# How far do activated random walkers spread from a single source? 

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Banff, 5 July 2022

## Self-Organized Criticality (SOC)



Bak, P. (2013). How nature works: the science of self-organized criticality. Springer Science \& Business Media.

## Activated Random Walks

- Particle configuration $\eta_{t}: \mathbb{Z}^{d} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup\{s\}$
- Initial configuration $\eta_{0}$ made of i.i.d. Bernoulli $(\mu)$ active particles
- Exponential(1) clocks
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## Activated Random Walks



Simulation by Leonardo Rolla (University of Warwick).

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## Q: Does activity persist forever?



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Fixation


Explosion


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Explosion

Theorem (Rolla, Sidoravicius, Invent. Math. (2012))
For any sleep rate $\lambda \in(0, \infty]$ there exists a critical density $\mu_{c}(\lambda)$ such that

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\mathbb{P}_{\lambda}^{\mu}(\text { Fixation })= \begin{cases}1, & \text { if } \mu<\mu_{c}(\lambda) \\ 0, & \text { if } \mu>\mu_{c}(\lambda) .\end{cases}
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V. Sidoravicius
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L. Rolla
L. Taggi
A. Stauffer
A. Texeira
L. Tournier

## ARWs as a growth model

Q: Start with $n$ walkers at the origin and let the system stabilize. At which density do the particles spread?

$\mathbb{Z}$


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## ARWs as a growth model

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Video

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Conjecture
For any sleep rate $\lambda \in(0, \infty]$ there exists a critical density $\mu_{a}(\lambda)$ such that for any $\varepsilon>0$

$$
\mathbb{P}_{\lambda}\left(B_{\frac{n}{\mu_{a}(\lambda)}(1-\varepsilon)} \subseteq A_{n} \subseteq B_{\frac{n}{\mu_{a}(\lambda)}(1+\varepsilon)} \text { eventually in } n\right)=1
$$

## ARWs in finite volume

- Start with $1_{I_{N}}$, for $I_{N} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^{d}$
- Stabilize with killing on $\partial I_{N}$
- Denote by $\mathcal{S}_{\lambda}\left(\mathbf{1}_{I_{N}}\right)$ the final configuration.



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For any sleep rate $\lambda \in(0, \infty]$ there exists a critical density $\mu_{s}(\lambda)$ such that

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\lim _{I_{N} \nearrow \mathbb{Z}^{d}} \frac{\left|\mathcal{S}_{\lambda}\left(\mathbf{1}_{I_{N}}\right)\right|}{\left\|I_{N}\right\|}=\mu_{s}(\lambda) .
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## Density conjecture

Conjecture (Universality)
$\mu_{c}(\lambda)=\mu_{a}(\lambda)=\mu_{s}(\lambda)$.


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Theorem (Levine, S., JSP (2021))
$A R W s$ on $\mathbb{Z}$. Let $A_{n}$ denote the set of visited sites until stabilization when starting with $n$ particles at the origin. Then for any sleep rate $\lambda$ there exist critical densities $\mu_{\text {in }}(\lambda)$ and $\mu_{\text {out }}(\lambda)$ such that, assuming they are both positive, for any $\varepsilon>0$ it holds
$\mathbb{P}_{\lambda}\left(A_{n} \subseteq B_{\overline{\mu_{\text {out }}(\lambda)}}(1+\varepsilon),\left\|A_{n}\right\| \geq \frac{n}{\mu_{\text {in }}(\lambda)}(1-\varepsilon)\right.$ eventually in $\left.n\right)=1$.

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\mu_{i n, I}(\lambda):=\inf \left\{\mu: \mathbb{P}_{\lambda}\left(\frac{\left|\mathcal{S}\left(\mathbf{1}_{I}\right)\right|}{\|I\|}>\mu\right) \leq\|I\|^{-20}\right\}
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## Ideas of proof

- Outer bound: Abelian property + coupling with Internal Diffusion Limited Aggregation on Bernoulli vertex percolation.
- Inner bound: Build the stable configuration on progressively larger intervals, using that it only depends on the values of the odometer function on the boundary.


## The Abelian Property



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Theorem (P. Diaconis, W. Fulton (1991))

- The final configuration does not depend on the order of topplings.
- The number of instructions used per site does not depend on the order of topplings.


## The Abelian Property



Definition (Odometer function)
For each $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ the odometer function $w: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{+}$is given by $w(x)=$ number of instruction used at $x$ until stabilization.

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For each $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ the odometer function $w: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{+}$is given by $w(x)=$ number of instruction used at $x$ until stabilization.

- The odometer function does not depend on the order of topplings [Abelian Property].
- Ignoring sleep instructions can only increase the odometer [Least Action Principle].


## The Abelian Property

Video

## The Abelian Property



## The Abelian Property



## Ideas of proof: the outer bound



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What next?

## What next?

- Density conjecture: $\mu_{c}(\lambda)=\mu_{a}(\lambda)=\mu_{s}(\lambda)$
- Mixing of ARWs in finite volume
- Description of the critical state
- Stabilization time of ARWs at fixed density
- Sleepers in the initial state on $\mathbb{Z}^{d}$ ?


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$$
\begin{aligned}
& N=300 \\
& t=N / 4
\end{aligned}
$$

## What next?

$300 \quad$| $N$ | $N 00$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\square$ Motion of the leftmost and rightmost sleepers | $t=N / 2$ |

## What next?



## What next?



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N=300
$$

$$
t=10 \mathrm{~N}
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- Mixing of ARWs in finite volume
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## Thank you!

