

On martingale tail sums for the path length in random trees

Sulzbach, Henning

DOI:
[10.1002/rsa.20674](https://doi.org/10.1002/rsa.20674)

License:
Unspecified

Document Version
Peer reviewed version

Citation for published version (Harvard):
Sulzbach, H 2017, 'On martingale tail sums for the path length in random trees', *Random Structures and Algorithms*, vol. 50, no. 3. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rsa.20674>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

Publisher Rights Statement:

Checked for eligibility: 09/06/2017.
This is the peer reviewed version of the following article: "Sulzbach, Henning. "On martingale tail sums for the path length in random trees." *Random Structures & Algorithms* (2016)", which has been published in final form at 10.1002/rsa.20674. This article may be used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with Wiley Terms and Conditions for Self-Archiving.

General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

On martingale tail sums for the path length in random trees

Henning Sulzbach*

March 23, 2016

Abstract

For a martingale (X_n) converging almost surely to a random variable X , the sequence $(X_n - X)$ is called martingale tail sum. Recently, Neininger [*Random Structures Algorithms*, 46 (2015), 346-361] proved a central limit theorem for the martingale tail sum of Régnier's martingale for the path length in random binary search trees. Grübel and Kabluchko [*to appear in Annals of Applied Probability*, (2016)] gave an alternative proof also conjecturing a corresponding law of the iterated logarithm. We prove the central limit theorem with convergence of higher moments and the law of the iterated logarithm for a family of trees containing binary search trees, recursive trees and plane-oriented recursive trees.

AMS 2010 subject classifications. Primary 60F15, 68P05; secondary 60F05, 60G42.

Key words. Martingale central limit theorems, law of the iterated logarithm, random trees

1 Introduction and main results

In a finite rooted tree, the path length denotes the sum of the depths of all nodes. Here, the depth of a node equals its graph distance to the root. When the underlying tree is random, one is interested in its average behavior, in normal and large deviations, as well as in distributional (or almost sure) limit theorems as the size, that is the number of nodes, tends to infinity. In this paper we consider random trees whose heights grow logarithmically through their sizes, prominent examples are the binary search tree (BST), the recursive tree (RT) and the plane-oriented recursive tree (PORT). Trees of this kind are of prime importance in computer science where they serve as data structures and play fundamental roles in the analysis of algorithms, see, e.g. Mahmoud's book [26] for a general account. Further, PORTs belong to the family of graphs of preferential attachment type, an important class of graphs in modeling phenomena in real-world networks.

RESULTS IN THE LITERATURE. The path length P_n in a binary search tree of size n was first investigated by Hoare [18] in his seminal paper on the quicksort algorithm. Under the common probabilistic model (see the next paragraph for details), he obtained an exact expression for the mean of P_n . The variance of P_n was calculated by Knuth [22]. Régnier [37] showed that the sequence $(P_n - \mathbf{E}[P_n])/(n+1)$ is an L_2 -bounded martingale, hence almost surely convergent. Shortly after, Rösler [40] invented the so-called contraction method to obtain the same convergence result (on a distributional level), further characterizing the limiting distribution as the solution to a stochastic fixed-point equation. In RTs and PORTs, the martingale approach for the path length was worked out by Mahmoud [24, 25]. Dobrow and Fill [8] obtained analogues of Rösler's result in RTs. In BSTs, Fill and Janson [12] and Neininger and Rüschemdorf [32] investigated distances between the distribution of the rescaled quantity and its limit with respect to several probability metrics. Neininger and Rüschemdorf [31] formulated a distributional limit theorem for the class of split trees

*School of Computer Science, McGill University, 3480 University Street, Montreal, Canada, H3A 0E9.

Email: henning.sulzbach@gmail.com

This work was supported by a Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

introduced by Devroye [7] assuming a suitable expansion of the mean of P_n . In the special case of higher-dimensional binary search trees, so-called quad trees, this expansion had already been proved by Flajolet et al. [13]. In the general case, it was established recently by Broutin and Holmgren [4] and independently by Munsonius [29]. Finally, for the family of weighted b -ary trees introduced by Broutin and Devroye [3], the path length was analyzed by Munsonius and Rüschemdorf [30]. In recent years, deeper results on the profile of random trees, that is on the number of nodes on a given level (i.e. of a given depth), have been obtained. These results also lead to limit theorems for the path length. We refer to Section 6 in Drmota's book [10] for an overview of this development. We exploit the connection between the profile and the path length in our work and give further references in this context in the discussion of (9) and in Section 2.2.

PROBABILISTIC MODEL. We consider the one-parametric family of linear recursive trees introduced by Pittel [36]. Let $\beta \in [0, \infty)$. A sequence of rooted trees $(T_n)_{n \geq 1}$ where T_n has size n is constructed as follows: The tree T_1 consists of a single node, the root. For $n \geq 2$, given a tree T_{n-1} of size $n-1$, a node $v \in T_{n-1}$ is chosen with probability proportional to $\beta d_v + 1$. Here, d_v denotes the number of children (i.e. the outdegree) of v . Then, T_n is obtained by connecting a new node to v . Moreover, we consider so-called m -ary trees constructed in the same way, where a new node is connected to an existing node v with probability proportional to $m - d_v$, $1 < m \in \mathbb{N}$. (Note that, by construction, $d_v \leq m$ for all nodes v at all times.) In order to simplify notation, we cover both models by writing $\beta d_v + m$ for the probability that v is chosen as the parent node distinguishing the cases that either $\beta \in [0, \infty)$, $m = 1$ or $\beta = -1$, $1 < m \in \mathbb{N}$. The table below shows important tree models which are covered by this setting.

Note that, if β is integer-valued, then, to each node $v \in T_n$ with depth $k \geq 0$, one can associate $\beta d_v + m$ so-called *external* nodes on level $k+1$. The transition from T_{n-1} to T_n corresponds to replacing a randomly chosen external node in T_{n-1} by an (*internal*) node.

Tree model	β	m
Recursive tree	0	1
Plane-oriented recursive tree	1	1
p -oriented tree, $p \in \mathbb{N}$	p	1
Binary search tree	-1	2
m -ary tree, $1 < m \in \mathbb{N}$	-1	m

MEAN AND VARIANCE. Before describing the main purpose of our work, we shortly discuss mean and variance of the path length. As a by-product of our analysis, compare (12) and the discussion of (16) below, we obtain the following asymptotic expansions,

$$\mathbf{E}[P_n] = \frac{m}{\beta + m} n \log n - \frac{m}{\beta + m} \left(1 + \psi^{(0)} \left(\frac{m}{\beta + m} \right) \right) n + O(\log n), \quad (1)$$

and

$$\text{Var}(P_n) = \left(1 + \frac{m}{\beta + m} \left(1 - \frac{m}{\beta + m} \psi^{(1)} \left(\frac{m}{\beta + m} \right) \right) \right) n^2 + o(n^2). \quad (2)$$

Here $\psi^{(0)} = (\log \Gamma)'$, $\psi^{(1)} = (\log \Gamma)''$, denote the digamma and trigamma functions. For BSTs [18, 22, 37, 40], RTs [8, 24] and PORTs [25], these results are classical. For all remaining cases of integer-valued β , (1) was obtained in [30]. For $\beta = -1$, $2 < m \in \mathbb{N}$ or $\beta \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $m = 1$, the order of the variance was known [4, 29–31], and the leading constant can be computed from the results in these works. Both expansions are novel for non-integer β .

OBJECT OF STUDY. Our work is primarily concerned with the martingale approach relying on the sequence

$$S_n := \frac{P_n - \mathbf{E}[P_n]}{n - \beta/(\beta + m)}. \quad (3)$$

In Section 2.1, see also Theorem 1, we verify the martingale property of S_n which constitutes the starting point of our analysis. By (2), S_n converges almost surely and in L_2 to a random variable S . It is natural

to investigate the behavior of the martingale tail sum $S - S_n$. In random BSTs, an explicit formulae for its second moment was derived by Bindjeme and Fill [2]. Neininger [33] was first to prove asymptotic normality of $S_n - S$ when properly rescaled: in distribution, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\sqrt{\frac{n}{2 \log n}}(S_n - S) \rightarrow \mathcal{N}. \quad (4)$$

Here, and throughout the work, we denote by \mathcal{N} a generic random variable with the standard normal distribution. A proof of this result based on the method of moments was worked out shortly after by Fuchs [14]. Very recently, Grübel and Kabluchko [15] proved more general functional limit theorems in branching random walks containing (4) for a stronger mode of convergence [15, Section 5.5.1]. Moreover, they conjectured a corresponding law of the iterated logarithm.

The purpose of this paper is to obtain Gaussian limit laws of type (4) and laws of the iterated logarithm for trees in the model introduced above.

MAIN RESULTS. Our main result is the following theorem. Here, and in the remaining of the paper, we define $S_0 := 0$, $\mathcal{F}_0 := \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$ and, for $n \geq 1$, $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(T_1, \dots, T_n)$.

Theorem 1. *Let either $\beta \in [0, \infty)$, $m = 1$ or $\beta = -1$ and $1 < m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, S_n defined in (3) is an L_2 -bounded martingale with respect to the filtration (\mathcal{F}_n) . Moreover, denoting by S the almost sure limit of S_n , in distribution,*

$$\sqrt{\frac{\beta + m}{m}} \sqrt{\frac{n}{\log n}}(S_n - S) \rightarrow \mathcal{N}. \quad (5)$$

Almost surely,

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{\beta + m}{2m}} \sqrt{\frac{n}{\log n \log \log n}}(S_n - S) &= 1, \\ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{\beta + m}{2m}} \sqrt{\frac{n}{\log n \log \log n}}(S_n - S) &= -1. \end{aligned}$$

The following result about convergence of higher moments in (5) presumably holds for all trees in our model. However, our proof below relies on the fact that β is integer-valued.

Theorem 2. *Let either $\beta \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $m = 1$ or $\beta = -1$, $1 < m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, the convergence in (5) is with respect to all moments. In other words, for $p > 0$ and as $n \rightarrow \infty$,*

$$\left(\frac{n}{\log n}\right)^{p/2} \mathbf{E}[|S_n - S|^p] \rightarrow \left(\frac{m}{\beta + m}\right)^{p/2} \mathbf{E}[|\mathcal{N}|^p].$$

Both theorems follow from general results in the context of martingale limit theorems.

A MARTINGALE LIMIT THEOREM. In the following theorem and in the remaining of the paper, we say that a sequence of real-valued random variables Y_n , $n \geq 0$, is bounded in L_p , $p > 0$, if $\sup_{n \geq 0} \mathbf{E}[|Y_n|^p] < \infty$.

Proposition 3. *Let Z_n , $n \geq 0$, be a zero-mean, L_2 -bounded martingale with respect to a filtration \mathcal{G}_n , $n \geq 0$. For $n \geq 1$, let $\Delta_n = Z_n - Z_{n-1}$ and $s_n^2 = \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E}[\Delta_i^2]$. Assume that $s_n^2 > 0$ for all n and denote by Z the almost sure limit of Z_n . If*

- C1.** $s_n^{-2} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E}[\Delta_i^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{|\Delta_i| \geq \varepsilon s_n\}}] \rightarrow 0$ for all $\varepsilon > 0$, and
- C2.** $s_n^{-2} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E}[\Delta_i^2 | \mathcal{G}_{i-1}] \rightarrow 1$ in probability,

then

$$s_n^{-1}(Z_{n-1} - Z) \rightarrow \mathcal{N} \quad (6)$$

in distribution. If

- L1.** $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} s_i^{-1} \mathbf{E} [|\Delta_i| \mathbf{1}_{\{|\Delta_i| \geq \varepsilon s_i\}}] < \infty$ for all $\varepsilon > 0$,
- L2.** $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} s_i^{-4} \mathbf{E} [\Delta_i^4 \mathbf{1}_{\{|\Delta_i| \leq \delta s_i\}}] < \infty$ for some $\delta > 0$,
- L3.** $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} s_i^{-2} (\Delta_i^2 - \mathbf{E} [\Delta_i^2 | \mathcal{G}_{i-1}])$ converges almost surely, and
- L4.** $s_n^{-2} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E} [\Delta_i^2 | \mathcal{G}_{i-1}] \rightarrow 1$ almost surely,

then, almost surely,

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Z_{n-1} - Z}{s_n \sqrt{2 \log \log s_n^{-1}}} = 1, \quad \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Z_{n-1} - Z}{s_n \sqrt{2 \log \log s_n^{-1}}} = -1.$$

Finally, if, for all $p \in \mathbb{N}$ sufficiently large,

- P1.** Z_n is bounded in L_p ,
- P2.** $s_n^{-2p} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E} [\Delta_i^{2p}] \rightarrow 0$,
- P3.** $s_n^{-2} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E} [\Delta_i^2 | \mathcal{G}_{i-1}]$ is bounded in L_p ,

and **C1**, **C2** hold, then, the convergence in (6) is with respect to all moments.

The central limit theorem and the law of the iterated logarithm in the proposition summarize Theorem 1(b), Corollary 1(b) and Corollary 2(b) in Heyde [17]. The convergence of higher moments is an application of Theorem 1 in Hall [16]. To more precise, note that, for $p > 1$ sufficiently large, by **P1**, we can choose a sequence $k_n \uparrow \infty$ such that both $s_{n+k_n+1}/s_{n+1} \rightarrow 0$ and $s_{n+1}^{-2p} \mathbf{E} [|Z_{n+k_n} - Z|^{2p}] \rightarrow 0$. Further, we define $Z_{n,i} = (s_{n+1}^2 - s_{n+1+k_n}^2)^{-1/2} \sum_{j=1}^i \Delta_{n+j}$ and $\mathcal{G}_{n,i} = \mathcal{G}_{n+i}$ for $n \geq 1, i \geq 0$. Then, $\{(Z_{n,i}, \mathcal{G}_{n,i}), 0 \leq i \leq k_n\}$ is a zero-mean, square integrable martingale for all $n \geq 1$ and $\mathbf{E} [Z_{n,k_n}^2] = 1$. Moreover, conditions (4), (6), (9) in [16, Theorem 1] follow from, in this order, **C1**, **C2** and **P3**, **P2**. This theorem shows that $s_{n+1}^{-2p} \mathbf{E} [|Z_{n+k_n} - Z_n|^{2p}] \rightarrow \mathbf{E} [|\mathcal{N}|^{2p}]$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. The claim now follows from our choice of k_n . In the literature about martingale limit theorems, results are often formulated in terms of an unconditional version of **L4** (or **C2**): almost surely (in probability for **C2**),

$$s_n^{-2} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \Delta_i^2 \rightarrow 1. \tag{7}$$

The convergence (7) is at the very heart of Theorem 1 in [17]. It is easy to see and worked out in Lemma 1 in [17] that **L3** and **L4** imply (7). In our work, as well as in the application given in [17] in the context of Pólya urns, it is considerably easier to verify conditions **L3** and **L4** than establishing (7) directly.

Note the following improvements of the statements in Theorem 1. First, by Theorem 1 in [17], almost surely, the set of accumulation points of the sequence considered in the law of the iterated logarithm is $[-1, 1]$. Second, as usual in martingale central limit theorems, the convergence in (5) (or, more generally, in (6)) is mixing in the sense of Rényi and Révész [38]: for a sequence of real-valued random variables $Y_n, n \geq 0$, defined on a common probability space, and a random variable Y , we have $Y_n \rightarrow Y$ mixing, if for any random variable X defined on the same probability space as $Y_n, n \geq 0$, in distribution,

$$(Y_n, X) \rightarrow (Y, X^*) \quad Y, X^* \text{ independent.}$$

Here, X^* has the same distribution as X .

TOOLS IN THE PROOF - THE PROFILE POLYNOMIAL. Among the conditions in the martingale central limit theorem and the law of the iterated logarithm in Proposition 3, **L4** (or **C2**) is typically the hardest to verify. Here, we make use of the connection between the profile and the path length of the tree. For $n, k \geq 0$, we denote by $X_k(n)$ the number of nodes on level k in T_n . We call $X_k(n), k \geq 0$, the *internal profile* of T_n .

Given \mathcal{F}_n , for $k \geq 0$, the probability that the $(n+1)$ -st node is inserted on level k is proportional to $U_k(n)$ defined by

$$U_k(n) = \begin{cases} \beta X_k(n) + m X_{k-1}(n) & \text{for } n, k \geq 1, \\ \mathbf{1}_{\{k=n=0\}} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

We call $U_k(n), k \geq 0$, the *external profile* of T_n , noting that, for β integer, $U_k(n)$ counts the number of external nodes on level k in T_n . The profile polynomial $W_n(z)$ and its normalized version $M_n(z)$ were first introduced by Jabbour-Hattab in the BST [19],

$$W_n(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} U_k(n) z^k, \quad M_n(z) = \frac{W_n(z)}{\mathbf{E}[W_n(z)]}. \quad (9)$$

Here, we let $z \in \mathbb{C}^+ = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Re(z) > 0\}$. Note that, writing $W'_n(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k U_k(n) z^{k-1}$ for the derivative of $W_n(z)$, we have $W'_n(1) = (\beta + m)P_n + nm$ allowing to transfer results for the profile polynomial to the path length of T_n . It is well-known that, for all $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$, the sequence $M_n(z)$ is a martingale with respect to the filtration (\mathcal{F}_n) . The relevant term which has to be controlled in the verification of **L4** turns out to be related to the second derivative $M''_n(1)$ (compare (29) below), which converges by Weierstrass' convergence theorem for holomorphic functions upon verifying uniform almost sure convergence of $M_n(z)$ in a neighborhood of $z = 1$. This is the content of Proposition 5. Uniform almost sure convergence is related to uniform L_2 -boundedness of $M_n(z)$ around $z = 1$ which is known for all trees in our model. The generalization to uniform L_p -boundedness, $p > 2$, see Proposition 6 below, is at the core of Theorem 2 allowing for the verification of conditions **P1** and **P3**. It is this property which leads to the restriction to integer-valued β in the theorem.

Uniform convergence of $M_n(z)$ also plays a decisive role in the analysis of both profiles $X_k(n), k \geq 0$ and $U_k(n), k \geq 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ since the extraction of the coefficients of $W_n(z)$ is worked out with the help of Fourier's inversion formulae. We discuss relevant references in Section 2.2.

2 Proof of Theorems 1 and 2

2.1 Preliminaries

We start with a basic result on D_n , defined as the depth of the n -th inserted node. In this context, we recall the Pólya urn model with parameters $K \in \mathbb{N}, c_1, \dots, c_K \in \mathbb{N}, (a_{i,j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq K}, a_{i,j} \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Here, starting with c_i balls of color $i, 1 \leq i \leq K$, in each step, one ball is drawn from the urn and replaced together with $a_{\ell,j}$ additional balls of each color $1 \leq j \leq K$, where ℓ denotes the color of the drawn ball. We say the urn has initial configuration $C = (c_1, \dots, c_K)$ and replacement matrix $A = (a_{i,j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq K}$. For a general account on Pólya urns covering many of its applications in the analysis of random trees, we refer to Mahmoud's book [27].

The following lemma coincides with Theorem 7 in Dobrow and Smythe [9] in the case of integer-valued β . Here, and subsequently, for $n \geq 0$, we set

$$\alpha_n := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} U_k(n) = \begin{cases} (\beta + m)n - \beta & \text{for } n \geq 1, \\ 1 & \text{for } n = 0. \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Lemma 4. *For $1 \leq i < j$, denote by $A_{i,j}$ the event that the i -th inserted node is on the path from the root to the j -th inserted node. Then, for $n \geq 1$, the events $A_{1,n}, \dots, A_{n-1,n}$ are independent and $\mathbf{P}(A_{i,n}) = m/\alpha_i$.*

Proof. Let us first assume $\beta \in \mathbb{N}_0, m = 1$ or $\beta = -1, 1 < m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, the number of external nodes in the subtree rooted at the i -th inserted node grows like the number of balls of color one in a Pólya urn with $K = 2$, initial configuration $C = (m, \alpha_i - m)$ and replacement matrix $A = ((\beta + m)\mathbf{1}_{\{i=j\}})_{i,j=1,2}$.

In particular, the event $A_{i,j}$ for $j > i$ corresponds to drawing a ball of color one in the $(j - i)$ -th step. It is well-known that the family of events $\{A_{i,j}, j > i\}$ is i) independent of \mathcal{F}_i , and ii) exchangeable. More precisely, for $0 \leq \ell \leq k$, and $\varepsilon_{i,j} \in \{0, 1\}, i + 1 \leq j \leq i + k$, with $\sum_{j=i+1}^{i+k} \varepsilon_{i,j} = \ell$, the conditional probability

$$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{1}_{A_{i,j}} = \varepsilon_{i,j} \text{ for all } i + 1 \leq j \leq i + k | \mathcal{F}_i) = \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{\ell} (j(\beta + m) - \beta) \prod_{j=1}^{\ell-k} (i + j - 2)(\beta + m)}{\prod_{j=0}^{k-1} \alpha_{i+j}}$$

is deterministic and depends only on ℓ and k . The last expression and therefore i) and ii) remain true for arbitrary $\beta \in [0, \infty), m = 1$. In particular, for any set of parameters β, m in our model, we have $\mathbf{P}(A_{i,j}) = m/\alpha_i$ for $j > i$. By the construction of the tree, for $1 \leq i < j \leq n - 1$, the conditional probability of the event $A_{j,n}$ given \mathcal{F}_{n-1} only depends on $N_{n-1}(j)$ defined as the size of the subtree rooted at the j -th inserted node at time $n - 1$. Since, $N_{n-1}(j) = \sum_{k=j}^{n-1} \mathbf{1}_{A_{j,k}}$, using i), $N_{n-1}(j)$ is independent of \mathcal{F}_j and the same follows for $A_{j,n}$. In particular, the events $A_{i,j}$ and $A_{j,n}$ are independent. It follows that

$$\mathbf{P}(A_{i,n} \cap A_{j,n}) = \mathbf{P}(A_{i,j} \cap A_{j,n}) = \frac{m^2}{\alpha_i \alpha_j} = \mathbf{P}(A_{i,n}) \mathbf{P}(A_{j,n}).$$

Hence, $A_{i,n}$ and $A_{j,n}$ are independent events. The case of more than two events follows from the same argument by a simple induction. \square

It follows that, with independent Bernoulli random variables B_1, \dots, B_{n-1} with $\mathbf{E}[B_i] = m/\alpha_i$,

$$D_n \stackrel{d}{=} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} B_i, \quad \mathbf{E}[D_n] = \frac{m}{\beta + m} \log n + O(1), \quad \text{Var}(D_n) = \frac{m}{\beta + m} \log n + O(1). \quad (11)$$

Since $P_n = \sum_{k=1}^n D_k$, using the first identity in the last display, we deduce

$$\mathbf{E}[P_n] = \frac{m\alpha_n}{\beta + m} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{\alpha_i} - \frac{m(n-1)}{\beta + m}. \quad (12)$$

The expansion (1) now follows from the facts that $\psi^{(0)}(x+1) = \psi^{(0)}(x) + 1/x, x > 0$ and $\psi^{(0)}(x) = \log x + O(1/x)$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$.

Below, we need a bound on the tails of $P_n - \mathbf{E}[P_n]$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. To this end, we make use of a Chernoff-type bound for D_n . By an application of Bernstein's inequality for sums of uniformly bounded and independent random variables, for all $n \geq 1$, we have

$$\mathbf{P}(|D_n - \mathbf{E}[D_n]| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-t^2/(2\mathbf{E}[D_n]+t)}, \quad t > 0. \quad (13)$$

For the path length, the following rough bound will be sufficient in the remaining,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(|P_n - \mathbf{E}[P_n]| \geq t) &\leq \mathbf{P}\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n \{|D_k - \mathbf{E}[D_k]| \geq t/n\}\right) \\ &\leq n \sup_{1 \leq k \leq n} \mathbf{P}(|D_k - \mathbf{E}[D_k]| \geq t/n) \leq 2ne^{-t^2/(2n^2\mathbf{E}[D_n]+tn)}. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Here we have used the fact that the right hand side of (13) is increasing in n for any fixed $t > 0$. Note that the right hand side of the last display decays polynomially when $t \sim \gamma \mathbf{E}[P_n], \gamma > \gamma_0$, where $\gamma_0 > 0$ depends only on β and m . This is far from optimal at least for integer-valued β where it is well-known that the left-hand side of (14) decays faster than n^{-k} for any $k > 0$ when $t \sim \gamma \mathbf{E}[P_n]$ for any fixed $\gamma > 0$. (For a proof of this claim, we refer to [40, Corollary 4.3] for the BST, to [31, Theorem 5.1] and [29, Corollary 1.2] for $\beta = -1, 1 < m \in \mathbb{N}$, and to [30, Theorem 5.6] for $\beta \in \mathbb{N}_0, m = 1$ from which the assertion can be deduced by checking the conditions formulated in the proof of Lemma 4.3 in [31].) The best large deviation results for P_n in the BST were proved by McDiarmid and Hayward [28].

We turn to the external profile $U_k(n)$ and the external path length defined by $E_n = \sum_{k=1}^n kU_k(n)$. For β integer, E_n equals the sum of the depths of the external nodes in T_n . From the construction of the tree it follows that, with $E_0 := 0$,

$$E_n = E_{n-1} + (\beta + m)D_n + m = (\beta + m)P_n + nm, \quad \mathbf{E}[D_n | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}] = \frac{E_{n-1}}{\alpha_{n-1}}, \quad n \geq 1. \quad (15)$$

Using these two identities, one can check that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(P_n) &= \text{Var}(P_{n-1}) \left(1 + \frac{2(\beta + m)}{\alpha_{n-1}}\right) + \text{Var}(D_n) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(D_i) \prod_{j=i+1}^n \left(1 + \frac{2(\beta + m)}{\alpha_{j-1}}\right) \\ &= \left(n - \frac{\beta}{\beta + m}\right) \left(n + \frac{m}{\beta + m}\right) \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\text{Var}(D_i)}{(i - \beta/(\beta + m))(i - \beta/(\beta + m) + 1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

By the expansion of the variance in (11), it immediately follows that the sequence S_n is L_2 -bounded. Using the last display together with the more precise first identity in (11), a straightforward but lengthy calculation leads to (2).

We continue by collecting some immediate consequences for the sequence of increments $X_n := S_n - S_{n-1}$, $n \geq 1$. Abbreviating $\mu_n := \mathbf{E}[E_n]$, by definition and (15),

$$\begin{aligned} X_n &= \frac{E_n - \mu_n}{\alpha_n} - \frac{E_{n-1} - \mu_{n-1}}{\alpha_{n-1}} = (\beta + m) \frac{\alpha_{n-1} D_n - E_{n-1}}{\alpha_n \alpha_{n-1}} \\ &= \frac{\beta + m}{\alpha_n} (D_n - \mathbf{E}[D_n] - S_{n-1}). \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

The martingale property of S_n follows from the last line, since, by (15), we have $\mathbf{E}[D_n - \mathbf{E}[D_n] | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}] = S_{n-1}$. As S_n is L_2 -bounded there exists a random variable S with $S_n \rightarrow S$ almost surely and in L_2 . Using (17), (15) and (11), we have

$$\mathbf{E}[X_n^2] = \frac{(\beta + m)^2}{\alpha_n^2} (\text{Var}(D_n) - \mathbf{E}[S^2] (1 + o(1))) = \frac{m}{\beta + m} \frac{\log n}{n^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right).$$

It follows

$$s_n^2 = \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E}[X_i^2] = \frac{m}{\beta + m} \int_n^{\infty} \frac{\log x}{x^2} dx + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right) = \frac{m}{\beta + m} \frac{\log n}{n} + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right), \quad (18)$$

and

$$s_n^{-2} = \frac{\beta + m}{m} \frac{n}{\log n} + O\left(\frac{n}{\log^2 n}\right). \quad (19)$$

2.2 The profile polynomial

Recall the definition of the profile polynomial $W_n(z)$ and its normalized version $M_n(z)$ in (9). From the definition of the external profile (8), it follows that $U_k(n) = U_k(n-1) + \beta \mathbf{1}_{\{D_n=k\}} + m \mathbf{1}_{\{D_n=k-1\}}$ for $n, k \geq 1$. Hence,

$$\mathbf{E}[U_k(n) | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}] = \frac{(\beta + \alpha_{n-1})U_k(n-1) + mU_{k-1}(n-1)}{\alpha_{n-1}}, \quad n, k \geq 1.$$

For $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$, we deduce $W_1(z) = mz$, and, for $n \geq 2$,

$$\mathbf{E}[W_n(z) | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}] = \frac{\alpha_{n-1} + \beta + mz}{\alpha_{n-1}} W_{n-1}(z).$$

The martingale property of $M_n(z)$, $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$, follows readily. Since $W_n(z)$ is a polynomial of degree at most n and $C_n(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n , both functions are holomorphic on \mathbb{C}^+ . Indicating the first and second derivative of a complex function f by f' and f'' , an application of the Differentiation lemma, see e.g. Klenke [21, Theorem 6.28], shows that $C'_n(z) = \mathbf{E}[W'_n(z)]$ and $C''_n(z) = \mathbf{E}[W''_n(z)]$. From the definition of $W_n(z)$ in (9), it follows immediately that

$$W_n(1) = \alpha_n, \quad W'_n(1) = E_n, \quad W''_n(1) = \alpha_n \mathbf{E}[D_{n+1}^2 | \mathcal{F}_n] - E_n, \quad (20)$$

$$C_n(1) = \alpha_n, \quad C'_n(1) = \mu_n, \quad C''_n(1) = \alpha_n \mathbf{E}[D_{n+1}^2] - \mu_n. \quad (21)$$

Moreover, we have $S_n = M'_n(1)$.

Proposition 5. *There exists a neighborhood of $z = 1$ in the complex plane where, almost surely, $M_n(z)$ converges uniformly to a limit denoted by $M(z)$.*

Proposition 6. *Let either $\beta \in \mathbb{N}_0, m = 1$ or $\beta = -1, 1 < m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, for any $p > 0$, the sequence $M_n(z)$ is uniformly bounded in L_p in a neighborhood of $z = 1$. In other words, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ and $C > 0$ such that, for all $z \in \mathbb{C}, |z - 1| < \varepsilon, n \geq 0$, we have $\mathbf{E}[|M_n(z)|^p] \leq C$. The same is true for all derivatives of $M_n(z)$.*

There are two different approaches in the literature towards uniform almost sure convergence of M_n , both of which were established initially in the BST. First, the work of Chauvin, Drmota and Jabbour-Hattab [5] is based on explicit calculations involving the covariance function of $W_n(z)$ and uses a limit theorem for vectorial martingales due to Neveu [35]. Katona [20] generalized the methodology to the class of linear recursive trees considered here where $\beta \in [0, \infty), m = 1$. (To be precise, he considers a model where a node v is chosen as parent of the new node to be inserted with probability $d_v + 1 + \alpha, \alpha > -1$. This is equivalent to our model when $\beta = (1 + \alpha)^{-1}$.) The second approach goes back to Chauvin et al. [6] and relies on an embedding of T_n into continuous time. It improves on the results in [5] providing optimal ranges of the complex plane where $M_n(z)$ converges uniformly almost surely and in $L_p, p > 1$. It is based on Biggins' uniform convergence results in branching random walks [1]. Schopp [41] generalized the approach to a wider class of trees covering m -ary trees and linear recursive trees with β integer. Summarizing, Proposition 5 follows from Corollary 3 in [20] together with Theorem 5.5 in [41].

In order to prove Proposition 6, we recall the details about the embedding of T_n into a continuous-time model. We only treat the case $\beta \in \mathbb{N}_0, m = 1$, the case of $\beta = -1$ being easier. Consider a continuous-time branching random walk describing the evolution of a population where, for any $t \geq 0$, each individual is assigned a position on the positive real line with the following dynamics. At time $t = 0$, there is one alive individual at position $x = 0$. Individuals do not move throughout their lifetimes and die at unit rate independently of each other. Extinction of an individual at position $x \geq 0$, instantaneously gives rise to the birth of $\beta + 2$ new individuals, $\beta + 1$ of which at position x , and one at position $x + 1$. For $t \geq 0, k \in \mathbb{N}_0$, denote by $\varrho_t(k)$ the number of alive individuals at position k . For $n \geq 1$, denote by τ_n the time of the n -th death event. We abbreviate $\tau_0 = 0$. At time t with $\tau_n \leq t < \tau_{n+1}$, we have α_{n+1} alive individuals in the population, where α_n is defined in (10). Since any alive individual is equally likely to die next, for all $n \geq 0$, alive individuals at position $k \geq 0$ in the branching random walk at time τ_n can be identified with external nodes on level $k + 1$ in the tree T_{n+1} . More formally, recalling (8), we have $(\varrho_{\tau_n}(k), k \geq 0) = (U_{k+1}(n + 1), k \geq 0)$, where equality can be understood in an almost sure sense even for the sequences indexed by $n \geq 0$ upon choosing suitable versions of the processes. For our purposes, it is sufficient that equality holds in distribution for fixed n . Analogously to the profile polynomial, for $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$, we define

$$\mathcal{W}_t(z) = \sum_{k \geq 0} \varrho_t(k) z^k, \quad \mathcal{M}_t(z) = \frac{\mathcal{W}_t(z)}{\mathbf{E}[\mathcal{W}_t(z)]}.$$

Let $\mathcal{F}_t^*, t > 0$ be the σ -field containing the information of the branching random walk up to time t . Then, it is well-known that $\mathcal{M}_t(z)$ is a martingale, often referred to as Biggins' martingale [1, Section 5]. (Note

that, the process $\mathcal{M}_t(z)$ equals $W^{(t)}(-\text{Log } z)$ in the notation of [1], where $\text{Log } z$ denotes the principal value of the logarithm of z .) Moreover, setting $\mathcal{C}_t(z) = \mathbf{E}[\mathcal{W}_t(z)]$, we have

$$\mathcal{M}_{\tau_n}(z) = \frac{1}{z} \frac{C_{n+1}(z)}{C_{\tau_n}(z)} M_{n+1}(z), \quad (22)$$

where $C_{\tau_n}(z)$ and $M_{n+1}(z)$ are independent. This follows since the skeleton of $\mathcal{M}_t(z)$ is independent of the jump times $\tau_n, n \geq 1$. Again, equality can be understood either on an almost sure level or in distribution.

Proof of Proposition 6. From the continuous-time analogue of Proposition 6.1 in [15], compare Remark 6.2 there, we know that, for any $p > 0$, there exists a neighborhood O of $z = 1$ and a constant $C_1 > 0$ such that $\mathbf{E}[|\mathcal{M}_t(z)|^p] \leq C_1$ for all $t \geq 0, z \in O$. In particular, for $z \in O$, the sequence $\mathcal{M}_t(z), t > 0$ is uniformly integrable. Writing $\mathcal{M}_\infty(z)$ for the almost sure limit, we have $\mathcal{M}_{\tau_n}(z) = \mathbf{E}[\mathcal{M}_\infty(z) | \mathcal{F}_{\tau_n}^*]$ almost surely by the theorem of optional sampling [39, Theorem 77.5]. Using the triangle and Jensen's inequality, we deduce that, for any $z \in O$ and $n \geq 1$,

$$\mathbf{E}[|\mathcal{M}_{\tau_n}(z)|^p] = \mathbf{E}[\left| \mathbf{E}[\mathcal{M}_\infty(z) | \mathcal{F}_{\tau_n}^*] \right|^p] \leq \mathbf{E}[|\mathcal{M}_\infty(z)|^p] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E}[|\mathcal{M}_t(z)|^p] \leq C_1.$$

Let $H_n(z) := C_{n+1}(z)/(zC_{\tau_n}(z))$ and observe that, by independence and since both $M_{\tau_n}(z)$ and $M_{n+1}(z)$ have unit mean, (22) implies $\mathbf{E}[H_n(z)] = 1$ for all $z \in O$. For $p \geq 1$, by Jensen's and the triangle inequality, we obtain $\mathbf{E}[|H_n(z)|^p] \geq |\mathbf{E}[H_n(z)]|^p = 1$. Hence, again using (22), for $z \in O$, we obtain $\mathbf{E}[|M_{n+1}(z)|^p] \leq \mathbf{E}[|\mathcal{M}_{\tau_n}(z)|^p] \leq C_1$. Thus, for any $p > 0$, $M_n(z)$ is bounded uniformly in L^p in a neighborhood of $z = 1$. The result transfers to the derivatives of $M_n(z)$ by a standard application of Cauchy's integral formulae, compare, e.g. the proof of Proposition 5.8 in [15]. (Note that, as worked out in [41, Section 5], for any $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$, the sequence $H_n(z)$ is a martingale with respect to the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_{\tau_n}^*)$ that converges almost surely. For fixed $z \in \mathbb{C}^+$, its limit is distributed like a multiple of a complex power of a random variable with a Gamma distribution. None of these deeper results are needed here.) \square

We decided to prove the proposition with the help of martingale theory in order to stay in the framework of this work. An alternative proof could be given relying on a distributional recurrence for the sequence $W_n(z)$. This approach was taken by Drmota, Janson and Neininger [11] studying the profile of m -ary search trees including the case of BSTs. As for the martingale approach, this methodology can be worked out for any $\beta \in \mathbb{N}_0$ or $\beta = -1$.

In order to prove Theorem 1 for non-integer valued β , the following (presumably non-optimal) result is sufficient.

Proposition 7. *For all $p \in \mathbb{N}, \varepsilon > 0$, we have $\mathbf{E}[|S_n|^p] = O(n^\varepsilon)$.*

Proof. By Jensen's inequality it is sufficient to consider even values of p . We proceed by induction. Let $p \geq 4$ and assume that, for some $C_1 > 0$, we have $\mathbf{E}[(E_n - \mathbf{E}[E_n])^{p-2}] \leq C_1 n^{p-2+\varepsilon}$ for all $n \geq 1$. By (15), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[(E_n - \mathbf{E}[E_n])^p] &= \mathbf{E}[(E_{n-1} - \mathbf{E}[E_{n-1}])^p] + p \mathbf{E}[(E_{n-1} - \mathbf{E}[E_{n-1}])^{p-1} (D_n - \mathbf{E}[D_n])] (\beta + m) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=2}^p \binom{p}{k} \mathbf{E}[(E_{n-1} - \mathbf{E}[E_{n-1}])^{p-k} (D_n - \mathbf{E}[D_n])^k] (\beta + m)^k \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

From the representation (11) for D_n , it is easy to see that, for all $p > 0$, we have

$$\mathbf{E}[|D_n - \mathbf{E}[D_n]|^p] = O((\log n)^p). \quad (24)$$

Thus, by an application of Hölder's inequality, there exist constants C_2, C_3 such that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p(p-1)(\beta+m)^2}{2} \mathbf{E}[(E_{n-1} - \mathbf{E}[E_{n-1}])^{p-2} (D_n - \mathbf{E}[D_n])^2] \\ \leq C_2 \mathbf{E}[(E_{n-1} - \mathbf{E}[E_{n-1}])^p]^{(p-2)/p} (\log n)^2 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=3}^p \binom{p}{k} \mathbf{E} [(E_{n-1} - \mathbf{E}[E_{n-1}])^{p-k} (D_n - \mathbf{E}[D_n])^k] (\beta + m)^k \\ & \leq C_3 \sum_{k=3}^p \mathbf{E} [(E_{n-1} - \mathbf{E}[E_{n-1}])^{p-2}]^{(p-k)/(p-2)} (\log n)^k. \end{aligned}$$

Using (15) to simplify the second summand in (23), the bounds obtained above and the induction hypothesis, we summarize

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} [(E_n - \mathbf{E}[E_n])^p] & \leq \left(1 + \frac{p(\beta + m)}{\alpha_{n-1}}\right) \mathbf{E} [(E_{n-1} - \mathbf{E}[E_{n-1}])^p] \\ & \quad + C_2 \mathbf{E} [(E_{n-1} - \mathbf{E}[E_{n-1}])^p]^{(p-2)/p} (\log n)^2 + C_1 C_3 \sum_{k=3}^p n^{p-k+\varepsilon} (\log n)^k. \end{aligned}$$

We now proceed by induction over n . Assume that $\mathbf{E} [(E_i - \mathbf{E}[E_i])^p] \leq C_4 i^{p+\varepsilon}$ for some constant $C_4 \geq 1$ and all $i \leq n-1$. Then, for some constant C_5 depending only on β, m, p, ε but not on C_4 or n ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} [(E_n - \mathbf{E}[E_n])^p] & \leq C_4 n^{p+\varepsilon} \left(\left(1 + \frac{p(\beta + m)}{\alpha_{n-1}}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^{p+\varepsilon} + C_2 n^{-2} (\log n)^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + C_1 C_3 p n^{-3} (\log n)^p \right) \\ & \leq C_4 n^{p+\varepsilon} \left(1 + \frac{p(\beta + m)}{\alpha_{n-1}} - \frac{p + \varepsilon}{n} + C_5 n^{-2} (\log n)^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

The bracket on the right hand side of the last display does not exceed one for all n large enough. This concludes the proof. \square

The proposition leads to a bound on the moments of the martingale differences X_n . For any $p \geq 2$, by (17), using $(a + b)^p \leq 2^p(a^p + b^p)$ for $a, b \geq 0$, we have

$$|X_n|^p \leq \frac{2^p(\beta + m)^p}{\alpha_n^p} (|S_{n-1}|^p + |D_n - \mathbf{E}[D_n]|^p).$$

Now from Proposition 7 and (24), for any $\varepsilon > 0$, we deduce

$$\mathbf{E}[|X_n|^p] = O(n^{\varepsilon-p}). \quad (25)$$

2.3 Verifications of the conditions in Proposition 3

We start with the conditions on the moments. For any $\delta > 0, 0 < \varepsilon < 1$, using (25), for some $C > 0$, we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} s_i^{-4} \mathbf{E} [X_i^4 \mathbf{1}_{\{|X_i| \leq \delta s_i\}}] \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} s_i^{-4} \mathbf{E} [X_i^4] \leq C \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} i^{\varepsilon-2} < \infty. \quad (26)$$

This shows **L2**. In the same way, one verifies **P2**. In the verification of conditions **C1** and **L1** we make use of the tail bounds (13) and (14). Let $\varepsilon > 0$. First, by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$s_n^{-2} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E} [X_i^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{|X_i| \geq \varepsilon s_n\}}] \leq s_n^{-2} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (\mathbf{E} [X_i^4])^{1/2} (\mathbf{P}(|X_i| \geq \varepsilon s_n))^{1/2}$$

Using (25), (13) and (14), it is easy to see that there exist constants $c, C > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} s_n^{-2} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E} [X_i^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{|X_i| \geq \varepsilon s_n\}}] &\leq C \frac{\log n}{n} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} e^{-ci\sqrt{(\log n)/n}} \\ &\leq C \frac{\log n}{n} \left(\int_{x=n}^{\infty} e^{-cx\sqrt{(\log n)/n}} dx + e^{-c\sqrt{n \log n}} \right) \\ &= O \left(\sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} e^{-c\sqrt{n \log n}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

This proves condition **C1**. The verification of **L1** runs along similar lines. In order to prove **L3**, note that, by Proposition IV-6-1 in Neveu [34], the series converges almost surely if

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} s_i^{-4} \mathbf{E} [(X_i^2 - \mathbf{E} [X_i^2 | \mathcal{F}_{i-1}])^2] < \infty. \quad (27)$$

By Jensen's inequality,

$$\mathbf{E} [(X_n^2 - \mathbf{E} [X_n^2 | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}])^2] \leq \mathbf{E} [X_n^4] + \mathbf{E} [\mathbf{E} [X_n^2 | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}]^2] \leq 2\mathbf{E} [X_n^4].$$

Thus, (27) follows from (26) proving **L3**.

We move on to condition **L4** also covering **C2** proving the martingale central limit theorem and the law of the iterated logarithm. To this end, by (17),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\alpha_n^2}{(\beta + m)^2} \mathbf{E} [X_n^2 | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}] &= \frac{\mathbf{E} [(E_{n-1} - \alpha_{n-1} D_n)^2 | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}]}{\alpha_{n-1}^2} \\ &= \frac{\alpha_{n-1}^2 \mathbf{E} [D_n^2 | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}] - E_{n-1}^2}{\alpha_{n-1}^2} \\ &= \mathbf{E} [D_n^2 | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}] - \mathbf{E} [D_n]^2 - 2S_{n-1} \mathbf{E} [D_n] - S_{n-1}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

In order to analyze this expression, we make use of the profile polynomial defined in (9). By the product rule,

$$M_n''(z) = \frac{(W_n''(z)C_n(z) - C_n''(z)W_n(z))C_n(z) - 2C_n'(z)(W_n'(z)C_n(z) - C_n'(z)W_n(z))}{C_n^3(z)}.$$

Using (20) and (21), we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} M_n''(1) &= \mathbf{E} [D_{n+1}^2 | \mathcal{F}_n] - \mathbf{E} [D_{n+1}^2] - \frac{(2\mu_n + \alpha_n)(E_n - \mu_n)}{\alpha_n^2} \\ &= \mathbf{E} [D_{n+1}^2 | \mathcal{F}_n] - \mathbf{E} [D_{n+1}]^2 - \text{Var}(D_{n+1}) - 2\mathbf{E} [D_{n+1}] S_n - S_n. \end{aligned}$$

Together with (28), it follows

$$(\beta + m)^{-2} \alpha_n^2 \mathbf{E} [X_n^2 | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}] = \text{Var}(D_n) + M_{n-1}''(1) + S_{n-1} - S_{n-1}^2. \quad (29)$$

Hence, recalling (19), we have

$$\begin{aligned} s_n^{-2} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E} [X_i^2 | \mathcal{F}_{i-1}] \\ = \left(\frac{(\beta + m)^3}{m} \frac{n}{\log n} + O \left(\frac{n}{\log^2 n} \right) \right) \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \frac{\frac{m}{\beta+m} \log i + M_{i-1}''(1) + S_{i-1} - S_{i-1}^2}{\alpha_i^2} \rightarrow 1, \end{aligned}$$

almost surely, by computing the series as in (18). Here, we use that, almost surely, $S_n \rightarrow S$ and $M_n''(1) \rightarrow M''(1)$ by Weierstrass' convergence theorem for holomorphic functions recalling Proposition 5. This verifies condition **L4** and finishes the proof of Theorem 1. In order to conclude the proof of Theorem 2 note that

condition **P1** follows immediately from Proposition 6 and $S_n = M'_n(1)$. For a real-valued random variable Y and $p \geq 1$, denote by $\|Y\|_p := \mathbf{E}[|Y|^p]^{1/p}$, $p > 1$ the L_p -norm Y . For $p \geq 2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| (\beta + m)^{-2} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \mathbf{E}[X_i^2 | \mathcal{F}_{i-1}] \right\|_p \\ & \leq \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \frac{\text{Var}(D_i)}{\alpha_i^2} + \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \frac{\|M''_{i-1}(1)\|_p + \|S_{i-1}\|_p + \|S_{i-1}^2\|_p}{\alpha_i^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where we applied the Minkowski inequality. The term on the right hand side is bounded from above by $C(\log n)/n$ for some $C > 0$ by Proposition 6 and (11). Together with (19), this implies **P3** and concludes the proof.

References

- [1] J. D. Biggins. Uniform convergence of martingales in the branching random walk. *Ann. Probab.*, 20(1):137–151, 1992.
- [2] P. Bindjeme and J. A. Fill. Exact L^2 -distance from the limit for QuickSort key comparisons (extended abstract). In *23rd Intern. Meeting on Probabilistic, Combinatorial, and Asymptotic Methods for the Analysis of Algorithms (AofA'12)*, Discrete Math. Theor. Comput. Sci. Proc., AQ, pages 339–348. Assoc. Discrete Math. Theor. Comput. Sci., Nancy, 2012.
- [3] N. Broutin and L. Devroye. Large deviations for the weighted height of an extended class of trees. *Algorithmica*, 46(3-4):271–297, 2006.
- [4] N. Broutin and C. Holmgren. The total path length of split trees. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 22(5):1745–1777, 2012.
- [5] B. Chauvin, M. Drmota, and J. Jabbour-Hattab. The profile of binary search trees. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 11(4):1042–1062, 2001.
- [6] B. Chauvin, T. Klein, J.-F. Marckert, and A. Rouault. Martingales and profile of binary search trees. *Electron. J. Probab.*, 10:no. 12, 420–435 (electronic), 2005.
- [7] L. Devroye. Universal limit laws for depths in random trees. *SIAM J. Comput.*, 28(2):409–432, 1999.
- [8] R. P. Dobrow and J. A. Fill. Total path length for random recursive trees. *Combin. Probab. Comput.*, 8(4):317–333, 1999. Random graphs and combinatorial structures (Oberwolfach, 1997).
- [9] R. P. Dobrow and R. T. Smythe. Poisson approximations for functionals of random trees. In *Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference on Random Structures and Algorithms (Atlanta, GA, 1995)*, volume 9, pages 79–92, 1996.
- [10] M. Drmota. *Random trees. An interplay between combinatorics and probability*. SpringerWienNewYork, Vienna, 2009.
- [11] M. Drmota, S. Janson, and R. Neininger. A functional limit theorem for the profile of search trees. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 18(1):288–333, 2008.
- [12] J. A. Fill and S. Janson. Quicksort asymptotics. *J. Algorithms*, 44(1):4–28, 2002.
- [13] P. Flajolet, G. Labelle, L. Lafortest, and B. Salvy. Hypergeometrics and the cost structure of quadrtrees. *Random Structures Algorithms*, 7(2):117–144, 1995.
- [14] M. Fuchs. A note on the Quicksort asymptotics. *Random Structures Algorithms*, 46(4):677–687, 2015.
- [15] R. Grübel and Z. Kabluchko. A functional central limit theorem for branching random walks, almost sure weak convergence, and applications to random trees. *to appear in Annals of Applied Probability*, 2016.
- [16] P. Hall. The convergence of moments in the martingale central limit theorem. *Z. Wahrsch. Verw. Gebiete*, 44(3):253–260, 1978.
- [17] C. C. Heyde. On central limit and iterated logarithm supplements to the martingale convergence theorem. *J. Appl. Probability*, 14(4):758–775, 1977.
- [18] C. A. R. Hoare. Quicksort. *Comput. J.*, 5:10–15, 1962.
- [19] J. Jabbour-Hattab. Martingales and large deviations for binary search trees. *Random Structures Algorithms*, 19(2):112–127, 2001.

- [20] Z. Katona. Width of a scale-free tree. *J. Appl. Probab.*, 42(3):839–850, 2005.
- [21] A. Klenke. *Probability theory. A comprehensive course*. London: Springer, 2nd extended edition, 2014.
- [22] D. E. Knuth. *The Art of Computer Programming: Sorting and Searching*, volume 3. Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA, 1973.
- [23] N. N. Lebedev. *Special functions and their applications*. Revised edition, translated from the Russian and edited by Richard A. Silverman. Unabridged and corrected republication. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1972.
- [24] H. M. Mahmoud. Limiting distributions for path lengths in recursive trees. *Probab. Engrg. Inform. Sci.*, 5(1):53–59, 1991.
- [25] H. M. Mahmoud. Distances in random plane-oriented recursive trees. *J. Comput. Appl. Math.*, 41(1-2):237–245, 1992.
- [26] H. M. Mahmoud. *Evolution of random search trees*. Wiley-Interscience Series in Discrete Mathematics and Optimization. A Wiley-Interscience Publication. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1992.
- [27] H. M. Mahmoud. *Pólya Urn Models*, Texts in Statistical Science Series. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 2009.
- [28] C. McDiarmid and R. Hayward. Large deviations for quicksort. *J. Algorithms*, 21(3):476–507, 1996.
- [29] G. O. Munsonius. On the asymptotic internal path length and the asymptotic Wiener index of random split trees. *Electron. J. Probab.*, 16:no. 35, 1020–1047, 2011.
- [30] G. O. Munsonius and L. Rüschemdorf. Limit theorems for depths and distances in weighted random b -ary recursive trees. *J. Appl. Probab.* 48(4):1060–1080, 2011.
- [31] R. Neininger and L. Rüschemdorf. On the internal path length of d -dimensional quad trees. *Random Structures Algorithms*, 15(1):25–41, 1999.
- [32] R. Neininger and L. Rüschemdorf. Rates of convergence for Quicksort. *J. Algorithms*, 44(1):51–62, 2002.
- [33] R. Neininger. Refined quicksort asymptotics. *Random Structures Algorithms*, 46(2):346–361, 2015.
- [34] J. Neveu. *Mathematical foundations of the calculus of probability*. San Francisco: Holden-Day, Inc., 1965.
- [35] J. Neveu. *Discrete-parameter martingales*. Translated from the French by T. P. Speed, revised edition, North-Holland Mathematical Library, Vol. 10. North-Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam-Oxford; American Elsevier Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1975.
- [36] B. Pittel. Note on the heights of random recursive trees and random m -ary search trees. *Random Structures Algorithms*, 5(2):337–347, 1994.
- [37] M. Régnier. A limiting distribution for quicksort. *RAIRO Inform. Théor. Appl.*, 23(3):335–343, 1989.
- [38] A. Rényi and P. Révész. On mixing sequences of random variables. *Acta Math. Acad. Sci. Hungar.*, 9:389–393, 1958.
- [39] L. C. G. Rogers and D. Williams. *Diffusions, Markov processes, and martingales. Volume 1: Foundations*. Cambridge Mathematical Library. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2000.
- [40] U. Rösler. A limit theorem for “Quicksort”. *RAIRO Inform. Théor. Appl.*, 25:85–100, 1991.
- [41] E.-M. Schopp. A functional limit theorem for the profile of b -ary trees. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 20(3):907–950, 2010.