

Phys525:  
Quantum Condensed Matter Physics: Quantum Criticality  
Basics, Dynamics and Topological criticality

Episode 8:  
Coarse graining and Imaginary time evolution

# Coarse graining (classical Ising spins)

$$Z = \sum_{\{\sigma_i\}, i \in \text{lattice}} \exp(-\beta H_{\text{Ising}}(\{\sigma_i\})), \sigma_i = \pm 1$$

- Mapped into

$$Z = \int D\phi(r) \exp(-F(\{\phi(r)\})), \int D\phi(r) = \prod_r \int d\phi(r), \phi(r) \in R^1$$

$$F(\{\phi(\vec{r})\}) = \vec{\nabla}\phi(\vec{r}) \cdot \vec{\nabla}\phi(\vec{r}) \\ + \alpha \phi^2(\vec{r}) + \beta \phi^4(\vec{r}) + \dots$$

\* terms forbidden:  $\vec{\nabla}, \vec{\nabla}^3, \dots$

$\phi^3, \phi^5, \dots$

\* irrelevant terms:  $\phi^6, (\nabla^2\phi)^2, \dots$

Remark on Scaling / RGE (More discussions later)

$$\vec{F}_\lambda = \vec{F}(\{\phi_i\}, i=1 \dots \infty; \tilde{\alpha}_\lambda, \tilde{\beta}_\lambda, \dots)$$

$\uparrow$   
for Grain size  $N = 2^\lambda$  spins;  $\lambda$ , scale factor.

$$\frac{d\tilde{\alpha}_\lambda}{d\lambda} = \beta_\alpha(\tilde{\alpha}_\lambda, \tilde{\beta}_\lambda), \quad \frac{d\tilde{\beta}_\lambda}{d\lambda} = \beta_\beta(\tilde{\alpha}_\lambda, \tilde{\beta}_\lambda)$$

# Supplementary materials on scale symmetry (a very practical definition)

$R \rightarrow R e^\lambda$   
 $G(R, 0) \rightarrow G(e^\lambda R, 0) \sim G(R, 0)$   
 $G(R, 0) \sim \frac{1}{r^X}, \quad X = 2 \Delta_\phi$

$$G(e^\lambda R, 0) = e^{-\lambda \cdot 2 \Delta_\phi} G(R, 0)$$

$$\vec{r} \rightarrow \vec{r}' = e^{\lambda} \vec{r} \quad \text{or} \quad r = e^{\lambda} r'$$

$$\psi(\vec{r}) \rightarrow \psi'(\vec{r}') = e^{\lambda \Delta \phi} \psi(\vec{r})$$

$$G'(\vec{r}', 0) = e^{2\lambda \Delta \phi} G(\vec{r}, 0)$$

Rescaled

$$= G(\vec{r}', 0)$$

definition of Scale Symmetry via fields

# Early works in SM: Kadanoff block spins (60s)

- *Coarse graining* without using real fields but using a **block spin** to represent dynamics of a grain of a few spins and then repeat many times.

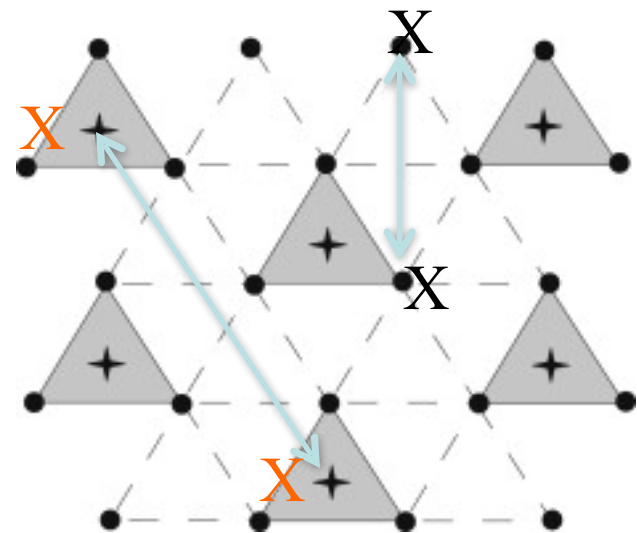
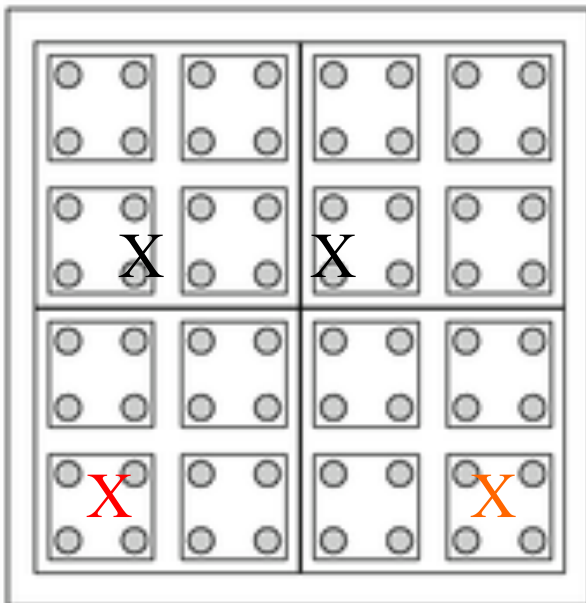
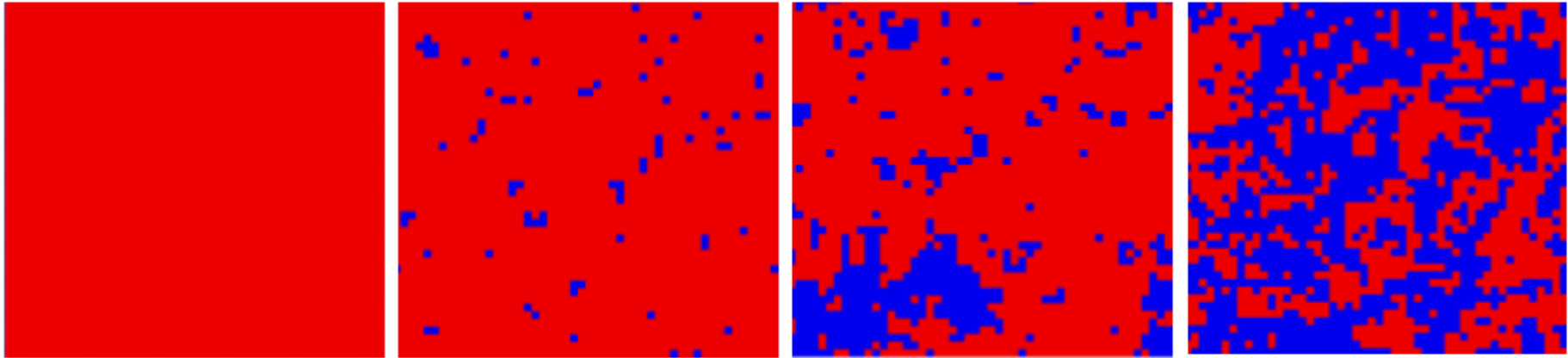
# Emergent Scale Symmetry at critical point of Ising Model ( $H = -J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} S_i * S_j$ , Kadanoff, 1960s)

$T=1 \quad J/k_B$

$T=2 \quad J/k_B$

$T=T_c$

$T=3 \quad J/k_B$



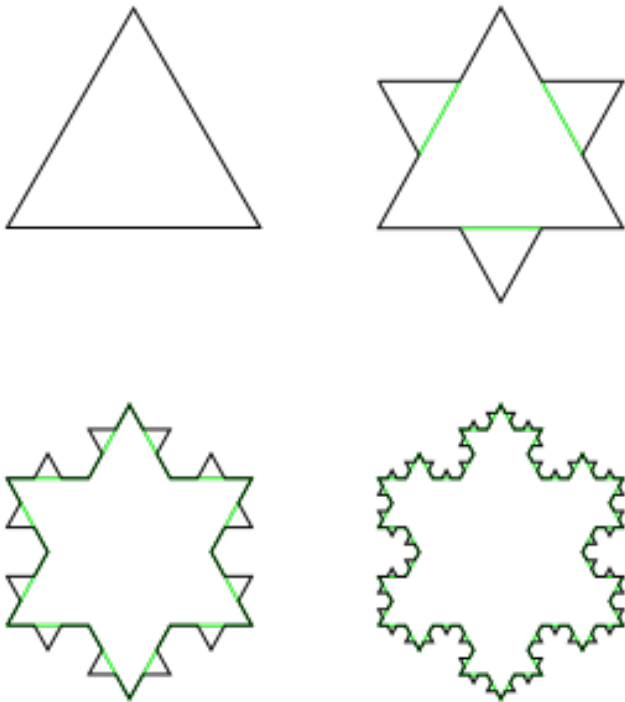
X: spin; X: block spin



# Scale symmetries in nature

The correlation of **BLOCK spins** ( $b \times b$ ) at distance  $bL$  away  
= The the correlations of **Microscopic spins** at distance  $L$  away.

-->The correlation of coarse grained fields at distance  $Lb$   
=The correlation of original fields at distance  $L$



# Strongly Interacting Physics in Condensed Matter Physics: “Emergent scale symmetries”

40s-50s

...

Fermi liquids;

Order parameter /  
phase transitions;

BCS  
superconductivity

...

60s-70s

...

Scale symmetry at  
critical points,  
Wilsonian  
renormalization.

Topological Phase  
transitions  
(Kosterlitz-Thouless)

...

80s-now

...

HTcS;

FQH;

Topological/non-  
topological spin states  
 (“topologically Order  
parameters”?)

(Kitaev, Preskill,  
2006; Levin, Wen,  
2006)

Back to the quantum Ising model.