

# **Topology of Scale-Free Graphs**

## **How Random Interaction Begets Holes**

**Chunyin Siu**  
**Cornell University**  
**cs2323@cornell.edu**

# **Topology of Scale-Free Graphs**

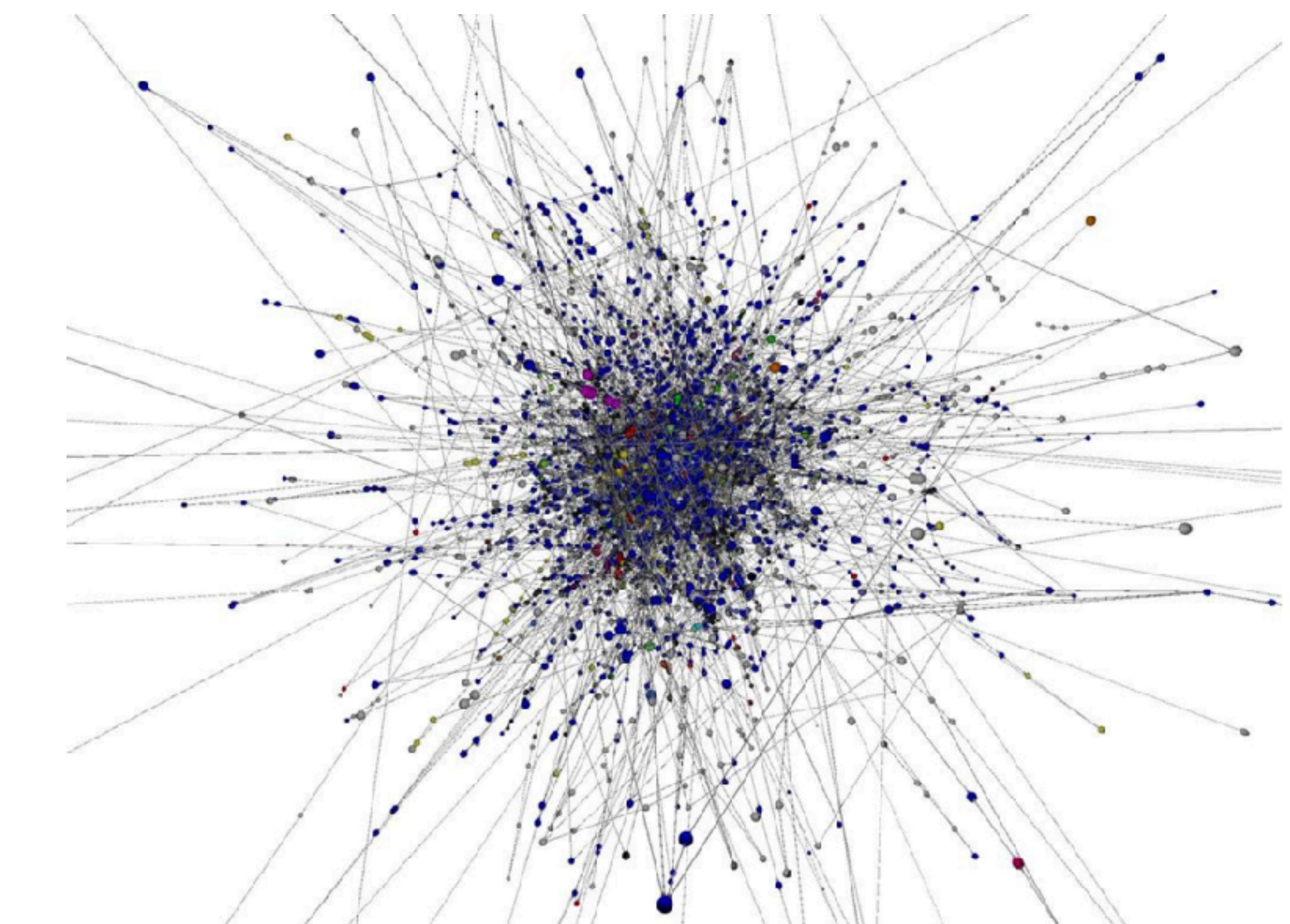
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## **— Homology and Homotopy**

### **How Random Interaction Begets Holes**

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# So, preferential attachment...



(Stephen Coast  
<https://www.fractalus.com/steve/stuff/ipmap/>)

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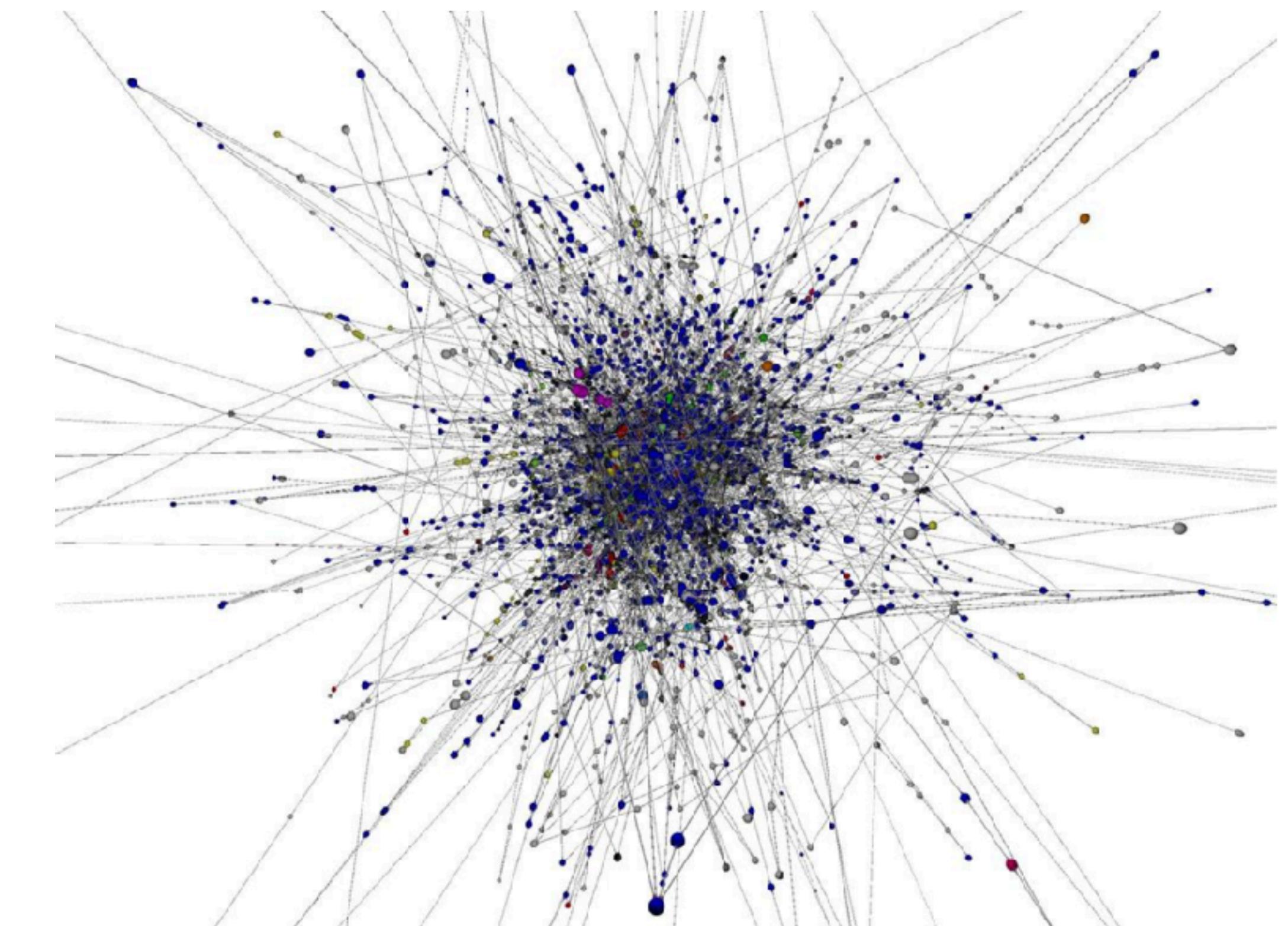
- topological properties



(Stephen Coast  
<https://www.fractalus.com/steve/stuff/ipmap/>)

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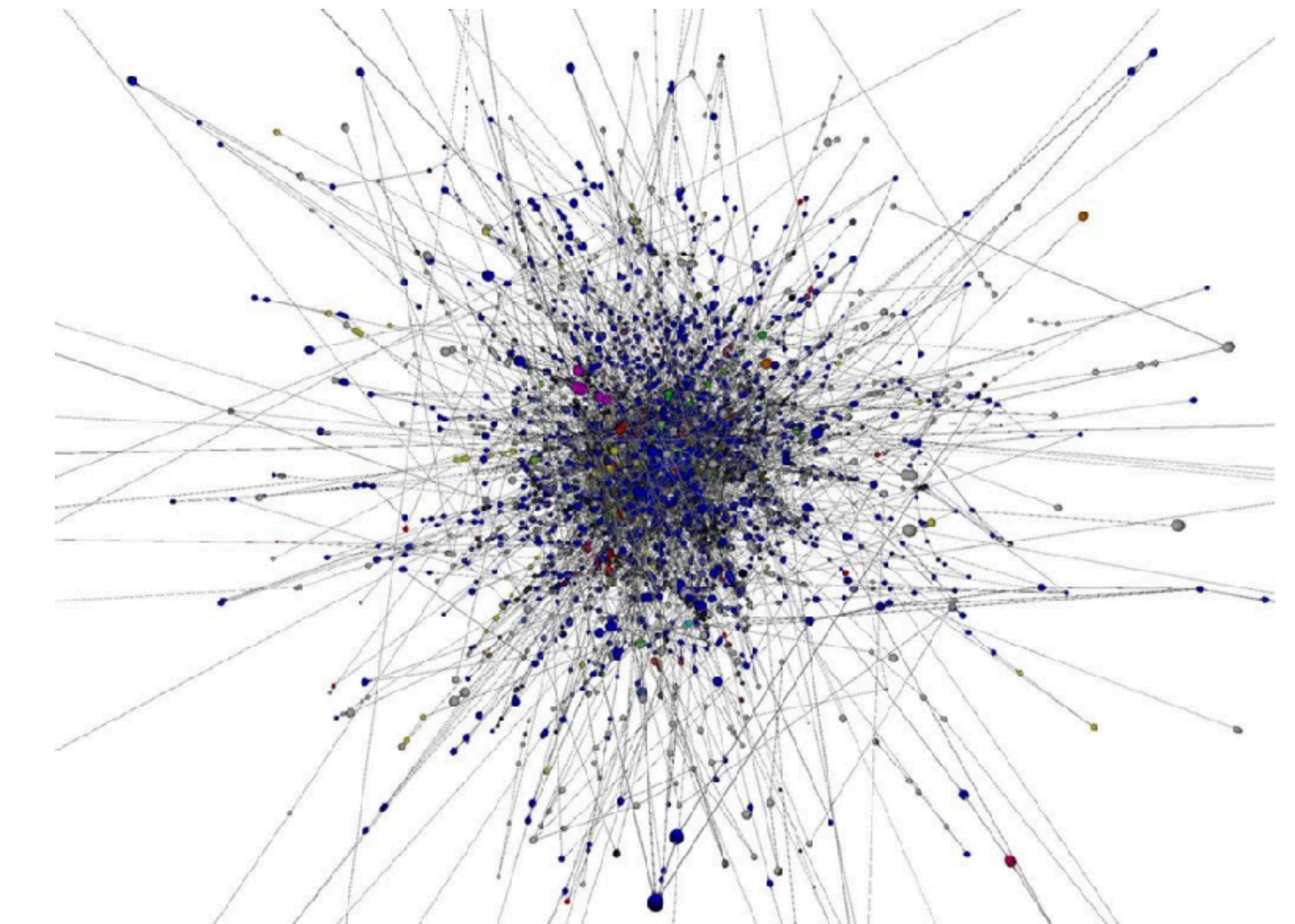
- topological properties
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(Stephen Coast  
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# So, preferential attachment...

- topological properties
- random fluctuation?
- —> random topology



(Stephen Coast  
<https://www.fractalus.com/steve/stuff/ipmap/>)

# Agenda

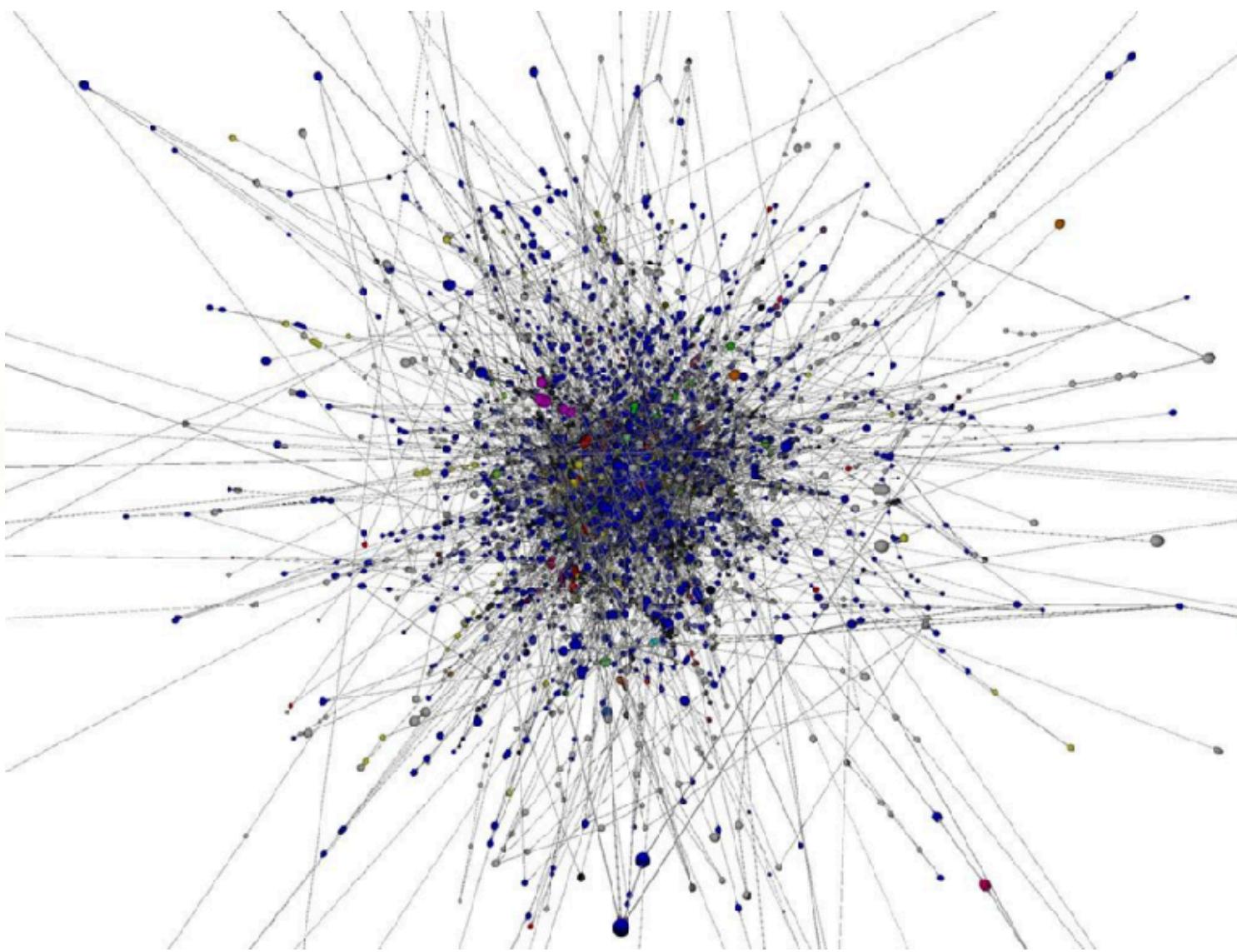


random topology

# Agenda



random topology

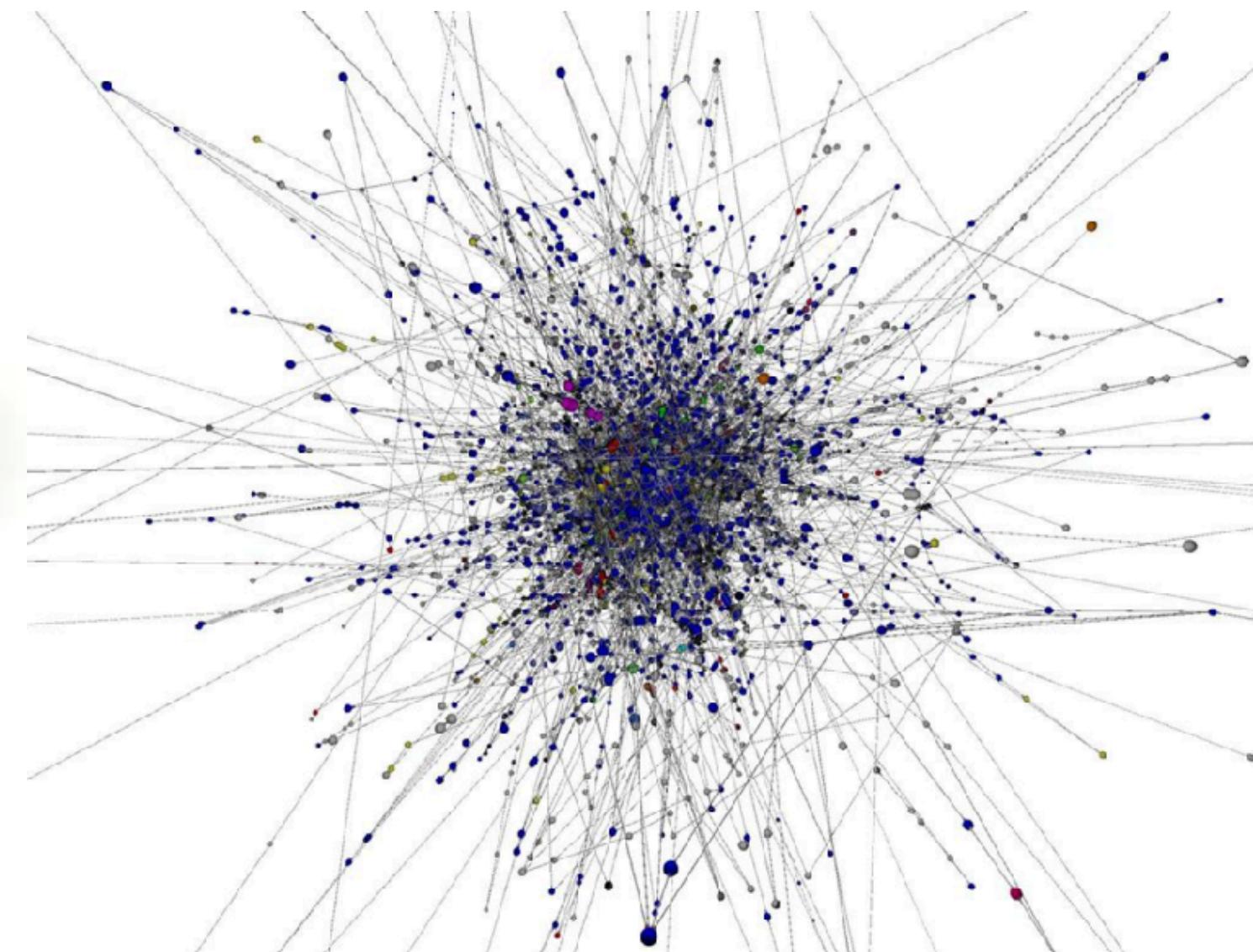


preferential attachment

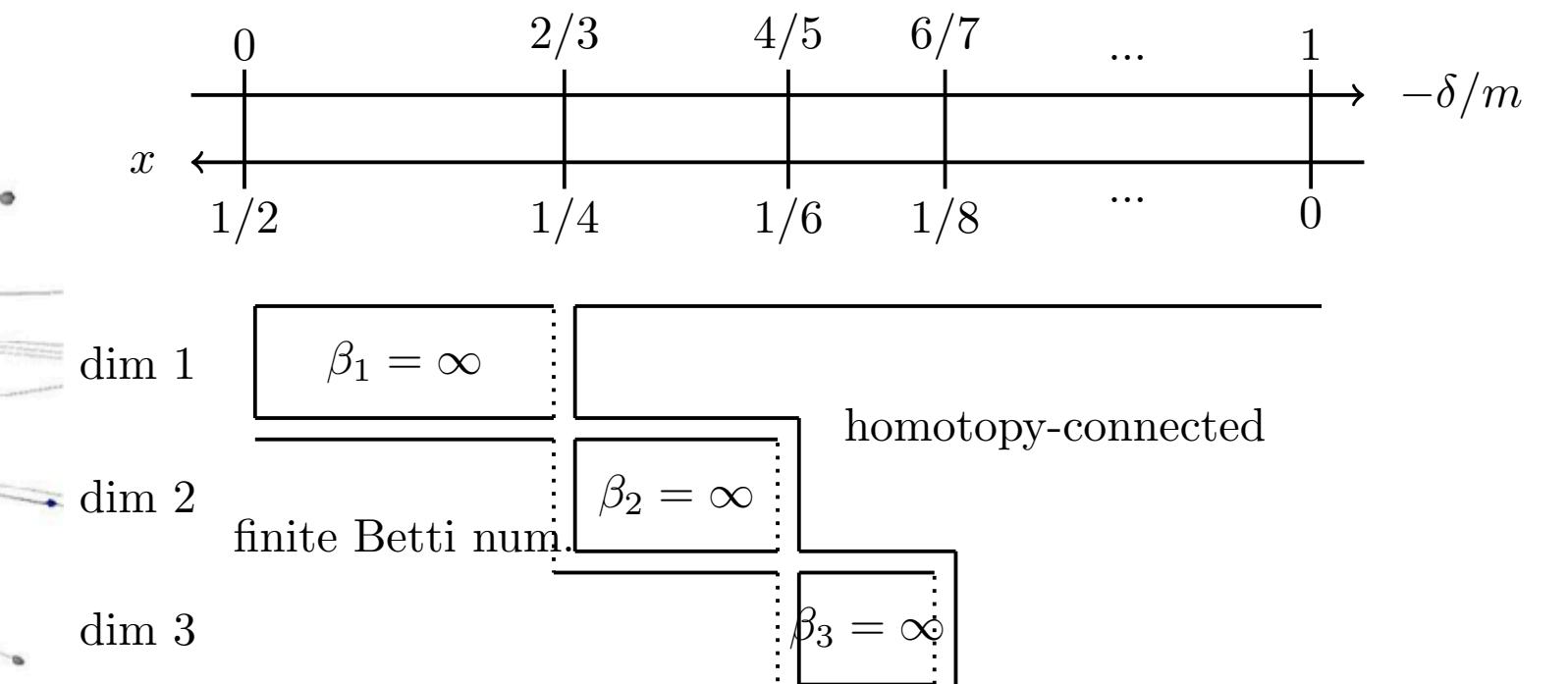
# Agenda



random topology



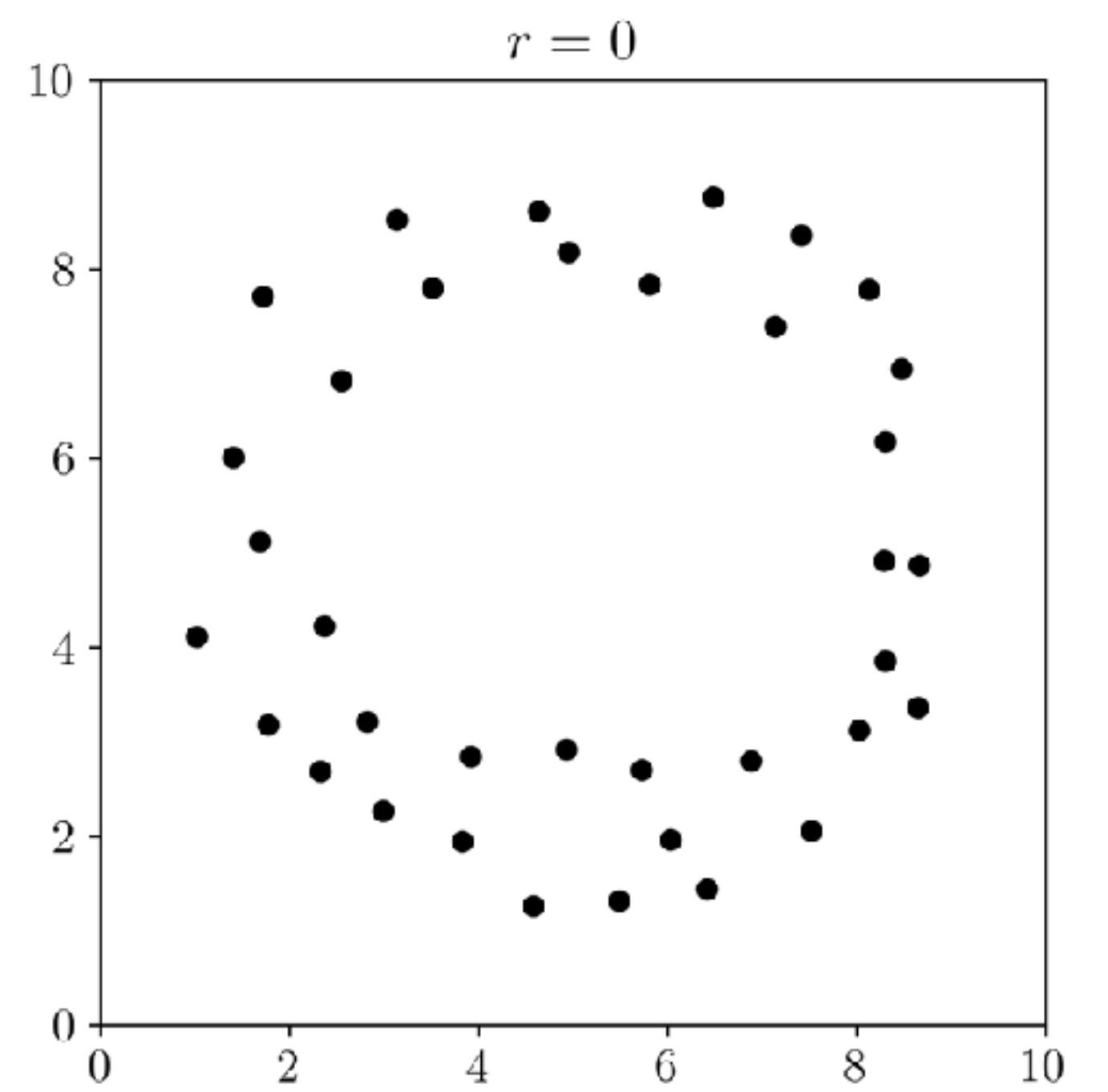
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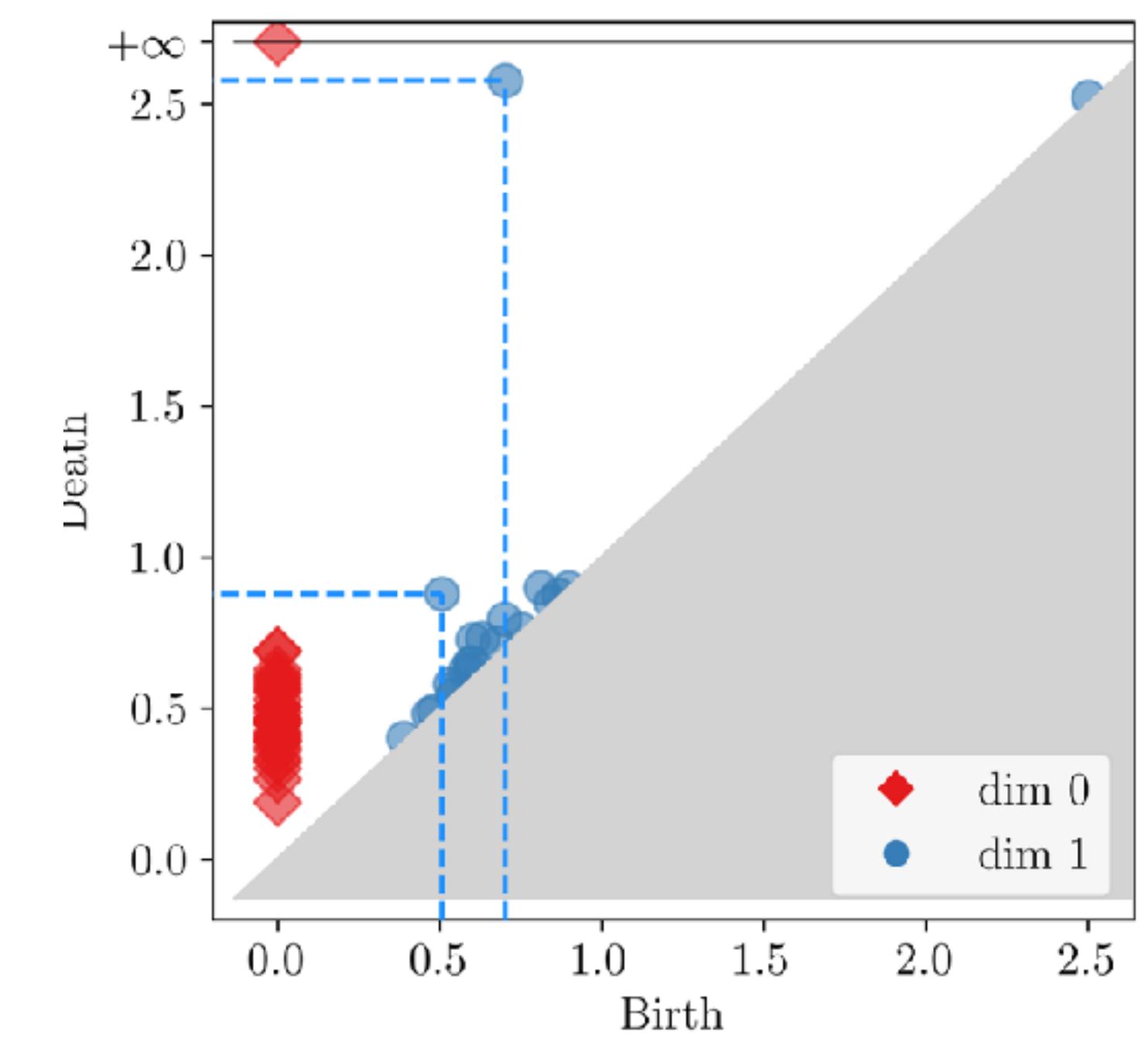
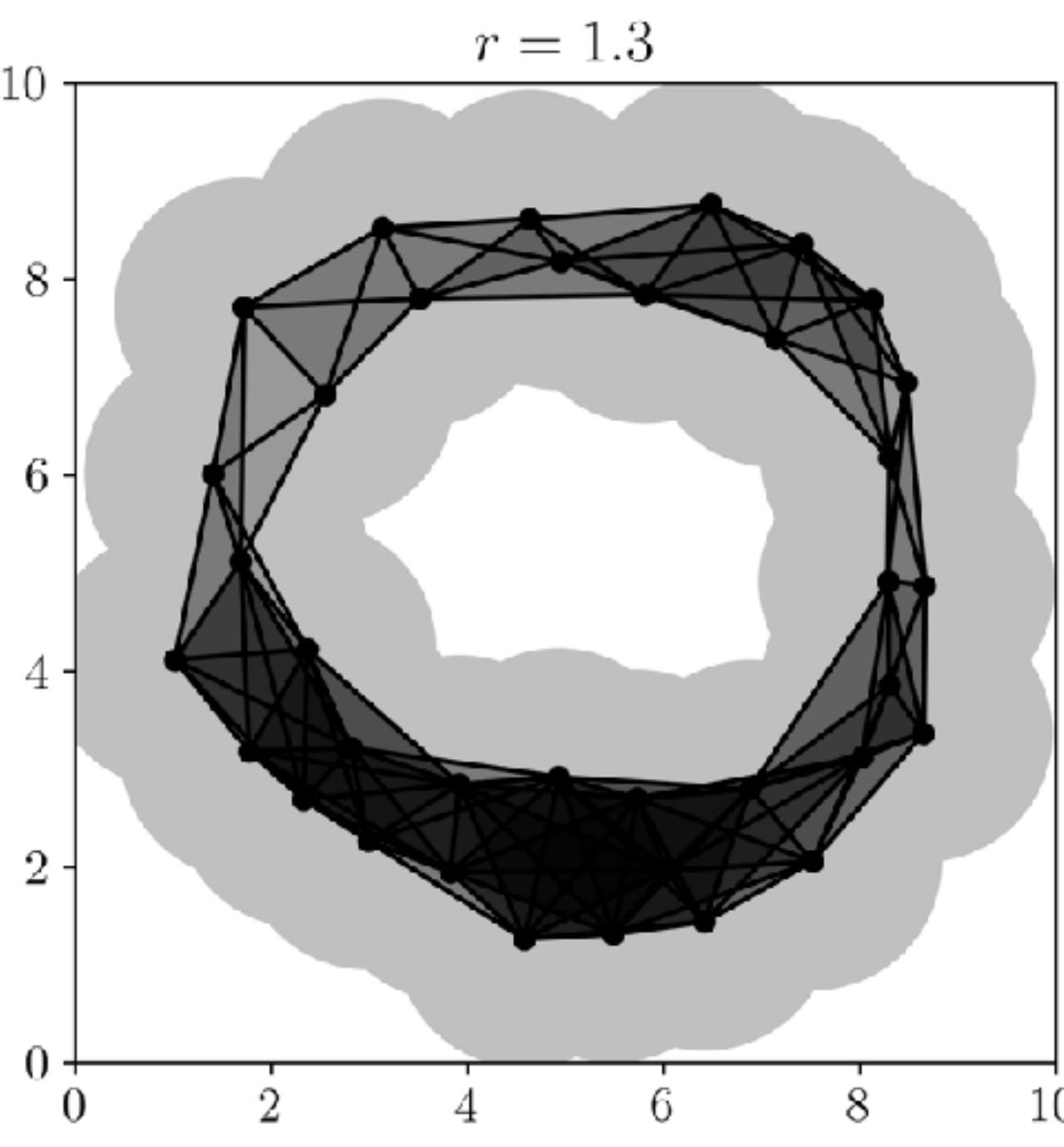
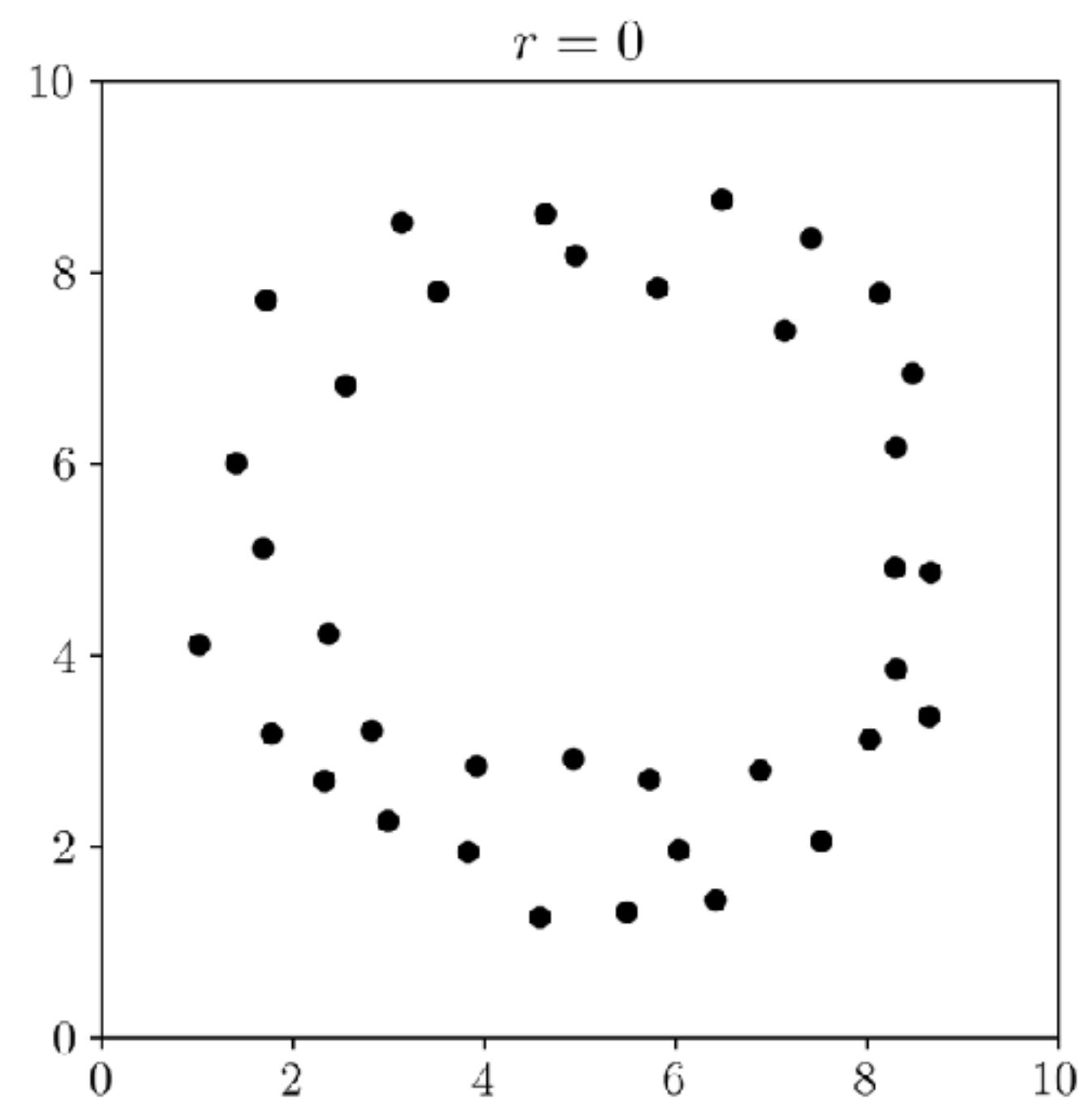


our result

# **I. A Probabilist's Apology**

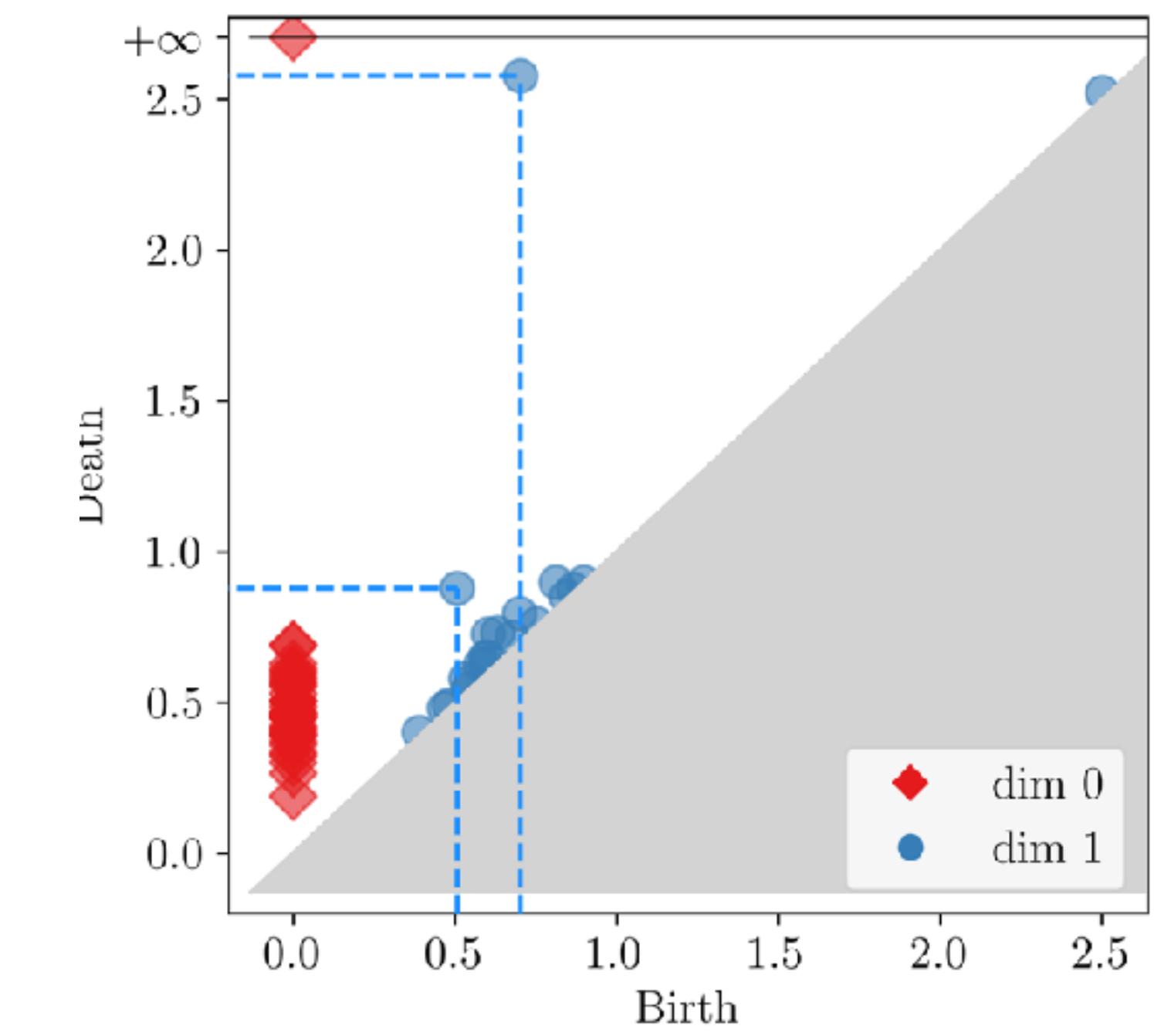
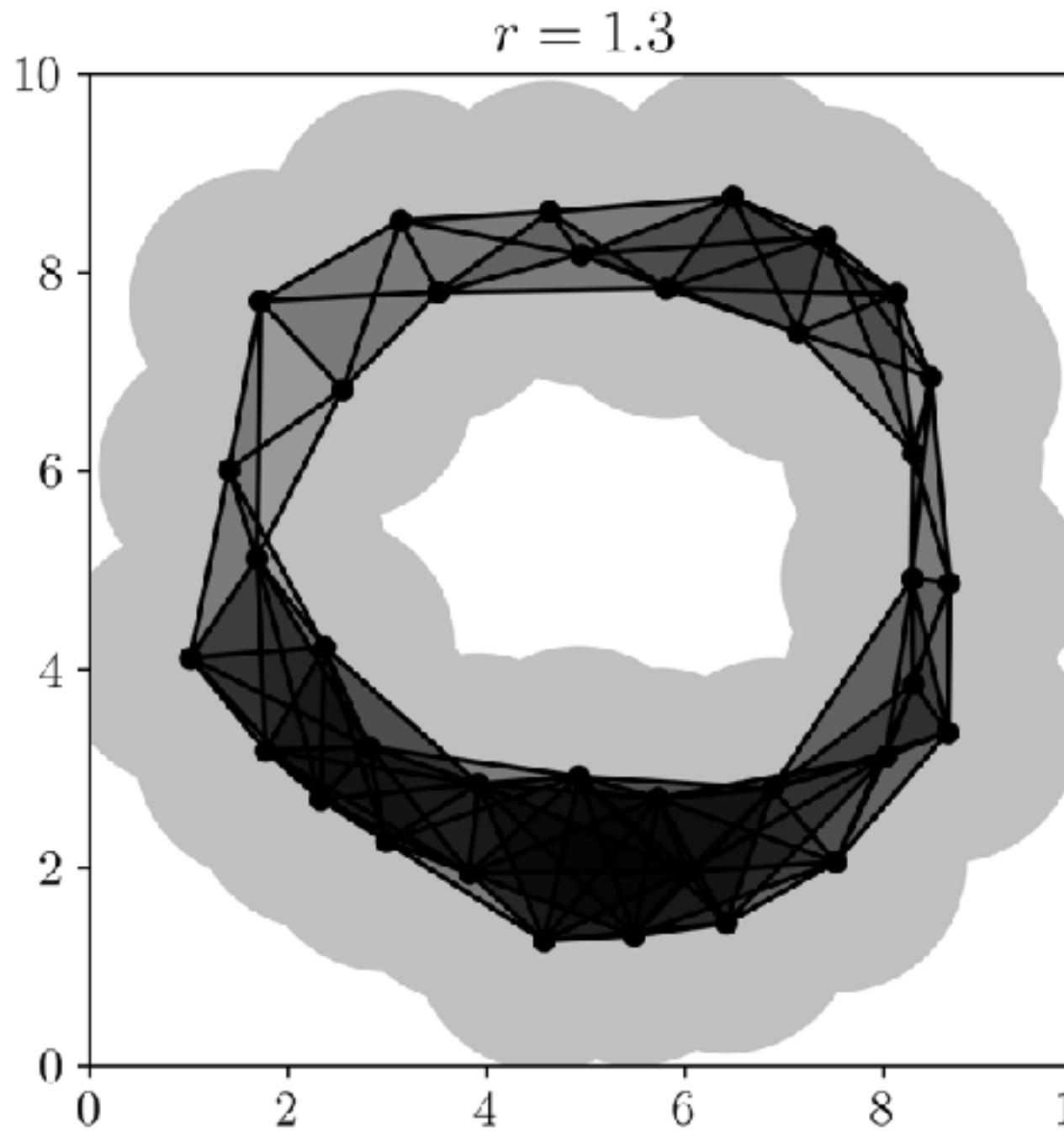
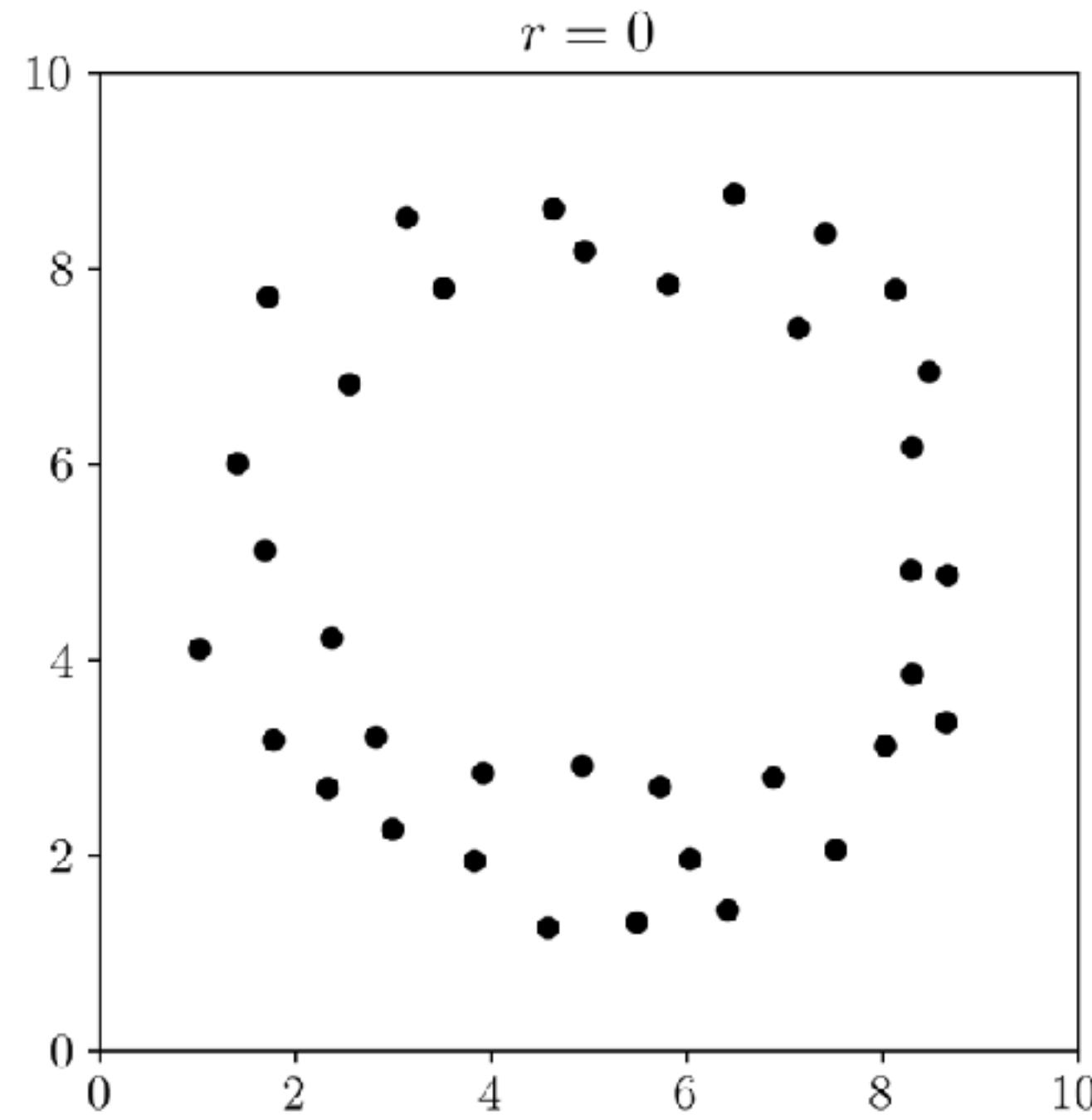
**Why Random Topology and What we Know**



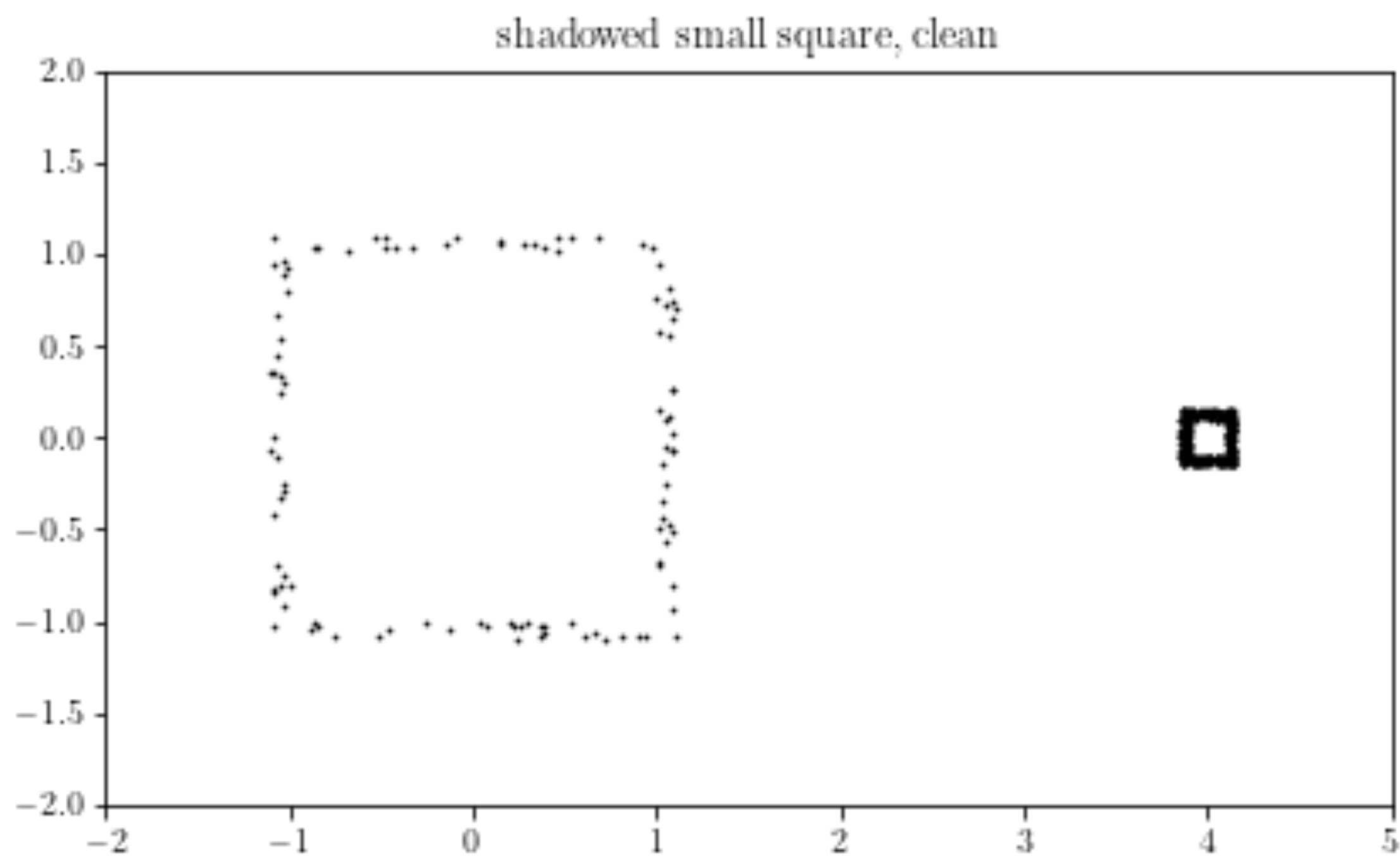


plots generated by Andrey Yao

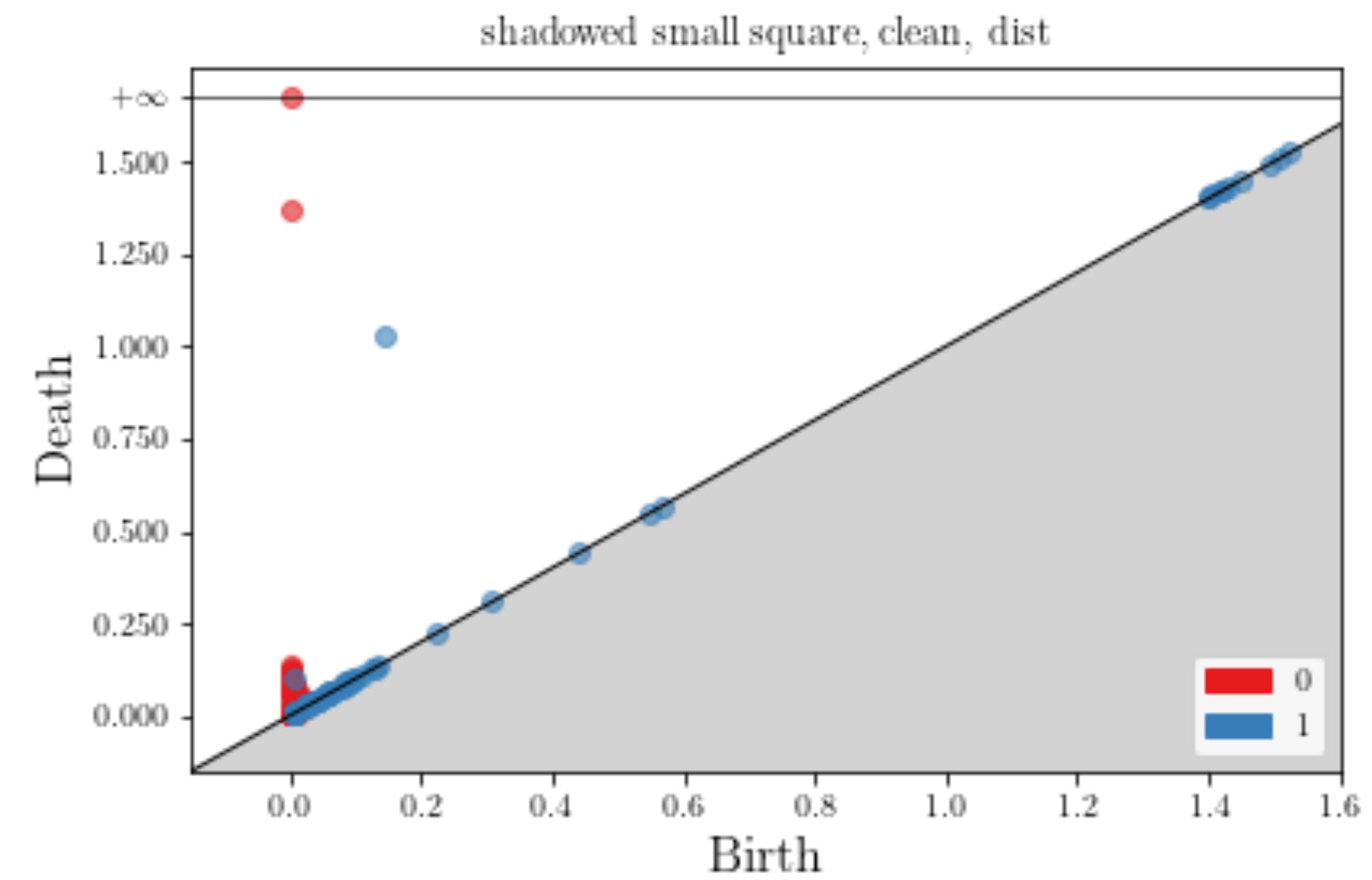
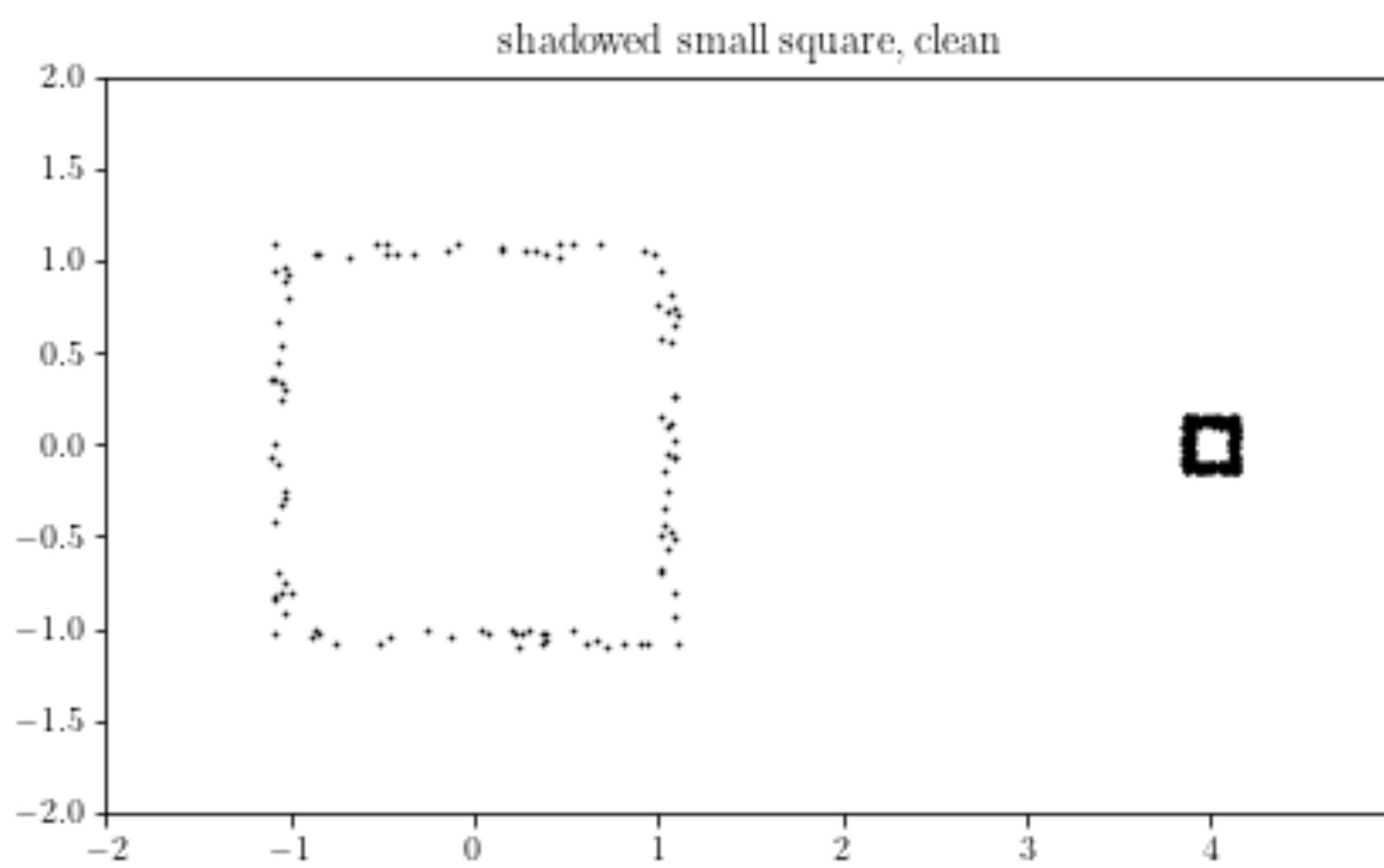
# Size is Signal



# Or is it?



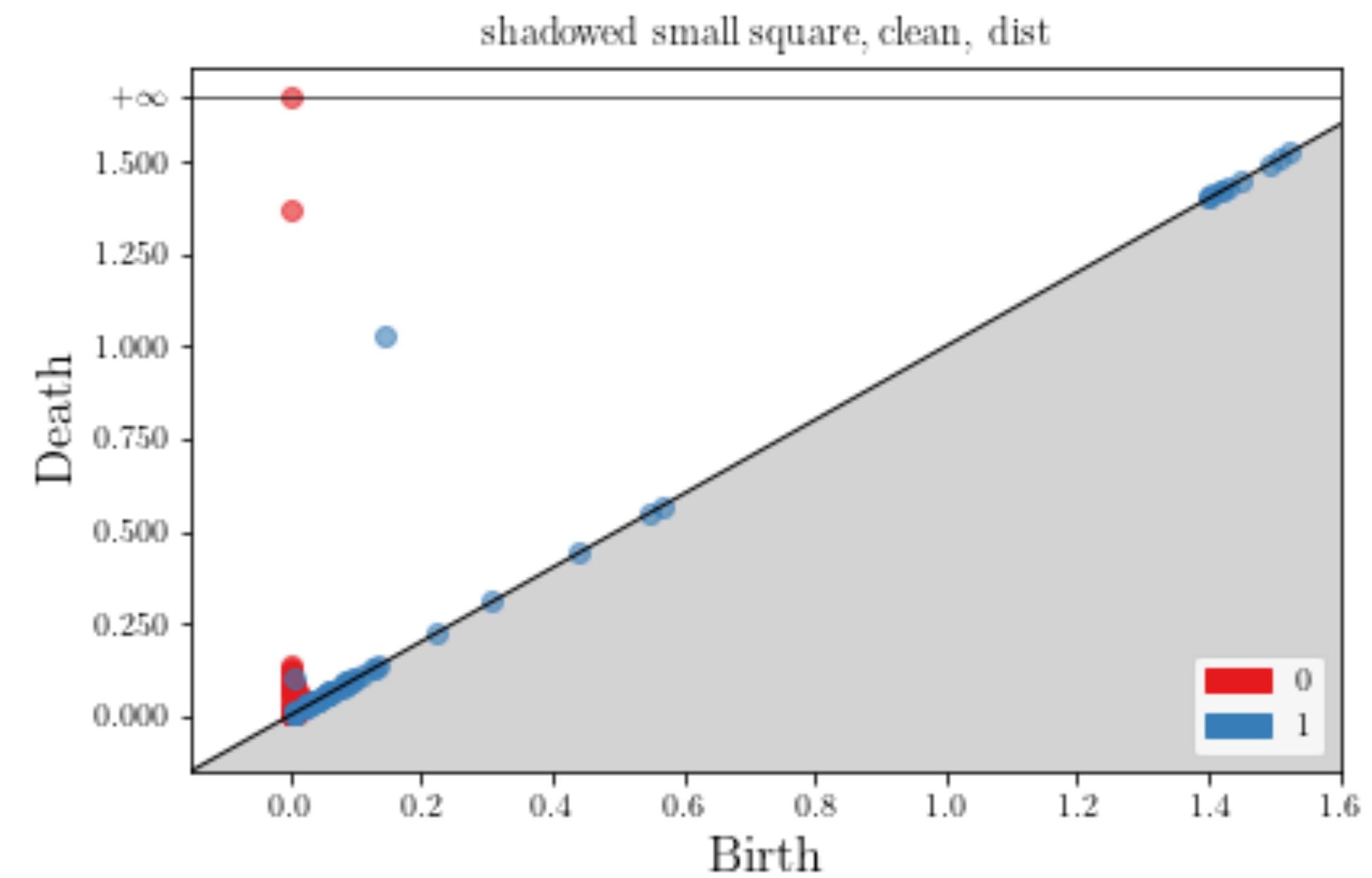
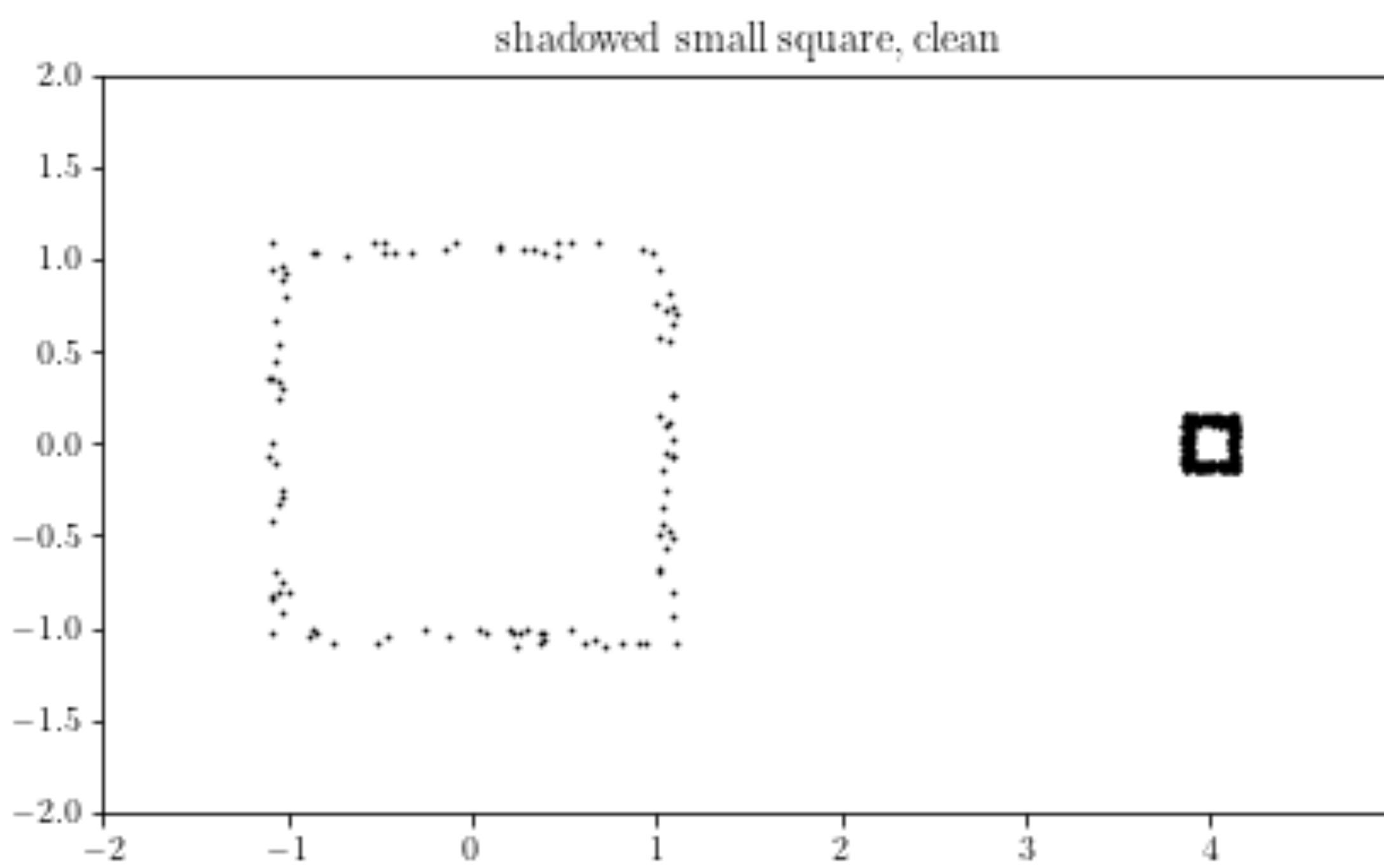
# Or is it?



# **Size is Signal?**

**Surprise  
Size is Signal.**

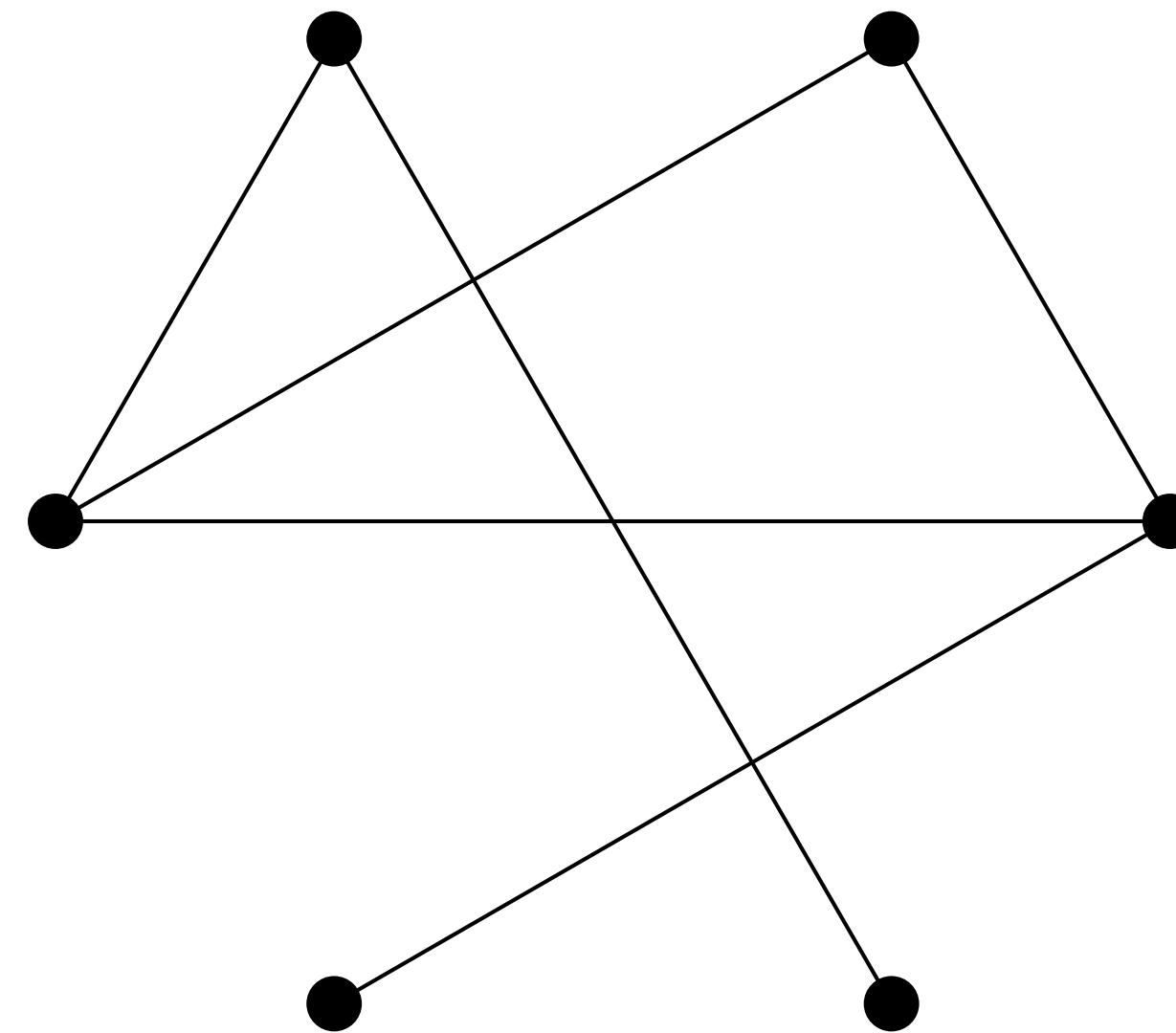
# Random points don't do that.



**Signal is what is not random.**

**Signal is what is not random.  
So what is random?**

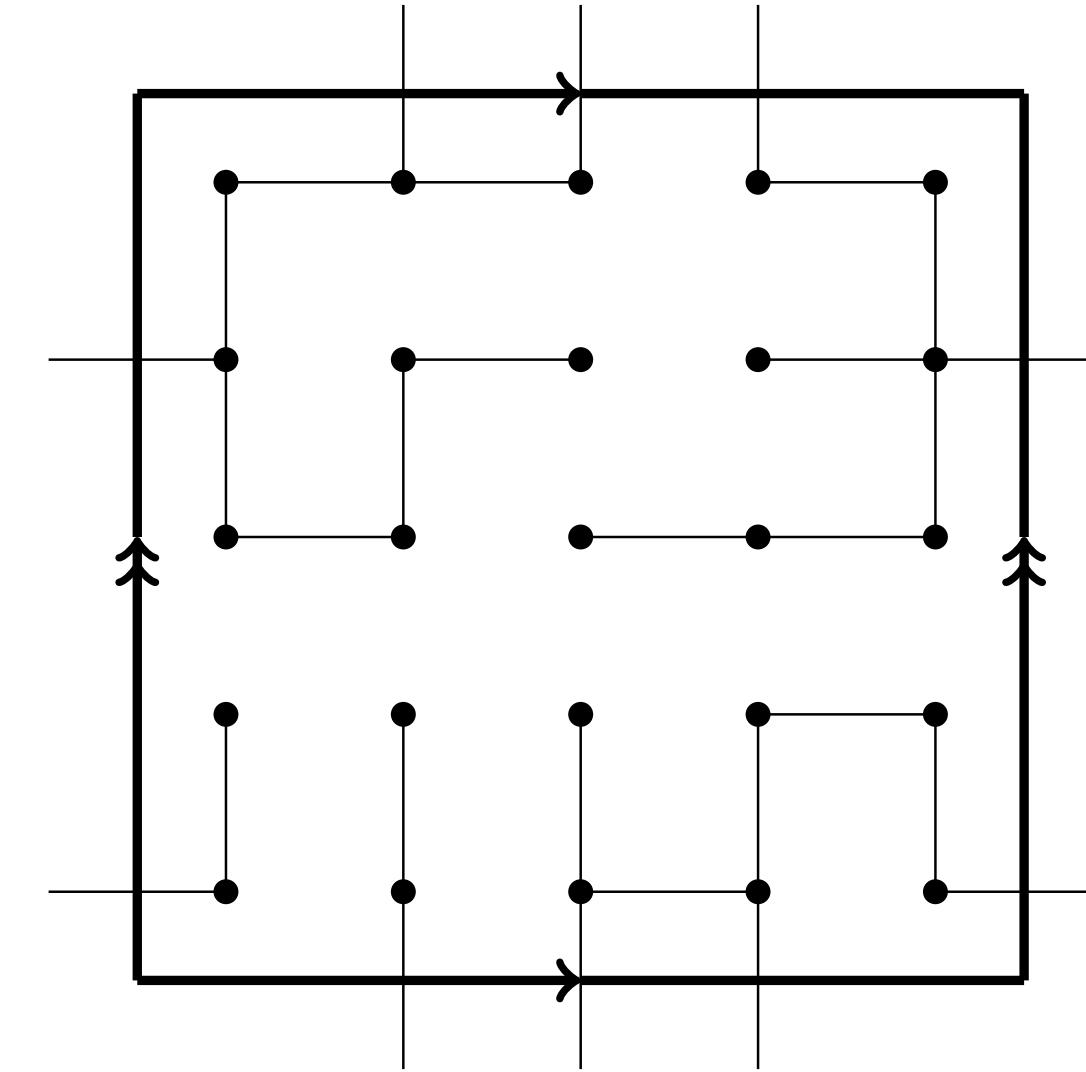
# Tea with Random Topology



Erdős-Rényi Complexes

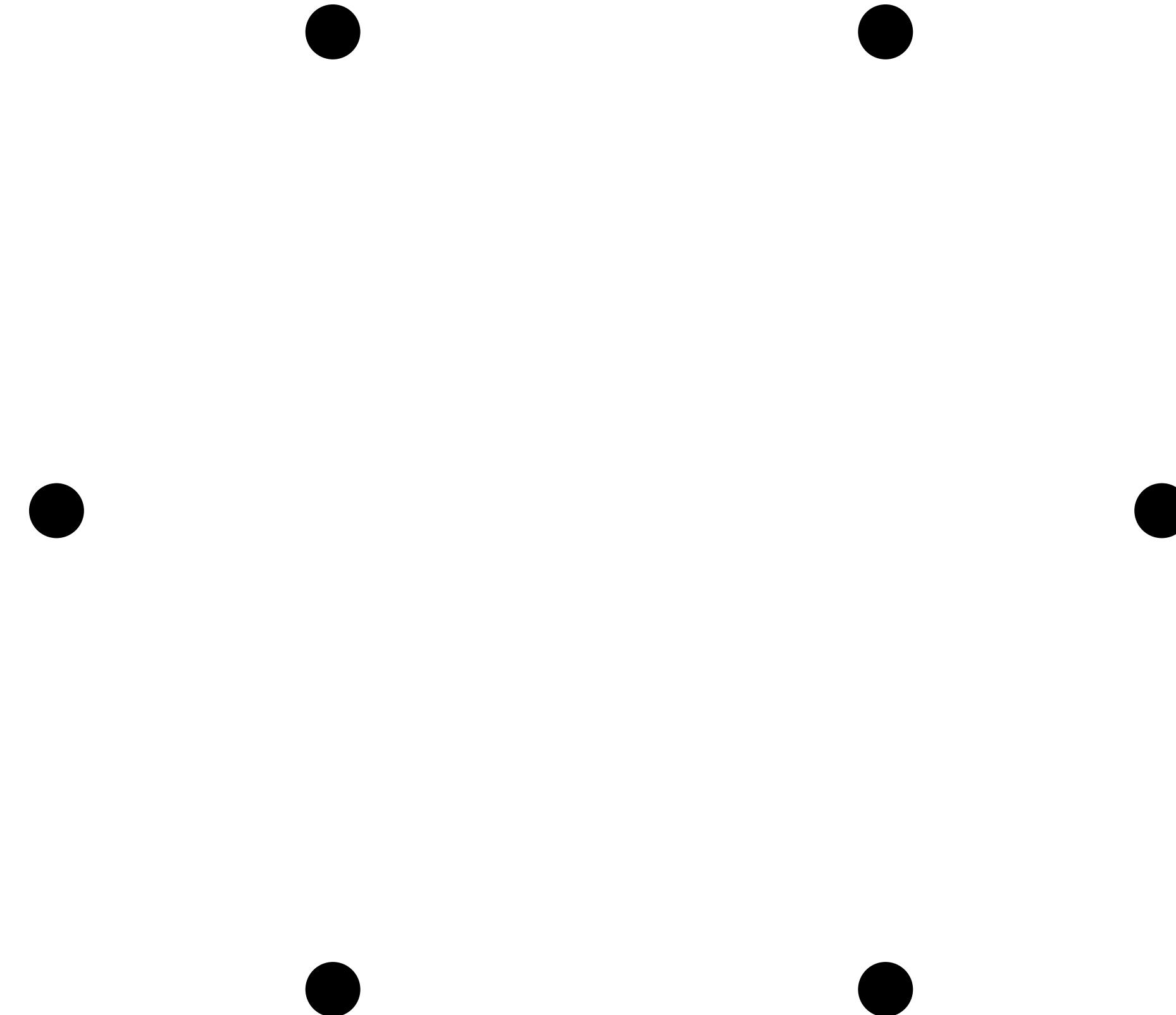


Geometric Complexes

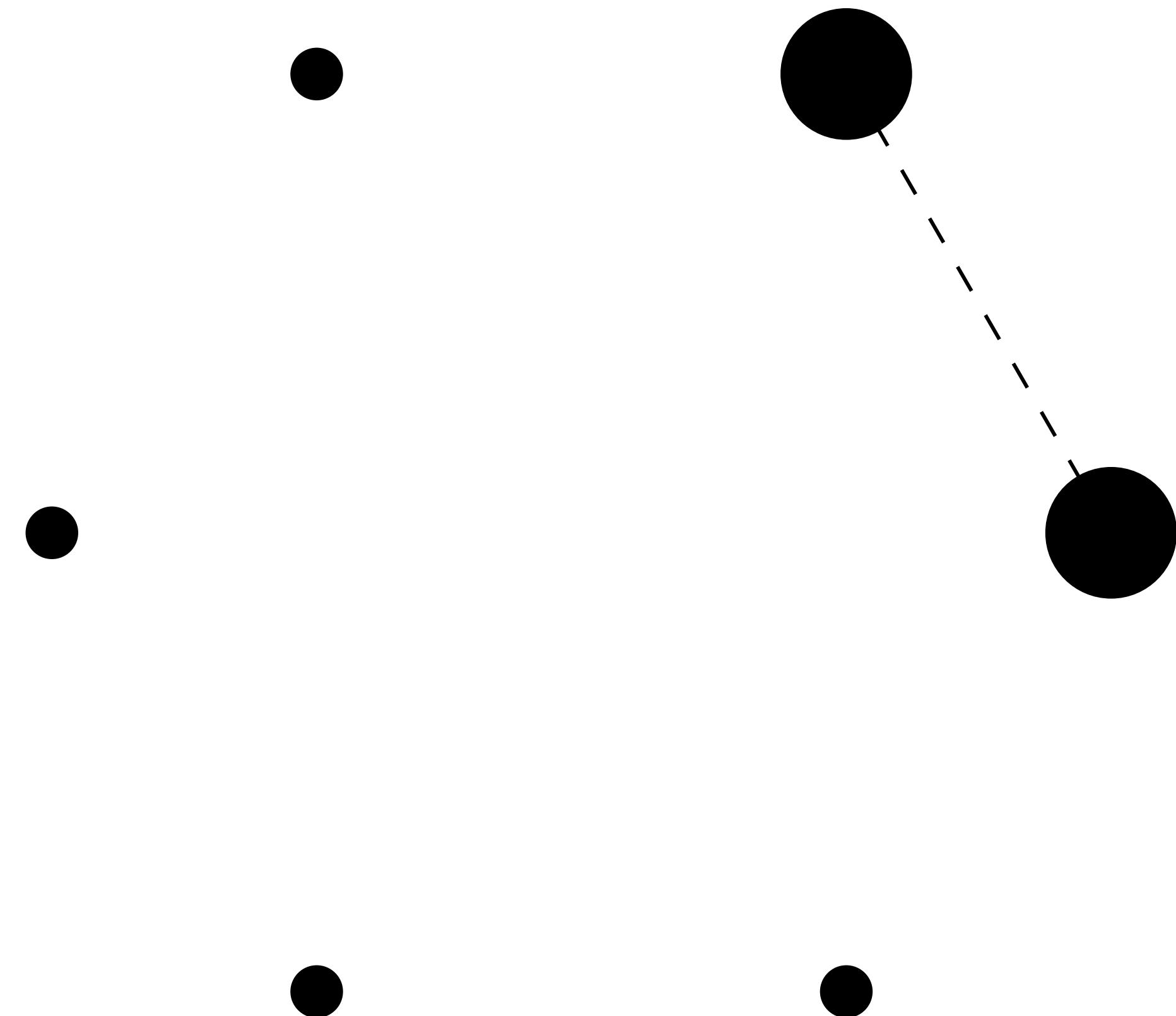


Topological Percolation

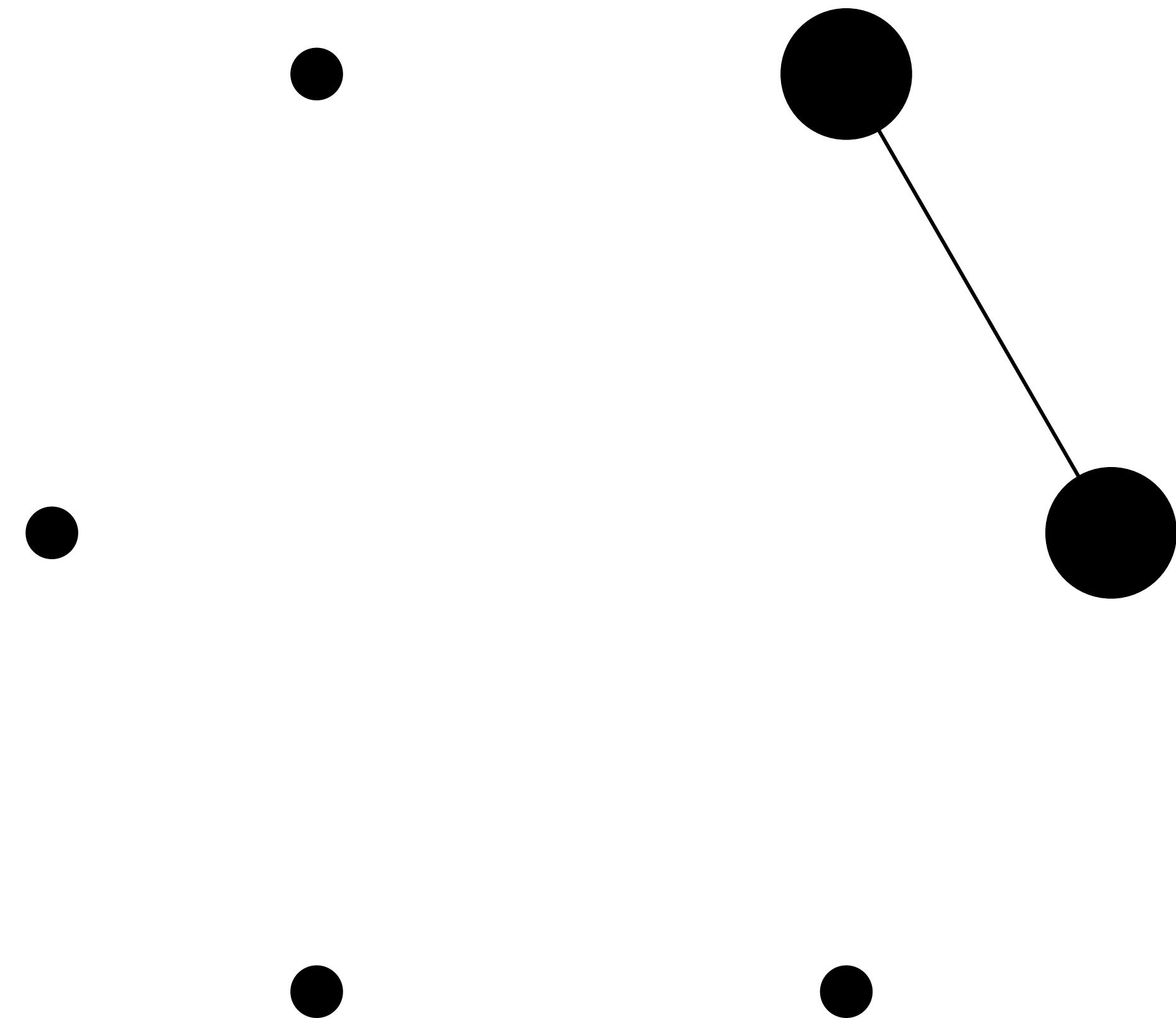
# Erdos-Renyi graphs



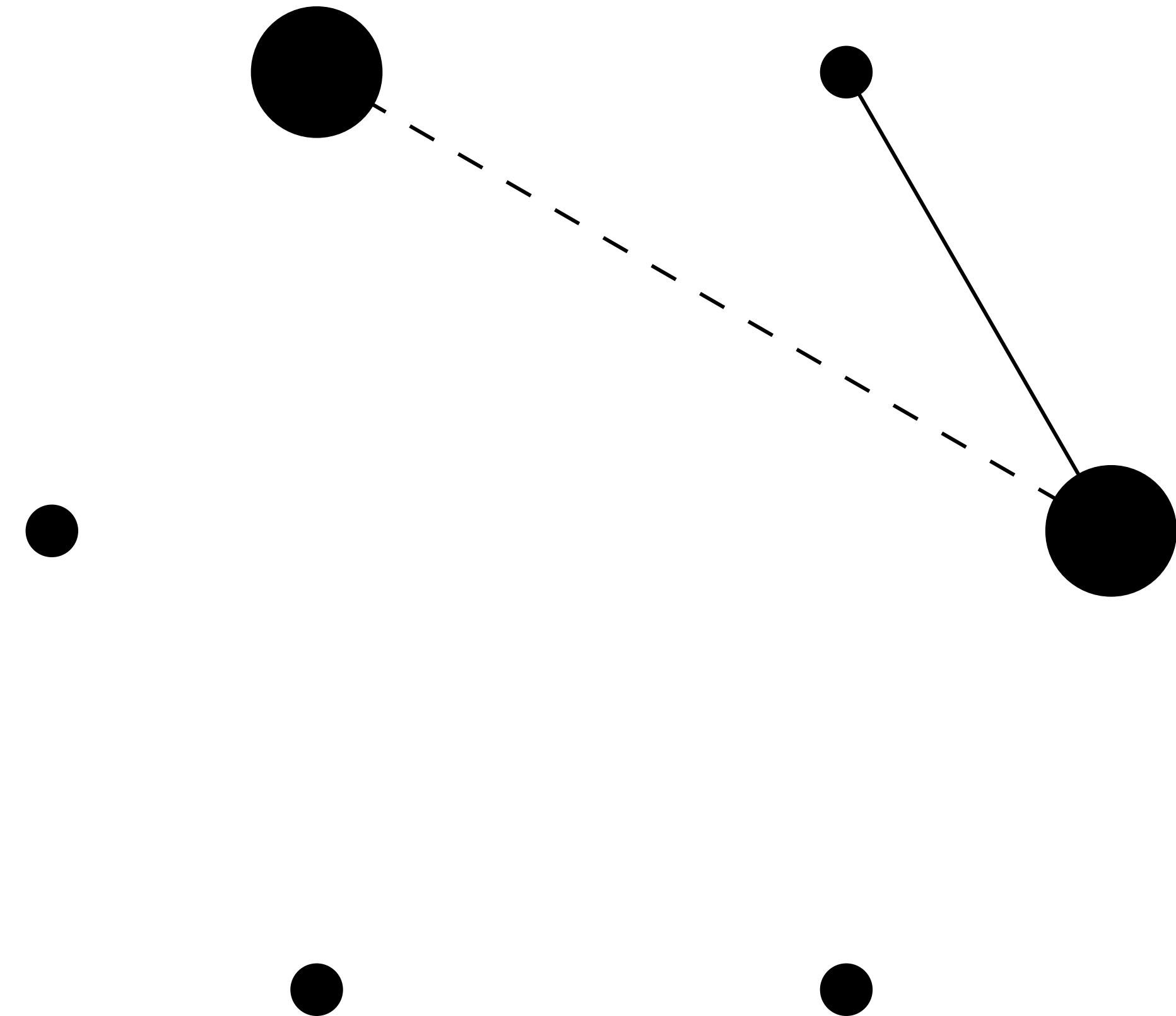
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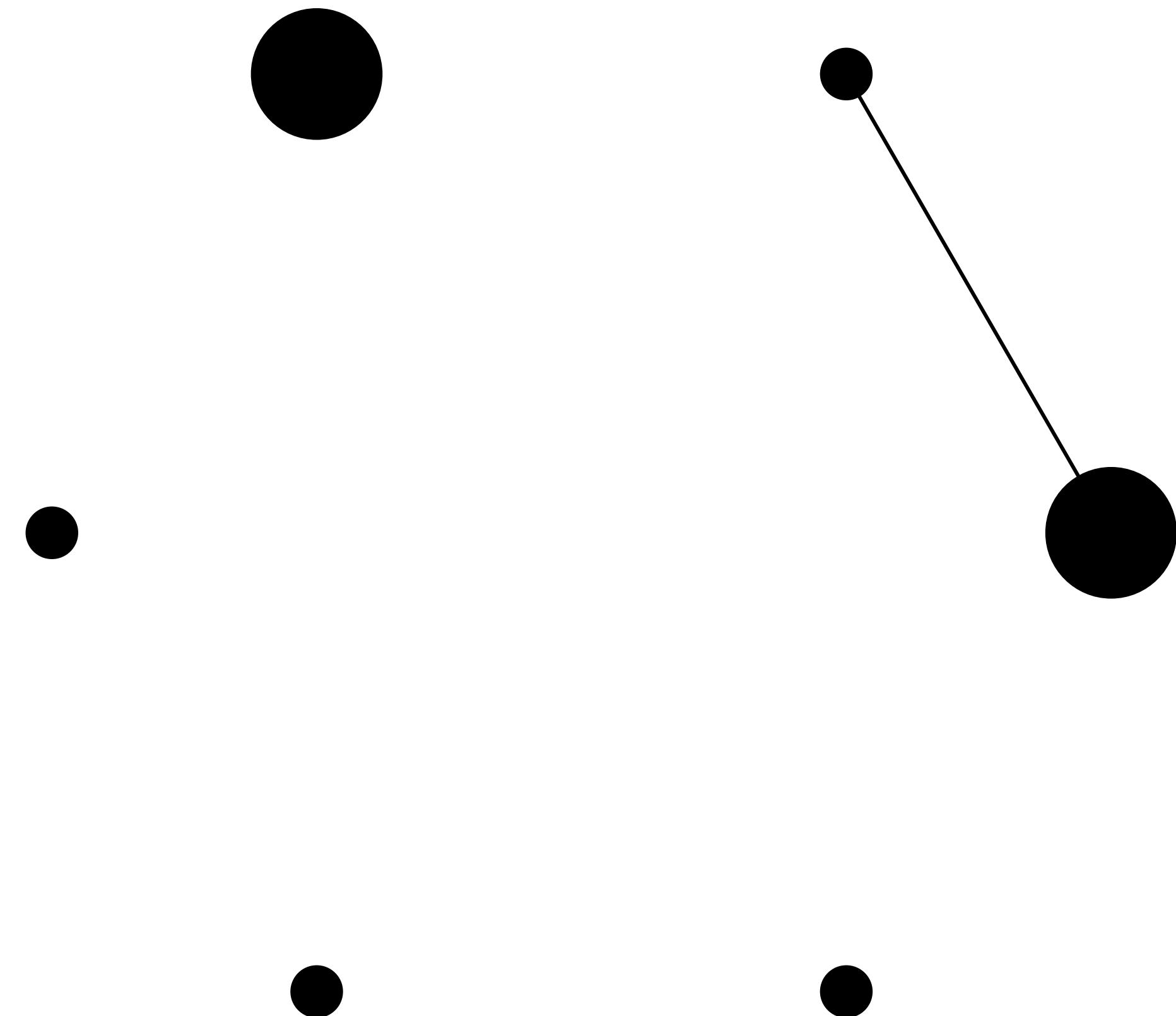
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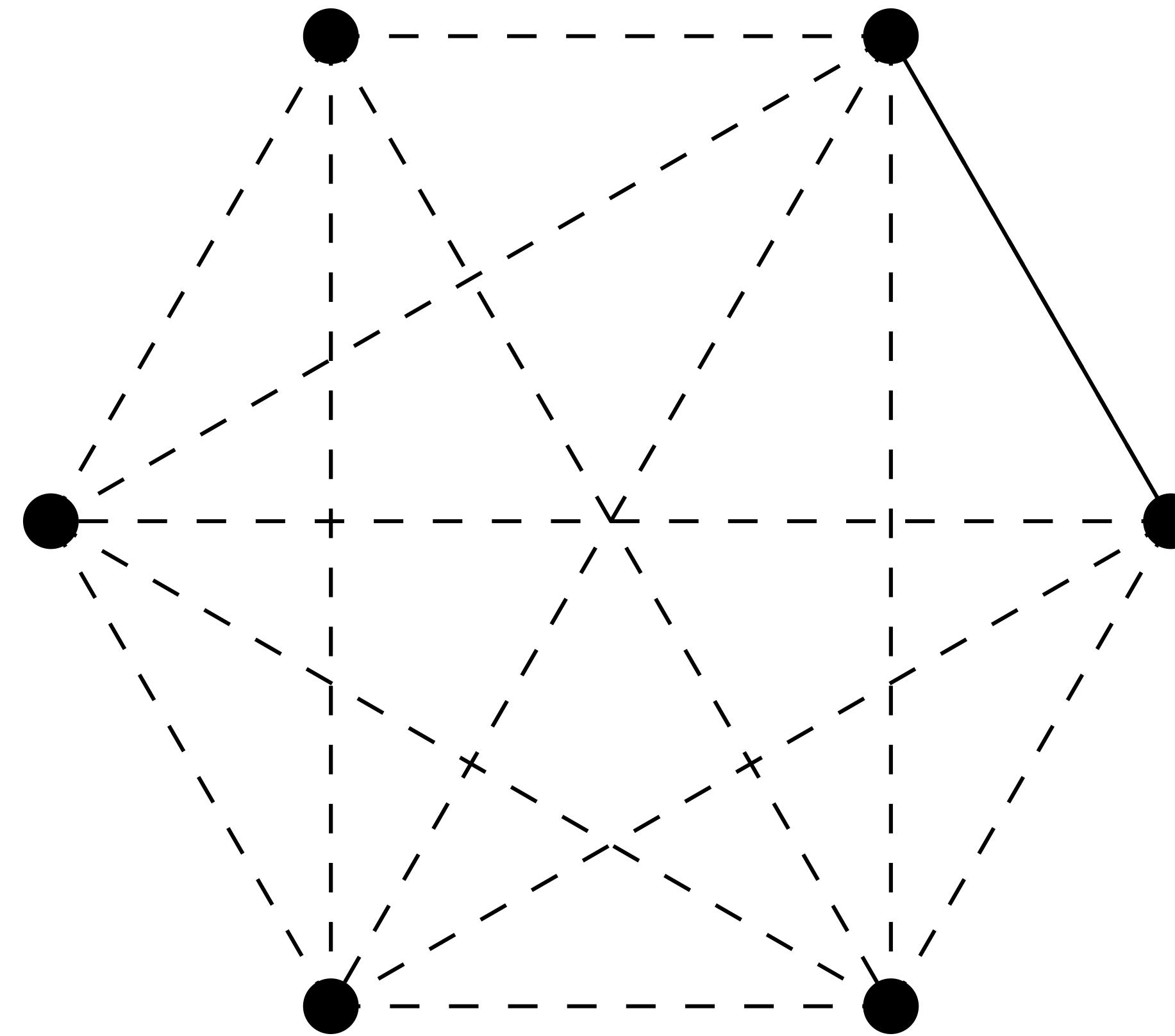
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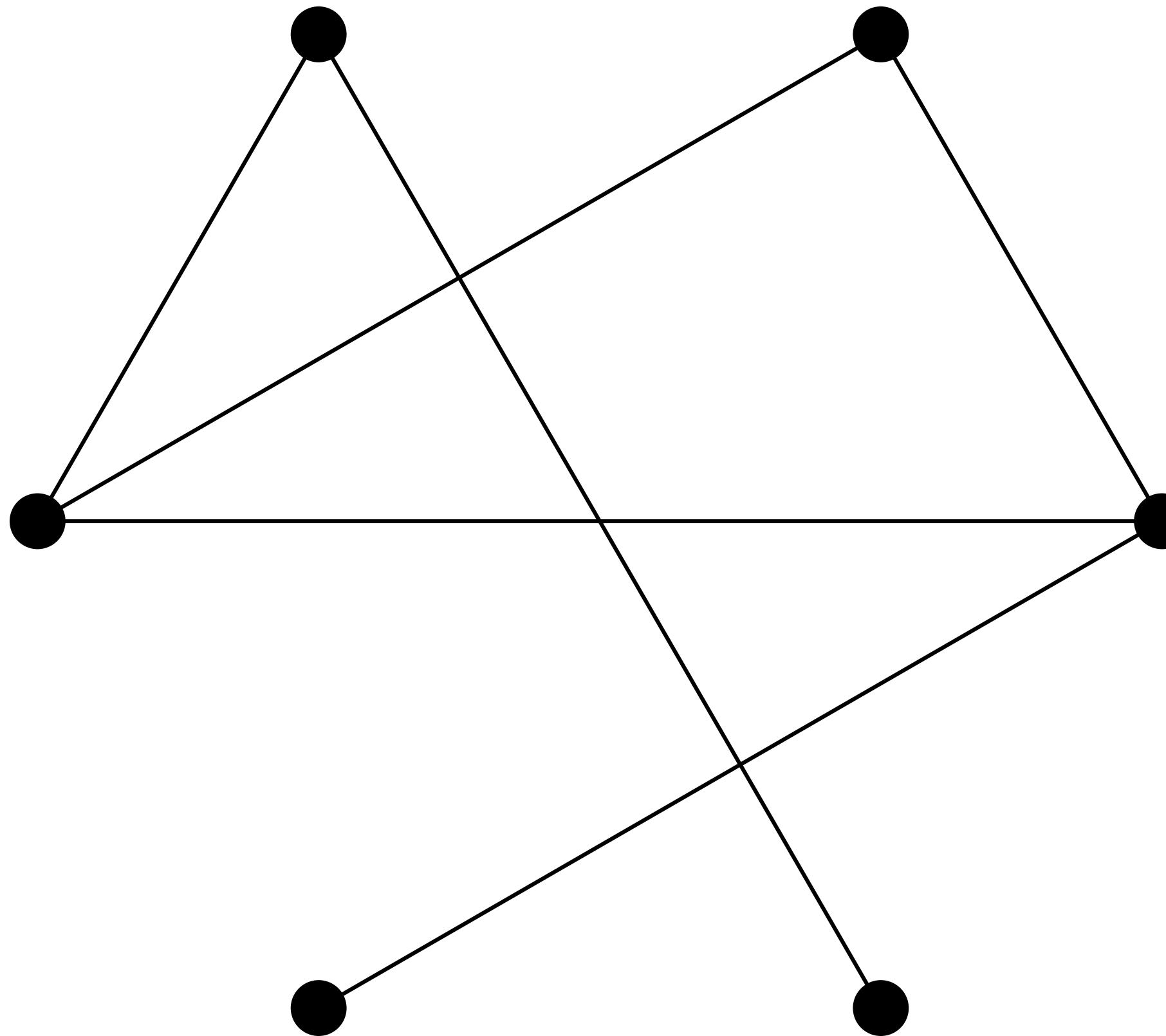
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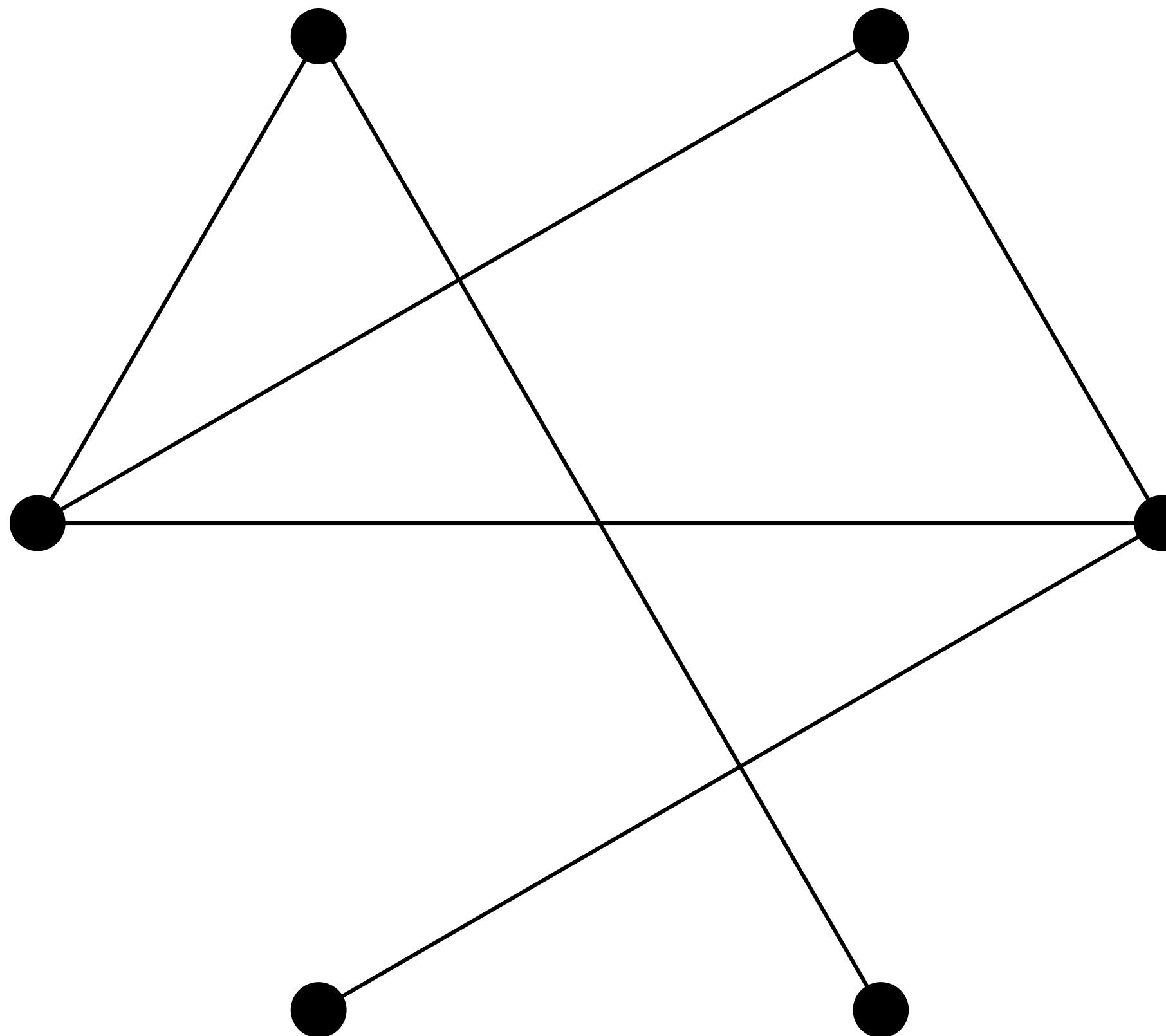
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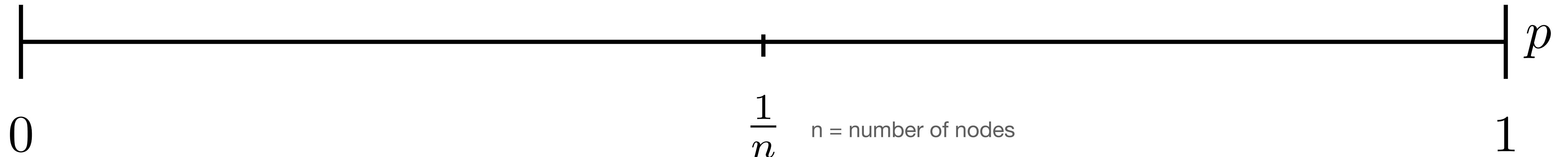
# Erdos-Renyi graphs



# Phase Transition

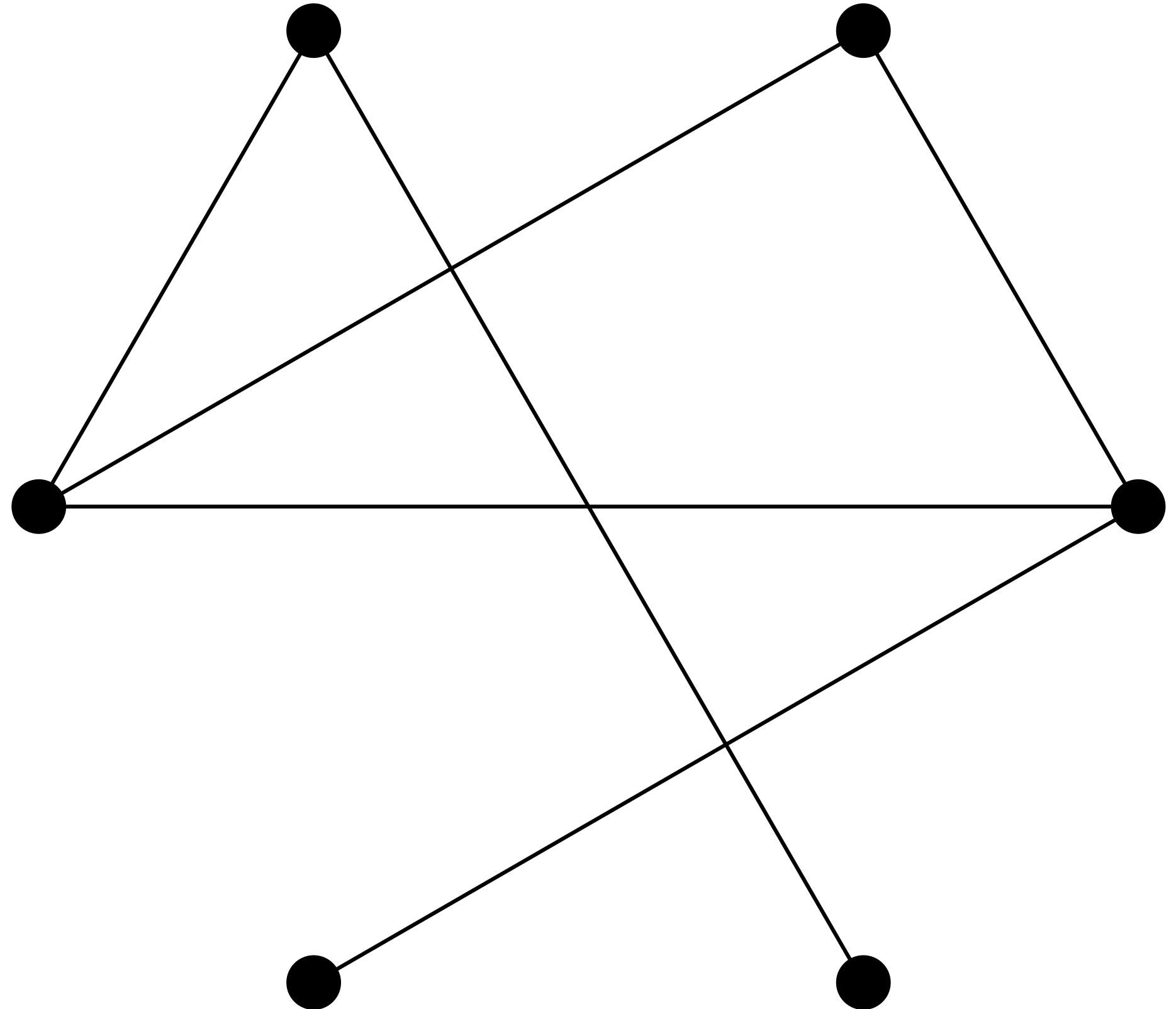
## [Erdos-Renyi 1960]

many components w.h.p.

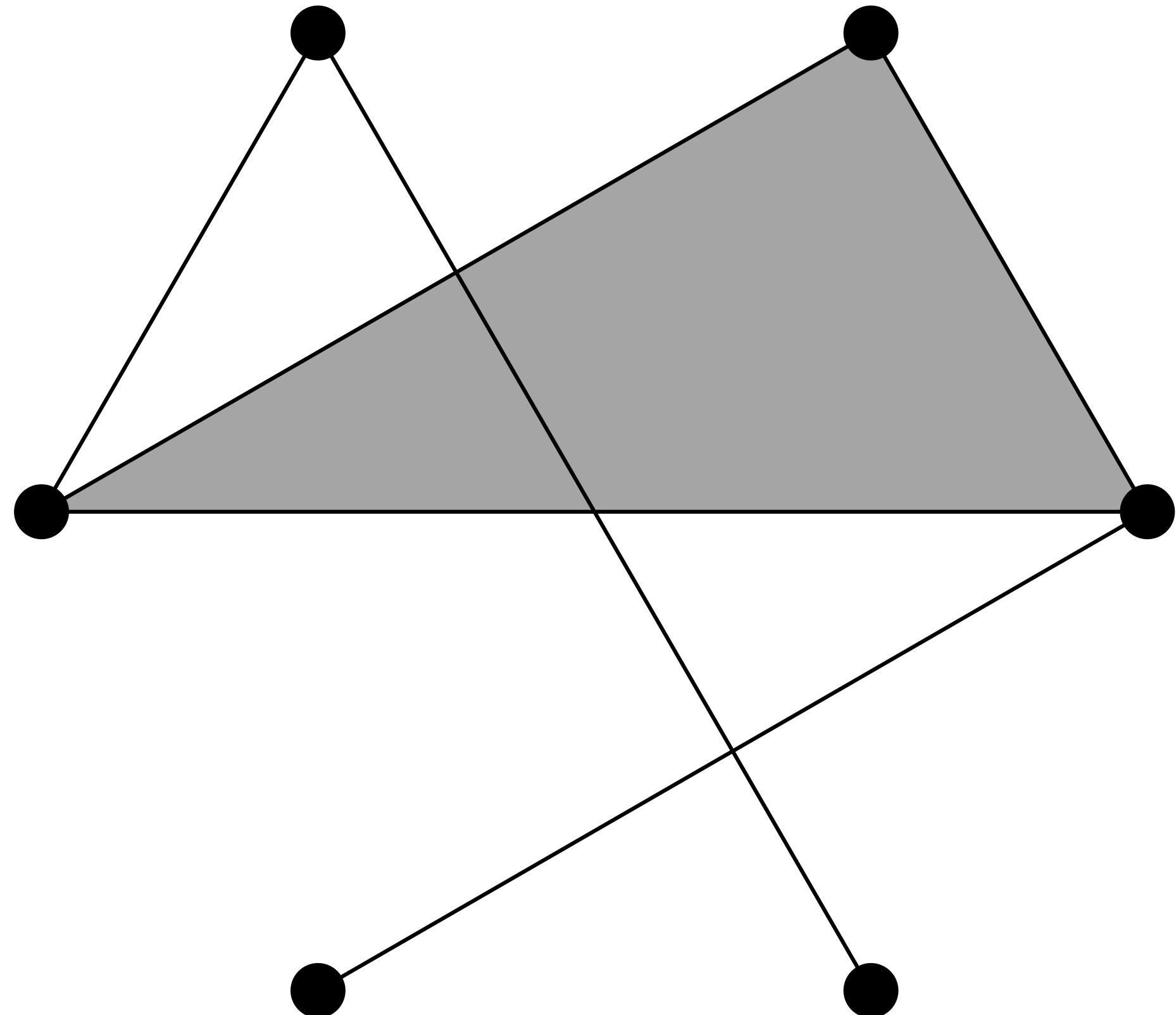


all log terms and constants forgone

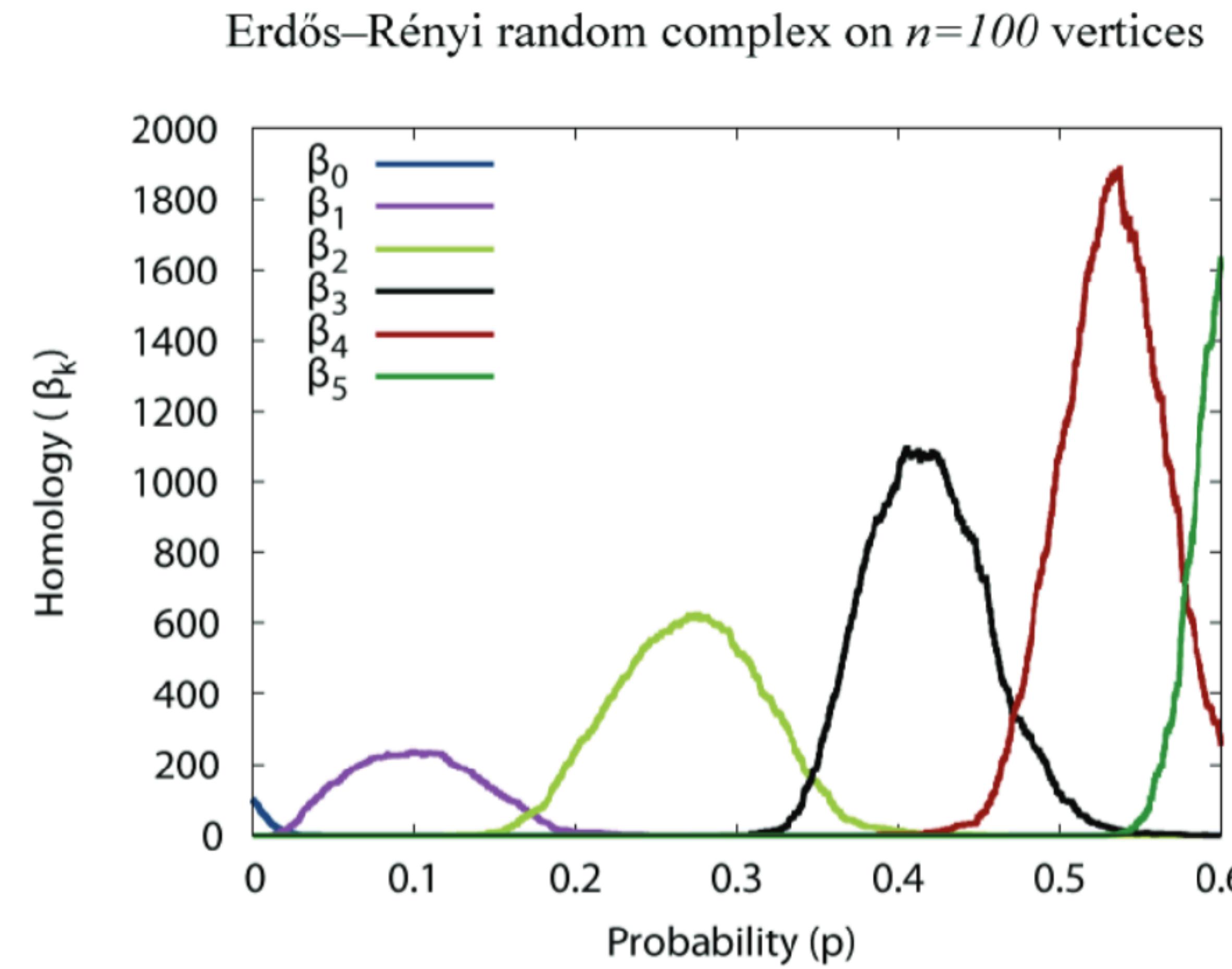
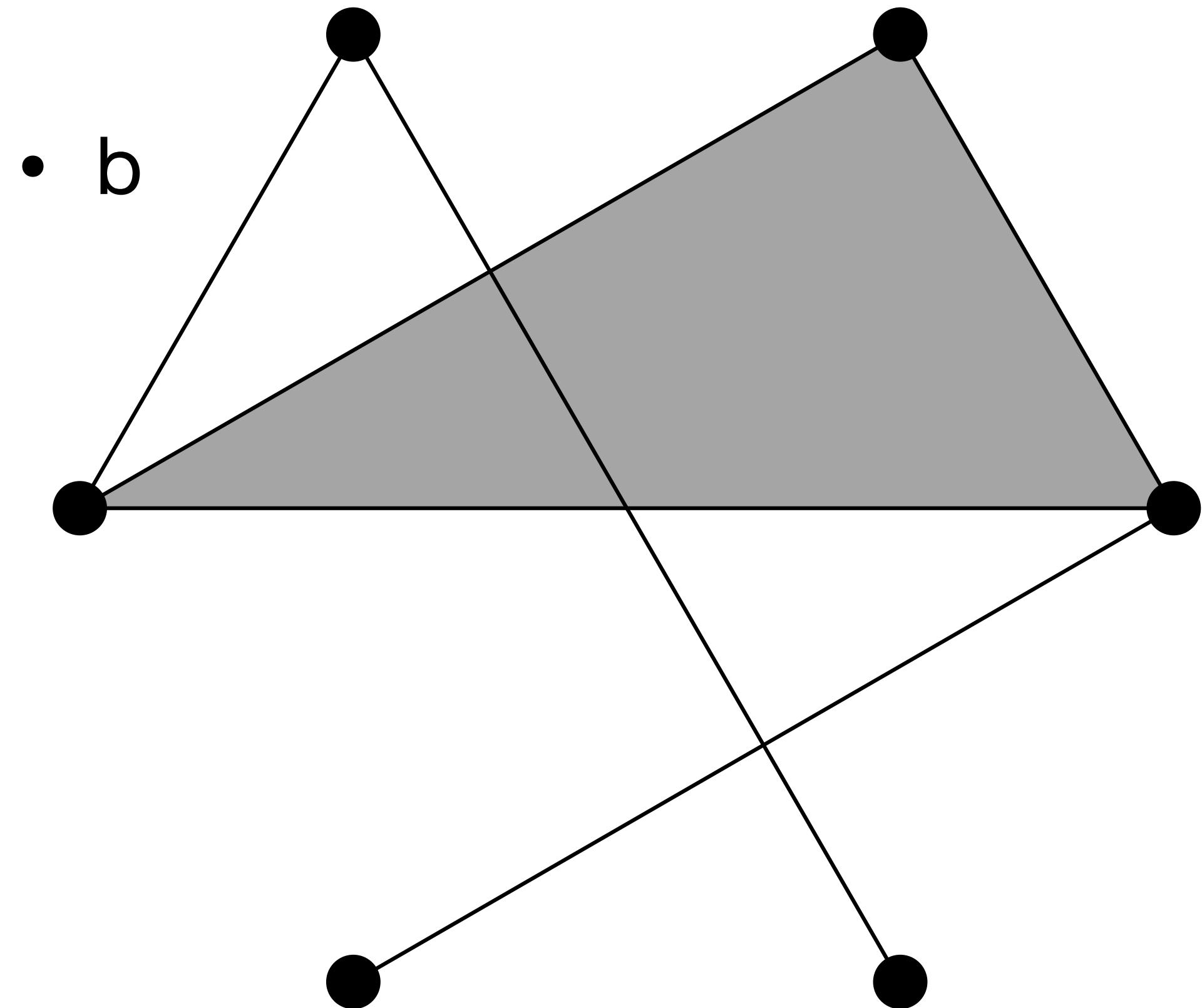
# Erdos-Renyi Clique Complex



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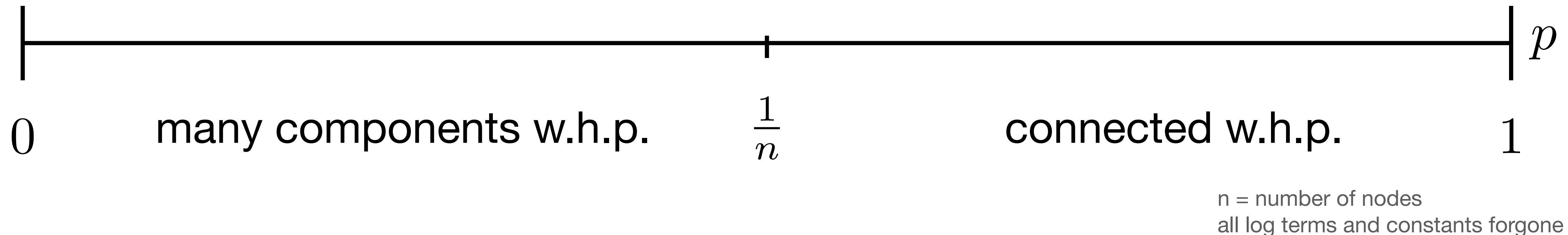
# Betti Numbers



computation and plotting done by Zomorodian

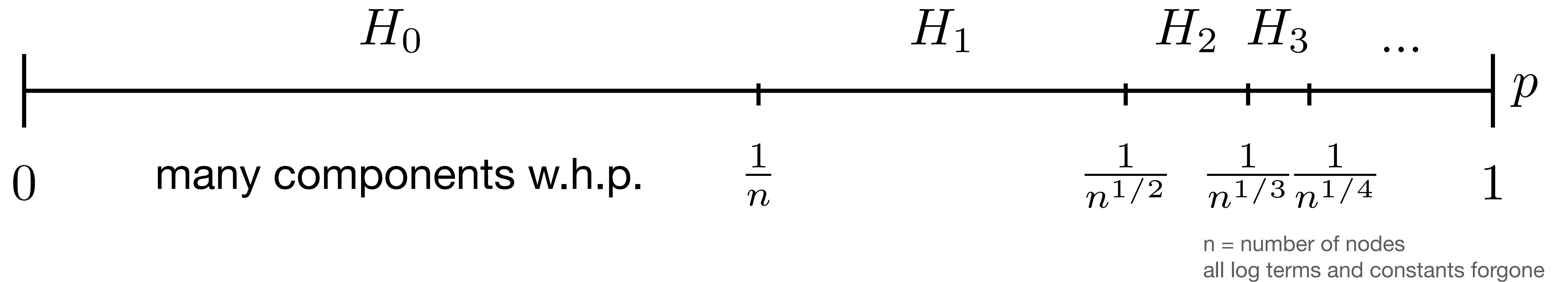
# Phase Transition

[Erdos-Renyi 1960]



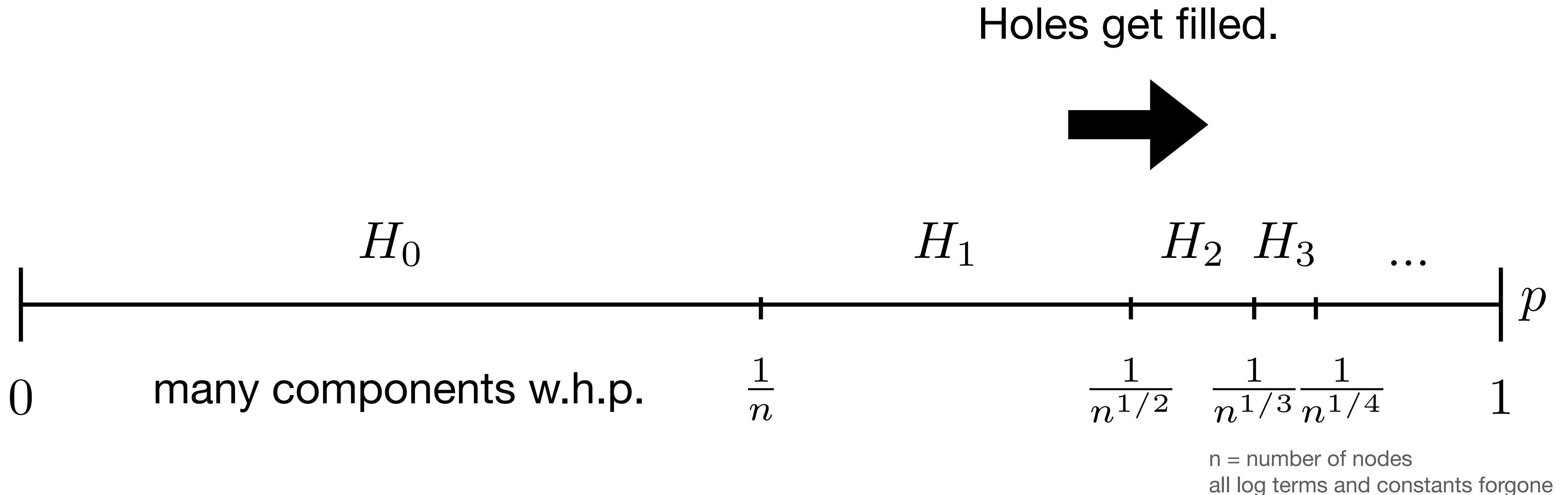
# Phase Transition

## [Kahle 2009, 2014]



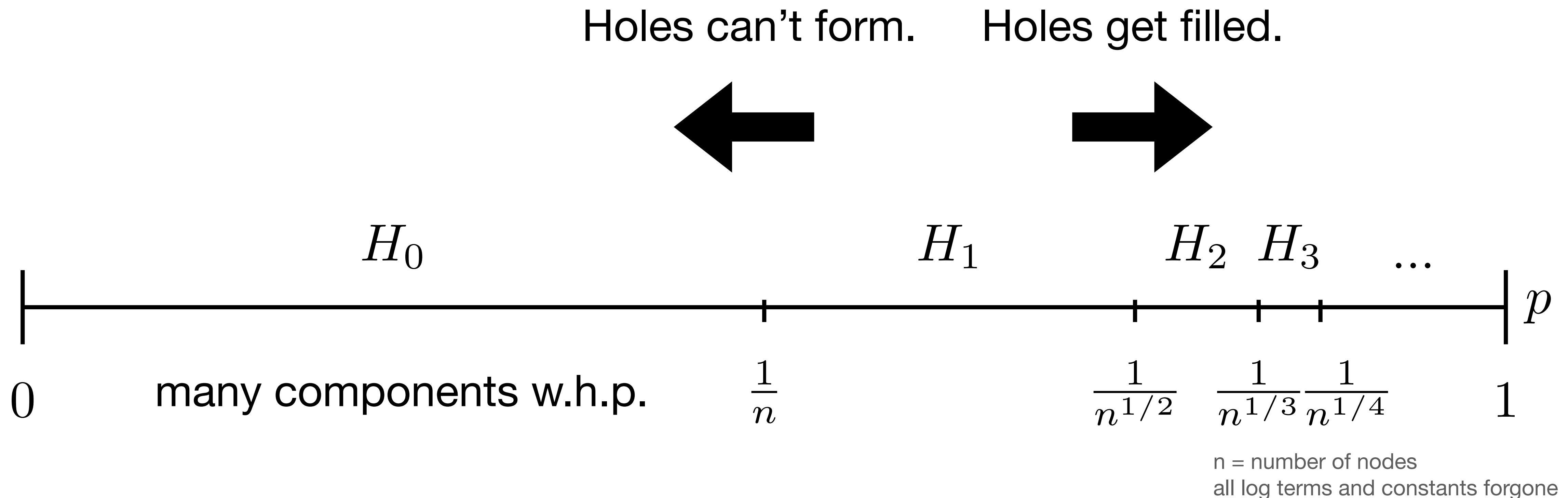
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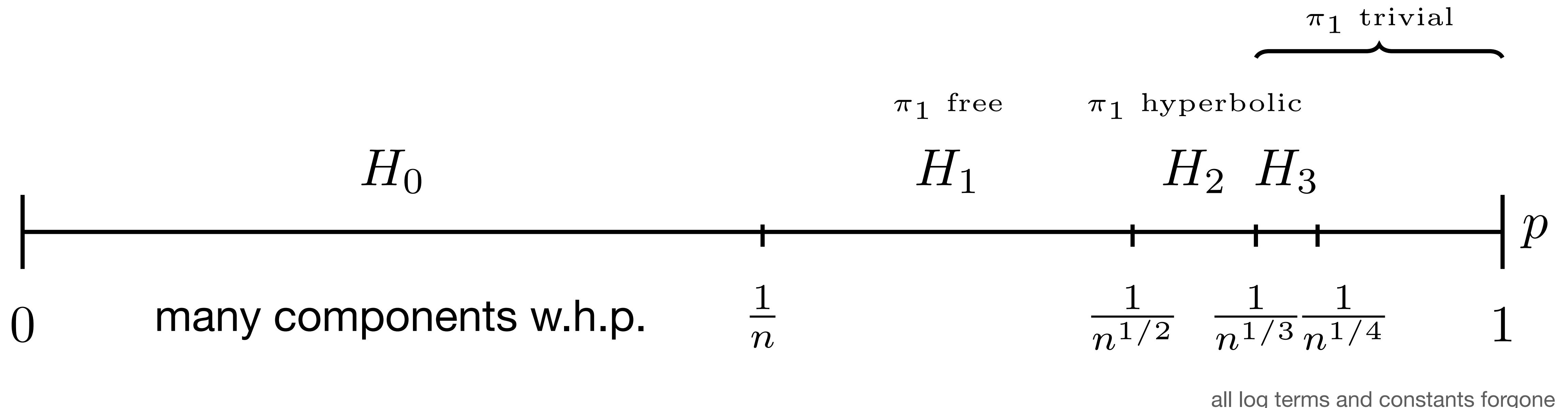
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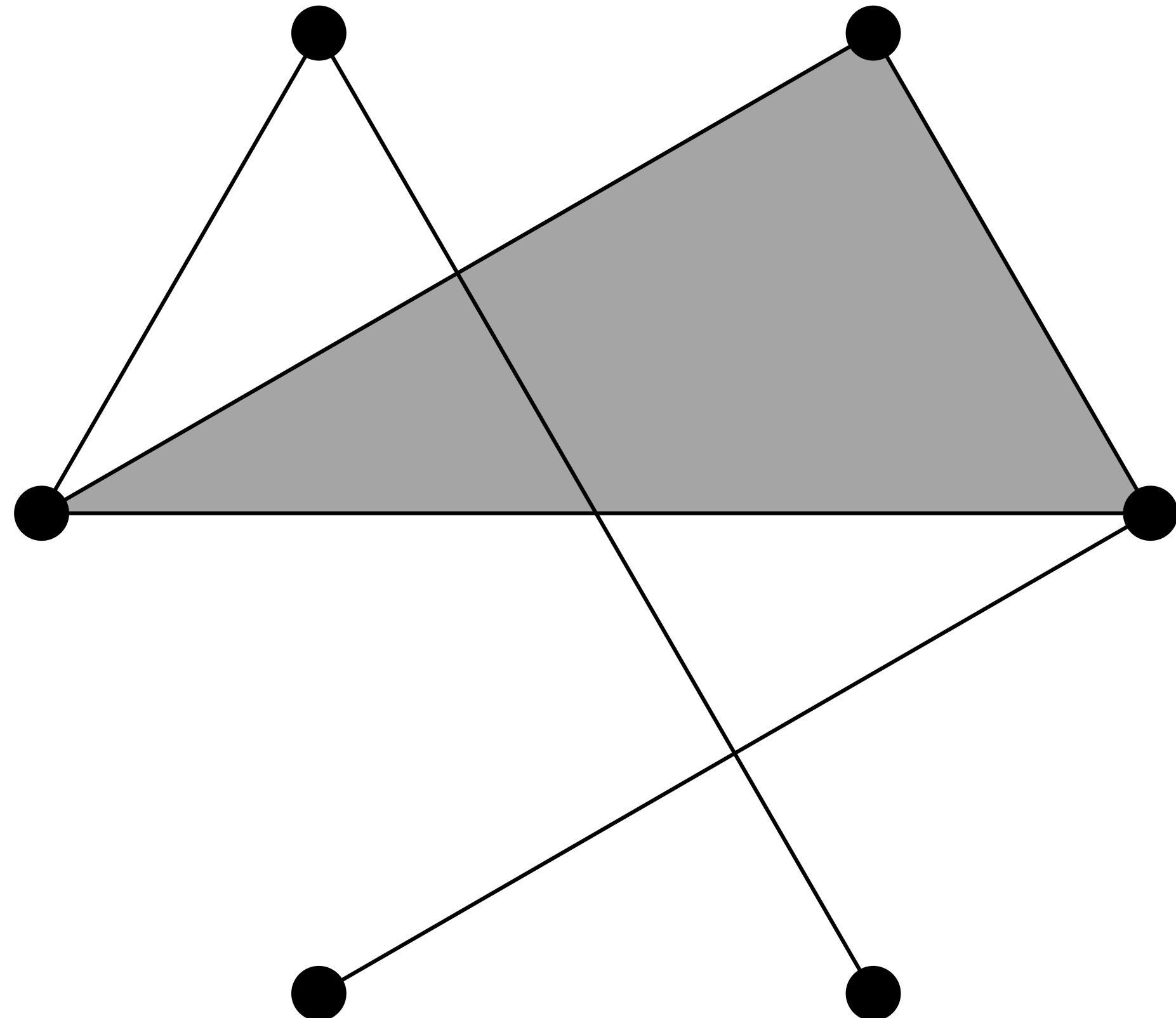


# Fundamental Group

[Kahle 2009, Babson 2012, Costa-Farber-Horak 2015]



# Erdos-Renyi Clique Complex



# Geometric Complexes

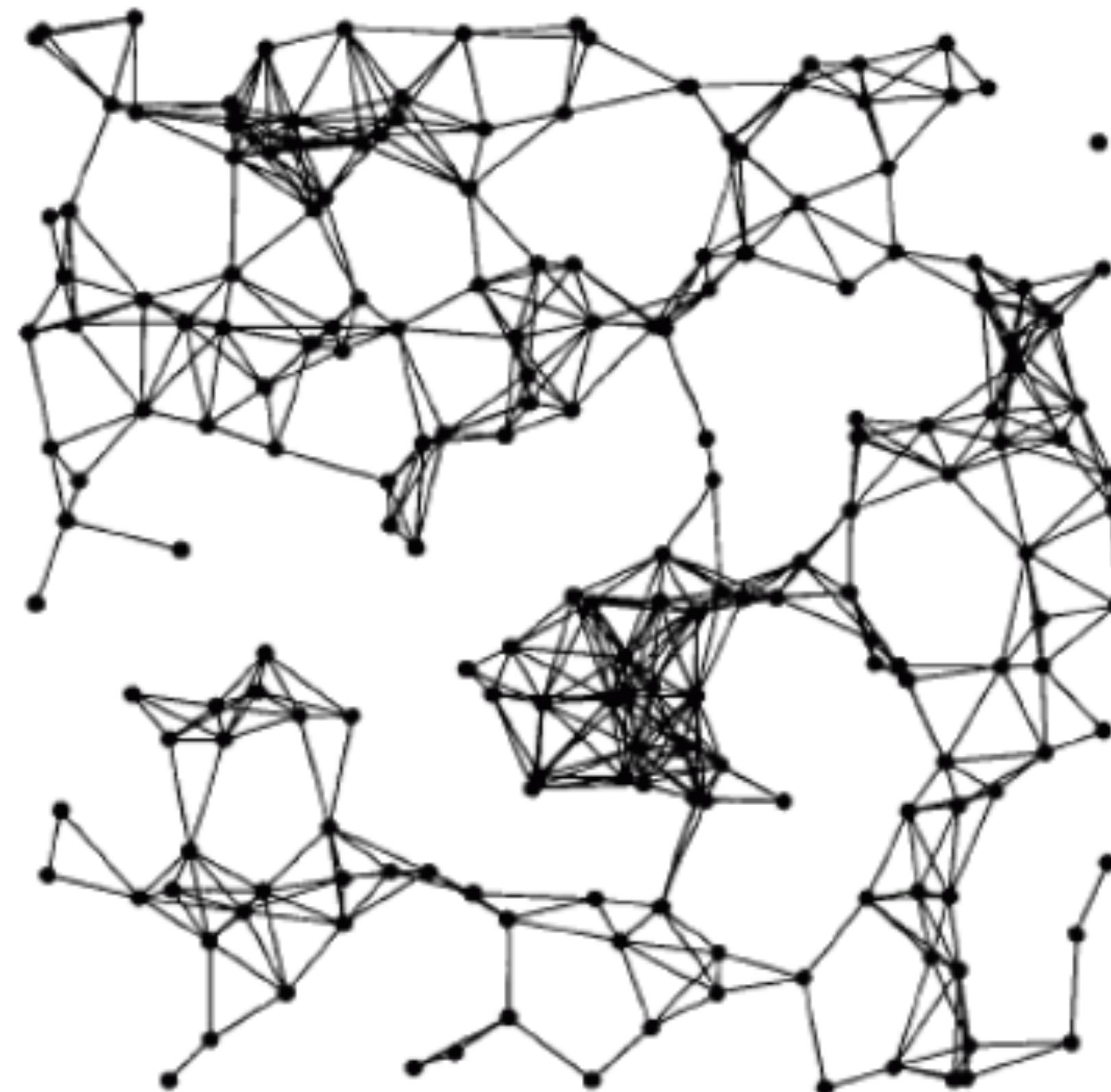


image credit: Penrose

# **Expected Betti numbers at dimension k**

**[Kahle 2011]**

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[Kahle 2011]

- $n$ , the number of points

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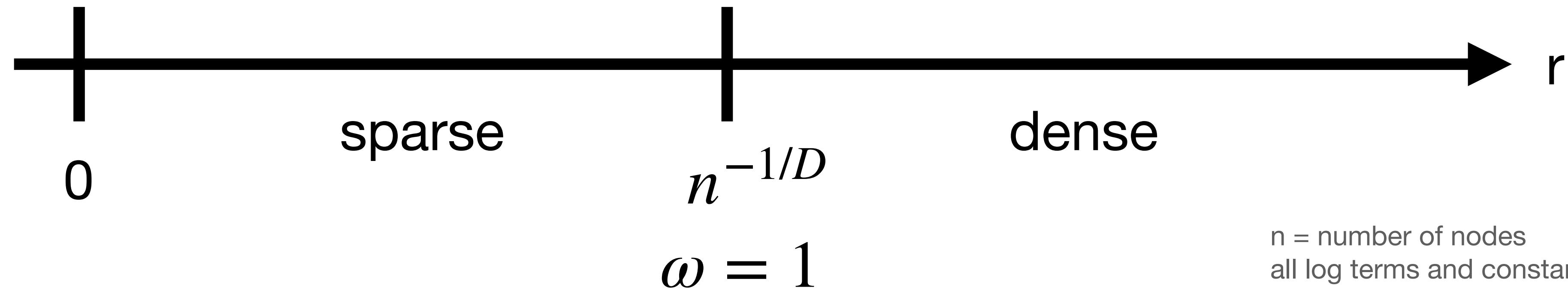
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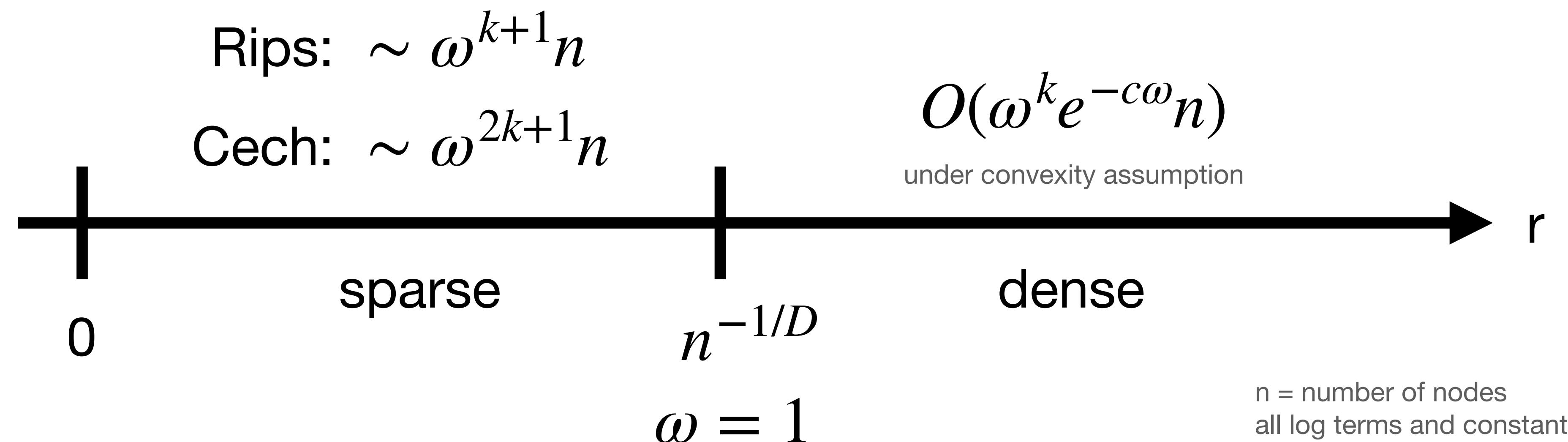


$n$  = number of nodes  
all log terms and constants forgone

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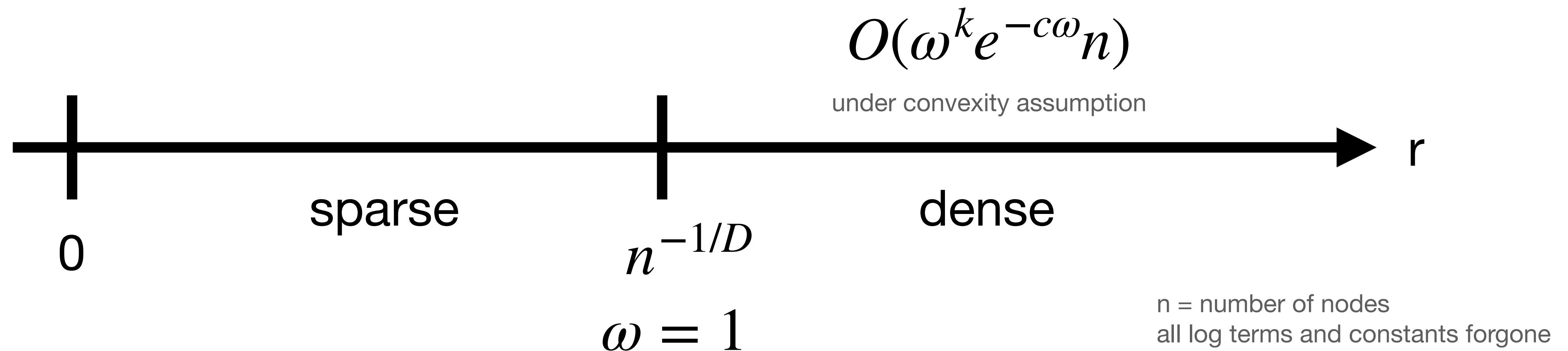
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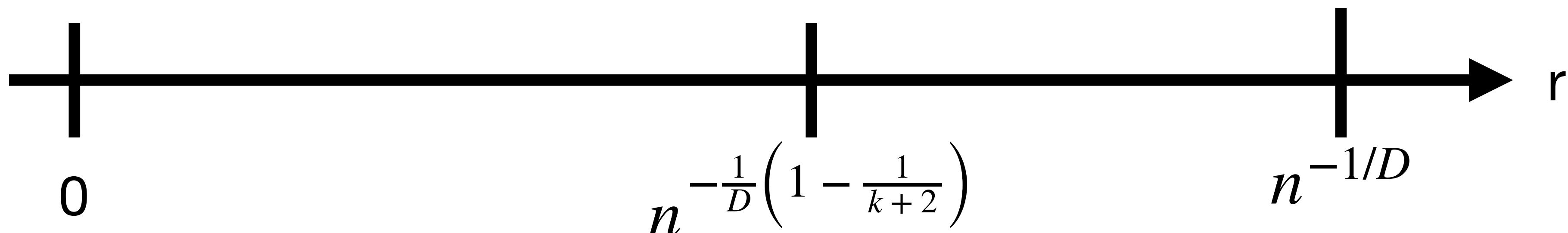
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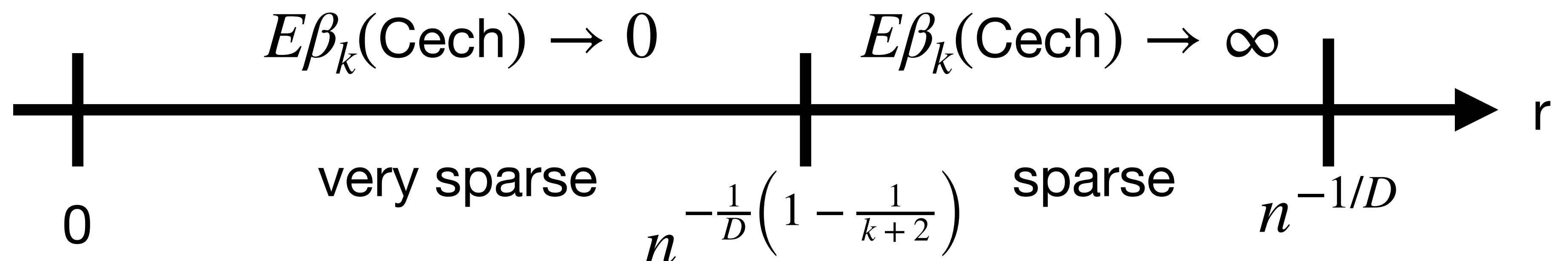


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# Maximally Persistent Cycles

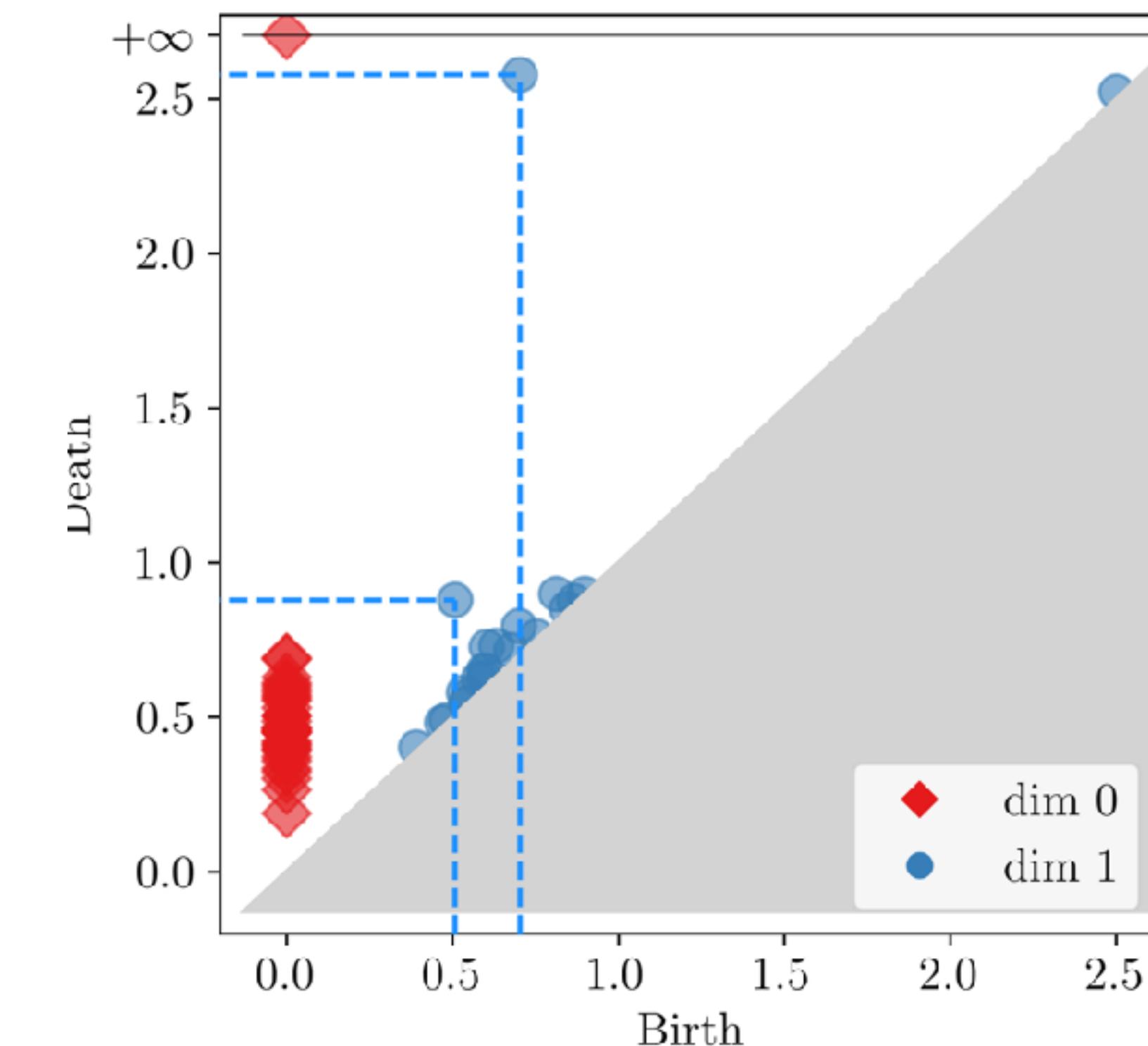
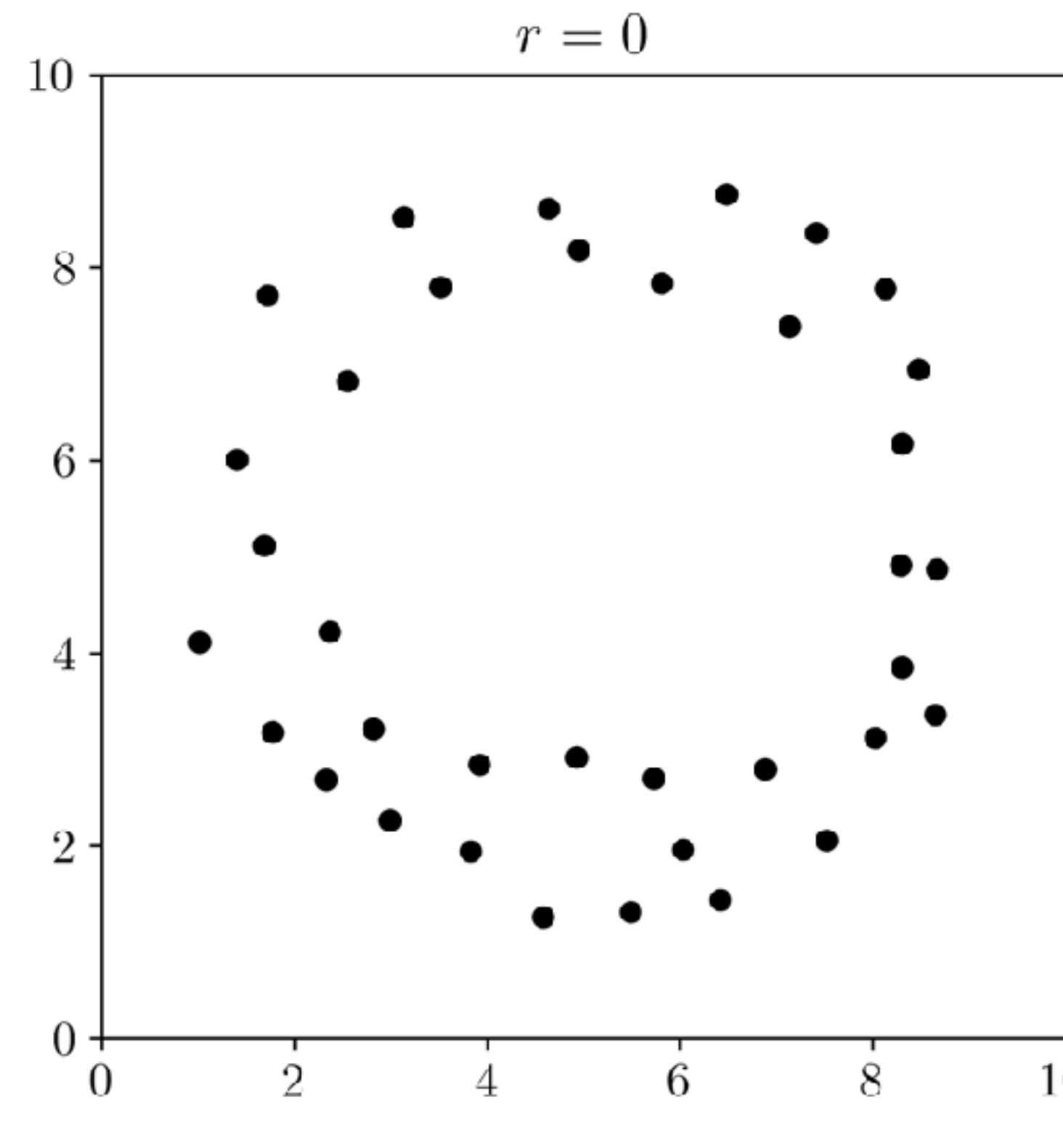


image credit: Andrey Yao

# Maximally Persistent Cycles

n points in expectation

k-cycle

# Maximally Persistent Cycles

[Bobrowski-Kahle-Skraba 2017]

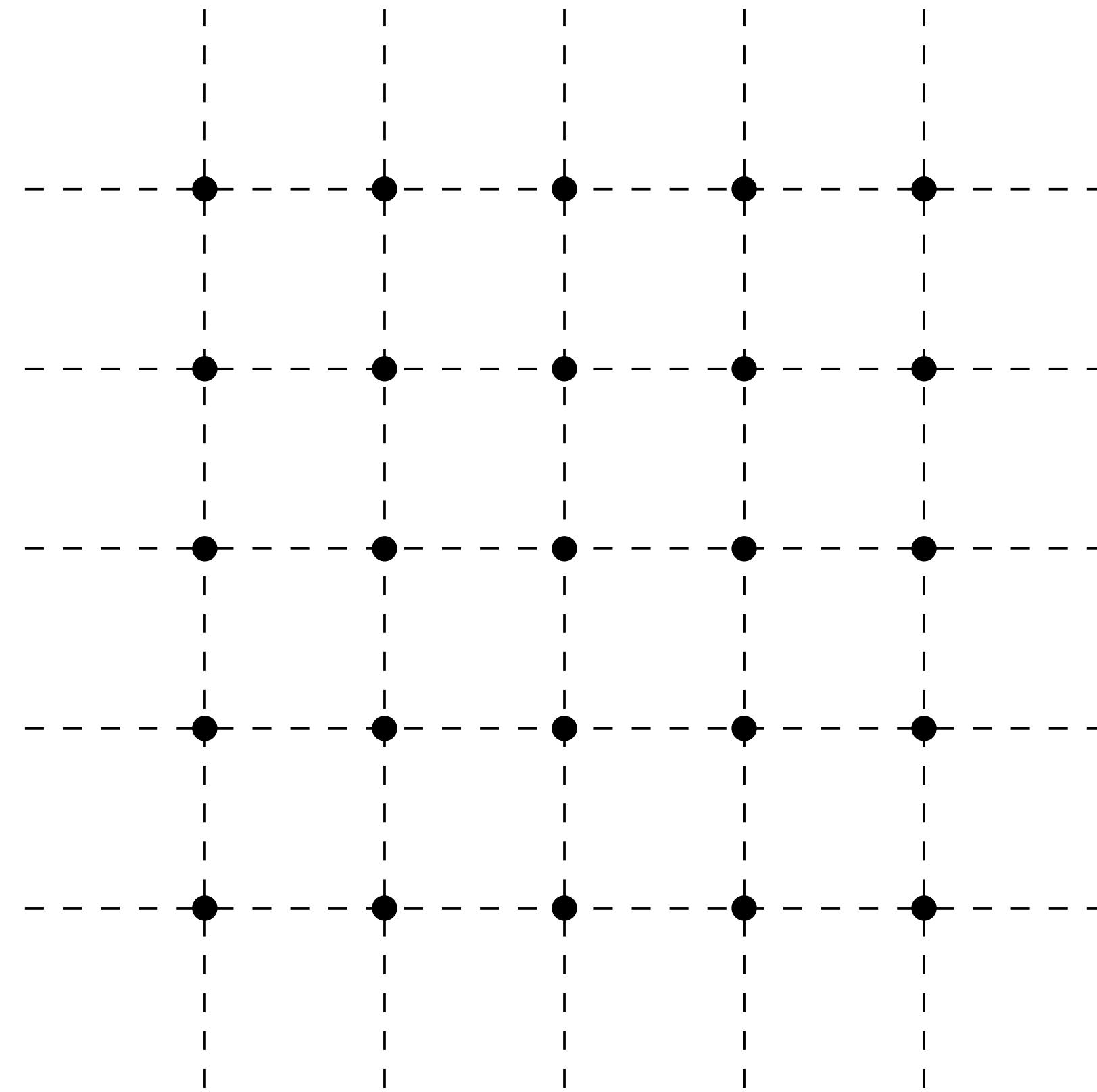
$n$  points in expectation

$k$ -cycle

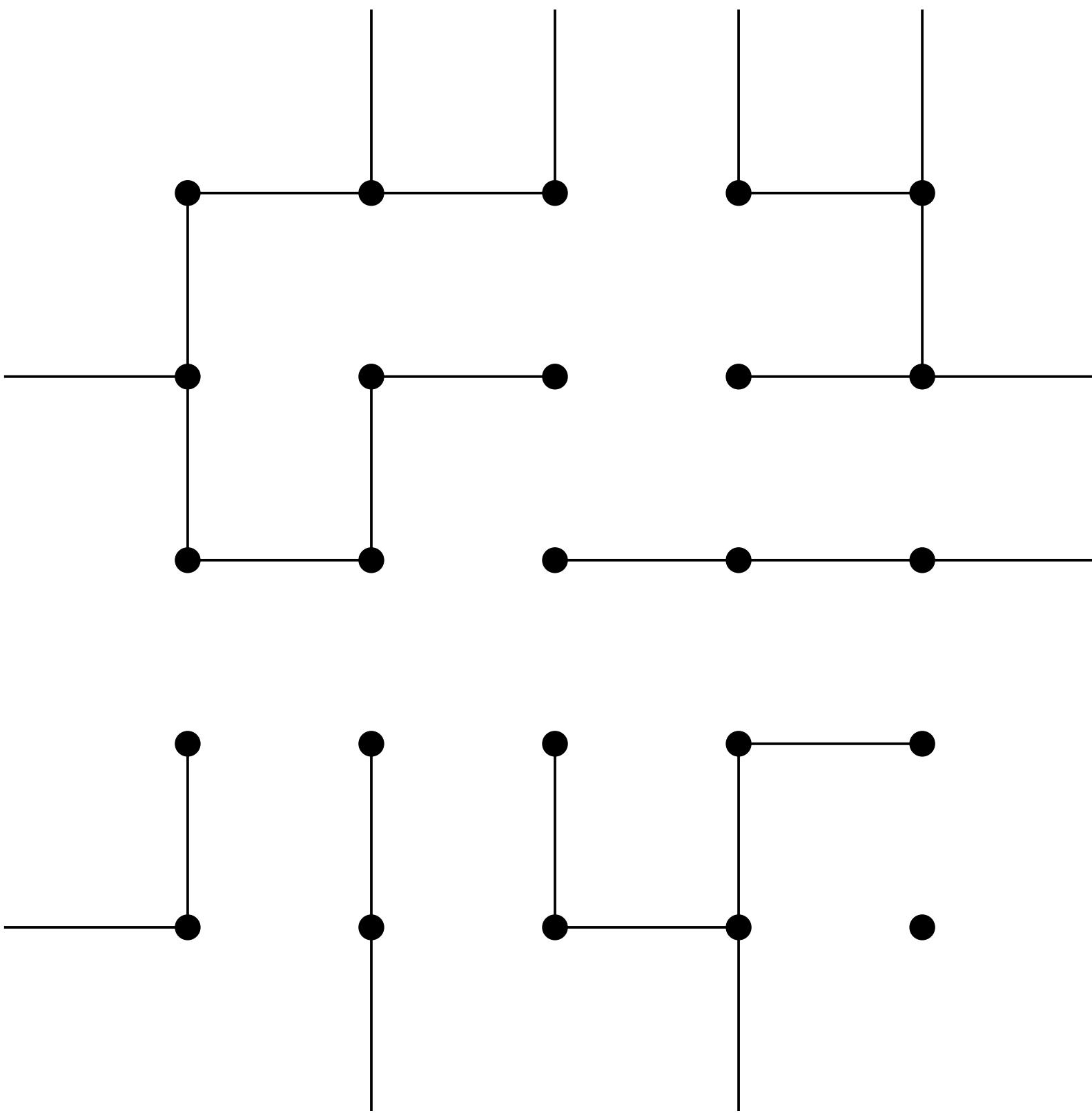
$$c \left( \frac{\log n}{\log \log n} \right)^{1/k} \leq \text{max persistence} \leq C \left( \frac{\log n}{\log \log n} \right)^{1/k}$$

a.a.s.

# Bernoulli Bond Percolation

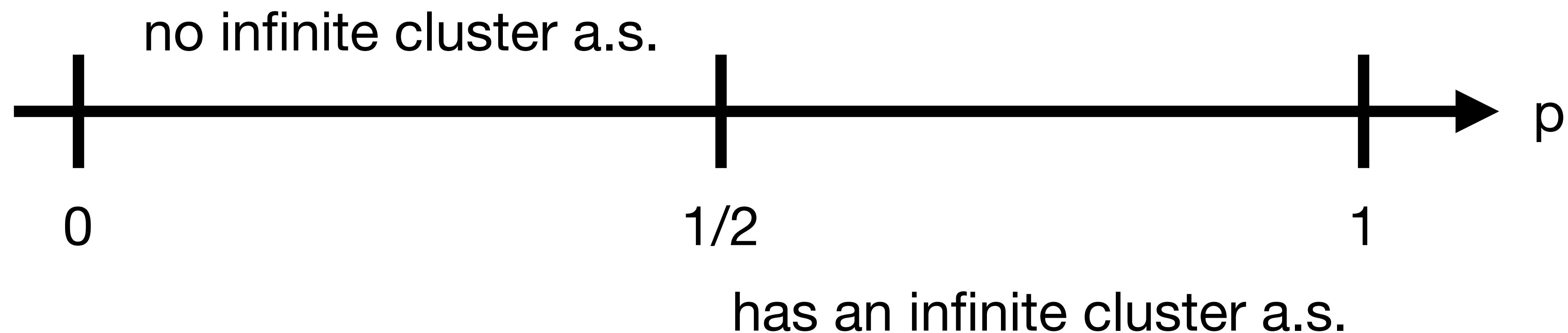


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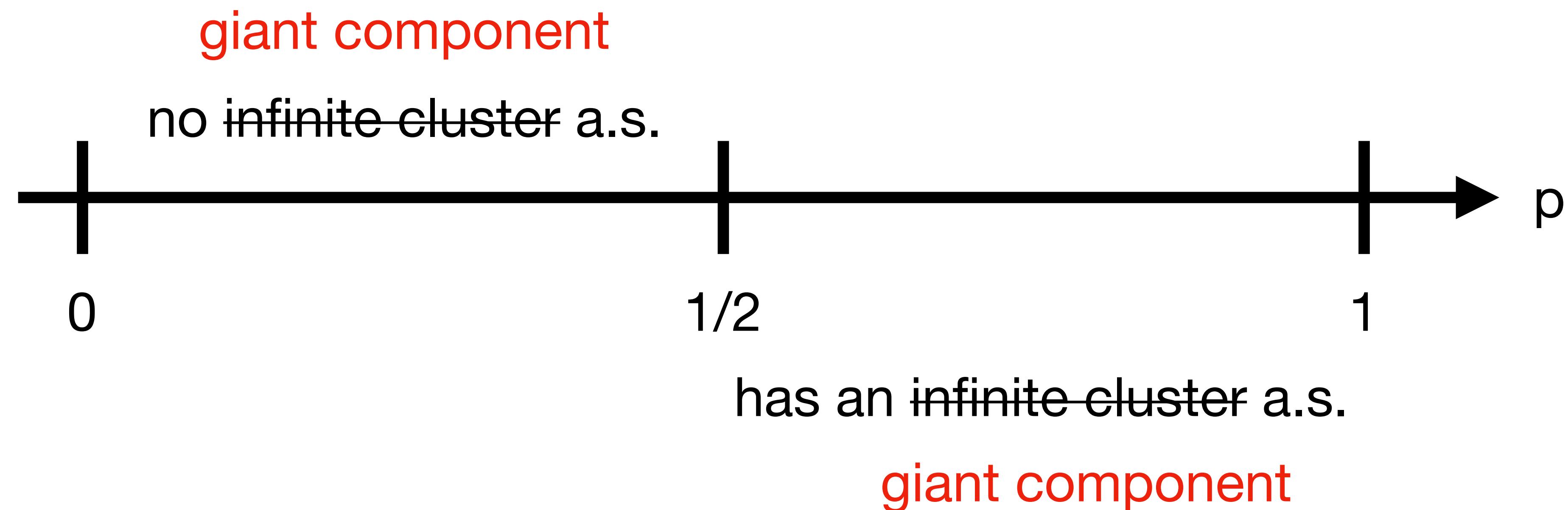
# Phase Transition

[Harris 1960, Kesten 1980]



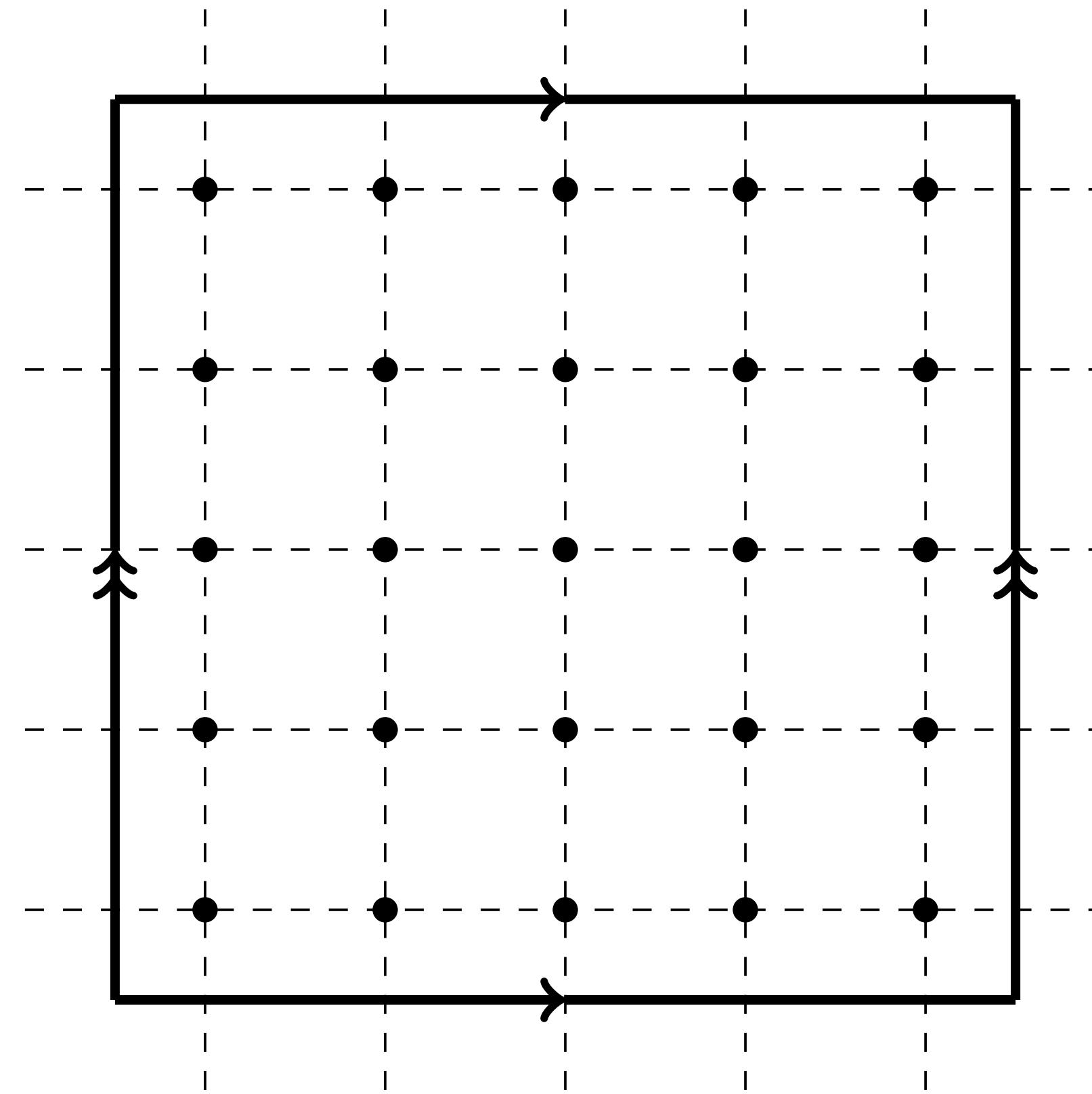
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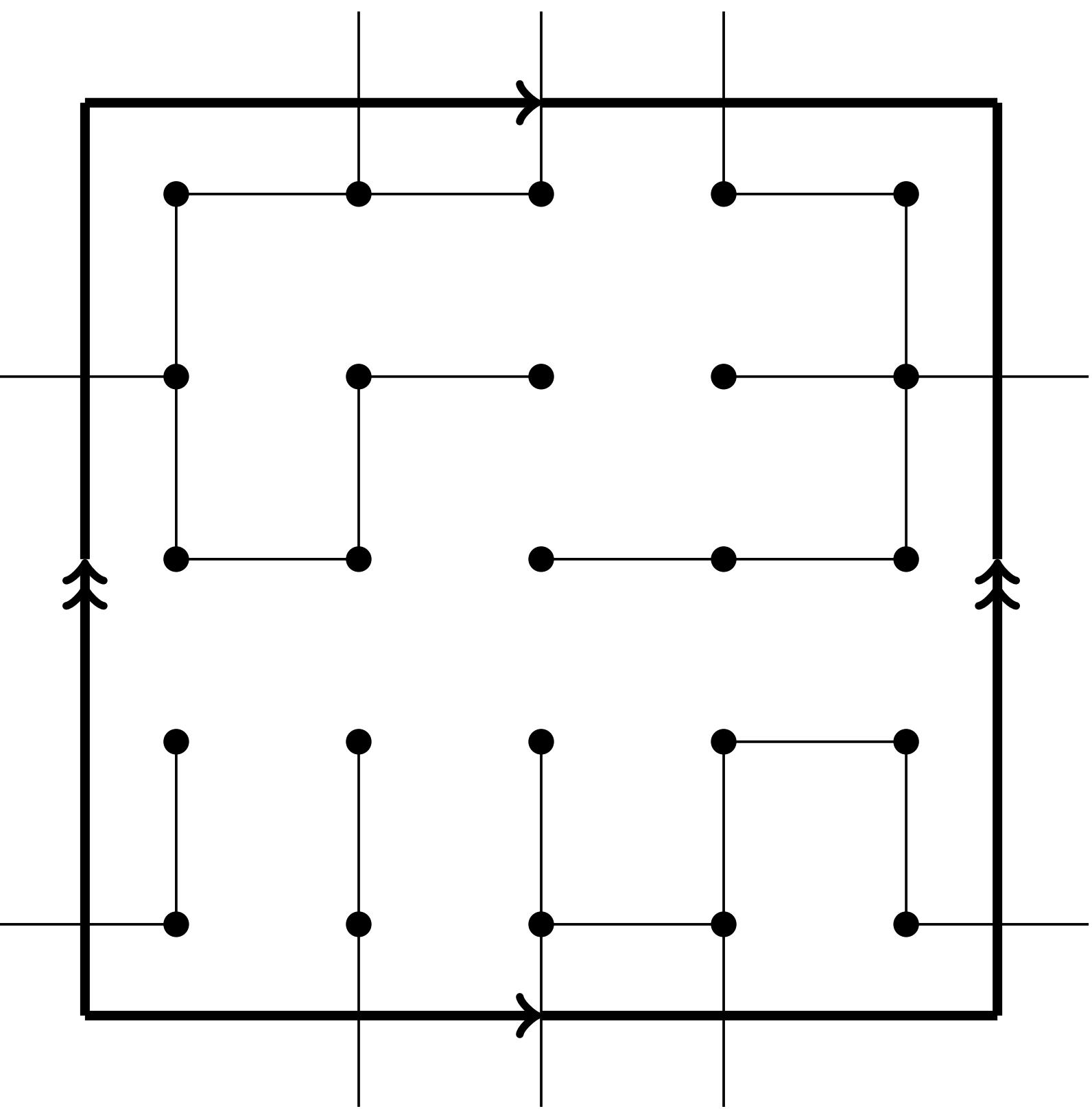
[Harris 1960, Kesten 1980]



# Giant Cycles?

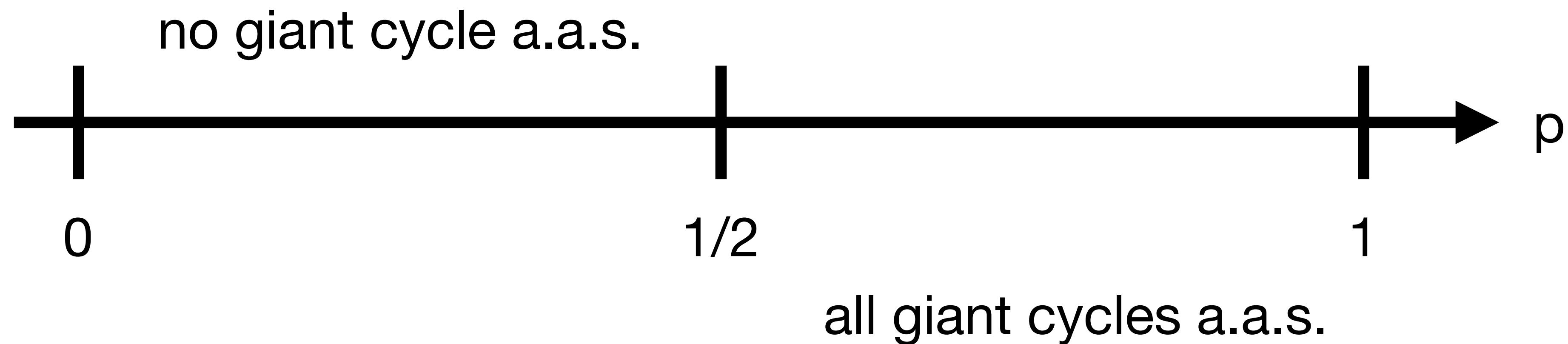
# Bernoulli Bond Percolation



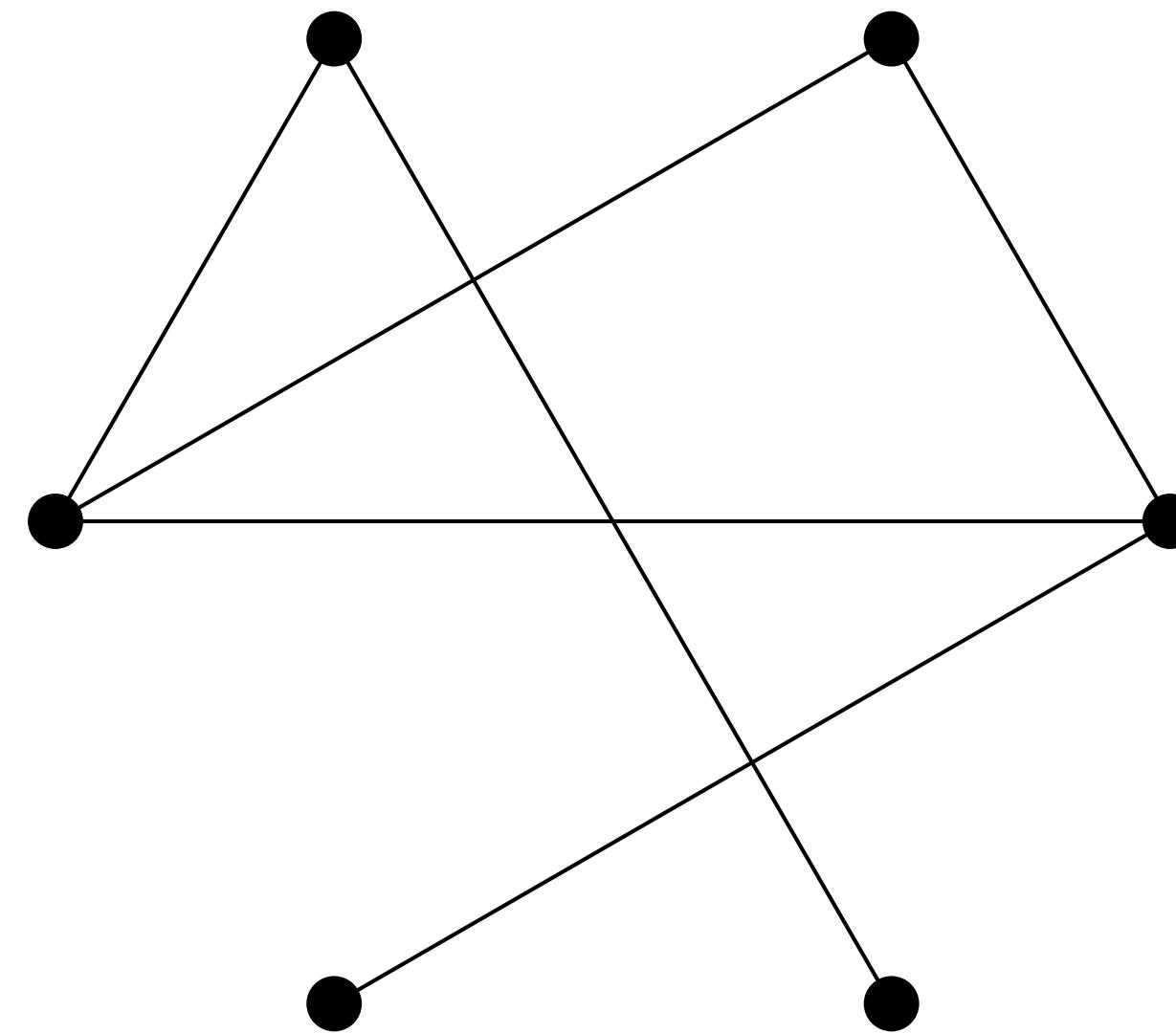


# Phase Transition

[Duncan-Kahle-Schweinhart, 2021]



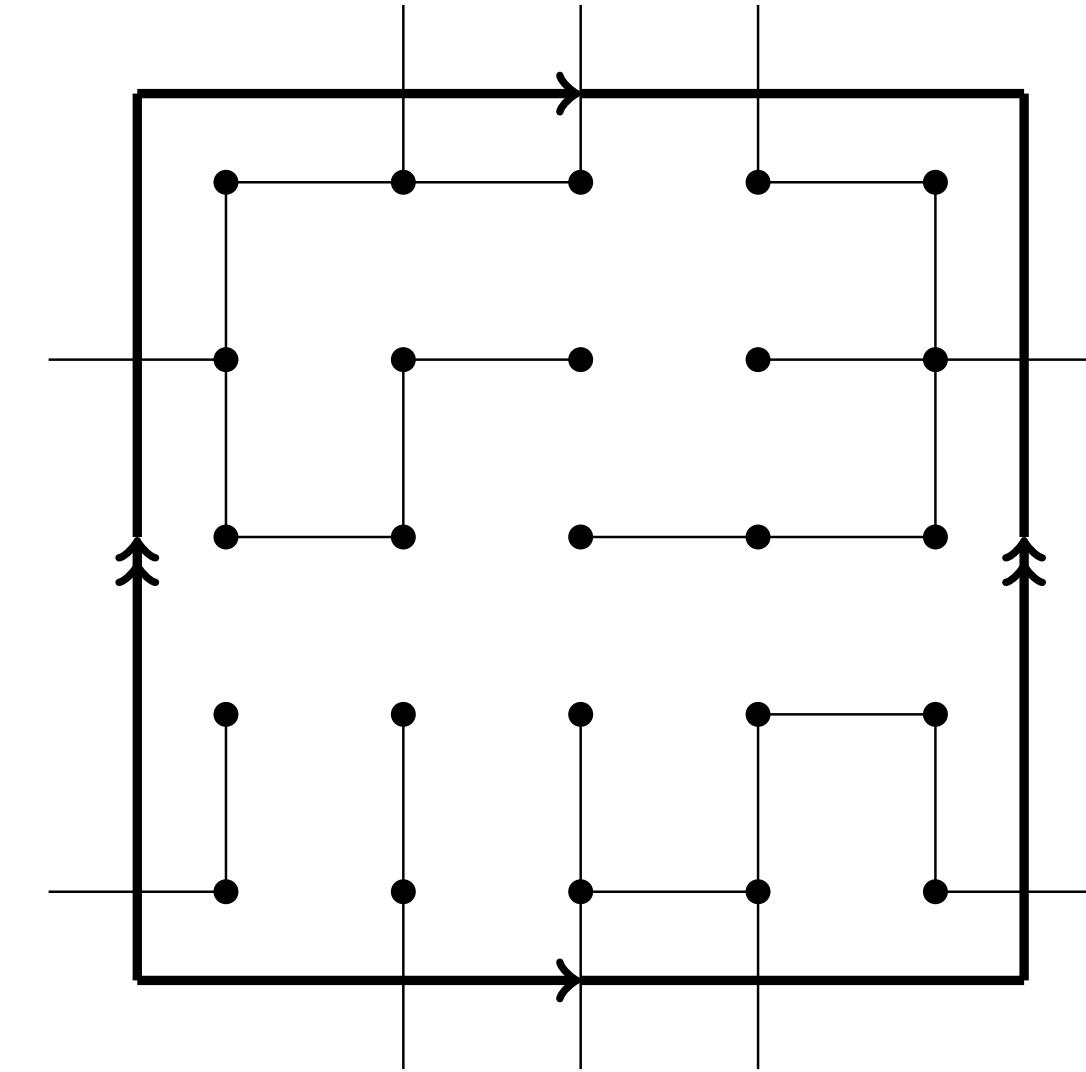
# Tea with Random Topology



Erdős-Rényi Complexes



Geometric Complexes



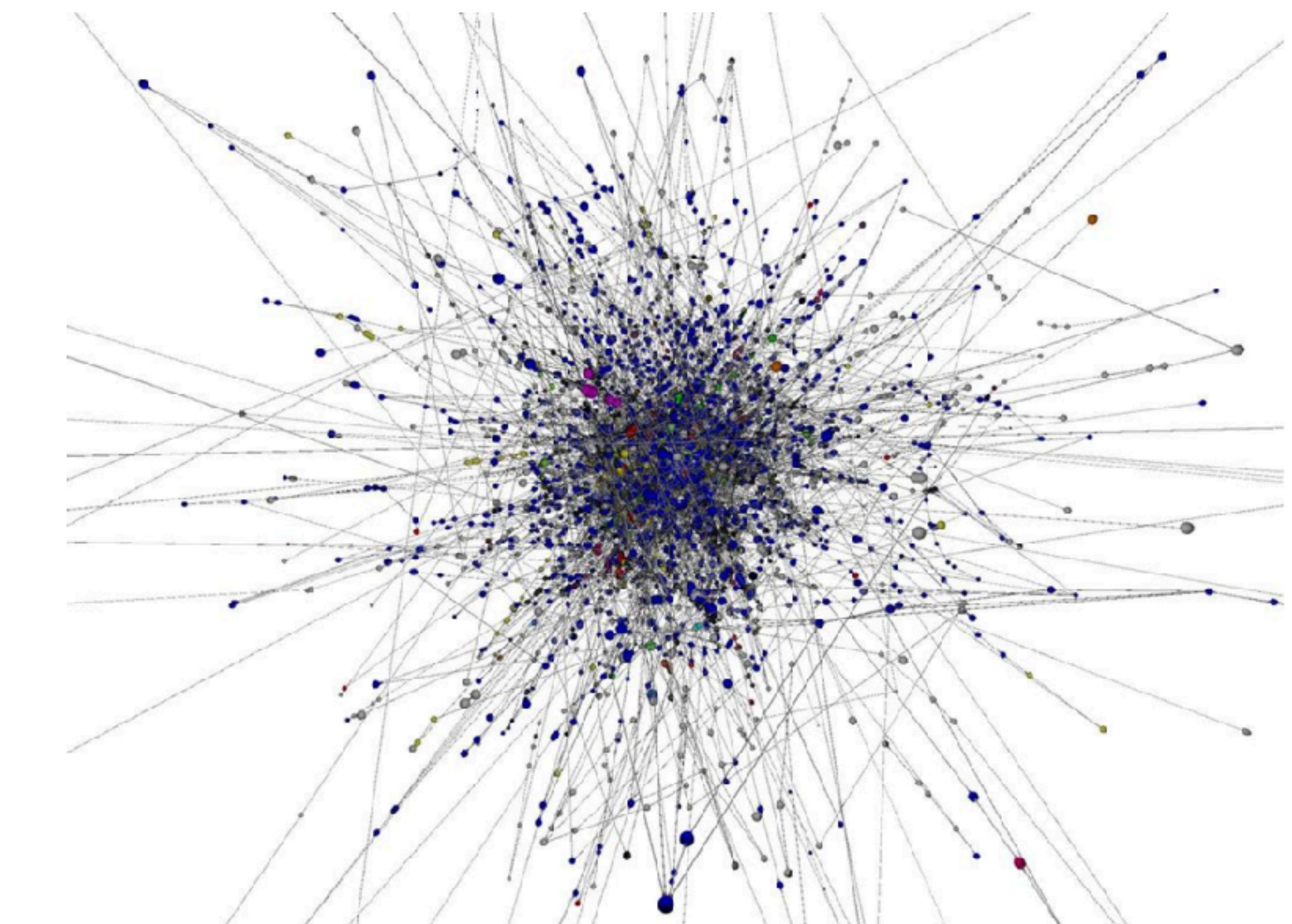
Topological Percolation

## **II. Preferential Attachment**

**Beyond independence and homogeneity**

# **Independent and identically distributed?**

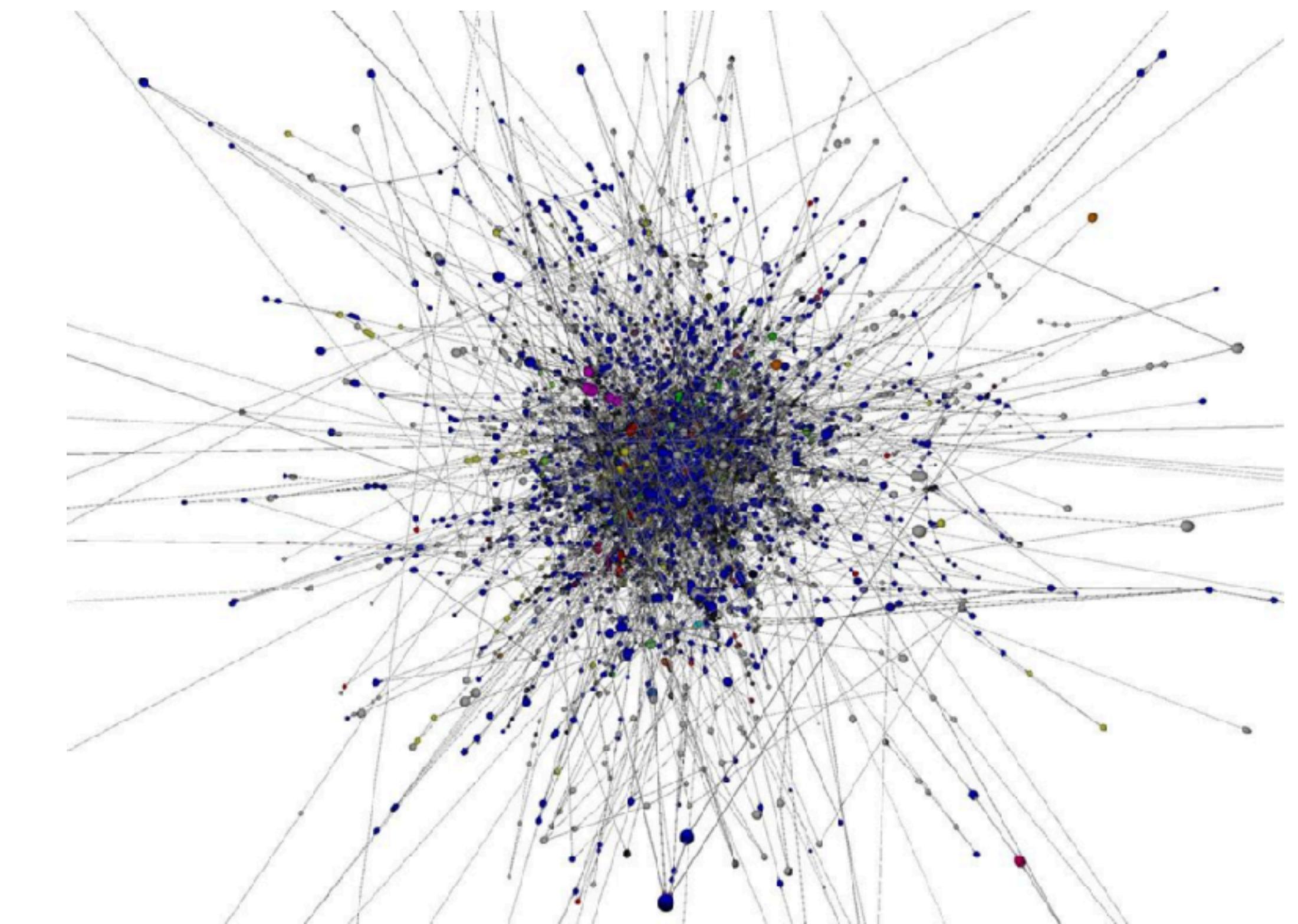
# Independent and identically distributed?



(Stephen Coast  
<https://www.fractalus.com/steve/stuff/ipmap/>)

# Preferential Attachment

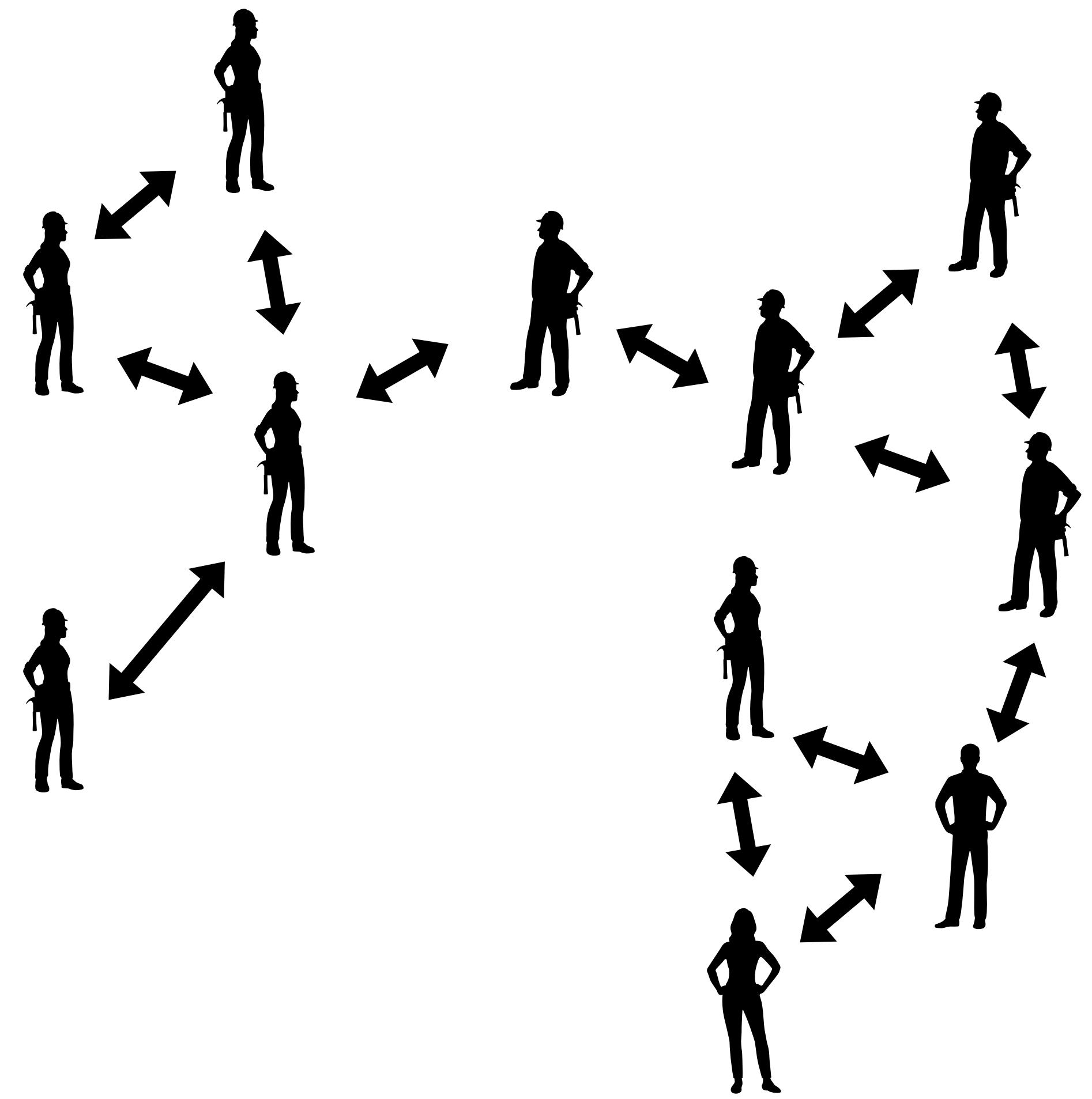
[Albert and Barabasi 1999]



(Stephen Coast  
<https://www.fractalus.com/steve/stuff/ipmap/>)

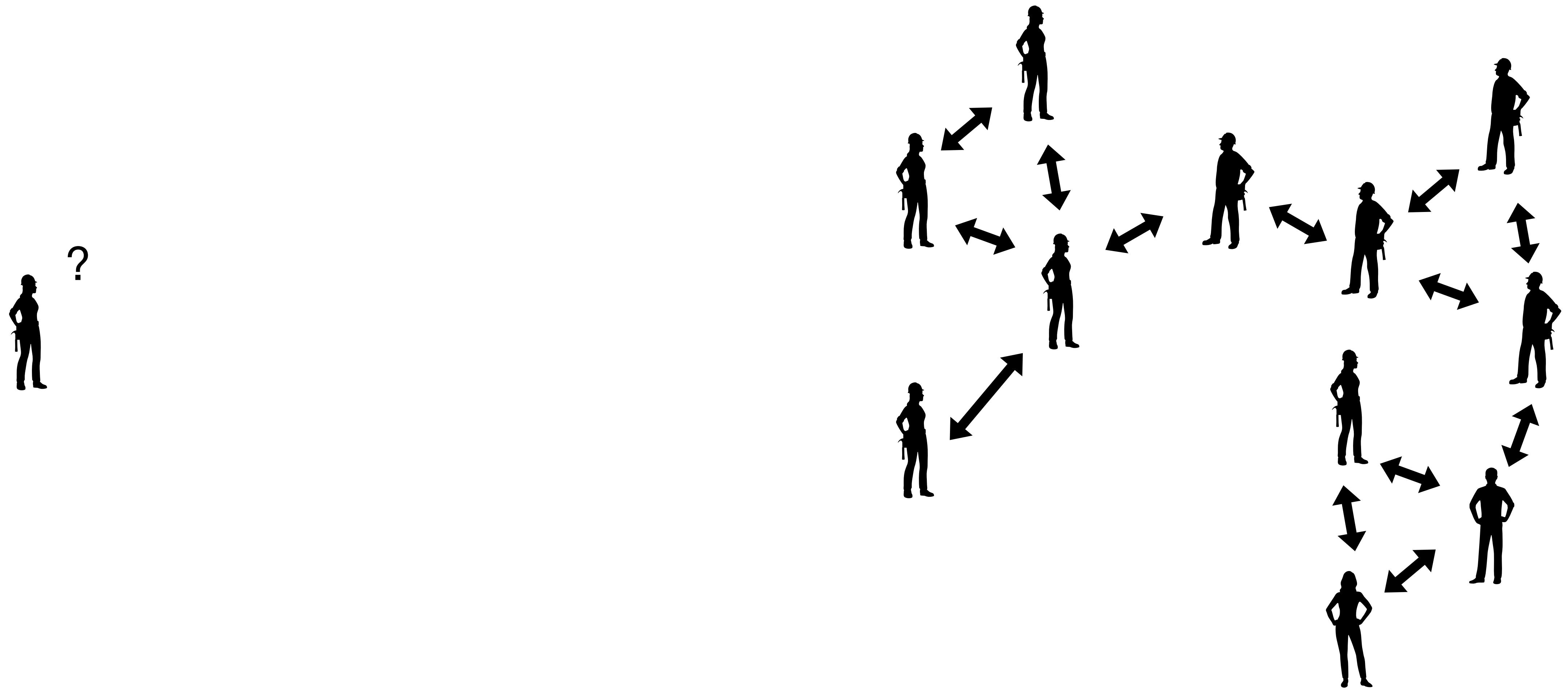
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[Albert and Barabasi 1999]



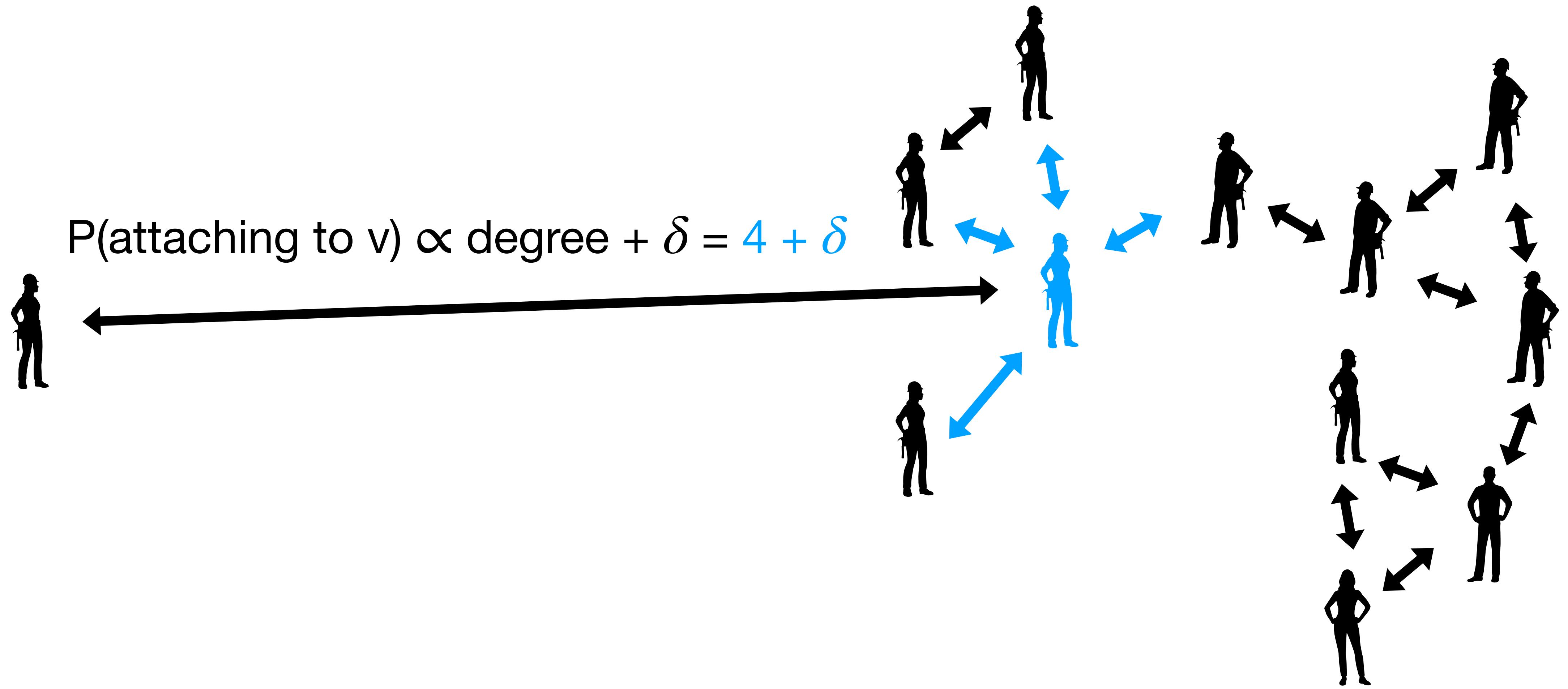
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[Albert and Barabasi 1999]



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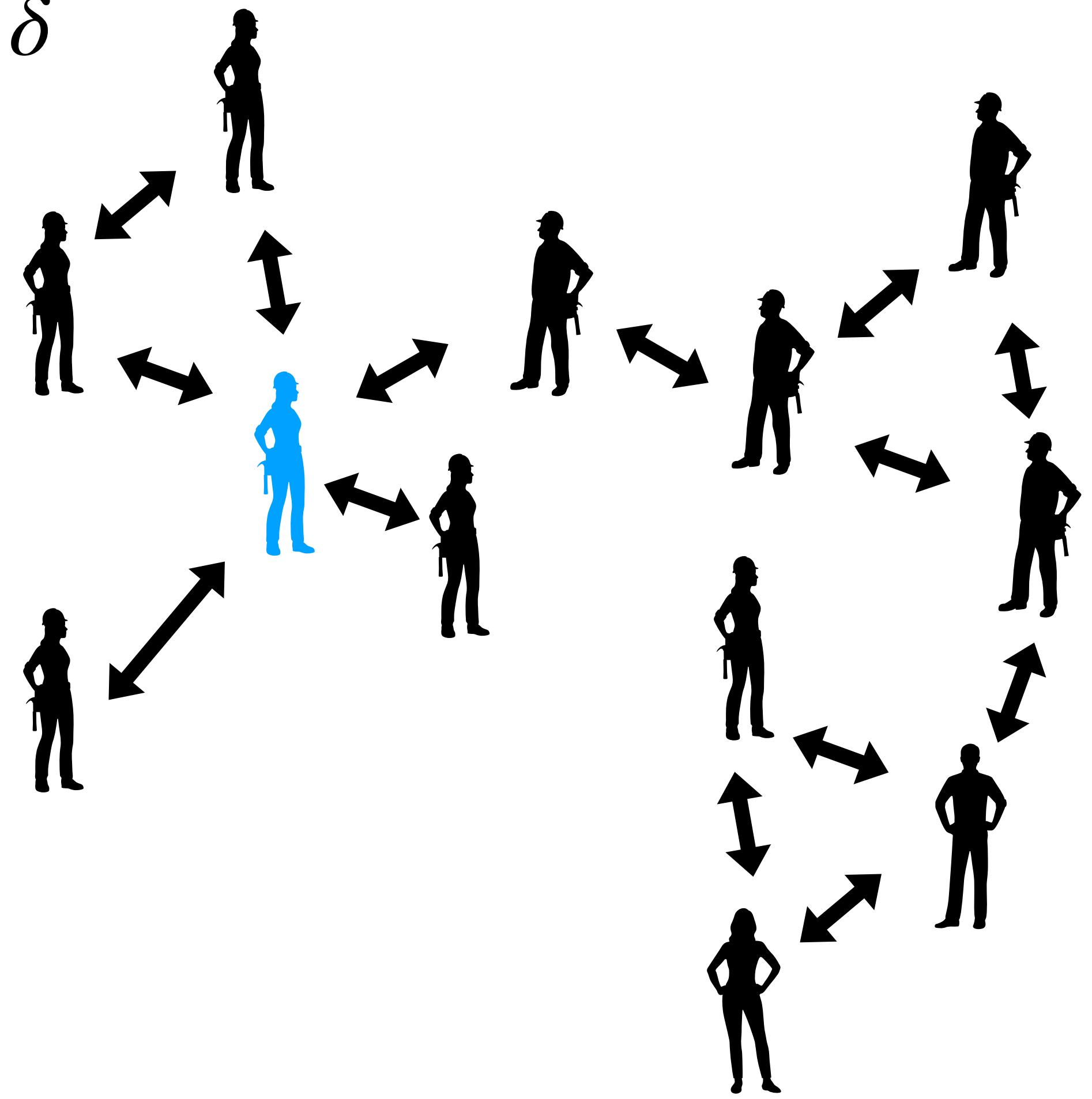
[Albert and Barabasi 1999]



# Preferential Attachment

[Albert and Barabasi 1999]

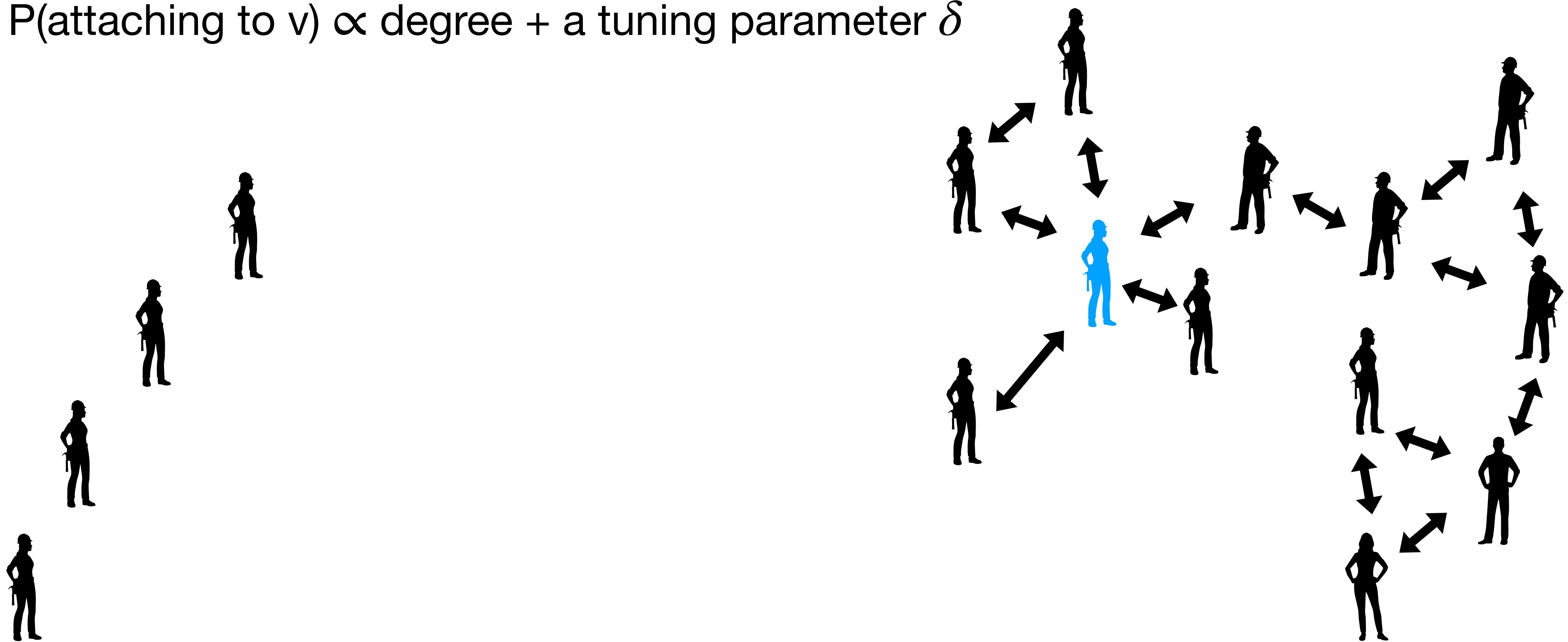
$P(\text{attaching to } v) \propto \text{degree} + \text{a tuning parameter } \delta$



# Preferential Attachment

[Albert and Barabasi 1999]

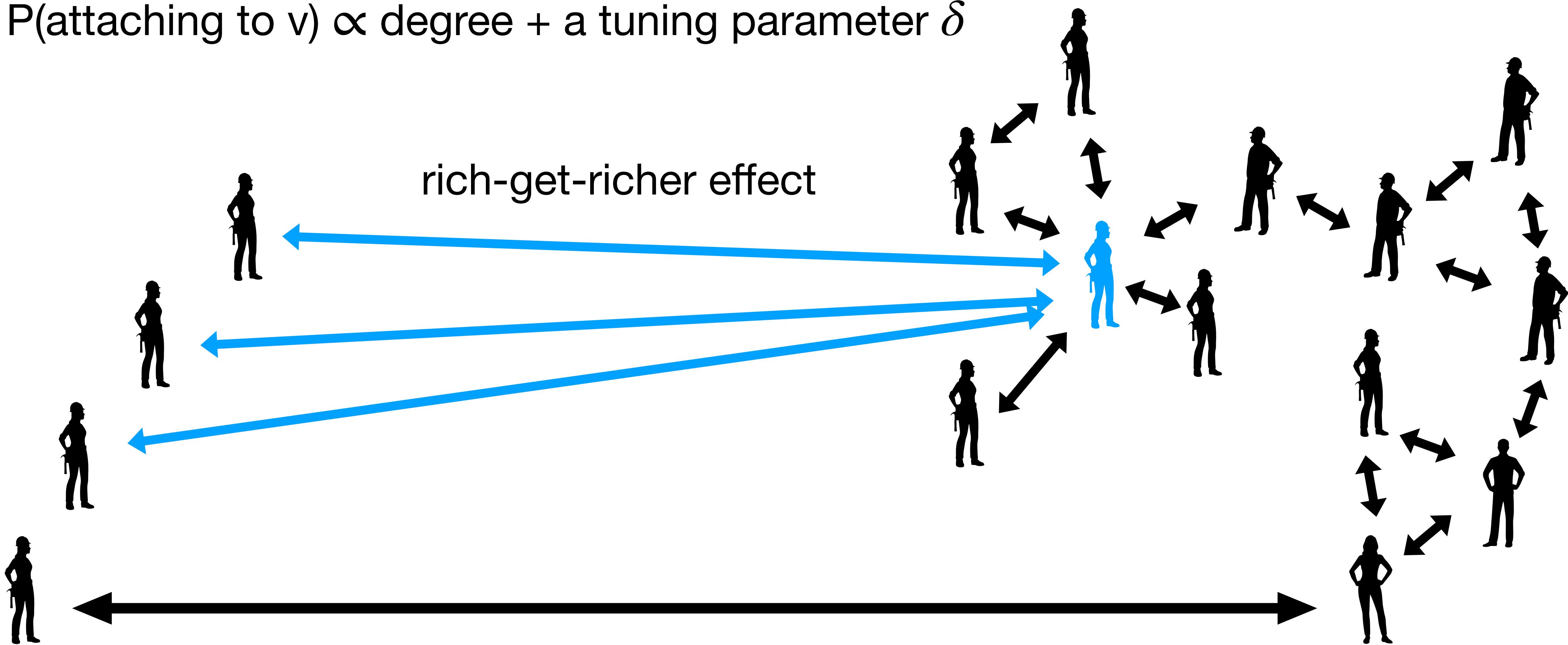
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# Preferential Attachment

[Albert and Barabasi 1999]

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# **What do we know?**

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- degree distribution [Albert and Barabasi 1999]

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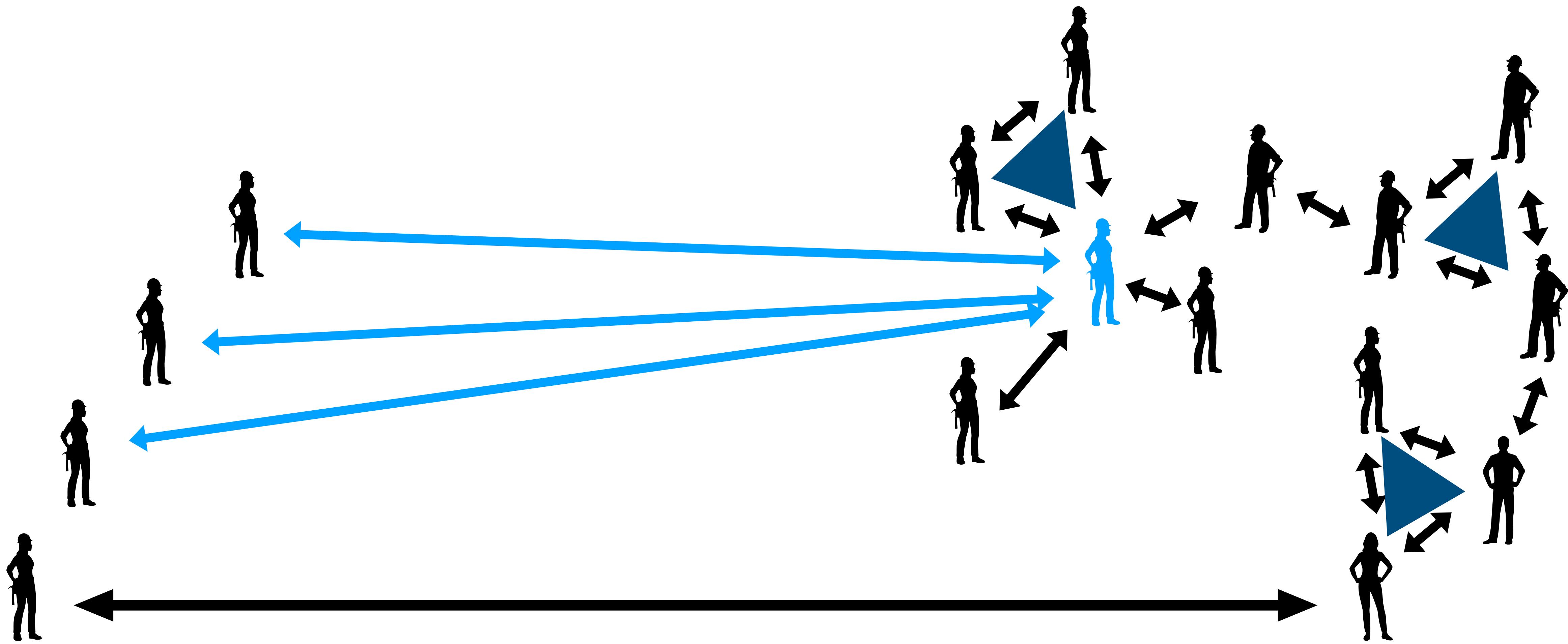
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- subgraph counts [Garavaglia and Steghuis 2019]

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- degree distribution [Albert and Barabasi 1999]
- triangle counts and clustering coefficient [Bollobas and Ridden 2002, Prokhorenkova et al 2013]
- subgraph counts [Garavaglia and Steghuis 2019]
- and more...

# Clique Complex

aka Flag Complex

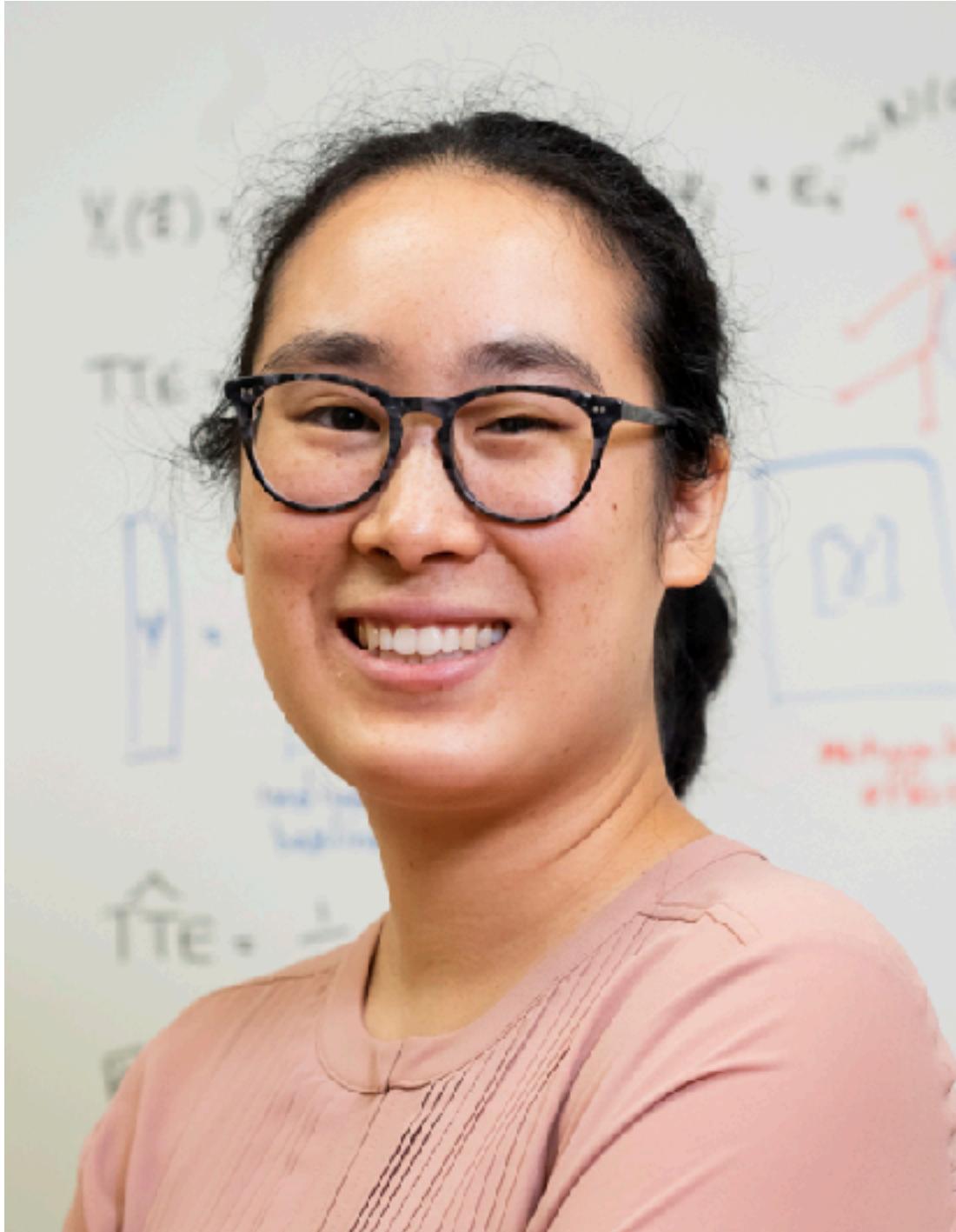


# **III Topology of Preferential Attachment**

# My Lovely Collaborators



Avhan Misra



Christina Lee Yu



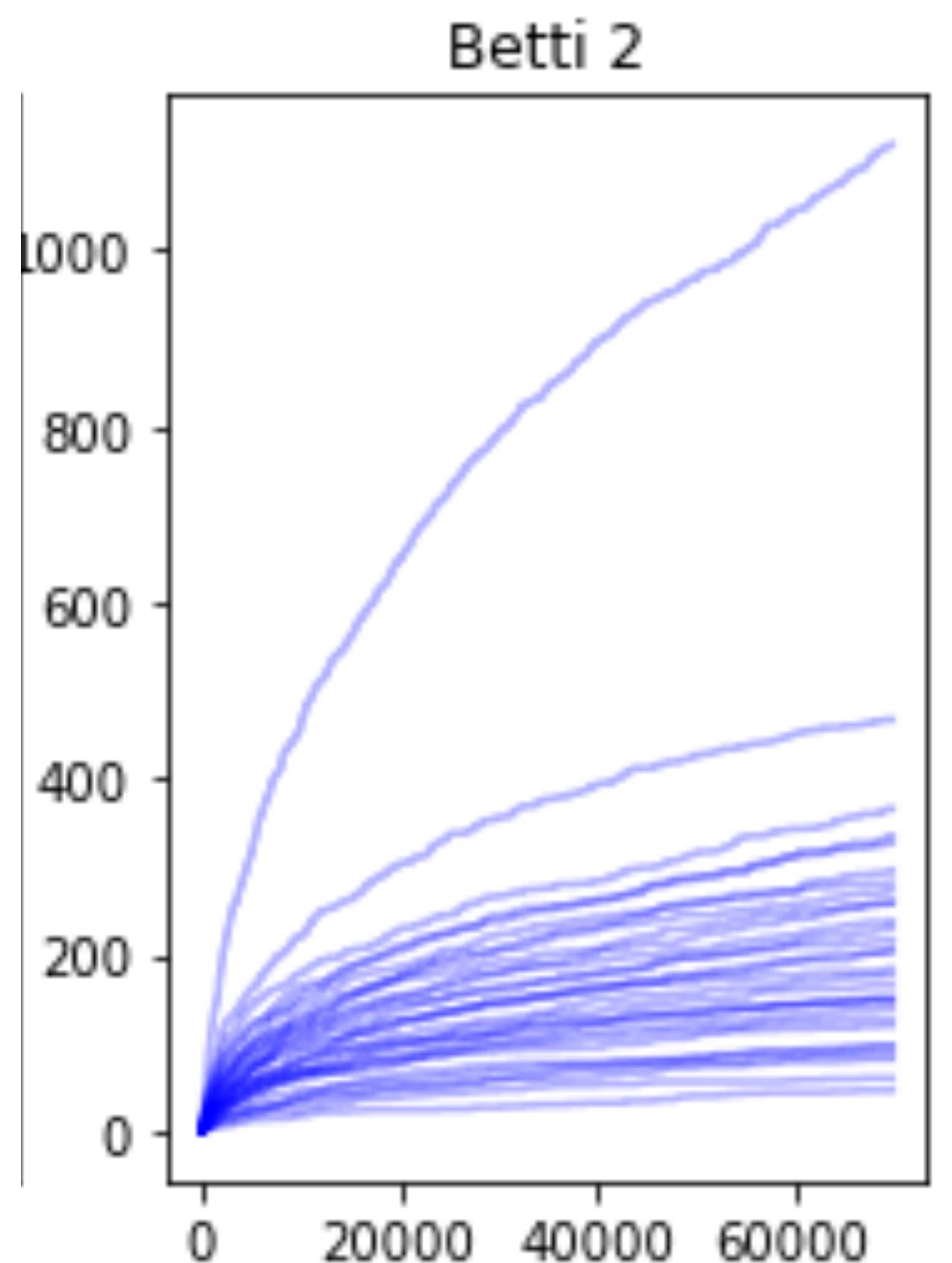
Gennady Samorodnitsky



Rongyi He (Caroline)

**Betti Number**  $\beta_q$

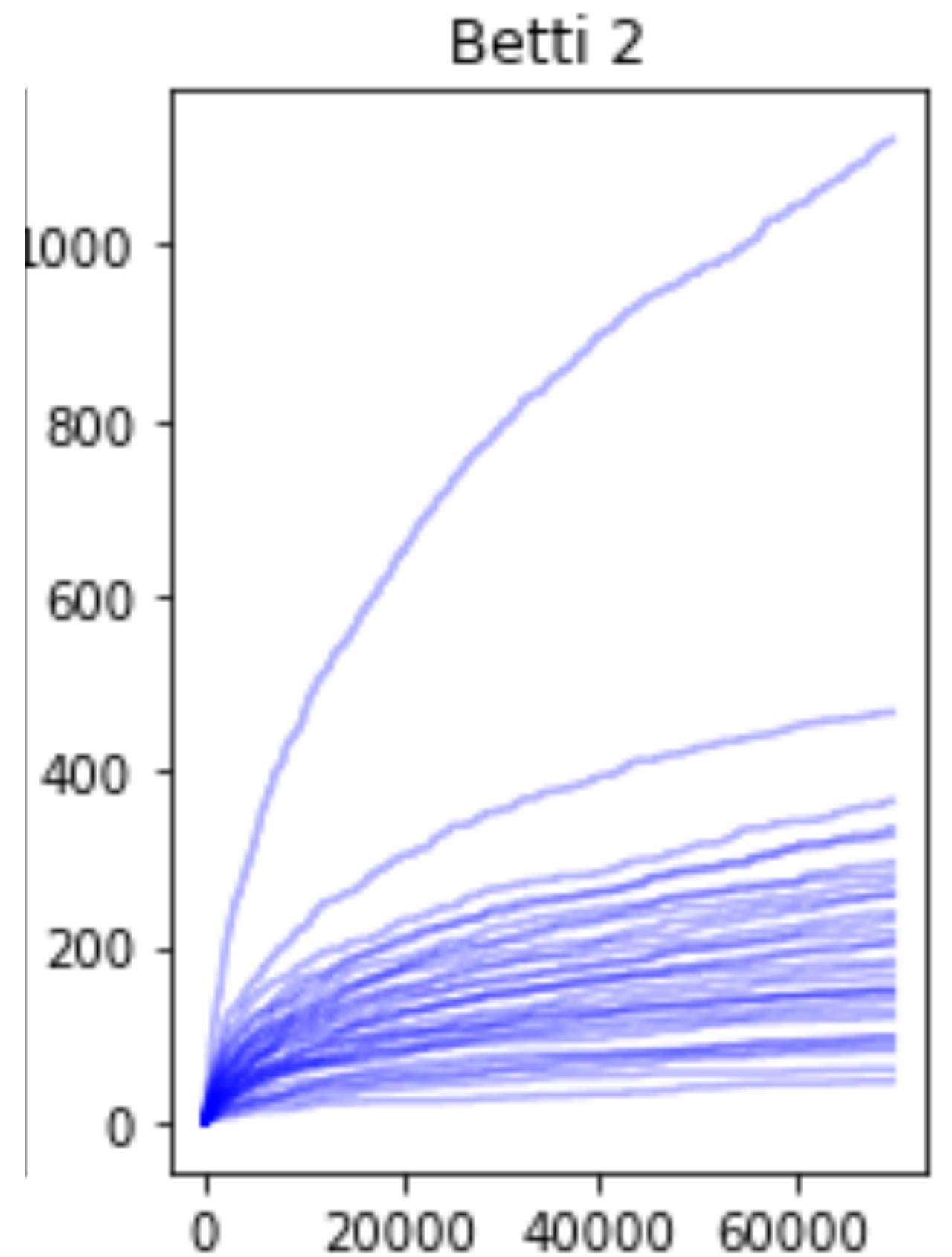
# Betti Number $\beta_q$



Different curves, different random seeds.  
All curves have the same model parameters.

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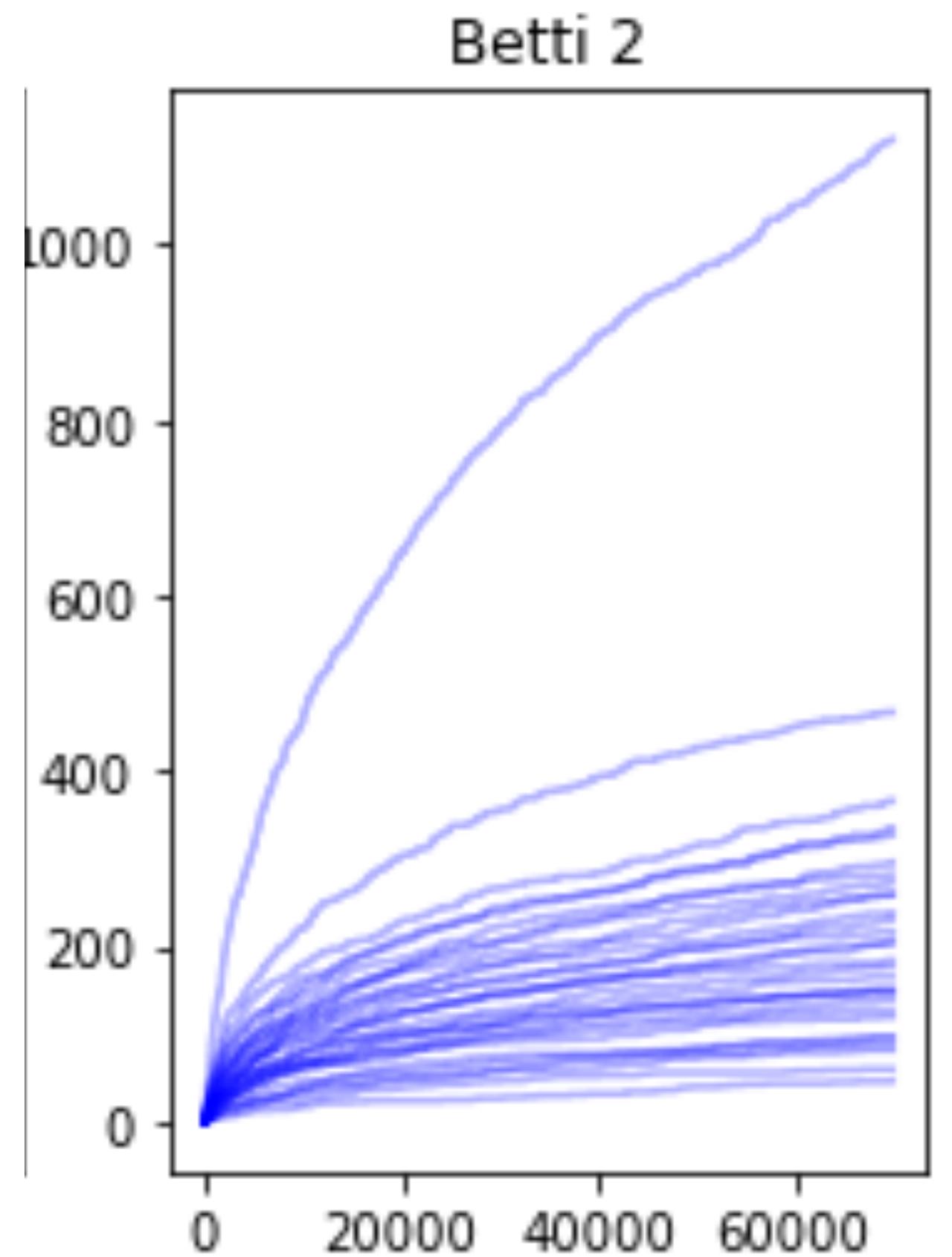
- increasing trend



Different curves, different random seeds.  
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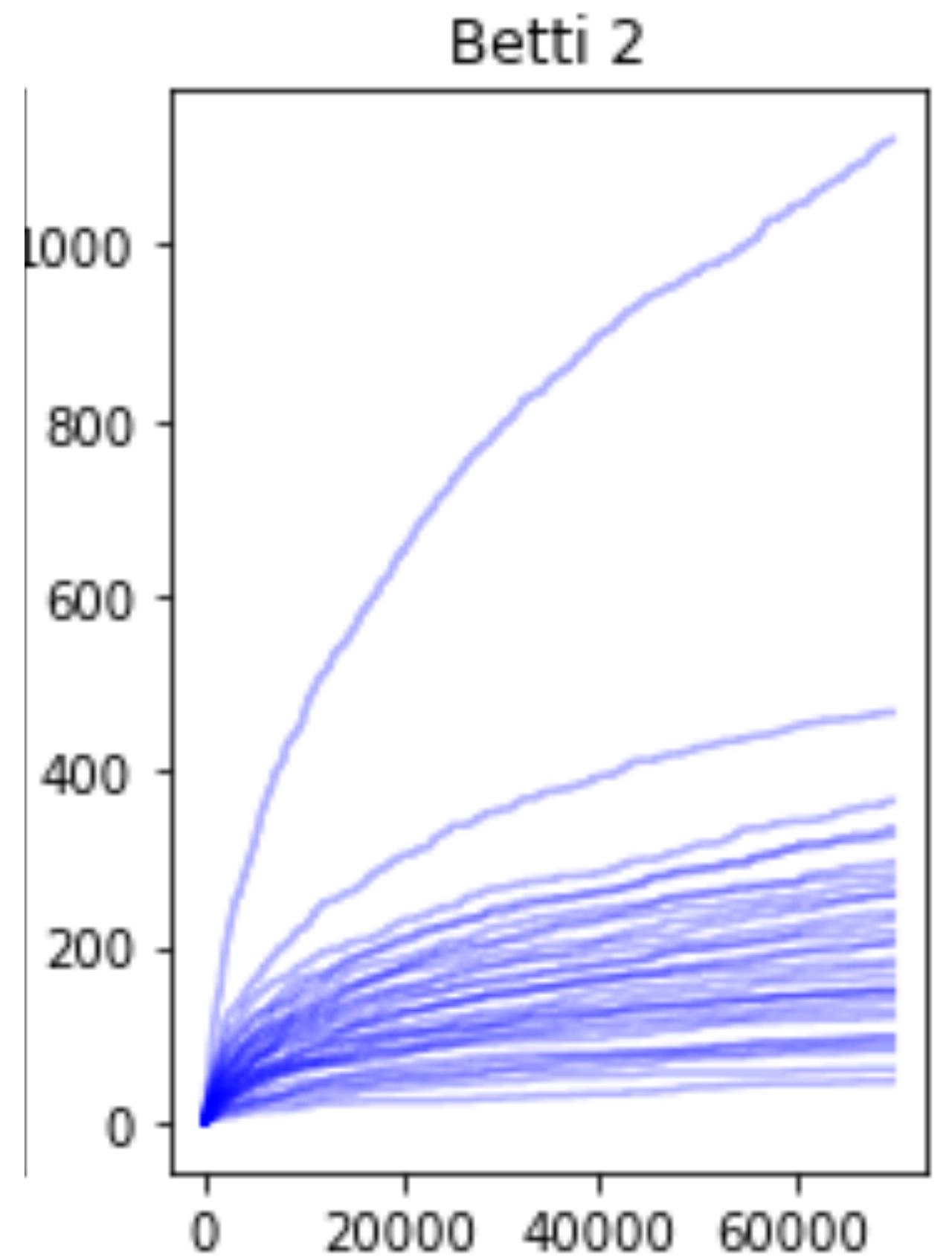
- increasing trend
- concave growth



Different curves, different random seeds.  
All curves have the same model parameters.

# Betti Number $\beta_q$

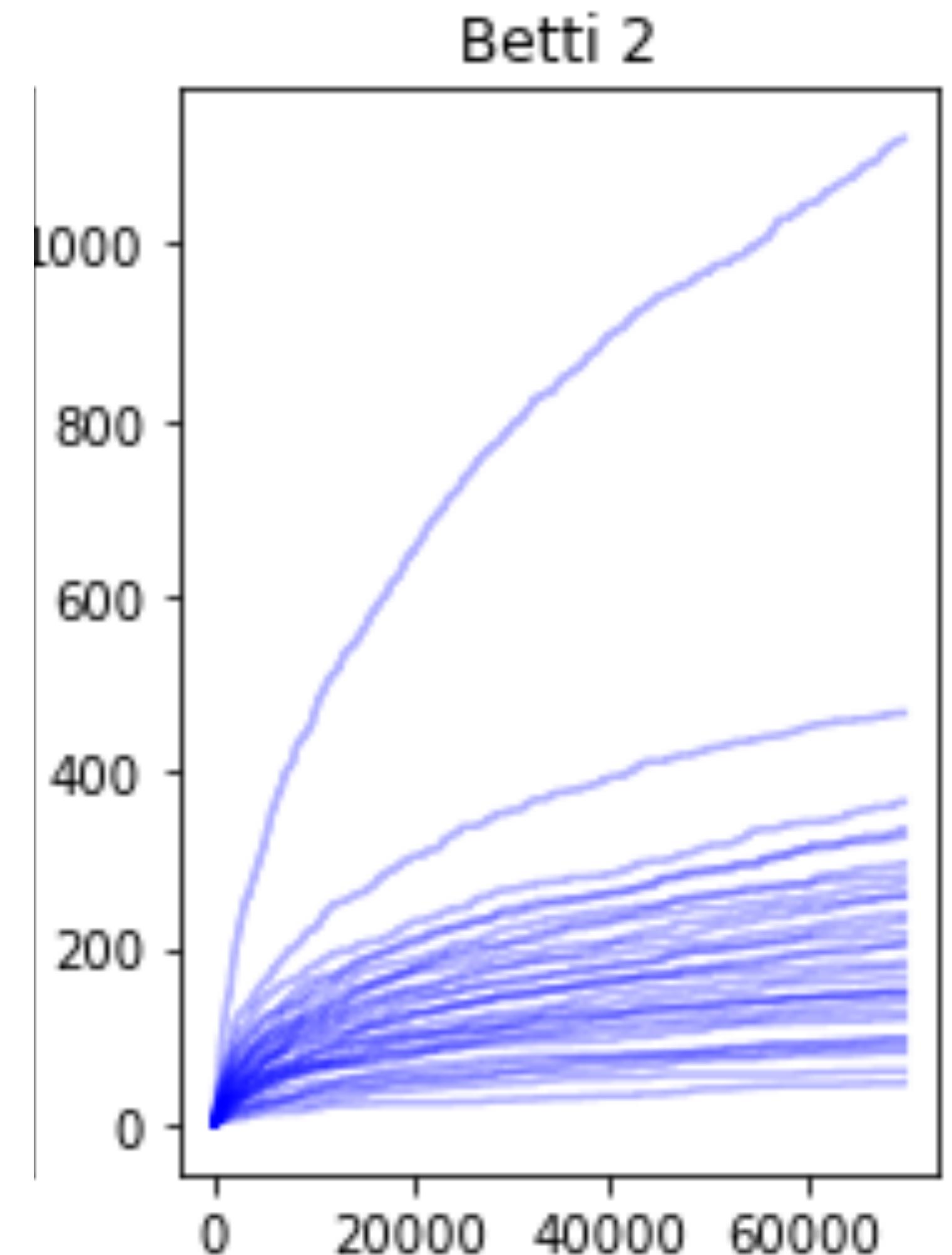
- increasing trend
- concave growth
- outlier



Different curves, different random seeds.  
All curves have the same model parameters.

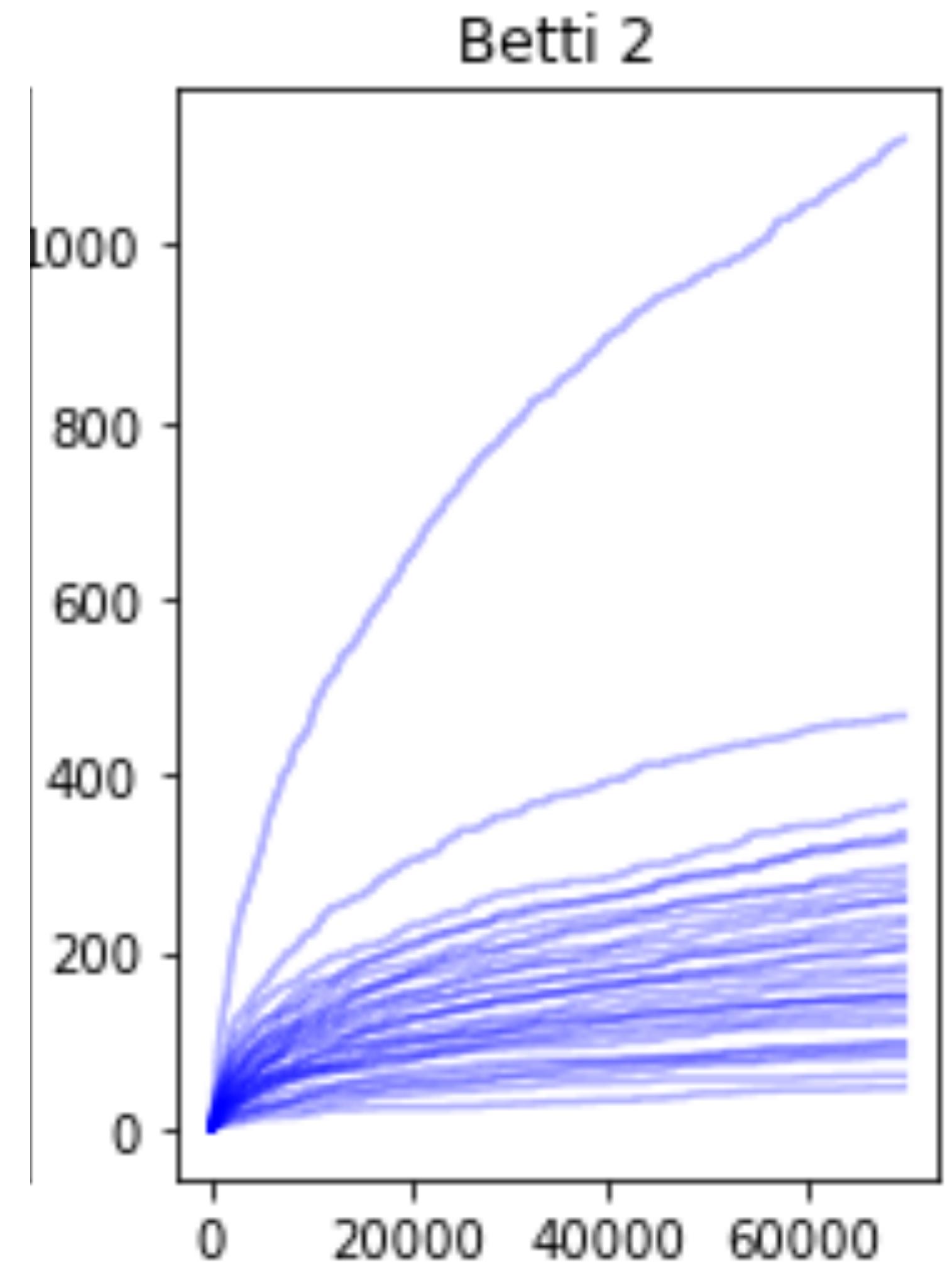
# Betti Number $\beta_q$

- With probability at least  $1 - \varepsilon$ ,
- $c_\varepsilon(\text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}) \leq \beta_2 \leq C_\varepsilon(\text{num of nodes}^{1-4x})$ 
  - $x \in (0, 1/2)$  decreases with the preferential attachment strength
    - $P[T \text{ attaches to } i] \propto T^{-x}$



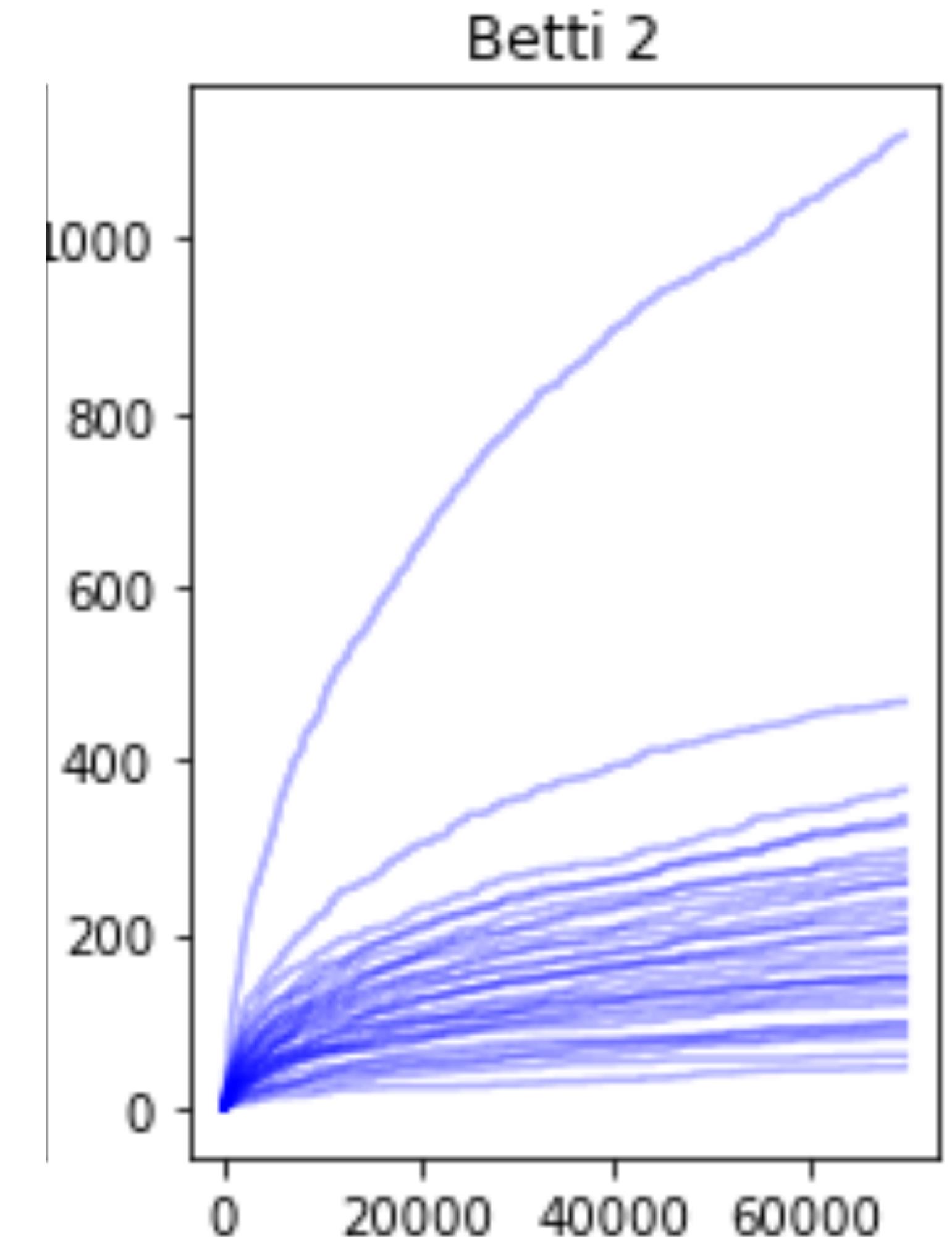
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- $c_\varepsilon(\text{num of nodes}^{1-2qx}) \leq \beta_q \leq C_\varepsilon(\text{num of nodes}^{1-2qx})$  for  $q \geq 2$ .

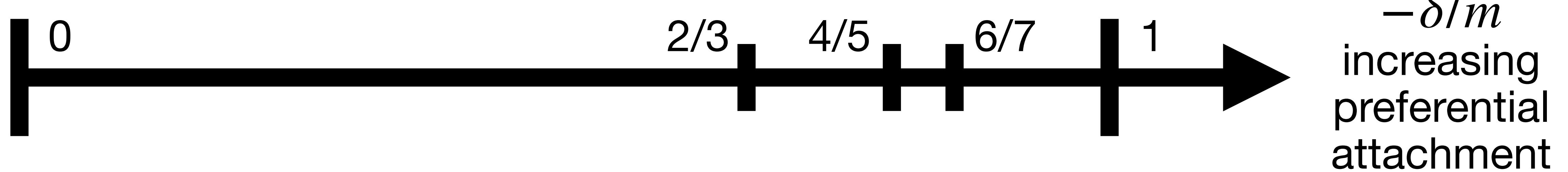


# Phase transition

Recall

$P(\text{attaching to } v) \propto \text{degree} + \delta$

$m = \text{number of edges per new node}$

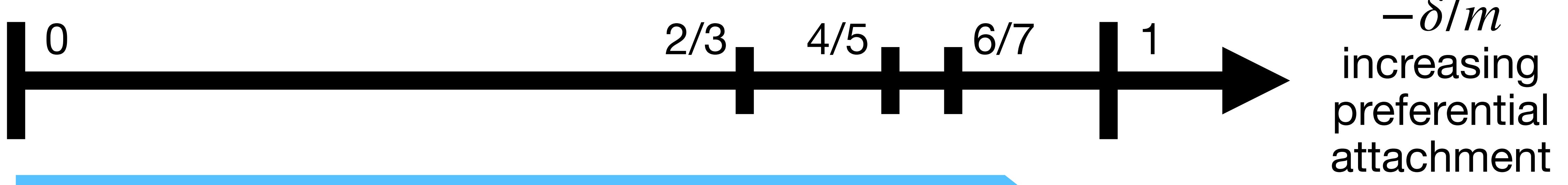


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$-\delta/m$   
increasing  
preferential  
attachment

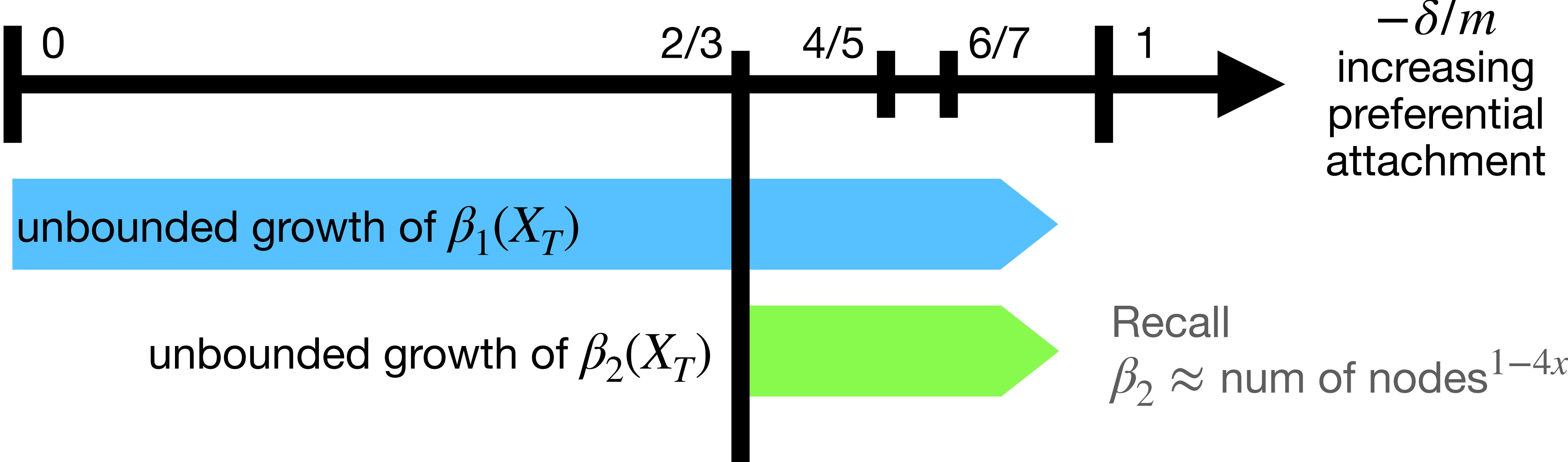
unbounded growth of  $\beta_1(X_T)$

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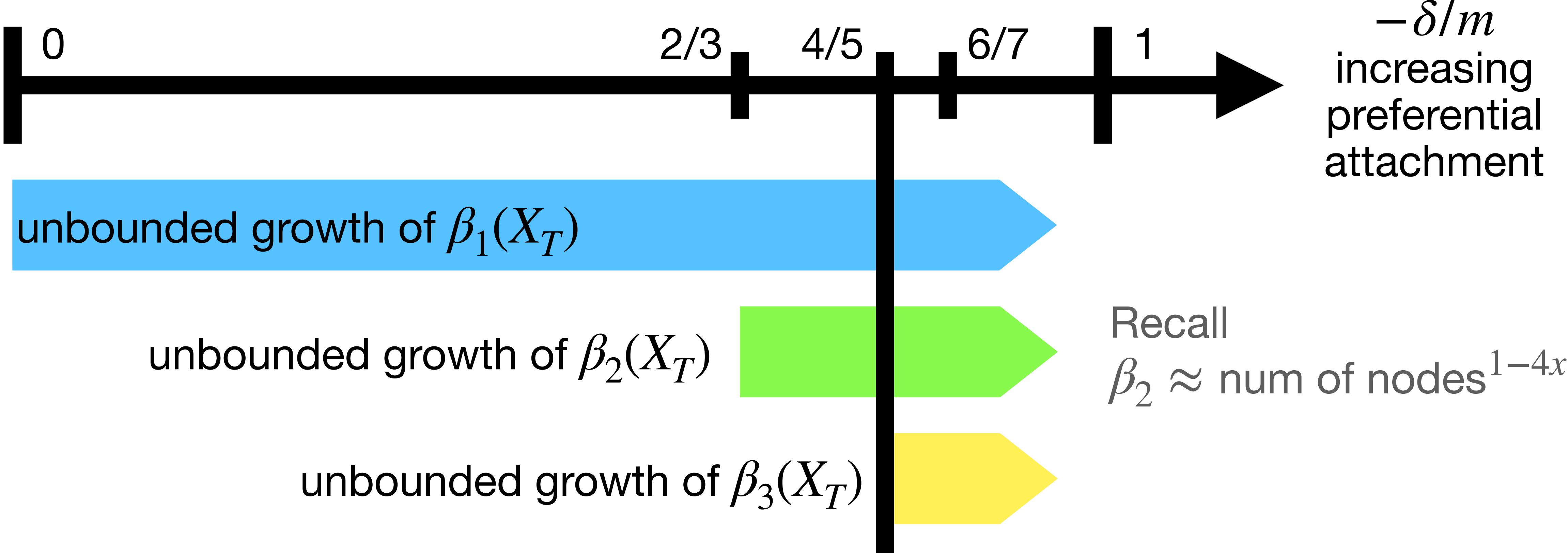


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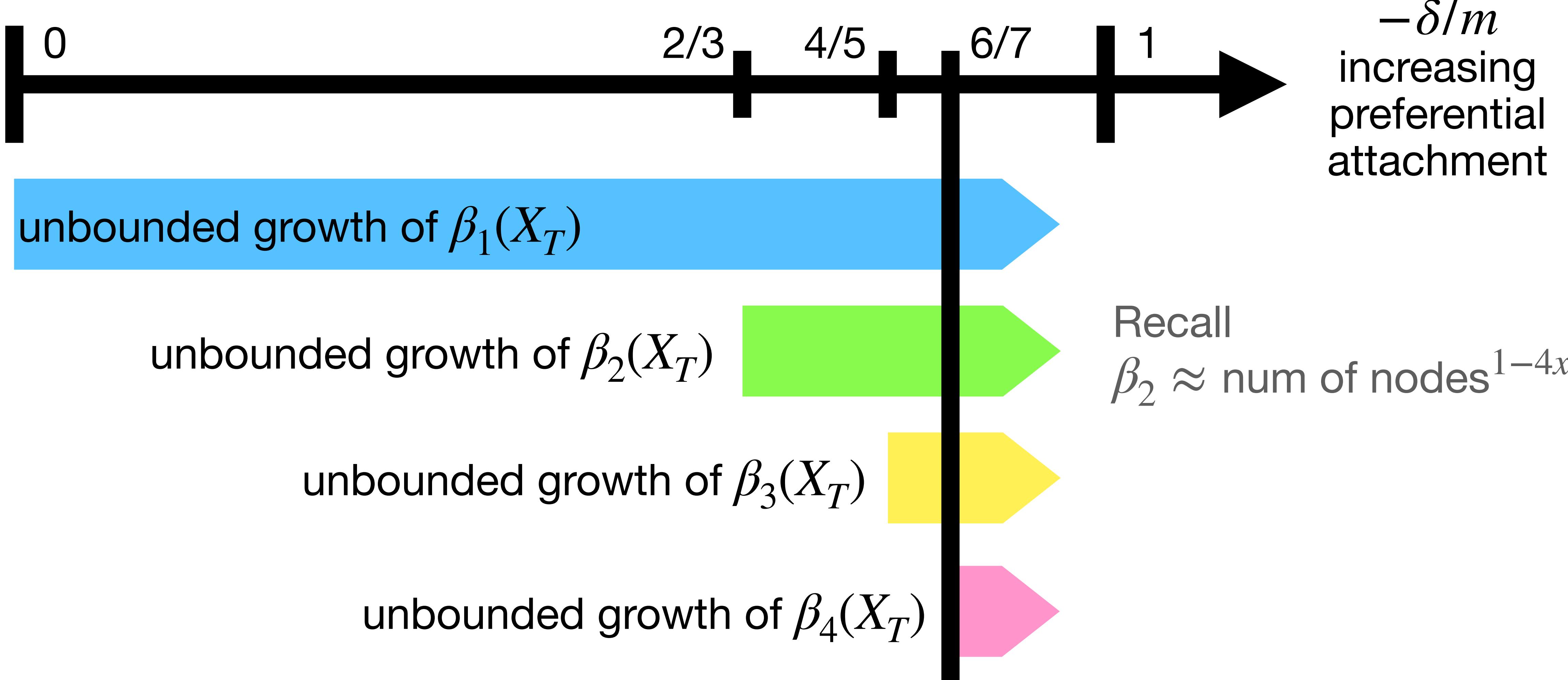


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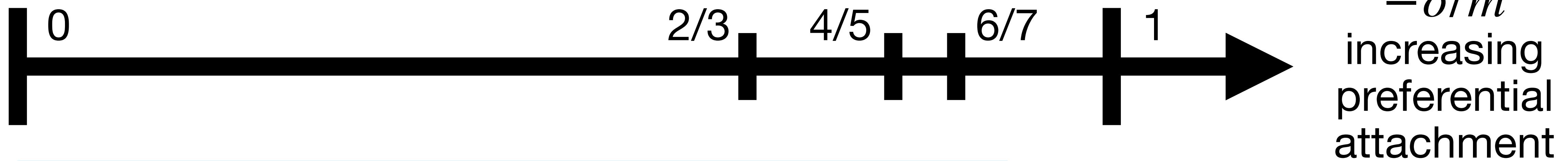


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unbounded growth of  $\beta_1(X_T)$

unbounded growth of  $\beta_2(X_T)$

unbounded growth of  $\beta_3(X_T)$

unbounded growth of  $\beta_4(X_T)$

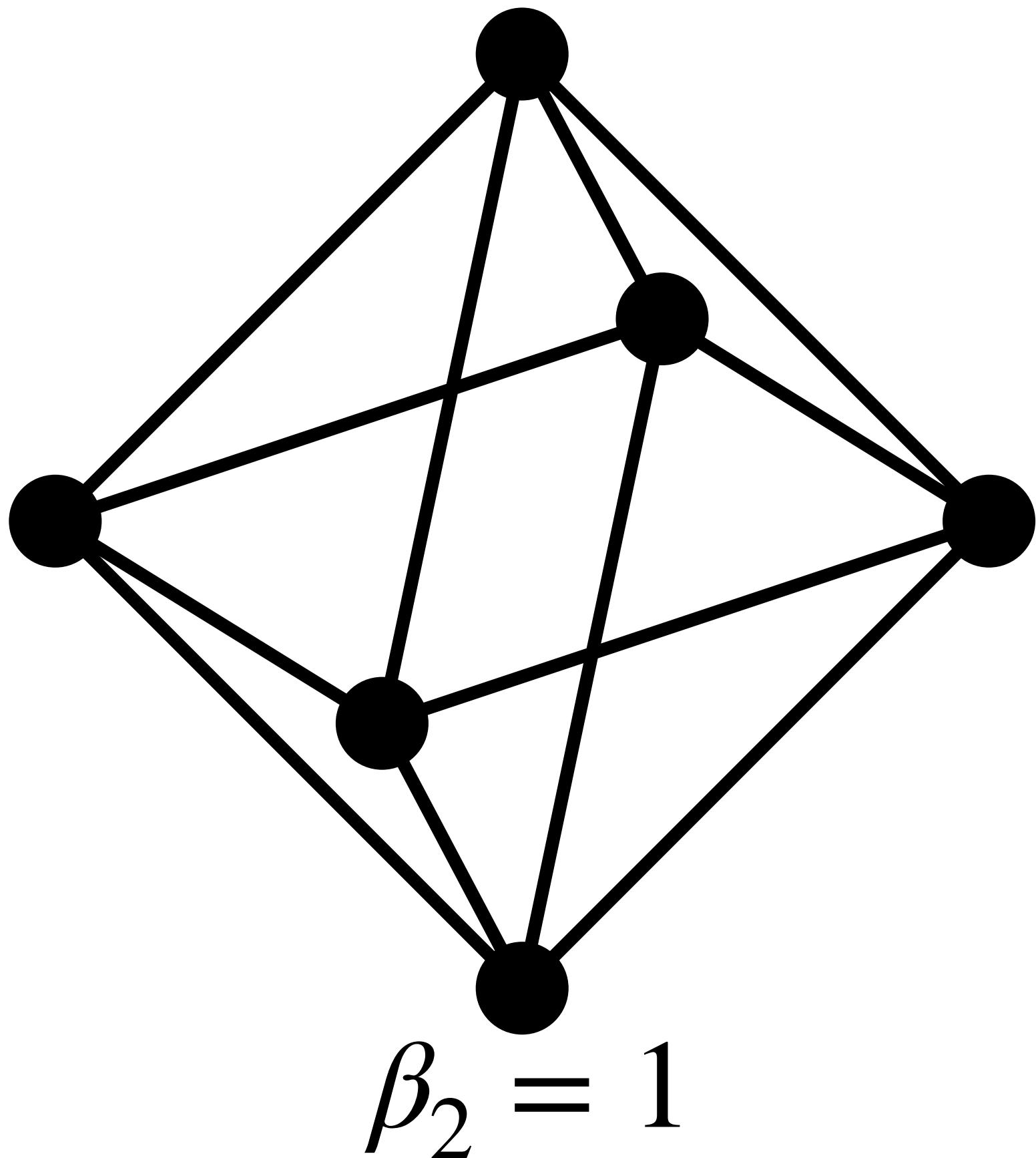
Recall

$\beta_2 \approx \text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}$

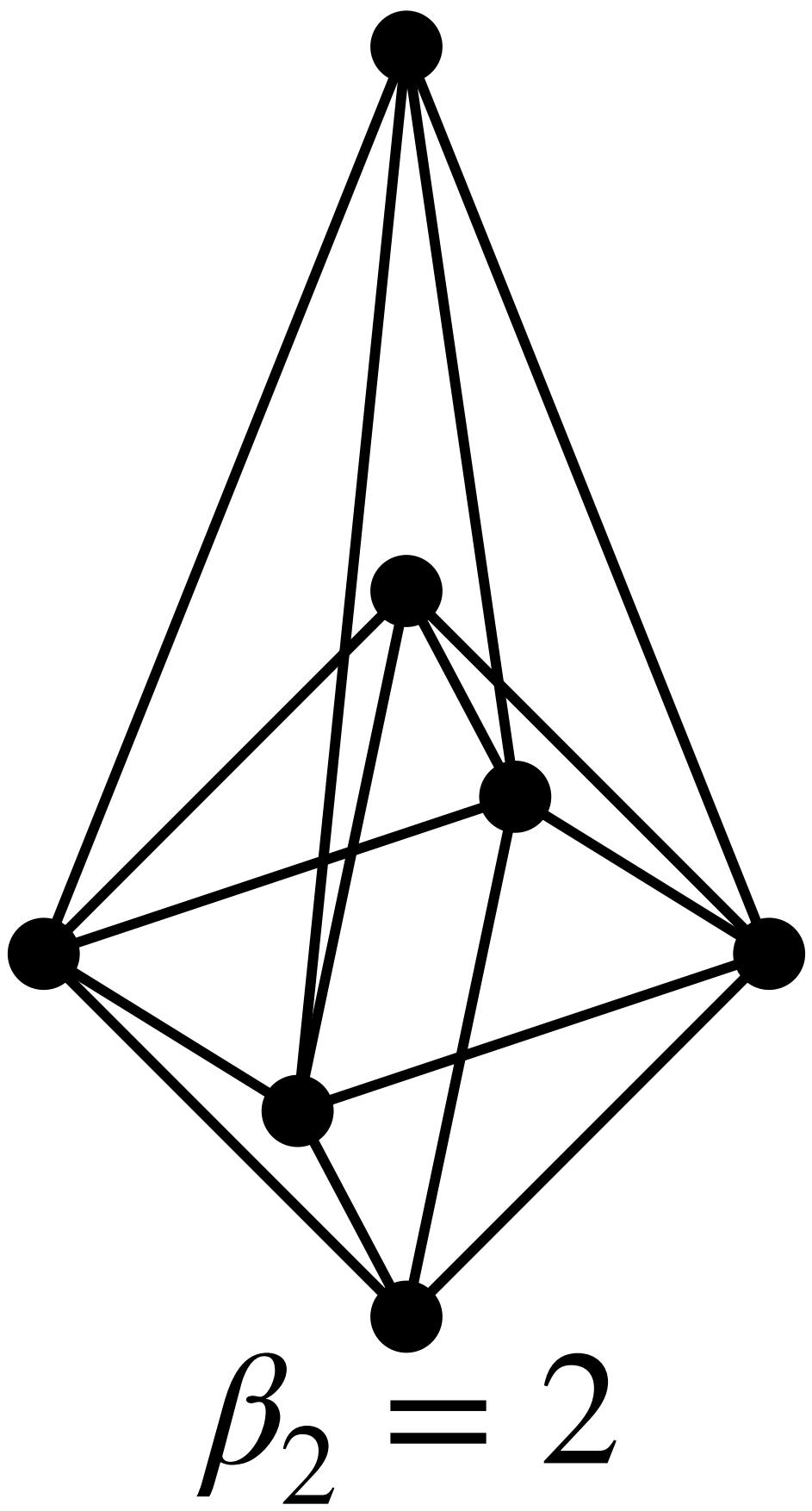
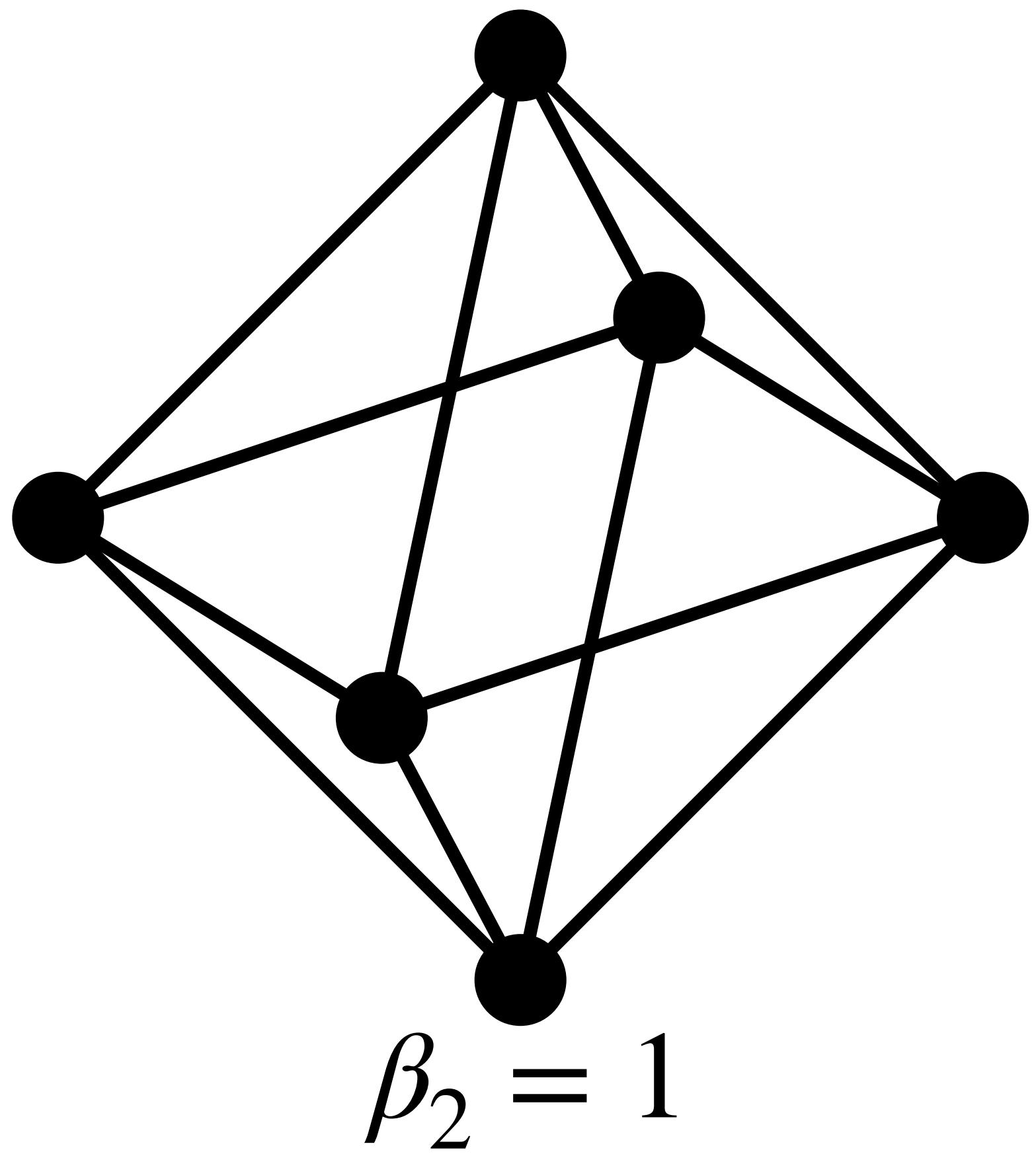
:

Theorem:  $\beta_2 \approx \text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}$   
Proof?

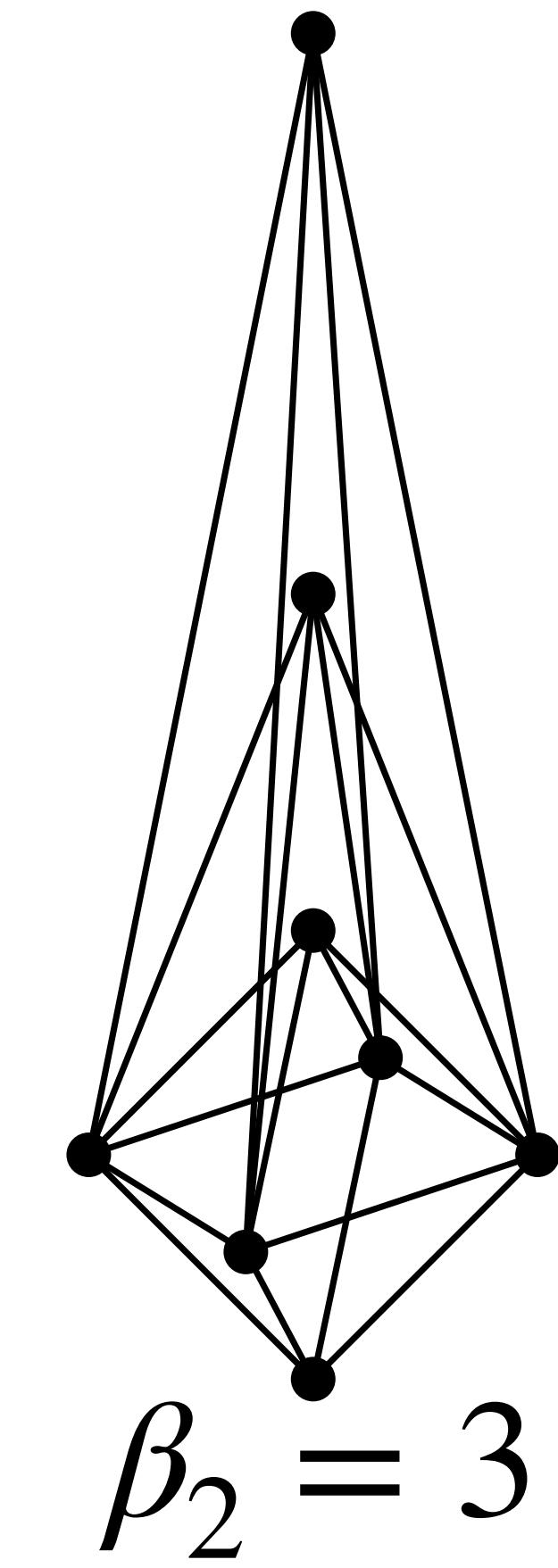
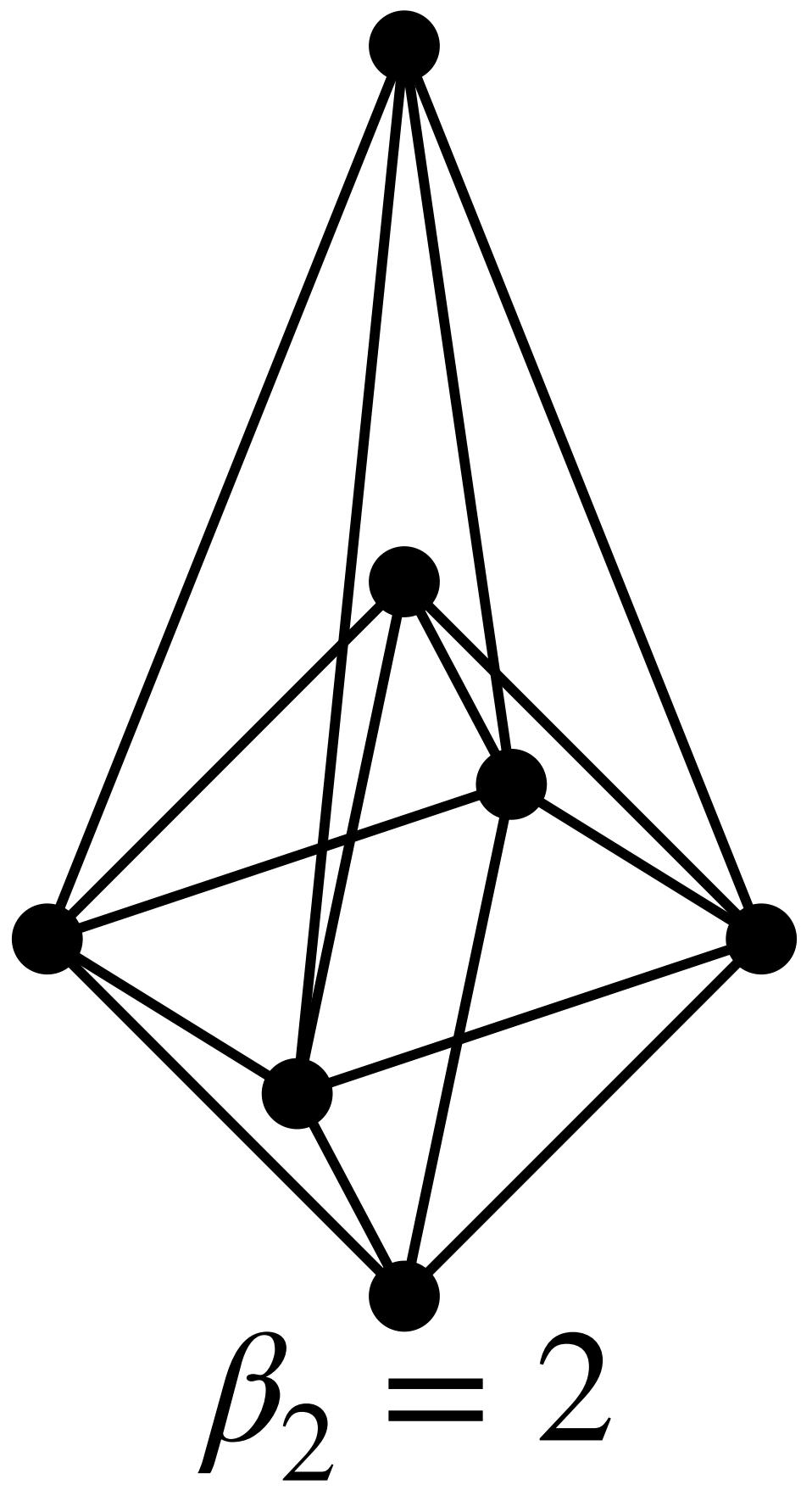
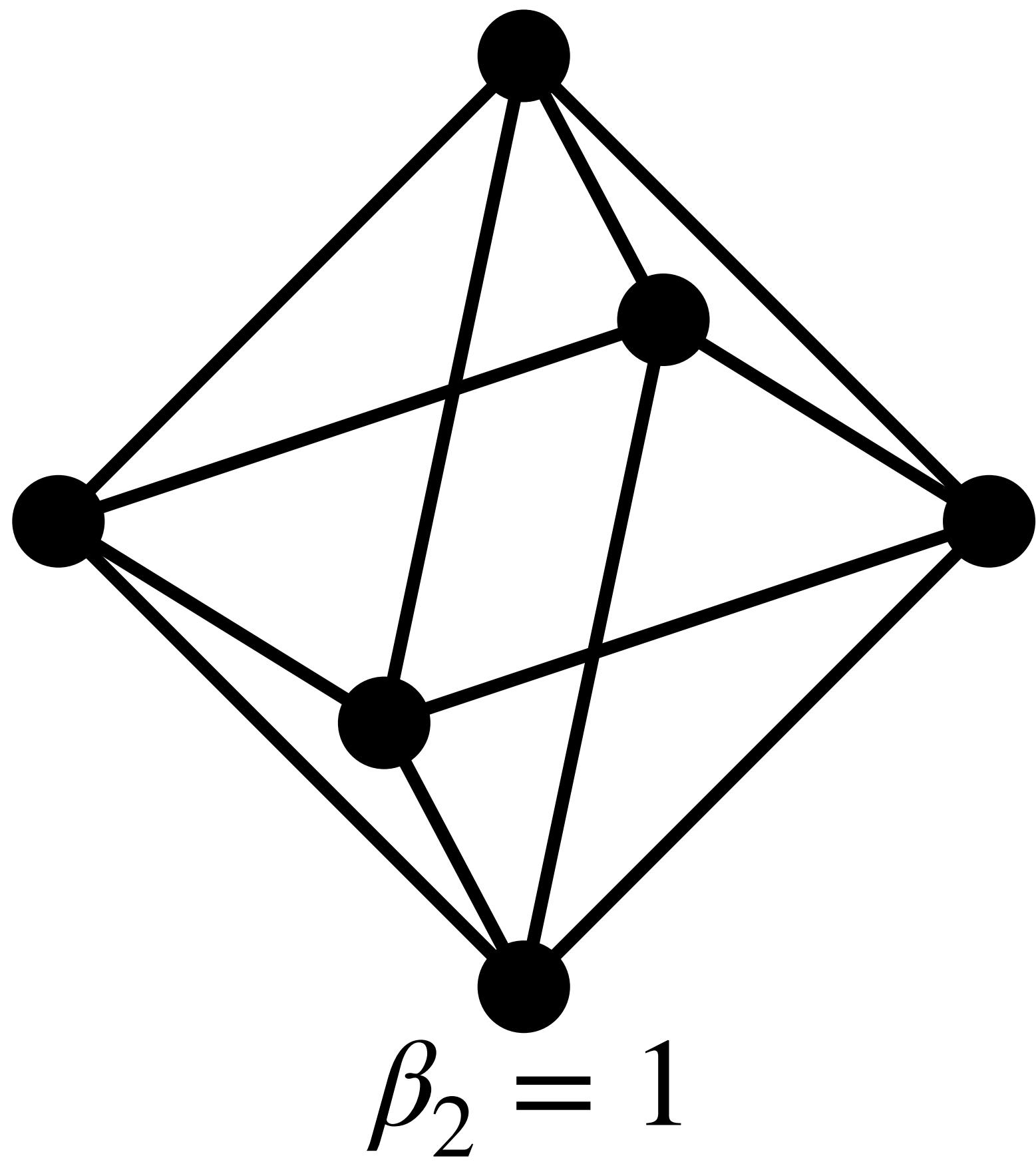
# Proof of $\beta_2 \approx \text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}$



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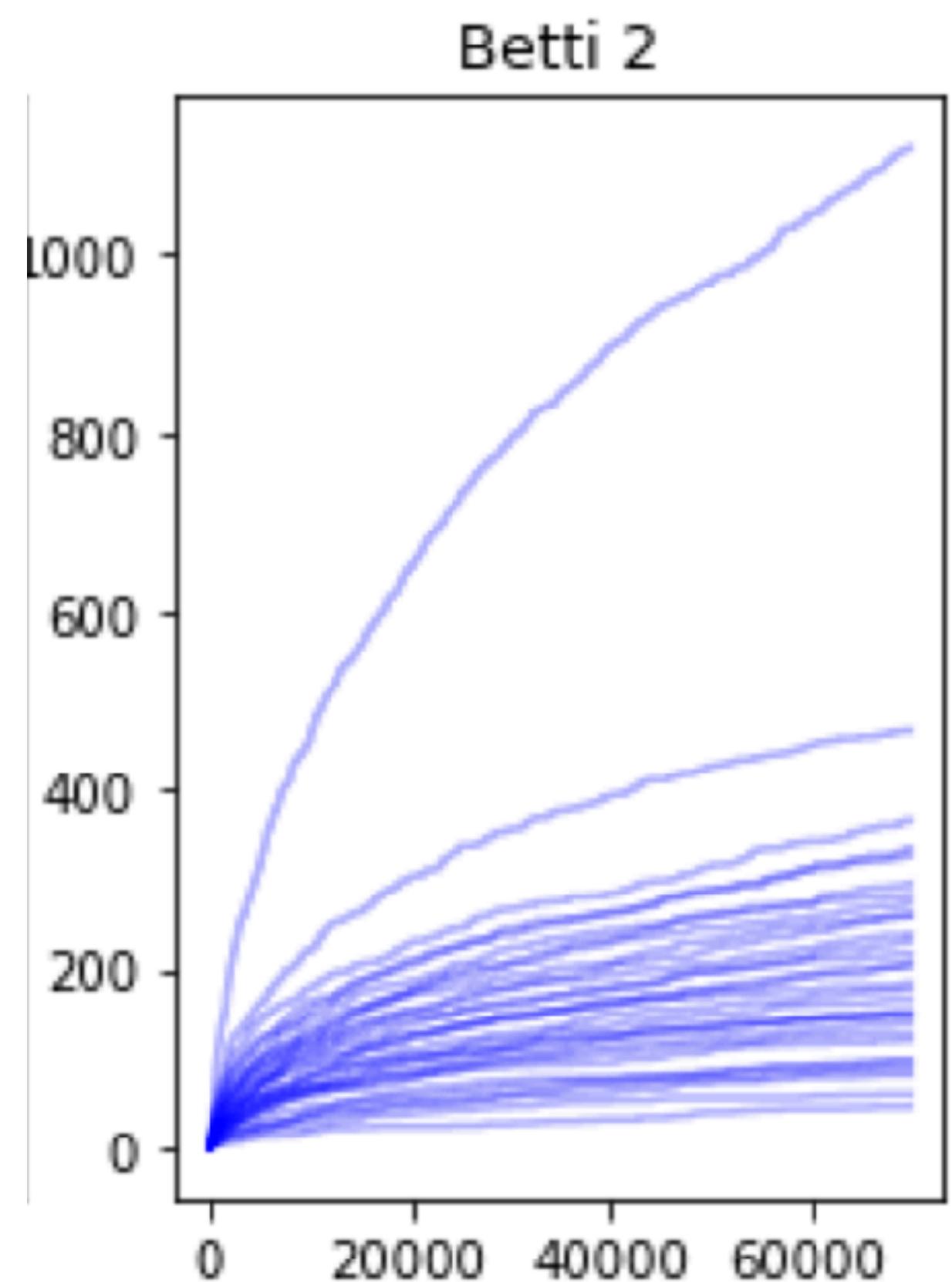
# Proof of $\beta_2 \approx \text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}$



**Theorem:**  $E[\beta_2] \approx \text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}$   
**In practice???**

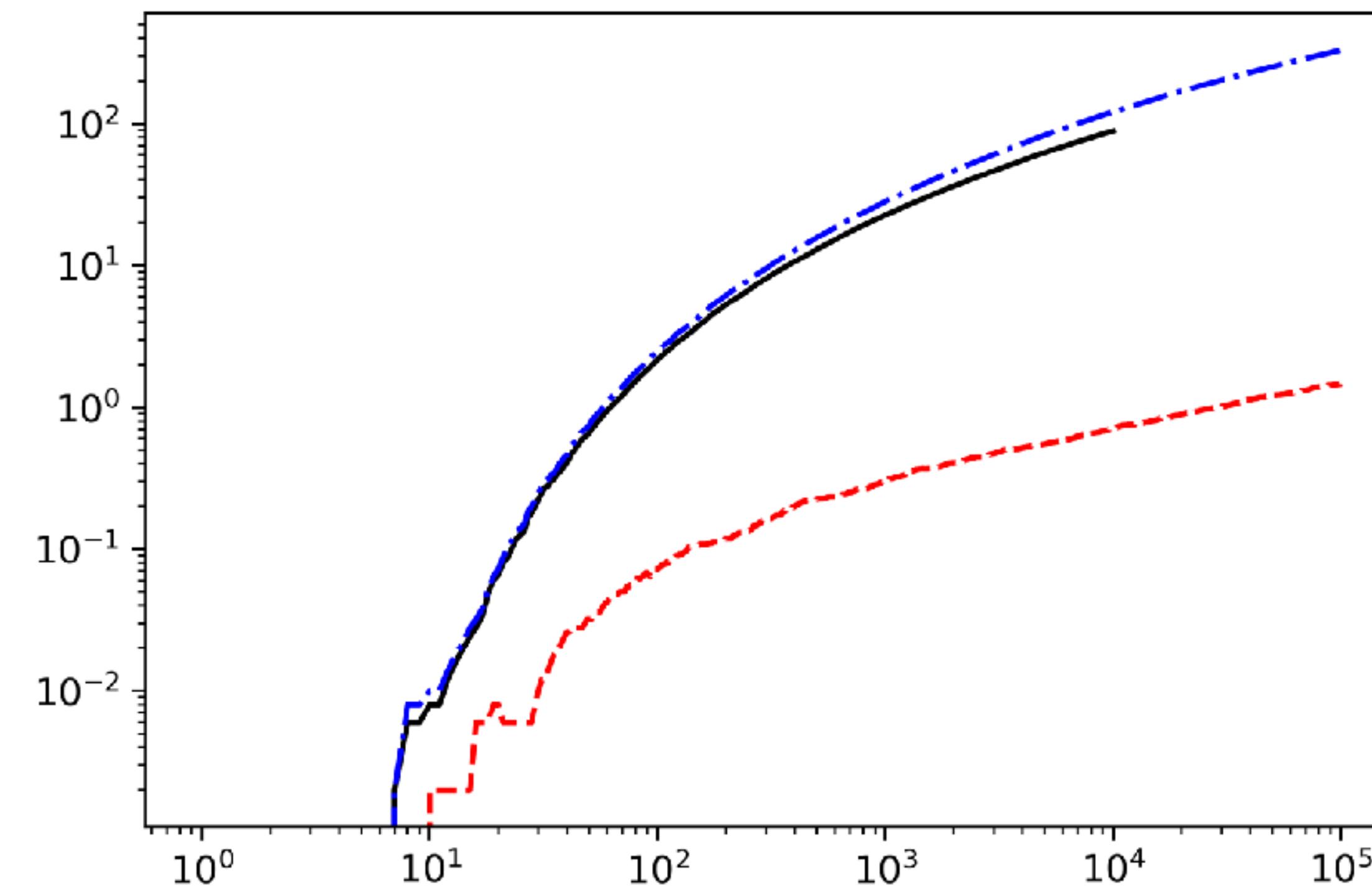
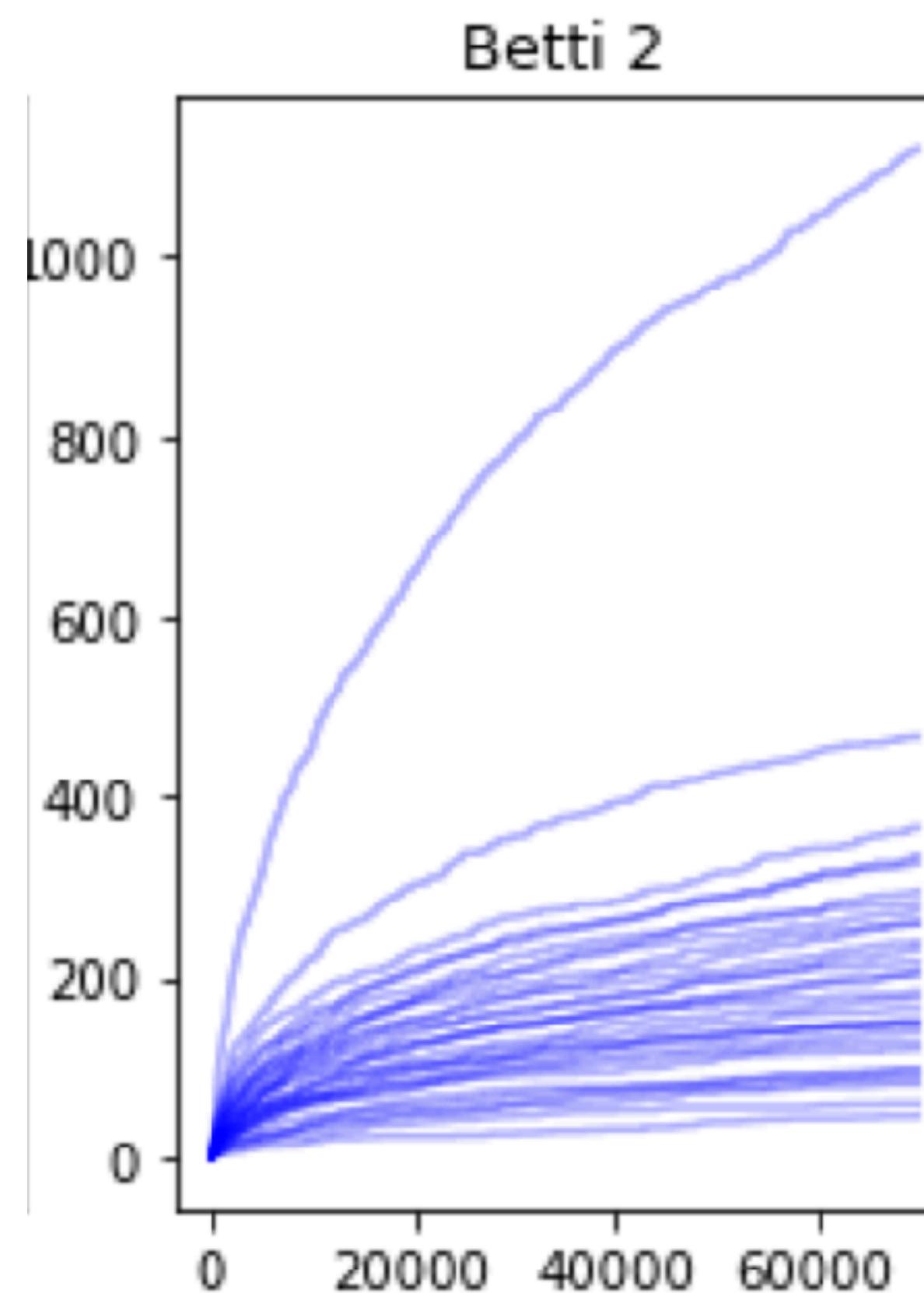
$$E[\beta_2] \approx \text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}$$

$$\log E[\beta_2] \approx (1 - 4x) \log(\text{num of nodes})$$

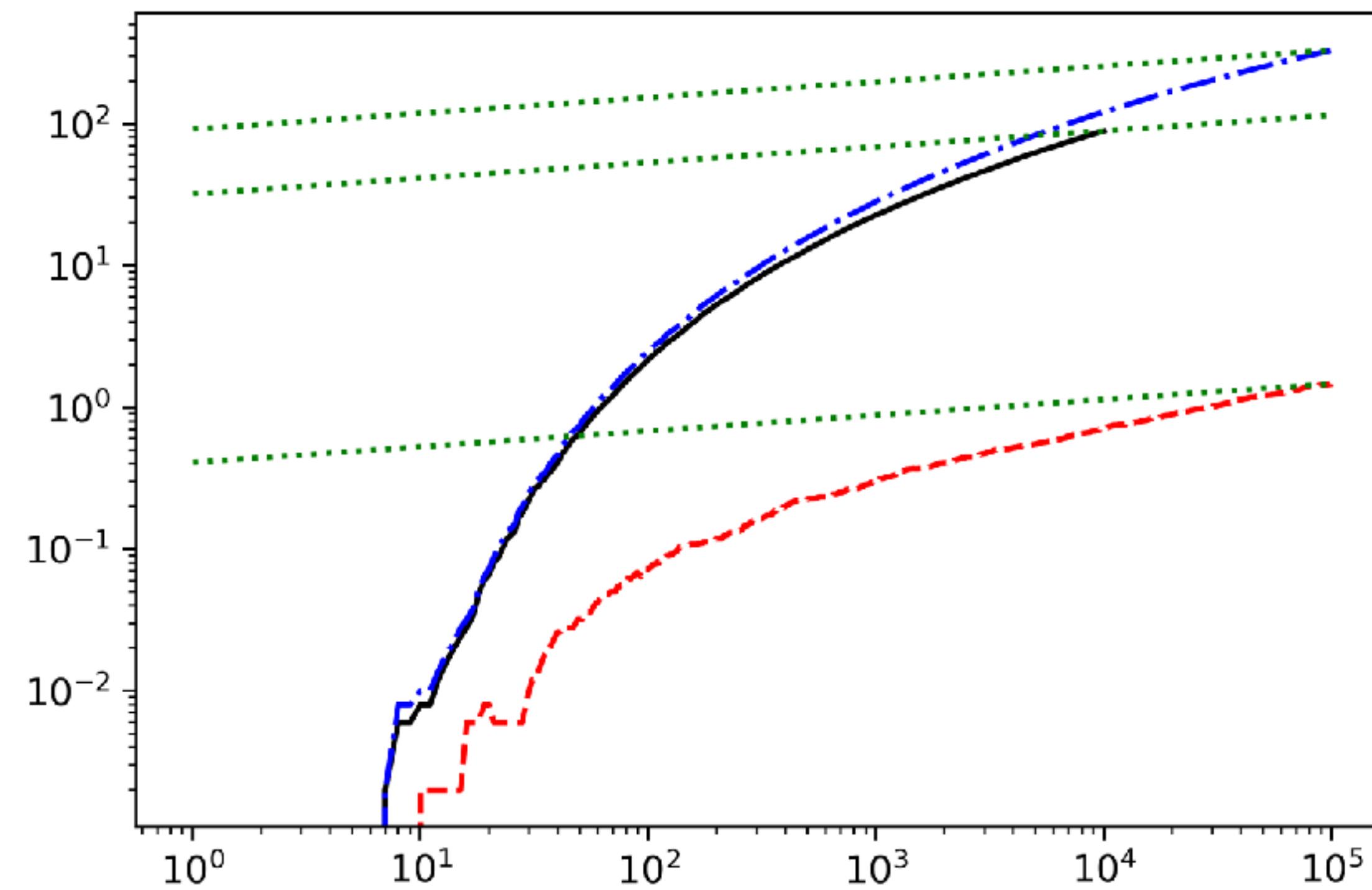
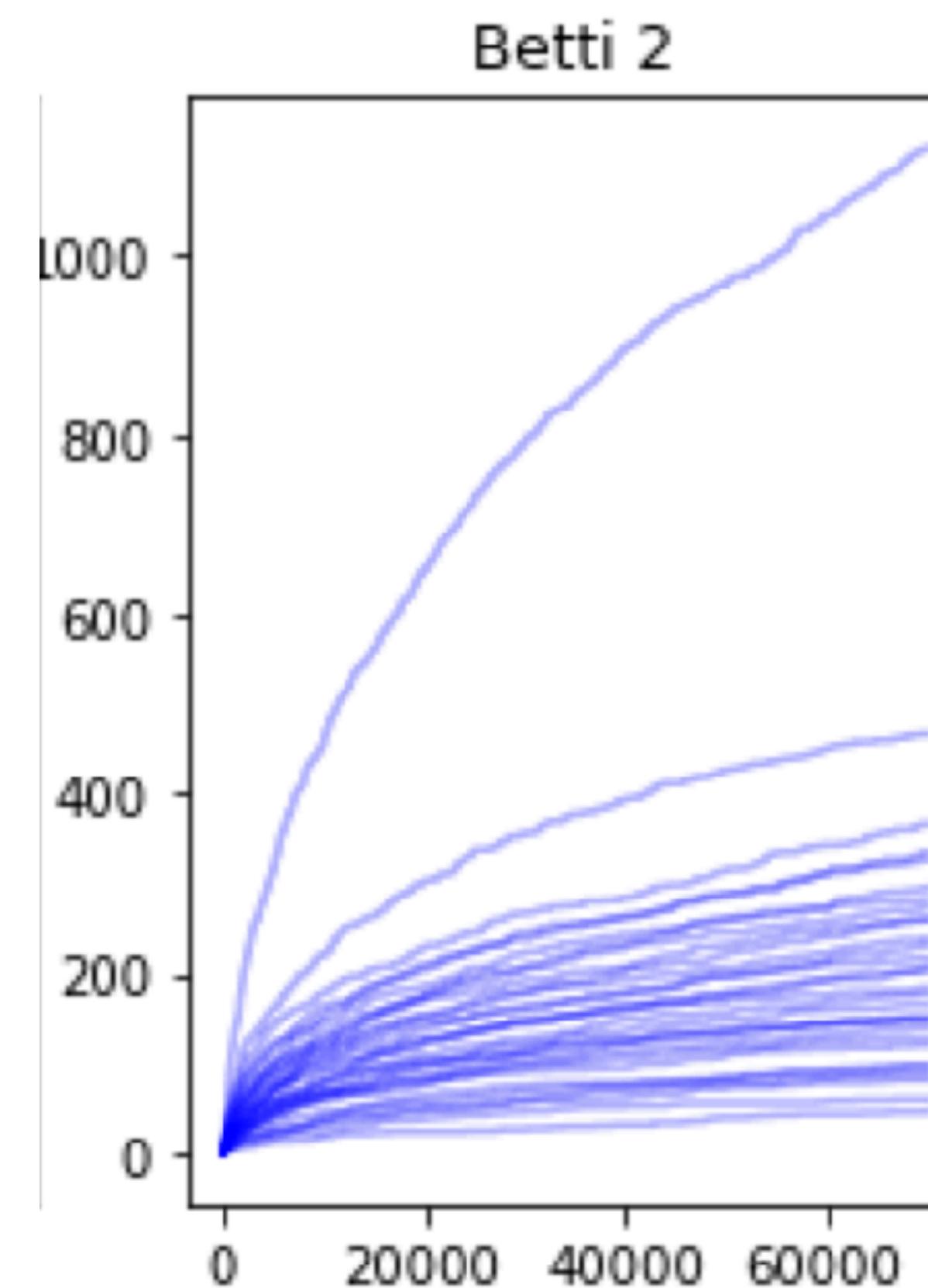


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$$E[\beta_2] \approx \text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}$$



# **Homotopy-Connectivity?**

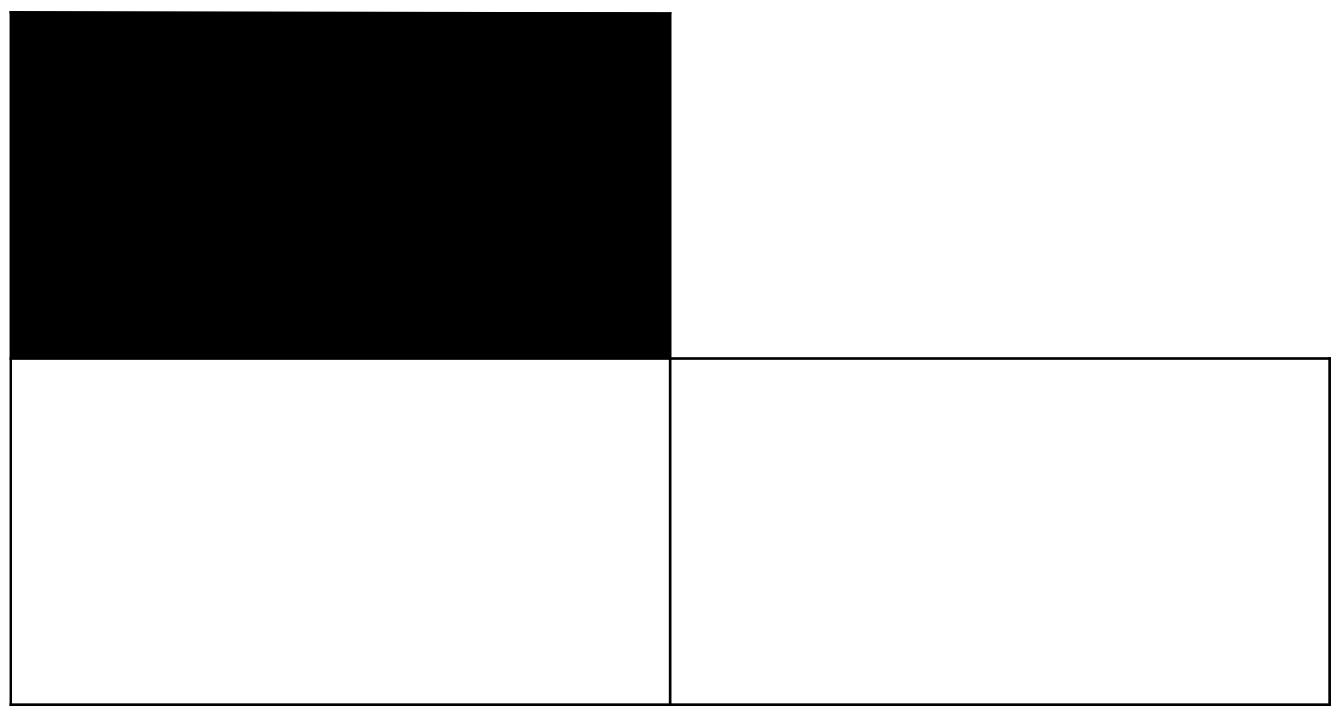
# Homotopy-Connectivity?

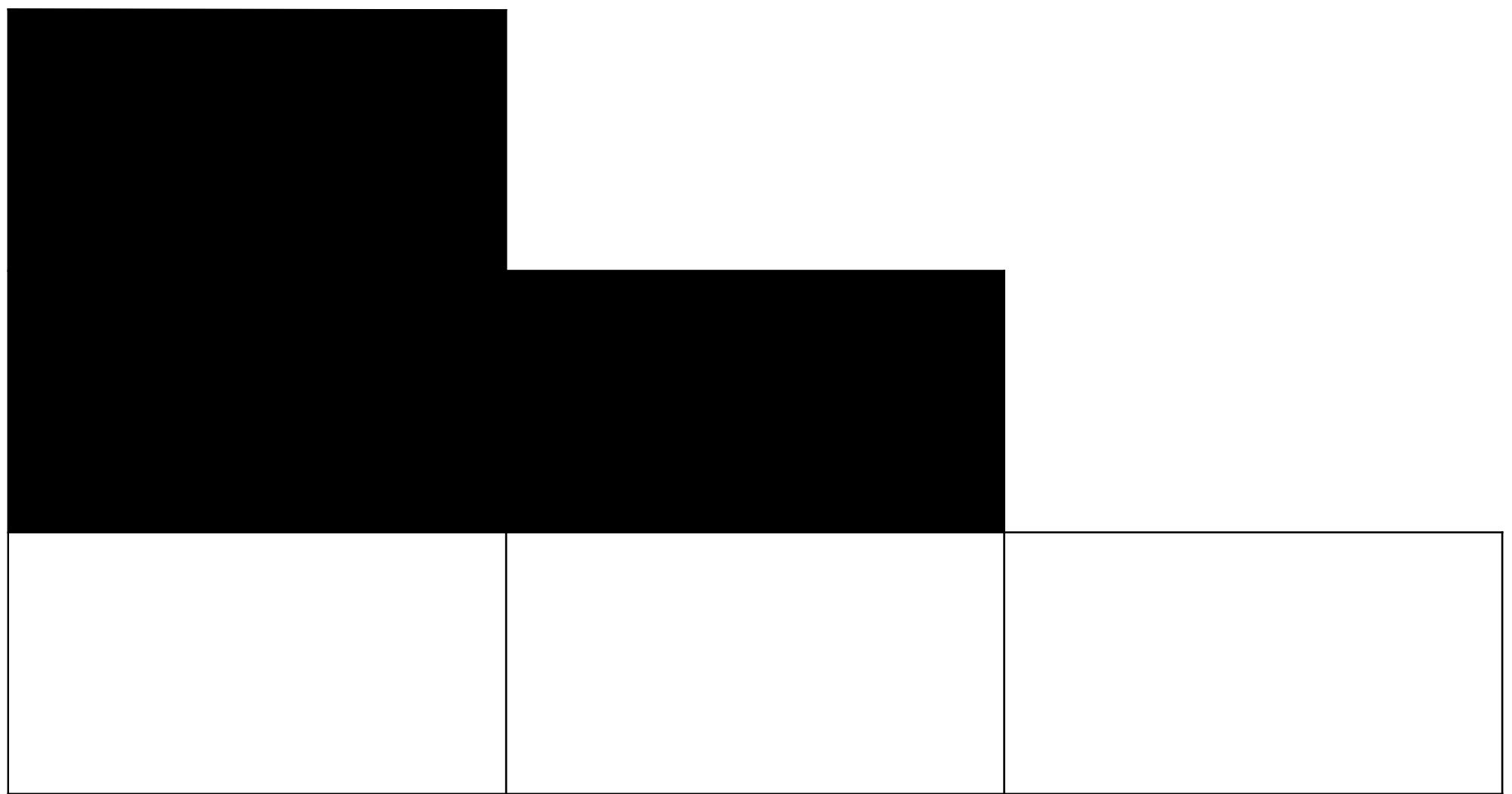
$$\beta_2 \approx \text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}$$

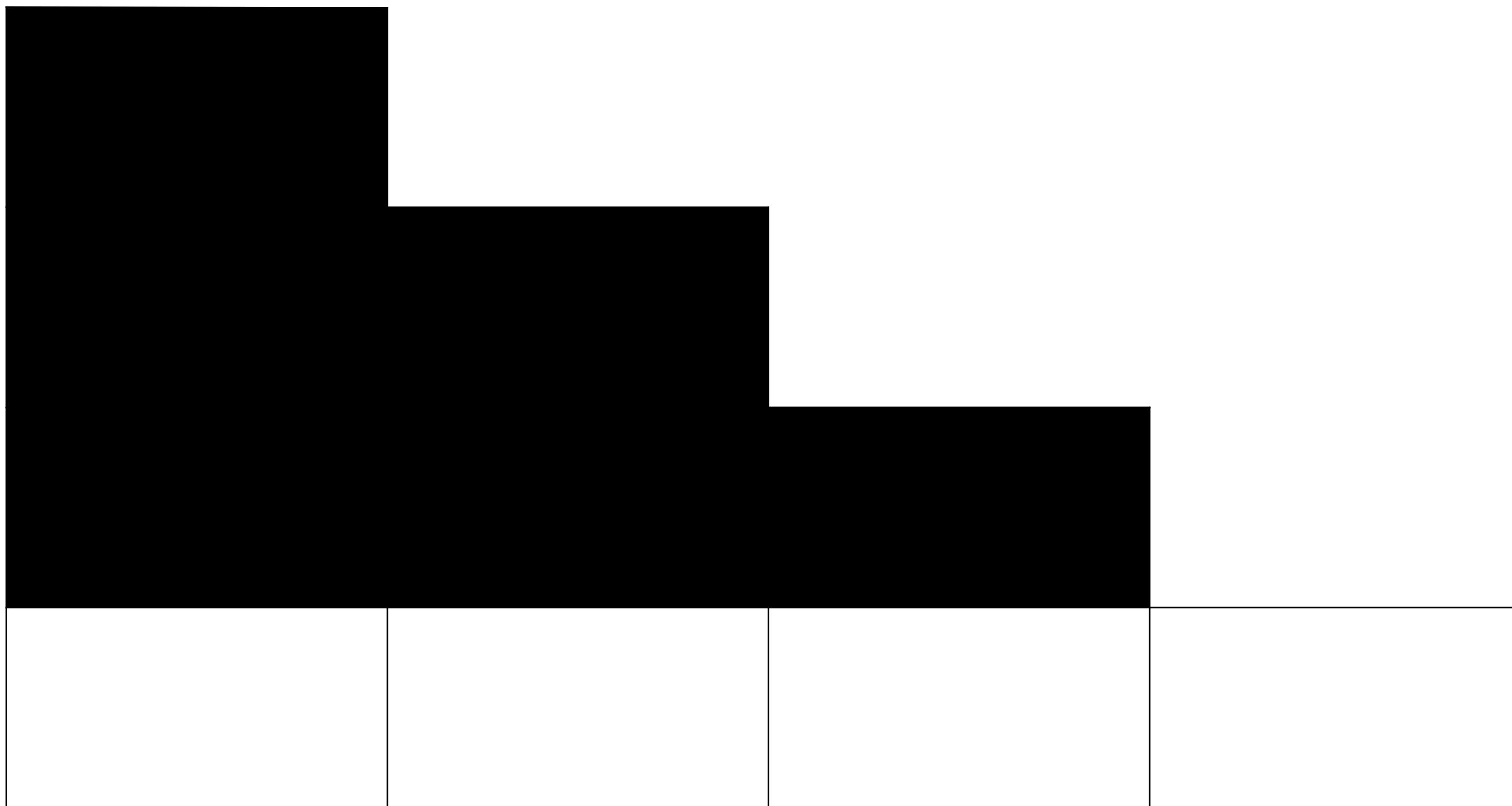
# Pass to infinity



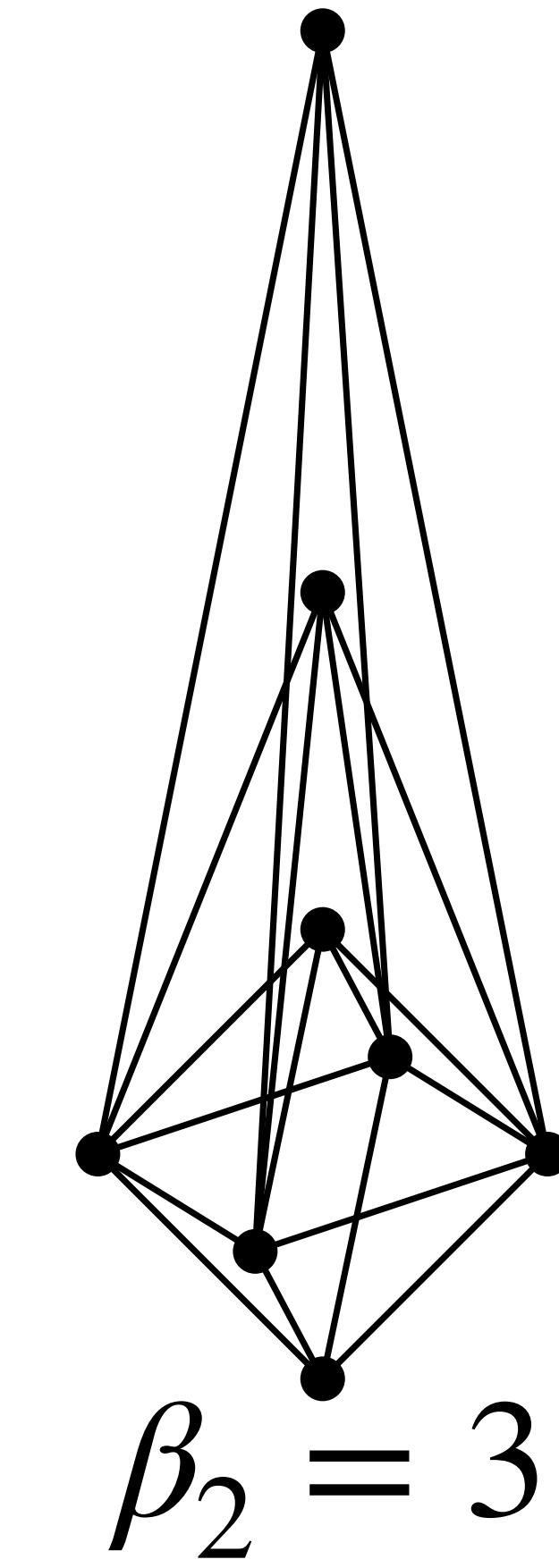
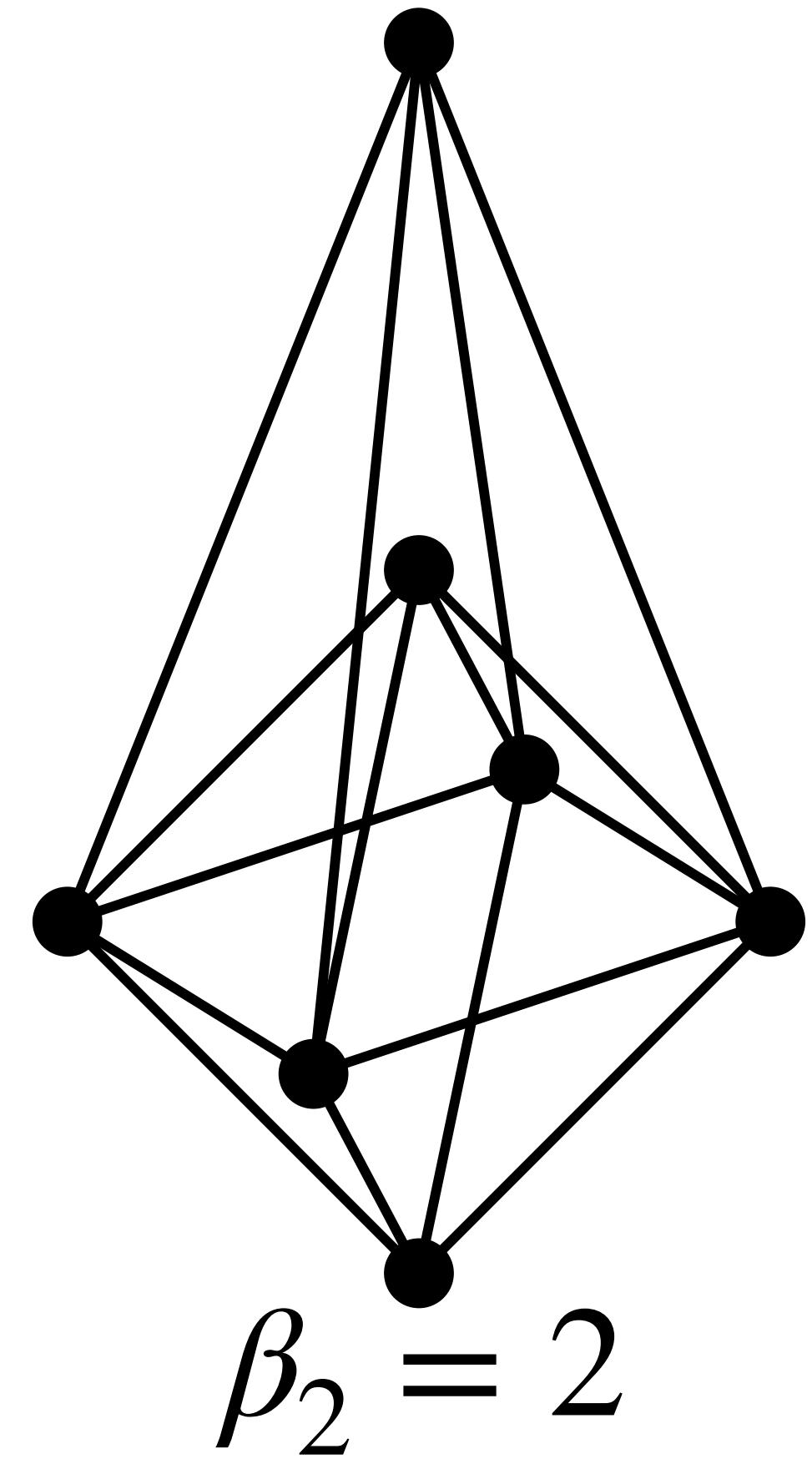
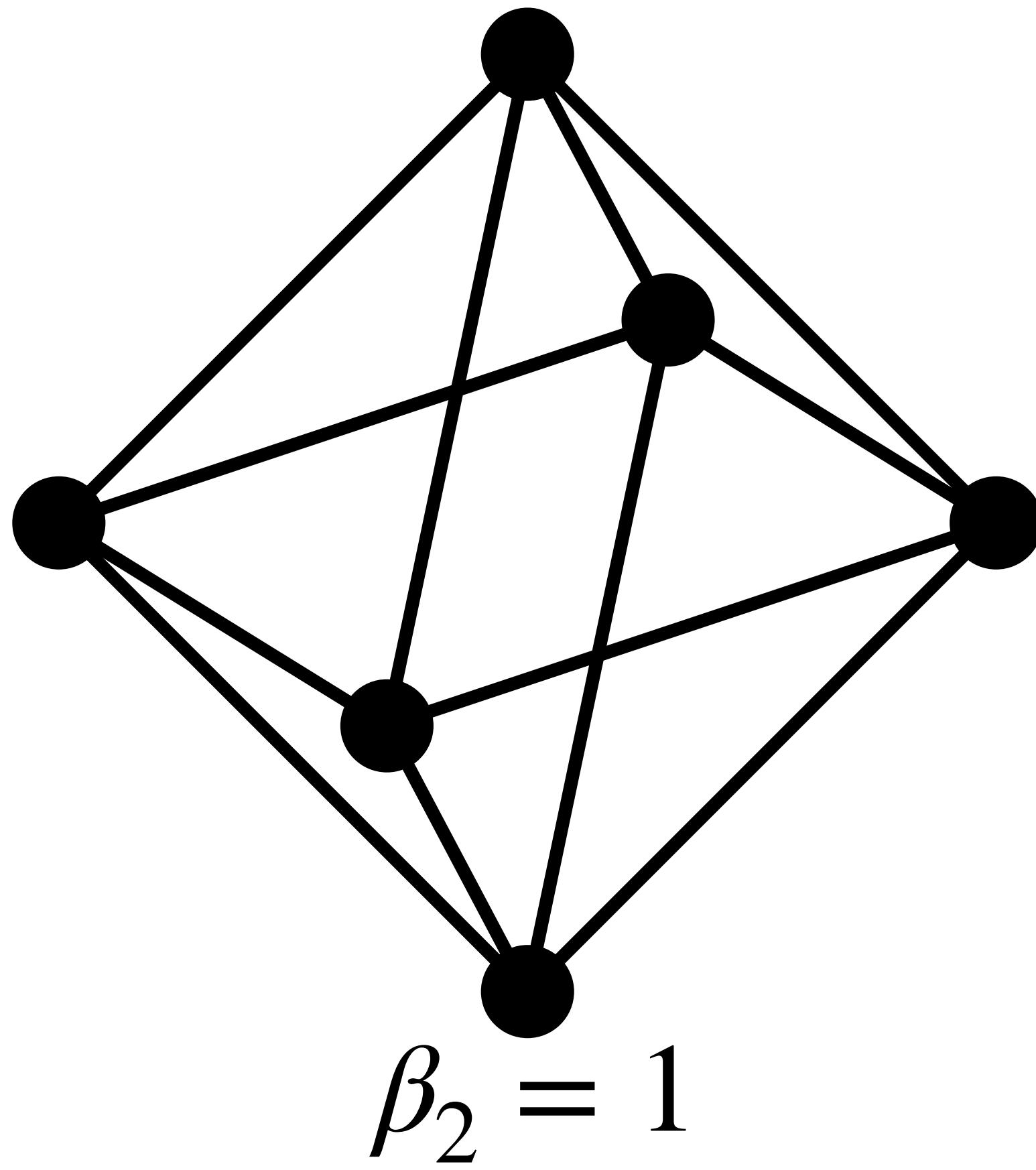








# Will all of these be filled in at infinity?

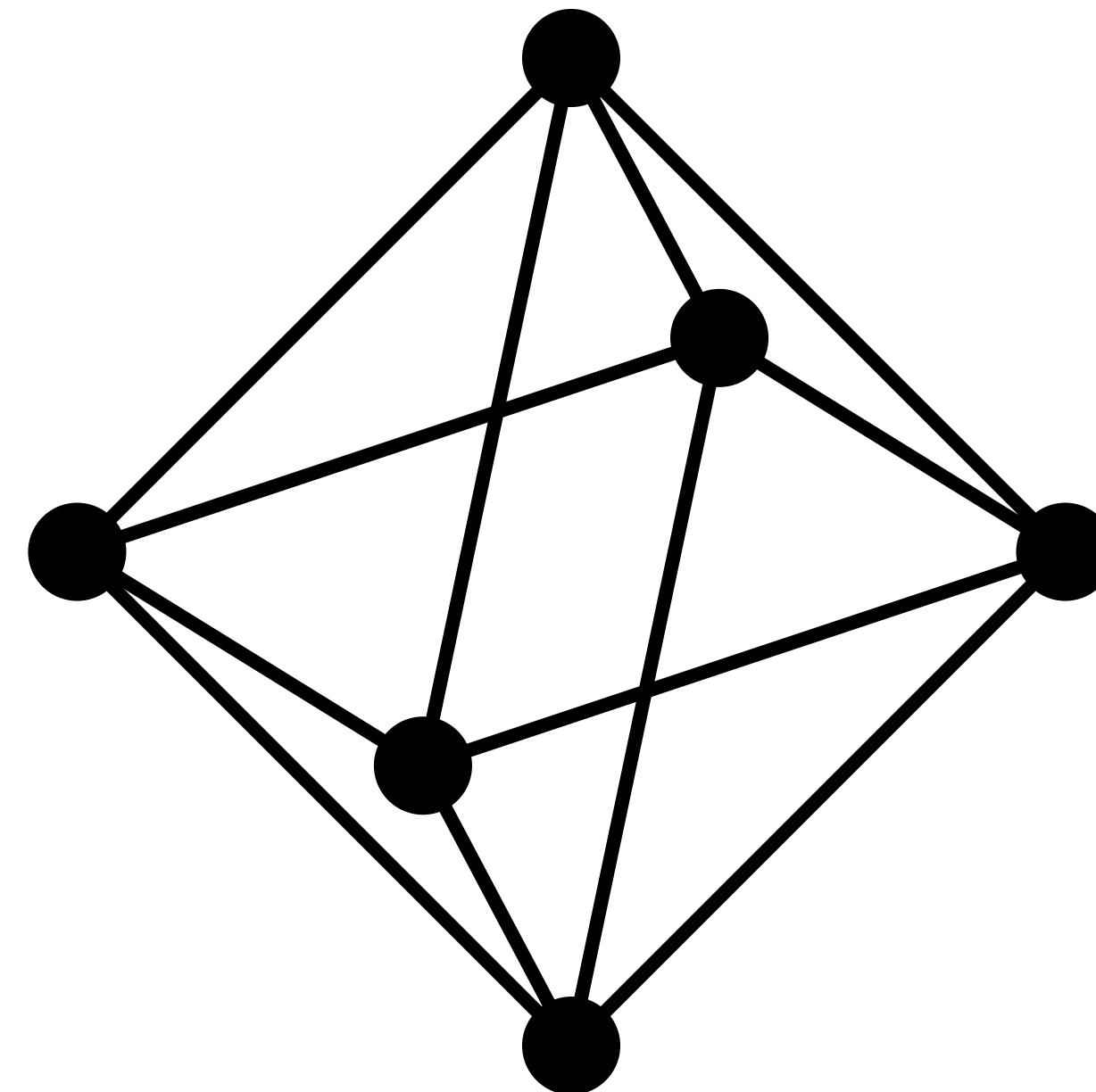


# [Barmak 2023]

- A clique complex is  $q$ -homotopy-connected
- if every collection of  $2(q + 1)$  nodes has a common neighbor.

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# Homotopy-Connected

- Almost surely, the infinite preferential attachment complex
- is  $q$ -homotopy-connected if  $x \leq \frac{1}{2(q+1)}$

Recall:

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 $P[T \text{ attaches to } i] \propto T^{-x}$

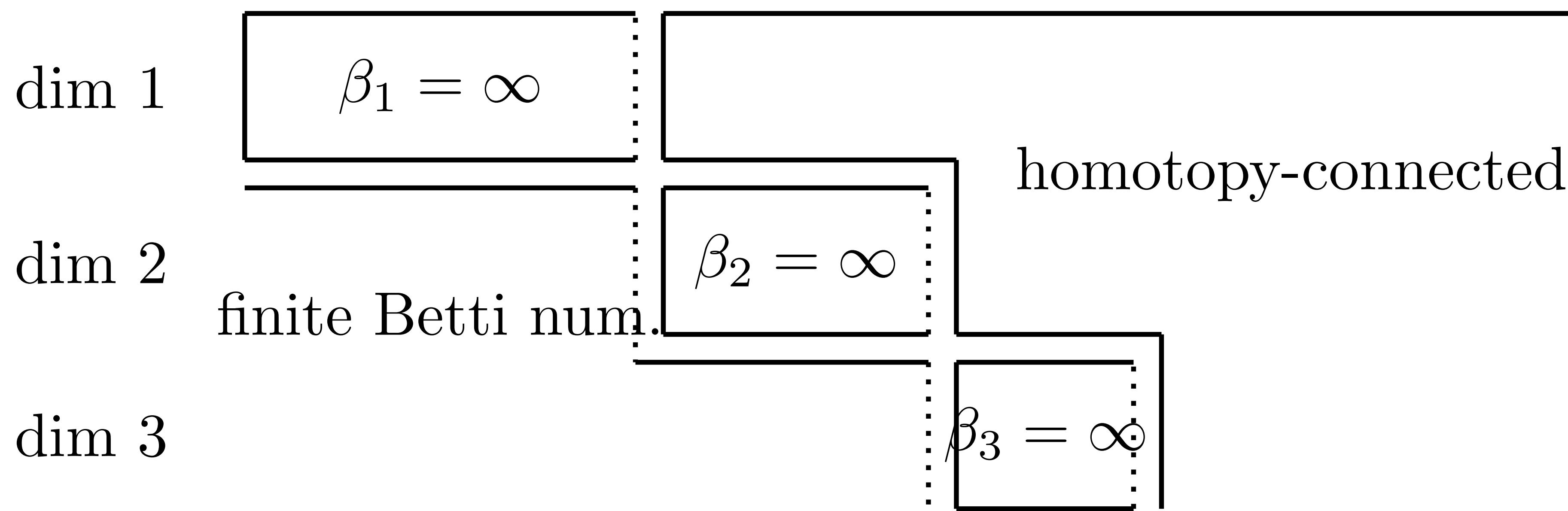
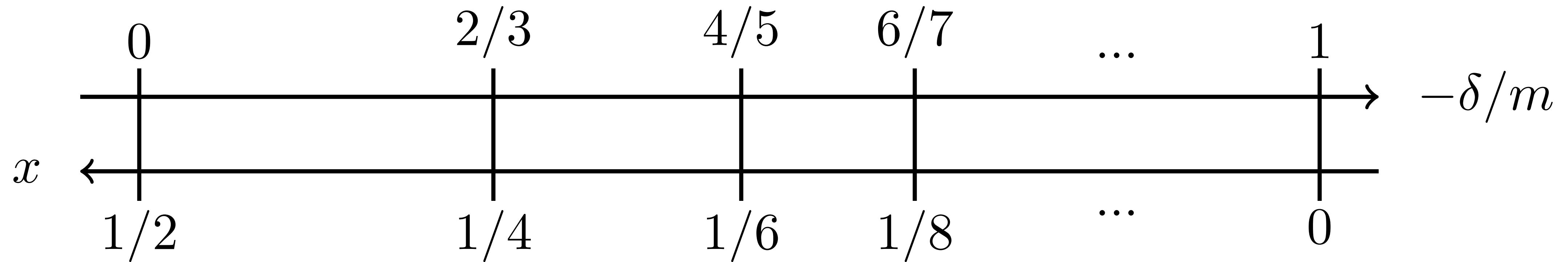
# Homotopy-Connected

- Almost surely, the infinite preferential attachment complex
- is  $q$ -homotopy-connected if  $x \leq \frac{1}{2(q+1)}$
- has infinite Betti number at dimension  $q$  if  $\frac{1}{2(q+1)} < x \leq \frac{1}{2q}$

Recall:

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the preferential attachment strength  
 $P[T \text{ attaches to } i] \propto T^{-x}$

# Phase Transition



# Phase transition

Recall

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unbounded growth of  $\beta_2(X_T)$

unbounded growth of  $\beta_3(X_T)$

unbounded growth of  $\beta_4(X_T)$

Recall  
 $\beta_2 \approx \text{num of nodes}^{1-4x}$

:

- If the preferential attachment effect is strong enough,
- $\beta_q(X_T)$  grows sublinearly with high probability
- $\pi_q(X_\infty) \cong 0$  almost surely

# **v. What lies ahead**

orders of magnitude of  
Betti numbers

homotopy connectedness

orders of magnitude of  
Betti numbers

homotopy connectedness

parameter estimation?

simplicial preferential  
attachment?

other non-homogeneous  
complexes?

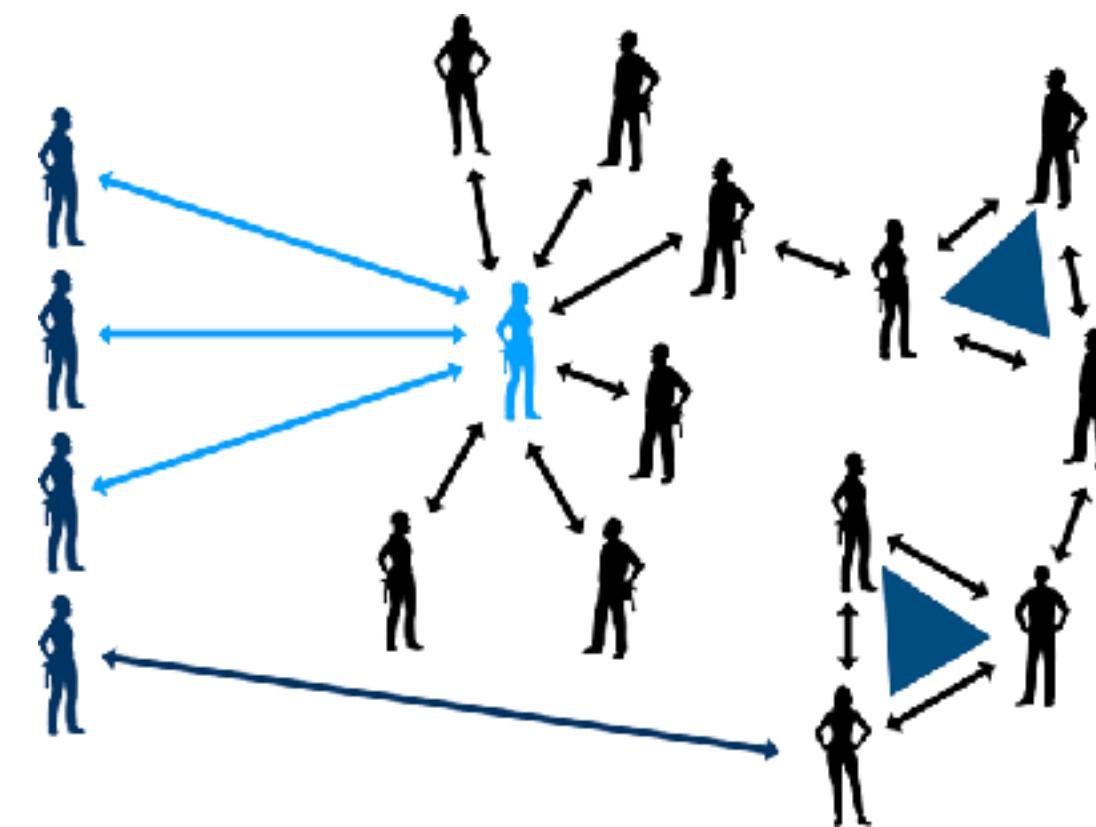
# What did we learn today?

- Random topology is cool.
- Preferential attachment graph has interesting topology.
- More interesting things are waiting to be discovered.

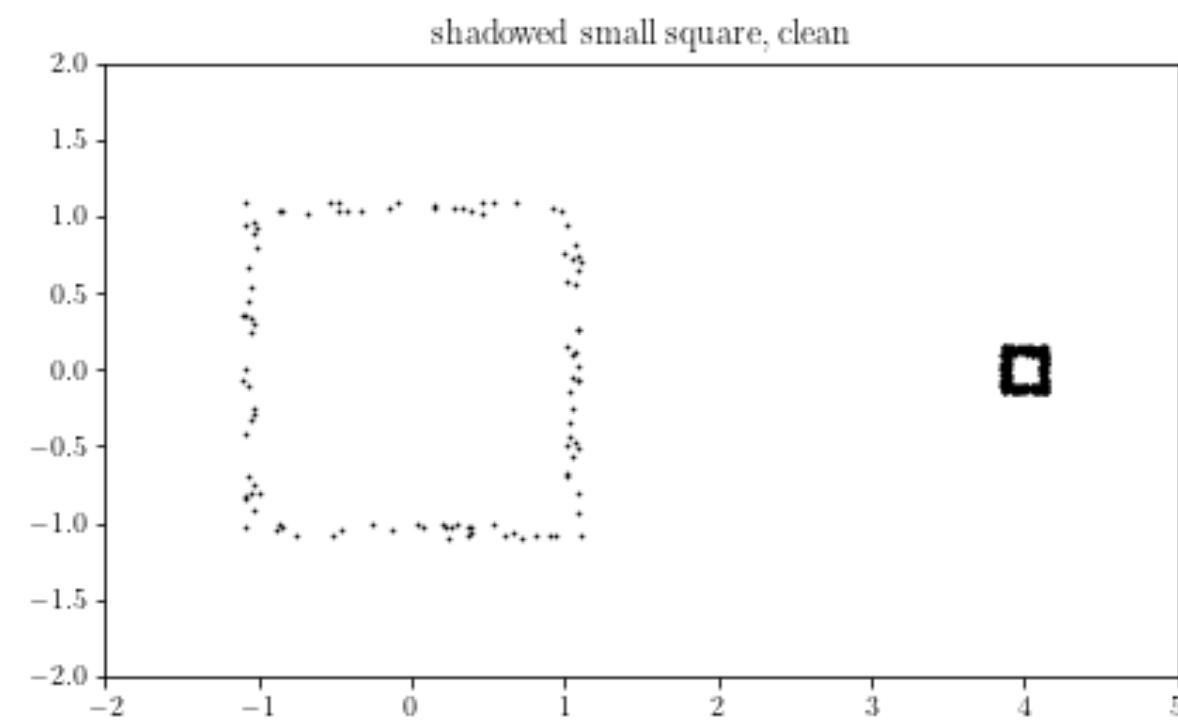
**Chunyin Siu**

**cs2323@cornell.edu**

**Cornell University**



arxiv paper



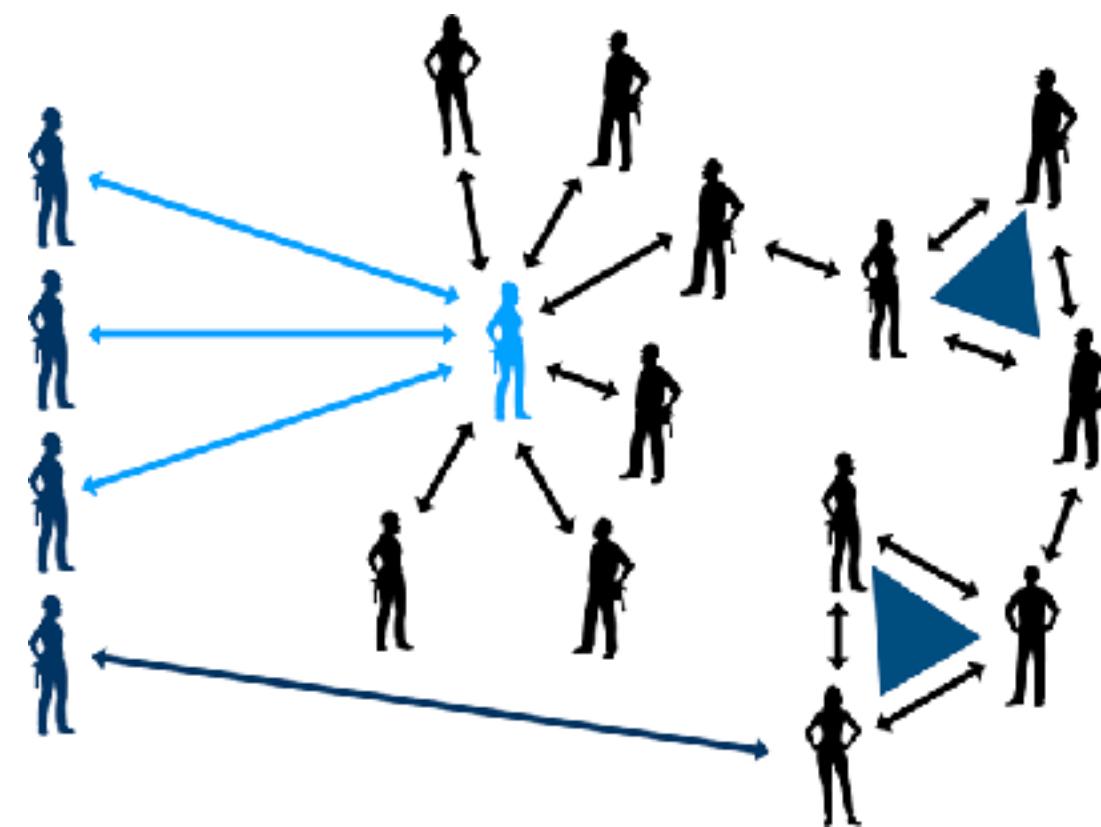
my video about small holes

# Thank you!

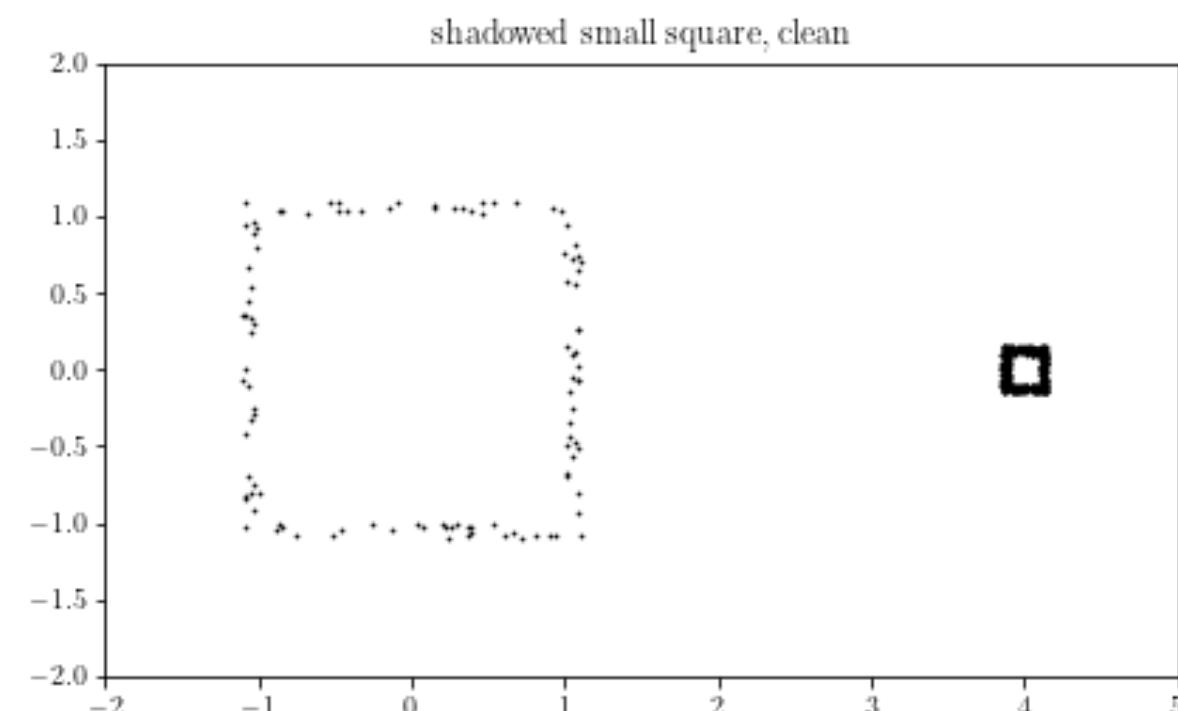
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Cornell University



arxiv paper



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# **What we know**

## **[not meant to be complete]**

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**[not meant to be complete]**

- Erdos-Renyi clique complexes

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- Erdos-Renyi clique complexes
  - Kahle 2009, 2014
  - Kahle and Meckes 2013
  - Costa et al 2015
  - Malen 2023
  - etc

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[not meant to be complete]

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  - etc
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- Erdos-Renyi clique complexes
  - Kahle 2009, 2014
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  - etc
- random geometric complexes
  - Kahle 2011
  - Kahle and Meckes 2013
  - Yogeshwaran and Adler 2015
  - Bobrowski et al 2017
  - Hiraoka et al 2018
  - Thomas and Owada 2021a, b
  - Owada and Wei 2022
  - etc

# Functional Convergence at dimension k?

[Thomas and Owada 2020]

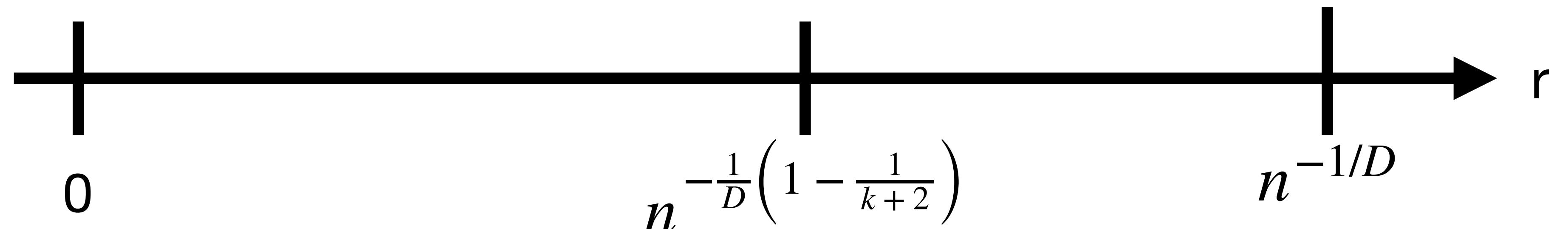


$n$  = number of nodes  
all log terms and constants forgone

# Functional Convergence at dimension k?

[Thomas and Owada 2020]

- Cech: weak convergence in finite-dimensional sense

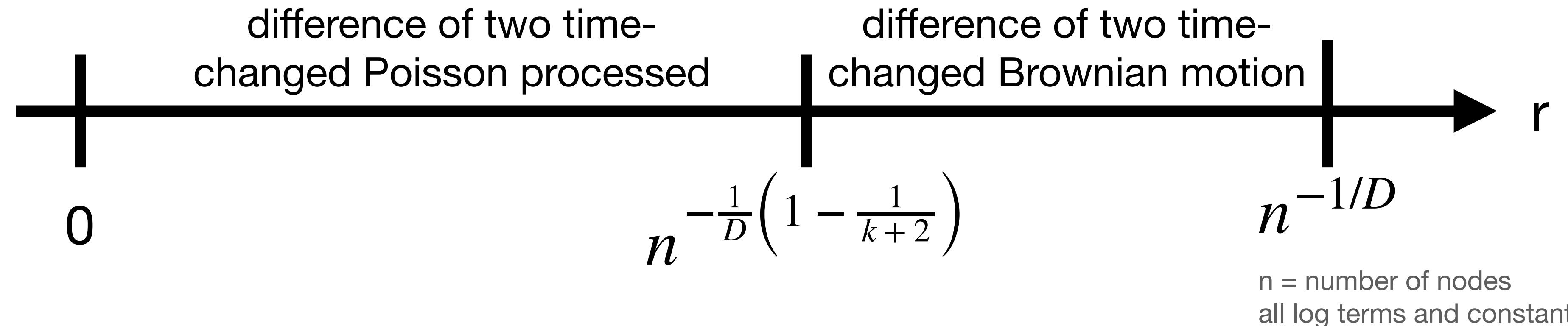


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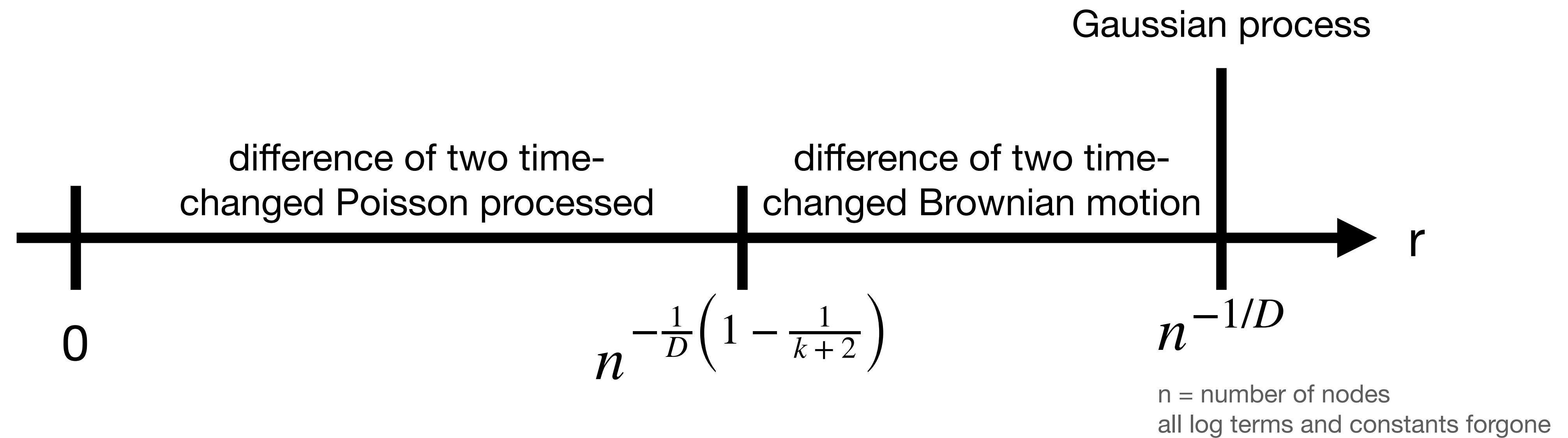
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# Functional Convergence at dimension k?

[Thomas and Owada 2020]

- Cech: weak convergence in finite-dimensional sense



- 4 CPU cores
- 40 minutes for the Betti numbers
- 7.5 hours for bounds
- memory issues for larger graphs

# Subtleties

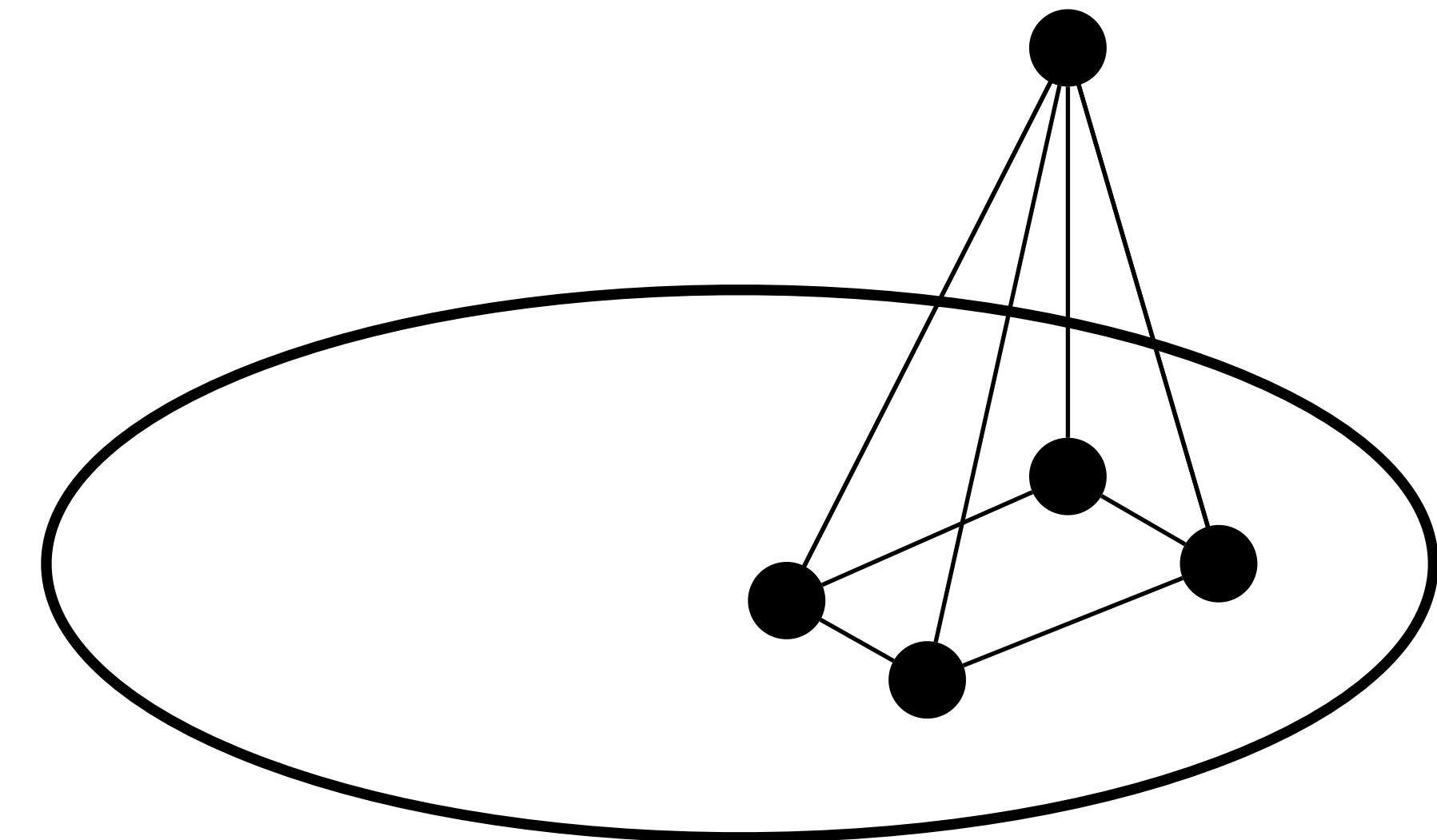
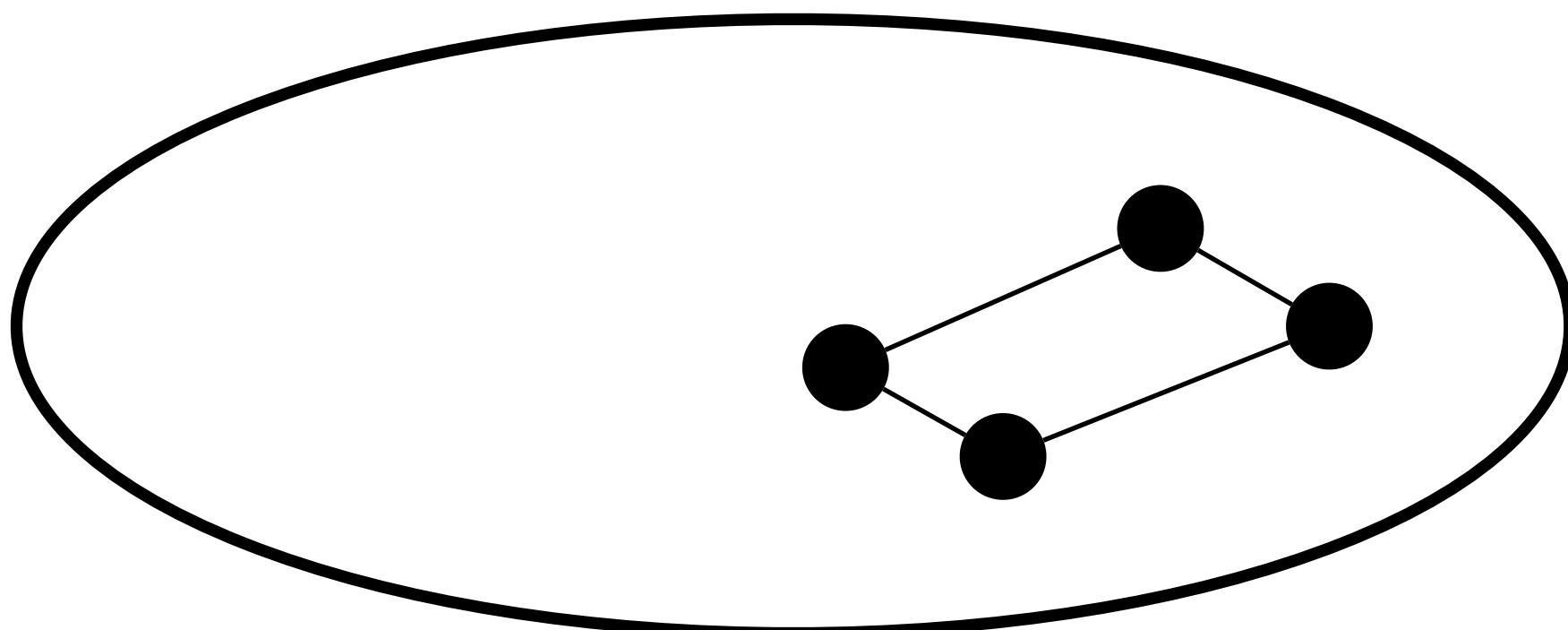
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# Subtleties

- Need homological algebra to relate Betti numbers with counts
  - adding a vertex = construct mapping cone

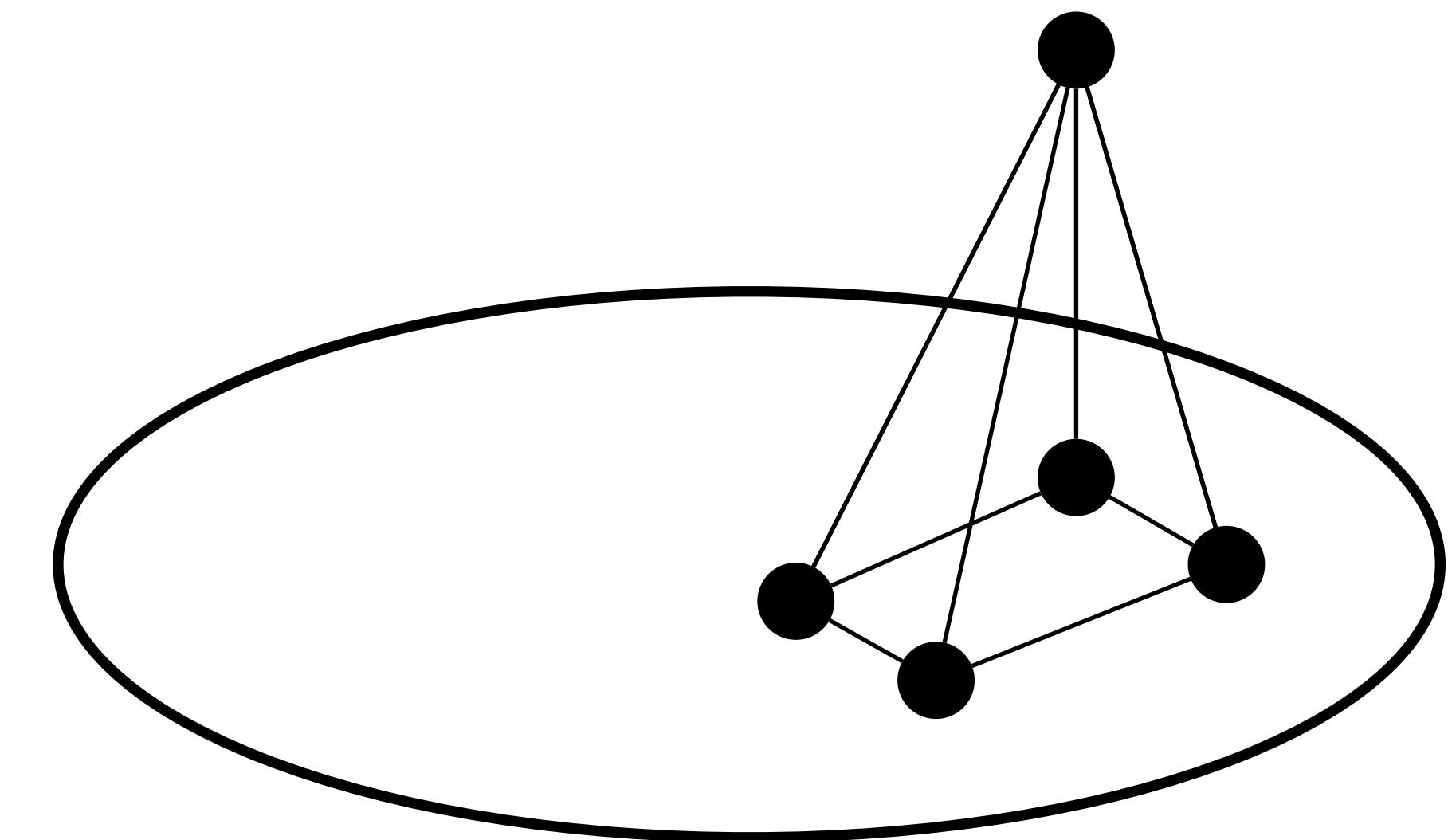
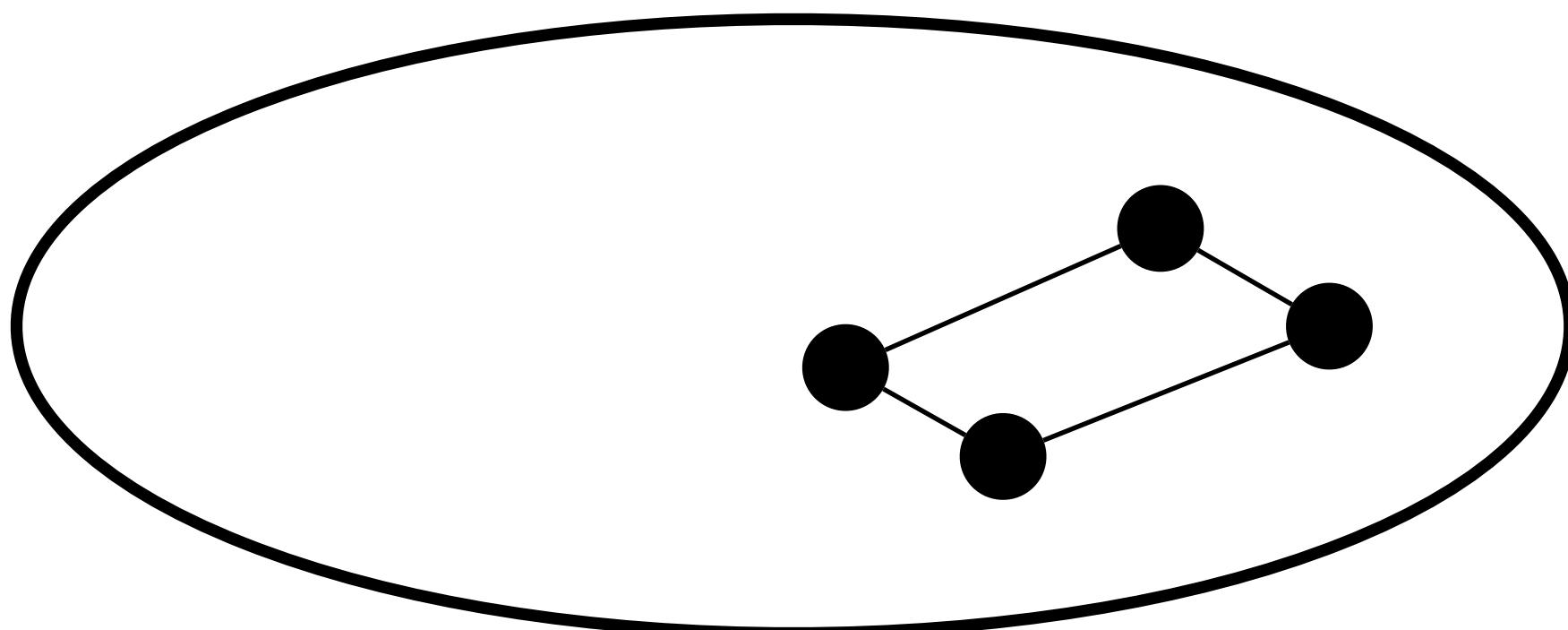
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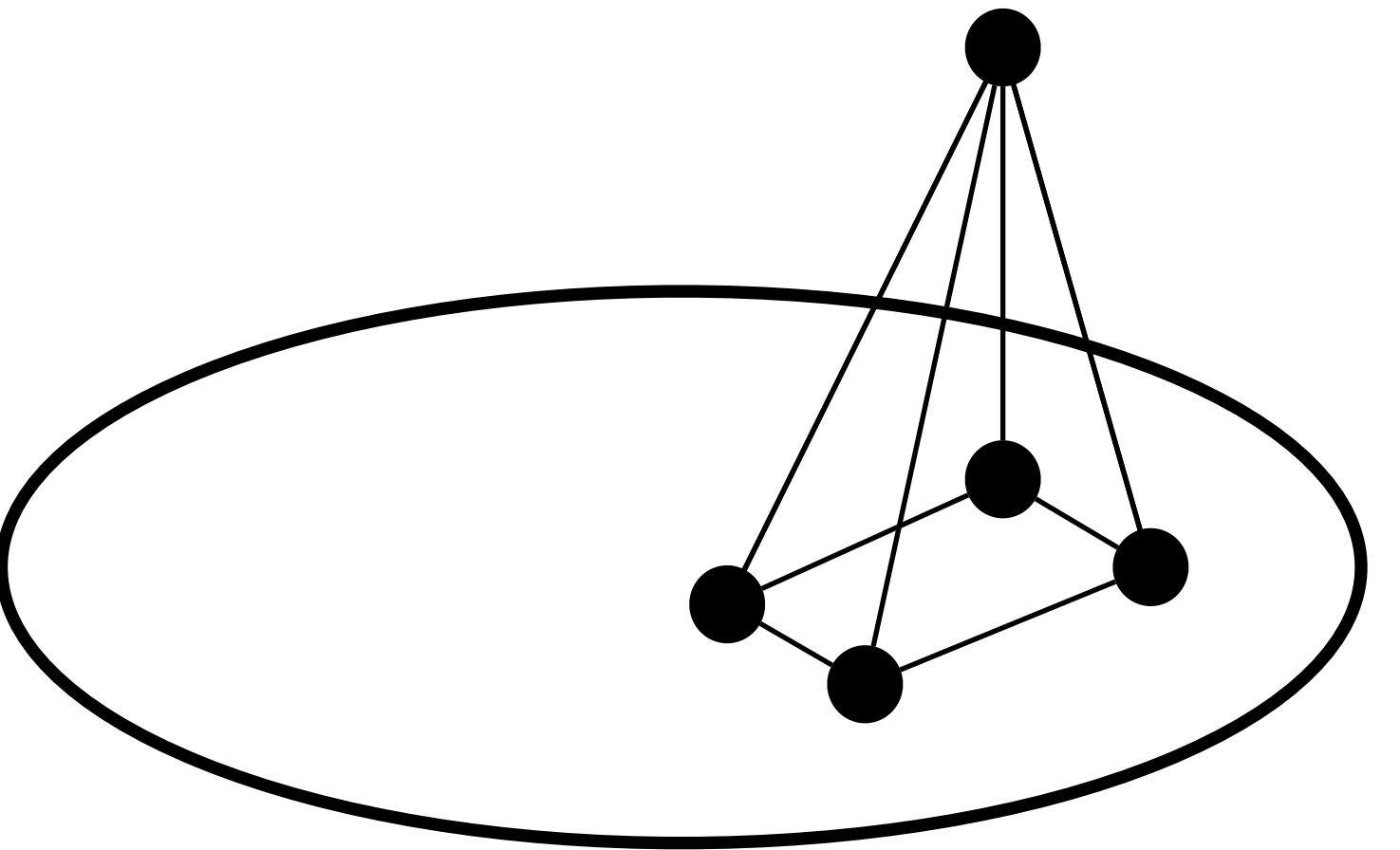
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- Need homological algebra to relate Betti numbers with counts
  - adding a vertex = construct mapping cone
  - $\beta_q(\text{new}) \leq \beta_q(\text{old}) + \beta_{q-1}(\text{link})$



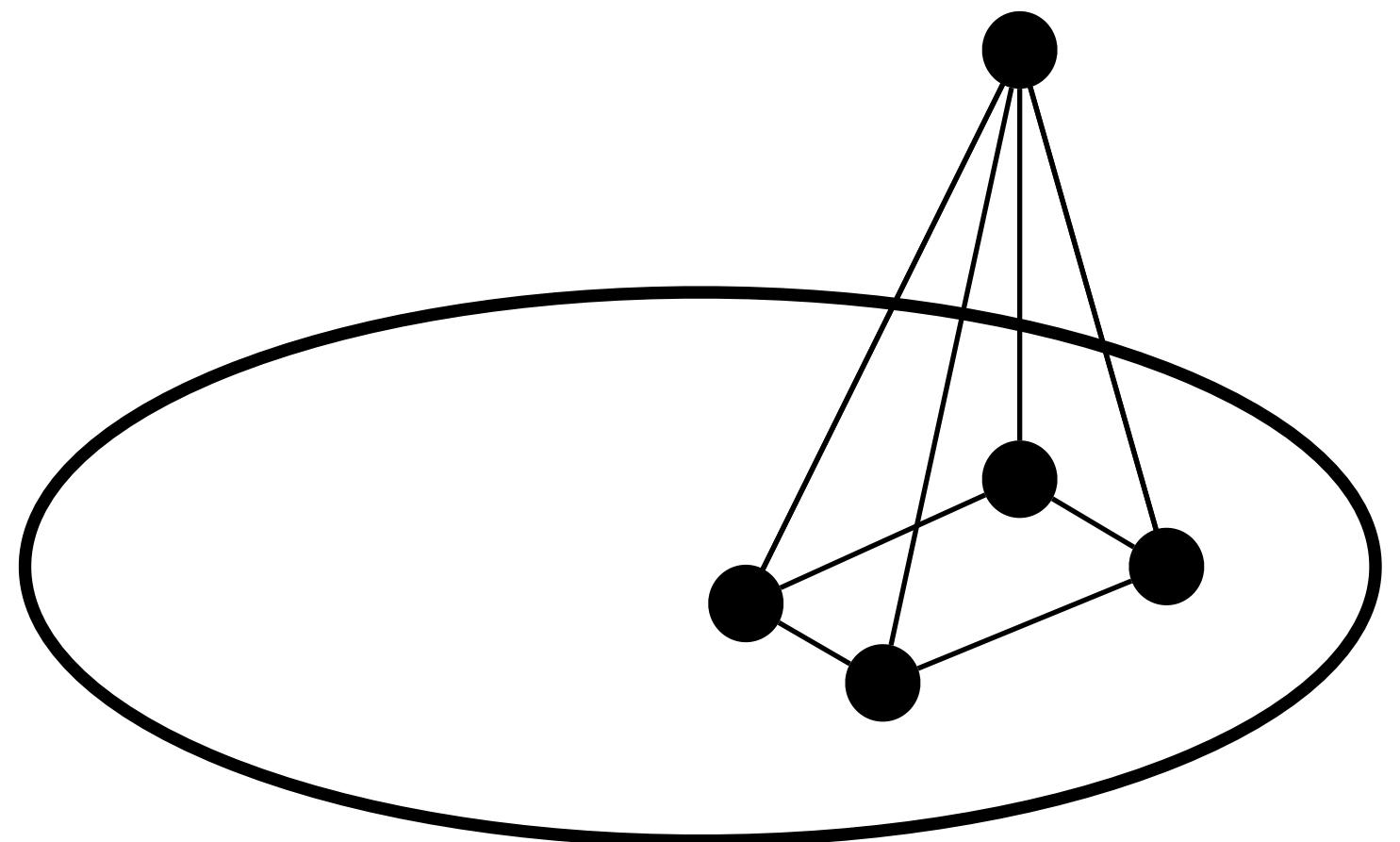
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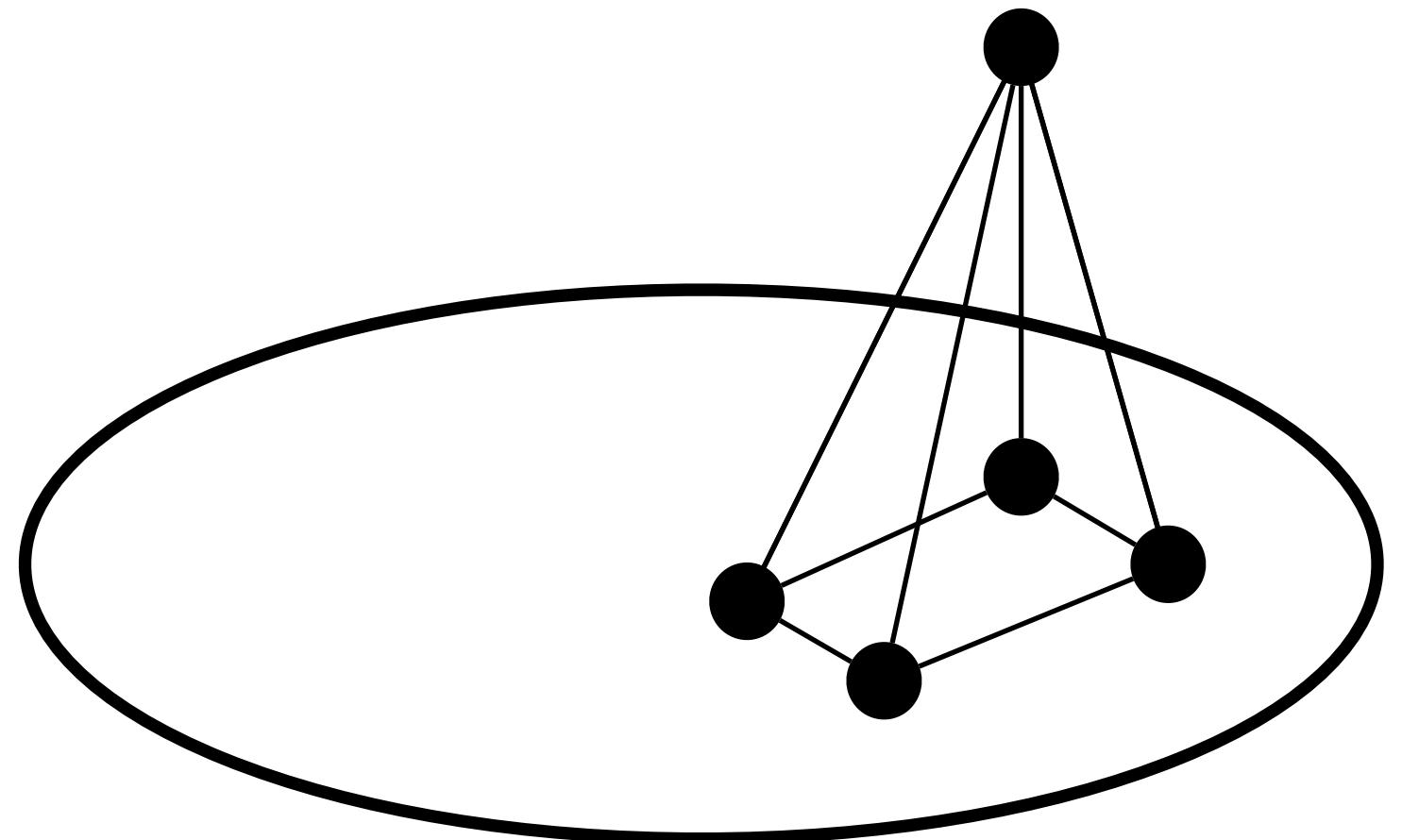
# Subtleties

- Need homological algebra to relate Betti numbers with counts
  - $\beta_q(\text{new}) - \beta_q(\text{old}) \leq \beta_{q-1}(\text{link})$
- Identify the “square count” as the main term with minimal cycle results in [Gal 2005] and [Kahle 2009]



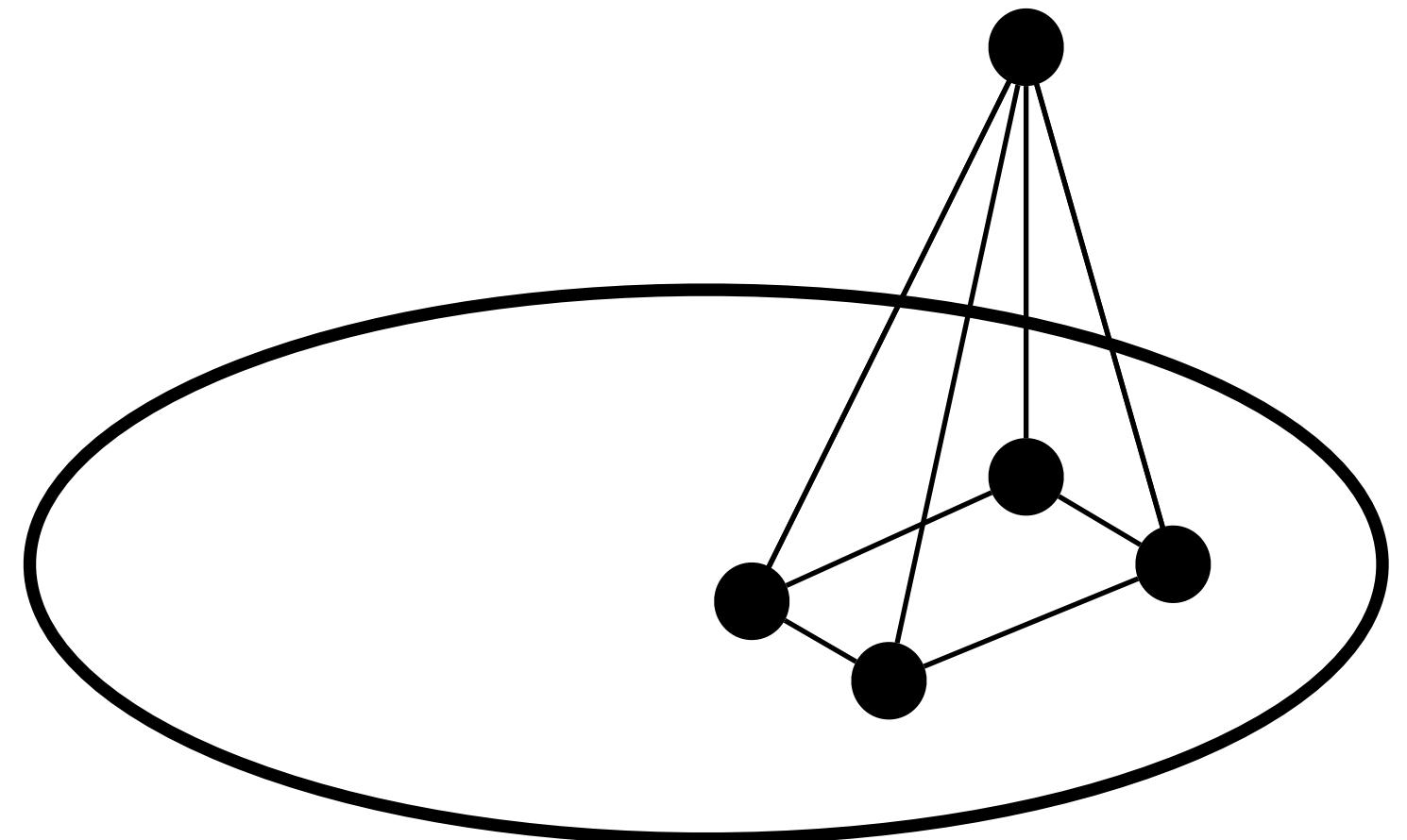
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- Identify the “square count” as the main term with minimal cycle results in [Gal 2005] and [Kahle 2009]
- Generalize minimal cycle results with homological algebra



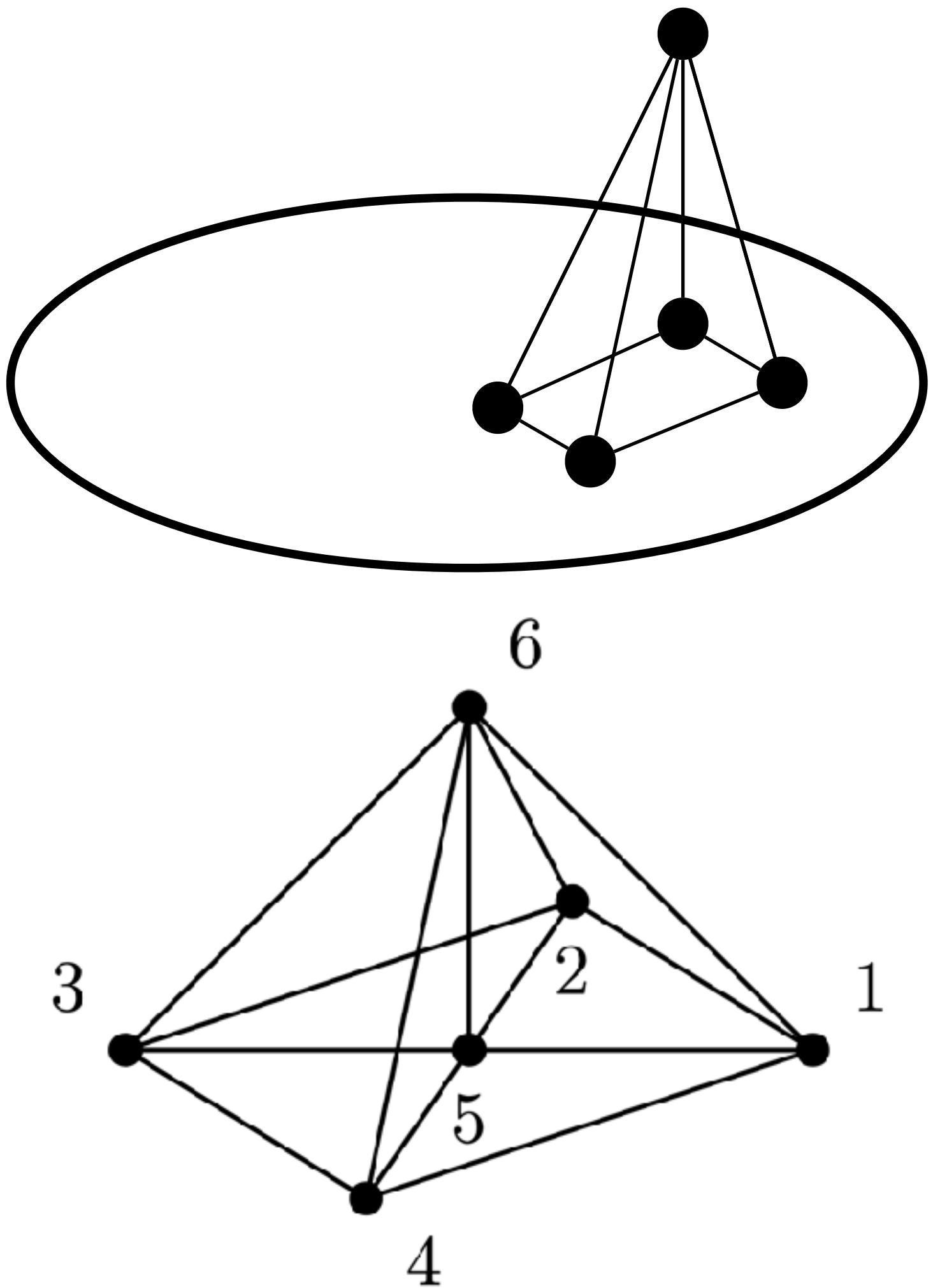
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  - $1 - \beta_q(\text{link}, S^{q-1}) - \beta_q(\text{link}) \leq \beta_q(\text{new}) - \beta_q(\text{old}) \leq \beta_{q-1}(\text{link})$



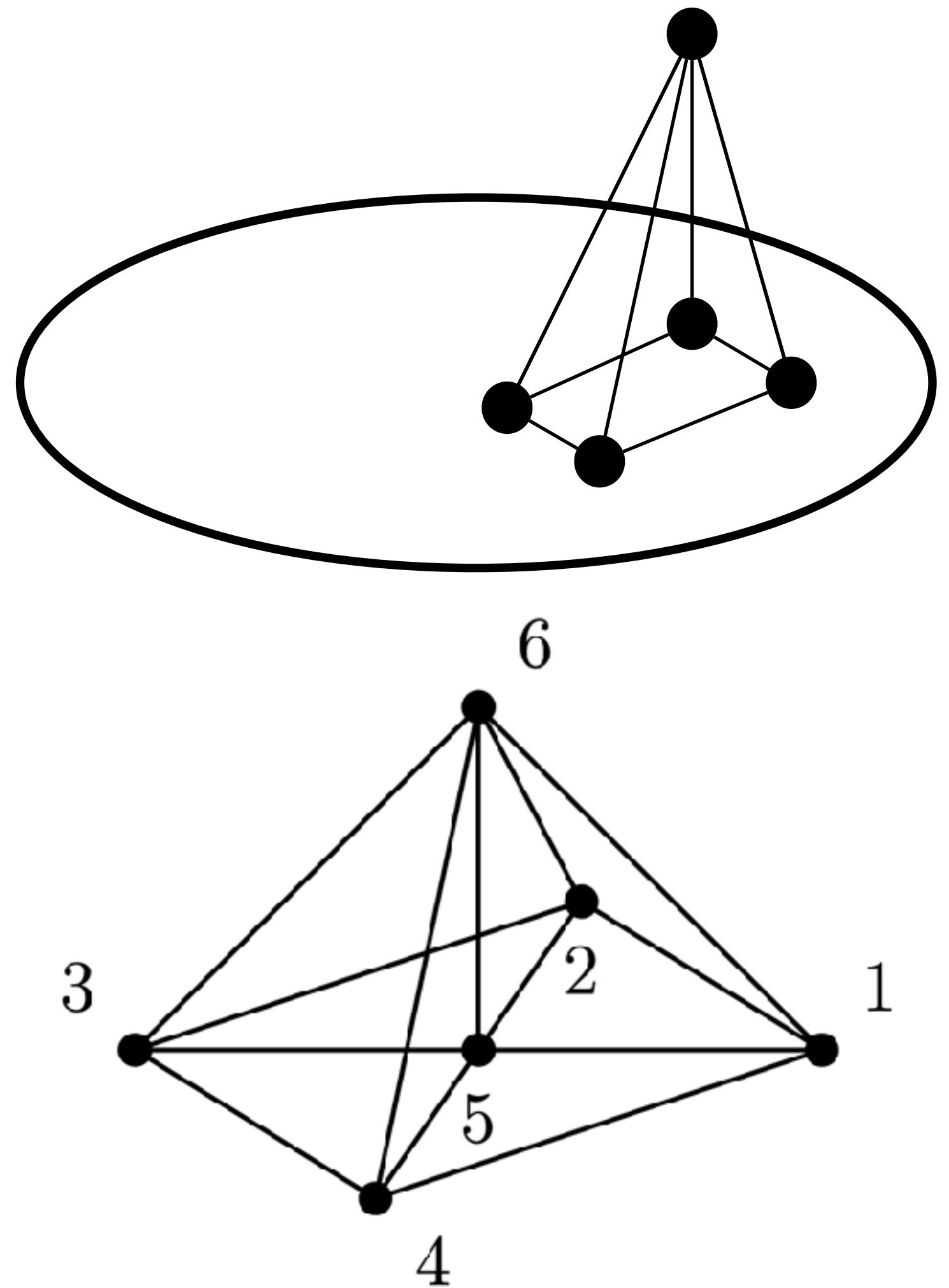
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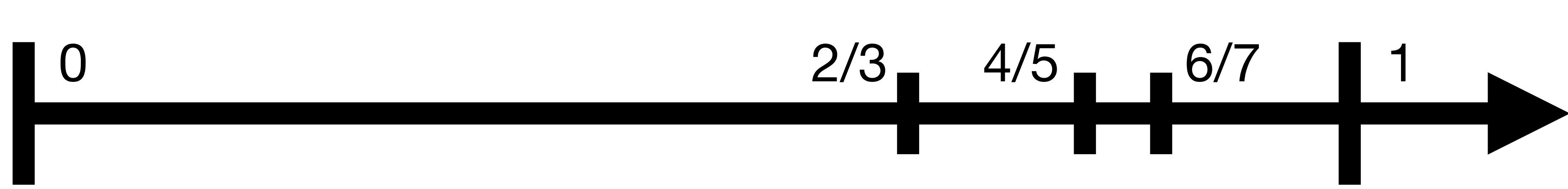
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- Generalize minimal cycle results with homological algebra
  - $1 - \beta_q(\text{link}, S^{q-1}) - \beta_q(\text{link}) \leq \beta_q(\text{new}) - \beta_q(\text{old}) \leq \beta_{q-1}(\text{link})$
- Apply graph counting result in [Garavaglia and Stegehuis 2019] on a large class of subgraphs





$-\delta/m$   
increasing  
preferential  
attachment

unbounded growth of  $\beta_1(X_T)$

unbounded growth of  $\beta_2(X_T)$

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