



Phase Diagram of the Ashkin–Teller Model

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Abstract: The Ashkin–Teller model is a pair of interacting Ising models and has two parameters: J is a coupling constant in the Ising models and U describes the strength of the interaction between them. In the ferromagnetic case $J, U > 0$ on the square lattice, we establish a complete phase diagram conjectured in physics in 1970s (by Kadanoff and Wegner, Wu and Lin, Baxter and others): when $J < U$, the transitions for the Ising spins and their products occur at two distinct curves that are dual to each other; when $J \geq U$, both transitions occur at the self-dual curve. All transitions are shown to be sharp using the OSSS inequality. We use a finite-size criterion argument and continuity to extend the result of Glazman and Peled (Electron J Probab 28:1–53, 2023) from a self-dual point to its neighborhood. Our proofs go through the random-cluster representation of the Ashkin–Teller model introduced by Chayes–Machta and Pfister–Velenik and we rely on couplings to FK-percolation.

1. Introduction

The Ashkin–Teller (AT) model is named after two physicists who introduced it [AT43] in 1943 and can be viewed as a pair of interacting Ising models [Fan72a]. For a finite subgraph $\Omega = (V, E)$ of \mathbb{Z}^2 , the AT model is supported on pairs of spin configurations $(\tau, \tau') \in \{\pm 1\}^V \times \{\pm 1\}^V$ and the distribution is defined by

$$\text{AT}_{\Omega, J_\tau, J_{\tau'}, U}(\tau, \tau') = \frac{1}{Z} \cdot \exp \left[\sum_{uv \in E} J_\tau \tau_u \tau_v + J_{\tau'} \tau'_u \tau'_v + U \tau_u \tau'_u \tau_v \tau'_v \right], \quad (1)$$

where $J_\tau, J_{\tau'}, U$ are real parameters and $Z = Z(\Omega, J_\tau, J_{\tau'}, U)$ is the unique constant (called *partition function*) that renders the above a probability measure.

In the current article, we consider the ferromagnetic symmetric (or isotropic) case

$$J = J_\tau = J_{\tau'} \geq 0, \text{ and } U \geq 0$$

and denote the measure by $\text{AT}_{\Omega, J, U}$.

Important particular cases: $U = 0$ gives two independent Ising models; for $J = 0$, τ reduces to a Bernoulli site percolation with parameter 1/2, and $\tau \tau'$ to an Ising model, independent of each other; the line $U = J$ corresponds to the 4-state Potts model. These models are very well-studied and their phase diagram is known; see [FV17, Dum17] for excellent surveys. Henceforth in this article we assume that $J, U > 0$. A key observation in the analysis of the AT model on \mathbb{Z}^2 is its relation to the six-vertex model [Fan72b, Weg72]. This gives a *non-staggered* six-vertex model (i.e. with shift invariant local weights) only at the *self-dual line* of the AT model: it was found in [MS71] and is described by the equation

$$\sinh(2J) = e^{-2U}. \quad (\text{SD})$$

Outside of this line, the corresponding six-vertex model is staggered and thus the seminal Baxter's solution [Bax71] does not apply. Kadanoff and Wegner [KW71, Weg72], Wu and Lin [WL74], and others conjectured that, when $J < U$, there are two *distinct* transition lines in the AT model: one for correlations of spins τ (or τ') and the other for correlations of products $\tau \tau'$. In the current article, we prove this conjecture and establish a complete phase diagram of the AT model in the ferromagnetic regime.

It will be convenient to state the results in infinite volume and to consider also plus boundary conditions. Denote by $\partial\Omega$ the set of boundary vertices of Ω —these are all vertices in Ω that are adjacent to at least one vertex in $\mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \Omega$. We define the measure with plus boundary conditions by conditioning all boundary vertices to have spin plus in τ and in τ' :

$$\text{AT}_{\Omega, J, U}^{+,+} := \text{AT}_{\Omega, J, U}(\cdot \mid \tau|_{\partial\Omega} \equiv \tau'|_{\partial\Omega} \equiv 1).$$

Expectations with respect to the AT measures are denoted by brackets:

$$\langle \cdot \rangle_{\Omega, J, U} := \mathbb{E}_{\Omega, J, U}[\cdot] \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \cdot \rangle_{\Omega, J, U}^{+,+} := \mathbb{E}_{\Omega, J, U}^{+,+}[\cdot].$$

The correlations of τ and τ' satisfy the Griffiths–Kelly–Sherman (GKS) inequality [KS68], which states that for any $A, B, C, D \subset V$, one has

$$\langle \tau_A \cdot \tau'_B \cdot \tau_C \cdot \tau'_D \rangle_{\Omega, J, U} \geq \langle \tau_A \cdot \tau'_B \rangle_{\Omega, J, U} \langle \tau_C \cdot \tau'_D \rangle_{\Omega, J, U}, \quad (\text{GKS})$$

where $\tau_A := \prod_{u \in A} \tau_u$ and $\tau'_B := \prod_{v \in B} \tau'_v$, and the same holds under plus boundary conditions. This implies that, for any $A, B \subset V$,

$$\langle \tau_A \cdot \tau'_B \rangle_{\Omega, \beta J, \beta U} \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \tau_A \cdot \tau'_B \rangle_{\Omega, \beta J, \beta U}^{+,+} \quad \text{are increasing in } \beta > 0.$$

Another standard application of the GKS inequality implies that, as $\Omega_n \nearrow \mathbb{Z}^2$, the weak limits under free or plus boundary conditions exist and do not depend on $\{\Omega_n\}$:

$$\text{AT}_{J, U} := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{AT}_{\Omega_n, J, U} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{AT}_{J, U}^{+,+} := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{AT}_{\Omega_n, J, U}^{+,+}.$$

Similarly to finite-volume measures, we denote by $\langle \cdot \rangle_{J, U}$ and $\langle \cdot \rangle_{J, U}^{+,+}$ the expectations with respect to $\text{AT}_{J, U}$ and $\text{AT}_{J, U}^{+,+}$. It is standard (e.g. can be shown by comparing to the Ising model) that the AT model undergoes a phase transition in terms of correlations of τ and those of $\tau \tau'$. Moreover, a general OSSS inequality [DRT19] can be used to show that both transitions are sharp (see Appendix). That is, for each pair J, U , there exist $\beta_c^\tau, \beta_c^{\tau \tau'} \in (0, \infty)$ and $(c_\beta)_{\beta > 0}$ strictly positive, such that

$$\langle \tau_0 \tau_x \rangle_{\beta J, \beta U}^{+,+} \begin{cases} \leq e^{-c_\beta \cdot |x|} & \text{if } \beta < \beta_c^\tau \\ \geq c_\beta & \text{if } \beta > \beta_c^\tau \end{cases}, \quad \langle \tau_0 \tau'_x \tau_x \tau'_x \rangle_{\beta J, \beta U}^{+,+} \begin{cases} \leq e^{-c_\beta \cdot |x|} & \text{if } \beta < \beta_c^{\tau\tau'} \\ \geq c_\beta & \text{if } \beta > \beta_c^{\tau\tau'} \end{cases}. \quad (2)$$

Symmetry between τ and τ' and the correlation inequalities (GKS) imply directly that

$$\beta_c^\tau \geq \beta_c^{\tau\tau'}. \quad (3)$$

There exists a unique β , for which $(\beta J, \beta U)$ is on the line (SD). Denote it by $\beta_{\text{sd}} = \beta_{\text{sd}}(J, U)$. The following theorem states our main result:

Theorem 1. *Let $0 < J < U$. Then, $\beta_c^\tau > \beta_{\text{sd}} > \beta_c^{\tau\tau'}$.*

This was previously shown when $2J < U$ using a direct comparison to the Ising model [Pfi82]. In addition, in the perturbative regime when J is small enough, the critical exponents associated to the phase transition for the product $\tau\tau'$ have been shown to be the same as for the Ising model [GM05]¹. This is expected to hold for both transitions whenever $J < U$, while the exponents should vary continuously when $J \geq U$. The latter has been established in [Mas04] for U sufficiently small. We refer to [DG04] for a survey on the physics literature on the critical behaviour of the AT model, as well as predictions on critical exponents using the quantum field theory. Recently, Peled and the third author have proven that spins τ (or τ') and the products $\tau\tau'$ exhibit qualitatively different behavior at the self-dual line when $J < U$ [GP23]: products $\tau\tau'$ are ordered, while τ (and τ') exhibits exponential decay of correlations. We derive Theorem 1 by extending this statement to an open neighborhood of the self-dual line when $J < U$. The continuity ideas do not apply directly, since the rate of decay of correlations might, a priori, not be a continuous function in the pair (J, U) . To circumvent this problem, we establish exponential decay in finite volume:

Proposition 1.1. *Fix $0 < J < U$ that satisfy $\sinh 2J = e^{-2U}$. Then, there exists $c := c(J, U) > 0$ such that*

$$\langle \tau_0 \rangle_{[-n,n]^2, J, U}^{+,+} \leq e^{-cn}.$$

Compared to [GP23], the exponential decay is proven in finite volume and under the largest boundary conditions. This is crucial for applying the so-called ‘finite-size criterion’ (or $\varphi_\beta(S)$) argument [Sim80, Lie80, DT16a, DT16b], since the Simon–Lieb inequality is not available (the Simon inequality is valid for $U \leq 0$ [Lis21]). This argument, as well as the proof of Proposition 1.1, use the random-cluster representation of the AT model (that we call ATRC) introduced by Chayes–Machta [CM97] and Pfister–Velenik [PV97]. As in the seminal Edwards–Sokal coupling for the Potts model [ES88], connectivities in the ATRC describe correlations in the AT model.

Other ingredients in the proof of Proposition 1.1 are couplings between the AT and the six-vertex models [Fan72b, Weg72] and between the latter and the FK-percolation [BKW76]. These two couplings were composed for the first time in the work of Peled and the third author [GP23]. We also use \mathbb{T} -circuits introduced in [GP23] to apply the non-coexistence theorem [She05, DRT19].

¹ Although [GM05] studies the anisotropic case $J_\tau \neq J_{\tau'}$ when U is small, applying the change of variables $(\tau, \tau') \mapsto (\tau\tau', \tau)$ allows to treat the case described above.

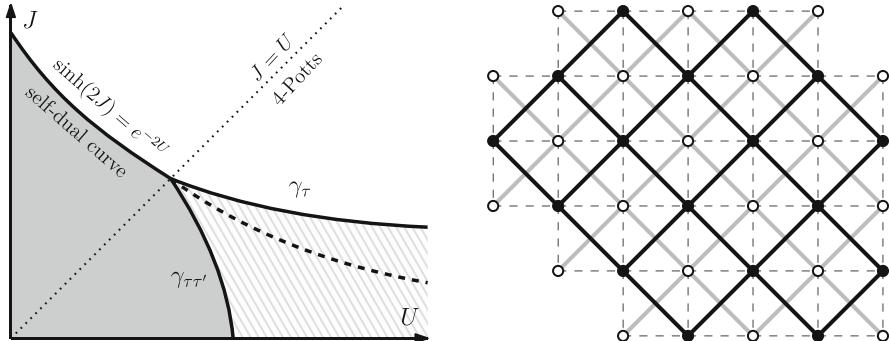


Fig. 1. *Left:* Phase diagram of the Ashkin–Teller model: when $J \geq U$, transitions for τ and $\tau\tau'$ occur at the self-dual curve (Theorem 3) and when $J < U$, the transition occurs at two distinct curves γ_τ and $\gamma_{\tau\tau'}$ dual to each other (Theorems 1 and 2). There are three regimes: disorder in τ and in $\tau\tau'$ (gray), order in τ and in τ' (white), disorder in τ and order in $\tau\tau'$ (dashed gray). *Right:* Domain Ω (in bold black) in \mathbb{L} and its dual Ω^* (in gray). Notice that Ω^* is not a domain in \mathbb{L}^* . The even domain \mathcal{D}_Ω (dashed) in \mathbb{Z}^2

The next result states that the transition lines are dual to each other (see Fig. 1) and that the critical points for the measures under the free and plus boundary conditions coincide. We define the critical curves γ_τ and $\gamma_{\tau\tau'}$ as follows:

$$\gamma_\tau := \{(J, U) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 < J < U, \beta_c^\tau(J, U) = 1\},$$

and similarly for $\gamma_{\tau\tau'}$. Given a pair of parameters (J, U) , we define the dual set of parameters (J^*, U^*) as the unique solutions to the following equations

$$\frac{e^{-2J+2U} - 1}{e^{-2J^*+2U^*} - 1} = e^{2U} \sinh(2J) = \left[e^{2U^*} \sinh(2J^*) \right]^{-1}. \quad (4)$$

This defines an involution. When $J = U$, we replace the first equality by $J^* = U^*$. Finally, we define $\beta_c^{\tau, f}$ and $\beta_c^{\tau\tau', f}$ as in (2) but under free boundary conditions.

Theorem 2. *Fix $0 < J < U$. Then, the following holds:*

- (i) $\beta_c^\tau = \beta_c^{\tau, f}$ and $\beta_c^{\tau\tau'} = \beta_c^{\tau\tau', f}$;
- (ii) γ_τ and $\gamma_{\tau\tau'}$ are dual in the following sense: $(J, U) \in \gamma_\tau$ if and only if $(J^*, U^*) \in \gamma_{\tau\tau'}$.

In contrast, when $J \geq U$, both transitions in τ and in $\tau\tau'$ occur at the self-dual line.

Theorem 3. *Let $J \geq U > 0$. Then, the following holds:*

- (i) $\beta_c^\tau = \beta_c^{\tau, f}$ and $\beta_c^{\tau\tau'} = \beta_c^{\tau\tau', f}$;
- (ii) $\beta_c^\tau = \beta_c^{\tau\tau'} = \beta_{\text{sd}}$.

Indeed, general approach [DRT19] gives sharpness under plus boundary conditions and equality of the transition points $\beta_c^\tau = \beta_c^{\tau\tau'} =: \beta_c$. By standard duality arguments, one deduces $\beta_c \leq \beta_{\text{sd}}$. The bound $\beta_c \geq \beta_{\text{sd}}$ follows from Zhang-type arguments provided the transition points for the free and monochromatic measures coincide. We show the latter by applying to the marginals of the ATRC a neat reformulation of the classical “convexity of the free energy” argument due to Duminil-Copin [Dum17, Theorem 1.12].

Open questions. At the self-dual curve (SD), the Ashkin–Teller model is coupled to the six-vertex model with parameters $a = b = 1$ and $c = \coth 2J$ (see Sect. 3). When $1 \leq c \leq 2$, the height function of the six-vertex model has been recently shown to delocalise [DCKMO20] (see also [GL23] for an alternative argument that does not use Bethe Ansatz). This implies that the transition in the Ashkin–Teller model is continuous for all $J \geq U > 0$: at the critical curve, correlations $\langle \tau_0 \tau_x \rangle^{+,+}$ and $\langle \tau_0 \tau'_0 \tau_x \tau'_x \rangle^{+,+}$ vanish as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. However, the type of the transitions when $J < U$ remains open:

Question 1. Let $0 < J < U$. Show that the Ashkin–Teller model undergoes two continuous phase transitions: one has $\langle \tau_0 \tau_x \rangle^{+,+} \rightarrow 0$ at γ_τ and $\langle \tau_0 \tau'_0 \tau_x \tau'_x \rangle^{+,+} \rightarrow 0$ at $\gamma_{\tau\tau'}$, as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$.

As mentioned above [DG04], the correlations should decay like $|x|^{-1/4}$ (as in the Ising model). It would be natural to extend Theorem 3 to the case of a negative U :

Question 2. Let $J > 0 > U$. Show that the Ashkin–Teller model undergoes a sharp transition at the self-dual curve (SD) in terms of correlations of τ and $\tau\tau'$.

Note that this would imply that the transition is continuous, since the delocalisation results cover this part of the self-dual curve. What is missing to apply the general argument of [DRT19] and prove sharpness is monotonicity of the correlations along some curves in the (J, U) plane when U is negative.

Organisation of the article. Sections 2–6 treat the case $J < U$: in Sect. 2, we introduce the random-cluster representation of the AT model (ATRC) and derive Theorems 1 and 2 from Proposition 1.1; Sects. 3–6 are dedicated to proving Proposition 1.1. In Sect. 3, we describe the six-vertex and FK-percolation models and give their background, including their relation to the AT model. In Sect. 4, we show that τ exhibits exponential decay of correlations in finite volume under the boundary conditions $\tau = \tau'$. In Sect. 5, we show that τ exhibits no ordering under $\text{AT}_{J,U}^{+,+}$. In Sect. 6, we derive Proposition 1.1. Section 7 deals with the case $J \geq U$: we introduce the ATRC model and prove Theorem 3. Appendices provide details regarding sharpness for the AT (A), exponential relaxation for FK-percolation (B), stochastic ordering of the ATRC with respect to its local weights (C) and uniqueness of the infinite-volume ATRC measure (D).

2. From Proposition 1.1 to Theorems 1 and 2

From now on, we will consider the AT model on a rotated square lattice that we denote by \mathbb{L} : its vertex set is $\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : x + y \text{ is even}\}$ and edges connect (x, y) to $(x \pm 1, y \pm 1)$, see Fig. 1. This is more convenient for the coupling with the six-vertex model (Sect. 3).

In this section, we fix $J < U$ and drop them from the notation. In particular, we write AT_Ω for the measure $\text{AT}_{\Omega, \beta J, \beta U}$.

We start by defining the random-cluster representation of the AT model (ATRC) introduced by Chayes–Machta [CM97] and Pfister–Velenik [PV97]. Using a $\varphi_\beta(S)$ argument, we prove that $(\beta_c^{\tau\tau'} J, \beta_c^{\tau\tau'} U)$ is strictly above the self-dual line. By duality, this implies that $(\beta_c^\tau J, \beta_c^\tau U)$ is strictly below the self-dual line which concludes the proof.

2.1. ATRC: definition and basic properties. The ATRC is reminiscent of the Edwards–Sokal [ES88] coupling between FK-percolation and the Potts model. Since the AT model is supported on a pair of spin configurations, the ATRC is supported on a pair of bond percolation configurations.

Percolation configurations. For a finite subgraph $\Omega \subset \mathbb{L}$, the sets of its vertices and edges are denoted by V_Ω and E_Ω , respectively. We view $\omega \in \{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega}$ as a percolation configuration: we say that e is *open* in ω if $\omega(e) = 1$, and otherwise e is *closed*. We identify ω with a spanning subgraph of Ω and edges that are open in ω . Define $|\omega|$ as the number of edges in ω . Boundary conditions for ω are given by a partition η of $\partial\Omega$. We define $k^\eta(\omega)$ as the number of connected components in ω when all vertices belonging to the same element of partition in η are identified. Two important special cases: 1 denotes *wired* b.c. given by a trivial partition consisting of one element $\partial\Omega$; 0 denotes *free* b.c. given by a partition of $\partial\Omega$ into singletons.

Definition of ATRC. A configuration of the ATRC model on Ω is a pair $(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'})$ of percolation configurations on edges of Ω . Formally, the ATRC measure is supported on $(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'}) \in \{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega} \times \{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega}$. For $\beta > 0$ and partitions $\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}$ of $\partial\Omega$, the ATRC measure is defined by

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'}) = \frac{1}{Z} \cdot 2^{k^{\eta_\tau}(\omega_\tau) + k^{\eta_{\tau\tau'}}(\omega_{\tau\tau'})} \prod_{e \in E} a(\omega_\tau(e), \omega_{\tau\tau'}(e)), \quad (5)$$

where $Z = Z(\Omega, \beta, J, U, \eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'})$ is a normalizing constant and

$$a(0, 0) := e^{-2\beta(J+U)}, \quad a(1, 0) := 0, \quad a(0, 1) := e^{-4\beta J} - e^{-2\beta(J+U)}, \quad a(1, 1) := 1 - e^{-4\beta J}. \quad (6)$$

Since $J < U$, we have $a(i, j) \geq 0$ for all $i, j \in \{0, 1\}$. We will also use the notation $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J, U}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}$ for the measure with $\beta = 1$.

It will be useful to express the measure as

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'}) \propto w_\tau^{|\omega_\tau|} w_{\tau\tau'}^{|\omega_{\tau\tau'} \setminus \omega_\tau|} 2^{k^{\eta_\tau}(\omega_\tau) + k^{\eta_{\tau\tau'}}(\omega_{\tau\tau'})} \mathbb{1}_{\omega_\tau \subseteq \omega_{\tau\tau'}}, \quad (7)$$

where

$$w_\tau = e^{2\beta U} (e^{2\beta J} - e^{-2\beta J}) \quad \text{and} \quad w_{\tau\tau'} = e^{2\beta(U-J)} - 1. \quad (8)$$

In this context, we will refer to the measure as $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, w_\tau, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}$. In Sect. 4.2, we will encounter a version of this measure with non-homogeneous weights.

Remark 2.1. The representation can be extended to $J \geq U$ [PV97], see Sect. 7.1.

There are four special types of boundary conditions given by free/wired η_τ and free/wired $\eta_{\tau\tau'}$: $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}$ (both wired), $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{0,0}$ (both free), $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,0}$ (wired for ω_τ , free for $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$), $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{0,1}$ (free for ω_τ , wired for $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$).

Positive association: general setting. We first introduce the notions of *monotone* measures, *stochastic domination* and *positive association* following [GHM01, Sect. 4.2]. Let E be a finite set of edges. We introduce a pointwise partial order on percolation configurations on E : we say that $\omega \preceq \omega'$ if and only if $\omega(e) \leq \omega'(e)$ for any $e \in E$. A probability measure μ on $\{0, 1\}^E$ is called *monotone* if

$$\mu(\omega(e) = 1 \mid \omega = \eta \text{ off } e) \leq \mu(\omega(e) = 1 \mid \omega = \eta' \text{ off } e) \quad (9)$$

for any $e \in E$, and $\eta, \eta' \in \{0, 1\}^{E \setminus \{e\}}$ such that $\eta \preceq \eta'$, $\mu(\omega = \eta \text{ off } e) > 0$ and $\mu(\omega = \eta' \text{ off } e) > 0$.

An event $A \subseteq \{0, 1\}^E$ is called *increasing* if $\mathbb{1}_A$ is increasing with respect to the partial order. Given two probability measures μ and ν on $\{0, 1\}^E$, we say that μ is stochastically dominated by ν (or ν stochastically dominates μ), and write $\mu \leq_{st} \nu$ (or $\nu \geq_{st} \mu$), if for every increasing event $A \in \mathcal{A}$, we have $\mu(A) \leq \nu(A)$. Moreover, μ is said to be *positively associated* if, for all increasing bounded functions f and g on $\{0, 1\}^E$, we have

$$\mu(f \cdot g) \geq \mu(f)\mu(g). \quad (10)$$

This is called the FKG inequality after the work of Fortuin, Kasteleyn and Ginibre [FKG71]. Their fundamental contribution consists in introducing the FKG lattice condition (similar to (9)) and showing that it implies positive association (10) when μ is strictly positive.

The above setting suffices for the ATRC measure, but for our proofs we need a slightly more general statement. More precisely, we fix $K \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and say that a probability measure μ on $\{-K, \dots, K\}^E$ is *monotone* if and only if

$$\mu(\omega(e) \geq a \mid \omega = \eta \text{ off } e) \leq \mu(\omega(e) \geq a \mid \omega = \eta' \text{ off } e) \quad (11)$$

for any $e \in E$, $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\eta, \eta' \in S^{E \setminus \{e\}}$ such that $\eta \leq \eta'$, $\mu(\omega = \eta \text{ off } e) > 0$ and $\mu(\omega = \eta' \text{ off } e) > 0$. The notions of stochastic domination and positive association extend in a natural way. A probability measure μ on $\{-K, \dots, K\}^E$ is called *irreducible* if, for any $\omega, \omega' \in \{-K, \dots, K\}^E$ such that $\mu(\omega), \mu(\omega') > 0$ there exists a sequence $\omega_0 = \omega, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_N = \omega'$, for some $N > 0$, such that ω_{i-1} and ω_i differ at one coordinate and both have a non-zero probability, for $i = 1, \dots, N$. Assume that μ is monotone, irreducible and the set of $\omega \in \{-K, \dots, K\}^E$ having positive probability contains a unique maximal element. Then, [GHM01, Theorem 4.11] states that μ is positively associated.

Finally, we mention that the positive association property (10) naturally extends to probability measures on $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ or $\mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}$. Moreover, for any increasing sequence of finite sets E_i , if the sequence of positively associated measures μ_i on E_i converges weakly, then the limiting measure is also positively associated. Indeed, (10) is preserved under weak limits when f and g are continuous. Then, by Strassen's theorem [Str65], the same holds for any bounded functions (see [GHM01, Theorem 4.6] and the paragraph below [GHM01, Definition 4.10]).

Monotonicity properties of the ATRC measure. Consider a natural partial order on pairs of percolation configurations: $(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'}) \preceq (\tilde{\omega}_\tau, \tilde{\omega}_{\tau\tau'})$ if $\omega_\tau(e) \leq \tilde{\omega}_\tau(e)$ and $\omega_{\tau\tau'}(e) \leq \tilde{\omega}_{\tau\tau'}(e)$ for every edge e of Ω . By [PV97, Proposition 4.1] (and its proof), the measure $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}$, for any $\beta > 0$ and any boundary conditions $\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}$, is monotone and hence is positively associated. In particular, for any increasing events A and B ,

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}(A \cap B) \geq \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}(A) \cdot \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}(B). \quad (\text{FKG})$$

It is standard that monotone measures are stochastically ordered with respect to their boundary conditions. Indeed, for two partitions η and $\tilde{\eta}$ of $\partial\Omega$, we say that $\eta \geq \tilde{\eta}$ if any two vertices belonging to the same element of $\tilde{\eta}$ also belong to the same element of η . Then, for any $\beta > 0$, and any boundary conditions such that $\eta_\tau \geq \tilde{\eta}_\tau$ and $\eta_{\tau\tau'} \geq \tilde{\eta}_{\tau\tau'}$,

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}} \geq_{st} \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\tilde{\eta}_\tau, \tilde{\eta}_{\tau\tau'}}. \quad (\text{CBC})$$

The Holley criterion [Hol74] also allows to show stochastic ordering of the measures in the parameter β : if $\beta_1 \geq \beta_2$, then, for any boundary conditions $\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}$,

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta_1}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}} \geq_{\text{st}} \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta_2}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}. \quad (\text{MON})$$

See [Gri06, Lemma 11.14] for a proof. In fact, this proof gives a little more. Indeed, it consists of checking inequalities for quantities that are continuous functions of $(\beta_i J, \beta_i U)$ and the inequalities are strict when $\beta_1 > \beta_2$. This implies that the ATRC measure with parameters in a small neighbourhood of $(\beta_1 J, \beta_1 U)$ dominates that with parameters in a small neighbourhood of $(\beta_2 J, \beta_2 U)$. More precisely, for $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, define $B_r(x, y)$ as the Euclidian ball of radius r centred at (x, y) . If $\beta_1 > \beta_2$, then there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that for any $(J_1, U_1) \in B_\varepsilon(\beta_1 J, \beta_1 U)$ and $(J_2, U_2) \in B_\varepsilon(\beta_2 J, \beta_2 U)$,

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J_1, U_1}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}} \geq_{\text{st}} \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J_2, U_2}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}. \quad (\text{MON+})$$

This extension will be useful for our proof of Theorem 2.

Domain Markov property. As in the standard FK-percolation, one can interpret a configuration outside of a subdomain as boundary conditions. Indeed, let $\Omega \subset \Delta$ be two finite subgraphs of \mathbb{L} and $\xi \in \{0, 1\}^{E_\Delta \setminus E_\Omega}$ a percolation configuration on $\Delta \setminus \Omega$. Given boundary conditions η on Δ , define a partition $\eta \cup \xi$ of $\partial\Omega$ by first identifying vertices belonging to the same element of η and then identifying vertices belonging to the same cluster of ξ . Then, the following domain Markov property holds:

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Delta, \beta}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}(\cdot | (\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'}))_{|\Delta \setminus \Omega} = (\xi_\tau, \xi_{\tau\tau'})_{|\Delta \setminus \Omega} = \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\eta_\tau \cup \xi_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'} \cup \xi_{\tau\tau'}}(\cdot). \quad (\text{DMP})$$

Thus, by (CBC), for any increasing sequence of subgraphs $\Omega_k \nearrow \mathbb{L}$, the measures $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega_k, \beta}^{1,1}$ form a stochastically decreasing sequence. Thus, the weak (or local) limit exists and is unique, by standard arguments. Denote it by $\text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}$. Define $\text{ATRC}_\beta^{0,0}$ analogously. We write $\text{ATRC}_{J, U}^{1,1}$ and $\text{ATRC}_{J, U}^{0,0}$ for the corresponding measures with $\beta = 1$.

Coupling between ATRC and AT. For $X, Y \subset \mathbb{L}$ and a percolation configuration $\omega \in \{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega}$, we define $X \xleftrightarrow{\omega} Y$ as an event that X and Y are linked by a path of open edges in ω . If $X = \{x\}$ and $Y = \{y\}$, we simply write $x \xleftrightarrow{\omega} y$. We also use the notation $x \xleftrightarrow{\omega} \infty$ for the event of x belonging to an infinite connected component of ω .

The key property of the ATRC is that connectivities in it describe correlations in the AT model [PV97, Proposition 3.1]: for $\beta > 0$ and any finite subgraph $\Omega \subset \mathbb{L}$ with $x, y \in V_\Omega$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \tau_x \tau_y \rangle_{\Omega, \beta} &= \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{0,0}(x \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} y), & \langle \tau_x \tau'_x \tau_y \tau'_y \rangle_{\Omega, \beta} &= \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{0,0}(x \xleftrightarrow{\omega_{\tau\tau'}} y), \\ \langle \tau_x \rangle_{\Omega, \beta}^{+,+} &= \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}(x \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial\Omega), & \langle \tau_x \tau'_x \rangle_{\Omega, \beta}^{+,+} &= \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}(x \xleftrightarrow{\omega_{\tau\tau'}} \partial\Omega). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

By the classical Burton–Keane argument [BK89], infinite clusters in ω_τ and $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$ are unique (if they exist). Then, (12) and (FKG) imply that $\beta_c^{\tau, f}$ and $\beta_c^{\tau\tau', f}$ are percolation thresholds for ω_τ and $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$ under $\text{ATRC}_\beta^{0,0}$. Similarly, the same holds for β_c^τ and $\beta_c^{\tau\tau'}$ under $\text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}$.

Dual ATRC. Define the dual lattice $\mathbb{L}^* := \mathbb{L} + (1, 0)$. For each edge e of \mathbb{L} , there is a unique edge of \mathbb{L}^* that intersects it: call this edge dual to e and denote it by e^* . Denote by

$E_{\mathbb{L}}$ and $E_{\mathbb{L}^*}$ the sets of edges of \mathbb{L} and \mathbb{L}^* , respectively. Given a percolation configuration $\omega \in \{0, 1\}^{E_{\mathbb{L}}}$, we define its dual configuration $\omega^* \in \{0, 1\}^{E_{\mathbb{L}^*}}$ by setting

$$\omega^*(e^*) := 1 - \omega(e).$$

For an ATRC configuration $(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'}) \in \{0, 1\}^{E_{\mathbb{L}}} \times \{0, 1\}^{E_{\mathbb{L}}}$, we define its dual $(\hat{\omega}_\tau, \hat{\omega}_{\tau\tau'}) \in \{0, 1\}^{E_{\mathbb{L}^*}} \times \{0, 1\}^{E_{\mathbb{L}^*}}$ in the following way,

$$\hat{\omega}_\tau := \omega_{\tau\tau}^* \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\omega}_{\tau\tau'} := \omega_{\tau\tau'}^*. \quad (13)$$

We want to emphasize that we are not considering two standard dual percolation configurations but we also swap the order of τ -edges and $\tau\tau'$ -edges.

The measures $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0} =: \text{ATRC}_{\mathbb{L},J,U}^{0,0}$ and $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1} =: \text{ATRC}_{\mathbb{L},J,U}^{1,1}$ on \mathbb{L} can be defined on \mathbb{L}^* in the same manner, and we denote them by $\text{ATRC}_{\mathbb{L}^*,J,U}^{0,0}$ and $\text{ATRC}_{\mathbb{L}^*,J,U}^{1,1}$, respectively. Recall the mapping $(J, U) \mapsto (J^*, U^*)$ defined by (4) and note its properties: it is continuous, an involution, identity on the self-dual line (SD), sends every point above (SD) to a point below (SD). The pushforward of the ATRC measure under the duality transformation is also an ATRC measure with the dual parameters:

Lemma 2.2 (Prop 3.2 in [PV97]). *Let $0 < J < U$. Let $(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'})$ be distributed according to $\text{ATRC}_{\mathbb{L},J,U}^{1,1}$. Then, the distribution of $(\hat{\omega}_\tau, \hat{\omega}_{\tau\tau'})$ is given by $\text{ATRC}_{\mathbb{L}^*,J^*,U^*}^{0,0}$.*

2.2. Proof of Theorem 2. We first show that $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0}$ and $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}$ coincide for almost every (J, U) :

Lemma 2.3. *There exists $D \subseteq \{(J, U) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 < J < U\}$ with Lebesgue measure 0 such that, for any $(J, U) \in D^c$, one has*

$$\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0} = \text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}. \quad (14)$$

Remark 2.4. Note that, by (CBC), equation (14) implies equality of all Gibbs measures.

The proof goes by applying a version of the classical convexity argument to the marginals of ATRC on ω_τ and $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$, see Appendix D for more details. We are ready to prove part (i) of Theorem 2. Recall that $B_r(x, y)$ is the Euclidean ball of radius r centred at (x, y) .

Proof of Theorem 2(i). Fix $J < U$. By (CBC), we have $\beta_c^\tau \leq \beta_c^{\tau,f}$. Assume for contradiction that the inequality is strict, and take $\beta \in (\beta_c^\tau, \beta_c^{\tau,f})$. Then, by (MON+), there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that, for any $(J', U') \in B_\varepsilon(\beta J, \beta U)$,

$$\text{ATRC}_{J',U'}^{0,0}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \infty) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{ATRC}_{J',U'}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \infty) > 0.$$

This contradicts Lemma 2.3. \square

Denote by \mathcal{H}_n^τ (resp. $\mathcal{H}_n^{\tau\tau'}$) the event that the box $[0, 2n-1] \times [0, 2n-1]$ is crossed horizontally by ω^τ (resp. $\omega^{\tau\tau'}$). Note that the complement of \mathcal{H}_n^τ is the event that the box $[0, 2n-1] \times [0, 2n-1]$ is crossed vertically by the dual ω_τ^* . The following lemma states a standard characterisation of non-transition points. It is a consequence of Lemma 2.3 and sharpness of the phase transition in the ATRC. The latter can be derived using a robust approach going through the OSSS inequality [DRT19]; see Appendix A for more details.

Lemma 2.5. Let $0 < J < U$. Then, $(J, U) \in \gamma_\tau$ if and only if, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exist points (J_0, U_0) and (J_1, U_1) in $B_\varepsilon(J, U)$, such that, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\text{ATRC}_{J_0, U_0}^{0,0}[\mathcal{H}_n^\tau] \rightarrow 1 \text{ and } \text{ATRC}_{J_1, U_1}^{1,1}[\mathcal{H}_n^\tau] \rightarrow 0. \quad (15)$$

The same holds also when τ is replaced everywhere by $\tau\tau'$.

Proof. Assume $(J, U) \in \gamma_\tau$. By sharpness, $\text{ATRC}_{\beta J, \beta U}^{1,1}[\mathcal{H}_n^\tau] \rightarrow 0$, for any $\beta \in (0, 1)$. Also, it is standard that part (i) of Theorem 2 and Zhang's argument imply that $\text{ATRC}_{\beta J, \beta U}^{0,0}[\mathcal{H}_n^\tau] \rightarrow 1$, for any $\beta > 1$. This gives one direction of the statement.

To show the reverse, assume first that $\beta_c^\tau := \beta_c^\tau(J, U) > 1$ and take $\beta \in (1, \beta_c^\tau)$. By sharpness, $\text{ATRC}_{\beta J, \beta U}^{1,1}[\mathcal{H}_n^\tau] \rightarrow 0$ and, by (MON+), the same holds in some neighbourhood of (J, U) . The case $\beta_c^\tau < 1$ is analogous. \square

Proof of Theorem 2(ii). Let $(J, U) \in \gamma_\tau$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. Since the duality mapping is a continuous involution, we can find $\delta > 0$ such that the image of $B_\delta(J, U)$ is inside $B_\varepsilon(J^*, U^*)$. By Lemma 2.5, we get (15) for some (J_0, U_0) and (J_1, U_1) in $B_\delta(J, U)$. By duality and symmetry,

$$\text{ATRC}_{J_0^*, U_0^*}^{1,1}[\mathcal{H}_n^{\tau\tau'}] \rightarrow 0 \text{ and } \text{ATRC}_{J_1^*, U_1^*}^{0,0}[\mathcal{H}_n^{\tau\tau'}] \rightarrow 1 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Since (J_0^*, U_0^*) and (J_1^*, U_1^*) are in $B_\varepsilon(J^*, U^*)$, Lemma 2.5 implies that $(J^*, U^*) \in \gamma_{\tau\tau'}$.

Proving that $(J^*, U^*) \in \gamma_{\tau\tau'}$ implies $(J, U) \in \gamma_\tau$ is analogous. \square

2.3. $\varphi_\beta(S)$ argument: proof of Theorem 1. Following [Sim80, Lie80] (see also [DT16a]), for a finite subgraph $S \subset \mathbb{L}$ containing 0, define

$$\varphi_\beta(S) = |\partial S| \cdot \text{ATRC}_{S, \beta}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial S).$$

The following lemma states a key property of $\varphi_\beta(S)$: if it is less than 1 for some S , then ω_τ exhibits exponential decay of connection probabilities. This finite-size criterion allows to use continuity of $\varphi_\beta(S)$ and Proposition 1.1 to extend exponential decay of ω_τ beyond (SD). Let Λ_k be the box of size k in \mathbb{L} , that is $\Lambda_k = \{u \in \mathbb{L} : \|u\|_1 \leq 2k\}$.

Lemma 2.6. Let $\beta > 0$. Assume that $\varphi_\beta(S) < 1$, for some finite subgraph $S \subset \mathbb{L}$ containing 0. Then, there exists $c := c(\beta, S) > 0$ such that

$$\text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_n) \leq e^{-cn}.$$

Remark 2.7. (1) Note that the boundary conditions are *free* in [DT16a] and *wired* in our case. The reason is that an analogue of Lemma 2.6 is proven in [DT16a] via a modified Simon–Lieb inequality [Lie80, Sim80] for the Ising model. Such inequalities are not available in our case. While Lemma 2.6 under wired conditions is elementary, proving exponential decay under wired boundary conditions in finite volume (Proposition 1.1) is the subject of Sects. 3–6.

(2) We point an interested reader to the work [DS87] that introduces a finite-size criterion for the completely analytical interactions.

Proof of Lemma 2.6. Let $S \subset \mathbb{L}$ be a finite subgraph containing 0 such that $\varphi_\beta(S) < 1$ and let k be such that $S \subset \Lambda_k$. If $0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{nk}$, then $\partial S \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{nk}$ and $0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial S$.

By (CBC) and the union bound,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{nk}) &\leq \text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial S \mid \partial S \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{nk}) \cdot \text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}(\partial S \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{nk}) \\ &\leq \text{ATRC}_{S,\beta}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial S) \cdot \sum_{x \in \partial S} \text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}(x \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{nk}) \\ &\leq \text{ATRC}_{S,\beta}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial S) \cdot |\partial S| \text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{(n-1)k}) \\ &= \varphi_\beta(S) \text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{(n-1)k}). \end{aligned}$$

where we also used translation invariance of $\text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}$ and that $S \subset \Lambda_k$.

Since $\varphi_\beta(S) < 1$, we get that $\text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \Lambda_{nk})$ decays exponentially fast in n by induction. Since for any $m \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists n such that $m \in [nk, (n+1)k]$, we get that $\text{ATRC}_\beta^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_m)$ decays exponentially fast in m . \square

We are now ready to derive Theorem 1 from Proposition 1.1 and Theorem 2.

Proof of Theorem 1. Fix $J < U$. By Proposition 1.1 and (12), we can take $n > 1$ such that $\varphi_{\beta_{\text{sd}}}(\Lambda_n) < 1$. Since the function $\beta \mapsto \varphi_\beta(\Lambda_n)$ is increasing and continuous, there exists $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(J, U) > 0$, such that $\varphi_{\beta'}(\Lambda_n) < 1$, for all $\beta' < \beta_{\text{sd}} + \varepsilon$. The latter implies exponential decay by Lemma 2.6 and hence $\beta_c^\tau > \beta_{\text{sd}}$. In other words, all points on γ^τ are strictly above the self-dual curve. Hence their images under the duality mapping (4) are strictly below the self-dual curve. By Theorem 2, these points are exactly the points of $\gamma^{\tau\tau'}$ and this finishes the proof. \square

Remark 2.8. Standard arguments similar to the proof of Lemma 2.6 show that

$$c_\beta = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} \log \text{ATRC}_{\Lambda_n, \beta}^{1,1}[0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_n]$$

exists and is right-continuous in β , which gives another way to argue that the exponential decay from Proposition 1.1 extends to an open neighbourhood of the self-dual line (SD).

3. Models, Couplings and Required Input

In this section, we introduce the six-vertex model together with its height and spin representations. We also state couplings of this model with the ATRC model and FK-percolation that will be crucial to our arguments. A combination of these two couplings has been made explicit recently in the work of Peled and the third author [GP23] and we summarize the results of that work that we will rely on.

3.1. Graph notation. Dual subgraphs and configurations. For a finite subgraph Ω of \mathbb{L} , define its dual graph Ω^* in \mathbb{L}^* formed by edges dual to the edges of Ω . As for primal graphs, we denote the sets of its vertices and edges by V_{Ω^*} and E_{Ω^*} . The boundary $\partial \Omega^*$ is defined in the same way as for subgraphs of \mathbb{L} . Given a percolation configuration $\omega \in \{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega}$, its dual configuration $\omega^* \in \{0, 1\}^{E_{\Omega^*}}$ is defined by $\omega^*(e^*) = 1 - \omega(e)$, $e \in E_\Omega$.

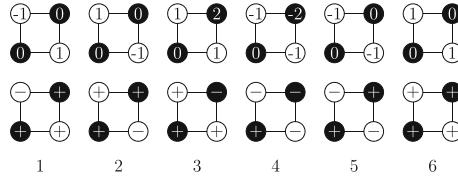


Fig. 2. *Top:* The height representation of the six-vertex model in the four vertices of a unit square in \mathbb{Z}^2 , normalized to equal 0 at the lower left vertex. *Bottom:* The spin representation is derived from the heights by setting the spin state at each vertex to +1 (resp. -1) if the height modulo 4 equals 0, 1 (resp. 2, 3)

Domains in \mathbb{L} . A finite induced subgraph Ω of \mathbb{L} (or \mathbb{L}^*) is a *domain* if it is given by vertices and edges within a simple cycle (including the cycle itself). We denote the set of vertices on the surrounding cycle by $\bar{\partial}\Omega$ and call it the *domain-boundary* of Ω . The set of edges on $\bar{\partial}\Omega$ is called *edge-boundary* of Ω and is denoted by $E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}$.

Domains in \mathbb{Z}^2 . Given a domain Ω in \mathbb{L} , let \mathcal{D}_Ω be the subgraph of \mathbb{Z}^2 induced by vertices in $\Omega \cup \Omega^*$. We call such a domain an *even domain* of \mathbb{Z}^2 (see Fig. 1). Define $\partial^2\mathcal{D}_\Omega := \bar{\partial}\Omega \cup \partial\Omega^*$. Given a domain Ω' on \mathbb{L}^* , we define $\mathcal{D}_{\Omega'}$ in the same manner and call it an *odd domain* of \mathbb{Z}^2 . In particular, odd domains are obtained from even domains by shift by one to the right. We emphasize that we only consider even and odd domains.

Remark 3.1. These restrictions stem from the coupling to FK-percolation (Sect. 3.6) that requires two layers of boundary in \mathcal{D}_Ω : inner layer $\bar{\partial}\Omega$ and outer layer $\partial\Omega^*$.

3.2. Six-vertex model and its representations. In this section, we define the *six-vertex model* [Pau35] (more precisely, the *F-model*) and its different representations in terms of spins [Rys63] and height functions. For the whole subsection, fix a domain Ω in \mathbb{L} (or \mathbb{L}^*) and its corresponding even (odd) domain $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_\Omega$ in \mathbb{Z}^2 .

Height functions. A function $h : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is called a *height function* (of the six-vertex model) if it satisfies the *ice rule*:

- $|h(u) - h(v)| = 1$ whenever u, v are connected by an edge in \mathbb{Z}^2 ,
- h takes even values on $\mathcal{D} \cap \mathbb{L}$.

This constraint implies that, for each edge e of Ω , the value of h is constant at the endpoints of e or at the endpoints of e^* . Up to an even additive constant, this leaves six local possibilities (*types*), where types 5 and 6 correspond to h taking constant values along both e and e^* , see Fig. 2.

The *six-vertex height function measure* on \mathcal{D} with parameters $c, c_b > 0$ and boundary conditions $t \in \mathbb{Z}^{\partial^2\mathcal{D}}$ is supported on height functions $h \in \mathbb{Z}^{\mathcal{D}}$ that coincide with t on $\partial^2\mathcal{D}$ and is given by

$$\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{t;c_b}[h] = \frac{1}{Z} c^{n_{5,6}^i(h)} c_b^{n_{5,6}^b(h)}, \quad (16)$$

where $Z = Z(\mathcal{D}, c, c_b, t)$ is a normalizing constant and $n_{5,6}^i(h)$ (resp. $n_{5,6}^b(h)$) is the number of edges of type 5 or 6 of $E_\Omega \setminus E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}$ (resp. $E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}$). When $c = c_b$, we recover the standard six-vertex probability measure that will be denoted by $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^t$. We write $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{2n,2n+1;c_b}$ for $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{t;c_b}$ with $t \in \{2n, 2n+1\}^{\partial^2\mathcal{D}}$. We define $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{2n,2n-1;c_b}$ analogously.

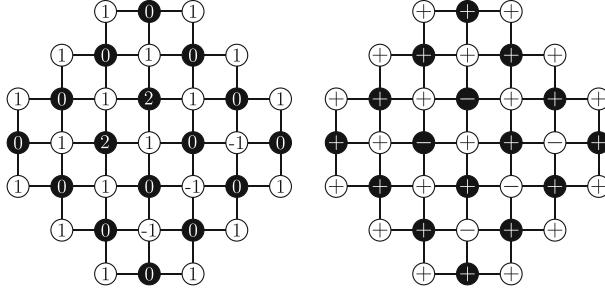


Fig. 3. *Left:* Height function with 0, 1 boundary conditions. *Right:* Its spin representation is given by σ^\bullet on \mathbb{L} (black circles) and σ° on \mathbb{L}^* (white circles)

Finally, we define $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{2n,2n\pm 1;c_b}$ as the probability measure given by (16) and supported on all height functions in $\mathbb{Z}^{\mathcal{D}}$ that have a fixed value $2n$ on $\partial^2\mathcal{D} \cap \mathbb{L}$. Note that the value on $\partial^2\mathcal{D} \cap \mathbb{L}^*$ is not fixed in this case, so the conditions can be viewed as *semi-free*.

Spin representation. Given a height function $h \in \mathbb{Z}^{\mathcal{D}}$, define $\sigma = \sigma(h) \in \{\pm 1\}^{\mathcal{D}}$ by

$$\sigma(u) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } h(u) \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}, \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The *six-vertex spin measures* $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{+,+;c_b}$, $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{+,+}$, $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{+,\pm}$ are defined as the push-forwards of $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{0,1;c_b}$, $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{0,1}$, $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{0,\pm 1}$ under this mapping. The spin measures are supported on all spin configurations $\sigma \in \{\pm 1\}^{\mathcal{D}}$ with the following restrictions: $\sigma|_{\partial^2\mathcal{D}} \equiv 1$ under $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{+,+;c_b}$ and $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{+,+}$; $\sigma|_{\partial^2\mathcal{D} \cap \mathbb{L}} \equiv 1$ under $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{+,\pm}$.

3.3. From Ashkin–Teller to six-vertex. In this section, we describe the connection between the self-dual Ashkin–Teller model on a domain Ω in \mathbb{L} and the spin representation of the six-vertex model on the corresponding even domain \mathcal{D}_Ω in \mathbb{Z}^2 . This relation has first been noticed in [Fan72a] comparing their critical properties, it was made explicit in [Fan72b, Weg72] (see also [HDJS13]), and was upgraded to a coupling in [GP23, Lis22] (we note that [Lis22] treats a more general case of two interacting Potts models). We consider two types of boundary conditions that will play an important role in proving Proposition 1.1.

Let Ω be a domain of \mathbb{L} , $J < U$ be parameters. We will consider the ATRC measures defined in Sect. 2.1 with boundary conditions on $\bar{\Omega}$ rather than $\partial\Omega$. We write $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega,J,U}^{0,\mathbb{1}}$ for the corresponding ATRC measure where $\mathbb{1}$ refers to the wired boundary condition on $\bar{\Omega}$.

Let $\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}$ be boundary conditions on $\partial\Omega$ or $\bar{\Omega}$. Consider the marginal of $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega,J,U}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}$ on ω_τ : this is the probability measure supported on $\{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega}$ and defined by

$$\mu_{\Omega,J,U}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}(\xi) := \text{ATRC}_{\Omega,J,U}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}(\{\omega_\tau = \xi\}).$$

Also, given $\sigma \in \{\pm 1\}^{\mathcal{D}_\Omega}$, we write σ^\bullet and σ° for the restrictions of σ to Ω and Ω^* , respectively (see Fig. 3). We define the sets of disagreement edges:

$$E_{\sigma^\bullet} := \{uv \in E_\Omega : \sigma^\bullet(u) \neq \sigma^\bullet(v)\} \quad \text{and} \quad E_{\sigma^\circ} := \{u^*v^* \in E_{\Omega^*} : \sigma^\circ(u^*) \neq \sigma^\circ(v^*)\}.$$

Finally, we define the *compatibility* relation on pairs of $\sigma^\bullet \in \{\pm 1\}^{\Omega}$ and $\omega \in \{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega}$:

$$\sigma \perp \omega \text{ if and only if } \sigma(u) = \sigma(v), \text{ for any } uv \in \omega.$$

The compatibility relation on pairs of $\sigma^\circ \in \{\pm 1\}^{\Omega^*}$ and $\omega \in \{0, 1\}^{E_{\Omega^*}}$ is defined similarly. The following is a consequence of [GP23, Proposition 8.1] and a remark after it, or may be proved along the same lines:

Proposition 3.2. *Let $0 < J < U$ be a point on the self-dual line (SD) and $c = \coth 2J$.*

(1) *If Ω is a domain in \mathbb{L} , then we can couple $\sigma \sim \text{Spin}_{D_\Omega, c}^{+,+}$ and $\omega_\tau \sim \mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1}$ by*

$$\mathbb{P}[\sigma, \omega_\tau] \propto \left(\frac{1}{c-1}\right)^{|\omega_\tau| + |E_{\sigma^\bullet}|} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^\bullet \perp \omega_\tau, \sigma^\circ \perp \omega_\tau^*} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^\bullet \equiv + \text{ on } \partial\Omega, \sigma^\circ \equiv + \text{ on } \partial\Omega^*}.$$

Thus, σ° is obtained by assigning +1 to the clusters of ω_τ^ that intersect $\partial\Omega^*$ and assigning ± 1 uniformly independently to all other clusters.*

(2) *If Ω^* is a domain in \mathbb{L}^* , then we can couple $\sigma \sim \text{Spin}_{D_{\Omega^*}, c}^{+, \pm}$ and $\omega_\tau \sim \mu_{\Omega^*, J, U}^{1,1}$ by*

$$\mathbb{P}[\sigma, \omega_\tau] \propto \left(\frac{1}{c-1}\right)^{|\omega_\tau| + |E_{\sigma^\bullet}|} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^\bullet \perp \omega_\tau, \sigma^\circ \perp \omega_\tau^*} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^\bullet \equiv + \text{ on } \partial\Omega}.$$

Remark 3.3. Part 1 of Proposition 3.2 is a special case of [GP23, Proposition 8.1] while part 2 may be proved in the same way. The proof relies on the following identity:

$$k^1(\omega) - k(\omega^*) = |\omega^*| + \text{const}(\Omega),$$

where $\omega = \omega_\tau^*$ for (1) and $\omega = \omega_\tau$ for (2). This follows from Euler's formula using that either Ω or Ω^* is a domain and our definition of the domain-boundary.

Corollary 3.4. *In the setting of part 1 of Proposition 3.2, take $(\sigma^\bullet, \sigma^\circ) \sim \text{Spin}_{D_\Omega, c}^{+,+}$. Sample a percolation configuration ω on E_Ω as follows independently at each edge e : if the endpoints of e^* have opposite values in σ° , then $\omega_e = 1$; if the endpoints of e have opposite values in σ^\bullet , then $\omega_e = 0$; if σ° agrees on e^* and σ^\bullet agrees on e , then*

$$\mathbb{P}(\omega_e = 1) = \frac{1}{c}. \tag{17}$$

Then, the law of ω is given by $\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1}$.

3.4. Input from the six-vertex model. In this section, we mention basic properties of six-vertex measures and state some results from [GP23]. The following proposition is a combination of Theorem 2.2, Proposition 6.1 and Lemma 6.2 in [GP23]. We remark that we only consider even and odd domains in \mathbb{Z}^2 .

For $u \in \mathbb{L}$, $S \subset \mathbb{L}$, define $u \xleftrightarrow{h \neq 0} S$ to be the event that u is connected (in \mathbb{L}) to S by a path of heights different from 0. We similarly define $u^* \xleftrightarrow{h \neq 1} S^*$ for $u^* \in \mathbb{L}^*$, $S^* \subset \mathbb{L}^*$.

Proposition 3.5 [GP23]. *Fix $c > 2$, and let λ be the unique positive solution of $c = e^{\lambda/2} + e^{-\lambda/2}$. Then, for any sequence of domains $D_k \nearrow \mathbb{Z}^2$, the measures $\text{HF}_{D_k, c}^{0,1}$ and $\text{HF}_{D_k, c}^{0,1; e^{\lambda/2}}$ converge weakly to the same limit that we denote by $\text{HF}_c^{0,1}$. Moreover, $\text{HF}_c^{0,1}$ -a.s. exist unique infinite clusters in \mathbb{L} of height 0 and in \mathbb{L}^* of height 1. Finally, clusters*

of other heights are exponentially small: for some $\alpha > 0$ uniform in $n \geq 1$, $u \in \mathbb{L}$, $u^* \in \mathbb{L}^*$,

$$\mathsf{HF}_c^{0,1} \left[u \xleftrightarrow{h \neq 0} u + \partial \Lambda_n \right] < e^{-\alpha n} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathsf{HF}_c^{0,1} \left[u^* \xleftrightarrow{h \neq 1} u^* + \partial \Lambda_n \right] < e^{-\alpha n}.$$

Let us emphasize that, while existence of subsequential limits is a straightforward consequence of discontinuity of the phase transition in FK-percolation, the ordering of both even and odd heights is non-trivial. This also implies that the weak limit of $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_k,c}^{0,1;e^{\lambda/2}}$ remains the same, whether it is taken along even or odd domains. Analogously, for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, one obtains limit measures $\mathsf{HF}_c^{2n,2n+1}$ (resp. $\mathsf{HF}_c^{2n,2n-1}$) of $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_k,c}^{2n,2n+1}$ (resp. $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_k,c}^{2n,2n-1}$) satisfying the corresponding properties.

Since the modulo 4 mapping (Sect. 3.2) is local, Proposition 3.5 directly implies the following corollary.

Corollary 3.6. *Fix $c > 2$, and let λ be the unique positive solution of $c = e^{\lambda/2} + e^{-\lambda/2}$. Then, for any sequence of domains \mathcal{D}_k increasing to \mathbb{Z}^2 , the measures $\mathsf{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_k,c}^{+,+}$ and $\mathsf{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_k,c}^{+,+;e^{\lambda/2}}$ converge weakly to some $\mathsf{Spin}_c^{+,+}$, which is independent of the sequence \mathcal{D}_k .*

The height function measures admit useful monotonicity properties and correlation inequalities when $c, c_b \geq 1$, see [GP23, Proposition 5.1].

Proposition 3.7. *Let \mathcal{D} be a domain in \mathbb{Z}^2 , and let $c, c_b \geq 1$. Then, for any boundary condition t , the measure $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{t;c_b}$ is monotone (11) and satisfies the FKG inequality (10). In particular, if $t \leq t'$, then $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{t;c_b}$ is stochastically dominated by $\mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{t';c_b}$.*

It has been established in [GP23, Theorem 2.5] that the marginals of $\mathsf{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_k,c}^{+,+}$ on σ^\bullet (resp. σ°) satisfy the FKG inequality with respect to the pointwise order on $\{\pm 1\}^{V_\Omega}$ (resp. $\{\pm 1\}^{V_{\Omega^*}}$). Though [GP23] deals only with boundary conditions specified on the whole boundary, the extension to free or semi-free conditions is straightforward. Indeed, the statement for σ^\bullet holds as long as spins σ° on the boundary are not forced to disagree.

Proposition 3.8. ([GP23]) *Let Ω be a domain in \mathbb{L} , and let $c \geq 1$. The marginals of $\mathsf{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_\Omega,c}^{+,+}$ on σ^\bullet and σ° satisfy the FKG inequality (10).*

It was also shown in [GP23, Corollary 7.3, Proposition 7.5] that the marginals $\mu_{\Omega,J,U}^{0,\mathbb{1}}$ converge to some infinite-volume state $\mu_{J,U}^{0,1}$ that admits exponential decay of connection probabilities.

Proposition 3.9 [GP23]. *Let $0 < J < U$ be on the self-dual line (SD) and Ω_k be a sequence of domains increasing to \mathbb{L} . The measures $\mu_{\Omega_k,J,U}^{0,\mathbb{1}}$ converge weakly to some measure $\mu_{J,U}^{0,1}$ on $\{0, 1\}^{E_\mathbb{L}}$ which is independent of the sequence Ω_k and admits exponential decay of ω_τ -connection probabilities: there exist $M, \alpha > 0$ such that, for any $u, v \in \mathbb{L}$,*

$$\mu_{J,U}^{0,1} [u \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} v] \leq M e^{-\alpha|u-v|}.$$

We sketch the argument given in [GP23].

Sketch of proof of Proposition 3.9. The couplings in Proposition 3.2 and Corollary 4.3 imply convergence of $\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1}$, as $\Omega \nearrow \mathbb{L}$, to some $\mu_{J, U}^{0,1}$ that satisfies FKG and is invariant under translations. Thus, it is enough to show that it is exponentially unlikely that ω_τ contains a circuit surrounding Λ_n . Indeed, on this event, the marginal of $\text{Spin}_c^{+,+}$ at vertices in $(\Lambda_n)^*$ is invariant under the spin flip. By Proposition 4.2, radii of clusters of minuses have exponential tails and the claim follows. \square

We emphasise a difference between Propositions 3.9 and 1.1: the latter proves exponential decay under the largest boundary conditions and in finite volume. As we saw in Sect. 2.3, this is necessary for the proof of Theorem 1.

3.5. FK-percolation. Fortuin–Kasteleyn (FK) percolation [FK72] is an archetypical dependent percolation model. It is well-understood thanks to recent remarkable works; see [Dum17, Gri06] for background. We will transfer some known results from FK-percolation to the six-vertex model via the BKW coupling (Sect. 3.6) and further to the self-dual ATRC via the coupling in Proposition 3.2.

Definition. Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{L}$ be a finite subgraph and ξ a partition of $\partial\Omega$. FK-percolation on Ω with parameters $p \in [0, 1]$ and $q > 0$ is supported on percolation configurations $\eta \in \{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega}$ and is given by

$$\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega, p, q}^\xi(\eta) = \frac{1}{Z} p^{|\eta|} (1-p)^{|E_\Omega| - |\eta|} q^{k^\xi(\eta)},$$

where $Z = Z(\Omega, p, q, \xi)$ is a normalizing constant and $k^\xi(\eta)$ was defined in Sect. 2.1.

The *free* and *wired* FK-percolation measures $\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega, p, q}^f$ and $\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega, p, q}^w$ are defined by free and wired boundary conditions, respectively (as in Sect. 2.1).

We now review several fundamental results about FK-percolation.

Proposition 3.10. Let $p \in [0, 1]$, $q > 1$ and $\Omega_k \nearrow \mathbb{L}$ be a sequence of subgraphs. Then, the weak limits of $\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega_k, p, q}^f$ and $\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega_k, p, q}^w$ exist and do not depend on the chosen sequence:

$$\mathbf{FK}_{p, q}^f := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{FK}_{\Omega_k, p, q}^f \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{FK}_{p, q}^w := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{FK}_{\Omega_k, p, q}^w.$$

Moreover, these measures are positively associated, extremal, invariant under translations and satisfy the following ordering, for any finite subgraph $\Omega \subset \mathbb{L}$,

$$\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega, p, q}^f \leq_{st} \mathbf{FK}_{p, q}^f \leq_{st} \mathbf{FK}_{p, q}^w \leq_{st} \mathbf{FK}_{\Omega, p, q}^w.$$

As we will see below, the self-dual AT model with $J < U$ corresponds to FK-percolation with $q > 4$ at $p = p_{\text{sd}}$, where

$$p_{\text{sd}} := \frac{\sqrt{q}}{\sqrt{q} + 1}.$$

This model is self-dual: if ω has law $\mathbf{FK}_{p_{\text{sd}}, q}^f$, then $\omega^*(e^*) := 1 - \omega(e)$ has law $\mathbf{FK}_{p_{\text{sd}}, q}^w$.

Theorem 4 [DGH+21]. Let $q > 4$. Then, $\mathbf{FK}_{p_{\text{sd}}, q}^f \neq \mathbf{FK}_{p_{\text{sd}}, q}^w$ and

(i) $\mathbf{FK}_{p_{\text{sd}}, q}^w$ (there exists a unique infinite cluster) = 1,

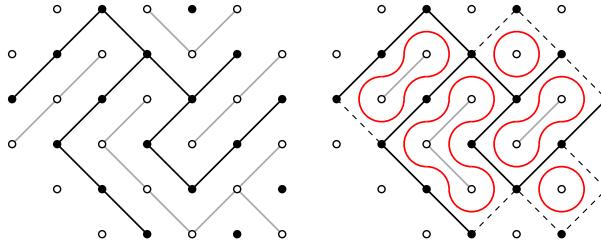


Fig. 4. *Left:* An edge configuration on the domain $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{L}$ from Fig. 1 (in black), and its dual on Ω^* (in gray). *Right:* Loops (in red) separating primal and dual clusters within \mathcal{D}_Ω after opening all edges in $E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}$ (dashed)

(ii) there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that $\mathbf{FK}_{p_{\text{sd}},q}^f(0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_n) \leq e^{-\alpha n}$, for any $n \geq 1$.

The second item of this theorem implies *exponential relaxation* at p_{sd} :

Lemma 3.11. *Let $q > 4$. Then, there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that, for $n \geq 1$ and any finite subgraph $\Omega \subset \mathbb{L}$ that contains Λ_{2n} ,*

$$d_{\text{TV}} \left(\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega, p_{\text{sd}}, q}^w |_{\Lambda_n}, \mathbf{FK}_{p_{\text{sd}}, q}^w |_{\Lambda_n} \right) < e^{-\alpha n},$$

where d_{TV} denotes the total variation distance.

The proof is standard and goes through the monotone coupling; see Appendix B.

3.6. Baxter–Kelland–Wu (BKW) coupling. FK-percolation and the six-vertex model were related to each other for the first time by Temperley and Lieb [TL71] on the level of partition functions. BKW [BKW76] turned this relation into a probabilistic coupling when $c > 2$. We follow [GP23] and describe this coupling using a modified boundary coupling constant c_b .

Take $q > 4$, $p = p_{\text{sd}}$. Let $\lambda > 0$ be the unique positive solution to

$$e^\lambda + e^{-\lambda} = \sqrt{q}, \text{ and set } c := e^{\lambda/2} + e^{-\lambda/2}.$$

Let Ω be a domain in \mathbb{L} and recall the notations introduced in Sect. 3.1. The measure $\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega, p_{\text{sd}}, q}^w$ refers to the FK measure with wired boundary conditions on $\bar{\Omega}$. Note that the statements of Proposition 3.10 and Lemma 3.11 remain valid if we replace w by \bar{w} .

Consider $\eta \sim \mathbf{FK}_{\Omega, p_{\text{sd}}, q}^w$ and draw loops separating primal and dual clusters within Ω as in Fig. 4. Given this loop configuration, we define a height function $h \in \mathbb{Z}^{\mathcal{D}_\Omega}$ by:

- H1 Set $h = 0$ on $\partial^2 \mathcal{D}_\Omega \cap \mathbb{L}$ and $h = 1$ on $\partial^2 \mathcal{D}_\Omega \cap \mathbb{L}^*$;
- H2 Assign constant heights to primal and dual clusters by going from $\partial^2 \mathcal{D}_\Omega$ inside of \mathcal{D}_Ω and tossing a coin when crossing a loop: the height **increases** by 1 with probability e^λ / \sqrt{q} and **decreases** by 1 with probability $e^{-\lambda} / \sqrt{q}$, independently of one another.

The following result is classical; see e.g. [GP23, Chapter 3] for a proof in this setup.

Proposition 3.12. (BKW coupling) *The resulting height function is distributed according to $\mathbf{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_\Omega, c}^{0,1; e^{\lambda/2}}$.*

Odd domains. Note that, by symmetry, the whole procedure also works on odd domains with the difference that one needs to replace H2 by

H2' each time one crosses a loop, the height **decreases** by 1 with probability e^λ/\sqrt{q} and **increases** by 1 with probability $e^{-\lambda}/\sqrt{q}$, independently of one another.

For a domain Ω' in \mathbb{L}^* , this gives a coupling of $\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega', p_{\text{sd}}, q}^{\bar{W}}$ and $\mathbf{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_{\Omega'}, c}^{0,1; e^{\lambda/2}}$.

4. Exponential Decay for ATRC in Finite Volume

The goal of this section is to derive exponential decay of connection probabilities for $\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1}$, which is the marginal of a *finite-volume* ATRC measure on ω_τ , see Sect. 3.3.

Recall that $\Lambda_n = \{u \in \mathbb{L} : \|u\|_1 \leq 2n\}$ is the box of size n in \mathbb{L} .

Proposition 4.1. *Let $0 < J < U$ be on the self-dual line (SD). There exists $\alpha > 0$ such that, for any $n \geq 1$ and any domain Ω in \mathbb{L} containing Λ_{4n} ,*

$$\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1} [0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_n] \leq e^{-\alpha n}.$$

The proof consists of several steps. We first transfer the exponential relaxation property from FK-percolation (Lemma 3.11) to the six-vertex height function (Proposition 4.2) and then to the marginal ν_Ω of the ATRC model with modified edge weights on the boundary. Using Proposition 3.5, we also show that the limit of ν_Ω is given by $\mu_{J, U}^{0,1}$ (Lemma 4.4), and that ν_Ω dominates $\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1}$ (Lemma 4.7). The statement then follows from exponential decay in $\mu_{J, U}^{0,1}$ (Proposition 3.9).

4.1. Exponential relaxation for height function measures. As in Sect. 3.6, fix $c > 2$ and let $\lambda > 0$ be the unique positive solution of $c = e^{\lambda/2} + e^{-\lambda/2}$. Set $q := (e^\lambda + e^{-\lambda})^2$ and consider $p = p_{\text{sd}}$. For $n \geq 1$, define an even domain $\Delta_{2n} = \mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_n}$.

Proposition 4.2. *The convergence of $\mathbf{HF}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{0,1; e^{\lambda/2}}$ towards $\mathbf{HF}_c^{0,1}$ admits exponential relaxation: there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that, for any $n \geq 1$ and any even domain $\mathcal{D} \supset \Delta_{8n}$,*

$$d_{\text{TV}} \left(\mathbf{HF}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{0,1; e^{\lambda/2}}|_{\Delta_{2n}}, \mathbf{HF}_c^{0,1}|_{\Delta_{2n}} \right) < e^{-\alpha n}. \quad (18)$$

Proof. We omit q, p_{sd} from the notation for brevity. We first construct the limiting measure $\mathbf{HF}_c^{0,1}$. Consider $\eta \sim \mathbf{FK}^W$ on \mathbb{L} . Using known results about $\eta \sim \mathbf{FK}^W$ (Sect. 3.5) we can sample a height function h as follows. Set $h = 0$ on the unique infinite cluster of η and sample h in its holes according to **H2** in the BKW coupling (Sect. 3.6).

Define \mathcal{C}_n to be the outermost circuit in η surrounding Λ_n and contained in Λ_{2n} (if it does not exist, we set $\mathcal{C}_n := \emptyset$). Stochastic ordering of FK measures, positive association (10) and exponential decay in η^* imply existence of $\alpha' > 0$ such that, for any $n \geq 1$ and any domain $\Omega \supset \Lambda_{2n}$,

$$\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega}^{\bar{W}}[\mathcal{C}_n \neq \emptyset, \mathcal{C}_n \xleftrightarrow{\eta} \partial \Omega] \geq \mathbf{FK}^W[\mathcal{C}_n \neq \emptyset, \mathcal{C}_n \xleftrightarrow{\eta} \infty] > 1 - e^{-\alpha' n}. \quad (19)$$

By exponential relaxation of the wired FK measures (Lemma 3.11), there exists $\alpha'' > 0$ such that, for any $n \geq 1$ and any domain $\Omega \supset \Lambda_{4n}$,

$$d_{\text{TV}} \left(\mathbf{FK}_{\Omega}^{\bar{W}}|_{\Lambda_{2n}}, \mathbf{FK}^W|_{\Lambda_{2n}} \right) < e^{-\alpha'' n}. \quad (20)$$

Now, given $\mathcal{C}_n = C$ and $C \xrightarrow{\eta} \infty$, the law of h within C is precisely $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_{\Omega(C)}, c}^{0,1; e^{\lambda/2}}$ where $\Omega(C)$ is the domain in \mathbb{L} induced by the vertices within C (including C). Note that $\Omega(C)$ contains Λ_n , whence $\mathcal{D}_{\Omega(C)}$ contains $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_n} = \Delta_{2n}$.

We can also obtain $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_{\Omega(C)}, c}^{0,1; e^{\lambda/2}}$ from $\text{FK}_{\Omega}^{\overline{w}}$ conditioned on $\mathcal{C}_n = C$ and $C \xrightarrow{\eta} \partial\Omega$ by applying H1 and H2. Together with (20) and (19), this proves exponential relaxation. \square

Recall that the six-vertex spin measures introduced in Sects. 3.2 and 3.4 are the push-forwards of the height function measures under the local modulo 4 mapping.

Corollary 4.3. *The convergence of $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{+,+; e^{\lambda/2}}$ towards $\text{Spin}_c^{+,+}$ admits exponential relaxation: there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that, for any $n \geq 1$ and any even domain $\mathcal{D} \supset \Delta_{8n}$,*

$$d_{\text{TV}} \left(\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{+,+; e^{\lambda/2}}|_{\Delta_{2n}}, \text{Spin}_c^{+,+}|_{\Delta_{2n}} \right) \leq e^{-\alpha n}. \quad (21)$$

4.2. A modified ATRC marginal. Fix $J < U$ on the self-dual line (SD), take $c = \coth 2J$ and the unique $\lambda > 0$ such that $c = e^{\lambda/2} + e^{-\lambda/2}$. Let Ω be a domain on \mathbb{L} and \mathcal{D}_{Ω} be the corresponding even domain on \mathbb{Z}^2 . Recall the definition of the edge-boundary $E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}$ in Sect. 3.1. Sample $(\sigma^{\bullet}, \sigma^{\circ})$ from $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_{\Omega}, c}^{+,+; e^{\lambda/2}}$. Define ν_{Ω} as the distribution of $\omega \in \{0, 1\}^{E_{\Omega}}$ sampled independently for each edge e as follows: if the endpoints of e^* have opposite values in σ° , then $\omega_e = 1$; if the endpoints of e have opposite values in σ^{\bullet} , then $\omega_e = 0$; if σ° agrees on e^* and σ^{\bullet} agrees on e , then

$$\mathbb{P}(\omega_e = 1) = \begin{cases} e^{-\lambda/2}, & \text{if } e \in E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}, \\ \frac{1}{c}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

We call ν_{Ω} a *modified ATRC marginal* as it converges to $\mu_{J, U}^{0,1}$ as $\Omega \nearrow \mathbb{L}$. Moreover, this convergence admits exponential relaxation, which is the content of the next lemma.

Lemma 4.4. *For any sequence of domains Ω_k increasing to \mathbb{L} , the measures ν_{Ω_k} converge to $\mu_{J, U}^{0,1}$. Moreover, this convergence admits exponential relaxation: there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that, for any $n \geq 1$ and any domain $\Omega \supset \Lambda_{4n}$,*

$$d_{\text{TV}} \left(\nu_{\Omega}|_{\Lambda_n}, \mu_{J, U}^{0,1}|_{\Lambda_n} \right) < e^{-\alpha n}. \quad (23)$$

Recall the representation (7) of the ATRC measures. The previous lemma becomes more clear once we identify ν_{Ω} as the marginal of $\text{ATRC}_{w_{\tau}, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{0,1}$ on ω_{τ} where the weights are as in (8) except that w_{τ} is modified on the edge-boundary $E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}$.

Lemma 4.5. *For any domain Ω in \mathbb{L} , the measure ν_{Ω} coincides with the marginal of $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, w_{\tau}, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{0,1}$ on ω_{τ} , where*

$$w_{\tau}(e) = \begin{cases} 2^{\frac{c-1}{e^{\lambda/2}-1}}, & \text{if } e \in E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}, \quad \text{and} \quad w_{\tau\tau'} \equiv e^{2(U-J)} - 1 \text{ on } E_{\Omega}. \\ 2, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

We now derive Proposition 4.1 from Lemmata 4.4 and 4.5. First of all, the ATRC measure is stochastically increasing in w_{τ} (see Appendix C for the proof).

Lemma 4.6. Let Ω be a domain in \mathbb{L} . The measures $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, w_\tau, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{0,1}$ are stochastically increasing in w_τ . More precisely, if $w_\tau(e) \leq \widetilde{w}_\tau(e)$ for all $e \in E_\Omega$, then the measure $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, w_\tau, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{0,1}$ is stochastically dominated by $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \widetilde{w}_\tau, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{0,1}$.

This, together with Lemma 4.5, implies the following stochastic domination:

Lemma 4.7. For any domain Ω in \mathbb{L} , the measure ν_Ω stochastically dominates $\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1}$.

Proof of Proposition 4.1. Fix $n \geq 1$ and a domain $\Omega \supset \Lambda_{4n}$ in \mathbb{L} . We have

$$\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1} [0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_n] \leq \mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1} [0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_n] \leq \nu_\Omega [0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_n],$$

where we used (CBC) for the first inequality and Lemma 4.7 for the second one.

Now, by Lemma 4.4 and Proposition 3.9, there exist $\alpha, M > 0$ such that

$$\nu_\Omega [0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_n] \leq \mu_{J, U}^{0,1} [0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_n] + e^{-\alpha n} \leq 8nM e^{-\alpha n} + e^{-\alpha n}.$$

□

It remains to show Lemmata 4.4 and 4.5.

Proof of Lemma 4.4. By construction, ν_Ω can be sampled from $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_\Omega, c}^{+, +; c_b}$ using (22). By Corollary 3.4, $\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1}$ can be sampled from $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_\Omega, c}^{+, +}$ using (17). The measures $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_\Omega, c}^{+, +; c_b}$ and $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_\Omega, c}^{+, +}$ both converge to $\text{Spin}_c^{+, +}$, as $\Omega \nearrow \mathbb{L}$, by Corollary 3.6. Also, the rules (22) and (17) are local and coincide outside of the boundary (which is irrelevant in the limit). Thus, ν_Ω and $\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,1}$ have the same limit and it can be sampled from $\text{Spin}_c^{+, +}$ using the same rules. Their locality implies that the convergence inherits the exponential relaxation property (21) (recall that $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_{4n}} = \Delta_{8n}$) and, by Proposition 3.9, the limit is $\mu_{J, U}^{0,1}$. □

Proof of Lemma 4.5. Fix a domain Ω in \mathbb{L} , and take $c_b := e^{\lambda/2}$. Recall that E_{σ^\bullet} denotes the set of disagreement edges in σ^\bullet (Sect. 3.3).

Step 1 The measure ν_Ω can be written in the following form:

$$\nu_\Omega[\omega] \propto \left(\frac{2}{c-1}\right)^{|\omega \setminus E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}|} \left(\frac{2}{c_b-1}\right)^{|\omega \cap E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}|} 2^{k(\omega)} \sum_{\substack{\sigma^\bullet \in \{\pm 1\}^\Omega \\ \sigma^\bullet \perp \omega, \sigma^\bullet|_{\bar{\partial}\Omega} \equiv 1}} \left(\frac{1}{c-1}\right)^{|E_{\sigma^\bullet}|}. \quad (25)$$

For brevity, we write E for E_Ω and ∂E for $E_{\bar{\partial}\Omega}$. In a slight abuse of notation, we also set $(E_{\sigma^\circ})^* = \{e^* : e \in E_{\sigma^\circ}\}$. The law of (σ, ω) defined by (22) satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[\sigma, \omega] &= \text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_\Omega, c}^{+, +; c_b}[\sigma] \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^\bullet \perp \omega, \sigma^\circ \perp \omega^*} \times \left(\frac{1}{c}\right)^{|\omega \setminus ((E_{\sigma^\circ})^* \cup \partial E)|} \left(\frac{c-1}{c}\right)^{|E \setminus (\omega \cup E_{\sigma^\bullet} \cup \partial E)|} \\ &\quad \times \left(\frac{1}{c_b}\right)^{|\omega \cap \partial E \setminus (E_{\sigma^\circ})^*|} \left(\frac{c_b-1}{c_b}\right)^{|\partial E \setminus (\omega \cup E_{\sigma^\bullet})|} \\ &\propto (c-1)^{-|(\omega \cup E_{\sigma^\bullet}) \setminus \partial E|} (c_b-1)^{-|(\omega \cup E_{\sigma^\bullet}) \cap \partial E|} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma|_{\partial^2 \mathcal{D}} \equiv 1} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^\bullet \perp \omega, \sigma^\circ \perp \omega^*}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $E_{\sigma^\bullet} \cap \partial E = \emptyset$ since $\sigma|_{\partial\Omega} \equiv 1$. Summing over σ then gives

$$\mathbb{P}[\omega] \propto (c-1)^{-|\omega \setminus \partial E|} (c_b-1)^{-|\omega \cap \partial E|} 2^{k(\omega^*)} \sum_{\substack{\sigma^\bullet \in \{\pm 1\}^\Omega \\ \sigma^\bullet \perp \omega, \sigma^\bullet|_{\bar{\partial}\Omega} \equiv 1}} (c-1)^{-|E_{\sigma^\bullet}|}.$$

Finally, by Euler's formula (or induction), $k^1(\omega^*) = k(\omega) + |\omega| + \text{const}(\mathcal{D}_\Omega)$.

Step 2: The marginal of $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, w_\tau, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{0,1}$ on ω_τ with weights $w_\tau, w_{\tau\tau'}$ given by (24) coincides with the right-hand side of (25).

Given $(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'}) \sim \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, w_\tau, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{0,1}$, define a spin configuration $\sigma^* \in \{\pm 1\}^\Omega$ by assigning $+1$ to domain-boundary clusters of $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$ and ± 1 to interior clusters of $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$ uniformly independently. Then their joint law can be written as

$$\mathbb{P}[\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'}, \sigma^*] \propto \prod_{e \in \omega_\tau} w_\tau(e) \cdot w_{\tau\tau'}^{|\omega_{\tau\tau'} \setminus \omega_\tau|} 2^{k(\omega_\tau)} \mathbb{1}_{\omega_\tau \subseteq \omega_{\tau\tau'}} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^* \perp \omega_{\tau\tau'}} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^*|_{\partial\Omega} \equiv 1}.$$

Now, $\sigma^* \perp \omega_{\tau\tau'}$ precisely if $\sigma^* \perp \omega_\tau$ and $(\omega_{\tau\tau'} \setminus \omega_\tau) \cap E_{\sigma^*} = \emptyset$. Sum over $\omega := \omega_{\tau\tau'} \setminus \omega_\tau$:

$$\mathbb{P}[\omega_\tau, \sigma^*] \propto \prod_{e \in \omega_\tau} w_\tau(e) \cdot 2^{k(\omega_\tau)} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^* \perp \omega_\tau} \mathbb{1}_{\sigma^*|_{\partial\Omega} \equiv 1} \sum_{\omega \subseteq E \setminus (\omega_\tau \cup E_{\sigma^*})} w_{\tau\tau'}^{|\omega|}.$$

The last term equals $(w_{\tau\tau'} + 1)^{|E| - |\omega_\tau| - |E_{\sigma^*}|}$. Finally, summing over σ^* , we arrive at

$$\mathbb{P}[\omega_\tau] \propto \prod_{e \in \omega_\tau} \frac{w_\tau(e)}{w_{\tau\tau'} + 1} \cdot 2^{k(\omega_\tau)} \sum_{\substack{\sigma^* \in \{\pm 1\}^\Omega \\ \sigma^* \perp \omega_\tau, \sigma^*|_{\partial\Omega} \equiv 1}} \left(\frac{1}{w_{\tau\tau'} + 1} \right)^{|E_{\sigma^*}|}. \quad (26)$$

Plugging in the weights (24) while using that $\sinh 2J = e^{-2U}$ and $c = \coth(2J)$ gives that (26) agrees with (25), which finishes the proof. \square

5. No Infinite Cluster in the Wired Self-dual ATRC

Proposition 5.1. *Let $0 < J < U$ satisfy $\sinh 2J = e^{-2U}$. Then, $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}[0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \infty] = 0$.*

The proof of Proposition 5.1 again relies on the coupling with the six-vertex model, Proposition 3.2. First of all, by the non-coexistence theorem [She05, DRT19], it is sufficient to show that $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}$ admits an infinite ω_τ^* -cluster. If the latter is not the case, the infinite-volume limit of the marginals of $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{+, \pm}$ on $\{\pm 1\}^{\mathbb{L}^*}$ can be shown to be tail-trivial. Exploring clusters of 1 and -1 (in \mathbb{T} -connectivity) and using the non-coexistence theorem, we obtain that the limit of $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{0, \pm 1}$ is either $\text{HF}_c^{0,1}$ or $\text{HF}_c^{0,-1}$, thereby contradicting the invariance of $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D},c}^{0, \pm 1}$ under $h \mapsto -h$.

In the following remark, we summarise some basic properties of the ATRC marginals $\mu_{\Omega, J, U}^{1,1}$ (defined in Sect. 3.3) and their infinite-volume limit that we will use in Sects. 5.1 and 5.2.

Remark 5.2. Recall that, for domains $\Omega_k \nearrow \mathbb{L}$, the measures $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega_k, J, U}^{1,1}$ form a decreasing sequence and converge to $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}$. In particular, the same holds for the marginals on ω_τ : $\mu_{\Omega_k, J, U}^{1,1}$ converges to $\mu_{J,U}^{1,1}$. It is then standard ([Gri06, Chapter 4.3]) that $\mu_{J,U}^{1,1}$ is invariant under translations and tail-trivial (and hence ergodic). Moreover, $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega_k, J, U}^{1,1}$ (and thus their limit and its marginals) satisfies the finite-energy property. Therefore, the Burton–Keane argument [BK89] and the non-coexistence theorem [She05, DRT19] apply.

5.1. Semi-free measures in infinite volume. In this section, we will show weak convergence for some finite-volume spin and height function measures defined in Sect. 3.2.

Lemma 5.3. *Let $0 < J < U$ be on the self-dual line (SD) and take $c := \coth 2J$. Let $\omega_\tau \sim \mu_{J,U}^{1,1}$. Define $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$ as the distribution on $\{\pm 1\}^{\mathbb{L}^*}$ obtained by assigning ± 1 to every cluster of ω_τ^* uniformly and independently. Then, for any sequence of odd domains $\mathcal{D}_k \nearrow \mathbb{Z}^2$, the marginals of $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{+, \pm}$ on σ° converge weakly to $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$. Moreover, $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$ is translation-invariant, positively associated and satisfies the finite-energy property.*

Proof. Fix $J < U$. Let \mathcal{D}_k be a sequence of odd domains on \mathbb{Z}^2 and Ω_k the corresponding subgraphs of \mathbb{L} such that $\mathcal{D}_k = \mathcal{D}(\Omega_k)^*$. Let ω_τ^k be sampled from $\mu_{\Omega_k, J, U}^{1,1}$. By Proposition 3.2, assigning ± 1 to clusters of $(\omega_\tau^k)^*$ uniformly independently gives the marginal of $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{+, \pm}$ on σ° . Since $\mu_{\Omega_k, J, U}^{1,1}$ converges to $\mu_{J, U}^{1,1}$ that exhibits at most one infinite cluster in ω_τ^* , the marginal of $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{+, \pm}$ on σ° converges to $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$.

Clearly, $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$ inherits translation-invariance and the finite-energy property from $\mu_{J, U}^{1,1}$. By Proposition 3.8, the marginal of $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{+, \pm}$ on σ° satisfies the FKG inequality. Hence, the same holds for its limit $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$. \square

Working with measures on height functions (rather than spins) is more convenient as they satisfy stochastic ordering in boundary conditions. In the proof of Proposition 5.1, we use an infinite-volume version of $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{0, \pm 1}$. We show existence of such subsequential limit in the next lemma by sandwiching $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{0, \pm 1}$ between $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{0, -1}$ and $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{0, 1}$.

Lemma 5.4. *Let $c > 2$. For any sequence of domains \mathcal{D}_k increasing to \mathbb{Z}^2 , there exists a subsequence (k_ℓ) such that the measures $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_{k_\ell}, c}^{0, \pm 1}$ converge weakly to some $\text{HF}_c^{0, \pm 1}$ as ℓ tends to infinity.*

Remark 5.5. Proposition 5.6 and its proof allow to show that the limiting measure is $\frac{1}{2}(\text{HF}_c^{0,1} + \text{HF}_c^{0,-1})$ for any (sub)sequence. We do not use this statement and omit the details.

Proof of Lemma 5.4. By [Geo11, Proposition 4.9], it suffices to show that $(\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_{k,c}}^{0,\pm 1})_{k \geq 1}$ is locally equicontinuous: for any finite $V \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ and any decreasing sequence of local events $(A_m)_{m \geq 1}$ supported on V and with $\cap_{m \geq 1} A_m = \emptyset$, it holds that

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_{k,c}}^{0,\pm 1}[A_m] \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

By Proposition 3.7, finite-volume six-vertex height function measures are stochastically ordered with respect to the boundary conditions, whence

$$\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{0, -1} \leq_{\text{st}} \text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{0, \pm 1} \leq_{\text{st}} \text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{0, 1}.$$

Moreover, by Proposition 3.5, $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{0, -1}$ converges to $\text{HF}_c^{0, -1}$ and $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{0, 1}$ to $\text{HF}_c^{0, 1}$ as k tends to infinity. These statements together easily imply the required local equicontinuity. \square

5.2. Proof of Proposition 5.1. As we argued in Remark 5.2, it suffices to find a dual infinite cluster:

Proposition 5.6. *Let $0 < J < U$ satisfy $\sinh 2J = e^{-2U}$. Then, $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}[0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau^*} \infty] > 0$.*

Remark 5.7. By the duality relation described in Sect. 2.1, this is equivalent to saying that $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0}[0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_{\tau\tau'}^*} \infty] > 0$, for any $J < U$ on the self-dual line (SD).

The proof of Proposition 5.6 also relies on the non-coexistence theorem – but in the context of site percolation. Following the notation of [GP23], we let \mathbb{T}° be the graph with vertex set \mathbb{L}^* where a vertex $(x, y) \in \mathbb{L}^*$ is adjacent to

$$(x, y) \pm (1, 1), (x, y) \pm (1, -1) \text{ and } (x \pm 2, y).$$

Note that \mathbb{T}° is isomorphic to the triangular lattice.

Proof of Proposition 5.6. Fix $J < U$. Recall that $\mu_{J,U}^{1,1}$ is the marginal of $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}$ on ω_τ . Assume for contradiction that $\mu_{J,U}^{1,1}$ does not admit an infinite dual cluster.

Set $c = \coth 2J$. Recall that $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$ is obtained from $\omega \sim \mu_{J,U}^{1,1}$ by assigning uniformly independently ± 1 to its dual clusters. Since all of them are finite by our assumption, $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$ inherits ergodicity from $\mu_{J,U}^{1,1}$. Also, by Lemma 5.3, $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$ is translation-invariant and satisfies the FKG inequality. Thus, by the non-coexistence theorem, in \mathbb{T}° -connectivity, either $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$ admits no infinite cluster of minuses, whence

$$\chi_c^{+, \pm}(\exists \text{ infinitely many disjoint } \mathbb{T}^\circ\text{-circuits of } + \text{ around the origin}) = 1, \quad (27)$$

or the same holds for \mathbb{T}° -circuits of $-$. By symmetry, we can assume (27).

By Lemma 5.4, there exists a sequence of odd domains \mathcal{D}_k such that $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_k, c}^{0, \pm 1}$ converge to some infinite-volume height function measure $\text{HF}_c^{0, \pm 1}$ weakly. Recall that $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{+, \pm}$ is the push-forward of $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{0, \pm 1}$ under the modulo 4 mapping and, by Lemma 5.3, the marginals of $\text{Spin}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{+, \pm}$ on σ° converge to $\chi_c^{+, \pm}$ weakly. Then, (27) implies that $\text{HF}_c^{0, \pm 1}$ admits infinitely many disjoint \mathbb{T}° -circuits around the origin of constant height that is congruent to 1 modulo 4. By Proposition 3.7, the measure $\text{HF}_c^{0, \pm 1}$ is between $\text{HF}_c^{0, -1}$ and $\text{HF}_c^{0, 1}$ in the sense of stochastic domination. By Proposition 3.5, $\text{HF}_c^{0, -1}$ and $\text{HF}_c^{0, 1}$ admit infinite clusters of -1 and $+1$, respectively. Hence, the above implies

$$\text{HF}_c^{0, \pm 1}(\exists \text{ infinitely many disjoint } \mathbb{T}^\circ\text{-circuits of } + 1 \text{ around the origin}) = 1. \quad (28)$$

By a standard exploration argument and FKG inequality (details below), (28) implies that $\text{HF}_c^{0, \pm 1}$ stochastically dominates and hence equals $\text{HF}_c^{0, 1}$. This leads to a contradiction since $\text{HF}_c^{0, \pm 1}$ is invariant under $h \mapsto -h$ while $\text{HF}_c^{0, 1}$ is not.

It remains to show that (28) implies $\text{HF}_c^{0, \pm 1} = \text{HF}_c^{0, 1}$. It is sufficient to prove $\text{HF}_c^{0, \pm 1}[A] = \text{HF}_c^{0, 1}[A]$, for any increasing local event A . Take any $\varepsilon > 0$. Since $\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{0, 1}$ converges to $\text{HF}_c^{0, 1}$ weakly as $\mathcal{D} \nearrow \mathbb{Z}^2$, we can find $n \geq 1$ such that, for any domain \mathcal{D} containing Δ_n ,

$$|\text{HF}_{\mathcal{D}, c}^{0, 1}[A] - \text{HF}_c^{0, 1}[A]| < \varepsilon. \quad (29)$$

We can find $\mathcal{D} \supseteq \Delta_n$ large enough such that

$$\left| \mathsf{HF}_c^{0,\pm 1}[A] - \mathsf{HF}_c^{0,\pm 1}[A \mid \exists \text{ } \mathbb{T}^\circ\text{-circuit of } +1 \text{ in } \mathcal{D} \text{ surrounding } \Delta_n] \right| < \varepsilon. \quad (30)$$

Let \mathcal{C} be the outermost \mathbb{T}° -circuit of height $+1$ in \mathcal{D} surrounding Δ_n (if such circuit does not exist, we set $\mathcal{C} := \emptyset$). By the domain Markov property and stochastic ordering in boundary conditions, for any \mathbb{T}° -circuit C surrounding Δ_n and contained in \mathcal{D} ,

$$\mathsf{HF}_c^{0,\pm 1}[A \mid \mathcal{C} = C] \geq \mathsf{HF}_{\mathcal{D}_C, c}^{0,1}[A], \quad (31)$$

where \mathcal{D}_C is the connected component of the origin in the graph obtained from \mathbb{Z}^2 after removing all vertices on C or adjacent to it in \mathbb{Z}^2 . Since $\mathcal{D}_C \supset \Delta_n$, by (29), the right-hand side in (31) is ε -close to $\mathsf{HF}_c^{0,1}[A]$. Putting this together with (30), we get $\mathsf{HF}_c^{0,\pm 1}[A] \geq \mathsf{HF}_c^{0,1}[A] - 2\varepsilon$. Since $\varepsilon > 0$ was arbitrary, we obtain $\mathsf{HF}_c^{0,\pm 1}[A] \geq \mathsf{HF}_c^{0,1}[A]$. The opposite inequality follows by the comparison of boundary conditions. \square

6. Proof of Proposition 1.1

Our goal is to use exponential decay under 0, 1 conditions, Proposition 4.1, to improve the non-percolation statement, Proposition 5.1, and get exponential decay in finite volume, Proposition 1.1. We use the approach of [CM10] and [CIV08, Appendix]. Additional difficulties in our case come from a weaker domain Markov property of the ATRC measure.

Fix $J < U$ and $n \geq 1$. For any vertex $x \in \Lambda_n$, define

$$\eta(x) = \mathbb{1}_{\{x \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_n\}}.$$

The next lemma provides a lower bound on the size of the boundary cluster of ω_τ . Recall that we denote by μ the marginal of the ATRC measure on ω_τ .

Lemma 6.1. *For any $\delta > 0$, there exists $\alpha := \alpha(\delta, \beta_{\text{sd}}) > 0$ such that*

$$\mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1} \left(\sum_{x \in \Lambda_n} \eta_x \geq \delta n^2 \right) \leq e^{-\alpha n^2}.$$

Proof. Fix $\delta > 0$. It follows from Proposition 5.1 that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_n) = 0.$$

This implies that one can find $M := M(\delta) > 0$ such that

$$\mathbb{E}_{\Lambda_M, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1} \left[\frac{1}{|\Lambda_M|} \sum_{x \in \Lambda_M} \eta_x \right] < \frac{\delta}{2}.$$

Fix $n \gg M$. Without loss of generality, assume that $n = (2k+1)M$. One has

$$\frac{1}{|\Lambda_n|} \sum_{x \in \Lambda_n} \eta_x \leq \frac{1}{|\Lambda_k|} \sum_{x \in \Lambda_k} \left(\frac{1}{|\Lambda_M|} \sum_{y \in 2Mx + \Lambda_M} \mathbb{1}_{y \leftrightarrow \partial(2Mx + \Lambda_M)} \right).$$

Denote the expression in the brackets by $Y_{x,M}$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1} \left(\frac{1}{|\Lambda_n|} \sum_{x \in \Lambda_n} \eta_x \geq \delta \right) &\leq \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1} \left(\frac{1}{|\Lambda_k|} \sum_{x \in \Lambda_k} Y_{x,M} \geq \delta \right) \\ &\leq \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1} \left(\frac{1}{|\Lambda_k|} \sum_{x \in \Lambda_k} Y_{x,M} \geq \delta \mid B_M \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $B_M = \bigcap_{x \in \Lambda_k} \{\omega_\tau \mid \partial(2Mx + \Lambda_M) \equiv 1\}$ and the last inequality uses (FKG) and that B_M is increasing. Note that under $\mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(\cdot \mid B_M)$, the random variables $Y_{x,M}$ are i.i.d. The statement then follows from Hoeffding's inequality. \square

Proof of Proposition 1.1. Recall (12). We aim to show that, up to an arbitrary small exponential error, there exists a blocking surface of closed edges around $\Lambda_{\frac{4n}{5}}$ in Λ_n .

For each $\ell \in [1, n]$ and $x \in \partial \Lambda_\ell$, define

$$f(x) := \mathbb{1}_{\{x \xleftarrow{\omega_\tau, \Lambda_n \setminus \partial \Lambda_\ell} \partial \Lambda_n\}} \quad \text{and} \quad N(\ell) := \sum_{x \in \partial \Lambda_\ell} f(x).$$

Define A_ℓ as the event that $N(\ell) \leq \delta n$. Since $f(x) \leq \eta(x)$, Lemma 6.1 implies that, up to an error $e^{-\alpha n^2}$, event A_ℓ occurs for some $\ell \in [4n/5, n]$, whence

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{n/5}) &\leq e^{-\alpha n^2} + \sum_{4n/5 \leq \ell \leq n} \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{n/5} \mid A_\ell) \cdot \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(A_\ell) \\ &\leq e^{-\alpha n^2} + e^{\alpha' \delta n} \sum_{4n/5 \leq \ell \leq n} \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{n/5}, \Lambda_{4n/5} \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_n \mid A_\ell) \cdot \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(A_\ell) \\ &= e^{-\alpha n^2} + e^{\alpha' \delta n} \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{n/5}, \Lambda_{4n/5} \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_n), \end{aligned}$$

where we used that A_ℓ is measurable with respect to edges of ω_τ in $\Lambda_n \setminus \partial \Lambda_\ell$ and that, conditioned on A_ℓ , there are maximum $4\delta n$ edges that are incident to vertices on $\partial \Lambda_\ell$ that are connected to Λ_n and we can disconnect $\Lambda_{4n/5}$ from $\partial \Lambda_n$ by closing all these edges.

On the event $\{\Lambda_{4n/5} \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_n\}$, there exists a circuit of closed edges in ω_τ that surrounds $\Lambda_{4n/5}$. Denote the exterior-most such circuit by ζ and explore it from the outside:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{n/5}, \partial \Lambda_{4n/5} \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_n) &= \sum_C \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{n/5} \mid \zeta = C) \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(\zeta = C) \\ &\leq \sum_C \mu_{\Omega_C, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{0,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{n/5}) \mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(\zeta = C), \end{aligned}$$

where the sum is over all possible values of ζ and we define Ω_C as the subgraph of \mathbb{L} bounded by C ; the inequality relies on (CBC) and on the 0, 1 boundary conditions being domain Markov for μ . Note that Ω_C can be turned into a domain by consecutively removing vertices of degree 1 – denote it by Ω'_C . Such operations can only increase the

measure, whence $\mu_{\Omega_C, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{0,1} \leq_{\text{st}} \mu_{\Omega'_C, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{0,1}$, and $\Lambda_{4n/5} \subset \Omega'_C$. Thus, the right-hand side in the last equation is exponentially small by Proposition 4.1. Combining the bounds, we get

$$\mu_{\Lambda_n, \beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} \partial \Lambda_{n/5}) \leq e^{-\alpha n^2} + e^{\alpha' \delta n} \cdot e^{-\alpha'' n}.$$

Taking δ small enough finishes the proof. \square

7. The Case $J \geq U$: Proof of Theorem 3

7.1. ATRC for $J \geq U$. We fix $J \geq U$ and a finite subgraph Ω of \mathbb{L} . The ATRC model is defined via an Edwards–Sokal-type expansion. Since $J \geq U$, the leading terms will correspond to interactions in τ and in τ' . Thus, the ATRC measure on Ω with boundary conditions $\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau'}$ is supported on pairs of percolation configurations $(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau'}) \in \{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega} \times \{0, 1\}^{E_\Omega}$, and is defined by

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J, U}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau'}}(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau'}) = \frac{1}{Z} \cdot 2^{k^{\eta_\tau}(\omega_\tau) + k^{\eta_{\tau'}}(\omega_{\tau'})} \prod_{e \in E} a(\omega_\tau(e), \omega_{\tau'}(e)), \quad (32)$$

where $Z = Z(\Omega, J, U, \eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau'})$ is a normalizing constant and

$$a(0, 0) := e^{-4J}, \quad a(1, 0) := a(0, 1) := e^{-2(J+U)} - e^{-4J}, \quad a(1, 1) := 1 - 2e^{-2(J+U)} + e^{-4J}. \quad (33)$$

Similarly to (7), if $J > U$, we can write the measure as

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J, U}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau'}}(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau'}) \propto \left(\frac{a(1, 0)}{a(0, 0)} \right)^{|\omega_\tau| + |\omega_{\tau'}|} \left(\frac{a(0, 0)a(1, 1)}{a(1, 0)^2} \right)^{|\omega_\tau \cap \omega_{\tau'}|} 2^{k^{\eta_\tau}(\omega_\tau) + k^{\eta_{\tau'}}(\omega_{\tau'})}. \quad (34)$$

Basic properties. The analogues of the properties (FKG), (CBC), (MON), (MON+) and (DMP) hold in this context as well. In particular, the measures $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,0}$ and $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J, U}^{1,1}$ converge weakly to some $\text{ATRC}_{J, U}^{0,0}$ and $\text{ATRC}_{J, U}^{1,1}$, respectively, as $\Omega \nearrow \mathbb{L}$. As before, if the parameters J, U are fixed, we write $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau'}}$ for $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta J, \beta U}^{\eta_\tau, \eta_{\tau'}}$ and analogously for the infinite-volume measures.

Coupling of ATRC and AT. As mentioned above, edges in ω_τ and in $\omega_{\tau'}$ describe interactions in τ and in τ' . In contrast to (12), the correlations of the product $\tau \tau'$ are described by simultaneous connections in both ω_τ and $\omega_{\tau'}$: for any $x, y \in V_\Omega$,

$$\langle \tau_x \tau_y \rangle_{\Omega, J, U} = \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,0}(x \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} y), \quad \langle \tau_x \tau'_x \tau_y \tau'_{\tau'} \rangle_{\Omega, J, U} = \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J, U}^{0,0}(x \xleftrightarrow{\omega_\tau} y, x \xleftrightarrow{\omega_{\tau'}} y). \quad (35)$$

As in Sect. 2.1, the statement extends to infinite volume in a standard way, and $\beta_c^{\tau, f}$ and $\beta_c^{\tau \tau', f}$ coincide with the corresponding percolation thresholds under $\text{ATRC}_{J, U}^{0,0}$. Similarly, the same holds for β_c^τ and $\beta_c^{\tau \tau'}$ under $\text{ATRC}_{J, U}^{1,1}$.

Duality. Given an ATRC configuration $(\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau'})$, we define its dual $(\hat{\omega}_\tau, \hat{\omega}_{\tau'}) := (\omega_\tau^*, \omega_{\tau'}^*)$. This extends Lemma 2.2 to all $J, U > 0$.

7.2. Proof of Theorem 3. Fix $J \geq U$. Positive association (FKG), symmetry and inclusion give

$$\text{ATRC}_{\beta}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_{\tau}} \infty)^2 \leq \text{ATRC}_{\beta}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_{\tau}} \infty, 0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_{\tau'}} \infty) \leq \text{ATRC}_{\beta}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_{\tau}} \infty).$$

Since β_c^{τ} and $\beta_c^{\tau\tau'}$ coincide with the corresponding percolation thresholds, this implies $\beta_c^{\tau} = \beta_c^{\tau\tau'} =: \beta_c$. Analogously, $\beta_c^{\tau,f} = \beta_c^{\tau\tau',f} =: \beta_c^f$.

To derive Theorem 3, it remains to show that $\beta_c = \beta_c^f = \beta_{\text{sd}}$. The inequality $\beta_c \leq \beta_{\text{sd}}$ follows from a standard argument once the transition is shown to be *sharp*: for $\beta < \beta_c$, there exists $c = c(\beta) > 0$ such that, for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\text{ATRC}_{\beta}^{1,1}(0 \xleftrightarrow{\omega_{\tau}} \partial \Lambda_n) \leq e^{-cn}. \quad (36)$$

This can be derived via a general approach [DRT19], see Appendix A.

The reverse inequality is a consequence of Zhang's argument provided that $\beta_c = \beta_c^f$, i.e. the transitions for the free and wired measures occur at the same point. This follows from an analogue of Lemma 2.3 (see Appendix D for the proof of both lemmata):

Lemma 7.1. *There exists $D \subseteq \{(J, U) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : J \geq U > 0\}$ with Lebesgue measure 0 such that, for any $(J, U) \in D^c$, one has*

$$\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0} = \text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}.$$

Proof of Theorem 3. Fix $J \geq U$. Part (i) follows from Lemma 7.1 and (MON+) in the same way as for $J < U$, see Sect. 2.2.

Recall the definition of the event \mathcal{H}_n^{τ} in Sect. 2.2. By duality, symmetry and (CBC),

$$\text{ATRC}_{\beta_{\text{sd}}}^{0,0}(\mathcal{H}_n^{\tau}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \leq \text{ATRC}_{\beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H}_n^{\tau}). \quad (37)$$

If $\beta_c > \beta_{\text{sd}}$, then, by (36), $\text{ATRC}_{\beta_{\text{sd}}}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H}_n^{\tau})$ converges to 0 as n tends to infinity. If $\beta_c < \beta_{\text{sd}}$, then (since $\beta_c = \beta_c^f$) Zhang's argument implies that $\text{ATRC}_{\beta_{\text{sd}}}^{0,0}(\mathcal{H}_n^{\tau})$ converges to 1 as n tends to infinity. Both statements contradict (37). \square

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A. Sharpness

The proof of sharpness for FK-percolation via the OSSS inequality [DRT19, OSSS05] adapts to the ATRC. For completeness, we present a sketch of this argument and give details for the steps that are specific for the ATRC.

A.1. Sharpness for $J < U$. We start by bounding the derivative in β by a covariance:

Lemma A.1. *Let $0 < J < U$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. Then, there exists $c = c(\varepsilon, J, U) > 0$ such that, for any finite subgraph $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{L}$, any increasing event A , and any $\beta_0 \in [\varepsilon, \varepsilon^{-1}]$,*

$$\left(\frac{d}{d\beta} \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}[A] \right) \Big|_{\beta=\beta_0} \geq c \sum_{e \in E_{\Omega}} \text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, \omega_{\tau}(e)] + \text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, \omega_{\tau\tau'}(e)].$$

Proof. Fix $J < U$. Recall that we can write the measure $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}$ as in (7) with weights given by (8). Then, as in FK-percolation, we get a covariance formula:

$$\frac{d}{d\beta} \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}[A] = \text{Cov} \left[\mathbb{1}_A, \frac{w'_{\tau}(\beta)}{w_{\tau}(\beta)} \cdot |\omega_{\tau}| + \frac{w'_{\tau\tau'}(\beta)}{w_{\tau\tau'}(\beta)} \cdot |\omega_{\tau\tau'} \setminus \omega_{\tau}| \right].$$

Since $J < U$, we have $w'_{\tau\tau'}(\beta), w'_{\tau}(\beta) > 0$ and the statement follows. \square

Fix $J < U$. We prove sharpness only for ω_{τ} , since the proof for $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$ is the same. Recall that $\mu_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}$ is the marginal of $\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}$ on ω_{τ} . The key step in the proof of sharpness in [DRT19] is the extension of the OSSS inequality [OSSS05] to dependent measures. The inequality holds for any monotone (9) measure on $\{0, 1\}^E$, for a finite set of edges E . In particular, it applies also to $\mu_{\Lambda_{2n}, \beta}^{1,1}$ on $\{0, 1\}^{E_{2n}}$ with $E_{2n} = E_{\Lambda_{2n}}$, for $n \geq 1$. Instead of stating the OSSS inequality, we state its consequence that can be derived in the same way as in [DRT19]:

Lemma A.2. ([DRT19], Lemma 3.2) *For any $n \geq 1$, one has*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{e \in E_{2n}} \text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_{\{0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_n\}}, \omega_e] \\ & \geq \frac{n}{16 \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \mu_{\Lambda_{2k}, \beta}^{1,1}[0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_k]} \mu_{\Lambda_{2n}, \beta}^{1,1}[0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_n] \left(1 - \mu_{\Lambda_{2n}, \beta}^{1,1}[0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_n] \right), \end{aligned}$$

where the covariance is taken with respect to the measure $\mu_{\Lambda_{2n}, \beta}^{1,1}$.

We proceed as in [DRT19]. Fix $\beta_0 > 0$. For $n, k \geq 1$, $\varepsilon < 1$ and $\beta \in [\varepsilon, \varepsilon^{-1}]$, define

$$\theta_k(\beta) := \mu_{\Lambda_{2k}, \beta}^{1,1}[0 \leftrightarrow \partial \Lambda_k], \quad S_n := \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \theta_k.$$

Lemma A.1 applied to $A = \{0 \xrightarrow{\omega_{\tau}} \partial \Lambda_n\}$ and $\Omega = \Lambda_{2n}$ implies

$$\theta'_n(\beta) \geq c \sum_{e \in E_{2n}} \text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, \omega_{\tau}(e)] + \text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, \omega_{\tau\tau'}(e)] \geq c \sum_{e \in E_{2n}} \text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, \omega_{\tau}(e)],$$

(38)

where we used FKG inequality in the last line. By Lemma A.2,

$$\theta_n' \geq c \frac{n}{16S_n} \theta_n (1 - \theta_n).$$

By (CBC) and monotonicity in $\beta \leq \varepsilon^{-1}$, we have $\theta_n(\beta) \leq \theta_1(\varepsilon^{-1})$. Then, for some $c_1 > 0$,

$$\theta_n' \geq c_1 \frac{n}{S_n} \theta_n. \quad (39)$$

By [DRT19, Lemma 3.1], this inequality implies sharpness of the phase transition.

A.2. Sharpness for $J \geq U$. The proof is the same as for $J < U$ and we only show the analogue of Lemma A.1.

Lemma A.3. *Let $J \geq U > 0$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. Then, there exists $c = c(\varepsilon, J, U) > 0$ such that, for any finite subgraph $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{L}$, any increasing event A , and any $\beta_0 \in [\varepsilon, \varepsilon^{-1}]$,*

$$\left(\frac{d}{d\beta} \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}[A] \right) \Big|_{\beta=\beta_0} \geq c \sum_{e \in E_\Omega} (\text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, \omega_\tau(e)] + \text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, \omega_{\tau'}(e)]).$$

Proof. For $J = U$, the model reduces to FK-percolation with cluster-weight $q = 4$, and the statement follows from [Gri06, Theorem 3.12]. Fix $J > U$. Define $r(\beta), s(\beta) > 0$ by

$$r(\beta) = \frac{a(1,0)}{a(0,0)} = \frac{a(0,1)}{a(0,0)} \quad \text{and} \quad s(\beta) = \frac{a(0,0)a(1,1)}{a(1,0)^2},$$

where the $a(i, j)$ are given by (33) evaluated at $(\beta J, \beta U)$. Recall that we can write the ATRC measure as in (34). Then, for any $c > 0$ and any increasing event A ,

$$\frac{d}{d\beta} \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, \beta}^{1,1}[A] - c \sum_{e \in E_\Omega} \text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, \omega_\tau(e) + \omega_{\tau'}(e)] = \text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, X_c],$$

where

$$X_c = \sum_{e \in E_\Omega} \left(\frac{r'}{r} - c \right) (\omega_\tau(e) + \omega_{\tau'}(e)) + \frac{s'}{s} \omega_\tau(e) \omega_{\tau'}(e).$$

It is easy to see that X_c is increasing in ω when $\beta \in [\varepsilon, \varepsilon^{-1}]$ and c is small enough. Then, by (FKG), $\text{Cov}[\mathbb{1}_A, X_c] \geq 0$ and this finishes the proof. \square

B. Proof of Lemma 3.11

Proof of Lemma 3.11. Fix $q > 4$ and $p = p_{\text{sd}}(q)$ and omit them in the notation below. Let $n \geq 1$ and $\Omega \supset \Lambda_{2n}$ be a finite subgraph of \mathbb{L} . By Proposition 3.10 and Strassen's theorem [Str65], there exists a coupling \mathbb{P} of $\eta_- \sim \mathbf{FK}^w$ and $\eta_+ \sim \mathbf{FK}_\Omega^w$ such that $\mathbb{P}(\eta_- \leq \eta_+) = 1$.

Define \mathcal{C} to be the outermost circuit of edges in η_- surrounding Λ_n and contained in Λ_{2n} (if there is no such circuit, set $\mathcal{C} := \emptyset$). By exponential decay of connections for the dual η_-^* (Theorem 4), there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that, for any $n \geq 1$,

$$\mathbb{P}[\mathcal{C} = \emptyset] \leq \mathbf{FK}^w[\Lambda_n^* \xleftrightarrow{\eta_-^*} \Lambda_{2n}^*] < 8ne^{-\alpha n}.$$

Take any event A depending only on edges in Λ_n . We have

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{FK}_\Omega^w[A] - \mathbf{FK}^w[A]| &\leq |\mathbb{P}[\eta_+ \in A, \mathcal{C} \neq \emptyset] - \mathbb{P}[\eta_- \in A, \mathcal{C} \neq \emptyset]| + 16ne^{-\alpha n} \\ &= \sum_{C \neq \emptyset} |\mathbb{P}[\eta_+ \in A \mid \mathcal{C} = C] - \mathbb{P}[\eta_- \in A \mid \mathcal{C} = C]| \mathbb{P}[\mathcal{C} = C] + 16ne^{-\alpha n}, \end{aligned}$$

where the sum runs over all realisations $C \neq \emptyset$ of \mathcal{C} . Now, the event $\{\mathcal{C} = C\}$ is measurable with respect to the exterior of C . Moreover, on $\{\mathcal{C} = C\}$, the circuit C is open both in η_+ and η_- , whence the distributions of η_+ and η_- in the interior of C are equal. \square

C. Proof of Lemma 4.6

Proof of Lemma 4.6. By a generalization of the Holley criterion, see [GHM01, Section 4], it suffices to check that, for all $e \in E_\Omega$ and $(\zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'}) \in \{(0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1)\}^{E_\Omega \setminus \{e\}}$, both

$$\begin{aligned} f_e(w_\tau, \zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'}) &:= \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, w_\tau, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{0,1} \left[\omega_\tau(e) = 1 \mid (\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'})|_{E_\Omega \setminus \{e\}} = (\zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'}) \right], \\ g_e(w_\tau, \zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'}) &:= \text{ATRC}_{\Omega, w_\tau, w_{\tau\tau'}}^{0,1} \left[\omega_{\tau\tau'}(e) = 1 \mid (\omega_\tau, \omega_{\tau\tau'})|_{E_\Omega \setminus \{e\}} = (\zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'}) \right] \end{aligned}$$

are increasing in $(\zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'})$ and w_τ .

Fix $e, \zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'}$ as above. Write $\underline{\zeta}_\tau$ and $\overline{\zeta}_\tau$ for the configurations that agree with ζ_τ on $E_\Omega \setminus \{e\}$ while $\underline{\zeta}_\tau(e) = 0$ and $\overline{\zeta}_\tau(e) = 1$, and analogously for $\zeta_{\tau\tau'}$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} f_e(w_\tau, \psi, \zeta) &= \frac{w_\tau(e) 2^{k(\overline{\zeta}_\tau) + k^1(\overline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})}}{2^{k(\underline{\zeta}_\tau) + k^1(\underline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})} + w_{\tau\tau'}(e) 2^{k(\underline{\zeta}_\tau) + k^1(\overline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})} + w_\tau(e) 2^{k(\overline{\zeta}_\tau) + k^1(\overline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})}} \\ &= \left(\frac{2^{k(\underline{\zeta}_\tau) - k(\overline{\zeta}_\tau)} (2^{k^1(\underline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})} - 1) + w_{\tau\tau'}(e)}{w_\tau(e)} + 1 \right)^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

which is clearly increasing in w_τ . Moreover $k(\underline{\zeta}_\tau) - k(\overline{\zeta}_\tau)$ and $k^1(\underline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'}) - k^1(\overline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})$ are decreasing in $(\zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'})$, respectively.

We now check that $1 - g_e$ is decreasing in w_τ and $(\zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'})$. We have

$$1 - g_e(w_\tau, \zeta_\tau, \zeta_{\tau\tau'}) = \frac{2^{k(\underline{\zeta}_\tau) + k^1(\underline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})}}{2^{k(\underline{\zeta}_\tau) + k^1(\underline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})} + w_{\tau\tau'}(e) 2^{k(\underline{\zeta}_\tau) + k^1(\overline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})} + w_\tau(e) 2^{k(\overline{\zeta}_\tau) + k^1(\overline{\zeta}_{\tau\tau'})}}$$

$$= \left(1 + 2^{k^1(\zeta_{\tau\tau'}) - k^1(\zeta_{\tau\tau'})} \left(w_{\tau\tau'}(e) + w_{\tau}(e) 2^{k(\zeta_{\tau}) - k(\zeta_{\tau})} \right) \right)^{-1},$$

which is clearly decreasing in w_{τ} and $(\zeta_{\tau}, \zeta_{\tau\tau'})$. \square

D. Equality of Infinite-Volume ATRC Measures

In this section, we prove Lemmata 2.3 and 7.1.

The case $J < U$. The following statement will imply Lemma 2.3.

Lemma D.1. *There exist two families of smooth curves $(\gamma_r^{\tau})_{r>0}$ and $(\gamma_s^{\tau\tau'})_{s>0}$ such that (i): for any $0 < J < U$, there exist $s, r > 0$ such that $(J, U) \in \gamma_r^{\tau} \cap \gamma_s^{\tau\tau'}$, and (ii): for any $r, s > 0$, the set of points (J, U) on γ_r^{τ} (resp. $\gamma_s^{\tau\tau'}$) such that the marginals of $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0}$ and $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}$ on ω_{τ} (resp. $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$) differ is at most countable.*

This implies that the set of pairs $J < U$, for which $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0}$ and $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}$ have different marginals on ω_{τ} or $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$, has Lebesgue measure 0. By a monotone coupling argument, equality of both marginals implies that $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0} = \text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}$, and Lemma 2.3 follows. We mention that $(\gamma_r^{\tau})_{r>0}$ and $(\gamma_s^{\tau\tau'})_{s>0}$ are dual to each other.

Proof of Lemma D.1. We follow a strategy presented in [Dum17, Theorem 1.12] which is a rephrased version of an argument in [LL72]. For any $J < U$, any finite subgraph $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{L}$ and any boundary conditions η_{τ} and $\eta_{\tau\tau'}$, we can write

$$\text{ATRC}_{\Omega, J, U}^{\eta_{\tau}, \eta_{\tau\tau'}}[\omega_{\tau}, \omega_{\tau\tau'}] \propto \left(\frac{a(0,0)}{a(0,1)} \right)^{|E_{\Omega}| - |\omega_{\tau\tau'}|} \left(\frac{a(1,1)}{a(0,1)} \right)^{|\omega_{\tau}|} 2^{k^{\eta_{\tau}}(\omega_{\tau}) + k^{\eta_{\tau\tau'}}(\omega_{\tau\tau'})} \mathbb{1}_{\omega_{\tau} \subseteq \omega_{\tau\tau'}}.$$

Consider the curves where $a(0,0)/a(0,1)$ is constant (precisely if $U - J$ is constant). Fix an edge e of \mathbb{L} . The Holley criterion [Hol74] easily gives that the function $(J, U) \mapsto \text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}[\omega_{\tau}(e)]$ is increasing along these curves, see e.g. the proof of [Gri06, Lemma 11.14]. In particular, the set of discontinuity points is countable along each of them. Fix $C > 0$ and $(J, U), (J', U')$ on the curve $a(0,0)/a(0,1) \equiv C$ with $J' < J$ (then also $U' < U$), and assume that (J, U) is a continuity point. Define $a = \text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0}[\omega_{\tau}(e)]$ and $b = \text{ATRC}_{J',U'}^{1,1}[\omega_{\tau}(e)]$.

Note that, along the curve $a(0,0)/a(0,1) \equiv C$, the quantity $a(1,1)/a(0,1)$ is strictly increasing. Using this fact, analogous reasoning as in [Dum17] gives that $a \geq b$. Letting (J', U') tend to (J, U) along $a(0,0)/a(0,1) \equiv C$ and using that (J, U) is a continuity point of $(J', U') \mapsto b$, we deduce

$$\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0}[\omega_{\tau}(e)] \geq \text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}[\omega_{\tau}(e)].$$

Since the reversed inequality follows from (CBC), we obtain equality. By considering a monotone coupling of the corresponding marginals on ω_{τ} , it is easy to see that this implies that the marginals on ω_{τ} coincide. The statement for $\omega_{\tau\tau'}$ is derived along the same lines when considering the curves where $a(1,1)/a(0,1)$ is constant. \square

The case $J \geq U$. Below is the analogue of Lemma D.1 that implies Lemma 7.1.

Lemma D.2. *There exists a family of smooth curves $(\gamma_r^{\tau})_{r>0}$ such that (i): for any $J \geq U > 0$, there exists $r > 0$ for which $(J, U) \in \gamma_r^{\tau}$, and (ii): for any $r > 0$, there exist only countably many points (J, U) on γ_r^{τ} for which $\text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{0,0} \neq \text{ATRC}_{J,U}^{1,1}$.*

Proof. For $J = U$, the model reduces to FK-percolation with cluster-weight $q = 4$, and the statement follows from [Dum17, Theorem 1.12]. Recall that, for any $J > U$ and any finite subgraph $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{L}$, we can write the measure as in (34). Consider the curves where the weight $w := (a(0, 0)a(1, 1))/(a(1, 0)^2)$ is constant. The Holley criterion again allows to show that the ATRC measures are stochastically ordered along these lines. Moreover, the weight $a(1, 0)/a(0, 0)$ is increasing along each of them.

Fix an edge e of \mathbb{L} and $C \geq 1$, and let (J, U) be a continuity point of $(J', U') \mapsto \text{ATRC}_{J', U'}^{1,1}[\omega_\tau(e)]$ along the curve $w \equiv C$. Take (J', U') on the same curve with $J' < J$. Analogous reasoning as in the proof of [Dum17, Theorem 1.12] gives

$$\text{ATRC}_{J', U'}^{1,1}[\omega_\tau(e)] \leq \text{ATRC}_{J, U}^{0,0}[\omega_\tau(e)],$$

with the only difference that one has to apply (FKG) to control $|\omega_\tau|$ and $|\omega_{\tau'}|$ simultaneously. Letting (J', U') tend to (J, U) along $w \equiv C$ from below and using (CBC) gives $\text{ATRC}_{J, U}^{0,0}[\omega_\tau(e)] = \text{ATRC}_{J, U}^{1,1}[\omega_\tau(e)]$. A monotone coupling argument and symmetry between ω_τ and $\omega_{\tau'}$ finish the proof. \square

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