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

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joint work with

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Graphs @ Ryerson, September 2015

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Zombie number

$$z(G) = \min \left\{ k \in \mathbb{N} : \mathbf{P}(k \text{ zombies win}) \geq 1/2
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Observe: $z(G) \ge c(G)$, where c(G) is the cop number.

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Price of being undead

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Zombies and survivors on graphs

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 $c(G) = 2, \quad z(G) = \Theta(n)$

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Zombies and survivors on graphs

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c(G) = 2, $z(G) = \Theta(n)$

If
$$n \ge 27$$
, then $z(C_n) = 4$ and $Z(C_n) = 2$.

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Projective plane P_q of order q(q prime power)



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Projective plane P_q of order q(q prime power)



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Projective plane P_q of order q(q prime power)

Graph G_q

Incidence graph of P_q :

• (P, L)-bipartite

•
$$|P| = |L| = q^2 + q + 1$$



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Projective plane P_q of order q(q prime power)

Graph G_q

Incidence graph of P_q :

- (P, L)-bipartite
- $|P| = |L| = q^2 + q + 1$
- (q+1)-regular



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Projective plane P_q of order q (q prime power)

Graph G_q

Incidence graph of P_q :

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- $\forall p_1, p_2 \in P$: $|N(p_1) \cap N(p_2)| = 1$



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Projective plane P_q of order q(q prime power)

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- $\forall \ell_1, \ell_2 \in L$: $|N(\ell_1) \cap N(\ell_2)| = 1$



$z(G_q) = 2q + \Theta(\sqrt{q}).$ $Z(G_q) \sim 2.$

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Initially: k_P zombies in P and k_L zombies in L $(k = k_P + k_L)$

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$$z(G_q) = 2q + \Theta(\sqrt{q}).$$
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Initially: k_P zombies in P and k_L zombies in L $(k = k_P + k_L)$

• $k \le 2q - \omega \sqrt{q} \implies$ a.a.s. $k_P, k_L \le q - 1$ (survivor strategy).

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 $Z(G_q) \sim 2.$

Initially: k_P zombies in P and k_L zombies in L $(k = k_P + k_L)$

Lemma• $k \leq 2q - \omega\sqrt{q} \implies$ a.a.s. $k_P, k_L \leq q - 1$
(survivor strategy).• $k \geq 2q + \omega\sqrt{n} \implies$ a.a.s. $k_P, k_L \geq q$
(zombie strategy).

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Projective plane: observation



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Projective plane: observation



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Projective plane: observation



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Projective plane: observation



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Projective plane: observation



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Projective plane: observation



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Survivor cannot stop!

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Hypercube



- 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.

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$$z(Q_n)=\frac{2n}{3}+\Theta(\sqrt{n}). \qquad Z(Q_n)\sim 4/3.$$

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Initially: k_E zombies in E and k_O zombies in O ($k = k_E + k_O$)

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• $k \leq \frac{2n}{3} - \omega \sqrt{n} \implies$ a.a.s. $k_E, k_O < \frac{n}{3}$ (survivor strategy).

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Initially: k_E zombies in E and k_O zombies in O $(k = k_E + k_O)$

Lemma • $k \leq \frac{2n}{3} - \omega\sqrt{n} \implies$ a.a.s. $k_E, k_O < \frac{n}{3}$ (survivor strategy). • $k \geq \frac{2n}{3} + \omega\sqrt{n} \implies$ a.a.s. $k_E, k_O > \frac{n}{3}$ (zombie strategy).

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Hypercube: survivor's strategy

(The survivor can always find a safe start.)

 S_i = set of zombies at distance *i* from survivor ($|S_1|, |S_2| < n/3$)

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At each step:

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- Otherwise, survivor can find a move away from S_1, S_2 .



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Vector of distances
$$\vec{d} = (d_1, \ldots, d_k)$$

It never increases (after each zombie move).

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Uniform coordinates (shared by all players)



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Grids

 G_n T_n

 $n \times n$ square grid

 $n \times n$ toroidal grid

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For $n \ge 2$, $z(G_n) = 2$. Hence, $Z(G_n) = 1$.

However...

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Theorem

$$z(T_n) \ge \sqrt{n}/(\omega \log n)$$
, while $c(T_n) = 3$.
So $Z(T_n) \ge \sqrt{n}/(\omega \log n)$

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- Upper bound on $z(T_n)$.
- Mixed cop-zombie model: how many cops are needed to lead a team of zombies?

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Thank you



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