

# Limits of permutations and graphs avoiding substructures

Mathilde Bouvel

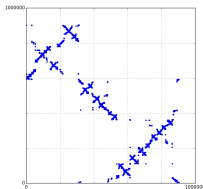
*Loria, CNRS and Univ. Lorraine (Nancy, France).*

talk based on joint works with  
Frédérique Bassino, Jacopo Borga, Valentin Féray,  
Lucas Gerin, Michael Drmota, Mickaël Maazoun,  
Adeline Pierrot and Benedikt Stufler

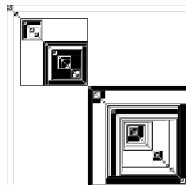
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**The problem:**

- Consider a class  $\mathcal{C}$  of **permutations or graphs** defined by the **avoidance of substructures** (patterns or induced subgraphs).
- For any  $n$ , let  $\sigma_n$  or  $\mathbf{G}_n$  be an object of size  $n$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , taken **uniformly at random** among objects of size  $n$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- We would like to describe the **typical global behavior** of  $\sigma_n$  or  $\mathbf{G}_n$  as  $n$  tends to  $\infty$ , through its **permuton or graphon limit**.



Permutation matrix of a typical large permutation avoiding 2413 and 3142



Adjacency matrix of typical large graph with no induced  $P_4$

**The proof strategy:**

- Permutons and graphons describe **global limits** of permutations and graphs. But **permuton and graphon** convergence are characterized by convergence of the **densities of substructures**.
- Using the **substitution or modular decomposition**, we can represent permutations or graphs by **trees** (decorated on their internal nodes).
- **Substructures** in permutations or graphs correspond to **induced subtrees** in these trees (subtrees induced by a set of leaves).
- We write functional equations for the **generating functions** counting decomposition trees, possibly with specified induced subtrees.
- Using **analytic combinatorics**, we derive the **limiting densities** of substructures in our permutations or graphs, proving permuton or graphon convergence.

# A caveat

- Only **some** classes of permutations or graphs are amenable to the presented strategy:  
when the **substitution/modular decomposition** is “nice”.
- These represent very **few cases** in the whole landscape of permutation classes/hereditary families of graphs.
- But it still covers **quite many classes** compared to what was previously known (especially in the permutation case).

The talk will mainly discuss the simplest case in the graph setting: the family of **cographs**, avoiding an induced  $P_4$  (the path on 4 vertices).

We will also discuss briefly its permutation analogue: the family of **separable permutations**, avoiding the patterns 2413 and 3142, as well as hint at some **generalizations**.

**Induced subgraphs,  
and a biased view of  
graphon convergence**

# Induced subgraphs and hereditary families of graphs

- $g$  is an **induced subgraph** of  $G$  when



In words, the **subgraph** of  $G = (V, E)$  **induced by**  $V' \subset V$  is the graph with vertex set  $V'$  and edge set  $E \cap (V' \times V')$ .

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- A **hereditary family of graphs** is a set of graphs  $\mathcal{C}$  such that for every  $G \in \mathcal{C}$ , if  $g$  is an induced subgraph of  $G$ , then  $g \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- Examples include the families of **cographs**, comparability graphs, permutation graphs, circle graphs, parity graphs, ...
- Equivalently, hereditary families of graphs are characterized as sets of graphs whose **induced subgraphs avoid** a prescribed set (which may be finite or infinite).



# Densities of induced subgraphs

- **Definition:** The density of an induced subgraph  $g$  in  $G$  is

$$\text{Dens}(g, G) = \mathbb{P}(\text{SubGraph}_k(G) = g)$$

where  $k$  is the number of vertices of  $g$  and  $\text{SubGraph}_k(G)$  is the (random) subgraph of  $G$  induced by a  $k$ -tuple of i.i.d. uniform random vertices of  $G$ .

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- **Variante:** The “injective density” is defined by

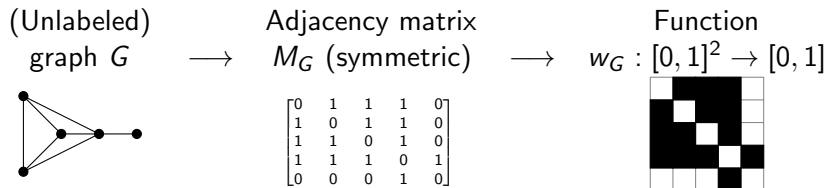
$$\text{Dens}^{inj}(g, G) = \mathbb{P}(\text{SubGraph}_k^{inj}(G) = g),$$

where  $\text{SubGraph}_k^{inj}(G)$  is the (random) subgraph of  $G$  induced by a uniform random  $k$ -tuple of distinct vertices of  $G$ .

- **Fact:** For  $\mathbf{G}_n$  a sequence of random graphs of size tending to infinity,  $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)] \rightarrow \Delta_g$  iff  $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}^{inj}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)] \rightarrow \Delta_g$ .

# What is (informally) a graphon?

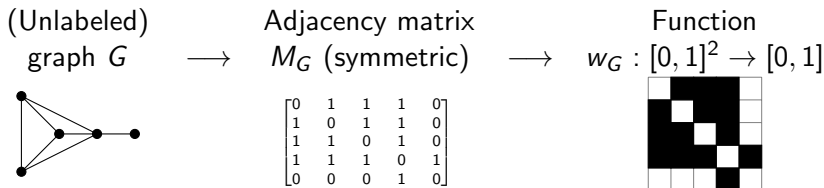
## In the discrete setting:



The **graphon**  $W_G$  associated with  $G$  is the equivalence class of  $w_G$  under the action of permuting rows and columns of  $M_G$ .

# What is (informally) a graphon?

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## Continuous extension:

In general, a graphon is obtained **as above**, from a symmetric matrix  $M$ , possibly with **a continuum of rows and columns**, and with values in  $[0, 1]$ .

It is an equivalence class of symmetric functions from  $[0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  under the action of permuting rows and columns of  $M$ .

# Subgraph densities in graphons

Fix  $g$  a graph with  $k$  vertices, unlabeled.

- **Reminder of the discrete case:**

For a graph  $G$ ,  $\text{Dens}(g, G) = \mathbb{P}(\text{SubGraph}_k(G) = g)$ ,  
where  $\text{SubGraph}_k(G)$  is the (random) subgraph of  $G$   
induced by a  $k$ -tuple of i.i.d. uniform random vertices of  $G$ .

- **Continuous generalization:**

For a graphon  $W$ ,  $\text{Dens}(g, W) = \mathbb{P}(\text{Sample}_k(W) = g)$ ,  
where  $\text{Sample}_k(W)$  is the (random) graph with  $k$  vertices  $v_1, \dots, v_k$   
such that  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  are connected with probability  $w(x_i, x_j)$ ,  
for  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  i.i.d. uniform random variables in  $[0, 1]$   
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**Remark:** For any graph  $G$ ,  $\text{Dens}(g, W_G) = \text{Dens}(g, G)$ .

# Characterization of (deterministic) graphon convergence

## **(Non-)definition:**

The space of graphons is (up to technicalities) **metric**, for the **cut-distance** (and in addition is compact).

So, it makes sense to study **convergence** of a sequence of graphons  $(W_n)_{n \geq 0}$  to a graphon  $W$  (for this cut-distance). We write  $W_n \rightarrow W$ .

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Typically,  $W_n = W_{G_n}$ , the graphon associated to a graph  $G_n$ , with the sequence of graphs  $(G_n)$  such that the **size of  $G_n$  grows to infinity** with  $n$ . In this case, we also write  $G_n \rightarrow W$ .



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## Combinatorial characterization of convergence:

For  $(W_n)$  a sequence of graphons and  $W$  a graphon,  $W_n \rightarrow W$  iff for any (finite) graph  $g$ ,  $\text{Dens}(g, W_n) \rightarrow \text{Dens}(g, W)$ .

# Characterization of graphon convergence: the random case

**Reminder:**  $G_n \rightarrow W$  iff  $\text{Dens}(g, G_n) \rightarrow \text{Dens}(g, W)$  for all  $g$ , for  $(G_n)$  a sequence of (deterministic) graphs and  $W$  a (deterministic) graphon.

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What if we take  $(\mathbf{G}_n)$  random? ( $\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)$  being then a real r.v.)

**Theorem** [Diaconis-Janson, 2008]:

The distribution of a random graphon  $\mathbf{W}$  is characterized by all expected subgraph densities  $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{W})]$  (for all  $g$ ).

**Theorem** [Diaconis-Janson, 2008]:

Let  $(\mathbf{G}_n)$  be a sequence of random graphs. TFAE:

- $\mathbf{G}_n$  tends in distribution to some random graphon,  $\mathbf{W}$ .
- For all  $g$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)]$  converges to some value  $\Delta_g \in [0, 1]$ .

If this holds, in addition we have:

for all  $g$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{W})] = \Delta_g$ , so that  $(\Delta_g)_g$  characterizes  $\mathbf{W}$ .

## Graphs:

- Definition of **induced subgraphs**
- Definition of **hereditary classes of graphs**
- Notion of **graphon** as a “rescaled adjacency matrix”
- Combinatorial characterization of graphon convergence:  
by the convergence of the **densities of induced subgraphs**  
(in expectation in the random case)

## Analogue notions for permutations:

- Induced subgraphs correspond to **patterns**
- Hereditary families are called **permutation classes**
- Notion of **permuton** as a “rescaled permutation matrix”
- Combinatorial characterization of permuton convergence:  
by the convergence of the **frequencies of patterns**  
(in expectation in the random case)

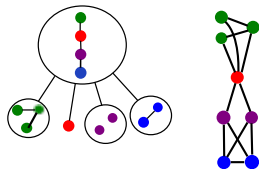
# Decomposition trees

# Modular decomposition of graphs

- A **module** in a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a set  $S \subseteq V$  of vertices which cannot be distinguished by vertices outside of  $S$ :

*for every  $v \in V \setminus S$ , either  $\{v, s\} \in E$  for all  $s \in S$   
or  $\{v, s\} \notin E$  for all  $s \in S$*

- Given a partition of  $V$  into modules,  $G$  can be described
  - the subgraph induced keeping exactly one vertex in each module (sometimes called **quotient**)
  - the subgraph induced by each module (sometimes called **factors**)



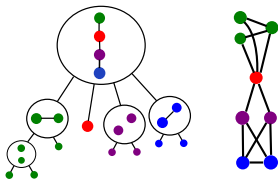
- Repeating this construction inside the modules, we obtain a **modular decomposition tree** of  $G$  (which is rooted, non planar, with internal vertices labeled by quotient graphs, and leaves corresponding to  $V$ ).

# Modular decomposition trees

- The **trivial** modules of  $G$  are  $\emptyset$ ,  $V$ , and  $\{v\}$  for any  $v \in V$ .
- A graph  $G$  is **prime** if it contains no non-trivial module.

**Theorem:** Every graph has a **unique modular decomposition tree** whose vertices are either cliques (denoted 1), or independent sets (denoted 0), or prime graphs (denoted  $P$ ), and with no  $0 - 0$  nor  $1 - 1$  edges.

We call it **canonical** and denote it  $T(G)$ .

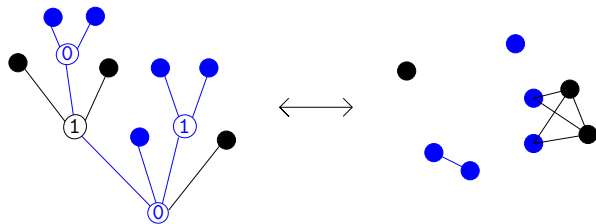


$T(G)$  is obtained considering recursively the quotients resulting from the partition of  $V$  into maximal modules different from  $V$  (in the prime case, with special cases for cliques and independent sets).



# Induced subgraphs in decomposition trees

- Let  $G$  be a graph. Let  $S$  be a subset of its vertices.
- Consider the subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $S$ .
- Let  $T(G)$  be its canonical modular decomposition tree.



**Fact:** A decomposition tree for the **induced subgraph** of  $G$  corresponding to  $S$  is obtained considering the **subtree** of  $T(G)$  **induced by** the set of **leaves** corresponding to  $S$ .

**Remark:** The induced tree is not necessarily the **canonical** tree of the induced subgraph (e.g. it may contain 0 – 0 edges).

# Permutation analogues

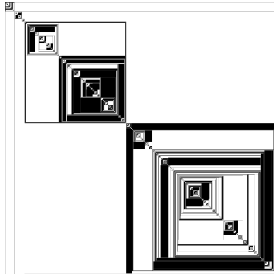
- A module in a graph corresponds to an **interval** in a permutation.
- A permutation can be decomposed into quotients and factors *via* the **substitution decomposition**.

$$214653 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline \end{array} = 132[21, 132, 1]$$

- The trees recording these decompositions are called **(substitution) decomposition trees**.
- There exists a **unique canonical decomposition tree**.
- Patterns correspond to **subtrees induced by leaves**.

**Remark:** For a permutation  $\sigma$ , consider its inversion graph  $G$ . Up to planarity and adapting the decorations, it holds that  $T(\sigma) = T(G)$ .

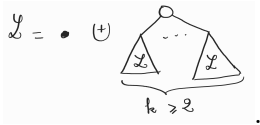
# Graphon limit of (labeled) cographs



# Cographs and their modular decomposition trees

- Cographs are defined by the **avoidance of  $P_4$**  (induced path on 4 vertices, which is the smallest prime graph).
- Equivalently, cographs are all graphs whose modular decomposition trees involve **only 0 (indep. set) and 1 (clique) nodes** (no prime node). We call **cotrees** their modular decomposition trees.
- Therefore, labeled<sup>1</sup> cographs can be described from the **combinatorial specification**:

$$\mathcal{L} = \bullet \uplus \text{Set}_{\geq 2}(\mathcal{L}) \quad \text{i.e.,}$$



Indeed, *via* its **canonical modular decomposition tree**, a cograph correspond to a tree of  $\mathcal{L}$  with a label 0 or 1 on the root (propagating labels alternating between 0 and 1 along each edge).

<sup>1</sup>meaning vertices are labeled by the integers from 1 to  $n$ ; in the unlabeled case, we need to consider Multiset, and hence later Polya operators for the GF

# Expressing $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}^{inj}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)]$

## Notation:

Let  $\mathbf{G}_n$  be a uniform random labeled cograph with  $n$  vertices.

## Reminder:

Knowing  $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}^{inj}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)]$  for all  $g$  characterizes the graphon limit of  $\mathbf{G}_n$ .

## Notation:

for all  $n$ , and all  $k \leq n$ ,

$\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$  is a uniform random labeled canonical cotree of size  $n$ , and

$\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)}$  is the subtree of  $\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$  induced by a uniform  $k$ -tuple of distinct leaves.

## Observation:

For any cograph  $g$ , we have:

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}^{inj}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)] = \mathbb{P}(\text{SubGraph}_k^{inj}(\mathbf{G}_n) = g) = \sum \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0),$$

where the sum runs over all cotrees  $t_0$  corresponding to  $g$ .

# Expressing $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0)$

**Observation:**  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0) = \frac{n![z^n]M_{t_0}(z)}{n![z^n]M(z) \times n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}$ , where

- $\mathcal{M}$  is the set of labeled **canonical cotrees**
- for any cotree  $t_0$  with  $k$  leaves,  $\mathcal{M}_{t_0}$  is the set of labeled canonical cotrees with a **marked  $k$ -tuple of distinct leaves**, which **induce**  $t_0$ ,
- $M(z)$  and  $M_{t_0}(z)$  are the corresponding **exponential generating functions**
- as usual,  $[z^n]F(z)$  denotes the coefficient of  $z^n$  in the generating function  $F(z)$

**Next:** Use **symbolic and analytic combinatorics** to compute the asymptotic behavior of the numerator and the denominator in

$$\frac{n![z^n]M_{t_0}(z)}{n![z^n]M(z) \times n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}.$$

# Estimating the denominator

- Recall that  $\mathcal{L} = \bullet \uplus \text{Set}_{\geq 2}(\mathcal{L})$ .
- Let  $L(z)$  be the exponential generating function of  $\mathcal{L}$ .
- From [Flajolet-Sedgewick] (rather a variant on trees counted by leaves),  $L(z)$  satisfies  $L(z) = z + \exp(L(z)) - 1 - L(z)$ .
- The generating function of cographs is  $M(z) = 2L(z) - z$ .
- $L(z)$  and  $M(z)$  have the same radius of convergence  $\rho = 2 \log(2) - 1$  and are  $\Delta$ -analytic.
- Near  $z = \rho$ ,  $L(z) = \log(2) - \sqrt{\rho} \sqrt{1 - z/\rho} + \mathcal{O}(1 - z/\rho)$  and  $M(z) = 1 - 2\sqrt{\rho} \sqrt{1 - z/\rho} + \mathcal{O}(1 - z/\rho)$ .
- From the [transfer theorem](#),

$$n(n-1) \dots (n-k+1) [z^n] M(z) \underset{n \rightarrow +\infty}{\sim} \frac{n^{k-3/2}}{\rho^{n-1/2} \sqrt{\pi}}.$$

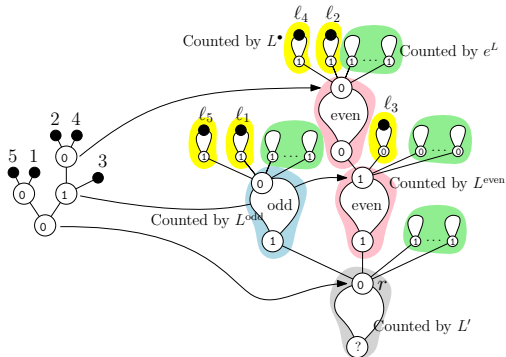
# Estimating the numerator

**Prop.:** If  $t_0$  with  $k$  leaves has  $n_v$  internal vertices,  $n_ =$  edges of the form  $0 - 0$  or  $1 - 1$ , and  $n_{\neq}$  edges of the form  $0 - 1$  or  $1 - 0$ , then

$$M_{t_0} = (L')( \exp(L) )^{n_v} (L^\bullet)^k (L^{\text{odd}})^{n_ =} (L^{\text{even}})^{n_{\neq}},$$

these series being variations on  $L(z)$  whose singular behavior results from that of  $L(z)$ .

**Proof:**





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**Corollary:** Like before, we obtain

- the behavior at  $\rho$  of  $M_{t_0}(z)$ ,
- and the asymptotic estimate of  $[z^n]M_{t_0}(z)$ .

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**Corollary:** Like before, we obtain

- the behavior at  $\rho$  of  $M_{t_0}(z)$ ,
- and the asymptotic estimate of  $[z^n]M_{t_0}(z)$ .

More precisely, we have

$$[z^n]M_{t_0}(z) \underset{n \rightarrow +\infty}{\sim} \frac{(k-1)!}{(2k-2)!} \frac{n^{k-3/2}}{\rho^{n-1/2} \sqrt{\pi}},$$

if  $t_0$  is binary (which implies  $n_v = k - 1$  and  $n_ + n_{\neq} = k - 2$ ).

# Conclusion of the proof

## Notation (reminder):

- $\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$ : uniform random labeled canonical cotree of size  $n$
- $\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)}$ : subtree of  $\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$  induced by a uniform  $k$ -tuple of distinct leaves
- $t_0$ : cotree with  $k$  leaves

**What we proved:** If  $t_0$  is **binary**, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0) = \frac{(k-1)!}{(2k-2)!}$ .

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**Remark:**  $\frac{(k-1)!}{(2k-2)!} = \frac{1}{\text{number of binary cotrees with } k \text{ leaves}}$ .

**Consequence:** If  $t_0$  is **not binary**, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0) = 0$ .

# Conclusion of the proof

## Notation (reminder):

- $\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$ : uniform random labeled canonical cotree of size  $n$
- $\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)}$ : subtree of  $\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$  induced by a uniform  $k$ -tuple of distinct leaves
- $t_0$ : cotree with  $k$  leaves

**What we proved:** If  $t_0$  is **binary**, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0) = \frac{(k-1)!}{(2k-2)!}$ .

**Remark:**  $\frac{(k-1)!}{(2k-2)!} = \frac{1}{\text{number of binary cotrees with } k \text{ leaves}}$ .

**Consequence:** If  $t_0$  is **not binary**, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0) = 0$ .

## Remark/reminder:

Summing over all  $t_0$  encoding a cograph  $g$ , this gives  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)]$ .

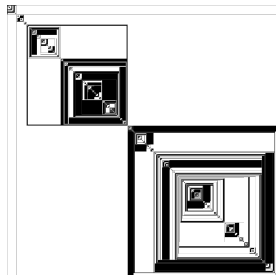
These quantities characterize the **graphon limit of cographs**.

# The Brownian cographon

- Starting from a **Brownian excursion**, whose **local minima** receive unbiased decorations by 0 and 1, we can build the **Brownian cographon** of parameter  $1/2$ , denoted  $\mathbf{W}^{1/2}$ .
- We can compute  $\Delta_g = \mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{W}^{1/2})]$  for all cographs  $g$ .

But this is a story for another time...

- We observe that 
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)] = \Delta_g \text{ for all } g.$$
- Therefore, not only do we prove existence of a graphon limit for uniform random cographs, but we also provide a **construction of this limit**.
- The limiting graphon is a **genuinely random and fractal** object.

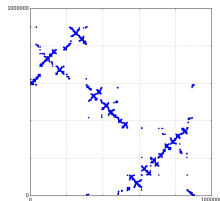
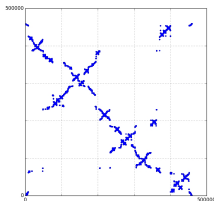


# From cographs to separable permutations

- Separable permutations are those **avoiding the patterns 2413 and 3142** (the two smallest simple permutations).
- Equivalently, it is the family of all permutations whose decomposition trees involve **only  $\oplus$  and  $\ominus$  nodes** (no simple permutations).
- Separable permutations are therefore the **permutation analogue of cographs**.
- From a **combinatorial specification** for the **decomposition trees** of separable permutations, and using **analytic combinatorics** as before, we obtain the **limiting behavior of  $\mathbb{E}[\widetilde{\text{occ}}(\pi, \sigma_n)]$**  for  $\pi$  any pattern, and  $\sigma_n$  a uniform random separable permutation of size  $n$ . These quantities characterize the **permuton limit** of separable permutations.
- Again, we have an **explicit construction** of the limiting object  $\mu^{1/2}$  (called the **Brownian separable permuton** of parameter  $1/2$ ) from a Brownian excursion with decorations.

# From cographs to separable permutations

- Separable permutations are those **avoiding the patterns 2413 and 3142** (the two smallest simple permutations).
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- Separable permutations are therefore the **permutation analogue of cographs**.





## **More classes of permutations**

# Transposing the proof strategy to a more general setting

## Idea of the method:

- Assume that you know a **combinatorial specification for the decomposition trees** of permutations in some class  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- It translates into a **system of equations for the GF** of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- We can in addition **“track patterns”** in these equations.
- **IF** the method of analytic combinatorics goes through, we obtain **convergence to a certain permuton**, as for separable permutations.

## Some results:

- Convergence to **Brownian separable permutons** of parameters  $p \in [0, 1]$  for **substitution-closed classes**, under some analytic condition on the GF of the simple permutations in the class.
- Dichotomy for classes for which **a specification is known** (in particular: whenever they contain **finitely many simple** permutations): (random) **Brownian permutons** VS (deterministic) **X-permutons**.

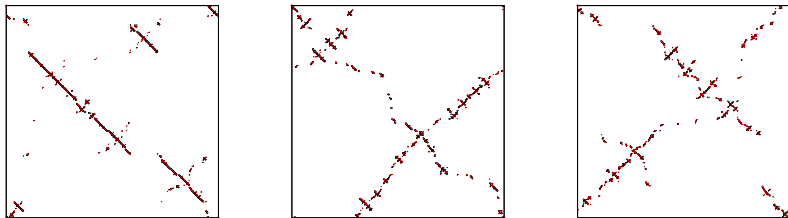
# Substitution-closed classes

- Their specification **adds some simple permutations** to that of separable permutations. We denote by  $\mathcal{S}$  the set of allowed simple permutations.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{T} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \begin{array}{c} \oplus \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\oplus} \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} \uplus \begin{array}{c} \ominus \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\ominus} \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} \uplus \begin{array}{c} \oplus \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T} \quad \dots \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} \uplus \dots \uplus \begin{array}{c} \pi \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T} \quad \dots \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} ; \\ \mathcal{T}^{\text{not}\oplus} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \begin{array}{c} \ominus \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\ominus} \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} \uplus \begin{array}{c} \oplus \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T} \quad \dots \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} \uplus \dots \uplus \begin{array}{c} \pi \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T} \quad \dots \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} ; \\ \mathcal{T}^{\text{not}\ominus} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \begin{array}{c} \oplus \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\oplus} \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} \uplus \begin{array}{c} \ominus \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T} \quad \dots \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} \uplus \dots \uplus \begin{array}{c} \pi \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \mathcal{T} \quad \dots \quad \mathcal{T} \end{array} . \end{array} \right.$$

# Substitution-closed classes

- Their specification **adds some simple permutations** to that of separable permutations. We denote by  $\mathcal{S}$  the set of allowed simple permutations.
- Limit permutons are **(biased) Brownian separable permutons**.

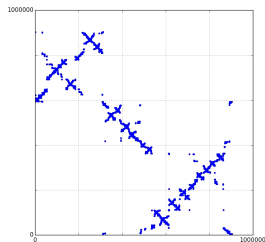
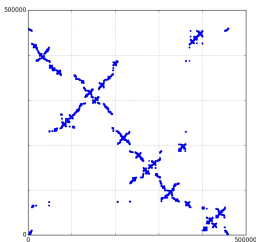


simulations of  $\mu_p$  for  $p = 0.2, 0.45, 0.5$ .

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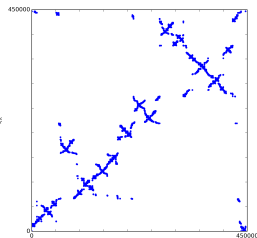
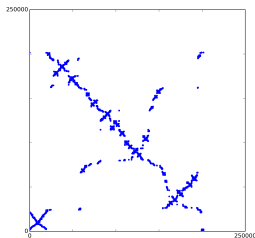
**Example 1:** Separable permutations, *i.e.*  $\mathcal{S} = \emptyset$ ,  $\Rightarrow p = 0.5$



# Substitution-closed classes

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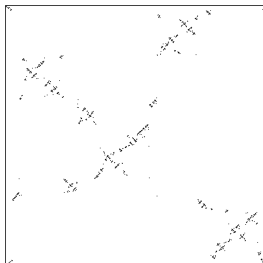
**Example 2:**  $\mathcal{S} = \{2413, 3142, 24153\}$ ,  $\Rightarrow p = 0.5$



# Substitution-closed classes

- Their specification **adds some simple permutations** to that of separable permutations. We denote by  $\mathcal{S}$  the set of allowed simple permutations.
- Limit permutons are **(biased) Brownian separable permutons**.

**Example 3:**  $\mathcal{S} = Av(321) \cap \{\text{Simples}\}$  (infinite),  $\Rightarrow p \in [0.577, 0.622]$



# Brownian case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains a **product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class is a biased **Brownian separable permuton** (of parameter  $p$  possibly 0 or 1).



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**Example 1:**  $Av(132)$ , with critical families in **blue**.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{T} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\oplus}^{\oplus} \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\ominus}^{\ominus} \mathcal{T} \\ \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\oplus}^{\oplus} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\ominus}^{\ominus} \mathcal{T} \\ \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\ominus}^{\ominus} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\oplus}^{\oplus} \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle} \\ \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle}^{\oplus} \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle} \\ \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle}^{\oplus} = \{\bullet\}. \end{array} \right.$$

The limit is the Brownian separable permuton of parameter  $p = 0$ .

# Brownian case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains a **product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class is a biased **Brownian separable permuton** (of parameter  $p$  possibly 0 or 1).

**Example 2:**  $Av(2413, 31452, 41253, 41352, 531246)$ , with critical families in **blue**.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{T}_0 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_0] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_2, \mathcal{T}_0] \uplus 3142[\mathcal{T}_0, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_0] \\ \mathcal{T}_1 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_2, \mathcal{T}_0] \uplus 3142[\mathcal{T}_0, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_0] \\ \mathcal{T}_2 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_0] \uplus 3142[\mathcal{T}_0, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_0] \\ \mathcal{T}_3 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_4, \mathcal{T}_3] \\ \mathcal{T}_4 = \{\bullet\} \end{array} \right.$$

The limit is the Brownian separable permuton of parameter  $p \approx 0.4748692376\dots$  (only real root of a certain polynomial of degree 9).

## X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).

# X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permutation of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).

**Example 1:**  $Av(2413, 3142, 2143, 3412)$ , a.k.a. the X-class, with critical families in **blue**.

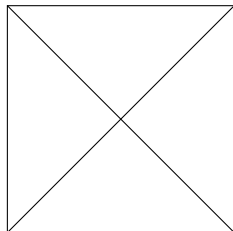
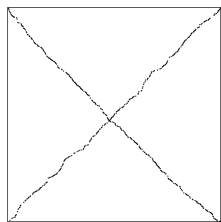
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# X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).

**Example 1:**  $Av(2413, 3142, 2143, 3412)$ , a.k.a. the X-class, with critical families in **blue**.



The limit is the centered X-permuton.

# X case of the dichotomy

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**Example 2:**  $Av(2413, 3142, 2143, 34512)$ , with critical families in **blue**.

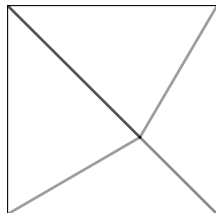
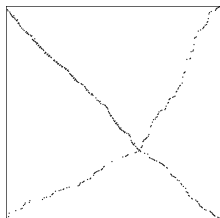
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# X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).

**Example 2:**  $Av(2413, 3142, 2143, 34512)$ , with critical families in **blue**.



The limit is a non-centered X-permuton.

# X case of the dichotomy

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**Example 3:**  $Av(2413, 1243, 2341, 531642, 41352)$ , with critical families in blue.

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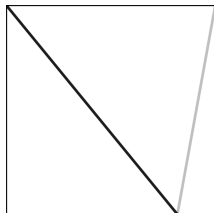
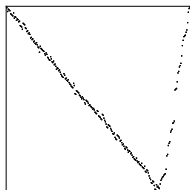


# X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).

**Example 3:**  $Av(2413, 1243, 2341, 531642, 41352)$ , with critical families in blue.



The limit is a degenerate X-permuton.

## **Concluding remarks**

# Towards more classes of graphs

- As in the permutation case, we can extend the study of cographs to families of graphs whose **modular decomposition trees** are described by a **combinatorial specification**.
- Our **analytic approach** can only work with GF having **positive radius of convergence**. This was necessary in permutation classes, but is an additional requirement for hereditary graph classes.
- This is the PhD topic of **Théo Lenoir**, who started working in September 2021, supervised by Frédérique Bassino and Lucas Gerin.
- The classes that he studied are the  **$P_4$ -blah graphs**, where **blah**  $\in$  {reducible, sparse, lite, extensible, tidy}. All converge to the Brownian cographon.
- Recall that cographs are  $P_4$ -free graphs.

# An alternative proof strategy

Consider a class of graphs/permutations  $\mathcal{C}$ , seen as [trees](#).

For any  $n$ , let  $\mathbf{G}_n$  be a uniform random object of size  $n$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Goal:** Describe the graphon/permuton limit of  $\mathbf{G}_n$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

## The strategy I presented (in part):

- Build the limiting graphon/permuton from a [Brownian excursion](#)
- Compute the [densities](#)  $(\Delta_g)_g$  [of substructures](#) in it.
- $(\Delta_g)_g$  [characterizes](#) the graphon/permuton limit
- Use a [combinatorial specification](#) for  $\mathcal{C}$  and [analytic combinatorics](#) to compute, for any  $g$ , the [limiting behavior](#) for  $n \rightarrow \infty$  of the [density of  \$g\$  in  \$\mathbf{G}\_n\$](#) . Observe that it coincides with  $\Delta_g$ .

## The “random trees” strategy

- Compute [densities of induced subtrees](#) directly on the random tree of  $\mathbf{G}_n$ , using techniques from the random trees literature.

# A nice consequence of permuton/graphon limits

## Results:

- The size of the **largest independent set** of a uniform random cograph is **sublinear**.  
(hence  $P_4$  does not have the asymptotic linear Erdős-Hajnal property, answering a question of Kang, McDiarmid, Reed and Scott in 2014)
- The length of the **longest increasing subsequence** of a uniform random separable permutations is **sublinear**.

## Main proof ingredients:

- Convergence to the **Brownian cographon**
- The independence number of the Brownian cographon  $\mathbf{W}^{1/2}$  is 0

**Bonus:** The sublinearity result applies to **all classes** with graphon/permuton limit  $\mathbf{W}^p$  or a Brownian separable permuton.

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- The size of the **largest independent set** of a uniform random cograph is **sublinear**.  
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*Thank you for being there!*