

# Bridging applied and quantitative topology



Henry Adams, Colorado State University

Joint with Michał Adamaszek, Florian Frick, Boris Coskunuzer,  
Johnathan Bush, Joshua Mirth, Michael Moy,  
Facundo Mémoli, Qingsong Wang

**INAUGURAL**

# **INTERVIEW**

**SERIES**

**AATRn**  
Applied Algebraic Topology  
Research Network

**SEP 30TH**  
1PM ET  
HERBERT EDEGSRUNNER  
INTERVIEWED BY  
DMITRIY MOROZOV

**NOV 18TH**  
5PM ET  
VANESSA ROBINS  
INTERVIEWED BY  
ELIZABETH BRADLEY

**GUNNAR** INTERVIEWED BY  
CARLSSON VIL DE SILVA

**FEB 3RD**  
11AM ET

**MASSIMO** INTERVIEWED BY  
FERRI GAUDIA GANDI

**APR 21ST**  
11AM ET

FOR 300M COORDINATES,  
BECOME AN AATRn MEMBER  
AT

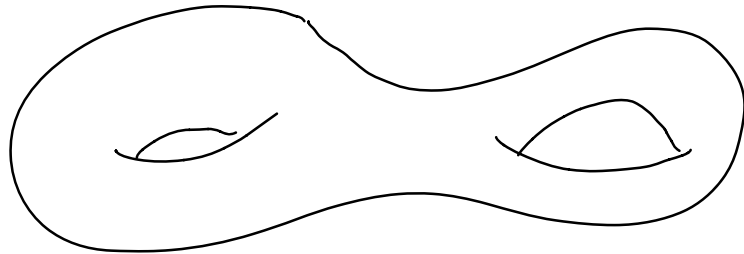
**TOPOLOGY.IMA.UMN.EDU**

Upcoming : Hess, Fajstrup, Adler, Weinberger, Ghrist

## Bridge #1: Filling Radius

Gromov, 1983, "Filling Riemannian manifolds"

Isosystolic inequality For  $M$  an essential  $n$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold,  $\text{sys}(M) \leq C \text{vol}(M)^{1/n}$ .



The systole of  $M$  is the length of the shortest non-contractible loop.

"Essential" rules out counterexamples like  $S^1 \times S^2$ .

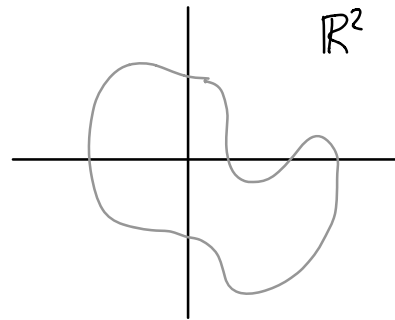
Proof  $\text{sys}(M) \leq 6 \cdot \text{Filling Radius}(M) \leq C \text{vol}(M)^{1/n}$

$\uparrow$   $M$  essential                       $\uparrow$  all  $M$

## Filling radius

$X$  a metric space

Kuratowski embedding  $X \hookrightarrow L^\infty(X)$   
 $x \mapsto$



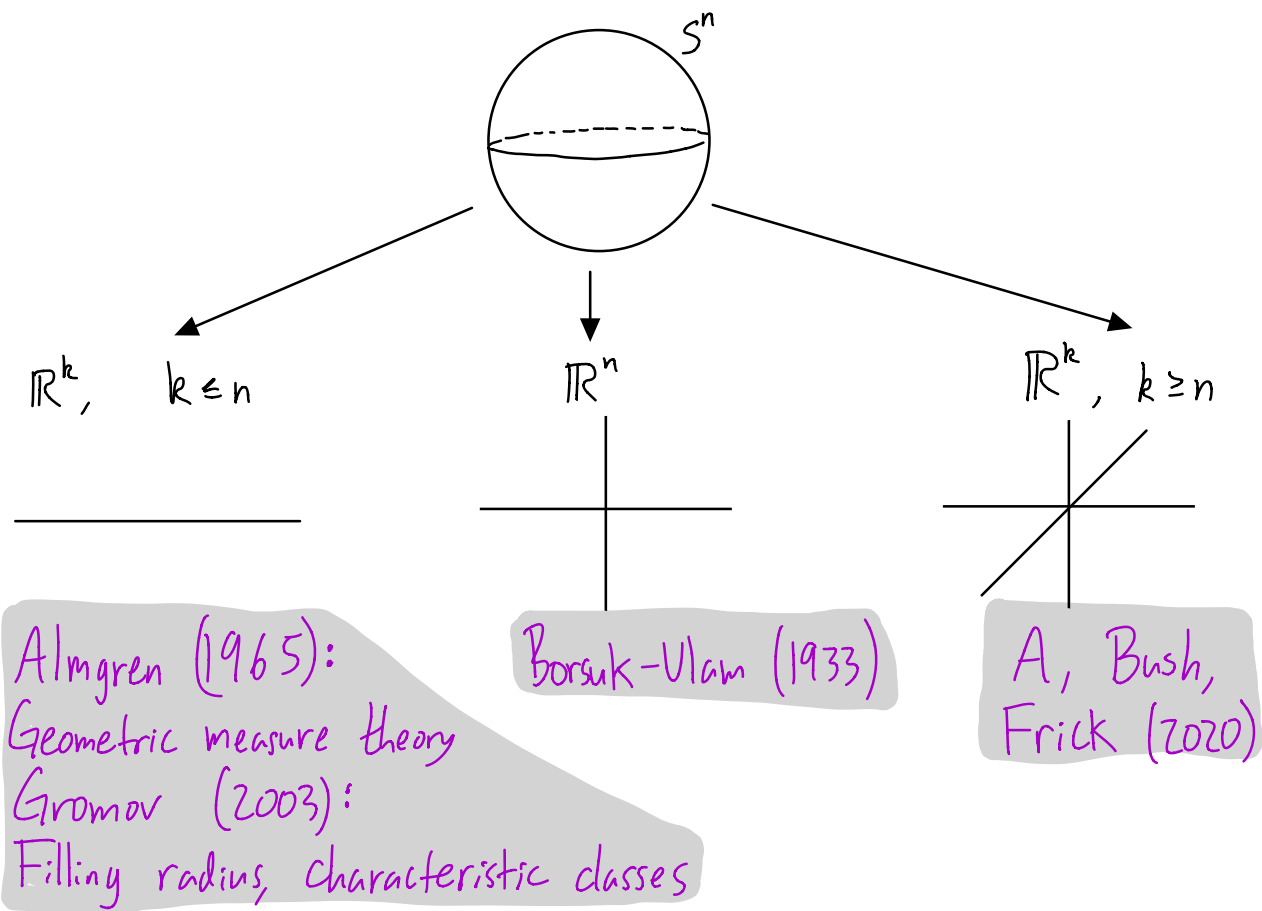
Def The filling radius of manifold  $M^n$  is the infimum  $r$  such that  $M \hookrightarrow B_{L^\infty(M)}(M; r)$  induces a map on  $n$ -dimensional homology killing the (nonzero) fundamental class.

Lim, Mémoli, Okutan, 2020, "Vietoris-Rips persistent homology, injective metric spaces, and the filling radius"

Thm For  $X$  a metric space,  $B_{L^\infty(X)}(X; \frac{r}{2}) \simeq VR(X; r)$ .



## Bridge #2: Borsuk-Ulam theorems

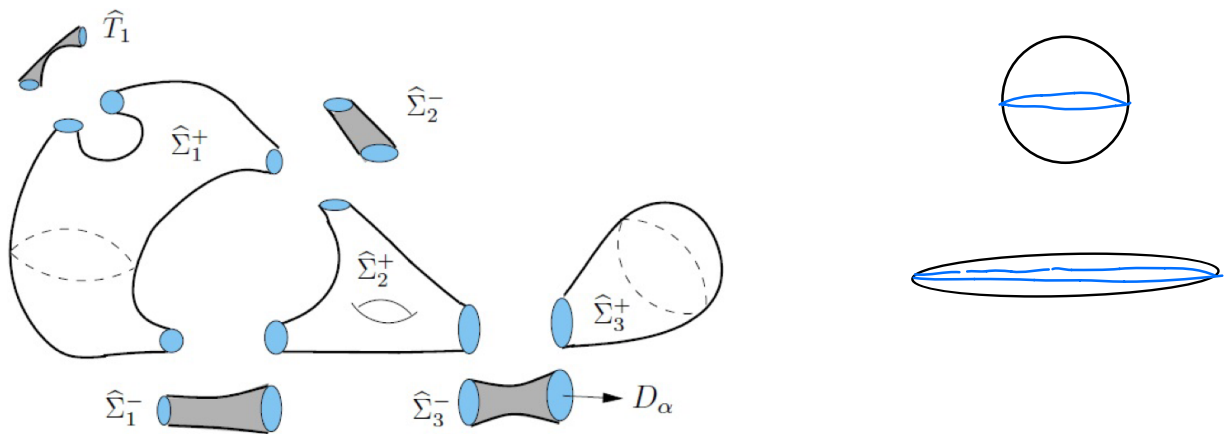


"Waist of sphere" theorem For  $f: S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  with  $k \leq n$ ,  
 $\exists y \in \mathbb{R}^k$  with  $\text{Vol}_{n-k}(f^{-1}(y)) \geq \text{Vol}_{n-k}(S^{n-k})$ .

Invariance of dimension.

## Bridge #3: Thick-thin decompositions, sweep-outs

A, Costkunuzer, 2021, "Geometric approaches on persistent homology"



$X$  vertex set of unweighted graph.

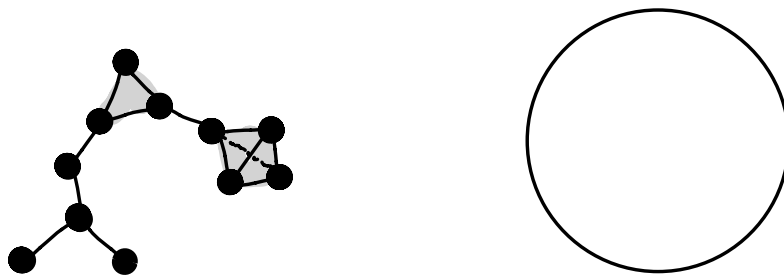
Thm A 2-dimensional homology class  $\sigma$  in  $VR(X;r)$  has persistence  $\leq \sqrt{\text{area}(\sigma)} + 1$ .

Thm A  $k$ -dimensional homology class  $\sigma$  in  $VR(X;r)$  has persistence  $\leq \text{width}(\sigma) + 1$ .

$X$  metric space,  $r \geq 0$ .

Def The Vietoris-Rips simplicial complex has

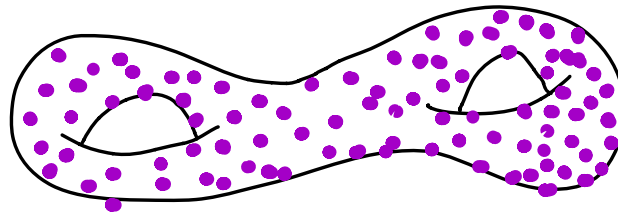
- vertex set  $X$
- finite simplex  $\sigma \subseteq X$  when  $\text{diameter}(\sigma) \leq r$ .



History

- Cohomology theory for metric spaces
- Geometric group theory
- Applied topology

Stability



$$PH_1(\text{VR}(M;r)) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$$

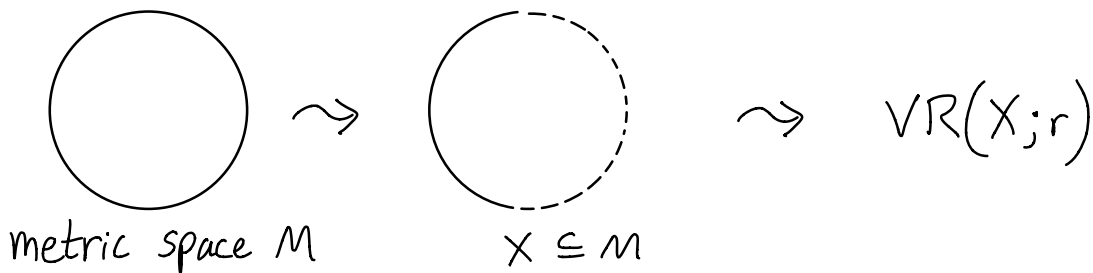
$$PH_1(\text{VR}(X;r)) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$$

Chazal, de Silva, Oudot, 2014

Chazal, Cohen-Steiner, Guibas, Mémoli, Oudot, 2009

# Metric Reconstruction

A simplicial complex whose vertex set is a metric space should often be equipped with an optimal transport metric (instead of the simplicial complex topology).



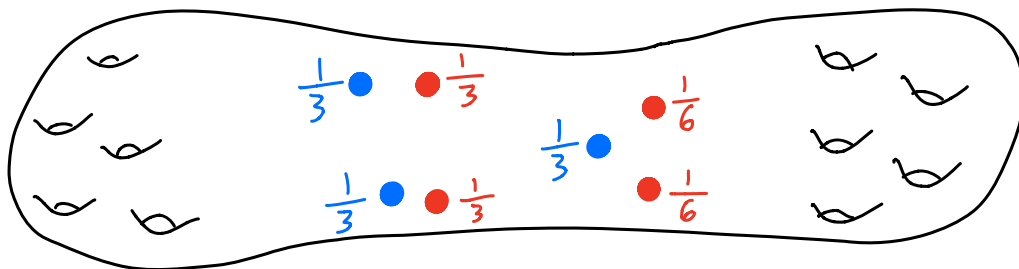
Adamaszek, A, Frick, 2018, "Metric reconstruction via optimal transport"

Def  $X$  metric space,  $r \geq 0$ .

The Vietoris-Rips metric thickening is

$$VR(X; r) = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^k \lambda_i x_i \mid \begin{array}{l} x_i \in X, \text{ diam}(\{x_0, \dots, x_k\}) \leq r, \\ \lambda_i \geq 0, \sum \lambda_i = 1 \end{array} \right\},$$

equipped with the  $p$ -Wasserstein metric.

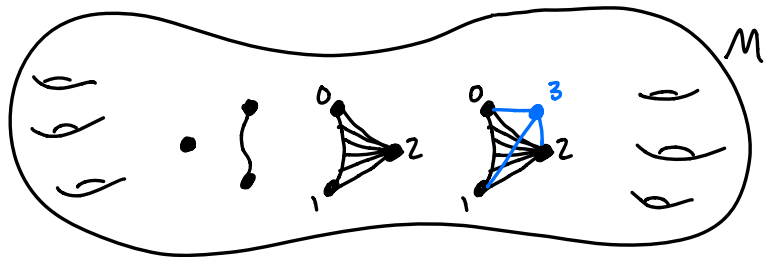


Thm (Hausmann 1995)

$M$  compact Riemannian manifold.

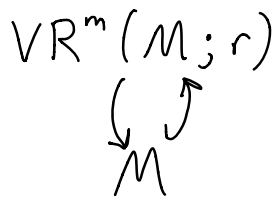
Then  $\exists r_0 > 0$  such that  $VR(M; r) \cong M \forall r < r_0$ .

Proof Sketch

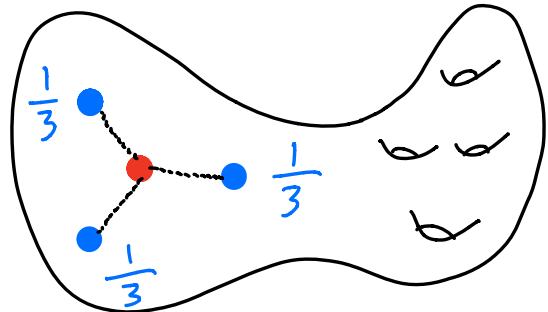


- Not canonical
- $M \hookrightarrow VR(M; r)$  not continuous.

Our Proof Sketch



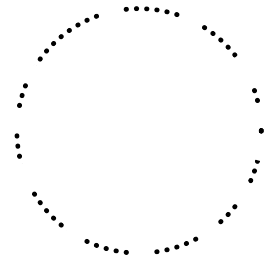
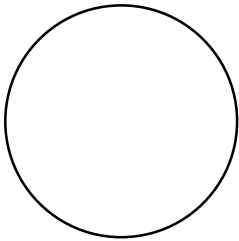
$\sum \lambda_i \delta_{x_i}$   
 $\downarrow$   
 Karhner or  
 Frechét mean





A, Mémoli, Moy, Wang, 2021+

Thm For  $X$  totally bounded,  $VR^m(X;r)$  and  $VR(X;r)$  have the same (undecorated) persistence diagrams.



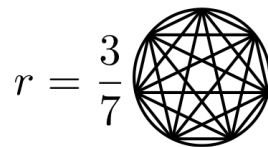
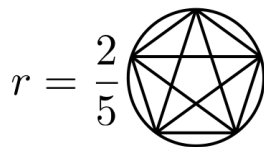
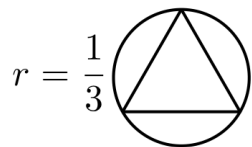
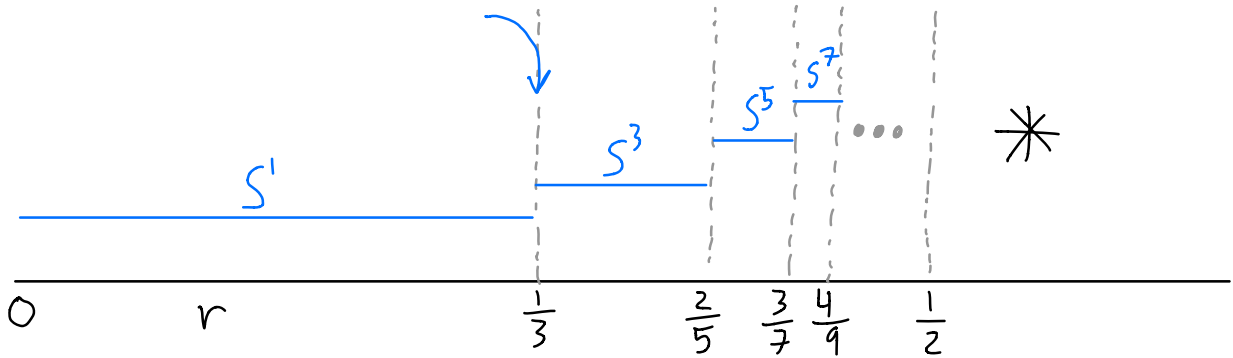
Cor  $VR^m(X;r)$  is stable.

Question Is  $VR^m_{\leq}(X;r) \approx VR_{\leq}(X;r)$  ?

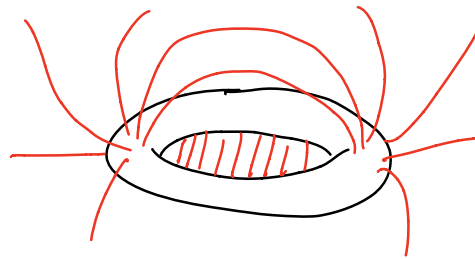
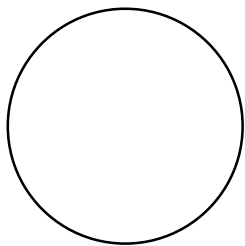
A, Adamaszek, "The Vietoris-Rips complexes of a circle", 2017

$S^1$  is circle with geodesic metric, unit circumference.

$$\text{Thm } \text{VR}(S^1; r) \simeq \begin{cases} S^{2k+1} & \text{if } \frac{k}{2k+1} < r < \frac{k+1}{2k+3} \\ \text{if } r = \frac{k}{2k+1} \end{cases} \quad k \in \mathbb{N}$$

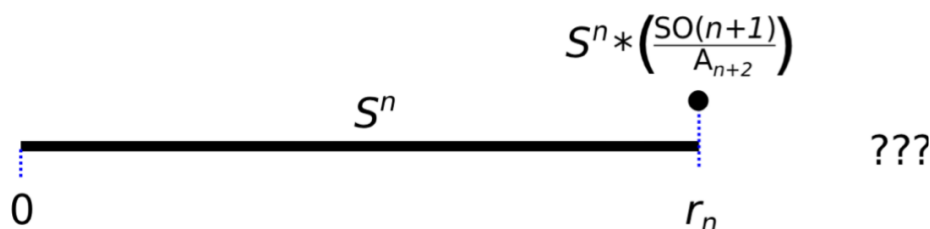
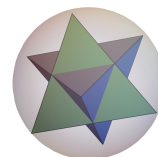


By contrast,  $\text{VR}^m(S^1; \frac{1}{3}) \simeq S^3$ . Why?



More generally,

$$\underline{\text{Thm}} \quad \text{VR}^m(S^n; r) \simeq \begin{cases} S^n & r < r_n \\ S^n * \frac{SO(n+1)}{A_{n+2}} & r = r_n. \end{cases}$$



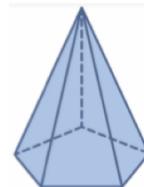
Katz, 1991, "On neighborhoods of the Kuratowski imbedding beyond the first extremum of the diameter functional"

$$\underline{\text{Thm}} \quad B_{L^\infty(X)}(S^2; \frac{r}{2}) \simeq \text{first } S^2, \text{ then } S^2 * \frac{SO(3)}{A_4}$$

$$\parallel$$

$$S^2 * \frac{S^3}{E_6}$$

Conjecture The next change in homotopy type for  $\text{VR}^m(S^2; r)$  occurs at the diameter of a pentagonal pyramid, with homotopy type an 8-dimensional CW complex  $(S^2 * \frac{SO(3)}{A_4}) \cup_f (\Delta^5 \times \frac{SO(3)}{\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}})$ .

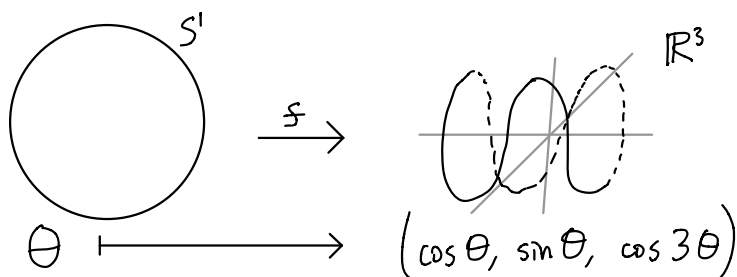
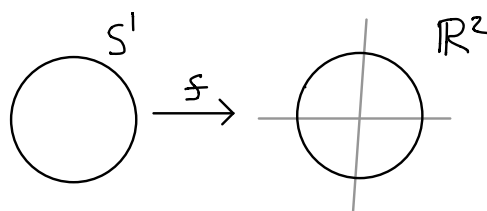
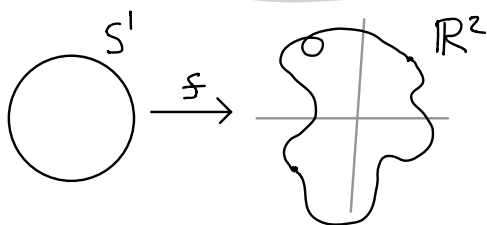


$$\text{Here } \partial \Delta^5 \times \frac{SO(3)}{\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}} \xrightarrow{f} S^2 * \frac{SO(3)}{A_4}$$

with  $\pi_4(S^2 * \frac{SO(3)}{A_4}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ .

# Borsuk-Ulam theorems for $f: S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ with $k \geq n$ ?

A, Bush, Frick, 2020, "Metric thickenings, Borsuk-Ulam theorems, and orbitopes"



Thm For  $f: S^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2k+1}$ ,  $\exists X \subset S^1$  of diameter at most  $\frac{k}{2k+1}$  such that  $\text{conv}(f(X)) \cap \text{conv}(f(-X)) \neq \emptyset$ .

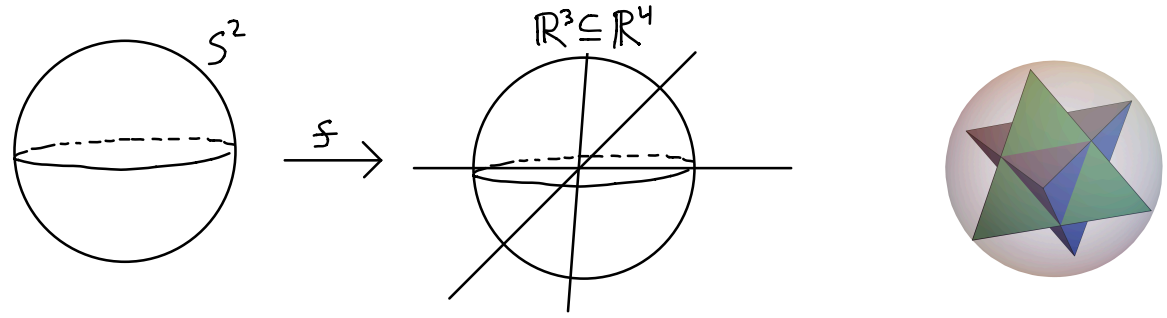
Proof  $S^1 \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{R}^{2k+1}$  induces  
 $\text{VR}(S^1; r) \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{R}^{2k+1}$

## Sharpness of diameter bound

$$S^1 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2k} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{2k+1}$$

$$\theta \longmapsto (\cos \theta, \sin \theta, \cos 3\theta, \sin 3\theta, \cos 5\theta, \sin 5\theta, \dots)$$

Thm For  $f: S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+2}$ ,  $\exists X \subset S^n$  of diameter at most  $r_n$  such that  $\text{conv}(f(X)) \cap \text{conv}(f(-X)) \neq \emptyset$ .



Proof

$$S^n * \frac{SO(n+1)}{A_{n+2}} \cong VR^n(S^n; r) \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{R}^{n+2} \\ \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{R}^{n+2} \end{matrix} \quad \text{induces}$$



## Questions

- (1)  $VR^m(S^n; r)$  for larger  $r$ ?
- (2) Čech<sup>m</sup>( $S^n; r$ ) ?
- (3) Other manifolds? Tori, ellipsoids,  $\mathbb{R}P^n$ ,  $\mathbb{C}P^n$
- (4)  $VR_c^m(X; r) \simeq VR_c(X; r)$  ?
- (5) Morse and Morse-Bott theories (Mirth PhD thesis)
- (6) Measures with infinite support
- (8) Tighter connections between  $VR^m(X; r)$  and  $B_{L^\infty(X)}(X; r)$ .
- (7) In  $VR^m(X; r)$  replace  $\infty$ -diam with  $p$ -diam.  
In Čech<sup>m</sup>( $X; r$ ) replace  $\infty$ -variance with  $p$ -variance.  
(A, Memoli, Moy, Wang)

