

# Finitary Coloring

Alexander E Holroyd

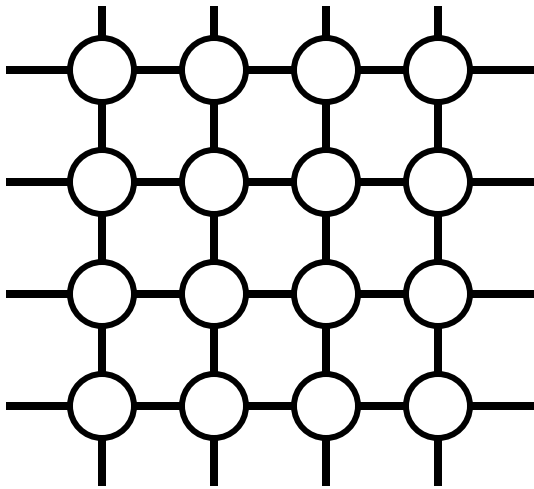
Oded Schramm

David B Wilson

## (Proper) $q$ -coloring of graph $G$ :

labelling of vertices with colors  $1, \dots, q$   
giving adjacent vertices different colors

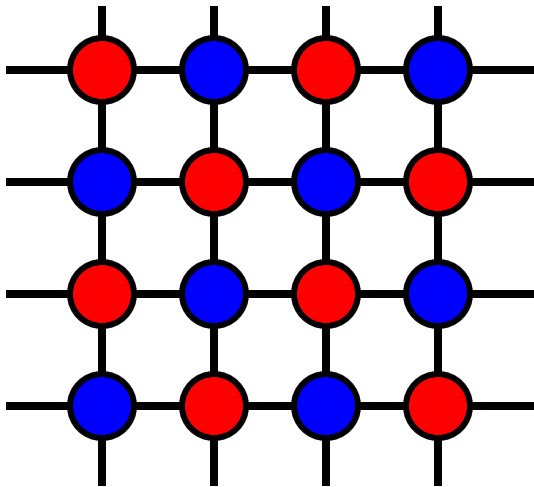
E.g.  $\mathbb{Z}^2$



## (Proper) $q$ -coloring of graph $G$ :

labelling of vertices with colors  $1, \dots, q$   
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E.g.  $\mathbb{Z}^2$



2-colouring

Can we color with no  
"central authority" -  
each vertex is an identical  
"independent agent"?

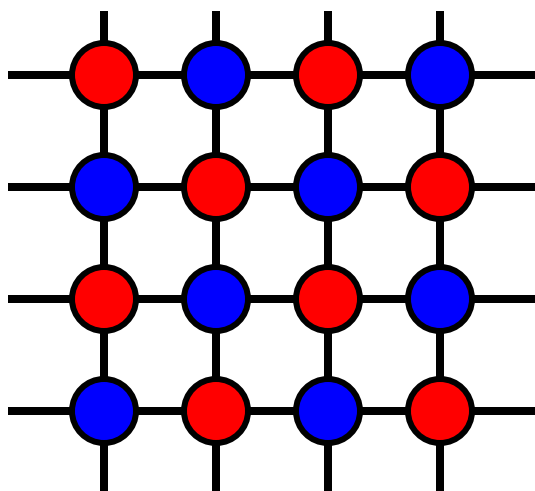
# Random stationary colorings?

I.i.d. colors clearly impossible.

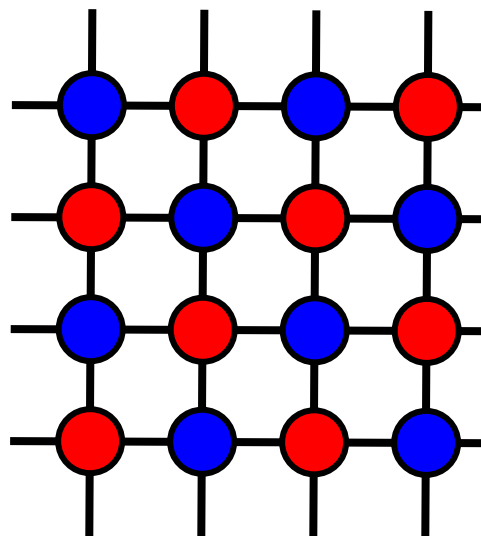
Approximate independence?

Trivial tails? Decay of correlations? Mixing?

E.g.  $\mathbb{Z}^2$



with prob  $1/2$



with prob  $1/2$

2-coloring (but long-range correlations)

Definition: a process  $X=(X_v)_{v \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$  is a finitary factor of an iid process (ffiid) if:

1.  $X=f(U)$  for  $U=(U_v)$  an iid process on  $\mathbb{Z}^d$
2.  $f$  is translation-equivariant:  
 $f(T u) = T f(u)$  for any translation  $T$
3.  $f$  is finitary:  
 $X_0$  is determined by  $U$  on  $[-R, R]^d$   
for some random  $R < \infty$ ,  
(the coding radius)

I.e.:  $\exists r=r(u)$  s.t.

$$u=u' \text{ on } [-r, r]^d \Rightarrow f(u)_0 = f(u')_0.$$

$$R:=r(U)$$

**Question:** does there exist an ffiid coloring?  
If so, how small can we make coding radius  $R$ ?

Not with  $q=2$  colors on  $Z^d$ .

Not with  $R \equiv 0$  (i.i.d.).

**Application:**

Network of machines.

Colors represent updating schedules/  
communication frequencies  
(neighbors must not conflict).

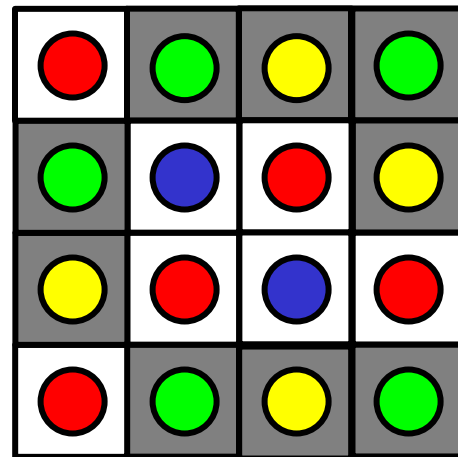
Can the machines choose colors

locally, in distributed fashion? How locally?

E.g.

$\exists$  an f.i.i.d 4-coloring of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  with  $P(R > r) \leq e^{-cr}$  :

Label each vertex  
black/white indep. w.p.  $\frac{1}{2}$



Percolation theory:

$\frac{1}{2} < p_c^{\text{site}}(\mathbb{Z}^2) \Rightarrow$  black/white clusters finite  
and  $\text{diam}(\text{cluster at } 0)$  has exp tails

Checkerboard

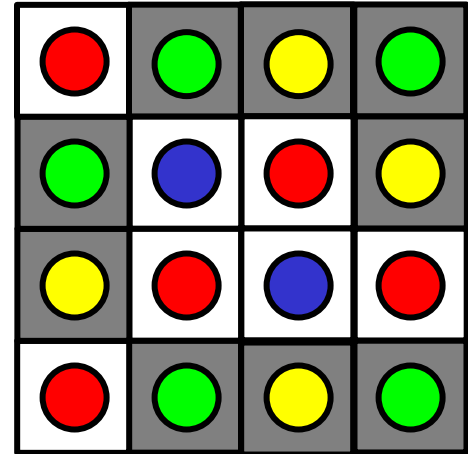
white clusters in red/blue

black clusters in green/yellow

(starting  
from NE  
corner)

$\exists$  an ffiid 4-coloring of  $Z^2$  with  $P(R>r) \leq e^{-cr}$  :

Label each vertex  
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Checkerboard (isometry-equivariant version:  
white clusters in red/blue use argmax of iid  
black clusters in green/yellow  $U[0,1]$  rvs)



$\exists$  an f.i.i.d 4-colouring of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  with  $P(R > r) \leq e^{-cr}$  :

Can we do better?  $R$  bounded?

Other  $d$ ?

Other numbers of colors?

Theorem: For  $Z^d$ ,  $d \geq 2$ :  $d=1$

$\exists$  ffiid 3-coloring with  $P(R > r) < r^{-a}$  (power law)

Any ffiid 3-coloring has  $E(R^2) = \infty$  (law)

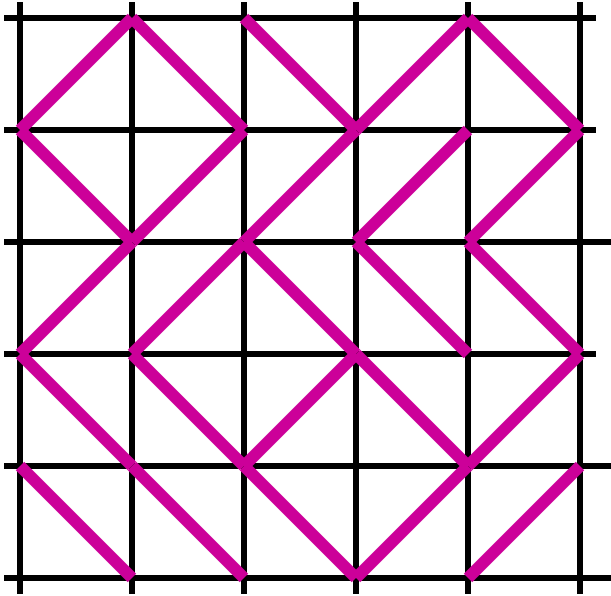
$\exists$  ffiid ~~3~~ 4-coloring with  $P(R > r) < 1 / e^{e^{\cdot^{\cdot^{\cdot^e}}}} cr$

Any ffiid  $q$ -coloring has  $P(R > r) > 1 / e^{e^{\cdot^{\cdot^{\cdot^e}}}} Cr$   
(tower law)

$(a, c, C \in (0, \infty))$  depending on  $d, q$

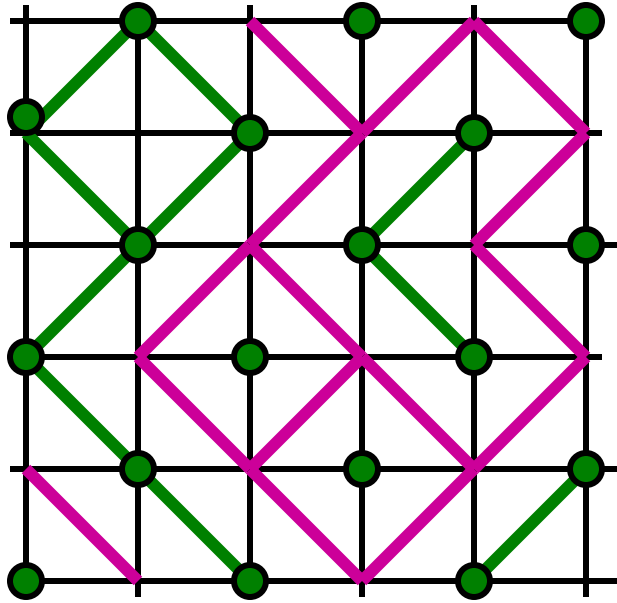
Proofs...

## 3-coloring $\mathbb{Z}^2$ with power law tails:



Draw / or \ w.p.  $\frac{1}{2}$   
in each square

## 3-coloring $\mathbb{Z}^2$ with power law tails:



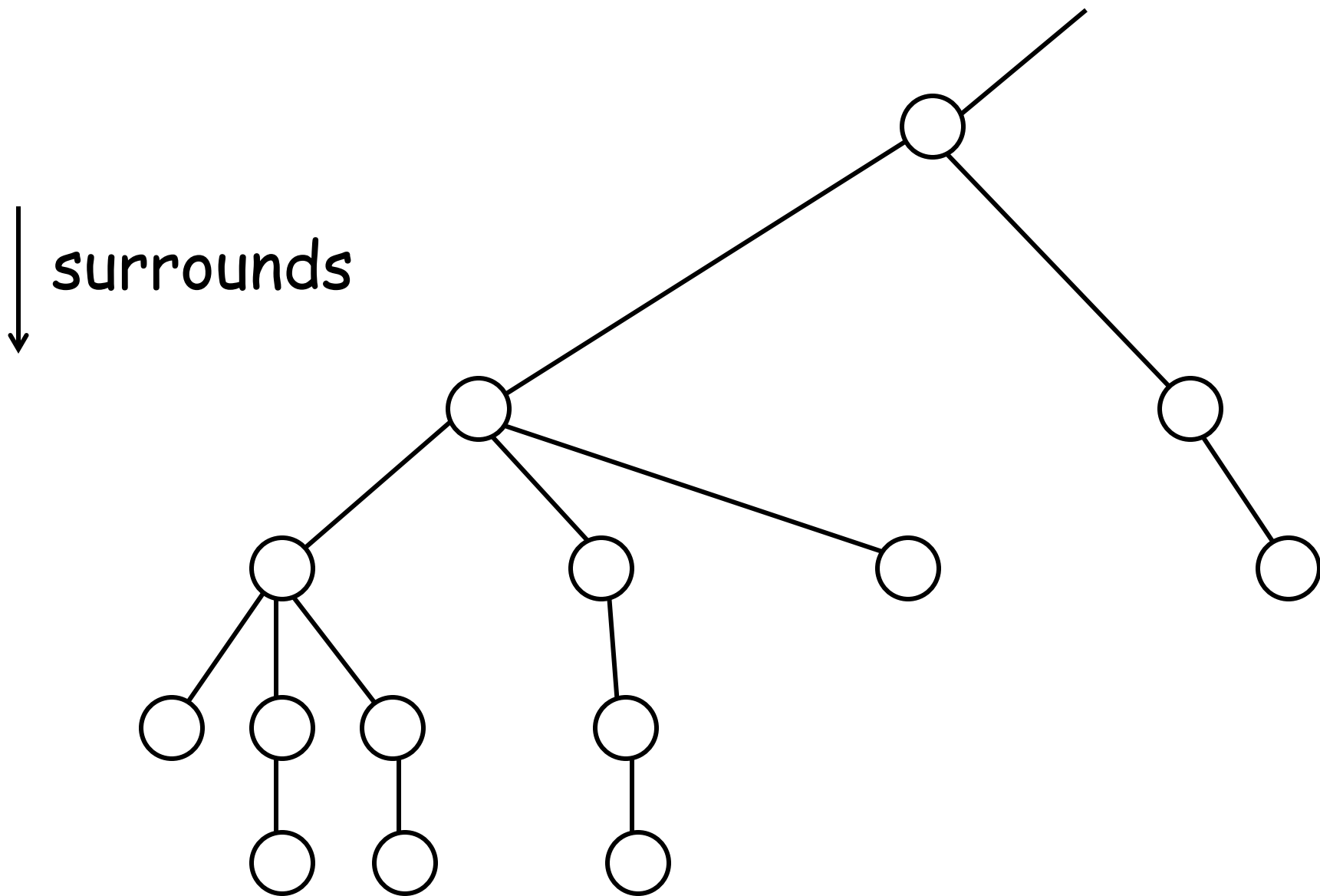
Draw / or \ w.p.  $\frac{1}{2}$   
in each square

On even sub-lattice, see  
critical bond percolation  
(clusters finite, power law  
tails)

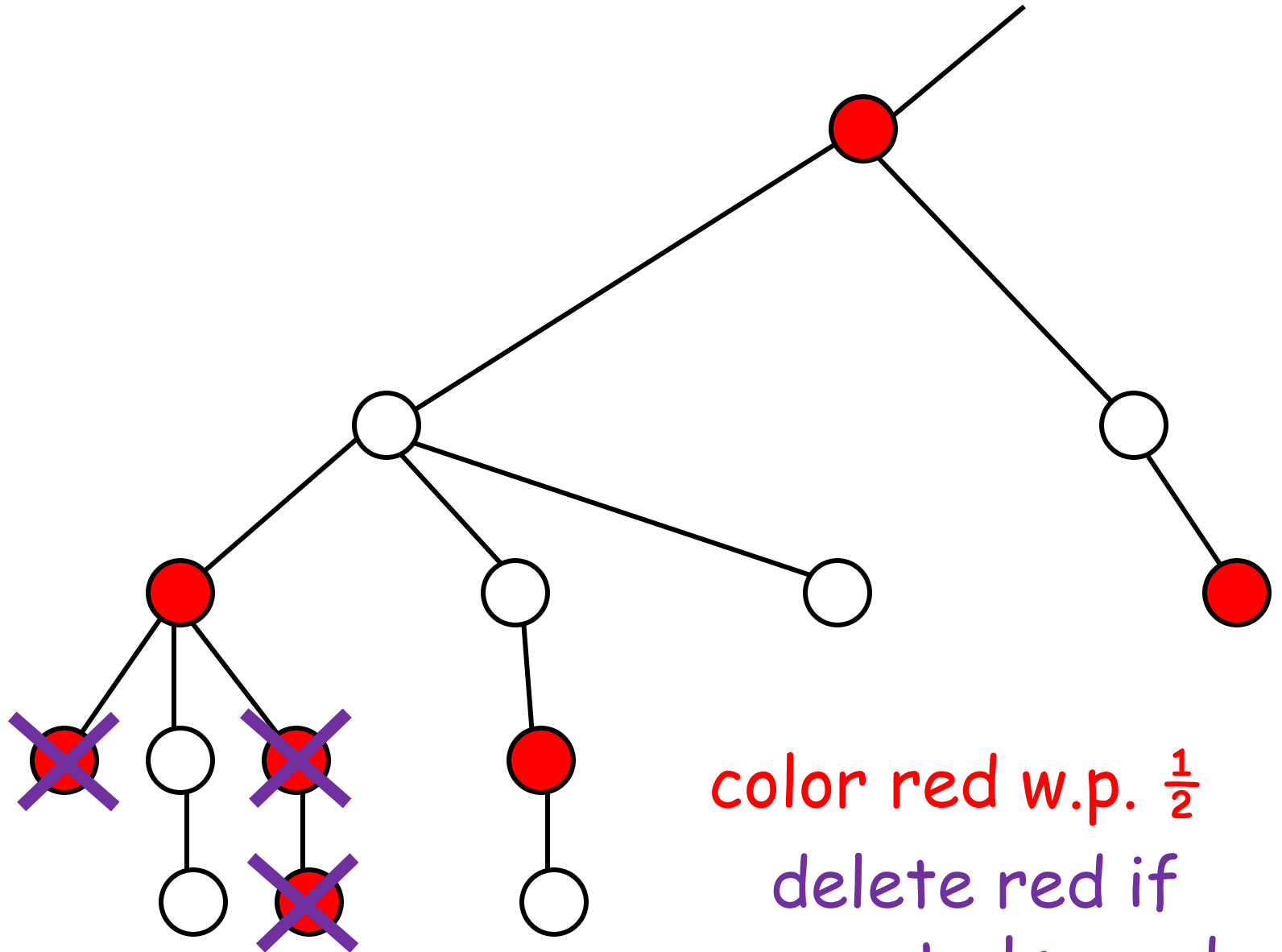
On odd sub-lattice, see dual perc. config.

Each **cluster** is surrounded by a **cluster**  
and vice versa. We'll give each cluster a color.

# Adjacency graph of clusters:



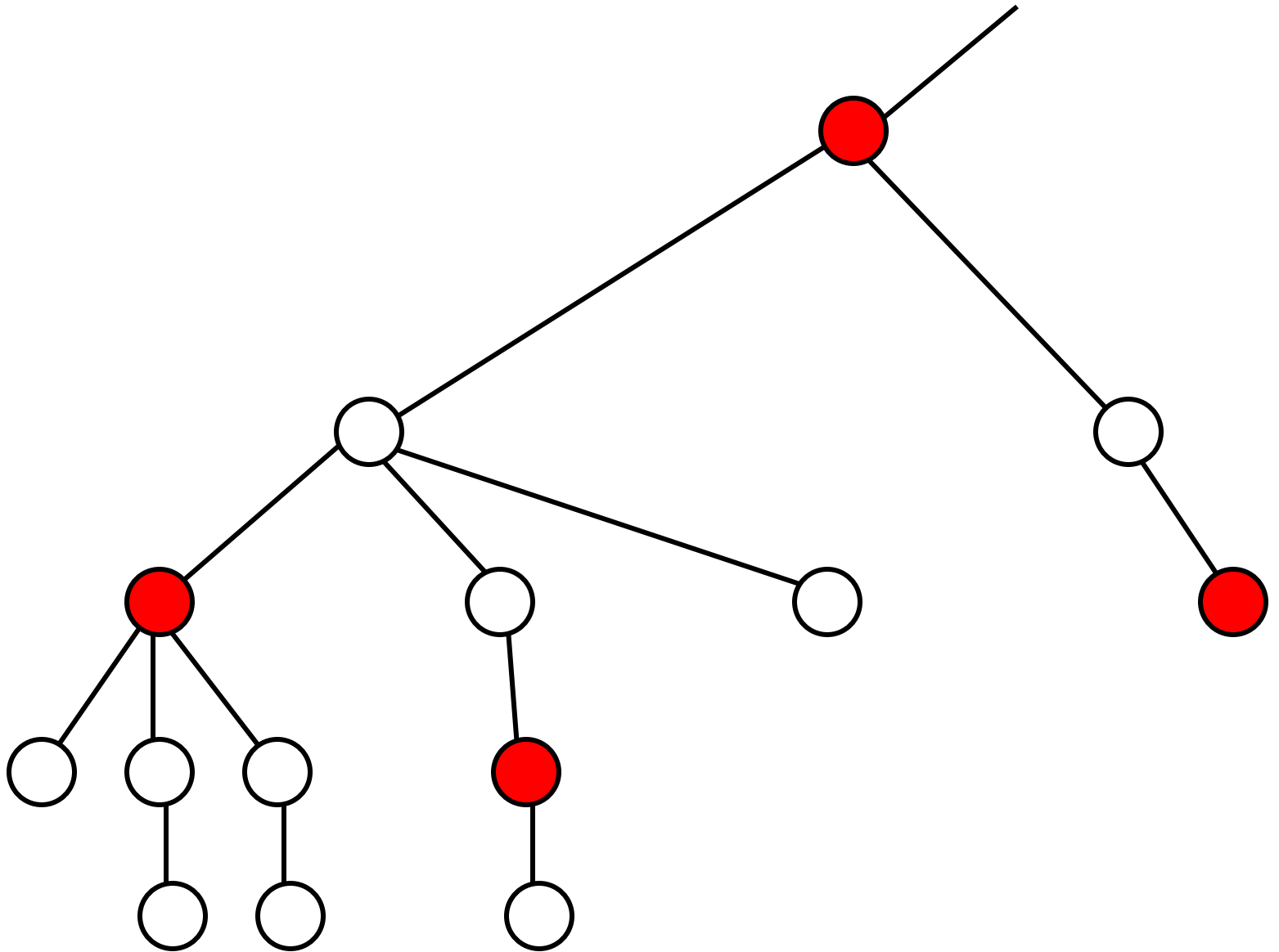
# Adjacency graph of clusters:



color red w.p.  $\frac{1}{2}$

delete red if  
parent also red

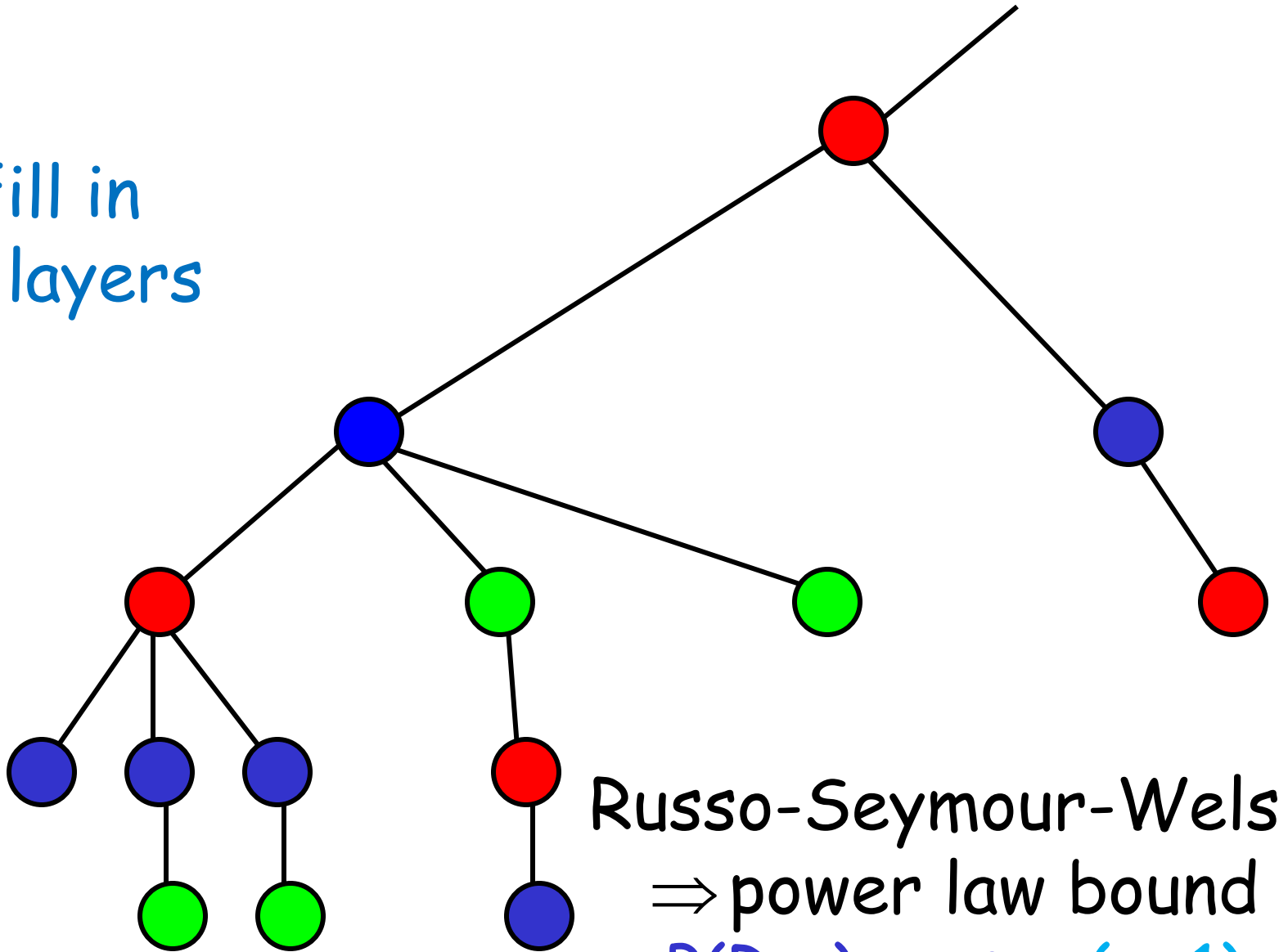
Adjacency graph of clusters:





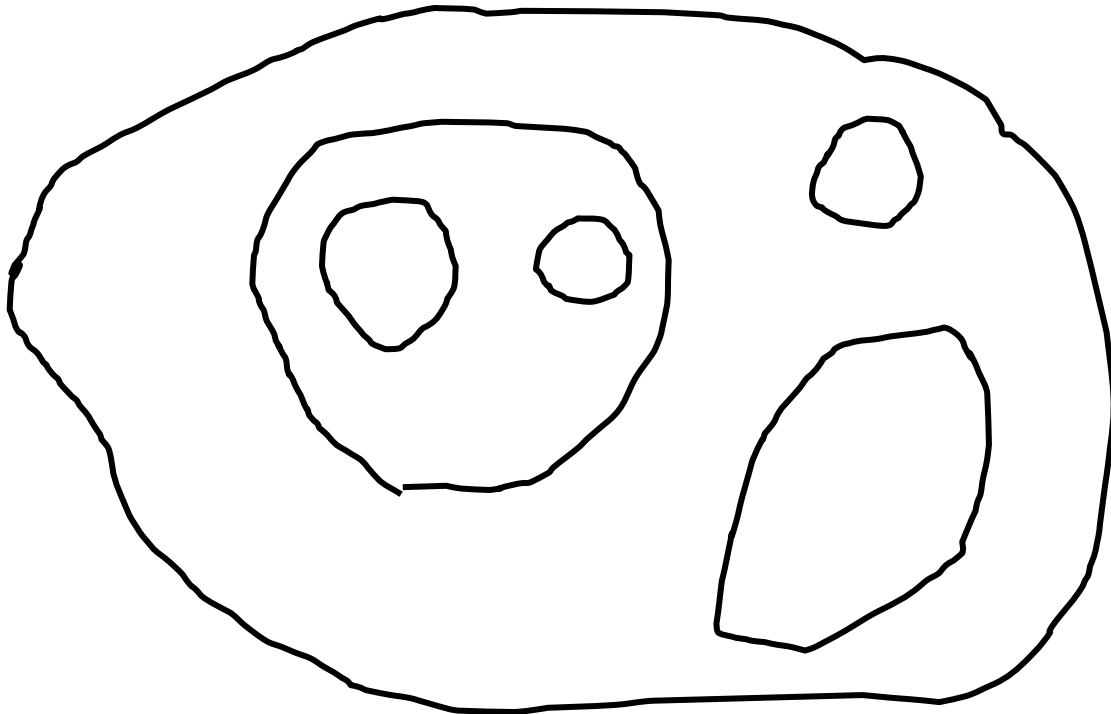
# Adjacency graph of clusters:

fill in  
in layers



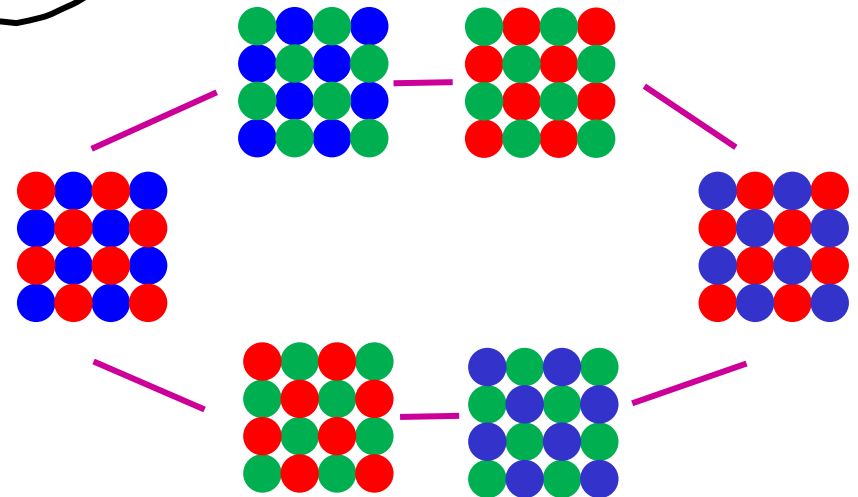
Russo-Seymour-Welsh  
 $\Rightarrow$  power law bound  
 $P(R > r) < r^{-\alpha}$  ( $\alpha \ll 1$ )

# 3-coloring $Z^d$ with power law tails:

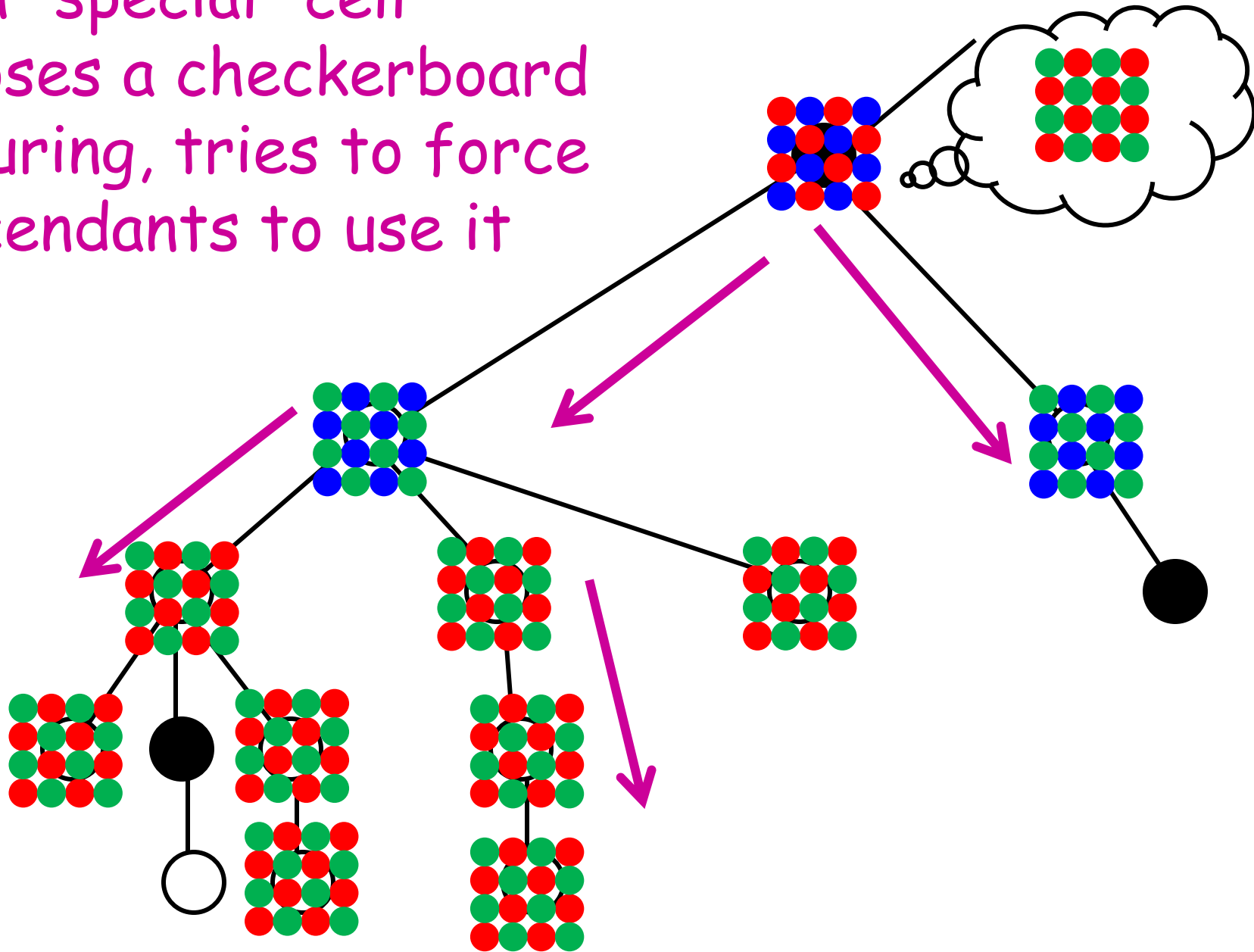


Hierarchical construction of partition of  $Z^d$  with tree structure, power tails

Color each cell with a checkerboard:



Each "special" cell chooses a checkerboard colouring, tries to force descendants to use it



# Proof of lower bound $E(R^2) = \infty$

## for 3-coloring on $Z^2$ :

in fact, any stationary 3-coloring has slowly decaying (power law) correlations.

0	2	1	2	0	1
2	1	0	1	2	0
1	2	1	0	1	2
2	0	2	1	2	0

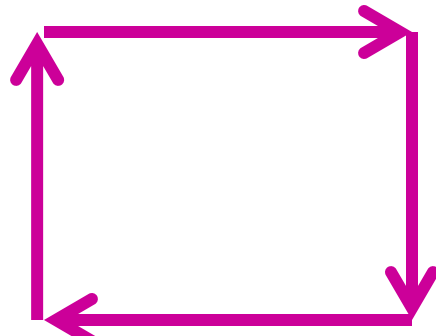
colouring



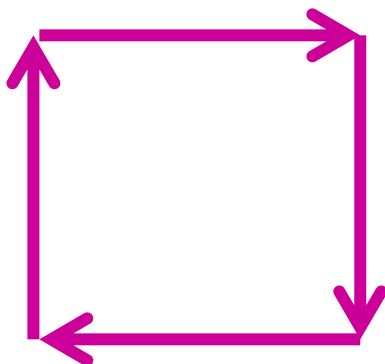
6	5	4	5	6	7
5	4	3	4	5	6
4	5	4	3	4	5
5	6	5	4	5	6

height function

height change around contour must be 0



height change around contour must be 0



tail triviality  $\Rightarrow$   $\text{Var}(\text{change along side})$  large

(Lemma:  $(Y_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$   $\pm 1$ -valued, stationary,  
right-tail-trivial, not deterministic

$\Rightarrow \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Var} \sum_1^n Y_i = \infty$  a.s. )

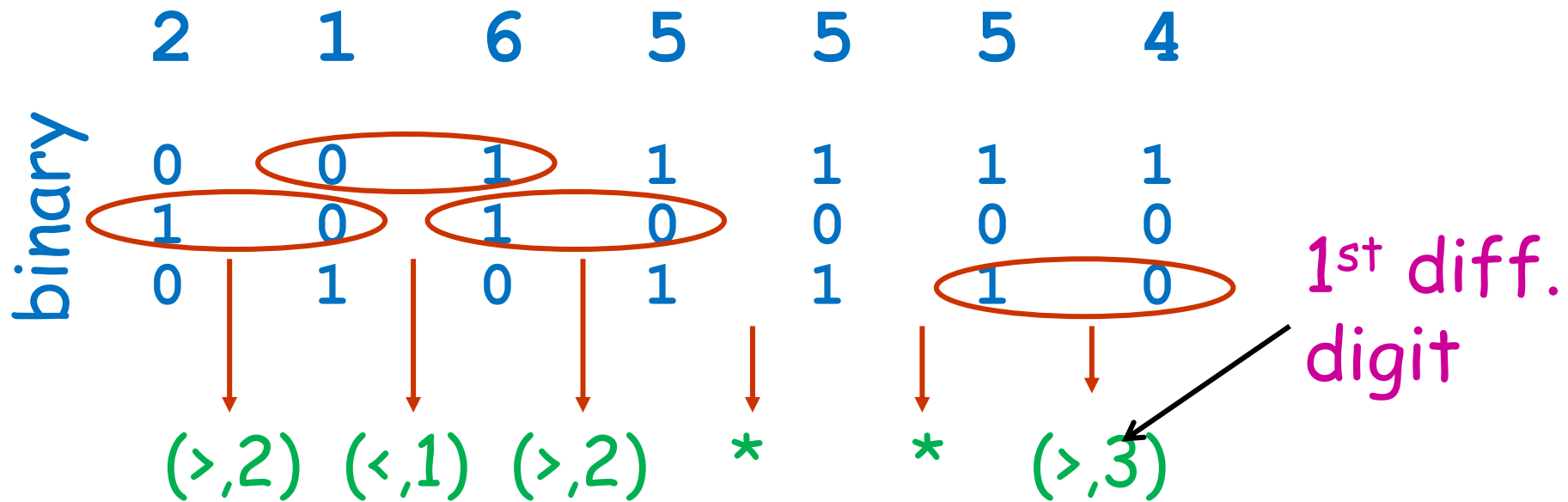
fast decay of correlations  $\Rightarrow$

changes along sides approx independent

$\Rightarrow$  contradiction.

# Tower colouring on $\mathbb{Z}$ with some # of colors:

Reduction  $2^n$ -labelling  $\rightarrow$   $(2n+1)$ -labelling  
(essentially Cole, Vishkin, 1986)



Get a color-clash only where original sequence had one.

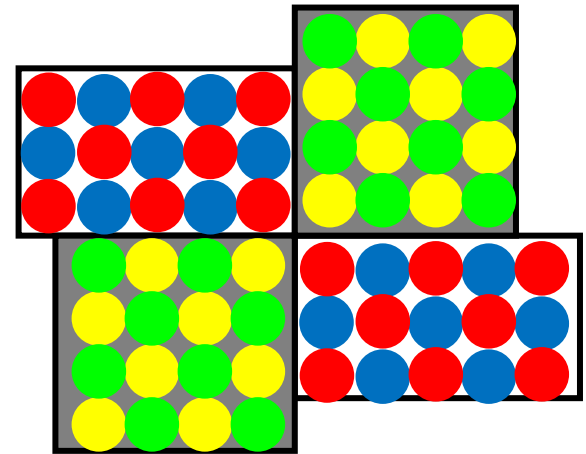
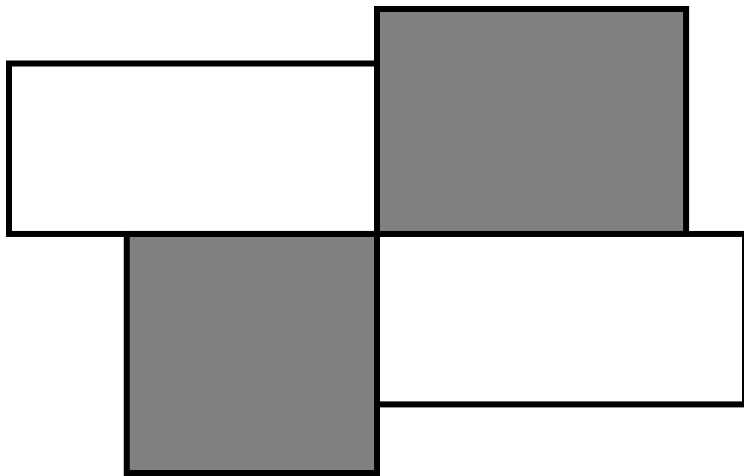
Doing this  $k$  times, starting from i.i.d., get  
 $P(\text{clash}) < 1/\text{tower}(ck)$ ,  $6+1$  colors,  $R \leq \lceil k/2 \rceil$ .



# Reduction to 4 colors on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ :

long-range colorings, maximal indep sets,  
local modifications  $\Rightarrow$

tower-ffiid 2-labelling with **bounded** clusters



checkerboard



# Proof of lower bound $P(R > r) > 1/\text{tower}(Cr)$

Key step: (essentially M. Naor 1991;  
arguably Ramsey 1930)

For  $(U_i)$  i.i.d.,  $f: R^r \rightarrow \{1, \dots, q\}$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}[f(U_1, \dots, U_r) = f(U_2, \dots, U_{r+1})] > \frac{1}{2^{2^{2^{\cdot^{\cdot^{\cdot}}(4q)}}}}$$

height  $r$

(essentially tight!)

**Proof** that for  $(U_i)$  i.i.d. and  $f: R^r \rightarrow \{1, \dots, q\}$ ,

$$P[f(U_1, \dots, U_r) = f(U_2, \dots, U_{r+1})] > 0:$$

with positive probability

Induction on  $r$ .  $r = 1$  easy (i.i.d.).

$r \geq 2$ :

$$S(u_1, \dots, u_{r-1}) := \{a: f(u_1, \dots, u_{r-1}, U_r) = a \text{ wpp}\}.$$

$S$  takes  $\leq 2^q$  values;

$$\text{induction} \Rightarrow S(U_1, \dots, U_{r-1}) = S(U_2, \dots, U_r) \text{ wpp.}$$

So  $\exists a, A$  s.t. wpp:

$$S(U_1, \dots, U_{r-1}) = A = S(U_2, \dots, U_r)$$

$$f(U_1, \dots, U_r) = a = f(U_2, \dots, U_{r+1})$$



## Beyond colouring:

A **shift of finite type** is a subset of  $\{1, \dots, q\}^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$  determined by insisting that all  $k$ -boxes lie in some given  $A \subset \{1, \dots, q\}^{[0, k]^d}$

E.g.:  $q$ -coloring on  $\mathbb{Z}$ :  $A = \{(x, y) : x \neq y\}$

Theorem: For  $d=1$  and any shift of finite type  $S$ , either:

1. there is **no** ffiid process in  $S$   
("periodicity" obstruction) (e.g. 2-colouring)
2.  $\exists$  ffiid process in  $S$  with  $P(R>r) < 1/\text{tower}(cr)$   
any ffiid process in  $S$  has  $P(R>r) > 1/\text{tower}(Cr)$   
(e.g. 3-colouring)

or

3. some **constant** sequence lies in  $S$   
(so ffiid with " $R=0$ ")  
(e.g.  $q=1, S=\{1\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ )

For a shift of finite type in  $d \geq 2$ , can have:

No ffiid process (e.g. 2-col)

Power law ffiid process (e.g. 3-col)

Tower law ffiid process (e.g. 4-col)

Constant ( $R=0$ ) process possible  
(e.g. "no restriction")

Q: Is any other  
behaviour possible?

Beyond finitary factors: Process  $X=(X_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$   
 $X$  is a  $k$ -block factor if  $X_i=g(U_{i+1}, \dots, U_{i+k})$ ,  $(U_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$  iid  
 (Ffiid process with  $R \leq k \Leftrightarrow (2k+1)$ -block factor)  
**Theorem**  $\Rightarrow$  no block factor colourings.

Stationary process  $X$  is  $k$ -dependent if  
 $(\dots, X_{-2}, X_{-1}) \perp\!\!\!\perp (X_k, X_{k+1}, \dots)$

$k$ -block factor  $\Rightarrow$  stationary,  $(k-1)$ -dependent  
 $\Leftrightarrow?$  (Ibragimov, Linnik, 1965)

No! (Aaronson, Gilat, Keane, de Valk, 1989)

Longstanding Q: "Natural" counterexample?

Coloring leads to an answer!

Thm (H., Liggett):  $\exists$  1-dependent 4-coloring!