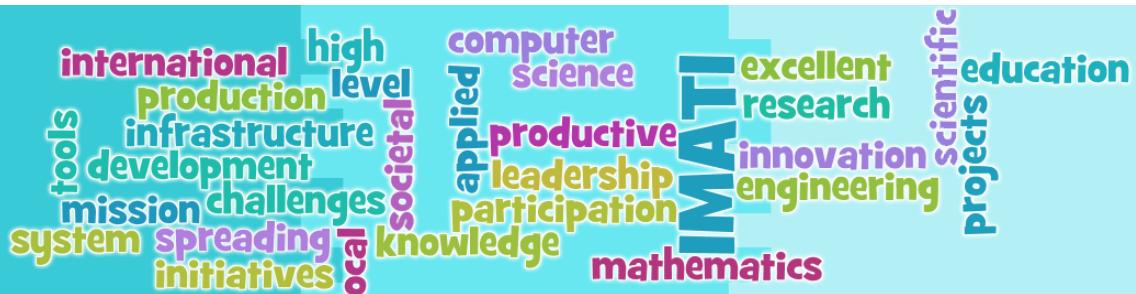


*Topological Data Analysis*

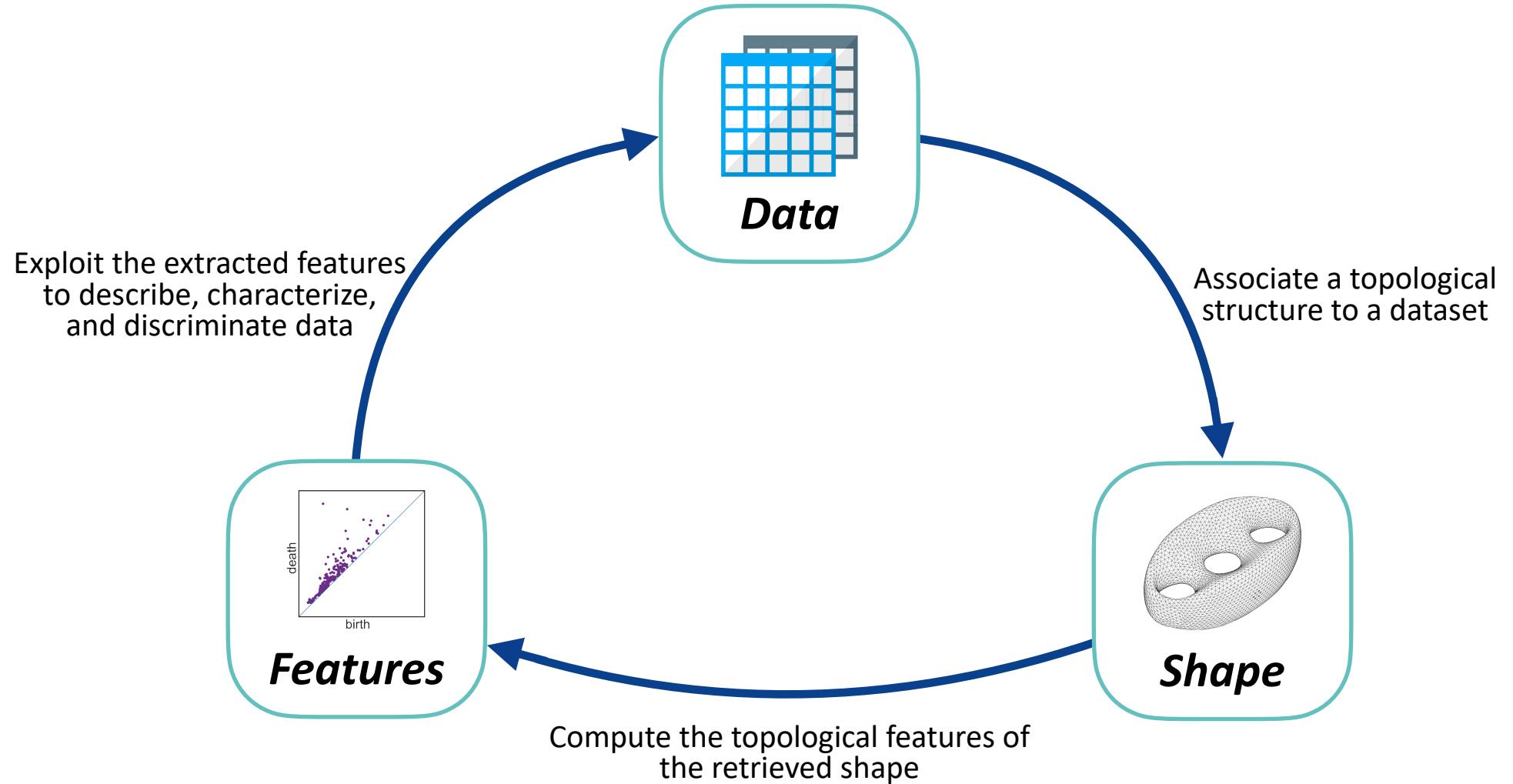
# Morse Theories

Ulderico Fugacci

CNR - IMATI



# Topological Data Analysis



# Topological Data Analysis

## **Tools in TDA:**

- ◆ **Elementary Tools:**
  - ✿ *Euler Characteristic*
  - ✿ *Reeb Graph*
  - ✿ *Mapper*
- ◆ **Homology-Based Tools:**
  - ✿ *Homology*
  - ✿ *Directed Homology*
  - ✿ *Persistent Homology*
  - ✿ *Zigzag Persistence*
  - ✿ *Multi-Parameter Persistent Homology*
- ◆ **Other Tools:**
  - ✿ *Morse Theories*

# Morse Theories

- ◆ *(Smooth) Morse Theory*
- ◆ *Discrete Morse Theory*

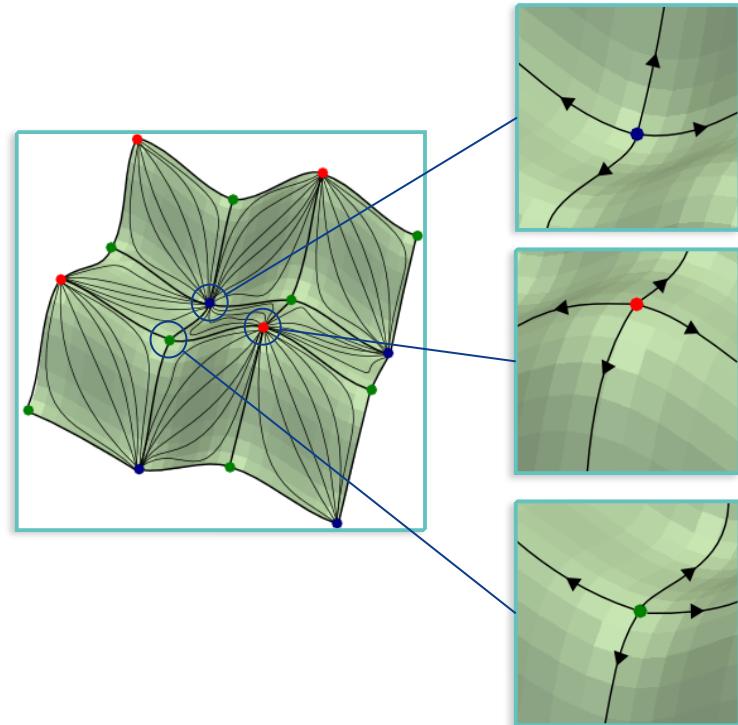
# Morse Theories

- ◆ **(Smooth) Morse Theory**
- ◆ *Discrete Morse Theory*

# Morse Theory

**Morse Theory [Milnor 1963, Matsumoto 2002] :**

- ◆ Topological tool for efficiently analyzing a **shape of a data** by studying the behavior of a smooth **scalar function  $f$**  defined on it
- ◆ Relates the critical points of a smooth scalar function on a shape with their **regions of influence**
- ◆ Analysis of scalar fields requires extracting **morphological features** (e.g., critical points, integral lines and surfaces)

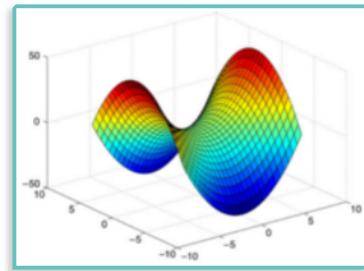


# Morse Theory

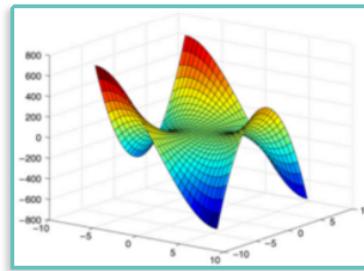
## Critical Points:

Let  $f$  be a real-valued  $C^2$ -function defined on a  $d$ -dimensional manifold  $M$

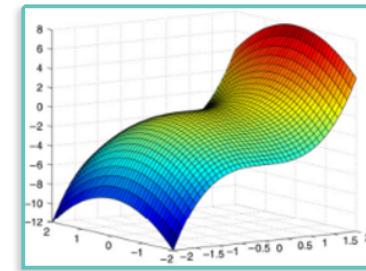
- ◆ **Critical point** of  $f$ :  
any point on  $M$  in which the gradient of  $f$  vanishes
- ◆ Critical points can be **degenerate** or **non-degenerate**
  - ❖ A critical point  $p$  is degenerate *iff* the determinant the Hessian matrix  $H$  of the second order derivatives of function  $f$  is null



non-degenerate  
critical point



degenerate  
critical point



degenerate  
critical point

# Morse Theory

## Critical Points:

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Function  $f$  is a **Morse function** if and only if  
*all its critical points are non-degenerate*

# Morse Theory

## Definitions:

*Gradient*

$$\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \mathbf{e}_1 + \cdots + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \mathbf{e}_n$$

*Hessian  
Matrix*

$$H(f) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2^2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Morse Theory

## Critical Points:

Let  $f$  be a real-valued  $C^2$ -function defined on a  $d$ -dimensional manifold  $M$

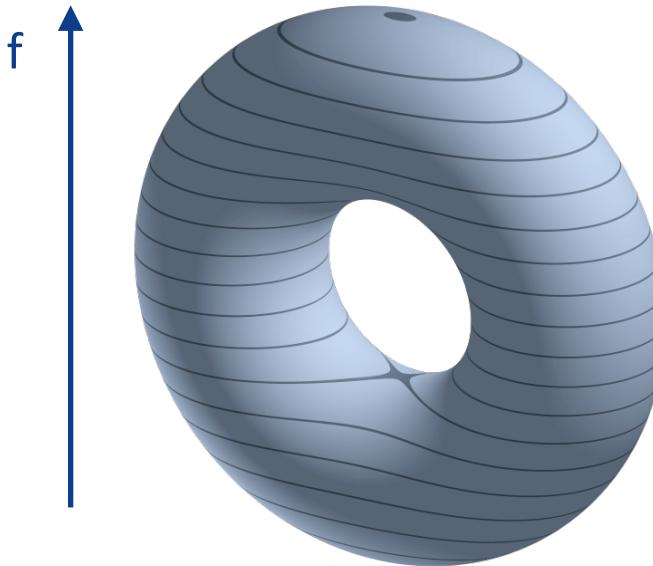
- ◆ Critical points of a Morse function are *isolated*
- ◆ A  $d$ -dimensional Morse function  $f$  has  $d+1$  types of critical points, called  **$k$ -saddles**  
( $k$  is the *index* of the critical point)
  - ❖ For  $d=2$ , *minima*, *saddles* and *maxima*
  - ❖ For  $d=3$ , *minima*, **1-saddles**, **2-saddles** and *maxima*

*Critical points of a  
2D function*



# Morse Theory

## Fundamental Theorems:



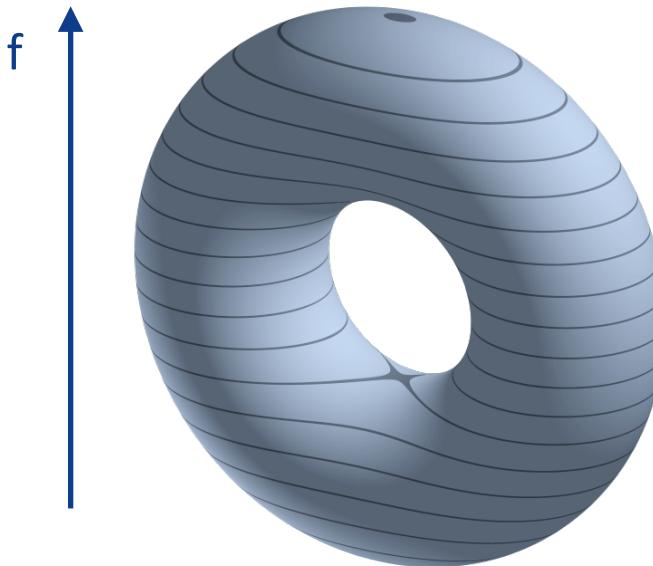
### Theorem 1:

Suppose  $f$  is a smooth real-valued function on  $M$ ,  $a < b$ ,  $f^{-1}[a, b]$  is compact, and there are no critical values between  $a$  and  $b$ .

Then,  $M^a$  is **diffeomorphic** to  $M^b$ .

# Morse Theory

**Fundamental Theorems:**

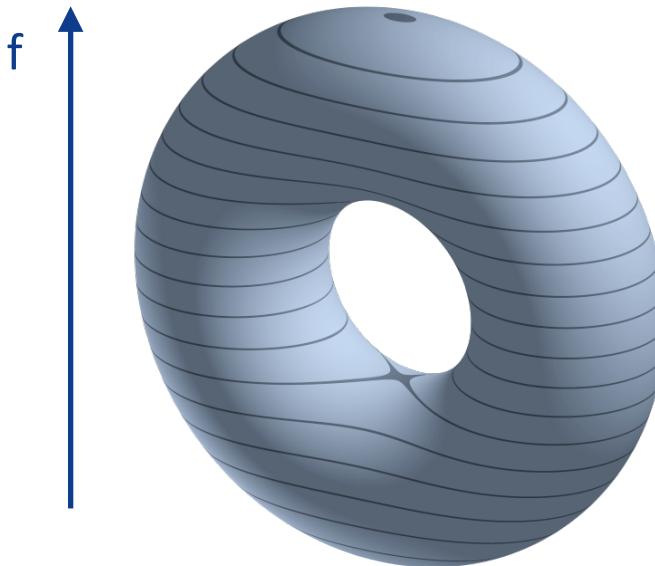


**Theorem 2:**

Suppose  $f$  is a smooth real-valued function on  $M$  and  $p$  is a non-degenerate critical point of  $f$  of index  $k$ , and that  $f(p) = q$ . Suppose  $f^{-1}[q - \varepsilon, q + \varepsilon]$  is compact and contains no critical points besides  $p$ . Then,  $M^{q+\varepsilon}$  is **homotopy equivalent** to  $M^{q-\varepsilon}$  with a  $k$ -cell attached.

# Morse Theory

**Fundamental Theorems:**



**Morse Inequalities:**

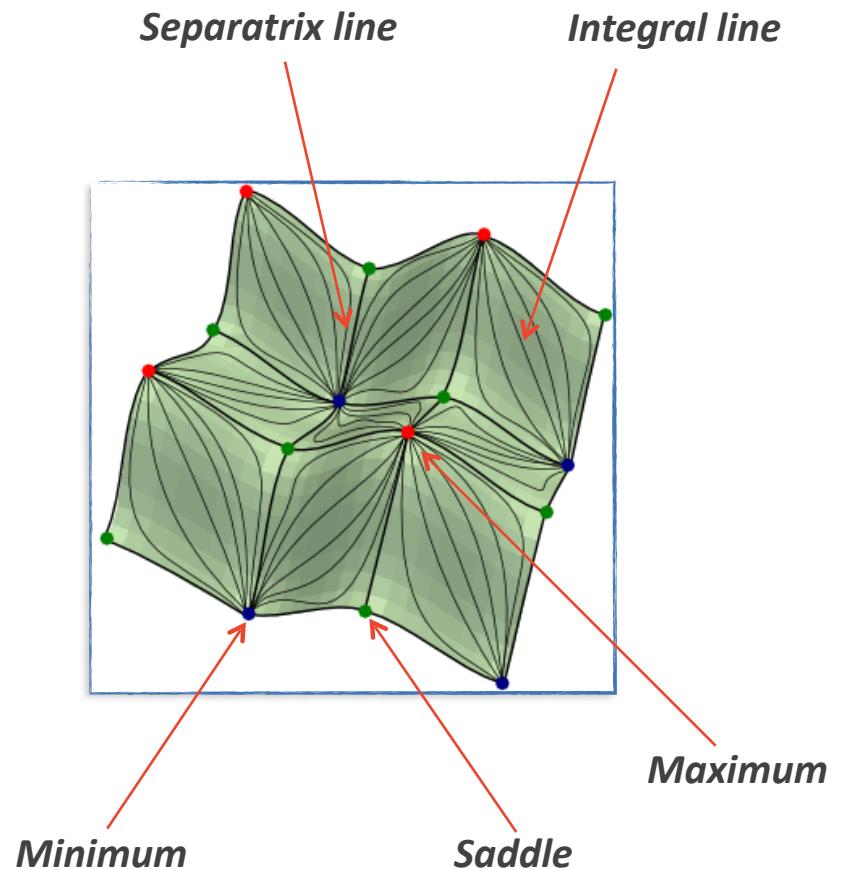
$$c_k \geq \beta_k(M)$$

where  $c_k$  is the number of critical points of index  $k$

# Morse Theory

## Integral Lines:

- ◆ An **integral line** of a smooth function  $f$  is a maximal path which is everywhere tangent to the gradient vector field of  $f$
- ◆ Integral lines **start** and **end** at the critical points of  $f$
- ◆ Integral lines that connect critical points of consecutive index are called **separatrix lines**



# Morse Theory

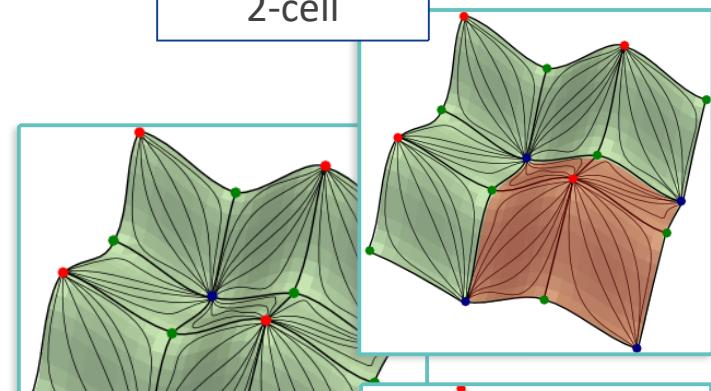
Integral lines that converge to a critical point  $p$  of index  $i$  form an  $i$ -cell called the **descending cell** of  $p$

- ◆ Descending cell of a maximum: 2-cell
- ◆ Descending cell of a saddle: 1-cell
- ◆ Descending cell of a minimum: 0-cell

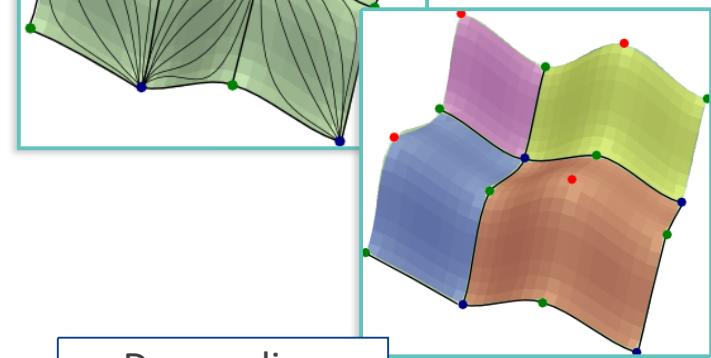
## Descending Morse Complex:

*Collection of the descending cells of all critical points of function  $f$*

Descending  
2-cell



Descending  
Morse Complex



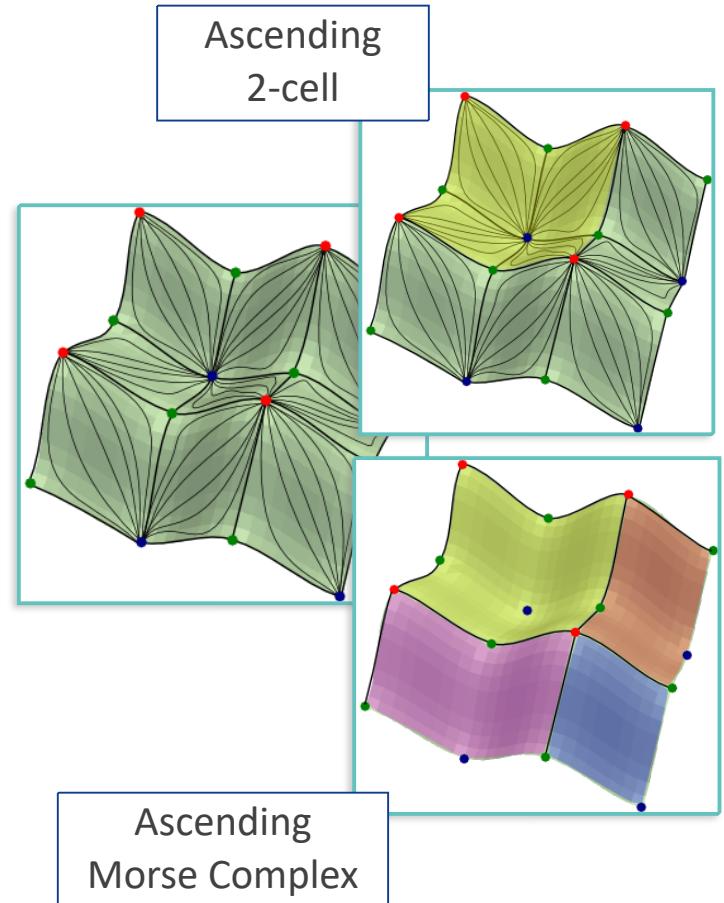
# Morse Theory

Integral lines that converge to a critical point  $p$  of index  $i$  form a  $(d-i)$ -cell called the **ascending cell** of  $p$

- ◆ Ascending cell of a minimum: 2-cell
- ◆ Ascending cell of a saddle: 1-cell
- ◆ Ascending cell of a maximum: 0-cell

## Ascending Morse Complex:

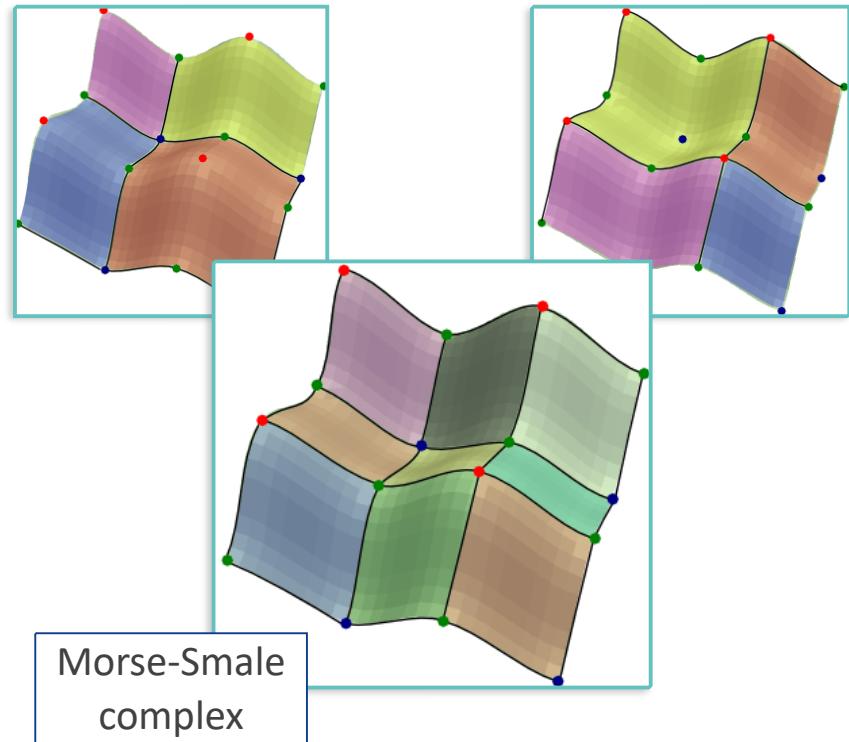
*Collection of the ascending cells of all critical points of function  $f$*



# Morse Theory

## **Morse Smale Complex:**

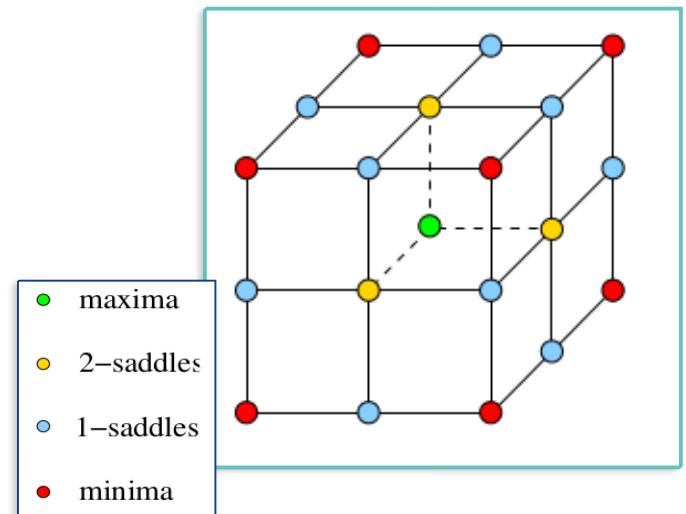
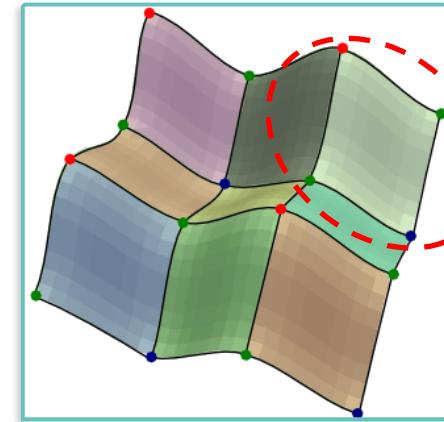
- ◆ Function  $f$  is a **Morse-Smale function** if its ascending and descending Morse cells intersect transversally
- ◆ **Morse-Smale (MS) complex** is the complex obtained from the mutual intersection of all the ascending and descending cells



# Morse Theory

## Morse Smale Complex:

- ◆ In a **2D** Morse-Smale complex:
  - ❖ A 2-cell is a *quadrilateral* bounded by the sequence  
*maximum – saddle – minimum – saddle*
  
- ◆ In a **3D** Morse-Smale complex:
  - ❖ Each 1-saddle is connected to exactly two minima
  - ❖ Each 2-saddle is connected to exactly two maxima



# Morse Theory

## *Applications:*

### ◆ *Shape Segmentation*

- ❖ *Segmenting the boundary of a 3D shape*
- ❖ Volume data segmentation
- ❖ Multi-resolution terrain analysis
- ❖ Multi-resolution analysis of volume data

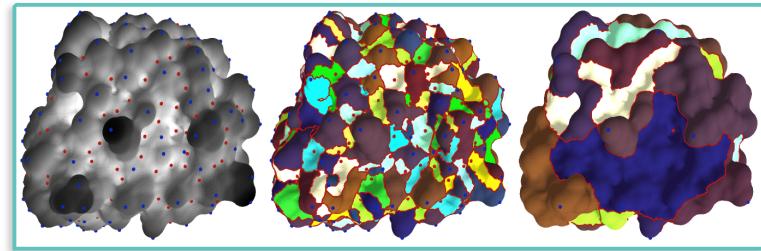


Image from [Natarajan et al. 2006]

### ◆ *Homological Analysis*

- ❖ Homology computation
- ❖ 3D and higher-dimensional shapes
- ❖ Shapes discretized as simplicial complexes
- ❖ Not only shapes defined by point data, but also networks

Study of cavities and protrusions in an atomic density function

# Morse Theory

## Applications:

### ◆ Shape Segmentation

- ❖ *Segmenting the boundary of a 3D shape*
- ❖ Volume data segmentation
- ❖ Multi-resolution terrain analysis
- ❖ Multi-resolution analysis of volume data

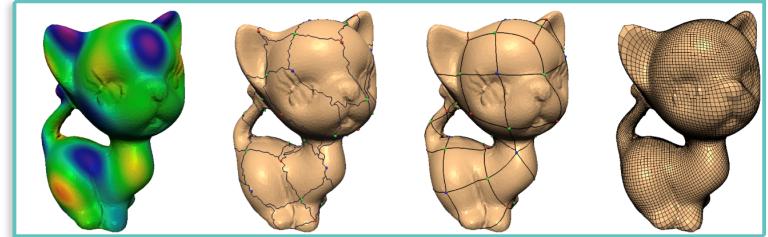


Image from [Dong et al. 2006]

Quad mesh generation from a triangle mesh

### ◆ Homological Analysis

- ❖ Homology computation
- ❖ 3D and higher-dimensional shapes
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# Morse Theory

## Applications:

### ◆ *Shape Segmentation*

- ❖ Segmenting the boundary of a 3D shape
- ❖ *Volume data segmentation*
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- ❖ Multi-resolution analysis of volume data

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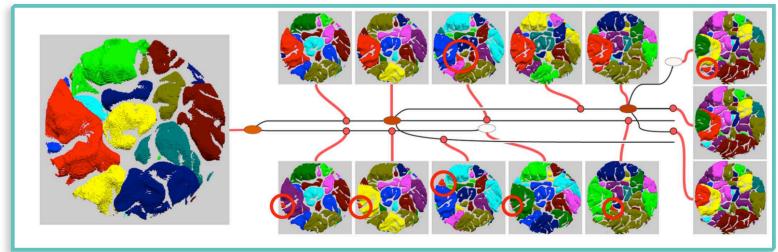


Image from [Bremer et al. 2010]

Burning cells tracked over time  
Morse complexes at different time step

# Morse Theory

## Applications:

### ◆ *Shape Segmentation*

- ❖ Segmenting the boundary of a 3D shape
- ❖ Volume data segmentation
- ❖ *Multi-resolution terrain analysis*
- ❖ Multi-resolution analysis of volume data

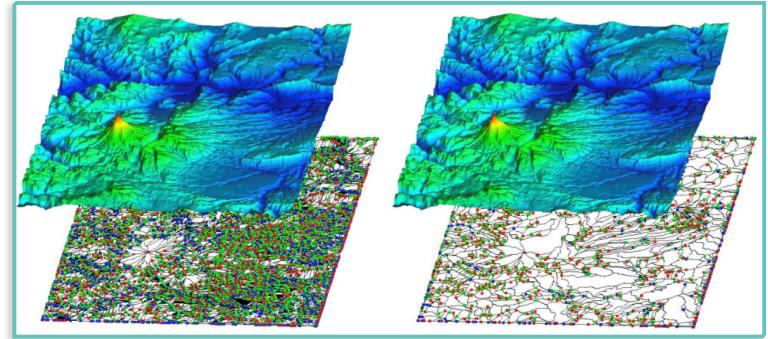


Image from [Bremer et al. 2004]

### ◆ *Homological Analysis*

- ❖ Homology computation
- ❖ 3D and higher-dimensional shapes
- ❖ Shapes discretized as simplicial complexes
- ❖ Not only shapes defined by point data, but also networks

Network of the critical points at  
two levels of resolution

# Morse Theory

## Applications:

### ◆ Shape Segmentation

- ❖ Segmenting the boundary of a 3D shape
- ❖ Volume data segmentation
- ❖ Multi-resolution terrain analysis
- ❖ ***Multi-resolution analysis of volume data***

### ◆ Homological Analysis

- ❖ Homology computation
- ❖ 3D and higher-dimensional shapes
- ❖ Shapes discretized as simplicial complexes
- ❖ Not only shapes defined by point data, but also networks

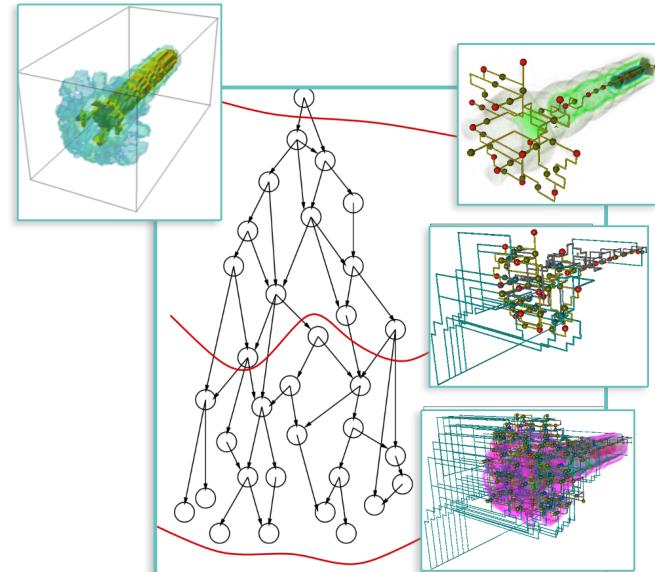


Image from [Gyulassy et al. 2010]

Network of the critical points on a volume data set at different resolution

# Morse Theory

## **Applications:**

### ◆ **Shape Segmentation**

- ❖ Segmenting the boundary of a 3D shape
- ❖ Volume data segmentation
- ❖ Multi-resolution terrain analysis
- ❖ Multi-resolution analysis of volume data

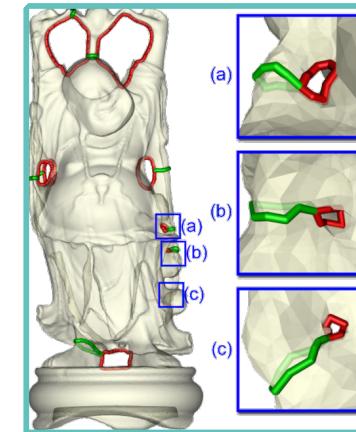


Image from [Dey et al. 2008]

### ◆ **Homological Analysis**

- ❖ **Homology computation**
- ❖ **3D and higher-dimensional shapes**
- ❖ **Shapes discretized as simplicial complexes**
- ❖ **Not only shapes defined by point data, but also networks**

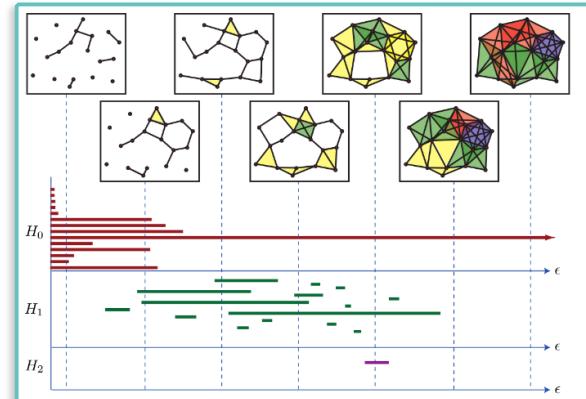


Image from [Ghrist 2008]

# Morse Theories

- ◆ *(Smooth) Morse Theory*
- ◆ ***Discrete Morse Theory***

# Discrete Morse Theory

## ***Discretized Morse Theories:***

Various *discretizations* of Morse theory:

- ◆ **Piecewise-Linear Morse Theory** [Banchoff '67]

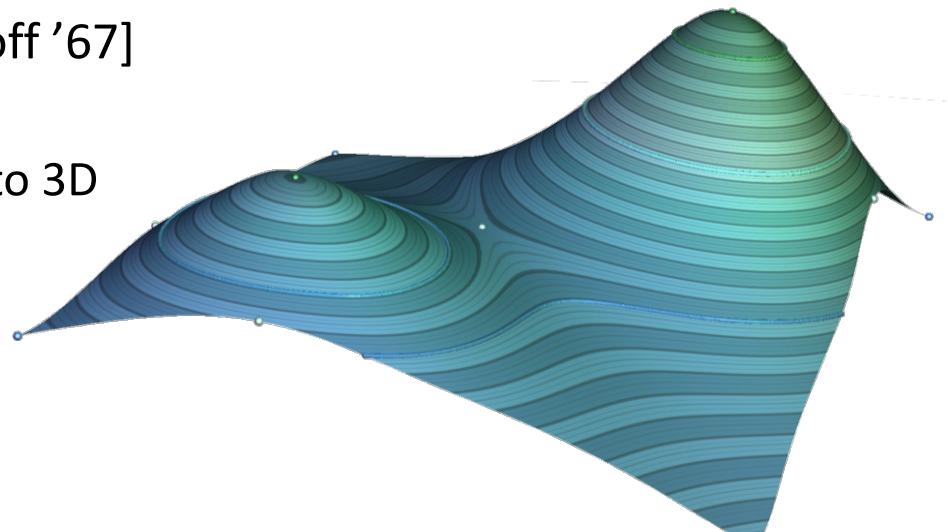
- ❖ Originally for polyhedral surfaces
  - ❖ Defined for the 2D case and extended to 3D

- ◆ **Watershed Transform** [Meyer '94]

- ❖ For images and labeled graphs
  - ❖ Dimension-independent

- ◆ **Discrete Morse Theory** [Forman '98]

- ❖ For cell complexes
  - ❖ Dimension-independent

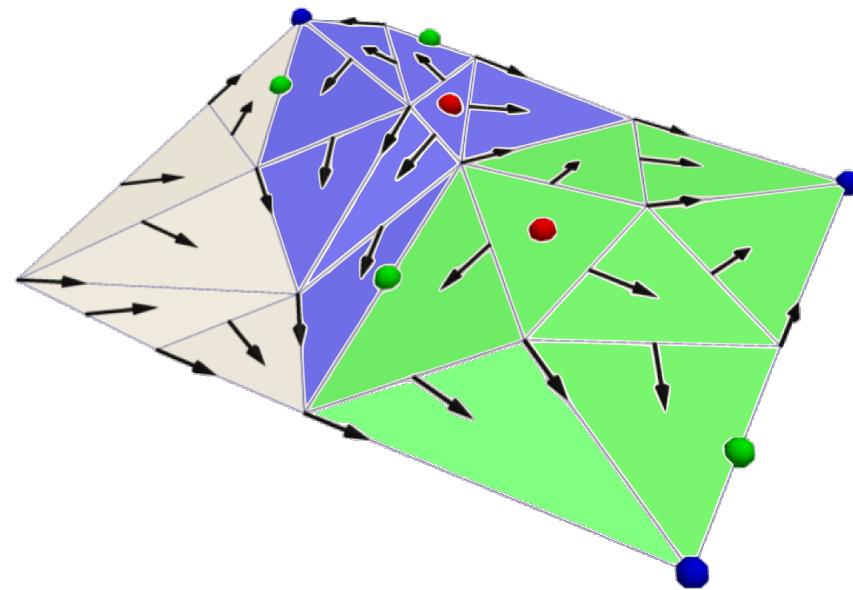


# Discrete Morse Theory

## *Discrete Morse Theory:*

Is a *combinatorial counterpart*  
of Morse Theory:

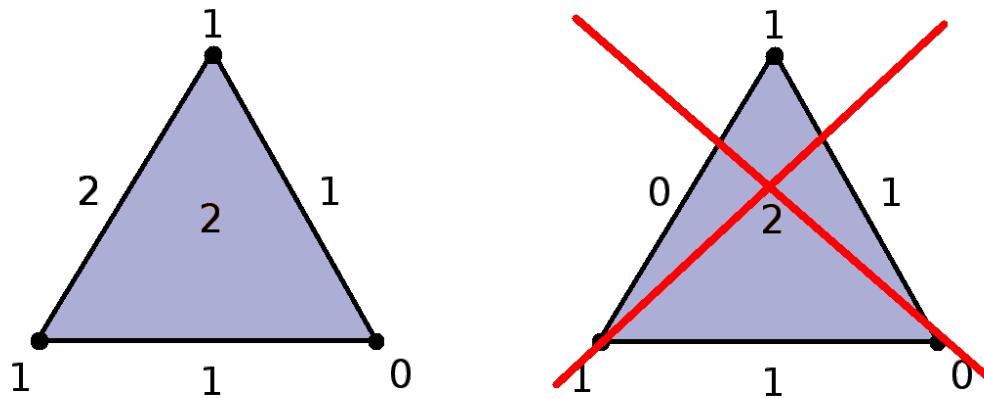
- ◆ Introduced for *cell complexes*
- ◆ Providing a compact *homology-equivalent* model for a shape
- ◆ Representing a *derivative-free* tool for computing segmentations of shapes



# Discrete Morse Theory

## Discrete Morse Function:

Let  $K$  be a simplicial complex



$f : K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called *discrete Morse function* if, for every simplex  $\sigma$ ,

$$c_+(\sigma) := \# \{ \tau > \sigma \mid f(\tau) \leq f(\sigma) \} \leq 1$$

$$c_-(\sigma) := \# \{ \rho < \sigma \mid f(\rho) \geq f(\sigma) \} \leq 1$$

# Discrete Morse Theory

**Discrete Morse Function:**

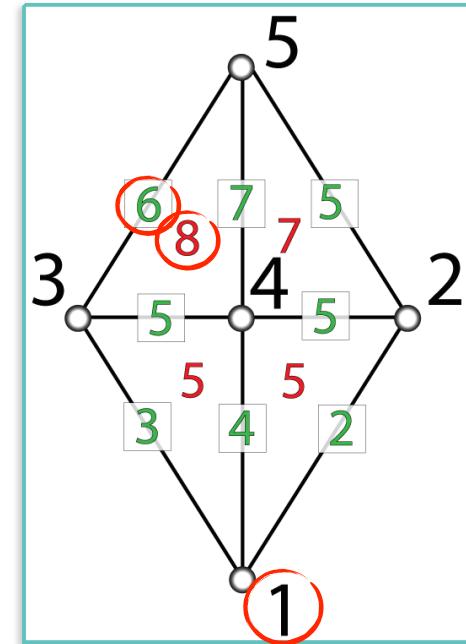
**Proposition:**

$c_+(\sigma)$  and  $c_-(\sigma)$  cannot both be equal to 1

**Critical Simplices:**

A  $k$ -simplex  $\sigma$  is **critical** with index  $k$  if

$$\#\{ \tau > \sigma \mid f(\tau) \leq f(\sigma) \} = \#\{ \rho < \sigma \mid f(\rho) \geq f(\sigma) \} = 0$$

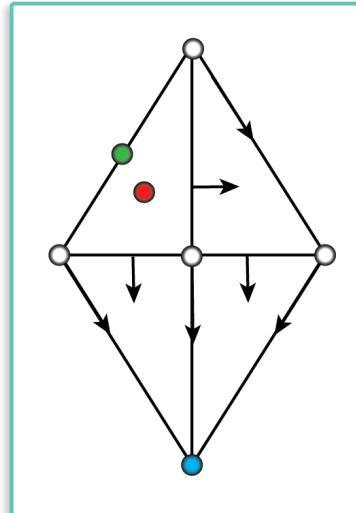
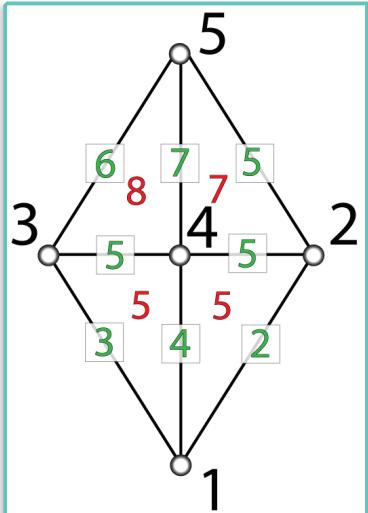


# Discrete Morse Theory

## Discrete Vector Field:

A collection  $V$  of pairs  $(\sigma, \tau) \in K \times K$  such that:

- ◆  $\sigma < \tau$  (i.e., **incident simplices** of dimension  $k$  and  $k+1$ )
- ◆ Each simplex of  $K$  is **in at most one pair** of  $V$



*Unpaired simplices*  
↔  
*Critical simplices*

A discrete Morse function  $f$  induces a discrete vector field called the **gradient vector field** of

$$V := \{ (\sigma, \tau) \in K \times K \mid \sigma < \tau \text{ and } f(\sigma) \geq f(\tau) \}$$

# Discrete Morse Theory

## V-Path:

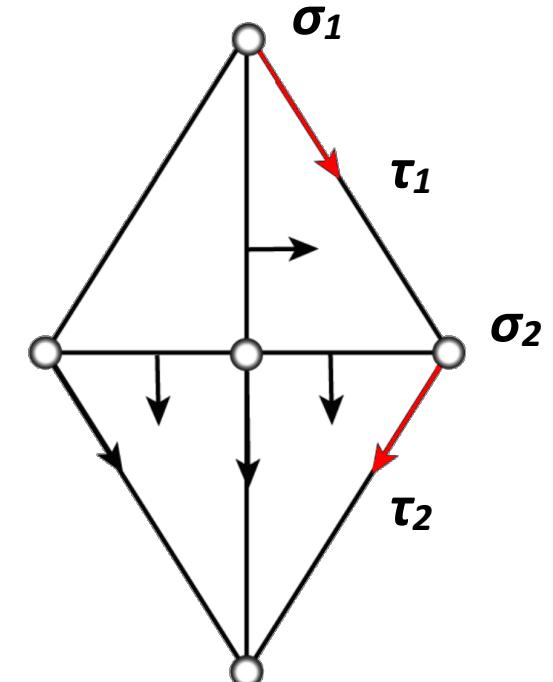
A sequence of pairs of  $V$

$$(\sigma_1, \tau_1), (\sigma_2, \tau_2), \dots, (\sigma_{r-1}, \tau_{r-1}), (\sigma_r, \tau_r)$$

such that:

- ◆  $\sigma_{i+1} < \tau_i$
- ◆  $\sigma_{i+1} \neq \sigma_i$

A V-path is **closed** if  $\sigma_1$  is a face of  $\tau_r$  different from  $\sigma_r$



## Proposition:

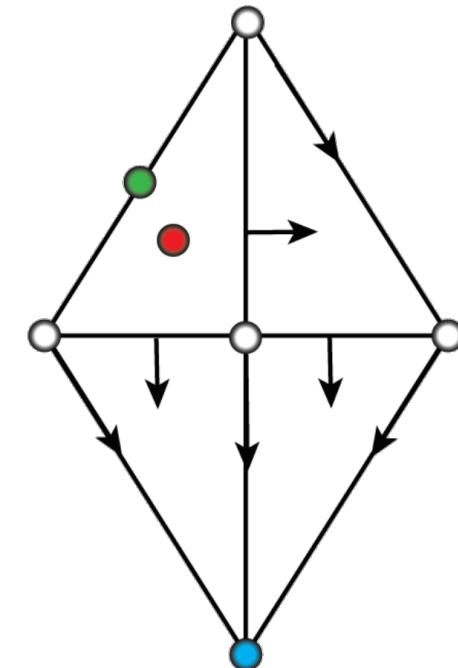
A discrete vector field  $V$  is the gradient vector field of a discrete Morse function if and only if it is **free of closed V-paths**

# Discrete Morse Theory

## Discrete Morse Complex:

A chain complex whose:

- ◆ ***k-cells*** are in correspondence with critical simplices of index  $k$
- ◆ ***boundary relations*** are induced by  $V$ -paths

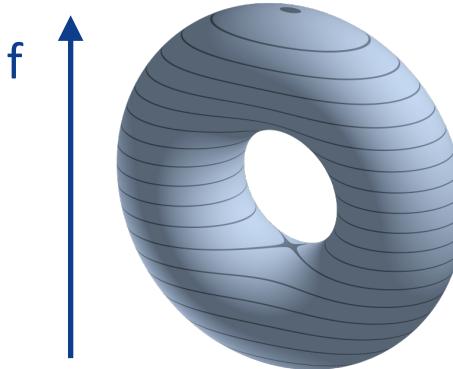


## Theorem:

Given a gradient vector field  $V$  defined on a simplicial complex  $K$ , the associated ***discrete Morse complex*** is homotopy equivalent to  $K$

# Discrete Morse Theory

**Fundamental Theorems:**



**Smooth Theorem 1:**

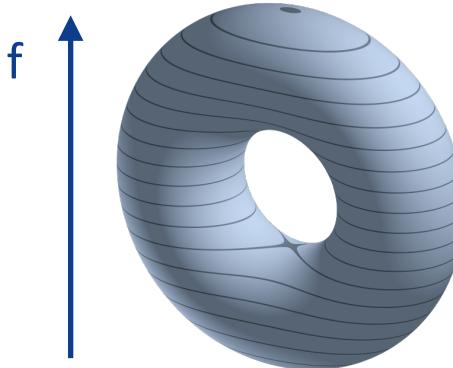
Suppose  $f$  is a smooth real-valued function on  $M$ ,  $a < b$ ,  $f^{-1}[a, b]$  is compact, and there are no critical values between  $a$  and  $b$ . Then,  $M^a$  is **diffeomorphic** to  $M^b$ .

**Discrete Theorem 1:**

Suppose  $f$  is a discrete Morse function on  $M$ ,  $a < b$ , and there are no critical values between  $a$  and  $b$ . Then,  $M^a$  is a **deformation retract** of  $M^b$ .

# Discrete Morse Theory

**Fundamental Theorems:**



**Smooth Theorem 2:**

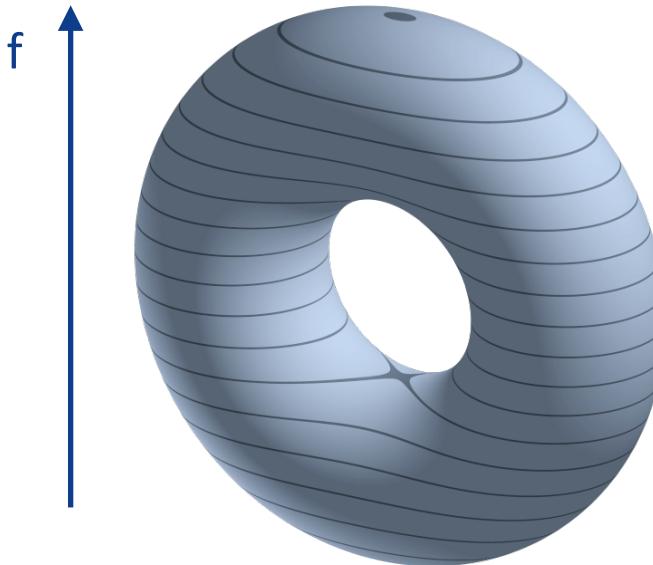
Suppose  $f$  is a smooth real-valued function on  $M$  and  $p$  is a non-degenerate critical point of  $f$  of index  $k$ , and that  $f(p) = q$ . Suppose  $f^{-1}[q - \varepsilon, q + \varepsilon]$  is compact and contains no critical points besides  $p$ . Then,  $M^{q+\varepsilon}$  is **homotopy equivalent** to  $M^{q-\varepsilon}$  with a  $k$ -cell attached.

**Discrete Theorem 2:**

Suppose  $f$  is a discrete Morse function on  $M$ ,  $\sigma$  is a critical  $k$ -simplex with  $f(\sigma) \in [a, b]$ , and there are no other critical simplices with values in  $[a, b]$ . Then,  $M^a$  is **homotopy equivalent** to  $M^b$  with a  $k$ -cell attached.

# Discrete Morse Theory

**Fundamental Theorems:**



**Smooth & Discrete Morse Inequalities:**

$$c_k \geq \beta_k(M)$$

where  $c_k$  is the number of critical points/simplices of index  $k$

# Bibliography

## General References:

- ◆ **Books on TDA:**
  - ❖ A. J. Zomorodian. *Topology for computing*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
  - ❖ H. Edelsbrunner, J. Harer. *Computational topology: an introduction*. American Mathematical Society, 2010.
  - ❖ 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.

## Today's References:

- ◆ **Morse Theories:**
  - ❖ L. De Floriani, U. Fugacci, F. Iuricich, P. Magillo. *Morse complexes for shape segmentation and homological analysis: discrete models and algorithms*. Computer Graphics Forum 34.2, pages 761-785, 2015.
  - ❖ L. De Floriani, U. Fugacci, F. Iuricich. *Homological shape analysis through discrete Morse theory*. Perspectives in Shape Analysis, pages 187-209, 2016.