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<th>Random Walks and Some Problems Concerning Lorentz Gas (Random Systems and Dynamical Systems)</th>
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<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>SINAI, YA. G.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td>数理解析研究所講究録 (1981), 439: 6-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Date</td>
<td>1981-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2433/102803">http://hdl.handle.net/2433/102803</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Departmental Bulletin Paper</td>
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<td>Textversion</td>
<td>publisher</td>
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Random Walks and Some Problems concerning Lorentz Gas

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§1. Random Walks with Random Transition Probabilities

Random walks with random transition probabilities arise in many problems of probability theory and mathematical physics. In particular the corresponding problems have many common features with problems related to the Schrödinger equation with random potentials. The one-dimensional random walks with random probabilities were studied intensively in a series of papers by H. Kesten, M. Kozlow, P. Spitzer and others (see, for example, [1], [2] and [3]).

Let us recall some definitions. We consider the random walk on the usual cubic d-dimensional lattice $\mathbb{Z}^d$. The unit vectors directed along positive coordinate semi-axes are denoted by $e_α$, $α=1,\ldots, d$. The transition probabilities for the considered random walk have the form

$$P_{xx'} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2d} + \xi_{x,α}, & \text{for } x'=x + e_α, \; α=1,\ldots,d, \\ \frac{1}{2d} - \xi_{x,α}, & \text{for } x'=x - e_α, \; α=1,\ldots,d, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise}. \end{cases}$$

Here $ξ_{x,α}$ are identically distributed symmetric independent random variables with $|ξ_{x,α}| \leq ε_0 < 1 - 1/2d$. We shall denote all probabilities and expectations related to the random variables $ξ_{x,α}$ by $P_ξ$ and $E_ξ$ respectively and by $X(n)$ the position
of the moving point at the moment of time equal to \( n \). From the
symmetry of distribution it follows that \( E_{\xi} \xi^{2k+1} = 0 \) for all
\( k \geq 0 \). We shall call the random walks with such transition
probabilities as random walks with random transition probabili-
ties. In the papers [1] - [3], the authors used the term "ran-
dom walks in random environments." Certainly one can easily
imagine natural generalizations of the introduced concept. The
results of the papers [1] - [3] concerned the one-dimensional
case and mainly the properties of recurrence of the random walks.

In our paper [4] the limit behaviour of the random walk was
considered in the one-dimensional case. Assume that \( \alpha > 0 \)
and \( \delta > 0 \) are given. Then the main result of [4] is the following theorem.

**Theorem.** For all sufficiently large \( n \), one can find a subset
\( C_n \) in the space of all possible realizations \( \xi = (\xi_x, \alpha) \) and a
functional \( m^{(n)}(\xi) \) defined on \( C_n \) such that

1) \( P_{\xi}(C_n) \geq 1 - \alpha; \)

2) if \( \xi \in C_n \) then \( P(|x(n)/ln^2 n - m^{(n)}| < \delta) \to 1 \) as \( n \to \infty \)
uniformly in \( \xi \in C_n \), here \( P \) means the probability distribution
in the space of random trajectories \( X(n) \) as all \( \xi_x, \alpha \in C_n \)
are chosen;

3) the functional \( m^{(n)}(\xi) \) has a limit distribution as \( n \to \infty \).

This theorem shows that the properties of one-dimensional
random walks with random probabilities differ significantly from
the properties of the usual random walks. In particular \( x(n) \)
takes values of order \( ln^2 n \) for large \( n \). Moreover \( x(n)/ln^2 n \)
turns out to be localized. Apparently this property is of the
same nature as the property of the one-dimensional Schrödinger equa-
tion with random potential to have pure-point spectrum with probability 1 (see [5]).

Concerning the multi-dimensional case, we shall mention a result by D. Szasz et al. [6] concerning the local perturbations of the usual random walks. Namely they considered the case when \( \xi_{x,\alpha} \) are equal to zero everywhere except a finite set. For this case they have shown under some natural assumptions that \( x(n)/\sqrt{n} \) has in the limit \( n \to \infty \) Gaussian probability distribution.

§2. Random Walks with Inner Degrees of Freedom

We shall describe in this section another generalization of random walks. Assume that a finite or countable set \( I \) is given. We shall call \( I \) the space of inner states of the moving point. Suppose now that the moving point is at any moment of time in a point \( x \in \mathbb{Z}^d \) and in a state \( i \in I \). Thus the state of moving point \( X(n) \) is a pair \( X(n) = (x(n), i(n)) \). We shall consider homogeneous random walks which are defined by the set of transition probabilities \( P_y(i,j) \) where \( y = \pm e_\alpha, \alpha = 1, \ldots, d \) and \( i, j \in I \). Namely \( P_y(i,j) \) is the conditional probability for the transition \( (x(n),i) \to (x(n) + y, j) \). Therefore \( P_y(i,j) \geq 0, \sum_{j} P_y(i,j) = 1 \). We shall call the random walks defined by the set \( \|P_y(i,j)\| \) as homogeneous random walks with inner degrees of freedom. The random walk is called symmetric if \( P_y(i,j) = P_{-y}(j,i) \).

Definition 1. A measure \( \lambda \) on the space \( I \) is called a stationary measure for the random walk if the measure \( \mu_0 \) on the space \( \mathbb{Z}^d \times I \) of pairs \((x,i)\) defined by the formula \( \mu_0(x,i) = \lambda_i \)
is the stationary measure for the considered random walk with inner degrees of freedom, i.e. \( \lambda_j = \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i P_{y}(1,j) \), \( j \in I \).

In the case of symmetric random walks, we can rewrite the last equation in the following form

\[
\sum_{i \in I, j \in I} \lambda_i P_{y}(i,j) = \sum_{i \in I} P_{y}(j,i) \lambda_i = \lambda_j.
\]

Let \( q(j,i) = \frac{1}{y} P_{y}(j,i) \). Then we have \( \sum_{i \in I} q(j,i) \lambda_i = \lambda_j \). The matrix \( Q = ||q(j,i)|| \) is a stochastic matrix and we can put \( \lambda_j = 1/\#(I) \). Under some natural conditions, this vector is unique.

The theory of symmetric random walks with inner degrees of freedom can be sufficiently far developed. For example, we shall prove the following theorem.

**Theorem.** Let a symmetric random walk with inner degrees of freedom be given. Assume that \( I \) is finite and for some \( m > 0 \) the matrix \( Q^m \) has strictly positive matrix elements. Then for \( d = 1, 2 \) the symmetric random walk is recurrent while for \( d \geq 3 \) it is transient.

**Proof.** We shall give only an outline of the proof. Let us denote \( \#(I) = m \) and consider the space \( L_1^2(\mathbb{Z}^d) \) of vector-valued function \( \phi = \{ \phi(x), x \in \mathbb{Z}^d \} \) whose values are vectors of \( \mathbb{C}^m \) with the usual norm. We introduce an operator \( A \)

\[
(A\phi)(x) = \sum_{x': x' + y = x} P_{xy} \phi(x').
\]
In the case of symmetric random walks this operator is self-adjoint. After Fourier-transform, it becomes an operator-valued function $\hat{A}(\lambda)$ acting on the space $L^2_{\text{fin}}(\text{Tor}^d)$ of square-integrable functions $\hat{\phi} = (\hat{\phi}(\lambda), \lambda \in \text{Tor}^d)$, $\hat{\phi}(\lambda) \in \mathbb{M}$, i.e.

$$(\hat{A}\hat{\phi})(\lambda) = \hat{A}(\lambda)\hat{\phi}(\lambda).$$

$\hat{A}(\lambda)$ for every $\lambda \in \text{Tor}^d$ is a self-adjoint operator, $\|\hat{A}(\lambda)\| < 1$ everywhere except $\lambda = 0$. At the point $\lambda = 0$ the operator has an eigen-value 1, while all other eigenvalues have absolute values less than 1. Let us denote the corresponding eigen-vector by $e(\lambda)$, i.e. $\hat{A}(\lambda)e(\lambda) = a(\lambda)e(\lambda)$, $a(0) = 1$. It is correctly defined in a sufficiently small neighbourhood of $\lambda = 0$.

Now we introduce the conditional probabilities $q^{(n)}_{x,z}(i,j)$ which are the probabilities of random trajectories which start at $(x,1)$ and after $n$ steps come to the state $(z,j)$. We have the system of recurrent equations

$$Q^{(n+1)}_{x,z} = \sum_{y} P_{y} Q^{(n)}_{x+y,z}$$

where $Q^{(n)}_{x,z}$ is the matrix $||q^{(n)}_{x,z}(i,j)||$. This matrix depends only on the difference $z - x$. The probabilities $q^{(n)}_{x,z}(i,j)$ can be written after Fourier transform in the form

$$q^{(n)}_{x,z}(i,j) = \int_{\text{Tor}^d} (A^n(\lambda)\delta_i(\lambda), \delta_j(\lambda))d\lambda,$$
where $\delta_1(\lambda)$ and $\delta_j(\lambda)$ are suitable $\mathbb{R}^m$-valued functions on $\text{Tor}^d$. We can rewrite it as follows:

$$ q_{x,x}(1,j) = \int a^n(\lambda) \delta_1^{(0)}(\lambda) \delta_j^{(0)}(\lambda) d\lambda + r_{x,x}^{(n)}(1,j). $$

Here $\delta_1^{(0)}(\lambda)$ and $\delta_j^{(0)}(\lambda)$ are projections of $\delta_1(\lambda)$ and $\delta_j(\lambda)$ onto the subspace generated by $e(\lambda)$ and the integration goes over the neighbourhood of $\lambda = 0$, where $e(\lambda)$ is correctly defined, $r_{x,x}^{(n)}(1,j)$ is a remainder term. It is easy to see that $r_{x,x}^{(n)}(1,j)$ decays exponentially fast while the first term has the same asymptotic behaviours as the transition probability after $n$ steps in the case of the usual random walk. After this the arguments concerning the recurrence properties can be carried out and we get the desired result.

§3. Lorentz Gas and Random Walks with Inner Degrees of Freedom.

Let $S = \{s_i\}$ be a countable subset of $\mathbb{R}^2$ such that $\|s_i - s_j\| > 2\rho$ for some $\rho > 0$, $i \neq j$. We denote by $D_\rho(s_i)$ the disk of the radius centered at $s_i$ and $D = \bigcup_{i \neq j} D_\rho(s_i)$. These disks are called scatterers and $D$ is a configuration of scatterers. Lorentz Gas is the dynamical system generated by the motion of a single particle between the disks with constant velocity and with elastic reflections from the boundaries $\partial D_\rho(s_i)$ of disks $D_\rho(s_i)$. Lorentz proposed this model more than seventy years ago for the description of the motion of electrons in metals. He assumed that the scatterers are heavy ions which suppose to be unmoving while electrons are light particles and
we can neglect their inner interaction. Since that time the Lorentz Gas is one of popular models of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics.

We shall assume that the velocity of the particle is equal to 1. Let $C_1$ be the set of unit vectors beginning at a point of $\partial D_p(s_1)$ and directed outside the boundary. Topologically $C_1$ is a cylinder and we can introduce natural coordinates $(r, \phi)$ on it, where $r$ is the cyclic coordinate along the boundary $\partial D_p(s_1)$, $0 \leq r < 2\pi \rho$, and $\phi$ is the angle between the vector beginning at the point with the coordinate $r$ and the unit normal vector $n(r)$ beginning at $r$ and directed outside $\partial D_p(s_1)$, $-\pi/2 \leq \phi \leq \pi/2$. We consider the set $C = \bigcup C_1$ and the measure $\mu$ on $C$ whose restriction to $C_1$ has the form $d\mu = \cos \phi \, dr \, d\phi$. It is obvious that $C$ is the measure space with the $\sigma$-finite measure $\mu$.

Suppose that for $x \in C_1$ the straight segment which begins at $x$ intersects a scatterer $D_p(s_j)$. We can construct $y \in C_j$ assuming that we have a part of a trajectory of the Lorentz gas between two subsequent reflections (see Figure 1). In what follows we shall consider only such $S$ for which for $\mu$-almost all $x$ one can find the corresponding $y$. Then we get a transformation $T$ of the
measure space \((C, \mu)\) where \(Tx = y\). It is an analogy of the usual Liouville theorem that \(T\) preserves the measure \(\mu\). On the space \(C\) one can introduce the natural involution \(\alpha\) which transforms \(x = (r, \phi)\) into \(\alpha x = (r, -\phi)\) (see Figure 1).

Suppose now that \(D\) is a periodic configuration of scatterers. It means that one can find a discrete subgroup \(\Gamma\) of translations of the plane and a parallelogram \(\gamma_0\) such that if \(\gamma_\gamma = \gamma\gamma_0\), then \((\gamma_\gamma \cap \gamma_\gamma_2) = \emptyset\gamma_\gamma_1 \cap \emptyset\gamma_\gamma_2\), \(\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma = \mathbb{R}^2\).

Periodicity of \(D\) means that \(\gamma_\gamma \cap D = \gamma(\gamma_0 \cap D)\). We shall assume also that \(D\) is such that the length of the segment connecting \(x\) and \(y\) is uniformly bounded.

Suppose that we have a finite or countable partition \(\xi\) of the set \(C\) which is also \(\Gamma\)-periodic, i.e. if \(A_\xi\) is an element of \(\xi\), then \(\gamma A_\xi\) is also an element of \(\xi\). The partition \(\xi\) is called symmetric if each \(A_\xi\) is contained in a \(C_1\) and \(\alpha A_\xi\) is also an element of the partition \(\xi\). We denote \(C_0 = \bigcup_{1 \leq s_1 \leq \gamma_0} C_1\) and \(\xi_0 = \xi|C_0\). Let the elements of \(\xi_0\) be \((A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n, \ldots)\) and \(I\) be the set of indices \((1, 2, \ldots, n, \ldots)\). We shall say that the point \(x \in C_k\) is in the state \((\gamma, j)\) if \(s_k \in \gamma_\gamma\) and \(x \in \gamma A_j\).

For every semi-trajectory \(x_0, Tx_0, \ldots, T^m x_0, \ldots\), we can construct the sequence of pairs \((\gamma_0, j_0), (\gamma_1, j_1), \ldots, (\gamma_m, j_m), \ldots\), in such a way that \(T^m x_0\) is in the state \((\gamma_m, j_m)\).

\(\Gamma\) can be considered as the usual lattice of points \((p, q)\) where \(p\) and \(q\) are integers. We introduce the norm \(\|\gamma\| = |m| + |n|\). One can choose \(\Gamma\) so large that \(\|\gamma_m - \gamma_{m-1}\| \leq 1\).
Thus we can consider the sequence of points 
\((\gamma_0, j_0), (\gamma_1, j_1), \ldots, (\gamma_m, j_m), \ldots\), as a trajectory of the random walk with inner degrees of freedom. The measure \(\mu\) induces a natural measure on the space of all trajectories which is translation-invariant.

It is a natural problem to choose \(\xi\) in such a way that the induced measure could be sufficiently well approximated by Markov measures.

The construction of such \(\xi\) is based upon the notion of a Markov partition. Firstly we recall the notion of a parallelogram. Let \(x \in \mathbb{C}\). A smooth curve \(\gamma\) is called local stable (unstable) manifold of the point \(x \in \gamma\) if \(T^n\) is continuous on \(\gamma\) for all \(n \geq 0\) (\(n \leq 0\)) and \(\text{diam}(T^n\gamma) \to 0\) as \(n \to \infty\) (\(n \to -\infty\)). It is known that for \(\mu\)-almost all \(x\) local stable (unstable) manifolds exist (see e.g. [7]). In what follows we shall mean under \(\gamma^{(s)}(x)\) and \(\gamma^{(u)}(x)\) the maximal local stable and unstable manifolds respectively.

A subset \(P \subset C_1\) is called a parallelogram if for every \(x, y \in P\) the intersection \(\gamma^{(s)}(x) \cap \gamma^{(u)}(y) \cap P\) (see [8]). Each parallelogram \(P\) has natural partitions \(\xi^{(s)}_P\) and \(\xi^{(u)}_P\) whose elements are of the form \(\gamma^{(s)}(x) \cap P\) and \(\gamma^{(u)}(x) \cap P\) respectively for \(x \in P\). We shall denote by \(C_{\xi^{(s)}_P}(x)\) \(C_{\xi^{(u)}_P}(x)\) the intersection \(\gamma^{(s)}(x) \cap P\) \(\gamma^{(u)}(x) \cap P\) respectively.

Definition 2. A partition \(\xi\) of the measure space \((C, \mu)\) is called a Markov partition if its elements are parallelograms \(P_1, P_2, \ldots\), and for almost every \(x \in P_1 \subset C\), \(T^{-1}x \in P_k\),
we have the inclusions

\[ T_{\xi_p_i}^s C(x) \subseteq C(x)(T^s), \quad T_{-i}^{-1} C_{\xi_p_j}^u(x) \subseteq C_{\xi_p_k}^u(T^{-1}x). \]

In the paper [9] L.A. Bunimovich and I have constructed a periodic Markov partition for a periodic configuration of scatterers, symmetric under the involution \( \alpha \).

Using the Markov partitions we constructed natural Markov approximations for the measure \( \mu \). Some consequences follow from the properties of these approximations. We shall mention one of them (see [10] for this and other results).

Let \( q(t), \quad 0 < t < \infty \), be a trajectory of Lorentz gas on the configuration space \( \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus D \). We suppose that the initial point \( x(0) = (q(0), v(0)) \) is random and is distributed according to a probability distribution with smooth density. For every \( T > 0 \) we consider continuous functions \([0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2\) defined by the formula

\[ q_T(s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}} q(sT), \quad 0 \leq s \leq 1. \]

The probability distribution for \( x(0) \) induces the probability measure \( P_T \) on the space of functions \( q_T(s) \).

**Theorem.** \( P_T \) converges weakly to the Wiener measure as \( T \rightarrow \infty \).

Markov partitions give the possibility to reduce problems related to Lorentz gas to problems concerning random walks.
The construction of Markov partitions can be carried out in many cases. Let us give some examples.

1. Suppose that \( D^{(0)} \) is a periodic configuration of scatterers. We shall mean under local perturbation of \( D^{(0)} \) any configuration \( D \) which differs from \( D^{(0)} \) by a position of a finite set of scatterers. Markov partition in this case is also a local perturbation of Markov partitions for periodic configurations \( D^{(0)} \) and the problems can be formulated in terms of random walks with inner degrees of freedom with local perturbation of transition probabilities. We come to a problem of a generalization of results by D. Szasz ([6]) mentioned above to the case corresponding to the Lorentz gas. Some results in this problem are already proven but the general problem still remains open.

2. Suppose again that \( D^{(0)} \) is a periodic configuration of the scatterers and let us shift each scatterer independently from the other scatterers. In this way we get a purely random configuration of scatterers \( D \). Markov partitions can be constructed in this case too. Because \( D \) is random, Markov partitions are also random and we come to a generalization of random walks with inner degrees of freedom with random transition probabilities.

Probably many dynamical systems with large number degrees of freedom can be represented as random walks with random transition probabilities.
References


