

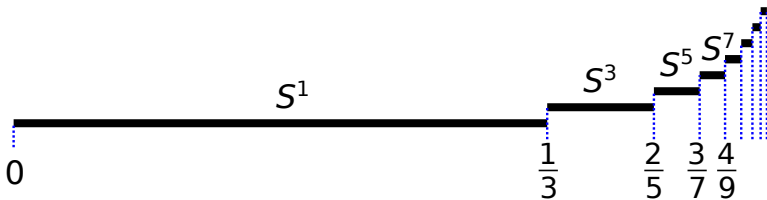
The Vietoris–Rips Complex of the Circle

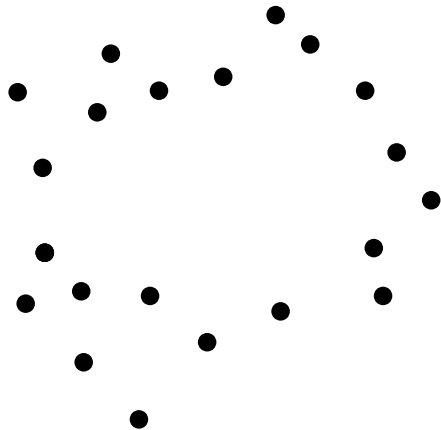
Henry Adams

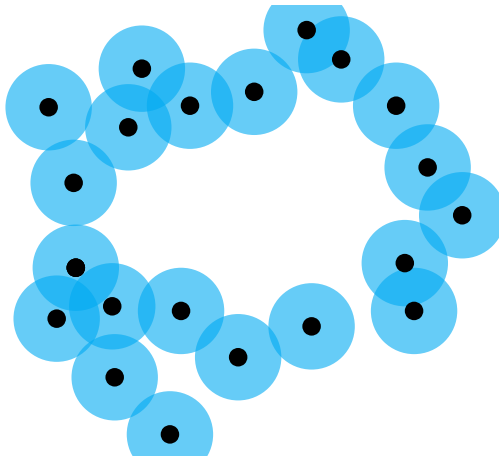
Duke University, Institute for Mathematics and its Applications

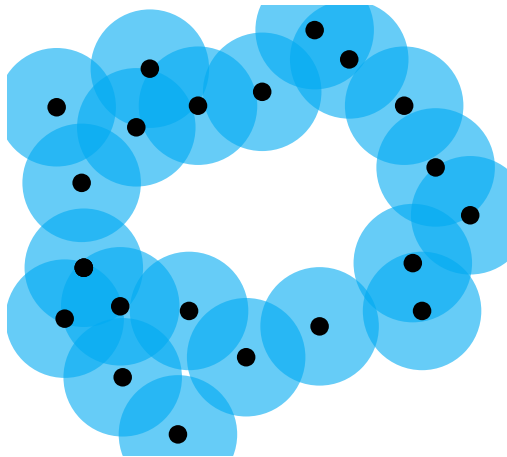
Joint with Michał Adamaszek

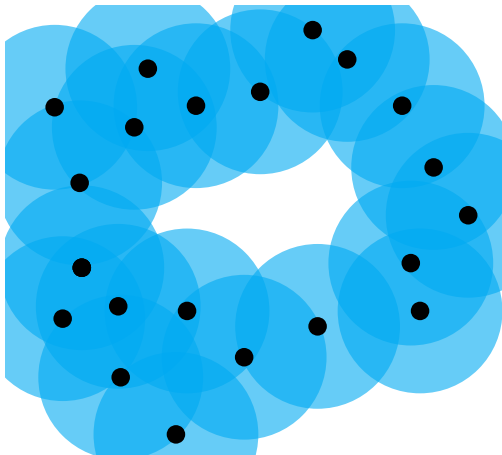
University of Copenhagen

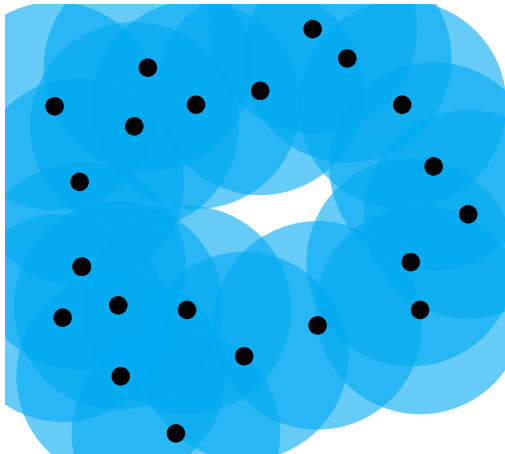


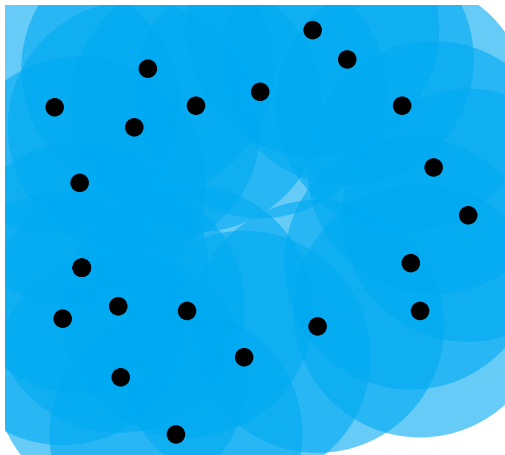


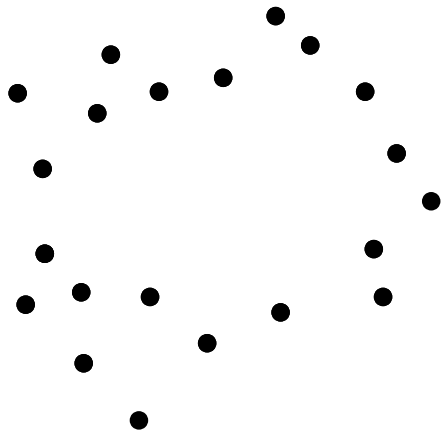








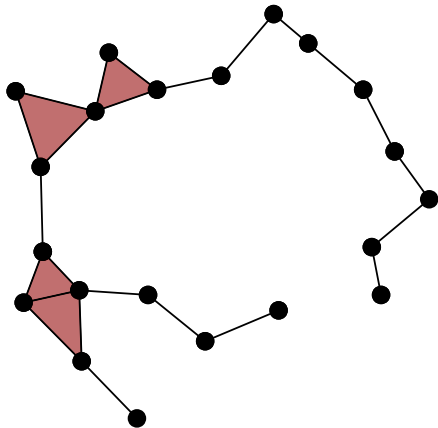




Definition

For metric space X and scale $r \geq 0$, the *Vietoris-Rips simplicial complex* $\text{VR}(X, r)$ has

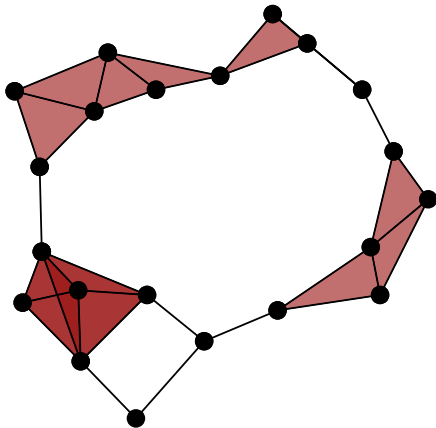
- vertex set X
- finite simplex σ when $\text{diam}(\sigma) \leq r$.



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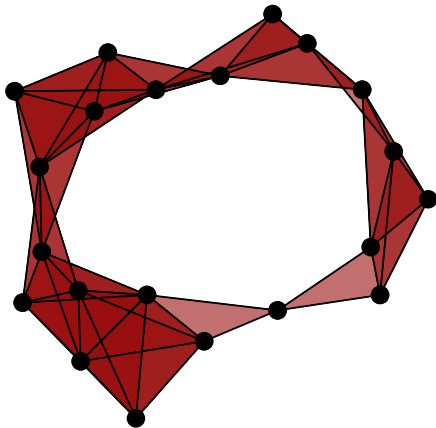
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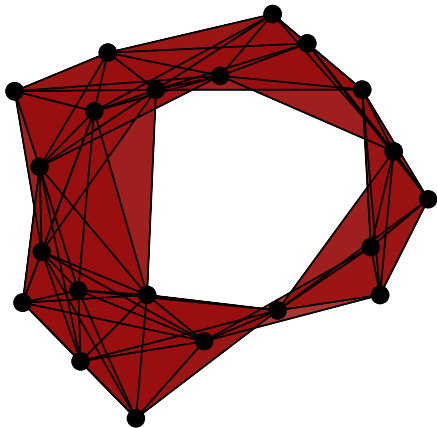
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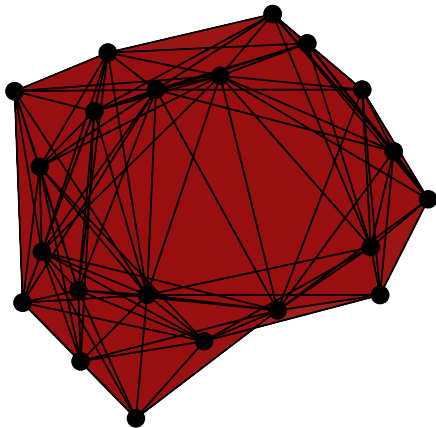
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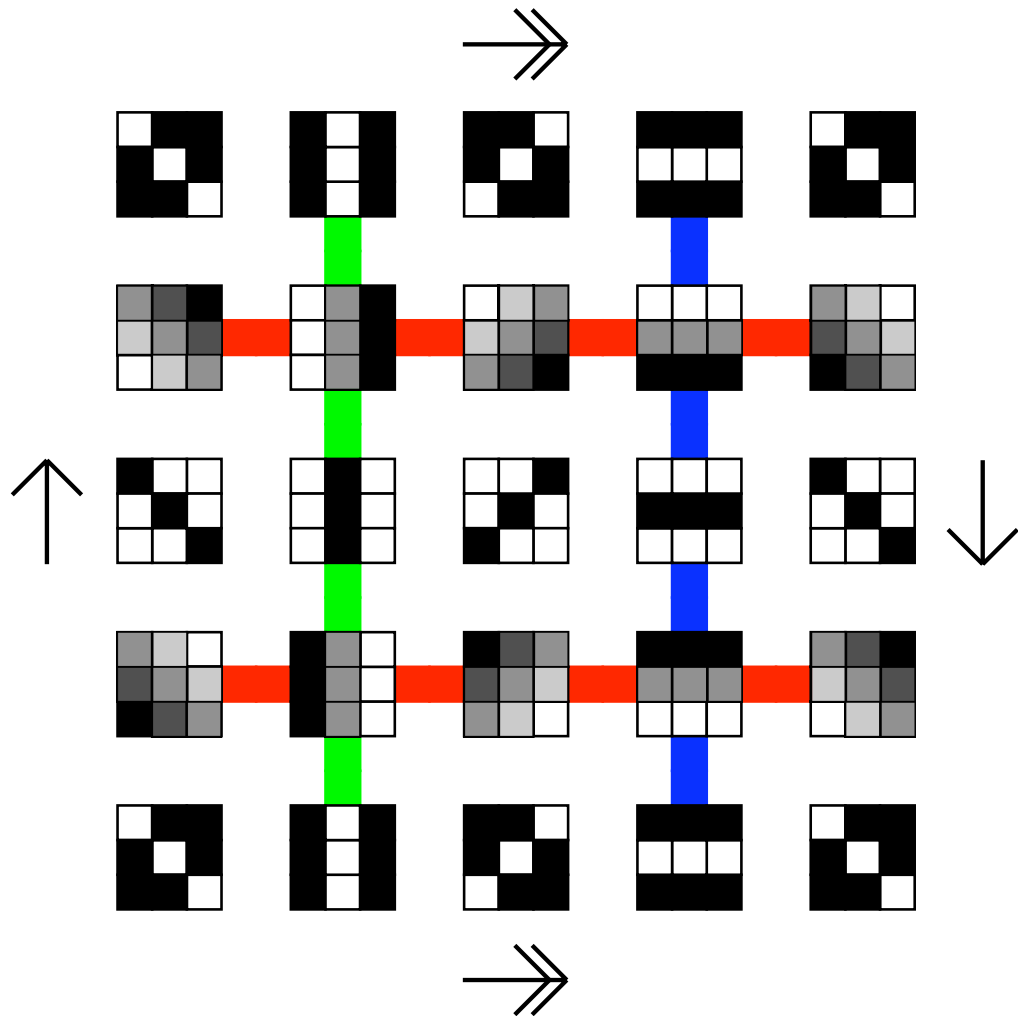
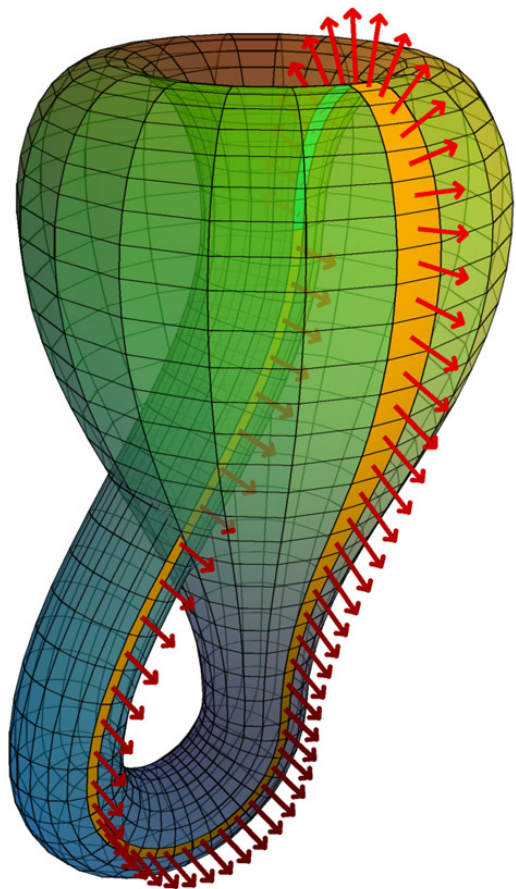
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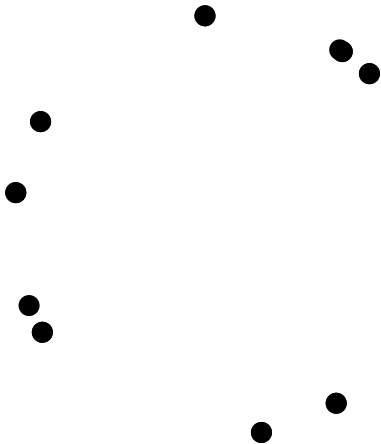
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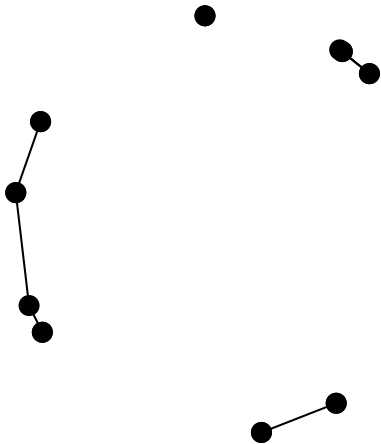
Nature prefers linear and quadratic gradients at all angles.



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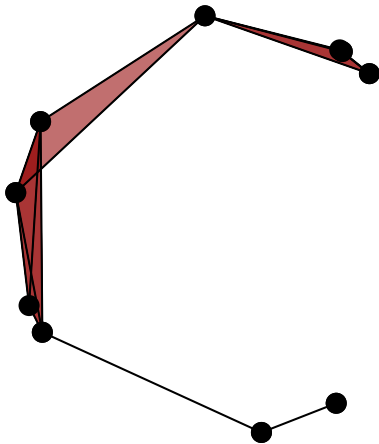
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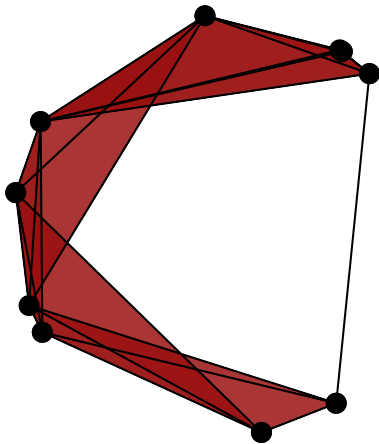
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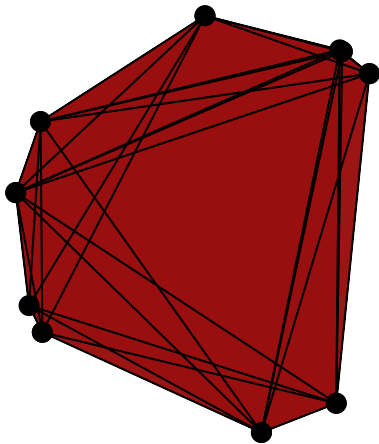
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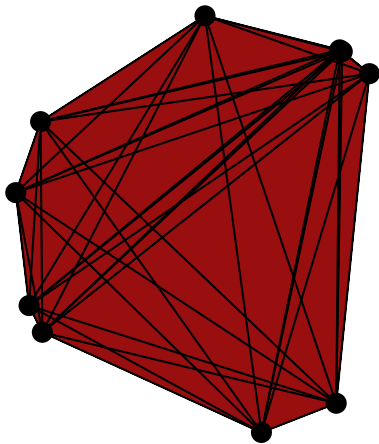
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Theorem (Hausmann, 1995)

For M a compact Riemannian manifold and r sufficiently small, $\text{VR}(M, r) \simeq M$.



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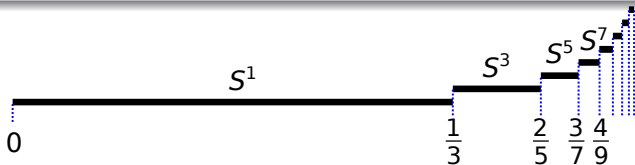
For X Gromov-Hausdorff close to M (for example $X \subseteq M$ sufficiently dense) and r sufficiently small, $VR(X, r) \simeq M$.

What happens when r is not small?

Let S^1 be the circle of unit circumference and $0 \leq r < \frac{1}{2}$.

Theorem (Adamaszek, HA, 2014)

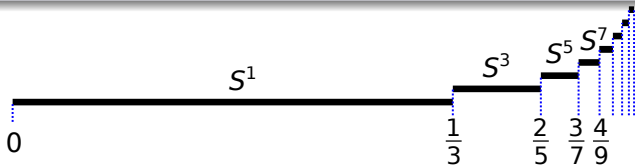
$$\text{VR}(S^1, r) \simeq \begin{cases} S^{2\ell+1} & \text{if } \frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} < r < \frac{\ell+1}{2\ell+3} \end{cases} \text{ for some } \ell \in \mathbb{N}.$$



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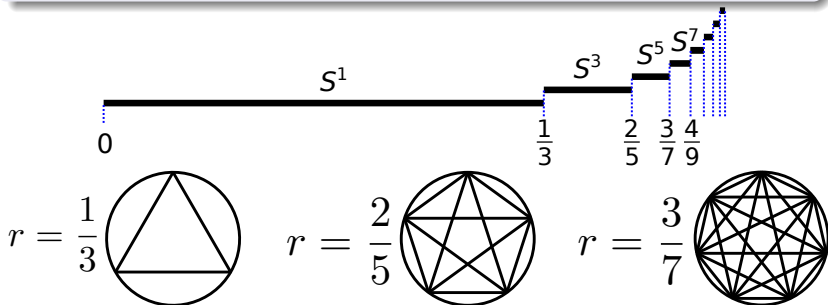
$$\text{VR}(S^1, r) \simeq \begin{cases} S^{2l+1} & \text{if } \frac{l}{2l+1} < r < \frac{l+1}{2l+3} \\ V^\infty S^{2l} & \text{if } r = \frac{l}{2l+1} \end{cases} \text{ for some } l \in \mathbb{N}.$$



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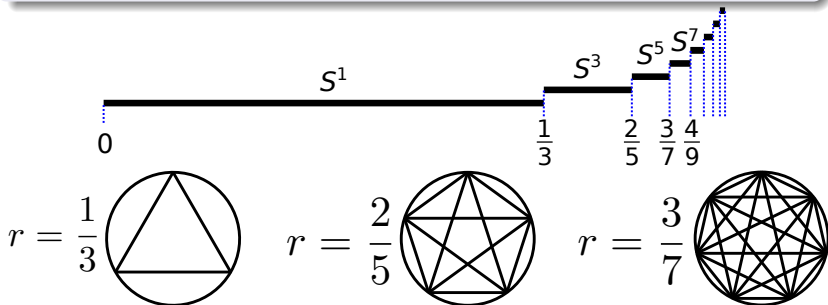
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Intuition

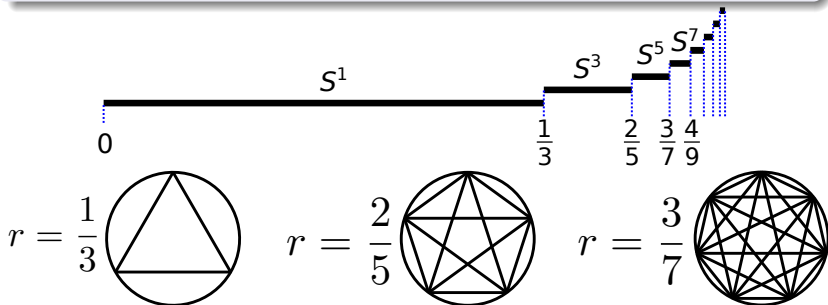
$$S^3 = S^1 \times D^2 \bigcup_{S^1 \times S^1} D^2 \times S^1$$

$$S^{2\ell+1} = S^{2\ell-1} \times D^2 \bigcup_{S^{2\ell-1} \times S^1} D^{2\ell} \times S^1$$

Let S^1 be the circle of unit circumference and $0 \leq r < \frac{1}{2}$.

Theorem (Adamaszek, HA, 2014)

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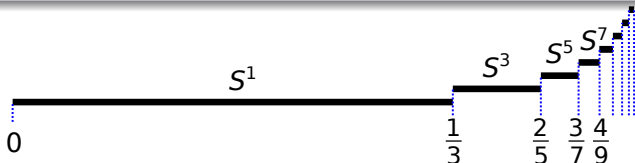
Corollary

The persistent homology of $\text{VR}(S^1, r)$ has a single interval $\left(\frac{\ell}{2\ell+1}, \frac{\ell+1}{2\ell+3}\right)$ in each dimension $2\ell + 1$.

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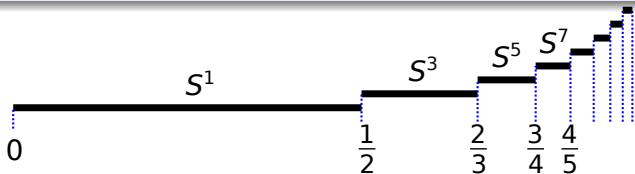
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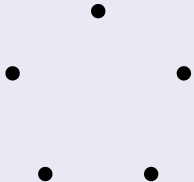
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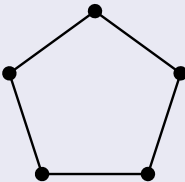
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Evenly-spaced subsets

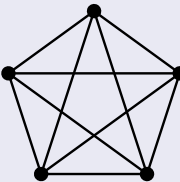
Let $X_n \subset S^1$ be n evenly-spaced points.



$\text{VR}(X_5, \frac{0}{5}) \cong V^4 S^0$



$\text{VR}(X_5, \frac{1}{5}) \cong S^1$



$\text{VR}(X_5, \frac{2}{5}) \simeq *$

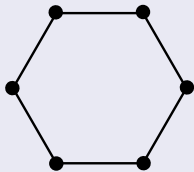
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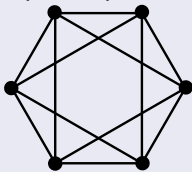
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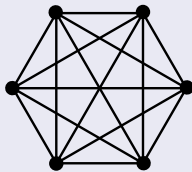
Let $X_n \subset S^1$ be n evenly-spaced points.



$$\text{VR}(X_6, \frac{1}{6}) \cong S^1$$



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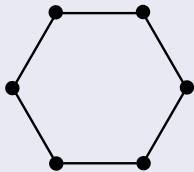
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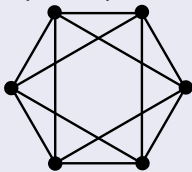
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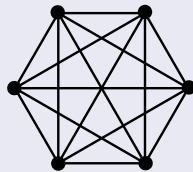
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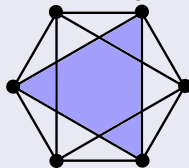
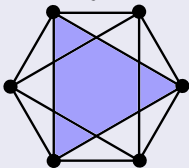
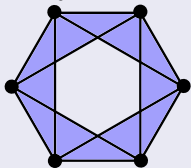
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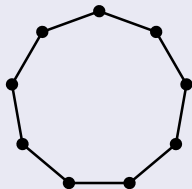
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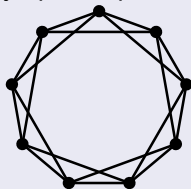
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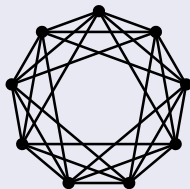
Let $X_n \subset S^1$ be n evenly-spaced points.



$$\text{VR}(X_9, \frac{1}{9}) \cong S^1$$



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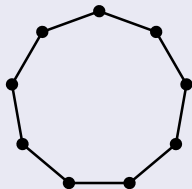
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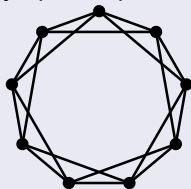
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Evenly-spaced subsets

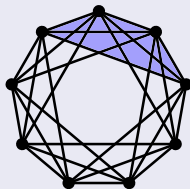
Let $X_n \subset S^1$ be n evenly-spaced points.



$$\text{VR}(X_9, \frac{1}{9}) \cong S^1$$



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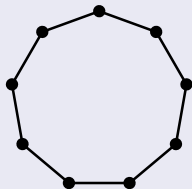
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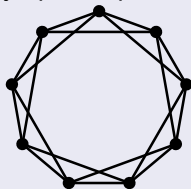
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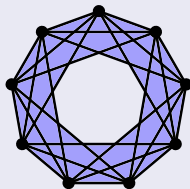
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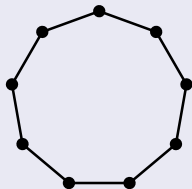
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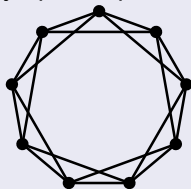
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Evenly-spaced subsets

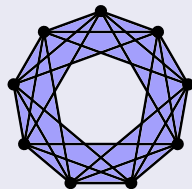
Let $X_n \subset S^1$ be n evenly-spaced points.



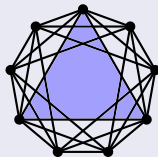
$$\text{VR}(X_9, \frac{1}{9}) \cong S^1$$



$$\text{VR}(X_9, \frac{2}{9}) \simeq S^1$$



$$\text{VR}(X_9, \frac{3}{9}) \simeq V^2 S^2$$



Theorem for evenly-spaced subsets (Adamaszek, 2013)

Let $k < \frac{n}{2}$. Then

$$\text{VR}(X_n, \frac{k}{n}) \simeq \begin{cases} S^{2\ell+1} & \text{if } \frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} < \frac{k}{n} < \frac{\ell+1}{2\ell+3} \\ V^{n-2k-1} S^{2\ell} & \text{if } \frac{k}{n} = \frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} \end{cases} \text{ for some } \ell \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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	$k = 0$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$n = 5$	$\sqrt[4]{S^0}$	S^1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	$\sqrt[5]{S^0}$	S^1	S^2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
7	$\sqrt[6]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
8	$\sqrt[7]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
9	$\sqrt[8]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt[2]{S^2}$	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
10	$\sqrt[9]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^4	*	*	*	*	*	*
11	$\sqrt[10]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	*	*	*	*	*	*
12	$\sqrt[11]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt[3]{S^2}$	S^5	*	*	*	*	*
13	$\sqrt[12]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	*	*	*	*	*
14	$\sqrt[13]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^6	*	*	*	*
15	$\sqrt[14]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt[4]{S^2}$	$\sqrt[2]{S^4}$	*	*	*	*
16	$\sqrt[15]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^7	*	*	*
17	$\sqrt[16]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^5	*	*	*
18	$\sqrt[17]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt[5]{S^2}$	S^3	S^8	*	*
19	$\sqrt[18]{S^0}$	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^5	*	*

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	$k = 7$	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
$n = 20$	S^3	$V^3 S^4$	S^9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
21	$V^6 S^2$	S^3	$V^2 S^6$	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
22	S^1	S^3	S^5	S^{10}	*	*	*	*	*	*
23	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^7	*	*	*	*	*	*
24	S^1	$V^7 S^2$	S^3	S^5	S^{11}	*	*	*	*	*
25	S^1	S^1	S^3	$V^4 S^4$	S^7	*	*	*	*	*
26	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^{12}	*	*	*	*
27	S^1	S^1	$V^8 S^2$	S^3	S^5	$V^2 S^8$	*	*	*	*
28	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	$V^3 S^6$	S^{13}	*	*	*
29	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^9	*	*	*
30	S^1	S^1	S^1	$V^9 S^2$	S^3	$V^5 S^4$	S^7	S^{14}	*	*
31	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^9	*	*
32	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^{15}	*
33	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	$V^{10} S^2$	S^3	S^3	S^5	$V^2 S^{10}$	*
34	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^{16}

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	$k = 13$	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
$n = 35$	S^3	$\sqrt[6]{S^4}$	$\sqrt[4]{S^6}$	S^{11}	*	*	*	*	*	*
36	S^3	S^3	S^5	$\sqrt[3]{S^8}$	S^{17}	*	*	*	*	*
37	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^{11}	*	*	*	*	*
38	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^9	S^{18}	*	*	*	*
39	$\sqrt[12]{S^2}$	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	$\sqrt[2]{S^{12}}$	*	*	*	*
40	S^1	S^3	S^3	$\sqrt[7]{S^4}$	S^5	S^9	S^{19}	*	*	*
41	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^{13}	*	*	*
42	S^1	$\sqrt[13]{S^2}$	S^3	S^3	S^5	$\sqrt[5]{S^6}$	S^9	S^{20}	*	*
43	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^{13}	*	*
44	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	$\sqrt[3]{S^{10}}$	S^{21}	*
45	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt[14]{S^2}$	S^3	S^3	$\sqrt[8]{S^4}$	S^5	$\sqrt[4]{S^8}$	$\sqrt[2]{S^{14}}$	*
46	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^{11}	S^{22}
47	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^5	S^9	S^{15}
48	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt[15]{S^2}$	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^{11}
49	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	$\sqrt[6]{S^6}$	S^9

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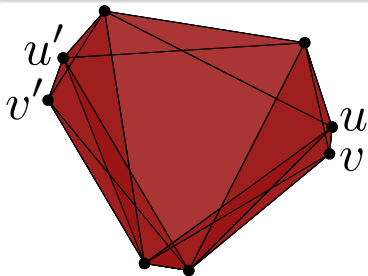
	$k = 19$	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
$n = 50$	S^3	$\sqrt[9]{S^4}$	S^5	S^7	S^{11}	S^{24}	*	*	*	*
51	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^9	$\sqrt[2]{S^{16}}$	*	*	*	*
52	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^5	S^7	$\sqrt[3]{S^{12}}$	S^{25}	*	*	*
53	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^9	S^{17}	*	*	*
54	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^5	$\sqrt[5]{S^8}$	S^{13}	S^{26}	*	*
55	S^3	S^3	S^3	$\sqrt[10]{S^4}$	S^5	S^7	$\sqrt[4]{S^{10}}$	S^{17}	*	*
56	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	$\sqrt[7]{S^6}$	S^9	S^{13}	S^{27}	*
57	$\sqrt[18]{S^2}$	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^5	S^7	S^{11}	$\sqrt[2]{S^{18}}$	*
58	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^7	S^9	S^{13}	S^{28}
59	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^5	S^7	S^{11}	S^{19}
60	S^1	$\sqrt[19]{S^2}$	S^3	S^3	S^3	$\sqrt[11]{S^4}$	S^5	S^7	S^9	$\sqrt[3]{S^{14}}$
61	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^5	S^7	S^{11}
62	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^5	S^7	S^9
63	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt[20]{S^2}$	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	$\sqrt[8]{S^6}$	$\sqrt[6]{S^8}$
64	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^3	S^5	S^5	S^7

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(Adamaszek, HA, Frick, Peterson, Previtte–Johnson, 2014)

For $X \subset S^1$ finite, $\text{VR}(X, r) \simeq \begin{cases} S^{2\ell+1} & \text{for some } \ell \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ or} \\ \bigvee^m S^{2\ell} & \text{for some } \ell, m \in \mathbb{N}. \end{cases}$

Computable in time $O(|X| \log |X|)$.

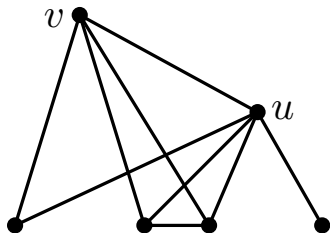
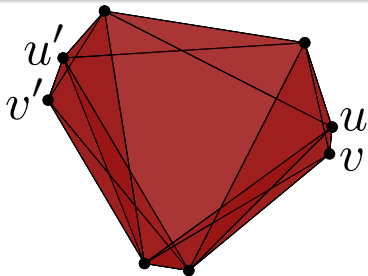


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Proof Sketch

If $N[v] \subseteq N[u]$ (v is *dominated* by u), then $\text{lk}(v)$ is a cone and

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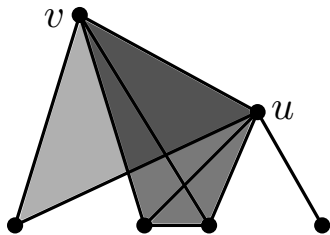
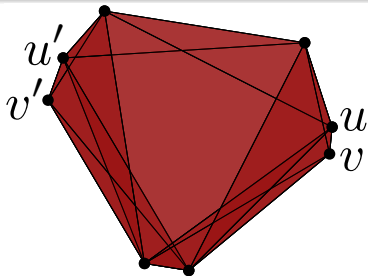
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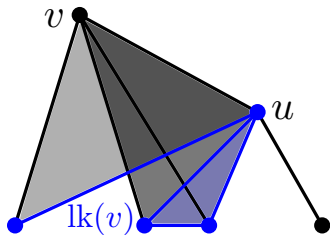
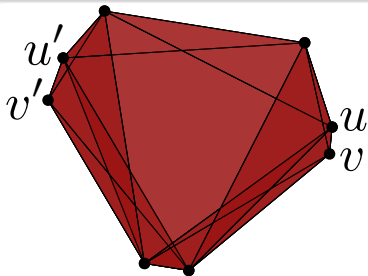
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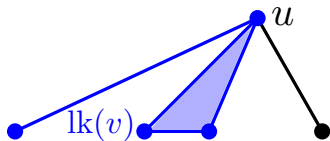
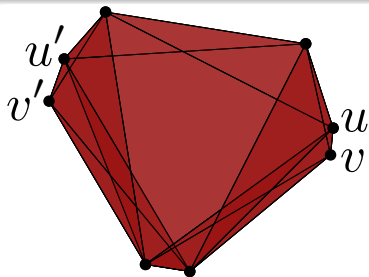
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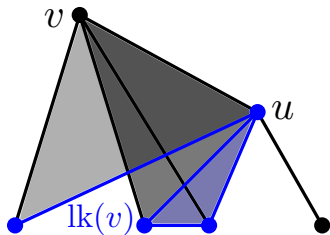
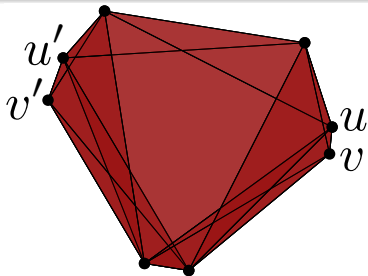
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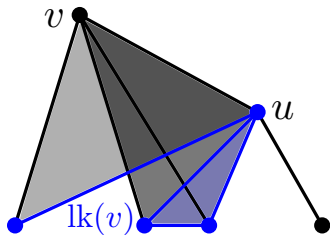
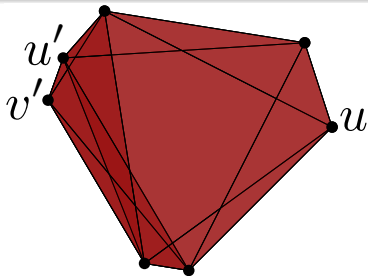
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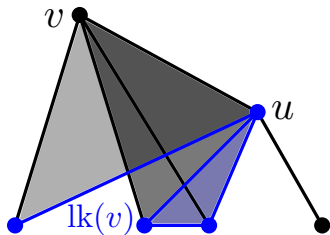
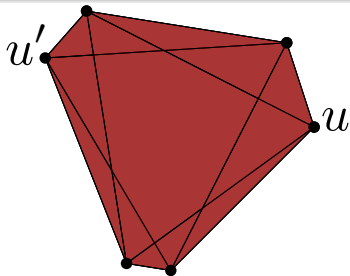
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Lemma

If $X \subseteq X' \subset S^1$ are finite sets, $\frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} < r < \frac{\ell+1}{2\ell+3}$, and $\text{VR}(X, r) \simeq \text{VR}(X', r) \simeq S^{2\ell+1}$, then

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$$\rightarrow \tilde{H}_{2\ell+1} \text{lk}(v) \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \tilde{H}_{2\ell+1} \text{VR}(X, r) \\ \oplus \\ \tilde{H}_{2\ell+1} \overline{\text{st}(v)} \end{array} \xrightarrow{i_*} \tilde{H}_{2\ell+1} \text{VR}(X \cup v, r) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{2\ell} \text{lk}(v) \rightarrow$$

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$$0 \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{2\ell+1} \text{lk}(v) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{2\ell+1} \text{VR}(X, r) \xrightarrow{i_*} \tilde{H}_{2\ell+1} \text{VR}(X \cup v, r) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{2\ell} \text{lk}(v) \rightarrow 0$$
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \parallel & \parallel \\ & \mathbb{Z} & \mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

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Note $\text{lk}(v) = \text{VR}(N(v), r)$. We'll show $\tilde{H}_* \text{lk}(v) = 0$.

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If $X \subseteq X' \subset S^1$ are finite sets, $\frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} < r < \frac{\ell+1}{2\ell+3}$, and $\text{VR}(X, r) \simeq \text{VR}(X', r) \simeq S^{2\ell+1}$, then

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So i_* is an isomorphism.

Theorem (Adamaszek, HA, 2014)

$$\text{VR}(S^1, r) \simeq \begin{cases} S^{2\ell+1} & \text{if } \frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} < r < \frac{\ell+1}{2\ell+3} \\ V^\infty S^{2\ell} & \text{if } r = \frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} \end{cases} \quad \text{for some } \ell \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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Proof when $\frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} < r < \frac{\ell+1}{2\ell+3}$

Let finite $X \subset S^1$ be $\frac{1}{4}(r - \frac{\ell}{2\ell+1})$ -dense.

- 1 Show $\text{VR}(X, r) \simeq S^{2\ell+1}$:
- 2 Show $\text{VR}(X, r) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{VR}(S^1, r)$:

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We dualize the circular chromatic number of a graph to show removing dominated vertices gives $\text{VR}(X_n, \frac{k}{n}) \simeq S^{2\ell+1}$.

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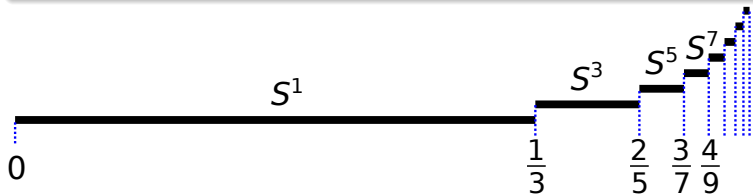
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By Whitehead's Theorem, suffices to show

$$\pi_k(\text{VR}(X, r), x_0) \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_k(\text{VR}(S^1, r), x_0) \quad \forall k.$$

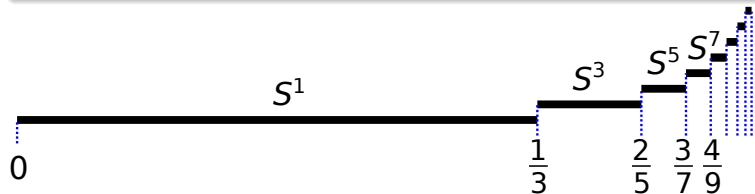
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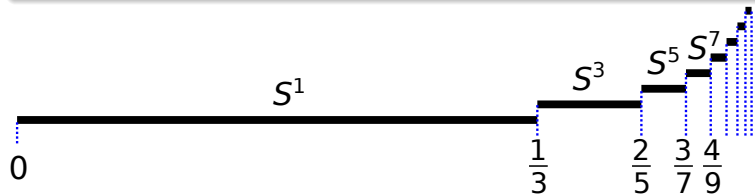
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Can handle annuli, tori with the ℓ_∞ metric, and wedge sums.

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Can handle annuli, tori with the ℓ_∞ metric, and wedge sums.

Future work

- $\text{VR}(S^n, r)$?
- $\text{VR}(\text{ellipse} \subset \mathbb{R}^2, r)$? $\text{VR}(X \approx S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2, r)$?
- Is $\text{conn}(\text{VR}(M, r))$ a non-decreasing function of r ?
- Structure of the set of critical values for M compact?
- For r generic do we have $\text{VR}(X_{\text{suff. dense}}, r) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{VR}(M, r)$?

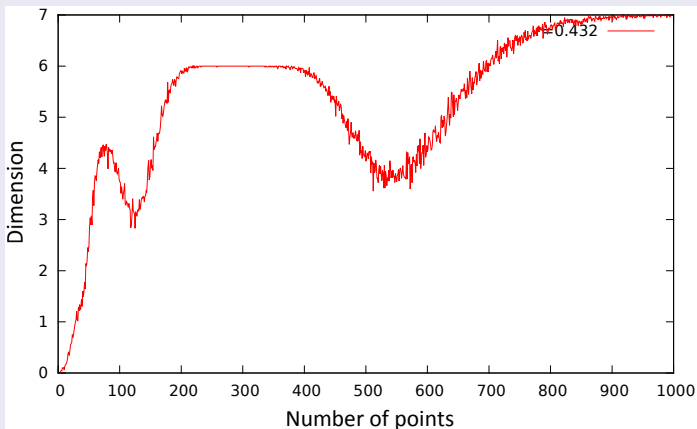
Uniformly random points

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Let $\frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} < r < \frac{\ell+1}{2\ell+3}$ and $\delta = r - \frac{\ell}{2\ell+1}$. As $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have

$$E[\# \text{ points until } \vee^m S^{2\ell}] = \Theta(\delta^{-\frac{2\ell}{2\ell+1}})$$

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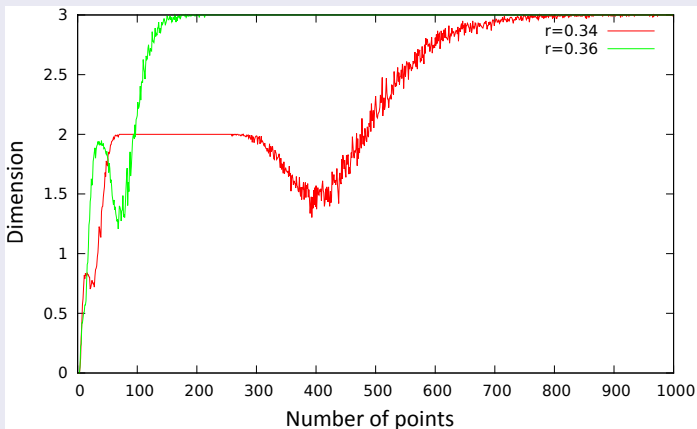
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Definition

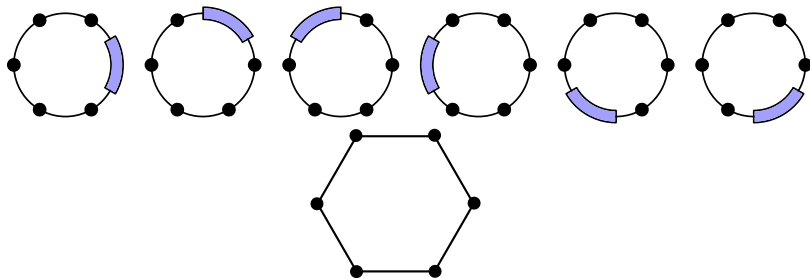
For $X \subseteq S^1$, the *ambient Čech complex* $\check{C}(X, r)$ has

- vertex set X
- simplex $[x_0, \dots, x_k]$ when $\bigcap_{i=0}^k B(x_i, \frac{r}{2}) \neq \emptyset$.

Note $\text{Cl}(\check{C}(X, r)) = \text{VR}(X, r)$.

Example

$$\check{C}(X_6, \frac{1}{6}) = S^1.$$



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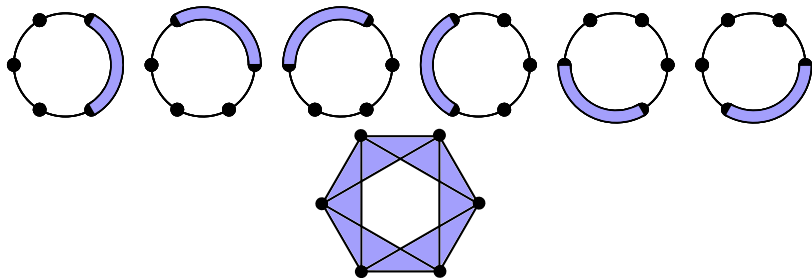
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$\check{C}(X_6, \frac{2}{6}) \simeq S^1$.



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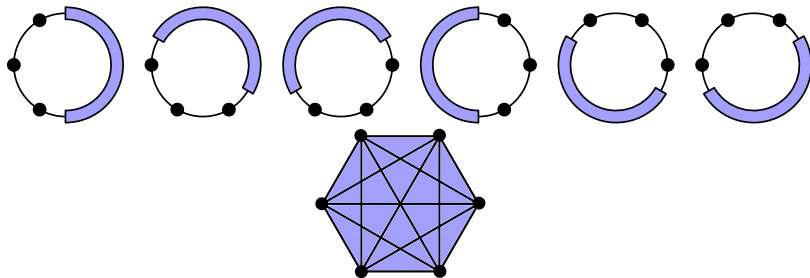
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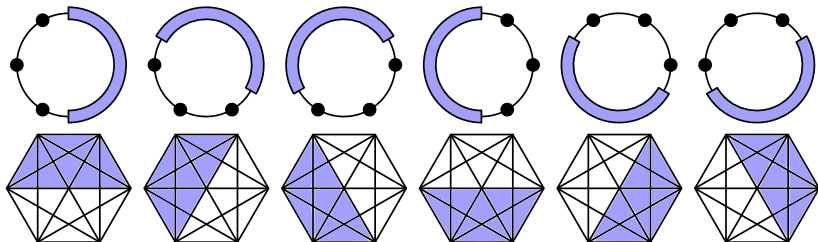
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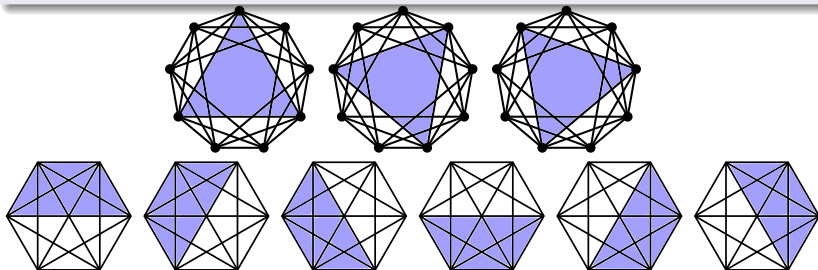
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$\check{C}(X_6, \frac{3}{6}) \simeq V^2 S^2 \simeq \text{VR}(X_9, \frac{3}{9})$.



$$\text{VR}(X_n, \frac{k}{n})$$

	$k = 1$	2	3	4	5
$n = 4$	S^1	*	*	*	*
5	S^1	*	*	*	*
6	S^1	S^2	*	*	*
7	S^1	S^1	*	*	*
8	S^1	S^1	S^3	*	*
9	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{2}S^2$	*	*
10	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^4	*
11	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	*
12	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{3}S^2$	S^5
13	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3
14	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3
15	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{4}S^2$
16	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
17	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1

$$\check{C}(X_n, \frac{k}{n})$$

	$k = 1$	2	3	4	5
$n = 3$	S^1	*	*	*	*
4	S^1	S^2	*	*	*
5	S^1	S^1	S^3	*	*
6	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{2}S^2$	S^4	*
7	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^5
8	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{3}S^2$	S^3
9	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3
10	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{4}S^2$
11	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
12	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
13	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
14	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
15	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
16	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1

$$\text{VR}(X_n, \frac{k}{n})$$

	$k = 6$	7	8	9	10
$n = 14$	S^6	*	*	*	*
15	$\sqrt{2}S^4$	*	*	*	*
16	S^3	S^7	*	*	*
17	S^3	S^5	*	*	*
18	$\sqrt{5}S^2$	S^3	S^8	*	*
19	S^1	S^3	S^5	*	*
20	S^1	S^3	$\sqrt{3}S^4$	S^9	*
21	S^1	$\sqrt{6}S^2$	S^3	$\sqrt{2}S^6$	*
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23	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^3	S^7
24	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{7}S^2$	S^3	S^5
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Theorem (Adamaszek, HA, Frick, Peterson, Previte–Johnson, 2014)

$$\text{VR}(X_{n+k}, \frac{k}{n+k}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \check{C}(X_n, \frac{k}{n}) \text{ via } i \mapsto i \bmod n.$$

$$\text{VR}(X_n, \frac{k}{n})$$

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$n = 4$	S^1	*	*	*	*
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7	S^1	S^1	*	*	*
8	S^1	S^1	S^3	*	*
9	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{2}S^2$	*	*
10	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^4	*
11	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	*
12	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{3}S^2$	S^5
13	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3
14	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3
15	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{4}S^2$
16	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
17	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1

$$\check{C}(X_n, \frac{k}{n})$$

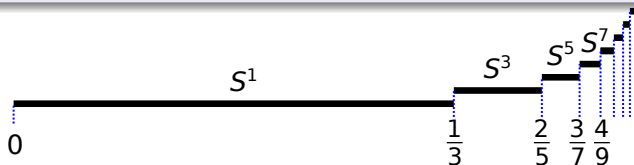
	$k = 1$	2	3	4	5
$n = 3$	S^1	*	*	*	*
4	S^1	S^2	*	*	*
5	S^1	S^1	S^3	*	*
6	S^1	S^1	$\sqrt{2}S^2$	S^4	*
7	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^3	S^5
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13	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
14	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
15	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1
16	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1	S^1

Theorem (Adamaszek, HA, Frick, Peterson, Pevite–Johnson, 2014)

$$\text{VR}(X_{n+k}, \frac{k}{n+k}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \check{C}(X_n, \frac{k}{n}) \text{ via } i \mapsto i \pmod{n}.$$

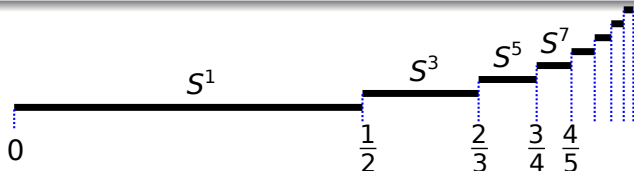
Theorem (Adamaszek, HA, 2014)

$$\text{VR}(S^1, r) \simeq \begin{cases} S^{2\ell+1} & \text{if } \frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} < r < \frac{\ell+1}{2\ell+3} \\ V^\infty S^{2\ell} & \text{if } r = \frac{\ell}{2\ell+1} \end{cases} \quad \text{for some } \ell \in \mathbb{N}.$$



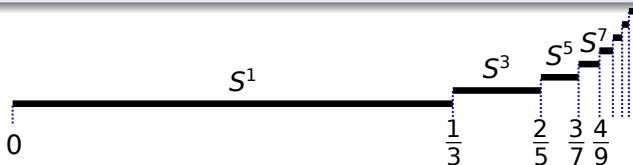
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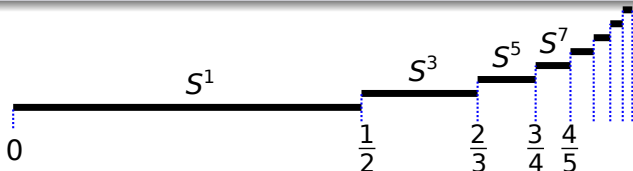
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Relationship between $\text{VR}(M, r)$ and $\check{C}(M, r)$ for more general M ?

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Thank you!

Theorem (Hausman, 1995)

Let M be a Riemannian manifold with $r(M) > 0$.
If $0 < r \leq r(M)$, then $\text{VR}(M, r) \simeq M$.

Definition

Let $r(M)$ be the largest satisfying:

(a) If $d(x, y) < 2r(M)$, then $\exists!$ shortest geodesic between x and y .

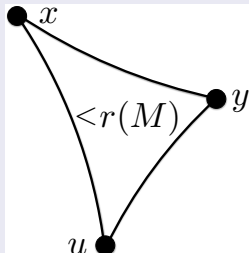
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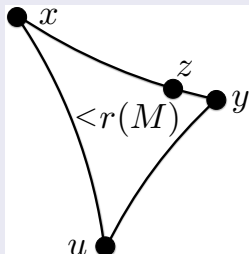
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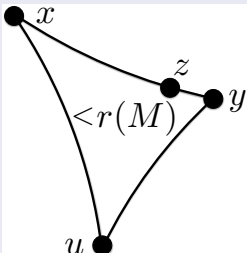
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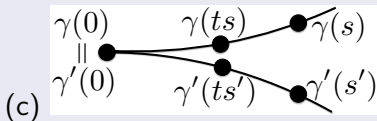
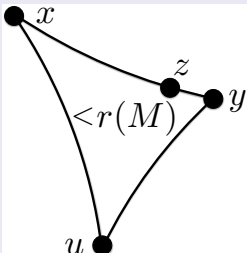
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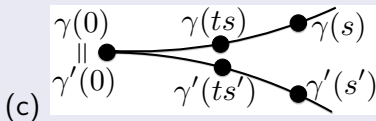
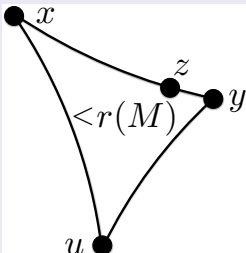
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- The n -sphere with great circle circumference 1 has $r(S^n) = \frac{1}{4}$.
- $r(M) > 0$ if M has positive injectivity radius and bounded sectional curvature (in particular if M compact).