

# Persistent Homology

David Gu

Yau Mathematics Science Center  
Tsinghua University  
Computer Science Department  
Stony Brook University

*gu@cs.stonybrook.edu*

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# Persistent Homology

# Cech Complex

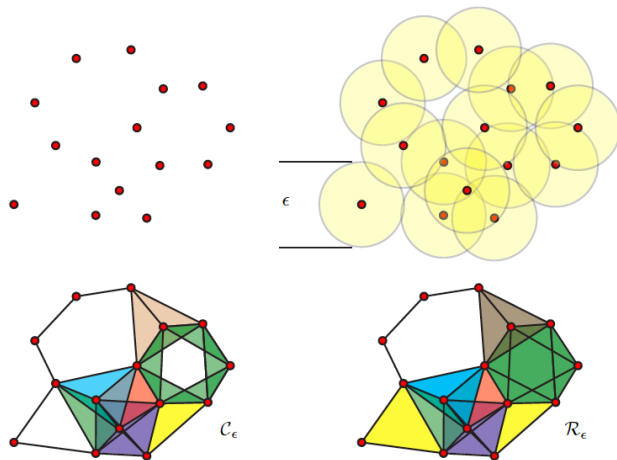


Figure: Čech complex.

## Definition (Cech Complex)

Given a set of points  $\{x_\alpha\}$  in Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the Cech complex (also known as the nerve),  $\mathcal{C}_\epsilon$ , is the abstract simplicial complex where a set of  $k + 1$  vertices spans a  $k$ -simplex whenever the  $k + 1$  corresponding closed  $\epsilon/2$ -ball neighborhoods have nonempty intersection.

## Definition (Vietoris-Rips Complex)

Given a set of points  $\{x_\alpha\}$  in Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the Vietoris-Rips complex,  $\mathcal{R}_\epsilon$ , is the abstract simplicial complex where a set  $S$  of  $k + 1$  vertices spans a  $k$ -simplex whenever the distance between any pair of points in  $S$  is at most  $\epsilon$ .

# Cech Complex

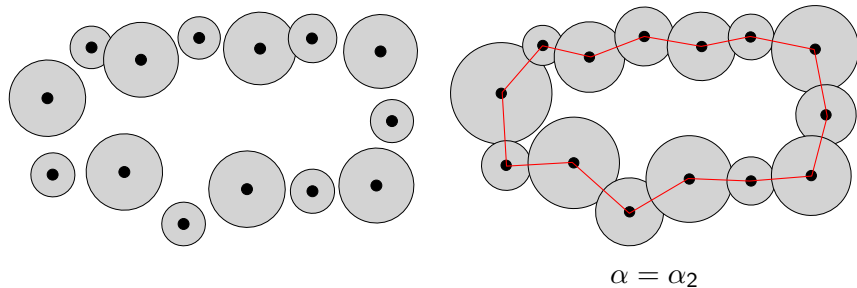
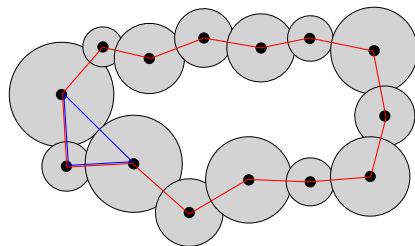
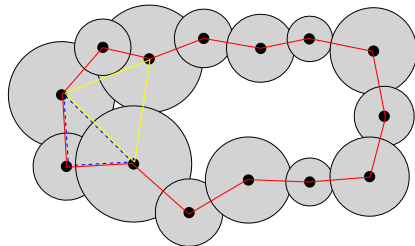


Figure: Cech complex.

# Cech Complex



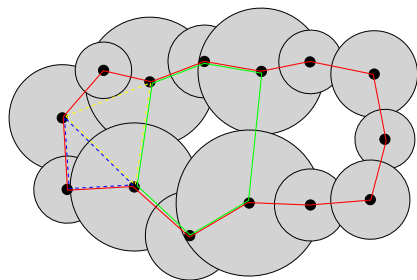
$$\alpha = \alpha_3$$



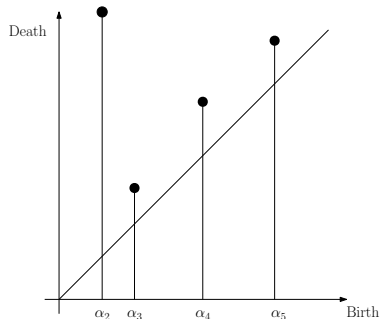
$$\alpha = \alpha_4$$

Figure: Cech complex.

# Cech Complex



$$\alpha = \alpha_5$$



persistent diagram

Figure: Cech complex.

## Definition (filtration)

A filtration of a simplicial complex  $\mathbb{K}$  is a nested sequence of complexes,

$$\emptyset = \mathbb{K}_{-1} \subset \mathbb{K}_0 \subset \mathbb{K}_1 \subset \cdots \subset \mathbb{K}_n = \mathbb{K}.$$

## Example

Suppose  $\mathbb{K}$  is a simplicial complex, we sort all the simplices in a sequence

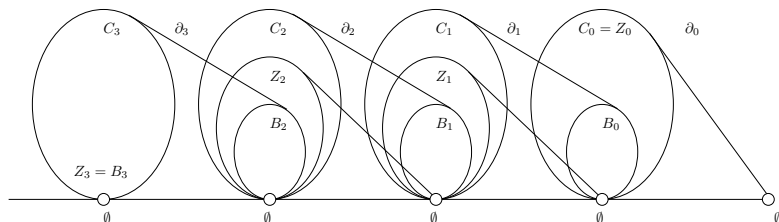
$$\sigma_1^0, \sigma_2^0, \cdots, \sigma_{n_0}^0, \sigma_1^1, \sigma_2^1, \cdots, \sigma_{n_1}^1, \sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2, \cdots, \sigma_{n_2}^2.$$

where  $\sigma_i^k$  is the  $i$ -th  $k$ -simplex in  $\mathbb{K}$ . Then we relabel all the simplices as

$$\sigma^0, \sigma^1, \sigma^2, \cdots,$$

We define  $\mathbb{K}_j$  as the union of  $\sigma^0, \sigma^1, \dots, \sigma^j$ .





**Figure:** Chain, cycle, boundary groups and their images under the boundary operators.

$$H_k(\mathbb{K}, \mathbb{Z}_2) = \frac{\text{Ker } \partial_k}{\text{Im } \partial_{k+1}} = \frac{Z_k}{B_k}.$$

The inclusion map  $f : \mathbb{K}_{i-1} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{K}_i$  defined by  $f(x) = x$  induces a homomorphism  $f_* : H_p(\mathbb{K}_{i-1}) \rightarrow H_p(\mathbb{K}_i)$ . The nested sequence of complexes corresponds to a sequence of homology groups connected by the induced maps,

$$0 = H_p(\mathbb{K}_{-1}) \rightarrow H_p(\mathbb{K}_0) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow H_p(\mathbb{K}_n) = H_p(\mathbb{K})$$

Persistent homology studies how the homology groups change over the filtration.

## Definition (positive simplex)

Given a filtration of  $\mathbb{K}$ , suppose  $\mathbb{K}_i - \mathbb{K}_{i-1} = \sigma_i$ , where  $\sigma_i$  is a  $(k+1)$ -simplex. We call  $\sigma_i$  is **positive** if it belongs to a  $(k+1)$ -cycle in  $\mathbb{K}_i$  and **negative** otherwise.

A positive simplex is also called a **generator**, a negative simplex a **killer**.

## Definition (Betti Number)

Given a complex  $K$ , the  $i$ -th Betti number  $\beta_i$  is the rank of  $H_i(K)$ ,

$$\beta_i = \text{Rank}H_i(K, \mathbb{Z}_2)$$

Suppose the number of positive  $k$ -simplexes is  $\text{pos}_k$ , and the number of negative  $k$ -simplexes is  $\text{neg}_k$ , then

$$\beta_k = \text{pos}_k - \text{neg}_{k+1}$$

## Definition (Persistent Homology)

Define  $Z_k^l, B_k^l$  be the  $K$ -th cycle group and  $k$ -th boundary group respectively, of the  $l$ -complex  $K^l$  in a filtration. The  $p$ -persistent  $k$ -th homology group  $K^l$  is

$$H_k^{l,p} := \frac{Z_k^l}{B_k^{l+p} \cap Z_k^l}.$$

The  $p$ -persistent  $k$ -th Betti number  $\beta_k^{l,p}$  of  $K^l$  is the rank of  $H_k^{l,p}$ .

## Lemma

Consider the homomorphism  $\eta_k^{l,p} : H_k^l \rightarrow H_k^{l+p}$ , then

$$\text{img } \eta_k^{l,p} \cong H_k^{l,p}$$

## Lemma

For each *positive*  $k$ -simplex  $\sigma^i$ , there exists a non-exact  $k$ -cycle  $c^i$ ,  $c^i$  contains  $\sigma^i$  but no other positive  $k$ -simplices.

## Proof.

Start with an arbitrary a  $k$ -cycle that contains  $\sigma^i$  and remove other positive  $k$ -simplices by adding their corresponding  $k$ -cycles. This method succeeds because each added cycle contains only one positive  $k$ -simplex by inductive assumption.  $\square$

We use  $\sigma^i$  to represent  $c^i$ , and in turn the homologous class  $[c^i] = c^i + B_k$ .

$$\sigma^i \rightarrow c^i \rightarrow [c^i] = c^i + B_k. \quad \sigma^i \sim c^i$$

We add  $[c^i]$  to the basis of  $H_k(\mathbb{K}^i)$ .

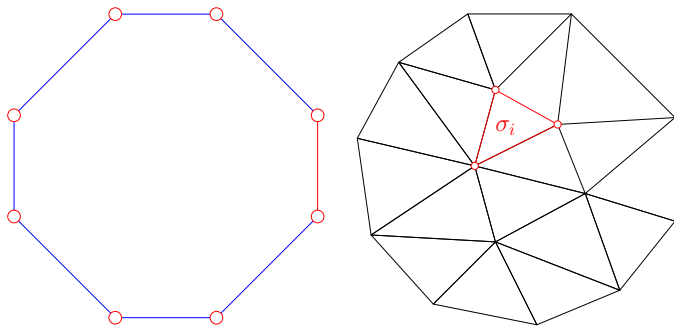


Figure: Generator, positive simplex.

For each **negative**  $(k+1)$ -simplex  $\sigma^j$ , its boundary  $d = \partial_{k+1}\sigma^j$  is a  $k$ -cycle, and can be represented as the linear combination of the basis of  $H_k(\mathbb{K}_{j-1})$ ,

$$[d] = \sum_g [c^g], \{c^g\} \text{ basis } H_k(\mathbb{K}_{j-1}),$$

each  $[c^g]$  is represented by a positive  $k$ -simplex  $\sigma^g$ ,  $g < j$ , that is not yet paired. The collection of positive non-paired  $k$ -simplices is denoted as  $\Gamma = \Gamma(d)$ ,

$$\Gamma(d) := \left\{ \sigma^g : [d] = \sum_g [c^g], \sigma^g \sim c^g \right\}$$

Suppose the youngest positive simplex in  $\Gamma(\partial_{k+1}\sigma^j)$  is  $\sigma^i$ , then we form the pair  $(\sigma^i, \sigma^j)$ , and remove  $[c^i]$  from  $H_k(\mathbb{K}_j)$ .

$[c^i]$  is created by  $\sigma^i$  and killed by  $\sigma^j$ , the persistence life of the  $k$ -cycle  $[c^i]$  is  $j - i - 1$ .



# Example Filtration

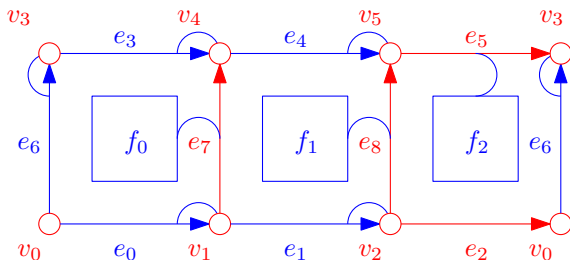


Figure: Generators and killers.

## Filtration

$v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5, e_0, e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, f_0, f_1, f_2$

## Relabel them as

$\sigma^0, \sigma^1, \sigma^2, \sigma^3, \sigma^4, \sigma^5, \sigma^6, \sigma^7, \sigma^8, \sigma^9, \sigma^{10}, \sigma^{11}, \sigma^{12}, \sigma^{13}, \sigma^{14}, \sigma^{15}$

# Example Generators

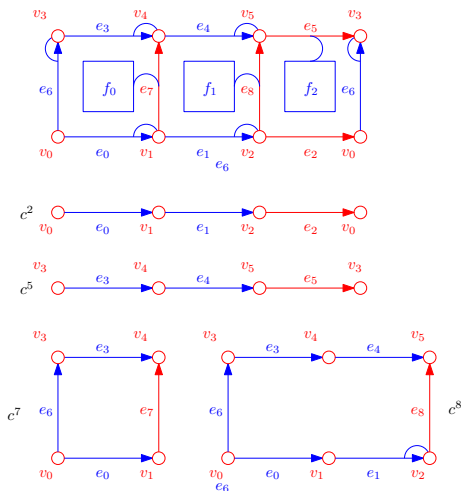


Figure: Generators.

# Example Killers

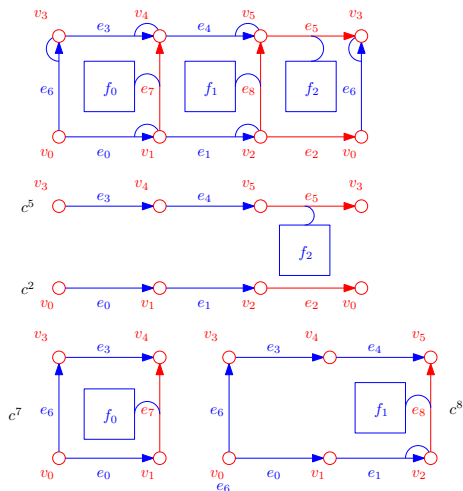


Figure: Killers.

# Example Pairing

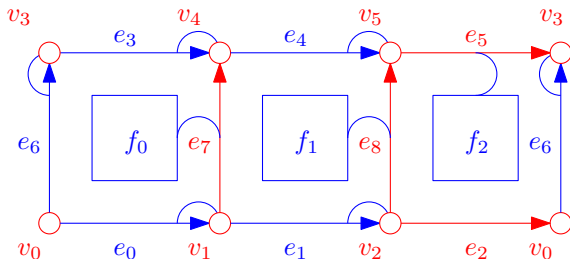


Figure: Generators and killers.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_2 f_2 &= e_2 + e_5 + e_6 + e_8 = (e_5 + 2e_4 + 2e_3) + (e_2 + 2e_1 + 2e_0) + e_6 + e_8 \\ &= (e_5 + e_4 + e_3) + (e_2 + e_1 + e_0) + \partial_2(f_0 + f_1) \end{aligned}$$

# Key Lemma

## Definition (Collision Free Cycle)

A collision free cycle is one where the youngest positive simplex has not been paired (killed).

## Lemma (Collision)

Given a filtration,  $\mathbb{K}_j - \mathbb{K}_{j-1} = \sigma^j$ ,  $\sigma^i$  is the youngest positive simplex in  $\Gamma(\partial_{k+1}\sigma^j)$ . Let  $e$  be a collision free  $k$ -cycle in  $\mathbb{K}_{j-1}$  homologous to  $\partial_{k+1}\sigma^j$ . Suppose the youngest positive simplex in  $e$  is  $\sigma^g$ , then

$$\sigma^i = \sigma^g.$$

$$\max \Gamma(\partial_{k+1}\sigma^j) = \max(e) \quad \forall e \text{ collision free, } [e] = [\partial\sigma^j].$$

# Key Lemma

Proof.

Let  $f$  be the sum of the basis cycles, homologous to  $d = \partial_{k+1}\sigma^j$ . By definition,  $f$ 's youngest positive simplex is  $\sigma^i$ , namely the youngest simplex in  $\Gamma(\partial_{k+1}\sigma^j)$ ,

$$\sigma^i = \max \Gamma(\partial_{k+1}\sigma^j).$$

This implies that there are no cycles homologous to  $d$  in  $\mathbb{K}_{i-1}$  or earlier complexes. Let  $\sigma^g$  be the youngest positive simplex in  $e$ .  $[e] = [d]$ , therefore  $g \geq i$ .

If  $g > i$ , then  $e = f + c$ , where  $c$  bounds in  $\mathbb{K}^{j-1}$ .  $\sigma^g \notin f$ , implies  $\sigma^g \in c$ , and as  $\sigma^g$  is the youngest in  $e$ , it is also the youngest in  $c$ .  $\square$

continued.

Since  $e$  is collision free, the cycle created by  $\sigma^g$ , denoted as  $c^g$ , is still a non-boundary cycle in  $\mathbb{K}_{j-1}$ . Hence  $c^g$  can't be  $c$ , and can't be homologous to  $c$  when  $c$  becomes a boundary. Namely, when  $c$  is killed,  $\sigma^g$  is not paired yet.

It follows that the negative  $(k+1)$ -simplex that kills  $c$  must pair a positive  $k$ -simplex in  $c$ , which is younger than  $\sigma^g$ , a contradiction.

This lemma shows, when  $\sigma^j$  is added to  $\mathbb{K}_{j-1}$ , we need to find any collision free cycle  $e$  homologous to  $\partial_{k+1}\sigma^j$ , and pair  $\sigma^j$  with the youngest positive simplex of  $e$ .

# Pair Algorithm

Pair( $\sigma$ )

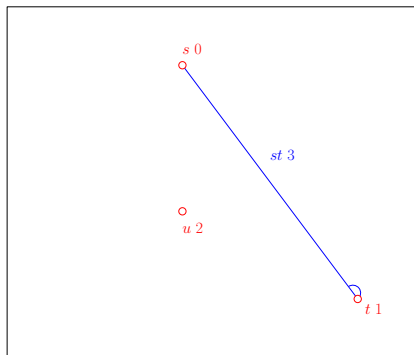
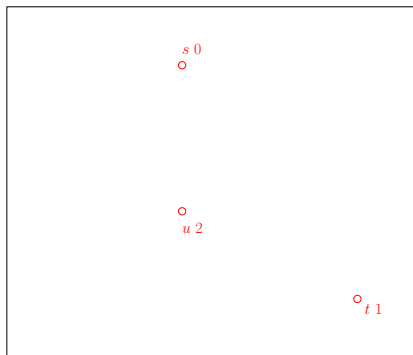
- 1  $c = \partial_p \sigma$
- 2  $\tau$  is the youngest positive  $(p - 1)$ -simplex in  $c$ .
- 3 **while**  $\sigma$  is paired and  $c$  is not empty **do**
- 4     find  $(\tau, d)$ ,  $d$  is the  $p$ -simplex paired with  $\tau$ ;
- 5      $c \leftarrow \partial_p d + c$
- 6     Update  $\tau$  to be the youngest positive  $(p - 1)$ -simplex in  $c$
- 7 **end while**
- 8 **if**  $c$  is not empty **then**
- 9      $\sigma$  is negative  $p$ -simplex and paired with  $\tau$
- 10 **else**
- 11      $\sigma$  is a positive  $p$ -simplex
- 12 **endif**



# Handle Loop and Tunnel Loop

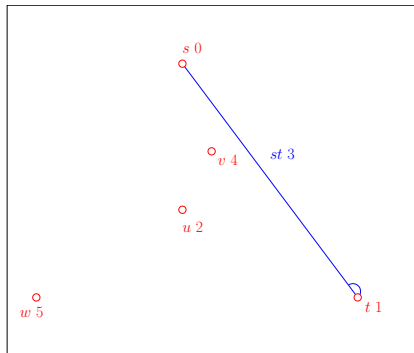
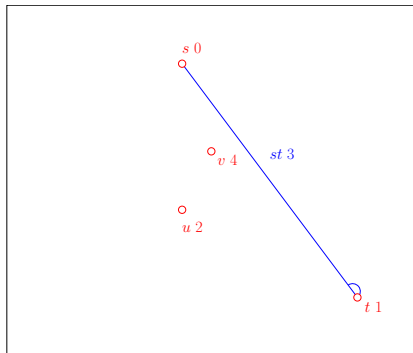
- 1 The simplices on the surface  $M$  are added into the filtration in any arbitrary order. Since  $H_1(M)$  is of rank  $2g$ , the algorithm Pair generates  $2g$  number of unpaired positive edges.
- 2 The simplices up to dimension 2 in  $I$  are added into the filtration. Since  $H_1(I)$  of rank  $g$ , half of  $2g$  positive edges generated in step 1 get paired with the negative triangles in  $I$ . Each pair corresponds to a killed loop, these  $g$  loops are handle loops.
- 3 Or the simplices up to dimension 2 in  $O$  are added into the filtration. Since  $H_1(O)$  of rank  $g$ , half of  $2g$  positive edges generated in step 2 get paired with the negative triangles in  $O$ . Each pair corresponds to a killed loop, these  $g$  loops are tunnel loops.

# Example

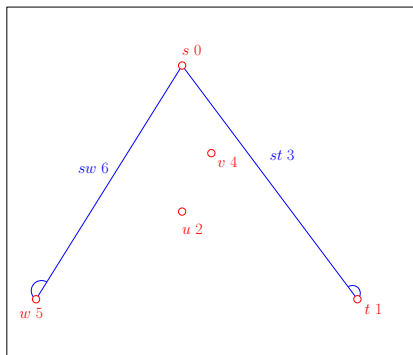


$$3. \partial st = s + t, (t_1, st_3)$$

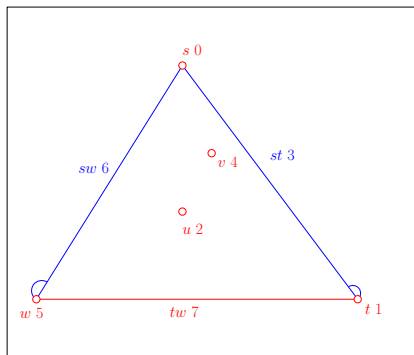
# Example



# Example



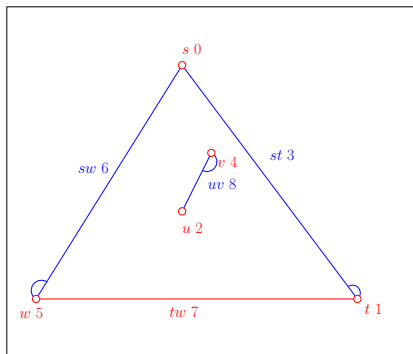
6.  $\partial SW = s + w, (w_5, SW_6)$



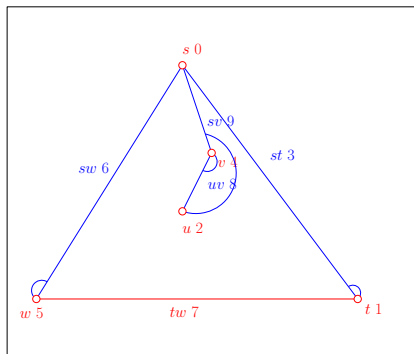
7.  $tw$

$$\begin{aligned} 7 : \partial tw &= w + t = w + t + \partial st + \partial sw \\ &= w + t + (s + t) + (s + w) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

# Example



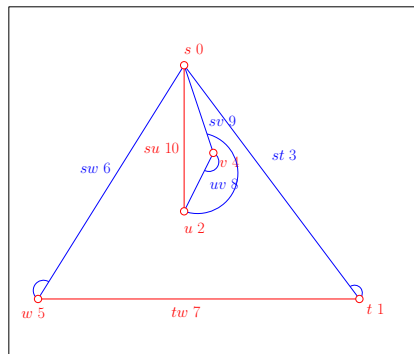
8.  $\partial uv = u + v, (v_4, uv_8)$



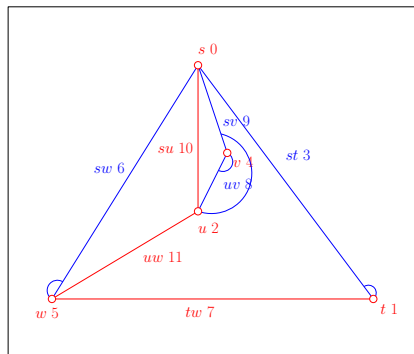
9.  $(u_2, sv_9)$

$$\begin{aligned} 9. \partial sv &= s + v = s + v + \partial uv \\ &= s + v + (u + v) \\ &= s + u \end{aligned}$$

# Example



10. *SU*



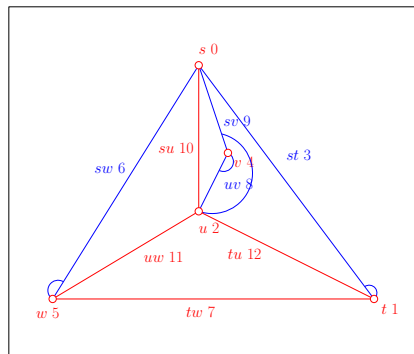
11. *UW*

# Example

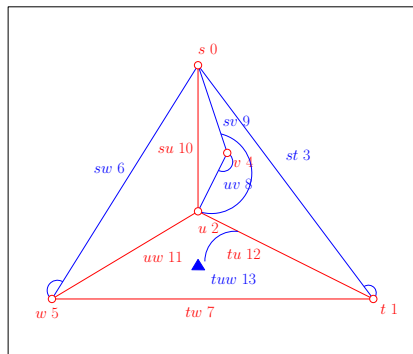
$$\begin{aligned} 10. \partial su &= s + u = s + u + \partial sv \\ &= s + u + (s + v) \\ &= u + v = u + v + \partial uv \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 11. \partial uw &= u + w = u + w + \partial sw \\ &= u + w + (s + w) \\ &= s + u = s + u + \partial sv \\ &= s + u = s + u + (s + v) \\ &= u + v = u + v + \partial uv \\ &= u + v + (u + v) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

# Example



12.  $tu$



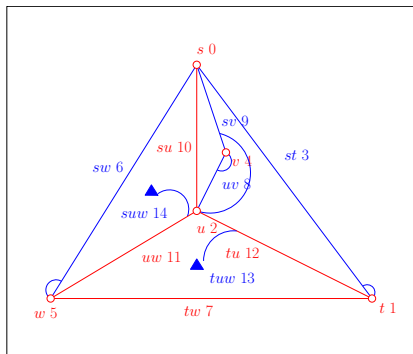
13.  $tuw, (tu_{12}, tuw_{13})$



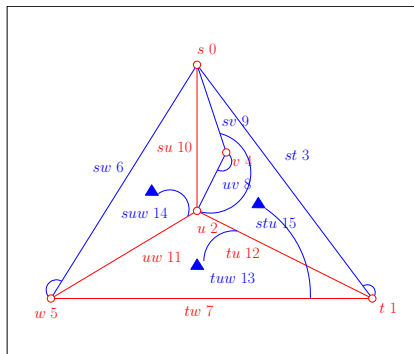
# Example

$$\begin{aligned} 12. \partial tu &= t + u = t + u + \partial sv \\ &= t + u + (s + v) \\ &= t + u + s + v + \partial uv \\ &= t + u + s + v + (u + v) \\ &= t + s \\ &= s + t + \partial st \\ &= s + t + (t + s) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned} 13. \partial tuw &= tu + uw + wt \\ &= (tuw, tu) \end{aligned}$$

# Example



$$14. \partial suw = uw + su + sw \\ (uw_{11}, suw_{14})$$



$$15. stu, (tw_7, stu_{15})$$

# Example

$$\begin{aligned} 15. \partial stu &= su + tu + st \\ &= su + st + tu + \partial tuw \\ &= su + st + tu + (tu + uw + tw) \\ &= su_{10} + st + uw_{11} + tw_7 \\ &= su_{10} + st + uw_{11} + tw_7 + \partial suw \\ &= su_{10} + st + uw_{11} + tw_7 + (sw + su_{10} + uw_{11}) \\ &= st + tw_7 + sw \end{aligned}$$

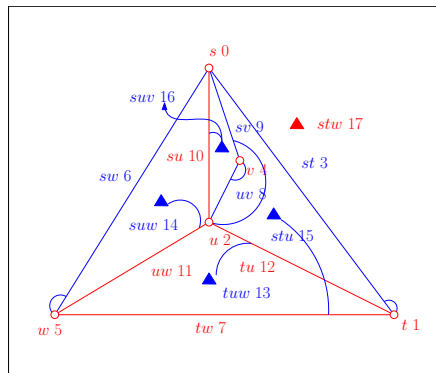
Hence we obtain the pair  $(stu, tw)$ .



# Example

$$\begin{aligned} 17. \partial stw &= tw + sw + st \\ &= sw + st + tw + \partial stu \\ &= sw + st + tw_7 + (st + tu_{12} + us_{10}) \\ &= sw + st + tw_7 + (st + tu_{12} + us_{10}) + \partial tuw \\ &= sw + st + tw_7 + (st + tu_{12} + us_{10}) + (tu_{12} + uw_{11} + wt_7) \\ &= sw + us_{10} + uw_{11} \\ &= sw + us_{10} + uw_{11} + \partial suw \\ &= sw + us_{10} + uw_{11} + (su_{10} + uw_{11} + ws) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

# Example



<i>Creator</i>	<i>Killer</i>
$t_1$	$st_3$
$u_2$	$sv_9$
$v_4$	$uv_8$
$w_5$	$sw_6$
$tw_7$	$stu_{15}$
$su_{10}$	$suv_{16}$
$uw_{11}$	$suw_{14}$
$tu_{12}$	$tuw_{13}$

# Incidence Matrix

Assuming an ordering of the  $(p - 1)$  simplices and of the  $p$ -simplices, the boundary of a  $p$ -chain can be obtained by multiplication of the corresponding vector with the incidence matrix,

$$\partial(c_p) = D_p c_p.$$

The incidence matrix is defined as

$$D_p[i, j] = \begin{cases} 1 & \sigma_i^{p-1} \in \sigma_j^p \\ 0 & \sigma_i^{p-1} \notin \sigma_j^p \end{cases}$$

# Incidence Matrix and Betti Number

A classic algorithm computes the Betti numbers of  $K$  by reducing its incidence matrices to Smith normal form. It uses row and column operations to zero out all entries except along an initial portion of the diagonal.

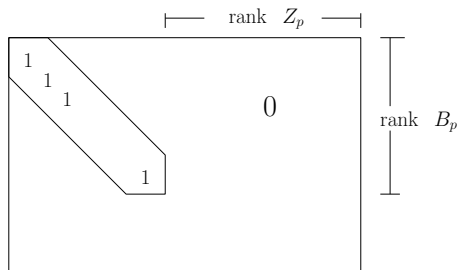


Figure: Smith norm of incidence matrix in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ .

The Betti number

$$\beta_p = \text{rank} Z_p - \text{rank} B_p.$$



# Pairing Algorithm

## Definition (Monotonous Filtering)

A filtering is monotonous, if in the ordering of  $K$ , any simplex  $\sigma$  is preceded by its faces.

An algorithm computes the persistence diagrams by pairing the simplices, which uses column operator to reduce  $D$  and another  $0 - 1$  matrix  $R$ . Let  $\text{low}_R(j)$  be the row index of the last 1 in column  $j$  of  $R$ , and (undefined if the column is zero).

## Definition (Reduced Matrix and Pairing)

We call  $R$  reduced and  $\text{low}_R$  a pairing function, if

$$\text{low}_R(j) \neq \text{low}_R(j'),$$

whenever  $j \neq j'$  specify two non-zero columns.

# Pairing Algorithm

Algorithm: Incidence matrix reduction

- 1  $R \leftarrow D$
- 2 **for**  $j = 1$  **to**  $n$  **do**
- 3     **while**  $\exists j' < j$  **with**  $\text{low}_R(j') = \text{low}_R(j)$  **do**
- 4         add column  $j'$  to column  $j$
- 5     **endwhile**
- 6 **endfor**.

The pairing is given by

$$(\sigma_i, \sigma_j) \iff i = \text{low}_R(j).$$

$\sigma_i$  is positive, it generates a homology class;  $\sigma_j$  is negative, it kills a homology class.

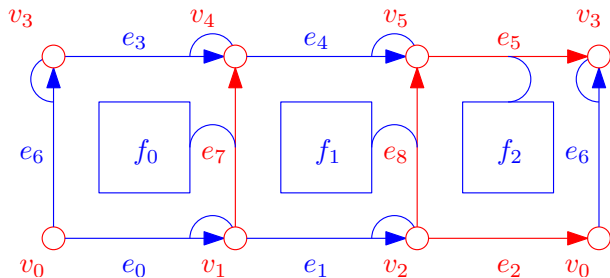


Figure: Generators and killers.

# Pairing by matrix induction

Boundary operator  $\partial_1$ , incidence matrix  $D_1$ ,

	$e_0$	$e_1$	$e_2$	$e_3$	$e_4$	$e_5$	$e_6$	$e_7$	$e_8$
$v_0$	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
$v_1$	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
$v_2$	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
$v_3$	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
$v_4$	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
$v_5$	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1

# Pairing by matrix induction

$1 + 2, 4 + 5, 3 + 7, 4 + 8$

	$e_0$	$e_1$	$e_2$	$e_3$	$e_4$	$e_5$	$e_6$	$e_7$	$e_8$
$v_0$	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
$v_1$	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
$v_2$	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
$v_3$	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
$v_4$	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
$v_5$	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

# Pairing by matrix induction

$1 + 2, 3 + 5, 3 + 8$

	$e_0$	$e_1$	$e_2$	$e_3$	$e_4$	$e_5$	$e_6$	$e_7$	$e_8$
$v_0$	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
$v_1$	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
$v_2$	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
$v_3$	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
$v_4$	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
$v_5$	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

# Pairing by matrix induction

$6 + 7, 6 + 8$

	$e_0$	$e_1$	$e_2$	$e_3$	$e_4$	$e_5$	$e_6$	$e_7$	$e_8$
$v_0$	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
$v_1$	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
$v_2$	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
$v_3$	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
$v_4$	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
$v_5$	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

# Pairing by matrix induction

$$0 + 7, 1 + 8, 0 + 8$$

	$e_0$	$e_1$	$e_2$	$e_3$	$e_4$	$e_5$	$e_6$	$e_7$	$e_8$
$v_0$	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
$v_1$	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$v_2$	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$v_3$	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
$v_4$	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
$v_5$	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Generators  $e_2, e_5, e_7, e_8$ , corresponding to 0 columns. Killers corresponds to non-zero columns. Pairing

$$(e_0, v_1), (e_1, v_2), (e_3, v_4), (e_4, v_5), (e_6, v_3)$$



# Pairing by matrix induction

	$f_0$	$f_1$	$f_2$
$e_0$	1	0	0
$e_1$	0	1	0
$e_2$	0	0	1
$e_3$	1	0	0
$e_4$	0	1	0
$e_5$	0	0	1
$e_6$	1	0	1
$e_7$	1	1	0
$e_8$	0	1	1

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{2+3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{1+3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The pairing is

$$(f_0, e_7), (f_1, e_8), (f_2, e_5)$$

# Topological Annulus

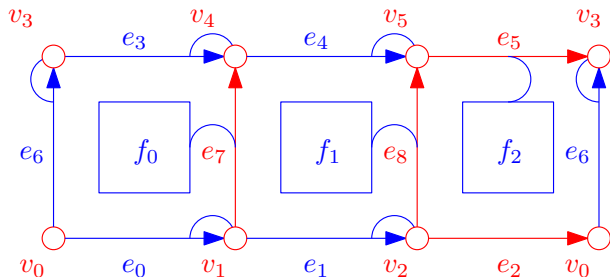
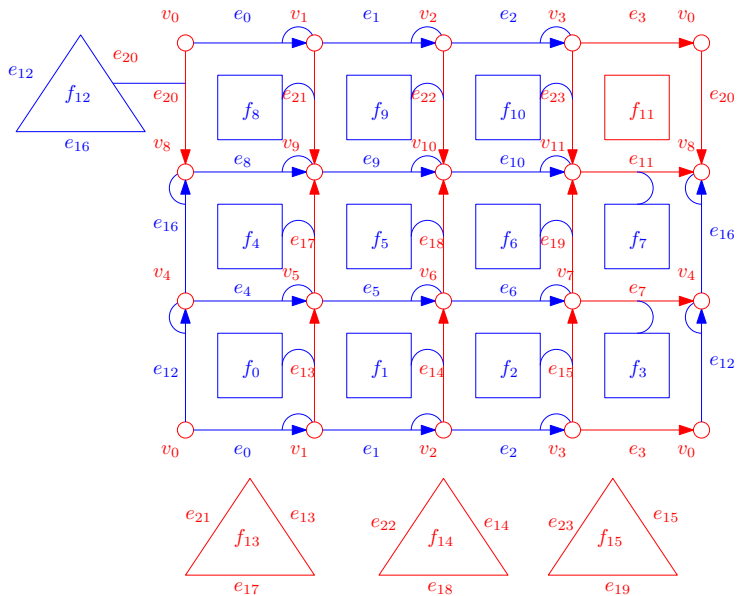
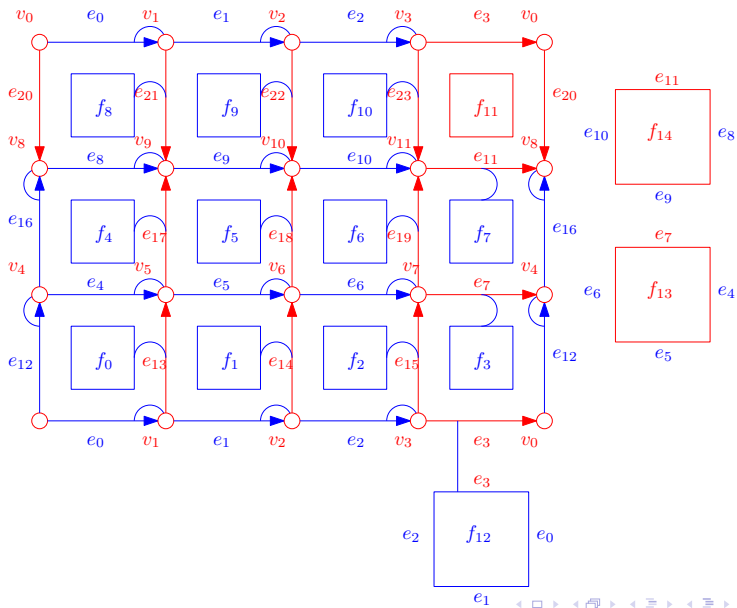


Figure: Topological Annulus.

# Topological Torus



# Topological Torus



# Topological Torus

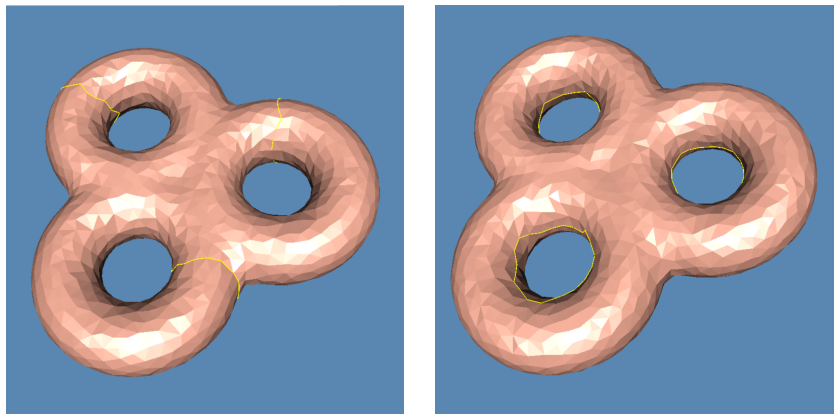


Figure: Handle and tunnel loops.

# Topological Torus

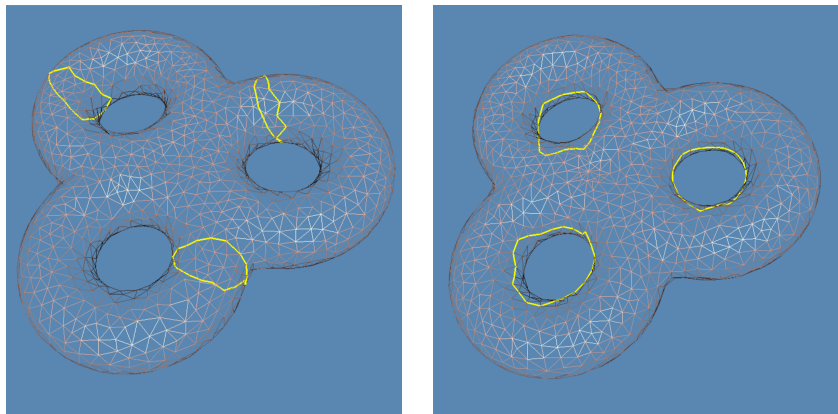


Figure: Handle and tunnel loops.

# Topological Torus

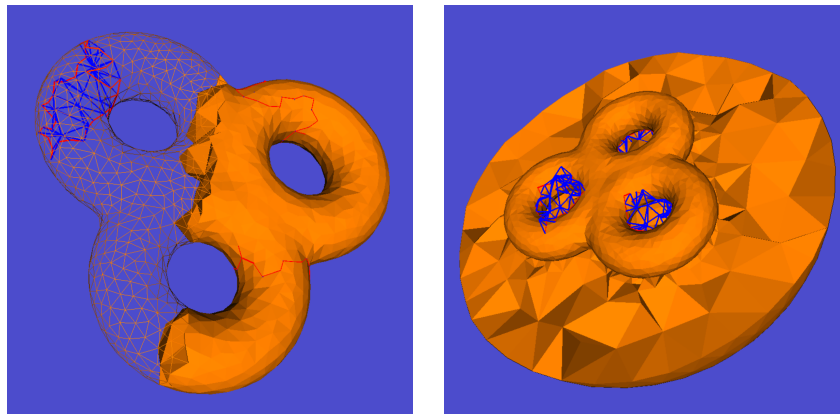


Figure: Interior and exterior volumes.