# Upper tail decay of KPZ models with Brownian initial conditions

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10th World Congress in Probability and Statistics 19–23 July 2021



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#### Introduction

joint work with Partik L. Ferrari (Bonn)

P. L. Ferrari, B. Vető: Upper tail decay of KPZ models with Brownian initial conditions, *Electron. Commun. Probab.* **26** (2021), no. 15, 1–14

Motivation: large scale fluctuations of physical phenomena describing surface growth

- crystallization
- interface evolution
- wetting and burning fronts

KPZ equation (Kardar, Parisi, Zhang, 1986):

$$\partial_t h = \frac{1}{2} \partial_x^2 h + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_x h)^2 + \xi$$

where  $\xi$  is two-dimensional white noise





## Kardar–Parisi–Zhang universality conjecture

Mathematical surface growth models with

- smoothing effect
- slope dependent growth speed
- independent noise in space-time

belong to the Kardar–Parisi–Zhang (KPZ) universality class

Conjectural behaviour: universal limiting fluctuations of the rescaled height

$$\frac{h(Lt, L^{2/3}x) - \mathsf{E}(h(Lt, L^{2/3}x))}{L^{1/3}}$$

which depend on the initial condition

Conjecture: open in general, partial answers in specific (integrable) models

Typical model: totally asymmetric simple exclusion process (TASEP) or corner growth model



- particles correspond to decreasing segments
- holes correspond to increasing segments



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## TASEP results

Time evolution: each particle jumps to the right by one at unit rate subject to the exclusion rule (jump is suppressed if target position is occupied)

Step initial condition: negative integer positions are occupied

#### Theorem (Johansson, 2000)

Let h(t, x) denote the height function corresponding to TASEP with step initial condition. Then

$$\mathsf{P}\left(rac{h(L,0)-L/2}{L^{1/3}}\geq -s
ight)
ightarrow \mathsf{F}_{\mathrm{GUE}}(s)$$

as  $L \to \infty$ .

**Airy**<sub>2</sub> **process:**  $A_2(x) - x^2 = -\lim_{L\to\infty} \frac{h(L,L^{2/3}x) - L/2}{L^{1/3}}$  scaling limit of the height as a function of the position; the Airy<sub>2</sub> process  $A_2(x)$  is stationary with  $F_{\text{GUE}}$  marginal

# Initial conditions<br/>stepperiodicstacionaryh(0, x) = |x| $h(0, x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x \text{ even} \\ 1 & \text{for } x \text{ odd} \end{cases}$ $(h(0, x), x \in \mathbb{Z})$ <br/>two-sided RW

Theorem (Corwin, Liu, Wang, 2016)

Let  $h_0(x) = \lim_{L \to \infty} \frac{h(0, L^{2/3}x)}{L^{1/3}}$  be the rescaled initial height for TASEP. Then

$$\mathsf{P}\left(\frac{h(L,0)-L/2}{L^{1/3}} \ge -s\right) \to \mathsf{P}\left(\max_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \left(\mathcal{A}_2(y) - y^2 - h_0(y)\right) \le s\right)$$

as  $L \to \infty$ .

$$h_0^{\text{step}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } x \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad h_0^{\text{per}}(x) = 0, \ h_0^{\text{stat}}(x) \text{ two-sided BM}$$

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#### The parametric distribution $F^{(\sigma)}$

Let  $\sigma \geq 0$  be a parameter. Let B(x) denote a standard two-sided Brownian motion. We assume that for the initial condition of TASEP  $\frac{h(0,L^{2/3}x)}{L^{1/3}} \rightarrow \sigma B(x)$  holds as  $L \rightarrow \infty$ . Then

$$\mathsf{P}\left(rac{h(L,0)-L/2}{L^{1/3}}\geq -s
ight)
ightarrow \mathsf{F}^{(\sigma)}(s)$$

where  $F^{(\sigma)}(s) = P(\max_{y \in \mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{A}_2(y) - y^2 + \sqrt{2}\sigma B(y)) \leq s)$  (see Chhita, Ferrari, Spohn, 2018).  $\mathcal{A}_2(y)$  and B(y) are independent.

The  $\sigma = 0$  case is the periodic initial condition,  $\sigma = 1$  corresponds to the stationary initial condition.

Theorem (Ferrari, V, 2021, conjecture: Meerson, Schmidt, 2017) Let  $\sigma \ge 0$  be fixed. Then there are positive real constants  $C_1, C_2$  such that

$$C_1 \, s^{-3/4} e^{-rac{4}{3} rac{1}{\sqrt{1+3\sigma^4}} s^{3/2}} \le 1 - \mathcal{F}^{(\sigma)}(s) \le C_2 \, s^{3/4} \ln(s) \, e^{-rac{4}{3} rac{1}{\sqrt{1+3\sigma^4}} s^{3/2}}$$

as  $s 
ightarrow \infty$ .

# Tail decay of the distribution $F^{(\sigma)}$

Idea: write

 $\mathcal{A}_2(y) - y^2 + \sqrt{2}\sigma B(y) = (\mathcal{A}_2(y) - (1-c)y^2) + (\sqrt{2}\sigma B(y) - cy^2)$ Known asymptotics:

• 
$$1 - F_{\rm GUE}(s) \simeq e^{-\frac{4}{3}s^{3/2}}$$

• for any  $c\in (0,3/4)$ ,  $\mathsf{P}(\max_{y\in\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{A}_2(y)-(1-c)y^2)>s)\simeq e^{-rac{4}{3}s^{3/2}}$ 

• for any 
$$c \in (0,1)$$
 the density of  $\max_{y \in \mathbb{R}} (\sqrt{2}\sigma B(y) - cy^2)$  at  $s$  is  
 $\simeq e^{-\frac{4}{3\sqrt{3}}\frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sigma^2}s^{3/2}}$ 

#### Theorem (Ferrari, V, 2021)

There is a constant C > 0 such that for all  $c \in (0, 1)$ 

$$1 - F_{ ext{GUE}}(s) \leq \mathsf{P}\left(\max_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \left(\mathcal{A}_2(y) - (1-c)y^2
ight) > s
ight) \leq C rac{\ln(s/(1-c))}{s^{3/4}\sqrt{1-c}} e^{-rac{4}{3}s^{3/2}}$$

holds as  $s \to \infty$ .

(a)

#### Tail decay of the distribution $F^{(\sigma)}$ Upper bound: for any $c \in (0, 1)$

$$\begin{split} &\mathsf{P}\left(\max_{y\in\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{A}_{2}(y)-y^{2}+\sqrt{2}\sigma B(y))>s\right)\\ &\leq \mathsf{P}\left(\max_{y\in\mathbb{R}}(\sqrt{2}\sigma B(y)-cy^{2})+\max_{y\in\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{A}_{2}(y)-(1-c)y^{2})>s\right)\\ &\simeq \int_{0}^{1}e^{-\frac{4}{3\sqrt{3}}\frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sigma^{2}}(\mu s)^{3/2}}\mathsf{P}\left(\max_{y\in\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{A}_{2}(y)-(1-c)y^{2})>(1-\mu)s\right)\mathrm{d}\mu\\ &\simeq \int_{0}^{1}e^{g(\mu)s^{3/2}}\mathrm{d}\mu \end{split}$$

where  $g(\mu) = -\frac{4}{3\sqrt{3}} \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sigma^2} \mu^{3/2} - \frac{4}{3} (1-\mu)^{3/2}$ . The maximum of  $g(\mu)$  at  $\mu_0 = \frac{3\sigma^4}{c+3\sigma^4}$  is  $g(\mu_0) = -\frac{4}{3} \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{c+3\sigma^4}} = -\frac{4}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+3\sigma^4}} + C(1-c) + O((1-c)^2)$  as  $c \to 1$ . By choosing  $1 - c = s^{-3/2}$ , we have  $g(\mu_0)s^{3/2} = -\frac{4}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+3\sigma^4}}s^{3/2} + C + o(1)$ . Lower bound: same integral with c = 1 for the argmax of  $\sqrt{2\sigma}B(y) = y_{0,0}^2$ 

#### The end

#### Thank you for your attention!



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