If You Must Choose Among Your Children, Pick the Right One

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- Critical points
- Index of a critical point



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- Gradient vector fields



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- Gradient vector fields
- Morse inequalities

Algebraically

A function $f : K \to \mathbb{R}$ such that:

 $|\{\beta \succ \sigma | f(\beta) \le f(\sigma)\}| \le 1,$

and



Algebraically

Topologically

A function $f: K \to \mathbb{R}$ such that: $|\{\beta \succ \sigma | f(\beta) \le f(\sigma)\}| \le 1,$ A gradient vector field $\{(\sigma, \tau) : \sigma \prec \tau, f(\sigma) \ge f(\tau)\}.$

and



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Algebraically

Topologically

A function $f : K \to \mathbb{R}$ such that:

A gradient vector field $|\{\beta \succ \sigma | f(\beta) < f(\sigma)\}| < 1, \qquad \{(\sigma, \tau) : \sigma \prec \tau, f(\sigma) > f(\tau)\}.$

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 $|\{\gamma \prec \sigma | f(\gamma) > f(\sigma)\}| < 1.$



v₀

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Combinatorially

A matching in the Hasse diagram (T, H, C, m) where $m : T \rightarrow H$.



Problem

Simplicial complexes generated from point data have function values assigned to the vertices. How does one construct a discrete Morse function that:

- minimizes the number of critical simplicies
- agrees with the data?



King, Knudson and Mramor

EXTRACT

- Input: simplicial complex K, injective function $f_0: K_0 \to \mathbb{R}$
- Output: A discrete Morse function $f : K \to \mathbb{R}$, with $f|_{K_0} = f_0$
- EXTRACTRAW and EXTRACTCANCEL
- Recursive call on $\operatorname{link}_{K}(v) := \overline{\operatorname{star}}_{K}(v) \setminus \operatorname{star}_{K}(v)$



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Hasse Decoration

- f₀ value of largest component vertex
- $\rho(\sigma)$, its rightmost child
- $I(\sigma)$, its leftmost parent

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- Largest lexicographical child on Hasse diagram is tail
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Analysis of $\operatorname{ExtractRaw}$

- Runtime lower bounded by $\Omega(n^2 \log n)$
- Space complexity unknown

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