



The homology of L -fuzzy simplicial complexes

Jornadas de Topología de Datos de 2026

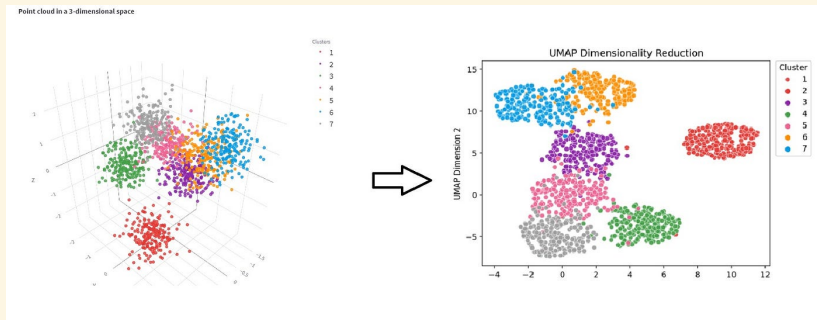
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The inspiration: UMAP

UMAP: Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection

[McInnes et al., 2018]



The inspiration: UMAP

- The paper models the high-dimensional dataset as a ***fuzzy simplicial complex*** before the projection.
- However, in practice, the **UMAP** algorithm does not really use the available *fuzzy* information.
- This leaves us with two open questions:

The inspiration: UMAP

- The paper models the high-dimensional dataset as a ***fuzzy simplicial complex*** before the projection.
- However, in practice, the **UMAP** algorithm does not really use the available *fuzzy* information.
- This leaves us with two open questions:

What information can be extracted from a fuzzy simplicial complex?

What would its homology be like?

The closest work we have found is this article:

Singular homology groups of fuzzy topological spaces
[Wang-jin and Chong-you, 1985]

Disadvantages:

- It does not exactly match our question.
- Impossible to translate into a computational framework.

We saw that no one had defined the homology of a fuzzy simplicial complex. So, what do we do?

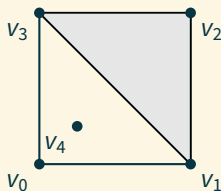
We make it up ourselves!

But first, we need to define:

- What simplicial homology is and how it is computed.
- What fuzzy sets and L -fuzzy sets are.

Simplicial Homology

We start with a simplicial complex Δ :



Let R be a principal ideal domain, and define the chain complex:

$$\cdots \rightarrow C_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} C_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0 \rightarrow$$

where the boundary operator ∂_d maps each d -simplex to the $(d-1)$ -simplices on its boundary.

Simplicial Homology

The boundary operator ∂_d can be encoded as a matrix M_d .

We define the following submodules of C_d :

- **Cycles submodule:** $Z_d = \ker(\partial_d) \subseteq C_d$
- **Boundaries submodule:** $B_d = \operatorname{Im}(\partial_{d+1}) \subseteq C_d$

Since $\partial^2 = 0$, we have $B_d \subseteq Z_d$ and can define:

- **Homology of Δ :** $H_d = \frac{Z_d}{B_d}$

Simplicial Homology: Summary

To compute homology we need:

- A simplicial complex
- R -modules
- Kernel and image of a homomorphism between R -modules
- Quotient of R -modules

Simplicial Homology: Summary

To compute *L-fuzzy* homology we need:

- An *L-fuzzy* simplicial complex
- *L-fuzzy* R -modules
- Kernel and image of a homomorphism between *L-fuzzy* R -modules
- Quotient of *L-fuzzy* R -modules

So, we are going to define the L -fuzzy versions of all these concepts.

Lattices

A **completely distributive lattice (CDL)** is a poset (L, \leq) where:

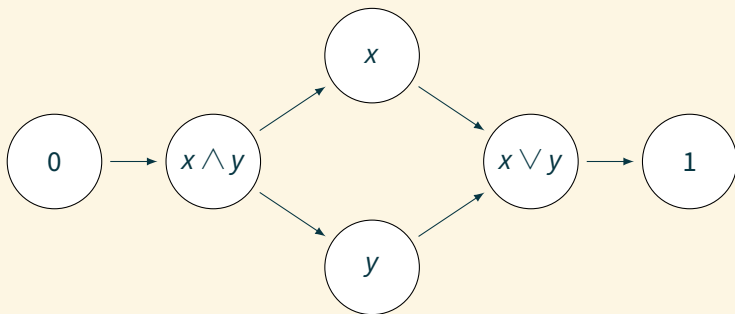
- Every $S \subseteq L$ has a **meet** $\bigwedge S \in L$, which is the greatest lower bound of S .
- Every $S \subseteq L$ has a **join** $\bigvee S \in L$, which is the least upper bound of S .
- There is a global minimum and maximum: $0, 1 \in L$.
- The meet and join are **completely distributive**:

$$\bigwedge_i \bigvee_j l_{ij} = \bigvee_{f \in J^I} \bigwedge_i l_{if(i)} \quad \text{and} \quad \bigvee_i \bigwedge_j l_{ij} = \bigwedge_{f \in J^I} \bigvee_i l_{if(i)}.$$

Lattices

Examples of CDLs

- Totally ordered sets such as $\{0, 1\}$ and $[0, 1]$ are CDLs.
- The free distributive lattice $\mathbf{FDL}(x, y)$:



Definition

Given a set X and a CDL L , an **L -fuzzy subset** is a map $\mu : X \rightarrow L$.

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- The value $\mu(x) \in L$ represents the degree of membership of x respect to the L -fuzzy subset:

$\mu(x) = 0$	$0 < \mu(x) < 1$	$\mu(x) = 1$
x is not a member	x is partially a member	x is a member

- We say that $\mu \subseteq \nu$ if $\mu(x) \leq \nu(x) \forall x \in X$.
- When $L = \{0, 1\}$, we are just describing the classical (crisp) subsets of X .
- The first definition from [Zadeh, 1965] only considers $L = [0, 1]$.

L -fuzzy simplicial complexes

Definition

Given a simplicial complex Δ and a CDL L , an **L -fuzzy subcomplex** is a map $\mu : \Delta \rightarrow L$ such that:

$$\text{if } \sigma \subseteq \tau, \text{ then } \mu(\sigma) \geq \mu(\tau).$$

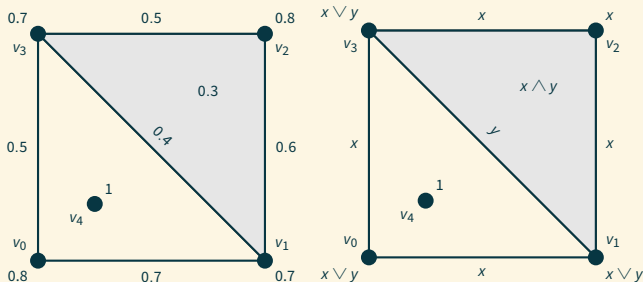
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Two L -fuzzy simplicial complexes with $L = [0, 1]$ and $L = \text{FDL}(x, y)$:



L -fuzzy modules

Definition

Given an R -module M and a CDL L , an **L -fuzzy submodule** is a map $\mu : M \rightarrow L$ such that:

$$\mu(0) = 1, \quad \mu(x + y) \geq \mu(x) \wedge \mu(y) \quad \text{and} \quad \mu(r \cdot x) \geq \mu(x).$$

Extension principle

Definition (Extension Principle)

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a map, and let $\mu : X \rightarrow L$ and $\nu : Y \rightarrow L$ be L -fuzzy subsets.

- The **image** of μ under f is the L -fuzzy subset $f(\mu) : Y \rightarrow L$ defined by

$$f(\mu)(y) = \bigvee \{ \mu(x) \mid f(x) = y \}.$$

- The **preimage** of ν under f is the L -fuzzy subset $f^{-1}(\nu) : X \rightarrow L$ defined by

$$f^{-1}(\nu)(x) = \nu(f(x)).$$

Quotient of L -fuzzy submodules

Definition

Let $\mu, \nu : M \rightarrow L$ be two L -fuzzy submodules such that $\mu \subseteq \nu$.

Then the **quotient of ν with respect to μ** is an L -fuzzy submodule $(\nu/\mu) : M/\langle \mu^* \rangle \rightarrow L$ defined by:

$$\left(\frac{\nu}{\mu} \right) ([x]) = \bigvee \{ \nu(z) \mid z \in [x] \},$$

where $x \in \langle \nu^* \rangle$ and $[x]$ denotes the coset $x + \langle \mu^* \rangle$.

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Remark

We already have all the ingredients to define the L -fuzzy version of simplicial homology. **Let's do it!**

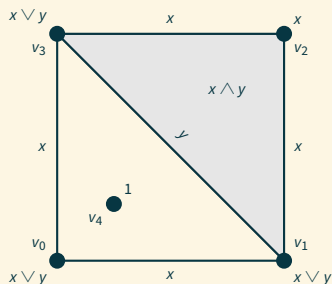
L-fuzzy simplicial homology

Definition

Let Δ be a simplicial complex, $\mu : \Delta \rightarrow L$ an L -fuzzy subcomplex and C_d the R -module of d -chains generated by $\Delta_d = \{\sigma_{d,1}, \dots, \sigma_{d,N_d}\}$.

- We define the **L -fuzzy subset of d -simplices** $\delta_d : C_d \rightarrow L$ as:

$$\delta_d = \bigcup_{i=1}^{N_d} (\sigma_{d,i})_{\mu(\sigma_{d,i})}$$



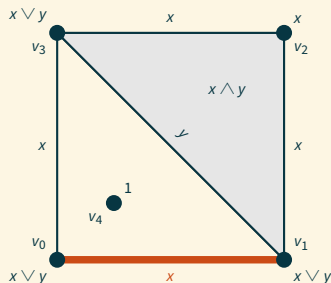
$$\delta_1(c) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } c = [v_0, v_1], \\ x & \text{if } c = [v_0, v_3], \\ x & \text{if } c = [v_1, v_2], \\ y & \text{if } c = [v_1, v_3], \\ x & \text{if } c = [v_2, v_3], \\ 0 & \text{for any other 1-chain} \end{cases}$$

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- We define the **L -fuzzy submodule of d -chains** $\kappa_d : C_d \rightarrow L$ as:
 $\kappa_d = \langle \delta_d \rangle$.



$$c_1 = [v_0, v_1]$$

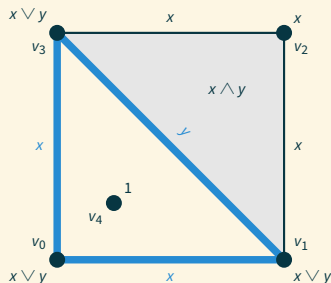
$$\begin{cases} \kappa_1(0) = 1 \\ \kappa_1(c_1) = x \end{cases}$$

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$$c_2 = [v_0, v_1] + [v_1, v_3] - [v_0, v_3]$$

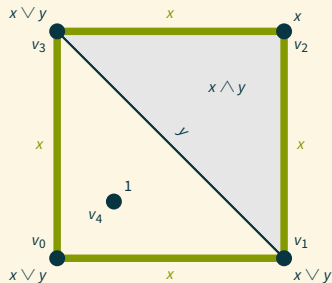
$$\begin{cases} \kappa_1(0) = 1 \\ \kappa_1(c_1) = x \\ \kappa_1(c_2) = x \wedge y \end{cases}$$

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 $\kappa_d = \langle \delta_d \rangle$.



$$c_3 = [v_0, v_1] + [v_1, v_2] + [v_2, v_3] - [v_0, v_3]$$

$$\begin{cases} \kappa_1(0) = 1 \\ \kappa_1(c_1) = x \\ \kappa_1(c_2) = x \wedge y \\ \kappa_1(c_3) = x \\ \vdots \end{cases}$$

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Let Δ be a simplicial complex, $\mu : \Delta \rightarrow L$ an L -fuzzy subcomplex and C_d the R -module of d -chains generated by $\Delta_d = \{\sigma_{d,1}, \dots, \sigma_{d,N_d}\}$.

- We define the **L -fuzzy submodule of d -cycles** $\zeta_d : C_d \rightarrow L$ as:
$$\zeta_d = \kappa_d \cap \partial_d^{-1}(0_1) = \kappa_d \cap (\ker \partial_d)_1 \in \mathfrak{FM}(C_d, L).$$
- We define the **L -fuzzy submodule of d -boundaries** $\beta_d : C_d \rightarrow L$ as:
$$\beta_d = \kappa_d \cap \partial_{d+1}(\kappa_{d+1}) \in \mathfrak{FM}(C_d, L).$$

Proposition

$$\beta_d \subseteq \zeta_d \subseteq \kappa_d$$

L -fuzzy simplicial homology

Definition

Let $\mu : \Delta \rightarrow L$ be an L -fuzzy subcomplex. We define the **L -fuzzy d -th homology** submodule of μ as:

$$\eta_d = \frac{\zeta_d|_{\langle \zeta_d^* \rangle}}{\beta_d|_{\langle \zeta_d^* \rangle}} : \frac{\langle \zeta_d^* \rangle}{\langle \beta_d^* \rangle} \rightarrow L.$$

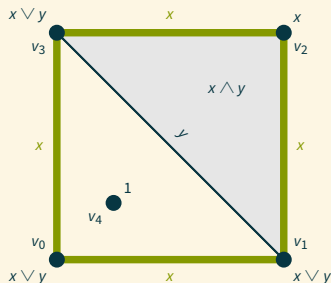
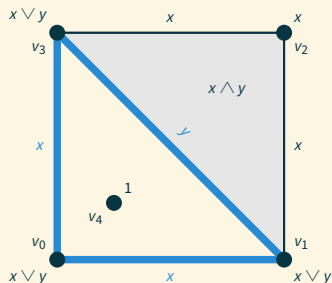
Remark

If $\mu^* = \Delta$ and 0 is meet-prime in L , then $\eta_d : H_d \rightarrow L$ and

$$\eta_d([h]) = \bigvee \{ \kappa_d(c) \mid c \in [h] \}.$$

L-fuzzy simplicial homology

Consider the homology class $[c_2]$.



$c_2 \in [c_2]$ and $\kappa_1(c_2) = x \wedge y$.

$c_3 \in [c_2]$ and $\kappa_1(c_3) = x$.

Any other cycle $c \in [c_2]$ satisfies $\kappa_1(c) = x \wedge y$. Then,

$$\eta_1([c_2]) = (x \wedge y) \vee x = x.$$

L -fuzzy simplicial homology

For each lattice value $l \in L$ there is a level submodule:

$$\eta_d^{\geq l} = \{[h] \in H_d \mid \eta_d([h]) \geq l\} \subseteq H_d$$

The submodules $\eta_d^{\geq l}$ form a lattice which fully describes η_d .

How can we compute the level submodules $\eta_d^{\geq l}$?

L-fuzzy simplicial homology

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How can we compute the level submodules $\eta_d^{\geq l}$?

The general idea is:

- While computing H_d , we reduce M_d to its SNF M'_d .
- We get the change-of-basis matrix $M_d^{H,\sigma}$.
- We use $M_d^{H,\sigma}$ to state some equations systems which help us to compute $\eta_d([h])$ and $\eta_d^{\geq l}$.

This is **always valid**, for any coefficient ring R and any lattice L .

The case with field coefficients

Consider now coefficients in a field F .

We want to describe the L -fuzzy homology with a simple invariant.

Definition

Let V be an F -vector space, let $\mu : V \rightarrow L$ be an L -fuzzy subspace and let $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ be a basis of V . We say that B **generates** μ if:

$$\mu(r_1 v_1 + \dots + r_n v_n) = \bigwedge_{\substack{i=1, \dots, n \\ r_i \neq 0}} \mu(v_i).$$

In that case, $\mu(B) = \{\mu(v_i) \mid i = 1, \dots, n\}$ is the **fuzzy multiset of B** .

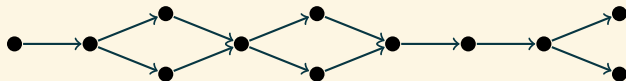
Does such a basis always exist?

The case with field coefficients

Definition

Let L be a CDL. We say that $S \subseteq L$ is a **semi-chain** if every value in S is incomparable to at most another value in S .

In general, a semi-chain looks like this:



Example

Any totally ordered set is a semi-chain.

Example

$\text{FDL}(x, y)$ is a semi-chain.

The case with field coefficients

Proposition

Let V be an F -vector space and let $\mu : V \rightarrow L$ be an L -fuzzy subspace. Suppose that $\{\mu(u) \mid u \in V\} \subseteq L$ is a semi-chain. Then, there exists a basis B of V that generates μ . Moreover, if another basis B' generates μ too, then $\mu(B) = \mu(B')$.

In this case, the multiset $\mu(B)$ is independent of the generating basis B , and we define the **L -fuzzy rank** of μ as $\text{Rank}(\mu) = \mu(B)$.

The case with field coefficients

Let $\mu : \Delta \rightarrow L$ be an L -fuzzy simplicial subcomplex such that $\{\mu(\sigma) \mid \sigma \in \Delta\}$ is a semi-chain. Then the sets

$$\{\kappa_d(c) \mid c \in C_d\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{\eta_d(e) \mid e \in H_d\}$$

are semi-chains as well, and $\text{Rank}(\eta_d)$ is well defined.

How can we compute $\text{Rank}(\eta_d)$?

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How can we compute $\text{Rank}(\eta_d)$?

By applying zigzag homology.

The case with field coefficients

We will explain how to compute $\text{Rank}(\eta_d)$ when $L = \text{FDL}(x, y)$, and the same idea will apply to any semi-chain.

We start with the semi-chain $\text{FDL}(x, y)$ ($a \rightarrow b$ means $a \leq b$):

$$0 \rightarrow x \wedge y \begin{array}{cc} \nearrow x & \nearrow \\ \searrow y & \searrow \end{array} x \vee y \rightarrow 1$$

We “split it in half”, getting the sequence:

$$1 \leftarrow x \vee y \leftarrow x \leftarrow x \wedge y \leftarrow 0 \rightarrow x \wedge y \rightarrow y \rightarrow x \vee y \rightarrow 1$$

The case with field coefficients

Denoting $\Delta^l = \mu^{\geq l}$, we get the zigzag diagram:

$$\Delta^1 \subseteq \Delta^{x \vee y} \subseteq \Delta^x \subseteq \Delta^{x \wedge y} \subseteq \Delta^0 \supseteq \Delta^{x \wedge y} \supseteq \Delta^y \supseteq \Delta^{x \vee y} \supseteq \Delta^1.$$

This induces the zigzag homology module:

$$\mathbb{H}_d : H_d^1 \rightarrow H_d^{x \vee y} \rightarrow H_d^x \rightarrow H_d^{x \wedge y} \rightarrow H_d^0 \leftarrow H_d^{x \wedge y} \leftarrow H_d^y \leftarrow H_d^{x \vee y} \leftarrow H_d^1,$$

whose barcode is

$$B(\mathbb{H}_d) = \{[a_j, b_j] \mid j = 1, \dots, N\}.$$

We must interpret the interval $[x, y]$ as $\{x, x \wedge y, 0, x \wedge y, y\}$.

The case with field coefficients

Proposition

Let $\mu : \Delta \rightarrow \text{FDL}(x, y)$ an L -fuzzy subcomplex, and let $\eta_d : H_d \rightarrow \text{FDL}(x, y)$ be the associated L -fuzzy homology submodule. Then,

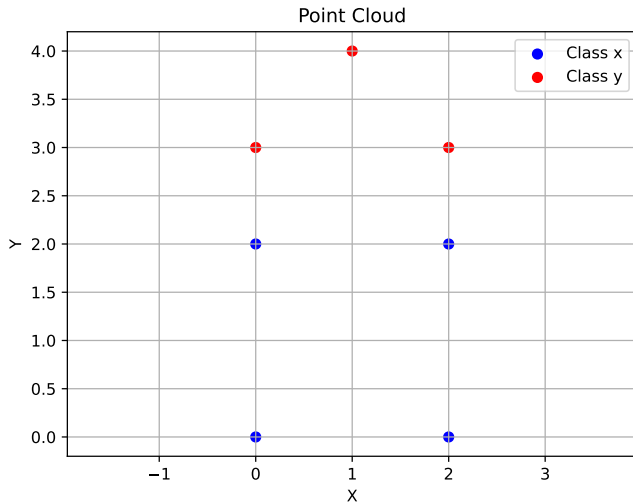
$$\text{Rank}(\eta_d) = \{ a_j \vee b_j \mid [a_j, b_j] \in B(\mathbb{H}_d) \text{ and } 0 \in [a_j, b_j] \}.$$

The same statement holds for any semi-chain.

Let's see how to apply this proposition.

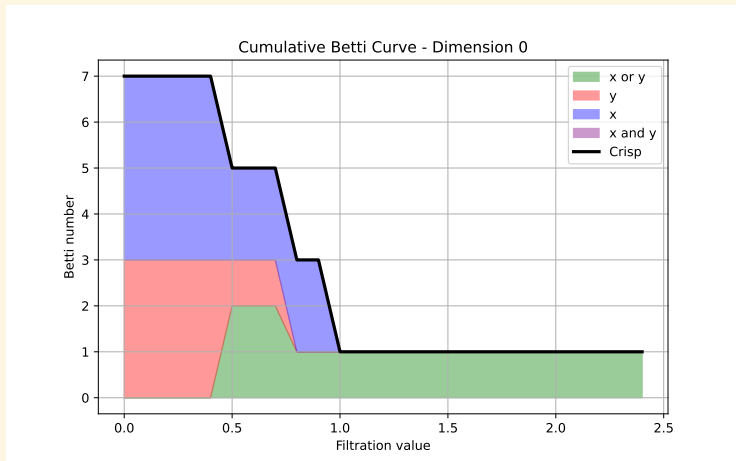
L -fuzzy Betti curve

Consider this bichromatic dataset and a filtration over it.
We can model it as an L -fuzzy dataset with $L = \text{FDL}(x, y)$.



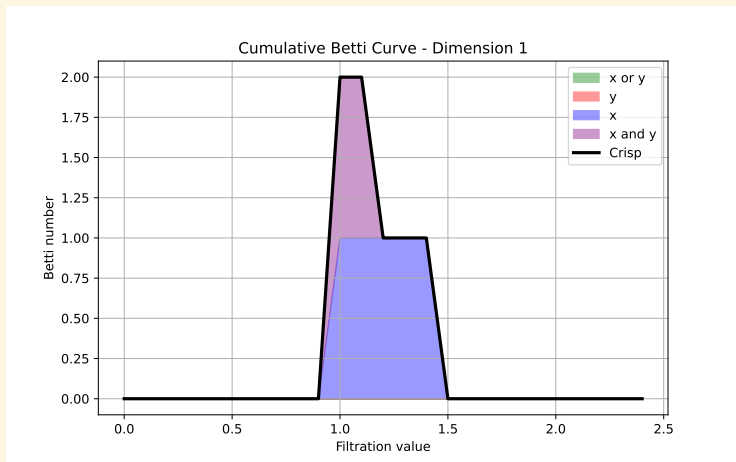
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The last Proposition gives us a sequence of L -fuzzy ranks, which results in the **L -fuzzy Betti curve of η_d** .



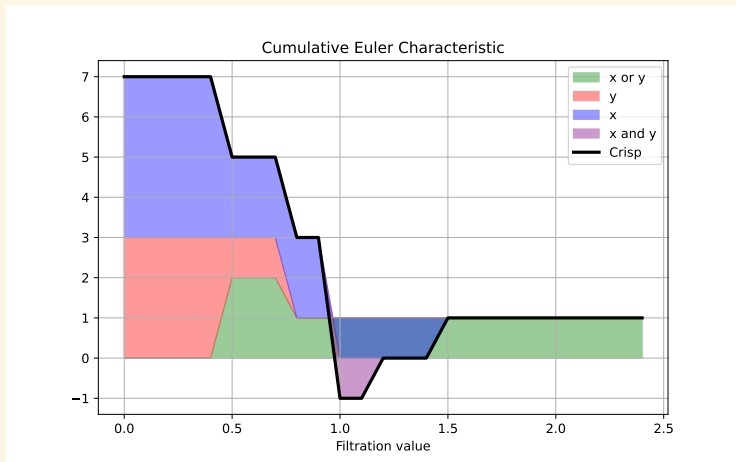
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L -fuzzy Betti curve

We can also compute the *L -fuzzy Euler characteristic of μ* .

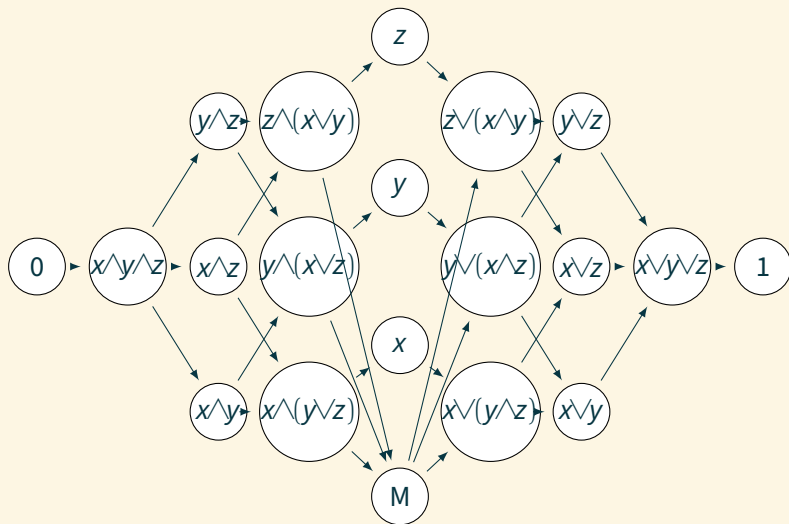


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Appendix: Lattices

- The free distributive lattice $\mathbf{FDL}(x, y, z)$:



Appendix: The case with field coefficients

Example

If $L = \{0, 1\}$, any $\mu \in \mathfrak{FM}(V, L)$ is simply a crisp subspace $E \subseteq V$.
If $\dim(E) = m \leq n$, then

$$\text{Rank}(\mu) = \left\{ \overbrace{1, \dots, 1}^m, \overbrace{0, \dots, 0}^{n-m} \right\}.$$

Appendix: The case with field coefficients

Example

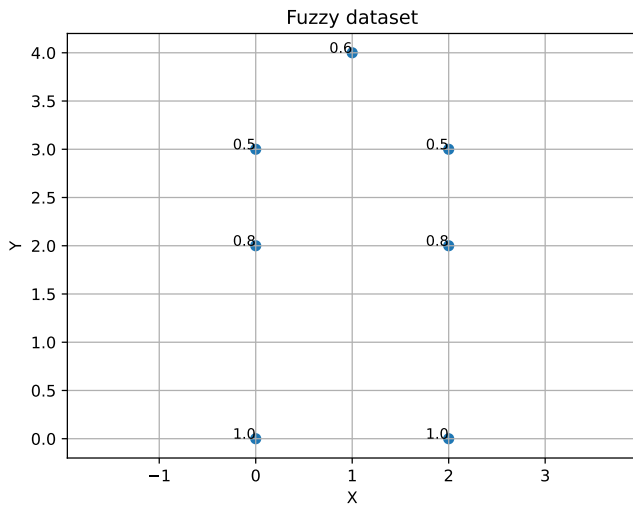
Let $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ and consider $\mu \in \mathfrak{FM}(V, \text{FDL}(x, y, z))$ defined by:

$$\mu((r_1, r_2)) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r_1 = r_2 = 0, \\ x \wedge y & \text{if } r_1 = r_2 \neq 0, \\ x \wedge z & \text{if } r_1 = 0 \text{ and } r_2 \neq 0, \\ y \wedge z & \text{if } r_2 = 0 \text{ and } r_1 \neq 0, \\ x \wedge y \wedge z & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$\{\mu(u) \mid u \in V\}$ is not a semi-chain because $x \wedge y$, $x \wedge z$ and $y \wedge z$ are mutually incomparable, and there is no basis B that generates μ .

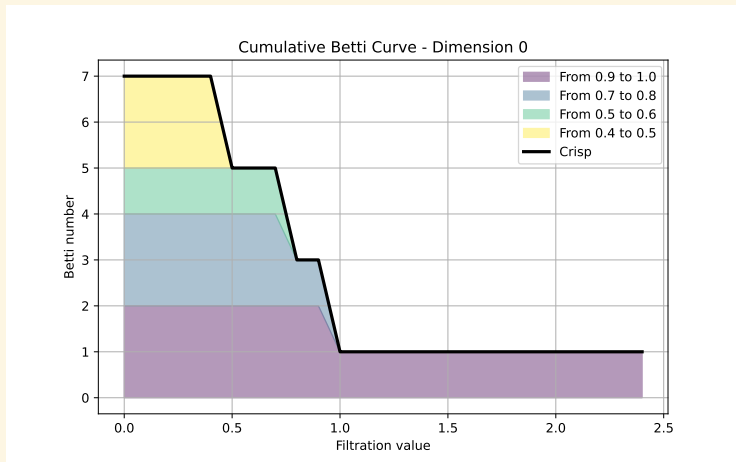
Appendix: L -fuzzy Betti curve

Consider a fuzzy dataset like this and build a filtration over it. We can apply this theorem on each complex in the filtration.



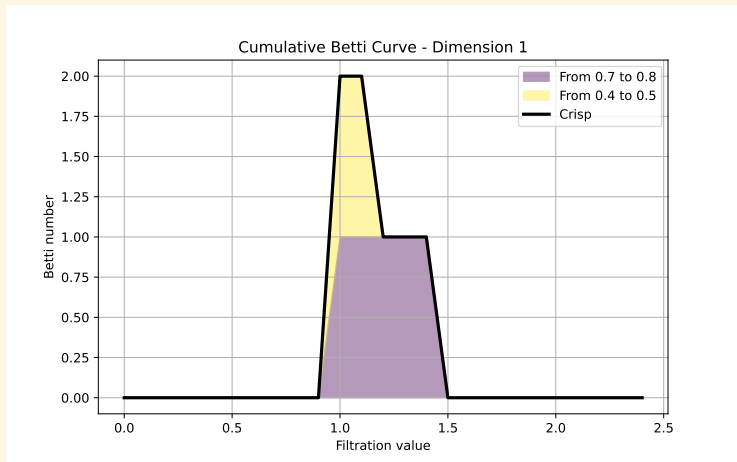
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