



Masterthesis

Incremental Aggregations

Tillmann Tristan Bosch

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Supervisor: PD. Dr. Steffen Winter

Faculty of Mathematics

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

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1 Introduction

In mathematics and physics there are objects which may naturally awaken the interest of any human being, mathematician and non-mathematician, just by their natural visual appearance - and clusterings of particles or clusterlike occurrences like snowflakes or broken glasses are one example of them. Looking at Figure 1 we find a clusterlike formed occurrence in the radio screen of a car which might have arisen by the breaking of a crystal fluid in the screen. Other examples are cracking of solid glass (Figure 2 (b)), processes like bacterial colonies or electrodeposition and also more symmetrical examples as the formation of snowflake crystals (Figure 2 (a)).

One way of describing such processes is through clusters which get formed by random point by point aggregation. If we draw our attention to the two-dimensional lattice \mathbb{Z}^2 and consider one particle in the origin $(0, 0)$, we can let a cluster grow by adding new particles one by one, always on the boundary of the current cluster. What we get is a random growth of a connected clusterlike set of which we then can think about its fractal dimension, how quick it grows and many other properties, and produce beautiful realizations.

In this paper we will look at two ways of letting grow such clusters and simulate them with python at the end to produce visuals and some empirical values. We will call such point by point growing clusters *incremental aggregations* and present the two models briefly here:

External Diffusion Limited Aggregation was initially introduced by *Witten and Sander* [1] in 1983. In this model of incremental aggregation of particles, each new particle starts a random walk from infinity and when it hits the current cluster for the first time, it sticks at the place where it hit the cluster. Indeed random walks on \mathbb{Z}^2 are recurrent and therefore every random walk starting at some point reaches any other point in finite time with probability 1. Despite this very simple definition there are only few rigorously proved results on this process of which one we present here about a lower bound on its fractal dimension. In two dimensions the fractal dimension of any incremental aggregation lies in between 1 and 2 and here we prove an almost sure lower bound of 1.5. Empirical studies calculate a value around 1.7 to 1.8 (see [12] and [7]).

Line Hitting Aggregation is a ballistic model similar to the attempts of [10], but is introduced in its idea here by the author of this paper. In this model new particles do not approach the current cluster on a random walk but on straight lines which are chosen randomly before. The difficulty here is to find a fair measure on choosing random lines which hit the current cluster, where we base on already existing results from integral theory. So one way of understanding this process is by shooting new particles from randomly, fairly chosen directions to the cluster and let them stick where they hit the cluster the first time. It seems that such formed clusters are denser than external DLA and therefore have a higher fractal dimension which we empirically find to be true

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in the last chapter of this paper. In [10] they guess a fractal dimension of 2 for their ballistic model and here we will actually be able to prove this result for the ballistic model we define in this paper.

We will first draw our attention to the general definition of incremental aggregations and a notion of their fractal dimension. We will then present a general relationship between the distribution family of an incremental aggregation and a lower bound for its fractal dimension. We will then turn our attention to the two models we discuss in this paper, first external DLA and the line hitting aggregation in the chapter after. With the help of the general theorem for incremental aggregations we will prove an lower bound for external DLA and even an exact result for line hitting aggregation. At the end we will present simulations for both aggregations of which only the one for the line hitting aggregation shall satisfy the claim of being implemented as close to its mathematical definition as possible. At the end we especially hope the reader to relate with the processes and enjoy the created images.

1 Introduction

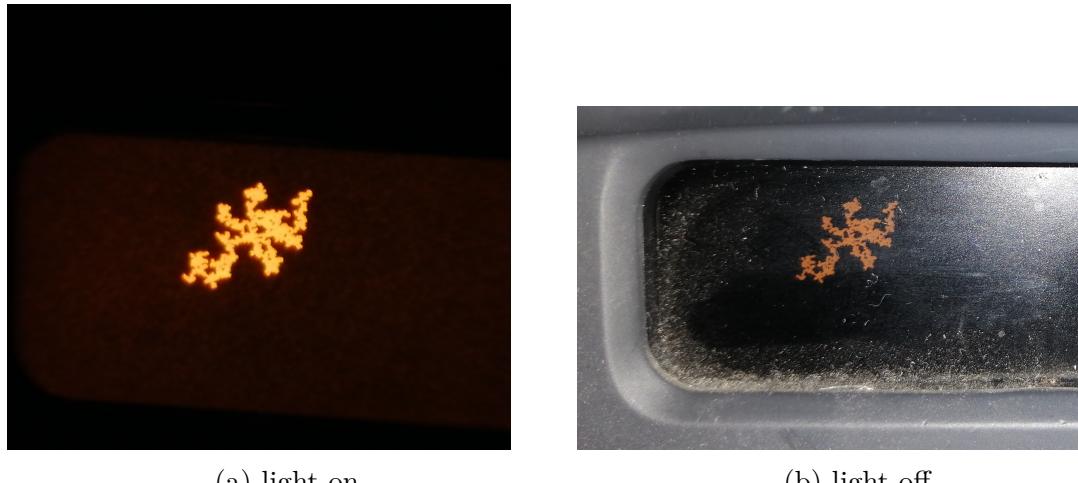


Figure 1: Cluster appearance in the radio screen of a car

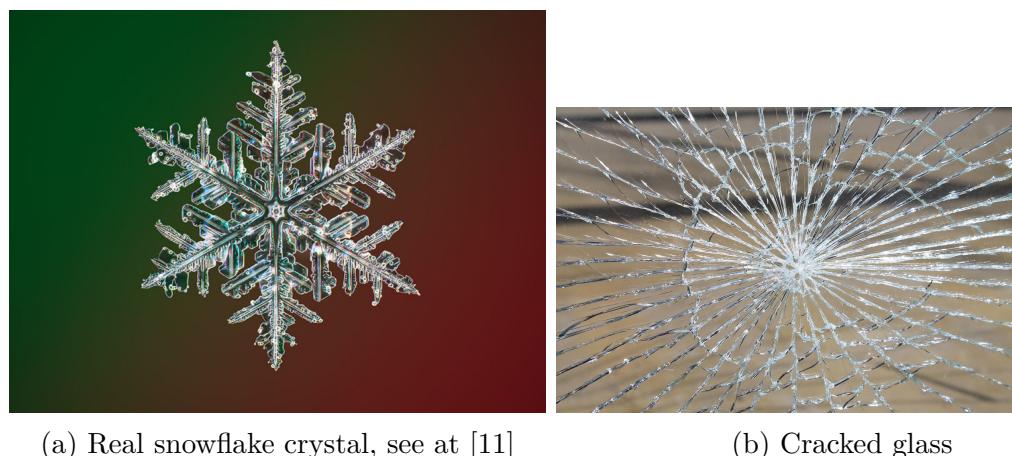


Figure 2: Other examples

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Symbols

Let $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and $q \in \{0, \dots, d\}$.

$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$, the set of natural numbers (without 0)

$\mathbb{N}_0 = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$

$\mathbb{N}^\infty = \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$

\mathcal{B}^d , d -dimensional Borel- σ -algebra of \mathbb{R}^d

\mathcal{K}^d , the set of convex and compact sets in \mathbb{R}^d

$B_d(x, r) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid |x - y| \leq r\}$, the d -dimensional closed ball of radius r around x

$B_r := B_2(r, 0)$

$S_{d-1}(r, x) = \partial B_d(r, x)$, the $(d-1)$ -dimensional surface of the d -dimensional ball

$A(d, q)$, the set of q -dimensional affine subspaces of \mathbb{R}^d

$\mathcal{A}(d, q)$, the σ -algebra of $A(d, q)$, as constructed later in the paper

$\mathcal{G} := A(2, 1)$, the set of lines in the real plane

$SO_d := \{\nu \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \mid \nu\nu^\top = I_d \text{ and } \det \nu = 1\}$, identify $SO_2 = \{\nu_\beta := e^{i\beta} \in \mathbb{C} \mid \beta \in [0, 2\pi)\}$

$G_d := \{\varphi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, x \mapsto \nu x + b \mid \nu \in SO_d, b \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$, the set of euclidean motions

\mathcal{P}_f^d , the set of finite subsets of \mathbb{Z}^d

$\mathcal{P}_f := \mathcal{P}_f^2$

Note that we will always identify \mathbb{R}^2 with \mathbb{C} ($(a, b) \leftrightarrow a + bi$) for a more convenient notation.

2.2 Expressions

Throughout the paper let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space. If for $A \in \mathcal{F}$ we have $\mathbb{P}(A) = 1$ we will say that „ A holds \mathbb{P} -a.s.“, or short „ A holds a.s.“ (A holds almost surely). Another short expression we will use is that if for a set of logical statements $(A_t)_{t \in I}$ with $I \in \{\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{R}\}$ we say „ A_t holds for large t “ it shall mean that there exists a $T \in I$ such that A_t holds for all $t > T$. Here we mean that a logical statement holds if and only if the statement is true.

2.3 Graphs

Let $d \in \mathbb{N}$. We will be interested in the undirected graph (\mathbb{Z}^d, E) with its canonical graph structure, which is two vertices (or points) $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d), y = (y_1, \dots, y_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ form an edge (e.g. $\{x, y\} \in E$) if and only if there exists exactly one $i \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ such that $|x_i - y_i| = 1$ and $x_j = y_j$ for all $j \neq i$. For a point $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ its set of *neighbours* is

defined as

$$N(x) := \{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d \mid \{x, y\} \in E\}.$$

For a set $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$ the *outer boundary* ∂A of A is defined as

$$\partial A := \{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d \setminus A \mid \exists x \in A : \{x, y\} \in E\}$$

and the closure \bar{A} of A as

$$\bar{A} := A \cup \partial A.$$

Instead of (\mathbb{Z}^d, E) we will write \mathbb{Z}^d from now on.

2.4 Random walks

Definition 2.4.1. For our space of interest \mathbb{Z}^d we will always use the discrete σ -algebra which is the power set of \mathbb{Z}^d . A family $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ of measurable functions $S_n : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^d$ is called a *random walk on \mathbb{Z}^d* (*starting at $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$*) if and only if $S_0 = x$ a.s. and

$$\mathbb{P}(S_n = y \mid S_{n-1} = z) = \frac{1}{|N(z)|} = \frac{1}{2d}, \quad \text{for all } y \in N(z) \text{ and } z \in \mathbb{Z}^d.$$

Note that $|N(z)| = 2d$ for all $z \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ since every point has two neighbours in the direction of every dimensional component. We can therefore conclude easily that $\mathbb{P}(S_n = y \mid S_{n-1} = z) = 0$ for all $y \notin N(z)$ and $z \in \mathbb{Z}^d$. For $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ we introduce the short notation

$$\mathbb{P}_x(S_n = y) := \mathbb{P}(S_n = y \mid S_0 = x).$$

So a random walk can be understood as a particle starting from some point x and moving randomly on the grid choosing its next step uniformly from its neighbours. For the following let $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a random walk on \mathbb{Z}^d starting at $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$.

Definition 2.4.2. Let $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$. We define the *hitting times* of A by

$$T_A := \min\{n \geq 0 \mid S_n \in A\} \text{ and } T_A^+ := \min\{n \geq 1 \mid S_n \in A\},$$

and $T_y := T_{\{y\}}$ and $T_y^+ := T_{\{y\}}^+$ for $y \in \mathbb{Z}^d$.

Definition 2.4.3. A random walk with origin in $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ is called *recurrent* if

$$\mathbb{P}_x(T_x^+ < \infty) = 1$$

and *transient* if

$$\mathbb{P}_x(T_x^+ < \infty) < 1.$$

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Lemma 2.4.1. A random walk on \mathbb{Z}^d is recurrent if $d \leq 2$ and transient if $d \geq 3$.

Proof. Proofs of this result are presented in [5] Satz 5.1 or [9] Korollar 2.6.6. \square

Lemma 2.4.2. The following two statements are equivalent:

- (i) $\mathbb{P}_x(T_x^+ < \infty) = 1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$
- (ii) $\mathbb{P}_x(T_A^+ < \infty) = 1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$

Proof. The direction (ii) to (i) is clear. For the other direction choose $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$. We know that in general for any point $y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ we have $\mathbb{P}_x(T_y^+ < \infty) > 0$ for a random walk in \mathbb{Z}^d for any dimension $d \in \mathbb{N}$. By Lemma 2.4.1 we know that a random walk on \mathbb{Z}^2 is recurrent. For that case it is proved in [9] Satz 2.6.9 that for $y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ even $\mathbb{P}_x(T_y^+ < \infty) = 1$ holds. If we choose $y \in A$ we get

$$1 = \mathbb{P}_x(T_y^+ < \infty) \leq \mathbb{P}_x(T_A^+ < \infty),$$

which completes the proof. \square

After having introduced some basics we will in the next chapter turn our focus to the main definition of stochastic processes we will discuss in this paper.

3 Incremental aggregation

3.1 Definition

In this paper we will look at stochastic processes on the set of finite subsets of \mathbb{Z}^2 , where we start with the one point set $\{0\}$ and incrementally add a point of the outer boundary of the current cluster according to some distribution. What we get is a randomly, point by point growing connected cluster which we will call *incremental aggregation*. Define

$$\mathcal{P}_f := \{A \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \mid A \text{ is finite}\},$$

the set of finite subsets of \mathbb{Z}^2 . Furthermore we will be interested in distributions on those sets, so for $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$ we define

$$\mathcal{D}_A := \{\mu : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow [0, 1] \mid \mu(y) = 0 \text{ for all } y \notin A \text{ and } \sum_{y \in A} \mu(y) = 1\},$$

the set of distributions on A . Now we define incremental aggregation as follows.

Definition 3.1.1. Let $\mu = (\mu_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f}$ be a family of distributions, therefore $\mu_A \in \mathcal{D}_A$ for all $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$. An *incremental aggregation (with distribution μ)* is a stochastic process $(\mathcal{E}_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ which evolves as follows. The process starts with one point $\mathcal{E}_1 = \{0\}$ (define $y_1 := 0$) at the origin of \mathbb{Z}^2 . Knowing the process \mathcal{E}_n at time n , let y_{n+1} be a random point in $\partial \mathcal{E}_n \in \mathcal{P}_f$ with distribution

$$\mathbb{P}(y_{n+1} = y \mid \mathcal{E}_n) := \mu_{\partial \mathcal{E}_n}(y), \quad y \in \mathbb{Z}^2. \quad (3.1)$$

We then define $\mathcal{E}_{n+1} := \mathcal{E}_n \cup \{y_{n+1}\}$ and the limit cluster as $\mathcal{E}_\infty := \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{E}_n$. This defines a Markov chain whose state space is the set of finite and connected subsets of \mathbb{Z}^2 .

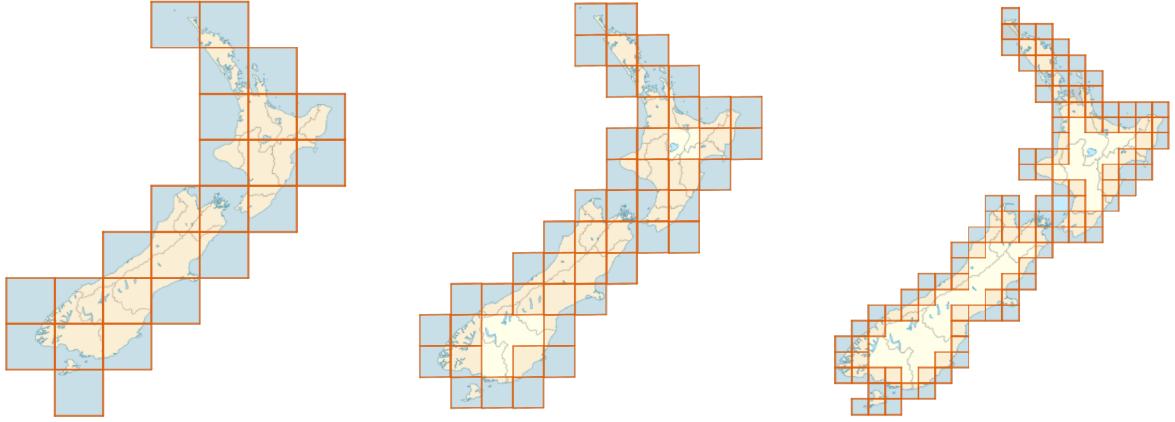
Remark 3.1.1. It is worth to mention that the distribution of a new added point y_{n+1} is not depending on the order of how previous points were added to the cluster since the functions μ_A only look at the boundary of the current cluster and therefore do not consider any information about orderings of cluster points.

Properties of an incremental aggregation obviously base strongly on the properties of its distribution μ . We prepare some additional definitions for such distributions here which we will use lateron.

Definition 3.1.2. We call a distribution family $(\mu_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f}$ an *outside distribution* if and only if for all connected sets $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$ we have that

$$\mu_{\bar{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} \mu_{\partial A}(x), & x \in \partial A, \\ 0, & x \in A. \end{cases}$$

Remind that $\bar{A} = A \cup \partial A$. This definition shall capture the idea that aggregations which arise from particles moving from „outside“ to the current cluster and getting stuck where they hit the cluster the first time, cannot move into the cluster without passing its boundary. For both incremental aggregations we discuss in this paper this will be the case.


 Figure 3: Box-covering of New Zealand's outer cost with decreasing box sizes ε

Definition 3.1.3. For $y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ let

$$\Phi_y : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^2, x \mapsto x + y$$

be a translation function on \mathbb{Z}^2 . Then we call the family of distributions $(\mu_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f}$ *translation invariant* if and only if for all $y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$

$$\mu_A(z) = \mu_{\Phi_y(A)}(\Phi_y(z))$$

for all $z \in A$ and $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$.

3.2 Notion of fractal dimension and growth rate

The notion of fractal dimension is usually used for sets with uncountable cardinality like continuous curves or surfaces. One way of defining a fractal dimension for curves like for example the cost line of New Zealand (see Figure 3) would be to look at the limit relation between the minimum number of boxes (squares) which we need to cover the cost line and the side length of these boxes. The following definition is motivated by [8] page 160. If for $\varepsilon > 0$ $N(\varepsilon)$ is the minimum number of boxes with side length ε which we need to cover the cost line, then the so called *box-dimension* d_b is a constant such that $N(\varepsilon)$ grows as fast as ε^{-d_b} for letting ε tend to zero, so

$$d_b := -\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(N(\varepsilon))}{\ln(\varepsilon)}. \quad (3.1)$$

This definition makes sense in many contexts, for example is the box-dimension of straight line segments 1 and of squares 2 and so on, so in those cases equal to the topological dimension. As with incremental aggregations we are dealing with finite point sets, this approach of defining a fractal dimension for our clusters is not sensible. It is not difficult to show, that the box-dimension of any finite set is 0. A helpful detail

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about the situation with finite sets as the ones we are looking at is that each point of the cluster can actually be interpreted and identified with a unique square since the cluster is living on the grid \mathbb{Z}^2 . We will precise that in chapter 5. So instead of decreasing the sizes of the boxes with which we cover our set of interest, we leave the size of the boxes constant and increase the size of our set by adding points and looking at the limit cluster \mathcal{E}_∞ . Defining the radius of a finite set $A \in \mathcal{P}_f^d$ (with $|\cdot|$ the euclidean norm) as

$$\text{rad}(A) := \max_{x \in A} |x|, \quad (3.2)$$

we therefore can identify the relation between the geometrical sizes of the boxes and the cluster as follows. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ define random variables $\varepsilon_n := \frac{1}{\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)}$. Before ε_n would have expressed the geometrical relation between one box and the whole cluster which we describe now by the fraction $\frac{1}{\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)}$ since a box size is now constantly 1 and the clusters geometrical size we can interpret by $\mathbb{E}[\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)]$ up to a constant. That analogy makes even more sense if the cluster happens to be self-similar in some way looking at different sizes of it. The minimum number of boxes with size 1 with which we need to cover \mathcal{E}_n is always n , so $N(\varepsilon_n) = n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and therefore we can rewrite the definition of the box-dimension (3.1) by replacing ε_n with $\frac{1}{\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)}$ and define the (*discrete*) *fractal dimension* of \mathcal{E}_∞ as the random variable

$$d_f := \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n)}{\ln(\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n))} \quad (3.3)$$

Another way of tackling the intuition for a fractal dimension of discrete sets is by considering subsets of the d -dimensional ball $B_d(0, m)$ of radius $m \geq 0$, which is motivated by [6] Part II page 98 and [4] 2.6 page 82. If we take a finite subset M of that ball, we could assign it the dimension k if its cardinality is of order m^k . If we apply the same argument to the clusters \mathcal{E}_n and balls with radius $\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we get that the dimension of \mathcal{E}_∞ could be interpreted as a constant k which fulfills that $n = |\mathcal{E}_n|$ grows as fast as $\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)^k$ for letting tend n to infinity. We therefore get the same definition as in (3.3). This way of defining a fractal dimension for incremental aggregations strongly correlates with the growth rate of the aggregation which shall indicate how the radius of the cluster evolves while increasing the particle number. We can define the growth rate by looking for the smallest exponent α such that there exists a constant $c > 0$ with

$$\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n) \leq cn^\alpha$$

for large n . Rewriting this we come to the equivalent inequality

$$\frac{\ln(\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n))}{\ln(n)} - \frac{\ln(c)}{\ln(n)} \leq \alpha$$

for large n and we could finally define the growth rate α_f of an incremental aggregation as the smallest value satisfying this inequality, so

$$\alpha_f := \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n))}{\ln(n)}. \quad (3.4)$$

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We therefore simply get that

$$d_f = \frac{1}{\alpha_f} \quad \text{a.s.}, \quad (3.5)$$

which includes the cases $d_f = \infty$ or $\alpha_f = \infty$ ($\frac{1}{0} := \infty$), which in total motivates choosing the limes inferior in the definition (3.3). Since $\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n) \leq n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ a.s., we get

$$\alpha_f \leq 1 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

and therefore

$$d_f \geq 1 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

In \mathbb{Z}^d for some $d \in \mathbb{N}$ we can fill the cube with center 0 and side length n with an order of $n^{\frac{1}{d}}$ points. Therefore we can fill the ball of radius n with an order of $n^{\frac{1}{d}}$ points as well, so there is a constant $c > 0$ such that $cn^{\frac{1}{d}} \leq \text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ a.s.. Hence

$$d_f \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n)}{\ln(cn^{\frac{1}{d}})} = d \quad \text{a.s.}$$

So in total we get the trivial boundaries

$$1 \leq d_f \leq d \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (3.6)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{d} \leq \alpha_f \leq 1 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

for any incremental aggregation in \mathbb{Z}^d .

Remark 3.2.1. If we define the fractal dimension as in 3.3 we encounter the problem that when the cluster reaches some radius the first time in many instances there will still particles be added to the cluster without increasing its radius, so to say „filling“ the cluster up to that radius. If the fractal dimension shall indicate a limit relation between how many particles of the final cluster \mathcal{E}_∞ lie in a ball of a radius letting the radius tend to infinity, our definition in 3.3 does not reflect that directly. Nevertheless it seems to make sense that these two situations are equivalent which we state more clearly in the following conjecture.

Conjecture 3.2.1. Let B_n be a ball of radius $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with center 0 and with $\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n$ denote the set of particles in \mathcal{E}_∞ that lie in B_n . Note that $n - 2 \leq \text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n) \leq n$ a.s.. Then we have

$$d_f = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n|)}{\ln(n)} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

3.3 A rigorous characterization for the fractal dimension

In this section we will proof a almost sure lower bound for the fractal dimension of an incremental aggregation if its distribution family $(\mu_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f}$ satisfies some conditions. Before coming to this statement we have to make some preparations in the following. We define two random functions

$$r : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow [0, \infty), \quad n \mapsto \text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)$$

and

$$T : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}, \quad s \mapsto \min\{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid r(j) \geq s\}.$$

Remind that $\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)$ is the radius of the cluster at time n as defined in 3.2 (3.2).

Remark 3.3.1. It is easy to show that, for all $\omega \in \Omega$, $r(\omega)$ and $T(\omega)$ grow monotonously in $n \in \mathbb{N}$ resp. $s \in [0, \infty)$ and that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $s \in [0, \infty)$ we have $T(\omega)(r(\omega)(n)) \leq n$ and $r(\omega)(T(\omega)(s)) \geq s$.

Lemma 3.3.1. For both random functions r and T we have that

$$r(\omega)(n) \rightarrow \infty \text{ for } n \rightarrow \infty$$

and

$$T(\omega)(s) \rightarrow \infty \text{ for } s \rightarrow \infty$$

for all $\omega \in \Omega$.

Proof. Since we are moving on the grid \mathbb{Z}^d we have that for a ball $B_d(0, n)$ with radius $n \geq 0$ the number $N := |B_d(0, n) \cap \mathbb{Z}^d|$ is finite and for any $\omega \in \Omega$ we get

$$r(\omega)(2N) \geq n.$$

Therefore for all $\omega \in \Omega$ and any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we can find a $M \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $r(\omega)(M) \geq n$, and since $r(\omega)$ grows monotonously we get $r(\omega)(n) \rightarrow \infty$ for $n \rightarrow \infty$ for all $\omega \in \Omega$. Very similarly we can argue for T . \square

Lemma 3.3.2. Let $a > 0$ and $h : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a bijective, multiplicative and increasing function. For $c > 0$ define

$$A_c := \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \exists N = N(\omega) \in \mathbb{N} : r(\omega)(n) \leq ch(n) \text{ for all } n > N\}$$

and

$$D_c := \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \exists N = N(\omega) \in \mathbb{N} : T(\omega)(as) \geq ch^{-1}(s) \text{ for all } s > N\}.$$

Then the following are equivalent:

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$$(i) \exists c > 0 : \mathbb{P}(A_c) = 1$$

$$(ii) \exists c > 0 : \mathbb{P}(D_c) = 1$$

Proof. \Rightarrow :

Choose $c > 0$ such that $\mathbb{P}(A_c) = 1$. Take $\omega \in A_c$ and choose $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $r(\omega)(n) \leq ch(n)$ for all $n > N$. Hence there exists $\tilde{c} > 0$ such that $\tilde{c}h^{-1}(r(\omega)(n)) \leq n$ for all $n > N$. By Lemma 3.3.1 we can choose $M \in \mathbb{N}$ big enough such that $T(\omega)(aM) > N$, hence $T(\omega)(as) \geq T(\omega)(aM) > N$ for all $s > M$ since $T(\omega)$ grows monotonously. Hence we can write $\tilde{c}h^{-1}(r(\omega)(T(\omega)(as))) \leq T(\omega)(as)$ for all $s > M$ and since $r(T(\omega)(as)) \leq as$ we finally get $\tilde{c}h^{-1}(a)h^{-1}(s) = \tilde{c}h^{-1}(as) \leq T(\omega)(as)$ for all $s > M$, hence $\omega \in D_{\tilde{c}h^{-1}(a)}$, where we used the multiplicativity of h and that h^{-1} decreases monotonously. We therefore get $A_c \subset D_{\tilde{c}h^{-1}(a)}$, hence $\mathbb{P}(D_{\tilde{c}h^{-1}(a)}) = 1$.

\Leftarrow : The proof for this direction works analogously and needs Lemma 3.3.1 as well. \square

Lemma 3.3.3. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq 2$ and T_1, \dots, T_n be independent geometrically distributed random variables with parameter $0 < p < \frac{1}{2}$. Let $Y := T_1 + \dots + T_{n-1}$, then for every $a \in [2p, 1)$ we have

$$\mathbb{P}(Y \leq \frac{an}{p}) \leq \frac{1}{a}(ae^2)^n.$$

Proof. The moment generating function of Y is

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{tY}] = (pe^t)^{n-1}(1 - e^t(1-p))^{-(n-1)} = p^{n-1}(e^{-t} - (1-p))^{-(n-1)}.$$

By Chebyshev for any random variable X we know the inequality

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq x) \leq \inf_{t>0} \frac{\mathbb{E}[e^{tX}]}{e^{tx}}$$

and can therefore follow that for any $t > 0$

$$\mathbb{P}(Y \leq \frac{an}{p}) = \mathbb{P}(-Y \geq -\frac{an}{p}) \leq \exp\left(\frac{ant}{p}\right)\mathbb{E}[e^{-tY}] = \exp\left(\frac{ant}{p}\right)p^{n-1}(e^t - (1-p))^{-(n-1)}.$$

Choose $t = \ln\left(\frac{a(1-p)}{a-p}\right)$ (note that $t > 0$), then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(Y \leq \frac{an}{p}) &\leq \left(\frac{a(1-p)}{a-p}\right)^{\frac{an}{p}} p^{n-1}(1-p)^{-(n-1)} \left(\frac{p}{a-p}\right)^{-(n-1)} \\ &= \left(\frac{a(1-p)}{a-p}\right)^{\frac{an}{p}} (1-p)^{-(n-1)} (a-p)^{n-1} \\ &= \left(\frac{a}{a-p}\right)^{\frac{an}{p}} (1-p)^{\frac{an}{p}} (1-p)^{-(n-1)} (a-p)^{n-1} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{a}{a-p}\right)^{\frac{an}{p}} (1-p)^{n-1} (1-p)^{-(n-1)} (a-p)^{n-1} \\ &\leq \left(1 + \frac{p}{a-p}\right)^{\frac{2(a-p)n}{p}} a^{n-1} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{a}(ae^2)^n. \end{aligned}$$

\square

3 Incremental aggregation

The following lemma gives a tool to handle conditioned probabilities and will be helpful later for developing splittings of probabilities similar to the law of total probability.

Lemma 3.3.4. Let $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$ with $\mathbb{P}(B) > 0$. Further let $c > 0$ and $(C_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathcal{F}$ be a sequence of pairwise disjoint sets with $\mathbb{P}(B \cap C_i) > 0$, $\mathbb{P}(A | B \cap C_i) \geq c$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and $B \subset \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} C_i$. Then

$$\mathbb{P}(A | B) \geq c.$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(A | B) &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(A \cap B)}{\mathbb{P}(B)} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(A \cap B \cap \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} C_i)}{\mathbb{P}(B)} \\ &= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(A \cap B \cap C_i)}{\mathbb{P}(B)} = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(B \cap C_i)}{\mathbb{P}(B)} \frac{\mathbb{P}(A \cap B \cap C_i)}{\mathbb{P}(B \cap C_i)} \\ &= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{P}(C_i | B) \mathbb{P}(A | B \cap C_i) \geq c \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{P}(C_i | B) \\ &= c. \end{aligned}$$

□

Definition 3.3.1. For $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $r \in [1, \infty)$ define

$$\mathcal{P}_r^x := \{A \in \mathcal{P}_f \mid x \in A, r = \max_{y \in A} |x - y| \text{ and } A \text{ is connected}\}.$$

Lemma 3.3.5. Let $q > 0$ and $(\mu_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f}$ be translation invariant. Then if there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that for all $r \in [1, \infty)$ we have

$$\mu_A(0) \leq cr^{-q}, \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{P}_r^0,$$

then there also exists a constant $c > 0$ such that for all $y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $s, r \in [1, \infty)$ with $s \geq r$ we have

$$\mu_A(y) \leq cr^{-q}, \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{P}_s^y.$$

Proof. Let $y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ and choose $s, r \in [1, \infty)$ with $s \geq r$. Then with the translation invariance of $(\mu_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f}$ we get

$$\mu_A(0) = h_{\Phi_y(A)}(\Phi_y(0)) = h_{\Phi_y(A)}(y) \leq cs^{-q} \leq cr^{-q} \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{P}_s^0,$$

and since $A \in \mathcal{P}_s^0 \Leftrightarrow \Phi_y(A) \in \mathcal{P}_s^{\Phi_y(0)}$ we get

$$\mu_A(y) \leq cr^{-q} \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{P}_s^y.$$

Since c was chosen independently of y, s and r , this completes the proof. □

At this point we are prepared to proof the following theorem.

3 Incremental aggregation

Theorem 3.3.1. Let $q > 0$ and $(\mu_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f}$ be a translation invariant outside distribution. If there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that for all $r \in [1, \infty)$ we have

$$\mu_A(0) \leq cr^{-q} \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{P}_r^0,$$

then for the fractal dimension we have

$$d_f \geq 1 + q \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Proof. By section 3.2 equation (3.5) we have

$$d_f = \frac{1}{\alpha_f} \quad \text{a.s.,}$$

where α_f is the growth rate as defined in section 3.2 equation (3.4), and we will therefore show that

$$\alpha_f \leq \frac{1}{1+q} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

For $c > 0$ define

$$A_c := \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n(\omega)) \leq cn^{\frac{1}{1+q}} \text{ for large } n\}$$

and

$$D_c := \{\omega \in \Omega \mid T(\omega)(2n) \geq cn^{1+q} \text{ for large } n\}.$$

If there is a constant $c > 0$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}(A_c) = 1, \tag{3.1}$$

then we have

$$\alpha_f = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n))}{\ln(n)} \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(cn^{\frac{1}{1+q}})}{\ln(n)} = \frac{1}{1+q} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

If we choose

$$h : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty), x \mapsto x^{\frac{1}{1+q}},$$

and $a = 2$, then by Lemma 3.3.2 we can show (3.1) if we find a constant $c > 0$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}(D_c) = 1. \tag{3.2}$$

Note that h is bijective, multiplicative and increasing.

So now we will try to find a constant $c > 0$ such that (3.2) holds. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ write $\mathcal{E}_n = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$ according to Definition 3.1.1, where y_j is the j -th point added to the

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cluster. Let $\beta > 0$ which will be determined later on. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ let $\tilde{m}_n := \beta n^{1+q}$ and define

$$V_n := \{\omega \in \Omega \mid T(\omega)(2n) < \tilde{m}_n\}.$$

Further define the set of all possible random walk paths of length n with starting point in the set $\tilde{B}_n := \{x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \mid n \leq |x| < n+1\}$ by

$$Z_n := \{[z] := (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in (\mathbb{Z}^2)^n \mid z_1 \in \tilde{B}_n, z_i \in N(z_{i-1}) \text{ for } i \geq 2 \text{ and } z_i \neq z_j \text{ for } i \neq j\}.$$

For $[z] \in Z_n$ define the events

$$W_n([z]) := \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \exists j_1 < \dots < j_n \leq \tilde{m}_n \text{ such that } y_{j_i}(\omega) = z_i \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, n\}\}$$

and the union of these events by

$$W_n := \bigcup_{[z] \in Z_n} W_n([z]).$$

With \tilde{B}_n we mean the „the boundary“ of B_n the ball with radius n and center 0. We will quickly prove that

$$V_n \subset W_n \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\omega \in V_n$, then $T(\omega)(2n) < \tilde{m}_n$. For $m_n := \max\{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid j \leq \tilde{m}_n\}$ we therefore have $T(\omega)(2n) \leq m_n$, hence $\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_{m_n}(\omega)) \geq 2n$. Therefore, since $\mathcal{E}_{m_n}(\omega)$ is connected, there must exist indices $j_1 < \dots < j_n$ such that $[z_0] := (y_{j_1}(\omega), \dots, y_{j_n}(\omega)) \in Z_n$ and $[z_0] \subset \mathcal{E}_{m_n}(\omega)$, since $\max_{x \in [z_0]} |x| \leq 2n$. Therefore $j_n \leq m_n \leq \tilde{m}_n$ and therefore $\omega \in W_n([z_0]) \subset W_n$ which proofs the inclusion.

For a sequence of events $(A_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ remind that

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n := \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{i \geq n} A_i = \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \omega \in A_n \text{ for infinitely many } n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

We will use the Lemma of Borel-Cantelli on the sequence of events $(W_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$. If we can show that

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{P}(W_n) < \infty, \tag{3.3}$$

then with $V_n \subset W_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and Borel-Cantelli we get

$$\mathbb{P}(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} V_n) \leq \mathbb{P}(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} W_n) = 0.$$

Since

$$(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} V_n)^C = \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \omega \in V_n^C \text{ for all } n > N\} = D_\beta$$

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we can then conclude that $\mathbb{P}(D_\beta) = 1$ and have finished the proof. So we want to show (3.3).

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $[z] \in Z_n$ and $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ we define random variables

$$\tau_i : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^\infty, \tau_i(\omega) = j : \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} y_j(\omega) = z_i, & j < \infty, \\ z_i \notin \mathcal{E}_\infty(\omega), & j = \infty, \end{cases}$$

so τ_i is either the index j such that the j -th added point is z_i , or infinity if the final cluster \mathcal{E}_∞ doesn't contain z_i . τ_i is measurable because for $j \in \mathbb{N}$ we have

$$\tau_i^{-1}(j) = \{y_j = z_i\} = y_j^{-1}(z_i) \in \mathcal{F}$$

and for $j = \infty$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_i^{-1}(\infty) &= \{z_i \notin \mathcal{E}_\infty = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{E}_k\} \\ &= \{z_i \notin \mathcal{E}_k \text{ for all } k \in \mathbb{N}\} \\ &= \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{z_i \notin \mathcal{E}_k\} \\ &= \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcap_{l=1}^k \{y_l \neq z_i\} \\ &= \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcap_{l=1}^k y_l^{-1}(\mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{z_i\}) \in \mathcal{F}. \end{aligned}$$

Further for $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ we define waiting times

$$\sigma_i : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^\infty, \omega \rightarrow \begin{cases} \tau_{i+1}(\omega) - \tau_i(\omega), & \text{if } \tau_{i+1}(\omega) < \infty \text{ and } \tau_i(\omega) < \infty, \\ \infty, & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

so σ_i is the waiting time between adding z_i and z_{i+1} to the cluster, if both are added. We quickly argue that σ_i is measurable as well. For $j \in \mathbb{N}$ we have

$$\sigma_i^{-1}(j) = \{\tau_{i+1} - \tau_i = j\} = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{\tau_{i+1} = k\} \cap \{\tau_i = k - j\} \in \mathcal{F}$$

and

$$\sigma_i^{-1}(\infty) = \{\tau_{i+1} = \infty\} \cup \{\tau_i = \infty\} \in \mathcal{F},$$

since τ_{i+1} and τ_i are measurable.

Now let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $[z] \in Z_n$. Let $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ and define the event

$$U_{[z]}^i := \{\tau_1 \leq \dots \leq \tau_i\}.$$

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Note that $\mathbb{P}(U_{[z]}^i) > 0$ and also note again, that all τ_i are defined based on one $[z]$. We will now prove that the distribution of σ_i conditioned on $U_{[z]}^i$ is dominated by that of a geometrically distributed random variable with parameter

$$p_n := c_1 n^{-q} \quad (3.4)$$

for some constant $c_1 > 0$, which is the same constant for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ and for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We want to use Lemma 3.3.5 here, for which we need to create terms where the distribution μ appears. For that we need probabilities where we condition on a given cluster which we will develop now. We first define some helpful sets. For $m \in \mathbb{N}$ define

$$C_m := \{\mathcal{E}_m(\omega) \mid \omega \in \Omega\}$$

the set of possible clusters of size m and the disjoint union of them as $C := \bigcup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} C_m$. Further define another disjoint partition of C into sets

$$E_m := \{\mathcal{E} \in C \mid m - 1 \leq \text{rad}(\mathcal{E}) < m\}$$

for $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $C = \bigcup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} E_m$ as well. Since $|z_1| \geq n$ and considering $U_{[z]}^i$, we need a minimal amount of time steps such that it is possible for the cluster to contain z_i . So there exists a $n_i \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau_i = j, U_{[z]}^i) \begin{cases} > 0, & \text{for } n_i \leq j \leq \infty, \\ = 0, & \text{for } j < n_i. \end{cases}$$

Further if we choose $n_i \leq j < \infty$ and considering $U_{[z]}^i$ again, then \mathcal{E}_{j-1} must have some minimal radius if we want it to be possible that the next added point is z_i , similarly argumented as above. So there exists a $m_i \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{j-1} = \mathcal{E}, \tau_i = j, U_{[z]}^i) \begin{cases} > 0, & \mathcal{E} \in \bigcup_{m \geq m_i} E_m^i, \\ = 0, & \mathcal{E} \in C \setminus \bigcup_{m \geq m_i} E_m^i, \end{cases}$$

where $E_m^i := \{\mathcal{E} \in E_m \mid \{z_1, \dots, z_{i-1}\} \subset \mathcal{E} \text{ and } z_i \in \partial\mathcal{E}\}$ with $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Since $n \leq |z_1| < n+1$ we actually have exactly $m_i = n$. Having made that clear we can use the law of total probability twice in the following. For $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid U_{[z]}^i) &= \sum_{n_i \leq j \leq \infty} \mathbb{P}(\tau_i = j \mid U_{[z]}^i) \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid \tau_i = j, U_{[z]}^i) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(\tau_i = \infty \mid U_{[z]}^i) \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid \tau_i = \infty, U_{[z]}^i) \\ &\quad + \sum_{n_i \leq j < \infty} \mathbb{P}(\tau_i = j \mid U_{[z]}^i) \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid \tau_i = j, U_{[z]}^i) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(\tau_i = \infty \mid U_{[z]}^i) + \sum_{n_i \leq j < \infty} \mathbb{P}(\tau_i = j \mid U_{[z]}^i) \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid \tau_i = j, U_{[z]}^i), \end{aligned}$$

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note that $\mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid \tau_i = \infty, U_{[z]}^i) = 1$ since $\{\tau_i = \infty\} \subset \{\sigma_i = \infty\} \subset \{\sigma_i > k\}$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. For shorter expressions write $\Gamma_{ij} := \{\mathcal{E}_{j-1} = \mathcal{E}\} \cap \{\tau_i = j\} \cap U_{[z]}^i$. Further for $n_i \leq j < \infty$ we get

$$\mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid \tau_i = j, U_{[z]}^i) = \sum_{m_i \leq m} \sum_{\mathcal{E} \in E_m^i} \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{j-1} = \mathcal{E} \mid \tau_i = j, U_{[z]}^i) \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid \Gamma_{ij}).$$

We now state that there exists a constant $c_1 > 0$ such that for any $n_i \leq j < \infty$, $m_i \leq m$ and $\mathcal{E} \in E_m^i$ we have

$$\mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid \Gamma_{ij}) \geq (1 - c_1 n^{-q})^k \quad (3.5)$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, which we prove by induction. For $k = 1$ by Lemma 3.3.5 there exists a $c > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > 1 \mid \Gamma_{ij}) &\geq \mathbb{P}(y_{j+1} \neq z_{i+1} \mid \Gamma_{ij}) \\ &= 1 - \mu_{\partial(\mathcal{E} \cup \{z_i\})}(z_{i+1}) \\ &= 1 - \mu_{\overline{\mathcal{E} \cup \{z_i\}}}(z_{i+1}) \\ &\geq 1 - cn^{-q} \\ &= (1 - cn^{-q})^1. \end{aligned}$$

where we used that μ is an outside distribution. Note that we can use Lemma 3.3.5 because $\text{rad}(\overline{\mathcal{E} \cup \{z_i\}}) \geq n$ since $z_1 \in \mathcal{E} \cup \{z_i\}$ as we conditioned on $U_{[z]}^i$. Note that the harmonic measure doesn't care about the order of how points where added to form the current cluster, as mentioned in Remark 3.1.1. Note that by Lemma 3.3.5 the chosen c has a strong universal property such that it doesn't depend on $n_i \leq j < \infty$, $m_i \leq m$ or $\mathcal{E} \in E_m$. Now let the statement be true for some $k = l$. Then again by Lemma 3.3.5 there exists a $c > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > l + 1 \mid \Gamma_{ij}) &= \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > l, y_{l+1} \neq z_{i+1} \mid \Gamma_{ij}) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > l \mid \Gamma_{ij}) \mathbb{P}(y_{l+1} \neq z_{i+1} \mid \Gamma_{ij}, \sigma_i > l) \\ &\stackrel{(+) }{\geq} (1 - cn^{-q})^l \mathbb{P}(y_{l+1} \neq z_{i+1} \mid \Gamma_{ij}, \sigma_i > l) \\ &\stackrel{(++)}{\geq} (1 - cn^{-q})^l (1 - cn^{-q}) \\ &= (1 - cn^{-q})^{l+1}, \end{aligned}$$

where in (+) we used the induction assumption. In order to show (++) we would need to split the probability with the law of total probability by conditioning on all clusters such that Γ_{ij} is fulfilled and the next l added points are not equal to z_{i+1} . We would then have the same inequality as in the induction beginning using Lemma 3.3.5 and reput together the conditioned probabilities to get this inequality here. Same as in the induction beginning we have now found a constant $c_1 > 0$ such that (3.5) holds for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and this constant c_1 is independent of $n_i \leq j < \infty$, $m_i \leq m$ or $\mathcal{E} \in E_m$.

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Since $\{\tau_i = j\} \cap U_{[z]}^i \subset \bigcup_{m_i \leq m} \bigcup_{\mathcal{E} \in E_m^i} \{\mathcal{E}_{j-1} = \mathcal{E}\}$ by construction of E_m^i and m_i we can use Lemma 3.3.4 and get for $n_i \leq j \leq \infty$

$$\mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid \tau_i = j, U_{[z]}^i) \geq (1 - c_1 n^{-q})^k$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Because $U_{[z]}^i \subset \bigcup_{n_i \leq j \leq \infty} \{\tau_i = j\}$ by construction of n_i we can use Lemma 3.3.4 again and finally get

$$\mathbb{P}(\sigma_i > k \mid U_{[z]}^i) \geq (1 - c_1 n^{-q})^k$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. We therefore have shown what we stated in (3.4).

Note again that we needed the constant c_1 to not depend on any j , m or \mathcal{E} which it does not by its universal property given by Lemma 3.3.5. The universality is so strong that it does not even depend on $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ or $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

We now continue to show (3.3). Choose β such that $3e^2\beta c_1 < 1$ und choose $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\beta c_1 \geq 2p_n$ for all $n > N$. If we then define $a := \beta c_1$ we get $\tilde{m}_n = \frac{an}{p_n}$ and with $Y := \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sigma_i$ we can use Lemma 3.3.3 to get

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau_n \leq \tilde{m}_n \mid U_{[z]}^n) \leq \mathbb{P}(\tau_n - \tau_1 \leq \tilde{m}_n \mid U_{[z]}^n) = \mathbb{P}(Y \leq \frac{an}{p_n} \mid U_{[z]}^n) \leq \frac{1}{a} (e^2 a)^n$$

for all $n > N$. Since $W_n([z]) \subset \{\tau_n \leq \tilde{m}_n\} \cap U_{[z]}^n$ we get

$$\mathbb{P}(W_n([z])) \leq \mathbb{P}(W_n([z]) \mid U_{[z]}^n) \leq \mathbb{P}(\tau_n \leq \tilde{m}_n \mid U_{[z]}^n) \leq \frac{1}{a} (e^2 a)^n$$

for all $n > N$. Counting the elements in Z_n we have less than or equal to $c_2 n$ points in \tilde{B}_n for some constant $c_2 > 0$ as starting points and at most 3^{n-1} possibilities for the next $n-1$ steps of a path of length n (note that for $[z] \in Z_n$ we have by definition that $z_i \neq z_j$ for $i \neq j$ and therefore for a path going back where it came from is not possible). So $|Z_n| \leq c_2 n 3^{n-1}$ and therefore

$$\mathbb{P}(W_n) \leq \sum_{[z] \in Z_n} \mathbb{P}(W_n([z])) \leq c_2 n 3^{n-1} \frac{1}{a} (e^2 a)^n = \frac{c_2}{3a} n (3e^2 a)^n \quad \text{for all } n > N$$

and finally

$$\sum_{n>N} \mathbb{P}(W_n) \leq \sum_{n>N} \frac{c_2}{3\beta c_1} n (3e^2 \beta c_1)^n =: r_\beta.$$

Now note again, that c_1 , c_2 and β are not depending on n . Since β was chosen such that $4e^2\beta c_1 < 1$, r_β is finite and therefore in total we get

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{P}(W_n) < \infty,$$

which completes the proof. \square

4 External diffusion limited aggregation

4.1 Definition

External DLA is a model of an incremental aggregation as defined above using a very natural family of distributions, called the *harmonic measures*.

Definition 4.1.1. (*harmonic measure*) Let $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$. The hitting probability of A is the function

$$H_A : \mathbb{Z}^d \times A \rightarrow [0, 1], \quad (x, y) \mapsto H_A(x, y) := \mathbb{P}_x(S_{T_A^+} = y).$$

In fact, for a fixed element $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ the function $H_A(x, \cdot)$ defines a measure on A with total mass $\mathbb{P}_x(T_A^+ < \infty)$ and it can be adapted to a probability measure by conditioning the random walk to hit A in finite time. Define

$$\bar{H}_A : \mathbb{Z}^d \times A \rightarrow [0, 1], \quad (x, y) \mapsto \bar{H}_A(x, y) := \mathbb{P}_x(S_{T_A^+} = y \mid T_A^+ < \infty),$$

so for fixed $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ the function $\bar{H}_A(x, \cdot)$ defines a probability measure on A . Indeed this definition is motivated by [4] (Chapter 2, Definition 2.1) and in the same chapter it is proved, that for finite sets $A \in \mathcal{P}_f^d$ the limit

$$\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \bar{H}_A(x, y) =: h_A(y)$$

exists for each $y \in A$. The function $h_A : A \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is called the *harmonic measure of A* . For an element $y \in A$, h_A can be interpreted as the probability that a random walk starting at „infinity“ hits A the first time at y .

Definition 4.1.2. (*external diffusion limited aggregation*) *External diffusion limited aggregation* (on \mathbb{Z}^d), short *external DLA* or just *DLA*, is an incremental aggregation with the family of harmonic measures $(h_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f^d}$ as distribution.

Remark 4.1.1. If we look at the 2-dimensional case, by Lemma 2.4.2, we have that $\mathbb{P}_x(T_A^+ < \infty) = 1$ for any $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, and therefore get $\bar{H}_A = H_A$. So in two dimensions the harmonic measure of $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ can be written as

$$h_A(y) = \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_x(S_{T_A^+} = y), \quad y \in A.$$

4.2 Fractal dimension and growth rate of external DLA in \mathbb{Z}^2

There is not yet a rigorous proof on the exact fractal dimension of external DLA. There are rather few rigorously proved results and it seems that it is very hard to prove such results on DLA. Looking at computer simulations of DLA in \mathbb{Z}^2 it seems that the clusters are relatively sparse and they appear to have a noninteger fractal dimension. In [7] DLA is observed in a magnetic aggregation context, and empirically they find a fractal

dimension of around 1.8. Other simulations seem to suggest a value a little less than 1.7 for d_f in two dimensions ([12]). There is also a theory that predicts

$$d_f = \frac{d^2 + 1}{d + 1}$$

in \mathbb{Z}^d which seems to agree fairly well with simulations. That and further empirical studies you can find in [12]. We will proof in the following an almost sure lower bound for the fractal dimension of external DLA. For that we will use theorem 3.3.1.

Lemma 4.2.1. The family of harmonic measures $(h_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f}$ is translation invariant.

Proof. Let $y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$. Recall that in \mathbb{Z}^2 the harmonic measure of $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ can be written as

$$h_A(z) = \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_x(S_{T_A^+} = z)$$

for any $z \in A$ (see Remark 4.1.1). Since the distribution of random walks in \mathbb{Z}^2 is invariant under translation, we can conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} h_A(z) &= \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_x(S_{T_A^+} = z) \\ &= \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_{\Phi_y(x)}(S_{T_{\Phi_y(A)}^+} = \Phi_y(z)) \\ &= h_{\Phi_y(A)}(\Phi_y(z)) \end{aligned}$$

for all $z \in A$. □

Theorem 4.2.1. There exists a constant $c > 0$ such that for all $r \in [1, \infty)$

$$h_A(0) \leq cr^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{P}_r^0.$$

Proof. If $A \in \mathcal{P}_r^0$ then $0 \in A$ and $r = \text{rad}(A)$ and for that case the proof is presented for all dimensions $d \in \mathbb{N}$ in [4] Theorem 2.5.2. The proof is very technical and requires various results of other theorems and lemmas which are also to find in [4]. □

Theorem 4.2.2. For the fractal dimension of external DLA in \mathbb{Z}^2 as defined in section 3.2 equation (3.3) we have

$$d_f \geq \frac{3}{2} \quad \text{a.s.} \tag{4.1}$$

Proof. We have shown that the harmonic measure is translation invariant and it is not difficult to understand that the harmonic measure is an outside distribution as defined in definition 3.1.2. Together with theorem 4.2.1 we can therefore use theorem 3.3.1 with $q = \frac{1}{2}$ to conclude that

$$d_f \geq 1 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

□

We have shown a lower bound of 1.5 for the fractal dimension of external DLA here. In the next chapter we will look at another incremental aggregation which distribution works much simpler than the harmonic measure. We will therefore be able to calculate the fractal dimension of the next incremental aggregation exactly.

5 Line hitting aggregation

5.1 Motivation

In the following we will look at a process which is the approach of a simple approximation of external DLA on \mathbb{Z}^2 . The idea is to let particles move on straight lines coming from infinity and add them to the cluster where they hit it. A very similar approach was done by [10] as a so called ballistic model, where they let particles move on straight lines to the cluster, but just from a small amount of directions. Our approach here extends this idea, as we will try to choose a random direction out of all directions in the plane in a most sensible fair way. Anyway we will see, that empirically we find similar results for the fractal dimension of this cluster as in [10].

Obviously in most cases particles cannot move completely straight on \mathbb{Z}^2 . Therefore we will consider points in \mathbb{Z}^2 as the centers of unit squares in \mathbb{R}^2 and let the particles move on straight lines in the full plane \mathbb{R}^2 . We consider a line hitting a point in \mathbb{Z}^2 if and only if it intersects with its unit square as defined in the following. Note that we identify \mathbb{R}^2 with \mathbb{C} here.

Definition 5.1.1. Define

$$\mathbb{C}_{sq} := \left\{ \left[k - \frac{1}{2}, k + \frac{1}{2} \right] + \left[l - \frac{1}{2}, l + \frac{1}{2} \right] i \subset \mathbb{C} \mid k, l \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}, \quad (5.1)$$

note that $\mathbb{C} = \bigcup_{s \in \mathbb{C}_{sq}} s$. The canonical function

$$sq : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_{sq}, \quad (k, l) \rightarrow \left[k - \frac{1}{2}, k + \frac{1}{2} \right] + \left[l - \frac{1}{2}, l + \frac{1}{2} \right] i \quad (5.2)$$

is bijective and intuitively identifies points in \mathbb{Z}^2 with squares in \mathbb{C} which is p is the center of the square $sq(p)$ for all $p \in \mathbb{Z}^2$. In the following when using a point $p \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ it will reference the point in \mathbb{Z}^2 or the corresponding square in \mathbb{C} respecting the context. This bijection also naturally defines a graph structure on \mathbb{C}_{sq} , which is two squares $s_1, s_2 \in \mathbb{C}_{sq}$ form an edge if and only if $sq^{-1}(s_1)$ and $sq^{-1}(s_2)$ form an edge in \mathbb{Z}^2 . For the following we say a line g hits a point $p \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ if and only if $g \cap sq(p) \neq \emptyset$ (see in *Figure 4*). For a set $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$ define $sq(A) := \bigcup_{p \in A} sq(p)$.

Definition 5.1.2. Let $g = g_{\alpha, p} \in \mathcal{G}$ and $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$. We define

$$g \cap A := \{p \in A \mid g \text{ hits } p\}$$

which is the subset of all points in A which are hit by g (see *Figure 5*). For the following we suppose $g \cap A \neq \emptyset$. We will define a total ordered relation \triangleleft on $g \cap A$ which shall be defined equivalently for all $g \in \mathcal{G}$ and $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$ with $g \cap A \neq \emptyset$. We choose two points $x, y \in g \cap A$ and split the definition of the relation \triangleleft into four cases, depending on

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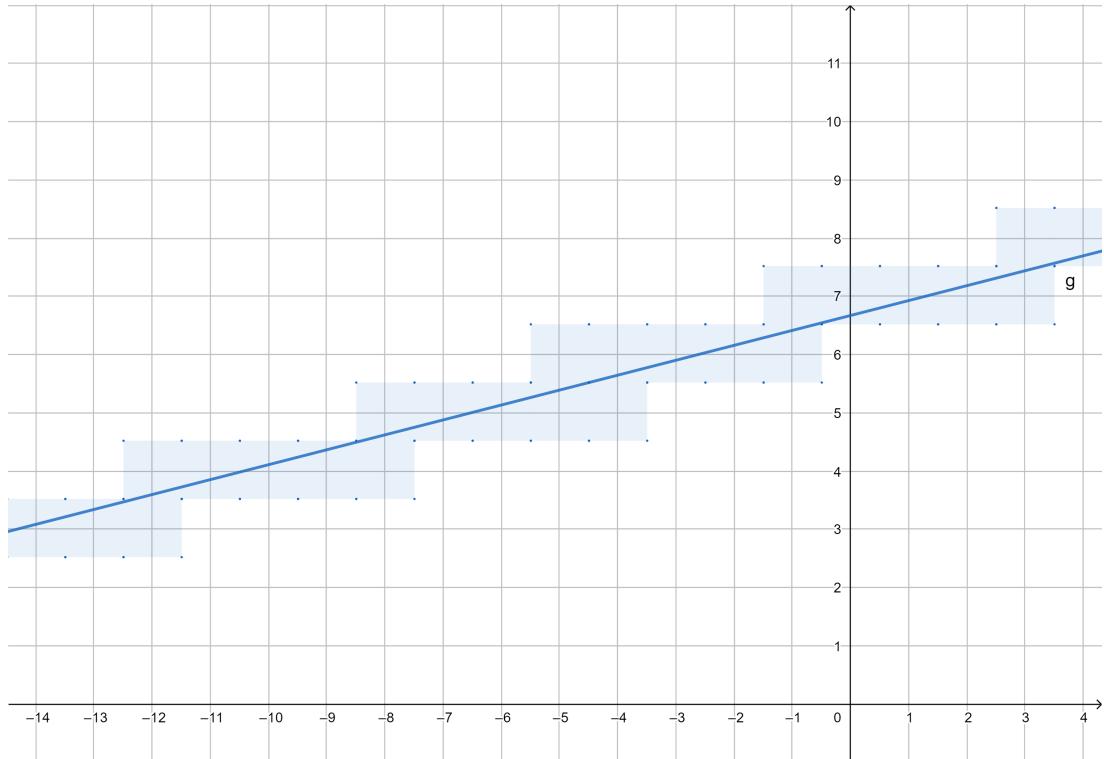


Figure 4: g hits squares around points

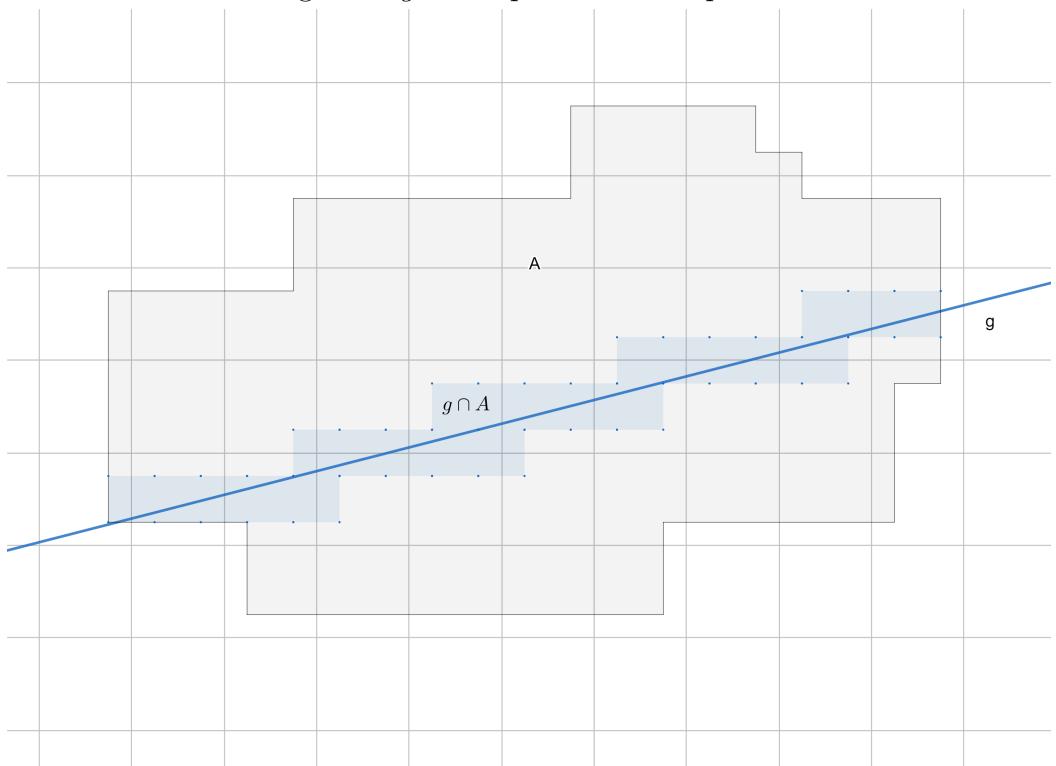


Figure 5: g hits squares in A

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whether the line g goes from left-bottom to right-top, left-top to right-bottom, parallel to the x -axis and parallel to the y -axis. Denote the real part of x with $\text{Re}(x)$ and the imaginary one with $\text{Im}(x)$.

Case 1 : g is parallel to the x -axis ($\Leftrightarrow \alpha = \frac{\pi}{2}$)

$$x \triangleleft y \Leftrightarrow \text{Re}(x) < \text{Re}(y)$$

Case 2 : g is parallel to the y -axis ($\Leftrightarrow \alpha = 0$)

$$x \triangleleft y \Leftrightarrow \text{Im}(x) < \text{Im}(y)$$

Case 3 : g is going from left-bottom to right-top ($\Leftrightarrow \alpha \in (\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi)$)

$$x \triangleleft y \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{Re}(x) < \text{Re}(y), & \text{if } \text{Re}(x) \neq \text{Re}(y), \\ \text{Im}(x) < \text{Im}(y), & \text{if } \text{Re}(x) = \text{Re}(y). \end{cases}$$

Case 4 : g is going from left-top to right-bottom ($\Leftrightarrow \alpha \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$)

$$x \triangleleft y \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{Re}(x) < \text{Re}(y), & \text{if } \text{Re}(x) \neq \text{Re}(y), \\ \text{Im}(x) > \text{Im}(y), & \text{if } \text{Re}(x) = \text{Re}(y). \end{cases}$$

It is easy to see that this relation on $g \cap A$ is well-defined. In the following we will prove that this relation is strictly and totally ordered.

Lemma 5.1.1. For a line $g = g_{\alpha,p} \in \mathcal{G}$ and $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$ with $g \cap A \neq \emptyset$ the relation \triangleleft on $g \cap A$ is totally ordered.

Proof. We will only prove the case where g is going from left-bottom to right-top, which is *Case 3* of the definition. In this case we have $\alpha \in (\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi)$. Note, that the proof for *Case 4* will work very similar and in the case of g being parallel to one of the axes (*Case 1* or *2*), all properties for a totally ordered relation follow directly from the totally ordered relation $<$ on \mathbb{R} . So let $\alpha \in (\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi)$.

Antisymmetry : For antisymmetry let $x \triangleleft y$ and $y \triangleleft x$. Suppose $\text{Re}(x) \neq \text{Re}(y)$, then $\text{Re}(x) < \text{Re}(y)$ and $\text{Re}(y) < \text{Re}(x)$, a contradiction because of the total order $<$ in \mathbb{R} . So $\text{Re}(x) = \text{Re}(y)$. But then we have $\text{Im}(x) < \text{Im}(y)$ and $\text{Im}(y) < \text{Im}(x)$ and therefore also $\text{Im}(x) = \text{Im}(y)$, hence $x = y$.

Transitivity : For transitivity let $x \triangleleft y$ and $y \triangleleft z$. We find four cases. In case $\text{Re}(x) \neq \text{Re}(y)$ and $\text{Re}(y) \neq \text{Re}(z)$ we get $\text{Re}(x) < \text{Re}(z)$ by transitivity of $<$, hence $x \triangleleft z$. In case $\text{Re}(x) \neq \text{Re}(y)$ and $\text{Re}(y) = \text{Re}(z)$ we get $\text{Re}(x) < \text{Re}(y) = \text{Re}(z)$, therefore $x \triangleleft z$. In case $\text{Re}(x) = \text{Re}(y)$ and $\text{Re}(y) \neq \text{Re}(z)$ we get $\text{Re}(x) = \text{Re}(y) < \text{Re}(z)$, similar

as the last case. In the last case $\operatorname{Re}(x) = \operatorname{Re}(y) = \operatorname{Re}(z)$ we get $\operatorname{Im}(x) < \operatorname{Im}(y)$ and $\operatorname{Im}(y) < \operatorname{Im}(z)$ and again by transitivity of $<$ we get $\operatorname{Im}(x) < \operatorname{Im}(z)$, hence $x \triangleleft z$ again.

Connexity : Connexity is given since for any two points $x, y \in g \cap A$ we have either $\operatorname{Re}(x) \neq \operatorname{Re}(y)$ or $\operatorname{Re}(x) = \operatorname{Re}(y)$ and therefore either $x \triangleleft y$ or $y \triangleleft x$.

□

Remark 5.1.1. The relation \triangleleft on $g \cap A$ basically orders the hitting points of g with A from left to right (or bottom to top in case of a line parallel to the y -axis). This order allows us to identify the outermost hitting points which are the minimum and maximum of $g \cap A$ with respect to \triangleleft . To clarify, we define $\min(g \cap A) := x_0$ if and only if $x_0 \triangleleft x$ for all $x \in g \cap A, x \neq x_0$, analogously $\max(g \cap A)$. This means when moving on g facing A coming from infinity this order allows to know where in A the line g hits first when „entering“ A and where it hits last when „leaving“ A . What we want to do next is to choose a line randomly out of all lines which hit the current cluster. This is isn't an obvious task and we will have to develop a most fair underlying distribution on lines in the next section where we will touch basic aspects of Integral Geometry.

5.2 Exkurs: Integral geometry

In the next section we want to define an approximation for External DLA. This approximation will be an incremental aggregation for which distribution definition we need some concepts and results from Integral Geometry which we will discuss and develop in this section. In the process we want to define we will want to choose a random line out of all lines which intersect with the current cluster of the aggregation. This random choosing is not obvious since most of the time the cluster will be strongly non symmetric and it is even less obvious how to actually get a realization of a random line when simulating with Python. In our case we are looking for a parametrisation of lines in the plane and a reasonable way of choosing parameters randomly.

We will introduce a possible solution for this problem first through the abstract and general concepts of integral geometry and later through a simple parametrisation for the case of lines in the plane which goes hand in hand with the general result.

5.2.1 General results

In the general context we are in \mathbb{R}^d for $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and consider q -dimensional affine subspaces where $q \in \{0, \dots, d\}$, short q -flats in \mathbb{R}^d . The set of q -flats in \mathbb{R}^d is denoted by $A(d, q)$. Later we will be interested in choosing random lines in the real plane (i.e. 1-flats in \mathbb{R}^2). In order to get a probability measure on some set of q -flats, we first need a measure and a σ -algebra on $A(d, q)$ in total.

Definition 5.2.1. For $B \in \mathcal{B}^d$ define

$$[B]_{d,q} := \{F \in A(d, q) \mid F \cap B \neq \emptyset\}.$$

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If the context is clear, we will only write $[B]$ instead of $[B]_{d,q}$.

Definition 5.2.2. The σ -algebra $\mathcal{A}(d, q)$ on $A(d, q)$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{A}(d, q) := \sigma(\{[K] \mid K \in \mathcal{K}^d\}).$$

Theorem 5.2.1. On $A(d, q)$ there exists a unique G_d -invariant Radon measure μ_q such that

$$\mu_q(A_{B_d(1,0)}) = \kappa_{d-q}, \quad (5.1)$$

where $\kappa_n := \lambda_n(B_n(1, 0))$ is the n -dimensional Lebesgue measure of the n -dimensional unit ball for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and $\kappa_0 := 1$.

Proof. [2] Theorem 4.26

MAKE PROOF CLEARER \square

5.2.2 Construction in the plane: Isotropic lines

For our special case we choose $d = 2$ and $q = 1$, thus lines in the plane. We denote this set of lines by \mathcal{G} . The following construction in this chapter is completely motivated by [3] 2.1.1. Firstly we propose a parametrisation of lines which works as follows. Every line can be uniquely determined by an angle $\alpha \in [0, \pi)$ and a real number $p \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ be the standard scalar product on \mathbb{R}^2 , respectively used for values in \mathbb{C} as we identify \mathbb{R}^2 with \mathbb{C} as \mathbb{R} -vectorspaces. Let

$$e_\alpha := e^{\alpha i} = \cos(\alpha) + \sin(\alpha)i$$

and

$$s_\alpha := -\sin(\alpha) + \cos(\alpha)i$$

be the unit vectors 1 and i rotated by α counterclockwise. Lets consider the representation $x = \langle x, e_\alpha \rangle e_\alpha + \langle x, s_\alpha \rangle s_\alpha$ for $x \in \mathbb{C}$. Since e_α and s_α form a base of \mathbb{C} as a 2-dimensional \mathbb{R} -vectorspace, the parameters $\langle x, e_\alpha \rangle$ and $\langle x, s_\alpha \rangle$ are unique for each x . It thus is easy to realize that $g_{\alpha,p} := \{x \in \mathbb{C} \mid \langle x, e_\alpha \rangle = p\}$ defines a line (compare with *Figure 6*) and that every line has a unique pair of α and p for such a representation. In words, $g_{\alpha,p}$ contains all points which have length p in direction of e_α . With $\Phi := [0, \pi) \times \mathbb{R}$ this naturally defines a bijection

$$\chi : \Phi \rightarrow \mathcal{G}, \quad (\alpha, p) \mapsto g_{\alpha,p}.$$

We take the subspace Borel- σ -algebra $\mathcal{B}_\Phi := \mathcal{B}^2 \cap \Phi$ on Φ and define the σ -algebra \mathfrak{G} on \mathcal{G} by $\mathfrak{G} := \chi(\mathcal{B}_\Phi)$. This works well since χ is a bijection. We want to show in the following that this way of defining a σ -algebra on \mathcal{G} makes sense as it is indeed equivalent to the general context as defined above. To do that it is convenient to use a special generator set for the Borel- σ -algebra \mathcal{B}_Φ .

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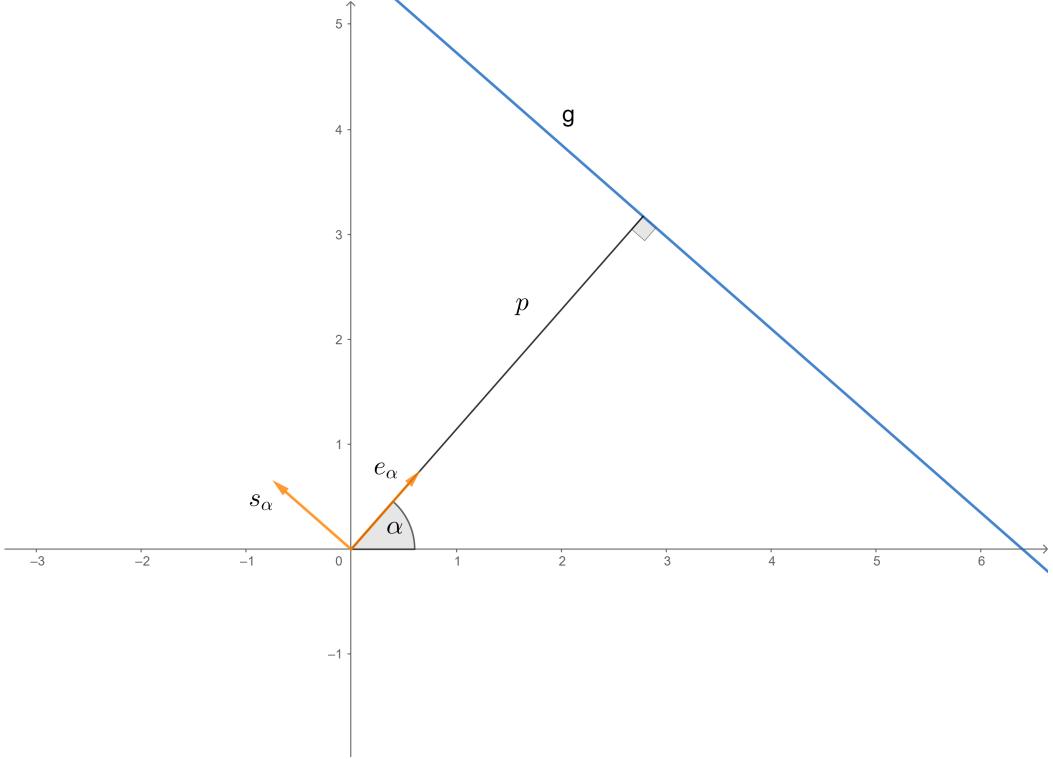


Figure 6: Line parameters α and p

Lemma 5.2.1. Define

$$\mathcal{R}_+ := \{[\alpha, \beta] \times (0, b) \mid 0 \leq \alpha < \beta < \pi, b \geq 0\},$$

$$\mathcal{R}_- := \{[\alpha, \beta] \times [b, 0) \mid 0 \leq \alpha < \beta < \pi, b \leq 0\},$$

$$\mathcal{R}_0 := \{[\alpha, \beta] \times \{0\} \mid 0 \leq \alpha < \beta < \pi\},$$

and

$$\mathcal{R} := \mathcal{R}_+ \cup \mathcal{R}_- \cup \mathcal{R}_0.$$

Then $\sigma(\mathcal{R}) = \mathcal{B}_\Phi$.

Proof. We show that $\sigma(\mathcal{R})$ contains all rectangles in Φ of the form $[\alpha, \beta] \times (a, b)$ with $a, b > 0$, $[\alpha, \beta] \times [a, b]$ with $a, b < 0$ and $[\alpha, \beta] \times [a, b]$ with $0 \in [a, b]$. First let $a, b > 0$ and $R = [\alpha, \beta] \times (a, b)$, then

$$R = ([\alpha, \beta] \times (0, b)) \setminus ([\alpha, \beta] \times (0, a))$$

and therefore $R \in \sigma(\mathcal{R}_+) \subset \sigma(\mathcal{R})$. Similarly it works if $a, b < 0$. If $0 \in [a, b]$ then we can write $R = [\alpha, \beta] \times [a, b]$ with three components $R = [\alpha, \beta] \times [a, 0] \cup [\alpha, \beta] \times \{0\} \cup [\alpha, \beta] \times (0, b)$ which lie in $\mathcal{R}_-, \mathcal{R}_0$ and \mathcal{R}_+ respectively. Therefore $R \in \sigma(\mathcal{R})$ as well. By measure theory the above described rectangles form a generator set of \mathcal{B}_Φ , which completes the proof. \square

Lemma 5.2.2. We have $\mathcal{A}(2, 1) = \mathfrak{G}$.

Proof. We will consider generators of these σ -algebras. By Lemma 5.2.1 we know that $\sigma(\mathcal{R}) = \mathcal{B}_\Phi$ and since χ is a bijection, we have $\chi(\sigma(\mathcal{R})) = \sigma(\chi(\mathcal{R}))$ and finally $\mathfrak{G} = \sigma(\chi(\mathcal{R}))$. For $\tilde{A} := \{[K] \mid K \in \mathcal{K}^2\}$ we have by definition $\mathcal{A}(2, 1) = \sigma(\tilde{A})$.

\subset : Let $K \in \mathcal{K}^2$. We will show that $\chi^{-1}([K])$ is a closed set in Φ . If that is the case we have $\chi^{-1}([K]) \in \mathcal{B}_\Phi$, therefore $[K] \in \chi(\mathcal{B}_\Phi) = \mathfrak{G}$ and finally $\mathcal{A}(2, 1) = \sigma(\tilde{A}) \subset \mathfrak{G}$. To show that $\chi^{-1}([K])$ is closed let $(\alpha_0, p_0) \in \Phi \setminus \chi^{-1}([K])$. Then $\chi(\alpha_0, p_0) \notin [K]$ and therefore $\chi(\alpha_0, p_0) \cap K = \emptyset$. Since K is closed we can find small values $\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{p} > 0$ such that $\chi(\alpha, p) \cap K = \emptyset$ for all $(\alpha, p) \in [\alpha_0, \alpha_0 + \tilde{\alpha}] \times [p_0, p_0 + \tilde{p}] =: R$. Hence we have $R \subset \Phi \setminus \chi^{-1}([K])$, so $\Phi \setminus \chi^{-1}([K])$ is open. Hence $\chi^{-1}([K])$ is closed.

\supset : For this inclusion we will show that $\chi(R) \in \mathcal{A}(2, 1)$ for all $R \in \mathcal{R}$. First let $R = [\alpha, \beta] \times (0, b] \in \mathcal{R}_+$ for some $b > 0$. Define

$$S := \{pe_\gamma \in \mathbb{C} \mid (\gamma, p) \in R\}$$

Furthermore for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ define

$$A_n := \{tns_\beta \mid t \in [0, 1]\} \text{ and } B_n := \{-tns_\alpha \mid t \in [0, 1]\},$$

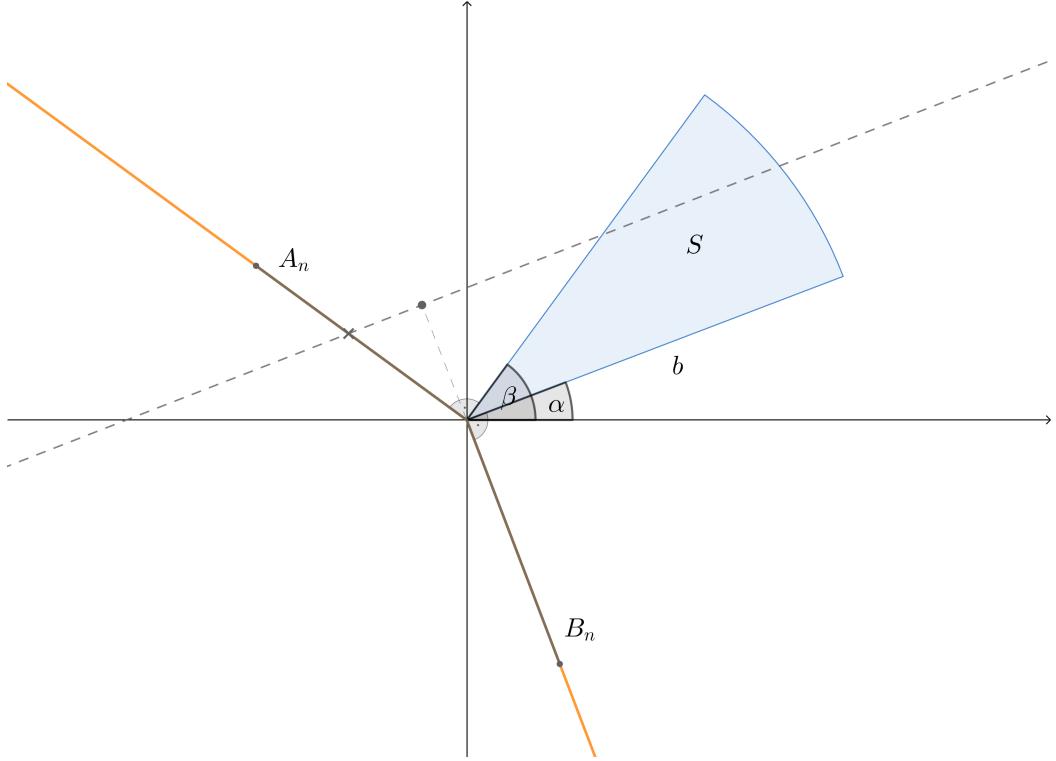
the segments from 0 to ns_β and 0 to $-ns_\alpha$ (Figure 7). We will show now that

$$\chi(R) = [\bar{S}] \setminus \left(\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [A_n] \cup \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [B_n] \right) =: \tilde{S},$$

where \bar{S} is the closure of S as a set in \mathbb{C} (note that $\bar{S} = S \cup \{0\}$). Let $(\gamma, p) \in R$. Then $pe_\gamma \in \chi(\gamma, p) \cap S$ and therefore $\chi(\gamma, p) \in [\bar{S}]$. Assume that there exists an $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\chi(\gamma, p) \cap A_n \neq \emptyset$. Then $\beta + \frac{\pi}{2} - \gamma < \frac{\pi}{2}$, hence $\beta < \gamma$, a contradiction. Similarly argument for any B_n , so we finally have $\chi(\gamma, p) \notin [A_n]$ and $\chi(\gamma, p) \notin [B_n]$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence $\chi(\gamma, p) \in \tilde{S}$ and therefore $\chi(R) \subset \tilde{S}$.

Now let $(\gamma, p) \in \Phi$ such that $\chi(\gamma, p) \in \tilde{S}$. Assume that $\gamma \notin [\alpha, \beta]$ then with a similar argument as in the first inclusion it is easy to see that there must be an $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\chi(\gamma, p) \cap A_n \neq \emptyset$ or $\chi(\gamma, p) \cap B_n \neq \emptyset$, a contradiction. Therefore $\gamma \in [\alpha, \beta]$. Now assume $p \notin (0, b]$. If $p > b$ then $\chi(\gamma, b) \cap B_b = \emptyset$ and since $\bar{S} \subset B_b$ it is $\chi(\gamma, p) \notin [\bar{S}]$, a contradiction. If $p < 0$ then, since the angle between the segments A_n and B_n opposite of S is strictly smaller than π , $\chi(\gamma, p)$ must intersect with A_n or B_n for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, again a contradiction. Note that $p \neq 0$ since $\{0\} \subset [A_1]$. Thus we have $p \in (0, b]$. Therefore we have $(\gamma, p) \in R$ and finally $\tilde{S} \subset \chi(R)$.

It is left to show that $\tilde{S} \in \mathcal{A}(2, 1)$. All the segments A_n and B_n are compact and convex for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and since S is bounded and convex as a circle segment with angle smaller than π , \bar{S} is compact and convex. Finally $\tilde{S} \in \mathcal{A}(2, 1)$.


 Figure 7: S and the sets A_n and B_n

In total we get $\mathcal{R}_+ \subset \mathcal{A}(2, 1)$. $\mathcal{R}_- \subset \mathcal{A}(2, 1)$ can be shown analogously. So for the last case let $R = [\alpha, \beta] \times \{0\} \in \mathcal{R}_0$. Define the line segment

$$T := \{(1-t)s_\alpha + ts_\beta \mid t \in [0, 1]\}.$$

Then $\{0\} \cap [T] \in \mathcal{A}(2, 1)$. We show that $\chi(R) = \{0\} \cap [T]$. Let $(\gamma, 0) \in R$. Then $\chi(\gamma, 0)$ contains 0 and since γ is in between α and β , $\chi(\gamma, 0)$ must intersect with T (Figure 8). For the other inclusion let $(\gamma, p) \in \Phi$ such that $\chi(\gamma, p) \in \{0\} \cap [T]$. Since $0 \in \chi(\gamma, p)$ it must be $p = 0$ and since it intersects with T its angle must lay in between α and β . All in all this completes the proof. \square

Definition 5.2.3. A \mathcal{F} - \mathfrak{G} -measurable function $g : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ is called a *random line*.

Definition 5.2.4. We define the measure $\mu := \lambda_{2|\Phi} \circ \chi^{-1}$ on $(\mathcal{G}, \mathfrak{G})$ where $\lambda_{2|\Phi}$ is the 2-dimensional Lebesgue measure restricted to Φ . We say a measure ν on $(\mathcal{G}, \mathfrak{G})$ is locally finite if for any $K \in \mathcal{K}^2$ we have $\nu([K]) < \infty$.

Lemma 5.2.3. μ is locally finite and G_2 -invariant.

Proof. Let $K \in \mathcal{K}^2$ and since K is compact choose $r > 0$ such that $K \subset B_r$. Then we have $[K] \subset A_{B_r}$ and

$$\mu([K]) \leq \mu(A_{B_r}) = \lambda_{2|\Phi}(\chi^{-1}(A_{B_r})) = \lambda_{2|\Phi}([0, \pi) \times [-r, r]) = 2\pi r < \infty,$$

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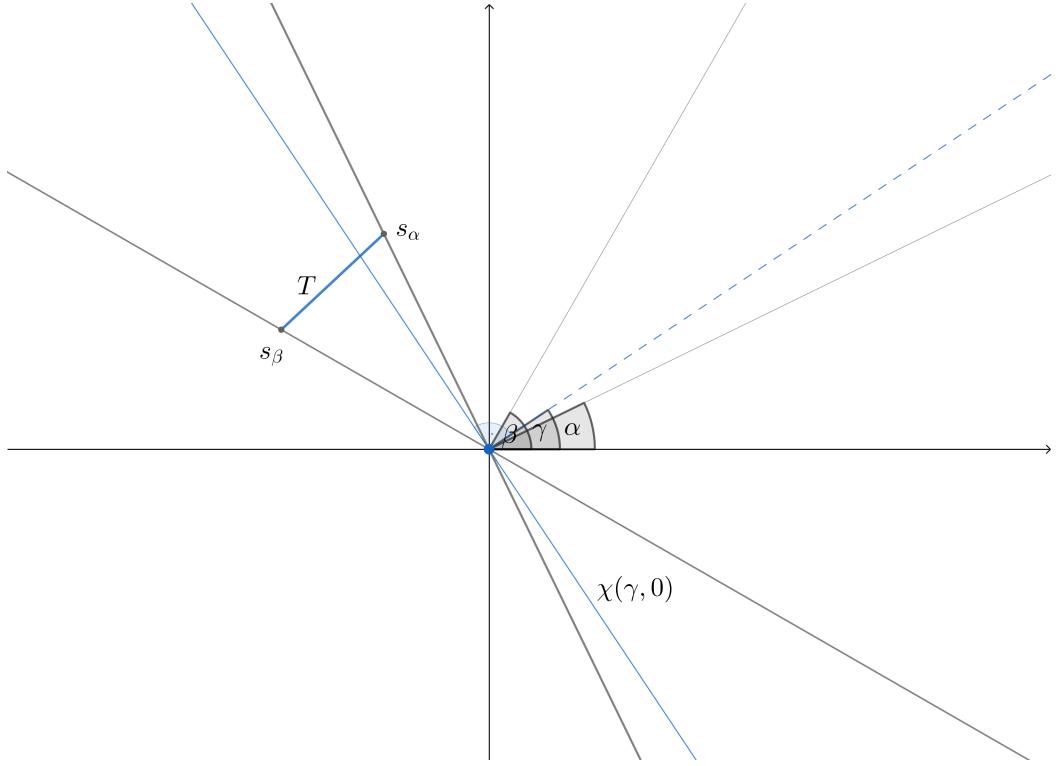


Figure 8: Line in $[\{0\}] \cap [T]$

hence μ is locally finite. To show that μ is G_2 -invariant, that means euclidean motion invariant, we must show it is translation and rotation invariant. First we clarify what exactly translation and rotation mean for lines. We denote x modulo r as $(x)_r$. For $b \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\beta \in [0, 2\pi)$ we define

$$T_b : \Phi \rightarrow \Phi, \quad (\alpha, p) \mapsto (\alpha, p + \langle e_\alpha, b \rangle) \quad (5.2)$$

and

$$D_\beta : \Phi \rightarrow \Phi, \quad (\alpha, p) \mapsto ((\alpha + \beta)_\pi, \delta((\alpha + \beta)_{2\pi})p), \quad (5.3)$$

where

$$\delta : [0, 2\pi) \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}, \quad \gamma \mapsto \begin{cases} 1, & \gamma \in [0, \pi) \\ -1, & \gamma \in [\pi, 2\pi) \end{cases}.$$

It is easy to see that both functions are well-defined. T_b defines a translation by b and D_β a rotation by β . Let's proof that first. Let $(\alpha, p) \in \Phi$, then

$$\begin{aligned} x \in \chi(\alpha, p) + b &\Leftrightarrow x - b \in \chi(\alpha, p) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \langle e_\alpha, x - b \rangle = p \\ &\Leftrightarrow \langle e_\alpha, x \rangle = p + \langle e_\alpha, b \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} &\Leftrightarrow x \in \chi(\alpha, p + \langle e_\alpha, b \rangle) \\ &\Leftrightarrow x \in \chi(T_b(\alpha, p)) \end{aligned}$$

and therefore $\chi(\alpha, p) + b = \chi(T_b(\alpha, p))$. Hence $T_b(\alpha, p)$ are indeed the parameters for the by b translated line. For the rotation lets devide it into two cases. First let $(\alpha + \beta)_{2\pi} \in [0, \pi]$, then $\delta((\alpha + \beta)_{2\pi}) = 1$ and $(\alpha + \beta)_\pi = \alpha + \beta$ and therefore

$$D_\beta(\alpha, p) = (\alpha + \beta, p).$$

In the second case with $(\alpha + \beta)_{2\pi} \in [\pi, 2\pi)$ we have $\delta((\alpha + \beta)_{2\pi}) = -1$ and $(\alpha + \beta)_\pi = \alpha + \beta - \pi$ and therefore

$$D_\beta(\alpha, p) = (\alpha + \beta - \pi, -p).$$

In the second case we have to carefully understand the parametrisation of \mathcal{G} , but finally we can see that $D_\beta(\alpha, p)$ are indeed the parameters of the by β rotated line.

We will further show now, that μ is invariant with respect to both these functions. Let $A \in \mathfrak{G}$, $b \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\nu_\beta \in SO_2$ for some $\beta \in [0, 2\pi)$. We will understand $A + b = \{g + b \mid g \in A\}$ and $\nu_\beta A = \{\nu_\beta g \mid g \in A\}$ pointwise, and $g + b = \{x + b \mid x \in g\}$ and $\nu_\beta g = \{\nu_\beta x \mid x \in g\}$ pointwise as well. We furthermore define $A_p := \{\alpha \in [0, \pi) \mid (\alpha, p) \in \chi^{-1}(A)\}$ and $A_\alpha := \{p \in \mathbb{R} \mid (\alpha, p) \in \chi^{-1}(A)\}$ for $(\alpha, p) \in \Phi$. For a translation we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(A + b) &= \int_{\mathfrak{G}} \mathbb{1}_{A+b}(g) \mu(dg) \\ &= \int_{\mathfrak{G}} \mathbb{1}_A(g - b) \mu(dg) \\ &= \int_{\mathfrak{G}} \mathbb{1}_A(g - b) \lambda_{2|\Phi}(\chi^{-1}(dg)) \\ &= \int_{\chi^{-1}(\mathfrak{G})} \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}(A)}(\chi^{-1}(g - b)) \lambda_{2|\Phi}(d(\chi^{-1}(g))) \\ &\stackrel{(5.2)}{=} \int_{\Phi} \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}(A)}(\alpha, p - \langle e_\alpha, b \rangle) \lambda_{2|\Phi}(d(\alpha, p)) \\ &= \int_0^\pi \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{1}_{A_\alpha}(p - \langle e_\alpha, b \rangle) \lambda_1(dp) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \\ &= \int_0^\pi \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{1}_{A_\alpha + \langle e_\alpha, b \rangle}(p) \lambda_1(dp) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \\ &= \int_0^\pi \lambda_1(A_\alpha + \langle e_\alpha, b \rangle) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \\ &\stackrel{(+)}{=} \int_0^\pi \lambda_1(A_\alpha) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \\ &= \dots \\ &= \mu(A), \end{aligned}$$

and for a rotation we get

$$\mu(\nu_\beta A) = \int_{\mathfrak{G}} \mathbb{1}_{\nu_\beta A}(g) \mu(dg)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int_{\mathcal{G}} \mathbb{1}_A(\nu_{-\beta}g) \lambda_{2|\Phi}(\chi^{-1}(dg)) \\
&= \int_{\chi^{-1}(\mathcal{G})} \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}(A)}(\chi^{-1}(\nu_{-\beta}g)) \lambda_{2|\Phi}(d(\chi^{-1}(g))) \\
&\stackrel{(5.3)}{=} \int_{\Phi} \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}(A)}((\alpha - \beta)_\pi, \delta((\alpha - \beta)_{2\pi})p) \lambda_{2|\Phi}(\alpha, p) \\
&= \int_{\Phi} \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}(A)}((\alpha - \beta)_\pi, \delta((\alpha - \beta)_{2\pi})p) \lambda_{2|\Phi}(\alpha, p) \\
&= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}(A)}((\alpha - \beta)_\pi, \delta((\alpha - \beta)_{2\pi})p) \lambda_1(dp) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \\
&= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{1}_{A_{(\alpha-\beta)_\pi}}(\delta((\alpha - \beta)_{2\pi})p) \lambda_1(dp) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \\
&\stackrel{(+)}{=} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{1}_{A_{(\alpha-\beta)_\pi}}(p) \lambda_1(dp) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}(A)}((\alpha - \beta)_\pi, p) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \lambda_1(dp) \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathbb{1}_{A_p}((\alpha - \beta)_\pi) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \lambda_1(dp) \\
&\stackrel{(+)}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathbb{1}_{A_p}(\alpha) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \lambda_1(dp) \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}(A)}(\alpha, p) \lambda_{1|[0,\pi]}(d\alpha) \lambda_1(dp) \\
&= \dots \\
&= \mu(A).
\end{aligned}$$

where in (+) we used the translation and rotation invariance of the Lebesgue measure. This completes the proof. \square

Example 5.2.1. Choose $K := B_r \in \mathcal{K}^2$ the ball with radius $r > 0$ and center 0, then

$$\mu([K]) = \lambda_{2|\Phi} \circ \chi^{-1}(B_r) = \lambda_{2|\Phi}([0, \pi] \times [-r, r]) = 2\pi r.$$

Example 5.2.2. Now choose $K := [0, r] \times \{0\} \in \mathcal{K}^2$ an interval of length $r > 0$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu([K]) &= \lambda_{2|\Phi} \circ \chi^{-1}([K]) \\
&= \int_{\Phi} \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}([K])}(\alpha, p) \lambda_2(d(\alpha, p)) \\
&= \int_0^\pi \int_{-\infty}^\infty \mathbb{1}_{\chi^{-1}([K])}(\alpha, p) dp d\alpha \\
&= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \int_0^{r \cos(\alpha)} 1 dp d\alpha + \int_{\frac{\pi}{2}}^\pi \int_{-r \cos(\pi - \alpha)}^0 1 dp d\alpha \\
&= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} r \cos(\alpha) d\alpha + \int_{\frac{\pi}{2}}^\pi r \cos(\pi - \alpha) d\alpha \\
&= r \left(\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) - \sin(\pi - \pi) + \sin\left(\pi - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \right) \\
&= r(1 - 0 + 1) = 2r.
\end{aligned}$$

5 Line hitting aggregation

By 5.2.1 we know that μ is, up to a factor, the only euclidean motion invariant measure on \mathcal{G} . Since it is locally finite, for $K \in \mathcal{K}^2$ we can define a probability measure on \mathcal{G} by

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu^K(A) := \frac{\mu(A \cap [K])}{\mu([K])}, \quad A \in \mathfrak{G}.$$

Definition 5.2.5. Let $K \in \mathcal{K}^2$. A random line $g : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ is called *K-isotropic* if

$$\mathbb{P}(g \in A) = \mathbb{P}_\mu^K(A), \quad A \in \mathfrak{G}.$$

Lemma 5.2.4. Let $M, K \in \mathcal{K}^2$ with $M \subset K$. Let f be a random K -isotropic and g be a random M -isotropic line. Then for all $A \in \mathfrak{G}$ we have

$$\mathbb{P}(f \in A \mid f \in [M]) = \mathbb{P}(g \in A).$$

Proof. Note that since $M \subset K$ it is $[M] \subset [K]$. For $A \in \mathfrak{G}$ we therefore directly get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(f \in A \mid f \in [M]) &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(f \in A \cap [M])}{\mathbb{P}(f \in [M])} \\ &= \frac{\mu(A \cap [M] \cap [K])}{\mu([K])} \frac{\mu([K])}{\mu([M] \cap [K])} \\ &= \frac{\mu(A \cap [M])}{\mu([M])} \\ &= \mathbb{P}(g \in A). \end{aligned}$$

□

If we choose a simple convex set such as $K = B_r$ the ball around the origin with radius r then choosing random K -isotropic lines becomes a very intuitive and easy realizable task as the following lemma shows.

Lemma 5.2.5. Let $K = B_r \in \mathcal{K}^2$ and let (α, p) be uniformly distributed in $\tilde{\Phi} := [0, \pi) \times [-r, r] = \chi^{-1}([K]) \subset \Phi$. Then $\chi(\alpha, p)$ is a random K -isotropic line.

Proof. For $A \in \mathfrak{G}$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\chi(\alpha, p) \in A) &= \mathbb{P}((\alpha, p) \in \chi^{-1}(A)) = \frac{\lambda_{2|\tilde{\Phi}}(\chi^{-1}(A) \cap \chi^{-1}([K])))}{\lambda_{2|\tilde{\Phi}}(\chi^{-1}([K])))} \\ &= \frac{\lambda_{2|\Phi}(\chi^{-1}(A \cap [K])))}{\lambda_{2|\Phi}(\chi^{-1}([K])))} = \frac{\mu(A \cap [K])}{\mu([K])}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Remark 5.2.1. Both lemmas 5.2.4 and 5.2.5 give a help for realizing K -isotropic lines for complicated sets K . Lemma 5.2.4 tells us that we if we are looking for a K -isotropic line, we can actually take a convex, compact set B which contains K and realize B -isotropic lines. If we realize such a line and it happens that it intersects K , we know

that its distribution is equal to trying to realize K -isotropic lines directly. And how to realize B -isotropic lines? Lemma 5.2.5 tells us that if we choose $B = B_r$ a ball with a big enough radius such that it contains K , then realizing B -isotropic lines comes by choosing the line parameters α and p uniformly in $[0, \pi)$ and $[-r, r]$. Finally we have a practicable process of choosing random K -isotropic lines, even if K happens to be very asymmetric and complicated. This gives the base to define a new incremental aggregation in the next section which tries to approximate external DLA.

5.3 Definition

We are now able to choose a line randomly out of all lines hitting a cluster in a fair and agreeable way, which are K -isotropic lines as presented in Definition 5.2.5. All in all we have realized the mathematical structure to define the incremental aggregation as we have planned it in the motivation in the beginning of this chapter. Recall that for a bounded subset $A \subset \mathbb{C}$ the convex hull $conv(A)$ of A is defined to be the smallest convex set containing A , formally

$$conv(A) := \bigcap_{A \subset K \in \mathcal{K}^2} K \in \mathcal{K}^2.$$

For a set $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$ we define

$$conv(A) := conv\left(\bigcup_{p \in A} sq(p)\right)$$

and since $\bigcup_{p \in A} sq(p)$ is a bounded set we have $conv(A) \in \mathcal{K}^2$. Remind the definition

$$[B] := \{g \in \mathcal{G} \mid g \cap B \neq \emptyset\}$$

for Borel-sets $B \in \mathcal{B}^2$.

Definition 5.3.1. (*random line hitting distribution*) Let $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$ and $K := conv(A)$. For $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $g \in \mathcal{G}$ define

$$\gamma_A(g) := \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{1}\{|g \cap A| \geq 2\} + \mathbb{1}\{|g \cap A| = 1\},$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_A(x, g) := \gamma_A(g) \begin{cases} \mathbb{1}\{x \in \{\min(g \cap A), \max(g \cap A)\}\}, & \text{if } g \cap A \neq \emptyset, \\ 0, & \text{if } g \cap A = \emptyset. \end{cases} \quad (5.1)$$

and

$$\mu_A(x) := \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}_{\mu}^K([sq(A)])} \int_{\mathcal{G}} \tilde{\mu}_A(x, g) \mathbb{P}_{\mu}^K(dg). \quad (5.2)$$

5 Line hitting aggregation

We quickly show that $\mu_A \in \mathcal{D}_A$. For all $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus A$ and $g \in \mathcal{G}$ we have $\tilde{\mu}_A(x, g) = 0$ and therefore $\mu_A(x) = 0$. Furthermore for all $g \in \mathcal{G}$ we have

$$\sum_{x \in A} \tilde{\mu}_A(x, g) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}2, & |g \cap A| \geq 2, \\ 1, & |g \cap A| = 1, \\ 0, & |g \cap A| = 0. \end{cases} = \mathbb{1}\{g \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$$

and therefore

$$\sum_{x \in A} \mu_A(x) = \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}_\mu^K([sq(A)])} \int_{\mathcal{G}} \mathbb{1}\{g \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \mathbb{P}_\mu^K(dg) = \frac{\mathbb{P}_\mu^K([sq(A)])}{\mathbb{P}_\mu^K([sq(A)])} = 1.$$

Hence, the family of distributions $(\mu_A)_{A \in \mathcal{P}_f}$ defines an incremental aggregation.

Definition 5.3.2. (*line hitting aggregation*) An incremental aggregation with the random line hitting distribution we call *line hitting aggregation*, short *LHA*.

Remark 5.3.1. Let $A \in \mathcal{P}_f$. If A is connected then with $K := conv(A)$ we have $[sq(A)] = [K]$, leading to $\mathbb{P}_\mu^K([sq(A)]) = 1$. Therefore we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_A(x) &= \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}_\mu^K([sq(A)])} \int_{\mathcal{G}} \tilde{\mu}_A(x, g) \mathbb{P}_\mu^K(dg) \\ &= \int_{[sq(x)]} \tilde{\mu}_A(x, g) \mathbb{P}_\mu^K(dg) + \int_{\mathcal{G} \setminus [sq(x)]} \tilde{\mu}_A(x, g) \mathbb{P}_\mu^K(dg) \\ &\leq \int_{[sq(x)]} 1 \mathbb{P}_\mu^K(dg) + 0 \\ &= \mathbb{P}_\mu^K([sq(x)]) \end{aligned}$$

for any $x \in A$.

5.4 Fractal dimension and growth rate of LHA in \mathbb{Z}^2

In this section we will try to give an idea of the fractal dimension of the line hitting aggregation.

Theorem 5.4.1. There exists a $c > 0$ such that for all $r \in [1, \infty)$ we have

$$\mu_A(0) \leq cr^{-1}, \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{P}_r^0.$$

Proof. Let $r \geq 1$, $A \in \mathcal{P}_r^0$ and $K := conv(A)$. Since A is connected we can use remark 5.3.1 and the examples 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 to get

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_A(0) &\leq \mathbb{P}_\mu^K([sq(0)]) \\ &= \frac{\mu([sq(0)])}{\mu([K])} \end{aligned}$$

5 Line hitting aggregation

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \frac{\mu([B_1])}{\mu([0, r] \times \{0\})} \\
&= \frac{2\pi}{2r} \\
&= \pi r^{-1}.
\end{aligned}$$

Note that $sq(0) \subset B_1$. Note also that we used that since K is convex and has at least radius r as a set in \mathbb{R}^2 it certainly contains a line segment of length r , and since μ is translation and rotation invariant we can here choose the segment $[0, r] \times \{0\}$ and state $[0, r] \times \{0\} \subset K$ without loss of generality. Since choosing $c := \pi$ is not depending on r or A this completes the proof. \square

We are therefore prepared to proof the following theorem.

Theorem 5.4.2. For the fractal dimension of the line hitting aggregation we have

$$d_f = 2 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Proof. It is not difficult to proof that the line hitting distribution is translation invariant and an outside distribution, just like the harmonic measure in external DLA. Remind the definitions 3.1.3 and 3.1.2. Together with theorem 5.4.1 we can therefore use theorem 3.3.1 and choose $q = 1$ to get

$$d_f \geq 1 + 1 = 2 \quad \text{a.s..}$$

Since $d_f \leq 2$ a.s. by chapter 3.2 (3.6) we therefore get $d_f = 2$ a.s.. \square

6 Python simulations

In this section we will present a simulation for the line hitting aggregation and approximate its fractal dimension empirically. The simulation is written in *python* and images are created with *pygame*. If you want to check and try the code yourself, feel welcomed to checkout this repository on github:

[LINK](#)

Each vertex in \mathbb{Z}^2 can be naturally identified with values in \mathbb{C} and is represented in this way in this code. Every value in \mathbb{C} with integer components can be represented by squares as presented in Definition 5.1.1, and each square will be represented by exactly one pixel on a monitor screen, so every picture created by the simulation consists of pixels each naturally representing exactly one vertex in \mathbb{Z}^2 . The aim of this simulation is to create realizations of LHA as close as possible to its mathematical definition.

Note that this software also contains a simulation for external DLA. This simulation doesn't claim to be implemented very close to its mathematical definition, but it is good enough to play around and create images with it, and get a vague visual comparison of the two aggregation models.

6.1 Code

In the following we will describe the code and claim that it is a precise implementation of LHA, excluding errors from python packages and machine calculation. In the simulation we are using imports for systemic purposes (**pygame**, **sys**, **json**, **time**, **datetime**, **os**, **shutil**) and for mathematical purposes (**random**, **math.sin**, **math.cos**, **math.pi**, **math.log**). Only the imports for mathematical purposes are used for the calculation of a realization of LHA. So on the side of import packages only these packages will have an effect on the mathematical preciseness of the realised process. Other than that every calculations preciseness is bounded to some extent by the preciseness of machine calculation. We will ignore a study on that in this simulation.

When using the software you will have the possibility to enter some parameters in the *parameters.json* file which include colorings of background and particle pixels, how many particles you want the cluster to have at the end and how big the created image shall be. An example of this file looks like this:

```
{
    "aggregation": "lha",
    "cluster_size": 10000,
    "background_color": "FFFFFF",
    "particle_color": ["000000"],
    "color_generation_size": 1000,
    "fractal_calculation_range": [0.2, 0.75],
    "image_width": 300,
    "image_height": 300
}
```

The value *color_generation_size* specifies how big one generation of a color shall be in the case that you chose more than one color to print the particles. This allows to visualize layers of the aggregation and produce beautiful rainbowlike colored realizations. Since for the simulation here we go for only black particle color, the color generation size does not have any effect in this case. With the *fractal_calculation_range* you can have influence on how the approximation of the fractal dimension shall be calculated, more on that later. You can find more about setting parameters in the README file of the repository.

If correct parameters are set, you can run a shell script which in turn will run a single python file *main.py* which reads the entered parameters and executes first the mathematical process which needs the mathematical imports and second the data creation of the calculated process which needs the systemic imports as described above. The created data will contain an image of the created cluster, a json file with the parameters saved for later lookup and another json file containing information about the creation time, fractal dimension values and a list of all particle coordinates for potential later use.

We will have a look now on what happens on the mathematical side. We will show code directly here to make things clearer. Note that in the original code here and there you will find comments or other irrelevant differences, which we leave away here.

The main executed python file *main.py* looks like this:

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
    with open("parameters.json") as json_file:
        data = json.load(json_file)

    if data["aggregation"] == "lha":
        aggregation = lha.Line_Hitting_Aggregation()
    elif data["aggregation"] == "dla":
        aggregation = dla.External_DLA()
    else:
        raise Exception("Invalid aggregation parameter. Enter lha or dla.")

    aggregation.run_process(data["cluster_size"] - 1)
    cd.export_data(aggregation, data, separator, runtime)
```

Note again that you can also run an external DLA simulation but we do not claim that it is mathematically precise and therefore won't argument that in this paper. The parameters in *parameters.json* are read and depending on which process (LHA or DLA)

6 Python simulations

shall be simulated, the according object gets initiated and its *run_process* method gets executed. Both classes *Line_Hitting_Aggregation* and *External_DLA* base on the class *Incremental_Aggregation*. So the full init of LHA looks like:

```
class Incremental_Aggregation:
    def __init__(self):
        self.particles = [0]
        self.boundary_set = self.get_neighbours(0)
        self.cluster_radius = 0

class Line_Hitting_Aggregation(ia.Incremental_Aggregation):
    def __init__(self):
        super().__init__()
```

We init the particle set *particles* as a set containing 0, init the boundary set which in every iteration of the process will contain all neighbours of all particles in the particle set and set the initial cluster radius to 0. As neighbours we only consider the neighbour coordinates up, down, left and right as defined in 2.3.

After initializing a *Line_Hitting_Aggregation* object the method *run_process* gets executed, which looks like the following:

```
def run_process(self, iterations):
    for k in range(iterations):
        line_hits_cluster = False

        while not line_hits_cluster:
            random_line = geom.Line(self.get_random_line())

            if self.line_hits_cluster(random_line):
                line_hits_cluster = True
                next_particle = self.get_next_particle(random_line)

                self.particles.append(next_particle)
                self.actualize_boundary_set()
                self.actualize_cluster_radius()
```

This method will directly run a loop with $\text{data}["cluster_size"] - 1$ iterations. In each iteration exactly one particle will be added to the particle set, so at the end we end up with exactly $\text{data}["cluster_size"]$ particles since we started with one particle.

If we call K the current cluster it is now important to understand again, how choosing random K -isotropic lines works. In 5.2.1 we have argued that a K -isotropic line can be realized by considering a circle B which contains the current cluster K and choose a B -isotropic line which intersects with the circle. If it happens that this line intersects with K , by 5.2.4 we know that we have realized a random K -isotropic line. The method *get_random_line*

```
def get_random_line(self):
    alpha = pi * random.random()
    radius = self.cluster_radius + 2
    p = 2 * radius * random.random() - radius
    return (alpha, p)
```

produces uniformly chosen line parameters, and using $cluster_radius + 2$ here ensures that the line is hitting a surrounding circle B . The method `random.random()` produces an uniformly chosen value in $[0, 1]$. The fact that `random.random()` cannot choose the value 1 doesn't disturb the distribution of the line since $\{1\}$ is a zero set for the 2-dimensional Lebesgue-measure. By 5.2.5, choosing these line parameters uniformly indeed realises a random B -isotropic line.

The method `line_hits_cluster`

```
def line_hits_cluster(self, line):
    for k in range(len(self.particles)):
        if line.intersects_with_polygon(self.get_square(self.particles[-k])):
            return True
    return False
```

bases on the method `intersects_with_polygon` which evaluates whether a line intersects with a given polygon or not (the implemented geometry classes `Line` and `Polygon` you can find in the file `geometry.py`). Here the polygon is a square given by the method

```
def get_square(self, pos):
    return geom.Polygon([pos + 1/2 * (1+1j), pos + 1/2 * (1-1j), pos + 1/2 * (-1-1j), pos + 1/2 * (-1+1j)])
```

which in total implements the definitions 5.1.1 and 5.1.2.

If the condition is satisfied that a chosen line hits the cluster, we enter the if-condition and then choose the next particle with the method `get_next_particle`

```
def get_next_particle(self, line):
    hit_positions = self.get_boundary_hit_positions(line)
    min_position = self.get_min(line.alpha, hit_positions)
    max_position = self.get_max(line.alpha, hit_positions)
    return random.choice([min_position, max_position])
```

which first collects all particle squares in the boundary set which are hit by the line, calculates minimum and maximum of all those particles and then chooses uniformly between minimum and maximum with `random.choice`. The methods `get_min` and `get_max` base on the method `is_lower`

```

def is_lower(self, alpha, x, y):
    x_0, x_1 = x.real, x.imag
    y_0, y_1 = y.real, y.imag

    if alpha == pi/2: # Case 1
        return x_0 < y_0
    elif alpha == 0: # Case 2
        return x_1 < y_1
    elif pi/2 < alpha < pi: # Case 3
        if x_0 == y_0:
            return x_1 < y_1
        else:
            return x_0 < y_0
    elif 0 < alpha < pi/2: # Case 4
        if x_0 == y_0:
            return x_1 > y_1
        else:
            return x_0 < y_0

```

which implements the total ordered relation on all squares which got hit by the line as defined in 5.1.2. Minimum and maximum are then canonically calculated with respect to this relation.

After having realised the next particle, values like the particle set, the boundary set and the cluster radius get actualized and the next iteration starts.

6.2 Empirical fractal dimension of LHA

In this section we present what our simulations produce in terms of images and fractal dimension values. Since by theorem 5.4.2 we already know that the fractal dimension of the line hitting aggregation is 2, our approximation for the fractal dimension here have the purpose to give an idea of the convergence behaviour against the value 2. First it is not trivial how to create a senseful approximation for the fractal dimension. If we go back to the definition

$$d_f = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n)}{\ln(\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n))}$$

we can go with the ansatz that

$$\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n) \approx cn^{\frac{1}{d_f}}$$

for some constant $c > 0$ and therefore get

$$\ln(\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n)) \approx \frac{1}{d_f} \ln(n) + \ln(c). \quad (6.1)$$

We therefore could be looking for the parameters $\frac{1}{d_f}$ and $\ln(c)$ of a linear regression of the two values $\ln(n)$ and $\ln(\text{rad}(\mathcal{E}_n))$ for a range of values $n \in \mathbb{N}$. In the range of up to 100000 particles we have noticed a strong instability of these parameters and have come to the conclusion that for calculating approximations it is problematic that the radius of

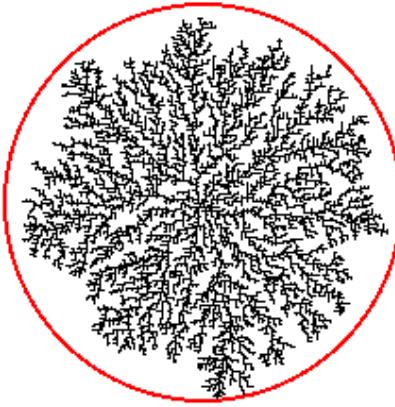


Figure 9: Cluster not „filled up“ to its radius

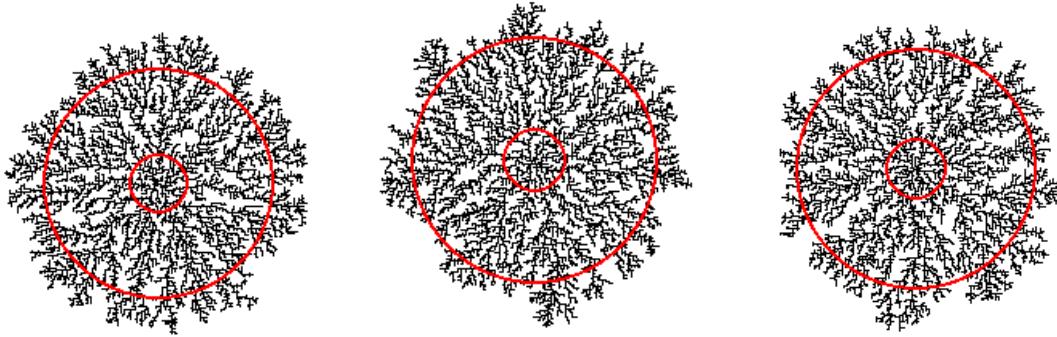


Figure 10: circle radii range [0.2, 0.75] of the clusters radius

a cluster always stays constant for the time that new particles get added to the cluster where they don't increase the radius. Compare with Figure 9 to see that this cluster is not yet „filled up“ to its radius which creates something like a stair function in the linear plot of 6.1. To get more stable parameters it might make sense to come back to conjecture 3.2.1

$$d_f = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n|)}{\ln(n)}$$

where with the ansatz

$$|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n| \approx cn^{d_f} \quad (6.2)$$

for some constant $c > 0$ we would get

$$\ln(|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n|) \approx d_f \ln(n) + \ln(c). \quad (6.3)$$

Remind that $\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n$ is the set of all particles in the final cluster \mathcal{E}_∞ which lie in B_n the ball of radius n with center 0. Since it is not possible to realize \mathcal{E}_∞ we have to go

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with a approximation here. What we want is to compare the particle count of „filled up“ clusters at radius n . If we have a look at Figure 10 we see that in a certain range of radii n the clusters $\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n$ seem to be fairly filled up to their radius. This range of radii is what can be specified in the `parameters.json` file in the `fractal_calculation_range` field (see in the git repository). If r is the radius of the cluster we found that it makes sense to not start the observation at 0 but a bit higher like $0.2r$ to avoid distorted values occurring by the beginning of the process. On the other side we found empirically that $0.75r$ seems to be a fair upper ratio where the clusters in most cases seem to be fairly filled up to that radius.

So all in all we will look at radii n in the specified range $[0.2r, 0.75r]$ and count all particles of the cluster which lie in B_n , which shall be an approximation of $|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n|$. After that we calculate the linear regression parameters \bar{d}_f and $\bar{\ln}(c)$ of the logarithmized values as in (6.3) which happens in the following method:

```
def fractal_dimension_approximation_1(particles, ratio_range = [0,1]):
    radius = max([abs(x + y*1j) for x,y in particles])

    min_radius, max_radius = ratio_range[0] * radius, ratio_range[1] * radius

    radius_list, cardinal_list = [], []

    radius_value = min_radius
    while radius_value < max_radius:
        radius_list.append(radius_value)
        cardinal_list.append(len([(x,y) for (x,y) in particles if abs(x + y*1j) < radius_value]))
        radius_value += 1

    x_list = [log(x) for x in radius_list]
    y_list = [log(x) for x in cardinal_list]

    if len(x_list) > 0:
        params = polyfit(x_list, y_list, 1)
        return {"parameters": (params[0], params[1]),
                "x_list": x_list,
                "y_list": y_list}
```

You will find every of the following realized simulations in the folder `exports` of the git repository. Inside a folder you will find three types of files, one is the created image, one contains values of all particle coordinates and fractal dimension values and the third is a copy of the parameters file with which the simulation was preset. More on that you can find in the README file of the repository. The names of the folder and files will have a certain format to identify each simulation clearly. The folder name

2021_03_02_02_37_54_lha_100000

indicates that the folder contains a realized LHA simulation with 100000 particles which was created at 02. March 2021 02:37:54. Analogously

2021_03_02_11_02_25_dla_5000

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Simulation name	d_f	$\ln(c)$	v_{lha}
2021_03_04_09_40_51_lha_10000	1.8601	0.8083	0.4198
2021_03_04_10_05_53_lha_10000	1.8679	0.7847	0.4222
2021_03_04_11_53_34_lha_20000	1.9135	0.5899	0.4006
2021_03_04_12_35_01_lha_20000	1.9273	0.5265	0.3976
2021_03_04_13_54_14_lha_30000	1.9071	0.6370	0.4016
2021_03_04_14_49_08_lha_30000	1.9191	0.5734	0.3965
2021_03_04_15_56_37_lha_40000	1.9518	0.4164	0.3885
2021_03_04_18_00_02_lha_40000	1.9173	0.5874	0.3941
2021_03_04_15_58_28_lha_50000	1.9311	0.5127	0.3863
2021_03_04_18_00_18_lha_50000	1.9381	0.4664	0.3811
2021_03_04_12_35_20_lha_60000	1.9283	0.5328	0.3868
2021_03_04_09_42_12_lha_60000	1.9187	0.5771	0.3861
2021_03_04_09_42_36_lha_70000	1.9257	0.5467	0.3853
2021_03_04_13_43_38_lha_70000	1.9184	0.5707	0.3812
2021_03_04_09_42_56_lha_80000	1.9135	0.6230	0.3906
2021_03_04_14_49_16_lha_80000	1.9463	0.4352	0.3788
2021_03_04_16_30_00_lha_90000	1.9420	0.4632	0.3805
2021_03_04_09_43_16_lha_90000	1.9344	0.5083	0.3834
2021_03_03_21_23_50_lha_100000	1.9065	0.6421	0.3805
2021_03_03_21_23_47_lha_100000	1.9344	0.4989	0.3782

Table 1: LHA Simulations (10000 - 100000 particles)

for a realized simulation of DLA. For the following observation we have run the line hitting aggregation from 10000 to 100000 twice at each 10000 step which makes 20 simulations in total. The simulations have calculated the values in Table 1. A plot of the values you can find in Figure 11.

The plot indicates a rather slow convergence of the empirical dimension values to the final value 2. Something similar was guessed by [10]. For a further empirical study on this convergence behaviour more data has to be created which we don't follow further in this paper.

Another interesting value to calculate is the following. Since we know that the fractal dimension for LHA is 2, we can rewrite (6.2) to get

$$|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n| \approx cn^2 \quad (6.4)$$

which can be transformed to

$$\frac{c}{\pi} \approx \frac{|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n|}{\pi n^2}.$$

We can see that $\frac{c}{\pi}$ describes the relation between the volume of the cluster in the ball B_n and the volume of the ball B_n itself. If we look at

$$\ln(|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n|) \approx 2 \ln(n) + \ln(c). \quad (6.5)$$

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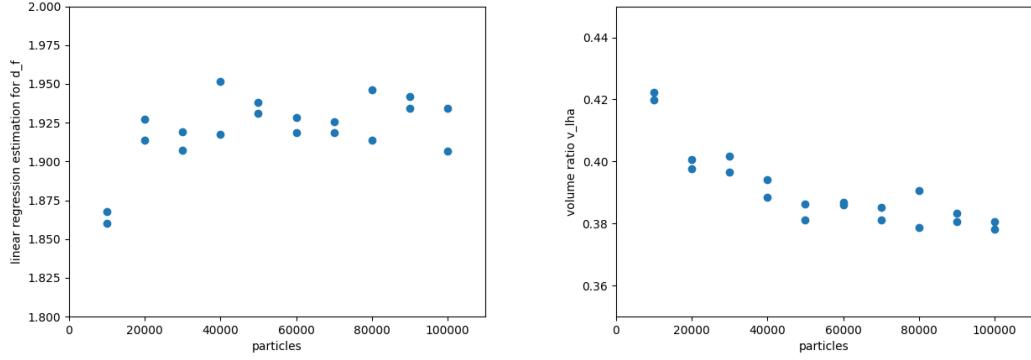


Figure 11: Linear regression parameters and volumina ratio of LHA

we can, similar to linear regression, calculate an in the sense of minimal quadratic error optimal estimator \hat{c} for $\ln(c)$ which satisfies

$$\hat{c} = \operatorname{argmin}_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{n=a}^b (\ln(|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n|) - (2 \ln(n) + c))^2,$$

where $a := \min([0.2r, 0.75r] \cap \mathbb{N})$ and $b := \max([0.2r, 0.75r] \cap \mathbb{N})$. It is not difficult to show that \hat{c} can be calculated by

$$\hat{c} = \frac{1}{b-a+1} \sum_{n=a}^b \ln(|\mathcal{E}_\infty \cap B_n|) - 2 \ln(n).$$

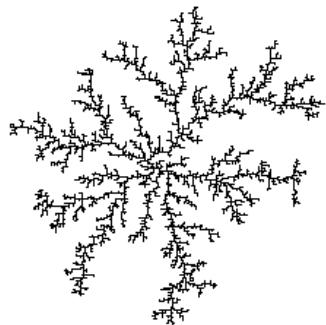
We can then calculate back the volume ratio v_{lha} with

$$v_{lha} := \frac{e^{\hat{c}}}{\pi}.$$

In Table 1 you can find the values for v_{lha} which got calculated by our simulations. Figure 11 indicates that the volumina ratio decreases with higher particle numbers and possibly start to stabilize at around $v_{lha} \approx 0.38$. Anyway for better empirics we would need more data which again may be part of another work.

6.3 Images

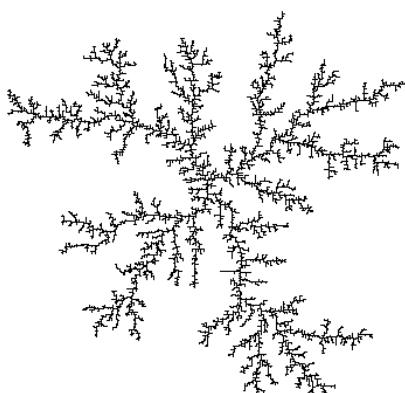
In the following we present some of the realized images of our LHA and external DLA simulations.



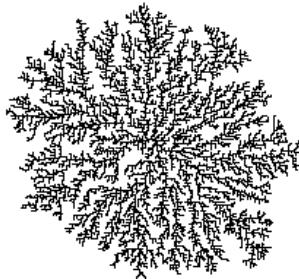
(a) 2021_03_03_12_25_49__image_dla_5000.png



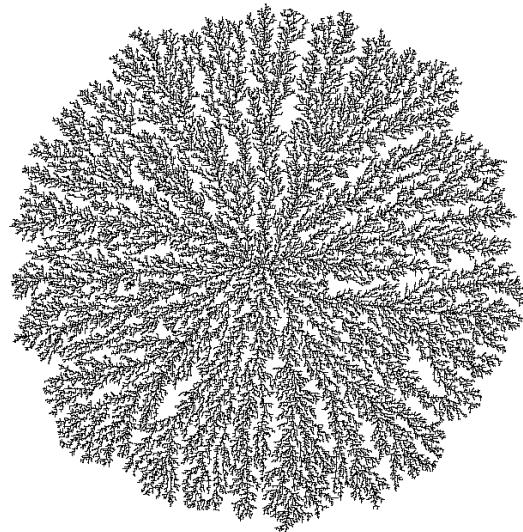
(b) 2021_03_06_00_23_38__image_lha_5000.png



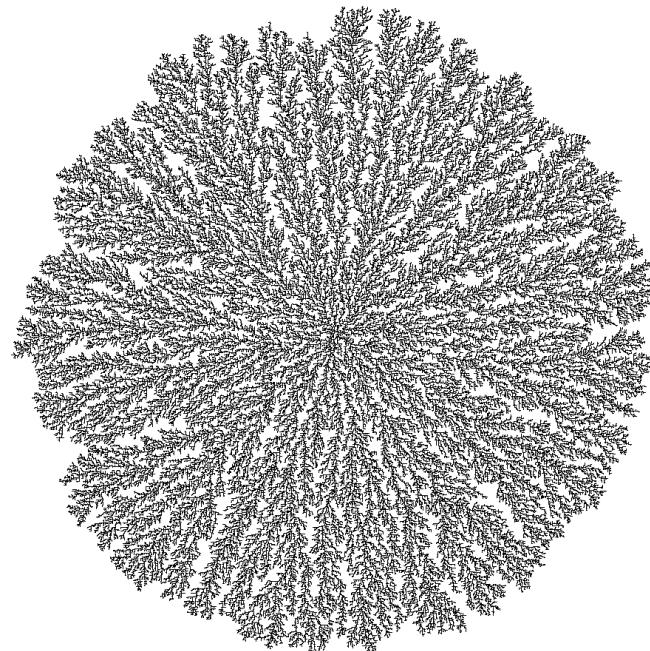
(a) 2021_03_03_19_58_26__image_dla_10000.png



(b) 2021_03_05_23_28_53__image_lha_10000.png



(a) 2021_03_03_21_23_47__image_lha_100000.png



(b) 2021_03_04_00_42_19__image_lha_200000.png

7 Review

In this paper we have looked at a general definition of incremental aggregations in \mathbb{Z}^d and the notion of defining a fractal dimension for such discrete clusters. We then moved our attention to \mathbb{Z}^2 and found for this case in theorem 3.3.1 a condition for proving a lower bound of the fractal dimension. We were able to apply this theorem for both incremental aggregations we looked at in this paper, external diffusion limited aggregation (external DLA) and the line hitting aggregation (LHA). For external DLA we found a lower bound of

$$d_f^{dla} \geq \frac{3}{2} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

and for the line hitting aggregation we were even able to find the exact dimension, which is

$$d_f^{lha} = 2 \quad \text{a.s..}$$

In the last chapter we provided simulations for both incremental aggregations. Especially the one for LHA was tried to be implemented as close to its mathematical definition as possible.

All in all did we here only touch the properties of incremental aggregations. The most known incremental aggregation you can find in literature is probably external DLA, but the general definition here in this paper provides a door into looking for other interesting incremental aggregations as well.

I hope that I could raise interest in this topic through my work in this paper and I invite the reader to play around with the code I provided in a github repository (see at the beginning of chapter 6). I feel delighted to watch at the beautiful realizations of the aggregations and I hope the reader can feel similar looking at them and realizing images him- and herself.

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Declaration

Herewith I assure that I created this paper self-reliant and on my own and that I did not use any material in this paper that I have not mentioned. The sources and contents I used in this paper I clearly labeled as such. I assure that I respected the statute for good and scientifical practice in the most current version of the Institute of Technology Karlsruhe, Germany.

Karlsruhe, den 08. März 2021