

The Abelian sandpile model: towards a lattice realization of a logarithmic CFT

Philippe Ruelle

Dubna, June 2007

Forword

Historically, sandpile models have been proposed by Bak, Tang & Wiesenfeld ('87) as prototypes of **self-organized critical** models (SOC).

Idea was: many critical behaviours (power laws) in nature, but unlikely to result from fine-tuning → it is the dynamics that drives the system to a critical state, even if the system is prepared in a non-critical state.

Example (BTW) = **sandpile**, with slow addition of sand (pile builds up, then avalanches of all sizes).

[Deepak Dhar, Theoretical studies of self-organized criticality, Physica A 369 (2006) 29-70]

Important for us:

1. interesting non-equilibrium system, with stationary measure
2. lattice realization of logarithmic CFT (light on subtleties)

Plan

1. [The Abelian sandpile model](#) (following Dhar)
definition of $2+1$ – invariant measure – Abelian property – recurrent configurations – spanning trees – $c = -2$ – boundary conditions
2. [Logarithmic CFT](#)
non-diagonalizable L_0 – Jordan blocks – typical example of $c = -2$
3. [Lattice observables in ASM \$\leftrightarrow\$ LCFT](#)
dissipation – change of boundary conditions – height variables
4. [Conclusions](#)

– Part I –
The Abelian
sandpile model

– Part II –
Logarithmic
conformal field
theory
(at $c = -2$)

– Part III –
LogCFT at work :
the ASM on the
lattice

Conclusions

– Part I – The Abelian sandpile model

The model

Take a grid Λ with N sites

Attach a random variable $h_i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ to every site (h_i is # grains)

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	1	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	2	4	3	2	1	2	3
2	3	3	4	4	3	1	1	2	3
2	3	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3
4	3	2	4	3	1	2	3	4	1

stable configs = 4^N

Dynamics

The sandpile model is a stochastic dynamical system in discrete $2 + 1$.

Dynamics takes \mathcal{C}_t into \mathcal{C}_{t+1} in two steps:

1. on random site i , **drop one grain**: $h_i \rightarrow h_i + 1$
2. **relaxation**: all unstable sites topple (avalanche)

$$\text{If } h_i \geq 5, \text{ then } \begin{cases} h_i \rightarrow h_i - 4 \\ h_j \rightarrow h_j + 1, \quad j = \text{nearest neighbour of } i \end{cases}$$

Until all sites are stable again \leftarrow **OK BECAUSE DISSIPATION !!**
Resulting configuration is \mathcal{C}_{t+1} .

Potential chain reaction: one grain dropped can trigger a large avalanche.
System spanning avalanches will happen, and induce correlations of heights over long distances \longrightarrow critical state

Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	1	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	2	4	3	2	1	2	3
2	3	3	4	4	3	1	1	2	3
2	3	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3
4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1

Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	
3	4	3	2	1	1	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4	
4	4	3	2	5	3	2	1	2	3	4	4	3	3	3	2	1	3	4	3	
2	3	3	4	4	3	1	1	2	3	2	3	3	3	4	5	3	1	1	2	3
2	3	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	3	2	3	2	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3	3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3	3
4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	4	1



Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	3	2	4	2	1	2	3	4	4	3	3	1	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	3	5	1	4	1	1	2	3	2	3	3	4	5	3	1	1	2	3
2	3	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	3	2	3	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3	3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3
4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1



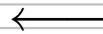
Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	3	2	4	2	1	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	2	1	2	3	4
2	3	3	5	1	4	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	1	2	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	3	2	3	2	5	4	3	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3	3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3
4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1



Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	2	2	4	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	1	2	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	3	1	5	3	4	2	4	3	2	3	2	5	4	3	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	3	4	2	1	4	4	3	3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3
4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1



Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	2	2	4	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	3	1	5	3	4	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	4	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	3	4	2	1	4	4	3	3	1	3	3	5	2	1	4	4	3
4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1



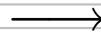
Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	3	2	2	4	4	2	4	3	2	3	3	2	4	4	2	4	3	3
3	1	3	4	1	3	1	4	4	3	3	1	3	3	5	2	1	4	4	3
4	3	4	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1



Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	3	2	2	4	4	2	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	4	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	4	1	3	1	4	4	3	3	1	3	4	2	3	1	4	4	3
4	3	4	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	4	3	4	5	1	2	2	3	4	1



Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	3	2	2	4	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	5	2	3	1	4	4	3
4	3	5	1	2	2	2	3	4	1

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	3	2	2	4	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	4	2	3	1	4	4	3
4	3	4	5	1	2	2	3	4	1



Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	3	2	2	4	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	5	2	3	1	4	4	3
4	3	5	1	2	2	2	3	4	1

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	3	3	2	4	4	2	4	3
3	1	5	1	3	3	1	4	4	3
4	4	1	3	2	2	2	3	4	1



Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	4	3	2	4	4	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	4	4	2	4	3
3	2	1	2	3	3	1	4	4	3	3	1	5	1	3	3	1	4	4	3
4	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	4	1	4	4	1	3	2	2	2	3	4	1



Typical avalanche

2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	2
2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2	3
3	4	3	2	1	1	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	4
4	4	3	2	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	4	2	1	2	3
2	3	3	4	4	3	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	2	3	4	1	1	2	3
2	3	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	3	2	3	4	3	2	4	4	2	4	3
3	1	3	2	4	2	1	4	4	3	3	2	1	2	3	3	1	4	4	3
4	3	4	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	4	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	4	1

11 topplings, 22 sites affected, 3 grains fell off, into the sink.

The order of topplings does not matter.

Seeding operators

Seeding operators a_i : act on stable configurations by dropping one grain on site i and by letting the configuration relax.

Sandpile dynamics = each unit of time, a_i is applied with (uniform) probability $p_i = \frac{1}{N}$.

Because order of topplings does not matter, one can show

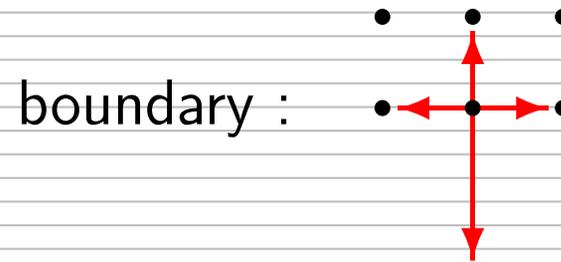
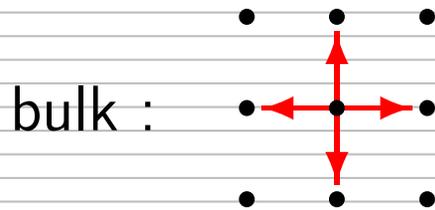
$$[a_i, a_j] = 0 \quad \forall i, j$$

(Essentially, because toppling condition is ultra-local.)

They form an Abelian algebra, soon to be promoted to an **Abelian group**.

Laplacian

Redistribution of sand to neighbour sites:



$$\text{If } h_i \geq 5, \text{ then } \begin{cases} h_i \rightarrow h_i - 4 \\ h_{\text{n.n.}} \rightarrow h_{\text{n.n.}} + 1 \end{cases} \iff h_j \rightarrow h_j - \Delta_{ij} \quad \forall j$$

Toppling matrix Δ is simply the **Laplacian** with open (Dirichlet) boundary conditions,

$$\Delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{for } i = j \\ -1 & \text{for } \langle i, j \rangle \end{cases}$$

Bulk sites are **conservative**, open boundary sites are **dissipative**: when i topples, $\sum_j \Delta_{ij}$ grains leave the system, or “transferred to the sink”.

Master equation

Dynamics is stochastic because seeding of sand is random.

If $P_t(\mathcal{C})$ is probability distribution at time t , then (Markov chain)

$$P_{t+1}(\mathcal{C}) = \sum_{i \in \Lambda} p_i \sum_{\mathcal{C}'} \delta(\mathcal{C} - a_i \mathcal{C}') P_t(\mathcal{C}')$$

The a_i are not invertible on the stable configurations: $\mathcal{C}_{\min} = \{h_i = 1\}_i$ is not in the image of the seeding operators $\implies P_t(\mathcal{C}_{\min}) = 0$.

This is general. Configurations are either

- **transient**: they are not in the repeated image of the dynamics, and occur only a finite number of times $\implies P_t(\mathcal{C}) = 0$ for large enough t
- **recurrent**: they are in the repeated image of the dynamics and asymptotically occur with non-zero probability; $\exists m_i : a_i^{m_i} \mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}$.

Invariant measure

- time evolution flow towards recurrent configurations
- set \mathcal{R} of recurrent configurations is closed under the dynamics
- seeding operators a_i are invertible on \mathcal{R} → generate **Abelian group**

Behaviour of sandpile controlled by invariant measure(s) $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P_t$.

We have the first important result:

The invariant measure P_Λ^* is unique and is uniform on the recurrent set \mathcal{R}

$$P_\Lambda^*(\mathcal{C}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{|\mathcal{R}|} & \text{if } \mathcal{C} \text{ is recurrent} \\ 0 & \text{if } \mathcal{C} \text{ is transient} \end{cases}$$

P_Λ^* depends on type of lattice, size of lattice, boundary conditions, number of dissipative sites, dissipation rates, ...

Recurrent set

Number of recurrent configurations ?

The group G generated by the a_i 's acts irreducibly on \mathcal{R} : any \mathcal{C} is obtained from any \mathcal{C}' by a g , equivalently $\mathcal{R} = G\mathcal{C}^*$, for a fixed \mathcal{C}^* .
Therefore $|\mathcal{R}|$ is the order of G .

G is not freely generated by the a_i 's, because $\prod_j a_j^{\Delta_{ij}} = 1, \forall i$.

Since G is finite Abelian, we can represent $a_j = e^{2i\pi\phi_j}$, such that $\sum_j \Delta_{ij} \phi_j = m_i$ are integers $\implies \phi_j = \sum_i \Delta_{jk}^{-1} m_k$.

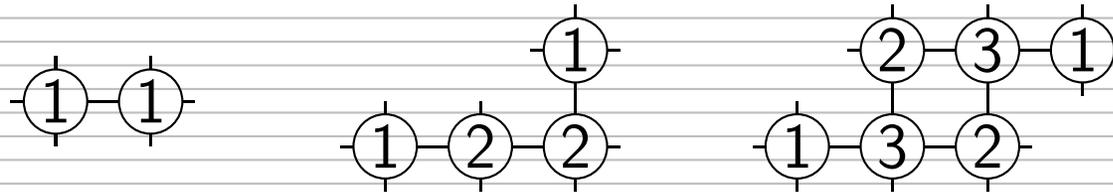
However $\{m_k\}$ and $\{m_k + \sum_l \Delta_{kl} n_l\}$ yield identical phases.

Thus distinct representations of G are labelled by integer vectors $\{m_k\}$ modulo the lattice generated by the columns $\{\Delta_{kl}\}_l$:

$$|\mathcal{R}| = |G| = \det \Delta \quad (\sim 3.21^N \ll 4^N)$$

Characterization

The minimal configuration $\mathcal{C}_{\min} = \{h_i = 1\}$ is clearly not recurrent. Likewise, configurations containing the following clusters cannot be recurrent:



Forbidden Sub-Configuration: cluster F of sites s.t. every i in F has height $h_i \leq$ number of nearest neighbours in F .

A configuration is recurrent iff it has no FSCs

- Non-local characterization: requires to scan the whole configuration, and induces long range correlations of the height variables
- Makes the sandpile model a complex system: difficult to separate different length scales.

Burning algorithm

To make sure a configuration contains no FSC, we apply the **burning algorithm**: we successively burn all sites with heights strictly larger than the number of unburnt neighbours; the sites which cannot be burnt form an FSC.

4	3	1	2
2	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

Burning algorithm

To make sure a configuration contains no FSC, we apply the **burning algorithm**: we successively burn all sites with heights strictly larger than the number of unburnt neighbours; the sites which cannot be burnt form an FSC.

	3	1	2
2	3	2	3
1	3	2	
2	3		2

Burning algorithm

To make sure a configuration contains no FSC, we apply the **burning algorithm**: we successively burn all sites with heights strictly larger than the number of unburnt neighbours; the sites which cannot be burnt form an FSC.

	3	1	2
2	3	2	3
1	3	2	
2	3		2

Burning algorithm

To make sure a configuration contains no FSC, we apply the **burning algorithm**: we successively burn all sites with heights strictly larger than the number of unburnt neighbours; the sites which cannot be burnt form an FSC.

		1	2
2	3	2	
1	3	2	
2			

Burning algorithm

To make sure a configuration contains no FSC, we apply the **burning algorithm**: we successively burn all sites with heights strictly larger than the number of unburnt neighbours; the sites which cannot be burnt form an FSC.

		1	2
2	3	2	
1	3	2	
2			

Burning algorithm

To make sure a configuration contains no FSC, we apply the **burning algorithm**: we successively burn all sites with heights strictly larger than the number of unburnt neighbours; the sites which cannot be burnt form an FSC.

		1
2	3	2
1	3	2

Burning algorithm

To make sure a configuration contains no FSC, we apply the **burning algorithm**: we successively burn all sites with heights strictly larger than the number of unburnt neighbours; the sites which cannot be burnt form an FSC.

the configuration

4	3	1	2
2	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

is not recurrent !

Burning algorithm

To make sure a configuration contains no FSC, we apply the **burning algorithm**: we successively burn all sites with heights strictly larger than the number of unburnt neighbours; the sites which cannot be burnt form an FSC.

the configuration

4	3	1	2
2	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

is not recurrent !

but the configuration

4	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

is recurrent !

Burning algorithm

To make sure a configuration contains no FSC, we apply the **burning algorithm**: we successively burn all sites with heights strictly larger than the number of unburnt neighbours; the sites which cannot be burnt form an FSC.

but the configuration

4	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

is recurrent !

The burning algorithm does more: keeping track of the way fire spreads in the lattice leads to **spanning trees ...**

Spanning trees

That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.

This fire line defines a spanning tree.

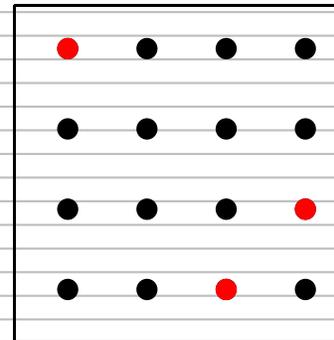
4	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

Spanning trees

That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.

This fire line defines a spanning tree.

4	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

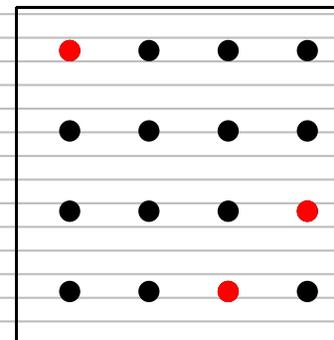


Spanning trees

That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.

This fire line defines a spanning tree.

4	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

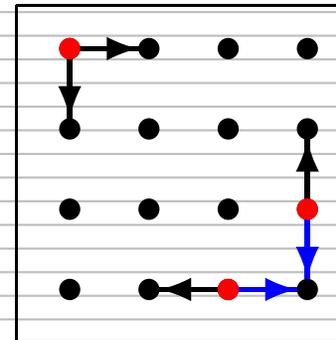


Spanning trees

That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow **the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.**

This fire line defines a **spanning tree**.

4	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

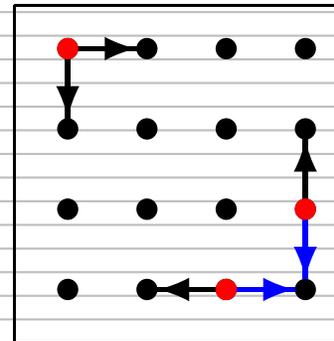


Spanning trees

That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.

This fire line defines a spanning tree.

4	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2



Use a prescription to select a blue arrow:

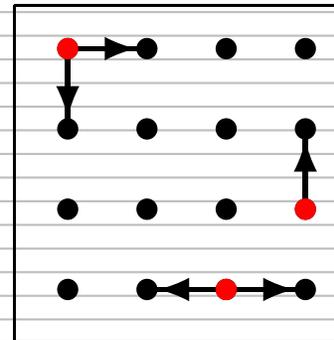
$$2 \text{ (height)} - 0 \text{ (\# unburnt neigh.)} = 2 \longrightarrow \text{second in } \{N, E, S, W\}$$

Spanning trees

That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow **the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.**

This fire line defines a **spanning tree**.

4	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	4
2	3	4	2

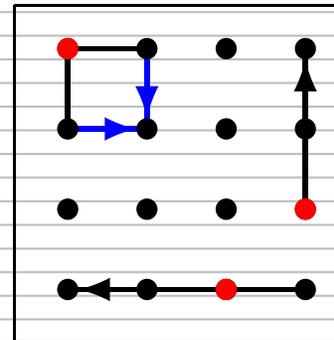


Spanning trees

That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.

This fire line defines a spanning tree.

	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	
2	3		2



Use same prescription to select a blue arrow:

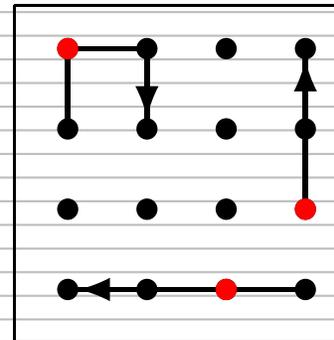
$$3 \text{ (height)} - 2 \text{ (\# unburnt neigh.)} = 1 \longrightarrow \text{first in } \{N,E,S,W\}$$

Spanning trees

That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.

This fire line defines a spanning tree.

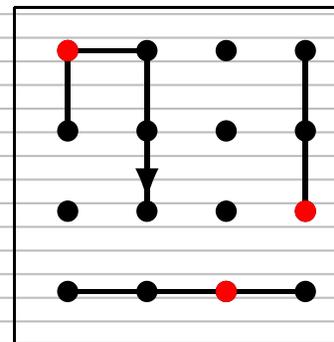
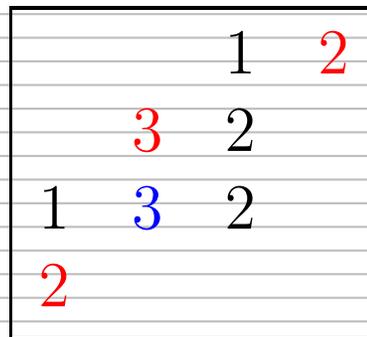
	3	1	2
3	3	2	3
1	3	2	
2	3		2



Spanning trees

That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.

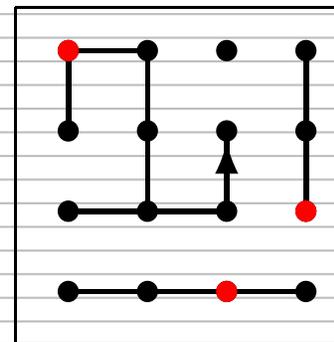
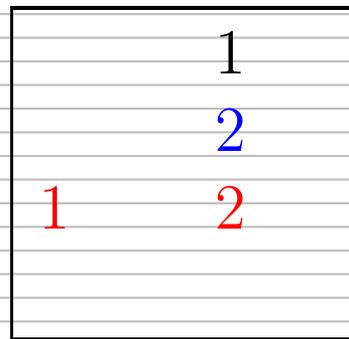
This fire line defines a spanning tree.



Spanning trees

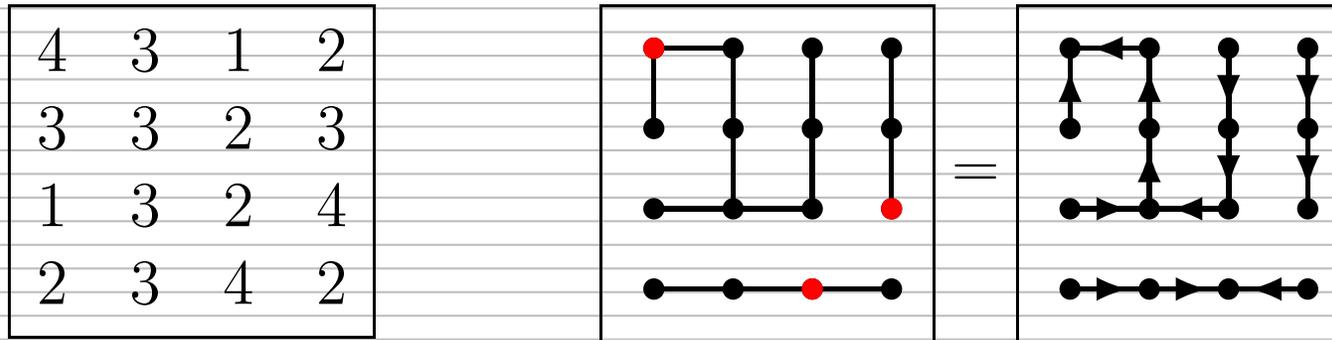
That a site is burnable at a certain instant implies that at least one of its neighbours was burnt the instant before: at initial time, fire is located in the sink and ignites boundary sites \longrightarrow the fire propagates from neighbours to neighbours.

This fire line defines a spanning tree.



Spanning trees

This fire line defines a (disconnected) spanning tree.



Spanning tree grows from roots (red dots), which are always dissipative sites (connected to the sink).

With the prescription used, we have

recurrent configurations $\xleftrightarrow{1:1}$ spanning trees

(Kirchhoff's theorem)

ASM: so far

1. defined on a finite grid Λ , with heights $h_i = 1, 2, 3, 4$
2. necessity of dissipation (sites connected to sink)
3. configurations are either recurrent or transient
4. recurrent are in 1-to-1 correspondence with spanning trees growing from dissipative sites
5. dynamics has a **unique invariant measure** P_Λ^* , **uniform on recurrent configurations or on spanning trees**
6. **non-local**:
heights are local microscopic variables but globally constrained



spanning trees are unconstrained but global variables

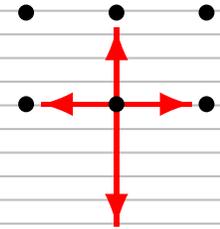
Boundary conditions

- open boundary site (dissipative)

Under toppling, loses 4, gives 1 to three neighbours

$$\Delta_{ii} = 4, \quad \Delta_{\langle ij \rangle} = -1, \quad \sum_{j \in \Lambda} \Delta_{ij} > 0$$

Height variable $1 \leq h_{\text{open}} \leq 4$.

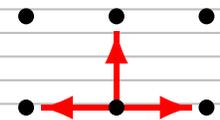


- closed boundary site (conservative)

Under toppling, loses 3, gives 1 to three neighbours

$$\Delta_{ii} = 3, \quad \Delta_{\langle ij \rangle} = -1, \quad \sum_{j \in \Lambda} \Delta_{ij} = 0$$

Height variable $1 \leq h_{\text{closed}} \leq 3$.



Note: all sites closed implies $\sum_j \Delta_{ij} = 0 \forall i \Rightarrow \det \Delta = |\mathcal{R}| = 0$.

B.c. (cont'd)

- boundary arrows (in spanning tree variables)

Trees are constrained to contain certain boundary bonds, with an arrow indicating the direction to the root



- periodic boundary condition

Cylindrical geometry can be imposed provided there remain dissipation on the boundaries (torus not allowed)

- others ???

ASM: summary

1. defined on a finite grid Λ , with heights $h_i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ with prescribed boundary conditions (open, closed, arrows, ...) \longrightarrow specific Δ
2. **necessity of dissipation** (sites connected to sink)
3. configurations are either recurrent or transient
4. recurrent are in 1-to-1 correspondence with spanning trees growing from dissipative sites
5. dynamics has a **unique invariant measure** P_Λ^* , uniform on recurrent configurations or on spanning trees
6. **non-local**:
heights are local microscopic variables but globally constrained



spanning trees are unconstrained but global variables

The thermodynamic limit
 $\lim_{|\Lambda| \rightarrow \infty} P_{\Lambda}^*$ of the invariant
measure is a quantum field theoretic
measure of a (logarithmic)
conformal field theory

First hint at $c = -2$

Partition function measures the effective degrees of freedom

$$Z_\Lambda = |\mathcal{R}| = \det \Delta$$

Finite-size correction: rectangle $L \times M$ with open b.c.

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{M} \log Z_\Lambda = \frac{4G}{\pi} L + \left(\frac{4G}{\pi} - \log(1 + \sqrt{2}) \right) - \frac{\pi}{12L} + \dots$$

First term is bulk entropy per site: $f_{\text{bulk}} = \exp \frac{4G}{\pi} \simeq 3.21$

Second term: $f_{\text{open}} = \exp \left[\frac{6G}{\pi} - \frac{1}{2} \log(1 + \sqrt{2}) \right] \simeq 3.70$

Blue term identified with $\frac{\pi c}{24L} \implies c = -2$

Questions

To confirm the relevance of conformal description, ask questions that have an answer in CFT:

1. Correlations of height variables
2. Effect of changing the boundary conditions
3. Effect of introducing additional dissipation

– Part I –
The Abelian
sandpile model

– Part II –
Logarithmic
conformal field
theory
(at $c = -2$)

– Part III –
LogCFT at work :
the ASM on the
lattice

Conclusions

– Part II –
Logarithmic conformal field theory
(at $c = -2$)

Rational models

Usual features of rational models:

1. finite number of Virasoro representations
2. Vir representations are highest weight, completely reducible
3. Vir representations mainly identified by a conformal weight (L_0 diagonalizable)
4. conformal weights are bounded below
5. full, non-chiral theory basically reduces to chiral parts
6. correlation functions only have algebraic singularities
7. finite fusion (or quasi-rational)
8. chiral characters transform linearly under modular group of torus

Log CFTs

Typical features of logarithmic models:

1. finite number of Virasoro representations YES/NO
2. Vir representations are highest weight, completely reducible NO
3. Vir representations mainly identified by a conformal weight
(L_0 diagonalizable) NO
4. conformal weights are bounded below YES
5. full, non-chiral theory basically reduces to chiral parts NO
6. correlation functions only have algebraic singularities NO, Log^k
7. finite fusion (or quasi-rational) YES
8. chiral characters transform linearly under modular group NO

Minimal models

Minimal models are parametrized by (p, p') :

$$c = 1 - \frac{6(p - p')^2}{pp'}$$

Kac table of conformal weights

$$h_{r,s} = \frac{(p'r - ps)^2 - (p - p')^2}{4pp'}, \quad (\text{usually truncated})$$

non-empty for $p, p' \geq 2$.

However the value of the central charge relevant here is

$$c = -2 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad p = 1, p' = 2$$

Full Kac table

We take KT as a guiding principle : $h_{1,s} = \frac{(s-2)^2-1}{8}$, $s = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$-\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{35}{8}$	$\frac{63}{8}$
1	0	0	1	3	6	10
$\frac{3}{8}$	$-\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{35}{8}$	$\frac{63}{8}$	$\frac{99}{8}$
0	0	1	3	6	10	15
$-\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{35}{8}$	$\frac{63}{8}$	$\frac{99}{8}$	$\frac{143}{8}$
0	1	3	6	10	15	21

We observe: $-\frac{1}{8}$ is smallest, the only negative

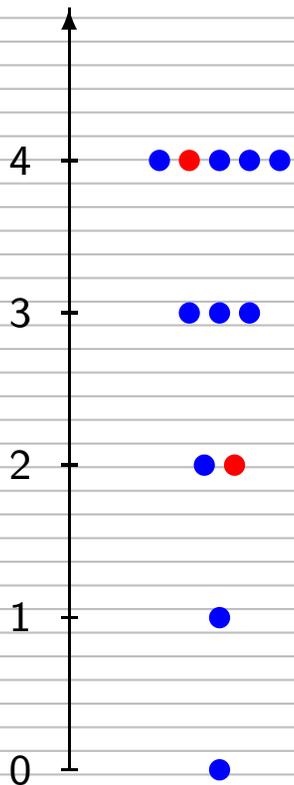
Δh is an integer for many pairs. **Required for LogCFT !**

Highest weight reps

Built on highest weight state $|h\rangle = \phi_h|0\rangle$ satisfying

$$L_0|h\rangle = h|h\rangle, \quad L_p|h\rangle = 0 \quad \forall p > 0.$$

$L_0 - h$



Verma module \mathcal{M}_h is freely spanned by the action of the negative modes on $|h\rangle$

$$L_0(L_{-p_1} \cdots |h\rangle) = (h + p_1 + \cdots)(L_{-p_1} \cdots |h\rangle).$$

At finite level $N = L_0 - h$, finite number $p(N)$ of states, some of them **singular** (h.w.), i.e. satisfying

$$L_0|s\rangle = (h + N)|s\rangle, \quad L_p|s\rangle = 0 \quad \forall p > 0.$$

Singular states generate submodules:

—→ allows quotients : Vir representations $\sim \mathcal{M}_h / \bullet$

Reducible vs irreducible

Precise nature of quotients can be tricky : need to know whether higher level singular states are descendants of lower level singular states ...

Complete answer by Feigin & Fuchs.

Situation simple for $c = -2$: all singular states are descendants of the lowest one ; all modules $\mathcal{M}_{r,s}$ have one singular state at level $N = rs$; corresponding quotient $\mathcal{V}_{r,s}$ is irreducible for yellow cells only.

$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$-\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{35}{8}$	$\frac{63}{8}$
1	0	0	1	3	6	10
$\frac{3}{8}$	$-\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{35}{8}$	$\frac{63}{8}$	$\frac{99}{8}$
0	0	1	3	6	10	15
$-\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{35}{8}$	$\frac{63}{8}$	$\frac{99}{8}$	$\frac{143}{8}$
0	1	3	6	10	15	21

Reducible vs irreducible

Precise nature of quotients can be tricky : need to know whether higher level singular states are descendants of lower level singular states ...

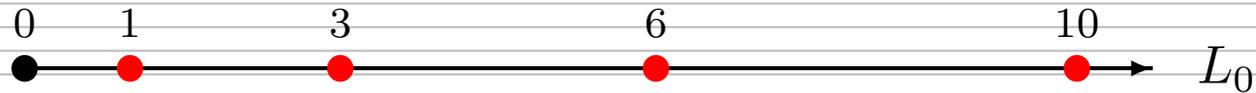
Complete answer by Feigin & Fuchs.

Situation simple for $c = -2$: all singular states are descendants of the lowest one ; all modules $\mathcal{M}_{r,s}$ have one singular state at level $N = rs$; corresponding quotient $\mathcal{V}_{r,s}$ is irreducible for yellow cells only.

$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$-\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{35}{8}$	$\frac{63}{8}$
1	0	0	1	3	6	10
$\frac{3}{8}$	$-\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{35}{8}$	$\frac{63}{8}$	$\frac{99}{8}$
0	0	1	3	6	10	15
$-\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	$\frac{35}{8}$	$\frac{63}{8}$	$\frac{99}{8}$	$\frac{143}{8}$
0	1	3	6	10	15	21

Examples

Verma module \mathcal{M}_0 for weight 0



$$h_{1,1} = 0$$

Irreducible quotient $\mathcal{V}_{1,1} = \mathcal{M}_0 / L_{-1}|h\rangle$ by first singular state.

Corresponding primary field satisfies $L_{-1}\phi_0(z) = \partial_z\phi_0(z) = 0$

$\longrightarrow \phi_0$ is the **identity field** \mathbb{I} .

$$h_{1,3} = 0$$

Reducible quotient $\mathcal{V}_{1,3} = \mathcal{M}_0 / (L_{-1}^2 - L_{-2})L_{-1}|h\rangle$ by second singular state.

Corresponding primary field has zero weight, and is non-trivial (see later).

Fusion/OPE

Unlike in rational minimal models, h.w. $\mathcal{V}_{r,s}$ do not close under fusion !

Call μ the irreducible primary field of weight $h_{1,2} = -\frac{1}{8}$.

The singular field $[2L_{-1}^2 - L_{-2}]\mu = 0$ is null in quotient $\mathcal{V}_{1,2}$ and implies

$$\langle \mu(1)\mu(2)\mu(3)\mu(4) \rangle = (z_{12}z_{34})^{1/4}(1-x)^{1/4} [\alpha K(x) + \beta K(1-x)]$$

where $K(x) = \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{dt}{\sqrt{1-x \sin^2 t}}$ has a log singularity at $x = 1$...

The log is unavoidable, either at $x = 0$ ($z_{12} = 0$) or at $x = 1$ ($z_{23} = 1$).

OPE reads

$$\mu(z)\mu(0) = \alpha z^{1/4} [\mathbb{I} + \dots] + \beta z^{1/4} [\omega(0) + \mathbb{I} \log z + \dots]$$

Jordan block

Second channel contains 2 fields, of weight 0

$$\mu(z)\mu(0) = z^{1/4} [\omega(0) + \mathbb{I} \log z + \dots]$$

Peculiar under dilations $z \rightarrow w = \lambda z$,

$$\mu(w)\mu(0) = w^{1/4} [\omega(0) - \mathbb{I} \log \lambda + \mathbb{I} \log z + \dots],$$

the field ω picks inhomogeneous piece proportional to \mathbb{I} !

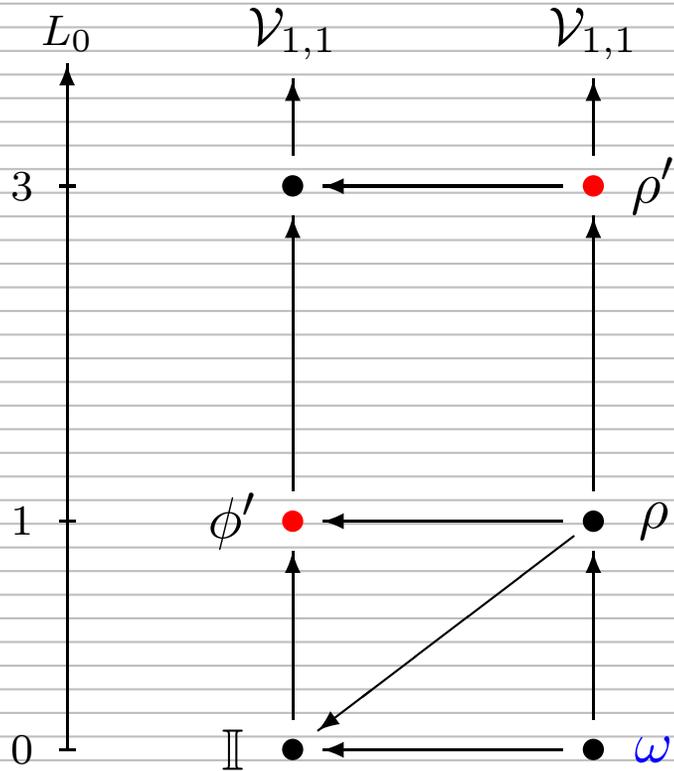
Particular case of general transformation of ω

$$\omega(w) = \omega(z) - \mathbb{I} \log \left(\frac{dw}{dz} \right).$$

Implies

$$L_0 \mathbb{I} = 0, \quad L_0 \omega = \mathbb{I} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad L_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Indecomposable representation



Defining relations of $\mathcal{R}_{1,1}$ are:

$$L_0 \omega = \mathbb{I}, \quad L_0 \mathbb{I} = 0,$$

$$L_p \mathbb{I} = L_p \omega = 0, \quad \forall p > 0$$

$$\phi' = L_{-1} \mathbb{I} \equiv 0,$$

$$\rho' = [L_{-1}^2 - L_{-2}] L_{-1} \omega \equiv 0.$$

Left $\mathcal{V}_{1,1}$ is a h.w. subrepres. of $\mathcal{R}_{1,1}$.

Consequences on correlators:

$$\langle \mathbb{I} \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \omega(z) \rangle = a, \quad \langle \omega(z) \omega(w) \rangle = -2a \log(z - w) + b.$$

More indecomposable reps

Other indecomposable representations $\mathcal{R}_{r,1}$, for $r = 2, 3, 4, \dots$

$$L_0 \psi = h_{r,1} \psi + \phi,$$

$$L_p \psi = 0, \quad \forall p > 1$$

$$L_1^{r-1} \psi = \beta \xi,$$

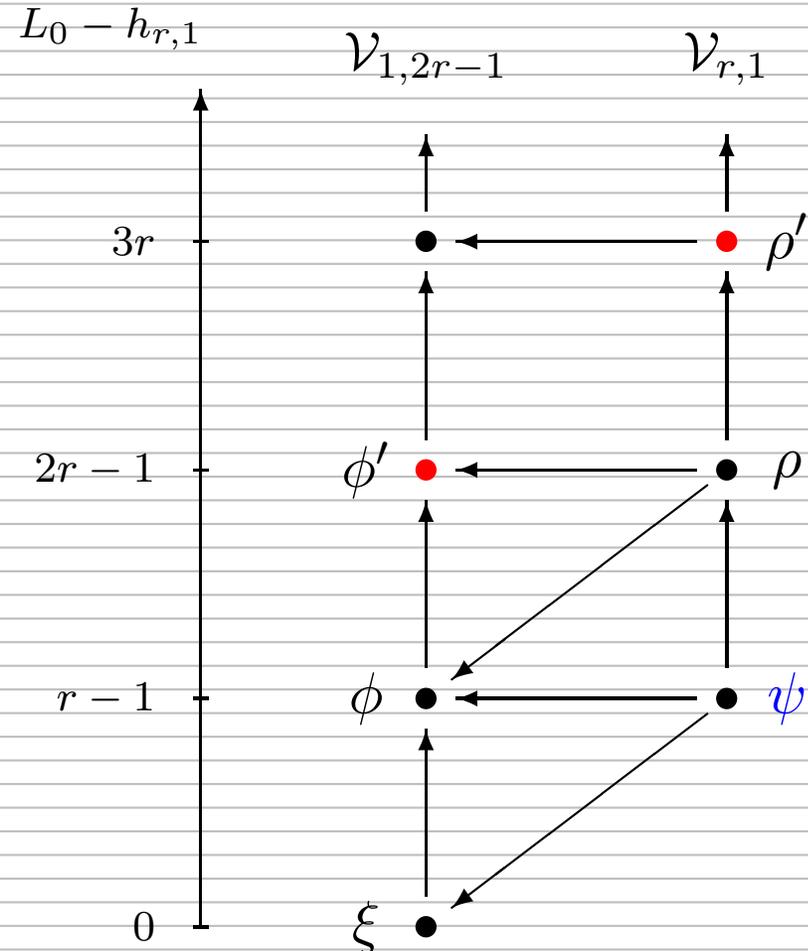
$$\phi' = [L_{-1}^{2r-1} + \dots] \xi \equiv 0,$$

$$\rho' = [L_{-1}^{2r+1} + \dots] \psi \equiv 0.$$

$\mathcal{V}_{1,2r-1}$ and $\mathcal{V}_{r,1}$ are h.w.

subrepresentations of $\mathcal{R}_{r,1}$

[Gaberdiel & Kausch, Rohsiepe]



Fusion closure

The set of irreducible h.w. $\mathcal{V}_{r,s}$ ($s = 1, 2$) and $\mathcal{R}_{r,1}$ ($r = 1, 2, \dots$) is closed under fusion :

$$\mathcal{V}_{r_1,1} \star \mathcal{V}_{r_2,1} = \oplus \mathcal{V}_{r,1}, \quad \mathcal{V}_{r_1,1} \star \mathcal{V}_{r_2,2} = \oplus \mathcal{V}_{r,2}, \quad \mathcal{V}_{r_1,2} \star \mathcal{V}_{r_2,2} = \oplus \mathcal{R}_{r,1}$$

$$\mathcal{V}_{r_1,1} \star \mathcal{R}_{r_2,1} = \oplus \mathcal{R}_{r,1}, \quad \mathcal{V}_{r_1,2} \star \mathcal{R}_{r_2,1} = \oplus \mathcal{V}_{r,2}, \quad \mathcal{R}_{r_1,1} \star \mathcal{R}_{r_2,1} = \oplus \mathcal{R}_{r,1}$$

Remains closed if one adds all reducible $\mathcal{V}_{r,s}$ for all $r, s = 1, 2, \dots$

For instance

$$\mu \star \mu = \mathcal{V}_{1,2} \star \mathcal{V}_{1,2} = [-1/8] \star [-1/8] = \mathcal{R}_{1,1}$$

$$\mu \star \nu = \mathcal{V}_{1,2} \star \mathcal{V}_{2,2} = [-1/8] \star [3/8] = \mathcal{R}_{2,1}$$

$$\mu \star \mathcal{R}_{2,1} = \mathcal{V}_{1,2} + 2\mathcal{V}_{2,2} + \mathcal{V}_{3,2}$$

Warning ...

The set of representations $\mathcal{V}_{r,s}$ and $\mathcal{R}_{r,1}$ is not the complete set of Vir representations for $c = -2$!

Note in particular : fractional weight states remain in irreducible representations, only integral weight states may belong to indecomposables.

However closed under fusion and forms a first **natural supply** of representations to consider.

For ASM applications, so far, seems enough to account for all known features ...

A lagrangian realization

Simplest and most studied LogCFT.

Precious guide but not realized in ASM ...

$$S = \frac{1}{\pi} \int \partial\theta \bar{\partial}\tilde{\theta} \quad (\text{symplectic fermions})$$

- θ and $\tilde{\theta}$ are scalar, anticommuting fields, with canonical dimension 0
→ four fields \mathbb{I} , θ , $\tilde{\theta}$, $\omega = : \tilde{\theta}\theta :$ of dimension 0, two are bosonic
- Wick contraction $\underbrace{\theta(z, \bar{z}) \tilde{\theta}(w, \bar{w})}_{\text{contraction}} = -\log |z - w|$
- stress-energy tensor $T(z) = -2 : \partial\theta \bar{\partial}\tilde{\theta} :$ → $c = -2$
- identity \mathbb{I} and $\omega = : \theta\tilde{\theta} :$ form a Jordan cell (ω is log partner of \mathbb{I})

$$T(z)\omega(w) = \frac{\mathbb{I}}{(z-w)^2} + \frac{\partial\omega}{z-w} + \dots$$

Indecomposable $\mathcal{R}_{1,1}$

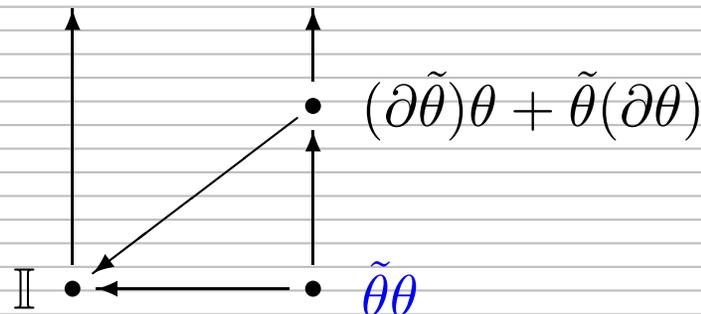
Because of zero modes of $\theta, \tilde{\theta}$ (remember $\int d\theta_0 = 0$)

$$\langle \mathbb{I} \rangle = 0.$$

However since $\int d\theta_0 \theta_0 = 1$, one has

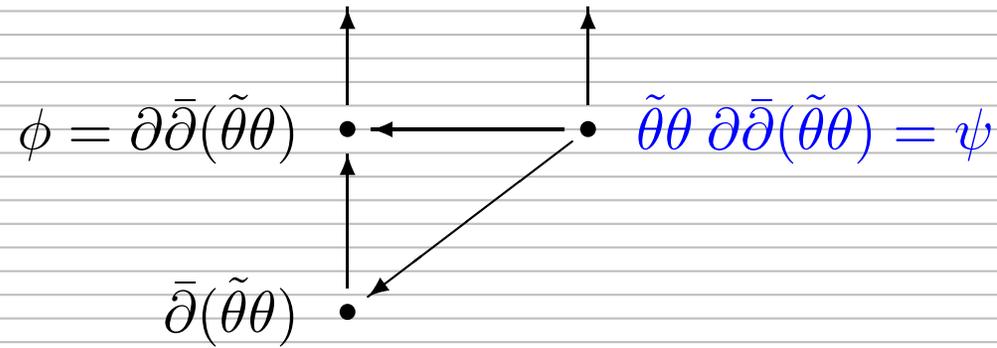
$$\langle \omega(z) \rangle = \langle \tilde{\theta} \theta \rangle = 1, \quad \langle \omega(z) \omega(w) \rangle = -2 \log |z - w|.$$

The fields $\omega = \tilde{\theta} \theta$ generates an indecomposable (non-chiral) representation $\mathcal{R}_{1,1}$



Indecomposable $\mathcal{R}_{2,1}$

Likewise, the weight 1 field $\psi = \omega \partial \bar{\omega} = \tilde{\theta} \partial \bar{\partial}(\tilde{\theta})$ generates an indecomposable $\mathcal{R}_{2,1}$



Two-point functions read

$$\langle \phi(z)\phi(w) \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \phi(z)\psi(w) \rangle = \frac{a}{(z-w)^2}$$

$$\langle \psi(z)\psi(w) \rangle = \frac{1}{(z-w)^2} [-2a \log |z-w| + b]$$

Rational LogCFT

The symplectic fermion field theory has an extended symmetry, generated by three weight 3 conserved currents satisfying a W -algebra w.r.t. to which finite number of representations

$$\text{boson : } \mathcal{V}_{-1/8}, \mathcal{R}_0, \quad \text{fermion : } \mathcal{V}_{3/8}, \mathcal{R}_1$$

So is **rational** w.r.t. this extended symmetry.

This Lagrangian theory describes many aspects of ASM, but ... not all !!

– Part I –
The Abelian
sandpile model

– Part II –
Logarithmic
conformal field
theory
(at $c = -2$)

– Part III –
LogCFT at work :
the ASM on the
lattice

Conclusions

– Part III – LogCFT at work : the ASM on the lattice

Testable issues

Following questions involve local lattice observables and should be described by local fields in scaling limit:

1. Correlations of **height variables** (***)
2. Effect of changing the **boundary conditions** (**)
3. Effect of introducing additional **dissipation** (*)

Need **correlators in infinite volume**.

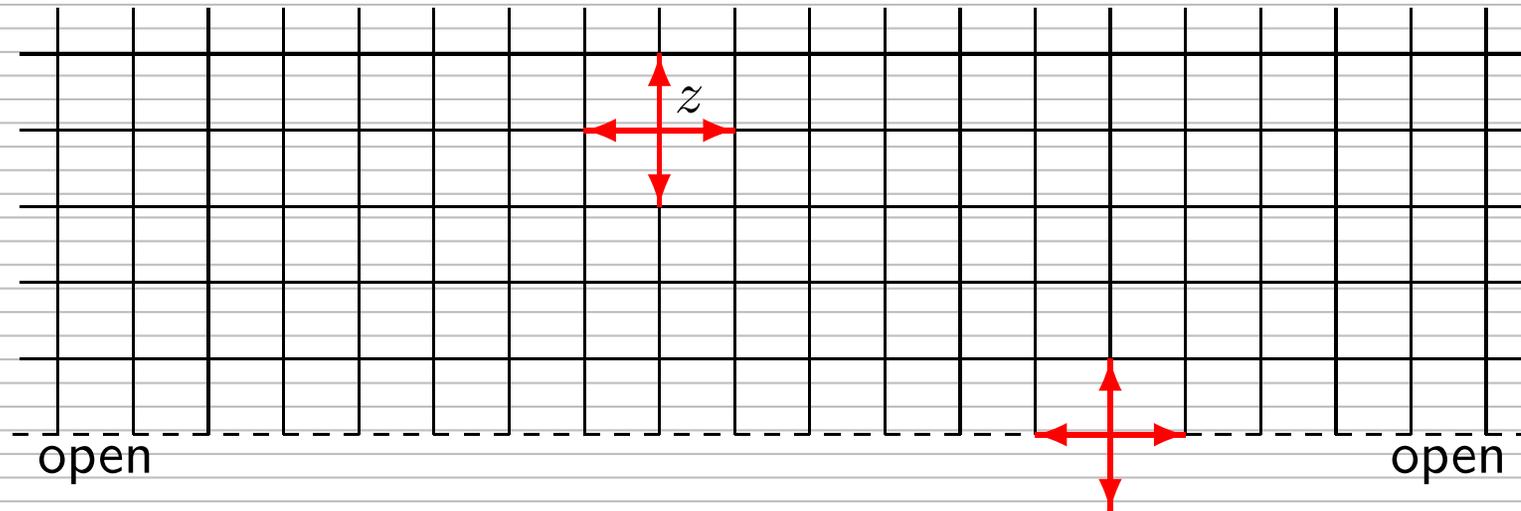
Here : we take the infinite volume limit of finite volume formulae.

Alternative : first formulate ASM in infinite volume and study stationary measures. [see review by Frank Redig, Les Houches lectures 05]

Dissipation

So far, all sites away from boundaries are conservative.

We decide to introduce dissipation at z , in the bulk of UHP:

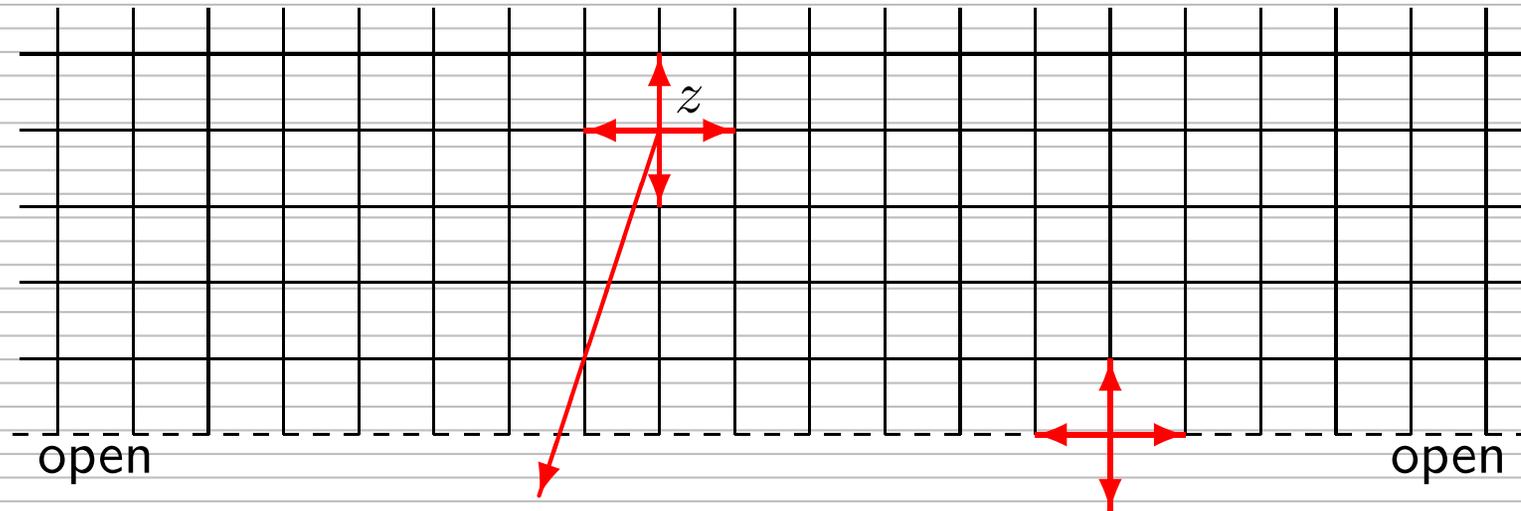


So far: $\Delta_{ii} = 4$, $\Delta_{\langle ij \rangle} = -1$ (loses 4, gives 1 to n.n.)

Dissipation

So far, all sites away from boundaries are conservative.

We decide to introduce dissipation at z , in the bulk of UHP:



So far: $\Delta_{ii} = 4$, $\Delta_{\langle ij \rangle} = -1$ (loses 4, gives 1 to n.n.)

Minimal dissipation: $\Delta'_{zz} = 5$, $\Delta'_{\langle zj \rangle} = -1$ (loses 5, gives 1 to n.n.)

New toppling matrix: $\Delta'_{ij} = \Delta_{ij} + B$, $B = \delta_{i,z} \delta_{j,z}$.

The effect of introducing dissipation can be measured by the fraction by which the number of recurrent configurations increases:

$$\frac{\det \Delta'}{\det \Delta} = \frac{\# \text{ recurrent configs in new model}}{\# \text{ recurrent configs in original model}}$$

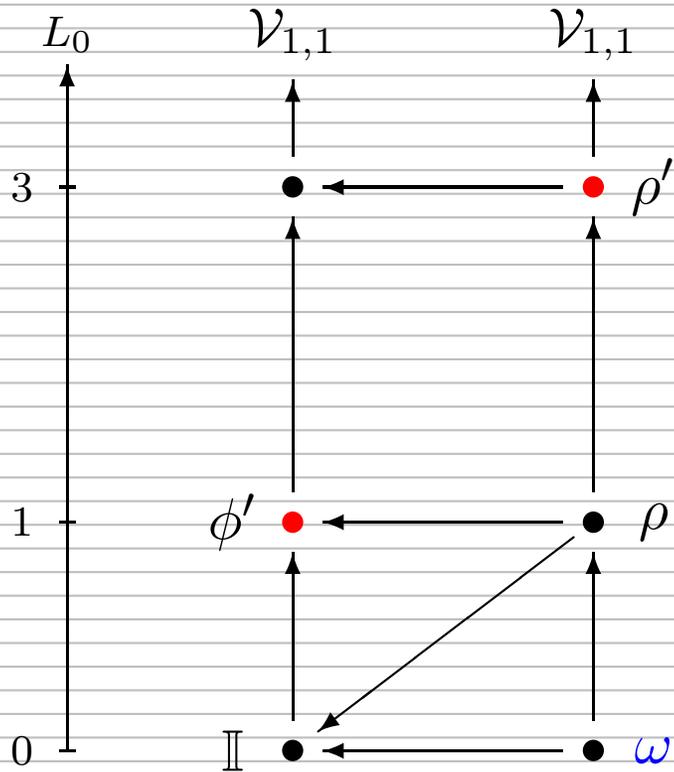
As $B = \Delta' - \Delta$ is a rank 1 perturbation,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\det \Delta'}{\det \Delta} &= \frac{\det \Delta + B}{\det \Delta} = \det[(\Delta + B)\Delta^{-1}] = \det[\mathbb{I} + B\Delta^{-1}] \\ &= 1 + G_{z,z}^{\text{uhp}} = 1 + G_{z,z}^{\text{plane}} - G_{z,\bar{z}}^{\text{plane}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \log |z - \bar{z}| - \gamma_0 + \dots = \langle \omega(z, \bar{z}) \rangle_{\text{uhp}} \end{aligned}$$

where lattice meets CFT

with $\omega(z, \bar{z})$ implementing the insertion of dissipation at z , in SL.

Remember :



Defining relations of $\mathcal{R}_{1,1}$ are:

$$L_0 \omega = \mathbb{I}, \quad L_0 \mathbb{I} = 0,$$

$$L_p \mathbb{I} = L_p \omega = 0, \quad \forall p > 0$$

$$\phi' = L_{-1} \mathbb{I} \equiv 0,$$

$$\rho' = [L_{-1}^2 - L_{-2}] L_{-1} \omega \equiv 0.$$

Left $\mathcal{V}_{1,1}$ is a h.w. subrepres. of $\mathcal{R}_{1,1}$.

Consequences on correlators:

$$\langle \mathbb{I} \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \omega(z) \rangle = a, \quad \langle \omega(z) \omega(w) \rangle = -2a \log(z - w) + b.$$

Since

$$\langle \omega(z, \bar{z}) \rangle_{\text{uhp}} = \langle \omega(z) \omega(\bar{z}) \rangle, \quad (\text{Cardy})$$

the following identification makes sense :

insertion of isolated dissipation \longleftrightarrow insertion of field $\omega(z, \bar{z}) \in \mathcal{R}_{1,1}$

Checked :

- ✓ insertion of dissipation at different points
- ✓ isolated dissipation on a closed boundary \longrightarrow chiral field $\omega(x) \in \mathcal{R}_{1,1}$
- ✓ dissipation at all sites : system no longer critical (expon. decays)

Perturbation of CFT by $m^2 \int \omega(z, \bar{z}) \sim m^2 \int \tilde{\theta} \theta$ (mass term)

(Realized by fermions)

Turns out that the ω 's have a realization in terms of symplectic fermions.

All calculations are exactly compatible with following identifications :

$$\omega_{\text{bulk}}(z, \bar{z}) \equiv (\text{insertion of dissipation at bulk } z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \theta \tilde{\theta} + \gamma_0 \mathbb{I}$$

$$\omega_{\text{cl}}(x) \equiv (\text{insertion of dissipation at closed } x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \theta \tilde{\theta} + \left(2\gamma_0 - \frac{5}{4}\right) \mathbb{I}$$

so that

$$\frac{\det[\Delta + B_1 + \cdots + B_n]}{\det \Delta} = \langle \omega(1) \dots \omega(n) \rangle$$

computed from Wick contractions.

Note: on open boundary, already dissipative, dissipation is less relevant

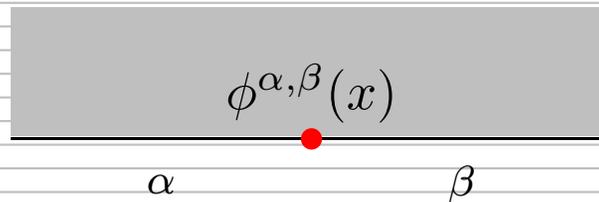
$$(\text{insertion of dissipation at open } x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \partial \theta \partial \tilde{\theta} \quad (\text{dim. } 2)$$

Dissipation: summary

The insertion of isolated dissipation at a conservative site
(creation of a bond to sink/root)
corresponds, in the scaling limit, to the insertion of a field ω of weight 0,
the logarithmic partner of the identity.
The field ω and the identity are the lowest fields in an indecomposable
representation $\mathcal{R}_{1,1}$.

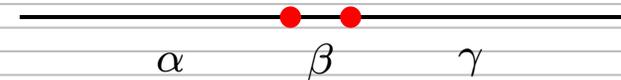
B.c. changing fields

- set $\mathcal{B} = \{\alpha\}$ of conformally invariant b.c.'s
- \mathcal{B} can be finite or infinite (our case)
- a change of boundary condition at a point x , from α to β is realized by the insertion of a (chiral) boundary field $\phi^{\alpha,\beta}$



Also : b.c.c.f. $\phi^{\alpha,\beta}$ are primary fields satisfying a **boundary fusion algebra** (composition law) with identity $\phi^{\alpha,\alpha} = \mathbb{I}$:

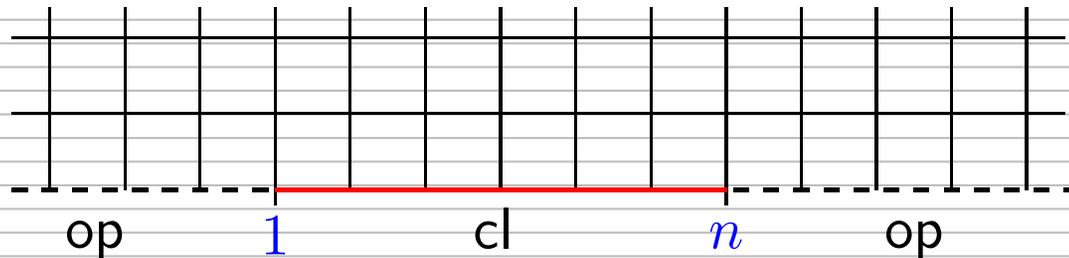
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow y} \phi^{\alpha,\beta}(x) \star \phi^{\beta,\gamma}(y) \simeq \phi^{\alpha,\gamma}(y)$$



Assumption : all $\phi^{\alpha,\beta}$ belong to h.w. $\mathcal{V}_{r,s}$ or indecomp. $\mathcal{R}_{r,1}$

Open \leftrightarrow closed

First, well-known case : change from open to closed



The change of boundary condition from open to closed, and vice-versa, is effected, in the scaling limit, by the insertion of a chiral, boundary primary field $\phi^{\text{op,cl}} = \phi^{\text{cl,op}} \equiv \mu$ with conformal dimension $-\frac{1}{8}$. This primary field belongs to an irreducible representation $\mathcal{V}_{1,2}$.

Fixed arrows

Spanning trees are constrained to contain certain boundary bonds, with the arrow indicating the direction to the root



Same idea as before: insert in an open or in a closed boundary, a string of n consecutive arrows pointing to the left or to the right.

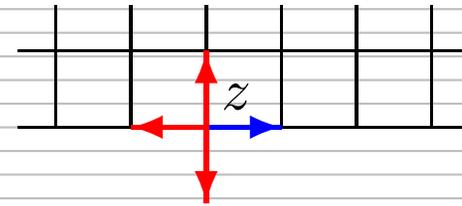
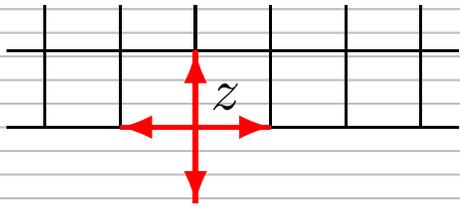
Measure the effect by the ratio:

$$\frac{\#\{\text{spanning trees with } n \text{ prescribed arrows}\}}{\#\{\text{spanning trees}\}}$$

Note : left and right arrows are not identical \rightarrow oriented b.c.'s !

Imposing arrows

Open boundary site



$$\Delta_{z,\cdot}^{\text{op}} = (\dots, -1, 4, -1, -1, 0, \dots)$$

$$\Delta'_{z,\cdot} = (\dots, -1, 3+\delta, -1, -\delta, 0, \dots)$$

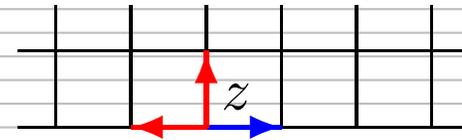
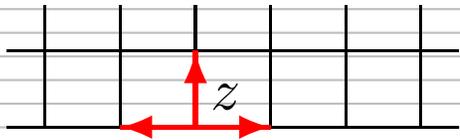
In spanning tree, only one of the four arrows is used: the red arrows bring a weight 1, the blue arrow brings a weight δ :

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\delta} \det \Delta' = \#\{\text{spanning trees with blue arrow}\}$$

$$\frac{\#\{\text{spanning trees with blue arrow}\}}{\#\{\text{spanning trees}\}} = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\delta} \frac{\det \left[\Delta^{\text{op}} + \begin{pmatrix} \delta & -\delta \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right]}{\det \Delta^{\text{op}}}$$

Imposing arrows

Same for closed boundary site



$$\Delta_{z,\cdot}^{\text{cl}} = (\dots, -1, 3, -1, -1, 0, \dots)$$

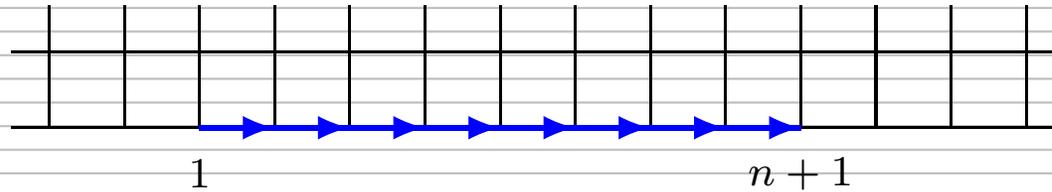
$$\Delta'_{z,\cdot} = (\dots, -1, 2+\delta, -1, -\delta, 0, \dots)$$

In spanning tree, only one of the three arrows is used: the red arrows bring a weight 1, the blue arrow brings a weight δ :

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\delta} \det \Delta' = \#\{\text{spanning trees with blue arrow}\}$$

$$\frac{\#\{\text{spanning trees with blue arrow}\}}{\#\{\text{spanning trees}\}} = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\delta} \frac{\det \left[\Delta^{\text{cl}} + \begin{pmatrix} \delta & -\delta \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right]}{\det \Delta^{\text{cl}}}$$

Inserting arrows ...



For n arrows inserted, must compute $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$ determinant

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\delta^n} \frac{\det[\Delta + B]}{\det \Delta}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} \delta & -\delta & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \delta & -\delta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \delta & -\delta \\ & & \dots & \end{pmatrix}$$

Little calculation yields

$$\dots = \det[G_{i,j} - G_{i+1,j}]_{1 \leq i,j \leq n} = \det(\sigma_{i-j}), \quad G^{-1} = \Delta^{\text{op}} \text{ or } \Delta^{\text{cl}}$$

Horizontal invariance \longrightarrow has a **Toeplitz form**

... in closed

Toeplitz determinants with Fisher-Hartwig singularity. Results are

Closed



Can show

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\delta^n} \det[\mathbb{I} + G^{\text{cl}} B] = \text{const} \times n^{-1/4} e^{-\frac{2G}{\pi}n} + \dots$$

Involves insertion of two fields $\phi^{\text{cl},\rightarrow}(0)$ and $\phi^{\rightarrow,\text{cl}}(n)$, and therefore sum of dimensions equal to $-\frac{1}{4} = -\frac{1}{8} + \frac{3}{8}$. In fact :

$\phi^{\text{cl},\rightarrow}(0) \equiv \mu'$ has weight $-\frac{1}{8}$, primary irreducible in $\mathcal{V}_{1,2}$

$\phi^{\rightarrow,\text{cl}}(n) \equiv \nu$ has weight $\frac{3}{8}$, primary irreducible in $\mathcal{V}_{2,2}$

Important : does not correspond to $\langle \mu'(0)\nu(n) \rangle = 0$ (no dissipation), but to $\langle \mu'(0)\nu(n)\omega(\infty) \rangle = n^{-1/4}$ **with dissipation at ∞ !**

Other checks on 3-points and 4-points confirm

$\phi^{\alpha,\beta}$	open	closed	\rightarrow	\leftarrow
open	id.	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$		
closed	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$	id.	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$	$[\frac{3}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{2,2}$
\rightarrow		$[\frac{3}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{2,2}$	id.	
\leftarrow		$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$		id.

... in open

Open



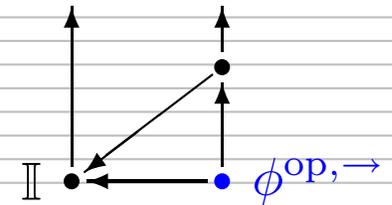
Can show

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\delta^n} \det[\mathbb{I} + G^{op} B] = \text{const} \times n^0 e^{-\frac{2G}{\pi}n} + \dots$$

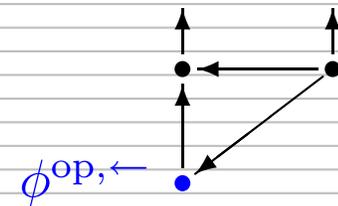
Involves insertion of two fields $\phi^{op, \rightarrow}(0)$ and $\phi^{\rightarrow, op}(n)$, and therefore sum of dimensions equal to $0 = 0 + 0 \rightarrow$ **both fields have dimension 0.**

$$\phi^{op, \rightarrow} \in \phi^{op, cl} \star \phi^{cl, \rightarrow} = \mu \star \mu' = \mathcal{V}_{1,2} \star \mathcal{V}_{1,2} = \mathcal{R}_{1,1}$$

goes over to quotient $\mathcal{V}_{1,3} = \mathcal{R}_{1,1}/\mathbb{I}$



$$\phi^{\rightarrow, op} \in \phi^{\rightarrow, cl} \star \phi^{cl, op} = \nu \star \mu = \mathcal{V}_{2,2} \star \mathcal{V}_{1,2} = \mathcal{R}_{2,1}$$



Other checks on 3-points and 4-points confirm

$\phi^{\alpha,\beta}$	open	closed	\rightarrow	\leftarrow
open	id.	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$	$[0] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,3}$	$[0] \in \mathcal{R}_{2,1}$
closed	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$	id.	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$	$[\frac{3}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{2,2}$
\rightarrow	$[0] \in \mathcal{R}_{2,1}$	$[\frac{3}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{2,2}$	id.	
\leftarrow	$[0] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,3}$	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$		id.

Other changes

Further calculations of determinants (mainly numerical) yield

$\phi^{\leftarrow, \rightarrow}$ has weight 0

must be in $\phi^{\leftarrow, \text{cl}} \star \phi^{\text{cl}, \rightarrow} = \mu' \star \mu' = \mathcal{V}_{1,2} \star \mathcal{V}_{1,2} = \mathcal{R}_{1,1}$

descends to quotient $\mathcal{V}_{1,3}$.

$\phi^{\rightarrow, \text{cl}, \leftarrow}$ has weight 1

must be in $\phi^{\rightarrow, \text{cl}} \star \phi^{\text{cl}, \leftarrow} = \nu \star \nu = \mathcal{V}_{2,2} \star \mathcal{V}_{2,2} = \mathcal{R}_{1,1} + \mathcal{R}_{3,1}$

$\phi^{\rightarrow, \text{op}, \leftarrow}$ has weight 0

in $\phi^{\rightarrow, \text{op}} \star \phi^{\text{op}, \leftarrow} = \mathcal{R}_{2,1} \star \mathcal{R}_{2,1} = 2\mathcal{R}_{1,1} + 2\mathcal{R}_{2,1} + 2\mathcal{R}_{3,1} + \mathcal{R}_{4,1}$

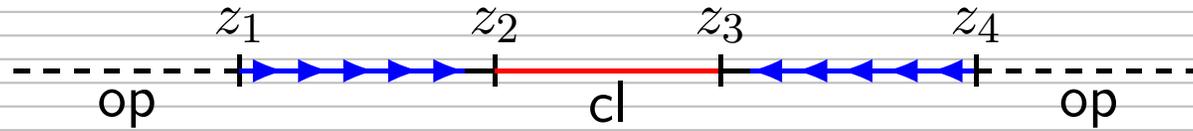
(most probably, deserves further checks)

Boundary conditions: summary

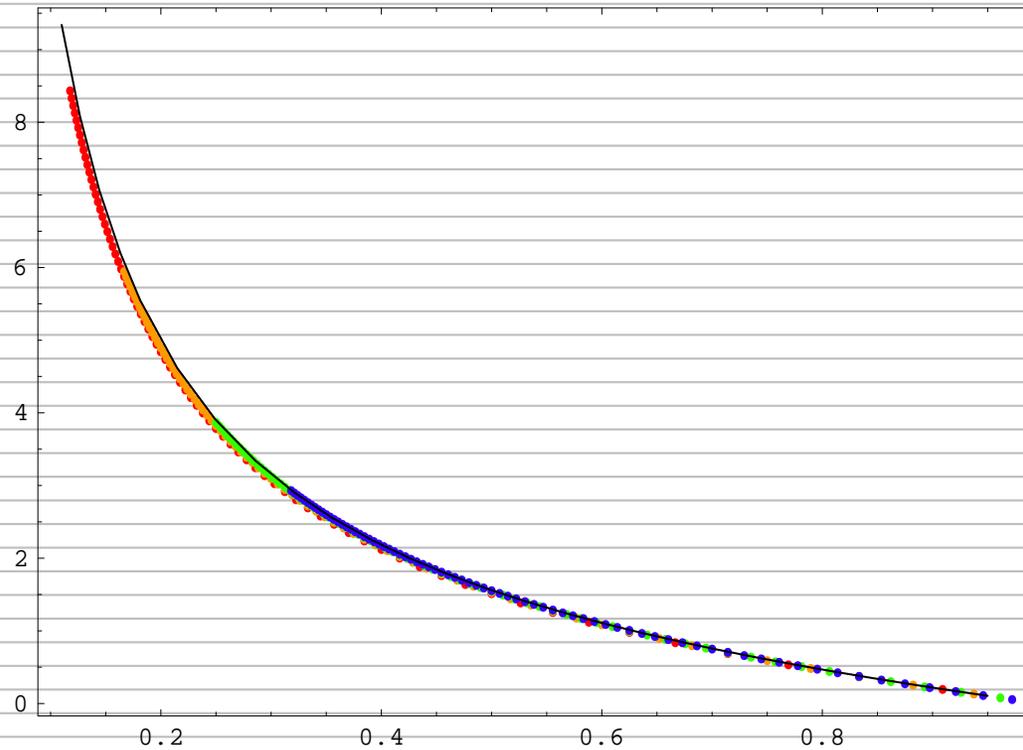
Leads to following table (in present understanding)

$\phi^{\alpha,\beta}$	open	closed	\rightarrow	\leftarrow
open	id.	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$	$[0] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,3}$	$[0] \in \mathcal{R}_{2,1}$
closed	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$	id.	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$	$[\frac{3}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{2,2}$
\rightarrow	$[0] \in \mathcal{R}_{2,1}$	$[\frac{3}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{2,2}$	id.	$[0] \in \mathcal{R}_{2,1}$ (op) $[1] \in \mathcal{R}_{3,1}$ (cl)
\leftarrow	$[0] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,3}$	$[-\frac{1}{8}] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,2}$	$[0] \in \mathcal{V}_{1,3}$	id.

Cross-checks



Corresponds to $\langle \sigma(1)\nu(2)\nu(3)\sigma(4) \rangle = \beta z_{23}^{-3/4} \frac{1-x}{\sqrt{x}}$



Height variables

Most natural but hardest !

Purpose = compute joint probas $P^*[h_{z_1} = a, h_{z_2} = b, \dots]$

Plane 1-point probas computed in '91 (height 1; Dhar & Majumdar) and in '94 (heights 2,3,4; Priezzhev), but are ignored by the FT description:

$$P^*(a) = P^*[h_z = a] = \langle \delta(h_z - a) \rangle_{P^*} \neq 0 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \langle h_a(z) \rangle = 0$$

As FT describes correlation functions, the proper correspondence reads

$$\delta(h_z - a) - P^*(a) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \text{field } h_a(z)$$

under which

$$\text{scalim} \left\{ P^*[h_{z_1} = a, h_{z_2} = b] - P^*(a) P^*(b) \right\} = \langle h_a(z_1) h_b(z_2) \rangle$$

Height variables

The identification of scaling fields h_a requires computing lattice correlation functions of height variables ...

Fine for heights 1 (boundary or bulk)

More difficult for heights 2,3,4 on boundary (open or closed)

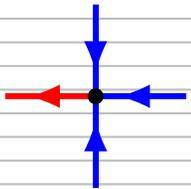
Still harder for heights 2,3,4 in bulk !

Why ??

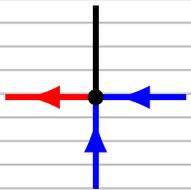
Trees, branches, leaves

Need spanning tree description of recurrent configurations of ASM.

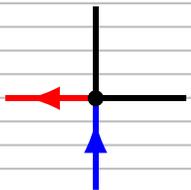
Remember the burning algorithm, building the spanning tree:



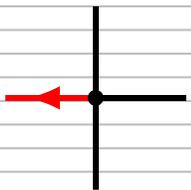
height can only be equal to 4: $P_4 = P_3 + \frac{\mathcal{N}_3}{\mathcal{N}}$



height can be equal to 3 or 4: $P_3 = P_2 + \frac{\mathcal{N}_2}{2\mathcal{N}}$



height can be equal to 2, 3 or 4: $P_2 = P_1 + \frac{\mathcal{N}_1}{3\mathcal{N}}$



height can be equal to 1, 2, 3 or 4: $P_1 = \frac{\mathcal{N}_0}{4\mathcal{N}}$

Predecessors

Previous formulae require computing the number of trees with fixed number of predecessors at given site z :

\mathcal{N}_k = number of configs such that z has set fire to exactly k n.n.

Huge difference between $k = 0$ and $k > 0$:

\mathcal{N}_0 is local: reference site is a leaf; local constraint

$\mathcal{N}_{k>0}$ is non-local: must exclude big fire path in lattice which eventually comes back to a nearest neighbour; non-local constraint

Heights 1 are easier, while heights 2, 3, 4 are harder !!

1-site probabilities

Can see it on the answers:

$$P_1 = \frac{2(\pi - 2)}{\pi^3} = 0.0736$$

$$P_2 = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi} - \frac{3}{\pi^2} + \frac{12}{\pi^2} - \frac{\pi - 2}{2\pi} J_2$$

with

$$J_2 = \frac{4}{\pi^2} - \frac{14}{\pi} - 8 - \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{\pi^2} \int_0^\pi \frac{d\beta_1}{\sqrt{3 - \cos \beta_1}} \int_{-\pi}^\pi \frac{d\beta_2}{1 - t_1 t_2 t_3} \sin \frac{\beta_1 - \beta_2}{2}$$
$$\left[\cos \frac{\beta_1 - \beta_2}{2} - 2 \cos \frac{\beta_1 + \beta_2}{2} \right] \times \left[(3 - \cos \beta_1 + \cos \beta_2) \cos \frac{\beta_1}{2} - 2 \sin \beta_2 \sin \frac{\beta_1}{2} \right],$$

where $t_i = y_i - \sqrt{y_i^2 - 1}$, $y_i = 2 - \cos \beta_i$ and $\beta_3 = -(\beta_1 + \beta_2)$.

Remarkably $J_2 = 0.5 + o(10^{-12})$, but no proof !

1-site probabilities

Can see it on the answers:

$$P_1 = \frac{2(\pi - 2)}{\pi^3} = 0.0736$$

$$P_2 = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi} - \frac{3}{\pi^2} + \frac{12}{\pi^2} - \frac{\pi - 2}{2\pi} J_2 = 0.1739$$

$$P_3 = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{12}{\pi^3} - \frac{8 - \pi}{4\pi} J_2 = 0.3063$$

$$P_4 = 1 - P_1 - P_2 - P_3 = 0.4461$$

Note $P_1 < P_2 < P_3 < P_4$ in agreement with forbidden subconfigurations picture.

Higher heights

On UHP, compute 1-site probability to have height 2,3,4 at a distance m from boundary, open or closed.

Asymptotic analysis for m large yields dominant contributions in SL :

$$P_i^{\text{op}}(m) = P_i + \frac{1}{m^2} \left(a_i + \frac{b_i}{2} + b_i \log m \right) + \dots,$$

$$P_i^{\text{cl}}(m) = P_i - \frac{1}{m^2} \left(a_i + b_i \log m \right) + \dots,$$

with explicit coefficients,

$$a_1 = \frac{\pi - 2}{2\pi^3}, \quad b_1 = 0$$

$$a_2 = \frac{\pi - 2}{2\pi^3} \left(\gamma + \frac{5}{2} \log 2 \right) - \frac{11\pi - 34}{8\pi^3}, \quad b_2 = \frac{\pi - 2}{2\pi^3}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{8 - \pi}{4\pi^3} \left(\gamma + \frac{5}{2} \log 2 \right) + \frac{2\pi^2 + 5\pi - 88}{16\pi^3}, \quad b_3 = \frac{8 - \pi}{4\pi^3}$$

Bulk heights: summary

1-site probability on UHP is a disguised (chiral) 2-pt correlation (image), and allows the field identification.

All checks confirm that :

The height 1 field h_1 is a **primary field** with weights $(1,1)$.

The others three h_2, h_3, h_4 also have weights $(1,1)$, and are equal, up to normalizations, to the same field, the **logarithmic partner** of h_1 .

The four fields h_i belongs to a non-chiral indecomposable $\mathcal{R}_{2,1}$.

– Part I –
The Abelian
sandpile model

– Part II –
Logarithmic
conformal field
theory
(at $c = -2$)

– Part III –
LogCFT at work :
the ASM on the
lattice

Conclusions

Conclusions

Good number of features well understood:

- **4 boundary conditions** identified, leading to b.c. changing fields with conformal weights $0, -\frac{1}{8}, \frac{3}{8}, 1$
- **isolated dissipation**, on boundary or in bulk, with and without change of b.c.; bulk, boundary and bulk-boundary fusions checked
- **boundary height variables** on closed and open boundaries (not log)
- **bulk height variables** properly identified (log fields), with and without change of b.c.
- **fully dissipative model**, no longer critical, described by massive perturbation of $c = -2$

Open issues:

- relevant LCFT likely to be non-rational: complete its identification
- look for other boundary conditions
- identify new bulk observables
- establish relationships with other models

Perspective:

Avalanche observables, SLE ?