Persistence Algorithm Lecture 10 - CMSE 890

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Thurs, Oct 2, 2025

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Today

Goals for today:

• Persistence algorithm

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Section 1

Review of setup



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Simplicial Complex Filtration from a Function

Definition

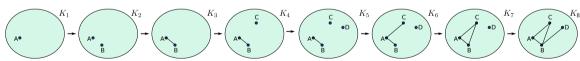
Fix a function $f: K \to \mathbb{R}$ with $(\sigma \le \tau \Rightarrow f(\sigma) \le f(\tau))$

Fix values $a_1 < a_2 < \cdots < a_n$

Let
$$K_i = f^{-1}(-\infty, a_i]$$

A filtration $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}(K)$ induced by f is a nested sequence of subcomplexes

$$\mathcal{F}: \emptyset = K_0 \subseteq K_1 \subseteq K_2 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq K_n = K.$$



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Persistence module

Given a filtration \mathcal{F} , the p-dimensional persistence module is

$$H_p(\mathcal{F}): 0 = H_p(K_0) \rightarrow H_p(K_1) \rightarrow H_p(K_2) \cdots \rightarrow H_p(K_n) = H_p(K)$$

with maps $h_p^{i,j}: H_p(K_i) \to H_p(K_j)$ induced by inclusion.

The pth persistent homology groups are the images induced by inclusion:

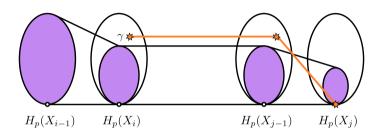
$$H_p^{i,j} = \operatorname{Im}(H_p(K_i) \to H_p(K_j)).$$

The pth persistent Betti numbers are the ranks

$$\beta_p^{i,j} = \text{rank} H_p^{i,j}$$



Birth and Death: Book version



Birth

A class $\gamma \in H_p(K_i)$ is born at K_i if it is not in $H_p^{i-1,i}$

Death

A class γ dies entering K_j if $\gamma \in H_p(X_{j-1})$ is not trivial, but $H_p^{j-1,j}(\gamma) = 0$.

^aWarning: In this version, not all classes die!

Section 2

Persistence Algorithm



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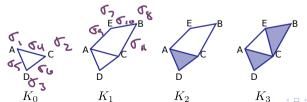
Compatible filtration

Let $f: K \to \mathbb{N}$ give the index where any particular simplex appears in the filtration.

A compatible ordering of the simplices of K is a sequence $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \cdots, \sigma_m$ such that

- $f(\sigma_i) < f(\sigma_i)$ implies i < j
- $\sigma_i \leq \sigma_i$ implies i < j

(Could have just assumed that the filtration was simplex-wise to begin with)



Positive and negative simplices

Simplex-wise filtration:

When a *p*-simplex $\sigma_j = K_j \setminus K_{j-1}$ is added, exactly one of the following two possibilities occurs:

- A non-boundary p-cycle c along with its classes [c] + h for any class $h \in H_p(K_{j-1})$ are born (created). In this case we call σ_i a positive simplex (also called a creator).
- ② An existing (p-1)-cycle c along with its class [c] dies (destroyed). In this case we call σ_j a negative simplex (also called a destructor).

Before

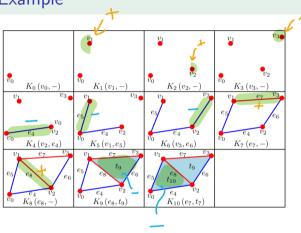






p=2

Example





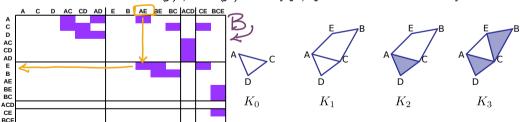
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The persistence algorithm

Given the boundary matrix B with rows and columns in this total ordering.

We will convert B to another matrix R using row/col operations. Result: R = BV for some invertible V.

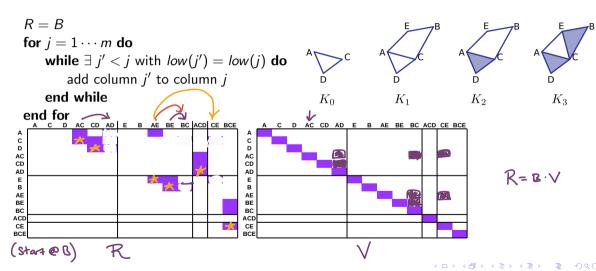
- Let low(j) be the row index of the lowest one in column j.
- If column j is entirely 0, low(j) is NaN.
- R is "reduced" if $low(j) \neq low(j')$ for any $j \neq j'$ which are not entirely zero columns.



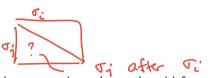
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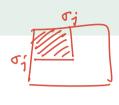
Persistence algorithm





Idea

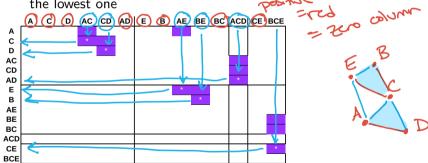




- B is upper triangular, only add from right so stays upper triangular.
- Upperleft corner from (j,j) represents homology for the subcomplex stopping at σ_j .
- If a column is entirely 0, the addition of that simplex created a new homology class.
- If a column has a lowest one, then the addition of this simplex killed off a class that was there at the previous step.

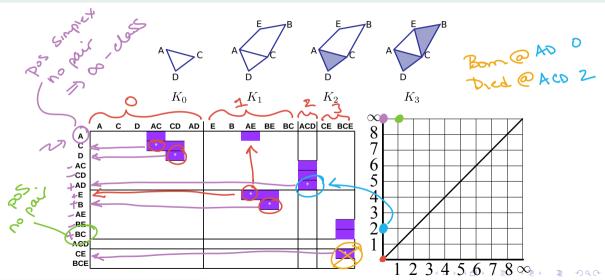
Pairing

- Every negative simplex must be paired with a previously entering positive simplex
- Negative simplex has a non-zero column, so it's paired with the simplex from the row of the lowest one



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Reading off the persistence diagram



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Section 3

Speedups



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History

- Matrix reduction algorithm is from 2000 paper by Edelsbrunner, Letscher, Zomorodian
- Algebraic viewpoint: Carlsson & Zomorodian 2004
- Precursors to the idea:
 - Frosini 1990
 - Robins 1999

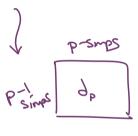
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Running time of the matrix reduction algorithm

Ly Same as matrix multiplication $O(n\omega)$ 2.371 This is nort case Reality is better! C number of nous/cols the number of simplices

Dimension and persistence

Computing p-dimensional persistence requires up to p+1 dimensional simplices



Weird reason:
Cohomology
Do this on the transposed
matrix and go faster

The special case of 0-dimensional persistence

Minimum spanning tree, union find

much faster algorithms
only work on O-dimensional persistence

Other available speedups



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Section 4

Code for persistence



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Available codebanks

- Ripser
- Dionysus
- Teaspoon ←
- Gudhi
- Scikit-tda
- Giotto-tda
- Phat
- TDA (R)
- Lots more....

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For next time

- Install teaspoon, scikit-tda
 - pip install teaspoon
 - ▶ pip install scikit-tda
- Review Rips/Cech complexes
- Bring computer for next time

oat gudhi

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