

Critical packings (in the sphere)

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There are a number of classical problems in geometric optimization that ask for the “best” configuration of points with respect to some nice function. In particular, we are interested in the relationships between various notions of criticality and the properties of critical points for functions – like the packing/injectivity radius – on configuration spaces of points in the sphere. We will explore some of the history of and the ideas that surround this problem.