# A probabilistic version of the game of zombies and survivors on graphs 

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joint work with
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## Zombies and survivor: who wants to live forever?



4 zombies

1 survivor

## Game rules

- 2 players (1 survivor vs. $k$ zombies) on vertices of $G$.
- Initial position: zombies (random); survivor (deterministic).
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## Cycle

Theorem
If $n \geq 27$, then $z\left(C_{n}\right)=4$ and $Z\left(C_{n}\right)=2$.

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## Projective plane

Projective plane $P_{q}$ of order $q$
( $q$ prime power)

## Graph $G_{q}$

Incidence graph of $P_{q}$ :

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## Graph $G_{q}$

```
Incidence graph of \(P_{q}\) :
- \((P, L)\)-bipartite
- \(|P|=|L|=q^{2}+q+1\)
- \((q+1)\)-regular
```


$L$


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- $k \geq 2 q+\omega \sqrt{n} \Longrightarrow$ a.a.s. $k_{P}, k_{L} \geq q$
(zombie strategy).


Projective plane: observation


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## Survivor cannot stop!

## Projective plane: zombies' strategy

It's zombies' turn to move...


## Projective plane: zombies' strategy

It's zombies' turn to move...


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It's zombies' turn to move...


Zombies block all ways of escape with positive probability!

## Projective plane: survivor's strategy

It's the survivor's turn to move. . .


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## Projective plane: survivor's strategy

It's the survivor's turn to move. . .


The survivor can always escape for one more step!

## Hypercube

$Q_{n}$

- Vertices of $Q_{n}$ are $\{0,1\}$-strings of length $n$.
- $Q_{n}$ is $(E, O)$-bipartite
- $E$ strings with even number of 1 's.
- $O$ strings with odd number of 1 's.

Theorem
$z\left(Q_{n}\right)=\frac{2 n}{3}+\Theta(\sqrt{n}) . \quad Z\left(Q_{n}\right) \sim 4 / 3$.

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(survivor strategy).
- $k \geq \frac{2 n}{3}+\omega \sqrt{n} \Longrightarrow$ a.a.s. $k_{E}, k_{O}>\frac{n}{3}$
(zombie strategy).
(The survivor can always find a safe start.)
$S_{i}=$ set of zombies at distance $i$ from survivor $\left(\left|S_{1}\right|,\left|S_{2}\right|<n / 3\right)$


## Hypercube: survivor's strategy

(The survivor can always find a safe start.)
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## At each step:

- If $S_{1}=\emptyset$, then survivor stays put.
- Otherwise, survivor can find a move away from $S_{1}, S_{2}$.



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The survivor can always escape for one more step!

Hypercube: zombies' strategy
Vector of distances $\vec{d}=\left(d_{1}, \ldots, d_{k}\right)$
It never increases (after each zombie move).

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Every $n$ steps, $\vec{d}$ decreases with positive probability.

## Grids

$G_{n}$

$n \times n$ square grid

$$
T_{n}
$$


$n \times n$ toroidal grid

## Grids

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For $n \geq 2, z\left(G_{n}\right)=2$. Hence, $Z\left(G_{n}\right)=1$.

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Goal of the survivor:


Torus: survivor's strategy


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## Open questions

- Upper bound on $z\left(T_{n}\right)$.
- Mixed cop-zombie model: how many cops are needed to lead a team of zombies?


## Thank you



