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Abstract. The frog model is a system of random walks where active particles set sleeping particles in motion. On the complete graph with n vertices it is equivalent to a well-understood rumor spreading model. We give an alternate and elementary proof that the wakeup time, that is, the expected time for every particle to be activated, is $\Theta(\log n)$. Additionally, we give an explicit distributional equation for the wakeup time as a mixture of geometric random variables.

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1 Introduction

The *frog model* starts with an awake frog at the root of a graph and one sleeping frog at each other vertex. In discrete time, awake frogs perform nearest neighbor simple random walks and wake any sleeping frogs they encounter. When first introduced by K. Ravishankar about twenty years ago, the model was known as the egg model [TW99]; R. Durrett is credited with the zoomorphism of viewing particles as frogs. This likely comes from the chaotic way particles wake up. We study the model on the complete graph with n vertices, K_n . In particular we deduce that the *wakeup time* T_n , the time for all frogs to wake up, has expected value on the order of $\log n$.

It was brought to our attention in the final stages of this project that the wakeup time for the frog model on K_n can be understood through a rumor spreading model introduced by Frieze and Grimmett [FG85]. This model starts with a town of n people where one knows a rumor. At each time step those who know the rumor call a uniformly random resident and inform them. The frog model can be naturally coupled with the spread of the rumor so that the number of awake frogs is the same as the number of informed residents. Hence, the wakeup time is equivalent to the first time when all n residents learn the rumor. We remark that the locations of the frogs are an extra bit of randomness not accounted for in the rumor spreading model. For this reason, the coupling only works on K_n .

Frieze and Grimmett show that $T_n/\log_2 n \xrightarrow{\mathbf{P}} 1 + \log 2$ which implies our theorem. The idea of their proof is to break up the spread of the rumor into five stages (see the appendix for a list of the stages). For example, phase one is the time to wake up N frogs with N some large fixed constant. A finer analysis by Pittel shows that $T_n = \log_2 n + \log n + O(1)$ in probability [Pit87]. Pittel shows that waking is closely approximated by a deterministic equation (see the appendix). A tight analysis for $\mathbf{E}T_n$ is done by Doerr and Knemmann [DK] using three phases and some sophisticated estimates to show that $\mathbf{E}T_n = c \log n + b + o(1)$ with $c = 1 + (1/\log(2)) \approx 2.44$ and $b = 2.765$. Our result is less precise, but the proof is more elementary. We use two phases and only rely on couplings and Markov's inequality.

Although it is equivalent to the spread of a rumor on K_n , the wakeup time for the frog model has otherwise not been studied. In a recent article, Hoffman, Johnson, and Junge state the problem on finite d -ary trees as introduced by Itai Benjamini [HJJ15, Open Question 5]. In a survey article, Popov asks a similar question for a variant of the frog model where frogs perish after taking t steps [Pop03]. They propose a study of the minimal t that guarantees at least half the frogs on a given graph will be activated with probability greater than $1/2$. It is claimed (without proof) that this value on the complete graph is $O(\log n)$. Though not equivalent, this is closely related to our result for the frog model cover time.

On finite graphs the frog model is a model for epidemics, or the spread of a rumor. Cooper and Frieze [CF09] describe many related variants. The frog model also appears in physics literature as a model for combustion. Ramirez and Sidoravicious [RS04] state that it is known as $A + B \mapsto 2A$, where we replace awake and sleeping frogs with flames and fuel, respectively. The combustion process is studied on \mathbb{Z}^d . Noteworthy theorems include the fact that the origin is visited infinitely often for all $d \geq 1$, as proved by Telcs and Wormald [TW99] and a

shape theorem that says, when properly scaled, the set of activated vertices converges to a convex region in the unit simplex, as shown by Alves, Machado, Popov, and Ravishankar ([AMP02, AMPR01]).

A model that is in a loose sense the reverse of the frog model is coalescing random walk. Introduced by Erdos and Ney [EN74], this process starts with a particle at each site and when particles collide they coalesce into one. Like the frog model, this is typically studied in \mathbb{Z}^d . For instance, coalescing random walk is recurrent for all $d \geq 1$. This was first shown by Bramson and Griffeath [BG80], and refined further by several others [Gri78, vdBK00, Arr83, Arr81]. Computer science literature studies coalescing random walk on finite graphs. Of particular interest is the *coalescence time*; the expected time for all particles to coalesce into a single particle. Cox studies this on the torus [Cox89]. Cooper, Elsasser, Ono, and Radzik give bounds on rather general graphs [CEOR12].

Our result should be compared with the cover time for multiple random walks on a graph as shown by Elsasser and Sauerwald [ES11] and Alon, Koucky, Kozma, Lotker, and Tuttle [AAK⁺07]. The basic question is how the cover time is reduced by using the combined ranges of k random walks. This is studied on a variety of different graphs, and the speedup depends on the graph structure. For the complete graph, Alon, Koucky, Kozma, Lotker, and Tuttle cite the folklore (we give a proof in Lemma 2 (III)) that the speedup is linear, meaning the cover time for a single random walk is k times the cover time for k random walkers. All of the results for speedup of multiple walkers take the worst-case scenario across every starting configuration for the k walkers. The frog model is different in that we have only one possible starting configuration, and just one active particle. However, the placement of sleeping frogs is optimal in the sense that activated particles are more likely to be near unexplored sites. We ask a question regarding this in Further Questions (i) in Section 5.

1.1 Main theorem and overview

Before stating our main theorem we review *asymptotic notation*. We say that $f(n) = O(g(n))$ if there exists $c > 0$ such that for all sufficiently large n it holds that $f(n) \leq cg(n)$. We write $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$ if $f(n) = O(g(n))$ and $g(n) = O(f(n))$. The wakeup time, T_n , is formally defined in the next section.

Theorem 1. $\mathbf{E}T_n = \Theta(\log(n))$.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 explains the formalism we use for the frog model, as well as the couplings we employ. Following that, Section 3 contains our proof of Theorem 1 of which we give a brief outline momentarily. Additionally, in Section 4 we give an explicit recursive formula for the distribution of T_n . This is in Proposition 5. The formula involves some sophisticated combinatorial objects and, combined with the formula given by Doerr and Knemmann for $\mathbf{E}T_n$, yields a bound on the growth of these objects that could be of independent interest. Section 5 presents possible questions for further study, while Section 6 is an appendix with information regarding the results on the rumor spreading models which imply our results.

Most of our work is done on K_n° , the complete graph with a self loop at each vertex. In Lemma 2 (III) we show the frog model on K_n° has a stochastically larger wakeup time than the frog model on K_n . We then prove Theorem 1 in two phases. First, we show that it takes logarithmic time to wake the first $n/2$ frogs. This is done by embedding a process that grows slower than the frog model, but still (on average) grows exponentially. The idea is that in each time step, when say k frogs are awake, no frogs are allowed to wake up unless at least αk sleeping frogs are visited. This occurs with some probability $q_{k,n}$. We show in Proposition 3 that

$$\inf_{n \geq 3} \left(\min_{k < n/2} q_{k,n} \right) \geq p_* > 0.$$

This lower bound is obtained by having the k awake frogs jump one at a time, and thinking of the number of single jumps to wake the $(i+1)$ th frog as geometrically distributed with mean $\frac{n-k-i}{n}$ waiting time. An application of Markov's inequality gives a uniform bound in terms of α for all $k < n/2$ and $n \geq 3$.

Next, thinking of each time an α proportion wakes up as a Bernoulli($q_{k,n}$) trial, the time needed for each success is stochastically dominated by a geometric random variable with mean p_* . Thus, the total time t needed to wake half of the frogs is stochastically less than a sum of these $Geo(p_*)$ random variables. Moreover, this sum is $O(\log n)$. This is made formal in Lemma 2 (IV). We can conclude that the expected time it takes to wake the first $n/2$ frogs is $O(\log n)$.

Once half the frogs are awake, we ignore the contribution of any new frogs added and show that $n/2$ frogs cover the remaining vertices in $O(\log n)$ steps. This is made precise in Lemma 2 (III) by reducing to the coupon collector problem.

2 Formal model and couplings

Here we give a formal definition of the frog model. Then we describe in Lemma 2 the four couplings we depend on in proving our main theorem.

2.1 Formal definition of the frog model

We borrow much of our notation from Alves, Machado, and Popov in [AMP02]. Let V be the vertex set of K_n . Consider the collection, $\{F_v(t) : v \in V\}$, of independent random walks on K_n each satisfying $F_v(0) = v$. These random walks correspond to the trajectories of the frogs. We now introduce stopping times to account for the waking up that occurs. Define

$$t(v, u) = \inf_t \{F_v(t) = u\},$$

the time that the frog originally at vertex v takes to reach vertex u . Also define

$$T(v, u) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k t(v_{i-1}, v_i) : v_0 = v, \dots, v_k = u \text{ for some } k \right\},$$

the first passage time from v to u in the frog model. Then $T(v_0, u)$ gives the time it takes for u to be woken. For each $u \in V$, the position of the frog originally at u at time t is defined to be

$$P_u(t) = \begin{cases} u, & t \leq T(v_0, u) \\ F_u(t - T(v_0, u)), & t > T(v_0, u) \end{cases}.$$

With this we can define $\Lambda(t) = \{u \in V : T(v_0, u) \leq t\}$, the set of sites that have been visited by time t whose cardinality tells us the number of frogs woken by time t . Define the number of frogs awake at time t to be $N_t = |\Lambda(t)|$. Thus, the time to wake all of the frogs is $T_n = \inf\{t : N_t = n\}$.

2.2 Couplings and stochastic dominance

The frog model only depends on the underlying random walk trajectories. It has the nice feature that restricting the range of frogs, or ignoring woken frogs yields models with monotonically slower waking behavior. This is made formal using couplings and stochastic dominance.

Let X and Y be two random variables. If for all a we have $\mathbf{P}[Y \geq a] \geq \mathbf{P}[X \geq a]$ then we say that Y *stochastically dominates* X , written $X \preceq Y$. A thorough reference on stochastic domination is [SS07] by Shaked and Shanthikumar. Note that if $A \succeq B$, then $\mathbf{E}A \geq \mathbf{E}B$. An equivalent condition to stochastic dominance is that $X \preceq Y$ if and only if there exists a coupling (X, Y) with $X \leq Y$ a.s. Formally, a *coupling* is a probability space with (possibly dependent) random variables X' and Y' that have the same marginal distributions as X and Y , respectively. Couplings can often be described intuitively and rigorously without formal notation. In the following lemma we describe all of the couplings used in this paper.

Lemma 2. *The following stochastic dominance relations hold:*

- (I) *Let K_n° be the complete graph with a self-loop added to each vertex. If T_n° is the wakeup time for the frog model on K_n° , then*

$$T_n \preceq T_n^\circ.$$

- (II) *Let $\tau_{n/2} := \inf\{t : N_t \geq n/2\}$ be the time to wake at least $n/2$ frogs, and let $C_{n/2}$ be the time for $n/2$ random walkers to cover a set of $n/2$ vertices disjoint from the starting locations of the walkers, that is, to visit every remaining vertex of K_n . It holds that*

$$T_n \preceq \tau_{n/2} + C_{n/2}.$$

- (III) *Let K_n° be the complete graph with a self-loop added to each vertex. Define C_k° to be the time for k random walks to collectively visit $n - k$ vertices disjoint from their starting*

positions, that is, every remaining vertex of K_n° , and define C_k analogously for K_n . It holds that

$$C_k \preceq C_k^\circ \preceq 1 + \frac{C_1^\circ}{k} \stackrel{d}{=} 1 + \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Geo}\left(\frac{n-i}{n}\right), \quad (1)$$

where $\text{Geo}(p)$ is the number of Bernoulli- p trials until a success occurs.

(IV) Let $\alpha > 0$ be fixed and let $p_* > 0$ be a fixed probability which can depend on α . Then for sufficiently large n we have that for $\tau_{n/2}$ and $n_* := \left\lfloor \frac{\log(n/2)}{\log(1+\alpha)} \right\rfloor$

$$\tau_{n/2} \preceq \sum_1^{n_*} \text{Geo}(p_*).$$

Proof. All of the proofs establish stochastic dominance via couplings.

- (I) Pair the frogs on K_n and K_n° in the natural way. Whenever a frog on K_n° moves to a new vertex, have the corresponding frog on K_n follow it. In this way, the frogs on each graph perform random walks, but those on K_n° possibly spend extra steps traveling self-loops. This coupling ensures that $T_n \leq T_n^\circ$ in every realization of the model.
- (II) Run the frog model up to time $\tau_{n/2}$. Of the $N_{\tau_{n/2}}$ frogs awake choose a batch of $n/2$ of them. Now think of this batch as paired to another frog model in the same configuration as ours at time $\tau_{n/2}$. Our $n/2$ -batch frogs follow their counterparts. The time, $C_{n/2}$, it takes for the batch to visit all n vertices of K_n is at least as large as the $T_n - \tau_{n/2}$ steps taken by the frog model they are coupled with. In this way, the model restricted to a batch spends $\tau_{n/2} + C_{n/2}$ steps, which is at least the T_n steps taken by the frog model.
- (III) A similar coupling as in (II) gives $C_k \preceq C_k^\circ$. Observe that on K_n° every site is accessible in one step. Thus, the set of sites visited by k random walks has the same law as the range of a single random walk in k steps. Accounting for the possibility that after C_k° we have a few wasted steps, it follows that $kC_k^\circ \stackrel{d}{\preceq} k + C_1^\circ$. Dividing by k gives the claimed dominance relation.

The last equality

$$C_1^\circ \stackrel{d}{=} 1 + \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Geo}\left(\frac{n-i}{n}\right)$$

follows from the observation that the waiting time for a single random walk on K_n° to increase its range from i to $i+1$ is the waiting time to have a success in a sequence of Bernoulli($(n-i)/n$) trials. This is distributed as a $\text{Geo}((n-i)/n)$. As increases in the range are independent and skip-free, the claimed formula follows.

(IV) Consider a modified frog model on K_n° where, when k frogs are active, more frogs wake up only if at least αk sleeping frogs are visited at the next step (for some fixed $\alpha > 0$). When this occurs we select an arbitrary subset of $\lceil \alpha k \rceil$ of these frogs and allow them to wake up. The others remain asleep. Thus, on this event there are at least $(1 + \alpha)k$ frogs awake. We prove in Proposition 3 that waking at least αk new frogs occurs with probability at least $p_* > 0$ for any k and sufficiently large n . By (II) we preserve the dominance relation by working on K_n° . Define random variables W_1, W_2, \dots where each W_i is the time to wake up the i th factor of $(1 + \alpha)$ new frogs in this modified frog model on K_n° . Then, with $\tau_{n/2}^o$ defined as the time wake the first $n/2$ frogs in this modified model, $\tau_{n/2}^o \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n_*} W_i$. Since at each step whether or not αk new frogs are woken is a Bernoulli trial with probability $q_{k,n} \leq p_*$, each $W_i \stackrel{d}{=} \text{Geo}(q_{k,n}) \preceq \text{Geo}(p_*)$. The W_i 's are also independent since the frogs are independent random walkers at each time step. Thus, we have $\tau_{n/2}^o \preceq \tau_{n/2}^o \preceq \sum_{i=1}^{n_*} \text{Geo}(p_*)$.

□

3 Proving Theorem 1

We start by elaborating a bit on Lemma 2 (IV). Let $\alpha < 1$ be a yet to be chosen parameter. Define the probabilities $q_{k,n} = q_{k,n}(\alpha)$ that the frog model on K_n° with k frogs awake wakes at least αk frogs in one time step. Let $p_* = p_*(\alpha) = \inf_{n \geq 3} (\min_{k < n/2} q_{k,n})$. Our first goal is to establish that p_* is bounded away from 0.

Proposition 3. *For $\alpha = 16/25$ it holds that $p_* \geq 146/207$.*

Proof. It is useful to decompose one time step in the frog model with k frogs awake on K_n° into k steps by a single random walk. Notice that the number of steps by the single random walk to visit the first sleeping frog is the waiting time for a success in a sequence of $\text{Ber}(\frac{n-k}{n})$ trials (that is, a $\text{Geo}(\frac{n-k}{n})$ random variable). Similarly, once i of the $n - k$ frogs have been woken the waiting time is $\text{Geo}(\frac{n-k-i}{n})$.

It follows that $q_{k,n} = 1 - \mathbf{P}[X > k]$. And, by Markov's inequality

$$q_{k,n} \geq 1 - \frac{\mathbf{E} X}{k}. \tag{2}$$

We can use linearity and the fact that the mean of a $\text{Geo}(p)$ random variable is $1/p$ to estimate $\mathbf{E} X$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} X &= \sum_{i=0}^{\lceil \alpha k \rceil} \frac{n}{n - k - i} = n \sum_{i=n-k-\lceil \alpha k \rceil}^{n-k} \frac{1}{i} \leq \frac{n}{n - k - \lceil \alpha k \rceil} + \frac{n((n - k) - (n - k - \lceil \alpha k \rceil + 1))}{n - k - \lceil \alpha k \rceil + 1} \\ &= \frac{n}{n - k - \lceil \alpha k \rceil} + \frac{n(\lceil \alpha k \rceil - 1)}{n - k - \lceil \alpha k \rceil + 1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\lceil \alpha k \rceil \leq \alpha k + 1$ we can bound $\mathbf{E} X/k$ by

$$\frac{\mathbf{E} X}{k} \leq \frac{1}{k} \frac{n}{n - k - \alpha k - 1} + \frac{\alpha n}{n - k - \alpha k}$$

Note that $q_{1,n} = 1 - \frac{1}{n} \geq \frac{2}{3}$ since we assume $n \geq 3$. Thus, we can work with $k \geq 2$. Also by assumption k is no larger than $n/2$. We then preserve the above bound by setting $k = n/2$ in the negative terms and $k = 2$ in the $\frac{1}{k}$ term. This results in

$$q_{k,n} \geq 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{n}{n - \frac{n}{2} - \frac{\alpha n}{2} - 1} + \frac{\alpha n}{n - \frac{n}{2} - \frac{\alpha n}{2}} \right) = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{1 - \frac{2}{n} - \alpha} + \frac{\alpha}{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha}{2}} \right).$$

As $n \geq 3$ we arrive at $p_* \geq 1 - \left(\frac{1}{\frac{1}{3} - \alpha} + \frac{\alpha}{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)$. If we evaluate at $\alpha = 16/25$, then $p_* \geq 146/207$, which completes the proof. \square

3.1 Proof of Theorem 1

With Lemma 2 and Proposition 3 we can prove our main theorem.

Proof of Theorem 1. Since the number of frogs can at most double at each step we have $T_n \geq \log_2(n)$. The lower bound immediately follows. As for the asymptotic upper bound, let $\tau_{n/2}$ and $C_{n/2}$ be as defined in Lemma 2 (II). The same lemma describes a coupling where we ignore the benefit of waking more frogs after time $\tau_{n/2}$ to conclude

$$T_n \preceq \tau_{n/2} + C_{n/2}. \quad (3)$$

Here ' \preceq ' denotes stochastic domination, see Section 2.2 for the definition. Then the couplings in Lemma 2 (III) and (IV) along with Proposition 3 imply that there exists $\alpha, p_* > 0$ such that

$$\tau_{n/2} \preceq \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log(n/2)}{\log(1+\alpha)} \rfloor} \text{Geo}(p_*) \quad \text{and} \quad C_{n/2} \preceq \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Geo}\left(\frac{n-i}{n}\right).$$

Using the fact that the expectation of a $\text{Geo}(p)$, random variable is $1/p$ we can take the expectation of both sides of (3) to obtain

$$\mathbf{E} T_n \leq (1/p_*) \left\lfloor \frac{\log(n/2)}{\log(1+\alpha)} \right\rfloor + \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{n}{n-i} = O(\log n).$$

Note the first summand above is $O(\log n)$ because p_* and α are positive. The second summand is $O(\log n)$ by canceling the factors of $1/n$ and n then comparing to the harmonic numbers $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i} \approx \log n$. \square

4 Exact distribution of T_n

Let $\sigma_k = \sigma_k(n)$ be the time to wake up all n frogs on the complete graph given that there are k frogs currently awake. Note that when the remainder of frogs are woken is independent of the location of the k frogs. So, $\sigma_1 = T_n$.

Proposition 4. *Let*

$$p_{j,k} = \mathbf{P}[k \text{ awake frogs visit } j \text{ sleeping frogs on the next step}].$$

It holds that

$$p_{j,k} = \frac{1}{(n-1)^k} \sum_{\ell=j}^k \binom{k}{\ell} \binom{n-k}{j} S_j^\ell (k-1)^{k-\ell},$$

where S_j^ℓ is the number of ways to distribute ℓ distinguishable balls into j distinguishable boxes so that no box is empty. This is given by the formula

$$S_j^\ell = j! \cdot S(\ell, j) = \sum_{k=1}^j \binom{j}{j-k} (-1)^{j-k} k^\ell,$$

where $S(\ell, j)$ is Stirling's number of the second kind.

Proof. Observe that to wake up j more frogs, we can use between j and all k frogs, and distribute them onto j unvisited vertices. So let ℓ range between j and k . There are $\binom{k}{\ell}$ ways to choose ℓ of the already awoken frogs to visit the j new vertices. We can choose j new vertices in $\binom{n-k}{j}$ ways. Once we have chosen the ℓ frogs and j new vertices, we can distribute them in (by definition) S_j^ℓ ways. Finally the remaining $k - \ell$ frogs can go to any of the $k - 1$ already visited vertices they are adjacent to, so they can move in $(k - 1)^{k-\ell}$ ways. Also, since there are k frogs and we are thinking of them as distinguishable, each one of these events happens with probability $1/(n-1)^k$. Thus we get, by summing over all ℓ , that

$$p_{j,k} = \frac{1}{(n-1)^k} \sum_{\ell=j}^k \binom{k}{\ell} \binom{n-k}{j} S_j^\ell (k-1)^{k-\ell}.$$

We claim that for fixed ℓ :

$$S_j^\ell = \sum_{k=1}^j \binom{j}{j-k} (-1)^{j-k} (j-k)^\ell$$

To see this we proceed by inclusion exclusion principle. Observe j^ℓ counts the number of ways to distribute ℓ distinguishable balls to j distinguishable boxes with some boxes left empty possibly. So to count the number of ways with no boxes left empty, we should subtract the number with at least one empty, which is $\binom{j}{j-1} (j-1)^\ell$ since we have $j-1$ boxes that

we will possibly place balls in, and have $j - 1$ choices for each of the balls. But now all the ways with exactly two boxes left empty have been added once and subtracted twice (since we counted them $\binom{2}{1}$ times in the subtraction), so we should add $\binom{j}{j-2}(j-2)^\ell$ to count the number of ways with at least two left empty. Keep going in this fashion to get

$$S_j^\ell = \sum_{k=1}^j \binom{j}{k} (-1)^{j-k} (j-k)^\ell = \sum_{k=1}^j \binom{j}{j-k} (-1)^{j-k} (j-k)^\ell.$$

□

An explicit formula for time to wake all n frogs on the complete graph with n vertices is defined recursively as follows:

Proposition 5. *Let $p_{j,k}$ be as in Proposition 4 and let $p'_{j,k} = \frac{p_{j,k}}{1-p_{0,k}}$. Also, let X_k be distributed as a mixture of $\sigma_{k+1}, \dots, \sigma_{2k}$, taking the value σ_{k+j} with probability $p'_{j,k}$ and let Y_k be distributed as a mixture of $\sigma_{k+1}, \dots, \sigma_n$, similarly taking the value σ_{k+j} with probability $p'_{j,k}$. Then the random variables σ_k satisfy the following recursive distributional relationship*

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_1 &\stackrel{d}{=} 1 + \sigma_2, \\ \sigma_k &\stackrel{d}{=} \begin{cases} \text{Geo}(1 - p_{0,k}) + X_k, & 2 \leq k \leq \frac{n}{2} \\ \text{Geo}(1 - p_{0,k}) + Y_k, & \frac{n}{2} < k \leq n - 1 \end{cases}. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that $T_n = \sigma_1$.

Proof. The expression for σ_1 is the observation that after one step there will always be two frogs awake. When $k \geq 2$ frogs are awake the time to wake more frogs is a geometric random variable with mean $1 - p_{0,k}$. Conditioned that the k frogs wake another frog, we obtain j more awake frogs with probability $p'_{j,k}$. In this situation we now must wait σ_{k+j} steps. □

5 Further Questions

The wakeup time for the frog model is a largely unexplored topic. There are many further questions one could ask. We remark that Popov and Hoffman, Johnson, and Junge discuss a few other problems on finite graphs.

- (i) It is interesting to compare the wakeup time for the frog model on G , a graph with n vertices, to the cover time for n independent random walks on G started in the least optimal starting configuration. Perhaps the frogs being evenly spread might overcome the disadvantage of starting with only one awake particle. *Are there graphs for which the frog model wakeup time is faster than the cover time for n -multiple random walks?* The full binary tree of height n is a good candidate. The expected cover time with 2^n particles started at the same leaf is $O(n^2(2/\sqrt{2})^n)$ (see [Sau10]), whereas the wakeup time is conjectured to be polynomial in n (see [HJJ15]).

- (ii) Let $G(n, p)$ denote an Erdős-Rényi graph (that is, the random graph obtained by keeping each edge in K_n with probability p). *What is the wakeup time for the frog model on $G(n, p)$?* For fixed $p > 0$, this should still with high probability be $O(\log n)$, but for p_n decaying with n the graph is sparser and the wakeup time is possibly larger.
- (iii) *What is the wakeup time for other graphs?* For instance, the path, cycle, and grid.

6 Appendix

Phases for argument in [FG85]

- i. The time inform N residents for some fixed constant N (not growing with n).
- ii. The time to go from N to ζn informed residents with $0 < \zeta < 1$ a fixed constant.
- iii. The time to go from ζn to $(1 - \epsilon)n$ with $\epsilon > 0$ a small fixed constant.
- iv. The time to go from $(1 - \epsilon)n$ to $n - R$ informed residents where R is a large fixed constant.
- v. The time to go from $n - R$ to n informed residents.

Deterministic equation in [Pit87]

Letting $N(t)$ be the number of informed residents at time t :

$$N(t + 1) = n - (n - N(t)) \exp(-N(t)/n).$$

Phases for argument in [DK]

- i. The time inform \sqrt{n} residents.
- ii. The time to go from \sqrt{n} to $n/2$ informed residents.
- iii. The time to go from $n/2$ to n informed residents.

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