

## Introduction to Determinantal Point Processes

Jack Poulson (Hodge Star Scientific Computing)  
Aussois, France, June 20, 2019

## Overview

- We are nominally discussing them due to their popularization, by [Kulesza/Taskar-2012], for the diversification step of a recommendation system. But, in that context, set size is typically only a few hundred.
- We will draw strong connection between techniques for efficiently **factoring matrices** and for **sampling structured subsets** of a ground set.
- The basic bridge: forming a **Schur complement** equates to forming a representation of a **conditional distribution**.
- One can import HPC techniques [P-2019], such as **DAG-scheduled** dense and sparse-direct **blocked algorithms**, from factorizations to **Determinantal Point Processes**.
- Implementations are available in the permissively licensed, header-only C++14 package Catamari [P-2018] available at [hodgestar.com/catamari](http://hodgestar.com/catamari) and (partly) in DPPy [github.com/guilgautier/DPPy](https://github.com/guilgautier/DPPy).

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## Main idea: pivots as inclusion probabilities

Sampling a DPP can be reinterpreted as ‘factoring’ a class of matrices such that the  $j$ ’th pivot is the probability of including the  $j$ ’th item.

Flip a coin weighted by the pivot to determine inclusion:

- If the item is kept, proceed as in an  $LU/LDL$  factorization.
- If the item is dropped, take the pivot’s complement in  $[0, 1]$  and negate – i.e., subtract one – and proceed as normal.

The likelihood of the sample is thus the product of the absolute value of the diagonal of the ‘factorization’.

Essentially all high-performance techniques for dense and sparse-direct factorizations therefore carry over.

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## What is meant by a 'structured subset' ?

The basic mechanism of a (finite) **Point Process** is to define a probability distribution over the power set of a ground set  $[n] = [0, \dots, n - 1]$ .

A **determinantal** point process sets the probability of a subset  $J \subseteq [n]$  being in the sample equal to the  $J$ -minor of a fixed **marginal kernel matrix**.

The kernel matrix is often assumed Hermitian positive semi-definite – with spectrum in  $[0, 1]$ , but Hermiticity does not hold in some important cases.

Inadmissible combinations of members of the set can therefore be encoded through linear dependencies in the kernel matrix.

Before diving into the details, it will be instructive to describe some Hermitian and non-Hermitian standard DPPs.

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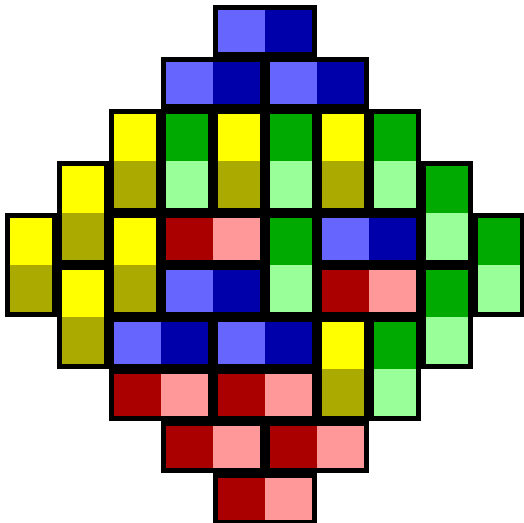
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## Aztec diamond: $d = 5$

\$ ./aztec\_diamond --diamond\_size=5

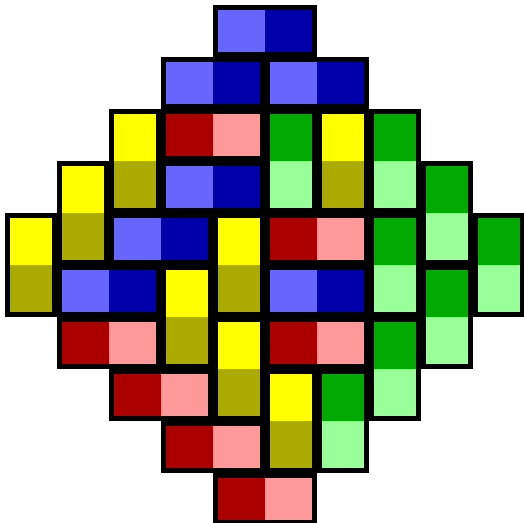
Complex non-Hermitian kernel; Sample likelihoods:  $\exp(-10.3972)$



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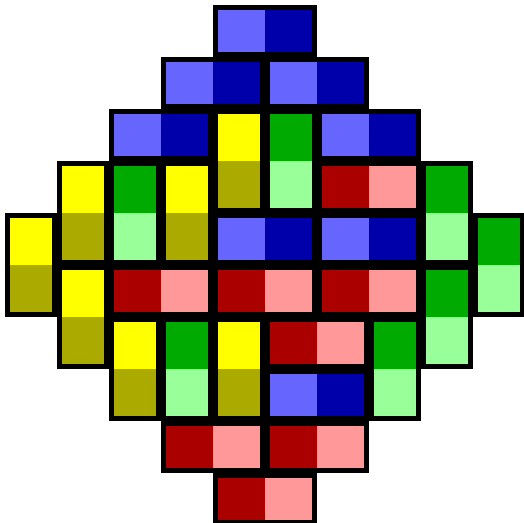
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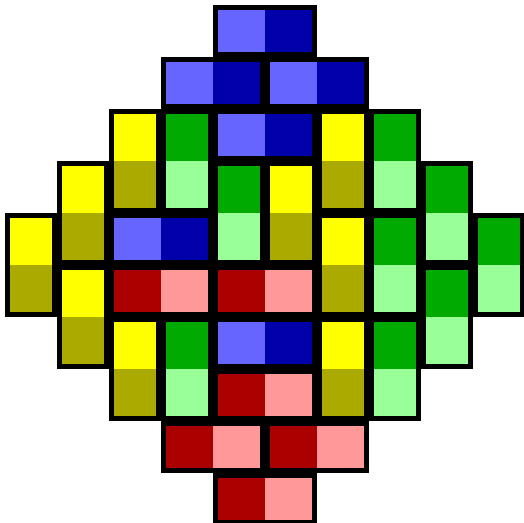
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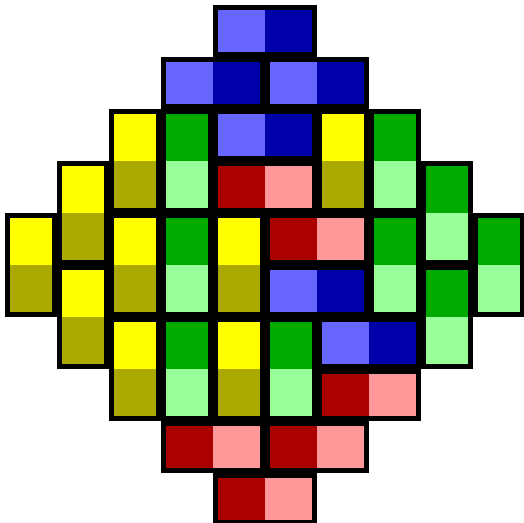
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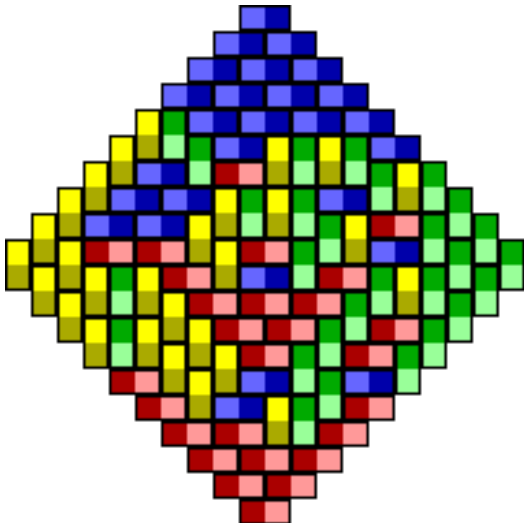
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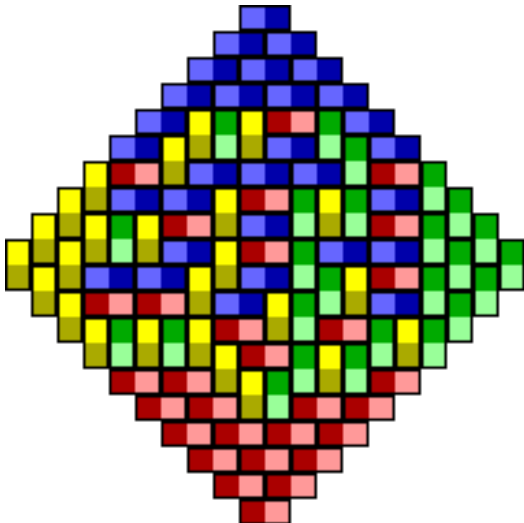
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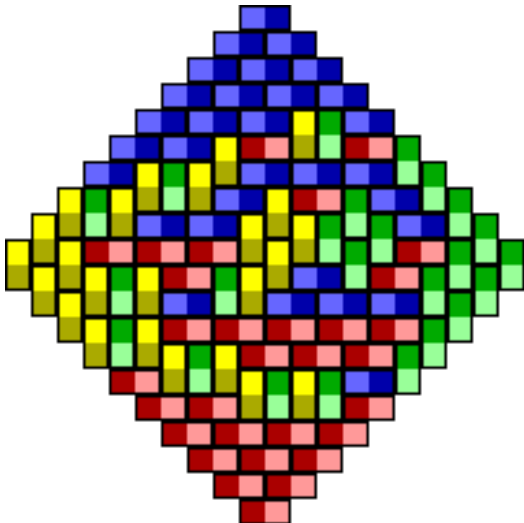




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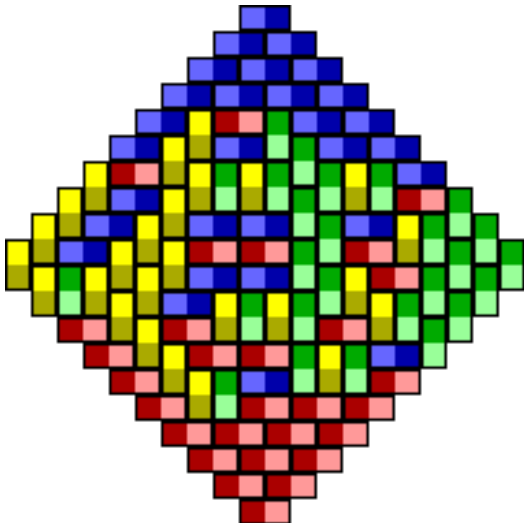
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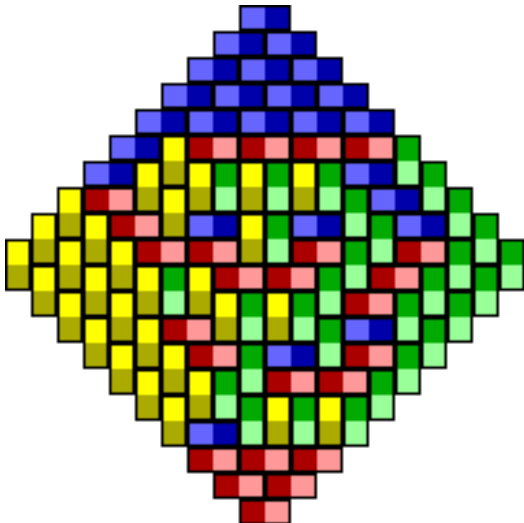
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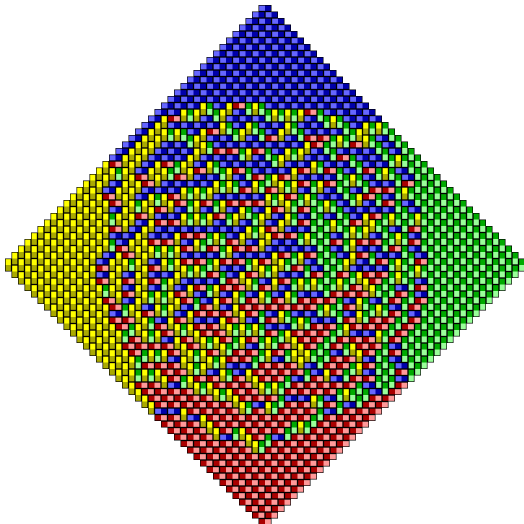
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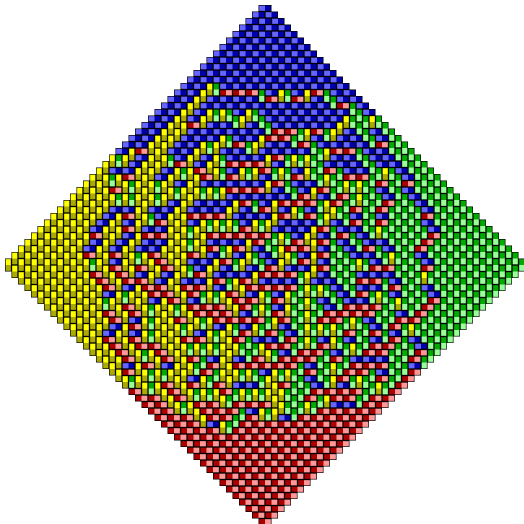
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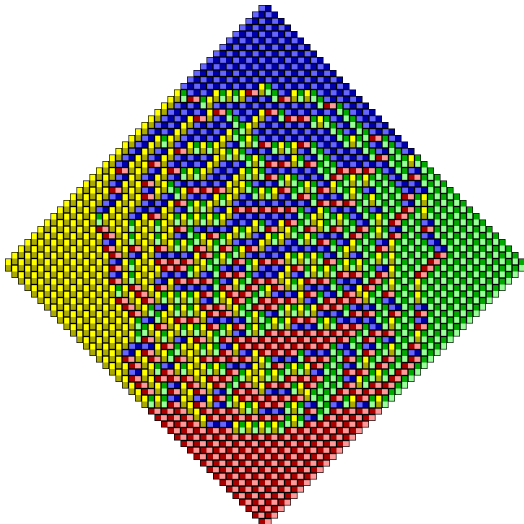
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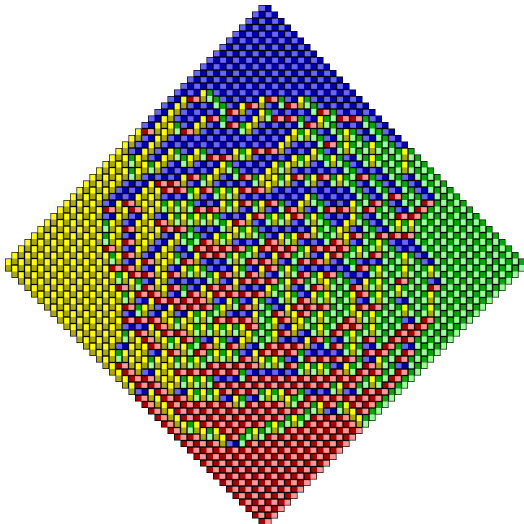
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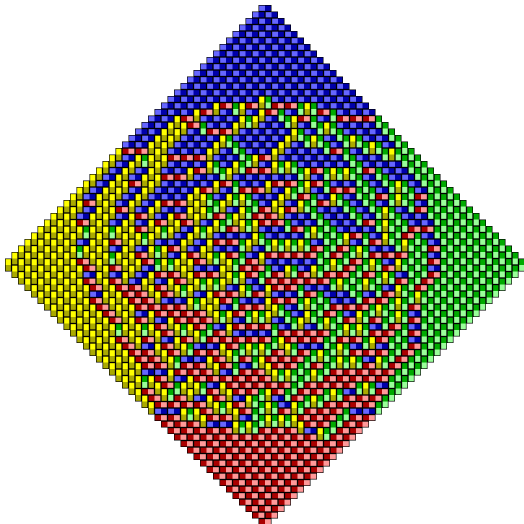
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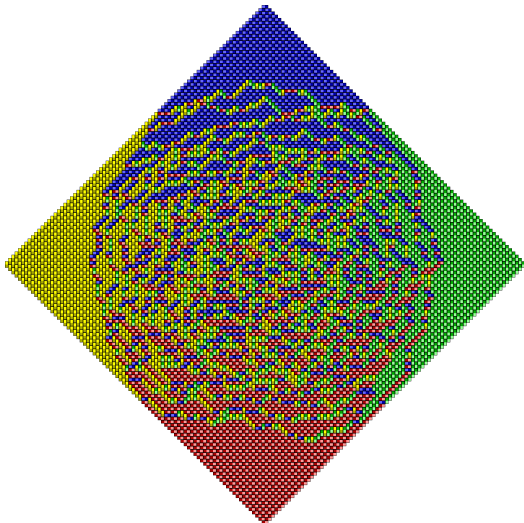




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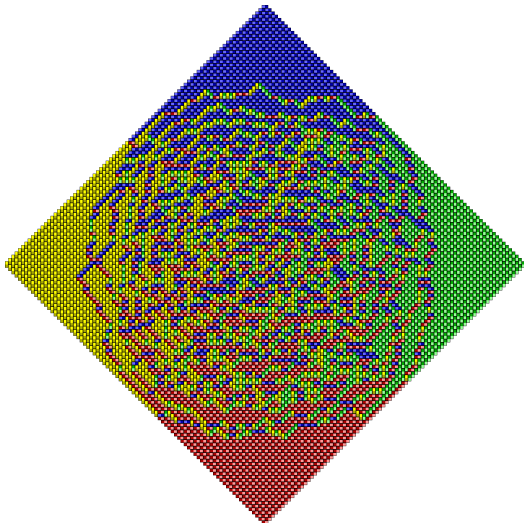
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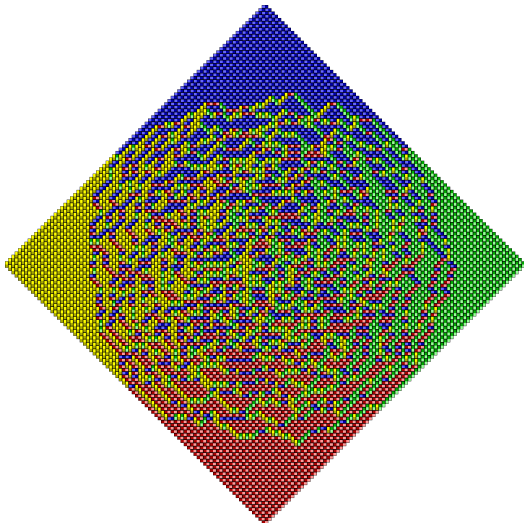
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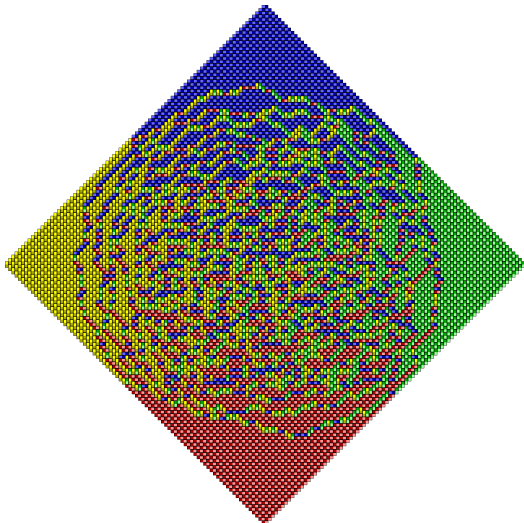
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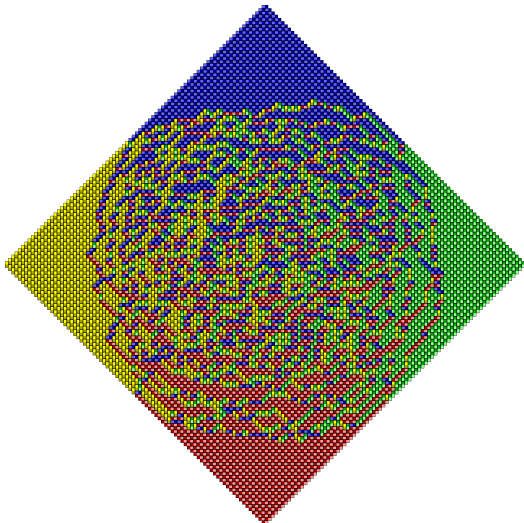
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## The arctic circle

The phenomenon we just observed is referred to as the **arctic circle**. From [Jockusch/Propp/Shor-1995], *Random Domino Tilings and the Arctic Circle Theorem*:

“We show that when  $n$  is sufficiently large, the shape of the central sub-region becomes arbitrarily close to a perfect circle of radius  $n/\sqrt{2}$  for all but a negligible proportion of the tilings.”

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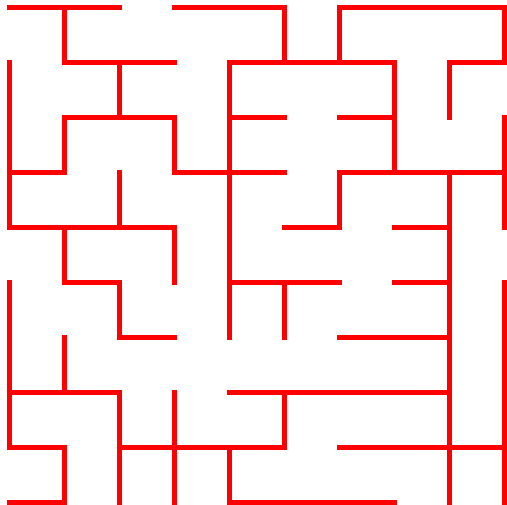
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## Uniform Spanning Tree in $\mathbb{Z}^2$ ( $d = 10$ )

\$ ./uniform\_spanning\_tree --x\_size=10 --y\_size=10

Real-symm' elementary kernel; Sample likelihoods:  $\exp(-98.448)$

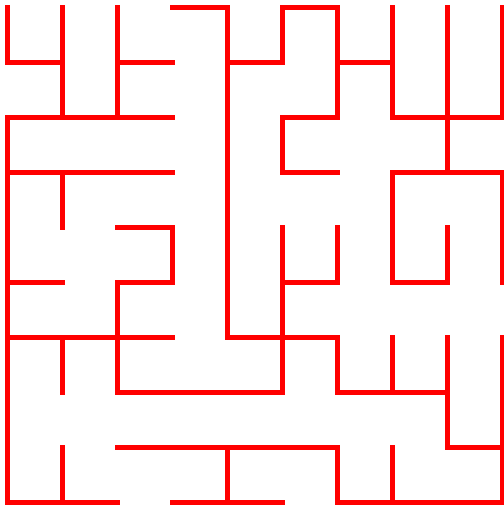




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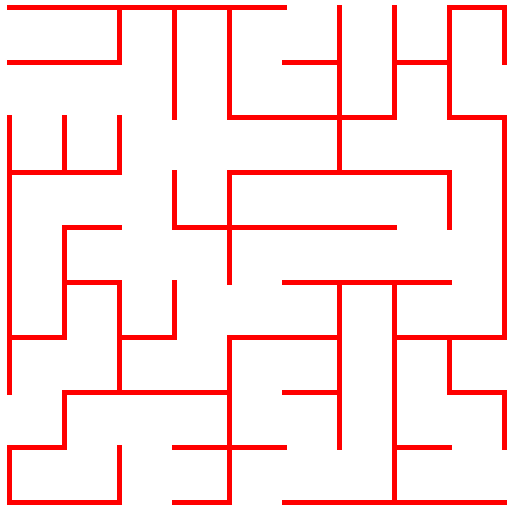
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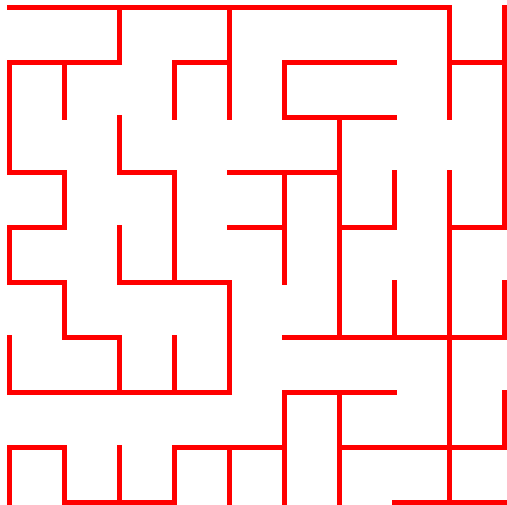
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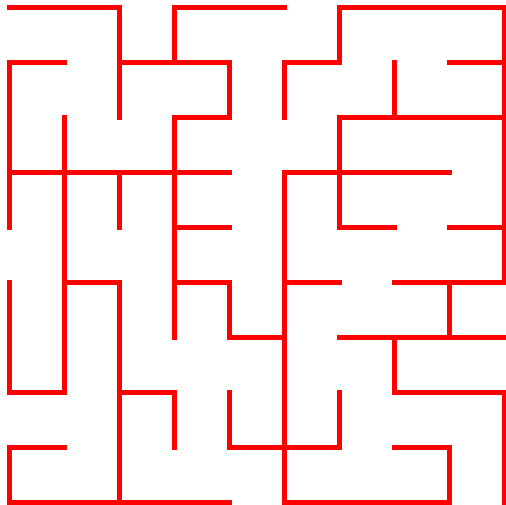
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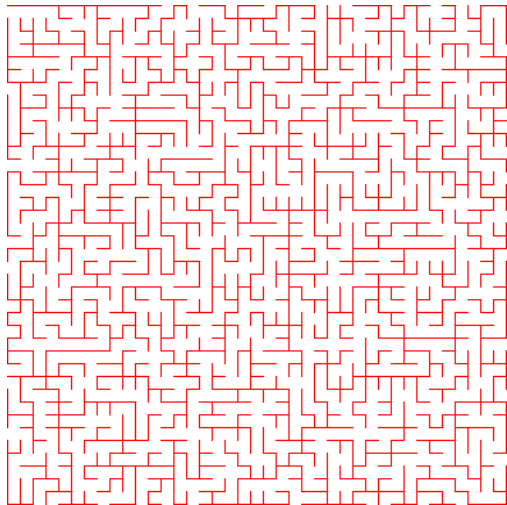
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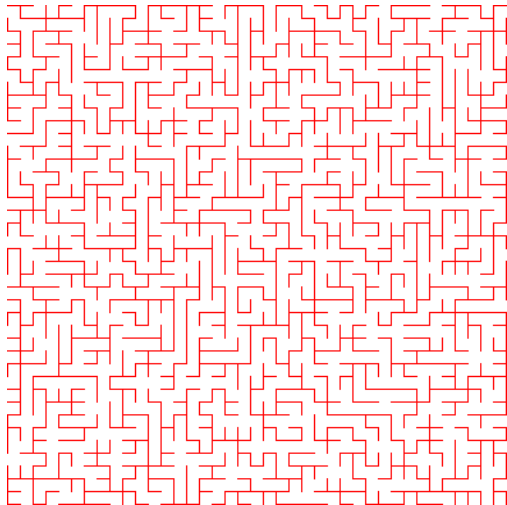
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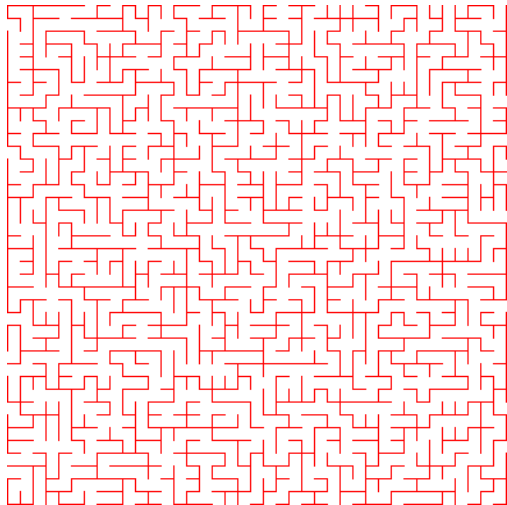
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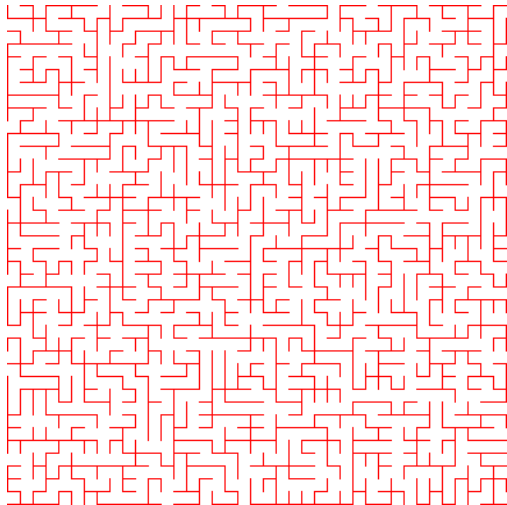
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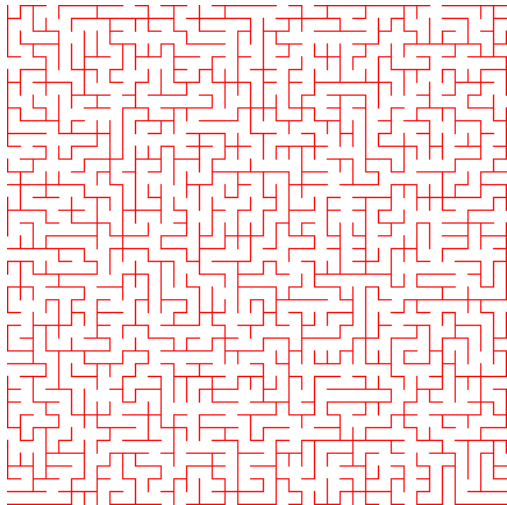




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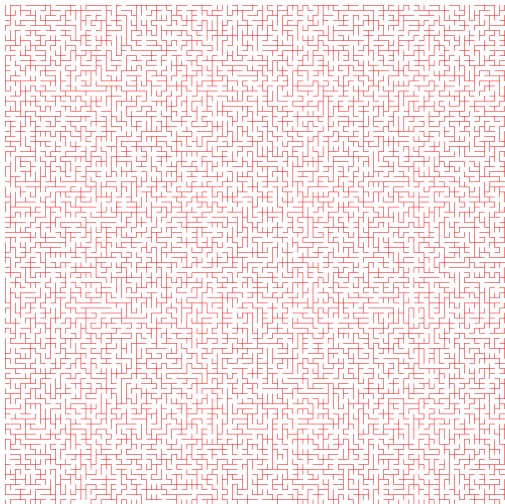
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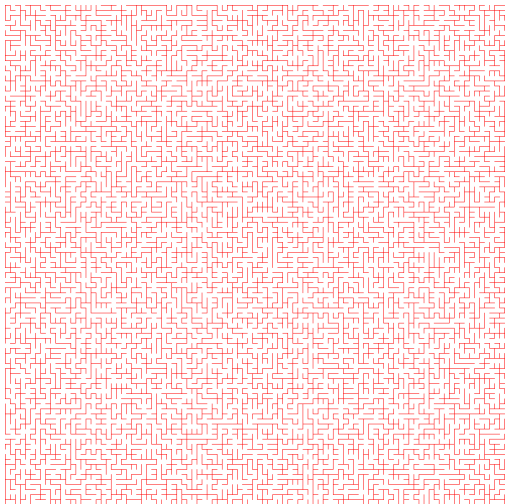
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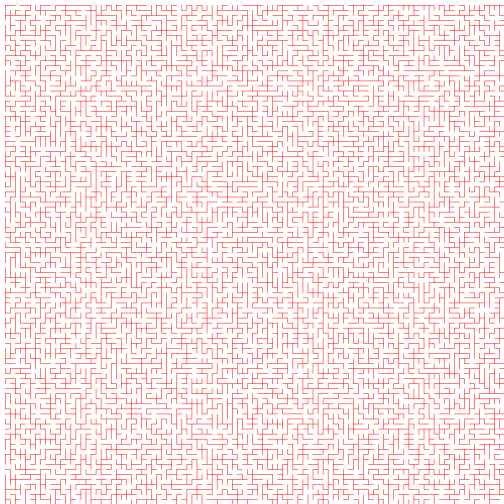
Real-symm' elementary kernel; Sample likelihoods:  $\exp(-11,484.5)$



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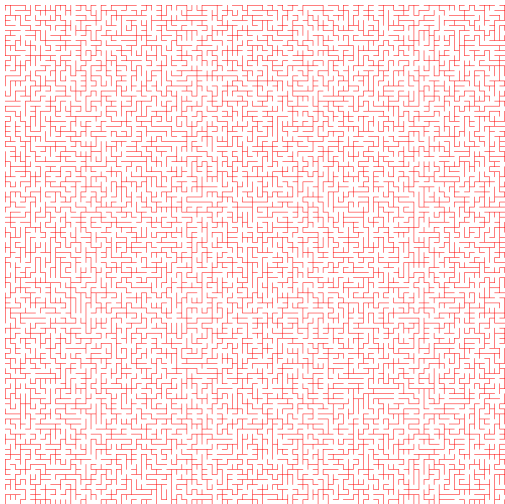
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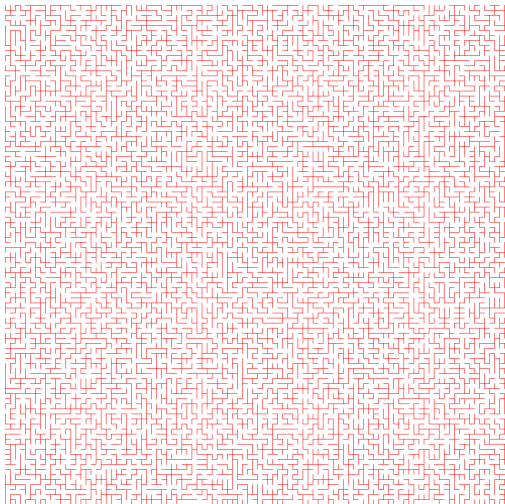
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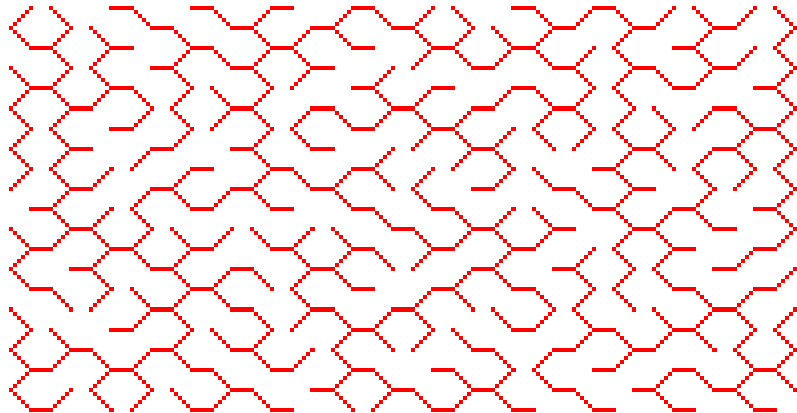
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## UST for hexagonal tiling of plane ( $d = 10$ )

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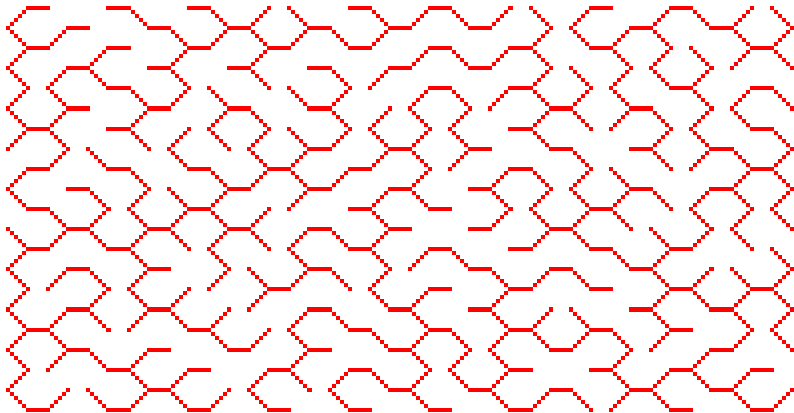
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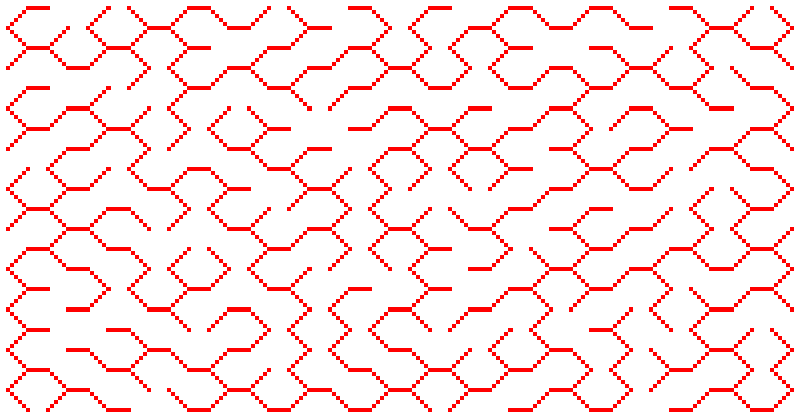




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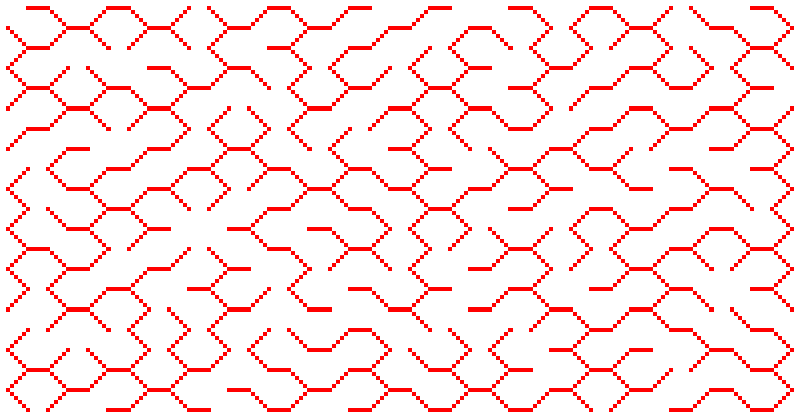
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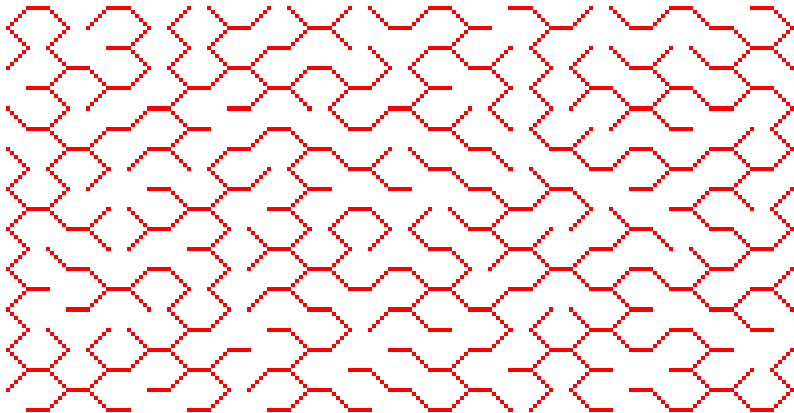
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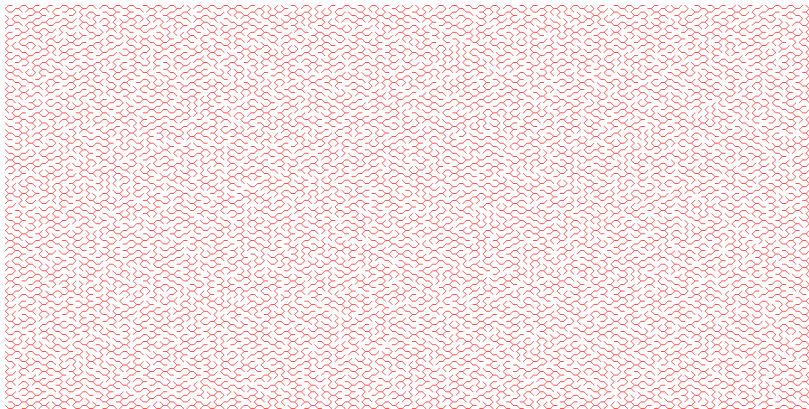
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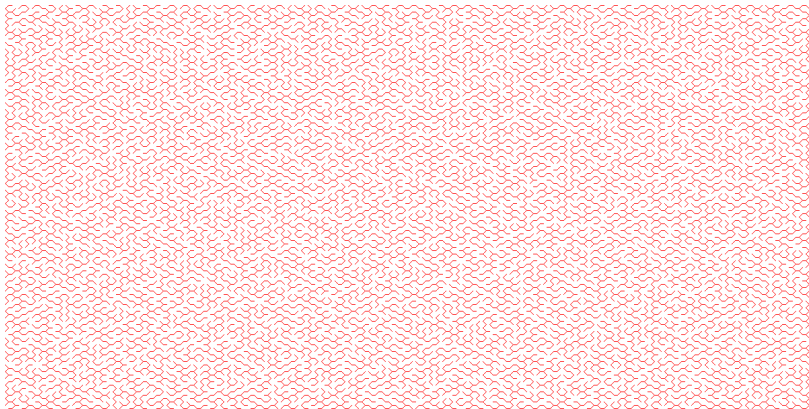
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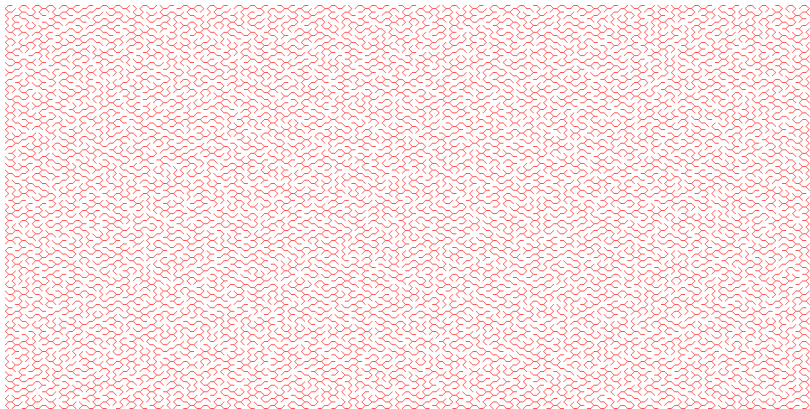
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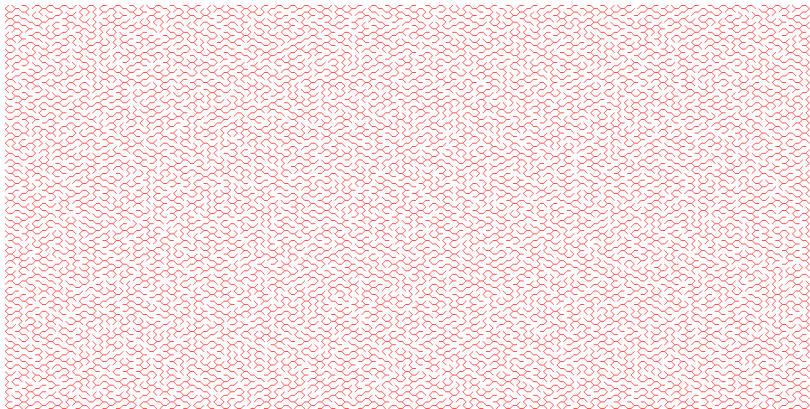
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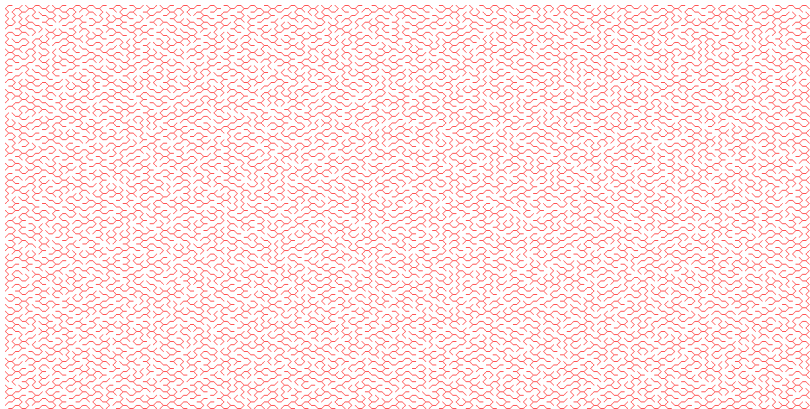
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# Hermitian Determinantal Point Processes

**Definition 1.** A **(Hermitian) marginal kernel matrix** is a (real or complex) Hermitian matrix whose eigenvalues live in  $[0, 1]$ .

**Definition 2.** A **(finite, Hermitian) Determinantal Point Process (DPP)** is a random variable  $\mathbf{Y}$  over the power set of  $\mathcal{Y} = \{0, \dots, n-1\} = [n]$  generated by a  $n \times n$  (Hermitian) marginal kernel matrix  $K$  via the rule

$$\mathbb{P}_K[\mathbf{Y} \subseteq Y] = \det(K_Y),$$

where  $K_Y$  is the  $|Y| \times |Y|$  submatrix of  $K$  formed by restricting to the rows and columns in the index set  $Y$ .

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## Star space

Generating the symmetric positive semi-definite DPP kernel matrices for uniformly sampling spanning trees is accomplished using an orthonormal basis of a vector space associated with an arbitrary ordering of a graph called the **star space**

[Lyons/Peres-2017], *Probability on Trees and Networks*,  
[www.uni-due.de/hm0110/book.pdf](http://www.uni-due.de/hm0110/book.pdf).

## Star space

Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  and an edge orientation  $\vec{E}$ , we associate with each oriented edge  $e = uv$  a **unit flow along e**,

$$\chi_e(e') = [1_{uv} - 1_{vu}](e') = \begin{cases} 1, & e' = uv, \\ -1, & e' = vu, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

We can now define the **star space** of the oriented graph as:

$$S = \text{span} \left\{ \sum_{u:uv \in E} \chi_{uv} \mid v \in V \right\},$$

and its orthogonal complement, the **cycle space**:

$$C = \text{span} \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \chi_{e_i} \mid e_0, \dots, e_{n-1} \text{ is an oriented cycle} \right\}.$$

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## Burton/Pemantle Theorem

We can now define the **transfer current matrix**,  $P$ , of an oriented graph  $G$  as the orthogonal projection onto its star space.

**Theorem (Burton-Pemantle)** Let  $T$  denote a uniformly random spanning tree of a graph  $G$ . Then for any subset of edges  $F = \{e_0, \dots, e_{k-1}\}$ ,

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See [Lyons/Peres-2017] or [Burton/Pemantle-1993] for a proof.

Given a graph  $G$ , we can thus define the DPP kernel for uniformly sampling its spanning trees as the Gramian of an orthonormal basis for its star space.



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## Traditional Hermitian DPP sampling

**Lemma 4 (Hough et al.-2006).** Given any  $\mathbf{Y} \sim \text{DPP}(K)$ , where  $K$  has spectral decomposition  $Q\Lambda Q^*$ , sampling from  $\mathbf{Y}$  is equivalent to sampling from the random elementary DPP with kernel  $P(Q_{\mathbf{Z}})$ , where  $P(U) \equiv UU^*$  and  $Q_{\mathbf{Z}}$  consists of the columns of  $Q$  with indices from  $\mathbf{Z} \sim \text{DPP}(\Lambda)$ .

“Alg. 1 runs in time  $O(Nk^3)$ , where  $k$  is the number of eigenvectors selected [...] the initial eigendecomposition of  $[K]$  is often the computational bottleneck, requiring  $O(N^3)$  time. Modern multi-core machines can compute eigendecompositions up to  $N \approx 1,000$  at interactive speeds of a few seconds, or larger problems up to  $N \approx 10,000$  in around ten minutes.”

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## Rank-revealing Cholesky factorization

**Algorithm 1:** Unblocked, left-looking, diagonally-pivoted, Cholesky. The computational cost is roughly  $O(nk^2)$ .

```
d := diag(A); orig_indices := [0:n]
k = 0
for j in range(n):
    # Sample pivot; perform permutations
    ++k
    Draw index t from [j:n] that maximizes  $d_t$ 
    Perform Hermitian swap of indices j and t of A
    Swap positions j and t of orig_indices and d
    if  $d_j < \text{tolerance}$ :
         $A_j := 0$ 
        break
     $A_j := \sqrt{d_j}$ 
    # Form new column; update diagonal
     $A_{[j+1:n], j} -= A_{[j+1:n], [0:j]} A_{j, [0:j]}^H$ 
    for t in range(j+1, n):
         $A_{t,j} /= A_j$ 
         $d_t -= |A_{t,j}|^2$ 
return orig_indices[0:k],  $A_{[0:k]}$ 
```

## Elementary DPP sampler

**Algorithm 2:** Unblocked, left-looking, diagonally-pivoted, Cholesky-based sampling of a Hermitian Determinantal Projection Process. Returned matrix will contain the in-place Cholesky factorization of  $K_Y$ . The computational cost is  $O(nk^2)$ .

```
A := K; d := diag(K); orig_indices := [0:n]
for j in range(k):
    # Sample pivot; perform permutations
    Draw index t from [j:n] with probability  $d_t/(k-j)$ 
    Perform Hermitian swap of indices j and t of A
    Swap positions j and t of orig_indices and d
     $A_j := \sqrt{d_j}$ 
    if j == k - 1:
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    # Form new column; update diagonal
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## Non-Hermitian DPP kernels

**Definition 5.** A (finite) Determinantal Point Process is a random variable  $\mathbf{Y}$  over the power set of  $\mathcal{Y} = [n]$  generated by an **admissible**  $K \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  that is consistent with the rule:

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**Proposition 1 (Brunel-2018)** A matrix  $K \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is admissible as a DPP marginal kernel iff

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## Equivalence classes of DPP kernels

**Proposition 2 (P-2019)** The equivalence class of a structurally symmetric DPP kernel  $K \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is its orbit under the group of diagonal similarity transformations, i.e.,

$$\{D^{-1}KD : D = \text{diag}(d), d \in (\mathbb{C}^{\times})^n\}.$$

For complex Hermitian and real symmetric  $K$ , the entries of  $D$  must respectively lie in  $U(1)$  and  $O(1)$ .

**Proposition 3 (P-2019)** The equivalence class of a structurally nonsymmetric DPP kernel  $K$  strictly contains its orbit under the group of diagonal similarity transformations.

**Proof.**

If structural symmetry is broken at a  $2 \times 2$  submatrix, we need only observe that:

$$\text{DPP}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ \beta & \gamma \end{pmatrix}\right) \equiv \text{DPP}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma \end{pmatrix}\right),$$

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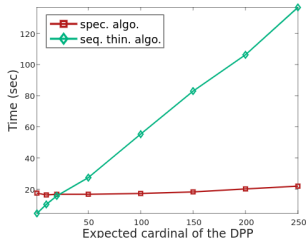
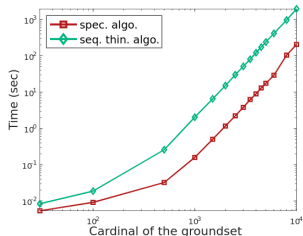
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## Sequential thinning

Recently, authors are noticing connections to  $LDL^H$  factorizations.<sup>23</sup>

In [Launay et al.-2018], timings are provided for the spectrally-preprocessed and “sequentially thinned” algorithm for elementary real symmetric kernels of rank 20 and varying size (left) and varying rank and size 5000 (right):



We will discuss how to decrease runtimes by 100-1000x, for more general kernels, by importing dense factorization techniques. We then extend to non-Hermitian and, in the next lecture, sparse-direct analogues.

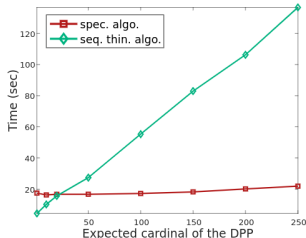
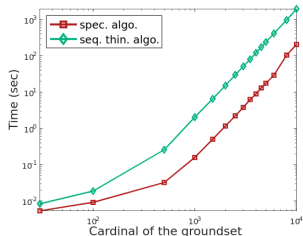
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## Conditioning on inclusion

**Proposition** Given disjoint subsets  $A, B \subseteq [n]$  of the ground set of a DPP with marginal kernel  $K$ , almost surely

$$\mathbb{P}[B \subseteq \mathbf{Y} | A \subseteq \mathbf{Y}] = \det(K_B - K_{B,A}K_A^{-1}K_{A,B}).$$

**Proof.**

If  $A \subseteq \mathbf{Y}$ , then  $\det(K_A) = \mathbb{P}[A \subseteq \mathbf{Y}] > 0$  almost surely, so we may perform a two-by-two block LU decomposition

$$\begin{pmatrix} K_A & K_{A,B} \\ K_{B,A} & K_B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ K_{B,A}K_A^{-1} & K_B - K_{B,A}K_A^{-1}K_{A,B} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} K_A & K_{A,B} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}.$$

That  $\det : GL(n, \mathbb{C}) \mapsto (\mathbb{C}, \times)$  is a homomorphism yields

$$\det(K_{A \cup B}) = \det(K_A) \det(K_B - K_{B,A}K_A^{-1}K_{A,B}).$$

The result then follows from the definition of conditional probabilities for a DPP:

$$\mathbb{P}[B \subseteq \mathbf{Y} | A \subseteq \mathbf{Y}] = \frac{\mathbb{P}[A, B \subseteq \mathbf{Y}]}{\mathbb{P}[A \subseteq \mathbf{Y}]} = \frac{\det(K_{A \cup B})}{\det(K_A)}.$$

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If  $A \subseteq \mathbf{Y}$ , then  $\det(K_A) = \mathbb{P}[A \subseteq \mathbf{Y}] > 0$  almost surely, so we may perform a two-by-two block LU decomposition

$$\begin{pmatrix} K_A & K_{A,B} \\ K_{B,A} & K_B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ K_{B,A}K_A^{-1} & K_B - K_{B,A}K_A^{-1}K_{A,B} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} K_A & K_{A,B} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}.$$

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$$\det(K_{A \cup B}) = \det(K_A) \det(K_B - K_{B,A}K_A^{-1}K_{A,B}).$$

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## Conditioning on set exclusion

The previous two propositions are enough to derive our direct DPP sampling algorithm. But, for the sake of symmetry:

**Proposition** Given disjoint subsets  $A, B \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ , almost surely

$$\mathbb{P}[B \subseteq \mathbf{Y} | A \subseteq \mathbf{Y}^c] = \det(K_B - K_{B,A}(K_A - I)^{-1}K_{A,B}).$$

### Proof.

The claim follows from recursive formulation of conditional marginal kernels using the previous proposition. The resulting kernel is equivalent to the Schur complement produced from the block LU factorization

$$\begin{pmatrix} K_A - I & K_{A,B} \\ K_{B,A} & K_B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ K_{B,A}(K_A - I)^{-1} & K_B - K_{B,A}(K_A - I)^{-1}K_{A,B} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} K_A - I & K_{A,B} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$$

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# Unblocked LU factorization

**Algorithm 3:** Unblocked, right-looking, LU factorization.

```
for j in range(n):  
     $A_{[j+1:n],j} \leftarrow A_j$   
     $A_{[j+1:n]} \leftarrow A_{[j+1:n],j} A_{j,[j+1:n]}$   
return A
```

Due to the lack of pivoting, completion is not guaranteed over  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  or  $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

The majority of the work is in rank-1 updates.

## Unblocked DPP sampling factorization

**Algorithm 4:** Unblocked, right-looking, non-Hermitian DPP sampling. Returned matrix  $A$  contains in-place  $LU$  factorization of  $K - I_{\mathcal{Y}^c}$ , where  $I_{\mathcal{Y}^c}$  is diagonal indicator for entries not in sample.

```
sample := []; A := K
for j in range(n):
    sample.append(j) if Bernoulli(Aj) else Aj -= 1
    A[j+1:n],j /= Aj
    A[j+1:n] -= A[j+1:n],j Aj,[j+1:n]
return sample, A
```

Small tweak of unblocked, unpivoted LU factorization – completes almost surely. Specializable to  $LDL^H$  and  $LDL^T$  for Hermitian and complex symmetric matrices.

The majority of the work is in rank-1 updates. And the standard optimizations apply (e.g., blocking and sparse-direct factorization)!

The likelihood of the sample is equal to the product of the absolute value of the diagonal of the result.

## Factorization-based DPP sampling

**Theorem (Factorization-based DPP sampling)** Given a marginal kernel  $K$  of order  $n$ , the unblocked DPP factorization almost surely provides a sample from  $\text{DPP}(K)$ . And the likelihood of any returned sample will be given by the product of the absolute value of the diagonal of the result.

### Proof.

We show the sampling claim by induction on the loop invariant that, at the start of iteration  $j$ ,  $A_{[j:n]}$  represents equivalence class for the DPP over indices  $[j : n]$  conditioned on the inclusion decisions for indices  $0, \dots, j - 1$ .

Since the diagonal entries represent the likelihoods of the corresponding index being in the sample, the invariant implies that index  $j$  is kept with the correct conditional probability. Our conditional inclusion prop'n shows that the loop invariant is almost surely maintained when the Bernoulli draw is successful, and our conditional element exclusion prop'n handles the alternative.

When a draw for a diagonal entry  $p_j$  is successful, its probability was  $p_j$ , and, when unsuccessful,  $1 - p_j$ . In both cases, the multiplicative contribution is the absolute value of the final state of the  $j$ 'th diagonal entry.  $\square$

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## Unblocked, greedy, MAP DPP sampling

**Algorithm 5:** Unblocked, right-looking, non-Hermitian, greedy maximum-likelihood DPP sampling. Returned matrix  $A$  will contain in-place  $LU$  factorization of  $K - I_{Y^c}$ , where  $I_{Y^c}$  is diagonal indicator for entries not in sample.

```
sample := []; A := K
for j in range(n):
    sample.append(j) if  $A_j \geq \frac{1}{2}$  else  $A_j -= 1$ 
     $A_{[j+1:n],j} /= A_j$ 
     $A_{[j+1:n]} -= A_{[j+1:n],j} A_{j,[j+1:n]}$ 
return sample, A
```

Greedy MAP sampling is a trivial tweak of the standard sampler, and the blocked extension is essentially identical.

The likelihood of the sample is equal to the product of the absolute value of the diagonal of the result.

## Blocked LU factorization

**Algorithm 6:** Blocked LU factorization without pivoting.

```
j := 0
while j < n:
  bsize := min(blocksize, n - j)
  J1 = [j : j + bsize]; J2 = [j + bsize : n]
  AJ1 = unblocked_lu(AJ1)
  AJ2, J1 := AJ2, J1 triu(AJ1)-1
  AJ1, J2 := unit_tril(AJ1)-1 AJ1, J2
  AJ2 -= AJ2, J1 AJ1, J2
  j += bsize
return sample, A
```

Due to lack of pivoting, not guaranteed to complete over  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  or  $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

OpenMP 4.0 tasks – say, with tile sizes of 128 – can be readily used to provide shared-memory, DAG-scheduled parallelism [Agullo/Langou/Luszczek-2010, Yarkhan et al.-2011, Chan et al.-2007].



## Blocked non-Hermitian DPP factorization

**Algorithm 7:** Returned matrix  $A$  will contain in-place  $LU$  factorization of  $K - I_{Y^c}$ , where  $I_{Y^c}$  is diagonal indicator for entries not in sample,  $Y$ .

```
sample := []; A := K; j := 0
while j < n:
    bsize := min(blocksize, n - j)
    J1 = [j : j + bsize]; J2 = [j + bsize : n]
    subsample, A_J1 = unblocked_dpp(A_J1)
    sample.append(subsample + j)
    A_J2, J1 := A_J2, J1 triu(A_J1)^-1
    A_J1, J2 := unit_tril(A_J1)^-1 A_J1, J2
    A_J2 -= A_J2, J1 A_J1, J2
    j += bsize
return sample, A
```

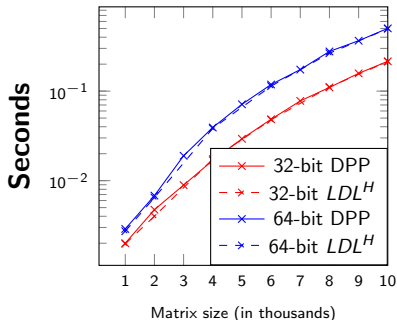
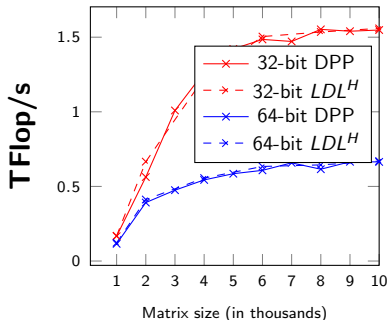
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## Full-rank real symmetric DPP on i9-7960x (16-core)

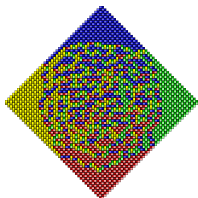
**Dense, real  $LDL^H$ -based DPP sampler [P-2019].**

For comparison, stock DPPy v0.1.0 [Gautier-2019] takes 250 seconds for each sample when  $n = 5000$ .

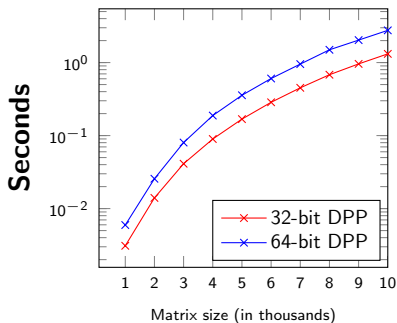
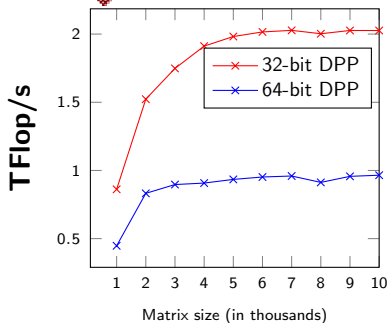
\$ OMP\_NUM\_THREADS=16 ./dense\_dpp



## Full-rank complex, non-Herm' DPP on i9-7960x



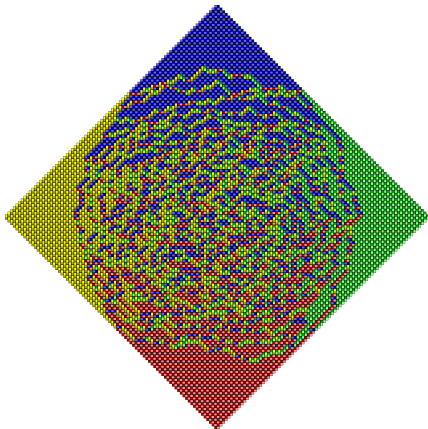
Dense, complex LU-based DPP sampler [P-2019].\*



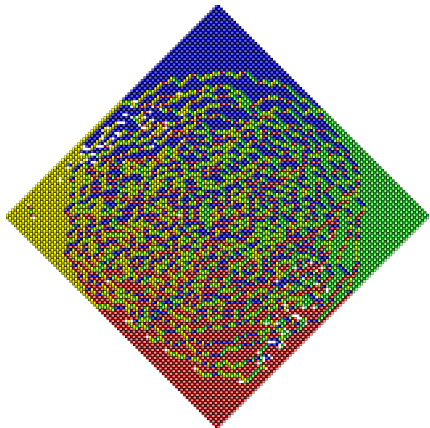
\*E.g., generated from the Kenyon formula over the Kasteleyn matrix [Chhita et al.-2015].

## Low precision corrupting sampling

```
$ ./aztec_diamond --diamond_size=80
```



Double-precision sample



Single-precision sample (visibly erroneous)

## Basic questions for DPP factorizations

Given the close connection between DPP sampling and dense factorization:

- One should be able to probabilistically generalize element growth and numerical stability bounds.
- Use maximum-entropy diagonal pivot selection? Minimizes worst case pivot.
- High-performance techniques for backpropagating through Cholesky are now known [Murray-2016].<sup>4</sup> Do these blocked algorithms extend to DPPs?
- Extension to Permanent Point Process factorization? The  $2 \times 2$  permanent

$$\text{perm}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{0,0} & \alpha_{0,1} \\ \alpha_{1,0} & \alpha_{1,1} \end{pmatrix}\right) = \alpha_{0,0}\alpha_{1,1} + \alpha_{1,0}\alpha_{0,1},$$

which suggests negating the sign of the Schur complement.

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## More on Permanent Point Process factorization

If one works out the negated Schur complement for a  $3 \times 3$  example, two second-order  $\alpha_{0,0}^{-1}$  terms remain, rather than cancelling out as they do for the determinantal case.

One could handle the  $3 \times 3$  case via **dual numbers**, with the second component introduced for the Schur complement updates.

But computing the permanent is  $\#P$ -hard; the determinant is polynomial because it is a homomorphism over  $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

## More on Permanent Point Process factorization

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# Discussion

## Availability:

Catamari is available under the Mozilla Public License 2.0 at [hodgestar.com/catamari/](https://hodgestar.com/catamari/) and [gitlab.com/hodge\\_star/catamari](https://gitlab.com/hodge_star/catamari).

This talk is based on version 0.3.

These slides are available at:

[hodgestar.com/G2S3/](https://hodgestar.com/G2S3/)

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## Questions/comments?

Chatroom at:

[https://gitter.im/hodge\\_star/G2S3](https://gitter.im/hodge_star/G2S3)