

DYNAMICAL MODELS FOR CIRCLE COVERING: BROWNIAN MOTION AND POISSON UPDATING

JOHAN JONASSON AND JEFFREY E. STEIF

ABSTRACT. We consider two dynamical variants of the classical problem of random interval coverings of the unit circle, the latter having been completely solved by L. Shepp. In the first model, the centers of the intervals perform independent Brownian motions and in the second model, the positions of the intervals are updated according to independent Poisson processes where an interval of length ℓ is updated at rate $\ell^{-\alpha}$ where α is a parameter. For the model with Brownian motions, a special case of our results is that if the length of the n th interval is c/n , then there are times at which a fixed point is not covered if and only if $c < 2$ and there are times at which the circle is not fully covered if and only if $c < 3$. For the Poisson updating model, we obtain analogous results with $c < \alpha$ and $c < \alpha + 1$ instead. We also compute the Hausdorff dimension of the set of exceptional times for some of these questions.

AMS Subject classification : 60K99

Key words and phrases: Circle coverings, Brownian motion, exceptional times, Hausdorff dimension

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The classical (static) circle covering model. Let C denote the circle with circumference 1 and consider a decreasing sequence $\{\ell_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ of positive numbers approaching 0. Let $\{U_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of independent random variables each of which is uniformly distributed on C . Let I_n be the open arc of C with center point U_n and length ℓ_n . Let $E := \limsup_n I_n$ and $F := E^c$. It follows immediately from the Borel-Cantelli Lemma that for each $x \in C$, $P(x \in E) = 1$ if and only if $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \ell_n = \infty$. Fubini's Theorem yields immediately that in this case F has Lebesgue measure 0 a.s. In 1956, Dvoretzky (see [3]) raised the question of whether in the $\sum_n \ell_n = \infty$ case it was possible that F was nonempty and gave examples where this occurred. There were a number of various contributions to this question with the final result proved by Shepp, (see [14]). Note that Kolmogorov's 0-1 law tells us that $P(F = \emptyset) \in \{0, 1\}$.

Theorem 1.1. (*L. Shepp*). $P(F = \emptyset) = 1$ if and only if

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} e^{\ell_1 + \dots + \ell_n} = \infty.$$

In particular if $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n , then $P(F = \emptyset) = 1$ if and only if $c \geq 1$.

The special cases $\ell_n = c/n$ for a constant c were known earlier. The result for $c > 1$ was proved by Kahane (see [9]) and that for $c < 1$ was proved by Billard (see [2]). For the case $c = 1$, Billard also showed that F is at most countable while Mandelbrot (see [11]) and independently Orey (unpublished) then showed that F is a.s. empty in this case. The result that F is at most countable for $c = 1$ also appeared in the first edition of Kahane's book (see [10]) where some of the above results were also presented. The second edition of this book also contains some more history as well as other results such as the Hausdorff dimension of F and a determination of which sets intersect F with positive probability, described in terms of their Hausdorff dimension. We finally mention that in recent years, many refinements of these results have been obtained; see [4], [5] and [1]. We finally mention that it is trivial to check that for any sequence $\{\ell_n\}_{n \geq 1}$, E is dense a.s.

1.2. The dynamical circle covering model. In this paper, we consider two dynamical variants of the above problem. In the first of these models, each of the centers U_n perform independent Brownian motions on C , each with variance 1. In the second model, we associate independent Poisson processes with the different intervals, where the Poisson process associated with the n th interval has intensity $\ell_n^{-\alpha}$ for some real parameter α . At the times of the Poisson process associated to the n th interval, I_n is given a new center, chosen uniformly on C , independent of everything else.

We then ask for each of these two models if there are exceptional times at which we see different “covering behavior” from that which is seen in the earlier static model. We have potentially five (or even more) different types of exceptional times, depending on the ℓ_n 's and which of the two models we are looking at.

- (I) times when a fixed point is not covered even though $\sum_n \ell_n = \infty$,
- (II) times when the circle is not fully covered even though $\sum_n e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^2 = \infty$,
- (III) times when a fixed point is covered i.o. even though $\sum_n \ell_n < \infty$,
- (IV) times when the circle is fully covered i.o. even though $\sum_n e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^2 < \infty$,
- (V) times when E is not dense.

To state things more formally, consider the first dynamical model. Here we let for each $i \geq 1$, $\{U_{i,t}\}_{t \geq 0}$ be an independent standard Brownian motion on C started uniformly. For the second dynamical model, let $\{\{C_{i,j}\}_{i,j \geq 1}, \{Y_{i,j}\}_{i,j \geq 1}\}$ be independent random variables with $C_{i,j}$ being uniformly distributed on C and with $Y_{i,j}$ being exponentially distributed

with parameter $\ell_i^{-\alpha}$. For each $i \geq 1$, let $T_{i,0} := 0$ and for $j \geq 1$, let $T_{i,j} := \sum_{k=1}^j Y_{i,k}$. In this way, $(T_{i,j})_{j \geq 1}$ is a Poisson process with rate $\ell_i^{-\alpha}$, independent for different i . Finally, we let $U_{i,t} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} C_{i,j} \mathbf{1}_{[T_{i,j-1}, T_{i,j})}(t)$. Henceforth we refer to the first model as the Brownian model and the second as the Poisson model with parameter α . In either case, we let $I_{n,t}$ be the open arc of C with center point $U_{n,t}$ and length ℓ_n . Let $E_t := \limsup_n I_{n,t}$ and $F_t := E_t^c$.

Conventions and notation. Our circle C is $\{(x, y) : x^2 + y^2 = 1/(2\pi)^2\}$. When we subtract two elements in C , we mean modular arithmetic so that $(1/(2\pi), 0)$ is the identity. If $x \in C$, by $|x|$ we mean arclength from the identity; in this way $|x| \in [0, 1/2]$ and $|x| = 0$ only for $(1/(2\pi), 0)$. The real line projects onto C via $u \rightarrow 1/(2\pi)(\cos(2\pi u), \sin(2\pi u))$. We will assume without loss of generality that $\ell_1 \leq 1/2$. Throughout much of the paper, we will also assume that

$$\ell_n = \Theta(1/n) \tag{1}$$

i.e. that there are constants $0 < M_0 \leq M_1 < \infty$ such that for every n , $M_0/n \leq \ell_n \leq M_1/n$. Besides Θ notation, as usual $O(1)$ will denote a quantity which is bounded away from ∞ .

Remark on the parametrization of the Poisson model. One might think that the most natural parameter would be $\alpha = 0$. However, in the Brownian model the average time to cover most of the circle is of order 1 and therefore in the Poisson model one should take $\alpha = 1$. On the other hand, what turns out to be important is the time that it takes for the n th interval to move a distance of order ℓ_n and for the Brownian model, this time is of order ℓ_n^2 . To make the expected motion of the n th interval in the Poisson model of similar order, we should take $\alpha = 2$. These considerations suggest that we carry out our analysis for general α . However, we point out that the results for the $\alpha = 2$ case will match very well the results for the Brownian case.

Measurability Remark. Insuring the measurability of the events described below can be handled in the same way as was done in [8] for dynamical percolation. Also, the fact that all the events described below have probability 0 or 1 (once we know that they are measurable) follows immediately from Kolmogorov's 0-1 law.

For a fixed point $x \in C$, in the $\ell_n = \Theta(1/n)$ case, it follows immediately from the Borel-Cantelli Lemma that $P(x \in F) = 0$ and hence for any of the dynamical models, by Fubini's Theorem, $\{t : x \in F_t\}$ has Lebesgue measure 0 a.s. The question we address in the first two theorems is when there are exceptional times t at which x is covered by only finitely many of the $I_{n,t}$'s; i.e., $x \in F_t$. See [10] for the definition of Hausdorff dimension which we denote here by HD.

Theorem 1.2. *Assume that (1) holds. Consider the Brownian model. Fix $x \in C$ and let $u_n := \prod_{k=1}^n (1 - \ell_k)$.*

(i). If $\liminf_n n^2 u_n < \infty$, then $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t) = 0$. In particular, if $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n , then this holds if $c \geq 2$.

(ii). If $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^3 < \infty$, then $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t) = 1$. In particular, if $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n , then this holds if $c < 2$.

(iii). Let

$$\beta_0 := \inf \left\{ \beta : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+\beta}} < \infty \right\}.$$

Then

$$\text{HD}(\{t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t\}) = \left(1 - \frac{\beta_0}{2}\right) \wedge 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

In particular, in the case $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n with $c \leq 2$, we have

$$\text{HD}(\{t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t\}) = 1 - \frac{c}{2} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Remarks. Unfortunately we have not been able to determine the behavior of the Brownian model for the “intermediate” cases when the conditions in (i) and (ii) both fail. An example of such a sequence would be $\ell_n = 2/n - 1/(n \log n)$. On the other hand, an example of a sequence which leads to exceptional times but where the HD of these exceptional times is 0 is given by $\ell_n = 2/n - 1/(n\sqrt{\log n})$.

The Poisson model however turns out to be more amenable to our analysis and we obtain an exact condition for having exceptional times of type (I).

Theorem 1.3. *Assume that (1) holds. Consider the Poisson model with parameter $\alpha > 0$. Fix $x \in C$.*

(i). Then $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t) = 1$ if and only if

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+\alpha}} < \infty.$$

In particular, if $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n , then this holds if and only if $c < \alpha$.

(ii). Let, as in Theorem 1.2,

$$\beta_0 := \inf \left\{ \beta : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+\beta}} < \infty \right\}.$$

Then

$$\text{HD}(\{t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t\}) = \left(1 - \frac{\beta_0}{\alpha}\right) \wedge 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

In particular, in the case $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n with $c \leq \alpha$, we have

$$\text{HD}(\{t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t\}) = 1 - \frac{c}{\alpha} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Remarks. The case $\alpha \leq 0$ is almost trivially covered by the Borel-Cantelli Lemma by noting that the probability that the n th interval covers x for the whole time span $[0, 1]$ is then at least $e^{-1}\ell_n$. Hence there are no exceptional times of type (I) for $\alpha \leq 0$.

Our next two results deal with the question of exceptional times of type (II).

Theorem 1.4. *Assume that (1) holds. Consider the Brownian model and let u_n be defined as in Theorem 1.2.*

(i). *If $\liminf_n n^3 u_n < \infty$, then*

$$P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 0.$$

In particular if $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n , then this holds if $c \geq 3$.

(ii). *If $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^4 < \infty$, then*

$$P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 1.$$

In particular if $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n , then this holds if $c < 3$.

(iii). *Let, as in Theorem 1.2,*

$$\beta_0 := \inf\left\{\beta : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+\beta}} < \infty\right\}.$$

Then a.s.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a) } \text{HD}(\{(t, x) : x \in F_t\}) &= \begin{cases} 2 - \frac{\beta_0}{2} & \text{if } 0 \leq \beta_0 \leq 2 \\ 3 - \beta_0 & \text{if } 2 \leq \beta_0 \leq 3 \\ 0 & \text{if } \beta_0 \geq 3 \end{cases} \\ \text{(b) } \text{HD}(\{x : \exists t : x \in F_t\}) &= \begin{cases} = 1 & \text{if } 0 \leq \beta_0 < 2 \\ \leq 3 - \beta_0 & \text{if } 2 \leq \beta_0 \leq 3 \\ = 0 & \text{if } \beta_0 \geq 3 \end{cases} \\ \text{(c) } \text{HD}(\{t : F_t \neq \emptyset\}) &= \begin{cases} = 1 & \text{if } 0 \leq \beta_0 < 1 \\ \leq \frac{3-\beta_0}{2} & \text{if } 1 \leq \beta_0 \leq 3 \\ = 0 & \text{if } \beta_0 \geq 3 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

In particular, in the case $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n and $c < 3$, then the dimension bounds are simply obtained by plugging in c for β_0 .

Remarks. The first equalities in (b) and (c) hold since the event in question then occurs at a fixed time. Note the lack of smoothness in (a) at $\beta_0 = 2$ which is of course due to the fact that 2 is the critical value arising in Theorem 1.2. As for the type (I) case, there are intermediate cases such as $\ell_n = 3/n - 1/(n \log n)$ where both (i) and (ii) fail and so we cannot determine if there are exceptional times. This will also occur in the Poisson case.

Theorem 1.5. *Assume that (1) holds. Consider the Poisson model with parameter $\alpha > 0$.*

(i). *If $\liminf_n n^{1+\alpha} u_n < \infty$, then*

$$P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 0.$$

In particular if $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n , then this holds if $c \geq 1 + \alpha$.

(ii). *If*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{2+\alpha}} < \infty,$$

then $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 1$. In particular, when $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n , then this holds if $c < 1 + \alpha$.

(iii). *Let, as in Theorem 1.2,*

$$\beta_0 := \inf \left\{ \beta : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+\beta}} < \infty \right\}.$$

Then a.s.

$$(a) \text{ (for } \alpha \geq 1) \text{ HD}(\{(t, x) : x \in F_t\}) = \begin{cases} 2 - \frac{\beta_0}{\alpha} & \text{if } 0 \leq \beta_0 \leq \alpha \\ 1 + \alpha - \beta_0 & \text{if } \alpha \leq \beta_0 \leq 1 + \alpha \\ 0 & \text{if } \beta_0 \geq 1 + \alpha \end{cases}$$

$$(a') \text{ (for } \alpha \in (0, 1)) \text{ HD}(\{(t, x) : x \in F_t\}) = \begin{cases} 2 - \beta_0 & \text{if } 0 \leq \beta_0 \leq 1 \\ \frac{1+\alpha-\beta_0}{\alpha} & \text{if } 1 \leq \beta_0 \leq 1 + \alpha \\ 0 & \text{if } \beta_0 \geq 1 + \alpha \end{cases}$$

$$(b) \text{ HD}(\{x : \exists t : x \in F_t\}) \begin{cases} = 1 & \text{if } 0 \leq \beta_0 < \alpha \\ \leq 1 + \alpha - \beta_0 & \text{if } \alpha \leq \beta_0 \leq 1 + \alpha \\ = 0 & \text{if } \beta_0 \geq 1 + \alpha \end{cases}$$

$$(c) \text{ HD}(\{t : F_t \neq \emptyset\}) \begin{cases} = 1 & \text{if } 0 \leq \beta_0 < 1 \\ \leq \frac{1+\alpha-\beta_0}{\alpha} & \text{if } 1 \leq \beta_0 \leq 1 + \alpha \\ = 0 & \text{if } \beta_0 \geq 1 + \alpha \end{cases}$$

In particular, in the case $\ell_n = c/n$ for all n and $c < 1 + \alpha$, then the dimension bounds are simply obtained by plugging in c for β_0 .

Remarks. Again, the first equalities in (b) and (c) hold since the event in question then occurs at a fixed time. The difference in the form of the Hausdorff dimension in (a) and (a') is due to the fact that as β_0 decreases starting from ∞ , when $\alpha > 1$, we encounter exceptional points on the circle in the sense of Theorem 1.2 before we encounter exceptional times in $[0, 1]$ in the sense of Theorem 1.1, while when $\alpha < 1$, we encounter these objects in the opposite order. As in Theorem 1.4, there are intermediate cases such as $\ell_n = (\alpha + 1)/n - 1/(n \log n)$ where both (i) and (ii) fail and so we cannot determine if there are exceptional times.

As for type (I) exceptional times, the case $\alpha = 0$ requires special treatment, but unlike the type (I) situation, it is not trivial. Indeed there are situations with $\alpha = 0$ where the circle is fully covered i.o. in the static model, but where there are exceptional times at which some point on the circle fails to be covered infinitely often; the sufficient condition differs from Shepp's condition for the static case by a logarithmic factor.

Theorem 1.6. *Assume that (1) holds and consider the Poisson model with $\alpha = 0$.*

(i). *If $\liminf_n n(\log n)u_n < \infty$, then $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 0$.*

(ii). *If*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^2 \log n} < \infty,$$

then $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 1$.

Remarks. An example of a sequence where $F = \emptyset$ in the static model but for which there are exceptional times from this is given by $\ell_n = 1/n - 1/(n \log n)$. Note that the case $\ell_n = 1/n$ is not covered by parts (i) or (ii) and so we cannot determine if there are exceptional times in this case. We mention that one can also prove, along the same lines as the other HD results, that $\text{HD}(\{(t, x) : x \in F_t\}) \leq 1$; this bound is also strongly suggested by Theorem 1.5(iii)(a').

Our next result here, which is quite easy, tells us that for $\alpha < 0$, things are as in the static model.

Theorem 1.7. *Assume that (1) holds. For the Poisson model with $\alpha < 0$, $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 1$ if and only if*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^2} < \infty.$$

Remark. If $\alpha < -1$, the result is completely trivial since in that case only finitely many intervals update their position in the time interval $[0, 1]$.

We now move to results concerning the $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \ell_n < \infty$ case, which we feel are less central than the $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \ell_n = \infty$ results. We start with type (III) exceptional times.

Theorem 1.8. *Assume that $\sum_n \ell_n < \infty$, fix $x \in C$ and let $T := \{t \in [0, 1] : x \in E_t\}$.*

(a). *In the Brownian model, $P(T \neq \emptyset) = 1$.*

(b). *In the Poisson model, if $\sum_n \ell_n^{1-\alpha} < \infty$, then $P(T = \emptyset) = 1$ while if $\sum_n \ell_n^{1-\alpha} = \infty$, then $P(T \neq \emptyset) = 1$.*

For type (IV) exceptional times, we have no results but finally for type (V), we have the following.

Theorem 1.9. *Let $T := \{t \in [0, 1] : E_t \text{ is not dense}\}$*

- (a). *For the Brownian model and any sequence $\{\ell_n\}_{n \geq 1}$, we have that $P(T \neq \emptyset) = 0$.*
- (b). *In the Poisson model with $\alpha > 0$, if $\ell_n \geq 1/n^c$ for all n and some c , then $P(T \neq \emptyset) = 0$.*
- (c). *In the Poisson model with $\alpha \leq 0$, for all $\{\ell_n\}_{n \geq 1}$, we have $P(T \neq \emptyset) = 0$.*
- (d). *In the Poisson model with $\alpha > 0$, there exists a sequence $\{\ell_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ so that $P(T \neq \emptyset) = 1$.*

Remark. With more work, one could obtain more quantitative statements concerning (b) and (d).

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we prove Theorems 1.2 and 1.3, in Section 3, we prove Theorems 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7, and in Section 4, we prove Theorems 1.8 and 1.9. These correspond respectively to type (I), type (II) and finally type (III) and (V) results.

Remark. We finally make one comment about the fact that we took open intervals. Since 3 independent 1–dimensional Brownian motions never meet at the same time, it follows that a.s. there are no times at which the endpoints of three arcs line up. This implies that the whole process $\{E_t\}$ would be unchanged had we worked with closed intervals instead; hence the fact that the intervals are open is not essential in any of our results.

2. PROOFS OF TYPE (I) RESULTS.

Recall our standing assumption (1). We begin with three technical lemmas that will prove useful on several occasions.

Lemma 2.1. *Assume that (1) holds. Let $\beta > 0$. Then for every $b > 0$*

$$\int_0^b e^{\sum_{n: \ell_n \geq t} \ell_n} dt < \infty \quad (2)$$

if and only if

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+\beta}} < \infty.$$

Proof. We will use Lemma 11.4.1 of [10] which states that for a convex decreasing function $f(t)$ on $(0, b)$, $\int_0^b e^{f(t)} dt < \infty$ if and only if $\int_0^b e^{f(t)} \frac{df'(t)}{f'(t)^2} < \infty$.

To apply this result, put $f(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \ell_n^{1-\beta} (\ell_n^\beta - t)^+$. Then $f(t)$ is decreasing and convex and

$$|f(t) - \sum_{n:\ell_n^\beta \geq t} \ell_n| = t \sum_{n:\ell_n^\beta \geq t} \ell_n^{1-\beta} = O(1)t \sum_{k=1}^{(M_1/t^{1/\beta})} k^{\beta-1} = O(1).$$

Hence (2) is equivalent to $\int_0^b e^{f(t)} dt < \infty$. We now use the above result. We have

$$f'(t) = - \sum_{k=1}^n \ell_k^{1-\beta}, \quad \ell_{n+1}^\beta < t < \ell_n^\beta$$

and in particular that $f'(t) = -\Theta(n^\beta)$, $\ell_{n+1}^\beta < t < \ell_n^\beta$. Since $f'(t)$ jumps when $t = \ell_n^\beta$ and the size of the corresponding jump is $\ell_n^{1-\beta} = \Theta(n^{\beta-1})$, we get that

$$\int_0^b e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n^\beta \geq t} \ell_n} dt < \infty$$

if and only if

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{f(\ell_n^\beta)}}{n^{1+\beta}} dt < \infty.$$

Finally

$$f(\ell_n^\beta) = \ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n - \ell_n^\beta \sum_{k=1}^n \ell_k^{1-\beta} = \ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n + O(1)$$

and the lemma follows. \square

Lemma 2.2.

$$\begin{aligned} \sup\{\beta : \liminf_n n^\beta u_n < \infty\} &\geq \inf\{\beta : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+\beta}} < \infty\} \\ &= \limsup_n \frac{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}{\log n}. \end{aligned}$$

Remark. The last expression comes up in Section 11.8 in [10] where the HD of the set F is studied. If $\ell_n = \Theta(1/n)$, then Steps 1 and 2 in the proof of Theorem 1.2 tell us that the first inequality is an equality.

Proof. For the first inequality, it suffices to show that for any $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\liminf_n n^\beta u_n = \infty \text{ implies that } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+\beta+\epsilon}} < \infty.$$

However, this follows from noting that $e^{-x} \geq 1 - x$ implies that $e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} \leq 1/u_n$.

Let L denote the third expression. Fix $\epsilon > 0$. Then $\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n \leq (L + \epsilon/2) \log n$ and hence $e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} \leq n^{L + \epsilon/2}$ for all n large. It follows that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+L+\epsilon}} < \infty$$

and hence the third term is at least the second term. For the other direction, we may assume that $L > 0$ and we need to show that for all $\epsilon \in (0, L)$,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^{1+L-\epsilon}} = \infty.$$

We have $\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n \geq (L - \epsilon) \log n$ and hence $e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} \geq n^{L-\epsilon}$ i.o. It is not hard to show that if $e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_{n_0}} \geq n_0^{L-\epsilon}$, then

$$\sum_{k=n_0}^{2n_0} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_k}}{k^{1+L-\epsilon}} = \frac{1}{O(1)},$$

the $O(1)$ term being independent of n_0 . To do this, one simply bounds $e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_k}$ from below by $n_0^{L-\epsilon}$ for each k and computes. This clearly implies divergence of the series. \square

The last lemma is elementary and the proof is left to the reader.

Lemma 2.3. *There exists a constant C so that for all $t, a \in [0, 1]$ and $b \in (-1/2, 1/2)$, if Z^* is a normal random variable with mean 0 and variance t , then*

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} P(Z^* \in (k + b - a, k + b + a)) \leq CP(Z^* \in (b - a, b + a)).$$

Proof of Theorem 1.2. We begin with part (i). Let $I_t = \cup_{n=1}^{\infty} I_{n,t}$ and $J_t = I_t^c$ and note that it is elementary that $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t) = 1$ if and only if $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : x \in J_t) > 0$. Let $T = \{t \in [0, 1] : x \in J_t\}$. Now put $J_{n,t} = (\cup_{k=1}^n I_{k,t})^c$ and note that $\cap_n J_{n,t} = J_t$. We shall first show that if $\liminf_n n^2 u_n = 0$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(\exists t : x \in J_{n,t}) = 0. \quad (3)$$

Fix $n \geq 1$. For $i = 1, 2, \dots, n^2$, let A_i be the event that there exists a $t \in [(i-1)/n^2, i/n^2]$ for which $x \in J_{n,t}$. (We suppress the dependence on n in the notation.) Then

$$P(\exists t : x \in J_{n,t}) = P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{n^2} A_i\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n^2} P(A_i) = n^2 P(A_1).$$

For $k \leq n$, let B_k be the event that the k th interval covers x for the whole time interval $[0, 1/n^2]$. This event contains the event that $[x - M, x + M] \subseteq I_{k,0}$ where $M = \max_{t \in [0, 1/n^2]} |U_{k,t} - U_{k,0}|$. Letting B'_k denote the latter event, we have

$$P(B_k) \geq P(B'_k) = \mathbb{E}[P(B'_k | M)] \geq \mathbb{E}[\ell_k - 2M] = \ell_k - 2\mathbb{E}M \geq \ell_k - \frac{4}{n}$$

where we have used the usual scaling property of Brownian motion. Since $A_1 \subseteq \bigcap_{k=1}^n B_k^c$, the B_k 's are independent and $\ell_1 \leq 1/2$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} P(A_1) &\leq \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 - \ell_k + \frac{4}{n}\right) \\ &\leq \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 - \ell_k\right) \left(1 + \frac{8}{n}\right) \leq O(u_n). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$P(\exists t : x \in J_{n,t}) \leq O(n^2 u_n).$$

Since the left hand side is decreasing in n , (3) is established. The case $\liminf_n n^2 u_n \in (0, \infty)$ requires one extra step. Let N_n be the number of $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ such that A_i occurs. Then the above arguments show that $\liminf_n \mathbb{E}N_n < \infty$. It is easy to see that $T \leq \liminf_n N_n$. Hence by Fatou's Lemma, $\mathbb{E}|T| < \infty$ and so $|T| < \infty$ a.s. Since our process is a reversible stationary Markov process, we finally conclude that $P(T \neq \emptyset) = 0$ by combining Theorem 6.7 in [7] and (2.9) in [6]. This finishes the proof of part (i).

For part (ii), letting $T_n = \{t \in [0, 1] : x \notin \bigcup_{k=1}^n I_{k,t}\}$, we have that $T = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} T_n$. Next, since the intervals are taken to be open and Brownian motion has continuous paths, it follows that the sets T_n are closed and therefore by compactness, T is nonempty if and only if all the T_n 's are. Thus if it can be shown that $P(T_n \neq \emptyset)$ is bounded away from 0, then it follows that $P(T \neq \emptyset) > 0$ and (ii) then follows.

Let

$$X_n := \int_0^1 I_{\{t \in T_n\}} dt,$$

which is the Lebesgue amount of time that x is not covered by the first n intervals. Since the probability that $x \notin \bigcup_{k=1}^n I_{k,t}$ at a fixed time t is $\prod_{k=1}^n (1 - \ell_k) = u_n$, it follows from Fubini's Theorem that $\mathbb{E}X_n = u_n$. We will now establish that $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ if (and in fact only if) $\sum_n e^{\ell_1 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^3 < \infty$. Once this has been done it then follows, under this condition, from the second moment method that

$$P(T_n \neq \emptyset) \geq P(X_n > 0) \geq \frac{(\mathbb{E}X_n)^2}{\mathbb{E}[X_n^2]}$$

is bounded away from 0, as desired. Now, by Fubini's Theorem

$$\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 P(\{s \in T_n\} \cap \{t \in T_n\}) ds dt. \quad (4)$$

By stationarity, it is easy to see that (4) is at most

$$2 \int_0^1 P(\{t \in T_n\} \cap \{0 \in T_n\}) dt$$

and at least

$$1/2 \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} P(\{t \in T_n\} \cap \{0 \in T_n\}) dt.$$

Fix n . Put $A_t = \{t \in T_n\}$ and $A_{k,t}$ for the event that x is not covered by I_k at time t and note that $A_t = \bigcap_{k=1}^n A_{k,t}$. Clearly

$$P(A_t \cap A_0) = \prod_{k=1}^n P(A_{k,t} \cap A_{k,0}).$$

The probability $P(A_{k,t} \cap A_{k,0})$ is the probability that $I_{k,0} \cap \{x, x - Z_t\} = \emptyset$, where $Z_t := U_{k,t} - U_{k,0}$, the increment of the k th interval during the time $[0, t]$. Note that Z_t is a normal random variable with zero mean and variance t projected onto C as described in the introduction. We have

$$P(A_{k,t} \cap A_{k,0}) = \mathbb{E}[P(A_{k,t} \cap A_{k,0} | Z_t)] = 1 - 2\ell_k + \mathbb{E}[(\ell_k - |Z_t|)^+]. \quad (5)$$

Some elementary considerations (using again that $\ell_1 \leq 1/2$) allow us to write (5) as

$$(1 - \ell_k)^2 e^{\mathbb{E}[(\ell_k - |Z_t|)^+]} (1 + r_k)$$

where $|r_k| \leq 5\ell_k^2$. We then have that $\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 + r_n) < \infty$ and so it follows that $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ if

$$\int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t|)^+]} dt < \infty \quad (6)$$

and only if

$$\int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t|)^+]} dt < \infty. \quad (7)$$

Note that trivially

$$\mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t|)^+] \leq P(|Z_t| \leq \ell_n) \ell_n$$

and a standard bound on the normal distribution together with Lemma 2.3 gives

$$P(|Z_t| \leq \ell_n) = O(1) \frac{\ell_n}{\sqrt{t}}. \quad (8)$$

These easily yield that (6) holds if and only if (7) does and so we concentrate only on (6).

Next, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t|)^+] = P(|Z_t| \leq \ell_n) (\ell_n - \mathbb{E}[|Z_t| | 0 \leq |Z_t| \leq \ell_n]).$$

Since a nonnegative random variable conditioned on being smaller than some value is stochastically dominated by the original random variable, we have that the expectation in the right hand side is bounded above by $\ell_n \wedge \sqrt{t}$. Hence

$$\mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t|)^+] \geq P(|Z_t| \leq \ell_n) (\ell_n - \sqrt{t})^+.$$

Using that $\ell_n = \Theta(1/n)$ we get

$$\sum_{n:\ell_n^2 \geq t} \sqrt{t} = O(1).$$

From (8), we get

$$\sum_{n:\ell_n^2 < t} \ell_n P(|Z_t| \leq \ell_n) < \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \sum_{n:\ell_n^2 < t} \ell_n^2 = O(1)$$

(where we again used that $\ell_n = \Theta(1/n)$). Putting this together we have that $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ if and only if

$$\int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n^2 \geq t} \ell_n P(|Z_t| \leq \ell_n)} dt < \infty.$$

Since the probability that a standard normal random variable exceeds a value $y > 0$ is bounded above by $O(1)/y$ we get that $\sum_{n:\ell_n^2 \geq t} \ell_n P(|Z_t| > \ell_n) \leq \sum_{n:\ell_n^2 \geq t} \sqrt{t} = O(1)$ and so the above integral is finite if and only if

$$\int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n^2 \geq t} \ell_n} dt < \infty.$$

Plugging this into Lemma 2.1 yields $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ if and only if

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^3} < \infty.$$

This finishes the proof of (ii).

The proof of part (iii) consists of two steps but we note that we will just simply be refining the arguments already presented.

Step 1: $\liminf_n n^\beta u_n < \infty$ implies that $\text{HD}(T) \leq 1 - \beta/2$ a.s.

Step 2: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^{1+\beta} < \infty$ implies that $P(\text{HD}(T) \geq 1 - \beta/2) > 0$.

It is clear from Kolmogorov's 0-1 law, the fact that a countable union of sets each of which has HD at most d also has HD at most d and countable additivity that the HD results follow from these two steps and Lemma 2.2.

For Step 1, consider the union of the set of intervals of the form $[(i-1)/n^2, i/n^2]$ which contain a time t for which $x \in J_{n,t}$. This is a covering of T with N_n elements and we have seen that $\mathbb{E}[N_n] = O(1)n^2 u_n$. If $\liminf_n n^\beta u_n < \infty$, then

$$\liminf_n \mathbb{E}[N_n] n^{\beta-2} < \infty.$$

Fatou's lemma now gives that

$$\liminf_n N_n n^{\beta-2} < \infty \text{ a.s.}$$

Since the intervals in the n th covering have length $1/n^2$ and $n^{\beta-2} = (1/n^2)^{1-\frac{\beta}{2}}$, we conclude (see for example page 77 in [12]) that the lower Minkowski dimension and hence the HD is at most $1 - \frac{\beta}{2}$.

For Step 2, we will follow the usual method for solving problems of this type which is to put a random measure on the set in question and compute its expected energy. We may assume that $\beta < 2$. The exact details will follow extremely closely [13], a paper dealing with dynamical percolation in 2 dimensions.

We first note that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^{1+\beta} < \infty$ implies by Lemma 2.1 that

$$\int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n: \ell_n^2 \geq t} \ell_n} dt < \infty.$$

An easy change of variables shows that this is equivalent to

$$\int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n: \ell_n^2 \geq t} \ell_n} \left(\frac{1}{t}\right)^{1-\frac{\beta}{2}} dt < \infty. \quad (9)$$

For each integer n , define a random measure σ_n on $[0, 1]$ by

$$\sigma_n(S) = \frac{1}{u_n} \int_S I_{\{t \in T_n\}} dt$$

for each Borel set $S \subseteq [0, 1]$. The argument in part (ii) gives that $\mathbb{E}[\|\sigma_n\|] = 1$ and $\mathbb{E}[\|\sigma_n\|^2] = O(1)$ where $\|\sigma_n\|$ denotes the total variation of the measure σ_n . Cauchy-Schwarz then gives

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\sigma_n\|^2]^{1/2} P(\|\sigma_n\| > 1/2)^{1/2} \geq \mathbb{E}[\|\sigma_n\| 1_{\|\sigma_n\| > 1/2}] \geq \mathbb{E}[\|\sigma_n\|] - 1/2 = 1/2.$$

Consequently, $P(\|\sigma_n\| > 1/2) \geq C_1$ for some constant $C_1 > 0$. Given a measure m on $[0, 1]$ and $\gamma > 0$, let

$$\mathcal{E}_\gamma(m) = \iint |t - s|^{-\gamma} dm(t) dm(s)$$

denote the γ -energy of m . Note that

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{E}_\gamma(\sigma_n)] = \mathbb{E} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{d\sigma_n(t) d\sigma_n(s)}{|t - s|^\gamma} = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{P(\{t \in T_n\} \cap \{s \in T_n\})}{u_n^2 |t - s|^\gamma} dt ds.$$

The proof of part (ii) showed that

$$P(\{t \in T_n\} \cap \{s \in T_n\}) = O(1) u_n^2 e^{\sum_{n: \ell_n^2 \geq |t-s|} \ell_n}.$$

(9) now implies that

$$C_2 := \sup_n \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{E}_{1-\frac{\beta}{2}}(\sigma_n)] < \infty.$$

By Markov's inequality, for all n and for all K ,

$$P(\mathcal{E}_{1-\frac{\beta}{2}}(\sigma_n) \geq C_2 K) \leq 1/K.$$

Choose K so that $1/K < C_1/2$. Letting

$$U_n = \{\|\sigma_n\| > 1/2\} \cap \{\mathcal{E}_{1-\frac{\beta}{2}}(\sigma_n) \leq C_2 K\},$$

by the choice of K , we have that

$$P(U_n) \geq C_1/2.$$

By Fatou's lemma,

$$P(\limsup_n U_n) \geq C_1/2.$$

Since σ_n is supported on T_n , the fact that the HD of T is at least $1 - \frac{\beta}{2}$ on the event $\limsup_n U_n$ follows from the following easy lemma which is stated and proved in [13] (the proof of which just uses compactness and Frostman's Lemma). \square

Lemma 2.4. *Let $D_1 \supseteq D_2 \supseteq D_3 \dots$ be a decreasing sequence of compact subsets of $[0, 1]$, and let μ_1, μ_2, \dots be a sequence of positive measures with μ_n supported on D_n . Suppose that there is a constant C such that for infinitely many values of n , we have*

$$\|\mu_n\| > 1/C, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{E}_\gamma(\mu_n) \leq C.$$

Then the HD of $\bigcap_n D_n$ is at least γ .

In the above proof it was shown that the ‘‘Shepp-like’’ condition $\sum_n e^{\ell_1 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^3 < \infty$ is necessary and sufficient for the second moment argument to work. What we have not been able to determine is if failure of the second moment argument necessarily implies that there are no exceptional times. The reason is that it is difficult to control the conditional distribution of the positions of the first n arcs at the first time when x is not covered by any of them. For the Poisson model this problem vanishes.

Proof of Theorem 1.3. We use exactly the same notation as in the proof of Theorem 1.2. As in that proof, we have $\mathbb{E}X_n = u_n$ and we will show that

$$E[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2) \text{ if and only if } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{\ell_1 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^{1+\alpha} < \infty. \quad (10)$$

However, we first show $E[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ is necessary and sufficient for T to be nonempty with positive probability. Note that, using the fact that (14) below is decreasing in t , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[X_n | 0 \in T_n] u_n = \Theta(1) \mathbb{E}[X_n^2]. \quad (11)$$

The sufficiency argument is identical to the proof of Theorem 1.2 except for the small irritation that T_n is not a closed set. So $\inf_n P(T_n \neq \emptyset) > 0$ does not immediately allow us to conclude that $P(T \neq \emptyset) > 0$. This very minor issue arose in [8] (as well as in [13]) and was taken care of there by Lemma 3.2. Analogous to that, we claim here that

$$\bigcap_{n>0} \overline{T_n} = T \text{ a.s.} \quad (12)$$

This claim takes care of the above problem allowing us to conclude that $P(T \neq \emptyset) > 0$ and will be needed for part (ii) as well. To see this claim, let T' be the set of times at which two intervals jump, T'' be the set of times at which some interval jumps and x is not contained in any of the other intervals at that time and observe that

$$\bigcap_{n>0} \overline{T_n} \subseteq T \cup T' \cup T''$$

and $P(T' \cup T'' \neq \emptyset) = 0$.

For the necessity, observe that

$$P(X_n > 0) = \frac{\mathbb{E}X_n}{\mathbb{E}[X_n | X_n > 0]}. \quad (13)$$

Put $S_n := \min\{t : t \in T_n\}$ (the minimum exists since the Poisson processes are right continuous). Now the crucial observation to make is that at the time S_n , the positions of the first n arcs are independent and uniform given that none of them contains x . By translation invariance, $P(S_n \leq 1/2 | X_n > 0) \geq 1/2$ and so

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[X_n | X_n > 0] &\geq \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}[X_n | S_n \leq \frac{1}{2}] \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}[X_n \cap [\frac{1}{2}, 1] | \frac{1}{2} \in T_n] \geq \frac{1}{4} \mathbb{E}[X_n | 0 \in T_n]. \end{aligned}$$

The second to last inequality follows from the observation concerning S_n and the strong Markov property while the last inequality follows from the fact that (14) below is decreasing in t . The observation concerning the distribution of the process at time S_n together again with the strong Markov property yields

$$\mathbb{E}[X_n | X_n > 0] \leq \mathbb{E}[X_n | 0 \in T_n].$$

Using this, together with (11) and (13), necessity now follows.

We now show (10). The rest of the proof is very similar to the proof of Theorem 1.2(ii). With n fixed, by conditioning on whether or not arc I_k has been updated or not before time t we get

$$P(A_{k,t} \cap A_{k,0}) = (1 - \ell_k)^2 (1 - e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}) + (1 - \ell_k) e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}. \quad (14)$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} P(A_t \cap A_0) &= u_n^2 \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 - e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha} + \frac{e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}}{1 - \ell_k}\right) \\ &= u_n^2 \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{\ell_k e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}}{1 - \ell_k}\right) = \Theta(1) u_n^2 \prod_{k=1}^n (1 + \ell_k e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}) \end{aligned}$$

where the $\Theta(1)$ term is bounded between 1 and $\prod_{k=1}^{\infty}(1 + 2\ell_k^2) < \infty$. Therefore, using (11), we have that $E[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ if and only if

$$\int_0^1 \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 + \ell_n e^{-t/\ell_n^\alpha}) dt < \infty.$$

Since $x - x^2 \leq \log(1 + x) \leq x$ on $[0, \infty)$, this is equivalent to

$$\int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \ell_n e^{-t/\ell_n^\alpha}} dt < \infty. \quad (15)$$

Using $\ell_n \leq M_1/n$ it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \leq t} \ell_n e^{-t/\ell_n^\alpha} &\leq t^{1/\alpha} \sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \leq t} e^{-t/\ell_n^\alpha} \leq t^{1/\alpha} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (e^{-M_1^{-\alpha}t})^{n^\alpha} \\ &= O(1)t^{1/\alpha} \frac{1}{(1 - e^{-M_1^{-\alpha}t})^{1/\alpha}} = O(1)t^{1/\alpha} \frac{1}{t^{1/\alpha}} = O(1). \end{aligned}$$

We also have that

$$\sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \geq t} \ell_n (1 - e^{-t/\ell_n^\alpha}) \leq t \sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \geq t} \ell_n^{1-\alpha} = O(1)t \sum_{n=1}^{M_1/t^{1/\alpha}} n^{\alpha-1} = O(1).$$

Putting this together, (15) is equivalent to

$$\int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \geq t} \ell_n} dt < \infty.$$

Now Lemma 2.1 finishes the proof of (10).

For part (ii), we follow very closely the proof for the Brownian model and hence the argument will just be sketched. Steps 1 and 2 there will be modified by replacing the $\beta/2$ term by β/α and Lemma 2.2 will be applied.

For Step 1, $[0, 1]$ is partitioned into intervals of length $1/n^\alpha$. Since the probability that x is not covered by a certain arc at some time during an interval is bounded above by 1 minus the probability that x is covered by the arc at the start of the interval and the arc never updates during the time interval, we obtain that if I is an interval of length $1/n^\alpha$

$$P(T_n \cap I \neq \emptyset) \leq \prod_{k=1}^n (1 - \ell_k e^{\frac{-1}{(n\ell_k)^\alpha}}).$$

A computation, using (1) and left to the reader, shows that this is at most $O(1)u_n$. Letting N_n be the number of intervals which intersect T_n , we have $\mathbb{E}[N_n] = O(1)n^\alpha u_n$. The rest of Step 1 is done as before.

Step 2 is also done by a trivial modification of Step 2 for the Brownian case which we therefore also skip except to remark that (12) is needed since the random measure σ_n will

be supported on $\overline{T_n}$ and one uses, proved as in the Brownian case, that the summability of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^{1+\beta}$ is equivalent to $\int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:t_n^{\alpha} \geq t} \ell_n} \left(\frac{1}{t}\right)^{1-\frac{\beta}{\alpha}} < \infty$. \square

3. PROOFS OF TYPE (II) RESULTS

Recall our standing assumption (1). In this section, the general approach will be to try to analyze the “space-time” random set $\{(x, t) \in C \times [0, 1] : x \in J_t\}$ rather than $\{t : J_t \neq \emptyset\}$.

Proof of Theorem 1.4. The proof is similar to the proofs of the previous section, but with the spatial component taken into account. Let I_t , J_t , and $J_{n,t}$ be defined as in Theorem 1.2. As before, we have that $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 1$ if and only if $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : J_t \neq \emptyset) > 0$. Next, let $T_n := \{t : \bigcup_{k=1}^n I_{k,t} \neq C\}$ and note that T_n is closed. Also, it is an elementary topology exercise (using the fact that the arcs are open and Brownian motion paths are continuous) left to the reader to check that if $t \in \bigcap_n T_n$, then $J_t \neq \emptyset$. Hence $P(A_n)$ bounded away from 0 implies that $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : J_t \neq \emptyset) > 0$.

Part (i): We will first show that if $\liminf_n n^3 u_n < \infty$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : J_{n,t} \neq \emptyset) = 0 \quad (16)$$

(or equivalently $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(T_n \neq \emptyset) = 0$). Fix n . For $i = 1, 2, \dots, n^2$ and $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, put $A(i, j)$ for the event that for some $t \in [(i-1)/n^2, i/n^2]$ and some $x \in [(j-1)/n, j/n]$, $x \notin \bigcup_{k=1}^n I_{k,t}$. Then

$$P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : J_{n,t} \neq \emptyset) \leq n^3 P(A(1, 1))$$

We have $A(1, 1) \subset \bigcap_{k=1}^n B_k^c$ where B_k is the event that $[0, 1/n] \subseteq I_{k,t}$ for every $t \in [0, 1/n^2]$. The event B_k in turn contains the event that $I_{k,0} \supseteq [-M, M + 1/n]$, where, as in the above proof, $M = \max_{t \in [0, 1/n^2]} |U_{k,t} - U_{k,0}|$. Letting B'_k denote this last event, we have

$$P(B_k) \geq P(B'_k) = \mathbb{E}[P(B'_k | M)] \geq \mathbb{E}[\ell_k - 2M - \frac{1}{n}] \geq \ell_k - \frac{5}{n}$$

and consequently

$$P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : J_{n,t} \neq \emptyset) \leq n^3 \prod_{k=1}^n (1 - \ell_k + \frac{5}{n}) \leq n^3 \prod_{k=1}^n (1 - \ell_k) (1 + \frac{10}{n}) \leq O(n^3 u_n).$$

Since the LHS is decreasing in n , (16) is established. For the case $\liminf_n n^3 u_n < \infty$, define N_n as the number of (i, j) for which $A(i, j)$ occurs. Then the above gives $\liminf_n \mathbb{E} N_n < \infty$. Letting

$$\tilde{T} := \{(x, t) \in C \times [0, 1] : x \in J_t\},$$

we easily get $\tilde{T} \leq \liminf_n N_n$ and so by Fatou’s lemma, we have that \tilde{T} is a.s. finite. In particular, the set $\{t \in [0, 1] : J_t \neq \emptyset\}$ is finite a.s. Again, Theorem 6.7 in [7] and (2.9) in [6] allow us to conclude that the latter set is empty a.s.

Part (ii): Let $\tilde{T}_n := \{(x, t) : x \in J_{n,t}\}$. Then the \tilde{T}_n 's are closed and $\cap_n \tilde{T}_n = \tilde{T}$; hence if all the \tilde{T}_n 's are nonempty, then so is \tilde{T} . Thus it suffices to show that $P(\tilde{T}_n \neq \emptyset)$ is bounded away from 0. Let X_n be the 2-dimensional Lebesgue measure of \tilde{T}_n . By Fubini's Theorem, $\mathbb{E}X_n = u_n$ and so when $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ an application of the second moment method tells us that $\inf_n P(\tilde{T}_n \neq \emptyset) > 0$. We will now show that $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ if and only if $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{\ell_1 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^4 < \infty$.

Fix n . Let $A_{t,x}$ be the event that (t, x) is in \tilde{T}_n . Then, again by stationarity, $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2]$ is at most

$$2 \int_C \int_0^1 P(A_{t,x} \cap A_{0,0}) dt dx$$

and at least

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_C \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} P(A_{t,x} \cap A_{0,0}) dt dx.$$

Independence yields

$$P(A_{t,x} \cap A_{0,0}) = \prod_{k=1}^n P(A_{k,t,x} \cap A_{k,0,0})$$

where $A_{k,t,x}$ is the event that $I_{k,t}$ does not contain x . Now $A_{k,t,x} \cap A_{k,0,0}$ is the event that $I_{k,0} \cap \{0, x - Z_t\} = \emptyset$ where $Z_t = U_{k,t} - U_{k,0}$, is the increment of I_k in the time interval $[0, t]$, which is a normal random variable with mean 0 and variance t projected onto C as described in the introduction. Hence

$$P(A_{k,t,x} \cap A_{k,0,0}) = \mathbb{E}[P(A_{k,t,x} \cap A_{k,0,0} | Z_t)] = 1 - 2\ell_k + \mathbb{E}[(\ell_k - |Z_t - x|)^+].$$

Inserting this into the product above gives, using the derivations in the proof of Theorem 1.2

$$P(A_{t,x} \cap A_{0,0}) = \Theta(1) u_n^2 e^{\sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{E}[(\ell_k - |Z_t - x|)^+]}$$

Hence $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ if

$$\int_C \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t - x|)^+]} dt dx < \infty \quad (17)$$

and only if

$$\int_C \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t - x|)^+]} dt dx < \infty. \quad (18)$$

The terms in the exponent are obviously bounded above by $\ell_n P(|Z_t - x| < \ell_n)$. For $t \geq 1/2$, this is clearly $O(1)\ell_n^2$ and so (17) holds if and only if (18) does.

Note next that for all positive t and $x \in C$ we have, using Lemma 2.3 and basic facts of the normal distribution that

$$\sum_{n: \ell_n^2 < t} \ell_n P(|Z_t - x| < \ell_n) = O(1) \sum_{n: \ell_n^2 < t} \frac{\ell_n^2}{\sqrt{t}} = O(1)$$

and

$$\sum_{n:\ell_n < 2|x|} \ell_n P(|Z_t - x| < \ell_n) = O(1) \quad \sum_{n:\ell_n < 2|x|} \ell_n \frac{\ell_n}{|x|} = O(1).$$

To see that $P(|Z_t - x| < \ell_n) = O(1)\ell_n/|x|$, we use Lemma 2.3 together with that fact that the probability that a standard normal random variable takes values in $[y, y+d]$ with $y > 0$ is bounded above by $O(1)d/y$ and note that there is nothing to prove unless $\ell_n \leq |x|/2$.

It follows that (17) is equivalent to

$$\int_C \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq 2|x|\vee\sqrt{t}} \mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t - x|)^+]} dt dx < \infty.$$

A lower bound for the exponent is given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n:\ell_n \geq 2|x|\vee\sqrt{t}} \mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t - x|)^+] \\ &= \sum_{n:\ell_n \geq 2|x|\vee\sqrt{t}} \mathbb{E}[(\ell_n - |Z_t - x|)^+ | Z_t - x| < \ell_n] P(|Z_t - x| < \ell_n) \\ &\geq \sum_{n:\ell_n \geq 2|x|\vee\sqrt{t}} (\ell_n - |x| - \sqrt{t}) P(|Z_t - x| < \ell_n) = \sum_{n:\ell_n \geq 2|x|\vee\sqrt{t}} \ell_n P(|Z_t - x| < \ell_n) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

Thus our integral condition is equivalent to

$$\int_C \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq 2|x|\vee\sqrt{t}} \ell_n P(|Z_t - x| < \ell_n)} dt dx < \infty.$$

However when $\ell_n \geq 2|x| \vee \sqrt{t}$,

$$P(|Z_t - x| < \ell_n) \geq P(|Z_t| \leq \frac{\ell_n}{2}) = 1 - O(1) \frac{\sqrt{t}}{\ell_n}.$$

Thus

$$\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq 2|x|\vee\sqrt{t}} \ell_n P(|Z_t - x| \geq \ell_n) = O(1) \sum_{n:\ell_n \geq \sqrt{t}} \sqrt{t} = O(1).$$

This shows that $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ if and only if

$$\int_C \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq |x|\vee\sqrt{t}} \ell_n} dt dx < \infty.$$

This clearly holds if and only if

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq x\vee\sqrt{t}} \ell_n} dt dx < \infty.$$

Now

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq x\vee\sqrt{t}} \ell_n} dt dx = \int_0^1 \int_0^{x^2} e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq x} \ell_n} dt dx + \int_0^1 \int_0^{\sqrt{t}} e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq \sqrt{t}} \ell_n} dx dt$$

$$= \int_0^1 x^2 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq x} \ell_n} dx + \int_0^1 \sqrt{t} e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq \sqrt{t}} \ell_n} dt = 3 \int_0^1 x^2 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq x} \ell_n} dx$$

where the last equality follows from the substitution $x = \sqrt{t}$. Via the substitution $u = x^3$ the last expression becomes

$$\int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq u^{1/3}} \ell_n} du$$

and Lemma 2.1 now proves part (ii).

Part (iii)(a): We will more or less follow Steps 1 and 2 in the previous HD arguments.

We first show that $\liminf_n n^\beta u_n < \infty$ implies

$$\text{HD}(\tilde{T}) \leq \min\left\{3 - \beta, \frac{4 - \beta}{2}\right\}.$$

Once this is done, the fact that $3 - x > 2 - \frac{x}{2}$ on $(0, 2)$ and the reverse holds on $(2, 3)$ and using Lemma 2.2, the upper bounds will be obtained. Consider now the union of the set of rectangles of the form $[(i-1)/n^2, i/n^2] \times [(j-1)/n, j/n]$ which contain a point (t, x) with $x \notin \bigcup_{k=1}^n I_{k,t}$. This is a covering of \tilde{T} with N_n elements and from what we have seen in the proof of part (i) we can conclude that $\mathbb{E}[N_n] = O(1)n^3 u_n$. Since the elements of the covering have diameter of order $1/n$, we can conclude, as earlier, that $\text{HD}(\tilde{T}) \leq 3 - \beta$. If we instead cover by $1/n^2 \times 1/n^2$ boxes, we get a covering \tilde{T} with N'_n elements of diameter of order $1/n^2$ with $\mathbb{E}[N'_n] = O(1)n^4 u_n$ and we can conclude that $\text{HD}(\tilde{T}) \leq (4 - \beta)/2$ as well.

For the lower bound, assume first that $\beta_0 \in (0, 2)$. Then Theorem 1.2(iii) says that for each $x \in C$, $\text{HD}(\{t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t\}) = 1 - \beta_0/2$ a.s. By Fubini's Theorem, we conclude that

$$\{x : \text{HD}(\{t \in [0, 1] : x \in F_t\}) = 1 - \frac{\beta_0}{2}\}$$

has Lebesgue measure 1 a.s. Now, Theorem 7.7 in [12] (with f there taken to be the projection onto $[0, 1]$) allows us to conclude that $\text{HD}(\{(t, x) : x \in F_t\}) \geq 2 - \beta_0/2$. (Theorem 7.7. says vaguely that any set in the square almost all of whose ‘‘slices’’ have HD $1 - \beta_0/2 > 0$ must have HD at least $2 - \beta_0/2$.)

For $\beta_0 \in [2, 3)$, we argue differently. We follow the HD lower bound arguments given earlier and therefore only sketch the proof. We again place a random measure on \tilde{T}_n and get a uniform upper bound on the expected energy. The random measure is of course Lebesgue measure restricted to \tilde{T}_n and normalized by u_n . Using what was derived in part (ii), obtaining a uniform upper bound on the expected energy reduces to verifying the finiteness of

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq x\sqrt{t}} \ell_n} \left(\frac{1}{x^2 + t^2}\right)^{\frac{3-\beta}{2}} dt dx$$

under the assumption $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{\ell_1+\ell_2+\dots+\ell_n}/n^{1+\beta} < \infty$. Breaking up the double integral as in the first part of the proof and checking that

$$\int_0^{x^2} \left(\frac{1}{x^2+t^2} \right)^{\frac{3-\beta}{2}} dt = \Theta(1)x^{\beta-1}$$

and

$$\int_0^{t^{1/2}} \left(\frac{1}{x^2+t^2} \right)^{\frac{3-\beta}{2}} dx = \Theta(1)t^{\frac{\beta-2}{2}},$$

it reduces to the finiteness of

$$\int_0^1 u^{\beta-1} e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n \geq u} \ell_n} du.$$

Another change of variables ($w = u^\beta$) together with Lemma 2.1 shows that finiteness of this integral is equivalent to the convergence of the given series.

Part (iii)(b): The $0 \leq \beta_0 < 2$ case follows from Theorem 1.2. The other cases follow from part (iii)(a) together with the fact that projections do not increase HD; see for example Theorem 7.5 in [12]. Alternatively, one can use a covering argument.

Part (iii)(c): The $0 \leq \beta_0 < 1$ case follows from Theorem 1.1. For the other cases, break the time interval into intervals of length $1/n^2$ and consider those intervals which contain a t such that $\bigcup_{k=1}^n I_{k,t} \neq C$. If N_n is the number of such intervals, we have from what was derived in part (i) that $E(N_n) = O(1)n^3 u_n$. This as before leads to the upper bound $(3 - \beta_0)/2$ for the HD, as desired. \square

As for the type (I) case, the reason that we do not know if failure of the second moment method implies nonexistence of exceptional times is due to the fact that we cannot control the positions of the first n arcs at the first time that the circle fails to be covered by them.

Proof of Theorem 1.5. Part (i): Fix n and partition $[0, 1] \times C$ into boxes of size $1/n^\alpha \times 1/n$. For the given block $[0, 1/n^\alpha] \times [0, 1/n]$, we have, using similar arguments as given earlier,

$$\begin{aligned} P(\exists(t, x) \in B : x \notin \cup_{k=1}^n I_{k,t}) &\leq \prod_{k=1}^n P(\exists(t, x) \in B : x \notin I_{k,t}) \\ &\leq \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 - \left(\ell_k - \frac{1}{n} \right) e^{\frac{-1}{(n\ell_k)^\alpha}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

As before, one can show this is $O(1)u_n$. Since the number of blocks is of order $n^{1+\alpha}$, we get $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 0$ if $\liminf_n n^{1+\alpha} u_n = 0$ and proceed as earlier if $\liminf_n n^{1+\alpha} u_n \in (0, \infty)$.

Part (ii): We use the same notation as in Theorem 1.4. Using that argument (together with the analogous small modification given in Theorem 1.3 that dealt with the fact that certain time sets were not closed), proving the existence of exceptional times comes down

to showing that $\mathbb{E}[\tilde{X}_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$. We now show that this holds if and only if the sum in the statement of the theorem is convergent.

By conditioning on whether arc I_k has been updated by time t or not we get

$$P(A_{k,t,x} \cap A_{k,0,0}) = (1 - e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha})(1 - \ell_k)^2 + e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}(1 - 2\ell_k + (\ell_k - |x|)^+).$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} P(A_{t,x} \cap A_{0,0}) &= u_n^2 \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 - e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha} + \frac{e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}(1 - 2\ell_k + (\ell_k - |x|)^+)}{(1 - \ell_k)^2} \right) \\ &= \Theta(1) u_n^2 \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}(\ell_k - |x|)^+}{(1 - \ell_k)^2} \right) = \Theta(1) u_n^2 \prod_{k=1}^n (1 + e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}(\ell_k - |x|)^+) \\ &= \Theta(1) u_n^2 e^{\sum_{k=1}^n e^{-t/\ell_k^\alpha}(\ell_k - |x|)^+}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $\mathbb{E}[X_n^2] \leq O(u_n^2)$ if and only if

$$\int_C \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n=1}^\infty e^{-t/\ell_n^\alpha}(\ell_n - |x|)^+} dt dx < \infty$$

which clearly holds if and only

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n=1}^\infty e^{-t/\ell_n^\alpha}(\ell_n - x)^+} dt dx < \infty.$$

By a series of considerations analogous to what been done in the earlier proofs we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^\infty e^{-t/\ell_n^\alpha}(\ell_n - x)^+ &= \sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \geq t} e^{-t/\ell_n^\alpha}(\ell_n - x)^+ + O(1) \\ &= \sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \geq t} (\ell_n - x)^+ + O(1) = \sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \geq x^\alpha \vee t} \ell_n + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

Hence the given integral is finite if and only if

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \geq x^\alpha \vee t} \ell_n} dt dx < \infty.$$

Copying the final parts of the proof of Theorem 1.4, we get

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n^\alpha \geq x^\alpha \vee t} \ell_n} dt dx = \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n:\ell_n^{\alpha+1} \geq u} \ell_n} du.$$

Now apply Lemma 2.1.

For the Hausdorff dimension upper bounds, we only sketch these since these follow along the exact same arguments as in the previous arguments. First, we have seen that $P(\tilde{T}_n \cap [0, 1/n^\alpha] \times [0, 1/n] \neq \emptyset) \leq O(u_n)$. Consider (a) and (a'). For $\alpha \geq 1$, we break up either into $n^{-\alpha} \times n^{-1}$ -boxes or $n^{-\alpha} \times n^{-\alpha}$ -boxes depending on whether β_0 is \geq or $\leq \alpha$ and for $\alpha < 1$, we break up either into $n^{-\alpha} \times n^{-1}$ -boxes or $n^{-1} \times n^{-1}$ -boxes depending on whether β_0 is \geq or ≤ 1 . This yields the upper bounds.

For (b), partition space into intervals of length $1/n$ and proceed in the same way. For (c), partition time into intervals of length $1/n^\alpha$ and proceed in the same way.

For the lower bounds, we follow the same arguments as in Theorem 1.4. First assume that $\alpha \geq 1$. If $\beta_0 \in (0, \alpha)$, we argue exactly as in the case $\beta_0 \in (0, 2)$ in Theorem 1.4 with 2 replaced by α throughout. If $\beta_0 \in [\alpha, \alpha + 1)$, we argue exactly as in the case $\beta_0 \in [2, 3)$ in Theorem 1.4 where now things come down to verifying the finiteness of

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n: \ell_n^\alpha \geq x^\alpha \vee t} \ell_n} \left(\frac{1}{x^2 + t^2} \right)^{\frac{1+\alpha-\beta}{2}} dt dx$$

under the assumption $\sum_{n=1}^\infty e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^{1+\beta} < \infty$. Now assume that $\alpha < 1$. If $\beta_0 \in (0, 1)$, we argue analogously but a theorem of Kahane replaces our use of Theorem 1.2(iii). Theorem 4 in Section 11.8 of [10] together with Lemma 2.2 tells us that for each $t \in C$, $\text{HD}(\{x \in C : x \in F_t\}) = 1 - \beta_0$ a.s. An application of Fubini's Theorem and Theorem 7.7 in [12] exactly as in the case $\beta_0 \in (0, 2)$ in Theorem 1.4 allows us to conclude $\text{HD}(\{(t, x) : x \in F_t\}) \geq 2 - \beta_0$, as desired. For $\beta_0 \in [1, 1 + \alpha)$, we argue as in the case $\beta_0 \in [2, 3)$ in Theorem 1.4 where now things come down to verifying the finiteness of

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 e^{\sum_{n: \ell_n^\alpha \geq x^\alpha \vee t} \ell_n} \left(\frac{1}{x^2 + t^2} \right)^{\frac{1+\alpha-\beta}{2\alpha}} dt dx$$

under the assumption $\sum_{n=1}^\infty e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} / n^{1+\beta} < \infty$. This is done in more or less the same way with a few easy needed modifications. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.6. Part (i): Fix n and partition $[0, 1] \times C$ into boxes of size $1/\log n \times 1/n$. For the given block B , we have, by using the same arguments as in Theorem 1.5,

$$\begin{aligned} P(\exists(t, x) \in B : x \notin \cup_{k=1}^n I_{k,t}) &\leq \prod_{k=1}^n P(\exists(t, x) \in B : x \notin I_{k,t}) \\ &\leq \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 - \left(\ell_k - \frac{1}{n} \right) e^{\frac{-1}{\log n}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

One can again show this is $O(1)u_n$. Since the number of blocks is of order $n \log n$, we get $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 0$ if $\liminf_n n(\log n)u_n = 0$ and proceed as earlier if $\liminf_n n(\log n)u_n \in (0, \infty)$.

Part (ii): The difference between the situation here and that of the previous proof is that Lemma 2.1 does not work for $\beta = 0$. Therefore the analysis will be slightly different even though the ideas are the same. By repeating the beginning of the previous proof, it follows that existence of exceptional times is implied by

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 e^{e^{-t} \sum_{n=1}^\infty (\ell_n - x)^+} dt dx < \infty$$

which in turn is, of course, equivalent to

$$\int_0^b \int_0^b e^{e^{-t} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\ell_n - x)^+} dt dx < \infty$$

for any $b > 0$. The rest of the proof will consist of showing analytically that this is equivalent to the convergence of the series in the statement of the theorem. Since $1 - t < e^{-t} < 1 - t/2$ (for $t \in (0, 1)$), it suffices to show that for any $\kappa \in [1/2, 1]$,

$$\int_0^b \int_0^b e^{(1-\kappa t) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\ell_n - x)^+} dt dx < \infty$$

is equivalent to convergence of the series. Let $g(x) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\ell_n - x)^+$ and choose b so that $g(x) \geq 2$ on $[0, b]$. Now

$$\int_0^b e^{(1-\kappa t) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\ell_n - x)^+} dt = e^{g(x)} \left[-\frac{e^{-\kappa t g(x)}}{\kappa g(x)} \right]_0^b = e^{g(x)} \frac{1 - e^{-b\kappa g(x)}}{\kappa g(x)}.$$

The last expression is $\Theta(1)e^{g(x)}/(g(x))$. Thus

$$\int_0^b \int_0^b e^{(1-\kappa t) \sum_{n: \ell_n \geq x} \ell_n} dt dx = \Theta(1) \int_0^b \frac{e^{g(x)}}{g(x)} dx = \Theta(1) \int_0^b e^{f(x)} dx$$

where $f(x) := g(x) - \log g(x)$. We again use Lemma 11.4.1 of [10] which was stated in the proof of Lemma 2.1. We have that

$$f'(x) = g'(x) \left(1 - \frac{1}{g(x)} \right) = -n \left(1 - \frac{1}{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n} \right), \quad \ell_{n+1} < x < \ell_n.$$

By choice of b , f' is negative and increasing. Hence f is convex and decreasing and we may apply the lemma. Since $f'(x) = \Theta(n)$, $\ell_{n+1} < x < \ell_n$, f' makes jumps of size $1 + o(1)$ when $x = \ell_n$ and

$$\begin{aligned} f(\ell_n) &= \ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n - n\ell_n - \log(\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n - n\ell_n) = \\ &= \ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n - \log \log n + O(1), \end{aligned}$$

the lemma gives us that

$$\int_0^b e^{f(x)} dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \dots + \ell_n}}{n^2 \log n},$$

as desired. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.7. The if direction is trivial by Theorem 1.1 and so we assume that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} e^{\ell_1 + \dots + \ell_n} = \infty$ and show that $P(\exists t \in [0, 1] : F_t \neq \emptyset) = 0$. Consider the random sequence of lengths ℓ'_1, ℓ'_2, \dots which are obtained by taking the lengths of those intervals which have never been updated during $[0, 1]$. If we can show that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} e^{\ell'_1 + \dots + \ell'_n} = \infty \text{ a.s.}, \quad (19)$$

then Theorem 1.1 gives us the result since then these intervals would already be enough to cover the circle i.o. at all times. Let U_n be the event that the n th interval is updated during $[0, 1]$ and note that

$$E \left[\sum_n \ell_n I_{U_n} \right] = \sum_n \ell_n^{1-\alpha} < \infty$$

by (1). Hence $\sum_n \ell_n I_{U_n} < \infty$ a.s. and it follows that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} e^{\ell_1 I_{U_1}^c + \dots + \ell_n I_{U_n}^c} = \infty \text{ a.s.}$$

which clearly implies (19). \square

4. PROOFS OF TYPE (III) AND (V) RESULTS.

Proof of Theorem 1.8.

Proof of (a). Fix n and an open time interval J and let $H_{J,n}$ be the event that $\{x \in \cup_{t \in J} I_{n,t}\}$. It is elementary that for any J , $\inf_n P(H_{J,n}) > 0$. It follows from countable additivity that

$$P(\cap_{J \in \mathcal{I}} \{H_{J,n} \text{ i.o. (n)}\}) = 1$$

where \mathcal{I} is the collection of open intervals in $[0, 1]$ with rational endpoints. It is an elementary exercise left to the reader to show that $\cap_{J \in \mathcal{I}} \{H_{J,n} \text{ i.o. (n)}\} \subseteq \{T \text{ is dense}\}$, completing the proof.

Proof of (b). Fix n and an open time interval J of length ϵ . We first claim that with $H_{J,n}$ defined as above, we have that

$$P(H_{J,n}^c) = (1 - \ell_n) e^{-\epsilon \ell_n^{1-\alpha}}.$$

To see this, let U_n be the number of updates of I_n during the interval J , note that U_n has a Poisson distribution with parameter $\epsilon \ell_n^{-\alpha}$ and compute

$$P(H_{J,n}^c) = E[P(H_{J,n}^c | U_n)] = E[(1 - \ell_n)^{U_n+1}] = (1 - \ell_n) e^{-\epsilon \ell_n^{1-\alpha}}.$$

It is easy to check that for $\alpha \geq 0$, $\sum_n \left(1 - (1 - \ell_n) e^{-\epsilon \ell_n^{1-\alpha}}\right) < \infty$ if and only if $\sum_n \ell_n^{1-\alpha} < \infty$, and hence we have

$$\sum_n P(H_{J,n}) < \infty \text{ if and only if } \sum_n \ell_n^{1-\alpha} < \infty$$

for $\alpha \geq 0$. For $\alpha \leq 0$, this equivalence trivially holds since both sums converge.

Now if $\sum_n \ell_n^{1-\alpha} < \infty$, we have then have $P(H_{[0,1],n} \text{ i.o. (n)}) = 0$ which implies $P(T \neq \emptyset) = 0$. On the other hand, if $\sum_n \ell_n^{1-\alpha} = \infty$, then by the Borel Cantelli Lemma and countable additivity we obtain

$$P(\cap_{J \in \mathcal{I}} \{H_{J,n} \text{ i.o. (n)}\}) = 1$$

where \mathcal{I} is as above. Again we have that $\cap_{J \in \mathcal{I}} \{H_{J,n} \text{ i.o. } (n)\} \subseteq \{T \text{ is dense}\}$, completing the proof. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.9.

Proof of (a). Fix n and interval J in the circle and let $G_{J,n}$ be the event that $\cup_{t \in [0,1]} I_{t,n} \subseteq J$. It is clear that for any J , $P(G_{J,n})$ is nondecreasing in n (since the $\{\ell_n\}$'s are nonincreasing) and the limit is positive. It follows that

$$P(\cap_{J \in \mathcal{I}} \{G_{J,n} \text{ i.o. } (n)\}) = 1$$

where \mathcal{I} is the collection of open intervals in C with rational endpoints. It is an elementary exercise left to the reader to show that $\cap_{J \in \mathcal{I}} \{G_{J,n} \text{ i.o. } (n)\} \subseteq \{T = \emptyset\}$, completing the proof.

Proof of (b). Fix $\alpha > 0$. It is easy to check that

$$\cap_{t \in [0,1]} \cap_{J \in \mathcal{I}} \{U_{n,t} \in J \text{ i.o. } (n)\} \subseteq \{T = \emptyset\}$$

with \mathcal{I} as above. So it suffices to show that for all $J \in \mathcal{I}$, $P(\forall t \in [0,1] U_{n,t} \in J \text{ i.o. } (n)) = 1$ and for this it suffices to show $P(\exists t \in [0,1] U_{n,t} \in J^c \forall n) = 0$. Since the total number of different configurations we see of the first n intervals has a Poisson distribution with parameter $\sum_{i=1}^n \ell_i^{-\alpha}$,

$$P(\exists t \in [0,1] U_{1,t}, \dots, U_{n,t} \in J^c) \leq (1 - \ell(J))^n \sum_{i=1}^n \ell_i^{-\alpha}.$$

Under our assumption, the right hand side converges to 0, as desired.

Proof of (c). The proof is identical to part (b) with the phrase “with parameter $\sum_{i=1}^n \ell_i^{-\alpha}$ ” replaced by “with parameter at most n ”.

Proof of (d). Fix $\alpha > 0$. It is easy to show and left to the reader that if $\{\ell_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ goes to 0 sufficiently fast, then

$$P(\exists t \in [0,1] : \cap_n \{U_{n,t} \text{ in left half circle}\}) > 0.$$

This is simply a nested intervals type argument as is done in Theorem 1.2 in [8]. This yields (d). \square

5. FURTHER QUESTIONS

In this section, we list a number of questions and problems that remain.

1. When $\ell_n = 1/n$ and $\alpha = 0$, are there exceptional times in the Poisson model?
2. Show that the inequalities in Theorem 1.4 (iii) are equalities.
3. If $c < 1$ and $\ell_n = c/n$, then we know that $P(F = \emptyset) = 0$. Is it also the case that

$$P(\exists t \in [0,1] : F_t = \emptyset) = 0 ?$$

Does this depend on the value of c ?

This is analogous to the dynamical percolation question of whether, when we do percolate for ordinary percolation, there are exceptional times at which percolation does *not* occur. For dynamical percolation, this question is much less understood than the reverse question where one does not percolate for ordinary percolation but asks if there are exceptional times at which percolation *does* occur.

4. Given subsets of the time interval, determine when they contain exceptional times of various types.

Acknowledgements: Research partially supported by the Swedish Natural Science Research Council (Jonasson and Steif) and the Göran Gustafsson Foundation for Research in Natural Sciences and Medicine (Steif).

REFERENCES

- [1] Barral, J. and Fan, A.-H., Covering numbers of different points in Dvoretzky covering *Bull. Sci. Math.* **129**, 2005, 275–317.
- [2] Billard, P., Séries de Fourier aléatoirement bornées, continues, uniformément convergentes *Ann. Sci. École Norm. Sup. (3)* **82**, 1965, 131–179.
- [3] Dvoretzky, A., On covering a circle by randomly placed arcs *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **42**, 1956, 199–203.
- [4] Fan, A.-H., How many intervals cover a point in Dvoretzky covering? *Israel J. Math.* **131**, 2002, 157–184.
- [5] Fan, A.-H. and Wu, J., On the covering by small random intervals *Ann. Inst. H. Poincaré Probab. Statist.* **40**, 2004, 125–131.
- [6] Fitzsimmons P.J. and Gettoor R.K., On the potential theory of symmetric Markov processes. *Math. Ann.* **281**, 1988, 495–512.
- [7] Gettoor, R.K. and Sharp, M.J., Naturality, standardness, and weak duality for Markov processes. *Zeits. Wahr. verw. Gebiete* **67**, 1984, 1–62.
- [8] Häggström, O., Peres, Y. and Steif, J., Dynamical percolation *Ann. Inst. Henri Poincaré, Probab. et Stat.* **33**, 1997, 497–528.
- [9] Kahane, J.P., Sur le recouvrement d'un cercle par des arcs disposés au hasard *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris* **248**, 1959, 184–186.
- [10] Kahane, J. P. (1985) *Some random series of functions* Second edition, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- [11] Mandelbrot, B., On Dvoretzky coverings for the circle *Z. Wahrscheinlichkeitstheorie und Verw. Gebiete* **22**, 1972, 158–160.
- [12] Mattila, P. (1995) *Geometry of Sets and Measures in Euclidean Spaces*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- [13] Schramm, O. and Steif, J. E., Quantitative noise sensitivity and exceptional times for percolation, preprint.

- [14] Shepp, L. A., Covering the circle with random arcs *Israel J. Math.* **11**, 1972, 328–345.

(Johan Jonasson) DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, S-412 96 GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

E-mail address, Johan Jonasson: jonasson@math.chalmers.se

(Jeffrey E. Steif) DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, S-412 96 GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

E-mail address, Jeffrey E. Steif: steif@math.chalmers.se