

Home Page

Title Page



Page 1 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

# Ising models and multiresolution quad-trees

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[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)

Page 2 of 29

[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

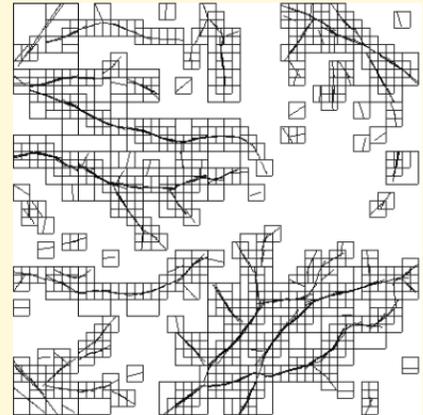
## Introduction

Multiresolution quad-trees are used in image analysis. For example: given a layer of pixels at finest resolution, successively aggregate blocks of pixels to produce coarser layers. A simple model then stipulates the black/white value of a pixel depends on its neighbours in the same layer and (with a different interaction strength) on its parent and daughters.

This talk describes initial steps in understanding the qualitative behaviour of this algorithm, addressing the following question:

“What do phase transitions look like when the finest layer of pixels is unconstrained (“free boundary”)?”

For details, see [Kendall and Wilson \(2002\)](#).



[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[◀◀](#) [▶▶](#)[◀](#) [▶](#)

Page 3 of 29

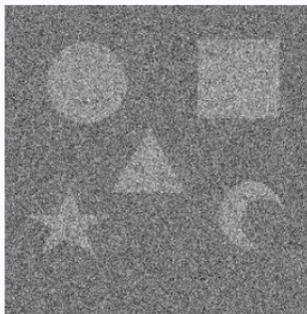
[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

# 1. Image analysis

Wilson and Li (2002): Segmentation of noisy shapes.

Bhalerao et al. (2001), Thönnies et al. (2002): application to MCMC in medical imaging.

Multiresolution MAP algorithm, 1.3% misclassification:



Home Page

Title Page



Page 4 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

Quad-tree formed by successive averaging using “decimation”:



[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[◀◀](#) [▶▶](#)[◀](#) [▶](#)

Page 5 of 29

[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

## Multiresolution: pros and cons

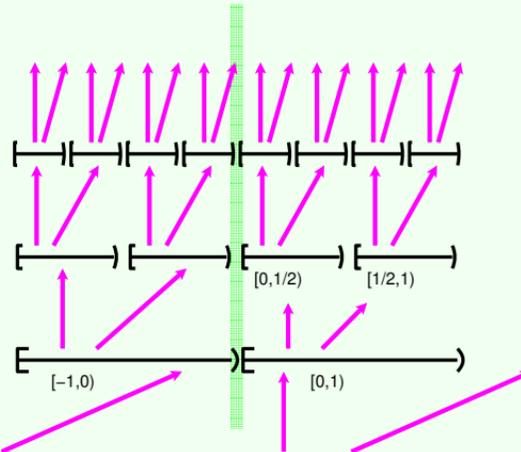
- + **FAST** since low resolution “steers” high resolution;
- + adapted to some kinds of **HIGH-LEVEL** objects;
- can produce **“BLOCKY”** reconstructions:  
resolution hierarchy mediates all spatial interactions.

## Possible solution

Add further explicitly *spatial* interactions?

## 2. Generalized quad-trees

**Define**  $Q_d$  as graph whose vertices are cells of all dyadic tessellations of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , with edges connecting each cell to its  $2d$  neighbours, and also its parent (covering cell in tessellation at next resolution down) and its  $2^d$  daughters (cells which it covers in next resolution up).

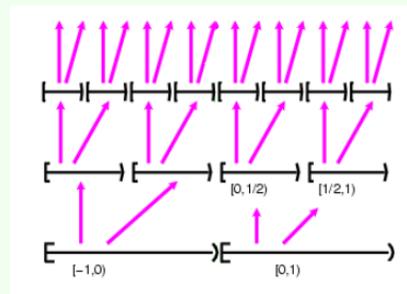


Case  $d = 1$ :  
Neighbours at same level also are connected.

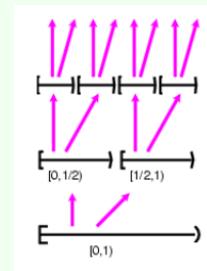
**Remark:** No spatial symmetry!

## Further define:

- $\mathbb{Q}_{d;r}$  as subgraph of  $\mathbb{Q}_d$  at resolution levels of  $r$  or higher;



- $\mathbb{Q}_d(\mathbf{o})$  as subgraph formed by  $\mathbf{o}$  and all its descendants.



- **Remark:** there are many graph-isomorphisms between  $\mathbb{Q}_{d;r}$  and  $\mathbb{Q}_{d;s}$ , with natural  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ -action;
- **Remark:** there are graph homomorphisms injecting  $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbf{o})$  into itself, sending  $\mathbf{o}$  to  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Q}(\mathbf{o})$  (*semi-transitivity*).

Home Page

Title Page

◀▶

◀▶

Page 8 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## Simplistic analysis

**Define**  $J_\lambda$  to be strength of neighbour interaction,  $J_\tau$  to be strength of parent interaction. If  $S_x = \pm 1$  then probability of configuration is proportional to  $\exp(-H)$  where

$$H = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\langle x,y \rangle \in \mathcal{E}(G)} J_{\langle x,y \rangle} (S_x S_y - 1), \quad (1)$$

for  $J_{\langle x,y \rangle} = J_\lambda, J_\tau$  as appropriate.

If  $J_\lambda = 0$  then the free Ising model on  $\mathbb{Q}_d(\mathbf{o})$  is a *branching process* (Preston 1977; Spitzer 1975); if  $J_\tau = 0$  then the Ising model on  $\mathbb{Q}_d(\mathbf{o})$  decomposes into sequence of  $d$ -dimensional classical (finite) Ising models. So we *know* there is a phase change at  $(J_\lambda, J_\tau) = (0, \ln(5/3))$  (branching processes), and *expect* one when  $\lambda = 0+$ , indeed at  $(J_\lambda, J_\tau) = (\ln(1 + \sqrt{2}), 0+)$  (2-dimensional Ising).

**But is this all that there is to say?**

Home Page

Title Page

◀▶

◀▶

Page 9 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

### 3. Random clusters

A similar problem, concerning Ising models on products of trees with Euclidean lattices, is treated by [Newman and Wu \(1990\)](#). We follow them by exploiting the celebrated *Fortuin-Kasteleyn random cluster representation* ([Fortuin and Kasteleyn 1972](#); [Fortuin 1972a](#); [Fortuin 1972b](#)):

*The Ising model is the marginal site process at  $q = 2$  of a site/bond process derived from a dependent bond percolation model with configuration probability  $\mathbb{P}_{q,p}$  proportional to*

$$q^C \times \prod_{\langle x,y \rangle \in \mathcal{E}(G)} \left( (p_{\langle x,y \rangle})^{b_{\langle x,y \rangle}} \times (1 - p_{\langle x,y \rangle})^{1-b_{\langle x,y \rangle}} \right).$$

*(where  $b_{\langle x,y \rangle}$  indicates whether or not  $\langle x,y \rangle$  is closed, and  $C$  is the number of connected clusters of vertices). Site spins are chosen to be the same in each cluster independently of other clusters with equal probabilities for  $\pm 1$ .*

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀ ▶▶

◀ ▶

Page 10 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## Random cluster facts

- (Representation of Ising model.) The marginal bond process is Ising with

$$p_{\langle x,y \rangle} = 1 - \exp(-J_{\langle x,y \rangle}); \quad (2)$$

- (FK-comparison inequalities.) If  $q \geq 1$  and  $A$  is an *increasing* event then

$$\mathbb{P}_{q,p}(A) \leq \mathbb{P}_{1,p}(A) \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbb{P}_{q,p}(A) \geq \mathbb{P}_{1,p'}(A) \quad (4)$$

where

$$p'_{\langle x,y \rangle} = \frac{p_{\langle x,y \rangle}}{p_{\langle x,y \rangle} + (1 - p_{\langle x,y \rangle})q} = \frac{p_{\langle x,y \rangle}}{q - (q - 1)p_{\langle x,y \rangle}}.$$

Since  $\mathbb{P}_{1,p}$  is bond percolation (bonds open or not independently of each other), we can find out about phase transitions by studying *independent* bond percolation.

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀ ▶▶

◀ ▶

Page 11 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 4. Percolation

Independent bond percolation on products of trees with Euclidean lattices have been studied by [Grimmett and Newman \(1990\)](#), and these results were used in the [Newman and Wu](#) work on the Ising model. So we can make good progress by studying independent bond percolation on  $\mathbb{Q}_d$ , using  $p_\tau$  for parental bonds,  $p_\lambda$  for neighbour bonds.

**Theorem 1** *There is almost surely no infinite cluster in  $\mathbb{Q}_{d;0}$  (and consequently in  $\mathbb{Q}_d(\mathbf{o})$ ) if*

$$2^d \tau \mathcal{X}_\lambda \left( 1 + \sqrt{1 - \mathcal{X}_\lambda^{-1}} \right) < 1,$$

where  $\mathcal{X}_\lambda$  is the mean size of the percolation cluster at the origin for  $\lambda$ -percolation in  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ .

**Modelled** on [Grimmett and Newman \(1990, §3 and §5\)](#).

Get  $\left( 1 + \sqrt{1 - \mathcal{X}_\lambda^{-1}} \right)$  from matrix spectral asymptotics.

Image analysis

Generalized quad-trees

Random clusters

Percolation

Comparison

Simulation

Future work

References

Home Page

Title Page

◀▶

◀▶

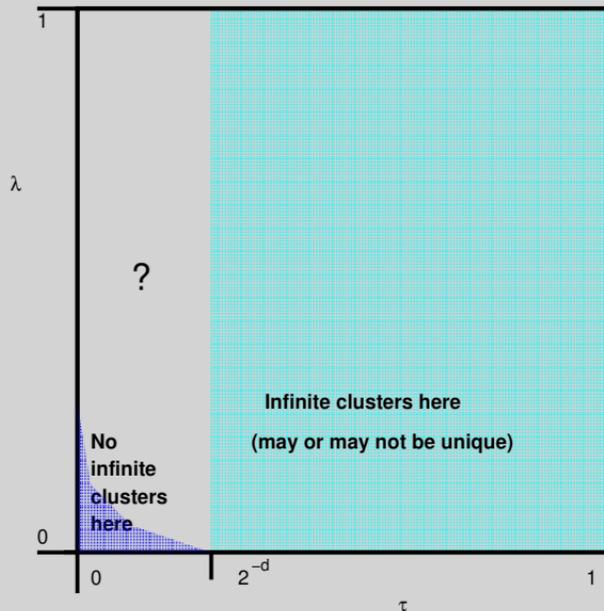
Page 12 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit



The story so far: small  $\lambda$ , small to moderate  $\tau$ .

[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[◀◀](#) [▶▶](#)[◀](#) [▶](#)

Page 13 of 29

[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

## Case of small $\tau$

Need  $d = 2$  for mathematical convenience. Use Borel-Cantelli argument and planar duality to show, for supercritical  $\lambda > 1/2$  (that is, supercritical with respect to planar bond percolation!), all but finitely many of the resolution layers  $L_n = [1, 2^n] \times [1, 2^n]$  of  $\mathbb{Q}_2(\mathbf{o})$  have just one large cluster each of diameter larger than constant  $\times n$ .

Hence ...

**Theorem 2** *When  $\lambda > 1/2$  and  $\tau$  is positive there is one and only one infinite cluster in  $\mathbb{Q}_2(\mathbf{o})$ .*

Image analysis

Generalized quad-trees

Random clusters

Percolation

Comparison

Simulation

Future work

References

Home Page

Title Page

◀▶

◀▶

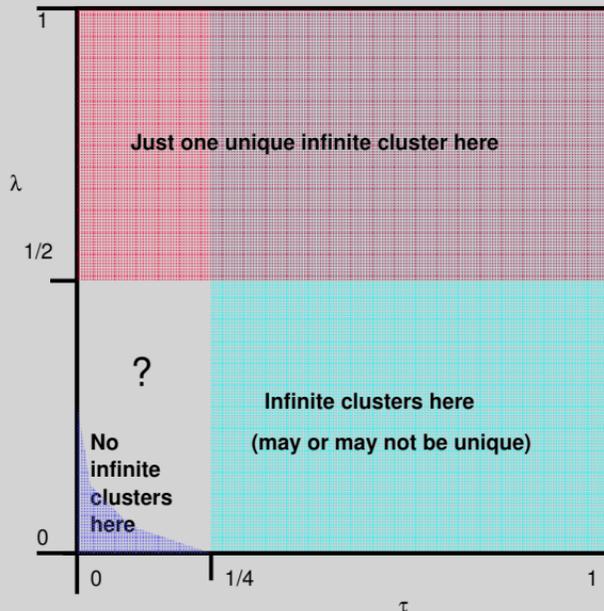
Page 14 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit



The story so far: adds small  $\tau$  for case  $d = 2$ .

Home Page

Title Page

◀ ▶

◀ ▶

Page 15 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

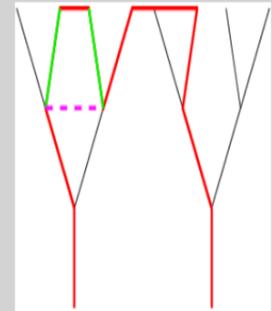
Quit

## Uniqueness of infinite clusters

The **Grimmett and Newman (1990)** work was remarkable in pointing out that as  $\tau$  increases so there is a *further* phase change, from many to just one infinite cluster for  $\lambda > 0$ . The work of **Grimmett and Newman** carries through for  $\mathbb{Q}_d(\mathbf{o})$ . However the relevant bound is *improved* by a factor of  $\sqrt{2}$  if we take into account the hyperbolic structure of  $\mathbb{Q}_d(\mathbf{o})$ !

**Theorem 3** *If  $\tau < 2^{-(d-1)/2}$  and  $\lambda > 0$  then there cannot be just one infinite cluster in  $\mathbb{Q}_{d,0}$ .*

**Method:** sum weights of “up-paths” in  $\mathbb{Q}_{d,0}$  starting, ending at level 0. For fixed  $s$  and start point there are infinitely many such up-paths containing  $s$   $\lambda$ -bonds; but no more than  $(1 + 2d + 2^d)^s$  which cannot be reduced by “shrinking” excursions. Hence control the mean number of open up-paths stretching more than a given distance at level 0.



[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)

Page 16 of 29

[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

Contribution to upper bound on second phase transition:

**Theorem 4** *If  $\tau > \sqrt{2/3}$  then the infinite cluster of  $\mathbb{Q}_{2;0}$  is almost surely unique for all positive  $\lambda$ .*

**Method:** prune bonds, branching processes, 2-dim comparison ...

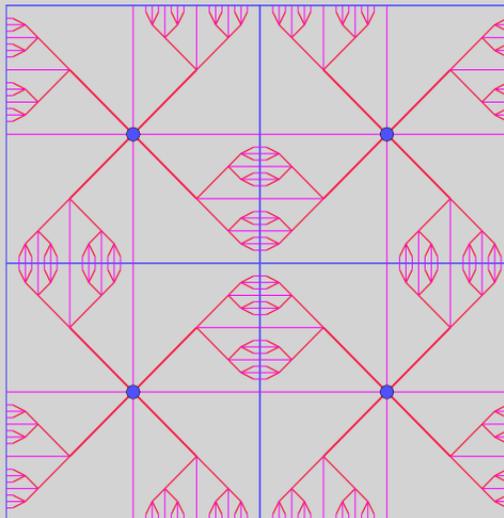


Image analysis

Generalized quad-trees

Random clusters

Percolation

Comparison

Simulation

Future work

References

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀ ▶▶

◀ ▶

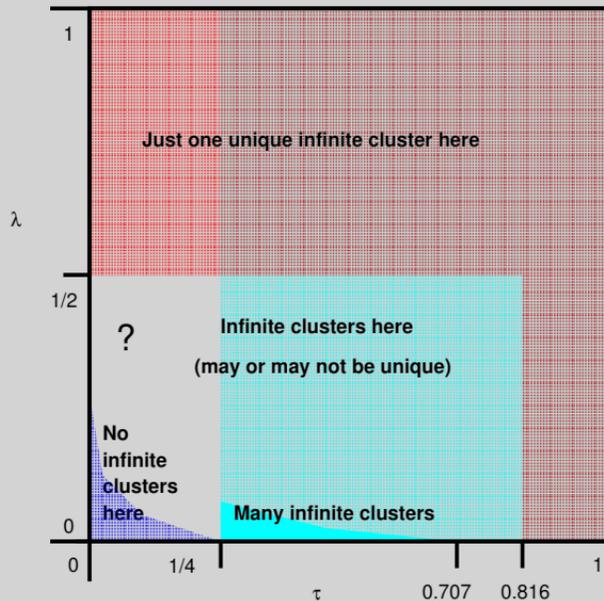
Page 17 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit



The story so far: includes uniqueness transition for case  $d = 2$ .

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀ ▶▶

◀ ▶

Page 18 of 29

Go Back

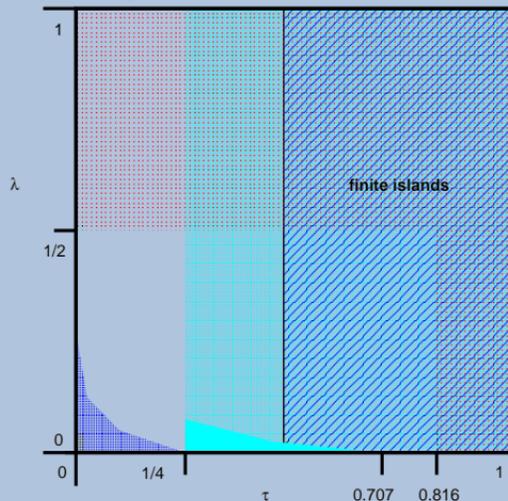
Full Screen

Close

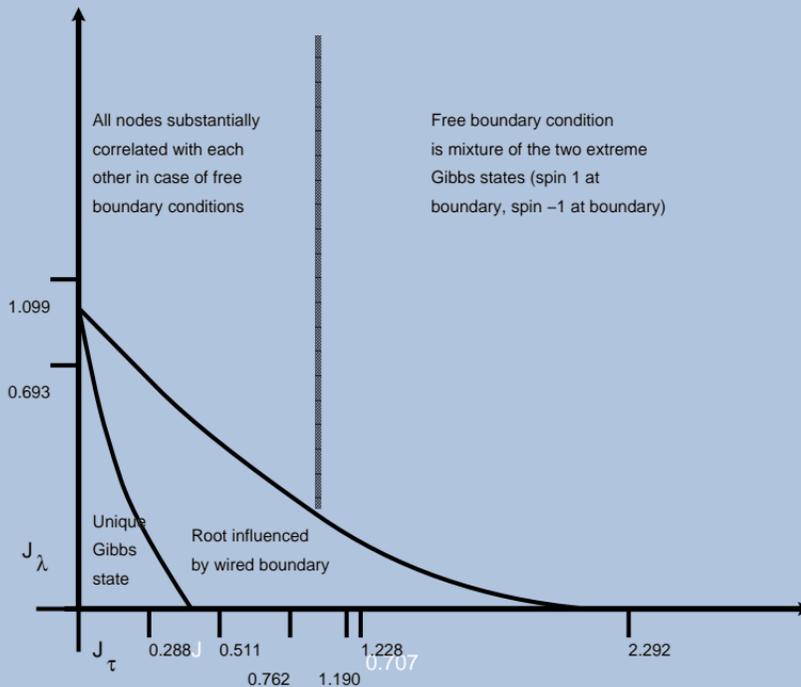
Quit

## 5. Comparison

We need to apply the Fortuin-Kasteleyn comparison inequalities (3) and (4). The event “just one unique infinite cluster” is **not** increasing, so we need more. Newman and Wu (1990) show it suffices to establish a *finite island property* for the site percolation derived under adjacency when all infinite clusters are removed. Thus:



## Comparison arguments then show the following schematic phase diagram for the Ising model on $\mathbb{Q}_2(\mathbf{o})$ :



Home Page

Title Page

◀◀ ▶▶

◀ ▶

Page 19 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[◀◀](#) [▶▶](#)[◀](#) [▶](#)[Page 20 of 29](#)[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

## 6. Simulation

Approximate simulations confirm the general story:

<http://www.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/~rgw/sira/sim.html>

- (1) Only 200 resolution levels;
- (2) At each level, 1000 sweeps in scan order;
- (3) At each level, simulate square sub-region of  $128 \times 128$  pixels conditioned by mother  $64 \times 64$  pixel region;
- (4) Impose periodic boundary conditions on  $128 \times 128$  square region;
- (5) At the coarsest resolution, all pixels set white. At subsequent resolutions, 'all black' initial state.

Image analysis

Generalized quad-trees

Random clusters

Percolation

Comparison

Simulation

Future work

References

Home Page

Title Page



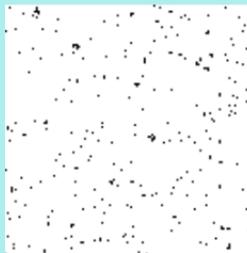
Page 21 of 29

Go Back

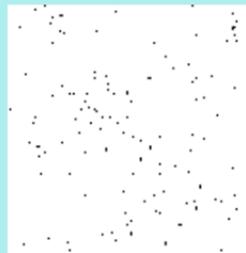
Full Screen

Close

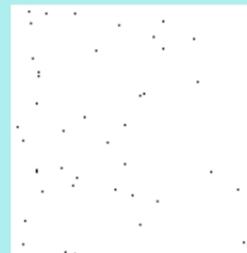
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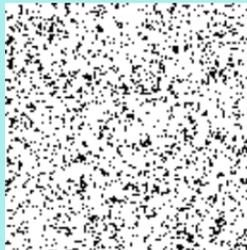
(a)  $J_\lambda = 1, J_\tau = 0.5$



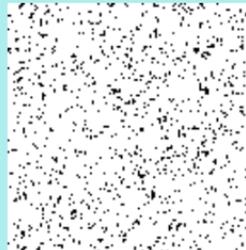
(b)  $J_\lambda = 1, J_\tau = 1$



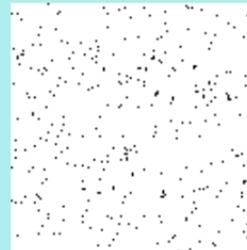
(c)  $J_\lambda = 1, J_\tau = 2$



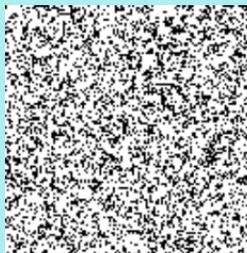
(d)  $J_\lambda = 0.5, J_\tau = 0.5$



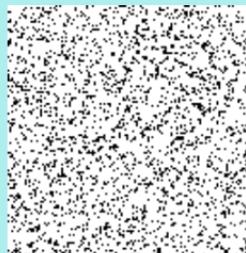
(e)  $J_\lambda = 0.5, J_\tau = 1$



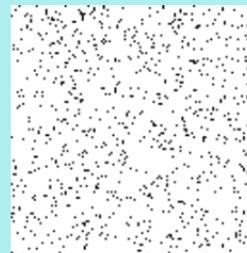
(f)  $J_\lambda = 0.5, J_\tau = 2$



(g)  $J_\lambda = 0.25, J_\tau = 0.5$



(h)  $J_\lambda = 0.25, J_\tau = 1$



(i)  $J_\lambda = 0.25, J_\tau = 2$

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀ ▶▶

◀ ▶

Page 22 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 7. Future work

This is about the *free* Ising model on  $\mathbb{Q}_2(\mathbf{o})$ . Image analysis more naturally concerns the case of prescribed boundary conditions (say, image at finest resolution level ...).

**Question:** will boundary conditions at “infinite fineness” propagate back to finite resolution?

**Series and Sinaï (1990)** show answer is yes for analogous problem on hyperbolic disk (2-dim, all bond probabilities the same).

**Gielis and Grimmett (2001)** point out (*eg*, in  $\mathbb{Z}^3$  case) these boundary conditions translate to a *conditioning* for random cluster model, and investigate using large deviations.

**Project:** do same for  $\mathbb{Q}_2(\mathbf{o})$  ... and get quantitative bounds?

Home Page

Title Page



Page 23 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

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<sup>1</sup> This is a rich hypertext bibliography. Journals are linked to their homepages. Stable URL links (as provided for example by [JSTOR](#)) have been added to entries where available. Access to such URLs may not be universal: in case of difficulty you should check whether you are registered (directly or indirectly) with the relevant provider.

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Image analysis

Generalized quad-trees

Random clusters

Percolation

Comparison

Simulation

Future work

References

Home Page

Title Page



Page 24 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

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## A. Notes on proof of Theorem 1

Mean size of cluster at  $\mathbf{o}$  bounded above by

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\mathbf{t}:|\mathbf{t}|=n} \mathcal{X}_{\lambda} \tau^n (\mathcal{X}_{\lambda} - 1)^{T(\mathbf{t})} \mathcal{X}_{\lambda}^{n-T(\mathbf{t})} \\
 & \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{X}_{\lambda} (\tau \mathcal{X}_{\lambda})^n \sum_{\mathbf{t}:|\mathbf{t}|=n} (1 - \mathcal{X}_{\lambda}^{-1})^{T(\mathbf{t})} \\
 & \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{X}_{\lambda} (2^d \tau \mathcal{X}_{\lambda})^n \sum_{\mathbf{j}:|\mathbf{j}|=n} (1 - \mathcal{X}_{\lambda}^{-1})^{T(\mathbf{j})} \\
 & \approx \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{X}_{\lambda} (2^d \tau \mathcal{X}_{\lambda})^n \left(1 + \sqrt{1 - \mathcal{X}_{\lambda}^{-1}}\right)^n.
 \end{aligned}$$

For last step, use spectral analysis of matrix representation

$$\sum_{\mathbf{j}:|\mathbf{j}|=n} (1 - \mathcal{X}_{\lambda}^{-1})^{T(\mathbf{j})} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 - \mathcal{X}_{\lambda}^{-1} & 1 \end{bmatrix}^n \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Home Page

Title Page

◀▶

◀▶

Page 26 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## B. Notes on proof of Theorem 2

**Uniqueness:** For negative exponent  $\xi(1 - \lambda)$  of dual connectivity function, set

$$\ell_n = (n \log 4 + (2 + \epsilon) \log n) \xi(1 - \lambda).$$

More than one “ $\ell_n$ -large” cluster in  $L_n$  forces existence of open path in dual lattice longer than  $\ell_n$ . Now use Borel-Cantelli . . . .

On the other hand super-criticality will mean *some* distant points in  $L_n$  are inter-connected.

**Existence:** consider  $4^{n-[n/2]}$  points in  $L_{n-1}$  and specified daughters in  $L_n$ . Study probability that

- (a) parent percolates more than  $\ell_{n-1}$ ,
- (b) parent and child are connected,
- (c) child percolates more than  $\ell_n$ .

Now use Borel-Cantelli again . . . .

## C. Notes on proof of Theorem 3

Two relevant lemmas:

**Lemma 1** Consider  $\mathbf{u} \in L_{s+1} \subset \mathbb{Q}_d$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{u}) \in L_s \subset \mathbb{Q}_d$ . There are exactly  $2^d$  solutions in  $L_{s+1}$  of

$$\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{u},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{x}).$$

One is  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{u}$ . The others are the remaining  $2^d - 1$  vertices  $\mathbf{y}$  such that the closure of the cell representing  $\mathbf{y}$  intersects the vertex shared by the closures of the cells representing  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{u})$ . Finally, if  $\mathbf{x} \in L_{s+1}$  does not solve  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{u},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{x})$  then

$$\|\mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{u},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{u},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{u})\|_{s,\infty} > \|\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{u})\|_{s,\infty}. \quad (5)$$

**Lemma 2** Given distinct  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  in the same resolution level. Count pairs of vertices  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}$  in the resolution level one step higher, such that

$$(a) \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{v}; (b) \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{y}; (c) \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{u},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{y}.$$

There are at most  $2^{d-1}$  such vertices.

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀ ▶▶

◀ ▶

Page 28 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

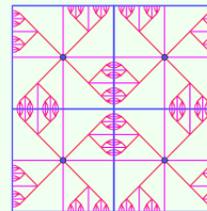
Quit

## D. Notes on proof of Theorem 4

Prune! Then a direct connection is certainly established across the boundary between the cells corresponding to two neighbouring vertices  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $L_0$  if

- the  $\tau$ -bond leading from  $\mathbf{u}$  to the relevant boundary is open;
- a  $\tau$ -branching process (formed by using  $\tau$ -bonds mirrored across the boundary) survives indefinitely, where this branching process has family-size distribution  $\text{Binomial}(2, \tau^2)$ ;
- the  $\tau$ -bond leading from  $\mathbf{v}$  to the relevant boundary is open.

Then there are infinitely many chances of making a connection across the cell boundary.



Home Page

Title Page

◀◀ ▶▶

◀ ▶

Page 29 of 29

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## E. Notes on proof of infinite island property

Notion of “cone boundary”  $\partial_c(S)$  of finite subset  $S$  of vertices: collection of daughters  $\mathbf{v}$  of  $S$  such that  $\mathbb{Q}_d(\mathbf{v}) \cap S = \emptyset$ .

Use induction on  $S$ , building it layer  $L_n$  on layer  $L_{n-1}$  to obtain an isoperimetric bound:  $\#(\partial_c(S)) \geq (2^d - 1)\#(S)$ . Hence deduce

$$\mathbb{P}[S \text{ in island at } \mathbf{u}] \leq (1 - p_\tau(1 - \eta))^{(2^d - 1)n}$$

where  $\#(S) = n$  and  $\eta = \mathbb{P}[\mathbf{u} \text{ not in infinite cluster of } \mathbb{Q}_d(\mathbf{u})]$ .

Upper bound on number  $N(n)$  of self-avoiding paths  $S$  of length  $n$  beginning at  $\mathbf{u}_0$ :

$$N(n) \leq (1 + 2d + 2^d)(2d + 2^d)^n.$$

Hence upper bound on the mean size of the island:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1 + 2d + 2^d)(2d + 2^d)^n \eta_{\text{br}}^{n(1-2^{-d})},$$

where  $\eta_{\text{br}}$  is extinction probability for branching process based on Binomial( $2^d, p_\tau$ ) family distribution.