

# **Random Simplicial Complexes**

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## **Part II**

# **Random Geometric Complexes**

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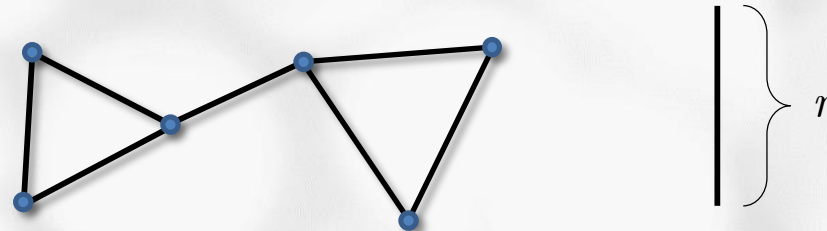
**Definitions**

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## Random Graphs and Networks

### Random Geometric Graphs (RGG)

- $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{X}, r)$  - undirected graph
  - Vertices:  $\mathcal{P}$  – either the binomial ( $\mathcal{X}_n$ ) or the Poisson ( $\mathcal{P}_n$ ) process
  - Edges: for every  $x, y \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $x \sim y$  iff  $d(x, y) \leq r$



- Triangle condition:  $\mathbb{P}(x \sim z \mid x \sim y \text{ and } y \sim z) > \mathbb{P}(x \sim z)$
- Drawback – more difficult to analyze
- Common application:  
Wireless networks – transceivers with transmission range  $r$  are deployed in a region

## Connectivity

- From here on:

- $f : \mathbb{T}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ - the uniform distribution ( $f \equiv 1$ )
- $G(n, r) = G(\mathcal{X}_n, r)$
- $\omega_d$  = volume of a d-dimensional unit ball

### Theorem [Penrose, 97]

For  $\epsilon > 0$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(G(n, r) \text{ is connected}) = \begin{cases} 1 & r = \left( \frac{(1+\epsilon) \log n}{\omega_d n} \right)^{\frac{1}{d}} \\ 0 & r = \left( \frac{(1-\epsilon) \log n}{\omega_d n} \right)^{\frac{1}{d}} \end{cases}$$

- Connectivity threshold:  $r = \left( \frac{\log n}{\omega_d n} \right)^{1/d}$
- Other distributions – **compact support**  $\rightarrow$  same results (up to constants)
- Compare to Erdős–Rényi :  $p = \frac{\log n}{n}$



## Cycles in Random Geometric Graphs

- From here on:

$$\Lambda = \omega_d n r^d$$

### Theorem [?]

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(G(n, r) \text{ is acyclic}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \Lambda \gg \sqrt{1/n} \\ 0 & \Lambda \ll \sqrt{1/n} \end{cases}$$

- Acyclicity threshold:  $\Lambda = \sqrt{1/n}$
- In Erdős–Rényi:  $np = 1 \quad (p = 1/n)$
- Partial explanation:

very different

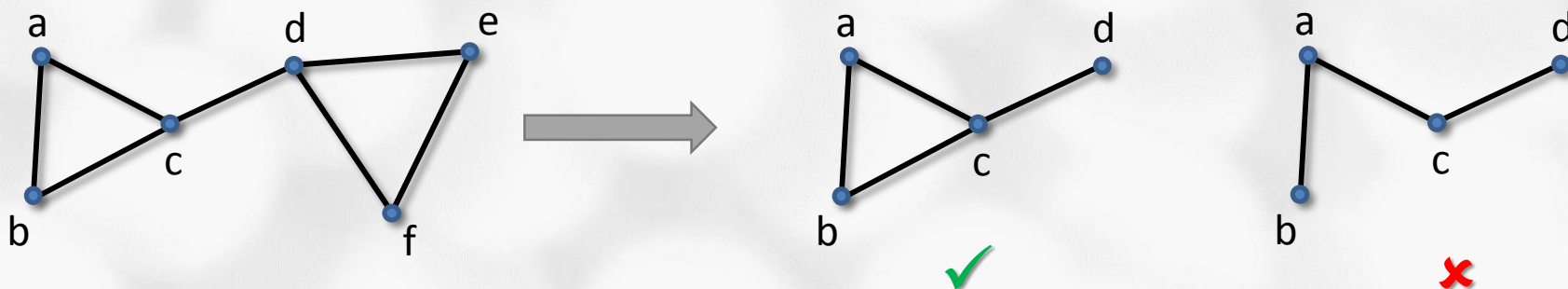
The triangle condition  $\rightarrow$  “easier” to form triangles in  $G(n, r)$  than in  $G(n, p)$



# Induced Subgraphs

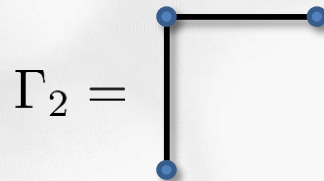
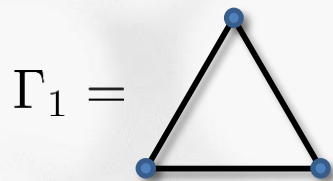
- Induced subgraphs of  $G(n, r)$ :

All the graphs of the form  $G(S, r)$  where  $S \subset \mathcal{X}_n$



- $\Gamma$  = a graph on  $k$  vertices

- $N_\Gamma$  = the number induced subgraphs of  $G(n, r)$  that are isomorphic to  $\Gamma$



$$\Rightarrow N_{\Gamma_1} = 2, \quad N_{\Gamma_2} = 4$$

- Q:** What is  $\mathbb{E}\{N_\Gamma\}$ ?

## The Expected Number of Subgraphs

- Recall:  $\Lambda = \omega_d n r^d$

### Theorem

Let  $\Gamma$  be a graph on  $k$  vertices, and  $N_\Gamma$  the number of induced subgraphs of  $G(n, r)$  isomorphic to  $\Gamma$ . Then

$$\mathbb{E} \{N_\Gamma\} \approx n \Lambda^{k-1} \mu_\Gamma,$$

where  $\mu_\Gamma$  depends on  $\Gamma, k, d$  only (not on  $n, r$ ).

- Example – triangles ( $k=3$ ):

$$\mathbb{E} \{N_\Delta\} \approx n \Lambda^2 \mu_\Delta \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \Lambda \ll 1/\sqrt{n} \\ \infty & \text{if } \Lambda \gg 1/\sqrt{n} \end{cases}$$

acyclicity

## Giant Component

- Recall:  $L$  = largest connected component

### Theorem [Penrose & Pisztor, 96; Penrose 03]

Let  $\Lambda = \lambda$  (or  $r = \left(\frac{\lambda}{\omega_d n}\right)^{1/d}$ ). There exists  $\lambda_c > 0$  such that

- $\lambda < \lambda_c \Rightarrow L \sim \log n$
- $\lambda > \lambda_c \Rightarrow L \sim n$

- Similar to Erdős–Rényi:  $np = 1$
- Continuum percolation

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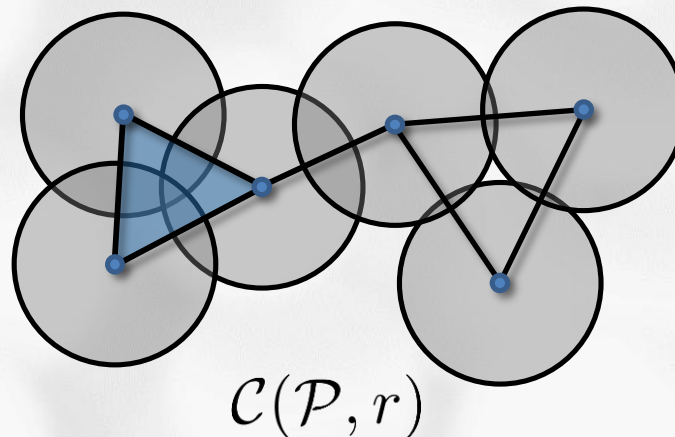
**Definitions**

**Random Geometric Complexes**



## The Čech Complex

- Take a set of vertices  $\mathcal{P}$  in a metric space (0-simplexes)
- Draw balls with radius  $r/2$
- Intersection of 2 balls  $\rightarrow$  an edge (1-simplex)  $\rightarrow G(n, r)$
- Intersection of 3 balls  $\rightarrow$  a triangle (2-simplex)
- Intersection of  $k$  balls  $\rightarrow$  a  $(k-1)$ -simplex





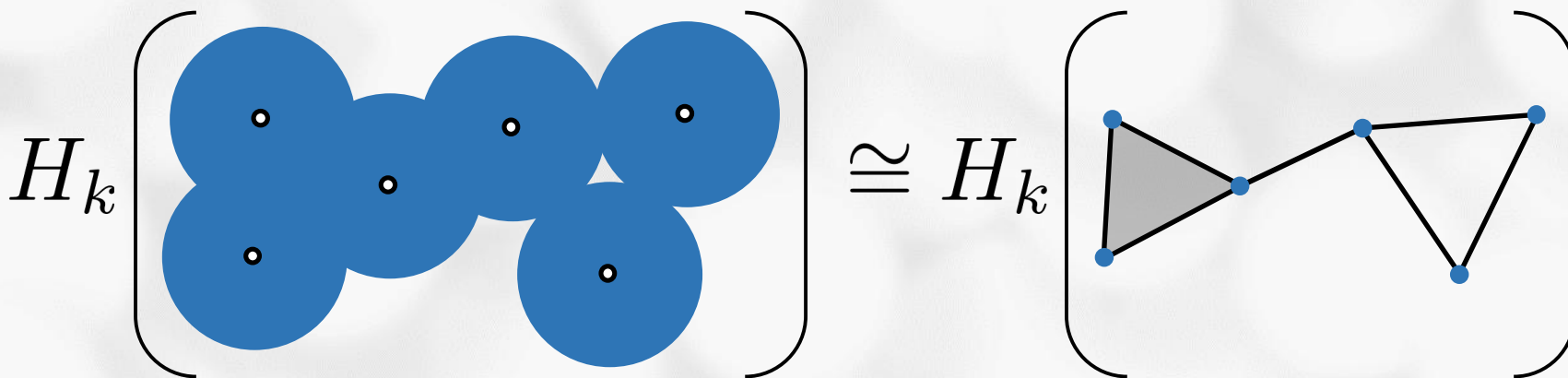
## The Nerve Lemma

$$\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{P}, r) := \bigcup_{p \in \mathcal{P}} B_{r/2}(p)$$

### Lemma [Borsuk, 48]

The Čech complex  $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{P}, r)$  is homotopy equivalent to  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{P}, r)$ .

In particular,  $H_k(\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{P}, r)) \cong H_k(\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{P}, r))$ .

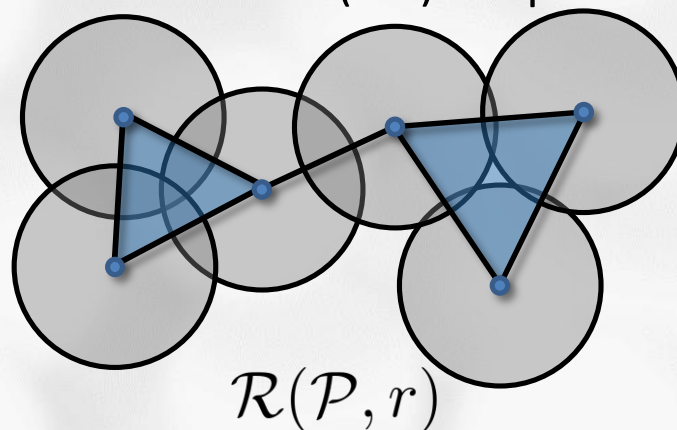






## The Vietoris - Rips Complex

- Take a set of vertices  $\mathcal{P}$  in a metric space (0-simplexes)
- Draw balls with radius  $r/2$
- Intersection of 2 balls  $\rightarrow$  an edge (1-simplex)  $\rightarrow G(n, r)$
- All pairwise intersections of 3 balls  $\rightarrow$  a triangle (2-simplex)
- All pairwise intersections of  $k$  balls  $\rightarrow$  a  $(k-1)$ -simplex



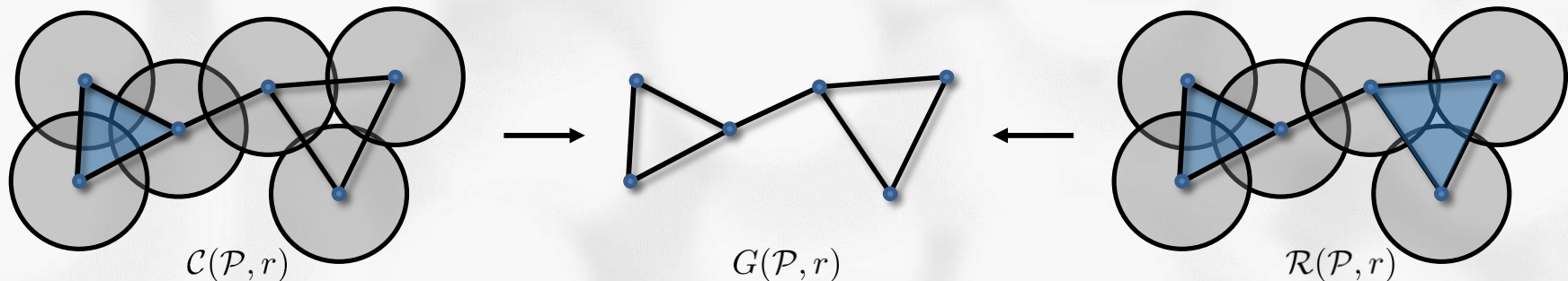


## Some Useful Facts

- Even if  $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  it is possible for  $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{P}, r), \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}, r)$  to have simplexes in **any dimension**  $\geq d$
- Still:  $H_k(\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{P}, r)) = 0$  for  $k \geq d$  (Nerve Lemma)
- Rips “approximates” Čech (de-Silva & Ghrist, 07):

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}r) \subset \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{P}, r) \subset \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}, r)$$

- The 1-skeleton of both  $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{P}, r), \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}, r)$  is the same geometric graph



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## Overview

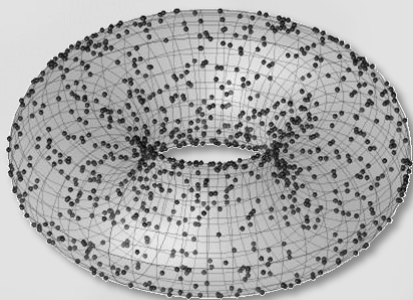
- **Goal:**

Study the limiting behavior of  $H_k(\mathcal{C}(n, r))$  and  $H_k(\mathcal{R}(n, r))$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $r = r(n) \rightarrow 0$

- **Three main regimes:**

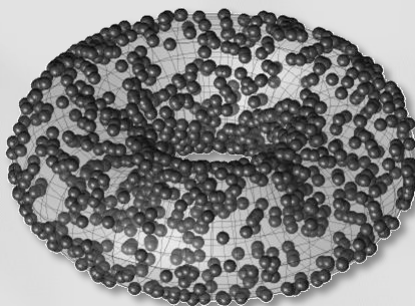
$$\Lambda := \omega_d n r^d \sim \text{vertex degree}$$

Subcritical



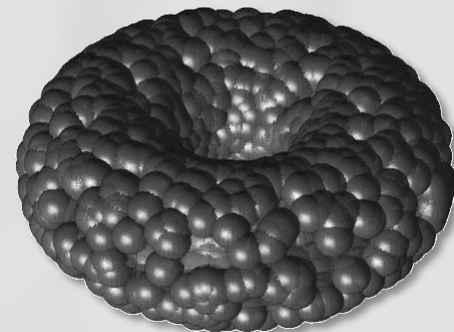
$$\Lambda \rightarrow 0$$

Critical



$$\Lambda \rightarrow \lambda \in (0, \infty)$$

Supercritical



$$\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$$

## Connected Components ( $H_0$ )

- Random Geometric Graphs Theory (Penrose, Bollobás and others)
- Subcritical ( $\Lambda \rightarrow 0$ ):

$$\frac{\beta_0}{n} \rightarrow 1 \quad (\text{dust})$$

- Critical ( $\Lambda \rightarrow \lambda$ ):

$$\frac{\beta_0}{n} \rightarrow C_\lambda < 1 \quad (\text{continuum percolation})$$

- Supercritical ( $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ):

$$\beta_0 = o(n)$$

- Connectivity threshold -  $\Lambda_0$ :

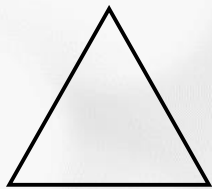
$$\Lambda_0 = \log n$$

$$r = \left( \frac{\log n}{\omega_d n} \right)^{1/d}$$

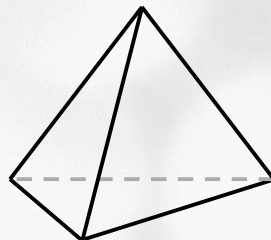


# The Subcritical Regime ( $\Lambda \rightarrow 0$ )

- Complex is very sparse
- $\Rightarrow$  Homology is dominated by minimal & isolated cycles
- Čech:

 $k=1$ 


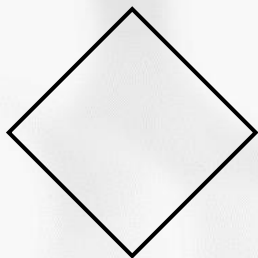
3 vertices

 $k=2$ 


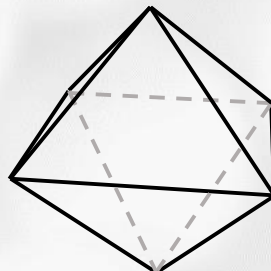
4 vertices

 $k\text{-cycle} \Rightarrow \text{empty } (k+1)\text{-simplex} \Rightarrow k+2 \text{ vertices}$ 

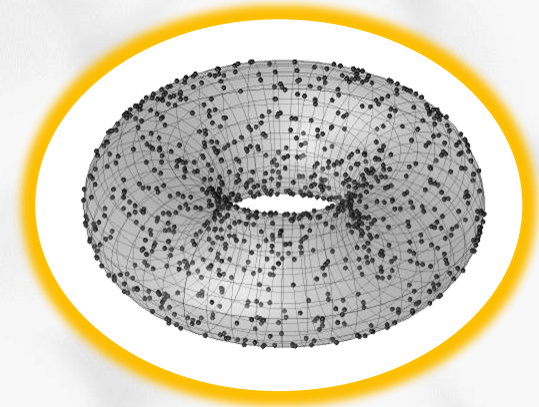
- Rips:

 $k=1$ 


4 vertices

 $k=2$ 


6 vertices

 $k\text{-cycle} \Rightarrow \text{empty cross-polytope} \Rightarrow 2k+2 \text{ vertices}$ 




## Betti Numbers Approximation

- Consider Čech the complex
- Define:

$$S_k = \# \text{isolated empty } (k+1)\text{-simplexes } (k+2 \text{ vertices})$$

$$F_k = \# k\text{-simplexes in components with at least } k+3 \text{ vertices}$$

- Claim:

$$S_k \leq \beta_k \leq S_k + F_k$$

- We can show:

$$F_k \ll S_k \quad (\text{sparse regime})$$

## The Limiting Mean

- Similarly to subgraph counting:

### Theorem [Kahle, 2011]

If  $\Lambda \rightarrow 0$ , then

- For the Čech complex  $\mathcal{C}(n, r)$ :

$$\mathbb{E} \{ \beta_k \} \approx n \Lambda^{k+1} \mu_k^{\mathcal{C}}, \quad 1 \leq k \leq d-1$$

- For the Rips complex  $\mathcal{R}(n, r)$ :

$$\mathbb{E} \{ \beta_k \} \approx n \Lambda^{2k+1} \mu_k^{\mathcal{R}}, \quad k \geq 1$$

- Where:

$$\mu_k^{\mathcal{C}} = \frac{1}{(k+2)!} \int h_1^{\mathcal{C}}(0, \mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y}$$

$$\mu_k^{\mathcal{R}} = \frac{1}{(2k+2)!} \int h_1^{\mathcal{R}}(0, \mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y}$$

$$h_r^{\mathcal{C}}(S) = \mathbb{1} \{ \mathcal{C}(S, r) \text{ is an empty simplex} \}$$

$$h_r^{\mathcal{R}}(S) = \mathbb{1} \{ \mathcal{R}(S, r) \text{ is an empty cross-polytope} \}$$

## Limit Theorems

### Poisson Approximation

Let  $Z_1, Z_2, \dots$  - be i.i.d.,  $Z_i \in \{0, 1\}$ , with  $\mathbb{P}(Z_i = 1) = p$ .

Let  $W = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i$ . If  $p = \frac{c}{n}$  then

$$W \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \text{Poisson}(c)$$

### The Central Limit Theorem (CLT)

Let  $Z_1, Z_2, \dots$  - be i.i.d., with  $\mathbb{E}\{Z_i\} = \mu$ , and  $\text{Var}(Z_i) = \sigma^2 < \infty$ .

Let  $W = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Z_i - \mu)}{\sqrt{n\sigma^2}}$ . Then

$$W \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

- The Betti numbers:

Let  $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_{k+1})$ , and  $Z_{\mathbf{i}} = \mathbb{1} \{X_{i_1}, \dots, X_{i_{k+1}} \text{ form a min. isolated cycle}\}$

$$\beta_k \approx \sum_{\mathbf{i}} Z_{\mathbf{i}} \quad \text{- not independent}$$

## Limiting Distribution

Čech:

$$\mathbb{E} \{ \beta_k \} \approx n \Lambda^{k+1} \mu_k^C$$

### Theorem [Kahle & Meckes, 2013]

If  $\Lambda \rightarrow 0$ , and  $k \geq 1$ ,

- $\text{Var}(N_k) \approx n \Lambda^{k+1} \mu_k^C \approx \mathbb{E} \{ \beta_k \}$

- $n \Lambda^{k+1} \rightarrow 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \beta_k \xrightarrow{L^2} 0$

- $n \Lambda^{k+1} \rightarrow a \in (0, \infty) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \beta_k \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \text{Poisson}(a \mu_k^C)$

- $n \Lambda^{k+1} \rightarrow \infty \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\beta_k - \mathbb{E} \{ \beta_k \}}{\sqrt{n \Lambda^{k+1}}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{N}(0, \mu_k^C)$

- Proofs use Stein's method (limits of sums of “weakly dependent” variables)

## The Subcritical Regime ( $\Lambda \rightarrow 0$ )

- Exact limit values are known, as well as limit distributions

- For example:

- Čech:  $\beta_k \sim n\Lambda^{k+1}, \quad k = 1, \dots, d-1$

- Rips:  $\beta_k \sim n\Lambda^{2k+1}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$

$$\Rightarrow n \approx \beta_0 \gg \beta_1 \gg \beta_2 \gg \dots$$

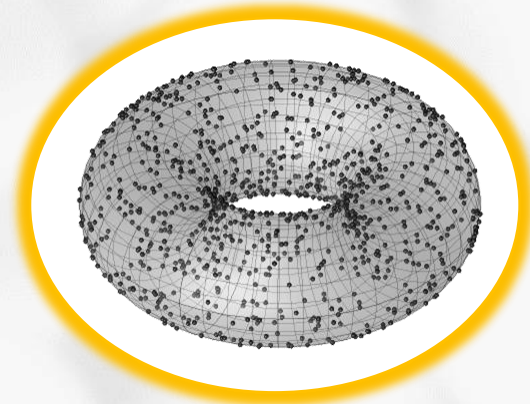
- Phase transition - appearance:

$$\text{Čech: } \Lambda_k^+ = n^{-\frac{1}{k+1}}$$

$$\text{Rips: } \Lambda_k^+ = n^{-\frac{1}{2k+1}}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(H_k \neq 0) = \begin{cases} 0 & \Lambda \ll \Lambda_k^+ \\ 1 & \Lambda \gg \Lambda_k^+ \end{cases}$$

- Behavior is independent of  $f$  (constants might be different)





## The Critical Regime ( $\Lambda \rightarrow \lambda$ )

- Cycles are neither minimal nor isolated

- Inequality:  $S_k \leq \beta_k \leq S_k + F_k$

No longer true that:  $F_k \ll S_k$

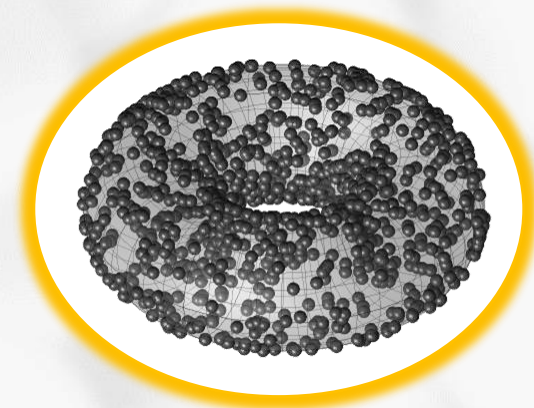
- Scale is known:  $\beta_k \sim n, \quad k \geq 0$

- Law of large number & central limit theorems are proved

- Limiting constants are unknown

- Euler characteristic (later)

- Behavior is independent of  $f$  and  $\text{supp}(f)$



Kahle, 2011

B. & Adler, 2014

Yogeshwaran, Subag & Adler, 2014

B. & Mukherjee, 2015



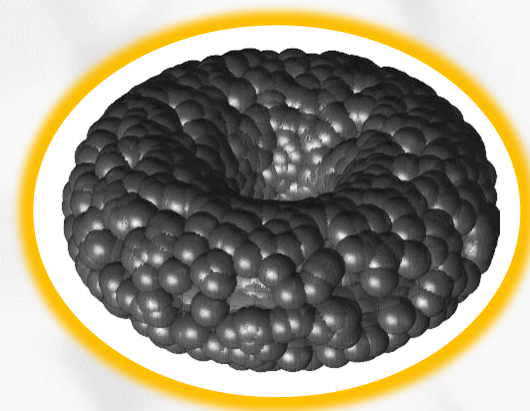
## The Subcritical Regime ( $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ )

- Highly connected, almost everything is covered
- $\beta_k$  decays from  $\sim n$  (critical) to  $\sim 1$  (coverage)
- Recall:  $\text{supp}(f) = d$ -dimensional torus
- Phase transition – “vanishing”:

Threshold:

$$\Lambda^- = 2^d \log n$$

(connectivity threshold =  $\log n$ )



$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P} \left( H_k(\mathcal{C}(n, r)) \cong H_k(\mathbb{T}^d) \right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \Lambda = (1 + \epsilon) \Lambda^- \\ 0 & \Lambda = (1 - \epsilon) \Lambda^- \end{cases} \quad k \geq 1$$

NSW, 2008  
 Kahle, 2011  
 B. & Mukherjee, 2015  
 B. & Weinberger, 2015

## The Expected Betti Numbers

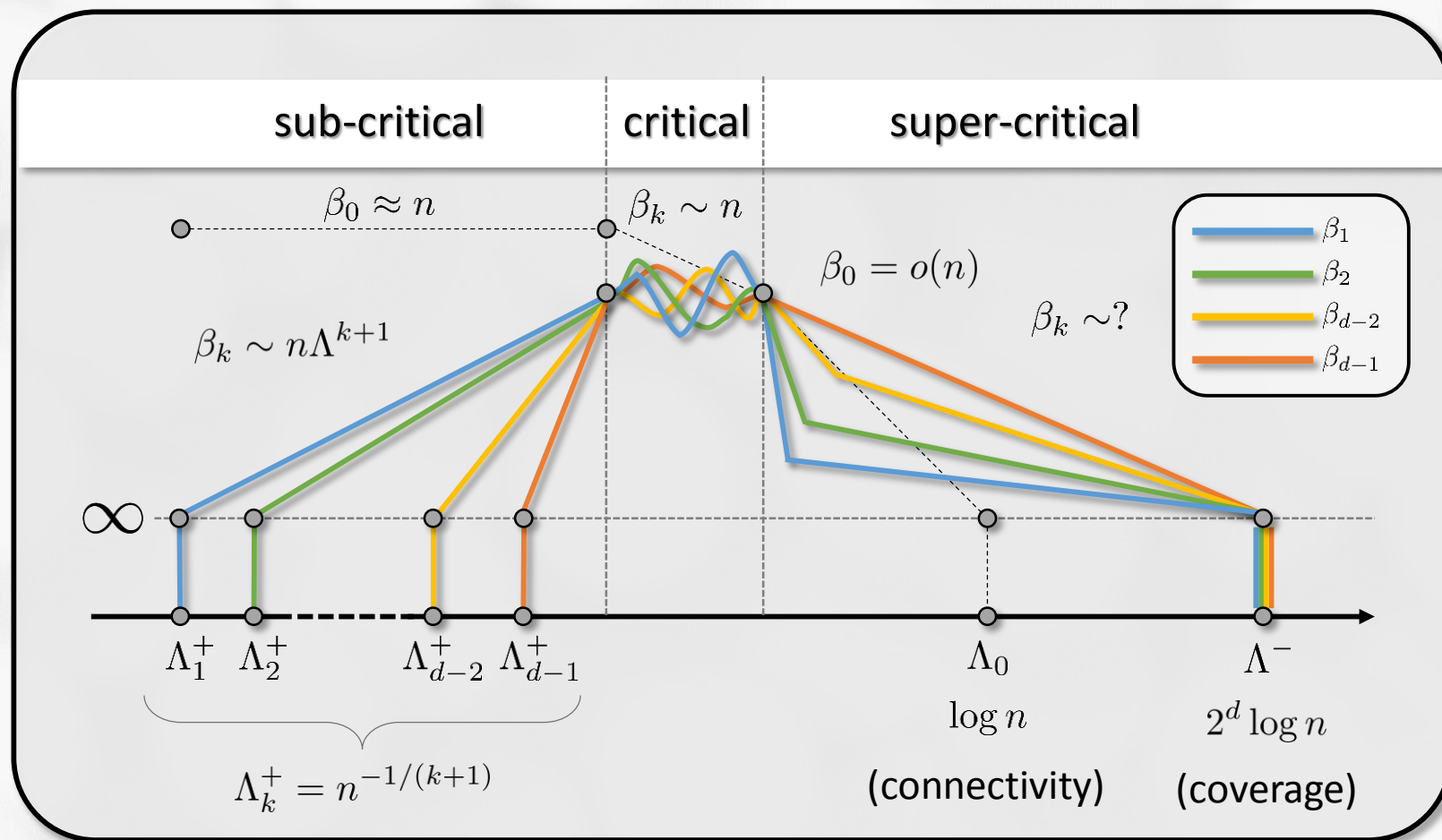
- Using Morse Theory, we can show in addition that:

### Theorem [B. & Weinberger, 15]

For  $1 \leq k \leq d$ , if  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$  then

$$\mathbb{E} \{ \beta_k(r) \} = \beta_k(\mathbb{T}^d) + O(n\Lambda^k e^{-\Lambda/2^d})$$

# Summary



## Topological Inference

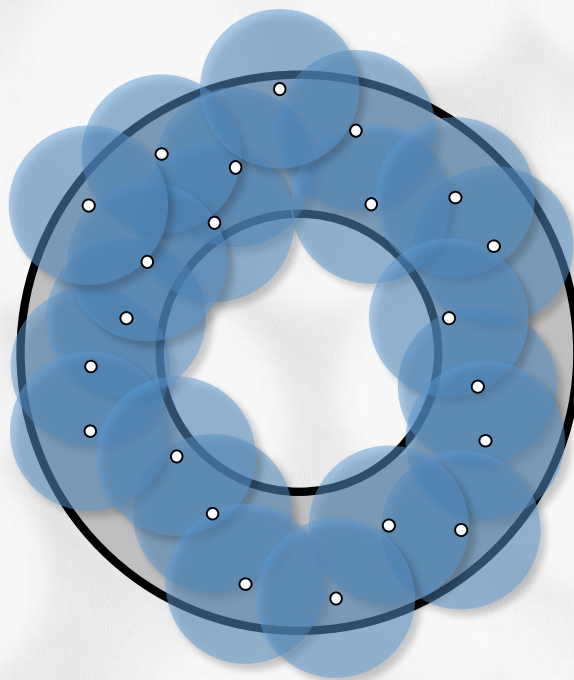
- **Objective:** Study the homology of an unknown space from a set of samples

- **Example:**

$X = \text{an annulus}$

$$\beta_0(X) = 1$$

$$\beta_1(X) = 1$$



$$U = \bigcup B_r(x_k)$$

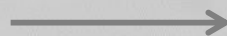
$$\beta_0(U) = 1$$

$$\beta_1(U) = 1$$

- **Problem:** How should we choose  $r$ ?

Larger sample

$$n \rightarrow \infty$$



Smaller radius

$$r \rightarrow 0$$

## More General Manifolds

- $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathbb{R}^D$  - closed manifold, with  $\dim(\mathcal{M}) = d$
- $f : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  - a probability density function, with  $f_{\min} = \inf_{x \in \mathcal{M}} f(x) > 0$
- $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  - *iid* random samples, generated from  $f$
- $n \rightarrow \infty, \quad r = r(n) \rightarrow 0$

### Theorem [B & Mukherjee]

If  $\Lambda \geq \frac{1+\epsilon}{f_{\min}} \log n$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(H_*(\mathcal{C}(n, r)) \cong H_*(\mathcal{M})) = 1$$

- Similar to the torus  $\mathbb{T}^d$ , but here – showing coverage is not enough
- Morse Theory helps (later)



## Geometric vs. Clique Complexes

- Clique complexes -  $H_k \neq 0$  if :

$$n^{-\frac{1}{k}} \ll p \ll \left( \frac{\log n}{n} \right)^{\frac{1}{k+1}}$$

$\Downarrow$

Degree:  $n^{\frac{k-1}{k}} \ll np \ll (n^k \log n)^{\frac{1}{k+1}}$

$\downarrow$

$\infty$

(past connectivity)

Different degrees are almost separated

- Geometric Complexes -  $H_k \neq 0$  if:

$$n^{-\alpha^k} \ll \Lambda \ll \log n$$

$\downarrow$

0

(way before connectivity)

Different degrees coexist



**Next:**  
**Extensions and Applications**