ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE



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#### GENE FLOW ACCROSS A GEOGRAPHICAL BARRIER

Les Probabilités de demain IHES - 11 mai 2017

















Figure: Stepping stone model with a barrier

from Nagylaki 1976

At each generation,

- the N individuals in each colony are replaced by new individuals
- a proportion 1 m of them are the offspring of (uniformly chosen) parents in the same colony,
- a proportion m are the offspring of parents in neighbouring colonies



Figure: Stepping stone model with a barrier from Nagylaki 1976

At each generation,

- the N individuals in  $\pm \varepsilon$  are replaced by new individuals
- a proportion  $1 \frac{1+c}{2}m$  of them are the offspring of (uniformly chosen) parents in the same colony,
- a proportion  $\frac{1}{2}cm$  are the offspring of parents in  $\mp \varepsilon$  and a proportion  $\frac{1}{2}m$  come from colony  $\pm 3\varepsilon$

## EVOLUTION OF ALLELE FREQUENCIES

Individuals are of two types, 0 and 1. Parental type is inherited by the offspring.



Figure: Evolution of allele frequencies with a barrier

 $\xi_t$ : position of the ancestor of a (uniformly) sampled individual t generations in the past = random walk on  $\mathbb{Z}$  with transition probabilities given by the migration matrix of the stepping stone model.

$$p(t,x) = \mathbb{P}_x \left( \xi_t \in [0,\infty) \right)$$

#### APPLICATIONS

Goal : detect barriers to gene flow using genetic data by estimating the age of the most recent common ancestor for different pairs of individuals.

 $\xi_t$ : random walk not convenient, no explicit formulas for the law of  $\xi_t$ .



#### MAIN RESULT



For a sequence  $(c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , let  $(\xi_n(t))_{t \ge 0}$  be a random walk on  $\mathbb{Z}$  with the corresponding transition probabilities. Set  $X_n(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\xi_n(nt)$ 

**Theorem 1** Suppose  $\sqrt{n}c_n \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{} 2\gamma \in [0, +\infty]$ , then

$$X_n \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{sko} X.$$

The process  $(X(t))_{t\geq 0}$  is (the projection on  $\mathbb{R}$  of) a Markov process on  $(-\infty, 0^{-}] \cup [0^{+}, +\infty)$ .

When  $\gamma \in (0, \infty)$ , we call X partially reflected Brownian motion.

Start from standard Brownian motion and keep only the excursions outside of  $\left[-\frac{1}{2\gamma}, \frac{1}{2\gamma}\right]$ .



Figure: Speed and scale construction of partially reflected Brownian motion

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Start from reflected Brownian motion  $(W_t)_{t\geq 0}$ , and flip it when its local time at 0 reaches an exponential variable.



## SKETCH OF PROOF FOR THE CONVERGENCE RESULT

 $\xi_t$  random walk on  $\mathbb{Z}$  with transition probabilities



 $T_i^n$ : time of the *i*-th crossing of  $\{\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\}$  by  $X_n$ 

#### Proof of Theorem 1.

- 1.  $|X_n|$  converges to reflected Brownian motion as  $n \to \infty$ ,
- 2.  $\{L_n(T_{i+1}^n) L_n(T_i^n), i \ge 0\}$  converges to an iid sequence of  $\mathcal{E}(2\gamma)$ ,
- 3. the two are asymptotically independent.

## TRANSITION DENSITIES

We have an explicit formula for the transition densities of  $(X_t)_{t\geq 0}$ .



Figure: Comparison of transition probabilities for the random walk and transition densities for partially reflected Brownian motion





 $p(t,x) = \mathbb{P}_x \left( X_t \in [0^+, +\infty) \right)$ 



#### Thank you for your attention !