

# A construction of a $\lambda$ -Poisson generic sequence

Gabriel Sac Himelfarb  
Joint work with Verónica Becher

Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA)

May 23rd 2022

- 1 Definitions
- 2 The construction: core ideas
- 3 Limitations of the construction
- 4 Further results

# Poisson Generic Sequences

Fix  $\Omega$  an alphabet with  $b$  symbols.

## Notation

Given  $x \in \Omega^{\mathbb{N}}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  we write  $Z_{i,k}^{\lambda}(x)$  for the proportion of words of length  $k$  that occur exactly  $i$  times in the prefix of  $x$  of length  $\lfloor \lambda b^k \rfloor$ , that is:

$$Z_{i,k}^{\lambda}(x) = \frac{\#\{\omega \in \Omega^k : \omega \text{ occurs } i \text{ times in } x[1 \dots \lfloor \lambda b^k \rfloor]\}}{b^k}$$

## Definition (Zeev Rudnick)

We say  $x \in \Omega^{\mathbb{N}}$  is  $\lambda$ -**Poisson generic** if for every  $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ :

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} Z_{i,k}^{\lambda}(x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^i}{i!}$$

$x$  is **Poisson generic** if it is  $\lambda$ -Poisson generic for every  $\lambda > 0$ .

# The problem

## Question (Weiss)

Is it possible to give an explicit construction of a 1-Poisson generic sequence?

# The problem

## Question (Weiss)

Is it possible to give an explicit construction of a 1-Poisson generic sequence?

## Theorem (Álvarez, Becher, Mereb)

There are computable Poisson generic sequences.

# The problem

## Question (Weiss)

Is it possible to give an explicit construction of a 1-Poisson generic sequence?

## Theorem (Álvarez, Becher, Mereb)

There are computable Poisson generic sequences.

## Question

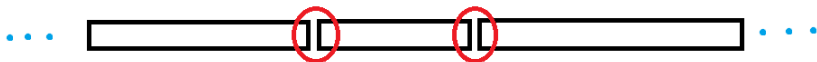
Can we give a “ more explicit” example?

## Theorem (Becher, S.H.) $\lambda$ -Poisson explicit number

Let  $\lambda$  be a positive real number and  $\Omega$  a  $b$ -symbol alphabet ,  $b \geq 3$ . Let  $(p_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0}$  be a sequence of non-negative real numbers such that  $\sum_{i \geq 0} p_i = 1$  and  $\sum_{i \geq 0} ip_i = \lambda$ . Then there is a construction of an infinite sequence  $x$  over alphabet  $\Omega$ , which satisfies for every  $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ,

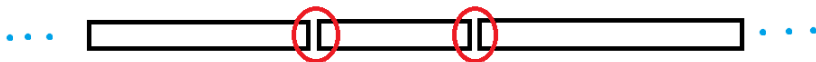
$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} Z_{i,k}^\lambda(x) = p_i.$$

## Concatenating big blocks





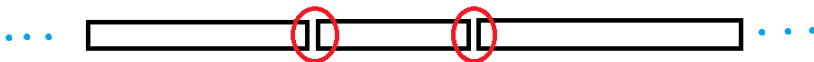
## Concatenating big blocks



Where do we take the blocks from?

# The construction: Core ideas

Concatenating big blocks



Where do we take the blocks from?

**An infinite de Bruijn word**

# The construction

## Definition

A **cyclic de Bruijn sequence of order  $k$**  is a sequence  $w$  of length  $b^k$  where each word of length  $k$  occurs exactly once in the circular sequence determined by  $w$ .

## Theorem (Becher, Heiber)

*For  $b \geq 3$  there exists an infinite word  $x$  such that every prefix  $x[1 \dots b^k]$  is a cyclic de Bruijn word in base  $b$  of order  $k$ .*

## Definition

Given a sequence  $w$  of length  $b^k$  we say  $\delta$  is a **block** in  $w$  if it is a subsequence of  $w$  and  $|\delta| = b^j \leq b^k$  for some  $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$ .

We say that a block  $\delta$  in  $w$  has **absolute length**  $|\delta|$  and **relative length**  $|\delta|b^{-k}$  **with respect to**  $w$ .

# The construction

Fix  $A$  an infinite de Bruijn word in base  $b$ .

$$A = 012110022101020001112021222\dots$$

In step  $k + 1$  of the construction we will take blocks from  $A[b^k + 1 \dots b^{k+1}]$ :

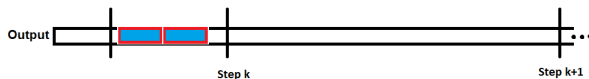
$$A = 012 \left| 110022 \right| 101020001112021222 \left| \dots \right.$$

We always pick **non-overlapping** blocks.

# Why infinite de Bruijn words?

$A = 012 \mid 110022 \mid \boxed{101020001} \boxed{112} 021222 \mid \dots$

$Output = 011000222 \boxed{101020001} \boxed{101020001} \boxed{112} \boxed{112} \boxed{112} \dots$



- If a block contributes  $a$  to  $Z_{2,k}^\lambda$ , then it contributes approximately with  $\frac{1}{b}a$  to  $Z_{2,k+1}^\lambda$ .
- We can add the contributions to  $Z_{i,k}^\lambda$  of distinct non-overlapping blocks that are repeated exactly  $i$  times.

# The construction

## Notation

Given a real number  $y \in [0, 1)$ , we write  $\{y\}_k$  for the truncation to  $k$  digits of the unique base- $b$  representation of  $y$  which does not end in an infinite tail of  $(b - 1)$ 's.

# The construction

## Notation

Given a real number  $y \in [0, 1)$ , we write  $\{y\}_k$  for the truncation to  $k$  digits of the unique base- $b$  representation of  $y$  which does not end in an infinite tail of  $(b - 1)$ 's.

## The construction. Step 1

The construction works by steps. Let  $x_k$  be the output of the construction after Step  $k$ . Start with  $x_0$  equal to the empty word.

**Step 1** For  $i \geq 1$

$$\{p_i\}_1 = 0, c_i \text{ (base } b \text{ expansion)}$$

For each  $c_i$ ,  $i \geq 1$ , choose  $c_i$  blocks of relative length  $b^{-1}$  with respect to  $A[1\dots b]$ .

Concatenate the chosen blocks, in any order, where for every  $i \geq 1$  each of the  $c_i$  selected blocks is repeated exactly  $i$  times.

# The construction

**An example:** Take  $p_0 = 0$ ,  $p_1 = 1/2$ ,  $p_2 = 5/18$ ,  $p_3 = 2/9$ , and  $p_i = 0$  for  $i \geq 4$ . In this case  $\lambda = 31/18$ . Now fix  $b = 3$ ,  $\Omega = \{0, 1, 2\}$  and

$$A = 012110022101020001112021222\dots$$

$$p_1 = 0, 1111\dots$$

$$p_2 = 0, 0211\dots$$

$$p_3 = 0, 0200\dots$$

**Step 1:**

$$A = \boxed{0}12 \mid 110022 \mid 101020001112021222 \mid \dots$$

$$x_1 = \boxed{0}$$



## Step $k+1$

**Step  $k+1$**  For  $i \geq 1$ :

$$\left\{ \frac{b-1}{b} p_i \right\}_{g(k+1)} = 0, a_{i,1} a_{i,2} \dots a_{i,g(k+1)} \text{ (base } b \text{ expansion)}$$

where  $a_{i,j} \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, b-1\}$ .

- We select blocks in  $A_{k+1}[b^k + 1 \dots b^{k+1}]$  in the following manner:  
For each  $a_{i,j}$ , we choose  $a_{i,j}$  blocks of relative length  $b^{-j}$  with respect to  $A[1 \dots b^{k+1}]$ . All the selected blocks should be non-overlapping.
- The construction appends these blocks to  $x_k$ . For every  $i \geq 1$ ,  $j \leq g(k+1)$ , each of the  $a_{i,j}$  selected blocks is repeated exactly  $i$  times.

# The construction

**Example:** We set  $g(k) = k$

$$p_1 = 0, 1000\dots$$

$$p_2 = 0, 0120\dots$$

$$p_3 = 0, 0110\dots$$

**Step 3:**

$$A = 012 \left| 110022 \right| \left[ 101020001 \right] \left[ 112 \right] \left[ 021 \right] \left[ 2 \right] \left[ 2 \right] \left[ 2 \right] \left| \dots \right.$$

$$x_3 = 011000222 \left[ 101020001 \right] \left[ 112 \right] \left[ 112 \right] \left[ 021 \right] \left[ 021 \right] \left[ 021 \right] \left[ 2 \right] \left[ 2 \right] \left[ 2 \right] \left[ 2 \right] \left[ 2 \right] \left[ 2 \right] \left[ 2 \right]$$

# The construction

## Definition

We refer to each of the chosen blocks of  $A$  as **constituent segments in the output**  $x_{k+1}$ .

We say that the concatenation of  $i$ -many copies of a constituent segment corresponding to  $a_{i,j}$  is a **run segment** in the output.

$x_3 = 011000222$ 

101020001	112	112	021	021	021	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

In this case, 

112	112
-----	-----

 is the run segment corresponding to the constituent segment 

112
-----

, and 

021	021	021
-----	-----	-----

 is the run segment corresponding to the constituent segment 

021
-----

.

## Theorem

*Let  $x$  be the infinite word output by the algorithm. Then  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} Z_{i,k}^\lambda(x) = p_i$  for every  $i \geq 0$ .*

## Theorem

Let  $x$  be the infinite word output by the algorithm. Then  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} Z_{i,k}^\lambda(x) = p_i$  for every  $i \geq 0$ .

## Definition

For every  $i \geq 1$ ,  $p_i^k$  denotes the sum of the relative lengths with respect to  $A[1\dots b^k]$  of all constituent segments in the output  $x_k$  that are repeated exactly  $i$  times.

We define  $p_0^k = 1 - \sum_{i \geq 1} p_i^k$ .

## Theorem

Let  $x$  be the infinite word output by the algorithm. Then  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} Z_{i,k}^\lambda(x) = p_i$  for every  $i \geq 0$ .

## Definition

For every  $i \geq 1$ ,  $p_i^k$  denotes the sum of the relative lengths with respect to  $A[1\dots b^k]$  of all constituent segments in the output  $x_k$  that are repeated exactly  $i$  times.

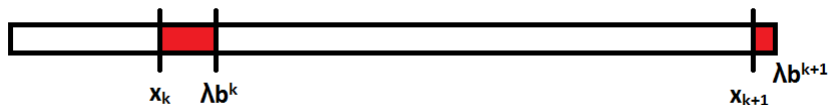
We define  $p_0^k = 1 - \sum_{i \geq 1} p_i^k$ .

**Proof:** We will use  $p_i^k$  as an approximation for  $Z_{i,k}^\lambda(x)$ .

We are assuming the contribution of a constituent segment to the numerator of  $Z_{i,k}^\lambda(x)$  is its absolute length.

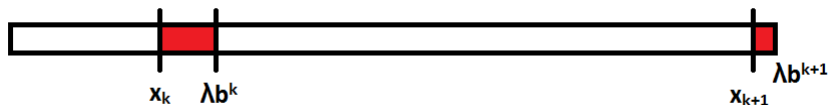
# Correctness: Bounding the error

## First error



# Correctness: Bounding the error

## First error



## Lemma

Let  $x_k$  be the word output by the construction after step  $k$ . Then,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\lfloor \lambda b^k \rfloor - |x_k||}{b^k} = 0.$$



## Second error



Let  $B_k$  be the number of run segments in the output  $x_k$ .

Error  $\sim kB_k$

## Second error



Let  $B_k$  be the number of run segments in the output  $x_k$ .

Error  $\sim kB_k$

### Lemma

If we set  $g(k) = \lceil k/2 \rceil$  then the quantities  $B_k$  satisfy

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{kB_k}{b^k} = 0.$$

**To conclude:**

Lemma

*For every  $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ,  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} p_i^k = p_i$ . In fact, for every  $i \geq 1$ ,  $k \geq 1$ , the following estimation holds,*

$$p_i - \frac{k}{b^g(k)} \leq p_i^k \leq p_i.$$

# Limitations

The construction does not allow us to generate a Poisson generic sequence.

Suppose we construct  $x$  for  $\lambda = 1$ . Then the frequencies for  $\lambda = 1/b$ ,  $i \geq 1$ , satisfy,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} Z_{i,k+1}^{1/b}(x) - \frac{1}{b} Z_{i,k}^1(x) = 0.$$

But this relation does not hold in the case of the probability mass function of the Poisson distribution:

$$e^{-1/b} \frac{1}{b^i i!} \neq e^{-1} \frac{1}{b i!}.$$

## Theorem (Becher, S.H.)

*Let  $\Omega$  be a  $b$ -symbol alphabet,  $b \geq 2$ , and let  $x \in \Omega^{\mathbb{N}}$ . We fix a positive real number  $\lambda$  and define for every  $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$  the numbers  $p_i = \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} Z_{i,k}^\lambda(x)$ . If the numbers  $p_i$  satisfy  $\sum_{i \geq 0} ip_i = \lambda$  then  $x$  is normal to base  $b$ .*

## Corollary

*The presented construction yields infinitely many Borel normal sequences which are not  $\lambda$ -Poisson generic.*

# Thanks!

Thank you! Questions?