

*Matematica Discreta e Applicazioni*

# *Topological Data Analysis*

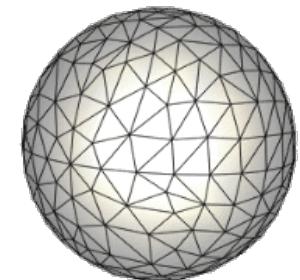
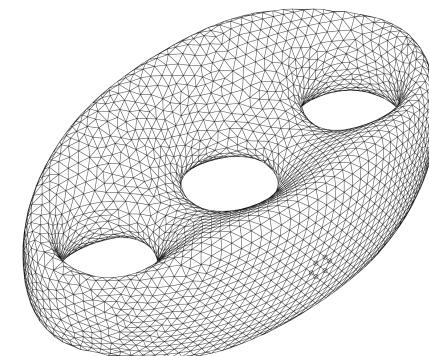
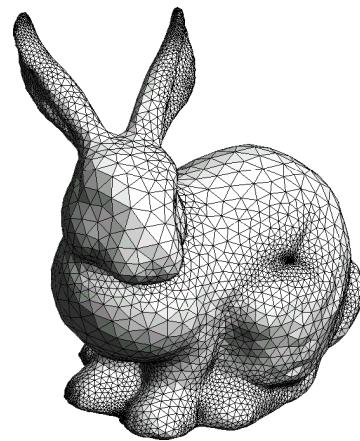
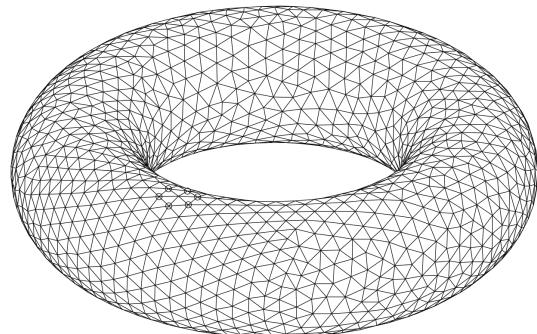
Ulderico Fugacci

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# Topological Data Analysis

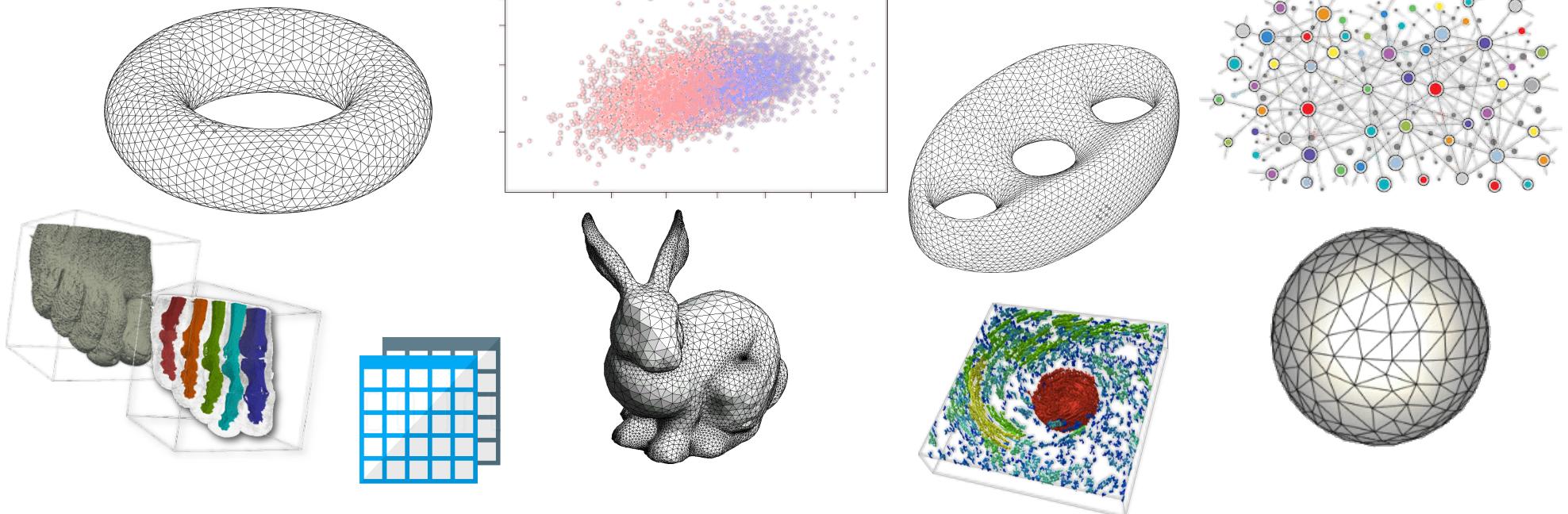
**Topology** describes, characterizes, and discriminates *shapes* by studying their properties that are preserved under *continuous deformations*, such as *stretching* and *bending*, but *not tearing* or *gluing*



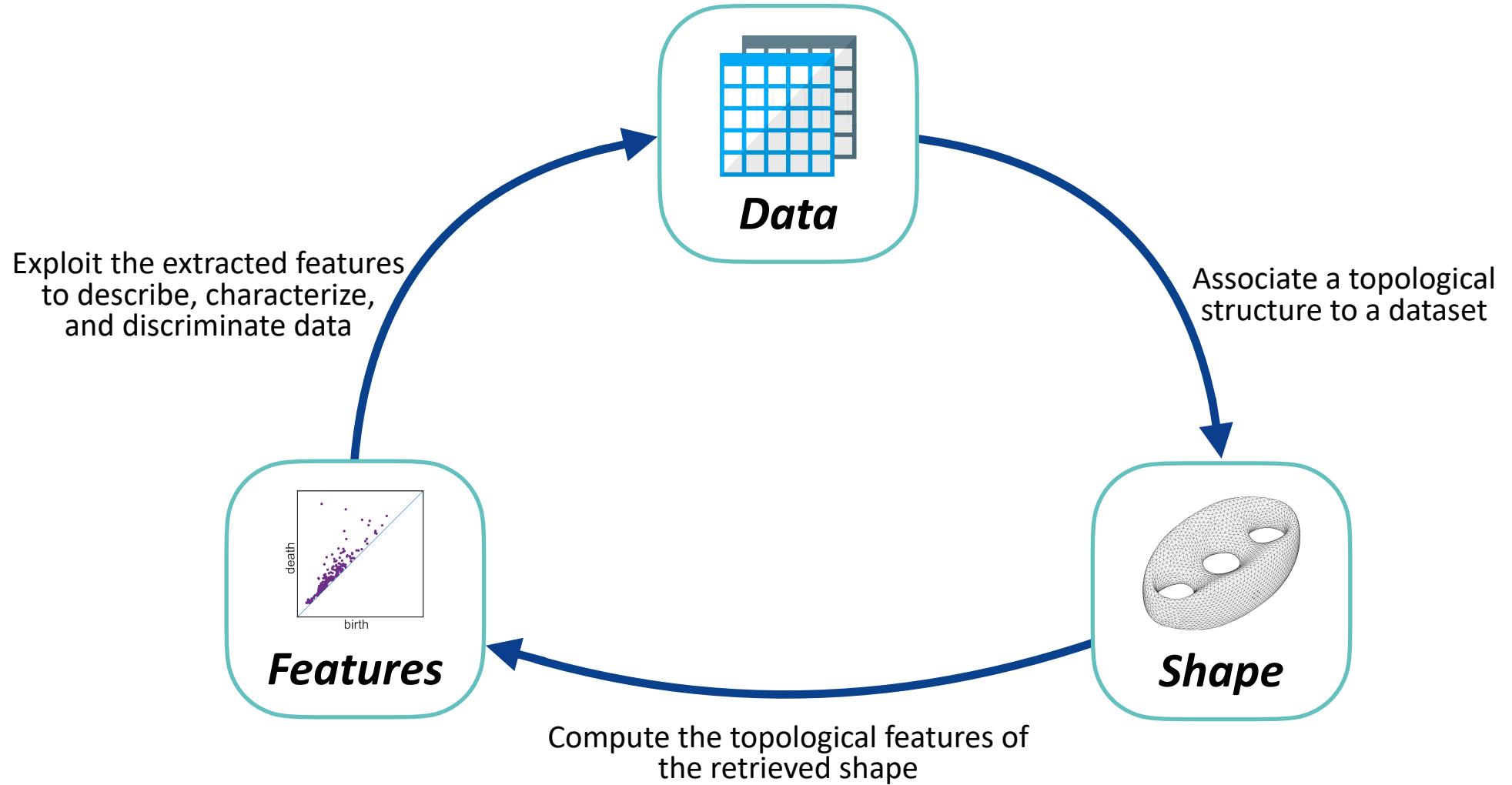
# Topological Data Analysis

**Assumption in TDA:** *Any data* can be endowed with a *shape*.

So, any data can be studied in terms of its *topological features*



# Topological Data Analysis



# Topological Data Analysis

## *Outline:*

*The Notion of Shape*

*Simplicial Complexes*

*Simplicial Homology*

*From Data to Complexes*

*Persistent Homology*

*Visualizing Persistence*

*Persistence & Stability*

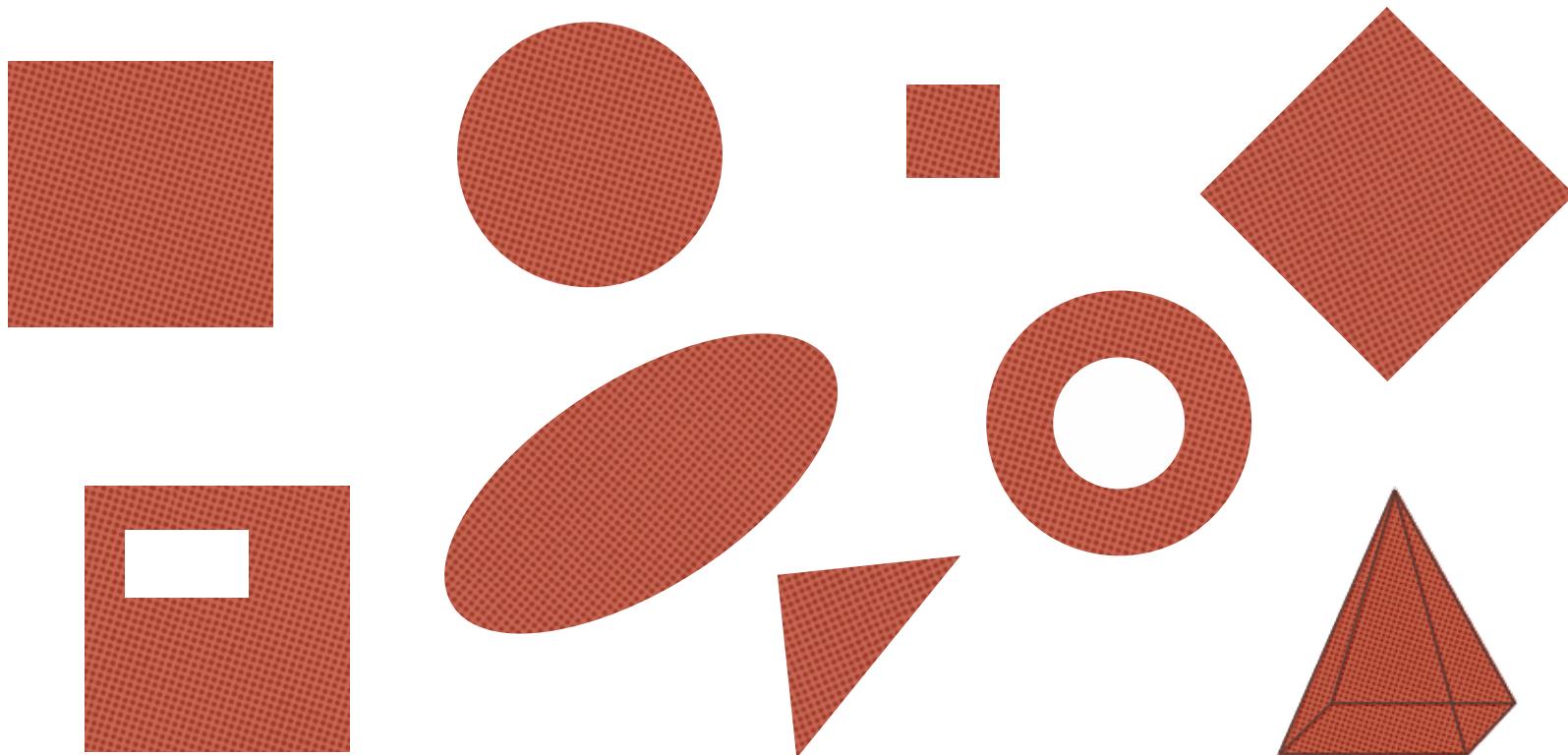
*Computing Persistence*

*Data Structures*

# *The Notion of Shape*

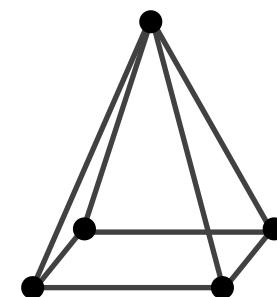
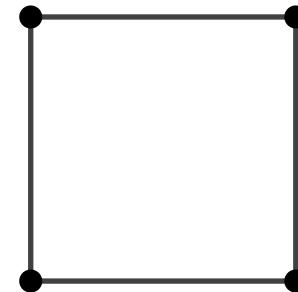
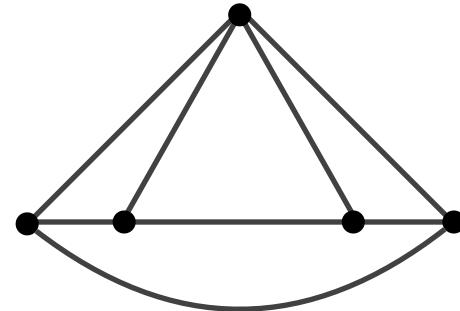
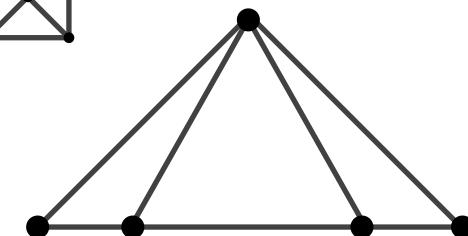
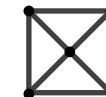
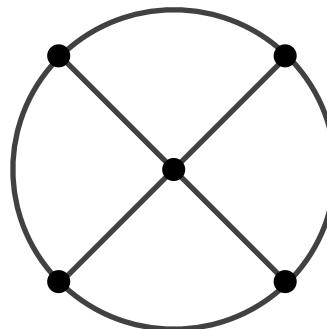
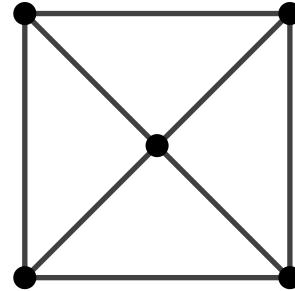
# Geometry or Topology?

Which of these domains look similar?



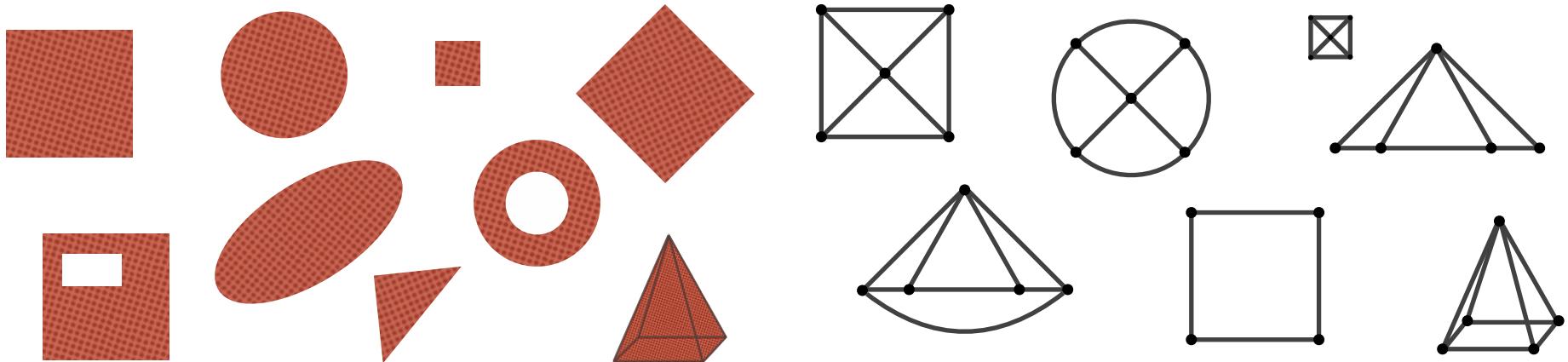
# Geometry or Topology?

And what about these ones?



# Geometry or Topology?

The answer depends on the *point of view* we adopt

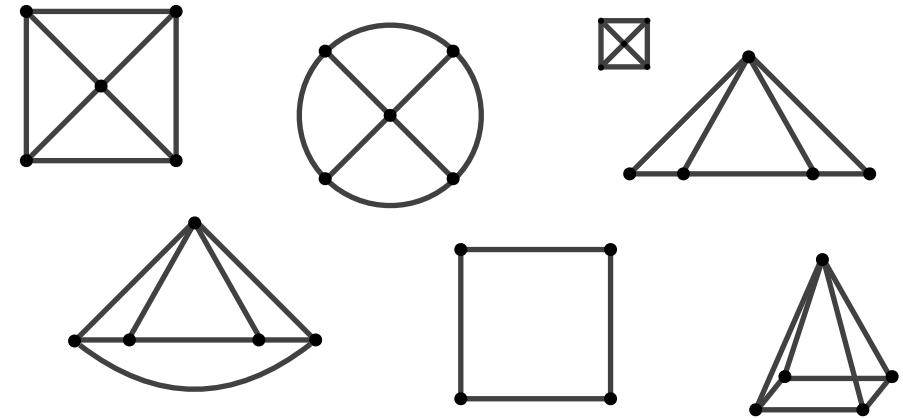
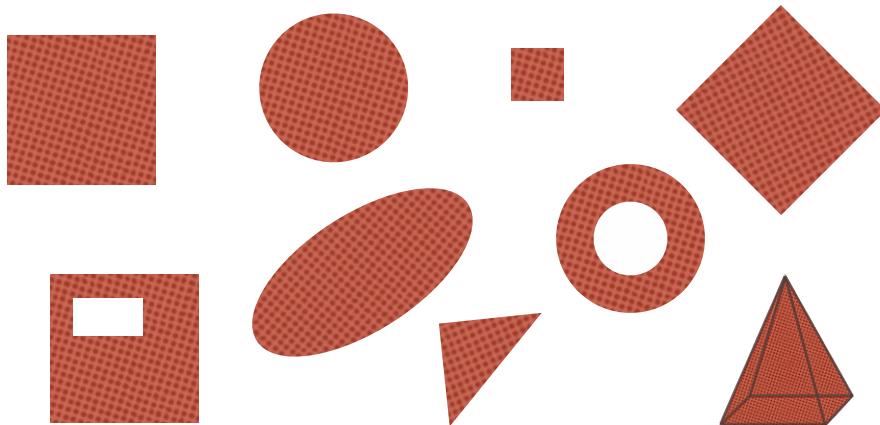


**Geometry** cares about those properties which **change**  
when an object is continuously **deformed**

E.g. length, area, volume, angles, curvature, ...

# Geometry or Topology?

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*Topology*

~~Geometry~~ cares about those properties which *change*  
when an object is continuously *deformed*

E.g. connectivity, orientation, manifoldness, ...

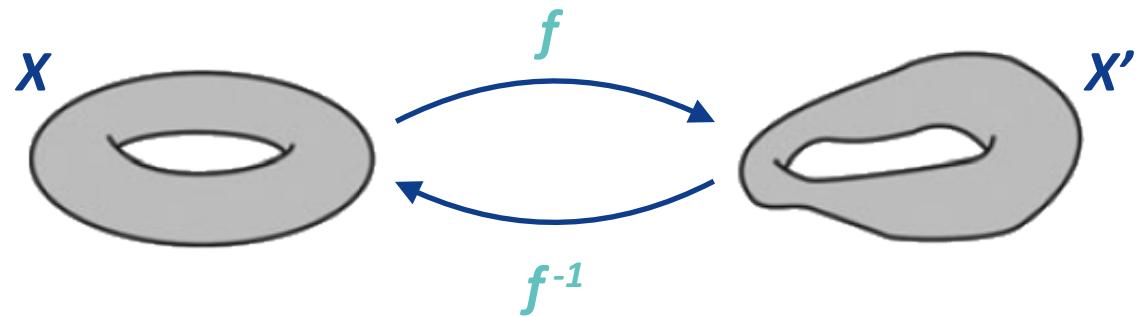
*do not*

# Homeomorphisms

## Definition:

Given two topological spaces  $(X, T)$  and  $(X', T')$ ,  
a function  $f: X \rightarrow X'$  is called **homeomorphism** if:

- ◆  $f$  is a **bijection**
- ◆  $f$  is **continuous**
- ◆  $f^{-1}$  is **continuous**

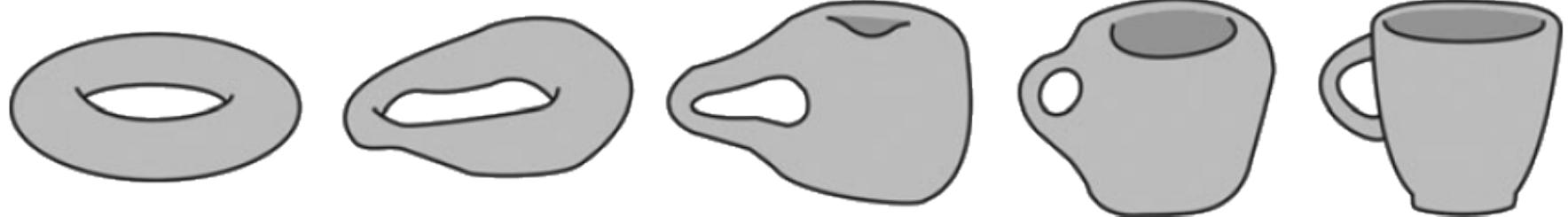


Two topological spaces  $(X, T)$  and  $(X', T')$  are **homeomorphic** and denoted  $X \cong X'$  if there exists a homeomorphism  $f: X \rightarrow X'$

Homeomorphisms induce an **equivalence relation** of topological spaces partitioning them into equivalence classes

# Homeomorphisms

*Intuitively:*



*The notion of homeomorphism captures the idea of continuous deformation*



$\cong$



# Homeomorphisms

*Intuitively:*

One can:

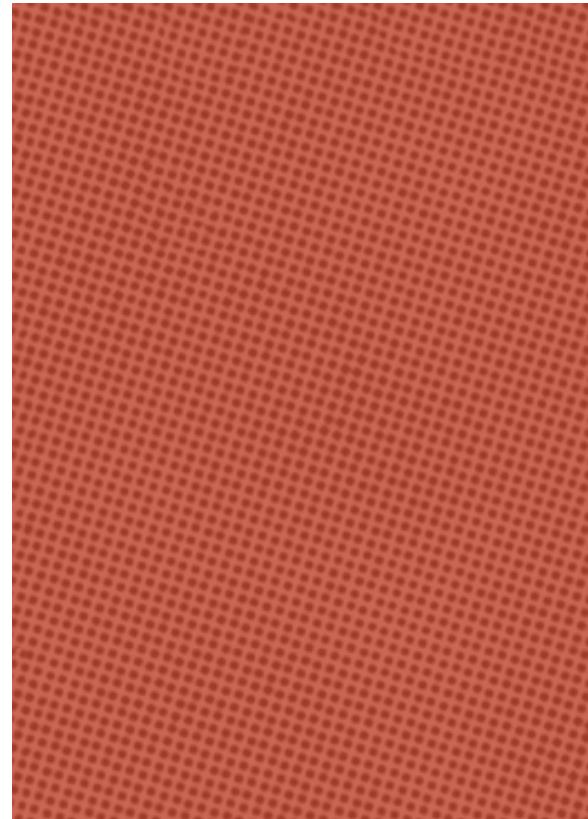
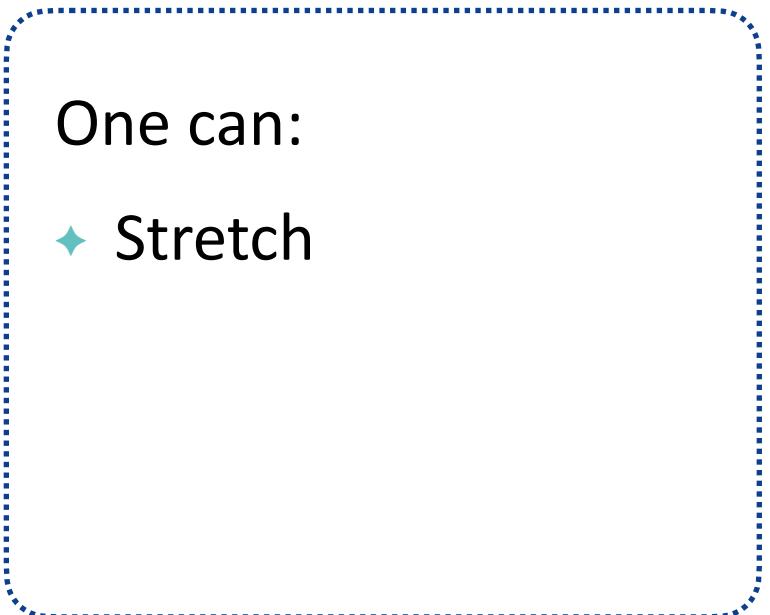


# Homeomorphisms

*Intuitively:*

One can:

- ◆ Stretch

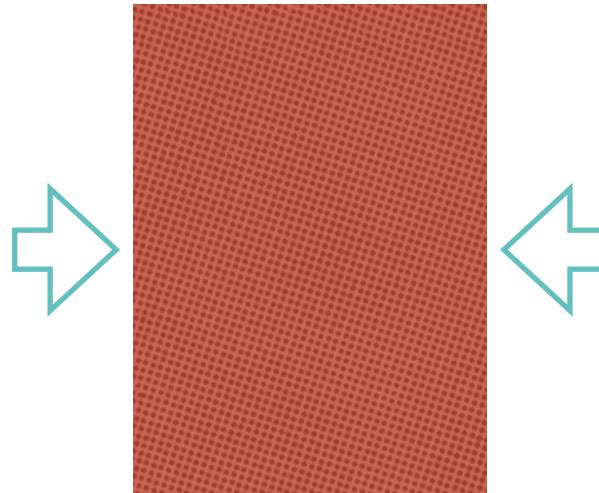


# Homeomorphisms

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One can:

- ◆ Stretch
- ◆ Compress



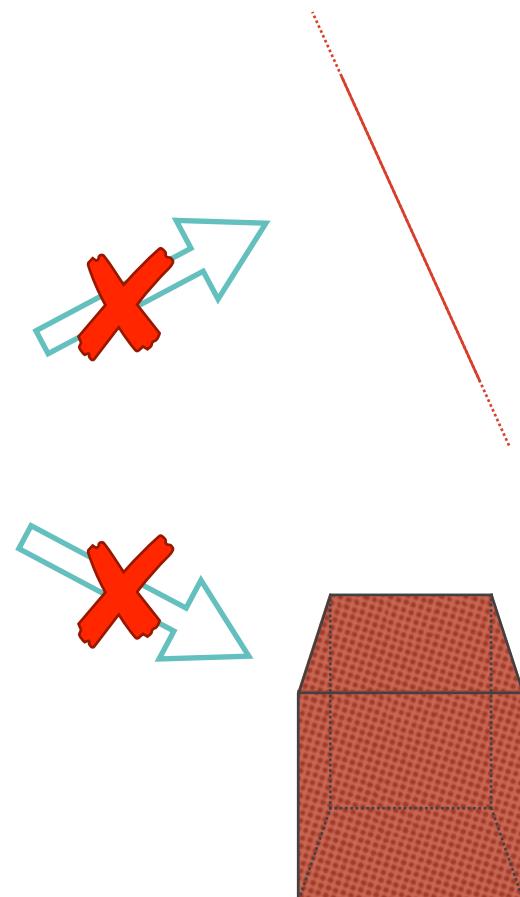
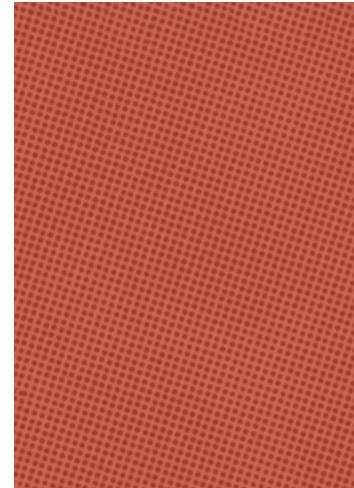
# Homeomorphisms

*Intuitively:*

One can:

- ◆ Stretch
- ◆ Compress

But not too much!



# Homeomorphisms

*Intuitively:*

Moreover:

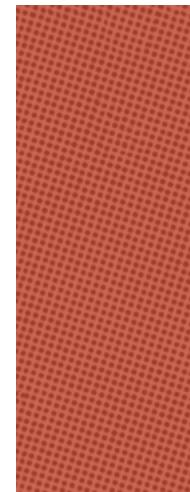
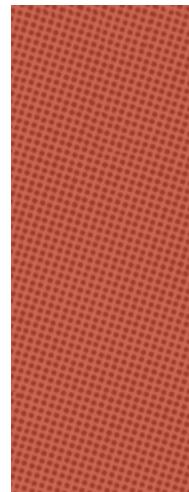
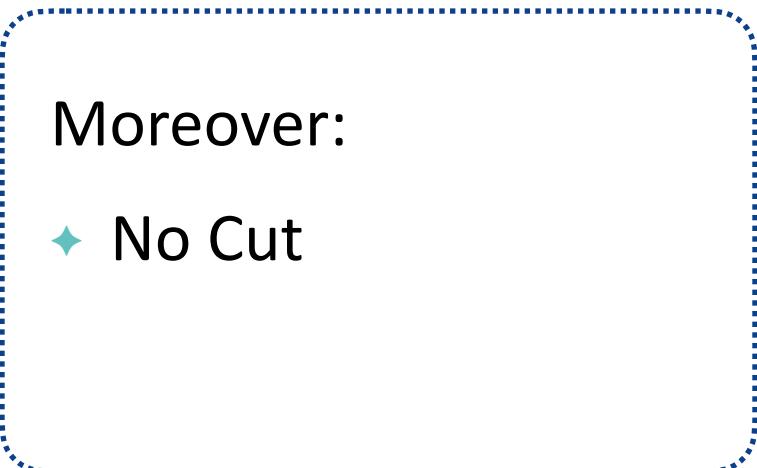


# Homeomorphisms

*Intuitively:*

Moreover:

- ◆ No Cut



# Homeomorphisms

*Intuitively:*

Moreover:

- ◆ No Cut
- ◆ No Glue

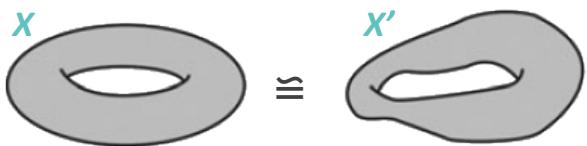


# Topological Invariants

## Definition:

$I$  is a **topological invariant** if, given two topological spaces  $(X, T)$  and  $(X', T')$ ,

$X$  is homeomorphic to  $X'$



$X$  and  $X'$  have the same topological invariant

$$I(X) = I(X')$$

Some classical topological invariants:

- ◆ *Connectedness*
- ◆ *Compactness*
- ◆ *Manifoldness*

- ◆ *Orientability*
- ◆ *Euler characteristic*
- ◆ *Homology*
- ◆ *Homotopy*

# Topological Invariants

**Question:**

*Is there a “perfect” topological invariant  $I$  such that*

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Let us **simplify the question** and let focus on:

- ◆ Considering a specific topological invariant  $I$  (e.g. the **homology**)
- ◆ Completely characterizing just the **spheres**  $S^n := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| = 1\}$

The above question turns into the following:

*If  $X$  and  $S^n$  have the same homology, then  $X \cong S^n$ ?*

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**NO**

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**Poincaré Conjecture (3rd Millennium Prize Problem):**

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*Proven by Grigori Perelman in 2003*

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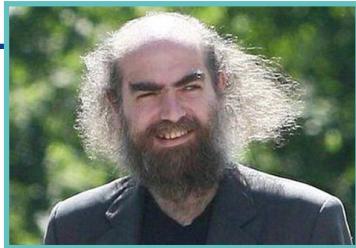
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**So:**

*Why we will mainly focus on homology rather than homotopy?*

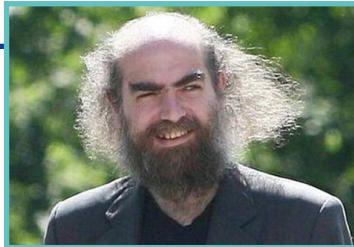
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**So:**

*Why we will mainly focus on homology rather than homotopy?*

*Because, in practice, computing homotopy groups is **nearly impossible**!*

# Bibliography

## Some References:

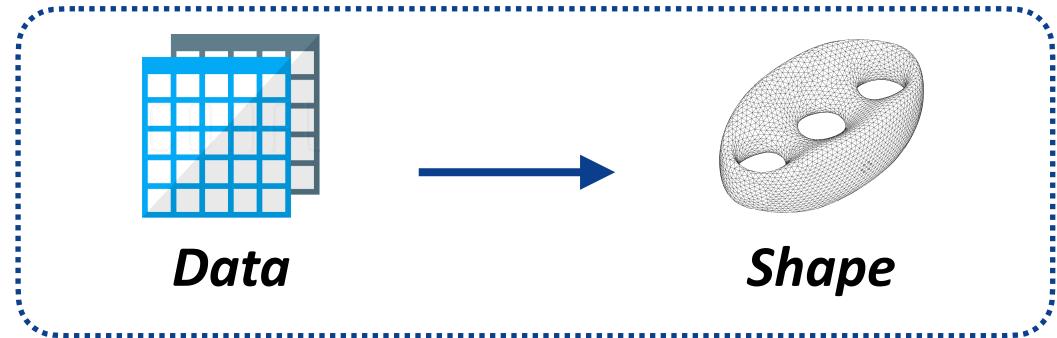
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  - ❖ R. W. Ghrist. *Elementary applied topology*. Seattle: Createspace, 2014.
- ◆ **Papers on TDA:**
  - ❖ G. Carlsson. *Topology and data*. Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society 46.2, pages 255-308, 2009.
- ◆ **Intro to (Algebraic) Topology:**
  - ❖ E. Sernesi. *Geometria 2*. Bollati Boringhieri, Torino, 1994.
  - ❖ A. Hatcher. *Algebraic topology*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

# *Simplicial Complexes*

# Complexes & Data

## Goal:

We want to associate a topological structure to a given dataset

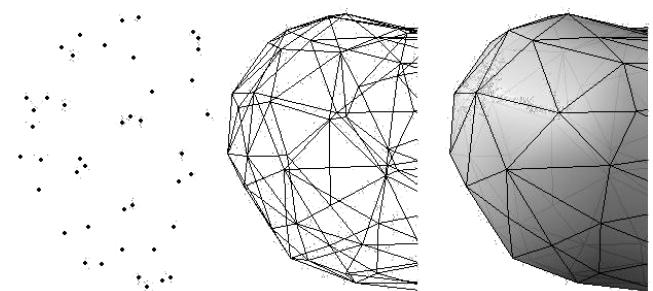


Due to the nature of data and to our computational ambitions, datasets will be represented by "**discrete**" structures

Among various possibilities, **simplicial complexes** represent the most suitable choice

In fact, simplicial complexes are able to deal with data:

- ◆ of **large size** (e.g. consisting of a huge number of samples)
- ◆ of **high dimension** (e.g. involving a large number of variables or parameters)
- ◆ **unorganized** (e.g. not arranged in a regular grid)



# Simplicial Complexes

## Definitions:

A set  $V := \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  of points in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is called

**geometrically independent** if vectors  $v_1 - v_0, \dots, v_k - v_0$  are **linearly independent** over  $\mathbb{R}$

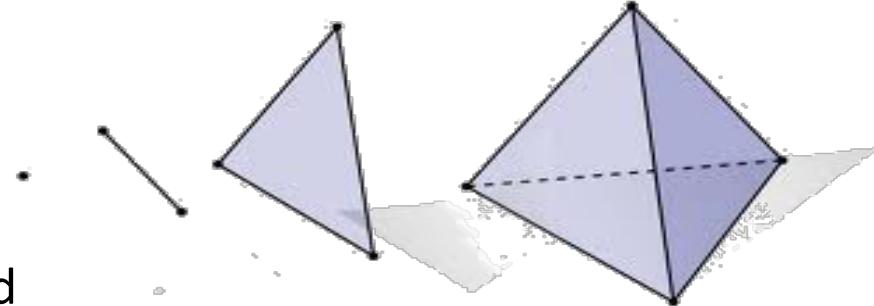
E.g. two distinct points, three non-collinear points, four non-coplanar points

The  **$k$ -simplex**  $\sigma = v_0 v_1 \dots v_k$  spanned by a geometrically independent set  $V = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  of in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is the **convex hull** of  $V$ , i.e. the set of all points  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$x = \sum_{i=0}^k t_i v_i \quad \text{where} \quad \sum_{i=0}^k t_i = 1 \quad \text{and } t_i \geq 0 \text{ for all } i$$

The numbers  $t_i$  are uniquely determined by  $x$  and are called **barycentric coordinates** of  $x$

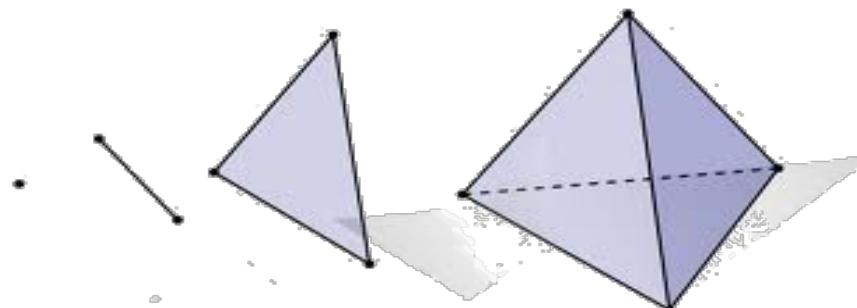
E.g. a 0-simplex is a vertex, a 1-simplex is an edge, a 2-simplex is a triangle, a 3-simplex is a tetrahedron



# Simplicial Complexes

## Definitions:

- ◆ The points  $v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k$  spanning a  $k$ -simplex  $\sigma$  are called the **vertices** of  $\sigma$
- ◆  $k$  is called the **dimension** of  $\sigma$  and denoted as  $\dim(\sigma)$
- ◆ Any simplex  $\tau$  spanned by a non-empty subset of  $V$  is called a **face** of  $\sigma$
- ◆ Conversely,  $\sigma$  is called a **coface** of  $\tau$

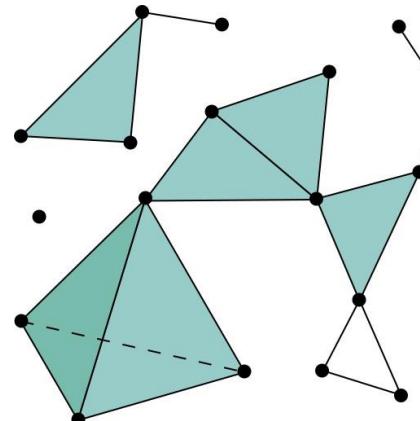


# Simplicial Complexes

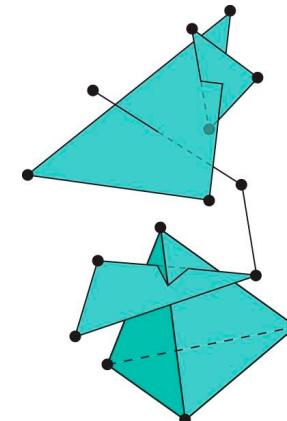
## Definition:

A **(geometric) simplicial complex**  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a collection of simplices in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that

- ◆ *Every face of a simplex of  $K$  is in  $K$*
- ◆ *The non-empty intersection of any two simplices of  $K$  is a face of each of them*



*simplicial complex*



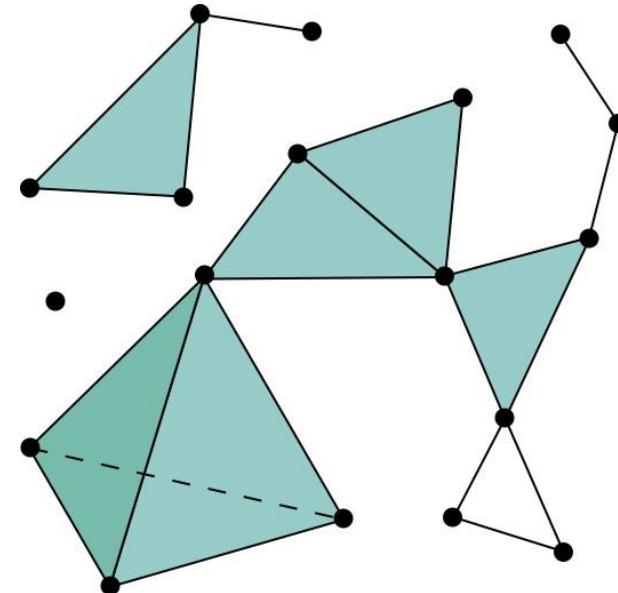
*non-simplicial complex*

# Simplicial Complexes

## Definitions:

Given a (geometric) simplicial complex  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

- ◆ The **dimension** of a simplicial complex  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , denoted as  $\dim(K)$ , is the supremum of the dimensions of the simplices of  $K$
- ◆ A simplex  $\sigma$  of  $K$  such that  $\dim(\sigma) = \dim(K)$  is called **maximal**
- ◆ A simplex  $\sigma$  of  $K$  which is not a proper face of any simplex of  $K$  is called **top**
- ◆ A subcollection of  $K$  that is itself a simplicial complex is called a **subcomplex** of  $K$

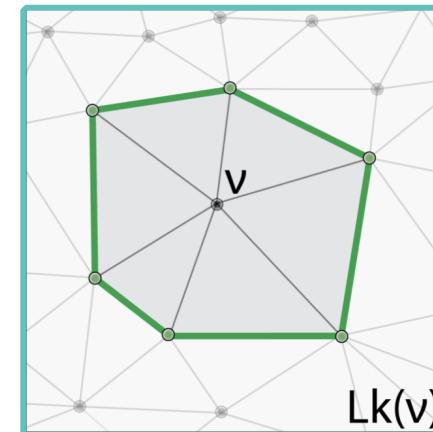
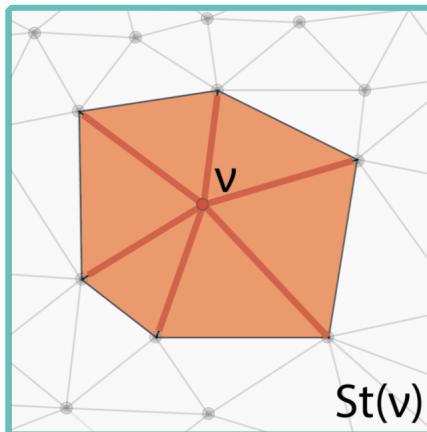


# Simplicial Complexes

## Definitions:

Given a simplex  $\sigma$  of a (geometric) simplicial complex  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

- ◆ The **star** of  $\sigma$  is the set  $St(\sigma)$  of the cofaces of  $\sigma$
- ◆ The **link** of  $\sigma$  is the set  $Lk(\sigma)$  of the faces of the simplices in  $St(\sigma)$  such that do not intersect  $\sigma$

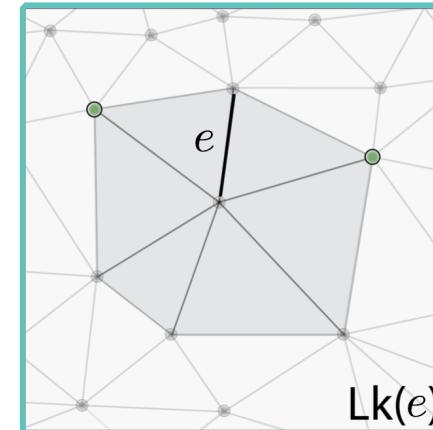
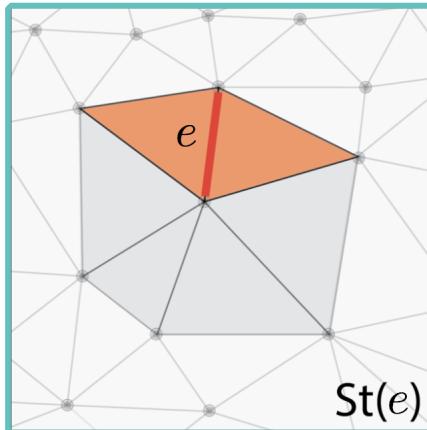


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# Simplicial Complexes

Given a (geometric) simplicial complex  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

its **polytope**  $|K|$  is the subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  defined as the union of the simplices of  $K$

The polytope  $|K|$  can be endowed with **two possible topologies**  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ :

- ◆  **$T_1$** : A subset  $F$  of  $|K|$  is a closed set of  $(|K|, T_1)$  if and only if  $F \cap \sigma$  is a closed set of  $(\sigma, T_\sigma)$  for each  $\sigma$  in  $K$  where  $T_\sigma$  is the subspace topology induced on  $\sigma$  by  $\mathbb{E}^n$
- ◆  **$T_2$** : The subspace topology induced on  $|K|$  by  $\mathbb{E}^n$

In general, the two topologies  $T_1, T_2$  are **different**, but

**Proposition:**

If  $K$  is a **finite** simplicial complex,  $T_1 = T_2$

From now on, if not differently specified, we consider only **finite** simplicial complexes

# Simplicial Complexes

## Proposition:

Given a simplicial complex  $K$  and a topological space  $(X, T)$ , a function  $f$  from  $(|K|, T_1)$  to  $(X, T)$  is **continuous** if and only if  $f|_\sigma$  is continuous for each  $\sigma \in K$

## Definition:

Given two simplicial complexes  $K$  and  $K'$ ,

- ◆ A function  $f: K \rightarrow K'$  is called a **simplicial map** if for every simplex  $\sigma = v_0v_1 \dots v_k$  in  $K$ ,  $f(\sigma) = f(v_0)f(v_1)\dots f(v_k)$  is a simplex in  $K'$
- ◆ The restriction  $f_V$  of  $f$  to the set of vertices  $V$  of  $K$  is called the **vertex map** of  $f$

# Simplicial Complexes

## Definition:

An **abstract simplicial complex**  $K$  on a set  $V$  is a collection of finite non-empty subsets of  $V$ , called **simplices**, such that if  $\sigma \in K$  and  $\tau \subseteq \sigma$ , then  $\tau \in K$

Analogously to the case of a geometric simplicial complex,

- ◆ The elements of  $V$  are called **vertices** of  $K$
- ◆ The **dimension** of a simplex  $\sigma$  is one less than the number of its elements
- ◆ The supremum of the dimensions of the simplices in  $K$  is called **dimension** of  $K$
- ◆ Each non-empty subset  $\tau$  of a simplex  $\sigma \in K$  is called a **face** of  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma$  is called a **coface** of  $\tau$

**The notions of geometric simplicial complex and abstract simplicial complex are equivalent.** More properly, it is always possible,

- ◆ Given an abstract simplicial complex, to endow it with a **geometric realization**
- ◆ Given a geometric simplicial complex, to **forget its geometry** thus obtaining an abstract simplicial complex

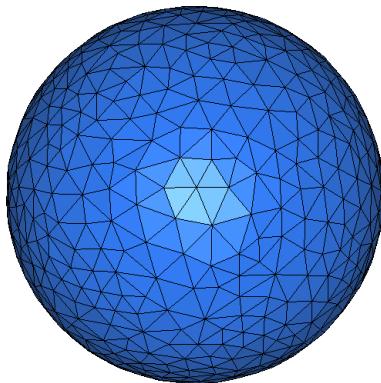
# Simplicial Complexes

**Definition:**

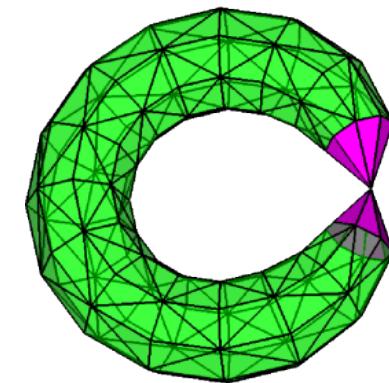
A simplicial complex  $K$  is called

- ◆ ***n-manifold [with boundary]*** if its polytope  $|K|$  is a (topological)  $n$ -manifold [with boundary]
- ◆ ***Combinatorial n-manifold [with boundary]*** if, for every vertex  $v$ , the link  $Lk(v)$  is homeomorphic to the  $(n - 1)$ -sphere  $S^{n-1}$  [or to the  $(n - 1)$ -disk  $D^{n-1} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} : |x| \leq 1\}$ ]

*combinatorial  
manifold*



*non-combinatorial  
manifold*



**Proposition:**

If  $K$  is a combinatorial  $n$ -manifold [with boundary], then  $K$  is a  $n$ -manifold [with boundary]

The converse is:

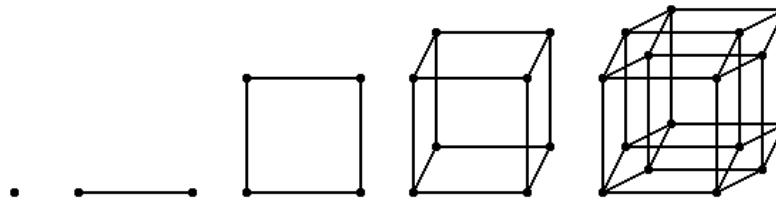
**True for  $n \leq 3$**

**Open for  $n = 4$**

**False for  $n > 4$**

# Regular Grids

**Hyper-Cube:**

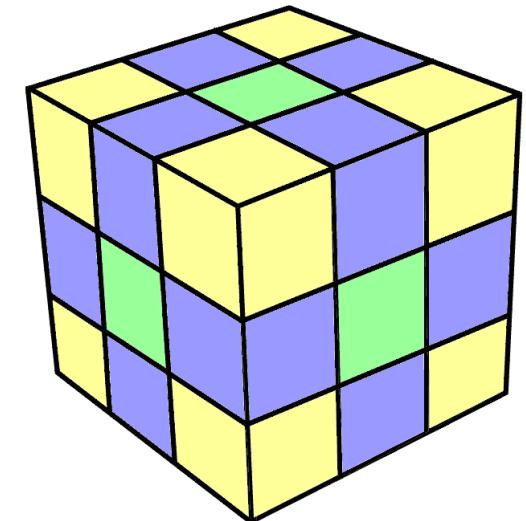


A  $k$ -hyper-cube  $\eta$  is the *Cartesian product of  $k$  closed intervals* of equal length

**Regular Grids:**

A **regular grid  $H$**  is a (finite) collection of hyper-cubes such that:

- ◆ *Each face of a hyper-cube of  $H$  is in  $H$*
- ◆ *Each non-empty intersection of two hyper-cubes in  $H$  is a face of both*
- ◆ *The domain of  $H$  is a hyper-cube*

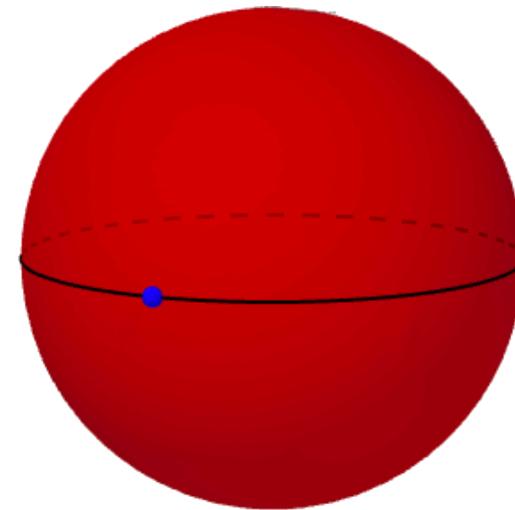
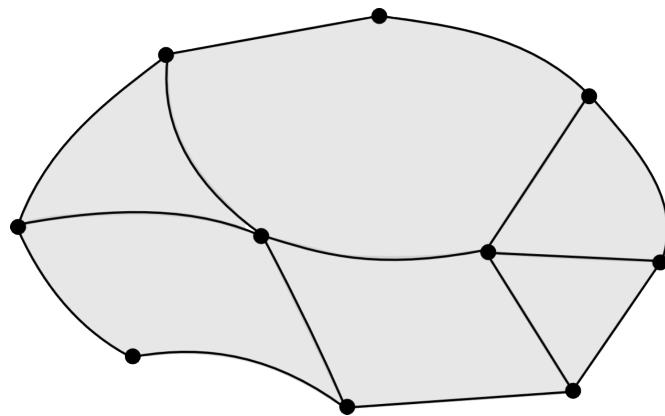


# Cell Complexes

**Intuitively:**

Similarly to simplicial complexes and regular grids,

A **cell complex**  $\Gamma$  is a collection of cells “*suitably glued together*”



Where a ***k*-cell** is a topological space homeomorphic to the ***k*-dimensional open disk  $i(D^k)$**

# Bibliography

## *Some References:*

- ◆ **Simplicial Complexes:**
  - ❖ J. R. Munkres. *Elements of algebraic topology*. CRC Press, 1984.

# *Simplicial Homology*

# Simplicial Homology

Given a topological space  $X$ , the *homology of  $X$*  is a *topological invariant*

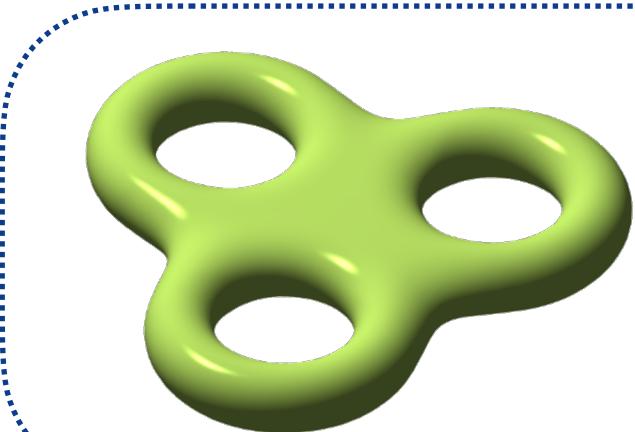
intuition ↑

*detecting the “holes” of  $X$*

↓ formalism

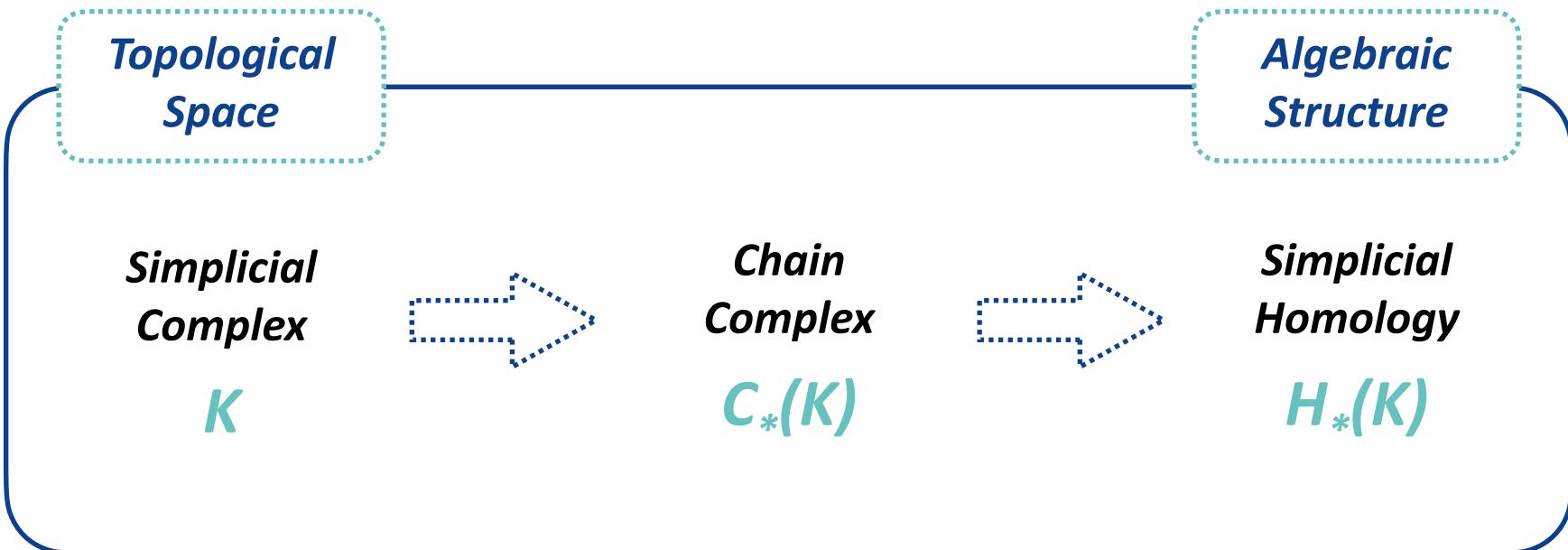
*capturing the independent non-bounding cycles of  $X$*

*measuring how far the chain complex associated with  $X$  is from being exact*



$$H_k(X; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}^6 & \text{for } k = 1 \\ \mathbb{Z} & \text{for } k = 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

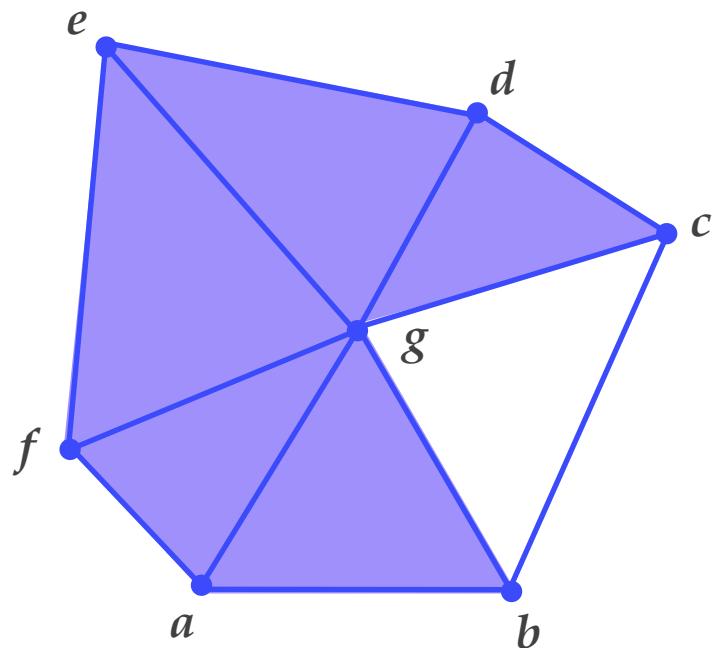
# Simplicial Homology



# Simplicial Homology

Given a simplicial complex  $K$ ,

- ◆ a ***k-chain*** is a formal sum (*with  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  coefficients*) of  $k$ -simplices of  $K$



## Examples:

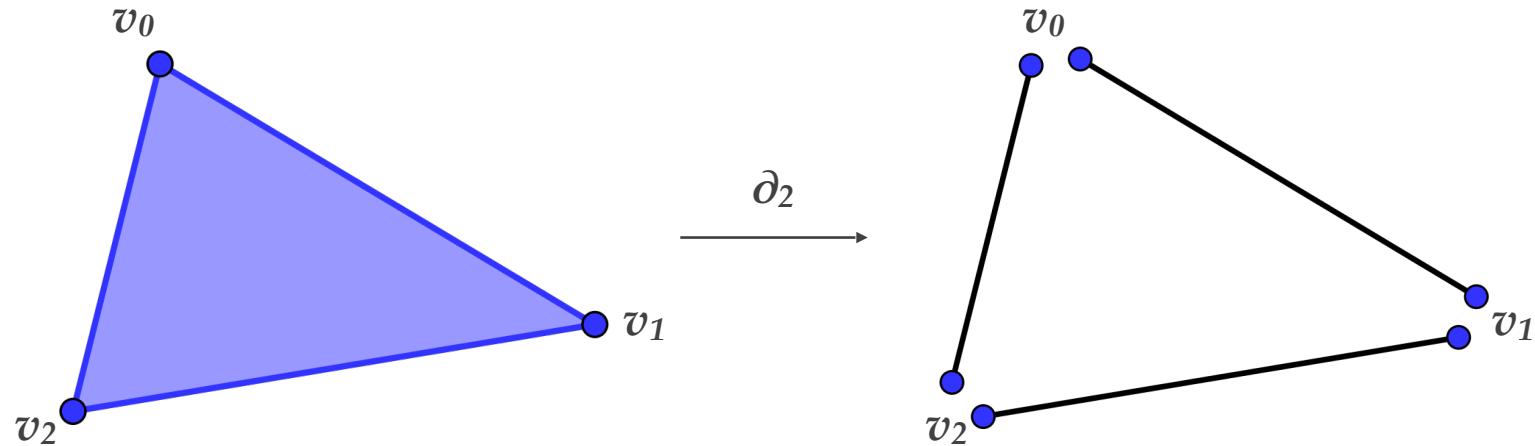
- ◆  $a + b + e$  is a 0-chain
- ◆  $fg + dg + de + eg$  is a 1-chain
- ◆  $abg + afg$  is a 2-chain

# Simplicial Homology

The **chain complex**  $C_*(K)$  associated with  $K$  consists of:

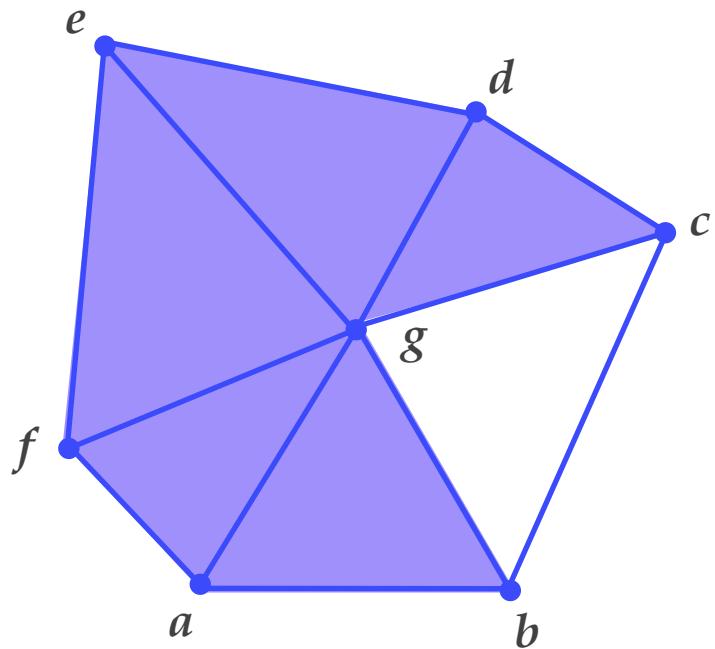
- ◆ a collection  $\{C_k(K)\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$  of vector spaces where  $C_k(K)$  is the **group of the  $k$ -chains** of  $K$
- ◆ a collection  $\{\partial_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$  of linear maps where the **boundary map**  $\partial_k : C_k(K) \rightarrow C_{k-1}(K)$  is defined by

$$\partial_k(v_0 \cdots v_k) := \sum_{i=0}^k v_0 \cdots \hat{v}_i \cdots v_k$$



# Simplicial Homology

## Examples:



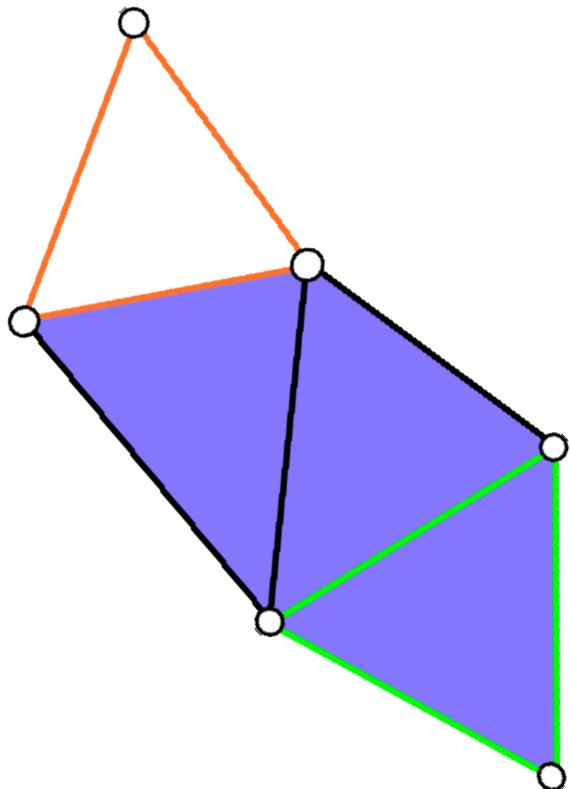
- ◆  $\partial_1( ab ) = a + b$
- ◆  $\partial_1( ab + bc ) = a + 2b + c = a + c$
- ◆  $\partial_2( afg + efg ) = af + ag + 2fg + ef + eg = af + ag + ef + eg$
- ◆  $\partial_1( af + ag + ef + eg ) = 2a + 2f + 2g + 2e = 0$

# Simplicial Homology

## Properties:

- ◆ For  $k < 0$  or  $k > \dim(K)$ ,  $C_k(K)$  is the **null group**
- ◆ For  $k \leq 0$  or  $k > \dim(K)$ ,  $\partial_k$  is the **null map**
- ◆ For any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\partial_k \circ \partial_{k+1} = 0$
- ◆ For any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $Im(\partial_{k+1}) \subseteq Ker(\partial_k)$

# Simplicial Homology



**Definition:**

A  $k$ -chain  $c$  is called:

- ◆  **$k$ -cycle** if  $c \in \text{Ker}(\partial_k)$
- ◆  **$k$ -boundary** if  $c \in \text{Im}(\partial_{k+1})$

***Each  $k$ -boundary is a  $k$ -cycle***

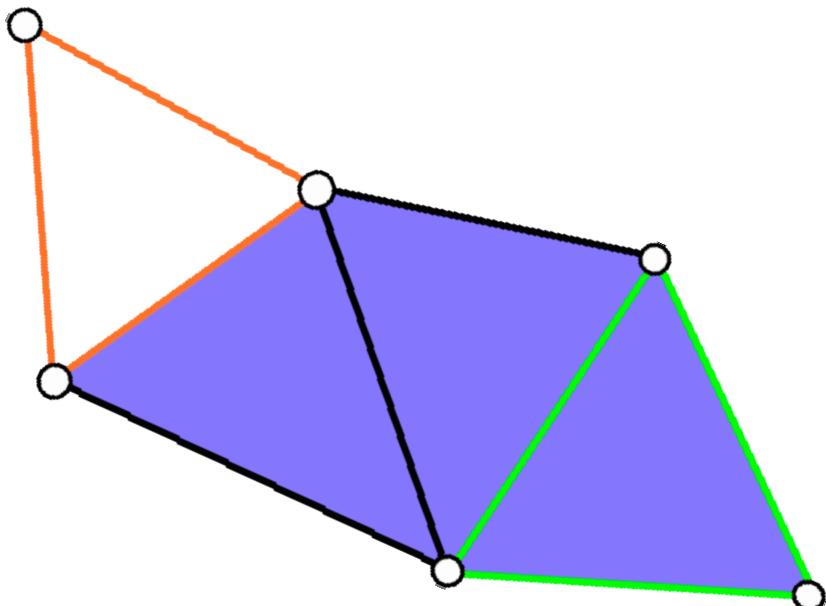
# Simplicial Homology

Given a simplicial complex  $K$ , the  **$k$ -homology group  $H_k(K)$**  of  $K$  is defined as

$$H_k(K) := Z_k(K)/B_k(K)$$

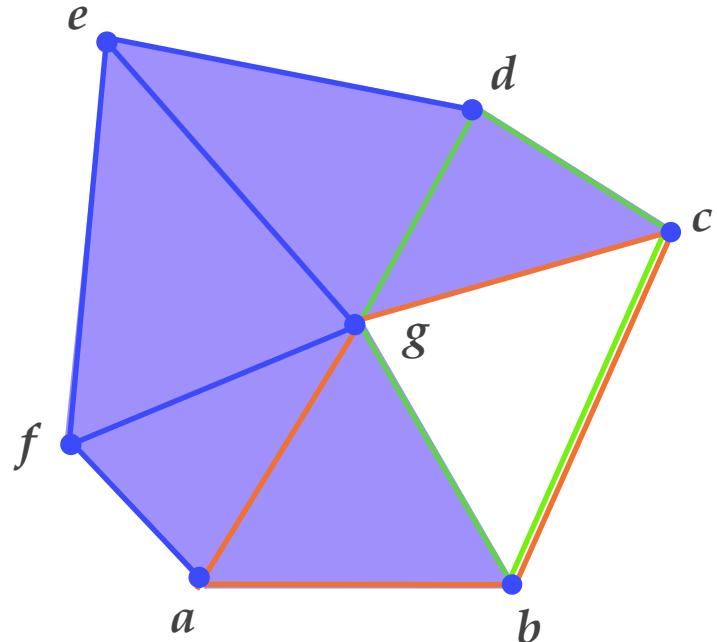
where:

- ◆  $Z_k(K)$  is the **group of  $k$ -cycles** of  $K$
- ◆  $B_k(K)$  is the **group of  $k$ -boundaries** of  $K$



# Simplicial Homology

$H_k(K)$  partitions the  $k$ -cycles into equivalence classes called *homology classes*



**Definition:**

Two  $k$ -cycles are said *homologous* if they belong to the same homology class or, equivalently, *if their difference is a  $k$ -boundary*

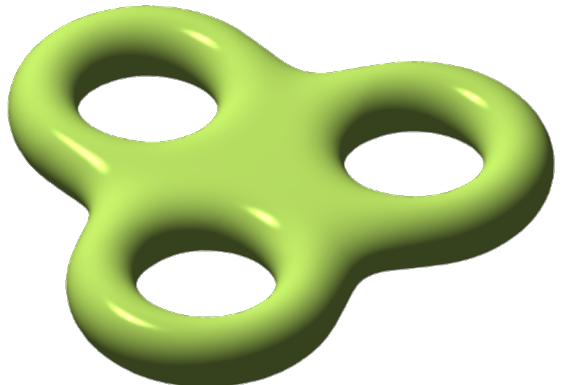
$ab+ag+bc+cg$  is homologous to  $bc+bg+cd+dg$

# Simplicial Homology

**Theorem:**

Each homology group can be expressed as

$$H_k(K) \cong (\mathbb{Z}_2)^{\beta_k}$$



$$H_k(K) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}_2 & \text{for } k = 0 \\ (\mathbb{Z}_2)^6 & \text{for } k = 1 \\ \mathbb{Z}_2 & \text{for } k = 2 \end{cases}$$

$\beta_k$  is called the *k<sup>th</sup> Betti number* of K

# Simplicial Homology

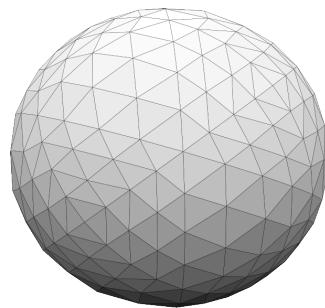
**Examples:**

- ◆ **point  $P$**



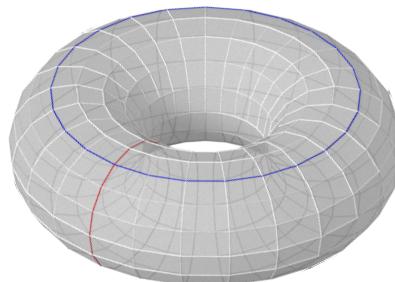
$$\beta_k(P) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } k = 0 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 0 \end{cases}$$

- ◆  **$n$ -dimensional sphere  $S^n$**



$$\beta_k(S^n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } k = 0 \\ 0 & \text{for } 0 < k < n \\ 1 & \text{for } k = n \\ 0 & \text{for } k > n \end{cases}$$

- ◆ **torus  $T$**



$$\beta_k(T) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } k = 0 \\ 2 & \text{for } k = 1 \\ 1 & \text{for } k = 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 2 \end{cases}$$

# Simplicial Homology

Homology groups can be defined ***in a more general way*** by choosing coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}$

**Theorem:**

*Each homology group can be expressed as*

$$H_k(K; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{\beta_k} \langle c_1, \dots, c_{\beta_k} \rangle \oplus \mathbb{Z}_{\lambda_1} \langle c'_1 \rangle \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}_{\lambda_{p_k}} \langle c'_{p_k} \rangle$$

with  $\lambda_{i+1} \mid \lambda_i$

We call:

- ◆  $\beta_k$ , the ***k<sup>th</sup> Betti number*** of K
- ◆  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{p_k}$ , the ***torsion coefficients*** of K
- ◆  $c_1, \dots, c_{\beta_k}, c'_1, \dots, c'_{p_k}$ , the ***homology generators*** of K

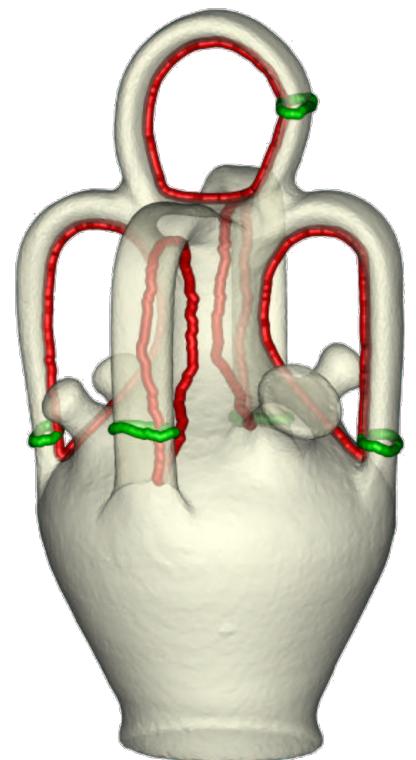


Image from [Dey et al. 2008]

# Simplicial Homology

***Working with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}$  :***

*Up to isomorphism, the **Betti numbers** and the **torsion coefficients** of  $K$  completely characterize the **homology groups** of  $K$*

***Working with coefficients in a field  $\mathbb{F}$  :***

*Up to isomorphism, the **Betti numbers** of  $K$  completely characterize the **homology groups** of  $K$*

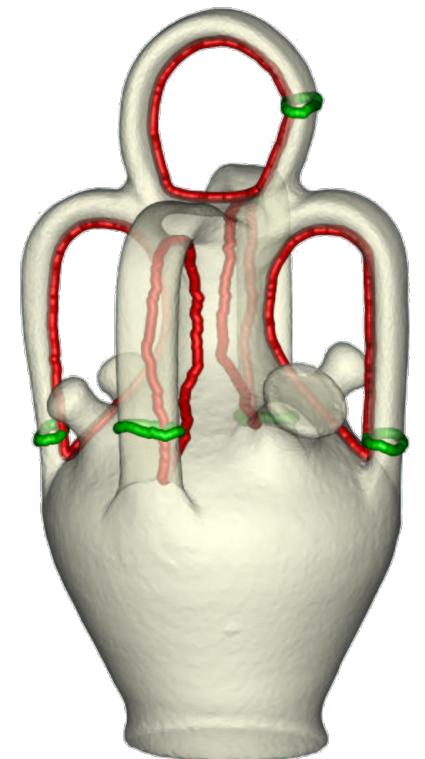
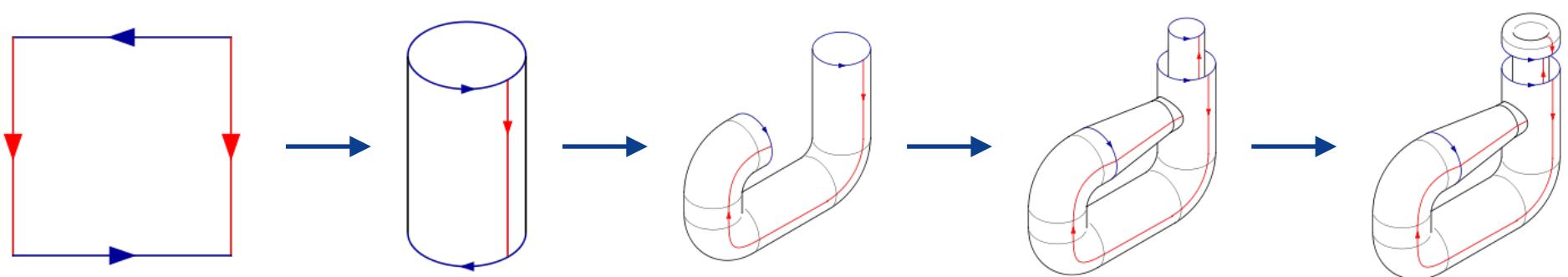
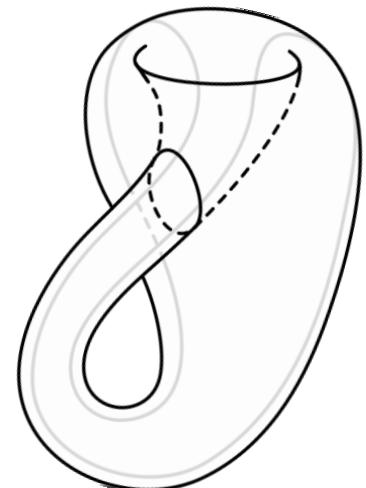


Image from [Dey et al. 2008]

# Simplicial Homology

**Example:**

The **Klein bottle  $K$**  is a non-orientable 2-dimensional manifold embeddable in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  which can be built from a unit square by the following construction



# Simplicial Homology

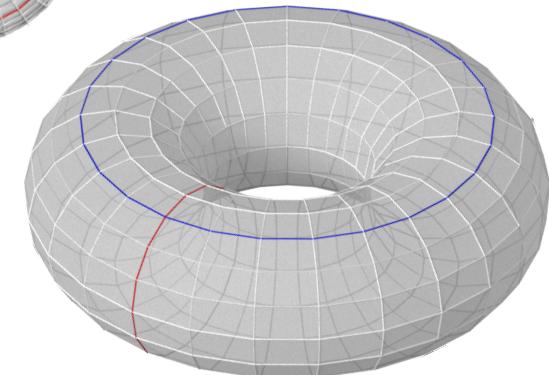
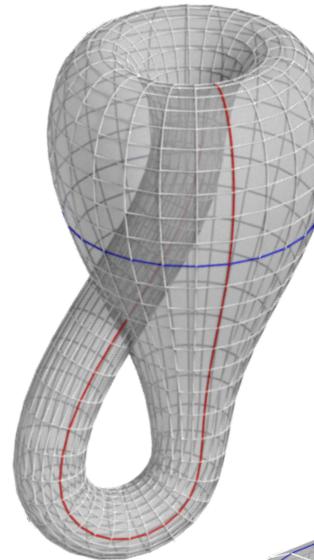
**Example:**

$K$  has the following homology groups

$$H_k(K; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2 & \text{for } k = 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } k \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

So, it can be distinguished from a torus  $T$

$$H_k(T; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}^2 & \text{for } k = 1 \\ \mathbb{Z} & \text{for } k = 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 2 \end{cases}$$

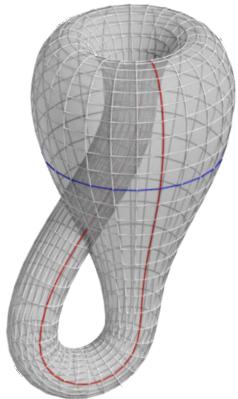


# Simplicial Homology

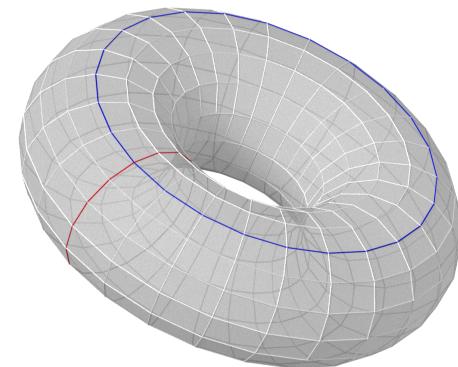
**Example:**

By considering  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  as coefficient group,

the Klein bottle K and the torus T have isomorphic homology groups



$$H_k(K; \mathbb{Z}_2) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}_2 & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2 & \text{for } k = 1 \\ \mathbb{Z}_2 & \text{for } k = 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 2 \end{cases} \cong H_k(T; \mathbb{Z}_2)$$



# Bibliography

## *Some References:*

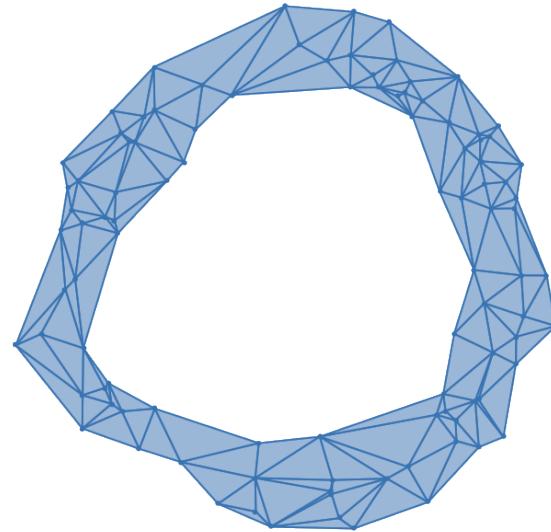
- ◆ **Simplicial Homology:**
  - ❖ J. R. Munkres. *Elements of algebraic topology*. CRC Press, 1984.

# *From Data to Complexes*

# From Data to Complexes

Let us consider a dataset represented by a *finite point cloud  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$*

*Studying the shape of  $V$  just by considering the space consisting of its **points** does not provide any relevant topological information*



*The “real” shape of the dataset can be captured by properly constructing a **complex** connecting together close points through simplices*

# From Data to Complexes

## ***Standard Constructions:***

A number of possible choices have been introduced in the literature:

- ◆ ***Delaunay triangulations***
  - \* ***Voronoi diagrams***
- ◆ ***Čech complexes***
- ◆ ***Vietoris-Rips complexes***
- ◆ ***Alpha-shapes***
- ◆ ***Witness complexes***

Most of the above constructions are based on the notion of ***Nerve complex***

# From Data to Complexes

## A First Classification:

Given a finite point cloud  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

	Output Complex	Dimension	Dependence on a Parameter
Delaunay triangulation	<i>Geometric</i>	$n$	
Čech complex	<i>Abstract</i>	<i>Arbitrary (up to <math> V  - 1</math>)</i>	
Vietoris-Rips complex	<i>Abstract</i>	<i>Arbitrary (up to <math> V  - 1</math>)</i>	
Alpha-shapes	<i>Geometric</i>	$n$	
Witness complexes	<i>Abstract</i>	<i>Arbitrary (up to <math> V  - 1</math>)</i>	

# Nerve Complexes

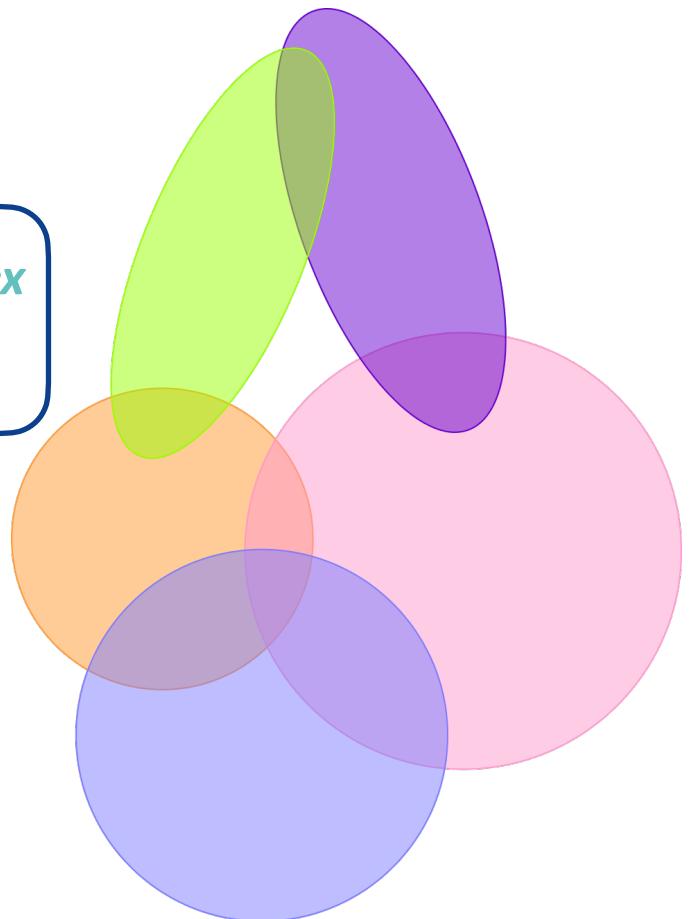
## **Definition:**

Given a finite collection  $S$  of sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

The **nerve  $Nrv(S)$**  of  $S$  is the **abstract simplicial complex** generated by the **non-empty common intersections**

**Formally,**

$$Nrv(S) := \{\sigma \subseteq S \mid \bigcap_{s \in \sigma} s \neq \emptyset\}$$



# Nerve Complexes

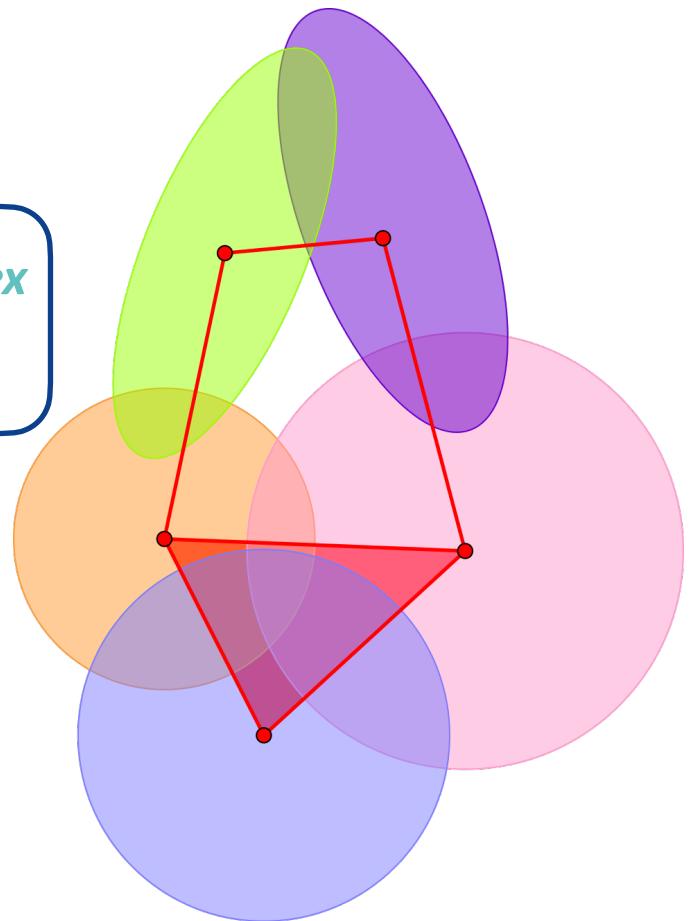
## Definition:

Given a finite collection  $S$  of sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

The **nerve  $Nrv(S)$**  of  $S$  is the **abstract simplicial complex** generated by the **non-empty common intersections**

Formally,

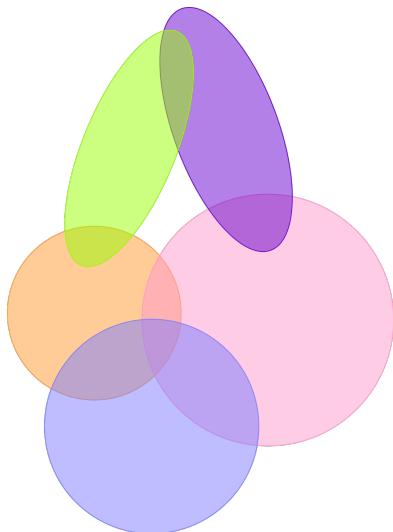
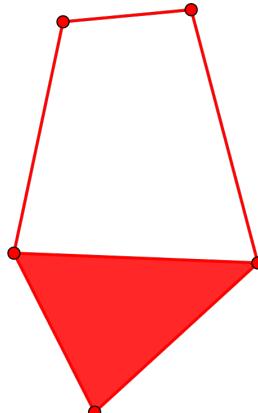
$$Nrv(S) := \{\sigma \subseteq S \mid \bigcap_{s \in \sigma} s \neq \emptyset\}$$



# Nerve Complexes

## **Nerve Theorem:**

If  $S$  is a finite collection of **convex** sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then the **nerve of  $S$**  and the **union of the sets in  $S$**  are **homotopy equivalent** (and so they have the same homology)

 $\approx$ 

# Nerve Complexes

Nerve Theorem can be *generalized* by replacing the **convexity** of sets in  $S$  with the request that all non-empty common intersections are **contractible**  
*(i.e. that can be continuously shrunk to a point)*

**Original Nerve Theorem:**

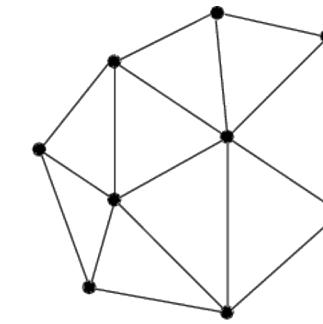
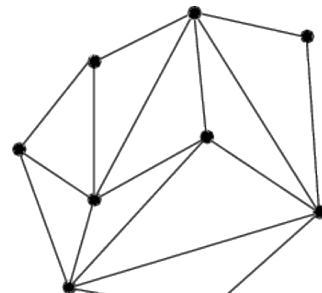
If  $S$  is an open cover of a (para)**compact** space  $X$  such that every non-empty intersection of finitely many sets in  $S$  is **contractible**, then  $X$  is **homotopy equivalent** to the nerve  $\text{Nrv}(S)$

# Delaunay Triangulations

Given a finite point cloud  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

The **Delaunay triangulation** of  $V$  is a classic notion in Computational Geometry:

- ◆ Producing a “nice” triangulation of  $V$ 
  - ❖ free of long and skinny triangles
- ◆ Named after **Boris Delaunay** for his work on this topic from 1934
- ◆ Originally defined for sets of points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  but generalizable to arbitrary dimensions



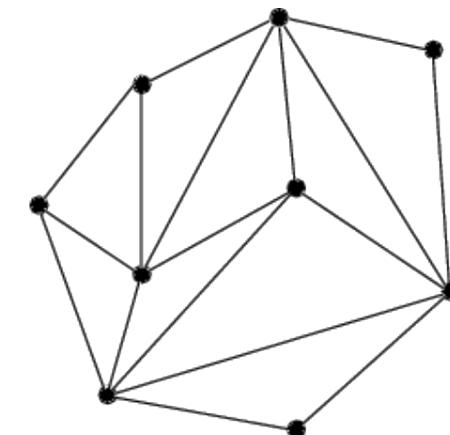
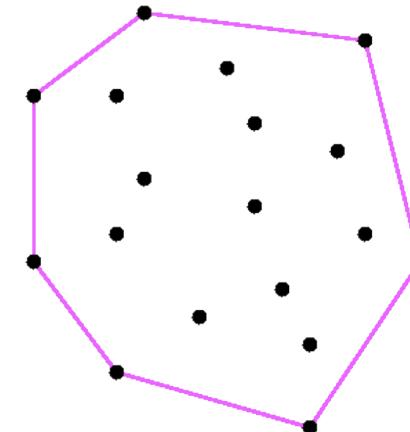
Images from [De Floriani 2003]

# Delaunay Triangulations

## Definitions:

Given a finite point cloud  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ,

- ◆ The **convex hull** of  $V$  is the **smallest convex** subset  $CH(V)$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  containing all the points of  $V$
- ◆ A **triangulation** of  $V$  is A **2-dimensional simplicial complex  $K$**  such that:
  - ❖ The domain of  $K$  is  $CH(V)$
  - ❖ The 0-simplices of  $K$  are the points in  $V$



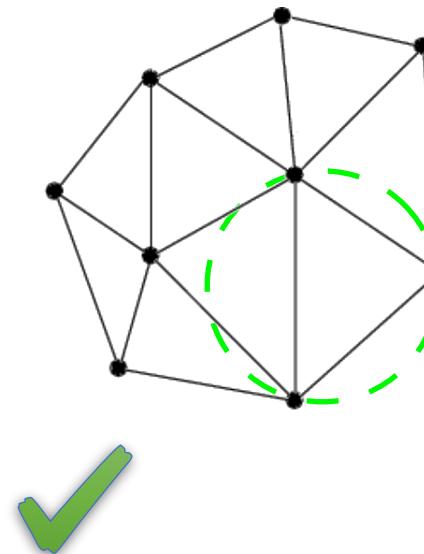
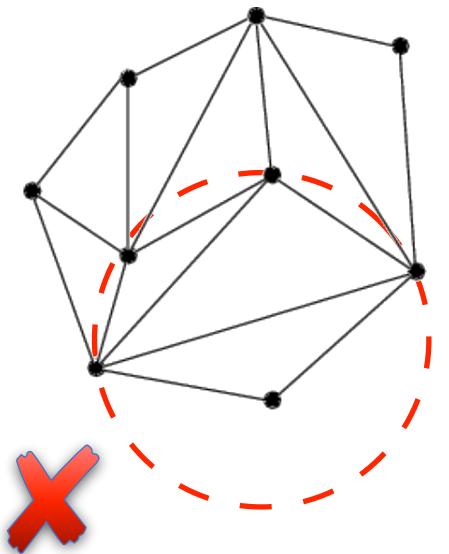
Images from [De Floriani 2003]

# Delaunay Triangulations

## Definition:

A **Delaunay triangulation** is a triangulation  $\text{Del}(V)$  of  $V$  such that:

the **circumcircle of any triangle** does **not contain any point** of  $V$  in its interior



# Delaunay Triangulations

## Definition:

A finite set of points  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is *in general position* if no  $n + 2$  of the points lie on a common  $(n - 1)$ -sphere

E.g., for  $n = 2$ ,

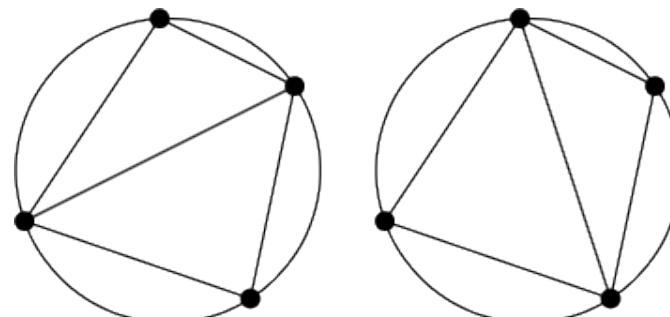
$V$  in general position



No four or more points are co-circular

## Theorem:

If  $V$  is in general position, then  $\text{Del}(V)$  is *unique*



Images from [De Floriani 2003]

# Delaunay Triangulations

## Definitions:

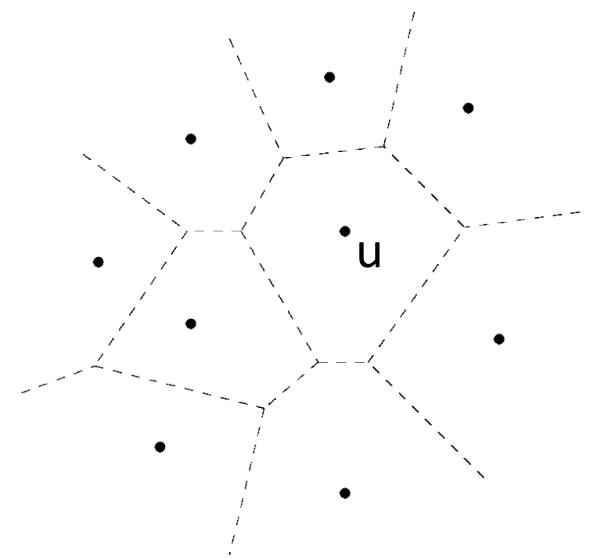
The **Voronoi region** of  $u$  in  $V$  is the set of points of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  for which  $u$  is the closest

$$R_V(u) := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \forall v \in V, d(x, u) \leq d(x, v)\}$$

- ◆ Any Voronoi region is a **convex** closed subset of  $\mathbb{R}^2$
- ◆ A Voronoi region is **not necessarily bounded**

The **Voronoi diagram** is the collection  **$Vor(V)$**

of the Voronoi regions of the points of  $V$



Images from [De Floriani 2003]

# Delaunay Triangulations

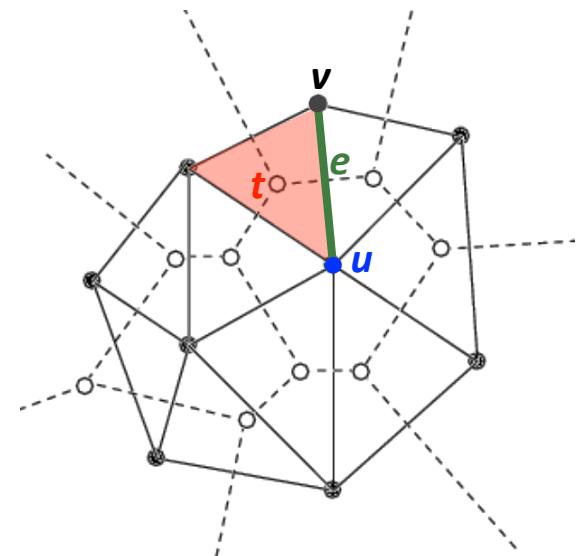
## Duality Property:

If  $V$  is in general position, then

the **Delaunay triangulation** coincides with the **nerve of the Voronoi diagram**

$$\text{Del}(V) = \{\sigma \subseteq V \mid \bigcap_{u \in \sigma} R_V(u) \neq \emptyset\}$$

- ◆ Each **point  $u$**  of  $V$  corresponds to a Voronoi region  $R_V(u)$
- ◆ Each **triangle  $t$**  of  $\text{Del}(V)$  corresponds to a vertex in  $\text{Vor}(V)$
- ◆ Each **edge  $e=(u,v)$**  in  $\text{Del}(V)$  corresponds to an edge shared by the two Voronoi regions  $R_V(u)$  and  $R_V(v)$



Images from [De Floriani 2003]

# Delaunay Triangulations

## Algorithms:

- ◆ **Two-step algorithms:**
  - ❖ Computation of an arbitrary triangulation  $K'$
  - ❖ Optimization of  $K'$  to produce a Delaunay triangulation
- ◆ **Incremental algorithms [Guibas, Stolfi 1983; Watson 1981]:**
  - ❖ Modification of an existing Delaunay triangulation while adding a new vertex at a time
- ◆ **Divide-and-conquer algorithms [Shamos 1978; Lee, Schacter 1980]:**
  - ❖ Recursive partition of the point set into two halves
  - ❖ Merging of the computed partial solutions
- ◆ **Sweep-line algorithms [Fortune 1989]:**
  - ❖ Step-wise construction of a Delaunay triangulation while moving a sweep-line in the plane

# Delaunay Triangulations

## **Watson's Algorithm:**

A Delaunay triangulation is computed by **incrementally adding a single point** to an existing Delaunay triangulation

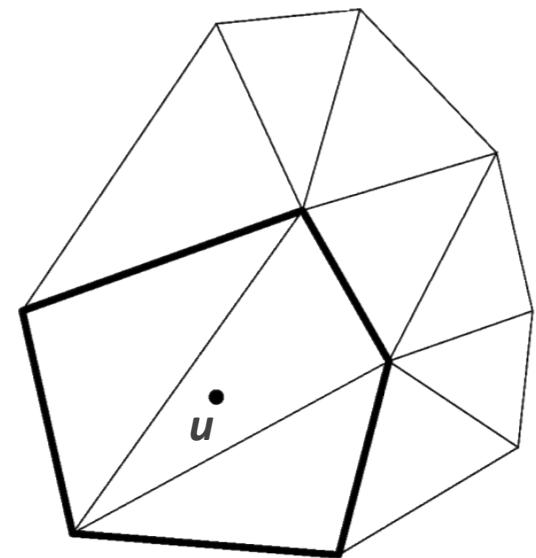
Let  $V_i$  be a subset of  $V$  and let  $u$  be a point in  $V \setminus V_i$ ,

### **Input:**

$\text{Del}(V_i)$ , a Delaunay triangulation of  $V_i$

### **Output:**

$\text{Del}(V_{i+1})$ , a Delaunay triangulation of  $V_{i+1} := V_i \cup \{u\}$



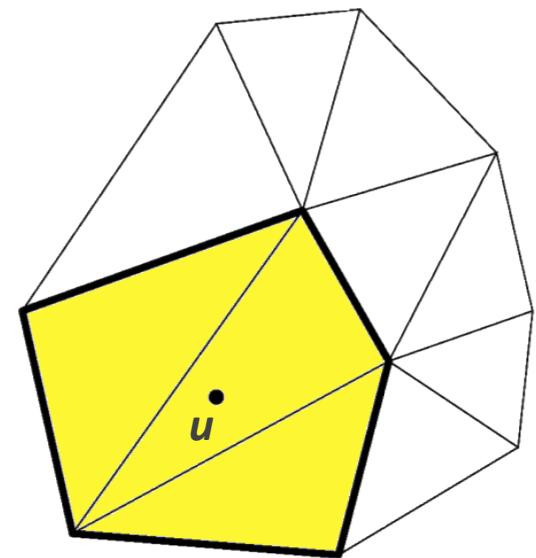
Images from [De Floriani 2003]

# Delaunay Triangulations

## Watson's Algorithm:

Given a Delaunay triangulation  $\text{Del}(V_i)$  of  $V_i$  and a point  $u$  in  $V \setminus V_i$ ,

- ◆ The **influence region  $R_u$**  of a point  $u$  is the region in the plane formed by the union of the triangles in  $\text{Del}(V_i)$  whose circumcircle contains  $u$  in its interior
- ◆ The **influence polygon  $P_u$**  of  $u$  is the polygon formed by the edges of the triangles of  $\text{Del}(V_i)$  which bound  $R_u$



# Delaunay Triangulations

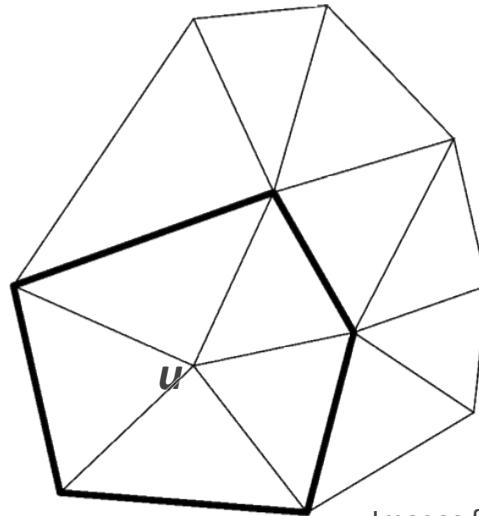
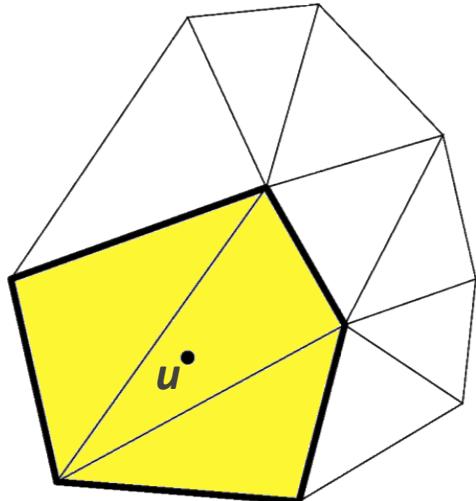
## Watson's Algorithm:

- ◆ Step 1:

Deletion of the triangles of  $\text{Del}(V_i)$  forming the *influence region*  $R_u$

- ◆ Step 2:

*Re-triangulation of  $R_u$*  by joining  $u$  to the vertices of the influence polygon  $P_u$



Images from [De Floriani 2003]

# Delaunay Triangulations

## Watson's Algorithm:

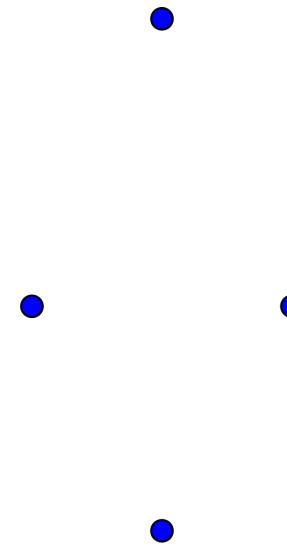
Let  $N_i = |V_i|$

- ◆ *Detection of a triangle of  $\text{Del}(V_i)$  containing the new point  $u$ :  $O(N_i)$  in the worst case*
  - ◆ *Detection of the triangles forming the region of influence through a breadth-first search:  $O(|R_u|)$*
  - ◆ *Re-triangulation of  $P_u$  is in  $O(|P_u|)$*
- 
- ◆ *Inserting a point  $u$  in a triangulation with  $N_i$  vertices:  $O(N_i)$  in the worst case*
  - ◆ *Inserting all points of  $V$ :  $O(N^2)$  in the worst case, where  $N = |V|$*

# Čech Complexes

## *Definition:*

Given a finite set of points  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , let us consider:

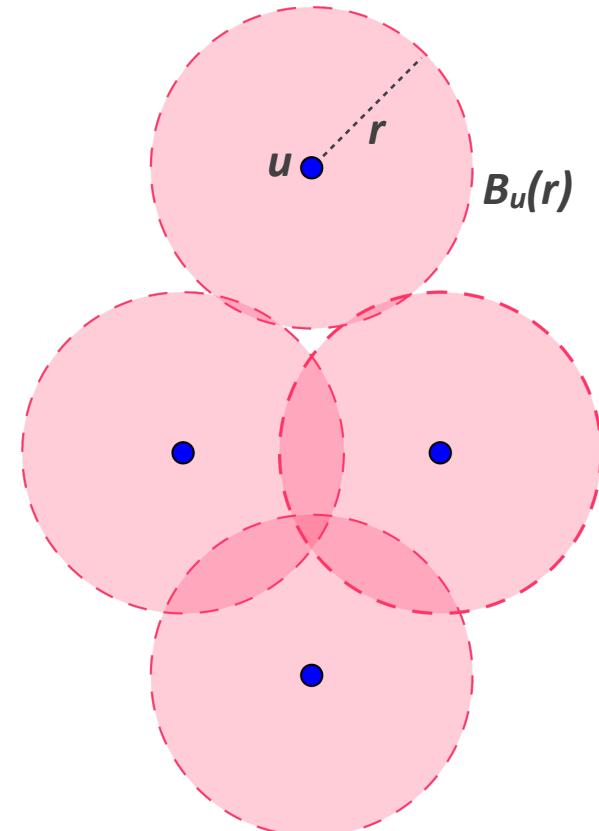


# Čech Complexes

## ***Definition:***

Given a finite set of points  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , let us consider:

- ◆  $B_u(r)$ , the **closed ball** with **center  $u \in V$**  and **radius  $r$**
- ◆  $S$ , the collection of these balls



# Čech Complexes

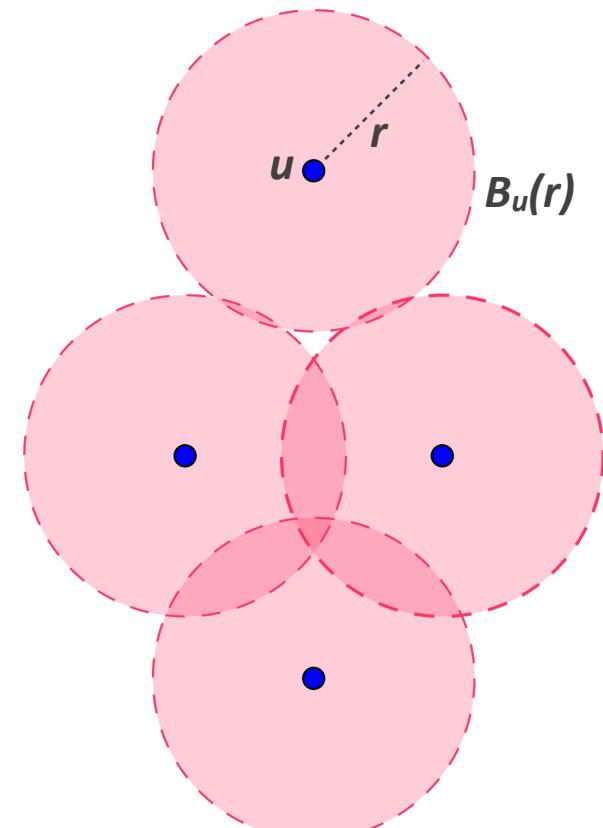
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The **Čech complex**  $\check{C}ech(r)$  of  $V$   
of radius  $r$  is the **nerve of  $S$**

$$\check{C}ech(r) := \{\sigma \subseteq V \mid \bigcap_{u \in \sigma} B_u(r) \neq \emptyset\}$$



# Čech Complexes

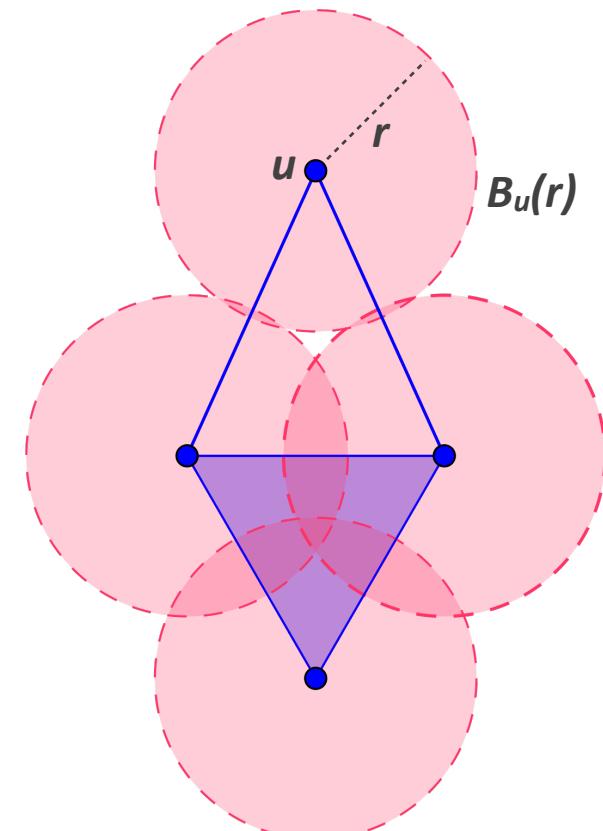
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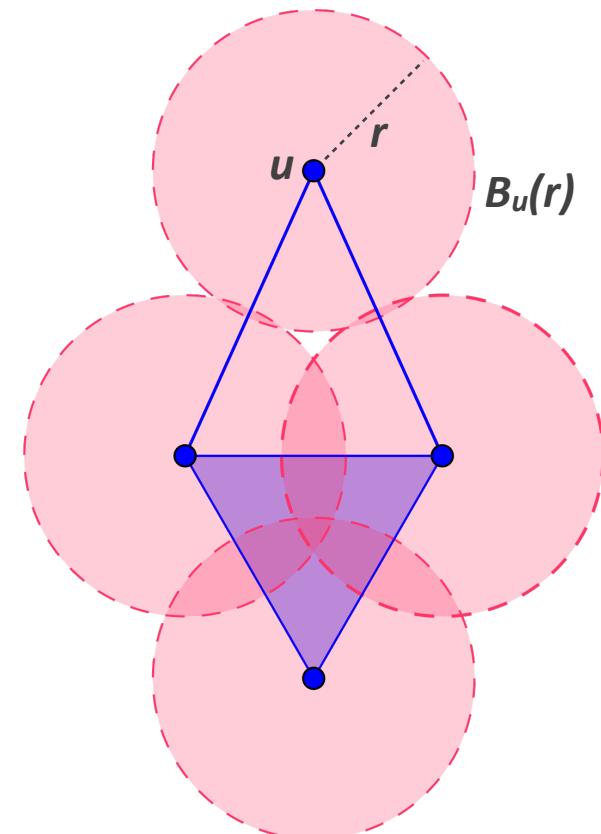
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In practice, **infeasible construction**



# Vietoris-Rips Complexes

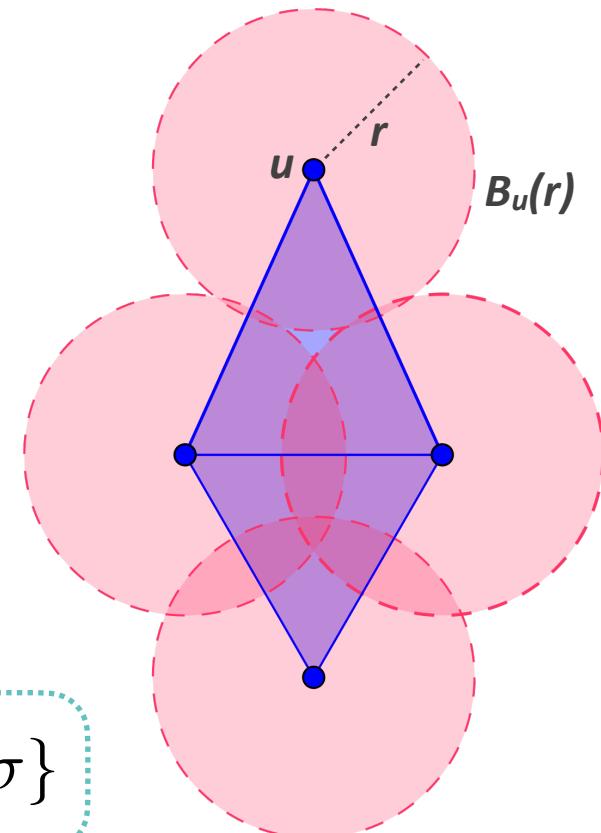
## Definition:

Given a finite set of points  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

The **Vietoris-Rips complex**  $VR(r)$  of  $V$  and  $r$  is the **abstract simplicial complex** consisting of all **subsets of diameter at most  $2r$**

Formally,

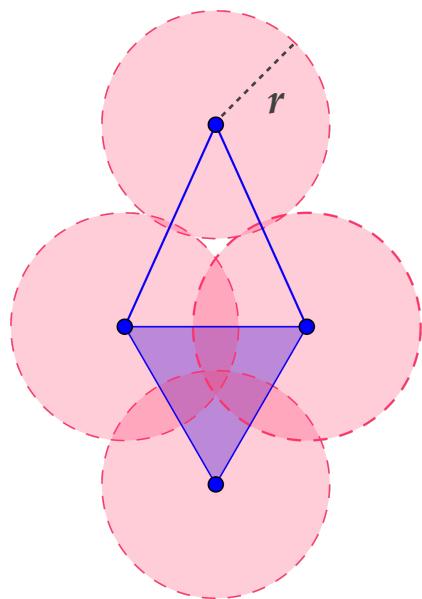
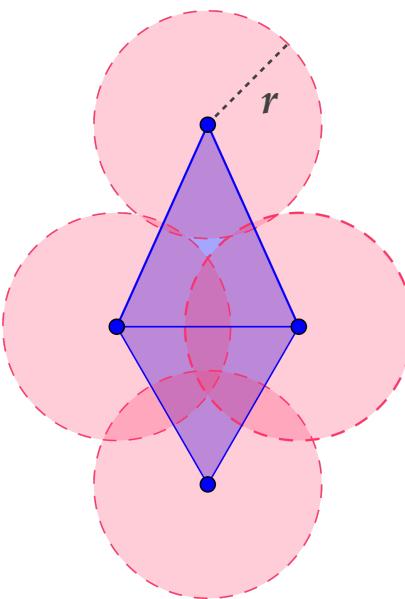
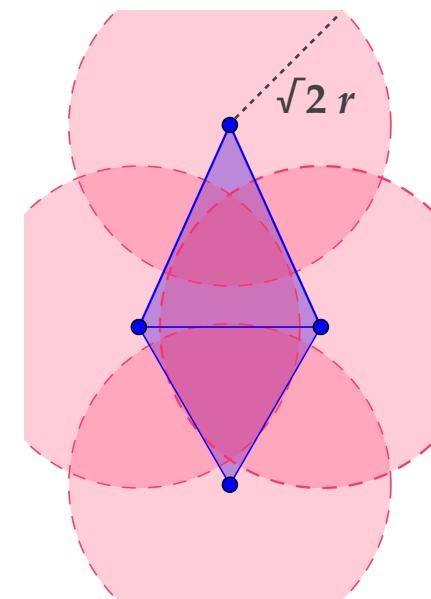
$$VR(r) := \{\sigma \subseteq V \mid d(u, v) \leq 2r, \forall u, v \in \sigma\}$$



# Vietoris-Rips Complexes

## Properties:

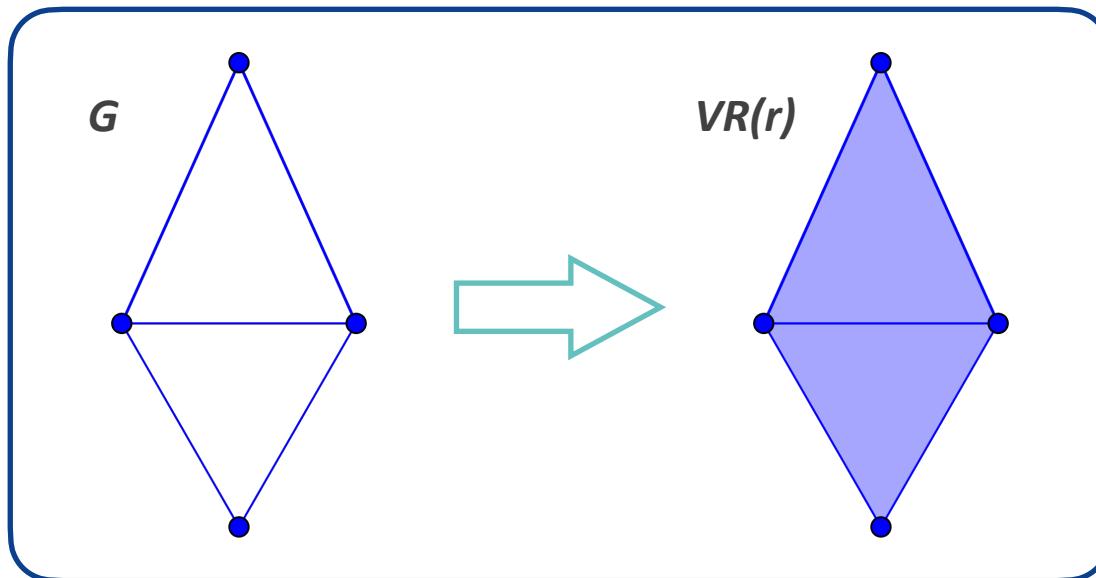
- $\check{\text{C}}\text{ech}(r) \subseteq VR(r) \subseteq \check{\text{C}}\text{ech}(\sqrt{2}r)$

 $\subseteq$  $\subseteq$ 

# Vietoris-Rips Complexes

## Properties:

- ◆  $\check{C}ech(r) \subseteq VR(r) \subseteq \check{C}ech(\sqrt{2}r)$
- ◆  **$VR(r)$**  is completely determined by its 1-skeleton
  - ❖ I.e. the graph  **$G$**  of its vertices and its edges



# Vietoris-Rips Complexes

## Algorithms:

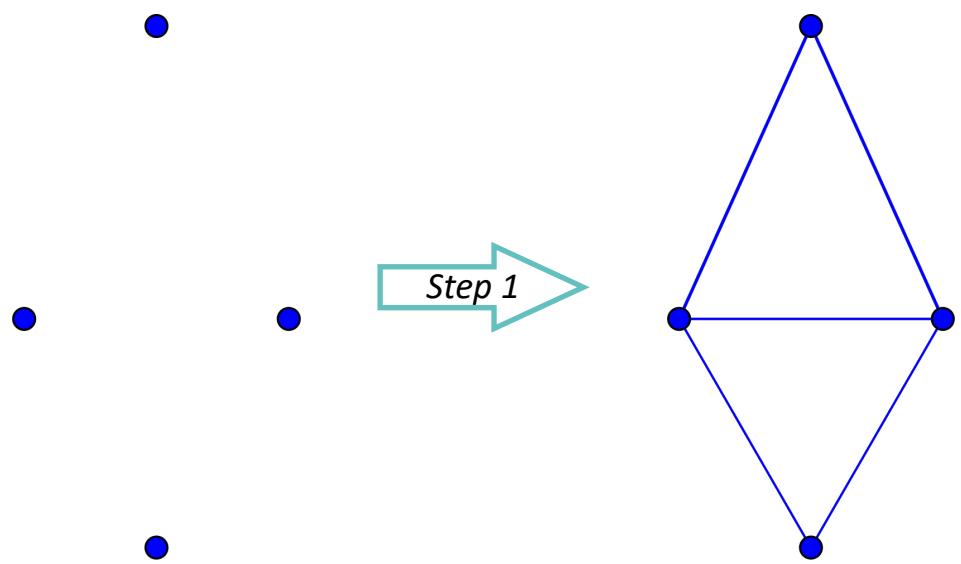
Input: A finite set of points  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and a real positive number  $r$

Output: The Vietoris-Rips complex  $VR(r)$

A **two-step** approach is typically adopted:

◆ ***Step 1 - Skeleton Computation:***

- ❖ *Exact (  $O(|V|^2)$  time complexity )*
- ❖ *Approximate*
- ❖ *Randomized*
- ❖ *Landmarking*



◆ ***Step 2 - Vietoris-Rips Expansion:***

- ❖ *Inductive*
- ❖ *Incremental*
- ❖ *Maximal*

# Vietoris-Rips Complexes

## Algorithms:

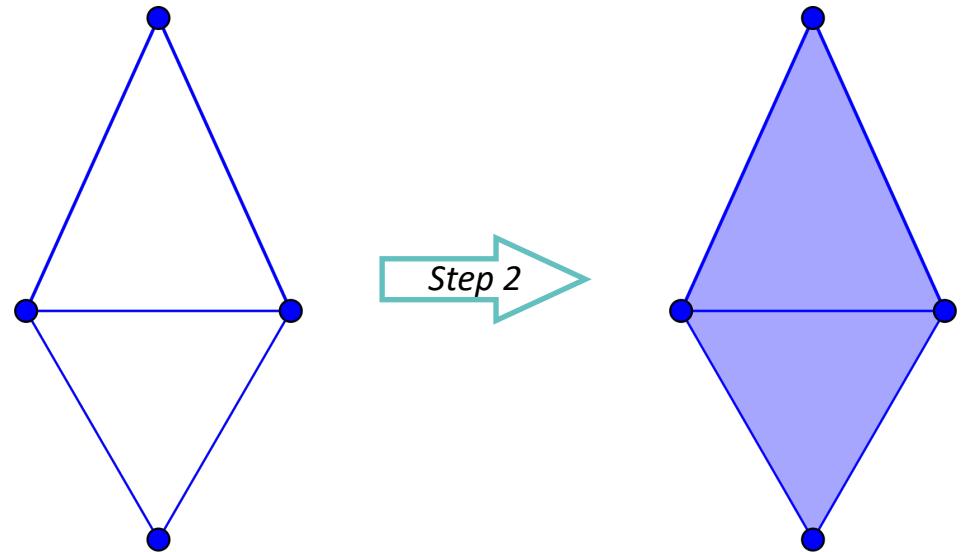
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- ❖ *Inductive*
- ❖ *Incremental*
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# Vietoris-Rips Complexes

**Inductive VR expansion:**

Input: The 1-skeleton  $G = (V, E)$  of  $VR(r)$

Output: The  $k$ -skeleton  $K$  of the Vietoris-Rips complex  $VR(r)$

**INDUCTIVE-VR( $G, k$ )**

$K = V \cup E$

**for**  $i = 1$  **to**  $k$

**foreach**  $i$ -simplex  $\sigma \in K$

$N = \cap_{u \in \sigma} LOWER-NBRS(G, u)$

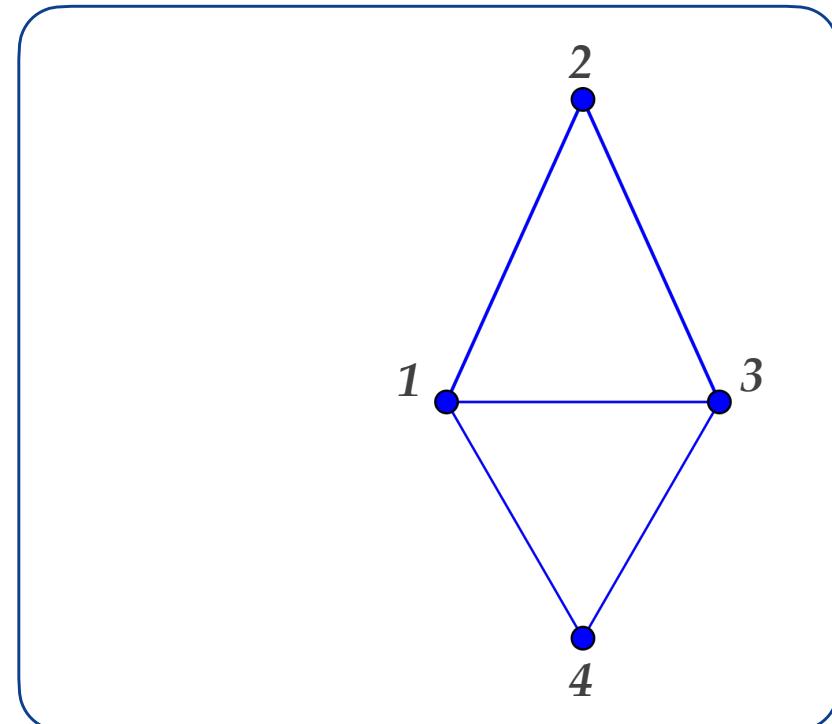
**foreach**  $v \in N$

$K = K \cup \{ \sigma \cup \{v\} \}$

**return**  $K$

**LOWER-NBRS( $G, u$ )**

**return**  $\{v \in V \mid v < u, (u, v) \in E\}$



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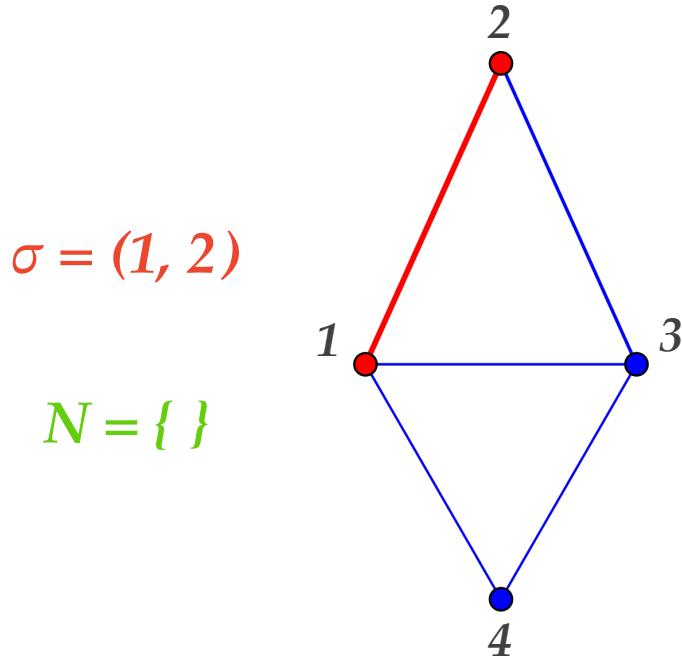
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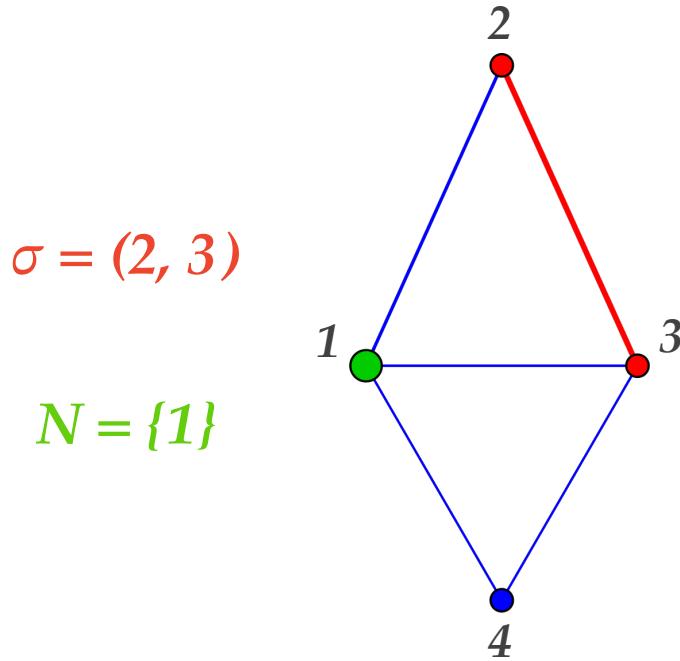
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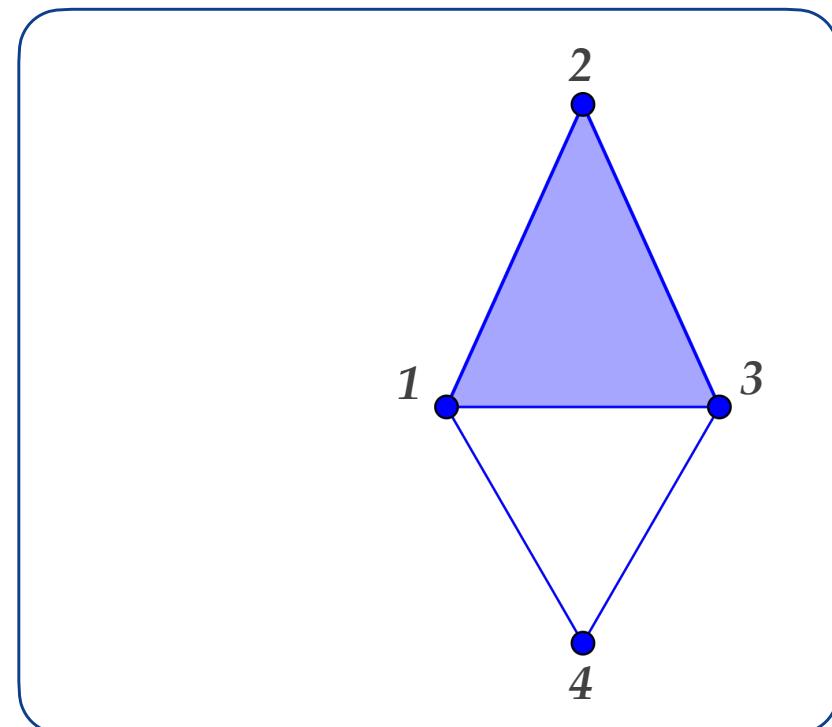
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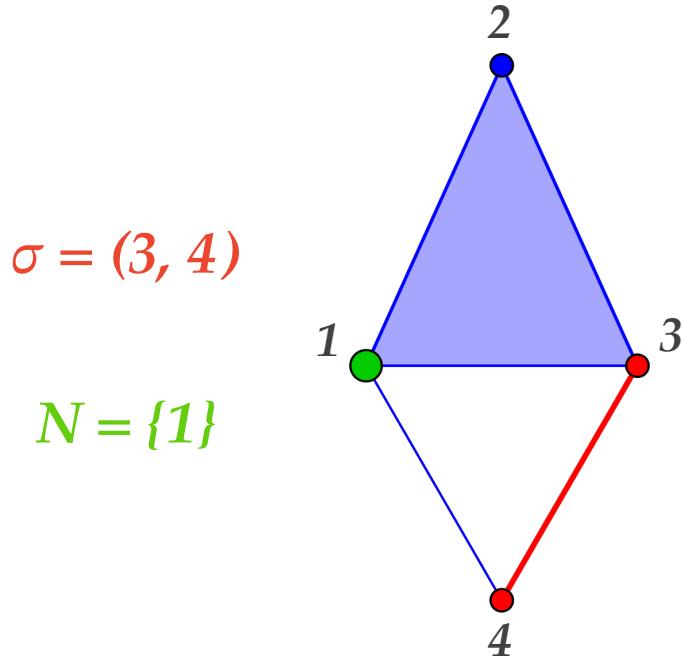
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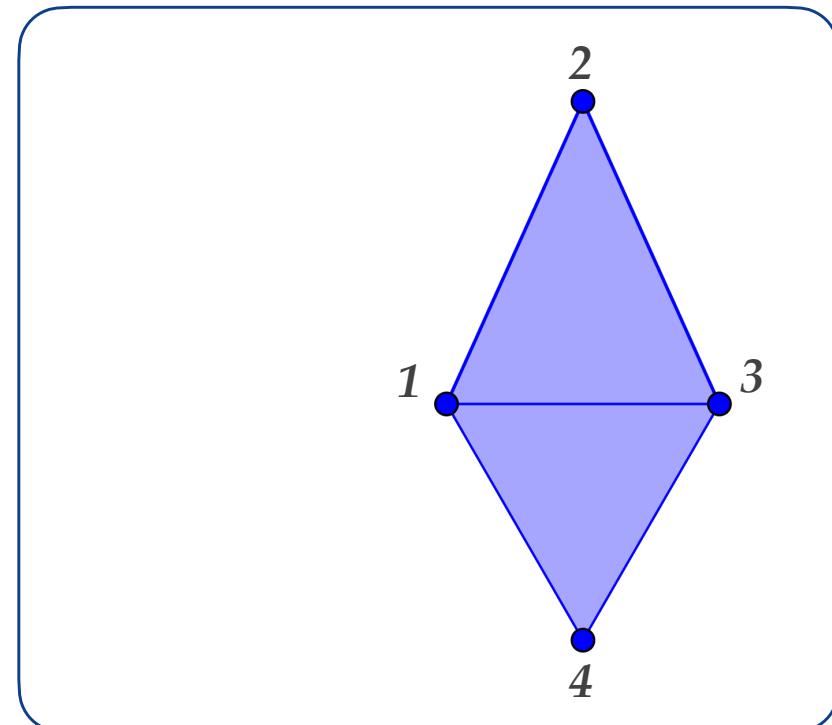
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# From Data to Complexes

*Delaunay triangulation*



Bounded Dimension



Trivial Homology

*Čech/VR complex*

“Real” Homology

High Dimension  
Large Size

# Alpha-Shapes

## Definition:

Given a finite set of points  $V$  in general position of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , let us consider:

- ◆  $A_u(r) := B_u(r) \cap R_V(u)$ , the *intersection* of the *closed ball* with *center*  $u \in V$  and *radius*  $r$  and the *Voronoi region* of  $u$
- ◆  $S$ , the collection of these convex sets

The *alpha-shape Alpha(r)* of  $V$  of radius  $r$  is the *nerve of S*

Formally,

$$\text{Alpha}(r) := \{\sigma \subseteq V \mid \bigcap_{u \in \sigma} A_u(r) \neq \emptyset\}$$

$$A_u(r) \subseteq B_u(r) \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{Alpha}(r) \subseteq \check{\text{C}}ech(r)$$

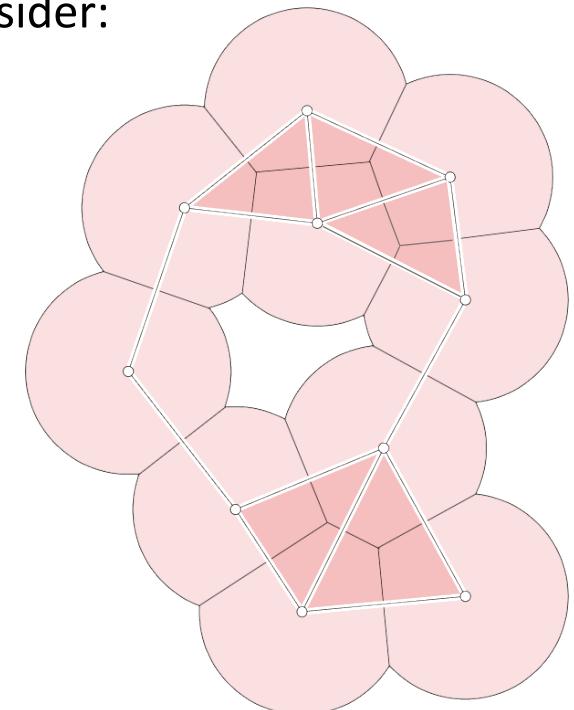


Image from [Edelsbrunner, Harer 2010]

# Witness Complexes

## Motivation:

The “shape” of a point cloud can be captured *without considering all the input points*

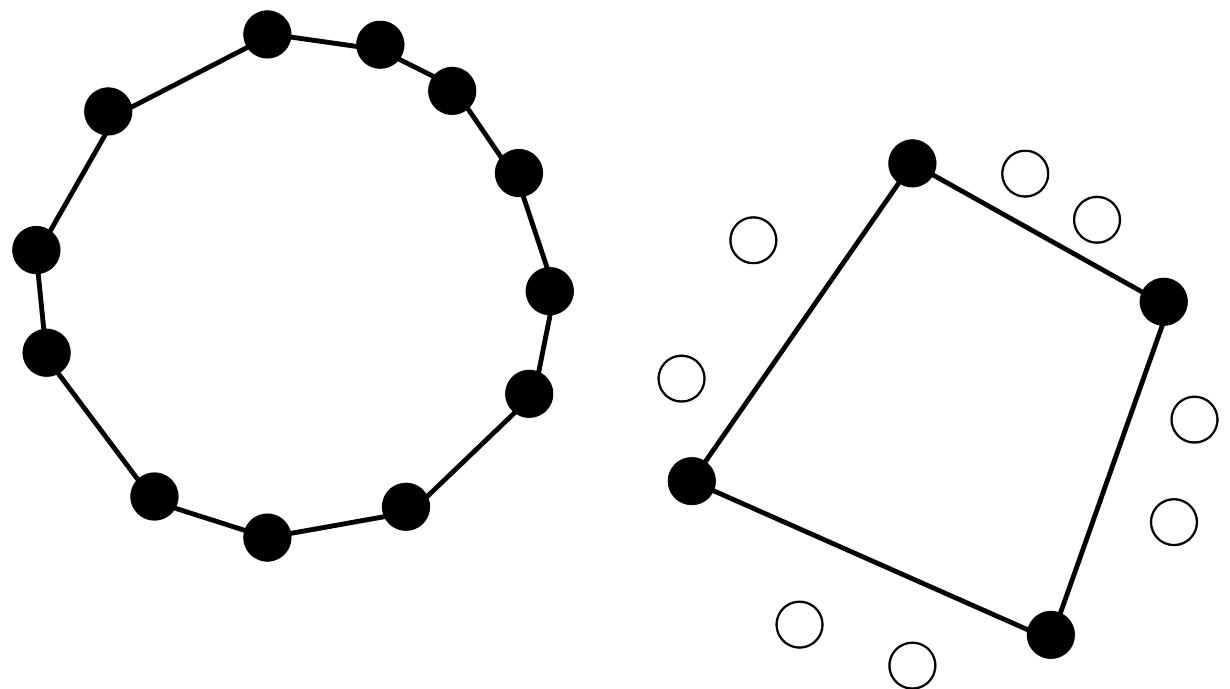
## Definitions:

### ◆ Landmarks:

*Selected points*

### ◆ Witnesses:

*Remaining points*



Images from [de Silva, Carlsson 2004]

# Witness Complexes

## Definition:

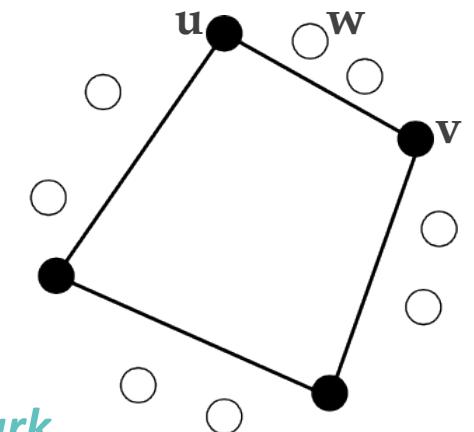
The **witness complex  $W(r)$**  of radius  $r$  is defined by:

- ◆  $u$  is in  $W(r)$  if  $u$  is a landmark
- ◆  $(u, v)$  is in  $W(r)$  if there exists a witness  $w$  such that

$$\max\{d(u, w), d(v, w)\} \leq m_w + r$$

where  $m_w :=$  the distance of  $w$  from the **2nd closest landmark**

- ◆ the  $i$ -simplex  $\sigma$  is in  $W(r)$  if all its edges belong to  $W(r)$



**$W_0(r)$**  is defined by setting  $m_w = 0$  for any witness  $w$

$$W_0(r) \subseteq VR(r) \subseteq W_0(2r)$$

# From Data to Complexes

***Not Only Point Clouds in  $\mathbb{R}^n$***

Most of the presented constructions can be ***generalized/adapted*** to the case of

***a finite collection of elements endowed with a notion of proximity\****

enabling to cover a ***wide plethora of datasets***

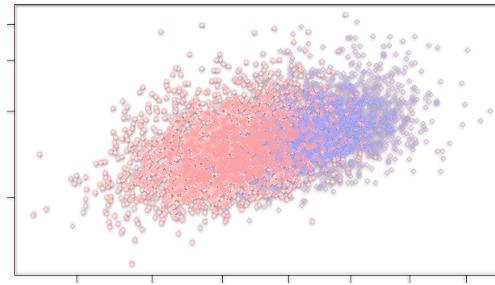
\*More properly, a ***semi-metric***, i.e. a distance not necessarily satisfying the triangle inequality

# From Data to Complexes

***Not Only Point Clouds in  $\mathbb{R}^n$***

◆ ***Point Clouds:***

- ❖ *Delaunay triangulation*
- ❖ *Čech complexes*
- ❖ *Vietoris-Rips complexes*
- ❖ *Alpha-shapes*
- ❖ *Witness complexes*

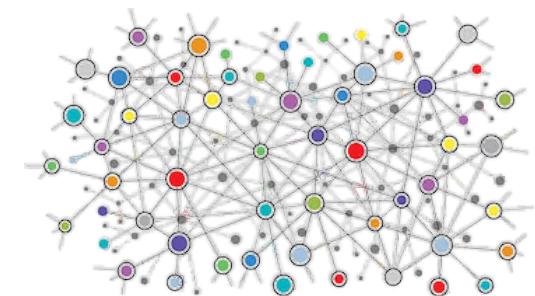
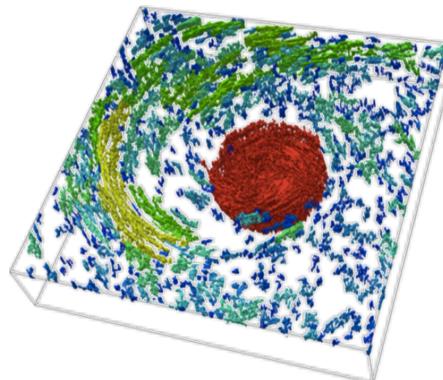


◆ ***Graphs and Complex Networks:***

- ❖ *Flag complexes*

◆ ***Functions:***

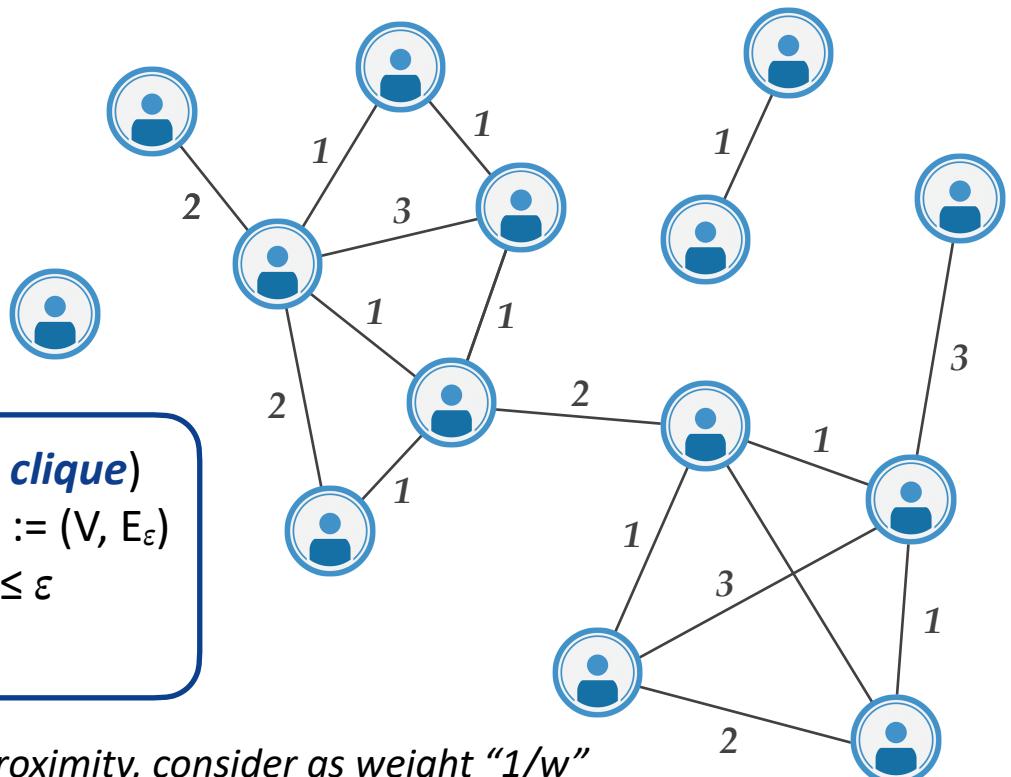
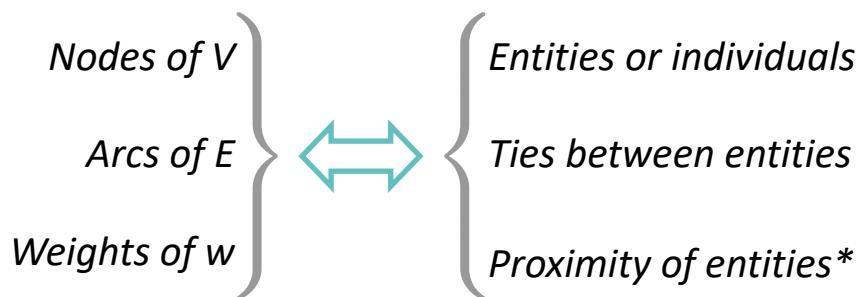
- ❖ *Sublevel sets*



# From Data to Complexes

## Flag Complex of a Weighted Network:

Let  $G := (V, E, w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$  be a *weighted undirected graph* representing a *network*:

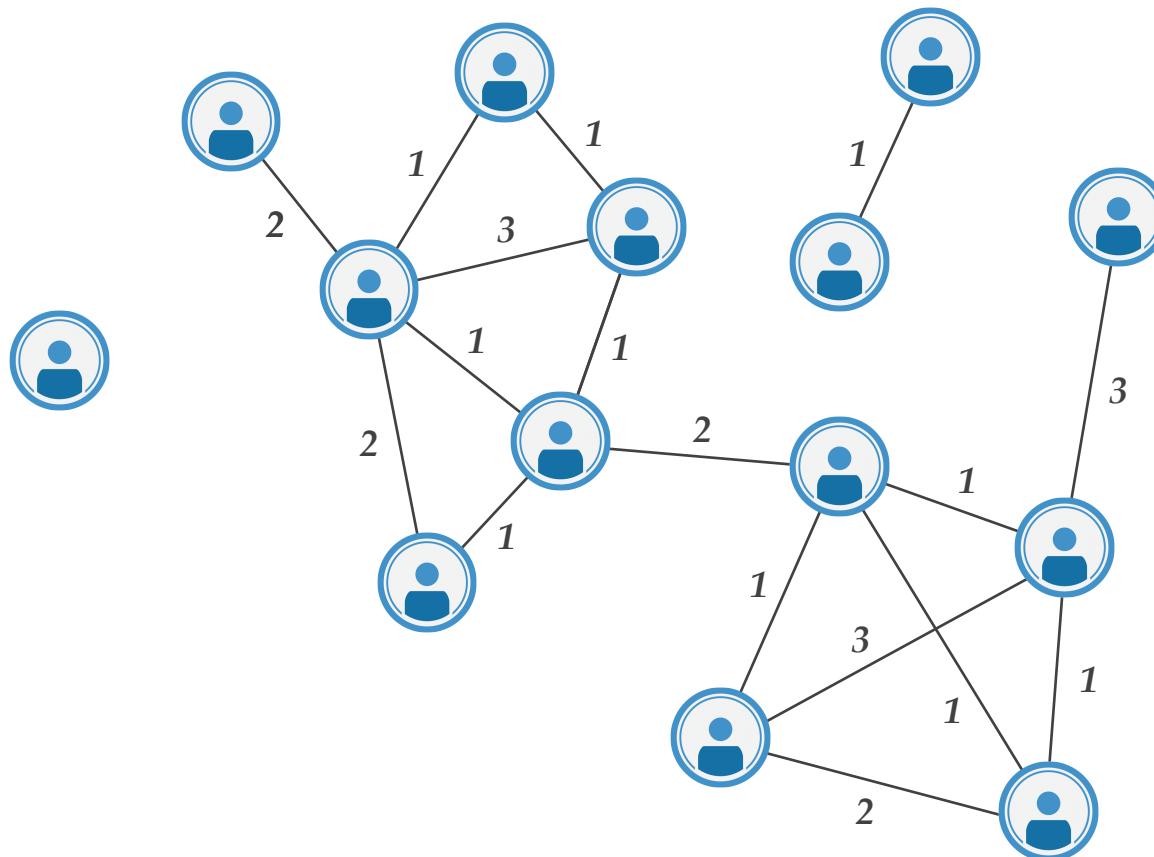


Fixed a *weight threshold*  $\varepsilon$ , the *flag* (or the *clique*) **complex** is the *VR expansion* of the graph  $G_\varepsilon := (V, E_\varepsilon)$  where  $E_\varepsilon$  are the arcs of  $E$  with weight  $\leq \varepsilon$

\*If  $w$  represents tie strengths rather than node proximity, consider as weight “ $1/w$ ”

# From Data to Complexes

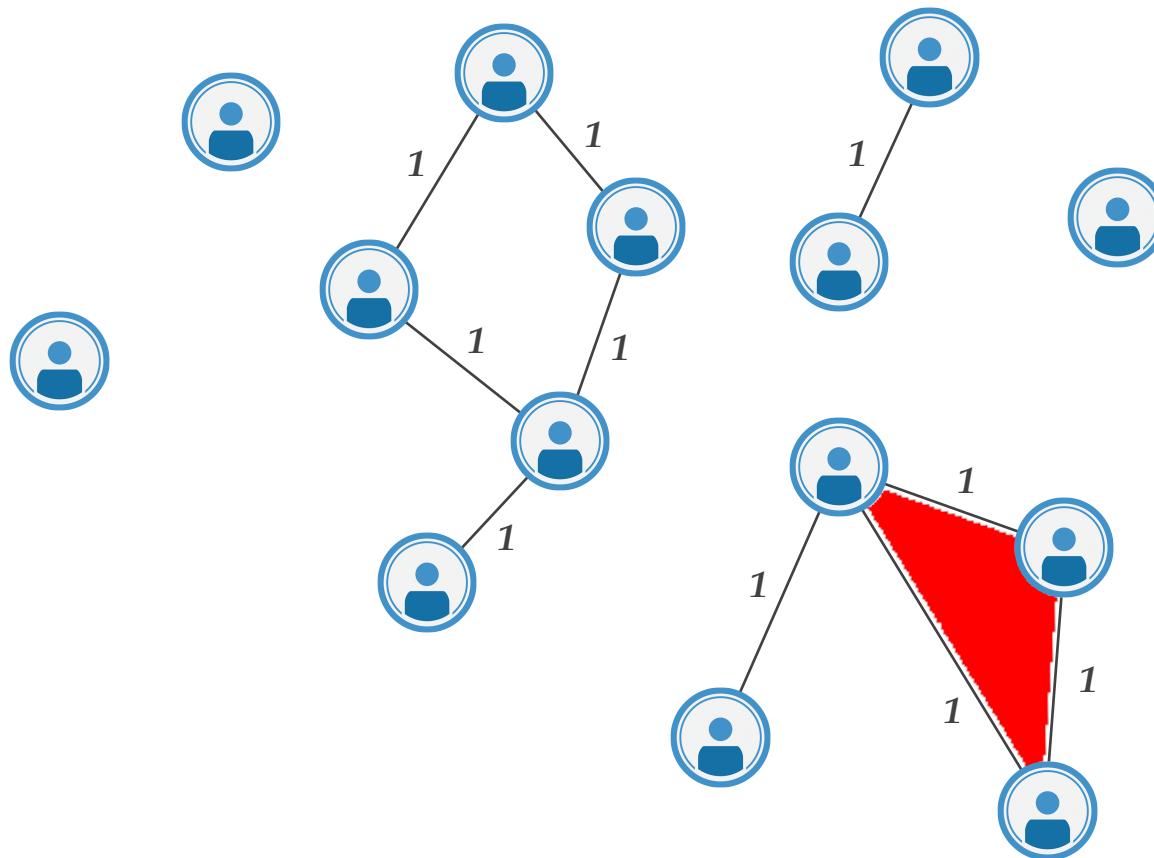
*Flag Complex of a Weighted Network:*



# From Data to Complexes

*Flag Complex of a Weighted Network:*

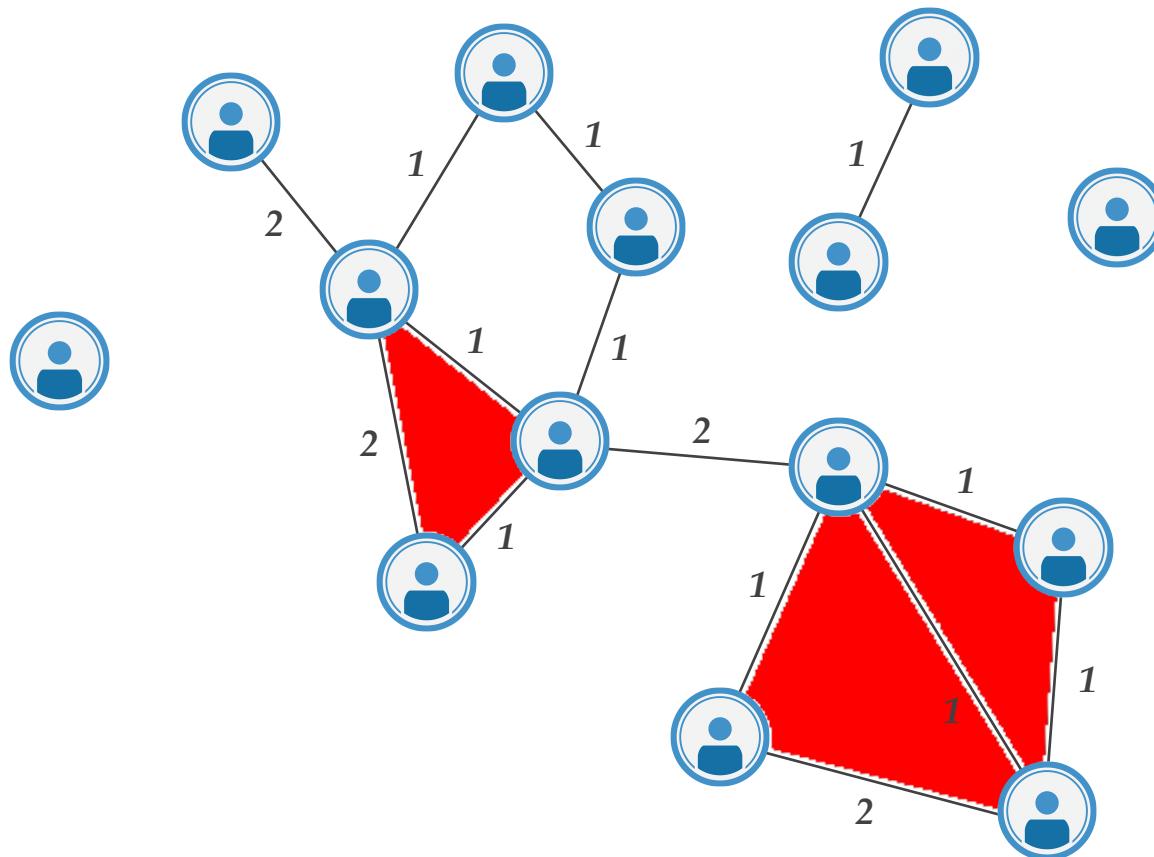
$$\varepsilon = 1$$



# From Data to Complexes

*Flag Complex of a Weighted Network:*

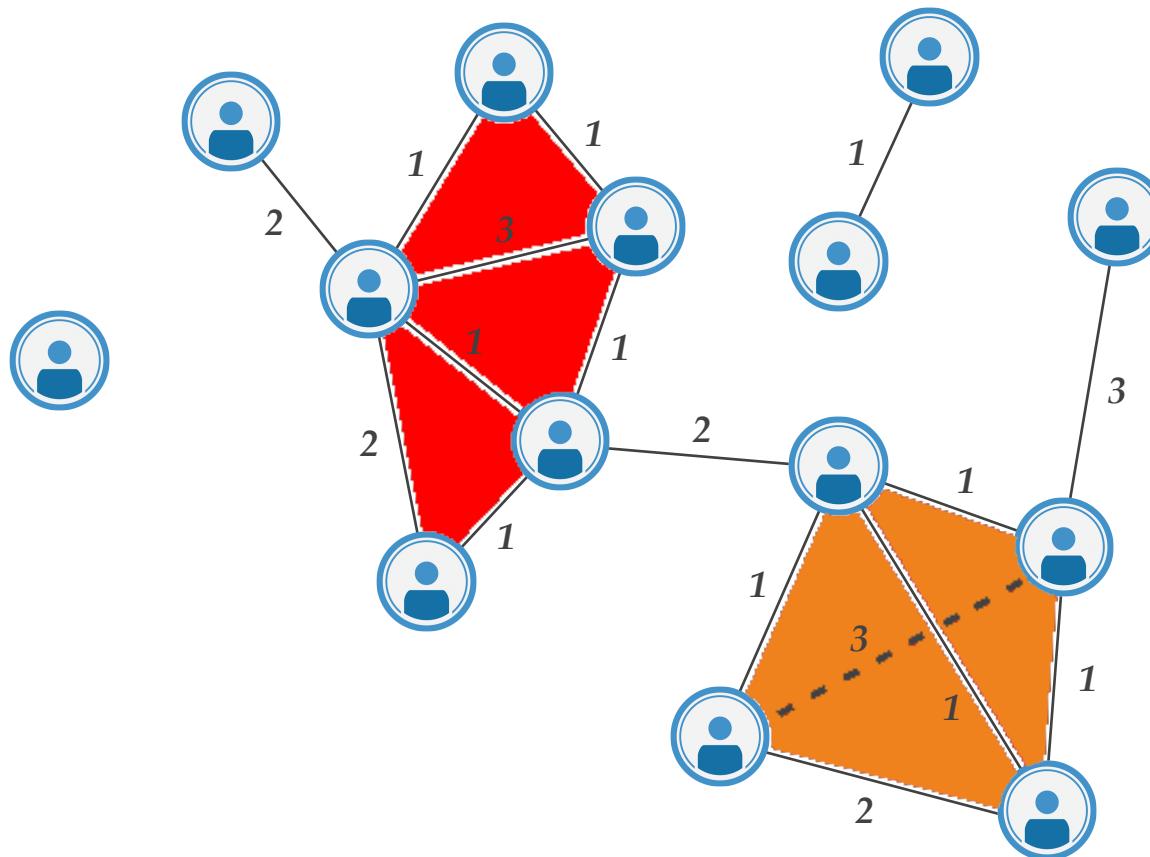
$$\varepsilon = 2$$



# From Data to Complexes

*Flag Complex of a Weighted Network:*

$$\varepsilon = 3$$



# From Data to Complexes

## *Sublevel Sets of Functions*

Given a **function**  $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

◆ **Step 1:**

Transform  $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  into a function  $F: K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  *defined on a simplicial complex K*

E.g. if  $D$  is a point cloud, construct from it a simplicial complex  $K$  and define  $F$  as

$$F(\sigma) := \max\{f(v) \mid v \text{ is a vertex of } \sigma\}$$

◆ **Step 2:**

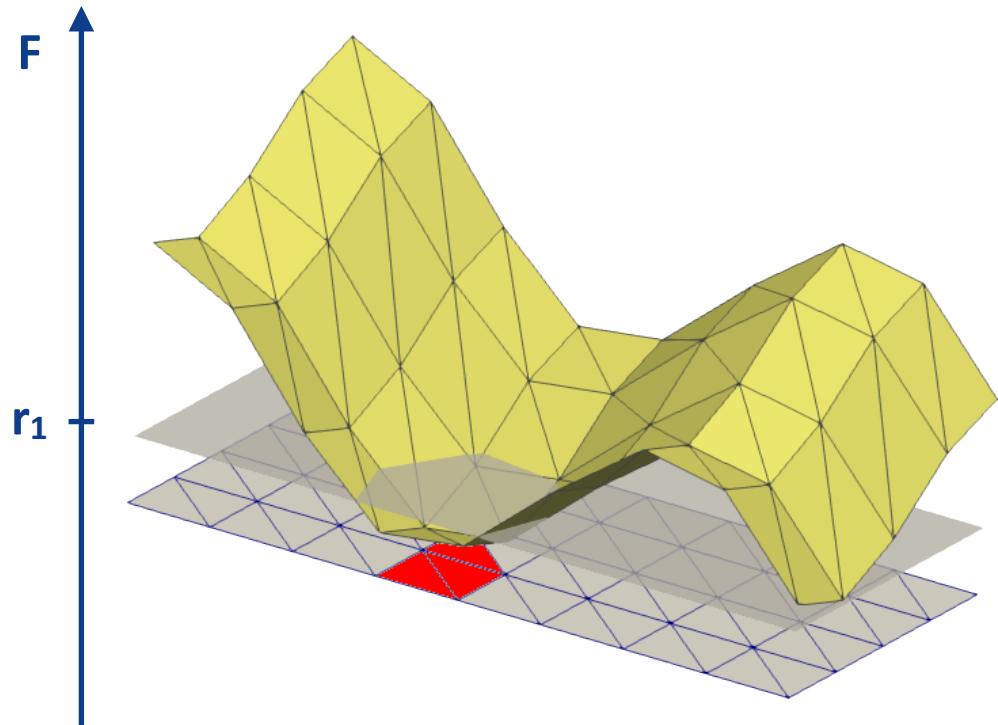
Build the collection  $\{K^r\}_{r \in \mathbb{R}}$  of the *sublevel sets of F* defined as

$$K^r := \{\sigma \in K \mid F(\sigma) \leq r\}$$

Notice that  $K^r$  is a simplicial complex whenever: if  $\tau$  is a face of  $\sigma$  then  $F(\tau) \leq F(\sigma)$

# From Data to Complexes

## *Sublevel Sets of Functions*

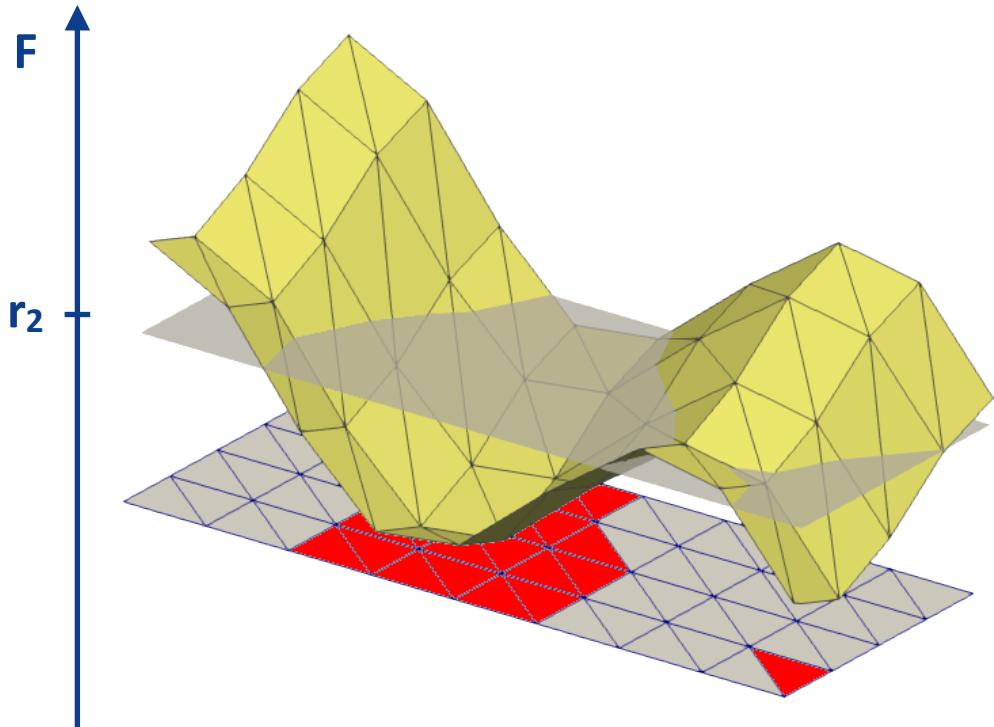


Given a function  $F: K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$K^r := \{\sigma \in K \mid F(\sigma) \leq r\}$$

# From Data to Complexes

*Sublevel Sets of Functions*

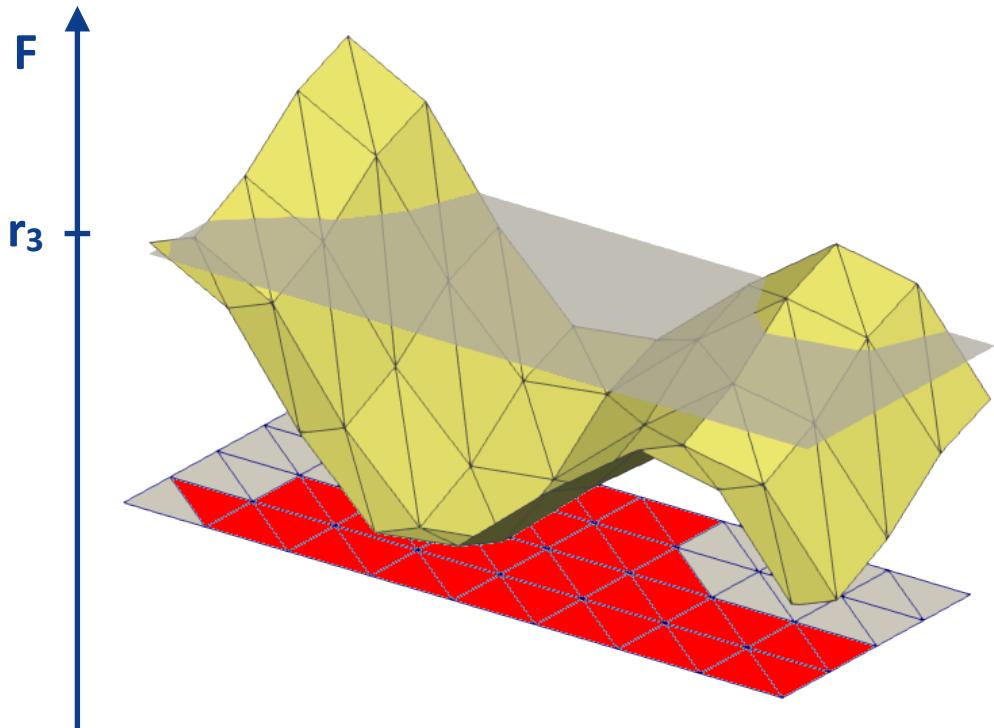


Given a function  $F: K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$K^r := \{ \sigma \in K \mid F(\sigma) \leq r \}$$

# From Data to Complexes

## *Sublevel Sets of Functions*



Given a function  $F: K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$K^r := \{\sigma \in K \mid F(\sigma) \leq r\}$$

# Bibliography

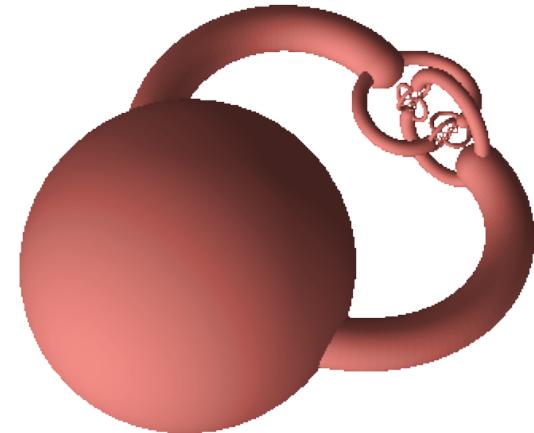
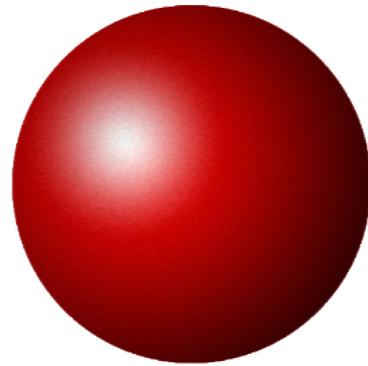
## Some References:

- ◆ **From Data to Complexes:**
  - ❖ H. Edelsbrunner, **Geometry and Topology for Mesh Generation**. Cambridge University Press, 2001.
  - ❖ V. de Silva, G. Carlsson. **Topological estimation using witness complexes**. SPBG 4, pages 157-166, 2004.
  - ❖ A. Zomorodian, **Fast construction of the Vietoris-Rips complex**. Computers & Graphics 34.3, pages 263-271, 2010.
  - ❖ H. Edelsbrunner. **Algorithms in Combinatorial Geometry**. Springer Science & Business Media, 2012.

# *Persistent Homology*

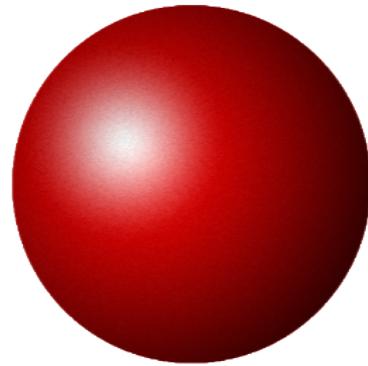
# Persistent Homology

◆ *Do they have the same shape?*

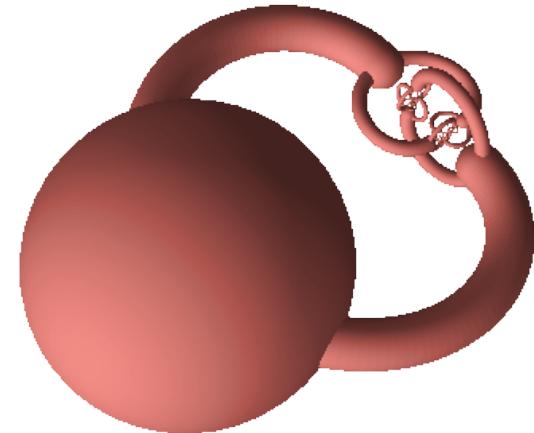


# Persistent Homology

◆ *Do they have the same shape?*



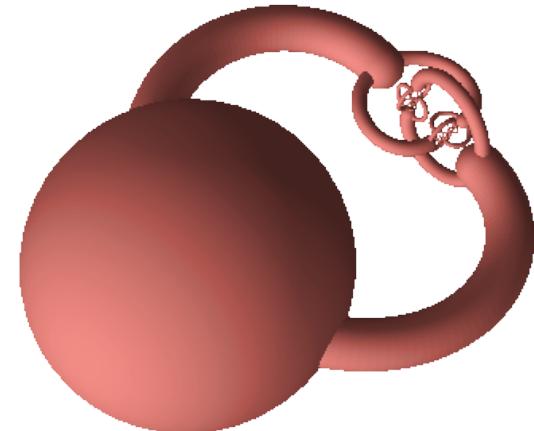
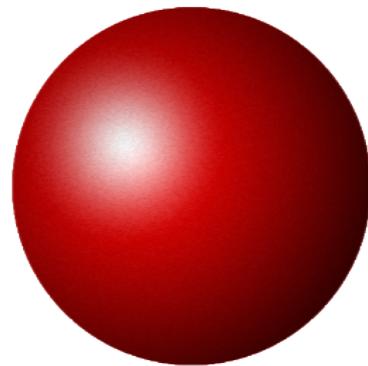
In Practice?



In Theory?

# Persistent Homology

◆ *Do they have the same shape?*



In Practice?



In Theory?



*They are **homeomorphic***

# Persistent Homology

◆ *Do they have the same shape?*



# Persistent Homology

◆ *Do they have the same shape?*



In Practice?

In Theory?

# Persistent Homology

◆ *Do they have the same shape?*



In Practice?



In Theory?

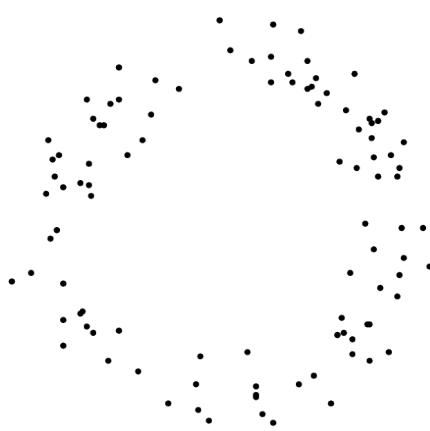


*They are not homeomorphic*

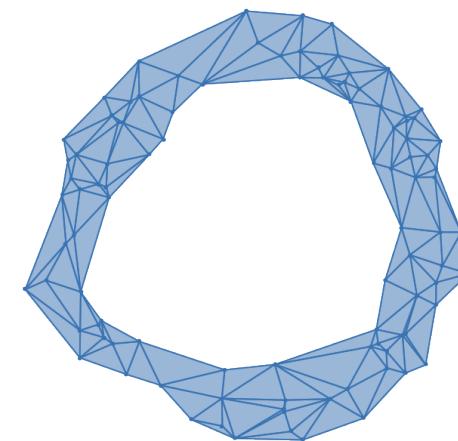
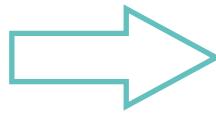
# Persistent Homology

- ◆ *Which is the shape of a given data?*

Persistent homology allows for the retrieval of the “*actual*” homological information of a data



*Point Cloud Dataset*



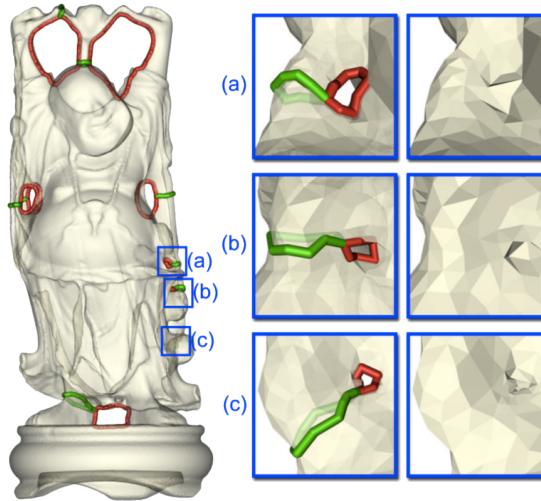
*Topological Nature of  
the “Underlying” Shape*

Image from [Bauer 2015]

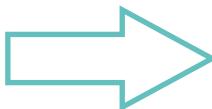
# Persistent Homology

◆ *Which is the shape of a given data?*

Persistent homology allows for the retrieval of the “*actual*” homological information of a data



*Noisy Dataset*



*Relevant Homological Information*

Image from [Dey et al. 2008]

# Persistent Homology

**In a Nutshell:**

Persistent homology allows for  
**describing the changes in the shape** of an evolving object

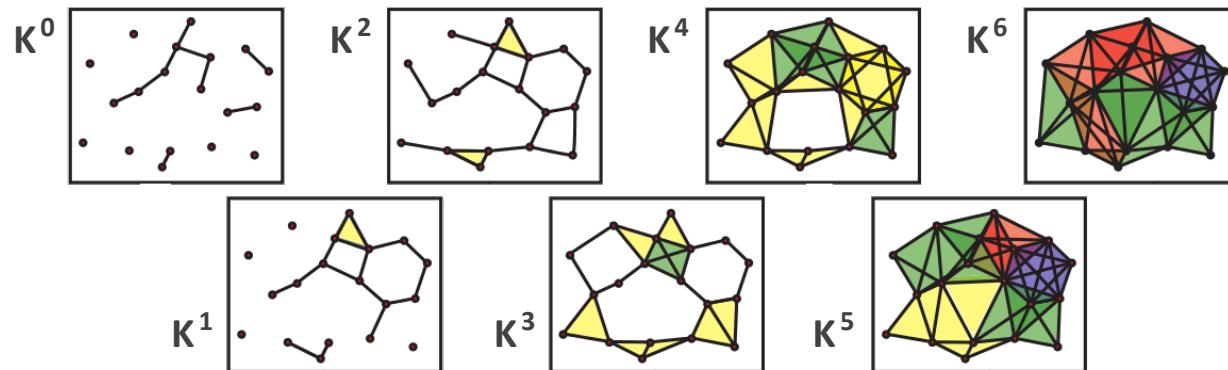


Image from [Ghrist 2008]

# Persistent Homology

**An Evolving Notion:**

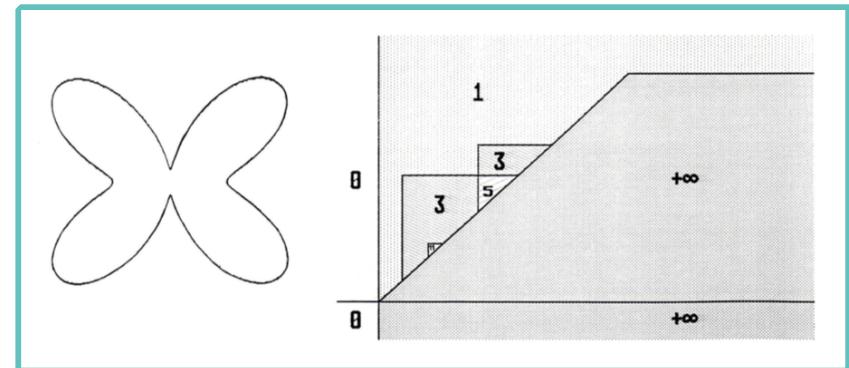
1990



Frosini

**Size Functions:**

- ◆ **Estimation of natural pseudo-distance** between shapes endowed with a function  $f$
- ◆ Tracking of the **connected components** of a shape along its evolution induced by  $f$



Actually, this coincides with ***persistent homology in degree 0***

Image from [Frosini 1992]

# Persistent Homology

*An Evolving Notion:*



*Incremental Algorithm for Betti Numbers:*

- ◆ Introduction of the notion of ***filtration***
- ◆ De facto computation of ***persistence pairs***

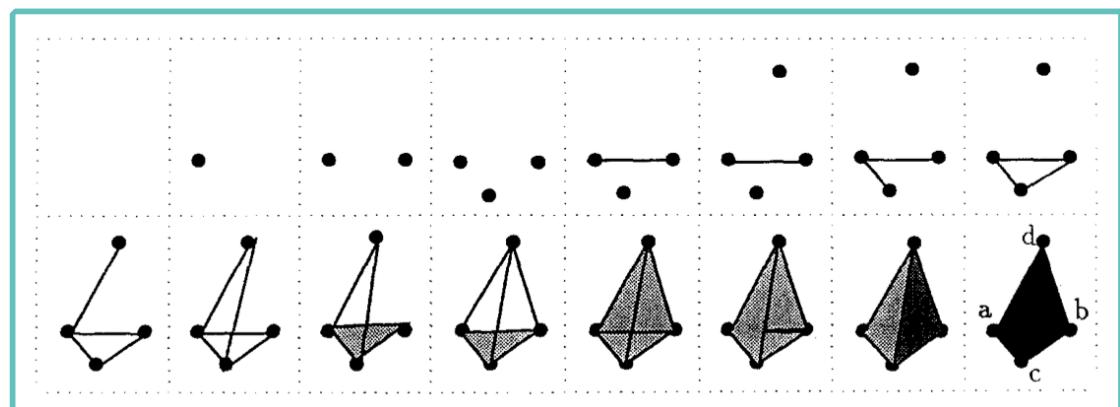


Image from [Delfinado, Edelsbrunner 1995]

# Persistent Homology

**An Evolving Notion:**



**Homology from Finite Approximations:**

- ◆ **Extrapolation of the homology** of a metric space from a **finite point-set approximation**
- ◆ Introduction of **persistent Betti numbers**

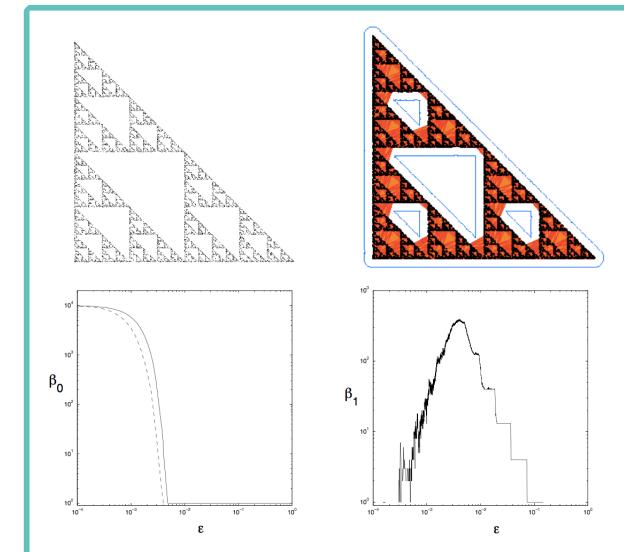


Image from [Robins 1999]

# Persistent Homology

## An Evolving Notion:



## Topological Persistence:

- ◆ Introduction and algebraic formulation of the notion of ***persistent homology***
- ◆ ***Description of an algorithm*** for computing persistent homology

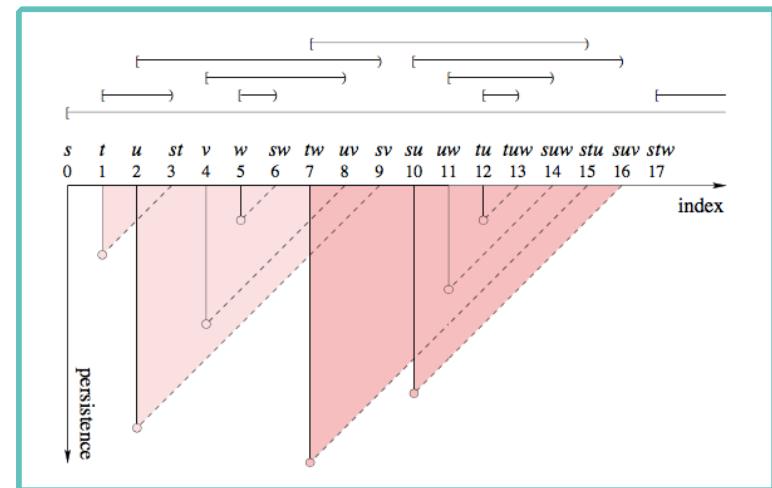
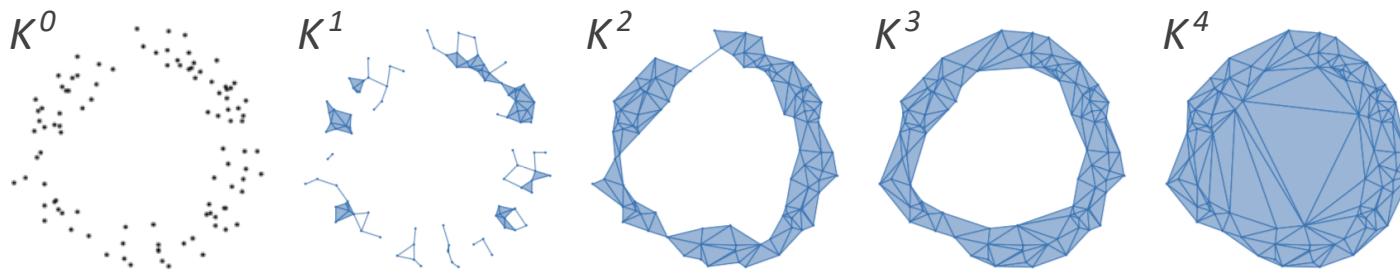


Image from [Edelsbrunner et al. 2002]

# Persistent Homology

## Definition:

Intuitively, a **filtration  $\mathcal{F}$**  is a finite “*growing*” sequence of simplicial complexes

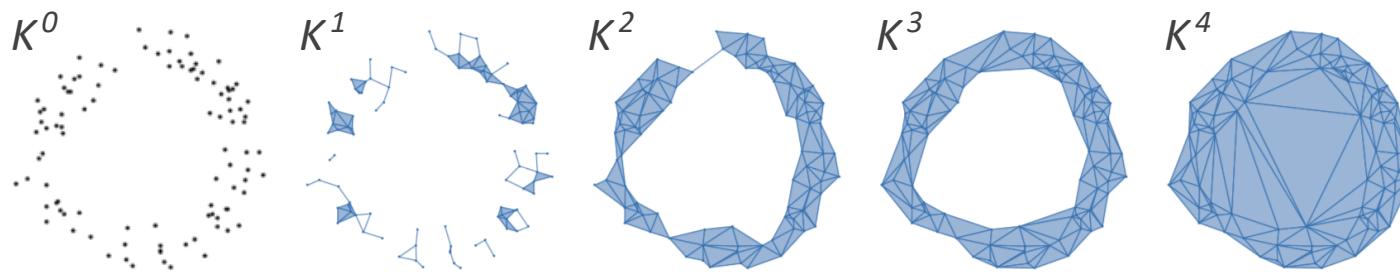


Formally, a **filtration  $\mathcal{F}$**  of a simplicial complex  $K$  is a collection of subcomplexes  $\{K^p\}_{p \in \mathbb{R}}$  of  $K$  for which, given any  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $p \leq q$ ,

$$K^p \subseteq K^q$$

# Persistent Homology

*Most of the techniques transforming a dataset into a simplicial complex depending on the choice of a parameter actually produce a filtration  $\{K^p\}_{p \in \mathbb{R}}$*



**Working Assumption:**

*We can always pretend that parameter  $p$  varies over  $\mathbb{N}$*

# Persistent Homology

**Definition:**

Given a filtration  $\mathcal{F} := \{K^p\}_{p \in \mathbb{N}}$ , a value  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , and a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , the  $i^{\text{th}}$  persistence module  $M$  of  $\mathcal{F}$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  is defined as the finitely generated graded  $\mathbb{F}[x]$ -module

$$M := \bigoplus_{p \in \mathbb{N}} M_p$$

where:

- ◆  $M_p := H_i(K^p; \mathbb{F})$ , the set of homogeneous elements of grade  $p$
- ◆ The action  $x^{q-p} h$  over an element  $h$  of grade  $p$  is defined as  $\mu_{i,p,q}(h)$ , where:
  - ❖  $\mu_{i,p,q}(h) : H_i(K^p; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H_i(K^q; \mathbb{F})$  is the linear map induced by the inclusion  $K^p \subseteq K^q$

# Persistent Homology

**Theorem (structure for finitely generated graded modules over a PID):**

Any persistence module  $M$  can be expressed as

$$M \cong \bigoplus_{k=1}^n \mathbb{F}[x](-r_k) \oplus \bigoplus_{j=1}^m \left( \mathbb{F}[x]/(x^{q_j-p_j}) \right) (-p_j)$$

So,  $M$  is completely determined by the collection of values  $r_k$  and of pairs  $(p_j, q_j)$

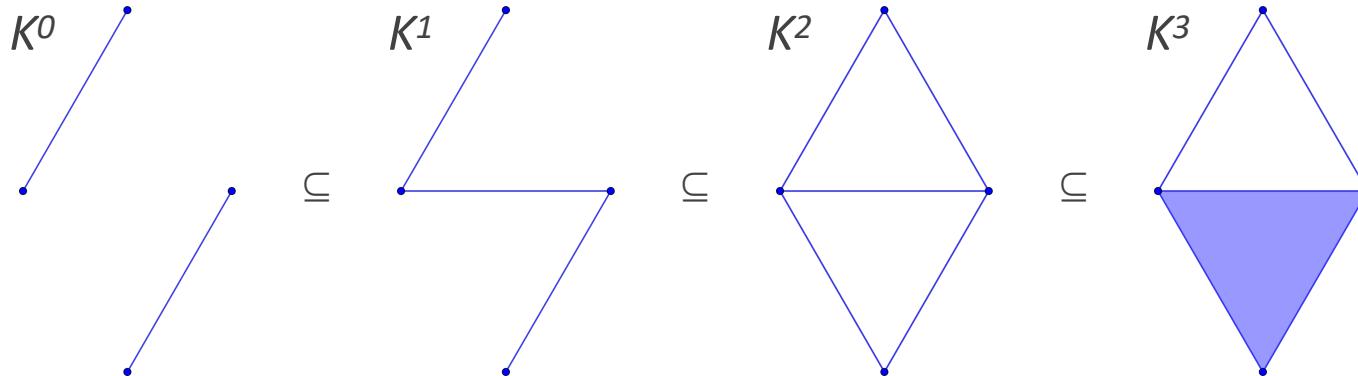
Such descriptors are typically expressed as pairs, called **persistence pairs** of  $M$ , of

the kind  $(r_k, \infty)$  and  $(p_j, q_j)$

# Persistent Homology

*Intuitively:*

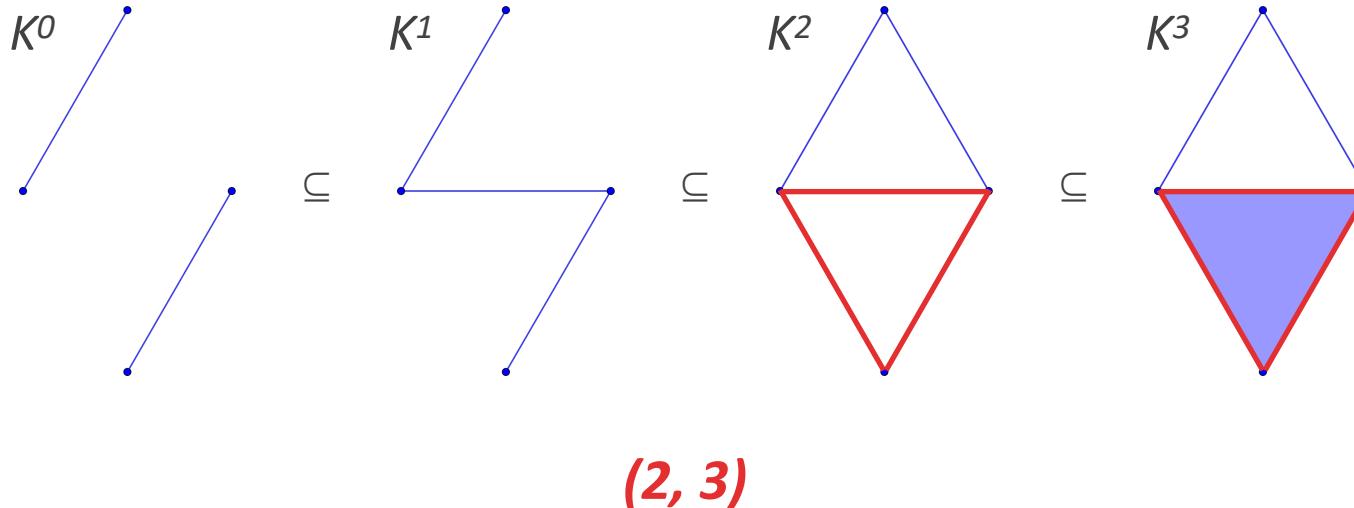
Given a filtration  $\mathcal{F} := \{K^p\}_{p \in \mathbb{N}}$ , a **persistence pair**  $(p, q) \in \mathbb{N} \times (\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\})$  with  $p < q$  represents a **homological class** that is **born at step  $p$**  and **dies at step  $q$**



# Persistent Homology

*Intuitively:*

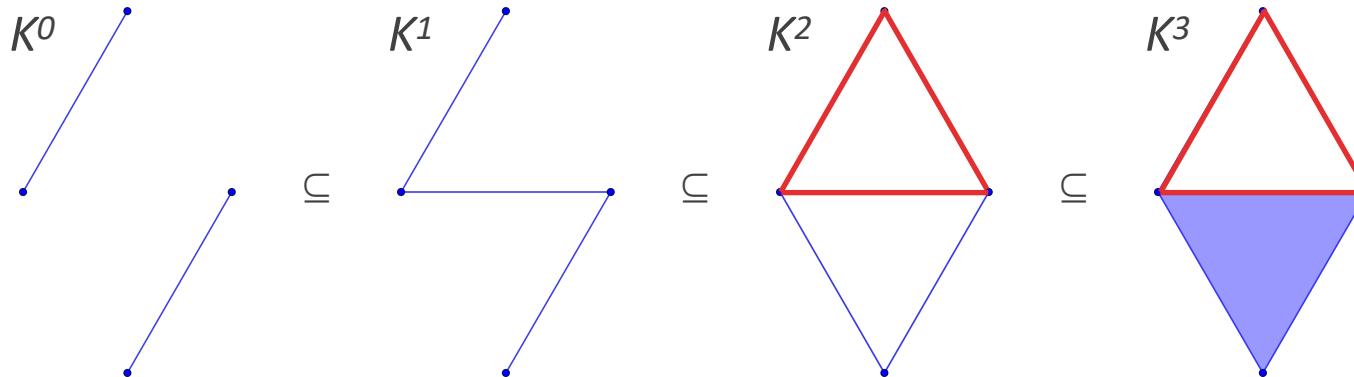
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# Persistent Homology

*Intuitively:*

Given a filtration  $\mathcal{F} := \{K^p\}_{p \in \mathbb{N}}$ , a **persistence pair**  $(p, q) \in \mathbb{N} \times (\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\})$  with  $p < q$  represents a **homological class** that is **born at step p** and **dies at step q**



**$(2, \infty)$  essential pair**

# Persistent Homology

*Differently from homology, persistent homology provides  
a notion of “shape” closer to our everyday perception*

It is possible to *compare two shapes* by comparing their *homology groups*

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**PERSISTENCE PAIRS**

# Persistent Homology

*Differently from homology, persistent homology provides a notion of “shape” closer to our everyday perception*

It is possible to *compare two shapes* by comparing their *homology groups*

PERSISTENCE PAIRS

In order to better perform the above task, we need:

- ◆ *Visual* and *descriptive representations* for persistence pairs
- ◆ Notions of *distance* between sets of persistence pairs and *stability results*

# Bibliography

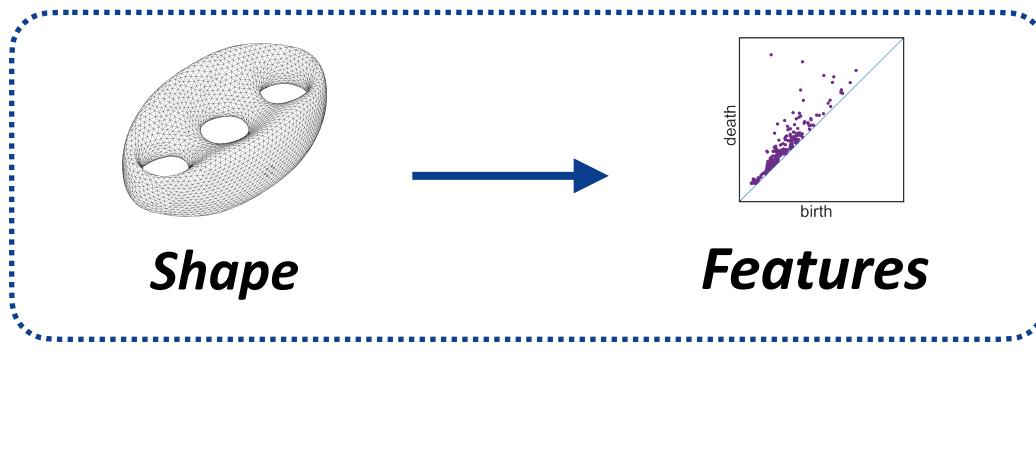
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# Visualizing Persistence

# Persistent Homology

(Persistent) Homology allows for assigning to any (filtered) simplicial complex  
*topological information expressed in terms of algebraic structures*

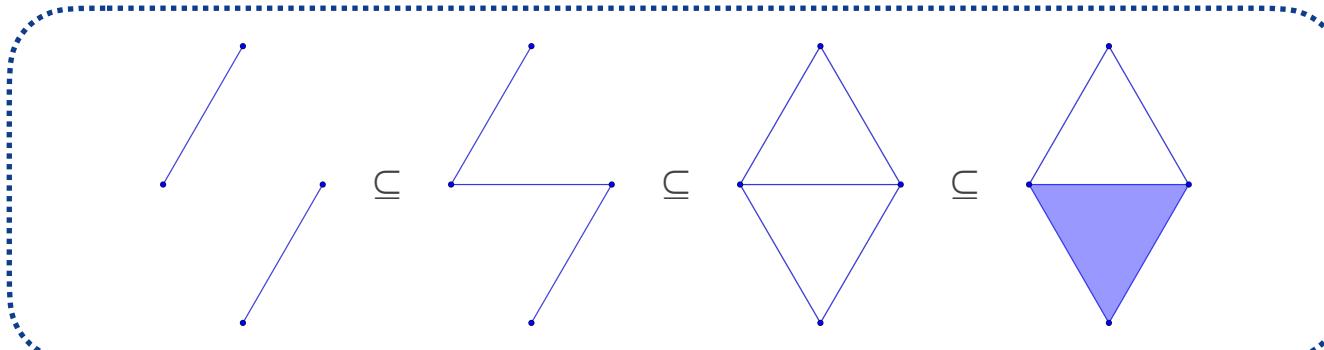


We address two main questions:

- ◆ *Can this topological information be characterized in a simpler and “more visualizable” way?*
- ◆ *Is this information stable under small perturbations of the input data?*

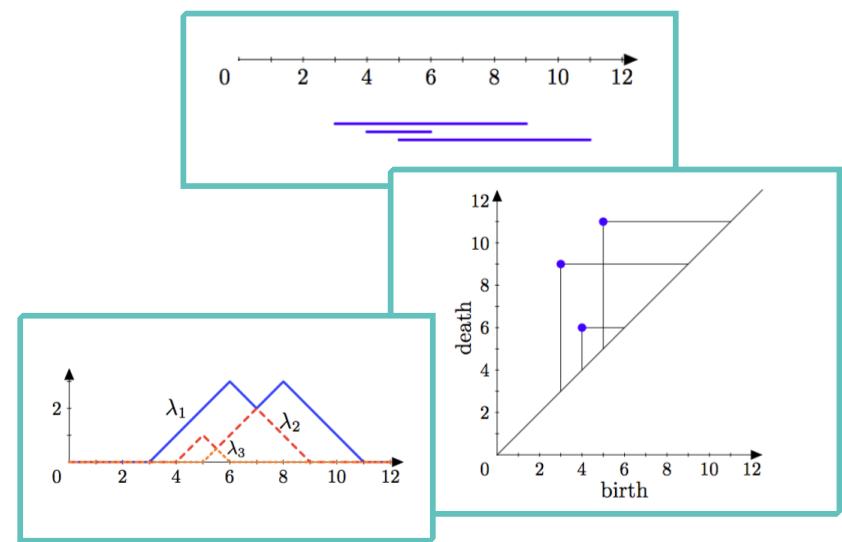
# Visualizing Persistence

Given a filtration  $\mathcal{F}$ ,



**Persistent pairs of  $\mathcal{F}$  can be visualized through:**

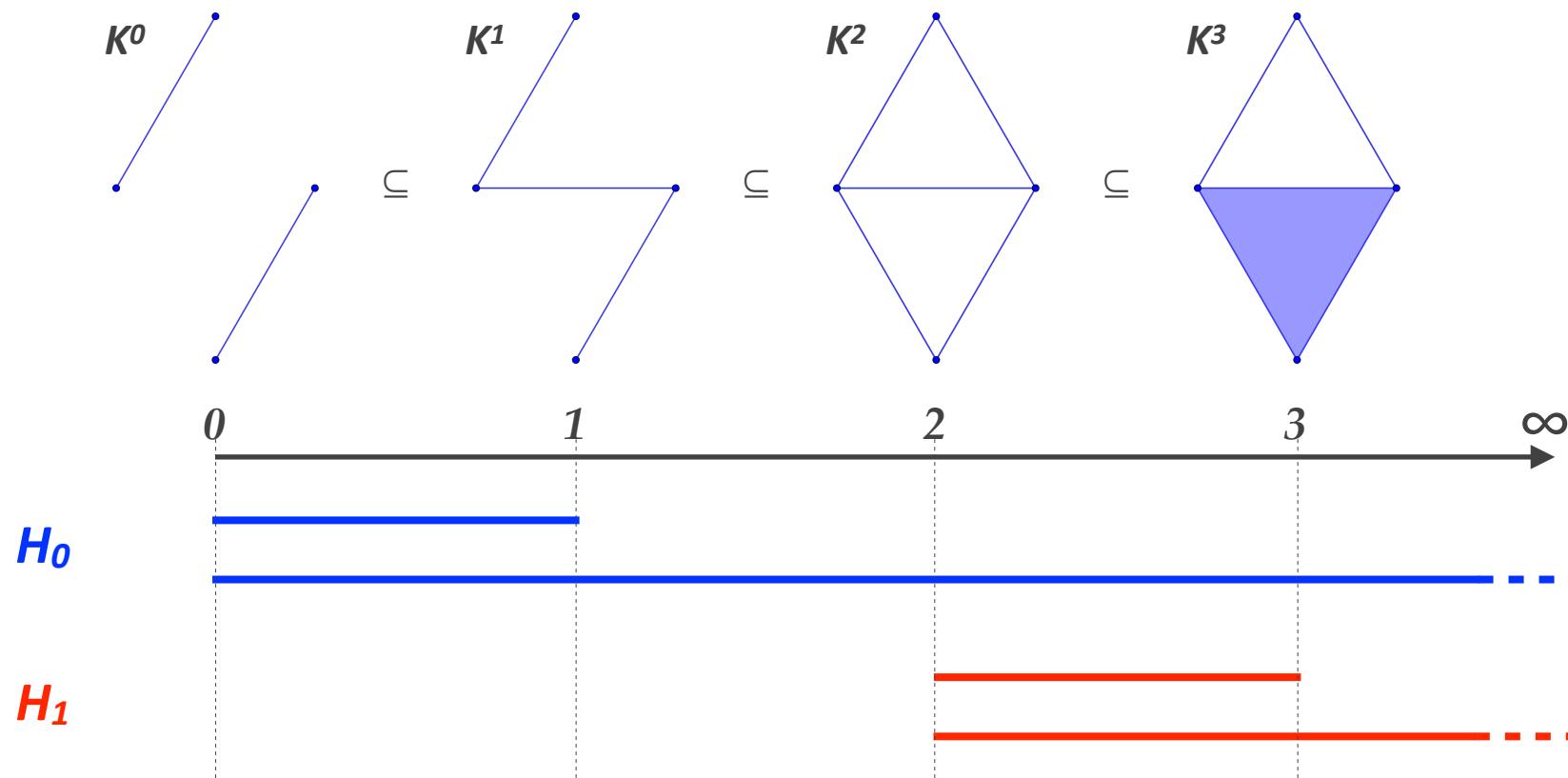
- ◆ **Barcodes** [Carlsson et al. 2005; Ghrist 2008]
- ◆ **Persistence diagrams** [Edelsbrunner, Harer 2008]
- ◆ **Persistence landscapes** [Bubenik 2015]
- ◆ **Corner points and lines** [Frosini, Landi 2001]
- ◆ **Half-open intervals** [Edelsbrunner et al. 2002]
- ◆  **$k$ -triangles** [Edelsbrunner et al. 2002]



# Visualizing Persistence

**Barcodes:**

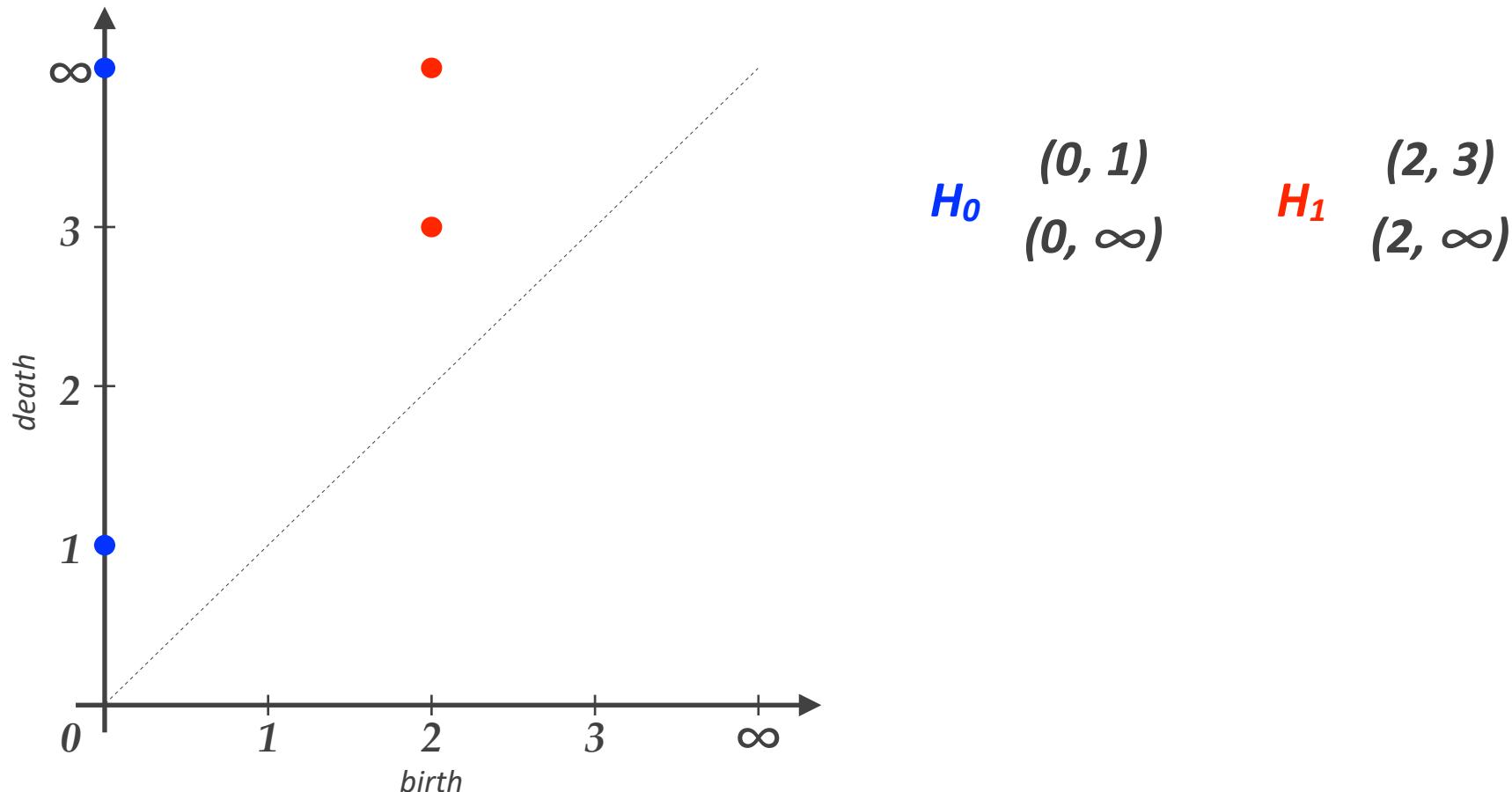
Persistence pairs are represented as **intervals in  $\mathbb{R}$**



# Visualizing Persistence

## Persistence Diagrams:

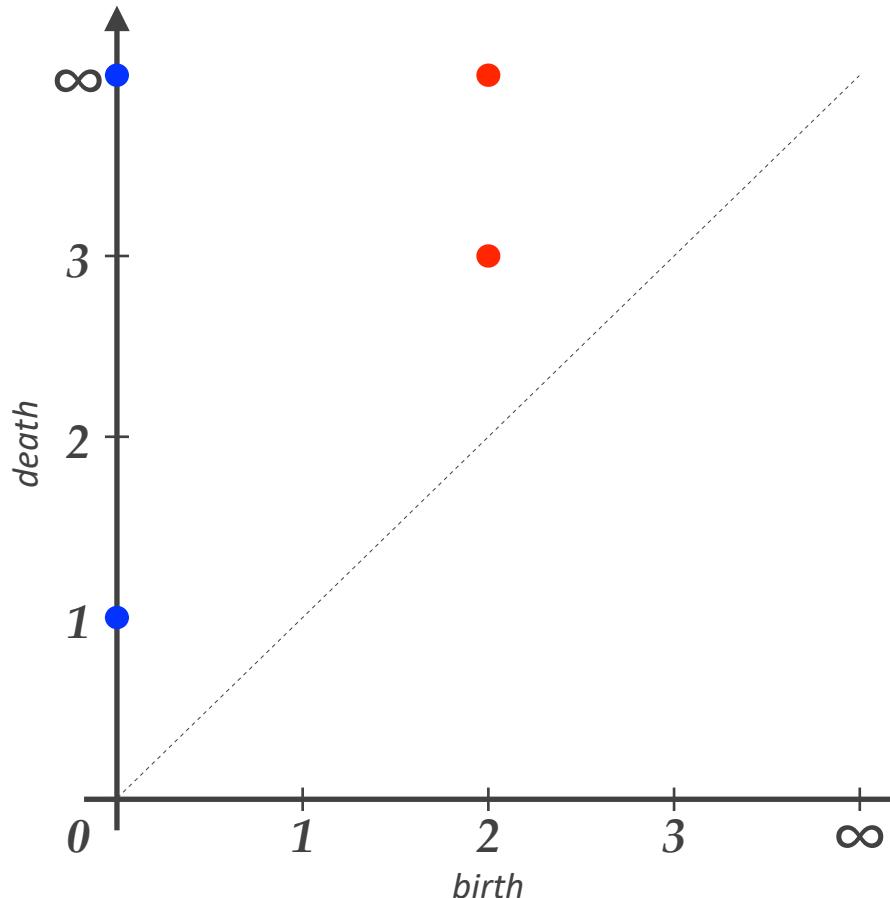
Persistence pairs are represented as *points* in  $\mathbb{R}^2$



# Visualizing Persistence

## Persistence Diagrams:

Persistence pairs are represented as **points in  $\mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\})$**



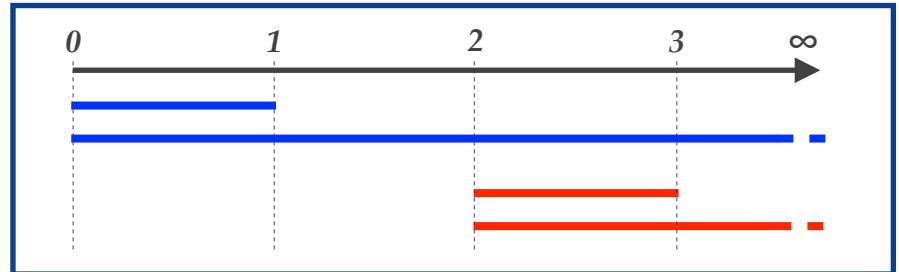
$H_0$      $(0, 1)$   
 $(0, \infty)$

$H_1$      $(2, 3)$   
 $(2, \infty)$

Formally, a persistence diagram is a **multiset**  
♦ Points are endowed with **multiplicity**

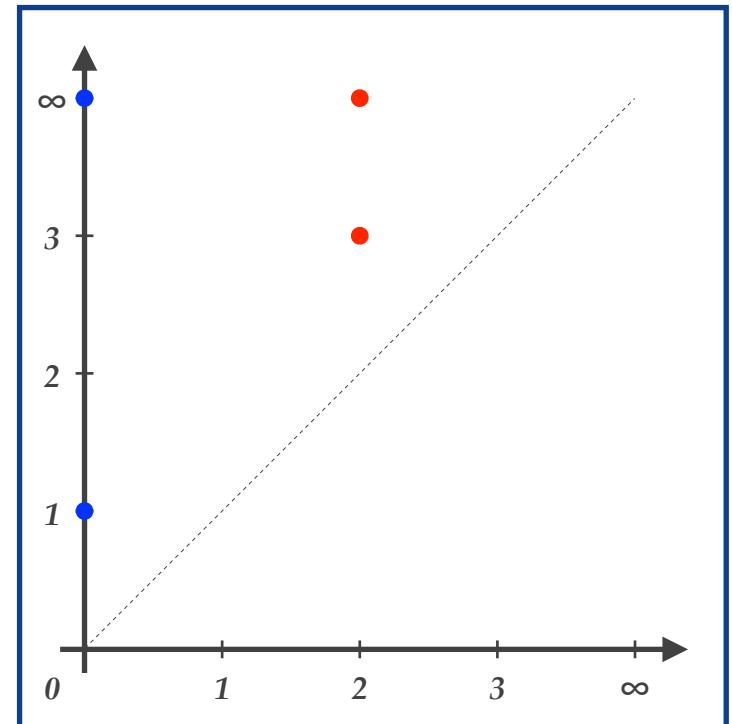
# Visualizing Persistence

Both tools **visually represent** the **lifespan** of the homology classes:



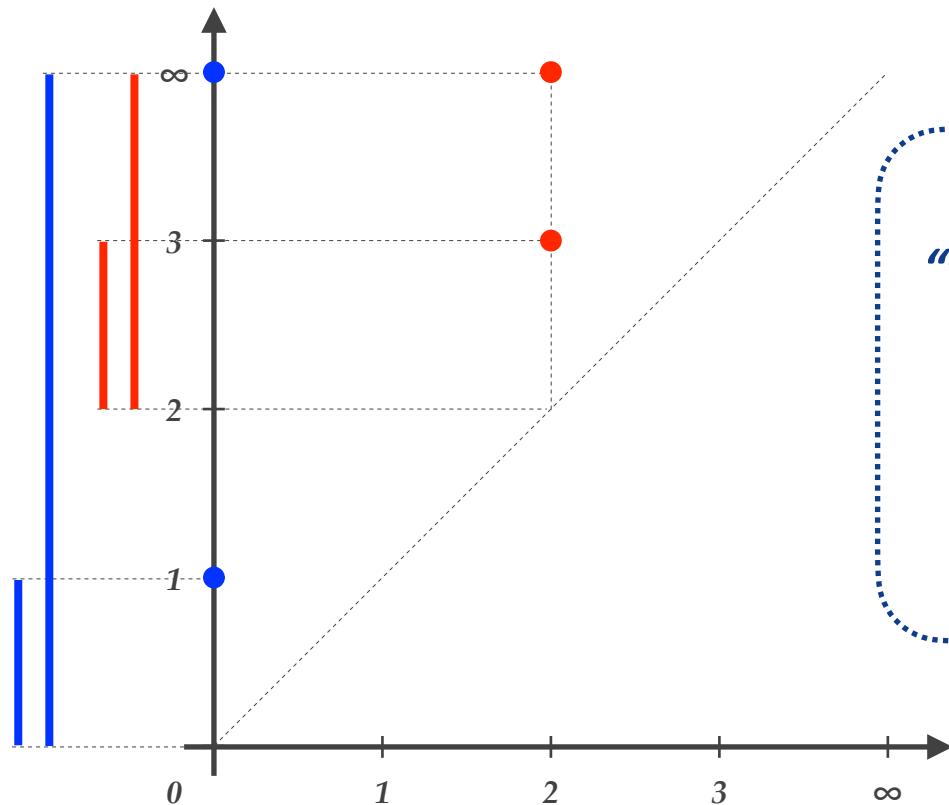
- ◆ Barcode: *length of the intervals*
- ◆ Persistence Diagram: *distance from the diagonal*

Barcodes and Persistence Diagrams  
encode equivalent information



# Visualizing Persistence

Barcodes and Persistence Diagrams *encode equivalent information*



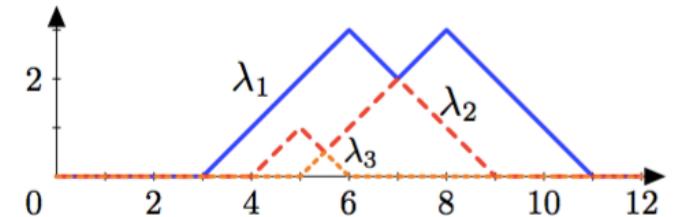
A visualization can be easily  
“*translated*” into the other one:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [p, q] & \longleftrightarrow & (p, q) \\ [p, \infty) & \longleftrightarrow & (p, \infty) \end{array}$$

# Visualizing Persistence

## Persistence Landscapes:

*Persistence landscapes* are statistics-friendly representations of persistence pairs

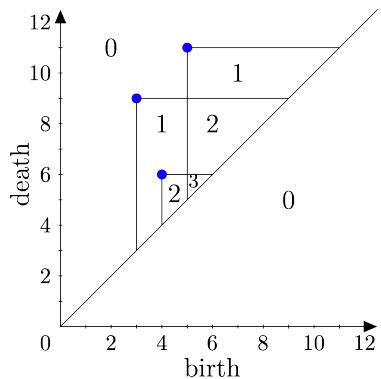


Given a persistence module  $M$ , persistence landscapes

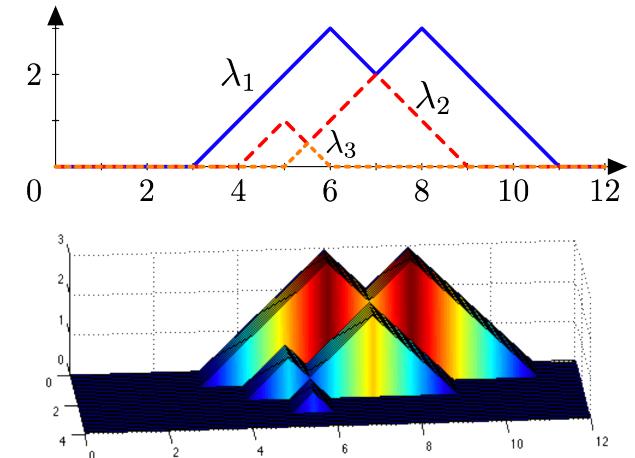
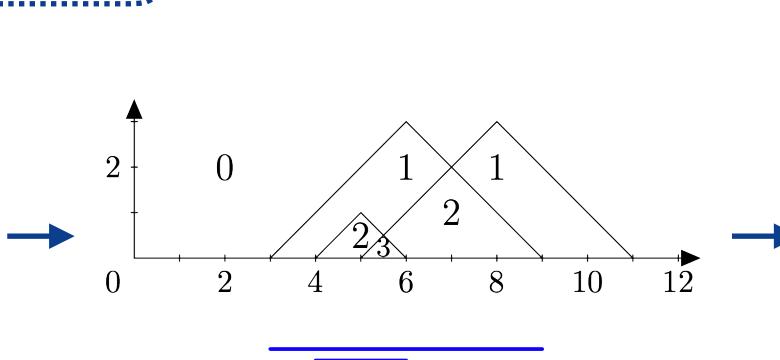
- ◆ Consist of a collection of **1-Lipschitz functions**
- ◆ Lie in a **vector space**
- ◆ Are **stable** (under small perturbations of the input filtration)

# Visualizing Persistence

## Persistence Landscapes:



Given a persistence module  $M$ ,



Formally,

$$\lambda_i(x) := \sup\{m \geq 0 \mid \beta^{x-m, x+m} \geq i\}$$

where  $\beta^{p,q} := \dim(\text{Im}(\mu^{p,q} : M_p \rightarrow M_q))$

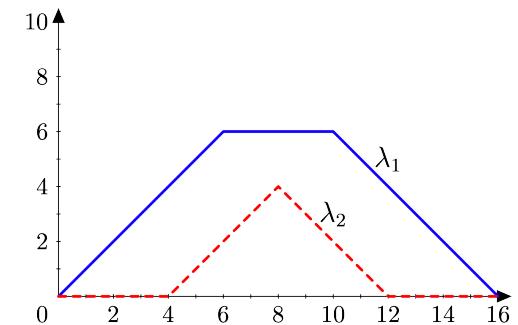
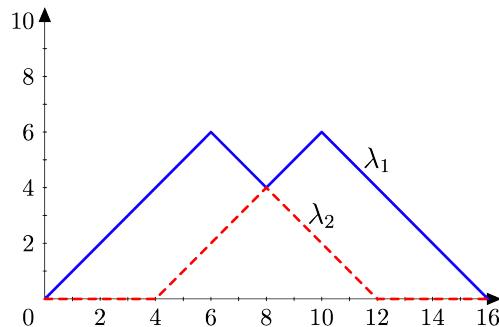
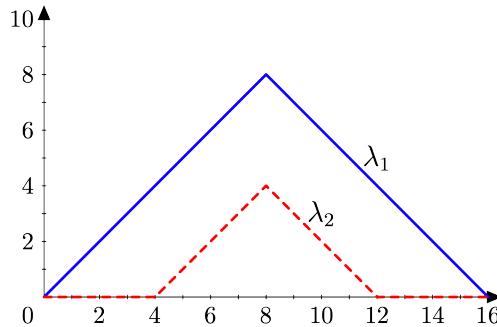
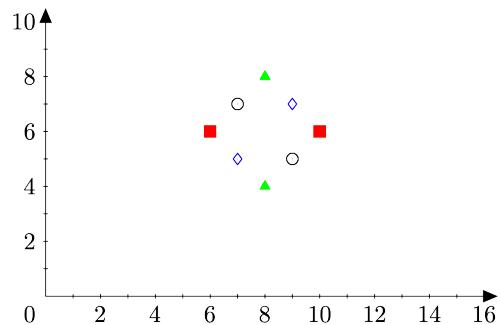
Images from [Bubenik 2015]

# Visualizing Persistence

**Persistence Landscapes:**

*Mean* of persistence diagrams is *not unique*, but ...

*Mean* of persistence landscapes is **well-defined**



Images from [Bubenik 2015]

# Bibliography

## *Some References:*

- ◆ **Persistent Homology:**
  - ❖ U. Fugacci, S. Scaramuccia, F. Iuricich, L. De Floriani. ***Persistent homology: a step-by-step introduction for newcomers.*** Eurographics Italian Chapter Conference, pages 1-10, 2016.

# *Persistence & Stability*

# Stability of Persistence

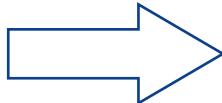
In order to be adopted in real applicative domains, it is crucial that

***persistent homology is not affected by noisy data and small perturbations***

## ***Stability Result:***

*By defining **distances**\* for both domains,*

***Similar Data***



***Similar  
Persistent Homology***

\*The term “distance” is intended in a broad sense, including pseudo-metrics and dissimilarity measures

# Stability of Persistence

## *Distances:*

- ◆ **For the Data in Input:**
  - ❖ *Natural pseudo-distance* of shapes
  - ❖  *$L_\infty$ -distance* of filtering functions
  - ❖ *Gromov-Hausdorff distance* of metric spaces/point clouds
- ◆ **For the Retrieved Persistent Homology Information:**
  - ❖ *Interleaving distance* of persistence modules
  - ❖ *Bottleneck (a.k.a. Matching) distance* of persistence diagrams
  - ❖ *Hausdorff distance* of persistence diagrams
  - ❖ *Wasserstein distances* of persistence diagrams

# Stability of Persistence

## *Distances for Input Data:*

Let  $(X, f)$  be a *pair* such that:

- ◆  $X$  is a *(triangulable) topological space*
- ◆  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a *continuous function*

A pair  $(X, f)$  induces a *filtration*:

- ◆  $X^t := f^{-1}((-\infty, t])$

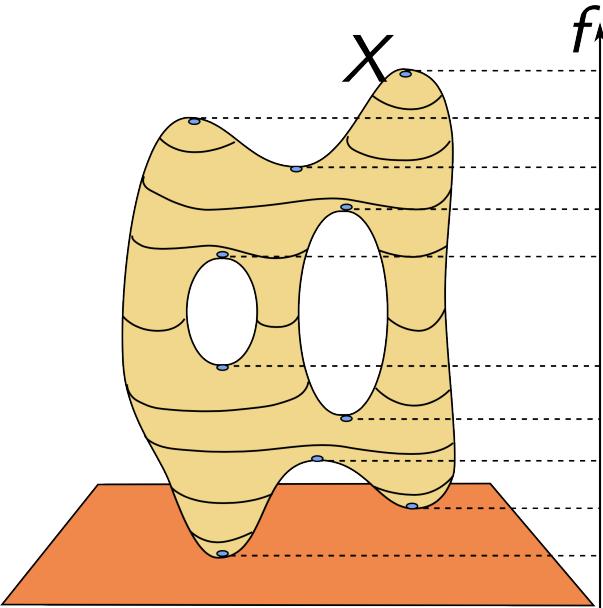


Image from [Ferri et al. 2015]

## *Definition:*

The function  $f$  is called *tame* if:

- ◆  $f$  has a *finite number of homological critical values* (i.e. the “time” steps in which homology changes)
- ◆ For any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , the *homology group  $H_k(X^t, \mathbb{F})$  has finite dimension*

# Stability of Persistence

***Distances for Input Data:***

***Definition:***

Given two pairs  $(X, f)$  and  $(Y, g)$ , their **natural pseudo-distance  $d_N$**  is defined as:

$$d_N((X, f), (Y, g)) := \begin{cases} \inf_{h \in H(X, Y)} \{\max_{x \in X} \{|f(x) - g \circ h(x)|\}\} & \\ +\infty & \text{if } H(X, Y) = \emptyset \end{cases}$$

where  **$H(X, Y)$**  is the set of all the **homeomorphisms between  $X$  and  $Y$**

# Stability of Persistence

## *Distances for Input Data:*

Working with two functions  $f, g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined on the same topological space  $X$ , one can simply consider the  $L_\infty$ -distance between  $f$  and  $g$

$$\|f - g\|_\infty := \sup_{x \in X} \{|f(x) - g(x)|\}$$

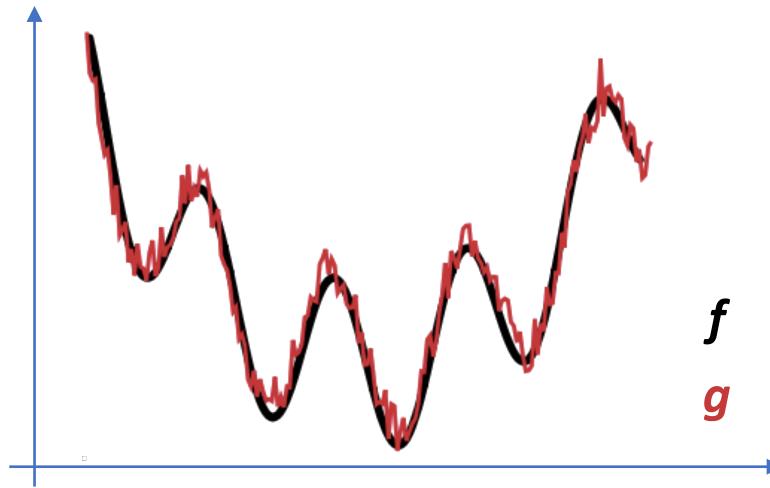


Image from [Rieck 2016]

# Stability of Persistence

## ***Distances for Input Data:***

Given two ***finite metric spaces***  $(X, d_X)$ ,  $(Y, d_Y)$  (e.g. two finite point clouds in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ),

## ***Definitions:***

A ***correspondence***  $C: X \rightrightarrows Y$  from  $X$  to  $Y$  is a subset of  $X \times Y$  such that the ***canonical projections***  $\pi_X: C \rightarrow X$  and  $\pi_Y: C \rightarrow Y$  are both ***surjective***

The ***distortion dis(C)*** of a correspondence  $C: X \rightrightarrows Y$  is defined as:

$$dis(C) := \sup \left\{ |d_X(x, x') - d_Y(y, y')| : (x, y), (x', y') \in C \right\}$$

The ***Gromov-Hausdorff distance d<sub>GH</sub>*** between  $(X, d_X)$  and  $(Y, d_Y)$  is defined as:

$$d_{GH}(X, Y) := \frac{1}{2} \inf \{ dis(C) \mid C: X \rightrightarrows Y \text{ is a correspondence} \}$$

# Stability of Persistence

## *Distances for Persistent Homology Information:*

Two persistence modules  $M$  and  $N$  are called  $\varepsilon$ -interleaved with  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  if there exist  $f$  and  $g$  such that, for any  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $p \leq q$ , the following **diagrams commute**

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & M_p & \\
 g_{p-\varepsilon} \nearrow & \searrow f_p & \\
 N_{p-\varepsilon} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & N_{p+\varepsilon} \\
 & M_p \longrightarrow M_q & \\
 & \searrow f_p & \swarrow f_q \\
 & N_{p+\varepsilon} & \xrightarrow{\quad} N_{q+\varepsilon} \\
 \\ 
 M_{p-\varepsilon} & \longrightarrow & M_{p+\varepsilon} \\
 & \searrow f_{p-\varepsilon} & \nearrow g_p \\
 & N_p & \\
 \\ 
 & M_{p+\varepsilon} & \longrightarrow M_{q+\varepsilon} \\
 & \nearrow g_p & \nearrow g_q \\
 N_p & \xrightarrow{\quad} & N_q
 \end{array}$$

## *Definition:*

Given two persistence modules  $M$  and  $N$ , their **interleaving distance  $d_I$**  is defined as:

$$d_I(M, N) := \inf\{\varepsilon \geq 0 \mid M \text{ and } N \text{ are } \varepsilon\text{-interleaved}\}$$

# Stability of Persistence

**Distances for Persistent Homology Information:**

**Definitions:**

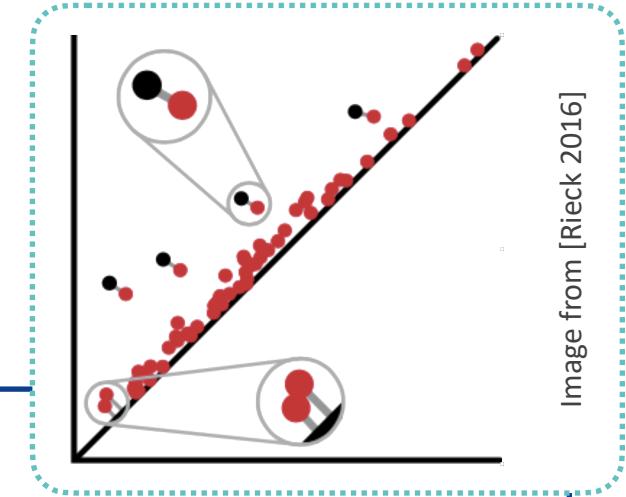
Given two persistence diagrams  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ,

their **bottleneck distance**  $d_B$  and **Hausdorff distance**  $d_H$  are defined as:

$$d_B(D_1, D_2) := \inf_{\gamma} \left\{ \sup_{x \in D_1} \{ \|x - \gamma(x)\|_{\infty} \} \right\}$$

$$d_H(D_1, D_2) := \max \left\{ \sup_{x \in D_1} \left\{ \inf_{y \in D_2} \{ \|x - y\|_{\infty} \} \right\}, \sup_{y \in D_2} \left\{ \inf_{x \in D_1} \{ \|y - x\|_{\infty} \} \right\} \right\}$$

where  $\gamma$  ranges over all bijections from  $D_1$  to  $D_2$



# Stability of Persistence

**Distances for Persistent Homology Information:**

**Definitions:**

Given two persistence diagrams  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ,

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where  $\gamma$  ranges over all bijections from  $D_1$  to  $D_2$

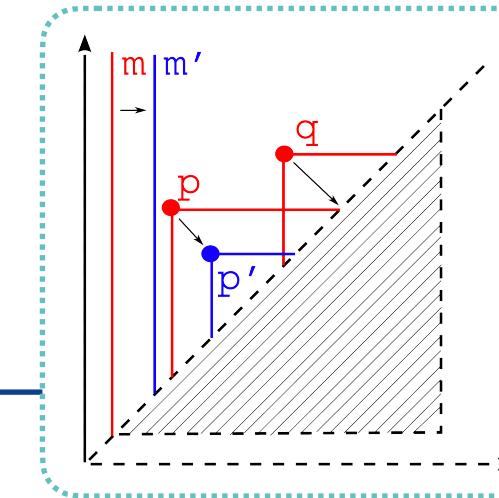


Image from [Ferri et al. 2015]

# Stability of Persistence

## Stability Results:

Given two pairs  $(X, f), (Y, g)$  of topological spaces and **tame** functions and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $M, N$  be the induced  $k^{\text{th}}$  persistence modules and let  $D_1, D_2$  be the corresponding persistence diagrams

- ◆  $d_H(D_1, D_2) \leq d_B(D_1, D_2)$
- ◆  $d_I(M, N) = d_B(D_1, D_2)$

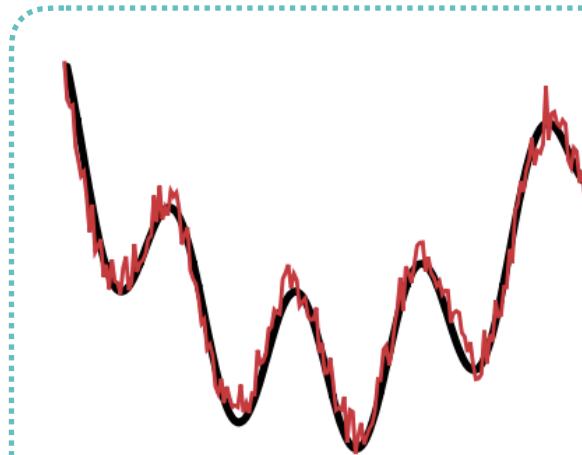
## Theorem:

Under the above hypothesis, the following **optimal lower bound** holds

$$d_I(M, N) \leq d_N((X, f), (Y, g))$$

# Stability of Persistence

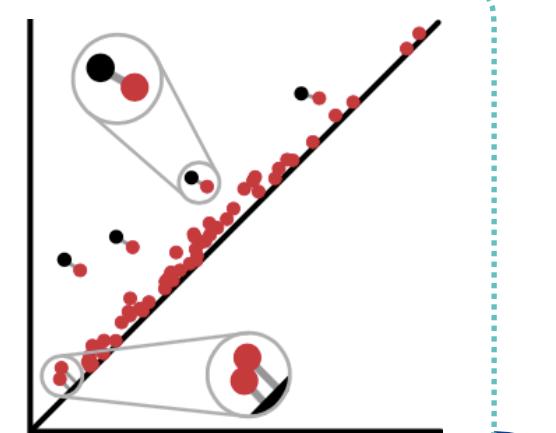
## Stability Results:



## Theorem:

Given two **tame** continuous functions  $f, g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   
on a topological space  $X$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $D_f, D_g$  the induced  $k^{\text{th}}$  persistence diagrams,

$$d_B(D_f, D_g) \leq \|f - g\|_\infty$$



# Stability of Persistence

## **Stability Results:**

### **Theorem:**

Given two finite metric spaces  $(X, d_X)$ ,  $(Y, d_Y)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $D_X, D_Y$  the  $k^{\text{th}}$  persistence diagrams of the **filtrations of the Vietoris-Rips complexes generated by  $X$  and  $Y$** ,

$$d_B(D_X, D_Y) \leq d_{GH}(X, Y)$$

# Bibliography

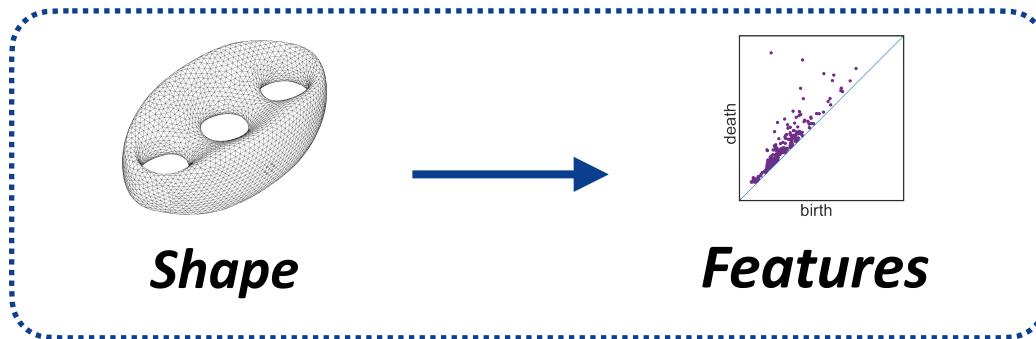
## Some References:

- ◆ **Stability Results:**
  - ❖ D. Cohen-Steiner, H. Edelsbrunner, J. Harer. **Stability of persistence diagrams.** Discrete & Computational Geometry 37.1, pages 103-120, 2007.
  - ❖ F. Chazal, D. Cohen-Steiner, M. Glisse, L. J. Guibas, S. Y. Oudot. **Proximity of persistence modules and their diagrams.** Proc. of the 35 annual symposium on Computational Geometry, pages 237-246, 2009.
  - ❖ F. Chazal, D. Cohen-Steiner, L. J. Guibas, F. Mémoli, S. Y. Oudot. **Gromov-Hausdorff stable signatures for shapes using persistence.** Computer Graphics Forum 28.5, pages 1393-1403, 2009.

# *Computing Persistence*

# Persistent Homology Computation

*Topological Data Analysis* allows for assigning to (almost) *any dataset* a collection of features representing a *topological summary* of the input data



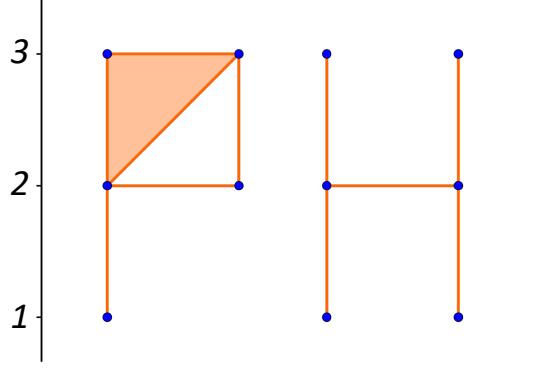
*Goal:*

- ◆ How to *efficiently compute* (persistent) homology?
- ◆ How to *compactly encode* simplicial complexes of high dimension and large size?

# Persistent Homology Computation

## Standard Algorithm:

From:



[Zomorodian & Carlsson 2005]

To:

$[1, 2]$

$H_0$

$[1, \infty)$

$H_1$

$[3, \infty)$

$[1, \infty)$

$i \backslash j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1																							
2																							
3																							
4																							
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21																							
22																							
23																							
low								4	6	7	5	3					13	14	15	16	22		

Compute a **reduced boundary matrix** for  $\{K^p\}_p$  from which easily read the persistence pairs

# Persistent Homology Computation

Given a filtered simplicial complex, let us consider its *filtering function*  $f$ :

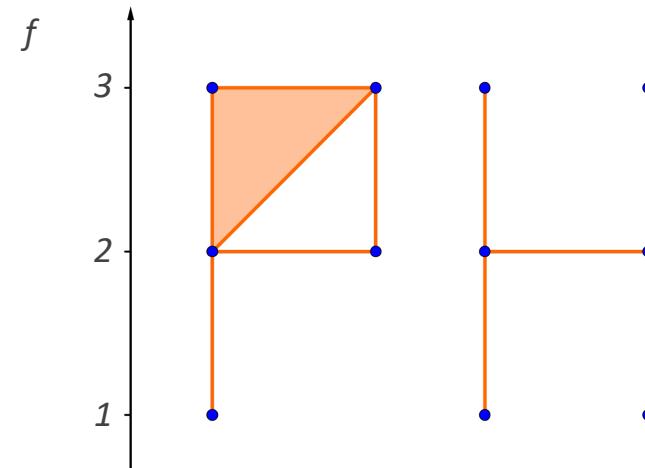
$$f(\sigma) := \min \{ p \mid \sigma \in K^p \}$$

Conversely,  $K^p := \{ \sigma \in K \mid f(\sigma) \leq p \}$

**Total Ordering on  $\{ K^p \}_p$ :**

A sequence  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n$  of the simplices of  $K$  such that:

- ◆ if  $f(\sigma_i) < f(\sigma_j)$ , then  $i < j$
- ◆ if  $\sigma_i$  is a proper face of  $\sigma_j$ , then  $i < j$



# Persistent Homology Computation

Given a filtered simplicial complex, let us consider its *filtering function*  $f$ :

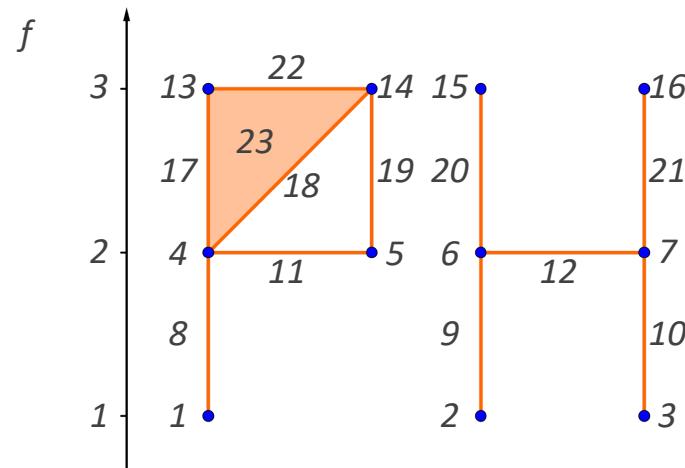
$$f(\sigma) := \min \{ p \mid \sigma \in K^p \}$$

Conversely,  $K^p := \{ \sigma \in K \mid f(\sigma) \leq p \}$

**A Possible Choice:**

Set  $\sigma < \sigma'$  if:

- ◆  $f(\sigma) < f(\sigma')$
- ◆  $f(\sigma) = f(\sigma')$  and  $\dim(\sigma) < \dim(\sigma')$
- ◆  $f(\sigma) = f(\sigma')$ ,  $\dim(\sigma) = \dim(\sigma')$ , and  $\sigma$  precedes  $\sigma'$  w.r.t. the *lexicographic order* of their vertices

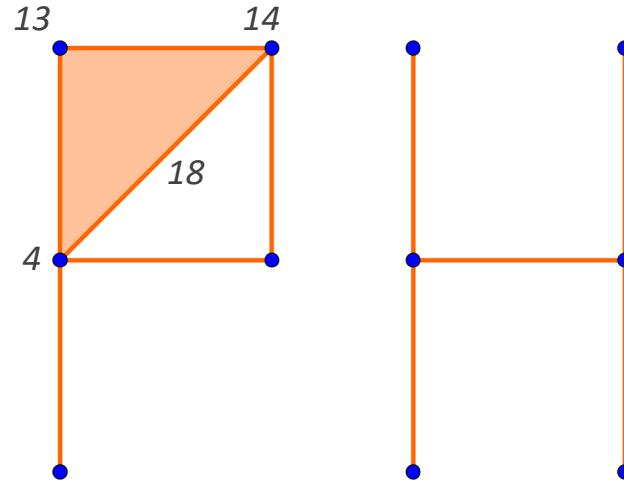


# Persistent Homology Computation

## Boundary Matrix:

A square matrix  $D$  of size  $n \times n$  defined by

$$D_{i,j} := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \sigma_i \text{ is a face of } \sigma_j \text{ s.t. } \dim(\sigma_i) = \dim(\sigma_j) - 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



E.g.

- ◆  $D_{4,18} = 1$
- ◆  $D_{14,18} = 1$
- ◆  $D_{13,18} = 0$

# Persistent Homology Computation

## Reduced Matrix:

Given a non-null column  $j$  of a boundary matrix  $D$ ,

$$\text{low}(j) := \max \{ i \mid D_{i,j} \neq 0 \}$$

A matrix  $R$  is called **reduced** if, for each pair of non-null columns  $j_1, j_2$ ,

$$\text{low}(j_1) \neq \text{low}(j_2)$$

**Equivalently**, if low function is **injective** on its domain of definition

# Persistent Homology Computation

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1															
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21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	7						13	14	14	15	16	14	22

$low(10) = 7 = low(12)$



$D$  is **not** reduced

# Persistent Homology Computation

## Reduction Algorithm:

```
Matrix  $R = D$ 
for  $j = 1, \dots, n$  do
    while  $\exists j' < j$  with  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j)$  do
         $R.\text{column}(j) = R.\text{column}(j) + R.\text{column}(j')$ 
    endwhile
endfor
return  $R$ 
```

## Time Complexity:

At most  $n^2$  column additions



$O(n^3)$  in the worst case

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1															
3										1														
4							1				1							1	1					
5											1									1				
6									1			1									1			
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22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	7						13	14	14	15	16	14	22

Initialize  $\mathbf{R}$  to  $\mathbf{D}$ , where

$\mathbf{D}$  is the **boundary matrix** of  $K$

expressed according with a **total ordering** of its simplices

$j < 12$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
1									1																
2										1															
3											1														
4									1												1	1			
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22																							1		
23																									
low									4	6	7	5	7						13	14	14	15	16	14	22

For each  $j < 12$ ,

there is no  $j' < j$  such that  
 $low(j') = low(j)$

So, increase  $j$  by 1

$j'$

$j$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
1								1																	
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4								1			1							1	1						
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22																							1		
23																									
low								4	6	7	5	7							13	14	14	15	16	14	22

For  $j = 12$ ,  $\text{low}(12) = 7$

column  $j'=10$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 7$

So, set

column 12 := column 12 + column 10

*j*

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
1								1																	
2									1																
3										1		1													
4							1				1							1	1						
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22																							1		
23																									
low								4	6	7	5	6							13	14	14	15	16	14	22

For  $j = 12$ ,  $\text{low}(12) = 7$

*column  $j'=10$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 7$*

So, set

*column 12 := column 12 + column 10*  $\longrightarrow \text{low}(12) = 6$

$j'$        $j$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
1								1																	
2									1																
3										1		1													
4								1			1							1	1						
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22																							1		
23																									
low								4	6	7	5	6							13	14	14	15	16	14	22

For  $j = 12$ ,  $\text{low}(12) = 6$

column  $j' = 9$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 6$

So, set

column 12 := column 12 + column 9

*j*

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
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2									1			1												
3										1		1												
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21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14	14	15	16	14	22

For  $j = 12$ ,  $\text{low}(12) = 6$

*column  $j' = 9$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 6$*

So, set

*column 12 := column 12 + column 9*  $\longrightarrow \text{low}(12) = 3$

$j$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1				1											
3										1			1											
4								1			1							1	1					
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20																								
21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14	14	15	16	14	22

For each  $j = 12$ ,

there is no  $j' < j$  such that  
 $low(j') = low(j) = 3$

So, increase  $j$  by 1

$$12 < j < 19$$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1				1											
3										1			1											
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21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14	14	15	16	14	22

For each  $12 < j < 19$ ,

there is no  $j' < j$  such that  
 $low(j') = low(j)$

So, increase  $j$  by 1

$j'$      $j$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1				1											
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21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14	14	15	16	14	22

For  $j = 19$ ,  $\text{low}(19) = 14$

column  $j' = 18$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 14$

So, set

column 19 := column 19 + column 18

*j*

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1				1											
3										1		1												
4								1			1							1	1	1				
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21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14	5	15	16	14	22

For  $j = 19$ ,  $\text{low}(19) = 14$

column  $j' = 18$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 14$

So, set

column 19 := column 19 + column 18  $\longrightarrow \text{low}(19) = 5$

$j'$

$j$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
1									1																
2									1			1													
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18																						1			
19																									
20																									
21																									
22																							1		
23																									
low									4	6	7	5	3						13	14	5	15	16	14	22

For  $j = 19$ ,  $\text{low}(19) = 5$

column  $j' = 11$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 5$

So, set

column 19 := column 19 + column 11

*j*

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1				1											
3										1		1												
4								1			1							1	1					
5												1												
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14																		1				1		
15																			1					
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18																						1		
19																								
20																								
21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16	14	22

For  $j = 19$ ,  $\text{low}(19) = 5$

column  $j' = 11$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 5$

So, set

column 19 := column 19 + column 11  $\longrightarrow$  low(19) undefined

$j$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
1									1																
2										1				1											
3											1		1												
4								1			1							1	1						
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18																							1		
19																									
20																									
21																									
22																							1		
23																									
low									4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16	14	22

For each  $j = 19$ ,

there is no  $j' < j$  such that  
 $low(j') = low(j)$

So, increase  $j$  by 1

$$19 < j < 22$$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
1									1																
2										1				1											
3											1			1											
4											1			1					1	1					
5														1											
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17																							1		
18																							1		
19																									
20																									
21																									
22																							1		
23																									
low									4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16	14	22

For each  $19 < j < 22$ ,

there is no  $j' < j$  such that  
 $low(j') = low(j)$

So, increase  $j$  by 1

$j'$

$j$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1				1											
3										1		1												
4								1			1							1	1					
5												1												
6									1													1		
7										1												1		
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20																								
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22																						1		
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16	14	22

For  $j = 22$ ,  $\text{low}(22) = 14$

column  $j' = 18$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 14$

So, set

column 22 := column 22 + column 18

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1				1											
3										1		1												
4								1			1							1	1				1	
5												1												
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20																								
21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16	13	22

For  $j = 22$ ,  $\text{low}(22) = 14$

column  $j' = 18$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 14$

So, set

column 22 := column 22 + column 18  $\longrightarrow \text{low}(22) = 13$

$j'$

$j$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1			1												
3										1		1												
4								1			1						1	1				1		
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19																								
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21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3					13	14			15	16	13	22

For  $j = 22$ ,  $\text{low}(22) = 13$

column  $j' = 17$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 13$

So, set

column 22 := column 22 + column 17

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1								1																
2									1				1											
3										1		1												
4								1			1							1	1					
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22																							1	
23																								
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16		22

For  $j = 22$ ,  $\text{low}(22) = 13$

column  $j' = 17$  is such that  $\text{low}(j') = \text{low}(j) = 13$

So, set

column 22 := column 22 + column 17  $\longrightarrow$  low(22) undefined

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1									1															
2										1				1										
3											1			1										
4									1				1								1	1		
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19																								
20																								
21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low									4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16	22

For each  $j = 22$ ,

there is no  $j' < j$  such that  
 $low(j') = low(j)$

So, increase  $j$  by 1

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1									1															
2										1				1										
3											1			1										
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6										1													1	
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19																								
20																								
21																								
22																							1	
23																								
low									4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16	22

For each  $j = 23$ ,

there is no  $j' < j$  such that  
 $low(j') = low(j) = 22$

So, matrix  $R$  is reduced

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1								1															
2									1				1										
3										1		1											
4							1				1							1	1				
5												1											
6									1												1		
7										1												1	
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22																							1
23																							
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16	22

The algorithm returns the above **reduced matrix  $R$**

# Persistent Homology Computation

## Retrieving Persistence Pairs:

- ◆ For each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  
if there exists  $j$  such that  $\text{low}(j) = i$    $[i, j]$  is a pair for  $R$
- ◆ Once every  $i$  has been parsed,  
if  $i$  is an **unpaired** value   $[i, \infty)$  is a pair for  $R$

From pairs of  $R$  to the “actual” persistence pairs of  $\{K^p\}_p$ :

$[i, j]$  corresponds to  $[f(\sigma_i), f(\sigma_j)]$

(homological degree =  $\dim(\sigma_i)$ )

$[i, \infty)$  corresponds to  $[f(\sigma_i), \infty)$

# Persistent Homology Computation

$H_0$

$[1, \infty)$

$[2, \infty)$

$[3, 12]$

$[4, 8]$

$[5, 11]$

$[6, 9]$

$[7, 10]$

$[13, 17]$

$[14, 18]$

$[15, 20]$

$[16, 21]$

$H_1$

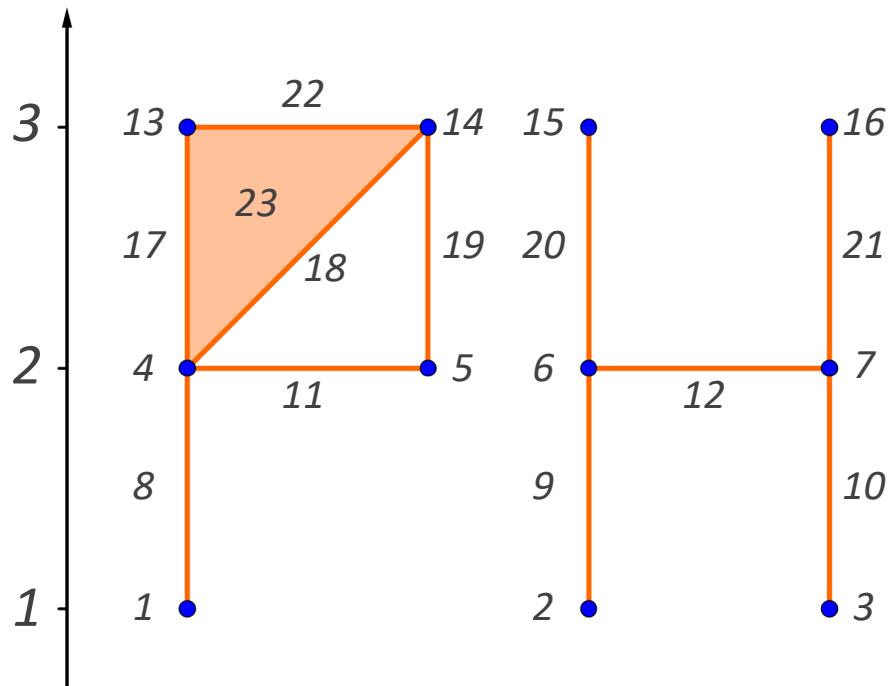
$[19, \infty)$

$[22, 23]$

$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1								1															
2									1					1									
3										1				1									
4										1				1						1	1		
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21																							
22																							1
23																							
low								4	6	7	5	3						13	14		15	16	22

# Persistent Homology Computation

	$H_0$
$[1, \infty)$	$[1, \infty)$
$[2, \infty)$	$[1, \infty)$
$[3, 12]$	$[1, 2]$
$[4, 8]$	$[2, 2]$
$[5, 11]$	$[2, 2]$
$[6, 9]$	$[2, 2]$
$[7, 10]$	$[2, 2]$
$[13, 17]$	$[3, 3]$
$[14, 18]$	$[3, 3]$
$[15, 20]$	$[3, 3]$
$[16, 21]$	$[3, 3]$



$H_1$      $[19, \infty)$      $[3, \infty)$   
 $[22, 23]$      $\rightarrow$      $[3, 3]$

# Persistent Homology Computation

**Standard algorithm** to compute (persistent) homology [Zomorodian & Carlsson 2005]:

- ◆ Based on a **matrix reduction**
- ◆ **Linear complexity** in practical cases
- ◆ **Cubic complexity** in the worst case

## Several different strategies:

### Direct approaches:

- ◆ **Zigzag persistent homology** [Milosavljević et al. '05]
- ◆ **Computation with a twist** [Chen, Kerber '11]
- ◆ **Dual algorithm** [De Silvia et al. '11]
- ◆ **Output-sensitive algorithm** [Chen, Kerber '13]
- ◆ **Multi-field algorithm** [Boissonnat, Maria '14]
- ◆ **Annotation-based methods** [Boissonnat et al. '13; Dey et al. '14]

### Distributed approaches:

- ◆ **Spectral sequences** [Edelsbrunner, Harer '08; Lipsky et al. '11]
- ◆ **Constructive Mayer-Vietoris** [Boltcheva et al. '11]
- ◆ **Multicore coreductions** [Murty et al. '13]
- ◆ **Multicore homology** [Lewis, Zomorodian '14]
- ◆ **Persistent homology in chunks** [Bauer et al. '14a]
- ◆ **Distributed persistent computation** [Bauer et al. '14b]

### Coarsening approaches:

- ◆ **Topological operators and simplifications** [Mrozek, Wanner '10; Dłotko, Wagner '14]
- ◆ **Morse-based approaches** [Robins et al. '11; Harker et al. '14; Fugacci et al. '14]

# Persistent Homology Computation

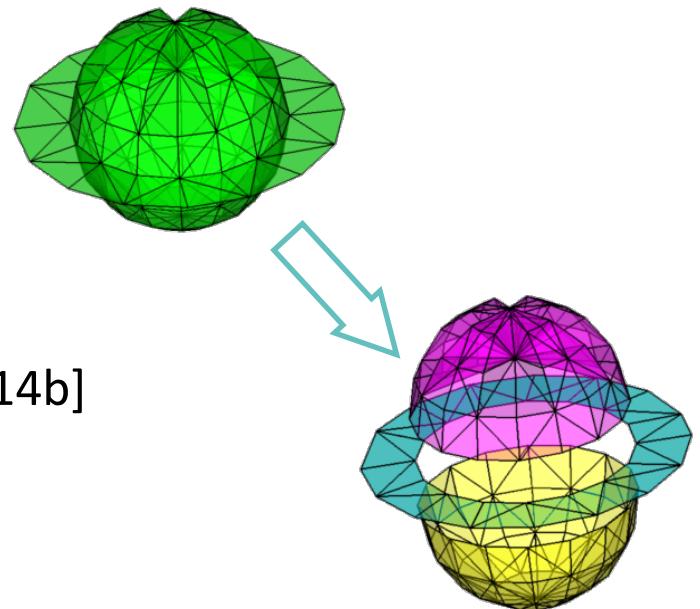
## *Direct Approaches:*

- ◆ **Zigzag persistent homology** [Milosavljević et al. '05]
- ◆ **Computation with a twist** [Chen, Kerber '11]
- ◆ **Dual algorithm** [De Silvia et al. '11]
- ◆ **Output-sensitive algorithm** [Chen, Kerber '13]
- ◆ **Multi-field algorithm** [Boissonnat, Maria '14]
- ◆ **Annotation-based methods** [Boissonnat et al. '13; Dey et al. '14]

# Persistent Homology Computation

## Distributed Approaches:

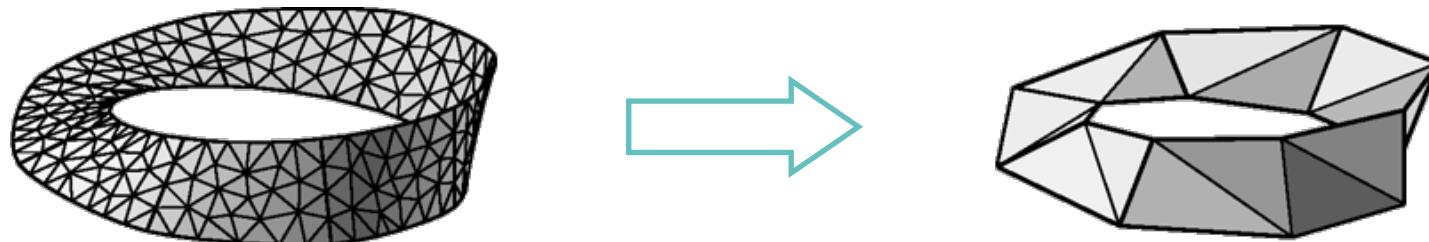
- ◆ **Spectral sequences** [Edelsbrunner, Harer '08; Lipsky et al. '11]
- ◆ **Constructive Mayer-Vietoris** [Boltcheva et al. '11]
- ◆ **Multicore coreductions** [Murty et al. '13]
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- ◆ **Persistent homology in chunks** [Bauer et al. '14a]
- ◆ **Distributed persistent computation** [Bauer et al. '14b]



# Persistent Homology Computation

## *Coarsening Approaches:*

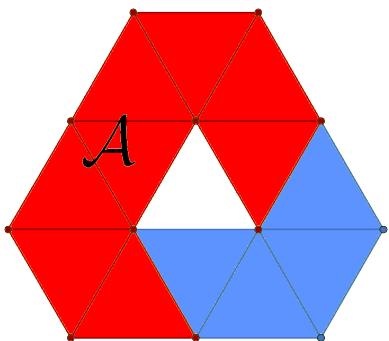
- ◆ ***Topological operators and simplifications*** [Dłotko, Wagner '14]
  - ❖ Acyclic subcomplexes [Mrozek et al. '08]
  - ❖ Reductions and coreductions [Mrozek et al. '10]
  - ❖ Edge contractions [Attali et al. '11]
- ◆ ***Morse-based approaches*** [Robins et al. '11; Harker et al. '14; Fugacci et al. '14]



# Persistent Homology Computation

## *Coarsening Approaches:*

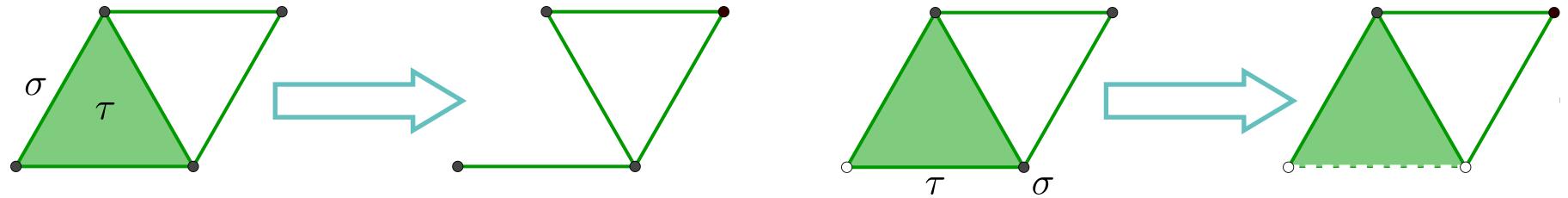
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  - ❖ ***Acyclic subcomplexes*** [Mrozek et al. '08]
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  - ❖ Edge contractions [Attali et al. '11]
- ◆ ***Morse-based approaches*** [Robins et al. '11; Harker et al. '14; Fugacci et al. '14]



# Persistent Homology Computation

## Coarsening Approaches:

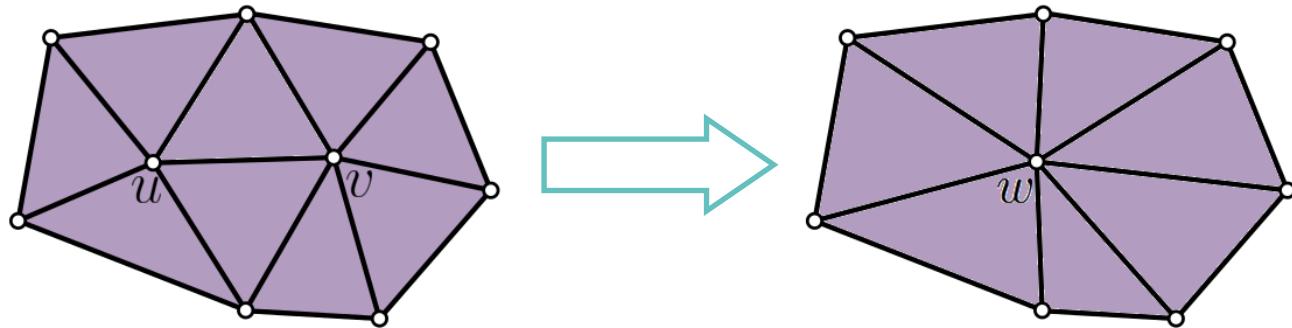
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  - ❖ Edge contractions [Attali et al. '11]
- ◆ **Morse-based approaches** [Robins et al. '11; Harker et al. '14; Fugacci et al. '14]



# Persistent Homology Computation

## Coarsening Approaches:

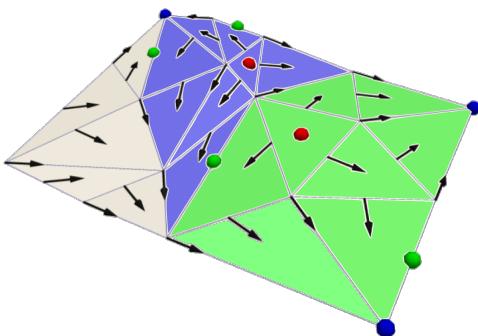
- ◆ **Topological operators and simplifications** [Dłotko, Wagner '14]
  - ❖ Acyclic subcomplexes [Mrozek et al. '08]
  - ❖ Reductions and coreductions [Mrozek et al. '10]
  - ❖ *Edge contractions* [Attali et al. '11]
- ◆ **Morse-based approaches** [Robins et al. '11; Harker et al. '14; Fugacci et al. '14]



# Persistent Homology Computation

## *Coarsening Approaches:*

- ◆ ***Topological operators and simplifications*** [Dłotko, Wagner '14]
  - ❖ Acyclic subcomplexes [Mrozek et al. '08]
  - ❖ Reductions and coreductions [Mrozek et al. '10]
  - ❖ Edge contractions [Attali et al. '11]
- ◆ ***Morse-based approaches*** [Robins et al. '11; Harker et al. '14; Fugacci et al. '14]



# Bibliography

## Some References:

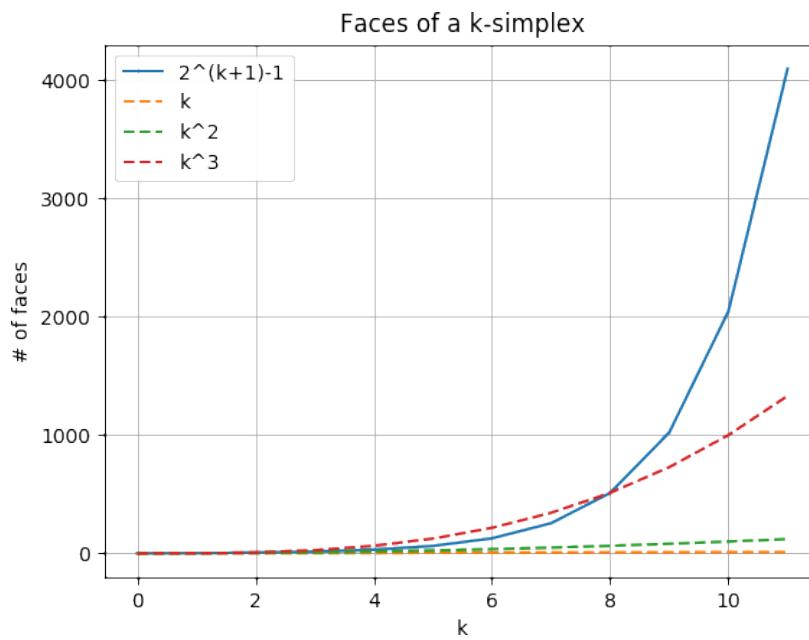
- ◆ **Persistent Homology Computation:**
  - ❖ A. Zomorodian, G. Carlsson. **Computing persistent homology.** Discrete & Computational Geometry, 33.2, pages 249-274, 2005.
  - ❖ N. Otter, M.A. Porter, U. Tillmann, P. Grindrod, H.A. Harrington. **A roadmap for the computation of persistent homology.** EPJ Data Science, 6.1, 2017.

# *Data Structures*

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

## Issue:

*It is enough to have a point cloud consisting of at least **30 points** for having to deal with an associated filtered simplicial complex of more than a **billion** of simplices*



## Solution:

*Development of **compact** and **efficient data structures** for encoding arbitrary simplicial complexes*

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

## Outline:

- ◆ **Which info to be stored?**
- ◆ **Data Structures**
  - ❖ *Simplex-based* representations
  - ❖ *Top-based* representations
  - ❖ *Operator-driven* representations
- ◆ **Comparisons**
- ◆ **Issues and solutions in adopting top-based representations**

## Out Of Scope:

- ◆ **Data structures for specific classes of complexes**
  - ❖ E.g. *manifold* or complexes of *low dimension*

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

## Data Structure:

The *entities* which a simplicial complex consists of are:

- its *simplices*

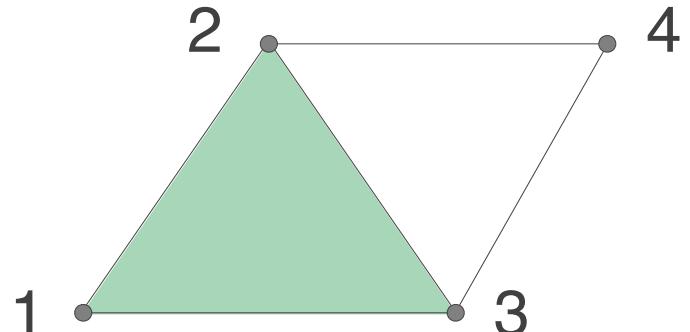
$$K = K_0 \cup K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_d$$

where  $K_i$  is the collection of the  $i$ -simplices of  $K$

- the *topological relations*

$$R_{i,j} \subseteq K_i \times K_j$$

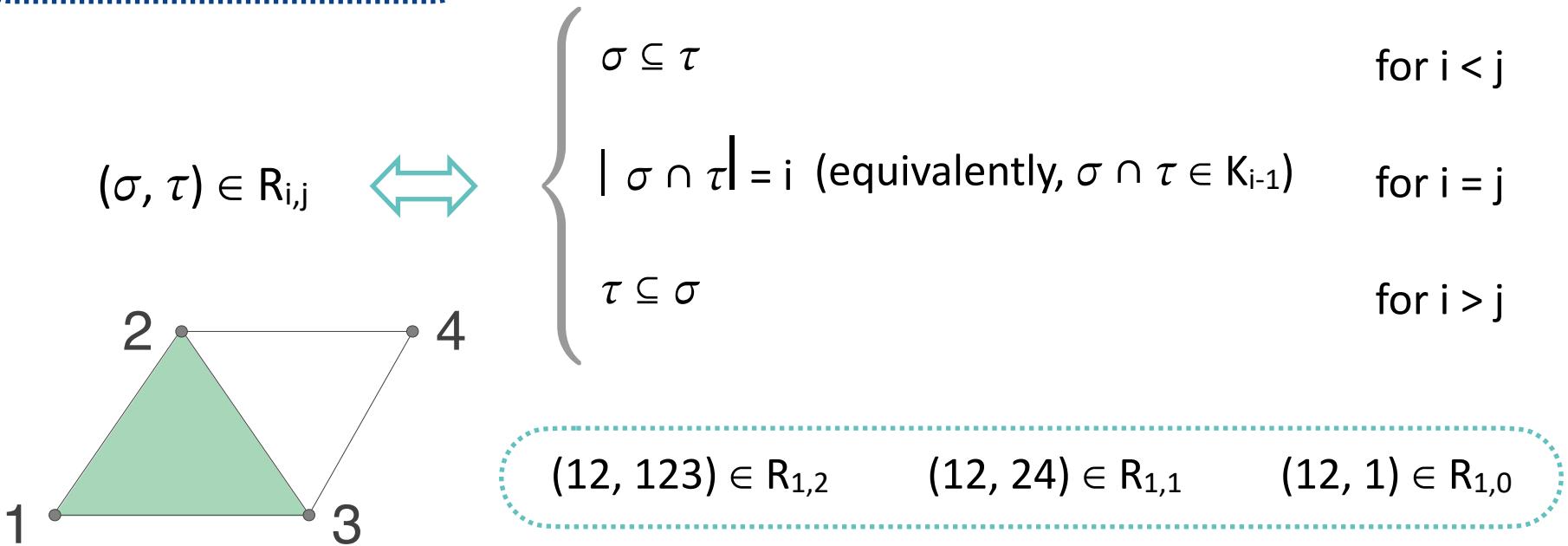
between the simplices of  $K$  encoding the (co-)boundary of each simplex



A *data structure* for  $K$  has to explicitly *store* a portion of the above information and to (efficiently) *retrieve* the remaining part

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

## Topological Relations:



An  $i$ -simplex  $\sigma$  is called a **top simplex** of  $K$  if there is no simplex  $\tau$  of  $K$  such that  $(\sigma, \tau) \in R_{i,i+1}$

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

Store all the entities



- **Simplex-based** representations
- **Top-based** representations
- **Operator-driven** representations

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

Store all the entities

Incidence Graph

Efficiency

Compactness

- **Simplex-based** representations
- **Top-based** representations
- **Operator-driven** representations

Store only the top simplices

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

Store all the entities

Incidence Graph

Simplex Tree

Efficiency

Compactness

- **Simplex-based** representations
- **Top-based** representations
- **Operator-driven** representations

Store only the top simplices

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

Store all the entities

Incidence Graph

Simplex Tree

Efficiency

IA\* Data Structure

Compactness

- **Simplex-based** representations
- **Top-based** representations
- **Operator-driven** representations

Store only the top simplices

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

Store all the entities

Incidence Graph

Simplex Tree

Efficiency

IA\* Data Structure

Stellar Tree

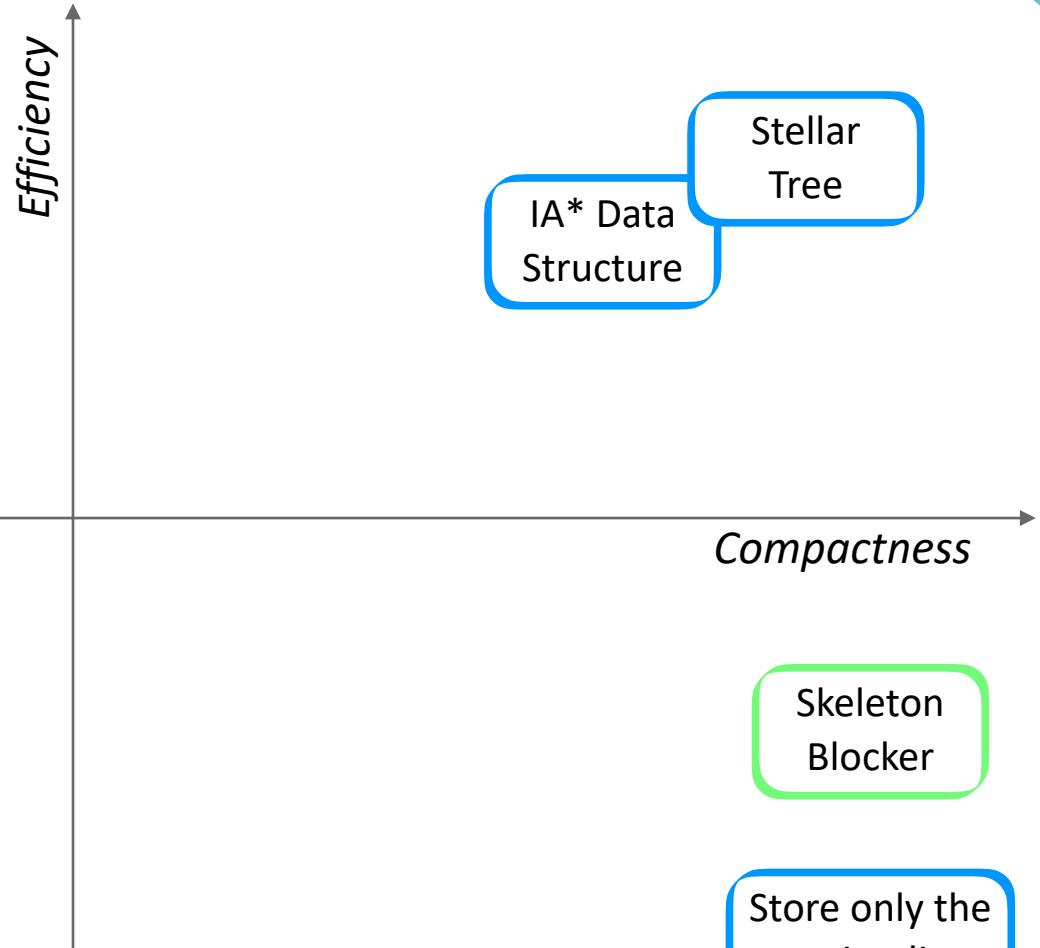
Compactness

- **Simplex-based** representations
- **Top-based** representations
- **Operator-driven** representations

Store only the top simplices

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

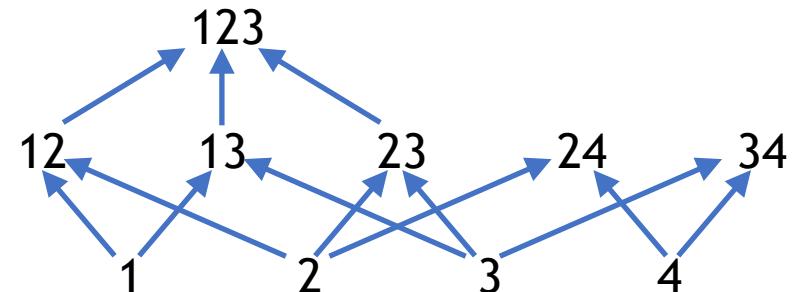
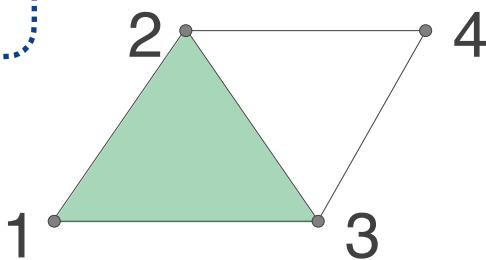
Store all the entities  
Incidence Graph  
Simplex Tree



- **Simplex-based** representations
- **Top-based** representations
- **Operator-driven** representations

# Simplex-based Representations

**Incidence Graph:**



The simplicial complex  $K$  is encoded via a *directed graph*  $G = (N, A)$ :

$$N \hookrightarrow K$$

$$(\sigma, \tau) \in A \hookrightarrow (\sigma, \tau) \in R_{i,i+1}$$



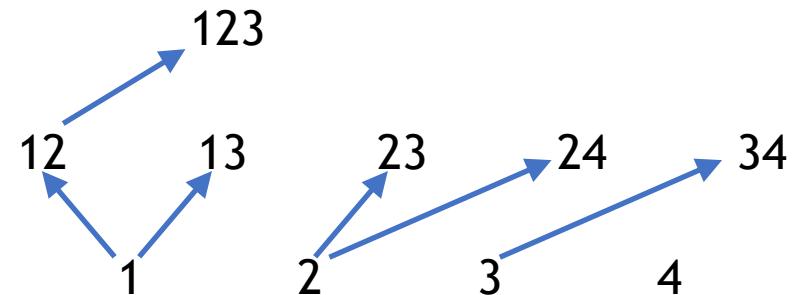
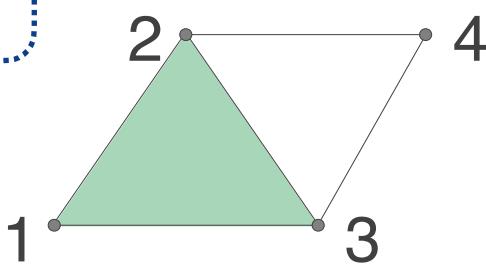
All the relations between simplices can be immediately retrieved



The representation *size exponentially increases* with the complex dimension

# Simplex-based Representations

**Simplex Tree:**



The simplicial complex  $K$  is encoded via a *directed graph*  $G = (N, A)$ :

$$N \hookrightarrow K$$

$$(\sigma, \tau) \in A \hookleftarrow (\sigma, \tau) \in R_{i,i+1} \text{ and } I(\sigma) < I(\tau)$$

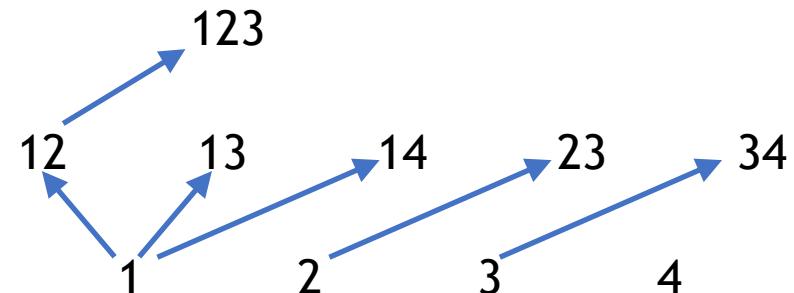
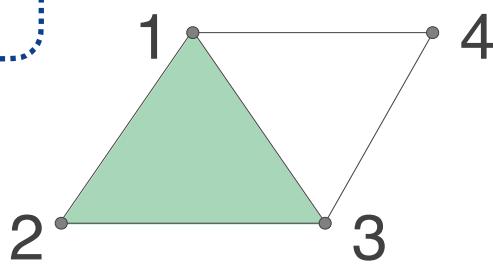
where  $I(\sigma)$  denotes the *maximum value* taken by the vertices of  $\sigma$  w.r.t. a *total order* on  $K_0$



Graph is *not uniquely determined* but it depends on the chosen vertex order

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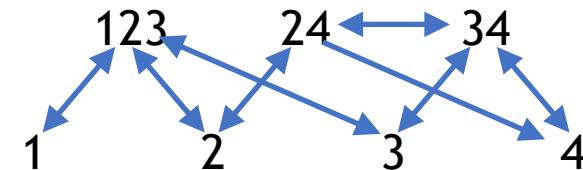
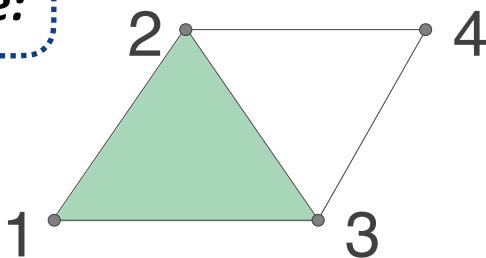
where  $I(\sigma)$  denotes the *maximum value* taken by the vertices of  $\sigma$  w.r.t. a *total order* on  $K_0$



Graph is *not uniquely determined* but it depends on the chosen vertex order

# Top-based Representations

**IA\* Data Structure:**



The simplicial complex  $K$  is encoded via a *directed graph*  $G = (N, A)$ :

$$N \leftarrow K_0 \cup K_{top}$$

$$(\sigma, \tau) \in A \leftrightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} \sigma \in K_{top} \text{ and } (\sigma, \tau) \in R_{i,0} \\ \sigma, \tau \in K_{top} \text{ and } (\sigma, \tau) \in R_{i,i} \\ \tau \in K_{top} \text{ and } (\sigma, \tau) \in \end{cases}$$



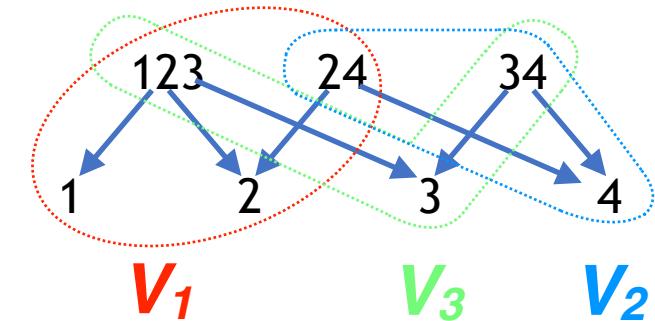
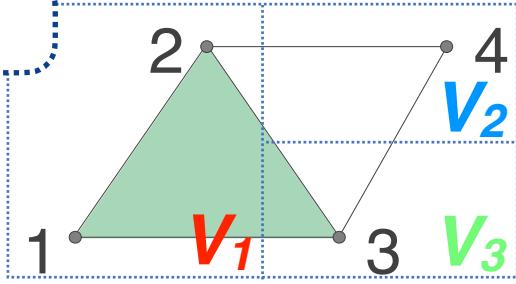
**Compact:** it explicitly stores just a fraction of the entities of a simplicial complex



**Not** all the relations between simplices are *immediately available*

# Top-based Representations

**Stellar Tree:**



Given a decomposition of  $K_0$ , the simplicial complex  $K$  is encoded via a *directed graph*  $G = (N, A)$ :

$$N \hookrightarrow (K_0 = V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_n) \cup K_{top}$$

$$(\sigma, \tau) \in A \hookrightarrow \sigma \in K_{top} \text{ and } (\sigma, \tau) \in R_{i,o}$$

plus a *map* returning, for each  $j$ , the vertices of  $K$  in  $V_j$  and the top simplices with at least one vertex in  $V_j$



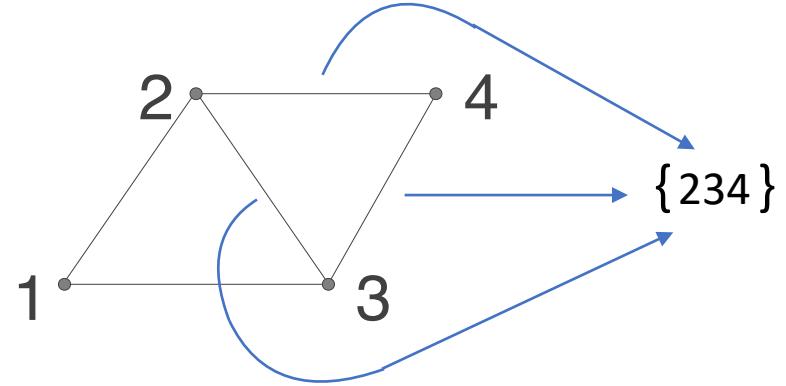
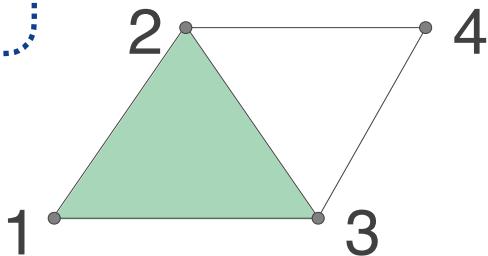
**Compact and highly adjustable** (e.g. choice of the decomposition, of the maximum number of vertices in each region)



**Not all the relations between simplices are immediately available**

# Operator-driven Representations

**Skeleton Blocker:**



The simplicial complex  $K$  is encoded by storing its **1-skeleton** (i.e. the graph consisting of the 0- and the 1-simplices) and a **map** returning, for each 1-simplex  $\sigma$ , the blockers of  $K$  containing  $\sigma$ , where:

*A simplex  $\tau$  is a **blocker** if  $\tau$  does not belong to  $K$  but all its faces do*



**Designed for** flag complexes (e.g. **VR complexes**) and edge contraction



Too specific: **inefficient in any other task**

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

***Top-based vs Simplex-based:***

Dataset	$d$	$ \Sigma_0 $	$ \Sigma_{top} $	$ \Sigma $	Storage Cost		
					$IA^*$	$IG$	$ST$
DTI-SCAN	3	0.9M	5.5M	24M	0.97	11.9	2.4
VISMALE	3	4.6M	26M	118M	4.7	-	9.7
ACKLEY4	4	1.5M	32M	204M	6.8	-	12.8
AMAZON01	6	0.2M	0.4M	2.2M	0.12	1.6	0.3
AMAZON02	7	0.4M	1.0M	18.4M	0.28	9.8	1.5
ROADNET	3	1.9M	2.5M	4.8M	0.8	3.3	1.0
SPHERE-1.0	16	100	224	0.6M	0.003	0.9	0.04
SPHERE-1.2	21	100	285	26M	0.0032	-	1.5
SPHERE-1.3	23	100	382	197M	0.0034	-	11.01

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

*Top-based vs Simplex-based:*

PROB.5D  
(607 MB)

PROB.7D  
(7.9 GB)

PROB.40D  
(2.6 GB)

VISMALE7D  
(134 MB)

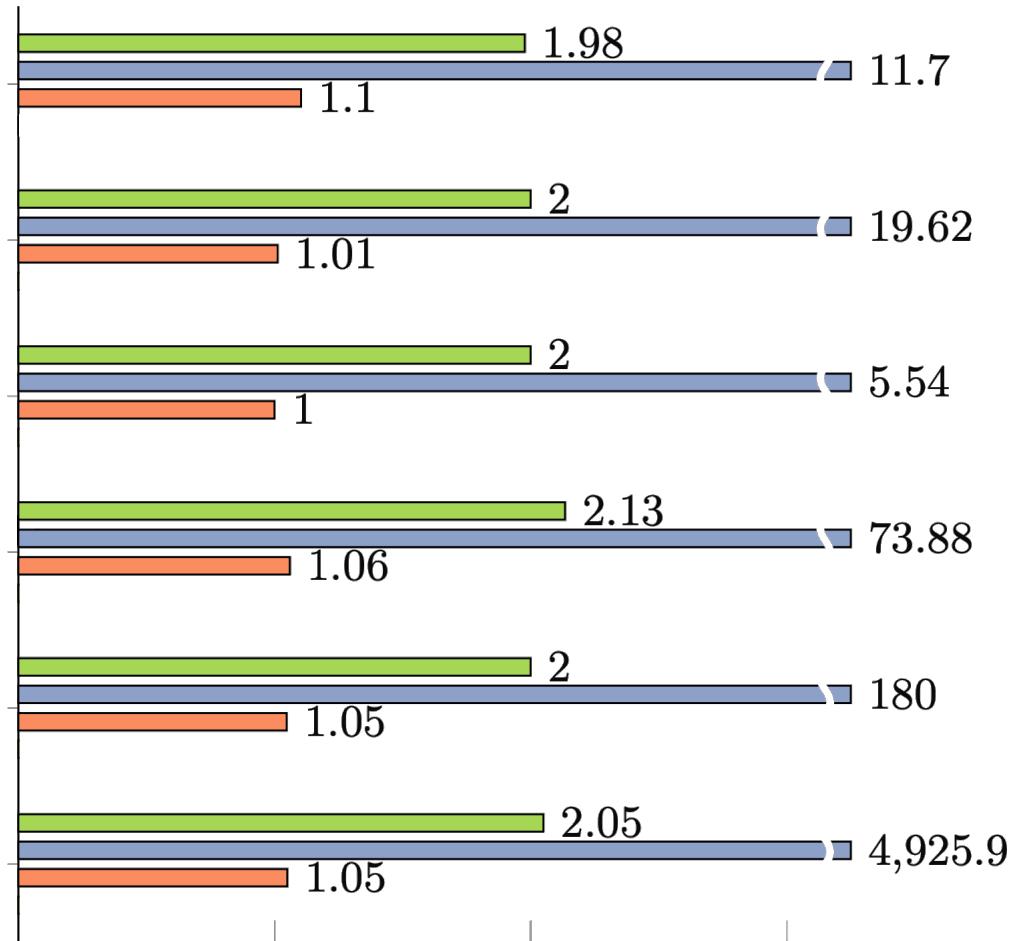
FOOT10D  
(2.1 GB)

LUCY34D  
(2.0 GB)

IA\*

Simplex tree

Stellar tree



# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

*Top-based vs Operator-driven:*

data	$\omega$	contr. edges	timings			memory peak	
			check	contr.	tot	gen.	simpl.
CHICAGO	28	weak	9.15h	2.27m	9.19h	5.6	57.2K
		top	0.01s	0.02s	0.09s	7.6	—
		Skel.	0.00s	0.15s	0.15s	7.8	7.8
	56	weak	out-of-memory			6.2	—
		top	7.99K	0.04s	0.06s	0.23s	10.8
		Skel.	0.00s	0.71s	0.71s	14.1	14.1
ATHENS	63	weak	out-of-memory			11.6	—
		top	27.9K	0.08s	0.11s	0.38s	14.9
		Skel.	0.00s	0.74s	0.75s	26.4	26.8
	126	weak	out-of-memory			10.0	—
		top	31.2K	0.40s	0.49s	1.36s	25.9
		Skel.	0.01s	7.73s	7.74s	66.1	66.7
VISMAL	3.5	weak	34.3m	1.28m	40.4m	1.0K	2.0K
		top	4.23M	4.34m	0.89m	7.20m	2.0K
		Skel.	0.76m	3.34h	3.35h	8.0K	8.0K
	4.5	weak	killed after 25 hours			7.5K	—
		top	4.69M	2.89h	26.0m	3.32h	10.7K
		Skel.	killed after 25 hours			19.4K	—
LUCY	1.5	weak	killed after 25 hours			7.5K	—
		top	14.0M	11.9m	14.8m	32.0m	15.4K
		Skel.	23.19s	14.6h	14.6h	50.9K	52.1K

# Encoding Simplicial Complexes

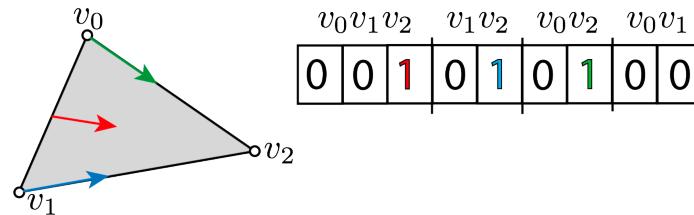
## *Possible Issues in Top-based Representations:*

Top-based representations are promising data structures for encoding a simplicial complex K

*but, how to ...*

- ◆ *Store information associated to each simplex of K (e.g. labels, gradient, ...)?*

Attach information to the  
top simplices only



- ◆ *Efficiently perform operators having explicitly stored a fraction of the entities of K?*

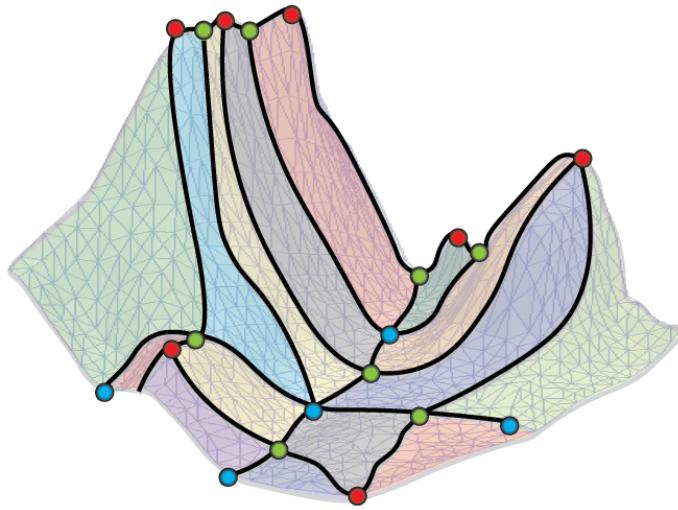
Re-define the algorithms performing the operators trying to extract  
the lowest possible amount of non-explicitly stored entities

# Bibliography

## Some References:

- ◆ **Data Structures for Arbitrary Simplicial Complexes:**
  - ❖ D. Canino, L. De Floriani, K. Weiss. **IA<sup>\*</sup>: an adjacency-based representation for non-manifold simplicial shapes in arbitrary dimensions.** Computers & Graphics, 35.3, pages 747-753, 2011.
  - ❖ D. Attali, A. Lieutier, D. Salinas. **Efficient data structure for representing and simplifying simplicial complexes in high dimensions.** International Journal of Computational Geometry & Applications, 22.4, pages 279-303, 2012.
  - ❖ J.D. Boissonnat, C. Maria. **The simplex tree: An efficient data structure for general simplicial complexes.** Algorithmica, 70.3, pages 406-427, 2014.
  - ❖ R. Fellegara, K. Weiss, L. De Floriani. **The Stellar tree: a compact representation for simplicial complexes and beyond.** arXiv preprint:1707.02211, 2017.
  - ❖ U. Fugacci, F. Iuricich, L. De Floriani. **Computing discrete Morse complexes from simplicial complexes.** Graphical models, 103, 101023, 2019.
  - ❖ R. Fellegara, F. Iuricich, L. De Floriani, U. Fugacci. **Efficient Homology-Preserving Simplification of High-Dimensional Simplicial Shapes.** Computer Graphics Forum, 39.1, pages 244-259, 2020.

# Possible Topics for Seminars



## *Discrete Morse Theory*

*Study the shape of a space by studying the behavior of a function defined on it*

# Possible Topics for Seminars

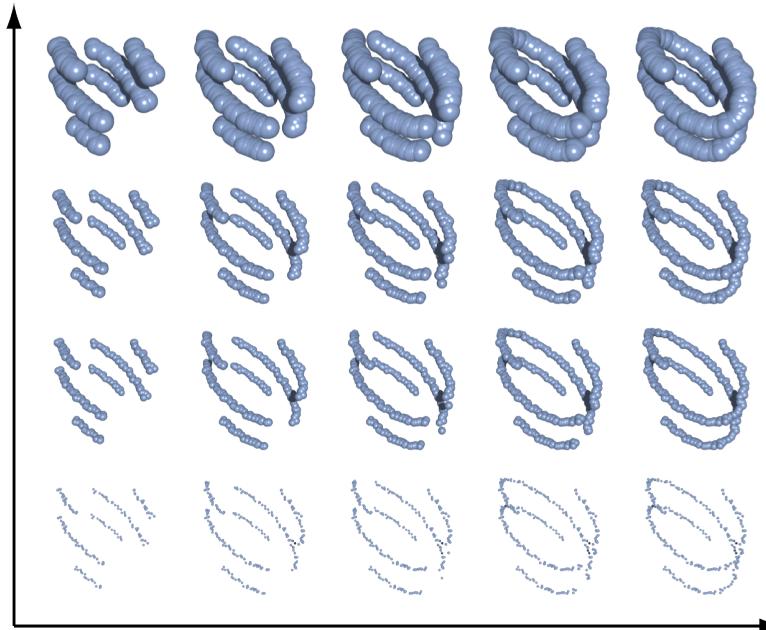
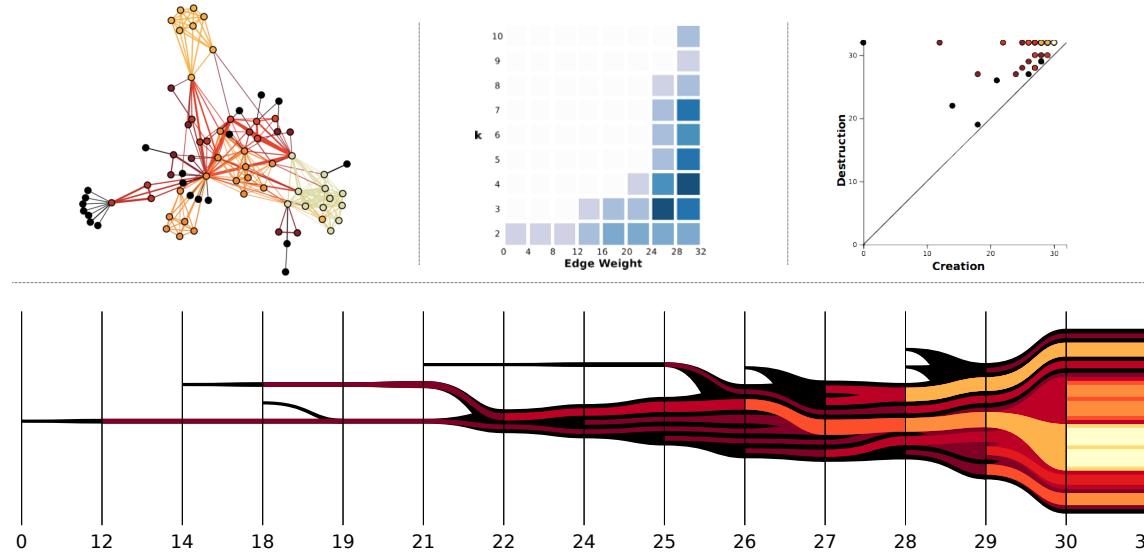


Image courtesy of  
[Carlsson & Zomorodian 2009]

## Multi-Parameter Persistent Homology

*What if we consider multiple filtering functions?*

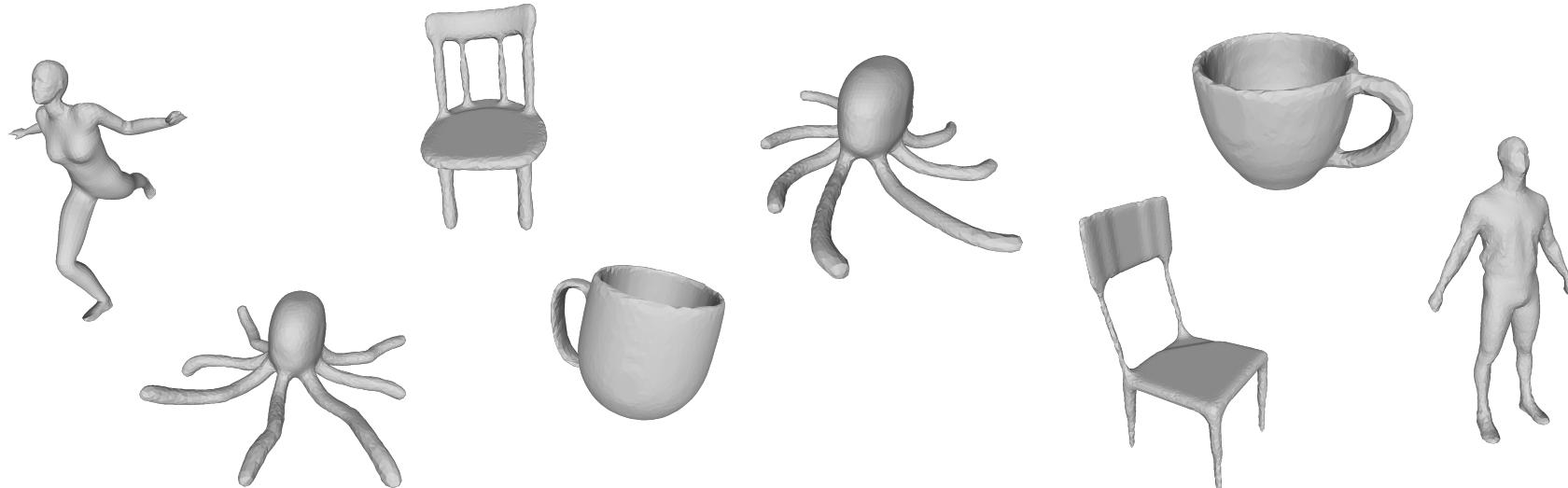
# Possible Topics for Seminars



## Persistent Homology & Networks

- ◆ **Homological Scaffolds:** Topological summaries of weighted graphs
- ◆ **Clique Community Persistence:** Tracking the evolution of network communities

# Possible Topics for Seminars



## Algorithms & Implementation

- ◆ Efficient computation of **Vietoris-Rips complexes** and other data-to-complex strategies
- ◆ Focus on a specific **algorithm for speed-up persistent homology computation**
- ◆ Use of available **software tools** for testing persistent homology on various datasets