## On Planar Graphs of Uniform Polynomial Growth

Farzam Ebrahimnejad
joint work with James R. Lee

Planarity


Planarity


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## Volume Growth

For a graph $G, v \in V(G)$ and $R \geq 0$ we define

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where $d_{G}(u, v)$ is the shortest path distance between $u$ and $v$.
© We are interested in how $|B(v, R)|$ grows as a function of $R$.

## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}$


$|B(v, 0)|=1$

## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}$



$$
|B(v, 1)|=3
$$

## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}$


$|B(v, R)|=2 R+1$

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$$
\begin{aligned}
|B(v, R)| & =2 R+1 \\
& =\Theta(R) .
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## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$



$$
|B(v, 0)|=1
$$

## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$



$$
|B(v, 1)|=5
$$

## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$



$$
|B(v, 2)|=13
$$

## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$



$$
|B(v, R)|=2 R^{2}-2 R+1
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## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$



$$
|B(v, R)|
$$

## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$



$$
|B(v, R)| \leq(2 R+1)^{2}
$$

## Volume Growth in $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$



$$
(R+1)^{2} \leq|B(v, R)| \leq(2 R+1)^{2}
$$

## Volume Growth in the Binary Tree



## Volume Growth in the Binary Tree



$$
|B(v, 0)|=1
$$

## Volume Growth in the Binary Tree



$$
|B(v, 1)|=3
$$

## Volume Growth in the Binary Tree



$$
|B(v, 2)|=7
$$



$$
|B(v, R)|=2^{R+1}-1
$$



$$
\begin{aligned}
|B(v, R)| & =2^{R+1}-1 \\
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## Uniform Volume Growth

We say a graph $G$ has uniform volume growth $f(R)$ if for all $v \in V(G)$ and $R \geq 0$ we have

$$
c f(R) \leq|B(v, R)| \leq C f(R)
$$

for some constants $0<c \leq C$.

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© Not all graphs have uniform volume growth.

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## Planar Graphs of Uniform Polynomial Growth > 2

## Theorem [Babai '97]

If $G$ is a vertex-transitive planar graph of uniform growth, then the growth is either linear, quadratic, or exponential.

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## Theorem [Benjamini - Schramm '01]

For all $\alpha \geq 1$, there exists an (infinite) planar graph of uniform growth $R^{\alpha}$.

## A Construction by Benjamini-Schramm



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## Theorem [Benjamini - Schramm '01]

The sequence of random rooted graphs $\left(Q_{1}, \rho_{1}\right),\left(Q_{2}, \rho_{2}\right), \ldots$, where $\rho_{i}$ is chosen uniformly among the vertices of $Q_{i}$, has a subsequential limit $\left(Q_{\infty}, \rho\right)$.


## Uniform Infinite Planar Triangulation (UIPT)

Defined as the distributional limit of a random uniform triangulation of the 2-sphere [Angel-Schramm '03].

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© Balls of radius $R$ in the UIPT almost surely have volume $R^{4+o(1)}$ [Angel 'o3].


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## Theorem [E - Lee '21]

For all $\alpha>2$, there exists a (unimodular) planar graph of uniform growth $R^{\alpha}$ in which the complements of all balls are connected.

## Sneak Peek



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## Outline

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\end{aligned}
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## Outline

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Up next...
$\square$ Random walks.
$\square$ Effective resistances.
$\square$ Our construction(s).

Random Walks













## Recurrence vs. Transience

An (infinite) graph $G$ is recurrent if for (all) $v_{0} \in V(G)$, the random walk starting from $v_{0}$ returns to $v_{0}$ almost surely.


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- This includes the Benjamini - Schramm constructions and the UIPT.


## Conjecture 1 [Benjamini '10]

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© Further conjectured to be true for doubling planar graphs.

## Effective Resistance

Given $G=(V, E)$ and $u, v \in V, R_{\text {eff }}(u, v)$ is the energy required to send a unit
electrical flow from from $u$ to $v$, assuming that every edge in $G$ is a unit resistor.

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## Theorem [Doyle - Snell '84]

$G=(V, E)$ is recurrent if and only if $R_{\text {eff }}(v, \infty)=\infty$ for $v \in V$. Where

$$
R_{\mathrm{eff}}(v, \infty)=\lim _{R \rightarrow \infty} R_{\mathrm{eff}}(v, V \backslash B(v, R)) .
$$



## How to Bound the Effective Resistance?

Theorem [Nash-Williams '59]

$$
R_{\mathrm{eff}}(u, v) \gtrsim \frac{1}{\left|S_{1}\right|}+\frac{1}{\left|S_{2}\right|}+\cdots+\frac{1}{\left|S_{n}\right|}
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## Theorem [Benjamini - Papasoglu '10]

Let $G=(V, E)$ be a planar graph with uniform polynomial growth. For all $v \in V, R \geq 1$, there is an $O(R)$-sized separator between $B(v, R)$ and $V \backslash B(v, 2 R)$.

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## Linear-sized Separators in $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$



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$$
R_{\mathrm{eff}}(v, \infty) \geq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} R_{\mathrm{eff}}\left(B\left(v, 2^{k}\right), V \backslash B\left(v, 2^{k+1}\right)\right)
$$

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## Conjecture 2 [Lee '17]

For any planar graph $G=(V, E)$ with uniform polynomial growth we have

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Let $\Gamma$ be a Gromov hyperbolic group whose visual boundary $\partial_{\infty} \Gamma$ is homeomorphic to $\mathbb{S}^{2}$. Then $\partial_{\infty} \Gamma$ is quasisymmetric to $\mathbb{S}^{2}$.

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Source: Cannon - Floyd - Parry 'o1

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© Know: $\gtrsim 1 / R$ [Benjamini - Papasoglu '10].

## Theorem [E - Lee '21]

For $\alpha, \epsilon>0$, there is a unimodular random planar graph $G=(V, E)$ of almost sure uniform growth $R^{\alpha}$ that further almost surely satisfies

$$
R_{\mathrm{eff}}(B(v, R), V \backslash B(v, 10 R)) \lesssim_{\epsilon} 1 / R^{1-\epsilon} .
$$

## Conjecture 1 [Benjamini '10]

Planar graphs with uniform polynomial growth are all recurrent.
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Theorem [E - Lee '21]
For all $\alpha>2$, there is a transient planar graph of uniform growth $R^{\alpha}$.

The Construction(s)

Tilings of $[0,1]^{2}$


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Tiling Product


## Tiling Product


© Obesrvation: $A \circ(B \circ C)=(A \circ B) \circ C$.

## $\left\{\mathbf{G}^{n}: n \geq 1\right\}$



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$G^{3}=$

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## $\left\{\mathbf{G}^{n}: n \geq 1\right\}$

$\mathrm{G}^{3}=$


$$
\longleftarrow 3^{3} \longrightarrow
$$



## $\left\{\mathbf{H}^{n}: n \geq 1\right\}$





## Lemma: $\left|B_{\mathbf{H}^{n}}(v, R)\right| \asymp R^{\log _{3} 12}$



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| $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{H^{K}}{H^{k}}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ |
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|  | $H^{k}$ |  | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{H^{\prime \prime}}{H^{k}}$ | $H^{k}$ |  | $H^{k}$ |  |
| $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{\mathrm{H}^{\prime}}{H^{\prime}}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ |
|  | $H^{k}$ |  | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{H^{\prime \prime}}{H^{\prime}}$ | $H^{k}$ |  | $H^{k}$ |  |
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| $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{H^{k}}{H^{k}}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ |
|  | $H^{k}$ |  | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{H^{\prime}}{H^{k}}$ | $H^{k}$ |  | $H^{k}$ |  |
| $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{H^{\prime}}{H^{k}}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ |
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| $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{H^{k}}{H^{k}}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ |
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| $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{H^{k}}{H^{\kappa}}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ |
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| $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $\frac{\mathrm{H}^{\kappa}}{\mathrm{H}^{k}}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ | $H^{k}$ |
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Let $\rho(\mathbf{S})$ denote the energy of the uniform flow from the tiles on the left of $\boldsymbol{S}$ to the tiles on its right.

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$$
\frac{1}{3}\left(1+\frac{1}{2}+1\right)=5 / 6
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## Generalizations



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## The Speed of the Random Walk

## Theorem [Lee '17]

Suppose $(G, \rho)$ is a unimodular random planar graph and $G$ almost surely has uniform polynomial growth of degree $d$. Then:

$$
\mathbb{E}\left[d_{G}\left(X_{0}, X_{t}\right) \mid X_{0}=\rho\right] \lesssim t^{1 / \max (2, d-1)} .
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## Theorem [E - Lee '21]

For $d \geq 2$ and $\epsilon>0$, there is a unimodular random planar graph $(G, \rho)$ that almost surely has uniform polynomial growth of degree $d$ and

$$
\mathbb{E}\left[d_{G}\left(X_{0}, X_{t}\right) \mid X_{0}=\rho\right] \geq_{\epsilon} t^{1 /(\max (2, d-1)+\epsilon)}
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For all $\alpha>2$, we can construct a transient planar graph of uniform growth $R^{\alpha}$

## Wrap-up

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## Wrap-up

For all $\alpha>2$, we can construct a transient planar graph of uniform growth $R^{\alpha}$, and furthermore a unimodular planar graph of such growth in which
© the complements of all balls are connected,
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© and the speed of the random walk is $t^{1 /(\max (2, d-1)+\varepsilon)}$.

Open Problems
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## Open Problems

- Cannon's Conjecture.


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© Can we get rid of the $\epsilon$ in the effective resistance / random walk speed bound?


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- In particular is there a planar graph of uniform polynomial growth $\alpha>2$ in which the random walk is diffusive?
© Other applications?
- Sphere-packable generalizations.


## Questions?

Thank you!


[^0]:    

