

# Boğaziçi MATH COLLOQUIUM

## Approximation of the Exit Probability of a Stable Markov Modulated Constrained Random Walk

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**Abstract:** Let  $X$  be the constrained random walk on  $\mathbb{Z}_+^2$  having increments  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(-1, 1)$ ,  $(0, -1)$  with jump probabilities  $\lambda(M_k)$ ,  $\mu_1(M_k)$ , and  $\mu_2(M_k)$  where  $\{M_k\}$  is an irreducible aperiodic finite state Markov chain.  $X$  represents the lengths of two tandem queues with arrival rate  $\lambda(M_k)$ , and service rates  $\mu_1(M_k)$ , and  $\mu_2(M_k)$ . We assume that the average arrival rate with respect to the stationary measure of  $M$  is less than the average service rates, i.e.,  $X$  is assumed stable. Let  $\tau_n$  be the first time  $X$  hits the line  $\partial A_n = \{x : x(1) + x(2) = n\}$ , i.e., the first time the sum of the components of  $X$  equals  $n$ . Let  $Y$  be the random walk on  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_+$  (i.e., constrained only on  $\partial_2 = \{y \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_+ : y(2) = 0\}$ ) again modulated by  $M$  and having increments  $(-1, 0)$ ,  $(1, 1)$ ,  $(0, -1)$  with probabilities  $\lambda(M_k)$ ,  $\mu_1(M_k)$ , and  $\mu_2(M_k)$ . Let  $B = \{y \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : y(1) = y(2)\}$  and let  $\tau$  be the first time  $Y$  hits  $B$ . Let  $T_n : \mathbb{Z}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{Z}^2$  be the affine map  $y \mapsto (n - y(1), y(2))$  and let  $m$  denote the initial point of  $M$ . For  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$ ,  $x(1) + x(2) < 1$ ,  $x(1) > 0$ , and  $x_n = \lfloor nx \rfloor$ , we show that  $P_{(T_n(x_n), m)}(\tau < \infty)$  approximates  $P_{(x_n, m)}(\tau_n < \tau_0)$  with exponentially vanishing relative error as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . For the analysis we define a characteristic matrix in terms of the jump probabilities of  $(X, M)$ . The 0-level set of the characteristic polynomial of this matrix defines the characteristic surface  $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  for the problem. Conjugate points on  $\mathcal{H}$  and the associated eigenvectors of the characteristic matrix are used to define (sub/super) harmonic functions which play a fundamental role both in our analysis and the computation / approximation of  $P_{(y, m)}(\tau < \infty)$ .

\*Joint work with Fatma Başoğlu Kabran

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