

# Complexes from point clouds

Geometry, topology, algebra, and combinatorics

Ulrich Bauer

TUM

Mar 22, 2022

Combinatorial Coworkspace 2022



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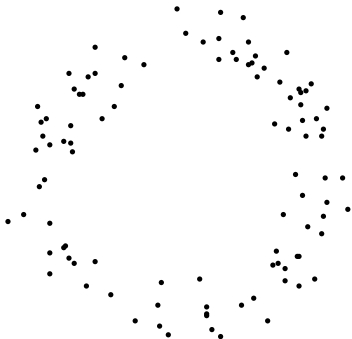
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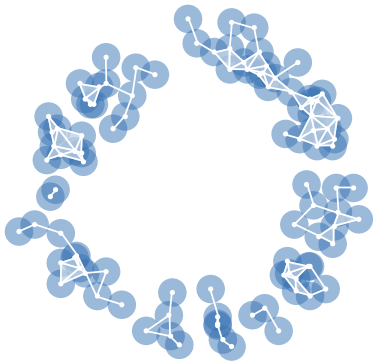


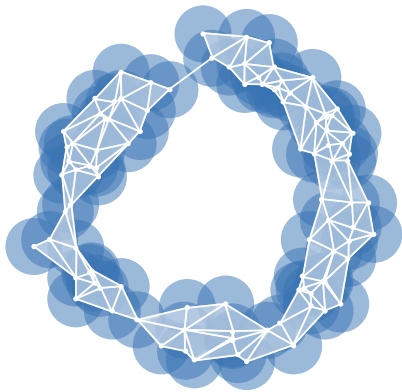
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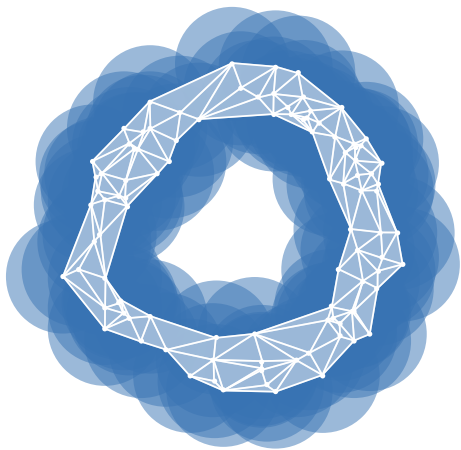


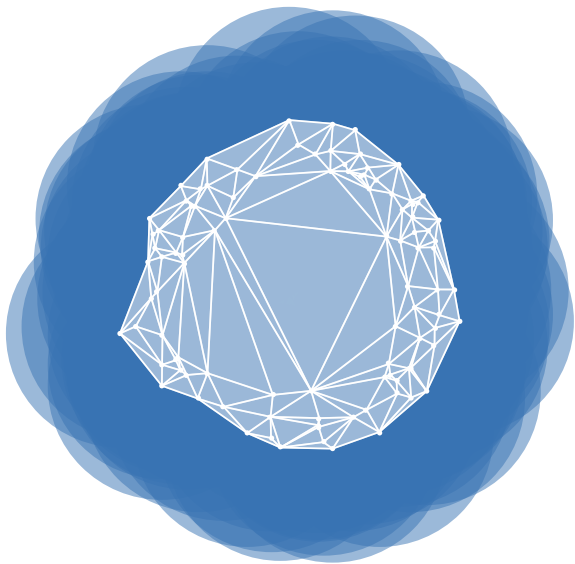
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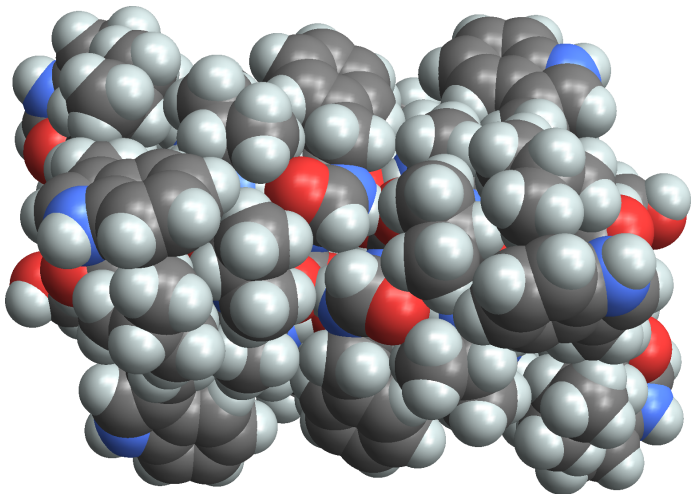






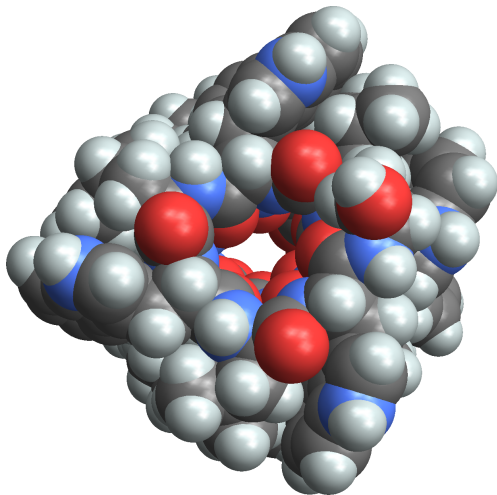


# Geometry and topology of biomolecules



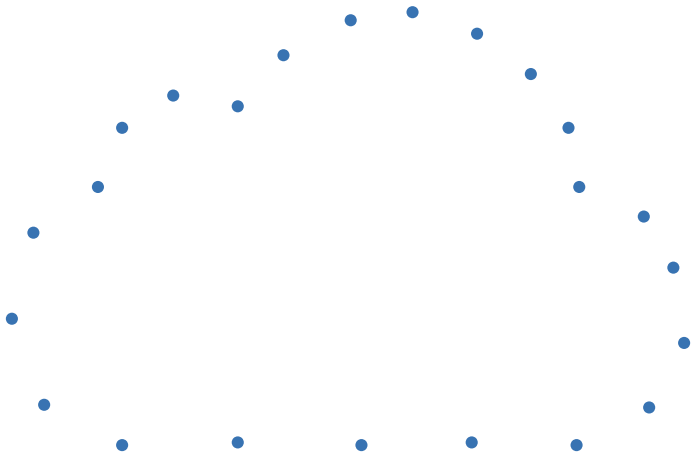
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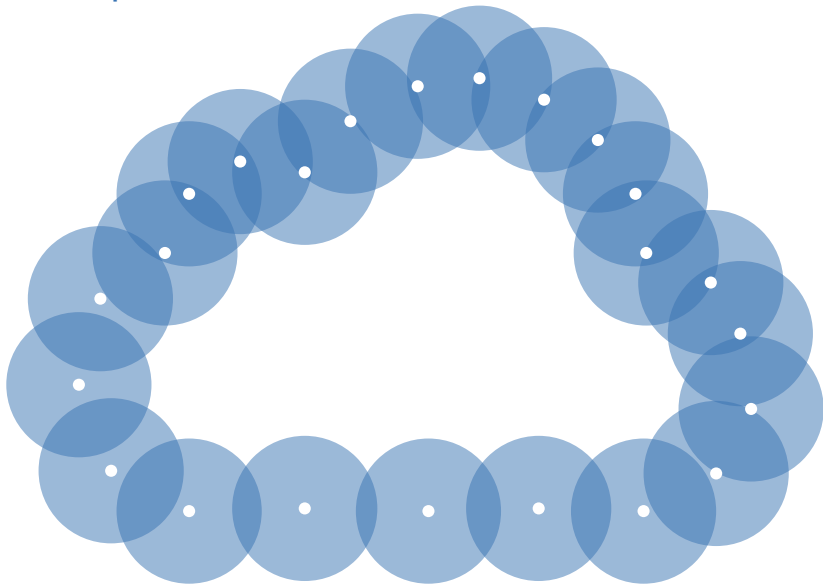


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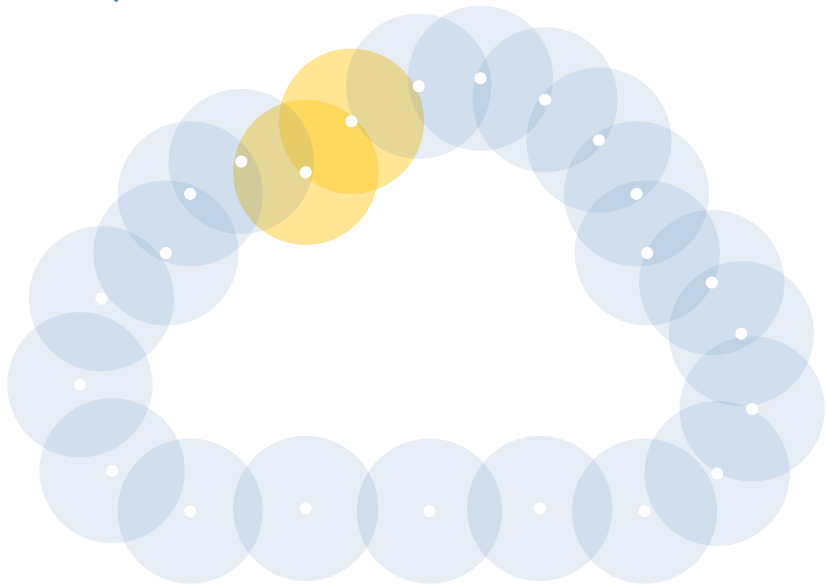
# Čech complexes



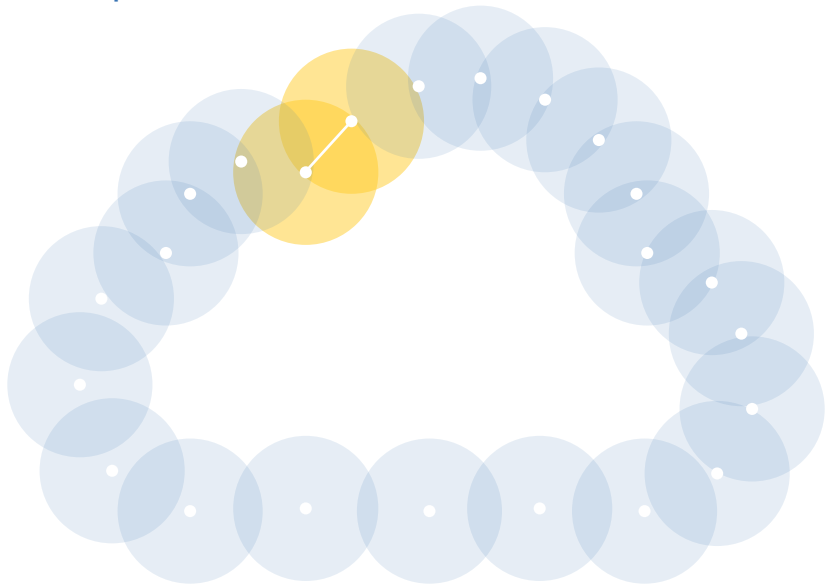
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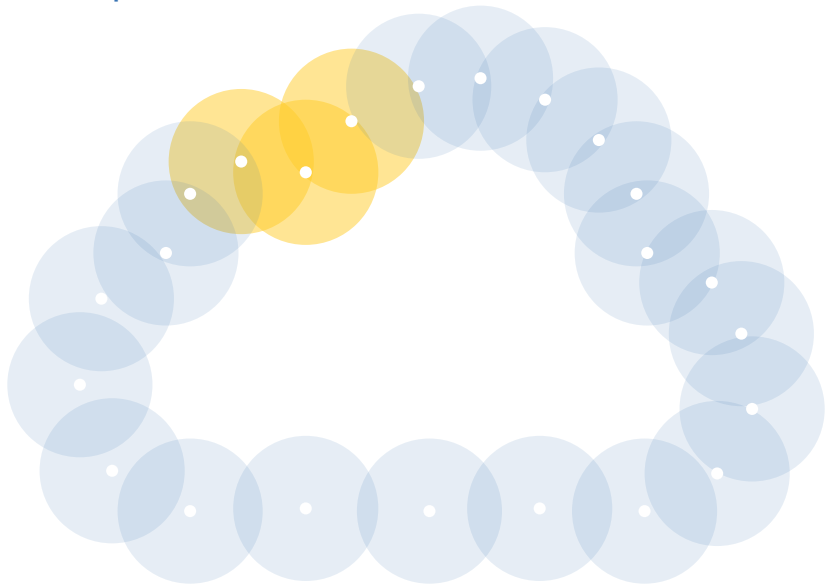
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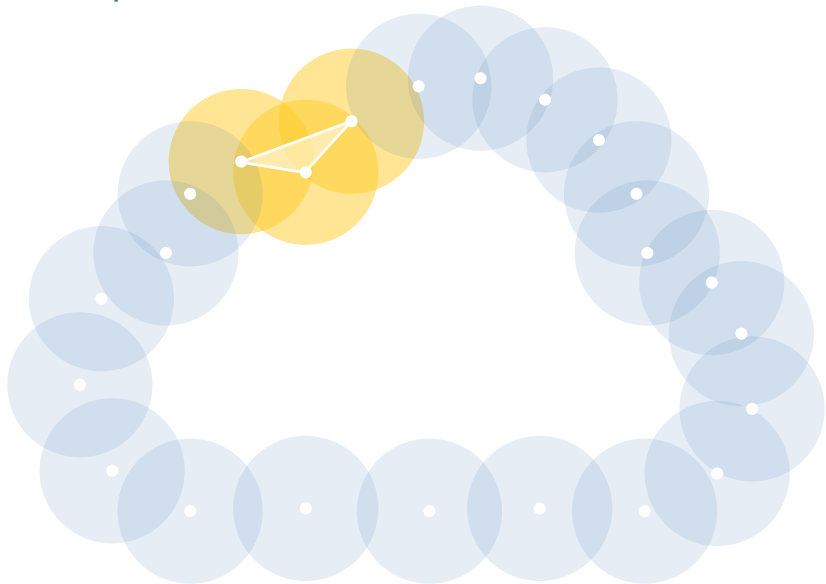
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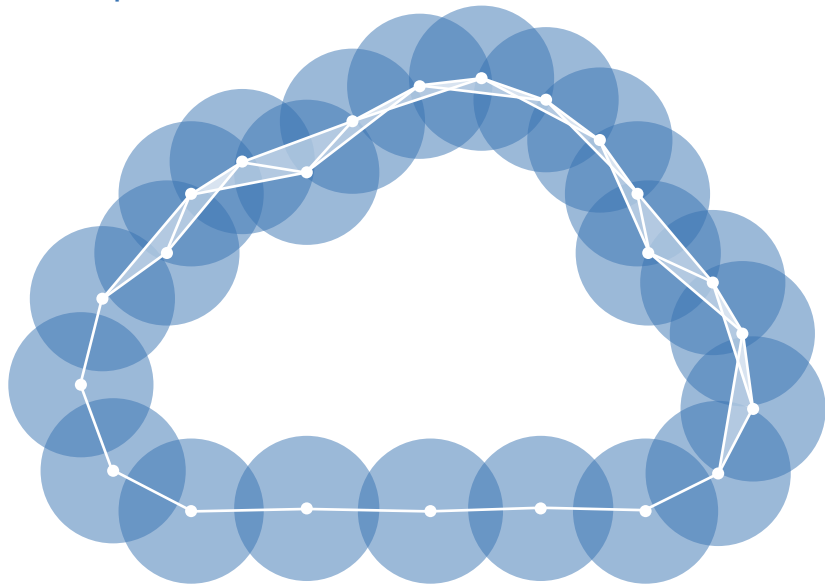


# Čech complexes





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## Definition

Let  $X$  be a topological space, and let  $\mathcal{U} = (U_i)_{i \in I}$  be a cover of  $X$ .  
The *nerve* of  $\mathcal{U}$  is the simplicial complex

$$\text{Nrv}(\mathcal{U}) = \left\{ J \subseteq I \mid |J| < \infty \text{ and } \bigcap_{i \in J} U_i \neq \emptyset \right\} .$$

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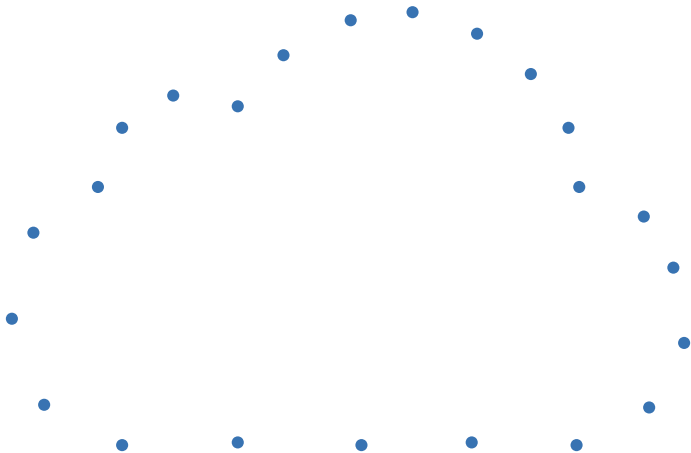


U. Bauer, M. Kerber, F. Roll, and A. Rolle

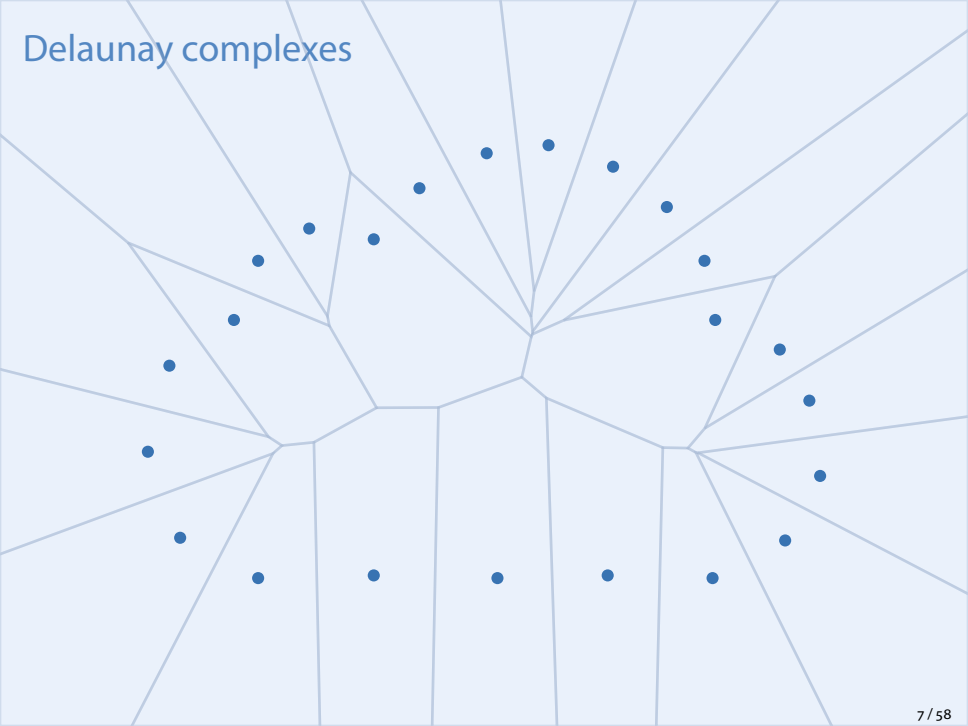
A Unified View on the Functorial Nerve Theorem and its Variations

Preprint, arXiv:2203.03571, 2022

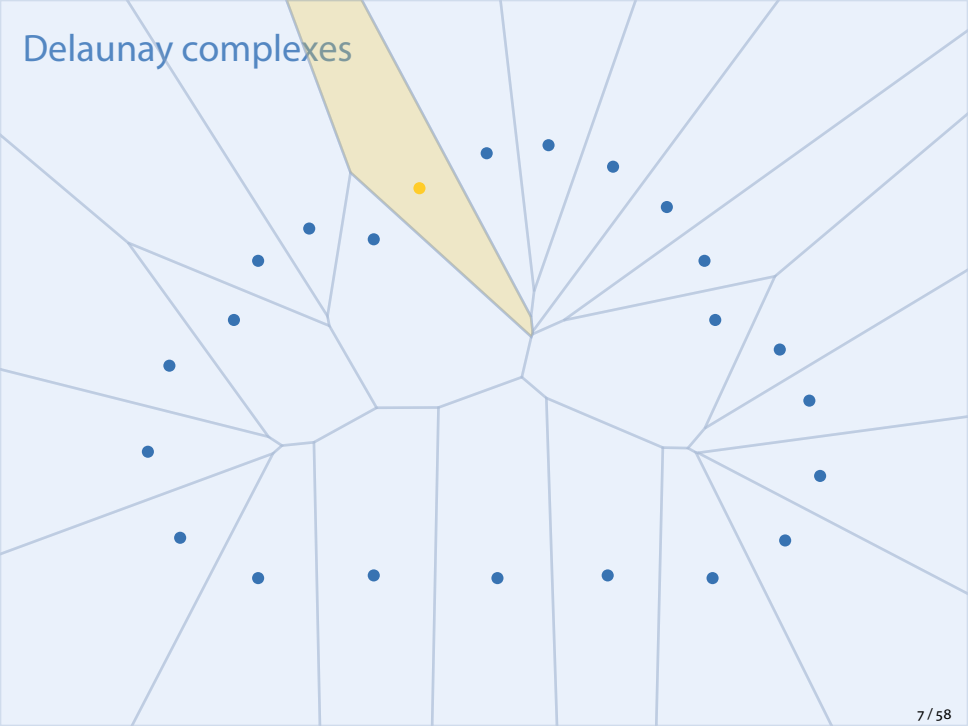
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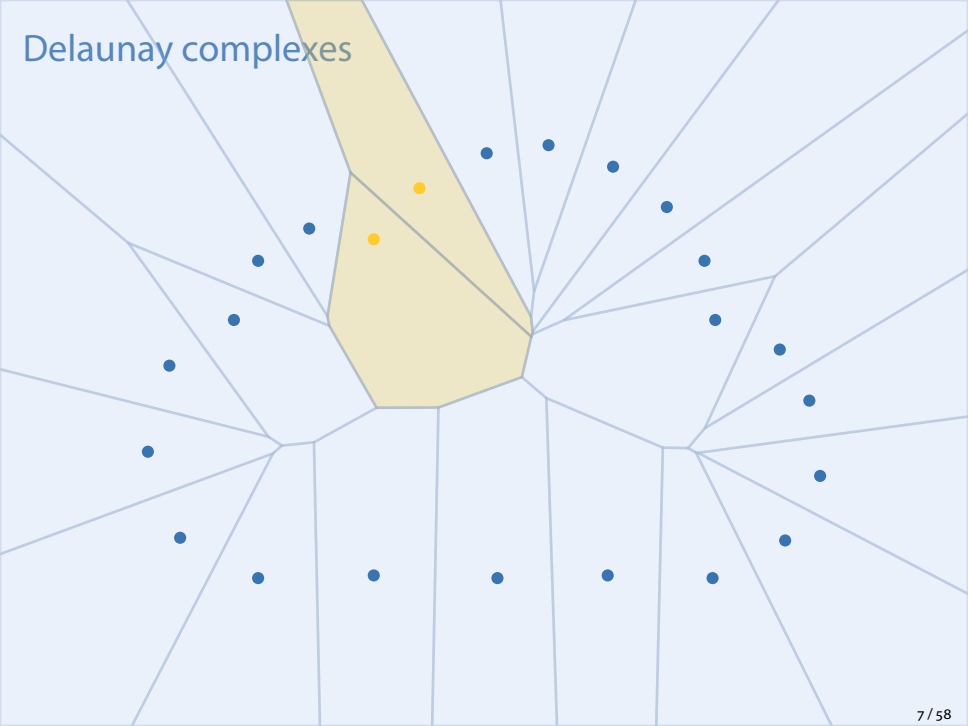


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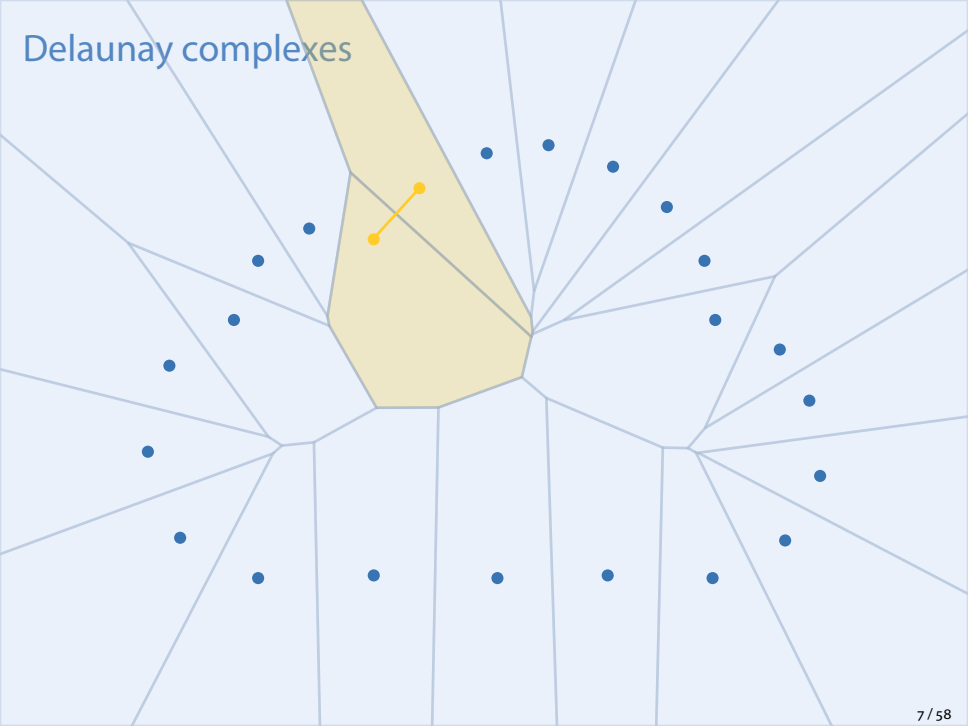




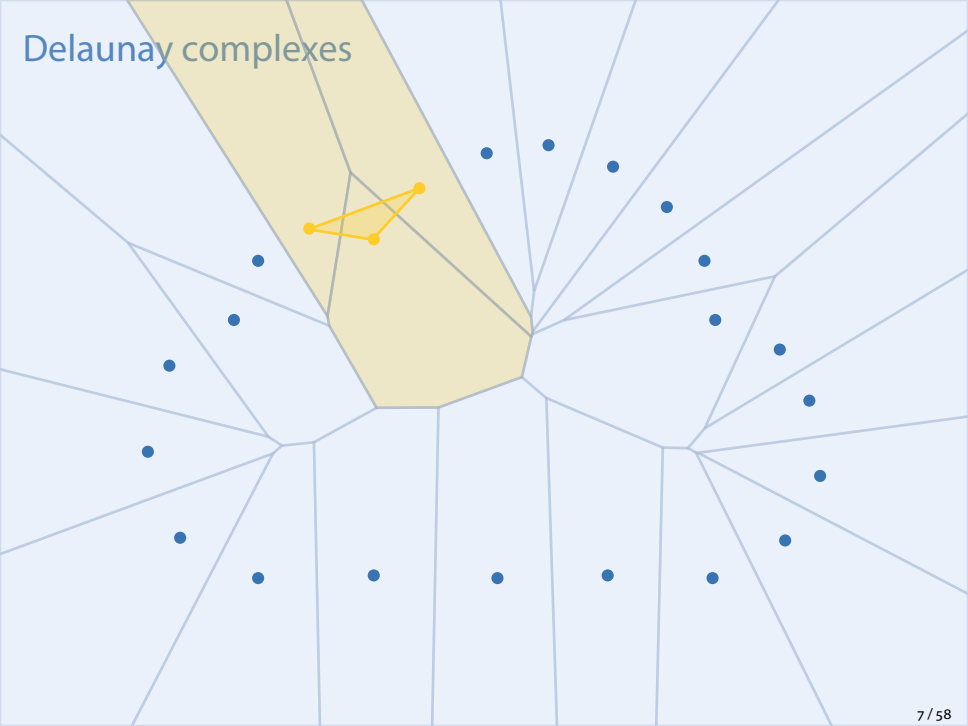
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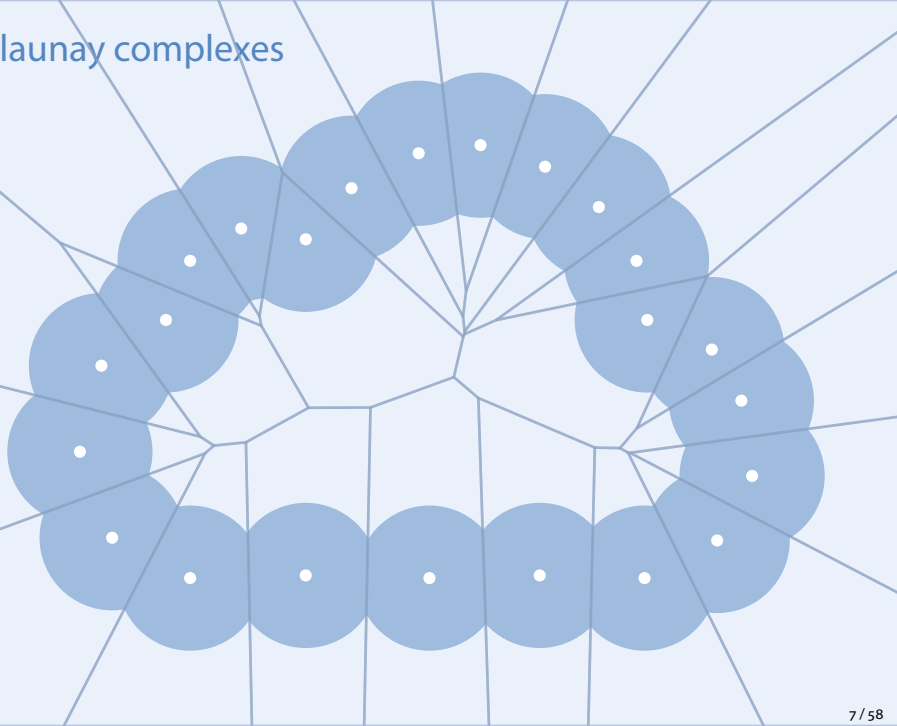
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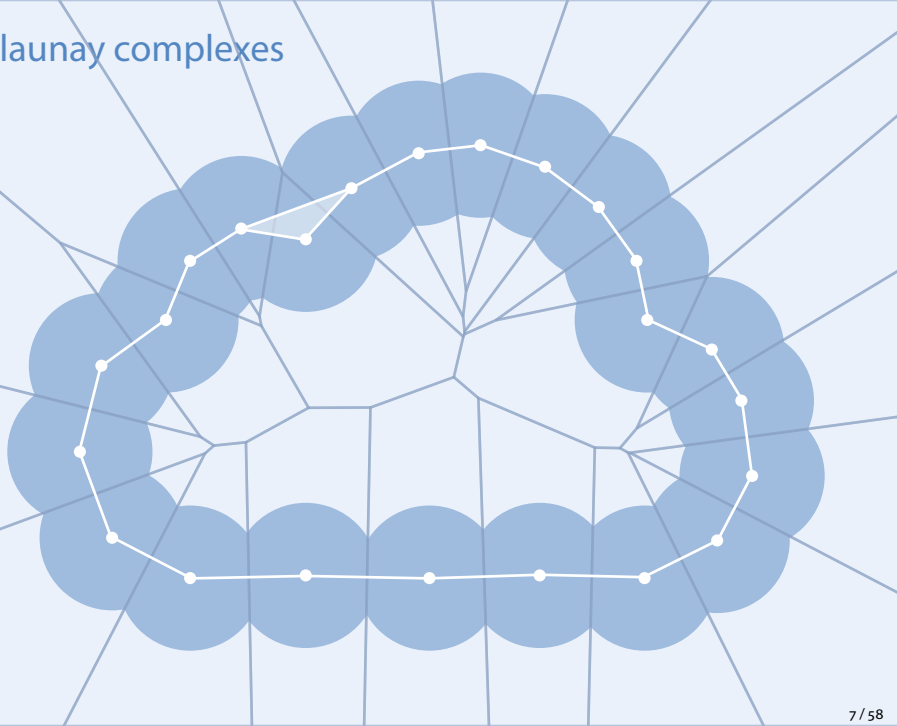
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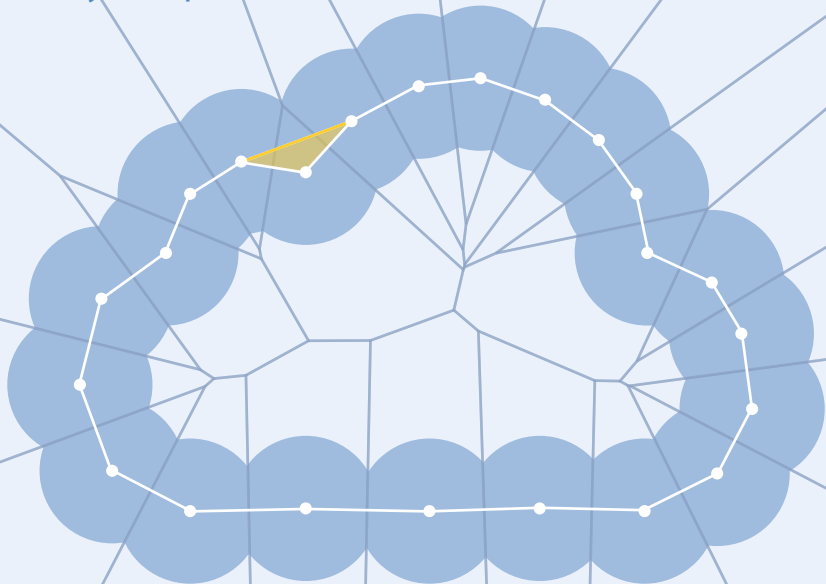
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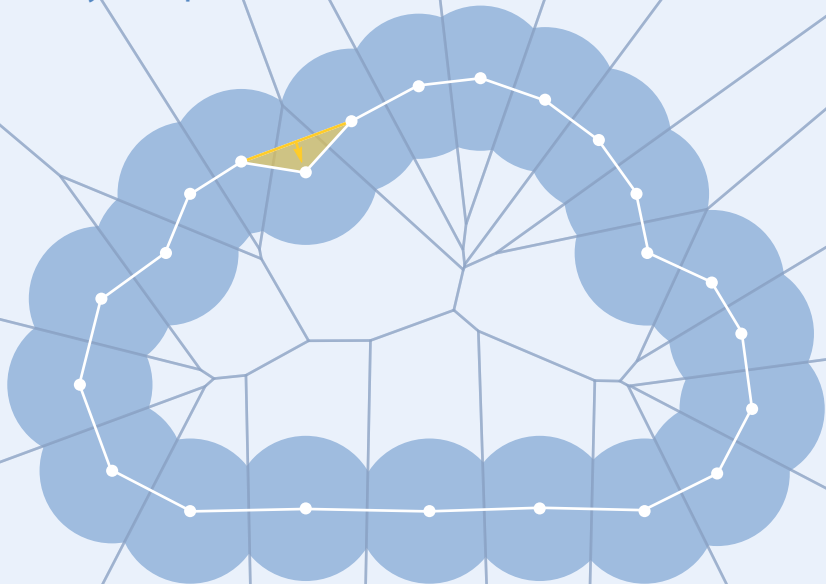
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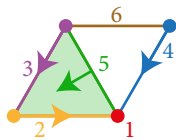




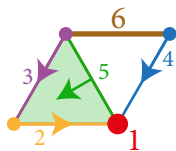
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# Discrete Morse theory



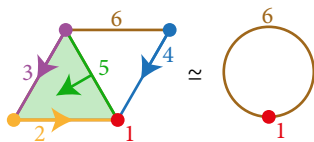
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## Theorem (Forman 1998)

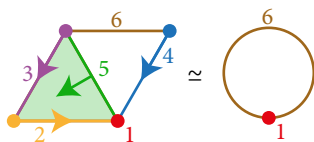
*A simplicial complex with a discrete Morse function  $f$  is homotopy equivalent to a CW complex build from the critical simplices of  $f$ .*



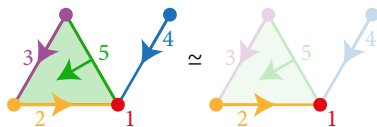
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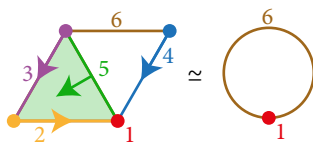
Discrete Morse functions – and their gradients – encode collapses of sublevel sets:



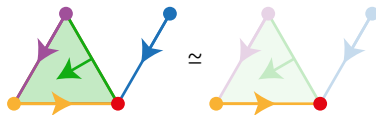
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# Generalized discrete Morse theory

Definition (Forman 1996, Chari 2000, Freij 2009)

A *generalized discrete vector field* on a simplicial complex  $K$  is a partition of the simplices into *intervals* of the face poset:

$$[L, U] = \{Q \mid L \subseteq Q \subseteq U\}$$

- indicated by an arrow from  $L$  to  $U$



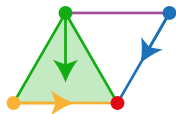
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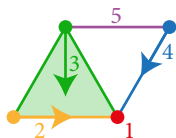
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A *generalized discrete Morse function*  $f : K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies:

- the sublevel sets  $K_t = f^{-1}(-\infty, t]$  are subcomplexes (for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ )
- the level sets  $f^{-1}(t)$  form a generalized vector field (the *discrete gradient* of  $f$ )

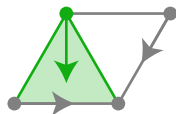




## Refining generalized vector fields

A generalized vector field  $V$  can be refined to a vector field.

For each non-critical face interval  $[L, U] \in V$ :

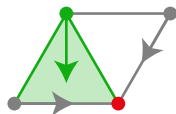


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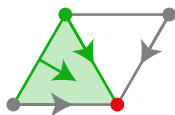


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- partition  $[L, U]$  into pairs  $(Q \setminus \{x\}, Q \cup \{x\})$  for all  $Q \in [L, U]$ .



# Morse theory for Čech and Delaunay complexes

Proposition (B, Edelsbrunner 2014)

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Theorem (B., Edelsbrunner 2017)

*Čech, Delaunay, and Wrap complexes are related by collapses*

$$\text{Cech}_r X \rightsquigarrow \text{Del}_r X \rightsquigarrow \text{Wrap}_r X,$$

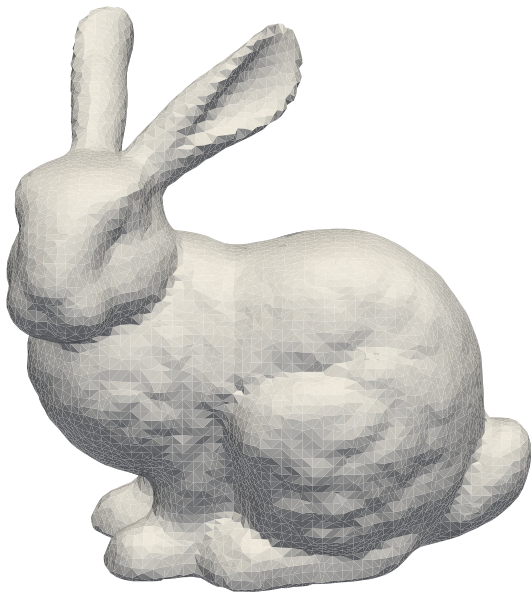
*encoded by a single discrete gradient field.*



## Delaunay and Wrap complexes



## Delaunay and Wrap complexes



# Homology inference



# Inferring homology from samples

Given: finite sample  $P \subset X$  of unknown shape  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

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This can work, but requires strong assumptions:

# Homology reconstruction by thickening

Theorem (Niyogi, Smale, Weinberger 2006)

Let  $X$  be a submanifold of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Let  $P \subset X$  and  $\delta > 0$  be such that

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Then  $H_*(X) \cong H_*(P_{2\delta})$ .

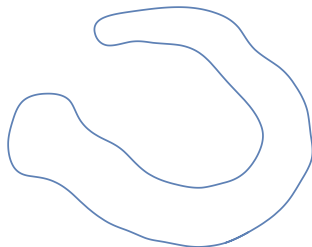
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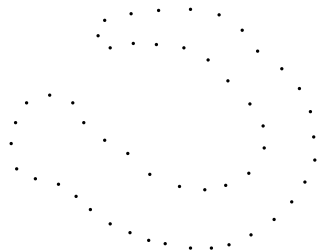
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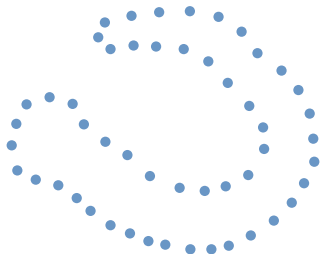
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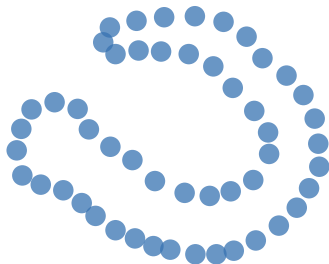
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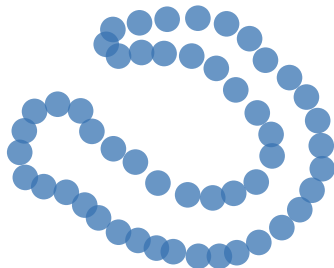
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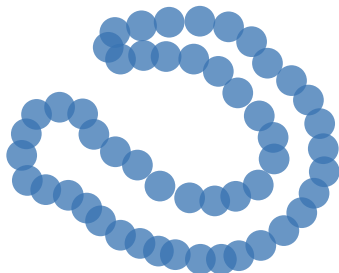
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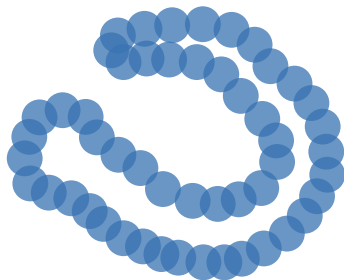
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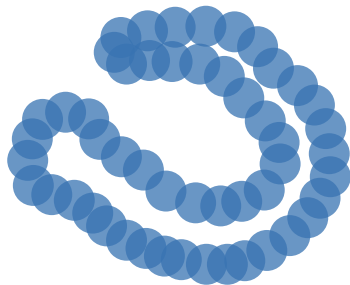
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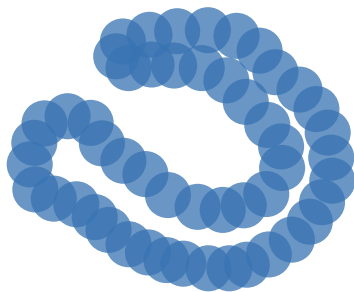
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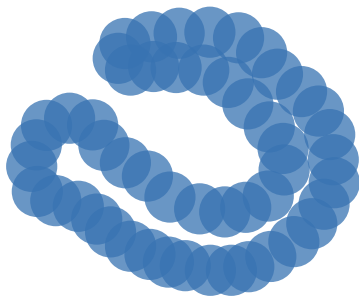
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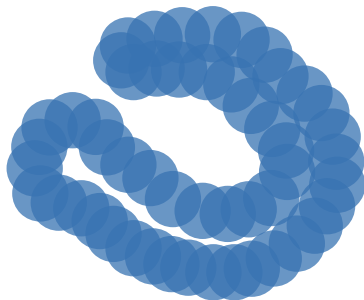
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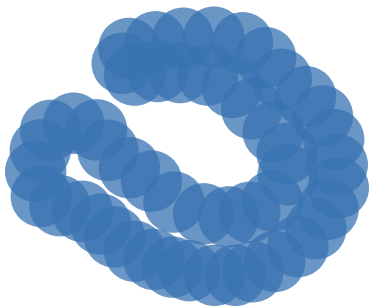
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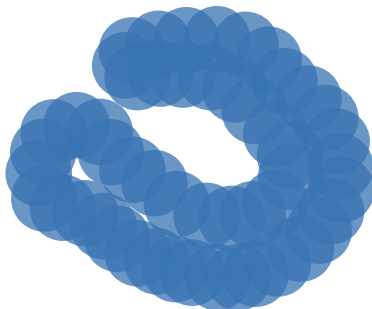
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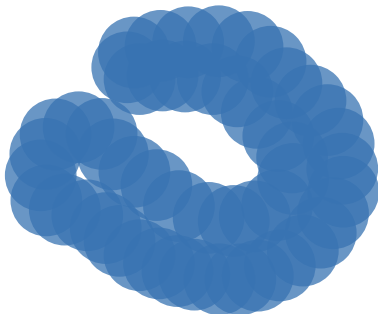
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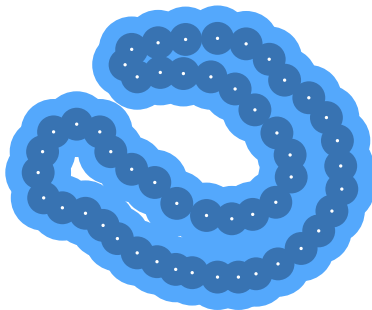
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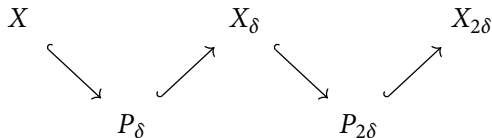
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A vertical dashed arrow labeled  $\cong$  points from  $H_*(X_\delta)$  down to  $\text{im } H_*(P_\delta \hookrightarrow P_{2\delta})$ .

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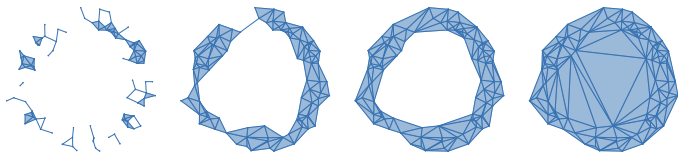
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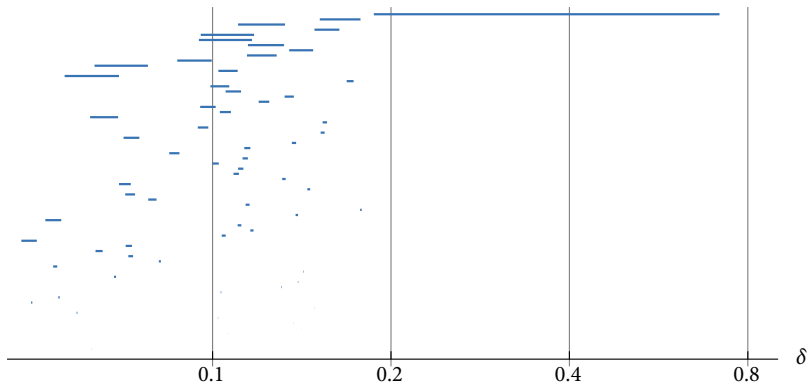
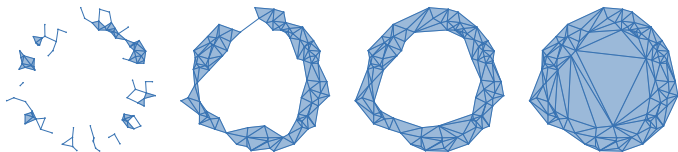
The diagram illustrates the relationship between the homology groups of  $X$ ,  $X_\delta$ ,  $X_{2\delta}$ ,  $P_\delta$ ,  $P_{2\delta}$ , and the image of the inclusion  $P_\delta \hookrightarrow P_{2\delta}$ . The top row shows  $H_*(X) \xleftarrow{\cong} H_*(X_\delta) \xhookrightarrow{\quad} H_*(X_{2\delta})$ . The middle row shows  $H_*(P_\delta)$  and  $H_*(P_{2\delta})$ . The bottom row shows  $\text{im } H_*(P_\delta \hookrightarrow P_{2\delta})$ . A vertical dashed arrow labeled  $\cong$  connects  $H_*(X_\delta)$  to  $\text{im } H_*(P_\delta \hookrightarrow P_{2\delta})$ . Solid arrows indicate the following maps:  $H_*(X) \rightarrow H_*(P_\delta)$ ,  $H_*(P_\delta) \rightarrow H_*(X_\delta)$ ,  $H_*(X_\delta) \rightarrow H_*(P_{2\delta})$ ,  $H_*(P_{2\delta}) \rightarrow H_*(X_{2\delta})$ ,  $H_*(P_\delta) \rightarrow \text{im } H_*(P_\delta \hookrightarrow P_{2\delta})$ , and  $\text{im } H_*(P_\delta \hookrightarrow P_{2\delta}) \rightarrow H_*(P_{2\delta})$ .



# What is persistent homology?

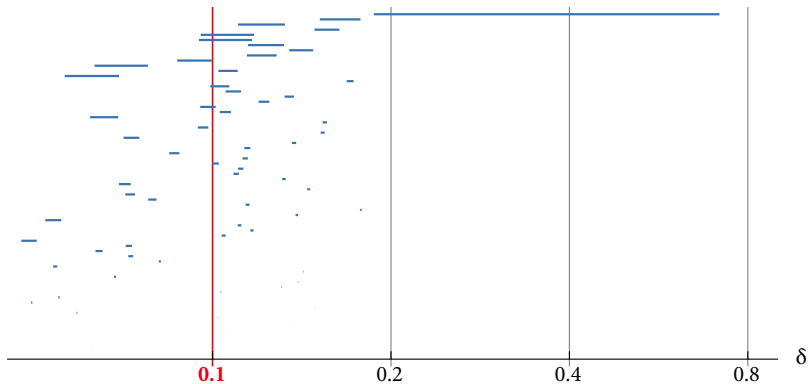
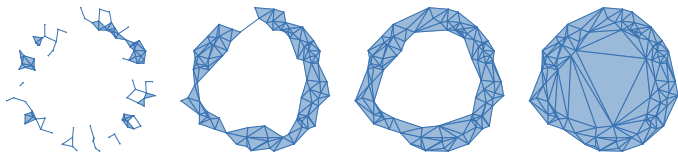


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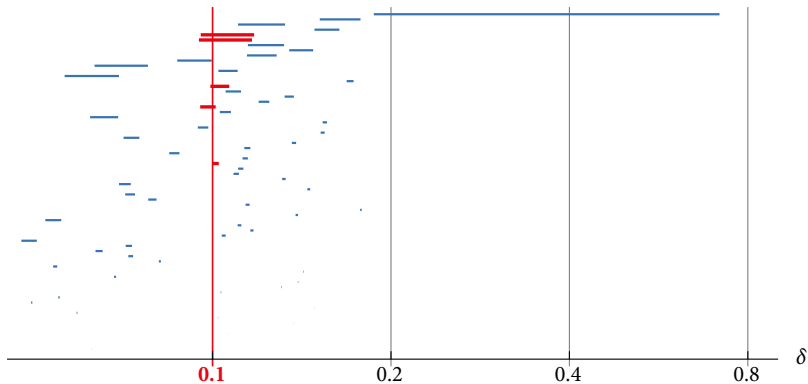
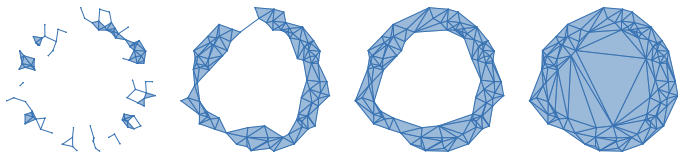




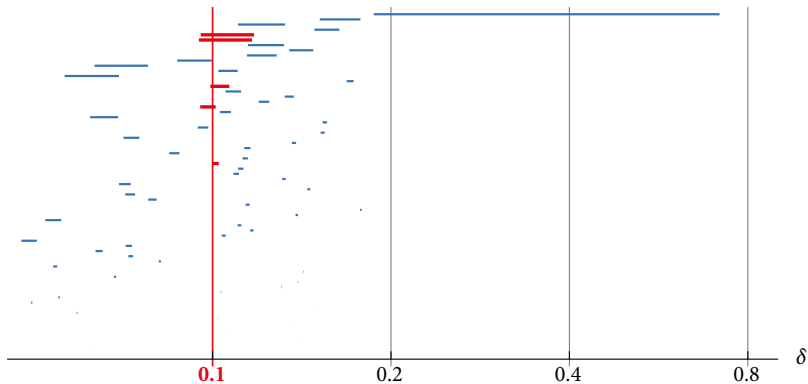
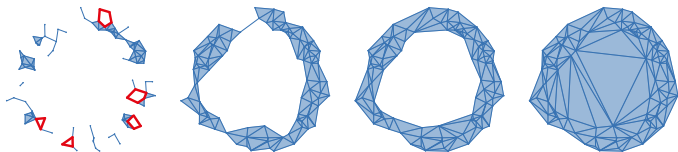
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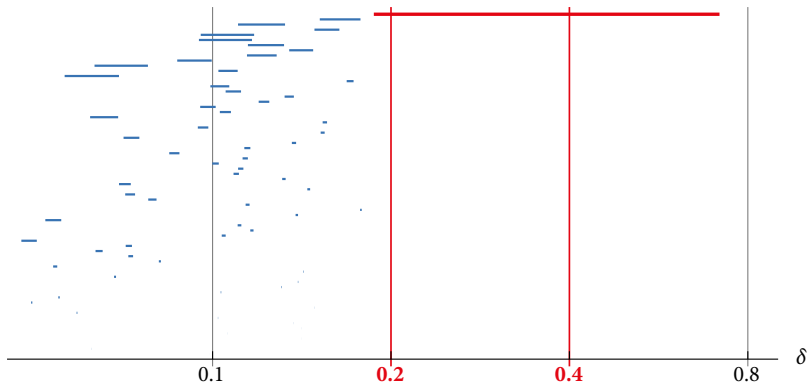
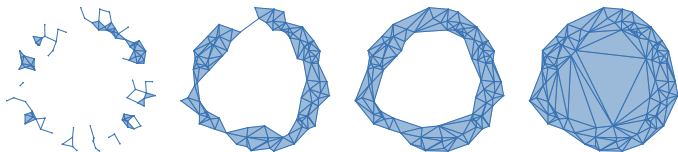
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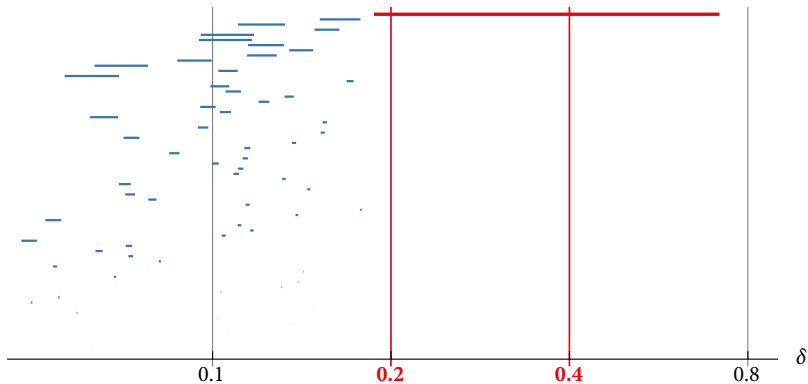
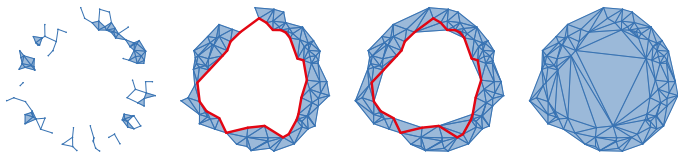
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- A filtration is a certain diagram  $K : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{Top}$  of topological spaces, indexed over the poset of real numbers  $\mathbf{R} := (\mathbb{R}, \leq)$

$$\cdots \rightarrow K_s \hookrightarrow K_t \rightarrow \cdots$$

- a topological space  $K_t$  for each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$
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- Apply homology  $H_* : \mathbf{Top} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$
- Persistent homology is a diagram  $M = H_* \circ K : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$  (*persistence module*):

$$\cdots \rightarrow M_s \longrightarrow M_t \rightarrow \cdots$$





# Barcodes: the structure of persistence modules

Theorem (Crawley-Boevey 2015)

*Any persistence module  $M : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{vect}$  (of finite dim. vector spaces over some field  $\mathbb{F}$ ) decomposes as a direct sum of interval modules*

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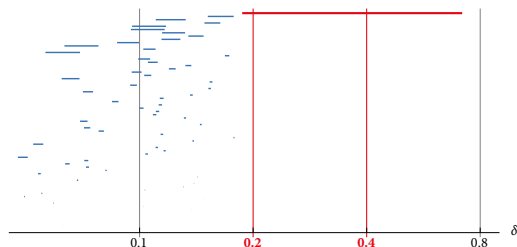
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- The supporting intervals form the *persistence barcode*.



# Computation

# Homology by matrix reduction

Notation:

- $D$ : boundary matrix (with  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  coefficients)
- $R_i$ :  $i$ th column of matrix  $R$
- pivot  $R_i$ : maximal row index with nonzero entry in column  $R_i$

Matrix reduction algorithm (variant of Gaussian elimination):

- $R = D, V = I$
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Result:

- $R = D \cdot V$  is reduced (each column has a unique pivot)
- $V$  is full rank upper triangular

# Persistent homology by matrix reduction



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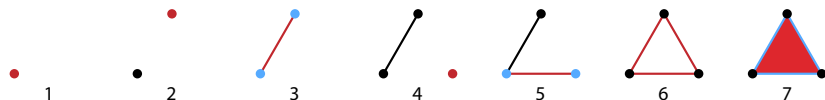


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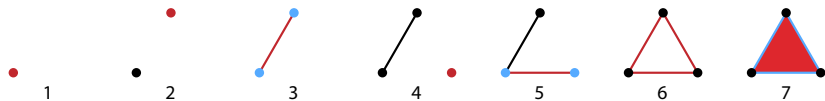
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# Persistent homology by matrix reduction



$$\underbrace{\begin{array}{c|ccccccc} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \hline 1 & & & 1 & & 1 & & \\ 2 & & & 1 & & & & \\ 3 & & & & & & & 1 \\ 4 & & & & & 1 & & \\ 5 & & & & & & & 1 \\ 6 & & & & & & & 1 \\ 7 & & & & & & & \end{array}}_R = D \cdot \underbrace{\begin{array}{c|ccccccc} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & & & & & & \\ 2 & & 1 & & & & & \\ 3 & & & 1 & & & 1 & \\ 4 & & & & 1 & & & \\ 5 & & & & & 1 & 1 & \\ 6 & & & & & & 1 & \\ 7 & & & & & & & 1 \end{array}}_V$$

Algorithm:

- while  $\exists i < j$  with  $\text{pivot } R_i = \text{pivot } R_j$ 
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Stability

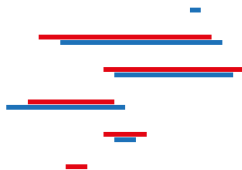
# Stability of persistence barcodes for functions

Theorem (Cohen-Steiner, Edelsbrunner, Harer 2005)

Let  $f, g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $\|f - g\|_\infty = \delta$  (and some regularity assumptions).

- Consider the sublevel set filtrations  $f^{-1}(\infty, t]$  and  $g^{-1}(\infty, t]$ , and
- take the resulting persistence barcodes.

Then there exists a  $\delta$ -matching between the barcodes, meaning that:



# Stability of persistence barcodes for functions

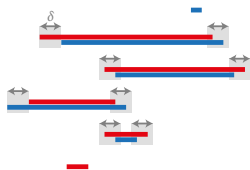
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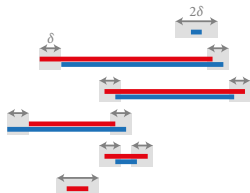
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- unmatched intervals have length  $\leq 2\delta$ .





# Persistence and stability: the big picture

Data

point cloud

$$P \subset \mathbb{R}^d$$

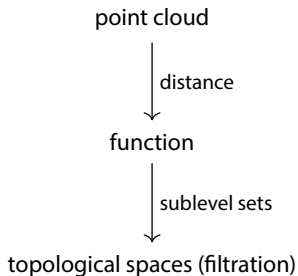
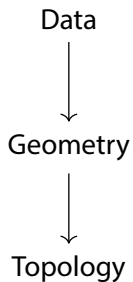
# Persistence and stability: the big picture

Data  
↓  
Geometry

point cloud  
↓ distance  
function

$P \subset \mathbb{R}^d$   
 $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

# Persistence and stability: the big picture

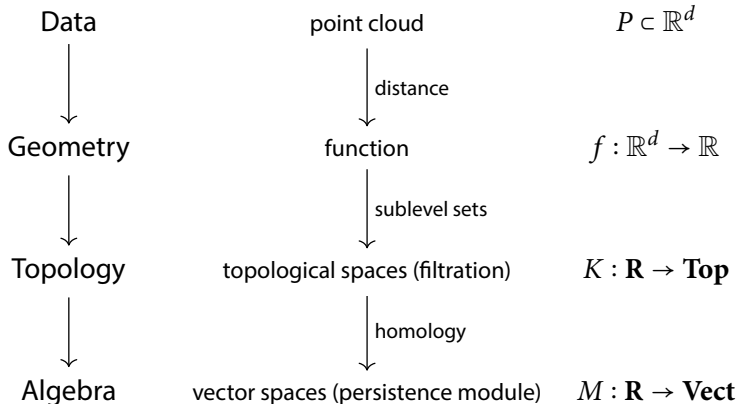


$$P \subset \mathbb{R}^d$$

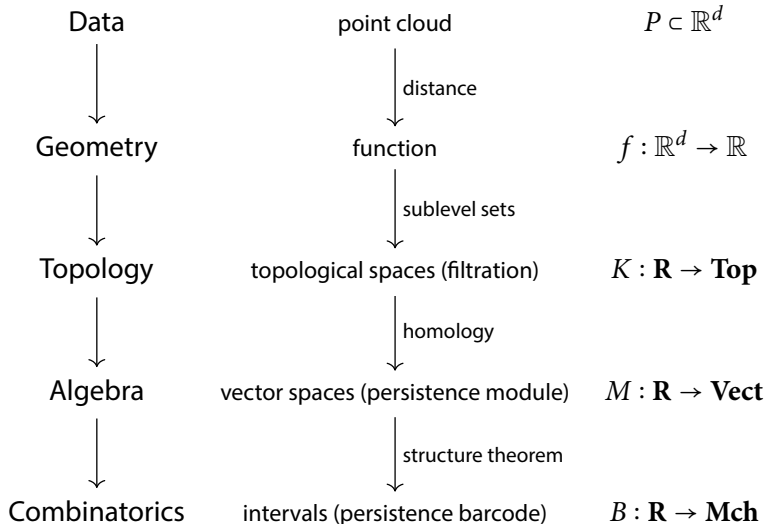
$$f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$K : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{Top}$$

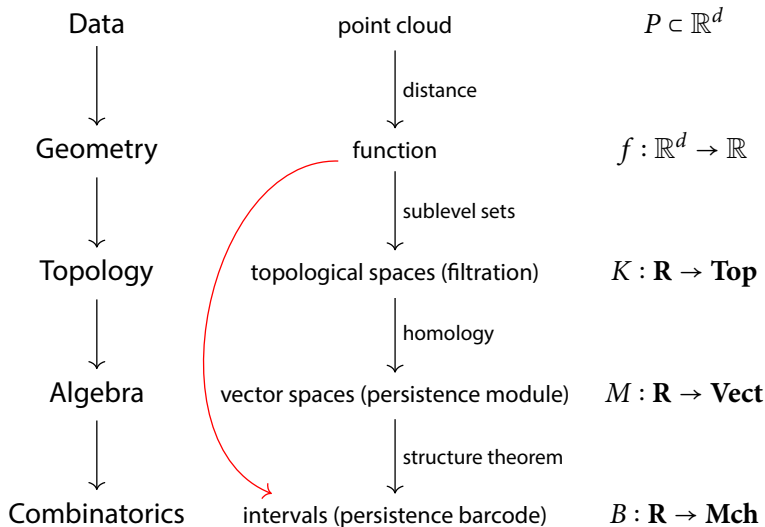
# Persistence and stability: the big picture



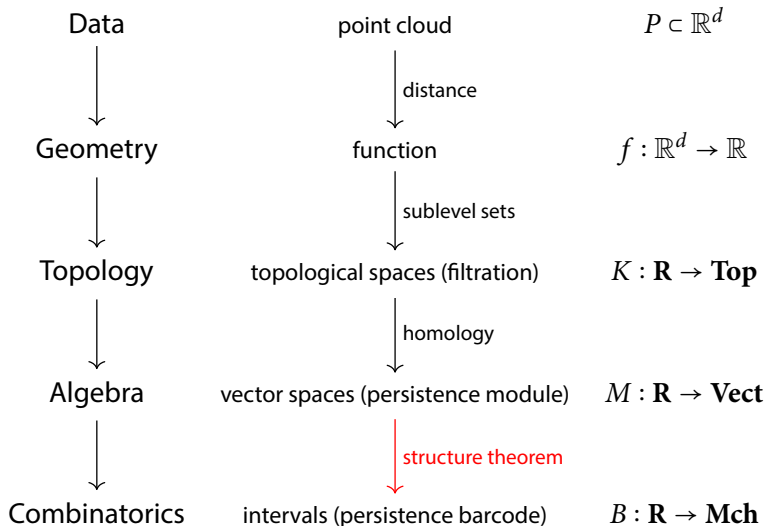
# Persistence and stability: the big picture



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# Persistence and stability: the big picture



## Interleavings

Let  $\delta = \|f - g\|_\infty$ . Write  $F_t = f^{-1}(-\infty, t]$  for the  $t$ -sublevel set of  $f$ .



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Then the sublevel set filtrations  $F, G : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{Top}$  are  $\delta$ -interleaved:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots \rightarrow & F_{t-\delta} & \longrightarrow & F_t & \longrightarrow & F_{t+\delta} & \cdots \rightarrow \\ & \swarrow \text{dotted} & \nearrow & \swarrow & \nearrow & \swarrow \text{dotted} & \nearrow \\ & & & & & & \\ & \swarrow \text{dotted} & \nearrow & \swarrow & \nearrow & \swarrow \text{dotted} & \nearrow \\ & & & & & & \\ \cdots \rightarrow & G_{t-\delta} & \longrightarrow & G_t & \longrightarrow & G_{t+\delta} & \cdots \rightarrow \end{array}$$

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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Applying homology, the persistence modules

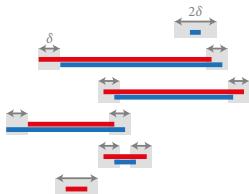
$H_*(F), H_*(G) : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$  are  $\delta$ -interleaved:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots \rightarrow & H_*(F_{t-\delta}) & \rightarrow & H_*(F_t) & \rightarrow & H_*(F_{t+\delta}) & \cdots \rightarrow \\ & \swarrow \text{green} & & \searrow \text{green} & & \swarrow \text{green} & & \searrow \text{green} \\ & \swarrow \text{red} & & \searrow \text{red} & & \swarrow \text{red} & & \searrow \text{red} \\ \cdots \rightarrow & H_*(G_{t-\delta}) & \rightarrow & H_*(G_t) & \rightarrow & H_*(G_{t+\delta}) & \cdots \rightarrow \end{array} \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

# Algebraic stability of persistence barcodes

Theorem (Chazal et al. 2009, 2012; B, Lesnick 2015)

*If two persistence modules are  $\delta$ -interleaved,  
then there exists a  $\delta$ -matching of their barcodes.*



# Structure of persistence sub-/quotient modules

## Proposition (B, Lesnick 2015)

Let  $M \rightarrow N$  be an epimorphism of persistence modules.

Then there is an injection of barcodes  $B(N) \hookrightarrow B(M)$  such that if  $J$  is mapped to  $I$ , then

- $I$  and  $J$  are aligned below, and
- $I$  bounds  $J$  above.



This construction is functorial.

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Dually, there is an injection  $B(M) \hookrightarrow B(N)$  for monomorphisms  $M \hookrightarrow N$ .

## Induced matchings

For  $f : M \rightarrow N$  a general morphism of pfd persistence modules, the epi-mono factorization

$$M \twoheadrightarrow \operatorname{im} f \hookrightarrow N$$

gives an *induced matching* between their barcodes:

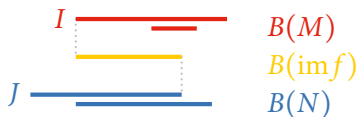
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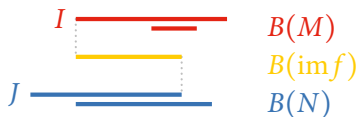
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If  $f$  is a  $\delta$ -interleaving morphism, then this is a  $\delta$ -matching.



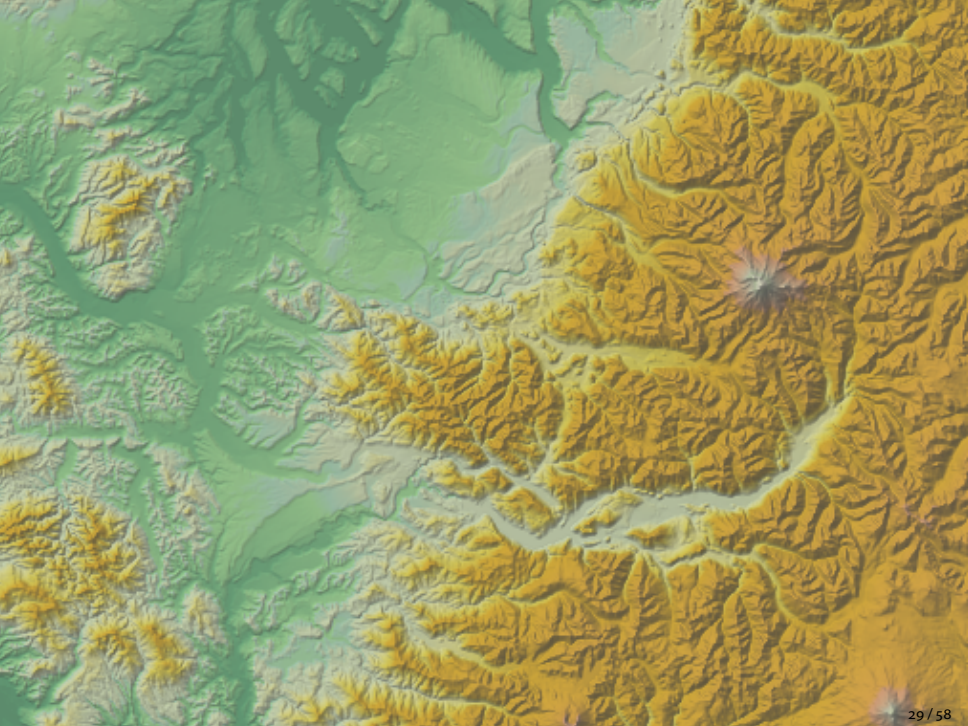
# Simplification

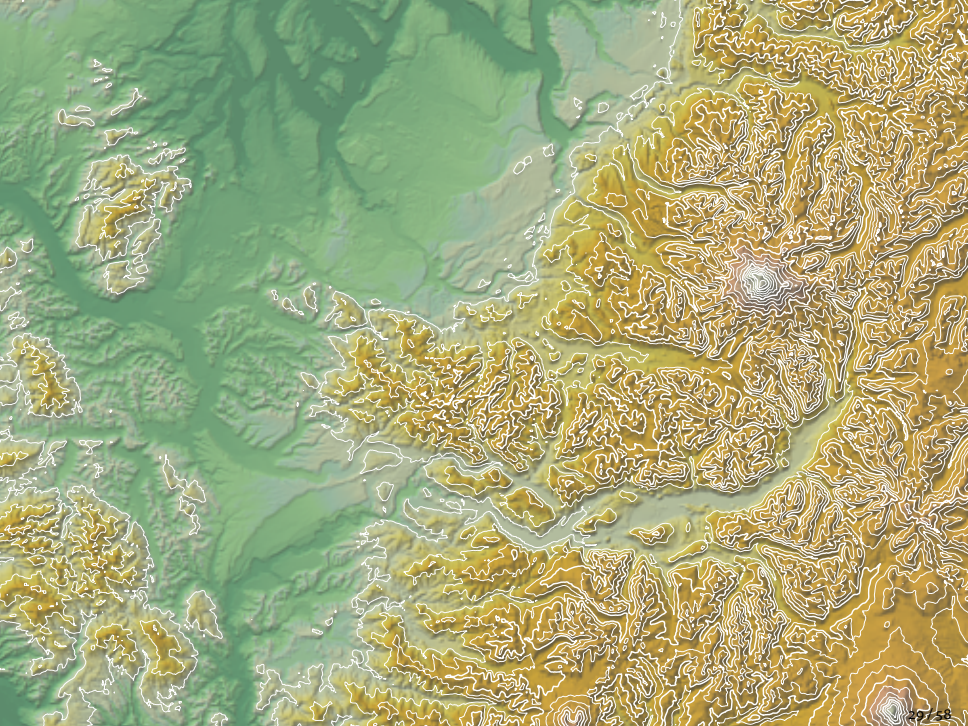
# Topological simplification of functions

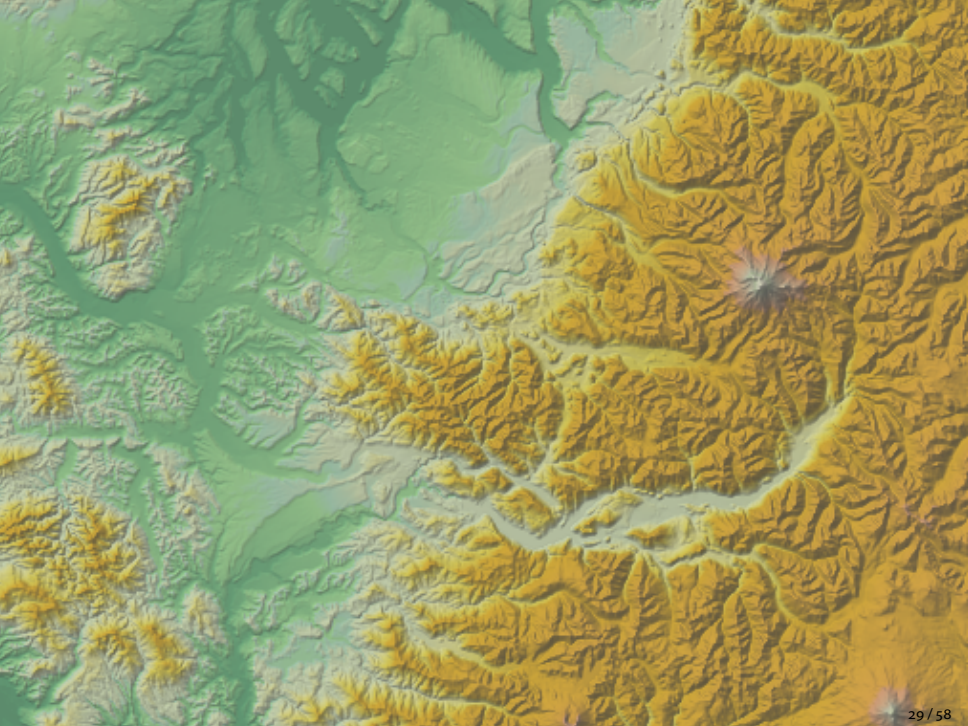
Consider the following problem:

## Problem (Topological simplification)

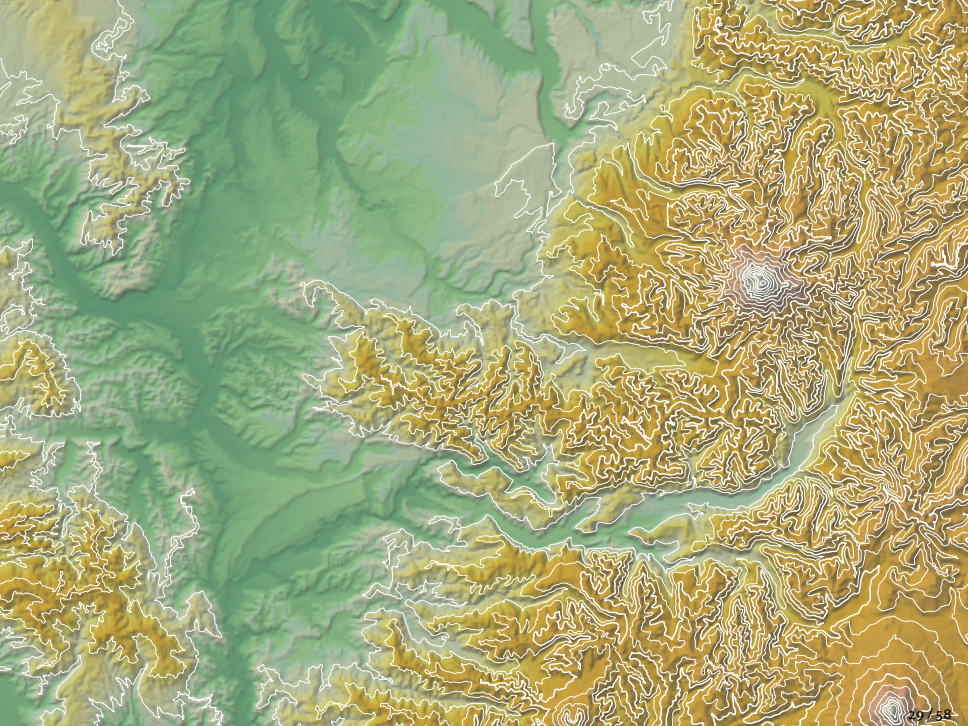
*Given a function  $f$  and a real number  $\delta \geq 0$ , find a function  $f_\delta$  with the minimal number of critical points subject to  $\|f_\delta - f\|_\infty \leq \delta$ .*







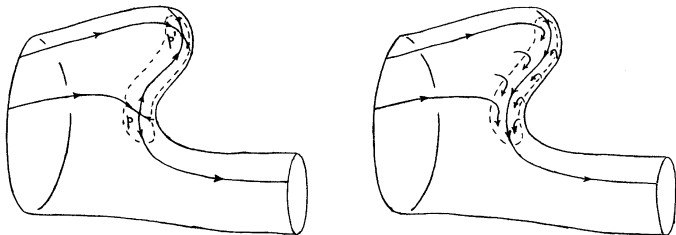




# Persistence and Morse theory

Morse theory (smooth or discrete):

- Relates critical points to homology of sublevel sets
- Provides a method for *canceling* pairs of critical points



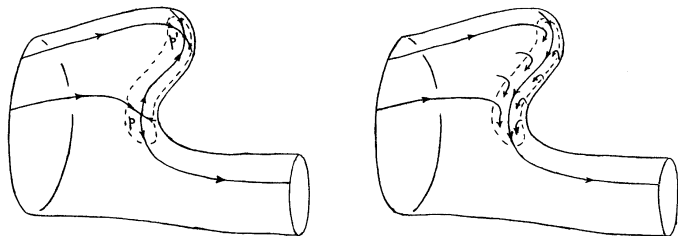
(from Milnor: *Lectures on the h-cobordism theorem*, 1965)



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(from Milnor: *Lectures on the  $h$ -cobordism theorem*, 1965)

Persistent homology:

- Relates homology of different sublevel set
- Identifies pairs of critical points (birth and death of homology) and quantifies their *persistence*

## Combining persistence and Morse theory

For a Morse function:

- critical points correspond to endpoints of barcode intervals

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By stability of persistence barcodes:

### Proposition

*The critical points of  $f$  with persistence  $> 2\delta$  provide a lower bound on the number of critical points of any function  $g$  with  $\|g - f\|_\infty \leq \delta$ .*

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## Theorem (B, Lange, Wardetzky, 2011)

*Let  $f$  be a function on a surface and let  $\delta > 0$ .*

*Canceling all pairs with persistence  $\leq 2\delta$  yields a function  $f_\delta$*

- *satisfying  $\|f_\delta - f\|_\infty \leq \delta$  and*
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Does not generalize to higher-dimensional manifolds!

# Functional topology

# When was persistent homology discovered?



H. Edelsbrunner, D. Letscher, and A. Zomorodian

Topological persistence and simplification

*Foundations of Computer Science, 2000*



V. Robbins

Computational Topology at Multiple Resolutions.

PhD thesis, University of Colorado Boulder, 2000



P. Frosini

A distance for similarity classes of submanifolds of a Euclidean space

*Bulletin of the Australian Mathematical Society, 1990.*



S. A. Barannikov.

The framed Morse complex and its invariants.

*In Singularities and bifurcations, Adv. Soviet Math. (vol. 21), 1994.*

When was persistent homology discovered first?



# When was persistent homology discovered first?

ANNALS OF MATHEMATICS  
Vol. 41, No. 2, April, 1940

## RANK AND SPAN IN FUNCTIONAL TOPOLOGY

BY MARSTON MORSE

(Received August 9, 1939)

### 1. Introduction.

The analysis of functions  $F$  on metric spaces  $M$  of the type which appear in variational theories is made difficult by the fact that the critical limits, such as absolute minima, relative minima, minimax values etc., are in general infinite in number. These limits are associated with relative  $k$ -cycles of various dimensions and are classified as 0-limits, 1-limits etc. The number of  $k$ -limits suitably counted is called the  $k^{\text{th}}$  type number  $m_k$  of  $F$ . The theory seeks to establish relations between the numbers  $m_k$  and the connectivities  $p_k$  of  $M$ . The numbers  $p_k$  are finite in the most important applications. It is otherwise with the numbers  $m_k$ .

The theory has been able to proceed provided one of the following hypotheses is satisfied. The critical limits cluster at most at  $+\infty$ ; the critical points are

# When was persistent homology discovered first?

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### Rank and span in functional topology

#### Exact homomorphism sequences in homology theory

ed.ac.uk [PDF]

JL Kelley, E Pitcher - *Annals of Mathematics*, 1947 - JSTOR

The developments of this paper stem from the attempts of one of the authors to deduce relations between homology groups of a complex and homology groups of a complex which is its image under a simplicial map. Certain relations were deduced (see [EP 1] and [EP 2] ...

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## Any time

Since 2016

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### Marston Morse and his mathematical works

ams.org [PDF]

R Bott - *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society*, 1980 - ams.org

American Mathematical Society. Thus Morse grew to maturity just at the time when the subject of Analysis Situs was being shaped by such masters as Poincaré, Veblen, LEJ Brouwer, GD Birkhoff, Lefschetz and Alexander, and it was Morse's genius and destiny to ...

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## Sort by relevance

Sort by date

### Unstable minimal surfaces of higher topological structure

include citations

M Morse, CB Tompkins - *Duke Math. J*, 1941 - projecteuclid.org

1. Introduction. We are concerned with extending the calculus of variations in the large to multiple integrals. The problem of the existence of minimal surfaces of unstable type contains many of the typical difficulties, especially those of a topological nature. Having studied this ...

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### [PDF] Persistence in discrete Morse theory

psu.edu [PDF]

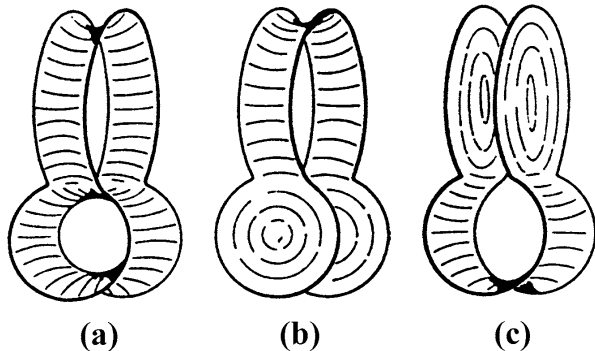
U Bauer - 2011 - Citeseer

The goal of this thesis is to bring together two different theories about critical points of a scalar function and their relation to topology: Discrete Morse theory and Persistent homology. While the goals and fundamental techniques are different, there are certain ...

# Motivation and application: minimal surfaces

## Problem (Plateau's problem)

Find an immersed disk of least area spanned by a given closed Jordan curve.

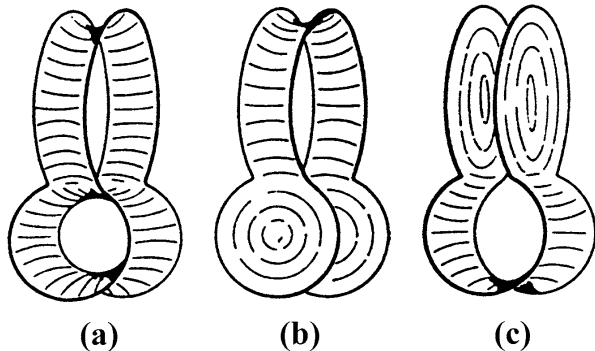


(from Dierkes et al.: *Minimal Surfaces*, 2010)

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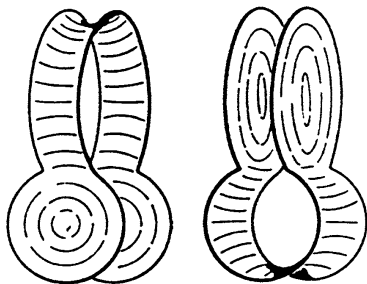
Solution by Douglas (1930):

- identifies minimal surfaces with critical points of the *Douglas*

## Existence of unstable minimal surfaces

Theorem (Morse, Tompkins 1939; Shiffman 1939)

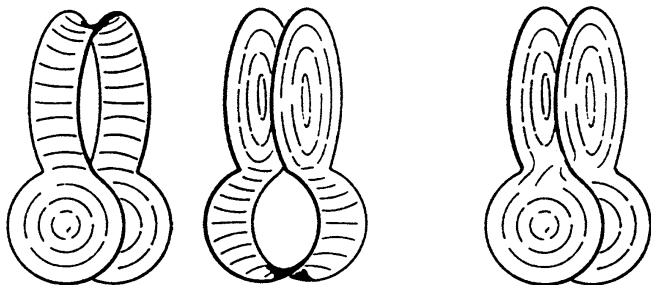
*Assume that a given curve bounds two separate stable minimal surfaces.*



## Existence of unstable minimal surfaces

Theorem (Morse, Tompkins 1939; Shiffman 1939)

*Assume that a given curve bounds two separate stable minimal surfaces. Then there also exists an unstable minimal surface bounding that curve (a critical point that is not a local minimum).*



## Q-tame persistence modules

Definition (Chazal et al. 2009)

A persistence module  $M : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{vect}$  is *q-tame* if for every  $s < t$  the structure map  $M_s \rightarrow M_t$  has finite rank.

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- A q-tame persistence module
  - does not necessarily admit a barcode,
  - but has a submodule at distance 0 that admits a barcode.
- Morse's goal, in modern language:
  - Sufficient conditions for sublevel sets to have q-tame persistence,
  - which are satisfied by the minimal surface functional

## Q-tameness from local connectivity

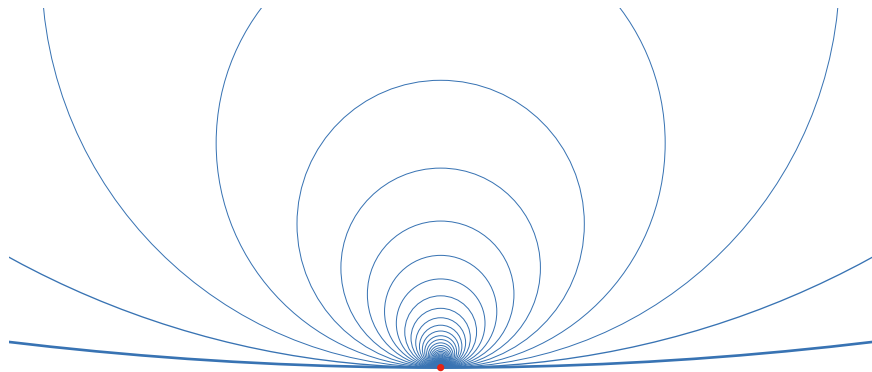
Theorem (Morse, 1937)

*If a function  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  on a metric space  $X$  is bounded below and the sublevel set filtration is compact and weakly locally connected, then it has  $q$ -tame persistent Vietoris homology.*

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Theorem (Morse, 1937; incorrect)

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# Homologically locally small filtrations

## Definition

The sublevel set filtration of a function  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is *homologically locally connected (HLC)* if

- for any point  $x \in X$ , any values  $f(x) < s < t$ , and
- any neighborhood  $V$  of  $x$  in the sublevel set  $f^{-1}(-\infty, t]$ ,

there is

- a neighborhood  $U \subseteq V$  of  $x$  in the sublevel set  $f^{-1}(-\infty, s]$

such that the inclusion  $U \hookrightarrow V$  induces a zero map on homology.

# A sufficient condition for $q$ -tame persistence

Theorem (B, Medina-Mardones, Schmahl 2021)

*If the sublevel sets of a function  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are compact and HLC, then their persistent homology is  $q$ -tame.*

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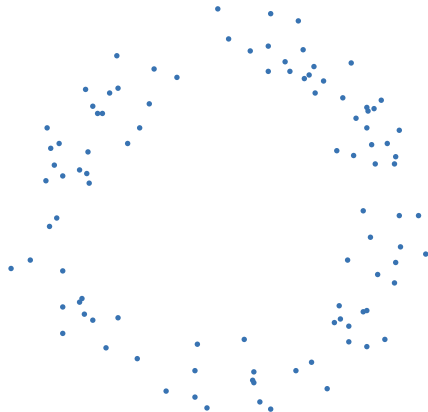
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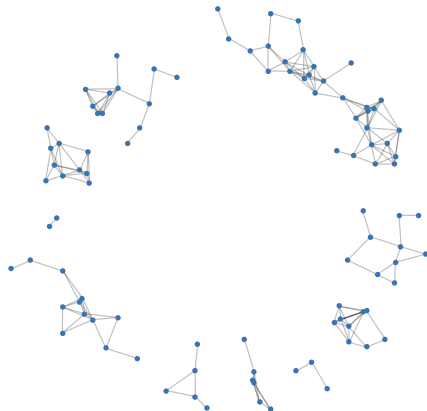
# Persistence of Vietoris–Rips complexes



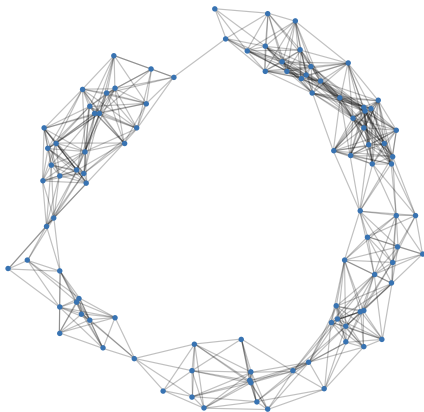
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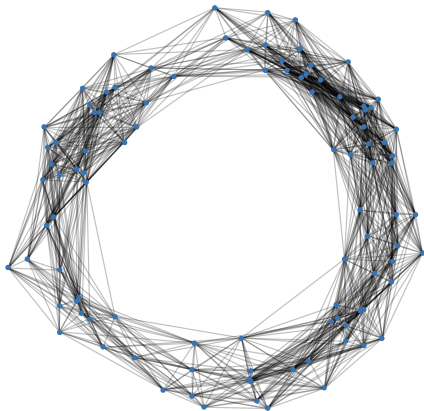
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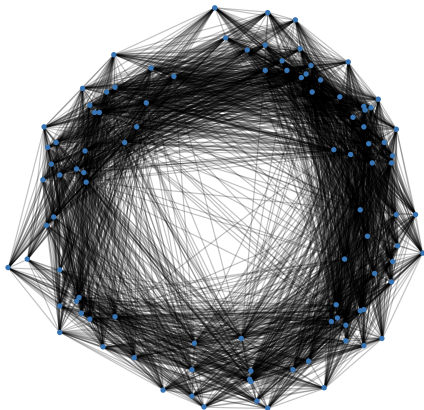
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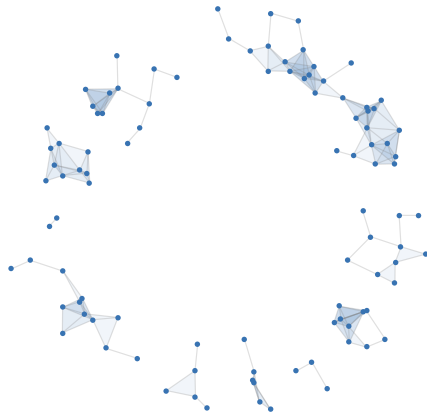
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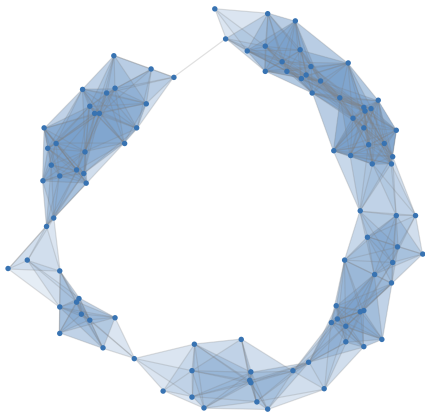
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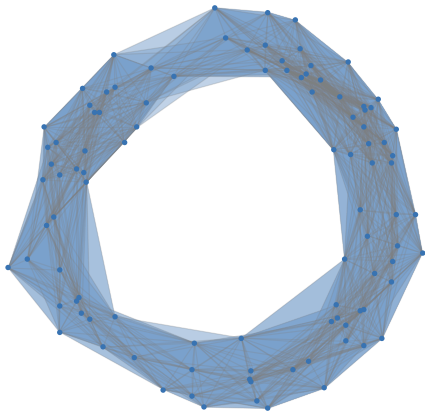
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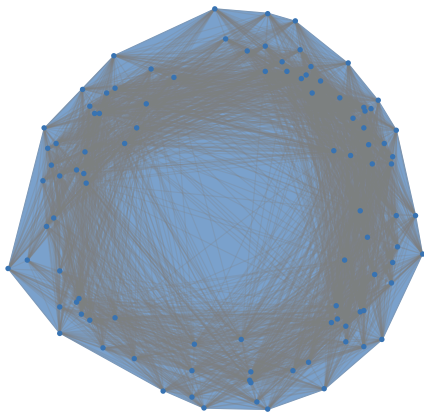


# Vietoris–Rips complexes





# Vietoris–Rips complexes



## Vietoris–Rips complexes

For a metric space  $X$ , the *Vietoris–Rips complex* at scale  $t > 0$  is the simplicial complex

$$\text{Rips}_t(X) = \{S \subseteq X \mid S \neq \emptyset \text{ finite, } \text{diam } S \leq t\}.$$

## An example computation

Example data set:

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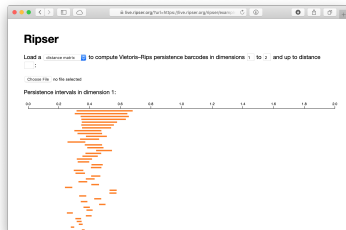
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## Apparent pairs:

Ripsper uses the following construction for a computational shortcut:

### Definition

In a simplexwise filtration  $(K_i = \{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_i\})_i$ , a pair of simplices  $(\sigma, \tau)$  is an *apparent pair* if

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### Proposition

*The apparent pairs form a discrete gradient.*

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*The apparent pairs form persistence pairs: the cycle  $\partial\tau$  gives rise to an interval  $[f(\sigma), f(\tau))$  in the persistence barcode.*

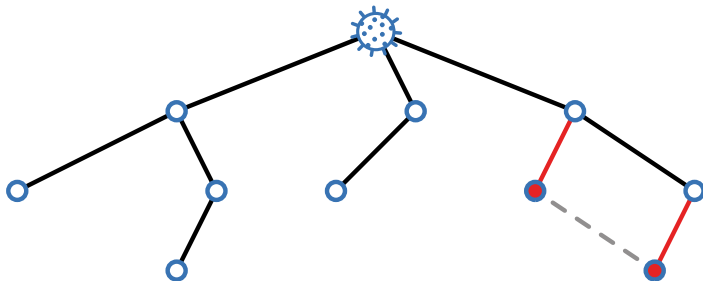


# The diameter-lexicographic filtration

We use the *lexicographic refinement* of the Vietoris–Rips filtration:

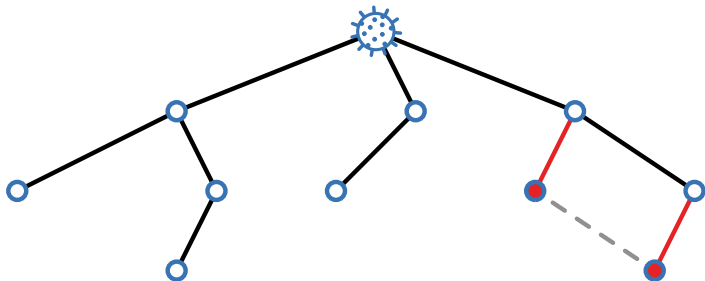
- Choose a total order on the vertices
- Order simplices by diameter
- Order simplices with same diameter by lexicographic vertex order

# Topology of viral evolution



Joint work with: A. Ott, M. Bleher, L. Hahn (Heidelberg), R. Rabadan, J. Patiño-Galindo (Columbia), M. Carrière (INRIA)

# Topology of viral evolution



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Observation: Ripser runs unusually fast on genetic distance data

- SARS-CoV2 spike protein: 25556 data points ( $2.8 \times 10^{12}$  simplices for  $H_1$ )

Can we make it run even faster?

# The Rips Contractibility Lemma

## Theorem (Rips; Gromov 1988)

*Let  $X$  be a  $\delta$ -hyperbolic geodesic metric space. Then  $\text{Rips}_t(X)$  is contractible for all  $t \geq 4\delta$ .*

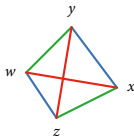
- What about non-geodesic spaces?
- In particular, finite metric spaces?
- Connection to Ripser?

# Gromov-hyperbolicity

## Definition (Gromov 1988)

A metric space  $X$  is  $\delta$ -hyperbolic if for all  $w, x, y, z \in X$  we have

$$d(w, x) + d(y, z) \leq \max\{d(w, y) + d(x, z), d(w, z) + d(x, y)\} + 2\delta.$$



- The hyperbolic plane is  $\ln 2$ -hyperbolic



- 0-hyperbolic spaces are subspaces of trees

# Rips contractibility for non-geodesic spaces

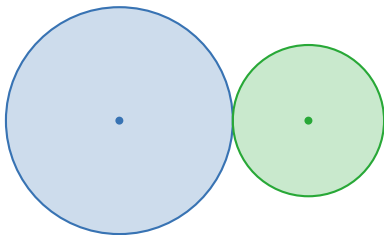
## Theorem (B, Roll 2021)

*Let  $X$  be a finite  $\delta$ -hyperbolic space. Then there is a discrete gradient encoding the collapses*

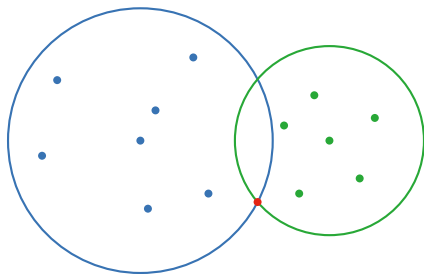
$$\text{Rips}_u(X) \searrow \text{Rips}_t(X) \searrow \{*\}$$

*for all  $u > t \geq 4\delta + 2\nu$ , where  $\nu$  is the geodesic defect of  $X$ .*

## Geodesic defect

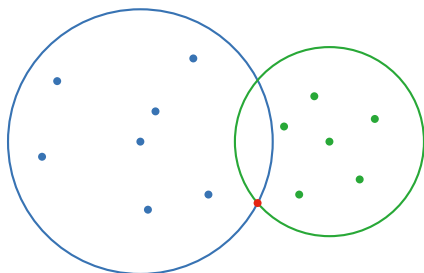


# Geodesic defect





## Geodesic defect



### Definition (Bonk, Schramm 2000)

A metric space  $X$  is  $\nu$ -geodesic if for all points  $x, y \in X$  and all  $r, s \geq 0$  with  $r + s = d(x, y)$  we have

$$B_{r+\nu}(x) \cap B_{r+\nu}(y) \neq \emptyset.$$

We call the infimum of all such  $\nu$  the *geodesic defect* of  $X$ .

## Bounds on the geodesic defect

$\nu$ : geodesic defect of finite  $(X, d)$

- lower bound:

$$\nu \geq \frac{1}{2} \min_{x \neq y \in X} d(x, y)$$

- upper bound:

$$\nu \leq d_H(X, Z)$$

for  $X \subseteq Z$  an ambient geodesic space

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Possible ambient spaces for  $X$ :

- $\ell^\infty(X)$  (functions  $X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ )
  - *Kuratowski embedding*  $e: X \rightarrow \ell^\infty(X)$ ,  $x \mapsto (d_x = d(x, -): X \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$
- injective hull (tight span): subspace of  $\ell^\infty(X)$

## The tight span of a metric space

Given a metric space  $(X, d)$ , the *injective hull* is

$$E(X) = \{f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f(x) + f(y) \geq d(x, y), f(x) = \sup_{y \in X} (d(x, y) - f(y))\},$$

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Properties:

- geodesic
- hyperconvex (metric balls have the Helly property)
- injective (in the category of metric spaces)  
[Aronszajn–Panichpakdi 1956]
- contains the Kuratowski embedding  $e(X): x \mapsto d_x$
- minimal space with above properties
- contractible [Isbell 1962]

# Density of Kuratowski embedding

## Theorem (Lang 2013 + $\epsilon$ )

Let  $X$  be a  $\delta$ -hyperbolic  $\nu$ -geodesic metric space. Then the injective hull  $E(X)$  is  $\delta$ -hyperbolic, and every point in  $E(X)$  has distance at most  $2\delta + \nu$  to  $e(X)$ .

## Corollary (Lim, Mémoli, Okutan 2020 + $\epsilon$ )

$\text{Rips}_t(X)$  is contractible for all  $t > 4\delta + 2\nu$ .

## Proof outline.

- $\text{Rips}_t(X) = \text{Cech}_r(e(X), E(X))$  (hyperconvexity)
- For  $r > 2\delta + \nu$ :  $(B_r(x))_{x \in e(X)}$  is a good cover of  $E(X)$  (density)
- $\text{Cech}_r(e(X), E(X)) \simeq E(X)$  (nerve theorem)
- $E(X) \simeq \{*\}$  (contractibility) □

## Collapsing Vietoris–Rips complexes of generic trees

Consider a *generic* finite metric tree  $T = (V, E)$  (distinct distances).

- $\text{diam}: 2^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a generalized discrete Morse function.
- The discrete gradient has the non-critical intervals  $[e, \Delta_e]$ , where
  - $e \in \binom{V}{2} \setminus E$  is any non-tree edge
  - $\Delta_e$  is the unique maximal cofaces with  $\text{diam } \Delta_e = l(e)$
- Only vertices  $V$  and edges  $E$  are critical

### Corollary (B, Roll 2021)

*The discrete gradient induces collapses*

$$\text{Rips}_t(X) \simeq T_t \quad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ with}$$

$$\text{Rips}_t(X) \simeq T \simeq \{*\} \quad \text{for all } t \geq \max l(E), \text{ and}$$

$$\text{Rips}_u(X) \simeq \text{Rips}_t(X) \quad \text{for all } (t, u] \cap l(E) = \emptyset.$$

*In particular, the persistent homology is trivial in degrees  $> 0$ .*

## Arbitrary tree metrics

Example: phylogenetic trees

- non-generic tree metric
- diam is not a generalized discrete Morse function



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Example: phylogenetic trees

- non-generic tree metric
- diam is not a generalized discrete Morse function

There is still a compatible gradient:

- independent of choices (*canonical gradient*)
- for generic trees: equals the diam gradient
- only  $V, E$  critical
- induces the same collapses

## Symbolic perturbation

Tie breaking for non-distinct pairwise distances:

- Choose total order on vertices
- Order edges lexicographically
- Perturb metric symbolically w.r.t. edge order

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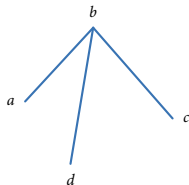
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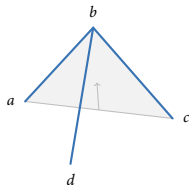


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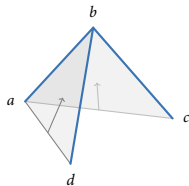


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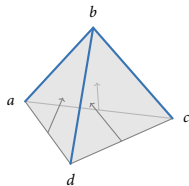


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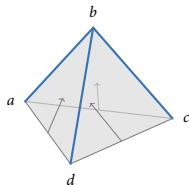


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This results in a gradient structure like a generic tree metric



- The canonical gradient (from the previous slide) refines the perturbed gradient (for any choice of total order)
- Hence, the perturbed gradient induces the same collapses



## Collapsing Rips complexes of trees with apparent pairs

Let  $X$  be the path length metric spaces for a weighted tree  $T = (X, E)$ .

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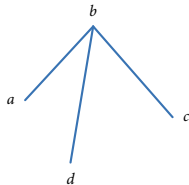
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*The apparent pairs gradient has critical simplices only on the tree  $T$ .*

*It induces the collapses*

$$\text{Rips}_u(X) \searrow \text{Rips}_t(X) \searrow T_t$$

*for all  $u > t$  such that no tree edge  $e \in E$  has length  $l(e) \in (t, u]$ .*



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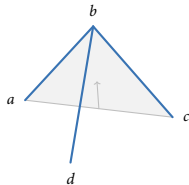
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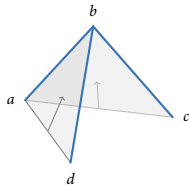
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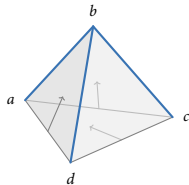
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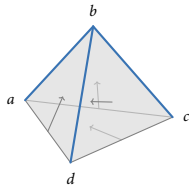
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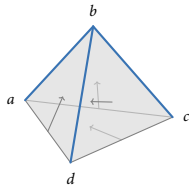
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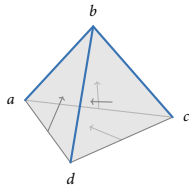
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- Explains why Ripser is very fast on genetic distances (tree-like)





U. Bauer, M. Kerber, F. Roll, and A. Rolle

A Unified View on the Functorial Nerve Theorem and its Variations

Preprint, [arXiv:2203.03571](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.03571), 2022



R. Forman

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*Advances in Mathematics*, 1998



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The Morse Theory of Čech and Delaunay Complexes

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Induced matchings and the algebraic stability of persistence barcodes

*Journal of Computational Geometry*, 2015.



U. Bauer, F. Roll

Gromov hyperbolicity, geodesic defect, and apparent pairs in  
Vietoris-Rips filtrations

Preprint, [arXiv:2112.06781](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.06781), 2022



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Preprint, arXiv:2107.14247, 2021



D. Cohen-Steiner, H. Edelsbrunner, and J. Harer.

Stability of persistence diagrams

*Discrete & Computational Geometry*, 2007



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Ripser: efficient computation of Vietoris–Rips persistence barcodes

*Journal of Applied and Computational Topology*, 2021