# Getting trapped in labyrinths by anomalous diffusion

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#### Labyrints and frictional fluid flow

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- Jon Alm Eriksen
- Renaud Toussaint









#### Labyrints and frictional fluid flow

#### Experiments



simulations



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Henning A. Knudsen



Fluid flow with friction and capillarity

#### Particle-particle interactions transmit stress to the wall

### Labyrinth topology

Both displaced (land) and displacing (sea) structures are simply connected.



Backbone and dead ends of several generations

### Existing labyrinths



Disconnected element

### Existing labyrinths





#### A result of folding of a circle





Folding of a 1D structure.

How may the geometry be characterized further ?

Folding of 2D structures:



### Vigeland park (another folded 1D structure)





#### Random walk on labyrinth



#### Averaging over random walks started in the center



Simulated labyrinths with finger width 1 cm





#### Averaging over random walks started in the center



Simulated labyrinths with finger width 1 cm





#### Experimental labyrinths and comparison













#### Anomalous diffusion

In general a random walk is described as

$$\langle r^2(t) \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^N \langle r_n^2 \rangle = \langle r_n^2 \rangle(t) N(t)$$

Resulting in normal diffusion  $\langle r^2(t) \rangle = 2Dt$  if

$$\langle r_n^2 \rangle(t) = a^2$$
  
 $N(t) = rac{t}{ au}$ 

Anomalous diffusion happens if this is not the case.

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#### ANOMALOUS DIFFUSION IN DISORDERED MEDIA: STATISTICAL MECHANISMS, MODELS AND PHYSICAL APPLICATIONS

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Diffusion on percolation clusters.

### Theory for subdiffusion due to long waiting times



Length along backbone  $r_B$ 



Conjecture  $\langle r^2(t) \rangle \sim \langle r_B^2(t) \rangle$  $\langle r_B^2(t) \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^N \langle r_n^2 \rangle = \langle r_n^2 \rangle N$ 

The waiting times  $\tau$  to return to the backbone is distributed as

$$P( au) \propto rac{1}{ au^{3/2}}$$
  
 $N \propto t^{1/2}$ 

 $\langle r^2(t)\rangle \sim t^{1/2}$ 

E W Montroll and H Scher, J Stat Phys 9 (1973) 101

Diffusion on combs J Machta, J Phys A 18 (1985)

#### Lower packing fraction



No longer  $\tau \ll t_c = l_b/(2D)$ 

#### Diffusion on land



No longer  $\ au \ll t_c = l_b/(2D)$ 

#### Diffusion on land or water -- comparison





## Steady heating by constant C in center – a different diffusion problem







A fixed number 10 random walkers is maintained in the small central disk

## Maintaining a constant concentration in the center



Transport rates:

$$\dot{M} \propto C_0 \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} & \text{absorbed in a 2D labyrinth} \\ \frac{1}{\ln(t/a)} & \text{in 2D open space} \\ \frac{1}{r_c} & \text{in 3D open space} \end{array} \right.$$

Delayed absorption or desorption – a potentially useful property for controlled drug- release.

## Steady heating by constant C in center, diffusion on land



A fixed number of 5 or 20 random walkers is maintained in the small central disk



#### Summary

- Diffusivity characterizes geometry in a non-trivial way
- Structures quickly enter regime of anomalous diffusion (  $\tau \ll t_c = l_b/(2D)$  )
- Experimentally feasible



















## Steady heating by constant C in center, diffusion without boundaries





(3)



implies that

A fixed number of 10 random walkers is maintained in a small central disk of variable size,

$$Z(t) = 10^{\log_{10}(t) - \log_{10}(M)} = \frac{\log_{10}(t) - \log_{10}(a)}{B}$$
(4)

which is indeed seen to hold with  $B \approx 125$  and  $a \approx 0.025$  s s. The time  $t_n$  is in units that are linked to the step length of the random walker, and  $t_n = 9 \ 10^{-4}n$  s where n is the integer time step. The only time-scale available in the problem is the one given by the inner circle radius  $r_c = 3$  mm, and the diffusivity  $D = (1/2) \text{cm}^2/2$ , i.e.  $\tau = 2r_c^2/D = 0.09$  s which is of the same order of magnitude as a

 $M(t) = B \frac{t}{\log_{10}(t/a)}$ 

#### The patterns

Backbone and dead ends of several generations





## Steady heating by constant C in center, diffusion without boundaries



A fixed number of 10 random walkers is maintained in a small central disk of variable size,



#### *The ant in the labyrinth* P.G. de Gennes, La Recherche 7 (1976) Diffusion on percolation clusters.

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#### Minimal model for anomalous diffusion

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Diffusion on combs J Machta, J Phys A 18 (1985) L531