

# *Intermittence & Multifractality*

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(joint with Kunwoo Kim & Yimin Xiao)

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# The Stochastic Heat Equation on $\mathbb{R}$

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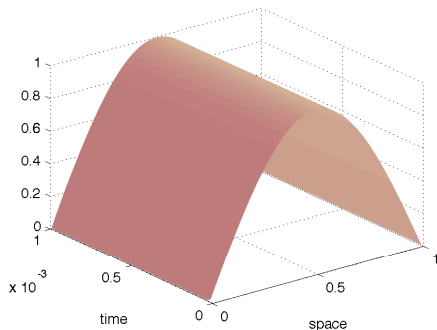
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# The Stochastic Heat Equation on $[0, 1]$

$\dot{u}(t, x) = u''(t, x) + \lambda\sigma(u(t, x))\xi(t, x)$  for  $(t, x) \in (0, \infty) \times [0, 1]$  with Dirichlet BC  
 $u(0, x) = \sin(\pi x)$

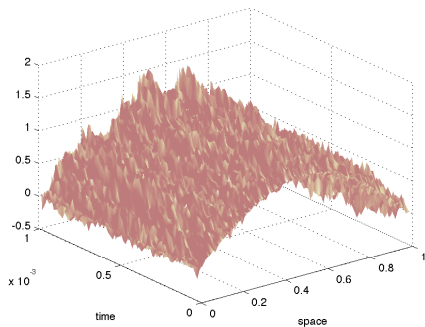
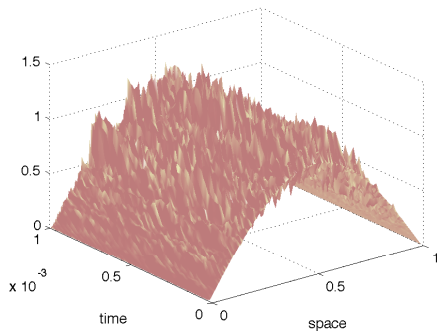
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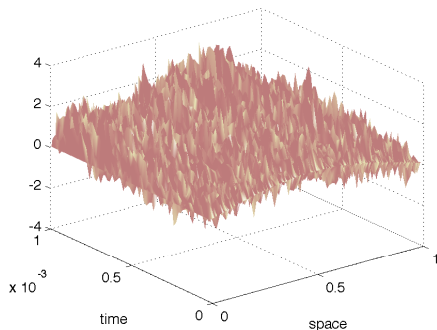
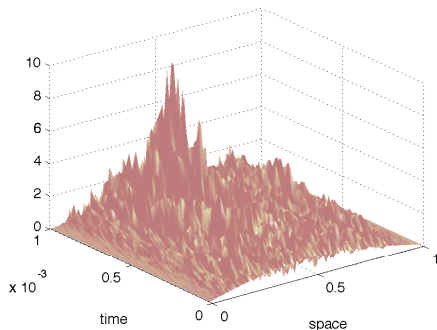




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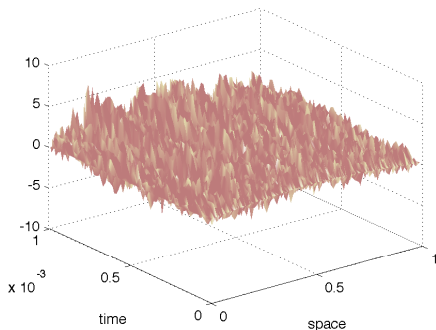
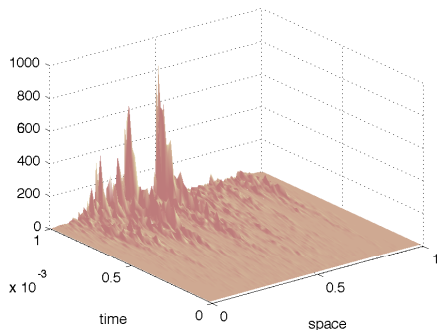
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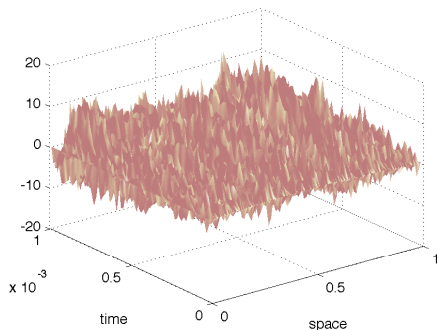
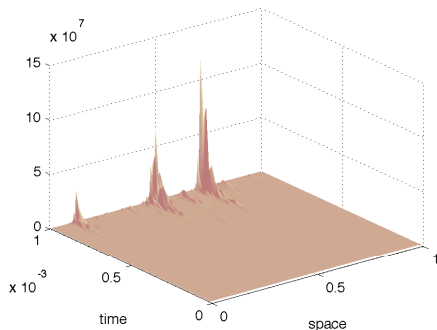
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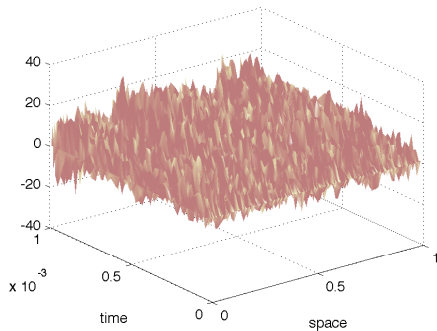
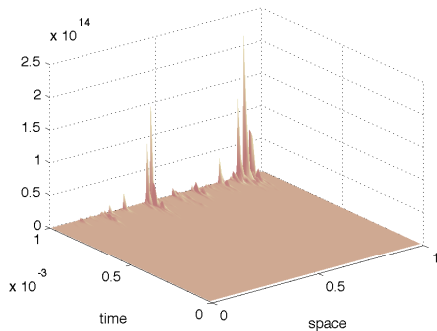
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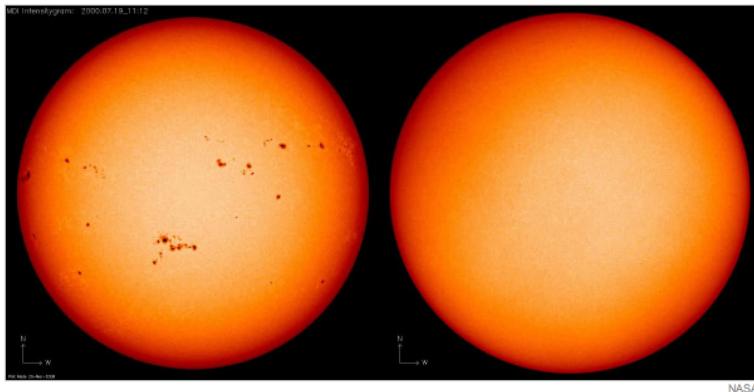
$$\lambda = 50$$



# A Related Picture

Solar prominence video <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap110307.html>

## Is the Sun Missing Its Spots?



**SUN GAZING** These photos show sunspots near solar maximum on July 19, 2000, and near solar minimum on March 18, 2009. Some global warming skeptics speculate that the Sun may be on the verge of an extended slumber.

By **KENNETH CHANG**  
Published: July 20, 2009



## The Main Results

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$$\dim_{\mathbb{H}} \mathcal{L}_c^Z(t) = 1 - \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} c^2 \quad \dim_{\mathbb{H}} \mathcal{L}_c^u(t) = 1 - \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{3} c^{3/2} \quad \text{a.s.},$$

where  $\dim_{\mathbb{H}} A < 0$  means  $A$  is bounded.

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- ▶ Naudts' notion of dimension is slightly faulty though ( $\exists A, B$  such that  $A \subset B$  and yet  $\dim_{\text{Naudts}} A > \dim_{\text{Naudts}} B$ )
- ▶ A much better notion was introduced by Barlow and Taylor (1988, 1989)
- ▶ To simplify the exposition I will only talk about large-scale fractals in  $[0, \infty)$  today.

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$$K := \sup_{\substack{x \geq 0, r \geq 1: \\ [x, x+r] \subset [e^n, e^{n+1})}} \frac{\mu[x, x+r]}{r^\rho} < \infty.$$

Then,  $v_n^{(\rho)}(A) \geq K^{-1} e^{-n\rho} \mu(A)$ .

- ▶ **Corollary.**  $\text{Dim}_H \mathbb{N} = \text{Dim}_H [0, \infty) = 1$ .
  - ▶ **Proof.** Take  $\mu$  to be the counting measure, restricted to  $[e^n, e^{n+1})$
  - ▶  $\mu[x, x+r] \asymp r \Rightarrow K \leq c \exp\{n(1-\rho)\}$  if  $\rho < 1$
  - ▶  $\mu(\mathbb{N}) \asymp \exp(n)$
  - ▶  $\therefore \inf_{n \geq 1} v_n^{(\rho)}(A) > 0$  if  $\rho < 1 \Rightarrow \text{Dim}_H \mathbb{N} \geq \rho$  for all  $\rho < 1$ . □

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- ▶ Choose and fix  $c > q/\mathcal{D}_\mu(A)$ , and then apply Frostman's lemma.

## Related Facts

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- ▶ **Remainder of today: Formulas for  $\text{Dim}_H A$  where  $A$  is a non-trivial random set that is simpler to analyze than those in the SPDE examples earlier**

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- ▶ Therefore  $\text{Dim}_H \mathcal{L}_c^B = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } c > 1, \\ 1 & \text{if } c < 1. \end{cases}$  What about  $\mathcal{L}_1^B$ ?

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- ▶ Apply Frostman to see that  $\nu_n^{(1)}(\mathcal{L}_1^B) \geq cn^{-1} (\log n)^{-1/2}$  for most  $n$ ’s, a.s. Since  $\sum_n n^{-1} (\log n)^{-1/2} = \infty$ , we obtain the result. □

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- ▶ The preceding shows that the tall peaks of the Ornstein–Uhlenbeck process undergo a “separation of scales” [The peak times form a large-scale “multifractal”]
- ▶ It is predicted that the solution to a large family of stochastic PDEs should also exhibit separation of scales; we have presented this in two disparate cases [universality classes]
- ▶ The proof consists of two bounds, of course:
  - ▶ The upper bound requires a covering argument
  - ▶ The lower bound is slightly different from the preceding lower-bound methods ...



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- ▶ One can show that such a [ $\approx$  self-similar] set will have dimension  $\geq 1 - \rho$ ; therefore,  $\text{Dim}_H \mathcal{L}_c^X \geq 1 - \rho$  for all  $\rho \in (c^2, 1)$ . □