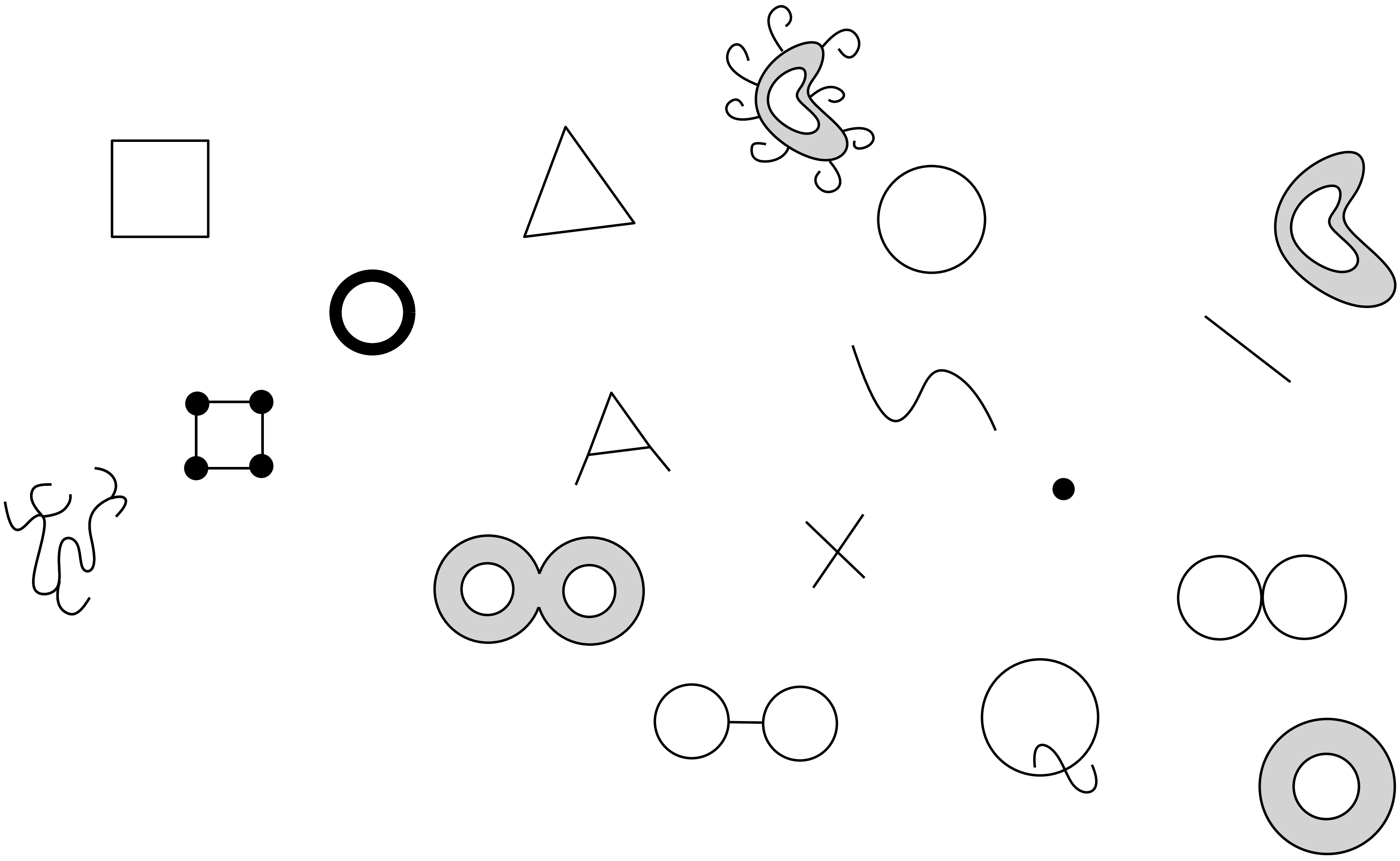
EMAp Summer Course

Topological Data Analysis with Persistent Homology

https://raphaeltinarrage.github.io/EMAp.html

Lesson 4: Simplicial complexes

Last update: January 29, 2021



Objective of the lesson: doing topology on a computer.

I - Combinatorial simplicial complexes

II - Topology

III - Euler characteristic

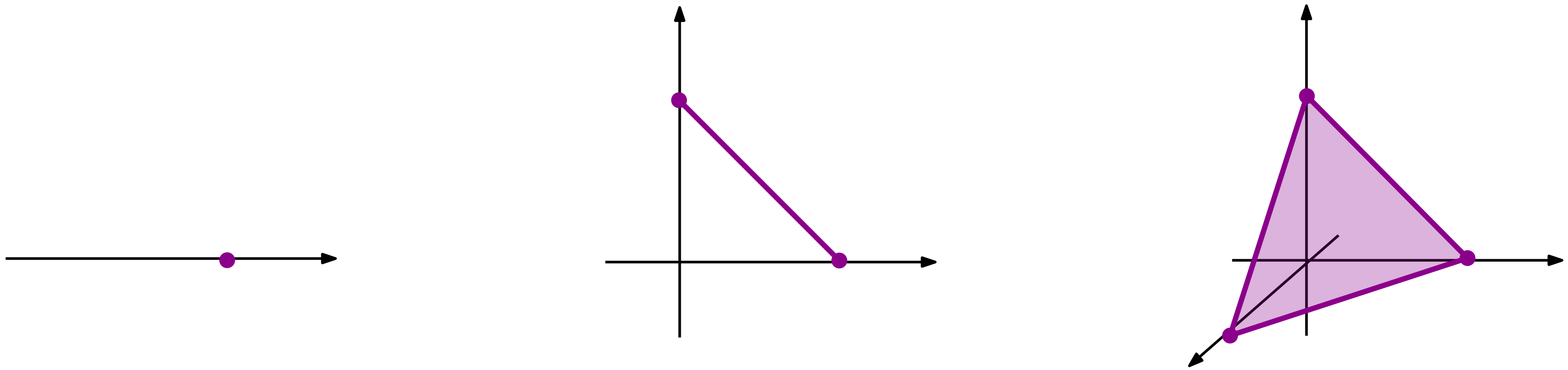
(VI - Tutorial)

Standard simplices

In order to describe topological spaces, we will decompose them into simpler pieces. The pieces we shall consider are the standard simplices.

The *standard simplex of dimension n* is the following subset of $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$$\Delta_n = \{x = (x_1, ..., x_{n+1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}, x_1, ..., x_{n+1} \geq 0 \text{ and } x_1 + ... + x_{n+1} = 1\}$$



Δ_0 Δ_1 Δ_2

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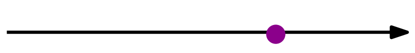
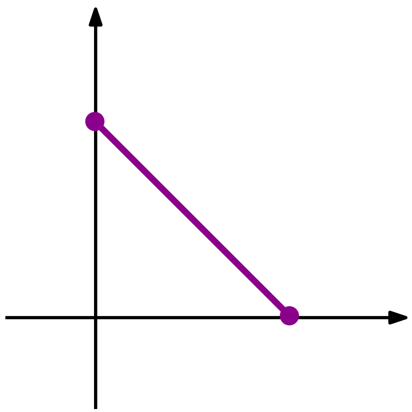
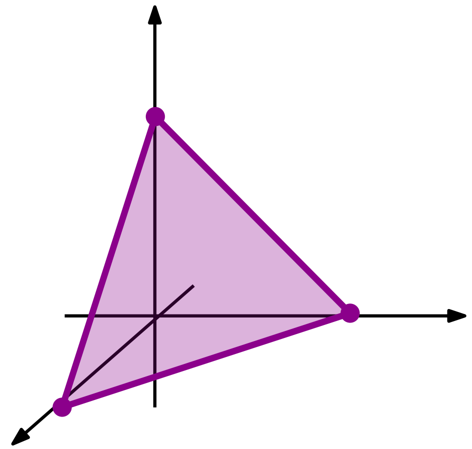


Δ_0



Δ_1



Δ_2

Remark: For any collection of points $a_1, ..., a_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$, their convex hull is defined as:

$$\text{conv}(\{a_1 ... a_k\}) = \left\{ \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} t_i a_i, \quad t_1 + ... + t_k = 1, \quad t_1, ..., t_k \geq 0 \right\}.$$

We can say that Δ_n is the convex hull of the vectors $e_1, ..., e_{n+1}$ of $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, where

$$e_i = (0, ..., 1, 0, ..., 0) \qquad (i^{\text{th}} \text{ coordinate } 1, \text{ the other ones } 0).$$

Simplicial complexes

First, a purely combinatorial definition (without geometry):

Definition: Let V be a set (called the set of *vertices*). A *simplicial complex* over V is a set K of subsets of V (called the *simplices*) such that, for every $\sigma \in K$ and every non-empty $\tau \subset \sigma$, we have $\tau \in K$.

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If $\sigma \in K$ is a simplex, its non-empty subsets $\tau \subset \sigma$ are called *faces* of σ.

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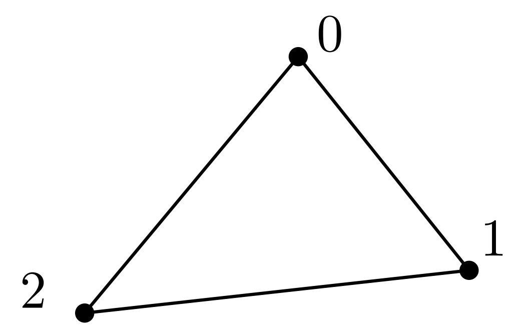

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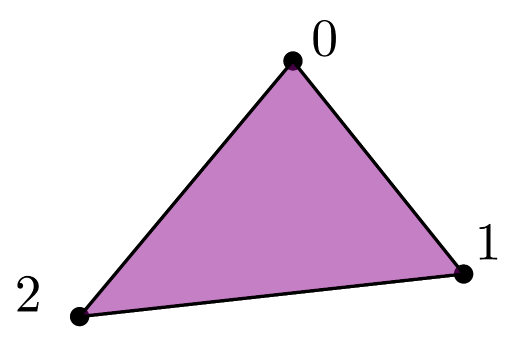

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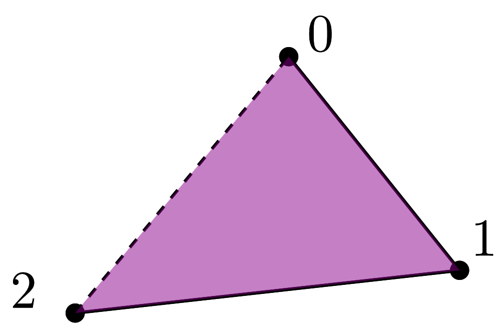
Example: Let $V = \{0, 1, 2\}$ and

$$K = \{[0], [1], [2], [0,1], [1,2], [0,1,2]\}.$$

This is not a simplicial complex.
Indeed, the simplex $[0,1,2]$ admits a face $[2,0]$ that is not included in V.



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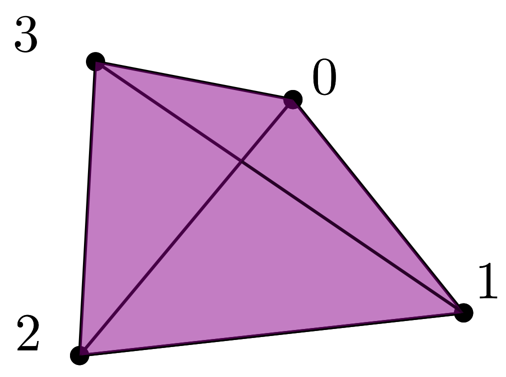
If σ is a simplex, its dimension is defined as $|\sigma| - 1$ (cardinality of σ minus 1). If K is a simplicial complex, its dimension is defined as the maximal dimension of its simplices.

Example: Let $V = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ and

$$K = \{[0], [1], [2], [3], [0,1], [1,2], [2,3], [3,0], [0,2], [1,3], [0,1,2], [0,1,3], [0,2,3], [1,2,3]\}$$

It a simplicial complex of dimension 2.



I - Combinatorial simplicial complexes

II - Topology

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Topological realization

Let us give simplicial complexes a topology.

Definition: Let K be a simplicial complex, with vertex $V = \{1, ..., n\}$.
In $\mathbb{R}^n$, consider, for every $i \in [\![1, n]\!]$, the vector $e_i = (0, ..., 1, 0, ..., 0)$ (i^{th} coordinate 1, the other ones 0).
Let $|K|$ be the subset of $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ defined as:

$$|K| = \bigcup_{\sigma \in K} \operatorname{conv}\left(\{e_j, j \in \sigma\}\right)$$

where conv represent the convex hull of points.
Endowed with the subspace topology, $(|K|, \mathcal{T}_{||K|})$ is a topological space, that we call the *topological realization of* K.

If $a_1, ..., a_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the convex hull is defined as:

$$\operatorname{conv}(\{a_1 ... a_k\}) = \left\{ \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} t_i a_i, \quad t_1 + ... + t_k = 1, \quad t_1, ..., t_k \geq 0 \right\}.$$

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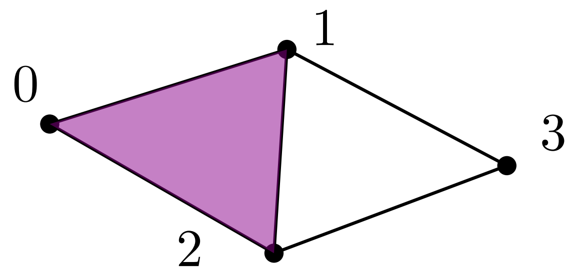
Remark: If the simplicial complex can be drawn in the plane (or space) without crossing itself, then its topological realization simply is the subspace topology.

Example: $K = \{[0], [1], [2], [3], [0,1], [1,2], [2,0], [1,3], [2,3], [0,1,2]\}$.



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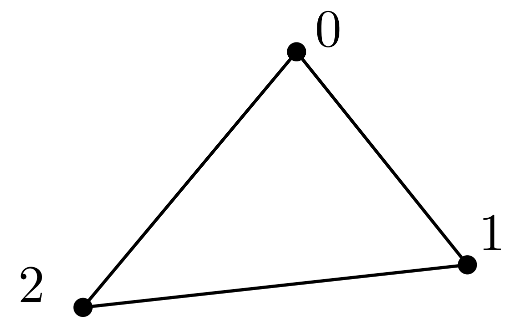

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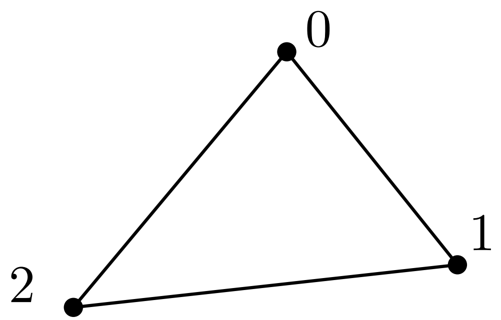
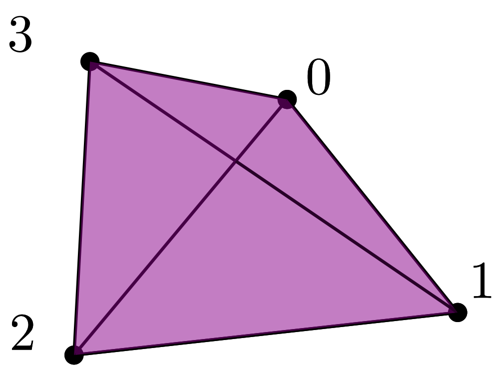


Example: The following simplicial complex is a triangulation of the sphere:

$$K = \{[0], [1], [2], [3], [0,1], [1,2], [2,3], [3,0], [0,2], [1,3], [0,1,2], [0,1,3], [0,2,3], [1,2,3]\}.$$



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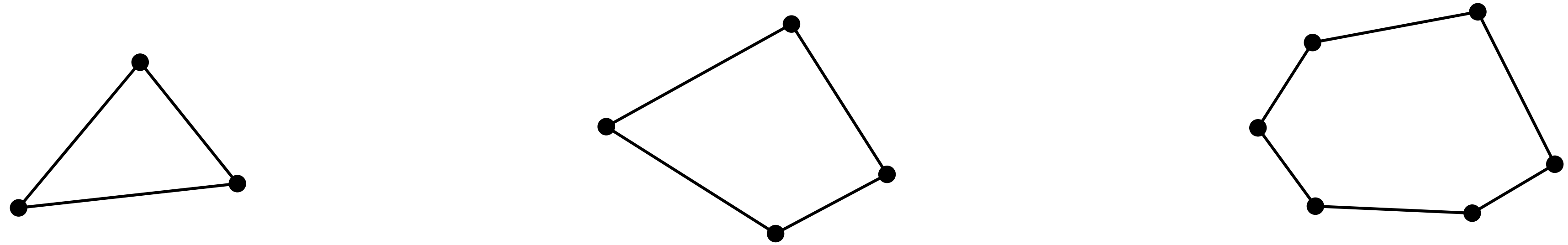
Given a topological space, it is not always possible to triangulate it.
However, when it is, there exists many different triangulations.



Euler characteristic

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$$\chi(K) = \sum_{0 \leq i \leq n} (-1)^i \cdot (\text{number of simplices of dimension } i).$$

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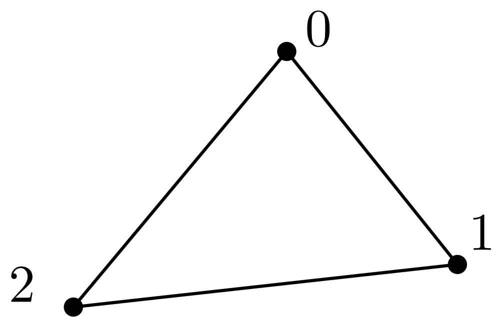
$$\chi(K) = 3 - 3 = 0$$



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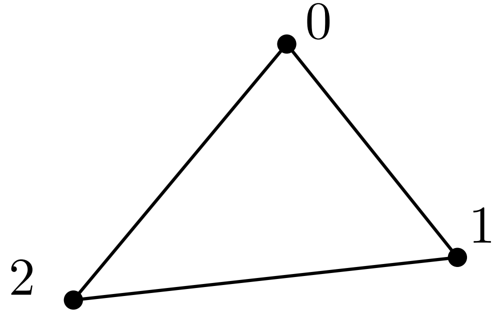

Example: The simplicial complex
$K = \{[0],[1],[2],[3],[0,1],[1,2],[2,3],[3,0],[0,2],[1,3],[0,1,2],[0,1,3],[0,2,3],[1,2,3]\}$
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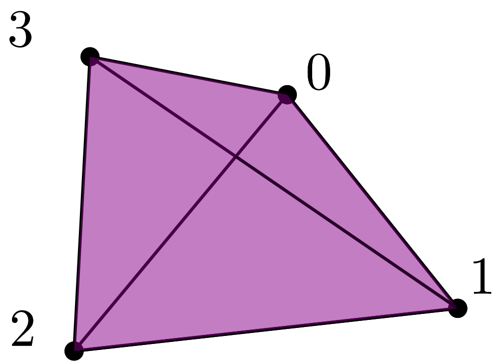
$$\chi(K) = 4 - 6 + 4 = 2$$



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Definition: Let X be a topological space. Its Euler characteristic is defined as the Euler characteristic of any triangulation of it.

Two issues:

- X must admit a triangulation
- we have to make sure the the triangulations of X all have the same Euler characteristic. In other words, if K and K' are two triangulations of X, we must have $\chi(K) = \chi(K')$.

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  this is true!

but we won't be able to prove it in this summer course...

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Example: The circle has Euler characteristic 0 because it admits a triangulation

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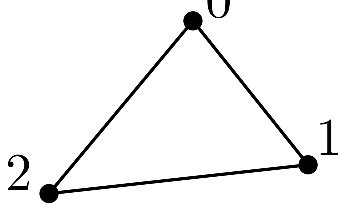
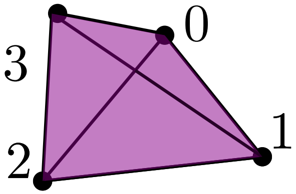


Example: The sphere has Euler characteristic 2 because it admits a triangulation

$K = \{[0], [1], [2], [3], [0,1], [1,2], [2,3], [3,0], [0,2], [1,3], [0,1,2], [0,1,3], [0,2,3], [1,2,3]\}$



Euler characteristic is an invariant

Proposition: If X and Y are two homotopy equivalent topological spaces, then $\chi(X) = \chi(Y)$.

Therefore, the Euler characteristic is an *invariant* of homotopy equivalence classes.

We can use this information to prove that two spaces are not homotopy equivalent.

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Example: The circle has Euler characteristic 0, and the sphere Euler characteristic 2. Therefore, they are not homotopy equivalent.

Exercise (21): Show that $\mathbb{R}^3$ and $\mathbb{R}^4$ are not homotopy equivalent.

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Rendez-vous on

https://github.com/raphaeltinarrage/EMAp/blob/main/Tutorial1.ipynb

For those who want to go further (*simplex trees*), have a look at

https://github.com/GUDHI/TDA-tutorial/blob/master/Tuto-GUDHI-simplex-Trees.ipynb

Conclusion

We learnt how to represent topological spaces on a computer.

We defined a new topological invariant.

Homeworks for next week: Exercises 20, 23, 24

Facultative exercise: Exercises 21, 26***

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Obrigado!