

The Overlap Gap Property in Inference: A Short Survey.

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Simons workshop

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Introduction

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Can **geometrical phase transitions** explain these gaps?

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Set $\mathcal{T}_\epsilon = \{\langle \beta, \beta' \rangle : H(\beta), H(\beta') \leq (1 + \epsilon) \min_{\beta \in \Sigma} H(\beta)\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

Algorithmically easy if and only if \mathcal{T}_ϵ is an “interval”.

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- (Gamarnik, Jagannath, Wein '20) MIS, (Bresler, Huang '21) k-SAT.
- OGP implies failure of stable (low-degree) algorithms.

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- (1) *Definition and overview*
- (2) Two case-studies:
 - ▶ *sparse regression*
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- *Sparse Linear Regression* [Gamarnik, **Z** '17a, '17b]
- *Planted Clique* [Gamarnik, **Z** '19].
- *Sparse PCA* [Gamarnik, Jagannath, Sen'19], [Ben Arous, Wein, **Z**'20]
- *Tensor PCA* [Ben Arous, Gheissari, Jagannath '18]
- *Group Testing* [Iliopoulos, **Z** '21]

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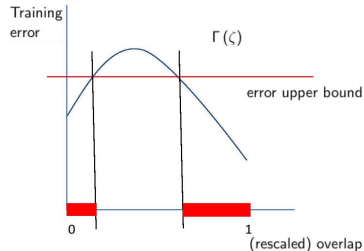
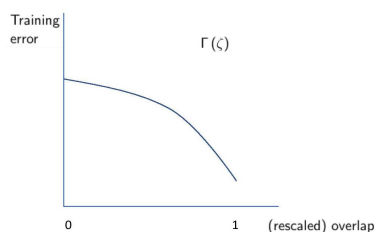
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Lemma: OGP if and only if Γ is non-monotonic.



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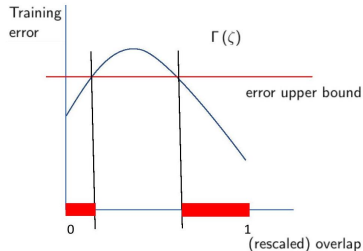
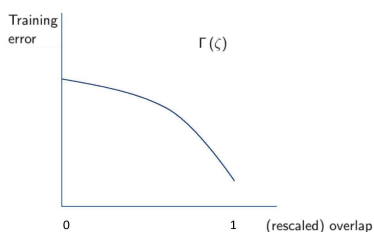
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- **1st MM:** lower bound on Γ . **2nd MM:** upper bound on Γ .

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The Sparse Regression Model

Setup

Let $\beta^* \in \{0, 1\}^p$ be a **binary** k -**sparse** vector (regime $k = o(p)$.)

For

- $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ consisting of i.i.d $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ entries
- $W \in \mathbb{R}^n$ consisting of i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ entries

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Goal: Statistical and Computational Limit

Minimum $n = n_p$: given (Y, X) recover β^* w.h.p. as $p \rightarrow +\infty$.

Computational-Statistical Gap

Under $k/\sigma^2 = \omega(1)$:



$$n^* = \frac{2k \log \frac{p}{k}}{\log(k/\sigma^2 + 1)}, n_{\text{alg}} = 2k \log \frac{p}{k}.$$

Computational-Statistical Gap

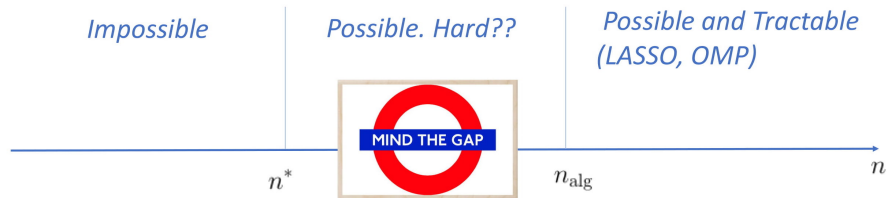
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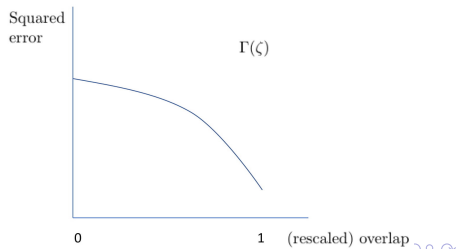
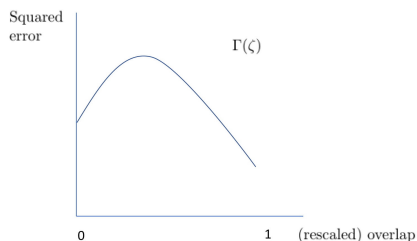
OGP via likelihood loss function

$$\min_{\beta \in \{0,1\}^p, \|\beta\|_0 = k} n^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|Y - X\beta\|_2$$

The OGP for Regression — Phase Transition

For $\zeta \in [0, 1]$,

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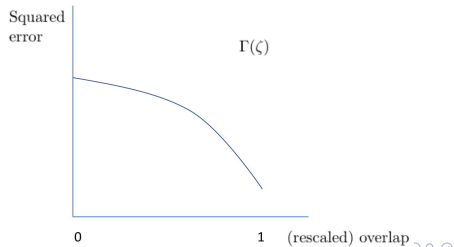
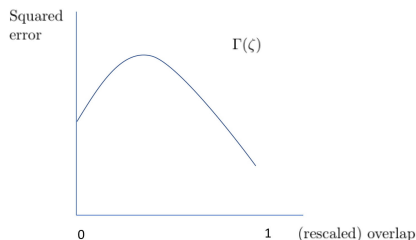
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Theorem (Gamarnik, Z '17)

Suppose $k \leq \exp(\sqrt{\log p})$. There exists $C > 1 > c > 0$ such that,

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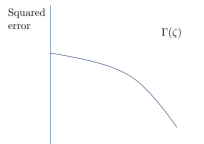
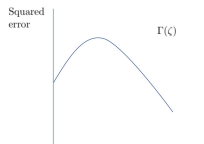
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OGP coincides with the failure of **convex relaxation** and **compressed sensing** methods!



The Planted Clique Model

The Planted Clique Model [Jerrum '92], [Kučera '95]

Generating Assumptions for $G(n, 1/2, k)$:

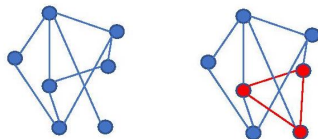
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$n = 7, k = 3$, \mathcal{G}_0 (left) and \mathcal{G} (right) :



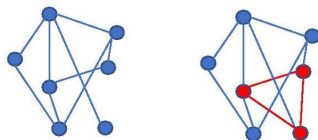
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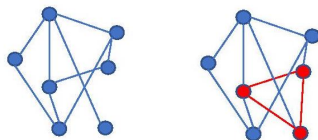
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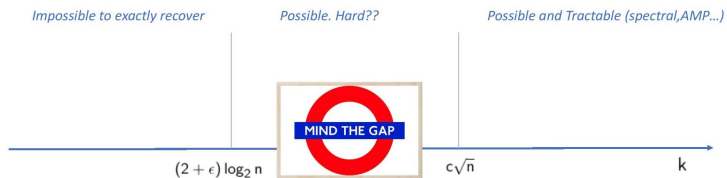
Goal: Recover \mathcal{PC} from observing $\mathcal{G} \sim G(n, 1/2, k)$.

Question: For how small $k = k_n$ can we recover?

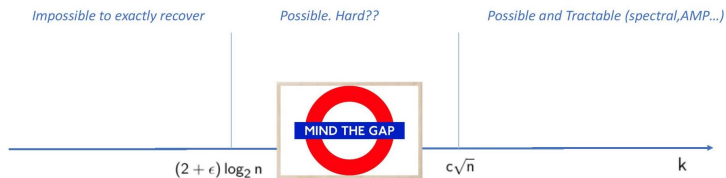
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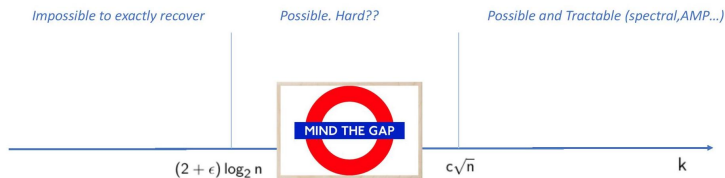


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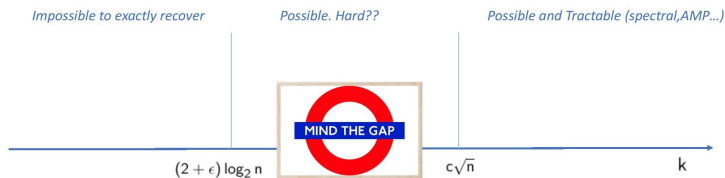
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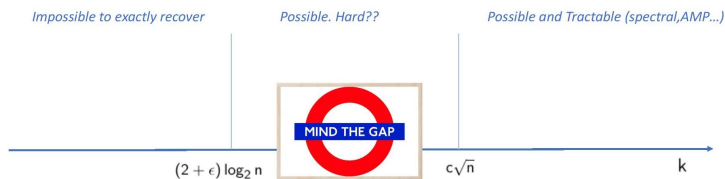
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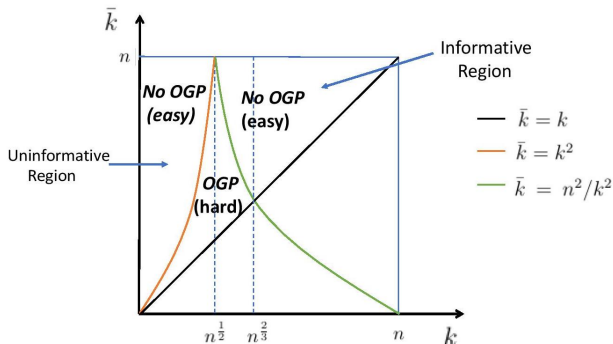
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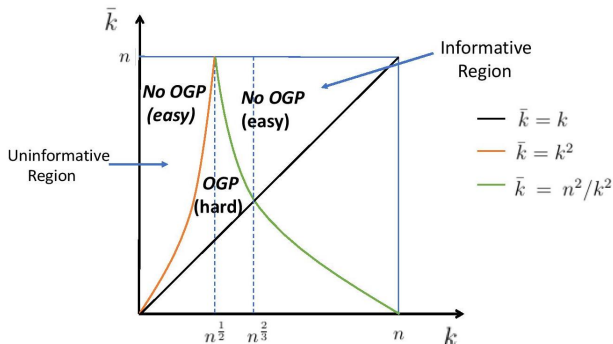
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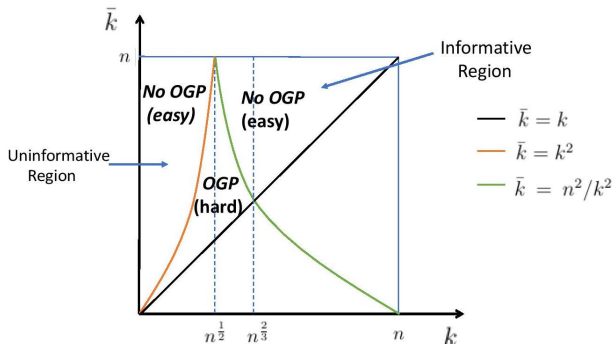
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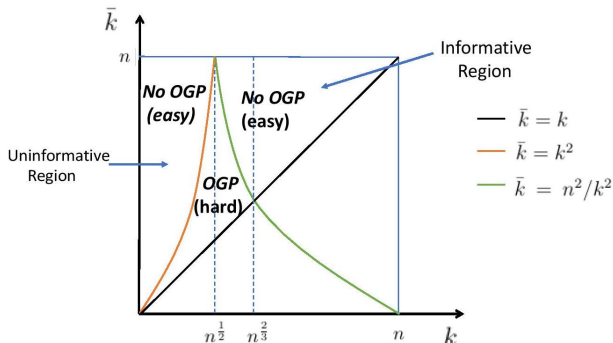
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- New OGP transition at \sqrt{n} : need to lift!

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Fix $z \in [\bar{k}k/n, k]$ and let $\Gamma_{\bar{k}}(z) = \max_{C \subseteq V(G), |C|=\bar{k}, |C \cap \mathcal{P}C|=z} |\mathbb{E}[C]|$.



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- New OGP transition at \sqrt{n} : need to lift! (agrees \bar{k} with algs)

This talk: a short survey

Overlap Gap Property (OGP) for **inference**. [Gamarnik, **Z** '17]

- (1) *Definition and overview*
- (2) Two case-studies:
 - ▶ *sparse regression*
 - ▶ *planted clique* (more involved)

Other/Future Work

- (1) OGP for inference implies *“local” MCMC lower bounds*.
(Ben Arous, Wein, **Z** '20), (Gamarnik, Jagannath, Sen '19).

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Similar to *OGP in optimization* (GJW '20).

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- (c) Does **absence of OGP** \Rightarrow success of “local” methods?
Similar to *no-OGP (FRSB) in spin glasses*.
(Subag '18), (Montanari, El Alaoui, Sellke '19 -'21).

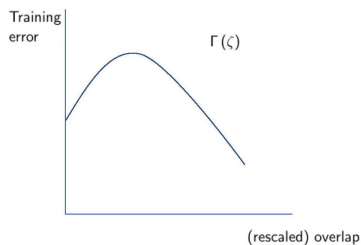
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Thank you!!

MCMC lower bounds

$$\min_{\beta \in \Theta} \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}, \beta | \beta^*) . \Gamma(\zeta) = \min_{\beta \in \Theta, \langle \beta, \beta^* \rangle = \zeta} \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}, \beta | \beta^*) , \zeta \in [0, 1].$$

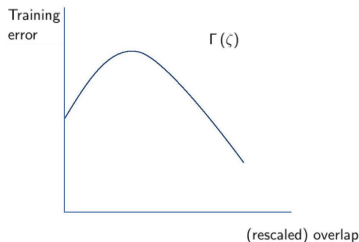


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[Ben Arous, Wein, Z '20], [Gamarnik, Jagannath, Sen '19]

Under OGP **of height** D and for “small” $T > 0$
any “local” MC with stationary $\mu(\beta) \propto e^{-T^{-1} \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}, \beta | \beta^*)}$, $\beta \in \Theta$
(worst-case initialization) needs time $\exp(D)$.



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Sparse PCA: OGP height is low-degree sub-exponential time prediction.

