Chromatic alpha complexes

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Joint work with S. Cultrera di Montesano,

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Motivation comes from spatial biology



- CD8 T cells
- Connective
- Endothelial
- Epithelial
- Macrophages
- Mast cells
- Smooth muscle

Motivation comes from spatial biology



Can we extract meaningful features that capture the spatial interaction of different types of cells?





Standard persistent homology pipeline



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• Can we capture something about the *interaction* of the two colors?



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- Can we capture something about the *interaction* of the two colors?
- e.g., blue loops filled by orange points























































 $\cdots \longrightarrow \ker(i_r^*) \longrightarrow \ker(i_{r'}^*) \longrightarrow \cdots$







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- Setting for the algorithm
 - simplicial complex K
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 - filtration function f on K
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$$B_r(A_0) \xrightarrow{\simeq} L_r$$

$$K_r = f^{-1}[0,r], \ L_r = L \cap f^{-1}[0,r]$$

[1] D. Cohen-Steiner, H. Edelsbrunner, J. Harer, and D. Morozov, "*Persistent homology for kernels, images, and cokernels*," in Proc. 20th Ann. ACM-SIAM Sympos. Discrete Alg., 2009, pp. 1011–1020



standard Delaunay/alpha complex? no



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(*) For two colors defined by Y. Reani and O. Bobrowski as "A coupled alpha complex" in 2021. We generalize the construction to any number of colors.

Chromatic Alpha Complex



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 $\nu \in \mathrm{Del}(\chi)$ iff

exists stack of empty spheres passing through its vertices



σ -stack of (d-1)-spheres in \mathbb{R}^d

- concentric spheres, one for each color
 - possibly with radius 0
- is empty if
 - each sphere empty of points of its color
- passes through points v if
 - the *s*-colored points of ν lie on the *s*-colored sphere for each color $s \in \sigma$



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Stack radius

- stack radius = radius of its largest sphere
- Every $\nu \in \text{Del}(\chi)$ has a unique *smallest* empty stack passing through it
 - minimum of a strictly convex function over a convex region



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Radius function assigns to every v the smallest radius of an empty stack passing through it



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 $Alf_{r}(A) \subseteq Alf_{r}(\chi)$ $Alf_{r}(A_{i}) \subseteq Alf_{r}(\chi),$



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- a Voronoi ball of a is a ball $B_r(a)$ clipped by the Voronoi domain of a
- in chromatic case we clip by Vor domain of a w.r.t. its color $\chi(a)$







- $\operatorname{Alf}_r(\chi)$ is the nerve of chromatic Voronoi balls of radius r
- the union of chromatic Voronoi balls = the union of balls
- Nerve Theorem $\Rightarrow \left[\operatorname{Alf}_r(\chi) \simeq \bigcup_{a \in A} B_r(a)\right]$





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- As in mono-chromatic case, two steps:
- Compute chromatic Delaunay complex
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Lifting in general

- Chromatic set $\chi : A \to \sigma$, $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$
- Lift $A' \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d+\#\sigma-1}$





The radius function is GDMF

- *K* simplicial complex, $f : K \to \mathbb{R}$ monotonic
- $[\alpha, \gamma]$ is an *interval of* f if $\forall \beta \in [\alpha, \beta]$: $f(\beta) = f(\alpha)$
- *f* is generalized discrete Morse function

if the maximal intervals of *f* partition *K*

The radius function Rad $: Del(\chi) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a generalized discrete Morse function.

























Five do not determine the sixth





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- A meaningful choice: *k*-chromatic subcomplex

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- For three colors we have three options:
 - mono-chromatic \rightarrow everything
 - bi-chromatic \rightarrow everything
 - mono-chromatic \rightarrow bi-chromatic

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 - mono-chromatic \rightarrow everything
 - bi-chromatic \rightarrow everything
 - mono-chromatic \rightarrow bi-chromatic
- Fourth option relative:
 - bi-chr. / mono-chr. \rightarrow everything / mono-chr.

3-color examples




bi -> tri









bi -> tri









bi -> tri



