Topology of Random Flag Complexes
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Random flag complexes are a natural generalization of random graphs to higher dimensions, and since every simplicial complex is homeomorphic to a flag complex this puts a measure on a wide range of possible topologies. In this talk, I will discuss the recent proof that according to the Erdős–Rényi measure, asymptotically almost all $d$-dimensional flag complexes only have nontrivial (rational) homology in middle degree $[d/2]$. The highlighted technique is originally due to Garland — what he called "$p$-adic curvature" in a somewhat different context. This method allows one to prove cohomology-vanishing theorems by showing that certain discrete Laplacians have sufficiently large spectral gap. This reduces certain questions in probabilistic topology to questions about random matrices.

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