



Stochastic touristic walk: analytical approaches, algorithm and numerical results

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ABSTRACT

Consider N points randomly and uniformly distributed in a d -dimensional hypercube. A walker explores this disordered medium going to the nearest site, which has not been visited in the last μ (memory) steps. The walker trajectory is composed of a transient part and a periodic part (cycles). In this case, travelers can or cannot explore all available space, given rise to a crossover at critical memory, for one-dimensional systems $\mu_1 = \ln_2 N$, between localized and extended regimes. The deterministic rule can be softened to consider more realistic situations with the inclusion of a stochastic parameter T (temperature). In this case, the walker movement is defined by a probability density function (PDF) that is parameterized by T and a cost function, which increases as the distance among sites increases. As the temperature increases, the walker can escape from cycles and extend the exploration. Here we review the analytical results obtained for a system with arbitrary dimensionality d for $\mu = 0$ and one-dimensional systems with $\mu = 1$. Also we suggest an extension of this system to study the influence of the temperature on the critical memory.

Keywords: stochastic walk, deterministic walk, non-Markovian processes, glass transition.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Random walks and stochastic techniques have become nearly ubiquitous in science and engineering, specially in studies of natural phenomena. The random walks have had their origin in the analysis of the particles movement in fluids, as a dust particle over a water drop. One can observe the employment of the random walks implemented over a regular lattice or on disordered systems. A classical example is the Travelling Salesman Problem (TSP), where a walker (salesman) knows *a priori* the location of all sites (cities) in a disordered landscape. This salesman starts his walk in a given city and must visit all other cities once and return to the first one through the shortest path.

Being a non-polynomial (NP) hard problem, analytical and numerical studies are notably complicated. Nowadays, the most common numerical methods used to deal with this problem are simulated annealing and genetic algorithm. Although these methods are consolidated, they spend several computational effort. So, alternative methods, which reduces the computational effort, are desirable.

Lima et al. [1], in 2001, have introduced a new way to explore disordered systems, with a deterministic walker which moves having memory μ . The walk was recognized as "Tourist Walk" (TW) [2] and, due to its memory, it is partially self-avoiding. Differently of TSP, in TW, the walker have to know only local information to guarantee a good exploration. Following the deterministic rule of going to the nearest site which has not been visited in the last μ steps, it has been found that even with low memory the walker may explore the whole system. The minimal memory that enable an extended exploration in one-dimensional systems is the critical memory $\mu_1 = \ln_2 N$. A stochastic version of this walk were investigated by Martinez et al. [3] on systems with arbitrary dimensionality d and walker with $\mu = 0$. Risau-Gusman et al. [4] have examined this stochastic walk over one-dimensional systems and walker with $\mu = 1$. In both cases a glass transition has been found. This article shows a review of the analytical results obtained by [3] and [4] in the Section 2. Besides, numerical results for one-dimensional systems and walkers with $\mu \geq 0$ are shown in Section 3.

2 STOCHASTIC TOURIST WALK

The stochastic tourist walk (STW) is a generalization of the deterministic tourist walk (DTW) [1], to comprehend more realistic situations. Consider a random walk on a disordered landscape composed of N sites representing, for example, localized feeding sites as flowers, trees, water holes, islands, etc [3]. The disor-

dered medium can be defined with each site coordinate, $x_i^{(k)}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ and $k = 1, 2, \dots, d$, being drawn in accordance with a random and uniform distribution along the unitary edges in a d -dimensional hypercube. To hop from one site to another, the walker uses a strategy based in some arbitrary cost function $E(D_{j,i})$, which is a monotonically increasing function of the normalized Euclidean distance $D_{j,i}$ between sites i and j . To normalize the distance between any two sites, one can divide this distance by the mean separation of the system sites. One can geometrically realize the mean site separation, if imagine a d -dimensional hypercube with length edges equal L delimiting a system with N sites. To each site one has to associate an also d -dimensional hypercube with length edges given by the mean site separation ℓ . Now, if these hypercubes do not overlap, then we may write $N\ell^d = L^d \Rightarrow \ell = LN^{-1/d}$. Thus, the normalized Euclidean distance is

$$D_{j,i} = \frac{N^{1/d}}{L} \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^d [x_i^{(k)} - x_j^{(k)}]^2 \right\}^{1/2}. \quad (1)$$

In the thermodynamical limit, $N \rightarrow \infty$, this procedure preserves the constant site density as the system dimensionality varies, and makes it possible to compare systems with distinct dimensionalities.

To move on this landscape, the walker strategy based in the cost function $E(D_{j,i})$ follows a probability density function (PDF) that depends on the inverse of the formal temperature, $T > 0$, and the walker memory, $\mu \geq 0$. The inverse of a formal temperature T is the stochastic parameter $\beta = 1/T$ and as β decreases, long hops are favored. The memory generates a self-avoiding window with the last μ visited sites, which are forbidden to revisitation in the next μ steps. Thus, the PDF is given by:

$$W_{j \leftarrow i} = \frac{e^{-\beta E(D_{j,i})}}{\sum_{k=1}^{\prime N} e^{-\beta E(D_{k,i})}}, \quad (2)$$

the summation \sum' excludes the forbidden sites by μ . The denominator is known by normalization coefficient $Z_i^{(\beta, \mu)}$.

It is interesting to note that this probability privileges local exploration when $T \rightarrow 0$ ($\beta \rightarrow \infty$) and for $T = 0$ the DTW is recovered. Now, when $T \rightarrow \infty$ ($\beta \rightarrow 0$) the walker can visit all permitted sites with the same probability $W_{j \leftarrow i} = 1/(N - \mu)$, for any allowed j . Thus, in which T and μ one can expect the transition, between these localized and extended explorations, takes place?

In the following we show that a glass transition occurs at a sharp critical temperature for a specific cost function in a system

with arbitrary dimensionality and $\mu = 0$. Also, we stress the difficulties in the analytical calculations in one-dimensional systems but now with $\mu = 1$. Finally we present our preliminary numerical results for one-dimensional systems when both temperature and memory vary.

2.1 Lazy Tourist in Systems with Arbitrary Dimensionality: Glass Transition

Martinez et al. [3] have analyzed stochastic walkers with memory $\mu = 0$ moving on d -dimensional systems. This study focuses on a surprising connection between two apparently disparate fields: models of exploratory behavior [5, 6] and the statistical physics of glass transitions described by trap models [7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]. They show that a glass transition may appear when a walker explores a random landscape with localized resources. This exploration depends on a well-defined manner of the cost function $E(D_{j,i})$ used to weigh the possible movements.

For each system dimension d , there is one specific cost function that enables a glass transition between the localized and extended exploratory behavior. The order parameter is the mean residence time $\langle t_r(\beta) \rangle$, i.e., the mean time that the walker spends on a site. Although any site has a finite trapping time, the average residence time $\langle t_r \rangle$ diverges below a finite stochasticity level T_d . In this case, the system falls into an out-of-equilibrium regime and aging phenomena appear.

To compute $\langle t_r(\beta) \rangle$, one may consider discrete time steps. The probability of a walker to remain in a given site a is

$$p_a(\beta) \equiv W_{a \leftarrow a} = \frac{1}{Z_a^{(\beta,0)}}$$

and the probability that the walker leaves site a is $q_a(\beta) = 1 - p_a(\beta)$. Calculations become easier if the distances are re-labeled according to the ordering with respect site a , so that the nearest neighbor of site a is at $D_1^{(a)}$, the second nearest neighbor is at $D_2^{(a)}$ and so forth. Then, the normalization coefficient may be written as

$$Z_a^{(\beta,0)} = 1 + \exp[-\beta E(D_1^{(a)})] \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \exp[-\beta \Delta_j^{(a)}],$$

where $\Delta_j^{(a)} = E(D_j^{(a)}) - E(D_1^{(a)})$.

Given that at $t = 0$, the walker is at site a , the probability the walker remains there till time t and leaves this site at $t + 1$ is given by the geometric distribution (the first failure after t successes): $P_\beta(t) = p_a^t(\beta) q_a(\beta)$. The residence (trapping) time

associated to site a is defined as the expected time:

$$t_r^{(a)}(\beta) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} t p_a^t(\beta) q_a(\beta) = \frac{p_a(\beta)}{[1 - p_a(\beta)]} \quad (3)$$

$$= \exp[\beta E(D_1^{(a)})] \left\{ 1 + \sum_{j=2}^{N-1} \exp[-\beta \Delta_j^{(a)}] \right\}.$$

The mean residence time for one realization of site distribution is $t_r(\beta) = \sum_{a=1}^N t_r^{(a)}(\beta)/N$ and the average over the disorder leads to

$$\langle t_r(\beta) \rangle = \int dD_1 \dots dD_{N-1} P(D_1, \dots, D_{N-1}) \quad (4)$$

$$\times \frac{t_1(\beta)}{1 + \sum_{j=2}^{N-1} e^{-\beta \Delta_j}},$$

where $t_1(\beta) \equiv e^{\beta E(D_1)}$.

To calculate $\langle t_r(\beta) \rangle$, one needs to average over the full probability density distribution of neighbor distances $P(D_1, \dots, D_{N-1})$. This task is quite difficult since it takes the boundaries into account. Therefore, to remove the dependence on the boundaries one takes the thermodynamical limit $N \rightarrow \infty$. Although one cannot factorize the joint probability of the ordered distances $(D_1 < D_2 < \dots < D_N)$, to continue the calculation one can make an approximation by considering only the effect on the trapping time of hops to the first neighbor. Here, we emphasize that this choice is due to two reasons:

1. the memory allows hops to the first neighbors, even the last visited one; and
2. in the limit of low temperature ($\beta \rightarrow \infty$) the movements to nearest sites are greatly favored.

Thus, $\Delta_{N-1} > \dots > \Delta_2 > E(D_1)$ and the term $\sum_{j=2}^{N-1} e^{-\beta \Delta_j} \ll 1$ may be neglected in Eq. 4 and only the nearest neighbor distance PDF $P(D_1)$ is relevant, so that:

$$\langle t_r(\beta) \rangle \cong \langle t_1(\beta) \rangle = \int_0^\infty dD_1 P(D_1) e^{\beta E(D_1)}. \quad (5)$$

It is possible to show numerically that $t_1(\beta)$ diverges with the same exponent and at the same β as the exact $t_r(\beta)$ [3]. For a spatial Poisson process, the first neighbor probability density function is simply: $P(D_1) = S_d(D_1) e^{-V_d(D_1)}$, where we call the attention that $V_d(R) = A_d R^d$ is the volume of a hypersphere of radius R and $S_d(R) = A_d d R^{d-1}$ is its surface. The geometrical factor $A_d = \pi^{d/2} / \Gamma(d/2 + 1)$ is the volume

of an unitary radius hypersphere and $\Gamma(z)$ is the gamma function. Thus,

$$\langle t_1(\beta) \rangle = A_d d \int_0^\infty dD_1 D_1^{d-1} e^{\beta E(D_1) - A_d D_1^d} . \quad (6)$$

Let us now focus our discussion on the cost function $E(D)$. If one considers D being a distance, then one must expect that $E(D)$ is a monotonically increasing function of D , since the longer the distance, the more expensive to cover the trajectory. There are several ways that a function be a monotonically increasing function of its argument, for instance it can be a power law or exponential, or a generalized function that includes this situation [13]. In these cases the function increases indefinitely, nevertheless there are situations where the function increases up to a maximum value. Examples of this situation are the cumulative function (of probability density functions) in probability theory. Again, these functions can be subdivided in two categories, the ones which present an inflection point and others which do not present an inflection point. For instance, see the review of these functions presented in the context of population dynamics (or growth) models [14].

To continue, we choose the power-law form for the cost function: $E(D_{j,i}) = D_{j,i}^\alpha$, where α is an adjustable exponent. For different values of α different behaviors can be examined:

- $\alpha < d$: the $\langle t_1(\beta) \rangle$ is finite for any β value, so that, for long times, the system is subdiffusive.
- $\alpha > d$: the $\langle t_1(\beta) \rangle$ is always divergent and the system is superdiffusive.
- $\alpha = d$: the more interesting situation appears, the residence time and the tail of the first neighbor distance distribution compete and a glass transition appears at finite value of β :

$$\langle t_1(\beta) \rangle = \begin{cases} 1/(1 - \beta/A_d) & (\beta < A_d) \\ \infty & (\beta \geq A_d) . \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

In this case, the mean residence time is finite only for $\beta < A_d$ and diverges at $\beta_d = A_d$, namely, until β assumes the volume of a unitary hypersphere in d -dimensions the walker can explore the medium, after that the system enters in a non-equilibrium regime and aging phenomena emerge.

The residence time PDF as function of β shows a power-law tail and a glass transition appears when the cost function

$E(D_{j,i}) = D_{j,i}^d$ is used. Notice however that these results arise from the particular distribution of sites used (Poisson process) and a power law cost function. We call the attention of our readers that other scenarios can be envisaged. For instance, when correlation is introduced among the sites. Further, future studies should consider other possibilities of cost functions, such as the generalized ones, which would bring more richness to the parameter space. For example, a distribution of sites where the distance PDF has a power-law tail.

These studies reveal us that a glass transition appears when the walker has no memory. Below, we see analytical results when the walker is prohibited to remain in the same site ($W_{a \leftarrow a} = 0$), that is, walker has memory $\mu = 1$.

2.2 Memoryless Tourist in One-dimensional Systems

Let us now consider that the walker has memory $\mu = 1$. Thus the walker cannot remain in the same site, and hops to one of its n neighboring sites with a hop probability that depends on the distance $D_{j,i}$ between sites i and j according to a cost function $E(D_{j,i})$. To examine this particular STW, Risau-Gusman et al. [4] have described the disordered landscape on a graph with ordered neighborhood. Then, all N sites represent N connected nodes and the probability of hops $W_{j \leftarrow i}$ provides a weight of the link between nodes i and j . When hops occur in this graph, the network structure forms a directed graph. So, this graph presents interesting sets of nodes that we call sinks (i.e., sets with sites without outgoing links to sites outside the set), and sources (i.e., sets with sites without incoming links from sites outside the set).

The walk dynamics shows that for low temperature, the walker always goes to the nearest neighbor, eventually being trapped in a two-cycle when a pair of reciprocally nearest neighbors is found. We call this pair of mutually nearest neighbors of couples. The couples play the role of sites in the $\mu = 0$ situation. However, for $T > 0$, the two-cycles are no longer stable and can be characterized by a distribution of trapping times $P(t_r)$. From this distribution, one can compute the mean trapping time in two-cycles using the joint distributions of distances for the spatial Poisson process.

Consider a cost function that permits a glass transition in this sites configuration. As discussed previously, an interesting cost function for one-dimensional systems is a linear function $E(D_{j,i}) = D_{j,i}$, since it may give rise to a crossover between different exploration regimes.

As in the preceding section, we order the distance according to couples. Now, let a and b be the sites of a couple,

$D_0 = D_{b,a}$ their pair distance, and $D_{j,a}(D_{j,b})$ the distance from $a(b)$ to its $(j + 1)$ th nearest neighbor. We can write the probability of hop from a to b and *vice versa* using (2):

$$W_{b \leftarrow a} = \frac{e^{-\beta D_0}}{Z_a^{(\beta,1)}}, \quad W_{a \leftarrow b} = \frac{e^{-\beta D_0}}{Z_b^{(\beta,1)}}.$$

Notice that these probabilities in general are different, since the passage seen from site a is different from the one seen from site b .

Suppose that at $t = 0$ the walker is at site a . The probability that the walker remains inside the couple for t steps and then leaves it is $P_e(t) = (p_a p_b)^{t/2} q_a$, for even values of t and

$$P_o(t) = (p_a p_b)^{(t-1)/2} p_a q_b$$

for odd values of t , with

$$q_a = 1 - p_a \quad \text{and} \quad q_b = 1 - p_b.$$

Since the walk may start either at site a or site b , the probabilities that the walker remains in the couple up to time t are $P_e(t)$ and $P_o(t)$. The expected residence time for this couple is:

$$t_r = \frac{p_a p_b + (p_a + p_b)/2}{1 - p_a p_b}. \quad (8)$$

Since one needs to include the bounds into account in order to obtain its characteristic diverging behavior, it is not possible to obtain $\langle t_r(\beta) \rangle$ through a straight forward analytical calculation. The strategy is to calculate in two extreme cases, which are physically intuitive and study their divergence. In the limit of low temperature, an approximation is the symmetrical approach where the distance from both members of the couple to their second neighbor is very larger and one can assume that this distance are equal for both sites a and b ; and the normalization coefficient are equal too ($Z_a^{(\beta,1)} = Z_b^{(\beta,1)}$). Another approximation, in this limit, is the asymmetrical approach, where the distance $D_{1,a}$ is different from the distance $D_{1,b}$. Supposing that $D_{1,b} \gg D_0$, then the walker cannot leave the couple from site b .

From these approximations, the average residence time assume finite values when $\beta < \beta_1 = 2$, and diverges when $\beta = \beta_1 = 2$. Therefore, the system shows the behavior ergodic for high temperature ($\beta < \beta_1$) and non-ergodic for low temperature, when $\beta \geq \beta_1$.

The critical temperature obtained here is the same as in the $\mu = 0$ situation. One can understand this noticing that most of the $2/3$ of the N points form couple (mutually nearest neighbors) [15, 16] so that one can neglect the effect of $1/3$ of the

N that form the transient in DTW. Considering one the couples ($2N/3$ points) and now counting each time step as two moves (time renormalization) one obtain the same situation for $\mu = 1$ as $\mu = 0$, what explains the fact that both systems have the same critical temperature (the details are irrelevant).

What makes much more difficult to deal with $\mu \geq 2$ in STW is that in the deterministic case, the system does not present a characteristic cycle period, but a whole spectrum [17], which inhibits time renormalization as done in the $\mu = 1$ case.

3 ONE DIMENSIONAL SYSTEMS AND ARBITRARY MEMORY VALUES

The previous section describes the STW and reveals that one may find a glass transition at a critical temperature for $\mu = 0$ in arbitrary system dimension or $\mu = 1$ in one-dimensional systems. Now, we attempt to understand the effect of memory in the critical temperature. Before treating the problem analytically, we have implemented the STW algorithm in a computer and run it in a computer cluster. Our first numerical results for one-dimensional systems show the change in the system behavior when glass transition occurs.

3.1 Algorithm

On a unitary segment line, N sites coordinates are independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.). The distance matrix ($D_{N \times N}$) is then computed using the normalized Euclidean distance among all pairs of sites i and j . In this case, the mean site separation is $\ell = 1/N$. To obtain the probability table, we have used the same cost function that enabled the glass transition in Section 2, $E(D_{j,i}) = D_{j,i}^d$, for one-dimensional system $d = 1$. Several tables have been calculated for different temperature values ranging from 0.20 to 50.0 at different temperature steps.

With open boundary conditions (OBC) several walks have been performed with memory varying from 0 to 25. Since we hold that when the walker is able to visit all sites then his exploration is extended and the system display an ergodic behavior. For fixed number of walker steps, our goal was observe in which bandwidth of T and μ the mean visitation rate of distinct sites changes radically. Thus, at each walker step, if a non-visited site were visited, then the mean visitation rate was incremented.

3.2 Numerical Results

In this way, our results show that for low temperatures, the mean visitation rate of distinct sites changes in a bandwidth of μ near the critical memory (μ_1), as in DTW. As one can behold in

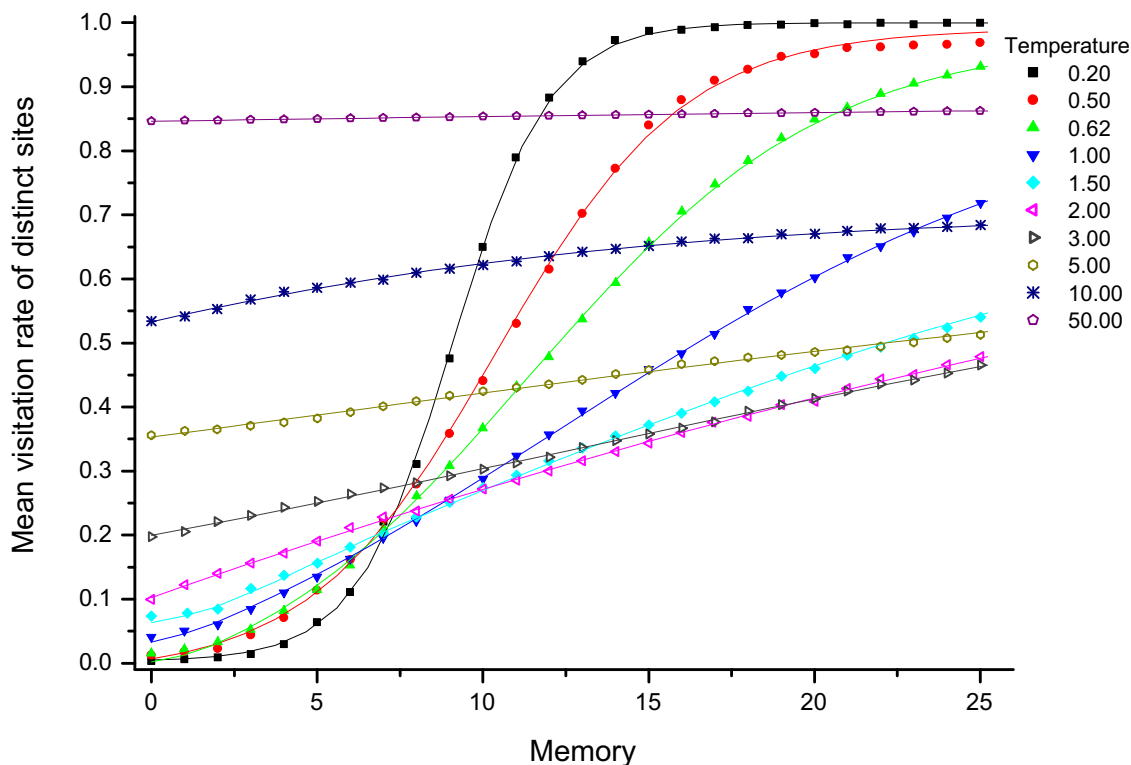


Figure 1 – Mean visitation rate of distinct sites *versus* memory, for ten temperatures. One can notice that the mean rate behavior drastically changes as the temperature increases.

the Figure 1, as the temperature increases, the dependence with memory decreases.

We can conclude that for one-dimensional systems, the STW exhibits dependence with memory until the system reaches the critical temperature, after that the dependence with memory vanishes.

4 CONCLUSIONS

These results lead us to hold that this problem exhibits two distinct regimes: non-ergodic, where the walker can be trapped in localized exploration; and ergodic, where the walker can explore the whole medium. For instance, if a walker wants to find unvisited feeding sites, he needs to extend his exploration of the landscape. We conjecture that the efficiency of this kind of exploration is maximized when the cost function allows a glass transition. Then, the optimal exploratory process may occur at some temperature and walker memory above the glass line transition. Through simulations, we have already concluded that for one-dimensional systems, the STW exhibits dependence with memory until the system reaches a critical temperature, after that the dependence

with memory is vanished. Future works deal with analytical studies about the system behavior as we take on different temperatures and memory for 1-dimensional systems and numerical studies for systems with high dimensionalities.

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