

Imaginary Geometry and the Gaussian Free Field

Jason Miller and Scott Sheffield

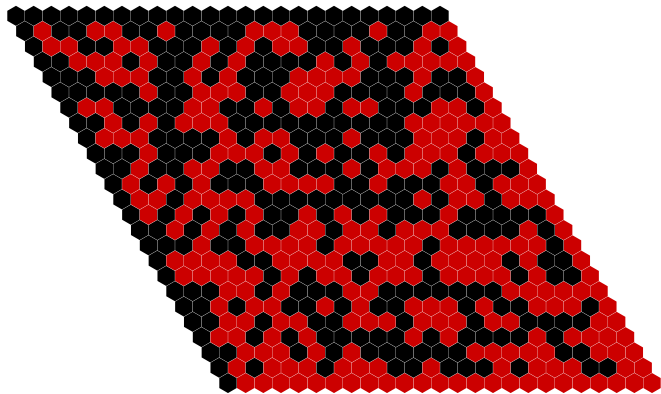
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

May 23, 2013

Part I: SLE

SLE_{κ}

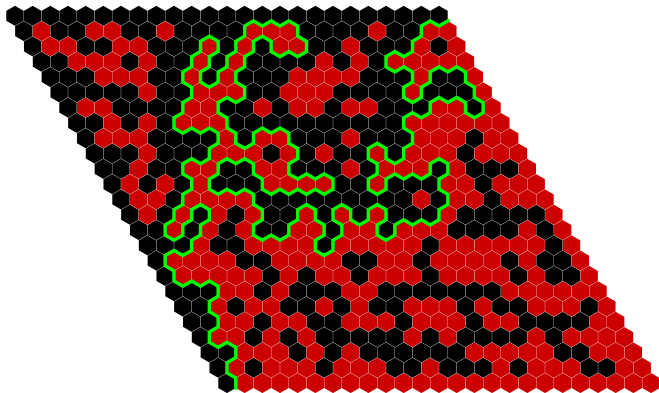
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(Percolation simulations due to Sam Watson)

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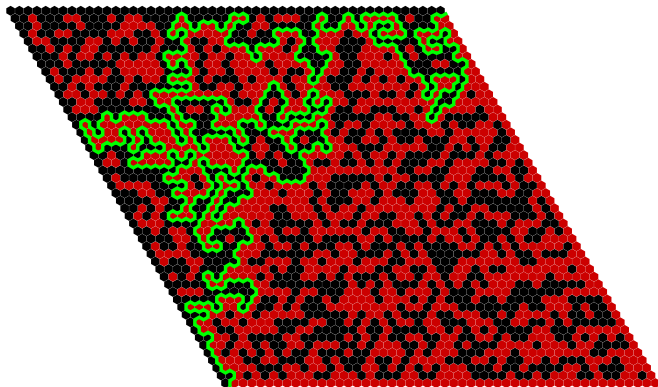
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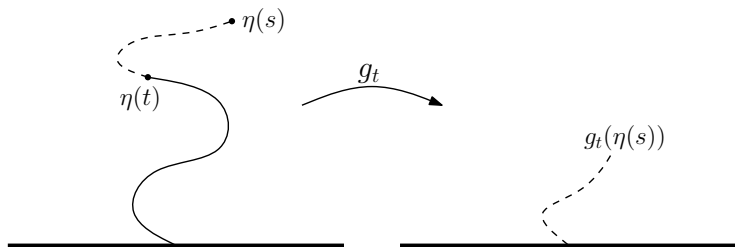
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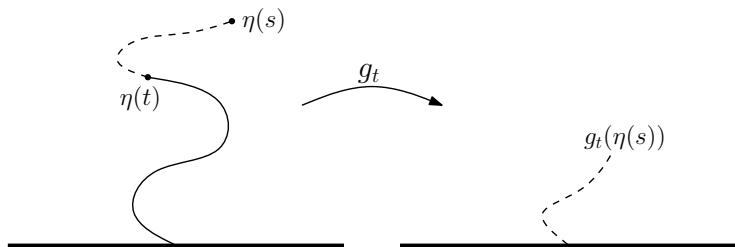


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Loewner's equation: if η is a non self-crossing path in \mathbf{H} with $\eta(0) \in \mathbf{R}$ and g_t is the Riemann map from the unbounded component of $\mathbf{H} \setminus \eta([0, t])$ to \mathbf{H} normalized by $g_t(z) = z + o(1)$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$, then

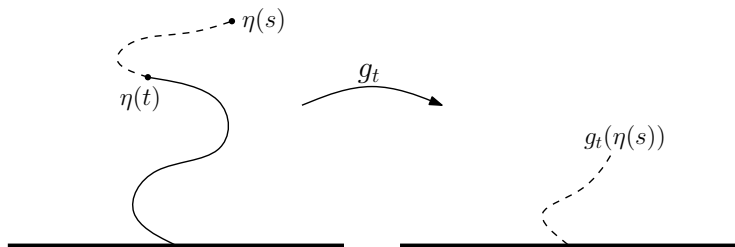
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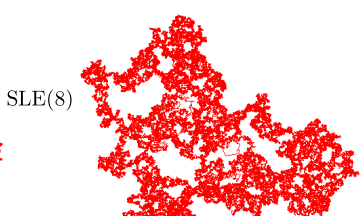
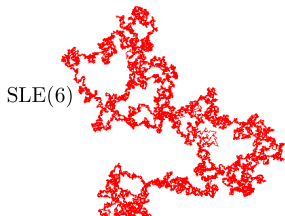
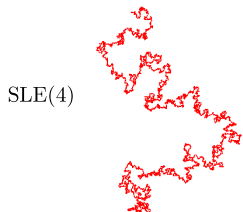
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SLE $_{\kappa}$ in \mathbf{H} : The random curve associated with (\star) with $W_t = \sqrt{\kappa}B_t$, B a standard Brownian motion. Other domains: apply conformal mapping.

SLE $_{\kappa}$

SLE $_{\kappa}$ is a continuous path ($\kappa \neq 8$, Rohde-Schramm $\kappa = 8$, Lawler, Schramm, Werner),

Dimension: $1 + \frac{\kappa}{8}$ (Beffara), Simple if $\kappa \in (0, 4]$, self-touching if $\kappa > 4$, space-filling if $\kappa \geq 8$.



(Simulations due to Tom Kennedy)

Sample path properties of the SLE trace

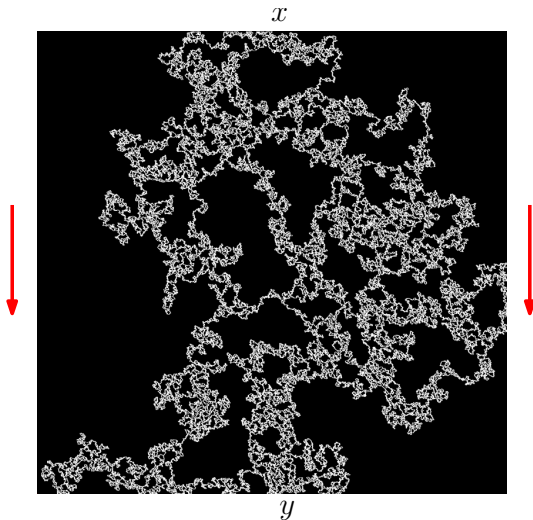
- ▶ Continuity; Hölder exponent
- ▶ Dimensions
- ▶ Multi-fractal spectra
- ▶ “Natural parameterization”
- ▶ Duality (path decompositions)
- ▶ CLE (loop version of SLE)
- ▶ SLE on multiply connected domains
- ▶ Reversibility

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An SLE_κ process η from x to y . **Question:** If we run η in the **reverse** direction (i.e., from y to x), is it still an SLE_κ ?

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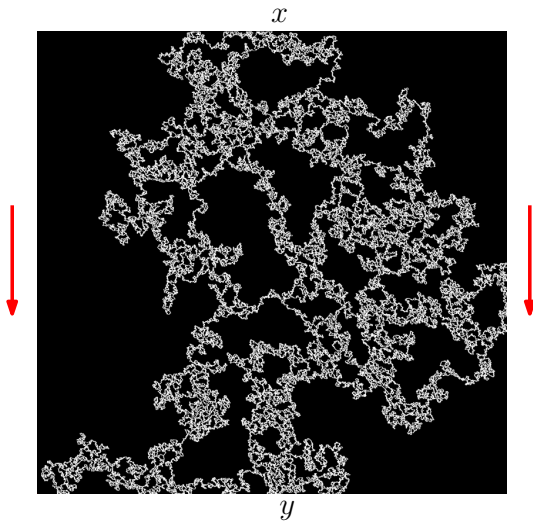


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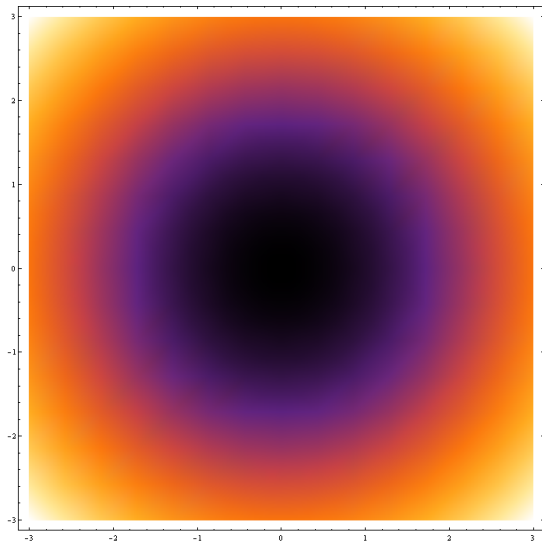


Part II:

SLE and the Gaussian Free Field

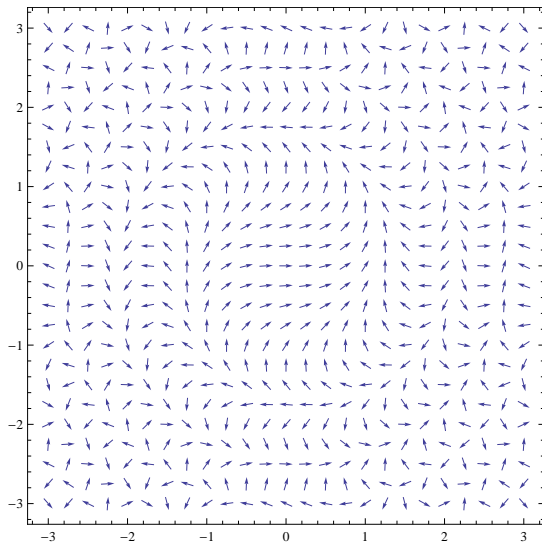
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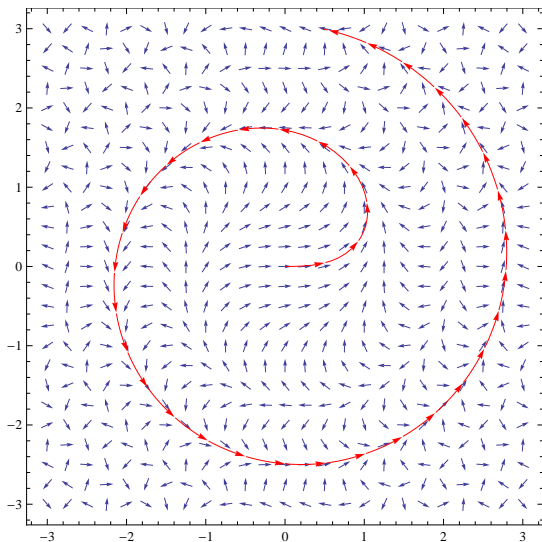
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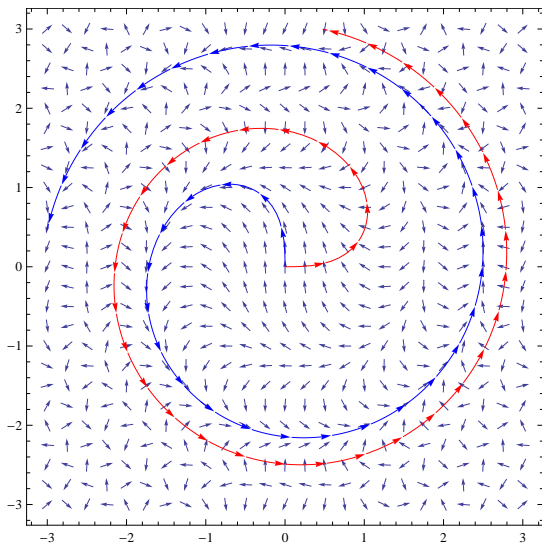
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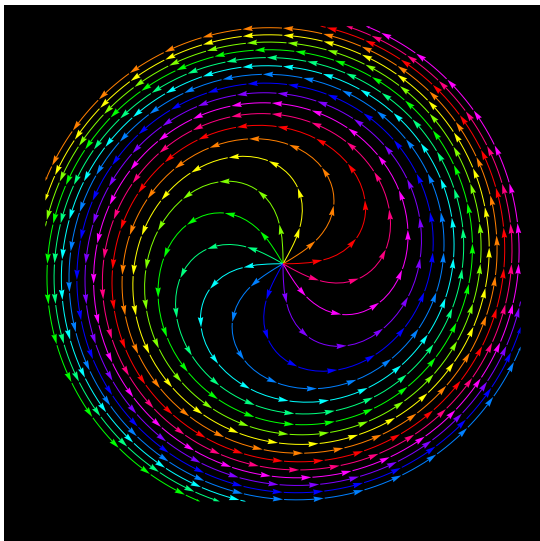


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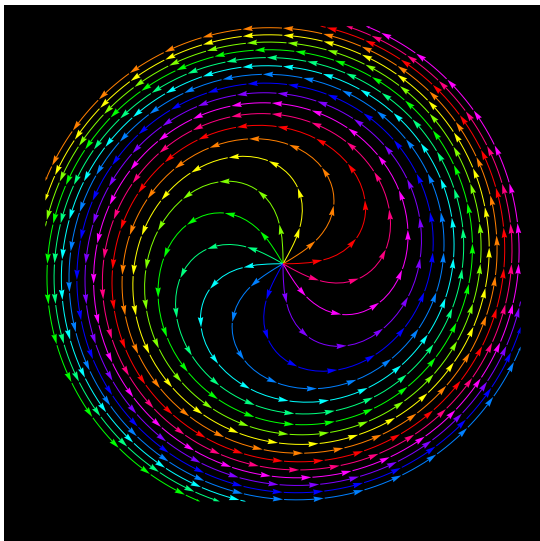


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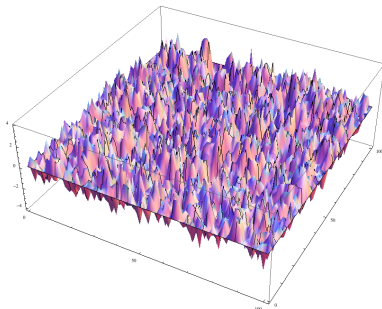
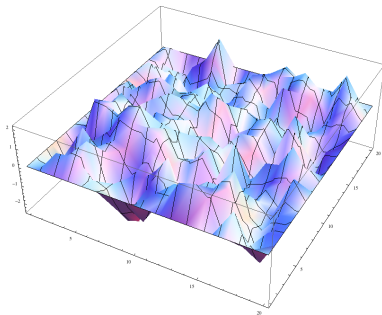
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- ▶ **Plan:**
 - ▶ Describe the interaction of the rays of the GFF
 - ▶ Explain how this can be used to study SLE



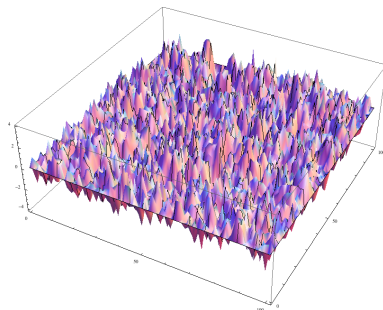
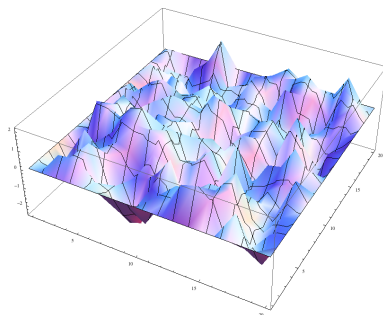
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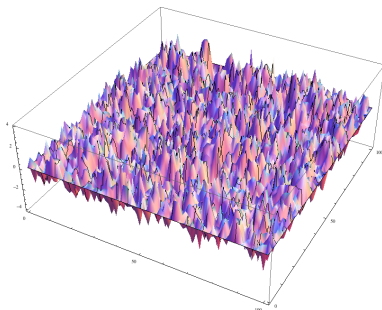
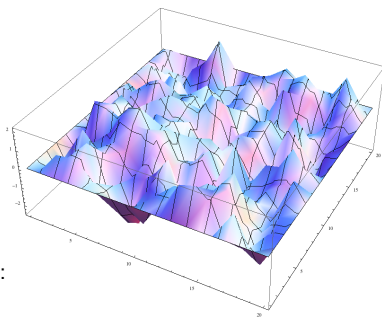
- ▶ The **discrete Gaussian free field** (DGFF) is a **Gaussian random surface** model.
- ▶ Gaussian measure on functions $h: D \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ for $D \subseteq \mathbf{Z}^2$ and $h|_{\partial D} = \psi$ where
 - ▶ **Covariance**: Green's function for discrete Δ
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- ▶ Density with respect to Lebesgue measure on $\mathbf{R}^{|D|}$:

$$\frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \sim y} (h(x) - h(y))^2 \right)$$



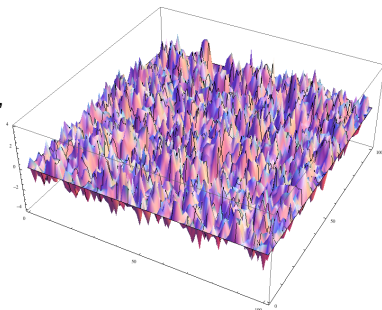
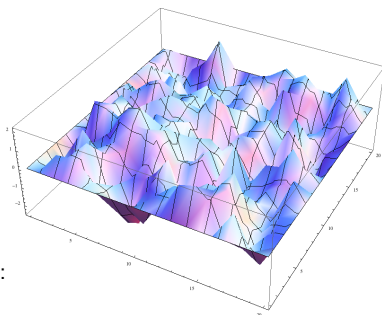
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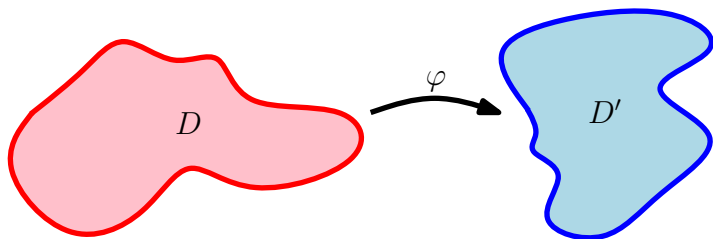
- ▶ Fine mesh limit: converges to the continuum GFF, i.e. the standard Gaussian wrt the **Dirichlet inner product**

$$(f, g)_{\nabla} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \nabla f(x) \cdot \nabla g(x) dx.$$



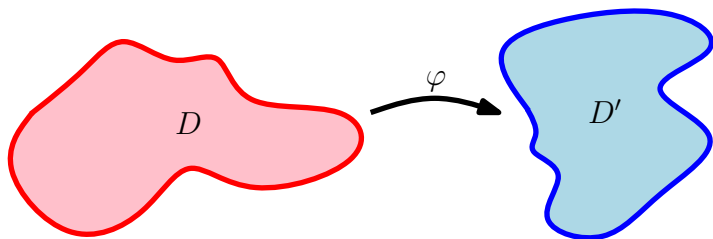
Properties of the GFF

Conformal invariance $D, D' \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ domains, $\varphi: D \rightarrow D'$ conformal transformation. If h is a GFF on D then $h \circ \varphi^{-1}$ is a GFF on D' .

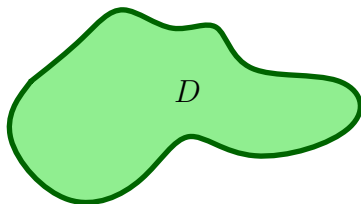


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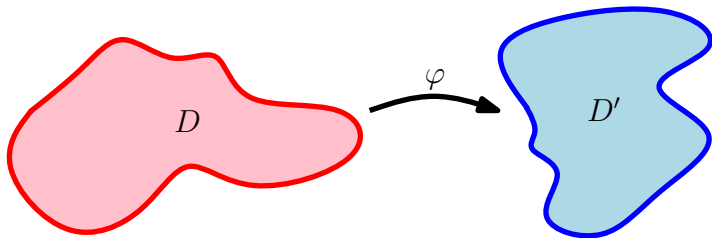


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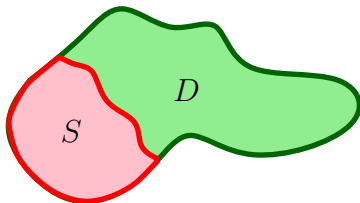


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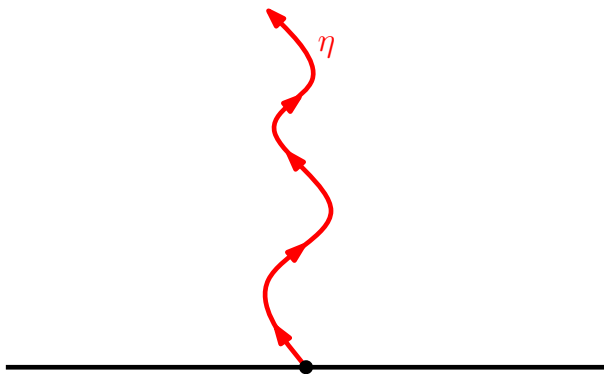


Markov property $D \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ domain, h a GFF on D . Fix $S \subseteq D$. Conditional law of $h|_{D \setminus S}$ given $h|_S$ is a GFF on $D \setminus S$ plus the harmonic extension of $h|_{\partial(D \setminus S)}$ to $D \setminus S$.



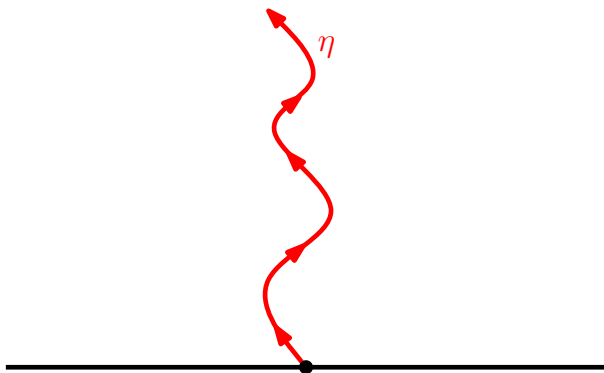
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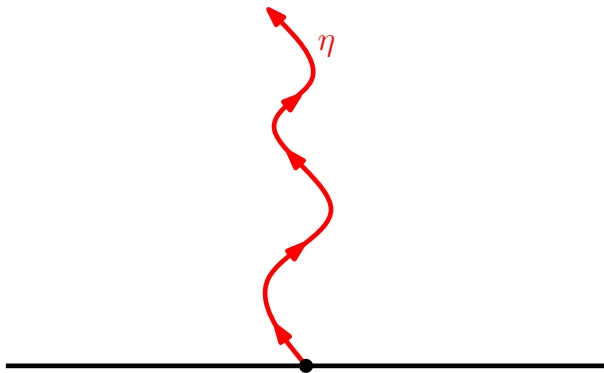
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- ▶ η **determines** the values of h along η and
- ▶ η is **independent** of the values of h off of η



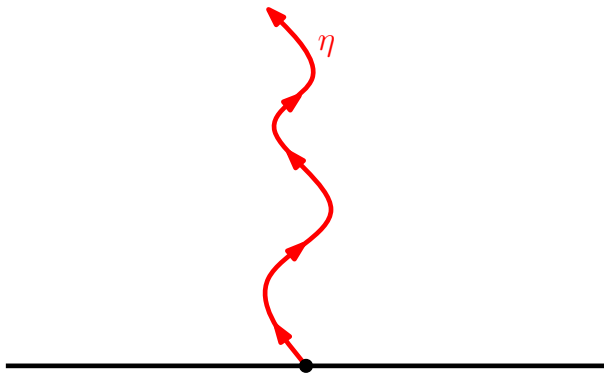
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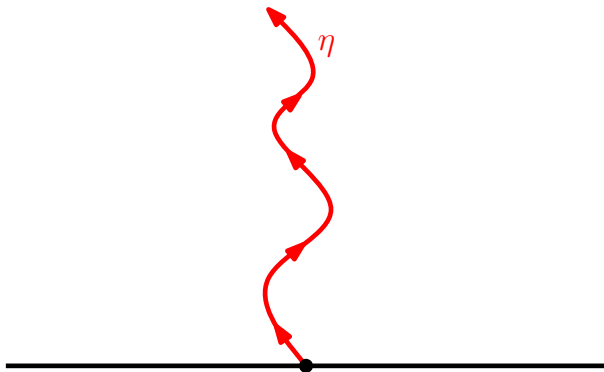
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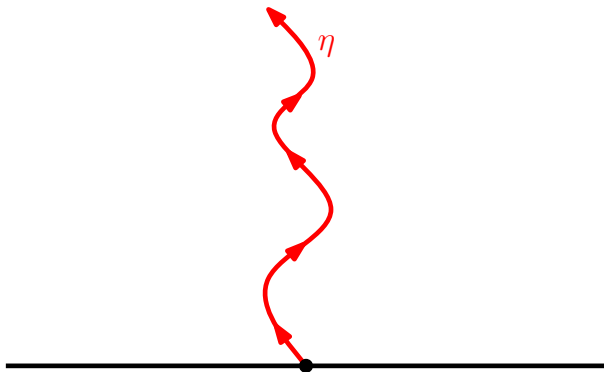
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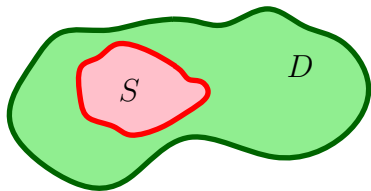
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- ▶ **Theorem** (Sheffield) The marginal law of h is that of a GFF on all of \mathbf{H}
- ▶ **Theorem** (Dubédat) η is almost surely determined by h



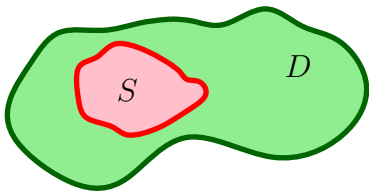
Multiple rays of the GFF

A random closed set S coupled with a GFF h on a domain D is said to be **local** for h if the conditional law of $h|_{D \setminus S}$ given S is that of the sum of a zero-boundary GFF on $D \setminus S$ and an independent harmonic function.



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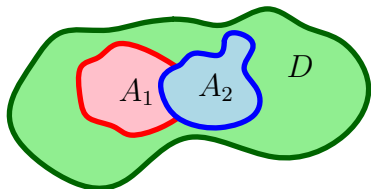
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Examples Deterministic closed sets. An SLE path coupled with h as a flow line drawn up to a stopping time.

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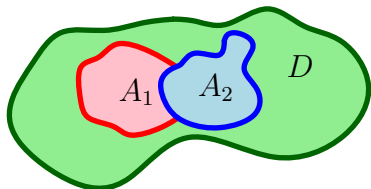


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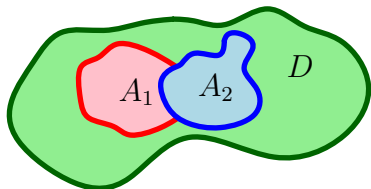


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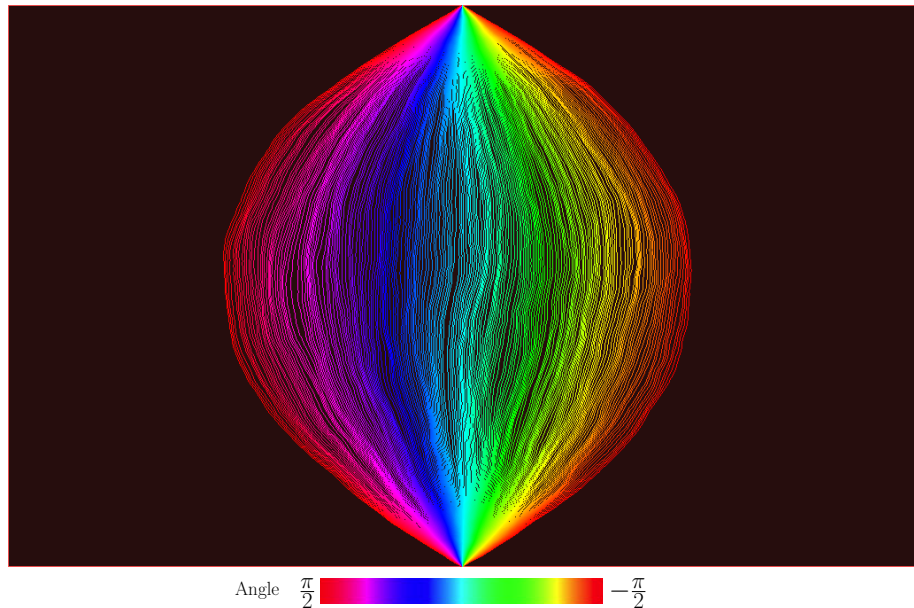


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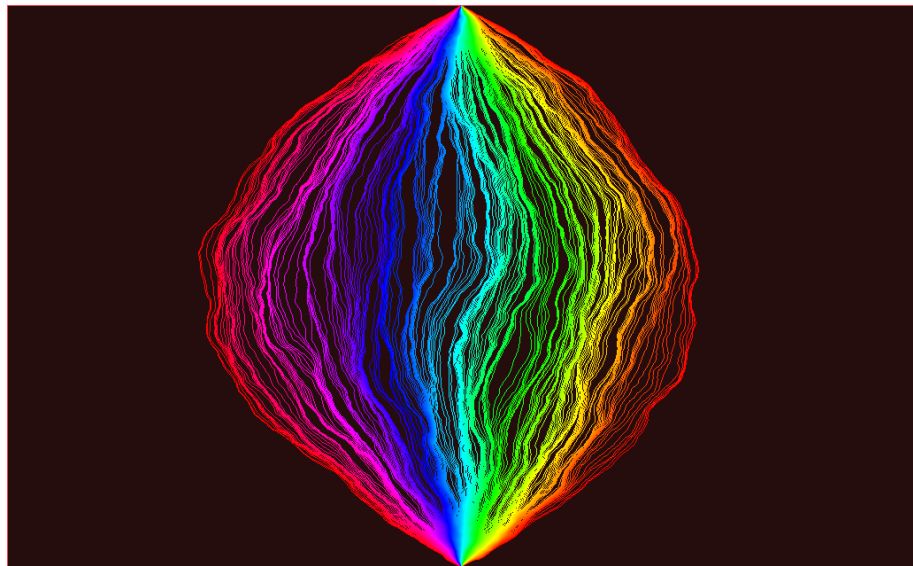
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Leads to couplings with many SLE paths. Intersection points of paths cause trouble.

Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$, h GFF, $\chi \approx 31.97$ [$\kappa = 1/256$]

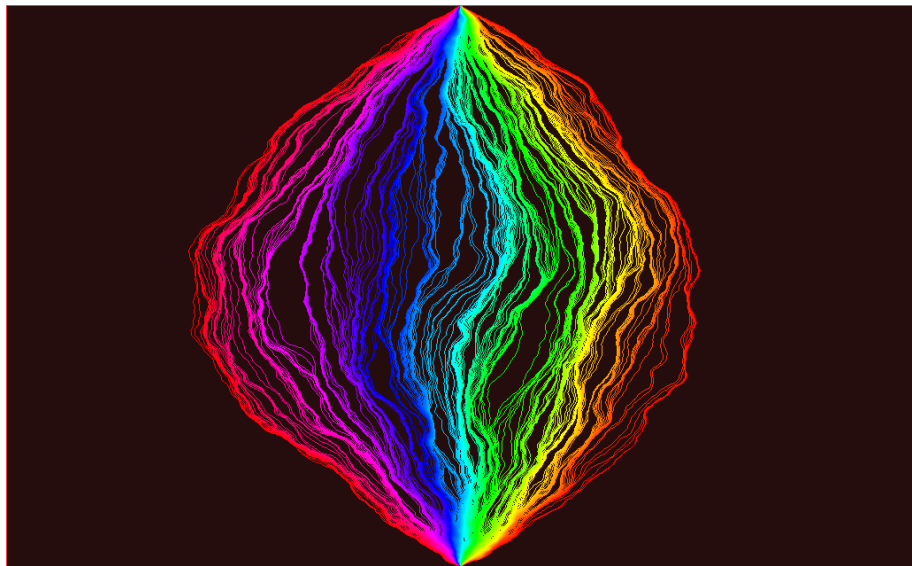


Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$, h GFF, $\chi \approx 11.23$ [$\kappa = 1/32$]



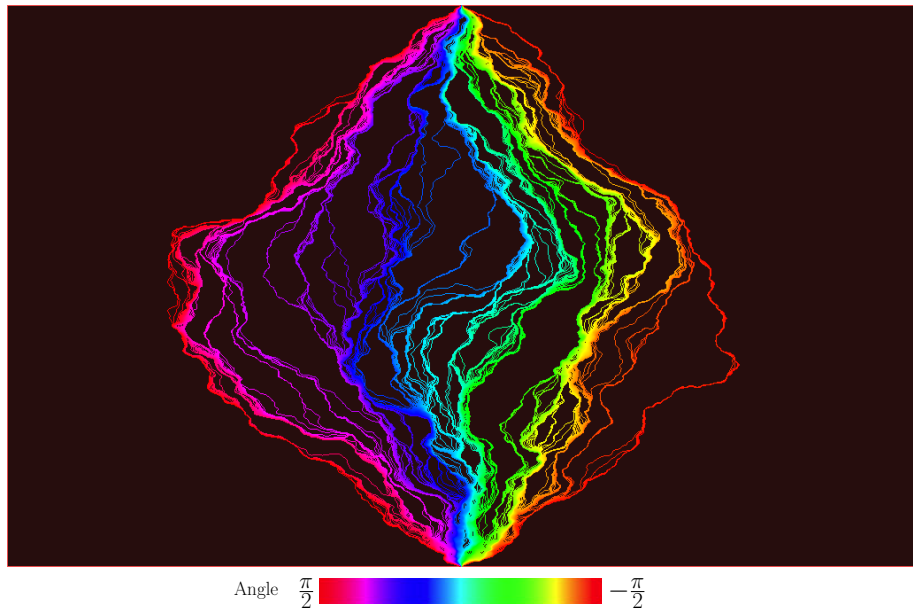
Angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$

Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$, h GFF, $\chi \approx 7.88$ [$\kappa = 1/16$]

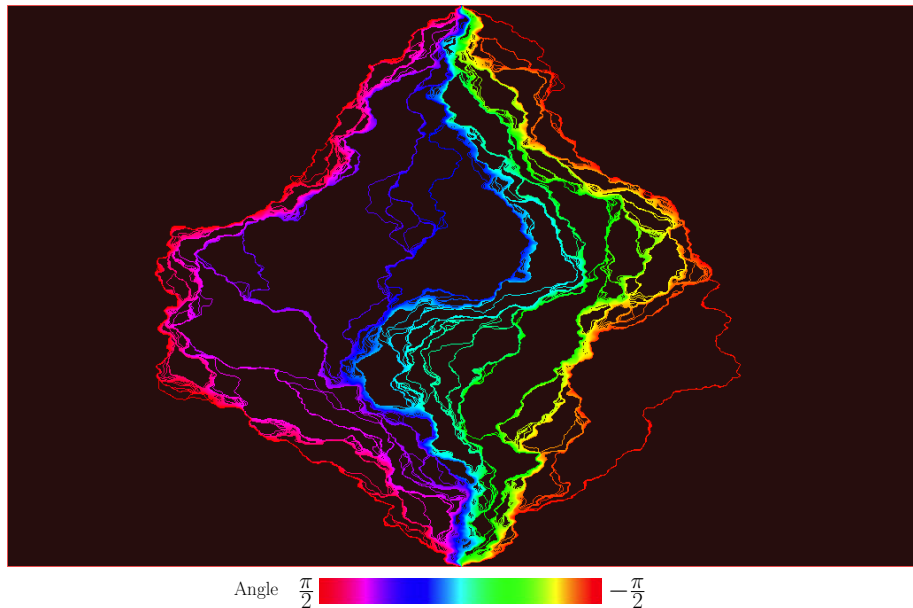


Angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$

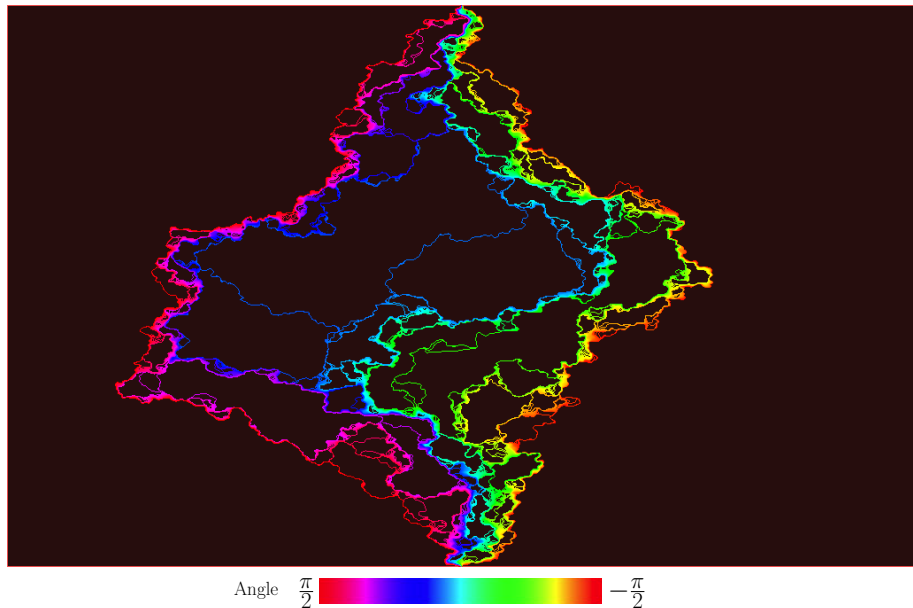
Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$, h GFF, $\chi = 3.75$ [$\kappa = 1/4$]



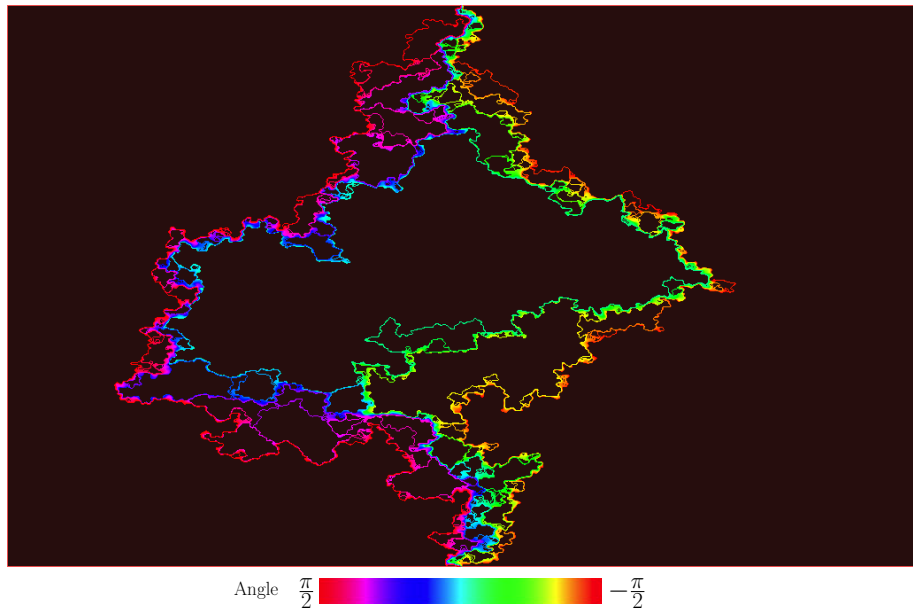
Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$, h GFF, $\chi \approx 2.47$ [$\kappa = 1/2$]



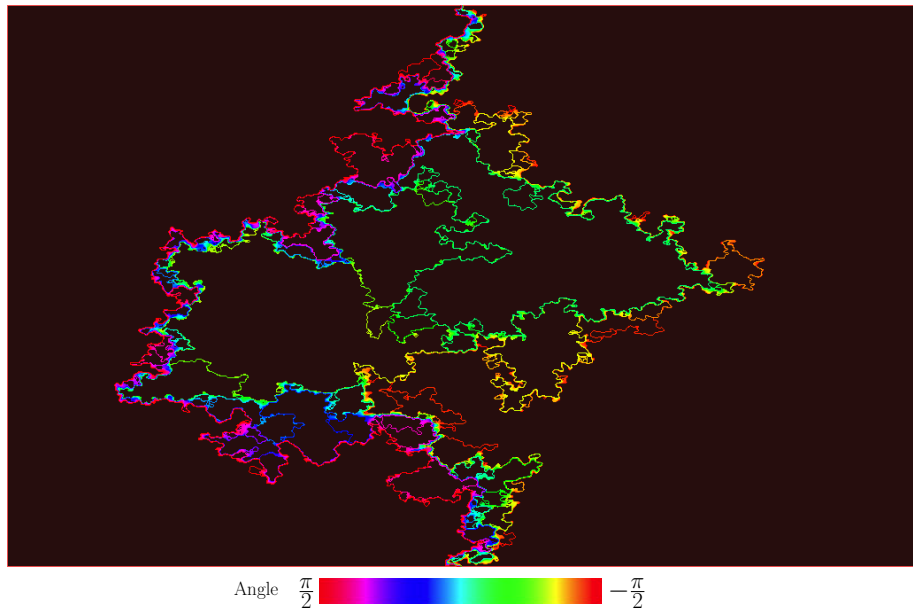
Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$, h GFF, $\chi = 1.5$ [$\kappa = 1$]



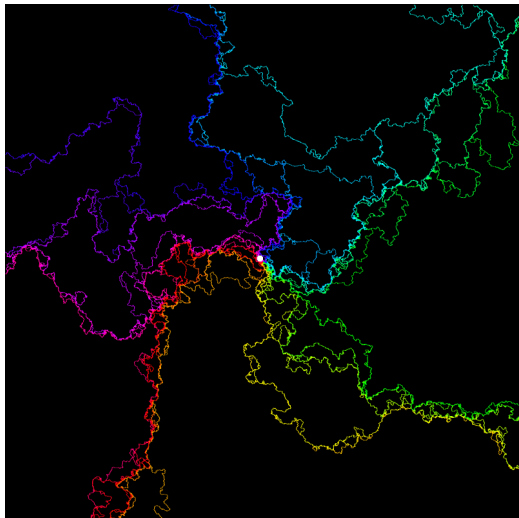
Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$, h GFF, $\chi \approx 1.02$ [$\kappa = 3/2$]



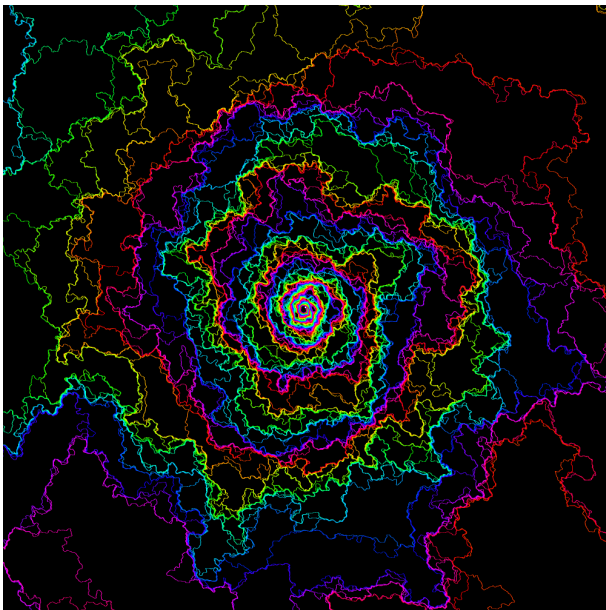
Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$, h GFF, $\chi = 0.71$ [$\kappa = 2$]



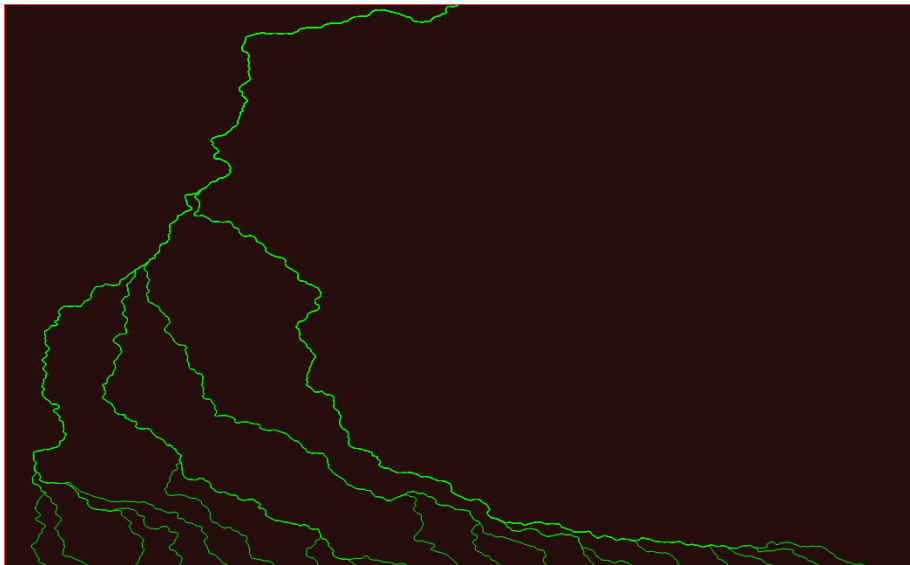
Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$ starting from an interior point



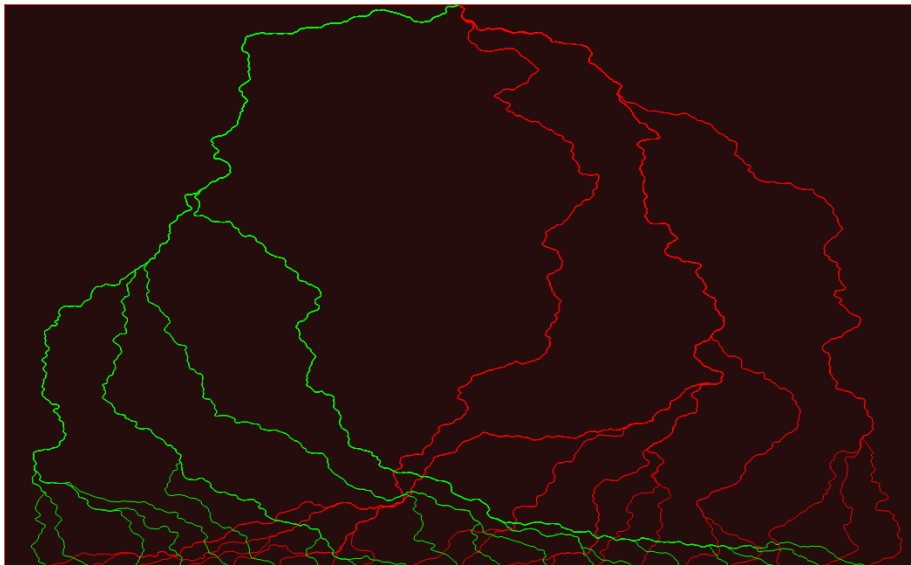
Rays of $e^{i\tilde{h}/\chi}$, $\tilde{h} = h + \beta \log|\cdot|$, h GFF, $\beta < 0$



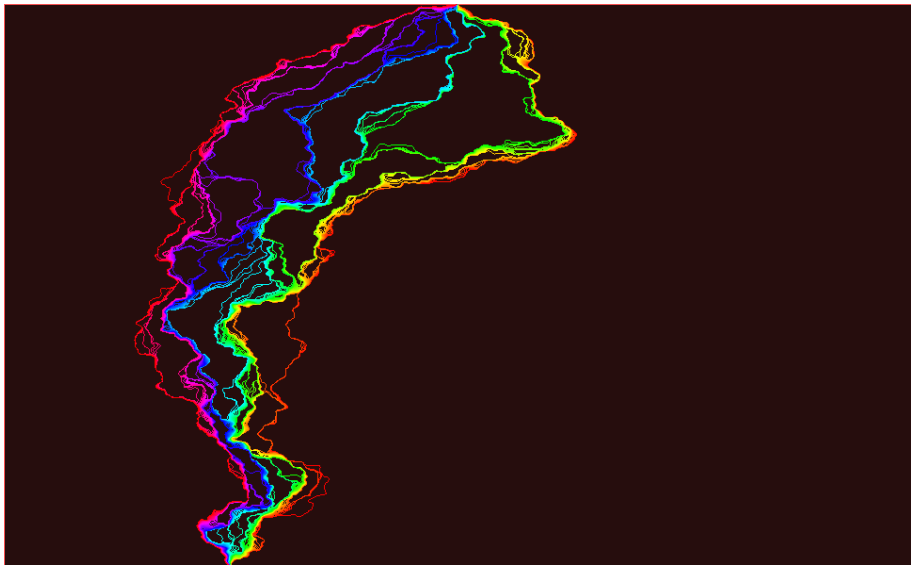
Rays of $e^{ih/\chi}$, h GFF, $\chi \approx 2.47$ [$\kappa = 1/2$]



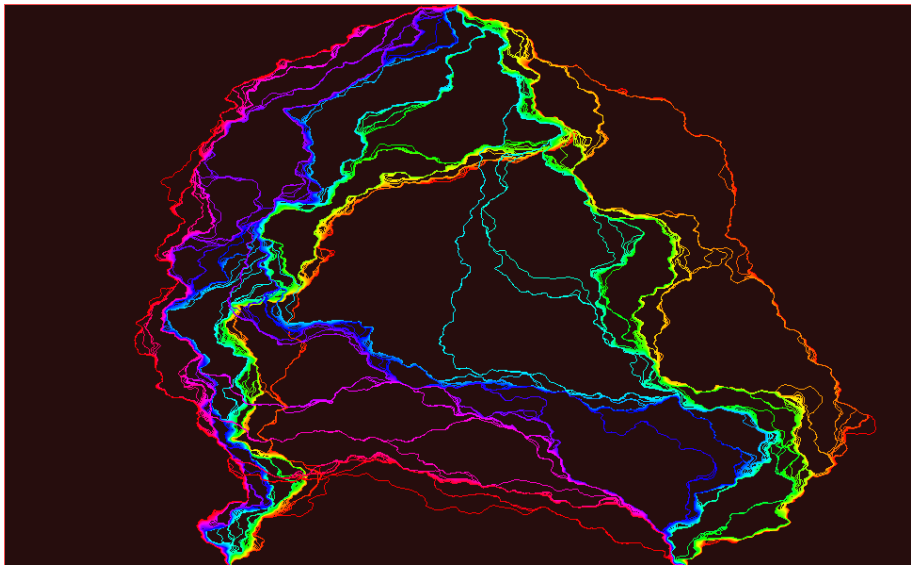
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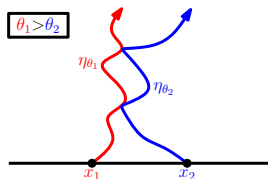
Background

Existence and uniqueness of couplings (η, h) of a GFF h and $\eta \sim \text{SLE}_\kappa$ are studied in the works of Sheffield, Schramm-Sheffield, Dubédat, and Izyurov-Kytölä

New Contributions:

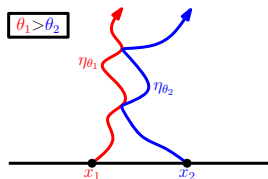
- ▶ Developed a robust theory of flow line interaction to make the phenomena observed in the simulations precise
- ▶ General forms of SLE duality — the SLE light cone
- ▶ $\text{SLE}_\kappa(\underline{\rho})$ processes are continuous (even when they hit the boundary)
 - ▶ Important variant of SLE_κ
 - ▶ The drift for the driving function includes a linear combination of the Loewner evolution of a collection “force points”
- ▶ Double and cut point dimension of SLE
- ▶ Reversibility results

Flow line interaction



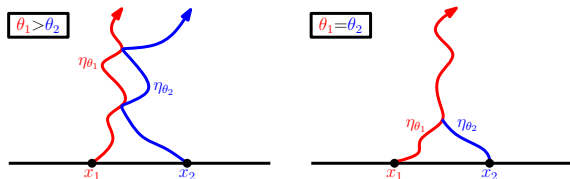
- ▶ h GFF on \mathbf{H} , $x_1, x_2 \in \partial\mathbf{H}$ with $x_1 \leq x_2$.
- ▶ $\eta_{\theta_1}, \eta_{\theta_2}$ flow line of h with angles θ_1, θ_2 starting from x_1, x_2

Flow line interaction



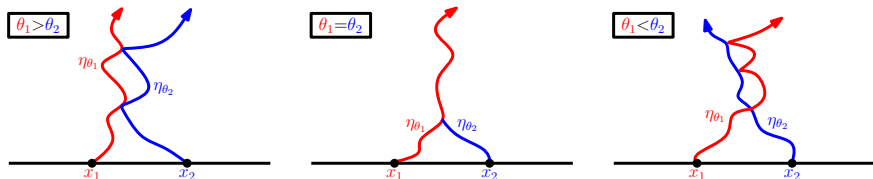
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 - ▶ If $\theta_1 > \theta_2$, then η_{θ_1} stays to the left of η_{θ_2}

Flow line interaction



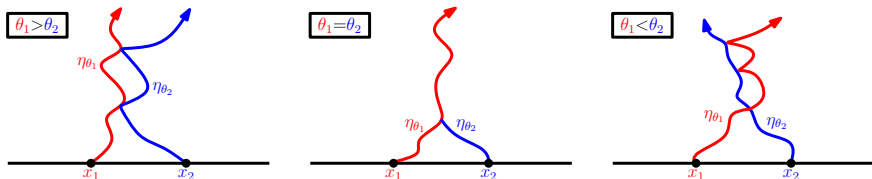
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Flow line interaction



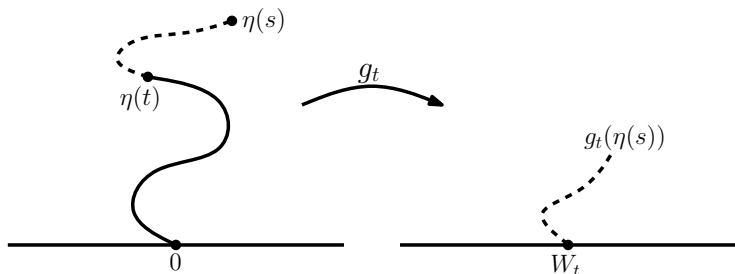
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 - ▶ If $\theta_1 < \theta_2$, then η_{θ_1} crosses η_{θ_2} upon intersecting
- ▶ In each case, the conditional law of η_{θ_1} given η_{θ_2} is an $\text{SLE}_{\kappa}(\rho)$ process

$SLE_{\kappa}(\rho)$

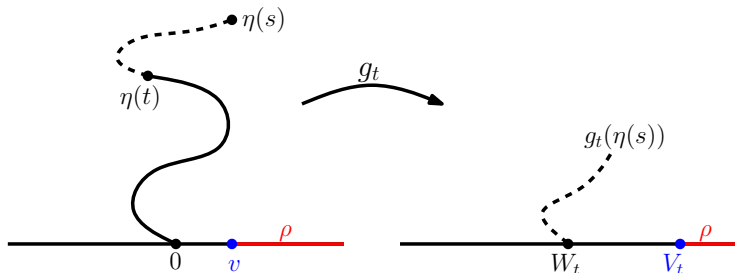


Loewner ODE

$$\partial_t g_t(z) = \frac{2}{g_t(z) - W_t} \quad \text{where} \quad g_0(z) = z.$$

SLE_{κ} : $W_t = \sqrt{\kappa} B_t$ where B is a standard Brownian motion

SLE $_{\kappa}(\rho)$



Loewner ODE

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SLE $_{\kappa}$: $W_t = \sqrt{\kappa}B_t$ where B is a standard Brownian motion

SLE $_{\kappa}(\rho)$: Force point $\mathbf{v} > 0$ and a weight $\rho \in \mathbf{R}$.

$$dW_t = \sqrt{\kappa}dB_t + \frac{\rho}{W_t - \mathbf{V}_t} dt \quad \text{where} \quad d\mathbf{V}_t = \frac{2}{\mathbf{V}_t - W_t} dt, \quad \mathbf{V}_0 = \mathbf{v}.$$

Continuity $\text{SLE}_\kappa(\underline{\rho})$

SLE_κ is continuous ($\kappa \neq 8$: Rohde-Schramm, $\kappa = 8$: Lawler-Schramm-Werner)

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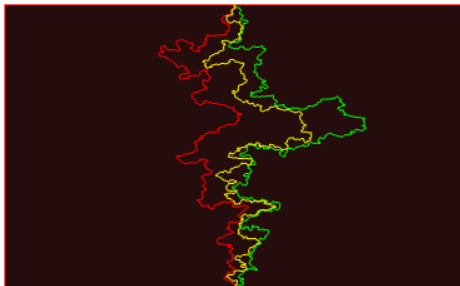
$\text{SLE}_\kappa(\underline{\rho})$ processes are continuous.

Proof: (for $\text{SLE}_\kappa(\rho_1; \rho_2)$ for $\kappa \in (0, 4)$)
Let η_θ be the flow line with angle θ and fix $\theta_1 > 0 > \theta_2$.

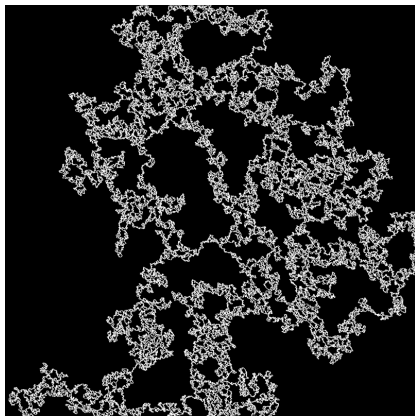
Fact: $\eta_{\theta_1}, \eta_{\theta_2}, \eta_0$ are continuous if they do not hit the boundary.

Reason: Their law is mutually absolutely continuous with respect to SLE_κ .

The law of η_0 given η_{θ_1} and η_{θ_2} is an $\text{SLE}_\kappa(\rho_1; \rho_2)$ process. \square



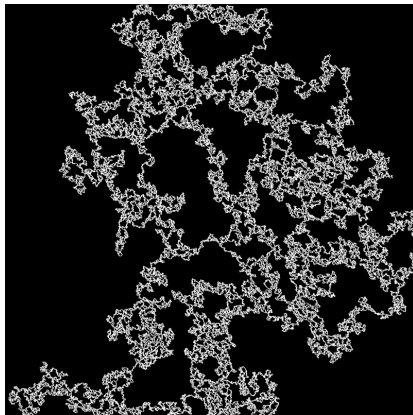
SLE Duality



Fix $\kappa \in (0, 4)$. The outer boundary of an $SLE_{16/\kappa}$ process is described by a certain SLE_{κ} process.

- ▶ Predicted by Duplantier

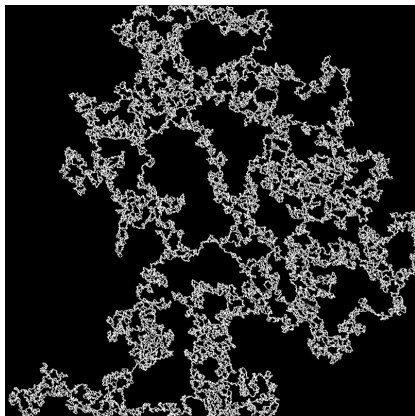
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SLE Duality

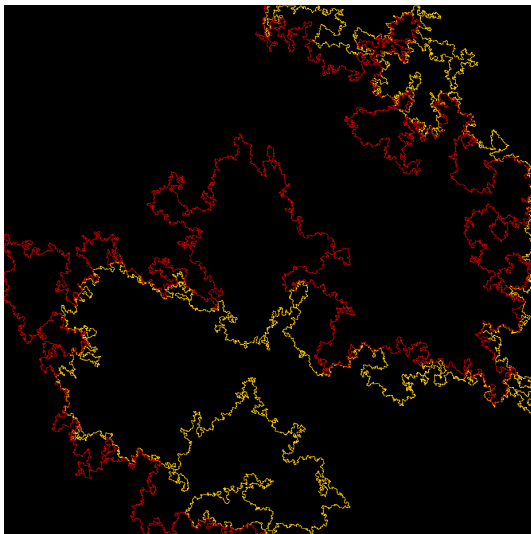


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- ▶ Predicted by Duplantier
- ▶ Natural for certain values of κ , i.e. $\kappa = 2$ (LERW) and $16/\kappa = 8$ (UST)
- ▶ Proved in various forms by Zhan and Dubédat

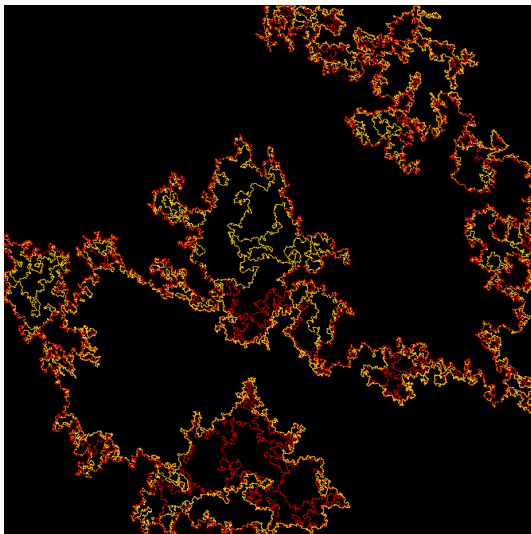
Duality in the GFF: the SLE Light Cone

Flow lines with fixed angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2}$.



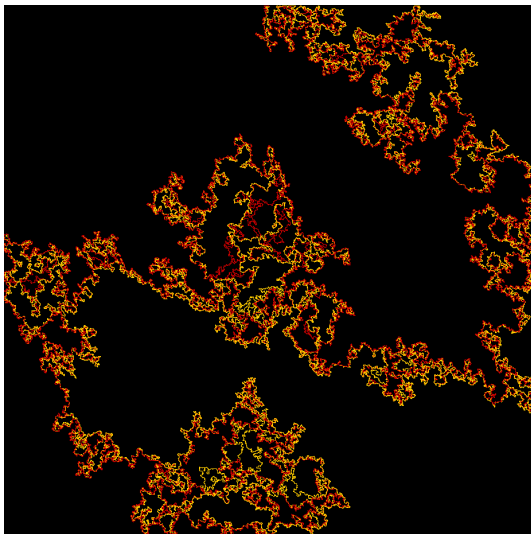
Duality in the GFF: the SLE Light Cone

Flow lines with angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2}$; one direction change.



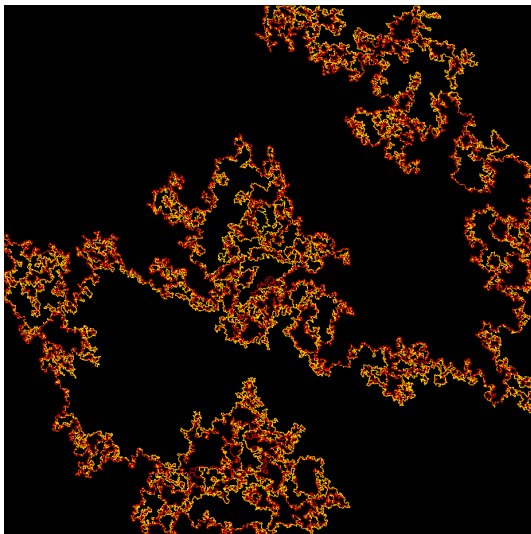
Duality in the GFF: the SLE Light Cone

Flow lines with angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2}$; two direction changes.



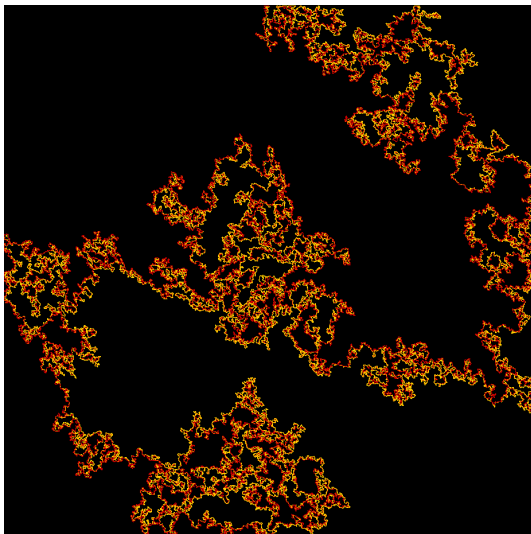
Duality in the GFF: the SLE Light Cone

Flow lines with angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2}$; three direction changes.



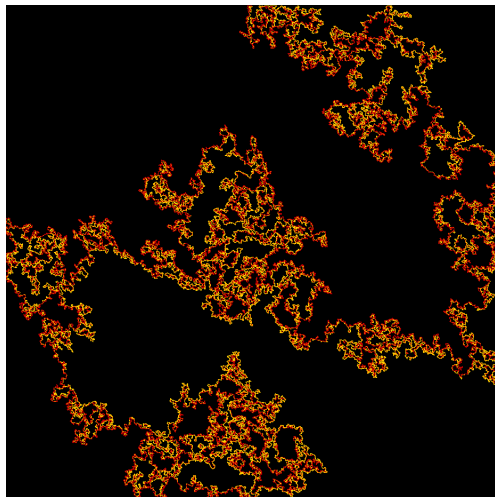
Duality in the GFF: the SLE Light Cone

Flow lines with angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2}$; four direction changes.

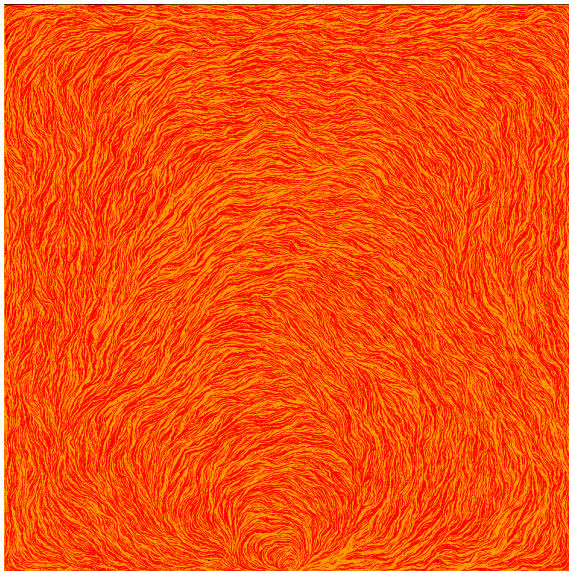


Duality in the GFF: the SLE Light Cone

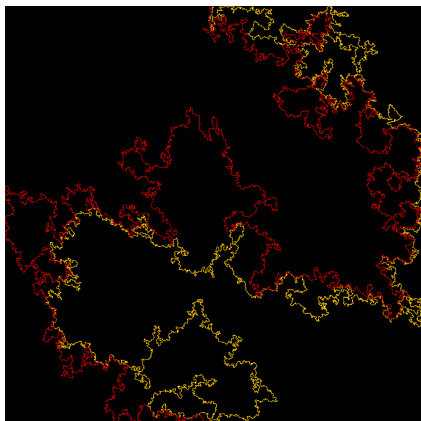
Theorem (M., Sheffield): The set of all points accessible by SLE_{κ} flow lines ($\kappa \in (0, 4)$) with angles restricted in $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ is an $SLE_{16/\kappa}$ process.



SLE₁₂₈ Light Cone

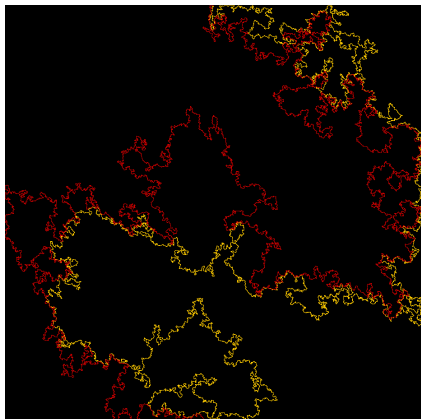


Dimensions

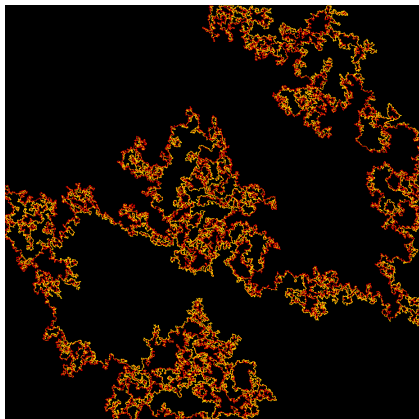


Flow lines with angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2}$

Dimensions



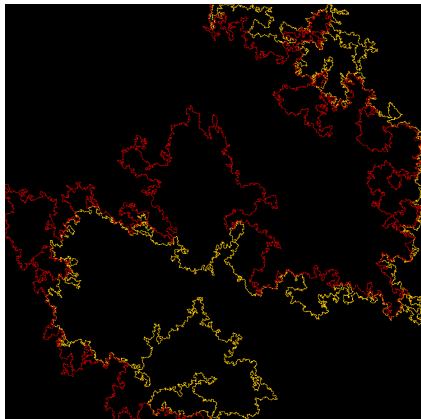
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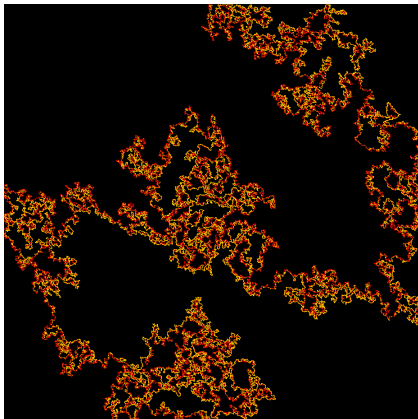
$\text{SLE}_{\kappa'}$ for $\kappa' = 16/\kappa$

Dimensions

Theorem (M., Wu) The cut point dimension of $\text{SLE}_{\kappa'}$ for $\kappa' \in (4, 8)$ is $3 - \frac{3\kappa'}{8}$



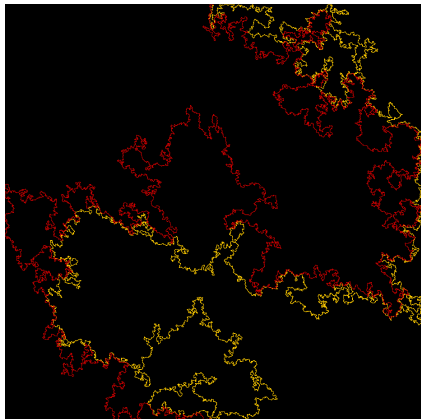
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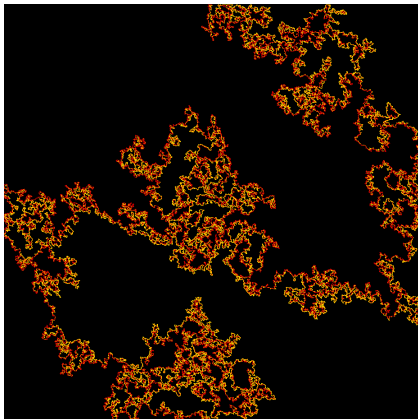
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Corollary of a result which gives the dimension of the intersection of flow lines with different angles.



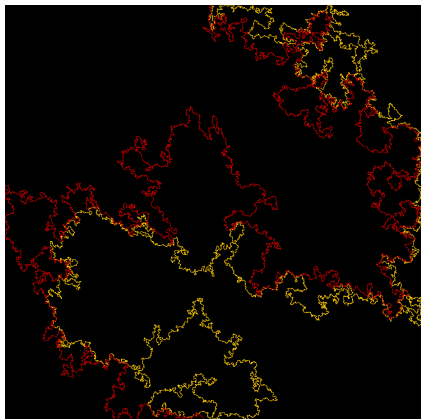
Flow lines with angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2}$



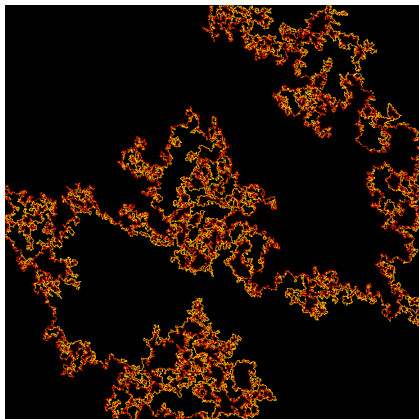
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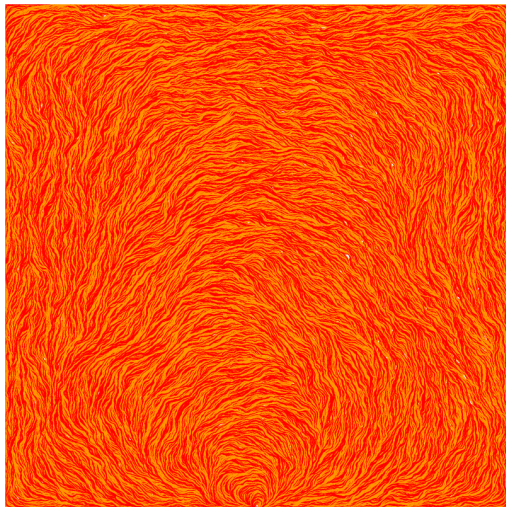
Flow lines with angle $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2}$



$\text{SLE}_{\kappa'}$ for $\kappa' = 16/\kappa$

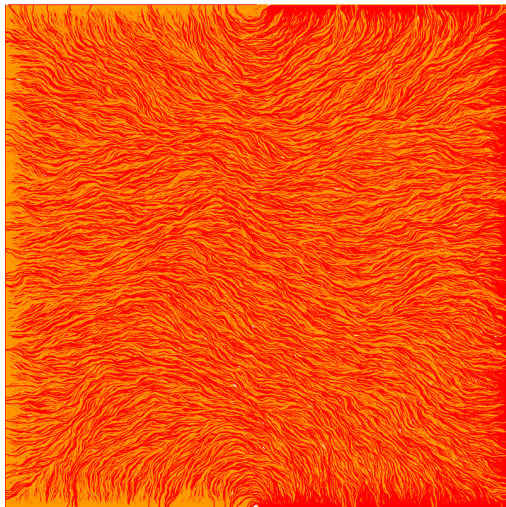
Reversibility of SLE_{κ} for $\kappa \geq 8$

The time-reversal of an SLE_{κ} is not an SLE_{κ} for $\kappa > 8$ (Rohde-Schramm).



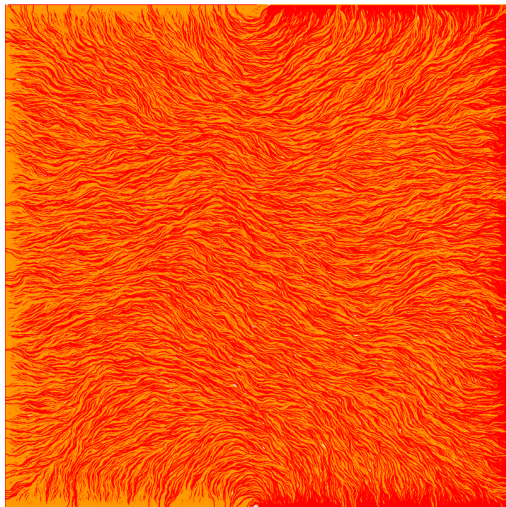
Reversibility of SLE_κ for $\kappa \geq 8$

Theorem (M., Sheffield) $\text{SLE}_\kappa(\frac{\kappa}{4} - 2; \frac{\kappa}{4} - 2)$ is reversible for $\kappa \geq 8$.



Reversibility of SLE_κ for $\kappa \geq 8$

Theorem (M., Sheffield) $\text{SLE}_\kappa(\frac{\kappa}{4} - 2; \frac{\kappa}{4} - 2)$ is reversible for $\kappa \geq 8$. The time-reversal of ordinary SLE_κ is an $\text{SLE}_\kappa(\frac{\kappa}{2} - 4; \frac{\kappa}{2} - 4)$.



The SLE_{κ} fan is “reversible”

