

SHORT CYCLES IN HIGH GENUS UNICELLULAR MAPS

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ABSTRACT. We study large uniform random maps with one face whose genus grows linearly with the number of edges, which are a model of discrete hyperbolic geometry. In previous works, several hyperbolic geometric features have been investigated. In the present work, we study the number of short cycles in a uniform unicellular map of high genus, and we show that it converges to a Poisson distribution. As a corollary, we obtain the law of the systole of uniform unicellular maps in high genus. We also obtain the asymptotic distribution of the vertex degrees in such a map.

1. INTRODUCTION

Combinatorial maps. Maps are defined as gluings of polygons forming a (compact, connected, oriented) surface. They have been studied extensively in the last decades, especially in the case of planar maps, i.e. maps of the sphere. They were first approached from the combinatorial point of view, both enumeratively, starting with [24], and bijectively, starting with [23].

More recently, relying on previous combinatorial results, the properties of large random maps have been studied. More precisely, one can study the geometry of random maps picked uniformly in certain classes, as their size tend to infinity. In the case of planar maps, this culminated in the identification of two types of “limits” (for two well defined topologies on the set of planar maps): the local limit (the $UIPT^1$ [2]) and the scaling limit (the *Brownian map* [16; 19]).

All these works have been extended to maps with a fixed genus $g > 0$. Enumerative (asymptotic) results have been obtained (see for instance [3]), and there are bijections for maps on any surface (see for instance [8]). On the probabilistic side, equivalents of the Brownian map in genus $g > 0$ have been constructed [4].

High genus maps. Very recently, another regime has been studied: high genus maps are defined as (sequences of) maps whose genus grow linearly in the size of the map. They have a negative average discrete curvature, and can therefore be considered as a discrete model of hyperbolic geometry. It is usually hard to get geometric results on general models of maps (such as triangulations). So far, only the local convergence has been established [5; 6], along with a few other geometric features [17].

However, there is a model that is easier to work with: unicellular maps, i.e. maps with only one face. They are in bijection with decorated trees

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¹in the case of triangulations, i.e. maps made out of triangles.

[7], which makes them easier to study. Although they belong to a different universality class, it is widely expected that unicellular maps in high genus actually share very similar features with more general models of maps. So far, the local limit [1], the diameter [22] and the presence of large expander subgraphs [18] of unicellular maps have been discovered (the last two properties are still open questions for general models of maps).

Distribution of short cycles. In this paper, we are interested in another geometric observable: the *systole*, i.e. the size of the smallest non-contractible cycles. The question of the systole is a well studied question in the field of geometry of surfaces (see for instance [11; 20; 21] and in particular [9] in the case of deterministic maps).

We will work with unicellular maps, in which we have the extra advantage that any cycle is non-contractible; hence the systole equals the *girth* (the length of the smallest cycle) of the underlying graph. A little bit of progress on the question of short non-contractible cycles in general maps is made in [17].

We actually prove a more general theorem, namely that the number of short cycles in a high genus unicellular map follows a Poisson law. For definitions, see Section 2; note that the unicellular maps are rooted at an oriented edge, and that we define the size of a map as its number of edges.

Theorem 1.1. *Take a sequence (g_n) such that $\frac{g_n}{n} \rightarrow \theta \in (0, 1/2)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Let $C_{n,g_n}^{(k)}$ be the number of cycles of length k in a uniformly random unicellular map of size n and genus g_n . Then, for all M , we have*

$$(C_{n,g_n}^{(1)}, C_{n,g_n}^{(2)}, \dots, C_{n,g_n}^{(M)}) \xrightarrow{d} \text{Po}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_M), \quad (1.1)$$

with

$$\lambda_\ell := \frac{1}{2\ell} \left(\left(\frac{1+\tau}{1-\tau} \right)^\ell + \left(\frac{1-\tau}{1+\tau} \right)^\ell - 2 \right), \quad (1.2)$$

where $\tau \in (0, 1)$ is the (unique) root of

$$\frac{(1-\tau^2)(\log(1+\tau) - \log(1-\tau))}{2\tau} = 1 - 2\theta. \quad (1.3)$$

The parameter τ here is the same as β in [1]. It is easily seen that τ increases from 0 to 1 as θ increases from 0 to $1/2$.

This theorem is an analogue of the result of [21] for the Weil–Petersson measure (a classical continuous model of random hyperbolic geometry) as the genus tends to infinity. As an immediate corollary, we obtain the law of the systole of high genus unicellular maps:

Corollary 1.2. *Let $\text{syst}(n, g_n)$ be the systole of a uniformly random unicellular map of size n and genus g_n . Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$ with $g_n/n \rightarrow \theta \in (0, 1/2)$,*

$$\text{syst}(n, g_n) \xrightarrow{d} Z, \quad (1.4)$$

where Z is a random variable with, letting the λ_i be as in (1.2),

$$\mathbb{P}(Z = \ell) = e^{-\lambda_1} e^{-\lambda_2} \dots e^{-\lambda_{\ell-1}} (1 - e^{-\lambda_\ell}), \quad \ell \geq 1. \quad (1.5)$$

It follows from (1.2) that $\sum_{\ell} \lambda_{\ell} = \infty$, and thus the probabilities in (1.5) add up to 1. Therefore Z is a proper distribution, and, in particular, $\text{syst}(n, g_n)$ is bounded in probability.

Vertex degrees. The methods we use also allow us to control the vertex degrees in the map:

Theorem 1.3. *Let (g_n) be a sequence with $g_n/n \rightarrow \theta \in (0, 1/2)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Let $\bar{N}_{n, g_n}^{(k)}$ be the number of vertices of degree $k \geq 1$ in a uniformly random unicellular map of size n and genus g_n , and let $m := n + 1 - 2g_n$ be the total number of vertices. Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,*

$$\bar{N}_{n, g_n}^{(k)} / m \xrightarrow{\text{P}} \chi_k, \quad k \geq 1, \quad (1.6)$$

where $(\chi_k)_1^{\infty}$ is a probability distribution given by

$$\chi_k = \frac{1}{(\log(1 + \tau) - \log(1 - \tau))k} \left(\left(\frac{1 + \tau}{2} \right)^k - \left(\frac{1 - \tau}{2} \right)^k \right), \quad k \geq 1, \quad (1.7)$$

with τ given by (1.3).

Remark 1.4. Theorem 1.3 is related to [1, Theorem 4], which gives the asymptotic distribution of the root degree of the map.

To see the connection, note first that as a corollary of Theorem 1.3, the degree of a uniformly random vertex in the random unicellular map converges in distribution to the distribution (χ_k) given by (1.7). Since the number of edges and vertices in the map are deterministic, this means that if we consider a uniformly random unicellular map of size and genus as above, but rooted at a vertex instead of at an oriented edge, then the root degree distribution converges to (χ_k) . It follows easily that for random unicellular maps rooted at an oriented edge, as in [1] and the present paper, the root degree distribution converges to the size biased distribution $(ck\chi_k)$, where c is a normalization factor (easily computed); this is [1, Theorem 4]. \square

Structure of the paper. We end this section with a list of the main notations appearing in this paper. In section 2, we give definitions. Section 3 states previous results on paths in trees that we use, and Section 4 is devoted to results about cycles in C-permutations. In Section 5, we prove Theorem 1.1 and finally Section 6 contains the proof of Theorem 1.3.

Index of notations. This paper is quite notation heavy; we list here the main notations that appear throughout the paper.

- g_n, θ : parameters of our model, $(g_n)_n \geq 1$ is the sequence of genres of the unicellular maps we consider, with $\frac{g_n}{n} \rightarrow \theta \in (0, 1/2)$;
- $\tau, (\lambda_{\ell})_{\ell \geq 1}$: parameters uniquely determined by θ (in (1.3) and (1.2));
- \mathcal{T}_n : the set of plane trees on n edges;
- \mathbf{T} : a random uniform element in \mathcal{T}_n (depends implicitly on n);
- $\mathfrak{S}_{n, m}^{\text{C}}$: the set of C-permutations on n elements and m cycles;
- σ : a random uniform element in $\mathfrak{S}_{n+1, n+1-2g_n}^{\text{C}}$ (depends implicitly on n);
- T : denotes a fixed rooted tree;
- t : denotes a fixed unrooted tree;

- $P_\ell(T)$: number of paths of length ℓ in T ;
- $N_{\mathbf{t}}(T)$: number of occurrences of \mathbf{t} in T ;
- $(T_n)_{n \geq 1}$: denotes a deterministic sequence of trees such that $T_n \in \mathcal{T}_n$;
- $C_{n,g_n}^{(k)}$: the number of cycles of length k in a uniformly random unicellular map of size n and genus g_n (alternatively, in the underlying graph of (\mathbf{T}, σ));
- **Ext**: will be used to denote the extremities of a path (or of a list of paths);
- **P**: denotes a list of pairwise disjoint paths;
- $s(\mathbf{P})$: number of paths in \mathbf{P} ;
- $\ell(\mathbf{P})$: total length of the paths of \mathbf{P} ;
- **m**: denotes the list of lengths of a list of paths.

2. DEFINITIONS

A unicellular map of *size* n is a $2n$ -gon whose sides were glued two by two to form a (compact, connected, oriented) surface. The *genus* of the map is the genus of the surface created by the gluings (its number of handles). After the gluing, the sides of the polygon become the *edges* of the map, and the vertices of the polygon become the *vertices* of the map. Note that the number of edges equals the size n . By Euler's formula, a unicellular map of genus g and size n has $n + 1 - 2g$ vertices. The underlying graph of a unicellular map is the graph obtained from this map by only remembering its edges and vertices. (In general, this is a multigraph.)

We consider in this paper only *rooted* unicellular maps, where an oriented edge is marked as the *root*. The underlying graph is then a rooted graph.

A rooted unicellular map of genus 0 is the same as a plane tree (i.e., an ordered rooted tree). We denote by \mathcal{T}_n the set of plane trees of size n (and thus $n + 1$ vertices).

A *path* \mathcal{P} of length $\ell \geq 0$ in a (multi)graph is a list $(v_0, e_1, v_1, e_2, \dots, e_\ell, v_\ell)$ of alternating distinct² vertices and edges such that for all $1 \leq i \leq \ell$, v_{i-1} and v_i are joined by the edge e_i . We define $\text{start}(\mathcal{P}) := v_0$ and $\text{end}(\mathcal{P}) := v_\ell$, and let $\text{Ext}(\mathcal{P}) := \{\text{start}(\mathcal{P}), \text{end}(\mathcal{P})\}$. Similarly, a *cycle* of length $\ell \geq 1$ is a list $(v_0, e_1, v_1, e_2, \dots, e_\ell)$ of distinct vertices and edges such that $(v_0, e_1, v_1, e_2, \dots, v_{\ell-1})$ is a path and e_ℓ is an edge joining $v_{\ell-1}$ to v_0 . In a simple graph (for example, a tree), the edges e_i in a path or cycle are determined by the vertices, so it suffices to specify (v_0, v_1, \dots) . We denote the length of a path p by $|p|$; this is thus the number of edges in p .

A *C-permutation* is a permutation whose cycles are of odd length. Let \mathfrak{S}_n^C be the set of C-permutations of length n , and $\mathfrak{S}_{n,m}^C$ the subset of permutations in \mathfrak{S}_n^C with exactly m cycles. (This is empty unless $n \equiv m \pmod{2}$); we assume tacitly in the sequel that we only consider cases with $\mathfrak{S}_{n,m}^C \neq \emptyset$.) Note that our definition of a C-permutation differs from the one given in [7], where each cycle carries an additional sign. Here we do not include the signs as they will not play a role in our proofs.

A *C-decorated tree* of size n and genus g is a pair $(T, \sigma) \in \mathcal{T}_n \times \mathfrak{S}_{n+1, n+1-2g}^C$ where σ is seen as a C-permutation of the vertices of T . The underlying

²with this definition, such objects are also commonly called simple paths.

graph of (T, σ) is the graph obtained by merging the vertices of T that belong to the same cycle in σ . If $v, v' \in T$, we write $v \sim v'$ if v and v' belong to the same cycle in σ .

Theorem 2.1 ([7], Theorem 5). *Unicellular maps of size n and genus g are in 2^{2g} to 1 correspondence with C -decorated trees of size n and genus g . This correspondence preserves the underlying graph.*

Therefore, with this correspondence, it is sufficient to study C -decorated trees.

More precisely, from now on, we fix a number $\theta \in (0, 1/2)$ and a sequence $(g_n)_{n \geq 1}$ such that $\frac{g_n}{n} \rightarrow \theta$.

Now, we define (for each n , with n only implicit in the notation) \mathbf{T} to be a uniformly random tree in \mathcal{T}_n , and σ to be a uniformly random C -permutation in $\mathfrak{S}_{n+1, n+1-2g_n}^C$, with \mathbf{T} and σ independent. From now on, thanks to Theorem 2.1, we can assume that $C_{n, g_n}^{(k)}$ is the number of cycles of size k in the underlying graph of (\mathbf{T}, σ) .

2.1. Further notation. The multivariate Poisson distribution $\text{Po}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_M)$, is the distribution of a random vector (X_1, \dots, X_M) with independent Poisson distributed components $X_i \sim \text{Po}(\lambda_i)$.

$(n)_r$ denotes the descending factorial $n(n-1) \cdots (n-r+1)$.

C and c denote unspecified constants that may vary from one occurrence to the next. C_r denotes a constant depending on r .

Unspecified limits are as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

3. PATHS IN TREES

The following lemma helps us estimate the number of paths of a certain length in the random tree \mathbf{T} . In general, for a rooted tree T , we let $P_\ell(T)$ be the number of paths of length ℓ in T .

Lemma 3.1 ([14], Example 4.3, (4.9)). *Let, as above, \mathbf{T} be a uniformly random tree in \mathcal{T}_n . Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, for every fixed $\ell \geq 1$,*

$$\frac{P_\ell(\mathbf{T})}{n} \xrightarrow{\text{p}} 2^\ell. \quad (3.1)$$

To estimate the numbers of intersecting paths, we will also use the following, more general, result. (We count paths as oriented, but general subtrees \mathbf{t} as unlabelled.)

Lemma 3.2 ([14]). *Let, as above, \mathbf{T} be a uniformly random tree in \mathcal{T}_n . Let \mathbf{t} be a fixed unrooted tree, and let $N_{\mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{T})$ be the number of subtrees of \mathbf{T} isomorphic to \mathbf{t} . Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,*

$$\frac{N_{\mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{T})}{n} \xrightarrow{\text{p}} c_{\mathbf{t}}, \quad (3.2)$$

for some constant $c_{\mathbf{t}} \in (0, \infty)$.

4. CYCLES IN C-PERMUTATIONS

Let $\sigma_{n,m}$ be a uniformly random element of $\mathfrak{S}_{n,m}^C$, and let $N_{k;n,m}$ be its number of cycles of length k . Thus $N_{k;n,m} = 0$ unless $k \geq 1$ is odd. Note also that

$$\sum_k N_{k;n,m} = m, \quad \sum_k k N_{k;n,m} = n. \quad (4.1)$$

Proposition 4.1. *Let $0 < \alpha < 1$ and suppose that $m, n \rightarrow \infty$ with $m/n \rightarrow \alpha$. Then, for each $k \geq 1$,*

$$\frac{N_{k;n,m}}{m} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \pi_k, \quad (4.2)$$

where (π_k) is a probability distribution supported on $\{1, 3, 5, \dots\}$ given by

$$\pi_k := \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\Phi(\tau)} \frac{\tau^k}{k}, & k \text{ odd}, \\ 0, & k \text{ even}, \end{cases} \quad (4.3)$$

where $\tau \in (0, 1)$ is the (unique) root of

$$\frac{(1 - \tau^2)(\log(1 + \tau) - \log(1 - \tau))}{2\tau} = \alpha \quad (4.4)$$

and $\Phi(\tau)$ is a normalizing constant given by (4.12) below.

Furthermore, for any $r \geq 0$,

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_k k^r N_{k;n,m} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \sum_k k^r \pi_k, \quad (4.5)$$

with convergence of all moments.

Finally, there exists a constant C_α such that, if we define the event

$$\mathcal{E} := \{\text{The largest cycle of } \sigma_{n,m} \text{ is shorter than } C_\alpha \log^2 n\} \quad (4.6)$$

then

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}) \geq 1 - n^{-\log n}. \quad (4.7)$$

Proof. Let L_1, \dots, L_m be the lengths of the cycles of $\sigma_{n,m}$, taken in (uniformly) random order. Note that

$$\sum_{i=1}^m L_i = n. \quad (4.8)$$

We say that a permutation with m cycles has labeled cycles if we have labeled its cycles by $1, \dots, m$.

For any positive integers ℓ_1, \dots, ℓ_m with $\sum_i \ell_i = n$, the number of permutations of length n with m labelled cycles with lengths ℓ_1, \dots, ℓ_m , respectively, is

$$\binom{n}{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_m} \prod_{i=1}^m (\ell_i - 1)! = n! \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{\ell_i}. \quad (4.9)$$

Consequently,

$$\mathbb{P}((L_1, \dots, L_m) = (\ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{\ell_i} \mathbf{1}\{\ell_i \text{ is odd}\}, \quad (4.10)$$

where $Z = Z(n, m)$ is a normalization factor.

This means that (L_1, \dots, L_m) is an instance of a well-known random allocation model, called *balls-in-boxes* in [13, Section 11], with weights

$$w_\ell := \frac{1}{\ell} \mathbf{1}\{\ell \text{ is odd}\}, \quad \ell \geq 0. \quad (4.11)$$

(Warning: n and m have opposite meanings in [13].)

In the notation of [13, (3.4)], we have the generating function

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(z) &:= \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} w_\ell z^\ell = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^{2i+1}}{2i+1} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\log(1+z) - \log(1-z)) = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{1+z}{1-z} \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

and, see [13, (3.1), (3.5), (3.6), (3.10)],

$$\omega = \infty, \quad (4.13)$$

$$\rho = 1, \quad (4.14)$$

$$\Psi(t) = \frac{t\Phi'(t)}{\Phi(t)} = \frac{2t}{(1-t^2)(\log(1+t) - \log(1-t))}, \quad (4.15)$$

$$\nu := \lim_{t \nearrow \rho} \Psi(t) = \infty. \quad (4.16)$$

We apply [13, Theorem 11.4] with $\lambda = 1/\alpha > 1$; this theorem is stated assuming $w_0 > 0$, but we may apply the theorem to the random allocation $(L_1 - 1, \dots, L_m - 1)$, noting that (4.8) is equivalent to

$$\sum_{i=1}^m (L_i - 1) = n - m, \quad (4.17)$$

and it is easily seen that the conclusions of [13, Theorem 11.4] hold for any $\lambda \geq 1$. This yields (4.2); note that (4.4) is equivalent to $\Psi(\tau) = 1/\alpha = \lambda$.

To show (4.5), we first show that the expectations are bounded: for every $r \geq 0$,

$$\mathbb{E} \frac{1}{m} \sum_k k^r N_{k;n,m} = \sum_k k^r \mathbb{E} \frac{N_{k;n,m}}{m} \leq C_r. \quad (4.18)$$

In fact, we will show the stronger estimate that if $1 < A < \tau^{-1}$, then

$$\mathbb{E} \frac{N_{k;n,m}}{m} \leq CA^{-k}, \quad k \geq 1. \quad (4.19)$$

(Recall that $\tau^{-1} > 1$.)

To see (4.19), we use arguments similar to those in [13, Section 14]. Note that, by symmetry,

$$\mathbb{E} \frac{N_{k;n,m}}{m} = \mathbb{P}(L_1 = k). \quad (4.20)$$

Let $\tau_{n,m}$ be given by $\Psi(\tau_{n,m}) = n/m$. Since $n/m \rightarrow \lambda$, it follows that $\tau_{n,m} \rightarrow \tau < A^{-1}$. Thus, $\tau_{n,m} < A^{-1}$ when n and m are large enough; consider only such n (and m).

Given such n and m , let $\xi_i^{(n,m)}$, $i \geq 1$, be i.i.d. random variables with the distribution

$$\mathbb{P}(\xi_i^{(n,m)} = k) = \frac{1}{\Phi(\tau_{n,m})} \frac{\tau_{n,m}^k}{k} \mathbf{1}\{k \text{ is odd}\}, \quad k \geq 1, \quad (4.21)$$

and let $S_j^{(n,m)} := \sum_{i=1}^j \xi_i^{(n,m)}$. The random vector (L_1, \dots, L_m) has the same distribution as $(\xi_1^{(n,m)}, \dots, \xi_m^{(n,m)})$ conditioned on $S_m^{(n,m)} = n$, and it follows that

$$\mathbb{P}(L_1 = k) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(\xi_i^{(n,m)} = k) \mathbb{P}(S_{m-1}^{(n,m)} = n - k)}{\mathbb{P}(S_m^{(n,m)} = n)}. \quad (4.22)$$

It follows from [13, Lemma 14.1] (applied to $\xi_i^{(n,m)} - 1$) that $\mathbb{P}(S_m^{(n,m)} = n) \sim cm^{-1/2}$. Similarly, it follows from [13, Remark 14.2] that $\mathbb{P}(S_{m-1}^{(n,m)} = n - k) \leq Cm^{-1/2}$. Hence (4.22) yields, using (4.21),

$$\mathbb{P}(L_1 = k) \leq C \mathbb{P}(\xi_i^{(n,m)} = k) \leq C \tau_{n,m}^k \leq CA^{-k}. \quad (4.23)$$

Consequently, (4.19) follows by (4.20) and (4.23), and then (4.18) follows.

Next, we have for any $K < \infty$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E} \left| \frac{1}{m} \sum_k k^r N_{k;n,m} - \sum_k k^r \pi_k \right| \\ & \leq \sum_{k=1}^K k^r \mathbb{E} \left| \frac{N_{k;n,m}}{m} - \pi_k \right| + \sum_{k>K} k^r \mathbb{E} \frac{N_{k;n,m}}{m} + \sum_{k>K} k^r \pi_k. \end{aligned} \quad (4.24)$$

Given any $\varepsilon > 0$, we can by (4.19) and (4.3) choose K so large that the two last sums each are less than ε for all large n ; furthermore, each term in the first sum is $o(1)$ by (4.2) and bounded convergence. It follows that the left-hand side of (4.24) is $o(1)$, and thus (4.5) holds.

Finally, for any $p \geq 1$, by Hölder's inequality, $\sum_k N_{k;n,m}/m = 1$ and (4.18),

$$\mathbb{E} \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_k k^r \mathbb{E} N_{k;n,m} \right)^p \leq \mathbb{E} \sum_k k^{pr} \frac{N_{k;n,m}}{m} \leq C_{pr}. \quad (4.25)$$

Hence, all moments are bounded in (4.5), which implies uniform integrability of any fixed power and thus convergence of all moments, see e.g. [12, Theorems 5.4.2 and 5.5.4].

To prove (4.6), notice that for C_α large enough, we have by (4.23),

$$\mathbb{P}(L_1 \geq C_\alpha \log^2 n) \leq \frac{1}{n} n^{-\log n}, \quad (4.26)$$

and we conclude by a union bound, since the number of cycles is $m \leq n$. \square

Let $M := M_{n,m}$ be the number of (unordered) pairs of elements of $[n]$ that belong to the same cycle in $\sigma_{n,m}$, and thus are merged together when cycles are merged. Then

$$M_{n,m} = \sum_k \binom{k}{2} N_{k;n,m}. \quad (4.27)$$

Using the crude bound $\binom{k}{2} \geq k - 1$ and (4.1), we obtain the following deterministic bound:

$$M_{n,m} \geq n - m. \quad (4.28)$$

The following lemma gives a better estimation of $M_{n,m}$.

Lemma 4.2. *With assumptions and notations as in Proposition 4.1,*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{M_{n,m}}{m} &\xrightarrow{\text{P}} \sum_k \binom{k}{2} \pi_k = \frac{2\tau^3}{(1-\tau^2)^2(\log(1+\tau) - \log(1-\tau))} \\ &= \frac{\tau^2}{\alpha(1-\tau^2)}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.29)$$

Equivalently,

$$\frac{M_{n,m}}{n} \xrightarrow{\text{P}} \gamma := \frac{\tau^2}{1-\tau^2}. \quad (4.30)$$

Proof. The convergence in probability and with all moments follows by (4.27) and (4.5). To compute the sum, note that if ξ is a random variable with distribution $(\pi_k)_k$, then its probability generating function is

$$\varphi_X(z) := \sum_k \pi_k z^k = \frac{\Phi(\tau z)}{\Phi(\tau)}. \quad (4.31)$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_k \binom{k}{2} \pi_k &= \mathbb{E} \frac{X(X-1)}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_X''(1) = \frac{\tau^2 \Phi''(\tau)}{2\Phi(\tau)} \\ &= \frac{2\tau^3}{(1-\tau^2)^2(\log(1+\tau) - \log(1-\tau))}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.32)$$

and the result follows using (4.4). \square

The results above hold in full generality, but here we go back to our setting. We recall that $\frac{g_n}{n} \rightarrow \theta$ and we set $\alpha = 1 - 2\theta$ (and therefore the constant γ now depends on θ); thus $m/n = (n + 1 - 2g_n)/n \rightarrow \alpha$.

Lemma 4.3. *Let $\mathcal{E}_{n,g_n}^{(r)}$ be the event where, in σ , $2i-1$ and $2i$ belong to the same cycle for all $1 \leq i \leq r$, and that all these cycles are distinct, and let $\mathbb{P}_{n,g_n}^{(r)} = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{n,g_n}^{(r)})$. Then, for any fixed r ,*

$$\mathbb{P}_{n,g_n}^{(r)} = (1 - o(1)) \left(\frac{2\gamma}{n} \right)^r. \quad (4.33)$$

Proof. By (4.6), we have

$$\mathbb{P}_{n,g_n}^{(r)} = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{n,g_n}^{(r)} \mid \mathcal{E}) + o(n^{-r}). \quad (4.34)$$

In what follows, we will reason conditionally on \mathcal{E} . We let Δ be the size of the biggest cycle in σ . Thus, by the definition (4.6), \mathcal{E} is the event

$$\Delta \leq C_\alpha \log^2 n. \quad (4.35)$$

The number of r -tuples of (unordered, non overlapping) pairs of elements of $[n+1]$ that belong to the same cycle in σ is at most $(M_{n+1, n+1-2g_n})^r$ (because this quantity counts r -tuples with possible overlaps). On the other

hand, we can lower bound the number of r -tuples of pairs of elements of $[n+1]$ belonging to r distinct cycles by

$$\prod_{i=0}^{r-1} \left(M_{n+1, n+1-2g_n} - i \binom{\Delta}{2} \right). \quad (4.36)$$

By (4.28) and (4.35), we have

$$\prod_{i=0}^{r-1} \left(M_{n+1, n+1-2g_n} - i \binom{\Delta}{2} \right) = (1 - o(1)) (M_{n+1, n+1-2g_n})^r. \quad (4.37)$$

The total number of r -tuples of (non-overlapping) pairs of elements of $[n]$ is $\binom{n}{2, 2, \dots, 2, n-2r}$. Therefore,

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{n, g_n}^{(r)} \mid \mathcal{E}, M_{n+1, n+1-2g_n}) = (1 - o(1)) \frac{(M_{n+1, n+1-2g_n})^r}{\binom{n+1}{2, 2, \dots, 2, n+1-2r}}. \quad (4.38)$$

Finally, using (4.34) and the convergence in probability established in (4.30), we can conclude that

$$\mathbb{P}_{n, g_n}^{(r)} = (1 - o(1)) \left(\frac{2\gamma}{n} \right)^r. \quad (4.39)$$

□

Lemma 4.4. *Let $\mathbb{P}_{n, g_n}^{(r, k)}$ be the probability that, in σ , there exist $r+k$ distinct cycles $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r, \tilde{C}_1, \tilde{C}_2, \dots, \tilde{C}_k$ such that $2i-1$ and $2i$ belong C_i for all $1 \leq i \leq r$, and $2r+i$ belongs to \tilde{C}_i for all $1 \leq i \leq k$. Then, for every fixed r and k ,*

$$\mathbb{P}_{n, g_n}^{(r, k)} = (1 - o(1)) \mathbb{P}_{n, g_n}^{(r)}. \quad (4.40)$$

Proof. Let Δ be the maximal size of a cycle in σ . By the same reasoning as in the proof of Lemma 4.3, we can work conditionally on Δ , and assume

$$\Delta \leq C_\alpha \log^2 n. \quad (4.41)$$

Condition also on the fact that there exists r distinct cycles C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r of σ such that $2i-1$ and $2i$ belong to C_i for all $1 \leq i \leq r$ (which amounts to conditioning on $\mathcal{E}_{n, g_n}^{(r)}$). We want to show that the rest of the constraint holds with high probability. Note that the numbers $2r+1 \leq i \leq 2r+k$ are distributed uniformly in the cycles of σ among all remaining spots. Therefore, given $2r+1 \leq j \leq 2r+k$, the probability that j belongs to a given C_i is less than $\frac{\Delta}{n+1-2r-k}$. By the same reasoning, given $2r+1 \leq i < j \leq 2r+k$, the probability that i and j belong to the same cycle is also bounded by $\frac{\Delta}{n+1-2r-k}$.

By a union bound, the conditional probability of failure is bounded by

$$\left(rk + \binom{k}{2} \right) \frac{\Delta}{n+1-2r-k}, \quad (4.42)$$

which is $o(1)$ by (4.41). □

Lemma 4.5. *For fixed k and $t < k$, the probability that $1, 2, \dots, k$ belong to exactly t distinct cycles of σ is*

$$O\left(\frac{1}{n^{k-t-1/4}} \right), \quad (4.43)$$

Proof. Let Δ be the maximal size of a cycle in σ . By the same reasoning as in the proof of Lemma 4.3, we can work conditionally on Δ and assume

$$\Delta \leq C_\alpha \log^2 n. \quad (4.44)$$

Let us call **succ** the event that $1, 2, \dots, k$ belong to exactly t distinct cycles of σ . We will prove a stronger result, namely that, conditioned on Δ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{succ}) = O\left(\left(\frac{\Delta}{n}\right)^{k-t}\right), \quad (4.45)$$

and we conclude using (4.44).

Let **disj** be the event that $1, 2, \dots, t$ belong to exactly t distinct cycles of σ .

By a union bound and symmetry, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{succ}) \leq \binom{k}{t} \mathbb{P}(\text{succ} \mid \text{disj}) \mathbb{P}(\text{disj}) \leq \binom{k}{t} \mathbb{P}(\text{succ} \mid \text{disj}). \quad (4.46)$$

Now, conditioning also on **disj**, the elements $t+1, \dots, k$ are placed uniformly in the remaining spots of σ . The total size of the cycles containing $1, 2, \dots, t$ is less than $t\Delta$; hence,

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{succ} \mid \text{disj}) \leq \left(\frac{t\Delta}{n+1-k}\right)^{k-t}. \quad (4.47)$$

Combining (4.46) and (4.47) yields (4.45) and thus (4.43). \square

5. CYCLES IN C-DECORATED TREES

If (T, σ) is a C-decorated tree, then any simple cycle of length ℓ in its underlying graph can be decomposed into a list $\mathbf{P} = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k)$ of non-intersecting simple paths in T such that

- (C1) $\sum_{i=1}^k |p_i| = \ell$,
- (C2) $\text{end}(p_i) \sim \text{start}(p_{(i+1) \bmod k})$ for all i ,
- (C3) for every other pair of vertices $v, v' \in (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k)$, we have $v \not\sim v'$.

This decomposition is unique up to cyclically reordering the p_i , or reversing them all and their order, or a combination of both.

5.1. More notation. Let T be a rooted tree.

Let $\mathfrak{P}(T)$ be the set of all lists $\mathbf{P} = (p_1, \dots, p_k)$ of pairwise disjoint paths in T , of arbitrary length $k \geq 1$. For a list $\mathbf{P} = (p_1, \dots, p_k) \in \mathfrak{P}(T)$, let $s(\mathbf{P}) := k$, the number of paths in the list, and $\ell(\mathbf{P}) := \sum_{i=1}^k |p_i|$, their total length. Also, let $\text{Ext}(\mathbf{P}) := \bigcup_i \text{Ext}(p_i) = \{\text{start}(p_i), \text{end}(p_i) : i = 1, \dots, k\}$, the set of endpoints of the paths in \mathbf{P} ; note that $|\text{Ext}(\mathbf{P})| = 2s(\mathbf{P})$.

For an integer $\ell \geq 1$, let

$$\mathfrak{P}^{(\ell)}(T) := \{\mathbf{P} \in \mathfrak{P}(T) : \ell(\mathbf{P}) = \ell\}, \quad (5.1)$$

the set of lists of paths with total length ℓ . Furthermore, for any finite sequence of positive integers $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \dots, m_k)$, we write $|\mathbf{m}| = m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_k$ and $s(\mathbf{m}) = k$. We define

$$\mathfrak{P}^{[\mathbf{m}]}(T) := \{\mathbf{P} = (p_1, \dots, p_k) \in \mathfrak{P}(T) : |p_i| = m_i \forall i\}, \quad (5.2)$$

the set of lists of pairwise disjoint paths (p_1, \dots, p_k) of lengths m_1, \dots, m_k , respectively, in T . We let $P^{[\mathbf{m}]}(T) := |\mathfrak{P}^{[\mathbf{m}]}(T)|$ be its cardinal. Define also

$$\kappa^{(\mathbf{m})} = \prod_{i=1}^{s(\mathbf{m})} 2m_i. \quad (5.3)$$

For two lists $\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P}' \in \mathfrak{P}(T)$, we write $\mathbf{P} \equiv \mathbf{P}'$ if and only if \mathbf{P}' can be obtained from \mathbf{P} by cyclically reordering its paths, or reversing them all and their order, or a combination of both. Note that $\mathbf{P} \equiv \mathbf{P}'$ entails $s(\mathbf{P}) = s(\mathbf{P}')$ and $\ell(\mathbf{P}) = \ell(\mathbf{P}')$, and that each list \mathbf{P} is in an equivalence class $[\mathbf{P}]$ with exactly $2s(\mathbf{P})$ elements. Let $\widehat{\mathfrak{P}}^{(\ell)}(T)$ be a subset of $\mathfrak{P}^{(\ell)}(T)$ obtained by selecting exactly one element from each equivalence class in $\mathfrak{P}^{(\ell)}(T)$.

Given also a C-permutation σ of the vertex set of T , so that (T, σ) is a C-decorated tree, let $\mathfrak{C}^{(\ell)}(T, \sigma)$ be the set of lists $\mathbf{P} = (p_1, \dots, p_k) \in \widehat{\mathfrak{P}}^{(\ell)}(T)$ that satisfy (C1)–(C3) above. Thus, there is a bijection between $\mathfrak{C}^{(\ell)}(T, \sigma)$ and the set of cycles of length ℓ in the underlying graph of the C-decorated tree (T, σ) . Hence, $C^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) := |\mathfrak{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma)|$ equals the number of cycles of length ℓ in the underlying graph.

Furthermore, let $\widetilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell)}(T, \sigma)$ be the set of lists $\mathbf{P} = (p_1, \dots, p_k) \in \widehat{\mathfrak{P}}^{(\ell)}(T)$ that satisfy (C1)–(C2). Thus $\widetilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell)}(T, \sigma) \supseteq \mathfrak{C}^{(\ell)}(T, \sigma)$. Let further $\widetilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) := |\widetilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma)|$, and note that $\widetilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T, \sigma) \geq C^{(\ell)}(T, \sigma)$.

As in Section 3, let $P_\ell(T)$ be the number of paths of length ℓ in T . Similarly, if \mathbf{t} is an unrooted tree, let $N_{\mathbf{t}}(T)$ be the number of subtrees of T that are isomorphic to \mathbf{t} .

5.2. Lemmas and proof of Theorem 1.1. We are really interested in random trees \mathbf{T} , but it will be convenient to first consider non-random trees. We suppose for the following lemmas that (T_n) is a given sequence of (deterministic) rooted trees, with $T_n \in \mathcal{T}_n$. We say that the sequence is *good*, if, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$P_\ell(T_n)/n \rightarrow 2\ell, \quad \forall \ell \geq 1, \quad (5.4)$$

and, for every finite unrooted tree \mathbf{t} , there is a constant $c_{\mathbf{t}} \geq 0$ such that

$$N_{\mathbf{t}}(T_n)/n \rightarrow c_{\mathbf{t}}. \quad (5.5)$$

Lemma 5.1. *Let (T_n) be a good sequence of trees. Then, for every $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \dots, m_k)$,*

$$P^{[\mathbf{m}]}(T_n) = |\mathfrak{P}^{[\mathbf{m}]}(T_n)| = \kappa^{(\mathbf{m})}n^k + o(n^k). \quad (5.6)$$

Proof. An element of $\mathfrak{P}^{[\mathbf{m}]}$ is a sequence of disjoint paths p_1, \dots, p_k in T_n , with $|p_i| = m_i$. Thus, if we ignore the condition that the paths be disjoint, each p_i may be chosen in $P_{m_i}(T_n)$ ways, which gives $\prod_1^k P_{m_i}(T_n)$ sequences. We have to subtract the number of sequences with two intersecting paths p_i and p_j . It suffices to consider the case when p_1 and p_2 intersect. Then their union is a subtree \mathbf{t} of T_n with at most $m_1 + m_2 + 1$ vertices. Regard \mathbf{t} as an unlabelled tree $\bar{\mathbf{t}}$. There is only a finite number of possible such $\bar{\mathbf{t}}$, and for each choice, the condition (5.5) shows that the number of possible subtrees \mathbf{t} in T_n is $O(n)$. Moreover, for each \mathbf{t} , the paths p_1 and p_2 are subsets of \mathbf{t} and can thus be chosen in $O(1)$ ways. The remaining paths p_3, \dots, p_k can, as

above, each be chosen in $O(n)$ ways. Consequently, the number of sequences of paths (p_1, \dots, p_k) such that $|p_i| = m_i$ and two of the paths intersect is $O(n^{k-1})$. It follows that, using (5.4) and (5.3),

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathfrak{P}^{[\mathbf{m}]}(T_n)| &= \prod_{i=1}^k P_{m_i}(T_n) - O(n^{k-1}) = \prod_{i=1}^k ((2m_i + o(1))n) - O(n^{k-1}) \\ &= \kappa^{(\mathbf{m})} n^k + o(n^k), \end{aligned} \quad (5.7)$$

which proves (5.6) \square

In the remainder of this section, $\sigma = \sigma_n$ is a uniformly random C-permutation in $\mathfrak{S}_{n+1, n+1-2g_n}^C$.

We begin by calculating the expectation of $C^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma)$.

Lemma 5.2. *Let (T_n) be a good sequence of trees. Then, for every $\ell \geq 1$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,*

$$\mathbb{E} C^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) \rightarrow \lambda_\ell \quad (5.8)$$

given by (1.2). Furthermore,

$$\mathbb{E} \tilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) - \mathbb{E} C^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) \rightarrow 0. \quad (5.9)$$

Proof. We begin with the simpler $\tilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) = |\tilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma)|$. For each given list $\mathbf{P} = (p_1, \dots, p_k) \in \hat{\mathfrak{P}}^{(\ell)}(T_n)$, let $\tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{P})$ be the probability that $\mathbf{P} \in \tilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma)$, in other words, the probability that (C2) holds. Then, by definitions and symmetry,

$$\mathbb{E} \tilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) = \sum_{\mathbf{P} \in \hat{\mathfrak{P}}^{(\ell)}(T_n)} \tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{P}) = \sum_{\mathbf{P} \in \mathfrak{P}^{(\ell)}(T_n)} \frac{\tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{P})}{2s(\mathbf{P})}. \quad (5.10)$$

To find $\tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{P})$, we may relabel the $2k$ endpoints in $\text{Ext}(\mathbf{P})$ as $1, \dots, 2k$ in an order such that (C2) becomes $2i-1 \sim 2i$ for $i = 1, \dots, k$, i.e., that $2i-1$ and i belong to the same cycle in σ . There are two cases: either these k cycles are distinct, or at least two of them coincide. The first event is $\mathcal{E}_{n, g_n}^{(k)}$ in Lemma 4.3, and that lemma shows that its probability is

$$\mathbb{P}_{n, g_n}^{(k)} = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{n, g_n}^{(k)}) = (1 - o(1))(2\gamma)^k n^{-k}. \quad (5.11)$$

The second event means that $1, \dots, 2k$ belong to at most $k-1$ different cycles of σ . Hence, Lemma 4.5 shows that the probability of this event is

$$\sum_{t=1}^{k-1} O(n^{t-2k+1/4}) = O(n^{-k-3/4}) = o(n^{-k}). \quad (5.12)$$

Summing (5.11) and (5.12), we see that

$$\tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{P}) = ((2\gamma)^k + o(1))n^{-k}, \quad (5.13)$$

where $k = s(\mathbf{P})$.

We develop the sum in (5.10) using (5.13) and (5.6), and obtain

$$\mathbb{E} \tilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) = \sum_{|\mathbf{m}|=\ell} |\mathfrak{P}^{[\mathbf{m}]}(T_n)| \frac{1}{2s(\mathbf{m})} ((2\gamma)^{s(\mathbf{m})} + o(1))n^{-s(\mathbf{m})}$$

$$= \sum_{|\mathbf{m}|=\ell} \frac{\kappa^{(\mathbf{m})}}{2s(\mathbf{m})} (2\gamma)^{s(\mathbf{m})} + o(1). \quad (5.14)$$

Next, we consider the difference $\tilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \boldsymbol{\sigma}) - C^{(\ell)}(T_n, \boldsymbol{\sigma})$. A given list $\mathbf{P} = (p_1, \dots, p_k) \in \widehat{\mathfrak{P}}^{(\ell)}$ belongs to $\tilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \boldsymbol{\sigma}) \setminus \mathfrak{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \boldsymbol{\sigma})$ if it satisfies (C1)–(C2) but not (C3). Then the $\sum_1^k (|p_i| + 1) = \ell + k$ vertices in the paths belong to at most $\ell + k - (k + 1) = \ell - 1$ cycles in $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$. It follows from Lemma 4.5, similarly to (5.12) above, that the probability of this event is

$$O(n^{(\ell-1)-(k+1)/4}) = o(n^{-k}). \quad (5.15)$$

Hence, arguing as in (5.10)–(5.14), but more crudely, using (5.6) and (5.15),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\tilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \boldsymbol{\sigma}) - C^{(\ell)}(T_n, \boldsymbol{\sigma})] &= \sum_{|\mathbf{m}|=\ell} |\mathfrak{P}^{[\mathbf{m}]}(T_n)| \frac{1}{2s(\mathbf{m})} o(n^{-s(\mathbf{m})}) \\ &= o(1), \end{aligned} \quad (5.16)$$

which proves (5.9). Together with (5.14), this also shows (5.8), with

$$\lambda_\ell := \sum_{|\mathbf{m}|=\ell} \frac{\kappa^{(\mathbf{m})}}{2s(\mathbf{m})} (2\gamma)^{s(\mathbf{m})}. \quad (5.17)$$

It remains to calculate this sum, and verify (1.2). Define the generating functions (e.g. as formal power series),

$$F(x) := \sum_{m \geq 1} 2mx^m \quad (5.18)$$

and

$$G(x, y) := \sum_{\ell \geq 1} \frac{F(x)^\ell}{2^\ell} y^\ell. \quad (5.19)$$

Then, by (5.3), for any $k \geq 1$,

$$\sum_{s(\mathbf{m})=k} \kappa^{(\mathbf{m})} x^{|\mathbf{m}|} = F(x)^k \quad (5.20)$$

and thus, using also (5.17),

$$\sum_{\ell \geq 1} \lambda_\ell x^\ell = \sum_{\mathbf{m}} \frac{\kappa^{(\mathbf{m})} (2\gamma)^{s(\mathbf{m})}}{2s(\mathbf{m})} x^{|\mathbf{m}|} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{(2\gamma)^k}{2k} F(x)^k = G(x, 2\gamma). \quad (5.21)$$

On the other hand, we have

$$F(x) = \frac{2x}{(1-x)^2} \quad (5.22)$$

and

$$G(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} \log \left(\frac{1}{1 - F(x)y} \right). \quad (5.23)$$

Hence, (5.21) yields

$$\sum_{\ell \geq 1} \lambda_\ell x^\ell = \frac{1}{2} \log \left(\frac{1}{1 - 2\gamma \frac{2x}{(1-x)^2}} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \log \left(\frac{(1-x)^2}{1 - (2+4\gamma)x + x^2} \right). \quad (5.24)$$

Let ρ_{\pm} be the roots of $x^2 - (2 + 4\gamma)x + 1 = 0$. Then

$$\rho_{\pm} := 1 + 2\gamma \pm \sqrt{4\gamma(1 + \gamma)}, \quad (5.25)$$

which by (4.30) yields, after a short calculation,

$$\rho_+ = \frac{1 + \tau}{1 - \tau}, \quad \rho_- = \frac{1 - \tau}{1 + \tau}. \quad (5.26)$$

Furthermore, (5.24) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\ell \geq 1} \lambda_{\ell} x^{\ell} &= \log(1 - x) - \frac{1}{2} \log((1 - \rho_+ x)(1 - \rho_- x)) \\ &= \log(1 - x) - \frac{1}{2} \log(1 - \rho_+ x) - \frac{1}{2} \log(1 - \rho_- x) \end{aligned} \quad (5.27)$$

and (1.2) follows, which concludes the proof. \square

We next extend Lemma 5.2 and show convergence also in distribution.

Lemma 5.3. *Let (T_n) be a good sequence of trees. Then, for every $\ell \geq 1$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,*

$$C^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \text{Po}(\lambda_{\ell}), \quad (5.28)$$

with λ_{ℓ} given by (1.2). Moreover, (5.28) holds jointly for any finite set of $\ell \geq 1$, with independent limits $\text{Po}(\lambda_{\ell})$.

Idea of the proof: This proof is a bit long and technical, but the general idea is quite classical. We will use the method of moments (by considering factorial moments), and roughly speaking, the proof amounts to showing that given a finite number of cycles taken uniformly conditionally on being pairwise distinct, they are pairwise disjoint with high probability. Then, calculating the value of the desired expectations will be straightforward from the results we obtained beforehand. In order to show that our uniform cycles are pairwise disjoint, we will again use their decomposition into lists of paths, and, thanks to Lemmas 5.1 and 5.2, we will only have to consider possible intersections at the endpoints of the paths.

Proof. First, (5.9) implies that $\mathbb{P}(\tilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma) \neq C^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma)) \rightarrow 0$; thus it suffices to show (5.28) for the simpler $\tilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma)$ instead.

We use the method of moments, so we want to estimate the factorial moment $\mathbb{E} \prod_{i=1}^q (\tilde{C}^{(\ell_i)}(T_n))_{r_i}$ for any given positive integers q , $\ell_1 < \dots < \ell_q$ and r_1, \dots, r_q . We argue similarly as in the special case $q = 1$ and $r_1 = 1$ in Lemma 5.2, and write this expectation as

$$\mathbb{E} \prod_{i=1}^q (\tilde{C}^{(\ell_i)}(T_n))_{r_i} = \sum_{(\mathbf{P}(i,j))_{ij}} \pi((\mathbf{P}(i,j))_{ij}), \quad (5.29)$$

where we sum over all sequences of distinct lists $(\mathbf{P}(i,j))_{1 \leq i \leq q, 1 \leq j \leq r_i}$ such that $\mathbf{P}(i,j) \in \hat{\mathfrak{P}}^{(\ell_i)}(T_n)$, and $\pi((\mathbf{P}(i,j))_{ij})$ is the probability that every $\mathbf{P}(i,j) \in \tilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell_i)}(T_n)$. Recalling the definition of $\hat{\mathfrak{P}}^{(\ell)}$, we can rewrite (5.29) as

$$\mathbb{E} \prod_{i=1}^q (\tilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell_i)}(T_n))_{r_i} = \sum_{(\mathbf{P}(i,j))_{ij}}^* \frac{\pi((\mathbf{P}(i,j))_{ij})}{\prod_{i,j} 2s(\mathbf{P}(i,j))}, \quad (5.30)$$

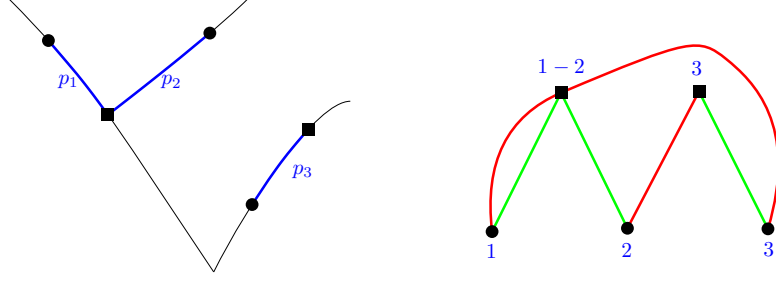


FIGURE 1. Three paths in a tree (left) and their associated graph H (right). The paths are in blue, the start of a path is represented as a square and its end, as a dot.

where we now sum over all sequences of lists $(\mathbf{P}(i, j))_{ij}$ such that $\mathbf{P}(i, j) \in \mathfrak{P}^{(\ell_i)}(T_n)$ and no two $\mathbf{P}(i, j)$ are equivalent (for \equiv).

First, we show that the $\text{Ext}(\mathbf{P}(i, j))$ are pairwise disjoint whp.

For each such sequence $(\mathbf{P}(i, j))_{ij}$, define a graph H with vertex set $V(H) := \bigcup_{i,j} \text{Ext}(\mathbf{P}(i, j))$, the set of endpoints of all participating paths, and edges of two colours as follows: For each list $\mathbf{P}(i, j) = (p_\nu)_1^k$, add for each ν a *green* edge between $\text{start}(p_\nu)$ and $\text{end}(p_\nu)$, and a *red* edge between $\text{end}(p_\nu)$ and $\text{start}(p_{\nu+1})$ (see Figure 1 for an example). (We use here and below the convention $p_{k+1} := p_1$.) Hence, by the definitions above, every $\mathbf{P}(i, j) \in \tilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell_i)}(T_n)$ if and only if each red edge in H joins two vertices in the same cycle of σ . Thus, $\pi((\mathbf{P}(i, j))_{ij})$ in (5.30) is the probability of this event.

For each graph H constructed in this way, let H_G be the subgraph consisting of all green edges, and say that a connected component of H_G is a *green component* of H . Define a *red component* in the same way, and let $\zeta_G(H)$ and $\zeta_R(H)$ be the numbers of green and red components, respectively.

Let $M_H = M_H(n)$ be the number of terms in (5.30) with a given graph H . (For some fixed q, ℓ_1, \dots, ℓ_q and r_1, \dots, r_q .) We estimate M_H as follows. Each green component of H corresponds to some paths $p_{i,j,\nu}$ such that their union is a connected subtree \mathbf{t} of T_n . All these paths have lengths bounded by $\max_i \ell_i$, so the union \mathbf{t} has bounded size. Thus, regarding \mathbf{t} as an unlabelled tree $\bar{\mathbf{t}}$, there is only a finite set of possible choices of $\bar{\mathbf{t}}$. Hence, the assumption (5.5) implies that there is $O(n)$ possible choices of the subgraph \mathbf{t} in T_n , for each green component in H . Moreover, for each choice of \mathbf{t} , there are $O(1)$ choices of each path $p_{i,j,\nu}$ in \mathbf{t} , so for each green component in H , the paths $p_{i,j,\nu}$ that correspond to edges in the component can be chosen in $O(n)$ ways. Consequently, we have

$$M_H = O(n^{\zeta_G(H)}). \quad (5.31)$$

Moreover, we have seen that $\pi((\mathbf{P}(i, j))_{ij})$ in (5.30) is the probability that each red component lies in a single cycle of σ . This entails that the $v(H)$ vertices in H lie in at most ζ_R different cycles of σ , and thus Lemma 4.5 shows that

$$\pi((\mathbf{P}(i, j))_{ij}) = O(n^{\zeta_R(H) - v(H) + 1/4}). \quad (5.32)$$

Consequently, the total contribution to (5.30) for all sequences of lists yielding a given H is, by (5.31) and (5.32),

$$O(n^{\zeta_G(H)+\zeta_R(H)-v(H)+1/4}). \quad (5.33)$$

Since each green or red component has size at least 2, it follows that $v(H) \geq 2\zeta_G(H)$ and $v(H) \geq 2\zeta_R(H)$, and thus $\zeta_G(H) + \zeta_R(H) \leq v(H)$. If we here have strict inequality, then (5.33) shows that the contribution is $o(1)$ and may be ignored. (There is only a finite number of possible H to consider.)

Hence, it suffices to consider the case $\zeta_G(H) = \zeta_R(H) = v(H)/2$. This implies that all green or red components have size 2, and thus are isolated edges. It follows that if two different lists $\mathbf{P}(i_1, j_1)$ and $\mathbf{P}(i_2, j_2)$ contain two paths p_{i_1, j_1, ν_1} and p_{i_2, j_2, ν_2} that have a common endpoint, then these paths have to coincide (up to orientation). Furthermore, if they coincide, and have, say, the same orientation so $\text{end}(p_{i_1, j_1, \nu_1}) = \text{end}(p_{i_2, j_2, \nu_2})$, then the red edges from that vertex have to coincide, so $\text{start}(p_{i_1, j_1, \nu_1+1}) = \text{start}(p_{i_2, j_2, \nu_2+1})$. It follows easily that the two lists $\mathbf{P}(i_1, j_1)$ and $\mathbf{P}(i_2, j_2)$ are equivalent in the sense $\mathbf{P}(i_1, j_1) \equiv \mathbf{P}(i_2, j_2)$ defined above. However, we have excluded this possibility, and this contradiction shows that all paths $p_{i, j, \nu}$ in the lists have disjoint sets of endpoints $\text{Ext}(p_{i, j, \nu})$.

Consider now this case, and assume, moreover, that for all i and j , we have $s(\mathbf{P}(i, j)) = k(i, j)$ and $\mathbf{P}(i, j) \in \mathfrak{P}^{\mathbf{m}(i, j)}$ for some given $k(i, j)$ and $\mathbf{m}(i, j) = (m_{i, j, 1}, \dots, m_{i, j, k(i, j)})$ such that $|\mathbf{m}(i, j)| = \ell_i$. Then we can write $\mathbf{P}(i, j) = (p_{i, j, 1}, \dots, p_{i, j, k(i, j)})$, where all paths $p_{i, j, \nu}$ have disjoint endpoints and $|p_{i, j, \nu}| = m_{i, j, \nu}$. It follows as in the proof of Lemma 5.1 that the number of such sequences of lists $(\mathbf{P}(i, j))_{ij}$ is, with $K := \sum_{i, j} k(i, j)$, the total number of paths in the lists, and using (5.3),

$$\prod_{i, j, \nu} (2m_{i, j, \nu} n) + o(n^K) = \prod_{i, j} \kappa^{\mathbf{m}(i, j)} n^K + o(n^K) \quad (5.34)$$

Furthermore, in this case, the set $V(H)$ is the disjoint union of all $\text{Ext}(p_{i, j, \nu})$, which have 2 elements each, and thus

$$v(H) = 2 \sum_{i, j} k(i, j) = 2K. \quad (5.35)$$

Hence, $\pi((\mathbf{P}(i, j))_{ij})$ is the probability that K given pairs of vertices in T_n belong to the same cycles in σ . As in the proof of Lemma 5.2, it follows from Lemmas 4.3 and 4.5 that, using (5.17),

$$\pi((\mathbf{P}(i, j))_{ij}) = (2\gamma)^K n^{-K} + o(n^{-K}). \quad (5.36)$$

From (5.30), (5.34) and (5.36), we now obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \prod_{i=1}^q (\tilde{\mathfrak{C}}^{(\ell_i)}(T_n))_{r_i} &= \sum_{|\mathbf{m}(i, j)| = \ell_i \forall i, j} \frac{\prod_{i, j} \kappa^{\mathbf{m}(i, j)}}{\prod_{i, j} 2s(\mathbf{m}(i, j))} (2\gamma)^K + o(1) \\ &= \sum_{|\mathbf{m}(i, j)| = \ell_i \forall i, j} \prod_{i, j} \frac{\kappa^{\mathbf{m}(i, j)} (2\gamma)^{s(\mathbf{m}(i, j))}}{2s(\mathbf{m}(i, j))} + o(1) \\ &= \prod_{i, j} \lambda_{\ell_i} + o(1) = \prod_{i=1}^q \lambda_{\ell_i}^{r_i} + o(1). \end{aligned} \quad (5.37)$$

This proves the desired convergence of the factorial moments, and the method of moments yields the result. (For $\tilde{C}^{(\ell)}(T_n, \sigma)$, which is enough as said at the beginning of the proof.) \square

To prove the main theorem, it remains only to replace the deterministic trees T_n in Lemma 5.3 by the random \mathbf{T} .

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Recall that, for each n , $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}_n$ is a uniformly random tree in \mathcal{T}_n . By Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2, (5.4) and (5.5) hold in probability if we take T_n as the random tree \mathbf{T} . We can regard this as convergence in probability of infinite sequences indexed by the countable set $\{\ell\} \cup \{\mathbf{t}\}$, i.e., convergence in \mathbb{R}^∞ . By the Skorohod coupling theorem [15, Theorem 4.30], we may assume that this convergence actually holds almost surely, i.e., that (5.4) and (5.5) hold a.s. for every ℓ and \mathbf{t} . In other words, we may assume that the random trees \mathbf{T}_n for different n are coupled such that the sequence (\mathbf{T}_n) is good a.s.

We now condition on the sequence (\mathbf{T}_n) . We have just seen that Lemma 5.3 applies a.s., and thus (1.1) holds for the conditional distributions, i.e.

$$((C_{n,g_n}^{(1)}, C_{n,g_n}^{(2)}, \dots, C_{n,g_n}^{(M)}) \mid \mathbf{T}_n) \xrightarrow{d} \text{Po}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_M) \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (5.38)$$

This immediately implies the unconditional (1.1). \square

6. VERTEX DEGREES

In this section, we prove Theorem 1.3. Again, we may by Theorem 2.1 consider the underlying graph of (\mathbf{T}, σ) . It is convenient to first consider deterministic trees and permutations, with only the relative position of them random.

Lemma 6.1. *Let (g_n) be a sequence with $n - 2g_n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Let (T_n, σ_n) be a given (deterministic) sequence, where T_n is a plane tree of size n , and σ_n is a permutation of $[n + 1]$ with exactly m cycles, where $m = m_n := n + 1 - 2g_n$. Let \mathbf{T}_n be T_n with the vertices labeled $1, \dots, n + 1$ uniformly at random, and let $\bar{N}_{n,g_n}^{(k)}$ be the number of vertices of degree k in the underlying graph of the corresponding decorated tree (\mathbf{T}_n, σ_n) .*

Let $n_n^{(k)}$ be the number of vertices of degree k in T_n , and let $m_n^{(\ell)}$ be the number of cycles of length ℓ in σ_n . Suppose that (ρ_k) and (π_ℓ) are probability distributions on $\{1, 2, \dots\}$ such that, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$n_n^{(k)}/n \rightarrow \rho_k, \quad k \geq 1, \quad (6.1)$$

$$m_n^{(\ell)}/m \rightarrow \pi_\ell, \quad \ell \geq 1. \quad (6.2)$$

Then,

$$\bar{N}_{n,g_n}^{(k)}/m \xrightarrow{P} \chi_k, \quad k \geq 1, \quad (6.3)$$

where (χ_k) is a probability distribution which equals the distribution of the random sum $\sum_{i=1}^M Y_i$, where M, Y_1, Y_2, \dots are independent, M has the distribution (π_ℓ) and each Y_i has the distribution (ρ_k) . Equivalently, (χ_k) is

given by the probability generating function

$$H_\chi(x) := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \chi_k x^k = H_\pi(H_\rho(x)), \quad (6.4)$$

where H_ρ and H_π are the probability generating functions of (ρ_k) and (π_ℓ) .

Proof. Let \mathbf{G}_n be the underlying graph of (\mathbf{T}_n, σ_n) . Fix ℓ and number the cycles in σ_n of length ℓ as $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_{m_n^{(\ell)}}$. For each $i \leq m_n^{(\ell)}$, let $X_{i1}, \dots, X_{i\ell}$ be the degrees in \mathbf{T}_n of the vertices covered by \mathcal{C}_i , taken in uniformly random order, and let $D_i = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} X_{ij}$ be the degree of the corresponding vertex in \mathbf{G}_n .

For any sequence $\mathbf{d} = (d_1, \dots, d_\ell) \in \mathbb{Z}_+^\ell$ and $i \leq m_n^{(\ell)}$, let

$$I_{\mathbf{d},i} := \mathbf{1}\{(X_{i1}, \dots, X_{i\ell}) = \mathbf{d}\}. \quad (6.5)$$

Also, let, as in the statement, Y_1, Y_2, \dots be independent random variables with the distribution (ρ_k) , and define

$$p_{\mathbf{d}} := \mathbb{P}((Y_1, \dots, Y_\ell) = \mathbf{d}) = \prod_{j=1}^{\ell} \rho_{d_j}. \quad (6.6)$$

Note that the vertex degrees $X_{11}, \dots, X_{1\ell}, X_{21}, \dots, X_{2\ell}, \dots$ are the degrees of a sequence of vertices of T_n that are picked at random without replacement. Hence we have, by symmetry and (6.1),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} I_{\mathbf{d},i} &= \mathbb{E} I_{\mathbf{d},1} = \frac{n_n^{(d_1)}(n_n^{(d_2)} + O(1)) \cdots (n_n^{(d_\ell)} + O(1))}{(n+1)n \cdots (n-\ell+2)} \\ &\rightarrow \prod_{j=1}^{\ell} \rho_{d_j} = p_{\mathbf{d}}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.7)$$

Similarly, for any $i \neq j$,

$$\mathbb{E}[I_{\mathbf{d},i} I_{\mathbf{d},j}] = \mathbb{E}[I_{\mathbf{d},1} I_{\mathbf{d},2}] \rightarrow p_{\mathbf{d}}^2, \quad (6.8)$$

and thus

$$\text{Cov}(I_{\mathbf{d},i}, I_{\mathbf{d},j}) = \text{Cov}(I_{\mathbf{d},1}, I_{\mathbf{d},2}) \rightarrow 0. \quad (6.9)$$

Hence, if $S_{\mathbf{d}} := \sum_{i=1}^{m_n^{(\ell)}} I_{\mathbf{d},i}$, then, using also (6.2),

$$\frac{\mathbb{E} S_{\mathbf{d}}}{m} = \frac{m_n^{(\ell)}}{m} \mathbb{E} I_{\mathbf{d},1} \rightarrow \pi_\ell p_{\mathbf{d}} \quad (6.10)$$

and

$$\text{Var} S_{\mathbf{d}} = m_n^{(\ell)} \text{Var} I_{\mathbf{d},1} + m_n^{(\ell)}(m_n^{(\ell)} - 1) \text{Cov}(I_{\mathbf{d},1}, I_{\mathbf{d},2}) = o(m^2). \quad (6.11)$$

Consequently, by Chebyshev's inequality and $m \rightarrow \infty$,

$$S_{\mathbf{d}}/m \xrightarrow{\text{P}} \pi_\ell p_{\mathbf{d}}. \quad (6.12)$$

Let $|\mathbf{d}| := d_1 + \dots + d_\ell$. Then, by our definitions,

$$\bar{N}_{n,g_n}^{(k)} = \sum_{\ell=1}^k \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{Z}_+^\ell \\ |\mathbf{d}|=k}} S_{\mathbf{d}}. \quad (6.13)$$

Note that, for any given k , this is a finite sum. Hence, (6.12) implies, recalling (6.6),

$$\bar{N}_{n,g_n}^{(k)}/m \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \sum_{\ell} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{Z}_+^{\ell} \\ |\mathbf{d}|=k}} \pi_{\ell} p_{\mathbf{d}} = \sum_{\ell} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{Z}_+^{\ell} \\ |\mathbf{d}|=k}} \pi_{\ell} p_{\mathbf{d}} = \sum_{\ell} \pi_{\ell} \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} Y_i = k\right). \quad (6.14)$$

This proves (6.3), with the limit χ_k given by the right-hand side of (6.14). This clearly equals $\mathbb{P}(\sum_1^M Y_i = k)$, with M as in the statement. Furthermore, (6.14) implies that the generating function H_{χ} is given by

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\chi}(x) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x^k \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \pi_{\ell} \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} Y_i = k\right) = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \pi_{\ell} \mathbb{E} x^{\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} Y_i} \\ &= \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \pi_{\ell} (\mathbb{E} x^{Y_1})^{\ell} = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \pi_{\ell} H_{\rho}(x)^{\ell} = H_{\pi}(H_{\rho}(x)). \end{aligned} \quad (6.15)$$

□

Proof of Theorem 1.3. We apply Theorem 2.1 and consider the underlying graph of (\mathbf{T}, σ) . Furthermore, we may do an extra randomization as in Lemma 6.1 of the way the tree \mathbf{T} is decorated by the permutation σ ; this obviously will not change the distribution of $\bar{N}_{n,g_n}^{(k)}$. Now condition on \mathbf{T} and σ , and note that the conditional distribution of $\bar{N}_{n,g_n}^{(k)}$ is as in Lemma 6.1, with $T_n = \mathbf{T}$ and $\sigma_n = \sigma$. These are random, and thus $n_n^{(k)}$ and $m_n^{(\ell)}$ are now random.

Proposition 4.1 shows that (6.2) holds in probability:

$$m_n^{(\ell)}/m \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \pi_{\ell}, \quad \ell \geq 1. \quad (6.16)$$

with (π_{ℓ}) given by (4.3), where τ is given by (4.4) with $\alpha = 1 - 2\theta$.

Furthermore, it is well-known that the degree distribution in a random plane tree is asymptotically $\text{Ge}(1/2)$, see e.g. [10, Section 3.2.1] or [13, Theorem 7.11(ii) and Example 10.1]; more precisely, (6.1) holds in probability:

$$n_n^{(k)}/n \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \rho_k := 2^{-k}, \quad k \geq 1. \quad (6.17)$$

By the Skorokhod coupling theorem [15, Theorem 4.30], we may assume that (6.16) and (6.17) hold a.s., for all k and ℓ , and then Lemma 6.1 applies after conditioning on \mathbf{T} and σ . Consequently, (6.3) holds conditioned on \mathbf{T} and σ , a.s., which implies that (6.3) holds without conditioning. This proves (1.6), and it remains only to identify the limit distribution.

We have, by (6.17),

$$H_{\rho}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^{-k} x^k = \frac{x}{2-x}, \quad (6.18)$$

and by (4.3) and (4.12),

$$H_{\pi}(x) = \frac{\Phi(\tau x)}{\Phi(\tau)} = \frac{1}{2\Phi(\tau)} (\log(1 + \tau x) - \log(1 - \tau x)). \quad (6.19)$$

Hence, (6.4) yields

$$\begin{aligned} H_\chi(x) &= H_\pi\left(\frac{x}{2-x}\right) = \frac{1}{2\Phi(\tau)}\left(\log\left(1 + \tau\frac{x}{2-x}\right) - \log\left(1 - \tau\frac{x}{2-x}\right)\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\Phi(\tau)}\left(\log(2-x+\tau x) - \log(2-x-\tau x)\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\Phi(\tau)}\left(\log\left(1 - \frac{1-\tau}{2}x\right) - \log\left(1 - \frac{1+\tau}{2}x\right)\right). \end{aligned} \quad (6.20)$$

This yields (1.7), recalling again (4.12). \square

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