

On the expected number of holes in random point sets

Martin Balko, Manfred Scheucher, and Pavel Valtr

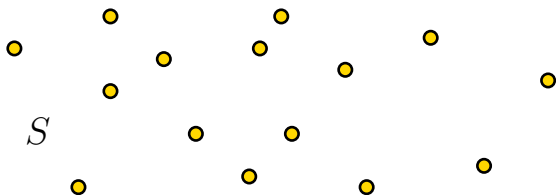


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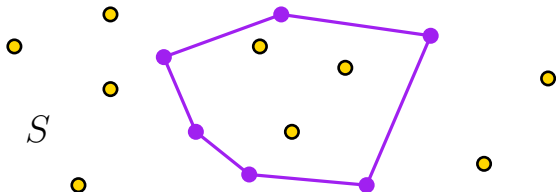
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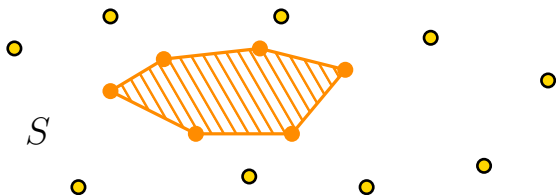
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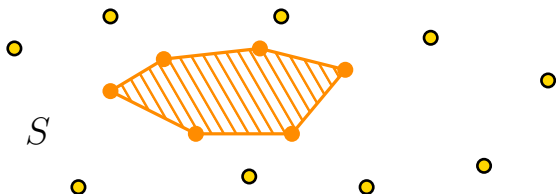


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- Every set of ≥ 3 points contains a 3-hole. Also, ≥ 5 points \rightarrow 4-hole and ≥ 10 points \rightarrow 5-hole (Harborth, 1978).

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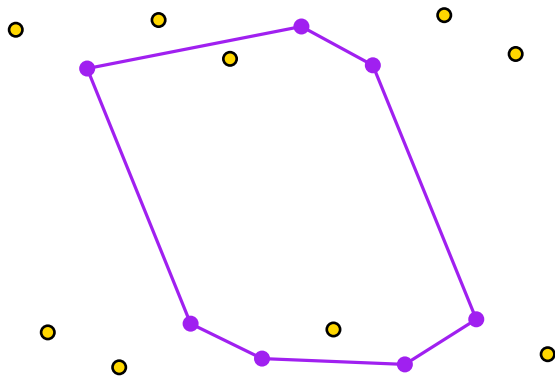
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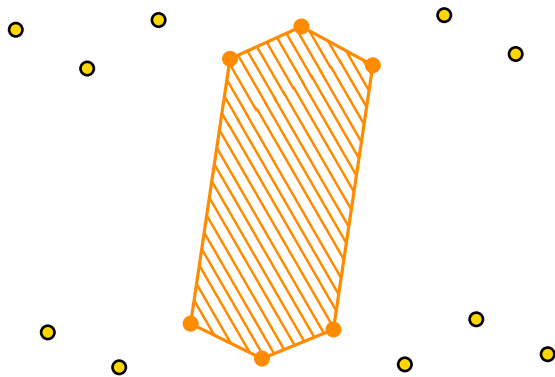
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- Every sufficiently large point set in general position contains a 6-hole (Gerken, 2008 and Nicolás, 2007).

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- Let $h_k(n)$ be the minimum number of k -holes among all sets of n points in the plane in general position.
- The following bounds are known:
 - $h_3(n)$ and $h_4(n)$ are in $\Theta(n^2)$.
 - $h_5(n)$ is in $\Omega(n \log^{4/5} n)$ and $O(n^2)$.
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- The minimum number of $(d + 1)$ -holes (empty simplices) in an n -point set in \mathbb{R}^d is in $\Theta(n^d)$ (Bárány, Füredi, 1987).

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- They also proved

$$\frac{2}{d!} \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-d} EH_{d,d+1}^K(n) \leq \frac{d}{(d+1)} \frac{\kappa_{d-1}^{d+1} \kappa_{d^2}}{\kappa_d^{d-1} \kappa_{(d-1)(d+1)}}$$

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for $d \geq 3$, where κ_d is the volume of the d -dimensional unit ball. The upper bound holds with equality if K is an ellipsoid.

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Theorem 1 (2020)

Let $d \geq 2$ and $k \geq d + 1$ be integers and let $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ be a convex body of unit volume. If $n \geq k$, then the expected number $EH_{d,k}^K(n)$ is at most

$$2^{d-1} \cdot \left(2^{d^{2d-1}} \binom{k}{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} \right)^{k-d-1} \cdot \frac{n(n-1) \cdots (n-k+2)}{(k-d-1)! \cdot (n-k+1)^{k-d-1}} \in O(n^d).$$

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Theorem 2 (2021)

For all fixed integers $d \geq 2$ and $k \geq d + 1$ and every convex body $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ of unit volume, we have $EH_{d,k}^K(n) \geq \Omega(n^d)$.

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Proof uses heavy machinery from stochastic geometry
(Blaschke–Petkantschin formula & a result by Reitzner and Temesvari)

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Corollary (2021)

For every convex body $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ of unit volume, we have

$3 \leq C_{3,4}^K \leq \frac{12\pi^2}{35} \approx 3.38$. Moreover, the left inequality is tight if K is a tetrahedron and the right inequality is tight if K is an ellipsoid.

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- We also believe that our lower bound on $C_{d,d+1}^K$ from [Theorem 3](#) is tight for simplices in any dimension d .

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Theorem 5 (2021)

For every integer $k \geq 3$, there is a constant $C = C(k)$ such that, for every convex body $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ of unit area, we have $C_{2,k}^K = C$.

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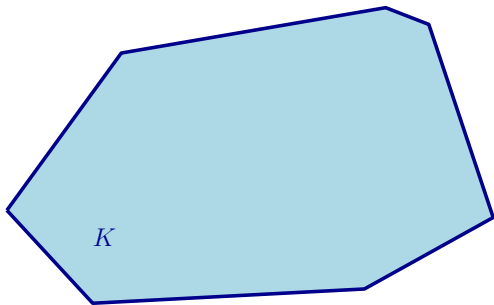
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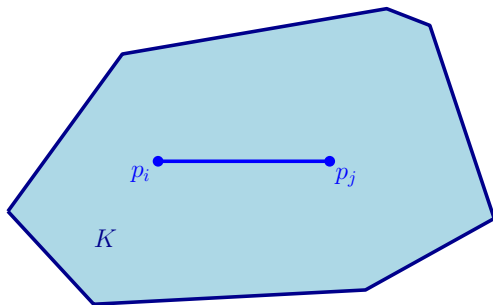
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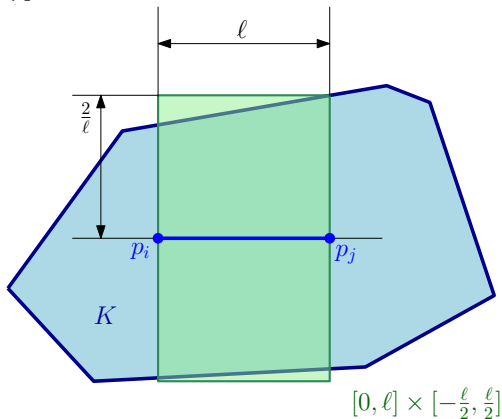
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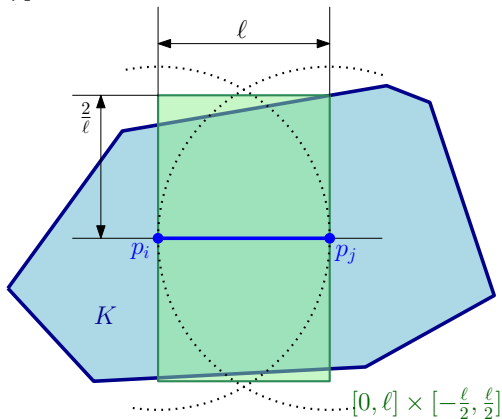
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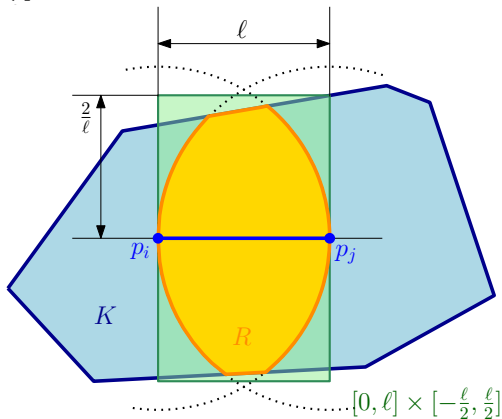
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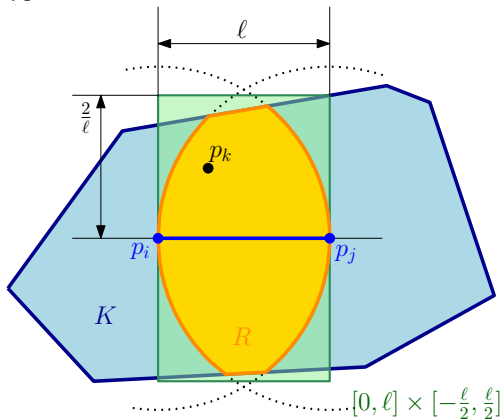
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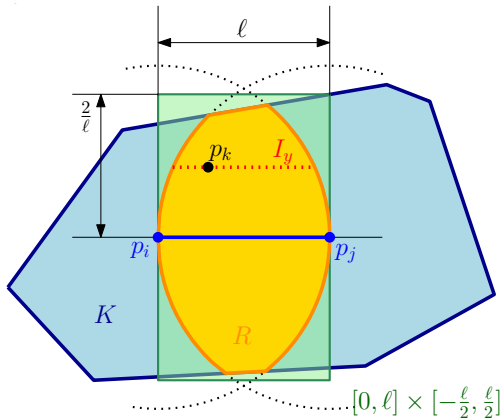
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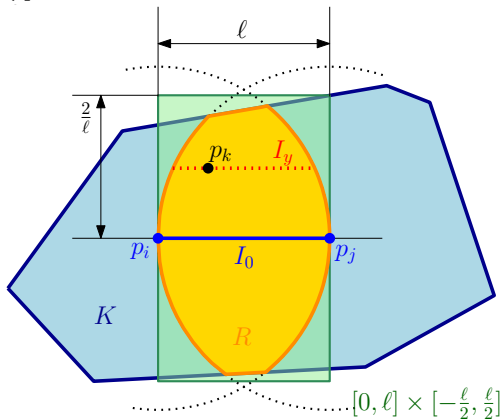
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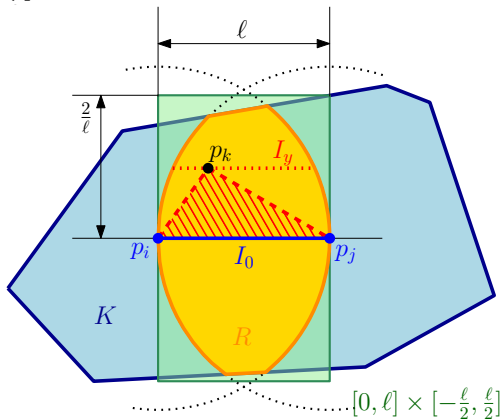
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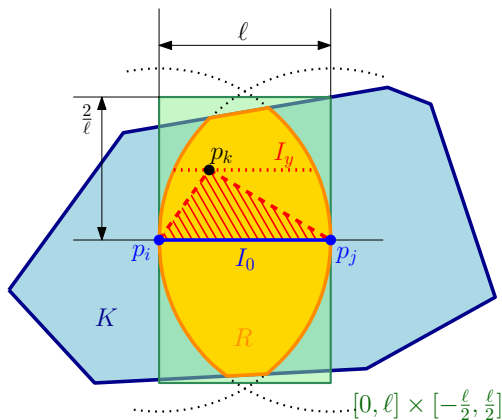
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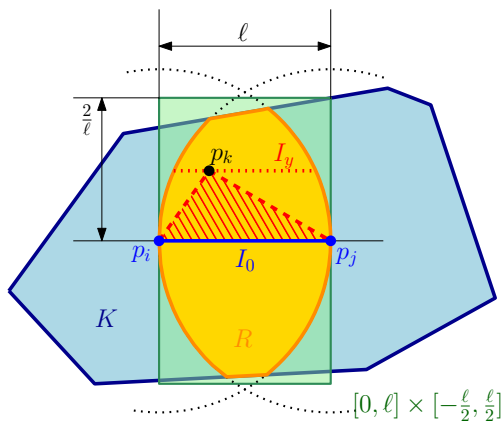


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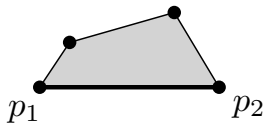
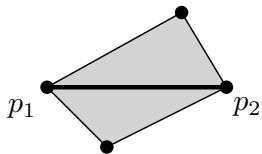
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Sketch of the proof of $C_{2,4}^K = 10 - \frac{2\pi^2}{3}$

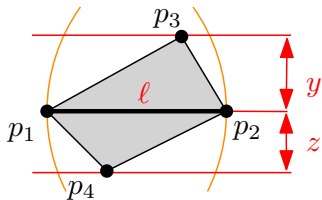
Sketch of the proof of $C_{2,4}^K = 10 - \frac{2\pi^2}{3}$

2 types of 4-holes:



Sketch of the proof of $C_{2,4}^K = 10 - \frac{2\pi^2}{3}$

type 1:



$$\int_{y=0}^{2/\ell} \int_{z=0}^{2/\ell-y} |I_y| \cdot |I_{-z}| \cdot \left(1 - \frac{\ell \cdot (y+z)}{2}\right)^{n-4} dz dy$$

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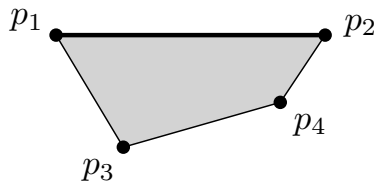
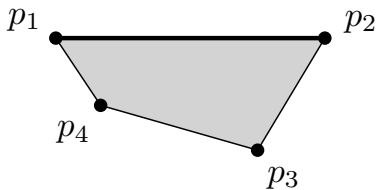
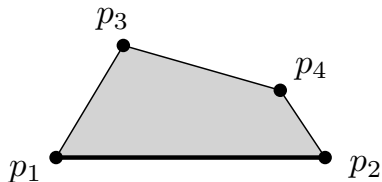
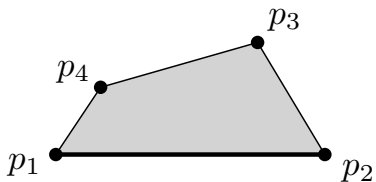
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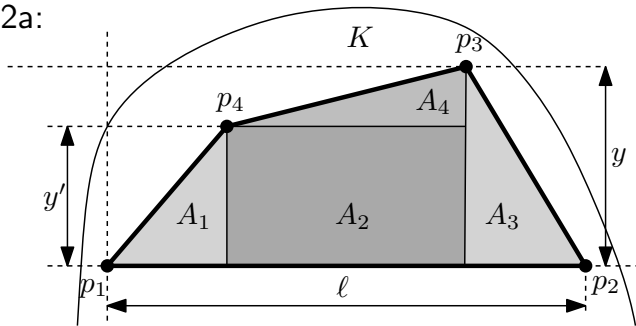
Sketch of the proof of $C_{2,4}^K = 10 - \frac{2\pi^2}{3}$

type 2: 4 symmetric subcases



Sketch of the proof of $C_{2,4}^K = 10 - \frac{2\pi^2}{3}$

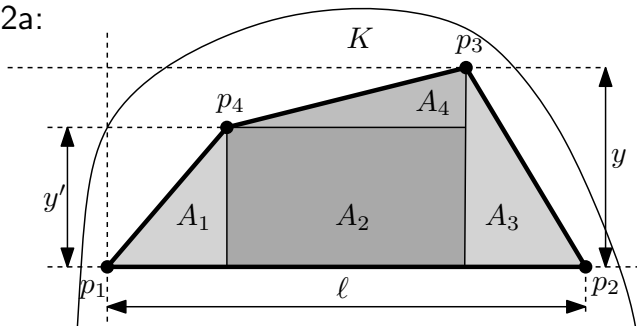
type 2a:



$$\text{area} = \frac{x'y'}{2} + (x - x')y' + \frac{(\ell - x)y}{2} + \frac{(x - x')(y - y')}{2} = \frac{(\ell - x')y + xy'}{2}.$$

Sketch of the proof of $C_{2,4}^K = 10 - \frac{2\pi^2}{3}$

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$$\int_0^{2/\ell} \int_{l(y)}^{r(y)} \int_0^y \int_{l(y')}^{xy'/y} \left(1 - \frac{(\ell-x')y + xy'}{2}\right)^{n-4} dx' dy' dx dy = \dots = 4 - \frac{\pi^2}{3}$$

Sketch of the proof of $C_{2,4}^K = 10 - \frac{2\pi^2}{3}$

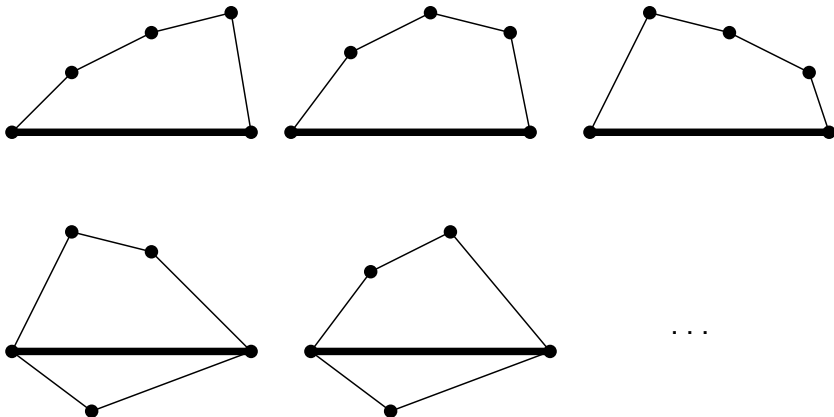
in total:

$$\left(\underbrace{4}_{\text{type 1}} + 4 \cdot \underbrace{\left(4 - \frac{\pi^2}{3}\right)}_{\text{type 2}} \right) \cdot \binom{n}{2} = \left(20 - \frac{4}{3}\pi^2\right) \cdot \binom{n}{2}$$

Sketch of the proof of $C_{2,k}^K = C(k)$

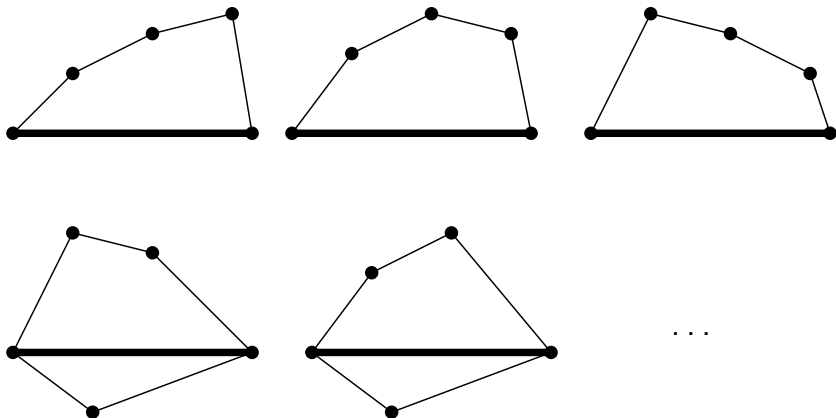
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- each type gives $c(1 + o(1))n^2$ where c does not depend on K



Thank you for your attention.

Open problems I

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- Kingman proved **exact formula for $p_d^{B^d}$** , which gives $p_d^{B^d} = d^{-\Theta(d)}$.

Open problems II

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