## Lattice Gas

Ella Small

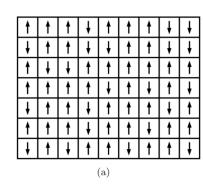
Presentation: The lattice gas Please do G&T Problem 5.23. Explain to us how a lattice gas is like or unlike an Ising model. Is there a critical temperature Tc? What happens to the gas when the temperature crosses this value? What happens when you lower the temperature very quickly, a "quench"? What happens when you turn on a gravitational field?

## Lattice gas

- ▶ Is essentially an Ising model in 2D since in the fluid model s=+1 correlates to a particle at the grid point and s=-1 means no particle is present
  - ► The difference between the tw0 is a change of variable from s (spin) to n (occupancy)

$$n_i \equiv (s_i + 1)/2,$$

- Only one particle per site = hard core repulsion
  - ▶ Two things cannot occupy the same space at the same time



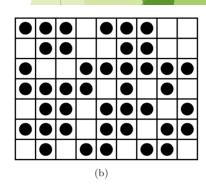


Figure 5.17: (a) A typical microstate of the Ising model. (b) The same microstate in the lattice gas picture with spin up replaced by a particle and spin down replaced by an empty cell.

(a) What is the value of the critical temperature  $T_c$  for the lattice gas in two dimensions (in units of  $u_0/k$ )?

We can use the derivation the textbook uses for the Onsager solution since it was derived for a 2D Ising model

$$\frac{kT_c}{J} = \frac{2}{\ln(1+\sqrt{2})} \approx 2.269.$$

Except in this case

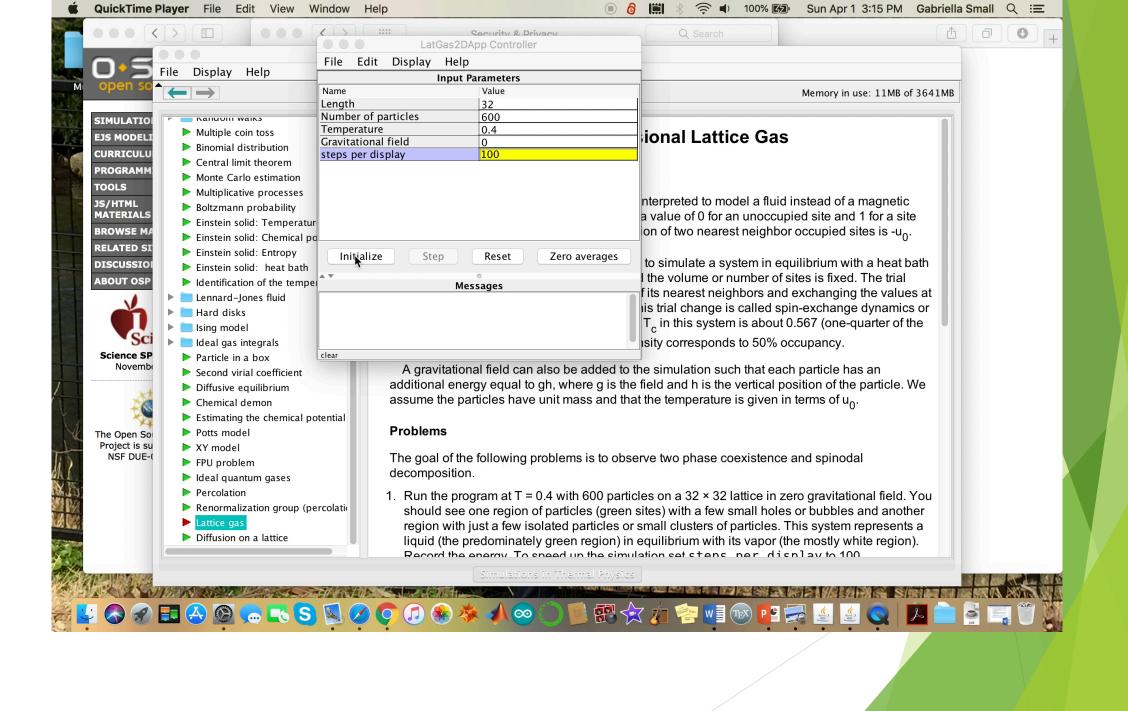
$$E = -u_0 \sum_{i,j=\text{nn}(i)}^{N} n_i n_j - \mu \sum_{i=1}^{N} n_i + N(H-2J).$$

and

$$u_0 \equiv 4J$$

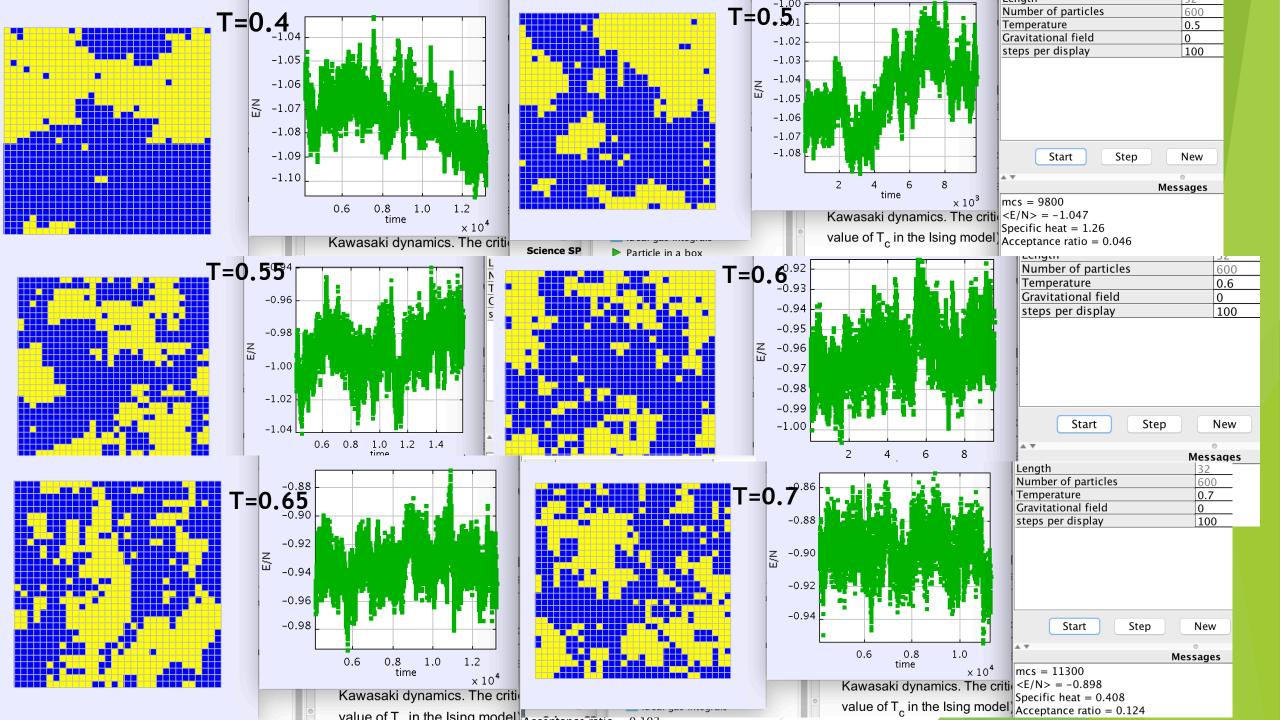
- Replacing J by u<sub>0</sub>/4 we get
  - $T_c = J/k^2.269 = u_0/4k^2.269 = 0.567 u_0/k$

(b) Program LatticeGas simulates the lattice gas on a square lattice of linear dimension L. The initial state has all the particles at the bottom of the simulation cell. Choose L=32 and set the gravitational field equal to zero. Do a simulation at T=0.4 with N=600 particles. After a few Monte Carlo steps you should see the bottom region of particles (green sites) develop a few small holes or bubbles and the unoccupied region contain a few isolated particles or small clusters of particles. This system represents a liquid (the predominately green region) in equilibrium with its vapor (the mostly white region). Record the energy. To speed up the simulation set steps per display equal to 100.



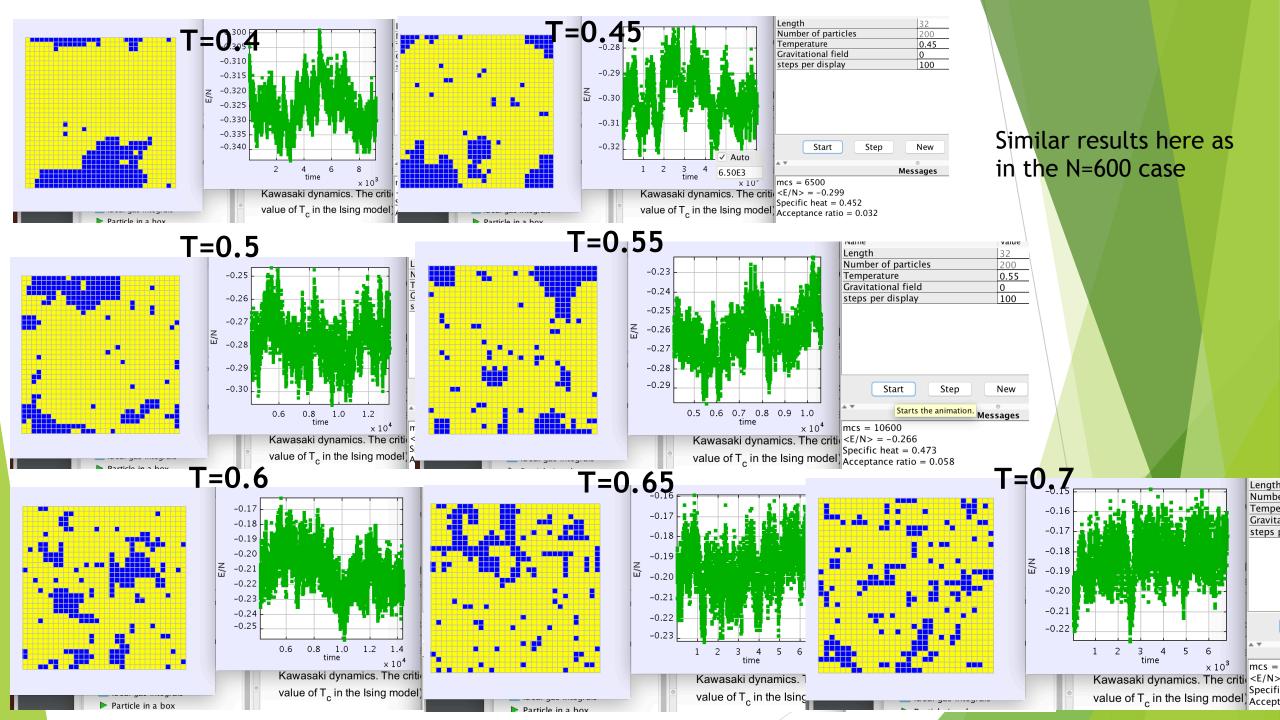
(c) Increase the temperature in steps of 0.05 until T=0.7. At each temperature run for at least  $10,000\,\mathrm{mcs}$  to reach equilibrium and then press the Zero Averages button. Run for at least  $20,000\,\mathrm{mcs}$  before recording your estimate of the energy. Describe the visual appearance of the positions of the particle and empty sites at each temperature. At what temperature does the one large liquid region break up into many pieces, such that there is no longer a sharp distinction between the liquid and vapor region? At this temperature there is a single fluid phase. Is there any evidence from your estimates of the energy that a transition from a two-phase to a one-phase system has occurred? Repeat your simulations with N=200.

Temperature	<e n=""></e>
0.4	-1.106
0.45	-1.074
0.5	-1.047
0.55	-0.996
0.6	-0.962
0.65	-0.934
0.7	-0.898



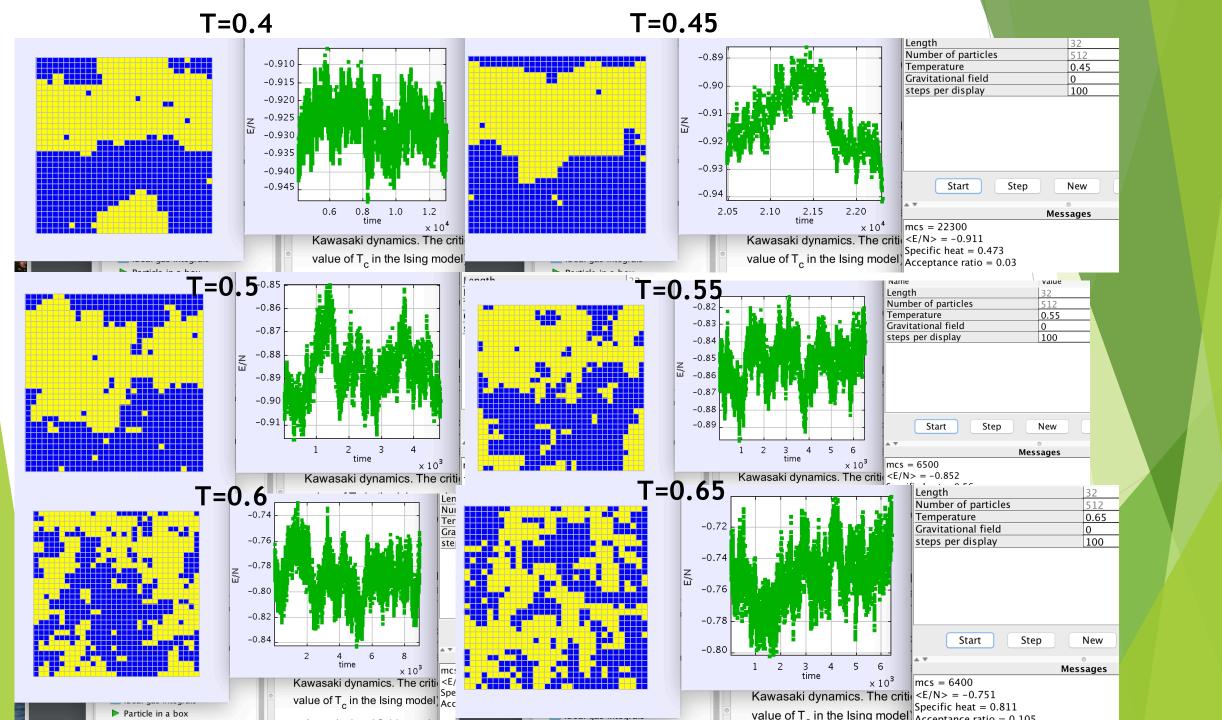
## Repeating with N=200

Temperature	<e n=""></e>
0.4	-0.326
0.45	-0.299
0.5	-0.276
0.55	-0.266
0.6	-0.214
0.65	-0.196
0.7	-0.183

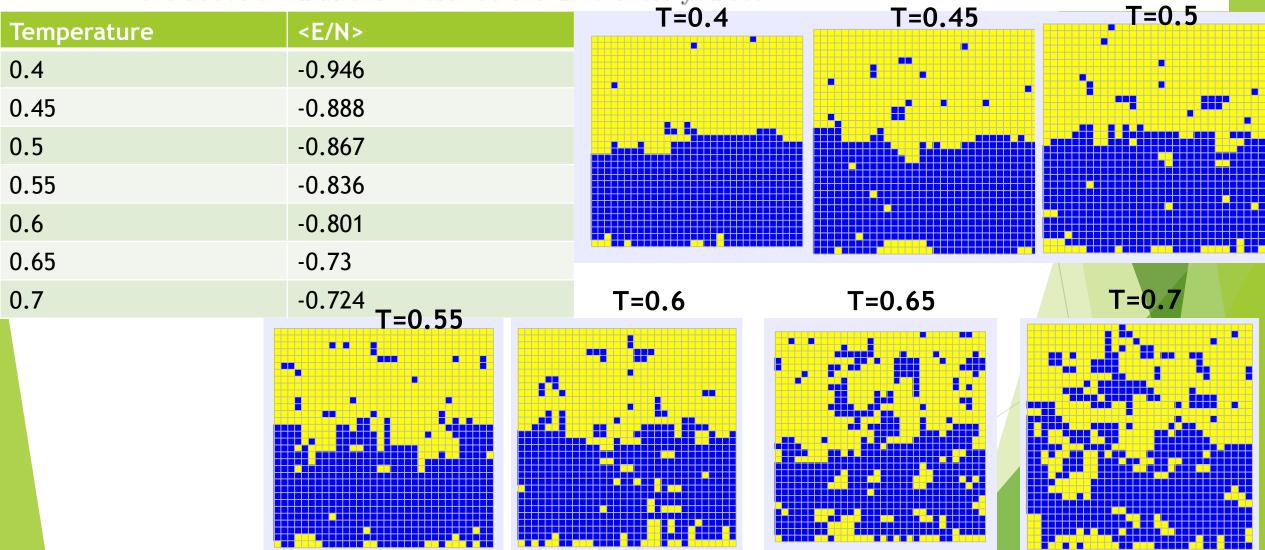


(d) Repeat part (c) with N = 512. In this case the system will pass through a critical point. The change from a one phase to a two-phase system occurs continuously in the thermodynamic limit. Can you detect this change or does the system look similar to the case in part (c)?

Temperature	<e n=""></e>
0.4	-0.928
0.45	-0.911
0.5	-0.887
0.55	-0.852
0.6	-0.789
0.65	-0.751
0.7	-0.722



(e) If we include a gravitational field, the program removes the periodic boundary conditions in the vertical direction, and thus sites in the top and bottom rows have three neighbors instead of four. The field should help define the liquid and gas regions. Choose g = 0.01 and repeat the above simulations. Describe the differences you see.



(f) Simulate a lattice gas of N=2048 particles on a L=64 lattice at T=2.0 with no gravitational field for  $5000\,\mathrm{mcs}$ . Then change the temperature to T=0.2. This process is called a (temperature) quench, and the resulting behavior is called *spinodal decomposition*. The domains grow very slowly as a function of time. Discuss why it is difficult for the system to reach its equilibrium state for which there is one domain of mostly occupied sites in equilibrium with one domain of mostly unoccupied sites.

