

# Working Title



Andrew Banman

# Outline

# What is topology?

*“...a topologist is someone who cannot tell the difference between a tea cup and a doughnut.” -Crossley*

- Notions of equivalence



- Study of continuous functions.

ex) continuous integer-valued function on the real line must be constant. What matters is the topology of **R** and **Z**.

# Homotopy

- Two functions (loops or paths) are *homotopic* if there is a *continuous deformation* from one to the other.

The **homotopy** is the function that "does the deforming."

- Group all possible functions into homotopy *equivalence classes*  
→ can count the number of "holes"

# Simplicial Homology

- Simplicies
  - $K$  simplex = regular ordered  $k+1$  vertices (points)
- Simplicial complexes
  - Formal def: if  $\sigma < \Sigma$ , and  $\tau < \sigma$ , then  $\tau < \Sigma$
  - Show how constructed

# Point Clouds: enter the data

- Persistent homology
- Sample the torus
- Show the barcodes / persistence diagram

# Mind the gap

## Indicators

Children per woman (total fertility)

CO2 emissions (tonnes per person)

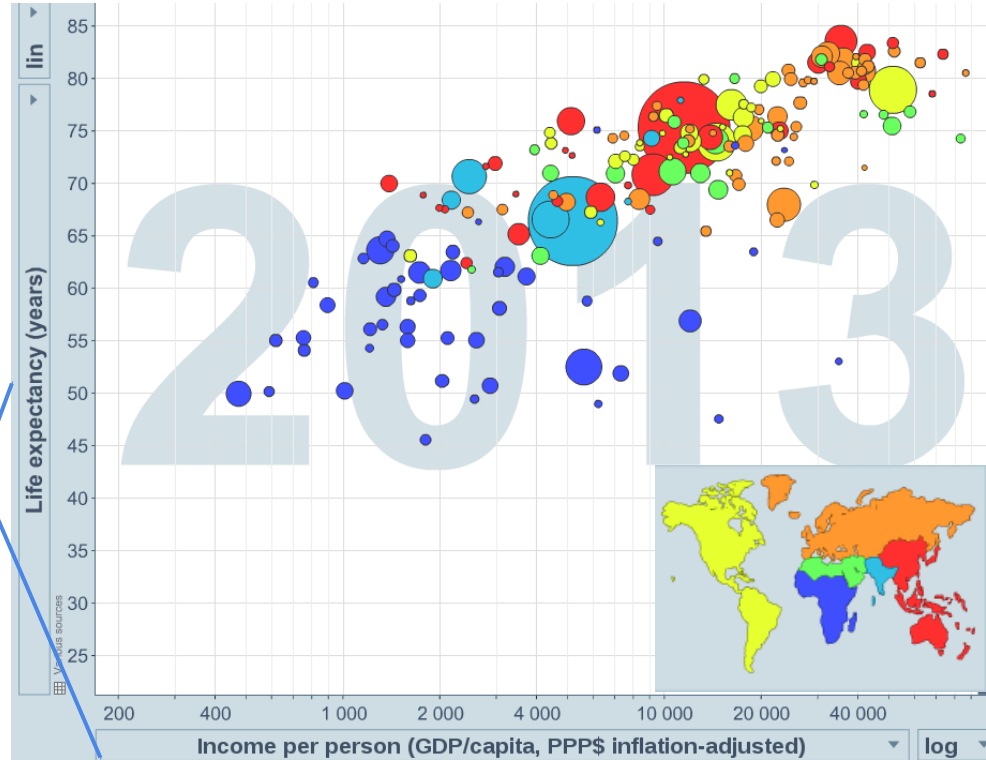
Income per person (GDP/capita, PPP\$ inflation-adjusted)

Child mortality (0-5 year-olds dying per 1,000 born)

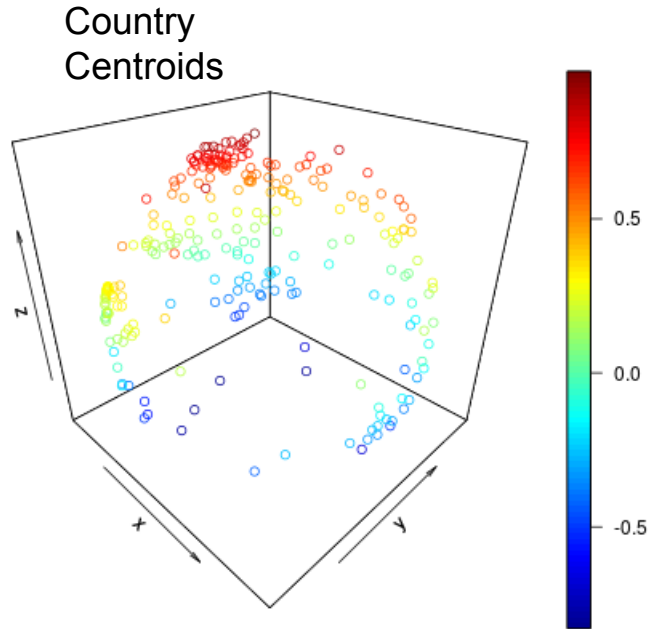
Life expectancy (years)

Aid given (2007 US\$)

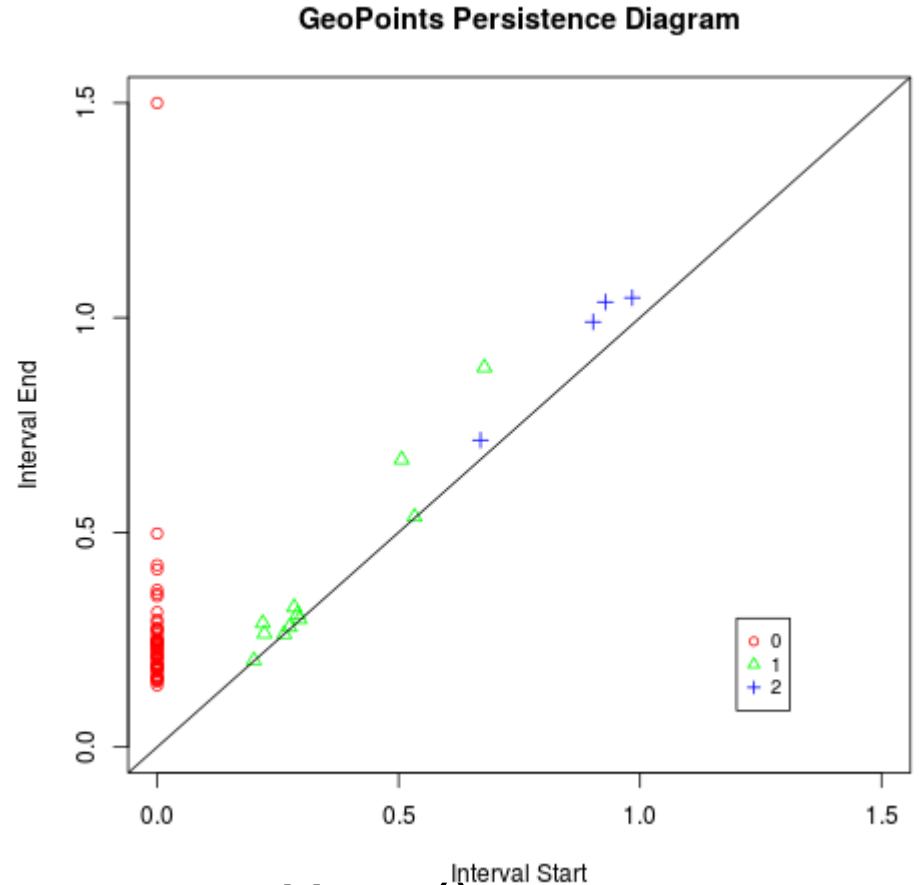
Aid given per person (2007 US\$)



# Geography



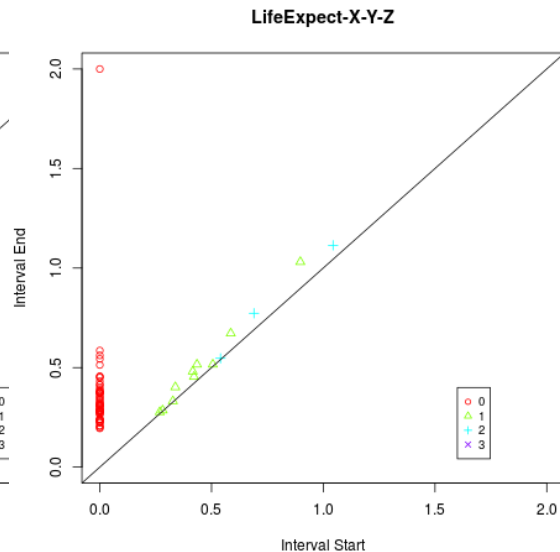
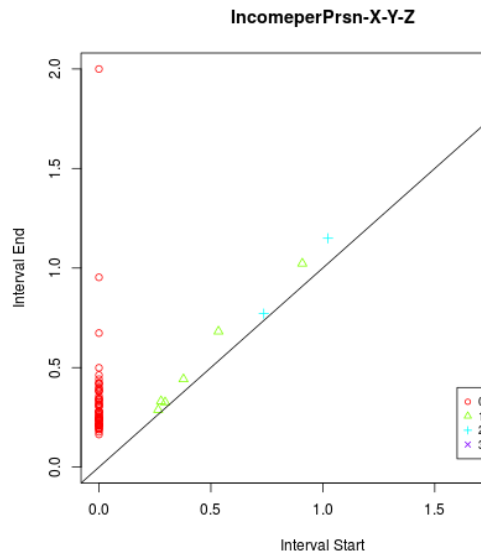
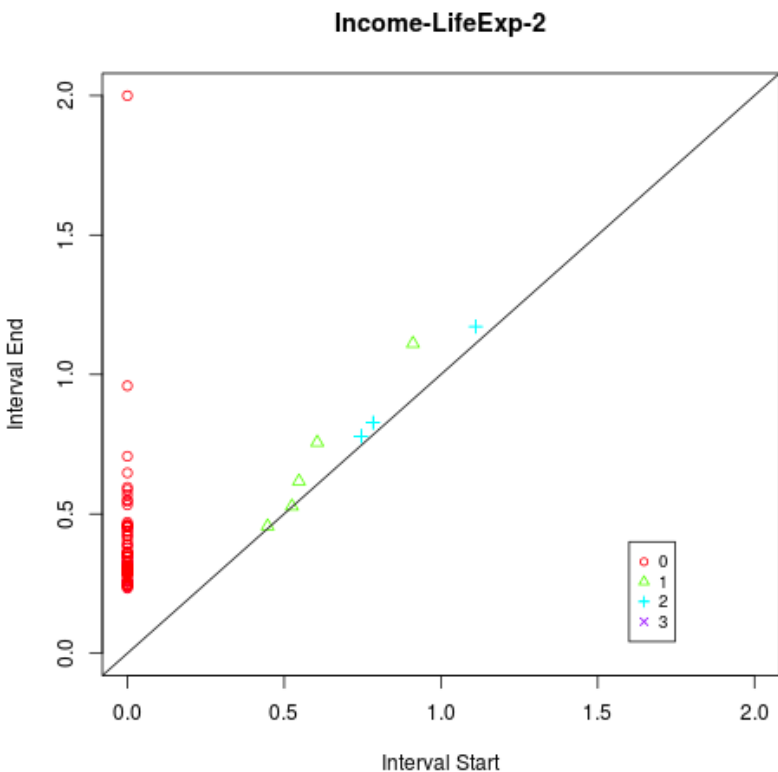
`scatter3D()` `{plot3D}`



`pHom()`  
`{phom}`



# Adding social dimensions



Income per person “pulls” the countries into two distinct geographic groups. Life expectancy is not strong enough to pull them back together.

# Understanding $B_0$ with clustering

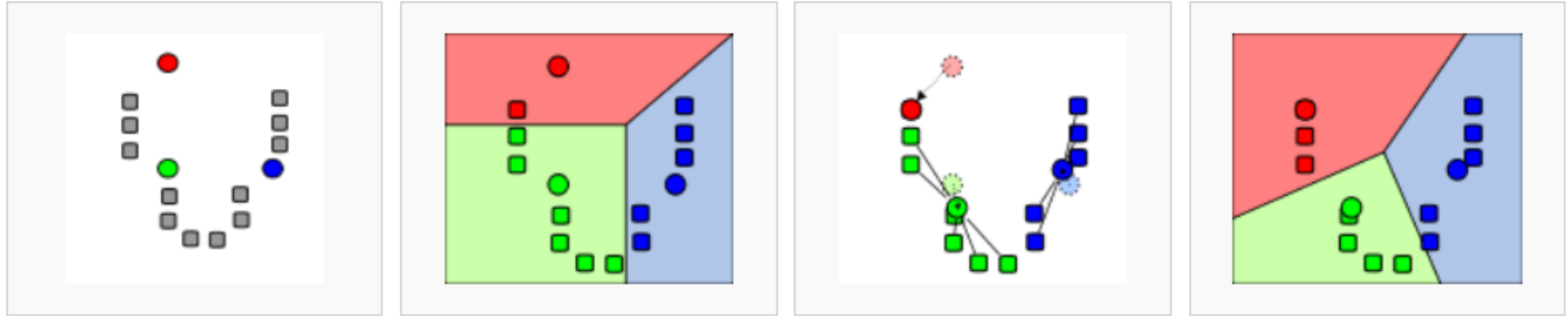
(cluster slides to be replaced w/

Can we use persistent  
homology as a clustering  
algorithm?

- Slow
- Sensitive to outliers
- Bridges collapse  
clusters
- Preprocessing  
algorithms required

In the meantime we'll use  
k-mean.

# A k-means to an end

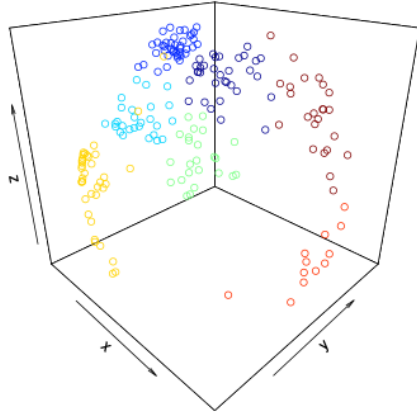


1. Initialize cluster centers.
2. Generate Voronoi Diagram for each center.
3. Let the centroid of each region be the new center.

- Requires choice of  $k$
- Fast
- Global solution NP-hard
- Heuristic Algorithm

**Voronoi Diagram** The partitioning of a plane with points into convex polygons such that each polygon contains exactly one generating point and every point in a given polygon is closer to its generating point than to any other -WolframMathWorld

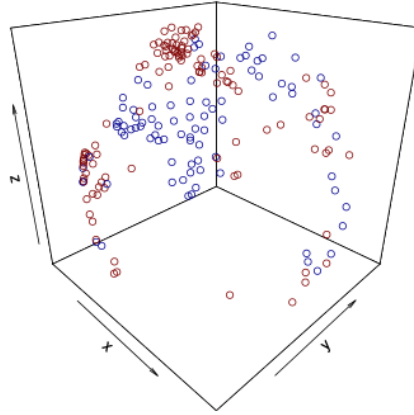
# Geographic and social clusters



$k = 7$

Clusters based on geographic data only.

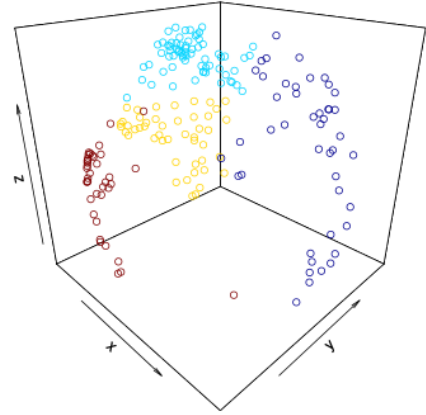
+



$k = 2$

Clusters based on Income per person and Life Expectancy

=



$k = 4$

Combined Geographic,  
Life expectancy, Income  
0.45, -0.74 Europe/Eurasia  
0.60, -0.58 Asia/South Pacific  
-0.38, -0.94 Africa  
0.53, -0.78 Americas

`pamk()` {fpc package}

# Limitations

- Coordinate space not theoretically justified
- Statistical significance (examine difference in means)
- Slow as Canadian molasses
- Ask a sociologist

# Acknowledgment & References

- Gapminder
- <http://www.statmethods.net/advstats/cluster.html> (clustering)
- <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=885>  
(Earth Image)
- Wikipedia
- WolframMathWorld
- Ghrist
- Carlson
- Topology textbook (Crossley)

Thank you...

Lori Zeigelmair & topology  
class

MSCS

y'all