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**Stochastic Geometry  
and Wireless Networks:  
Volume I Theory**

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To Béatrice and Mira

# Stochastic Geometry and Wireless Networks: Volume I Theory

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## Stochastic Geometry and Wireless Networks: Volume I Theory

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### Abstract

Volume I first provides a compact survey on classical stochastic geometry models, with a main focus on spatial shot-noise processes, coverage processes and random tessellations. It then focuses on *signal to interference noise ratio* (SINR) stochastic geometry, which is the basis for the modeling of wireless network protocols and architectures considered in Volume II. It also contains an appendix on mathematical tools used throughout Stochastic Geometry and Wireless Networks, Volumes I and II.

## Contents

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<b>Preface</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Preface to Volume I</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>I Classical Stochastic Geometry</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>1 Poisson Point Process</b>	<b>13</b>
1.1 Definition and Characterizations	14
1.2 Laplace Functional	18
1.3 Operations Preserving the Poisson Law	21
1.4 Palm Theory	28
1.5 Strong Markov Property	34
1.6 Stationarity and Ergodicity	36
<b>2 Marked Point Processes and Shot-Noise Fields</b>	<b>43</b>
2.1 Marked Point Processes	43
2.2 Shot-Noise	52
2.3 Interference Field as Shot-Noise	57
2.4 Extremal Shot-Noise	68

<b>3 Boolean Model</b>	<b>71</b>
3.1 Boolean Model as a Coverage Process	71
3.2 Boolean Model as a Connectivity Model	82
<b>4 Voronoi Tessellation</b>	<b>91</b>
4.1 Introduction	91
4.2 The Inverse Formula of Palm Calculus	93
4.3 The Neveu Exchange Formula	96
4.4 Neighbors in the Voronoi Tessellation, Delaunay Triangulation	98
4.5 The Voronoi Tessellation Model for Cellular Access Networks	100
<b>Bibliographical Notes on Part I</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>II Signal-to-Interference Ratio Stochastic Geometry</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>5 Signal-to-Interference Ratio Cells</b>	<b>107</b>
5.1 Introduction	107
5.2 The Signal-to-Interference Ratio Cell is Well-Defined	109
5.3 Standard Stochastic Scenario and First Order Cell Characteristics	109
5.4 Fading in Signal-to-Interference Ratio Cell and Higher Order Characteristics	114
5.5 Noise or Interference Limited Cell: Towards a Boolean or Voronoi Shape	116
<b>6 Interacting Signal-to-Interference Ratio Cells</b>	<b>131</b>
6.1 Introduction	131
6.2 Constraints on Cell Intersections	133
6.3 Stochastic Scenarios and Coverage Probabilities	134
6.4 Joint Point-Coverage Probability	134

<b>7 Signal-to-Interference Ratio Coverage</b>	<b>137</b>
7.1 Introduction	137
7.2 Typical Cell of the Coverage Process	139
7.3 Nearest Transmitter Cell	140
7.4 $\Xi_{\text{SINR}}$ as a Random Closed Set	142
7.5 The Coverage Process Characteristics	146
<b>8 Signal-to-Interference Ratio Connectivity</b>	<b>155</b>
8.1 Introduction	155
8.2 Signal-to-Interference Ratio Graph	155
8.3 Percolation of the Signal-to-Interference Ratio Connectivity Graph	156
<b>Bibliographical Notes on Part II</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>III Appendix: Mathematical Complements</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>9 Higher Order Moment Measures of a Point Process</b>	<b>169</b>
9.1 Higher Order Moment Measures	169
9.2 Palm Measures	171
<b>10 Stationary Marked Point Processes</b>	<b>175</b>
10.1 Marked Point Processes	175
10.2 Palm–Matthes Distribution of a Marked Point Process	176
<b>11 Fairness and Optimality</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>12 Lemmas on Fourier Transforms</b>	<b>183</b>
12.1 Fourier Transforms	183
12.2 Lemmas	183

<b>13 Graph Theoretic Notions</b>	<b>189</b>
13.1 Minimum Spanning Tree	189
<b>14 Discrete Percolation</b>	<b>193</b>
14.1 Bond Percolation on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ .	193
14.2 Independent Site Percolation	197
<b>References</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>Table of Mathematical Notation and Abbreviations</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>206</b>

## Preface

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A wireless communication network can be viewed as a collection of nodes, located in some domain, which can in turn be transmitters or receivers (depending on the network considered, nodes may be mobile users, base stations in a cellular network, access points of a WiFi mesh, etc.). At a given time, several nodes transmit simultaneously, each toward its own receiver. Each transmitter–receiver pair requires its own wireless link. The signal received from the link transmitter may be jammed by the signals received from the other transmitters. Even in the simplest model where the signal power radiated from a point decays in an isotropic way with Euclidean distance, the geometry of the locations of the nodes plays a key role since it determines the *signal to interference and noise ratio* (SINR) at each receiver and hence the possibility of establishing simultaneously this collection of links at a given bit rate. The interference seen by a receiver is the sum of the signal powers received from all transmitters, except its own transmitter.

Stochastic geometry provides a natural way of defining and computing macroscopic properties of such networks, by averaging over all potential geometrical patterns for the nodes, in the same way as queuing theory provides response times or congestion, averaged over all potential arrival patterns within a given parametric class.

## 2 Preface

Modeling wireless communication networks in terms of stochastic geometry seems particularly relevant for large scale networks. In the simplest case, it consists in treating such a network as a snapshot of a stationary random model in the whole Euclidean plane or space and analyzing it in a probabilistic way. In particular the locations of the network elements are seen as the realizations of some point processes. When the underlying random model is ergodic, the probabilistic analysis also provides a way of estimating *spatial averages* which often capture the key dependencies of the network performance characteristics (connectivity, stability, capacity, etc.) as functions of a relatively small number of parameters. Typically, these are the densities of the underlying point processes and the parameters of the protocols involved. By spatial average, we mean an empirical average made over a large collection of ‘locations’ in the domain considered; depending on the cases, these locations will simply be certain points of the domain, or nodes located in the domain, or even nodes on a certain route defined on this domain. These various kinds of spatial averages are defined in precise terms in the monograph. This is a very natural approach, e.g. for ad hoc networks, or more generally to describe user positions, when these are best described by random processes. But it can also be applied to represent both irregular and regular network architectures as observed in cellular wireless networks. In all these cases, such a space average is performed on a large collection of nodes of the network executing some common protocol and considered at some common time when one takes a snapshot of the network. Simple examples of such averages are the fraction of nodes which transmit, the fraction of space which is covered or connected, the fraction of nodes which transmit their packet successfully, and the average geographic progress obtained by a node forwarding a packet towards some destination. This is rather new to classical performance evaluation, compared to time averages.

Stochastic geometry, which we use as a tool for the evaluation of such spatial averages, is a rich branch of applied probability particularly adapted to the study of random phenomena on the plane or in higher dimension. It is intrinsically related to the theory of point processes. Initially its development was stimulated by applications to

biology, astronomy and material sciences. Nowadays, it is also used in image analysis and in the context of communication networks. In this latter case, its role is similar to that played by the theory of point processes on the real line in classical queuing theory.

The use of stochastic geometry for modeling communication networks is relatively new. The first papers appeared in the engineering literature shortly before 2000. One can consider Gilbert's paper of 1961 [19] both as the first paper on continuum and Boolean percolation and as the first paper on the analysis of the connectivity of large wireless networks by means of stochastic geometry. Similar observations can be made on [20] concerning Poisson–Voronoi tessellations. The number of papers using some form of stochastic geometry is increasing fast. One of the most important observed trends is to take better account in these models of specific mechanisms of wireless communications.

Time averages have been classical objects of performance evaluation since the work of Erlang (1917). Typical examples include the random delay to transmit a packet from a given node, the number of time steps required for a packet to be transported from source to destination on some multihop route, the frequency with which a transmission is not granted access due to some capacity limitations, etc. A classical reference on the matter is [28]. These time averages will be studied here either on their own or in conjunction with space averages. The combination of the two types of averages unveils interesting new phenomena and leads to challenging mathematical questions. As we shall see, the order in which the time and the space averages are performed matters and each order has a different physical meaning.

This monograph surveys recent results of this approach and is structured in two volumes.

Volume I focuses on the theory of spatial averages and contains three parts. Part I in Volume I provides a compact survey on *classical* stochastic geometry models. Part II in Volume I focuses on *SINR* stochastic geometry. Part III in Volume I is an appendix which contains mathematical tools used throughout the monograph. Volume II bears on more practical wireless network modeling and performance analysis. It is in this volume that the interplay between wireless communications and stochastic geometry is deepest and that the time–space

4 *Preface*

framework alluded to above is the most important. The aim is to show how stochastic geometry can be used in a more or less systematic way to analyze the phenomena that arise in this context. Part IV in Volume II is focused on medium access control (MAC). We study MAC protocols used in ad hoc networks and in cellular networks. Part V in Volume II discusses the use of stochastic geometry for the quantitative analysis of routing algorithms in MANETs. Part VI in Volume II gives a concise summary of wireless communication principles and of the network architectures considered in the monograph. This part is self-contained and readers not familiar with wireless networking might either read it before reading the monograph itself, or refer to it when needed.

Here are some comments on what the reader will obtain from studying the material contained in this monograph and on possible ways of reading it.

For readers with a background in applied probability, this monograph provides direct access to an emerging and fast growing branch of spatial stochastic modeling (see, e.g., the proceedings of conferences such as IEEE Infocom, ACM Sigmetrics, ACM Mobicom, etc. or the special issue [22]). By mastering the basic principles of wireless links and the organization of communications in a wireless network, as summarized in Volume II and already alluded to in Volume I, these readers will be granted access to a rich field of new questions with high practical interest. SINR stochastic geometry opens new and interesting mathematical questions. The two categories of objects studied in Volume II, namely medium access and routing protocols, have a large number of variants and implications. Each of these could give birth to a new stochastic model to be understood and analyzed. Even for classical models of stochastic geometry, the new questions stemming from wireless networking often provide an original viewpoint. A typical example is that of route averages associated with a Poisson point process as discussed in Part V in Volume II. Reader already knowledgeable in basic stochastic geometry might skip Part I in Volume I and follow the path:

Part II in Volume I  $\Rightarrow$  Part IV in Volume II  
 $\Rightarrow$  Part V in Volume II,

using Part VI in Volume II for understanding the physical meaning of the examples pertaining to wireless networks.

For readers whose main interest in wireless network design, the monograph aims to offer a new and comprehensive methodology for the performance evaluation of large scale wireless networks. This methodology consists in the computation of both time and space averages within a unified setting. This inherently addresses the scalability issue in that it poses the problems in an infinite domain/population case from the very beginning. We show that this methodology has the potential to provide both qualitative and quantitative results as below:

- Some of the most important qualitative results pertaining to these infinite population models are in terms of *phase transitions*. A typical example bears on the conditions under which the network is spatially connected. Another type of phase transition bears on the conditions under which the network delivers packets in a finite mean time for a given medium access and a given routing protocol. As we shall see, these phase transitions allow one to understand how to tune the protocol parameters to ensure that the network is in the desirable “phase” (i.e. well connected and with small mean delays). Other qualitative results are in terms of scaling laws: for instance, how do the overhead or the end-to-end delay on a route scale with the distance between the source and the destination, or with the density of nodes?
- Quantitative results are often in terms of closed form expressions for both time and space averages, and this for each variant of the involved protocols. The reader will hence be in a position to discuss and compare various protocols and more generally various wireless network organizations. Here are typical questions addressed and answered in Volume II: is it better to improve on Aloha by using a collision avoidance scheme of the CSMA type or by using a channel-aware extension of Aloha? Is Rayleigh fading beneficial or detrimental when using a given MAC scheme? How does geographic routing compare to shortest path routing in a mobile

6 *Preface*

ad hoc network? Is it better to separate the medium access and the routing decisions or to perform some cross layer joint optimization?

The reader with a wireless communication background could either read the monograph from beginning to end, or start with Volume II, i.e. follow the path

Part IV in Volume II  $\Rightarrow$  Part V in Volume II  $\Rightarrow$  Part II in Volume I and use Volume I when needed to find the mathematical results which are needed to progress through Volume II.

We conclude with some comments on what the reader will *not* find in this monograph:

- We do not discuss statistical questions and give no measurement based validation of certain stochastic assumptions used in the monograph, e.g., when are Poisson-based models justified? When should one rather use point processes with some repulsion or attraction? When is the stationarity/ergodicity assumption valid? Our only aim is to show what can be done with stochastic geometry when assumptions of this kind can be made.
- We will not go beyond SINR models either. It is well known that considering interference as noise is not the only possible option in a wireless network. Other options (collaborative schemes, successive cancellation techniques) can offer better rates, though at the expense of more algorithmic overhead and the exchange of more information between nodes. We believe that the methodology discussed in this monograph has the potential of analyzing such techniques but we decided not to do this here.

Here are some final technical remarks. Some sections, marked with a \* sign, can be skipped at the first reading as their results are not used in what follows; the index, which is common to the two volumes, is designed to be the main tool to navigate within and between the two volumes.

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## Preface to Volume I

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This volume focuses on the theory and contains three parts.

Part I provides a compact survey on *classical* stochastic geometry models. The basic models defined in this part will be used and extended throughout the whole monograph, and in particular to SINR based models. Note, however, that these classical stochastic models can be used in a variety of contexts which go far beyond the modeling of wireless networks. Chapter 1 reviews the definition and basic properties of Poisson point processes in Euclidean space. We review key operations on Poisson point processes (thinning, superposition, displacement) as well as key formulas like Campbell's formula. Chapter 2 is focused on properties of the spatial shot-noise process: its continuity properties, Laplace transform, moments, etc. Both additive and max shot-noise processes are studied. Chapter 3 bears on coverage processes, and in particular on the Boolean model. Its basic coverage characteristics are reviewed. We also give a brief account of its percolation properties. Chapter 4 studies random tessellations; the main focus is on Poisson–Voronoi tessellations and cells. We also discuss various random objects associated with bivariate point processes such as the set of points of

the first point process that fall in a Voronoi cell w.r.t. the second point process.

Part II focuses on the stochastic geometry of SINR. The key new stochastic geometry model can be described as follows: consider a marked point process of the Euclidean space, where the mark of a point is a positive random variable that represents its “transmission power”. The SINR cell of a point is then defined as the region of the space where the reception power from this point is larger than an affine function of the interference power. Chapter 5 analyzes a few basic stochastic geometry questions pertaining to such SINR cells in the case with independent marks, such as the volume and the shape of the typical cell. Chapter 6 focuses on the complex interactions that exist between cells. Chapter 7 studies the coverage process created by the collection of SINR cells. Chapter 8 studies the impact of interferences on the connectivity of large-scale mobile ad hoc networks using percolation theory on the SINR graph.

Part III is an appendix which contains mathematical tools used throughout the monograph.

It was our choice not to cover Gibbs point processes and the random closed sets that one can associate to them. And this in spite of the fact that these point processes already seem to be quite relevant within this wireless network context (see the bibliography of Chapter 18 in Volume II for instance). There are two main reasons for this decision: first, these models are rarely amenable to closed form analysis, at least in the case of systems with randomly located nodes as those considered here; second and more importantly, the amount of additional material needed to cover this part of the theory is not compatible with the format retained here.

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