = (\eta_k)_{k \in \Lambda}\}) = \frac{1}{Z_\Lambda^\tau} e^{-\beta H_\Lambda(\eta_\Lambda \tau_{\Lambda^c})}, \quad Z_\Lambda^\tau = \sum_{\eta_\Lambda \in E} e^{-\beta H_\Lambda(\eta_\Lambda \tau_{\Lambda^c})}$$

with the inverse temperature parameter  $\beta > 0$ .

**Ising potential**  $\varphi_{i,j}(\sigma) = J_{i,j} \sigma_i \sigma_j$  when  $i \sim j$ .

# Static probability models for interacting sites: Gibbs distributions

- finitely-many interacting sites

$$\mu_{\Lambda}^{\tau}(\sigma_{\Lambda}) = \frac{1}{Z_{\Lambda}^{\tau}} e^{-\beta H_{\Lambda}(\sigma_{\Lambda} \tau_{\Lambda^c})}$$

Remark: Compatibility property :  $\Lambda_2 \subset \Lambda_1$

$$\mu_{\Lambda_1}^{\tau_{\Lambda_1^c}}(\sigma_{\Lambda_2} | \sigma_{\Lambda_1 \setminus \Lambda_2}) = \mu_{\Lambda_2}^{\tau_{\Lambda_1^c} \sigma_{\Lambda_1 \setminus \Lambda_2}}(\sigma_{\Lambda_2})$$

- infinitely-many interacting sites,  $\forall \Lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ ,  $\forall \tau$  boundary condition,

$$\mu((\cdot)_{\Lambda} | \tau_{\Lambda^c}) = \mu_{\Lambda}^{\tau}(\cdot)$$

Main motivation: construct distributions on  $S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$ , which are “locally” the same.

When the number of interacting sites goes to infinity (**thermodynamic limit**), there may be different limiting distributions: **phase transition**.

# Relation IPS/Gibbs measure

Let  $\mu$  be a Gibbs measure on  $S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$  w.r.t. a potential  $(\varphi_A)_{A \subset \mathbb{Z}^d}$ .  
 it exists a continuous-time Markov process on  $S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$  with a sequential updating rule (*interacting particle system dynamics*), such that

$$\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{G}(\varphi), \quad \mathcal{S}_i \subset \mathcal{G}(\varphi).$$

Ergodicity of the dynamics  $\rightsquigarrow$  Phase transition w.r.t.  $(\varphi_A)_{A \subset \mathbb{Z}^d}$ .

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# Specificities of the synchronous updating

- the existence of some **reversible** steady state **costs** more than for a sequential updating dynamics: the reversed probability kernel is required to be of product form
- for some given Gibbs measure  $\mu$ , on the contrary to Markov dynamics with sequential updating, there is **no canonical way** to construct a PCA dynamics, which would admit  $\mu$  as stationary measure.

## Proposition (*Dawson, 1975*)

Let  $\mu$  be a Gibbs measure with respect to some nearest neighbour potential on  $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ . There is **no** translation invariant PCA, which could have  $\mu$  as reversible measure.



# Associated space potential

Theorem (*P. Dai Pra / C. Maes, 1992*)

Let  $P = (p_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$  be a PCA dynamics on  $S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$ , translation invariant and **purely stochastic**

$$p_k(s|\sigma) > 0$$

if  $\exists \varphi$  potential on  $S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{G}(\varphi) \cap \mathcal{S}_i \neq \emptyset$  then  $\mathcal{S}_i \subset \mathcal{G}(\varphi)$ .

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# Motivation for another PCA family of dynamical models

- There are techniques to write down Markov processes associated to a given potential, such that the equilibrium distributions are characterised as Gibbs distributions w.r.t this potential:  
mainly Hastings-Metropolis algorithm (flip dynamics) and Gibbs-sampler.
- considering the case of one site  $\Lambda = \{k\}$ , the Gibbs-sampler for the Ising potential gives

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\{k\}}(\sigma_k | \sigma_{V_{k^c}}) &= \frac{\exp\left(\left(\beta \sum_{j \sim k} \mathcal{K}(j-k) \sigma_k \sigma_j + \beta h \sigma_k\right)\right)}{2 \cosh\left(\beta \left(\sum_{j \sim k} \mathcal{K}(j-k) \sigma_j + h\right)\right)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \sigma_k \tanh\left(\beta \left(\sum_{j \sim k} \mathcal{K}(j-k) \sigma_j + h\right)\right)\right) \end{aligned}$$

# A family of reversible PCA dynamics on $\{-1, +1\}^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$

Define, for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ ,  $s \in S$ ,  $\eta \in S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$

$$p_k(s | \eta) = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + s \tanh \left( \beta \left( \sum_j \mathcal{K}(j - k) \eta_j + h \right) \right) \right)$$

where

- $\beta \geq 0$  (tuning the spatial and temporal dependence)
- $\mathcal{K} : \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is symmetric and with finite range

$$V_k := \{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{K}(j - k) \neq 0\} \in \mathbb{Z}^d$$

- $h \in \mathbb{R}$

Note, it is a purely stochastic dynamics.

$$\forall k, \forall s \in S, \forall \eta \in S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}, \quad p_k(s | \eta) > 0$$

It is the form of a general reversible PCA dynamics on  $\{-1, +1\}^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$ .

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# Identification of the finite-volume steady states

For the PCA  $P_\Lambda^\tau$  on  $S^\Lambda$  with fixed boundary condition  $\tau$  there exists a unique stationary (reversible) prob. measure  $\nu_\Lambda^\tau$  given by

$$\nu_\Lambda^\tau(\eta_\Lambda) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{W}_\Lambda^\tau} \prod_{k \in \Lambda} e^{\beta h \eta_k} \cosh \left[ \beta \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \mathcal{K}(j-k)(\eta_\Lambda \tau_{\Lambda^c})_j + \beta h \right] e^{\beta \eta_k \sum_{j \in \Lambda^c} \mathcal{K}(k-j) \tau_j}$$

and with periodic boundary condition:

$$\nu_\Lambda^{\text{per}}(\eta_\Lambda) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{W}_\Lambda^{\text{per}}} \prod_{k \in \Lambda} e^{\beta h \eta_k} \cosh \left( \beta \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \mathcal{K}(j-k)(\eta_\Lambda^{\text{per}})_{k'} \right)$$

rewrite  $\nu_\Lambda^{\text{per}}(\eta_\Lambda) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{W}_\Lambda^{\text{per}}} e^{-\sum_{V_k \cap \Lambda \neq \emptyset} \varphi_{V_k}(\eta^{\text{per}})}$  with

$$\varphi_{V_k}(\eta) = -\log \cosh \left( \beta \sum_{j \in V_k} \mathcal{K}(j-k) \eta_j + \beta h \right) \quad \varphi_{\{k\}}(\eta) = -\beta h \eta_k$$

$\nu_\Lambda^{\text{per}}$  is the finite volume Gibbs measure with periodic boundary associated with the potential  $\varphi$ .

# Effect of the synchronous updating scheme on the stationary distribution

As consequence: when the update probability  $p_k(s|\eta)$  is applied

- **with sequential updating scheme:** it is the Hastings-Metropolis Markov chain (coincide with the Gibbs sampler), the dynamics converges toward the Gibbs measure associated with the n.n. Ising potential
- **with parallel updating scheme:** PCA case, the dynamics converges (for periodic boundary conditions) towards the Gibbs measure related to the potential  $\varphi$

$$\varphi_{V_k}(\eta) = -\log \cosh\left(\beta \sum_{j \in V_k} \eta_j\right)$$

## Fact:

For some given probability updating rule, changing the updating scheme modifies the nature of the stationary measure.

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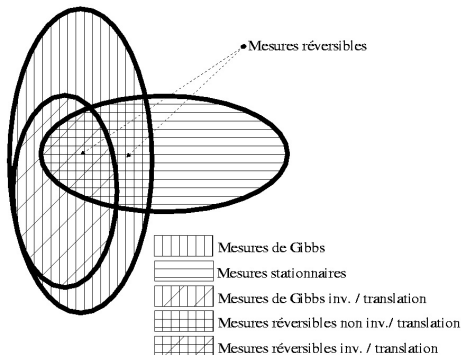


# Characterisation of stationary meas. as Gibbs measures

(Kozlov-Vasilyev, 1980; Künsch 1984; Dai Pra 1992; Dai Pra, Louis, Roelly 2002)

Relations between  $\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{S}$  and  $\mathcal{G}(\varphi)$  :

$$\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{G}(\varphi^P) \cap \mathcal{S}, \quad \mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{S}_i.$$



# Ergodicity criterion for P.C.A.

## Dobrushin-Vasershtein Criterion

If

$$\gamma := \sup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{j \in V_k} \sup_{\sigma_{V_k} \in S^{V_k}} \left| p_k(+1 | \sigma_{V_k}^j) - p_k(+1 | \sigma_{V_k}) \right| < 1$$

then the PCA on  $S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$  is ergodic, more precisely

$\forall f : S^{\mathbb{Z}^d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , local,  $\exists c(f) \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ,

$$\sup_{\sigma \in S^{\mathbb{Z}^d}} \left| \mathbb{E}( f(\omega(n)) \mid \omega(0) = \sigma ) - \mathbb{E}_\nu(f) \right| \leq \frac{c(f)}{1 - \gamma} \gamma^n$$

In the particular case presented  $\gamma = 2 \tanh(2\beta)$ , which means ergodicity for  $\beta < \frac{1}{2} \text{Argtanh}(\frac{1}{2}) \simeq 0,27$

# Theorem [Dai Pra, L., Roelly 2002 and L. 2004 & 2005]

## Characterisation of the dynamics' ergodicity through the potential

Let  $P$  be a PCA on  $\{-1, +1\}^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$  from the previous family s.t.  $\mathcal{K}(\cdot) \geq 0$ .

- dynamics  $P$  is **ergodic**  $\iff$  there is **no phase transition** (w.r.t  $\varphi$ )
- moreover  $\exists C > 0, \exists M > 0, \exists L_1 \in \mathbb{N}^*, \forall L \in \mathbb{N}^*, L \geq L_1,$

$$0 \leq \mathbb{E}_{\mu((\cdot)_{B_L} | \sigma_{B_L^c} = +1)}(\sigma_0) - \mathbb{E}_{\mu((\cdot)_{B_L} | \sigma_{B_L^c} = -1)}(\sigma_0) \leq Ce^{-ML}$$

is equivalent to  $\exists \lambda > 0, \forall n \geq n_1, \forall f$  local function on  $S^{\mathbb{Z}^d},$

$$\sup_{\sigma} |\mathbb{E}_{\delta_{\sigma}}(f(\sigma(n))) - \mathbb{E}_{\mu}(f)| \leq 2 \|f\| e^{-\lambda n}$$

- $d = 2, \exists \beta_0, \forall \beta \geq \beta_0$  it exists **different stationary distribution**, which are also (infinite volume) Gibbs measures (w.r.t  $\varphi$ ) (i.e. there is **phase transition**)

# Main points, answers to the preliminary questions

- class of synchronous stochastic dynamics related to a potential, characterisation of stationary distribution as Gibbs distributions
- interplay between static and dynamical results
  - ergodicity means absence of sensibility of the starting distribution
  - phase transition related to sensibility to spatial boundary conditions

# Main points, answers to the preliminary questions

- going from sequential to parallel updating scheme change the associated potential
- different time-asymptotic behaviour in law between finite-volume and infinite,  
like in the Stavskaja PCA case, even for purely stochastic dynamics,  
BUT: have to go in dimension 2

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# Mean-field interacting Polya urns

- single Polya urn
- interacting Polya urns through mean-field  
finitely many urns  $1 \leq i \leq N$ ,  
starting with  $X_0(i) = 1$ , discrete time  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$X_{t+1}(i) = X_t(i) + Y_t(i)$$

where,

- $X_t(i)$  is the number of black balls in urn  $i$ , at time  $t$
- $Z_t(i) := \frac{X_t(i)}{t+2}$  is the fraction of black balls
- $Z_t := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N Z_t(i)$  is the global fraction
- given  $\mathcal{F}_t$ ,  $Y_t(i)$  Bernoulli is distributed with parameter  $\alpha Z_t + (1 - \alpha)Z_t(i)$  where  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$
- given  $\mathcal{F}_t$ ,  $Y_t(i)$  independent from  $Y_t(j)$  with  $j \neq i$

## Almost sure synchronization [Dai Pra, L., Minelli 2013]

- $(Z_t)$  is a bounded Martingale, thus it converges towards  $Z_\infty$
- as soon as  $\alpha > 0$ , for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ ,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} Z_t(i) = Z_\infty \quad \text{almost surely}$$

- since  $\mathbb{E}(Z_\infty^2) < \mathbb{E}(Z_\infty) = \frac{1}{2}$ , there is no fixation