The critical probability for Voronoi percolation in the hyperbolic plane tends to 1/2

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Abstract

We consider percolation on the Voronoi tessellation generated by a homogeneous Poisson point process on the hyperbolic plane. We show that the critical probability for the existence of an infinite cluster tends to 1/2 as the intensity of the Poisson process tends to infinity. This confirms a conjecture of Benjamini and Schramm [5].

1 Introduction and statement of result

In this paper, we will consider percolation on the Voronoi tessellation generated by a homogeneous Poisson point process on the hyperbolic plane $\mathbb{H}^2$. That is, with each point of a constant intensity Poisson process on $\mathbb{H}^2$ we associate its Voronoi cell – which is the set of all points of the hyperbolic plane that are closer to it than to any other point of the Poisson process – and we colour each cell black with probability $p$ and white with probability $1 - p$, independently of the colours of all other cells. We refer the reader to Section 2 for detailed definitions and some background on the hyperbolic plane, hyperbolic Poisson point processes and their Voronoi tessellations. Figure 1 shows a computer simulation of Voronoi percolation in the hyperbolic plane, rendered in the Poincaré disk representation of $\mathbb{H}^2$. We say that percolation occurs if there is an infinite connected cluster of black cells. For each intensity $\lambda > 0$ of the underlying Poisson process, the critical probability is defined as

$$p_c(\lambda) := \inf\{p : \mathbb{P}_{\lambda,p}(\text{percolation}) > 0\}.$$  

In an influential paper, Benjamini and Schramm [5] showed that $0 < p_c(\lambda) < 1/2$ for all $\lambda$ and they conjectured that $p_c(\lambda)$ tends to 1/2 as $\lambda \to \infty$. Here we prove their conjecture.

**Theorem 1** $\lim_{\lambda \to \infty} p_c(\lambda) = 1/2$.

The results of Benjamini and Schramm [5] include that $p_c(\lambda)$ tends to zero as $\lambda \searrow 0$ and that for any $p \in (p_c, 1 - p_c)$ there are infinitely many infinite black clusters almost surely,

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Figure 1: Computer simulation of Voronoi percolation in the hyperbolic plane, shown in the Poincaré disk representation of $\mathbb{H}^2$. ($p = 1/2, \lambda = 1$)

while for $p \geq 1 - p_c$ there is almost surely exactly one infinite black cluster. These results demonstrate profound differences with Voronoi percolation on the ordinary, Euclidean plane. In that case, the critical probability was shown to equal $1/2$ in the work of Zvavitch [12] and Bollobás and Riordan [6], no matter the intensity of the underlying Poisson process. (That the precise value of the intensity is irrelevant in the Euclidean setting is easily seen by considering the effect of dilations $x \mapsto \rho x$ on a homogeneous Poisson process and its Voronoi tessellation.) What is more, in the Euclidean case there is almost surely at most one infinite cluster for any value of $p$ and $\lambda$.

Some intuition as to why one might expect that the large $\lambda$ limit of the critical value in the hyperbolic plane might coincide with the critical value in the Euclidean plane is given by the following observation. As we “zoom in” around any given point on $\mathbb{H}^2$, the geometry starts to look more and more like the geometry of the Euclidean plane; and as the intensity $\lambda \to \infty$ the points of the Poisson process get packed closer and closer together. In other words, as $\lambda \to \infty$, it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish the “local picture” from ordinary, Euclidean Voronoi percolation. Of course the same is not necessarily true for global characteristics of the model (for instance, the simple random walk on the Voronoi tessellation...
is recurrent in the Euclidean case [1] and transient in the hyperbolic case [3], irrespective of the value of the intensity parameter \( \lambda \). So additional ideas are needed for the proof of Theorem [1].

As in other two-dimensional percolation models, a central role in the proof by Bollobás and Riordan [6] that the Euclidean Voronoi percolation model almost surely has an infinite black cluster for every \( p > 1/2 \) is played by crossings of rectangles. (See Section 2.3 for the formal definition.) It follows from their work that for any \( p > 1/2 \) and any fixed rectangle, the crossing probability tends to one as \( \lambda \to \infty \) (Bollobás and Riordan did not state precisely this, as they did not need this statement for their proof, but it follows form their work as we point out in more detail in Section 2.4). An ingenious and technically involved argument in their proof establishes that at \( p = 1/2 \) the crossing probabilities do not tend to zero. They then apply tools from discrete Fourier analysis to show the crossing probabilities are “boosted” to close to one for \( p > 1/2 \). Tassion [10] later improved over the \( p = 1/2 \) part of their proof, giving a shorter argument showing the stronger statement that when \( p = 1/2 \) the crossing probabilities are in fact bounded away from zero. This opened the way for a more detailed picture of the behaviour of the model at the critical value \( p = 1/2 \) (see e.g. [2, 11]). We will however only make use of the contributions of Bollobás and Riordan [6] in our proof of Theorem [1].

**Sketch of the main ideas used in the proof.** A crucial ingredient in our proof is Lemma 8 below, stating that in the hyperbolic Voronoi percolation model with \( p > 1/2 \), any fixed rectangle \( R \) has a black crossing with probability tending to one as \( \lambda \to \infty \). (Here “rectangle” refers to how \( R \) appears in the Poincaré disk model of \( \mathbb{H}^2 \).) We derive this from the results on crossings in the Euclidean case mentioned above. First, we argue that it is sufficient to prove the statement only for small enough rectangles. Then we employ a coupling, provided by Lemma 7 below, to Euclidean Voronoi percolation with a slightly smaller value of \( p \) and an appropriate value of the intensity parameter. This coupling has the property that if \( B \subseteq R \) is the region inside our sufficiently small rectangle coloured black by the Voronoi tessellation of the hyperbolic Poisson point process and \( \hat{B} \subseteq R \) the region coloured black by the Voronoi tessellation of the Euclidean Poisson point process, then \( \hat{B} \subseteq B \) with probability tending to one as \( \lambda \to \infty \). So if there is a crossing of \( R \) in the Euclidean Poisson point process, then there will be one in the hyperbolic Poisson process.

We now sketch how we use Lemma 8 to prove Theorem 1. Since Benjamini and Schramm [5] have already shown that \( p_c(\lambda) < 1/2 \) for all \( \lambda \), it suffices to show that for every \( p < 1/2 \) there exists a \( \lambda_0 = \lambda_0(p) \) such that \( P_{\lambda,p}(\exists \text{ infinite black cluster}) = 0 \) for all \( \lambda > \lambda_0 \). Equivalently, switching the roles of black and white, it suffices to show that for every \( p > 1/2 \) we have \( P_{\lambda,p}(\exists \text{ infinite white cluster}) = 0 \) for all sufficiently large \( \lambda \). We will define a dependent site percolation model on a certain, fixed triangulation \( T \) of \( \mathbb{H}^2 \), with the property that the existence of an infinite white cluster in the hyperbolic Voronoi tessellation implies the existence of an infinite open cluster in the dependent percolation model. Lemma 6 provides, for each bounded set \( A \subseteq \mathbb{H}^2 \) each \( \delta > 0 \), an event local(\( A, \delta \)) that holds with probability tending to one as \( \lambda \to \infty \), and with the property that if it occurs then the colouring of \( A \) depends only on the part of the Poisson process within distance \( \delta \) of \( A \). For each triangle of \( T \), we place six thin rectangles around it in such a way that if they each have a crossing, then there will be a black, continuous, closed curve separating the triangle from infinity. We declare a triangle of \( T \) closed if the six rectangles each have a crossing and in addition the event local(\( A, \delta \)) holds for a suitably chosen \( \delta \) and set \( A \). This will yield a \( k \)-independent site percolation model (see
Section 2.3 for the definition) on $\mathcal{T}$ for some suitable $k$. For sufficiently large intensities $\lambda$, the probability of sites being open will be so small that all open clusters are finite almost surely in this $k$-independent site percolation model. To conclude the proof, we then observe that if there were to exist an infinite white cluster in the Voronoi percolation model, then all the triangles of $\mathcal{T}$ it intersects would be open and hence would form part of some infinite open cluster.

One elementary fact we rely on in our proofs is that a homogeneous Poisson point process on $\mathbb{H}^2$ is described by an inhomogeneous Poisson process on the unit disk with an intensity function that corresponds to $\lambda$ times the area functional of the Poincaré disk model. In some arguments, we switch back and forth between using the Poincaré disk metric and the Euclidean metric to generate the Voronoi cells. The reason for doing this is that it allows for comparatively elementary proofs, that avoid lengthy and/or technical computations. (Lemma 5 below shows this change of metric almost surely does not change the combinatorial structure of the tessellation. I.e. even though the cells will look different, whether or not the cell of $z$ meets the cell of $z'$ is unaltered by the change in metric.)

We would like to mention a closely related work by Benjamini and Schramm [4] on Voronoi percolation on general, smooth, Riemannian manifolds. There, Benjamini and Schramm consider crossings (using a different definition for crossings from ours) in the situation where one changes the metric in a conformal way, but the intensity measure of the underlying Poisson point process remains unchanged, and is comparable to the natural area measure of the Riemannian manifold. Amongst other things they show that, for any fixed $p$, the large $\lambda$ limit of the crossing probabilities – if the limit exists – is unchanged by the change in metric. In contrast, our Lemma 8 establishes that the large $\lambda$ limit for the probability of crossing a rectangle is unchanged if $p > 1/2$ and we start from the ordinary, Euclidean Voronoi percolation model, we leave the metric unchanged, but change the intensity measure to match the area functional of the Poincaré disk.

2 Notation and preliminaries

Here we collect some facts, definitions, notations and results from previous work that we will need for the proof of Theorem 1.

2.1 Ingredients from hyperbolic geometry

The hyperbolic plane $\mathbb{H}^2$ is a two dimensional surface with constant Gaussian curvature $-1$. There are many models, i.e. isometric coordinate charts, for $\mathbb{H}^2$ including the Poincaré disk model, the Poincaré half-plane model, and the Klein disk model. A gentle introduction to Gaussian curvature, hyperbolic geometry and these representations of the hyperbolic plane can be found in [9]. In this paper we will exclusively use the Poincaré disk model. We briefly recollect its definition and some of the main facts we shall be using in our arguments below, and refer the reader to [9] for the proofs and more information. The Poincaré disk model is constructed by equipping the open unit disk $\mathbb{D} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ with an appropriate metric and area functional. For points $u, v \in \mathbb{D}$ the hyperbolic distance can be given explicitly by

$$\text{dist}_{\mathbb{H}^2}(u, v) := 2 \arcsinh\left(\frac{\|u - v\|}{\sqrt{(1 - \|u\|^2)(1 - \|v\|^2)}}\right)$$
where $\| \cdot \|$ denotes the Euclidean norm. For any measurable subset $A \subseteq \mathbb{D}$ its hyperbolic area is given by

$$\text{area}_{\mathbb{H}^2}(A) = \int_A \frac{4}{(1-x^2-y^2)^2} dy dx.$$  

In many of our arguments, we will be simultaneously considering both the Euclidean metric and the hyperbolic metric. We use subscripts to distinguish the metric under consideration. For instance

$$B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(u,r) := \{ v \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \| u - v \| < r \}, \quad B_{\mathbb{H}^2}(u,r) := \{ v \in \mathbb{D} : \text{dist}_{\mathbb{H}^2}(u,v) < r \}.$$  

We refer to $B_{\mathbb{H}^2}(u,r)$ as a hyperbolic disk and to $\partial B_{\mathbb{H}^2}(u,r) = \{ v \in \mathbb{D} : \text{dist}_{\mathbb{H}^2}(u,v) = r \}$ as a hyperbolic circle. We will make use of the following standard fact.

**Lemma 2** Every hyperbolic circle is also a Euclidean circle; and every Euclidean circle contained in $\mathbb{D}$ is also a hyperbolic circle. (But of course, the centre and radius of a circle with respect to the hyperbolic metric do not coincide with the centre and radius with respect to the Euclidean metric.)

The geodesic (shortest curve) under the hyperbolic metric between $u,v \in \mathbb{D}$ is the segment of the unique circle through $u,v$ that intersects $\partial \mathbb{D}$ at right angles. (This will be a circle of “infinite radius”, i.e. a line, if $u,v$ lie on a line through the origin $o$.) A hyperbolic triangle refers of course to (the region inside) the three geodesics between three distinct points $a,b,c \in \mathbb{D}$. If $\alpha,\beta,\gamma$ denote the angles at which these geodesics meet, then it always holds that $\alpha + \beta + \gamma < \pi$. In fact, for every $\alpha,\beta,\gamma$ for which the inequality holds, there exists a triangle $T$ with those angles. In particular, there exists an (equilateral) triangle $T$ with all angles equal to $2\pi/7$. It is possible to tile $\mathbb{H}^2$ with copies of this triangle $T$. Here copy means the image under a $\mathbb{H}^2$-isometry, i.e. a map that preserves hyperbolic distance and hyperbolic area. This is the tessellation of $\mathbb{H}^2$ with a Schläfli symbol of $\{3,7\}$. At every corner of every triangle, seven triangles meet. (See Figure 2 for a depiction.)

![Figure 2: The triangulation with Schläfli symbol $\{3,7\}$.](image-url)
For \( Z \) a countable point set in the hyperbolic, respectively Euclidean, plane we will denote the corresponding hyperbolic, respectively Euclidean, Voronoi cells by:

\[
C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z; Z) := \{ u \in \mathbb{D} : \text{dist}_{\mathbb{H}^2}(u, z) = \inf_{z' \in Z} \text{dist}_{\mathbb{H}^2}(u, z') \},
\]

\[
C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z; Z) := \{ u \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \| u - z \| = \inf_{z' \in Z} \| u - z' \| \}.
\]

Usually the set \( Z \) is clear from the context, in which case we will just drop the second argument.

### 2.2 Hyperbolic Poisson point processes

In the rest of this paper \( Z \) will usually, but not always, denote a homogeneous Poisson point process (PPP) on \( \mathbb{H}^2 \). Analogously to homogeneous Poisson point processes on the ordinary, Euclidean plane, a Poisson process \( Z \) of constant intensity \( \lambda \) on the hyperbolic plane is characterized completely by the properties that:

- \( \text{a)} \) for each (measurable) set \( A \subseteq \mathbb{D} \) the random variable \( |Z \cap A| \) is Poisson distributed with mean \( \lambda \cdot \text{area}_{\mathbb{H}^2}(A) \), and
- \( \text{b)} \) if \( A_1, \ldots, A_m \subseteq \mathbb{D} \) are (measurable and) disjoint then the random variables \( |Z \cap A_1|, \ldots, |Z \cap A_m| \) are independent.

In the light of the formula for \( \text{area}_{\mathbb{H}^2}(.) \) above, we can alternatively view \( Z \) as an inhomogeneous Poisson point process on the ordinary, Euclidean plane with intensity

\[
u \mapsto \lambda \cdot 1_{\mathbb{D}}(u) \cdot \frac{4}{(1 - \| u \|^2)^2}.
\]

Throughout the remainder, we attach to each point of \( Z \) a randomly and independently chosen colour. (Black with probability \( p \) and white with probability \( 1 - p \).) We let \( Z_b \) denote the black points and \( Z_w \) the white points of \( Z \). In the language of for instance [7], we can view \( Z \) as a marked Poisson point process, the marks corresponding to the colours. By standard properties of Poisson processes we have that \( Z_b, Z_w \) are independent Poisson point processes on \( \mathbb{H}^2 \) with constant intensities \( \lambda \cdot p \), respectively \( \lambda \cdot (1 - p) \). We will interchangeably use the point of view of marked point processes and that of a pair of independent Poisson processes \((Z_b, Z_w)\) throughout the paper. We use the notation \( P_{\lambda,p}(.) \) for the probability measure associated with \( Z \) together with its marks, or equivalently the pair \((Z_b, Z_w)\). In some of our arguments, we are going to want to simultaneously consider a homogeneous Poisson process, with marks, on the ordinary, Euclidean plane. In order to keep the two apart, we use \( \tilde{P}_{\lambda,p}(.) \) to denote the associated probability measure.

### 2.3 \( k \)-independent percolation

For a fixed graph \( G \), a site percolation probability measure assigns to each vertex the state “open” or “closed”. Often the situation is considered where the states of the vertices are independent, but for us it will be useful to consider a more general situation where there is some dependence. We say that a measure \( P \) on the possible assignments of a state to each vertex is \( k \)-independent if for any set of vertices \( S \) such that each pair of distinct vertices in \( S \) has graph distance \( \geq k \), the states of the vertices in \( S \) are independent. We will make use of the following observation. It is not new. A much stronger result is for instance provided by Ligett, Schonmann and Stacey [8]. But, since the proof of the lemma is very short, we choose to give it anyway for the benefit of readers that may not be familiar.
Lemma 3 For every $k, d \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists a $p_1 = p_1(k, d) > 0$ such that the following holds. For every countable graph $G$ with maximum degree at most $d$ and any $k$-independent site percolation measure on $G$ in which each site is open with probability at most $p_1$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(\exists \text{ an infinite open cluster}) = 0.$$  

Proof. It is enough to show that $\mathbb{P}(\exists \text{ an infinite open path starting at } v) = 0$ for all vertices $v$. Since the number of paths of length $\ell$ starting at $v$ is at most $d^\ell$ and each path of length $\ell$ contains a set $S$ of size $\geq \ell/(1 + d^k)$ with all pairwise distances $\geq k$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(\exists \text{ an open path starting at } v \text{ of length } \geq \ell) \leq d^\ell \cdot p_1^{\ell/(1 + d^k)} = \left(d \cdot p_1^{1/(1 + d^k)}\right)^{\ell} \xrightarrow{\ell \to \infty} 0,$$

provided $p_1 < d^{-(1+d^k)}$. ■

2.4 Crossing rectangles in Euclidean Voronoi percolation

Let $R \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ be a rectangle that is not a square. We say $R$ has a (long) black crossing if there is a continuous curve $\gamma \subseteq R$ from one short side of $R$ to the other such that all points of $\gamma$ are black in the colouring of the plane induced by the Voronoi tessellation under the Euclidean metric. We denote this event as cross($R$). See Figure 3 for a depiction. The following result is implicit in the work of Bollobás and Riordan [6] on Voronoi percolation for homogeneous Poisson point processes on the ordinary, Euclidean plane $\mathbb{R}^2$ (and using the Euclidean metric). Recall that we use $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\lambda,p}(.)$ to denote the associated probability measure.

Proposition 4 For any fixed $p > 1/2$ and rectangle $R \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ we have

$$\lim_{\lambda \to \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\lambda,p}(\text{cross}(R)) = 1.$$  

Since this result does not appear in [6] in this precise form, we briefly explain how it follows from the results in that paper. Theorem 7.1 in [6] states that for any $p > 1/2$ and

![Figure 3: A crossing of a rectangle.](image-url)
\(\rho > 1\) we have \(\limsup_{\rho \to \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{1, p}(\text{cross}(\{0, \rho s\} \times [0, s])) = 1\). That is, we keep the intensity fixed at \(\lambda = 1\) and consider larger and larger rectangles with fixed aspect ratio \(\rho\). By considering the effect of a dilation on a homogeneous, Euclidean Poisson point process and its Voronoi diagram, this is easily seen to be equivalent to \(\limsup_{\lambda \to \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\lambda, p}(\text{cross}(R)) = 1\) for any fixed rectangle \(R \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2\). That we can replace \(\limsup\) by \(\lim\) can be seen via a comparison to \(1\)-independent edge percolation on \(\mathbb{Z}^2\) as in the proof of Theorem 1.1 in [6]. That is, we set up the \(1\)-independent edge percolation on \(\mathbb{Z}^2\) as in that proof, note that the probability that a large rectangle \([0, c \cdot n] \times [0, n]\) is crossed in the \(1\)-independent model tends to one, and finally note that this also implies that crossing a rectangle of increasing size and fixed aspect ratio tends to one also in the original Voronoi percolation model.

3 Proofs

3.1 The combinatorial structure does not depend on the metric

We start with an observation that may be of independent interest. Let \(Z\). The combinatorial structure does not depend on the metric

\[\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{1, p}(\text{cross}([0, \rho s] \times [0, s])) = 1\]  

\[\limsup_{\lambda \to \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\lambda, p}(\text{cross}(R)) = 1\]  

for any fixed rectangle \(R \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2\). That we can replace \(\limsup\) by \(\lim\) can be seen via a comparison to \(1\)-independent edge percolation on \(\mathbb{Z}^2\) as in the proof of Theorem 1.1 in [6]. That is, we set up the \(1\)-independent edge percolation on \(\mathbb{Z}^2\) as in that proof, note that the probability that a large rectangle \([0, c \cdot n] \times [0, n]\) is crossed in the \(1\)-independent model tends to one, and finally note that this also implies that crossing a rectangle of increasing size and fixed aspect ratio tends to one also in the original Voronoi percolation model.

Lemma 5

Almost surely, it holds that \(C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_1)\) and \(C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_2)\) touch if and only if \(C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_1)\) and \(C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_2)\) touch (for all \(z_1, z_2 \in \mathcal{Z}\)).

Proof. A key elementary observation is that \(C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_1), C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_2)\) touch if and only if there exists a disk with \(z_1, z_2\) on its boundary and no points of \(\mathcal{Z}\) in its interior. (The centres of such disks are precisely the points where the Voronoi cells meet.) The same is true for \(C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_1), C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_2)\) except that we need a hyperbolic disk with \(z_1, z_2\) on its boundary and no points of \(\mathcal{Z}\) in its interior. Applying Lemma 2 it immediately follows that if \(C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_1)\) and \(C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_2)\) touch, then \(C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_1)\) and \(C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_2)\) also touch. And if \(C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_1), C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_2)\) touch but \(C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_1), C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_2)\) do not then there exists a (Euclidean) disk with \(z_1, z_2\) on its boundary and no other point of \(\mathcal{Z}\) in its interior, but every such disk either “sticks out” of the unit disk \(\mathbb{D}\) or is tangent to its boundary \(\partial \mathbb{D}\).

Further to the elementary observation above we remark that, almost surely, whenever \(C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_1), C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_2)\) touch there is in fact a third point \(z_3 \in \mathcal{Z}\) and a disk with \(z_1, z_2, z_3\) on its boundary and no points of \(\mathcal{Z}\) in its interior. (The centre of this disk corresponds to a common corner of \(C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_1), C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_2), C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_3)\).) It is possible that no such \(z_3\) exists but in that case all points of \(\mathcal{Z}\) must be collinear – which almost surely does not happen.

It thus suffices to show that almost surely there are no triples \(z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathcal{Z}\) such that the unique disk \(D\) with all three points on its boundary (a) is either tangent to \(\partial \mathbb{D}\) or “sticks out”, yet (b) has no points of \(\mathcal{Z}\) in its interior. We next point out that if (a) holds then
area_{H^2}(D \cap \mathbb{D}) = \infty. (A convenient way to see this without having to integrate is to note that
D, while not being a hyperbolic disk itself, contains hyperbolic disks of all radii.)

That there are indeed no triples satisfying a) and b) almost surely now follows, for
instance, using the Campbell-Mecke formula (see for instance [7, p.30]) to show the expected
number of such triples equals zero.

\[ \square \]

3.2 Locally controlling the Voronoi cells

For \( A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \) we write \( A_\delta := \bigcup_{a \in A} B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(a, \delta) \). Recall that we use \( \mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\cdot) \) for the probability mea-
Sure associated with a homogeneous \emph{hyperbolic} Poisson process and \( \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\lambda, p}(\cdot) \) for a homogeneous
\emph{Euclidean} Poisson process.

Lemma 6 Let \( A \subseteq \mathbb{D} \) and \( \delta > 0 \) be such that \( A_\delta \subseteq \mathbb{D} \). There exists an event \( \text{local}(A, \delta) \) with
the properties that

(i) \( \text{local}(A, \delta) \) depends only on \( Z \cap A_\delta \).

(ii) We have \( \lim_{\lambda \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\text{local}(A, \delta)) = \lim_{\lambda \to \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\lambda, p}(\text{local}(A, \delta)) = 1. \)

(iii) If \( \text{local}(A, \delta) \) holds then, for every \( u \in A \), we have \( \inf_{z \in Z} \| u - z \| < \delta. \)

(iv) If \( \text{local}(A, \delta) \) holds then, for every \( u \in A \), we have \( \inf_{z \in Z} \text{dist}_{H^2}(u, z) = \inf_{\| u - z \| < \delta} \text{dist}_{H^2}(u, z). \)

Before embarking on the proof of this lemma, let us point out that parts (iii) and (iv)
tell us that if \( \text{local}(A, \delta) \) holds then the black and white colouring of \( A \) produced by the
(Euclidean/hyperbolic) Voronoi tessellation for \( Z \) is completely determined by \( Z \cap A_\delta \).

Proof. We dissect \( \mathbb{R}^2 \) into axis-parallel squares of (Euclidean) side length \( \delta/1000 \) in the
obvious way, and we let \( S \) denote the set of those squares in the dissection that are contained
in \( A_\delta \). We define \( \text{local}(A, \delta) \) as the event that each square in \( S \) contains at least one point of
\( Z \). Obviously (i) holds by construction.

For each square \( s \in S \), the number of points that fall in it under the Euclidean intensity
measure is Poisson distributed with mean \( \lambda \cdot \text{area}_{\mathbb{R}^2}(s) = \lambda \cdot \delta^2/10^6 = \Omega(\lambda) \) and under the
hyperbolic intensity measure it is Poisson with mean \( \lambda \cdot \text{area}_{H^2}(s) = \Omega(\lambda) \). For any fixed
square \( s \in S \) the probability (under either probability measure) that it contains no point of
\( Z \) is thus \( \exp[-\Omega(\lambda)] \xrightarrow{\lambda \to \infty} 0 \). There are only finitely many squares in \( S \), so that part (ii)
follows by the union bound.

Now pick an arbitrary \( u \in A \). Since there are (lots of) squares of \( S \) contained in \( B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(u, \delta) \),
if \( \text{local}(A, \delta) \) holds, then \( u \) is within Euclidean distance \( < \delta \) of some \( z \in Z \). This takes care of (iii).

To see (iv), let \( u \in A \) again be arbitrary and let \( z \in Z \) be such that \( u \in C_{H^2}(z) \). This
means the hyperbolic disk \( D \) with centre \( u \) and radius \( \text{dist}_{H^2}(u, z) \) has no points of \( Z \) in its
interior. The disk \( D \) is also a Euclidean disk, but working out its Euclidean centre and radius
in terms of \( u \) and \( z \) is a little bit tedious. What is, however, clear is that \( D \) contains the line
segment \([u, z]\) with endpoints \( u, z \). So in particular, if \( \|u - z\| \geq \delta \) then \( D \) contains a disk \( D' \)
of Euclidean diameter \( \delta/2 \) such that \( u \in \partial D' \). Clearly any such disk \( D' \) is completely contained
in \( B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(u, \delta) \subseteq A_\delta \) and it contains lots of squares of \( S \) in its interior. So, if \( \text{local}(A, \delta) \) holds,
then we must have \( \|u - z\| < \delta. \)

\[ \square \]
3.3 Coupling the hyperbolic PPP with a Euclidean PPP

Recall that a *coupling* of two random objects $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ is a joint probability space for $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$ with the correct marginals. The next lemma allows us to (locally) relate a homogeneous, hyperbolic Poisson process to a homogeneous, Euclidean Poisson process with different parameters. This will be instrumental in proving an analogue of Proposition 4 in the next section.

**Lemma 7** Let $0 < p_{\text{new}} < p < 1$ and $0 < r < 1$ be arbitrary. There exists $t = t(r, p, p_{\text{new}}) > 0$ such that for each (measurable) $A \subseteq B_{R^2}(o, r)$ with Euclidean diameter at most $t$ and each $\lambda > 0$ there exist a $\mu = \mu(\lambda, A)$ and a coupling of $(Z_b, Z_w)$ and $(\tilde{Z}_b, \tilde{Z}_w)$ satisfying (almost surely)

$$
\tilde{Z}_b \cap A \subseteq Z_b \cap A, \quad Z_w \cap A \subseteq \tilde{Z}_w \cap A,
$$

where $\tilde{Z}_b, \tilde{Z}_w$ are independent, homogeneous, Euclidean Poisson processes of intensities $p_{\text{new}} \cdot \mu$ and $(1 - p_{\text{new}}) \cdot \mu$.

To aid the reader’s understanding, we emphasize that $Z_b$ is with respect to the hyperbolic intensity measure $u \mapsto \lambda \cdot p \cdot 1_B(u) \cdot 4(1 - \|u\|^2)^{-2}$ while $\tilde{Z}_b$ is with respect to the Euclidean intensity measure $u \mapsto \mu \cdot p_{\text{new}}$, and similarly for $Z_w$ and $\tilde{Z}_w$.

Let us also remark that (provided $A$ is not a set of measure zero) we have $\mu(\lambda, A) \to \infty$ as $\lambda \to \infty$. This is because the expected number of points of $\tilde{Z}_w$ that fall in $A$ is at least the expected number of points $Z_w$ that fall in $A$, giving $(1 - p_{\text{new}}) \cdot \mu \cdot \text{area}_{\mathbb{R}^2}(A) \geq (1 - p) \cdot \lambda \cdot \text{area}_{\mathbb{R}^2}(A)$.

**Proof.** Let $\delta > 0$ be small, to be specified appropriately later on in the proof. Since $f(u) := 1_B(u) \cdot 4(1 - \|u\|^2)^{-2}$ is uniformly continuous on $B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r)$ we can and do choose $t = t(r, p, p_{\text{new}})$ such that $|f(u) - f(v)| < \delta$ for all $u, v \in B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r)$ with $\|u - v\| < t$. Now let $A \subseteq B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(0, r)$ be an arbitrary measurable set of Euclidean diameter $\leq t$. We set $\mu := \lambda \cdot \inf_{u \in A} f(u)$. Since $Z_b, Z_w$ are independent Poisson processes, and similarly for $\tilde{Z}_b, \tilde{Z}_w$, it suffices to construct a coupling of $Z_b$ with $\tilde{Z}_b$ and a coupling of $Z_w$ with $\tilde{Z}_w$ separately.

In order to construct the coupling of $Z_b, \tilde{Z}_b$ we first note that with our choice of $\mu$ we have $\lambda \cdot p \cdot f(u) \geq \mu \cdot p_{\text{new}}$ for all $u \in A$. We let $P_0, P_1, P_2$ be independent, inhomogeneous Poisson processes with intensities given by

$$
\varphi_0(u) := \min(p_{\text{new}} \cdot \mu, p \cdot \lambda \cdot f(u)), \quad \varphi_1(u) := p_{\text{new}} \cdot \mu - \varphi_0(u), \quad \varphi_2(u) := p \cdot \lambda \cdot f(u) - \varphi_0(u).
$$

As $\varphi_1$ is identically zero on $A$ we have

$$(P_0 \cup P_1) \cap A = P_0 \cap A \subseteq (P_0 \oplus P_2) \cap A \quad \text{(almost surely)}.$$  

Since $\varphi_0 + \varphi_1 = p_{\text{new}} \cdot \mu$ and $\varphi_0 + \varphi_2 = p \cdot \lambda \cdot f$, the superposition theorem for Poisson point processes (see e.g. [7, p. 20]) implies that $Z_b \equiv P_0 \cup P_1$ and $\tilde{Z}_b \equiv P_0 \cup P_2$. In other words, the pair $P_0 \cup P_1, P_0 \cup P_2$ provides a coupling of $Z_b, \tilde{Z}_b$ with the desired properties.

In order to construct the coupling of $Z_w, \tilde{Z}_w$ we remark that, for all $v \in A$, we have $f(v) \leq \inf_{u \in A} f(u) + \delta \leq (1 + \delta) \cdot \inf_{u \in A} f(u)$. Having chosen $\delta = \delta(p, p_{\text{new}})$ sufficiently small, we have, for every $v \in A$:

\[\]
\[ (1 - p) \cdot \lambda \cdot f(v) \leq (1 + \delta) \cdot (1 - p) \cdot \lambda \cdot \inf_{u \in A} f(u) \leq (1 - p_{\text{new}}) \cdot \lambda \cdot \inf_{u \in A} f(u) = (1 - p_{\text{new}}) \cdot \mu. \]

We can, therefore, construct the sought coupling of \( Z_w, \tilde{Z}_w \) analogously to before. \( \square \)

### 3.4 Crossing rectangles with the Euclidean metric and hyperbolic intensity measure

We are now ready to prove the following analogue of Proposition 4 for the hyperbolic intensity measure. All mention of rectangles in the remainder of this paper will be with respect to the Euclidean metric. (In fact, it is not immediately clear what would be the best notion of a “rectangle” in hyperbolic geometry.) Put differently, for us a rectangle is a subset of the hyperbolic plane that looks like a Euclidean rectangle (that is not a square) in the Poincaré disk model. We emphasize that in the definition of the events \( \text{cross}(R) \) we ask for an all black, continuous curve inside \( R \) that connects the two shorter sides, where black refers to the colouring generated by the Voronoi tessellation using the Euclidean metric.

**Lemma 8** For any fixed \( p > 1/2 \) and any fixed rectangle \( R \subseteq \mathbb{D} \) we have

\[
\lim_{\lambda \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\text{cross}(R)) = 1.
\]

![Figure 4: The Euclidean Voronoi cells under hyperbolic intensity measure and a rectangle \( R \) for which \( \text{cross}(R) \) occurs. \((p = .6, \lambda = 20)\)](image)

**Proof.** We first point out that it is sufficient to show that for each \( 0 < r < 1 \) the statement holds for rectangles contained in \( B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r) \), with (Euclidean) diameter at most some small constant \( \ell = \ell(r, \lambda) \) (to be chosen appropriately in the course of the proof). This is because for any fixed rectangle \( R \subseteq \mathbb{D} \) and \( r = r(R) \) sufficiently close to one and any \( \ell > 0 \), we can place a finite number of rectangles \( R_1, \ldots, R_m \), each of Euclidean diameter at most \( \ell \) and contained in \( B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r) \), such that the event \( \text{cross}(R_1) \cap \cdots \cap \text{cross}(R_m) \) implies the event \( \text{cross}(R) \). (See e.g. Figure 5.)

So \( \mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\text{cross}(R)) \geq 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\text{cross}(R_i)^c) \) and it is enough to show that \( \mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\text{cross}(R_i)) \to 1 \) as \( \lambda \to \infty \), for all \( i = 1, \ldots, m \).

We thus fix \( 0 < r < 1 \) and we let \( R \subseteq B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r) \) be an arbitrary rectangle of (Euclidean) diameter at most \( \ell := t/3 \) where \( t = t((1 + r)/2, p, (1/2 + p)/2) \) is as provided by Lemma 7.
For convenience, we will write $\rho := (1 + r)/2, p_{\text{new}} = (1/2 + p)/2$ from now on. We apply Lemma 7 to $R_\delta$ where $\delta := \min(t/3, \rho - r)$ is such that $\text{diam}_{R_\delta}(R_\delta) \leq t$ and $R_\delta \subseteq B_{R_\delta}(o, \rho)$ and we let $\mu = \mu(R_\delta, \lambda)$ and $\tilde{Z}_b, \tilde{Z}_w$ be as provided by that lemma. We denote by $B \subseteq R$ the (random) subset of $R$ that is coloured black in the Voronoi tessellation for $\tilde{Z}_b, \tilde{Z}_w$ and we let $\mu = \mu(R_\delta, \lambda)$ and $\tilde{Z}_b, \tilde{Z}_w$ be as provided by that lemma. We denote by $B \subseteq R$ the (random) subset of $R$ that is coloured black in the Voronoi tessellation for $\tilde{Z}_b, \tilde{Z}_w$ and for $\tilde{Z} = \tilde{Z}_b \cup \tilde{Z}_w$. In that case, by the remark immediately following Lemma 6, $B$ is completely determined by $(\tilde{Z}_b \cap R_\delta, \tilde{Z}_w \cap R_\delta)$ and $\tilde{B}$ is completely determined by $(\tilde{Z}_b \cap R_\delta, \tilde{Z}_w \cap R_\delta)$. Since under our coupling $\tilde{Z}_b \cap R_\delta \subseteq Z_b \cap R_\delta$ and $\tilde{Z}_w \cap R_\delta \supseteq Z_w \cap R_\delta$, this would give that $B \supseteq \tilde{B}$. In particular, if $\tilde{B}$ contains a crossing of $R$ then so does $B$ (still under the assumption that local$(R, \delta)$ happens both for $Z = Z_b \cup Z_w$ and for $\tilde{Z} = \tilde{Z}_b \cup \tilde{Z}_w$).

We may conclude that

$$\mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\text{cross}(R)) \geq \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu, p_{\text{new}}}(\text{cross}(R)) - \mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\text{local}(R, \delta)^c) - \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu, p_{\text{new}}}(\text{local}(R, \delta)^c).$$

By Proposition 4 and the remark following Lemma 7 (stating that $\mu \to \infty$ as $\lambda \to \infty$), we have $\lim_{\lambda \to \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu, p_{\text{new}}}(\text{cross}(R)) = 1$. By part (ii) of Lemma 6, we have $\lim_{\lambda \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\text{local}(R, \delta)) = \lim_{\lambda \to \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu, p_{\text{new}}}(\text{local}(R, \delta)) = 1$. The result follows.

### 3.5 Proof of our main result

For ease of notation, we will say that $z, z' \in Z$ are adjacent if the corresponding Voronoi cells $C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z), C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z')$ touch. In light of Lemma 3, this is equivalent to $C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z), C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z')$ touching, up to an event of probability zero. A path is of course a (finite or infinite) sequence of distinct points $z_1, z_2, \ldots \in Z$ such that $z_i, z_{i+1}$ are adjacent for each $i$.

**Proof of Theorem 1.** Since Benjamini and Schramm [5] have already shown that $p_c(\lambda) < 1/2$ for all $\lambda$, it suffices to show that for every $p < 1/2$ there exists a $\lambda_0 = \lambda_0(p)$ such that $\mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\exists \text{ infinite black component}) = 0$ for all $\lambda > \lambda_0$. Equivalently, switching the roles of black and white, it suffices to show that for every $p > 1/2$ we have $\mathbb{P}_{\lambda, p}(\exists \text{ infinite white component}) = 0$ for all sufficiently large $\lambda$. In order to show this, we will define a dependent percolation model on the triangulation $\mathcal{T}$ of $\mathbb{H}^2$ with Schläfli symbol $\{3, 7\}$. We turn $\mathcal{T}$ into a graph by
declaring two triangles adjacent if and only if they meet in at least one point. So all vertices of the graph have degree 15. The state (open/closed) of each triangle \( T \in \mathcal{T} \) will be determined by the Poisson-Voronoi tessellation, in such a way that the existence of an infinite white component in the Poisson-Voronoi tessellation implies the existence of an infinite open cluster in the dependent percolation model. For convenience, we assume without loss of generality that one of the triangles \( T_o \in \mathcal{T} \) is centred at the origin.

We start by defining the event \( \text{closed}(T_o) \) that \( T_o \) is closed. We fix six thin rectangles \( R_1, \ldots, R_6 \) as pictured in Figure 6. The key features of this placement are that each rectangle is at least some positive distance away from both \( T_o \) and \( \partial \mathbb{D} \), and that the event \( \text{cross}(R_1) \cap \cdots \cap \text{cross}(R_6) \) will imply the existence of a black, continuous, closed curve that separates \( T_o \) from \( \partial \mathbb{D} \). A subtle point here is that, because of the way we’ve defined the events \( \text{cross}(\cdot) \), this black curve separating \( T_o \) from \( \partial \mathbb{D} \) is with respect to the colouring of \( \mathbb{D} \) generated by the Voronoi tessellation under the Euclidean metric.

![Figure 6: Six rectangles inside \( B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r) \), surrounding \( T_o \).](image)

We can and do pick an \( 0 < r < 1 \) and \( 0 < \delta < 1 - r \) such that \( R_1, \ldots, R_6 \subseteq B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r) \) and each \( R_i \) has Euclidean distance \( > \delta \) to \( T_o \). Now we define

\[
\text{closed}(T_o) := \text{cross}(R_1) \cap \cdots \cap \text{cross}(R_6) \cap \text{local}(B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r), \delta).
\]

For each triangle \( T \in \mathcal{T} \) in the tiling, we fix a \( \mathbb{H}^2 \)-isometry \( \varphi \) that maps \( T \) to \( T_o \) and we define \( \text{closed}(T) \) as the event that \( \text{closed}(T_o) \) holds with respect to \( \varphi[\mathcal{Z}] \). Of course \( T \in \mathcal{T} \) is declared open if \( \text{closed}(T) \) does not hold. And, since \( \varphi[\mathcal{Z}] \) has the same distribution as \( \mathcal{Z} \), we have

\[
P_{\lambda,p}(\text{closed}(T)) = P_{\lambda,p}(\text{closed}(T_o)) \xrightarrow{\lambda \to \infty} 1,
\]

the limit holding because of Lemmas 6 and 8. Moreover, by part (i) of Lemma 6 and the remark following that lemma, the event \( \text{closed}(T_o) \) depends only on the points of \( \mathcal{Z} \) that fall inside \( B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r + \delta) \). Of course, \( B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o, r + \delta) \) is also a hyperbolic disk \( B_{\mathbb{H}^2}(0, \rho) \) centred at the origin for some finite \( \rho = \rho(r + \delta) \). By construction of the events \( \text{closed}(T) \), for any other \( T \in \mathcal{T} \), the event \( \text{closed}(T) \) also depends only on the part of the Poisson process \( \mathcal{Z} \) inside a hyperbolic disk of radius \( \rho \) around the centre of \( T \). The percolation model we’ve
defined on $T$ is, therefore, $k$-independent where $k$ is the number of triangles of $T$ whose centre has hyperbolic distance $<2\rho$ to the origin. Combining Lemma 3 with 1 we find that for sufficiently large $\lambda$:

$$
\mathbb{P}_{\lambda,\rho}(\exists \text{ an infinite open cluster in } T) = 0.
$$

It remains to see how this implies that the probability that an infinite white cluster exists in the Voronoi tessellation is also zero for large values of the intensity $\lambda$. A key observation is the following.

**Claim.** Almost surely, for every $T \in T$, if $\text{closed}(T)$ holds then there does not exist an infinite white path $z_1, z_2, \ldots$ such that $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_i)$ intersects $T$.

**Proof of the claim.** We first point out that it suffices to prove the claim for $T = T_0$. This is because if $\varphi : \mathbb{D} \to \mathbb{D}$ is the $\mathbb{H}^2$-isometry mapping $T$ to $T_0$ used in the definition of $\text{closed}(T)$, then $\varphi[C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z; \mathcal{Z})] = C_{\mathbb{H}^2}([\varphi(z); \varphi(\mathcal{Z})])$ for all $z \in \mathcal{Z}$. So $z, z'$ are adjacent in the Voronoi tessellation for $\mathcal{Z}$ if and only if $\varphi(z), \varphi(z')$ are adjacent in the Voronoi tessellation for $\varphi(\mathcal{Z})$ and $C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z; \mathcal{Z})$ intersects $T$ if and only if $C_{\mathbb{H}^2}([\varphi(z); \varphi(\mathcal{Z})])$ intersects $T_0$.

In the remainder, we shall thus be taking $T = T_0$. The occurrence of $\text{cross}(R_1) \cap \cdots \cap \text{cross}(R_6)$ implies that in the colouring generated by the Voronoi tessellation using the Euclidean metric there is an all black, continuous, closed curve $\gamma \subseteq R_1 \cup \cdots \cup R_6$ that separates $T_0$ from $\partial B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(0,r)$.

Suppose there is an infinite white path $z_1, z_2, \ldots$ as in the statement of the claim, and let $i$ be such that $C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_i) \cap T_0 \neq \emptyset$. Since $B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o,r)$ contains finitely many points almost surely, there will be some $j > i$ such that $z_j \notin B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o,r)$. The occurrence of $\text{local}(B_{\mathbb{R}^2}(o,r), \delta)$ implies that $z_i$ is within Euclidean distance $\delta$ of $T_0$. In particular, the black curve $\gamma$ separates $z_i$ and $z_j$. Since $C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_i) \cup C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_{i+1}) \cup \cdots \cup C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_j)$ contains a continuous curve between $z_i$ and $z_j$, at least one of the Euclidean cells $C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_i), C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_{i+1}), \ldots, C_{\mathbb{R}^2}(z_j)$ intersects the black curve $\gamma$. But that means one of $z_i, z_{i+1}, \ldots, z_j$ must be black, contradicting our choice of $z_1, z_2, \ldots$. ■

To conclude the proof we remark that if there were to exist an infinite white path $z_1, z_2, \ldots$ in the hyperbolic Voronoi diagram, then the set of triangles of $T$ that $C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_1) \cup C_{\mathbb{H}^2}(z_2) \cup \ldots$ intersects would have to be part of an infinite open cluster in $T$. ■

**References**


