

The Phase Transition for Dyadic Tilings

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(Submitted on 13 Jul 2011 (v1), last revised 20 Jul 2012 (this version, v3))

A dyadic tile of order n is any rectangle obtained from the unit square by n successive bisections by horizontal or vertical cuts. Let each dyadic tile of order n be available with probability p , independently of the others. We prove that for p sufficiently close to 1, there exists a set of pairwise disjoint available tiles whose union is the unit square, with probability tending to 1 as $n \rightarrow \infty$, as conjectured by Joel Spencer in 1999. In particular we prove that if $p = 7/8$, such a tiling exists with probability at least $1 - (3/4)^n$. The proof involves a surprisingly delicate counting argument for sets of unavailable tiles that prevent tiling.

Comments: 22 pages

Subjects: **Probability (math.PR)**; Combinatorics (math.CO)

MSC classes: 05B45, 52C20, 60G18

Cite as: **arXiv:1107.2636 [math.PR]**

(or **arXiv:1107.2636v3 [math.PR]** for this version)

Submission history

From: Alexander E. Holroyd [[view email](#)]

[v1] Wed, 13 Jul 2011 19:27:18 GMT (19kb)

[v2] Wed, 20 Jul 2011 21:01:57 GMT (22kb)

[v3] Fri, 20 Jul 2012 22:44:09 GMT (23kb)

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