

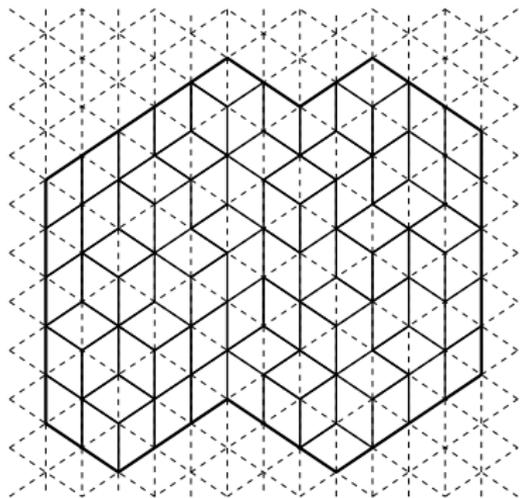
# Lozenge tilings: universal bulk limits, global fluctuations.

**Vadim Gorin**

MIT (Cambridge) and IITP (Moscow)

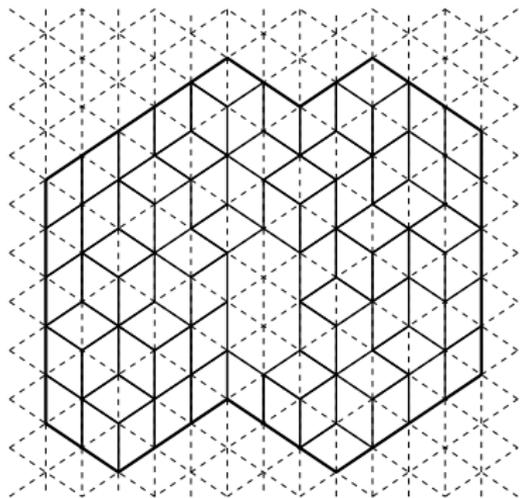
May 2016

# Random lozenge tilings



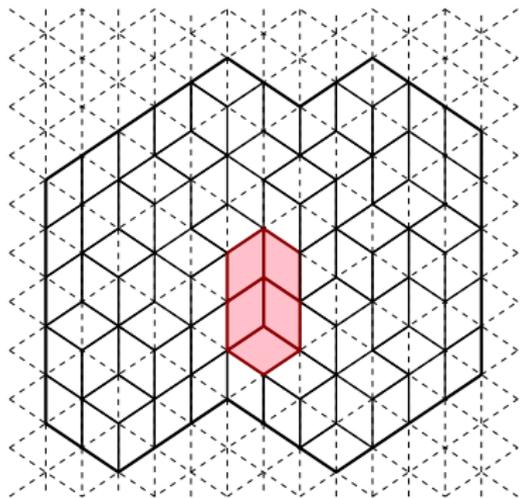
Random tilings of finite and infinite planar domains with **uniform Gibbs property**.

# Random lozenge tilings



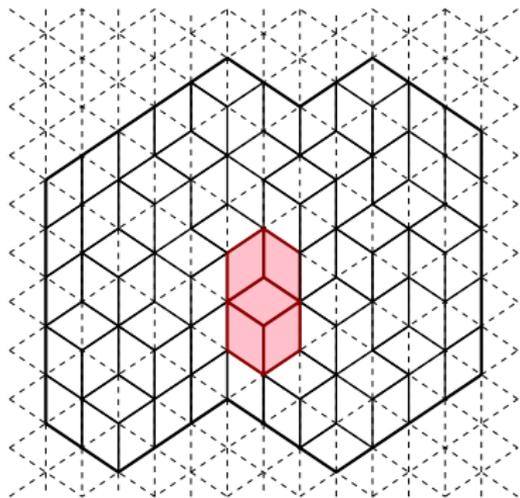
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# Random lozenge tilings



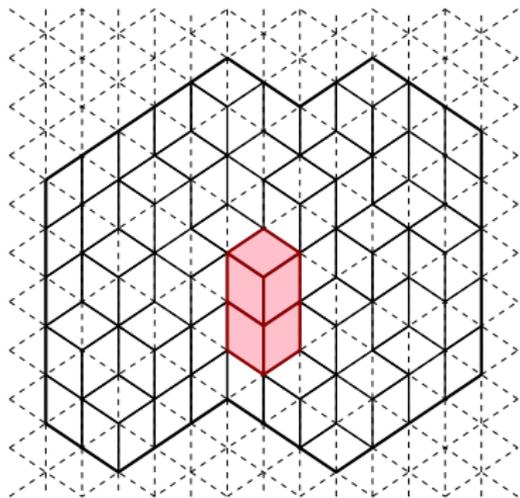
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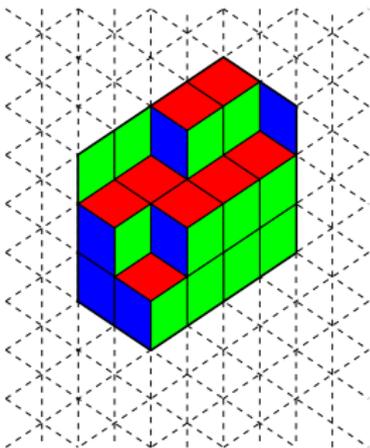
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# Random lozenge tilings

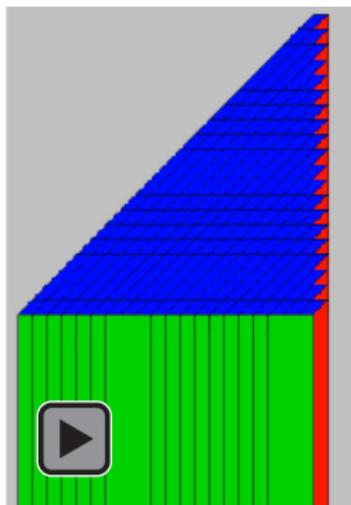


Random tilings of finite and infinite planar domains with **uniform Gibbs property**.

## Random lozenge tilings: examples



1) Uniformly random tilings of a finite domain

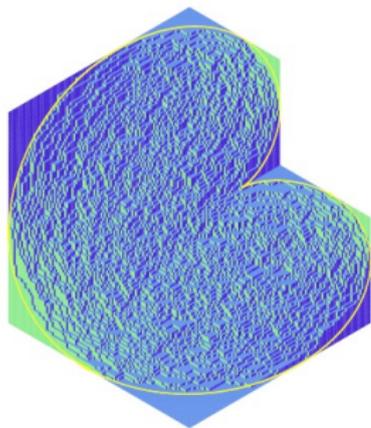


2) Surface growth (simulation of Patrik Ferrari)

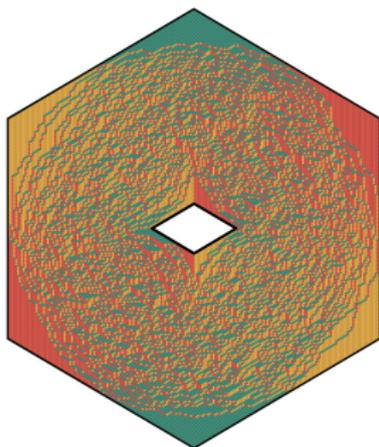
3) Path-measures in **Gelfand–Tsetlin graph** of asymptotic representation theory.

## Random lozenge tilings: questions

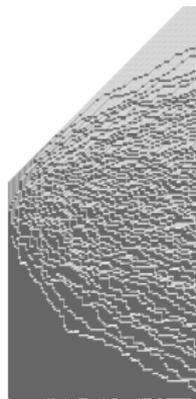
(Kenyon–Okounkov)



(Petrov)



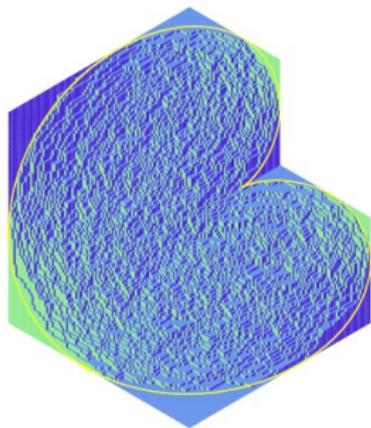
(Borodin-Ferrari)



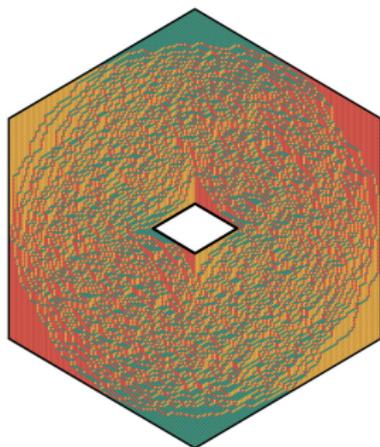
Asymptotics as mesh size  $\rightarrow 0$  or size of the system  $\rightarrow \infty$ ?

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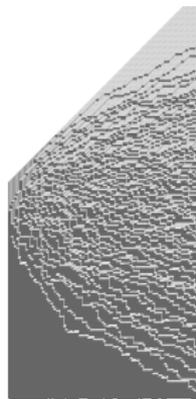
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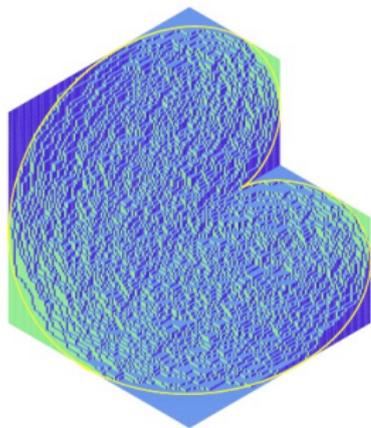
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**Universality belief:**

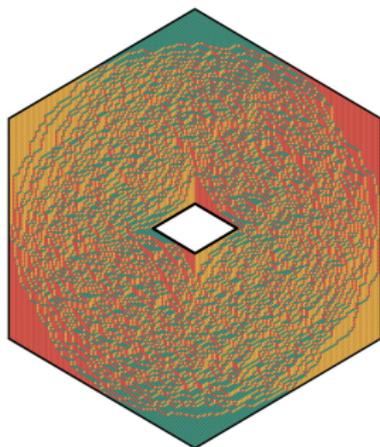
main features do not depend on exact specifications.

## Random lozenge tilings: questions

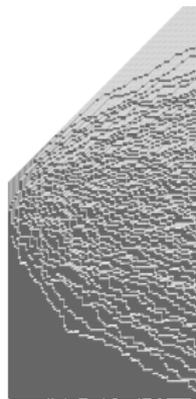
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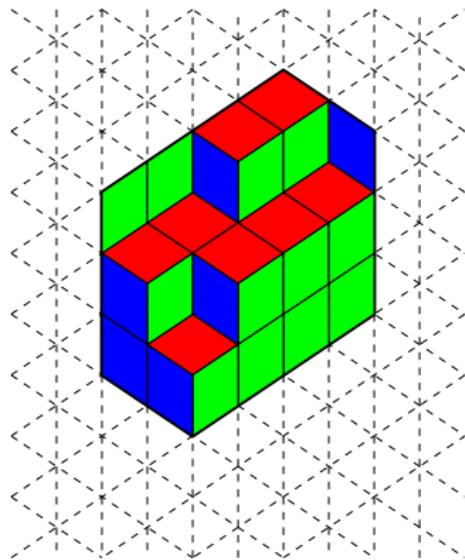
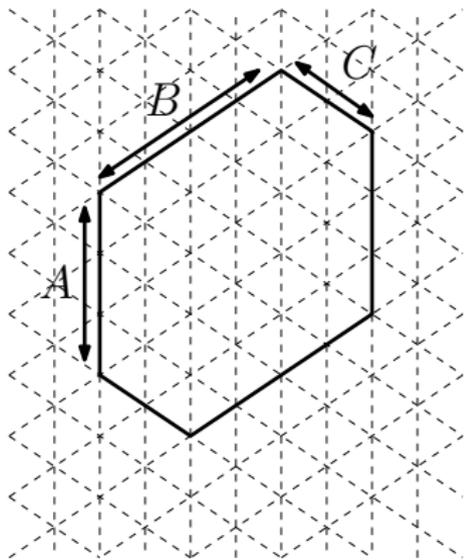
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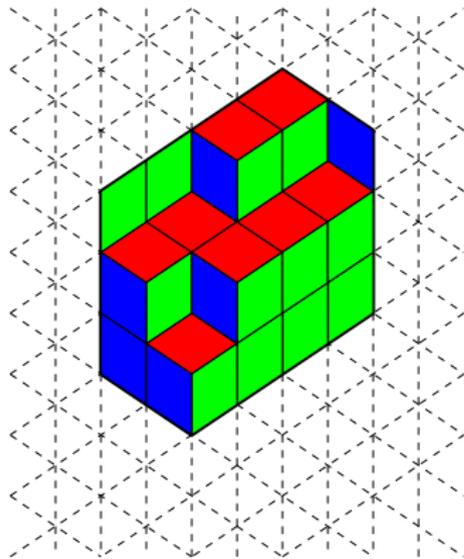
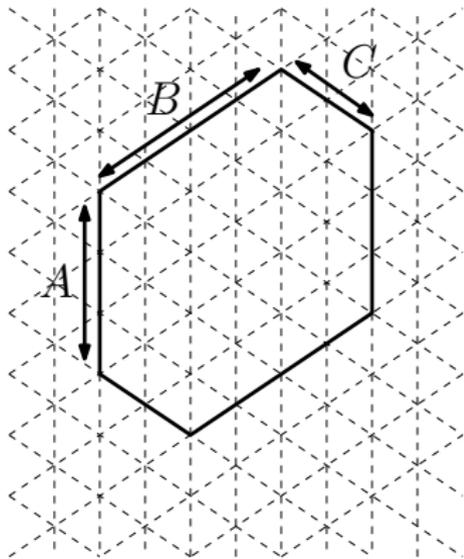
What are these features?

## Random lozenge tilings: hexagon



Representative example: uniformly random lozenge tiling of  $A \times B \times C$  hexagon.

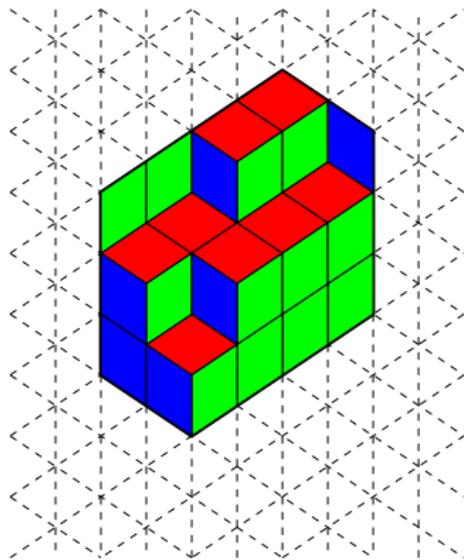
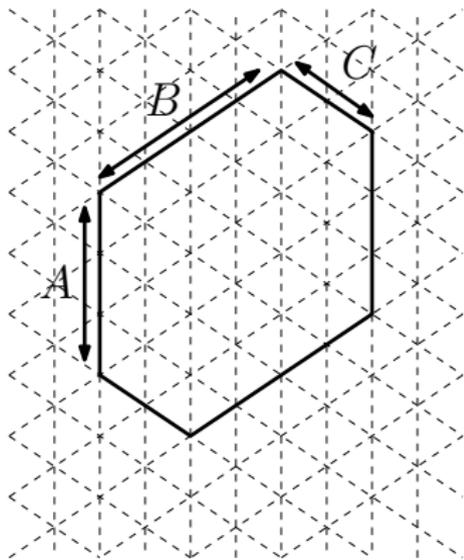
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Equivalently: decomposition of irreducible representation of  $U(B + C)$  with signature  $(A^B, 0^C)$ .

## Random lozenge tilings: hexagon

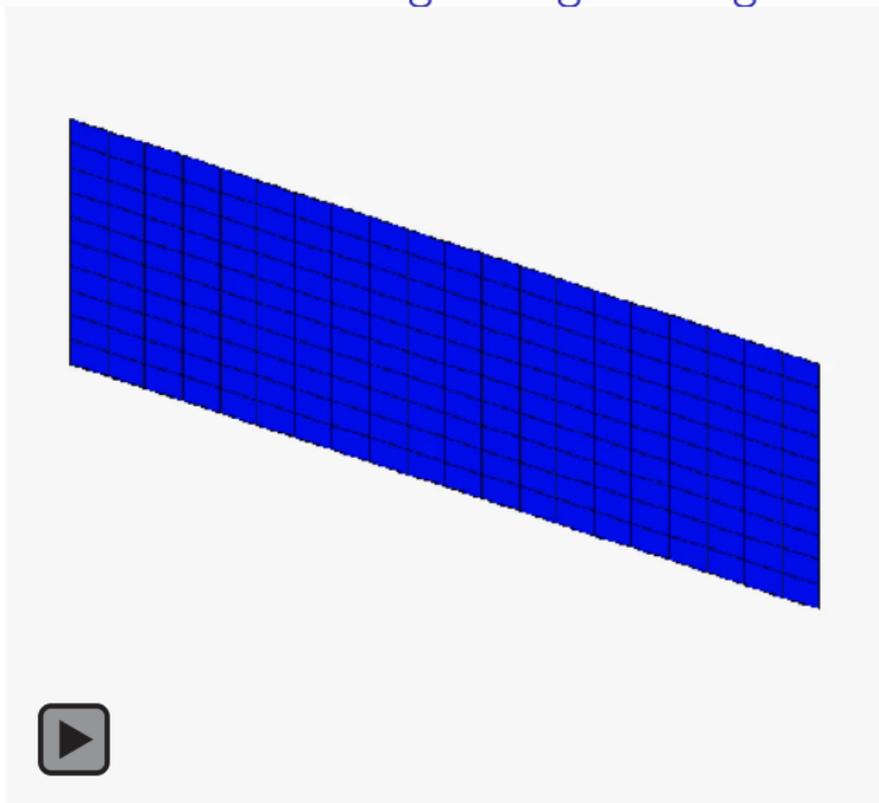


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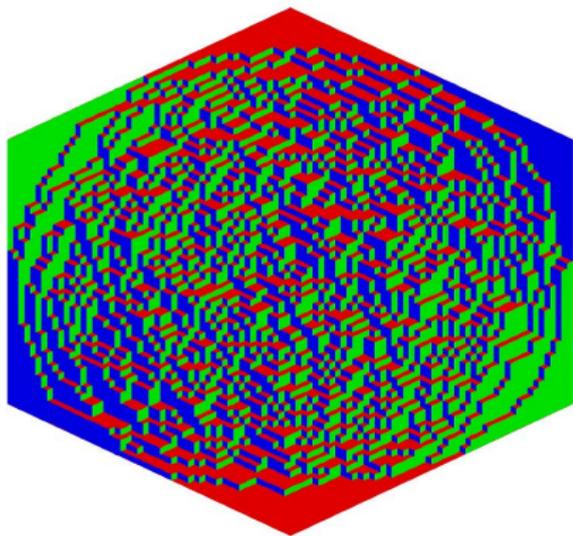
Equivalently: fixed time distribution of a  $2d$ -particle system.

## Random lozenge tilings: hexagon



Shuffling algorithm (Borodin–Gorin)

## Random lozenge tilings: features



### Law of Large Numbers

(Cohn–Larsen–Propp)

And for general domains

(Cohn–Kenyon–Propp)

(Kenyon–Okounkov)

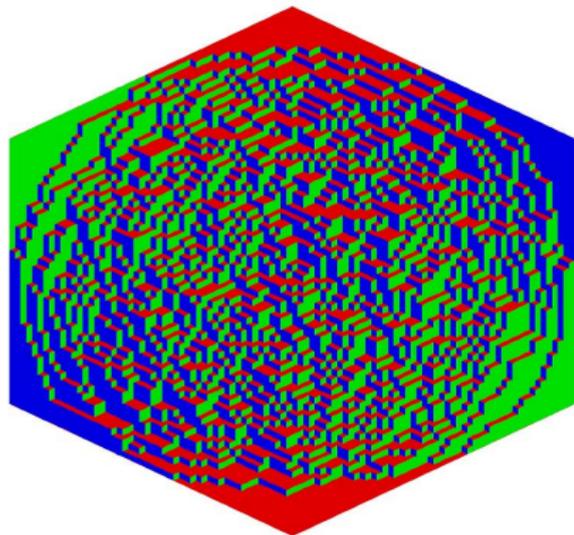
(Bufetov–Gorin)

$$A = aL, B = bL, c = cL$$

$$L \rightarrow \infty$$

**Theorem.** Average proportions of three types of lozenges converge in probability to explicit **deterministic** functions of a point inside the hexagon. Equivalently, the rescaled height function  $\frac{1}{L}H(Lx, Ly)$  converges to a deterministic limit shape.

## Random lozenge tilings: features



### Central Limit Theorem

(Kenyon), (Borodin-Ferrari),  
(Petrov), (Duits),  
(Bufetov–Gorin)

Liquid region: all types of  
lozenges are present

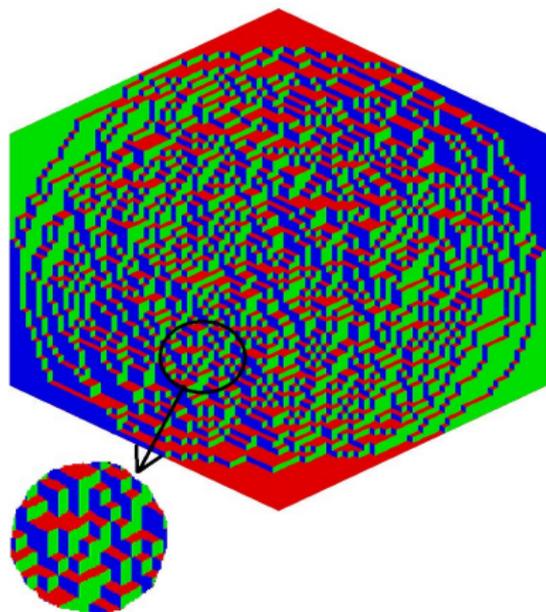
Frozen region: only one type

$$A = aL, B = bL, c = cL$$

$$L \rightarrow \infty$$

**Theorem.** The centered height function  $H(Lx, Ly) - \mathbb{E}H(Lx, Ly)$  converges in the liquid region to a generalized Gaussian field, which can be identified with a pullback of the 2d **Gaussian Free Field**.

## Random lozenge tilings: features



### Bulk local limit

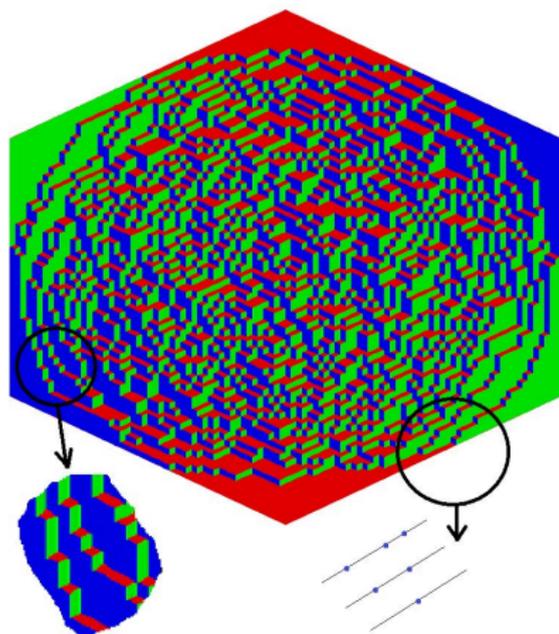
(Okounkov–Reshetikhin),  
(Baik–Kriecherbauer–  
McLaughlin–Miller),  
(Gorin), (Petrov)

$$A = aL, B = bL, c = cL$$

$$L \rightarrow \infty$$

**Theorem.** Near each point  $(xL, yL)$  the point process of lozenges converges to a (unique) **translation invariant ergodic Gibbs measure** on tilings of plane of the slope given by the limit shape.

## Random lozenge tilings: features



### Edge local limit at a generic point

(Ferrari–Spohn),  
(Baik–Kriecherbauer–  
McLaughlin–Miller),  
(Petrov)

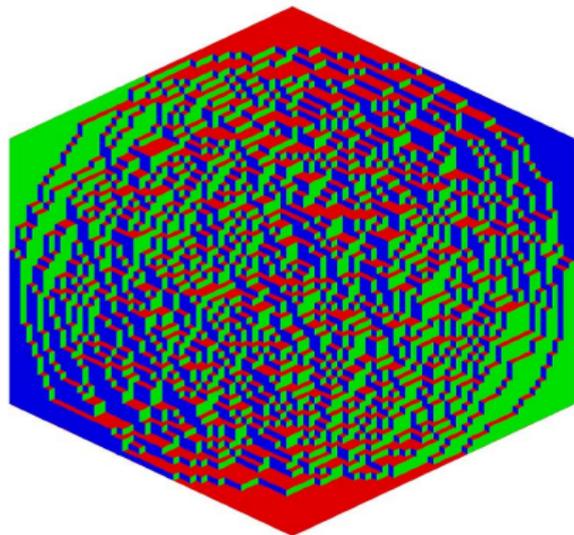
### Edge local limit at a tangency point

(Johansson–Nordenstam),  
(Okounkov–Reshetikhin),  
(Gorin–Panova), (Novak)

$$A = aL, B = bL, c = cL, L \rightarrow \infty$$

**Theorem.** Near a generic (or tangency) point of the frozen boundary its fluctuations are governed by the **Airy line ensemble** (or **GUE–corners process**, respectfully)

## Random lozenge tilings: features



1. Law of Large Numbers
2. Central Limit Theorem
3. Bulk local limits
4. Edge local limits at generic and tangency points

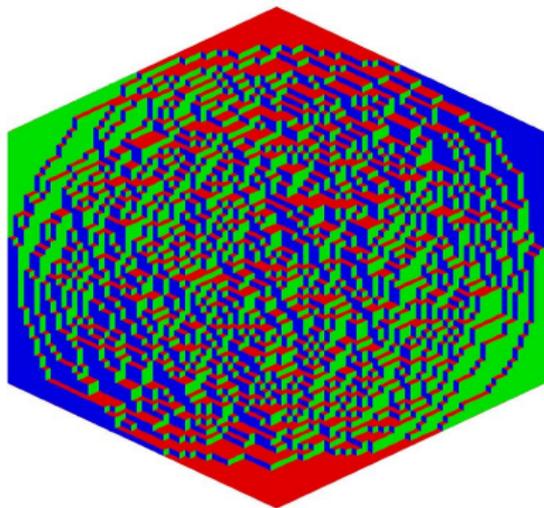
$$A = aL, B = bL, c = cL,$$

$$L \rightarrow \infty$$

**Universality** predicts that the same features should be present in generic random tilings models.

This is rigorously established only for the Law of Large Numbers.

## Random lozenge tilings: what's new?



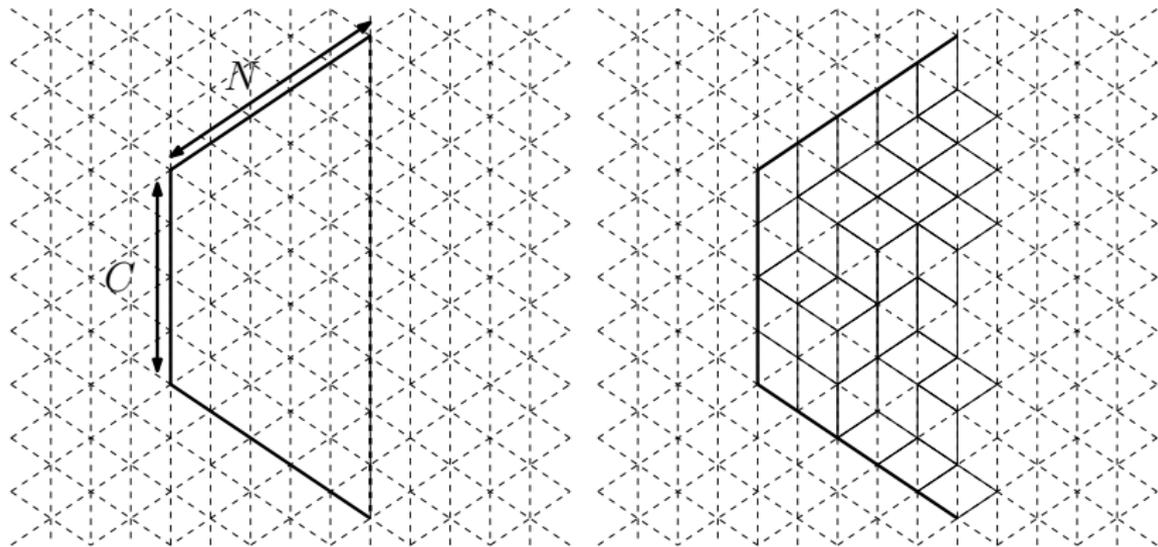
1. Law of Large Numbers
2. Central Limit Theorem
3. Bulk local limits
4. Edge local limits at generic and tangency points

Conjecturally, should hold for generic random tilings

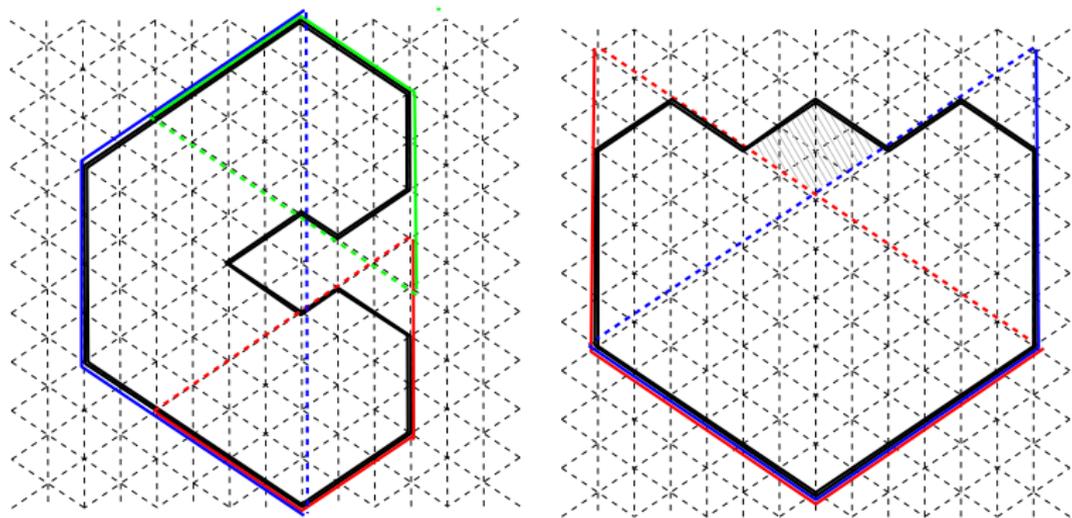
### Today:

- Partial universality result for bulk local limits
- Description of limit shapes (in LLN) via quantized Voiculescu  $R$ -transform
- Universal Central Limit Theorem for “trapezoid domains”.

# Trapezoids

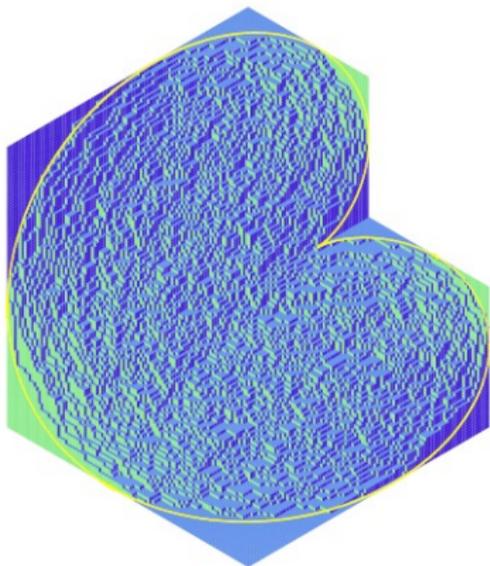


## Bulk local limits: universality

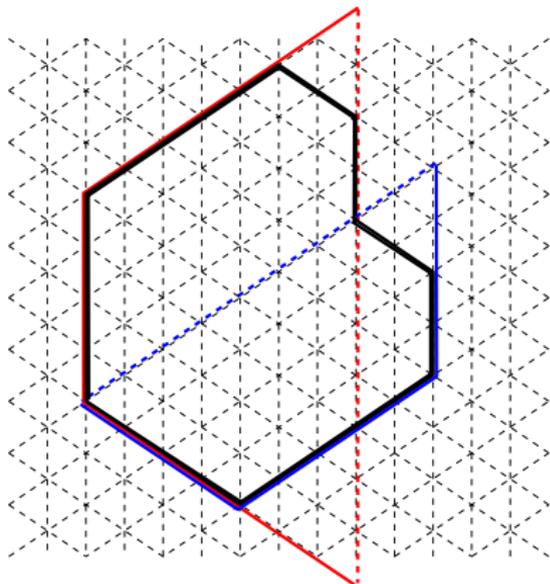


**Theorem.** (G.-16) Let  $\Omega(L)$  be a regularly growing sequence of domains. For any part of  $\Omega(L)$  covered by a trapezoid, near any point in the liquid region in this part, the uniformly random lozenge tilings of  $\Omega(L)$  converge locally as  $L \rightarrow \infty$  to the **ergodic translation-invariant Gibbs measure** of the slope given by the limit shape.

## Bulk local limits: universality



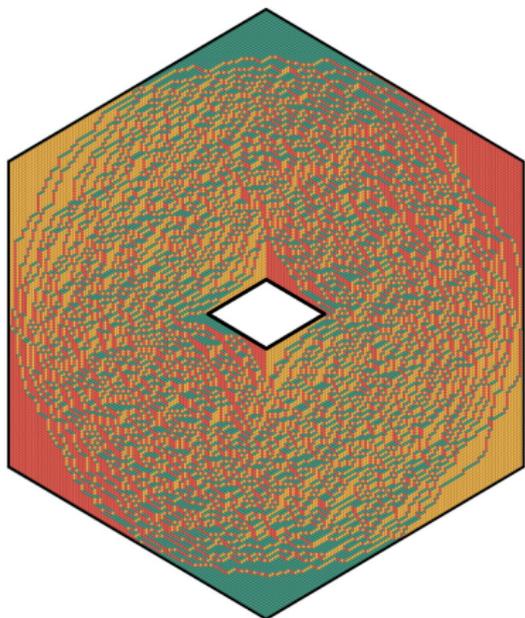
Picture from  
(Kenyon–Okounkov)



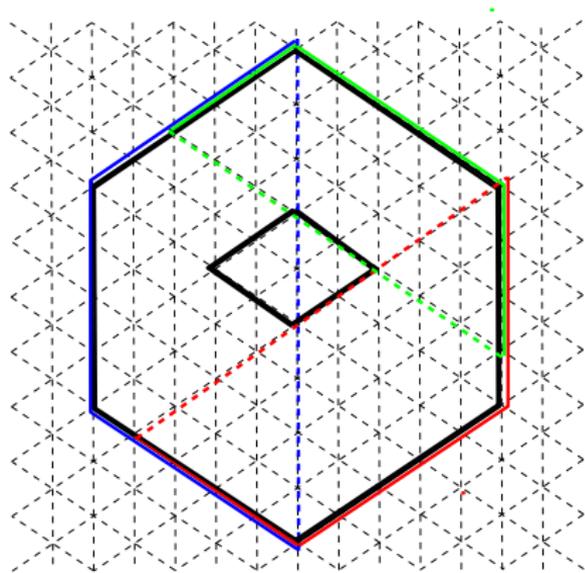
Bulk limits were not known for  
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Many domains are **completely covered** by trapezoids and therefore the conjectural bulk universality is now a **theorem** for them.

## Bulk local limits: universality



Simulation by L. Petrov

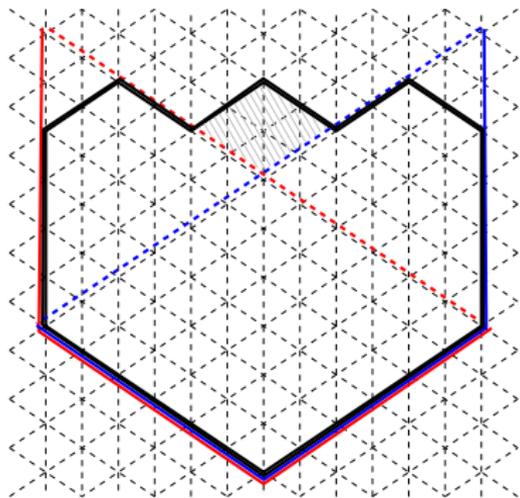


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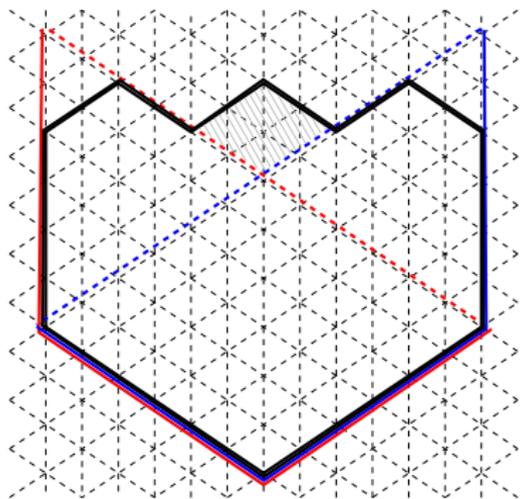
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Some domains are only **partially** covered by trapezoids.

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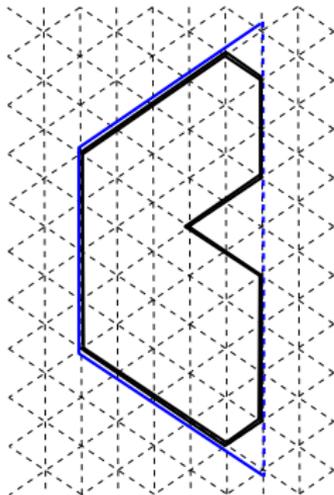
Some domains are only **partially** covered by trapezoids.

The theorem also holds for more general **Gibbs measures** on tilings covered by trapezoids (2 + 1-dimensional interacting particle systems, asymptotic representation theory).

## Bulk local limits: universality

**Theorem.** (G.-16) Let  $\Omega(L)$  be a regularly growing sequence of domains. For any part of  $\Omega(L)$  covered by a trapezoid, near any point in the liquid region in this part, the uniformly random lozenge tilings of  $\Omega(L)$  converge locally as  $L \rightarrow \infty$  to the **ergodic translation-invariant Gibbs measure** of corresponding slope.

### Previous results:



(Petrov-12)  
Local bulk limits for **polygons** covered by **single** trapezoid.

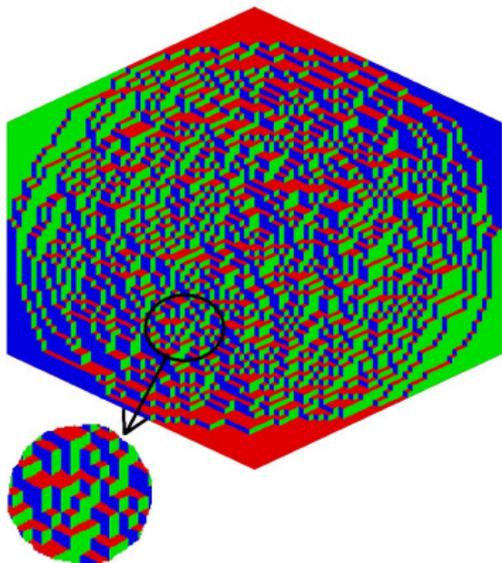
(Kenyon-04)  
Local bulk limits for a class of domains with **no** straight boundaries.

(Borodin-Kuan-07)  
Local bulk limits for Gibbs measures arising from **characters of  $U(\infty)$**

(Okounkov-Reshetikhin-01)  
Local bulk limits for Schur processes

## Ergodic translation-invariant Gibbs measures

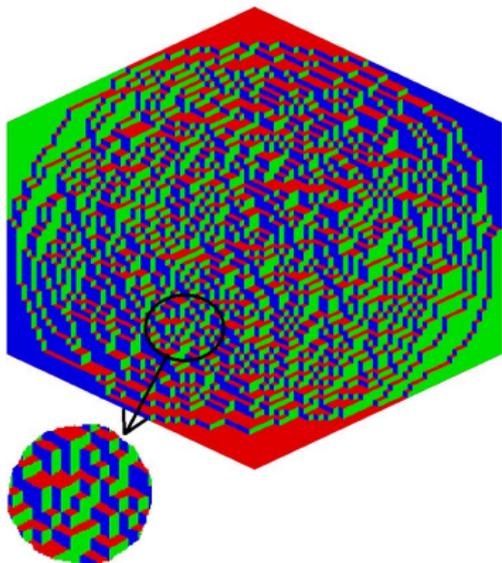
**Theorem.** ... near any point in the liquid region as  $L \rightarrow \infty$  we observe an **ergodic translation-invariant Gibbs measure**.



**Theorem.** (Sheffield). For each slope, i.e. average proportions of lozenges  $(p^\blacklozenge, p^\blacklozenge, p^\blacklozenge)$  there is a unique e.t.-i.G. measure.

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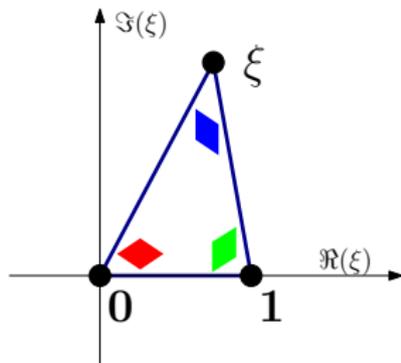
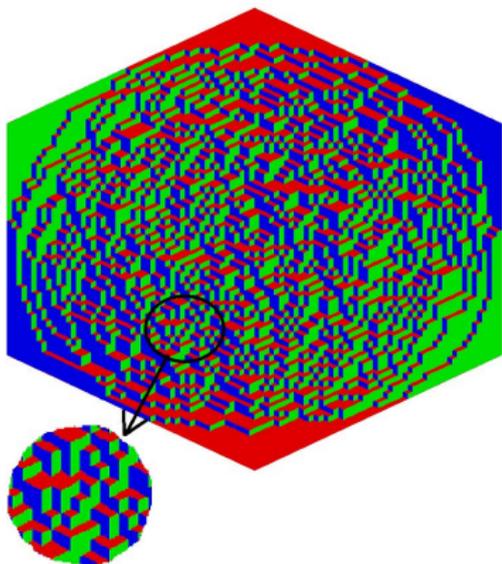
**Description.** (Cohn-Kenyon-Propp, Okounkov-Reshetikhin) Red lozenges in e.t.-i.G. measure form a **determinantal point process** with incomplete Beta kernel.

$$\rho_k((x_1, n_1), \dots, (x_k, n_k)) = \det_{i,j=1}^n \left[ \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\bar{\xi}}^{\xi} w^{x_j - x_i - 1} (1 - w)^{n_j - n_i} dw \right]$$

contour intersects  $(0, 1)$  when  $n_j \geq n_i$  and  $(-\infty, 0)$  otherwise. ▶

## Ergodic translation-invariant Gibbs measures

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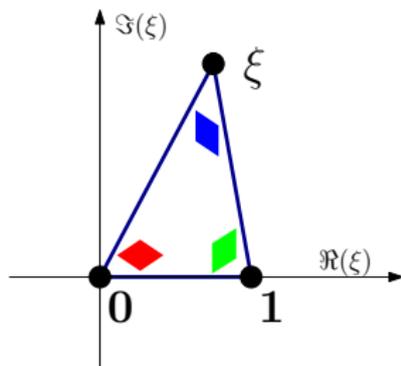
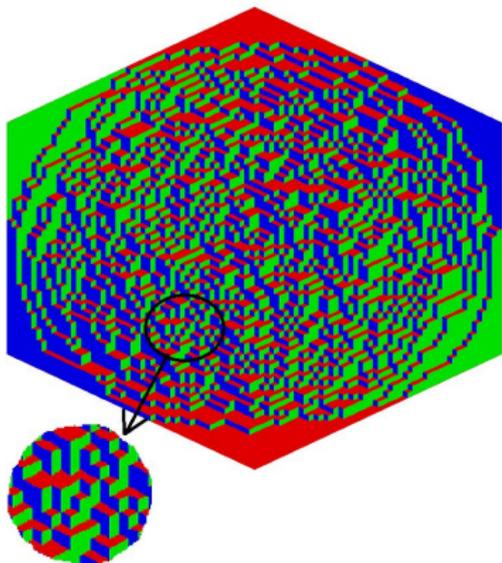


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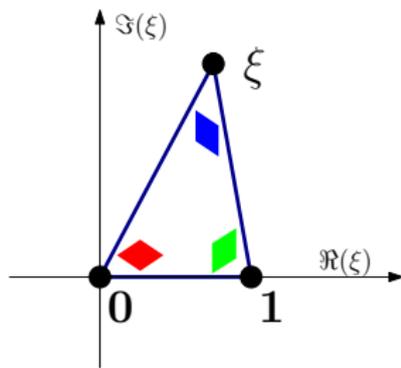
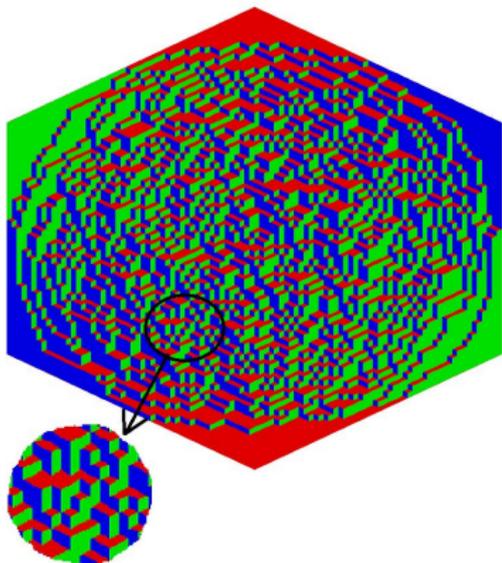
# Local vs global meanings of slope ( $\rho^\square, \rho^\diamond, \rho^\diamond$ )



**Meaning 1:** It describes the **e.t.-i.G. measure** in the bulk

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\bar{\xi}}^{\xi} w^{x_j - x_i - 1} (1 - w)^{n_j - n_i} dw$$

# Local vs global meanings of slope ( $p^\blacklozenge, p^\blacklozenge, p^\blacklozenge$ )



**Meaning 1:** It describes the **e.t.-i.G. measure** in the bulk

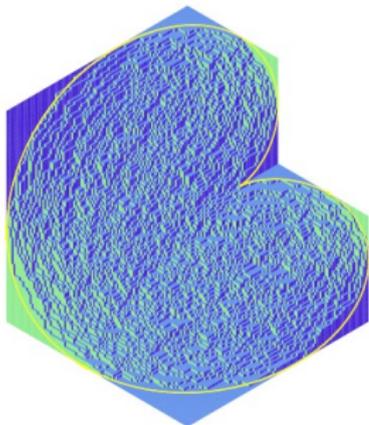
$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\bar{\xi}}^{\xi} w^{x_j - x_i - 1} (1 - w)^{n_j - n_i} dw$$

**Meaning 2:** Law of Large Numbers. Normalized lozenge counts inside a subdomain  $\mathcal{D}$  converge to **deterministic vector**

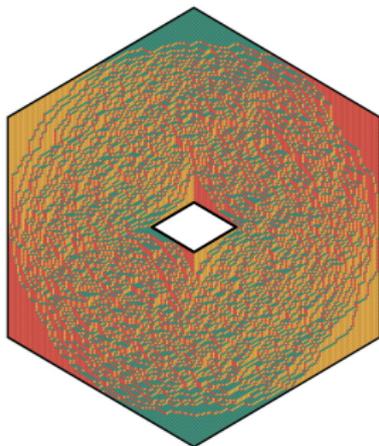
$$\left( \int_{\mathcal{D}} p^{\blacklozenge}(\mathbf{x}, \eta) dx d\eta, \int_{\mathcal{D}} p^{\blacklozenge}(\mathbf{x}, \eta) dx d\eta, \int_{\mathcal{D}} p^{\blacklozenge}(\mathbf{x}, \eta) dx d\eta \right)$$

# How to find slope $(p^\diamond, p^\diamond, p^\diamond)$ ?

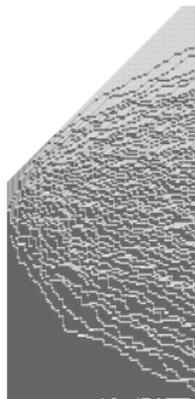
(Kenyon–Okounkov)



(Petrov)

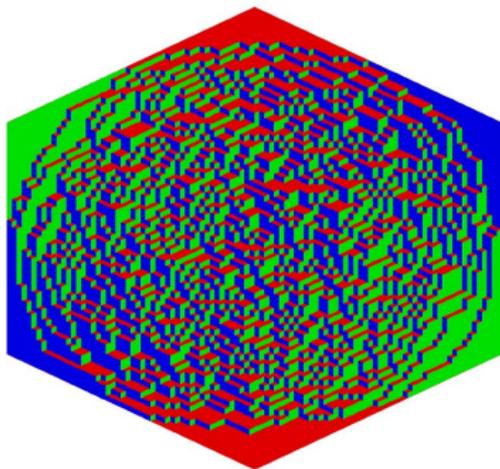


(Borodin-Ferrari)



Both local bulk limits and global law of large numbers are parameterized by the **same** position-dependent slope which one needs to find.

How to find slope  $(p^\diamond, p^\diamond, p^\diamond)$ ?

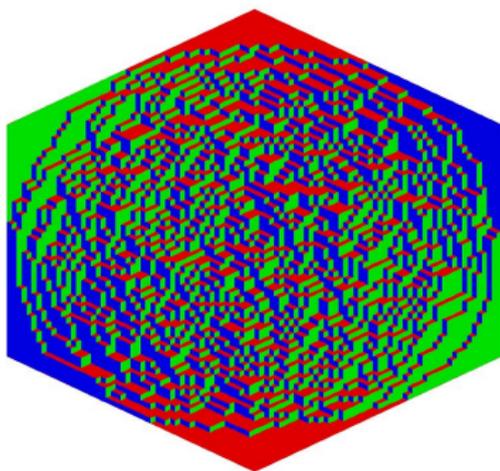


**Method 1.** (Cohn–Kenyon–Propp)  
Solve **variational problem** for  
tilings of a generic domain  $\Omega$ .

$$\int_{\Omega} \sigma \left( p^\diamond(\mathbf{x}, \eta), p^\diamond(\mathbf{x}, \eta), p^\diamond(\mathbf{x}, \eta) \right) dx d\eta \longrightarrow \max$$

$\sigma(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$  is an explicitly known **entropy** (or surface tension)

How to find slope  $(p^\diamond, p^\diamond, p^\diamond)$ ?

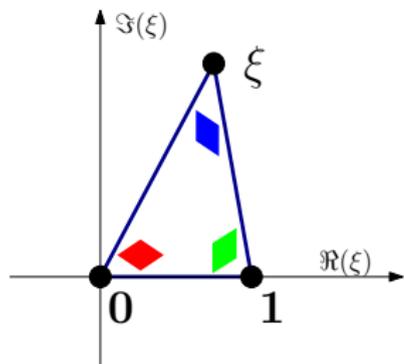


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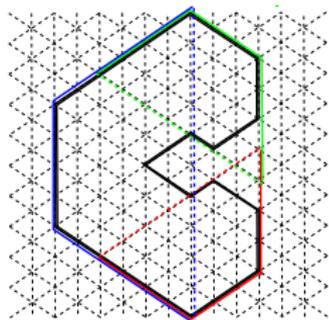
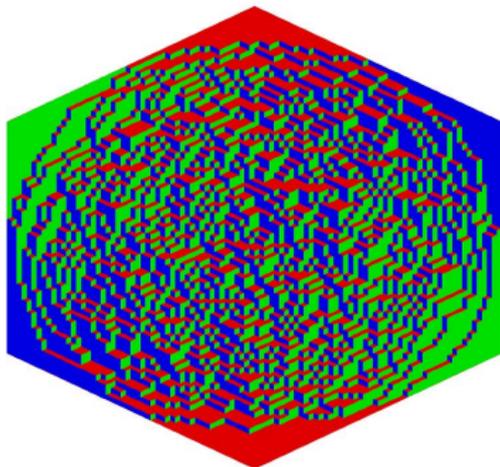
**Method 2.** (Kenyon–Okounkov)  
For **simply-connected  
polygons** the solution is found  
through an algebraic procedure.

$$Q(\xi, 1 - \xi) = \mathbf{x}\xi + \boldsymbol{\eta}(1 - \xi)$$

$Q$  is a **polynomial** uniquely  
defined by a set of algebraic  
conditions such as degree and  
tangency to polygon's sides.



How to find slope  $(p^\diamond, p^\square, p^\triangle)$ ?

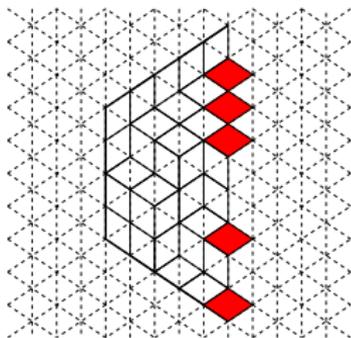


**Method 1.** (Cohn–Kenyon–Propp)  
Solve **variational problem** for tilings of a generic domain.

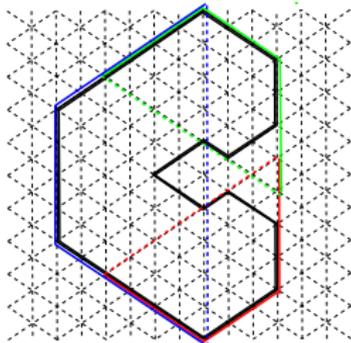
**Method 2.** (Kenyon–Okounkov)  
For **simply-connected polygons** the solution is found through an algebraic procedure.

**Method 3.** (Bufetov–Gorin-13)  
For **trapezoids** the solution is found through a quantization of the Voiculescu  $R$ -transform from free probability.

## Slope $(p^\blacklozenge, p^\blacklozenge, p^\blacklozenge)$ for trapezoids.



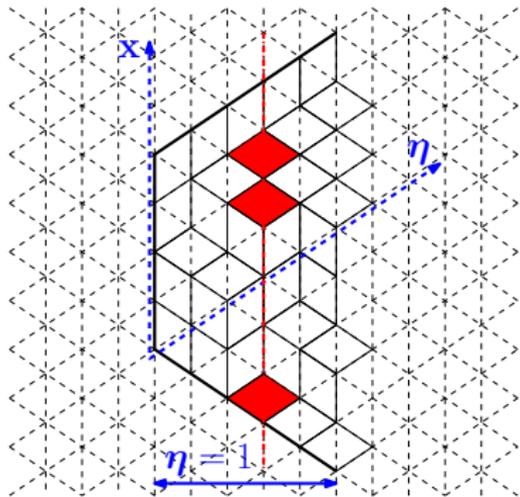
Various origins for the measure on tilings of trapezoid, e.g.:



**Setup.** We know the asymptotic profile of  $p^\blacklozenge$  along **the right boundary** of a trapezoid. The distribution of tilings of trapezoid is conditionally uniform given the right boundary (which might be random).

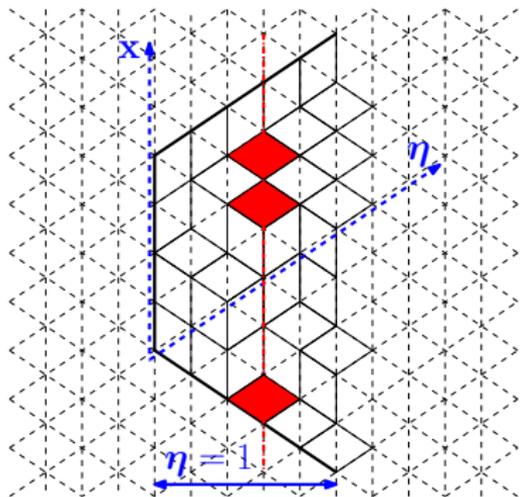
**Question.** How to find  $(p^\blacklozenge, p^\blacklozenge, p^\blacklozenge)$  inside the trapezoid?

Slope  $(p^\diamond, p^\diamond, p^\diamond)$  for trapezoids.



$\mu[\eta]$ ,  $0 < \eta \leq 1$  is a **probability** measure on  $\mathbb{R}$  with density at a point  $\mathbf{x}$  equal to  $p^\diamond(\eta\mathbf{x} - \eta, \eta)$

Slope  $(p^\diamond, p^\diamond, p^\diamond)$  for trapezoids.



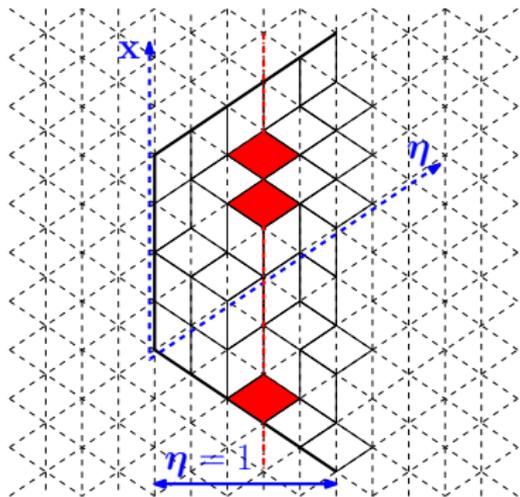
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$$E_\mu(z) = \exp \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{z-x} \mu(dx) \right).$$

$$R_\mu(z) = E_\mu^{(-1)}(z) - \frac{z}{z-1},$$

Deformation (quantization) of the **Voiculescu R transform** from the free probability theory

Slope  $(p^\diamond, p^\diamond, p^\diamond)$  for trapezoids.



$\mu[\eta]$ ,  $0 < \eta \leq 1$  is a **probability** measure on  $\mathbb{R}$  with density at a point  $\mathbf{x}$  equal to  $p^\diamond(\eta\mathbf{x} - \eta, \eta)$

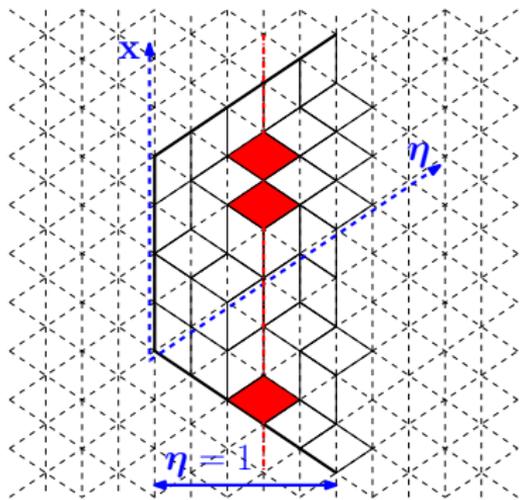
$$E_\mu(z) = \exp\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{z-x} \mu(dx)\right).$$

$$R_\mu(z) = E_\mu^{(-1)}(z) - \frac{z}{z-1},$$

**Theorem.** (Bufetov–Gorin-13) If  $(p^\diamond, p^\diamond, p^\diamond)$  describes the Law of Large Numbers for Gibbs measures on tilings of trapezoids, then

$$R_{\mu[\eta]}(z) = \frac{1}{\eta} R_{\mu[1]}(z).$$

Slope  $(p^\diamond, p^\diamond, p^\diamond)$  for trapezoids.

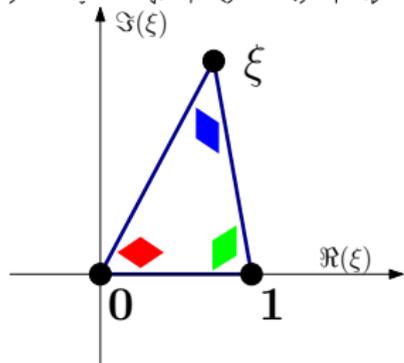


$\mu[\eta]$ ,  $0 < \eta \leq 1$  is a probability measure on  $\mathbb{R}$  with density at a point  $x$  equal to  $p^\diamond(\eta x - \eta, \eta)$

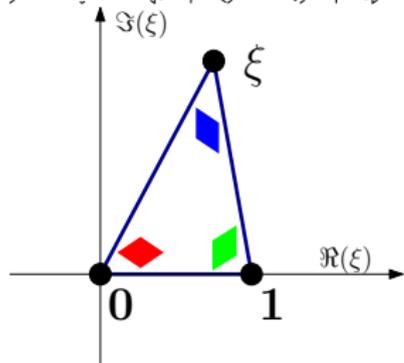
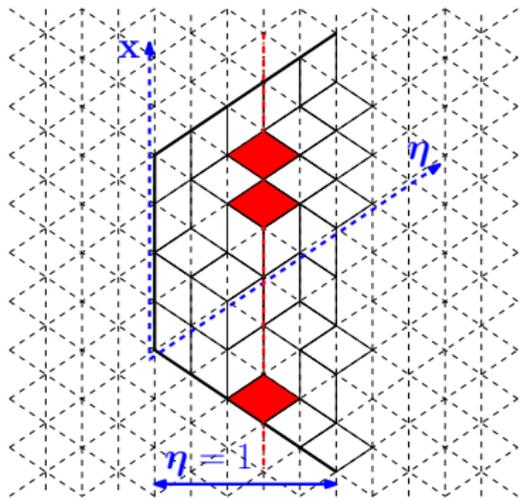
$$E_\mu(z) = \exp \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{z - x} \mu(dx) \right).$$

**Corollary.** (Bufetov–Gorin-13)  
For tilings of trapezoids also

$$\xi(\eta x - \eta, \eta) = E_{\mu[\eta]}(x - 0i)$$



Slope  $(p^\diamond, p^\diamond, p^\diamond)$  for trapezoids.



$\mu[\eta]$ ,  $0 < \eta \leq 1$  is a probability measure on  $\mathbb{R}$  with density at a point  $\mathbf{x}$  equal to  $p^\diamond(\eta\mathbf{x} - \eta, \eta)$

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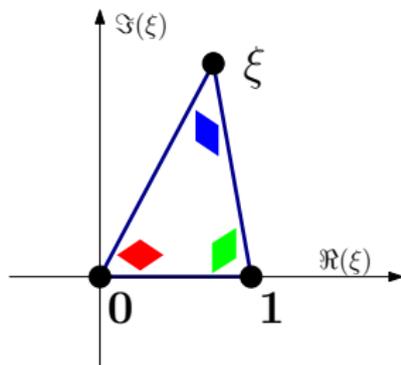
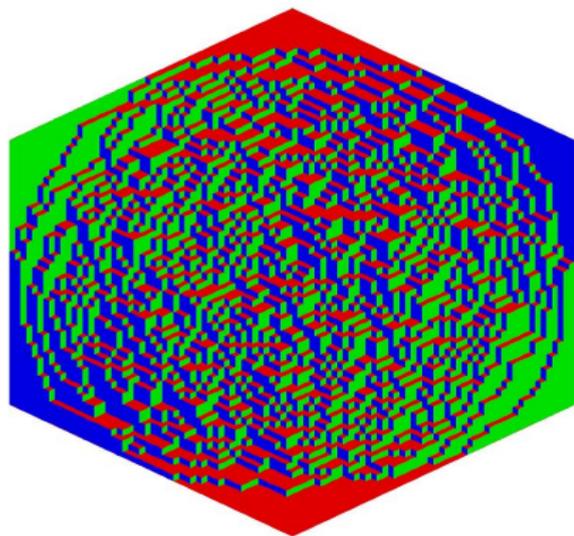
**Corollary.** (Bufetov–Gorin-13)  
For tilings of trapezoids also

$$\xi(\eta\mathbf{x} - \eta, \eta) = E_{\mu[\eta]}(\mathbf{x} - 0i)$$

Angle of red lozenge is clear.

Others are **very mysterious**.

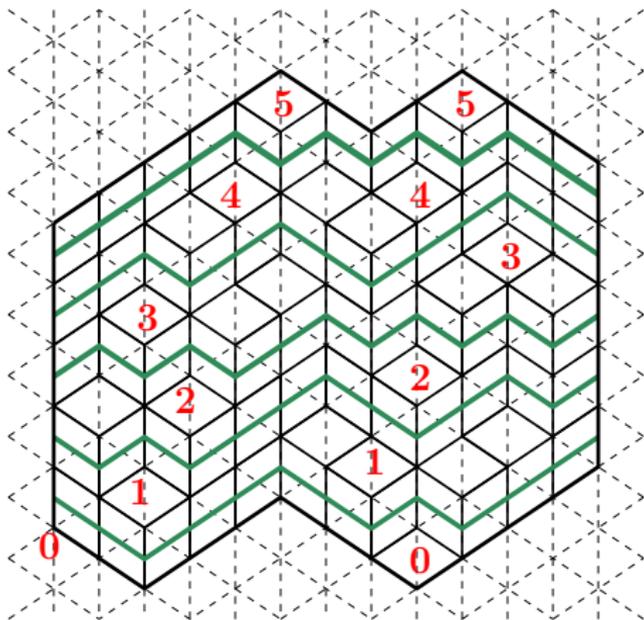
## Complex structure and CLT



The proportions  $(p_{\blacklozenge}, p_{\blacklozenge}, p_{\blacklozenge})$  define a **complex structure**  $\xi(\mathbf{x}, \eta)$  inside the liquid region.

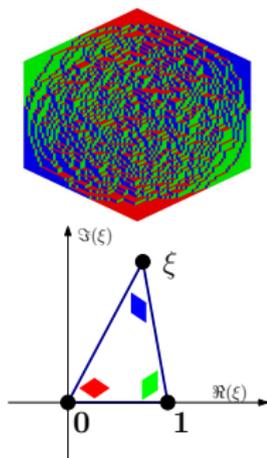
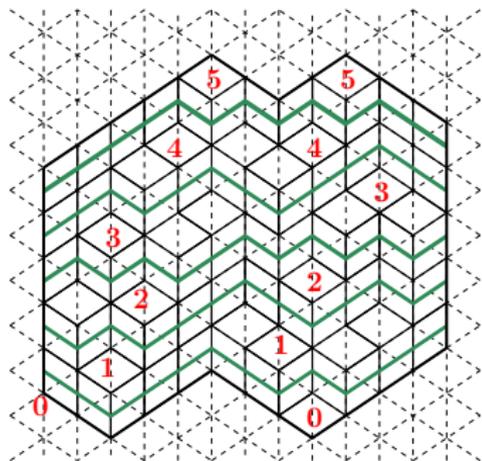
Which arises in the Central Limit Theorem for fluctuations of the **height function**.

# Height function



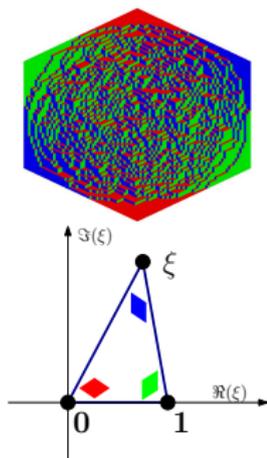
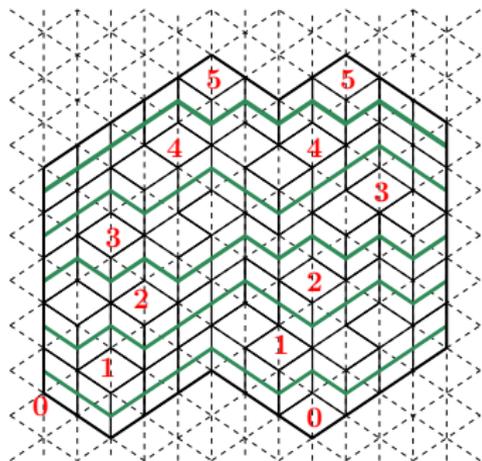
Tiling defines stepped surface, parameterized by height function.  
LLN: rescaled height function converges to a limit shape.  
CLT: what are the fluctuations?

# Height function



**Conjecture.** (Kenyon–Okounkov) For any regularly growing simply-connected domains  $\Omega(L)$ , the centered height functions of uniformly random tilings  $H_L(Lx, L\eta) - \mathbb{E}H_L(Lx, L\eta)$  converge in the liquid region to the **Gaussian Free Field** with respect to the complex structure  $\xi$  and with Dirichlet boundary conditions.

# Height function



**Conjecture.**  $H_L(Lx, L\eta) - \mathbb{E}H_L(Lx, L\eta)$  converge in the liquid region to the **Gaussian Free Field** with respect to the complex structure  $\xi$  and with Dirichlet boundary conditions.

- (Kenyon–04) proved for domains with no frozen regions
- (Petrov–12) proved for polygons covered by a single trapezoid
- (Bufetov–Gorin-16) extend by a different method to arbitrary trapezoids with **deterministic** boundary conditions.

## Gaussian Free Field

**Definition.** The Gaussian Free Field (with Dirichlet boundary conditions) in the upper halfplane  $\mathbb{U}$  — is a **generalized centered Gaussian** random field  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\mathbb{U}$  with covariance

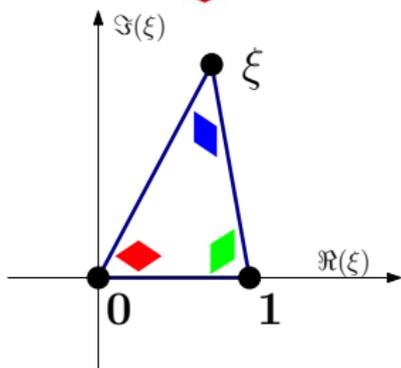
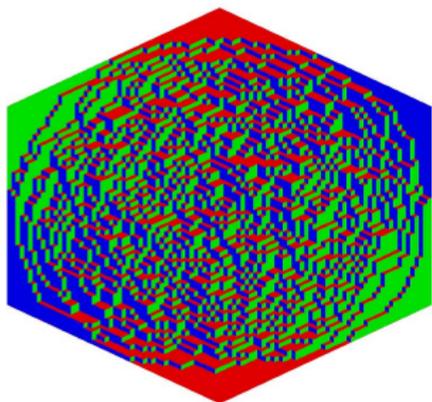
$$\mathbb{E}(\mathcal{F}(z)\mathcal{F}(w)) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \ln \left| \frac{z-w}{z-\bar{w}} \right|, \quad z, w \in \mathbb{U}$$

Equivalently, for any smooth compactly supported  $g_1, g_2$  on  $\mathbb{U}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \int_{\mathbb{U}} g_1(u) \mathcal{F}(u) du \right) \cdot \left( \int_{\mathbb{U}} g_2(u) \mathcal{F}(u) du \right) \right] \\ = \int_{\mathbb{U}} g_1(u) \Delta^{-1} g_2(u) du. \end{aligned}$$

GFF is a conformally invariant  $2d$ -analogue of Brownian motion.

# Uniformization of the complex structure



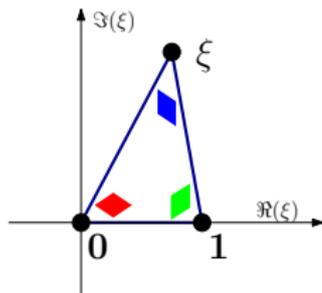
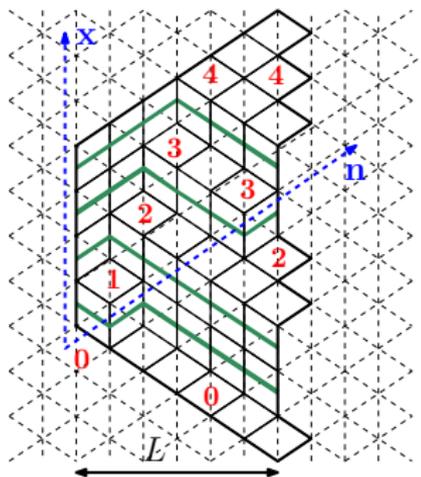
$\xi(\mathbf{x}, \eta)$  turns the liquid region into a simply connected complex Riemann surface.

$(\mathbf{x}, \eta) \rightarrow z(\mathbf{x}, \eta)$  is a **conformal uniformization map** to the upper half-plane  $\mathbb{H}$ .

(unique up to 3 parameters, but GFF is invariant)

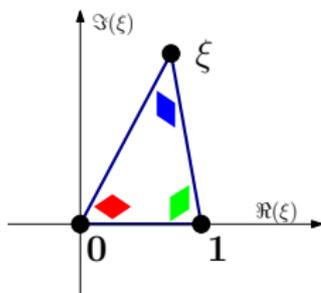
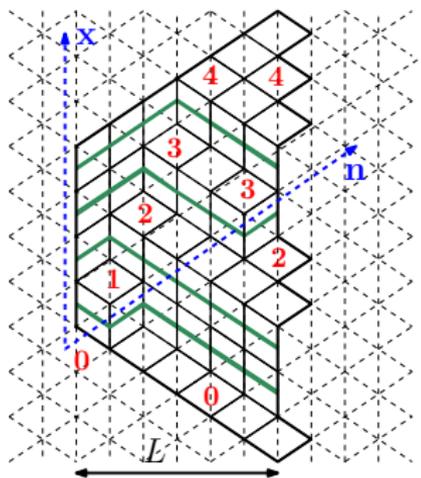
**Definition.** The Gaussian Free Field **in the liquid region** with Dirichlet boundary conditions is the pullback of GFF in  $\mathbb{H}$  with respect to the map  $(\mathbf{x}, \eta) \rightarrow z(\mathbf{x}, \eta)$ .

## CLT for trapezoids



**Theorem.** (Bufetov-Gorin-16) Take a sequence of trapezoids with **fixed deterministic** right boundaries and such that the rescaled height functions along the boundary approach a limit profile. The centered height functions  $H_L(Lx, L\eta) - \mathbb{E}H_L(Lx, L\eta)$  converge to the Gaussian Free Field in the liquid region with respect to the complex structure  $\xi$ .

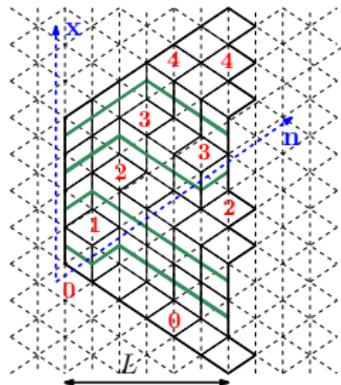
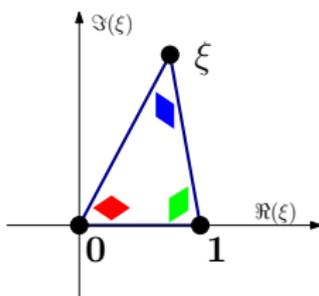
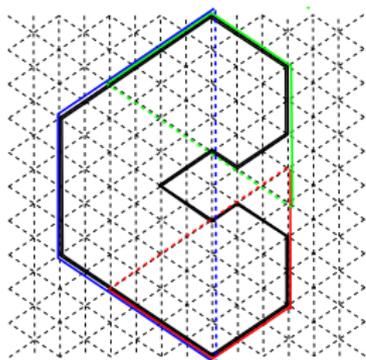
## CLT for trapezoids



$$z(\mathbf{x}, \eta) = \frac{1 - \eta}{1 - \xi(\mathbf{x}, \eta)} + \mathbf{x} + \eta - 1$$

**Theorem.** (Bufetov-Gorin-16) Take a sequence of trapezoids with **fixed deterministic** right boundaries and such that the rescaled height functions along the boundary approach a limit profile. The centered height functions  $H_L(L\mathbf{x}, L\eta) - \mathbb{E}H_L(L\mathbf{x}, L\eta)$  converge to the Gaussian Free Field in the liquid region with respect to the complex structure  $\xi$ . The uniformization map is **explicit**.

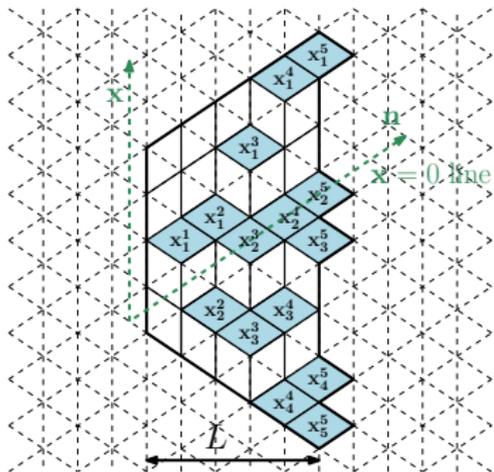
# Ingredients of proofs



- Partial universality result for bulk local limits
- Description of limit shapes (in LLN) via quantized Voiculescu  $R$ -transform
- Universal Central Limit Theorem for “trapezoid domains”.

We use two key approaches to random tilings of trapezoids.

## Ingredients of proofs



For  $L$ -tuple  $(\mathbf{t}_1 > \mathbf{t}_2 > \dots > \mathbf{t}_L)$ , let  $\{x_i^j\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq L$  be horizontal lozenges of uniformly random lozenge tiling with positions  $\mathbf{t}$  on the right boundary

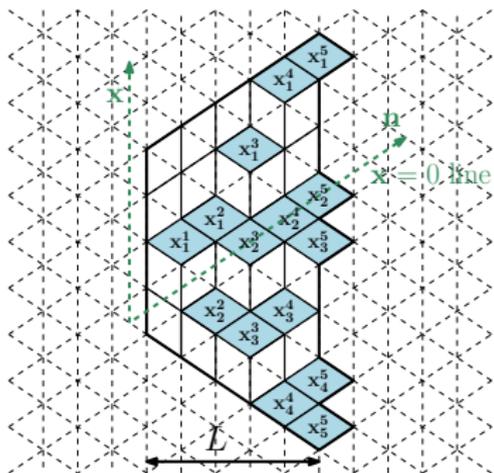
**Theorem.** (Petrov-2012) For any collection of distinct pairs  $(x(1), n(1)), \dots, (x(k), n(k))$

$$P \left[ x(i) \in \{x_1^{n(i)}, x_2^{n(i)}, \dots, x_j^{n(i)}\}, i = 1, \dots, k \right] = \det_{i,j=1}^k [K(x(i), n(i); x(j), n(j))]$$

$$K(x_1, n_1; x_2, n_2) = -\mathbf{1}_{n_2 < n_1} \mathbf{1}_{x_2 \leq x_1} \frac{(x_1 - x_2 + 1)_{n_1 - n_2 - 1}}{(n_1 - n_2 - 1)!} + \frac{(L - n_1)!}{(L - n_2 - 1)!}$$

$$\times \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^2} \oint_{C(x_2, \dots, \mathbf{t}_1 - 1)} dz \oint_{C(\infty)} dw \frac{(z - x_2 + 1)_{L - n_2 - 1}}{(w - x_1)_{L - n_1 + 1}} \frac{1}{w - z} \prod_{r=1}^L \frac{w - \mathbf{t}_r}{z - \mathbf{t}_r},$$

## Ingredients of proofs



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**Observation.** (G.-16) the bulk limit of  $K(\cdot)$  depends only on the asymptotic limit shape of  $\mathbf{t}$ . This allows to pass from **deterministic** to **random**  $\mathbf{t}$  and prove bulk universality.



## Ingredients of proofs

**Schur generating function** of a vertical section  $k$

$$\sum_{\lambda} \mathbb{P}[(x_1^k, x_2^k, \dots, x_k^k) = \lambda] \frac{s_{\lambda}(u_1, \dots, u_k)}{s_{\lambda}(1, \dots, 1)} = \frac{s_{\mathbf{t}}(u_1, \dots, u_k, 1^{L-k})}{s_{\mathbf{t}}(1^L)}$$

$$s_{\lambda}(u_1, \dots, u_k) = \frac{\det_{i,j=1}^k [u_i^{\lambda_j}]}{\prod_{i < j} (u_i - u_j)}, \quad \lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k).$$

Apply  $\prod_{i < j} (u_i - u_j)^{-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^k \left( u_i \frac{\partial}{\partial u_i} \right)^m \right)^r \prod_{i < j} (u_i - u_j)$   
and set  $u_1 = \dots = u_k = 1$  to get

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \left( (x_1^k)^m + (x_2^k)^m + \dots + (x_k^k)^m \right)^r \right].$$

## Ingredients of proofs

**Schur generating function** of a vertical section  $k$

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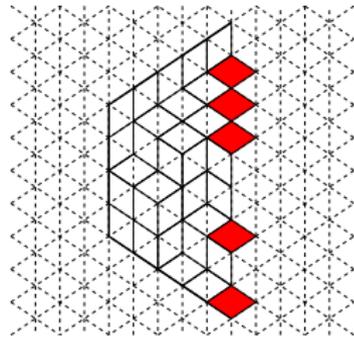
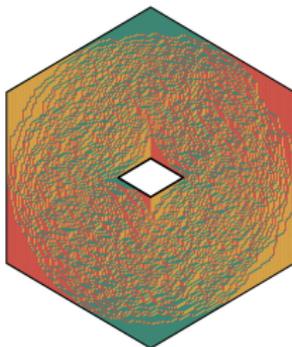
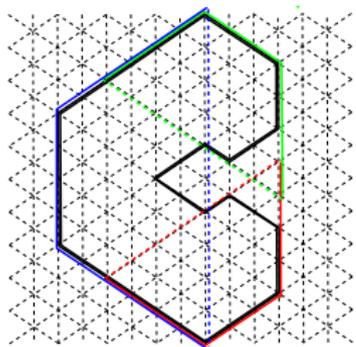
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$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \left( (x_1^k)^m + (x_2^k)^m + \dots + (x_k^k)^m \right)^r \right].$$

Asymptotics of Schur functions (Gorin-Panova-12) + combinatorial analysis turns this observation into LLN and CLT for trapezoids.

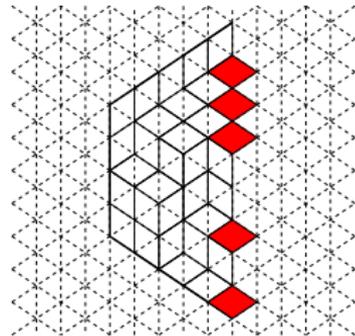
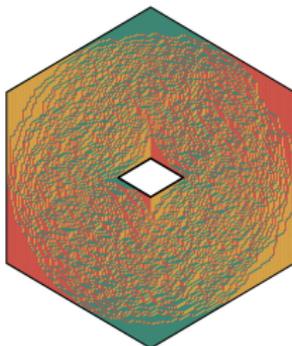
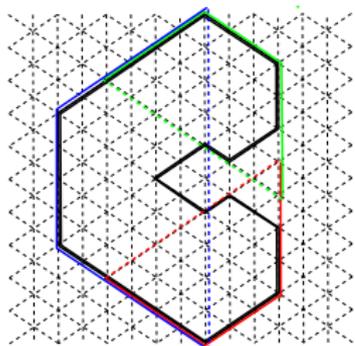
## Summary



- Universal bulk local limits “near” straight boundaries
- Limit shapes (in LLN) via quantized Voiculescu  $R$ -transform
- Universal Central Limit Theorem for “trapezoid domains” leading to  $2d$  Gaussian Free Field via uniformization map.

**Key tools:** double contour integral expression for the correlation kernel, asymptotic of Schur polynomials, differential operators acting on Schur generating functions.

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**Key tools:** double contour integral expression for the correlation kernel, asymptotic of Schur polynomials, differential operators acting on Schur generating functions.

How do we extend **universality** further?