# Percolation methods for nodal lines

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# Spherical harmonics / Laplacian eigenfunctions















#### Consider solutions of the equation

$$\Delta f + \lambda f = 0$$

on the plane. Particular solutions are given by

$$f_{\alpha,\beta}(x,y) = \cos(\alpha x + \beta y + \varphi)$$

with  $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 = \lambda$ . By linearity, one can consider linear combinations of the  $f_{\alpha,\beta}$ .

#### Plane waves : one component



#### Plane waves : two components



#### Plane waves : three components



#### Plane waves : four components



#### Infinitely many components / local limit on the sphere



The local limit of random eigenfunctions of  $\Delta$  as  $\lambda \to \infty$  is given by a Gaussian field  $\phi$  of covariance

$$Cov[\phi(x),\phi(y)] = J_0(\|y-x\|)$$

The covariance oscillates, and decays as  $1/\sqrt{\|y-x\|}$ .

#### One large connected component



# Random polynomials / Kostlan ensemble

Define a random homogeneous polynomial on  $\mathbb{R}^3$  by

$$P_d(X) = \sum_{|I|=d} a_I \sqrt{\frac{(d+2)!}{I!}} X^I$$

where the  $a_I$  are i.i.d. Gaussians.

Restrict it to the unit sphere.

#### Restriction to the sphere (d=30)



# Restriction to the sphere (d=100)



# Restriction to the sphere (d=200)



# Restriction to the sphere (d=1000)



# Restriction to the sphere (d=5000)



# Restriction to the sphere (d=10000)



#### Restriction to the sphere (d=20000)



### Local limit as $d \to \infty$



#### The limit as a Gaussian field

$$Q_d(x,y) = \sum_{i+j \leq d} a_{ij} \sqrt{\frac{(d+2)!}{i!j!(d-i-j)!}} x^i y^j$$

Rescale by a factor  $\sqrt{d}$ :

$$Q_d(x/\sqrt{d}, y/\sqrt{d}) \simeq \sum_{i+j \leqslant d} rac{a_{ij}}{\sqrt{i!j!}} x^i y^j$$

In the limit  $d \to \infty$ :

$$\psi(x,y) = \sum_{i,j \ge 0} \frac{a_{ij}}{\sqrt{i!j!}} x^i y^j$$

#### The limit as a Gaussian field

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In the limit  $d \to \infty$ :

$$\psi(x,y) = e^{-(x^2+y^2)/2} \sum_{i,j \ge 0} \frac{a_{ij}}{\sqrt{i!j!}} x^i y^j$$

# The limit is a stationary centered Gaussian field $\psi$ on $\mathbb{R}^2,$ with covariance given by

$$Cov[\psi(x), \psi(y)] = \exp(-\|y - x\|^2/2).$$

In particular, the covariance is positive and decays very fast.



#### A large connected component in $\psi$



#### The same, and a critical percolation cluster



Percolation

#### Percolation : classical results

- Kesten (1980) :  $p_c = 1/2$
- For  $p < p_c$ , sub-critical regime :
  - All clusters are a.s. finite
  - $P[0 \longleftrightarrow x] \approx \exp(-\lambda_p \|x\|)$
  - Largest cluster in  $\Lambda_n$  has diameter  $\approx \log n$
- For  $p > p_c$ , super-critical regime :
  - There exists a.s. a unique infinite cluster
  - $P[0 \longleftrightarrow x, |C(x)| < \infty] \approx \exp(-\lambda_p ||x||)$
  - Largest *finite* cluster in  $\Lambda_n$  has diameter  $\approx \log n$
- At  $p = p_c$ , critical regime :
  - All clusters are a.s. finite
  - $P[0 \longleftrightarrow x] \approx ||x||^{-5/24}$
  - Largest cluster in  $\Lambda_n$  has diameter  $\approx n$

# Russo-Seymour-Welsh

#### Theorem (RSW)

For every  $\lambda > 0$  there exists  $c \in (0,1)$  such that for all n large enough,

$$c \leqslant P_{p_c}[LR(\lambda n, n)] \leqslant 1 - c.$$

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$$c \leq P_{p_c}[LR(\lambda n, n)] \leq 1 - c.$$

The case  $\lambda = 1$  is easy by duality; it is enough to know how the estimate for one value of  $\lambda > 1$  and then to glue the pieces.













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A few consequences:

- The set  $\{z:\psi(z)>0\}$  has no unbounded component
- Neither do  $\{z:\psi(z)<0\}$  and  $\{z:\psi(z)=0\}$
- The universal critical exponents are the same as for percolation
- $\psi = 0$  is the critical level [Rivera-Vanneuville]

To go around it, we discretize the field on the vertices of a triangular lattice with a small mesh  $\delta$ , and look only at its sign on it, to get a dependent, discrete percolation model. The choice of  $\delta$  is crucial:

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- If  $\delta$  is too small, we lose in the decorrelation.

The case of the Laplacian eigenfunctions is bad on all respects: too slow decorrelation, no FKG inequality.

#### A decorrelation inequality

#### Theorem

Let X and Y be two Gaussian vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^{m+n}$ , of covariances

$$\Sigma_X = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_1 & \Sigma_{12} \\ \Sigma_{12}^T & \Sigma_2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \Sigma_Y = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $\Sigma_1 \in M_m(\mathbb{R})$  and  $\Sigma_2 \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  have all diagonal entries equal to 1. Denote by  $\mu_X$  (resp.  $\mu_Y$ ) the law of the signs of the coordinates of X (resp. Y), and by  $\eta$  the largest absolute value of the entries of  $\Sigma_{12}$ . Then,

$$d_{TV}(\mu_X,\mu_Y)\leqslant C(m+n)^{8/5}\eta^{1/5}.$$

#### Another decorrelation inequality

#### Theorem

Let  $X = (x_i)$  be a centered Gaussian vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with covariance matrix  $A = (a_{ij})_{1 \le i,j \le n}$  satisfying  $\forall 1 \le i \le n$ ,  $a_{ii} = 1$ , and let  $\delta \in (0, 1/n)$ . Then, the shifted truncation

$$B=(b_{ij})$$
 where  $b_{ij}:=\mathsf{a}_{ij}\mathbb{1}_{|\mathsf{a}_{ij}|>\delta}+(n\delta)^{3/5}\mathbb{1}_{i=j}$ 

is a positive matrix, and there exists a coupling of X with another centered Gaussian vector  $Y = (y_i)$  with covariance matrix B such that

$$\mathsf{P}\left[\forall 1 \leq i \leq n, \quad x_i y_i > 0\right] \geqslant 1 - 3n^{6/5} \delta^{1/5}.$$

Corollary: coupling with a finitely correlated field.

#### Conjecture

The nodal lines of  $\phi$  (and  $\psi$ ) converge, in the scaling limit, to the same conformally invariant object as interfaces of critical percolation; in particular, asymptotic crossing probabilities are given by Cardy's formula.



# Negatively correlated fields

# Russo-Seymour-Welsh along families of models

#### Theorem (B., Gayet, 2017, arXiv 1710.10644)

Let  $(P_u)$  be a one-parameter family of discrete site models satisfying the following assumptions:

- symmetry and self-duality;
- uniformly good decorrelation;
- RSW estimates at parameter u = 0.

Then, RSW estimates hold uniformly for all  $u \in (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ .

This applies in particular

- to the Ising model with possibly negative  $\beta$
- to discrete Gaussian fields with possibly negative correlation

Main ideas of the argument:

- Follow the general proof from percolation
- Approaching within distance  $\ell$  is free
- Then, need to glue both paths together

#### Russo-Seymour-Welsh for finitely correlated fields



$$\beta(r, R) = \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}(r, R)} P[Q \text{ is not glued}]$$

Lemma (Approximative statement) There exist  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $L < \infty$  and  $\lambda < \infty$  such that  $\beta(\ell, L) < \varepsilon \implies \forall r < R, \quad \beta(r, R) \leq \lambda(r/R)^{1/\lambda},$ 

and moreover when this holds, RSW estimates are also valid.

# Happy birthday Anton!