

Material for Week 13

Physics 4488/6562: Statistical Mechanics

<https://sethna.lasp.cornell.edu/Teaching/562/>

Exercises due Mon. Apr 28

Last correction at January 16, 2025, 6:37 pm

©2023, James Sethna, all rights reserved

For Wednesday's pre-class question, do part (a) only. We'll do the other parts in class.

The exercises with numbers N1.xxx are to be found in <https://sethna.lasp.cornell.edu/StatMech/SethnaExercises.pdf>

Monday

In-class question: [12.1](#) *Ising self-similarity*

In-class question: [12.15](#) *Hearing chaos*

In-class question: [12.14](#) *Crackling noises*

Wednesday

Read: Chapter 12, Sec. 12.1 (Universality)

Pre-class question: [12.7](#) *Renormalization-group trajectories*

In-class question: [12.7](#) *Renormalization-group trajectories*

Friday

Read: Chapter 12, Sec. 12.2 (Scale Invariance)

Pre-class question: [12.3](#) *Scaling and coarsening*

In-class question: [12.8](#) *Superconductivity and the renormalization group*

Monday

Read: Chapter 12, Sec. 12.3 (Examples of critical points)

Pre-class question: [12.16](#) *Period doubling and the onset of chaos*

Assigned exercise for everyone

- 12.11 *RG and the central limit theorem: long.* (Mathematics) Remember random walks produce Gaussians? Here's an RG derivation. Adding random numbers as a renormalization group.

Special topic exercises (6562 do one; 4488 do 7 during 14 weeks)

- 12.9 *Period doubling and the RG.* (Mathematics, Complexity, Computation, Dynamical systems) The onset of chaos and the RG. You'll reproduce Feigenbaum's original analysis of the period doubling onset of chaos. Hints at <https://sethna.lasp.cornell.edu/StatMech/EOPCHintsAndMaterials.html>
- N1.33 *RG flows from non-perturbative coarse graining.* A real-world 3D Ising renormalization-group calculation. RG flows, critical exponents, exponent relations, ... Hints at <https://sethna.lasp.cornell.edu/StatMech/EOPCHintsAndMaterials.html>
- N1.28 *Ising critical correlations.* Ising model correlation functions near the critical point.
- N1.27 *Coarsening correlations.* Ising model correlation functions during coarsening.
- 12.4 *Bifurcation theory.* (Dynamical systems) Universality classes for differential equations near qualitative changes in behavior ('phase transitions').
- 12.5 *Mean-field theory.* (Condensed-matter) Magnets in dimensions bigger than four are simpler. Assuming a spin feels the average magnetization of its neighbors gives the correct exponents above four dimensions. See also 12.26 and 12.27.
- 12.26 *Ising mean field derivation.* Derive a mean-field theory for the Ising model in a field, using the rigorous mean-field bound of Exercise 12.27.
- 12.27 *Mean-field bound for free energy.* Proof, due to Gibbs, Bogoliubov, and Feynman, that the mean-field calculation in Exercise 12.26 is a rigorous upper bound for the free energy.
- 12.28 *Avalanche size distribution.* Deriving the universal scaling function for the avalanche size distribution in a mean-field theory (probably valid for dimensions larger than six).