### From topological inference to meshing algorithms

André Lieutier- Geometry Engineering



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## Inferring topology from data



Part 1 focuses on the computation of a simplicial complex which reproduces the homotopy type.

In part 2 we consider the computation of homeomorphic simplicial complexes, in other words **Triangulations** 









Reconstruction beyond visual realism: understanding the **topology** 





# Reconstruction beyond visual realism: understanding the **topology**



#### Reconstruction beyond visual realism: **Topology driven segmentation**

### Motivation: TDA (Topological Data Analysis)

#### MANIFOLD LEARNING

#### input



#### Motivation: TDA (Topological Data Analysis)



To persistent homology (barcode/diagram)





# What does it mean to recover the topology ? (of subsets of euclidean space)?

 Computing a finite representation, typically a simplicial complex which is homeomorphic = triangulation (or meshing)



• Computing a finite representation that shares the homotopy type



Computing some topological invariants, homology and persistent homology





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## Inferring topology from data



**Part 1** focuses on the computation of a simplicial complex which reproduces the **homotopy type**.

# What does it mean to recover the topology ? (of subset of euclidean space)

 Computing a finite representation, typically a simplicial complex which is homeomorphic = triangulation (or meshing)



A function  $f: X \to Y$  between two topological spaces is a **homeomorphism** if it has the following properties:

- f is a bijection (one-to-one and onto),
- f is continuous,
- the inverse function  $f^{-1}$  is continuous (f is an open mapping).

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The Free Encyclopedia

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# What does it mean to recover the topology ? (of subset of euclidean space)?

Computing a finite representation that shares the homotopy type



### Homotopy type

(thanks to Frederic Chazal)



• Two maps  $f_0 : X \to Y$  and  $f_1 : X \to Y$  are homotopic (denoted  $f_0 \simeq f_1$ ) if there exists a continuous map  $H : [0,1] \times X \to Y$  s. t.  $\forall x \in X, H(0,x) = f_0(x)$  and  $H_1(1,x) = f_1(x)$ .

$$H(t,x) := (1-t)x$$

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- X and Y have the same homotopy type (or are homotopy equivalent) if there exists continuous maps f : X → Y and g : Y → X s. t. g ∘ f is homotopic to Id<sub>X</sub> and f ∘ g is homotopic to Id<sub>Y</sub>.



# Homotopy type A particular case : **deformation retract**



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$$f \circ g = 1_{\{p\}}$$

$$H(t, x) = (1 - t)x$$

$$f = H(1, x)$$

$$H(0, x) = 1_D$$

$$H(0, x) = x$$

$$\frac{H(0, x) = x}{H(t, x) = (1 - t)x}$$

$$\frac{H(1, x) = 0}{(1 - t)^{2}}$$

### (Abstract) simplicial complexes



An **simplicial complex** is a collection of simplices glued along common faces:



...such that if a simplex is in the complex, all its faces (i.e. its non empty subsets) are also in the complex.

Simplicial complexes (geometric realization)

A *k*-simplex is a set of k + 1 vertices



A simplicial complex defines a topological space by associating to each k-simplex the convex hull of k + 1 points in general position in Euclidean space.

This topological space is called its geometric realization.



### **Nerve Theorem**

(finite, convex case)

**Definition 1.** A finite family of convex sets  $\mathcal{F} = \{C_1, \ldots, C_n\}$  is a finite convex cover of a set X if:

$$X = \bigcup_{i=1,n} C_i$$

**Definition 2.** Given a finite cover  $\mathcal{F}$ , the **nerve**  $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{F})$  of  $\mathcal{F}$  is the simplicial complex whose vertex set is  $\mathcal{F}$  and with one simplex for each subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  whose sets have a non empty common intersection:

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{F}) = \left\{ \sigma \subset \mathcal{F} \mid \bigcap_{C_i \in \sigma} C_i \neq \emptyset \right\}$$

**Theorem 1** (Nerve Theorem). If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a finite convex cover of X, then  $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{F})$  and X have same homotopy type.







Given a finite set  $\mathcal{P}$  and a radius r > 0, the **Čech complex**  $C_r(\mathcal{P})$  is the **nerve** of the family made of the closed balls  $\mathbb{B}(p, r)$  with radius r for each  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ :





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#### **Equivalently:**

Given a finite set  $\mathcal{P}$  and a radius r > 0, the **Čech complex**  $C_r(\mathcal{P})$  is the set of simplices in  $\mathcal{P}$  enclosed in ball of radius r.



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Given a finite set  $\mathcal{P}$  and a radius r > 0, the  $\alpha$ -complex  $A_r(\mathcal{P})$  is the nerve of the family made of the intersections of the (closed) Voronoi cell of p with the closed balls  $\mathbb{B}(p, r)$  with radius r for each  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ :

 $A_r(\mathcal{P}) = \mathcal{N}\left(\{\mathbb{B}(p, r) \cap \operatorname{Vor}_{\mathcal{P}}(p) \mid p \in \mathcal{P}\}\right)$ 





By the nerve Theorem, both Čech complex and  $\alpha$ -complex have the homotopy type of the corresponding union of balls

By the nerve Theorem, both  $\check{\mathbf{C}}$  ech complex and  $\alpha$ -complex have the homotopy type of the corresponding union of balls

Intuition: under some conditions, it may retrieve also the homotopy type of the sampled object





### Vietoris-Rips complex

Given a finite set  $\mathcal{P}$  and a radius r > 0, the **Čech complex**  $C_r(\mathcal{P})$  is the set of simplices in  $\mathcal{P}$  enclosed in ball of radius r.



Given a finite set  $\mathcal{P}$  and a parameter r > 0, the Vietoris-Rips complex  $R_r(\mathcal{P})$  is the set of simplices in  $\mathcal{P}$  with diameter at most 2r.





# Is it possible to capture the **topology** of a ``shape" from a finite sampling ?



An embedded manifold M

- A Point cloud  ${\color{black} S}$  sampling M
- A simplicial complex K built upon S, typically a parametrized Cech or Rips,

$$K \simeq M?$$

(i.e. is K homotopy equivalent to M?)

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### **Regularity measures**










### Medial Axis and Reach



# Medial Axis and Reach



# Medial Axis and Reach



 Used again in the context of manifold reconstruction with topological guarantees : Amenta et al. (lfs), Boissonnat et al., Dey et al., Niyogi et al.

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### Notation: offset of a set

We denote by  $S \oplus B(\varepsilon)$  or sometime  $S^{\oplus \varepsilon}$ the Minkowski sum of S and a the ball  $B(\varepsilon)$  of radius  $\varepsilon$ 

In other words the  ${\mathcal E}$ -offset of S In other words, S « inflated » of  ${\mathcal E}$  :

$$S \oplus B(\varepsilon) = S^{\oplus \varepsilon} := \bigcup_{x \in S} B(x, \varepsilon) = \left\{ y \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid d(y, S) \le \varepsilon \right\}$$

 $R \leq \operatorname{reach}(S)$ 







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$$S \subset P \oplus B(\epsilon)$$
 and  $P \subset S \oplus B(\delta)$ 

#### **General set of positive reach:**

If  $\varepsilon$  and  $\delta$  satisfy

 $\varepsilon + \sqrt{2}\,\delta \le (\sqrt{2} - 1)R,$ 

there exists a radius r > 0 such that the union of balls  $P \oplus B(r)$ deformation-retracts onto S along the closest point projection. In particular, r can be chosen as  $r = (R + \varepsilon)/2$ 

#### Weaker conditions for manifold of positive reach:

If  $\varepsilon$  and  $\delta$  satisfy

$$(R-\delta)^2 - \varepsilon^2 \ge \left(4\sqrt{2} - 5\right)R$$

These conditions are **tight** for retrieving the homology and homotopy by some offset of the sample



 $R \le \operatorname{reach}(S) \qquad \qquad S \subset P \oplus B(\epsilon) \quad \text{and} \quad P \subset S \oplus B(\delta)$ 

These conditions are **tight** for retrieving the homology and homotopy by some offset of the sample



# The reach can be alternatively defined by the metric distortion

(Boissonnat, L, Wintraecken, 2017)

**Theorem 1.** If  $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  is a closed set, then

$$\operatorname{rch} \mathcal{S} = \sup \left\{ r > 0, \, \forall a, b \in \mathcal{S}, \, |a - b| < 2r \Rightarrow d_{\mathcal{S}}(a, b) \le 2r \operatorname{arcsin} \frac{|a - b|}{2r} \right\}$$

where the sup over the empty set is 0.



### Metric distortion $\mathscr{D}_S$ as measure of regularity of a set S

(Boissonnat, L, Wintraecken, 2017)

Theorem 1. If  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  is a closed set, then  $\operatorname{rch} S = \sup \left\{ r > 0, \forall a, b \in S, |a - b| < 2r \Rightarrow d_S(a, b) \leq 2r \operatorname{arcsin} \frac{|a - b|}{2r} \right\},$ 

where the sup over the empty set is 0.

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Metric distortion } \mathscr{D}_S \text{ as measure} & \\ \text{of regularity of a set } S \ \textbf{?} \end{array} \right.$ 

Condition above can be rewritten as:

According to Gromov et Al.\*:

$$\mathscr{D}_{S}(t) \leq \frac{\pi}{2}t \Rightarrow S$$
 is simply connected  
 $\mathscr{D}_{S}(t) \leq \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi}t \Rightarrow S$  is contractible

\*Metric Structures for Riemannian and Non-Riemannian Spaces, M. Gromov, M. Katz, P. Pansu, S.Semmes

But for non smooth manifolds the reach is 0!



**Outside the medial axis**, the distance fonction  $x \mapsto R(x)$  is differentiable and its gradient has unit norm:  $\|\nabla(x)\| = 1$ 







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$$x \mapsto R_K(x) \underset{\text{def.}}{=} d(x, K) = \min_{y \in K} d(x, y)$$
$$x \mapsto \Theta_K(x) \underset{\text{def.}}{=} \{y \in K \mid d(x, y) = R_K(x)\}.$$

$$\mathcal{F}_K(x) = \operatorname{radius}(\Theta_K(x))$$

$$abla_K(x) \stackrel{=}{=} rac{x - \operatorname{center}(\Theta_K(x))}{R_K(x)}$$

$$\|\nabla_K(x)\|^2 = 1 - \left(\frac{\mathcal{F}_K(x)}{R_K(x)}\right)^2$$

$$\|\nabla(x)\| = \sqrt{1 - \frac{F(x)^2}{R(x)^2}}$$



**Beyond the reach**  $\|\nabla_K(x)\|^2 = 1 - \left(\frac{\mathcal{F}_K(x)}{R_K(x)}\right)$ 







#### (Chazal, Cohen-Steiner, L, 2006)

We study the properties of the sublevel set of the distance function  $d_S$  to the set (offsets).



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- The distance function is not smooth but admit a **generalized Gradient**  $\nabla_{S}$  (Clarke gradient)
- $d_S$  is somewhat similar to a Morse function: topological changes arise only when  $\chi_S(r) = 0$



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### Hausdorff distance between compact sets

$$d_H(X, Y) := \max\left(\sup_{x \in x} d(x, Y), \sup_{y \in Y} d(y, X)\right)$$

Where: 
$$d(x, Y) := \sup_{y \in Y} d(x, y)$$

Equivalently:

$$d_{H}(X,Y) = \sup \left\{ \rho \ge 0 \mid X \subset Y^{\bigoplus \rho} \text{ and } Y \subset X^{\bigoplus \rho} \right\}$$
$$= \|d(\ldots,X) - d(\ldots,Y)\|_{\infty} = \sup |d(z,X) - d(z,Y)|$$


#### critical function

Stability of the critical function



**Theorem:** [critical function stability theorem CCSL'06] Let K and K' be two compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  s. t.  $d_H(K, K') \leq \varepsilon$ . For all  $r \geq 0$ , we have:

$$\inf\{\chi_{K'}(u) \,|\, u \in I(r, \varepsilon)\} - 2\sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon}{r}} \le \chi_K(r)$$

where  $I(r,\varepsilon) = [r-\varepsilon,r+2\chi_K(r)\sqrt{\varepsilon r}+3\varepsilon]$ 

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$$\inf\{\chi_{K'}(u) \,|\, u \in I(r, \varepsilon)\} - 2\sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon}{r}} \le \chi_K(r)$$

where  $I(r,\varepsilon) = [r - \varepsilon, r + 2\chi_K(r)\sqrt{\varepsilon r} + 3\varepsilon]$ 

 $d_{H}(K',K) < \varepsilon \Rightarrow K^{\oplus \alpha} \subset K^{' \oplus \alpha + \varepsilon} \subset K^{\oplus \alpha + 2\varepsilon}$ 

#### Hausdorff distance between compact sets

$$d_H(X, Y) := \max\left(\sup_{x \in x} d(x, Y), \sup_{y \in Y} d(y, X)\right)$$

Where: 
$$d(x, Y) := \sup_{y \in Y} d(x, y)$$

Equivalently:

$$d_{H}(X,Y) = \sup \left\{ \rho \ge 0 \mid X \subset Y^{\bigoplus \rho} \text{ and } Y \subset X^{\bigoplus \rho} \right\}$$
$$= \|d(\ldots,X) - d(\ldots,Y)\|_{\infty} = \sup |d(z,X) - d(z,Y)|$$





Inclusion commutes



- Inclusion commutes
- Horizontal inclusions are homotopy equivalences





=> all inclusions are homotopy equivalences





=> all inclusions are homotopy equivalences



# When a simplicial complex over a point sample recovers the homotopy type



### By **quantifying the stability of the critical function** with respect to the change in **Hausdorff distance** we get:

F. Chazal, D. Cohen-Steiner, and A. Lieutier. A sampling theory for compact sets in Euclidean space. *Discete Comput. Geom.*, 41:461–479, 2009. Cech complex, non-smooth



The critical function of a compact set

**Definition:** The critical function  $\chi_K : (0, +\infty) \to \mathbb{R}_+$  of a compact set K is the function defined by

 $\chi_K(r) = \inf_{x \in d_K^{-1}(r)} \|\nabla_K(x)\|$ 

#### Beyond the reach **Convexity defect** approach (Attali, L, Salinas, 2011) $h_X(t)$ $c_X(t)$ X X Centers(X,t) $\operatorname{Hull}(X,t)$ $\{\operatorname{Center}(\sigma)\}.$ $\operatorname{Centers}(X, t)$ $\operatorname{Hull}(X, t)$ $\operatorname{Hull}(\sigma).$ == $\emptyset \neq \sigma \subset X$ $\emptyset \neq \sigma \subset X$ $\operatorname{Rad}(\sigma) \leq t$ $\operatorname{Rad}(\sigma) \leq t$ $c_X(t) = d_H(Centers(X, t), X)$ $h_X(t) = d_H(Hull(X, t), X)$

#### Beyond the reach Convexity defect approach (Attali, L, Salinas, 2011)



**Lemma 2.** For any compact set  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and any real number t > 0, the following three conditions are equivalent: (1) t is a critical value of  $d(\cdot, X)$ ; (2)  $c_X(t) = t$ ; (3)  $h_X(t) = t$ .

# When a simplicial complex over a point sample recovers the homotopy type



By **quantifying the stability of the convexity defect** with respect to the change in **Hausdorff distance** we get:

D. Attali, A. Lieutier, and D. Salinas. Vietorisrips complexes also provide topologically correct reconstructions of sampled shapes. *Comput. Geom.*, 46:448–465, 2013.



For **Rips** Complex: a kind of **geometric** and **effective** (i.e. quantified) version of a result by **J. Latschev** (2001)

# When a simplicial complex over a point sample recovers the homotopy type

P. Niyogi, S. Smale, and S. Weinberger. Finding the homology of submanifolds with high confidence from random samples. *Discrete Comput. Geom.*, 39:419–441, 2008.

Dominique Attali, Hana Dal Poz Kouřimská, Christopher Fillmore, Ishika Ghosh, André Lieutier, Elizabeth Stephenson, and Mathijs Wintraecken. Optimal homotopy reconstruction results\a la niyogi, smale, and weinberger. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2206.10485, 2022. (optimal)

F. Chazal, D. Cohen-Steiner, and A. Lieutier. A sampling theory for compact sets in Euclidean space. *Discete Comput. Geom.*, 41:461–479, 2009.

D. Attali, A. Lieutier, and D. Salinas. Vietorisrips complexes also provide topologically correct reconstructions of sampled shapes. *Comput. Geom.*, 46:448–465, 2013.

(best known constant for Vietoris-Rips complexes)

#### Convexity defects

Jisu Kim, Jaehyeok Shin, Frédéric Chazal, Alessandro Rinaldo, and Larry Wasserman. Homotopy Reconstruction via the Cech Complex and the Vietoris-Rips Complex. (SoCG 2020).

(best known constant for Cech complexes)



Critical function & *µ*-reach

## Part 2: Triangulation by minimal chains





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Part 1 has focused on the computation of a simplicial complex which reproduce the homotopy type.

In part 2 we consider the computation of homeomorphic simplicial complexes, in other words **Triangulations** 

## Part 2: Triangulation by minimal chains







Is there a path between  $\alpha$  and  $\epsilon$ ?



Is there a path between  $\alpha$  and  $\epsilon$ ?

A (linear) algebra formulation of this question ?



Vector space of 0-chains:

$$C_0 = \left\{ Y_{\alpha} \alpha + Y_{\beta} \beta + Y_{\gamma} \gamma + Y_{\delta} \delta + Y_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon \mid Y \in \mathbb{R}^5 \right\}$$



Vector space of 1-chains:

$$C_{1} = \left\{ X_{a} a + X_{b} b + X_{c} c + X_{d} d + X_{e} e + X_{f} f \mid X \in \mathbb{R}^{6} \right\}$$
  
(basis = ``oriented'' 1-simplices)

$$C_{0} = \left\{ Y_{\alpha} \alpha + Y_{\beta} \beta + Y_{\gamma} \gamma + Y_{\delta} \delta + Y_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon \mid Y \in \mathbb{R}^{5} \right\}$$
  
(basis = 0-simplices)

$$C_1 = \left\{ X_a a + X_b b + X_c c + X_d d + X_e e + X_f f \mid X \in \mathbb{R}^6 \right\}$$
  
(basis = ``oriented'' 1-simplices)

#### Boundary linear operator:

$$\begin{array}{c} \beta & c & \delta \\ a & b & d & f \\ \alpha & b & d & e & \varepsilon \\ \gamma & e & e & \varepsilon \end{array}$$

$$\partial : C_1 \to C_0$$

$$\partial a = \alpha - \beta$$

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$$\partial a = \beta - \alpha$$



$$\partial(-a+c+f) = (\beta - \alpha) + (\delta - \beta) + (\varepsilon - \delta)$$
$$= \varepsilon - \alpha$$

Is there a path between  $\alpha$  and  $\epsilon$ ?

 $\partial : C_1 \to C_0$ 

Yes: 
$$-a + c + f$$

There a path between  $\alpha$  and  $\varepsilon$ 

$$\iff \exists \mathcal{X} \in C_1 \mid \partial \mathcal{X} = \varepsilon - \alpha$$





# Minimal homology notions: **Algebraic** formulation of topological properties There a path between $\alpha$ and $\varepsilon$ $\iff \exists \mathcal{X} \in C_1 \mid \partial \mathcal{X} = \varepsilon - \alpha$ $\iff \exists \mathscr{X} \in C_1 \mid \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X_a \\ X_b \\ X_c \\ X_d \\ X_e \\ X_f \end{pmatrix} =$ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_





$$\partial_1 : C_1 \to C_0 : \partial_1 \left( \begin{array}{c} a \\ a \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} a \\ a \end{array}$$

$$\partial_1 a = \partial_1 [\alpha, \beta] = \beta - \alpha$$





Simplicial homology in a single slide !







$$\partial_{1} \Gamma = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \Gamma \in \ker \partial_{1}$$
  
But...  $\Gamma \in \operatorname{Im} \partial_{2} \Rightarrow \left[ \Gamma \right]_{\operatorname{Im} \partial_{2}} = 0$ 






#### Minimal homology notions:



## $\partial_1 \Gamma = 0 \quad \partial_1 \Gamma' = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \Gamma, \Gamma' \in \ker \partial_1$

#### Minimal homology notions:



#### Minimal homology notions:



#### Minimal homology notions: back to algorithms



#### (orientable and non-orientable, with/without boundary)

If M is a **connected compact orientable** d-manifold, its d-homology group is one dimensional and a generator of it is called the **Fundamental class**.



$$\dim \mathbf{H}_d(M^d) = 1$$

#### (orientable and non-orientable, with/without boundary)

If M is a **connected compact orientable** d-manifold, its d-homology group is one dimensional and a generator of it is called the **Fundamental class**.



$$\dim \mathbf{H}_d(M^d, \mathbb{Z}_2) = 1$$

If the coefficients field is  $\mathbb{Z}_2 = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ , this is also true for non-orientable (compact, connected) manifolds.



#### (orientable and non-orientable, with/without boundary)

If M is a **connected compact orientable** d-manifold, its d-homology group is one dimensional and a generator of it is called the **Fundamental class**.



$$\dim \mathbf{H}_d(M^d, \mathbb{Z}_2) = 1$$

If the coefficients field is  $\mathbb{Z}_2 = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ , this is also true for non-orientable (compact, connected) manifolds.



For manifolds with boundaries, this generalizes with relative homology:

$$\dim \mathbf{H}_d(M, \partial M, \mathbb{Z}_2) = 1$$

## Remember:

Given a finite set  $\mathcal{P}$  and a radius r > 0, the **Čech complex**  $C_r(\mathcal{P})$  is the set of simplices in  $\mathcal{P}$  enclosed in ball of radius r.



Given a finite set  $\mathcal{P}$  and a parameter r > 0, the Vietoris-Rips complex  $R_r(\mathcal{P})$  is the set of simplices in  $\mathcal{P}$  with diameter at most 2r.







In particular, under adequate sampling conditions and parameters,  $\mathbf{\check{C}ech}$  or **Vietoris-Rips** complexes *K* share **the homotopy type** and therefore the **d-homology of the complex.** 

Which is then is one dimensional and **reproduces the fundamental class** of the manifold.

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{H}_d(K, \mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq \mathbb{Z}_2$$

 $\Rightarrow$  **H**<sub>d</sub>(*K*) contains a single non zero element.



$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{H}_{d}(K, \mathbb{Z}_{2}) \simeq \mathbb{Z}_{2} \Rightarrow \mathbf{H}_{d}(K) \text{ contains a single non zero element}$$

But Homology classes are not geometric: we look for a particular simplicial chain representative of the homology class whose support could be homeomorphic to the sampled manifold:

We search for it as the **minimum representative** chain in the fundamental class

#### Two canonical problems

Minimal chain for a given boundary  $\beta$ Given  $\beta \in C_{d-1}(K, \mathbb{F})$  find:  $\Gamma_{\min} = \min\{\Gamma \in C_d(K, \mathbb{F}), \partial\Gamma = \beta\}$ 



 $\dim(K) = 1$ 

#### Minimal chain homologous to $\alpha$

Given  $\alpha \in C_d(K, \mathbb{F})$  find:

 $\Gamma_{\min} = \min\{\alpha + \partial \omega, \omega \in C_{d+1}(K, \mathbb{F})\}$ 



$$\dim(K) = 2$$

# Minimal homology representative cycle (real coefficients)

Minimal chain for a given boundary  $\beta$ 

 $\underset{x, \ \partial x = \beta}{\arg\min} \|x\|_2$ 



#### L<sup>2</sup> minima are not sparse

Minimizing L<sup>2</sup> norm => harmonic form:





# Minimal homology representative cycle (real coefficients)

Minimal chain for a given boundary  $\beta$ 

 $\underset{x, \ \partial x = \beta}{\arg\min} \|x\|_{1}$ 



#### L<sup>1</sup> minima are sparse

Minimizing L<sup>1</sup> norm : => **shortest path** 





#### Minimal homology representative cycle

Minimal chain homologous to  $\alpha$ 

Given  $\alpha \in C_d(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  find:  $\Gamma_{\min} = \min\{\alpha + \partial \omega, \omega \in C_{d+1}(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)\}$ 

**Minimality for**  $L^1$  **norm**, typically « **volumes**»:

$$\|\Gamma\|_1 = \mathbf{Vol}(\Gamma) = \sum |\Gamma(\tau)| \mathbf{Vol}(\tau)$$





(Thanks to T. Dey et Al. for the figures)

## Minimal homology representative cycle

#### Some related works on $L^1$ minimal homologous chain...

Erin W Chambers, Jeff Erickson, and Amir Nayyeri. Minimum cuts and shortest homologous cycles. In *Proceedings of the twenty-fifth annual symposium on Computational geometry*, pages 377–385. ACM, 2009.

Chao Chen and Daniel Freedman. Quantifying homology classes. arXiv preprint arXiv:0802.2865, 2008.

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Tamal K Dey, Anil N Hirani, and Bala Krishnamoorthy. Optimal homologous cycles, total unimodularity, and linear programming. *SIAM Journal on Computing*, 40(4):1026–1044, 2011.

Tamal K Dey, Tao Hou, and Sayan Mandal. Computing minimal persistent cycles: Polynomial and hard cases. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1907.04889*, 2019. Hardness results (linear programming):

NP-Hard in general for coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ 





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## Minimal homology representative cycle

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polynomial algorithm when total unimodularity of boundary operator



(Thanks to T. Dey et Al. for the figures)

## Our two canonical problems

Minimal chain for a given boundary 
$$\beta$$
  
Given  $\beta \in C_{d-1}(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  find:  
 $\Gamma_{\min} = \min\{\Gamma \in C_d(K, \mathbb{Z}_2), \partial\Gamma = \beta\}$ 



 $\dim(K) = 1$ 

Minimal chain homologous to  $\alpha$ Given  $\alpha \in C_d(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  find:  $\Gamma_{\min} = \min\{\alpha + \partial \omega, \omega \in C_{d+1}(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)\}$ min according to:

\*  $L^1$ norm,

\* lexicographic order.



$$\dim(K) = 2$$

### Our two canonical problems





 $\dim(K) = 1$ 



min according to: \*  $L^1$ norm,  $\checkmark$  NP-hard in general (Chen, Freedman, 2011) \* lexicographic order.  $\checkmark$   $\mathscr{O}(n^3)$  (Cohen-Steiner, L, Vuillamy, 2019)

## Lexicographic order



Connect the some dots to form a path between *s* and *t* 



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<u>Objective</u>: find path going through "**densest**" parts of the point cloud. 1D simplicial complex = **Complete graph** (= one edge by points pairs)

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<u>Classic graph problem</u>: Find minimal path for given edge weights (*Dijkstra*'s *algorithm*)

h (= one edge by points pairs)  

$$\sum_{k=1}^{N} \operatorname{length}(e) \quad p = 1$$

$$\arg\min_{\partial\Gamma=s+t} \sum_{e\in\Gamma} \operatorname{length}(e) \quad p =$$

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iven edge  
*s*  
*s*  
*s*  
*arg* min  

$$\partial\Gamma = s+t$$
  $\sum_{e \in \Gamma} \text{length}(e)^2$   $p = 2$ 

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Connect the some dots to form a path between *s* and *t* 

Objective: find path going through "densest" parts of the point cloud. 1D simplicial complex = **Complete graph** (= one edge by points pairs)  $\arg\min_{\partial\Gamma=s+t} \sum_{e\in\Gamma} \operatorname{length}(e)^4 \quad p=4$ 

Connect the some dots to form a path between *s* and *t* 

Objective: find path going through "densest" parts of the point cloud. 1D simplicial complex = **Complete graph** (= one edge by points pairs)  $\arg\min_{\partial\Gamma=s+t} \sum_{e\in\Gamma} \operatorname{length}(e)^8 \quad p=8$ 

Connect the some dots to form a path between *s* and *t* 

Objective: find path going through "densest" parts of the point cloud. 1D simplicial complex = **Complete graph** (= one edge by points pairs)  $\arg\min_{\partial\Gamma=s+t} \sum_{e\in\Gamma} \operatorname{length}(e)^p$ **Behavior as**  $p \rightarrow \infty$  ?

#### Limit behavior as $p \rightarrow \infty$ ? : lexicographic order

Assume no two edges have same length (generic condition): **Sort edges along decreasing length:** 

 $w_1 > w_2 > \ldots > w_N$ , where  $w_i = \text{length}(\tau_i)$ 



$$\exists p \in \mathbb{N}, \forall i, w_i^p > \sum_{j > i} w_j^p$$

$$\Gamma = \tau_1 + \tau_3 + \dots$$
$$\Gamma' = \tau_1 + \tau_2 + \dots$$

$$\Gamma \sqsubseteq_{lex} \Gamma'$$

Analogy for lexicographic order: "Rock hopping"

Which path is smaller in the lexicographic order ?





Analogy for lexicographic order: "Rock hopping"

Which path is smaller in the lexicographic order ?







# Lexicographic order

 $\leq$  defines a **lexicographic orde**r  $\sqsubseteq_{lex}$  on chains:

$$\Gamma_{1} \sqsubseteq_{lex} \Gamma_{2} \underset{def.}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{cases} \Gamma_{1} = \Gamma_{2} \\ \text{or} \\ \sigma_{\max} = \max \left\{ \sigma \in \Gamma_{1} - \Gamma_{2} \right\} \in \Gamma_{2} \end{cases}$$

(With coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $\Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2$  is the symmetric difference between  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ )



## Our two canonical problems again

**Lexicographic-minimal** chain for a given boundary  
**Given** 
$$\beta \in C_{d-1}(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$$
 find:  
 $\Gamma_{\min} = \min\{\Gamma \in C_d(K, \mathbb{Z}_2), \partial\Gamma = \beta\}$   
 $\sqsubseteq_{lex}$ 

Lexicographic-minimal homologous chain: Given  $\alpha \in C_d(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  find:  $\Gamma_{\min} = \min\{\alpha + \partial \omega, \omega \in C_{d+1}(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)\}$  $\sqsubseteq_{lex}$ 



Both problem can be solved in less than  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$  time complexity

## Our two canonical problems again

**Lexicographic-minimal** chain for a given boundary  
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**Lexicographic-minimal** homologous chain: **Given**  $\alpha \in C_d(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  **find:**   $\Gamma_{\min} = \min\{\alpha + \partial \omega, \omega \in C_{d+1}(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)\}$  $\sqsubseteq_{lex}$ 



 $\beta \mapsto \Gamma_{\min}$  and  $\alpha \mapsto \Gamma_{\min}$  are **linear maps**, (as for  $L^2$  minima) but minima are **sparse** (as for  $L^1$  minima).

# $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ general algorithm

Lexicographic-minimal homologous chain: Given  $\alpha \in C_d(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  find:  $\Gamma_{\min} = \min\{\alpha + \partial \omega, \omega \in C_{d+1}(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)\}$  $\sqsubseteq_{lex}$ 



A chain  $\Gamma'$  is said to be a **reduction** of a chain  $\Gamma$  if:

 $|\Gamma'$  is homologous to  $\Gamma$  and  $|\Gamma' <_{lex} \Gamma|$ 

# $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ general algorithm







# $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ general algorithm

$$\partial_{d+1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{V} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

In  $\mathbf{R}$ , there is exactly one column with a lowest 1 for each reducible simplex 1

#### Same as Homological persistence

Algorithm 1: Reduction algorithm for the  $\partial_{d+1}$  matrix  $R = \partial_{d+1}$ for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to n do | while  $R_j \neq 0$  and  $\exists j_0 < j$  with  $low(j_0) = low(j)$  do |  $R_j \leftarrow R_j + R_{j_0}$ end end
# $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ general algorithm



In  $\mathbf{R}$ , there is exactly one column with a lowest 1 for each reducible simplex 1

Total reduction of  $\Gamma$  using the reduced boundary operator  ${f R}$ 

**Algorithm 2:** Total reduction algorithm **Inputs**: A *d*-chain  $\Gamma$ , the reduction matrix *R* from Algorithm 1 for  $i \leftarrow m$  to 1 do  $| if \Gamma[i] \neq 0 and \exists j \in [1, n] with low(j) = i in R$  then  $| \Gamma \leftarrow \Gamma + R_j$ end end

 $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$  general algorithm



In  $\mathbf{R}$ , there is exactly one column with a lowest 1 for each reducible simplex 1

Total reduction of  $\Gamma$  using the reduced boundary operator  ${f R}$ 

 Algorithm 2: Total reduction algorithm

 Inputs: A d-chain  $\Gamma$ , the reduction matrix R from Algorithm 1

 for  $i \leftarrow m$  to 1 do

 if  $\Gamma[i] \neq 0$  and  $\exists j \in [1, n]$  with low(j) = i in R then

  $\mid \Gamma \leftarrow \Gamma + R_j$  

 end

# $\mathcal{O}(n\alpha(n))$ algorithm in co-dimension 1

Lexicographic-minimal homologous chain:

Given 
$$\alpha \in C_d(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$$
 find:  

$$\Gamma_{\min} = \min_{\substack{\subseteq \\ lex}} \{ \alpha + \partial \omega, \omega \in C_{d+1}(K, \mathbb{Z}_2) \}$$



**Once** *d*-simplices are **sorted** (in time  $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ ):

 $\mathcal{O}(n \alpha(n))$  algorithm using **union-find** data structure on the **dual** graph to solve a lexicographic MIN-CUT/MAX-FLOW problem.







#### When L<sup>1</sup> minimal chain is Delaunay

For each point  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we consider its *lifted image*  $\hat{u} = (u, ||u||^2) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . A classical result says that  $\sigma$  is a Delaunay *n*-simplex of P if and only if  $\hat{\sigma}$  spans an *n*-face of the lower convex hull of  $\hat{P}$ .



When L<sup>1</sup> minimal chain is Delaunay



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#### When L<sup>1</sup> minimal chain is Delaunay



 $\forall T', \sum w_p(\tau)^p \leq \sum w_p(\tau)^p$  $\tau \in T'$  $\tau \in T$ 

 $w_p(\tau) = \left(\int_{|\tau|} \delta_{\tau}(x)^p dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$ 



Long Chen and Jin-chao Xu. Optimal delaunay triangulations. Journal of Computational Mathematics, pages 299–308, 2004.

#### Variational definition of Delaunay => triangulation optimization :

Pierre Alliez, David Cohen-Steiner, Mariette Yvinec, and Mathieu Desbrun. Variational tetrahedral meshing. *ACM Transactions on Graphics* (*TOG*), 24(3):617–625, 2005.

L. Chen and M. Holst. Efficient mesh optimization schemes based on optimal delaunay triangulations. *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 200(9):967–984, 2011.



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T minimum along the T' that triangulates  $\mathscr{D}$ 

When L<sup>1</sup> minimal chain is Delaunay

Triangulation T is Delaunay iff.:

$$\forall T', \sum_{\tau \in T} w_p(\tau)^p \le \sum_{\tau \in T'} w_p(\tau)^p$$

$$w_p(\tau) = \left(\int_{|\tau|} \delta_{\tau}(x)^p dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$



T minimum along the chains  $\Gamma$  such that  $\partial \Gamma = \partial \mathscr{D}$ 

#### When L<sup>1</sup> minimal chain is Delaunay

Triangulation *T* is Delaunay iff.:  $\forall T', \sum_{\tau \in T} w_p(\tau)^p \leq \sum_{\tau \in T'} w_p(\tau)^p$ 

Define the following norm on chains:

$$\|\Gamma\|_p = \sum_{\sigma \in K_d} w_p(\tau)^p |\Gamma(\tau)|$$

Still a  $L^1$  norm : exponent p is on the weight, not on the coordinate.

$$w_p(\tau) = \left(\int_{|\tau|} \delta_{\tau}(x)^p dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$



*T* minimum along the chains  $\Gamma$  such that  $\partial \Gamma = \partial \mathscr{D}$ 

#### **Delaunay triangulation**

$$\|\Gamma\|_{p} = \sum_{\sigma \in K_{d}} w_{p}(\tau)^{p} |\Gamma(\tau)| \qquad w_{p}(\sigma) = \left(\int_{|\sigma|} \delta_{\sigma}(x)^{p} dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \|\delta_{\sigma}\|_{p}$$



(Attali, L., 2016)

Let  $\mathbf{P} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  be a finite set of points. Let  $\beta_{\mathbf{P}}$  be a cycle whose support is the boundary of the convex hull of  $\mathbf{P}$ The support of the chain that minimizes  $\Gamma \mapsto \|\Gamma\|_p$  under constraint  $\partial\Gamma = \beta_{\mathbf{P}}$ is the Delaunay triangulation of  $\mathbf{P}$ 





#### 2-manifolds and *perturbed d*-manifolds:

$$\|\Gamma\|_p = \sum_{\sigma \in K_d} w_p(\tau)^p |\Gamma(\tau)|$$

(Attali, Dominique, and A. L. "Delaunay-Like Triangulation of Smooth Orientable Submanifolds by *l*1-Norm Minimization. » 2022)

The support of the chain that minimizes  $\Gamma \mapsto \|\Gamma\|_1$ under constraint  $\begin{cases} \partial \Gamma = 0 \\ \log_{m_0, \operatorname{Approx}(T_{m_0}\mathcal{M})} = 1, \end{cases}$ 

triangulates the manifold.





**Delaunay triangulation** 

$$\|\Gamma\|_{p} = \sum_{\sigma \in K_{d}} w_{p}(\tau)^{p} |\Gamma(\tau)| \qquad w_{p}(\sigma) = \left(\int_{|\sigma|} \delta_{\sigma}(x)^{p} dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \|\delta_{\sigma}\|_{p}$$



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#### When lexicographic-minimal chain is Delaunay

**Behavior as**  $p \rightarrow \infty$  ?

$$w_p(\sigma) = \left(\int_{|\sigma|} \delta_{\sigma}(x)^p dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \|\delta_{\sigma}\|_p$$

The weights  $w_p$  defines a preorder  $\leq_{\infty}$  on simplices:

$$\sigma_1 \leq_{\infty} \sigma_2 \iff \exists p \in [1,\infty[, \forall p' \in [p,\infty[, w_{p'}(\sigma_1) \leq w_{p'}(\sigma_2)$$

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 $\leq_{\infty} \text{ is a finer (pre-)order than comparing } w_{\infty} = \|\delta_{\sigma}\|_{\infty} = \max_{x \in |\sigma|} \delta_{\sigma}(x) = \lim_{p \to \infty} w_{p}$   $w_{p}(\sigma_{2})$   $w_{p}(\sigma_{1})$  p

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$$\sigma_1 \leq_{\infty} \sigma_2 \iff \exists p \in [1,\infty[, \forall p' \in [p,\infty[, w_{p'}(\sigma_1) \leq w_{p'}(\sigma_2)$$

Acute triangle:

For 2-simplices, under a generic condition, one has:

**Lemma 7.4.** If Condition 1 holds,  $\leq_{\infty}$  is a total order on the set of 2-simplices of K with:

$$\sigma_{1} \leq_{\infty} \sigma_{2} \iff \begin{cases} R_{B}(\sigma_{1}) < R_{B}(\sigma_{2}) \\ \text{or} \\ R_{B}(\sigma_{1}) = R_{B}(\sigma_{2}) \quad \text{and} \quad R_{C}(\sigma_{1}) \geq R_{C}(\sigma_{2}) \end{cases}$$



#### When lexicographic-minimal chain is Delaunay

**Behavior as**  $p \rightarrow \infty$  ?

$$w_p(\sigma) = \left(\int_{|\sigma|} \delta_{\sigma}(x)^p dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \|\delta_{\sigma}\|_p$$

The weights  $w_p$  defines a preorder  $\leq_{\infty}$  on simplices:

$$\sigma_1 \leq_{\infty} \sigma_2 \iff \exists p \in [1, \infty[, \forall p' \in [p, \infty[, w_{p'}(\sigma_1) \leq w_{p'}(\sigma_2)$$

When  $\leq_{\infty}$  is a total order, it defines a **lexicographic orde**r  $\sqsubseteq_{lex}$  on chains:

$$\Gamma_{1} \sqsubseteq_{lex} \Gamma_{2} \underset{def.}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{cases} \Gamma_{1} = \Gamma_{2} \\ \text{or} \\ \sigma_{\max} = \max_{\leq_{\infty}} \left\{ \sigma \in \Gamma_{1} - \Gamma_{2} \right\} \in \Gamma_{2} \end{cases}$$

(With coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $\Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2$  is the symmetric difference between  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ )



# **Delaunay triangulation**

When lexicographic-minimal chain is Delaunay

**Theorem 1** Let  $\mathbf{P} = \{(P_1, \mu_1), \dots, (P_N, \mu_N)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}, \text{ with } N \geq n+1, \text{ be weighted points in general position and } K_{\mathbf{P}} \text{ the n-dimensional full simplicial complex over } \mathbf{P}. \text{ Denote by } \beta_{\mathbf{P}} \in C_{n-1}(K_{\mathbf{P}}) \text{ the } (n-1)\text{-chain, set of simplices belonging to the boundary of the convex hull } C\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{P}).$ Then the simplicial complex  $|\Gamma_{\min}|$  support of

Р

$$\Gamma_{\min} = \min_{\sqsubseteq_{lex}} \left\{ \Gamma \in \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{n}}(K_{\mathbf{P}}), \partial \Gamma = \beta_{\mathbf{P}} \right\}$$

is the regular triangulation of  $\mathbf{P}$ .

(Cohen-Steiner, L., Vuillamy 2020)

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When lexicographic-minimal chain is Delaunay

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is the regular triangulation of  $\mathbf{P}$ .

This extends to smooth (positive reach) 2-manifolds

# Triangulation of positive reach 2-manifolds

- $\mathbf{P} \subset \mathcal{M}$  is an  $(\epsilon, \eta)$ -sampling of  $\mathcal{M}$  iff:
- $d_H(\mathbf{P}, \mathcal{M}) < \epsilon$
- $\forall p, q \in \mathbf{P}, p \neq q \Rightarrow d(p,q) > \eta$



**Theorem 1.** There are constants  $C_1, C_2, C_3$  such that: If  $\mathcal{M}$  is a smooth 2-manifold embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with reach  $\mathcal{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{P}$  an  $(\epsilon, \eta)$ -sampling of  $\mathcal{M}$  and K a Čech or Vietoris-Rips complex on K with parameter  $\lambda$ , such that:

$$C_1 \epsilon < \lambda < C_2 \mathcal{R}$$

and:

K captures the homotopy type  $\Rightarrow \beta_2 = 1$ 

Lexicographic minimal chain in  $H_2(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  is a triangulation

Then if:

$$\mathcal{T} = \min_{\sqsubseteq_{lex}} \operatorname{Ker}(\partial_2) \setminus \operatorname{Im}(\partial_3)$$

 $\frac{\epsilon}{\mathcal{R}} < C_3 \left(\frac{\eta}{\epsilon}\right)^{10}$ 

The restriction of  $\pi_{\mathcal{M}}$  to  $|\mathcal{T}|$  is an homeomorphism on  $\mathcal{M}$ . It follows that  $(|\mathcal{T}|, \pi_{\mathcal{M}})$  is a triangulation of  $\mathcal{M}$ .














































## Minimal homology representative cycle

## Examples of lexicographic-minimal cycle



## Thank you !