

MAR12-2011-005897

Abstract for an Invited Paper  
for the MAR12 Meeting of  
the American Physical Society

**Efficient SLE algorithms and numerical pitfalls of the method<sup>1</sup>**

TOM KENNEDY, Departments of Mathematics and Physics, University of Arizona

We consider a physical experiment or a numerical simulation of a physical phenomena that produces a random family of two-dimensional curves. We would like to know if there is a conformal invariance underlying this stochastic geometry. The Schramm-Loewner evolution (SLE) is a conformally invariant stochastic process which depends on a single parameter  $\kappa$ . For different values of  $\kappa$  it is known to describe the scaling limit of many conformally invariant 2d systems, e.g, percolation, the Ising model, self-avoiding walks and many more. So it is a natural candidate for describing the stochastic geometry of other physical systems. The classical Loewner equation provides a correspondence between curves in the plane and “driving functions,” and SLE is obtained by taking the driving function to be a Brownian motion. Given a collection of random curves in the plane one would like to determine if the curves come from an SLE process for some value of  $\kappa$ . One method is to compute the driving processes of the curves and test if they are a Brownian motion. We discuss algorithms for doing this efficiently and some of the pitfalls in this approach.

<sup>1</sup>research supported by NSF grant DMS-0758649