Computation of critical points for planar statistical physics models

Hugo Duminil-Copin, Université de Genève

Rio 2013

joint work with V. Beffara / S. Smirnov

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• How do interactions between particles at a microscopic level lead to different behaviors of the model macroscopically?



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- We are particularly interested in their phase transition and the behavior at the *critical point*.





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This model undergoes a phase transition at some $p_c \in (0,1)$:

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, $\phi_p(0 \leftrightarrow \infty) = 0$,

• when
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$$p_{c} = \inf\{p \in [0,1] : \phi_{p}(0 \leftrightarrow \infty) > 0\} = \sup\{p \in [0,1] : \phi_{p}(0 \leftrightarrow \infty) = 0\}$$

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Remains to prove that $p_c > 0$ and $p_c < 1$ (Peirls argument which is **combinatorial in nature**).

Harder case: Ising model

Assign to each site outside $[-n, n]^2$ the spin +1 and each site of $[-n, n]^2$ a spin +1 or -1 according to the following probability measure:

$$\mathsf{E}(\sigma) := \sum_{x \sim y} -\sigma_x \sigma_y.$$

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• For
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Harder case: Potts model

Assign to each site outside $[-n, n]^2$ the color red and each site of $[-n, n]^2$ a color amongst *q* colors according to the following probability measure:

 $E(\sigma) :=$ number disagreeing neighbors.

Then $\mathbb{P}^+_{T,q,n}[\sigma] \propto \exp(-E(\sigma)/T)$. This model undergoes a phase transition at some critical temperature $T_c(q)$:

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We rather study a geometric representation of the Potts model, called the FK percolation model. This **percolation model** has the following distribution:

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$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{T},q,n}[\sigma_0 = \operatorname{red}] = \phi_{p(\mathcal{T}),q,n}\left(0 \leftrightarrow \partial [-n,n]^2\right) + \frac{1}{q}\phi_{p(\mathcal{T}),q,n}\left(0 \not\leftrightarrow \partial [-n,n]^2\right)$$

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$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{T},q,n}[\sigma_0 = \operatorname{red}] = \frac{1}{q} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{q}\right)\phi_{p(\mathcal{T}),q,n}\left(0 \leftrightarrow \partial [-n,n]^2\right)$$

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As a consequence, the transition exists and $1 - p_c(q) = e^{-2/T_c(q)}$.

- **Conclusion:** Using couplings, one can prove the existence of a phase transition for percolation and spin models.
- Question: Can we compute these critical points?

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The coupling provides us with a **dictionary** between properties of FK percolation and spin models. For instance,

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{T},q,n}[\sigma_0 = \operatorname{red}] = \frac{1}{q} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{q}\right)\phi_{p(\mathcal{T}),q,n}\left(0 \leftrightarrow \partial [-n,n]^2\right)$$

As a consequence, the transition exists and $1 - p_c(q) = e^{-2/T_c(q)}$.

- **Conclusion:** Using couplings, one can prove the existence of a phase transition for percolation and spin models.
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 $^{
m t}$ It is sufficient to compute $p_c(q)$ for FK percolation with $q\geq 1$

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I. Why is there a phase transition?



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III. Computation of the critical point via discrete holomorphicity (the example of the SAW)

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If $p^* = p$, i.e. $p = p_{sd} = \sqrt{q}/(1 + \sqrt{q})$, the primal and dual models play symmetric roles.

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If $p^* = p$, i.e. $p = p_{sd} = \sqrt{q}/(1 + \sqrt{q})$, the primal and dual models play symmetric roles. For instance, $\phi_{p_{sd},q,n}(A_n) = \frac{1}{2}$.

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Proposition (Margulis/Russo's formula)

For any increasing event A,

$$\phi_{p+\varepsilon}[A] - \phi_p[A] = \mathbb{P}[\omega_{p+\varepsilon} \in A \text{ and } \omega_p \notin A]$$

= $\left(\sum_{e \in E} \phi_p(\omega^e \in A \text{ and } \omega_e \notin A)\right) \varepsilon + o(\varepsilon).$

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At least one site must have a 'large' influence when the event has probability away from 0 and 1.

Theorem (Kahn, Kalai & Linial 1988 – Bourgain, K., K., Katznelson & L. 1992)

For every increasing event A on the graph $[-n, n]^2$,

$$\max_{e \in E} \phi_p(\omega^e \in A \text{ and } \omega_e \notin A) \ge c \phi_p[A] (1 - \phi_p[A]) \frac{\log n}{n^2}.$$



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• By duality, $\phi_{1/2}(A_n) = \frac{1}{2}$.

By sharp threshold arguments and invariance by translation,

$$\frac{d}{dp}\phi_p[A_n] \ge c\phi_p[A_n] (1-\phi_p[A_n]) \log n.$$

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(3) By integrating the differential inequality with respect to p,

- $\phi_p[A_n]$ decays fast (as *n* tends to ∞) when $p < \frac{1}{2}$.
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• If $\phi_p(A_n) \ge 1 - \varepsilon$ (resp. $\le \varepsilon$), then $p > p_c$ (resp. $p < p_c$).

The difficulty lies mostly in this last step! But it applies to q > 1 as well!

Theorem (Beffara, D-C, 2010)

The critical point $p_c(q)$ of the FK percolation on the square lattice satisfies

$$p_c(q) = rac{\sqrt{q}}{1+\sqrt{q}}.$$

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The critical temperature of the square lattice *q*-state Potts model satisfies

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Conclusion: This general philosophy has been very successful thanks to its robustness. Ongoing works suggest that this approach can be implemented for a wide class of models, known as **positively correlated models**, which are natural candidates for geometric representations of spin models.





I. Why is there a phase transition?



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III. Computation of the critical point via discrete integrability (the example of the SAW)

On a lattice (for instance hexagonal \mathbb{H}), consider self-avoiding trajectories (or walks) of length *n* (the length is denoted by $\ell(\gamma)$) starting at the origin. Introduced by Flory and Ott in the '50s.



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• **Combinatorial question:** What is the **asymptotic behavior** of the number of self-avoiding walks of length *n*?

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Let $c_n := \#$ SAW of length *n*. Then, $c_n = \mu_c^{n+o(n)}$, where μ_c is the connective constant.

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The foundamental subadditive lemma of Fekete implies the result.

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For δ > 0, we define a probability measure on self-avoiding paths from a_δ to b_δ by assigning a weight proportional to μ^{-ℓ(γ)}. When δ → 0, we are interested in the limit of this sequence of random continuous curves (scaling limit).



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Theorem (loffe, 1998)

For $\mu > \mu_c$, the scaling limit of the SAW is a line.



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Theorem (D.-C., Kozma, Yadin, 2012)

For $\mu < \mu_c$, the scaling limit of the SAW is space filling.



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Conjecture (Lawler, Schramm, Werner, 2001)

For $\mu = \mu_c$, the scaling limit of the SAW is SLE(8/3)



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Conjecture (Lawler, Schramm, Werner, 2001) For $\mu = \mu_c$, the scaling limit of the SAW is SLE(8/3) which is **conformally invariant**.

1000 steps Self-avoiding walk and SLE(8/3)



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Theorem (D-C, Smirnov, 2010),

The connective constant μ_c of the **hexagonal lattice** satisfies

$$\mu_{c} := \lim_{n \to \infty} c_n^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}.$$

1000 steps Self-avoiding walk and SLE(8/3)



Theorem (D-C, Smirnov, 2010), conjectured by Nienhuis (1980)

The connective constant μ_c of the **hexagonal lattice** satisfies

$$c_n \sim An^{11/32}\sqrt{2+\sqrt{2}}^n$$
 as $n \longrightarrow \infty$
We restrict our attention to *finite domains* \mathcal{D} and we weight walks by $\mu^{-\ell(\gamma)}$ times a topological term depending on the *winding*.



$$F(z) := \sum_{\gamma \subset \mathcal{D}: a \to z} \mu^{-\ell(\gamma)}$$

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Definition

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The winding $W_{\Gamma}(a, b)$ of a curve Γ between *a* and *b* is the rotation (in radians) of the curve between *a* and *b*.

The **parafermionic operator** at a mid-point $z \in D$ is defined by

$$F(z) := \sum_{\gamma \subset \mathcal{D}: \ a \to z} e^{-i\sigma W_{\gamma}(a,z)} \mu^{-\ell(\gamma)}.$$

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Lemma (Local relation around a vertex)

If $\sigma = \frac{5}{8}$ and $\mu = \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}$, then F satisfies the following relation for every vertex $v \in V(D)$,

$$(p-v)F(p) + (q-v)F(q) + (r-v)F(r) = 0$$

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This relation means that $\oint F(z)dz = 0$ along the contour

Proposition (Discrete holomorphicity)

If \mathcal{D} is simply connected, then $\oint_{\gamma} F(z) dz = 0$ for any discrete contour γ .

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In the first case,

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{c}(\gamma_1) + \boldsymbol{c}(\gamma_2) &= (\boldsymbol{q} - \boldsymbol{v}) \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\sigma \mathrm{W}_{\gamma_1}(\boldsymbol{a}, \boldsymbol{q})} \boldsymbol{\mu}^{-\ell(\gamma_1)} + (\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{v}) \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\sigma \mathrm{W}_{\gamma_2}(\boldsymbol{a}, \boldsymbol{r})} \boldsymbol{\mu}^{-\ell(\gamma_2)} \\ &= (\boldsymbol{p} - \boldsymbol{v}) \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\sigma \mathrm{W}_{\gamma_1}(\boldsymbol{a}, \boldsymbol{p})} \boldsymbol{\mu}^{-\ell(\gamma_1)} \left(\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\frac{2\pi}{3}} \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\sigma \cdot \frac{-4\pi}{3}} + \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\frac{2\pi}{3}} \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\sigma \cdot \frac{4\pi}{3}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

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In the second case, providing $\mu := \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}$,

$$\begin{split} & c(\gamma_1) + c(\gamma_2) + c(\gamma_3) \\ & = (\rho - \nu) \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\sigma \mathrm{W}_{\gamma_1}(\mathfrak{s}, \rho)} \mu^{-\ell(\gamma_1)} \left(1 + \mu^{-1} \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\frac{2\pi}{3}} \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\frac{5}{8} \cdot \frac{-\pi}{3}} + \mu^{-1} \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\frac{2\pi}{3}} \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\frac{5}{8} \cdot \frac{\pi}{3}} \right) = 0. \end{split}$$

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We know the winding on the boundary! Thus, we can replace F by the sum of Boltzman weights.

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• The result follows from this combinatorial relation.

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Hugo Duminil-Copin, Université de Genève Computation of critical points for planar statistical physics mode

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Therefore, the number of walks $b_{n,T}$ of length *n* and height *T* never going below their start and above their end satisfies $b_{n,T} \leq \mu^n$.

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The number of such walks is the same (at the exponential scale) as the number of unconstrained walks (use an unfolding argument). Therefore,

$$\mu_c(\mathbb{H})^{n+o(n)}=b_n\leq n\mu^n.$$

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Thus, $b_n \mu^{-n}$ cannot decay exponentially fast!

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- The method by **sharp threshold** is more general and applies to a wide variety of models.

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