Bootstrap percolation on the product of the two-dimensional lattice with a Hamming square

Janko Gravner
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Davis, CA 95616
gravner@math.ucdavis.edu

David Sivakoff
Departments of Statistics and Mathematics
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210
dsivakoff@stat.osu.edu

October 2, 2018

Abstract

Bootstrap percolation on a graph is a deterministic process that iteratively enlarges a set of occupied sites by adjoining points with at least \( \theta \) occupied neighbors. The initially occupied set is random, given by a uniform product measure with a low density \( p \). Our main focus is on this process on the product graph \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n^2 \), where \( K_n \) is a complete graph. We investigate how \( p \) scales with \( n \) so that a typical site is eventually occupied. Under critical scaling, the dynamics with even \( \theta \) exhibits a sharp phase transition, while odd \( \theta \) yields a gradual percolation transition. We also establish a gradual transition for bootstrap percolation on \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n^2 \). The main tool is heterogeneous bootstrap percolation on \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \).

1 Introduction

Spread of signals — information, say, or infection — on graphs with community structure has attracted interest in the mathematical literature recently [Schi, BL, Lal, LZ, Siv]. The idea is that any single community is densely connected, while the connections between communities are much more sparse. This naturally leads to multiscale phenomena, as the spread of the signal within a community is much faster than between different communities. Often, communities are modeled as cliques, i.e., the intra-community graph is complete, but in other cases some close-knit structure is assumed. By contrast, the inter-community graph may, for example, impose spatial proximity as a precondition for connectivity. See [Sil+] for an applications-oriented recent survey.

The principal graph under study in this paper is \( G = \mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n^2 \), the Cartesian product between the lattice \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \) and two copies of the complete graph \( K_n \) on \( n \) points. Thus “community” consists of “individuals” determined by two characteristics, and two individuals within the community only communicate if they have one of the characteristics in common. Between the communities, communication is between like individuals that are also neighbors in the lattice. For comparison, we also address the case where each community is a clique, that is, the graph \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n \).

Keywords: Bootstrap percolation; critical scaling; final density; heterogeneous bootstrap percolation.

AMS MSC 2010: 60K35.
The particular dynamics we use for spread of signals is bootstrap percolation with integer threshold parameter $\theta \geq 1$. In this very simple deterministic process, one starts with an initial configuration $\omega_0$ of 0s (or empty sites) and 1s (or occupied sites) on vertices of $G$, and iteratively enlarges the set of occupied sites in discrete time as follows. Assume $\omega_t$ is given for some $t \geq 0$, and fix a vertex $v$ of $G$. If $\omega_t(v) = 1$, then $\omega_{t+1}(v) = 1$. If $\omega_t(v) = 0$, and $v$ has $\theta$ or more neighboring vertices $v'$ with $\omega_t(v') = 1$, then $\omega_{t+1}(v) = 1$; otherwise $\omega_{t+1}(v) = 0$. We will typically identify the configuration $\omega_t$ with the set of its occupied sites $\{v : \omega_t(v) = 1\}$. Thus $\omega_t$ increases to the set $\omega_\infty = \cup_{t \geq 0} \omega_t$ of eventually occupied vertices.

As is typical, we assume that the initial state $\omega_0$ is a uniform product measure with some small density $p \in (0, 1)$. This makes the set $\omega_\infty$ random as well, and it is natural to ask how to choose $p$ to make $\omega_\infty$ large, i.e., to make the initially sparse signal widespread. Observe that, if $\theta \geq 3$, $\omega_\infty$ cannot comprise all vertices of $G$ with nonzero probability for any $p < 1$, as a block of neighboring empty copies of $K_n^2$ (e.g., $\{(0,0), (0,1), (1,0), (1,1)\} \times K_n^2$) cannot be invaded by occupied sites, and the infinite lattice will contain such a block with probability 1. We therefore ask a weaker question: how large should $p$ be, in terms of $n$, so that $\omega_\infty$ comprises a substantial proportion of points? That is, we are interested in the size of the final density, $\mathbb{P}_p(v_0 \in \omega_\infty)$, which is independent of $v_0 \in G$ by vertex-transitivity of $G$.

Bootstrap percolation was introduced on trees in [CLR], but it has received by far the most attention on lattices $\mathbb{Z}^d$. In this case, $\mathbb{P}_p(\omega_\infty = \mathbb{Z}^d) = 1$, as proved in [VE] for $d = 2$ and in [Scho] for $d \geq 3$. Many deep and surprising results originated from the study of metastability properties of the model on finite regions (see e.g. [AL, Hol, BBDM, GHM]). We refer to the recent survey [Mor] for a comprehensive review.

Study of bootstrap percolation and related dynamics on graphs with long-range connectivity is a more recent undertaking [GHPS, Shi, GSS, BBLN, GPS] and has a fundamentally different flavor: while on sparse graphs, the dominant mechanism is formation of small nuclei that are likely to grow indefinitely, the relevant events in densely connected graphs tend to depend on the configuration on the whole space. It is therefore tempting to consider graphs that combine aspects of both, and we continue here our work started in [GS].

As already remarked, $\omega_\infty$ cannot cover all vertices of our graph $G$ due to the presence of local configurations of sparsely occupied copies of Hamming squares, $K_n^2$. Other copies, of course, have higher initial occupation, get fully occupied and spread their occupation to the neighboring squares. Thus we have a competition between densely occupied copies of $K_n^2$ that act as nuclei, and sparsely occupied ones that function as obstacles to growth. This invites comparison with polluted bootstrap percolation [GM, GraH, GHS] on $\mathbb{Z}^2$, which is indeed the main source of our tools. However, by contrast with the model in the cited papers, which has only three states (empty and occupied sites, and permanent obstacles), the dynamics that arise from our process has more types corresponding to all possible thresholds $(0,1,2,3,4,5)$ that different sites in $\mathbb{Z}^2$ require to become occupied. Moreover, we need different variants for the case $\theta = 3$ and the graph $\mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n$. We call these comparison dynamics heterogeneous bootstrap percolation. We also encounter a technical difficulty in the form of correlations in the initial state, which are handled by coupling and other related perturbation methods.

After its introduction in [GM], the basic polluted version of heterogeneous bootstrap percolation was further analyzed in [GraH, GHS]: it is the recent techniques developed in these two papers that will be useful to us. Related models include processes on a complete graph with excluded edges [JLTV], Glauber dynamics with frozen vertices [DEK+], dynamics on complex networks with
damaged vertices \([\text{BDGM2, BDGM1}]\), and on inhomogeneous geometric random graphs \([\text{KL}]\).

Our main results determine a critical scaling for prevalent occupation on \(\mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n^2\): we exhibit functions \(f_\theta(n)\) so that, when \(p = af_\theta(n)\), the limit as \(n \to \infty\) of the final density \(P_p(v_0 \in \omega_\infty)\) is low for small \(a\) and high for large \(a\). In fact, for all \(\theta\), this limit vanishes for \(a < a_c\), where \(a_c = a_c(\theta)\) is a critical value that we are able to identify (and in fact compute explicitly for even \(\theta\)). The behavior for \(a > a_c\) is however not the same for all \(\theta\): if \(\theta\) is odd, the limit is 1, while if \(\theta\) is odd the final density is bounded away from 1 for any finite \(a\) and only approaches 1 as \(a \to \infty\). We already encountered the non-intuitive qualitative difference between odd and even \(\theta\) in our earlier work \([\text{GS}]\), in which the lattice factor was one dimensional. This, and the connection with heterogeneous bootstrap percolation, are the most inviting features of our present model.

We now proceed to formal statements of our results. We first remark that for \(\theta \leq 2\) we have no obstacles and \(P_p(\omega_\infty = 1) = 1\) for any \(p > 0\) by standard bootstrap percolation arguments \([vE, \text{Scho}]\); therefore, we assume that \(\theta \geq 3\) throughout the paper. As we have so far, we denote by \(v_0\) an arbitrary fixed vertex of the graph in question, and we use the notation \(0 = (0, 0)\) for the origin in \(\mathbb{Z}^2\). We begin with our main result for even thresholds.

**Theorem 1.1.** Consider bootstrap percolation on \(\mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n^2\) with threshold \(\theta = 2\ell + 2\), for some \(\ell \geq 1\). Assume that

\[
(1.1) \quad p = a \cdot \frac{\log n}{n^{1+1/\ell}}.
\]

for some \(a > 0\).

If \(a^{\ell} < 2(\ell - 1)!\), then

\[
(1.2) \quad P_p(v_0 \in \omega_\infty) = n^{-2/\ell + o(1)} \quad \text{as } n \to \infty.
\]

Conversely, if \(a^{\ell} \geq 2(\ell - 1)!\), then

\[
(1.3) \quad P_p(\{0\} \times K_n^2 \subset \omega_\infty) \to 1 \quad \text{as } n \to \infty.
\]

Moreover, if \(a^{\ell} > 2(\ell - 1)!\), then

\[
(1.4) \quad P_p(\{0\} \times K_n^2 \not\subset \omega_\infty) = \begin{cases} n^{4/\ell - 4a^{\ell}/\ell + o(1)} & \ell > 2 \\ n^{-2a + o(1)} & \ell = 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{as } n \to \infty,
\]

and \(P_p(\omega_0 = \omega_\infty \text{ on } \{0\} \times K_n^2)\) satisfies the same asymptotics.

Our results for odd thresholds are somewhat less precise, but suffice to provide the announced distinction from even \(\theta\).

**Theorem 1.2.** Consider bootstrap percolation on \(\mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n^2\) with threshold \(\theta = 2\ell + 1\), for some \(\ell \geq 1\). Assume that

\[
(1.5) \quad p = a \cdot \frac{\log n}{n^{1+1/\ell}},
\]

for some \(a > 0\).

There exists a critical value \(a_c = a_c(\ell) \in (0, \infty)\) so that the following holds. If \(a < a_c\), then

\[
(1.6) \quad P_p(v_0 \in \omega_\infty) \to 0 \quad \text{as } n \to \infty.
\]
Conversely, if \( a > a_c \), then

\[
0 < \liminf_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_p \left( \{0\} \times K_n^2 \subset \omega_\infty \right) \leq \limsup_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_p (v_0 \in \omega_\infty) < 1.
\]

Furthermore,

\[
\liminf_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_p \left( \{0\} \times K_n^2 \subset \omega_\infty \right) \to 1 \text{ as } a \to \infty.
\]

Finally, we state our result for the case of clique community, in which there is no difference between odd and even \( \theta \) and no phase transition as in Theorems 1.1 and 1.2.

Theorem 1.3. Consider bootstrap percolation on \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n \) with threshold \( \theta \geq 3 \). Assume that \( p = a/n \) for some \( a \in (0, \infty) \). Then both \( \liminf_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_p (\omega_\infty(v_0) = 1) = 1 \) and \( \limsup_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_p (\omega_\infty(v_0) = 1) < 1 \) as \( a \to \infty \).

A similar result to Theorem 1.3 holds for \( \mathbb{Z}^d \times K_n \) for all \( d \geq 3 \), but extension of our results to \( \mathbb{Z}^d \times K_2^n \) is much more challenging (see Section 7 on open problems).

The organization of the rest of the paper is as follows. In the Section 2, we state the necessary properties of random subsets of a single copy \( \{x\} \times K_2^n \) of a Hamming square, and in this we mostly review the results from [GHPS, GS]. We also introduce the basic version of the heterogeneous bootstrap percolation; two other variants are used in Subsection 5.4 and Section 6. In Section 3, we prove the subcritical rate (1.2), by utilizing the connection with polluted bootstrap percolation [GM, GHS]. Our argument closely follows that of [GHS], but we give a substantial amount of details due to the differences in the assumptions and conclusions. In Section 4, we focus on the supercritical part of Theorem 1.1 which is handled by the method from [GM], and then involves finding the most likely configuration that prevents occupation from spreading inwards from a circuit of fully occupied copies of the Hamming square. Section 5 contains the proof Theorem 1.2 in which we characterize \( a_c \) through the limiting dynamics (as \( n \to \infty \)), which can be appropriately coupled to the dynamics for finite \( n \). A different limiting dynamics is similarly used in Section 6, which is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.3. We conclude with a list of open problems in Section 7.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Copies of Hamming squares

Fix an initial state \( \omega_0 \) for our bootstrap dynamics on \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_2^n \). For a set \( A \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_2^n \), the dynamics restricted to \( A \) uses the bootstrap rule on the subgraph induced by \( A \), with the initial state \( \omega_0 \) on \( A \). As in [GS], we call a copy \( \{x\} \times K_2^n, x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \):

- **internally spanned at threshold \( r \) (r-IS)** if the bootstrap dynamics with threshold \( r \), restricted to \( \{x\} \times K_2^n \), eventually results in full occupation of \( \{x\} \times K_2^n \);

- **internally inert at threshold \( r \) (r-II)** if the bootstrap dynamics with threshold \( r \), restricted to \( \{x\} \times K_2^n \), never changes the state of any vertex in \( \{x\} \times K_2^n \); and

- **inert at threshold \( r \) (r-inert)** if the (unrestricted) bootstrap dynamics with threshold \( r \) does not occupy any point in \( \{x\} \times K_2^n \) in the first time step.
In the rest of this subsection, we mostly summarize the results from [GS] and [GHPS]. We begin with the results for even $\theta$, which were essentially proved in [GS].

**Lemma 2.1.** Assume that $p$ is given by (1.1).

1. If $\ell \geq 1$, then
   \[ P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } (2\ell - 2)\text{-IS}) = O(n^{-L}), \]
   for any constant $L > 0$.

2. If $\ell \geq 2$, then
   \[ P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } (2\ell - 1)\text{-IS}) \sim P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is } (2\ell - 1)\text{-II}) \sim n^{-2a^{\ell}/\ell}. \]
   and for $\ell = 1$ we have
   \[ P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } 1\text{-IS}) = P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is } 1\text{-II}) \sim \frac{1}{n^a}. \]

3. If $\ell \geq 2$, then
   \[ P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } (2\ell)\text{-IS}) \sim P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is } (2\ell)\text{-II}) \sim 2n^{-a^{\ell}/\ell}, \]
   and for $\ell = 1$ we have
   \[ P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } 2\text{-IS}) \sim P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is } 2\text{-II}) \sim \frac{a \log n}{n^a}. \]

4. If $\ell \geq 1$, then
   \[ P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is } (2\ell + 1)\text{-IS}) \sim P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } (2\ell + 1)\text{-II}) \sim \frac{2a^{\ell+1}}{(\ell + 1)!} \cdot \frac{(\log n)^{1+1/\ell}}{n^{1/\ell}}. \]

5. If $\ell \geq 1$, then
   \[ P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is } (2\ell + 2)\text{-IS}) \sim P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } (2\ell + 2)\text{-II}) \sim \left(\frac{a^{\ell+1}}{(\ell + 1)!}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{(\log n)^{2+2/\ell}}{n^{2/\ell}}. \]

**Proof.** Statements 1 through 4 are Lemmas 3.6, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 in [GS], and the proof of the last statement is similar to the proof of the 4th, so we omit it. \qed

The next lemma compares probabilities for inertness and internal inertness for $\ell \geq 2$.

**Lemma 2.2.** Assume $\theta = 2\ell + 2$, $\ell \geq 2$, and $p$ is given by (1.1). If $\frac{a^{\ell}}{\ell^2} < 1$, then for any $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$

\[ P_p \left( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is } (\theta - 2)\text{-inert} \right) \sim P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is } (\theta - 2)\text{-II}) \sim 2n^{-a^{\ell}/\ell}, \]

\[ P_p \left( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is not } (\theta - 1)\text{-inert} \right) \sim P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } (\theta - 1)\text{-II}) \sim \frac{2a^{\ell+1}}{(\ell + 1)!} \cdot \frac{(\log n)^{1+1/\ell}}{n^{1/\ell}}, \]

\[ P_p \left( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is not } \theta\text{-inert} \right) \sim P_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } \theta\text{-II}) \sim \left(\frac{a^{\ell+1}}{(\ell + 1)!}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{(\log n)^{2+2/\ell}}{n^{2/\ell}}. \]
Proof. Fix an \( r = 0, 1, 2 \). Then the probability that any fixed copy of \( K_n^2 \) has a site with exactly \( k \geq 1 \) occupied \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \)-neighbors and at least \( \theta - r - k \) occupied \( K_n^2 \)-neighbors is

\[
O(n^2 p^k (np)^{\theta - r - k}) = O(n^{-k - (2 - r)/\ell} (\log n)^{(2\ell + 2 - r)/\ell}).
\]

Therefore,

\[
\mathbb{P}_p \left( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is } (\theta - r)\text{-II but not } (\theta - r)\text{-inert} \right) = n^{-1 - (2 - r)/\ell + o(1)}.
\]

The rest follows from Lemma 2.1 parts 3, 4 and 5 and the assumptions put on \( a \) and \( \ell \).

We need a slightly more involved argument for \( \ell = 1 \).

Lemma 2.3. Assume \( \theta = 4 \) and \( p = a \log n \). We have,

\[
\mathbb{P}_p \left( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is } 2\text{-inert} \right) \geq a \frac{\log n}{n^a} (1 - o(1))
\]

Proof. Let \( G_1 \) be the event that \( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \) contains at least two occupied vertices, and \( G_2 \) the event that a point in \( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \) has both an occupied \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \)-neighbor and an occupied \( K_n \)-neighbor. Note that these are increasing events and that

\[
\{\{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is not } 2\text{-inert} \} \subset G_1 \cup G_2.
\]

Therefore, by FKG inequality,

\[
\mathbb{P}_p \left( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is not } 2\text{-inert} \right) \leq \mathbb{P}_p (G_1) + \mathbb{P}_p (G_2) - \mathbb{P}_p (G_1) \mathbb{P}_p (G_2),
\]

and so

\[
\mathbb{P}_p \left( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is } 2\text{-inert} \right) \geq \mathbb{P}_p (G_1^c) - \mathbb{P}_p (G_1^c) \mathbb{P}_p (G_2).
\]

Finally, we use that \( \mathbb{P}_p (G_1^c) \sim a \frac{\log n}{n^a} \) and \( \mathbb{P}_p (G_2) \leq 8 n^3 p^2 = O(\log n/n) \).

We proceed with the analogous results for odd \( \theta \), which mostly follow from [GHPS], and we again omit the detailed proofs.

Lemma 2.4. Assume that \( p \) is given by (1.5).

1. If \( \ell \geq 1 \), then

\[
\mathbb{P}_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } (2\ell - 2)\text{-IS}) = O(n^{-L}),
\]

for any constant \( L > 0 \).

2. If \( \ell \geq 2 \), then

\[
\mathbb{P}_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } (2\ell - 1)\text{-IS}) \sim \mathbb{P}_p (K_n^2 \text{ is } (2\ell - 1)\text{-II}) \sim \exp \left( -\frac{2a^{\ell}}{\ell!} \right).
\]

3. If \( \ell \geq 2 \), then

\[
\mathbb{P}_p (K_n^2 \text{ is } (2\ell)\text{-IS}) \sim \mathbb{P}_p (K_n^2 \text{ is not } (2\ell)\text{-II}) \sim \left( 1 - e^{-a^{\ell}/\ell!} \right)^2.
\]
4. If $\ell \geq 1$, then

$$\mathbb{P}_p(K_n^2 \text{ is not } (2\ell + 1)-II) \sim 2 \cdot \frac{a^{\ell+1}}{\ell!} \cdot \left(1 - e^{-a^{\ell}/\ell!}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{n^{1/\ell}},$$

and

$$\mathbb{P}_p(K_n^2 \text{ is } (2\ell + 1)-IS) \sim 2 \cdot \frac{a^{\ell+1}}{\ell!} \cdot \left(1 - e^{-a^{\ell}/\ell!}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{n^{1/\ell}}.$$  

Proof. Parts 2 and 3 follow from Theorem 2.1 in [GHPS]. Part 1 is proved in the same fashion as Lemma 3.6 in [GS]. The proof of part 4 is similar to the proof of parts 2 and 3 and is omitted; in fact, we only need in our arguments in Section 5 that the two probabilities are positive for all $n$ and go to 0 as $n \to \infty$, which is very easy to show. □

We conclude with an analogue of Lemma 2.2.

**Lemma 2.5.** Assume that $\theta = 2\ell + 1$, $\ell \geq 1$, and that $p$ is given by (1.5). Fix an $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$. Then, for $\ell \geq 2$,

$$\mathbb{P}_p(\{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is } (\theta - 2)-H \text{ but not } (\theta - 2)-\text{inert}) = O(n^{-1})$$

and, for $\ell \geq 1$,

$$\mathbb{P}_p(\{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is } (\theta - 1)-H \text{ but not } (\theta - 1)-\text{inert}) = O(n^{-1}),$$

$$\mathbb{P}_p(\{x\} \times K_n^2 \text{ is } \theta-H \text{ but not } \theta-\text{inert}) = O(n^{-1/\ell}).$$

Proof. Observe that, for $r \in \{0, 1, 2\}$, the probability that any fixed copy of $K_n^2$ has a site with exactly $k \geq 1$ occupied $\mathbb{Z}^2$-neighbors and at least $\theta - r - k$ occupied $K_n^2$-neighbors is

$$O(n^2 p^k (np)^{\theta-r-k}) = O(n^{-k+(r-1)/\ell}),$$

and the desired estimates follow. □

### 2.2 Heterogeneous bootstrap percolation

We now introduce a comparison bootstrap dynamics $\xi_t$ on $\mathbb{Z}^2$, which is a generalization of polluted bootstrap percolation introduced in [GM]. We assume that $\xi_t \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$, $t \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, and that $\xi_0$ is given. The rules mandate that a state can only change to 0 by contact with sufficient number of 0s. More precisely, if $Z_t(x)$ is the cardinality of $\{y: y \sim x \text{ and } \xi_t(y) = 0\}$, where $x \sim y$ means that $x$ and $y$ are nearest neighbors in $\mathbb{Z}^2$, then

$$\xi_{t+1}(x) = \begin{cases} 
0 & Z_t(x) \geq \xi_t(x) \\
\xi_t(x) & \text{otherwise.}
\end{cases}$$

If $\xi_0 \in \{0, 2\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$, this is the usual threshold-2 bootstrap percolation. Adding 1s adds sites which need to be “switched on” by neighboring 0s. Finally, 3s, 4s and 5s act like “obstacles,” which prevent the spread of 0s at sufficient density.

The next two lemmas establish upper and lower-bounding couplings between $\xi_t$ and $\omega_t$. Their proofs are similar, so we only provide details for the second one.
Lemma 2.6. Assume $\xi_0(x) = 0$ whenever the Hamming plane $\{x\} \times K_n^2$ is $\theta$-IS; $\xi_0(x) = k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ whenever $\{x\} \times K_n^2$ is $(\theta - k)$-IS, but is not $(\theta - k + 1)$-IS; and that $\xi_0(x) = 5$ if $\{x\} \times K_n^2$ is not $(\theta - 4)$-IS. Then

$$\bigcup \{x\} \times K_n^2 : \xi_\infty(x) = 0 \} \subset \omega_\infty.$$ 

Lemma 2.7. Assume $\xi_0(x) = 0$ whenever the Hamming plane $\{x\} \times K_n^2$ is not $\theta$-inert; that $\xi_0(x) = k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ whenever $\{x\} \times K_n^2$ is not $(\theta - k)$-inert, but is $(\theta - k + 1)$-inert; and that $\xi_0(x) = 5$ if $\{x\} \times K_n^2$ is $(\theta - 4)$-inert. Then

$$\omega_\infty \subset \bigcup \{x\} \times K_n^2 : \xi_\infty(x) = 0 \} \cup \omega_0.$$ 

Proof. We will prove the following stronger statement by induction. We claim that for every $t \geq 0$,

$$\omega_t \subset \bigcup \{x\} \times K_n^2 : \xi_t(x) = 0 \} \cup \omega_0.$$ 

Suppose that (2.1) holds through time $t - 1 \geq 0$, and let $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ be a point such that $\xi_t(x) \neq 0$. Suppose $x$ has exactly $k$ neighbors $y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ with $\xi_{t-1}(y) = 0$. Therefore, $\xi_0(x) \geq k + 1$, so $\{x\} \times K_n^2$ is $(\theta - k)$-inert. Every vertex in $\{x\} \times K_n^2 \setminus \omega_0$ has at most $\theta - k - 1$ neighbors in $\omega_0$, so every vertex in $\{x\} \times K_n^2 \setminus \omega_0$ has at most $\theta - 1$ neighbors in

$$\bigcup \{x\} \times K_n^2 : \xi_{t-1}(x) = 0 \} \cup \omega_0.$$ 

Therefore, by the induction hypothesis, every vertex in $\{x\} \times K_n^2 \setminus \omega_0$ has at most $\theta - 1$ neighbors in $\omega_{t-1}$, so no vertex in $\{x\} \times K_n^2$ becomes occupied at time $t$. $\square$

3 The subcritical regime for even threshold

This section contains the proof of (1.2). Our argument is a suitable modification of the methods from [GHS], which are in turn based on duality-based construction of random surfaces [DDG]. We cannot immediately apply the result from [GM], as we need to handle short-range dependence in the initial state.

3.1 Bootstrap percolation with obstacles

Our focus will be the heterogeneous bootstrap percolation $\xi_t$, with a random initial set $\xi_0$. We will call such initial set a positively correlated random field if increasing events are positively correlated (that is, the FKG inequality holds), and 1-dependent if $\xi_0(x)$ and $\xi_0(y)$ are independent for $||x - y||_1 \geq 2$.

Theorem 3.1. Let $p, q > 0$ be such that $p + q < 1$. Suppose $\xi_0$ has the following properties: for every $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$

$$\mathbb{P} (\xi_0(x) = 0) = p$$

$$\mathbb{P} (\xi_0(x) = 2) = 1 - p - q$$

$$\mathbb{P} (\xi_0(x) = 3) = q,$$

and $\xi_0$ is a 1-dependent, positively correlated random field. Let $C > 0$, and suppose that $q > Cp^2$. Then for $C$ sufficiently large, we have that with probability at least $1 - Cp^3$ either $\xi_\infty(0) \geq 2$, or else $0$ is contained in a cluster (maximal connected set) of sites $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ with $\xi_\infty(x) = 0$ that has $\ell^\infty$-diameter at most 1000.
We will complete the proof of Theorem 3.1 and then the proof of (1.2), in Section 3.4. Throughout this section, we will assume that \( p \) is sufficiently small to make certain estimates work.

For a set \( A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2 \), a configuration \( \xi_0 \in \{0, \ldots, 5\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2} \), and \( k \in \{0, \ldots, 5\} \), define \( \xi_t^{(A,k)} \) by

\[
\xi_t^{(A,k)}(x) = \begin{cases} 
\xi_0(x) & \text{for } x \in A \\
k & \text{for } x \in A^c.
\end{cases}
\]

The resulting bootstrap dynamics, with initial configuration \( \xi_0^{(A,k)} \), is denoted by \( (\xi_t^{(A,k)})_{t \geq 0} \). Observe that \( (\xi_t^{(A,k)})_{t \geq 0} \) is the heterogeneous bootstrap dynamics restricted to \( A \), that is, run on the subgraph of \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \) induced by \( A \). Also, for an \( x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \), let \( \text{Nbrs}(x, A) \) denote the number of neighbors of \( x \) that lie in \( A \).

**Proposition 3.2.** Fix an integer \( m \geq 1 \). Fix a finite set \( Z \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2 \) with \( \text{Nbrs}(x, Z^c) \leq 2 \) for every \( x \in Z \), and run two heterogeneous bootstrap percolation dynamics: the first with initial configuration \( \xi_0^{(Z,0)} \); the second with initial configuration \( \xi_0^{(Z,5)} \). Assume that the configuration \( \xi_0 \) on \( Z \) satisfies the following conditions.

(i) Any \( x \in Z \) with \( \text{Nbrs}(x, Z^c) = 2 \) has \( \xi_0(x) = 3 \).

(ii) For any \( x \in Z \) with \( \text{Nbrs}(x, Z^c) \geq 1 \), there is no vertex \( y \) with \( \xi_0(y) = 0 \) within \( \ell^\infty \)-distance \( m \) of \( x \).

(iii) The final configuration in the dynamics started from the initial configuration \( \xi_0^{(Z,5)} \) has no connected set of vertices in state \( 0 \) with \( \ell^\infty \)-diameter larger than \( m/2 \).

Then, for all \( t \geq 0 \), we have

\[
\{x \in Z : \xi_t^{(Z,0)}(x) = 0\} = \{x \in Z : \xi_t^{(Z,5)}(x) = 0\}.
\]

**Proof.** Assume the conclusion does not hold, and consider the first time \( t \) at which there exists a vertex \( x \in Z \) such that \( \xi_t^{(Z,0)}(x) = 0 \) but \( \xi_t^{(Z,5)}(x) > 0 \). As the two dynamics have the same initial configuration on \( Z \), we have \( t > 0 \). By minimality of \( t \), and properties (ii) and (iii), at time \( t - 1 \) every \( y \in Z \) such that \( \text{Nbrs}(y, Z^c) \geq 1 \) has no neighbors in \( Z \) with state 0 in either dynamics. So, we cannot have \( \text{Nbrs}(x, Z^c) = 2 \), since by (i), \( \xi_0^{(Z,0)}(x) = 3 \), and \( x \) has at most two neighbors in state 0 through time \( t - 1 \), so the state of \( x \) could not change at time \( t \). We cannot have \( \text{Nbrs}(x, Z^c) = 1 \) either, since \( \xi_{t-1}^{(Z,0)}(x) \geq 2 \). Thus \( \text{Nbrs}(x, Z^c) = 0 \), but then \( x \) sees the same states among its neighbors in both dynamics at time \( t - 1 \), and therefore \( x \) has the same state in both dynamics at time \( t \), a contradiction. \( \Box \)

**Lemma 3.3.** Fix an integer \( s > 0 \), and let \( N = \lfloor p^{-s} \rfloor \). Let \( A = [-N, N]^2 \). With probability at least \( 1 - C p^s \), where \( C = C(s) \) is a constant, all connected clusters (maximal connected sets) of state 0 vertices in \( \xi_\infty^{(A,5)} \) have \( \ell^\infty \)-diameter at most \( 24s \).

**Proof.** First, replace all 3s by 2s in the initial configuration \( \xi_0^{(A,5)} \); then, all connected clusters of 0s in \( \xi_\infty^{(A,5)} \) are rectangles. Fix an integer \( k > 0 \), and let \( E_k \) be the event that the final configuration contains a rectangle of 0s whose longest side has length at least \( k \). If \( E_k \) occurs, \( A \) contains an internally spanned rectangle \( R \) whose longest side length is in the interval \( [k/2, k] \) [AL]. Then,
any pair of neighboring lines, each perpendicular to the longest side of $R$, and such that both intersect $R$, must contain a state 0 vertex within $R$ initially. Moreover, two pairs of neighboring lines that are at distance at least 2 from one another satisfy this requirement independently (since $\xi_0$ is 1-dependent). There are at most $(2N + 1)^2 k^2$ possible selections of the rectangle $R$. Therefore, 

\begin{equation}
\mathbb{P}(E_k) \leq 5N^2 k^2 (2kp)^{k/6 - 1} \leq p^{(k-12s)/6-1}(2k)^{k/6+2},
\end{equation}

and the claim follows by choosing $k = 24s$. \hfill \square

Let

$L = \lfloor \delta/(mp) \rfloor$,

where $\delta > 0$ is a small constant to be fixed later. Also let $M = 12L$. Define the set

\begin{equation}
J = ([-m, m] \times [-M, M]) \cup ([M, M] \times [-m, m]).
\end{equation}

Call a vertex $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ nice if $\xi_0(x) = 3$ and every vertex $y \in x + J$ has $\xi_0(y) \geq 2$. For each $u \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, define the rescaled box at $u$ to be

$Q_u := (2L + 1)u + [-L, L]^2$.

We call a box $Q_u$ good if it contains a nice vertex. We will give a lower bound on the probability that a box is good. Call a vertex $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ viable if every vertex $y \in x + J$ has $\xi_0(y) \geq 2$, and note that a viable vertex $x$ with $\xi_0(x) = 3$ is nice.

**Lemma 3.4.** Fix a vertex $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ and an $\epsilon > 0$. Assume $\delta \leq \epsilon/10^3$. Then,

\begin{equation}
\mathbb{P}(x \text{ is viable}) \geq 1 - \epsilon.
\end{equation}

**Proof.** The argument is a simple estimate, where the first inequality below follows from the positive correlation assumption on $\xi_0$,

\begin{equation}
\mathbb{P}(\xi_0(y) \geq 2 \text{ for all } y \in x + J) \\
\geq [1 - p]^{2(2M+1)(2m+1)} \\
\geq \exp \left[ -36 \, m \, M \, p \right] \\
\geq \exp \left( -500 \, \delta \right),
\end{equation}

provided $p$ is small enough. Thus we can choose any $\delta < \epsilon/500$ to make the probability in (3.5) larger than $1 - \epsilon$. \hfill \square

**Lemma 3.5.** Fix any $\epsilon > 0$, and assume $\delta \leq 1/(4 \cdot 10^3)$. Then there exists a constant $C = C(m, \epsilon, \delta)$, such that $q \geq C p^2$ implies that the probability that the box $Q_0$ is good is at least $1 - \epsilon$.

**Proof.** For $k = 1, \ldots, \lfloor \frac{2M+1}{3m} \rfloor - 1$, let

$\text{Row}_k = ((-M + 3km) + [-m, m]) \times [-M, M]$ and $\text{Col}_k = [-M, M] \times ((-M + 3km) + [-m, m])$. 

10
Define events

\[ G_r = \{ \text{For at least } M/2m \text{ values of } k, \text{ every } y \in \text{Row}_k \text{ has } \xi_0(y) \geq 2 \}, \]

and \[ G_c = \{ \text{For at least } M/2m \text{ values of } k, \text{ every } y \in \text{Col}_k \text{ has } \xi_0(y) \geq 2 \}. \]

The probability that \( \text{Row}_k \) has no 0s is at least \( 3/4 \), which can be proved by applying Lemma 3.4 with \( \epsilon \leq 1/4 \). By large deviations for binomial random variables (noting that \( \text{Row}_k \) and \( \text{Row}_{k+1} \) are at least distance 2 apart), we have

\[ P(G_r) = P(G_c) \geq 1 - \epsilon/4 \]

for small enough \( p \). By the assumed positive correlations in \( \xi_0 \), we have

\[ P(G_r \cap G_c) \geq P(G_r)P(G_c) \geq 1 - \epsilon/2, \]

and

\[ P(Q_0 \text{ is good } | G_r \cap G_c) \geq P \left( \text{Binomial} \left( \left( \frac{M}{2m} \right)^2, q \right) \geq 1 \right) \]

\[ \geq 1 - \exp(-q(M/2m)^2) \]

\[ \geq 1 - \exp(-Cp^2(3\delta/m^2p)^2) \]

\[ \geq 1 - \epsilon/2 \]

provided \( C \) is large enough. The claim follows from the last two estimates.

3.2 Construction of a shell of good boxes

Let \( B \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \). A site \( u \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \) off the coordinate axes is called **protected by** \( B \) provided that:

- if \( u \in [1, \infty)^2 \cup (-\infty, -1]^2 \) then both \( u + [-2, -1] \times [1, 2] \) and \( u + [1, 2] \times [-2, -1] \) intersect \( B \); and
- if \( u \in (-\infty, -1] \times [1, \infty) \cup [1, \infty) \times (-\infty, -1] \), then both \( u + [-2, -1] \times [-2, -1] \) and \( u + [1, 2] \times [1, 2] \) intersect \( B \).

If \( u \) lies on one of the coordinate axes, we will not need to refer to \( u \) as being protected.

A **shell** \( S \) of radius \( r \in \mathbb{N} \) is defined to be a subset of \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \) that satisfies the following properties.

(S1) The shell \( S \) contains all sites \( u \) such that \( \|u\|_1 = r \) and \( \|u\|_\infty \geq r - 3 \). (This implies that \( S \) contains portions of the \( \| \cdot \|_1 \)-sphere of radius \( r \) in neighborhoods of each of the four sites \( (\pm r, 0) \) and \( (0, \pm r) \).)

(S2) For each \( u \in S \), we have \( r \leq \|u\|_1 \leq r + \sqrt{r} \) and \( \|u\|_\infty \leq r \).

(S3) For each of the four directions \( \varphi \in \{ (\pm 1, \pm 1) \} \), there exists an integer \( k = k(\varphi) \geq r/2 \) such that \( k\varphi \in S \).

(S4) If \( u = (u_1, u_2) \in S \), and \( |u_1| \geq 3 \) and \( |u_2| \geq 3 \), then \( u \) is protected by \( S \).

Let sites in the lattice \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \) be independently marked black with probability \( b \) and white otherwise. We wish to consider paths of a certain type, and we start by defining two types of steps. An ordered pair \( u \rightarrow v \) of distinct sites \( u, v \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \) is called:
1. a **taxed step** if each non-zero coordinate of $u$ increases in absolute value by 1 to obtain the corresponding coordinate of $v$, while each zero coordinate of $u$ changes to $-1, 0$ or 1 to obtain the corresponding coordinate of $v$;

2. a **free step** if $\|v\|_1 < \|u\|_1$ and $v - u \in F$, where $F$ is the set of all vectors obtained by permuting coordinates and flipping signs from any of $(1,0)$, and $(2,1)$.

(For example, $(-1,2) \in F$.)

Observe that, in a taxed step $u \rightarrow v$, we have $\|v\|_1 > \|u\|_1$. We call $v - u$ the **direction** of either type of step.

A **permissible path** from $u_0$ to $u_k$ is a finite sequence of distinct sites $u_0, u_1, \ldots, u_k$ such that for every $i = 1, \ldots, k$, $u_{i-1} \rightarrow u_i$ is either a free step or a taxed step, and in the latter case, $u_i$ is white.

To obtain a (random) shell $S$ of radius $r$, we let

$$A = \{v \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : \exists u \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \text{ with } \|u\|_1 < r \text{ and a permissible path from } u \text{ to } v\},$$

and we define

$$S = \{v \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus A : \exists u \in A \text{ such that } u \rightarrow v \text{ is a taxed step}\}.$$ 

Note that if $S$ exists, then all sites in $S$ must be black, since there are no permissible paths from $A$ to $A^c$.

**Proposition 3.6.** Let $E_r$ be the event that there exists a shell of radius $r$ consisting of black sites. There exists $b_1 \in (0,1)$ such that for any $b > b_1$ and $r \geq 1$, we have $P(E_r) \geq 1/2$.

Note that the event $E_r$ depends only on the colors of sites in $\{u \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : r \leq \|u\|_1 \leq r + \sqrt{r}\}$. However, in proving Proposition 3.6, we show that the set $S$ defined in (3.7) is, in fact, the desired shell with large probability. The proof of the first lemma below, based on path counting, is nearly identical to the proofs of Lemmas 8, 9 and 10 in [GHS], so we omit the details.

**Lemma 3.7.** There exists $b_2 < 1$ such that if $b > b_2$, then for each $r \geq 1$, the set $S$ defined by (3.6) and (3.7) satisfies properties (S1), (S2) and (S3) with probability at least $1/2$.

**Lemma 3.8.** The set $S$ defined by (3.6) and (3.7) satisfies property (S4).

**Proof.** Without loss of generality, suppose $u = (u_1, u_2) \in S$ is such that $u_i \geq 3$ for $i = 1, 2$, and by symmetry it suffices to show that $u + [1,2] \times [-2,-1]$ intersects $S$. By the definition of $S$ in (3.7), $u$ must be reachable from $A$ by a taxed step. Since $u$ is not on a coordinate axis, the only site from which we can reach $u$ via a taxed step is $u + (-1,-1)$, so $u + (-1,-1) \in A$. Taking a free step in the direction $(1, -2)$ implies $u + (0, -3) \in A$ (this is where we require $|u_1| \geq 3$ and $|u_2| \geq 3$, to guarantee that direction $(1, -2)$ is, in fact, a free step). Observe that $u + (2, -1) \in A^c$, otherwise we would have $u \in A$, since it is reachable from this point by the free step in the direction $(-2, 1)$.

Now there are two cases. If $u + (1, -2) \in A$, then $u + (2, -1) \in S$, since it is reachable from $u + (1, -2)$ along the taxed step in the direction $(1,1)$. Otherwise, if $u + (1, -2) \in A^c$, then $u + (1, -2) \in S$, since it is reachable from $u + (0, -3) \in A$ along the taxed step in the direction $(1,1)$. In either case, we have found a site in $(u + [1,2] \times [-2,-1]) \cap S$. 

**Proof of Proposition 3.6.** The claim follows from Lemmas 3.7 and 3.8. 

12
3.3 Construction of a protected set \( Z \)

In this section we construct a set \( Z \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \), which is our candidate for the set satisfying the assumptions of Proposition 3.2.

Suppose that there exists a shell \( S \) of radius \( r \) so that \( Q_u \) is a good box for every \( u \in S \). For every \( u \in S \) with both coordinates at least 3 in absolute value, select a nice vertex from \( Q_u \) and gather the selected vertices into the set \( U \). (No nice vertices are chosen from \( Q_u \) if at least one coordinate of \( u \in S \) is less than 3 in absolute value.)

A fortress is a square of side length \( 12L + 1 \) (this is the reason for our choice of \( M = 12L \) in the definition of \( J \) at (3.3)), all four of whose corners are nice. Suppose that there is a fortress centered at each of the four vertices \((\pm r(2L + 1), 0), (0, \pm r(2L + 1))\). Let \( K \) be the set of all corner vertices of all fortresses (16 in all). For \( x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \), define \( \text{Rect}(x) \) to be the rectangle with opposite corners at \( x \) and \( 0 \) (for example, if \( x = (x_1, x_2) \) with \( x_1 \geq 0 \) and \( x_2 \leq 0 \), then \( \text{Rect}(x) = [0, x_1] \times [x_2, 0] \)).

Now define \( Z \) by

\[
Z = \bigcup_{x \in U \cup K} \text{Rect}(x).
\]  

(3.8)

Note that by construction, all convex corners of \( Z \) are nice vertices, and near each of the coordinate axes, there are two nice vertices on the line orthogonal to the nearby axis that are at distance \( 12L + 1 \).

In addition, the fact that the slope of \( S \) is locally bounded above and below (by property (S4)) makes the following proposition geometrically transparent. The formal proof is very similar to the proofs of Lemmas 20 through 26 in [GHS], though it is much simpler, and is omitted.

**Lemma 3.9.** Suppose \( Z \) is defined as in (3.8). If \( p \) is sufficiently small (depending on \( \delta \) and \( m \)) to make \( L \) sufficiently large, then \( Z \) satisfies assumptions (i) and (ii) of Proposition 3.2.

3.4 Existence of a protected set \( Z \)

Assume \( N_0 = 3|p^{-36}|, n_0 = |p^{-19}|, T = |p^{17}|, \) and \( \Delta = |p^{-19}| \). Define the sequence of separated annuli

\[
A_i = \{ x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : n_0 + (2i - 1)\Delta \leq \|x\|_1 \leq n_0 + 2i\Delta \},
\]

for \( i = 1, \ldots, T \).

**Lemma 3.10.** Fix an \( m \). For a small enough \( \epsilon > 0 \) and \( \delta > 0 \), and \( q \geq Cp^2 \), where \( C \) is given in Lemma 3.2, the following holds. With probability at least \( 1 - \exp(-1/(4p)) \), there exists a protected set \( Z \) satisfying assumptions (i) and (ii) of Proposition 3.2 contained in \( \{ x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : \|x\|_1 \leq N_0 \} \).

**Proof.** Note that \( n_0 + 2T\Delta \leq N_0 \).

Paint each site \( x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \) black if the box \( Q_x \) is good. Let \( r_i = \lfloor (n_0 + (2i - 1)\Delta)/(2L + 1) \rfloor + 11 \), so \( (2L + 1)r_i - 20L \geq n_0 + (2i - 1)\Delta \), and observe that \( \sqrt{r_i} \leq \sqrt{N_0/L} \ll \Delta/(2L + 1) \) for \( p \) small. Therefore, existence of a shell of good boxes of radius \( r_i \) depends only on the states of vertices within the annulus \( A_i \). Moreover, we have that sites \( x_1 \) and \( x_2 \) with \( \|x_1 - x_2\|_\infty \geq 30 \) are painted independently, and so by [LSS] the configuration of black sites dominates a product measure of density \( b_1 \) (chosen from Proposition 3.6) provided \( \epsilon > 0 \) in Lemma 3.5 is small enough, and \( \delta \) is chosen appropriately. It follows that, when \( p \) is small enough, by Proposition 3.6, a shell of good boxes of radius \( r_i \) exists with probability at least \( 1/2 \). The existence of a shell of good boxes of radius \( r_i \) is an increasing event (in \( \xi_0 \)), and so it is positively correlated with existence.
of nice vertices at the 16 locations comprising the set \( K (\subset A_i) \) in (3.8). Therefore, the set \( Z \) given by (3.8) exists with convex corners \( U \cup K \subset A_i \) with probability at least \( p^{16}/2 \). Due to the separation of shells, the probability that such a \( Z \) does not exist in \( A_i \) for all \( i = 1, \ldots, T \) is then at most \( (1 - p^{16}/2)^{p^{17}/2} \leq \exp(-1/(4p)) \). By Lemma 3.9 if \( Z \) constructed in this manner exists, then it satisfies assumptions (i) and (ii) of Proposition 3.2.

Proof of Theorem 3.1. Choose \( s = 37 \) in Lemma 3.3. That determines \( m = 48s < 2000 \). The proof is concluded by Lemma 3.10, Lemma 3.3, and Proposition 3.2.

Proof of Theorem 1.1 equation (1.2). Initialize \( \xi_0 \) using inertness as in Lemma 2.7, then convert all 1s to 0s, and all 4s and 5s to 3s. Suppose \( v_0 \in 0 \times K_n^2 \). If \( v_0 \in \omega_\infty \), then either \( v_0 \in \omega_0 \), or some Hamming square in \( \{ \{ x \} \times K_n^2 : x \in [-1000, 1000]^2 \} \) is not \( \theta \)-inert, or else 0 is in a cluster of state-0 sites in \( \xi_\infty \) that has diameter larger than 1000. Therefore, by Theorem 3.1 and Lemma 2.2

\[
P_p(v_0 \in \omega_\infty) \leq P_p(v_0 \in \omega_0) + 10^5 P_p(0 \times K_n^2 \text{ is not } \theta \text{-inert}) + C P_p(0 \times K_n^2 \text{ is not } (\theta - 1) \text{-inert})^3
\]

\[
= n^{-2/\ell + o(1)}.
\]

The lower bound is easy: by Lemma 2.1 part 5,

\[
P_p(v_0 \in \omega_\infty) \geq P_p(0 \times K_n^2 \text{ is } \theta \text{-IS}) = n^{-2/\ell + o(1)},
\]

and (1.2) is thus proved.

4 The supercritical regime for even threshold

In this section, we prove the claims of Theorem 1.1 when \( a^\ell \geq 2(\ell - 1)! \). In the following subsections, we prove, in order: (1.3), upper bound on the rate (1.4) for \( \ell \geq 2 \), lower bound on the same rate for \( \ell \geq 2 \), and the asymptotics for the exceptional case \( \ell = 1 \).

4.1 Comparison process and rescaling

Initialize the comparison process, \( \xi_t \), as follows. For \( x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \), let

\[
\xi_0(x) = \begin{cases} 
0 & \text{ if } \{ x \} \times K_n^2 \text{ is } \theta \text{-IS} \\
k & \text{ if } k \in \{ 1, 2 \} \text{ and } \{ x \} \times K_n^2 \text{ is } (\theta - k) \text{-IS}, \text{ but is not } (\theta - k + 1) \text{-IS} \\
5 & \text{ if } \{ x \} \times K_n^2 \text{ is not } (\theta - 2) \text{-IS}.
\end{cases}
\]

In other words, initialize \( \xi_t \) as in Lemma 2.6 but replace all 3s and 4s with 5s.

To apply Lemma 2.5, we need a method to show that \( P_p(\xi_\infty(0) = 0) \) is close to 1, and for that, we adapt the rescaling from [GM] to our purposes; in particular, we need to account for the existence of 1s, which require activation from 0s, and to prove high final density at the critical value (when \( a^\ell = 2(\ell - 1)! \)). We let

\[
N = \begin{cases} 
\left\lfloor n^{1/\ell} (\log n)^{-1/2\ell} \right\rfloor & \ell \geq 2 \\
\left\lfloor n (\log n)^{-3/4} \right\rfloor & \ell = 1
\end{cases}
\]
and, for \( x \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \), let \( \Lambda_x = N \cdot x + [0, N-1]^2 \) be the \( N \times N \) box in \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \) with lower-left corner at \( Nx \).

Call the box \( \Lambda_x \) good if \( \xi_0(y) \leq 2 \) for every \( y \in \Lambda_x \) and, in addition, every row and column of \( \Lambda_x \) contains at least one \( y \) such that \( \xi_0(y) \leq 1 \). Call a box very good if \( \xi_0(y) \leq 1 \) for every \( y \in \Lambda_x \) and \( \xi_0(y) = 0 \) for some \( y \in \Lambda_x \).

**Lemma 4.1.** For \( \ell \geq 1 \) and large enough \( n \),
\[
\mathbb{P}_p(\Lambda_x \text{ is not good}) \leq 6n^{(2/\ell) - a\ell/\ell!} \cdot (\log n)^{-1/\ell(1/\ell + 1/2)}.
\]

**Proof.** By Lemma 2.1 for \( \ell \geq 2 \),
\[
\mathbb{P}_p(\Lambda_x \text{ is not good}) \leq N^2 \mathbb{P}_p(\xi_0(0) = 5) + 2N \cdot (1 - \mathbb{P}_p(\xi_0(0) \leq 1))^N
\]
\[
\leq 3N^2 n^{-a\ell/\ell!} + 2N \exp \left[ -N \cdot \frac{2a^{\ell+1}}{(\ell + 1)!} \cdot \frac{(\log n)^{1+1/\ell}}{n^{1/\ell}} (1 + o(1)) \right]
\]
\[
\leq 3n^{(2/\ell) - a\ell/\ell!} \cdot (\log n)^{-1/\ell + n^{1/\ell} \exp \left[ -C(\log n)^{1+1/2\ell} \right]}.\]

When \( \ell = 1 \), repeat the above computation with \( \mathbb{P}_p(\xi_0(0) = 5) \leq 3a^{-n} \log n \). \( \square \)

**Proof of (1.3).** It follows from Lemma 2.6 that
\[
\bigcup \{ \{x\} \times K_n^2 : \xi_{\infty}(x) = 0 \} \subset \omega_{\infty},
\]
so we need only to show that \( \mathbb{P}_p(\xi_{\infty}(0) = 0) \rightarrow 1 \) when \( a\ell \geq 2(\ell - 1)! \). Let \( C_0 \) denote the cluster of good boxes containing the box \( \Lambda_0 \). Observe that
\[
\mathbb{P}_p(|C_0| = \infty) = \mathbb{P}_p(|C_0| = \infty) \cap \{ C_0 \text{ contains a very good box} \} \leq \mathbb{P}_p(\xi_{\infty}(0) = 0).
\]

The last inequality follows from the fact that a very good box in \( C_0 \) sets off a cascade resulting in all vertices in \( C_0 \) eventually flipping to 0. Now, Lemma 4.1 implies \( \mathbb{P}_p(|C_0| = \infty) \rightarrow 1 \). \( \square \)

### 4.2 Upper bound in (1.4) for \( \ell \geq 2 \)

Throughout this subsection, assume that \( \ell \geq 2 \), \( a\ell/\ell! > 2/\ell \) and that \( \xi_0 \) is built by internal spanning properties, as in Lemma 2.6.

We will prove first the upper bound on the rate.

**Lemma 4.2.** The probability that the Hamming square based at the origin is not completely filled satisfies the following bound:
\[
(4.3) \quad \mathbb{P}_p(\{0\} \times K_n^2 \not\subset \omega_{\infty}) \leq n^{4/\ell - 4a\ell/\ell! + o(1)}.
\]

For a deterministic or random set \( A \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \), we say that the event **Blocking In** \( A \) happens if there exists a rectangle \( R = [a_1, a_2] \times [b_1, b_2] \) so that: \( 0 \in R \); \( R \) is nondegenerate, i.e., \( a_1 < a_2 \) and \( b_1 < b_2 \); and each of the four sides of \( R \), \( \{a_1\} \times [b_1, b_2] \), \( \{a_2\} \times [b_1, b_2] \), \( [a_1, a_2] \times \{b_1\} \), and \( [a_1, a_2] \times \{b_2\} \), either contains two distinct sites in \( A \) with \( \xi_0 \)-state 3 or a site in \( A \) with \( \xi_0 \)-state 4.

A **frame** is such a rectangle \( R \) whose four corners have \( \xi_0 \)-state 3.
Lemma 4.3. Suppose that $ξ_∞(0) \neq 0$. Assume that there is circuit of 0s around 0 in $ξ_t$, for some $t$. Let $A$ comprise sites in the strict interior of this circuit. Assume that there are no sites in $A$ with $ξ_0$-state 5, and there is at most one site in $A$ with $ξ_0$-state 4. Then the event $\text{Blocking}_A$ happens.

Proof. We may assume that all sites in $A^c$ are 0s in $ξ_0$. Let $A'$ be the set of sites which are non-zero in $ξ_∞$. Then the leftmost and the rightmost site on the top line of $A'$ must either be the same state with $ξ_0$-state 4, or be two distinct sites which both have $ξ_0$-state at least 3. To check nondegeneracy, assume that, say, $b_1 = b_2$. As there are no sites in $ξ_0$-state 5 in $A$, there then must be two sites at $ξ_0$-state 4 on either side of 0 on the $x$-axis, but by the assumption there can be at most one such site.

Now we pick $N$ as in (4.2) and also keep the definition of good boxes from the previous subsection. For a constant $D$, let $G_1(D)$ be the event that there is a circuit of good boxes that encircles 0, is contained in $[-DN, DN]^2$, and is connected to the infinite cluster of good boxes.

Lemma 4.4. For any $L$ there is a constant $D = D(a, L)$ so that

$$\Pr_p(G_1(D)^c) \leq n^{-L}$$

Proof. This follows from Lemma 4.1, together with a standard percolation argument. \hfill \Box

Lemma 4.5. The probability that $[-DN, DN]^2$ contains at least one site with $ξ_0$-state 5 or at least two sites in $A$ with $ξ_0$-state 4 is $n^{4/ℓ-4a/ℓ!+o(1)}$

Proof. This follows from Lemma 2.4. \hfill \Box

Lemma 4.6. Assume $D$ is a fixed constant. Then

$$\Pr_p(\text{Blocking}_A [-DN, DN]^2) \leq n^{4/ℓ-4a/ℓ!+o(1)}.$$ 

Proof. Define $λ$ so that $DN = n^λ$, so that $λ = 1/ℓ + o(1)$, and let $α = a/ℓ!$. Note that $2λ < α$. We will restrict all our sites to the region $[-DN, DN]^2$. Let $\text{Frame}$ be the event that a frame exists (which thus by definition means existence in $[-DN, DN]^2$). Then $\Pr_p(\text{Frame}) = Θ(n^{4λ-4α})$.

The event that there exists a nondegenerate rectangle $R$ that has at least two sites with $ξ_0$-state 3 on all sides can be split into the following events, according to additional properties of the configuration on $R$:

- $R$ is a frame;
- $R$ has no 3s at the corners (i.e., there is no sharing), which happens with probability at most a constant times
  $$n^{4λ}(n^{2λ}n^{-2α})^4 = n^{12λ-8α} = o(\Pr_p(\text{Frame}))$$
  (we give these probabilities as products, reflecting successive choices: four lines determining $R$, pairs of points on the same line away from corners; single points on lines away from corners, states at corners);
- $R$ has exactly one 3 at a corner, with probability at most a constant times
  $$n^{4λ}(n^{2λ}n^{-2α})^2(n^λn^{-α})^2n^{-α} = n^{10λ-7α} = o(\Pr_p(\text{Frame}));$$

16
• \( R \) has exactly two corner 3s on the same line, with probability at most a constant times
\[
n^{4\lambda}(n^{2\lambda}n^{-2\alpha})(n^{\lambda}n^{-\alpha})^2n^{-2\alpha} = n^{8\lambda}n^{-6\alpha} = o(P_p(\text{Frame}));
\]

• \( R \) has exactly two corner 3s not on the same line, with probability at most a constant times
\[
n^{4\lambda}(n^{\lambda}n^{-\alpha})^4n^{-2\alpha} = n^{8\lambda}n^{-6\alpha} = o(P_p(\text{Frame}));
\]

• \( R \) has exactly three corner 3s, with probability at most a constant times
\[
n^{4\lambda}(n^{\lambda}n^{-\alpha})^2n^{-3\alpha} = n^{6\lambda}n^{-5\alpha} = o(P_p(\text{Frame})).
\]

Next we consider the event that a rectangle \( R \) has exactly one 4 on its boundary, and either two 3s or a 4 on each of its sides. Again, we split this event according to additional properties:

• 4 is not at a corner of \( R \) and neither are 3s, with probability at most a constant times
\[
n^{4\lambda}(n^{2\lambda}n^{-2\alpha})^3n^{\lambda}n^{-2\alpha} = n^{11\lambda}n^{-8\alpha} = o(P_p(\text{Frame}));
\]

• the 4 is at a corner of \( R \), but no 3s are at corners, with probability at most a constant times
\[
n^{4\lambda}(n^{2\lambda}n^{-2\alpha})^2n^{-2\alpha} = n^{8\lambda}n^{-6\alpha} = o(P(\text{Frame}));
\]

• the 4 is at a corner of \( R \), and a 3 is at the opposite corner, with probability at most a constant times
\[
n^{4\lambda}(n^{\lambda}n^{-\alpha})^2n^{-2\alpha}n^{-\alpha} = n^{6\lambda}n^{-5\alpha} = o(P_p(\text{Frame})).
\]

Together with Lemma 4.5, these calculations end the proof. \( \square \)

Proof of Lemma 4.2. Choose the constant \( D \) in Lemma 4.4 so that \( L \) in (4.4) satisfies
\[
L > 4a^\ell/\ell! - 4/\ell. \quad \text{Then (4.3) follows from Lemmas 4.3–4.6.} \quad \square
\]

4.3 Lower bound in (1.4) for \( \ell \geq 2 \)

In this subsection also, we assume that \( a^\ell/\ell! > 2/\ell \) but now \( \xi_0 \) is built by inertness properties, as in Lemma 2.7. In this section, we prove the lower bound on the rate.

Lemma 4.7. The probability that the configuration on the Hamming square based at the origin never changes satisfies the following bound:
\[
\mathbb{P}_p(\omega_\infty = \omega_0 \text{ on } \{0\} \times K^2_n) \geq n^{4/\ell-4a^\ell/\ell!+o(1)}.
\]

Fix a non-degenerate rectangle \( R \). Let \( \xi^0_0 \) be obtained from \( \xi_0 \) by converting all 4s and 5s to 3s on \( R \), and changing all sites to 0 off \( R \). Let \( \xi^0_t \) be the bootstrap dynamics started from this initial state. We say that \( R \) is protected if \( R \) has its four corners in \( \xi^0_0 \)-state 3, no site in \( R \) has \( \xi^0_0 \)-state 0 and no site on the boundary of \( R \) has \( \xi^0_0 \)-state 1.

Lemma 4.8. Assume a nondegenerate rectangle \( R \) is protected. Then no site ever changes state in \( \xi^0_t \), and therefore \( \xi_t \) never changes any state in \( R \).
Proof. The first site to change state would have to be on the boundary of $R$, which is clearly impossible.

Assume now $N = \lfloor n^{1/\ell} / \log^5 n \rfloor$. Define the following two events:

\[ G_1 = \{ \text{there exists a rectangle } R \text{ with } 0 \in R \subset [-N, N]^2, \text{ four corners in } \xi_0^0 \text{-state 3,} \]
\[ \text{and no site on the boundary of } R \text{ is in } \xi_0^0 \text{-state 0 or 1} \}, \]
\[ G_2 = \{ \text{there is no } x \in [-N, N]^2 \text{ with } \xi_0(x) = 0 \}. \]

**Lemma 4.9.** With our choice of $N$,

\[ \mathbb{P}_p(G_1) \geq n^{4/\ell - 4a/\ell! + o(1)}. \]

**Proof.** This follows from an argument that is very similar to the one for Lemma 3.5.

**Lemma 4.10.** With our choice of $N$,

\[ \mathbb{P}_p(G_2^c) \to 0, \]

as $n \to \infty$.

**Proof.** This follows from Lemma 2.4 and Lemma 2.2.

**Proof of Lemma 4.7.** Observe that $G_1$ and $G_2$ are increasing events, therefore by FKG and Lemmas 4.9 and 4.10,

\[ \mathbb{P}_p(G_1 \cap G_2) \geq n^{4/\ell - 4a/\ell! + o(1)}, \]

and the result follows from Lemma 4.8.

### 4.4 The exceptional case: $\theta = 4$

We assume that $\theta = 4$ throughout this section, and that, in accordance with (1.1),

\[ p = a \frac{\log n}{n^2}, \]

with $a > 2$. We first prove an analogue of Lemma 4.2. We will again assume that $\xi_0$ is built by internal spanning properties, as in Lemma 2.6, and observe that the sites with $\xi_0$-state 4 and $\xi_0$-state 3, both of which we call $4$-obstacles, are comparably improbable at our precision level. (Also note that there are no sites with $\xi_0$-state 5.) As a result, the convergence rate changes.

**Lemma 4.11.** The probability that the Hamming square based at the origin is not completely filled satisfies the following bound:

\[ \mathbb{P}_p(\{0\} \times K_n^2 \not\subseteq \omega_\infty) \leq n^{-2a+o(1)}. \]

For a set $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$, we say that the event **4 Blocking In** $A$ happens if there exists a rectangle $R = [a_1, a_2] \times [b_1, b_2]$ so that $0 \in R$ and either:

- $a_2 - a_1 \geq 3$ and $b_2 - b_1 \geq 3$ and two layers on the four sides of $R$, $[a_1, a_1 + 1] \times [b_1, b_2]$, $[a_2 - 1, a_2] \times [b_1, b_2]$, $[a_1, a_2] \times [b_1, b_1 + 1]$, and $[a_1, a_2] \times [b_2 - 1, b_2]$, each contain at least two 4-obstacles in $A$.
\[ 0 \leq a_2 - a_1 \leq 2, \ b_2 - b_1 \geq 3, \text{ and } R \text{ contains 4 or more 4-obstacles in } A; \]
\[ a_2 - a_1 \geq 3, \ 0 \leq b_2 - b_1 \leq 2, \text{ and } R \text{ contains 4 or more 4-obstacles in } A; \text{ or} \]
\[ 0 \leq a_2 - a_1 \leq 2, \ 0 \leq b_2 - b_1 \leq 2, \text{ and } R \text{ contains 2 or more 4-obstacles in } A. \]

**Lemma 4.12.** Suppose that \( \xi_\infty(0) \neq 0 \). Assume that there is circuit of 0s around 0 in \( \xi_t \), for some \( t \). Let \( A \) comprise sites in the strict interior of this circuit. Then the event 4\_Blocking\_In \( A \) happens.

**Proof.** As before, we may assume that all sites in \( A^c \) are 0s in \( \xi_0 \) and let \( A' \) be the set of sites which are non-zero in \( \xi_\infty \). If the top line of \( A' \) consists of a single 4-obstacle, then the next line from the top must also contain a 4-obstacle. (Otherwise, the next line from the top would eventually turn into all 0s, causing the solitary 4-obstacle on the top line to be surrounded by 0s.) Finally, if there is a single 4-obstacle within \( R \), then all sites in \( R \) eventually turn into 0s. \( \square \)

We next note that Lemma 4.4 still holds, with \( N \) given by (4.2) with \( \ell = 1 \), and proceed with our final lemma.

**Lemma 4.13.** Assume \( D \) is a fixed constant. Then 
\[ P_p \left( \text{4\_Blocking\_In } [-DN, DN]^2 \right) \leq n^{-2a+o(1)}. \]

**Proof.** For the event \{4\_Blocking\_In \[ -DN, DN]^2 \} to happen, one of the four events, corresponding to the four items in its definition, must happen. The event in the first item happens with probability at most \( n^{4_4-4a+o(1)} \), as in the proof of Lemma 4.6. The events in the second and third item also happen with probability at most \( n^{4_4-4a+o(1)} \). The event in the last item happens with probability \( n^{-2a+o(1)} \), and this last probability is the largest, as \( a > 2 \). \( \square \)

**Proof of Lemma 4.11** Analogously to the case of even \( \theta \geq 6 \), choose the constant \( D \) in Lemma 4.4 so that \( L \) in (4.4) satisfies \( L > 2a \), and use Lemmas 4.12 and 4.13 to conclude (4.6). \( \square \)

We conclude this section by the simple observation that gives the matching lower bound.

**Lemma 4.14.** The Hamming square based at the origin remains unoccupied forever with probability bounded below as follows:

\[ P_p \left( \omega_\infty \equiv 0 \text{ on } \{0\} \times K_n^2 \right) \geq n^{-2a}(1 + o(1)). \]

**Proof.** The inclusion
\[ \{\omega_0 \equiv 0 \text{ on } \{0, (0, 1)\} \times K_n^2 \} \subset \{\omega_\infty \equiv 0 \text{ on } \{0\} \times K_n^2 \}. \]

gives the desired bound. \( \square \)

## 5 The odd threshold

In this section we prove Theorem 1.2. In the first three subsections, we handle the case \( \ell \geq 2 \): first we define, and give bounds for, the critical value \( a_c \), then we prove (1.7), and then (1.6). In the last, fourth subsection, we sketch the argument for the case \( \ell = 1 \) in lesser detail.
5.1 The critical value of $a$ for $\ell \geq 2$

Pick an $a > 0$ and an $\epsilon \in (0, \exp\left[-\frac{a^\ell}{\ell!}\right] - \exp\left[-\frac{2a^\ell}{\ell!}\right])$. Consider the initial state $\xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)}$ given by the product measure with

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbb{P}(\xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)}(x) = 0) &= \epsilon, \\
\mathbb{P}(\xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)}(x) = 1) &= \left(1 - e^{-a^\ell/\ell!}\right)^2, \\
\mathbb{P}(\xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)}(x) = 3) &= \exp\left[-\frac{2a^\ell}{\ell!}\right], \\
\mathbb{P}(\xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)}(x) = 2) &= 1 - P(\xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)}(x) = 0) - P(\xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)}(x) = 1) - P(\xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)}(x) = 3)
\end{align*}
\]

for every $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$. We will call this an $(a, \epsilon)$-initialization and denote the resulting bootstrap dynamics by $\xi_t^{(a,\epsilon)}$.

Define $a_c \in [0, \infty]$ as follows:

\[
a_c = \inf\{a > 0 : \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \mathbb{P}(\xi_\infty^{(a,\epsilon)}(0) = 0) > 0\}.
\]

Observe that $\mathbb{P}(\xi_\infty^{(a,\epsilon)}(0) = 0)$ is a nonincreasing function of $\epsilon$ and therefore its limit as $\epsilon \to 0$ exists. Furthermore, this limit is a nondecreasing function of $a$, and therefore it vanishes on $[0, a_c)$ and is strictly positive on $(a_c, \infty)$.

The next two lemmas establish that $a_c$ is nontrivial, that is, $a_c \in (0, \infty)$, by comparison to the critical value $p_c^{\text{site}}$ of site percolation on $\mathbb{Z}^2$, and to the critical value of the site percolation on the triangular lattice.

**Lemma 5.1.** The following strict inequality holds:

\[
(1 - e^{-a_c^\ell/\ell!})^2 < p_c^{\text{site}}.
\]

In particular, $a_c < \infty$. Furthermore, $\lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \mathbb{P}(\xi_\infty^{(a,\epsilon)}(0) = 0) \to 1$ as $a \to \infty$.

**Proof.** Given a configuration $\xi_0 = \xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)}$, form the following set of green sites. Any site $x$ with $\xi_0(x) \leq 1$ is green. Also make green any site $x$ such that $\xi_0(x) = 2$ and $\xi_0(y) \leq 1$ for all sites $y$ among the 8 nearest neighbors of $x$, except possibly for two diagonally opposite neighbors. That is, if the local configuration in $\xi_0$ around a site $x$ is

\[
\begin{align*}
11* & \quad \ast11 \\
121 & \quad 121 \\
*11 & \quad 11* 
\end{align*}
\]

where $\ast$ denotes an arbitrary state, then $x$ is green, and it is also green if its local configuration has 0s in place of any of the 1s in $[121]$. Let $\text{Green}_{\text{Percolation}}$ be the event that 0 is in an infinite connected set of green sites, and $\text{Green}_{\text{Connection}}$ the event that 0 is green and connected to a vertex with state 0 in $\xi_0$ through green sites. Then

\[
\mathbb{P}(\text{Green}_{\text{Percolation}} \setminus \text{Green}_{\text{Connection}}) = 0.
\]
Moreover, we claim that

\[ \text{Green\_Connection} \subset \{ \xi_\infty(0) = 0 \}. \]

To see this, consider the set of all sites in a connected cluster \( C \) of \( 0 \) of green sites that includes a \( 0 \) in \( \xi_0 \). Let \( C_0 \) be the set of all sites in \( C \) that eventually assume state \( 0 \). If \( C_0 \subsetneq C \), then there exist neighbors \( x \) and \( y \) with \( x \in C_0 \) and \( y \in C \setminus C_0 \). But then \( \xi_0(y) = 2 \), and by inspection of the configurations in (5.2), we see that \( y \) must have at least 2 neighbors in \( C_0 \), a contradiction. Therefore \( C_0 = C \) and (5.4) holds.

Finally, it follows from \[\text{AG} \] (see also \[\text{BBR} \]) that there exists an \( a \) with \( (1 - e^{-a^2/\ell})^2 < p_c \text{\_site} \), so that \( P(\text{Green\_Percolation}) > 0 \). This, together with (5.2–5.4), establishes (5.1). Moreover, it follows from standard percolation arguments that \( P(\text{Green\_Percolation}) \to 1 \) as \( a \to \infty \), and then (5.3) implies the last claim.

**Lemma 5.2.** The critical value \( a_c \) satisfies the following strict inequality:

\[ \exp[-2a_c^2/\ell!] < 1/2. \]

In particular, \( a_c > 0 \).

**Proof.** Pick an \( \alpha > 0 \). Given a configuration \( \xi_0 = \xi_0^{(a,\epsilon)} \), declare a site \( x \) red if \( \xi_0(x) = 3 \), or \( \xi_0(x) = 2 \) and the local configuration in \( \xi_0 \) around \( x \) is:

\[
\begin{align*}
3 & \quad 3 \ast \\
3 & \quad 2 \quad 3 \\
\ast & \quad 3 \quad 3
\end{align*}
\]

where \( \ast \) denotes an arbitrary state.

The triangular lattice \( \mathbb{T} \) is obtained by adding SW-NE edges to the nearest neighbor edges in \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \). (When we say that \( x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \) are neighbors without specifying the lattice, we still mean nearest neighbors.) Recall that \( \mathbb{T} \) is (site-)self-dual and so the site percolation on \( \mathbb{T} \) has critical density \( 1/2 \). We call a \( \mathbb{T} \)-circuit \( \zeta \) a sequence of distinct points \( y_0, y_1, \ldots, y_n = y_0 \) such that \( y_i \) and \( y_{i-1} \) are \( \mathbb{T} \)-neighbors for \( i = 1, \ldots, n \). We will also assume that \( \zeta \) is a boundary of its connected interior, i.e., its sites are all points, which are outside some nonempty \( \mathbb{T} \)-connected set \( S \), but have a \( \mathbb{T} \)-neighbor in \( S \) (this is possible, again, because \( \mathbb{T} \) is site-self-dual); we call \( S \) the *interior* of \( \zeta \). Observe that every site on \( \zeta \) has at least two neighbors in the set obtained as the union of sites on \( \zeta \) and its interior.

Let \( \text{Red\_Circuit}_N \) be the event that there exists a \( \mathbb{T} \)-circuit of red sites, with the origin in its interior, and inside \( [-N, N]^2 \). Moreover, let \( \text{No\_Zero}_N \) be the event that no site \( x \in [-N, N]^2 \) has \( \xi_0(x) = 0 \). It follows from \[\text{AG}, \text{BBR} \], and standard arguments from percolation theory, that there exists an \( a \) with \( \exp[-2a^2/\ell!] < 1/2 \), with the following property. For every \( \alpha > 0 \), there exists an \( N = N(\alpha) \) so that

\[ P(\text{Red\_Circuit}_N) > 1 - \alpha. \]

Pick any \( \mathbb{T} \)-circuit \( \zeta \) of red states. Form the set of sites \( R \) that consists of: all sites of \( \zeta \); all sites in the interior of \( \zeta \); and all sites required to be in \( \xi_0 \)-state 3 in (5.5) around any site with state 2 on \( \zeta \). Assume that there is no site in \( \xi_0 \)-state 0 in \( R \). Then we claim that no site in \( R \) ever changes
its state to 0. Indeed, to get a contradiction, let \( x \in R \) be the first such site to change its state to 0 (chosen arbitrarily in case of a tie). Clearly \( x \) cannot be in the interior of \( \zeta \), as then \( x \) has no neighbor outside \( R \). The site \( x \) cannot have \( \xi_0 \)-state 3 and be on \( \zeta \), as \( x \) then has at least two neighbors in \( R \), and hence at most two outside \( R \). Furthermore, \( x \) cannot be a site with \( \xi_0 \)-state 2 on \( \zeta \), as \( x \) must then have all neighbors in \( R \) in accordance with (5.5). The final possibility is that \( x \) is one of the sites with \( \xi_0 \)-state 3 in (5.5). But each of those sites clearly also has two neighbors in \( R \).

So we have, for every \( N \),

\[
\text{Red} \cap \text{No}_Z \subset \{ \xi_0(0) = 0 \}^c. \tag{5.7}
\]

It follows from (5.6) and (5.7) that there exists an \( N = N(\alpha) \) so that

\[
P(\xi_0(0) = 0) \leq \alpha + (2N + 1)^2 \epsilon. \tag{5.8}
\]

Now in (5.8), we send \( \epsilon \to 0 \) first, and then send \( \alpha \to 0 \) to conclude that \( P(\xi_\infty(0) = 0) \to 0 \) as \( \epsilon \to 0 \), and therefore \( a \leq a_c \).

\[\square\]

### 5.2 The supercritical regime for \( \ell \geq 2 \)

**Lemma 5.3.** Assume \( \tilde{X} = (X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4) \) and \( \tilde{Y} = (Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4) \) are 4-tuples of i.i.d. Bernoulli random variables with \( P(X_i = 1) = \alpha_1 \) and \( P(Y_i = 1) = \alpha_2 \) for all \( i \). If \( 1 - (1 - \alpha_1)^4 \leq \alpha_2^4 \), then \( \tilde{X} \) and \( \tilde{Y} \) can be coupled so that \( \{ \exists i : X_i = 1 \} \subset \{ \forall i : Y_i = 1 \} \).

**Proof.** This follows from an elementary argument and we omit the details. \( \square \)

**Lemma 5.4.** If \( a > a_c \), then (1.7) holds. Moreover, (1.8) holds.

**Proof.** Fix an \( a' \in (a_c, a) \). Fix also a small \( \delta > 0 \), to be chosen later dependent on \( a' \). For \( i = 0, \ldots, 5 \), we define probabilities \( p_i^{(n)} \) as follows. For \( i = 1, 2, 3, 4 \), let

\[
p_i^{(n)} = P_p(K_n^2 \text{ is } (\theta - i)\text{-IS but not } (\theta - i + 1)\text{-IS}),
\]

and

\[
p_0^{(n)} = P_p(K_n^2 \text{ is } \theta\text{-IS}), \quad p_5^{(n)} = P_p(K_n^2 \text{ is not } (\theta - 4)\text{-IS}).
\]

Denote by \( \pi(\alpha) \) the Bernoulli product measure of active and inactive sites with density \( \alpha \) of active sites. Build the initial state \( \xi_0 \) in four steps as follows. In the first step, choose active sites according to \( \pi(p_1^{(n)} + p_5^{(n)}) \) and fill them with 5s. In the second step, choose active sites according to \( \pi(p_0^{(n)}/(1 - p_4^{(n)} - p_5^{(n)})) \) and fill them with 0s, provided they are not already filled. Continue in the third step with \( \pi(p_3^{(n)}/(1 - p_0^{(n)} - p_4^{(n)} - p_5^{(n)})) \) to fill some unfilled sites with 3s, and then in the fourth step analogously with 2s, and then finally 1s fill all the remaining unfilled sites.

Divide \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \) into \( 2 \times 2 \) boxes and couple product measures \( \pi(p_4^{(n)} + p_5^{(n)}) \) and \( \pi(\delta) \) on the space of pairs \( (\eta_1, \eta_2) \in 2^{2^2} \times 2^{2^2} \) so that any box with at least one active site in \( \eta_1 \) is fully activated in \( \eta_2 \). This coupling is possible, for large enough \( n \), by Lemmas 2.4 and 5.3.

Use this to couple \( \xi_0 \) with another initial state \( \zeta_0 \). To build this configuration, keep all selected product measures used to define \( \xi_0 \), but change the first step above as follows: replace \( \pi(p_4^{(n)} + p_5^{(n)}) \)
by \( \pi(\delta) \) (coupled as above), and fill the active sites by 3s (instead of 5s). Note that we now fill by 3s twice, and that some 0s, 1s, and 2s in \( \xi_0 \) are converted to 3s in \( \hat{\xi}_0 \).

Denote the resulting bootstrap dynamics by \( \xi_t \) and \( \hat{\xi}_t \). The important observation is that no site that is 5 in \( \xi_0 \) can ever turn to 0 in \( \hat{\xi}_t \), as it is covered by a \( 2 \times 2 \) block of 3s that cannot change. Therefore, by Lemma 2.6 and the coupling between \( \xi_t \) and \( \hat{\xi}_t \),

\[
P_{\pi}(\{0\} \times K_n^2 \subset \omega_\infty) \geq P(\hat{\xi}_\infty(0) = 0) \geq P(\xi_\infty(0) = 0).
\]

Now if \( \delta = \delta(a') \) is small enough, then for large enough \( n \),

\[
P_{\pi}(\hat{\xi}_0(0) = 0) > 0, \\
P(\hat{\xi}_0(0) = 1) \geq P(\xi(a',\epsilon_n)(0) = 1), \\
P(\hat{\xi}_0(0) = 3) \leq P(\xi(a',\epsilon_n)(0) = 3).
\]

As \( a' > a_c \), the inequalities (5.10) guarantee that \( \liminf_{n} P(\hat{\xi}_\infty(0) = 0) > 0 \). Therefore, by (5.9), the leftmost inequality in (1.7) holds. When \( a \to \infty \), we can send \( a' \to \infty \) as well, and then Lemma 5.1 gives (1.8).

To prove the rightmost inequality in (1.7) let \( \text{Obstacle Box} \) be the event that \( \{x\} \times K_n^2 \) is \((\theta - 2)\)-inert for all \( x \in \{0, (0,1), (1,0), (1,1)\} \). Then

\[
\text{Obstacle Box} \subset \{\omega_\infty = \omega_0 \text{ on } \{0\} \times K_n^2\},
\]

and therefore, for any \( a > 0 \), by Lemmas 2.4 and 2.5,

\[
\limsup_{n \to \infty} P_{\pi}(v_0 \in \omega_\infty) \leq \lim_{n \to \infty} P_{\pi}(\text{Obstacle Box}^c) = 1 - \exp(-8a^2/\ell!) < 1,
\]

which ends the proof of (1.7).

\[ \square \]

### 5.3 The subcritical regime for \( \ell \geq 2 \)

**Lemma 5.5.** Assume that \( a < a_c \) and \( \ell \geq 2 \). Then (1.6) holds.

**Proof.** Pick now an \( a' \in (a, a_c) \) and \( \alpha > 0 \), and again also fix \( \delta > 0 \), to be chosen later to be appropriately dependent on \( a' \) and \( \alpha \). We will redefine \( p_i^{(n)}, \xi_0 \) and \( \hat{\xi}_0 \) from the previous proof.

Let

\[
p_0^{(n)} = P_{\pi}(K_n^2 \text{ is not } \theta\text{-II}) \\
p_1^{(n)} = P_{\pi}(K_n^2 \text{ is (\theta - 1)-II but is } \theta\text{-II}) \\
p_2^{(n)} = P_{\pi}(K_n^2 \text{ is (\theta - 2)-II but is (\theta - 1)-II}) \\
p_3^{(n)} = P_{\pi}(K_n^2 \text{ is (\theta - 2)-II}).
\]

This time build the initial state \( \xi_0 \) in three steps as follows. In the first step, choose active sites according to \( \pi(p_3^{(n)}) \) and fill them by 3s. In the second step, choose active sites according to \( \pi(p_2^{(n)}/(1 - p_3^{(n)}) \) and fill them by 2s, provided they are not already filled. In the third step, choose the configuration of bad sites: those are sites that

- are not \( \theta\text{-II}; \) or


are internally inert but not inert for some threshold in $[\theta - 2, \theta]$. The configuration of bad sites has proper conditional distribution given the configuration of 3s and 2s. Observe that this conditional distribution has finite range of dependence: if $||x - y||_1 \geq 3$, then $x$ and $y$ are bad independently. Furthermore, by Lemma 2.3, the probability that any site is bad is, uniformly over the configurations of 2s and 3s, $n^{-1+1/\ell+o(1)}$ and thus goes to 0 if $\ell \geq 2$. Finally, finish the construction of $\xi_0$ by filling all bad sites with 0’s and the remaining unfilled sites with 1s.

By [LSS], the configuration of bad sites can be coupled with a product measure $\pi(\delta)$ that dominates it, and is independent of the configuration of 2s and 3s. As in the previous proof, we now couple $\xi_0$ with another initial state $\hat{\xi}_0$. To build $\hat{\xi}_0$, keep the selected product measures used in the first two steps. The third step is changed by using the $\pi(\delta)$, obtained from the domination coupling, as active sites, all of which are filled by 0s, possibly replacing some 2s and 3s. This way, some of the 1s, 2s and 3s in $\xi_0$ are changed to 0s in $\hat{\xi}_0$. Denote again the resulting bootstrap dynamics by $\xi_t$ and $\hat{\xi}_t$. This time, by Lemma 2.7 and coupling properties,

$$P_p(\omega_\infty \neq \omega_0 \text{ on } \{0\} \times K_n^2) \leq P(\xi_\infty(0) = 0) \leq P(\hat{\xi}_\infty(0) = 0). \tag{5.11}$$

Now if $\delta = \delta(a')$ is small enough, then for large enough $n$,

$$P(\hat{\xi}_0(0) = 0) \leq \delta, \tag{5.12}$$

$$P(\hat{\xi}_0(0) = 3) \geq P(\xi(0) = 3).$$

As $a' < a_c$, the inequalities (5.12) guarantee that $P(\hat{\xi}_0(0) = 0) < \alpha$ if $\delta = \delta(a', \alpha)$ is small enough. Therefore, by (5.11), (1.6) holds.

### 5.4 The exceptional case: $\theta = 3$

We assume here that $p = a/n^2$, in accordance with (1.5). In this case, we need another version of the heterogeneous bootstrap dynamics, somewhere between $\xi_t$ used when $\ell \geq 2$ and $\zeta_t$ used later for the graph $\mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n$. Indeed, observe that the obstacles are now empty Hamming planes, but they become completely occupied by contact with two fully occupied neighboring planes and another neighboring plane that is merely non-empty. Clearly, the probability of having a non-empty neighboring plane does not go to 0, and so this possibility now cannot be handled by a coupling with a low-density measure.

We denote the new rule by $\chi_t \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$, $t \in \mathbb{Z}_+$. Assume that $\chi_0$ is given. For a given $t \geq 0$, let as before $Z_t(x)$ be the cardinality of $\{y : y \sim x \text{ and } \chi_t(y) = 0\}$ and let $W_t(x) = 1(\{y : y \sim x \text{ and } 0 < \chi_t(y) < 3\} \neq \emptyset)$ then

$$\chi_{t+1}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & Z_t(x) \geq \chi_t(x) \text{ or } (\chi_t(x) = 3, Z_t(x) = 2), \text{ and } W_t(x) = 1 \\ \chi_t(x) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
For a small $\epsilon > 0$, we consider the initial state $\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_0$ given by the product measure with
\[
\mathbb{P}(\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_0(x) = 0) = \epsilon,
\]
\[
\mathbb{P}(\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_0(x) = 1) = 1 - (a + 1)e^{-a},
\]
\[
\mathbb{P}(\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_0(x) = 3) = e^{-a},
\]
\[
\mathbb{P}(\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_0(x) = 2) = 1 - P(\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_0(x) = 0) - P(\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_0(x) = 1) - P(\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_0(x) = 3)
\]
for every $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, denote the resulting bootstrap dynamics by $\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_t$, and for $\theta = 3$ define $a_c \in [0, \infty]$ by
\[
a_c = \inf\{a > 0 : \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \mathbb{P}(\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_\infty(x) = 0) = 0\}.
\]
We will not provide complete proofs of the next three lemmas, but only point to previous arguments that apply with simplifications and minor modifications.

**Lemma 5.6.** The following strict inequalities hold:
\[
1 - (a_c + 1)e^{-a_c} < p_{\text{site}}^c, \quad e^{-a_c} < p_{\text{site}}^c.
\]
In particular, $a_c \in (0, \infty)$. Also, $\lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \mathbb{P}(\chi^{(a,\epsilon)}_\infty(x) = 0) \to 1$ as $a \to \infty$.

**Proof.** The argument is very similar to that for Lemmas 5.1 and 5.2. \qed

**Lemma 5.7.** If $a > a_c$, then (1.7) holds. Also, (1.8) holds.

**Proof.** This follows from the proof of Lemma 5.4, simplified by the absence of states 4 and 5, which eliminates the need for a coupling domination. \qed

**Lemma 5.8.** Assume that $a < a_c$. Then (1.6) holds.

**Proof.** The difference from the proof of Lemma 5.5 is the definition of bad sites, which in this case are those that are not 3-inert, and those that are 2-II but not 2-inert. As the density of bad sites goes to 0 by Lemma 2.5, the proof of Lemma 5.5 can be easily adapted. \qed

### 6 Bootstrap percolation on $\mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n$

In this section, we prove Theorem 1.3 which follows from Lemmas 6.3 and 6.4 below.

As already announced, we need yet another heterogeneous bootstrap rule in which sites in $\mathbb{Z}^2$ receive more help from their neighbors than in $\xi_t$. In this case we have a new state, labeled by $\theta$ and representing an empty site that has no contribution to make. We denote this rule by $\zeta_t \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \theta\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$, $t \in \mathbb{Z}_+$. Assume that $\zeta_0$ is given. For a given $t \geq 0$, let as before $Z_t(x)$ be the cardinality of $\{y : y \sim x$ and $\zeta_t(y) = 0\}$ and $W_t(x) = 1(\{y : y \sim x$ and $0 < \zeta_t(y) < \theta \neq \emptyset\})$ then
\[
\zeta_{t+1}(x) = \begin{cases} 
0 & Z_t(x) + W_t(x) \geq \zeta_t(x), \\
\zeta_t(x) & \text{otherwise}.
\end{cases}
\]

For an initially occupied set $\omega_0$, we create two initial states $\zeta_0$ as follows. For $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, let
\[
N_x = |\{y \in \{x\} \times K_n : \omega_0(y) = 1\}|.
\]
Call $x$ a clash site if $N_x < \theta$ and $\omega_0(y_1, u) = \omega_0(y_2, u) = 1$ for some $y_1 \neq y_2$ in $\{x\} \cup \{y : y \sim x\}$ and some $u \in K_n$, such that $N_{y_1} < \theta$ and $N_{y_2} < \theta$. We define the favoring initialization $\zeta^{fr}_t(x)$ and the restricting initialization $\zeta^{rs}_t(x)$ as follows. If $x$ is a clash site, then $\zeta^{fr}_t(x) = 0$, while $\zeta^{rs}_0(x) = \theta$. If $x$ is not a clash site, the two initializations are equal: $\zeta^{fr}_t(x) = \zeta^{rs}_t(x) = nz(N_x)$, where $nz : Z_+ \to \{0, \ldots, 5, \theta\}$ is given by

$$nz(m) = \begin{cases} 
0 & m \geq \theta \\
k & m = \theta - k \text{ for some } k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \\
5 & 0 < m < \theta - 4 \\
\theta & m = 0
\end{cases}$$

These initializations determine their respective dynamics $\zeta^{fr}_t$ and $\zeta^{tv}_t$, $0 \leq t \leq \infty$. We next state the comparison lemma whose simple proof is omitted.

**Lemma 6.1.** We have

$$\bigcup \{\{x\} \times K_n : \zeta^{rs}_\infty(x) = 0\} \subset \omega_\infty \subset \bigcup \{\{x\} \times K_n : \zeta^{tv}_\infty(x) = 0\} \cup \omega_0.$$

Consider $Z^2 \times [0, \infty)$ and equip each $\{x\} \times [0, \infty)$, $x \in Z^2$ with an independent Poisson point location of unit intensity. Then we define the a-initialization $\zeta^{(a)}_0(x)$ obtained by $\zeta^{(a)}_0(x) = nz(N_x^a)$, where now $N_x^a$ is the number of location points in $\{x\} \times [0, a]$ and the function $nz$ is defined in (6.1).

For the rest of this section, we assume that $\omega_0$ is a product measure with density $p = a/n$.

**Lemma 6.2.** Assume $a' > a$. Then, for large enough $n$, $\omega_0$ and the $a'$-initialization $\zeta^{(a')}_0$ can be coupled so that $\zeta^{fr}_t \leq \zeta^{(a')}_t$.

Conversely, assume $a' < a$. Then, for large enough $n$, $\omega_0$ and $\zeta^{(a')}_0$ can be coupled so that $\zeta^{rs}_0 \leq \zeta^{(a')}_0$.

**Proof.** We will prove only the first statement; the second is proved similarly. Observe that the random variables $N_x$ are i.i.d. Binomial($n, p$). Fix an $\epsilon > 0$ such that $a + \epsilon < a'$.

Assume that first the i.i.d. random field of truncated random variables $N_x \wedge \theta$, $x \in Z^2$, is selected. Conditional on this selection, any site $x \in Z^2$ is a clash site with probability at most $C/n$, where $C = C(\theta)$ is a constant. Furthermore, if $||x - x'||_1 \geq 3$, then $x$ and $x'$ are clash sites independently. Therefore, by [LSS], there exists an i.i.d random field $\eta_x$, $x \in Z^2$ of Bernoulli random variables, independent also of the field $N_x \wedge \theta$, $x \in Z^2$, so that $\eta_x = 1$ whenever $x$ is a clash site and $\mathbb{P}(\eta_x = 1) = \epsilon$.

If $n$ is large enough, we can, for a fixed $x$, find a coupling between $(N_x, \eta_x)$ and a Poisson($a$) random variable $M_x$ so that $(N_x \wedge \theta)1(\eta_x = 0) \geq (M_x \wedge \theta)$. Thus we can construct an independent field $M_x, x \in Z^2$ with this property, which concludes the proof.

Define now

$$\phi(a) = \mathbb{P}(\zeta^{(a)}_\infty(0) = 0).$$

Observe that $\phi : (0, \infty) \to [0, 1]$ is a nondecreasing limit of nondecreasing continuous functions $\phi_t$ given by $\phi_t(a) = \mathbb{P}(\zeta^{(a)}_t(0) = 0)$. Therefore, $\phi$ is left-continuous and nondecreasing.
Lemma 6.3. Assume $\theta \geq 3$. Fix any $a \in (0, \infty)$ and $v \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n$. As $n \to \infty$,
\[
\mathbb{P}(\text{Poisson}(a) \geq \theta) \leq \phi(a) \leq \lim \inf_n \mathbb{P}_p(\omega_\infty(v) = 1) \\
\leq \lim \sup_n \mathbb{P}_p(\omega_\infty(v) = 1) \leq \phi(a+) \leq 1 - e^{-4a}
\]

Proof. We have,
\[
\{N_0^a \geq \theta\} = \{\zeta_0^{(a)}(0) = 0\} \subset \{\zeta_\infty^{(a)}(0) = 0\},
\]
and, for any $2 \times 2$ block $B \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ including 0,
\[
\bigcap_{x \in B}\{N_x^a = 0\} = \bigcap_{x \in B}\{\zeta_0^{(a)}(x) = \theta\} \subset \{\zeta_\infty^{(a)}(0) = \theta\},
\]
which gives the two extreme bounds. The remainder follows from Lemmas 6.1 and 6.2.

Lemma 6.4. For $\theta \geq 14$, $\phi$ is continuous on $(0, \infty)$.

Proof. Recall that by the construction, $\zeta_t^{(a)}$ are coupled for all $a$. Let
\[
E_a = \bigcap_{a' > a} \{\zeta_\infty^{(a')}(0) = 0\},
\]
so that $\phi(a+) = \mathbb{P}(E_a)$. Let also $F_a$ be the event that there is an $\ell^\infty$-circuit $C$ around the origin, consisting of sites $x$ with $N_x^a \notin [\theta - 5, \theta - 1]$. As no site in $C$ ever changes its state in the $\zeta_t^{(a)}$ dynamics,
\[
E_a \cap F_a \subset \{\zeta_\infty^{(a)}(0) = 0\}.
\]
It remains to show that, for $\theta \geq 14$, $\mathbb{P}(F_a) = 1$ for all $a \in (0, \infty)$, that is,
\[
\mathbb{P}(\text{Poisson}(a) \in [\theta - 5, \theta - 1]) \leq p^\text{site}.
\]
Using the rigorous lower bound $p^\text{site} > 0.556$ [vdBE], a numerical computation shows that the above bound indeed holds for $\theta \geq 14$.

7 Open problems

We conclude with a selection of a few natural questions.

Question 7.1. Is the function $\phi$ defined in (6.2) continuous on $(0, \infty)$ for all $\theta$? Is it analytic for all, or at least large enough, $\theta$?

Question 7.2. Is the function $a \mapsto \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \mathbb{P}(\xi_\infty^{(a, \epsilon)}(0) = 0)$, where $\xi_\infty^{(a, \epsilon)}$ is defined in Section 5.1, continuous for all $a$? A related question is whether $\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_p(v_0 \in \omega_\infty)$ exists for odd $\theta$ and all $a$ when $p$ is given by (1.5)?

In both question above, arguments similar to that for Lemma 6.4 imply continuity for large enough $a$ and for small enough $a$.

Question 7.3. When $a < a_c$ in Theorem 1.2, what is the rate of convergence in (1.6)?
Our last three questions are more open-ended, and their answers likely require development of new techniques. We first propose a closer look into the critical scaling in Theorem 1.1.

**Question 7.4.** Assume \(\theta\) is even, as in Theorem 1.1. Assume that

\[
p = (2(\ell - 1)!)^{1/\ell} \frac{(\log n)^{1/\ell}}{n^{1+1/\ell}} + bf(n)
\]

Can the function \(f(n)\) be chosen so that the limit of the final density as \(n \to \infty\) exists and is neither a constant nor a step function of \(b \in \mathbb{R}\)?

We conclude with two questions on larger dimensions of the lattice factor or the Hamming torus factor (see also \[GHPS, GS\]).

**Question 7.5.** What are the analogues of our main theorems for bootstrap percolation on \(\mathbb{Z}^d \times K_n^2\), for \(d \geq 3\)?

To approach this question using the methods of our present paper would require a much deeper understanding of heterogeneous bootstrap percolation on \(\mathbb{Z}^d\) (see \[GHS\]).

**Question 7.6.** What are the analogues of our main theorems for bootstrap percolation on \(\mathbb{Z}^2 \times K_n^d\), \(d \geq 3\)?

This question poses a significant challenge at present, as the bootstrap percolation on \(K_n^d\), \(d \geq 3\), alone is poorly understood \[GHPS\], except for \(\theta = 2\) \[Sli\].

**Acknowledgements**

JG was partially supported by the NSF grant DMS-1513340 and the Slovenian Research Agency research program P1-0285. DS was partially supported by the NSF TRIPODS grant CCF-1740761.

**References**

[AG] M. Aizenman and G. Grimmett. Strict monotonicity for critical points in percolation and ferromagnetic models. *J. Statist. Phys.*, 63(5–6):817–835, 1991.

[AL] M. Aizenman and J. L. Lebowitz. Metastability effects in bootstrap percolation. *J. Phys. A*, 21(19):3801–3813, 1988.

[BBDM] J. Balogh, B. Bollobás, H. Duminil-Copin, and R. Morris. The sharp threshold for bootstrap percolation in all dimensions. *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.*, 364(5):2667–2701, 2012.

[BBLN] P. N. Balister, B. Bollobás, J. D. Lee, and B. P. Narayanan. Line percolation. *Random Structures & Algorithms* 52(4): 543–715, 2018.

[BBR] B. Bollobás, P. Balister, and O. Riordan. Essential enhancements revisited. arXiv:1402.0834.

[BDGM1] G. J. Baxter, S. N Dorogovtsev, A. V Goltsev, and J. Mendes. Heterogeneous k-core versus bootstrap percolation on complex networks. *Physical Review E*, 83(5):051134, 2011.
[BDGM2] G. J. Baxter, S. N. Dorogovtsev, A. V. Goltsev, and J. F. F. Mendes. Bootstrap percolation on complex networks. *Phys. Rev. E*, 82:011103, Jul 2010.

[BDMS] B. Bollobás, H. Duminil-Copin, R. Morris, and P. Smith. Universality of two-dimensional critical cellular automata. *Proceedings of London Mathematical Society*. To appear.

[BL] L. Belhadji and N. Lanchier. Individual versus cluster recoveries within a spatially structured population. *Annals of Applied Probability* 16(1): 403-422, 2006.

[CLR] J. Chalupa, P. L. Leath, and G. R. Reich. Bootstrap percolation on a Bethe lattice. *Journal of Physics C: Solid State Physics*, 12(1):L31, 1979.

[DDG+] N. Dirr, P. W. Dondl, G. R. Grimmett, A. E. Holroyd, and M. Scheutzow. Lipschitz percolation. *Electron. Commun. Probab.*, 15:14–21, 2010.

[DEK+] M. Damron, S. M. Eckner, H. Kogan, C. M. Newman, and V. Sidoravicius. Coarsening dynamics on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ with frozen vertices. *J. Stat. Phys.*, 160(1):60–72, 2015.

[GH1] G. R. Grimmett and A. E. Holroyd. Plaquettes, spheres, and entanglement. *Electron. J. Probab.*, 15:1415–1428, 2010.

[GH2] G. R. Grimmett and A. E. Holroyd. Geometry of Lipschitz percolation. *Ann. Inst. Henri Poincaré Probab. Stat.*, 48(2):309–326, 2012.

[GHM] J. Gravner, A. E. Holroyd, and R. Morris. A sharper threshold for bootstrap percolation in two dimensions. *Probab. Theory Related Fields*, 153(1–2):1–23, 2012.

[GHPS] J. Gravner, C. Hoffman, J. Pfeiffer, and D. Sivakoff. Bootstrap percolation on the Hamming torus. *Annals of Applied Probability*, 2015; 25(1), 287-323.

[GHS] J. Gravner, A. E. Holroyd, and D. Sivakoff. Polluted bootstrap percolation in three dimensions (2017), [arXiv:1706.07338]

[GM] J. Gravner and E. McDonald. Bootstrap percolation in a polluted environment. *J. Statist. Phys.*, 87(3-4):915–927, 1997.

[GPS] J. Gravner, J. E. Paguyo, and E. Slivken. Maximal spanning time for neighborhood growth on the Hamming plane (2017), [arXiv:1708.01855]

[GraH] J. Gravner, A. E. Holroyd. Polluted bootstrap percolation with threshold 2 in all dimensions (2017), [arXiv:1705.01652]

[GS] J. Gravner and D. Sivakoff. Bootstrap percolation on products of cycles and complete graphs. *Electronic Journal of Probability* 22(29):20pp, 2017.

[GSS] J. Gravner, D. Sivakoff, and E. Slivken. Neighborhood growth dynamics on the Hamming plane. *Electronic Journal of Combinatorics* 24(4):P4.29, 1–55, 2017.

[GZH] J. Gao, T. Zhou, and Y. Hu. Bootstrap percolation on spatial networks. *Scientific reports*, 5, 2015.
[Hol] A. E. Holroyd. Sharp metastability threshold for two-dimensional bootstrap percolation. *Probab. Theory Related Fields*, 125(2):195–224, 2003.

[JLTv] S. Janson, T. Luczak, T. Turova, and T. Vallier. Bootstrap percolation on the random graph $G_{n,p}$. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 22(5):1989–2047, 2012.

[KL] C. Koch and J. Lengler. Bootstrap percolation on geometric inhomogeneous random graphs. In 43rd International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming (ICALP 2016), I. Chatzigiannakis, M. Mitzenmacher, Y. Rabani and D. Sangiorgi editors (2016), 147:1–147:15.

[Lal] S. Lalley. Spatial epidemics: Critical behavior in one dimension. *Probability Theory and Related Fields* 144(3–4):429–469, 2009.

[LSS] T. M. Liggett, R. H. Schonmann, and A. M. Stacey. Domination by product measures. *Ann. Probab.*, 25(1):71–95, 1997.

[LZ] S. Lalley and X. Zheng. Spatial epidemics and local times for critical branching random walks in dimensions 2 and 3. *Probability Theory and Related Fields* 148(3–4):527–566, 2010.

[Mor] R. Morris. Bootstrap percolation, and other automata. *European Journal of Combinatorics* 66:250–263, 2017.

[Sch] R. Schinazi. On the role of social clusters in the transmission of infectious diseases. *Theoretical Population Biology* 61(2):163–169, 2002.

[Scho] R. H. Schonmann. On the behavior of some cellular automata related to bootstrap percolation. *Ann. Probab.*, 20(1):174–193, 1992.

[Sil+] M. J. Silk, D. P. Croft, R. J. Delahay, D. J. Hodgson, M. Boots, N. Weber, and R. A. McDonald. Using Social Network Measures in Wildlife Disease Ecology, Epidemiology, and Management. *BioScience*, 67(3):245-257, 2017.

[Siv] D. Sivakoff. Contact process on a graph with communities. *ALEA: Latin American Journal of Probability and Statistics* 14:9–31, 2017.

[Sli] E. Slivken. Bootstrap percolation on the Hamming torus with threshold 2. arXiv:1407.2317

[vdB] J. van den Berg and A. Ermakov. A new lower bound for the critical probability of site percolation on the square lattice. *Random Structures & Algorithms*, 8(3):199–212, 1996.

[vE] A. C. D. van Enter. Proof of Straley’s argument for bootstrap percolation. *J. Statist. Phys.*, 48(3-4):943–945, 1987.