

# **Optimal and Disordered Hyperuniform Point Configurations**

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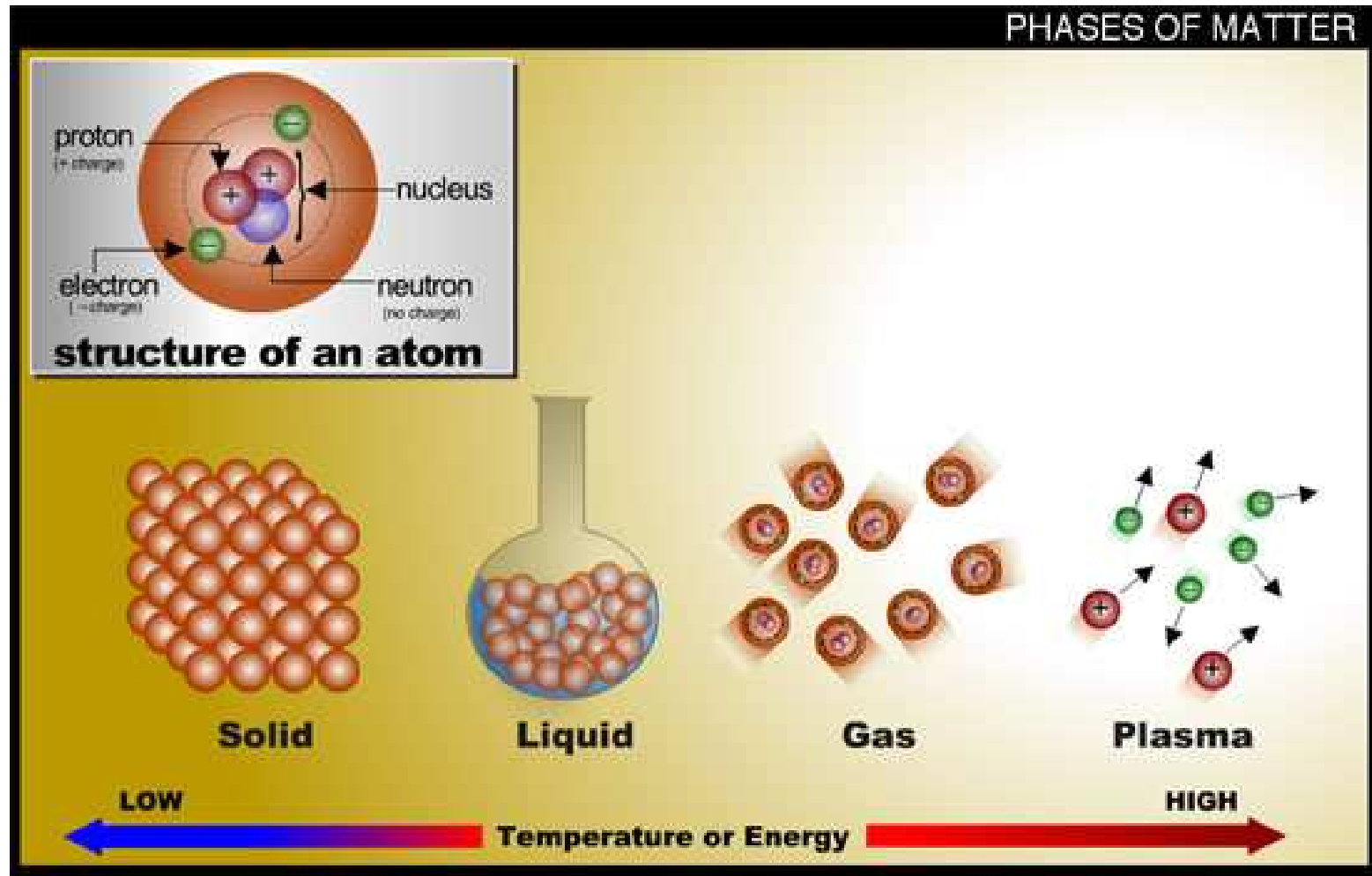
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**Princeton University**

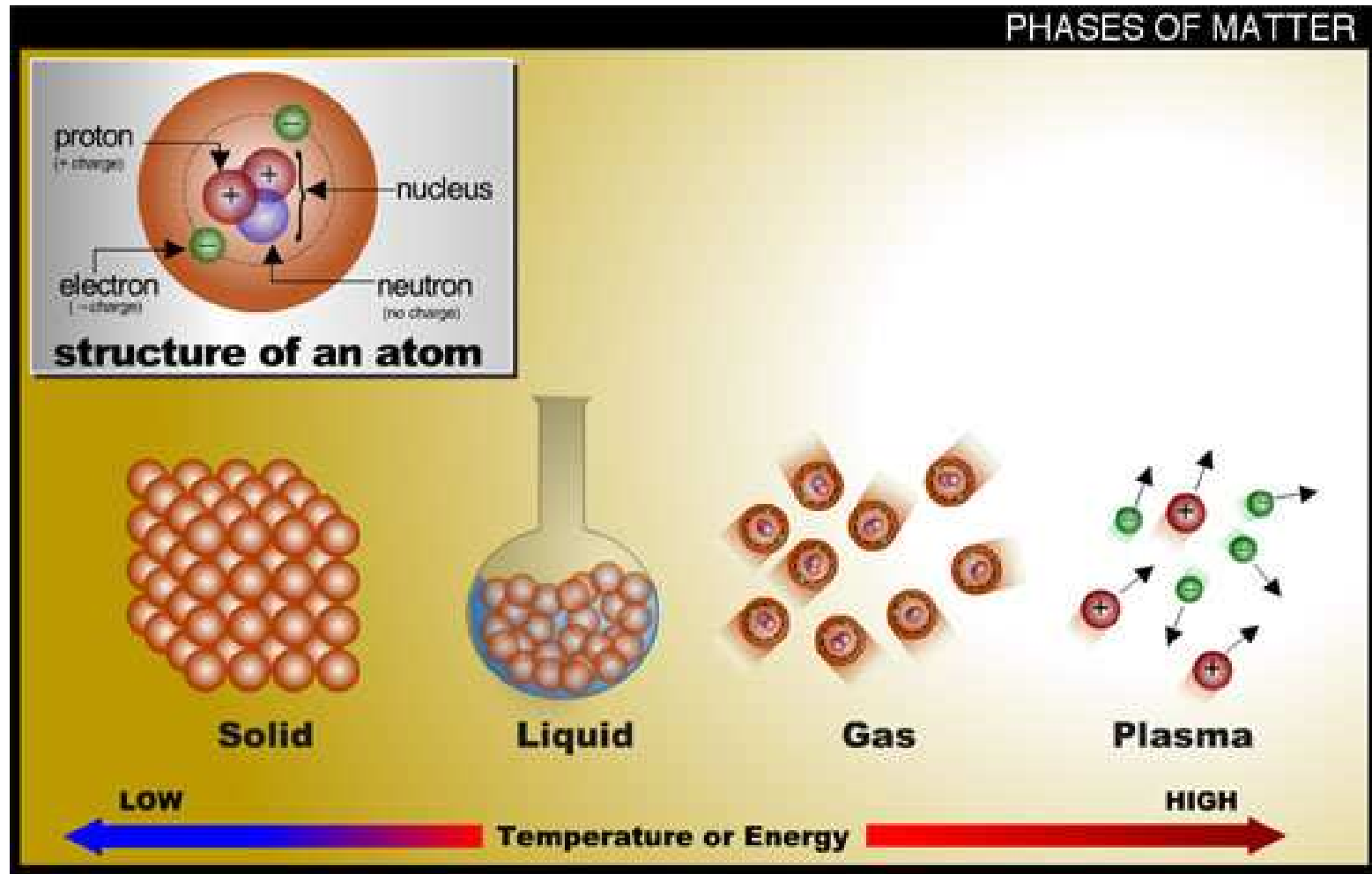
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# States (Phases) of Matter



Source: [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

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- We now know there are a **multitude** of distinguishable states of matter, e.g., **quasicrystals and liquid crystals**, which break the continuous translational and rotational symmetries of a liquid differently from a solid **crystal**.

# What Qualifies as a Distinguishable State of Matter?

## Traditional Criteria

- Homogeneous phase in thermodynamic equilibrium
- Interacting entities are microscopic objects, e.g. atoms, molecules or spins
- Often, phases are distinguished by **symmetry-breaking and/or some qualitative change in some bulk property**

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- Reproducible **quenched/long-lived** metastable or nonequilibrium phases, e.g., **spin glasses and structural glasses**
- Interacting entities need not be microscopic, but can include **building blocks** across a wide range of length scales, e.g., **colloids and metamaterials**
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**New states of matter** become more compelling if they:

- Give rise to or require new ideas and/or experimental/theoretical tools
- Technologically important

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  - (i) *behave more like **crystals or quasicrystals** in the manner in which they **suppress large-scale density fluctuations**, and yet are also like **liquids and glasses** because they are statistically isotropic structures with no Bragg peaks;*
  - (ii) *can exist as both as **equilibrium** and **quenched nonequilibrium** phases;*
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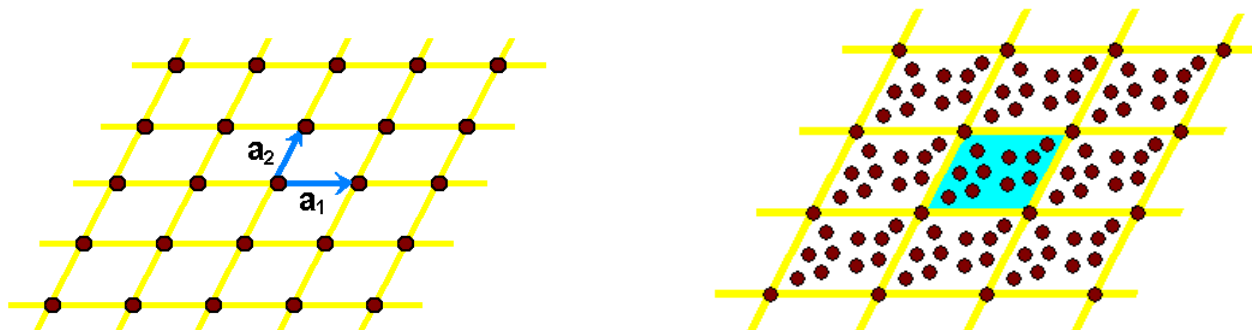
- All **perfect crystals** (periodic systems) and **quasicrystals** are hyperuniform.
- Thus, **hyperuniformity** provides a **unified means of categorizing and characterizing** crystals, quasicrystals and such **special disordered** systems.

## Definitions

- A **point process** in  $d$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is a distribution of an infinite number of points in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with configuration  $\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots$  with a well-defined number density  $\rho$  (number of points per unit volume). This is statistically described by the  **$n$ -particle correlation function**  $g_n(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_n)$ .
- A **lattice**  $L$  in  $d$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is the set of points that are integer linear combinations of  $d$  basis (linearly independent) vectors  $\mathbf{a}_i$ , i.e.,

$$\{n_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + n_2 \mathbf{a}_2 + \dots + n_d \mathbf{a}_d \mid n_1, \dots, n_d \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

The space  $\mathbb{R}^d$  can be geometrically divided into identical regions  $F$  called **fundamental cells**, each of which contains just one point. For example, in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ :



- Every lattice  $L$  has a **dual (or reciprocal)** lattice  $L^*$ .
- A **periodic** point distribution in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is a fixed but arbitrary configuration of  $N$  points ( $N \geq 1$ ) in each fundamental cell of a lattice.

## Definitions

- For statistically homogeneous and isotropic point processes in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  at **number density**  $\rho$ ,  $g_2(r)$  is a **nonnegative radial function** that is proportional to the **probability density of pair distances**  $r$ .

- We call

$$h(r) \equiv g_2(r) - 1$$

the **total correlation function**.

- When there is **no long-range order** in the system,  $h(r) \rightarrow 0$  [or  $g_2(r) \rightarrow 1$ ] in the **large- $r$  limit**. We call a point process **disordered** if  $h(r)$  tends to zero sufficiently rapidly such that it is **integrable over all space**.

- The nonnegative **structure factor**  $S(k)$  is defined in terms of the Fourier transform of  $h(r)$ , which we denote by  $\tilde{h}(k)$ :

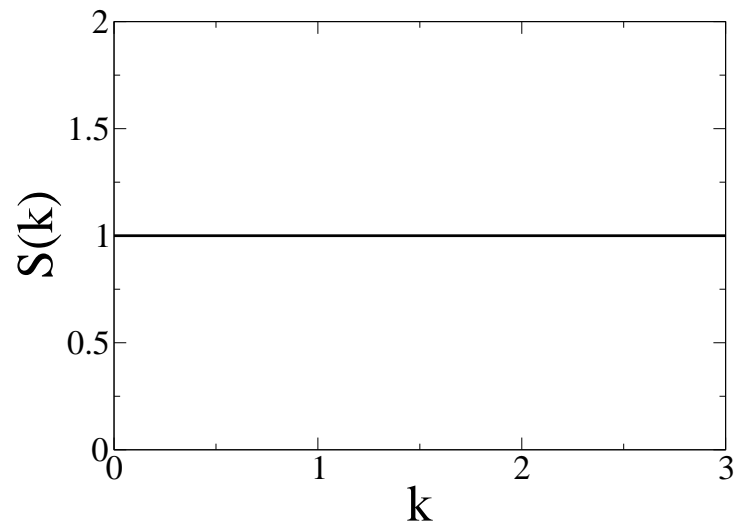
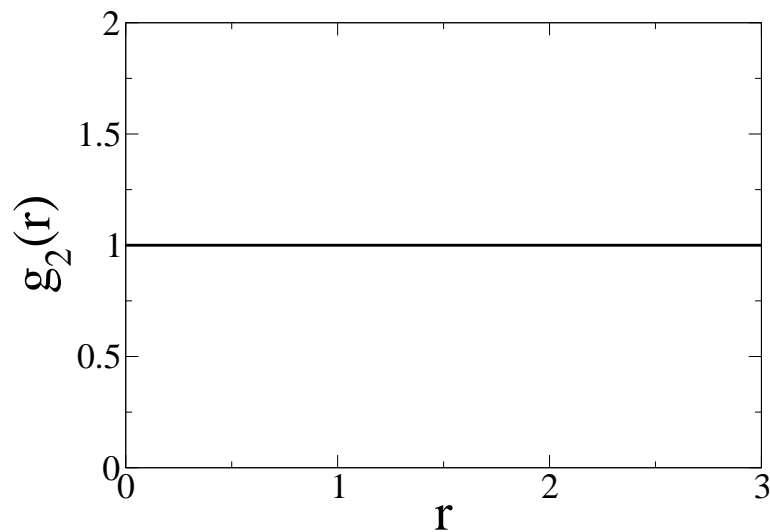
$$S(k) \equiv 1 + \rho \tilde{h}(k),$$

where  $k$  denotes **wavenumber**.

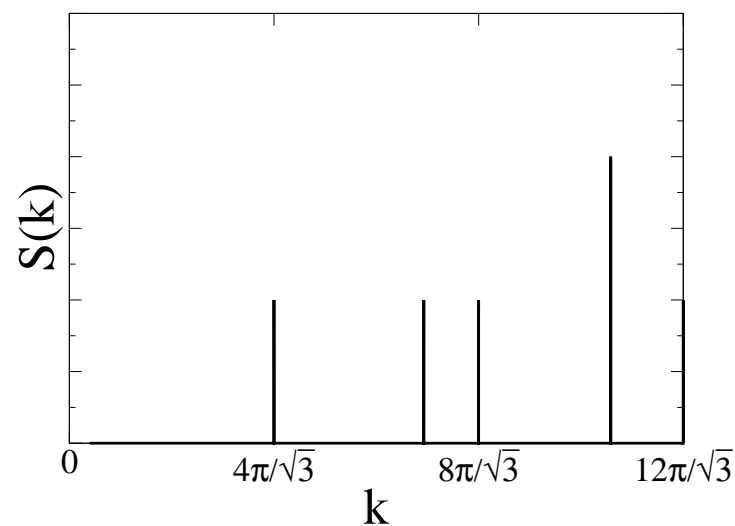
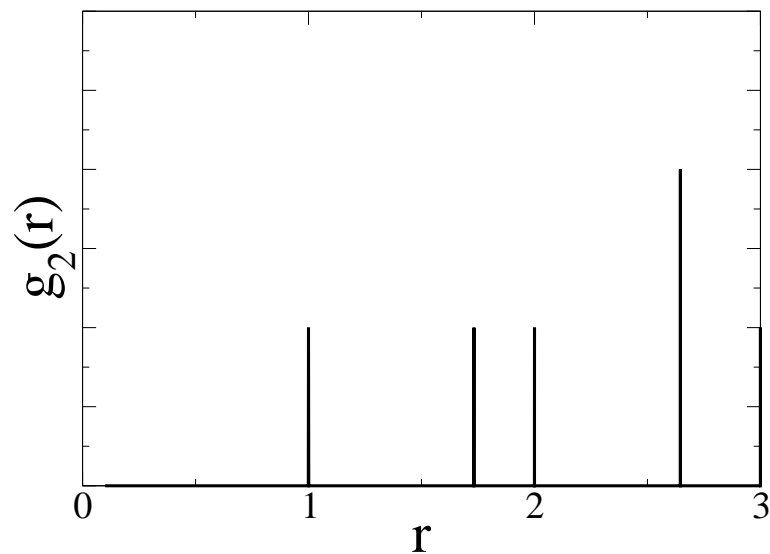
- When there is no long-range order in the system,  $S(k) \rightarrow 1$  in the large- $k$  limit, the **dual-space analog** of the aforementioned direct space condition.
- In some generalized sense,  $S(k)$  can be viewed as a **probability density of pair distances of “points” in reciprocal space**.

# Pair Statistics for Spatially Uncorrelated and Ordered Point Processes

## Poisson Distribution (Ideal Gas)

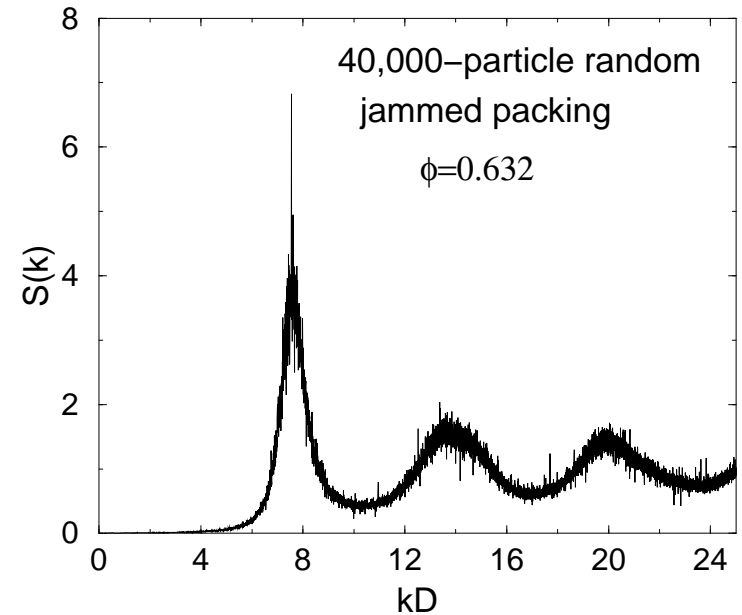
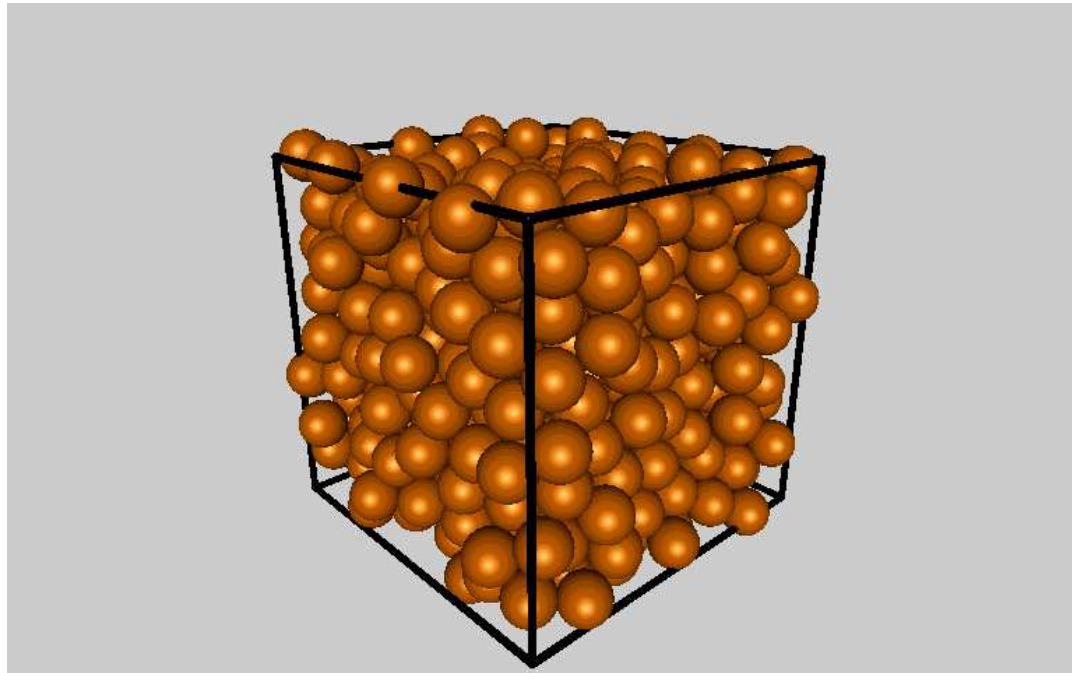


## Lattice



# Curiosities

## ● Disordered jammed packings



$S(k)$  appears to vanish in the limit  $k \rightarrow 0$ : **very unusual** behavior for a **disordered system**.

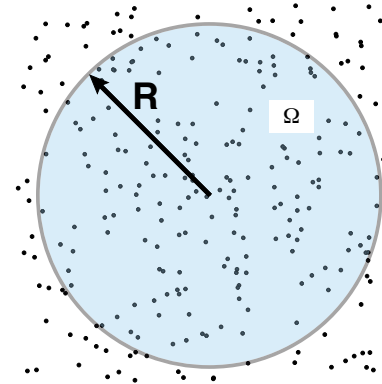
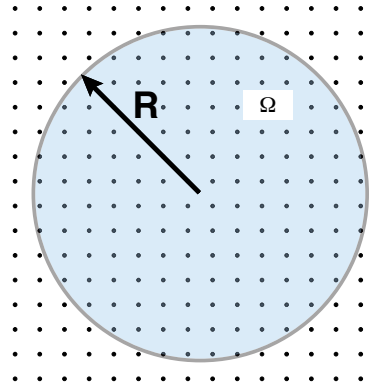
## ● Harrison-Zeldovich spectrum for density fluctuations in the early Universe: $S(k) \sim k$ for sufficiently small $k$ .

Gabrielli et al. (2003)

# Local Density Fluctuations for General Point Patterns

Torquato and Stillinger, PRE (2003)

- Points can represent molecules of a material, stars in a galaxy, or trees in a forest. Let  $\Omega$  represent a spherical window of radius  $R$  in  $d$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .



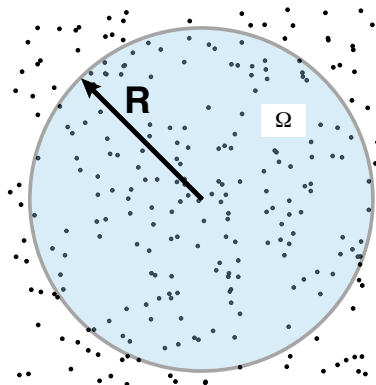
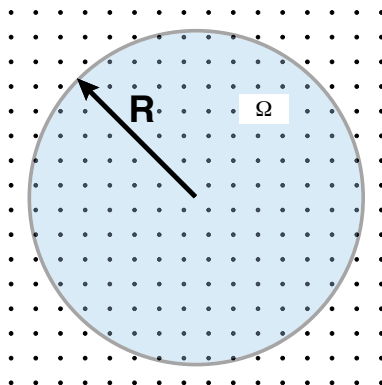
**Average number of points in window of volume  $v_1(R)$ :**  $\langle N(R) \rangle = \rho v_1(R) \sim R^d$

**Local number variance:**  $\sigma^2(R) \equiv \langle N^2(R) \rangle - \langle N(R) \rangle^2$

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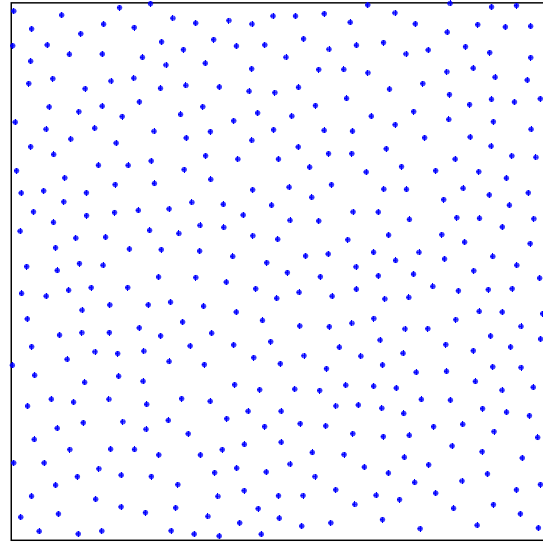
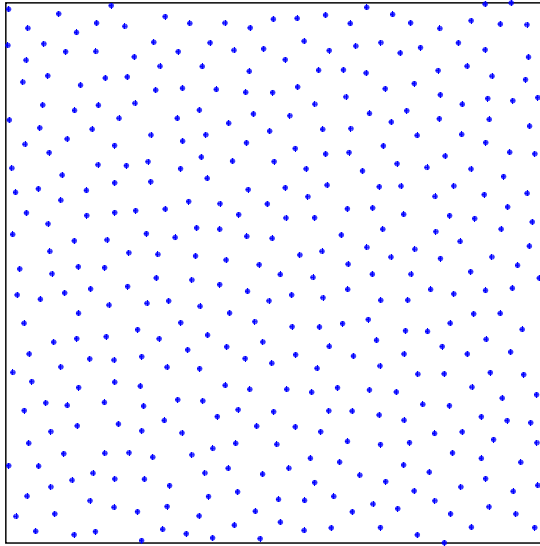
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- For a **Poisson** point pattern and many **disordered** point patterns,  $\sigma^2(R) \sim R^d$ .
- We call point patterns whose variance grows more slowly than  $R^d$  (window volume) **hyperuniform**. This implies that **structure factor**  $S(k) \rightarrow 0$  for  $k \rightarrow 0$ .
- All **perfect crystals and perfect quasicrystals** are hyperuniform such that  $\sigma^2(R) \sim R^{d-1}$ : number variance grows like **window surface area**.

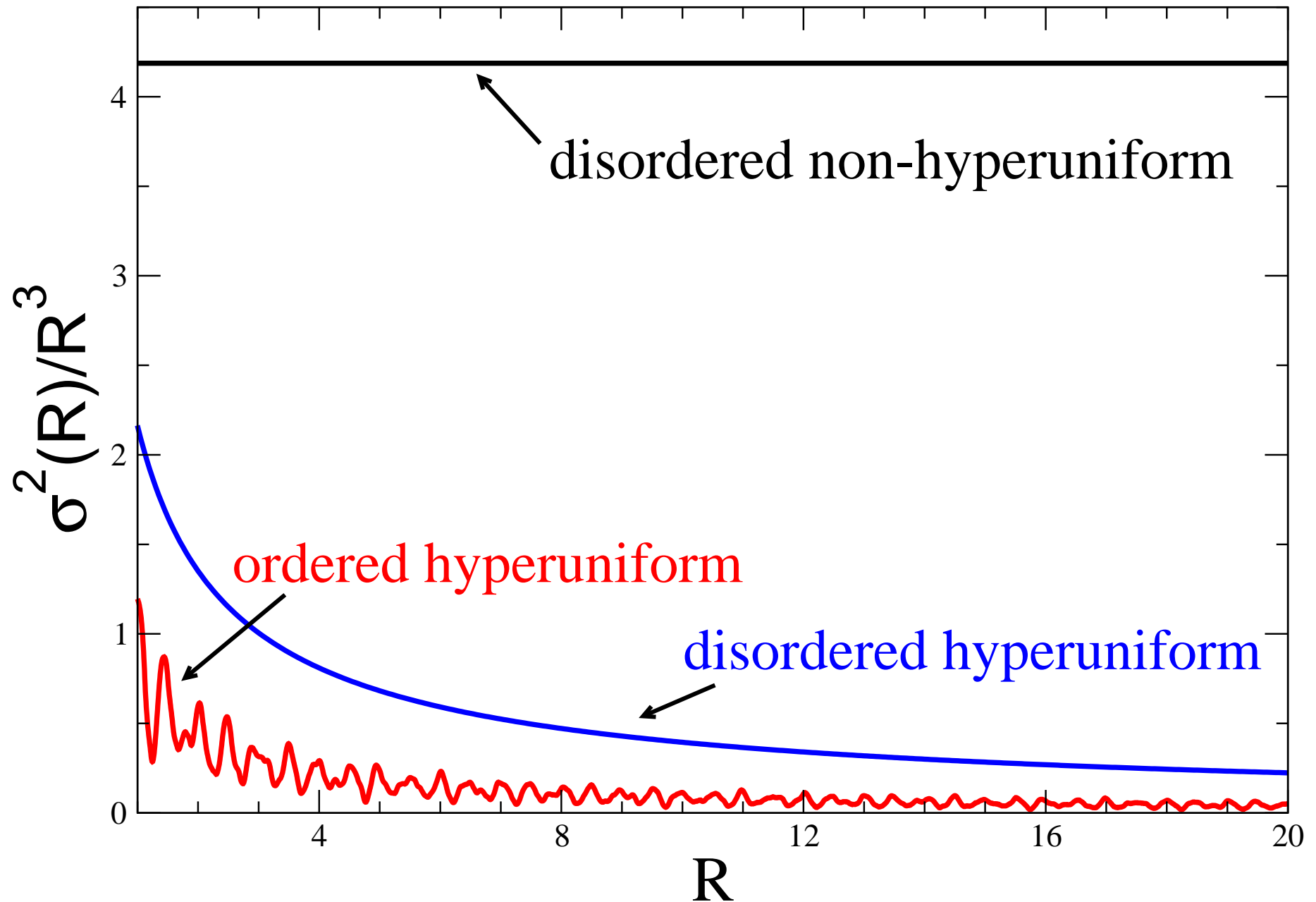


# Hidden Order on Large Length Scales



**Which is the hyperuniform pattern?**

# Scaled Number Variance for 3D Systems at Unit Density



# Outline

- **Hyperuniform Point Configurations: History and Recent Developments**
- **Connections to Sphere Packing, Covering and Quantizer Problems**

## Running themes:

1. All of these problems can be cast as **optimization tasks**; specifically **energy-minimizing point configurations**.
2. Optimal solutions can be both **ordered and disordered**.

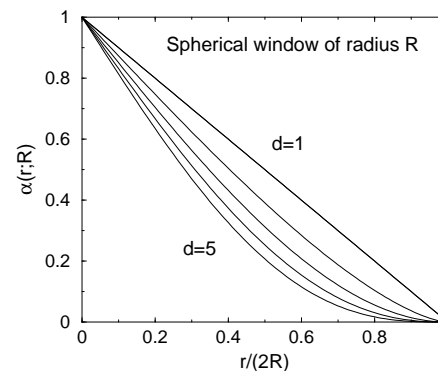
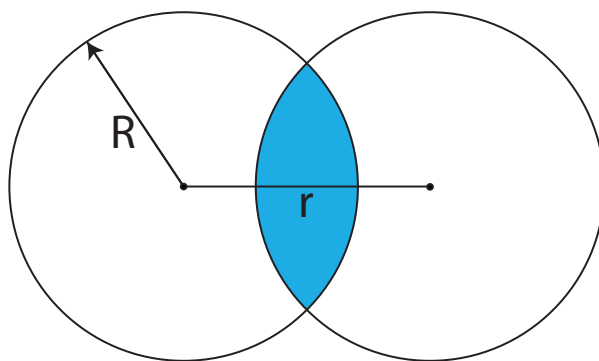
# ENSEMBLE-AVERAGE FORMULATION



For a translationally invariant point process at number density  $\rho$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ :

$$\sigma^2(R) = \langle N(R) \rangle \left[ 1 + \rho \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(\mathbf{r}) \alpha(\mathbf{r}; R) d\mathbf{r} \right]$$

$\alpha(\mathbf{r}; R)$ - scaled **intersection volume** of 2 windows of radius  $R$  separated by  $r$

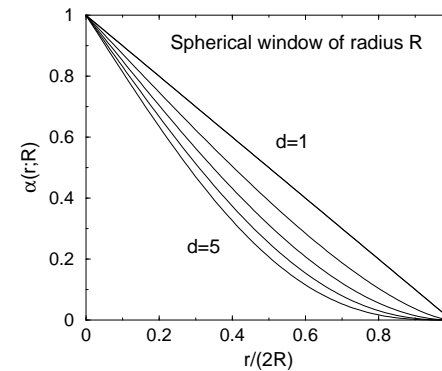
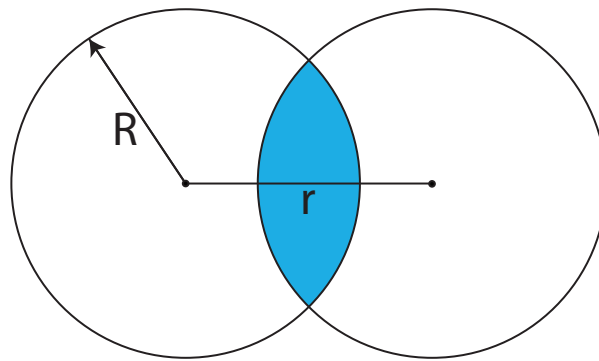


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- For large  $R$ , we can show

$$\sigma^2(R) = 2^d \phi \left[ A \left( \frac{R}{D} \right)^d + B \left( \frac{R}{D} \right)^{d-1} + o \left( \frac{R}{D} \right)^{d-1} \right],$$

where  $A$  and  $B$  are the “**volume**” and “**surface-area**” coefficients:

$$A = S(\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0}) = 1 + \rho \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}, \quad B = -c(d) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(\mathbf{r}) r d\mathbf{r},$$

$D$ : microscopic length scale,  $\phi$ : dimensionless density

- Hyperuniform**:  $A = 0, B > 0$

# INVERTED CRITICAL PHENOMENA: Ornstein-Zernike Formalism

  $h(\mathbf{r})$  can be divided into **direct correlations**, via function  $c(\mathbf{r})$ , and **indirect** correlations:

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- For **any hyperuniform system**,  $\tilde{h}(\mathbf{k} = 0) = -1/\rho$ , and thus  $\tilde{c}(\mathbf{k} = 0) = -\infty$ . Therefore, at the “critical” reduced density  $\phi_c$ ,  $h(\mathbf{r})$  is **short-ranged** and  $c(\mathbf{r})$  is **long-ranged**.
- This is the **inverse** of the behavior at **liquid-gas (or magnetic) critical points**, where  $h(\mathbf{r})$  is **long-ranged** (compressibility or susceptibility **diverges**) and  $c(\mathbf{r})$  is **short-ranged**.

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- For sufficiently large  $d$  at a **disordered hyperuniform state**, whether achieved via a **nonequilibrium** or an **equilibrium** route,

$$\begin{aligned} c(\mathbf{r}) &\sim -\frac{1}{r^{d-2+\eta}} & (r \rightarrow \infty), & & c(\mathbf{k}) &\sim -\frac{1}{k^{2-\eta}} & (k \rightarrow 0), \\ h(\mathbf{r}) &\sim -\frac{1}{r^{d+2-\eta}} & (r \rightarrow \infty), & & S(\mathbf{k}) &\sim k^{2-\eta} & (k \rightarrow 0), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta$  is a new **critical exponent**.

- One can think of a **hyperuniform system** as one resulting from an **effective pair potential**  $v(r)$  at large  $r$  that is a **generalized Coulombic interaction between like charges**. Why? Because

$$\frac{v(r)}{k_B T} \sim -c(r) \sim \frac{1}{r^{d-2+\eta}} \quad (r \rightarrow \infty)$$

- However, **long-range** interactions are **not required** to drive a **nonequilibrium** system to a **disordered hyperuniform state**.



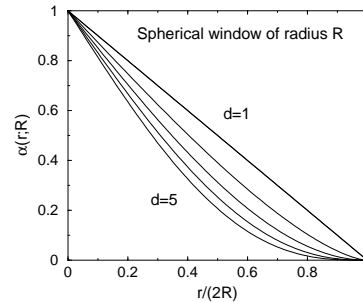
# SINGLE-CONFIGURATION FORMULATION & GROUND STATES



We showed

$$\sigma^2(R) = 2^d \phi \left( \frac{R}{D} \right)^d \left[ 1 - 2^d \phi \left( \frac{R}{D} \right)^d + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \neq j}^N \alpha(r_{ij}; R) \right]$$

where  $\alpha(r; R)$  can be viewed as a **repulsive pair potential**:

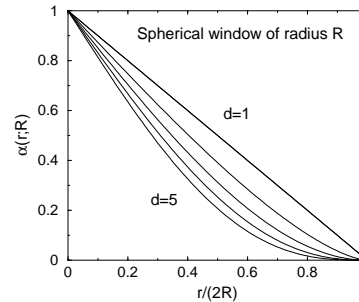


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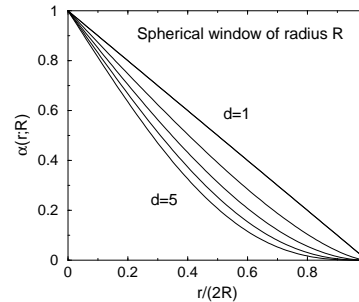
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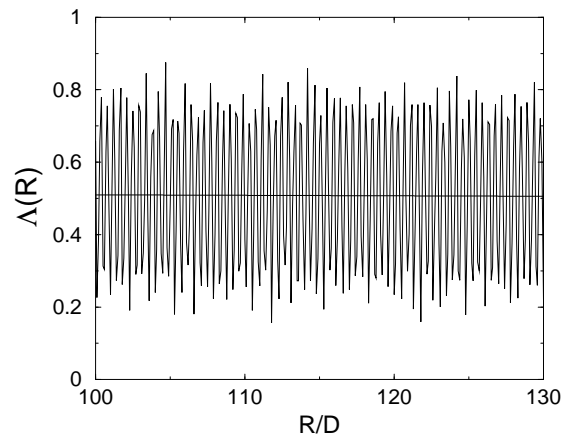


● Finding **global minimum** of  $\sigma^2(R)$  equivalent to finding **ground states (energy minimizing configurations)**.

● For **large  $R$** , in the special case of **hyperuniform** systems,

$$\sigma^2(R) = \Lambda(R) \left( \frac{R}{D} \right)^{d-1} + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{R}{D} \right)^{d-3}$$

Triangular Lattice (Average value=0.507826)



# Hyperuniformity and Number Theory

- Averaging fluctuating quantity  $\Lambda(R)$  gives coefficient of interest:

$$\overline{\Lambda} = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \Lambda(R) dR$$

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- Averaging fluctuating quantity  $\Lambda(R)$  gives coefficient of interest:

$$\bar{\Lambda} = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \Lambda(R) dR$$

- We showed that for a lattice

$$\sigma^2(R) = \sum_{\mathbf{q} \neq 0} \left( \frac{2\pi R}{q} \right)^d [J_{d/2}(qR)]^2, \quad \bar{\Lambda} = 2^d \pi^{d-1} \sum_{\mathbf{q} \neq 0} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{q}|^{d+1}}.$$

- **Epstein zeta function** for a lattice is defined by

$$Z_Q(s) = \sum_{\mathbf{q} \neq 0} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{q}|^{2s}}, \quad \text{Re } s > d/2.$$

Summand can be viewed as an **inverse power-law potential**. For **lattices**, minimizer of  $Z_Q(d+1)$  is the lattice **dual** to the minimizer of  $\bar{\Lambda}$ .

- Surface-area coefficient  $\bar{\Lambda}$  provides useful way to rank order **crystals, quasicrystals and special correlated disordered** point patterns.

# Quantifying Suppression of Density Fluctuations at Large Scales: 1D

- The **surface-area coefficient**  $\bar{\Lambda}$  for some **crystal, quasicrystal and disordered** one-dimensional hyperuniform point patterns.

Pattern	$\bar{\Lambda}$
Integer Lattice	$1/6 \approx 0.166667$
Step+Delta-Function $g_2$	<b><math>3/16 = 0.1875</math></b>
<b>Fibonacci Chain*</b>	0.2011
Step-Function $g_2$	$1/4 = 0.25$
Randomized Lattice	$1/3 \approx 0.333333$

**\*Zachary & Torquato (2009)**

# Quantifying Suppression of Density Fluctuations at Large Scales: 2D

- The **surface-area coefficient**  $\overline{\Lambda}$  for some **crystal, quasicrystal and disordered** two-dimensional hyperuniform point patterns.

2D Pattern	$\overline{\Lambda}$
Triangular Lattice	0.508347
Square Lattice	0.516401
Honeycomb Lattice	0.567026
Kagomé Lattice	0.586990
<b>Penrose Tiling*</b>	0.597798
Step+Delta-Function $g_2$	0.600211
Step-Function $g_2$	0.848826

\* Zachary & Torquato (2009)

# Quantifying Suppression of Density Fluctuations at Large Scales: 3D

- Contrary to conjecture that lattices associated with the densest sphere packings have smallest variance regardless of  $d$ , we have shown that for  $d = 3$ , **BCC has a smaller variance** than FCC.

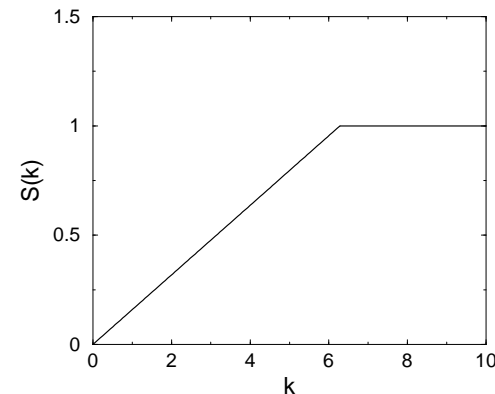
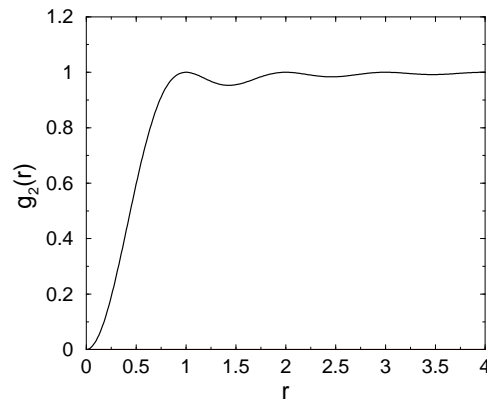
Pattern	$\overline{\Lambda}$
BCC Lattice	1.24476
FCC Lattice	1.24552
HCP Lattice	1.24569
SC Lattice	1.28920
Diamond Lattice	1.41892
Wurtzite Lattice	1.42184
Damped-Oscillating $g_2$	1.44837
Step+Delta-Function $g_2$	1.52686
Step-Function $g_2$	2.25

- Carried out analogous calculations in high  $d$  (Zachary & Torquato, 2009), of importance in communications. **Disordered** point patterns may win in high  $d$  (Torquato & Stillinger, 2006).



## 1D Translationally Invariant Hyperuniform Systems

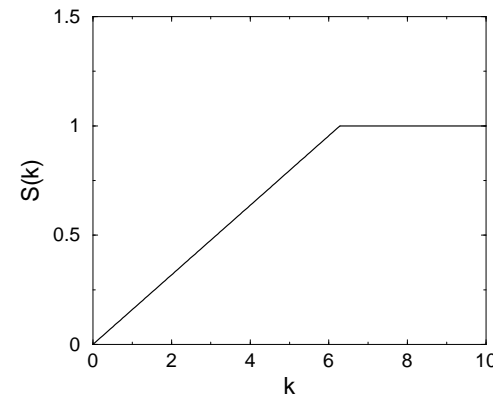
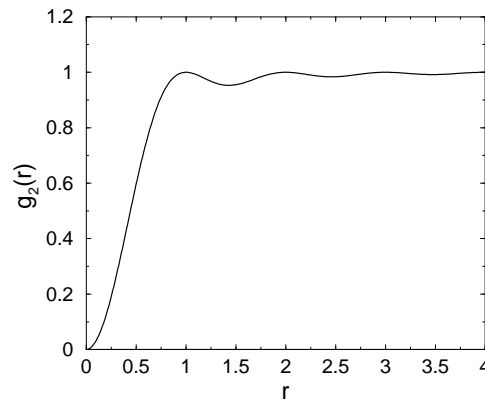
- An interesting 1D hyperuniform point pattern is the **distribution of the nontrivial zeros of the Riemann zeta function (eigenvalues of random Hermitian matrices and bus arrivals in Cuernavaca): Dyson, 1970; Montgomery, 1973; Krbàlek & Šeba, 2000**;  $g_2(r) = 1 - \sin^2(\pi r)/(\pi r)^2$



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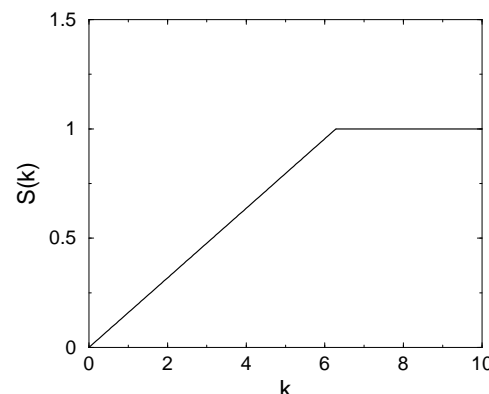
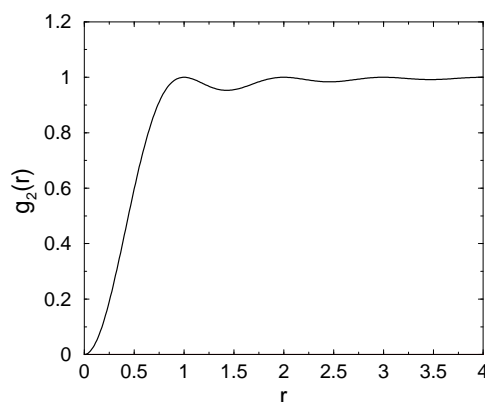
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**Sandier and Serfaty, Prob. Theory & Related Fields (2015)**

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- Constructing and/or identifying homogeneous, isotropic hyperuniform patterns for  $d \geq 2$  is **more challenging**. We **now** know of many more examples.

# More Recent Examples of Disordered Hyperuniform Systems

- **Fermionic point processes:**  $S(k) \sim k$  as  $k \rightarrow 0$  (ground states and/or positive temperature equilibrium states): Torquato et al. J. Stat. Mech. (2008)
- **Maximally random jammed (MRJ) particle packings:**  $S(k) \sim k$  as  $k \rightarrow 0$  (nonequilibrium states): Donev et al. PRL (2005)
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- **Avian Photoreceptors** (nonequilibrium states): Jiao et al. PRE (2014)
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## Nearly Hyperuniform Disordered Systems

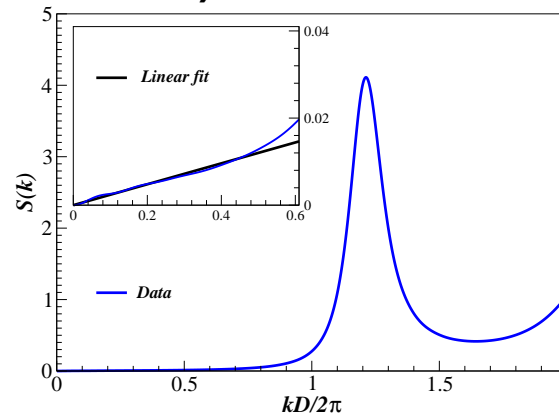
- **Amorphous Silicon** (nonequilibrium states): Henja et al. PRB (2013)
- **Structural Glasses** (nonequilibrium states): Marcotte et al. (2013)

# Hyperuniformity and Jammed Packings

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- Such packings of identical spheres have been shown to be **hyperuniform** with **quasi-long-range (QLR) pair correlations** in which  $h(r)$  decays as  $-1/r^4$  (Donev, Stillinger & Torquato, PRL, 2005).

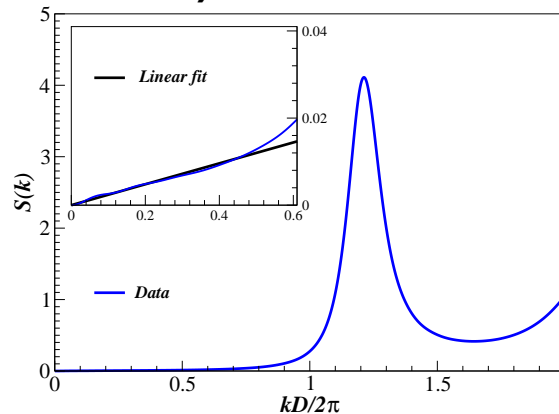


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- Apparently, hyperuniform QLR correlations with decay  $-1/r^{d+1}$  are a **universal** feature of **general MRJ packings** in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

Zachary, Jiao and Torquato, PRL (2011): ellipsoids, superballs, sphere mixtures

Berthier et al., PRL (2011); Kurita and Weeks, PRE (2011) : sphere mixtures

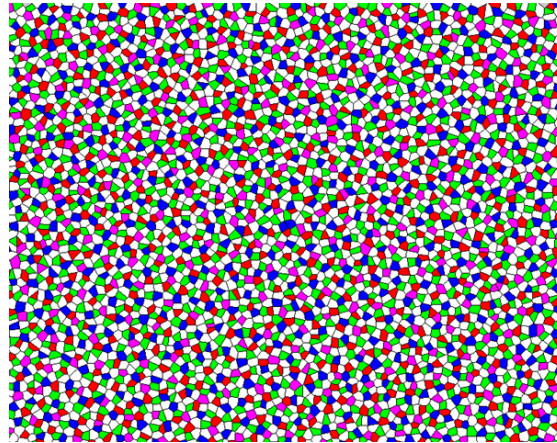
Jiao and Torquato, PRE (2011): polyhedra

## In the Eye of a Chicken: Photoreceptors

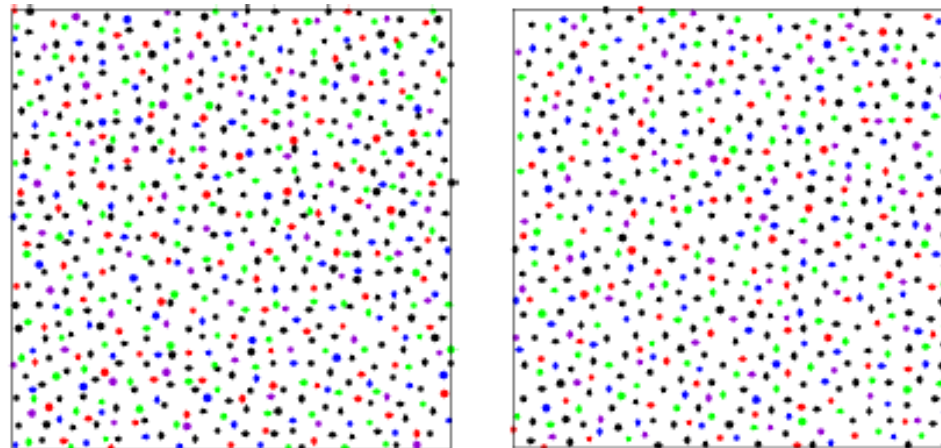
- **Optimal** spatial sampling of light requires that **photoreceptors** be arranged in the **triangular lattice** (e.g., insects and some fish).
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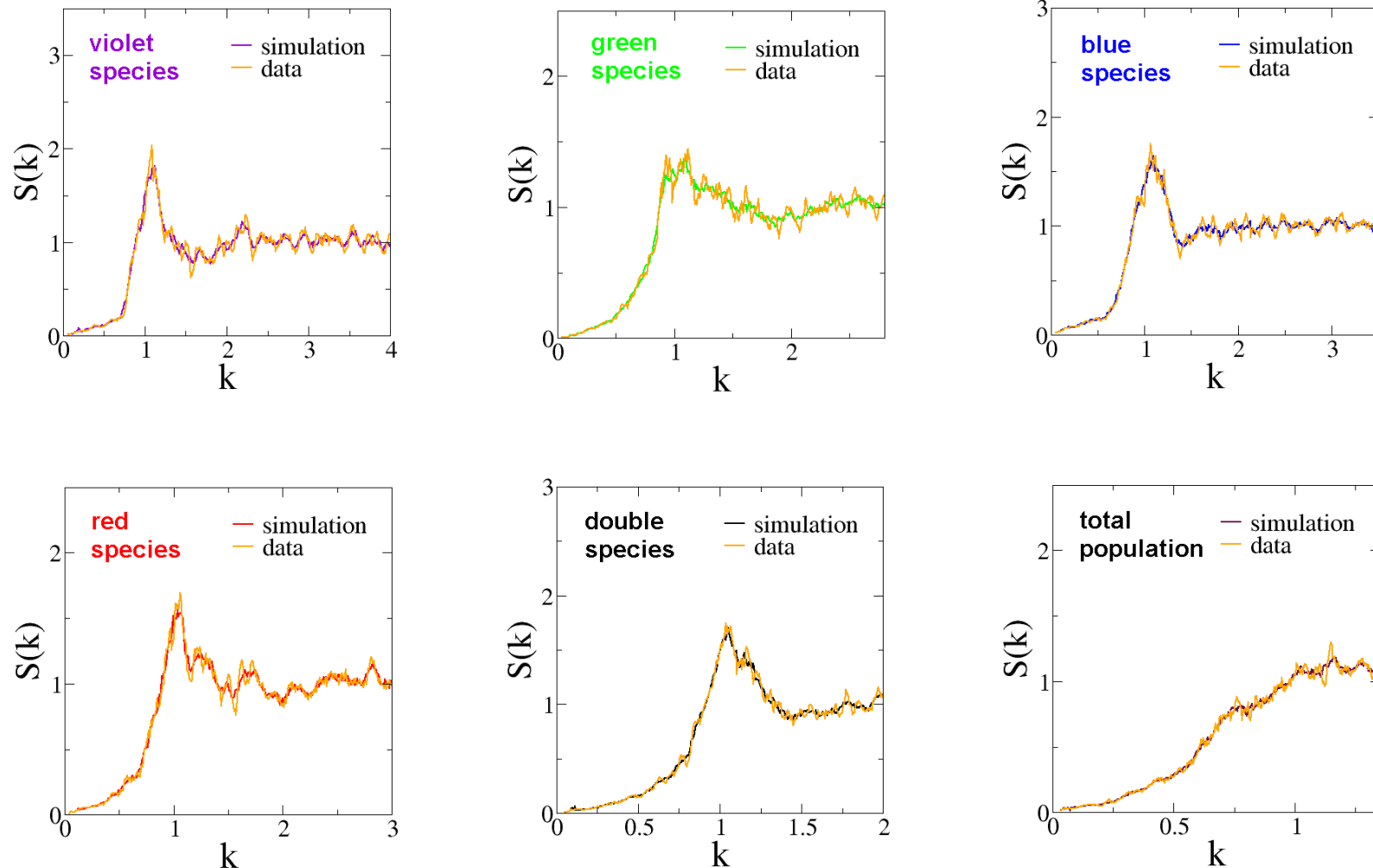
5 Cone Types



Jiao, Corbo & Torquato, PRE (2014).

# Avian Cone Photoreceptors

- Disordered mosaics of **both total population and individual cone types** are effectively **hyperuniform**, which has been **never** observed in any system before (biological or not). We term this **multi-hyperuniformity**.

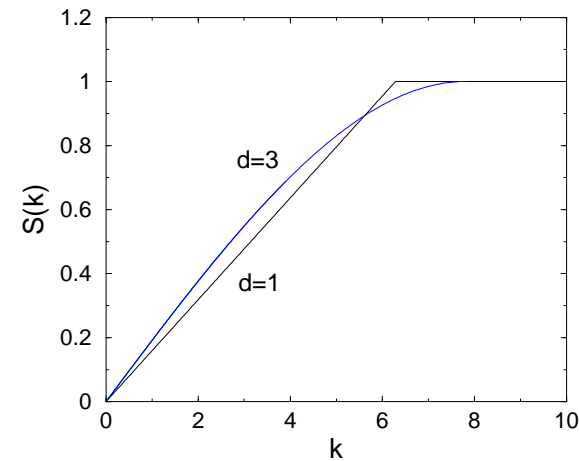
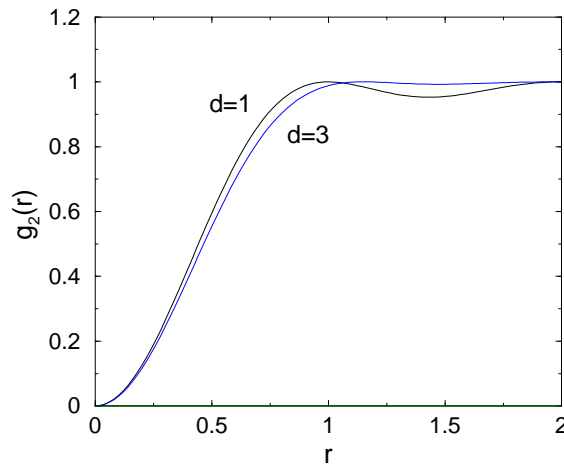


# Hyperuniformity, Free Fermions & Determinantal Point Processes

- One can map random Hermitian matrices (GUE), fermionic gases, and zeros of the Riemann zeta function to a unique **hyperuniform** point process on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

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- We provide **exact generalizations** of such a point process in  $d$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and the corresponding  **$n$ -particle correlation functions**, which correspond to those of **spin-polarized free fermionic** systems in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .



$$g_2(r) = 1 - \frac{2\Gamma(1 + d/2) \cos^2(rK - \pi(d+1)/4)}{K \pi^{d/2+1} r^{d+1}} \quad (r \rightarrow \infty)$$

$$S(k) = \frac{c(d)}{2K} k + \mathcal{O}(k^3) \quad (k \rightarrow 0) \quad (K : \text{Fermi sphere radius})$$

Torquato, Zachary & Scardicchio, J. Stat. Mech., 2008

Scardicchio, Zachary & Torquato, Phys. Rev., 2009

# Hyperuniformity, Free Fermions & Determinantal Point Processes

- Let  $H(\mathbf{r}) = H(-\mathbf{r})$  be a translationally invariant Hermitian-symmetric kernel of an integral operator  $\mathcal{H}$ . A translationally invariant **determinantal point process** in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  exists if the the  $n$ -particle density functions for  $n \geq 1$  are given by the following determinants:

$$g_n(\mathbf{r}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_{13}, \dots, \mathbf{r}_{1n}) = \det[H(\mathbf{r}_{ij})]_{i,j=1,\dots,n} \quad \text{with } H(0) = 1.$$

- By virtue of the nonnegativity of the  $\rho_n$  and relation above, it follows that  $H(\mathbf{r})$  is positive semidefinite with a **nonnegative Fourier transform**  $\tilde{H}(\mathbf{k})$  and with the condition  $H(0) = 1 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{H}(\mathbf{k}) d\mathbf{k}$  implies that  $\tilde{H}(\mathbf{k}) \leq 1$ , i.e.,

$$0 \leq \tilde{H}(\mathbf{k}) \leq 1 \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{k}.$$

- Such a kernel describes a determinantal point process with a pair correlation function

$$g_2(\mathbf{r}) = 1 - |H(\mathbf{r})|^2,$$

such that

$$0 \leq g_2(\mathbf{r}) \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad g_2(0) = 0.$$

# Hyperuniformity, Free Fermions & Determinantal Point Processes

- For 1D GUE, we make the simple observation that  $S(k)$  is determined by the **intersection volume** of two intervals of radius  $\pi$  whose centers are separated by a distance  $k$ , and hence

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- A natural  $d$ -dimensional extension is to replace 1D **intersection volume in Fourier space** with its  $d$ -dimensional generalization, yielding

$$g_2(r) = 1 - 2^d \Gamma(1 + d/2)^2 \frac{J_{d/2}^2(Kr)}{(Kr)^d}.$$

where  $K = 2\sqrt{\pi} [\Gamma(1 + d/2)]^{1/d}$  ensures determinantal point process for any  $d$ .

- We then showed that this special determinantal point process corresponds exactly to the **ground-state non-interacting gas of spin-polarized fermions in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d \geq 1$ .**



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## One-Component Plasma (OCP): Ginibre (1965) Ensemble

- A **hyperuniform determinantal** point process is generated by **2D OCP**: particles of charge  $e$  interacting via the Coulomb potential immersed in a rigid, uniform background of opposite charge.

**Sandier and Serfaty, Annals Prob. (2015)**

- For a special coupling constant  $\Gamma = e^2/k_B T$  equal to 2, the total correlation function  $h(r)$  and  $S(k)$  have been ascertained exactly by **Jancovici (Phys. Rev. Lett, 1981)**:

$$\begin{aligned} h(r) &= -\exp(-\pi r^2) \\ S(k) &= 1 - \exp[-k^2/(4\pi)] \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

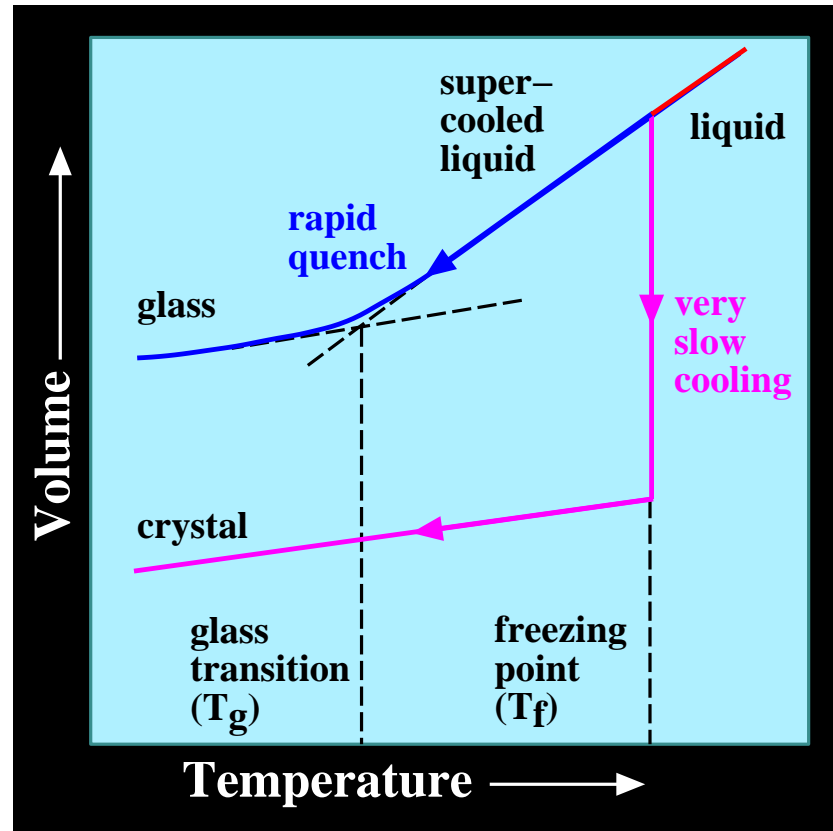
$$S(k) \sim k^2 \quad (k \rightarrow 0)$$

## Slow and Rapid Cooling of a Liquid

- Classical **ground states** are those classical particle configurations with **minimal** potential energy per particle.

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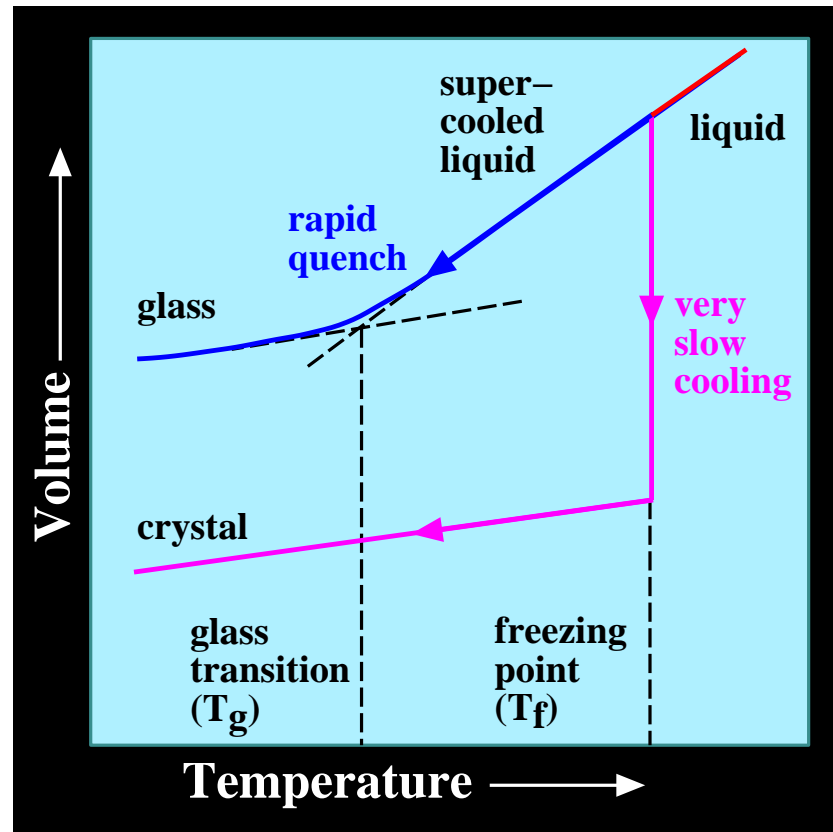
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## Slow and Rapid Cooling of a Liquid

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- Typically, ground states are **periodic with high crystallographic symmetries**.
- Can classical ground states ever be **disordered**?

# Creation of Disordered Hyperuniform Ground States

Uche, Stillinger & Torquato, Phys. Rev. E 2004

Batten, Stillinger & Torquato, Phys. Rev. E 2008

## Collective-Coordinate Simulations

- Consider a system of  $N$  particles with configuration  $\mathbf{r}^N$  in a fundamental region  $\Omega$  under periodic boundary conditions) with a pair potentials  $v(\mathbf{r})$  that is **bounded** with Fourier transform  $\tilde{v}(\mathbf{k})$ .

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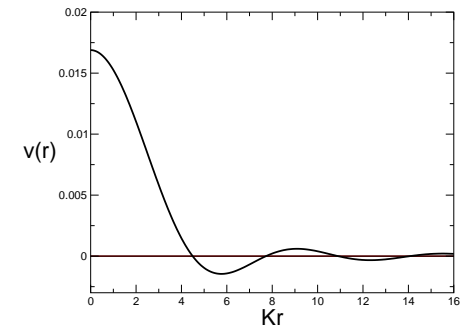
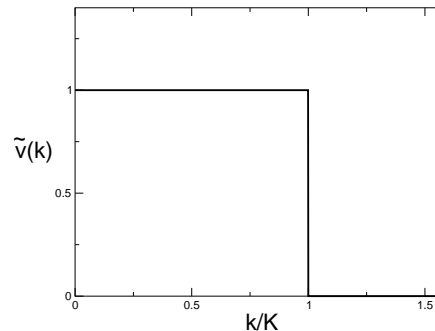
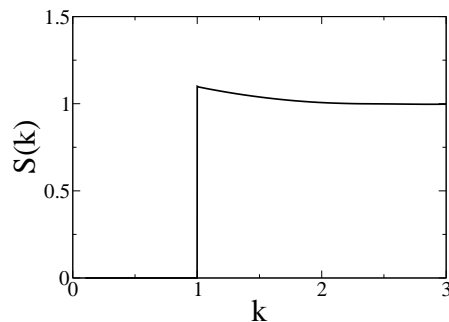
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The **total energy** is

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_N(\mathbf{r}^N) &= \sum_{i < j} v(\mathbf{r}_{ij}) \\ &= \frac{N}{2|\Omega|} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{v}(\mathbf{k}) S(\mathbf{k}) + \text{constant}\end{aligned}$$

- For  $\tilde{v}(\mathbf{k})$  **positive**  $\forall 0 \leq |\mathbf{k}| \leq K$  and zero otherwise, finding configurations in which  $S(\mathbf{k})$  is constrained to be zero where  $\tilde{v}(\mathbf{k})$  has support is equivalent to globally **minimizing**  $\Phi(\mathbf{r}^N)$ .



These **hyperuniform** ground states are called “**stealthy**” and generally **highly degenerate**.

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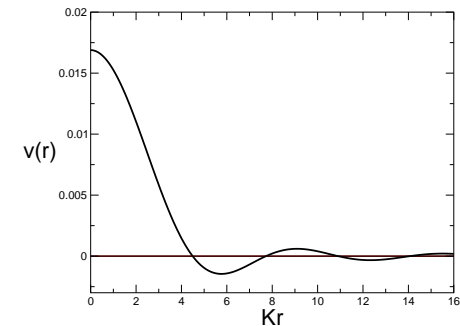
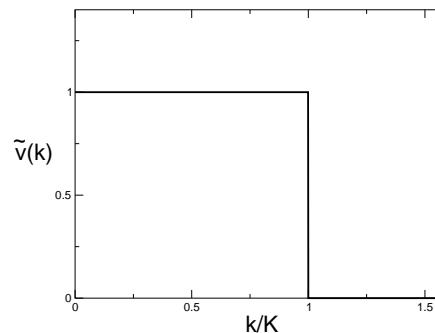
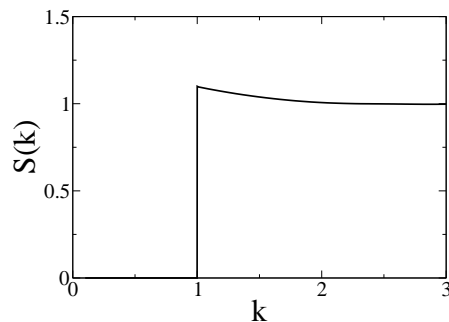
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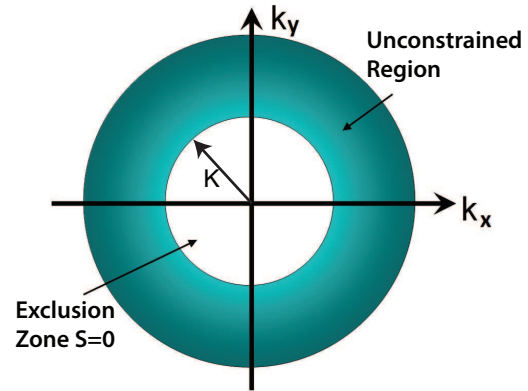
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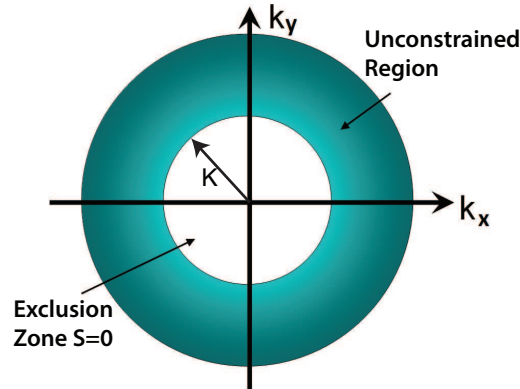
- Stealthy patterns can be **tuned** by varying the parameter  $\chi$ : ratio of number of **constrained degrees of freedom** to the total number of degrees of freedom,  $d(N - 1)$ .

# Creation of Disordered Stealthy Ground States





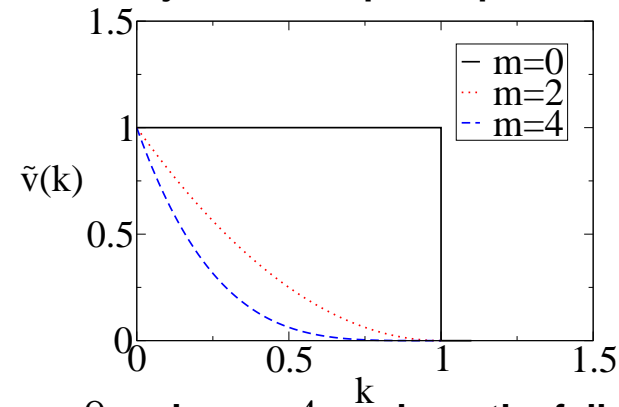
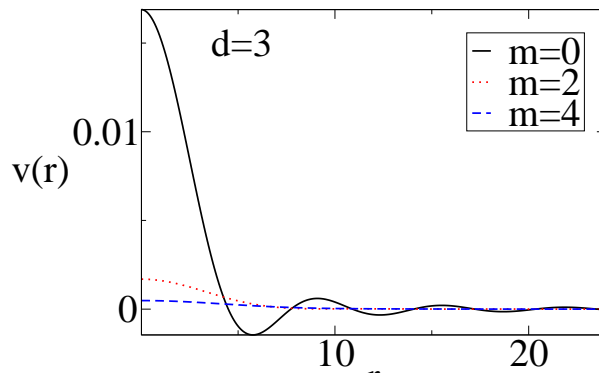
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$$\tilde{v}(k) = v_0(1 - k/K)^m \Theta(K - k),$$

where  $n$  is any whole number. The special case  $n = 0$  is just the simple step function.

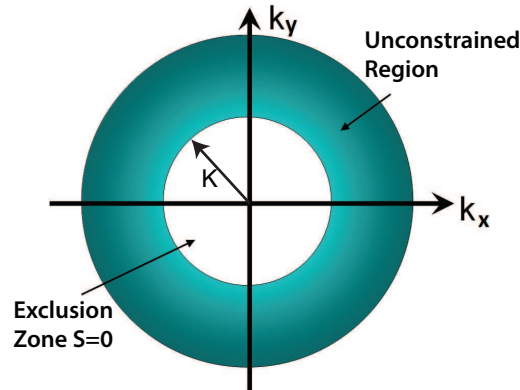


In the large-system (**thermodynamic**) limit with  $m = 0$  and  $m = 4$ , we have the following **large- $r$  asymptotic behavior**, respectively:

$$v(r) \sim \frac{\cos(r)}{r^2} \quad (m = 0)$$

$$v(r) \sim \frac{1}{r^4} \quad (m = 4)$$

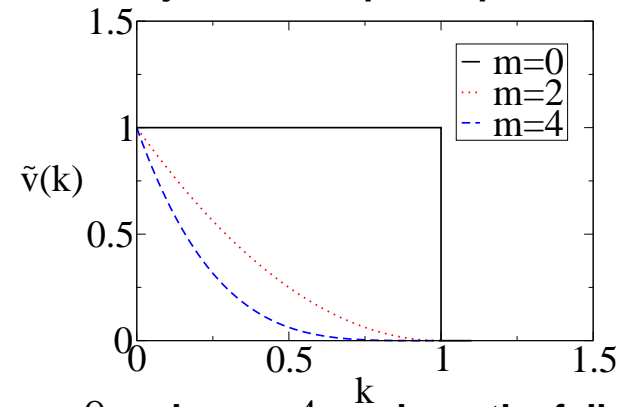
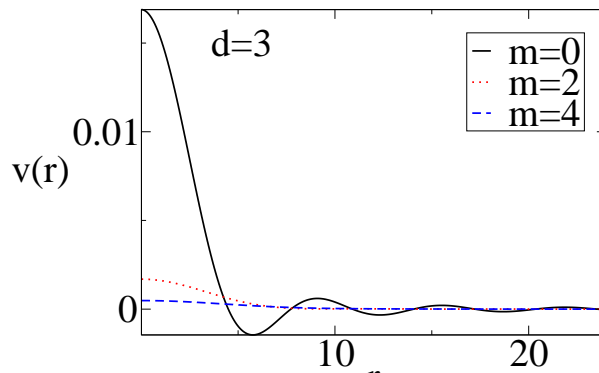
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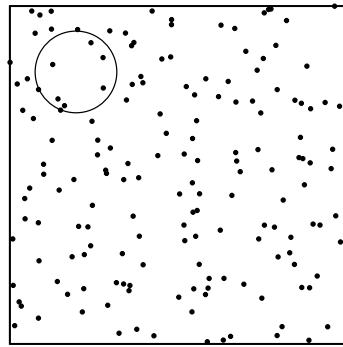
While the specific forms of these stealthy potentials lead to the same convergent ground-state energies, this may not be the case for the **pressure** and other thermodynamic quantities.

# Creation of Disordered Stealthy Ground States

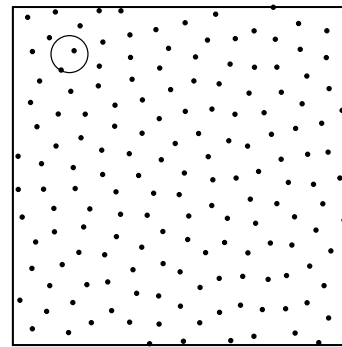
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(a)  $\chi = 0.04167$

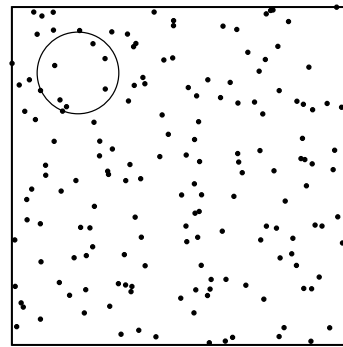


(b)  $\chi = 0.41071$

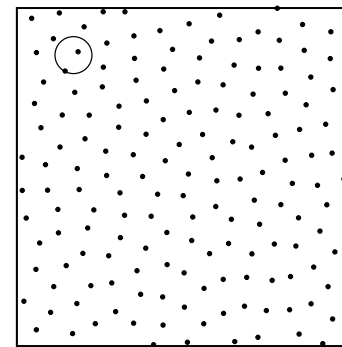
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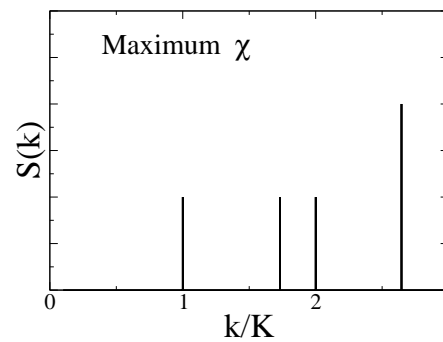


(a)  $\chi = 0.04167$



(b)  $\chi = 0.41071$

- Success rate** to achieve disordered ground states is 100%.
- For  $\chi > 1/2$ , the system undergoes a transition to a **crystal phase** and the **energy landscape** becomes considerably more complex.



# Stealthy Disordered Ground States and Novel Materials

- Until recently, it was believed that **Bragg scattering** was required to achieve metamaterials with **complete photonic band gaps**.

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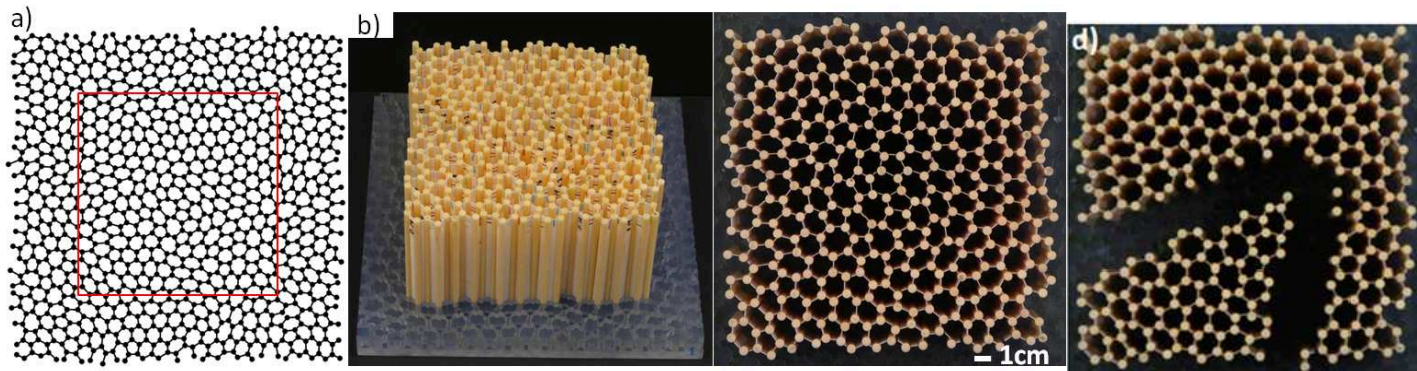
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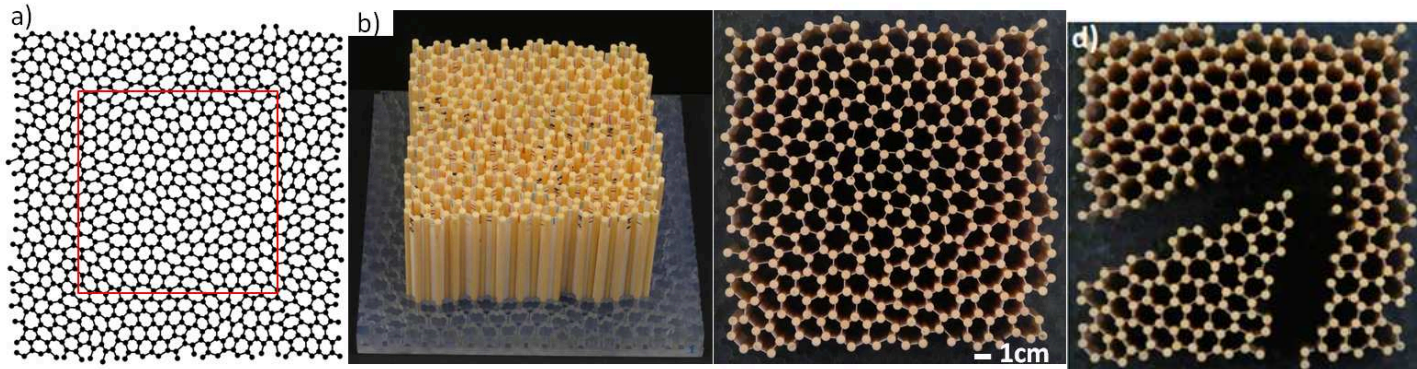
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- Other applications include new **phononic** devices.

# Ensemble Theory of Disordered Ground States

Torquato, Zhang & Stillinger, Phys. Rev. X, 2015

● **Nontrivial:** Dimensionality of the configuration space depends on the number density  $\rho$  (or  $\chi$ ) and there is a multitude of ways of sampling the ground-state manifold, each with its own probability measure **Which ensemble?** How are **entropically favored** states determined?

● For **some ensemble** at fixed density  $\rho$ , the average energy per particle  $u$  for radial potentials in the thermodynamic limit is given by

$$\begin{aligned} u \equiv \left\langle \frac{\Phi(\mathbf{r}^N)}{N} \right\rangle &= \frac{\rho}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} v(r) g_2(r) d\mathbf{r} \\ &= \frac{\rho}{2} \tilde{v}(k=0) - \frac{1}{2} v(r=0) + \frac{1}{2(2\pi)^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{v}(k) S(k) d\mathbf{k}. \end{aligned}$$

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● Consider the same class of “**stealthy**” radial potential functions  $\tilde{v}(k)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Whenever particle configurations in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  exist such that  $S(k)$  is constrained to be its **minimum value of zero** where  $\tilde{v}(k)$  has support, the system must be at its **ground state** or **global energy minimum**:

$$u = \frac{\rho}{2} v_0 - \frac{1}{2} v(r=0)$$

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**Remark:** Ground-state manifold is generally **highly degenerate**.

- In the thermodynamic limit, parameter  $\chi$  is related to the number density  $\rho$  in any dimension  $d$  via


$$\rho \chi = \frac{V_1(K)}{2d(2\pi)^d},$$

where  $V_1(K)$  is the volume of a  $d$ -dimensional sphere of radius  $K$ .

**Remarks:** We see that  $\chi$  and  $\rho$  are **inversely proportional to one another**. Thus, for fixed  $K$  and  $d$ , as  $\chi$  tends to zero,  $\rho$  tends to infinity, which corresponds counterintuitively to the **uncorrelated ideal-gas limit** (Poisson distribution). As  $\chi$  increases from zero, the density  $\rho$  decreases.

# Ensemble Theory of Disordered Ground States

- **Any periodic crystal** with a finite basis is a stealthy ground state for all positive  $\chi$  up to a **maximum**  $\chi_{max}(\rho_{min})$  determined by its **first positive Bragg peak** (minimal vector in Fourier space).

 **Lemma:** At fixed  $K$ , a configuration comprised of the union of  $m$  different stealthy ground-state configurations in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with  $\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_m$ , respectively, is itself stealthy with a value  $\chi$  value given by

$$\chi = \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m \chi_i^{-1} \right]^{-1},$$

which is the harmonic mean of the  $\chi_i$  divided by  $m$ .

- These last two facts can be used to show how **disordered patterns** are possible ground states.

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**Table 1:** Periodic stealthy ground states in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with  $K = 1$ .

Structure	$\chi_{max}$	$\rho_{min}$
Kagomé crystal	$\frac{\pi}{3\sqrt{12}} = 0.3022 \dots$	$\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{8\pi^2} = 0.06581 \dots$
Honeycomb crystal	$\frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{12}} = 0.4534 \dots$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4\pi^2} = 0.04387 \dots$
Square lattice	$\frac{\pi}{4} = 0.7853 \dots$	$\frac{1}{4\pi^2} = 0.02533 \dots$
Triangular lattice	$\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{12}} = 0.9068 \dots$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{8\pi^2} = 0.02193 \dots$

# Canonical Ensemble Theory of Disordered Ground States



We consider the Gibbs **canonical ensemble** in which the partition function  $Z$  is a function of  $\rho$  and absolute temperature  $T$ . Our main interest is in a theory in the limit  $T \rightarrow 0$ , i.e., the **entropically favored ground states in the canonical ensemble**.

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## Ground-State Pressure and Isothermal Compressibility

- **Energy Route:** The pressure in the thermodynamic limit at  $T = 0$  can be obtained from the energy per particle (taking  $v_0 = 1$ ) via the relation

$$p = \rho^2 \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial \rho} \right)_T .$$

Therefore, for stealthy potentials,

$$p = \frac{\rho^2}{2} .$$

- The isothermal compressibility  $\kappa_T \equiv \rho^{-1} \left( \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial p} \right)_T$  of such a system is

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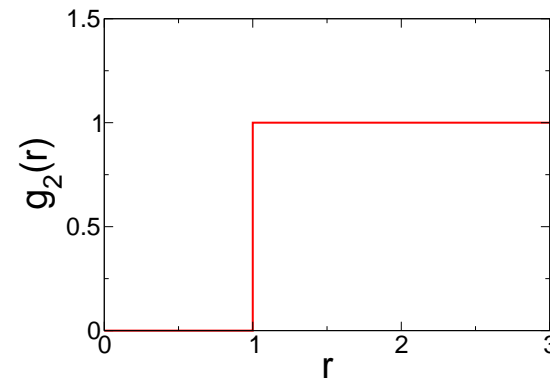
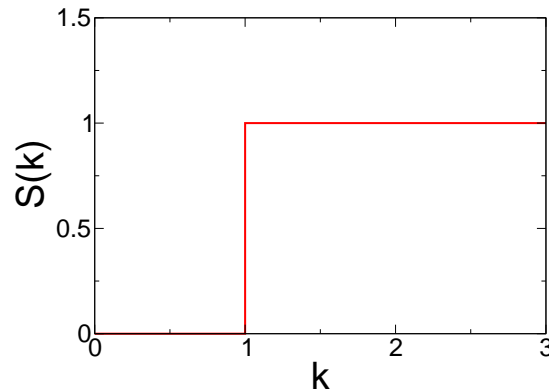
**Virial Route:** An alternative route to the pressure is through the “virial” equation, which at  $T = 0$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} p &= -\frac{\rho^2}{2d} s_1(1) \int_0^\infty r^d \frac{dv}{dr} g_2(r) dr \\ &= -\frac{\rho^2}{2d} \left[ \tilde{f}(k=0) + \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{f}(k) \tilde{h}(k) d\mathbf{k} \right] \end{aligned}$$

where  $\tilde{f}(k)$  is the Fourier transform of  $f(r) \equiv r dv/dr$ , **when it exists**.

## Pseudo-Hard Spheres in Fourier Space

- From previous considerations, we see that that an important contribution to  $S(k)$  is a simple hard-core step function  $\Theta(k - K)$ , which can be viewed as a **disordered hard-sphere system in Fourier space** in the limit that  $\chi$  tends to zero, i.e., as the number density  $\rho$  tends to infinity.



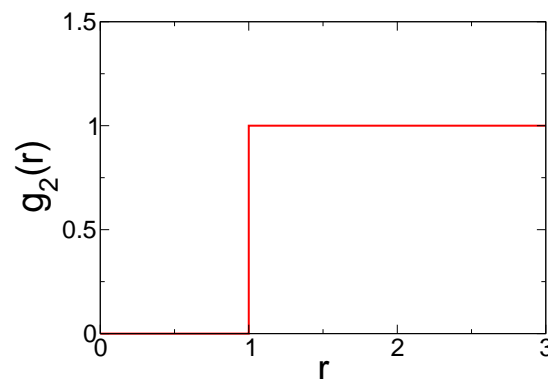
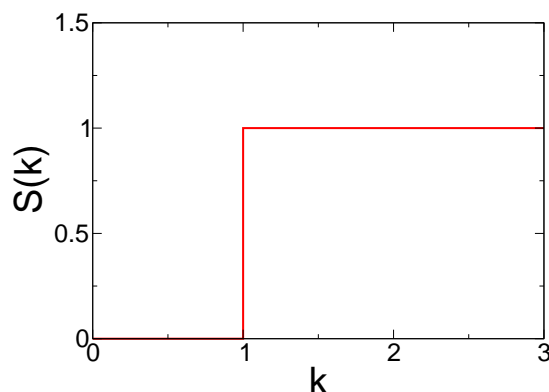
- That the structure factor must have the behavior

$$S(k) \rightarrow \Theta(k - K), \quad \chi \rightarrow 0$$

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- Imagine carrying out a series expansion of  $S(k)$  about  $\chi = 0$ . We make the **ansatz** that for sufficiently small  $\chi$ ,  $S(k)$  in the canonical ensemble for a stealthy potential can be mapped to  $g_2(r)$  for an **effective disordered hard-sphere system for sufficiently small density.**

# Pseudo-Hard Spheres in Fourier Space

Let us define

$$\tilde{H}(k) \equiv \rho \tilde{h}(k) = h_{HS}(r = k)$$

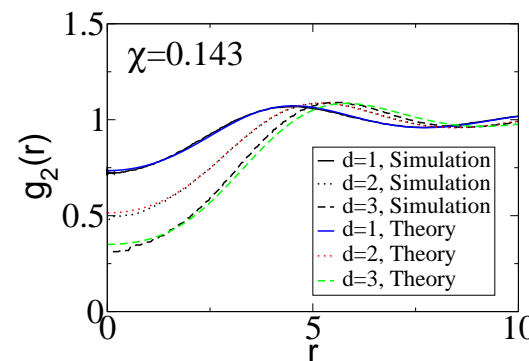
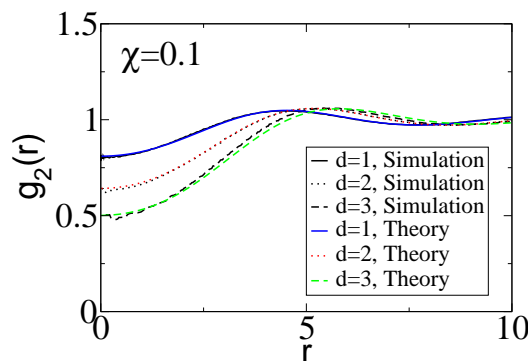
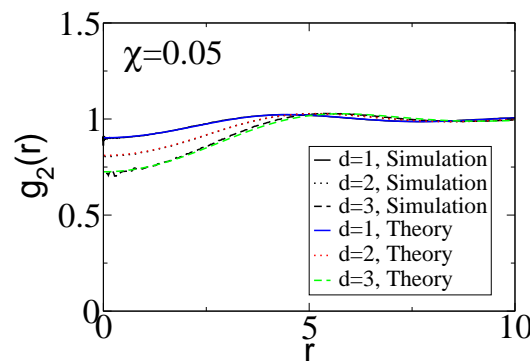
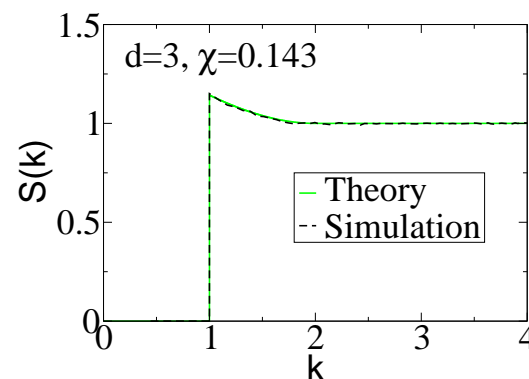
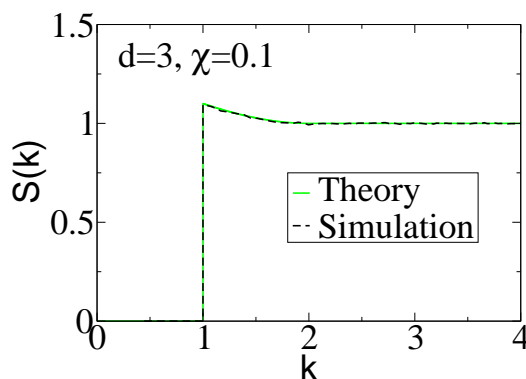
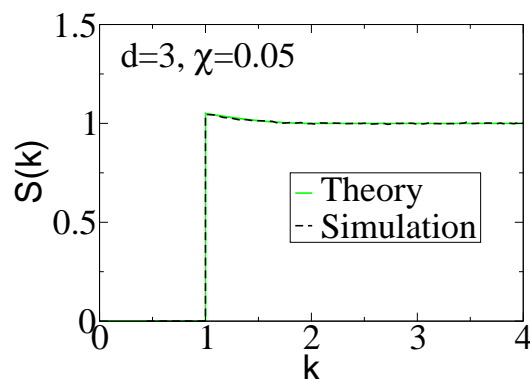
There is an **Ornstein-Zernike integral eq.** that defines FT of **appropriate direct correlation function**,  $\tilde{C}(k)$ :

$$\tilde{H}(k) = \tilde{C}(k) + \eta \tilde{H}(k) \otimes \tilde{C}(k),$$

where  $\eta$  is an **effective packing fraction**. Therefore,

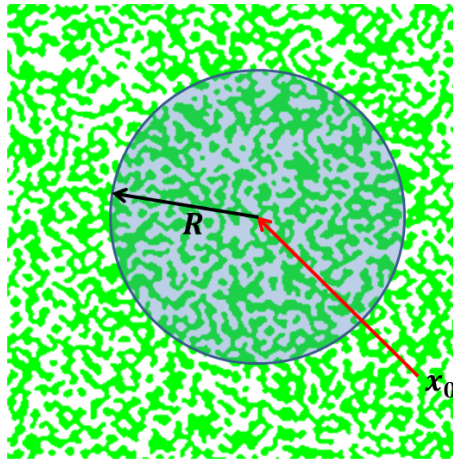
$$H(r) = \frac{C(r)}{1 - (2\pi)^d \eta C(r)}.$$

This mapping enables us to exploit the well-developed accurate theories of **standard Gibbsian disordered hard spheres in direct space**.



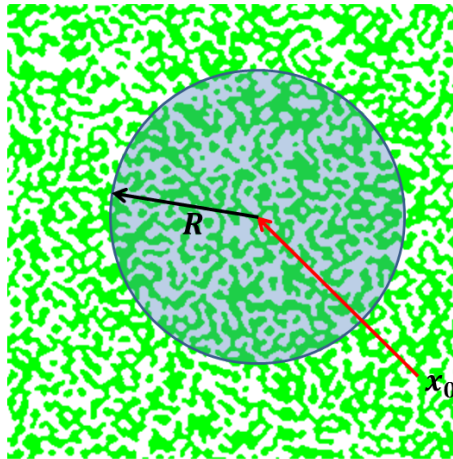
# Hyperuniformity of Disordered Two-Phase Materials

- The hyperuniformity concept was generalized to the case of **two-phase heterogeneous materials** (Zachary and Torquato, 2009).
- Here the phase **volume fraction fluctuates** within a spherical window of radius  $R$ , which can be characterized by the **volume-fraction variance**  $\sigma_v^2(R)$ .



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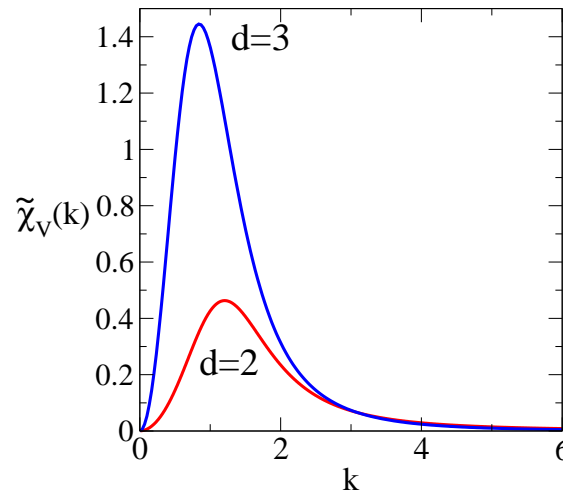


- For **typical** disordered two-phase media, the variance  $\sigma_v^2(R)$  for large  $R$  goes to zero like  $R^{-d}$ .
- For **hyperuniform disordered two-phase media**,  $\sigma_v^2(R)$  goes to zero faster than  $R^{-d}$ , equivalent to following condition on **spectral density**  $\tilde{\chi}_v(\mathbf{k})$ :

$$\lim_{|\mathbf{k}| \rightarrow 0} \tilde{\chi}_v(\mathbf{k}) = 0.$$

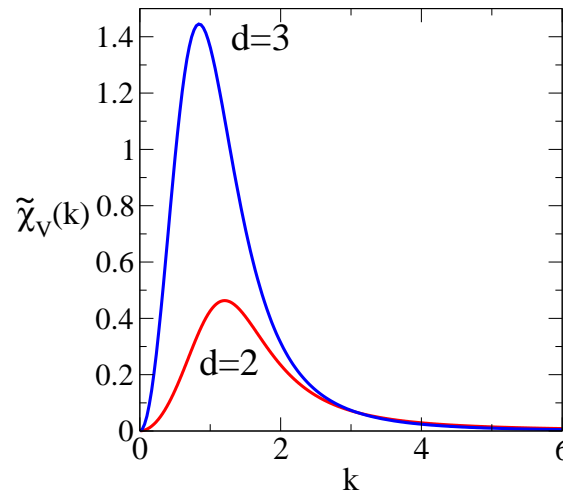
# Designing Disordered Hyperuniform Heterogeneous Materials

- Disordered hyperuniform two-phase systems can be **designed** with **targeted** spectral functions (Torquato, 2016).
- For example, consider the following **hyperuniform functional forms** in 2D and 3D:

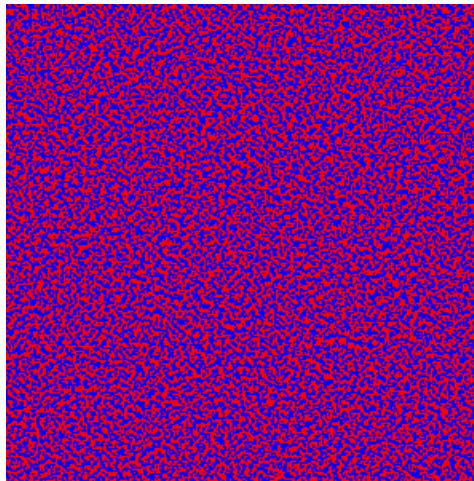


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- The following is a 2D realization:





# CONCLUSIONS

- **Disordered hyperuniform** materials can be regarded to be **new ideal states of disordered matter**.
- **Hyperuniformity** provides a **unified** means of categorizing and characterizing crystals, quasicrystals and special correlated disordered systems.
- The **degree of hyperuniformity** provides an order metric for the extent to which large-scale density fluctuations are **suppressed** in such systems.
- Disordered hyperuniform systems appear to be endowed with **unusual physical properties** that we are only beginning to discover.
- **Hyperuniformity** has connections to **physics and materials science** (e.g., ground states, quantum systems, random matrices, novel materials, etc.), **mathematics** (e.g., geometry and number theory), and **biology**.
- Halton-type **low-discrepancy** point sets are **hyperuniform** but not disordered.

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## Collaborators

**Robert Batten** (Princeton)

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