

# Thin DLPP in KPZ universality

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- 1 Introduction and history of DLPP
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- 3 Some open problems in DLPP

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The KPZ universality is mainly concerned about the **fluctuations** of these models:

- (1+1)d random growth (e.g. corner growth)
- 1d interacting particle system (e.g. TASEP)
- 2d directed polymers (e.g. directed last passage percolation)

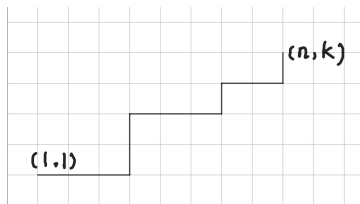
**KPZ universality conjecture:** For height function  $h(x, t)$ , as  $T \rightarrow +\infty$ ,

$$\frac{h(x_0 T + C_1 x T^{2/3}, tT) - a(T)}{C_2 T^{1/3}} \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}(x, t)$$

with some model-independent constants  $C_1, C_2$  and  $a(T)$ , and a universal 2d random field  $\mathcal{H}(x, t)$ , which is now called the **KPZ fixed point**.

Scaling: fluctuation : space : time = 1 : 2 : 3

# Directed last passage percolation(DLPP)



DLPP

- i.i.d. random variables  $w_{ij}$  at each site  $(i,j) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ . Let  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[w_{ij}]$ ,  $\text{Var}(w_{ij}) = \sigma^2$ .
- **Admissible paths:**  $\Pi(n,k)$  = the set of “up/right” paths from  $(1,1)$  to  $(n,k)$ .
- **Last passage time:**  $T(n,k) = \max_{\pi \in \Pi(n,k)} \left\{ \sum_{(i,j) \in \pi} w_{ij} \right\}$ .
- **Related models:** Corner growth, TASEP, ...

- $k = o(n)$ :

## Theorem (Seppäläinen, 1997)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}[T(n, [n^a])] - n\mu}{n^{\frac{1+a}{2}}} = 2\sigma, \quad a \in (0, 1).$$

- $k = O(n)$ , We have consequences of some solvable models:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}[T([xn], n)]}{n} = a(x).$$

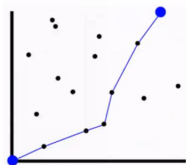
## Theorem (Rost, 1981)

For  $w_{ij} \sim \text{Exp}(1)$ ,  $a(x) = (1 + \sqrt{x})^2$ .

## Theorem (Johansson, 2000)

For  $w_{ij} \sim \text{Geo}(q)$ ,  $0 < q < 1$ ,  $a(x) = \frac{q(1+x)+2\sqrt{qx}}{1-q}$ .

## Poisson DLPP:



Poisson DLPP

- A 2d Poisson process in  $\mathbb{R}_+^2$ ;
- **Admissible paths:**  $\Pi(t, s)$  = the set of upper right path  $p$  that connects Poisson points linearly,  $(t, s) \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$ ;
- $E(p)$ : the number of the Poisson points on  $p$ .
- **Last passage time:**  $T(t, s) = \sup_{p \in \Pi(t, s)} E(p)$ .

## Theorem (Baik-Deift-Johansson, 1999)

$$\frac{T(n, n) - 2n}{n^{1/3}} \xrightarrow{D} F_{TW}, \quad n \rightarrow +\infty.$$

## Exponential, Geometric DLPP:

### Theorem (Johansson, 2000)

For  $w_{ij} \sim \text{Exp}(1)/\text{Geo}(q)$ , we have that

$$\frac{T([xn], n) - a(x)n}{b(x)n^{1/3}} \xrightarrow{D} F_{TW}, \quad n \rightarrow +\infty.$$

- $\text{Exp}(1) : b(x) = \frac{(1 + \sqrt{x})^{4/3}}{x^{1/6}};$
- $\text{Geo}(q) : b(x) = \frac{q^{1/6}}{(1 - q)x^{1/6}} (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{q})^{2/3} (1 + \sqrt{qx})^{2/3}.$



**Question 1:** Is it similar for general i.i.d  $w_{ij}$  ?

For **thin DLPP**, Yes !

**Question 2:** How thin it is ? All  $k=o(n)$ ?

At least  $k = n^a$ ,  $a < 3/7$ .

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## Theorem (Baik-Suidan & Bodineau-Martin , 2005)

Suppose  $\mu = 0, \sigma = 1$ ,  $w_{ij}$  has finite  $p$  moments,  $p > 2$ , we have that

$$\frac{T(n, k) - 2\sqrt{nk}}{n^{1/2}k^{-1/6}} \xrightarrow{D} F_{TW}, \quad n, k \rightarrow +\infty$$

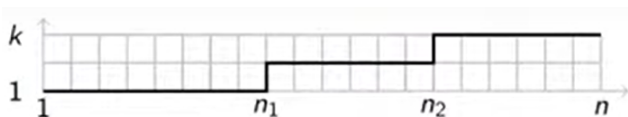
with  $k = [n^a]$ ,  $0 < a < \frac{3(p-2)}{7p}$

## Remark

If  $w_{ij}$  has all moments, then  $0 < a < 3/7$  is enough.

- Fix  $k, n \rightarrow +\infty$ : each level  $\approx$  Brownian motion. Note that

$$T(n, k) = \max_{1=n_0 \leq n_1 \leq \dots \leq n_k=n} \sum_{i=1}^n (S_{n_{i+1}}^{(i)} - S_{n_i}^{(i)}), \quad S_j(i) = \sum_{m=0}^{i-1} W_{mj}.$$



Let

$$D(t, k) = \sup_{0=t_0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_k=t} \sum_{i=1}^k (B_{t_i}^{(i)} - B_{t_{i-1}}^{(i)}),$$

where  $\{B_t^{(i)}, t \geq 0, i \geq 1\}$  be a sequence of independent standard Brownian motions. By Donsker's theorem, we can imagine that

$$\frac{T(n, k)}{\sqrt{n}} \xrightarrow{D} D(1, k), \quad n \rightarrow +\infty.$$

This was proved by Glynn and Whitt in 1991.

## Theorem (Tracy-Widom, 1994)

Let  $\lambda_{max}$  be the largest eigenvalue of  $k \times k$  GUE random matrix, then

$$k^{1/6}(\lambda_{max} - 2\sqrt{k}) \xrightarrow{D} F_{TW}, \quad k \rightarrow +\infty.$$

- (Baryshnikov & Gravner-Tracy-Widom, 2001)  $D(1, k)$  has the same distribution as the largest eigenvalue of a  $k \times k$  GUE random matrix, so

$$k^{1/6}(D(1, k) - 2\sqrt{k}) \xrightarrow{D} F_{TW}, \quad k \rightarrow +\infty.$$

Therefore,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{P} \left( k^{1/6} \left\{ \frac{T(n, k)}{\sqrt{n}} - 2\sqrt{k} \right\} \leq s \right) = F_{TW}(s).$$

- Question:**  $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \stackrel{?}{=} \lim_{n, k \rightarrow +\infty}$
- Approach:** couple Brownian motions.  
 Baik-Suidan: Skorohod Embedding;  
 Bodineau-Martin: KMT (Komlós-Major-Tusnády) approximation.

**Scaling:**

$$k^{1/6}(D(1, k) - 2\sqrt{k}) \xrightarrow{D} F_{TW}$$

↓

$$\frac{D(n, k) - 2\sqrt{nk}}{n^{1/2}k^{-1/6}} \xrightarrow{D} F_{TW}$$

So we need to prove that

$$\frac{|T(n, k) - D(n, k)|}{n^{1/2}k^{-1/6}} \xrightarrow{P} 0, \quad n \rightarrow +\infty$$

with  $k = [n^a]$ ,  $0 < a < \frac{3(p-2)}{7p}$ .

## Proposition (Skorohod Embedding Theorem)

Let  $\{B_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}^+}$  be a 1d standard Brownian motion and  $X$  be a real valued random variable satisfying  $\mathbb{E}[X] = 0$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[X^2] = 1$ , and  $\mathbb{E}[X^4] < \infty$ . Then, there exists a Brownian stopping time  $\tau$ , such that  $B_\tau$  is distributed as  $X$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[\tau] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] = 1$ , and  $\mathbb{E}[\tau^2] \leq 4\mathbb{E}[X^4]$ .

## Proposition (KMT approximation)

Suppose  $w_i, i = 1, 2, \dots$  i.i.d, with  $\mathbb{E}|w_i|^p < \infty$  for some  $p > 2$ , and with  $\mathbb{E}[w_i] = 0$ ,  $\text{Var}(w_i) = 1$ . Let  $S_m = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} w_i, m \geq 1$ . Then there is a constant  $C$  such that for all  $n > 0$ , there is a coupling of the distribution of  $(w_1, \dots, w_n)$  and a standard Brownian motion  $B_t, 0 \leq t \leq n + 1$  such that, for all  $x \in [n^{1/p}, n^{1/2}]$ ,

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \max_{m=1,2,\dots,n+1} |B_m - S_m| > x \right) \leq Cnx^{-p}.$$

Define

$$\mathcal{U}(t, k) = \left\{ (u_0, u_1, \dots, u_k) \in \mathbb{R}^{k+1} : 0 = u_0 \leq u_1 \leq \dots \leq u_k = t \right\},$$

we have that

$$\begin{aligned} |T(n, [n^a]) - D(n, [n^a])| &= \left| \sup_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{U}(n, [n^a])} \sum_{r=1}^{[n^a]} (S_{[u_r]+1}^{(r)} - S_{[u_{r-1}]}^{(r)}) - \sup_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{U}(n, [n^a])} \sum_{r=1}^{[n^a]} (B_{u_r+1}^r - B_{u_{r-1}}^r) \right| \\ &\leq \sup_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{U}(n, [n^a])} \sum_{r=1}^{[n^a]} (|S_{[u_r]+1}^{(r)} - B_{[u_r]+1}^{(r)}| + |S_{[u_{r-1}]}^{(r)} - B_{[u_{r-1}]}^{(r)}| \\ &\quad + |B_{[u_r]+1}^{(r)} - B_{u_r}^{(r)}| + |B_{[u_{r-1}]}^{(r)} - B_{u_{r-1}}^{(r)}|) \\ &\leq 2 \sum_{r=1}^{[n^a]} \left( \max_{i=1,2,\dots,n+1} |S_i^{(r)} - B_i^{(r)}| + \sup_{\substack{0 \leq s, t \leq n+1 \\ |s-t| < 2}} |B_s^{(r)} - B_t^{(r)}| \right) \\ &:= 2 \sum_{r=1}^{[n^a]} (V_n^{(r)} + W_n^{(r)}) \end{aligned}$$



Let event  $A_1 := \left\{ \max_{1 \leq r \leq [n^a]} V_n^{(r)} > n^{1/2} \right\}$ , event  $A_2 := \left\{ \max_{1 \leq r \leq [n^a]} W_n^{(r)} > n^{1/p} \right\}$

- For each  $r = 1, \dots, [n^a]$  we will couple  $(w_0^{(r)}, w_1^{(r)}, \dots, w_n^{(r)})$  and  $\{B_t^{(r)}, 0 \leq t \leq n+1\}$ . By KMT approximation,

$$\mathbb{P}(A_1) \leq n^a \cdot Cn(n^{1/2})^{-p} = Cn^{a+1-p/2} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} 0,$$

since

$$a < \frac{6}{7} \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{p} \right) < p \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{p} \right) = \frac{p}{2} - 1.$$

- By reflection principle and standard estimates on the normal distribution,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(A_2) &\leq n^a \mathbb{P} \left( \sup_{\substack{0 \leq s, t \leq n+1 \\ |s-t| < 2}} |S_s^{(1)} - B_t^{(1)}| \right) \leq n^a \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \mathbb{P} \left( \sup_{i \leq t \leq i+3} B_t - \inf_{t \leq i \leq t+3} B_t > n^{1/p} \right) \\ &\leq n^{a+1} \mathbb{P} \left( \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 3} |B_t| > \frac{n^{1/p}}{2} \right) = 2n^{a+1} \mathbb{P} \left( B_3 > \frac{n^{1/p}}{2} \right) \\ &\leq C_1 n^{a+1} \exp \left( -C_2 n^{-2/p} \right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} 0. \end{aligned}$$

- Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{E}[|T(n, [n^a]) - D(n, [n^a])|; A_1^c \cap A_2^c] &\leq 2n^a \mathbb{E}[V_n^{(1)} + W_n^{(1)}; A_1^c \cap A_2^c] \\
 &\leq 2n^a [2n^{1/p} + \mathbb{E}[V_n^{(1)} - n^{1/p}; n^{1/p} \leq V_n^{(1)} \leq n^{1/2}]] \\
 &\leq 2n^a \left( 2n^{1/p} + \int_{n^{1/p}}^{n^{1/2}} \mathbb{P}(V_n^{(1)} > x) dx \right) \\
 &\leq 2n^a \left( 2n^{1/p} + \int_{n^{1/p}}^{n^{1/2}} Cn x^{-p} dx \right) \\
 &\leq C_3 n^{a+1/p}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Above all, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(|T(n, [n^a]) - D(n, [n^a])| > n^{a+1/p+\varepsilon}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} 0.$$

Since  $a < \frac{6}{7} \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{p} \right)$ , for  $\varepsilon$  sufficiently small,  $a + \frac{1}{p} + \varepsilon < \frac{1}{2} - \frac{a}{6}$ . Therefore,

$$\frac{|T(n, [n^a]) - D(n, [n^a])|}{n^{1/2-a/6}} \xrightarrow{P} 0, \quad n \rightarrow +\infty.$$

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- Is the above limiting distribution right for larger values of  $a$ ? Even any  $k, n \rightarrow +\infty$ ?

A possible try: Four moments theorem.

cf:

Tao and Vu, Random matrices: The Four Moment Theorem for Wigner ensembles, 2014.

Adhikari and Chatterjee, An invariance principle for the 1D KPZ equation, 2022.

- For general iid weight, including  $k=O(n)$  and  $k=o(n)$ , limit shape? fluctuation?

Better tail bounds: Shirshendu Ganguly, Optimal tail exponents in general last passage percolation via bootstrapping & geodesic geometry, Milind Hegde, 2020.

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**Thank you!**