

# Persistent Homology Tutorial

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- Betti numbers: the number of  $k^{th}$  order holes



## Betti number examples



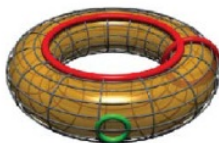
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[Reproduced from Singh *et al.* J. Vision 2008]

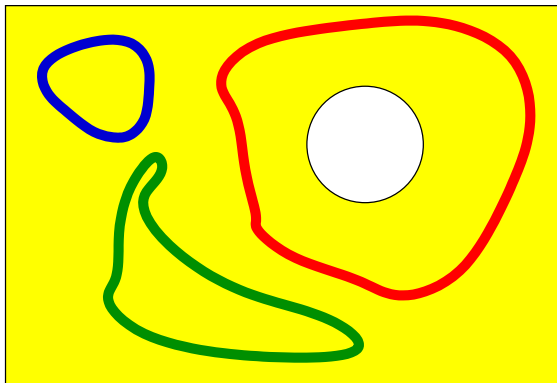
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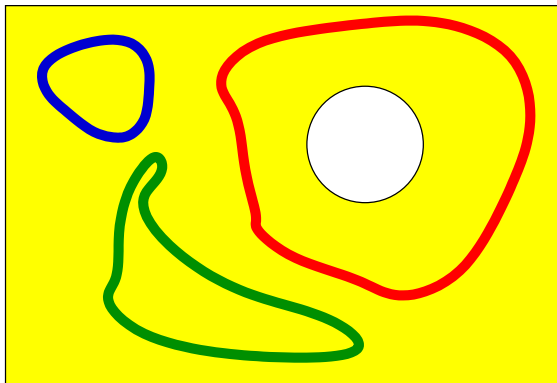
- Persistent homology tutorial
- An application in natural language processing

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- two equivalent classes  $\Leftrightarrow$  one hole.

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$+_2$		0	1
0		0	1
1		1	0

- All our groups  $G$  are abelian:  $\forall a, b \in G, a * b = b * a$ .

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- cosets have equal sizes and partition  $G$ .

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- negation in natural language:  $G_N$

*	⊐	not
⊐	⊐	not
not	not	⊐

homomorphism (isomorphism) from  $G_N$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ :  $\phi(\perp) = 0, \phi(\text{not}) = 1$ .



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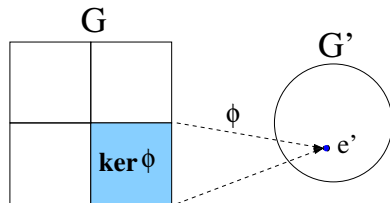
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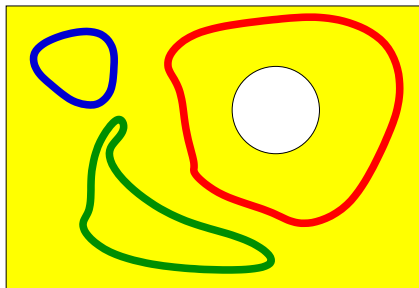
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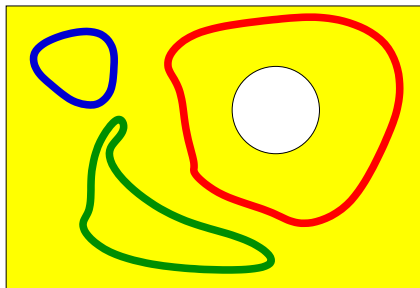
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- $\text{rank}(\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}) = 2$  since  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} = \langle \{(0, 1), (1, 0)\} \rangle$ .

## The group of rubber bands



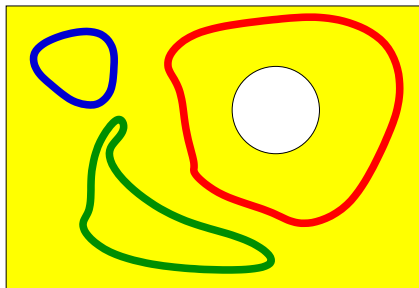
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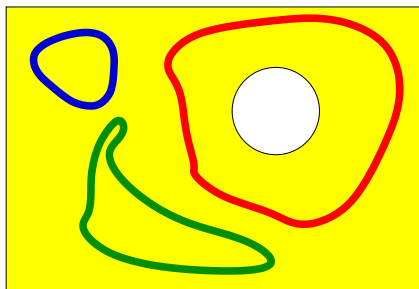
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- Computation: need discrete rubber bands  $\Rightarrow$  simplicial complex

# Simplex

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A  $p$ -simplex  $\sigma$  is the convex hull of  $p + 1$  affinely independent points  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_p \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . We denote  $\sigma = \text{conv}\{x_0, \dots, x_p\}$ . The dimension of  $\sigma$  is  $p$ .

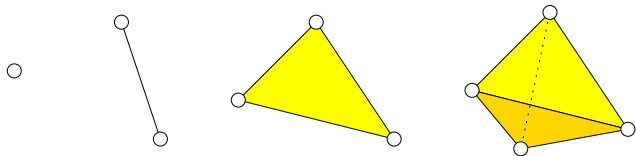


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- $p = 0, 1, 2, 3$



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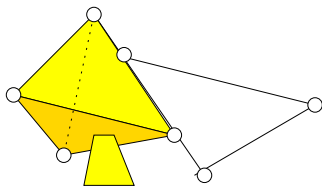
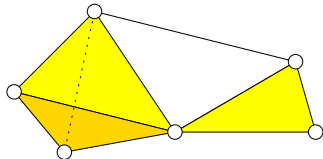
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- Properly aligned

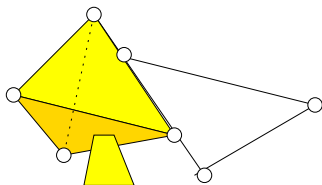
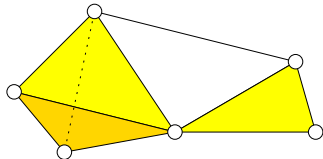


# Simplicial complex

## Definition

A simplicial complex  $K$  is a finite collection of simplices such that  $\sigma \in K$  and  $\tau$  being a face of  $\sigma$  implies  $\tau \in K$ , and  $\sigma, \sigma' \in K$  implies  $\sigma \cap \sigma'$  is either empty or a face of both  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma'$ .

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- Simplicial complex = the yellow space in the rubber band picture

# Chain

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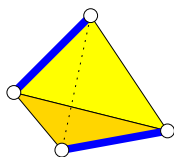
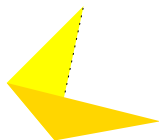
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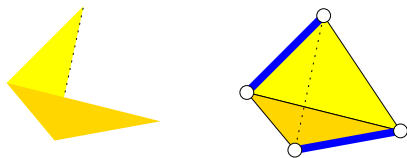


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- A  $p$ -chain does not have to be connected.

# Chain group

## Definition

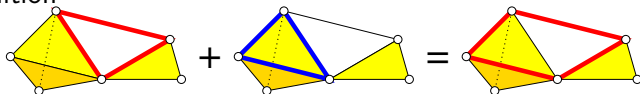
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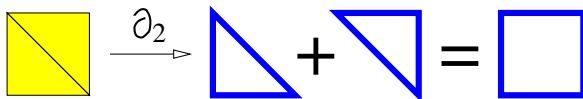
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- Faces shared by an even number of  $p$ -simplices in the chain will cancel out:



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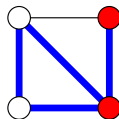
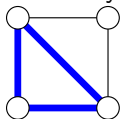
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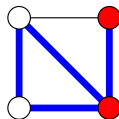
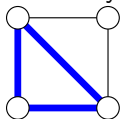


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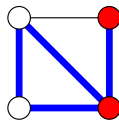
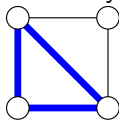
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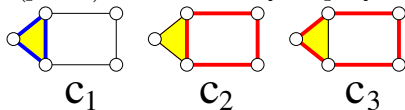


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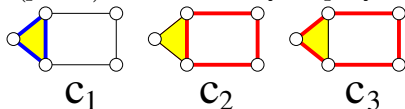
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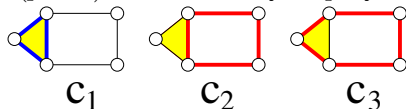


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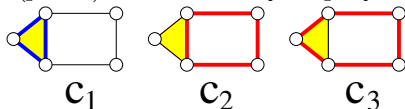
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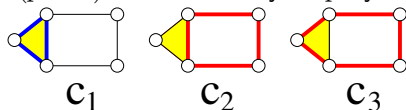
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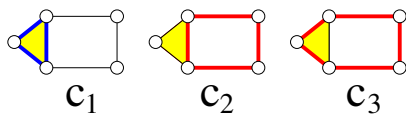


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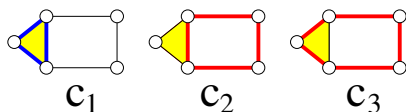
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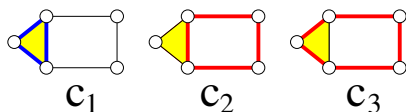
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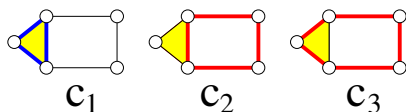
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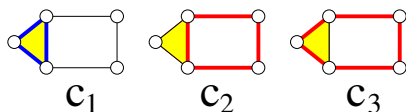


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- The equivalence class:  $c + B_p$

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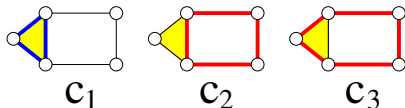
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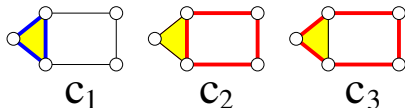


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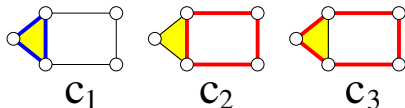
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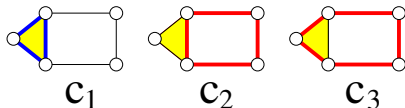
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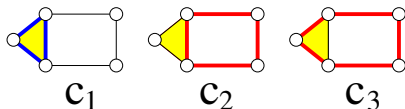
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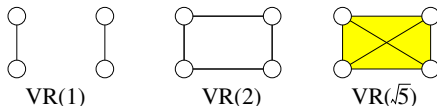
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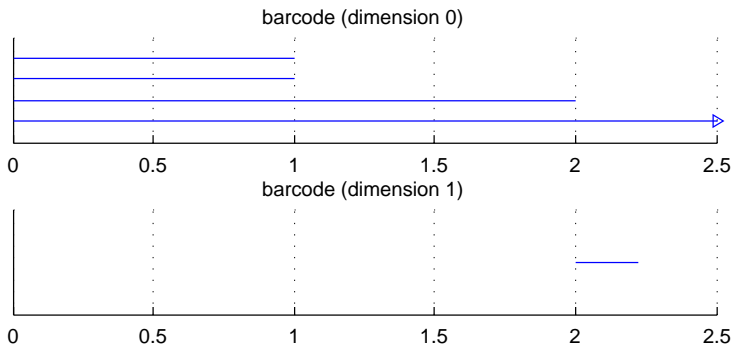
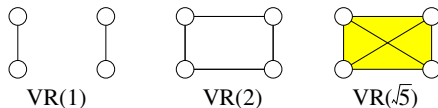
*An increasing sequence of  $\epsilon$  produces a filtration, i.e., a sequence of increasing simplicial complexes  $VR(\epsilon_1) \subseteq VR(\epsilon_2) \subseteq \dots$ , with the property that a simplex enters the sequence no earlier than all its faces.*

## Persistent homology

- In a filtration, at what value of  $\epsilon$  does a hole appear, and how long does it persist till it is filled in?

# Persistent homology

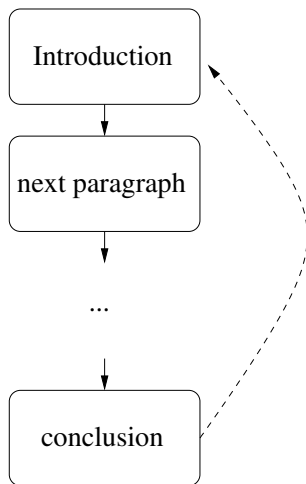
- In a filtration, at what value of  $\epsilon$  does a hole appear, and how long does it persist till it is filled in?
- Barcode





# Applications to natural language processing

Good articles “tie back.”



How can we capture such loopy structure in text documents?

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- We will focus on the 0-th (clusters) and 1st (holes) order homology classes.

## Example: Itsy bitsy spider

The Itsy Bitsy Spider climbed up the water spout

Down came the rain and washed the spider out

Out came the sun and dried up all the rain

And the Itsy Bitsy Spider climbed up the spout again

- bag-of-words

again	all	and	bitsy	came	climb ed	down	dried	itsy	out	rain	spider	spout	sun	the	up	wash ed	water
0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0

## Example: Itsy bitsy spider

The Itsy Bitsy Spider climbed up the water spout

Down came the rain and washed the spider out

Out came the sun and dried up all the rain

And the Itsy Bitsy Spider climbed up the spout again

- bag-of-words

again	all	and	bitsy	came	climb ed	down	dried	itsy	out	rain	spider	spout	sun	the	up	wash ed	water
0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0

- vertices

1

2

3

4

## Similarity Filtration (SIF)

$$D_{max} = \max D(x_i, x_j), \forall i, j = 1 \dots n$$

**FOR**  $m = 0, 1, \dots, M$

    Add  $VR\left(\frac{m}{M}D_{max}\right)$  to the filtration

**END**

Compute persistent homology on the filtration

- larger diameter, looser tie-backs



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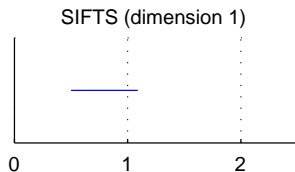
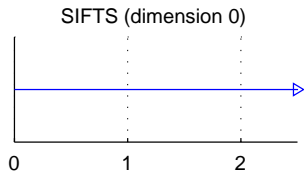
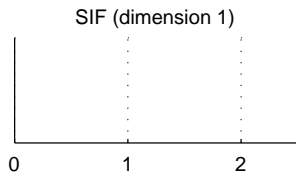
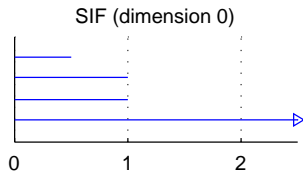
- larger diameter, looser tie-backs
- order of  $x_1 \dots x_n$  ignored

## Similarity Filtration with Time Skeleton (SIFTS)

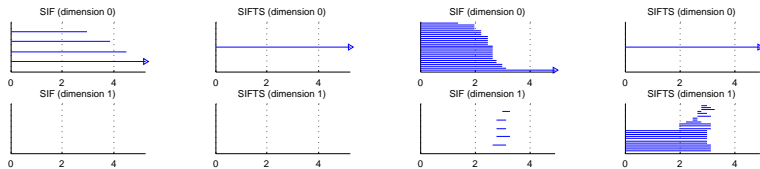
```
 $D(x_i, x_{i+1}) = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$   
 $D_{max} = \max D(x_i, x_j), \forall i, j = 1 \dots n$   
FOR  $m = 0, 1, \dots, M$   
    Add  $VR\left(\frac{m}{M}D_{max}\right)$  to the filtration  
END  
Compute persistent homology on the filtration
```

- time edges allow tie-back in time

# SIF vs. SIFTS on Itsy bitsy spider

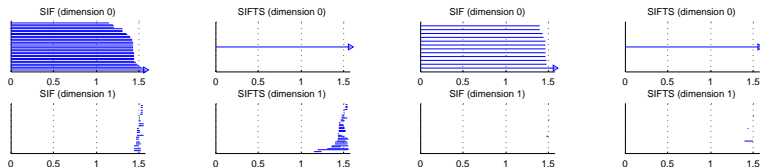


# On Nursery Rhymes and Other Stories



## Row Row Row Your Boat

## London Bridge

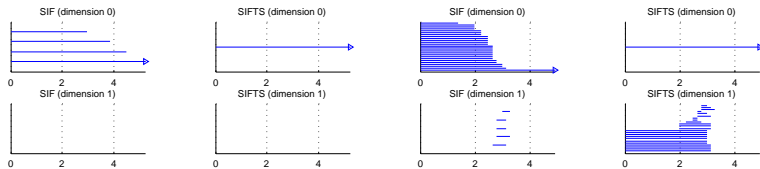


## Little Red-Cap

## Alice in Wonderland

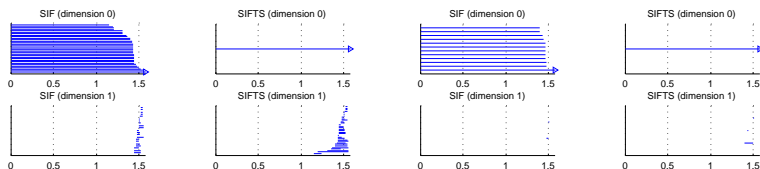
- London Bridge: "My fair Lady" repeats 12 times.

# On Nursery Rhymes and Other Stories



Row Row Row Your Boat

London Bridge



Little Red-Cap

Alice in Wonderland

- London Bridge: “My fair Lady” repeats 12 times.
- Little Red-Cap: “The better to see you with, my dear” and “The better to eat you with!”

# On Child and Adolescent Writing

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  - ▶  $|H_1|$ : number of holes in the article
  - ▶  $\epsilon^*$ : the smallest  $\epsilon$  when the first hole in  $H_1$  forms.

	child	adolescent	adol. trunc.
holes?	87%	100%*	98%*
$ H_1 $	3.0 ( $\pm 0.2$ )	17.6 ( $\pm 0.9$ )*	3.9 ( $\pm 0.2$ )*
$\epsilon^*$	1.35 ( $\pm 0.02$ )	1.27 ( $\pm 0.02$ )*	1.38 ( $\pm 0.01$ )

\*: statistically significantly different from "child"

## Is Homology Merely Counting Repeats?

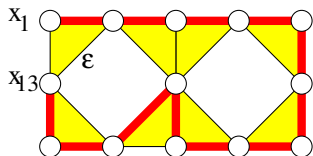
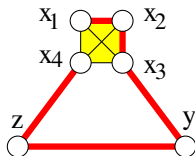
- On  $x_1 \rightsquigarrow x_2 \rightsquigarrow x_3$  where  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  SIFTS will find two holes:  
 $x_1 \rightleftharpoons x_2, x_2 \rightleftharpoons x_3$

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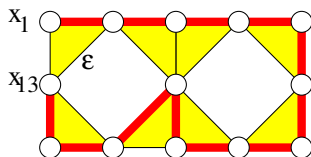
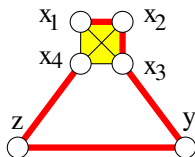
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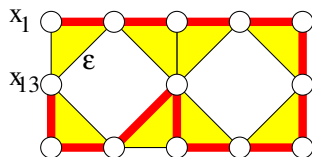
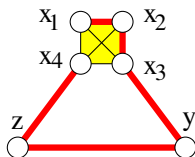


- ▶ Left:  $k - 1 = 3$ , SIFTS correctly finds  $\beta_1 = 1$



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- No.



- ▶ Left:  $k - 1 = 3$ , SIFTS correctly finds  $\beta_1 = 1$
- ▶ Right:  $k - 1 = 12$ , merging  $x$  0 holes, SIFTS correctly finds  $\beta_1 = 2$

# Summary

- Persistent homology may offer new representations for machine learning

To read more, see the references in  
Xiaojin Zhu. **Persistent homology: An introduction and a new text representation for natural language processing.** IJCAI, 2013.

# Summary

- Persistent homology may offer new representations for machine learning
- How to best use it?

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