

Persistence Steenrod modules

Topology of Data in Roma Tor Vergata

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Today's goal

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Describe **Steenrod barcodes**, a new family of computable invariants augmenting the traditional persistence pipeline.

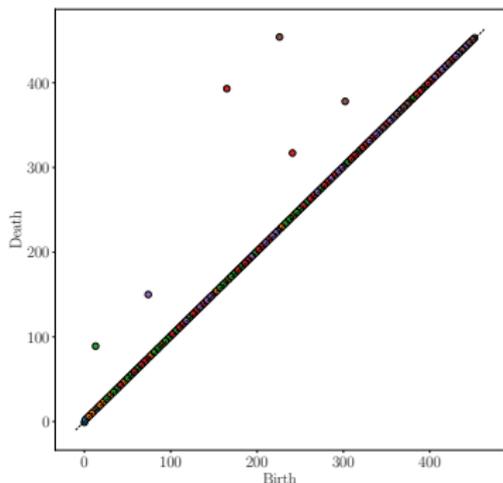


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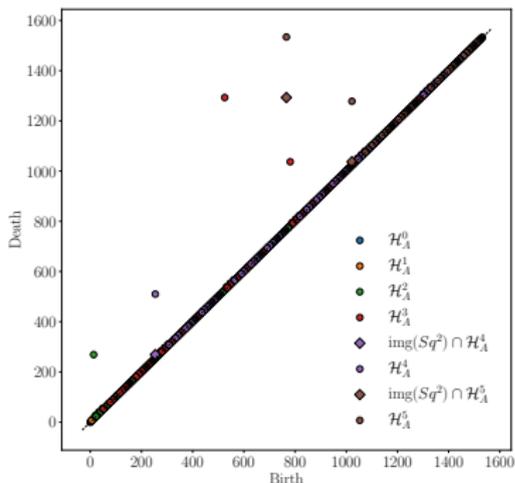
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Example



(a) $C\Sigma(S^2 \vee S^4)$



(b) $C\Sigma\mathbb{C}P^2$





Viewpoint

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A goal of algebraic topology

To construct invariants of spaces up to some notion of equivalence.



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Cohomology via chain complex *vs* maps to Eilenberg-MacLane spaces.



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Poincaré's idea

Break spaces into contractible combinatorial pieces:

Simplices, cubes, ...



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Our goals (loosly stated)

Understand the diagonal map of these standard complexes better to present effective/local computations of finer invariants in cohomology.



Shortcomings of cohomology I

| 4



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As graded vector spaces

$$H^\bullet(\mathbb{R}P^2; \mathbb{F}_2) \cong H^\bullet(S^1 \vee S^2; \mathbb{F}_2).$$



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$$C(\Delta^n) \rightarrow C(\Delta^n) \otimes C(\Delta^n)$$

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Similarly, Cartan and Serre constructed

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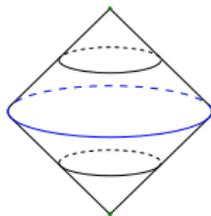
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| 5



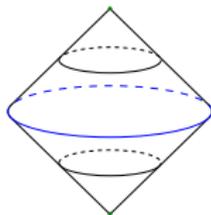
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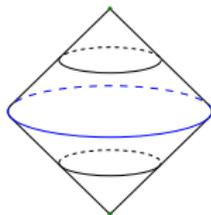
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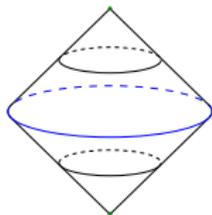
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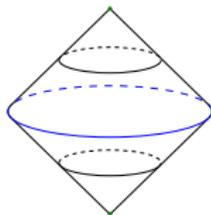
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Question: Can it be described **explicitly** at the chain level?



Steenrod construction

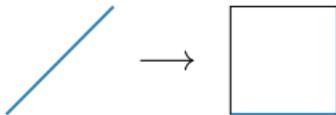


Steenrod construction

Unlike the diagonal of spaces, chain approxs to it are **not** invariant under

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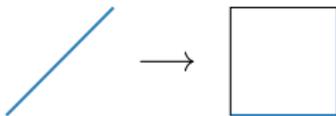


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$$\Delta_i: C(\Delta^n) \rightarrow C(\Delta^n)^{\otimes 2} \quad \text{satisfying} \quad \partial \Delta_i = (1 \pm T) \Delta_{i-1},$$

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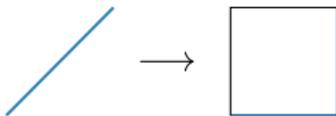


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These define the Steenrod squares as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sq}^k: H^\bullet(X; \mathbb{F}_2) &\rightarrow H^\bullet(X; \mathbb{F}_2) \\ [\alpha] &\mapsto [(\alpha \otimes \alpha) \Delta_i(-)] \end{aligned}$$



Self-intersections



Self-intersections

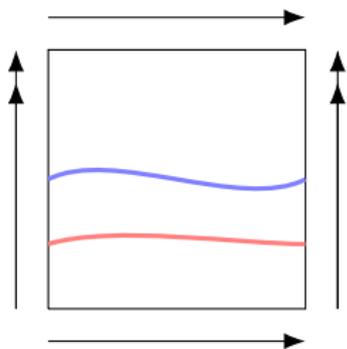
Using Poincaré duality, squares measure [self-intersections](#) in certain cases.



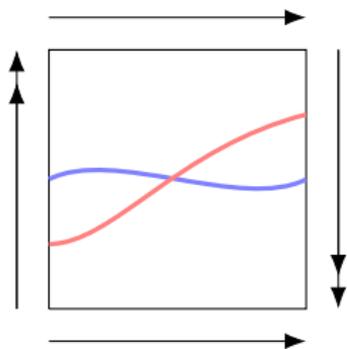
Self-intersections

Using Poincaré duality, squares measure **self-intersections** in certain cases.

For example



(a) Torus T



(b) Klein Bottle K

$$(a) \text{rank} (Sq^1 : H^1(T; \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow H^2(T; \mathbb{F}_2)) = 0,$$

$$(b) \text{rank} (Sq^1 : H^1(K; \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow H^2(K; \mathbb{F}_2)) = 1.$$



A new description of Steenrod's construction

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$$d_u[v_0, \dots, v_m] = [v_0, \dots, \widehat{v}_u, \dots, v_m]$$



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Definition (Med.)

For a basis element $x \in C_m(\mathbb{A}^n, \mathbb{F}_2)$

$$\Delta_i(x) = \sum_{U \in \mathbb{P}_{m-i}^n} d_{U^0}(x) \otimes d_{U^1}(x)$$



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Example:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_0[0, 1, 2] &= (d_{12} \otimes \text{id} + d_2 \otimes d_0 + \text{id} \otimes d_{01})[0, 1, 2]^{\otimes 2} \\ &= [0] \otimes [0, 1, 2] + [0, 1] \otimes [1, 2] + [0, 1, 2] \otimes [2].\end{aligned}$$



Fast computation of Steenrod squares



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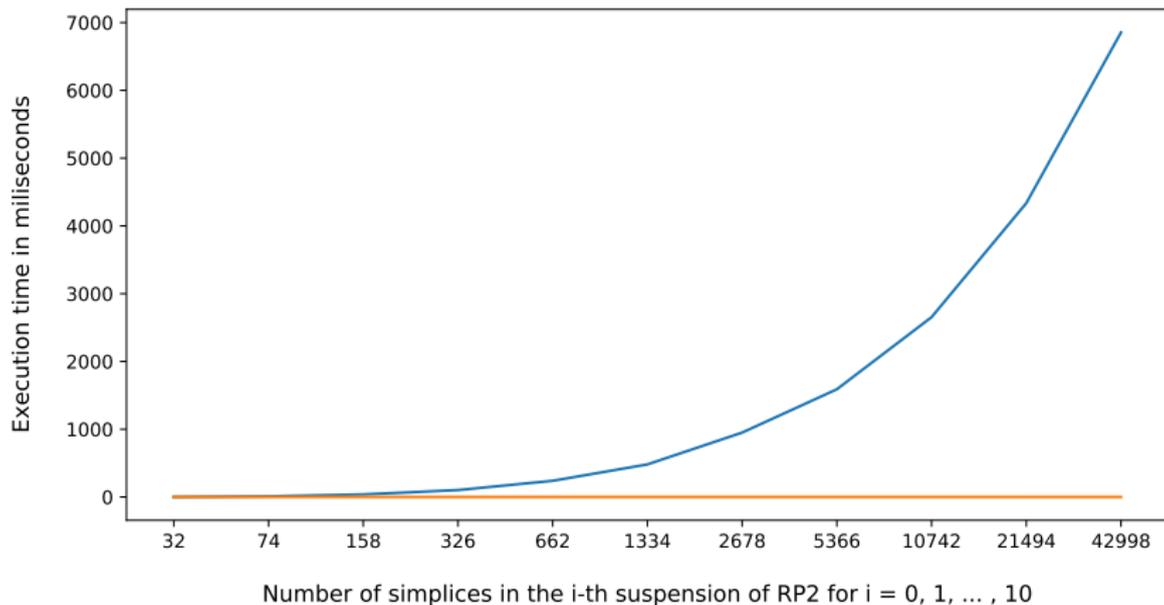
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Fast computation of Steenrod squares

Comparing with SAGE: (algorithm based on EZ-AW contraction)

Sq^1 on $\Sigma^i \mathbb{R}P^2$ (i^{th} suspension of the real projective plane)



Steenrod squares for simplicial complexes

Input: $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_m\} \subseteq X_n$

$B = \emptyset$

forall a_i and a_j with $i < j$ **do**

$a_{ij} = a_i \cup a_j$

if $a_{ij} \in X_{n+k}$ **then**

$\bar{a}_i = a_i \setminus a_j$; $\bar{a}_j = a_j \setminus a_i$; $\bar{a}_{ij} = \bar{a}_i \cup \bar{a}_j$

$index: \bar{a}_{ij} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

forall $v \in \bar{a}_{ij}$ **do**

$p =$ position of v in a_{ij} ; $\bar{p} =$ position of v in \bar{a}_{ij}

$index(v) = p + \bar{p}$ residue mod 2

end

if $index(\bar{a}_i) \Delta index(\bar{a}_j) = \{0, 1\}$ **then**

$B = B \Delta \{a_{ij}\}$

end

end

end

Output: B



Steenrod barcodes



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The **Sq^k-barcode** of X is defined as the barcode of img Sq^k .



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Theorem (Ling Zhou–Med.–Mémoli)

These barcodes are stable.



Example



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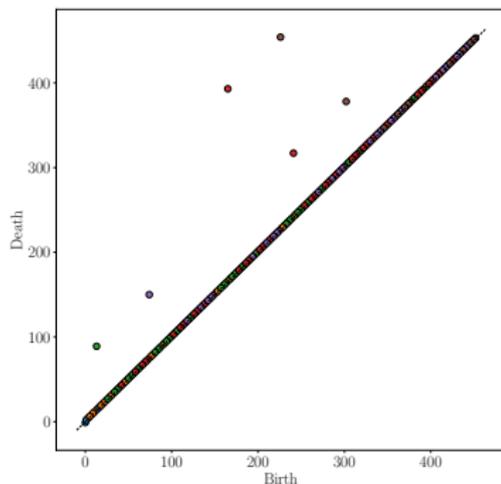
| 13

Filtrations of the cone on the suspension of $S^2 \vee S^4$ and $\mathbb{C}P^2$.

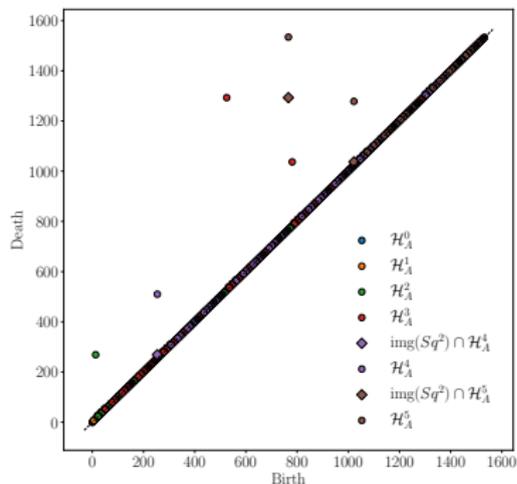


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- 3 Using that R is made of generating coboundaries, apply a reduction algorithm to Q^k with respect to R recording the rank of $Q_{\leq j}^k$.



Third step

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Input: R, Q^k

Alive = $\{0, \dots, m\}$, Barcode = \emptyset

for $j = 0, \dots, m$ **do**

$R_{\leq j} \mid Q_{\leq j}^k = \text{Reduce}(R_{\leq j} \mid Q_{\leq j}^k)$

for $i = 0, \dots, j$ **do**

if $i \in \text{Alive}$ and $Q_i^k = 0$ **then**

 remove i from Alive

if $i < j$ **then**

 | add $[m - j, m - i]$ to Barcode

end

end

end

end

for $i \in \text{Alive}$ **do**

 | add $[-1, m - i]$ to Barcode

end

Output: Barcode





steenroder

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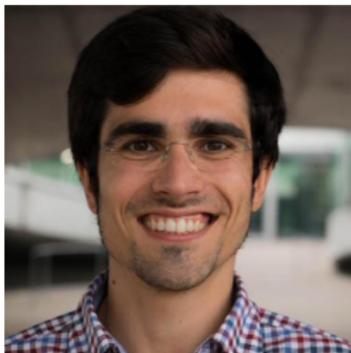
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It can easily installed via

```
python -m pip install -U steenroder
```

and we accept contributions at

<https://github.com/Steenroder/steenroder>



Space of conformations of C_8H_{16}

| 17



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Points in \mathbb{R}^{24} (positions of 8 carbons in \mathbb{R}^3)

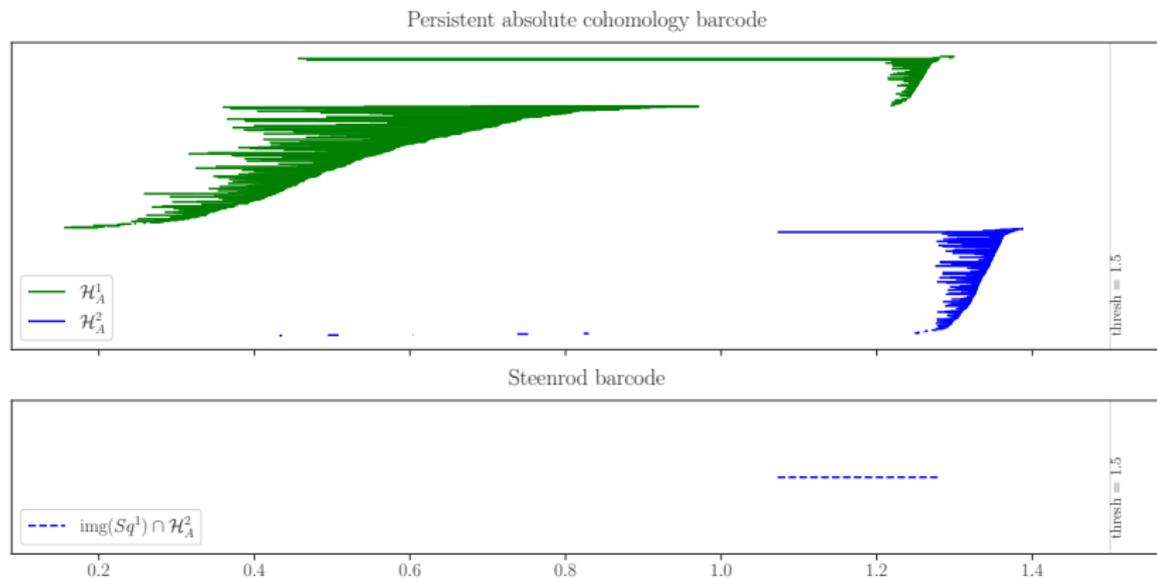


Space of conformations of C_8H_{16}

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Points in \mathbb{R}^{24} (positions of 8 carbons in \mathbb{R}^3)

Computing Sq^1 barcode of a “smooth component” of this point cloud



Consistent with a **Klein bottle** component.



Future: Operations at odd primes

| 18



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Steenrod squares come from the symmetry of the **binary** diagonal.



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Steenrod, and more generally May, also defined operations

$$P_k: H^\bullet(X; \mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow H^\bullet(X; \mathbb{F}_p)$$

from the symmetry of diagonal $X \rightarrow X \times \cdots \times X$.



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Example

Using the computer algebra system [ComCH](#) we have $\Delta_{3,2}[0, 1, 2] =$

- $[0, 1] [0, 1, 2] [0, 1] + [0, 1, 2] [0, 2] [0, 1] + [0, 2] [0, 2] [0, 1, 2]$
- $[0, 1, 2] [0, 1, 2] [1] - [0, 2] [0, 1, 2] [1, 2] + [0, 1, 2] [1, 2] [1, 2]$
- $[0, 1] [1, 2] [0, 1, 2] - [0, 1, 2] [2] [0, 1, 2] - [0] [0, 1, 2] [0, 1, 2]$



Conclusions



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What other data sets exhibit non-trivial Steenrod barcodes?

What are they telling us about the data set, domain specifically?





Thank you!

1. Medina-Mardones, Anibal M. "New formulas for cup- i products and fast computation of Steenrod squares." *Computational Geometry* 109 (2023).
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