

# Jamming and tiling of rectangles

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Journal of Physics A **51**, 455002 (2018)

Physical Review E, submitted (2019)

Talk, publications available from: <http://cnls.lanl.gov/~ebn>

50 years of stochastic processes at UCSD:  
a symposium in honor of Katja Lindenberg  
San Diego, CA, August 16, 2019

# Plan

## I Linear dynamical tiling:

Stochastic fragmentation of rectangles

## II Nonlinear dynamical tiling:

Stochastic aggregation of rectangles

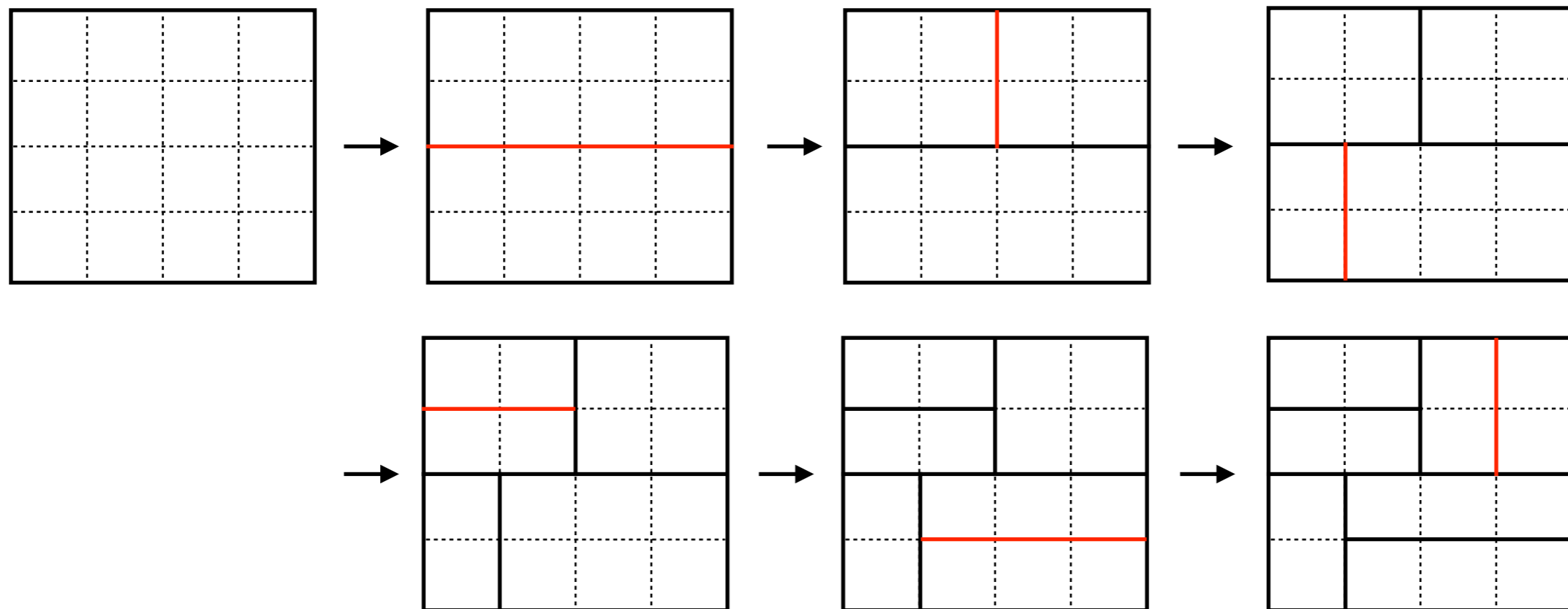
***Straightforward generalizations of classical  
1D fragmentation and aggregation to 2D  
Results anything but***

# Fragmentation of rectangles

Start with a perfect grid

Pick (i) random grid point (ii) random direction

Fragment rectangle into two smaller rectangles



***System reaches a jammed state***

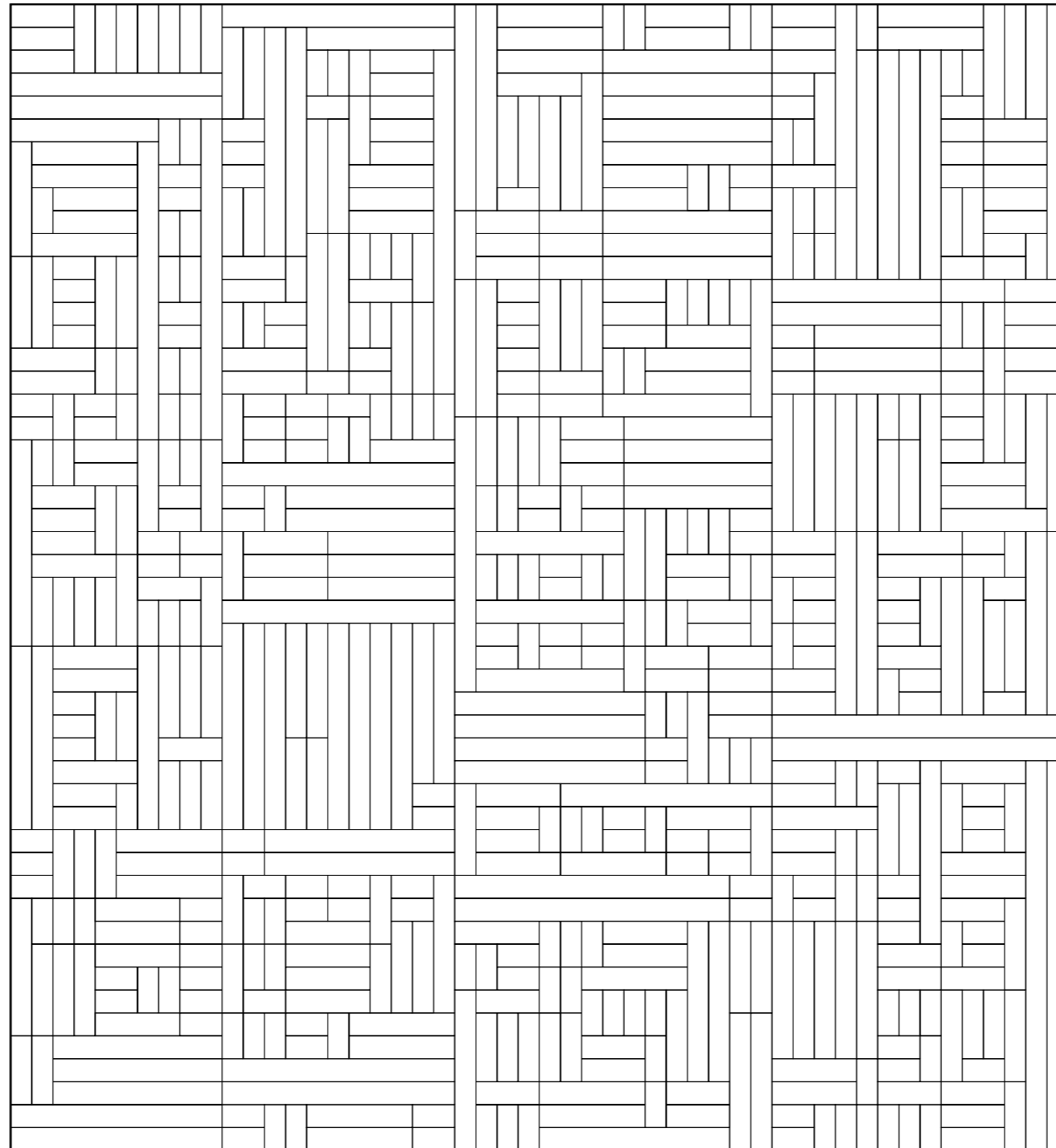
***All rectangles are sticks ( $1 \times k$  or  $k \times 1$ )***

# The jammed state

## *Tiling by sticks*

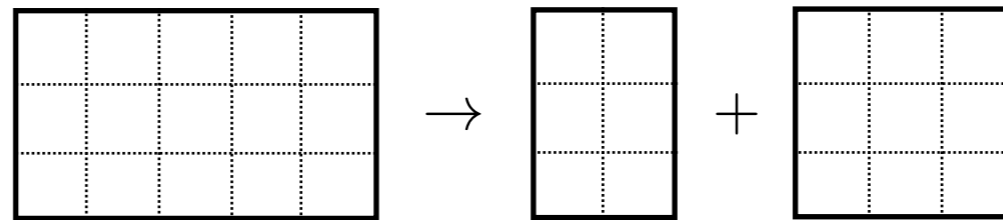
Tiling is:

- Polydisperse
- Dynamical



*How many sticks? How long? How many jammed states?*

# Theoretical approach: recursion equations



ID  
Filippov 61  
Spouge 84  
Ziff, McGrady 85

- Random fragmentation process

$$(m, n) \rightarrow \begin{cases} (i, n) + (m - i, n) & \text{with prob. } 1/2 \\ (m, j) + (m, n - j) & \text{with prob. } 1/2 \end{cases}$$

- Average number of sticks  $S(m, n)$  in an  $m \times n$  rectangle
- Recursion: sum over all possible (i) grid points (ii) directions

$$S(m, n) = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} [S(i, n) + S(m-i, n)] + \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} [S(m, j) + S(m, n-j)]$$

- Linear recursion equations for number of jammed sticks

$$S(m, n) = \frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} S(i, n) + \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} S(m, j)$$

2D  
Torrents, Illa,  
Vives, Planes  
PRE 2017

**Theory: (i) linear (ii) bypasses dynamics (iii) 2d**

# Asymptotic analysis

## 1. Continuum limit (very large rectangles)

$$S(m, n) = \frac{1}{m} \int_1^m di S(i, n) + \frac{1}{n} \int_1^n dj S(m, j)$$

## 2. Convert integral equation into partial differential equation

$$\partial_\mu \partial_\nu S(\mu, \nu) = S(\mu, \nu) \quad \begin{array}{l} \mu = \ln m \\ \nu = \ln n \end{array}$$

## 3. Introduce double Laplace transform

$$\hat{S}(p, q) = \int_0^\infty d\mu e^{-p\mu} \int_0^\infty d\nu e^{-q\nu} S(\mu, \nu)$$

## 4. Obtain Laplace transform in compact form

$$\hat{S}(p, q) = \frac{1}{pq - 1}$$

## 5. Invert double Laplace transform (saddle point analysis)

$$S(\mu, \nu) = \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{dp}{2\pi i} \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{dq}{2\pi i} \frac{e^{p\mu + q\nu}}{pq - 1} \rightarrow S(\mu, \nu) \simeq \frac{e^{2\sqrt{\mu\nu}}}{\sqrt{4\pi\sqrt{\mu\nu}}}$$

# Average number of jammed sticks

- Asymptotic behavior

$$S(m, n) \simeq \frac{e^{2\sqrt{(\ln m)(\ln n)}}}{\sqrt{4\pi\sqrt{(\ln m)(\ln n)}}}$$

- Focus on very large rectangles with finite aspect ratio

$$m \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{and} \quad n \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{with} \quad m/n = \text{constant}$$

- Universal behavior for all rectangles with same area

$$S(A) \simeq \frac{A}{\sqrt{2\pi \ln A}} \quad A = mn$$

- Average stick length  $\langle k \rangle = A/S$  grows slowly with area

$$\langle k \rangle \simeq \sqrt{2\pi \ln A}$$

**Behavior is independent of aspect ratio**

# Distribution of stick length

- Number of sticks of given length obeys same recursion

$$S_k(m, n) = \frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} S_k(i, n) + \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} S_k(m, j)$$

- Leading asymptotic behavior

$$P_k \simeq 2k^{-2} \exp \left[ -\frac{(\ln k)^2}{2 \ln A} \right]$$

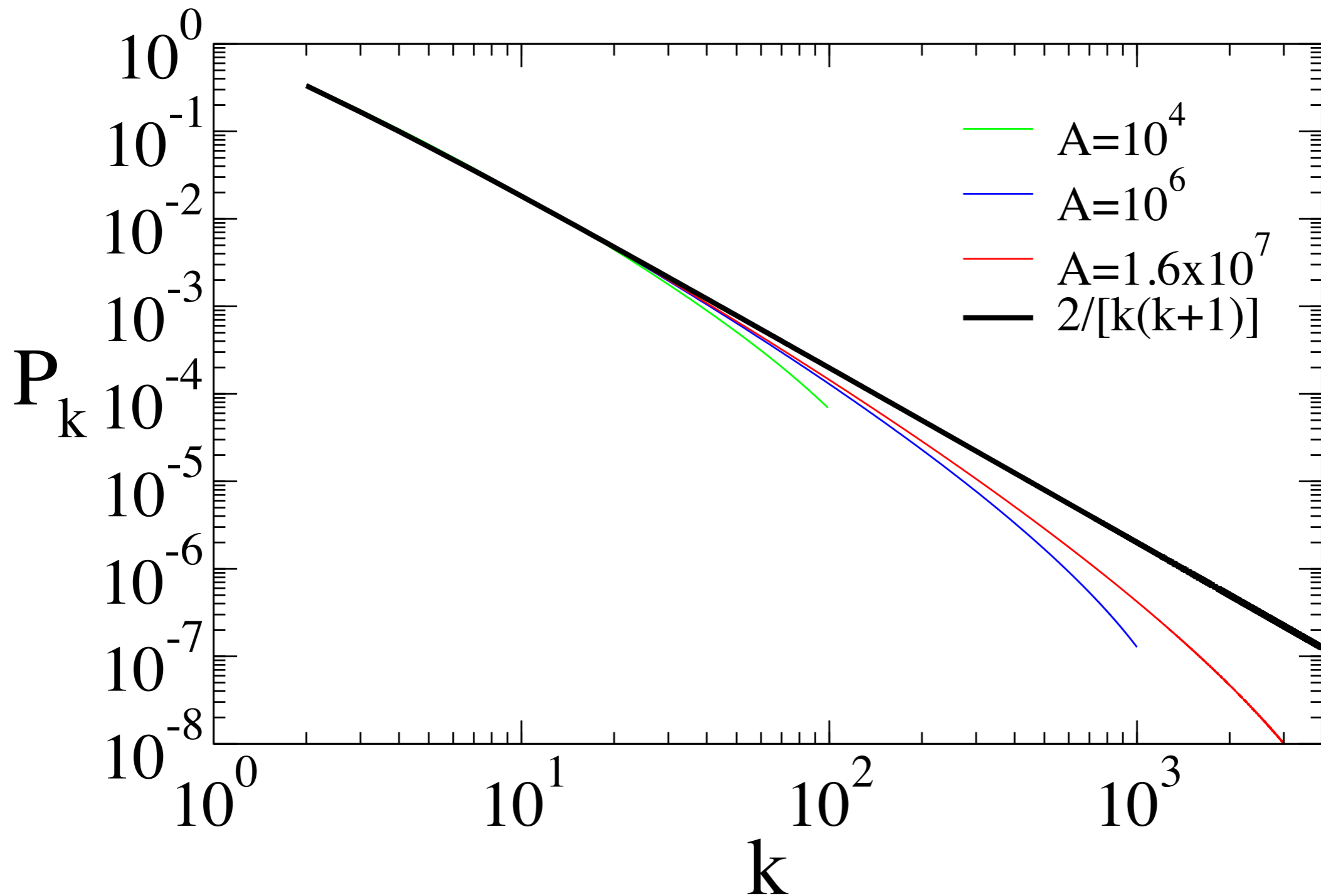
- Infinite-area limit: exact result

$$P_k = \frac{2}{k(k+1)}$$

**Below average length: power law tail**  
**Above average length: log-normal decay**



# Numerical validation



perfect agreement for small length (within 0.1%)  
convergence is very slow

# Moments of length distribution

- Normalized moments

$$M_h = \frac{\langle k^h \rangle}{\langle k \rangle} \quad \langle k^h \rangle = \sum_{k \geq 2} k^h P_k$$

- Multiscaling asymptotic behavior

$$M_h \sim A^{\mu(h)} \quad \text{with} \quad \mu(h) = \frac{(h-1)^2}{h}$$

- Different spectrum than continuum version

EB, Krapivsky 96

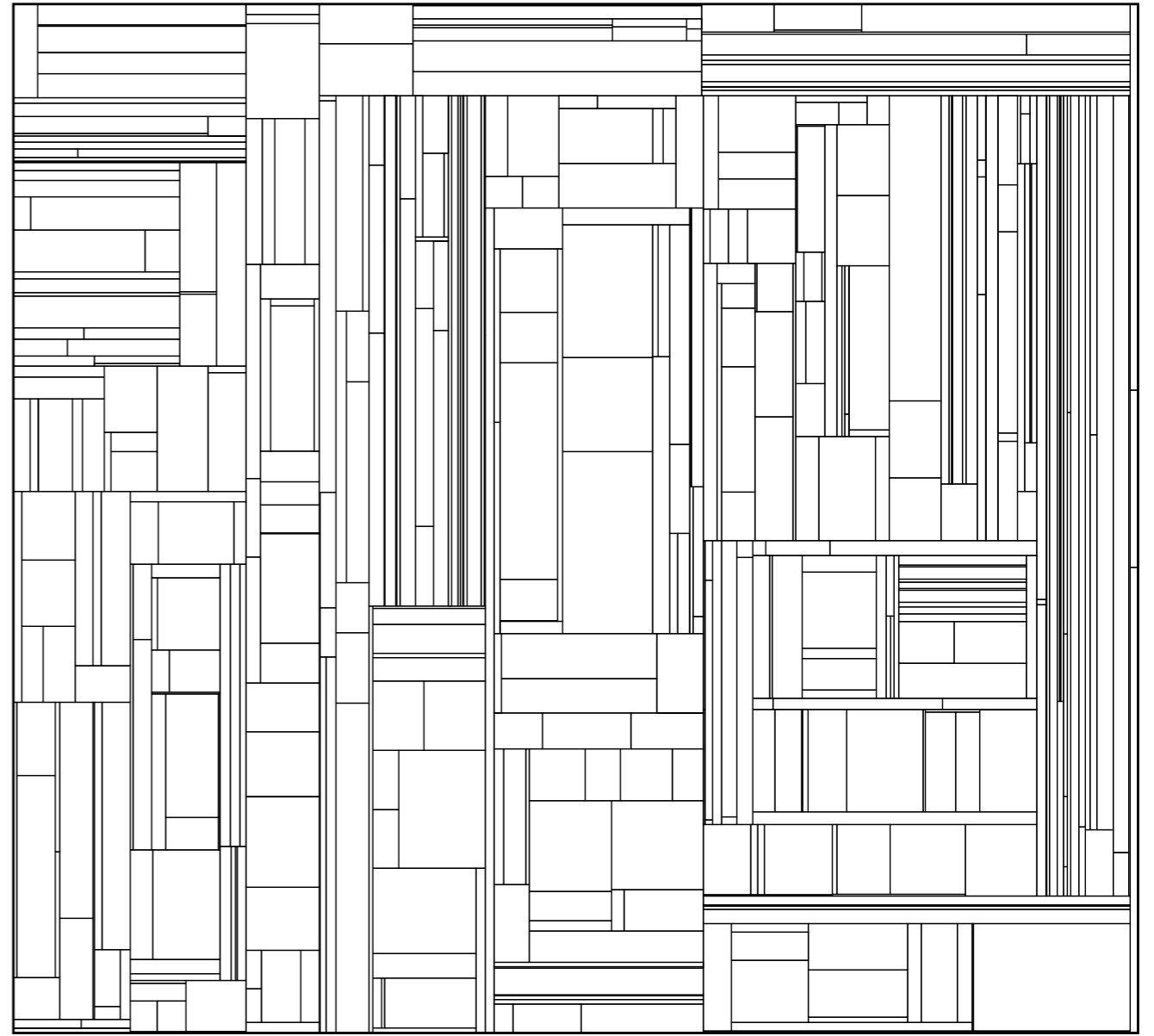
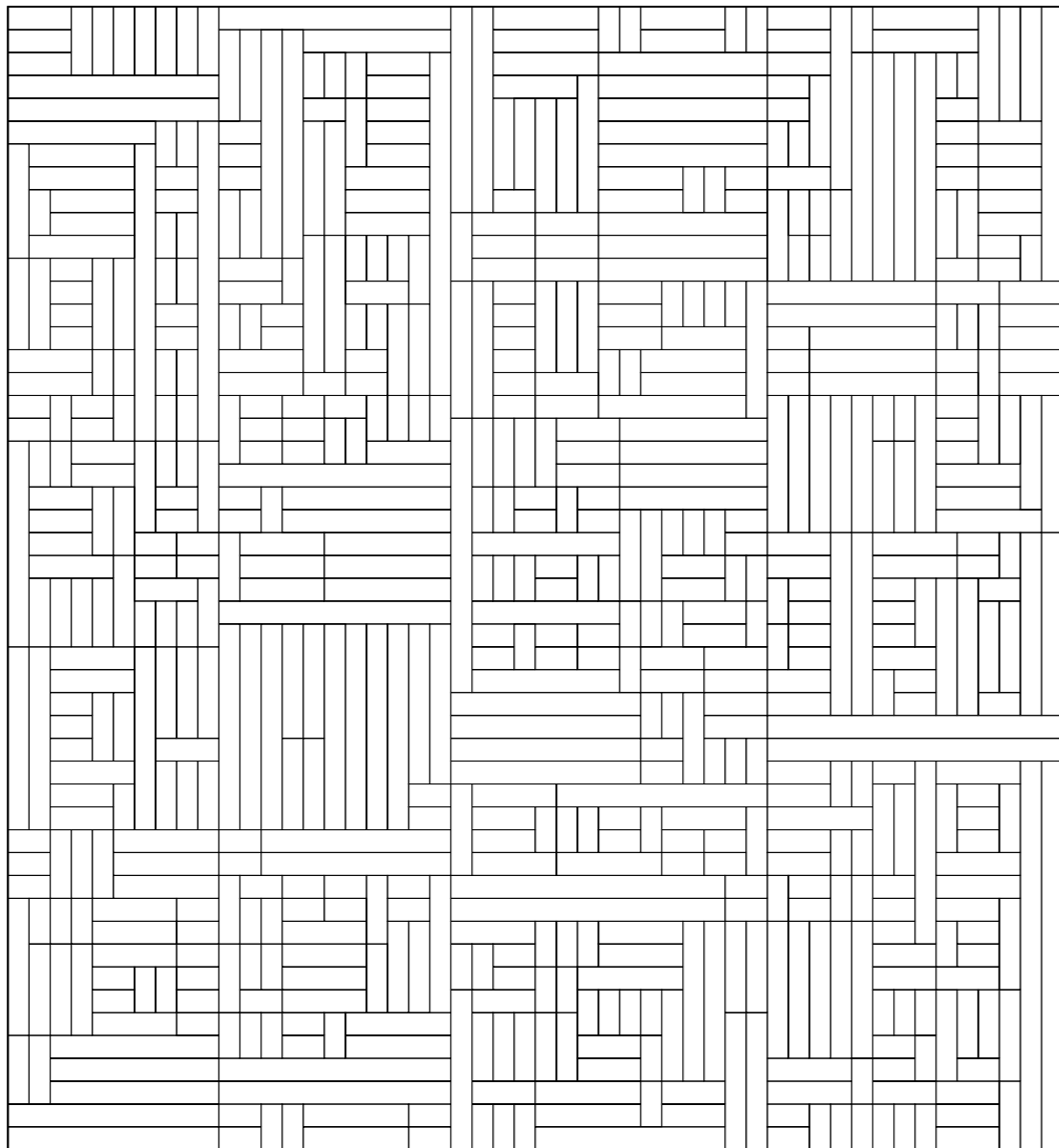
$$M_h \sim A^{\mu_{\text{nojam}}(h)} \quad \text{with} \quad \mu_{\text{nojam}}(h) = \sqrt{h^2 + 1} - \sqrt{2}$$

**Nonlinear spectrum of scaling exponents**  
**Discrete and continuous versions differ!!!**

# Discrete versus continuous fragmentation

discrete version  
process stops

continuous version  
process never stops



# Asymmetric fragmentation

- Two fragmentation events realized with different probabilities

$$(m, n) \rightarrow \begin{cases} (i, n) + (m - i, n) & \text{with prob. } (1 - \alpha)/2 \\ (m, j) + (m, n - j) & \text{with prob. } (1 + \alpha)/2 \end{cases}$$

- Discrepancy between two extreme cases

$$S = \sqrt{A} \quad \alpha = 1 \quad (\text{perfectly asymmetric})$$

$$S \simeq A / \sqrt{2\pi \ln A} \quad \alpha = 0 \quad (\text{perfectly symmetric})$$

- Strongly asymmetric phase: purely power law

$$S \sim A^{\sqrt{1-\alpha^2}} \quad \alpha > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

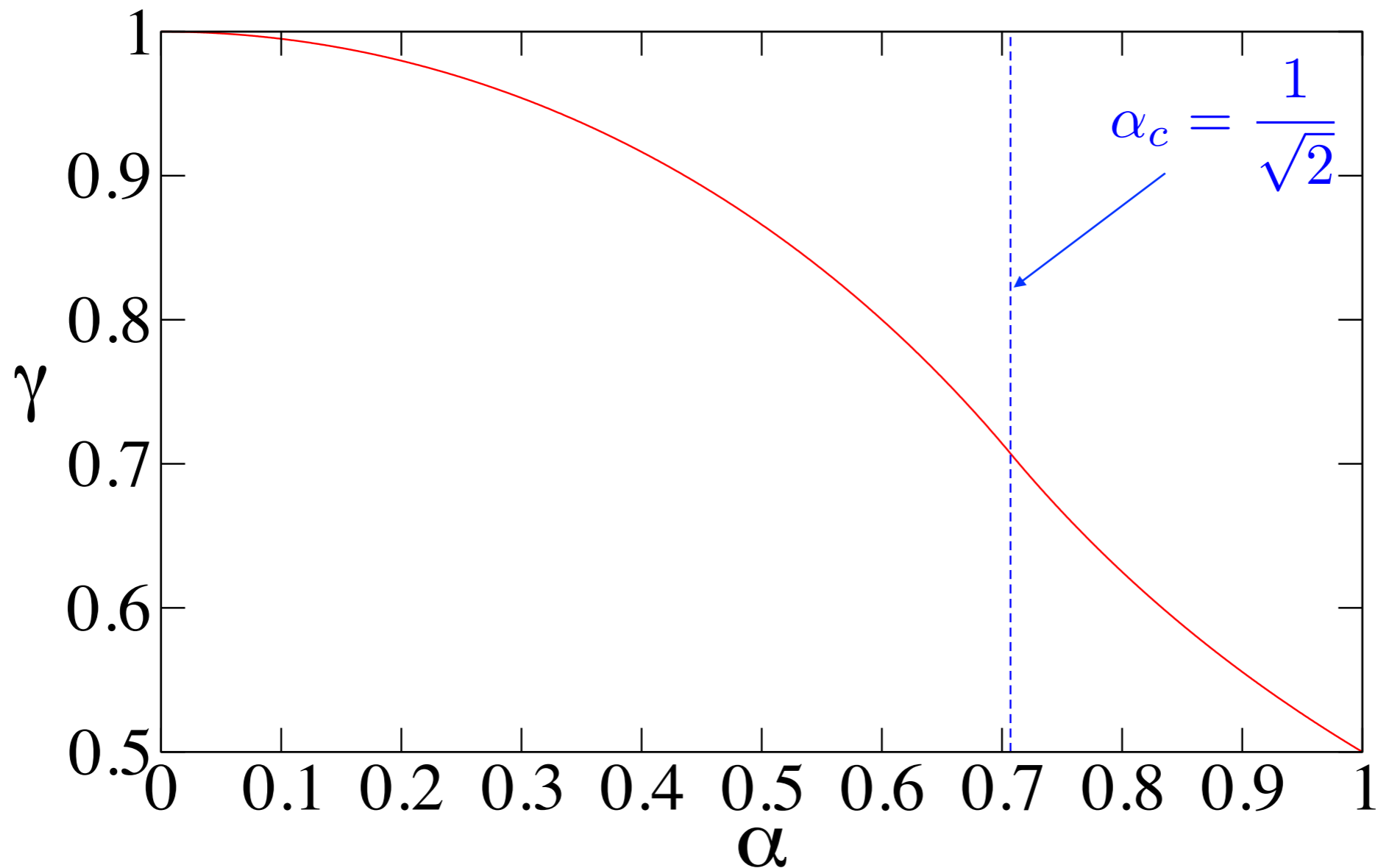
- Weakly asymmetric phase: power law + logarithmic correction

$$S \sim (\ln A)^{-1/2} A^{1/(2\alpha)} \quad \alpha < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

**Phase transition at finite asymmetry strength**

# The growth exponent

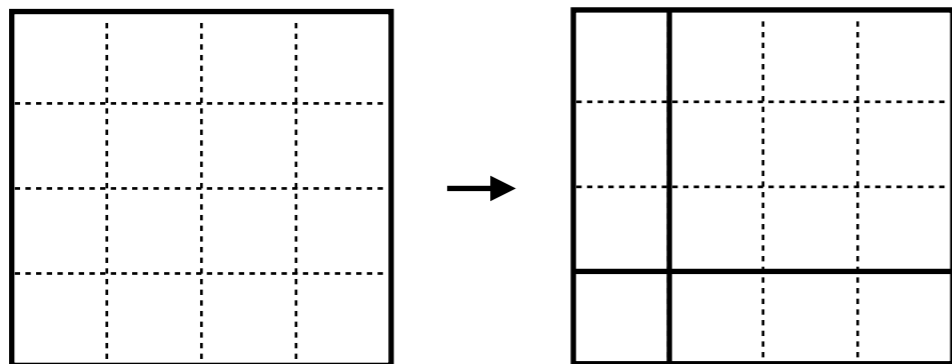
$$S \sim A^\gamma \quad \text{with} \quad \gamma = \begin{cases} \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2} & \alpha \leq \alpha_c \\ 1/(2\alpha) & \alpha \geq \alpha_c \end{cases}$$



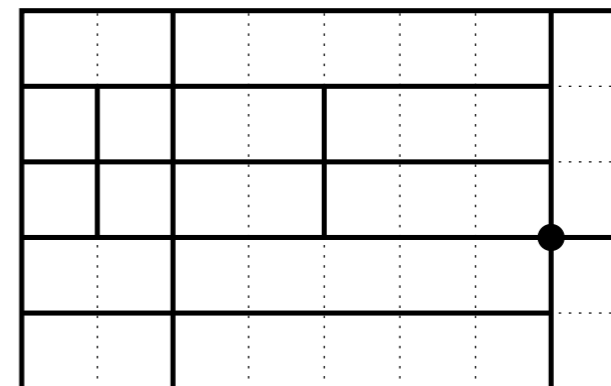
**Sub-linear growth with area**  
**Growth exponent has two distinct forms**

# Number of jammed configurations

“deterministic” fragmentation  
into four rectangles



first fragmentation point  
can be uniquely identified



recursion equation for the total number of jammed states

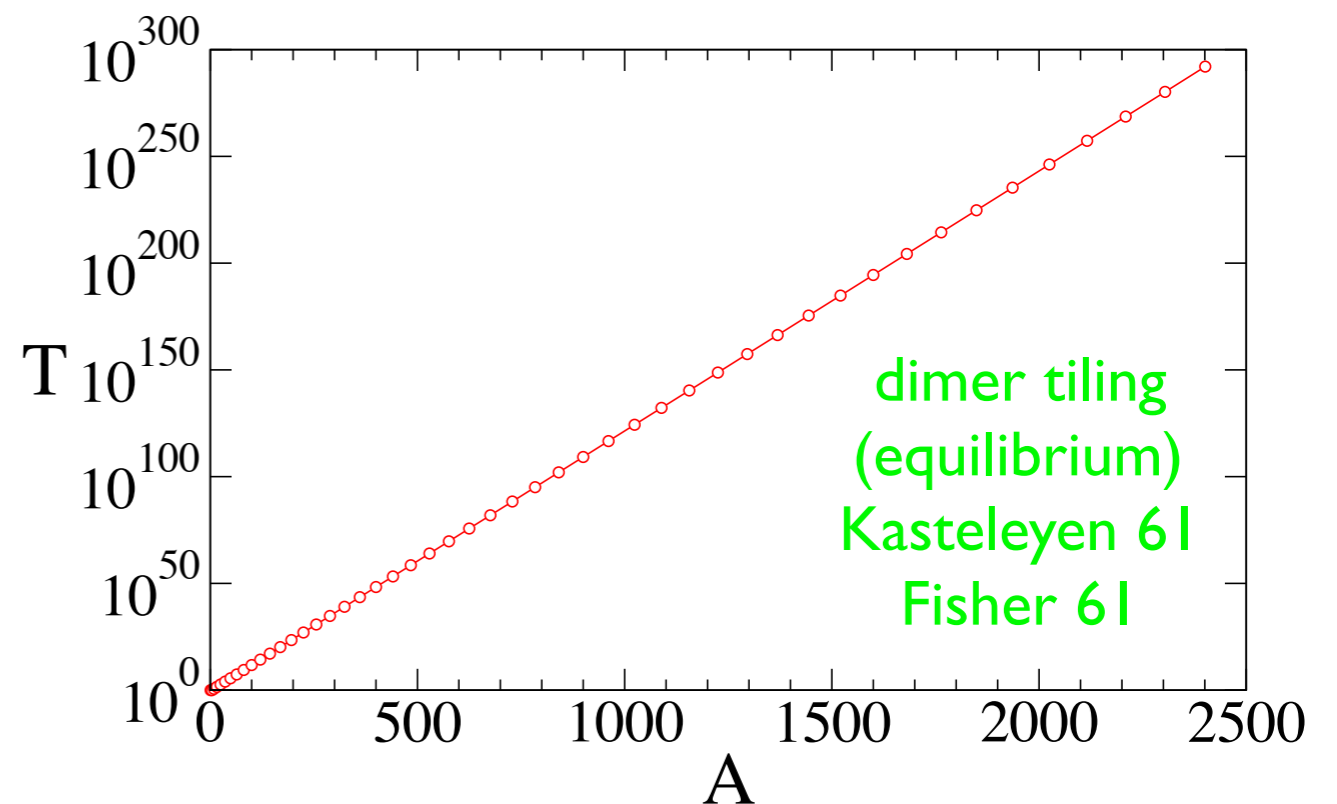
$$T(m, n) = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq m-1 \\ 1 \leq j \leq n-1}} T(i, j)T(m-i, j)T(i, n-j)T(m-i, n-j)$$

exponential growth with area

$$T \sim e^{\lambda A}$$

$$\lambda = 0.2805$$

*Aspect ratio dependence?*



# Conclusions I

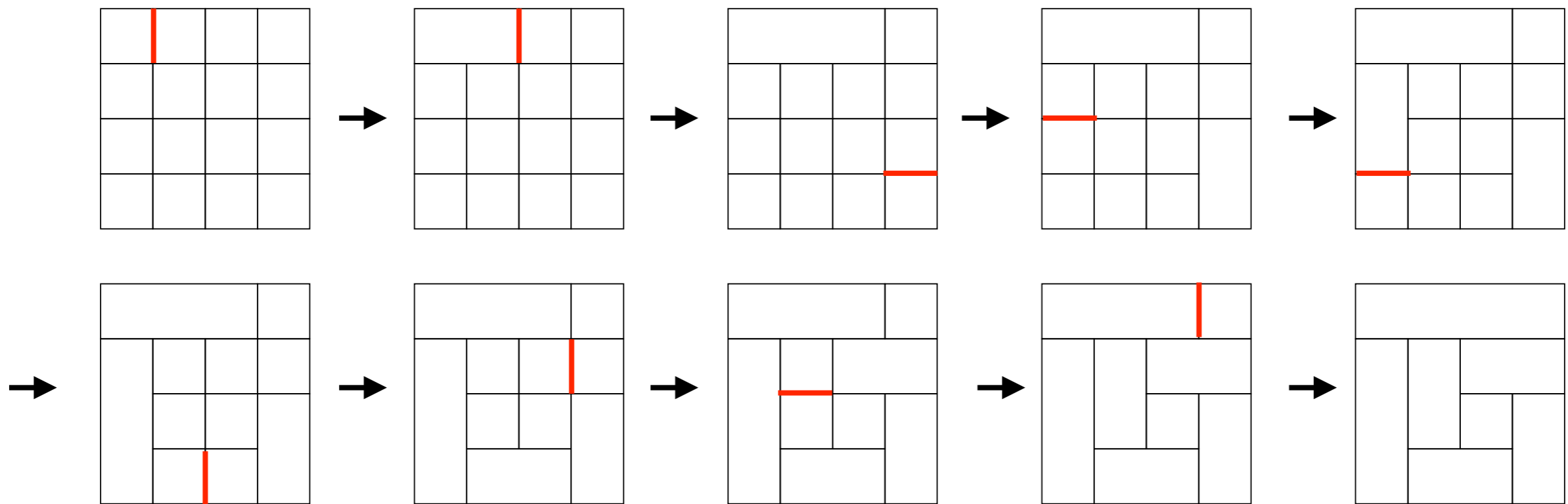
- Random fragmentation of rectangles
- Process reaches a jammed state where all rectangles are sticks
- Recursion equations give statistical property of jammed state
- Number of jammed sticks is independent of aspect ratio
- Distribution of stick length decays as a power law
- Multiscaling: nonlinear spectrum of exponents for moments
- Asymmetric fragmentation: phase transition for growth exponent
- Generally, number of sticks grows sub-linearly with area
- Number of jammed states grows exponentially with area
- Abundance of exact analytic results

# Aggregation of rectangles

Start with a perfect grid

Pick two neighboring rectangles at random

Merge the two if compatible



***System reaches a jammed state***

***No two neighboring rectangles are compatible***

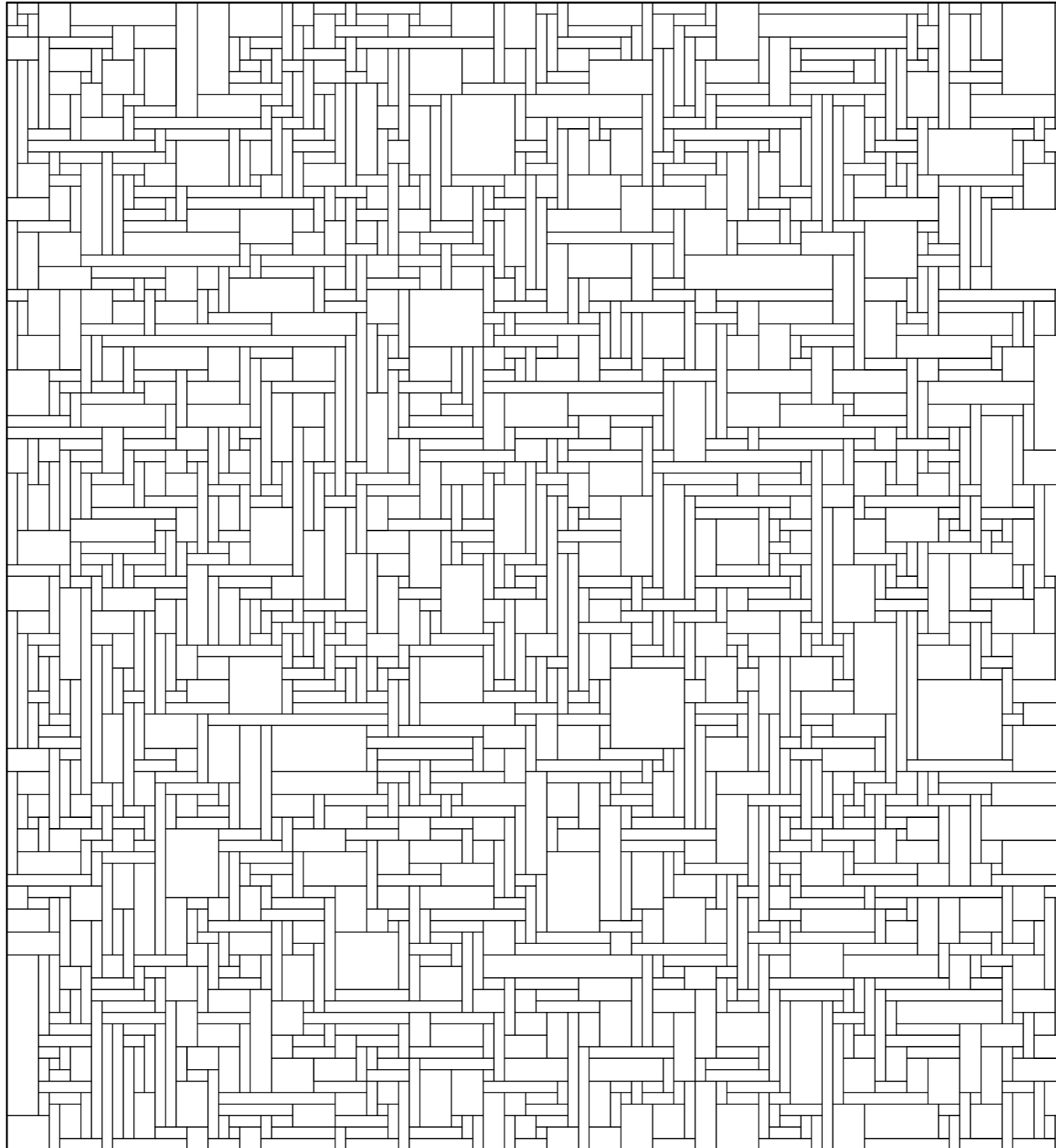


# The jammed state

***no two neighbors share a common side***

Tiling is:

- Polydisperse
- Dynamical



# Features of the jammed state

- Local alignment
- Motifs
- Finite rectangle density

$$\rho = 0.1803$$

- Finite tile density

$$T = 0.009949$$

- Finite stick density

$$S = 0.1322$$

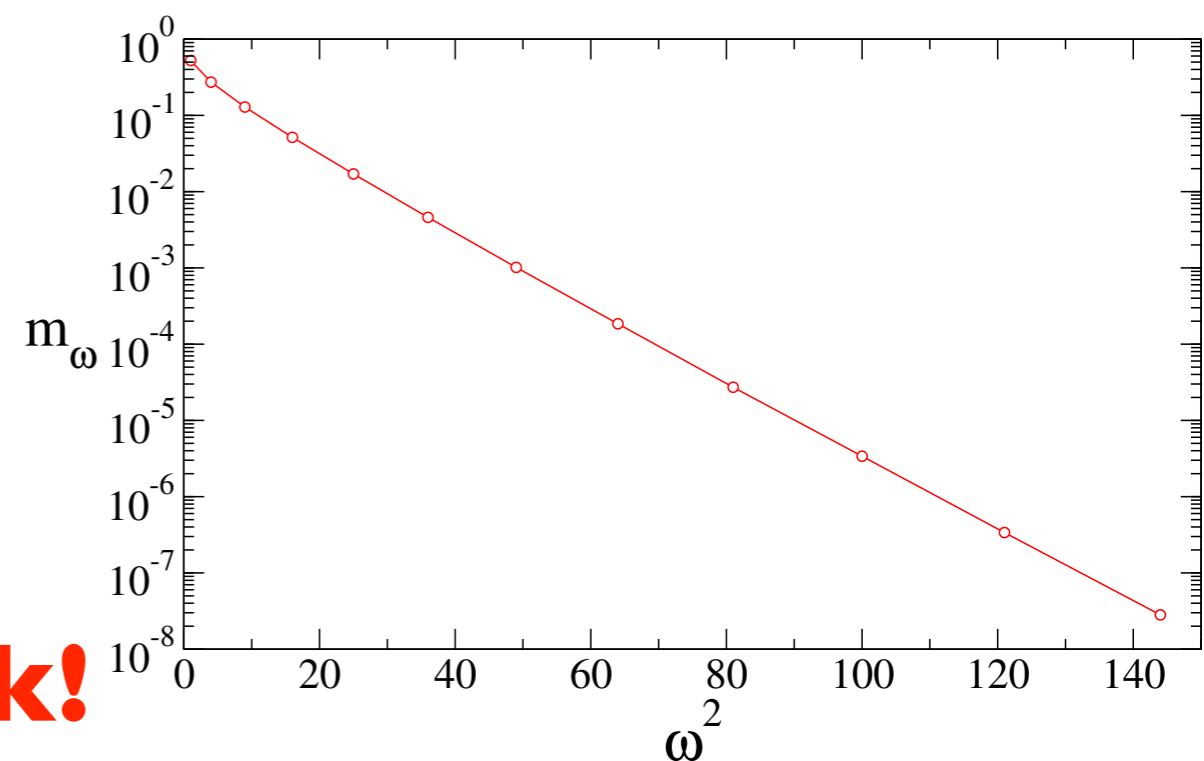
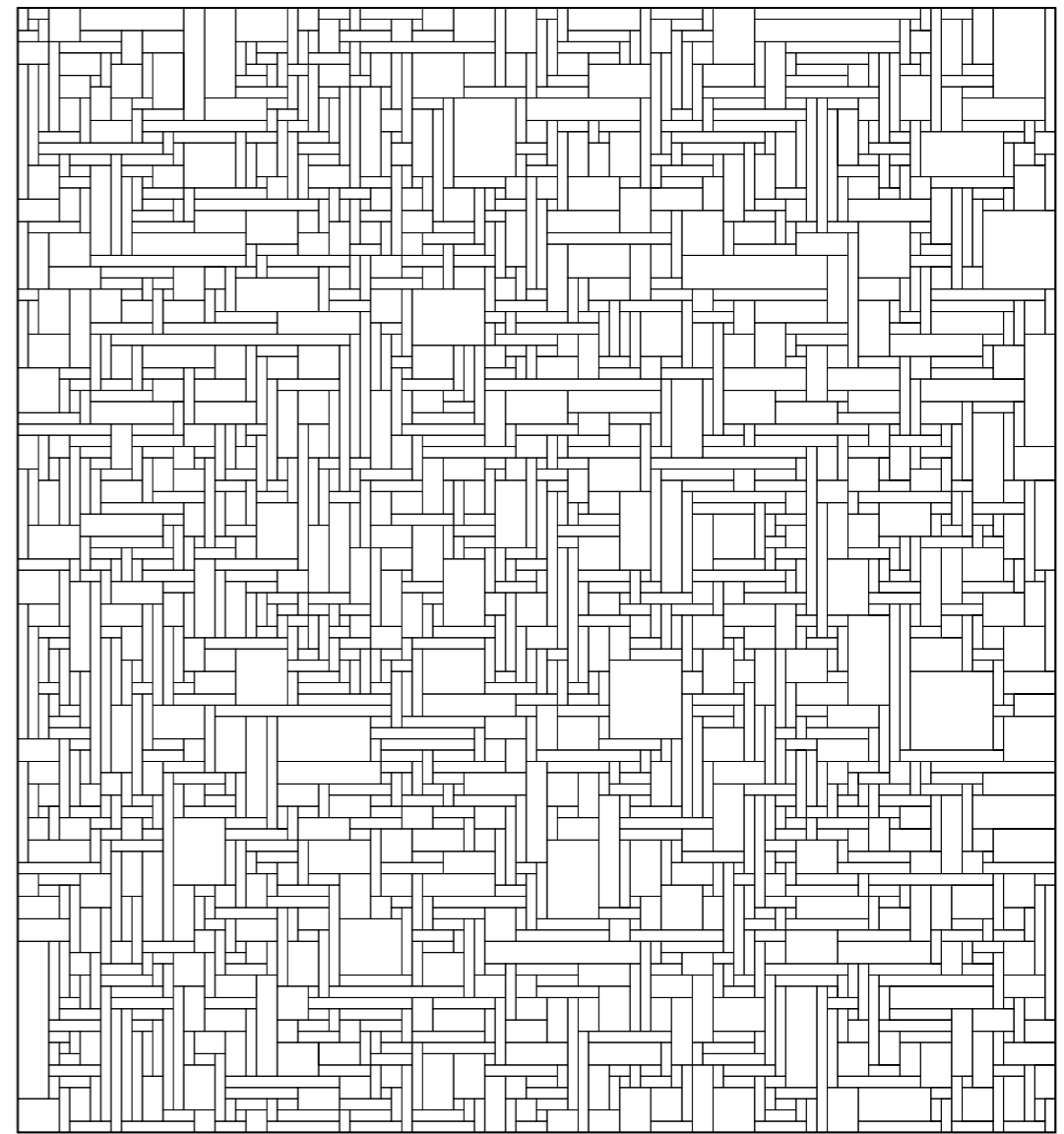
- Finite square density

$$H = 0.02306$$

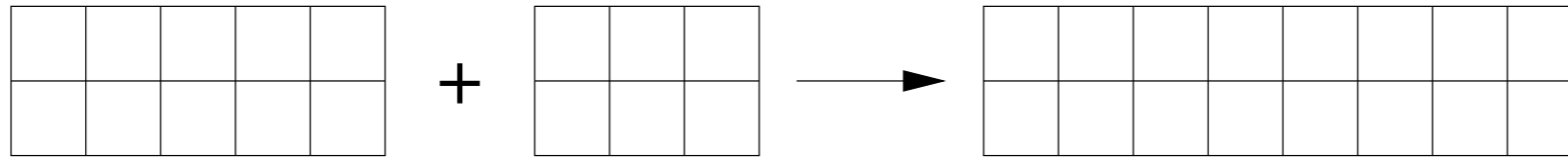
- Area distribution of rectangles with width  $w$

$$m_w \sim \exp(-\text{const.} \times w^2)$$

**No theoretical framework!**



# Mean-field fragmentation process



- Start with  $N$   $1 \times 1$  tiles (elementary building blocks)
- Pick two rectangles completely at random
- Pick an orientation at random (vertical or horizontal)
- Merge rectangles if they are perfectly compatible

$$(i_1, j) + (i_2, j) \rightarrow (i_1 + i_2, j)$$

$$(i, j_1) + (i, j_2) \rightarrow (i, j_1 + j_2)$$

- System is jammed when  $f$  rectangles have:  
 $f$  distinct horizontal sizes and  $f$  distinct vertical sizes

***System reaches a jammed state***

# An example of a jammed state

- Characterize rectangle by horizontal and vertical size

$$(i, j)$$

- Characterize rectangle by maximal and minimal size

$$(\omega, \ell) \quad \omega = \min(i, j) \quad \ell = \max(i, j)$$

- Example of a jammed state for  $N=10,000$

$1 \times 3144, 2 \times 498, 3 \times 113, 4 \times 45, 5 \times 6, 6 \times 14, 9 \times 12$   
 $3237 \times 1, 475 \times 2, 61 \times 3, 14 \times 4, 48 \times 5, 29 \times 7, 25 \times 10$

- Ordered widths of  $f=14$  rectangles

$\{1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10\}$

**Width sequence has gaps**

# Number of jammed rectangles

- Average number of rectangles grows algebraically with  $N$

$$F \sim N^\alpha$$

- Nontrivial exponent

$$\alpha = 0.229 \pm 0.002$$

- Typical width of rectangles grows algebraically with  $N$

$$\omega \sim N^\alpha$$

- Area density of rectangles of width  $w$  decays as a power law

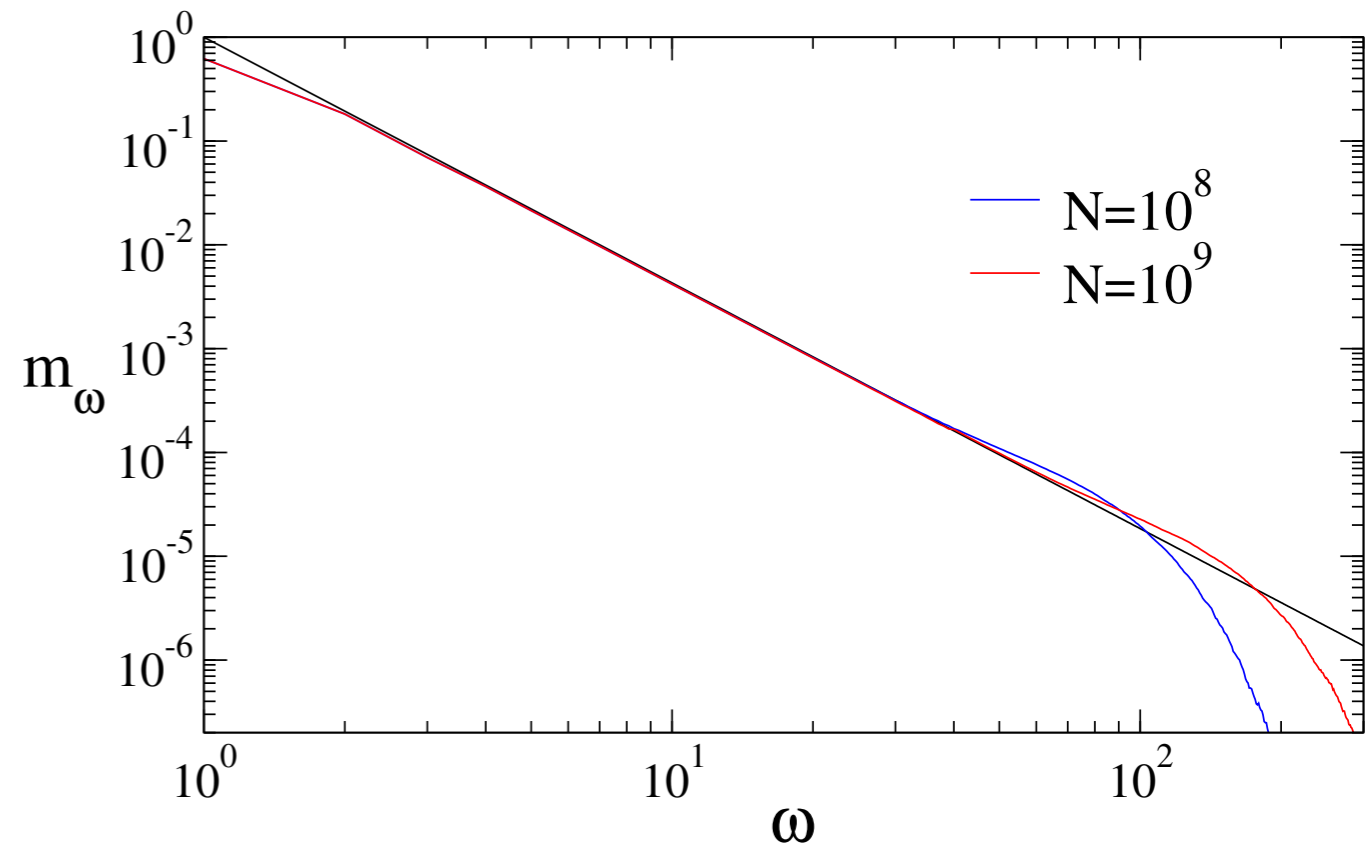
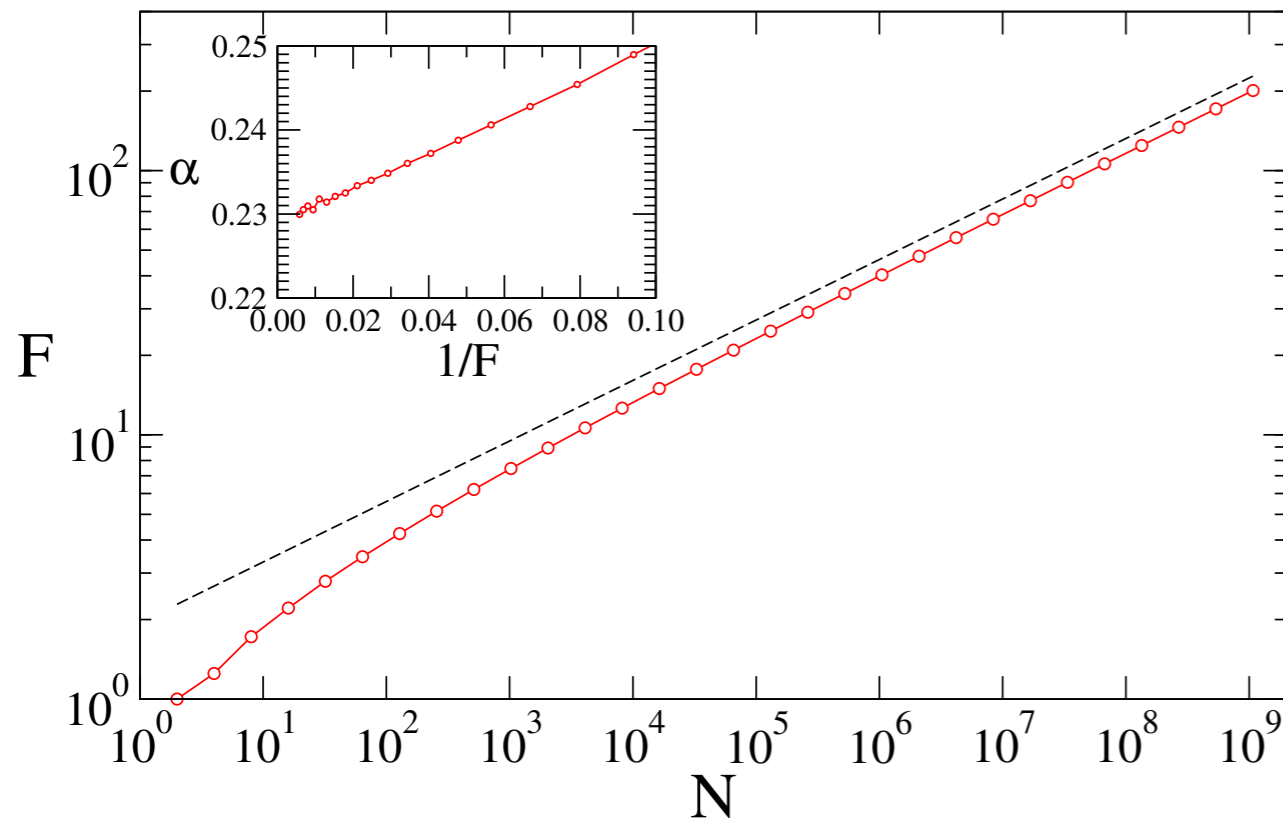
$$m_\omega \sim \omega^{-\gamma} \quad \text{with} \quad \gamma = \alpha^{-1} - 2$$

**A single exponent characterizes the jammed state**

# Numerical simulations

$$F \sim N^\alpha$$

$$m_\omega \sim \omega^{-\gamma}$$



$\omega$	1	2	3	4	5	6
$m_\omega$	0.622	0.182	0.0694	0.0365	0.0214	0.0139
$M_\omega$	0.622	0.804	0.873	0.910	0.931	0.945

Rectangles with finite width are macroscopic!

Rectangles of width 1,2,3,4,5 contain 95% of total area

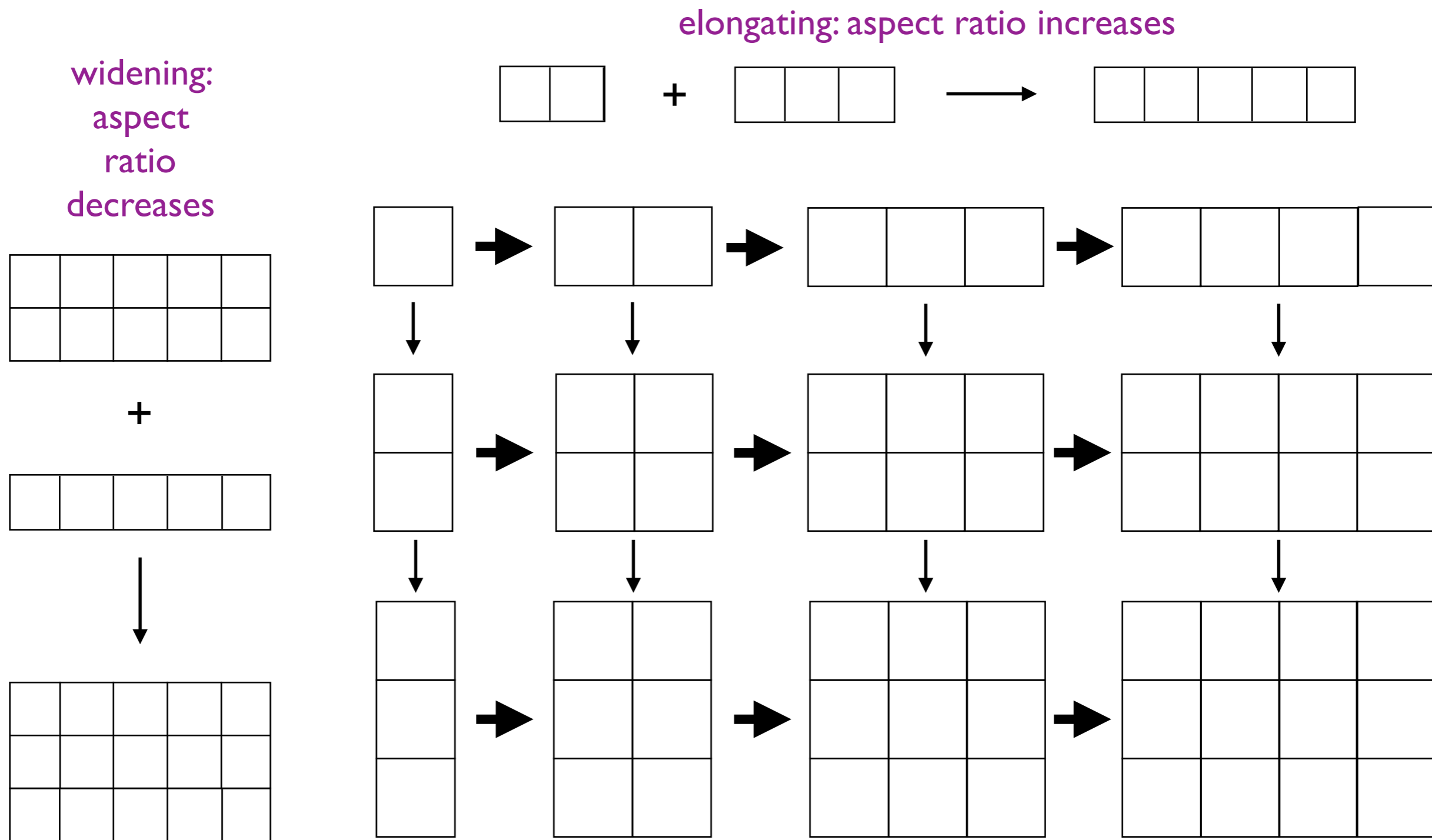
**Still, the area distribution has a broad power-law tail!**

# Two aggregation modes: fast and slow two length scales

$$l \sim t$$

$$w \sim t^\alpha$$

$$\alpha = 0.229 \pm 0.001$$



# Kinetic theory

ID  
Smoluchowski 1917

- Straightforward generalization of ordinary aggregation

$$\frac{dR_{i,j}}{dt} = \sum_{i_1+i_2=i} R_{i_1,j} R_{i_2,j} - 2R_{i,j} \sum_{k \geq 1} R_{k,j} + \sum_{j_1+j_2=j} R_{i,j_1} R_{i,j_2} - 2R_{i,j} \sum_{k \geq 1} R_{i,k}$$

- Allows calculation of the density of sticks

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -S^2 - 2 \sum_{i,j} R_{1,j} R_{i,j}$$

- Simple decay for the stick density and jamming time

$$S \simeq t^{-1} \quad \implies \quad \tau \sim N$$

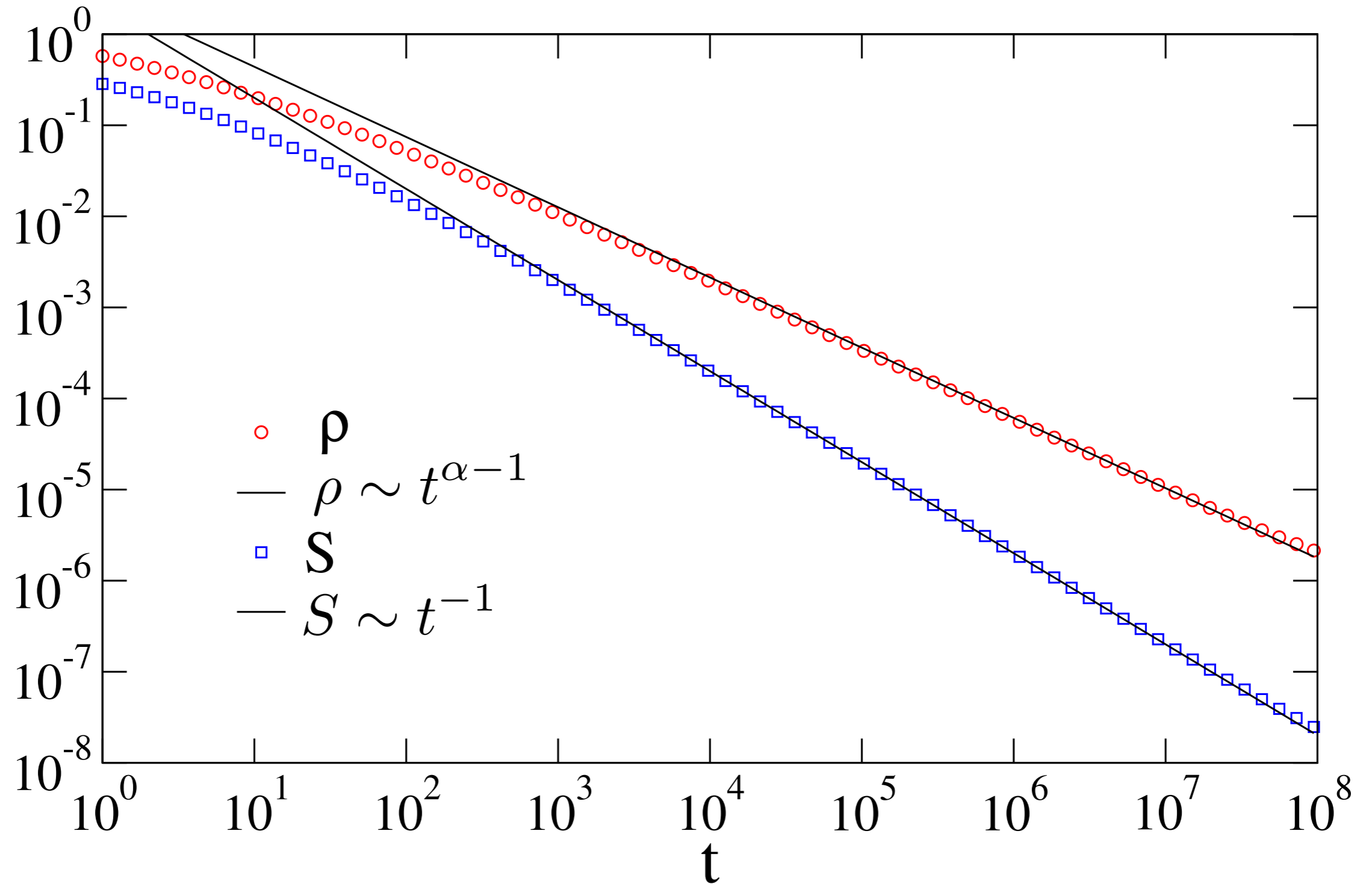
- Jammed state properties give density decay and width growth

$$\rho \sim t^{\alpha-1} \quad \text{and} \quad w \sim t^{\alpha}$$

**Jamming exponent characterizes the kinetics, too**



# Numerical validation

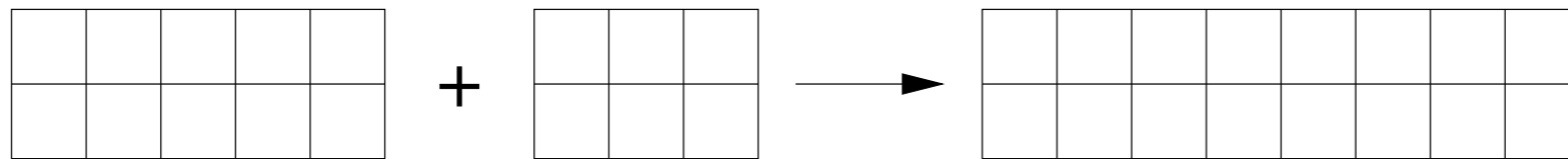


**Numerics validate approximation**

**Suggest two aggregation modes: elongating and widening**

# Primary aggregation: elongation

- Aggregation between two rectangles of same **width**



aspect ratio  
increases

- Ordinary aggregation equation (example: sticks)

$$\frac{dR_{1,\ell}}{dt} = \sum_{i+j=\ell} R_{1,i}R_{1,j} - 2SR_{1,\ell} - 2 \left( \sum_i R_{i,\ell} \right) R_{1,\ell}$$

- Length distribution as in  $d=1$ , length grows linearly  $l \sim t$

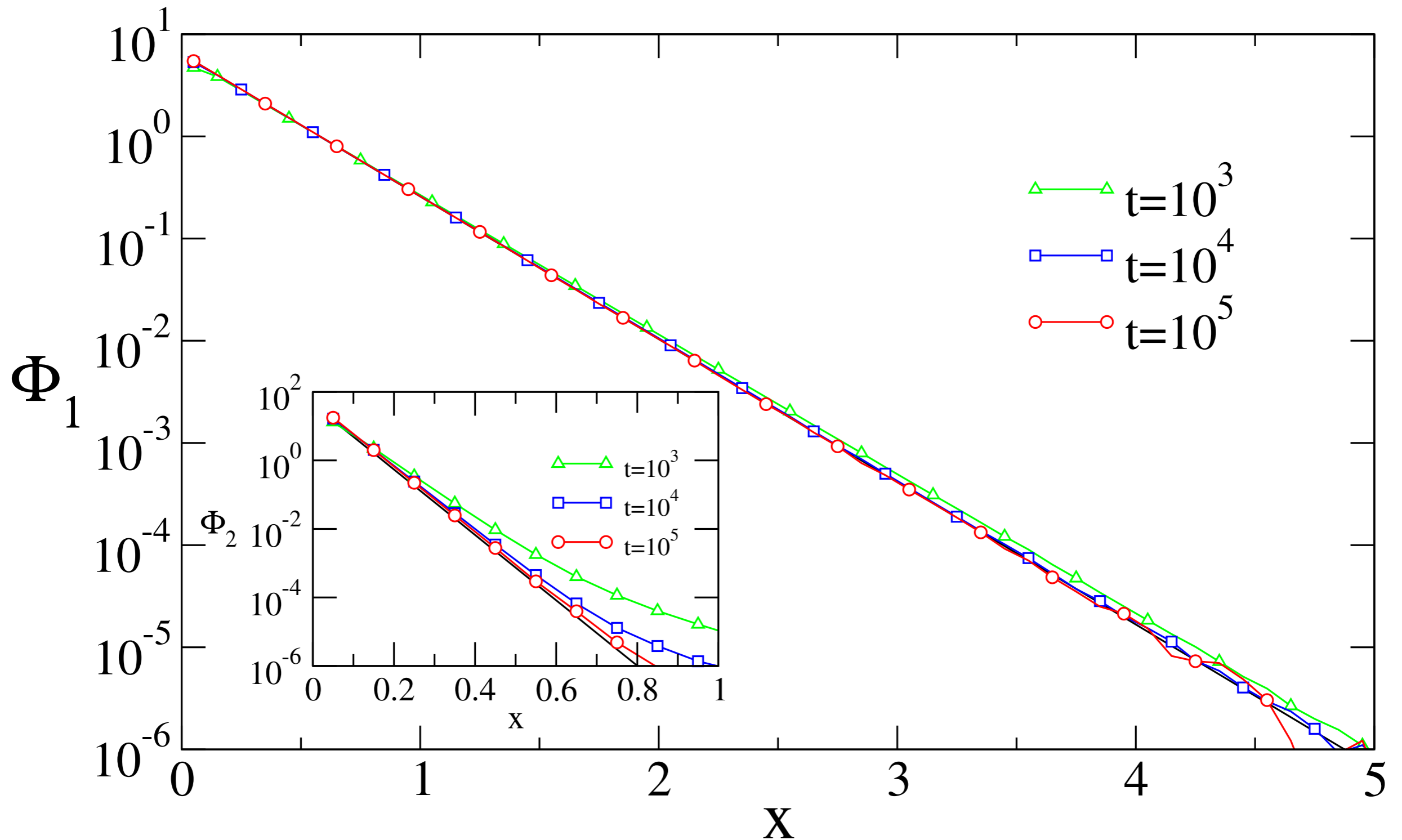
$$R_{1,\ell} \simeq (2/m_1 t^2) \exp(-2\ell/m_1 t)$$

- Behavior extends to all rectangles with finite width

$$\mathcal{R}_{\omega,\ell}(t) \simeq t^{-2} \Phi_{\omega}(\ell t^{-1}) \quad \text{with} \quad \Phi_{\omega}(x) = (2\omega/m_{\omega}) \exp(-2\omega x/m_{\omega})$$

Finite width: problem reduces to one-dimensional aggregation  
However, total mass for each width is not known

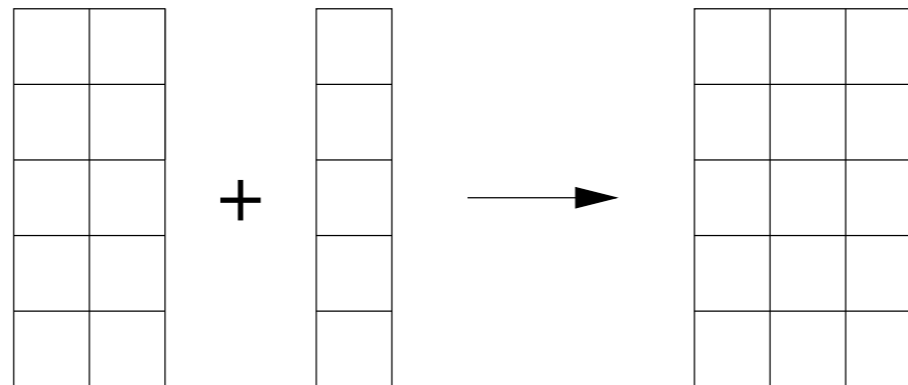
# Numerical validation



**Exponential scaling function**  
**Total mass set by the jammed state**

# Secondary aggregation: widening

- Aggregation between two rectangles of same **length**



aspect ratio  
decreases

- The area fraction is coupled to the size distribution

$$\frac{dm_\omega}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i+j=\omega} \sum_l \omega l \mathcal{R}_{i,l} \mathcal{R}_{j,l} - \sum_j \sum_l \omega l \mathcal{R}_{j,l} \mathcal{R}_{\omega,l}$$

- Insights about relaxation toward jammed state  $\mu_\omega = \frac{2\omega}{m_\omega}$

$$m_\omega(t) - m_\omega(\infty) \simeq C_\omega t^{-1} \quad \text{with} \quad C_\omega = -2\omega \sum_{i+j=\omega} \frac{\mu_i \mu_j}{(\mu_i + \mu_j)^2} + 4\omega \sum_j \frac{\mu_\omega \mu_j}{(\mu_\omega + \mu_j)^2}$$

Closure & theoretical determination of  $\alpha$  remains elusive

# Conclusions II

- Random aggregation of compatible rectangles
- Process reaches a jammed state where all rectangles are incompatible
- Number of jammed rectangles grows as a power-law
- Area distribution decays as a power law
- A single, nontrivial, exponent characterizes both the jammed state and the time-dependent behavior
- Primary aggregation: rectangles of same width
- Secondary aggregation: rectangles of same length
- Slow transfer of “mass” from thin to wide rectangles
- Kinetic theory successfully describes primary aggregation process only