

# The Morse theory of Čech and Delaunay complexes

Workshop on Random and Statistical Topology  
Tohoku University

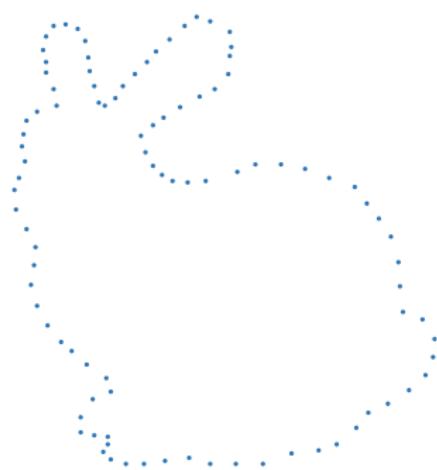
Ulrich Bauer

TUM

February 17, 2016

Joint work with Herbert Edelsbrunner (IST Austria)

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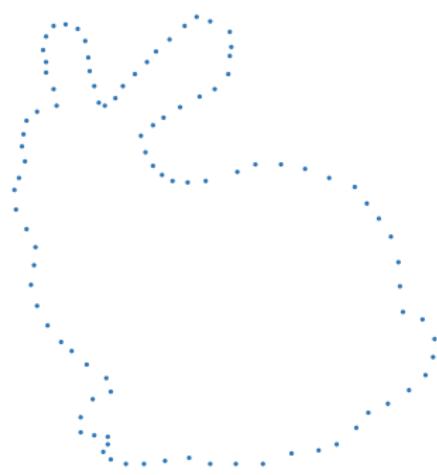


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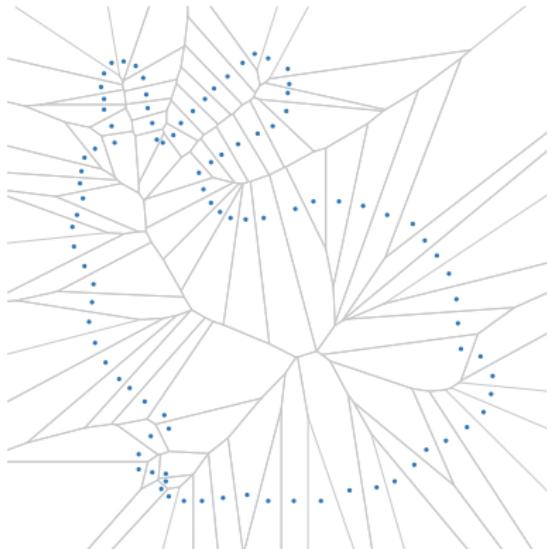
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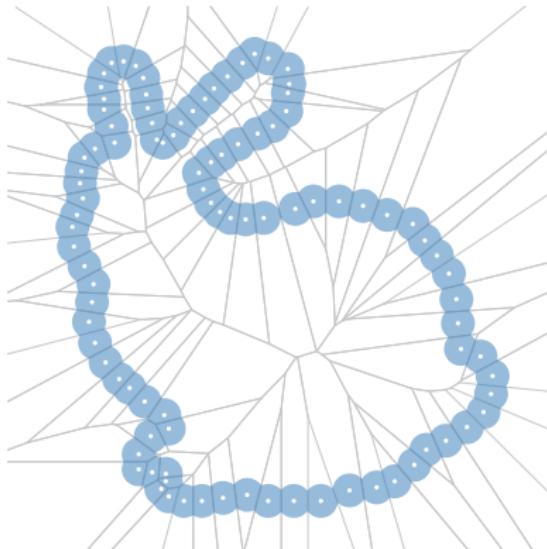
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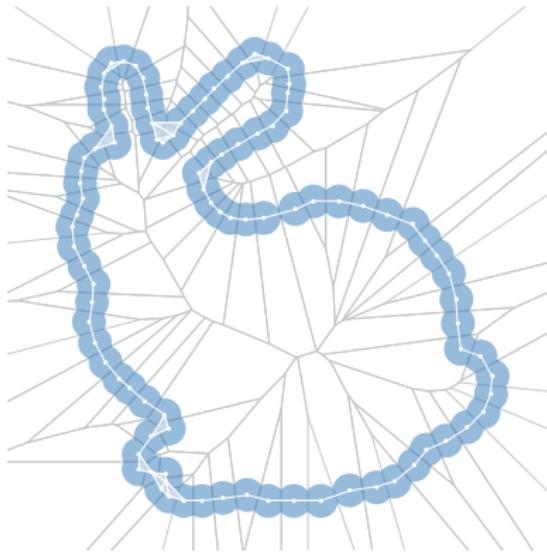
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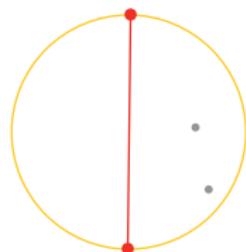
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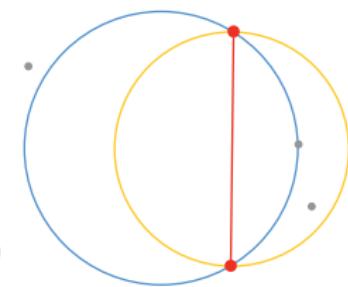
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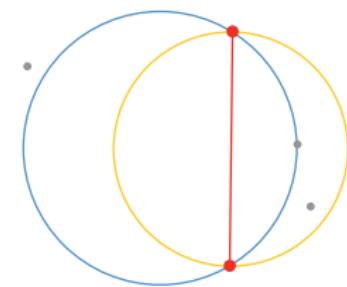
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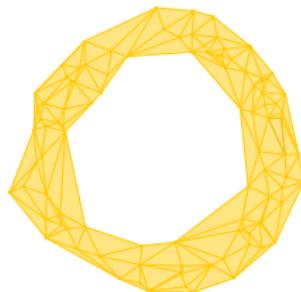
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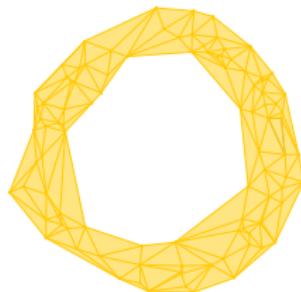
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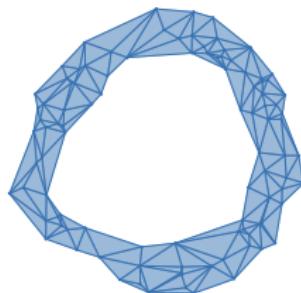
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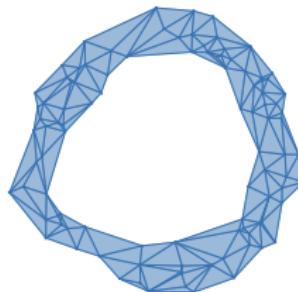
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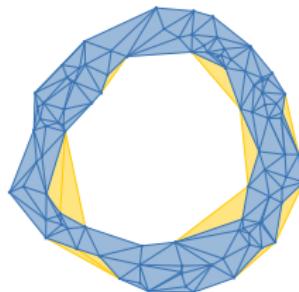
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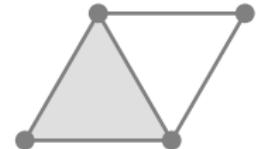
- Are all three complexes homotopy equivalent?
- Are they related by a sequence of simplicial collapses?

# Discrete Morse theory

# Simplicial collapses

Definition (Whitehead 1938)

Let  $K$  be a simplicial complex.

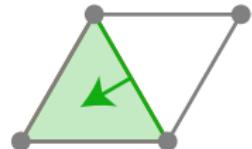


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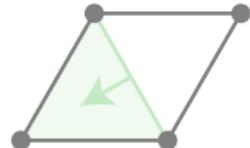


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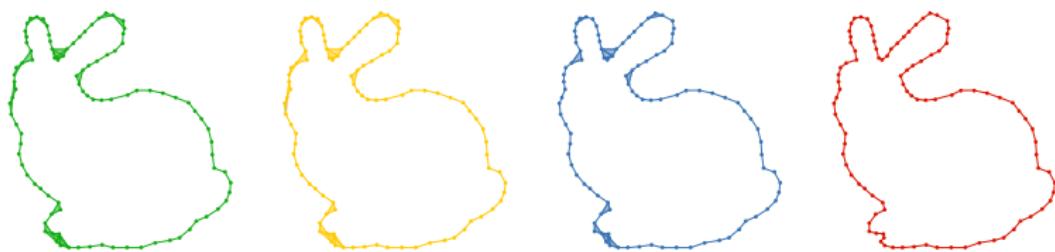
If there is a sequence of such elementary collapses from  $K$  to  $M$ , we say that  $K$  *collapses* to  $M$  (written as  $K \searrow M$ ).

# Main result: a sequence of collapses

Theorem (B, Edelsbrunner 2014)

*Čech, Delaunay–Čech, Delaunay, and Wrap complexes are homotopy equivalent. In particular,*

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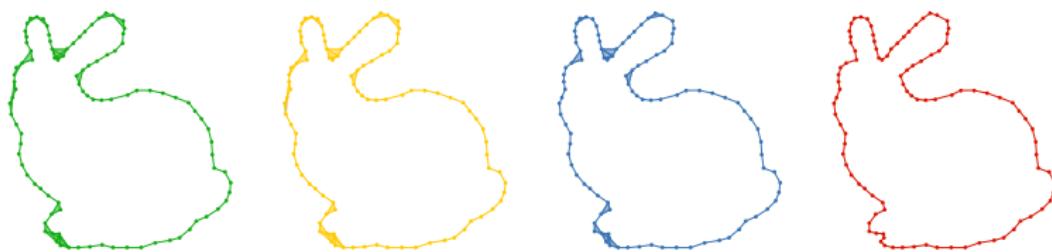


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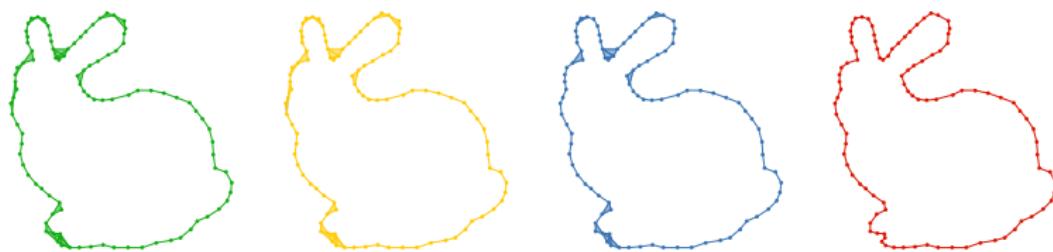
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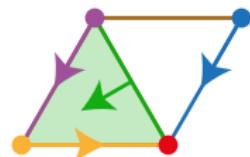


- All collapses are induced by a single *discrete gradient field*
- Also works for weighted point sets

# Discrete Morse theory

## Definition (Forman 1998)

A *discrete vector field* on a simplicial complex  
is a partition of the simplices  
into singletons and pairs  $\{L, U\}$ ,  
where  $L$  is a face of  $U$  with codimension 1.

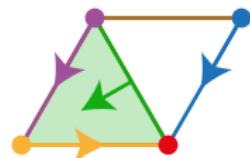


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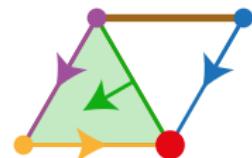
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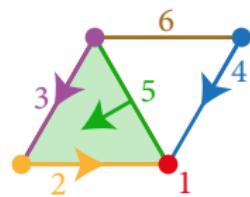
The singletons are called *critical simplices*.

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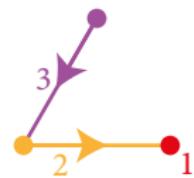


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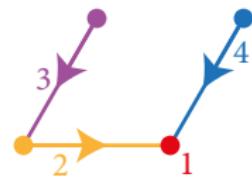


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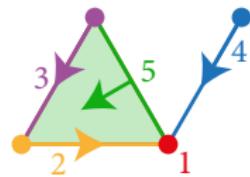


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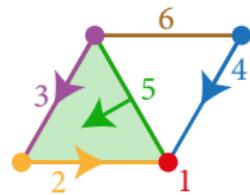


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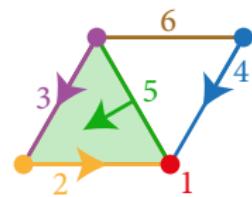


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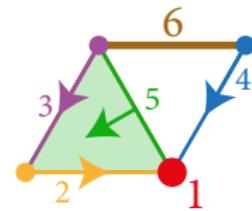


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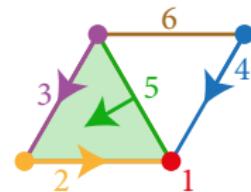
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If  $f^{-1}(t) = \{Q\}$  then  $t$  is a *critical value*.

# Collapses from Morse functions and gradients

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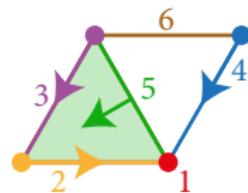


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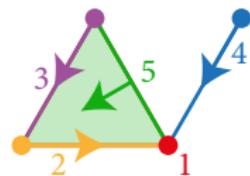


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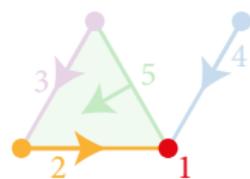


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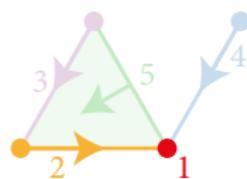


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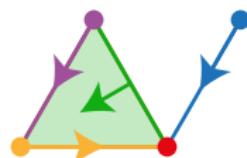
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Let  $V$  be a discrete gradient field on a simplicial complex  $K$ ,  
and let  $L$  be a subcomplex of  $K$ .

**Corollary**

*If  $K \setminus L$  is the union of some pairs of  $V$ ,  
then  $K \searrow L$ .*



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We say that  $V$  induces the collapse  $K \searrow L$ .



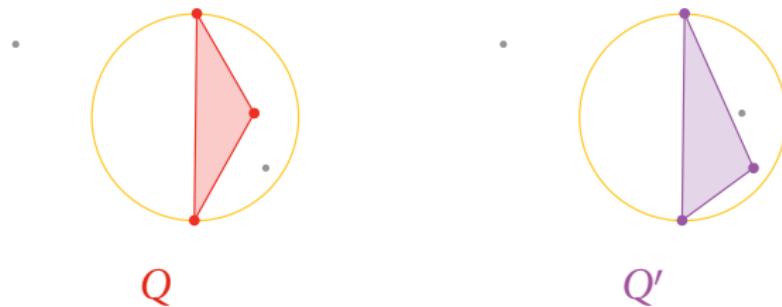
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- Example: two simplices  $Q, Q'$  with  $f_C(Q) = f_C(Q')$  such that neither is a face of the other:

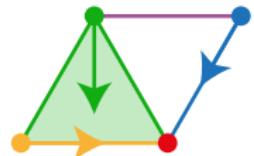


# Generalized discrete Morse theory

Definition (Chari 2000, Freij 2009)

A *generalized discrete vector field* on a simplicial complex is a partition of the simplices into intervals of the face poset:

$$[L, U] = \{Q : L \subseteq Q \subseteq U\}$$

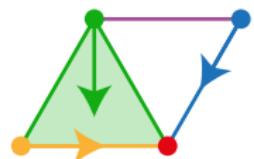


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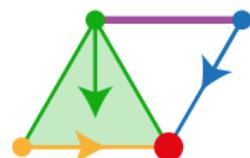
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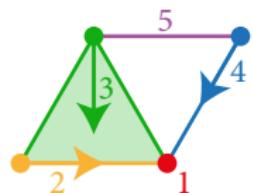
The singletons are called *critical simplices*.

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## Definition

A function  $f : K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  on a simplicial complex  
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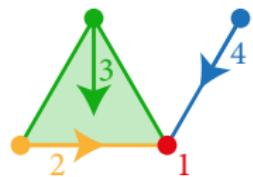


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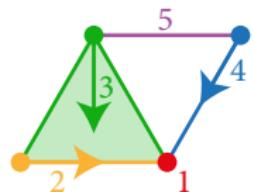


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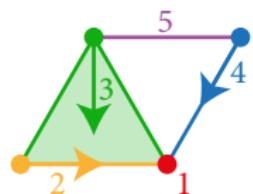


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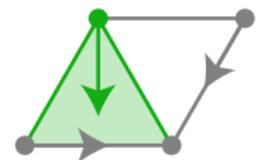
- the sublevel sets  $K_t = f^{-1}(-\infty, t]$  are subcomplexes
- the level sets  $f^{-1}(t)$  form a generalized vector field (the *discrete gradient* of  $f$ )



# Refining generalized vector fields

A generalized vector field  $V$  can be refined to a vector field.

For each non-critical interval  $[L, U] \in V$ :

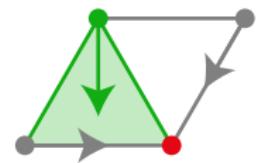


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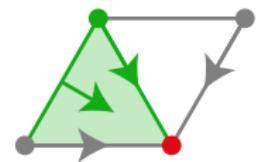


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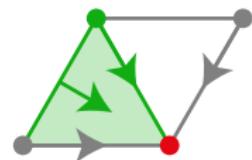


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Therefore the collapsing theorems also hold for generalized discrete Morse functions.

# Čech and Delaunay functions

# Morse theory of Čech and Delaunay complexes

Proposition (B, Edelsbrunner 2014)

*The Čech function and the Delaunay function  
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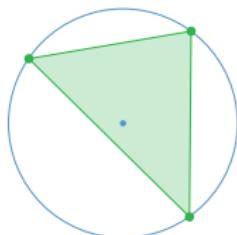
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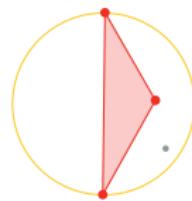
- $f_D(Q) = f_C(Q)$
- $Q$  is a critical simplex of  $f_C$
- $Q$  is a critical simplex of  $f_D$
- $Q$  is a centered Delaunay simplex  
(containing the circumcenter in the interior)



# Čech intervals

## Lemma

Let  $Q \subseteq X$  be a simplex with smallest enclosing sphere  $S$ .  
Then  $Q' \subseteq X$  has the same smallest enclosing sphere  $S$  iff



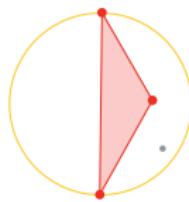
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# Čech intervals

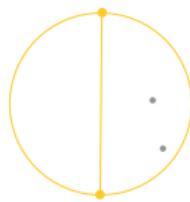
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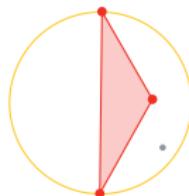
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# Čech intervals

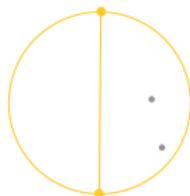
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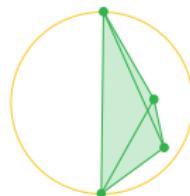
$$\text{On } S \subseteq Q' \subseteq \text{Encl } S.$$



$Q$



$\text{On } S$



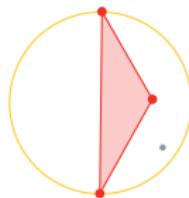
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# Čech intervals

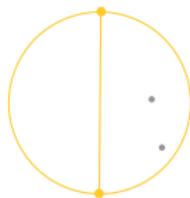
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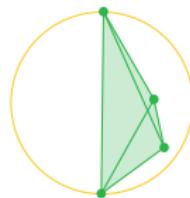
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## The front and back faces of a simplex

Let  $S$  be the smallest circumsphere of a simplex On  $S \subseteq X$ .

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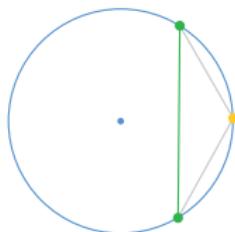
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We define

$$\text{Front } S = \{x \in \text{On } S \mid \mu_x > 0\},$$

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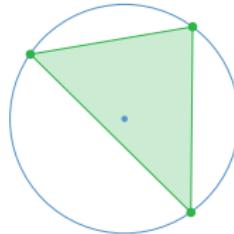
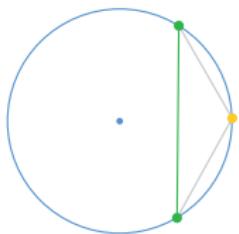
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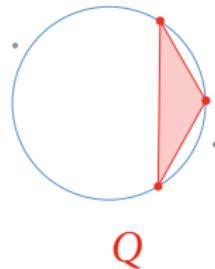


# Delaunay intervals

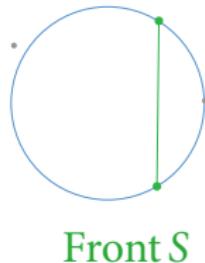
## Lemma

Let  $Q \subseteq X$  be a simplex with smallest empty circumsphere  $S$ .  
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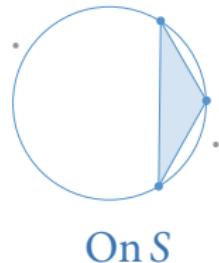
$$Q' \in [\text{Front } S, \text{On } S].$$



$Q$



Front  $S$



On  $S$

## Sphere optimization problems

Both Čech and Delaunay functions are defined using the smallest sphere  $S$  satisfying certain constraints:

$$\underset{r,z}{\text{minimize}}$$

$$r$$

$$\text{subject to}$$

$$\|z - q\| \leq r, \quad q \in Q,$$

$$\|z - e\| \geq r, \quad e \in E.$$

Here  $r$  is the radius of the sphere  $S$ , and  $z$  is the center of  $S$ .

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# The Karush–Kuhn–Tucker optimality conditions

Consider an optimization problem of the form

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}}$$

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subject to

$$g_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i \in I,$$

$$h_j(x) = 0, \quad j \in J,$$

where the function  $f$  is convex and  $g_i, h_j$  are affine.

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where the function  $f$  is convex and  $g_i, h_j$  are affine.

**Theorem (Karush 1939, Kuhn–Tucker 1951)**

A feasible point  $x$  to the above problem is an optimal solution iff there exist Lagrange multipliers  $(\nu_i)_{i \in I}$  and  $(\lambda_j)_{j \in J}$  such that

$$\nabla f(x) + \sum_{i \in I} \nu_i \nabla g_i(x) + \sum_{j \in J} \lambda_j \nabla h_j(x) = 0, \quad (\text{stationarity})$$

$$\nu_i g_i(x) = 0, \quad i \in I, \quad (\text{complementary slackness})$$

$$\nu_i \geq 0, \quad i \in I. \quad (\text{dual feasibility})$$

# KKT conditions for the smallest sphere problem

The KKT conditions for our sphere optimization problem are:

## Proposition

*A sphere  $S$  enclosing  $Q$  and excluding  $E$  is minimal iff its center  $z$  can be written as an affine combination*

$$z = \sum_{x \in Q \cup E} \mu_x x, \quad 1 = \sum_{x \in Q \cup E} \mu_x$$

*such that*

- $\mu_x = 0$  for  $x \notin Q \cup E$ ,
- $\mu_x \geq 0$  for  $x \notin E$ , and
- $\mu_x \leq 0$  for  $x \notin Q$ .

# Čech and Delaunay intervals from KKT

## Proposition

*A sphere  $S$  is the smallest sphere enclosing  $Q$  and excluding  $E$  iff*

*$S$  is the smallest circumsphere of some simplex  $P \subseteq X$ ,*

*$Q \in [\text{Front } S, \text{Encl } S]$ , and*

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## Selective Delaunay complexes

Define for finite point sets  $X, E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ :

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## Theorem (B, Edelsbrunner 2014)

Let  $E \subseteq E' \subseteq X$ . Then

$$\text{Del}_r(X, E) \setminus \text{Del}_r(X, E) \cap \text{Del}(X, E') \setminus \text{Del}_r(X, E').$$

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## Theorem (B, Edelsbrunner 2014)

Let  $E \subseteq E' \subseteq X$ . Then

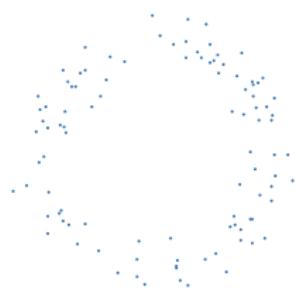
$$\text{Del}_r(X, E) \setminus \text{Del}_r(X, E) \cap \text{Del}(X, E') \setminus \text{Del}_r(X, E').$$

Note: choosing  $E = \emptyset$  and  $E' = X$  yields

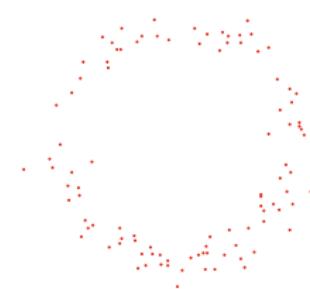
$$\text{Cech}_r(X) \setminus \text{DelCech}_r(X) \setminus \text{Del}_r(X).$$

# Connecting different Delaunay complexes

$X$

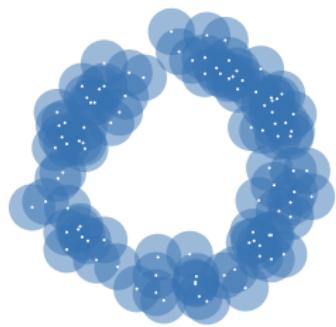


$Y$



# Connecting different Delaunay complexes

$B_r(X)$

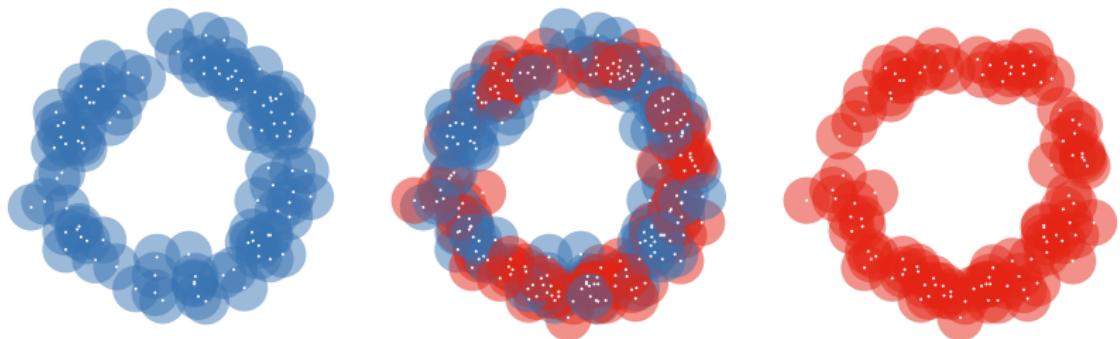


$B_r(Y)$



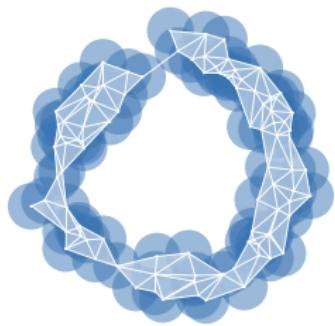
# Connecting different Delaunay complexes

$$B_r(X) \longleftrightarrow B_r(X \cup Y) \longleftrightarrow B_r(Y)$$

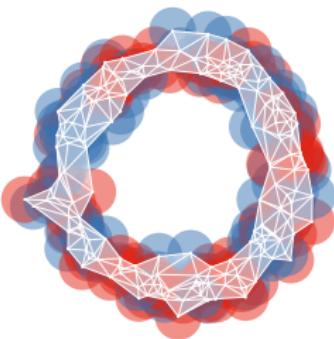


# Connecting different Delaunay complexes

$$B_r(X) \longleftrightarrow B_r(X \cup Y) \longleftrightarrow B_r(Y)$$



$\text{Del}_r(X)$



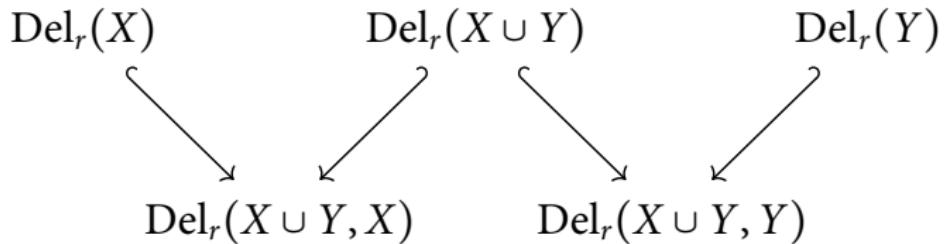
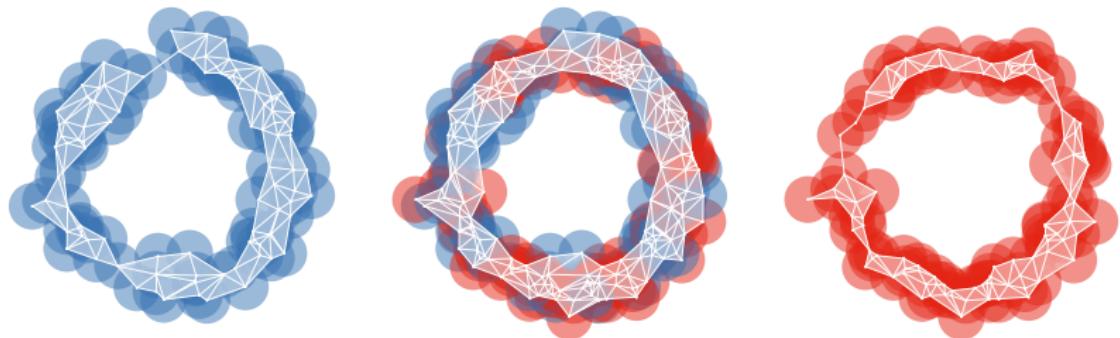
$\text{Del}_r(X \cup Y)$



$\text{Del}_r(Y)$

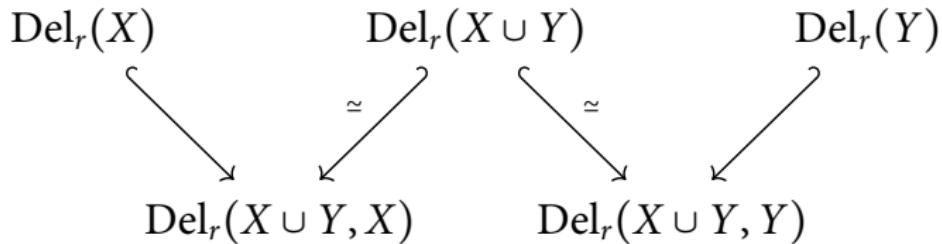
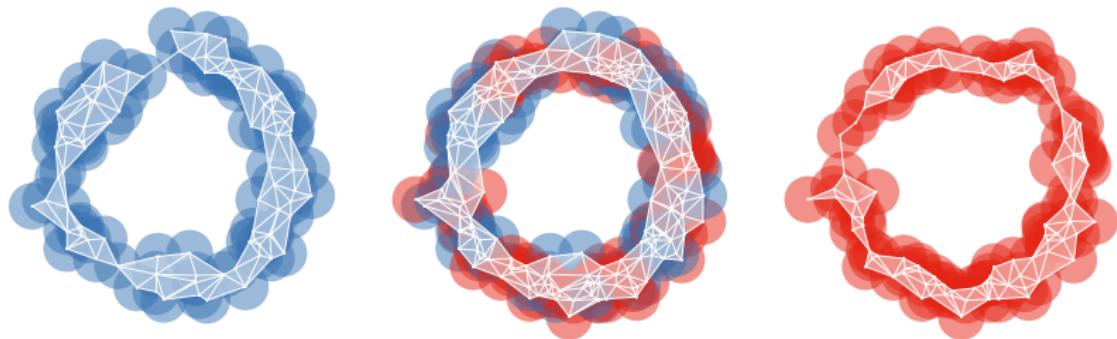
# Connecting different Delaunay complexes

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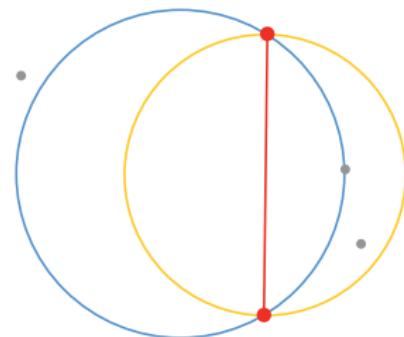


# Collapsing from Čech to Delaunay

# Collapsing the Delaunay–Čech complex

To construct the collapse  $\text{DelCech}_r \searrow \text{Del}_r$ :

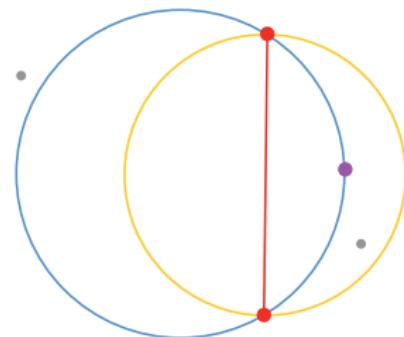
- Consider a non-critical Delaunay simplex  $Q$



# Collapsing the Delaunay–Čech complex

To construct the collapse  $\text{DelCech}_r \searrow \text{Del}_r$ :

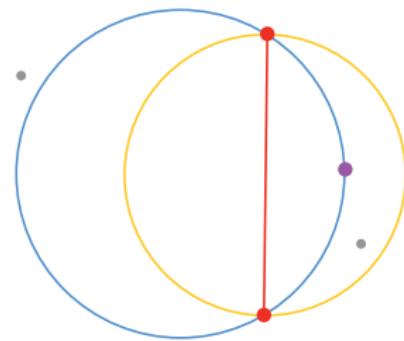
- Consider a non-critical Delaunay simplex  $Q$
- There is a point  $p$  inside the Čech sphere and on the Delaunay sphere



# Collapsing the Delaunay–Čech complex

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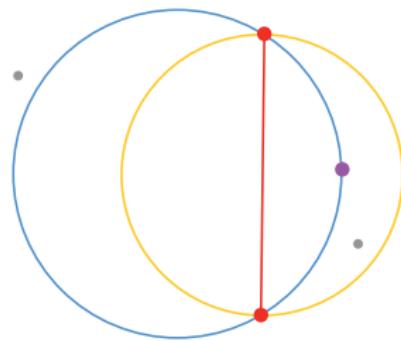
- Consider a non-critical Delaunay simplex  $Q$
- There is a point  $p$  inside the Čech sphere and on the Delaunay sphere
- Now  $Q' = Q \setminus \{p\}$  and  $Q'' = Q \cup \{p\}$  have the same Čech and Delaunay sphere



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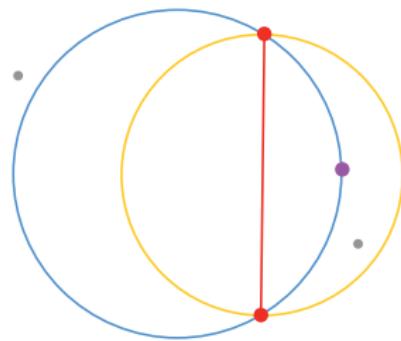
## Lemma

*The pairs  $(Q', Q'')$  yield a discrete gradient.*

# Collapsing the Delaunay–Čech complex

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## Lemma

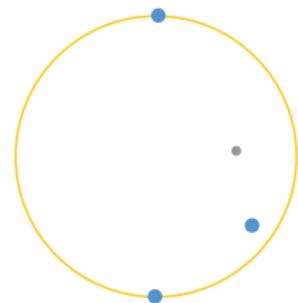
The pairs  $(Q', Q'')$  yield a discrete gradient.

This gradient induces a collapse  $\text{DelCech}_r \searrow \text{Del}_r$ , for any radius  $r$ .

# Collapsing non-Delaunay simplices

To construct the collapse  $\text{Cech}_r \searrow \text{DelCech}_r$ :

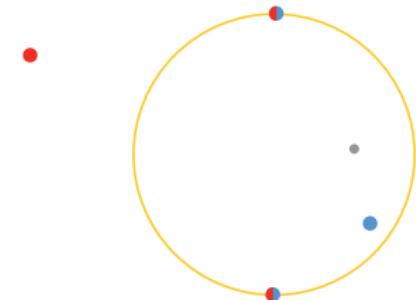
- Consider a non-Delaunay simplex  $Q$  together with its Čech sphere  $S$



# Collapsing non-Delaunay simplices

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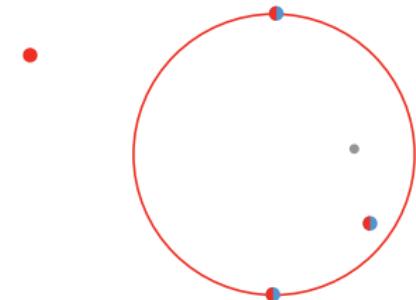
- Consider a non-Delaunay simplex  $Q$  together with its Čech sphere  $S$
- $S$  is also the smallest sphere enclosing  $Q$  and excluding  $\text{Excl } S$



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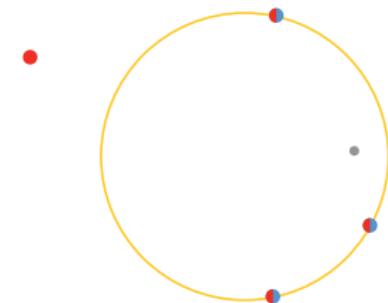
- Consider a non-Delaunay simplex  $Q$  together with its Čech sphere  $S$
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- Exclude **more and more points** until no feasible sphere exists



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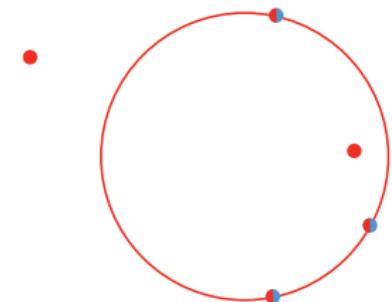
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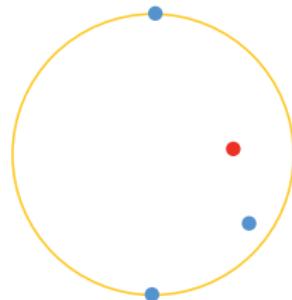
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To construct the collapse  $\text{Cech}_r \searrow \text{DelCech}_r$ :

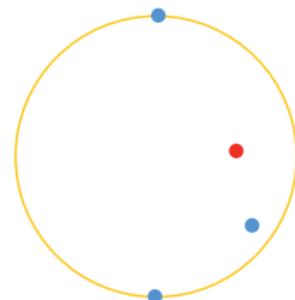
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- Now  $Q' = Q \setminus \{p\}$  and  $Q'' = Q \cup \{p\}$  have the same Čech sphere and no Delaunay sphere



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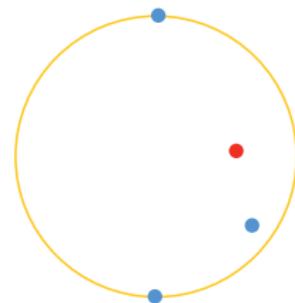
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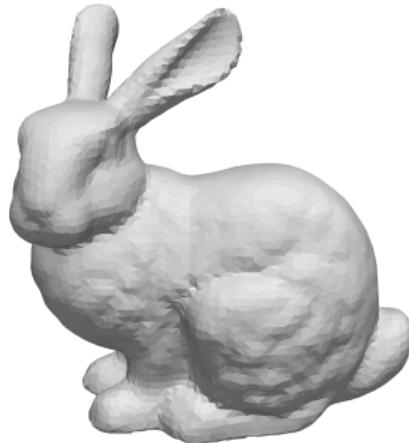
The pairs  $(Q', Q'')$  yield a discrete gradient.

This gradient induces a collapse  $\text{Cech}_r \searrow \text{DelCech}_r$ ,  
for any radius  $r$ .

# Wrap complexes

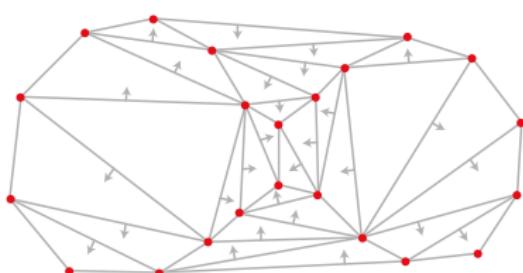
# Wrap complexes

Generalizes and greatly simplifies the surface reconstruction algorithm *Wrap* (Edelsbrunner 1995, Geomagic)



# Wrap complexes

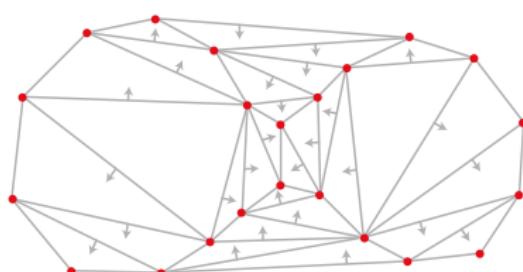
Consider the Delaunay function  $f_D$  of  $X$ .



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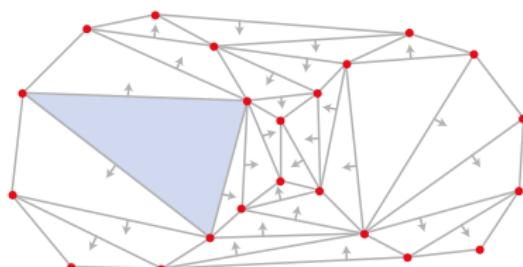
- The face relation induces a partial order on the Delaunay intervals  $V_D = \{f_D^{-1}(t) : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$



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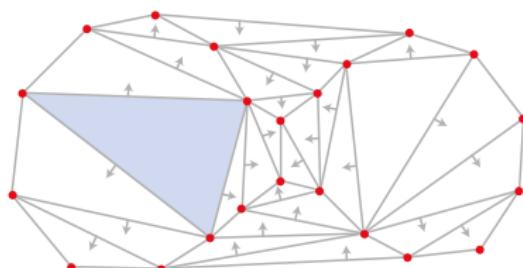
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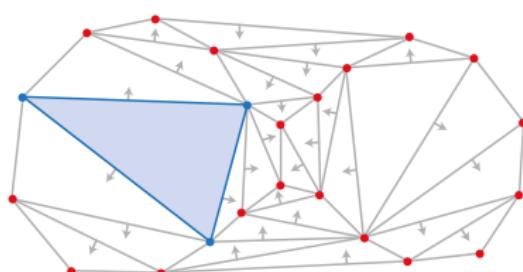
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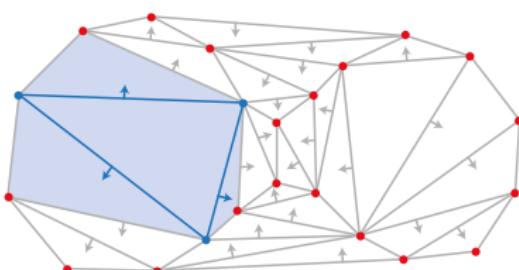
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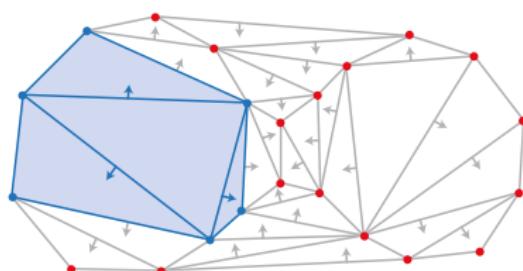
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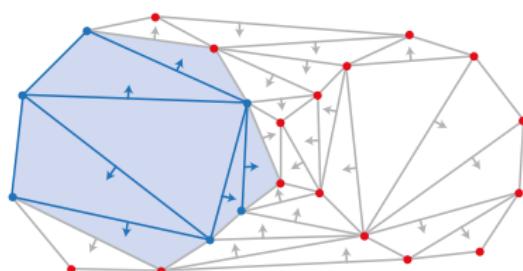
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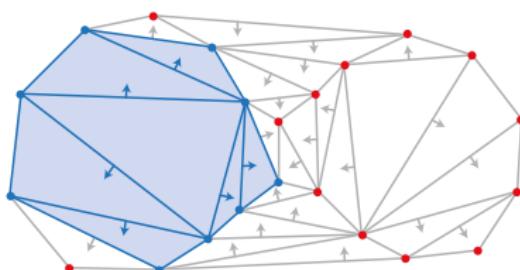
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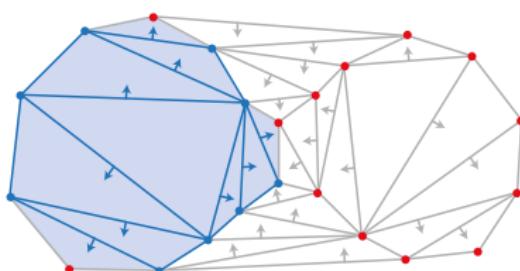
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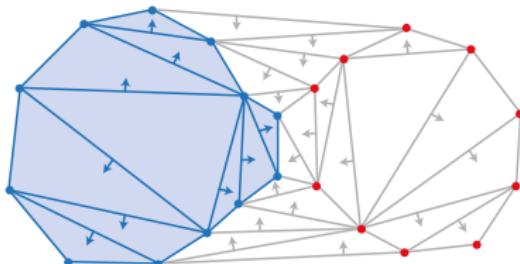
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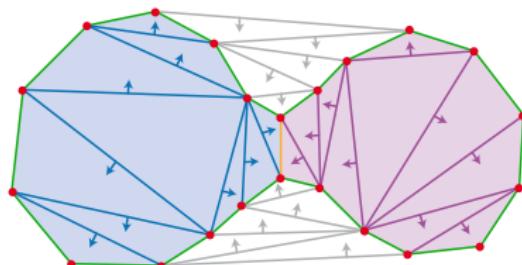
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Define

$$\text{Wrap}_r = \bigcup_{C \in \text{Crit}_r} \downarrow C$$



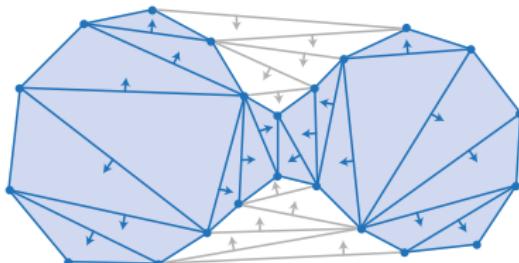
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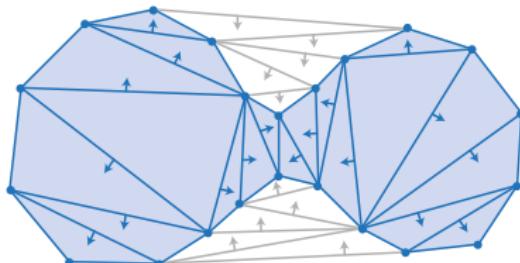
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The Delaunay intervals induce a collapse  $\text{Del}_r \searrow \text{Wrap}_r$ .

# Wrapping up

- Čech and Delaunay complexes from Morse functions
- Explicit homotopy equivalence by simplicial collapses
- Simple definition and generalization of *Wrap* complexes