

# Applications of Optimal Transport to Algebraic Topology

*How to build Spines from Singularity...*

J.H.Martel

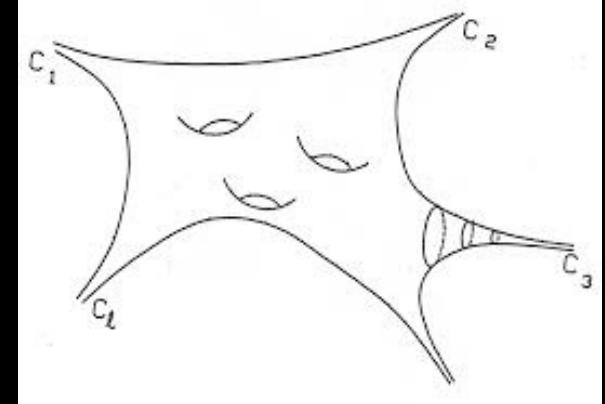
Thesis available: <https://github.com/marvinMLKUltra/thesis>

## Our favourite problem of algebraic topology:

IF  $(X, d, \text{vol}_X)$  is a finite-dimensional, complete,  
finite-volume length space,

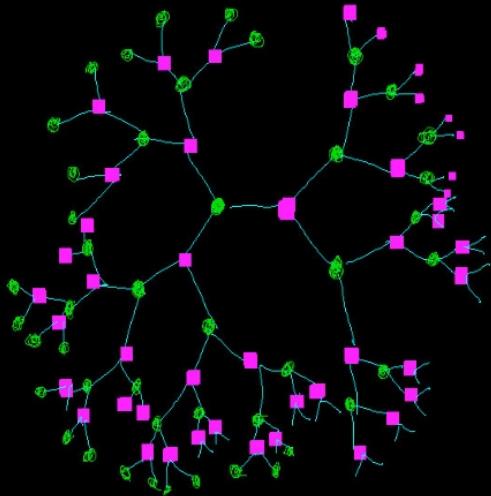
THEN:

construct a *minimal* subvariety  $Z$  of  $X$ ,  
s.t. the inclusion  $Z \rightarrow X$  is a homotopy-isomorphism,  
And strong-deformation retract.



Def: maximal-codimension retracts  $Z$  are called *Spines* / *Souls* of  $(X, d, \text{vol}_X)$ .  
 $(\kappa \leq 0)$  /  $(\kappa \geq 0)$

“subvariety” means satisfying a finite number of locally-lipschitz equations (“local DC”)  
[definition from Poincare’s ‘`Analysis Situs’’]



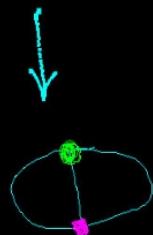
$X$      $E\Gamma$ -model

=Universal  
Cover  
of space  $M$

$$\pi_1(M) = \Gamma$$

← ← *Goal: construct Spines from  $E\Gamma$  models ( $\kappa \leq 0$ )*

*i.e. construct minimal  
Universal Covering  
Spaces for  $\pi_1 = \Gamma$*



$X / \Gamma$  quotient  
with  $\pi_1 = \Gamma$



Poincaré ~1895 constructs Algebraic-Topology:

Our thesis introduces and develops a general method  
for explicitly constructing **SMALL**-dimensional  **$E\Gamma$**  classifying spaces.

Hypothesis: require  $\Gamma$  is infinite, discrete, Bieri-Eckmann duality group

with finite cohomological dimension  $cd(\Gamma)=v < +\infty$  and dualizing module **D**.

Our method presumes a user has explicit geometric  $E\Gamma$  model X:

i.e.  $(X,d)$  is finite-dimensional Cartan-Hadamard space (NPC contractible)

where group action  $X \times \Gamma \rightarrow X$  is isometric, proper discontinuous, free,

and quotient  $X/\Gamma$  finite volume w.r.t. volume measure  $vol_X$ .

Our arguments are general, with applications to many popular “geometric” groups:

Ex:  $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}^2, \mathbb{Z}^3, \dots$  torsion-free abelian groups

- =  $GL(\mathbb{Z}^2), GL(\mathbb{Z}^3), Sp(\mathbb{Z}^4), Sp(\mathbb{Z}^6), \dots$  arithmetic subgroups  $G(\mathbb{Z})$  of  $Q$ -reductive groups,
- =  $MCG(\Sigma_g)$  ... mapping class groups of closed orientable surfaces,
- = knot groups,
- = braid groups, etc.

..... all models not created equal.....

Ex: -  $MCG(\Sigma_g)$  acts isometrically on  $Teich(\Sigma_g)$  with \*Weil-Petersson\* geometry.

- $G(\mathbb{Z})$  acts isometrically on spaces of quadratic (or hermitian) forms.
- $GL(\mathbb{Z}^2)$  acts isometrically on Voronoi's cone, projectivizes to  $H^2$   
*(Poincare disk)*

Bieri-Eckmann homological duality:

If  $X$  is geometric  $E\Gamma$  model, then typically  $\dim(X) \gg \dots \gg cd(\Gamma)$ .

*Bieri-Eckmann formula:*

$$cd(\Gamma) = \dim(X) - (q + 1),$$

$q$ =spherical-dimension(**D**).

*Eilenberg-Ganea:*  $cd(\Gamma) == \text{minimal dimension of } E\Gamma\text{-models} \text{ ** if } cd(\Gamma) > 2$

*Ex: Teichmueller space  $T_g$*

$$\dim(T_g) = 6g-6, \quad vcd(MCG(\Sigma_g)) = 4g-5,$$

(Harer/Ivanov)

- Open Problem: where is explicit  $(4g-5)$ -dimensional model of  $EMCG(\Sigma_g)$  ??
- (g=2) Seek 3-dimensional retract of 6-dimensional  $X=T_2$
- Our “final solutions” are obstructed by a problem we call “Closing the Steinberg symbol”

## New General Method for Large-Codimension Retracts:

Let  $\Gamma$  be Bieri-Eckmann duality group, and  $(X, d, \text{vol}_X)$  a geometric  $E\Gamma$  model.

Our thesis **constructs  $\Gamma$ -invariant closed subsets  $Z$  of  $X$ , with  $\dim(Z) \approx \text{cd}(\Gamma)$ ,**

for which the **inclusion  $Z \rightarrow X$  is homotopy-isomorphism**,

and **explicit  $\Gamma$ -equivariant continuous deformation retracts  $X$  onto  $Z$ ;**

and moreover we describe a technique

(based on specific solutions of a problem called **“Closing the Steinberg symbol”**)

for **achieving  $Z$  with MAX codimension  $\dim(Z) == \text{cd}(\Gamma)$ .**

## Spines and Souls : Tradition in Geometric-Homology:

Klein, Minkowski, Poincare, Steenrod, Thom, Lefschetz, Wall, Eilenberg, Ganea, Borel, Serre, Thurston, Gromov, Neeman, Mumford, Gromoll-Cheeger-Perelman, Soule, Ash, McConnell, ....

*...how to construct NEW models of “old” spaces, and as explicit as possible?*

“Textbook” constructions of  $E\Gamma$  are abstract/external/dislocated

- Requires perfect knowledge of  $\Gamma$ , i.e. generators and relations.
- Milnor:  $E\Gamma = \text{joins}(\Gamma, \Gamma, \Gamma, \dots)$ .
- Wall: inductive wedges of spherical-complexes and attaching maps.
- Postnikov towers, Cayley graphs, Rips complex, ... .

We presume limited knowledge of  $\Gamma$ , but require explicit geometric  $E\Gamma$ -model ( $X, d, \text{vol}_X$ ).

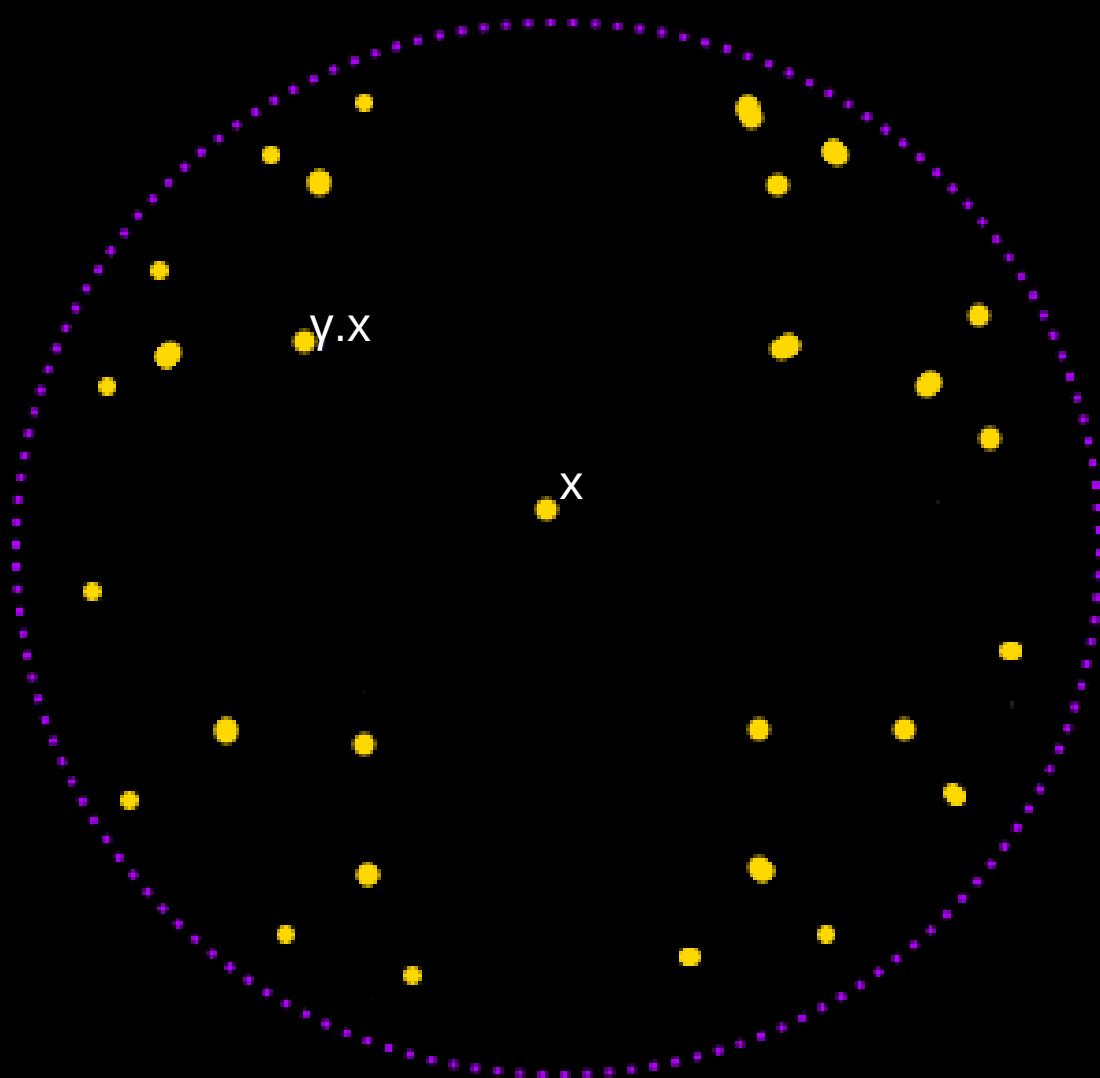
*Our thesis develops a new program for In Situ Reduction-to-Spine,*

- exhibits Spines as explicit subsets of initial model  $X$
- nonlinear extension of Soule-Ash’s Well Rounded Retract  
[1980s, explicit Spines for  $EGL(Z^N)$ ,  $N \geq 1$  ]

*...illustrating our approach:*

Begin with initial geometric  
 $E\Gamma$  model  $(X, d, \text{vol}_X)$ .

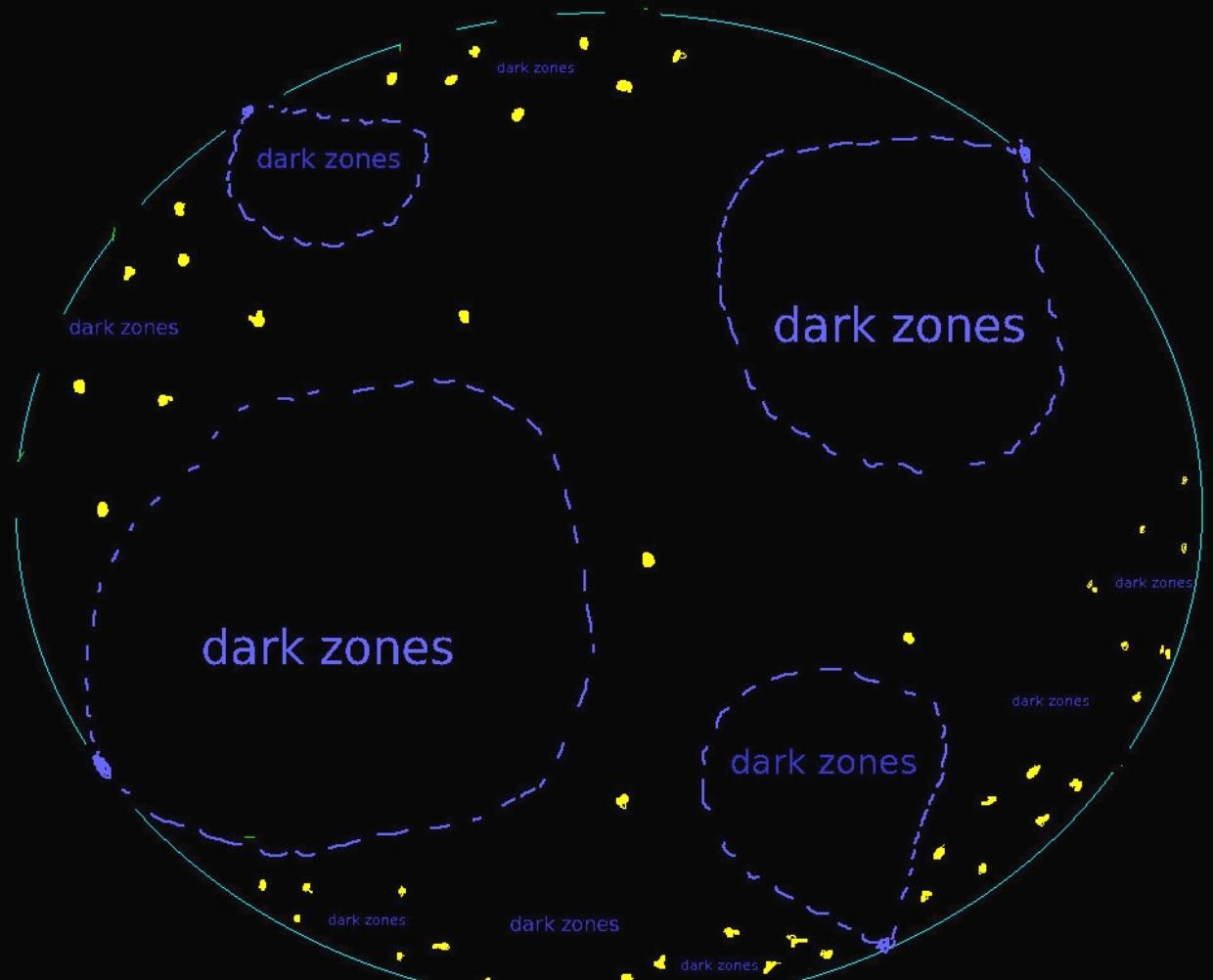
Yellow dots =  $\Gamma$  orbit of pt.  $x$



Observe:

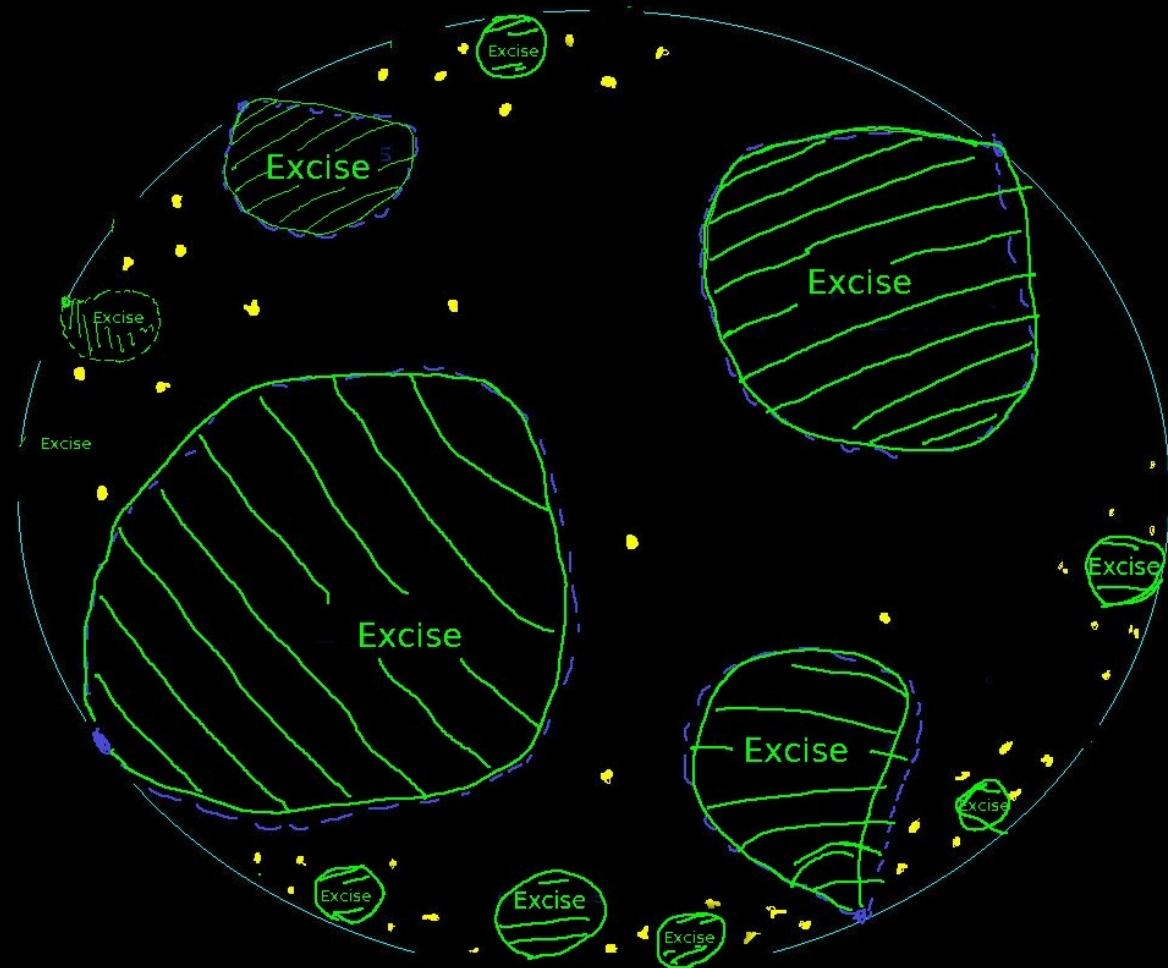
$\Gamma$ -orbit avoid dark zones.

*Dark zones =  
countable family of  
 $\Gamma$ -rational horoballs  $V[t]$*



Orbit avoids Dark zones

*Excision  $X[t]$  obtained by  
scooping out / excising  
the dark zones from  $X$ .*



Orbit avoids Dark zones

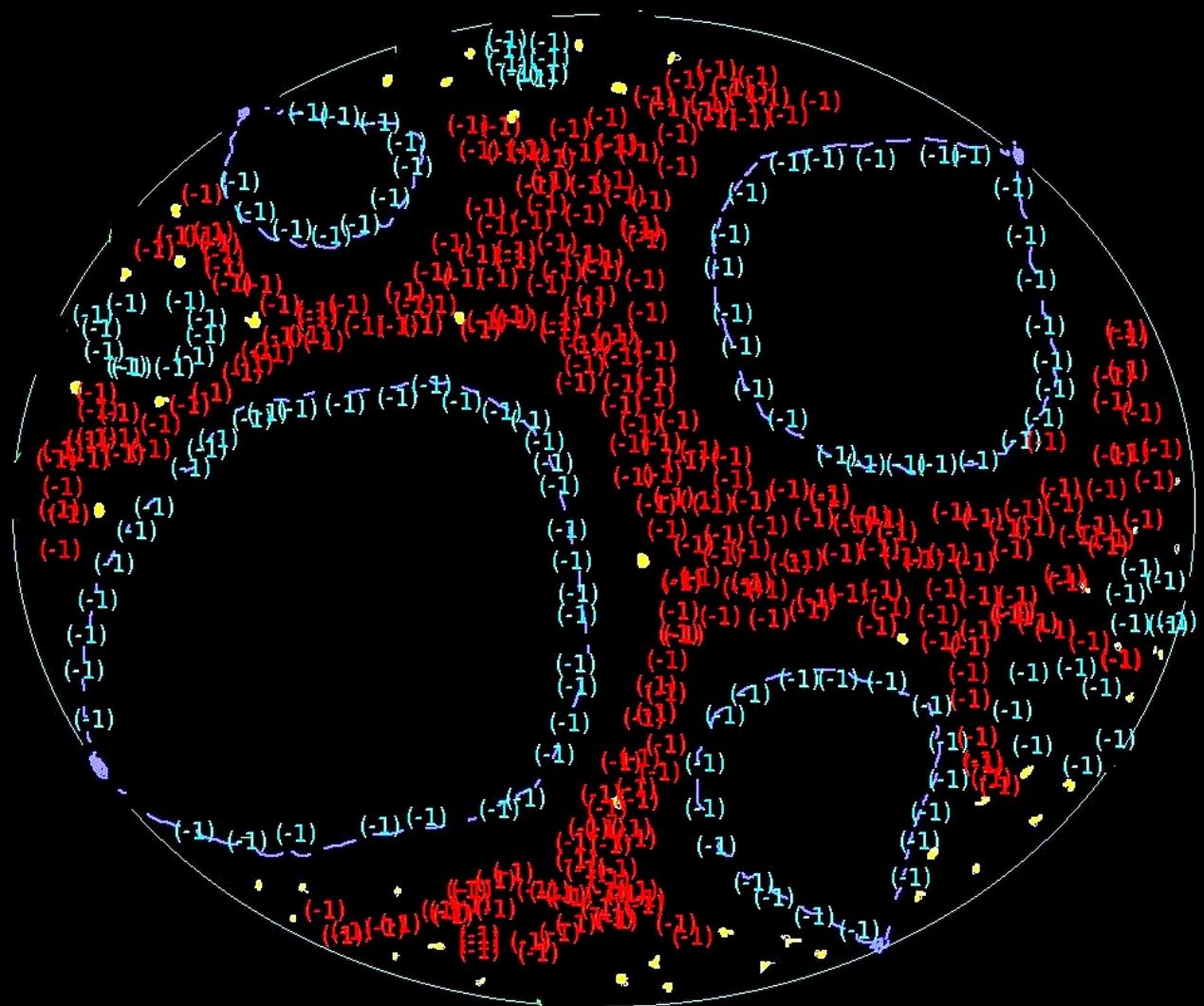
Scoop/Excise convex deep dark zones at-infinity.

*Excision ==>  
manifold-with-corners  
 $X[t] \times \delta X[t]$ .*

Define:

(-1) source  
measure  $\sigma$   
on  $X[t]$

(-1) target  
measure  $\tau$   
on  $\delta X[t]$

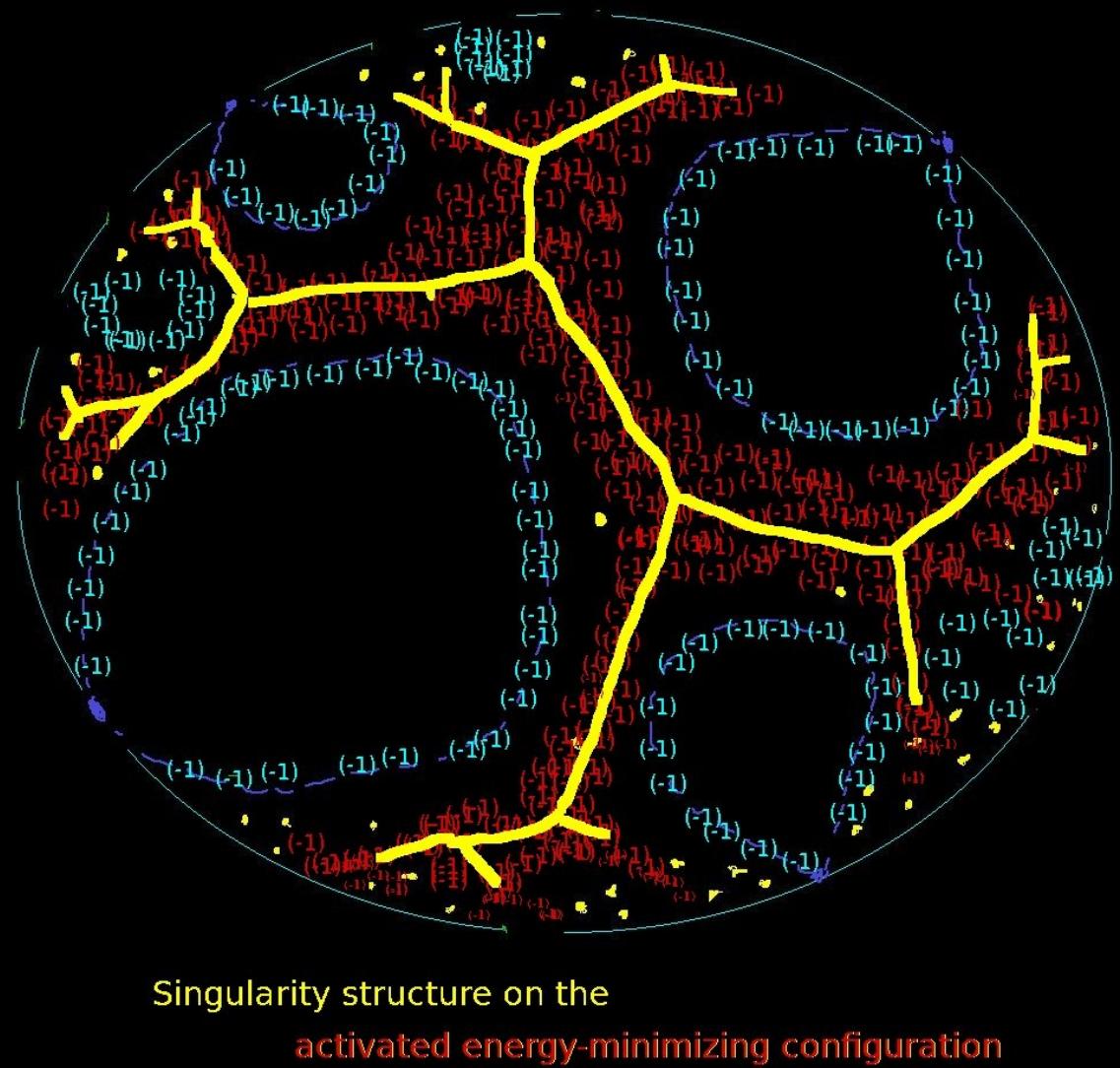


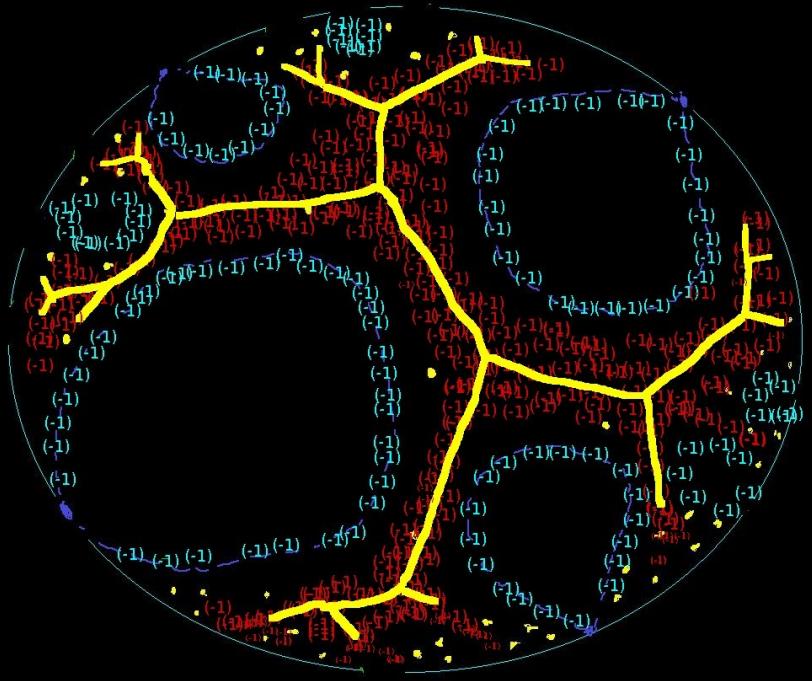
With measures  $\sigma$ ,  $\tau$ , we next study the *Singularity structure* of “Energy-minimizing” semicouplings from source to target.

$$Z: \begin{matrix} \delta X[t] \\ 2 \end{matrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} X[t] \\ 2 \end{matrix}$$

We propose:

*Spines are readily displayed in the locus-of-discontinuity (Singularities) of optimal semicouplings from  $X[t]$  to  $\delta X[t]$*





*Remarks: this **one-dimensional tree  $T$**  is long-known, and many retractions of  $X$  onto  $T$  exist.*

*Except our construction (via Singularity structure) applies verbatim to higher dimensions...*





...Spines are not hidden...

Spines are readily displayed  
in *locus-of-discontinuity*  $Z$   
of “deformation retracts  $r : X[t] \rightarrow \delta X[t]$ ”

“*the idea*”

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## ...Spines are not hidden...

## **“the formalization”**

Spines readily displayed in  
Kantorovich's Contravariant Singularity Functor  $Z(\sigma, \tau, v)$   
of  $v$ -optimal semicouplings  $\pi$  from  $(X[t], \sigma)$  to  $(\delta X[t], \tau)$

... where  $v: X[t] \times \delta X[t]$  is the ``visible repulsion'' cost on a  $\Gamma$ -rational excision  $X[t]$

## Terms to define:

Singularity functor  $Z(\sigma, \tau, v)$  ,  $Z : 2^{\delta X[t]} \rightarrow 2^{X[t]}$

of  $v$ -optimal semicouplings  $\pi$

from source  $(X[t], \sigma)$  to target  $(\delta X[t], \tau)$

of  $\Gamma$ -rational excision  $X[t]$

where  $v : X[t] \times \delta X[t] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is “visible repulsion cost”.

# Terms to define:

Topology:

Source excision models  $(X[t], \sigma)$

Target  $(\partial X[t], \tau)$ .

Steinberg modules  $D := \tilde{H}_q(\partial X[t]; \mathbb{Z})$ .

Steinberg symbols  $B \in H_q(\partial X[t]; \mathbb{Z})$

and  $\text{FILL}[B] = H_{q+1}(X[t], \partial X[t]; \mathbb{Z})$ .

Chain sums  $\underline{F} = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} F \cdot \gamma$

with well-separated gates  $\{G\} = \{\text{FILL}[B].\gamma \quad | \quad \gamma \in \Gamma\}$ .

# Terms to define:

Mass transport:

Costs  $c : X[t] \times \partial X[t] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Two-pointed repulsion and visibility costs  $c^*, v$

$c$ -optimal semicouplings  $\pi$ .

$c$ -concave potentials  $\psi^{cc} = \psi$ .

$c$ -subdifferentials  $\partial^c \psi(y) \subset X[t]$  for  $y \in \partial X[t]$ .

Monge-Kantorovich duality:  $c$ -optimal semicouplings  $\pi$  supported on graph of  $\partial^c \psi$ .

Kantorovich Singularity functor  $Z : 2^{\partial X[t]} \rightarrow 2^{X[t]}$ .

Filtrations  $Z_0 \hookleftarrow Z_1 \hookleftarrow Z_2 \hookleftarrow \dots$ .

Kantorovich's Contravariant Singularity Functor

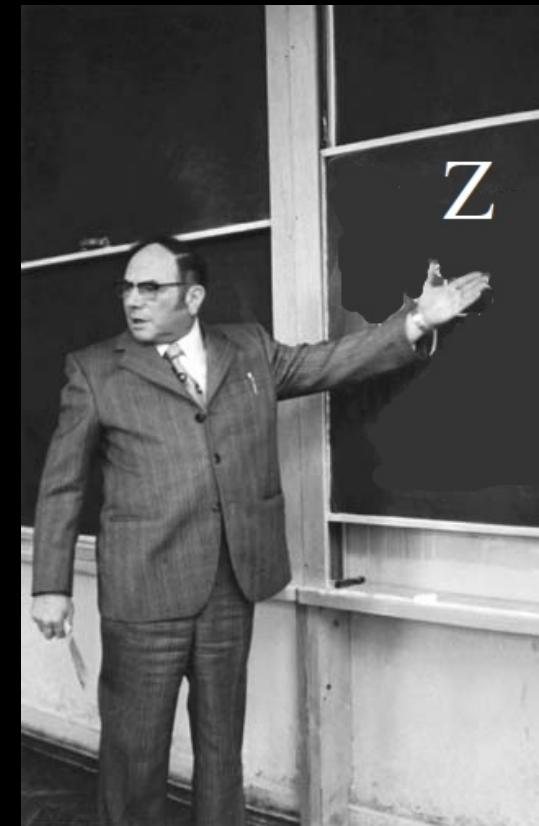
$$Z : 2^{\partial X} \rightarrow 2^X, \quad Z(Y_I) = \cap_{y \in Y_I} \partial^c \psi(y) = " \cap_{y \in Y_I} r^{-1}(y)" .$$

*... but everything summarized in: Kantorovich's Contravariant Singularity Functor*

$$Z : 2^{\partial X} \rightarrow 2^X,$$

$$Z(Y_I) = \cap_{y \in Y_I} \partial^c \psi(y)$$

$$= " \cap_{y \in Y_I} r^{-1}(y)" .$$



$\psi^{CC} = \psi$  is c-concave potential,  $\psi: \delta X[t] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and  $Y_I \subset \delta X[t]$  closed subset.

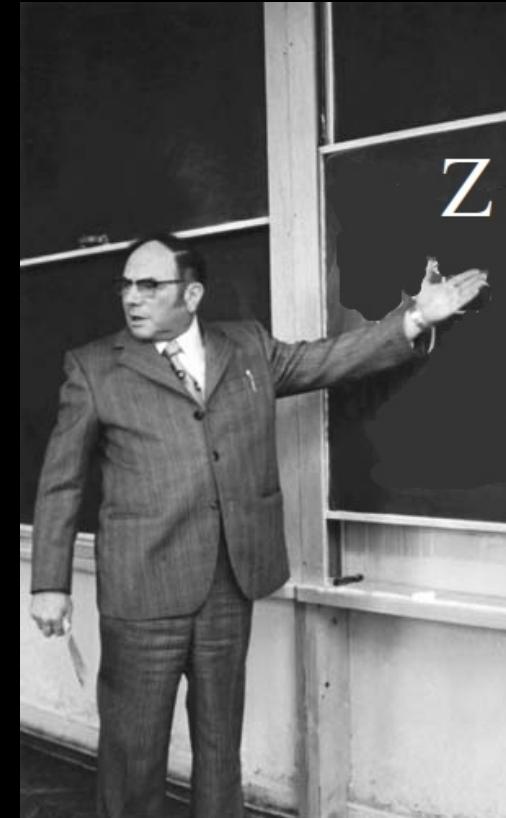
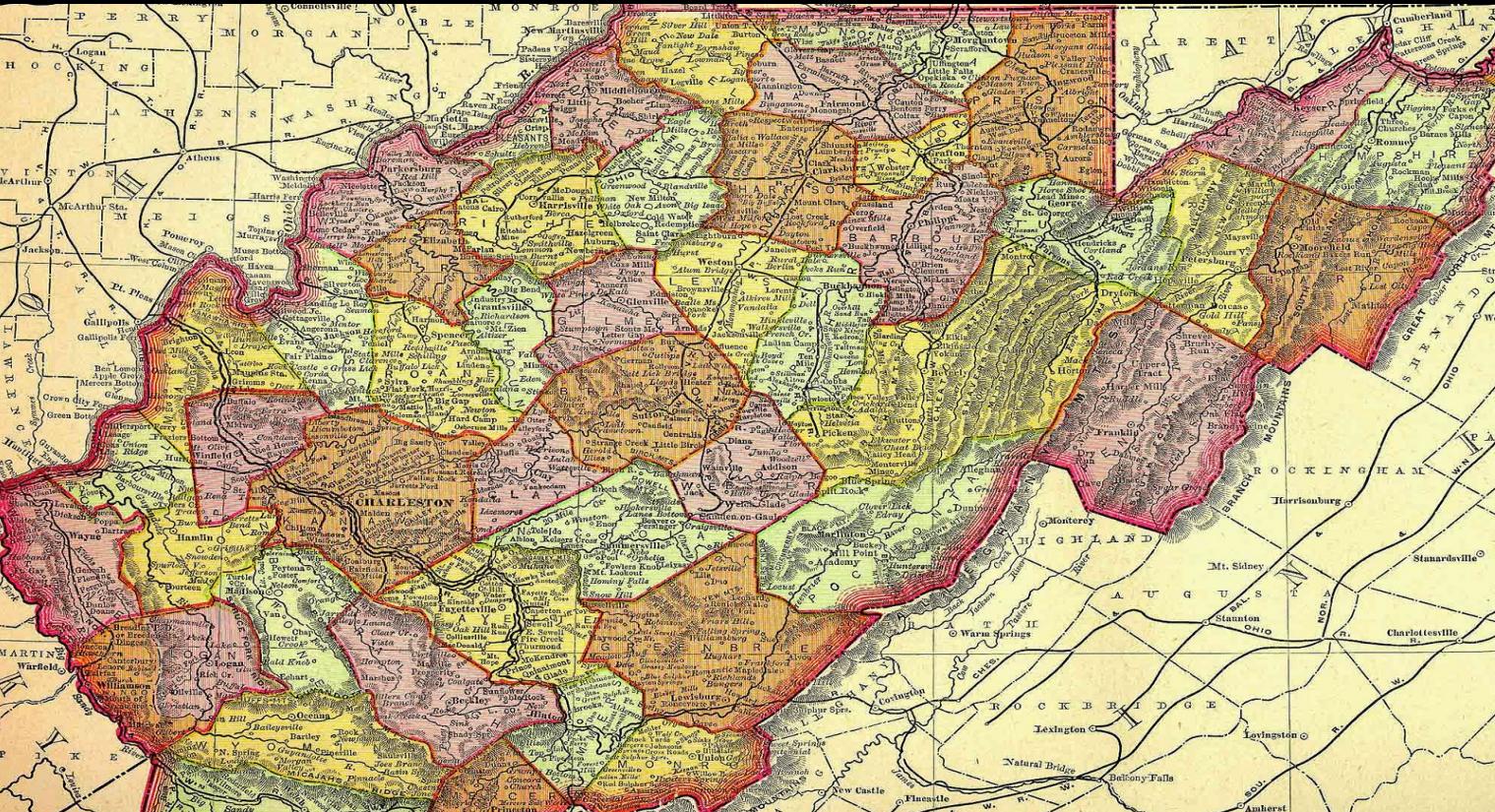
**Singularity** is overburdened term.

$$Z : 2^{\partial X} \rightarrow 2^X, \quad Z(Y_I) = \cap_{y \in Y_I} \partial^c \psi(y)$$

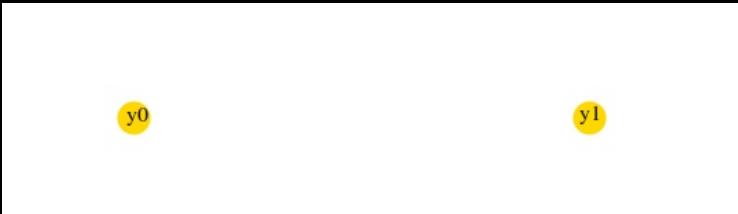
Economic Definition:

*Singularity arises wherever there is competition for limited common resources.*

*Singularity is Why countries exist with borders.*

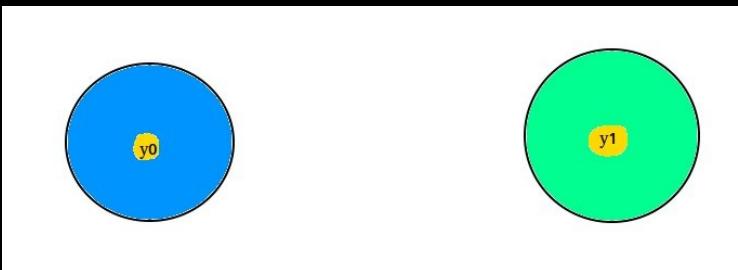


**Singularity:** exists wherever competition for limited common resources.



$c=d^2/2$  quadratic cost  
(+) → ← (−) attraction

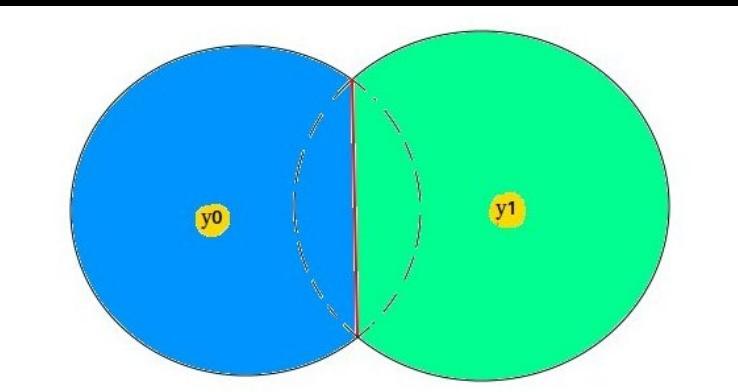
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-  $y_0, y_1$  no competition  
(no interact)

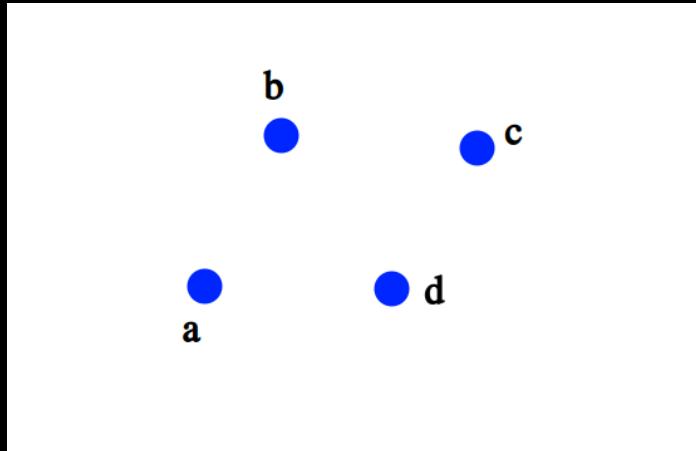
- *Singularity = Empty*

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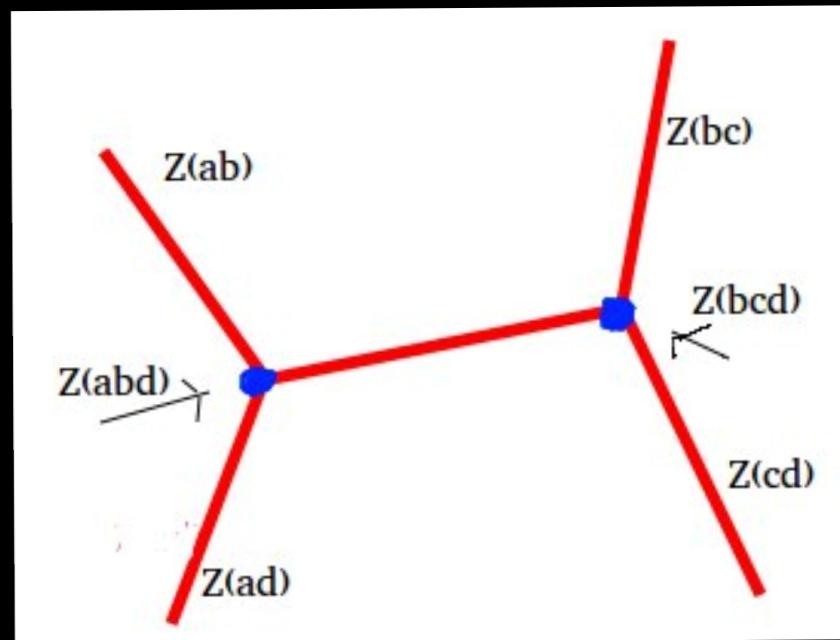
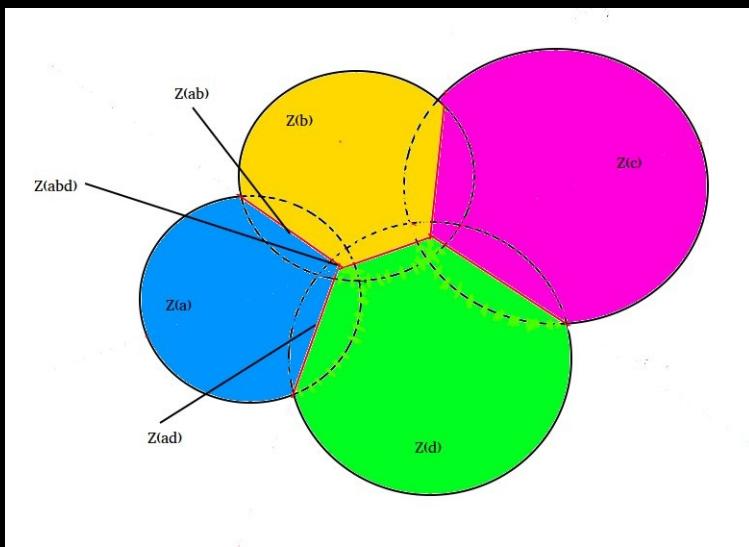
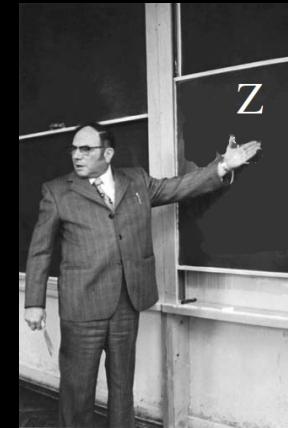
-  $y_0, y_1$  compete/interact

- *Singularity nonempty*  
& stable/persistent  
w.r.t. target measure  $\tau$



Source = 2-dim background field

Target =  $+a+b+c+d$  (4 point masses)



$$c = d^{**} 2/2$$

quadratic cost

$(+)$   $\rightarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $(-)$   
attraction

...for every cost  $c: X \times \delta X \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ , there is  $c$ -Legendre-Fenchel transform

Key definitions: -  $c$ -concave potentials  $\psi^{\text{cc}} = \psi$ .

-  $c$ -subdifferentials  $\partial^c \psi(y)$  are subset of  $X$  for every  $y \in \delta X$



Kantorovich says `` $c$ -optimal semicouplings  $\pi$  are supported on the graphs of  $c$ -subdifferentials of  $c$ -concave potentials  $\psi^c = \psi$  ''

Monge-Kantorovich Duality:

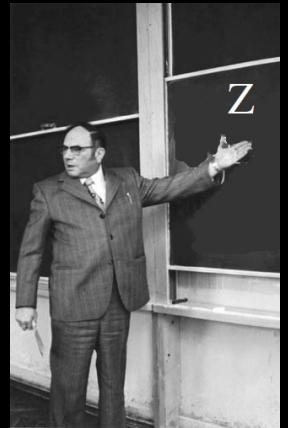
$$\max_{\psi \text{ c-concave}} \left[ \int_X -\psi^c(x) d\sigma(x) + \int_{\partial X} \psi(y) d\tau(y) \right] = \inf_{\pi \in SC(\sigma, \tau)} \int_{X \times \partial X} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y)$$

-  $\psi^c(x) + \psi(y) \leq c(x, y)$

## Kantorovich's Contravariant Singularity Functor IS EXPLICIT.

- $c$ -concavity  $\psi^{cc} = \psi$  of a potential  $\psi : \partial X[t] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  represents a pointwise inequality

$$-\psi^c(x) + \psi(y) \leq c(x, y)$$



for all  $(x, y) \in X[t] \times \partial X[t]$ ,

with equality  $\psi(y) - \psi^c(x) = c(x, y)$

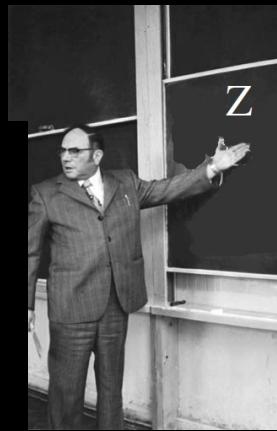
if and only if  $y \in \partial^c \psi^c(x)$  iff  $x \in \partial^c \psi(y)$

iff  $y \in \text{argmax}[\{\psi(y_*) - c(x, y_*) + c(x, y) | y_* \in Y\}]$ .

Variational defn. of  
 $c$ -subdifferential

Define  $Z(\{y\}) := \partial^c \psi(y)$

## Kantorovich's Contravariant Singularity Functor IS EXPLICIT.



$Z(Y_I)$  consists of  $x \in X$  for which

*Variational defn. of  
c-subdifferential*

$\text{argmax}[\{\psi(y_*) - c(x, y_*) + c(x, y) | y_* \in Y\}]$  contains  $Y_I$ ,

where  $y_0 \in Y_I$  is reference point.

Abbreviate  $c_\Delta(x; y, y') := c(x, y) - c(x, y')$  ....two-pointed cross difference.

Implies equations

$$Z(Y_I) = \{0 = \psi(y_0) - \psi(y) - c_\Delta(x; y_0, y) \mid y, y_0 \in Y_I, y \neq y_0\}$$

Reduces to  $\#(Y_I) - 1$  equations. Symmetry  $y_0, y_1$ .

## Applications to Algebraic Topology:

Contravariance says  $Z(Y_I)$ 's are local cells in  $X[t]$ , parameterized contravariantly by subsets  $Y_I$  of  $Y = \delta X[t]$

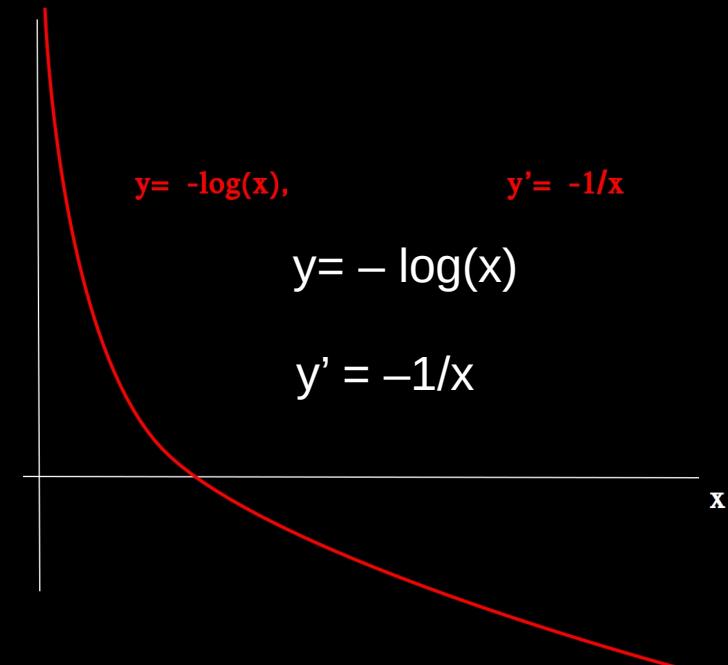
$$\boxed{\text{if } Y_I \hookrightarrow Y_J. \quad \text{then} \quad Z(Y_I) \hookleftarrow Z(Y_J)}$$

### Theorem (Local Reduction)

Let  $Z = Z(\sigma, \tau, c)$  be Kantorovich functor for cost  $c$ , source  $\sigma$ , target  $\tau$ , with  $\sigma[X] > \tau[\delta X[t]]$ .

Then we find local criterion (UHS conditions) which ensures  $Z(Y_I) \hookleftarrow Z(Y_J)$  is homotopy-isomorphism, and construct explicit continuous deformation retracts wherever (UHS) satisfied.

- Proof:
- Variational definition of  $c$ -subdifferentials, and gradient flow toward positive poles (not zeros!).
  - Model: gradient flow to  $x=0$  of  $f(x) = -\log(x)$ ,  $x>0$  .
  - flow accelerates into the cusp.



## Applications to Algebraic Topology:

If we “skewer the cube diagonally” and filtrate according to dimension, we obtain descending chain of closed subsets

$$X[t] \leftarrow Z\{1\} \leftarrow Z\{2\} \leftarrow Z\{3\} \leftarrow \dots, \dots \quad \text{where codim } Z\{k\} = k-1$$

-Contravariance implies  $Z\{1\}, Z\{2\}, Z\{3\}, \dots$  are homology-cycles in  $X$ ,  $\delta Z\{k\} = 0$  (consequence of adjunction formula)

## Theorem (Global Reduction):

Let  $Z = Z(\sigma, \tau, c)$  be Kantorovich functor for cost  $c$ , source  $\sigma$ , target  $\tau$ , with  $\sigma[X] > \tau[\delta X[t]]$ .

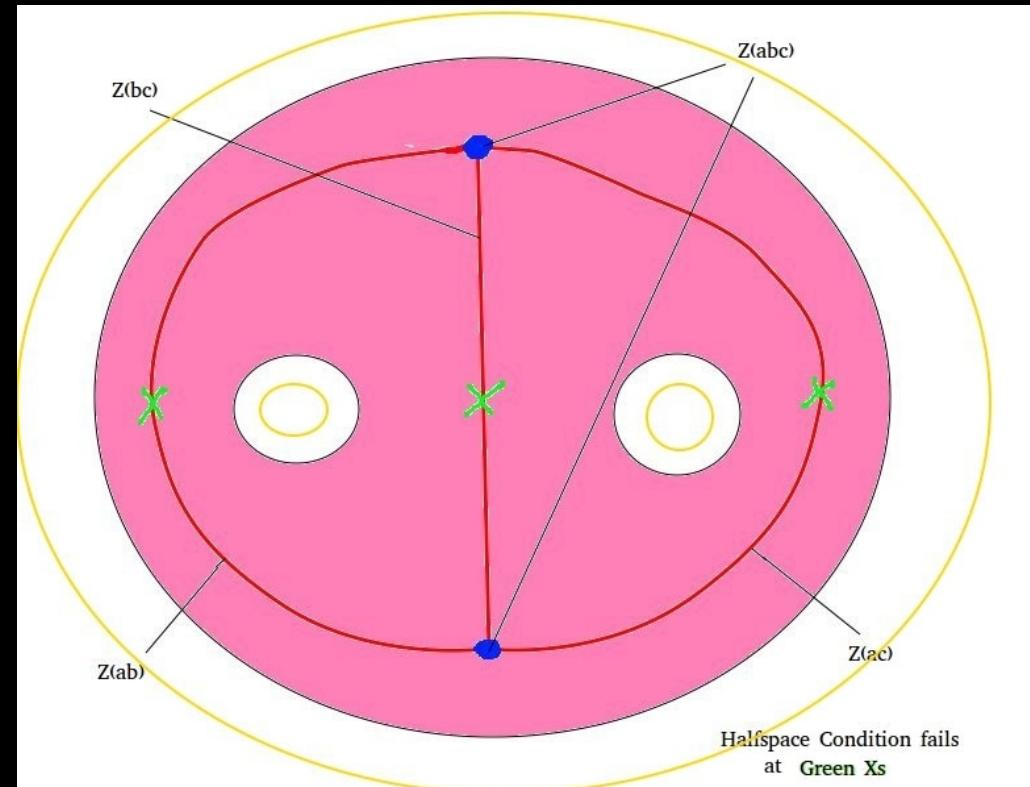
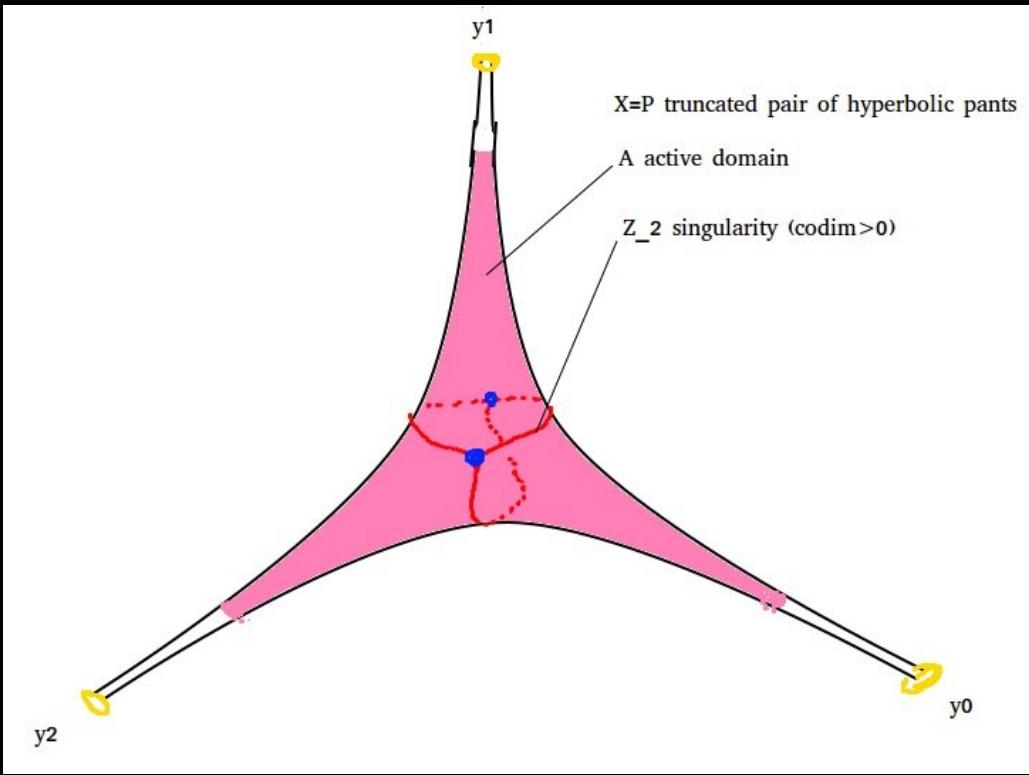
We identify index  $J \geq 0$  such that local cells  $\{Z(Y_I) \mid Y_I \rightarrow Y\}$  and their local homotopy reductions assemble into global continuous reductions

$$X[t] \rightarrow Z\{1\} \rightarrow Z\{2\} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow Z\{J+1\}$$

and such that  $Z\{J+1\}$  is a codimension- $J$  closed subvariety of  $X$ , with inclusion  $Z\{J+1\} \rightarrow X$  a continuous homotopy-isomorphism.

- index  $J$  defined by max. codimension of cells  $Z(Y_I)$  where (UHS) satisfied.

Global Reduction Theorem ==>  
 Singularity of Repulsion cost between excised source pant  $P[t]$   
 and target boundary  $\delta P[t]$  produces the familiar  $\Theta$ -graph



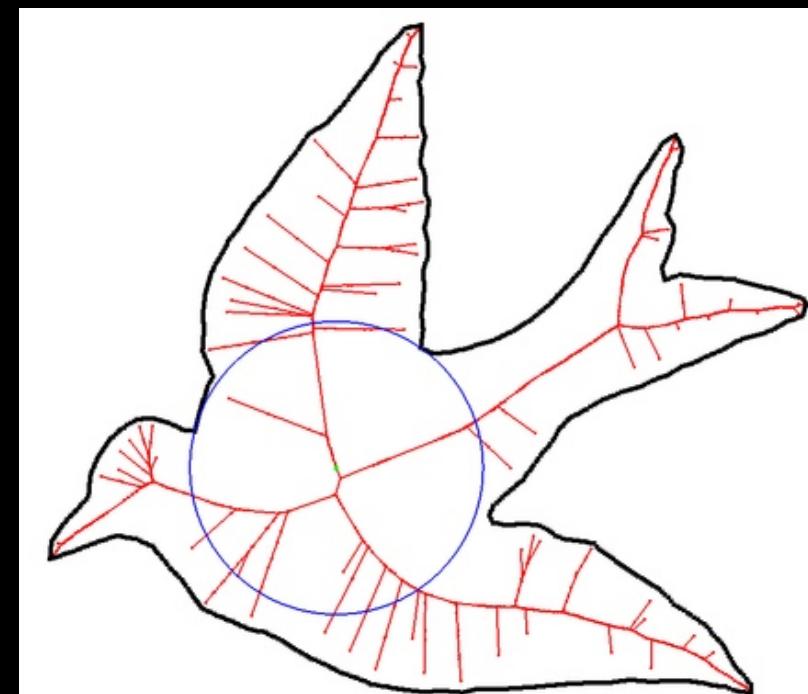
Local & Global Reduction Theorems are “generalizations” of following “folk-theorem”:

Thm [Leutier, 2004]

If  $A$  is open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  
then the “medial axis”  $M(A)$  includes into  $A$  as homotopy-isomorphism  
(and is actually strong def. retract).

Recall  $M(A) := \{ x \in A \mid \text{dist}(x, \delta A) \text{ attained}$   
by at least two points  $y_1, y_2 \in \delta A \}$

- $M(A)$  unstable w.r.t. perturbations of  $A$
- $M(A)$  generally codimension 1 hypersurface



*Our Local and Global Reduction theorems are general.*

- Valid for every choice of cost  $c: X[t] \times \delta X[t] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

*Applications require index J be large as possible.*

- Many obstructions exist, i.e. local (UHS) conditions.

*Ex. Quadratic cost  $c=d^{**}2/2$*

- *inclusion  $Z\{1\} \rightarrow (X=Z\{0\})$  is generally **NOT** homotopy-isomorphism*

*Best results obtained with anti-quadratic ``repulsion'' costs*

*We illustrate in next few slides....*

### Example: [Attractive (-1)+ (+1) Quadratic Cost]

Consider closed unit interval  $X = [0,1]$  with boundary  $\delta X = \{0, 1\}$ .

$\sigma$  is uniform distribution of (-1) charges. mass( $\sigma$ ) = 15(-)

$\tau$  is uniform distribution of (+1) charges. Mass( $\tau$ ) = 6(+)

mass( $\sigma$ ) > mass( $\tau$ )

{+1}  
{+1}  
{+1}

{+1}  
{+1}  
{+1}

(-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1) (-1)

()  
()  
()  
()()()

$Z(0)$

$Z(01) = \{\text{empty}\}$

*Ground state*

()  
()  
()  
()()()

$Z(1)$

*Ground state*

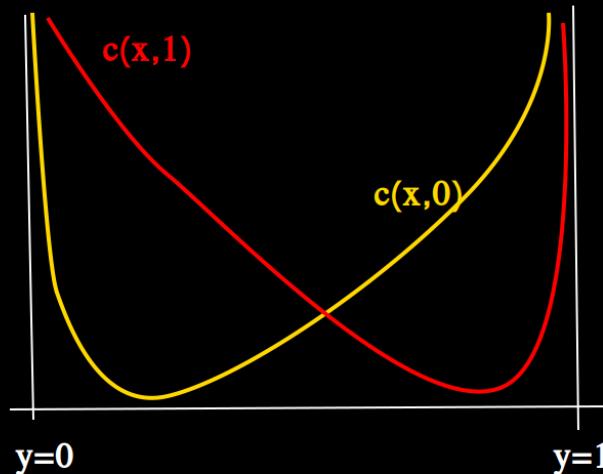
## One-dimensional Repulsion cost $c^*$ :

Unit interval  $X = [0,1]$  , boundary  $\delta X = \{0,1\}$

$$c^*(x,0) = |x|^{-2} + 2|1-x|^{-2}$$

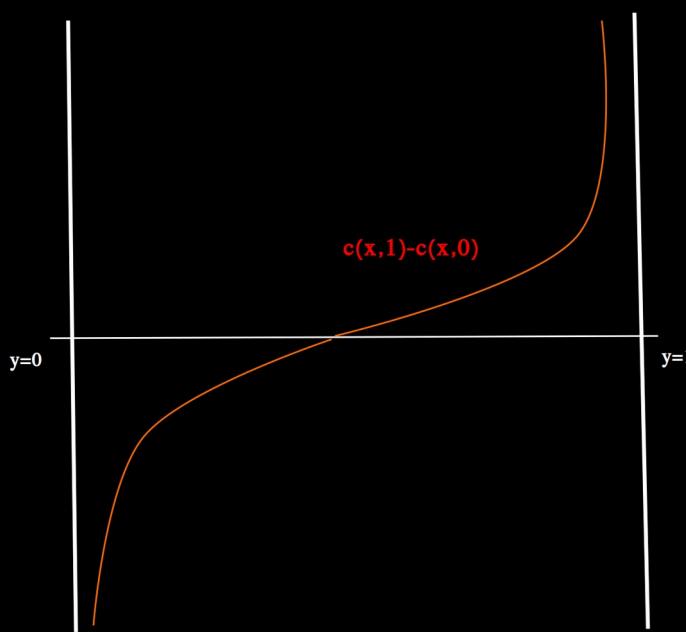
$$c^*(x,1) = 2|x|^{-2} + |1-x|^{-2}$$

$$c^*(x,1) - c^*(x,0) = |1-x|^{-2} - |x|^{-2}$$



- cross-difference is critical-point free!  
(critical points at poles  $x=0,1$ )

- every fibre is connected.



Consider closed unit interval  $X = [0,1]$  with boundary  $\delta X = \{0, 1\}$ .

$\sigma$  is uniform distribution of (-1) charges.  $\text{mass}(\sigma) = 15(-)$   
 $\tau$  is uniform distribution of (-1) charges.  $\text{Mass}(\tau) = 4(-)$

$\boxed{\text{mass}(\sigma) >> \dots >> \text{mass}(\tau)}$

(-1)  
(-1)  
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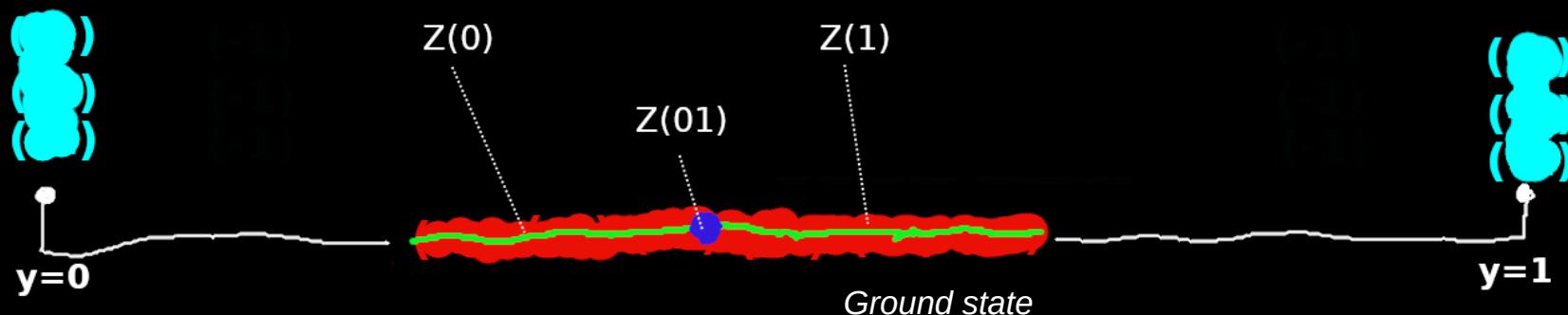
*Ground state*

Consider closed unit interval  $X = [0,1]$  with boundary  $\delta X = \{0, 1\}$ .

$\sigma$  is uniform distribution of (-1) charges.  $\text{mass}(\sigma) = 15(-)$   
 $\tau$  is uniform distribution of (-1) charges.  $\text{Mass}(\tau) = 6(-)$

mass( $\sigma$ ) >> mass( $\tau$ )

(-1)  
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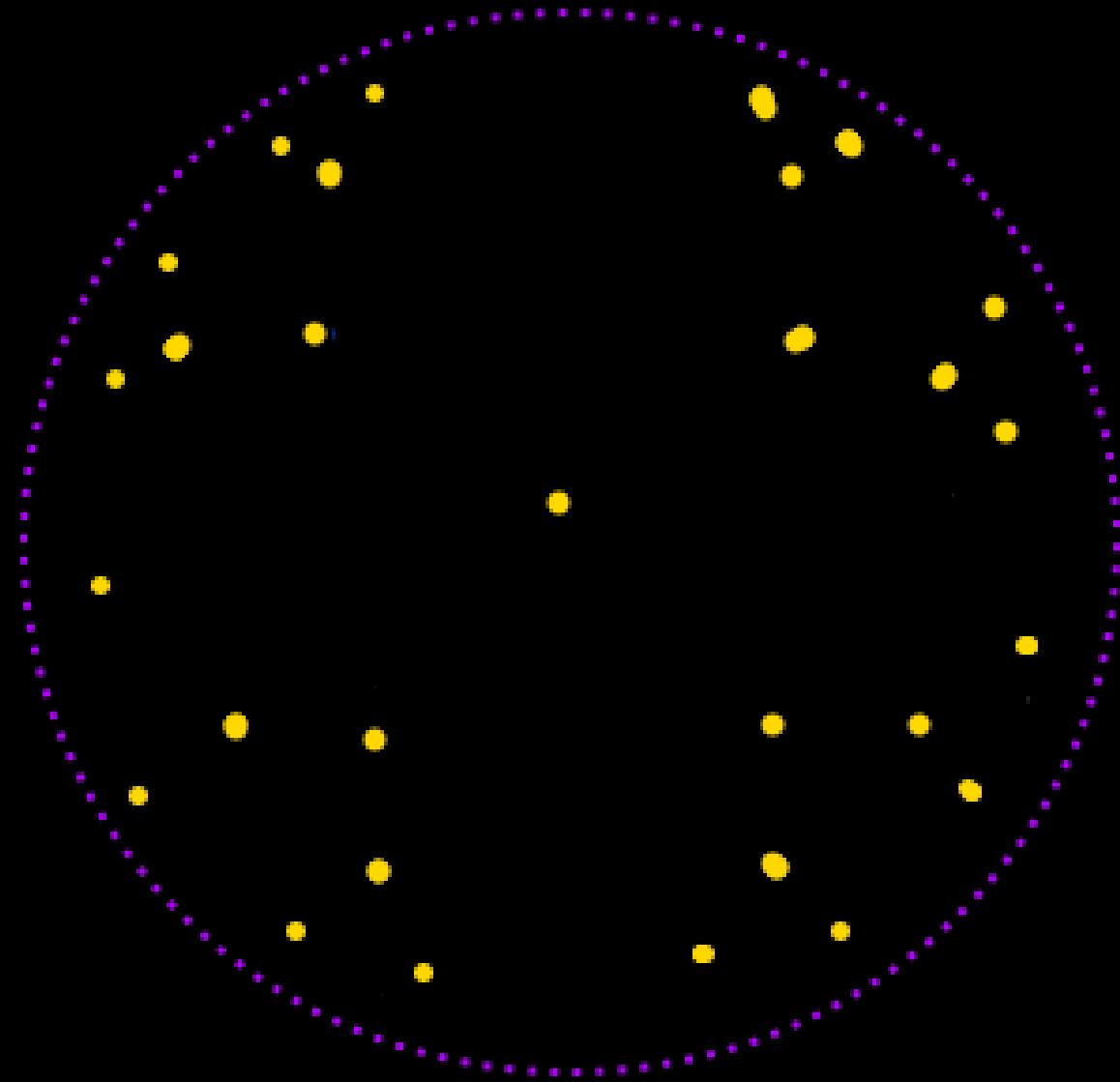
- Kantorovich functor  $Z=Z(\sigma,\tau,c)$  defined for general costs  $c$ ,
- we have defined the one-dimensional repulsion cost  $c=c^*$

Now we describe an applications to a topological Extension Problem.

- requires “Closing the Steinberg symbol” and visibility cost  $v^*$

Recall our excision  $X[t]$ ,  $\delta X[t]$  and the hypothesis  
that  $\Gamma$  satisfies Bieri-Eckmann homological duality:

Initial geometric  $E\Gamma$ -model X



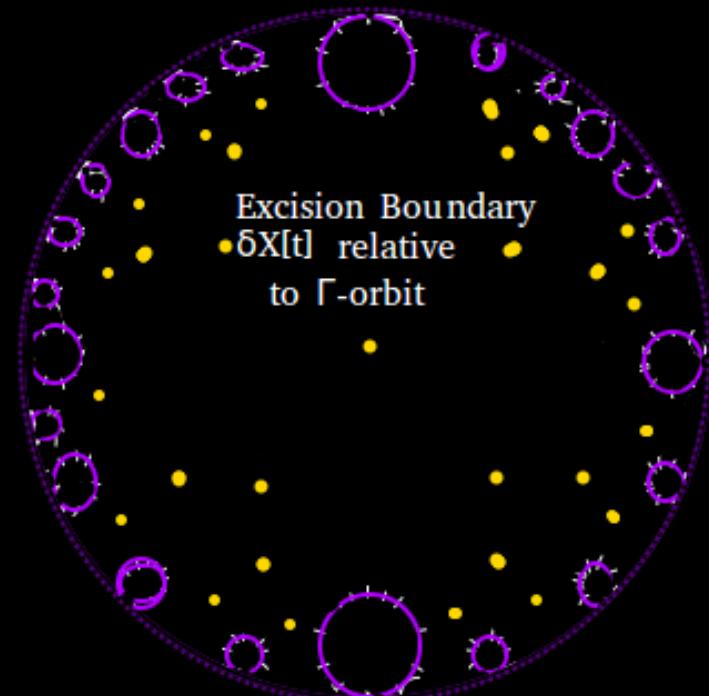
## $\Gamma$ -rational Excision $X[t] \times \delta X[t]$

Excision  $X[t] := X - U V[t]$

-obtained by scooping-out/excising from  $X$  a countable family of  $\Gamma$ -rational horoballs  $V[t]$  which are “nearly” at-infinity.

Obtain:    Source (  $X[t]$  ,  $\sigma$  ) /    Target (  $\delta X[t]$  ,  $\tau$  )

- $\Gamma$ -rationality implies  $X[t]$  and boundary  $\delta X[t]$  are  $\Gamma$ -invariant subsets, and inherit proper-discontinuous  $\Gamma$ -actions.



Theorem [Curtis-Solomon-Tits]:

The excision boundary  $\delta X[t]$  of maximal  $\Gamma$ -rational excision has the homotopy-type of a countable wedge of  $q$ -spheres.

Theorem [Bieri-Eckmann]:

The reduced singular homology group, with natural  $Z\Gamma$ -module structure

$$D = \tilde{H}_*(\delta X[t])$$

is homological-dualizing module (a.k.a. “Steinberg module”).

*Steinberg module  $D$  is infinite cyclic  $Z\Gamma$ -module  
– generated by boundary spheres  $B$  “at-infinity”*

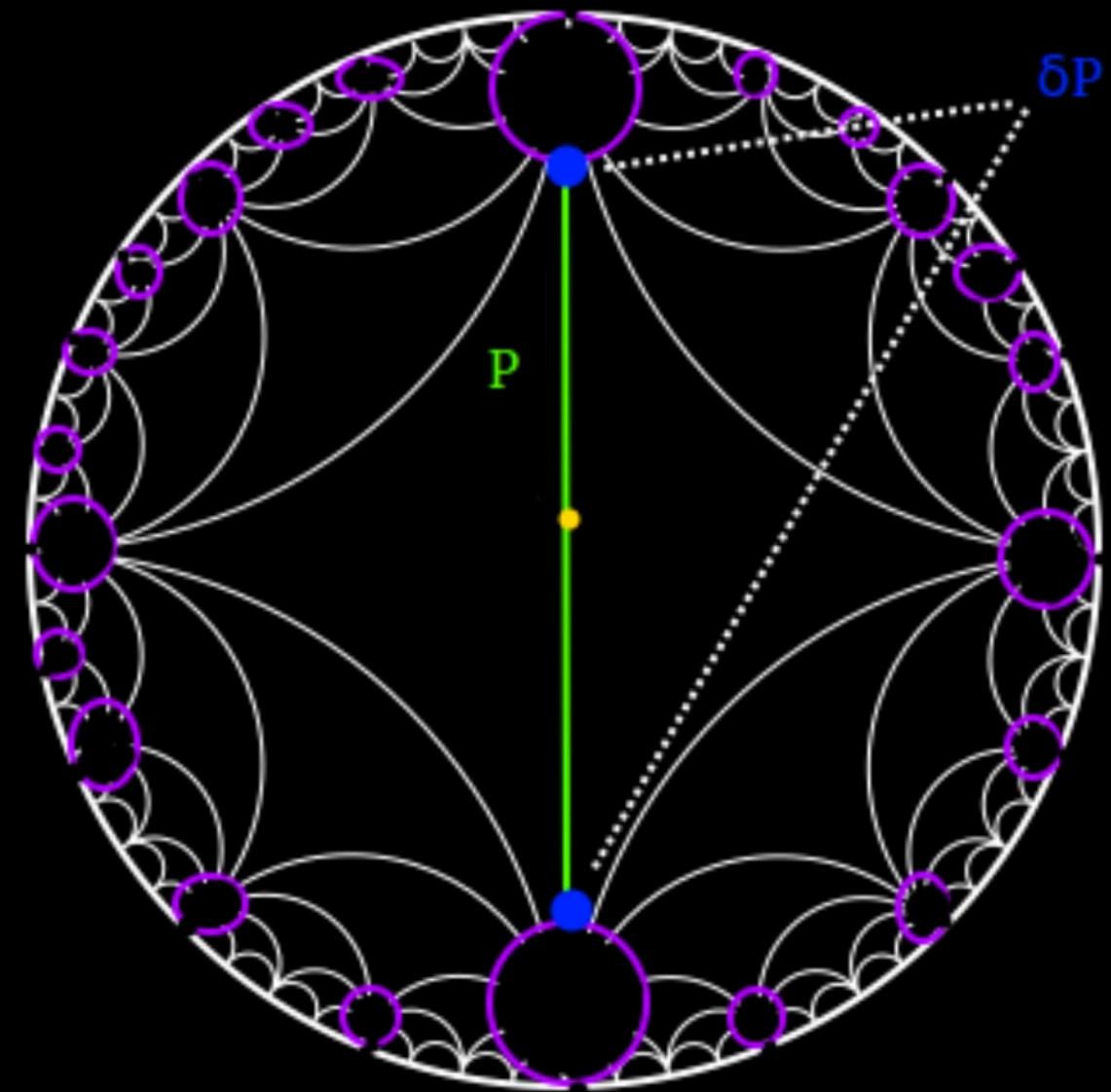
$\{X[t] \text{ Cartan-Hadamard}\} + \{\text{LES relative homology}\} \iff$

The boundary map (“connecting homomorphism”) is isomorphism,  
with canonical inverse  $\delta^{-1}$  defined by “Flat Filling” on singular chains

$$\partial : H_{q+1}(X[t], \partial X[t]) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_q(\partial X[t])$$

$$P=FILL[B] \quad B$$

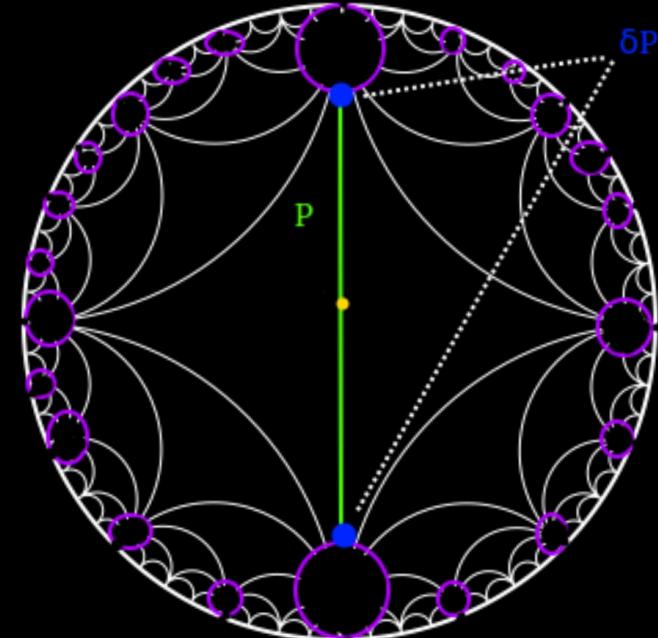
Steinberg symbol  $P$  is  
relative 1-cycle; with boundary  
 $\delta P$  a boundary 0-sphere.



## Homological duality:

- Bieri-Eckmann duality implies  $\text{FILL}[B]$  is dual cycle to minimal spines.
- $\dim(\text{FILL}[B])$  is max codimension of minimal spines (homological duality formula)

$$\boxed{\text{Duality} \implies \text{cd}(\Gamma) + \dim(\text{FILL}[B]) = \dim(X)}$$



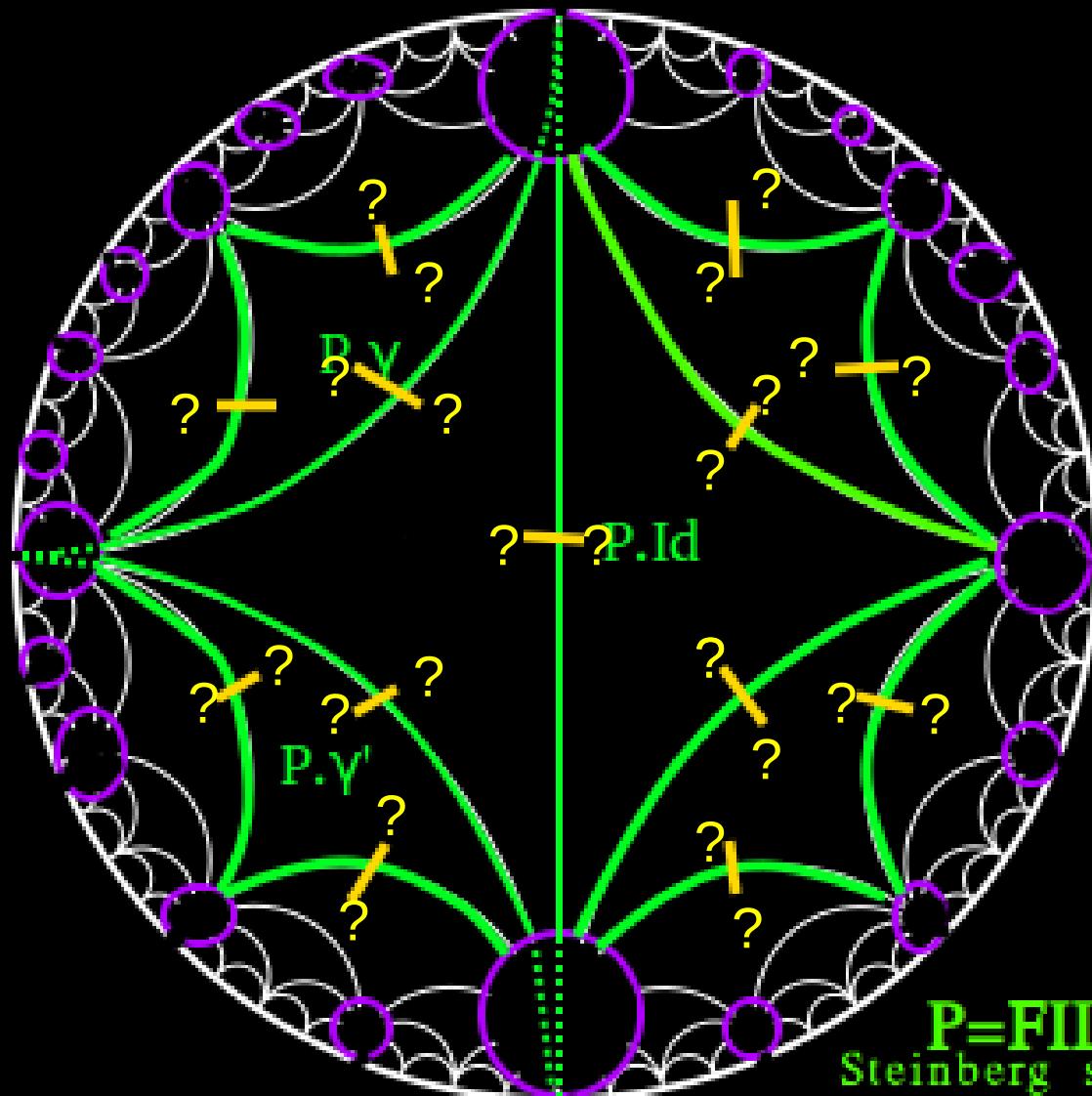
- Observe **FILL[B]** deformation retracts to  $\{pt\}$ , .....  $FILL[B] \rightarrow \{pt\} \dots$

### Extension Problem:

*Find a  
continuous extension  
of the local reductions*

$$\{ P.y \rightarrow \{pt\}, y \in \Gamma \}$$

*and obtain  
a global continuous  
reduction of  $X[t]$   
onto Spine Z*



*Today: we cannot announce a general solution to this Extension Problem.*

- But numerical evidence confirms a Conjecture contingent on two hypotheses:
  - *that we have a finite subset  $I$  of  $\Gamma$  which successfully “Closes Steinberg”, and*
  - *that the definition of visible-repulsion cost  $v$  satisfies a (Twist) condition familiar from optimal transport theory*

*Conjecture / (Work-In-Progress):*

Let  $(X, d, \text{vol}_X)$  be a geometric  $E\Gamma$  model, with  $\Gamma$  a Bieri-Eckmann duality group.

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IF:

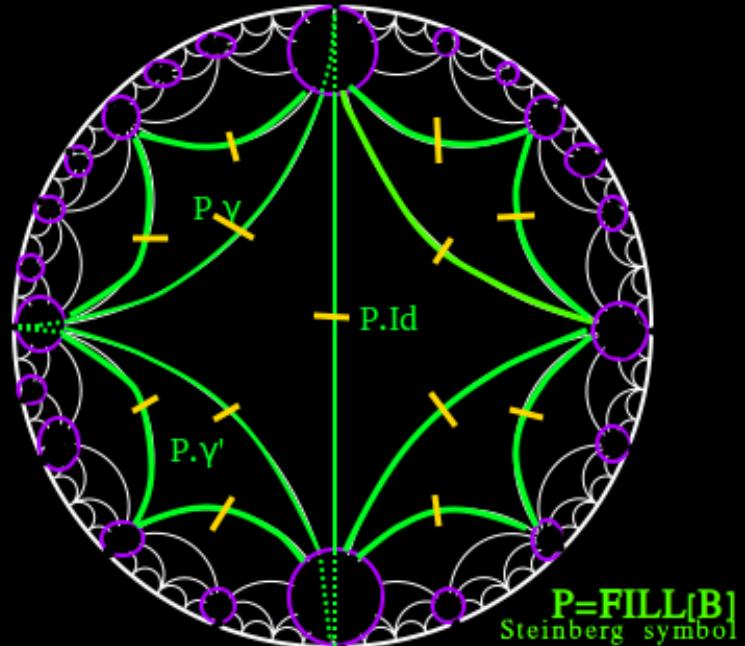
- $I$  is finite subset of  $\Gamma$  which successfully “Closes Steinberg symbol”,
  - and if  $v$  is the visible repulsion cost defined on the corresponding chain sum  $E$  replacing the  $\Gamma$ -rational excision  $X[t]$ ,
- 

THEN:

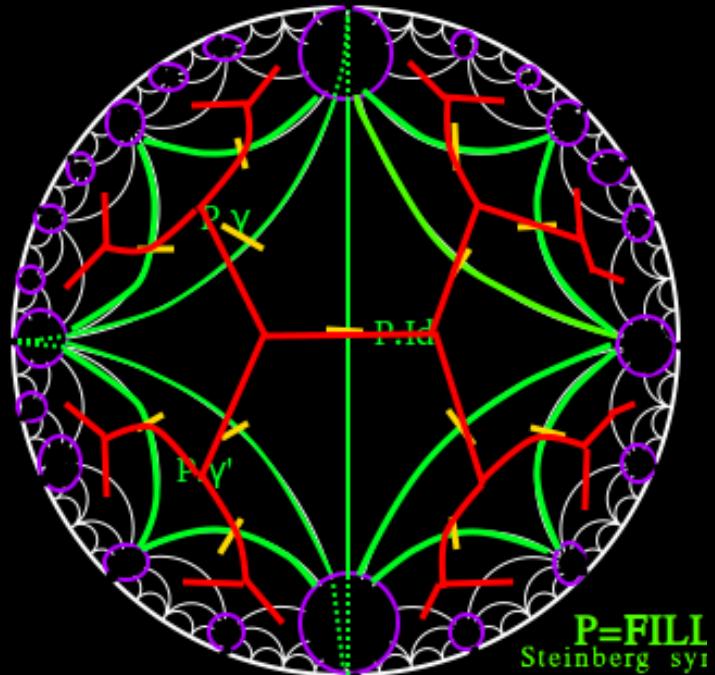
- *the Global Reduction Theorem applied to functor  $Z(\sigma, \tau, v)$  gives positive solution to Extension Problem.*
- *(UHS) conditions are satisfied up to index  $J := q + 1 = \dim(FILL[B])$ .*
- *the closed subvariety  $Z\{J+1\}$  is a maximal codimension retract of  $X$ .*

We propose:

$$\{Closing\ Steinberg\} + \{Visible\ Repulsion\ Cost\ v\} + \{Global\ Reduction\ Thm.\} ==> \{Spine\}$$



→ → → → → →



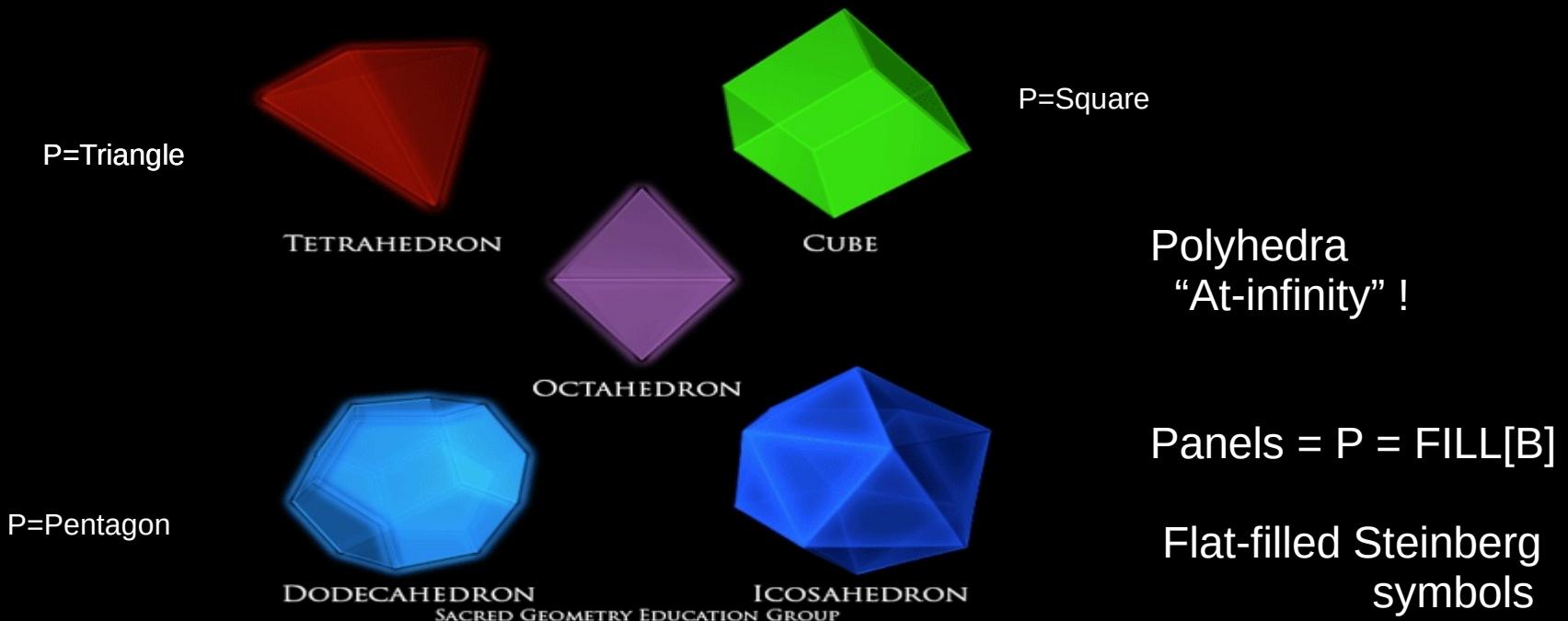


## Closing Steinberg (CS):

In low dimensions (CS) is the problem of stitching a football from collection of panels  $\{P\}$ .

In applications: the panels  $\{P\} = \{ \text{FILL}[B].y \mid y \in \Gamma \}$  are flat-filled Steinberg symbols.

Ex: Regular platonic solids solve (CS) with panels  $P$  = triangle, square, pentagon.



## Closing Steinberg (Definition):

- A finite subset  $I$  of  $\Gamma$  successfully “Closes Steinberg” if :

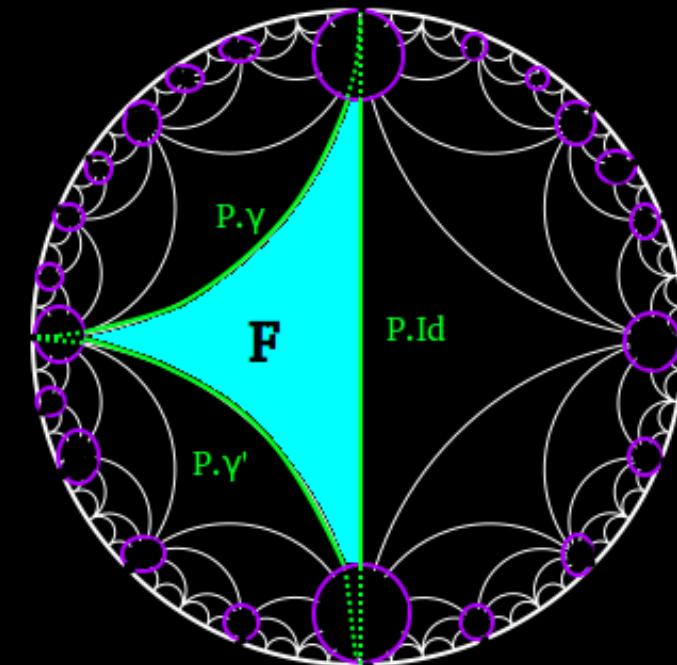
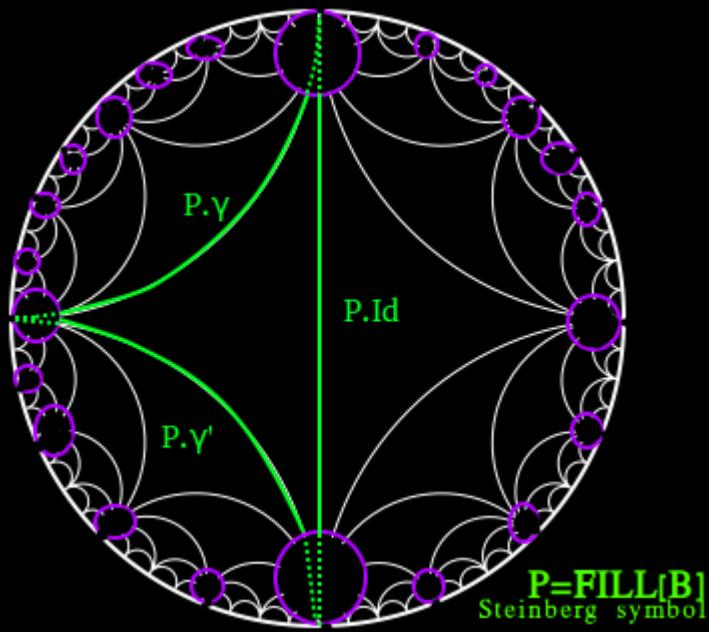
- (CS1) the chain sum  $\sum_{\gamma \in I} P.\gamma \neq 0 \bmod 2$  (nontrivial over  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  coefficients).
- (CS2) the chain sum  $\sum_{\gamma \in I} \partial P.\gamma = 0 \bmod 2$  (vanishing boundary over  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  coefficients).
- (CS3) there exists  $x \in X[t]$  which is simultaneously visible from  $P.\gamma, \gamma \in I$ , in  $X[t]$  (well-defined closed convex hull).
- (CS4) if we define  $F := \overline{\text{conv}}\{P.\gamma \mid \gamma \in I\}$ , then the convex chain sum  $\underline{F} = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} F.\gamma$  has well-separated gates structure with gates  $\{G\} = \{P.\gamma \mid \gamma \in \Gamma\}$ . (well-separated gates)

## Closing Steinberg:

CS1, CS2 ==> constructing nonzero  $\xi \in H_0(\Gamma, \mathbb{Z}_2\Gamma \times D) \neq 0$

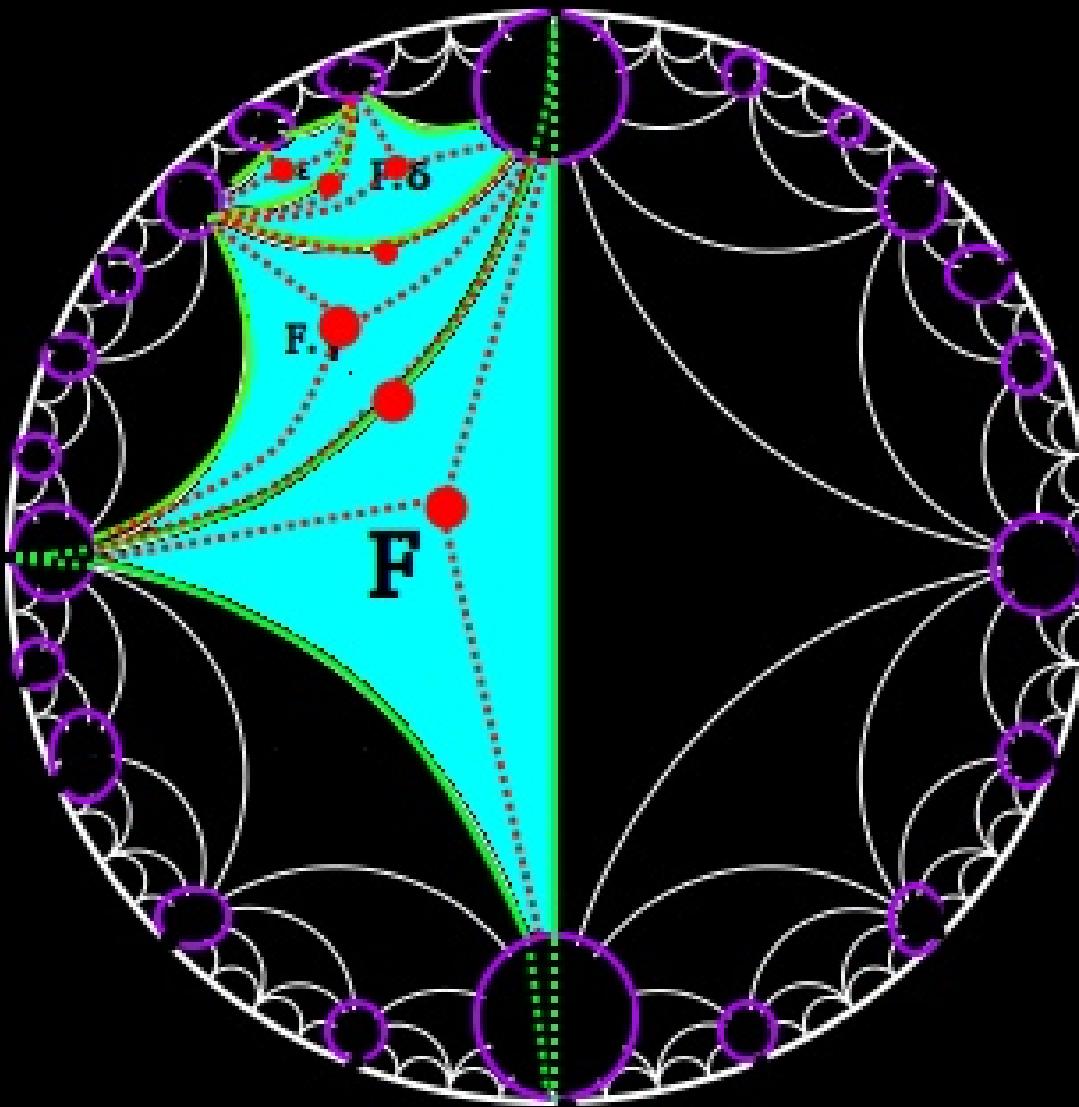
- equivalent to a syzygy in projective homological resolution of  $D$ .

- implies formal solutions  $\xi$  satisfying CS1, CS2 exist.



$I=\{Id, \gamma, \gamma'\}$

## Chain sum $F$ with well-separated gates:



- Well-separated gates ==>  
summands  $F, F'$  have  
either trivial intersection  
or  $F \cap F' = P$
- the translates  $F \cdot \Gamma$  define chain sum  
 $E = \sum F \cdot \gamma$
- $\Gamma$  acts on chain summands of  $E$  like  
“shift operator” equivalent to  
translation action  $\Gamma \times \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma$
- the translates  $F \cdot \gamma, \gamma \in \Gamma$ ,  
do not necessarily fill  $X[t]$  !

Ex:  $\Gamma = PGL(\mathbb{Z}^3)$

The following symbol  $\xi'$  is a solution to (CS):

$$\xi' := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$I := \{3 \times 3 \text{ minors of } \xi'\}$  is the finite subset  $PGL(\mathbb{Z}^3)$  which solves (CS).

Solutions to (CS) replace  $X$ , or  $X[t]$ , with chain sums:

**Proposition 37.** *The convex hull of the rank-one states spanned by the columns of  $\xi'$ , i.e.*

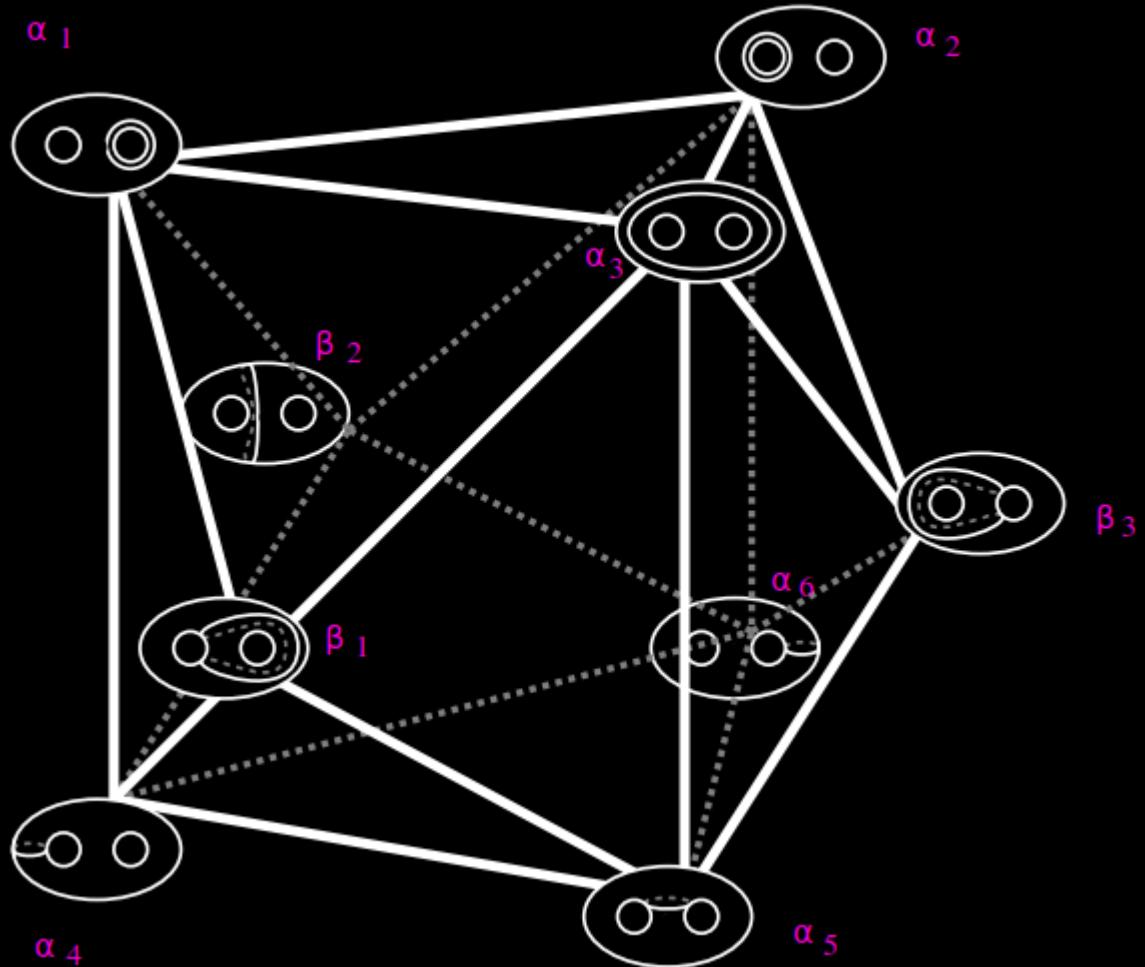
$$F := \text{conv}[\{x^2, y^2, z^2, (x+z)^2, (y+z)^2, (x+y+z)^2\}] \subset Q$$

*forms a convex set  $F$ , whose translates  $F.GL(\mathbb{Z}^3)$  tessellate Voronoi's cone  $Q$  of three-dimensional positive-semidefinite real states.*

## (CS) for $\Gamma = MCG(\Sigma_2)$ : Open Problem

N. Broaddus [2012] identifies the panel P=3-ball in genus 2 Teichmueller space.

(CS) is primary obstruction to building explicit spine of Teich\_2

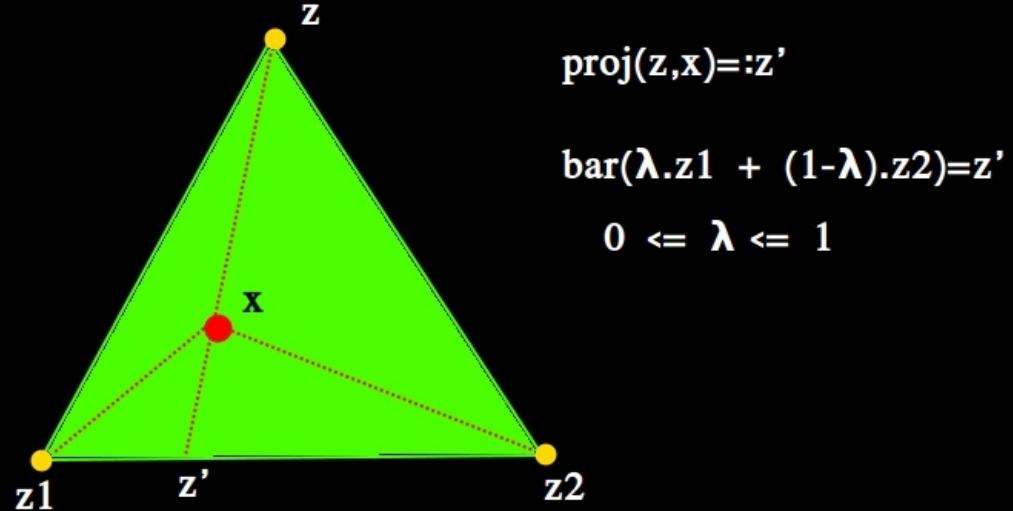


*Next: the visible repulsion costs  $v$ ,  $v^*$ ...*

For brevity we describe the “visible repulsion” cost  $v$  in the simplest case of a finite compact 2-simplex  $\Delta$ .

Source =  $F$

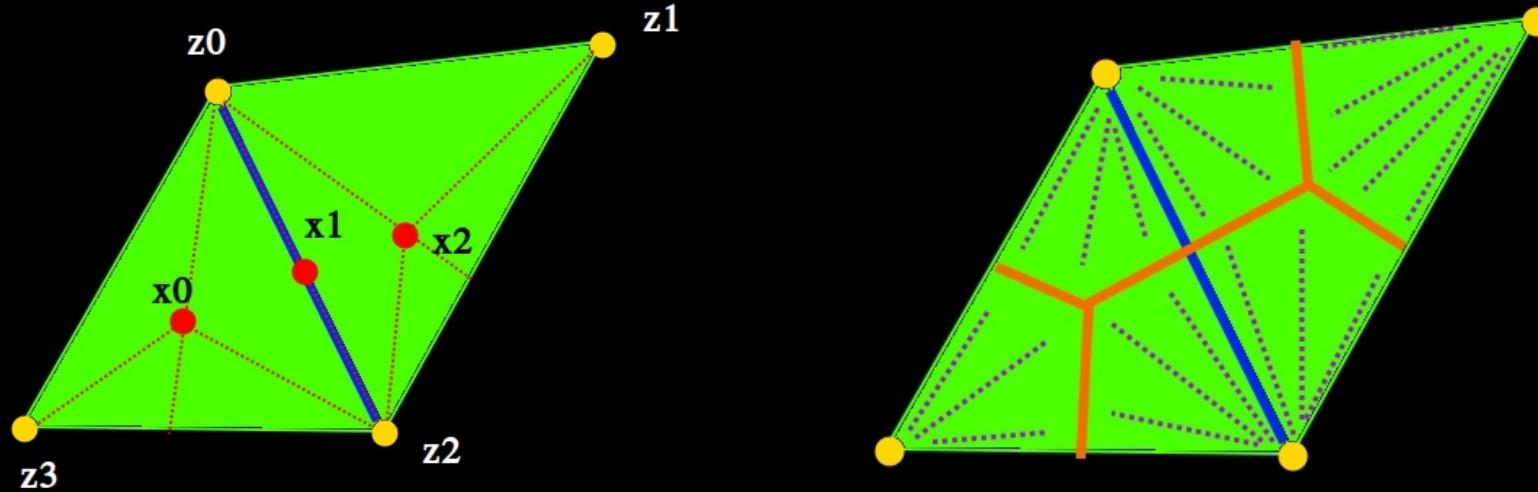
Target = Extreme points  $E[F]$   
 $= \{z, z_1, z_2\}$



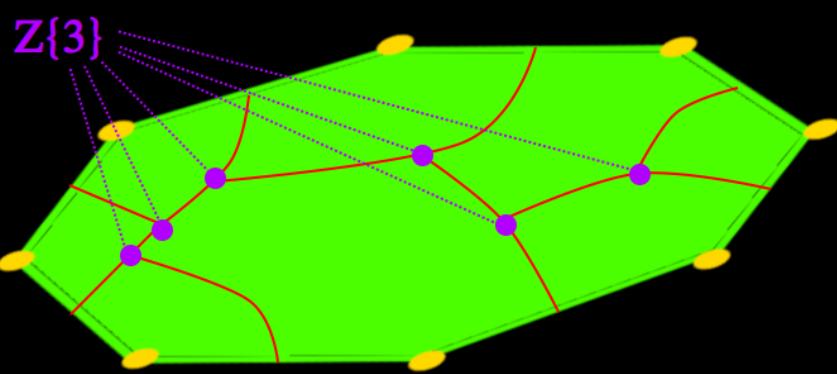
$$v(x,z) = 1/2 \cdot \|x-z\|^{-2} + \lambda \cdot \|x-z_1\|^{-2} + (1-\lambda) \cdot \|x-z_2\|^{-2}$$

$v: F \times E[F] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  visibility cost

- the definition of  $v$  extends to repulsion cost  $v^*$  on chain sum  $E$  with well-separated gates  $\{G\}$
- gates  $G$  geodesically convex imply  $v^*$  is continuous extension of the restricted repulsion costs  $v^*|G=v$
- Singularity structures  $Z(\sigma, \tau, v^*)$  are continuous interpolations of restricted singularity structures  $Z(\sigma, \tau, v^*|G)$  over gates  $\{G\}$  of  $E$

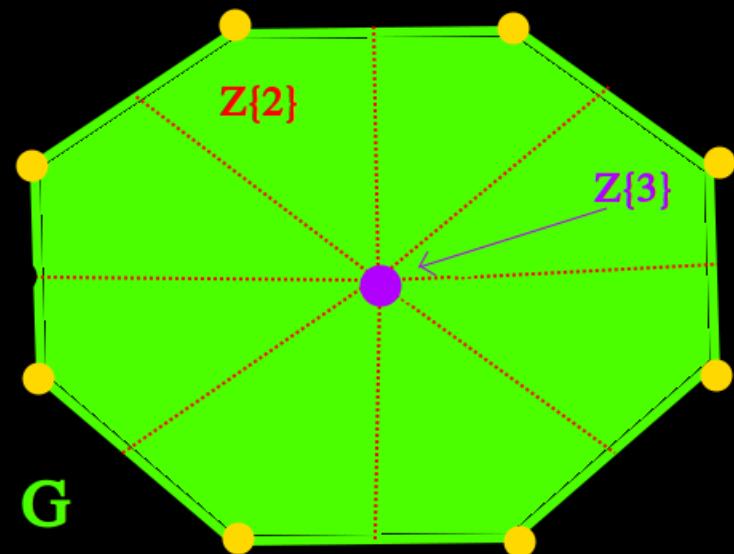


Symmetry of Gates ==> (UHS) Conditions satisfied:

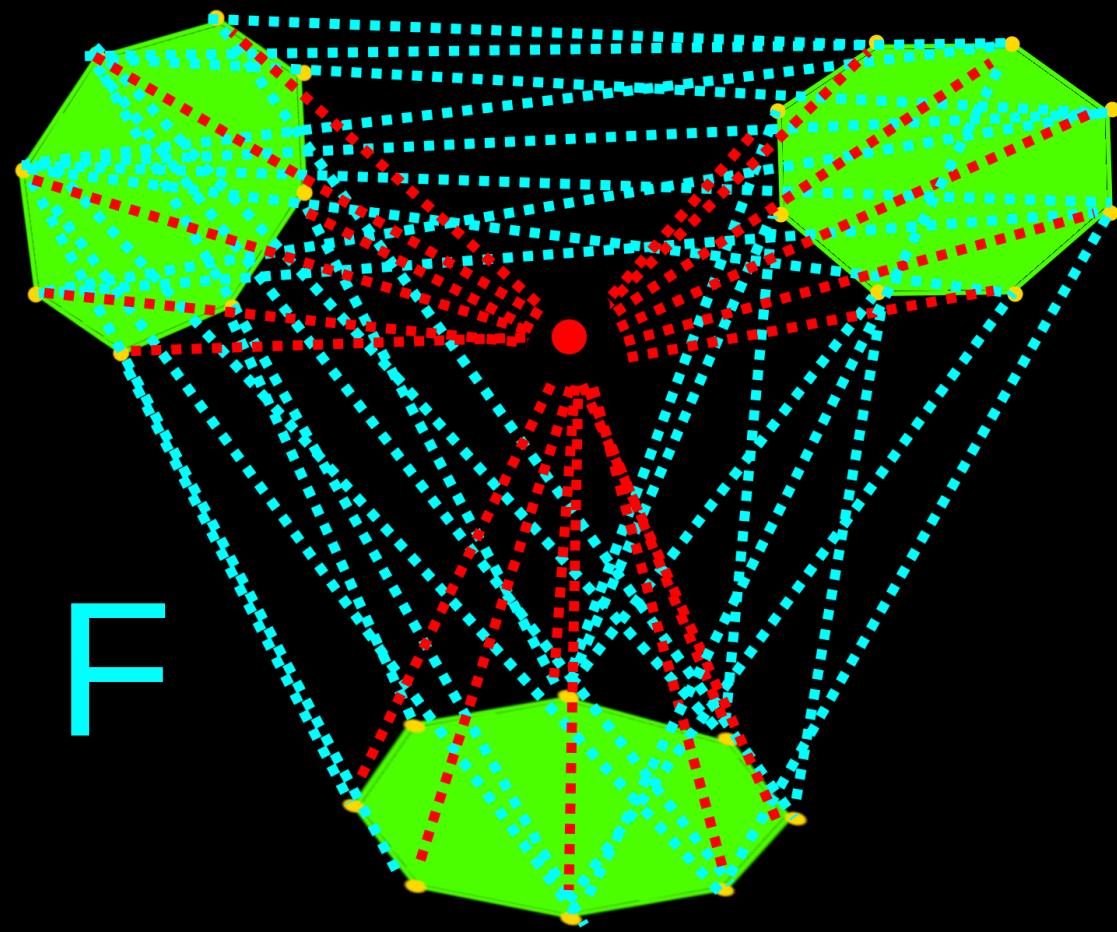


**G deformation retracts to Z{2}**

-  $Z\{3\}$  is disconnected  
for generic convex panels  $G$



- Symmetry implies  
 $G$  homotopy-reduces to  $Z\{3\} = \{\text{pt}\}$

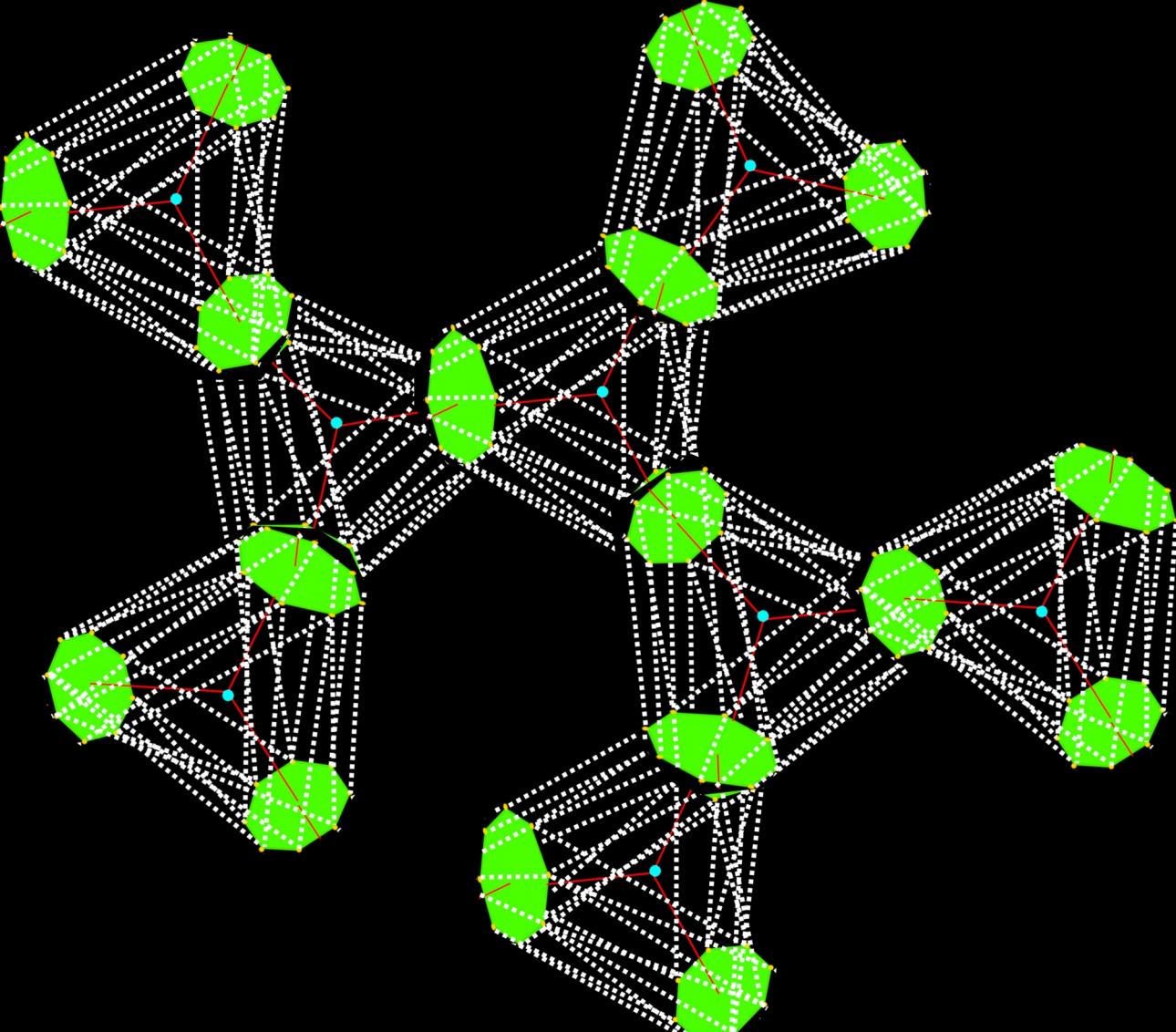


*Successfully Closing Steinberg symbol  
replaces X with a chain sum*

$$E = \sum F.y$$

where  $F := \text{conv}[P, P.y, P.y', \dots]$

- (CS) Hypotheses imply:
  - the convex hull  $F$  is well-defined,
  - and
- translates  $F.y, y \in \Gamma$ , have well-separated gates  $\{G\}$  coincident with  $\Gamma$ -orbit of Steinberg symbols  
 $G=P=FILE[B]$



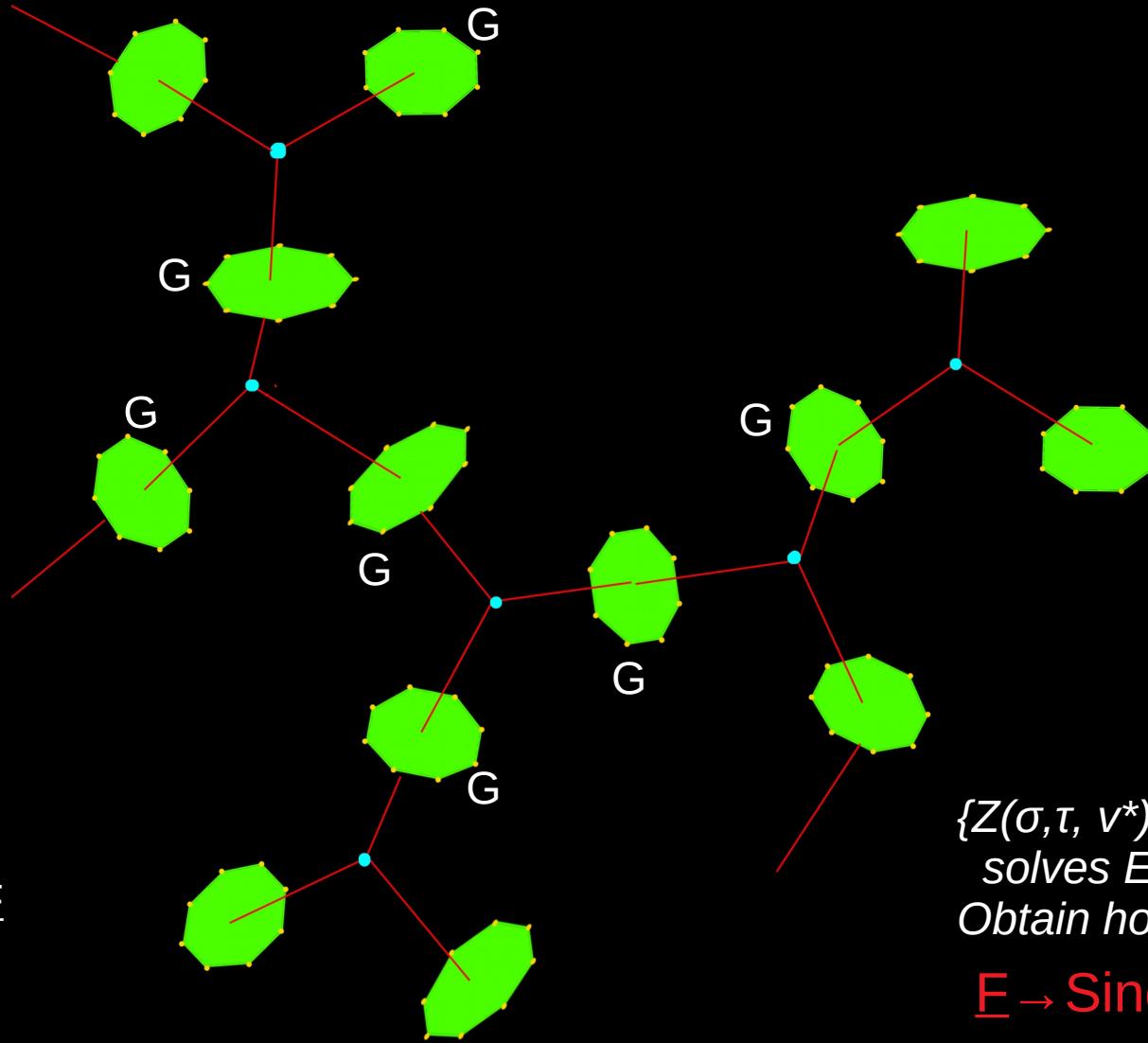
*(CS) replaces X  
with a chain sum*

$$\underline{E} = \sum F_i \gamma$$

where

$$F := \text{conv}[P, P\gamma, P\gamma', \dots]$$

$v^*$ -optimal  
semicouplings  
from source  $X = E$   
to target  $Y = E[E]$



$\{Z(\sigma, \tau, v^*) + \text{Global Red. Thm}\}$   
*solves Extension Problem*  
*Obtain homotopy-reduction:*  
 $E \rightarrow \text{Singularity } Z\{2\}$

The End.



Thank you.