

Stochastic Models of Higher-Order Networks

Point Processes and Topological Data Analysis

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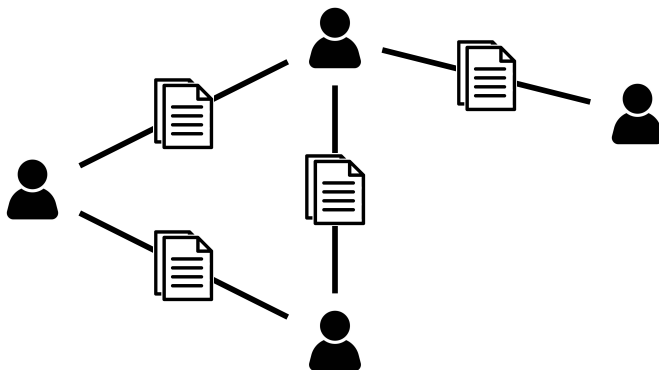
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- (Topology of Higher-Order Random Connection Models)

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Complex Systems



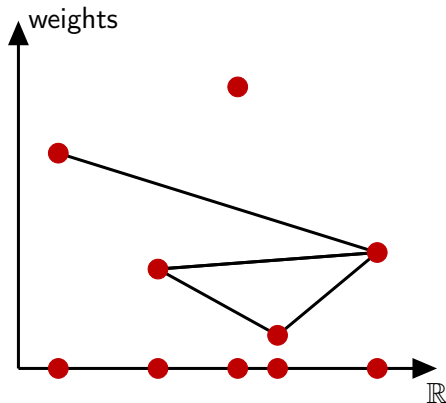
Weighted Random Connection Models

- **Common properties**

- power-law distribution
- small-world property
- community structure (clustering)

- **Model**

- vertices: point process on a metric space
- weights: i.i.d. random variables
- edges: random connection function



M. Deijfen, R. van der Hofstad, and G. Hooghiemstra. Scale-free percolation. *Ann. Inst. Henri Poincaré Probab. Stat.*, 49(3):817–838, 2013.

Kernel-Based Random Connection Model

- vertices: point process $\mathcal{P}_s$ on $\mathbb{R}^d$ with intensity $s > 0$
- weights: i.i.d. random variables W_x , distribution $F_W(w)$
- interpolation kernel $\kappa: [0, \infty) \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$

$$\kappa(w_1, w_2) := (w_1 \wedge w_2)(w_1 \vee w_2)^a \quad (a \geq 0)$$

- connection probability: $\varphi: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, 1]$

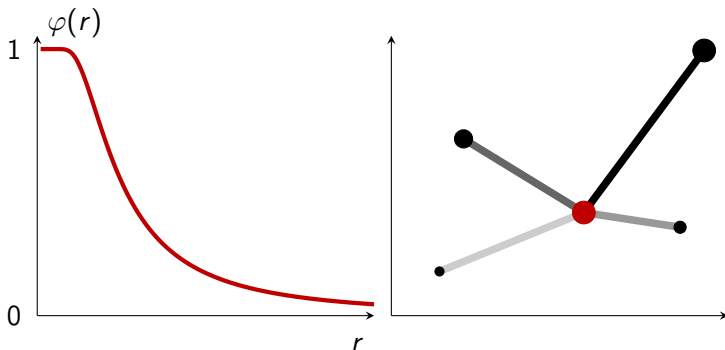
$$\varphi\left(\frac{|B_{|x-y|}(o)|}{v_s \kappa(W_x, W_y)}\right) \int_0^\infty \varphi(r) dr = 1$$

- regularity conditions on φ and F_W :

$$\lim_{r \uparrow \infty} \frac{\varphi(tr)}{\varphi(r)} = t^{-\alpha} \quad \lim_{w \uparrow \infty} \frac{1 - F_W(tw)}{1 - F_W(w)} = t^{-\beta} \quad \alpha > 1, \beta \geq a\alpha$$

Example

$$\varphi(r) := 1 - \exp(-r^{-2}/\pi) \quad \kappa(w_1, w_2) := w_1 w_2$$



Goal of the Study

- Spatial distribution of k -degree vertices:

$$\xi_s := \sum_{x \in \mathcal{P}_s \cap [0,1]^d} \mathbb{1}\{\deg(x) = k\} \delta_x$$

- Goal: approximate ξ_s as $s \rightarrow \infty$
- Specify scaling v_s such that $\mathbb{E}[\xi_s([0,1]^d)] = 1$
- Typical weight of a degree- k node:

$$\mathbb{P}(W \leq w_s) = 1/(2s)$$

Poisson Approximation

Theorem (Hirsch, Jahnelt, Jhavar, J.; 2025)

ζ : Poisson point process with intensity $\mathbb{1}\{x \in [0, 1]^d\}$

$$\text{If } (sv_s)^{-1} w_s^{-\eta} \in o(1/\log(s))$$

$$F(w_s^\eta) w_s^{-(K+1)(1-\eta)} \in o(1/\log(s))$$

$$w_s^{-(1-K\delta)(1-\eta)} \in o(1/\log(s)).$$

$$\text{Then } d_{\text{KR}}(\xi_s, \zeta) = \sup_{h \in \text{LIP}(1)} \left\{ |\mathbb{E}[h(\xi_s)] - \mathbb{E}[h(\zeta)]| \right\} \xrightarrow{s \uparrow \infty} 0$$

M. D. Penrose. Inhomogeneous random graphs, isolated vertices, and Poisson approximation. *J. Appl. Probab.*, 55(1):112–136, 2018.

S. K. Iyer and S. K. Jhavar. Poisson approximation and connectivity in a scale-free random connection model. *Electron. J. Probab.*, 26(23):Paper No. 86, 2021.

Stein's Method

O. Bobrowski, M. Schulte, and D. Yogeshwaran. Poisson process approximation under stabilization and Palm coupling. *Ann. H. Lebesgue*, 5:1489–1534, 2022.

- $(\mathbb{X}, \mathcal{X}), (\mathbb{Y}, \mathcal{Y})$: lcsch spaces
- $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbb{X}}$: set of σ -finite counting measures on $\mathbb{X}$
- $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{X})$: set of closed subsets of $\mathbb{X}$
- $\mathcal{S}: \mathbb{X}^m \times \mathbf{N}_{\mathbb{X}} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$: stopping sets
 $\{\omega \in \mathbf{N}_{\mathbb{X}}: \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}, \omega) \subseteq A\} = \{\omega \in \mathbf{N}_{\mathbb{X}}: \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}, \omega \cap A) \subseteq A\} \quad (\forall A \subseteq \mathbb{X})$
- Indicator
 $g: \mathbb{X}^m \times \mathbf{N}_{\mathbb{X}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\} \quad g(\mathbf{x}, \omega) = g(\mathbf{x}, \omega \cap A) \quad \forall A \supset \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}, \omega)$
- Function
 $f: \mathbb{X}^m \times \mathbf{N}_{\mathbb{X}} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y} \quad f(\mathbf{x}, \omega) = f(\mathbf{x}, \omega \cap A) \quad \forall A \supset \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}, \omega)$

Stein's Method

Theorem (Bobrowski, Schulte, Yogeshwaran; 2022)

- η, ζ : Poisson point processes on $\mathbb{X}$ with intensities $\lambda_\eta, \lambda_\zeta < \infty$
- ξ : point process on $\mathbb{X}$ with intensity λ_ξ

$$\xi[\eta] := \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \eta_{\neq}^m} g(\mathbf{x}, \eta) \delta_{f(\mathbf{x}, \eta)}$$

- $\hat{\mathcal{S}} : \mathbb{X}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \quad \mathbf{x} \subseteq \hat{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{x})$
- $g_{\text{tr}}(\mathbf{x}, \omega) := g(\mathbf{x}, \omega) \mathbb{1}\{\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}, \omega) \subseteq \hat{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{x})\}$

Then

$$d_{\text{KR}}(\xi, \zeta) \leq d_{\text{TV}}(\lambda_\xi, \lambda_\zeta) + E_1 + E_2 + E_3 + E_4$$

Stein's Method

Theorem (Bobrowski, Schulte, Yogeshwaran; 2022)

$$E_1 := \frac{2}{m!} \int_{\mathbb{X}^m} \mathbb{E}[g(\mathbf{x}, \eta \cup \mathbf{x}) \mathbb{1}\{\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}, \eta \cup \mathbf{x}) \not\subset \hat{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{x})\}] \lambda_{\xi}^{\otimes m}(\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x})$$

$$E_2 := \frac{2}{(m!)^2} \iint_{\mathbb{X}^m \times \mathbb{X}^m} \mathbb{1}\{\hat{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{x}) \cap \hat{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{z}) \neq \emptyset\} \\ \times \mathbb{E}[g_{\mathrm{tr}}(\mathbf{x}, \eta \cup \mathbf{x})] \mathbb{E}[g_{\mathrm{tr}}(\mathbf{z}, \eta \cup \mathbf{z})] \lambda_{\xi}^{\otimes m}(\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}) \lambda_{\xi}^{\otimes m}(\mathrm{d}\mathbf{z})$$

$$E_3 := \frac{2}{(m!)^2} \iint_{\mathbb{X}^m \times \mathbb{X}^m} \mathbb{1}\{\hat{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{x}) \cap \hat{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{z}) \neq \emptyset\} \\ \times \mathbb{E}[g_{\mathrm{tr}}(\mathbf{x}, \eta \cup \mathbf{x} \cup \mathbf{z}) g_{\mathrm{tr}}(\mathbf{z}, \eta \cup \mathbf{x} \cup \mathbf{z})] \lambda_{\xi}^{\otimes m}(\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}) \lambda_{\xi}^{\otimes m}(\mathrm{d}\mathbf{z})$$

$$E_4 := \frac{2}{m!} \sum_{\emptyset \subsetneq I \subsetneq \{1, \dots, m\}} \frac{1}{(m - |I|)!} \int_{\mathbb{X}^m} \int_{\mathbb{X}^{m - |I|}} \mathbb{E}[g_{\mathrm{tr}}(\mathbf{x}, \eta \cup \mathbf{x} \cup \mathbf{z}) \\ \times g_{\mathrm{tr}}((\mathbf{x}_I, \mathbf{z}), \eta \cup \mathbf{x} \cup \mathbf{z})] \lambda_{\xi}^{\otimes m - |I|}(\mathrm{d}\mathbf{z}) \lambda_{\xi}^{\otimes m}(\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x})$$

Proof Sketch

- Problem: g should be localized to $S \in \mathcal{F}$
- Step 1: mark approximation
neglect high weighted points
- Step 2: reach approximation:
neglect far points

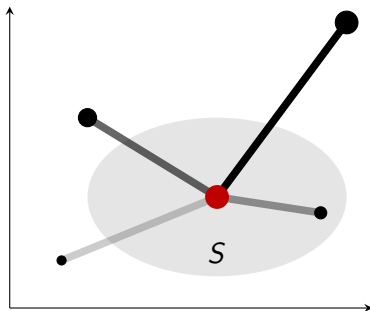
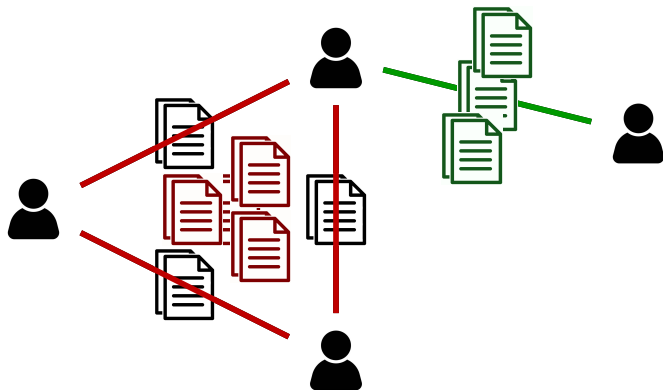


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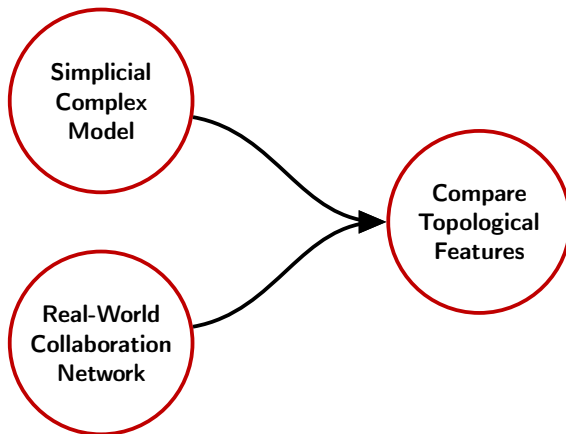
- 1 Poisson Approximation in Weighted Random Connection Models
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Complex Systems



Simple graphs: information loss

Outline



Random Connection Hypergraph Model (RCHM)

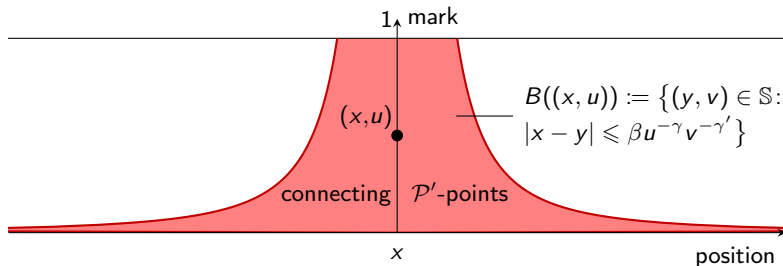
Two Poisson point processes
on $\mathbb{S} := \mathbb{R} \times [0, 1]$

- vertices: $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{S}$
- hyperedges: $\mathcal{P}' \subset \mathbb{S}$

Connections:

$$\{(X, U), (Y, V)\} \in \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{P}'$$

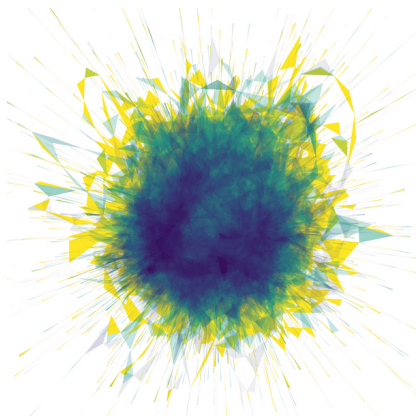
$$|X - Y| \leq \beta U^{-\gamma} V^{-\gamma'} \quad \gamma, \gamma' \in (0, 1)$$



R. van der Hofstad, J. Komjáthy, and V. Vadon. Random intersection graphs with communities. *Adv. in Appl. Probab.*, 53(4):1061–1089, 2021.

Collaboration Network

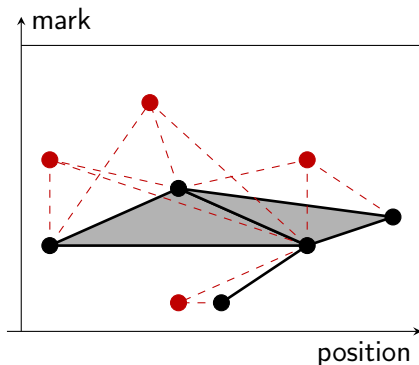
- Source: arXiv preprint server
- Vertices: $\sim 8 \cdot 10^5$ authors
- Hyperedges: $\sim 10^6$ documents



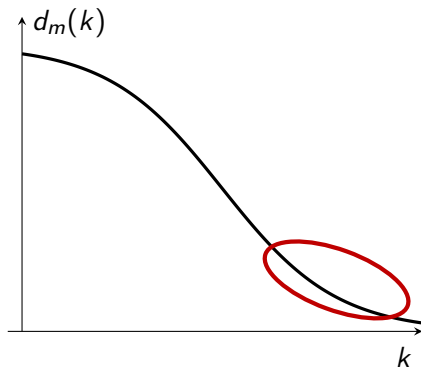
Statistics dataset (1990–2023)

Higher-Order Degree Distribution

$$\deg(\Delta) := \mathcal{P}'\left(\bigcap_{p \in \Delta} B(p)\right)$$



$$d_m(k) := \mathbb{P}(\deg(\Delta_m^*) \geq k)$$



Higher-Order Degree Distributions

Theorem (Brun, Hirsch, J., Otto; 2025+)

$$\lim_{k \uparrow \infty} \log(d_m(k)) / \log(k) = m - (m + 1)/\gamma,$$

where

$$d_m(k) = \mathbb{P}(\deg(\Delta_m^*) \geq k).$$

- Parameter fitting: model parameters can be tuned to obtain a given power-law exponent.

Simplicial Complex

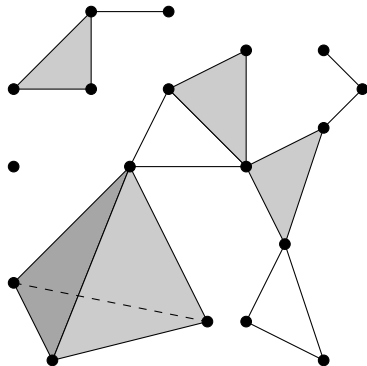
Idea: represent higher-order relationships with a simplicial complex

Definition (Simplicial Complex)

- (P, Σ)
- $P \neq \emptyset, |P| < \infty$
- $\Sigma \subseteq 2^P$
- $p \in P \implies \{p\} \in \Sigma$
- $\sigma \in \Sigma, \Delta \subseteq \sigma \implies \Delta \in \Sigma$

RCHM = simplicial complex

$$\Sigma = \{\Delta \subseteq \mathcal{P} : \deg(\Delta) \geq 1\}$$



Betti Numbers

Definition (k -chains)

$$C_k(K) := \left\{ \sum_i a_i \sigma_i, : a_i \in \mathbb{Z}_2, \sigma_i \in \Sigma, |\sigma_i| = k + 1 \right\}$$

Definition (Boundary operator)

$$\partial_k: C_k(K) \rightarrow C_{k-1}(K) \qquad \partial_k(\sigma_i) = \sum_{j=0}^k \sigma_i^{(j)}$$

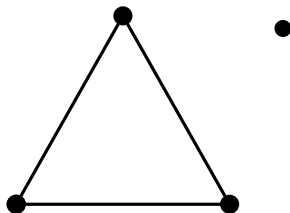
Definition (Cycle and boundary groups)

Cycle group: $Z_k = \ker(\partial_k)$

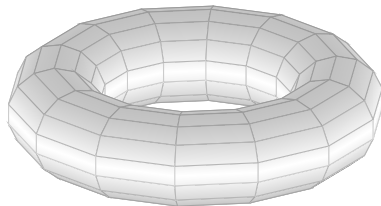
Boundary group: $B_k = \text{im}(\partial_{k+1})$

k th Betti number: $\beta_k = \dim(Z_k) - \dim(B_k)$

Betti Numbers



$$\beta_0 = 2; \beta_1 = 1; \beta_2 = 0$$



$$\beta_0 = 1; \beta_1 = 2; \beta_2 = 1$$

CLT for Betti Numbers

- Window: $\mathbb{S}_n := [0, n] \times [0, 1]$
- Simplicial complex: $G_n := G(\mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{S}_n, \mathcal{P}' \cap \mathbb{S}_n)$
- Betti number of dimension m in window n : $\beta_m^{(n)} := \beta_m(G_n)$

Theorem (Brun, Hirsch, J., Otto; 2025+)

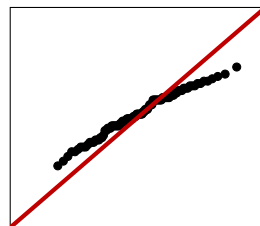
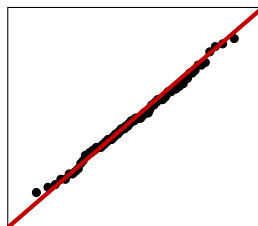
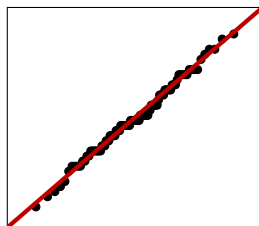
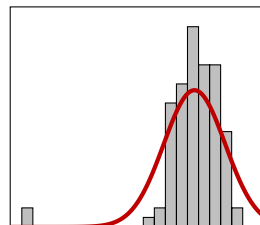
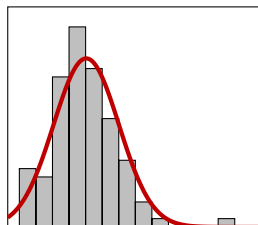
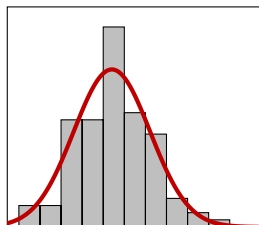
If $\gamma < 1/4$, $\gamma' < 1/(4(m+1))$, then

$$n^{-1/2}(\beta_m^{(n)} - \mathbb{E}[\beta_m^{(n)}]) \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2) \quad \sigma^2 \geq 0.$$

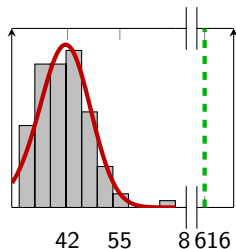
M. D. Penrose and J. E. Yukich. Central limit theorems for some graphs in computational geometry. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 11(4):1005–1041, 2001.

D. Pabst. Betti numbers in the random connection model for higher-dimensional simplicial complexes and the Boolean model. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.13429*, 2025.

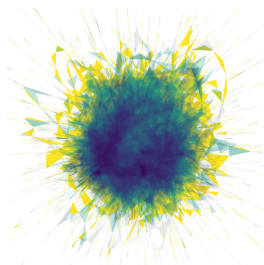
Simulated Distribution of Betti-1 Numbers

 $\gamma = 0.25$ $\gamma = 0.50$ $\gamma = 0.75$

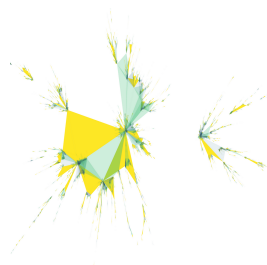
Hypothesis Test



Hypothesis test



Network data

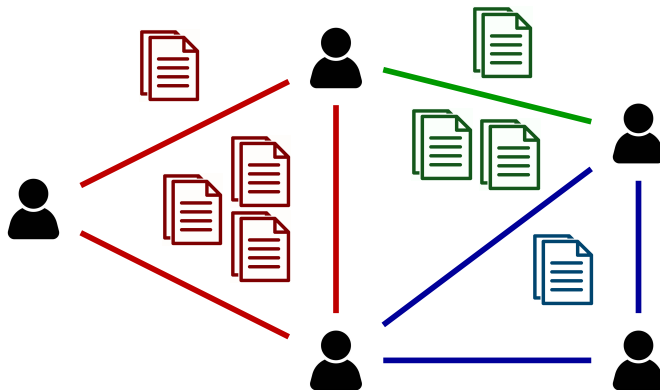


Simulation

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Complex Systems



Network dynamics?

Dynamic Random Connection Hypergraph Model

Vertices: $\mathcal{P}$

position	$X \in \mathbb{R}$	Leb
mark	$U \in (0, 1]$	Leb
birth time	$B \in \mathbb{R}$	Leb
lifetime	$L \in [0, \infty)$	Exp(1)

Hyperedges: $\mathcal{P}'$

position	$Z \in \mathbb{R}$	Leb
mark	$W \in (0, 1]$	Leb
time	$R \in \mathbb{R}$	Leb

Connection conditions:

spatial condition

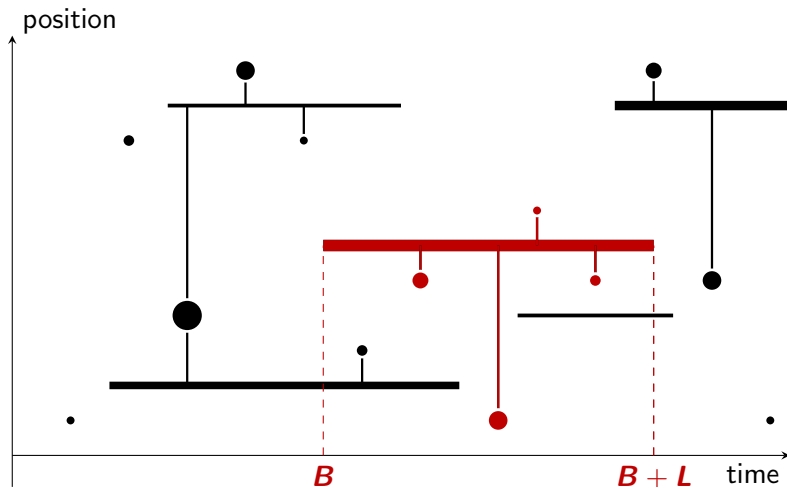
$$|X - Z| \leq \beta U^{-\gamma} W^{-\gamma'}$$

temporal condition

$$B \leq R \leq B + L$$

E. Onaran, O. Bobrowski, and R. J. Adler. Functional central limit theorems for local statistics of spatial birth–death processes in the thermodynamic regime. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 33(5):3958–3986, 2023.

Dynamic Random Connection Hypergraph Model



Edge counts

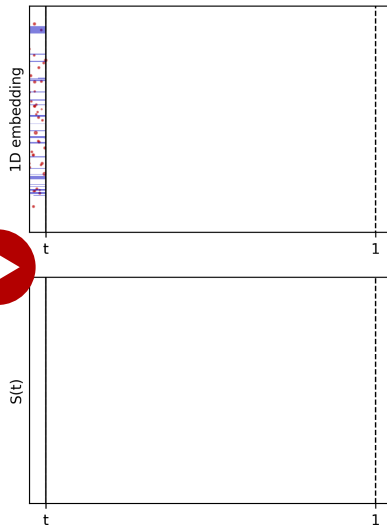
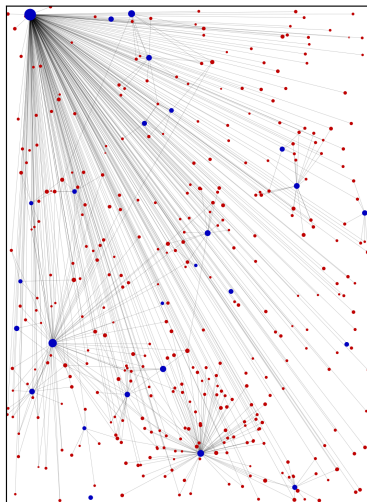
- Degree of $P := (X, U, B, L) \in \mathcal{P}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(P; t) := & \sum_{(Z, W, R) \in \mathcal{P}'} \mathbb{1}\{|X - Z| \leq \beta U^{-\gamma} W^{-\gamma'}\} \\ & \times \mathbb{1}\{B \leq R \leq t \leq B + L\} \end{aligned}$$

- Edge count

$$S_n(\cdot) := \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \deg(P; \cdot) \mathbb{1}\{X \in [0, n]\}$$

Edge counts



Finite Variance Case

Proposition (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

If $\gamma < 1/2$ and $\gamma' \in (0, 1)$, then

$$\bar{S}_n(t) := n^{-1/2}(S_n(t) - \mathbb{E}[S_n(t)]) \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2) \quad \sigma^2 > 0.$$

Theorem (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

G : Gaussian process

$$\text{Cov}(G(t_1), G(t_2)) = (c_1 + c_2|t_1 - t_2|) \exp(-\mu|t_1 - t_2|)$$

If $\gamma, \gamma' < 1/4$, then

$$\bar{S}_n(\cdot) \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{d} G(\cdot).$$

Univariate Stable Limit Theorem

Theorem (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

If $\gamma > 1/2$, then

$$\bar{S}_n(t) := n^{-\gamma}(S_n(t) - \mathbb{E}[S_n(t)]) \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{d} \mathcal{S}(1/\gamma).$$

Functional Convergence of Edge Counts

- $\nu([\varepsilon, \infty)) := c\varepsilon^{-1/\gamma}$: Lévy measure on $[0, \infty)$
- $\mathcal{P}_\infty := \text{PPP}(\nu \otimes \text{Leb}_{\mathbb{R}} \otimes \text{Exp}(1))$: Poisson point process on $[0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+$

$$S_\varepsilon^*(\cdot) := \sum_{(J,B,L) \in \mathcal{P}_\infty} J(\cdot - B) \mathbb{1}\{J \geq \tilde{c}\varepsilon^\gamma\} \mathbb{1}\{B \leq \cdot \leq B + L\}$$

$$\bar{S}_\infty(\cdot) := \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \bar{S}_\varepsilon^*(\cdot) := \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} (S_\varepsilon^*(\cdot) - \mathbb{E}[S_\varepsilon^*(\cdot)])$$

Theorem (Hirsch, Jahnelt, J.; 2025+)

If $\gamma > 1/2$ and $\gamma' < 1/4$, then $\bar{S}_\infty(\cdot) \in D([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$, and

$$\bar{S}_n(\cdot) := n^{-\gamma} (S_n(t) - \mathbb{E}[S_n(t)]) \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{d} \bar{S}_\infty(\cdot) \quad \text{in } D([0, 1], \mathbb{R}).$$

Proof of Functional SLT

Part 1

$$S_n(\cdot) := \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{S}_n} \deg(P; \cdot)$$

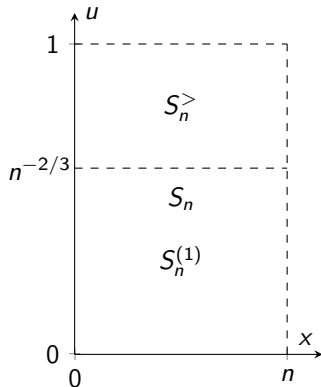
$$S_n^>(\cdot) := \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{S}_n} \deg(P; \cdot) \mathbb{1}\{U > n^{-2/3}\}$$

Proposition (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

If $\gamma > 1/2$, $\gamma' < 1/4$, then

$$\bar{S}_n^>(\cdot) \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{d} 0 \quad \text{in } D([0, 1], \mathbb{R}).$$

$$S_n^{(1)}(\cdot) := \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{S}_n} \deg(P; \cdot) \mathbb{1}\{U \leq n^{-2/3}\}$$

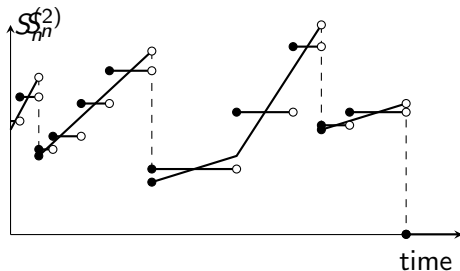


Part 1

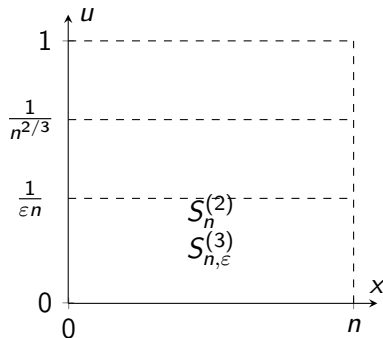
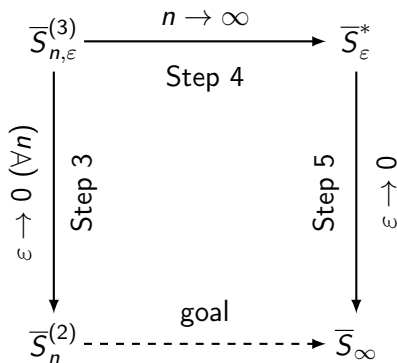
$$S_n^{(2)}(\cdot) := \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{S}_n} \mathbb{E}[\deg(P; \cdot) \mid P] \mathbb{1}\{U \leq n^{-2/3}\}$$

Proposition (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

If $\gamma > 1/2$, then $\|\bar{S}_n^{(1)} - \bar{S}_n^{(2)}\| \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{\mathbb{P}} 0$.



Part 2 – Steps



$$S_{n,\epsilon}^{(3)}(\cdot) := \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{S}_n} \mathbb{E}[\deg(P; \cdot) \mid P] \mathbb{1}\{U \leq 1/(\epsilon n)\}$$

Step 3

Goal:

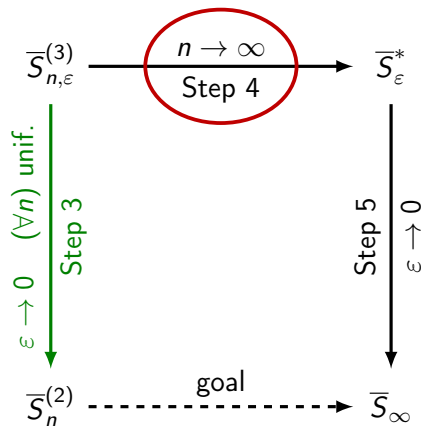
$$\lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \limsup_{n \uparrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(d_{\text{Sk}}(\bar{S}_{n,\varepsilon}^{(3)}, \bar{S}_n^{(2)}) > \delta) = 0 \quad \text{for all } \delta > 0$$

Proposition (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

Let $\gamma > 1/2$ and $\gamma' \in (0, 1)$. Then,

$$\limsup_{n \uparrow \infty} \|\bar{S}_{n,\varepsilon}^{(3)} - \bar{S}_n^{(2)}\| \xrightarrow[\varepsilon \downarrow 0]{\mathbb{P}} 0.$$

Step 4



Step 4

Notation: $N_s(p) := \{(z, w) \in \mathbb{R} \times (0, 1] : |x - z| \leq \beta u^{-\gamma} w^{-\gamma'}\}$

$$\text{In } S_n^{(3)}: \quad U \leq 1/(\varepsilon n) \iff n^{-\gamma} |N_s(P_s)| \geq \tilde{c} \varepsilon^\gamma$$

Lemma (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

Let $\gamma > 1/2$ and $\gamma' \in (0, 1)$. Then,

$$n \mathbb{P}(n^{-\gamma} |N_s(P)| \in \cdot) \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{\nu} \nu(\cdot) \quad \nu([a, \infty)) := \tilde{c}^{1/\gamma} a^{-1/\gamma}.$$

S. I. Resnick. *Heavy-Tail Phenomena: Probabilistic and Statistical Modeling*. Springer, New York, 2007.

Step 4 – Convergence of Point Processes

$$\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{S}_n} \delta_{(n^{-\gamma}|N_s(P_s)|, B, L)} \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{\nu} \mathcal{P}_\infty,$$

where

$$\mathcal{P}_\infty := \text{PPP}(\nu \otimes \text{Leb}_{\mathbb{R}} \otimes \text{Exp}(1)) \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+$$

Step 4 – Summation Functional

- χ summation functional: point process $\mapsto$ edge count process:

$$\chi(\eta)(\cdot) := \sum_{(j,b,\ell) \in \eta} j(t-b) \mathbb{1}\{j \geq \tilde{c}\varepsilon^\gamma\} \mathbb{1}\{b \leq \cdot \leq b+\ell\}$$

- Limiting edge count process $S_\varepsilon^* := \chi(\mathcal{P}_\infty)$

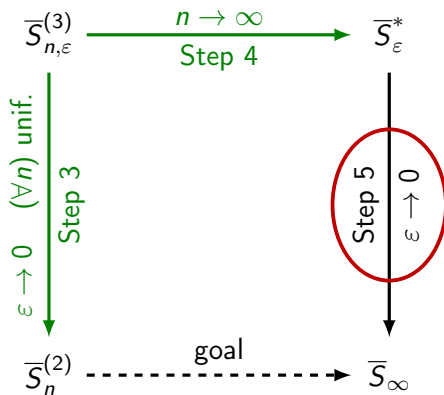
Proposition (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

The summation functional χ is almost surely continuous with respect to the distribution of $\mathcal{P}_\infty$.

Lemma (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

Let $\gamma > 1/2$. Then $\mathbb{E}[S_\varepsilon^] < \infty$ and $\overline{S}_{n,\varepsilon}^{(3)}(\cdot) \xrightarrow[n \uparrow \infty]{d} \overline{S}_\varepsilon^*(\cdot)$.*

Step 5



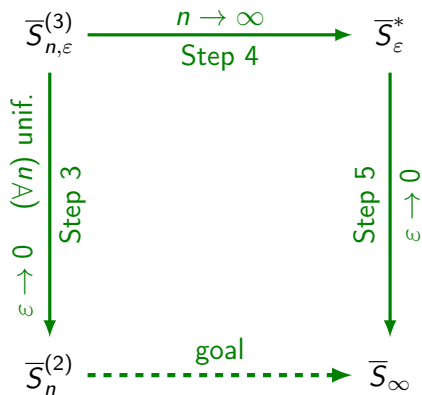
Step 5 – Almost Sure Convergence of $\overline{S}_\varepsilon^*$

Proposition (Hirsch, Jahnel, J.; 2025+)

Let $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$ be a decreasing sequence. Then,

$$\sup_{n,m \geq N} \|\overline{S}_{\varepsilon_n}^* - \overline{S}_{\varepsilon_m}^*\| \xrightarrow[N \uparrow \infty]{\text{a.s.}} 0.$$

Step 5



Summary

- **Complex Systems**

- Crucial multibody relationships
- Higher-order networks, simplicial complexes

- **Goal**

- Stochastic models for higher-order networks

- **Research Projects**

- Poisson Approximation in WRCMs
- (Topology of Higher-Order ADRCM)
- Random Connection Hypergraph Model
- Functional Convergence in Dynamic RCHM

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