

# Apparent pairs in computational topology

Ulrich Bauer

Technical University of Munich (TUM)

July 23, 2024

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109 | Discretization  
In Geometry  
and Dynamics

Technical  
University  
of Munich



Munich Center for Machine Learning

In memoriam

# Eliyahu Rips

December 12, 1948 – July 19, 2024

**Subject:** Re: First appearance of the "Rips complex" in your work

**Date:** Fri, 26 Feb 2021 16:15:00 +0200

**From:** Eliyahu Rips <eliyahu.rips@mail.huji.ac.il>

**To:** Fabian Roll <fabian.roll@tum.de>

Dear Prof' Roll,

The story is as follows: Prof. Gromov visited Israel, and I told him some non-published results. He published them (in my name) in his paper on hyperbolic groups. This is the origin of the so-called "Rips complex". In fact, such a complex was earlier discovered by Vietoris (in a somewhat different context).

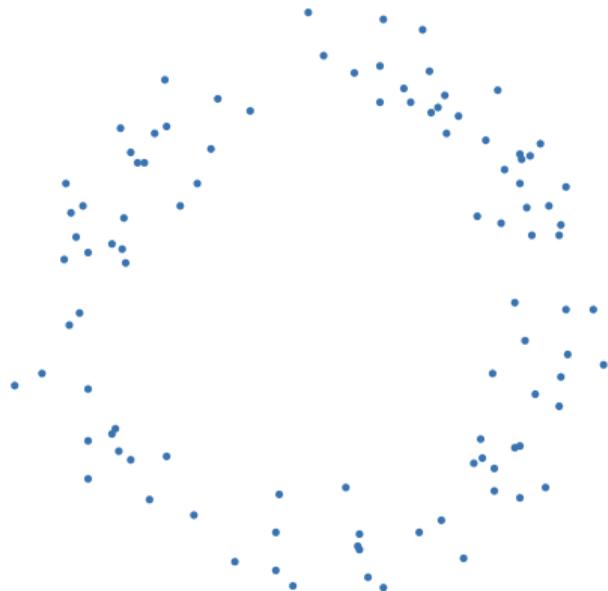
With my best regards,

Eliyahu Rips

## Vietoris–Rips complexes

For a metric space  $X$ , the *Vietoris–Rips complex* at  $t > 0$  is the simplicial complex

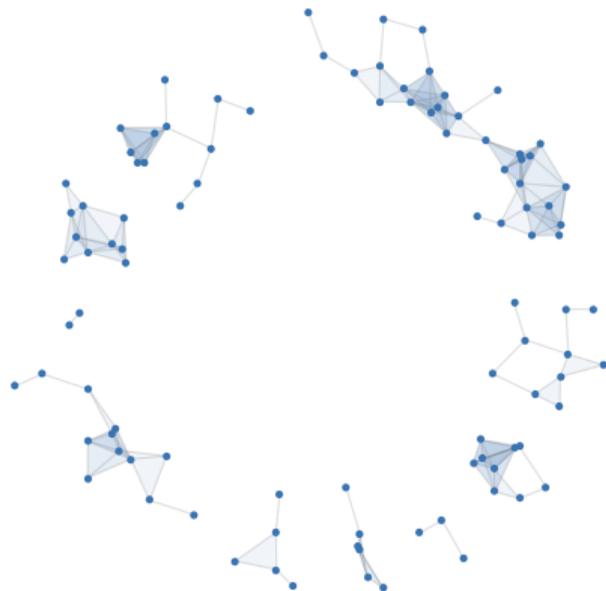
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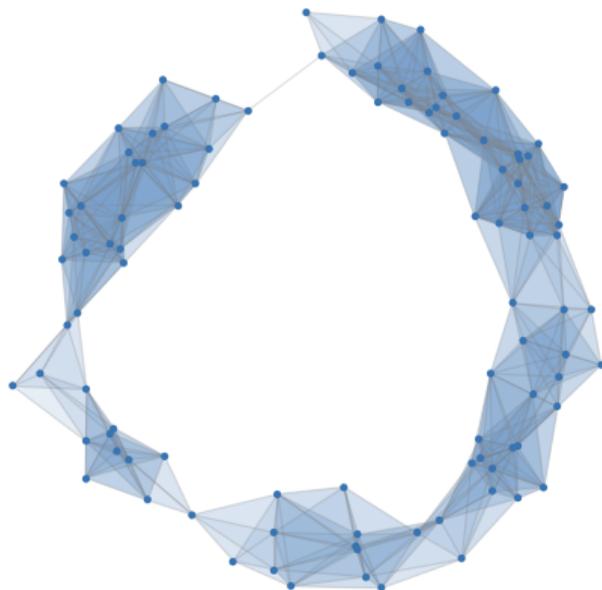
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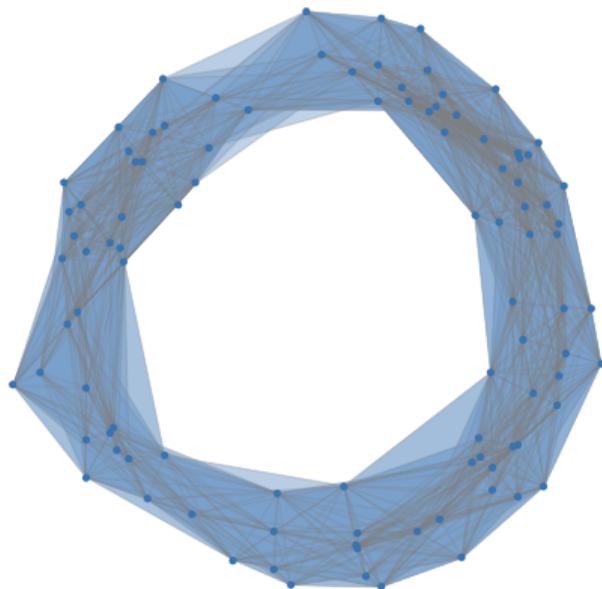
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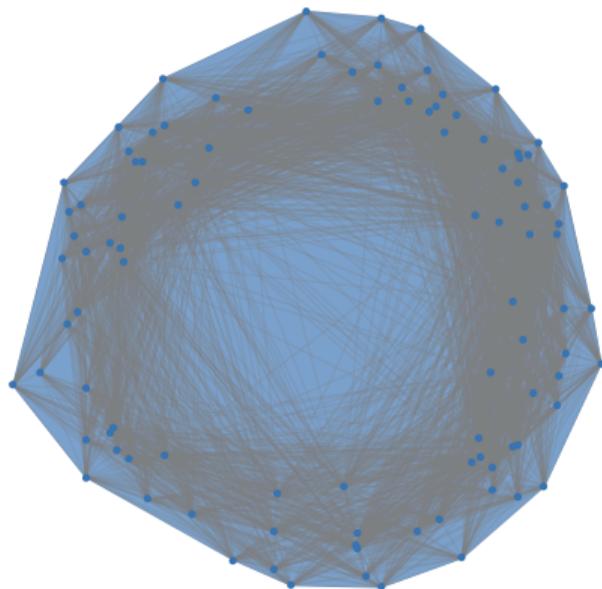
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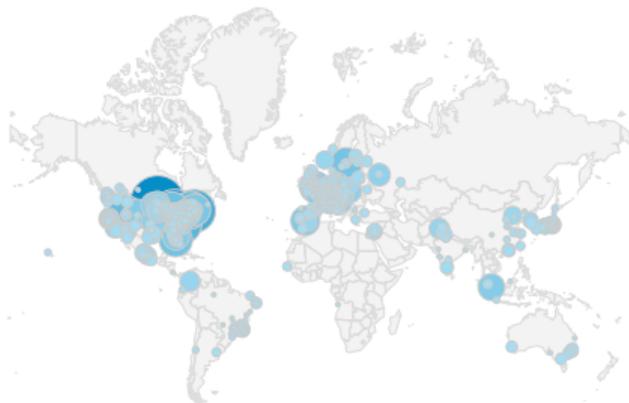
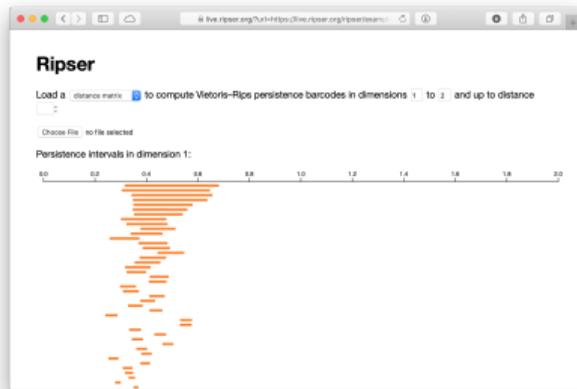
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# Ripser: software for computing Vietoris–Rips persistence barcodes

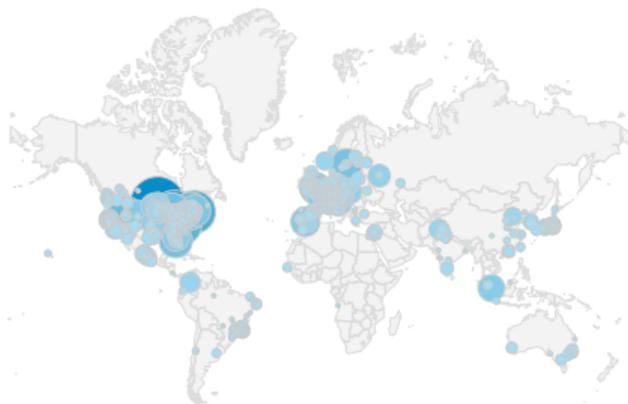
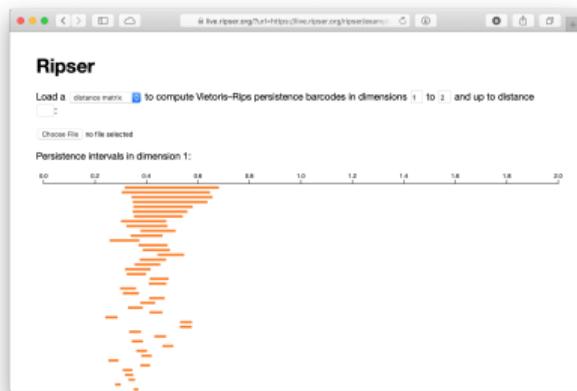
Open source software ([ripser.org](http://ripser.org))



Ripser users worldwide

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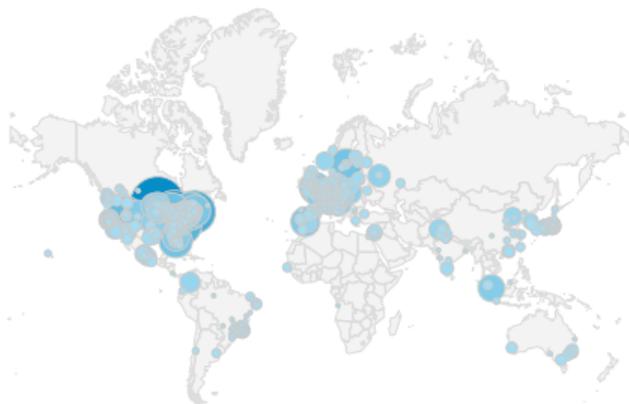
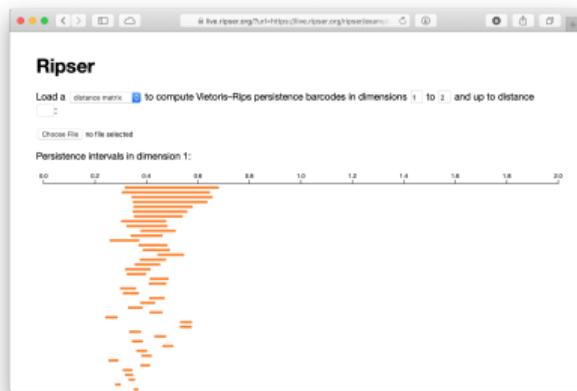
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Computational improvements based on

- *implicit matrix representations*
- *apparent pairs*, connecting persistence to discrete Morse theory

## Apparent pairs

Ripsper uses the following pairing of simplices (breaking ties in the filtration lexicographically):

### Definition (B 2016, 2021)

In a simplexwise filtration  $(K_i = \{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_i\})_i$ , two simplices  $(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)$  form an *apparent pair* if

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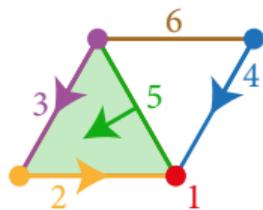
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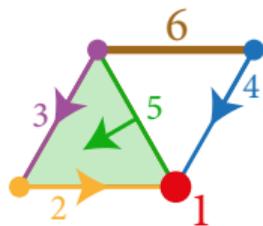
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# Discrete Morse theory



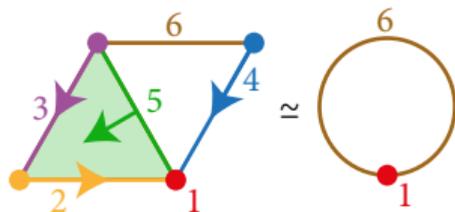
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## Theorem (Forman 1998)

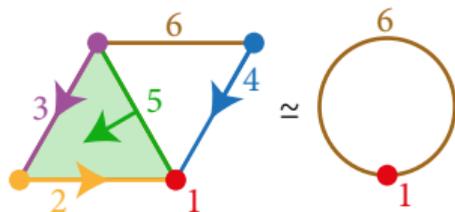
*A simplicial complex with a discrete Morse function  $f$  is homotopy equivalent to a space (a CW complex) built from the critical simplices of  $f$ .*



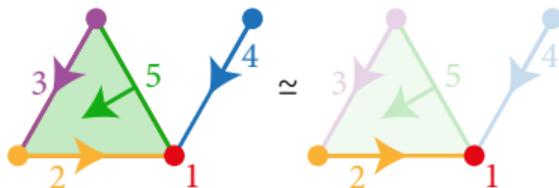
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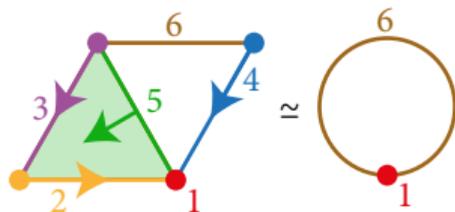
Discrete Morse functions – and their gradients – encode *collapses* of sublevel sets:



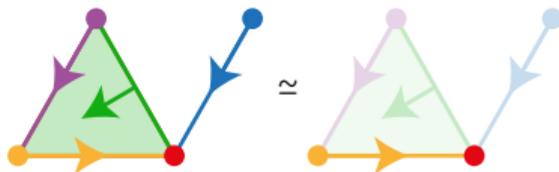
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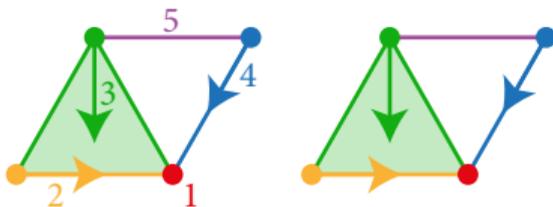


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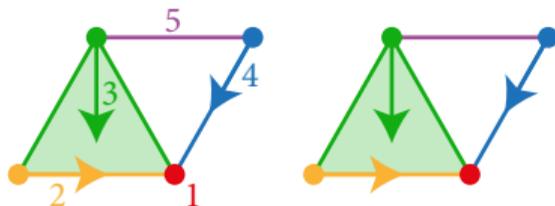
# Generalizing discrete Morse theory

*Generalized gradients* partition the face poset into intervals (instead of just facet pairs):

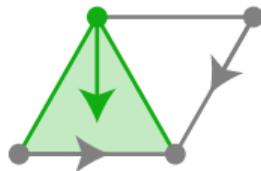


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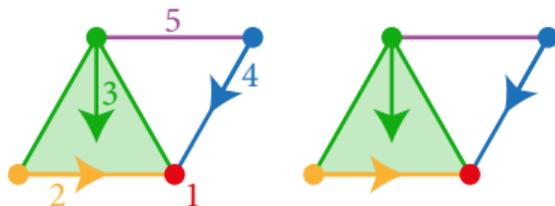


- A generalized vector field  $V$  can always be refined to a vector field.

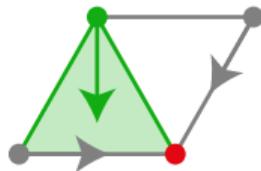


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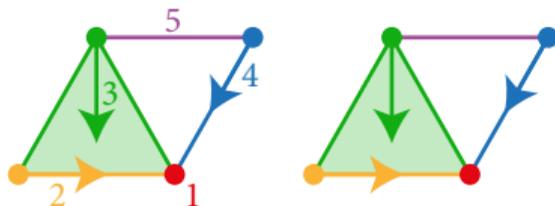


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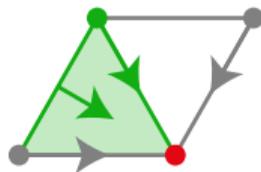


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# Lexicographically refined Morse filtrations

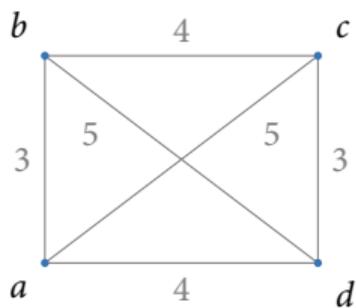
Any generalized discrete Morse function is refined by apparent pairs:

## Proposition (B, Roll 2022)

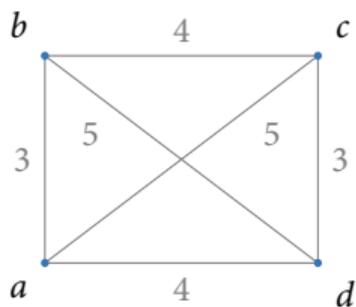
*Let  $f$  be a generalized discrete Morse function, and consider the simplexwise filtration by lexicographic refinement. Then the apparent pairs of zero persistence form a gradient that*

- *refines the gradient of  $f$  and*
- *has the same critical simplices.*

# Apparent pairs of the diameter-lexicographic filtration



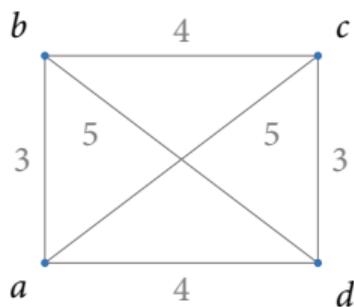
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$$\partial_1 = \begin{pmatrix} & \begin{matrix} (a,b):3 \\ (c,d):3 \\ (a,d):4 \\ (b,c):4 \\ (a,c):5 \\ (b,d):5 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ \mathbf{1} \\ 1 \\ \mathbf{1} \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} (a) \\ (b) \\ (c) \\ (d) \end{matrix} & & & & \end{pmatrix}$$



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$$\partial_2 = \begin{pmatrix} & & & & (a,b,c):5 & & & \\ & & & & & (a,b,d):5 & & \\ & & & & & & (a,c,d):5 & \\ & & & & & & & (b,c,d):5 \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & & & & \\ & 1 & & & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & & & \\ & & & 1 & & & & \\ & & & & 1 & & & \\ & & & & & 1 & & \\ & & & & & & 1 & \\ & & & & & & & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} & \begin{matrix} (a,b):3 \\ (c,d):3 \\ (a,d):4 \\ (b,c):4 \\ (a,c):5 \\ (b,d):5 \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\partial_3 = \begin{pmatrix} & & & & & & & (a,b,c,d) \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & & & & \\ & 1 & & & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & & & \\ & & & 1 & & & & \\ & & & & 1 & & & \\ & & & & & 1 & & \\ & & & & & & 1 & \\ & & & & & & & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} & \begin{matrix} (a,b,c) \\ (a,b,d) \\ (a,c,d) \\ (b,c,d) \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

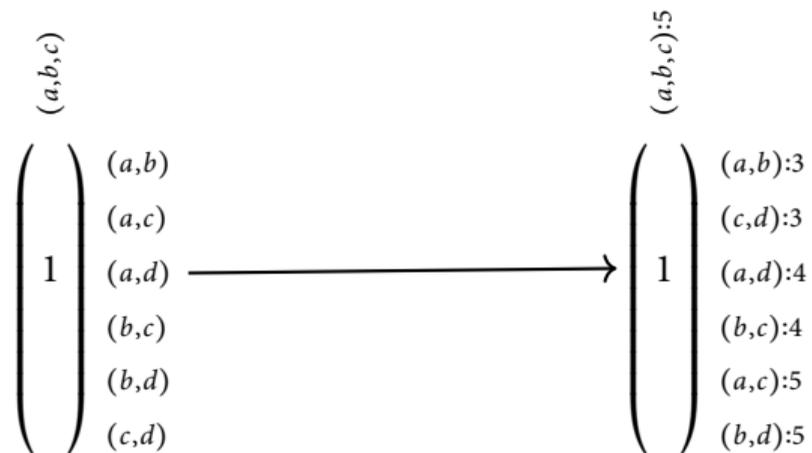
## A shortcut for finding pivots

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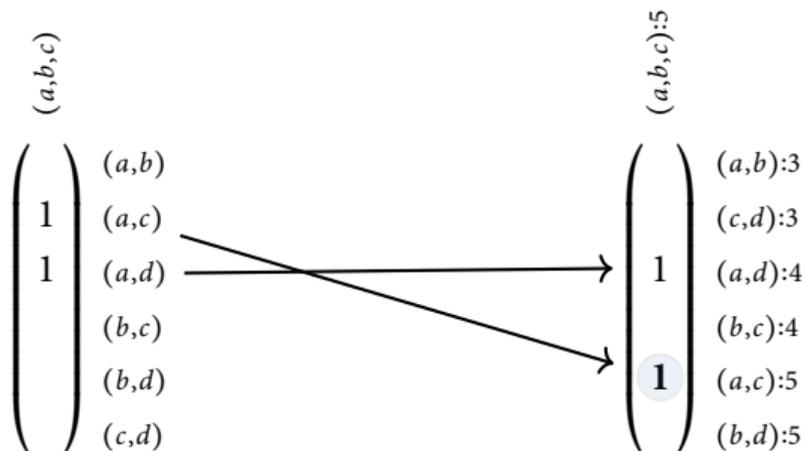
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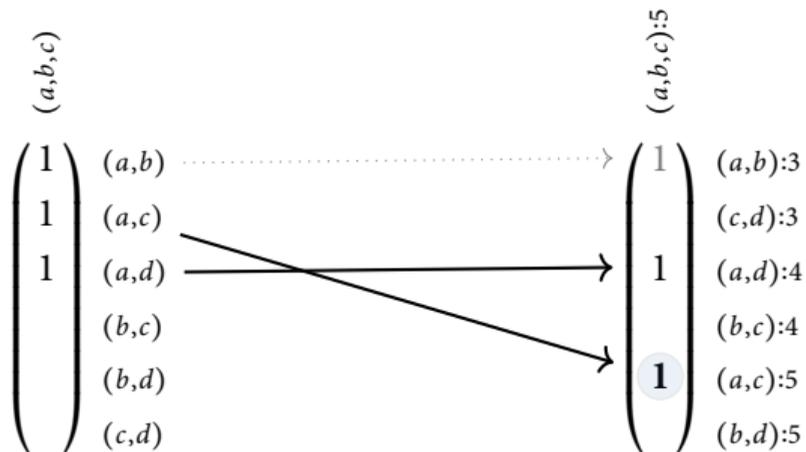
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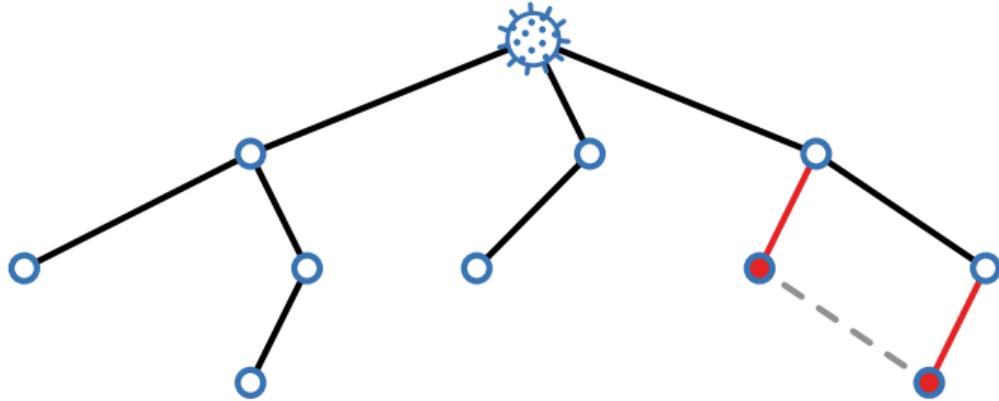
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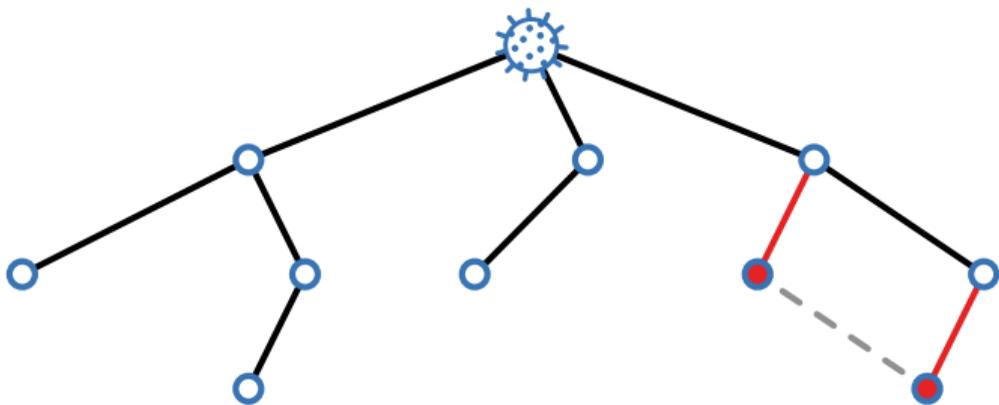
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# Topology of viral evolution



Joint work with: A. Ott, M. Bleher, L. Hahn (Heidelberg), R. Rabadan, J. Patiño-Galindo (Columbia), M. Carrière (INRIA)

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Observation: Ripser runs unusually fast on genetic distance data

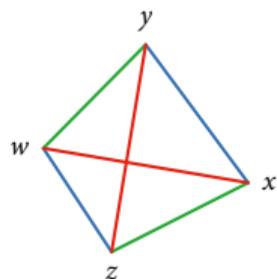
- SARS-CoV2 RNA sequences (spike protein)
- 25556 data points ( $2.8 \times 10^{12}$  simplices in 2-skeleton)
- 120 s computation time (with data points ordered appropriately)

# Gromov-hyperbolicity

## Definition (Gromov 1988)

A metric space  $X$  is  $\delta$ -hyperbolic (for  $\delta \geq 0$ ) if for all  $w, x, y, z \in X$  we have

$$d(w, x) + d(y, z) \leq \max\{d(w, y) + d(x, z), d(w, z) + d(x, y)\} + 2\delta.$$



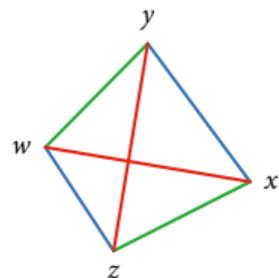
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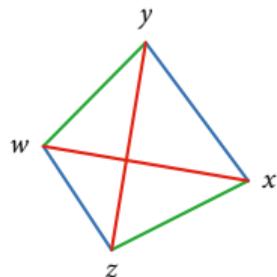


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- The 0-hyperbolic spaces are precisely the metric trees and their subspaces.



# Rips Contractibility

Theorem (Rips; Gromov 1988)

*Let  $X$  be a  $\delta$ -hyperbolic geodesic metric space. Then  $\text{Rips}_t(X)$  is contractible for all  $t \geq 4\delta$ .*

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- the filtration?
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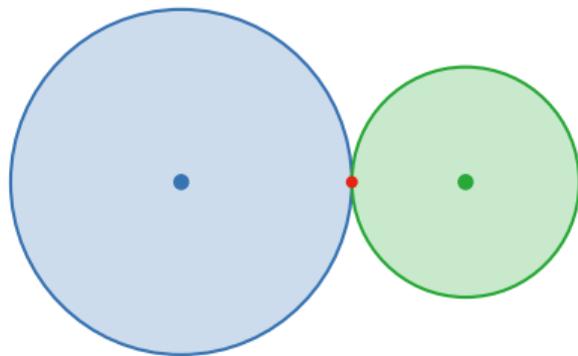
## Theorem (B, Roll 2022)

Let  $X$  be a finite  $\delta$ -hyperbolic space. Then there is a single discrete gradient encoding the collapses

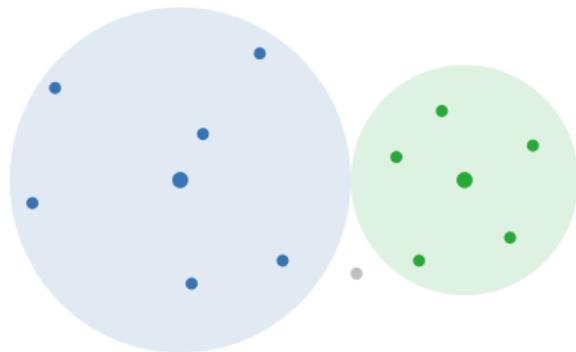
$$\text{Rips}_u(X) \searrow \text{Rips}_t(X) \searrow \{*\}$$

for all  $u > t \geq 4\delta + 2v$ , where  $v$  is the geodesic defect of  $X$ .

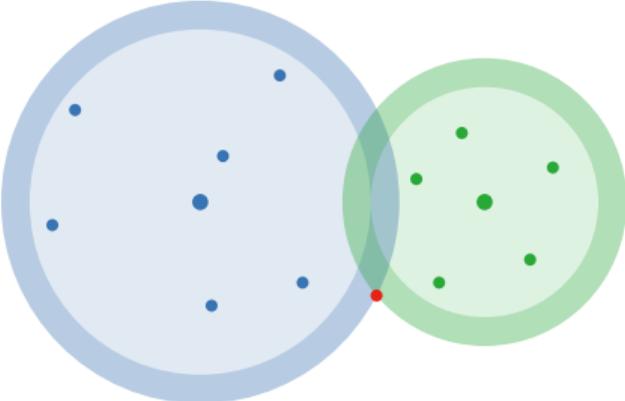
## Geodesic defect



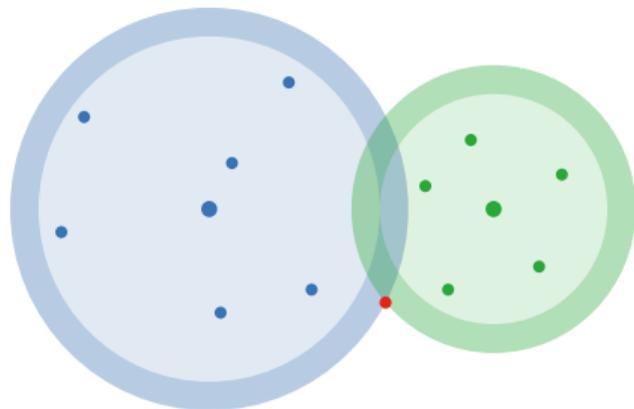
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## Geodesic defect



### Definition (Bonk, Schramm 2000)

A metric space  $X$  is  $\nu$ -geodesic if for all points  $x, y \in X$  and all  $r, s \geq 0$  with  $r + s = d(x, y)$  we have

$$B_{r+\nu}(x) \cap B_{s+\nu}(y) \neq \emptyset.$$

The infimum of all such  $\nu$  is the *geodesic defect* of  $X$ .

# The diameter function of generic trees

## Proposition (B, Roll 2022)

*Consider a finite weighted tree  $(V, E)$  with a generic path length metric (distinct pairwise distances). Then the diameter function  $\text{diam}: \Delta(V) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a generalized discrete Morse function.*

# The diameter function of generic trees

## Proposition (B, Roll 2022)

*Consider a finite weighted tree  $(V, E)$  with a generic path length metric (distinct pairwise distances). Then the diameter function  $\text{diam}: \Delta(V) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a generalized discrete Morse function.*

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In particular, the persistent homology is trivial in degrees  $> 0$ .

## Tree metrics beyond the generic case

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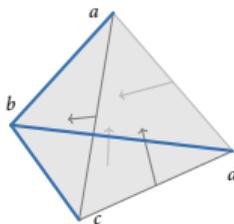
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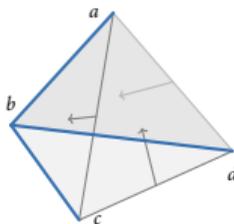
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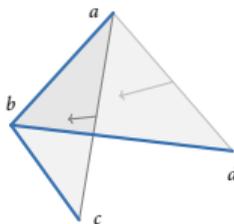
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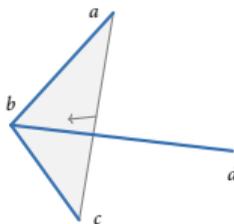
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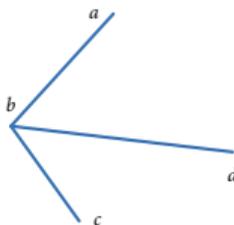
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# Morse theory for Čech and Delaunay complexes

Proposition (B, Edelsbrunner 2014)

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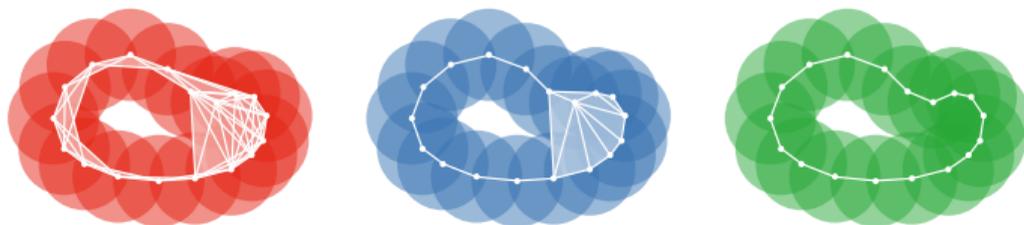
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## Theorem (B, Edelsbrunner 2017)

*Čech, Delaunay, and Wrap complexes (at any scale  $r$ ) of a point set  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  in general position are related by collapses encoded by a single discrete gradient field:*

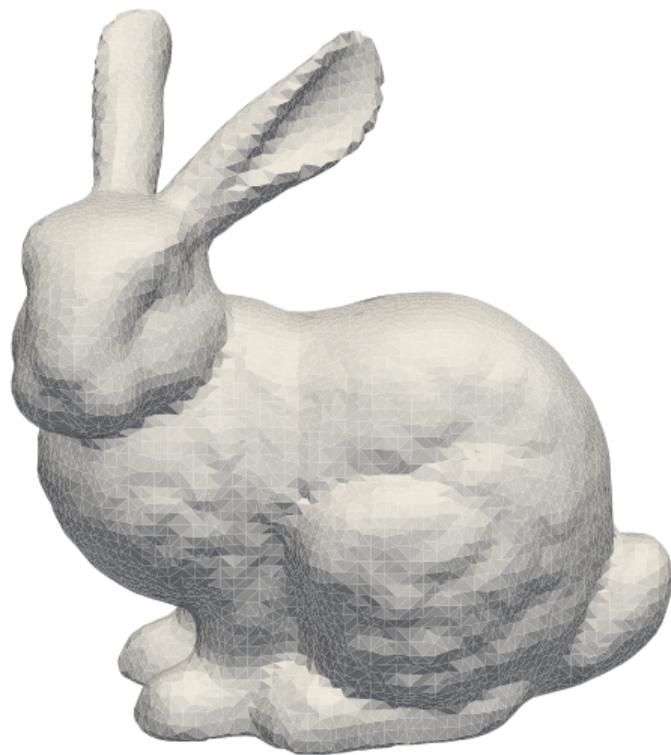
$$\text{Cech}_r X \rightsquigarrow \text{Del}_r X \rightsquigarrow \text{Wrap}_r X.$$



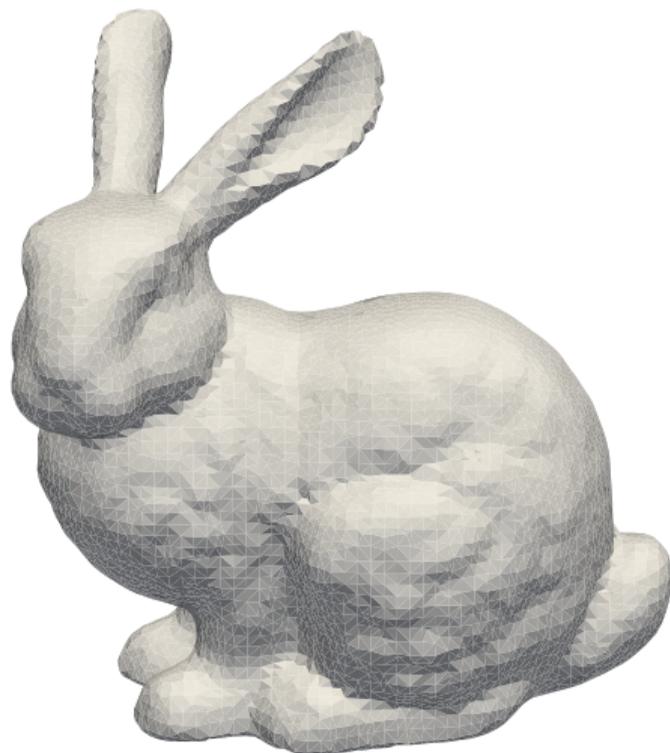
## From Delaunay to Wrap complexes



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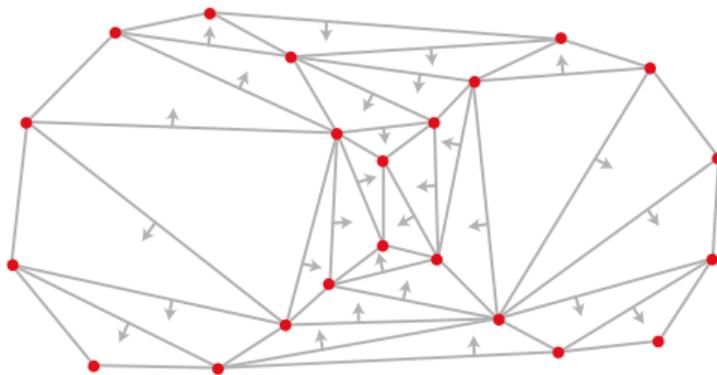
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Foundation of the surface reconstruction software *Wrap* (Edelsbrunner 1995, Geomagic)

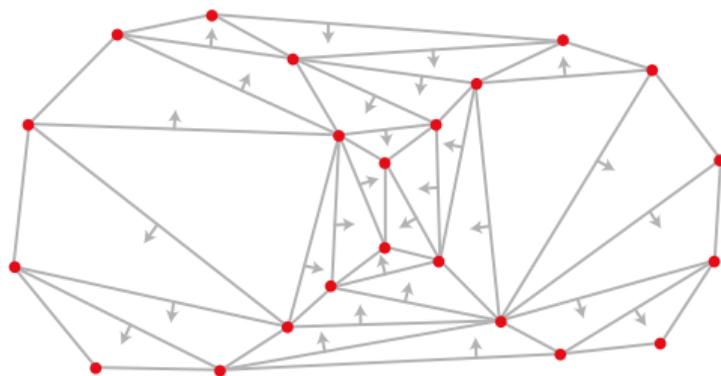
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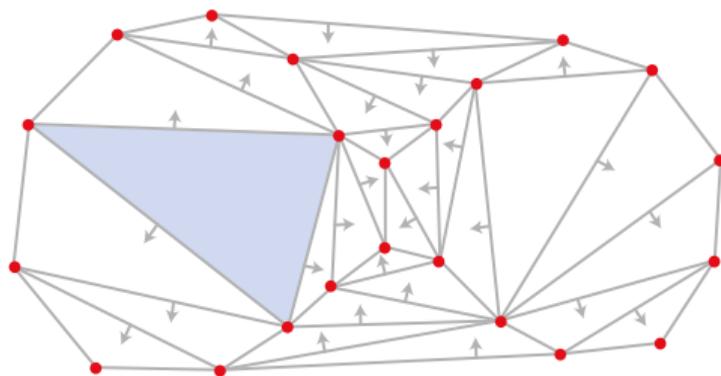
**Definition (Edelsbrunner 1995; B, Edelsbrunner 2017)**

$\text{Wrap}_r(X)$  is the *descending complex* of  $V$  on  $\text{Del}_r X$ :

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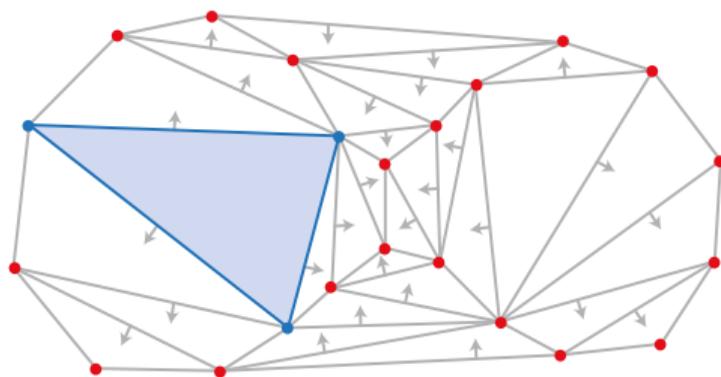
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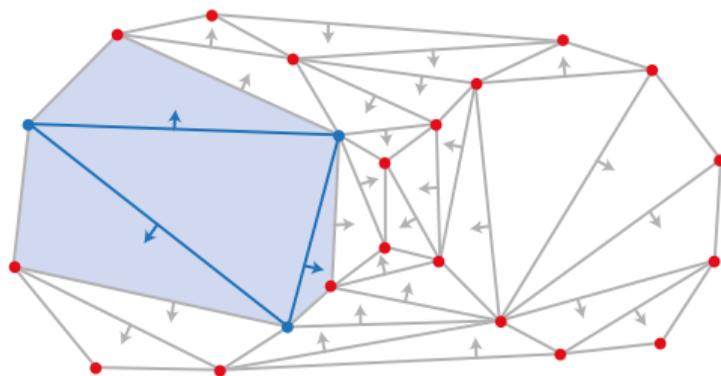
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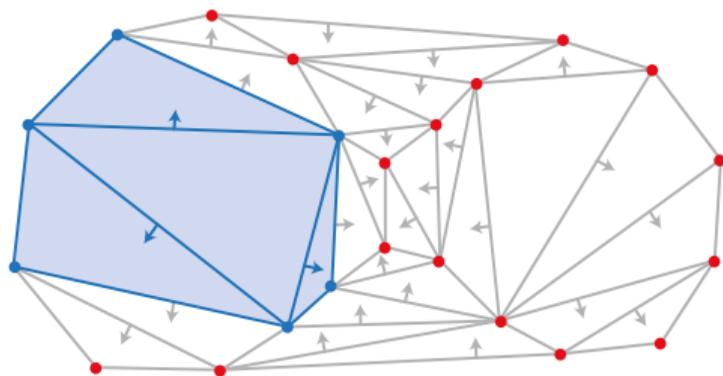
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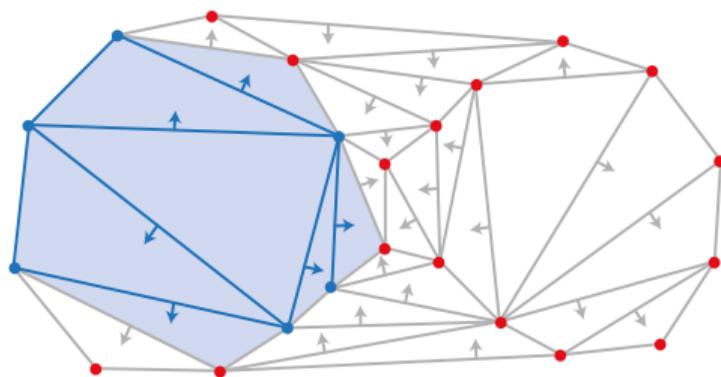
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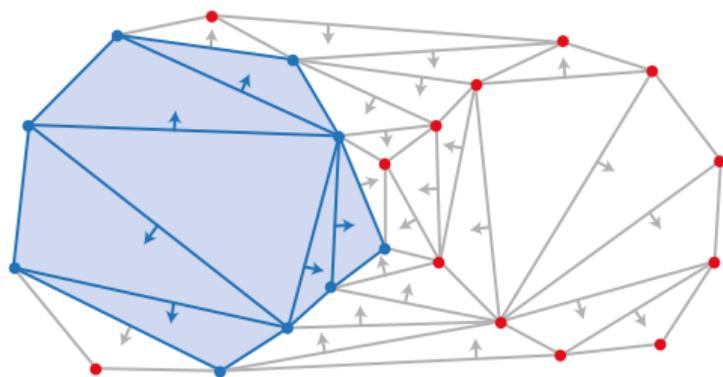
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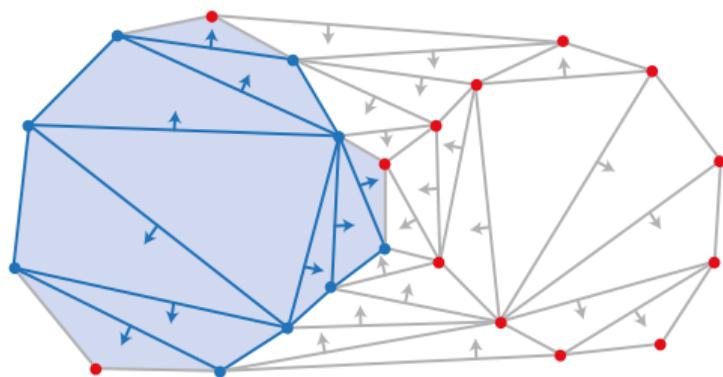
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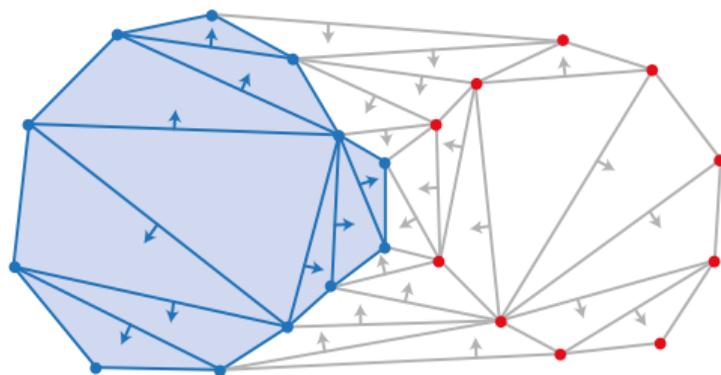
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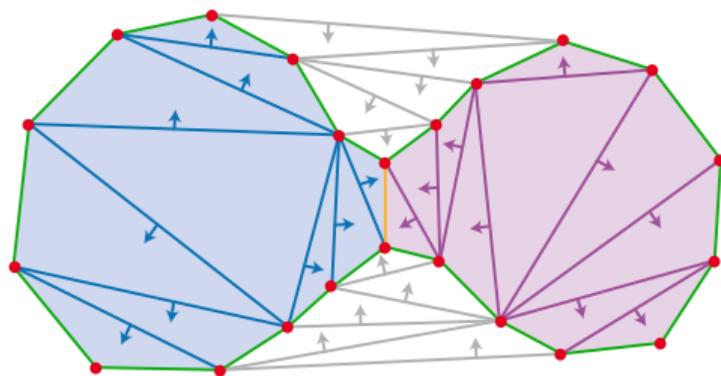
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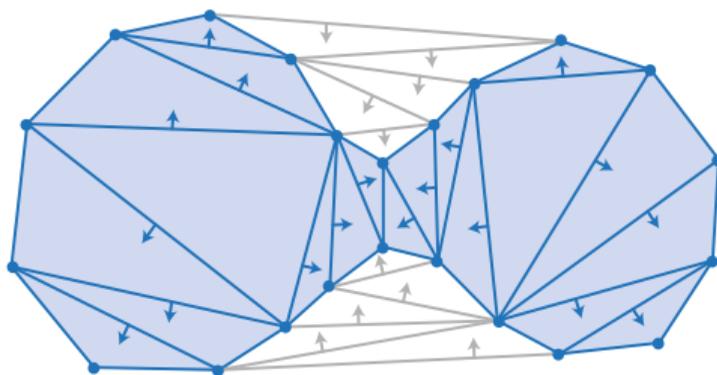
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Algorithm (matrix reduction; a variant of Gauss elimination)

**Require:**  $D$ :  $m \times n$  matrix

**Ensure:**  $V$  is full rank upper triangular,  $R = D \cdot V$  has unique column pivots

**function** Reduce( $D$ )

$R = D$

$V = I(n)$

**while** there exist  $i < j$  such that  $\text{pivot } R_i = \text{pivot } R_j$  **do**

    add column  $R_i$  to column  $R_j$

    ▷ eliminate the nonzero entry in row  $\text{pivot } R_i$

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**return**  $R, V$

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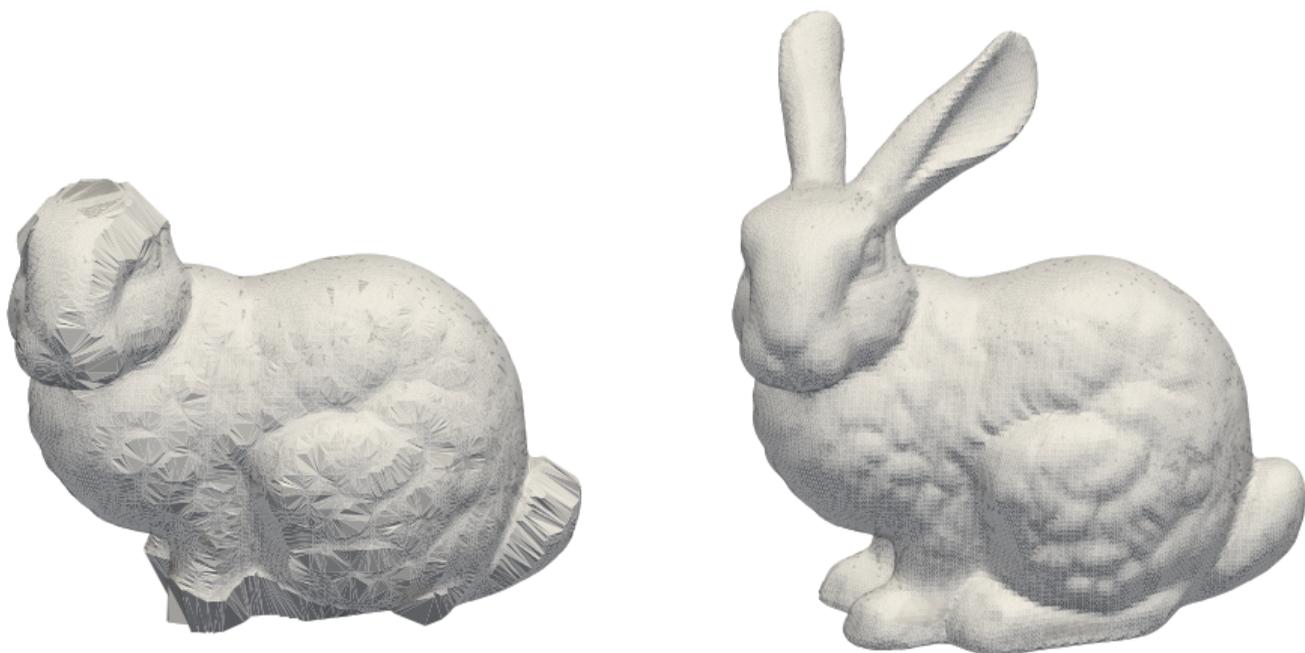
## Proposition

*The resulting columns  $R_j$  are minimal (in a lexicographic order) within their homology class (in  $K_{j-1}$ ).*

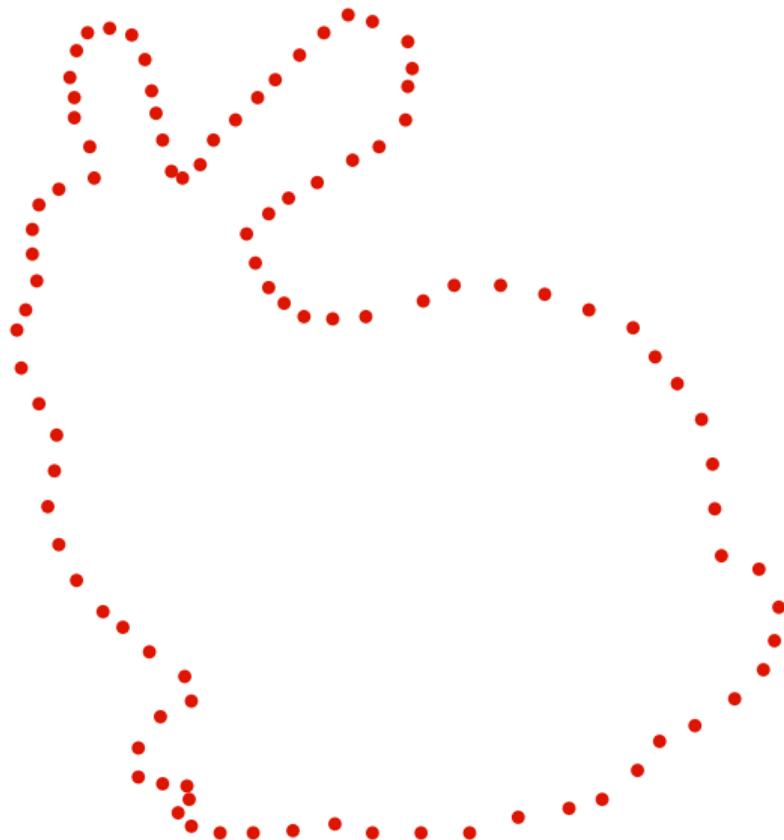
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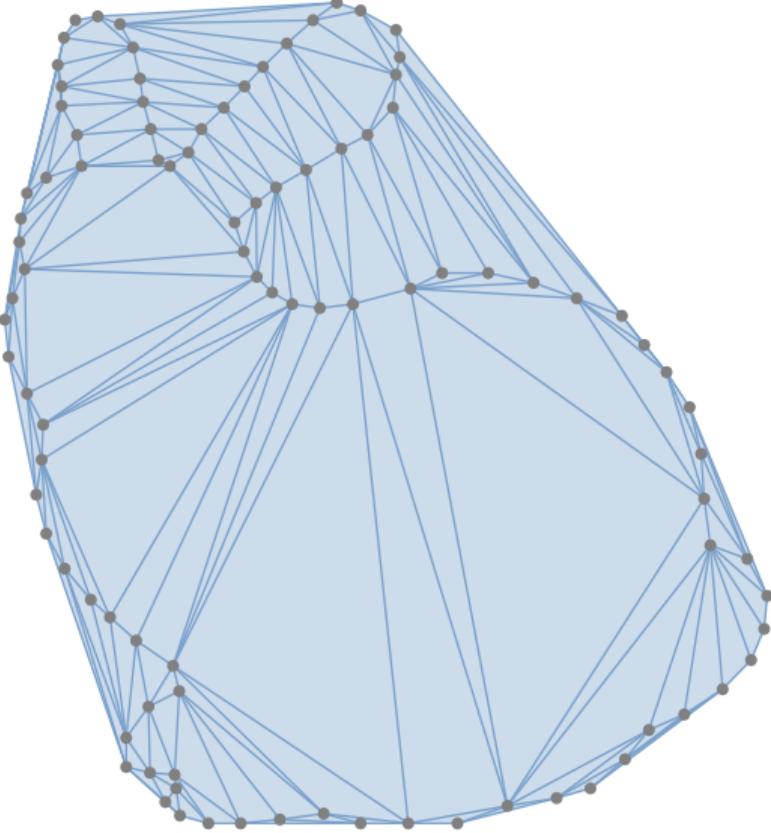
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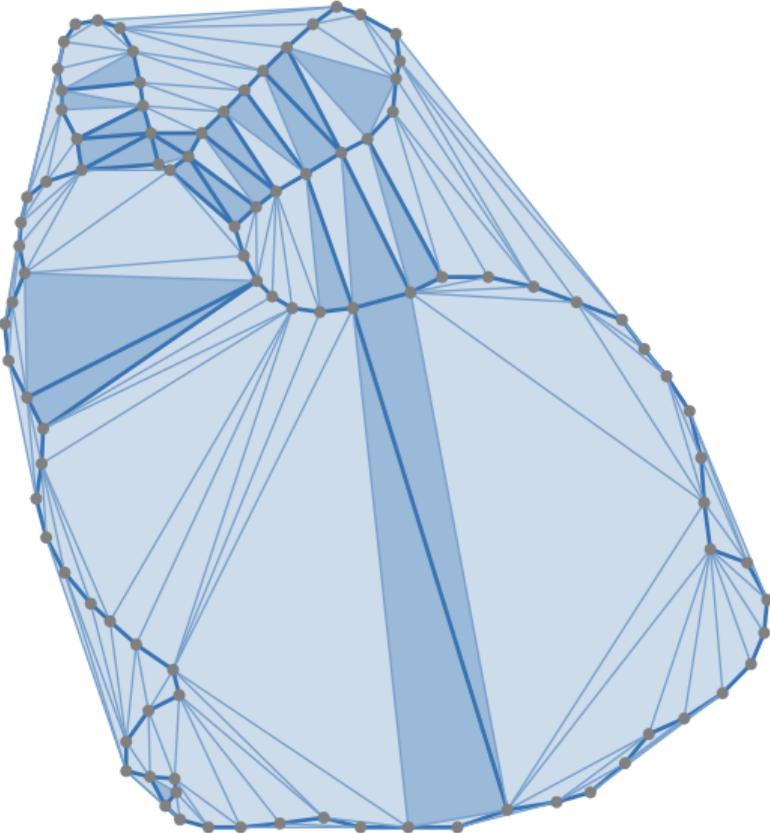
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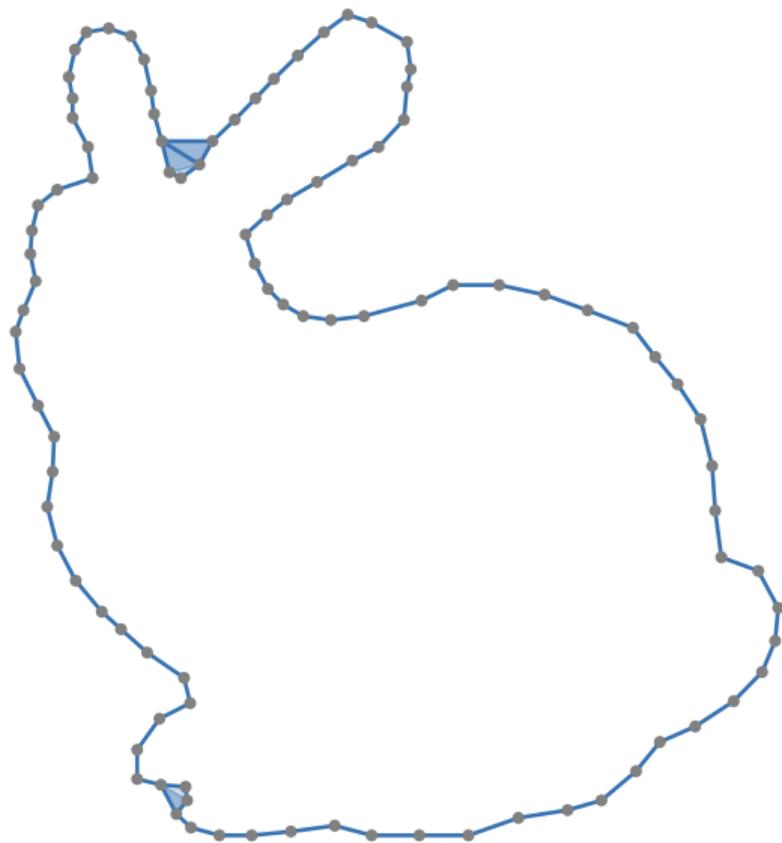


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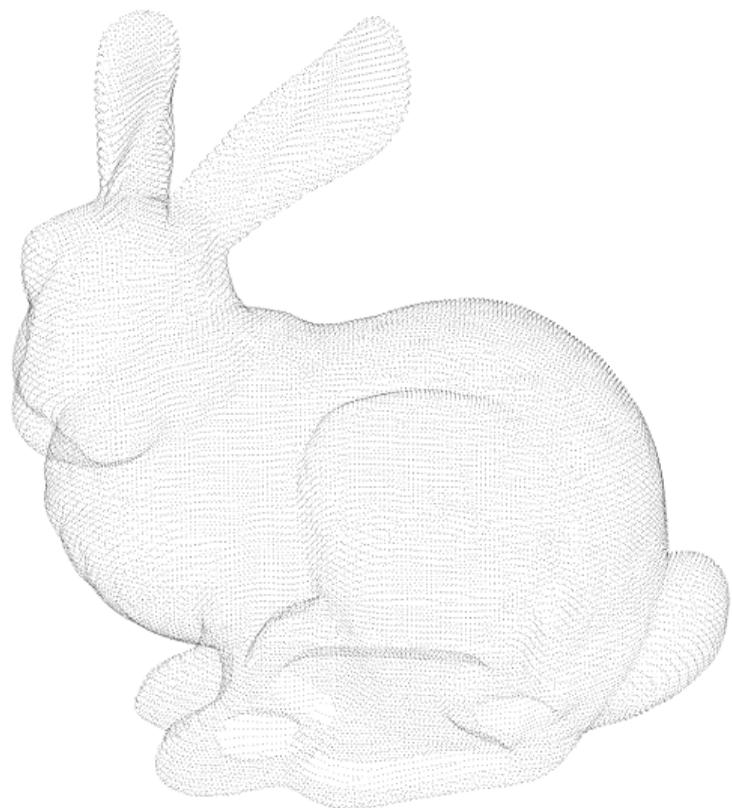
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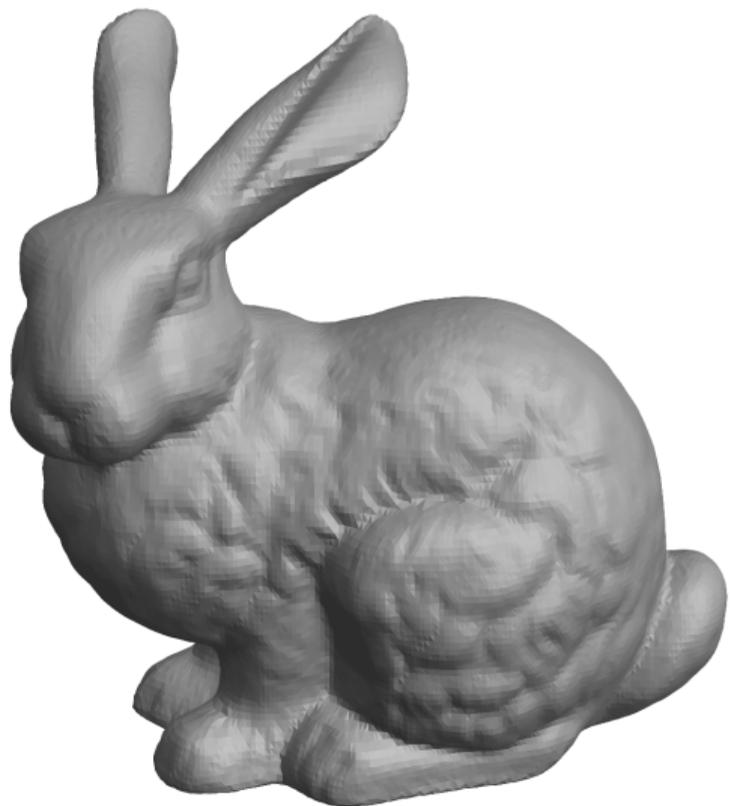
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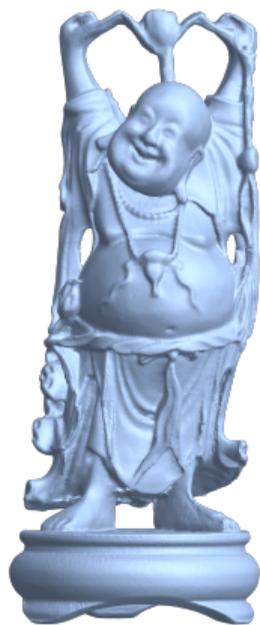
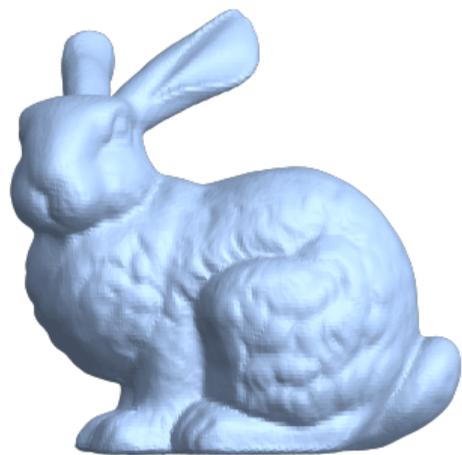
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## Point cloud reconstruction with minimal cycles

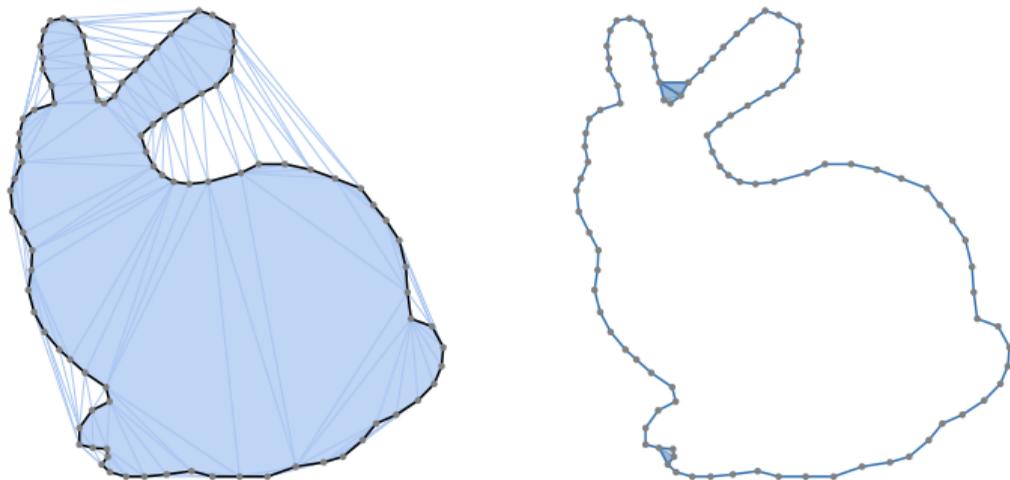


# Wrap complexes support minimal cycles

## Theorem (B, Roll 2024)

Let  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be a finite subset in general position and let  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ .

- Exhaustive matrix reduction computes the minimal cycles homologous to a simplex boundary.
- Any lexicographically minimal cycle of  $\text{Del}_r(X)$  is supported on  $\text{Wrap}_r(X)$ .

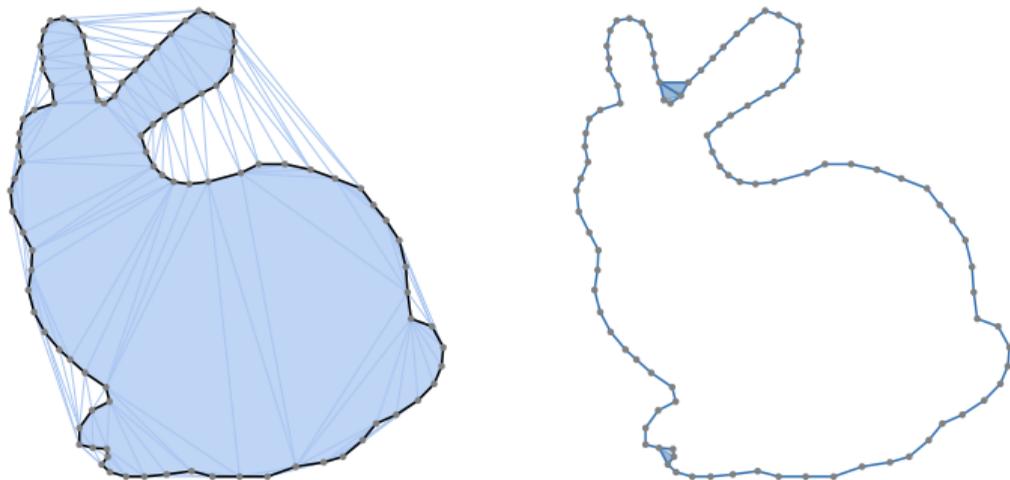


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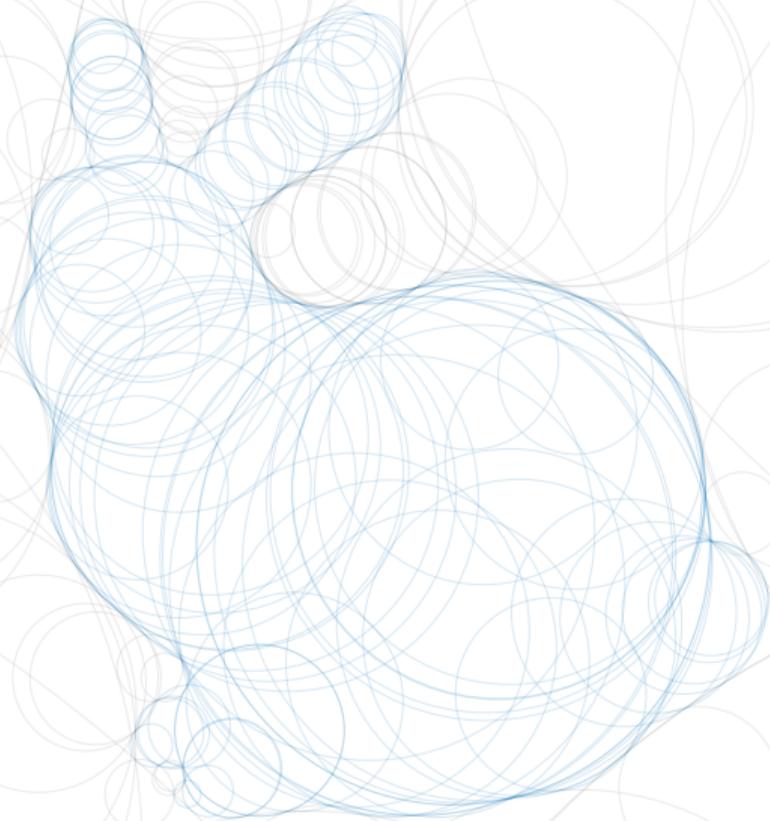
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Apparent pairs form the bridge between persistent homology and discrete Morse theory

Thanks for your attention!



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-  **U. Bauer, F. Roll**  
Gromov hyperbolicity, geodesic defect, and apparent pairs in Vietoris-Rips filtrations  
*Symposium on Computational Geometry*, 2022. doi:10.4230/LIPIcs.SoCG.2022.15
-  **U. Bauer, F. Roll**  
Wrapping Cycles in Delaunay Complexes: Bridging Persistent Homology and Discrete Morse Theory  
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-  **U. Bauer, H. Edelsbrunner**  
The Morse Theory of Čech and Delaunay Complexes  
*Transactions of the AMS*, 2017. doi:10.1090/tran/6991
-  **U. Bauer**  
Ripser: efficient computation of Vietoris–Rips persistence barcodes  
*Journal of Applied and Computational Topology*, 2021. doi:10.1007/s41468-021-00071-5