# Aspects of the dimer model, spanning trees and the Ising model

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# INTRODUCTION

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Understand the macroscopic behavior of a physics system based on a model describing interactions between microscopic components

Model:

• Structure is represented by a graph G = (V, E), finite.



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• Set of configurations on G: C(G).

 Parameter: intensity of interactions between microscopic components and external temperature.

Positive weight function  $w = (w_e)_{e \in E}$  on the edges.



- ► To a configuration C, is assigned an energy  $\mathcal{E}_w(C)$ .
- Boltzmann probability on configurations:

$$\forall \mathbf{C} \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{G}), \quad \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{C}) = \frac{e^{-\mathcal{E}_w(\mathbf{C})}}{Z(\mathbf{G}, w)},$$

where  $Z(\mathbf{G}, w) = \sum_{\mathbf{C} \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{G})} e^{-\mathcal{E}_w(\mathbf{C})}$  is the partition function.

#### Model of ferromagnetism, mixture of two materials





Wilhelm Lenz (1888-1957)

Ernst Ising (1900-1998)

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- Graph G = (V, E).
- A spin configuration  $\sigma$  assigns to every vertex x of the graph G a spin  $\sigma_x \in \{-1, 1\}$ .

 $\Rightarrow C(G) = \{-1, 1\}^{V} = \text{set of spin configurations.}$ 

► A spin configuration

• A spin configuration / two interpretations.

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Magnetic moments:

+1/ $\rightarrow$ , -1/ $\leftarrow$ 



• A spin configuration / two interpretations.



#### THE ISING MODEL

- ▶ Positive weight function: coupling constants  $J = (J_e)_{e \in E}$ .
- Energy of a spin configuration:  $\mathcal{E}_J(\sigma) = -\sum_{e=xy\in E} J_{xy}\sigma_x\sigma_y$ .
- Ising Boltzmann probability:

$$\forall \sigma \in \{-1,1\}^{\vee}, \quad \mathbb{P}_{\text{Ising}}(\sigma) = \frac{e^{-\mathcal{E}_J(\sigma)}}{Z_{\text{Ising}}(\mathsf{G},J)}.$$

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- Two neighboring spins  $\sigma_x, \sigma_y$  tend to align.
- Highest is the coupling  $J_{xy}$ , stronger is this tendency.

Adsorption of di-atomic molecules on the surface of a crystal





Sir Ralph H. Fowler (1889-1944) Solvay conference 1927.

George S. Rushbrooke (1915-1995)

- ▶ Graph G = (V, E).
- ► A dimer configuration or perfect coupling: subset of edges such that each vertex is incident to exactly one edge.

 $\Rightarrow C(G) = M(G) = \text{set of dimer configurations.}$ 

• A dimer configuration.



• A dimer configuration.



• A dimer configuration.



• A dimer configuration.



- Positive weight function:  $v = (v_e)_{e \in E}$ .
- Energy of a configuration M:  $\mathcal{E}_{\nu}(M) = -\sum_{e \in M} \log \nu_e$ .
- Dimer Boltzmann measure:

$$\forall \mathbf{M} \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{G}), \quad \mathbb{P}_{\text{dimère}}(\mathbf{M}) = \frac{\prod_{e \in \mathbf{M}} \nu_e}{Z_{\text{dimer}}(\mathbf{G}, \nu)}.$$

Highest is the weight, more likely is an edge to be present.

#### Related to electrical networks



Gustav Kirchhoff (1824-1887)

- Graph G = (V, E).
- ► A spanning tree: connected subset of edges spanning vertices of the graph, containing no cycle.

 $\Rightarrow C(G) = T(G) =$  subset of spanning trees.

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► A spanning tree



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► A spanning tree



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► A spanning tree



- Positive weight function:  $\rho = (\rho_e)_{e \in E}$ .
- Energy of a tree T:  $\mathcal{E}_{\rho}(T) = -\sum_{e \in T} \log \rho_e$ .
- Spanning trees Boltzmann measure:

$$\forall \mathsf{T} \in \mathfrak{T}(\mathsf{G}), \quad \mathbb{P}_{\text{tree}}(\mathsf{T}) = \frac{\prod_{\mathsf{e} \in \mathsf{T}} \rho_{\mathsf{e}}}{Z_{\text{tree}}(\mathsf{G}, \rho)}.$$

► Edges with high weights are more likely to be present.

## Macroscopic behavior

Let edge-lengths tend to zero Look at a "typical configuration".

► Ising model (Simulation by R. Cerf)



J small



J critical



J large

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## Macroscopic behavior

▶ Dimer model (Simulation by R. Kenyon)



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## Macroscopic behavior

- Identification of the phase transition.
- Understanding the sub and super critical models.
- Understanding the critical model (at the phase transition):
  - Universality and phase transition.
  - Conjectures : Nienhuis, Cardy, Duplantier ...
    Proofs : G. Lawler, O. Schramm, W. Werner, D. Chelkak, S. Smirnov ...

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#### EXACTLY SOLVABLE MODELS

Boltzmann measure on configurations:

$$\forall \mathbf{C} \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{G}), \quad \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{C}) = \frac{e^{-\mathcal{E}_w(\mathbf{C})}}{Z(\mathbf{G}, w)},$$

where  $Z(G, w) = \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}(G)} e^{-\mathcal{E}_w(C)}$  is the partition function.

- The model is exactly solvable if there exists an exact, explicit expression for the partition function.
- Three exactly solvable models:
  - ► Ising-2d: Onsager (1944) Fisher (1966):  $Z_{\text{Ising}}(G, J) = \sqrt{\det(K_{G^F})}$ .
  - Dimer-2d: Kasteleyn, Temperley-Fisher (1961):

when G is bipartite,  $Z_{dimer}(G, v) = det(K)$ .

Spanning trees: Kirchhoff (1848):  $Z_{\text{tree}}(\mathbf{G}, \rho) = \det(\Delta^{(r)})$ .

## A GLIMPSE AT SOME FOUNDING RESULTS OF EXACTLY SOLVABLE MODELS

# PARTITION FUNCTION OF THE DIMER MODEL DEFINED ON FINITE, PLANAR, BIPARTITE GRAPHS

- Let  $G = (W \cup B, E)$  be a planar, finite, bipartite graph, with |W| = |B| = n.
- Consider a dimer model on G, with weight function v on edges.
- Orientation of the edges: Kasteleyn orientation.
- ▶ Let K be the Kasteleyn matrix, defined by:

$$\forall w \in W, \ \forall b \in B, \quad K_{w,b} = \begin{cases} \nu_{wb} & \text{if } w \sim b, \ w \to b, \\ -\nu_{wb} & \text{if } w \sim b, \ b \to w, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

#### THEOREM (KA,TE-FI)

If edges are oriented according to a Kasteleyn orientation, then:

 $Z_{\text{dimer}}(\mathsf{G}, \nu) = |\det(\mathsf{K})|.$ 

#### SUPERIMPOSITION OF DIMER CONFIGURATIONS

• Let  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$  be two dimer configurations of G, and  $M_1 \cup M_2$  be their superimposition.



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• Let  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$  be two dimer configurations of G, and  $M_1 \cup M_2$  be their superimposition.



► M<sub>1</sub> ∪ M<sub>2</sub> is a disjoint union of alternating cycles, where an alternating cycle consists of edges alternating between M<sub>1</sub> and M<sub>2</sub>. An alternating cycle of length 2 is a doubled edge.

#### PARTITION FUNCTION OF SPANNING TREES

• Let G = (V, E) be a finite graph.

- Consider spanning trees on G, with weight function  $\rho$  on edges.
- Let  $\Delta$  be the Laplacian matrix defined by:

$$\forall x, y \in V, \quad \Delta_{x,y} = \begin{cases} \rho_{xy} & \text{if } x \neq y, \ x \sim y, \\ -\sum_{x' \sim x} \rho_{xx'} & \text{if } x = y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

#### Theorem (Ki)

The spanning trees partition function is equal to

$$Z_{\text{tree}}(\mathbf{G}, \rho) = |\det(\Delta^{(r)})|,$$

where  $\Delta^{(r)}$  is obtained from  $\Delta$  by removing the line and the column corresponding to a given vertex r.

Temperley's bijection between spanning trees and the dimer model on the double graph

- Generalized form due to Kenyon-Propp-Wilson.
- ► Spanning tree of a graph G



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Temperley's bijection between spanning trees and the dimer model on the double graph

- ► Generalized form due to Kenyon-Propp-Wilson.
- ▶ Dual spanning tree of the dual graph G<sup>\*</sup>



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Temperley's bijection between spanning trees and the dimer model on the double graph

- Generalized form due to Kenyon-Propp-Wilson.
- Dimer configuration of the double graph G<sup>D</sup>



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# Partition functions of the critical Ising model and critical spanning trees

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### **CRITICAL ISING MODEL**

▶ If the graph G is Z<sup>2</sup>, Kramers et Wannier determine the critical coupling constants:

$$\forall e \in \mathsf{E}, \quad J_e = \frac{1}{2}\log(1+\sqrt{2}).$$

▶ Baxter generalizes the critical Ising model on Z<sup>2</sup> to a large family of graphs: the isoradial graphs.

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• A graph G is isoradial if it is planar and can be embedded in the plane in such a way that all faces are inscribed in a circle of radius 1, and that the circumcenters are in the interior of the faces (Duffin-Mercat-Kenyon).



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#### ► Take the circumcenters.



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► Join the circumcenters to the vertices of the graph G. ⇒ Associated rhombus graph  $G^{\diamond}$ .



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• To every edge *e* is assigned the half-angle  $\theta_e$  of the corresponding rhombus.



# Z-invariant critical Ising model

► The Ising model is Z-invariant and critical [Ba] if the coupling constants are equal to:

$$\forall e \in \mathsf{E}, \quad J_e = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1 + \sin \theta_e}{\cos \theta_e} \right).$$

- Baxter determines them using:
  - ► *Z*-invariance (invariance under  $\Delta Y$  transformations),
  - generalized form of self-duality,
  - assumption of uniqueness of the critical point.
- Li and Duminil-Copin Cimasoni, show that the Ising model is indeed critical.
- ▶ When  $G = \mathbb{Z}^2$ ,  $\forall e \in E$ ,  $\theta_e = \frac{\pi}{4}$ , implying that  $J_e = \frac{1}{2}\log(1 + \sqrt{2})$ .

### Z-INVARIANT CRITICAL SPANNING TREES

Spanning trees are Z-invariant and critical [Ke] if G is isoradial and the weights are equal to:

$$\forall e \in \mathsf{E}, \quad \rho_e = \tan \theta_e.$$

Critical Ising model on G



$$\forall e \in \mathsf{E}, \quad J_e = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1 + \sin \theta_e}{\cos \theta_e} \right)$$

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Critical Ising model on G



Critical spanning trees on  $\bar{\mathsf{G}}$ 



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$$\forall e \in \mathsf{E}, \quad J_e = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1 + \sin \theta_e}{\cos \theta_e} \right)$$

Critical Ising model on G



Critical spanning trees on  $\bar{\mathsf{G}}$ 



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Critical Ising model on G



Critical spanning trees on  $\bar{G}$ 



$$\forall e \in \mathsf{E}, \quad J_e = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1 + \sin \theta_e}{\cos \theta_e} \right)$$

 $\begin{cases} \forall e \in \mathsf{E}, \quad \rho_e = \tan \theta_e \\ \text{Boundary conditions } \bar{\mathsf{E}} \setminus \mathsf{E}. \end{cases}$ 

Critical Ising model on G



Critical spanning trees on  $\bar{G}$ 



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Theorem

$$Z_{\text{Ising}}(\mathbf{G}, J)^2 = 2^{|\mathsf{V}|} |Z_{\text{tree}}(\bar{\mathsf{G}}, \rho)|.$$

### Remarks

- ► Similar result when the graph G is embedded in the torus. The characteristic polynomial replaces the partition function:
  - Proof using Fisher's correspondence between the Ising model and the dimer model on a non-bipartite graph [B-dT], [dT].

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- ▶ Proof using Kac-Ward matrices [Ci].
- On the torus, no difficulty related to the boundary.
- Different explicit construction.

Construction of the bipartite graph G<sup>Q</sup>



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THEOREM (NI,WU-LIN,DU,BDT)

$$Z_{\text{Ising}}(\mathsf{G},J)^2 = 2^{|\mathsf{V}|} \left[ \prod_{e \in \mathsf{E}} \cos^{-1}(\theta_e) \right] Z_{\text{dimer}}(\mathsf{G}^{\mathsf{Q}},\nu).$$

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### **PROOF 2.** DIMER PARTITION FUNCTION.

- Consider the bipartite graph  $G^Q = (W^Q \cup B^Q, E^Q), |W^Q| = |B^Q| = k$ .
- Orientation of the edges : Kasteleyn orientation.
- Let K be the matrix defined by:

$$\forall w \in W^Q, \ \forall b \in B^Q, \quad K_{w,b} = \begin{cases} \nu_{wb} & \text{if } w \sim b, \ w \to b, \\ -\nu_{wb} & \text{if } w \sim b, \ b \to w, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
$$\bullet \det(K) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \underbrace{\text{sgn}(\sigma)}_{\pm 1} \underbrace{K_{w_1, b_{\sigma(1)}} \dots K_{w_k, b_{\sigma(k)}}}_{\pm 1 \text{ contribution of dimer config.}}$$

±1 contribution of dimer config.

THEOREM (KA, TE-FI)

If edges are oriented according to a Kasteleyn orientation, then:

$$Z_{\text{dimer}}(\mathbf{G}^{\mathbf{Q}}, \nu) = |\det(\mathbf{K})|.$$

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#### **Proof 2.** Dimer partition function.

- ► Consider the bipartite graph  $G^Q = (W^Q \cup B^Q, E^Q), |W^Q| = |B^Q| = k.$
- ▶ Phases  $(\phi_{Wb})_{Wb \in E^Q}$  assigned to edges : flat phasing [Ku].
- Let K be the matrix defined by:

$$\forall \mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{W}^{\mathbf{Q}}, \ \forall \mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}^{\mathbf{Q}}, \quad \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{w},\mathbf{b}} = \begin{cases} e^{i\phi_{\mathbf{w}\mathbf{b}}} \ v_{\mathbf{w}\mathbf{b}} & \text{if } \mathbf{w} \sim \mathbf{b} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

► det(K) =  $\sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \underbrace{\operatorname{sgn}(\sigma)}_{\pm 1} \underbrace{\operatorname{K}_{w_1, b_{\sigma(1)} \dots K_{w_k, b_{\sigma(k)}}}}_{e^{i(phase)} \text{ contribution dimer config.}}$ 

THEOREM (KU)

If the phasing of the edges is flat, then:

$$Z_{\text{dimer}}(\mathsf{G}^{\mathsf{Q}},\nu) = |\det(\mathsf{K})|.$$

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### **Proof 2.** Dimer partition function.

Choice of phases



$$\mathsf{K}_{\mathsf{w},\mathsf{b}} = \begin{cases} 1. \sin \theta_e & \text{if } \mathsf{e} \ // \ e \\ i. \cos \theta_e & \text{if } \mathsf{e} \ // \ e^* \\ e^{i(\frac{3\pi}{2} - \theta_e)} . 1 & \text{if } \mathsf{e} \ \text{external and in the interior} \\ e^{i[\frac{3\pi}{2} - (\theta_e + \theta^{\theta})]} . 1 & \text{if } \mathsf{e} \ \text{external and on the boundary of } \mathsf{G}^Q. \end{cases}$$

#### Lemma

The phasing of the edges is flat, implying that:  $Z_{dimer}(\mathbf{G}^{\mathbf{Q}}, v) = |\det \mathbf{K}|$ .

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### Proof 3. Kasteleyn matrix / Laplacian matrix

▶ Remark: for every external edge wb<sub>3</sub>,

$$\mathsf{K}_{\mathsf{w},\mathsf{b}_{3}} = \begin{cases} -\mathsf{K}_{\mathsf{w},\mathsf{b}_{1}} - \mathsf{K}_{\mathsf{w},\mathsf{b}_{2}} \\ -\mathsf{K}_{\mathsf{w},\mathsf{b}_{1}} - \mathsf{K}_{\mathsf{w},\mathsf{b}_{2}} - ie^{-i\theta_{e}}(e^{-i\theta^{\theta}} - 1) \end{cases}$$

if  $wb_3$  is in the interior otherwise.

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# Proof 3. Kasteleyn matrix / Laplacian matrix

▶ Remark: for every external edge wb<sub>3</sub>,

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if  $wb_3$  is in the interior otherwise.



 $\{w \equiv b_3\}$ 

Kasteleyn matrix / Laplacian matrix



 $(K_{wb})_{w \in W^Q, b \in B^Q}$ 



# Proof 3. Kasteleyn matrix / Laplacian matrix

COROLLARY

$$Z_{\text{dimer}}(\mathbf{G}^{\mathbf{Q}}, \nu) = |\det \Delta^{(\mathbf{r})}| = \left| \sum_{\mathsf{T} \in \mathfrak{T}^{(\mathbf{r})}(\vec{\mathbf{G}^{\mathbf{Q}}})} \left( \prod_{\mathsf{e} \in \mathsf{T}} \rho_{\mathsf{e}} \right) \right|.$$



### Proof 4. Spanning trees and dual spanning trees

If T is a spanning tree of G<sup>Q</sup>, then the dual configuration T<sup>\*</sup> consisting of the dual of the absent edges of T is a spanning tree of the dual graph (G<sup>Q</sup>)<sup>\*</sup>, and by extension of the double graph G<sup>D</sup>.



Bipartite version of the dual  $(\vec{G^Q})^*$  is the double graph of  $\bar{G}$ , it is denoted  $\bar{G}^D$ .

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### Proof 4. Spanning trees and dual spanning trees

If T is a spanning tree of GQ, then the dual configuration T\* consisting of the dual of the absent edges of T is a spanning tree of the dual graph (GQ)\*, and by extension of the double graph GD.



Bipartite version of the dual  $(\vec{G^Q})^*$  is the double graph of  $\bar{G}$ , it is denoted  $\bar{G}^D$ .

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## Proof 4. Characterizing dual spanning trees.

### Lemma

A spanning tree of  $G^{D}$  is the dual of a spanning tree of  $\vec{G^{Q}}$  if and only if the restriction to every white vertex (in the interior) is of the following form:



Let us denote (c) this condition, and  $\mathcal{T}_{(c)}^{s}(G^{D})$  the set of these spanning trees, oriented towards a vertex **s** of the boundary.

### Proposition

Let T be a spanning tree of  $\mathcal{T}^s_{(c)}(G^D)$ . Let  $M_T$  be the configuration consisting of edges exiting from black vertices, then  $M_T$  is a dimer configuration of  $G^D(s)$ .



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#### Proposition

Let M be a perfect matching of  $G^{D}(s)$ , then an edge configuration containing edges of M and satisfying condition (c) is the unoriented version of a spanning tree of  $\mathcal{T}_{c.M}^{s}(G^{D})$ .

As a consequence, we have:

$$\rho(\mathfrak{I}_{c,\mathsf{M}}^{\mathsf{s}}(\mathsf{G}^{\mathsf{D}})) = \rho'(\mathsf{M}) = \prod_{\mathsf{e}\in\mathsf{M}} \rho'_{\mathsf{e}}.$$
$$Z_{\mathrm{dimer}}(\mathsf{G}^{\mathsf{Q}}, \nu) = \sum_{\mathsf{M}\in\mathcal{M}(\mathsf{G}^{\mathsf{D}}(\mathsf{s}))} \prod_{\mathsf{e}\in\mathsf{M}} \rho'_{\mathsf{e}}.$$

## Proof 6. Conclusion [K-P-W]

The generalized form of Temperley's bijection due to Kenyon-Propp-Wilson allows to conclude.



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