

# Bridging scales

from microscopic dynamics to macroscopic laws

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## Guiding principles in probability

### Symmetry

If different outcomes are equivalent (from the perspective of the mechanism causing them), they should have the same probability.

### Universality

In many instances, if a random outcome is a consequence of **many** different sources of randomness, the details of its description should not matter much. (Outcomes of successive coin tosses: de Moivre 1733, Laplace 1812, ...)

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sequence of many tosses: de Moivre's description

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1. **Physics:** Random motion caused by collision with fluid molecules.
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## Bachelier

Submits his thesis “Théorie de la spéculation” in 1900, but does not find much recognition. Besides a very short time at Sorbonne (interrupted by WWI), he obtains his first permanent position at age 57!



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## Mathematical description / universality



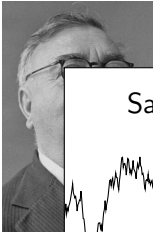
Wiener (late 1920's) provides full mathematical description of Brownian motion.

Went on to become an early researcher in robotics and cybernetics.



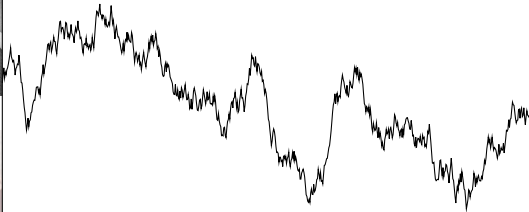
Donsker (1951) shows that Brownian motion is “universal” and describes the large-scale behaviour of a multitude of processes with different microscopic descriptions.

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Sample path of Brownian motion



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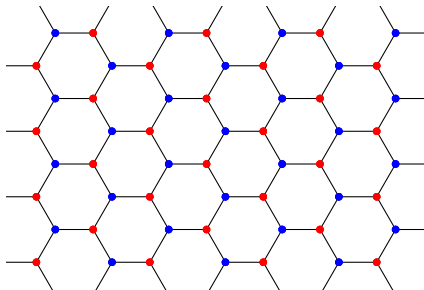
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## What about two dimensions?

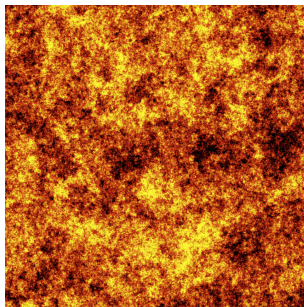
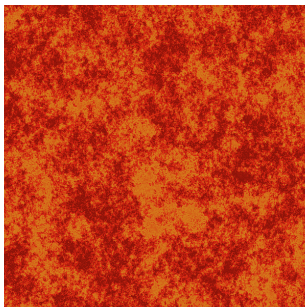
Two dimensional analogue of random walk:



Random function  $h: \text{Grid} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$  such that  $|h(x) - h(y)| = 1$  for  $x \sim y$ . What does  $h$  look like at very large scales?

## Free field

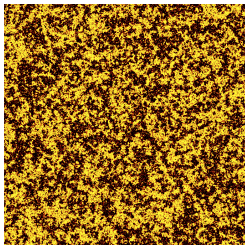
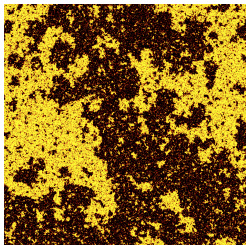
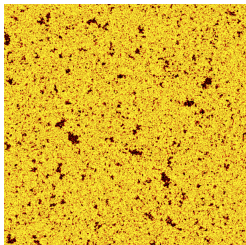
Large scale behaviour should be described by “free field”, Gaussian generalised function with  $\mathbb{E}h(x)h(y) = -\log|x - y|$ . No proof yet! (But for similar models, see Borodin, Johansson, Kenyon, Okounkov, Peled, Toninelli, etc.)



Formally,  $\mathbf{P}(dh) \propto \exp(-\int |\nabla h|^2 dx) "dh"$ .

## Beyond “free” systems

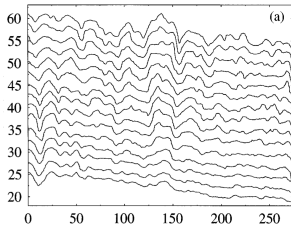
Ising model: state space  $\sigma: \Lambda \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ . Probability to see  $\sigma$  proportional to  $\exp(\beta \sum_{x \sim y} \sigma_x \sigma_y)$ .



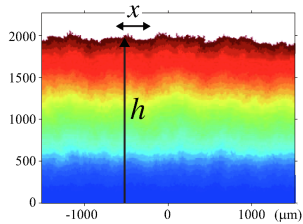
At critical temperature, one has a **non-Gaussian** scaling limit (rigorous proofs only over last few years), **conjectured** to be universal for many phase transition models.

# Interface growth models

**Context:** Two “phases” of differing stability. Stable phase invades unstable phase.



Maunuksela & Al, PRL



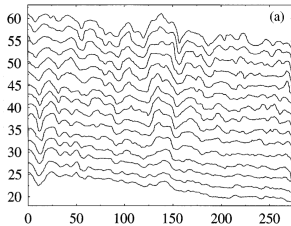
Takeuchi & Al, Sci. Rep.

Many simple mathematical models exhibit similar features, appear to have same scaling limit. (See Borodin, Corwin, Ferrari, Johansson, Quastel, Sasamoto, Spohn, . . . )

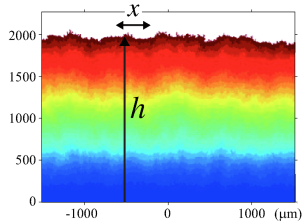


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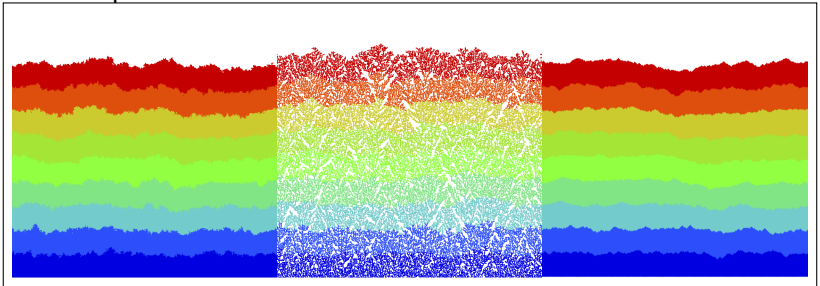


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## Some properties of these objects

In **general**: Gaussianity **not expected** when interactions are present.

Scale invariance holds for such scaling limits essentially by definition. Markov property in space(-time) natural for systems with local interactions. Translation invariance and Rotation invariance holds as soon as limit is canonical in some sense. Leap of faith: conformal invariance.

Two dimensions: conformal invariance gives infinite-dimensional symmetry group. Consequence: a lot is known explicitly for a one-parameter family of conformally invariant / covariant objects called conformal field theories. (From probability perspective, see SLE, QLE, CLE, ...)

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## Crossover regimes

Consider models that converge to a **Gaussian** fixed point when “zooming in” and a **non-Gaussian** FP when “zooming out”.

Described by simple “normal form” equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t h &= \partial_x^2 h + (\partial_x h)^2 + \xi - C, & (\text{KPZ}; d=1) \\ \partial_t \Phi &= -\Delta(\Delta\Phi + C\Phi - \Phi^3) + \nabla\xi. & (\Phi^4; d=2,3)\end{aligned}$$

Here  $\xi$  is **space-time white noise** (think of independent random variables at every space-time point).

KPZ: universal model for weakly asymmetric interface growth.

$\Phi^4$ : universal model for phase coexistence near mean-field.

Problem: **red** terms ill-posed, requires  $C = \infty$ !!

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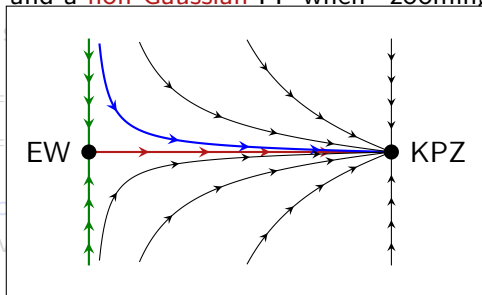
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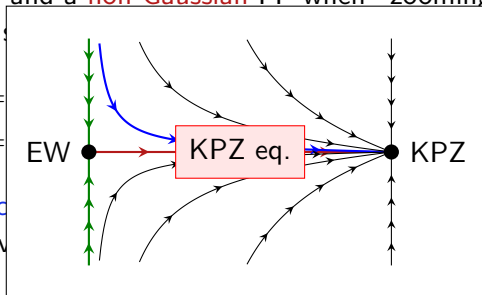
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## A general theorem

Joint with Y. Bruned, A. Chandra, I. Chevyrev, L. Zambotti.

Consider a system of semilinear stochastic PDEs of the form

$$\partial_t u_i = \mathcal{L}_i u_i + G_i(u, \nabla u, \dots) + F_{ij}(u) \xi_j, \quad (\star)$$

with **elliptic**  $\mathcal{L}_i$  and **stationary random** (generalised) fields  $\xi_j$  that are scale invariant with exponents for which  $(\star)$  is subcritical.

Then, there exists a **canonical** family  $\Phi_g: (u_0, \xi) \mapsto u$  of “solutions” parametrised by  $g \in \mathfrak{R}$ , a finite-dimensional nilpotent Lie group built from  $(\star)$ . Furthermore, the maps  $\Phi_g$  are continuous in both of their arguments.

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## Some clarifications

### Canonicity

Family  $\{\Phi_g : g \in \mathfrak{R}\}$  is canonical, but parametrisation only canonical **modulo shifts**: action of  $\mathfrak{R}$  on  $(F, G)$  such that

$$\Phi_{g\tilde{g}}^{(F,G)} = \Phi_g^{\tilde{g}(F,G)} .$$

For **smooth**  $\xi$ , one has a classical solution map  $\Phi^{(F,G)}$  and  $\Phi_g^{(F,G)} = \Phi^{(g \circ \hat{g})(\xi)}(F, G)$ .

### Continuity

Measure  $\mathcal{S}$  of “size” of noise. Take  $\xi_n$  with  $\sup_n \mathcal{S}(\xi_n) < \infty$  and  $\xi_n \rightarrow \xi$  weakly in probability. Then  $\Phi_g(\cdot, \xi_n) \rightarrow \Phi_g(\cdot, \xi)$  in some  $\mathcal{C}^\alpha$ , locally uniformly in time and initial condition, in probability. However,  $\xi \mapsto \hat{g}(\xi)$  **not** continuous, not even defined!

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## Construction of $\Phi_g$

**Crucial remark:** Locally, near any space-time point  $z$ , solution looks like a linear combination of functions / distributions  $\Pi_z \tau$  such that, for each index  $\tau$ ,  $\Pi_z \tau$  is scale-invariant with exponent  $\deg \tau$ .

**Deterministic analogue:** solutions to parabolic PDEs are smooth, so are locally a linear combination of  $(\Pi_z X^k)(\tilde{z}) = (\tilde{z} - z)^k$ , scale-invariant with exponent  $|k|$ .

**Methodology:** Work in spaces of distributions locally described by  $\Pi_z H$  for continuous coefficient-valued functions  $H$  and look for a fixed point problem for  $H$ .



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## Example / problem

Solution to

$$\partial_t h = \partial_x^2 h + f(h)(\partial_x h)^2 + \sigma(h)\xi ,$$

locally given by  $h(\tilde{z}) \approx (\Pi_z H(z))(\tilde{z})$  with

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Problem:  $\Pi_z \circ\circ = G \star (\partial_x G \star \xi)^2$  is divergent!

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## Steps of proof

1. Show that  $(h, h')$  depend **continuously** on the data  $\{\Pi_z \tau : z, \tau\}$  in suitable topology enforcing some natural algebraic relations.
2. Replace  $\Pi_z \tau$  by “renormalised version”  $\Pi_z^g \tau$  such that algebraic relations between the  $\Pi_z^g \tau$ 's remain unchanged. (Determines the group  $\mathfrak{R}$ .)
3. Choose  $g$  such that  $\mathbb{E} \Pi_z^g \tau = 0$  for  $\deg \tau \leq 0$ . (Determines the element  $g$  from the law of  $\xi$ .)
4. Show stability / continuity of  $\xi \mapsto \Pi_z^{g(\xi)}$ .
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