Perspectives in Persistent Homology Bastian Rieck



Looking back

The first decade

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H. Edelsbrunner et al., 'Topological persistence and simplification'



 $2002\,2003\,2004\,2005\,2006\,2007\,2008\,2009\,2010\,2011\,2012$











The first decade



 $2002\,2003\,2004\,2005\,2006\,2007\,2008\,2009\,2010\,2011\,2012$





The first decade



H. Edelsbrunner and J. Harer, Computational topology: An introduction

















The first decade



B. Rieck et al., 'Multivariate data analysis using persistence-based filtering and topological signatures'



The second decade (almost)



P. Y. Lum et al., 'Extracting insights from the shape of complex data using topology'



The second decade (almost)



D. R. Sheehy, 'Linear-size approximations to the Vietoris-Rips filtration'



The second decade (almost)



A. Adcock et al., 'Classification of hepatic lesions using the matching metric'







The second decade (almost)



M. Carrière et al., 'Stable topological signatures for points on 3D shapes'















The second decade (almost)



M. Kerber et al., 'Geometry helps to compare persistence diagrams'





The second decade (almost)



B. Rieck and H. Leitte, 'Exploring and comparing clusterings of multivariate data sets using persistent homology'





The second decade (almost)



M. Carrière et al., 'Sliced Wasserstein Kernel for persistence diagrams'





The second decade (almost)



 $2013\,2014\,2015\,2016\,2017\,2018\,2019$

The second decade (almost)



S. Chowdhury and F. Mémoli, 'A functorial Dowker theorem and persistent homology of asymmetric networks'



The second decade (almost)



W. H. Guss and R. Salakhutdinov, 'On characterizing the capacity of neural networks using algebraic topology'



The second decade (almost)



 $2013\,2014\,2015\,2016\,2017\,2018\,2019$





The second decade (almost)



B. Rieck et al., 'Clique Community Persistence: A topological visual analysis approach for complex networks'

















The second decade (almost)



ETH zürich



Three challenges for the future

We need to reduce the computational burden



Image credit: Prof. A. T. Fomenko

One issue with the calculation is that, given the computational complexity of calculating $\Re_{\epsilon}(\cdot)$, we scale progressively worse with increasing batch size. In future work this could be mitigated by approximating the calculation of persistent homology or by exploiting recent advances in parallelising it.

M. Moor et al., 'Topological autoencoders'

We need to escape from Flatland



Image credit: Prof. A. T. Fomenko

While it would be theoretically possible to include higher-dimensional information about each layer G_k , [...], we focus on zero-dimensional information in this paper, because of the following advantages: i) the resulting values are easily interpretable [...], ii) previous research indicates that zero-dimensional topological information is already capturing a large amount of information, and iii) persistent homology calculations are highly efficient in this regime [...].

B. Rieck et al., 'Neural Persistence: A complexity measure for deep neural networks using algebraic topology'

We need proper architectures



So far, however, persistent homology is used in a passive manner, meaning that the function f mapping simplices to \mathbb{R} is fixed and not informed by the learning task. Essentially, this degrades persistent homology to feature extraction step, where the obtained topological summaries are fed through a suitable vectorization scheme and passed to a classifier.

C. Hofer et al., 'Graph filtration learning'

Building intuition



Graph classification



Feature space analysis



Graph classification

Some impulses





Graph classification



Feature space analysis









Graph classification

Feature space analysis

- V. Khrulkov and I. Oseledets, 'Geometry score: A method for comparing generative adversarial networks'
- M. Moor et al., 'Topological autoencoders'







Graph classification

Feature space analysis

J. A. Perea et al., 'SW1PerS: Sliding windows and 1-persistence scoring; discovering periodicity in gene expression time series data'

What to avoid



Round about the cauldron go; In the persistent entrails throw. Diagram that with many a pair Makes the network look less bare.

Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble.

Persistent homology should *not* become another 'ingredient' in our networks that we do not understand.

How to write successful papers in topological machine learning



Choose suitable comparison partners. Do *not* restrict yourself to TDA-based techniques but choose the *best* techniques you can find (including TDA baselines).

Good example: Q. Zhao and Y. Wang, 'Learning metrics for persistence-based summaries and applications for graph classification'

How to write successful papers in topological machine learning



Show the *benefits* of persistent homology or TDA. Why TDA and not something else?

Good example: V. Khrulkov and I. Oseledets, 'Geometry score: A method for comparing generative adversarial networks'

How to write successful papers in topological machine learning



Explain TDA. What is the meaning of topological features for a particular data set?

Good example: B. Rieck et al., 'A persistent Weisfeiler–Lehman procedure for graph classification'

Our tasks

Standards



We need to *harmonise* and *standardise* our methods to encourage sharing and the creation of frameworks.

Benchmark data sets



We need benchmark data sets against which we can test all our methods; plus, benchmarks help us present compelling examples.

Conclusion



Many interesting challenges lie ahead! If you want to help, I would love to hear from you:

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- , 🎔 🛛 Pseudomanifold

Thank you very much for your attention!

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Illustrations

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The icons were originally created by Freepik and Eucalyp from Flaticon. They have been slightly modified in some cases.