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# The Datasaurus and Persistent Homology

Ryan Jensen

Stephen F. Austin State University

November 3 2019

# Outline

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## Justin Matejka and George Fitzmaurice morphed the "Datasaurus" into various shapes, all of which have essentially the same statistics. Their point was to always visualize data. The goal is to use persistent homology to differentiate the morphed shapes.





Figure: https://www.autodeskresearch.com/publications/samestats

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# The Datasaurus



Figure: The Datasaurus



# The Datasaurus



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# The Datasaurus



## Video Link



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## Morphing the Datasaurus

 Start with a point cloud, for example the Datasaurus points, and a target simplicial complex, such as a wedge of two circles.



## Morphing the Datasaurus

- Start with a point cloud, for example the Datasaurus points, and a target simplicial complex, such as a wedge of two circles.
- Randomly select a point and move it a random amount.



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## Morphing the Datasaurus

- Start with a point cloud, for example the Datasaurus points, and a target simplicial complex, such as a wedge of two circles.
- Randomly select a point and move it a random amount.
- Check to see if the statistics stay close enough.



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  - Check the "temperature" (random number), if a high temperature move the point even if it is farther away than the old point. This avoids getting stuck in a local optimization.



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## Morphing the Datasaurus

- Start with a point cloud, for example the Datasaurus points, and a target simplicial complex, such as a wedge of two circles.
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- Check to see if the statistics stay close enough.
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- 100,000 iterations of moving points.



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Definitions Examples LSG vs Top Y or U The idea of **homology** is to associate an algebraic object, such as an abelian group or a vector space, to another mathematical object, in this case a topological (large scale) space. The **betti number** is the rank/dimension of the algebraic object.



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## Homology is First

The idea of **homology** is to associate an algebraic object, such as an abelian group or a vector space, to another mathematical object, in this case a topological (large scale) space. The **betti number** is the rank/dimension of the algebraic object. Even though homology is an algebraic characterization, we speak of the homology of a topological (large scale) space, and often by homology we mean the betti numbers of the associated algebraic objects.



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The zeroth homology, H<sub>0</sub>, counts the number of connected components.



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• The zeroth homology, H<sub>0</sub>, counts the number of connected components.

1 The first homology,  $H_1$ , counts the number "holes".



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- $\Im$  H<sub>n</sub> counts the number of n dimensional "voids".

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## Simplicial Example

The homology of a simplicial complex counts the number of cycles which are not boundaries in each dimension.

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## Simplicial Example

The homology of a simplicial complex counts the number of cycles which are not boundaries in each dimension.

Here is an example:



A 1-cycle which is not a boundary.



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The homology of a simplicial complex counts the number of cycles which are not boundaries in each dimension.

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A 1-cycle which is not a boundary.



A 1-cycle which is a boundary.



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## Persistent Homology

• Persistent homology - Edelsbrunner & Harer 2005, Carlsson & Zomorodia 2005, Ghrist 2007.



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## Persistent Homology

- Persistent homology Edelsbrunner & Harer 2005, Carlsson & Zomorodia 2005, Ghrist 2007.
- Persistent homology is concerned about the homology of a sequence of related spaces:

$$X_0 \xrightarrow{f_0} X_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} \cdots X_{n-1} \xrightarrow{f_{n-1}} X_n$$



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 The spaces are related by the f<sub>i</sub>s, which are usually inclusion.



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Persistent Homology

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- The spaces are related by the f<sub>i</sub>s, which are usually inclusion.
- The sequence of spaces yields a sequence of algebraic structures (vector spaces) for each dimension k:

 $H_k(X_0) \to H_k(X_1) \to H_k(X_2) \to \dots \to H_K(X_n).$ 

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 $H_k(X_0) \to H_k(X_1) \to H_k(X_2) \to \cdots \to H_K(X_n).$ 

• A bar code is a visual representation of the betti numbers.

# Persistent Homology Process

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# • Start with a metric (large scale) space X.

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## Persistent Homology Process

- Start with a metric (large scale) space X.
- From X, derive a filtration of complexes:

$$X \mapsto (X_0 \to X_1 \to X_2 \to \cdots \to X_{n-1} \to X_n)$$



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# Persistent Homology Process

- Start with a metric (large scale) space X.
- From X, derive a filtration of complexes:

 $X\mapsto (X_0\to X_1\to X_2\to\cdots X_{n-1}\to X_n).$ 

• Convert the filtration of complexes to a sequence of vector spaces (called a **persistence vector space**). For each dimension k:

$$\begin{split} & (X_0 \to X_1 \to X_2 \to \cdots X_{n-1} \to X_n) \mapsto \\ & H_k(X_0) \to H_K(X_1) \to \cdots H_k(X_{n-1}) \to H_k(X_n) \end{split}$$

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Persistent Homology Process

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• From the persistence vector space, give the barcode.
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Persistent Homology Process

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  - A homology class of  $H_K(X_i)$  is **born** when it is not in the image of  $H_k(X_{i-1})$ .

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- From the persistence vector space, give the barcode.
  - A homology class of  $H_K(X_i)$  is **born** when it is not in the image of  $H_k(X_{i-1})$ .
  - A homology class of  $H_K(X_i)$  dies when its image is 0, otherwise it **persists**.

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## The Datasaurus

## Visualizing Data

Data visualization is important, but what happens when it is not possible? For example how can high dimensional data be visualized?

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## The Datasaurus

## Visualizing Data

Data visualization is important, but what happens when it is not possible? For example how can high dimensional data be visualized?

## Persistent Homology

We can look at the persistent homology of the morphings and that may give us some idea that they are different.





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## Definition: Topology

A **topology** on a set X is a collection  $\mathcal{T}$  of subsets of X, called **open set**, so that:

 $0 \ \emptyset, X \in \mathfrak{T}.$ 

**1**  $U, V \in \mathcal{T}$  implies  $U \cap V \in \mathcal{T}$ .

 $2 \{ U_{\alpha} \}_{\alpha \in A} \subset \mathfrak{T}, \text{ implies } \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} U_{\alpha} \in \mathfrak{T}.$ 

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- **2** ${ {U<sub>α</sub>}}<sub>α∈A</sub> ⊂ 𝔅, implies <math>\bigcup_{α∈A} U_α ∈ 𝔅.$

## Definition: Large Scale Structure (Dydak & Hoffland 2006)

A large scale structure on a set X is a collection  $\mathcal{LS} \neq \emptyset$  of families  $\mathcal{B}$  of subsets of X, called **uniformly bounded** so that:

- ② B<sub>1</sub> ∈ LS implies B<sub>2</sub> ∈ LS if each element of B<sub>2</sub> consisting of more than one point is contained in some element of B<sub>1</sub>.

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## Definition: Star

Let X be a set and  $\mathcal{U}$  a collection of subsets of X, and  $V \subset X$ . The **star** of V with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$ ,  $St(V, \mathcal{U})$ , is the union of all elements of  $\mathcal{U}$  which intersect V. That is

$$\mathsf{St}(\mathsf{V},\mathfrak{U}) = \bigcup_{\mathsf{U}\in\mathfrak{U}, \ \mathsf{U}\cap\mathsf{V}\neq\emptyset} \mathsf{U}.$$



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$$\mathsf{St}(\mathsf{V},\mathfrak{U}) = \bigcup_{\mathsf{U}\in\mathfrak{U}, \ \mathsf{U}\cap\mathsf{V}\neq\emptyset} \mathsf{U}.$$

If  $\mathcal V$  is another collection of subsets of X, then the star of  $\mathcal V$  with respect to  $\mathcal U$  is

 $St(\mathcal{V},\mathcal{U}) = \{St(V,\mathcal{U}) : V \in \mathcal{V}\}.$ 



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If  $\mathcal V$  is another collection of subsets of X, then the star of  $\mathcal V$  with respect to  $\mathcal U$  is

$$\mathsf{St}(\mathcal{V},\mathcal{U}) = \{\mathsf{St}(\mathcal{V},\mathcal{U}) : \mathcal{V} \in \mathcal{V}\}.$$

The n-star of V with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$  is defined as

$$\begin{split} &\mathsf{St}^0(V,\mathcal{U})=V\\ &\mathsf{St}^n(V,\mathcal{U})=\mathsf{St}\left(\mathsf{St}^{n-1}(V,\mathcal{U}),\mathcal{U}\right) \ \, \text{for} \ n\geqslant 1. \end{split}$$

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## Distance via Stars

Staring gives a discrete "distance" (at least enough of a distance for a filtration used in persistent homology). Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a collection of subsets of a space X. For points x and y

 $d_{\mathcal{U}}(x, y) = \text{smallest } n \text{ so that } y \in St^{n}(\{x\}, \mathcal{U}),$ 

or  $\infty$  if no such n exists.



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 $d_{\mathcal{U}}(x, y) = \text{smallest } n \text{ so that } y \in \mathsf{St}^n(\{x\}, \mathcal{U}),$ 

or  $\infty$  if no such n exists. If V and W are subsets of X, then

 $d_{\mathcal{U}}(V, W) = \text{smallest } n \text{ so that } W \cap St^{n}(V, U) \neq \emptyset,$ 

or  $\infty$  if no such n exits.



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## Example: Staring

## Let p be a point in $\mathbb{R}^2$ and $V=\{p\}$ , and $\mathfrak{U}=\{B(x,1)\}_{x\in\mathbb{R}^2}.$

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## Example: Staring

Let p be a point in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $V=\{p\}\text{, and }\mathcal{U}=\{B(x,1)\}_{x\in\mathbb{R}^2}.$  Then

$$St(V, U) = B(\mathbf{p}, 2)$$

## and

$$\operatorname{St}^2(V, \mathfrak{U}) = B(\mathbf{p}, 4)$$



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# Large Scale Geometry vs Topology

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# Large Scale Geometry vs Topology

Large scale geometry is (almost) the dual of topology.
① LS ≠ Ø and the fact that point-sets cover a space correspond to Ø, X ∈ T.

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# Large Scale Geometry vs Topology

- $\textbf{0} \ \mathcal{LS} \neq \emptyset \text{ and the fact that point-sets cover a space correspond to } \emptyset, X \in \mathfrak{T}.$
- Finite starrings (enlarging) covers corresponds to finite intersections.

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$$\mathcal{B}_r = \{B(\mathbf{x}, r)\}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}.$$

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# Large Scale Geometry vs Topology

• We think of the families in a large scale structure as covers of a space.
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- We think of the families in a large scale structure as covers of a space.
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- We think of the families in a large scale structure as covers of a space.
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### The Y or The ${\sf U}$

## Gunnar Carlsson developed the following algorithm, called mapper.

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Figure: Height Function



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Figure: Clustering



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Figure: Graph



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### The Y or The U?



Figure: Graph



# The Y or The U?



Figure: Graph Comparison



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### An approach using large scale geometry

• A cover need not be generated from a height function, any cover will do.



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- A cover need not be generated from a height function, any cover will do.
- For example take a cover to be closed squares of the form  $[i,i+1]\times[j,j+1]$  for  $i,j\in\mathbb{Z}.$



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- This amounts to putting the data points on a grid.



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- A cover need not be generated from a height function, any cover will do.
- For example take a cover to be closed squares of the form  $[i,i+1]\times[j,j+1]$  for  $i,j\in\mathbb{Z}.$
- This amounts to putting the data points on a grid.
- Coarser or finer covers may also be used.



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- In this case there is no need for a clustering algorithm.



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- This amounts to putting the data points on a grid.
- Coarser or finer covers may also be used.
- In this case there is no need for a clustering algorithm.
- A graph can be produced as in the previous example.
- Cubical homology can also begin used, with a filtration by sub or super level sets.

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### Thank You!

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