

Bridging Applied and Quantitative Topology

Henry Adams



**COLORADO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**AATRAN**  
Applied Algebraic Topology  
Research Network

# INTERVIEW SERIES

2022 - 2023

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

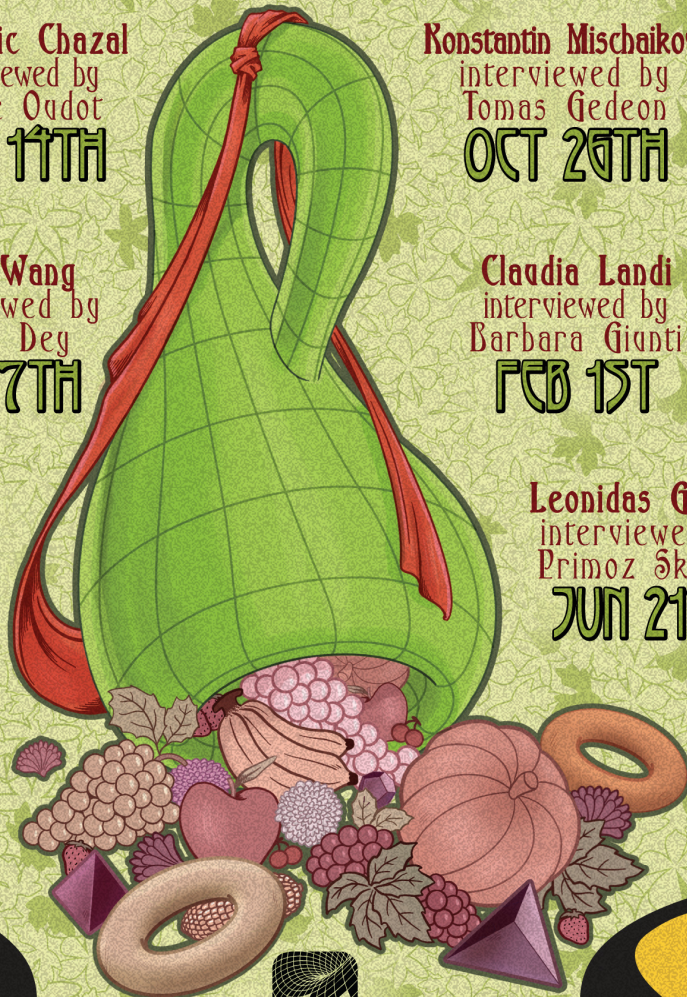
**Konstantin Mischaikow**  
interviewed by  
Tomas Gedeon  
**OCT 26TH**

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

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

For Zoom  
coordinates,  
become a  
member at  
**AATRN.NET**

**Leonidas Guibas**  
interviewed by  
Primoz Skraba  
**JUN 21ST**

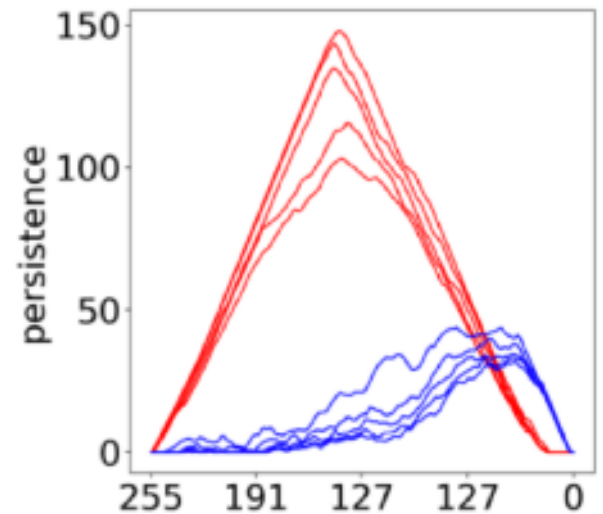
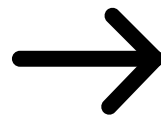
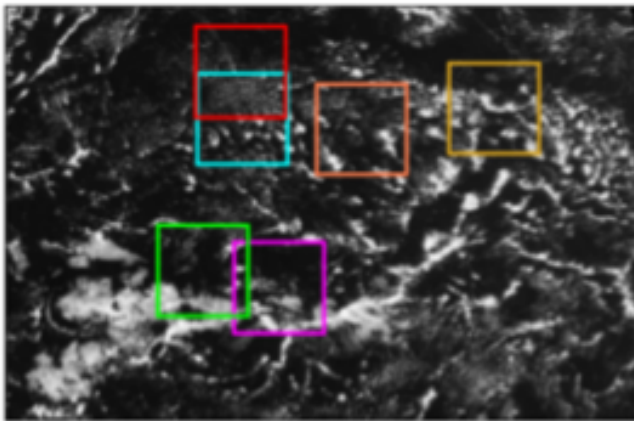
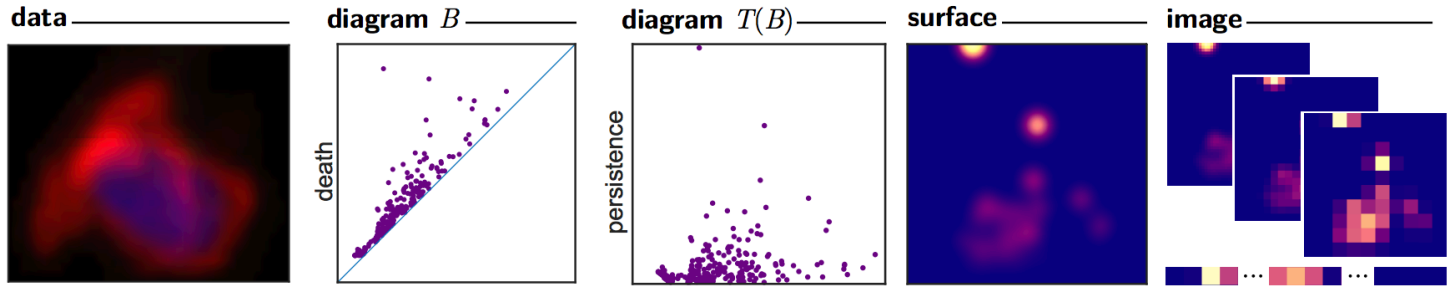


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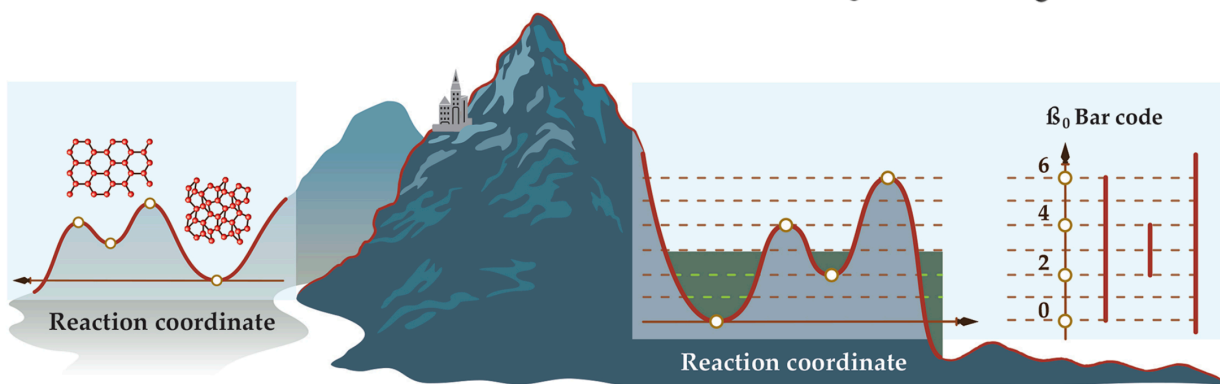
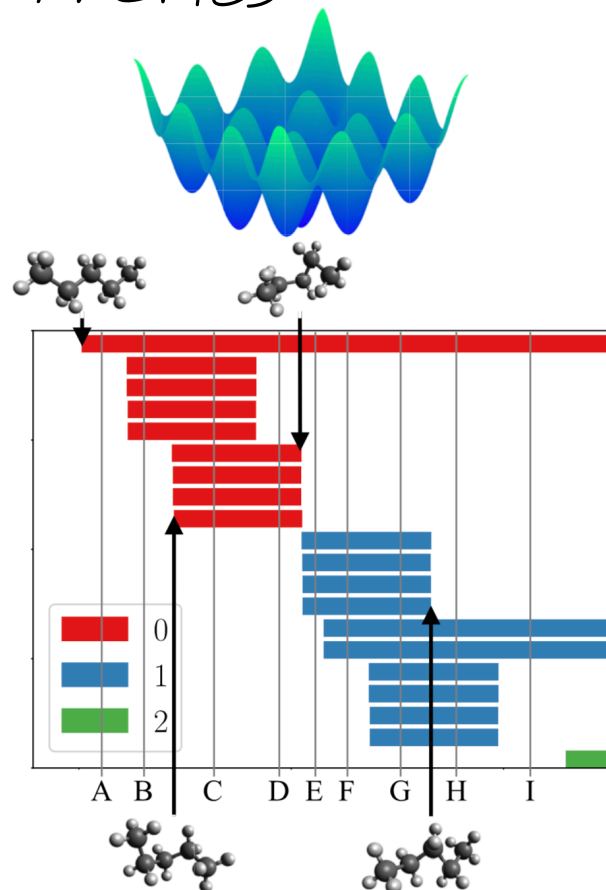
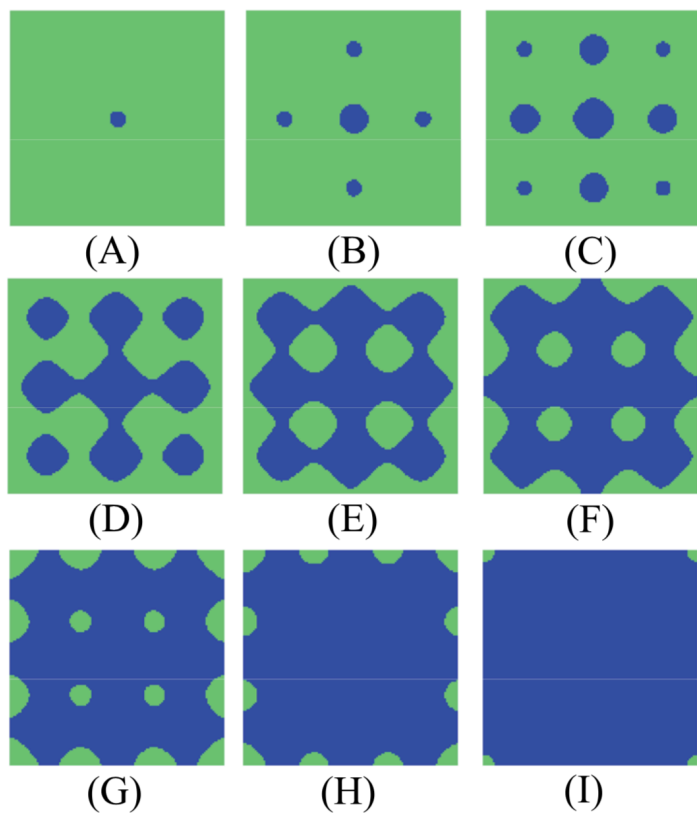
Meet Adetayo (Tayo for short), born January 20!

# Research Themes



Data Science

# Research Themes

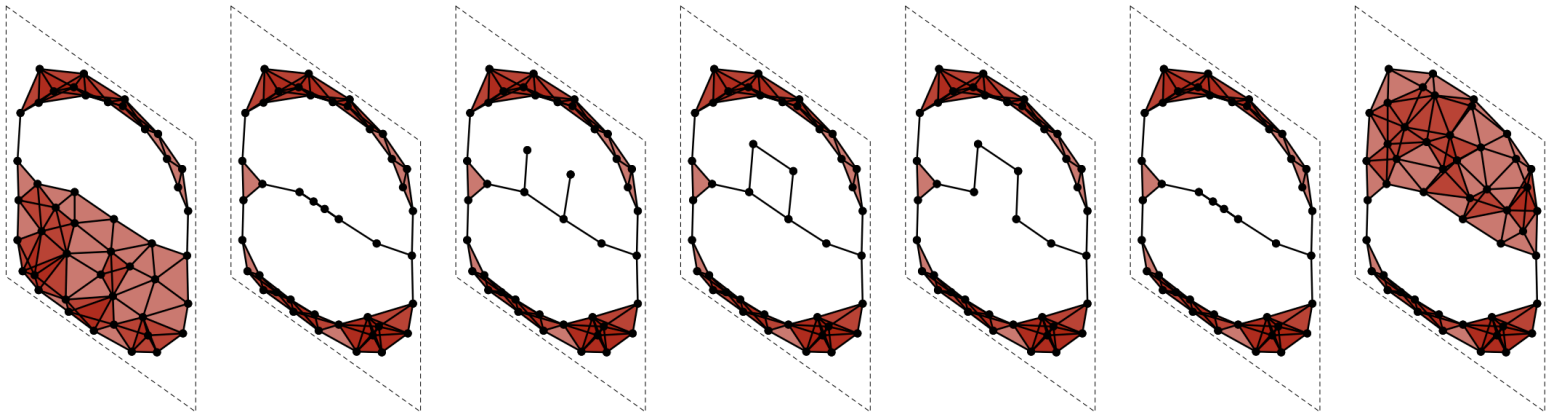
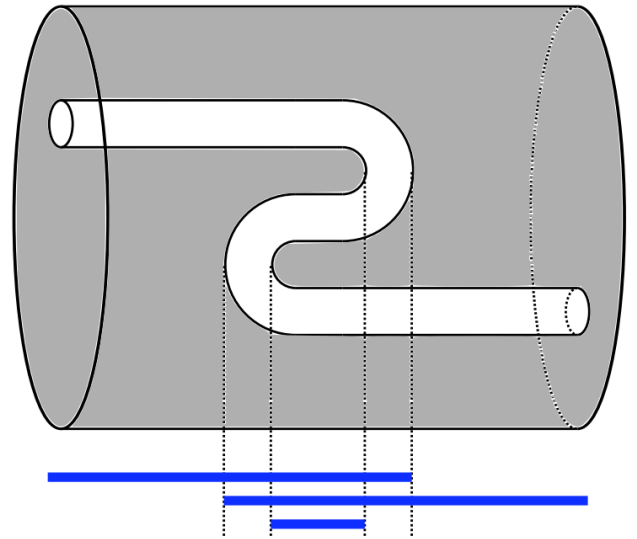
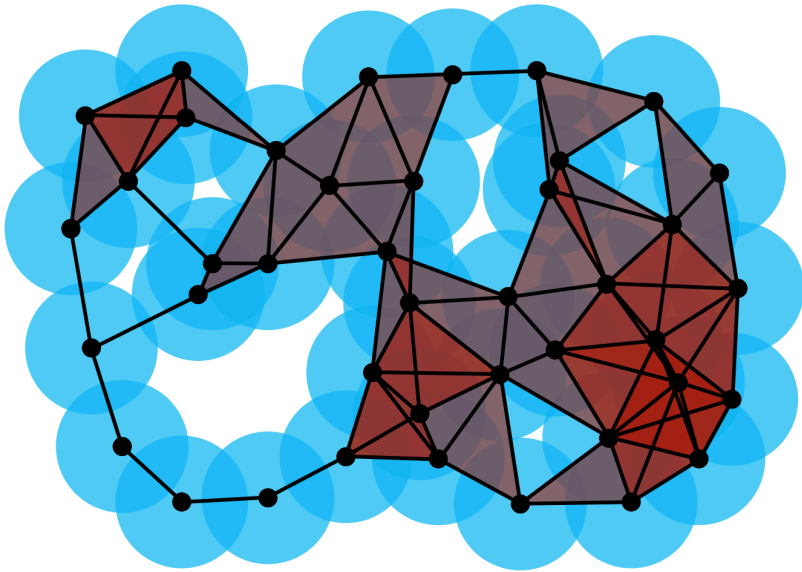


Graph representations  
of chemical species

Energy landscape topology

# Computational Chemistry

# Research Themes



# Sensor Networks

# Research Themes

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

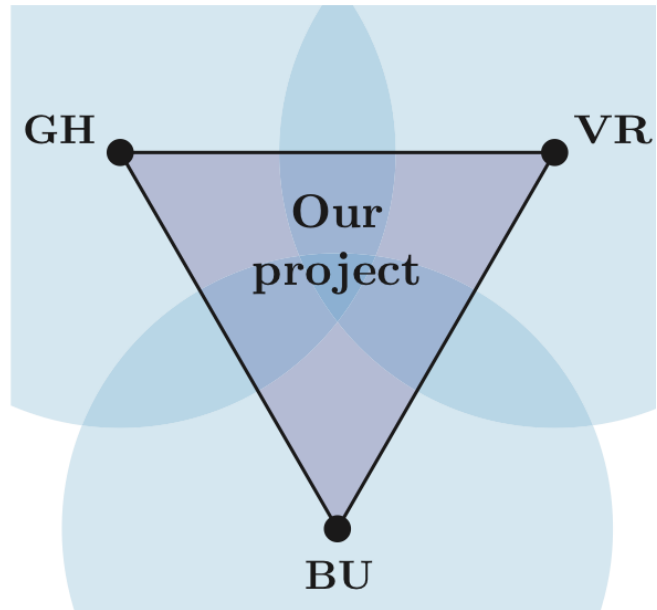
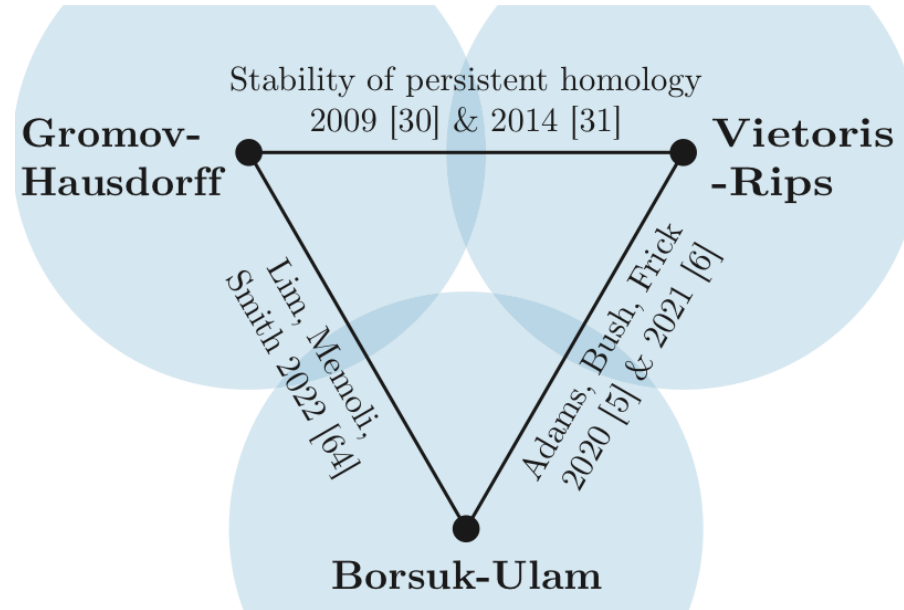
Optimal Transport  
Wasserstein distance  
Kantorovich-Rubenstein

Bridging Applied and Quantitative Topology

# 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

Ling Zhou

Florian Frick

Michael Harrison

Amzi Jeffs

Evgeniya Lagoda

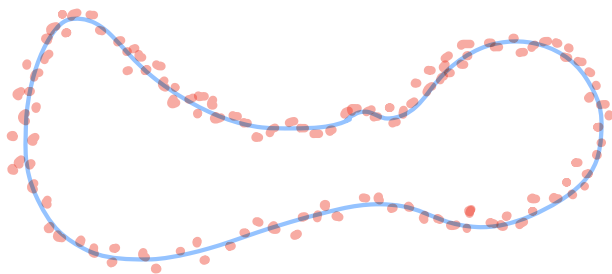
Nicola Sadovsek

Matt Superdock



## Gromov-Hausdorff distances

$X, Y$  compact metric spaces

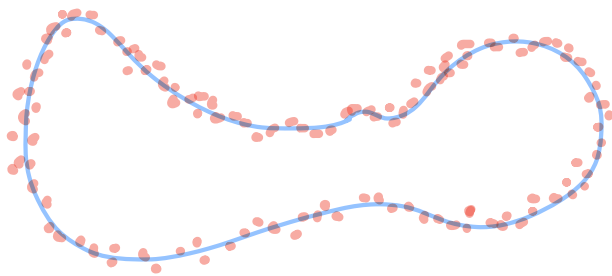


If  $X$  and  $Y$  are two subsets of the same metric space, then the Hausdorff distance between them is

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

## Gromov-Hausdorff distances

$X, Y$  compact metric spaces

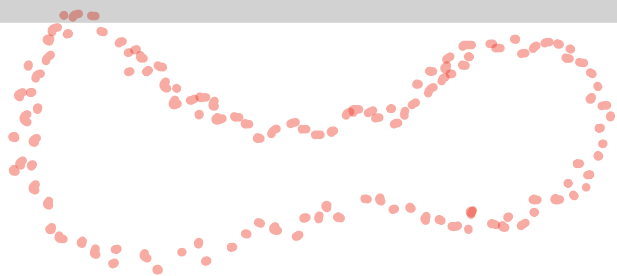
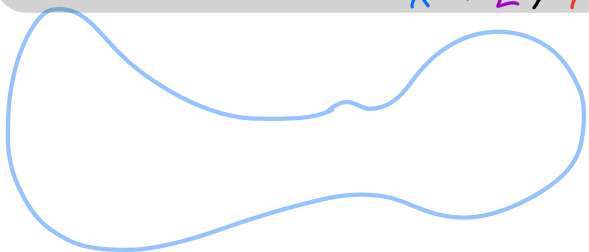


If  $X$  and  $Y$  are two subsets of the same metric space, then the Hausdorff distance between them is

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

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

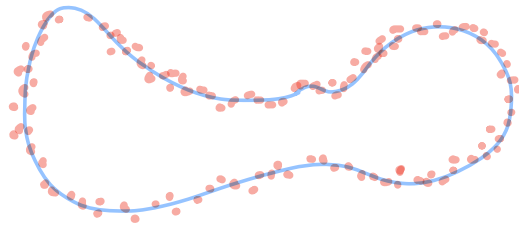
$$d_{GH}(X, Y) = \inf_{\substack{\text{isometric embeddings} \\ X \hookrightarrow Z, Y \hookrightarrow Z}} \left\{ d_H^Z(X, Y) \right\}$$



# Bridging Applied and Quantitative Topology

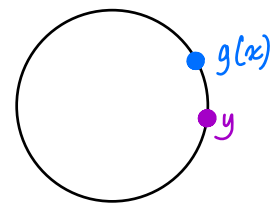
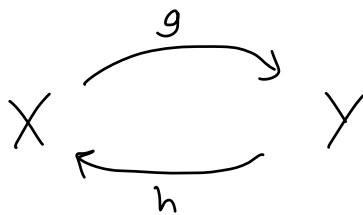
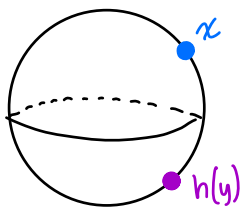
Gromov-Hausdorff distances

$X, Y$  compact metric spaces



Kalton, Ostrovskii 1999

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



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

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

Lim, Memoli, Smith, 2022

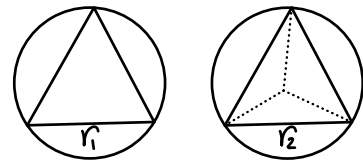
Sphere  $S^n$ , geodesic metric, diameter  $\pi$ .

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

	$S^1$	$S^2$	$S^3$	$S^4$	$S^5$	$S^6$	$S^7$
$S^1$	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	$\geq r_6$

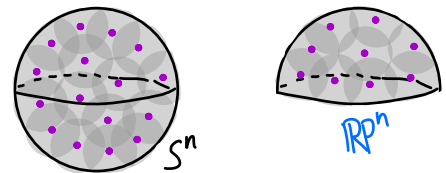
Symmetric matrix  
Nonzero entries in  $(\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi)$

$$r_n = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{-1}{n+1}\right)$$



For  $n < k$ ,

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



Main Theorem For  $n < k$ ,

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

A., Bush, Frick, 2021

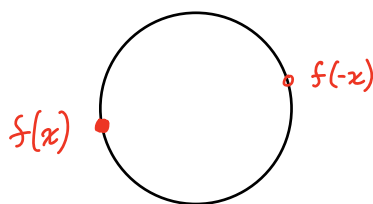
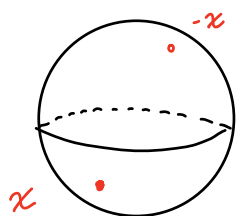
Def  $\text{COV}_k(X) :=$  infimum  $r$  s.t.  $k$  balls of radius  $\frac{r}{2}$  cover  $X$ .

# Borsuk-Ulam theorems



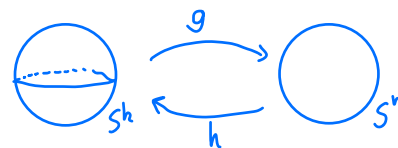
Def  $g: S^k \rightarrow S^n$  is odd if  $g(-x) = -g(x) \quad \forall x \in X$

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



## Proof of Main Theorem

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



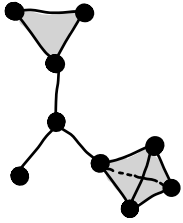
(remaining step)

## Theorem (Dubins & Schwarz '81)

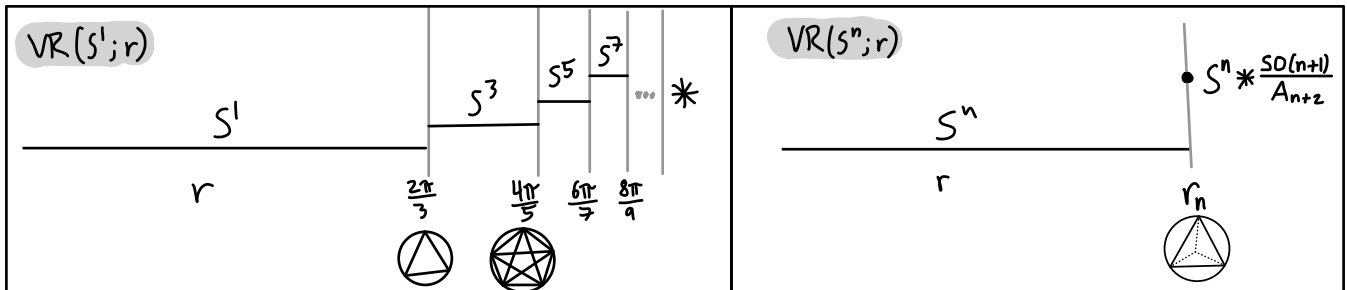
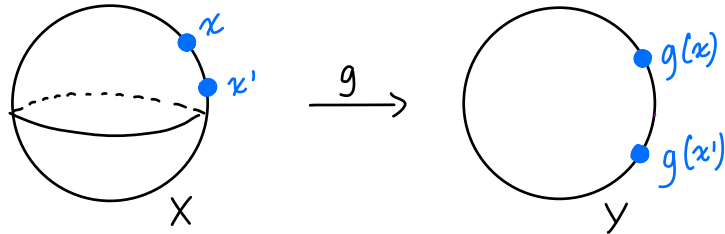
Odd  $g: S^{n+1} \rightarrow S^n$  have  $\text{dis}(g) \geq r_n$ .

# 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  $\leq r$ .



Function  $g: X \rightarrow Y$  induces a (cont.) simplicial map  $g: VR(X, r) \rightarrow VR(Y; \text{dis}(g)+r)$ .  
 $[x_0, \dots, x_m] \mapsto [g(x_0), \dots, g(x_m)]$

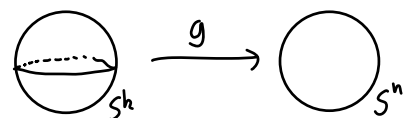


$$C_{1,2k+1} = C_{1,2k} = \frac{2\pi k}{2k+1}$$

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

# Theorem (generalizing Dubins & Schwarz)

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



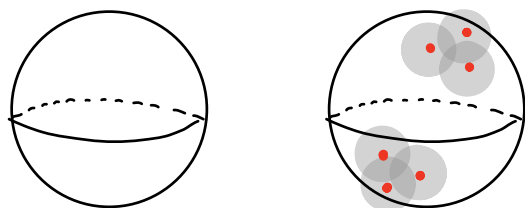
## Proof

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

Produce a cont. odd map

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

$[x_0, \dots, x_m] \longmapsto [g(x_0), \dots, g(x_m)]$



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

Question Tightness of bounds on  $d_{GH}(S^n, S^k)$ ?  
on  $\text{dis}(g: S^k \rightarrow S^n)$ ?

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!