

Planar percolation and the loop $O(n)$ model

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Northeastern University

Joint Work with Alexander Glazman and Nathan Zelesko

November 18th, 2025

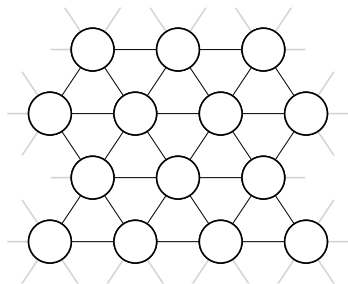
Oxford Discrete Mathematics and Probability Seminar

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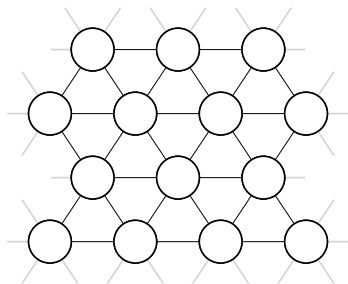
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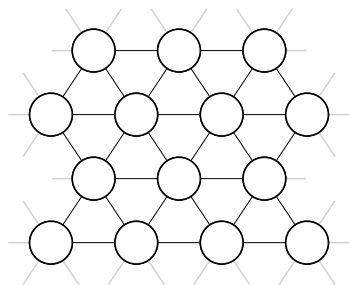
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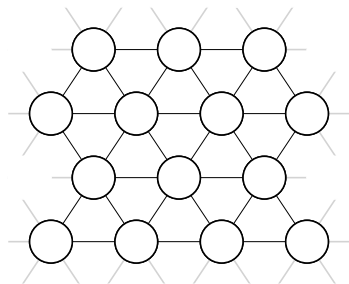
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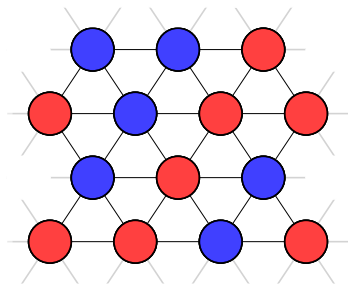
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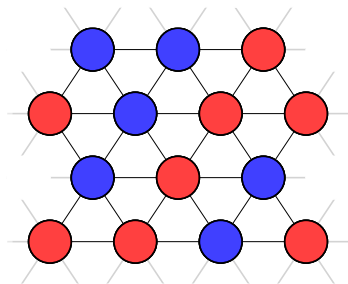


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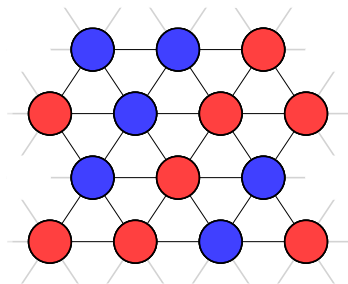
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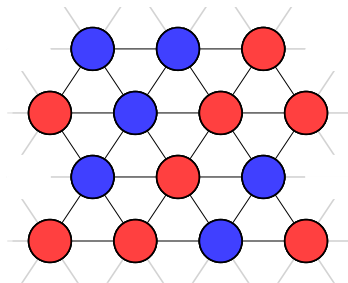
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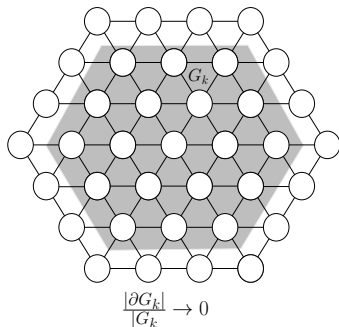
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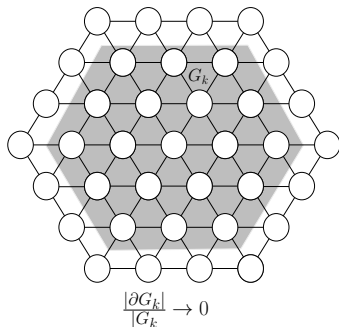


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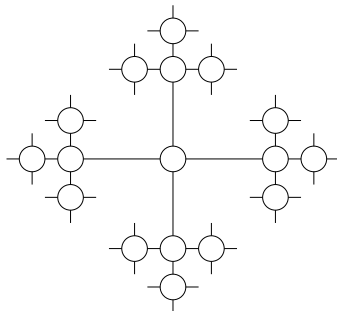
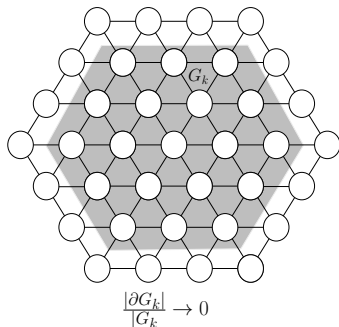


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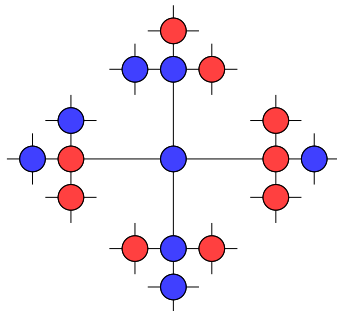
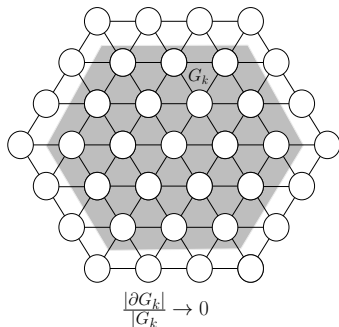


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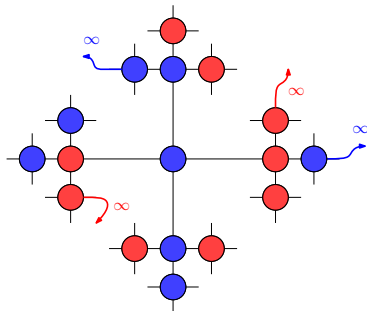
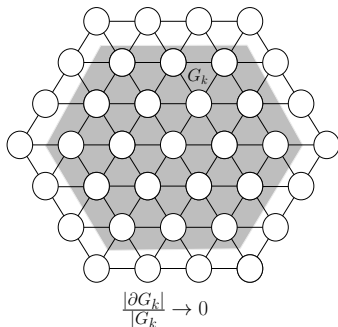


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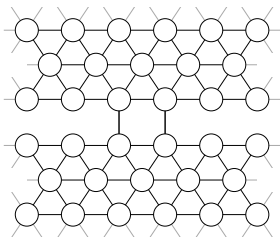
Let $p_u = \inf\{p : \mathbb{P}_p[N_\infty(\{\sigma = 1\}) = 1] > 0\}$ and G be a quasi-transitive graph. Then $p_c = p_u$ if and only if G is amenable.

General Planar Graphs

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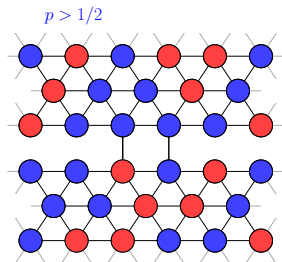
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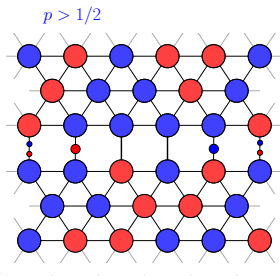
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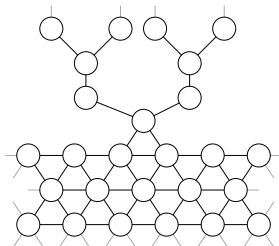
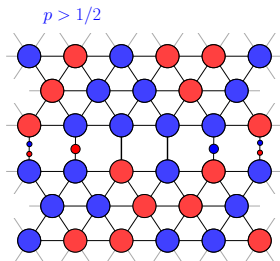
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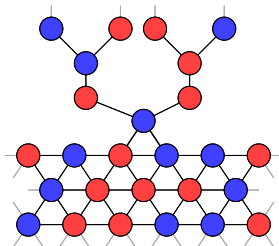
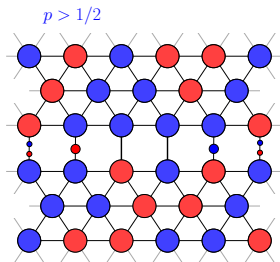
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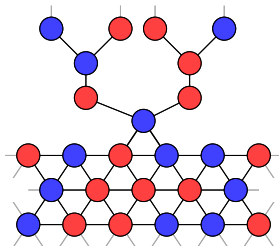
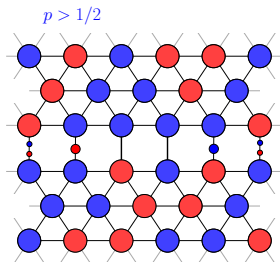
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Conjecture 8 (Benjamini–Schramm, 1996)

Let G be *any* locally finite, connected planar graph. Then, for Bernoulli percolation of parameter $1/2$, $N_\infty(\{\sigma = 1\}) \in \{0, \infty\}$.

Main Percolation Result

Theorem (Glazman– H. – Zelesko, 2025+)

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In particular, the result holds for Bernoulli percolation of parameter $p \leq 1/2$.

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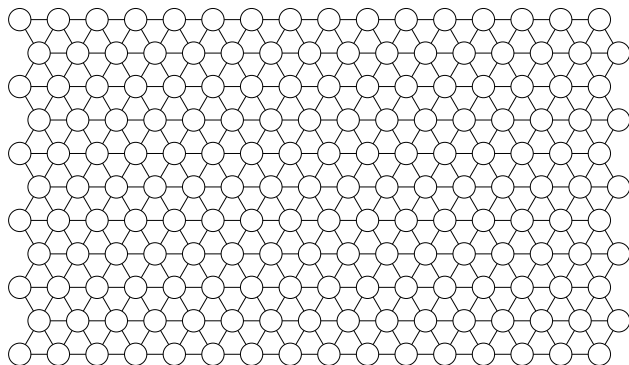
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Peled (2020) showed that $\exists p^* > 0$ such that, $p < p^*$ implies the circle packing of Bernoulli percolation exhibits exponential decay in *geometric* distance.

Application: Divide and Color Models

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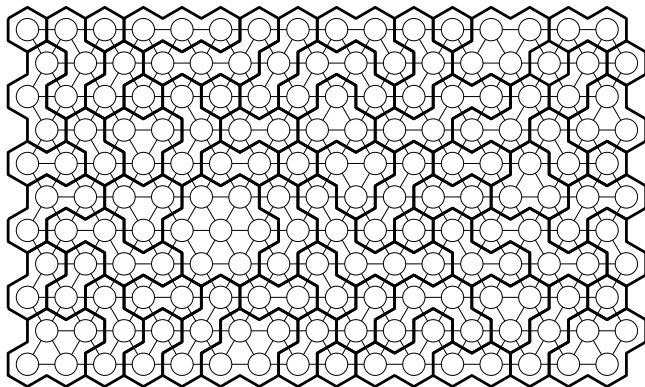
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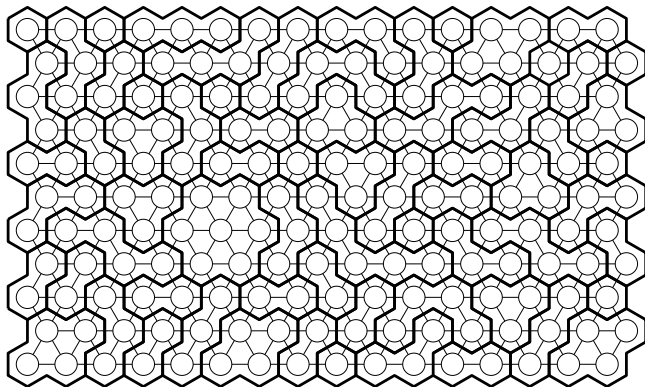
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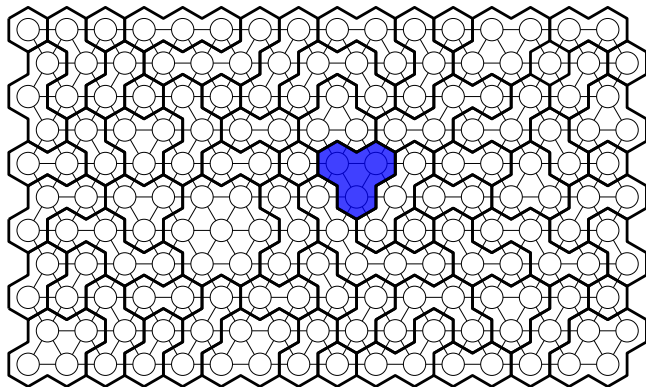
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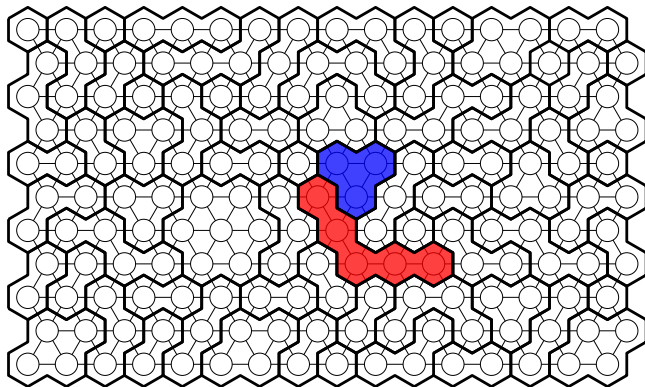
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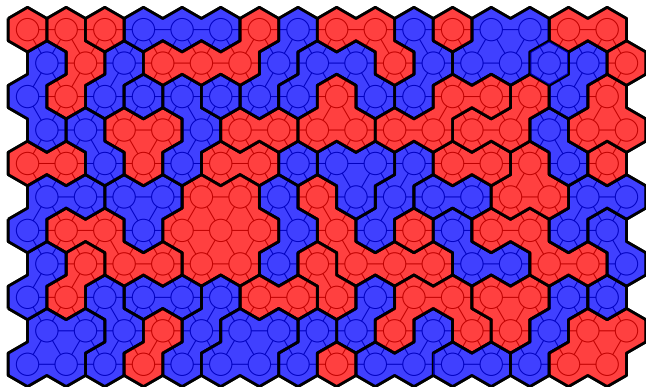
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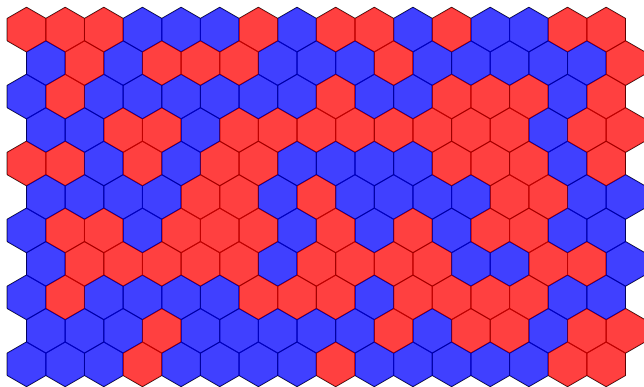
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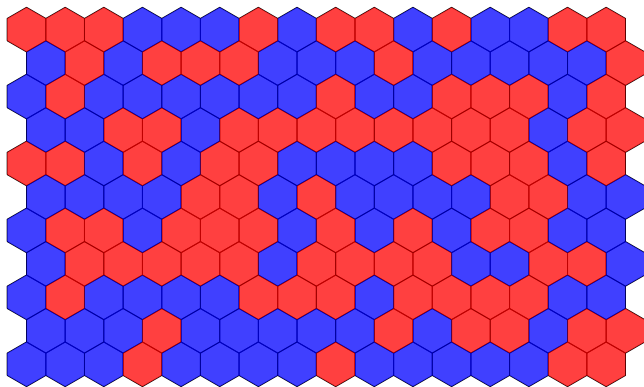
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Consider a translation-invariant partition of $\mathbb{T}$ into *finite* classes. Color each class red or blue, uniformly and independently. Then the resulting 2-coloring is translation invariant and has finite connected components.

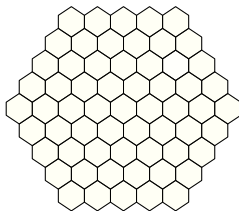


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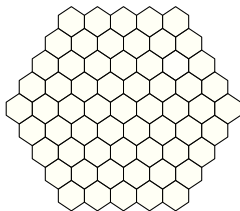
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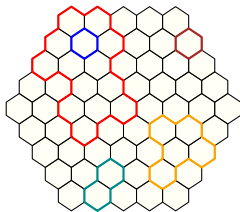
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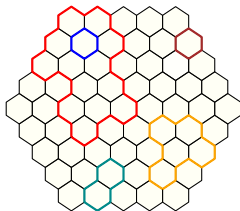
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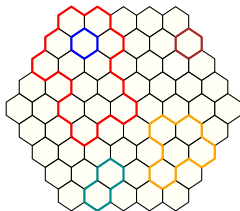
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where $\ell(\omega)$ is the number of loops, and $|\omega|$ is the number of edges.

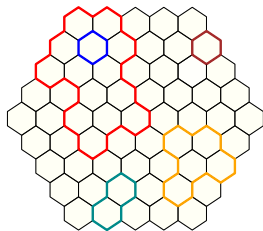


Some special cases

We can see other known models as special cases of the loop $O(n)$ model:

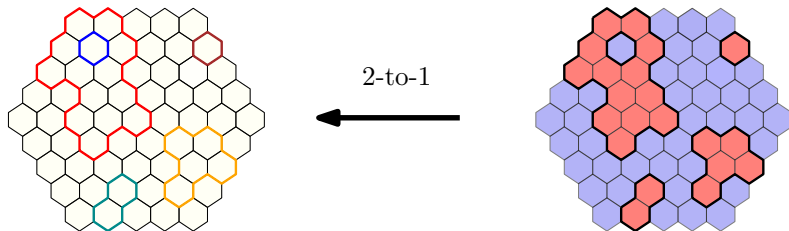
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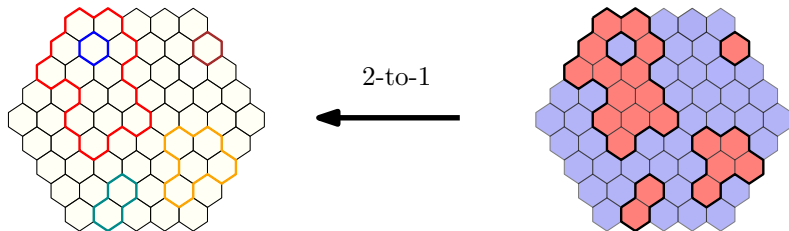
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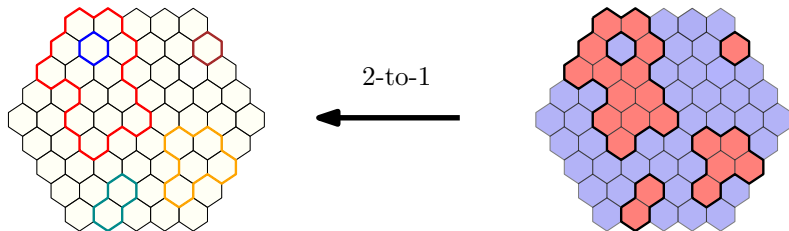
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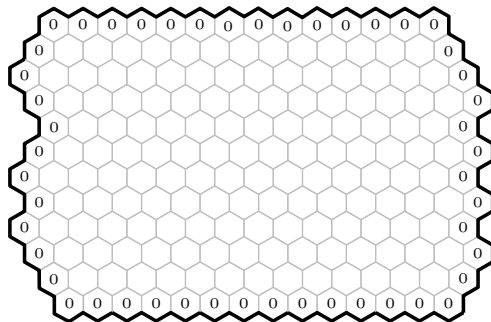


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Therefore, loop $O(1)$ model $\leftrightarrow$ Ising model with $x = e^{-2\beta}$.

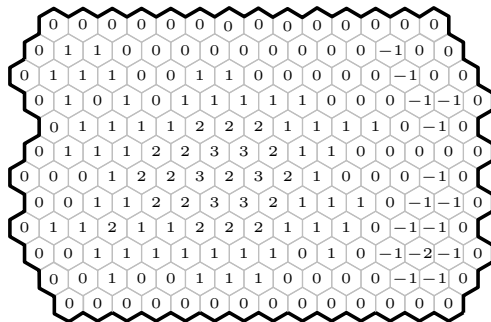
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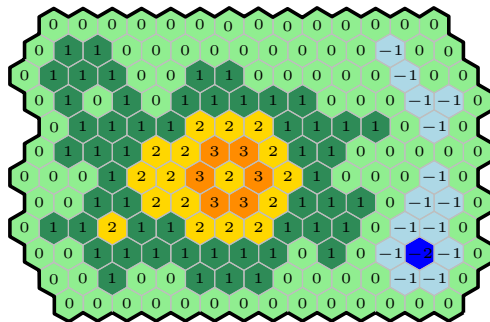
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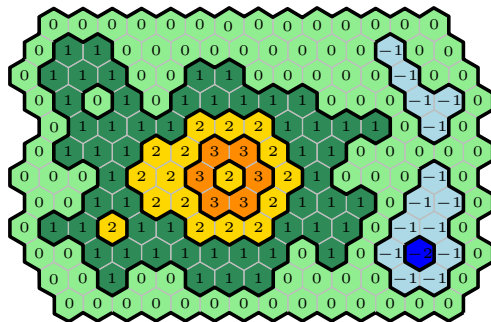
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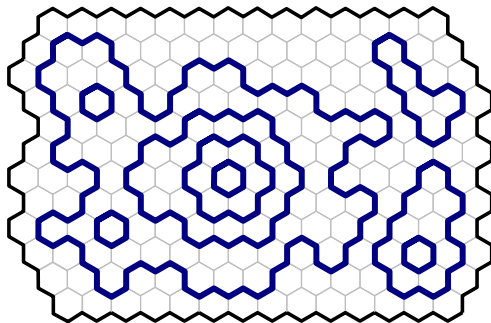
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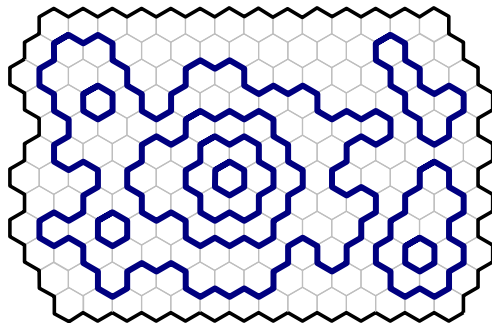
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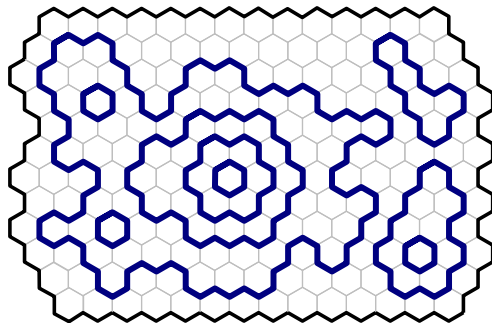
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Therefore, loop $O(2)$ model $\leftrightarrow$ integer valued Lipschitz functions.

Geometry of the loop $O(n)$ model

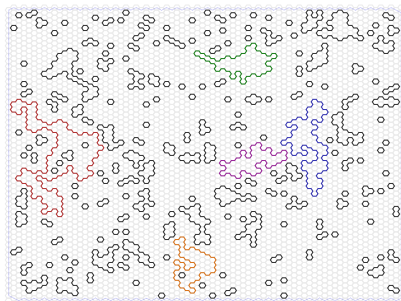
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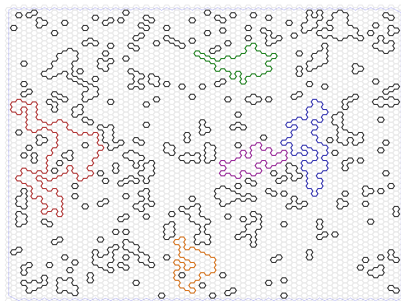


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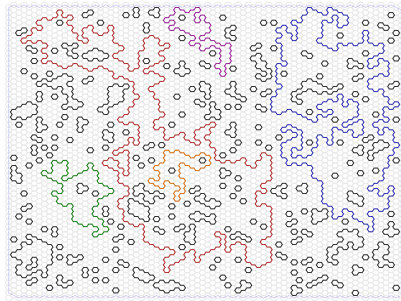
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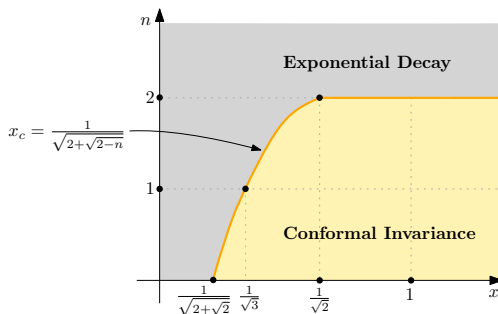
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The conjectured phase diagram

Nienhuis ('82) predicted the following phase diagram for the loop $O(n)$ model:

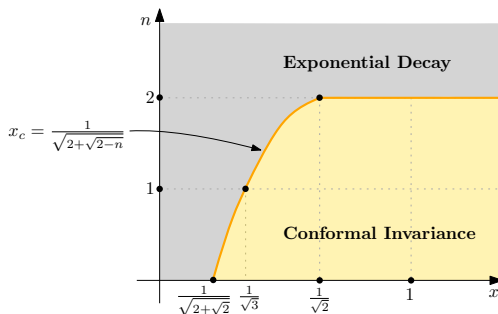
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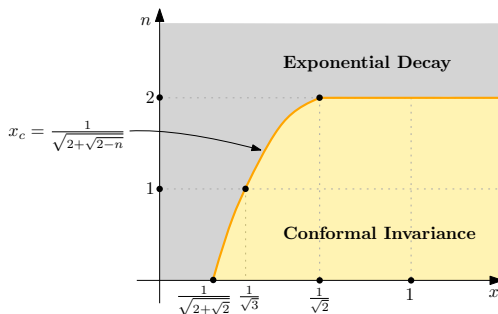
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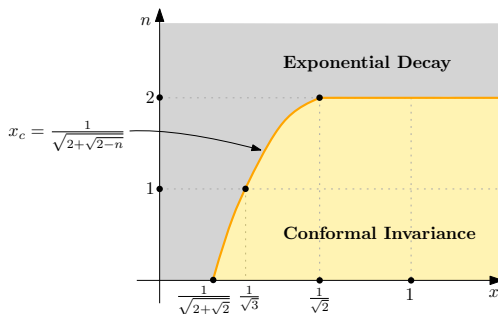


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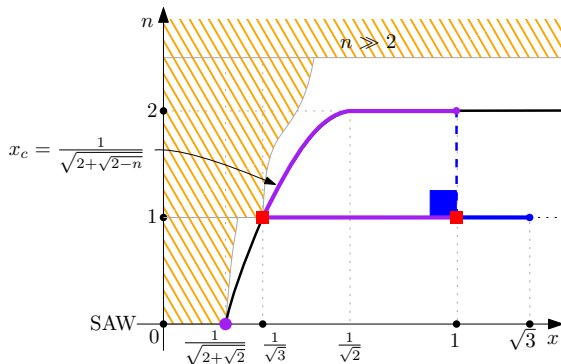
The rigorously known phase diagram

The following has been rigorously established:

The rigorously known phase diagram

Theorem (Glazman– H. – Zelesko, 2025+)

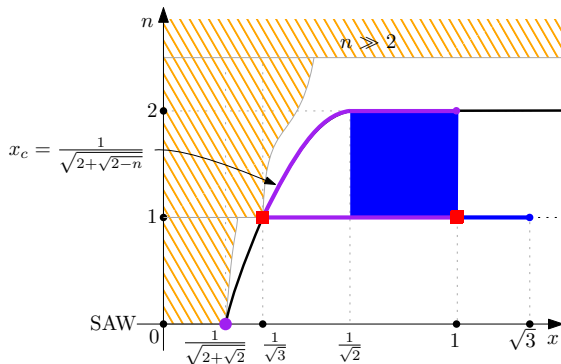
If $1 \leq n \leq 2$ and $1/\sqrt{2} \leq x \leq 1$, any translation-invariant Gibbs measure has long loops.



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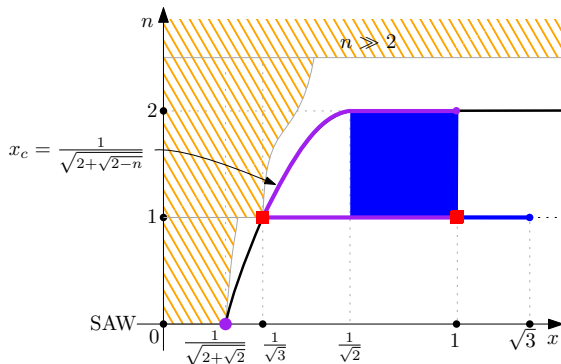
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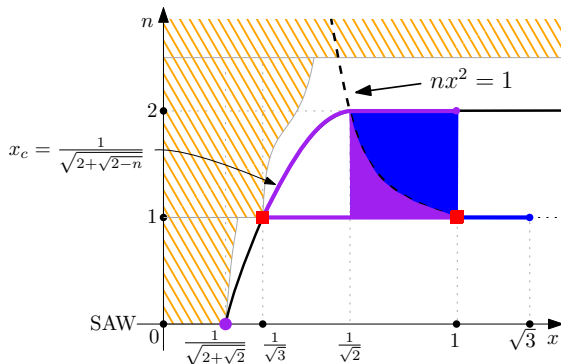
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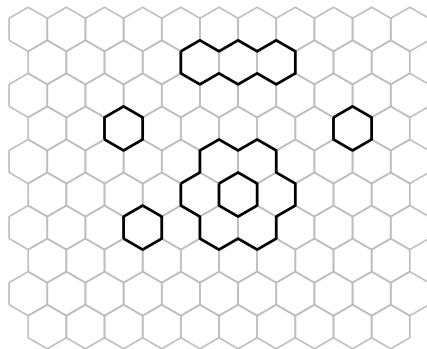
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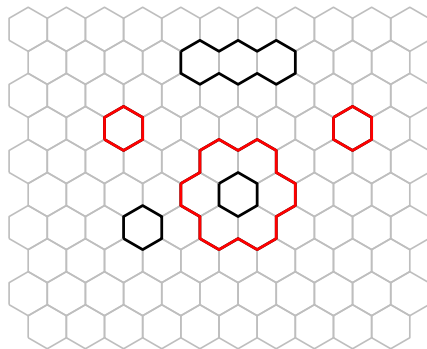
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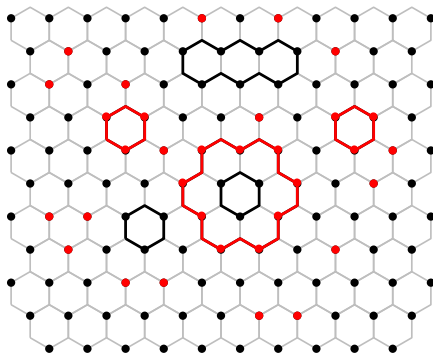
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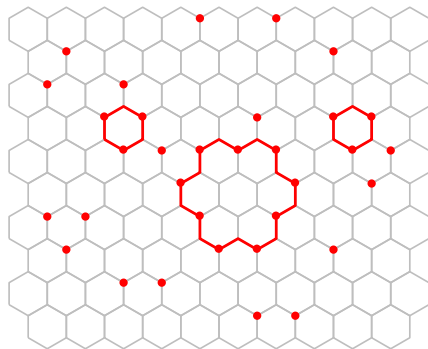
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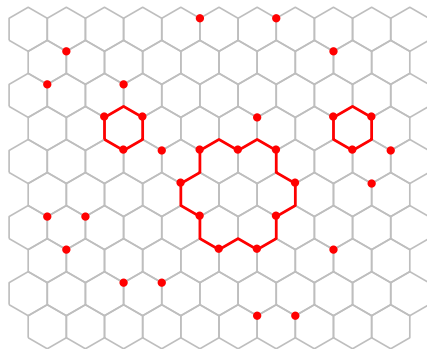


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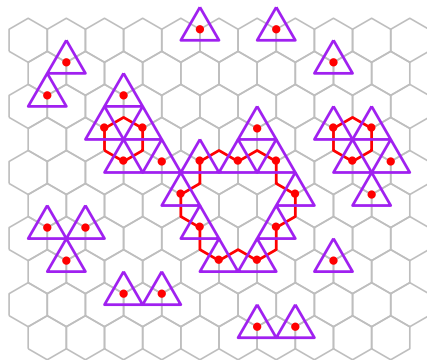
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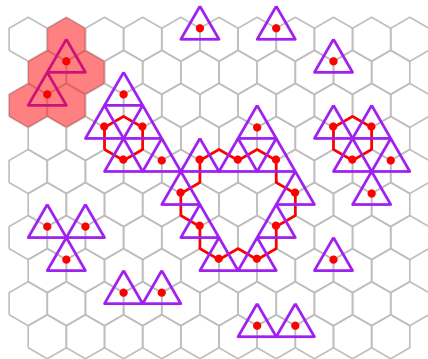
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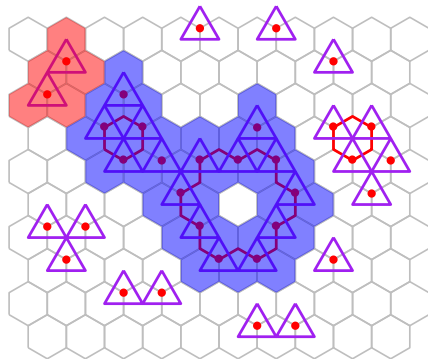
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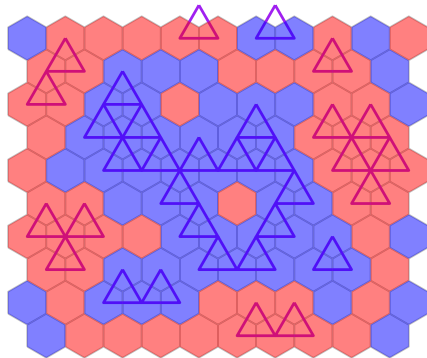
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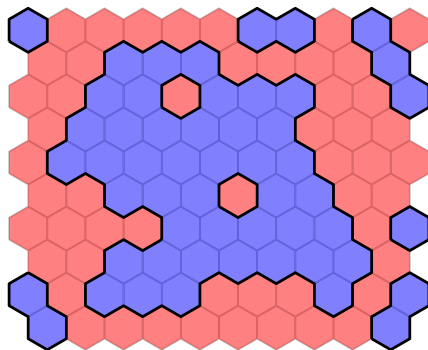
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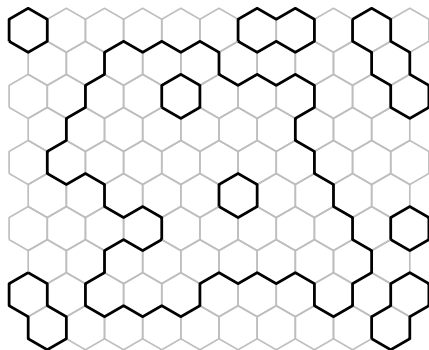
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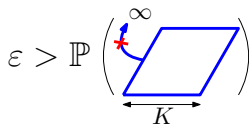


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The diagrams are:

- Diagram 1: A parallelogram with width K . A blue path starts at the top-left corner, goes up to ∞ , then right to the top edge, and then down to the bottom-left corner. A red star is at the top-left corner.
- Diagram 2: A parallelogram with a blue path starting at the top-left corner, going up to ∞ , and then right to the top edge.
- Diagram 3: A parallelogram with a blue path starting at the top-left corner, going up to ∞ , and then down to the left edge.
- Diagram 4: A parallelogram with a blue path starting at the bottom-left corner, going down to ∞ , and then right to the bottom edge.
- Diagram 5: A parallelogram with a blue path starting at the bottom-left corner, going down to ∞ , and then up to the right edge.
- Diagram 6: A parallelogram with a blue path starting at the top-left corner, going up to ∞ , then right to the top edge, and then down to the bottom-right corner. A red star is at the top-left corner.

Now, by a union bound and color switching ($p = 1/2$),

$$1 - 4\varepsilon^{1/4} < \mathbb{P} \left(\text{Diagram 7} \right) \leq \mathbb{P} \left(\text{exists } \geq 2 \text{ open or } \geq 2 \text{ closed infinite clusters} \right)$$

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By ergodicity, $N_\infty(\{\sigma = 1\}) = \infty$, almost surely.

Proof Outline

Theorem (Glazman– H. – Zelesko, 2025+)

Let G be a locally finite, connected planar graph, and $\sigma : V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ a site percolation process that satisfies:

- tail triviality,
- positively association (i.e. the FKG inequality), and
- stochastic domination of $\{\sigma = 1\}$ by $\{\sigma = 0\}$.

Then $N_\infty(\{\sigma = 1\}) = 0$ a.s., or $N_\infty(\{\sigma = 1\}) = \infty$ a.s.

Proof Outline

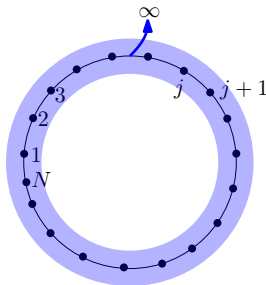
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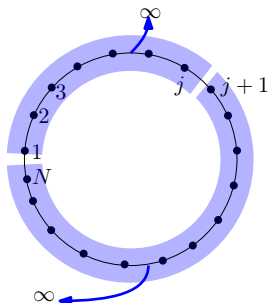
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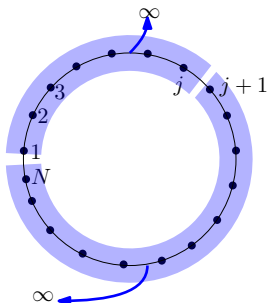


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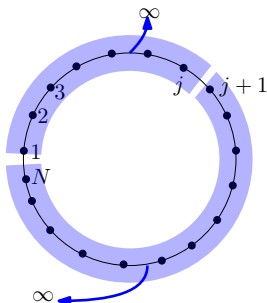
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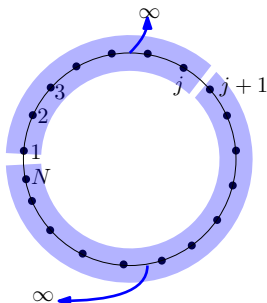
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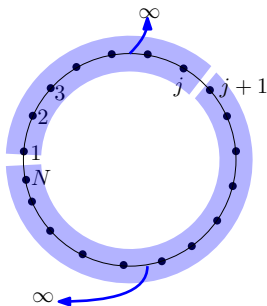
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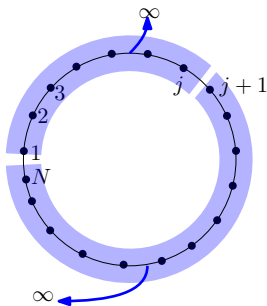
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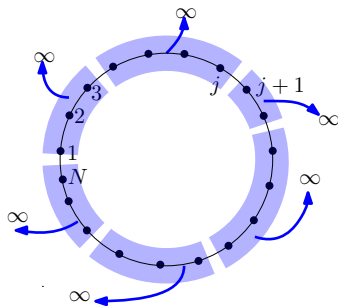
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By FKG, $\mathbb{P}([j+1, N] \not\leftrightarrow \infty) \leq \sqrt{2\varepsilon}$, and

$$\mathbb{P}([1, j] \not\leftrightarrow \infty) \leq \sqrt{2\varepsilon}.$$



Proof Outline

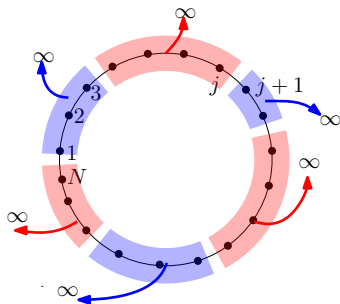
Assume that $N_\infty(\{\sigma = 1\}) \geq 1$. Pick a Jordan domain large enough so that the probability it *does not* intersect an infinite component is at most ε .

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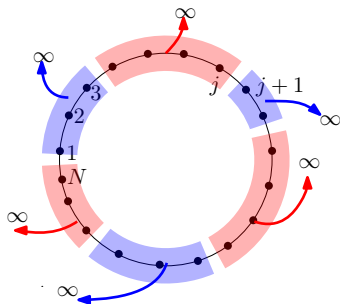
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If there are k **open** and k **closed** arcs, we claim that, *for any coloring*,

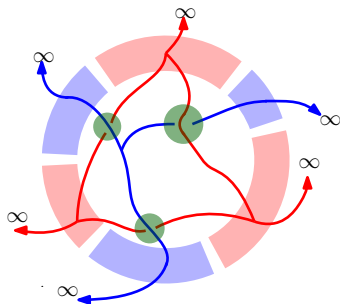
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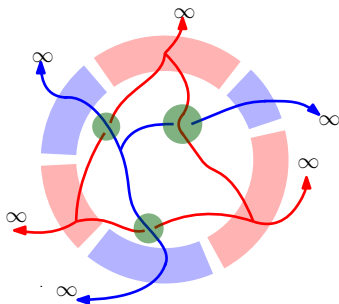
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This implies that

$$1 - \delta \leq \mathbb{P}[N_{\infty}(\{\sigma = 1\}) \geq (k + 1)/2 \text{ or } N_{\infty}(\{\sigma = 0\}) \geq (k + 1)/2]$$



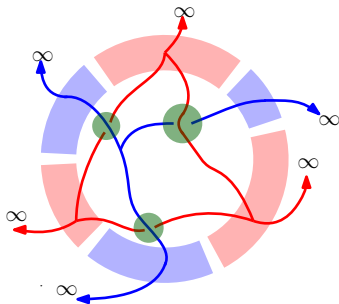
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This implies that

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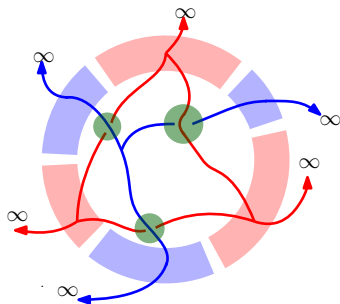
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- BKT phase transitions on more general planar geometries?

Thank you!