BETTI NUMBERS AND ALPHA COMPLEXES

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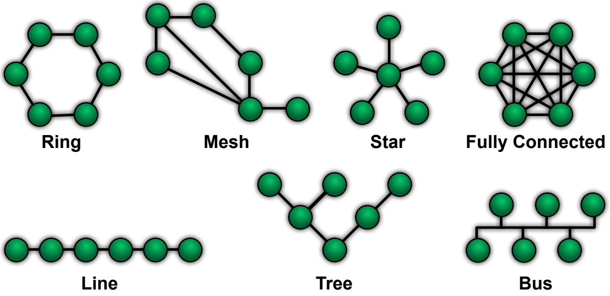
A topological space may be defined as a set of points, along with a set of neighbourhoods for each point, that satisfy a set of axioms relating points and neighbourhoods.



Betti numbers are used to distinguish topological spaces based on the connectivity of n-dimensional simplicial complexes. The k'th Betti number refers to the number of k-dimensional holes on a topological surface.

- b_0 is the number of connected components
- b_1 is the number of one-dimensional or "circular" holes
- b_2 is the number of two-dimensional "voids" or "cavities"

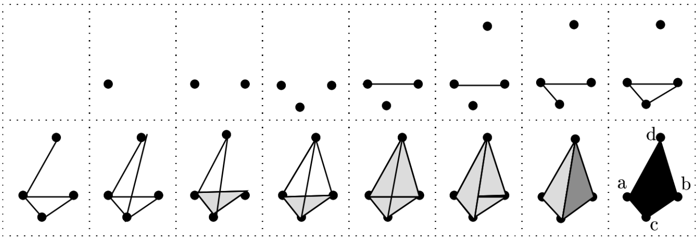
Examples of Betti numbers for a complex.

$\mathcal{K}^{(0)}$	$\mathcal{K}^{(1)}$	$\mathcal{K}^{(2)}$	$\mathcal{K}^{(3)}$
$\beta_0 = 4$	$\beta_0 = 1$	$\beta_0 = 1$	$\beta_0 = 1$
$\beta_1 = 0$	$\beta_1 = 3$	$\beta_1 = 0$	$\beta_1 = 0$
$\beta_2 = 0$	$\beta_2 = 0$	$\beta_2 = 1$	$\beta_2 = 0$

AN ALGORITHM FOR BETTI NUMBERS

Incremental algorithm, that uses filtration.

Filtrations. A *filtration* is a sequence of simplicial complexes, where every complex is a proper subcomplex of its successor. If $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \ldots, \sigma_n$ is a sequence of simplices, then $\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2, \ldots, \mathcal{K}_n$, with $\mathcal{K}_i = \{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \ldots, \sigma_i\}$, is a filtration, provided each $\mathcal{K}_i$ is a genuine simplicial complex. We call the sequence of simplices the *filter* of the filtration. Figure 2 illustrates an example filtration.



The incremental algorithm:

for $\ell := 0$ **to** d **do** $b_\ell := 0$ **endfor**;
for $i := 0$ **to** m **do**
  $k := \dim \sigma_i$;
  if σ_i belongs to a k-cycle of $\mathcal{K}_i$ **then** $b_k := b_k + 1$ **else** $b_{k-1} := b_{k-1} - 1$ **endif**
endfor.

Lets do a small example.

In practice cycles are checked by using sets.
Running time is $O(\alpha(n)n)$, where $\alpha(n)$ is the inverse ackermann function. and n is the sum of k-simplices.

ALPHA COMPLEXES

Definition goes here.

PERSISTENCE AND SIMPLIFICATION

explain