

The Markov property of the Gaussian free field

Avelio Sepúlveda.

Universidad de Chile /CMM

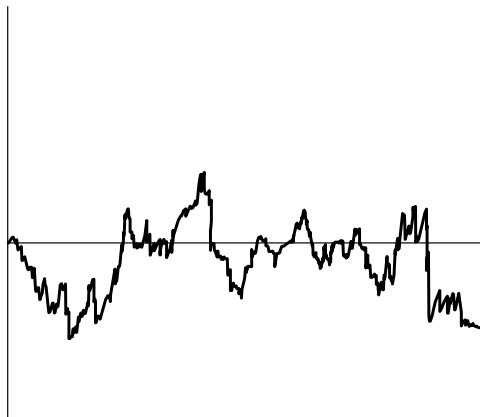
March 2024

Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The Gaussian free field and its Markov property
- 3 Two-valued sets
- 4 First passage sets

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The Gaussian free field and its Markov property
- 3 Two-valued sets
- 4 First passage sets

The Brownian motion



$$\tau_{-a,b} := \inf\{t \geq 0 : -a \leq B_t \leq b\},$$

$$\tau_{-a} := \inf\{t \geq 0 : B_t \geq -a\}.$$

Plan

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The Gaussian free field and its Markov property**
- 3 Two-valued sets
- 4 First passage sets

The Gaussian free field

Take $D \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, the (continuum) Gaussian free field (GFF) is a centred Gaussian process with covariance given by

$$\mathbb{E}[\Phi(x)\Phi(y)] = G_D(x, y) \stackrel{x \rightarrow y}{\sim} -\log(\|x - y\|).$$

The Gaussian free field

Take $D \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, the (continuum) Gaussian free field (GFF) is a centred Gaussian process with covariance given by

$$\mathbb{E}[\Phi(x)\Phi(y)] = G_D(x, y) \stackrel{x \rightarrow y}{\sim} -\log(\|x - y\|).$$

$$G_D(x, x) = \infty!! \text{ ☹️}$$

The Gaussian free field

Take $D \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, the (continuum) Gaussian free field (GFF) is a centred Gaussian process with covariance given by

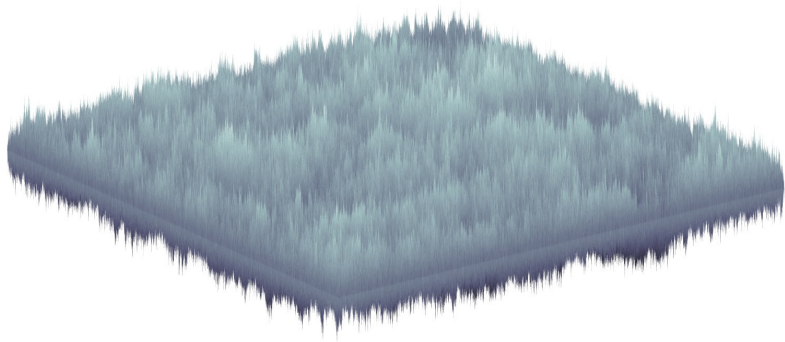
$$\mathbb{E}[\Phi(x)\Phi(y)] = G_D(x, y) \stackrel{x \rightarrow y}{\sim} -\log(\|x - y\|).$$

$$G_D(x, x) = \infty!! \text{ 😞}$$

The Gaussian free field, is defined as a random “generalised function” such that $(\Phi, f)_{f \text{ smooth}}$ is a centred Gaussian process with

$$\mathbb{E}[(\Phi, f)(\Phi, g)] = \iint_{D \times D} f(x)G_D(x, y)g(y)dx dy.$$

Approximation of a continuum Gaussian free field



Weak Markov property

Let A be a closed set of $D \subseteq \mathbb{C}$. Then there exist two independent “generalized functions” Φ_A and Φ^A such that

① $\Phi = \Phi_A + \Phi^A.$

Weak Markov property

Let A be a closed set of $D \subseteq \mathbb{C}$. Then there exist two independent “generalized functions” Φ_A and Φ^A such that

① $\Phi = \Phi_A + \Phi^A.$

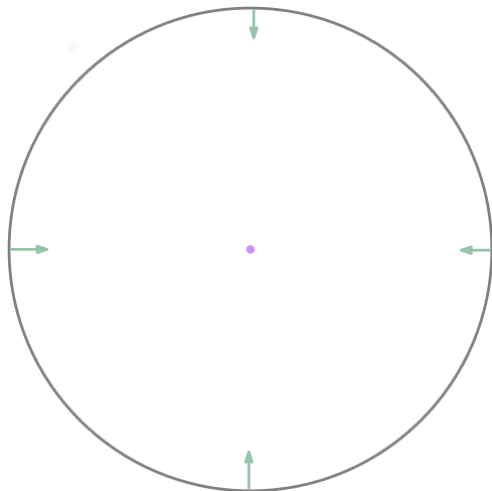
② Φ_A is harmonic in $D \setminus A.$

Weak Markov property

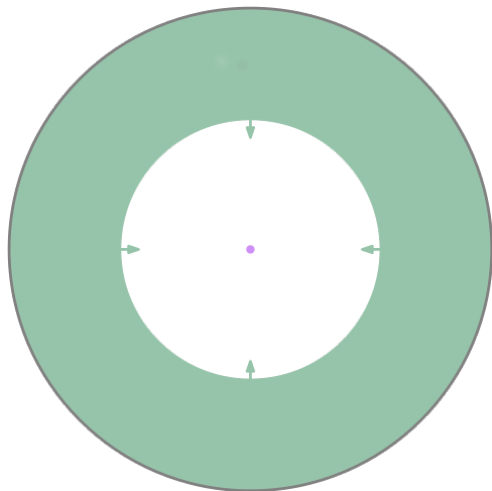
Let A be a closed set of $D \subseteq \mathbb{C}$. Then there exist two independent “generalized functions” Φ_A and Φ^A such that

- 1 $\Phi = \Phi_A + \Phi^A$.
- 2 Φ_A is harmonic in $D \setminus A$.
- 3 Φ^A is a GFF in $D \setminus A$.

Example of a stopping set



Example of a stopping set



Strong Markov property

Let A be a **stopping set** of Φ . Then, **conditionally on A** , there exist two **conditionally** independent “generalised functions” Φ_A and Φ^A such that

① $\Phi = \Phi_A + \Phi^A.$

Strong Markov property

Let A be a **stopping set** of Φ . Then, **conditionally on A** , there exist two **conditionally** independent “generalised functions” Φ_A and Φ^A such that

① $\Phi = \Phi_A + \Phi^A$.

② Φ_A is harmonic in $D \setminus A$.

Strong Markov property

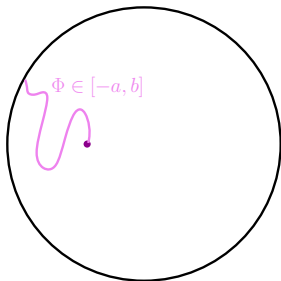
Let A be a **stopping set** of Φ . Then, **conditionally on A** , there exist two **conditionally** independent “generalised functions” Φ_A and Φ^A such that

- 1 $\Phi = \Phi_A + \Phi^A$.
- 2 Φ_A is harmonic in $D \setminus A$.
- 3 Φ^A is a GFF in $D \setminus A$.

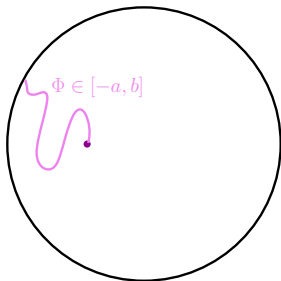
Plan

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The Gaussian free field and its Markov property
- 3 Two-valued sets**
- 4 First passage sets

Two-valued sets

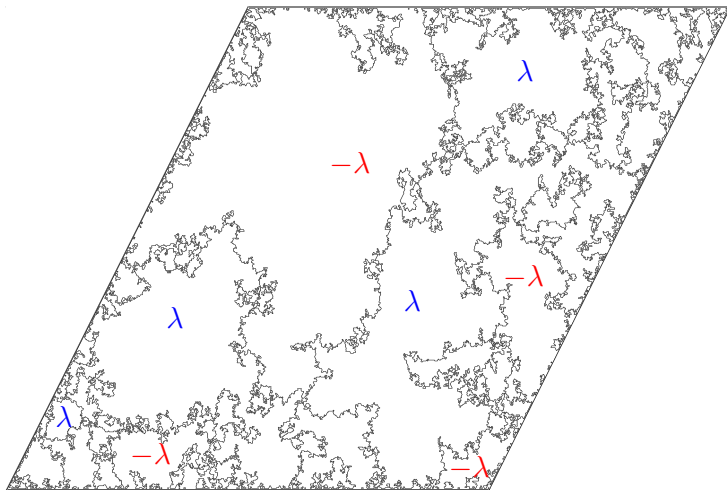


Two-valued sets



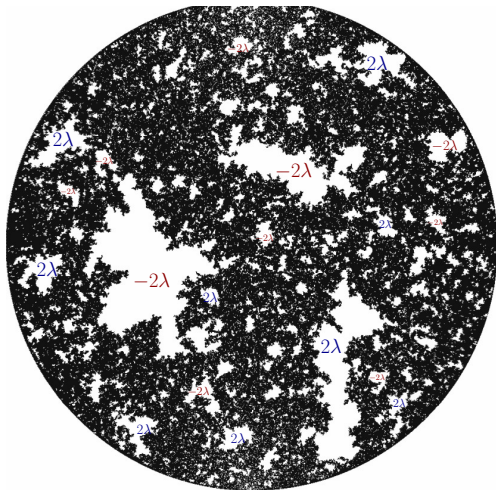
Theorem (Aru-S.-Werner '17)

Take $a, b \geq 0$, such that $a + b \geq 2\lambda := \pi$. There exists a unique stopping set $\mathbb{A}_{-a,b}$ such that $\Phi_{\mathbb{A}_{-a,b}}$ is a harmonic function constant in each connected component taking values in $\{-a, b\}$.



Simulation by B. Werness.

$\mathbb{A}_{-2\lambda, 2\lambda} = \text{CLE}_4$ (Miller-Sheffield)



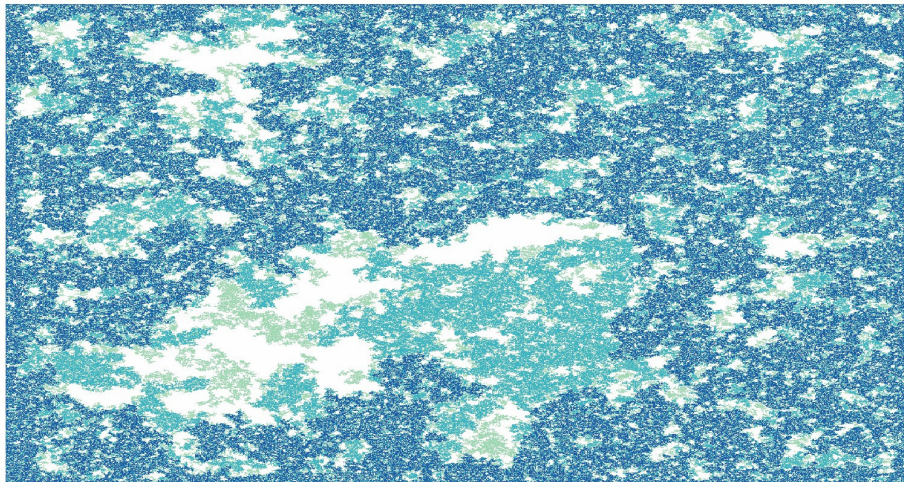
Simulation by D. Wilson.

Monotonicity

Proposition (Aru-S.-Werner '17)

Let $a, b \geq 0$ with $a + b \geq 2\lambda$ and $a', b' \geq 0$ such that $[-a, b] \subseteq [-a', b']$ then $\mathbb{A}_{-a,b} \subseteq \mathbb{A}_{-a',b'}$.

Simulation for monotonicity



Non-existence

Proposition (Aru-S.-Werner '17)

Let $a, b \geq 0$ with $a + b < 2\lambda$. There is no stopping set $\mathbb{A}_{-a,b}$ with the property that $\Phi_{\mathbb{A}_{-a,b}}$ is a harmonic function with values in $\{-a, b\}$.

Explicit laws

Theorem (Aru-S.-Werner'17)

The law of $-\log(CR(0, \mathbb{D} \setminus \mathbb{A}_{-a,b}))$ is equal to the law of the first time a Brownian motion exits $[-a, b]$.

Multifractal spectrum

Theorem (Schoug-S.-Viklund '19)

A.s. for any $a, b > 0$ with $a, b \geq 2\lambda$ the Hausdorff dimension of $\mathbb{A}_{-a,b}$ is equal to

$$2 - \frac{2\lambda^2}{(a+b)^2}.$$

Multifractal spectrum

Theorem (Schoug-S.-Viklund '19)

A.s. for any $a, b > 0$ with $a, b \geq 2\lambda$ the Hausdorff dimension of $\mathbb{A}_{-a,b}$ is equal to

$$2 - \frac{2\lambda^2}{(a+b)^2}.$$

This is related to the imaginary chaos

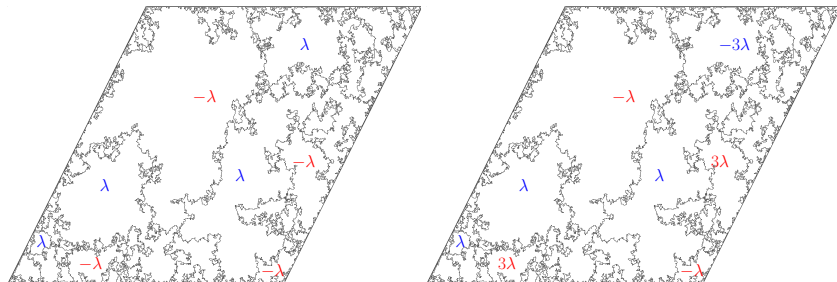
$$: \cos(i\alpha\Phi) : |_{\mathbb{A}_{-a,a}} = \mu_{\mathbb{A}_{-a,a}}$$

when $\alpha a = \pi/2$.

Coupling between 0-boundary and free-boundary GFF

Theorem (Qian-Werner '18)

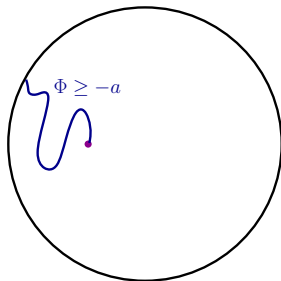
One can couple a free-boundary GFF and a 0-boundary GFF using $\mathbb{A}_{-\lambda,\lambda}$.



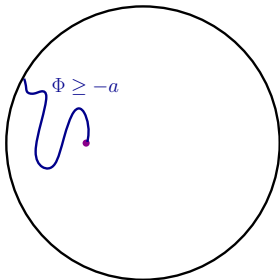
Plan

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The Gaussian free field and its Markov property
- 3 Two-valued sets
- 4 First passage sets**

Definition



Definition

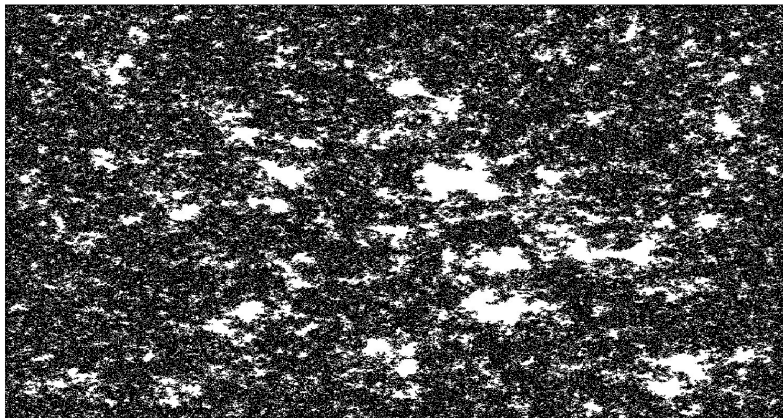


Theorem (Aru-Lupu-S.'19)

Take $a \geq 0$. There exists a unique stopping set \mathbb{A}_{-a} such that

- 1 Restricted to $D \setminus \mathbb{A}_{-a}$, $\Phi_{\mathbb{A}_{-a}}$ is strictly equal to $-a$.
- 2 $\Phi_{\mathbb{A}_{-a}} + a$ is a positive measure supported in \mathbb{A}_{-a} .

Simulation: $\mathbb{A}_{-2\lambda}$



Monotonicity and relationship with TVS

Proposition (Aru-Lupu-S. '19)

Take $0 \leq a \leq a'$, then $\mathbb{A}_{-a} \subseteq \mathbb{A}_{-a'}$.

Monotonicity and relationship with TVS

Proposition (Aru-Lupu-S. '19)

Take $0 \leq a \leq a'$, then $\mathbb{A}_{-a} \subseteq \mathbb{A}_{-a'}$.

Theorem (Aru-Lupu-S. '19)

Take $a, b \geq 0$ such that $a + b \geq 2\lambda$, then

$$\mathbb{A}_{-a,b}(\Phi) = \mathbb{A}_{-a}(\Phi) \cap \mathbb{A}_{-b}(-\Phi)$$

Theorem (Aru-Lupu-S. '18)

\mathbb{A}_{-a} has fractal dimension equal to 2. Furthermore, the non-trivial measure $\Phi_{\mathbb{A}_{-a}} + a$ correspond to a Minkowski content measure of the gauge $r \mapsto r^2 |\log r|^{1/2}$.

Theorem (Aru-Lupu-S. '18)

\mathbb{A}_{-a} has fractal dimension equal to 2. Furthermore, the non-trivial measure $\Phi_{\mathbb{A}_{-a}} + a$ correspond to a Minkowski content measure of the gauge $r \mapsto r^2 |\log r|^{1/2}$.

This is strongly related with the real exponential of the GFF : $e^{\gamma\phi}$:

End

Gracias!

