

Gamma distributions in
Poisson Voronoi and hyperplane tessellations

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1. The Gamma distribution

Definition: A non-negative random variable X has a *gamma distribution* with *shape parameter* $\alpha > 0$ and *scale parameter* λ if the probability density function

$$f(x) = \frac{\lambda^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\lambda x}.$$

Fact: If X is as above, then

$$\mathbb{E}X = \frac{\alpha}{\lambda}, \quad \mathbb{E}X^2 = \frac{\alpha(\alpha + 1)}{\lambda^2}, \quad \text{Var } X = \frac{\alpha}{\lambda^2}.$$

Fact: If X and Y are independent and Gamma distributed with shape parameters α_1 and α_2 and the same scale parameter θ , then $X + Y$ has a Gamma distribution with shape parameter $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2$ and the same scale parameter θ .

2. Gamma distributions in stochastic geometry

Complementary theorem:

Miles, R.E. (1971). Poisson flats in Euclidean spaces. Part I. Homogeneous Poisson flats and complementary theorem. *Appl. Prob.* **3**, 1–43.

Distribution of the typical Poisson-Delaunay simplex:

Miles, R.E. (1974). A synopsis of ‘Poisson flats in Euclidean spaces’. In *Stochastic Geometry*. ed. E. F. Harding and D. Kendall, Wiley, New York.

Poisson-Voronoi flower:

Miles, R.E. and Maillardet, R.J. (1982). The basic structure of Voronoi and generalized Voronoi polygons. *J. Appl. Prob.* **19**, 97–111.

Complementary theorem and subprocesses:

Møller, J. and Zuyev, S. (1996). Gamma-type results and related properties of Poisson processes. *Adv. Appl. Prob.* 662–673.

Stopping sets:

Zuyev, S. (1999). Stopping sets: gamma-type results and properties. *Adv. Appl. Prob.* **31**, 355–366.

Typical edge of a Poisson Voronoi tessellation:

Muche, L. (2005). The Poisson-Voronoi tessellation: relations for edges. *Adv. Appl. Prob.* **37**, 279–296.

Baumstark, V. and Last, G. (2007). Some distributional results for Poisson Voronoi tessellations. *Adv. Appl. Prob.* **39**, 16–40.

General results:

Baumstark, V. and Last, G. (2009). Gamma distributions of stationary Poisson flat processes *Adv. Appl. Prob.* **41**, 911

3. First results

Setting: Φ is a stationary Poisson process on \mathbb{R}^d with $\lambda > 0$.

Notation: $B(x, r)$ denotes a ball with radius $r \geq 0$ centred at x . Its volume $|B(x, r)|$ is given by $\kappa_d r^d$.

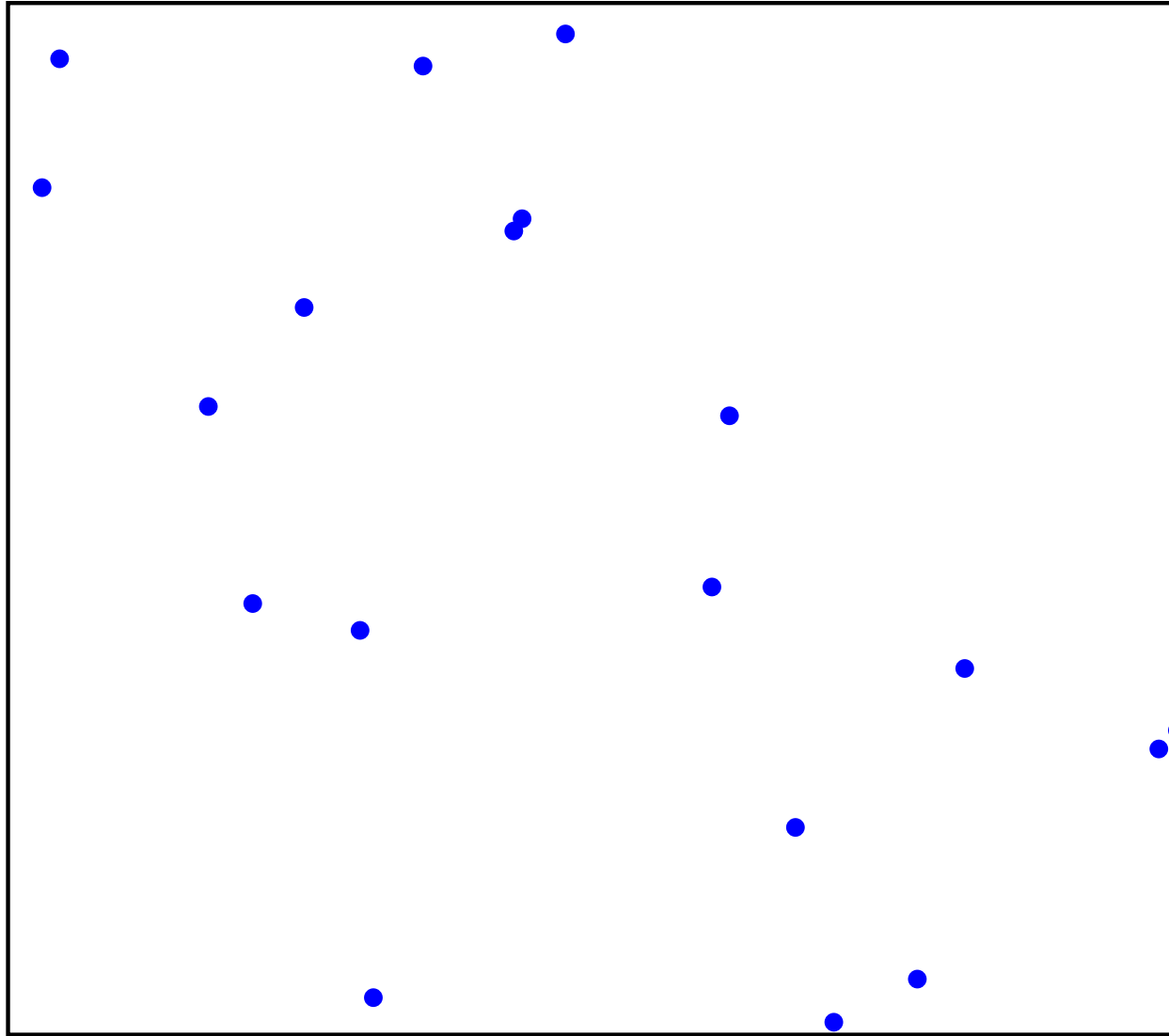
Example: Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and define

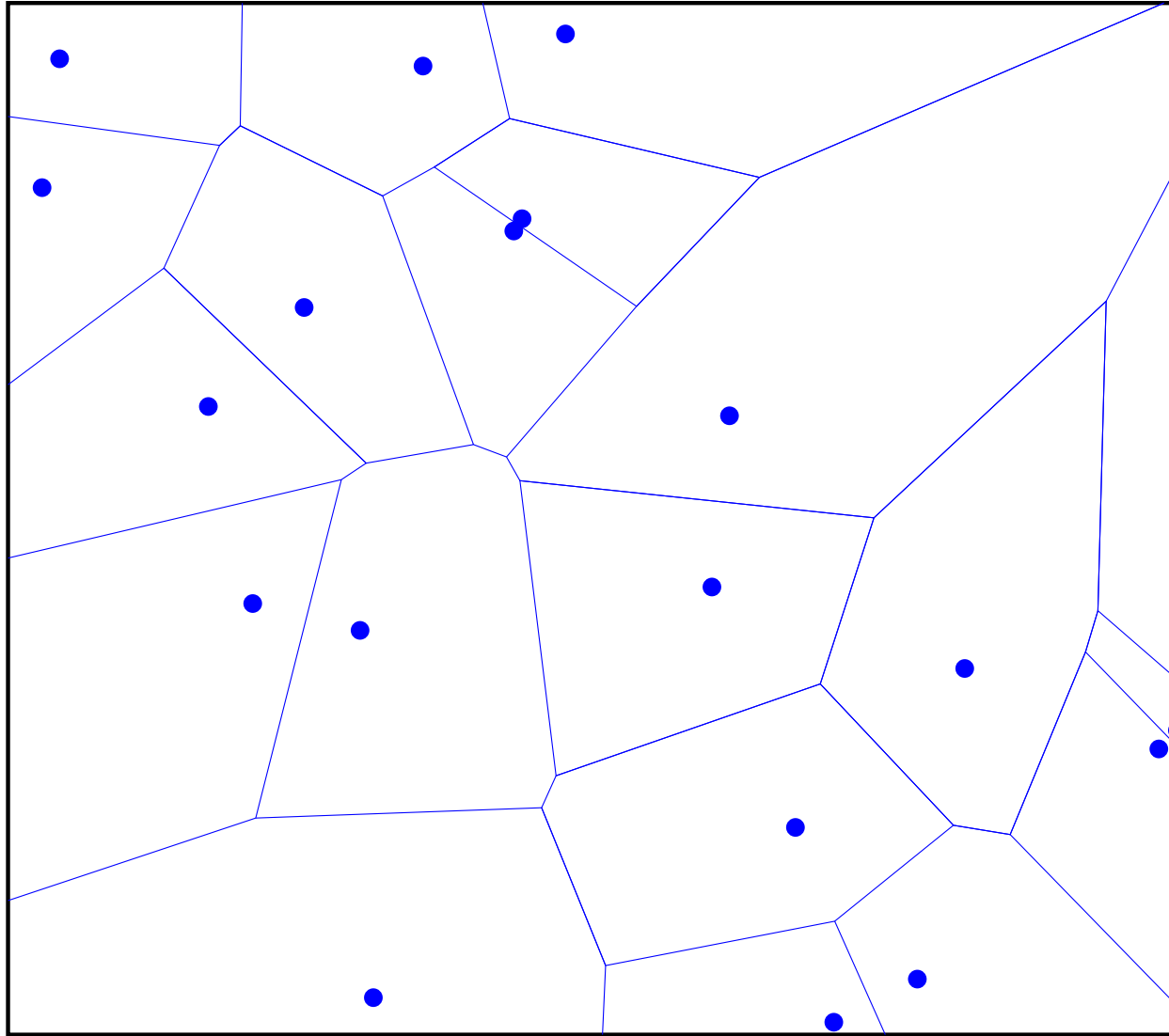
$$\tau := \inf\{t \geq 0 : \Phi(B(x, t)) \geq 1\}.$$

Then

$$|B(x, \tau)| \equiv \kappa_d \tau^d \sim \Gamma(1, \lambda).$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(|B(x, \tau)| > t) &= \mathbb{P}(\kappa_d \tau^d > t) = \mathbb{P}(\tau > (\kappa_d^{-1} t)^{1/d}) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(\Phi(B(x, (\kappa_d^{-1} t)^{1/d}) = 0) \\ &= e^{-\lambda t}.\end{aligned}$$





Example: (Miles 1974) Consider the Voronoi tessellation Φ and pick one of the vertices x at random. Consider the cell S_0 centred at x that has $d + 1$ Poisson points in its boundary and one Poisson point in its interior. Then

$$|S_0| \sim \Gamma(d, \lambda).$$

Example: (Muche 2005, Baumstark and L. 2007) Let $j \in \{0, \dots, d-1\}$. Consider the Voronoi tessellation based on Φ and pick a j -face at random (according to j -dimensional Lebesgue measure). Consider the ball S_j centred at x that has $d - j + 1$ points in its boundary and no point in its interior. Then

$$|S_j| \sim \Gamma(d - j + 1/d, \lambda).$$

Remark: The shape parameter

$$d - j + 1/d = d - j(1 - 1/d)$$

decreases in j . The volumes of S_j are stochastically decreasing in j .

Ingredients of a general gamma result

- $m, n \geq 0$ and $j \in \{0, \dots, d\}$ are integers with $m + n - (d - j)/d > 0$;
- $S \equiv S(x_1, \dots, x_n, x) \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ = closed set depending on $x_1, \dots, x_n, x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ in an *equivariant* way (w.r.t. scaling, translations);
- $R(x_1, \dots, x_n, x, \Phi)$ = real-valued function depending on arguments in an *invariant* way;
- $\mu(x_1, \dots, x_n, \cdot)$ = measure on \mathbb{R}^d depending on the arguments in a translation equivariant way and satisfying the scaling relation

$$\mu(cx_1, \dots, cx_n, cB) = c^j \mu(x_1, \dots, x_n, B),$$

for all $c > 0$. In the case $n = 0$, μ is Lebesgue measure with $j = d$.

Definition: Define a stationary random measure M on \mathbb{R}^d as follows. $M(B \times C)$ is given as the sum of

$$\int_B \mathbf{1}\{|S(x_1, \dots, x_n, x)| \in C\} R_m(x_1, \dots, x_n, x, \Phi) \mu(x_1, \dots, x_n, x)$$

over all pairwise different Poisson points $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \Phi$.
 $R_m(x_1, \dots, x_n, x, \Phi) := R_m(x_1, \dots, x_n, \Phi)$ if $\Phi \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_n, x\}$ contains m points in $S(x_1, \dots, x_n, x)$ and $R_m(x_1, \dots, x_n, x) := 0$, otherwise.

Theorem: *If M has a positive and finite intensity, then the distribution of M is $\Gamma(m + n - (d - j)/d, \lambda)$, where $j = d - n$.*

Proof: Assume that $R(x_1, \dots, x_n, x, \Phi)$ does not depend on x . The *intensity* of M is given by

$$\gamma_M := \mathbb{E}M([0, 1]^d \times [0, \infty)).$$

By stationarity,

$$\mathbb{E}M(d(x, t)) = \gamma_M dx \mathbb{V}(dt)$$

for a probability measure \mathbb{V} on $[0, \infty)$. We need to show that

$$\mathbb{V} = \Gamma(m + n - (d - j)/d, \lambda).$$

This is done via invariance and scaling arguments.

By the iterated *Mecke formula* for the Poisson process Φ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{V}(C) &= \gamma_M^{-1} \mathbb{E}M([0, 1]^d \times C) \\ &= \frac{\lambda^n}{\gamma_M m!} \int \mathbf{1}\{x \in [0, 1]^d, t \in C\} \exp[-\lambda t] \nu_m(d(x, t)) \end{aligned}$$

where, for any $b \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_b(B \times C) &:= \\ &\int \cdots \int \mathbf{1}\{x \in B, |S(x_1, \dots, x_n, x)| \in C\} |S(x_1, \dots, x_n, x)| \\ &\quad R(x_1, \dots, x_n, x) \mu(x_1, \dots, x_n, dx) dx_1 \dots dx_n. \end{aligned}$$

By translation invariance

$$\nu_b(d(x, t)) = \nu_b([0, 1]^d \times dt) dx.$$

By the scaling properties of Lebesgue measure and the ke

$$\begin{aligned}\nu_b([0, 1]^d \times aC) &= a^n a^b a^{j/d} \nu_b(a^{-1/d} [0, 1]^d \times C) \\ &= a^n a^b a^{j/d} a^{-1} \nu_b([0, 1]^d \times C)\end{aligned}$$

for all $a > 0$. Choosing $b := 2 - n - j/d$ yields $a^n a^b a^{j/d} a^{-1}$

$$\nu_b([0, 1]^d \times dt) = c dt$$

for some $c > 0$, and hence

$$\nu_b(d(x, t)) = c dx dt.$$

Hence the mark distribution \mathbb{V} is proportional to

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \mathbf{1}\{x \in [0, 1]^d, t \in \cdot\} \exp[-\lambda t] \nu_m(d(x, t)) \\ & \int \mathbf{1}\{x \in [0, 1]^d, t \in \cdot\} t^{m-b} \exp[-\lambda t] \nu_b(d(x, t)) \\ & = \int \mathbf{1}\{t \in \cdot\} t^{m-b} \exp[-\lambda t] dt. \end{aligned}$$

4. More examples

Example: Let $j \in \{0, \dots, d\}$ and $m \geq 0$. Consider the tessellation based on Φ and pick a point x on the j -face (according to j -dimensional Lebesgue measure). Consider the smallest ball $S_{j,m}$ centred at x that contains $m + d - j + 1$ points in its interior. Then

$$|S_{j,m}| \sim \Gamma(m + d - j + 1, \lambda).$$

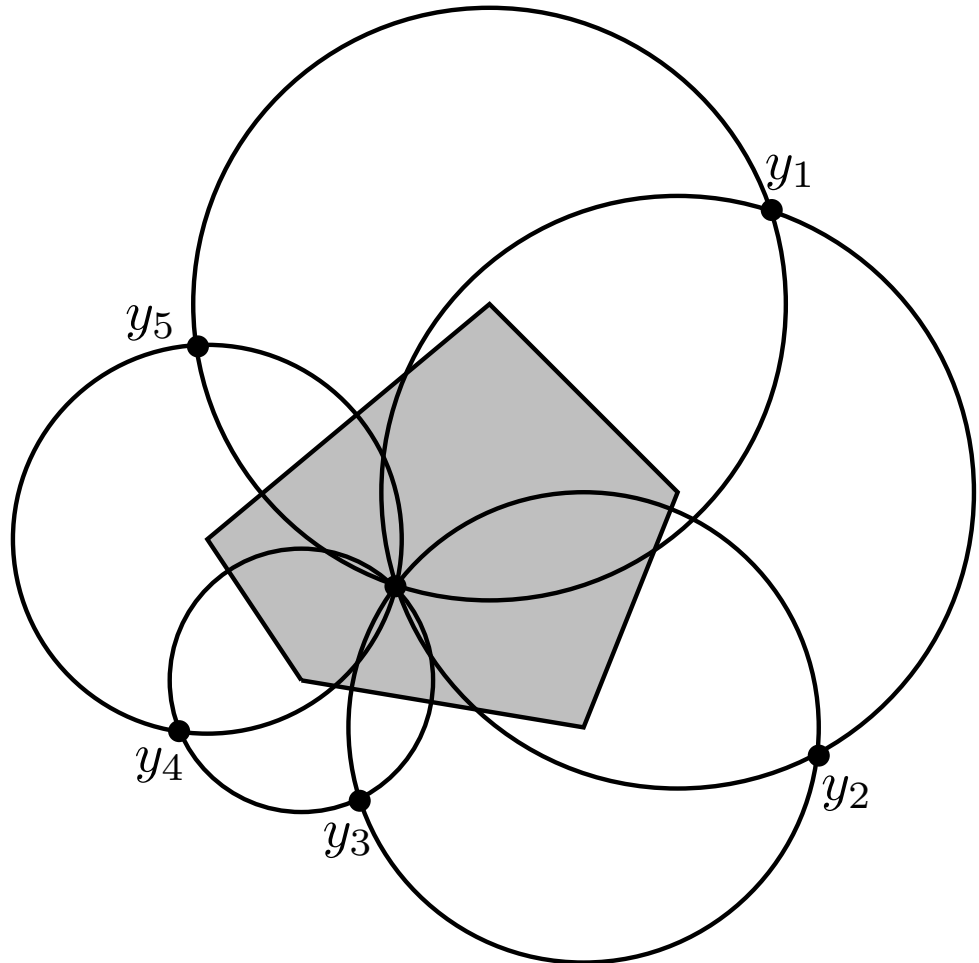
Example: (Miles and Maillardet 1982, Møller and Zuyev) Let C_d be one of the Voronoi cells picked at random. Let X be the centre of C_d . Let

$$T_d^* := \bigcup_{y \text{ vertex of } C_d} B(y, \|y - X\|),$$

Consider T_d^* under the condition that $\Phi(T_d^*) = m + 1$ and $m \geq d + 1$. Then the volume of T_d^* has a $\Gamma(m, \lambda)$ -distribution.

Remark: The random set T_d^* is called *Voronoi flower* (or *central region*) of the (typical) cell C_d .

Voronoi-cell with 5 edges generated by $y_1, \dots, y_5 \in \Phi$:



Example: (Baumstark and L. 2009) Let $x \in \mathbb{R}_d$ and let $C_d(x)$ be the Voronoi cell containing x . Let $X \in \Phi$ be the centre of $C_d(x)$ and

$$T_d := \bigcup_{y \text{ vertex of } C_d(x)} B(y, \|y - X\|)$$

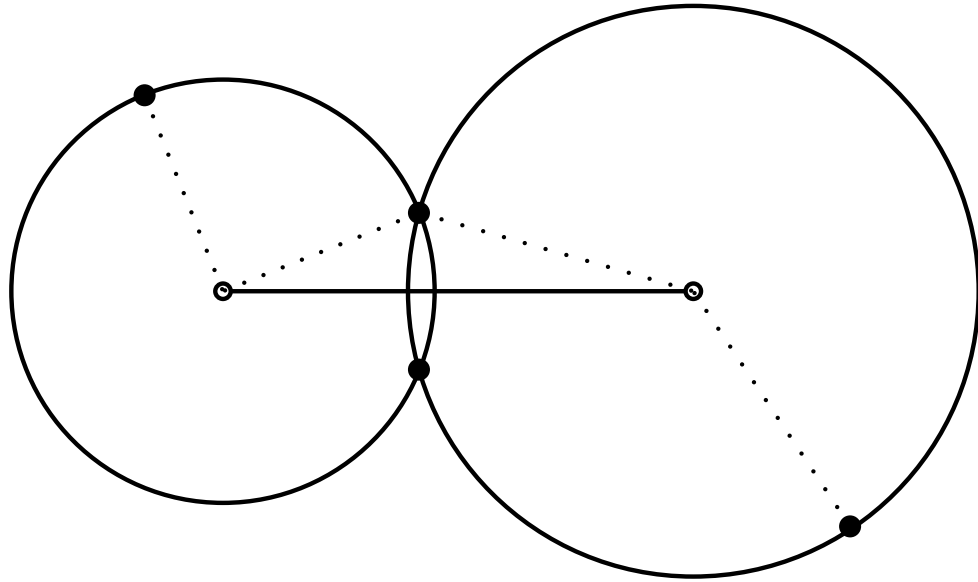
Consider the conditional probability measure given that $N(C_d(x)) = m + 1$ for some $m \geq d + 1$. Then the volume of T_d has a Γ distribution.

Example: (Baumstark and L. 2009) Let $j \in \{0, \dots, d\}$. Pick a j -face C_j of the Voronoi tessellation at random. Then there are a.s. $d - j + 1$ different Poisson points X_1, \dots, X_{d-j+1} , the nearest neighbours of the j -face C_j , such that C_j is the intersection of the Voronoi cells centred at those points. The *fundamental region* T_j of C_j is defined by

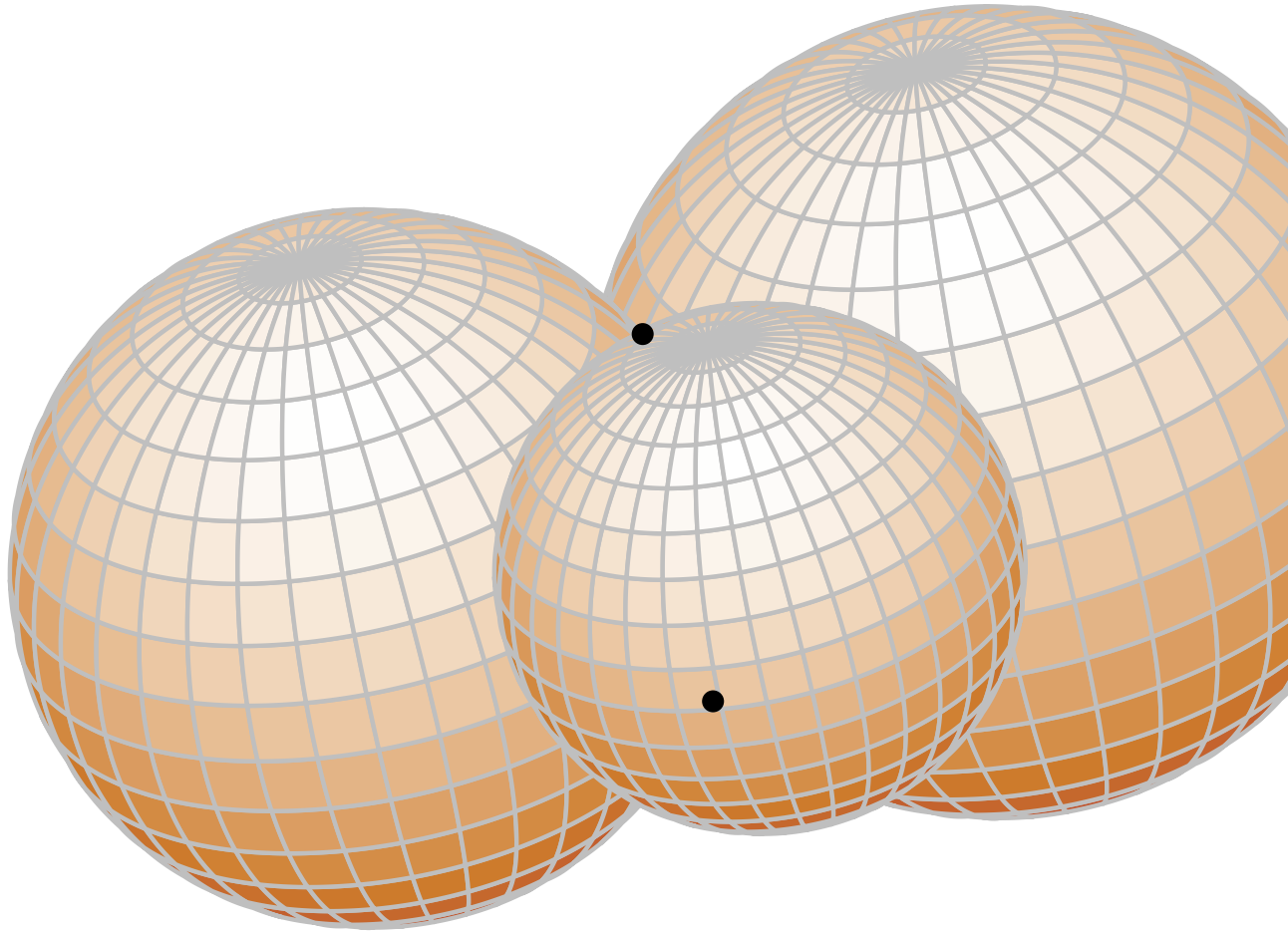
$$T_j := \bigcup_{y \text{ vertex of } C_j} B(y, \|y - X_1\|)$$

Consider T_j under the condition that $\Phi(T_j) = m + d - j$. For $m = 0$ in case $j = 0$, $m = 2$ in case $j = 1$ and $m \geq j + 1$ in case $j \geq 2$. Then the volume of the fundamental region T_j has $\Gamma(m - j + 1)$ -distribution.

The fundamental region of C_1 in the case $d = 2$:



The fundamental region of C_2 in the case $d = 3$:



Example: (Baumstark and L. 2009) Let $j \in \{0, \dots, d\}$. Pick x on the j -faces at random and let $C_j(x)$ be the picked cell. Let X be one of the $d - j + 1$ neighbours of $C_j(x)$ and consider the fundamental region T_j^* of $C_j(x)$: by

$$T_j^* := \bigcup_{y \text{ vertex of } C_j(x)} B(x, \|y - X\|)$$

Consider T_j^* under the condition that $\Phi(T_j^*) = m + c$ where $m = 0$ in case $j = 0$, $m = 2$ in case $j = 1$ and $m = d - j$ otherwise. Then the volume of the fundamental region T_j^* has a $\Gamma(m + d - j + j/d, \lambda)$ -distribution.

5. Gamma distributions and stopping sets

Definition: Let \mathbf{N} be the space of all locally finite sub (identified with counting measures) and let \mathcal{N} be the σ -field generated by the mappings $\varphi \mapsto \varphi(B)$ for Borel sets $B \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. For a Borel set $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ let \mathcal{N}_K be the σ -field generated by the mappings $\varphi \mapsto \varphi \cap K$.

Definition: A *stopping set* defined on \mathbf{N} is a mapping T on \mathbf{N} with values in the space of closed subsets of \mathbb{R}^d such that

$$\{\varphi \in \mathbf{N} : T(\varphi) \subset K\} \in \mathcal{N}_K, \quad K \subset \mathbb{R}^d \text{ closed}$$

Proposition: (Kurtz 1980, Zuyev 1999) *Let $\gamma > 0$ and $\rho > 0$ be a probability measure such that Φ is (under \mathbb{P}_γ) a Poisson process with intensity γ . Let T be a stopping set. Then we have for any measurable $g : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ and $m \geq 0$ that*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_\gamma \mathbf{1}\{\Phi(T) = m\}g(\Phi \cap T) \\ = \frac{\rho^m}{\lambda^m} \mathbb{E} \left[\exp((\lambda - \gamma)|T|) \mathbf{1}\{\Phi(T) = m\}g(\Phi \cap T) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where $T \equiv T(\Phi)$.

Definition: Let m, n, j, R and μ be as before but assume $S = S(x_1, \dots, x_n, x, \varphi) \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ does also depend on $\varphi \in \mathbf{N}$ that S is equivariant. Define a stationary random measure on $\mathbb{R}^d \times [0, \infty)$ as follows. $M(B \times C)$ is given as the sum of

$$\int_B \mathbf{1}\{|S(x_1, \dots, x_n, x, \Phi \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_n\})| \in C\} R_m(x_1, \dots, x_n, x, \Phi) \mu(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

over all pairwise different Poisson points $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \Phi$, is defined as before.

Theorem: *If M has a positive and finite intensity, then the distribution of M is $\Gamma(m + n - (d - j)/d, \lambda)$, where $j = d - n = 0$.*

6. Poisson flat processes

Definition: Let $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and $k \in \{0, \dots, d-1\}$. A k -flat (i.e. a k -dimensional affine subspace F of \mathbb{R}^d). The space of all such flats is denoted by $A(d, k)$. It is equipped with its standard Borel σ -algebra \mathcal{A}^k . The space $G(d, k) \subset A(d, k)$ consists of all k -dimensional linear subspaces of \mathbb{R}^d .

Definition: A *point process of k -flats* (*k -flat process*) is a point process Φ on $A(d, k)$. It can be introduced as a random element of the space \mathbf{N}^k of all *locally finite* counting measures on $A(d, k)$. A k -flat process Φ is called *stationary*, if $\Phi + x$ has the same distribution as Φ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Here

$$\varphi + x := \{F + x : F \in \varphi\}, \quad \varphi \in \mathbf{N}^k.$$

Definition: The *intensity* of a stationary point process Φ is defined by

$$\lambda := \frac{1}{\kappa_{d-k}} \mathbb{E} \text{card}\{F \in \Phi : F \cap B^d \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Proposition: Let Φ be a stationary point process of k -flat, k -dimensional and finite intensity λ . Then

$$\mathbb{E}\Phi(A) = \lambda\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(A), \quad A \in \mathcal{A}^k,$$

for some uniquely determined probability measure \mathbb{Q} (the *distribution* of Φ) on $G(d, k)$, where

$$\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(A) := \int_{G(d,k)} \int_{F^\perp} \mathbf{1}\{F + x \in A\} \mathcal{H}^{d-k}(dx) \mathbb{Q}(dF).$$

Proposition: *A Poisson process Φ on $A(d, k)$ is stationary if and only if its intensity measure is a multiple of $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}$ for some \mathbb{Q} . It is is*
 \mathbb{Q} is the normalized invariant measure on $G(d, k)$.

7. Gamma distributions for Poisson flat processes

Setting: Φ is a stationary Poisson process of k -flats, i.e. a Poisson process Φ on $A(d, k)$ with intensity measure $\lambda\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}$ for some $\lambda > 0$ and a directional distribution \mathbb{Q} .

Definition: A *stopping set* defined on \mathbf{N}^k is a mapping T taking values in the space of closed subsets of $A(d, k)$ such that

$$\{\varphi \in \mathbf{N} : T(\varphi) \subset K\} \in \mathcal{N}_K,$$

for any closed $K \subset A(d, k)$.

Definition: Let m, n, j, R and μ be as before but assume functions depend on $F_1, \dots, F_n \in A(d, k)$ instead of $x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Assume that S is equivariant and that R is in the law μ is invariant measurable with respect to the *stopping σ -field* generated by S . Define a stationary random measure M on $\mathbb{R}^d \times [0, \infty)$ by $M(B \times C)$ is the sum of

$$\int_B \mathbf{1}\{\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(S(F_1, \dots, F_n, x, \Phi \setminus \{F_1, \dots, F_n\})) \in C\} R_m(F_1, \dots, F_n, x, \Phi) \mu(F_1, \dots, F_n, x)$$

over all pairwise different Poisson flats $F_1, \dots, F_n \in \Phi$.

Theorem: If M has a positive and finite intensity, then the distribution of M is $\Gamma(m + n - (d - j)/(d - k), \lambda)$, where λ is the intensity in the case $n = 0$.

Definition: For any closed set $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ define

$$\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}^*(K) := \Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(\{F \in A(d, k) : F \cap K \neq \emptyset\}).$$

Remark: If $k = 0$, then $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}^*(K)$ is the volume of K . In the case of a uniform distribution and K is compact and convex, this is proportional to the surface area of K in the case $k = d - 1$ and proportional to the *mean breadth* of K in the case $k = d$.

8. Poisson hyperplane tessellations

Setting: Φ is a stationary Poisson process of hyperplanes in \mathbb{R}^d . Consider a stationary Poisson process Φ on $A(d, d - 1)$ with intensity measure $\lambda \mathbb{Q}$ for some $\lambda > 0$ and a directional distribution \mathbb{Q} . Assume \mathbb{Q} is *nondegenerate*.

Definition: The connected components of the complement of the union

$$\bigcup_{F \in \Phi} F$$

is made up by open polyhedral sets. The closures of these sets form the *hyperplane tessellation* X based on Φ .

Example: (Miles) Pick one of the cells at random and compute its (maximal) inradius of this cell. This radius is exponentially distributed. (The theorem applies with $n = d + 1$, $m = 0$, and $\lambda = \lambda$.)

Example: Pick an edge C_1 of the hyperplane tessellation at random. Then $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}^*(C_1)$ has an exponential distribution.

Example: Pick a point x on the edges at random (w.r.t. conditional Hausdorff measure). Then x is in the relative interior of an edge L_1 . Then $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}^*(L_1)$ has a $\Gamma(2, \lambda)$ -distribution.

9. Tessellations and wireless networks

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Baccelli, F. and Blaszczyzyn, B. (2001). On a coverage problem ranging from the Boolean model to the Poisson Voronoi tessellation, with applications to wireless communications. *Appl. Probab.* **33**, 293–323.

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