

Logarithmic Fluctuations From Circularity

Lionel Levine (Cornell University)

Harry Kesten's 80th Birthday Conference

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Talk Outline

- ▶ Part 1: Logarithmic fluctuations
- ▶ Part 2: Limiting shapes
- ▶ Part 3: Integrality wreaks havoc

- ▶ Part 1: Joint work with David Jerison and Scott Sheffield.
- ▶ Parts 2 & 3: Joint work with Anne Fey and Yuval Peres.

Part 1: Logarithmic Fluctuations

From random walk to growth model

Internal DLA

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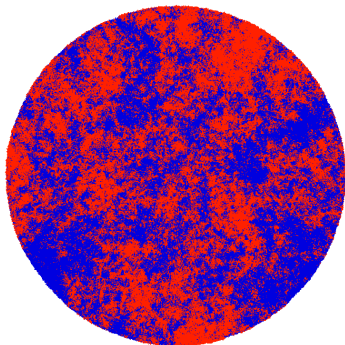
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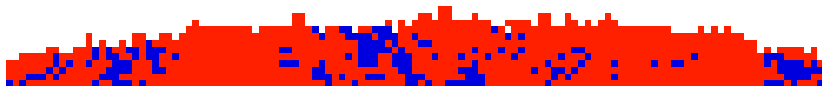
$$A(n+1) = A(n) \cup \{X^n(\tau^n)\}$$

where X^1, X^2, \dots are independent random walks, and

$$\tau^n = \min \{t \mid X^n(t) \notin A(n)\}.$$



Internal DLA cluster in \mathbb{Z}^2 .



Closeup of the boundary.

Questions

- ▶ Limiting shape
- ▶ Fluctuations

Meakin & Deutch, J. Chem. Phys. 1986

- ▶ “It is also of some fundamental significance to know just how smooth a surface formed by diffusion limited processes may be.”

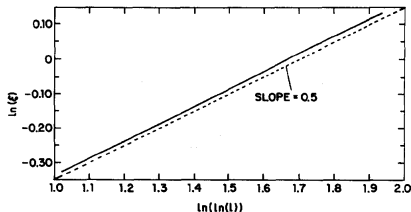


FIG. 2. Dependence of the variance of the surface height (ξ) on the strip width l for two-dimensional (square lattice) diffusion limited annihilation in the long time ($\bar{h} \gg l$) limit.

- ▶ “Initially, we plotted $\ln(\xi)$ vs $\ln(l)$ but the resulting plots were quite noticeably curved. Figure 2 shows the dependence of $\ln(\xi)$ on $\ln[\ln(l)]$.”

History of the Problem

- ▶ **Diaconis-Fulton 1991**: Addition operation on subsets of \mathbb{Z}^d .
- ▶ **Lawler-Bramson-Griffeath 1992**: w.p.1,

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- ▶ **Lawler 1995:** w.p.1,

$$\mathbf{B}_{r-r^{1/3} \log^2 r} \subset A(\pi r^2) \subset \mathbf{B}_{r+r^{1/3} \log^4 r} \quad \text{eventually.}$$

“A more interesting question... is whether the errors are $o(n^\alpha)$ for some $\alpha < 1/3$.”

Logarithmic Fluctuations Theorem

Jerison - L. - Sheffield 2010: with probability 1,

$$\mathbf{B}_{r-C\log r} \subset A(\pi r^2) \subset \mathbf{B}_{r+C\log r} \text{ eventually.}$$

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Asselah - Gaudillière 2010 independently obtained

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Logarithmic Fluctuations in Higher Dimensions

In dimension $d \geq 3$, let ω_d be the volume of the unit ball in \mathbb{R}^d .
Then with probability 1,

$$\mathbf{B}_{r-C\sqrt{\log r}} \subset A(\omega_d r^d) \subset \mathbf{B}_{r+C\sqrt{\log r}} \quad \text{eventually}$$

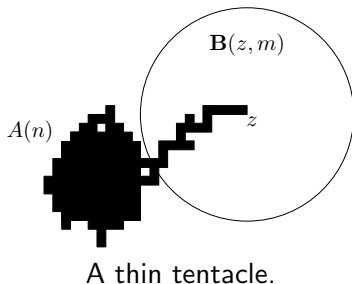
for a constant C depending only on d .

(Jerison - L. - Sheffield 2010; Asselah - Gaudillière 2010)

Elements of the proof

- ▶ Thin tentacles are unlikely.
- ▶ Martingales to detect fluctuations from circularity.
- ▶ “Self-improvement”

Thin tentacles are unlikely

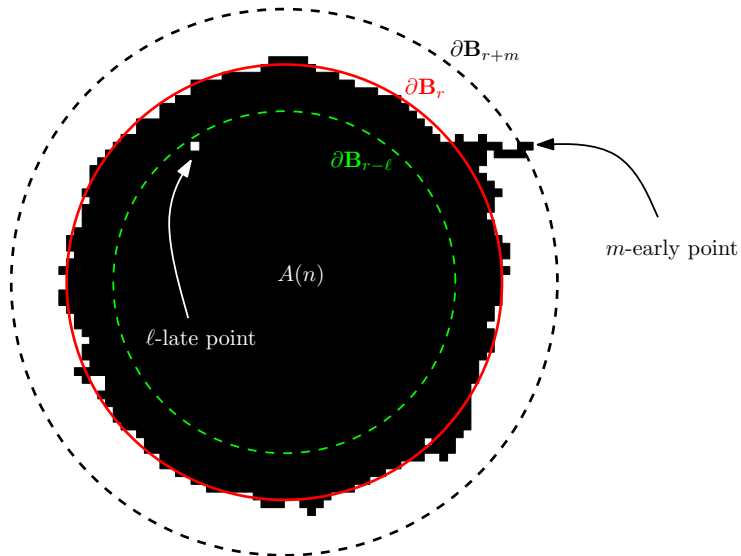


Lemma. If $0 \notin \mathbf{B}(z, m)$, then

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ z \in A(n), \#(A(n) \cap \mathbf{B}(z, m)) \leq bm^d \right\} \leq \begin{cases} Ce^{-cm^2/\log m}, & d = 2 \\ Ce^{-cm^2}, & d \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

for constants $b, c, C > 0$ depending only on the dimension d .

Early and late points in $A(n)$, for $n = \pi r^2$



Early and late points

Definition 1. z is an m -early point if:

$$z \in A(n), \quad n < \pi(|z| - m)^2$$

Definition 2. z is an ℓ -late point if:

$$z \notin A(n), \quad n > \pi(|z| + \ell)^2$$

$\mathcal{E}_m[n]$ = event that some point in $A(n)$ is m -early

$\mathcal{L}_\ell[n]$ = event that some point in $\mathbf{B}_{\sqrt{n}/\pi - \ell}$ is ℓ -late

Structure of the argument: Self-improvement

LEMMA 1. No ℓ -late points implies no m -early points:
If $m \geq C\ell$, then

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_m[n] \cap \mathcal{L}_\ell[n]^c) < n^{-10}.$$

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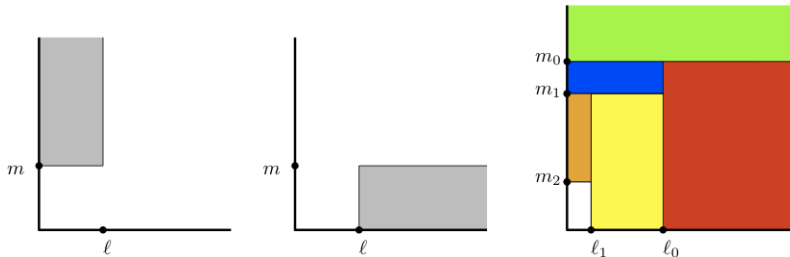
LEMMA 2. No m -early points implies no ℓ -late points:
If $\ell \geq \sqrt{C(\log n)m}$, then

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{L}_\ell[n] \cap \mathcal{E}_m[n]^c) < n^{-10}.$$

Iterate, $\ell \mapsto \sqrt{C(\log n)C\ell}$, which is decreasing until

$$\ell = C^2 \log n.$$

Iterating Lemmas 1 and 2



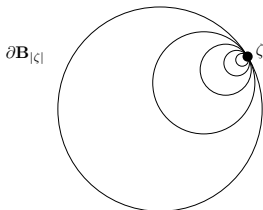
- ▶ Fix n and let l, m be the maximal lateness and earliness occurring by time n . Iterate starting from $m_0 = n$:
- ▶ (l, m) unlikely to belong to a vertical rectangle by Lemma 1.
- ▶ (l, m) unlikely to belong to a horizontal rectangle by Lemma 2.

Early and late point detector

To detect early points near $\zeta \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, we use the martingale

$$M_\zeta(n) = \sum_{z \in \tilde{A}(n)} (H_\zeta(z) - H_\zeta(0))$$

where H_ζ is a discrete harmonic function approximating $\operatorname{Re} \left(\frac{\zeta/|\zeta|}{\zeta-z} \right)$.

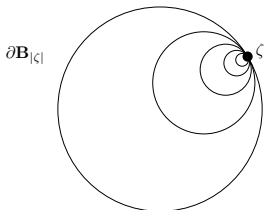


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The fine print:

- ▶ Discrete harmonicity fails at three points $z = \zeta, \zeta + 1, \zeta + 1 + i$.
- ▶ Modified growth process $\tilde{A}(n)$ stops at $\partial B_{|\zeta|}(0)$.

Time change of Brownian motion

- ▶ To get a *continuous time* martingale, we use Brownian motions on the grid $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R} \cup \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{Z}$ instead of random walks.
- ▶ Then there is a standard Brownian motion B_ζ such that

$$M_\zeta(t) = B_\zeta(s_\zeta(t))$$

where

$$s_\zeta(t) = \lim \sum_{i=1}^N (M(t_i) - M(t_{i-1}))^2$$

is the quadratic variation of M_ζ .

LEMMA 1. No ℓ -late implies no $m = C\ell$ -early

Event $Q[z, k]$:

- ▶ $z \in A(k) \setminus A(k-1)$.
- ▶ z is m -early ($z \in A(\pi r^2)$ for $r = |z| - m$).
- ▶ $\mathcal{E}_m[k-1]^c$: No previous point is m -early.
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}_\ell[n]^c$: No point is ℓ -late.

We will use M_ζ for $\zeta = (1 + 4m/r)z$ to show for $0 < k \leq n$,

$$\mathbb{P}(Q[z, k]) < n^{-20}.$$

Main idea: Early but no late would be a large deviation!

- ▶ Recall there is a Brownian motion B_ζ such that

$$M_\zeta(n) = B_\zeta(s_\zeta(n)).$$

- ▶ On the event $Q[z, k]$

$$\mathbb{P}(M_\zeta(k) > c_0 m) > 1 - n^{-20} \quad (1)$$

and

$$\mathbb{P}(s_\zeta(k) < 100 \log n) > 1 - n^{-20}. \quad (2)$$

- ▶ On the other hand, ($s = 100 \log n$)

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{s' \in [0, s]} B_\zeta(s') \geq s\right) \leq e^{-s/2} = n^{-50}.$$

Proof of (1)

On the event $Q[z, k]$

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- ▶ For each of these bm^2 points, the value of H_ζ is order $1/m$, so their total contribution to $M_\zeta(k)$ is order m .
- ▶ No ℓ -late points means that points elsewhere cannot compensate.

Proof of (2): Controlling the Quadratic Variation

On the event $Q[z, k]$

$$\mathbb{P}(s_\zeta(k) < 100 \log n) > 1 - n^{-20}.$$

- ▶ Lemma: There are **independent** standard Brownian motions B^1, B^2, \dots such that

$$s_\zeta(i+1) - s_\zeta(i) \leq \tau_i$$

where τ_i is the **first exit time** of B^i from the interval (a_i, b_i) .

$$a_i = \min_{z \in \partial \tilde{A}(i)} H_\zeta(z) - H_\zeta(0)$$

$$b_i = \max_{z \in \partial \tilde{A}(i)} H_\zeta(z) - H_\zeta(0).$$

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On the event $Q[z, k]$

$$\mathbb{P}(s_{\zeta}(k) < 100 \log n) > 1 - n^{-20}.$$

- ▶ By independence of the τ_i ,

$$\mathbb{E}e^{s_{\zeta}(k)} \leq \mathbb{E}e^{(\tau_1 + \dots + \tau_k)} = (\mathbb{E}e^{\tau_1}) \dots (\mathbb{E}e^{\tau_k}).$$

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- ▶ Easy to estimate a_i , and use the fact that **no previous point is m -early** to bound b_i . Conclude that

$$\mathbb{E} \left[e^{s_{\zeta}(k)} 1_Q \right] \leq n^{50}.$$

What changes in higher dimensions?

- ▶ In dimension $d \geq 3$ the quadratic variation $s_\zeta(n)$ is **constant** order instead of $\log n$.
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- ▶ So the fluctuations are instead dominated by thin tentacles, which can grow to length $\sqrt{\log n}$.
- ▶ **Still open**: prove matching lower bounds on the fluctuations of order $\log n$ in dimension 2 and $\sqrt{\log n}$ in dimensions $d \geq 3$.

Part 2: Limiting Shapes

Internal DLA with Multiple Sources

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- ▶ Each particle performs **simple random walk** in \mathbb{Z}^d until reaching an unoccupied site.
- ▶ Get a **random set** of km occupied sites in \mathbb{Z}^d .
- ▶ The distribution of this random set does not depend on the order of the walks (**Diaconis-Fulton '91**).

Questions

- ▶ Fix sources $x_1, \dots, x_k \in \mathbb{R}^d$.
- ▶ Run internal DLA on $\frac{1}{n}\mathbb{Z}^d$ with n^d particles per source.

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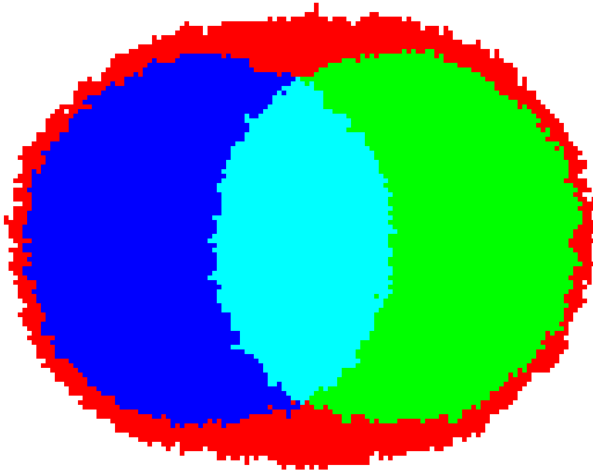
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-
- ▶ Recall from part 1: If $k = 1$, then the limiting shape is a ball in \mathbb{R}^d . (**Lawler-Bramson-Griffeath '92**)



Two-source internal DLA cluster built from overlapping single-source clusters.

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- ▶ Define $A + B = C_k$.

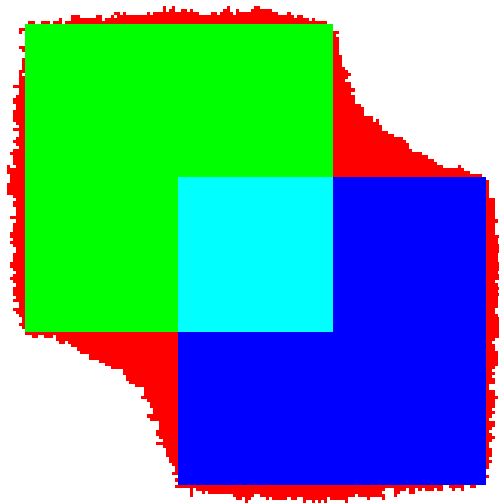
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- ▶ Define $A + B = C_k$.
- ▶ **Abeilan property:** the law of $A + B$ does not depend on the ordering of y_1, \dots, y_k .



Diaconis-Fulton sum of two squares in \mathbb{Z}^2 overlapping in a smaller square.

Divisible Sandpile

- ▶ Given $A, B \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$, start with
 - ▶ 2 units of mass on each site in $A \cap B$; and
 - ▶ 1 unit of mass on each site in $A \cup B - A \cap B$.

Divisible Sandpile

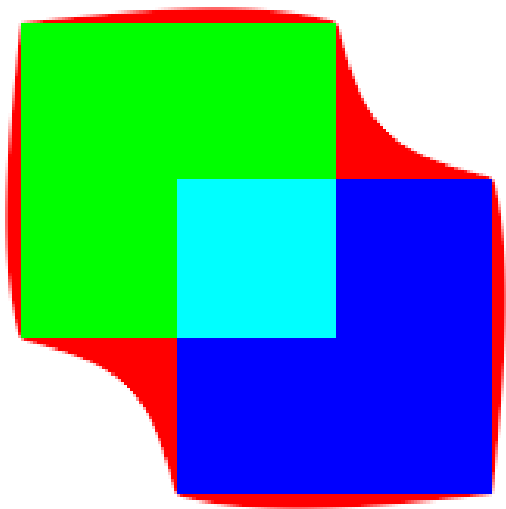
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- ▶ As $t \rightarrow \infty$, get a limiting region $A \oplus B \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$ of sites with mass 1.
 - ▶ Sites in $\partial(A \oplus B)$ have fractional mass.
 - ▶ Sites outside have zero mass.

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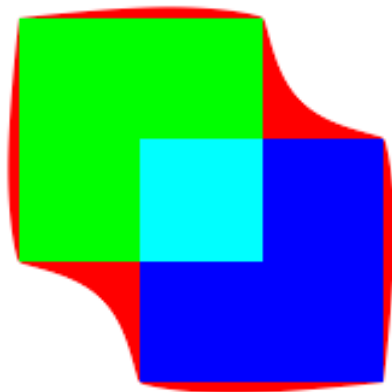
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- ▶ Abelian property: $A \oplus B$ does not depend on the choices.



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Diaconis-Fulton sum



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- ▶ Boundary condition: $u = 0$ on $\partial(A \oplus B)$.
- ▶ Need additional information to determine the domain $A \oplus B$.

Free Boundary Problem

- ▶ Unknown function u , unknown domain $D = \{u > 0\}$.

$$u \geq 0$$

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$$u(\Delta u - 1 + 1_A + 1_B) = 0.$$

The Obstacle Problem

- ▶ Given $A, B \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$, we define the “obstacle:”

$$\gamma(x) = -|x|^2 - \sum_{y \in A} g(x, y) - \sum_{y \in B} g(x, y),$$

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(In \mathbb{Z}^2 , we use the negative of the potential kernel instead.)

- ▶ Let $s(x) = \inf\{\phi(x) \mid \phi \text{ is superharmonic on } \mathbb{Z}^d \text{ and } \phi \geq \gamma\}$.

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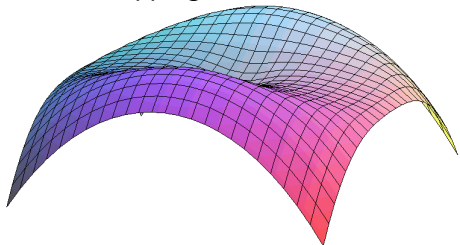
where g is the Green function for simple random walk

$$g(x, y) = \mathbb{E}_x \#\{k | X_k = y\}.$$

(In \mathbb{Z}^2 , we use the negative of the potential kernel instead.)

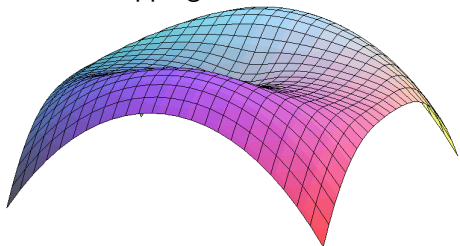
- ▶ Let $s(x) = \inf\{\phi(x) \mid \phi \text{ is superharmonic on } \mathbb{Z}^d \text{ and } \phi \geq \gamma\}$.
- ▶ Then the odometer function = $s - \gamma$.

- ▶ Obstacle for two overlapping disks A and B :



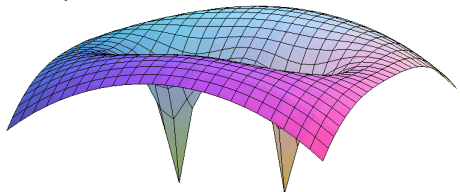
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- ▶ Obstacle for two point sources x_1 and x_2 :



$$\gamma(x) = -|x|^2 - g(x, x_1) - g(x, x_2)$$

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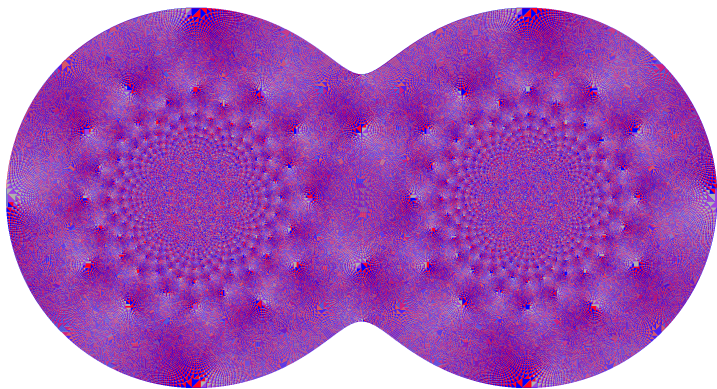
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The smash sum

$$A \oplus B = A \cup B \cup \{s > \gamma\}$$

of two overlapping disks $A, B \subset \mathbb{R}^2$.

Properties of the Smash Sum

- ▶ $A \cup B \subset A \oplus B$.
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$$\int_{A \oplus B} h(x) dx \leq \int_A h(x) dx + \int_B h(x) dx.$$

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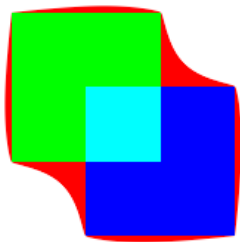
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- ▶ Convergence is in the sense of ε -neighborhoods: for all $\varepsilon > 0$

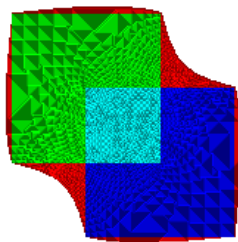
$$(A \oplus B)_{\varepsilon}^{\circ\circ} \subset D_n, R_n, I_n \subset (A \oplus B)^{\varepsilon\circ\circ} \quad \text{for all sufficiently large } n.$$



Internal DLA



Divisible Sandpile



Rotor-Router Model

Part 3: Integrality wreaks havoc

The Abelian Sandpile as a Growth Model

- ▶ Start with a pile of n chips at the origin in \mathbb{Z}^d .
- ▶ Each site $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ has $2d$ neighbors

$$x \pm e_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, d.$$

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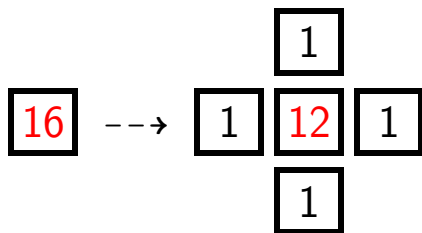
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- ▶ Any site with at least $2d$ chips is unstable, and **topples** by sending one chip to each neighbor.
- ▶ This may create further unstable sites, which also topple.
- ▶ Continue until there are no more unstable sites.

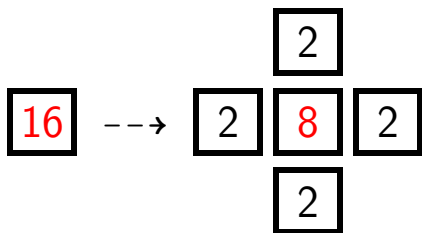
Toppling to Stabilize A Sandpile

- ▶ Example: $n=16$ chips in \mathbb{Z}^2 .
- ▶ Sites with 4 or more chips are unstable.



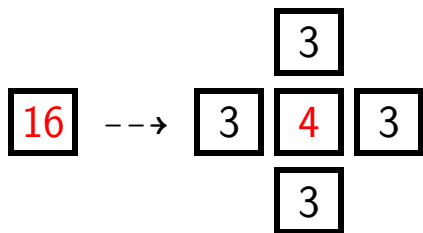
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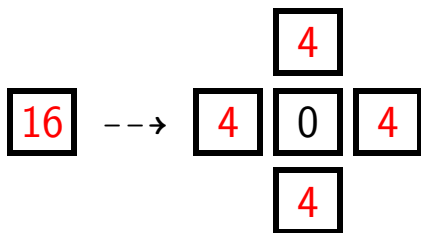
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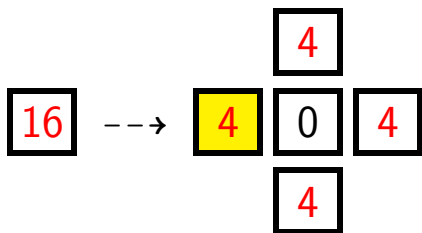
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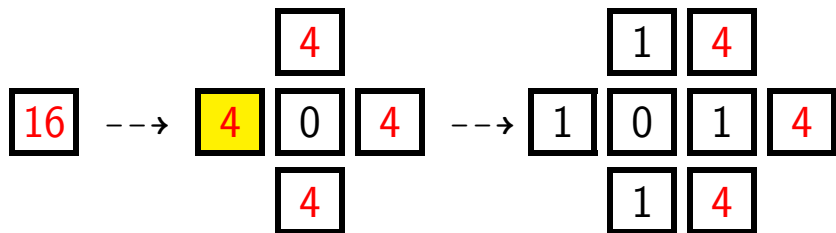
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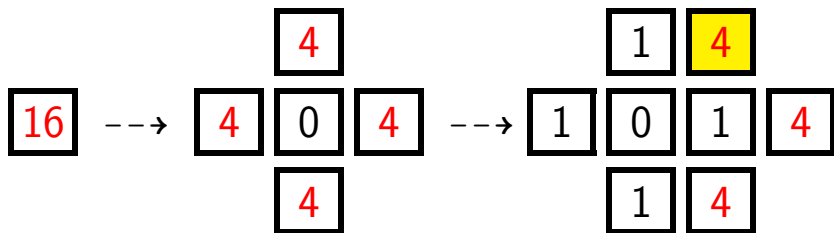
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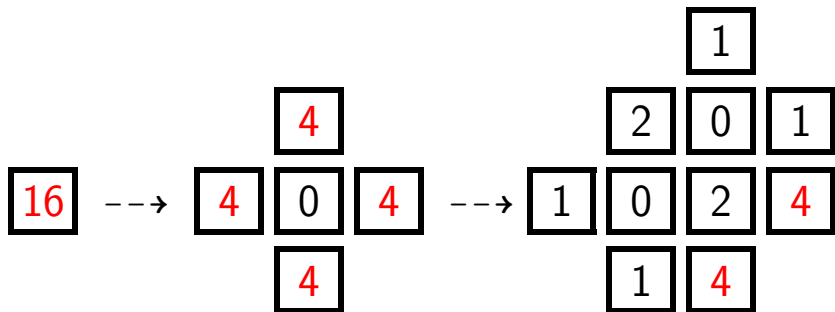
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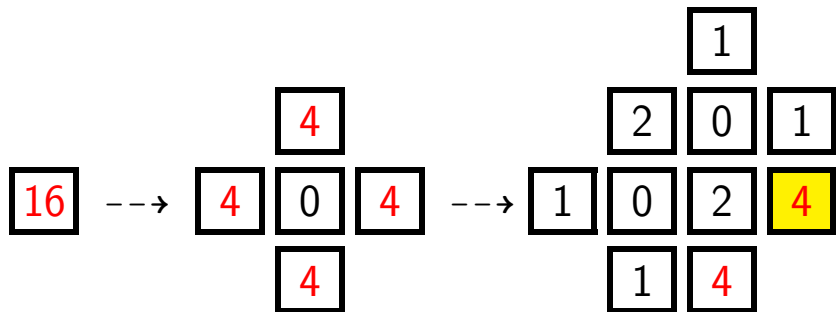
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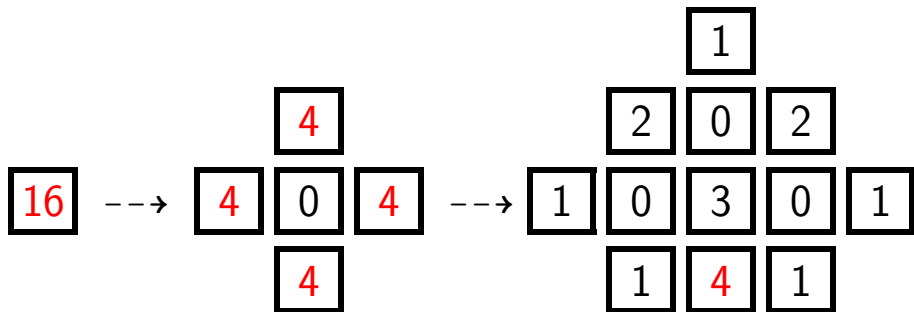
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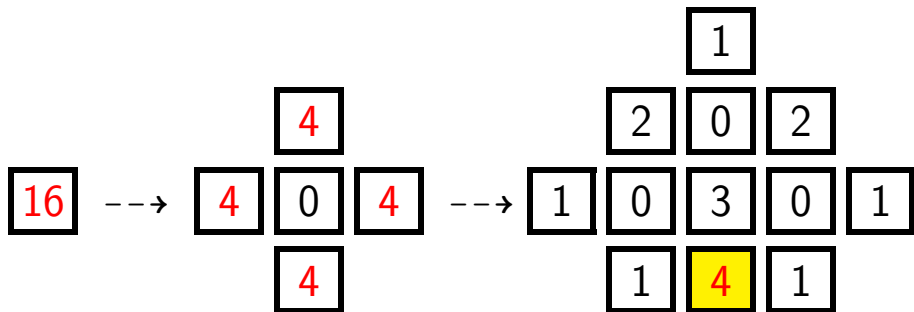
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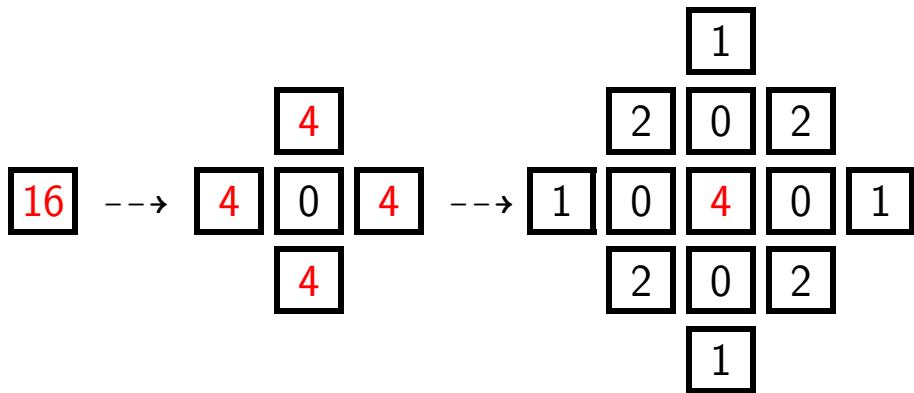
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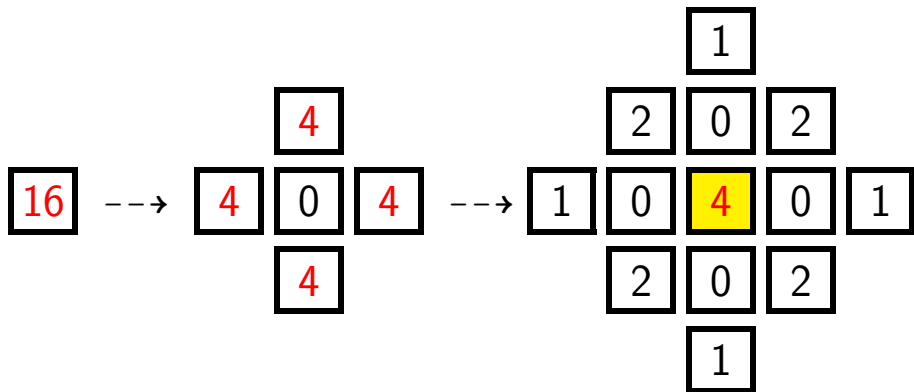
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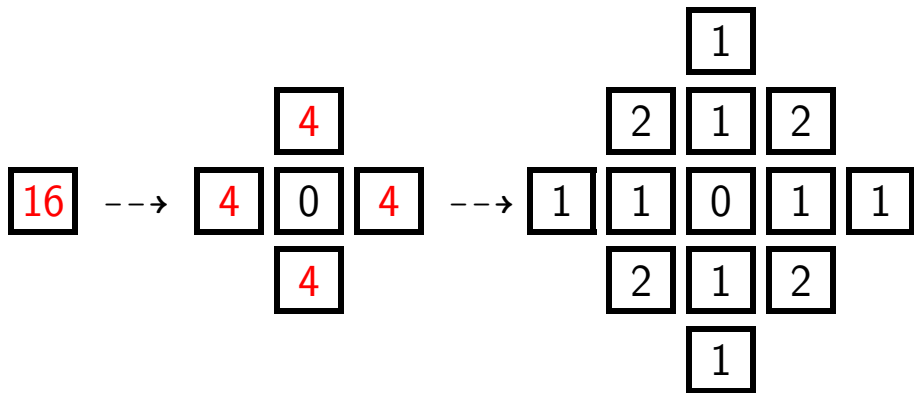
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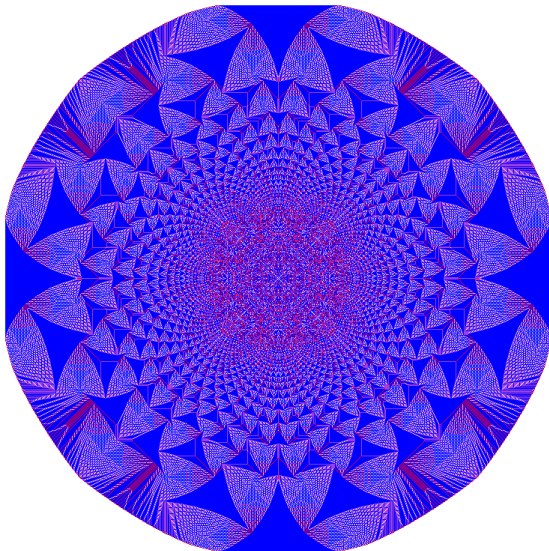


Stable.

Abelian Property

- ▶ The **final stable configuration** does not depend on the order of topplings.
- ▶ Neither does the number of times a given vertex topples.

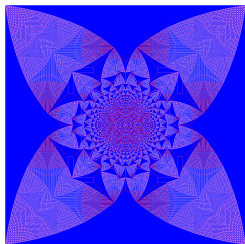
Sandpile of 1,000,000 chips in \mathbb{Z}^2



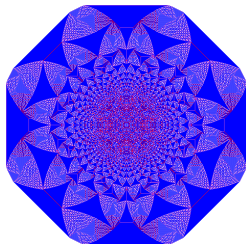
Growth on a General Background

- ▶ Let each site $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ start with $\sigma(x)$ chips.
($\sigma(x) \leq 2d - 1$)
- ▶ We call σ the **background configuration**.
- ▶ Place n **additional chips** at the origin.
- ▶ Let $S_{n,\sigma}$ be the set of sites that topple.

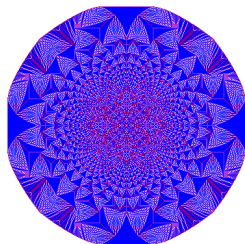
Constant Background $\sigma \equiv h$



$$h = 2$$



$$h = 1$$



$$h = 0$$

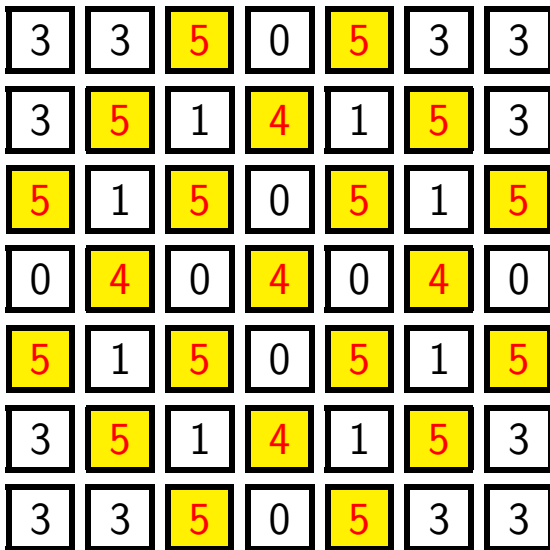
What about background $h = 3$?

3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	4	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3

3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	4	3	3	3
3	3	4	0	4	3	3
3	3	3	4	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3

3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	4	3	3	3
3	3	5	0	5	3	3
3	4	0	4	0	4	3
3	3	5	0	5	3	3
3	3	3	4	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3

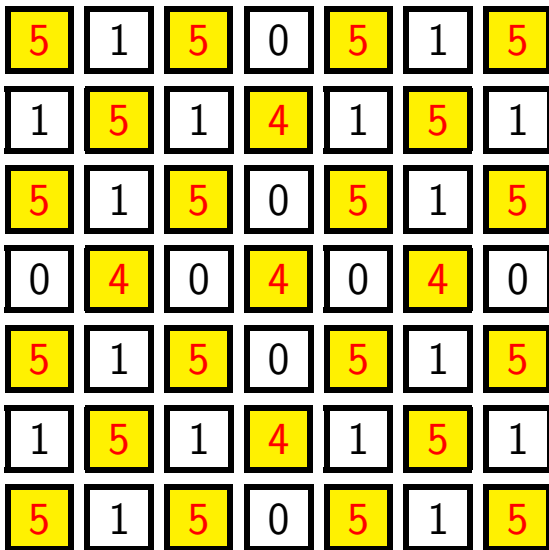
3	3	3	4	3	3	3
3	3	5	0	5	3	3
3	5	1	4	1	5	3
4	0	4	0	4	0	4
3	5	1	4	1	5	3
3	3	5	0	5	3	3
3	3	3	4	3	3	3



... Never stops toppling!

3	5	1	4	1	5	3
5	1	5	0	5	1	5
1	5	1	4	1	5	1
4	0	4	0	4	0	4
1	5	1	4	1	5	1
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3	5	1	4	1	5	3

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$$\begin{aligned}\Delta u(x) &= \sum_{y \sim x} u(y) - 2d u(x) \\ &= \text{chips received} - \text{chips emitted} \\ &= \tau^\circ(x) - \tau(x)\end{aligned}$$

where τ is the initial unstable chip configuration
and τ° is the final stable configuration.

Stabilizing Functions

- ▶ Given a chip configuration τ on \mathbb{Z}^d and a function $u_1 : \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, call u_1 **stabilizing** for τ if

$$\tau + \Delta u_1 \leq 2d - 1.$$

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$$\tau + \Delta u_1 \leq 2d - 1.$$

- ▶ If u_1 and u_2 are stabilizing for τ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \tau + \Delta \min(u_1, u_2) &\leq \tau + \max(\Delta u_1, \Delta u_2) \\ &= \max(\tau + \Delta u_1, \tau + \Delta u_2) \\ &\leq 2d - 1 \end{aligned}$$

so $\min(u_1, u_2)$ is also stabilizing for τ .

Least Action Principle

- ▶ Let τ be a chip configuration on \mathbb{Z}^d that stabilizes after finitely many topplings, and let u be its odometer function.
- ▶ Least Action Principle:

If $u_1 : \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ is stabilizing for τ , then $u \leq u_1$.

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If $u_1 : \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ is stabilizing for τ , then $u \leq u_1$.

- ▶ So the odometer is minimal among all nonnegative stabilizing functions:

$$u(x) = \min\{u_1(x) \mid u_1 \geq 0 \text{ is stabilizing for } \tau\}.$$

- ▶ Interpretation: “Sandpiles are lazy.”

Obstacle Problem with an Integrality Condition

- ▶ **Lemma.** The abelian sandpile odometer function is given by

$$u = s - \gamma$$

where

$$s(x) = \min \left\{ f(x) \mid \begin{array}{l} f : \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ is superharmonic} \\ \text{and } f - \gamma \text{ is } \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}\text{-valued} \end{array} \right\}.$$

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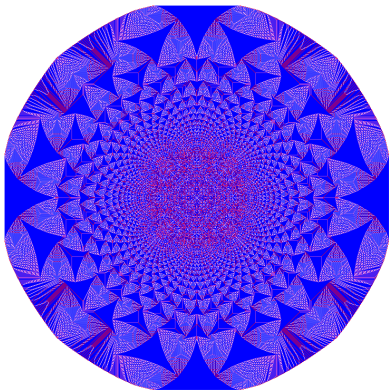
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- ▶ The obstacle γ is given by

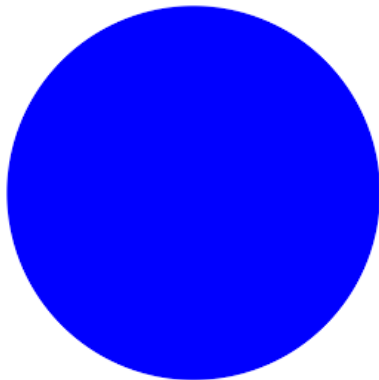
$$\gamma(x) = -\frac{(2d-1)|x|^2 + n \cdot g(o, x)}{2d}$$

where g is the Green's function for simple random walk in \mathbb{Z}^d

$$g(o, x) = \mathbb{E}_o \#\{k \mid X_k = x\}.$$



Abelian sandpile
(Integrality constraint)



Divisible sandpile
(No integrality constraint)

Sandpile growth rates

- ▶ Let $S_{n,d,h}$ be the set of sites in \mathbb{Z}^d that topple, if $n + h$ chips start at the origin and h chips start at every other site in \mathbb{Z}^d .

Theorem (Fey-L.-Peres) If $h \leq 2d - 2$, then

$$B_{cn^{1/d}} \subset S_{n,d,h} \subset B_{Cn^{1/d}}.$$

Sandpile growth rates

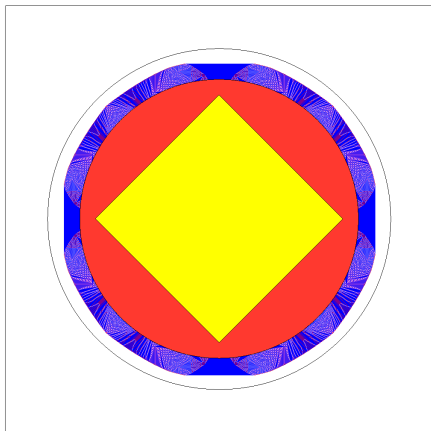
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- ▶ Extends earlier work of **Fey-Redig** and **Le Borgne-Rossin**.

Bounds for the Abelian Sandpile Shape



(Disk of area $n/3$) $\subset S_n \subset$ (Disk of area $n/2$)

A Few Extra Chips Produce An Explosion

- ▶ Let $(\beta(x))_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$ be independent Bernoulli random variables

$$\beta(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{with probability } \varepsilon \\ 0 & \text{with probability } 1 - \varepsilon. \end{cases}$$

- ▶ **Theorem** (Fey-L.-Peres) For any $\varepsilon > 0$, with probability 1, the background $2d - 2 + \beta$ on \mathbb{Z}^d is **explosive**.

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 - ▶ i.e., for large enough n , adding n chips at the origin causes every site in \mathbb{Z}^d to topple infinitely many times.
- ▶ Same is true if the extra chips start on an arbitrarily sparse lattice $L \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$, provided L meets every coordinate plane $\{x_i = k\}$.

How to Prove An Explosion

- ▶ **Claim:** If every site in \mathbb{Z}^d topples **at least once**, then every site topples **infinitely often**.

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- ▶ Otherwise, let x be the first site to finish toppling.
- ▶ Each neighbor of x topples at least one more time, so x receives at least $2d$ additional chips.
- ▶ So x must topple again. $\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$

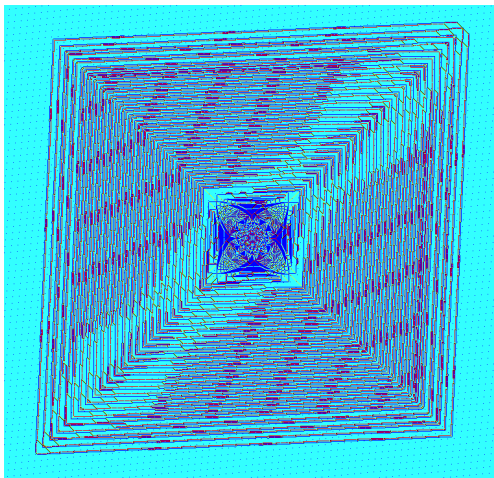
Straley's Argument for Bootstrap Percolation

- ▶ Let E_k be the event that **each face** of the cube Q_k starts with at least one extra chip. Then

$$\mathbb{P}(E_k^c) \leq 2d(1 - \varepsilon)^k.$$

- ▶ By Borel-Cantelli, with probability 1 almost all E_k occur.

An Explosion In Progress



- ▶ Sites colored black are unstable. All sites in \mathbb{Z}^2 will topple infinitely often!

A Mystery: Scale Invariance

- ▶ Big sandpiles look like scaled up small sandpiles!
- ▶ Let $\sigma_n(x)$ be the final number of chips at x in the sandpile of n particles on \mathbb{Z}^d .

A Mystery: Scale Invariance

- ▶ Big sandpiles look like scaled up small sandpiles!
- ▶ Let $\sigma_n(x)$ be the **final number of chips at x** in the sandpile of n particles on \mathbb{Z}^d .
- ▶ Squint your eyes: for $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ let

$$f_n(x) = \frac{1}{a_n^2} \sum_{\substack{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d \\ \|y - \sqrt{n}x\| \leq a_n}} \sigma_n(y).$$

where a_n is a sequence of integers such that

$$a_n \uparrow \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{a_n}{\sqrt{n}} \downarrow 0.$$

Scale Invariance Conjecture

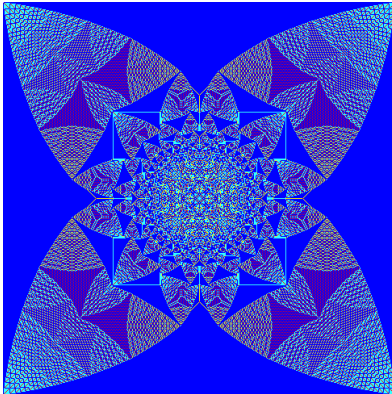
- ▶ **Conjecture:** There is a sequence a_n and a function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ which is locally constant on an open dense set, such that $f_n \rightarrow f$ at all continuity points of f .

Scale Invariance Conjecture

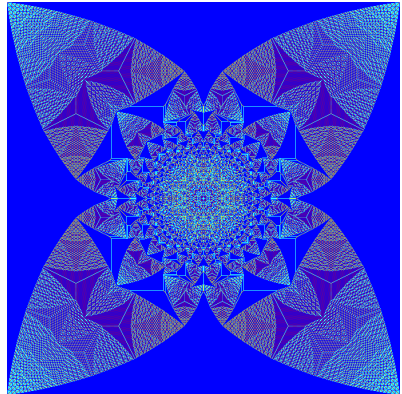
- ▶ **Conjecture:** There is a sequence a_n and a function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ which is locally constant on an open dense set, such that $f_n \rightarrow f$ at all continuity points of f .
- ▶ Now partly proved! **Pegden and Smart** ([arXiv:1105.0111](https://arxiv.org/abs/1105.0111)) show existence of a weak-* limit for f_n !

Two Sandpiles of Different Sizes

$n = 100,000$

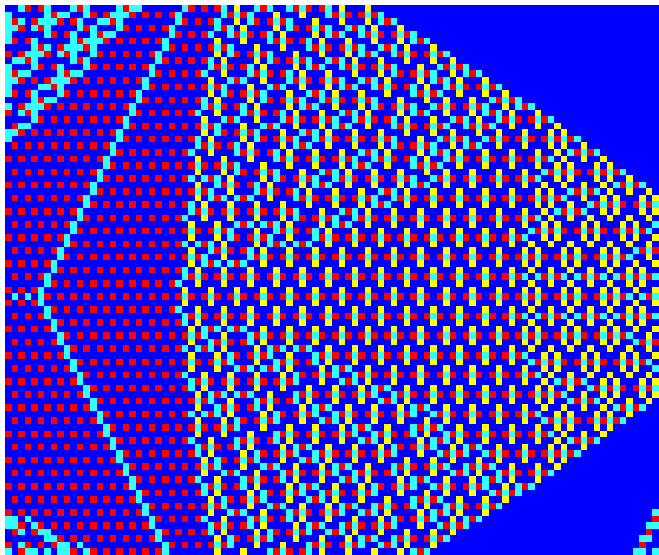


$n = 200,000$



(scaled down by $\sqrt{2}$)

Locally constant “steps” of f correspond to periodic patterns:



A Mystery: Dimensional Reduction

- ▶ Our argument used simple properties of **one-dimensional** sandpiles to bound the diameter of higher-dimensional sandpiles.
- ▶ Deepak Dhar pointed out that there seems to be a deeper relationship between sandpiles in d and $d - 1$ dimensions...

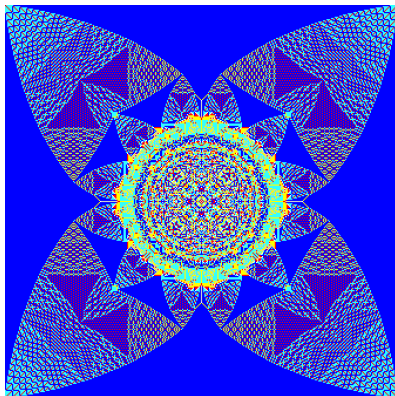
Dimensional Reduction Conjecture

- ▶ $\sigma_{n,d}$: sandpile of n chips on background $h = 2d - 2$ in \mathbb{Z}^d .
- ▶ **Conjecture:** For any n there exists m such that

$$\sigma_{n,d}(x_1, \dots, x_{d-1}, 0) = 2 + \sigma_{m,d-1}(x_1, \dots, x_{d-1})$$

for almost all x sufficiently far from the origin.

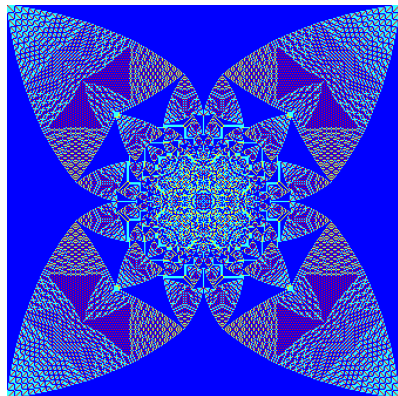
A Two-Dimensional Slice of A Three-Dimensional Sandpile



$d = 3$ (slice through origin)

$h = 4$

$n = 5,000,000$

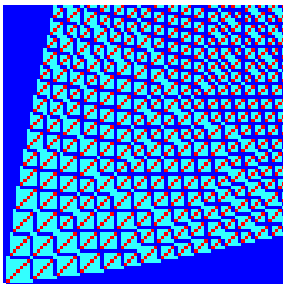


$d = 2$

$h = 2$

$m = 46,490$

Thank You!



References:

- ▶ D. Jerison, L. Levine and S. Sheffield, Logarithmic fluctuations for internal DLA, *J. Amer. Math. Soc.*, to appear. [arXiv:1010.2483](https://arxiv.org/abs/1010.2483)
- ▶ L. Levine and Y. Peres, Scaling limits for internal aggregation models with multiple sources, *J. d'Analyse Math.*, 2010.
- ▶ A. Fey, L. Levine and Y. Peres, Growth rates and explosions in sandpiles, *J. Stat. Phys.*, 2010.