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Monte Carlo Simulations of the Critical Properties of a ZGB Model of Catalytic CO Oxidation with Long-range Reactivity

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Abstract

The Ziff-Gulari-Barshad (ZGB) model, a simplified description of the oxidation of carbon monoxide (CO) on a catalyst surface, is widely used to study properties of nonequilibrium phase transitions. In particular, it exhibits a nonequilibrium, discontinuous transition between a reactive and a CO poisoned phase. If one allows a nonzero rate of CO desorption (k), the line of phase transitions terminates at a critical point (k_c) . In this work, instead of restricting the CO and atomic oxygen (O) to react to form carbon dioxide (CO_2) only when they are adsorbed in close proximity, we consider a modified model that includes an adjustable probability for adsorbed CO and O atoms located far apart on the lattice to react. We employ large-scale Monte Carlo simulations for system sizes up to 240×240 lattice sites, using the crossing of fourth-order cumulants to study the critical properties of this system. We find that the nonequilibrium critical point changes from the two-dimensional Ising universality class to the mean-field universality class upon introducing even a weak long-range reactivity mechanism. This conclusion is supported by measurements of cumulant fixed-point values, cluster percolation probabilities, correlation-length finite-size scaling properties, and the critical exponent ratio β/ν . The observed behavior is consistent with that of the equilibrium Ising ferromagnet with additional weak long-range interactions [T. Nakada, P. A. Rikvold, T. Mori, M. Nishino, and S. Miyashita, Phys. Rev. B 84, 054433 (2011)]. The large system sizes and the use of fourth-order cumulants also enable determination with improved accuracy of the critical point of the original ZGB model with CO desorption.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Statistical mechanics has been well developed for equilibrium systems in the sense that we can, in principle, calculate the partition function and use it to calculate all the equilibrium thermodynamic quantities of a system. On the other hand, the unavailability of the analogy of a partition function for nonequilibrium systems means that nonequilibrium statistical mechanics remains a field in rapid development, attracting researchers to seek its fundamental principles.

In 1986, Ziff, Gulari, and Barshad introduced the ZGB model [1] to study the phase transition properties of a particular nonequilibrium process: the formation of carbon dioxide from oxygen and carbon monoxide at a catalyst surface,

$$CO(g) + * \rightarrow CO(ads)$$

$$O_2(g) + 2* \rightarrow 2O(ads)$$

$$CO(ads) + O(ads) \rightarrow CO_2(g) + 2*.$$
(1)

Oxygen (O_2) and carbon monoxide (CO) gases (g) are supplied to a catalytic surface (Pt). Here, the surface is modeled as a square lattice. When the oxygen molecule (O_2) gets close to the surface, it decomposes into two oxygen atoms (O). Each O atom and each CO molecule independently forms a weak bond with an empty lattice site (*) to become adsorbed (ads). If a CO molecule and an O atom are adsorbed at nearest-neighbor lattice sites, they immediately react and form a carbon dioxide molecule (CO_2) that leaves the surface. Each lattice site can either be empty, occupied by one O atom, or occupied by one CO molecule. The only control parameter in the model is the partial pressure of CO in the supplied gas, denoted as y. The reaction was simulated by a Dynamic Monte Carlo algorithm, revealing the occurrence of nonequilibrium phase transitions on the catalyst surface. It was found that the steady state of the catalyst surface strongly depends on the partial pressure of CO in the feed gas. In this original ZGB model, when the CO partial pressure is small, the catalyst surface becomes completely occupied by O atoms in the long-time limit (oxygen-poisoned phase). If the CO partial pressure is increased to a value, y_1 , a continuous phase transition occurs, beyond which the catalyst surface is covered by a mixture of O, CO, and empty sites (mixed phase). If one continues to increase the CO partial pressure y, a first-order phase transition occurs at y_2 . Beyond this transition, the catalyst surface is completely covered by CO in the long-time limit (CO poisoned phase).

It has further been noticed in experiments that adsorbed species can desorb from the surface without reacting. The reason for this is that when the temperature is sufficiently high, an adsorbed particle can gain enough energy to break its bond with the catalyst surface. As a consequence, desorption rates increase with temperature. It was also found that the desorption rate of CO (denoted as k) is much higher than that of O atoms [2]. The desorption rate k of CO can be added to the model as a second control parameter [2–5]. If a very small value of k is chosen, there is no qualitative difference in the region of small CO partial pressure. But when $y > y_2$, the positive desorption rate reduces the CO coverage, producing a nonzero density of vacancies. If the CO desorption rate k is increased, a higher CO partial pressure, $y_2(k)$, is required for the first-order transition to occur. Similar to an equilibrium lattice-gas system, moving along this first-order transition line in the phase diagram eventually leads to a critical point. It has been found that this critical point belongs to the two-dimensional equilibrium Ising universality class [6].

Soon after the ZGB model was introduced, a number of groups were attracted to study its phase transition properties [4, 7–14]. Some modeled the catalyst surface as a hexagonal lattice instead of a square lattice [15, 16]. Some studied the effects of oxygen atoms adsorbing at two non-neighboring sites ('hot' dimer adsorption) [17–21] or as a result of nearest-neighbor repulsive interactions [22–25]. Others considered diffusion of the adsorbed species [3, 22–28], co-adsorption of the gas molecules (meaning that the gas molecules can react directly with adsorbed species) [29], and the effect of using a periodic CO pressure [30–33]. Some researchers also studied the effects of impurities present on the catalyst surface [34, 35] or in the gas phase [12, 13, 36–38]. Others again considered the detailed processes happening on the catalyst surface, building lattice-gas models including energetic effects, with energy barriers calculated from quantum mechanical DFT calculations and/or comparison with experiments [25, 39–44]. A recent, comprehensive review of lattice-gas models for CO oxidation on metal (100) surfaces is found in [45], and a review of critical behavior in irreversible reaction systems is found in [46]. Other nonequilibrium lattice-gas models with similar phase properties have also been studied [47].

In equilibrium Ising and lattice-gas models it is well known that the presence of sufficiently long-range interactions in the Hamiltonian will change the universality class of the critical point that terminates the line of first-order transitions from the Ising class to the mean-field

class. Given the similarity of the phase diagram of the ZGB model with CO desorption to that of a liquid-gas system (which also belongs to the Ising universality class), it is natural to ask whether the presence of a mechanism for long-range reactivity would change the universality class from Ising to mean-field in the same way as long-range interactions do for the equilibrium case. A few studies indicate that this is the case.

In one study [17], the 'hot dimer adsorption' idea was handled by assuming that oxygen molecules are dissociated and adsorbed as nearest neighbors, but the non-reacted adsorbed oxygen atoms are allowed to undergo a ballistic flight for up to 20 lattice sites and react with any CO located next to the trajectory. However, the conclusions of this study regarding universality did not appear very clear.

Much clearer results were obtained in a study by Liu, Pavlenko, and Evans (LPE) [26], who considered a lattice-gas reaction-diffusion model similar to the ZGB model with CO desorption, in which adsorbed CO molecules were allowed to diffuse to adjacent empty sites at a finite rate, h. This leads to an effective diffusion length $\sim h^{1/2}$. In analogy with earlier studies of equilibrium Ising systems of linear size L with equal interaction constants of range $\leq R$, which derived a crossover parameter L/R^2 for two-dimensional systems [48–53], LPE obtained 'effective critical exponents' from finite-size scaling analysis of Monte Carlo simulations. When plotted vs L/h, their results showed good data collapse and a monotonic trend over about two decades of the crossover parameter from Ising exponents for $L/h \gg 1$ to mean-field for $L/h \ll 1$. In order to approach the mean-field limit $L/h \to 0$ in a computationally manageable way, they resorted to a hybrid model in which the CO molecules were replaced by a uniform mean field.

In the present paper we approach the problem of determining the universality class of the critical point in a ZGB model with CO desorption and long-range reactivity along a different path that enables us to unambiguously extrapolate our results to the limit of infinite-range reactivity and infinite systems size. For this purpose we utilize an analogy with an approach to the study of phase transitions in Ising-like equilibrium systems with weak long-range interactions, which has recently been pursued in connection with modeling of spin-crossover materials with both local and elastic interactions [54–58]. In this approach, long-range interactions were added as a perturbation of adjustable magnitude to an equilibrium Ising system. Nakada et al. [57, 58] considered a Hamiltonian with both a ferromagnetic nearest-neighbor interaction part (Ising model) and a long-range ferromagnetic interaction part (the

Husimi-Temperley or equivalent-neighbor model in [57] and elastic interactions in [58]). In both cases they found that, upon the addition of long-range interactions of any nonzero magnitude, the universality class of the critical point changed abruptly from Ising to mean-field.

Here we modify the original ZGB model analogously by introducing an adjustable probability that an O atom and a CO molecule adsorbed far apart on the surface can react to form CO₂ and desorb. We use the Random Selection Method of Dynamic Monte Carlo [59] and the crossing of the maximum fourth-order cumulants [60] to study any resulting changes of the critical properties of the system. In agreement with the results for equilibrium Ising systems [57, 58], we find that the universality class of the critical point changes from the Ising class to the mean-field class. In the process, we also obtain an estimate for the critical point of the ZGB model without long-range reactivity which we believe to be more accurate than, but essentially consistent with, those obtained previously [4, 6, 59].

The long-range reactivity effect that we introduce here is not intended to model any particular, physical mechanism, but rather to provide a numerically tractable method to explore the effects of such long-range effects in general. However, it could be viewed as a simplified version of a rapid diffusion effect [3, 22–28]. Alternatively, practical catalysts are usually made as highly porous materials resembling folded, crumpled surfaces, so that the supplied gas encounters a larger surface area per unit volume. In this kind of geometry, it may be possible that an adsorbed species desorbs and moves to another site, which is far away along the lattice surface, but close in the three-dimensional embedding space. Our long-range reactivity model could also be viewed as a simplified model to describe such situations.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we describe our Monte Carlo scheme and show in detail how we introduce a tunable, long-range reactivity into the ZGB model. In Sec. III, we show how the phase diagram changes, how we locate the critical point through the crossing of cumulants [3, 31, 57–60], and how the universality class of the critical point changes. In Sec. IV we provide snapshots for the visualization of the change of the adsorbate configurations over time, measure the sizes of the largest cluster in corresponding configurations, obtain the order-parameter distribution and the cluster percolation probabilities as functions of CO coverage, and measure correlation lengths and the critical exponent ratio β/ν . Finally, in Sec. V, we summarize our results and state our

conclusions.

II. MODEL AND SIMULATION

Our study is based on the original ZGB model described in Eq. (1) [1], modified to allow desorption of CO (i.e., k > 0) [4, 5]. In order to include a long-range reactivity of adjustable strength, the model is modified in the following way. When a newly adsorbed particle (CO or O) cannot find any partner particles among its nearest neighbors to react with (O for CO or CO for O), it has a non-zero probability, a, to check a randomly chosen site anywhere on the lattice. If this site is occupied by a partner particle, the two react to form CO₂ and desorb. In other words, a long-range reaction is considered only after the the possibility of a short-range reaction has been tested and found impossible. For a = 0, our model reduces to the standard ZGB model with CO desorption [4]. (Although it is known that the unphysical continuous phase transition at y_1 , i.e. the presence of the oxygen poisoned phase, can be eliminated by considering next-nearest neighbor adsorption instead of nearest-neighbor adsorption [11, 21], here we stick to the original nearest-neighbor approach as our focus is the effect of introducing long-range reactivity on the phase transition at y_2 .) The details of our simulation algorithm are given below.

A. Simulation Algorithm

Our algorithm is based on the implementation of the Random Selection Method of Dynamic Monte Carlo used in Ref. [59] to simulate the standard ZGB model with CO desorption. In this method, the whole reaction process is divided into several processes. For each process, there is a separate transition probability. We compare the probability with a random number to decide whether the particular process proceeds or not. A flow chart of the whole process is shown in Fig. 1. It can be broken down into several steps as follows. The long-range reactivity mechanism is Step 6, which can be reached from Step 4a if the newly adsorbed particle is a CO molecule, or from Step 5 if the newly adsorbed particle is an O atom.

Step 1 (choose a site): one lattice site is chosen randomly among the $L \times L$ sites. We do this by drawing a random integer, r_1 , for the x-direction and another random integer, r_2 ,

for the y-direction.

Step 2 (desorption): draw a random real number, $r_3 \in [0, 1]$. If it is smaller than the CO desorption rate $(r_3 < k \in [0, 1])$, and if there is a CO adsorbed at the chosen site, the CO is removed, and this site changes to empty. Then, return to Step 1 for the next trial. On the other hand, if $r_3 \ge k$ and if this site is empty, go to Step 3. Otherwise, return to Step 1. The desorption rate k is usually small. (For this work, $0 \le k \le 0.2$.) (Note that only the desorption rate of CO is considered, as experiments suggest that it is much greater than the desorption rate of O atoms [2].)

Step 3 (choosing a species to adsorb): draw a random number, $r_4 \in [0, 1]$. If it is smaller than the CO partial pressure $(y \in [0, 1])$, then go to Step 4a. Otherwise, go to Step 4b.

Step 4a (adsorption of CO): if any one of the four nearest-neighbor sites of this vacant site contains an O atom, the adsorbed CO immediately reacts with O to form CO_2 , which desorbs. If more than one nearest-neighbor site is occupied by O, draw a random number, r_5 , to choose one of them, and then set both sites to empty (the original chosen site and this new chosen site). On the other hand, if no O is found at a nearest-neighbor site, go to Step 6.

Step 4b (testing for adsorption of O_2): the O_2 molecule is a dimer. In the ZGB model, it requires two vacant nearest-neighbor sites for adsorption. To account for the random orientation of the O_2 molecule, we therefore draw a random number, r_6 , to choose one site among the four nearest neighbors of the originally chosen, vacant site. If the chosen neighbor is not empty, no adsorption takes place, and we return to Step 1. If the site is empty, go to Step 5.

Step 5 (dissociation and adsorption of O_2): the O_2 molecule is dissociated into two O atoms and adsorbed. If any one of the nearest neighbors of the first O atom is CO, draw a random number, r_7 , to choose one CO among them to react, and then evacuate both sites. If no CO neighbor is found, go to Step 6. Then test the same thing for the second O atom. The trial ends. Return to Step 1.

Step 6 (long-range reaction): draw a random number, $r_8 \in [0, 1]$. If it is smaller than the long-range reaction probability, $a \in [0, 1]$, choose another random site in the lattice. If the two sites contain opposite species (O and CO), they immediately react to form CO_2 , which desorbs. The trial ends. Return to Step 1.

In every Monte Carlo step per site (MCSS), we make L^2 iterations of the above algorithm

with periodic boundary conditions. We choose sufficiently long simulations that the system reaches a steady state, between 5×10^5 and 4×10^8 MCSS depending on the parameters, before statistics are taken.

B. Steady state and some properties along the phase boundary

A steady state does not mean that the system does not react. Particles can still be adsorbed and react, but certain physical quantities have approached and fluctuate around a steady value. If we consider a region far away from the first-order phase transition region / phase boundary, a steady state means that the coverage of CO (θ_{CO}), which is the ratio of lattice sites occupied by CO and is also the order parameter of the system, has reached a steady value. But if we are moving along the first-order phase transition line, due to finite-size effects, the system will jump back and forth between two degenerate stationary states, and thus the CO coverage will repeatedly switch between a high value and a low value. For $k \ll k_c$, this switching time can be extremely long. As we increase k towards k_c , the switching time and the difference between the high and low CO coverages are reduced, while the fluctuations about each stationary level increase. For $k \approx k_c$, the fluctuations about the two stationary CO coverages are roughly equal to their separation. This indicates that the system is close to the critical point. Two good quantities to characterize these fluctuations for an $L \times L$ system are

$$\chi_L = L^2(\langle \theta_{\text{CO,L}}^2 \rangle - \langle \theta_{\text{CO,L}} \rangle^2), \tag{2}$$

(a nonequilibrium analog of equilibrium magnetic susceptibility or fluid compressibility [29, 31, 59]), and the fourth-order reduced cumulant of the order parameter [59–63],

$$u_L = 1 - \frac{\mu_{4,L}}{3\mu_{2,L}^2},\tag{3}$$

where

$$\mu_{n,L} = \langle (\theta_{\text{CO},L} - \langle \theta_{\text{CO},L} \rangle)^n \rangle \tag{4}$$

is the *n*th central moment of θ_{CO} . The 'susceptibility' and the cumulant show maxima on the first-order transition line in this system. (Results based on χ_L and u_L are consistent. Here we explicitly show only the latter.) Steady state means the system has jumped back and forth many times and has spent the same amount of time at the high level and the low level, so that the susceptibility and the cumulant have been stabilized, but not the coverage.

This switching between the two levels is a finite-size effect. The smaller the system, the easier for the switching to occur and thus the easier it is for the system to stabilize. For an $L \times L$ system, the above simulation process will be repeated L^2 times. As a larger lattice also makes the physical quantities require more time steps to stabilize, doubling the system size L will make the required running time increase by a factor of more than four. The run times used include 5×10^5 , 5×10^6 , 5×10^7 , and 4×10^8 MCSS. The complicated Monte Carlo process and the long time required to stabilize the cumulants make the computation very intensive. More than 600 cores were used for several months to obtain our major results.

C. Initial Conditions

We chose an initial state with the right half of the lattice sites mainly covered with CO and the left half of the lattice sites mainly covered with O. This unstable configuration enabled the system to easily jump very quickly into one of the steady states (around 2000 MCSS for L = 60).

III. CUMULANTS AND PHASE DIAGRAM

Figure 2 shows the coverages and CO_2 production rate obtained by our long-range reactivity model for a small desorption value, far below the critical point $(k \ll k_c)$. We see that increasing the long-range reactivity parameter a from 0 to 1 increases the transition point y_2 by about 7% and the maximum reaction rate by about 36%.

Figure 3 compares the phase diagrams for several values of the long-range reactivity parameter $a \in [0, 1]$. The critical point (black dot) moves to a higher desorption rate k and higher CO partial pressure y as the long-range reactivity parameter a is increased. Below the critical point ($k < k_c$), hysteresis [64] is found across the first-order phase-transition line.

The first-order phase transition line and the critical point both lie at the value of y that shows a maximum in the cumulants, as shown in Fig. 4(b), 4(c), and 4(d) for the case with long-range reactivity, and in Fig. 7(b), 7(c), and 7(d) for the case without long-range reactivity.

A. a > 0

We first consider the case with long-range reactivity parameter a=1. All the non-zero long-range reactivity cases were found to have similar behavior. Plotting the cumulants against the CO partial pressure, y, shows approximately parabolic shapes (Fig. 4(b), 4(c), 4(d)). The maxima of the cumulants for different system sizes L occur at nearly the same values of y. For CO desorption rate $k < k_c$, the cumulants of different sizes cross each other (Fig. 4(b)), whereas for $k > k_c$, the cumulants do not cross (Fig. 4(d)). At $k \approx k_c$, the cumulants roughly touch each other (Fig. 4(c)). Due to the fluctuations of the data, we adopted a polynomial fit (2nd-order or 4th-order) to a narrow range of data near the maxima, and used the maxima of the fitting curves as the maximum values of the cumulants. Figure 4(a) shows these maximum values of cumulants (u_{Lmax}) plotted against the desorption rate k for different system sizes L. The line for L=40 crosses that for L=60 at one point. We picked the two desorption rates just bounding the crossing point, k_1, k_2 , and used them to form two linear equations that were solved to obtain the crossing point. This crossing point $(k_{c,L}, u_{c,L})$ is regarded as the critical desorption rate and its corresponding cumulant found using these two system sizes [60], and the index L is taken to be the larger among the two system sizes [65]. The critical CO partial pressure $y_{c,L}$ found using this two system sizes is obtained from

$$y_{c,L} = y_2 - (k_2 - k_{c,L})(y_2 - y_1)/(k_2 - k_1), (5)$$

where y_1, y_2 are the corresponding values of y for system size L, at which the cumulants show maximum values at k_1, k_2 . We recorded the crossing points between every two successive system sizes, and obtained the critical point for $L \to \infty$ through extrapolation to 1/L = 0 as shown in Fig. 5(a), 5(c), and 5(e). Figure 5(b) and 5(d) show that $K \equiv k_{c,\infty}(a) - k_{c,\infty}(0)$ and $Y \equiv y_{c,\infty} - y_{c,\infty}(0)$ both increase in a power-law fashion with the long-range reactivity parameter a. $(k_{c,\infty}(0) \text{ and } y_{c,\infty}(0) \text{ are obtained in Sec. III B})$. For the equilibrium Ising model with long-range interaction of strength α , the critical temperature is known to increase as $\alpha^{4/7}$ [57, 58]. (4/7) is the Ising critical exponent ratio ν/γ .) The powers of a observed here are 0.435 \pm 0.004 and 0.450 \pm 0.008 for K and Y respectively if we use all the data points in Fig. 5(b) and 5(d), which are somewhat smaller than $4/7 \approx 0.571$. We initially suspected this might due to the relatively large minimum value of a used here, so we also found the exponents from the line formed between every two successive data

TABLE I: Critical points and the corresponding cumulants for different values of the long-range reactivity strength a. Uncertainty in the last digit given in parenthesis. The asterisks are explained in the Endnote [65].

| a | $k_{c,\infty}$ | $y_{c,\infty}$ | $u_{c,\infty}$ |
|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0 | 0.0371(2) | 0.54052(9) | 0.624(3) |
| 0.1 | 0.0783(4) | 0.5623(2) | 0.26(1) |
| 0.3 | *0.1044(1) | *0.57758(4) | 0.267(7) |
| 0.5 | 0.1215(2) | 0.58750(7) | 0.268(2) |
| 0.7 | *0.1348(1) | *0.59513(3) | 0.267(2) |
| 1.0 | *0.1506(1) | *0.60402(3) | 0.266(3) |

points as shown in Fig. 5(b) and 5(d). The exponents show a clear increasing trend when a decreases. A polynomial fit was applied to these data as shown in Fig. 6. The y-intercepts are the exponents we should get when a is non-zero but infinitesimal, which are found to be 0.448 ± 0.003 and 0.499 ± 0.001 for k_c and y_c respectively, still deviating from 4/7. Indeed we found that we can obtain 4/7 only if we use $k_{c,\infty}(0) = 0.0515$ and $y_{c,\infty}(0) = 0.5472$, which are very far away from the values of $k_{c,\infty}(0)$ and $y_{c,\infty}(0)$ we obtain in Sec. IIIB below (see Table I). One explanation for these results could be that our long-range reactivity parameter a might not be linearly related to the equilibrium Ising interaction strength α . The results for k_c could be reasonably reconciled if $a \sim \alpha^x$ with $x \approx 1.3$. (Because of the high symmetry of the Ising model, its critical point remains at zero field for all values of α , so comparing the exponent value for y_c to 4/7 may not be relevant.)

It is known that in the absence of the long-range reactivity, the critical point of the system would correspond to the two-dimensional equilibrium Ising universality class, which has cumulant $u_{c,\infty} \approx 0.61$ [66]. Figure 5(f) shows clearly that for all nonzero values of the long-range reactivity parameter a considered here, the cumulant $u_{c,\infty} \approx 0.2675 \pm 0.0009$, consistent with the exact value, $1-\Gamma^4(1/4)/24\pi^2=0.27052...$, for the mean-field universality class of the equilibrium Ising system with long-range interactions [54, 57, 67, 68]. Table I summarizes the critical points and the corresponding cumulants obtained for different long-range reactivity strengths a. The longest run time we used for the a=0 case is 4×10^8 MCSS and for the a>0 cases it is 5×10^7 MCSS.

B. a = 0

Figures 7 and 8 show graphs corresponding to Figs. 4 and 5, respectively, for the case without long-range reactivity. Plateaus were found around the maximum regions of the cumulants for all system sizes as shown in Fig. 7(b), 7(c), and 7(d). Note that even L=240has a plateau. When the system size increases, the plateau moves to a larger value of y, and its width decreases. The data points on the plateau also fluctuate more strongly as L increases. For CO desorption rate $k < k_c$, the maximum value of the cumulant increases with increasing L (Fig. 7(b)), whereas for $k > k_c$, the maximum value decreases with increasing L (Fig. 7(d)). At $k \approx k_c$, the maximum cumulant value is approximately independent of L (Fig. 7(c)). The absence of long-range reactivity (a=0) leads to larger critical fluctuations that make the system much more difficult to stabilize. The data we obtained in this case were not stabilized as well as those in the long-range reactivity cases. For the data points shown on the plateaus in Fig. 7(b), 7(c), and 7(d), the change of the cumulants with time were checked one by one. By looking at the trend of the fluctuating cumulant, we estimated the final stationary value of the cumulant with an error bar for each individual data point (not shown). Then we selected a group of data points near the largest data point, and used the square of the reciprocal of the error as the weight of each data point to find the weighted mean and its standard error. We took these as the maximum value of the cumulant $(u_{L_{\text{max}}})$ of each curve and its corresponding error bar in Fig. 7(a). The idea in Fig. 7(a) is exactly the same as that in Fig. 4(a). The crossing point between lines for every two successive system sizes L is regarded as the critical point $(k_{c,L}, y_{c,L})$ and the corresponding value of $u_{c,L}$ is found using these two system sizes [60], and the critical point for $L \to \infty$ is obtained through extrapolation to 1/L = 0 as shown in Fig. 8(a) and 8(b). $(k_c, y_c) = (k_{c,\infty}, y_{c,\infty}) = (0.0371 \pm 0.0002, 0.54052 \pm 0.00009)$ was finally obtained as the critical point for the case without long-range reactivity. This estimate should be more accurate than previously obtained values [4, 6, 59], as we used the method of cumulant crossings and the maximum system size was increased to L = 240. Figure 8(c) shows that the maximum value of the cumulant for $L \to \infty$, is $u_{c,\infty} = 0.624 \pm 0.003$. Given the numerical difficulties of the simulations of this model for a=0, we feel this value is in reasonable agreement with the Ising value of approximately 0.61 |66|.

In the process of comparing our numerical estimate for k_c at a=0 with previous studies,

we realized that the algorithms used in different studies lead to slightly different definitions of the desorption rate [69]. While our definition is the same as in [59], it is different from the one used in [4] and also in [6]. Calling the definition used in [4] P, the relationship is P = k/(1-k). Consequently, our estimate for k_c corresponds to $P_c = 0.0385 \pm 0.0002$. This is close to the approximate lower bound obtained in [4] from the fractal interface structure, $P_c > 0.039$.

IV. CLUSTER CONFIGURATIONS, CLUSTER-SIZE, AND CORRELATION LENGTH MEASUREMENTS

It has previously been demonstrated that the critical configurations are dramatically different in equilibrium Ising models with short-range interactions (Ising universality class) and long-range interactions (mean-field universality class). While the correlation length diverges at the critical point in the former case, it remains finite in the latter (see, e.g., [57, 58]). Visually it is also clear that the Ising critical clusters are larger and more compact than the mean-field ones (see, e.g., Figs. 5–7 of [57]).

We would like to determine whether analogous differences can be observed in the present nonequilibrium system. However, the high symmetry of Ising lattice-gas models ensures that the time-averaged critical coverage is always 1/2, regardless of the strength of the long-range interactions. This symmetry does not exist in the model discussed here. Rather, we find that the critical CO coverage is a decreasing function of the long-range reactivity strength a, as shown in Fig. 9. Since cluster properties are strongly dependent on the coverage, this makes it more difficult to compare critical cluster properties for different values of a.

To solve this problem, we ran simulations of up to 10^8 MCSS for a = 0 and 10^7 MCSS for a = 1 at their respective critical points, sampling snapshots every 200 or 20 MCSS, and classified the snapshots according to their CO coverage in bins of width 0.01. This enabled us to compare the nonequilibrium Ising and mean-field critical cluster structures at similar CO coverages. The results are discussed below.

A. Cluster configurations

Figure 10 compares snapshots without and with long-range reactivity near the critical point for a 100×100 system at CO coverages close to 0.5. We see that with the long-range reactivity parameter a=1, the clusters are in general smaller or have more empty sites inside big clusters, compared to the case without long-range reactivity, a=0. This effect can be easily understood. If a big cluster is formed in the a=0 case, the cluster can only change at its boundary, whereas in the a=1 case particles in the interior of the cluster can also react with the opposite species outside the cluster to form CO_2 and desorb. Therefore, in the a=1 case an original big cluster will easily be broken up into many small clusters or become a big cluster with many holes. Moreover, the additional long-range reactivity makes the time required to switch between the high CO state and the low CO state much shorter, as shown in Fig. 11(a) and Fig. 11(b). These results are consistent with those obtained by Nakada et al. [57] for the nearest-neighbor Ising ferromagnet and the Ising ferromagnet with weak long-range interactions, respectively.

B. Cluster-size measurements

A cluster that has infinite size under periodic boundary conditions is called a spanning or percolating cluster (here defined as one that wraps around the system in one or both directions). It is interesting to compare the probabilities of finding spanning clusters at comparable CO coverages in the two cases of a = 0 (Ising) and a = 1 (mean-field). To answer this, we labeled all the CO and O clusters in every configuration using the Hoshen-Kopelman algorithm [70, 71]. After the labeling, we measured the sizes of the the largest CO and O clusters vs time as shown in Fig. 11(a)-11(d). Meanwhile, we measured the radius of gyration of the largest cluster in every configuration as

$$R_g = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2N^2} \sum_{i,j} (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)^2},\tag{6}$$

where N is the size of the cluster, and \mathbf{r}_i is the coordinate of a lattice point inside the cluster. Note that due to the periodic boundary conditions, (x, y) and $(x \pm L, y \pm L)$ refer to the same lattice point. We therefore have to choose the coordinates such that the lattice points are connected through the cluster. To do this, we picked one lattice point inside the cluster and performed a restricted random walk, such that the walker could only walk inside the cluster. Whenever the walker reached a site that had not been visited before, we would assign it a consistent coordinate. Figures 11(e) and 11(f) show the radii of gyration of the largest CO clusters vs time for a = 0 and a = 1. While spanning clusters were easily found in the a = 0 case (around 45%), only around 0.05% were found to contain spanning clusters in the a = 1 case.

The large probability of spanning clusters for a=0 can of course be easily explained by the large number of configurations with high CO coverages in this case (see Fig. 11(a)). To get a meaningful picture, we must therefore compare critical clusters in the a=0 and a>0 cases at the same CO concentration. This is done in Fig. 12, which shows the probability of finding spanning clusters at the critical point vs the CO coverage for the a=0 and three a>0 cases. This was obtained by sorting the snapshot configurations according to their CO coverage in bins of width 0.01 and plotting the relative number of spanning clusters in each bin. The most striking feature of the figure is that percolation is rarer for configurations with a given CO coverage at a mean-field critical point, than at the Ising critical point (a=0), an effect that becomes more pronounced with increasing a.

Results are shown in Fig. 12 for two system sizes, L=60 and 100. The finite-size effects are seen to be quite modest in the Ising case (a=0). The CO coverage distribution for a=1 is a unimodal distribution (Fig. 13) of mean CO coverage $(\langle \theta_{\text{CO}} \rangle)$ near 0.33 and with the average deviation from the mean CO coverage $(\langle |\theta_{\text{CO},L} - \langle \theta_{\text{CO},L} \rangle| \rangle)$ expected to decrease with increasing L (see details in the next paragraph). Very long simulations are therefore needed to obtain reasonable statistics for CO coverages above 0.5. As a result, we obtained results for CO coverages up to 0.61 for L=60 in a run of 10^7 MCSS, but only up to 0.55 for L=100 using the same run length. For a=0.1 and 0.3 the data for the two system sizes display a clear crossing, as is also the case for random percolation [72]. We interpret this as a sign that in the mean-field case the system develops a sharp percolation threshold that appears to approach the random percolation threshold with increasing a.

The order-parameter distribution functions shown in Fig. 13 deserve some further discussion. In the mean-field case (a=1), the distribution quickly approaches a unimodal form with an average near 0.33 as L increases. Its width is expected to decrease with L as $L^{-\beta/\nu}$ with the mean-field critical exponents $\beta=1/2$ and $\nu=1$. Numerically we obtained $\beta/\nu=0.609\pm0.009, 0.557\pm0.006, 0.553\pm0.004, 0.555\pm0.008$, and 0.549 ± 0.006 for

a = 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, and 1.0, respectively. We consider this consistent with the exact value of 0.5 for the mean-field universality class. In contrast, the Ising case (a=0) shows bimodal distributions with the two peaks shifting slowly toward a central point as L increases. The narrowing is expected to go as $L^{-\beta/\nu}$ with the Ising critical exponents $\beta = 1/8$ and $\nu = 1$. Numerically we obtained $\beta/\nu = 0.0977 \pm 0.0007$ for a = 0 using L = 60, 100, and 160. We consider this consistent with the exact value of 0.125 for the Ising universality class. At the critical point, the two peaks should have equal weight of 50% each. Numerically we find that 48.7%, 49.1% and 44.0% of the data points have a CO coverage of less than 0.5 for L=60,100, and 160, respectively. These results are close to the expected value of 50%. L=160 has a relatively larger deviation compared to L=60 and 100 even though according to Fig. 8, the critical point for L = 160 should be more accurately determined than that for L=60. The reason is that the width of the critical region in the direction perpendicular to the coexistence line (i.e., approximately in the y direction) shrinks with Las $L^{-\beta\delta/\nu}=L^{-15/8}$ [73, 74]. As a result, even a small deviation from the critical point can have a large deleterious effect on the symmetry of the order-parameter distribution. This can be seen in the data point for a = 0, L = 160 in Fig. 9, and it is even more pronounced for L = 240 (not shown).

We suggest that a qualitative explanation for the differences between the finite-size effects in Fig. 12 for the Ising and mean-field cases can be found by considering the form of the spanning probability function for random percolation on a square lattice of linear size L [72],

$$R_L(p) = \exp\left[-cL(p_c - p)^{\nu_p}\right]. \tag{7}$$

Here, p is the site occupation probability, p_c is the random percolation threshold (≈ 0.593 [72]), and ν_p is the critical exponent for the connectance length of the percolation problem (= 4/3 [72]). Ignoring the effect of correlations on the percolation threshold, we approximately map our correlated percolation problem onto random percolation by replacing the system size L by the effective size $\hat{L} = L/\xi$, where ξ is the critical order-parameter correlation length of the interacting model (not to be confused with the percolation connectance length). For the Ising universality class, $\xi \sim L$ at criticality, indicating that the spanning probability for CO coverages below the (modified) percolation threshold should be (approximately) independent of L. In contrast, the correlation length in the mean-field universality class approaches a constant value as L increases [57, 58]. Consequently we expect that the L

dependence of Eq. (7) should also qualitatively describe the behavior for a = 1. The rarity of large clusters is a well-known feature of mean-field critical points in equilibrium models [54, 57, 58]. These observations therefore further strengthen our conclusion that any nonzero long-range reactivity induces mean-field behavior in this nonequilibrium system. In Sec. IV C below we confirm that the correlation lengths in the models studied here indeed obey the L dependence postulated in this paragraph on the basis of the known behaviors in the corresponding equilibrium models.

C. Correlation function and correlation-length measurements

In order to verify the correlation-length scaling relations postulated in Sec. IV B above, we define the CO disconnected correlation function as [57]

$$c(r) = \langle \sigma_i \sigma_j \rangle , \qquad (8)$$

where σ_i is 1 if site *i* is occupied by CO and is 0 otherwise, *r* is the distance between site *i* and site *j*, and the spatial average is taken along the horizontal and vertical directions. The critical correlation length is estimated by integration as

$$\xi(L) = \frac{\int_0^{L/2} [\langle c(r) \rangle - \langle c(L/2) \rangle] r dr}{\int_0^{L/2} [\langle c(r) \rangle - \langle c(L/2) \rangle] dr} \,. \tag{9}$$

As shown in Fig. 14, $\xi \sim L$ at the a=0 critical point, while it remains at approximately L-independent values for a>0. These results are consistent with Ising critical behavior in the former case and mean-field criticality in the latter.

V. CONCLUSION

We employed large-scale Monte Carlo simulations using the crossing of fourth-order cumulants to study the critical properties of the ZGB model with desorption, with and without long-range reactivity. We obtained improved estimates for the critical point and the corresponding cumulant for the original ZBG model with CO desorption ($k_c = 0.0371 \pm 0.0002$, $y_c = 0.54052 \pm 0.00009$, $u_{c,\infty} = 0.624 \pm 0.003$), through the crossing of cumulants up to a system size of 240×240 and run times of 4×10^8 MCSS. With the definition of the desorption rate used by Brosilow and Ziff [4], P = k/(1-k), our result corresponds to $P_c = 0.0385 \pm 0.0002$, close to the result obtained by those authors.

By adding long-range reactivity to the model, we find that the critical point of this nonequilibrium system changes from the two-dimensional Ising universality class to the mean-field universality class. This change occurs even if the long-range reactivity is quite weak. Our conclusion is supported by the fixed-point values of fourth-order cumulants, as well as by the finite-size scaling behavior of the critical correlation length and by estimates of the critical exponent ratio β/ν . Moreover, while spanning clusters are easily observed near the critical point in the case without long-range reactivity, spanning clusters are seldom found near the critical point in the case with strong long-range reactivity. This is so even when the cases are compared at the same value of the CO coverage. The results of adding long-range reactivity to this nonequilibrium model are thus fully consistent with what has previously been observed for weak long-range interactions in equilibrium Ising ferromagnets, providing an example of the intriguing equivalence of critical phenomena in some equilibrium and nonequilibrium systems.

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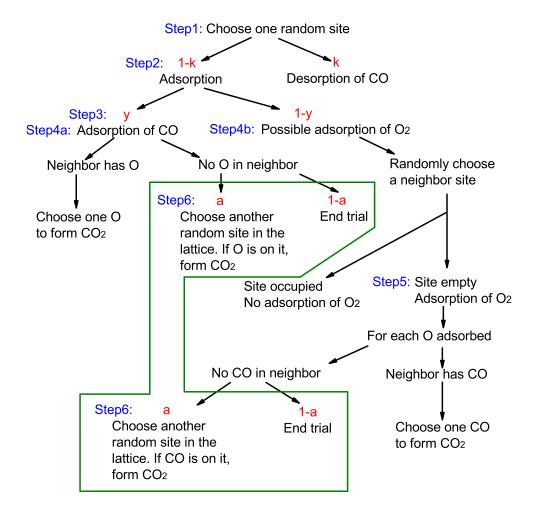


FIG. 1: (Color online) Flow chart for the reaction process. The algorithm is based on that used in [59] for the ZGB model with CO desorption. The framed region contains the added long-range reactivity of strength a (Step 6).

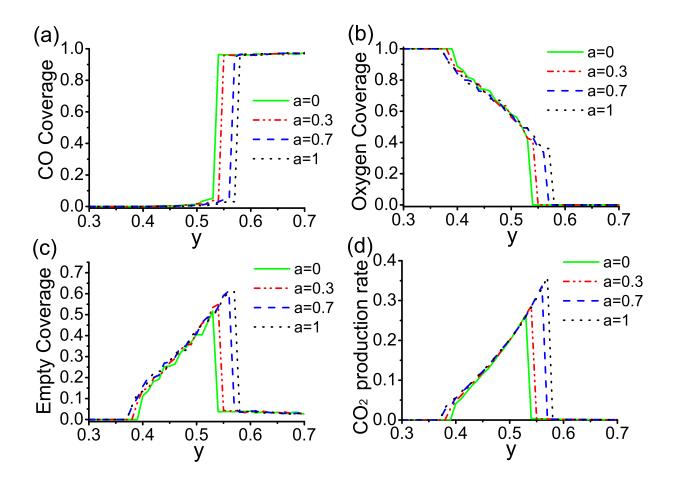


FIG. 2: (Color online) Coverage ratios of (a) carbon monoxide ($\theta_{\rm CO}$), (b) oxygen, (c) empty sites, and (d) CO₂ production rate on the surface, plotted vs CO pressure in the supplied gas, y, using several different values of the long-range reactivity strength a. Parameters chosen are CO desorption rate k=0.02, system size $L\times L=60\times 60$, and run time 10^6 MCSS. The CO₂ production rate is obtained by averaging the CO₂ produced every 1000 MCSS. The lines for a=0 show the results obtained by the original ZGB model with CO desorption, keeping all the other parameters unchanged. Data points are taken at intervals $\Delta y=0.01$.

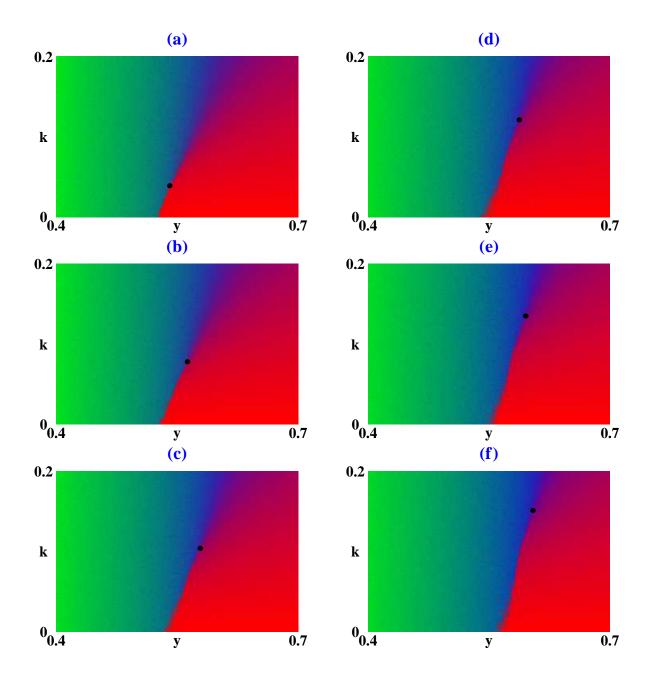


FIG. 3: (Color online) Phase diagram of the system (a) without (a=0) and with (a>0) long-range reactivity ((b) a=0.1, (c) a=0.3, (d) a=0.5, (e) a=0.7 and (f) a=1.0), using 300×200 (k,y) points, 5×10^4 MCSS, and L=40. Every point in the phase diagram is composed of 3 different colors, with red representing CO coverage, green representing O coverage, and blue representing empty coverage. A point in the (k,y) plane with, e.g., CO coverage 0.7, O coverage 0.2, and empty coverage 0.1, is represented by by a point with color intensities 0.7 red, 0.2 green, and 0.1 blue. The black dots show the location of the critical point as $L\to\infty$, obtained from the crossing of cumulants (Fig. 5). In gray scale, the sharp dark line below the black critical point in every diagram is the phase-transition line. The right-hand side of this line is the region where the surface is mainly covered by CO, whereas the left-hand side is the region where it is mainly occupied by oxygen and empty sites with a small density of sites occupied by CO.

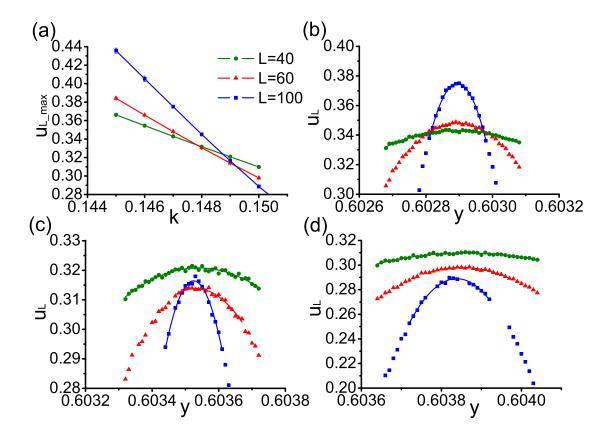


FIG. 4: (Color online) The search for the critical point $(k_{c,L}, y_{c,L})$ for different system sizes L, through the crossing of the maximum of the cumulants $u_{L\text{max}}$, for long-range reactivity parameter a=1.0, using 5×10^7 MCSS, $\Delta y=10^{-5}$, with (a) $\Delta k=10^{-3}$, (b) $k=0.147 < k_{c,L}$, (c) $k=0.149\approx k_{c,L}$, and (d) $k=0.150>k_{c,L}$. The actual critical point for the infinite-size lattice is found by extrapolation to 1/L=0 to be $k_c=k_{c,\infty}=0.15061\pm0.00009$, $y_c=y_{c,\infty}=0.60402\pm0.00003$, as shown in Fig. 5. (As $k_{c,L}$ increases with L, for the system sizes shown here, L=40,60, and 100, we get $0.147 < k_{c,L} < 0.150$.) Error bars for the data points in (a) are comparable to the size of the plotting symbols. They were estimated from the differences between the fitting curve and a narrow range of data points near the cumulant maximum.

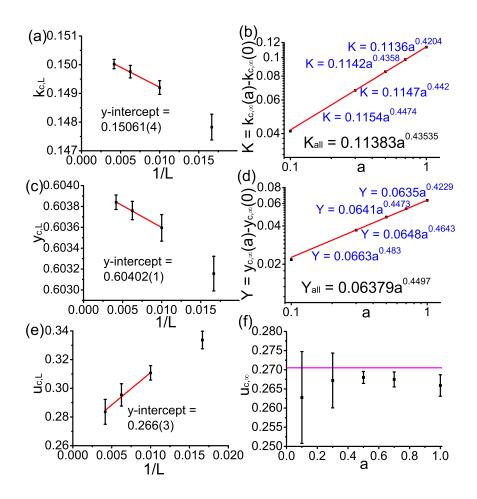


FIG. 5: (Color online) The search for the critical points (k_c, y_c) and the corresponding cumulants $u_{c,L}$ as $L \to \infty$, for the cases of non-zero long-range reactivity. Lattice sizes L = 40, 60, 100, 160, and 240 are used for long-range reactivity strength a = 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, and 1.0 with 5×10^7 MCSS, $\Delta y = 10^{-5}$, and $\Delta k = 10^{-3}$. Parts (a), (c), and (e) show the case for a = 1. The crossing point between L = 40 and L = 60 in Fig. 4 was recorded as the $k_{c,L}$, $y_{c,L}$, $u_{c,L}$ for L = 60. Similarly, data for L = 100 is the crossing point between L = 60 and L = 100. The y-intercepts of the 3 graphs are the critical point $(k_c, y_c) = (k_{c,\infty}, y_{c,\infty})$ and the corresponding cumulant $u_{c,\infty}$ for $L \to \infty$, and these y-intercepts for different values of a were used to obtain the data in parts (b), (d), and (f). The values of $k_{c,L}(0)$ and $y_{c,L}(0)$ used were obtained in Sec. IIIB. Note that too small system sizes sometimes can deviate greatly from the trend for $L \to \infty$, so here we did not use the crossing point between L = 40 and L = 60 to find $k_{c,\infty}$ and $y_{c,\infty}$. In (b) and (d), the equations next to the trendlines are obtained by using every two successive data points, whereas the equations K_{all} and Y_{all} are obtained by using all the data points. The horizontal line in (f) is the exact value (2.7052...) of the cumulant for the mean-field universality class [57].

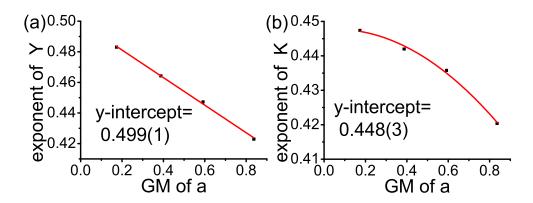


FIG. 6: (Color online) The search for the exponents in Fig. 5(b) and 5(d) when a is close to 0. The x-axis is the geometric mean (GM) of the values of a used in Fig. 5(b) and 5(d). The y-intercepts are the resulting exponents, which are quite different from the behavior $\alpha^{4/7}$ found in the equilibrium Ising model with weak long-range interaction strength α [57, 58].

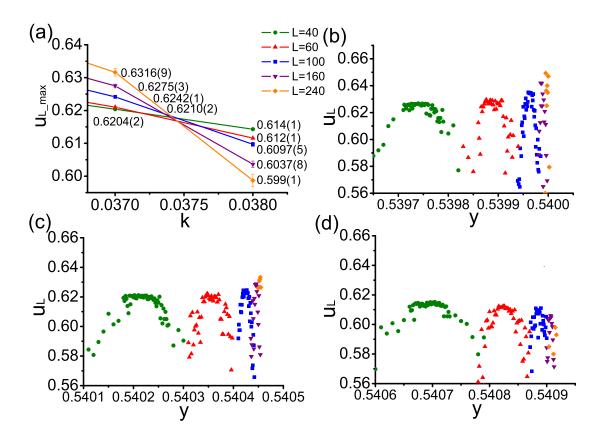


FIG. 7: (Color online) The search for the critical points (k_c, y_c) through the crossing of the maximum of the cumulants $u_{L\text{max}}$, for the case without long-range reactivity, i.e., a=0. System sizes L=40,60,100,160, and 240 with $\Delta k=10^{-3}$ were considered. $\Delta y=2\times 10^{-6}$ was used for L=40 and 60, and $\Delta y=10^{-6}$ was used for L=100,160, and 240. For L=40 and 60, 5×10^{7} MCSS were used. For $L=100,4\times 10^{8}$ MCSS were used for k=0.037, and 5×10^{7} MCSS for k=0.038. For L=160 and 240, 4×10^{8} MCSS were used. (a) shows the crossing of the maximum of the cumulants $u_{L\text{max}}$, the numbers shown are the data points and error bars at k=0.037 and k=0.038. The maximum regions of the cumulants for different system sizes are shown in (b) for k=0.036 < crossing point, (c) for $k=0.037\approx$ crossing point, and (d) for k=0.038> crossing point. Plateaus were found around the maximum regions of the cumulants for all system sizes in (b), (c), and (d). Error bars in (a) were estimated from the fluctuations of the data points in the plateau regions.

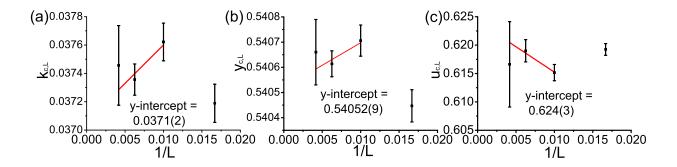


FIG. 8: (Color online) The search for the critical point (k_c, y_c) and the corresponding cumulant $u_{c,\infty}$ for $L \to \infty$ for the case without long-range reactivity, a = 0. Lattice sizes L = 40, 60, 100, 160, and 240 were considered with Δk , Δy and simulation times chosen as in Fig. 7. Similar to Fig. 5, the crossing point between L = 40 and L = 60 in Fig. 7 was recorded as the data point of L = 60. The y-intercepts of these three graphs are the critical point (k_c, y_c) and the corresponding $u_{c,L}$ for $L \to \infty$. Again, too small systems can deviate greatly from the trend for $L \to \infty$, so the crossing point between L = 40 and 60 (data at 1/L = 0.0167 in the graphs) was not used to obtain the y-intercepts of these graphs.

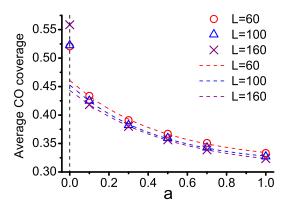


FIG. 9: (Color online) Time-averaged, critical CO coverage, shown vs the long-range reactivity strength a, for L=60, 100, and 160 near their corresponding critical points (at the 60/40, 100/60 and 160/100 cumulant crossings, respectively). 10^7 MCSS were used for a>0 and 10^8 MCSS for a=0. The error bars, not shown, are smaller than the symbol size. The dashed curves represent exponential fits to the a>0 data points for different system sizes.

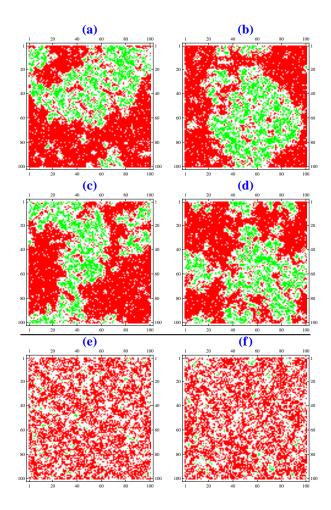


FIG. 10: (Color online) Snapshots of the adsorbate configurations for L=100 near the corresponding critical point (i.e., at the 100/60 cumulant crossing) at different times (t in MCSS) when the CO coverage is near 0.5 (between 0.48 and 0.52). The upper two rows show the case of a=0 (k=0.0376013, y=0.540699) at t=(a) 1062400, (b) 2326000, (c) 4541200 and (d) 5518200. The bottom row shows the case of a=1 (k=0.149209, y=0.603602) at t=(e) 2081640 and (f) 2081660. Lattice sites occupied by CO, O, and empty sites are colored as red (dark gray), green (light gray), and white, respectively. All four snapshots for a=0 contain a spanning CO cluster. For a=1 in (e) and (f), snapshot (f) was taken just 20 MCSS after (e). While the CO coverage of (e) is 0.4848 and of (f) is 0.4869, there is a spanning cluster in (e) but not in (f). Indeed, the radius of gyration of the largest CO cluster in (f) is only 19.2. This is essentially impossible to distinguish by visual inspection alone.

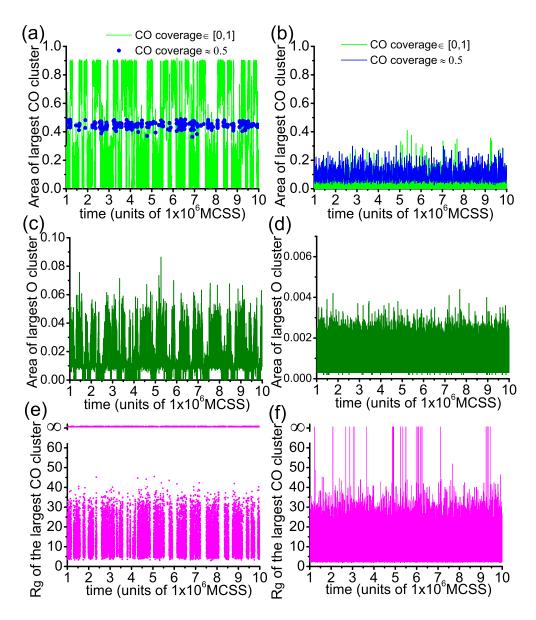


FIG. 11: (Color online) Measurement of the areas and the radii of gyration (R_g) of the largest clusters vs time for a 100×100 lattice near its critical point (i.e., at the 100/60 cumulant crossing). The area is the fraction of the surface occupied by the cluster. Parts (a), (c), and (e) show the results for a=0, whereas (b), (d), and (f) show the results for a=1. Clusters that span the lattice (infinite size under periodic boundary conditions) are recorded as having $R_g=\infty$ in (e) and (f). Data are taken every 200 MCSS for a=0 and every 20 MCSS for a=1, so that there are 45000 or 450000 data points in each graph. In (a) and (b), the green (light gray) line shows all the data, whereas the blue (dark gray) line/dots show the size of the maximum CO cluster only when the system has a CO coverage in the range 0.50 ± 0.02 . Among all the samples, 20118 (44.71%) have a spanning cluster for a=0 (a), and only 23 (0.051%) have a spanning cluster for a=1 (b). All the spanning clusters are found to be CO spanning clusters, i.e., there are no oxygen spanning clusters. The time-averaged CO coverage for a=0 over 10^8 MCSS is 0.52235 and for a=1 over 10^7 MCSS is 0.32713.

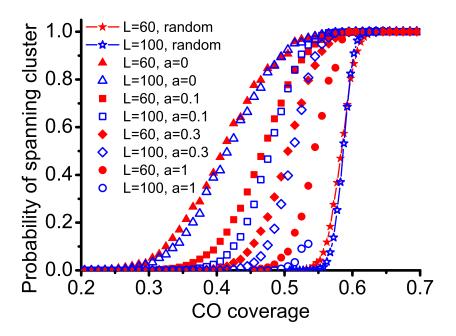


FIG. 12: (Color online) Dependence on the CO coverage of the probability of finding a spanning cluster for a=0, a=0.1, a=0.3, and a=1 for 60×60 and 100×100 lattices near their critical points (i.e., at the 60/40 and 100/60 cumulant crossings, respectively), using a bin width of 0.01. Data were taken every 200 MCSS for a=0, and every 20 MCSS for a>0. 10^8 MCSS were performed for a=0 and 10^7 MCSS for a>0. For a=1 and L=60, 59532 snapshots were found to have CO coverage between 0.45 and 0.61, and among those 3714 spanning clusters (6.24%) were found. For a=1 and L=100 only 17258 snapshots were found to have CO coverage between 0.45 and 0.61, and among them there were only 23 spanning clusters (0.13%). For a=1 we did not obtain useful data for CO coverages above 0.55. This effect is due to the narrowing with increasing L of the critical CO-coverage distribution about its average at approximately 0.33. See Fig. 13 and further discussion in the text. Results for random percolation on 60×60 and 100×100 lattices are shown for comparison. For a=0.1 and 0.3 the data for the two system sizes display a clear crossing. This suggests that the system in the mean-field case develops a sharp percolation threshold that appears to approach the random percolation threshold with increasing a.

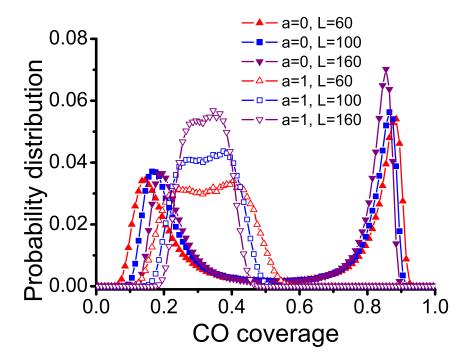


FIG. 13: (Color online) Critical probability distributions for the CO coverage plotted with a bin width of 0.01. The same sets of raw data were used for L = 60, 100 and 160 at the critical points as in Fig. 9. Data were taken every 200 MCSS for a = 0 and every 20 MCSS for a = 1. The mean-field case (a = 1) shows unimodal distributions that narrow as L increases. In contrast, the Ising case (a = 0) shows bimodal distributions with the two peaks shifting slowly toward a central point as L increases. See further discussion in the text.

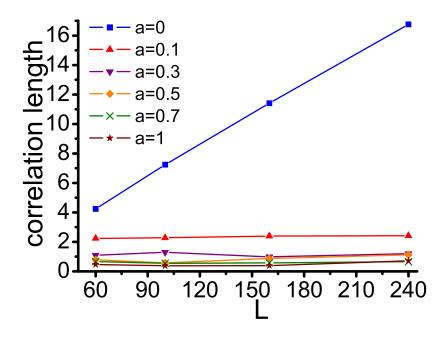


FIG. 14: (Color online) Correlation length for a = 0, 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, and 1 at their corresponding critical points (at the 60/40, 100/60 and 160/100 cumulant crossings, respectively), shown vs system size L. 10^8 MCSS were used for a = 0 and 10^7 MCSS for a > 0. Without long-range reactivity (a = 0), the correlation length increases linearly with L, whereas in the presence of long-range reactivity (a > 0), it is roughly independent of L and decreases with increasing a.