






Random models of binary search trees








Benoît Corsini

Content Table

-  Random permutations
-  Binary search trees
-  Height of random models of binary search trees
-  Proof heuristics
-  Open questions

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-  Binary search trees
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Representation

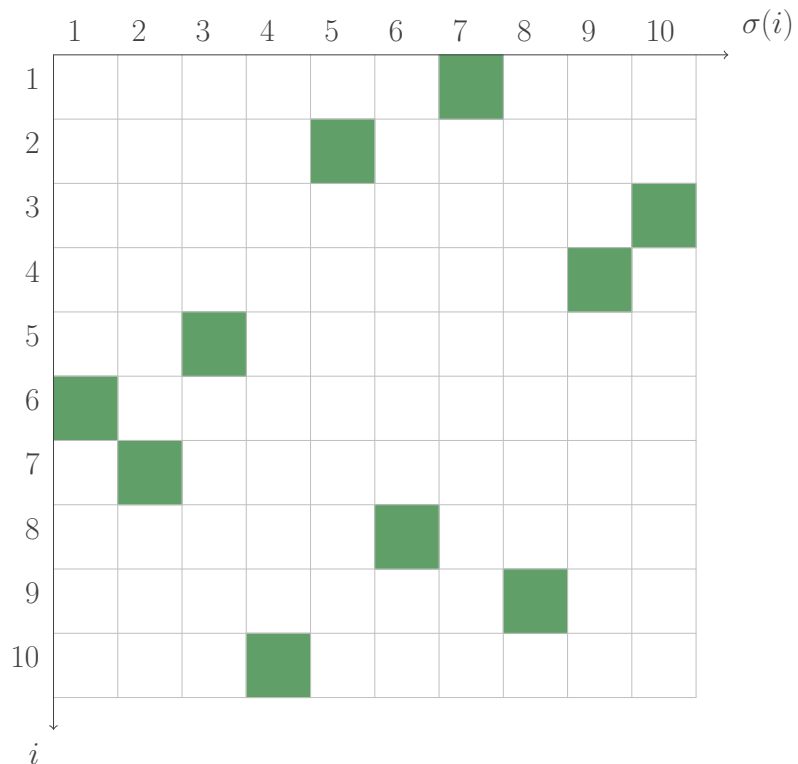
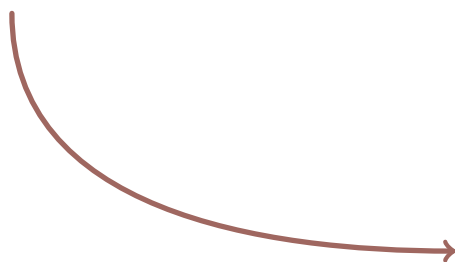




$$\sigma = (7, 5, 10, 9, 3, 1, 2, 6, 8, 4)$$



$$\sigma = (7, 5, 10, 9, 3, 1, 2, 6, 8, 4)$$



More examples

More examples

$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)$

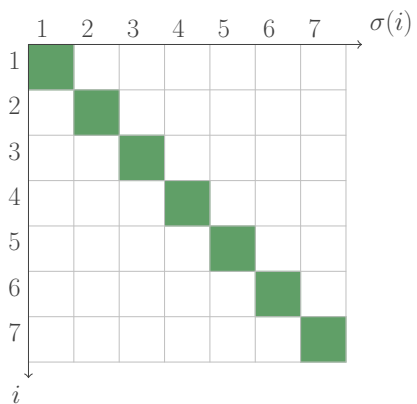
$(7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1)$

$(4, 2, 6, 1, 3, 5, 7)$

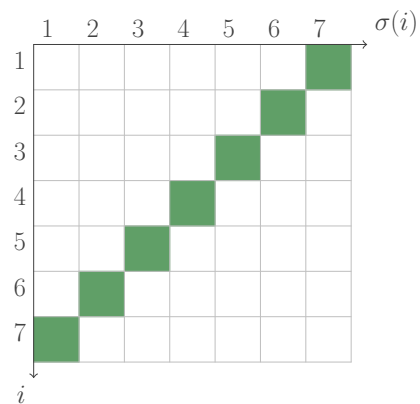
$(4, 6, 2, 7, 5, 3, 1)$

More examples

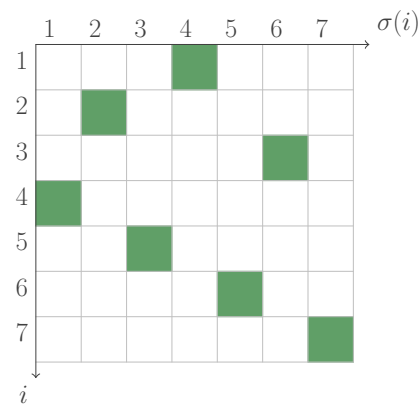
(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)



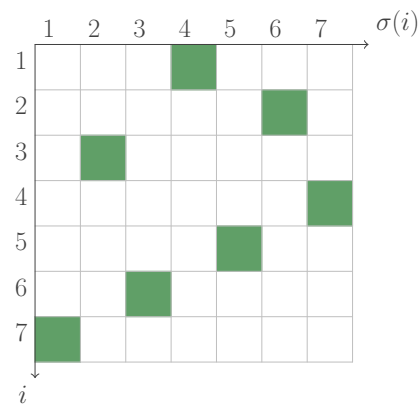
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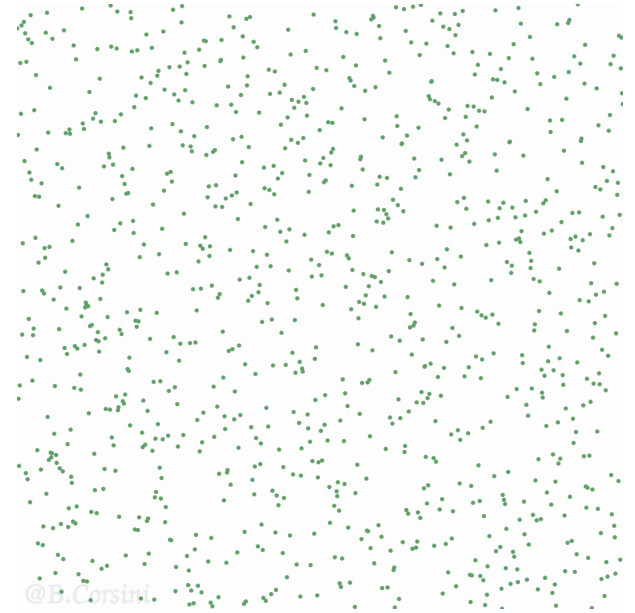
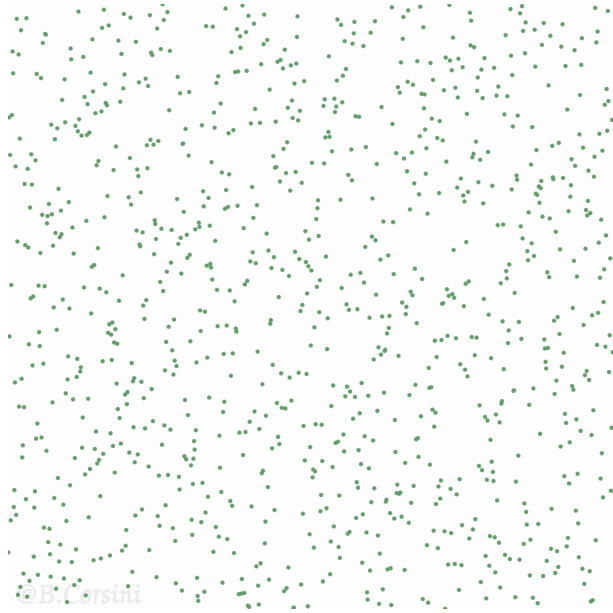
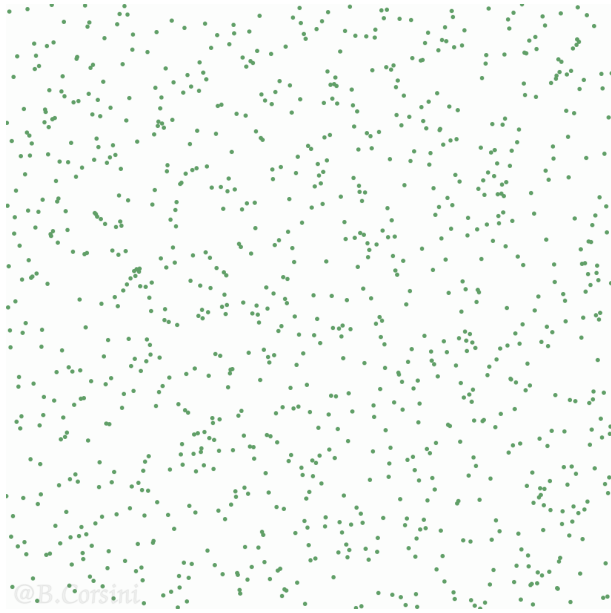


(4, 6, 2, 7, 5, 3, 1)



Images (uniform permutations)

Images (uniform permutations)



Random models of permutations

Definition (Mallows permutations)

A random Mallows permutation $X_{n,\lambda}$ with parameters $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\lambda \in [0, \infty)$ is defined by

$$\mathbb{P}[X_{n,\lambda} = \sigma] = \frac{\lambda^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}}{Z_{n,\lambda}},$$

where $\text{Inv}(\sigma) = |\{i < j : \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}|$ is the number of inversions of σ and $Z_{n,\lambda} = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \lambda^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$ is a normalizing constant.

Definition (Record-biased permutations)

A random record-biased permutation $X_{n,\lambda}$ with parameters $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\lambda \in [0, \infty)$ is defined by

$$\mathbb{P}[X_{n,\lambda} = \sigma] = \frac{\lambda^{\text{Rec}(\sigma)}}{W_{n,\lambda}},$$

where $\text{Rec}(\sigma) = |\{i : \forall j < i, \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}|$ is the number of records of σ and $W_{n,\lambda} = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \lambda^{\text{Rec}(\sigma)}$ is a normalizing constant.

Summary

- A Mallows permutation X depends on $\text{Inv}(\sigma) = |\{i < j : \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}|$ as follows

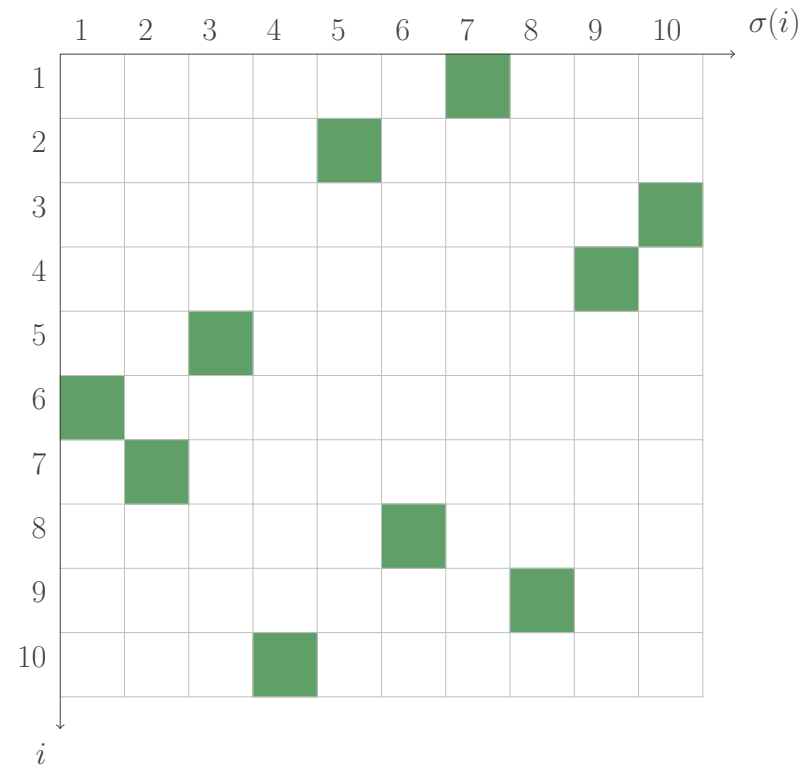
$$\mathbb{P}[X = \sigma] \propto \lambda^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}.$$

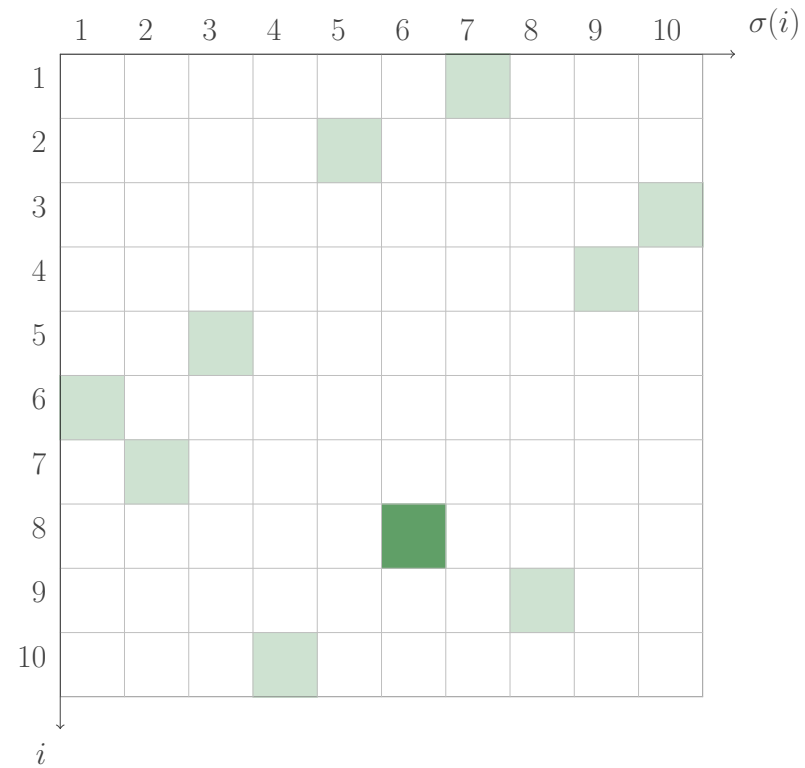
- A record-biased permutation X depends on $\text{Rec}(\sigma) = |\{i : \forall j < i, \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}|$ as follows

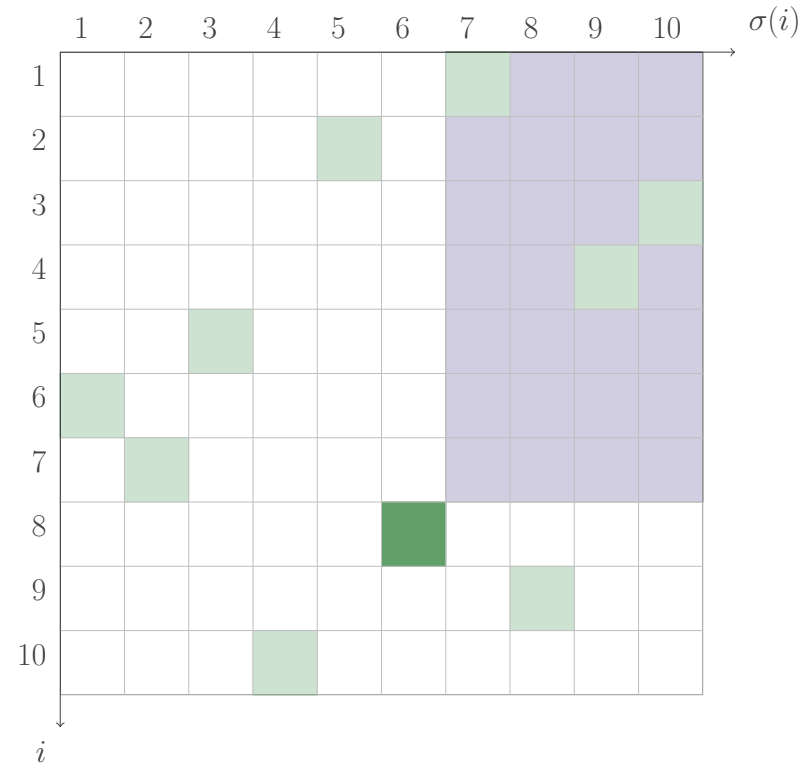
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Inversions and records

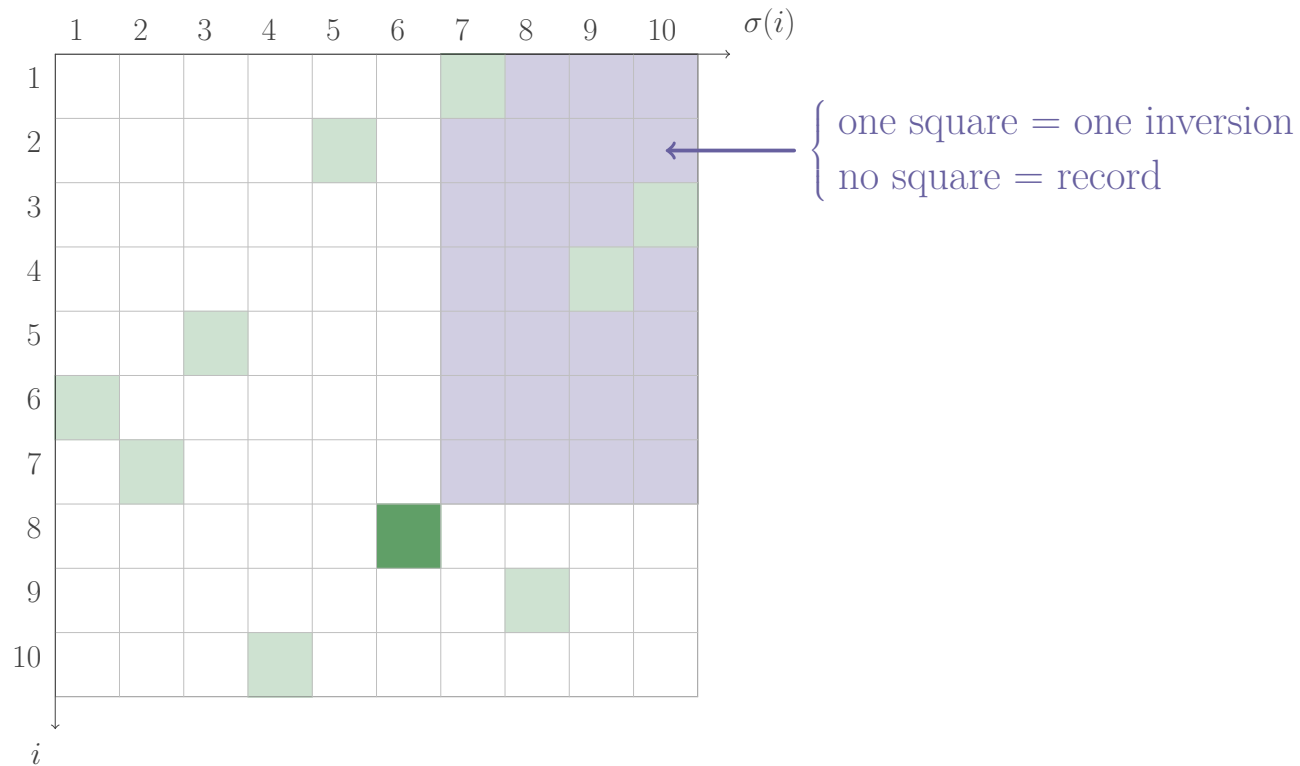


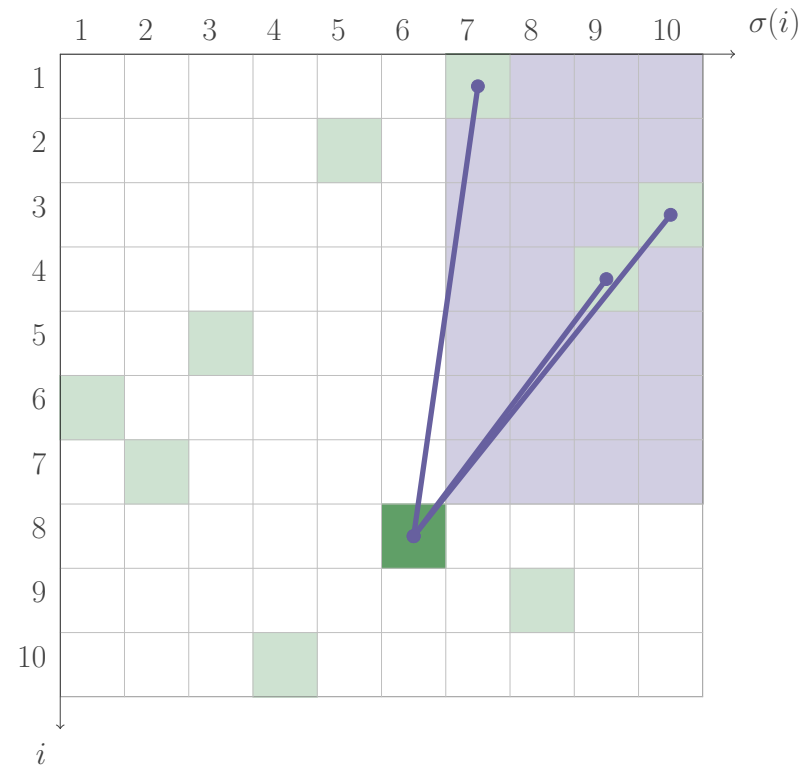


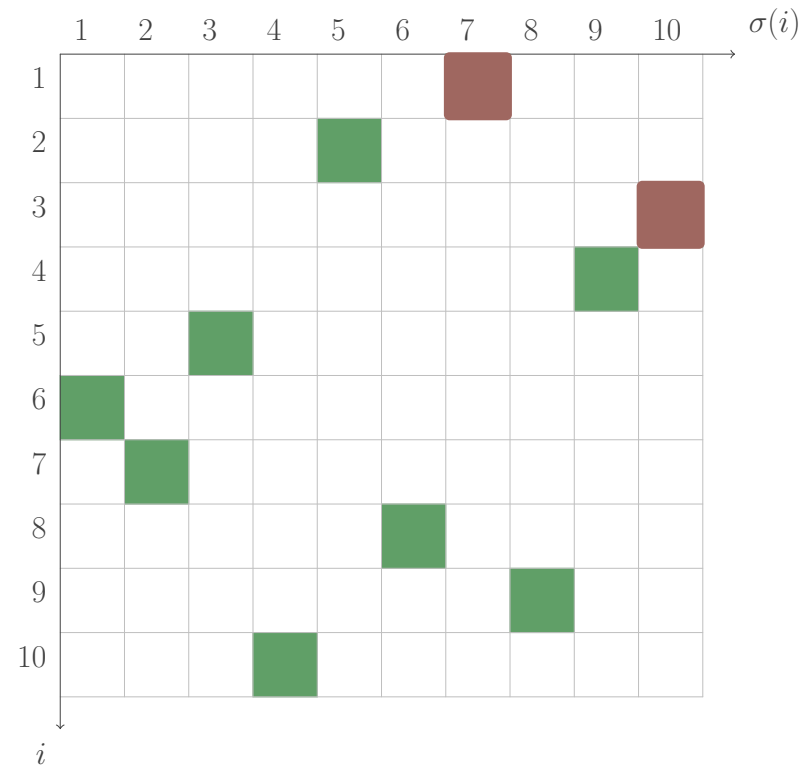




Inversions and records





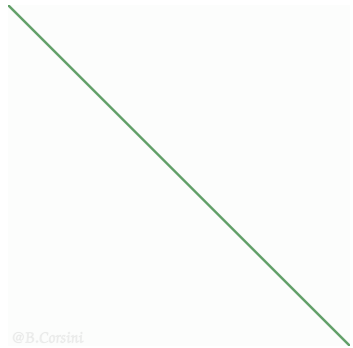


Images (Mallows permutations)

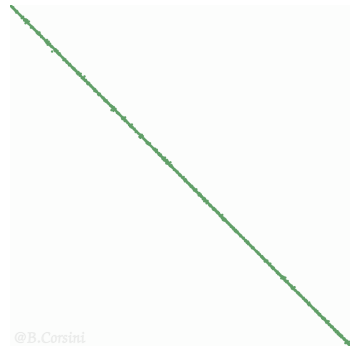
$$\mathbb{P}[X = \sigma] \propto \lambda^{|\{i < j : \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}|}$$

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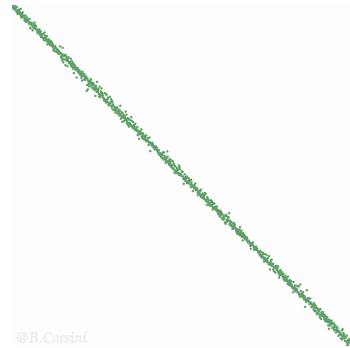
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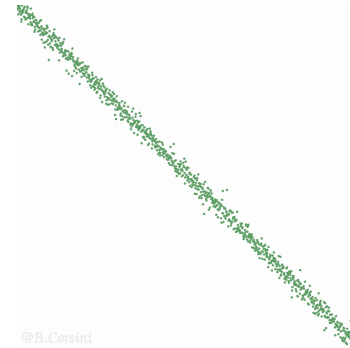
$\lambda = 0$



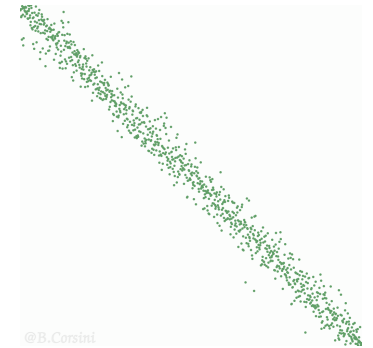
$\lambda = 0.5$



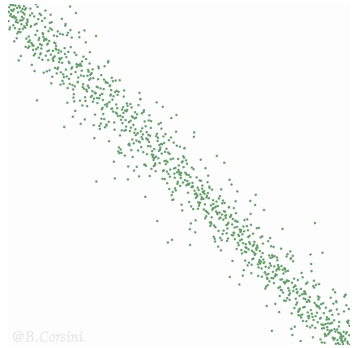
$\lambda = 0.8$



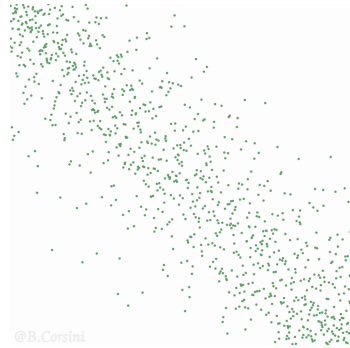
$\lambda = 0.9$



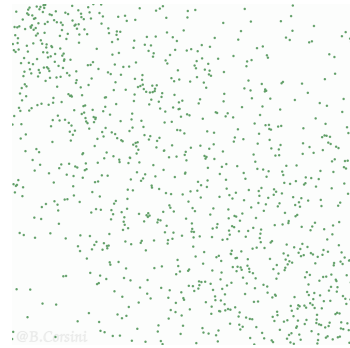
$\lambda = 0.95$



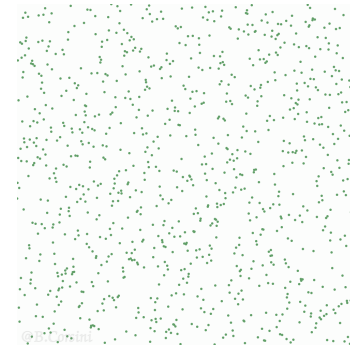
$\lambda = 0.97$



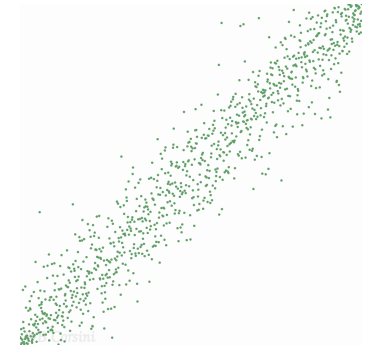
$\lambda = 0.99$



$\lambda = 0.997$



$\lambda = 1$



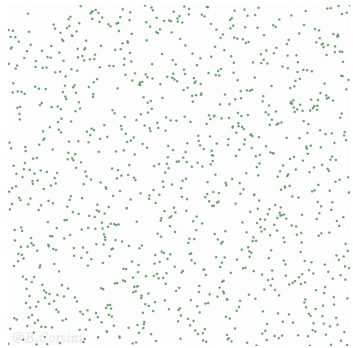
$\lambda = 1.02$

Images (record-biased permutations)

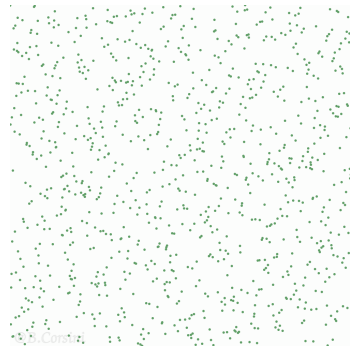
$$\mathbb{P}[X = \sigma] \propto \lambda^{|\{i: \forall j < i, \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}|}$$

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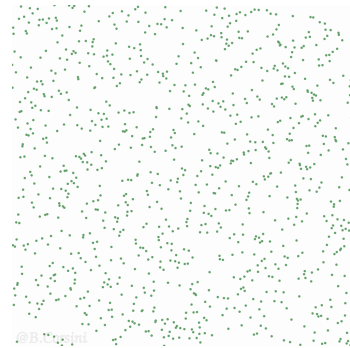
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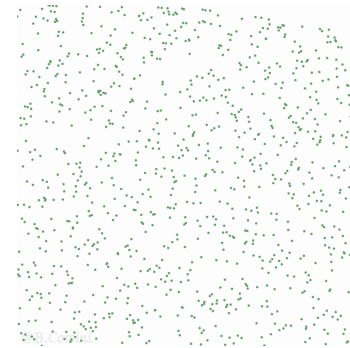
$\lambda = 0$



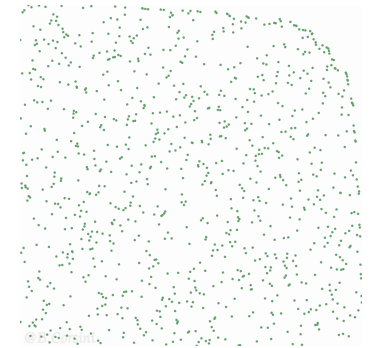
$\lambda = 1$



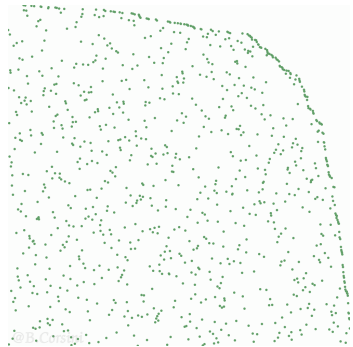
$\lambda = 5$



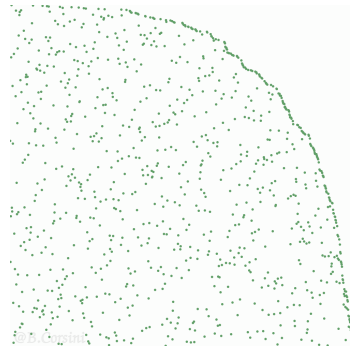
$\lambda = 10$



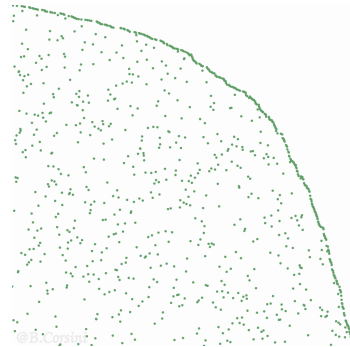
$\lambda = 20$



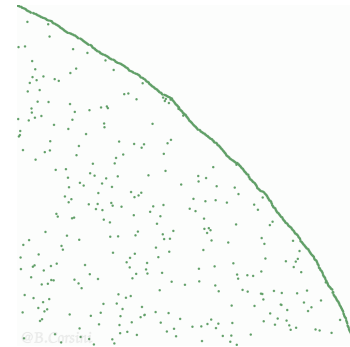
$\lambda = 50$



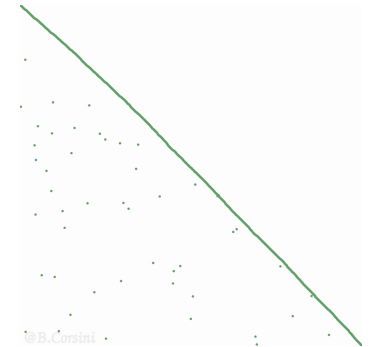
$\lambda = 100$



$\lambda = 200$








$\lambda = 1000$



$\lambda = 10000$

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Binary search trees

Definition

A binary search tree is a binary labelled tree such that the label of each node is larger than the labels of the nodes in its left subtree and smaller than the labels of the nodes in its right subtree.

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Given a binary search tree, any new value has a unique position where it can be inserted in the tree.

→ Any sequence of distinct values corresponds to a unique binary search tree.

An example



An example

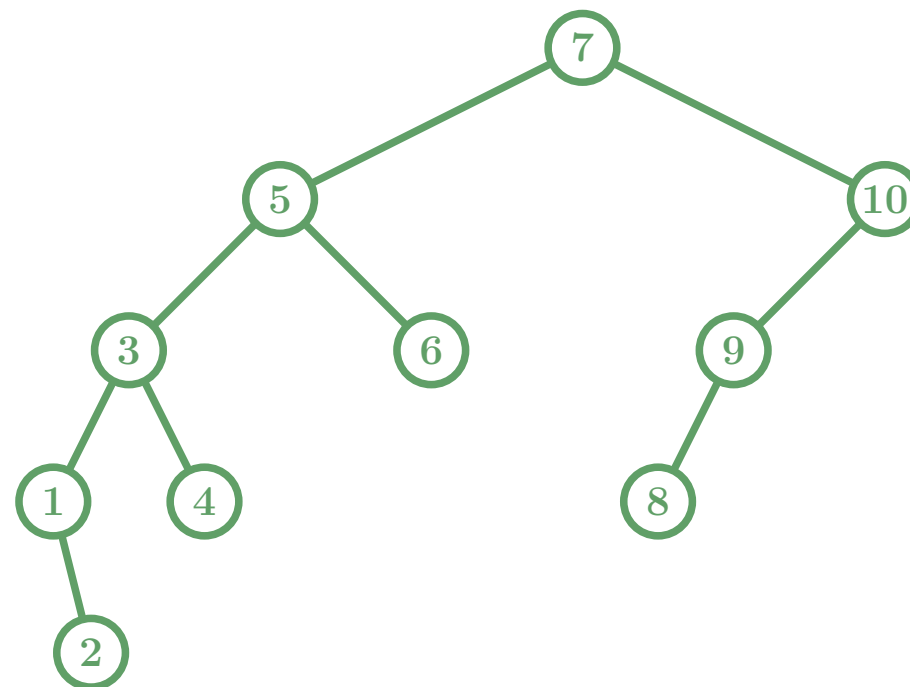
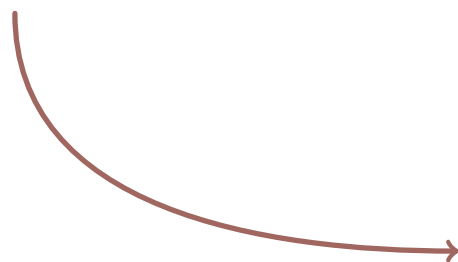


$$\sigma = (7, 5, 10, 9, 3, 1, 2, 6, 8, 4)$$

An example



$\sigma = (7, 5, 10, 9, 3, 1, 2, 6, 8, 4)$



More examples

More examples

$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)$

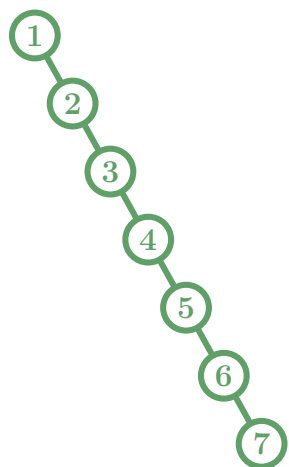
$(7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1)$

$(4, 2, 6, 1, 3, 5, 7)$

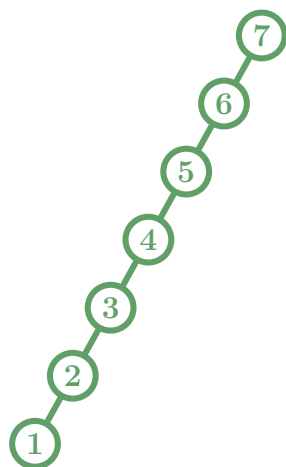
$(4, 6, 2, 7, 5, 3, 1)$

More examples

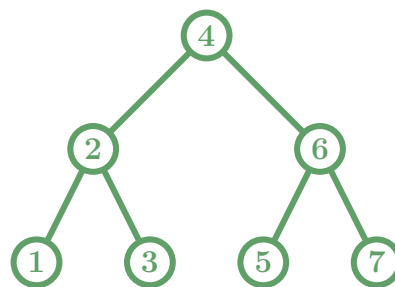
(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)



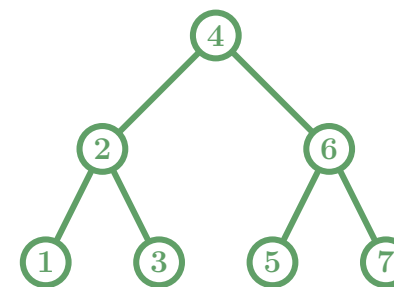
(7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1)



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Binary search trees and matrix representation of permutations



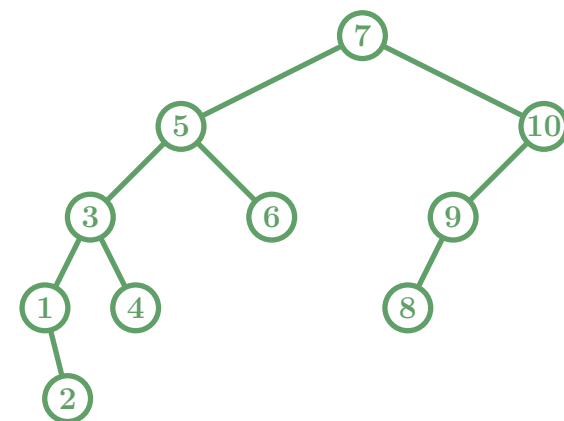
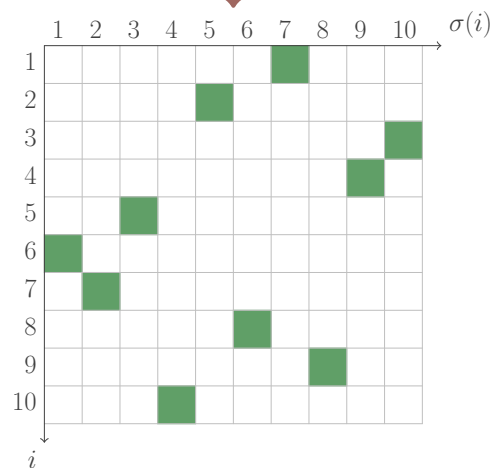


$$\sigma = (7, 5, 10, 9, 3, 1, 2, 6, 8, 4)$$

Binary search trees and matrix representation of permutations



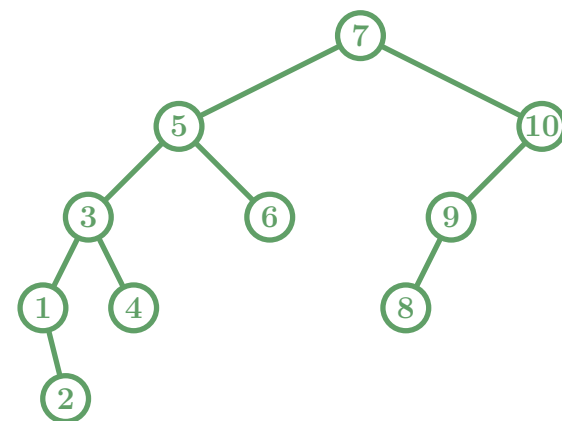
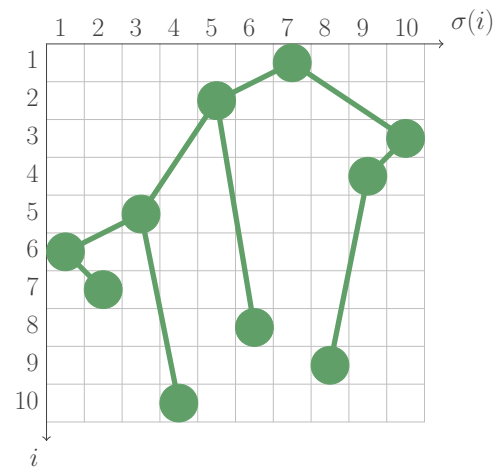
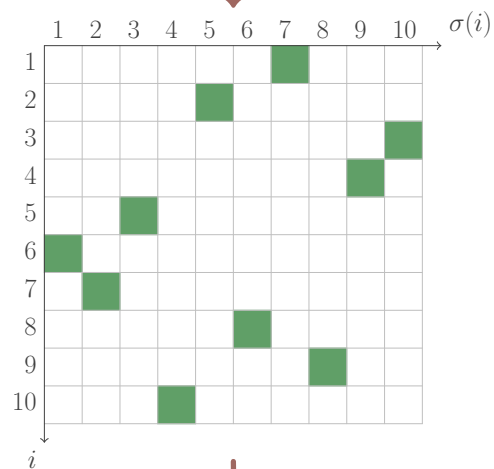
$$\sigma = (7, 5, 10, 9, 3, 1, 2, 6, 8, 4)$$



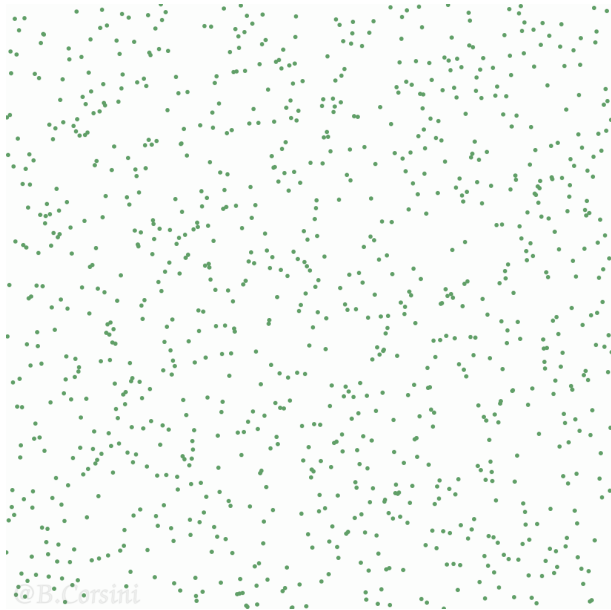
Binary search trees and matrix representation of permutations



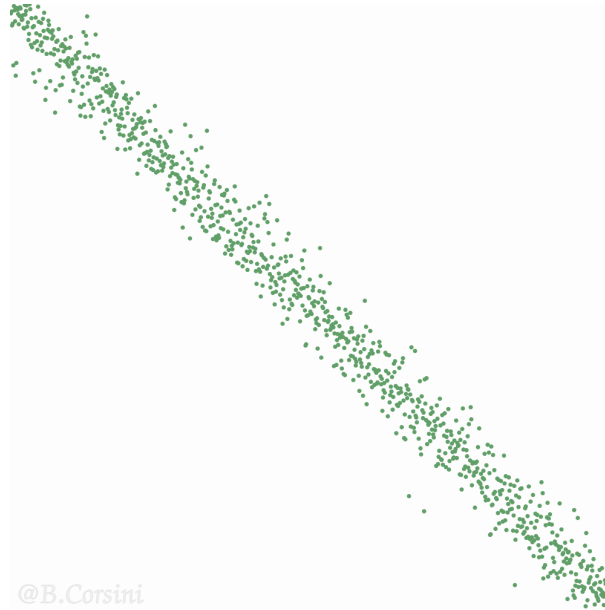
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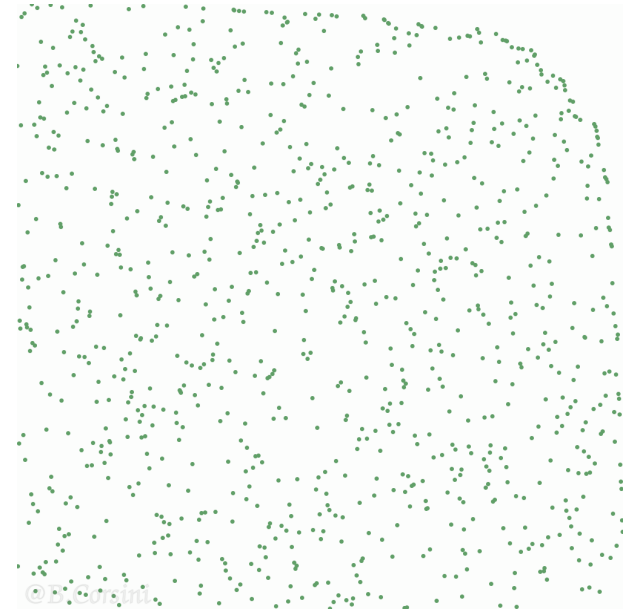
Images



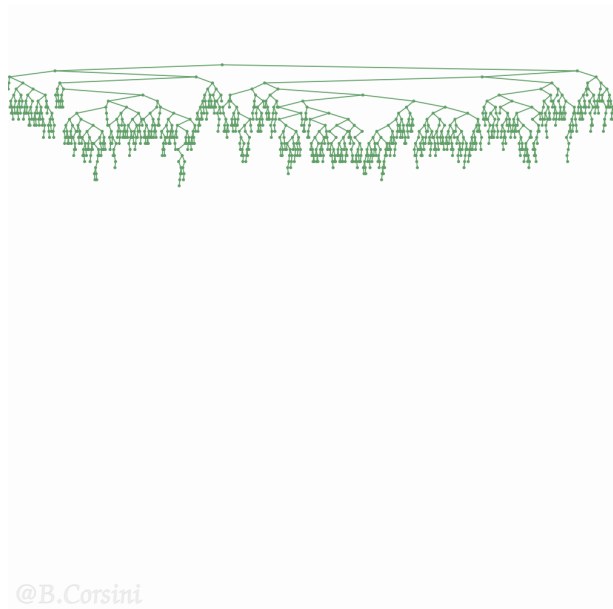
Uniform permutation



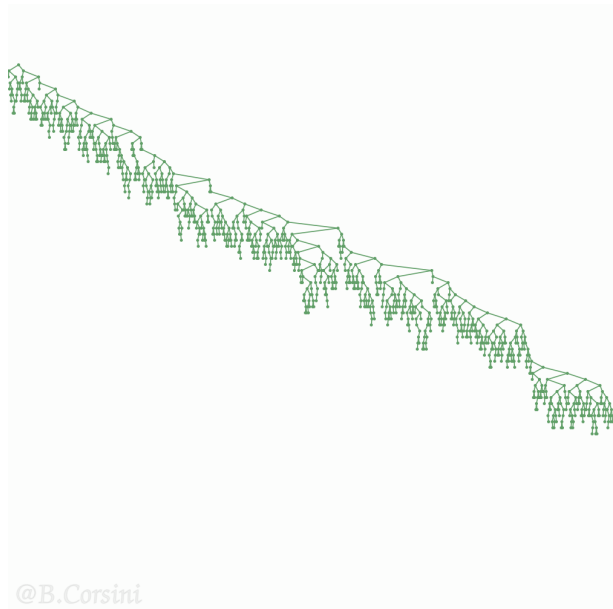
Mallows permutation



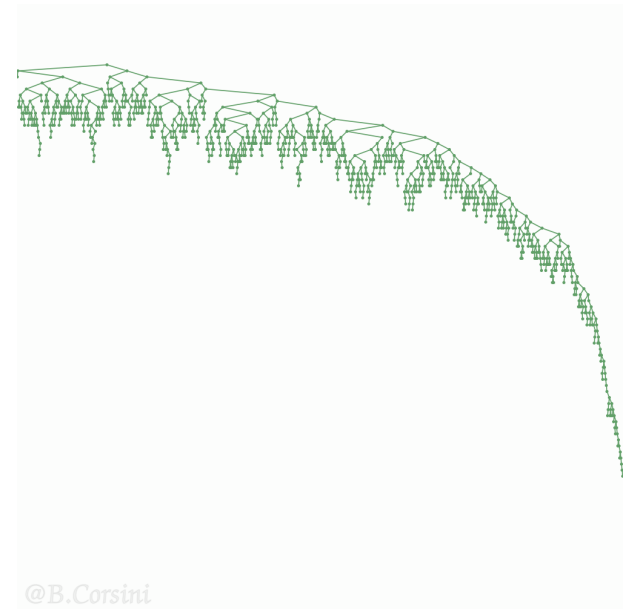
Record-biased permutation



Uniform permutation



Mallows permutation



Record-biased permutation

A fun property!

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Why can we restrict λ to $[0, 1]$ in the case of Mallows trees ?

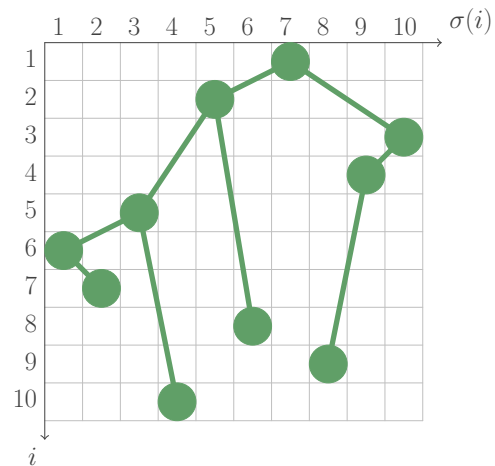
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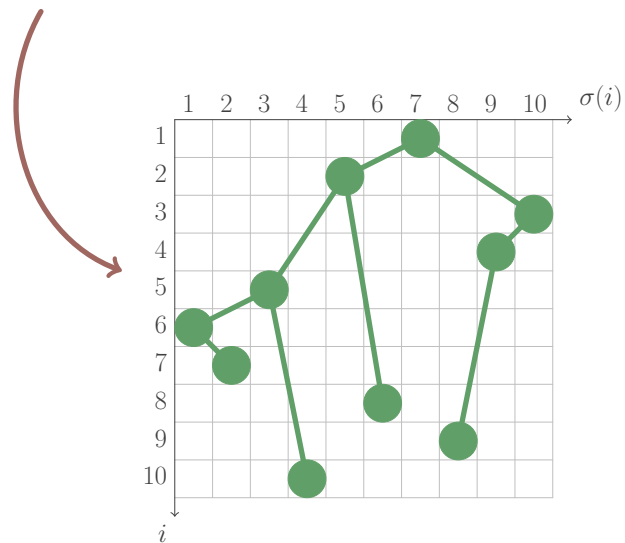
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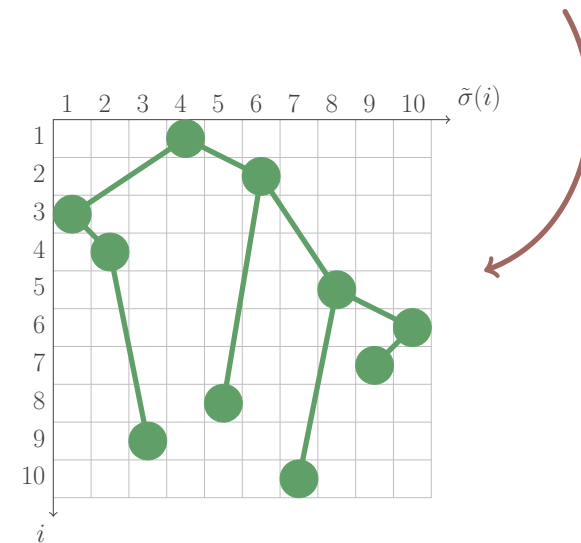
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$$\sigma = (7, 5, 10, 9, 3, 1, 2, 6, 8, 4)$$



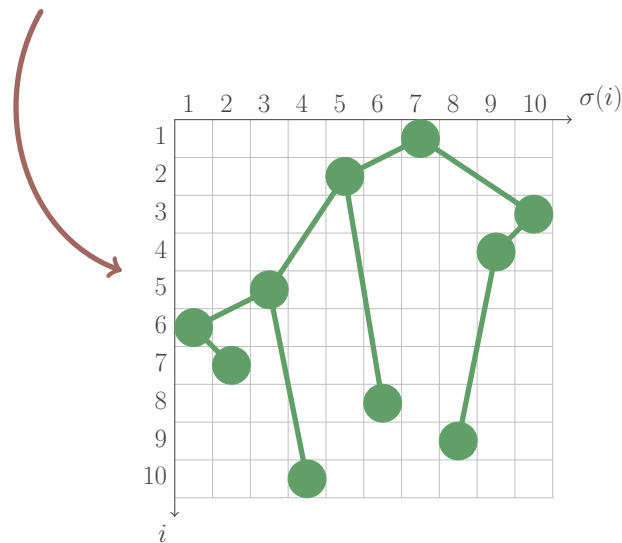
$$\tilde{\sigma} = (4, 6, 1, 2, 8, 10, 9, 5, 3, 7)$$



A fun property!

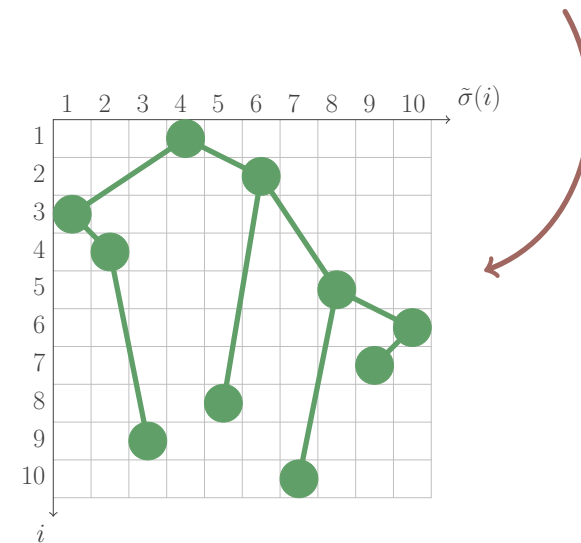


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$$\mathbb{P}[X = \sigma] \propto \lambda^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

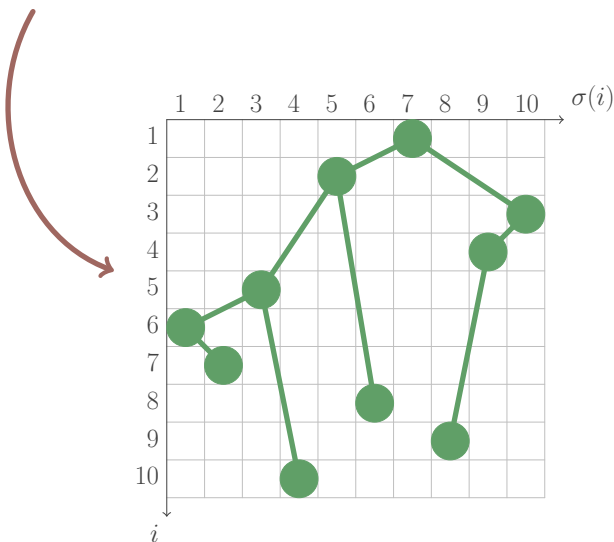
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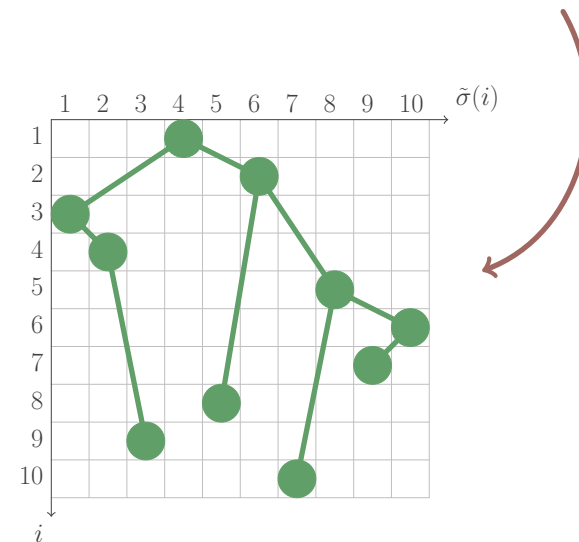


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$$\mathbb{P}[X = \sigma] \propto \lambda^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

$$\tilde{\sigma} = (4, 6, 1, 2, 8, 10, 9, 5, 3, 7)$$



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[\tilde{X} = \sigma] &\propto \lambda^{\text{Inv}(\tilde{\sigma})} \\ &\propto \lambda^{\binom{n}{2} - \text{Inv}(\sigma)} \\ &\propto (1/\lambda)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} \end{aligned}$$

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Height of random binary search trees

Height of random binary search trees

Theorem (Devroye [1986])

Write H_n for the height of a binary search tree of drawn from a random uniform permutation of size n . Then

$$\frac{H_n}{c^* \log n} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 1,$$

where $c^* = 4.311\dots$ is the unique solution to $c \log(2e/c) = 1$ with $c \geq 2$.

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- The asymptotic behaviour is close to the optimal height, $\lceil \log_2 n \rceil$.
- c^* relates to properties of branching processes.

Height of Mallows trees

Theorem (Addario-Berry and  [2021])

Write $H_{n,\lambda}$ for the height of a Mallows tree with parameters n and $\lambda \in [0, 1]$. Then

$$\frac{H_{n,\lambda}}{n(1-\lambda) + c^* \log n} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 1.$$

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- When $1 - \lambda \gg \log n/n$, the height looks “linear” and behaves as $n(1 - \lambda)$.

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- When $1 - \lambda \ll \log n/n$, the height looks like a RBST and behaves as $c^* \log n$.
- When $1 - \lambda \gg \log n/n$, the height looks “linear” and behaves as $n(1 - \lambda)$.
- When $1 - \lambda \simeq \log n/n$, both terms contribute.

Height of record-biased trees

Theorem (👤 [2023+])

Write $H_{n,\lambda}$ for the height of a record-biased tree with parameters n and $\lambda \in [0, \infty)$. Then

$$\frac{H_{n,\lambda}}{\max \left\{ c^* \log n, \lambda \log \left(1 + \frac{n}{\lambda} \right) \right\}} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 1.$$

Theorem (👤 [2023+])

Write $H_{n,\lambda}$ for the height of a record-biased tree with parameters n and $\lambda \in [0, \infty)$. Then

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- When λ is fixed, the height behaves as $\max\{c^*, \lambda\} \log n$.

Height of random models of binary search trees

Height of random models of binary search trees

Summary

For random binary search trees

$$H_n \simeq c^* \log n .$$






For Mallows trees

$$H_{n,\lambda} \simeq n(1 - \lambda) + c^* \log n .$$

For record-biased trees

$$H_{n,\lambda} \simeq \max \left\{ c^* \log n, \lambda \log \left(1 + n/\lambda \right) \right\} \simeq \max \{ c^*, \lambda \} \log n .$$

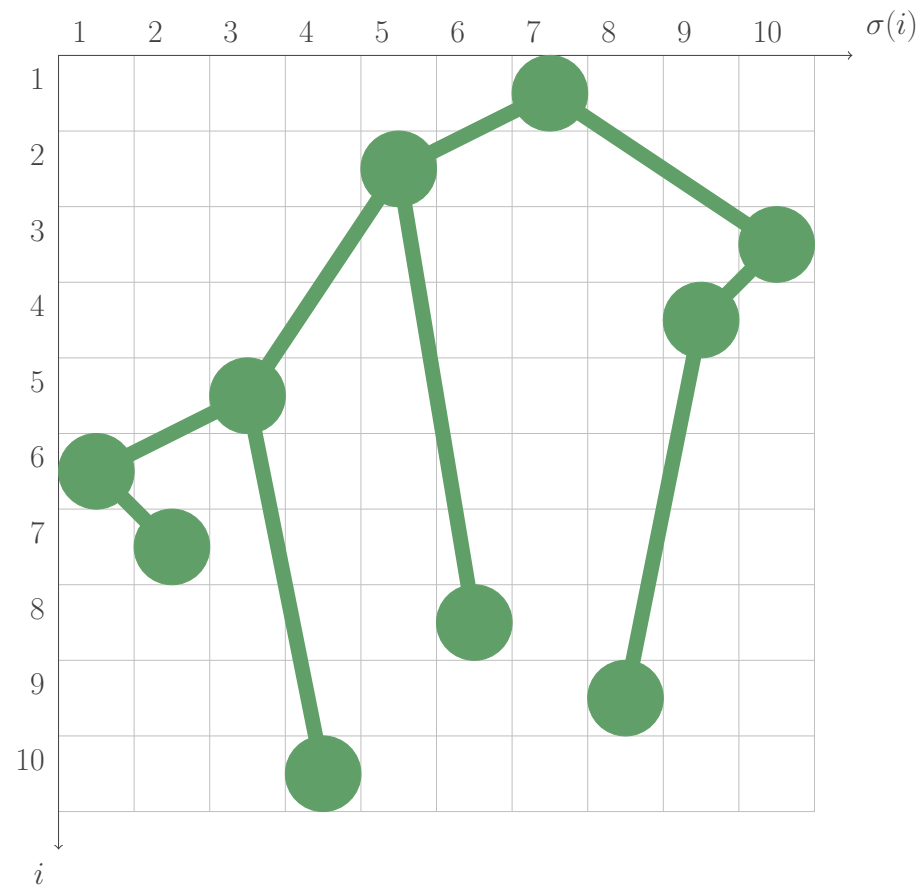
Content Table

-  Random permutations
-  Binary search trees
-  Height of random models of binary search trees
-  Proof heuristics
-  Open questions

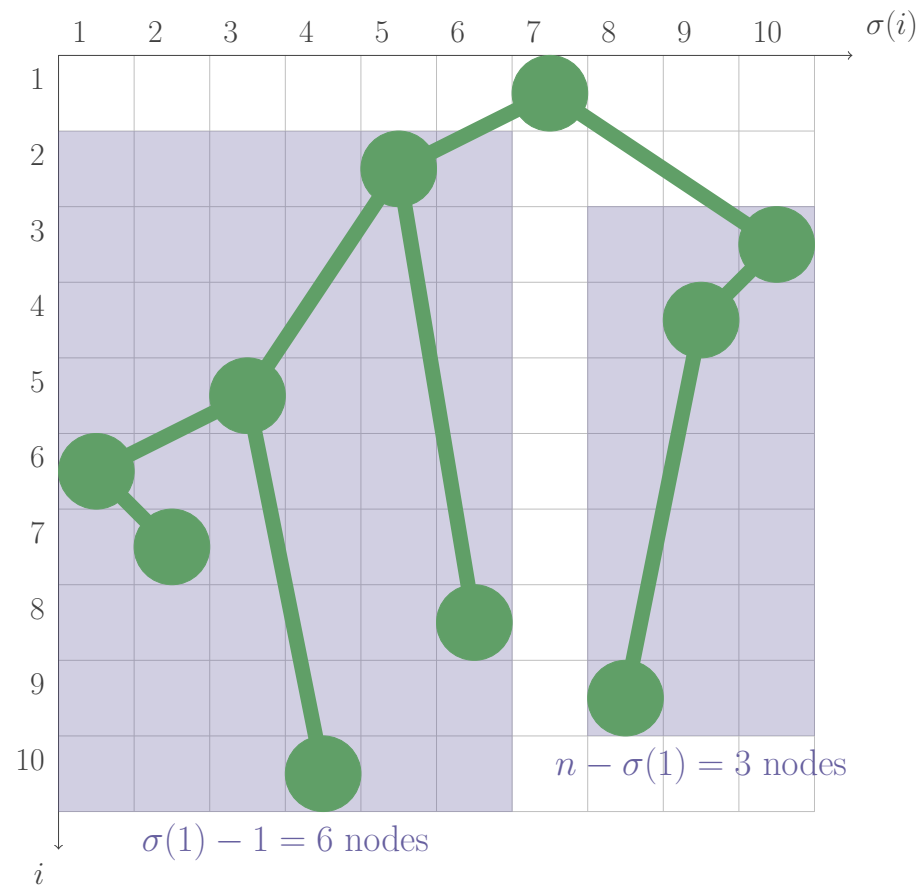
An important remark



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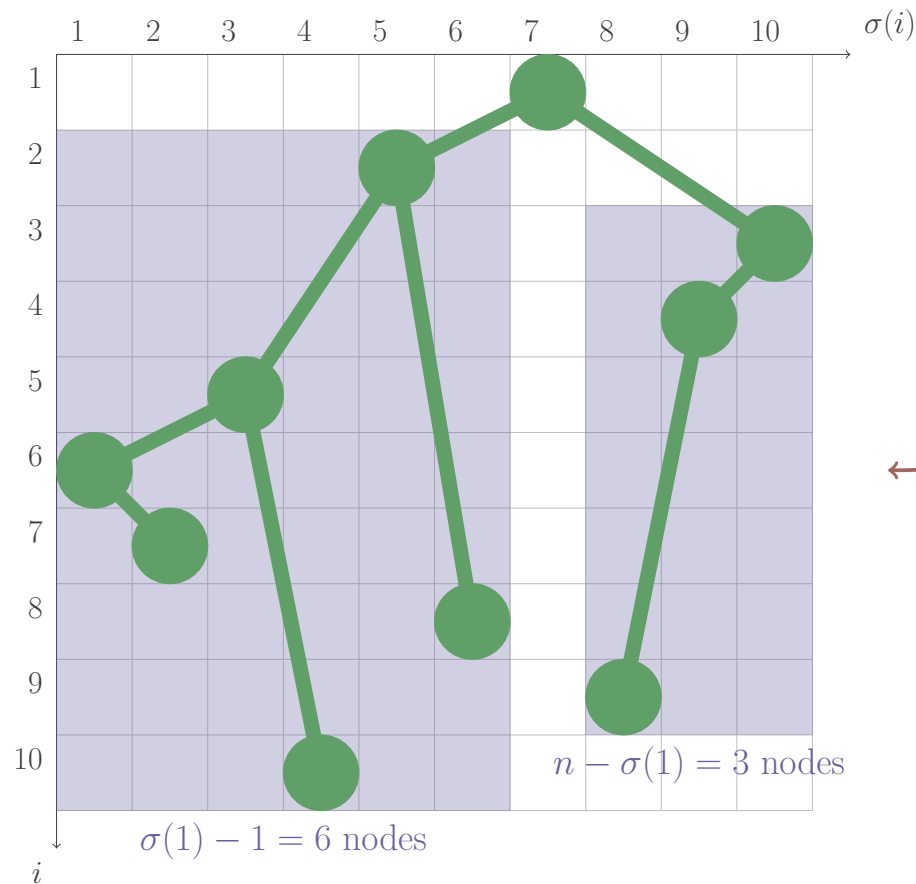


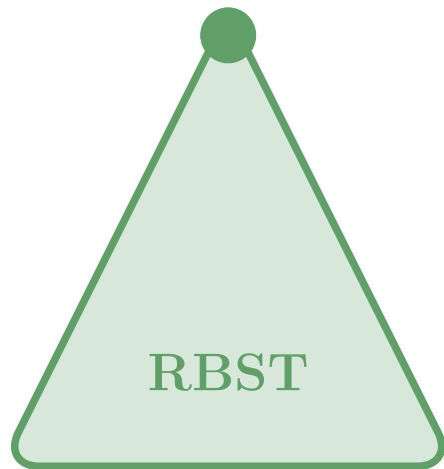
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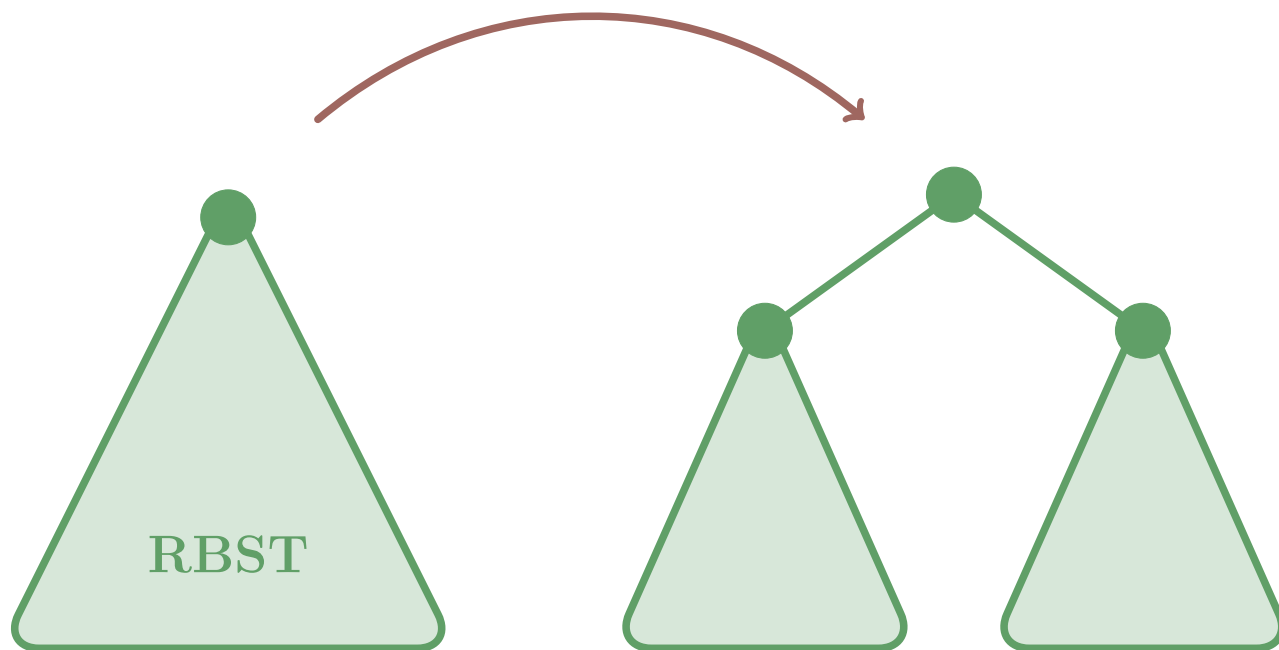


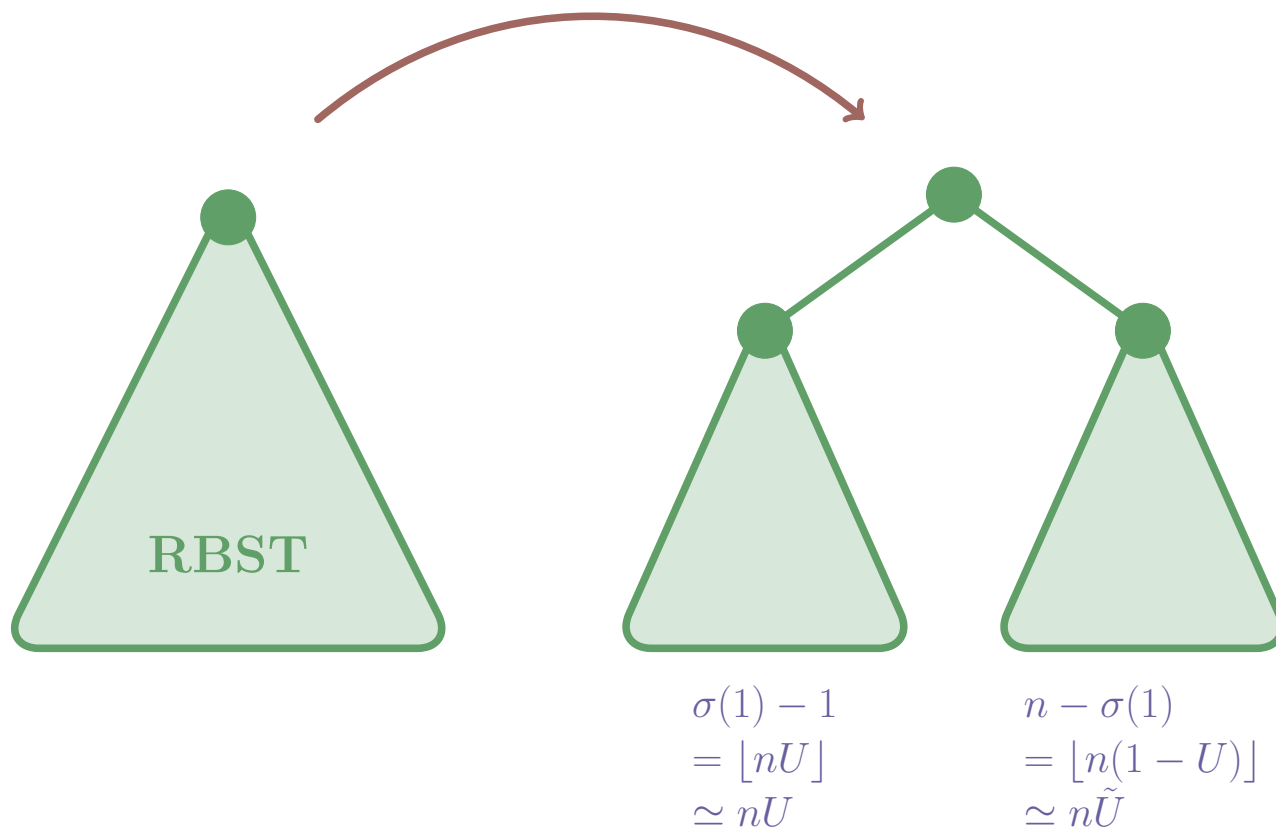
Tree of $\sigma_- = (\sigma(i) : \sigma(i) < \sigma(1))$

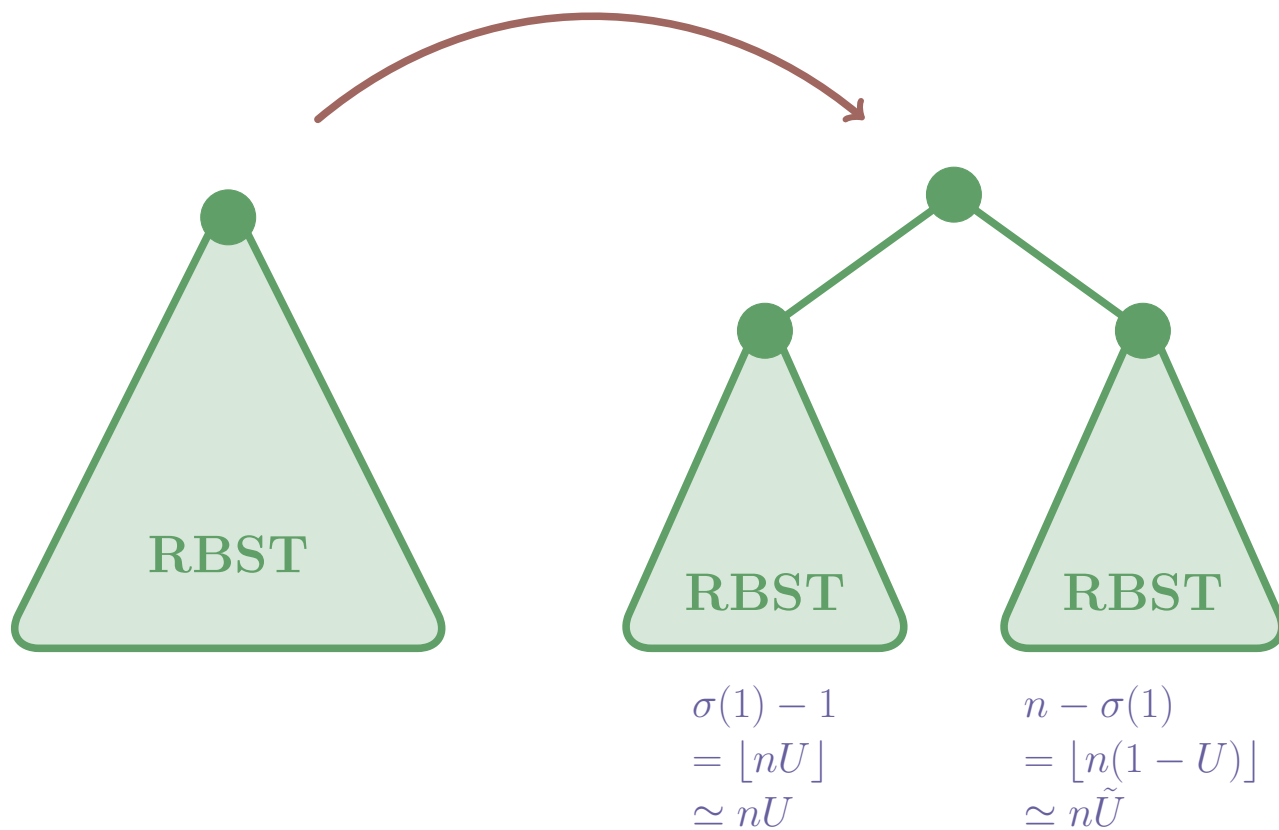
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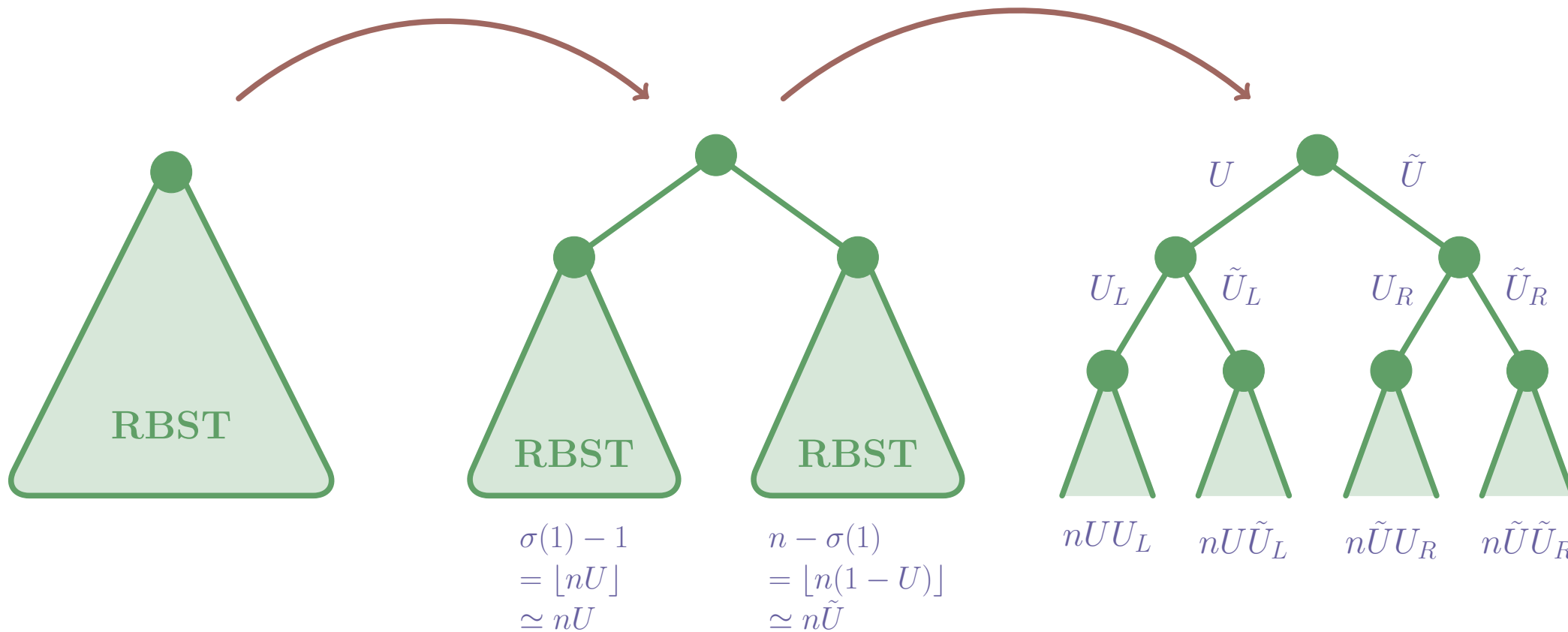


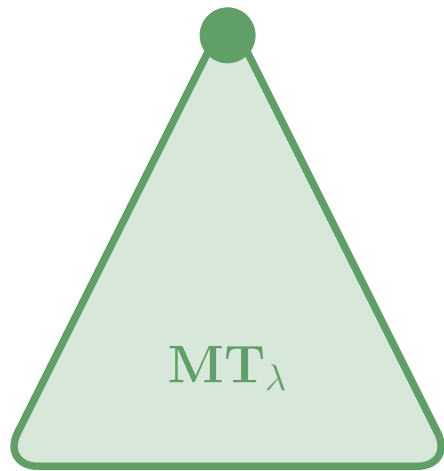


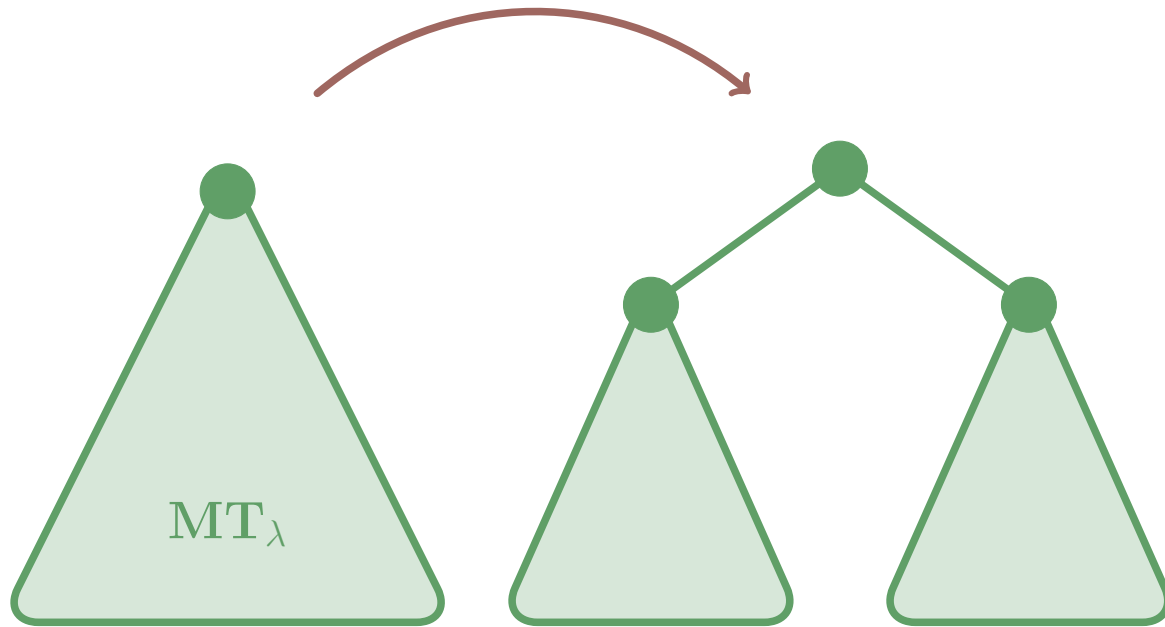


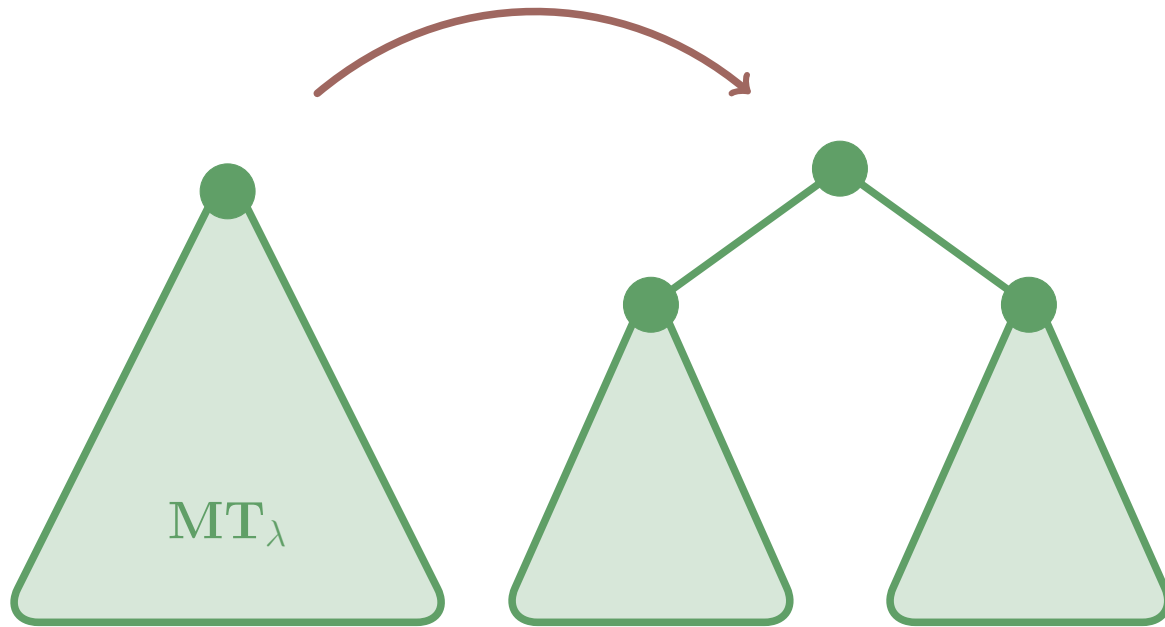




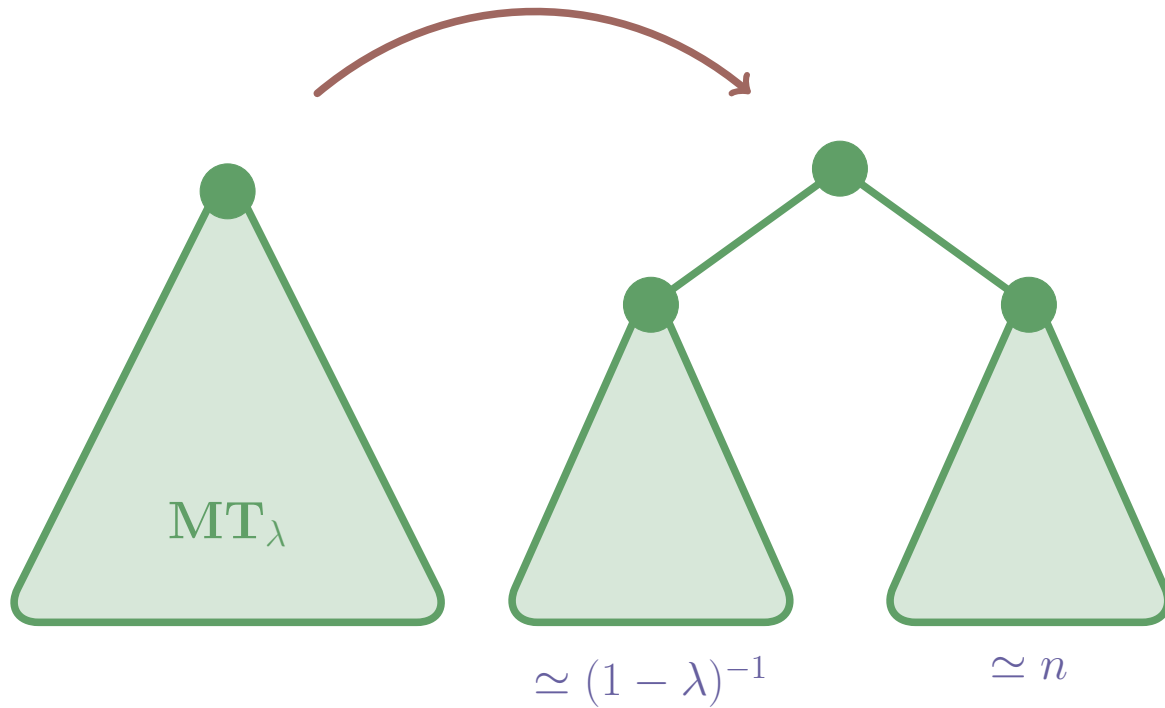


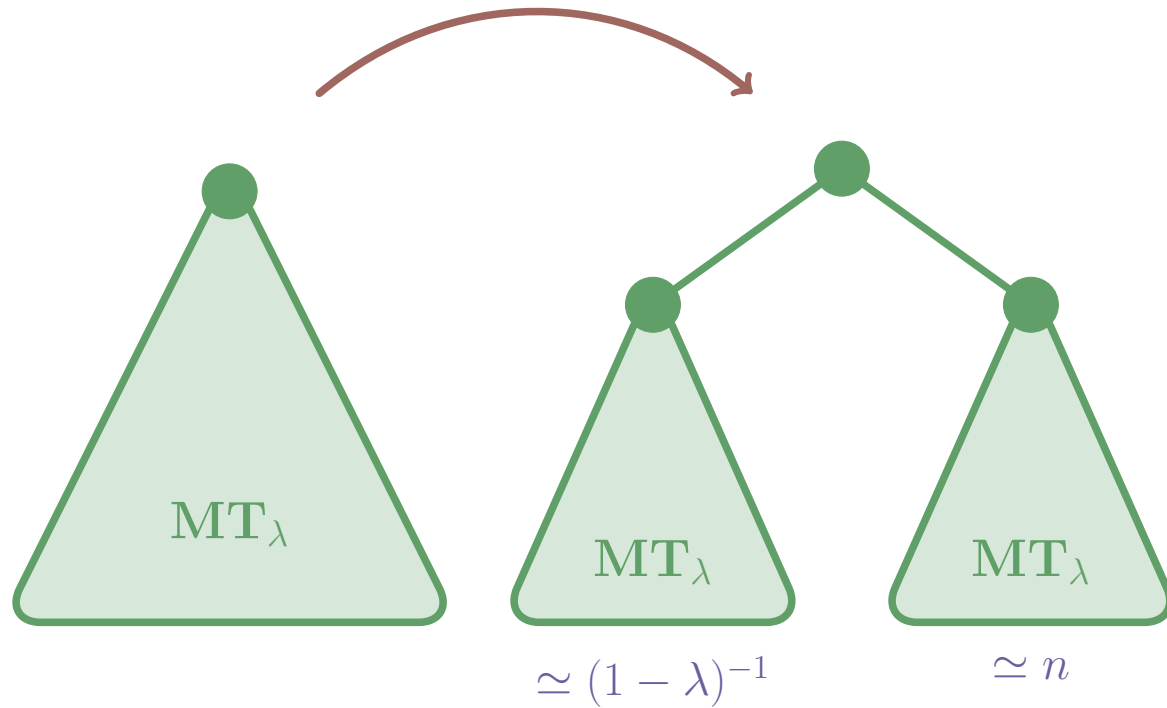


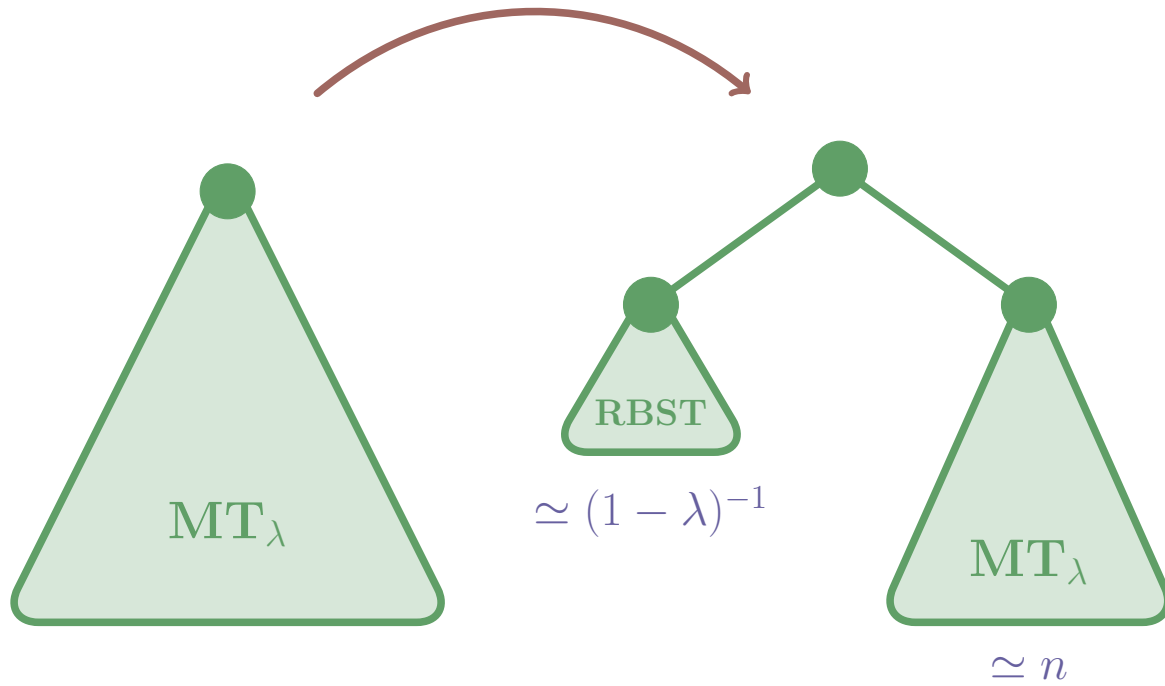


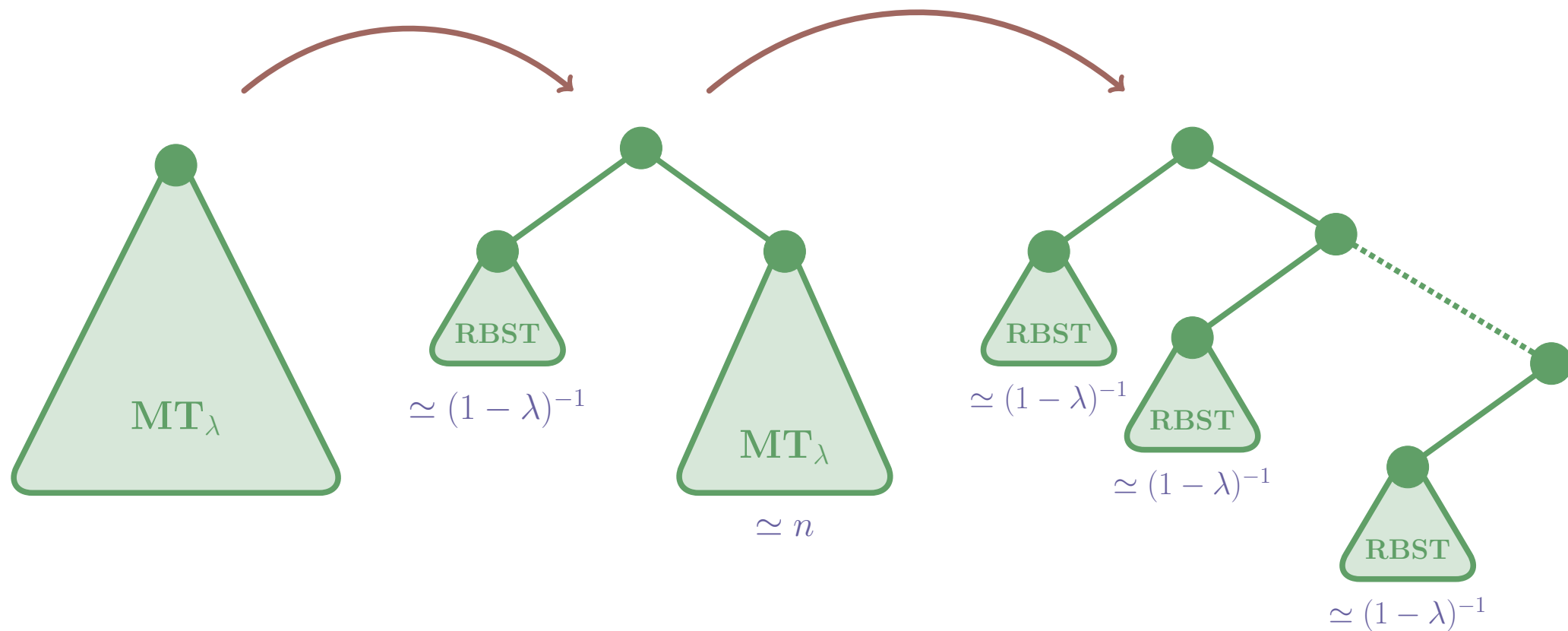


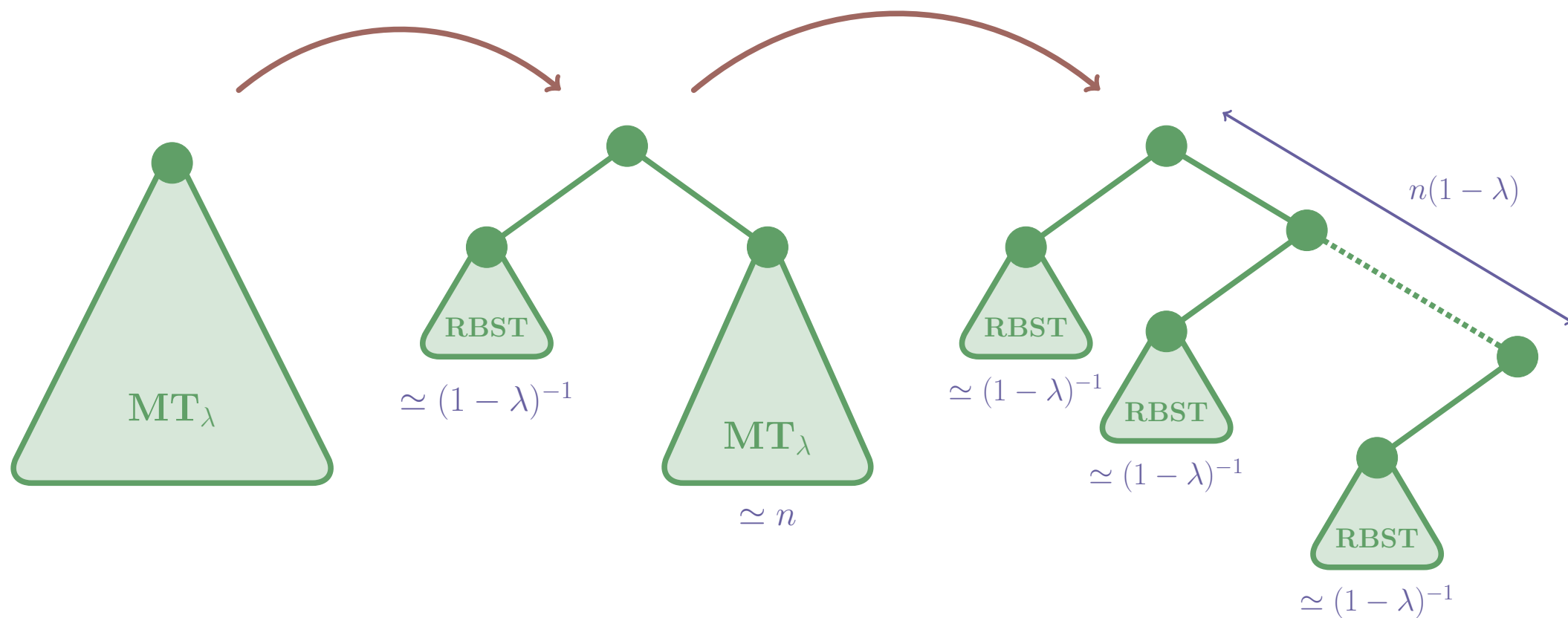
$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(1) &= \text{Geom}(\lambda \mid n) \\ &\simeq n \wedge (1 - \lambda)^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

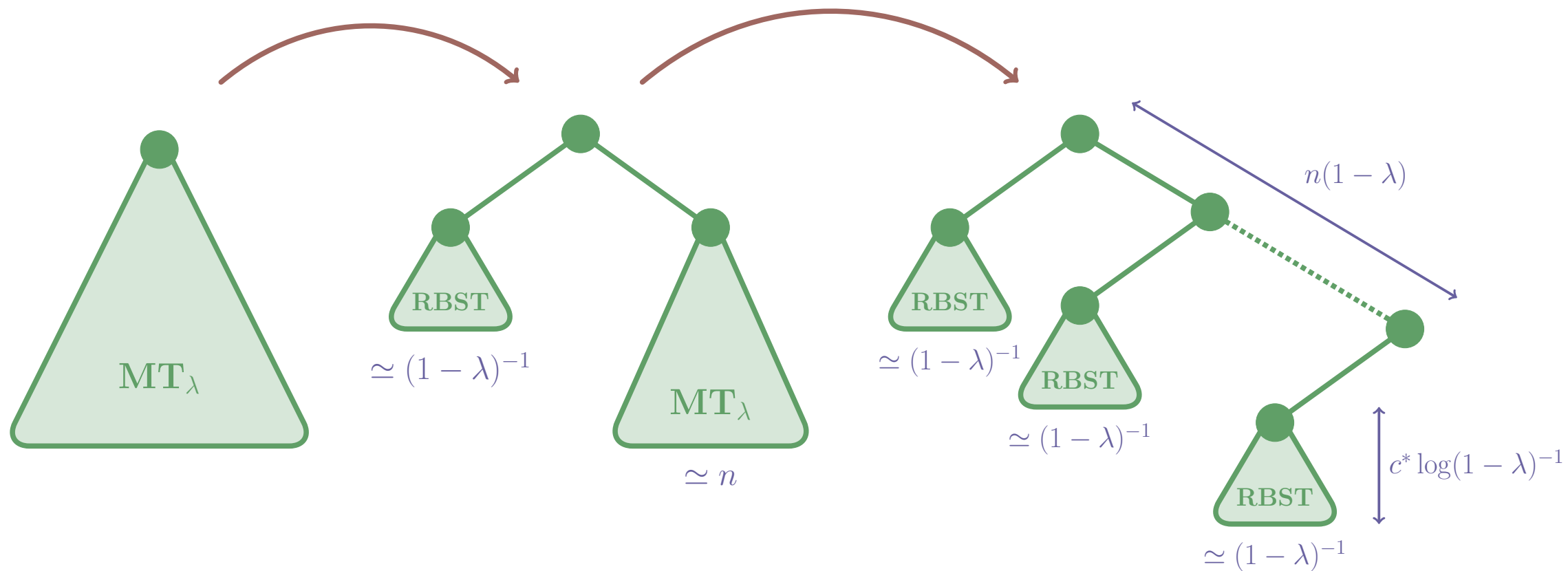


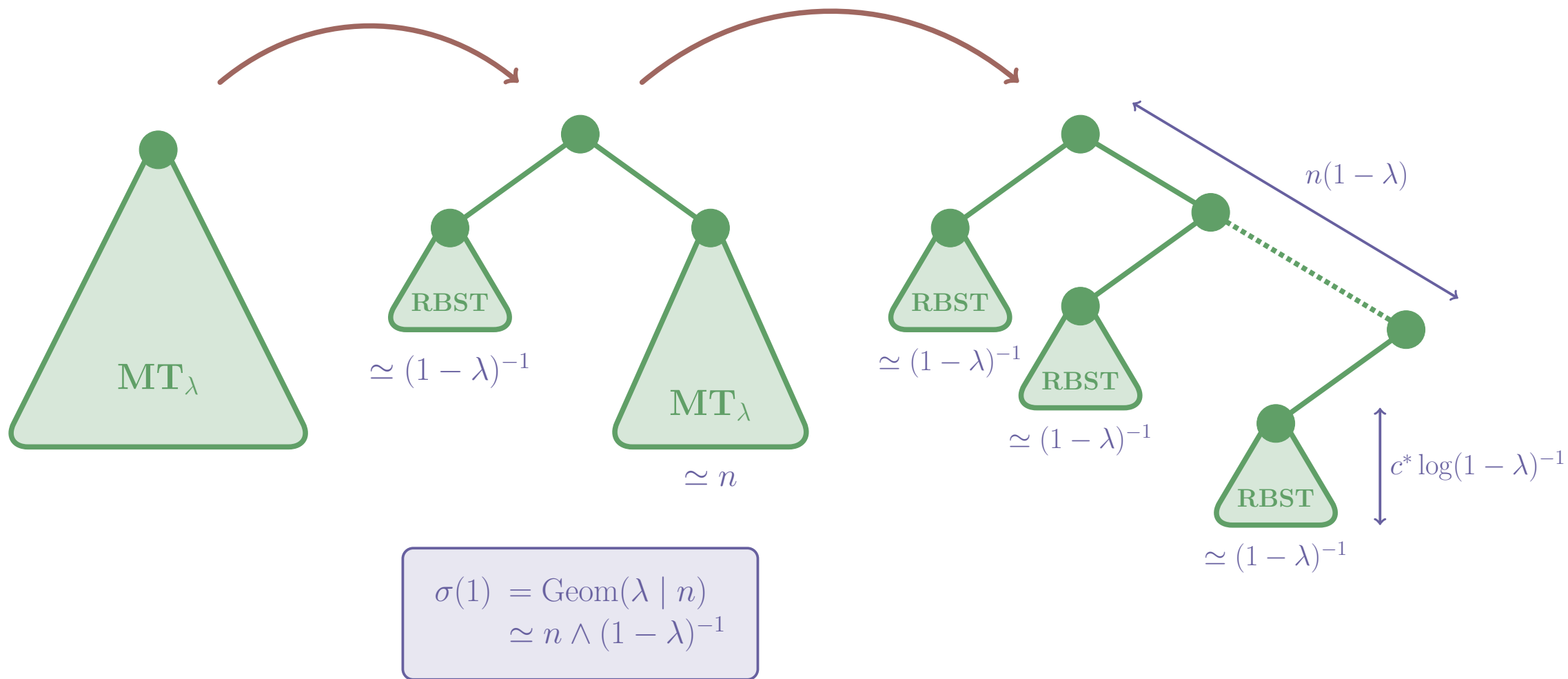


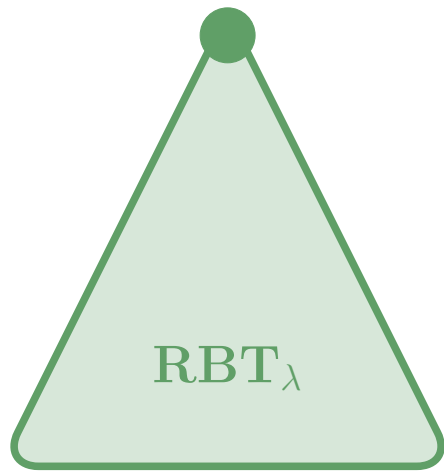


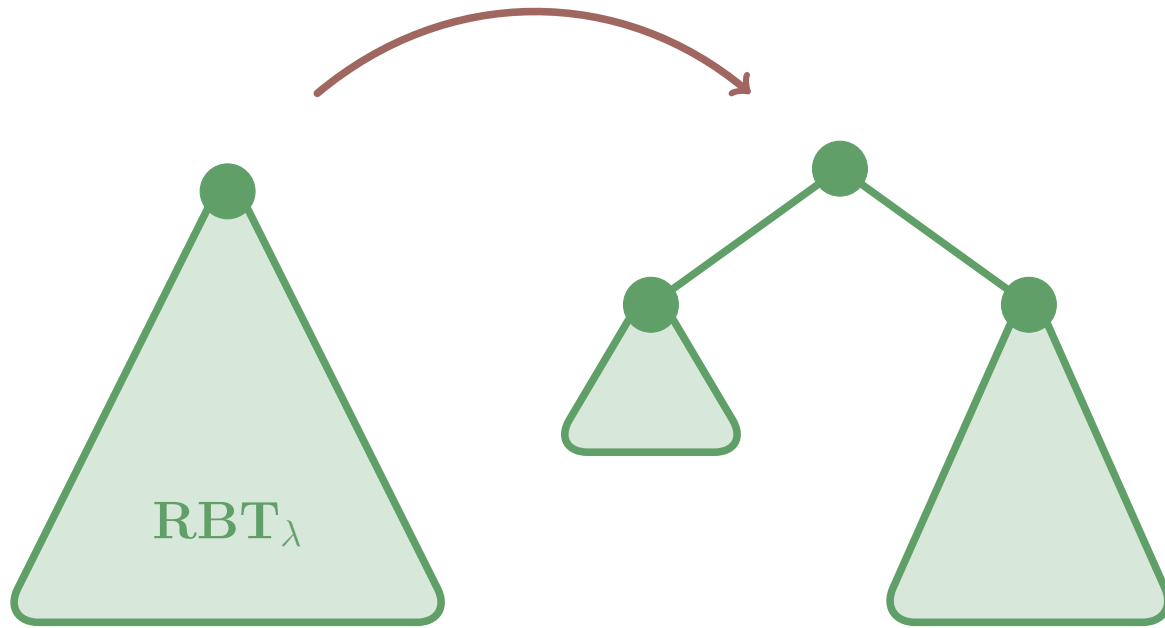


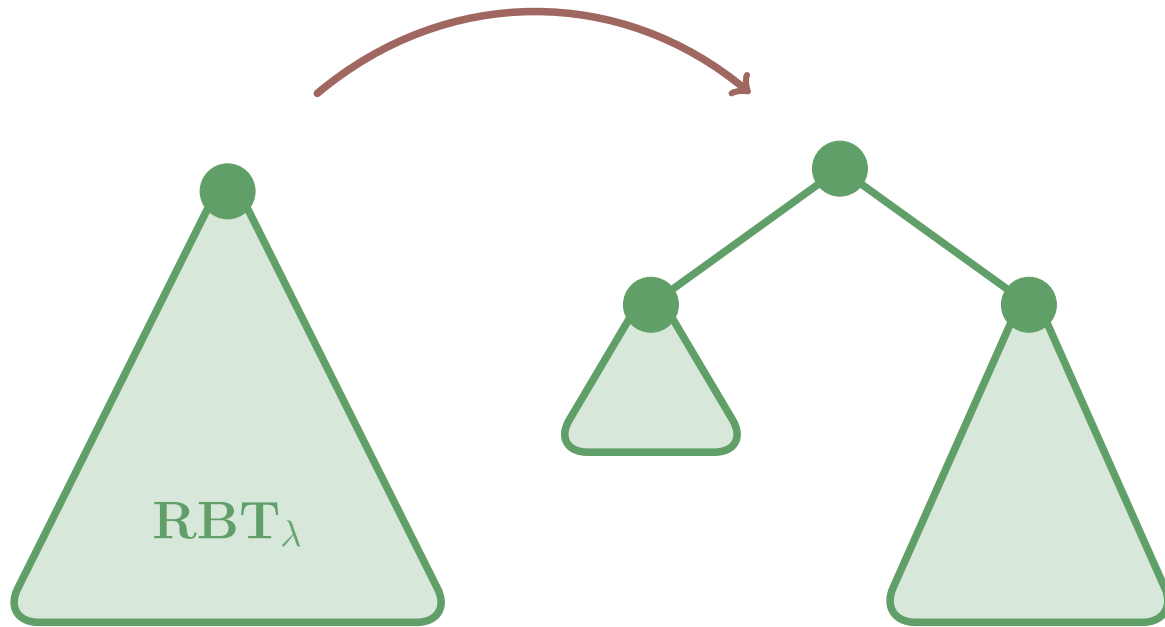




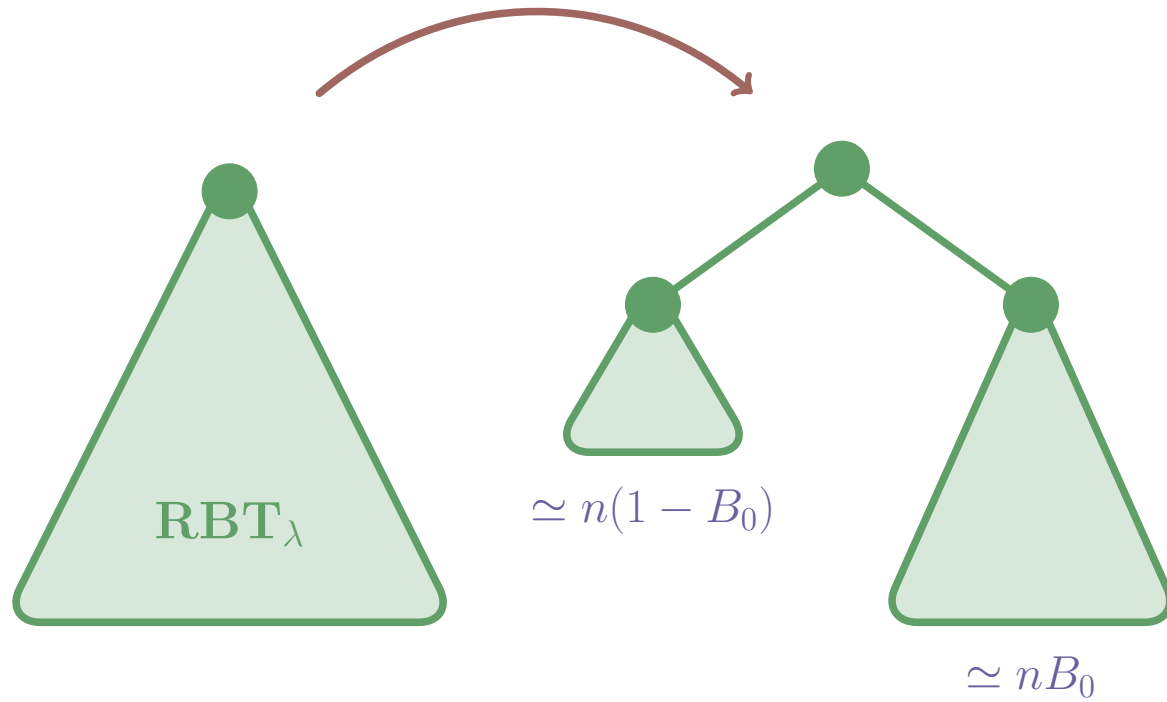


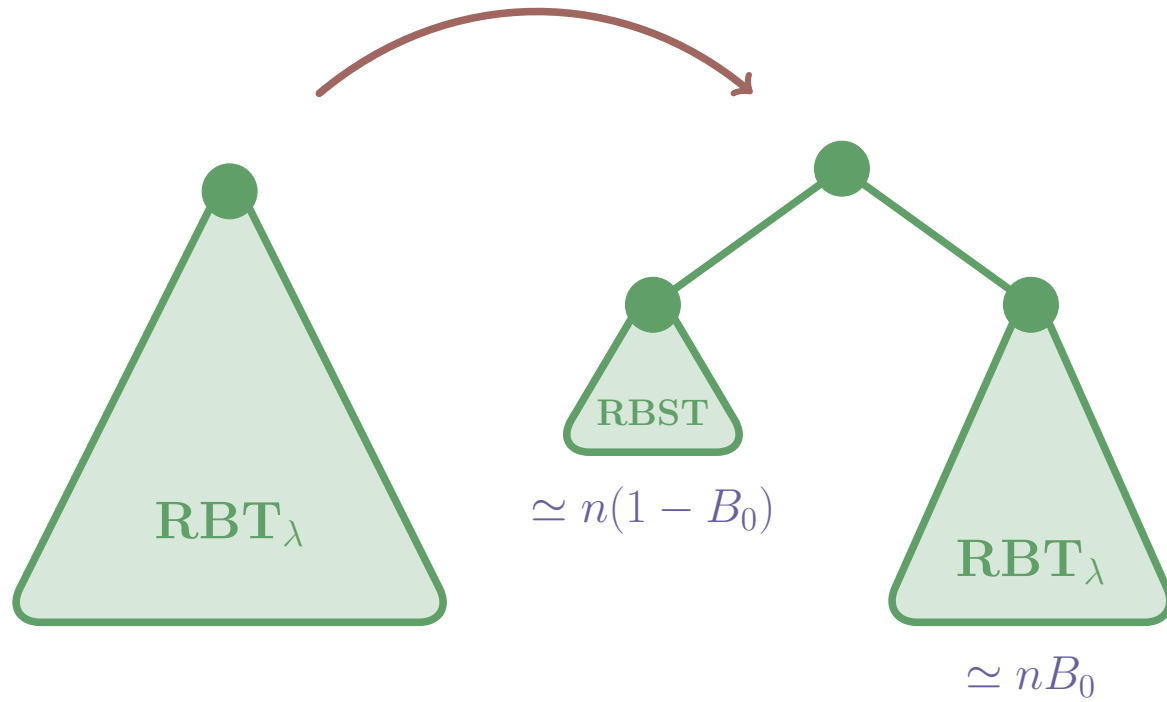


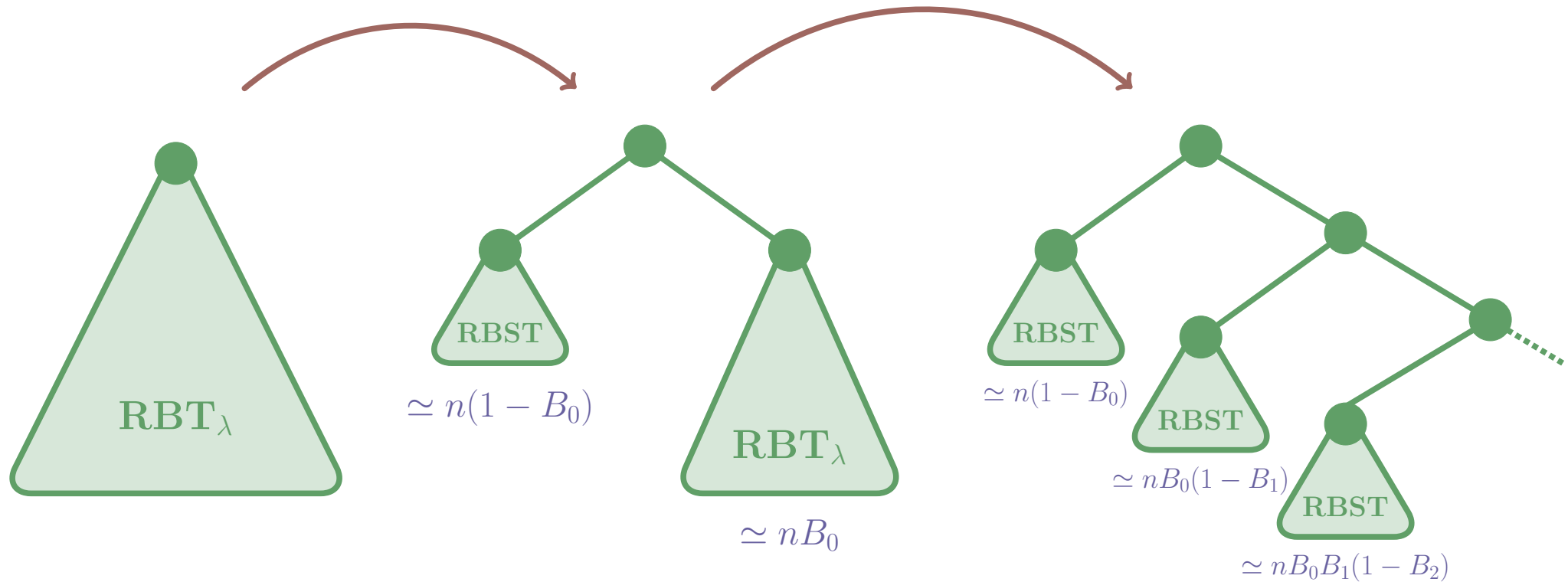


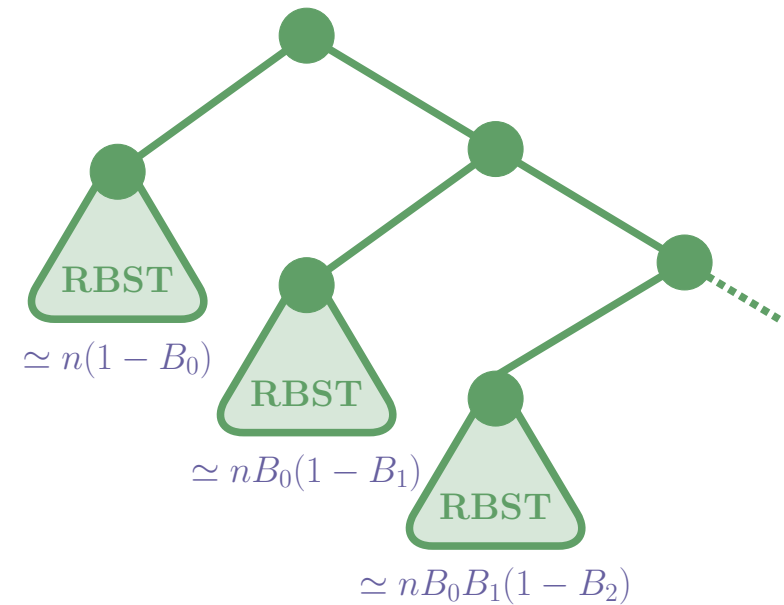


$$\sigma(1) \simeq n \cdot \text{Beta}(1, \lambda) = n \cdot (1 - \text{Beta}(\lambda, 1))$$



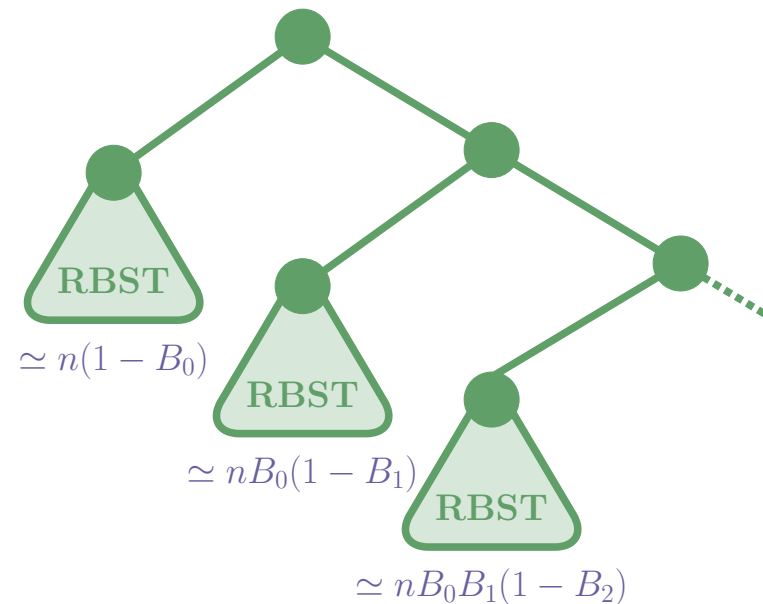






- The contribution to the height of the i -th left subtree is

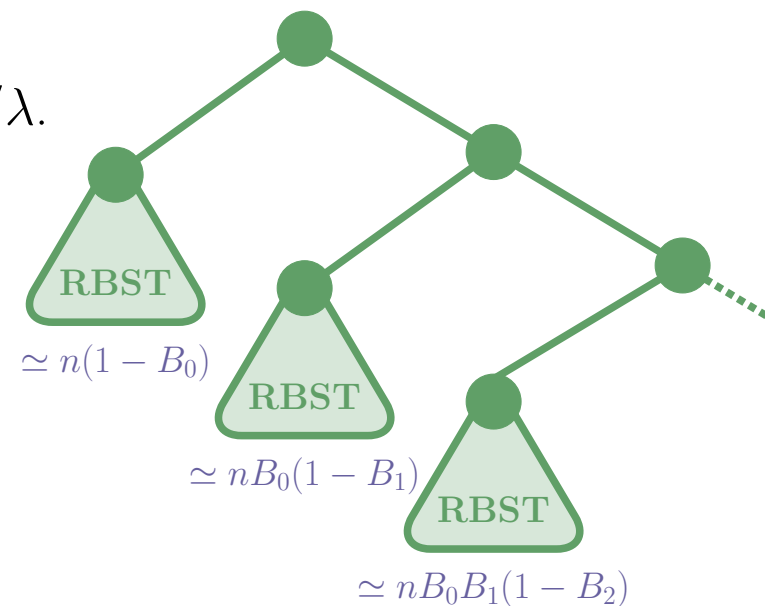
$$i + 1 + c^* \log \left(n(1 - B_i) \prod_{j < i} B_j \right) \simeq i + c^* \log n + c^* \sum_{j < i} \log B_j.$$



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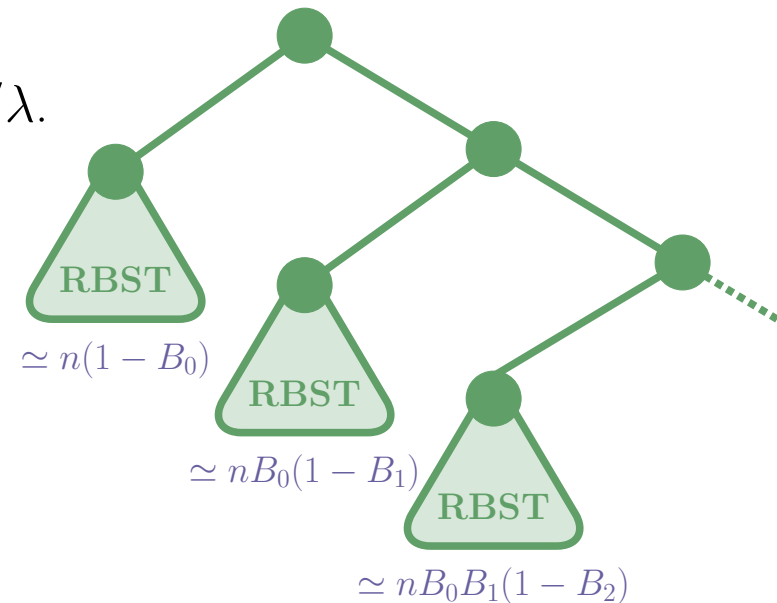


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$$\begin{aligned} n \prod_{j < k} B_j \simeq 1 &\Leftrightarrow \log n - k/\lambda \simeq 0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow k \simeq \lambda \log n . \end{aligned}$$

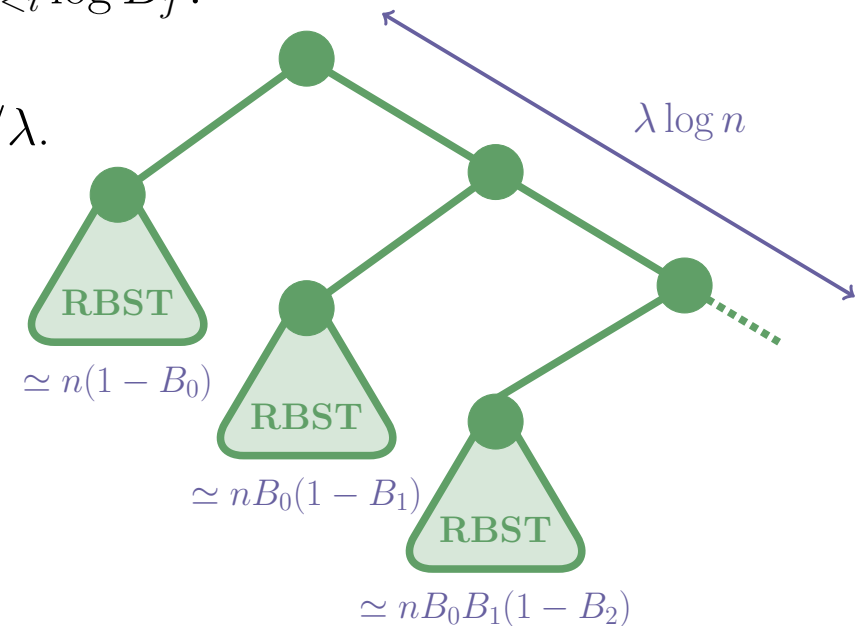


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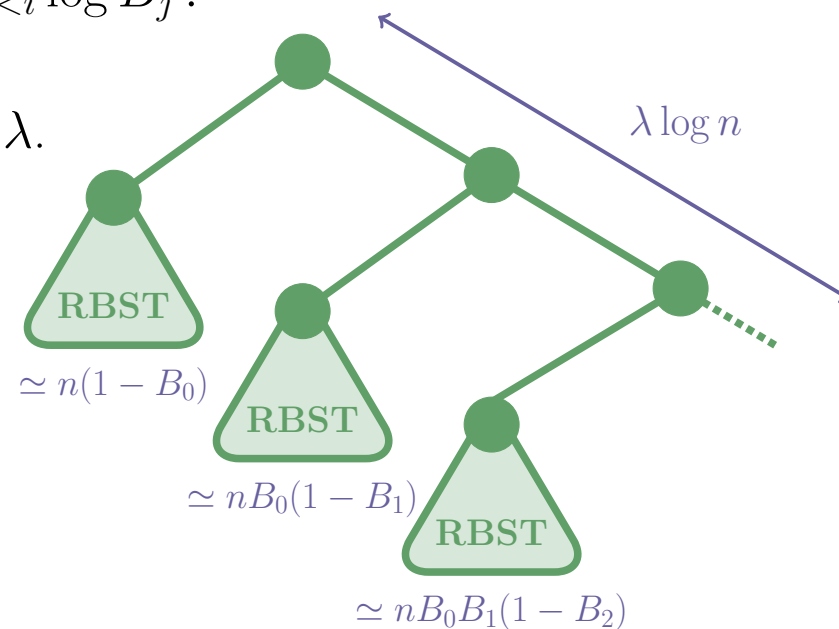
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$$\rightarrow H_{n,\lambda} \simeq \max_{i \leq \lambda \log n} \left\{ c^* \log n + i(1 - c^*/\lambda) \right\} \simeq \max\{c^*, \lambda\} \log n .$$

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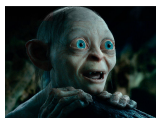
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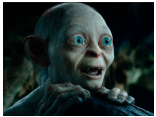
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Since we know that $H_{n,\lambda} \simeq n(1 - \lambda) + c^* \log n$, can we prove that the height of a Mallows tree is stochastically decreasing with respect to $\lambda \in [0, 1]$?

- **Addario-Berry, L., & Corsini, B. (2021).** The height of Mallows trees. *The Annals of Probability*, 49(5), 2220-2271.
- **Auger, N., Bouvel, M., Nicaud, C., & Pivoteau, C. (2016).** Analysis of algorithms for permutations biased by their number of records. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1605.02905*.
- **Corsini, B. (2021).** The height of record-biased trees. *Random Structures & Algorithms*.
- **Devroye, L. (1986).** A note on the height of binary search trees. *Journal of the ACM (JACM)*, 33(3), 489-498.
- **Ewens, W. J. (1972).** The sampling theory of selectively neutral alleles. *Theoretical population biology*, 3(1), 87-112.
- **Mallows, C. L. (1957).** Non-null ranking models. I. *Biometrika*, 44(1/2), 114-130.
- **Pitman, J., & Tang, W. (2019).** Regenerative random permutations of integers. *The Annals of Probability*, 47(3), 1378-1416.

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