



William Da Silva

Ellen Powell

Alex Watson

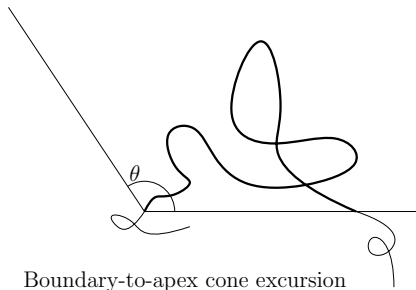
University College London

27 July 2025

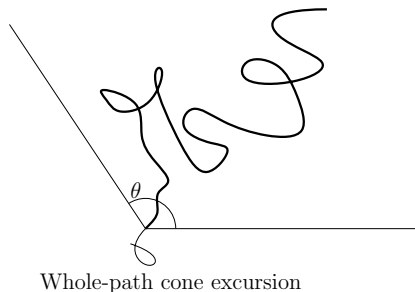
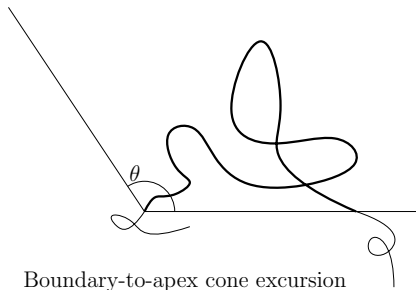
A growth-fragmentation found in the cone excursions of Brownian motion

- Take a Brownian motion in the 2D plane, consider two types of ‘cone excursion’:

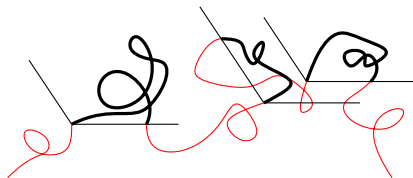
- Take a Brownian motion in the 2D plane, consider two types of ‘cone excursion’:
 - Boundary-to-apex cone excursions



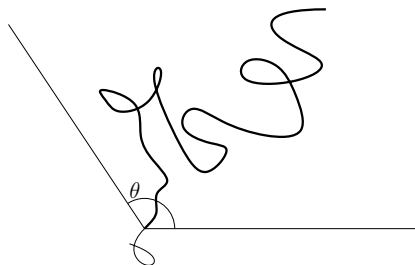
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- 'Cone-free times' (between boundary-to-apex excursions) form a regenerative set

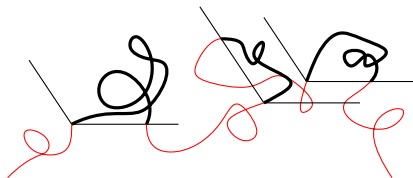


Boundary-to-apex **cone-free times**
and **cone excursions**

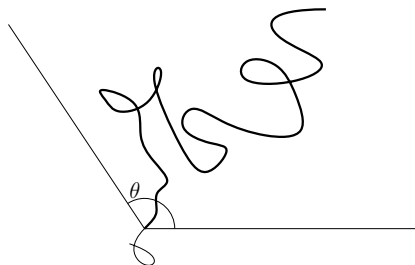


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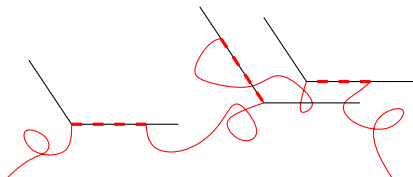


Boundary-to-apex cone-free times
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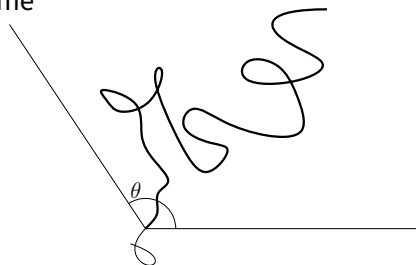


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- Write $\tau^>$ for boundary-to-apex inverse local time

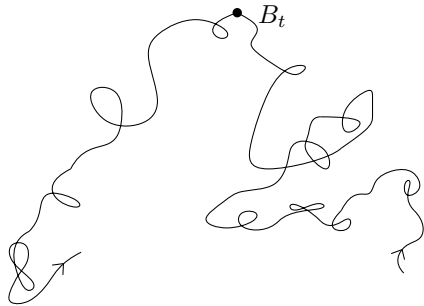


The path at boundary-to-apex
cone-free times (with jumps)

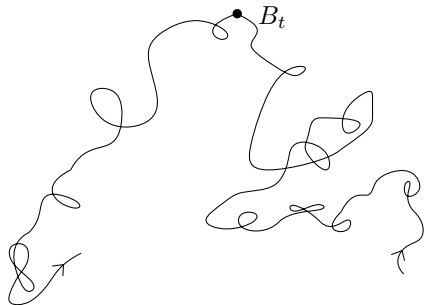


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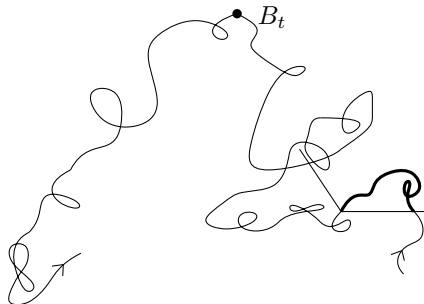
- Take Brownian path $(B_s: 0 \leq s \leq \zeta)$ and single out point B_t



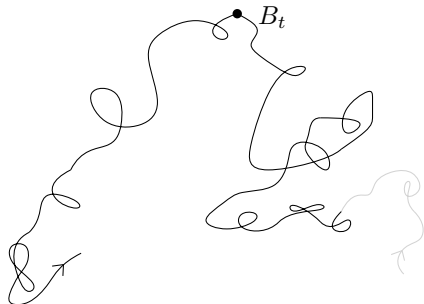
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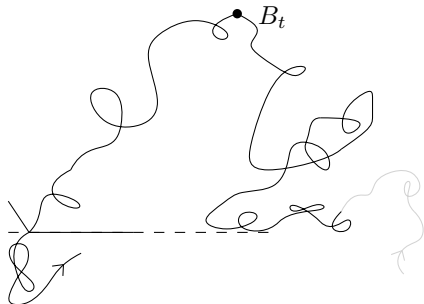
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- ...cut out some boundary-to-apex cone excursions not containing B_t ...



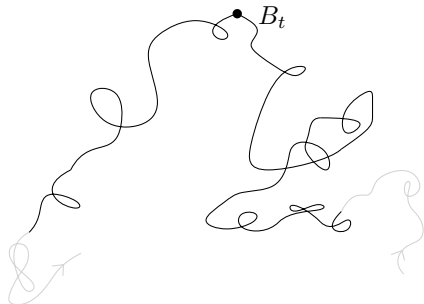
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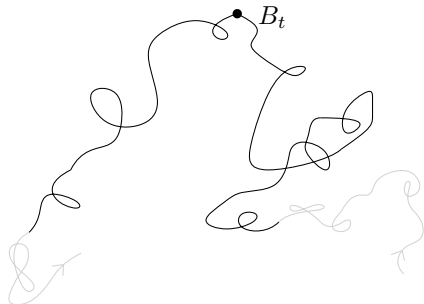
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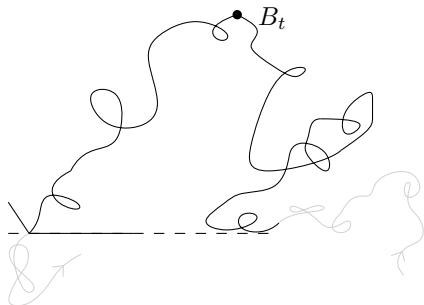
- Cone excursions — Alex Watson



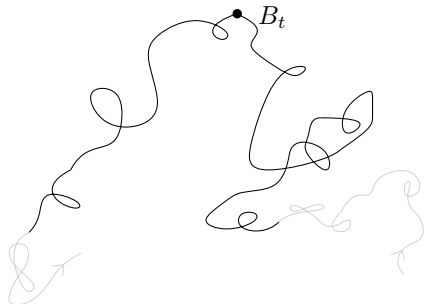
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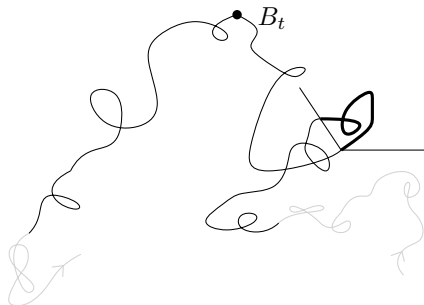
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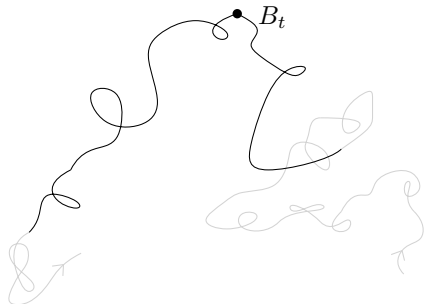
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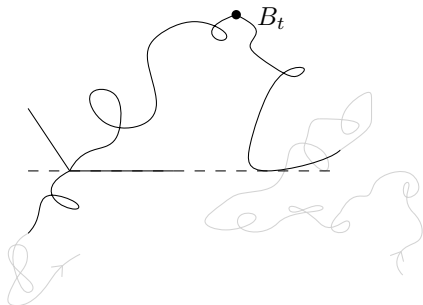
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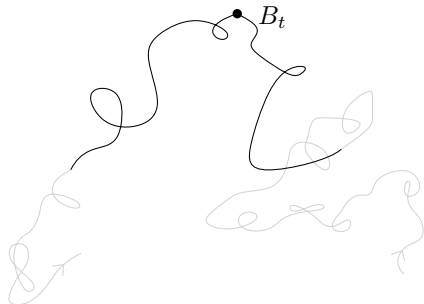
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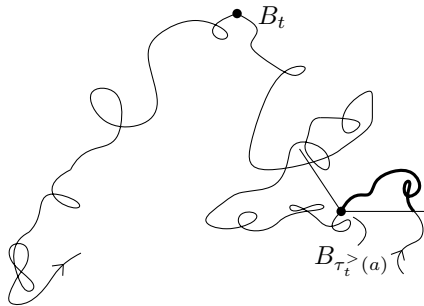


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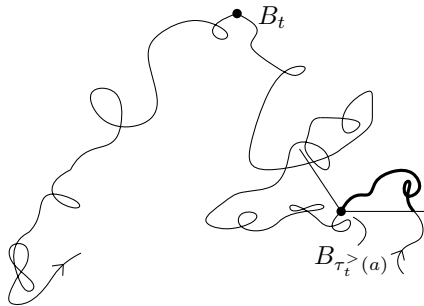
Targeting a time (more precisely)

- Fix $t > 0$, write $\tau_t^>$ for boundary-to-apex inverse local time of $(B_s: s \leq t)$



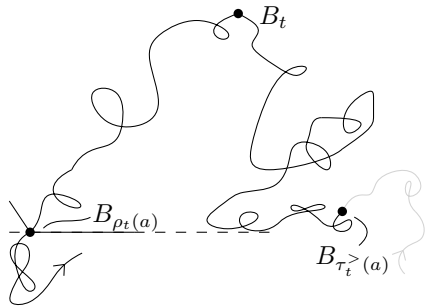
Targeting a time (more precisely)

- Fix $t > 0$, write $\tau_t^>$ for boundary-to-apex inverse local time of $(B_s: s \leq t)$
- Then fix $a \geq 0$, and...



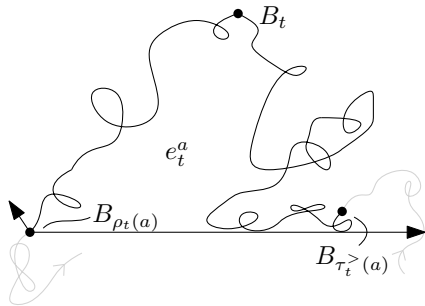
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- ...let $\rho_t(a)$ be the smallest time making $B[\tau_t^>(a), \rho_t(a)]$ a cone excursion



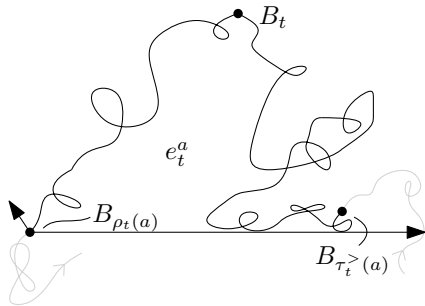
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- ...and let $e_t^a(s) = B_{s+\tau_t^>(a)} - B_{\rho_t(a)}$.



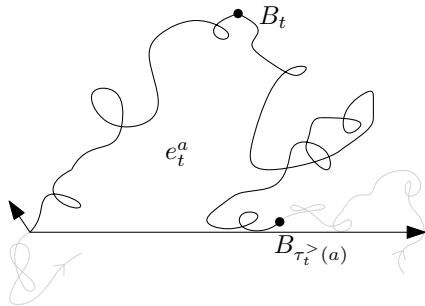
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- › Call e_t^a the excursion targeting t (at level a)



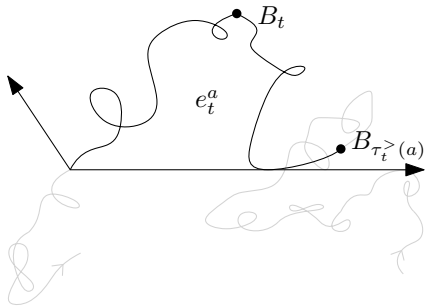
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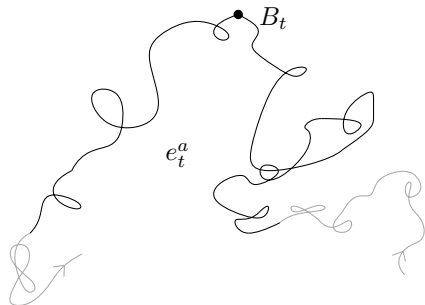


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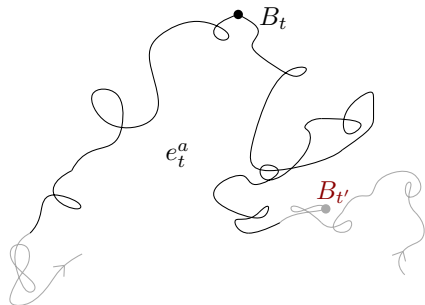
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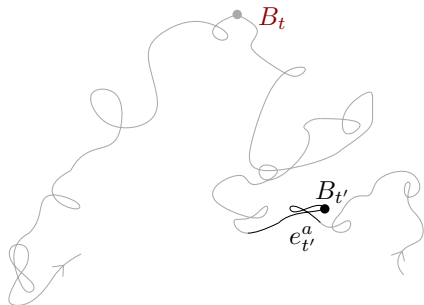
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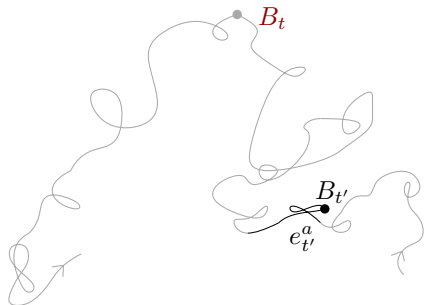
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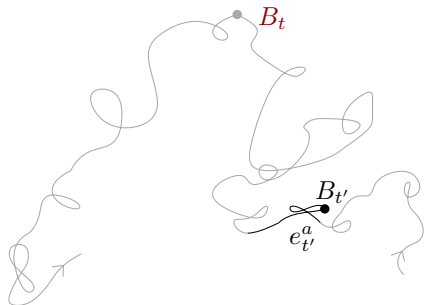
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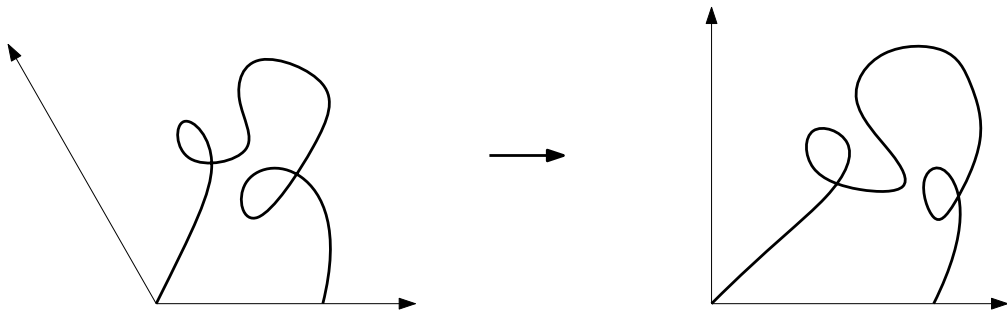


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- › Consider targeting every time simultaneously
- › There is some kind of **branching process** for us to capture



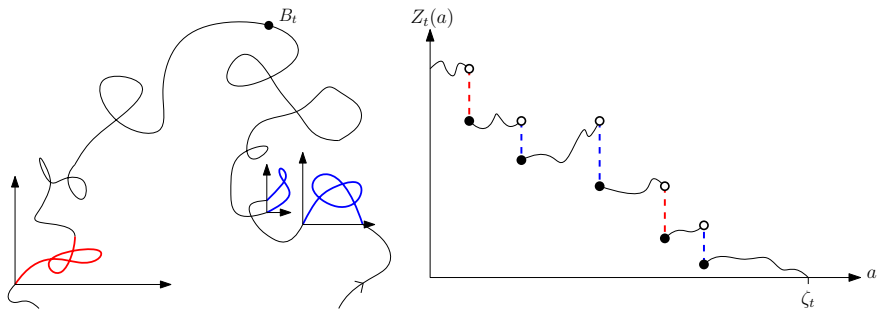
Summarising the path targeting t

- Map the cone with apex angle θ to the positive quadrant \mathbb{R}_+^2 ; standard Brownian motion becomes correlated



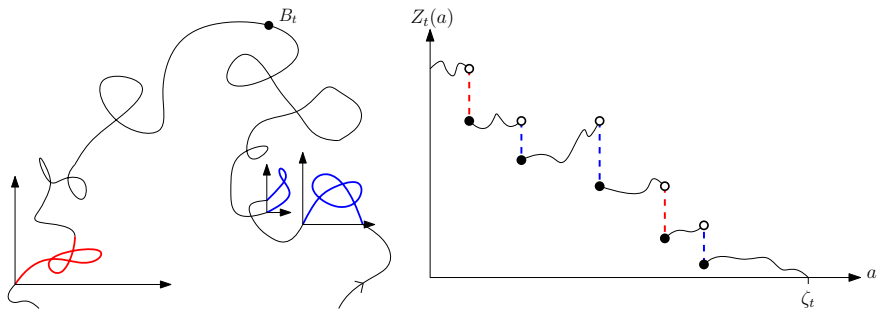
Summarising the path targeting t

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- The **initial displacement** of the excursion targeting t at local time a : $e_t^a(0) \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$



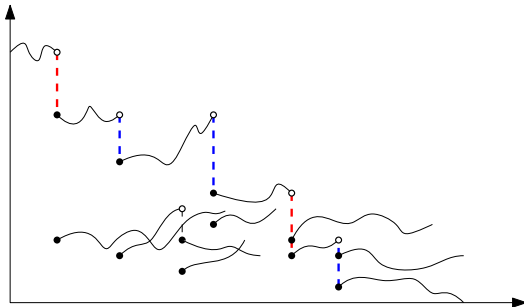
Summarising the path targeting t

- Map the cone with apex angle ϑ to the positive quadrant \mathbb{R}_+^2 ; standard Brownian motion becomes correlated
- The **initial displacement** of the excursion targeting t at local time a : $e_t^a(0) \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$
- In the case $\vartheta = 2\pi/3$ look at its ℓ^1 -norm: $Z_t(a) = \|e_t^a(0)\|_1$



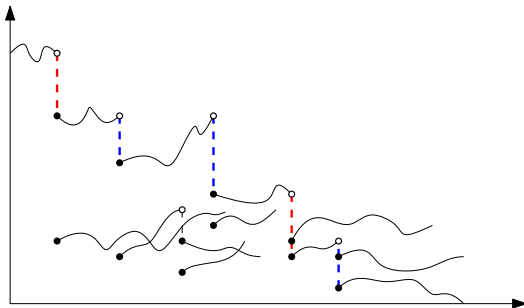
A growth-fragmentation is:

- a system of particles (excursions targeting each time t)...



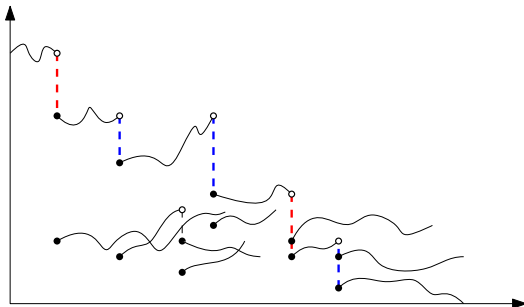
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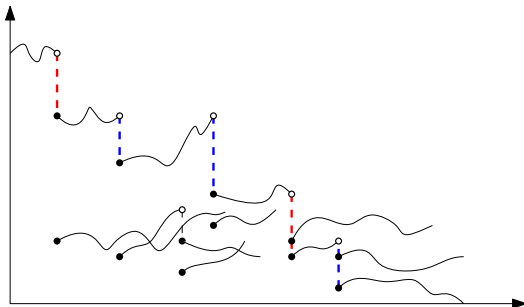
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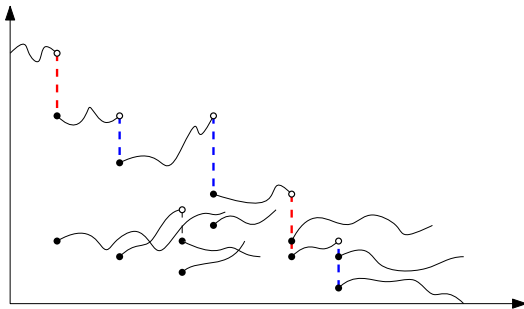
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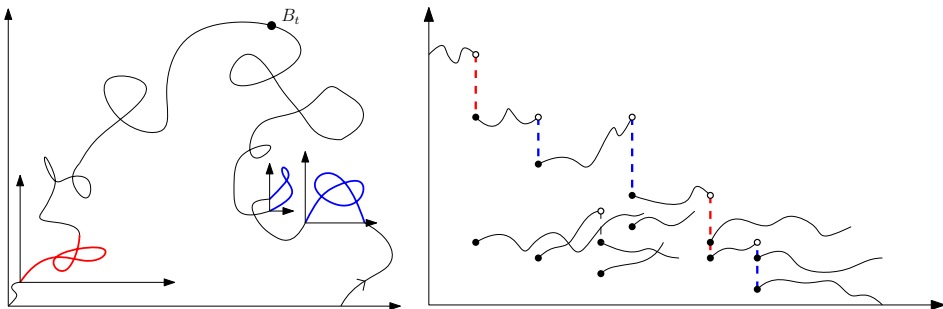
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- ...each of which is a Markov process when viewed on its own...
- ...whose path only jumps down...
- ...and each jump of which is accompanied by the birth of another particle, conditionally independent given initial trait value



We do all this starting with B given by a boundary-to-apex excursion with fixed initial value $B_0 = z \in \partial\mathbb{R}_+^2$.

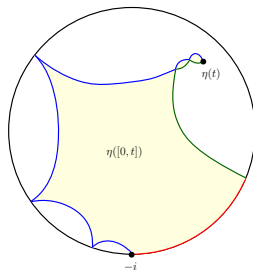
Theorem (Da Silva-Powell-W, vague version)

The particles t with traits $(Z_t(a): 0 \leq a \leq \zeta_t)$ (*the ℓ^1 -norm summary of initial displacements of excursions targeting t*) form a growth-fragmentation process whose law we can characterise.



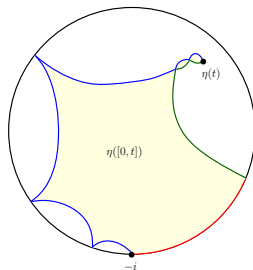
Relationship with the quantum disc

- The **quantum disc** is a ball of radius 1 in the complex plane, loosely speaking endowed with a Riemannian metric $e^{yh(z)}(dx^2 + dy^2)$ at $z = x + iy$, where h is a Gaussian free field



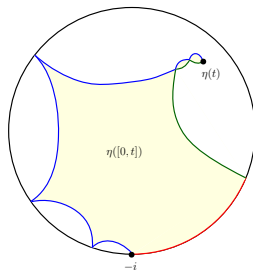
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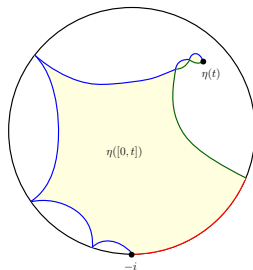
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- Draw counterclockwise space-filling SLE₆ curve started at $-i$, targeting the same point



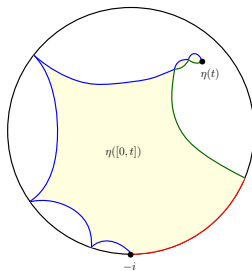
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- As the curve fills space targeting a particular point, it cuts out 'bubbles' not containing the point (which are explored by another branch)
- Our growth-fragmentation describes the total (left and right) boundary length of the branches



- Cone excursions: Le Gall (1987) and Duplantier, Miller and Sheffield (2021)

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- Another growth-fragmentation in planar excursions: Aïdékon and Da Silva (2022)

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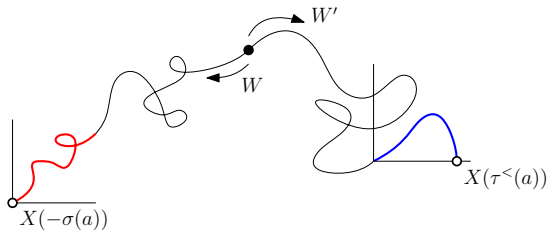
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(S is a positive stochastic process with jump kernel $J(x, x + dy) = \frac{x+y}{x} y^{-5/2} dy$; $x > 0, y > 0$.)

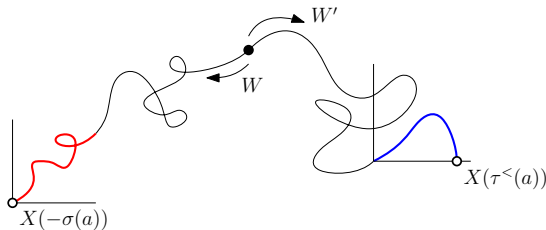
A beautiful construction of a conditioned 3/2-stable process

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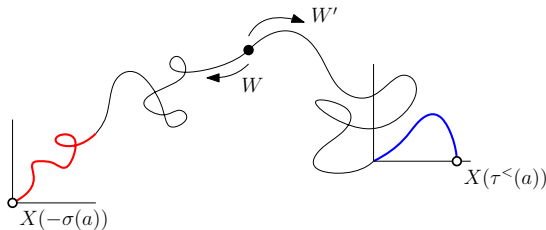
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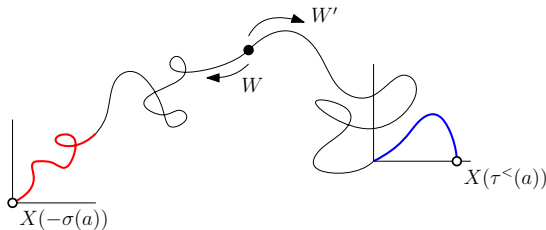
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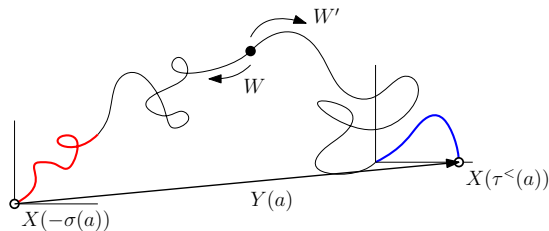
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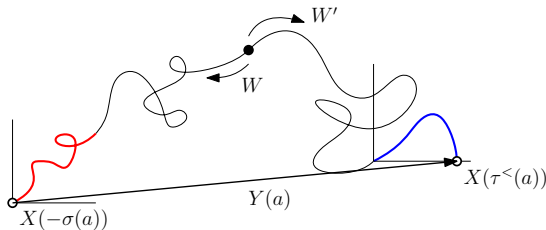


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- ...and find a special martingale whose limit law is that of the lifetime of a typical excursion (recovering a result about the volume of Boltzmann triangulations)

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- It may be possible to derive our results with quantum gravity arguments, but we use nothing but an analysis of Brownian motion

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- › Can we start things at zero?



W. Da Silva, E. Powell and A. R. Watson

Growth-fragmentations, Brownian cone excursions and SLE_6 explorations of a quantum disc

[arXiv:2501.03010 \[math.PR\]](#)



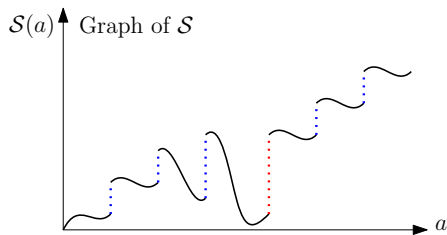
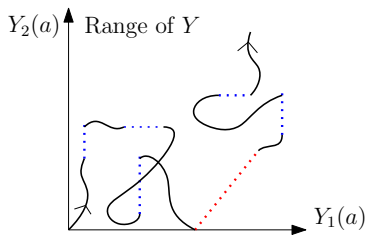
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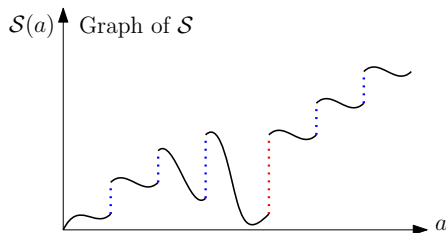
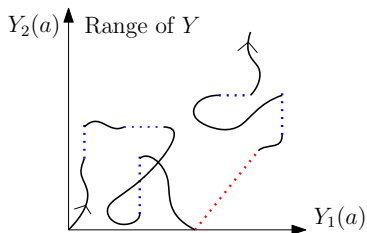
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Thank you!

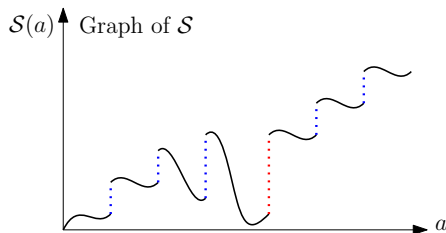
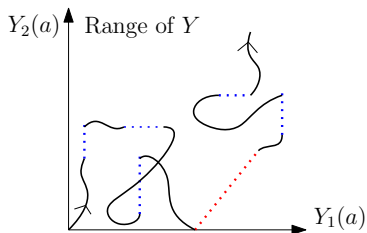
Sketch of the proof



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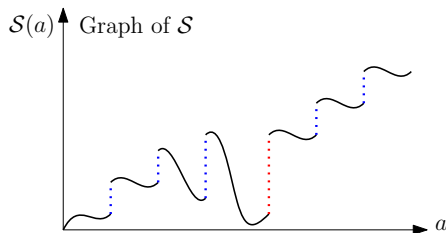
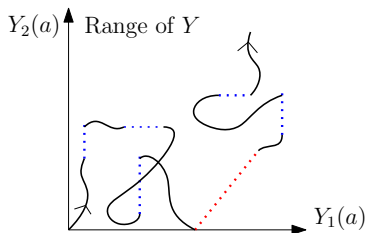


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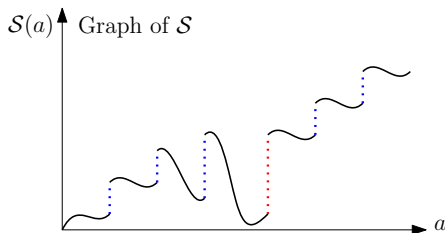
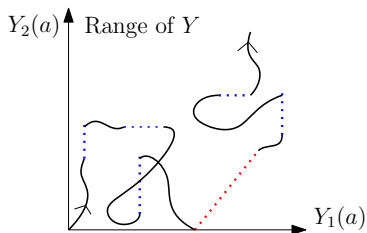


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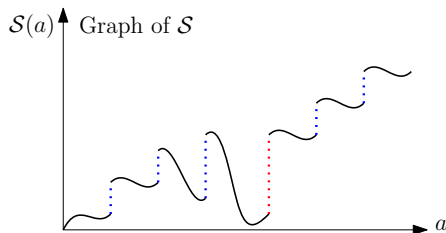
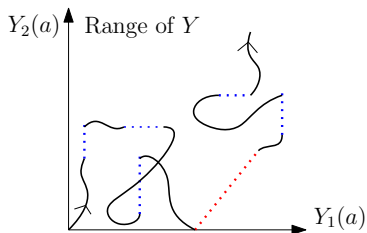


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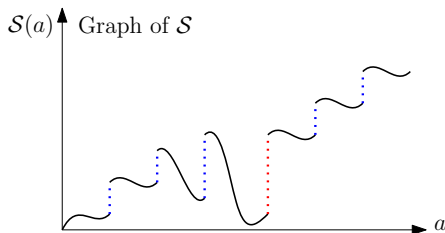
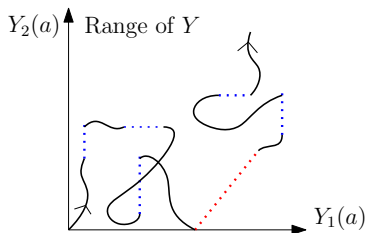


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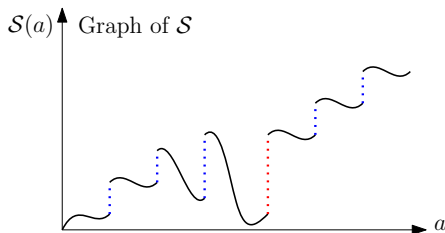
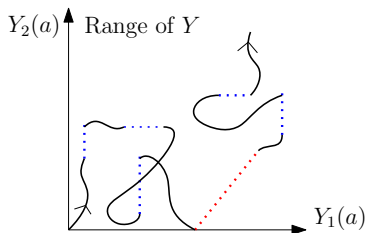


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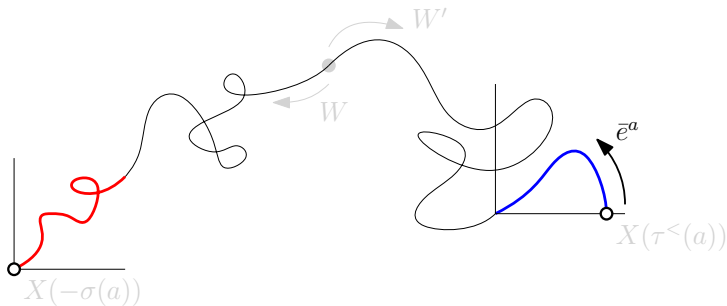
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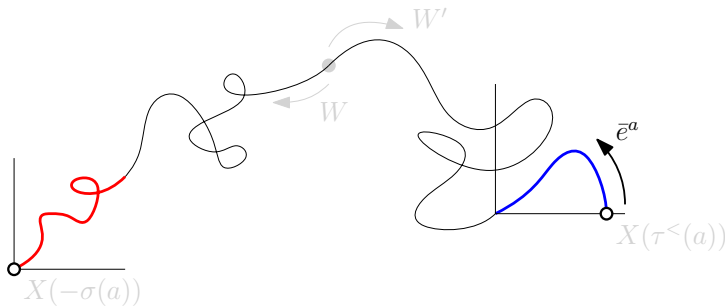
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- Then (\bar{e}^A, A) has the same distribution as a generic whole-path excursion together with a time uniformly chosen within its lifetime

