TOPOLOGY OF RANDOM $d$-CLIQUE COMPLEXES

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Abstract. For a simplicial complex $X$, the $d$-clique complex $\Delta_d(X)$ is the simplicial complex having all subsets of vertices whose $(d + 1)$-subsets are contained by $X$ as its faces. We prove that if $p = n^\alpha$, with $\alpha < \min\left\{\frac{1}{k-d+1}, \frac{d+1}{(d+1)(k+1)}\right\}$ or $\alpha > \frac{1}{(d+1)(k+1)}$, then the $k$-th reduced homology group of the random $d$-clique complex $\Delta_d(G_d(n, p))$ is asymptotically almost surely vanishing, and if $\frac{1}{t} < \alpha < \frac{1}{t+1}$ where $t = \left(\frac{(d+1)(k+1)}{(\alpha+1)(d+1)+1}-(k+1)^{-1}\right)$, then the $(kd + d - 1)$-st reduced homology group of $\Delta_d(G_d(n, p))$ is asymptotically almost surely nonvanishing. This provides a partial answer to a question posed by Eric Babson.

1. Introduction

One of the famous results in random graph theory establishes that $p = \frac{\log n}{n}$ is a threshold for the connectivity of Erdős and Rényi random graphs [5]. A 2-dimensional analogue of Erdős and Rényi’s result was obtained by Linial-Meshulam in [7]. Meshulam-Wallach, in [10], presented a $d$-dimensional analogue for $d \geq 3$. In particular, Linial-Meshulam-Wallach theorem yields that $p = \frac{\log n}{n}$ is the threshold for the vanishing of the $(d - 1)$-st homology of the random simplicial complex $G_d(n, p)$ with coefficients in a finite abelian group. Here, the random simplicial complex $G_d(n, p)$ is a $d$-dimensional simplicial complex on $[n]$ with a full $(d - 1)$-dimensional skeleton and with $d$-dimensional faces are chosen independently each with probability $p$.

The topology of clique complexes of random graphs has been studied in [3, 4, 11, 12, 14] and see also [13] for a survey on random simplicial complexes. The analogue $\Delta_d(X)$ has been considered in [2].

In this generalization, the $d$-clique complex $\Delta_d(X)$ of a finite simplicial complex $X$ is the simplicial complex on vertex set $V(X)$ of $X$ consisting of all the subsets $F \subseteq V(X)$ with $\binom{F}{d+1} \subseteq X$. As a matter of definition, $\Delta_d(X)$ contains $X$ and the full $(d-1)$-skeleton of the simplex with vertices $V(X)$.

The following is among the problems proposed by Eric Babson in the First Research School on Commutative Algebra and Algebraic Geometry (RSCAAG):

Problem 1.1. [2] Find thresholds for $H_k(X; \mathbb{Q})$ to vanish with $X \in \Delta_d(G_d(n, n^{-\alpha}))$.

An idea suggested by Babson for this problem is to try the techniques used for the clique complexes $\Delta_1(G_1(n, n^{-\alpha}))$ of random graphs $G_1(n, n^{-\alpha})$ and is that there may be analogues of the theorems about $\Delta_1(G_1(n, n^{-\alpha}))$ (see [2]). We provide here a partial answer to Problem 1.1. In particular, we have the following.

Theorem 1.2. If $p = n^\alpha$ then
and its boundary are denoted by $\Delta$.

For a given a subset $\mathcal{F}$ of facets $\{\sigma, \tau\}$ there is a sequence of facets $\sigma = \sigma_0, \sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_{n-1} = \tau$ such that the intersection $\sigma_i \cap \sigma_{i+1}$ of any two consecutive elements in the sequence is a codimension one face of both $\sigma_i$ and $\sigma_{i+1}$.

We note that when $d = 1$, Theorem 1.2 reduces to Corollary 3.7 in [11] with one difference: Kahle, in [11], improves the sufficient condition $\alpha > \frac{1}{2k+2}$ for vanishing homology of $\Delta_1(G_1(n,p))$ to $\alpha > \frac{1}{2k+1}$.

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Simplicial Complexes. An abstract simplicial complex $\Delta$ on a finite vertex set $V$ (or $V(\Delta)$) is a set of subsets of $V$, called faces, satisfying the following properties:

1. $\{v\} \in \Delta$ for all $v \in V$.
2. If $F \in \Delta$ and $H \subset F$, then $H \in \Delta$.

For a given a subset $U \subset V$, the complex $\Delta[U] := \{\sigma: \sigma \in \Delta \ , \ \sigma \subseteq U\}$ is called the induced subcomplex by $U$. The number of $i$-dimensional faces of a simplicial complex $\Delta$ is denoted by $f_i(\Delta)$ and the dimension of $\Delta$ by $\dim(\Delta)$. A $d$-dimensional simplex and its boundary are denoted by $\Delta_{d+1}$ and $\partial(\Delta_{d+1})$, respectively.

The join of two simplicial complexes $\Delta_0$ and $\Delta_1$ is denoted by $\Delta_0 \star \Delta_1$. An $n$-fold join $\underbrace{\Delta \star \cdots \star \Delta}_{n \text{ times}}$ and $k$-dimensional skeleton of a simplicial complex $\Delta$ will be denoted by $\Delta_{k}$ and $\Delta^{(k)}$, respectively.

A strongly connected simplicial complex is a pure simplicial complex in which for each pair of facets $(\sigma, \tau)$ there is a sequence of facets $\sigma = \sigma_0, \sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_{n-1} = \tau$ such that the intersection $\sigma_i \cap \sigma_{i+1}$ of any two consecutive elements in the sequence is a codimension one face of both $\sigma_i$ and $\sigma_{i+1}$.

We refer the reader to [10] for background on simplicial homology. For a $d$-chain $C$ of a simplicial complex $\Delta$, the set of all $d$-simplices appearing in $C$ with non-zero coefficients is called the support $\text{supp}(C)$ of $C$. We denote the simplicial complex obtained by taking the downwards closure of $\text{supp}(C)$ with respect to containment by $\Delta(\text{supp}(C))$. The vertex support $\text{vsupp}(C)$ is the vertex set of $\Delta(\text{supp}(C))$.

For any minimal representative $\gamma$ of a class in the reduced homology groups $\tilde{H}_d(\Delta; \mathbb{Z})$ of a simplicial complex $\Delta$ with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}$, the associated simplicial complex $\Delta(\text{supp}(\gamma))$ is a strongly connected $d$-dimensional subcomplex of $\Delta$.

Let $\gamma$ be a nontrivial $k$-cycle in a simplicial complex $\Delta$, with minimal vertex support. Then $\gamma \cap \text{link}_\Delta(v)$ for $v \in \text{vsupp}(\gamma)$ is defined as a $\mathbb{Z}$-linear combination of $(k-1)$-dimensional faces appearing in $\Delta(\text{supp}(\gamma)) \cap \text{link}_\Delta(v)$. See [11] for further details.
Lemma 2.1. \([1]\) If \(\gamma\) is a nontrivial \(k\)-cycle in a simplicial complex \(\Delta\), with minimal vertex support, then \(\gamma \cap \text{link}_\Delta(v)\) is a nontrivial \((k-1)\)-cycle in \(\text{link}_\Delta(v)\) for any element \(v\) in the vertex support \(\text{vsupp}(\gamma)\) of \(\gamma\).

For \(k \geq 0\), a topological space \(X\) is said to be \(k\)-connected if for every \(i \leq k\), every continuous function \(f\) from an \(i\)-dimensional sphere \(S^i\) into \(X\) is homotopic to a constant map. By convention, \((-1)\)-connected means nonempty. The connectivity \(\text{conn}(X)\) of a topological space \(X\) is the largest \(k\) for which \(X\) is \(k\)-connected.

Aharoni and Berger, in \([2]\), introduce a domination parameter \(\tilde{\gamma}(\Delta)\) of a simplicial complex \(\Delta\) on \(V\), which is defined as the minimal size of a set \(A \subseteq V\) such that \(\tilde{\sigma}_\Delta(A) = V\) where \(\tilde{\sigma}_\Delta(A) = \{v \in V : \text{there exists some face } \sigma \subseteq A \text{ such that } \sigma \cup \{v\} \notin \Delta\}\). Call a set \(A \subseteq V\) with the property that \(\tilde{\sigma}_\Delta(A) = V\) a strong dominating set of \(\Delta\). The following result which relates the connectivity \(\text{conn}(\Delta)\) of a simplicial complex \(\Delta\) to the parameter \(\tilde{\gamma}(\Delta)\) is due to Aharoni and Berger \([1]\) and see also \([3, 4]\) for the particular case where \(\Delta\) is a flag simplicial complex.

Theorem 2.2. \([1]\) Let \(\Delta\) be a simplicial complex on \(V\). Then we have \(\text{conn}(\Delta) \geq \frac{\tilde{\gamma}(\Delta)}{2} - 2\).

An event that depends on \(n\) is said to occur asymptotically almost surely (a.a.s.) if the probability of the event approaches to 1 as \(n \to \infty\).

Theorem 2.3. \([2]\) Let \(\Delta\) be a simplicial complex on \(V\). If \(\Delta\) is \(d\)-lumpless (i.e. \(\frac{|S|}{f_d(\Delta[S])} > \frac{|V|}{f_d(\Delta)}\) for every \(\emptyset \subset S \subset V\)) then \(\frac{|V|}{f_d(\Delta)}\) is a threshold for the event that \(\Delta\) is a subcomplex of \(\Delta_d(G_d(n,n^\alpha))\). If \(\Delta\) is a \(d\)-lumpless \(d\)-complex then \(\frac{|V|}{f_d(\Delta)}\) is a threshold for \(G_d(n,n^\alpha)\) to contain a copy of \(\Delta\).

(Recall that \(\alpha = a\) is called a threshold for an event if it occurs a.a.s. for \(\alpha > a\) and fails a.a.s. for \(\alpha < a\)).

3. Vanishing and Nonvanishing Homology

In this section, we discuss the topology of the random \(d\)-clique complexes \(\Delta_d(G_d(n,p))\). For comparison purposes, we keep in mind that the threshold for \(G_d(n,n^\alpha)\) to contain a copy of the \(d\)-skeleton of a \(k\)-dimensional simplex \(\Delta_k^{(d)}\) is \(-\frac{d+1}{(d+1)}\). More precisely, since the \(d\)-skeleton of a \(k\)-dimensional simplex is \(d\)-lumpless, Theorem 2.3 gives that if \(p = n^\alpha\) with \(\alpha > -\frac{d+1}{(d+1)}\) then a.a.s. \(\text{dim}(\Delta_d(G_d(n,n^\alpha))) \geq k\), and if \(\alpha < -\frac{d+1}{(d+1)}\) then a.a.s. \(\text{dim}(\Delta_d(G_d(n,n^\alpha))) < k\).

Lemma 3.1. If \(p = \left(\frac{m \log n + \omega(n)}{n}\right)^{\frac{1}{d+1}}\) and \(\omega(n) \to \infty\) then a.a.s. \(\tilde{\gamma}(\Delta_d(G_d(n,p))) \geq m+1\).

Proof. Let \(X\) be the number of strong dominating sets of \(\Delta_d(G_d(n,p))\) with cardinality \(m\). For any fixed \(m\)-subset \(D\) of \([n]\), a vertex \(v \in [n]\) is contained by the set \(\tilde{\sigma}_{\Delta_d(G_d(n,p))}(D)\) if and only if there exists some \((d-1)\)-dimensional face \(\sigma \subseteq D\) of \(\Delta_d(G_d(n,p))\) such that \(\sigma \cup \{v\}\) is a minimal non-face of \(\Delta_d(G_d(n,p))\). It thus follows that the probability that \(v\) is contained by \(\tilde{\sigma}_{\Delta_d(G_d(n,p))}(D)\) is \(1 - \binom{m}{d} (\frac{m}{n})^d\) or \(1 - \binom{m}{d}\) according to the condition that
v is contained by D or not. Hence, the probability that D is a strong dominating set of \( \Delta_d(G_d(n, p)) \) is at most \( (1 - p^{(m)})^n \). Therefore, for the expectation \( \mathbb{E}(X) \) of X, we have

\[
\mathbb{E}(X) \leq \binom{n}{m}(1 - p^{(m)})^n
\]

\[
= n^m e^{-p(n)}
\]

\[
= n^m e^{-m \log n - \omega(n)}
\]

\[
e^{-\omega(n)} = o(1),
\]

since \( \omega(n) \to \infty \). Thus, \( X = 0 \) a.a.s. and so a.a.s. \( \bar{\gamma}(\Delta_d(G_d(n, p))) \geq m + 1. \)

Theorem 3.2. If \( p = \left( \frac{(2k+2)\log n + \omega(n)}{n} \right) \left( \frac{1}{d} \right) \) and \( \omega(n) \to \infty \) then a.a.s. the simplicial complex \( \Delta_d(G_d(n, p)) \) is \( k \)-connected.

Proof. Lemma 3.1 taken together with Lemma 2.2 gives \( \text{conn}(\Delta_d(G_d(n, p))) \geq k - \frac{1}{2} \).

Remark 3.3. We note that Theorem 3.2 reduces to Corollary 3.3 in [11] when \( d = 1 \).

Lemma 3.4. If \( \gamma \) is a nontrivial \( k \)-cycle in the \( d \)-clique complex \( \Delta_d(\Gamma) \) of a simplicial complex \( \Gamma \), then \( f_{d-1}(\Delta_d(\Gamma)(\text{supp}(\gamma))) \geq (d + 1)(k - d + 1) + d + 1 \) holds.

Proof. Let \( \gamma \) be a nontrivial \( k \)-cycle in \( \Delta_d(\Gamma) \) with minimal vertex support. The assertion is true in the case \( k = d - 1 \). Indeed, if \( \sigma \) is a \( (d - 1) \)-dimensional face in the support of \( \gamma \), then each \( (d - 2) \)-dimensional face of \( \sigma \) must be contained by a distinct \( (d - 1) \)-dimensional face different from \( \sigma \) in the support of \( \gamma \), since otherwise the coefficient of \( \sigma \) would be 0 in \( \gamma \).

We assume now that \( k \geq d \) and apply induction. Suppose to the contrary that \( f_{d-1}(\Delta_d(\Gamma)(\text{supp}(\gamma))) \leq (d + 1)(k - d + 1) + d \) holds. If \( v \in \text{vsupp}(\gamma) \) then \( \gamma \cap \text{link}(v) \) is a nontrivial \( (k - 1) \)-cycle in \( \text{link}(v) \) by Lemma 2.1. It follows by induction hypothesis that \( f_{d-1}(\Delta_d(\text{link}(v))(\text{supp}(\gamma \cap \text{link}(v)))) \geq (d + 1)(k - d + d + 1) \). We note that the number of \( (d - 1) \)-dimensional faces in \( \Delta_d(\Gamma)(\text{supp}(\gamma)) \) belonging to \( \text{star}(v) \) but not to \( \text{link}(v) \) is at least \( \binom{k}{d-1} \). Note then that we must have \( d = 1 \) or \( k = d \) so that \( f_{d-1}(\Delta_d(\text{link}(v))(\text{supp}(\gamma \cap \text{link}(v)))) = (d + 1)(k - d + d + 1) \) and \( f_{d-1}(\Delta_d(\Gamma)(\text{supp}(\gamma))) = (d + 1)(k - d) + 2d + 1 \) hold. If \( d = 1 \), then \( \Delta_d(\Gamma)(\text{supp}(\gamma)) \) is a \( 2 \)-dimensional simplex, a contradiction (see [11] for details). If \( d = k \), then \( f_{d-1}(\Delta_d(\text{link}(v))(\text{supp}(\gamma \cap \text{link}(v)))) = d + 1 \) and \( f_{d-1}(\Delta_d(\Gamma)(\text{supp}(\gamma))) = 2d + 1 \) hold, which is impossible. This completes the proof.

Remark 3.5. We note that, in the case of a flag simplicial complex \( \Delta \), Lemma 3.4 reduces to the well-known fact that any representative of a class in \( \tilde{H}_k(\Delta; \mathbb{Z}) \) is supported on at least \( 2k + 2 \) vertices. See Lemma 5.3 in [11].

Lemma 3.6. If \( \alpha < \frac{1}{(d)^{N}} \) and \( 0 < \frac{k}{(d)^{N}} < \frac{1}{(d)^{N}} - \alpha \), then the vertex support of any strongly connected \( k \)-dimensional subcomplex of the \( d \)-clique complex \( \Delta_d(G_d(n, p)) \) of \( G_d(n, p) \) a.a.s. has at most \( N + k \) vertices, where \( p = n^\alpha \).
Proof. Let \( \Delta \) be a strongly connected \( k \)-dimensional subcomplex of \( \Delta_d(G_d(n, p)) \). Let the vertices of \( \Delta \) are ordered as \( v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n \) so that the first \( k+1 \) vertices \( v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_{k+1} \) forms a \( k \)-face and for any other vertex \( v \) there is at least \( k \) vertices \( v_j \) such that \( \{v_i, v_j\} \in \Delta \) where \( j < i \) (See [11] for more details). With this ordering, suppose to the contrary that \( \Delta \) has \( N + k + 1 \) vertices (Here \( k + 1 \) is the number of vertices in a \( k \)-dimensional face and \( N \) is the number of vertices get added in total). It then follows that the number of \( d \)-dimensional faces in \( \Delta \) is at least \( \binom{k+1}{d+1} + \binom{k}{d} N \). Since the \( d \)-skeleton of any subcomplex of \( \Delta_d(G_d(n, p)) \) is also a subcomplex of \( G_d(n, p) \), we have

\[
\mathbb{P}(C_\Delta) \leq (N + k + 1)! \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ N + k + 1 \end{array} \right) p^{\binom{k+1}{d+1} + \binom{k}{d}}
\]

for the total probability, where \( C_\Delta \) denotes the event that \( \Delta_d(G_d(n, p)) \) contains a simplicial complex isomorphic to \( \Delta \). By the assumption \( 0 < \frac{k}{(d+1)n} < \frac{1}{(d+1)} - \alpha \), we can choose \( N \) and \( \epsilon \) such that \( \frac{k}{(d+1)n} < \epsilon < \frac{1}{(d+1)} - \alpha \) holds. It then follows that \( p = n^\alpha < n^{-\frac{k}{(d+1)+\epsilon}} \) and \( k < \binom{k}{d} N \epsilon \). We therefore get that

\[
\mathbb{P}(C_\Delta) \leq (N + k + 1)! \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ N + k + 1 \end{array} \right) n^{\alpha(\binom{k+1}{d+1} + \binom{k}{d})}
\]

\[
\leq (N + k + 1)! \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ N + k + 1 \end{array} \right) n^{-\epsilon(\binom{k+1}{d+1} + \binom{k}{d})}
\]

\[
\leq n^{N+k+1} - \frac{1}{(d+1)n} \binom{k+1}{d+1} + n^{-\epsilon(\binom{k+1}{d+1} + \binom{k}{d})}
\]

\[
\leq n^{k+1} - \frac{1}{(d+1)n} \epsilon \binom{k+1}{d+1} - n^{-\epsilon(\binom{k+1}{d+1} + \binom{k}{d})}
\]

\[
< n^{1-\frac{k+1}{d+1}} \epsilon \binom{k+1}{d+1} - n^{-\epsilon(\binom{k+1}{d+1} + \binom{k}{d})}
\]

\[
\leq n^{-\epsilon}
\]

\[
= O(n^{-\epsilon}) = o(1)
\]

since \( k \geq d \). This, taken together with the facts that the number of non-isomorphic strongly connected \( k \)-dimensional simplicial complexes on \( N + k + 1 \) vertices is finite and any strongly connected \( k \)-dimensional simplicial complex on more than \( N + k + 1 \) vertices contains a strongly connected \( k \)-dimensional simplicial complex on \( N + k + 1 \), implies that asymptotically almost surely the vertex support of every strongly connected \( k \)-dimensional subcomplex of the \( d \)-clique complex \( \Delta_d(G_d(n, p)) \) of \( G_d(n, p) \) has at most \( N + k \) vertices. This completes the proof. \( \square \)

**Theorem 3.7.** If \( p = n^\alpha \) with \( \alpha < \frac{1}{k-d+1} \) then a.a.s. \( \tilde{H}_k(\Delta_d(G_d(n, p)), \mathbb{Z}) = 0 \) holds.

Proof. Let \( \gamma \) be a nontrivial \( k \)-cycle in \( \Delta_d(G_d(n, p)) \) with minimal vertex support. Then \( \gamma \cap \text{link}(v) \) is a nontrivial \((k-1)\)-cycle in \( \text{link}(v) \) for any \( v \in \text{vsupp}(\gamma) \) by Lemma 2.1.
Therefore, we have that $f_{d-1}(\Delta_d(\text{link}(v))(\text{supp}(\gamma \cap \text{link}(v)))) \geq (d+1)(k-d) + d + 1$ for any $v \in \text{vsupp}(\gamma)$.

Consider an arbitrary simplicial complex $\Delta$ on $m$ vertices in which the number of $(d-1)$-dimensional faces in $\text{link}(v)$ for any vertex $v \in V(\Delta)$ is at least $(d+1)(k-d) + d + 1$. Note then that the number of $d$-dimensional faces $f_d(\Delta)$ of $\Delta$ is at least

$$m\left(\frac{(d+1)(k-d+1)}{m}\right) = m(k-d+1).$$

It then follows that the probability that $\Delta$ is a subcomplex of $\Delta_d(G_d(n, p))$ is at most

$$m! \left(\begin{array}{c} n \\ m \end{array}\right) p^{m(k-d+1)} \leq n^m n^{(k-d+1)} = n^{m(1+\alpha(k-d+1))} \leq o(1),$$

since $\alpha(k-d+1) < -1$. Note that $\frac{1}{k-d+1} \leq \frac{(k-d+1)}{n}$ whenever $d \leq k$. We therefore have a.a.s. no $k$-dimensional cycles on more than $N + k + 1$ vertices by Lemma 3.6. We also note that the number of non-isomorphic simplicial complexes $\Delta$ on $N + k$ vertices in which the number of $(d-1)$-dimensional faces in $\text{link}(v)$ for any vertex $v \in V(\Delta)$ is at least $(d+1)(k-d+1)$ is finite. It thus follows that there are asymptotically almost surely no vertex minimal nontrivial $k$-dimensional cycles in the $d$-clique complex $\Delta_d(G_d(n, p))$ and so a.a.s. $\tilde{H}_k(\Delta_d(G_d(n, p)), \mathbb{Z}) = 0$ holds.

**Remark 3.8.** Lemma 3.4, Lemma 3.6, Theorem 3.7 generalize Lemma 5.3, Lemma 5.1, Theorem 3.6 in [11], respectively.

Lemma 3.9 provides us with an example of a lumpless simplicial complex.

**Lemma 3.9.** For $d, k \geq 1$, the $d$-skeleton of the $(k+1)$-fold join $K := *_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1})$ of boundaries of $d$-dimensional simplexes is $d$-lumpless, i.e. $\frac{f_0(K_d^{(d)}[S])}{f_d(K_d^{(d)}[S])} > \frac{f_0(K_d^{(d)})}{f_d(K_d^{(d)})}$ for every subset $\emptyset \neq S \subset V(K)$.

**Proof.** Suppose that $S$ is a non-empty subset of the vertex set $V(K)$ of $K$. The claim is obviously true if $|S| = 1$. Assume now that $2 \leq |S| = (d+1)(k+1) - n$, where $k+1 > n \geq 1$. Clearly, we have

$$\frac{f_0(K_d^{(d)}[S])}{f_d(K_d^{(d)}[S])} \geq \frac{(d+1)(k+1) - n}{(d+1)(k+1) - n - (k+1-n)}.$$

Thus we need only show that

$$\frac{(d+1)(k+1) - n}{(d+1)(k+1) - n - (k+1-n)} > \frac{f_0(K_d^{(d)})}{f_d(K_d^{(d)})}.$$
holds. Note that
\[
\frac{(d+1)(k+1) - n}{(d+1)(k+1) - n - (k+1 - n)} = \frac{(d+1)!}{(dk + d + k - n)(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1) - d! + \frac{ndd!}{(d+1)(k+1)-n}}
\]

\[
\geq \frac{(d+1)!}{(dk + d + k - n)(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1) - d! + \frac{ndd!}{(d+1)(k+1)-n}}
\]

This last line holds, since \((d+1)(k+1) - n \geq 2\) by our assumption on \(S\). We then have that
\[
\frac{(d+1)!}{(dk + d + k - n)(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1) - d! + \frac{ndd!}{(d+1)(k+1)-n}}
\]

For the expression
\[
(dk + d + k - n)(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1)
\]
in the denominator, we have
\[
(dk + d + k - n)(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1) = (dk + d + k)(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1)
\]
\[
- n(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1).
\]

Consider now the expression \(-n(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1)\). Note that there are \(d-1\) factors in the product \((dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1)\) and the occurrence of an \(i\)th factor in the product \((dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1)\) yields that \(d \geq i + 1\).

We next rewrite the expression
\[
-n(dk + d + k - n - 1)(dk + d + k - n - 2)
\]
\[
(dk + d + k - n - 3) \ldots (dk + d + k - n - (d - 1))
\]
as
\[
- n \binom{(d+1)}{2} - (d+1)(d+k-n-2)
\]
\[
= \binom{(d+1)}{3} - (d+1)(d+k-n-2) \ldots \binom{(d+1)}{3} + (d+k-n-2).
\]

Clearly, it contains the term \(\binom{(d+1)}{2}\) and the expression \(d+k-n-2\) is contained by every factor in the product. If \(d \geq 2\) then \(dk + k - n - 2 \geq 0\) holds and thus we have
\[
\frac{(d+1)!}{(dk + d + k - n)(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1) - d! + \frac{n(d+1)!}{2}}
\]
\[
\geq \frac{(d+1)!}{(dk + d + k)(dk + d + k - n - 1) \ldots (dk + k - n + 1) - d!}.
\]
Since

\[
\frac{(d+1)!}{(dk+d+k)(dk+d+k-n-1) \ldots (dk+k-n+1) - d!} > \frac{(d+1)!}{(dk+d+k)(dk+d+k-1) \ldots (dk+k+1) - d!},
\]

it follows that

\[
\frac{(d+1)!}{(dk+d+k-n)(dk+d+k-n-1) \ldots (dk+k-n+1) - d! + \frac{n(d+1)!}{2}} > \frac{(d+1)!}{(dk+d+k)(dk+d+k-1) \ldots (dk+k+1) - d!}.
\]

\[
\frac{f_0(K^{(d)})}{f_d(K^{(d)})}.
\]

If \(d = 1\), then we obviously have that

\[
\frac{2}{2k+1-n-1+n} = \frac{f_0(K^{(1)})}{f_1(K^{(1)})}.
\]

Suppose now that \(2 \leq |S| = (d+1)(k+1) - n\), where \(n \geq k+1\). Then

\[
\frac{f_0(K^{(d)}[S])}{f_d(K^{(d)}[S])} \geq \frac{(d+1)(k+1) - n}{\binom{(d+1)(k+1)-n}{d+1}}.
\]

holds. We have that

\[
\frac{(d+1)(k+1) - n}{\binom{(d+1)(k+1)-n}{d+1}} = \frac{(d+1)!}{(dk+d+k-n)(dk+d+k-n-1) \ldots (dk+d+k-d-n+1) - d! + d!}.
\]

It then follows that

\[
\frac{(d+1)(k+1) - n}{\binom{(d+1)(k+1)-n}{d+1}} \geq \frac{(d+1)!}{(dk+d-1)(dk+d-2) \ldots (dk+d-d) - d! + d!}.
\]

since \(n \geq k+1\). The expression \((dk+d-1)(dk+d-2) \ldots (dk+d-d)\) is equal to \((dk+d)(dk+d-2) \ldots (dk+d-d) - (dk+d-2)(dk+d-3) \ldots (dk+d-d)\). Note that the expression

\[
- (dk+\underbrace{d-2}) (dk+\underbrace{(d-1)-2}) (dk+\underbrace{(d-2)-2}) \ldots (dk+\underbrace{(2)-2})
\]
contains the term \(-(d!)\) and \(dk - 2 \geq 0\) whenever \(d \geq 2\). We therefore get that
\[
\frac{(d + 1)(k + 1) - n}{(d+1)(k+1)-n}
\geq \frac{(d + 1)!}{(dk + d - 1)(dk + d - 2)\ldots (dk + d - d) - d! + d!}
\geq \frac{(d + 1)!}{(dk + d)(dk + d - 2)(dk + d - 3)\ldots (dk + d - d) - d!}
> \frac{(d + 1)!}{(dk + d)(dk + d - 2)(dk + d - 3 + (k + 1))(dk + d - 3 + (k + 1))\ldots (dk + (k + 1)) - d!}
= \frac{f_0(K^{(d)})}{f_d(K^{(d)})}.
\]
This completes the proof.

\[\square\]

**Remark 3.10.** Recall that a \(k\)-dimensional octahedral sphere is a \((k + 1)\)-fold join of two isolated points. It is well-known in random graph theory that the \(1\)-skeleton of a \(k\)-dimensional octahedral sphere is a strictly balanced graph and \(n^{-\frac{1}{k}}\) is a sharp threshold function for the random graph \(G_1(n, p)\) to contain the \(1\)-skeleton of a \(k\)-dimensional octahedral sphere. We remark that Lemma 3.9 taken together with Theorem 2.3 reduces to this fact when \(d = 1\).

It was shown by Kahle that if \(p^k n \to \infty\) and \(p^{k+1} n \to 0\) as \(n \to \infty\) then \(\Delta_1(G_1(n, p))\) a.a.s. retracts onto a sphere \(S^k\) and so \(\Delta_1(G_1(n, p))\) a.a.s. has nonvanishing integer \(k\)-th homology (see Theorem 3.5. in [11]). We generalize this argument by Theorem 1.2 (ii) so that it applies to the random \(d\)-clique complexes:

**The proof of Theorem 1.2.** Claim (i) is immediate from Theorem 3.2 and Theorem 3.7 by taking into account the threshold for the dimension of the random \(d\)-clique complex \(\Delta_d(G_d(n, n^\alpha))\). To prove (ii), consider the \((k + 1)\)-fold join \(K := \ast_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1})\) of boundaries of \(d\)-dimensional simplexes. Recall that \(n^{-\frac{f_0(K^{(d)})}{f_d(K^{(d)})}} = \frac{n^{-\frac{(d+1)(k+1)-1}{(d+1)(k+1)-1}}}{\ast_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1})\ast_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1})}\) is a threshold function for \(G_d(n, p)\) containing the \(d\)-skeleton of the complex \(K\) as a subcomplex by Lemma 2.3 together with Lemma 3.9 i.e. if \(\alpha > \frac{f_0(K^{(d)})}{f_d(K^{(d)})}\) then \(G_d(n, p)\) a.a.s. contains the \(d\)-skeleton of \(K = \ast_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1})\) as a subcomplex, and if \(\alpha < \frac{f_0(K^{(d)})}{f_d(K^{(d)})}\) then \(G_d(n, p)\) a.a.s. does not contain \(K = \ast_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1})\). By the assumption \(\alpha > \frac{1}{k}\), we conclude that \(G_d(n, p)\) a.a.s. contains the \(d\)-skeleton of \(K = \ast_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1})\). Let us choose \((d - 1)\)-dimensional face \(F_m\) from each of the factor \(\partial(\Delta^m_{d+1})\) of the \((k + 1)\)-fold join \(K = \ast_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1})\), where \(1 \leq m \leq k + 1\). Set
\[
\mathcal{A} = \{F_m: 1 \leq m \leq k + 1\},
\]
\[
S_{\mathcal{A}} = \bigcup_{m \in [1, k+1]} F_m
\]
and

\[ \mathcal{N}(A) := \{ x \in \Delta_d(G_d(n,p)) : F \cup \{ x \} \in \Delta_d(G_d(n,p)) \} \text{ for each } d - \text{subset } F \subseteq S_A. \]

It then follows that the conditional probability that \( \mathcal{N}(A) \neq \emptyset \) for \( A \) is no more than

\[
p^{\binom{(k+1)d}{d}}(n - (k + 1)(d + 1)) + p(k + 1) \leq p^{k+1}(n - (k + 1)(d + 1)) + p(k + 1) = o(1).
\]

So a.a.s. \( G_d(n,p) \) contains the \( d \)-skeleton of \( K = \ast_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1}) \) in which \( \mathcal{N}(A) = \emptyset \). Note that in this case this subcomplex is indeed an induced subcomplex of \( G_d(n,p) \), since we must have that \( \{ x_{d+1}^m \} \cup F_m \notin G_d(n,p) \) for any choice of \( m \), where \( x_{d+1}^m \in V(\Delta_{d+1}) \setminus F_m \) and \( F_m \in \mathcal{A} \). Note also that \( \Delta_d(K) \) is a subcomplex of \( \Delta_d(G_d(n,p)) \) and \( \Delta_d(K) \) is homeomorphic to \( S^{(k+1)d-1} \).

**Remark 3.11.** In the proof of Theorem 3.2 (ii), we have used the inequality \( t + 1 \leq \binom{(d+1)(k+1)-1}{d} \). To observe this, it is enough to see that \( \binom{(d+1)(k+1)-1}{d} + d - (d + 1) \binom{(k+1)d}{d} \leq 0 \).

Let \( K := \ast_k \partial(\Delta_{d+1}) \) be the \( (k+1) \)-fold join of boundaries of \( d \)-dimensional simplexes and let \( \{ F_{mi} : 1 \leq i \leq d + 1 \} \) denote the set of all \( (d-1) \)-dimensional faces in the factor \( \partial(\Delta_{d+1}) \) of the \( (k+1) \)-fold join \( K \), where \( 1 \leq m \leq k + 1 \). Set \( X_i = F_{i1} \cup \bigcup_{k=2}^{d} F_{li} \) with \( 1 \leq i \leq d + 1 \). Let \( K' \) denote the subcomplex of \( K \) obtained by removing the vertex \( x \) from \( \partial(\Delta_{d+1}) \) with \( x \notin F_{11} \). Note that \( \binom{(d+1)d}{d} \) counts the number of \( (d-1) \)-dimensional faces in each \( X_i \) and thus \( (d+1) \binom{(k+1)d}{d} \) counts the number of \( (d-1) \)-dimensional faces in \( K' \) with some repetitions in particular the face \( F_{11} \) is repeated \( (d+1) \) times. On the other hand, \( \binom{(d+1)(k+1)-1}{d} \) counts the number of \( (d-1) \)-dimensional faces in \( K' \). We therefore have that \( \binom{(d+1)(k+1)-1}{d} \leq (d+1) \binom{(k+1)d}{d} - d \).

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