

model that has provided much insight is known as *diffusion limited aggregation* (DLA). The model provides an example of how random motion can self-similar clusters.

The first step is to occupy a site with a seed particle. Next,  $z$  from the perimeter of a large circle whose center coincides with it undergoes a random walk, i.e., diffuses, until it reaches a perimeter stick. Then another random walker is released and allowed to walk a perimeter site of one of the two particles in the cluster and this process is repeated many times (typically on the order of several thousand to several million) until a large cluster is formed. A typical DLA cluster is shown in Fig. 14.9. Properties of DLA clusters are explored in Problem 14.9.

**Problem 14.9 Diffusion limited aggregation**

- a. Write a program to generate diffusion limited aggregation on a square lattice. Let each walker begin at a random site on a circle of radius  $R_{max}$ , where  $R_{max}$  is the maximum distance of any cluster part from the seed site. To save computer time, assume that a walker that reaches the seed site is removed and a new walker is placed

circle of radius  $R_{max}$

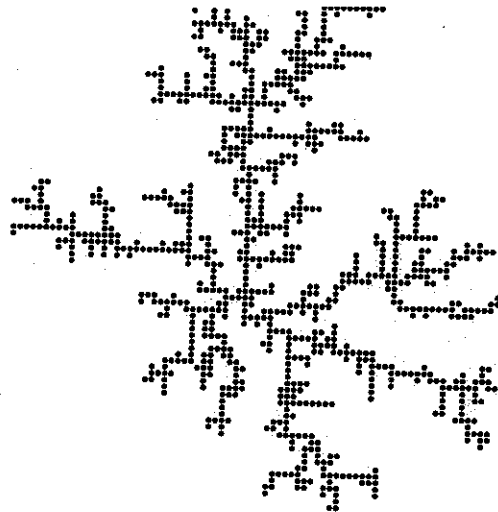
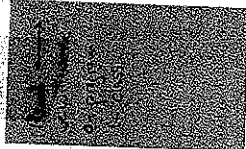


Fig. 14.12 An example of a DLA cluster of 10000 particles on a square lattice.

Fractals

random lattice is to use an enumeration method in which the number of sites  $i+1$  is determined by the number of neighbors of site  $i$  at time  $t$ . This method is described in [4.11]. Spatial averages are taken from the probability distribution of the results of many walks of 5000 steps each over 1000 different

**Diffusion-limited aggregation (DLA).** Many objects in nature grow by the random addition of subunits. Examples include snow flakes, lightning, crack formation along a geological fault, and the growth of bacterial colonies. Although it might seem unlikely that such phenomena have much in common, the behavior observed in many models that have been developed in recent years gives us clues that these and many other natural phenomena can be understood in terms of a few unifying principles. One

Have each #16 (due April 11)  
 1. Read this DLA description  
 2. Write your program  
 3. Come to virtual meeting as sign up (see our webpage for link)  
 comments welcome!  
 No requirement to give an oral presentation (but you can if you want)  
 necessary information

H. Gould & J. Tobochnik  
 An Introduction to  
 Computer Simulation Methods  
 2nd Edition  
 Addison-Wesley Reading 1996

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