# Computational Topology (II): Persistence Theory

- **1. Algorithmic Foundation** 
  - 2. Algebraic Foundation
    - 3. Stability Theorem

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## **1. Algorithmic Foundation**

2. Algebraic Foundation 3. Stability Theorem

Algorithms for computing the homology groups of a simplicial complex work by *decomposing* it with a so-called *filtration*.

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**Def:** A filtered simplicial complex S is a family  $\{S_u\}_{u \in \mathbb{R}}$  of subcomplexes of some fixed simplicial complex S s.t.  $S_a \subseteq S_b$  for any  $a \leq b$ .

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**Def:** Let f be a real valued function defined on the vertices of K. For  $\sigma = [v_0, \ldots, v_k] \in K$ , let  $f(\sigma) = \max_{i=0,\ldots,k} f(v_i)$ , and order the simplices of K in increasing order w.r.t. the function f values (and break ties with dimension in case some simplices have the same function value).

**Q:** Show that this is a filtration.

Algorithms for computing the homology groups of a simplicial complex work by *decomposing* it with a so-called *filtration*.



**Def:** A filtered simplicial complex S is a family  $\{S_u\}_{u \in \mathbb{R}}$  of subcomplexes of some fixed simplicial complex S s.t.  $S_a \subseteq S_b$  for any  $a \leq b$ .

For a given simplicial complex, one can study filtrations  $\{S_i\}_{i\in\mathbb{R}}$  such that  $S_{i+1} = S_i \cup \{\sigma\}$ , i.e., simplices are added one at a time. This allows for an efficient practical method.

**Input:** simplicial filtration  $\{S_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{R}}$  s.t.  $S_{i+1} = S_i \cup \{\sigma\}$ 

Indeed, homology can be computed by using the fact that each simplex is either:

*positive*, i.e., it *creates a new homology class negative*, i.e., it *destroys an homology class* 



2

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The Betti number is equal to the number of bars that are still alive when the full complex is reached in the filtration





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**Q:** Do the same for the homology of the cube.



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In order to decide whether an inserted simplex is positive or negative with an algorithm, one can reduce its boundary by adding the boundaries of previous simplices, until the simplex boundary cannot be reduced anymore.

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- If the reduced boundary is zero, the inserted simplex is positive.
- If the reduced boundary is not zero, the inserted simplex is negative.

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In practice, this amounts to applying a change of basis to the canonical chain basis, so that each element of the new chain basis is either an element of the cycle basis or an element of the boundary basis.  $Z_d \simeq \ker(\partial_d) \oplus \operatorname{coim}(\partial_d)$ 

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 $\overline{7}$ 

4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							

5

 $\overline{7}$ 

4



5

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 $\overline{7}$ 

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5

 $\overline{7}$ 

4



**Input:** simplicial filtration  $\{S_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{R}}$  s.t.  $S_{i+1} = S_i \cup \{\sigma\}$ given as *boundary matrix* 6



for j=1 to m do: while  $\exists k < j \text{ s.t. } low(k) == low(j) \text{ do:}$ col(j) = col(j) + col(k)

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For every inserted simplex

for j=1 to m do:

While the boundary of the inserted simplex can be reduced with a change of basis...

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while  $\exists k < j \text{ s.t. } low(k) == low(j) \text{ do:}$ col(j) = col(j) + col(k) ...reduce the boundary

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6 = 6 + 5

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	4	6
1		•
2	•	
3		

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	4	6
1		
2		
3		

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4



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1				*		*	
$\boxed{2}$				*	*		
3					*	*	
4							*
5							*
6							*
$\boxed{7}$							

**Input:** simplicial filtration  $\{S_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{R}}$  s.t.  $S_{i+1} = S_i \cup \{\sigma\}$ 

**Output:** boundary matrix

reduced to column-echelon form



	1	2	3	4	5	6	$\boxed{7}$
1				*		*	
2				*	*		
3					*	*	
4							*
5							*
6							*
$\boxed{7}$							

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$\left[ 1 \right]$				*			
2				1	*		
3					1		
4							*
5							*
6							1
7							

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some positive-negative simplices are paired [2,4), [3,5), [6,7)

unpaired simplices provide homology basis:  $[1, +\infty)$ 

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1				*		*	
2				*	*		
3					*	*	
4							*
5							*
6							*
$\boxed{7}$							

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1				*			
2				$\left(1\right)$	*		
3					$\left  \begin{array}{c} 1 \end{array} \right $		
4							*
5							*
6							(1)
$\boxed{7}$							

6

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#### **PLU** factorization:

- Gaussian elimination
- fast matrix multiplication (divide-and-conquer)
- random projections?

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#### **PLU** factorization:

- Gaussian elimination
  - PLEX / JavaPLEX (http://appliedtopology.github.io/javaplex/)
  - Dionysus (http://www.mrzv.org/software/dionysus/)
  - Perseus (http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~vnanda/perseus/)
  - Gudhi (http://gudhi.gforge.inria.fr/)
  - PHAT (https://bitbucket.org/phat-code/phat)
  - DIPHA (https://github.com/DIPHA/dipha/)
  - CTL (https://github.com/appliedtopology/ctl)
# **Computational Topology (II): Persistence Theory**

Algorithmic Foundation
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Stability Theorem



First, the algorithm for computing homology contains much more information than the mere homology of the last complex in the filtration.



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This is very interesting in the sense that data can be analyzed at *multiple* scales.

Persistent homology aims at encoding the homology of the complex at *all possible scales* into a compact descriptor.

- input: *filtration* = nested family of sublevel-sets  $f^{-1}((-\infty, t])$  for t ranging over  $\mathbb{R}$
- track the evolution of the topology (homology) throughout the family



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- **Ex:**  $H_0$  (connected components)

 $\mathbb{R}$ 

When two components merge, stop the bar of the most recent one (*elder rule*).



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#### Filtration: $F_1 \subseteq F_2 \subseteq F_3 \subseteq F_4 \subseteq F_5 \cdots$



 $H_*(F_1) \to H_*(F_2) \to H_*(F_3) \to H_*(F_4) \to H_*(F_5) \to \cdots$ 

**Def:** A *persistence module* is a sequence of vector spaces connected with linear maps:

$$H_*(F_1) \to H_*(F_2) \to H_*(F_3) \to H_*(F_4) \to \cdots$$







[*The structure and stability of persistence modules*, Chazal, de Silva, Glisse, Oudot, Springer, 2016].

**Thm:** Let M be a persistence module over an index set  $T \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . Then, M decomposes as a direct sum of *interval modules*  $k_{\lceil b,d \rceil}$ :



(the barcode is a complete descriptor of the algebraic structure of M)

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in the following cases:

- T is finite,
- *M* is *pointwise finite-dimensional* (pfd), i.e., every space *M*<sub>t</sub> has finite dimension.

Moreover, when it exists, the decomposition is **unique** up to isomorphism and permutation of the terms.


#### Good news: the algorithm is the same!

**Input:** simplicial filtration

Output: boundary matrix reduced to column-echelon form

) simplex pairs give finite intervals: [2,4), [3,5), [6,7)

unpaired simplices give infinite intervals:  $[1, +\infty)$ 

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1				*		*	
2				*	*		
3					*	*	
4							*
5							*
6							*
$\boxed{7}$							





Good news: the algorithm is the same!

**Input:** simplicial filtration

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) simplex pairs give Persistent homology [2,4), [3,5), [6,7)

unpaired simplices give Regular homology

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1				*		*	
$\boxed{2}$				*	*		
3					*	*	
4							*
5							*
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# Computational Topology (II): Persistence Theory

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#### Distance between persistence diagrams

Persistence diagram  $\equiv$  **finite** multiset in the open half-plane  $\Delta \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .



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Persistence diagram  $\equiv$  **finite** multiset in the open half-plane  $\Delta \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .

Given a partial matching  $M: D \leftrightarrow D'$ :

- cost of a matched pair  $(a,b)\in M$ :  $c_p(a,b):=\|a-b\|_\infty^p$ ,
- cost of an unmatched point  $c \in D \sqcup D'$ :  $c_p(c) := \|c \bar{c}\|_{\infty}^p$ ,
- cost of M:

$$c_p(M) := \left(\sum_{(a, b) \text{ matched}} c_p(a, b) + \sum_{c \text{ unmatched}} c_p(c)\right)^{1/p}$$



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- cost of M:

$$c_p(M) := \left(\sum_{(a, b) \text{ matched}} c_p(a, b) + \sum_{c \text{ unmatched}} c_p(c)\right)^{1/p}$$

**Def:** p-th diagram distance (extended metric):  $d_p(D, D') := \inf_{\substack{M:D \leftrightarrow D'}} c_p(M)$ 

**Def:** bottleneck distance:

$$d_b(D, D') = d_{\infty}(D, D') := \lim_{p \to \infty} d_p(D, D')$$

# Stability Theorem



**Def:** The Hausdorff distance between two subspaces X, Y of a common metric space (Z, d) is:  $d_H(X, Y) = \max\{\sup_{y \in Y} d(y, X), \sup_{x \in X} d(x, Y)\}$  $= \max\{\sup_{y \in Y} \inf_{x \in X} d(y, x), \sup_{x \in X} \inf_{y \in Y} d(x, y)\}$ 



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**Ex:** Given a sampling  $\hat{X}_n \subseteq X$ ,  $d_H(\hat{X}_n, X)$  is a measure of sampling quality.



**Q:** Show that  $d_H(X,Y) = \inf\{\epsilon > 0 : X^{\epsilon} \subseteq Y \text{ and } Y^{\epsilon} \subseteq X\}$ , where  $X^{\epsilon} = \{z : \exists x \in X \text{ s.t. } d(x,z) \leq \epsilon\}.$ 

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**Def:** The Gromov-Hausdorff distance between metric spaces  $(X, d_X), (Y, d_Y)$ is the Hausdorff distance of the best common isometric embedding:  $d_{GH}((X, d_X), (Y, d_Y)) = \inf_{\gamma} d_H(\gamma(X), \gamma(Y)),$ where  $d(\gamma(x), \gamma(x')) = d_X(x, x')$  and  $d(\gamma(y), \gamma(y')) = d_X(y, y').$ 

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**Def:** The Gromov-Hausdorff distance between metric spaces  $(X, d_X), (Y, d_Y)$ is metric distortion of the best correspondence:  $d_{GH}((X, d_X), (Y, d_Y)) = \inf_{\mathcal{C}} \sup_{(x,y), (x',y') \in \mathcal{C}} |d_X(x, x') - d_Y(y, y')|,$ where  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq X \times Y$  s.t.  $\forall x, \exists y_x \in Y$  s.t.  $(x, y_x) \in \mathcal{C}$  (and vice-versa).

**Def:** The Hausdorff distance between two subspaces X, Y of a common metric space (Z, d) is:  $d_H(X, Y) = \max\{\sup_{y \in Y} d(y, X), \sup_{x \in X} d(x, Y)\}$  $= \max\{\sup_{y \in Y} \inf_{x \in X} d(y, x), \sup_{x \in X} \inf_{y \in Y} d(x, y)\}$ 

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Thm: If X and Y are common subspaces of a common metric space (Z, d), then  $d_b(D_{Cech}(X), D_{Cech}(Y)) \le d_H(X, Y).$ 

Q: Prove it.

[*Persistence stability for geometric complexes*, Chazal, de Silva, Oudot, Geom. Dedicata, 2013].

**Thm:** If X and Y are pre-compact metric spaces, then  $d_b(D_{Rips}(X), D_{Rips}(Y)) \le d_{GH}(X, Y).$ 



**Rem:** This result also holds for Čech and other families of filtrations (particular case of a more general theorem).

# Application: non rigid shape classification

[Gromov-Hausdorff Stable Signatures for Shapes using Persistence, Chazal et al., Symp. Geom. Process., 2009]



Non rigid shapes in a same class are almost isometric, but computing Gromov-Hausdorff distance between shapes is extremely expensive, so one can compare persistence diagrams of sampled shapes instead of shapes themselves.

#### Limitations

**Thm:** If X and Y are pre-compact metric spaces, then

 $d_b(D_{Rips}(X), D_{Rips}(Y)) \le d_{GH}(X, Y).$ 

 $\rightarrow$  Vietoris-Rips (or Čech, witness) filtrations become quickly prohibitively large as the size of the data increases:  $O(2^{|X|})$ , making the practical computation of persistence almost impossible.

### Limitations

**Thm:** If X and Y are pre-compact metric spaces, then

```
d_b(D_{Rips}(X), D_{Rips}(Y)) \le d_{GH}(X, Y).
```

 $\rightarrow$  Vietoris-Rips (or Čech, witness) filtrations become quickly prohibitively large as the size of the data increases:  $O(2^{|X|})$ , making the practical computation of persistence almost impossible.

 $\rightarrow$  Persistence diagrams of Vietoris-Rips (as well as Čech, witness,..) filtrations and Gromov-Hausdorff distance are very sensitive to noise and outliers.



## Limitations

**Thm:** If X and Y are pre-compact metric spaces, then

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#### The Wasserstein distance

Let (X, d) be a metric space and let  $\mu$ ,  $\nu$  be probability measures on X with finite p-moments ( $p \ge 1$ ). The Wasserstein distance  $W_p(\mu, \nu)$  quantifies the optimal cost of pushing  $\mu$  onto  $\nu$ , the cost of moving a small mass dx from x to y being  $d(x, y)^p dx$ .



- Transport plan:  $\Pi$  a probability measure on  $X \times X$  s.t.  $\Pi(A \times \mathbb{R}^d) = \mu(A)$  and  $\Pi(\mathbb{R}^d \times B) = \nu(B)$  for any borelian sets  $A, B \subseteq X$ .
- Cost of a transport plan:

$$C(\Pi) = \left(\int_{X \times X} d(x, y)^p d\Pi(x, y)\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

•  $W_p(\mu,\nu) = \inf_{\Pi} C(\Pi).$ 

#### The Wasserstein distance



Ex: If 
$$P = \{p_1, \ldots, p_n\}$$
 is a point cloud, and  $P' = \{p_1, \ldots, p_{n-k-1}, o_1, \ldots, o_k\}$  with  $d(o_i, P) = R$ , then  
 $d_H(P, P') \ge R$  but  $W_2(\mu_P, \mu_{P'}) \le \sqrt{\frac{k}{n}}(R + \operatorname{diam}(P))$ 

[Geometric inference for probability measures, Chazal, Cohen-Steiner, Mérigot, Found. Comput. Math., 2011]

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**Preliminary distance function to a measure** P: let  $u \in ]0, 1[$  be a positive mass, and P a probability measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ :

$$\delta_{P,u}(x) = \inf\{r > 0 : P(B(x,r)) \ge u\}$$



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 $\delta_{P,u}$  is the quantile function at u of the r.v. ||x - X|| where  $X \sim P$ .

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**Def:** Given a probability measure P on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and m > 0, the distance function to the measure P (DTM) is defined by

$$d_{P,m}: x \in \mathbb{R} \mapsto \left(\frac{1}{m} \int_0^m \delta_{P,u}^2(x) \mathrm{d}u\right)^{1/2}$$

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The DTM is robust, i.e., stable under Wasserstein perturbations:

$$||d_{P,m} - d_{Q,m}||_{\infty} \le \frac{1}{\sqrt{m}} W_2(P,Q)$$

[Geometric inference for probability measures, Chazal, Cohen-Steiner, Mérigot, Found. Comput. Math., 2011]

**Def:** Let  $X_1, \ldots, X_n$  sampled according to P and let  $P_n$  be the empirical measure. Then

$$d_{P_n,k/n}(x) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k ||x - X_{(i)}||^2,$$

where  $||X_{(1)} - x|| \le ||X_{(2)} - x|| \le \dots \le ||X_{(k)} - x|| \le \dots \le ||X_{(n)} - x||.$ 



**Def:** Let V be a point cloud (in a metric space). The DTM-based complex W(V) is the filtered simplicial complex indexed by  $\mathbb{R}$  whose vertex set is V and whose other simplices are defined with

$$\sigma = [p_0, p_1 \dots, p_k] \in W(V, \alpha) \iff \cap_{i=0}^k B(p_i, r_{p_i}(\alpha)) \neq \emptyset$$

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# Summary

In this class, I introduced the basic bricks of persistent homology.

We have seen how to compute the homology groups of simplicial complexes with filtrations and their positive and negative simplices.

We have seen that positive and negative simplices can be paired together to form persistence barcodes/diagrams.

We have seen that persistence barcodes/diagrams are stable with respect to the bottleneck distance.

Next time, we will study the representations and statistical properties of persistence diagrams, that allow to combine them with standard machine learning models in a robust way.