



# The distribution of the maximum protection number in random trees

Analytic and Probabilistic Combinatorics Workshop BIRS

Joint work with Clemens Heuberger and Stephan Wagner

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# Bootstrapping and Double-Exponential Limit Laws (Prodinger & Wagner, 2015)

*“It is a very typical situation that an extremal parameter in a combinatorial structure follows a discrete double-exponential distribution, and that fluctuations in the average occur.”*

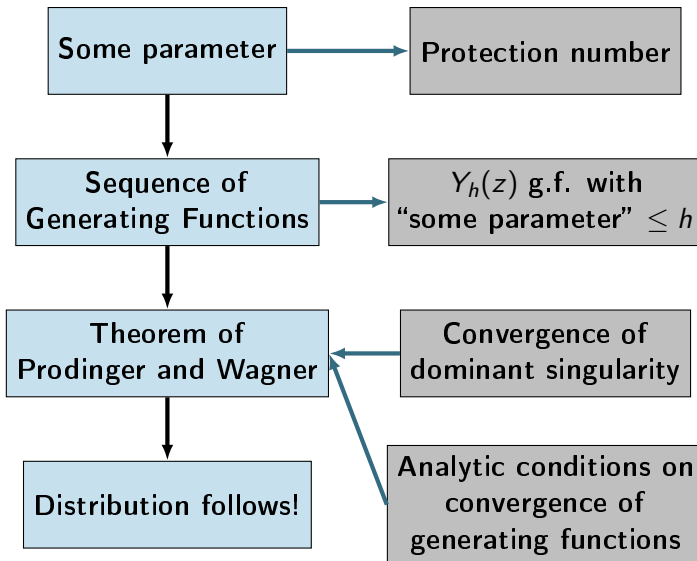
Some examples:

- Longest sequence of 1's in a 0-1 sequence.
- Longest sequence of  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  is an alphabet of size  $k$ .
- Longest horizontal segment in a Motzkin path.
- Maximum outdegree in planted plane trees.

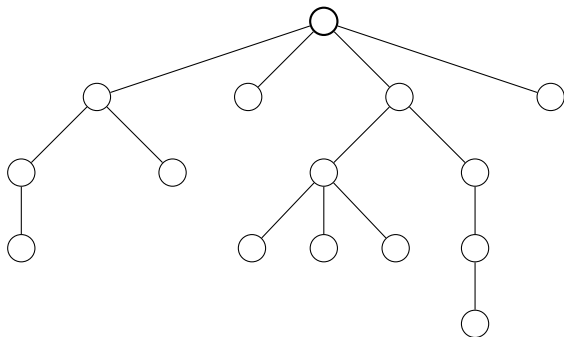
$$\mathbb{P}(X_n \leq h) = \exp(-An\rho^h)(1 + o(1)),$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X_n) = \log_b n + \log_b A + \frac{\gamma}{\log b} + \frac{1}{2} + \phi_b(\log_b An) + o(1).$$

# Summary



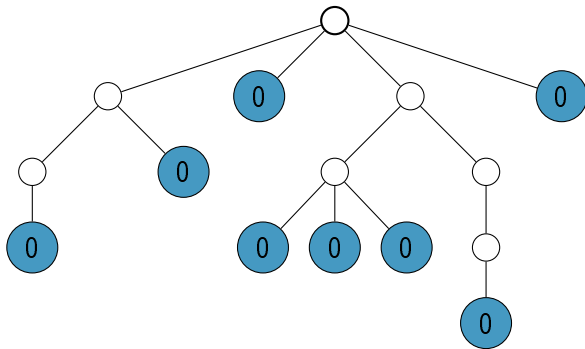
# The protection number of a vertex



## Definition

The **protection number of a vertex  $v$**  is the length of the shortest path from  $v$  to any leaf contained in the maximal subtree where  $v$  is a root.

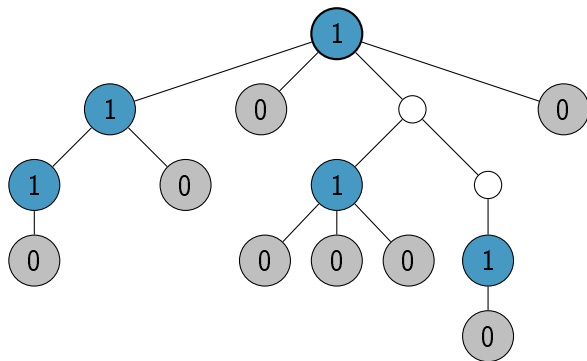
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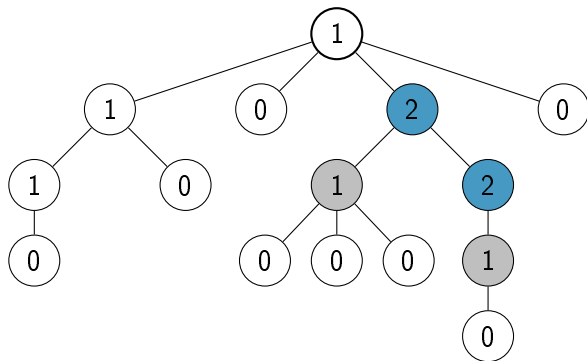
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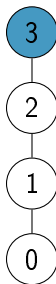
## Maximum protection number: Some examples

- A maximum protection number of 0 means the tree is a single vertex.



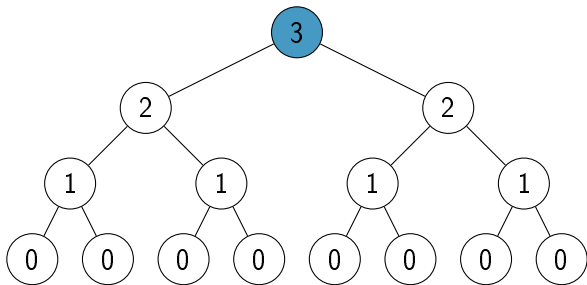
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## Maximum protection number: Some examples

- A maximum protection number of 0 means the tree is a single vertex.
- Paths (vertices are a leaf or have exactly one child) have a very high ratio of protection number to number of vertices.
- Trees where vertices generally have more than one child have a low ratio of protection number to number of vertices.



# Timeline of work on protection number of trees

- Number of vertices with **protection number at least 2**:
  - in ordered trees. *Cheon and Shapiro (2008)*.
  - in  $k$ -ary trees, digital search trees, binary search trees, tries and suffix trees, random recursive trees.  
*Devroye, Du, Gaither, Holmgren, Homma, Janson, Mahmoud, Mansour, Prodinger, Sellke, Ward (2010–2015)*.
- Number of vertices with **protection number at least  $k$** , again in various types of trees.  
*Bóna, Copenhaver, Devroye, Heuberger, Janson, Prodinger, Pittel (2014–2017)*.
- **Protection number of the root**. Plane trees, simply generated trees, Pólya trees.  
*Gittenberger, Gołębiewski, Heuberger, Klimczak, Larcher, Prodinger, Sulkowska (2017–2021)*.

# Simply generated trees

## Definition

A **simply generated tree** has a generating function  $Y$  which satisfies the functional equation  $Y(x) = x\Phi(Y(x))$  where  $\Phi$  is a weight generating function  $\Phi(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} w_n x^n$ ,  $w_n \geq 0$ .

- Complete binary trees:  $B(x) = x + xB(x)^2 = x(1+B(x)^2)$ .
- Plane trees:  $P(x) = x + xP(x) + xP(x)^2 + \dots = x \frac{1}{1-P(x)}$ .

Some things to note:

- $w_n \neq 0$  means the tree **can** have vertices with exactly  $n$  children.
- $\rho$  is the (finite) radius of convergence or dominant singularity of  $Y(x)$ .
- $\tau = Y(\rho)$ , so that  $\Phi(\tau) = \tau\Phi'(\tau)$  and  $\rho = \tau/\Phi(\tau) = 1/\Phi'(\tau)$ .

## Protection number of simply generated trees

Let  $Y_{h,k}$  be the generating function for simply generated trees with:

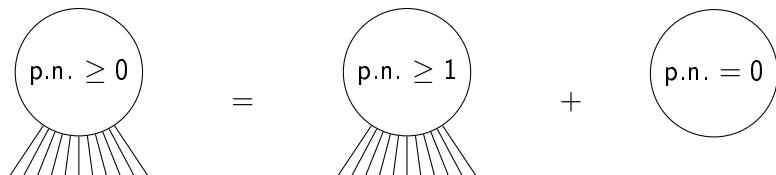
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$$Y_{h,0}(x) = Y_{h,1}(x) + x,$$



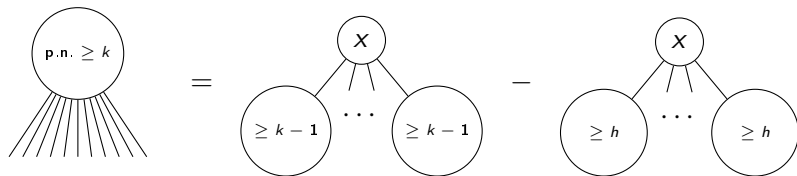
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$$Y_{h,0}(x) = Y_{h,1}(x) + x,$$

$$Y_{h,k}(x) = x\Phi(Y_{h,k-1}(x)) - x\Phi(Y_{h,h}(x)), \quad 1 \leq k \leq h.$$





## Protection number of simply generated trees

The system of functional equations:

$$\begin{aligned} Y_{h,0}(x) &= Y_{h,1}(x) + x, \\ Y_{h,k}(x) &= x\Phi(Y_{h,k-1}(x)) - x\Phi(Y_{h,h}(x)), \quad 1 \leq k \leq h. \end{aligned}$$

We set  $x := \rho_h$  (common radius of convergence of system for fixed  $h$ ) and  $\eta_{h,k} := Y_{h,k}(\rho_h)$ , so the system becomes

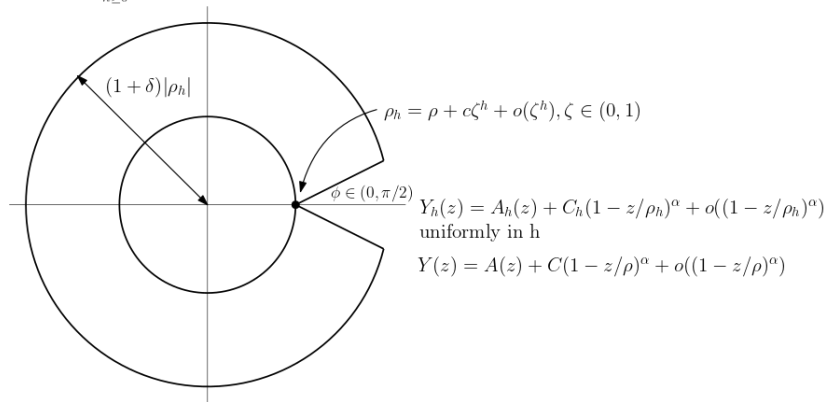
$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{h,0} &= \eta_{h,1} + \rho_h, \\ \eta_{h,k} &= \rho_h\Phi(\eta_{h,k-1}) - \rho_h\Phi(\eta_{h,h}), \quad 1 \leq k \leq h. \end{aligned}$$

Determinant of **Jacobian**:

$$0 = \prod_{j=1}^h (\rho_h\Phi'(\eta_{h,j})) + (1 - \rho_h\Phi'(\eta_{h,0})) \left(1 + \sum_{k=2}^h \prod_{j=k}^h (\rho_h\Phi'(\eta_{h,j}))\right).$$

# Theorem of Prodinger and Wagner

$$Y_h(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} y_{h,n} z^n \rightarrow Y(z)$$



For details: Helmut Prodinger and Stephan Wagner. Bootstrapping and double-exponential limit laws. DMTCS, 2015.

# Goal: Apply the Theorem of Prodinger and Wagner

## Problem 1

Show that the dominant singularity for  $Y_{h,0}$  is  $\rho_h \in \mathbb{R}$ , where

$$\rho_h = \rho + c\zeta^h + o(\zeta^h)$$

as  $h \rightarrow \infty$  for some constants  $\rho > 0$ ,  $c > 0$  and  $0 < \zeta < 1$ .

The system that we must use to obtain this result is the following:

$$\eta_{h,0} = \eta_{h,1} + \rho_h,$$

$$\eta_{h,k} = \rho_h \Phi(\eta_{h,k-1}) - \rho_h \Phi(\eta_{h,h})$$

$$0 = \prod_{j=1}^h (\rho_h \Phi'(\eta_{h,j})) + (1 - \rho_h \Phi'(\eta_{h,0})) \left( 1 + \sum_{k=2}^h \prod_{j=k}^h (\rho_h \Phi'(\eta_{h,j})) \right).$$

Aim:  $\rho_h = \rho + c\zeta^h + o(\zeta^h)$

Show:

①  $\rho_h \rightarrow \rho.$

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Show:

- 1  $\rho_h \rightarrow \rho$ .
- 2  $\eta_{h,k} \rightarrow \eta_k$ .

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Show:

①  $\rho_h \rightarrow \rho$ .

②  $\eta_{h,k} \rightarrow \eta_k$ .

③  $\prod_{j=1}^h (\rho_h \Phi'(\eta_{h,j})) = O((\rho \Phi'(0))^h)$  and

$$1 + \sum_{k=2}^h \prod_{j=k}^h (\rho_h \Phi'(\eta_{h,j})) \rightarrow \frac{1}{1 - \rho \Phi'(0)}.$$

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④  $\eta_{h,0} = \tau + O(B_1^h)$  and  $\rho_h = \rho + O(B_1^h)$ .

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⑤  $\prod_{j=1}^h (\rho_h \Phi'(\eta_{h,j})) = (\rho \Phi'(0))^h \lambda_2 (1 + O(B_2^h))$  and

$$1 + \sum_{k=2}^h \prod_{j=k}^h (\rho_h \Phi'(\eta_{h,j})) = \frac{1}{1 - \rho \Phi'(0)(1 + O(B_3^h))}.$$



## Asymptotic behaviour of the singularity

Lemma (Heuberger, SJS, Wagner, 2022+)

As  $h \rightarrow \infty$ , we have that

$$\rho_h = \rho + \frac{1}{\Phi(\tau)} (\rho\Phi'(0))^{h+1} \lambda_1 (1 - \rho\Phi'(0)) + o((\rho\Phi'(0))^h),$$

where

$$\lambda_1 = \eta_0 \prod_{i \geq 1} \frac{\eta_i}{\rho\Phi'(0)\eta_{i-1}}.$$

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With some additional analysis...

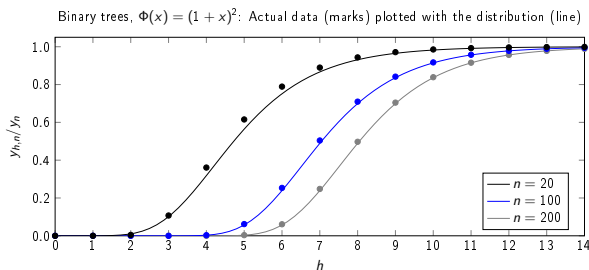
# Result

## Theorem (Heuberger, SJS, Wagner, 2022+)

The probability that a random tree of size  $n$  has maximum protection number  $\leq h$  is

$$\frac{y_{h,n}}{y_n} = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\tau}\Phi'(0)\lambda_1(1-\rho\Phi'(0))n(\rho\Phi'(0))^h\right)(1+o(1))$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $h = \log_{(\rho\Phi'(0))^{-1}} n + O(1)$ .



## Theorem (Heuberger, SJS, Wagner, 2022+)

*The expected value of the maximum protection number in a random tree of size  $n$  is*

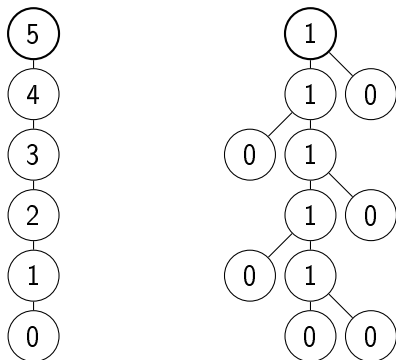
$$\log_b(n) + \log_b\left(\frac{\lambda_2 \Phi'(0)}{\Phi(\tau)}(1 - \rho \Phi'(0))\right) + \frac{\gamma}{\log(b)} + \frac{1}{2} \\ + \psi_b\left(\log_b\left(\frac{\lambda_2 \Phi'(0)}{\Phi(\tau)}(1 - \rho \Phi'(0))n\right)\right) + o(1),$$

*where  $\gamma$  denotes the Euler-Mascheroni constant,  $\lambda_2 = \eta_0 \prod_{i \geq 1} \frac{\eta_i}{\rho \Phi'(0) \eta_{i-1}}$ , and  $\psi_b$  is the 1-periodic function that is defined by the Fourier series*

$$\psi_b(x) = -\frac{1}{\log(b)} \sum_{k \neq 0} \Gamma\left(-\frac{2k\pi i}{\log(b)}\right) e^{2k\pi i x}.$$

## There's more!

Proofs and results depend on  $\Phi'(0) \neq 0$ . So we must consider the case where  $\Phi'(0) = w_1 = 0$  separately.



- Set  $r = \min\{s \in \mathbb{N} : \Phi^{(s)}(0) \neq 0\}$ ,  $r \geq 2$ .
- $\rho_h = \rho + c\zeta^{r^h} + o(\zeta^{r^h})$ .

Thank you!

