On damage spreading transitions

Franco Bagnoli*

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Abstract

We study the damage spreading transition in a generic one-dimensional stochastic cellular automata with two inputs (Domany-Kinzel model) Using an original formalism for the description of the microscopic dynamics of the model, we are able to show analytically that the evolution of the damage between two systems driven by the same noise has the same structure of a directed percolation problem. By means of a mean field approximation, we map the density phase transition into the damage phase transition, obtaining a reliable phase diagram. We extend this analysis to all symmetric cellular automata with two inputs, including the Ising model with heath-bath dynamics.

Key Words: Damage spreading, directed percolation, stochastic cellular automata, disordered systems, symmetry breaking.

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1 Introduction

In this paper we deal with the problem of the evolution of two replicas of a Boolean system (cellular automaton) that evolve stochastically under the same realization of the noise. The system is defined on a regular lattice of $L$ sites and evolves in discrete time steps. We limit the explicit analysis to one dimensional systems, but the results can be extended to higher dimensions.

Let us indicate the time with the index $t = 1, \ldots, \infty$ and the space with $i = 0, 1, \ldots, L-1$. The state variables $\sigma(i, t)$ can assume the values 0 or 1 (Boolean variables). The evolution of $\sigma(i, t)$ is given by probabilistic transition rules and depends on a small number of neighboring sites; in its simpler form, $\sigma(i, t)$ depends only on the state of the two nearest

* Dipartimento di Matematica Applicata, Università di Firenze, via S. Marta, 3 1-50139, Firenze, Italy; INFN and INFM sez. di Firenze. e-mail:bagnoli@ing.unifi.it
neighbors. In this case one can consider the space-time lattice as a tilted square lattice.

In order to simplify the notation, we write $\sigma_+ = \sigma(i + 1, t)$, $\sigma_- = \sigma(i - 1, t)$, $\sigma' = \sigma(i, t + 1)$. The evolution rule can be synthetically written as

$$\sigma' = f(\sigma_-, \sigma_+) .$$

Since the number of possible values of the couple $(\sigma_-, \sigma_+)$ is four, the function $f$ is usually specified by giving the four transition probabilities $\tau(\sigma_-, \sigma_+ \rightarrow 1)$ from each possible configuration to one:

$$\begin{align*}
\tau(0, 0 \rightarrow 1) &= p_0 \\
\tau(0, 1 \rightarrow 1) &= p_1 \\
\tau(1, 0 \rightarrow 1) &= p_2 \\
\tau(1, 1 \rightarrow 1) &= p_3
\end{align*}$$

The normalization condition gives $\tau(\sigma_-, \sigma_+ \rightarrow 0) = 1 - \tau(\sigma_-, \sigma_+ \rightarrow 1)$.

All sites of the lattice are generally updated synchronously. Except for the case of deterministic cellular automata, for which the transition probabilities are either zero or one, we do not expect strong differences between parallel and sequential updating.

This schematization naturally arise in the modelization of several systems (contact processes), in physical and biological investigations. It has been introduced by E. Domany and W. Kinzel [1, 2], and can be considered the prototype for all local stochastic processes. For a short review of the applicability of this model, see references [3] and [4].

In the thermodynamical limit, the Domany-Kinzel (DK) model exhibits a phase transition from an ordered to a disordered phase for $p_0 = 0$. The ordered configuration is $\sigma(i) = 0$ for all $i$ (adsorbing state). The order parameter is the asymptotic density $m = \lim_{t \to \infty} \lim_{L \to \infty} m(t, L)$, where

$$m(t, L) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=0}^{L-1} \sigma(i, t).$$

In the following, we refer to the critical surface $m = 0$ and all its intersections with planes in the $p_j$ space with the symbol $\alpha$ (see the figures).

This transition has been studied mainly for the symmetric case $p_1 = p_2$. Except for a phenomenological renormalization study to which we collaborated [5], the transition line has been found numerically to belong to the universality class of directed percolation, which is a particular case of the model. The disagreement for the renormalization group results can originate from finite-size effects. For the asymmetric case $p_1 \neq p_2$, it has been claimed [6] that the phase transition belongs to a different universality class (mean field).

The existence of an adsorbing state is a non-equilibrium feature of the model, allowing the presence of a phase transition also in a one-dimensional (spatial) system. It is shown in section 4 that in the DK model there can be two adsorbing states ($\sigma(i) = 0$ and $\sigma(i) = 1$), related
by a simple transformation of the transition probabilities. The two transi-
tion lines met at the point $M (p_1 = 1/2, p_3 = 1)$. This point corresponds
to the problem of a random walk in one dimension, and thus exhibit mean
field exponents.

A powerful tool for the investigation of this kind of models is the
study of damage spreading. One considers two replicas $\sigma$ and $\eta$ of the
same model, with different initial conditions (they can be completely un-
correlated or differ only in some sites). The two replicas evolve under the
same realization of the stochasticity. The difference at site $i$ and at time
t $t$ between the two configurations is given by

$$h(i, t) = \sigma(i, t) \oplus \eta(i, t);$$

where the symbol $\oplus$ represents the sum modulus two (eXclusive OR, XOR). Since we use Boolean variables ($a, b \in \{0, 1\}$) one can interpret
the exclusive or as $a \oplus b = a + b - 2ab$. When mixing XOR and AND
(represented as a multiplication), one can use the algebraic rules for the
sum and the multiplication.

The order parameter for the damage spreading transition is the asym-
ptotic Hamming distance $H = \lim_{t \to \infty} \lim_{L \to \infty} H(t, L)$ defined as

$$H(t, L) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=0}^{L-1} h(i, t),$$

using the usual sum.

The critical surface $H = 0$ and its intersection are indicated with the
symbol $\gamma$.

In the DK model, numerical and analytical investigations indicated the existence of a damage spreading phase.

The damage phase transition can be thought as an ergodicity breaking transition: in the phase where the damage disappears, all initial conditions
asymptotically follow a trajectory that does not depend on the initial con-
ditions, but only on the realization of the noise. The Hamming distance
can be easily related to the overlap between the configurations.

The critical exponents for the density and the damage transitions in
the plane $p_1 = p_2$ and $p_0 = 0$ are numerically the same. It has been
guessed that all continuous transition from an adsorbing to and active state belong to the universality class of the DK model (and thus of directed percolation), and that the same universality class should include
all damage spreading transitions.

Here we want to investigate the connection between the density phase
transition and the damage phase transition in the DK model. We have to
carefully describe the dynamics of the model: the position of the transition
line depends on the way in which the randomness is implemented in the
actual simulations. In section we introduce the formalism that allows
an exact description of how randomness is implemented in the model. We
are thus able to write down the evolution equation for the spins, and to
obtain the evolution equation for the distance between two replicas. The
structure of the latter equation corresponds to the DK model with \( p_0 = 0 \).
We conclude that the universality class of damage spreading is, at least for this simple case, that of directed percolation. In section 3 we obtain the phase diagram of the DK model by mapping the transition line for the density to the transition line for the damage by means of mean field approximations. In section 4 we show that one can infer the existence of a phase transition for the damage also in cases for which there is no phase transition for the density, and that there are two disjoint regions in the parameters space for the damage spreading. Finally, conclusions and open questions are drawn in the last section.

2 The damage spreading transition

Let us start from a simple example, the dilution of rule 90 (in Wolfram’s notation [13]) that will also serve to fix the notation. Rule 90 is a deterministic rule that evolves according with

\[
\sigma' = \sigma_\ominus \oplus \sigma_+. 
\]

The transition probabilities for the diluted rule 90 are

\[
\begin{align*}
\tau(0,0 \to 1) &= 0 \\
\tau(0,1 \to 1) &= p \\
\tau(1,0 \to 1) &= p \\
\tau(1,1 \to 1) &= 0,
\end{align*}
\]

\( p \) being the control parameter of the model.

In order to apply rule 90 for a fraction \( p \) of sites, and rule 0 (all configurations give 0) for the rest, one usually extracts a random number \( r = r(i,t) \) for each site and at each time step and chooses the application of rule 90 or rule 0 according with \( r < p \) or \( r \geq p \) resp.

We can easily write the explicit expression for this rule by means of the function \([\cdot]\), assuming that \([\text{logical proposition}]\) takes the value 1 if \text{logical proposition} is true, and 0 otherwise (this interpretation of logical propositions is the standard one in C language). Finally, we have for the diluted rule 90

\[
\sigma' = [r < p] (\sigma_\ominus \oplus \sigma_+). \tag{2}
\]

One can also think of having all random numbers \( r(i,t) \) extracted before the simulation and attached to the sites of the space-time lattice even though they are not always used. The random numbers are thus similar to a space-time quenched (disordered) field.

Once given the set of random numbers, the evolution is completely deterministic, and the evolution function depends on the lattice position (spatial and temporal) via the random numbers \( r(i,t) \). One can alternatively define the model stating that deterministic functions are randomly distributed on the space-time lattice according to a certain probability distribution. This description is very reminiscent of the Kauffman model [14].
The damage spreading can be considered a measure of the stability of the set of possible trajectories, averaging over the realizations of the noise. The original definition of Lyapunov exponent is a measure of the instantaneous effects of a vanishing perturbation. Since the state variables of cellular automata assume only integer values, one has to extend the definition to a finite initial distance (and to finite time steps), thus taking into account the possibility of non-linear effects. For cellular automata, the smallest initial perturbation corresponds to a difference of only one site between the two replicas. The short-time effects of a (vanishing) perturbation define the analogous of the derivatives for a continuous system \[13\]. The study of the equivalent of the usual (linear) Lyapunov exponent for deterministic cellular automata allows a classification of the rules according with the trend of the damage \[16\]. The general problem of damage spreading can thus be considered equivalent to the study of the non-linear Lyapunov exponent (i.e. finite initial distance and finite evolution times) for space-time disordered cellular automata.

Using the concept of Boolean derivatives \[13\], we develop a Boolean function \(f(a, b)\) as

\[
f(a, b) = f_0 \oplus f_1 a \oplus f_2 b \oplus f_3 ab,
\]

where the Taylor coefficients are

\[
\begin{align*}
f_0 &= f(0,0) \\
f_1 &= f(0,1) \oplus f(0,0) \\
f_2 &= f(1,0) \oplus f(0,0) \\
f_3 &= f(1,1) \oplus f(0,1) \oplus f(1,0) \oplus f(0,0).
\end{align*}
\]

One can verify the previous expression by enumerating all the possible values of \(a\) and \(b\).

Using the bracket \([\cdot]\) notation, the transition probabilities \([3]\) correspond to

\[
\begin{align*}
f(0, 0) &= [r_0 < p_0] \\
f(0, 1) &= [r_1 < p_1] \\
f(1, 0) &= [r_2 < p_2] \\
f(1, 1) &= [r_3 < p_3],
\end{align*}
\]

where the random numbers \(r_j(i, t)\) belongs to the interval \([0, 1)\) and constitute the quenched random field. We neglect to indicate the spatial and temporal indices for simplicity.

The Taylor coefficients become

\[
\begin{align*}
f_0 &= [r_0 < p_0] \\
f_1 &= [r_1 < p_1] \oplus [r_0 < p_0] \\
f_2 &= [r_2 < p_2] \oplus [r_0 < p_0] \\
f_3 &= [r_3 < p_3] \oplus [r_2 < p_2] \oplus [r_1 < p_1] \oplus [r_0 < p_0].
\end{align*}
\]

In the following we shall assume \(p_1 = p_2\) and \(r_1 = r_2\) so that \(f_1 = f_2\) and
\[ f_3 = [r_3 < p_3] \oplus [r_0 < p_0]. \]

The correlations among the random numbers \( r_j \) (at same space-time position) affect the position of the critical line for the damage (\( \gamma \)), as already pointed out also by P. Grassberger [3] and E. Domany [17], but not the position of the transition line for the density (\( \alpha \)). Only a careful description of how the randomness is implemented in the model completely specify the problem of damage spreading. In principle one could study the case of generic correlations among these random numbers. Here we consider only two cases: either all \( r_j \) are independent (case i, transition line \( \gamma_i \)) or they are all identical (case ii, transition line \( \gamma_{ii} \)).

The evolution equation for the single site variable \( \sigma = \sigma(i, t) \) is
\[
\sigma' = [r_0 < p_0] \oplus ([r_1 < p_1] \oplus [r_0 < p_0]) (\sigma_- \oplus \sigma_+) \oplus ([r_3 < p_3] \oplus [r_0 < p_0]) \sigma_- \sigma_+.
\]
This equation has the same structure of the evolution equation of the original model (3) if in this latter we set \( p_0 = 0 \). Remembering that only for this value of \( p_0 \) the DK model exhibits a phase transition, we have a strong argument for the correspondence between directed percolation and damage spreading transitions. However, also in the symmetric case \( p_1 = p_2 \) and \( r_1 = r_2 \), the evolution equation of \( h = \sigma \oplus \eta \), obtaining
\[
h' = ([r_1 < p_1] \oplus [r_0 < p_0] \oplus ([r_3 < p_3] \oplus [r_0 < p_0]) \sigma_- \oplus ([r_1 < p_1] \oplus [r_0 < p_0] \oplus ([r_3 < p_3] \oplus [r_0 < p_0]) \sigma_-) \sigma_- \oplus ([r_3 < p_3] \oplus [r_0 < p_0]) \sigma_- \sigma_+.
\]
We can substitute the evolution equation for the replica \( \eta = \sigma \oplus h \), with the evolution equation for the damage \( h = \sigma \oplus \eta \), obtaining
\[
h' = ([r_1 < p_1] \oplus [r_0 < p_0] \oplus ([r_3 < p_3] \oplus [r_0 < p_0]) \sigma_- \oplus ([r_1 < p_1] \oplus [r_0 < p_0] \oplus ([r_3 < p_3] \oplus [r_0 < p_0]) \sigma_-) \sigma_- \oplus ([r_3 < p_3] \oplus [r_0 < p_0]) \sigma_- \sigma_+.
\]
Let us now consider the case \( p_0 = 0 \). Previous numerical investigations showed that on this plane the two curves \( \alpha \) and \( \gamma \) meet at the point \( Q = (\sim 0.81, 0) \). Inserting the value \( p_3 = p_0 = 0 \) in the equation (4), we see that the evolution law for \( h \) is the same of that for \( \sigma \), and so both transitions coincide on this line. This corresponds also to the dilution of rule 90.

Since the rest of the \( \gamma \) curve lies away from the density transition line, the correlations among sites decay rapidly in time and space. This allow us to use a mean field approximation. In the simplest form, we replace \( \sigma(i, t) \) with a random bit that assumes the value one with probability \( m \). With this assumption the equation (4) becomes
\[
h' = ([r_1 < p_1] \oplus [r_3 < p_3] [r_4 < m]) \sigma_- \oplus ([r_1 < p_1] \oplus [r_3 < p_3] [r_5 < m]) \sigma_- \oplus [r_3 < p_3] \sigma_- \sigma_+.
\]

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where $r_4$ and $r_5$ are independent random numbers. This is a strong approximation, both because of correlations and because the same $\sigma(i, t)$ is shared by $h(i - 1, t + 1)$ and $h(i + 1, t + 1)$. Nevertheless, we can assume this equation as a starting point in our derivation of the phase diagram.

We now want to remap this model onto the original DK model, assuming that the asymmetry ($r_4 \neq r_5$), that in average vanishes, does not strongly affect the transition.

The remapped transition probabilities $\tilde{p}$ are

$$
\begin{align*}
\tilde{\tau}(0, 0 & \rightarrow 1) = \tilde{p}_0 = 0 \\
\tilde{\tau}(0, 1 & \rightarrow 1) = \tilde{p}_1 = \pi([r_1 < p_3] \oplus [r_3 < p_3][r_5 < m]) \\
\tilde{\tau}(1, 0 & \rightarrow 1) = \tilde{p}_2 = \pi([r_1 < p_3] \oplus [r_3 < p_3][r_4 < m]) \\
\tilde{\tau}(1, 1 & \rightarrow 1) = \tilde{p}_3 = \pi([r_3 < p_3]([r_4 < m] \oplus [r_5 < m] \oplus 1)),
\end{align*}
$$

where $\pi(f(r)) = \int_0^1 df(r)$ is the probability that the Boolean function $f$ of the random number $r$ takes the value one.

For case (i) ($r_1 \neq r_3$), we have

$$
\begin{align*}
\tilde{p}_1 &= p_1 + p_3 m - 2p_3 p_3 m \\
\tilde{p}_3 &= p_3 (1 - 2 m (1 - m)),
\end{align*}
$$

while for case (ii) ($r_1 = r_3$)

$$
\begin{align*}
\tilde{p}_1 &= m |p_1 - p_3| + (1 - m) p_1; \\
\tilde{p}_3 &= p_3 (1 - 2 m (1 - m)).
\end{align*}
$$

Since $\gamma$ lies in the $p_1 > p_3$ region, one has for case (ii)

$$
\tilde{p}_1 = p_1 - m p_3.
$$

Notice that for $p_3 = 0$ or for $m = 0$ the two curves $\gamma_1$ and $\gamma_{ii}$ coincide, as already noticed numerically by Grassberger [3].

Given a certain point $(p_1, p_3)$, it belongs to the damage transition line $\gamma (H(p_1, p_3) = 0)$ if the point $(\tilde{p}_1, \tilde{p}_3)$ belongs to the density transition line $\alpha (m(p_1, p_3) = 0)$. In order to draw the phase diagram for the Hamming distance, one has to know the value of the density $m$ in all the parameter space, and in particular the position of $\alpha$. Unfortunately, we do not have a simple expression for these quantities; in the next section we use some approximation in order to draw a rough phase diagram. However, we are able to demonstrate that $\alpha$ and $\gamma$ are tangent at point $Q$.

The slope $q$ of the normal to $\alpha$ at $Q$ can be given as

$$
q = \left. \frac{\partial m}{\partial p_1} \right|_{Q} / \left. \frac{\partial m}{\partial p_3} \right|_{Q}.
$$

Considering that $\gamma \equiv H(p_1, p_3) = 0 \equiv m(\tilde{p}_1(p_1, p_3), \tilde{p}_3(p_1, p_3)) = 0$, the partial derivatives of $H$ are given by

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial H}{\partial p_1} &= \frac{\partial m}{\partial p_1} \tilde{p}_1 + \frac{\partial m}{\partial p_3} \tilde{p}_3; \\
\frac{\partial H}{\partial p_3} &= \frac{\partial m}{\partial p_1} \tilde{p}_1 + \frac{\partial m}{\partial p_3} \tilde{p}_3.
\end{align*}
$$
One has to take into account that $p_j$ depends on $p_i$ both directly and via $m$. Inserting the relations \( \overline{6} \) or \( \overline{7} \) and considering that at point $Q$, $m = p_3 = 0$ one obtains that

$$ q' = \left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_1} \right|_Q = \left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_3} \right|_Q = q. $$

Since we know from numerical experiments and from all mean field approximation beyond the very first one that the slope of $\alpha$ at $Q$ is negative in the $(p_1, p_3)$ plane, the tangency of $\gamma$ to $\alpha$ implies a reentrant behavior for the damage transition curve, as observed in reference \( \overline{9} \).

### 3 The phase diagram

The problem of sketching an approximate phase diagram for the damage in an analytical way has been dealt with by several authors \( \overline{7, 9, 10} \). Since any equation for the damage depends on the behavior of one replica, there are two sources of errors to be controlled: the approximations for the evolution of one replica and that for the difference (or for the other replica). As a consequence, all approximation schemes proposed so far require large efforts for a poor result. Our method is able to exploit the knowledge of the density phase to study the damage phase transition. There are several methods that rapidly converge to a good approximation of $\alpha$; to our knowledge the best ones are the phenomenological renormalization group \( \overline{5} \) and the cluster approximation (local structure) \( \overline{18} \) improved by finite-size scaling. This latter method can also give a good approximation of the behavior of $m(p_0, p_1, p_3)$ at any point.

Since here we are not interested in numerical competitions, we use the high-quality data for the density transition line from reference \( \overline{3} \) combined with a first order mean field approximation for the density. The $\alpha$ curve has been approximated in the $(p_1, p_3)$ plane by a 5th order polynomial

$$ p_3 = \sum_{i=0}^{5} a_i p_1^i. \quad (8) $$

The simplest mean field approximation for the asymptotic density $m$ gives

$$ m = \frac{1 - 2p_1}{p_3 - 2p_1}. $$

By using these approximations one obtains from equations \( \overline{1} \) or \( \overline{2} \) the curves reported in figure \( \overline{4} \), together with the presently best numerical results \( \overline{3} \). The main source of error is that in the mean field approximation the $\alpha$ curve does not correspond to the zero of the density. This is particularly evident in the absence of reentrancy of curves $\gamma_1$ and $\gamma_2$. Nevertheless even this rough approximation is able to reproduce qualitatively the phase diagram and to exhibit the influence on the damage critical line of the different implementations of randomness. Notice that the $\gamma$ curve from reference \( \overline{3} \) corresponds to the implementation of equation \( \overline{1} \).
4 The $p_0 > 0$ case

The DK model with arbitrary $p_0$ includes all one dimensional symmetric cellular automaton model or spin system with two inputs. We can represent each possible model as a point in the three dimensional unit cube parametrized by $p_0, p_1, p_3$. The general form of the transition probabilities from equation (4) is

$$
\tilde{p}_1 = p_1 + (1 - 2p_1)(mp_3 + (1 - m)p_0);
\tilde{p}_3 = (p_3 + p_3 - 2p_0p_3)(1 - 2m + 2m^2).
$$

(9)

There is a trivial transformation of the original DK model with $p_0 = 0$. One can revert ($0 \leftrightarrow 1$) all the spins before and after the application of the rule. The new transition probabilities $p_i'$ are

$$
p_0' = 1 - p_3;
p_1' = 1 - p_1;
p_3' = 1 - p_0.
$$

The critical plane $p_0 = 0$ maps to $p_3 = 1$, and the adsorbing state is now the configuration in which all spins are one. We indicate with the symbol $\alpha'$ the critical curve obtained by this transformation. The point $Q$ is mapped to the point $Q' = (1, \sim 0.2, 1)$. The parameter cube and the critical curves are reported in figure 2. This mapping suggests the presence of a damaged zone near the corner $(1, 0, 1)$.

In order to study the position of the critical surfaces for the damage, we numerically solved equation (9) combined with the expression (8) of the critical line $\alpha$ in the very simple approximation $m = 0.5$. The results are reported in figure 3. Direct numerical simulations qualitatively agree with this picture.

The one dimensional Ising model in zero field with heat bath dynamics can also be expressed with this formalism.

The local field $g = g_i$ for the one dimensional Ising model is

$$
g = K ((2\sigma_+ - 1) + (2\sigma_- - 1)),$$

where $K = \beta J = J/k_B T$ is the rescaled coupling constant and $\sigma = 0, 1$ the site variables (spin). The local field $g$ can assume the values $-2K, 0, 2K$.

For the heat bath dynamics, $\sigma'$ takes the value one with probability $p$ given by

$$
p = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-2g)}.
$$

The transition probabilities are

$$
p_0 = \frac{\xi}{1 + \xi};
p_1 = \frac{1}{2};
p_3 = \frac{1}{1 + \xi}.
$$
where $\xi = \exp(-4K)$. Notice that $p_3 = 1 - p_0$; for $T > 0$, $p_0 < 1/2$, while for negative temperatures $p_0 > 1/2$. The point $p_0 = p_3 = 1/2$ corresponds to infinite $T$.

The evolution equation for the site variable is

$$
\sigma' = \begin{cases} 
[r < p_0] \oplus ([r < p_1] \oplus [r < p_2]) (\sigma_+ \oplus \sigma_-) \oplus \\
([r < p_3] \oplus [r < p_0]) \sigma_+ \sigma_-;
\end{cases}
$$

where usually all Taylor coefficients depend on the same random number $r = r(i, t)$. The existence line $\omega_+$ for the Ising model with $T > 0$, $p_1 = 1/2$, $p_3 = 1 - p_0$, intersects the critical line $\alpha$ at $M = (0, 1/2, 1)$. The existence line $\omega_-$ for $T < 0$ ends at $M' = (1, 1/2, 0)$. The point $R = (1/2, 1/2, 1/2)$ corresponds to $T = \infty$ (see figure 2).

The evolution equation for the Hamming distance $h$ is equivalent to equation (4), with all $r_j$ equal to $r$. Taking into account the correlations induced by the random numbers, and that the magnetization is $1/2$ except at the critical point, one obtains

$$
\hat{p}_1 = \frac{1 - \xi}{2(1 + \xi)};
$$

$$
\hat{p}_3 = \frac{1 - \xi}{1 + \xi},
$$

i.e. the line $\chi \equiv p_3 = 2p_2$, $p_0 = 0$ for positive or negative temperatures. The line $\chi$ intersects $\alpha$ at point $M$ for $T = 0^\pm$, confirming that the symmetry breaking transition for the Ising model occurs at zero temperature.

5 Conclusions and perspectives

In this work we presented a formalism that allows the careful description of Boolean algorithms for stochastic cellular automata (including spin system like the Ising model). Using this formalism we were able to derive the exact equation for the evolution of a damage between two replicas that evolve under the same realization of the noise. Using a mean field hypothesis, we gave strong indications that the critical line for the damage phase transition belongs to the same universality class of that for the density in the DK model, and thus to the directed percolation universality class. We mapped the density critical line to the damage critical line, obtaining the regions in the parameter space of a general symmetric cellular automaton where the replica symmetry breaking is to be expected. Our predictions are qualitatively confirmed by numerical simulations.

Several questions remain to be answered. Among others: is it possible to obtain similar results starting from a field description? How does the phase diagram for more general (asymmetric, three-input, etc.) cellular automata look like?

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Figure Captions

1. Phase diagram for the density and the damage in the DK model \((p_0 = 0)\). The curve labeled \(\alpha\) is the density transition line and the one labeled \(\gamma\) is the damage transition line from reference [3]; the curves labeled \(\gamma_i\) and \(\gamma_{ii}\) correspond to mean field approximation of equations (6) and (7) resp.

2. The parameter cube for the general symmetric cellular automata. The dashed curves labeled \(\alpha\) and \(\alpha'\) belong to planes \(p_0 = 0\) and \(p_3 = 1\) resp., and correspond to the density phase transitions. The solid curves correspond to the intersection of the damage critical surface (shaded) \(\gamma\) and \(\gamma'\) with the boundaries of the cube. The dotted-dashed lines labeled \(\omega_+\) and \(\omega_-\) correspond to the existence line for the Ising model for positive and negative temperatures, resp. The points labeled \(M\) and \(M'\) to the critical points of Ising model at zero temperature, and the point labeled \(R\) to infinite temperature. The dotted line labeled \(\chi\) corresponds to the damage in the Ising model.
Figure 2