

The Kac ring model

Is a reversible toy model
which display irreversible (?)
tendency to equilibrium

Consider N points (balls) on a circle

each point can assume 2 state
black or white

in between each point can lie
a marker

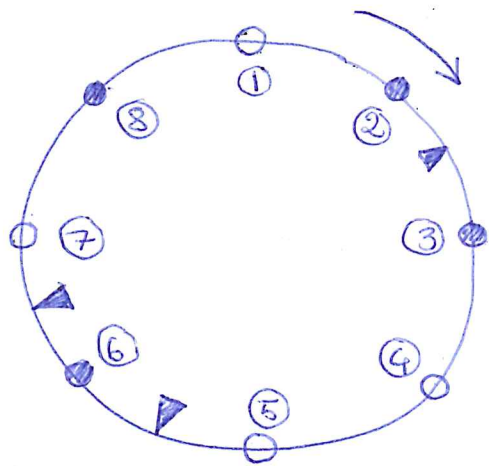


Fig 1

N points
 m markers

N_b black
points

N_w white
points

$$N = 8$$

$$m = 3$$

$$N_b = 4$$

$$N_w = 4$$

- in one time step the circle is rotated (clockwise in the example)

so that the point ① assumes the position of ②

② → ③ ③ → ④ ...

- if a point ^{crosses} has a marker change state

So that starting from the previous situation the first step gives

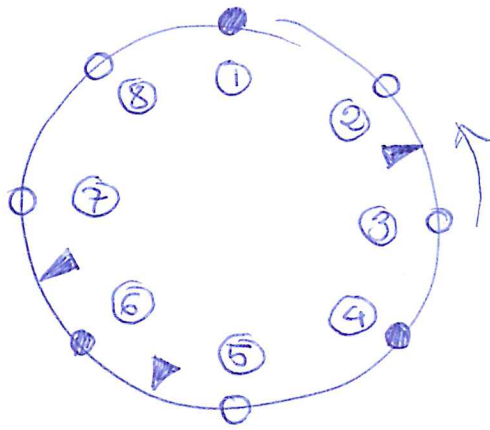


Fig 2

the model is reversible (let's step ~~back~~ -

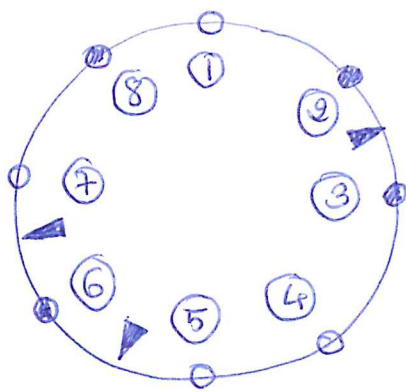


Fig 3

which is
the original
configuration ...

... repeat for n steps ...

let $m_B = \# \text{ of } \overset{\text{black}}{\text{points}}$ with a marker
 $m_W = \# \text{ of } \overset{\text{white}}{\text{points}}$ just in front

in Fig 1

$$m_B = 2$$

$$m_W = 1$$

then the evolution of white and black
~~dot~~ numbers of points is

$$N_W(t+1) = N_W(t) + m_B(t) - m_W(t)$$

$$N_B(t+1) = N_B(t) + m_W(t) - m_B(t)$$

We have 2 conservation laws

$$N_W + N_B = N \quad \text{total \# of points}$$

$$m_W + m_B = m \quad \text{total \# of markers}$$

valid at any time

$$\text{let } \Delta N(t) = N_B(t) - N_W(t) \quad \text{then}$$

$$\Delta m(t) = m_B(t) - m_W(t)$$

$$\Delta N(t+1) = \Delta N(t) - 2 \Delta m(t)$$

let's consider the molecular chaos approximation (Stosszahlansatz)

no correlation between the color of a point and the presence of a marker just in front of it



$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{probability} \\ \text{that a black} \\ \text{point has a} \\ \text{marker just} \\ \text{in front} \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{probability} \\ \text{of a marker} \end{array} \right) \times \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{probability} \\ \text{of a black} \\ \text{point} \end{array} \right)$$



$$\frac{n_B}{N} = \frac{m}{N} \frac{N_B}{N}$$

$$\frac{\Delta m}{N} = \mu \left(\frac{m}{N} \right) \frac{\Delta N}{N}$$

$$\Delta N(t+1) = (1 - 2\mu) \Delta N(t)$$

$$\mu = \frac{m}{N} \text{ density of markers}$$

$$\Delta N(1) = (1-2\mu) \Delta N(0)$$

$$\Delta N(2) = (1-2\mu) \Delta N(1) = (1-2\mu)^2 \Delta N(0)$$

$$\boxed{\Delta N(t) = (1-2\mu)^t \Delta N(0)}$$

with discrete time $t=0, 1, 2, \dots$

this is an exponential decay

$$\boxed{\Delta N(t) = e^{-t/\tau} \Delta N(0)}$$

$$\tau = 1 / \ln\left(\frac{1}{1-2\mu}\right) \quad \text{if } \mu < \frac{1}{2}$$

if $\mu > \frac{1}{2}$ $1-2\mu < 0$ and $2\mu-1 > 0$
then we can write

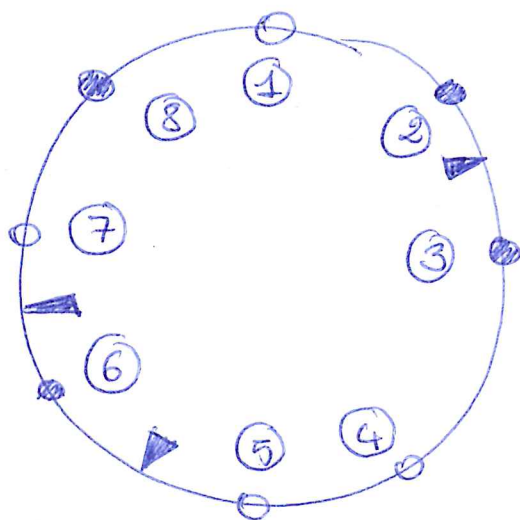
$$\Delta N(t) = (-1)^t (2\mu-1)^t \Delta N(0)$$

$$\Delta N(t) = (-1)^t e^{-t/\tau} \Delta N(0) \quad \text{oscillatory}$$

$$\tau = 1 / \ln\left(\frac{1}{2\mu-1}\right)$$

This exponential behaviour is in contradiction with the existence in Kac's ring model of a recurrence time therefore both Zermelo's & Loschmidt's paradoxes can be invoked in this case

Numerical solution of the model



	ε	η
1	1	-1
2	-1	1
3	1	1
4	1	-1
5	-1	-1
6	-1	1
7	1	-1
8	1	1

define point variables $\eta_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{black} \\ -1 & \text{white} \end{cases}$

define marker variable $\varepsilon_i = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{marker present} \\ 1 & \text{marker absent} \end{cases}$

evolution equations are

$$\eta_i(t+1) = \varepsilon_{i-1} \eta_{i-1}(t)$$

$$N_B(t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^N (1 + \eta_i(t))$$

$$N_W(t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^N (1 - \eta_i(t))$$

$$\Delta N(t) = \sum_i^N \eta_i(t) = \sum_i^N \underbrace{\varepsilon_{i-1} \varepsilon_{i-2} \dots \varepsilon_{i-t}}_{t \text{ terms}} \eta_{i-t}(0)$$

$$\eta_i(t+1) = \varepsilon_{i-1} \eta_{i-1}(t) = \varepsilon_{i-1} \varepsilon_{i-2} \eta_{i-2}(t-1) = \varepsilon_{i-1} \varepsilon_{i-2} \varepsilon_{i-3} \eta_{i-3}(t-2)$$

and periodic boundary conditions must be implemented in indexes of ε

the molecular chaos hypothesis
means taking the average over
 ϵ_k of the product

$$\langle \underbrace{\epsilon_{i-1} \epsilon_{i-2} \dots \epsilon_{i-t}}_{t \text{ terms uncorrelated}} \rangle = f(t) \text{ independent on } i$$

$$\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 \dots \epsilon_t = (-1)^S$$

S = # of markers between t points

$$P(s) = \binom{t}{s} \mu^s (1-\mu)^{t-s} \text{ binomial}$$

probability of s markers
in t points

$$\langle \epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 \dots \epsilon_t \rangle = \sum_0^t (-1)^s P(s) = (1-2\mu)^t \quad \text{c. v. d.}$$