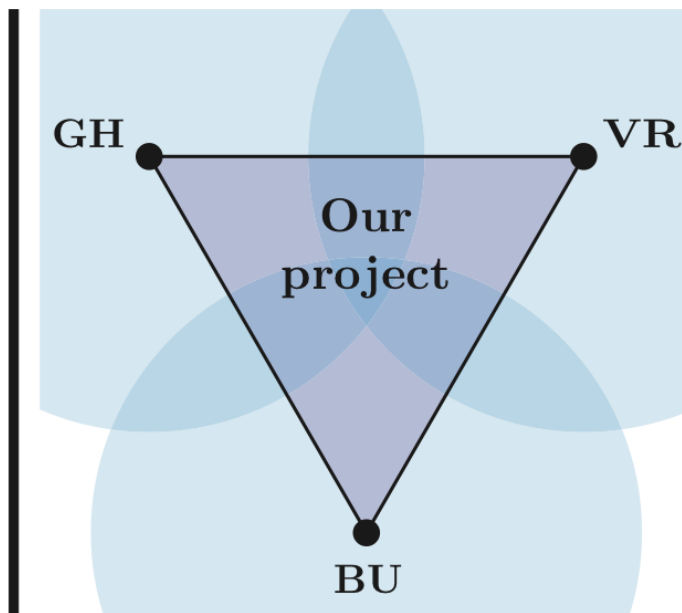
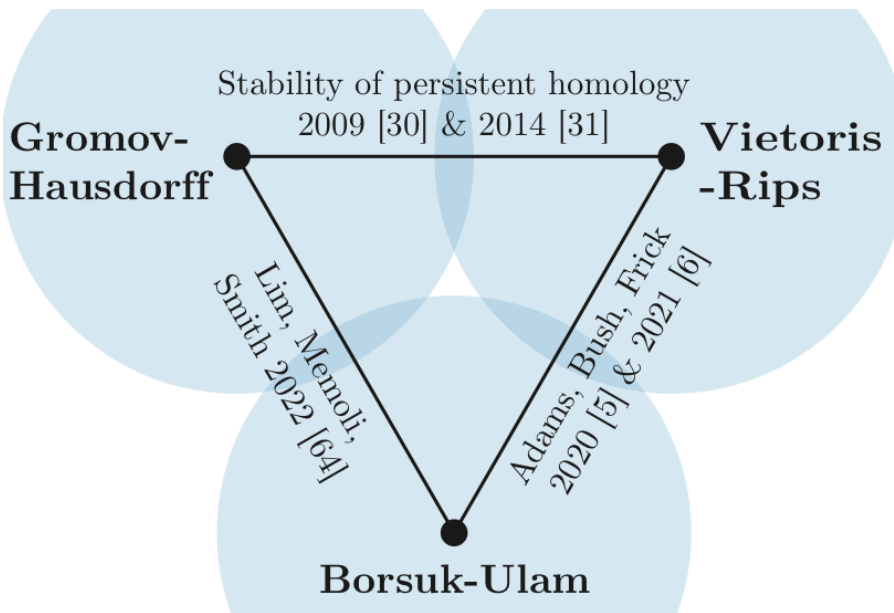


# Gromov-Hausdorff distances, Borsuk-Ulam theorems, and Vietoris-Rips complexes

arXiv:2301.00246

December 2022



16 authors from 9 institutions:

Henry Adams

Johnathan Bush

Michael Moy

Daniel Vargas-Rosario

Facundo Memoli

Nathaniel Clause

Mario Gomez

Sunhyuk Lim

Qingsong Wang

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Florian Frick

Michael Harrison

Amzi Jeffs

Evgeniya Lagoda

Nikola Sadovek

Matt Superdock

Combinatorial Topology

Nerve Complexes  
Borsuk-Ulam Theorems

Quantitative Topology

Filling radius  
Gromov-Hausdorff distances

Applied Topology

Persistent Homology  
Vietoris-Rips complexes

Geometric Topology

Thick-thin decompositions  
Urysohn widths

Geometric Group Theory

Bestvina-Brady  
Morse theory

Optimal Transport

Wasserstein distance  
Kantorovich-Rubenstein

Bridging Applied and Quantitative Topology



# INTERVIEW SERIES

2022 - 2023

**Frédéric Chazal**  
interviewed by  
Steve Oudot  
**SEP 14TH**

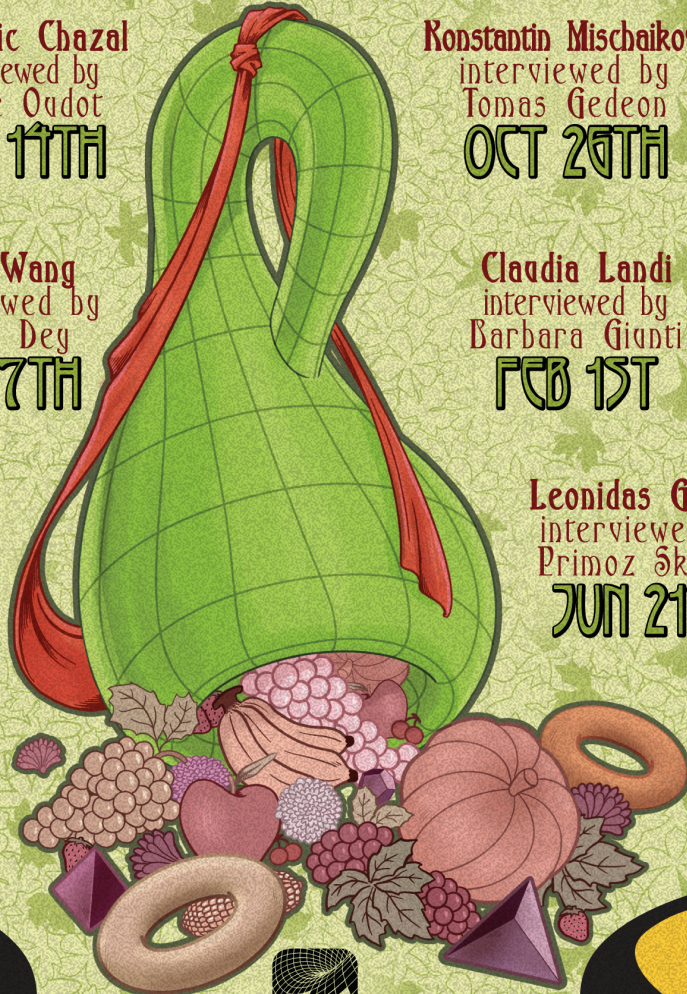
**Konstantin Mischaikow**  
interviewed by  
Tomas Gedeon  
**OCT 26TH**

**Yusu Wang**  
interviewed by  
Tamal Deg  
**DEC 7TH**

**Claudia Landi**  
interviewed by  
Barbara Giunti  
**FEB 1ST**

For Zoom  
coordinates,  
become a  
member at  
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**Leonidas Guibas**  
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Primoz Skraba  
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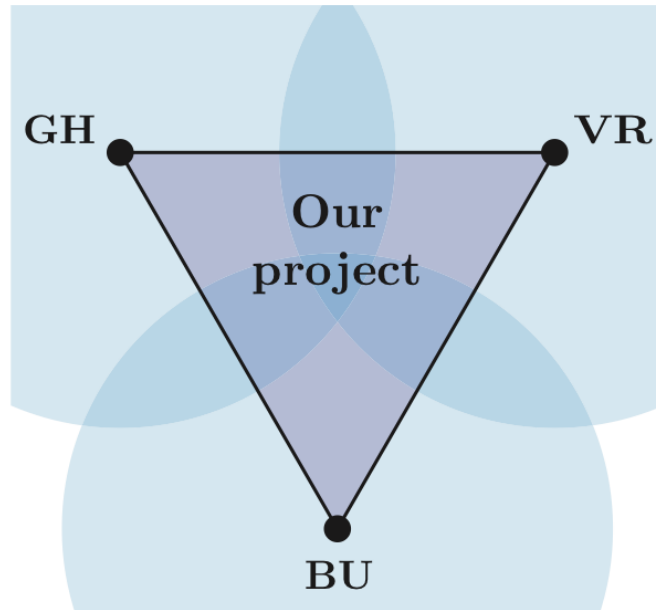
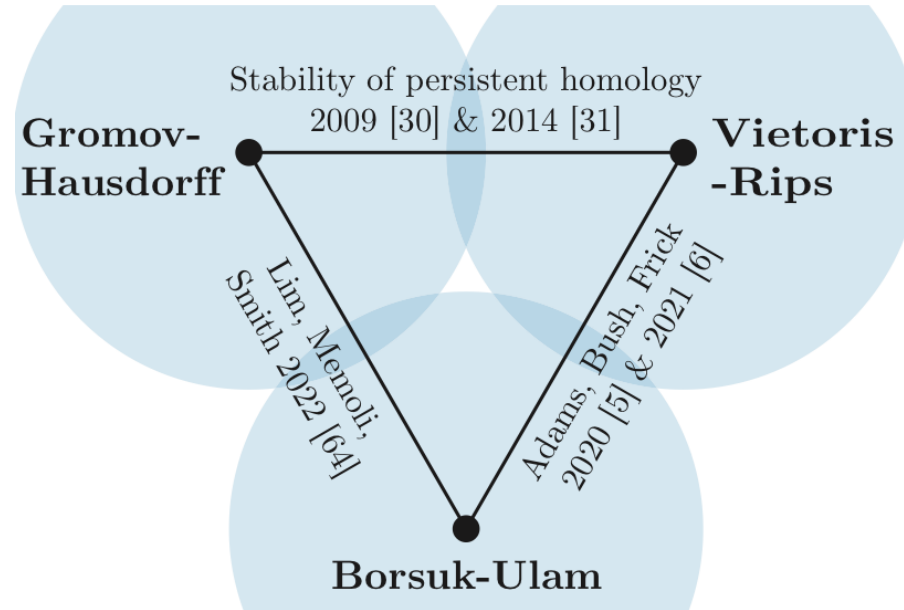
Meet Adetayo (Tayo for short), born January 20!



# Gromov-Hausdorff distances, Borsuk-Ulam theorems, and Vietoris-Rips complexes

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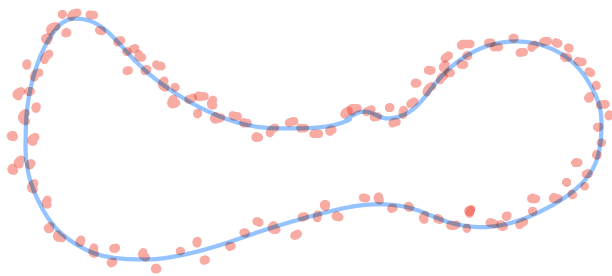
Evgeniya Lagoda

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## Gromov-Hausdorff distances

$X, Y$  compact metric spaces



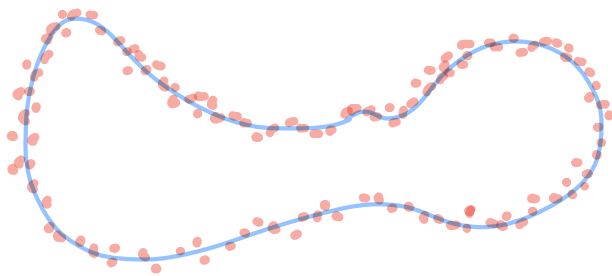
If  $X$  and  $Y$  are two subsets of the same metric space, then the Hausdorff distance between them is

$$d_H(X, Y) = \inf \left\{ \varepsilon > 0 \mid X \subseteq Y^\varepsilon \text{ and } Y \subseteq X^\varepsilon \right\}$$



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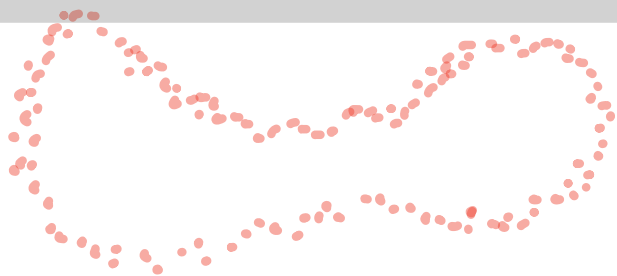
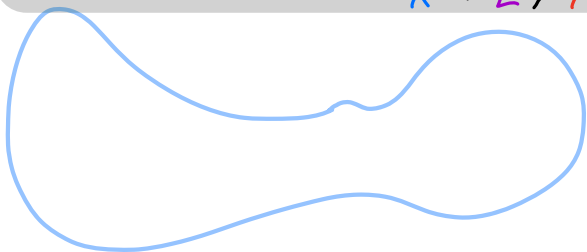


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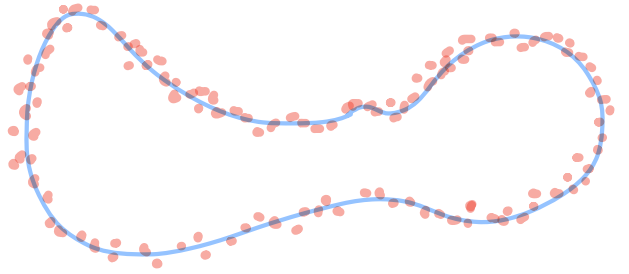
If  $X$  and  $Y$  are any two metric spaces, then the Gromov-Hausdorff distance between them is

$$d_{GH}(X, Y) = \inf_{\substack{\text{isometric embeddings} \\ X \hookrightarrow Z, Y \hookrightarrow Z}} \left\{ d_H(X, Y) \right\}$$



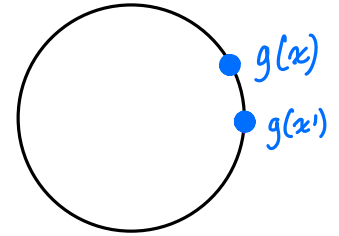
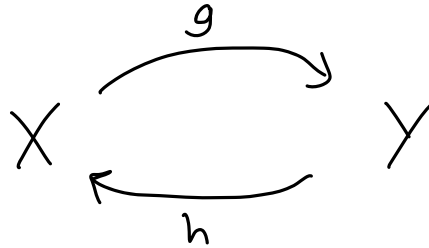
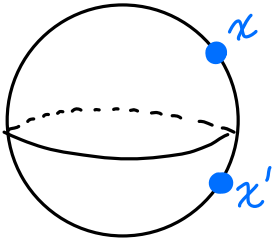
# Gromov-Hausdorff distances

$X, Y$  compact metric spaces



Equivalently:

$$\text{Def 2} \cdot d_{\text{GH}}(X, Y) = \inf_{\substack{g: X \rightarrow Y \\ h: Y \rightarrow X}} \max \{ \text{dis}(g), \text{dis}(h), \text{codis}(g, h) \}.$$

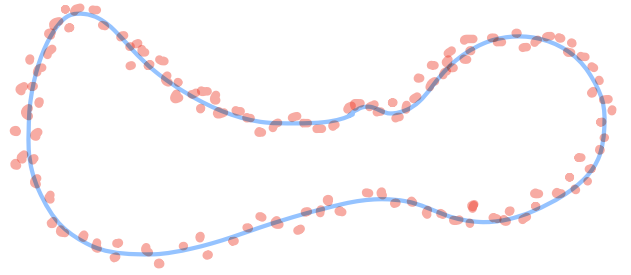


$$\text{dis}(g) = \sup_{x, x' \in X} | d(x, x') - d(g(x), g(x')) |$$



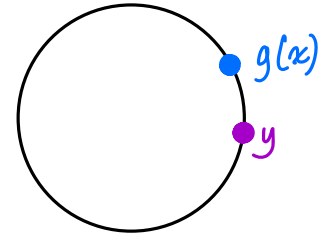
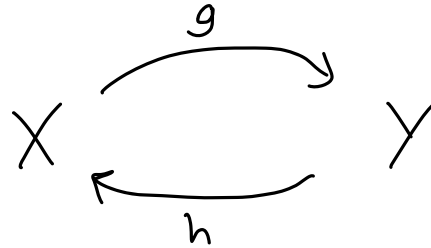
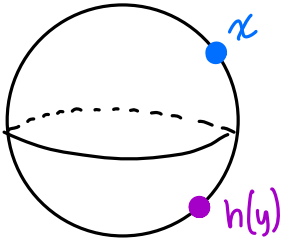
# Gromov-Hausdorff distances

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$$\text{codis}(g, h) = \sup_{\substack{x \in X \\ y \in Y}} | d(x, h(y)) - d(g(x), y) |$$

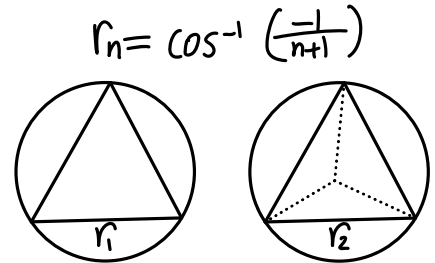
Lim, Memoli, Smith, 2021

Sphere  $S^n$ , geodesic metric, diameter  $\pi$ .

$2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k)$

|       | $S^1$ | $S^2$            | $S^3$            | $S^4$        | $S^5$        | $S^6$        | $S^7$ |
|-------|-------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| $S^1$ | 0     | $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ | $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ |              |              |              |       |
| $S^2$ |       | 0                | $r_2$            |              |              |              |       |
| $S^3$ |       |                  | 0 $\geq r_3$     |              |              |              |       |
| $S^4$ |       |                  |                  | 0 $\geq r_4$ |              |              |       |
| $S^5$ |       |                  |                  |              | 0 $\geq r_5$ |              |       |
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Symmetric matrix  
Nonzero entries in  $(\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi)$





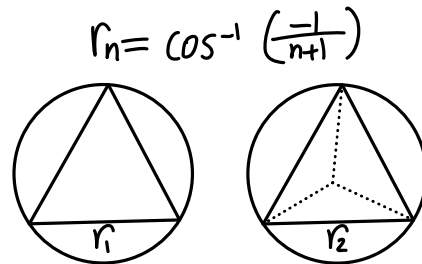
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| $S^2$ |       | 0                | $r_2$                                |                       |                       |                       |            |
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| $S^4$ |       |                  |                                      | 0                     | $\geq r_4$            |                       |            |
| $S^5$ |       |                  |                                      |                       | 0                     | $\geq r_5$            |            |
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Main Theorem For  $n < k$ ,

$$2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k) \geq \underbrace{\inf \left\{ r \mid \exists \text{ cont. odd } S^k \rightarrow VR(S^n; r) \right\}}_{C_{n,k}}$$

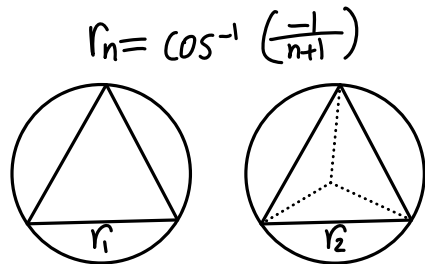
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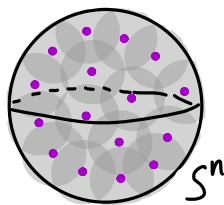
|       | $S^1$ | $S^2$            | $S^3$                                | $S^4$                 | $S^5$                 | $S^6$                 | $S^7$ |
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Symmetric matrix  
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For  $n < k$ ,

$\leftarrow 2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k) \geq \pi - \text{COV}_{k+1}(S^n)$



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Def  $\text{COV}_k(X) := \text{infimum } r \text{ s.t. } k \text{ balls of radius } \frac{r}{2} \text{ cover } X.$



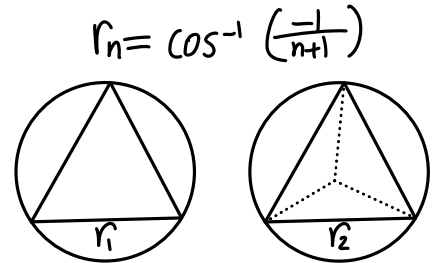
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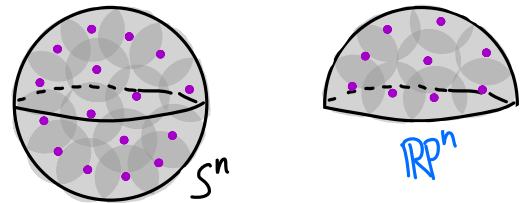
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For  $n < k$ ,

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$2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k) \geq \underbrace{\inf \{ r \mid \exists \text{ cont. odd } S^k \rightarrow VR(S^n; r) \}}_{C_{n,k}} \geq \pi - \text{COV}_k(\mathbb{RP}^n)$

A., Bush, Frick, 2021

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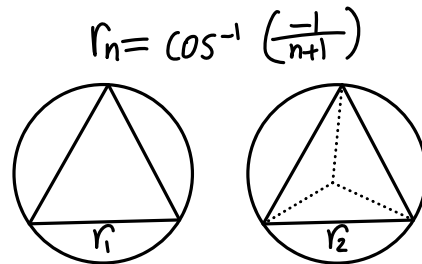
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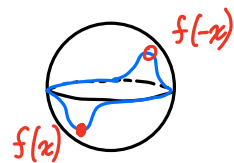
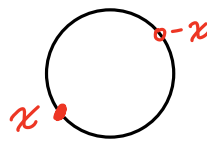
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Main Theorem For  $n < k$ ,

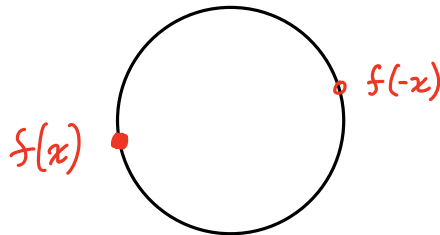
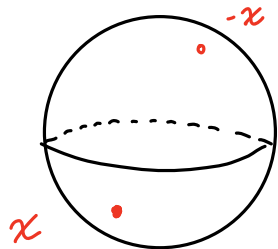
$$2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k) \geq \underbrace{\inf \left\{ r \mid \exists \text{ cont. odd } S^k \rightarrow VR(S^n; r) \right\}}_{C_{n,k}}$$

# Borsuk-Ulam theorems



Def A map  $f: S^k \rightarrow S^n$  is odd if  $f(-x) = -f(x) \quad \forall x \in X$

Borsuk-Ulam: There is no cont. odd  $S^k \rightarrow S^n$  for  $k > n$ .

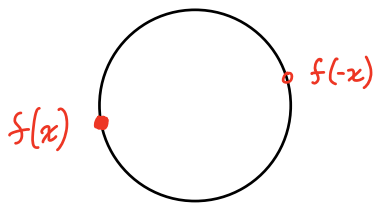
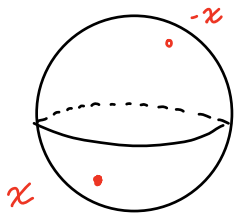


# Borsuk-Ulam theorems



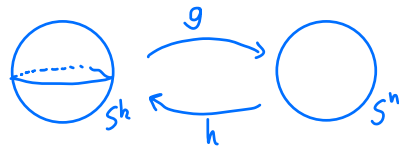
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## Proof of Main Theorem

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k) &\geq \inf_{g: S^k \rightarrow S^n} \text{dis}(g) \\ &= \inf_{\text{odd } g: S^k \rightarrow S^n} \text{dis}(g) \\ &\geq C_{n,k}. \end{aligned}$$



(remaining step)

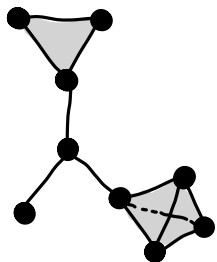
## Theorem (Dubins & Schwarz '81)

Odd  $g: S^{n+1} \rightarrow S^n$  have  $\text{dis}(g) \geq r_n$ .



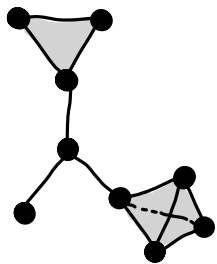
## Vietoris-Rips simplicial complexes

Def  $X$  metric space,  $r \geq 0$ . Vietoris-Rips complex  $VR(X; r)$   
has vertex set  $X$ , all simplices of diameter  $\leq r$ .



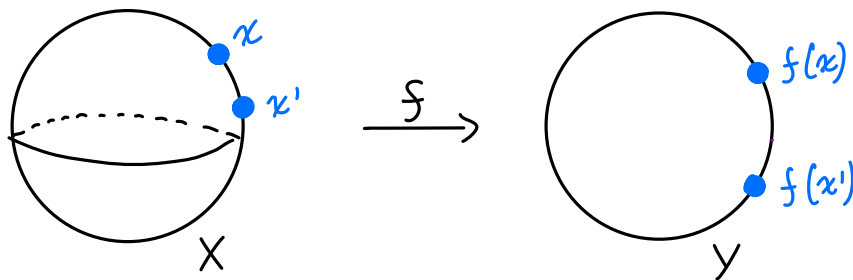
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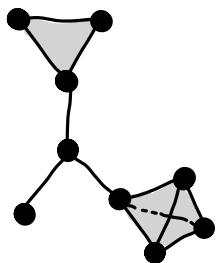
Function  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  induces a (cont.) simplicial  
map  $f: VR(X, r) \rightarrow VR(Y; \text{dis}(f) + r)$ .

$$[x_0, \dots, x_m] \mapsto [f(x_0), \dots, f(x_m)]$$



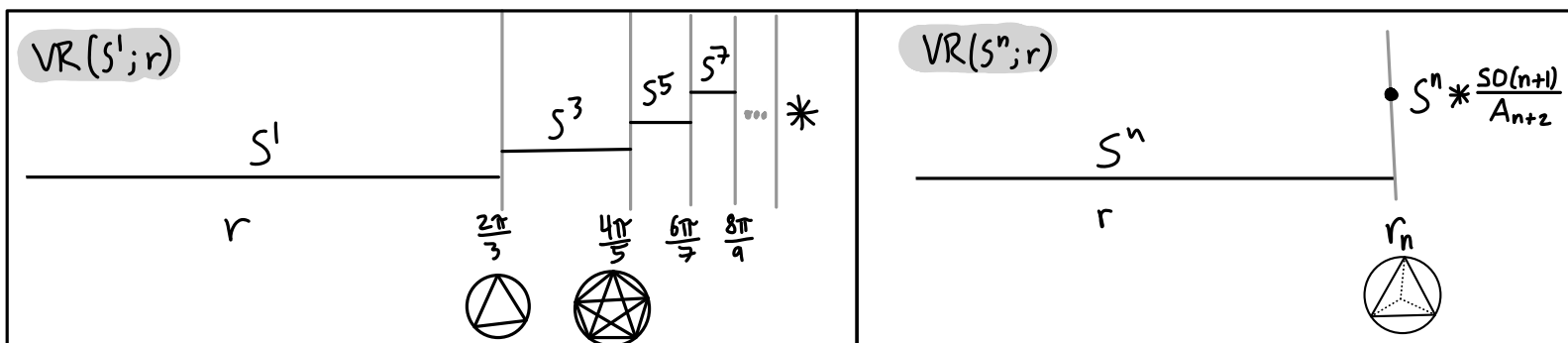
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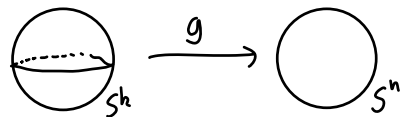
$$C_{1, 2k+1} = C_{1, 2k} = \frac{2\pi k}{2k+1}$$

$$C_{n, n+2} = C_{n, n+1} = r_n$$

$$\underbrace{\inf \left\{ r \mid \exists \text{ cont. odd } S^k \rightarrow VR(S^n; r) \right\}}_{C_{n, k}}$$

# Theorem (generalizing Dubins & Schwarz)

Odd  $g: S^k \rightarrow S^n$  for  $k > n$  have  $\text{dis}(g) \geq C_{n,k}$ .



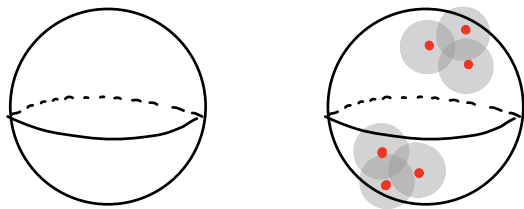
## Proof

For  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $X \subset S^k$  be an  $\frac{\varepsilon}{2}$  net with  $X = -X$ .

Produce a cont. odd map

$$S^k \xrightarrow{\text{partition of unity}} \text{VR}(X; \varepsilon) \xrightarrow{g} \text{VR}(S^n; \text{dis}(g) + \varepsilon).$$

$[\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_m] \longmapsto [g(\alpha_0), \dots, g(\alpha_m)]$



Hence  $\text{dis}(g) + \varepsilon \geq C_{n,k} \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$ , so  $\text{dis}(g) \geq C_{n,k}$ .  $\square$

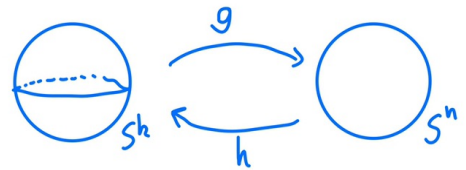


Main Theorem For  $n < k$ ,

$$2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k) \geq \underbrace{\inf \{ r \mid \exists \text{ cont. odd } S^k \rightarrow VR(S^n; r) \}}_{C_{n,k}}.$$

Proof of Main Theorem

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k) &\geq \inf_{g: S^k \rightarrow S^n} \text{dis}(g) \\ &= \inf_{\text{odd } g: S^k \rightarrow S^n} \text{dis}(g) \\ &\geq C_{n,k}. \end{aligned}$$

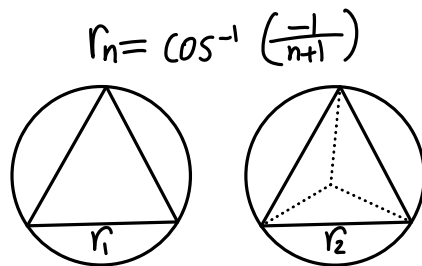


Sphere  $S^n$ , geodesic metric, diameter  $\pi$ .

$2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k)$

|       | $S^1$ | $S^2$            | $S^3$                                | $S^4$                 | $S^5$                 | $S^6$                 | $S^7$      |
|-------|-------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| $S^1$ | 0     | $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ | $\frac{2\pi}{3} \geq \frac{4\pi}{5}$ | $\geq \frac{4\pi}{5}$ | $\geq \frac{6\pi}{7}$ | $\geq \frac{6\pi}{7}$ |            |
| $S^2$ |       | 0                | $r_2$                                |                       |                       |                       |            |
| $S^3$ |       |                  | 0                                    | $\geq r_3$            |                       |                       |            |
| $S^4$ |       |                  |                                      | 0                     | $\geq r_4$            |                       |            |
| $S^5$ |       |                  |                                      |                       | 0                     | $\geq r_5$            |            |
| $S^6$ |       |                  |                                      |                       |                       | 0                     | $\geq r_6$ |

Symmetric matrix  
Nonzero entries in  $(\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi)$



Main Theorem For  $n < k$ ,

$$2 \cdot d_{GH}(S^n, S^k) \geq \underbrace{\inf \left\{ r \mid \exists \text{ cont. odd } S^k \rightarrow VR(S^n; r) \right\}}_{C_{n,k}}$$

Question Tight upper bounds on  $d_{GH}(S^n, S^k)$  via maps?

Question Bounds on  $d_{GH}(X, Y)$  for more general families of  $G$ -equivariant metric spaces  $X, Y$ ?

Question Relate the  $p$ -Gromov-Wasserstein distance  $d_{p-GW}$  to  $p$ -Vietoris-Rips thickenings  $VR_p$ ?

Question How does the generalization of Dubins & Schwarz relate to Tverberg?

Last section of our paper advertises 12 open questions!  
3 follow-up papers in preparation already!