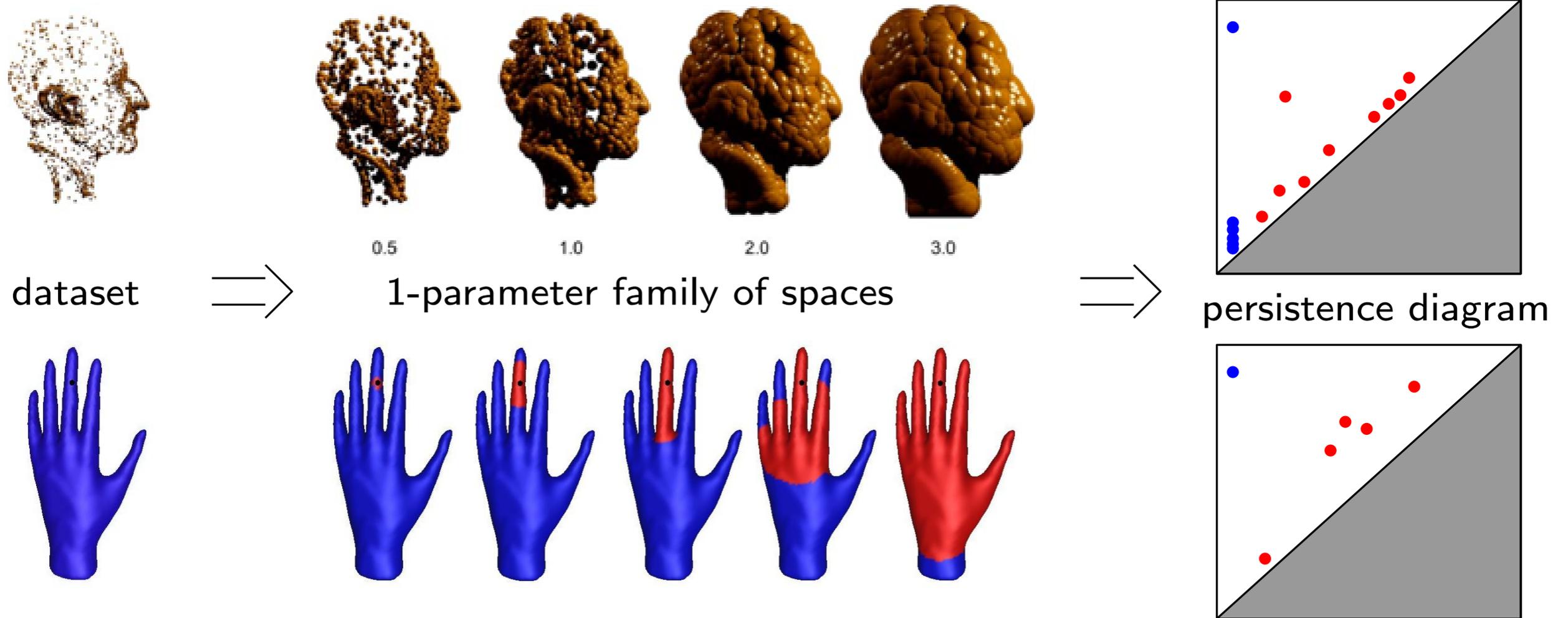


Learning with Persistence Diagrams

Persistence diagrams as descriptors for data



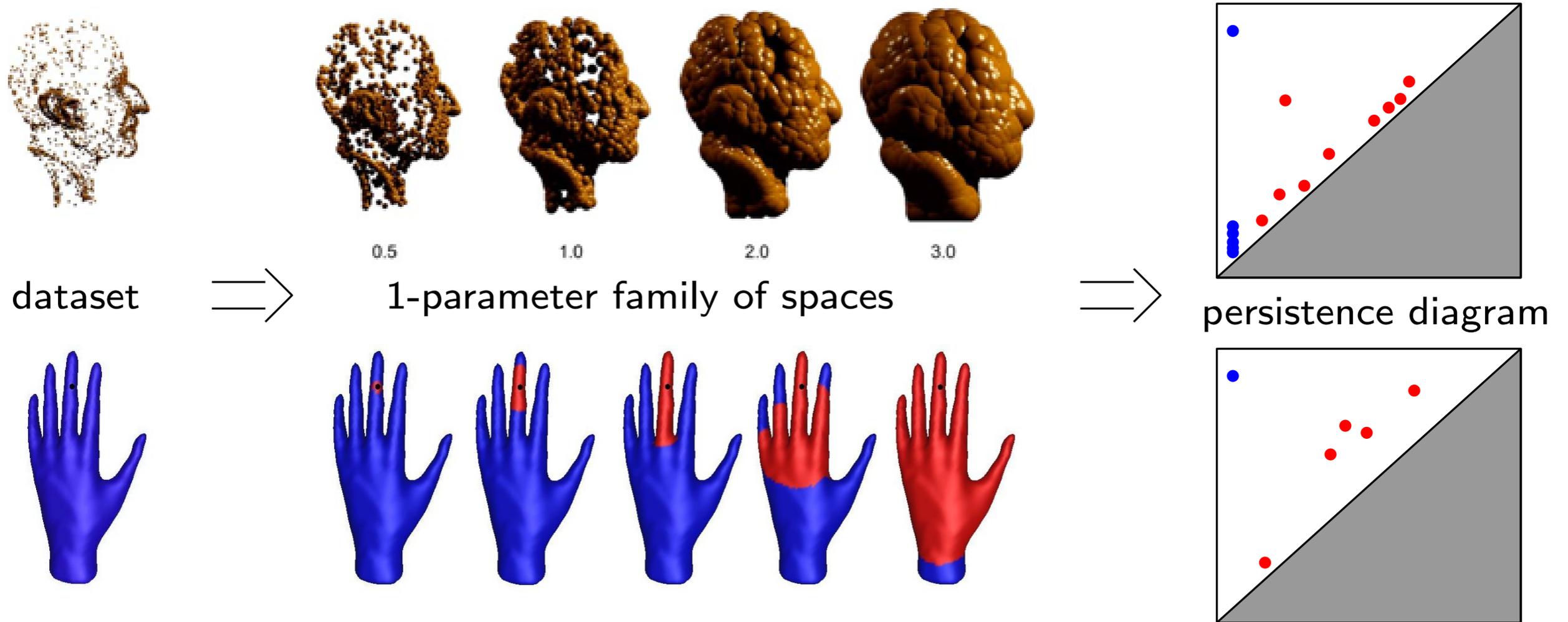
Pros:

- strong invariance and stability:
$$d_p(\text{dgm } X, \text{dgm } Y) \leq \text{cst } d_{\text{GH}}(X, Y)$$
- information of a different nature
- flexible and versatile

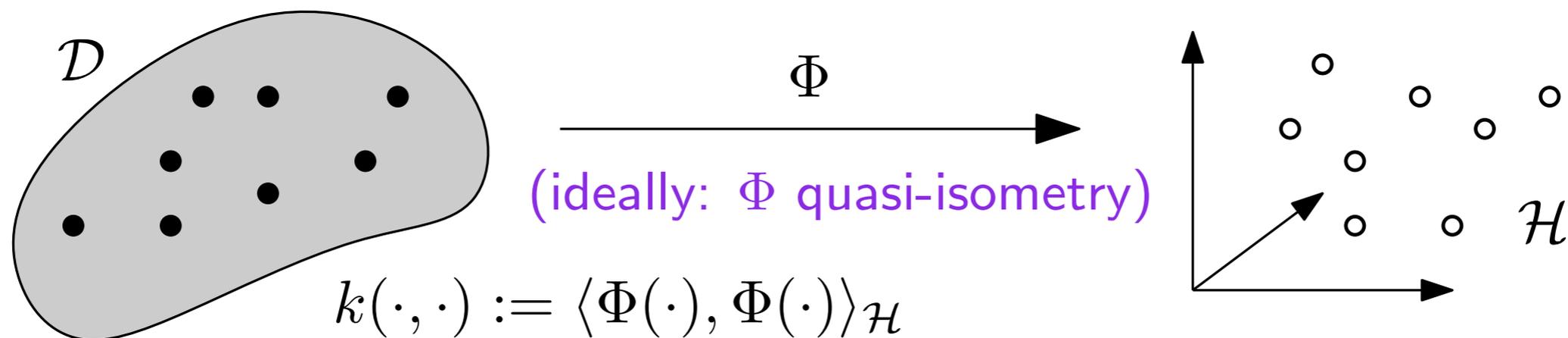
Cons:

- slow to compare
- space of diagrams is not linear
- positive intrinsic curvature

Persistence diagrams as descriptors for data



A solution: map diagrams to Hilbert space and use kernel trick



Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space

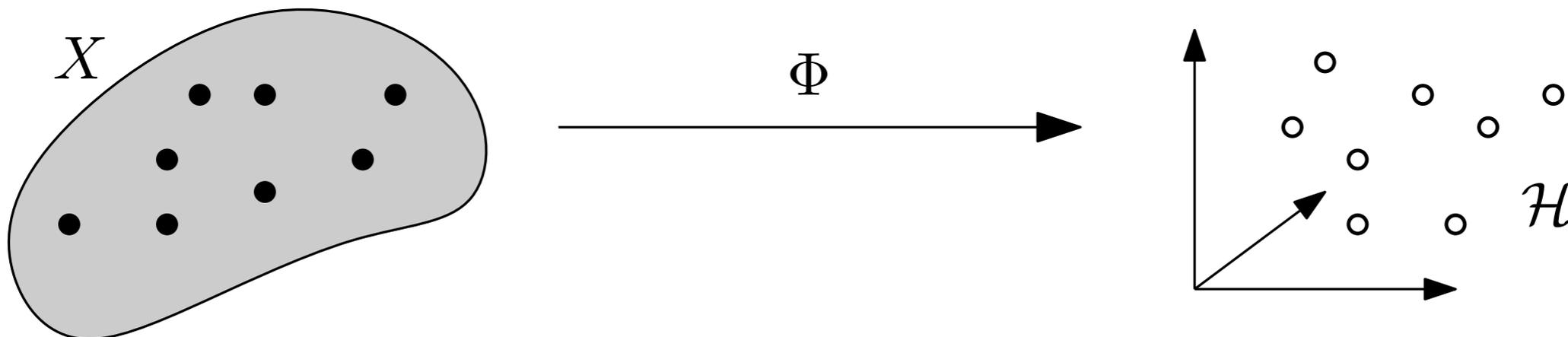
Def: Let $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathbb{R}^X$ Hilbert, with inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$
Then, \mathcal{H} is a **RKHS** on X if $\exists \Phi : X \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ s.t.:

$$\forall x \in X, \forall f \in \mathcal{H}, f(x) = \langle f, \Phi(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$$

*reproducing
property*

Terminology:

- **feature space** \mathcal{H} , **feature map** Φ
- **feature vector** $\Phi(x)$
- **kernel** $k = \langle \Phi(\cdot), \Phi(\cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$



Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space

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Thm: [Moore 1950] $k : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a kernel iff it is *positive (semi-)definite*, i.e. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \forall x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$, the Gram matrix $(k(x_i, x_j))_{i,j}$ is positive semi-definite.

Examples in $X = (\mathbb{R}^d, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$:

• linear: $k(x, y) = \langle x, y \rangle$ $\mathcal{H} = (\mathbb{R}^d)^*$, $\Phi(x) = \langle x, \cdot \rangle$

• polynomial: $k(x, y) = (1 + \langle x, y \rangle)^N = \sum_{n_1 + \dots + n_d = N} \binom{N}{n_1, \dots, n_d} \underbrace{x_1^{n_1} \dots x_d^{n_d}}_{\propto \Phi(x)} y_1^{n_1} \dots y_d^{n_d}$

• Gaussian: $k(x, y) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x-y\|_2^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$, $\sigma > 0$. $\mathcal{H} \subset L_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$

Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space

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Thm: (Representer) [Schölkopf et al 2001]

Given RKHS \mathcal{H} with kernel k , any function $f^* \in \mathcal{H}$ minimizing

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, f(x_i)) + \Omega(\|f\|_{\mathcal{H}})$$

is of the form $f^*(\cdot) = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j k(x_j, \cdot)$, where $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{R}$.

Kernels for persistence diagrams

Three approaches:

- build kernel from kernels (algebraic operations)

- **sum of kernels** \longleftrightarrow **concatenation of feature spaces**

$$k_1(x, y) + k_2(x, y) = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_1(x) \\ \Phi_2(x) \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_1(y) \\ \Phi_2(y) \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$

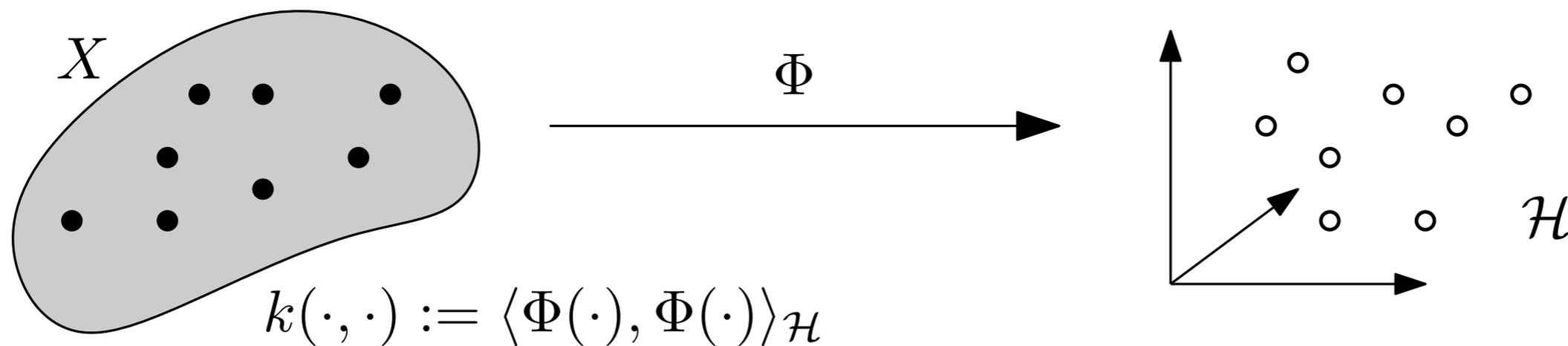
- **product of kernels** \longleftrightarrow **tensor product of feature spaces**

$$k_1(x, y)k_2(x, y) = \langle \Phi_1(x)\Phi_2(x)^T, \Phi_1(y)\Phi_2(y)^T \rangle$$

Kernels for persistence diagrams

Three approaches:

- build kernel from kernels (algebraic operations)
- define explicit feature map $\Phi : X \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ (vectorization)



Kernels for persistence diagrams

Three approaches:

- build kernel from kernels (algebraic operations)
- define explicit feature map $\Phi : X \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ (vectorization)
- define kernel from metric via radial basis function

Thm: [Kimeldorf, Wahba 1971]

If $d : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ symmetric is *conditionally negative semidefinite*, i.e.:

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \forall x_1, \dots, x_n \in X, \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i = 0 \implies \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j d(x_i, x_j) \leq 0,$$

then $k(x, y) = \exp\left(-\frac{d(x, y)}{2\sigma^2}\right)$ is positive definite for all $\sigma > 0$.

Kernels for persistence diagrams

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Q: does this apply to persistence diagrams?

Space of persistence diagrams

Persistence diagram \equiv **finite** multiset in the open half-plane $\Delta \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$

Given a **partial matching** $M : X \leftrightarrow Y$:

cost of a matched pair $(x, y) \in M$: $c_p(x, y) := \|x - y\|_\infty^p$

cost of an unmatched point $z \in X \sqcup Y$: $c_p(z) := \|z - \bar{z}\|_\infty^p$

cost of M :

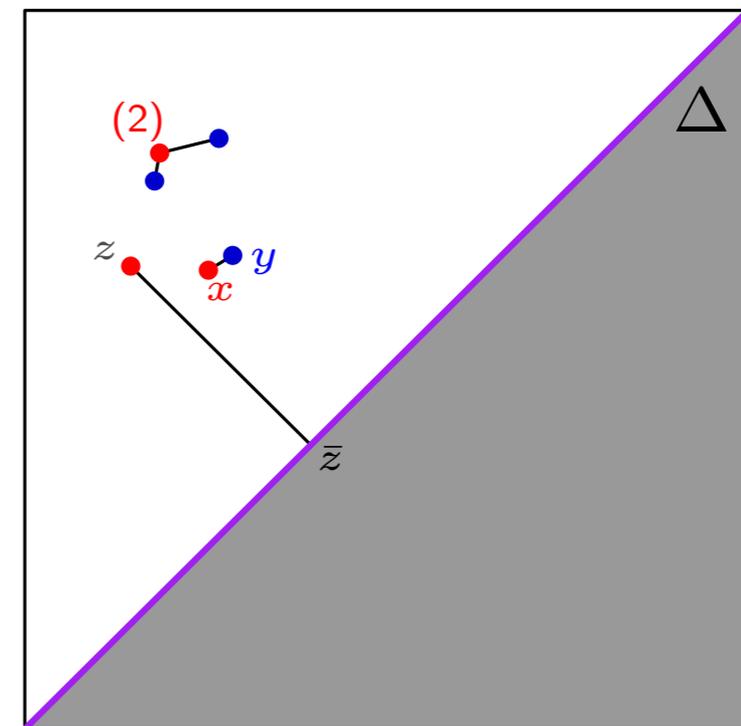
$$c_p(M) := \left(\sum_{(x, y) \text{ matched}} c_p(x, y) + \sum_{z \text{ unmatched}} c_p(z) \right)^{1/p}$$

Def: p -th diagram distance (extended metric):

$$d_p(X, Y) := \inf_{M: X \leftrightarrow Y} c_p(M)$$

Def: bottleneck distance:

$$d_\infty(X, Y) := \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} d_p(X, Y)$$



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unbalanced optimal transport

d_p is **NOT** cnsd, $\forall p \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \cup \{\infty\}$

\Rightarrow previous theorem is not applicable

cost of M :

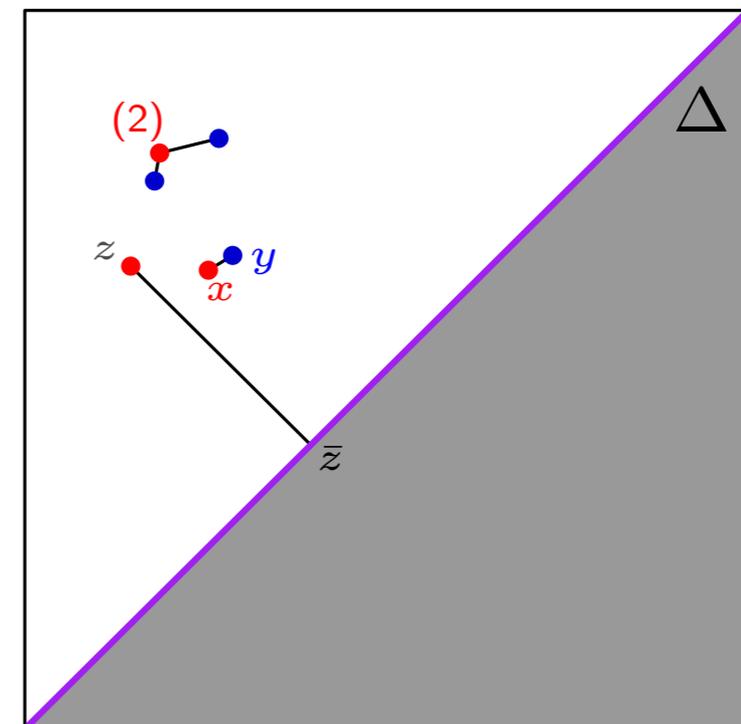
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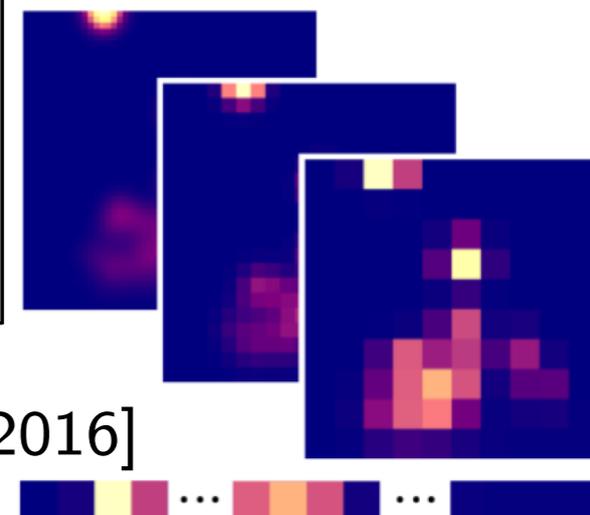
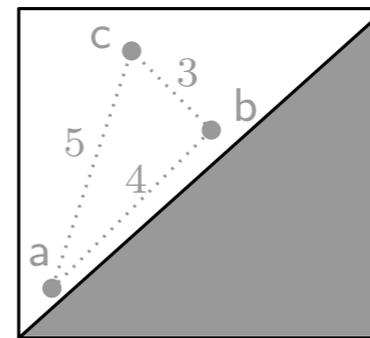


Kernels for persistence diagrams

State of the Art: define ϕ explicitly (**vectorization**) via:

- **images** [Adams et al. 2015]

$$a \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \\ b & 4 & 0 & 3 \\ c & 5 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



- **finite metric spaces** [Carrière, O., Ovsjanikov 2015]

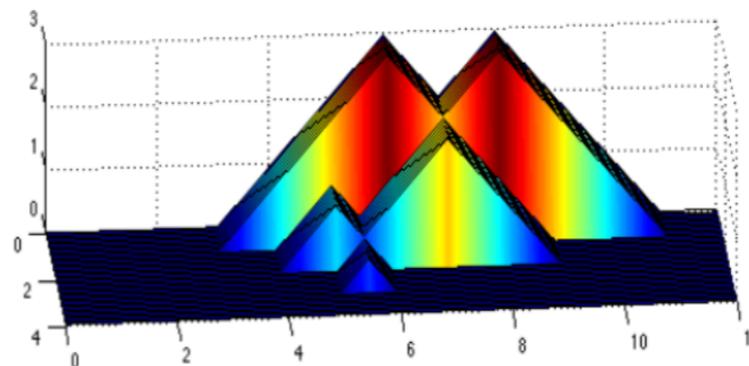
- **polynomial roots or evaluations** [Di Fabio, Ferri 2015] [Kališnik 2016]

$$\{p_1, \dots, p_n\} \mapsto (P_1(p_1, \dots, p_n), \dots, P_r(p_1, \dots, p_n), \dots)$$

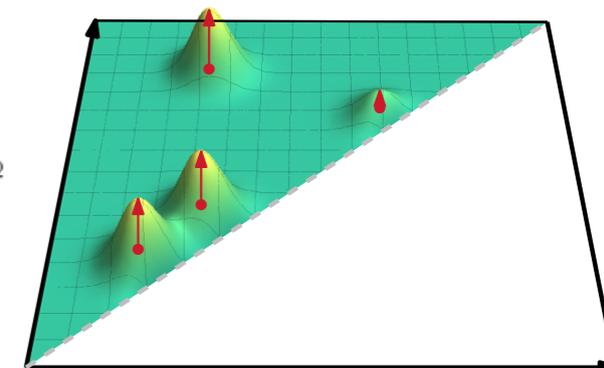
- **landscapes** [Bubenik 2012] [Bubenik, Dłotko 2015]

- **discrete measures:**

→ histogram [Bendich et al. 2014]



→ convolution with fixed kernel [Chepushtanova et al. 2015]



→ convolution with weighted kernel [Kusano, Fukumisu, Hiraoka 2016-17]

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Kernels for persistence diagrams

	images	metric spaces	polynomials	landscapes	discrete measures
ambient Hilbert space	$(\mathbb{R}^d, \ \cdot\ _2)$	$(\mathbb{R}^d, \ \cdot\ _2)$	$\ell_2(\mathbb{R})$	$L_2(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{R})$	$L_2(\mathbb{R}^2)$
positive (semi-)definiteness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
$\ \phi(\cdot) - \phi(\cdot)\ _{\mathcal{H}} \leq C d_p$	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
$\ \phi(\cdot) - \phi(\cdot)\ _{\mathcal{H}} \geq c d_p$	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
injectivity	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
universality	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
algorithmic cost	f. map: $O(n^2)$ kernel: $O(d)$	f. map: $O(n^2)$ kernel: $O(d)$	f. map: $O(nd)$ kernel: $O(d)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^2)$

Kernels for persistence diagrams

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injectivity	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
universality	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
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Kernels for persistence diagrams

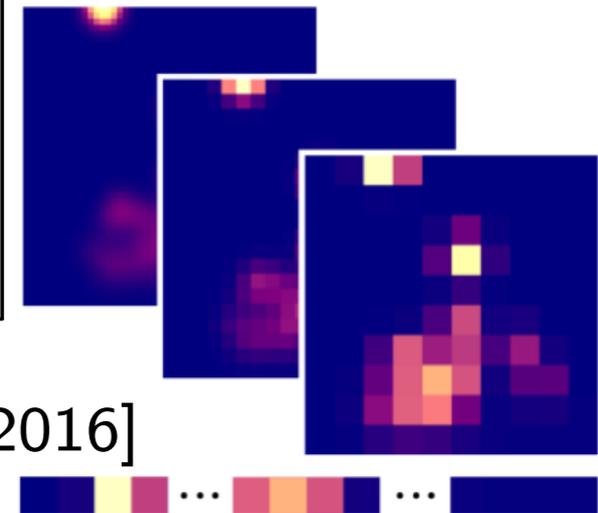
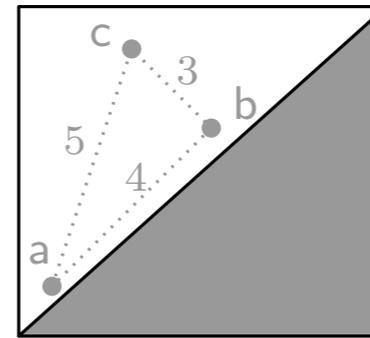
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injectivity	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
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Kernels for persistence diagrams

State of the Art: define ϕ explicitly (**vectorization**) via:

- **images** [Adams et al. 2015]

$$\begin{matrix} & a & b & c \\ a & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 4 & 0 & 3 \\ 5 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ b & \\ c & \end{matrix}$$



- **finite metric spaces** [Carrière, O., Ovsjanikov 2015]

- **polynomial roots or evaluations** [Di Fabio, Ferri 2015] [Kališnik 2016]

$$\{p_1, \dots, p_n\} \mapsto (P_1(p_1, \dots, p_n), \dots, P_r(p_1, \dots, p_n), \dots)$$

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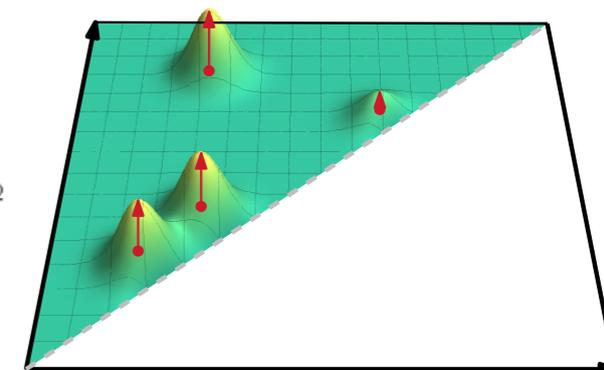
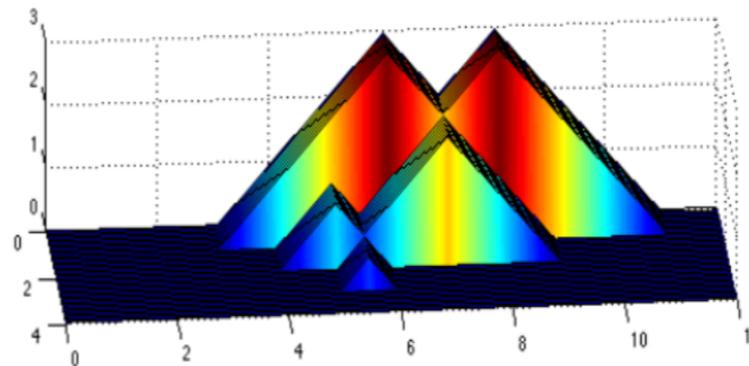
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→ convolution with fixed kernel [Chepushtanova et al. 2015]

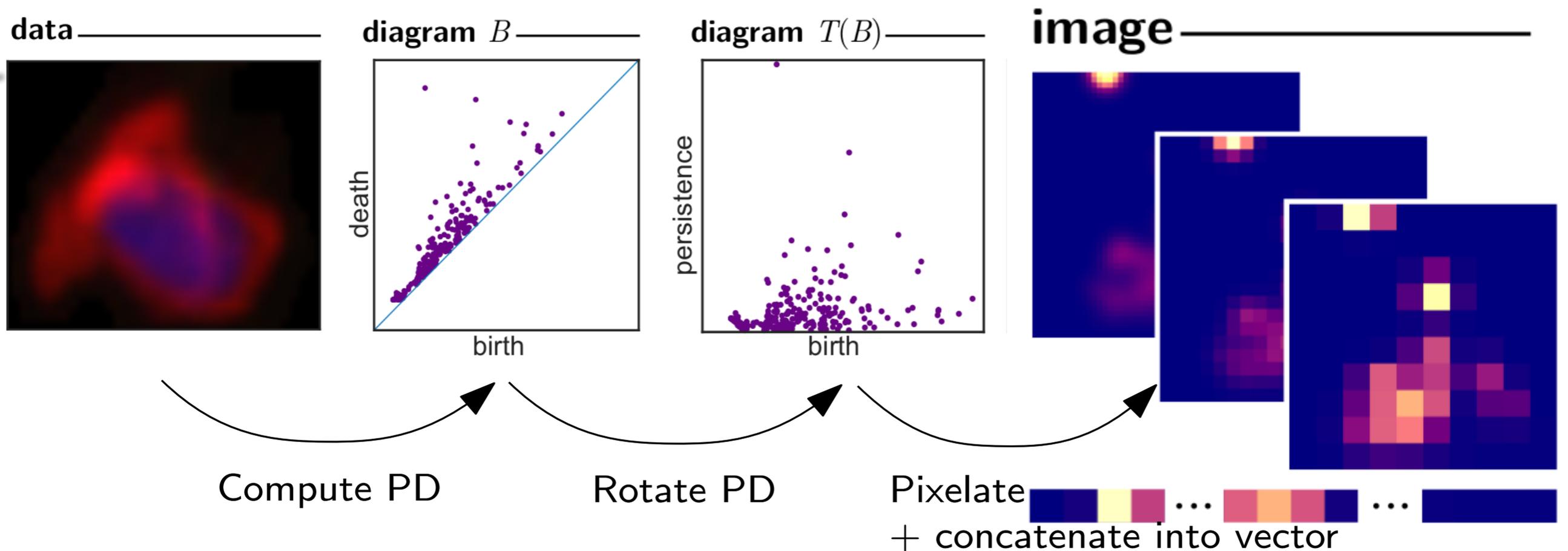
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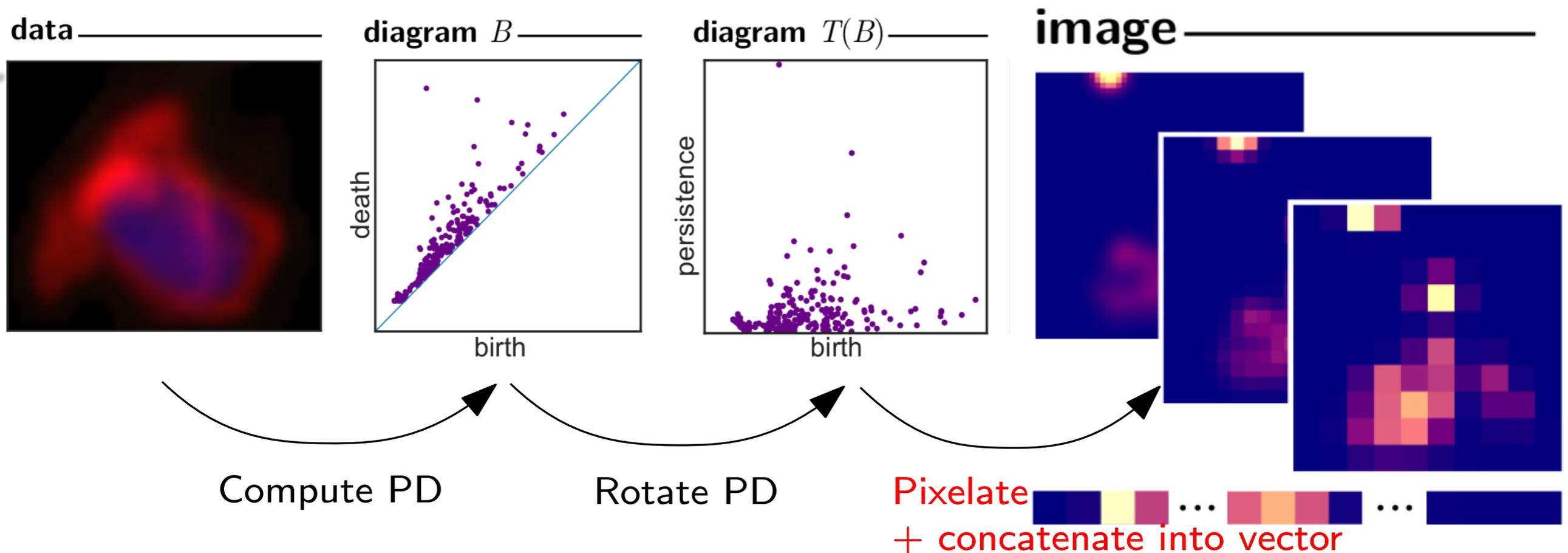
Explicit Feature Map in \mathbb{R}^d

Persistence Images [Adams et al. 2017]

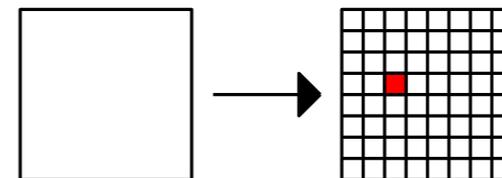


Explicit Feature Map in \mathbb{R}^d

Persistence Images [Adams et al. 2017]



Discretize plane into one or several grid(s):

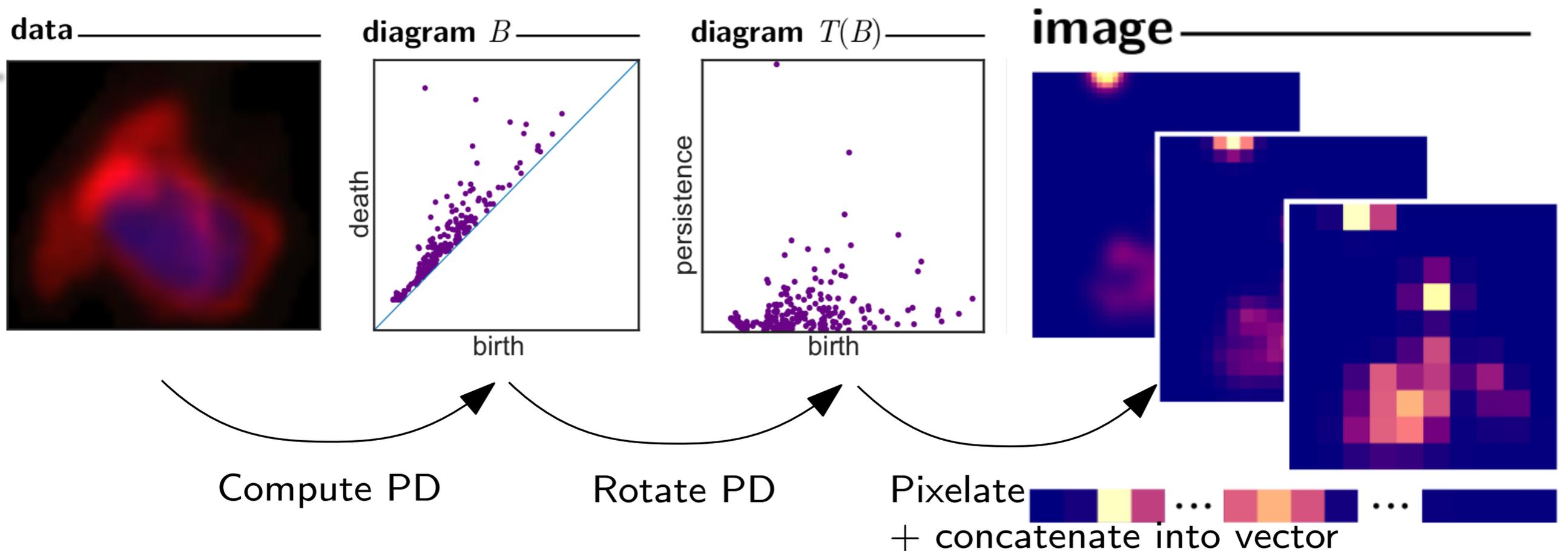


For each pixel P , compute $I(P) = \# \text{dgm} \cap P$

Concatenate all $I(P)$ into a single vector $\text{PI}(\text{dgm})$

Explicit Feature Map in \mathbb{R}^d

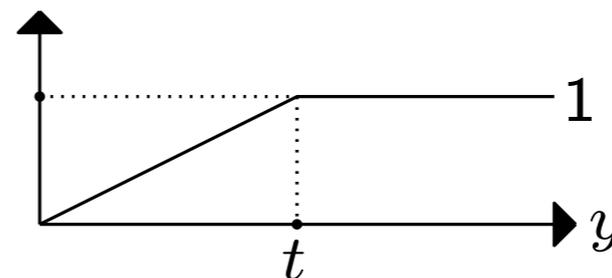
Persistence Images [Adams et al. 2017]



Stability \rightarrow weigh points: $w_t(x, y) =$

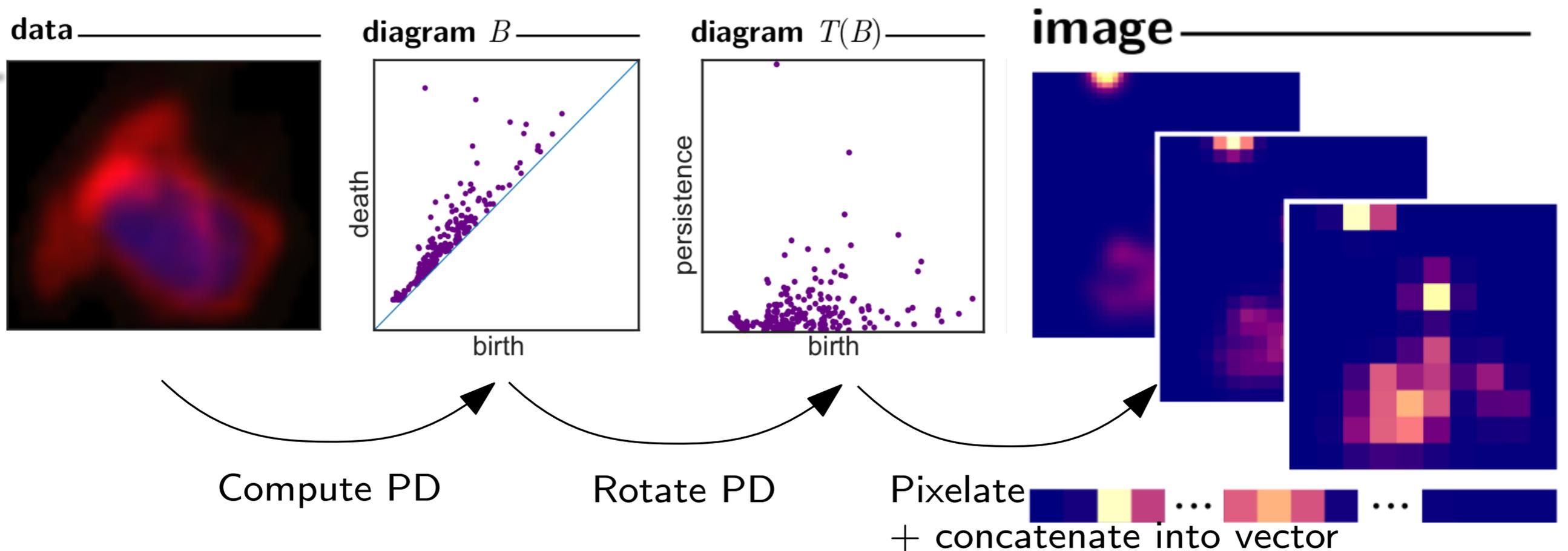
\rightarrow blur image

(convolve with Gaussian)



Explicit Feature Map in \mathbb{R}^d

Persistence Images [Adams et al. 2017]



Prop: [Adams et al. 2017]

- $\|\text{PI}(\text{dgm}) - \text{PI}(\text{dgm}')\|_{\infty} \leq C(w, \phi_p) d_1(\text{dgm}, \text{dgm}')$
- $\|\text{PI}(\text{dgm}) - \text{PI}(\text{dgm}')\|_2 \leq \sqrt{d} C(w, \phi_p) d_1(\text{dgm}, \text{dgm}')$

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State of the Art: define ϕ explicitly (**vectorization**) via:

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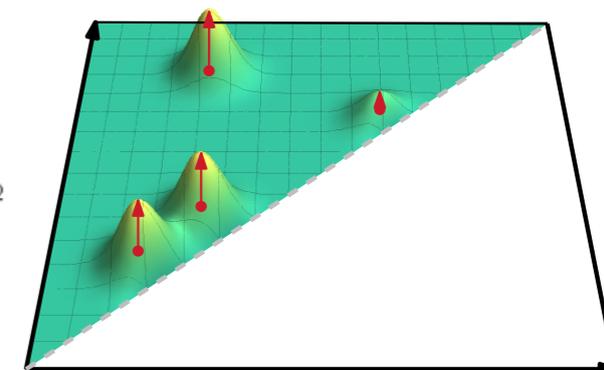
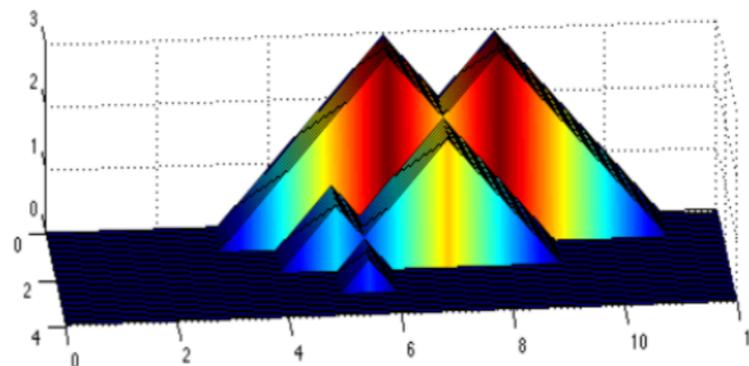
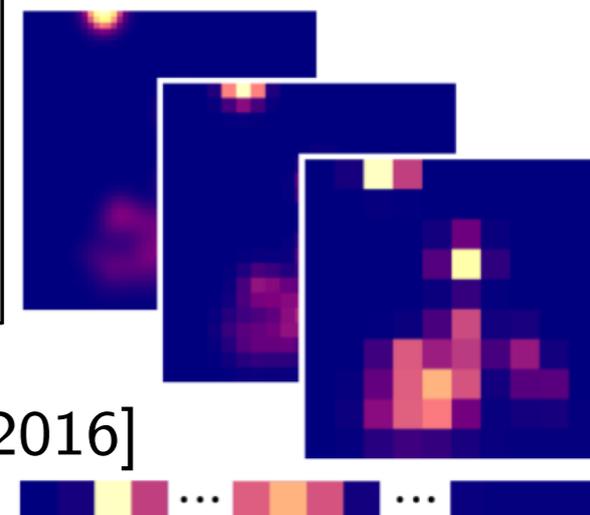
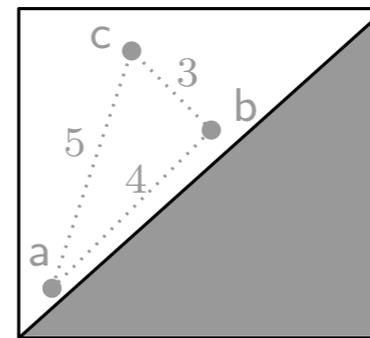
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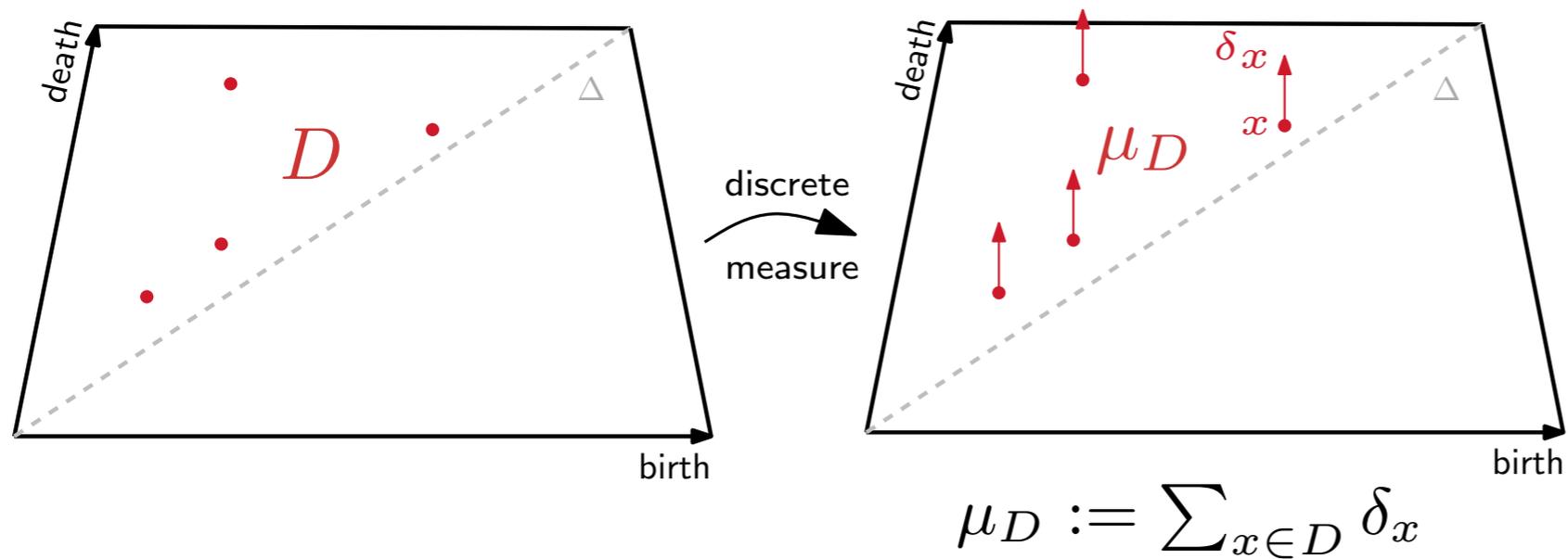
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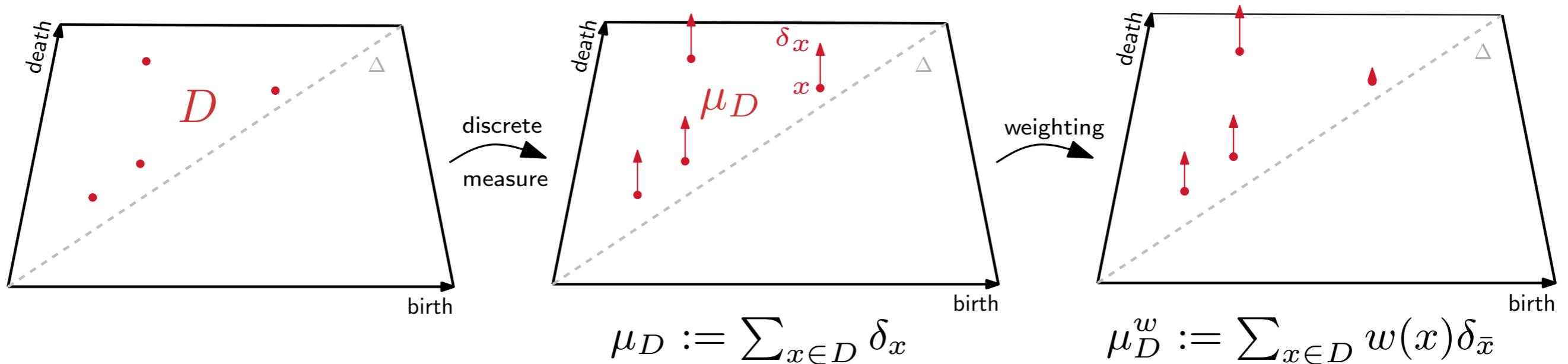
Explicit feature map

Persistence diagrams as discrete measures:



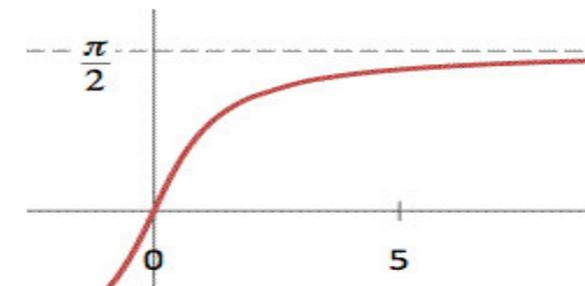
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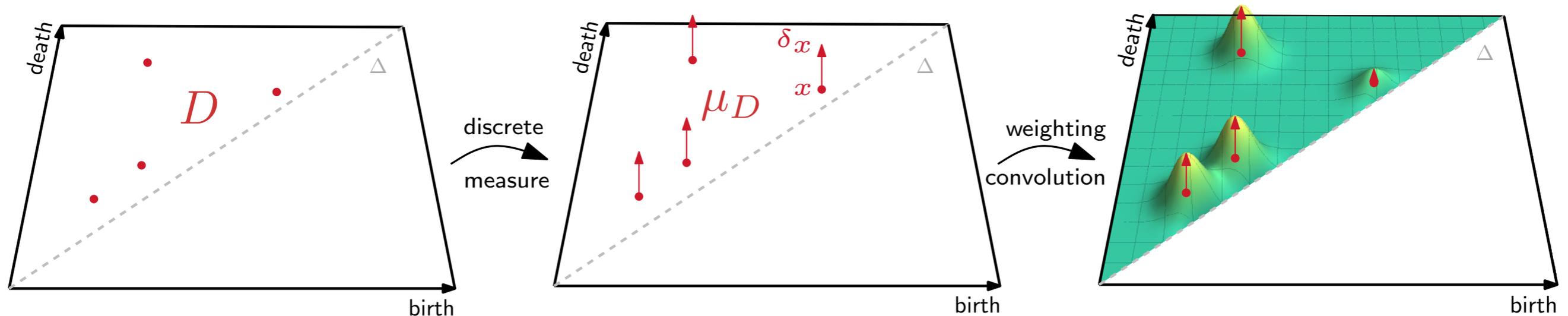
Pb: μ_D is unstable (points on diagonal disappear)

$$w(x) := \arctan(c d(x, \Delta)^r), \quad c, r > 0$$



Explicit feature map

Persistence diagrams as discrete measures:



$$\mu_D := \sum_{x \in D} \delta_x$$

$$\mu_D^w := \sum_{x \in D} w(x) \delta_{\bar{x}}$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_D^w := \mu_D^w * \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$$

Pb: μ_D is unstable (points on diagonal disappear)

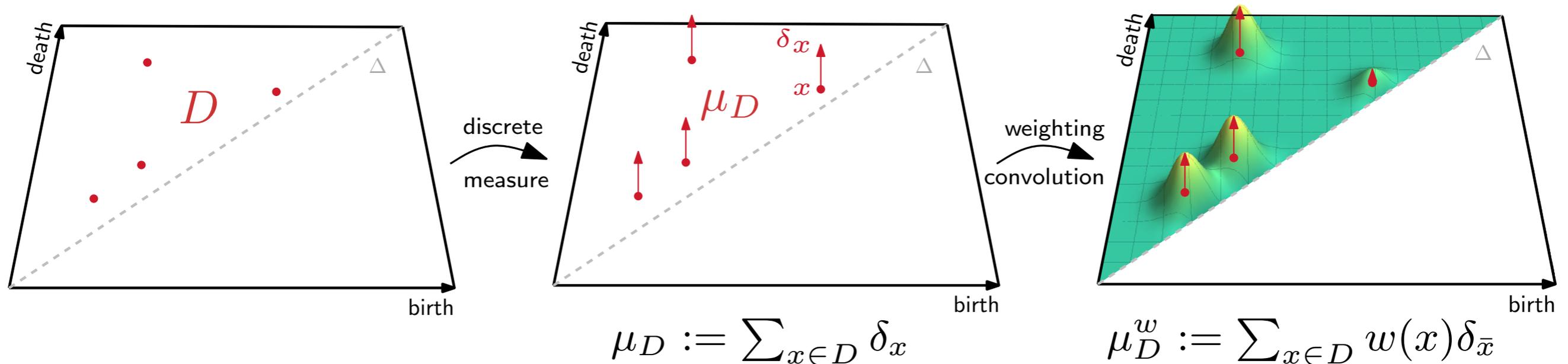
$$w(x) := \arctan(c d(x, \Delta)^r), \quad c, r > 0$$

Def: $\phi(D)$ is the density function of $\mu_D^w * \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$ w.r.t. Lebesgue measure:

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \phi(D) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} \sum_{x \in D} \arctan(c d(x, \Delta)^r) \exp\left(-\frac{\|\cdot - x\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ k(D, D') := \langle \phi(D), \phi(D') \rangle_{L_2(\Delta \times \mathbb{R}_+)} \end{array} \right.$$

Explicit feature map

Persistence diagrams as discrete measures:



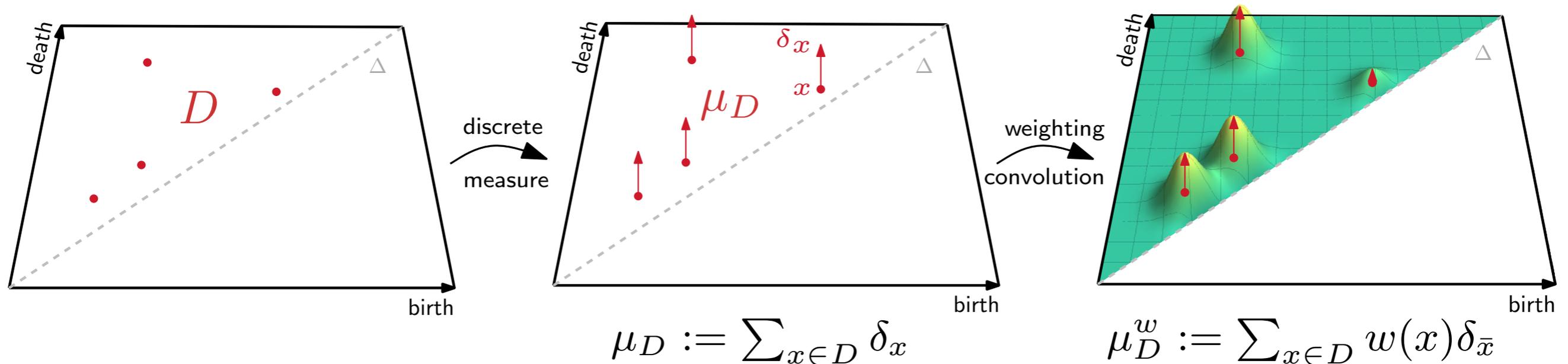
Prop.: [Kusano, Fukumisu, Hiraoka 2016-17]

- $\|\phi(D) - \phi(D')\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq \text{cst } d_p(D, D')$.
- ϕ is injective and $\exp(k)$ is universal

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Explicit feature map

Persistence diagrams as discrete measures:



Prop.: [Kusano, Fukumisu, Hiraoka 2016-17]

- $\|\phi(D) - \phi(D')\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq \text{cst } d_p(D, D')$.
- ϕ is injective and $\exp(k)$ is universal

Pb: convolution reduces discriminativity \rightarrow use discrete measure instead

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \phi(D) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} \sum_{x \in D} \arctan(c d(x, \Delta)^r) \exp\left(-\frac{\|\cdot - x\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ k(D, D') := \langle \phi(D), \phi(D') \rangle_{L_2(\Delta \times \mathbb{R}_+)} \end{array} \right.$$

Kernels for persistence diagrams

	images	metric spaces	polynomials	landscapes	discrete measures
ambient Hilbert space	$(\mathbb{R}^d, \ \cdot\ _2)$	$(\mathbb{R}^d, \ \cdot\ _2)$	$\ell_2(\mathbb{R})$	$L_2(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{R})$	$L_2(\mathbb{R}^2)$
positive (semi-)definiteness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
$\ \phi(\cdot) - \phi(\cdot)\ _{\mathcal{H}} \leq C d_p$	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
$\ \phi(\cdot) - \phi(\cdot)\ _{\mathcal{H}} \geq c d_p$	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
injectivity	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
universality	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
algorithmic cost	f. map: $O(n^2)$ kernel: $O(d)$	f. map: $O(n^2)$ kernel: $O(d)$	f. map: $O(nd)$ kernel: $O(d)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^2)$

One kernel to rule them all...

Sliced Wasserstein Kernel [Carrière, Cuturi, O. 2017]

No feature map

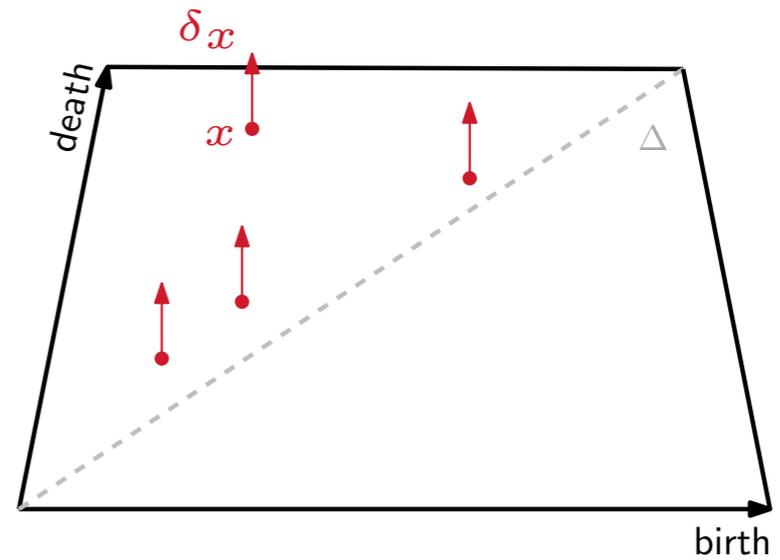
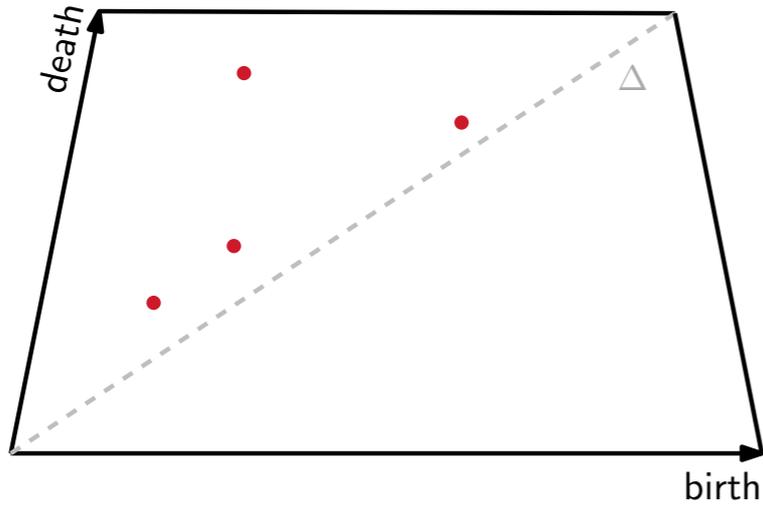
Provably stable

Provably **discriminative**

Mimicks the Gaussian kernel

View diagrams as discrete measures w/o density functions

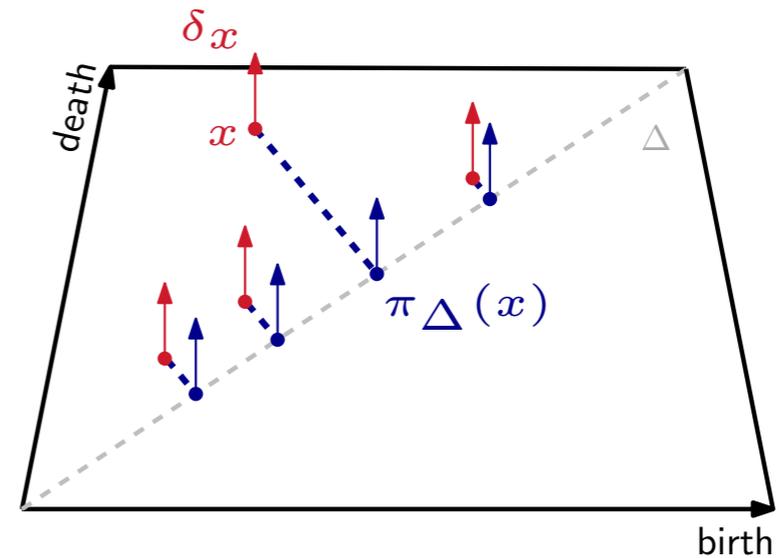
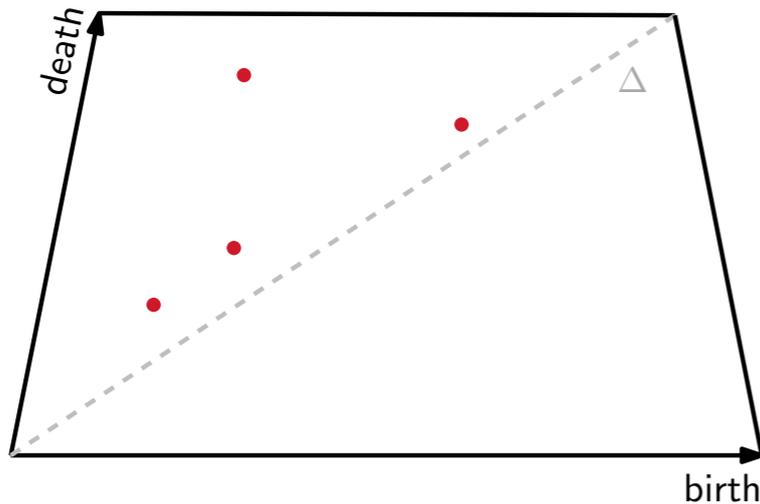
Persistence diagrams as discrete measures (II)



$$\mu_D := \sum_{x \in D} \delta_x$$

Pb: $d_p(D, D') \not\approx W_p(\mu_D, \mu_{D'})$ (W_p does not even make sense here)

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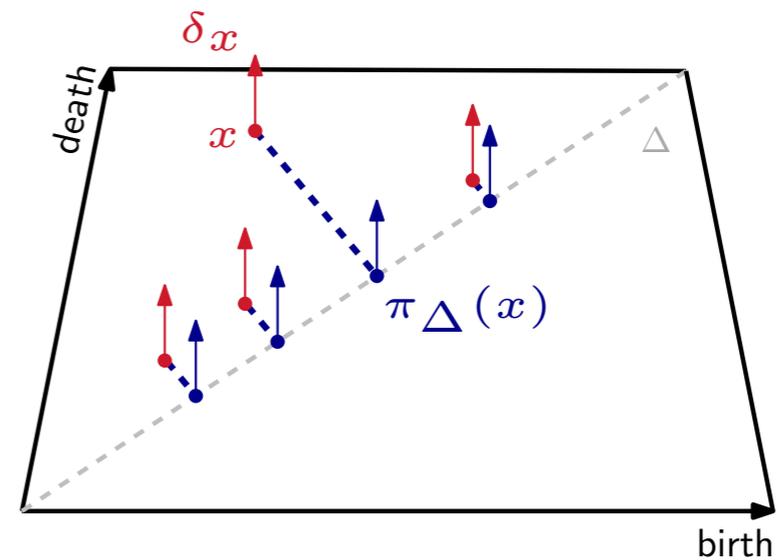
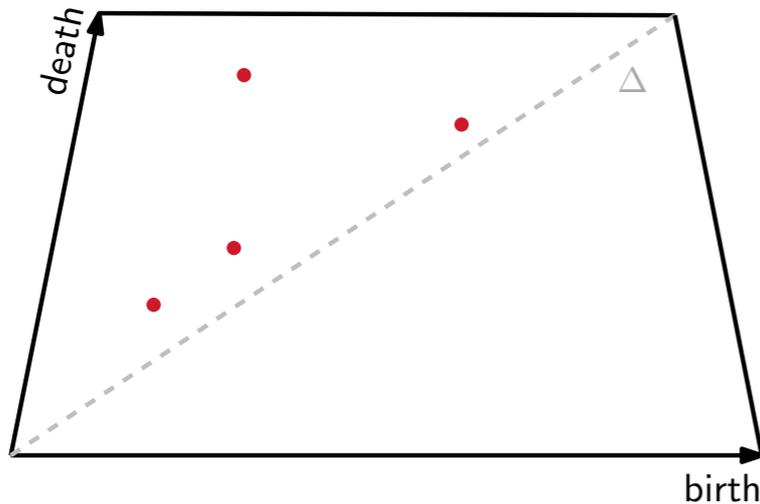
→ given D, D' , let

$$\bar{\mu}_D := \sum_{x \in D} \delta_x + \sum_{y \in D'} \delta_{\pi_{\Delta}(y)}$$

$$\bar{\mu}_{D'} := \sum_{y \in D'} \delta_y + \sum_{x \in D} \delta_{\pi_{\Delta}(x)}$$

Then, $d_p(D, D') \leq W_p(\bar{\mu}_D, \bar{\mu}_{D'}) \leq 2 d_p(D, D')$

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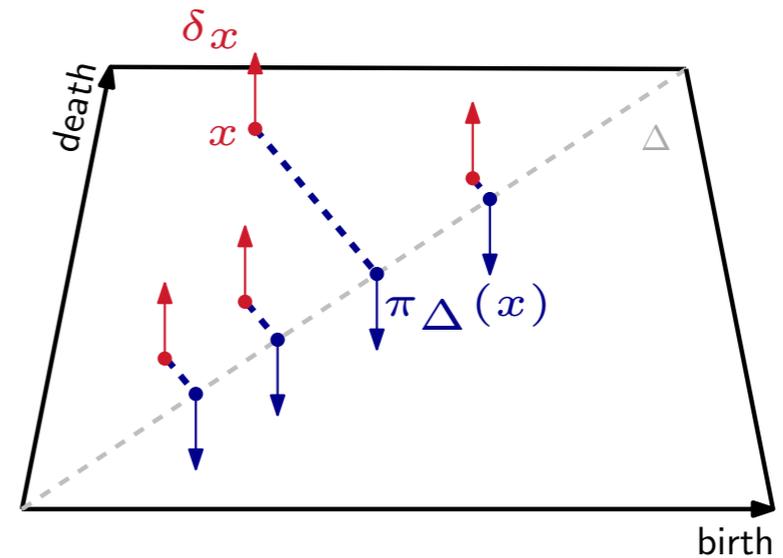
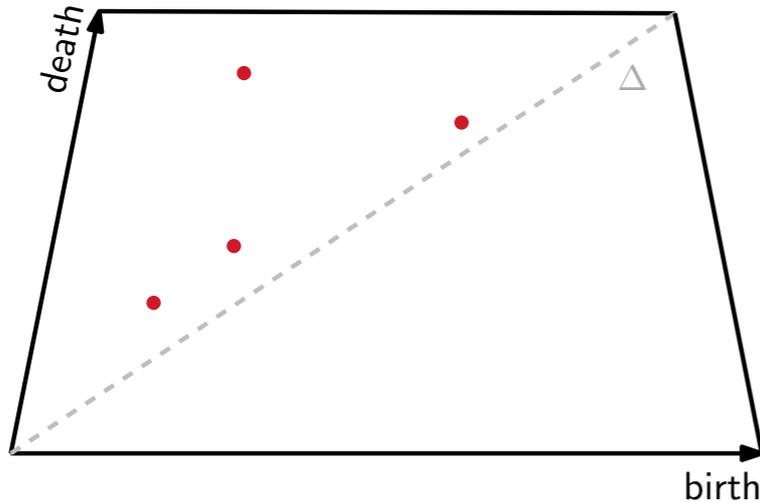
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Pb: $\bar{\mu}_D$ depends on D'

Persistence diagrams as discrete measures (II)



$$\mu_D := \sum_{x \in D} \delta_x$$

Pb: $d_p(D, D') \not\propto W_p(\mu_D, \mu_{D'})$ (W_p does not even make sense here)

Solution: transfer mass negatively:

$$\tilde{\mu}_D := \mu_D - (\pi_{\Delta})_* \mu_D = \sum_{x \in D} \delta_x - \sum_{x \in D} \delta_{\pi_{\Delta}(x)} \in \mathcal{M}_0(\mathbb{R}^2)$$

→ signed discrete measure of total mass zero

Kantorovich norm: $\|\tilde{\mu}_D\|_K = W_1(\mu_D, (\pi_{\Delta})_* \mu_D)$

A Wasserstein Gaussian kernel for PDs?

Thm.: [Kimeldorf, Wahba 1971]

If $d : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ symmetric is *conditionally negative semidefinite*, i.e.:

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \forall x_1, \dots, x_n \in X, \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i = 0 \implies \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j d(x_i, x_j) \leq 0,$$

then $k(x, y) := \exp\left(-\frac{d(x, y)}{2\sigma^2}\right)$ is positive semidefinite.

Pb: W_1 is not cnsd, neither is d_1

Solutions:

- relax the measures (e.g. convolution)
- relax the metric (e.g. regularization, slicing)

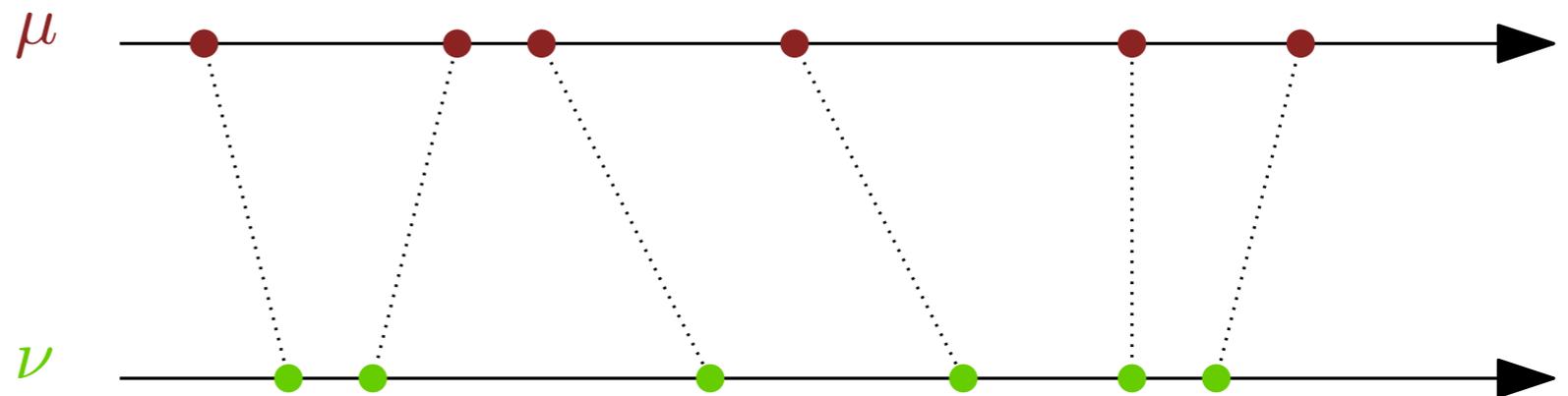
Sliced Wasserstein metric

Special case: $X = \mathbb{R}$, μ, ν discrete measures of same mass m

$$\mu := \sum_{i=1}^m \delta_{x_i}, \quad \nu := \sum_{i=1}^m \delta_{y_i}$$

Sort the atoms of μ, ν along the real line: $x_i \leq x_{i+1}$ and $y_i \leq y_{i+1}$ for all i

Then: $W_1(\mu, \nu) = \sum_{i=1}^m |x_i - y_i| = \|(x_1, \dots, x_m) - (y_1, \dots, y_m)\|_1$



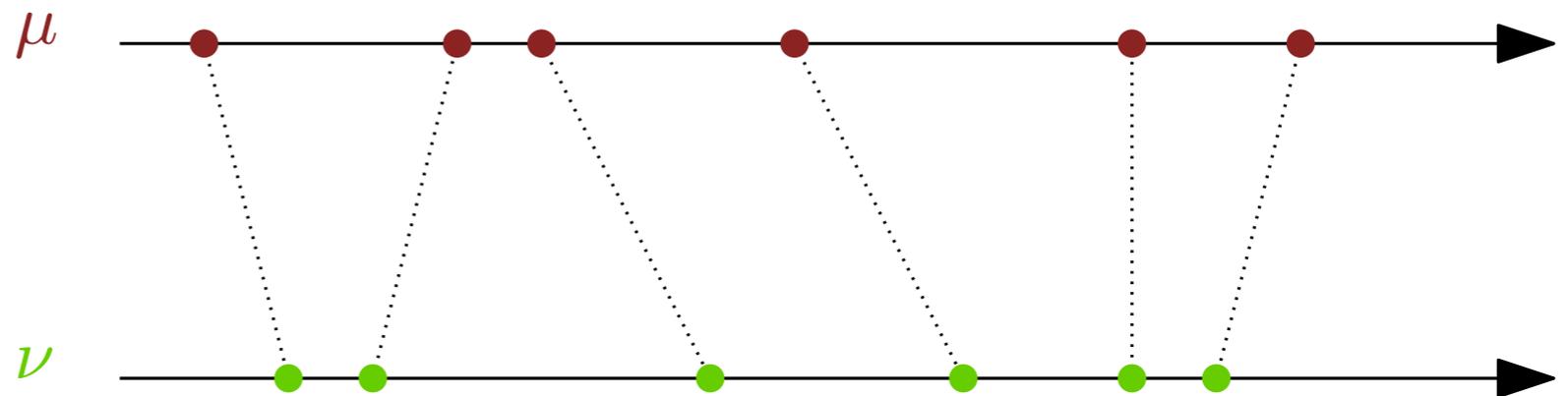
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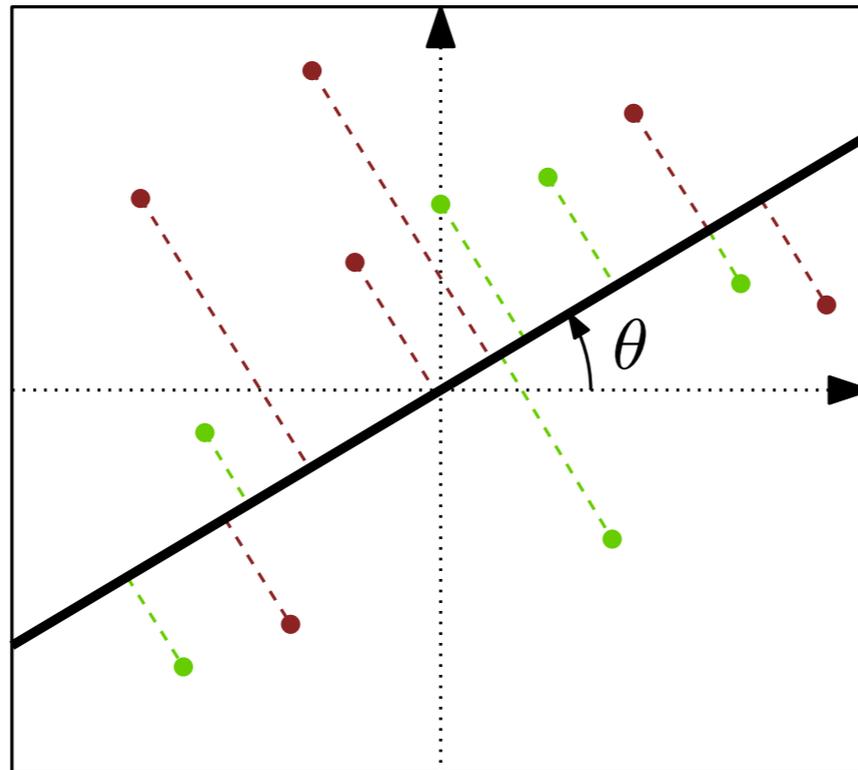
→ W_1 is cnsd and easy to compute (same with $\|\cdot\|_K$ for signed measures)

Sliced Wasserstein metric

Def (sliced Wasserstein distance): for $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^2)$,

$$SW_1(\mu, \nu) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\theta \in \mathbb{S}^1} W_1((\pi_\theta)_* \mu, (\pi_\theta)_* \nu) d\theta$$

where $\pi_\theta =$ orthogonal projection onto line passing through origin with angle θ .



→ from integral geometry: $\int_{\text{Gr}(1,2)} \dots$

Sliced Wasserstein metric

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where $\pi_\theta =$ orthogonal projection onto line passing through origin with angle θ .

Props: (inherited from W_1 over \mathbb{R}) [Rabin, Peyré, Delon, Bernot 2011]

- satisfies the axioms of a metric
- well-defined barycenters, fast to compute via stochastic gradient descent, etc.
- conditionally negative semidefinite

Sliced Wasserstein kernel

Def: Given $\sigma > 0$, for any $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^2)$:

$$k_{SW}(\mu, \nu) := \exp\left(-\frac{SW_1(\mu, \nu)}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

Corollary: [Kolouri, Zou, Rohde]

k_{SW} is positive semidefinite.

Sliced Wasserstein kernel

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Thm.: [Carrière, Cuturi, O. 2017]

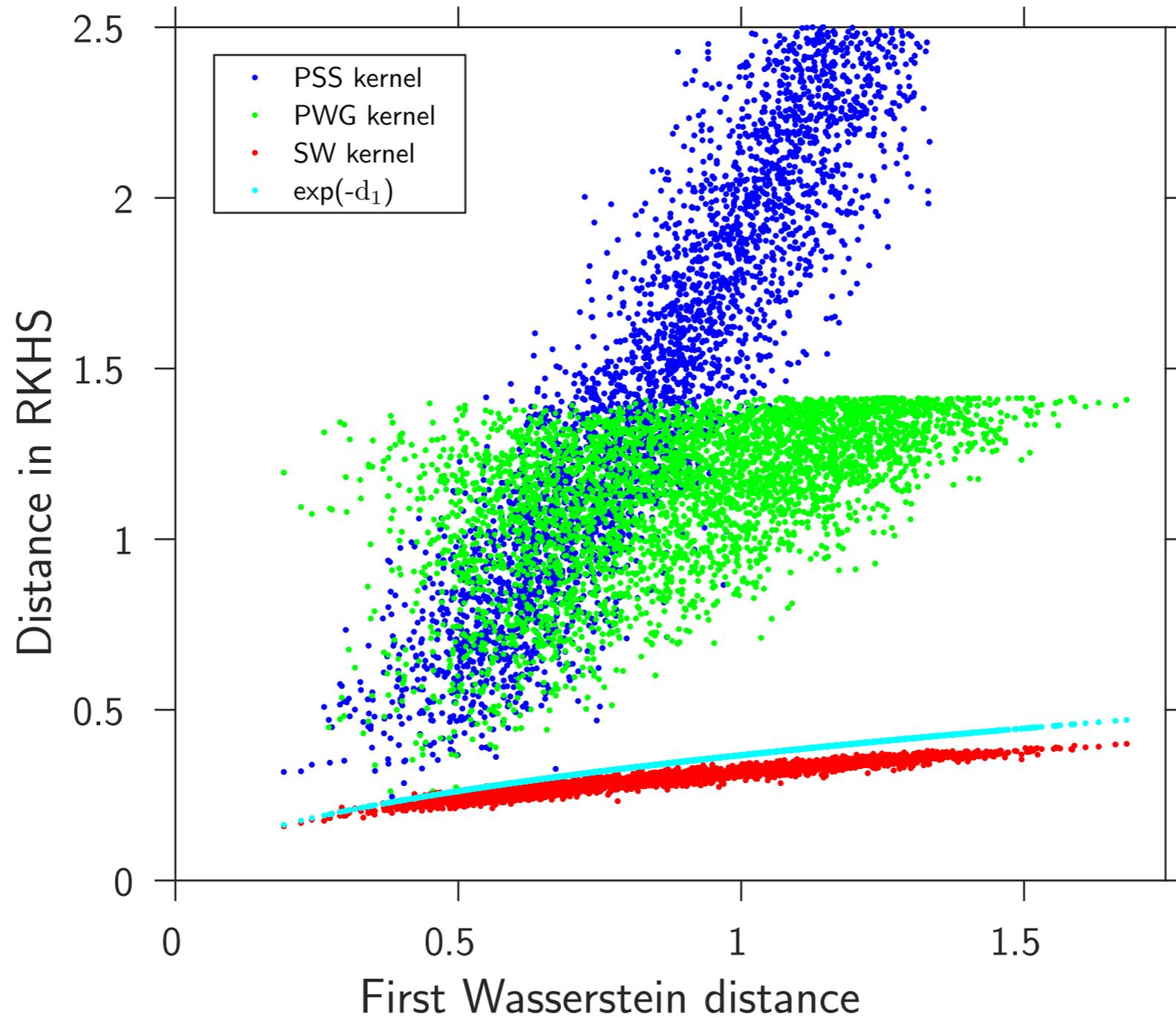
The metrics d_1 and SW_1 on the space \mathcal{D}_N of persistence diagrams of size bounded by N are strongly equivalent, namely: for $D, D' \in \mathcal{D}_N$,

$$\frac{1}{2 + 4N(2N - 1)} d_1(D, D') \leq SW_1(D, D') \leq 2\sqrt{2} d_1(D, D')$$

Corollary: the feature map ϕ associated with k_{SW} is weakly metric-preserving:

$\exists g, h$ nonzero except at 0 such that $g \circ d_1 \leq \|\phi(\cdot) - \phi(\cdot)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq h \circ d_1$.

Metric distortion in practice

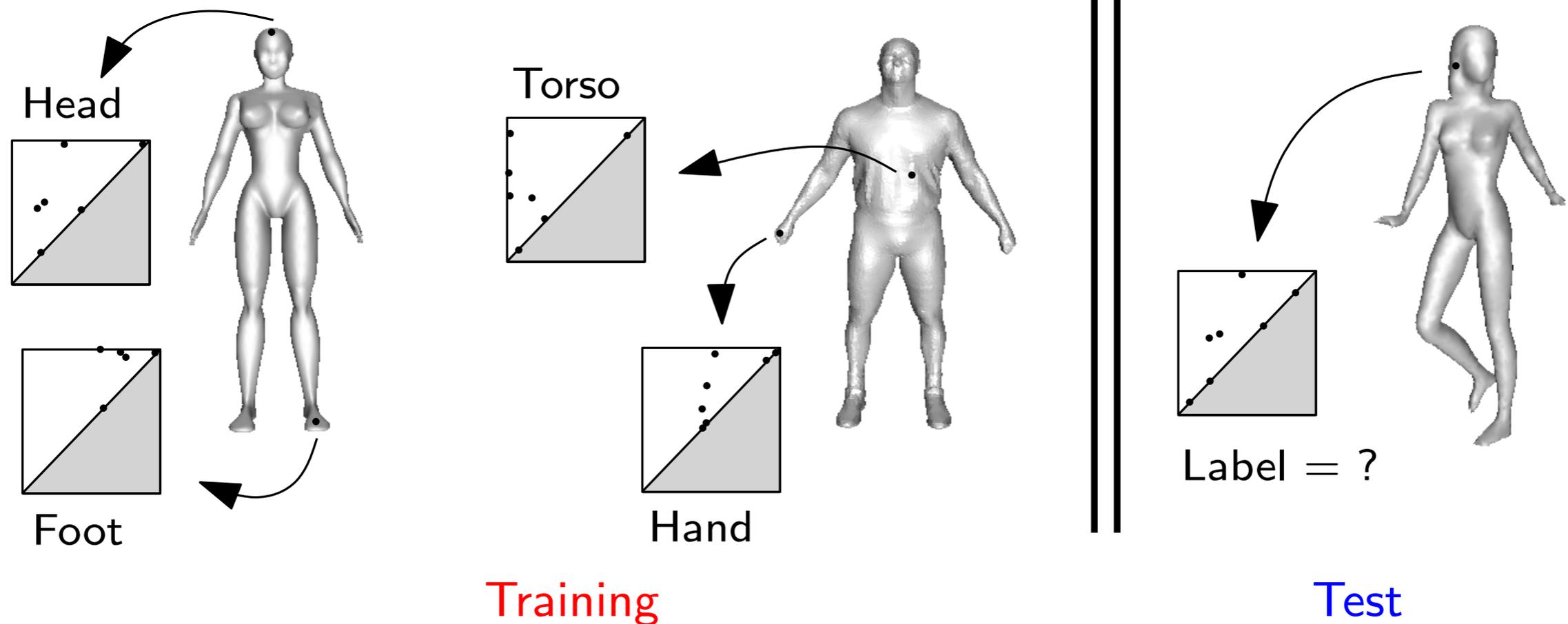


Application to supervised shape segmentation

Goal: segment 3d shapes based on examples

Approach:

- train a (multiclass) classifier on PDs extracted from the training shapes
- apply classifier to PDs extracted from query shape



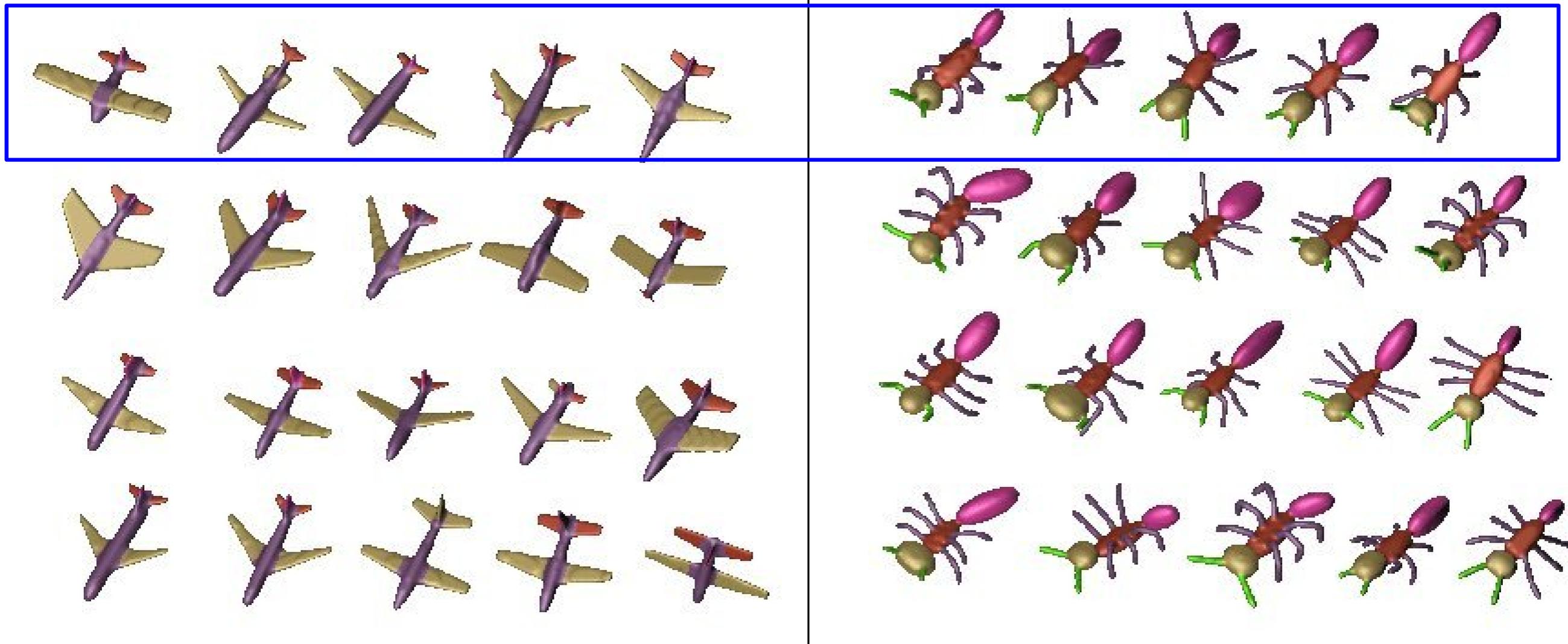
Application to supervised shape segmentation

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(training data)



Application to supervised shape segmentation

Goal: segment 3d shapes based on examples

Approach:

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- apply classifier to PDs extracted from query shape

Accuracies (%) using TDA descriptors (kernels on barcodes):

	TDA	geometry	TDA + geometry
Human	74.0	78.7	88.7
Airplane	72.6	81.3	90.7
Ant	92.3	90.3	98.5
FourLeg	73.0	74.4	84.2
Octopus	85.2	94.5	96.6
Bird	72.0	75.2	86.5
Fish	79.6	79.1	92.3

Application to non-rigid shape matching

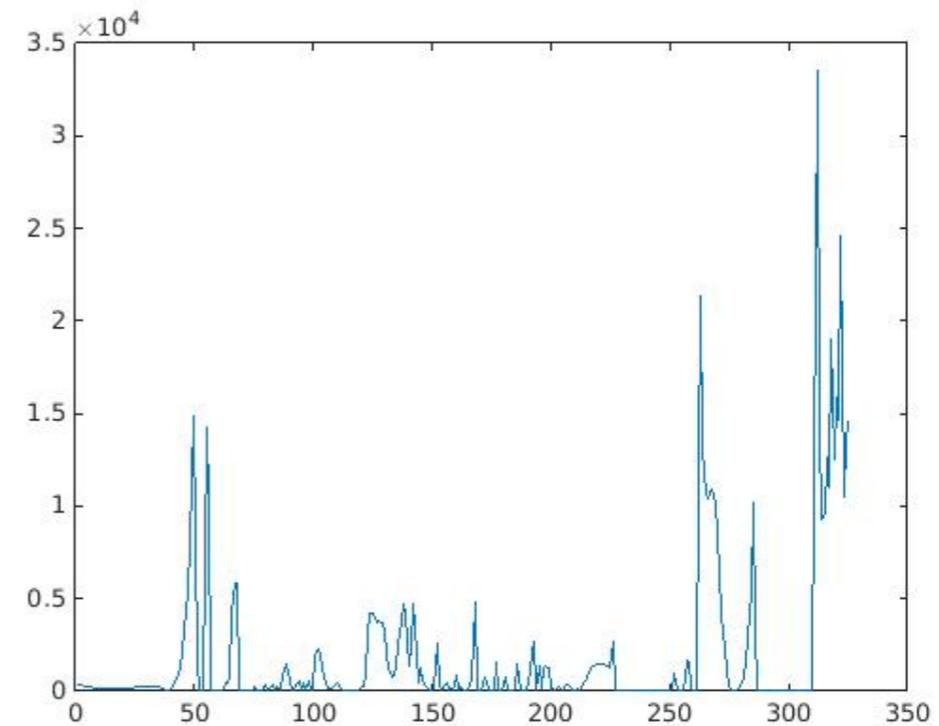
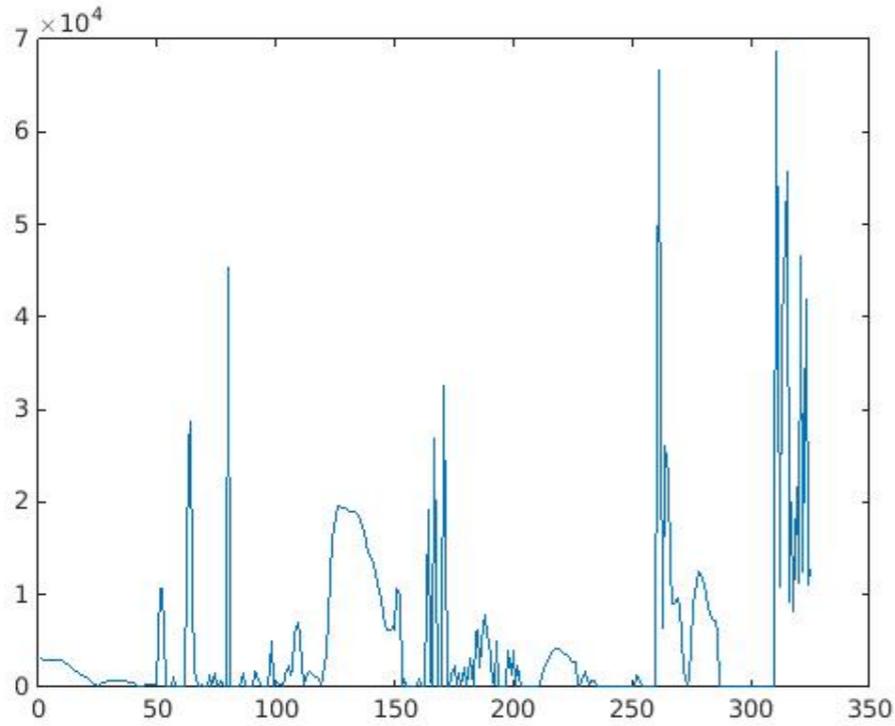
Approach: use framework of *functional maps* [Ovsjanikov et al. 2012]

Given a point-to-point map $m : X \rightarrow Y$ (seen as measured spaces), consider the **linear map** $m^* : L^2(Y) \rightarrow L^2(X)$ induced by composition with m

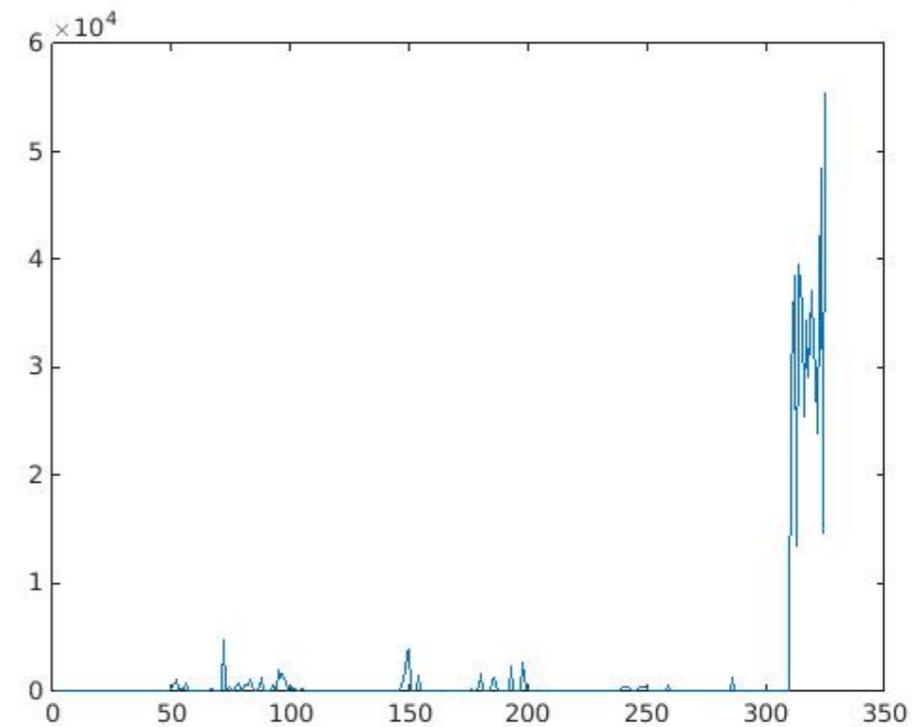
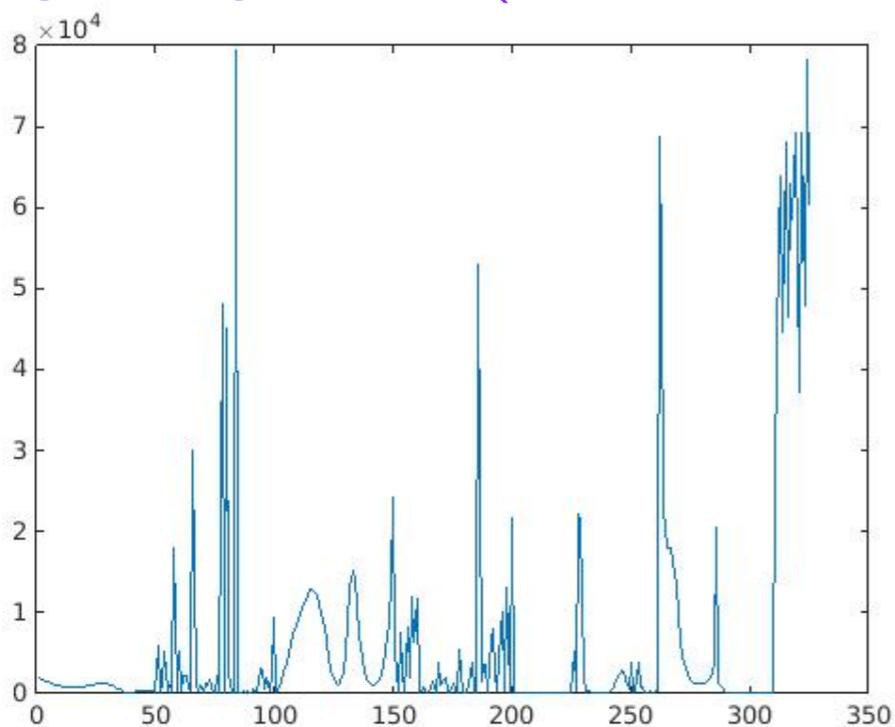
- compute an optimal linear map that best preserves a set of signatures (vectors)
- derive a point-to-point correspondence from this map (via indicator functions)
- evaluate the quality of the correspondence
- reduce the dimensionality by taking the first k eigenfunctions of the Laplace-Beltrami operator

Application to non-rigid shape matching

Approach: use framework of *functional maps* [Ovsjanikov et al. 2012]

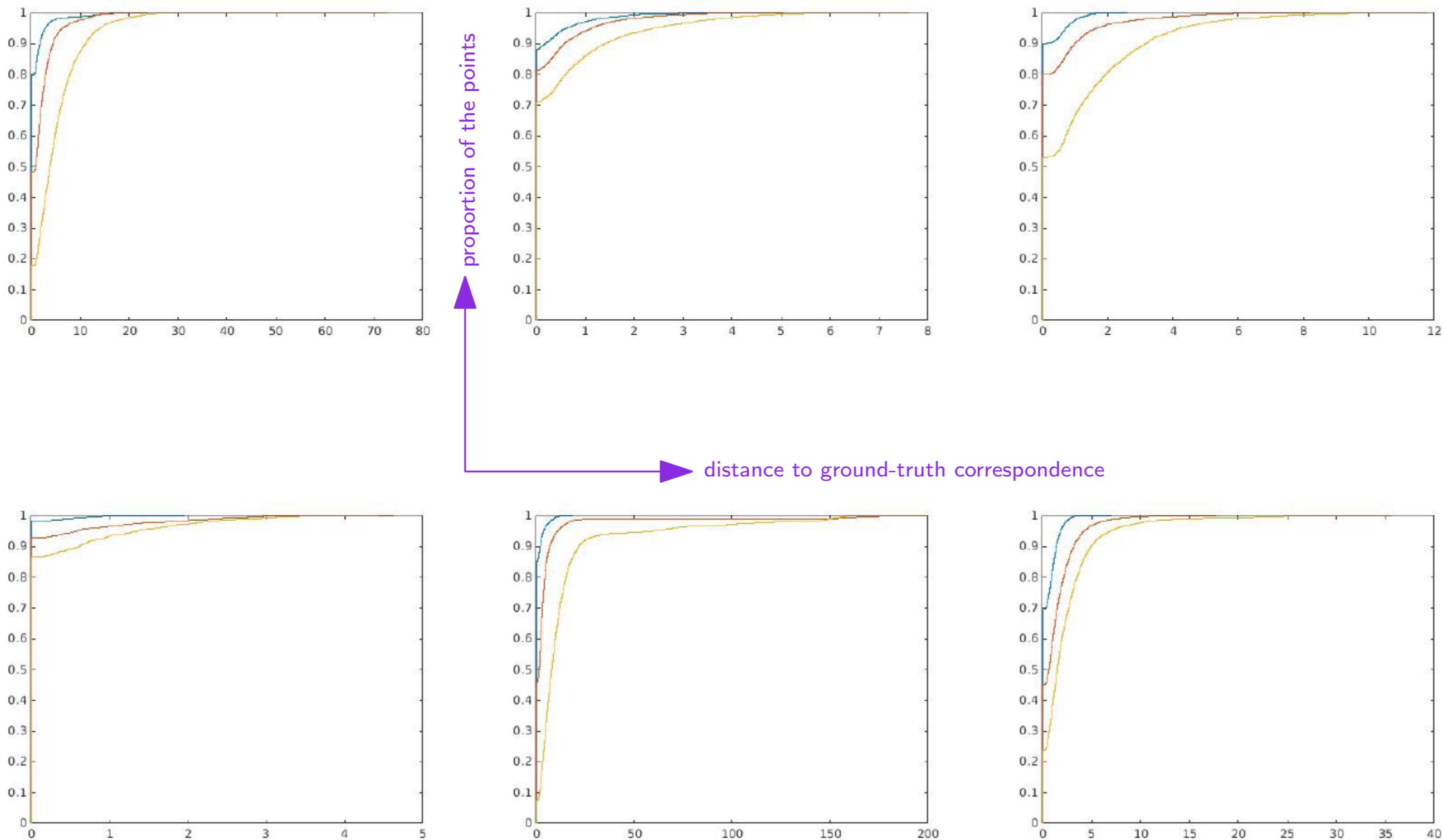


topological signatures (last 30 indices) have a high influence on the choice of optimal map



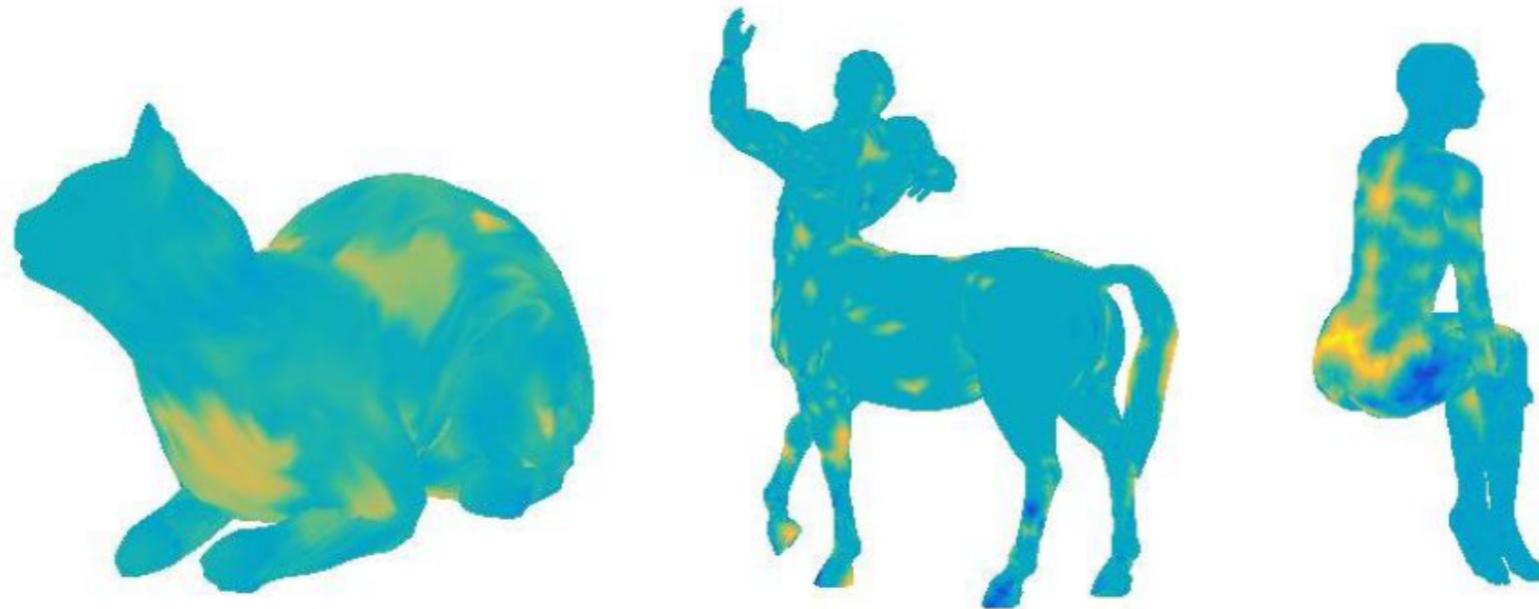
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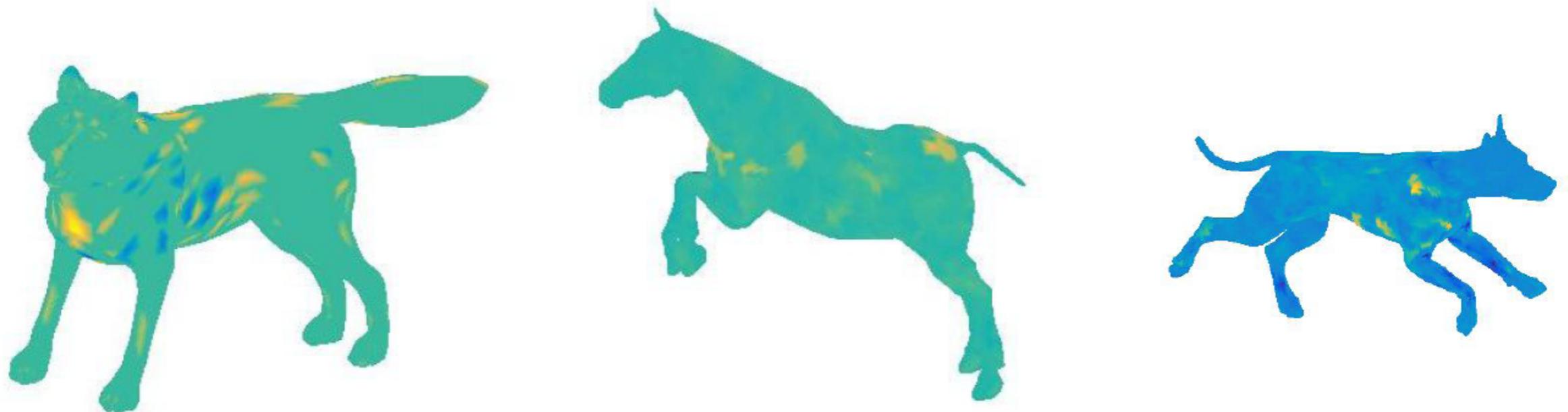


Application to non-rigid shape matching

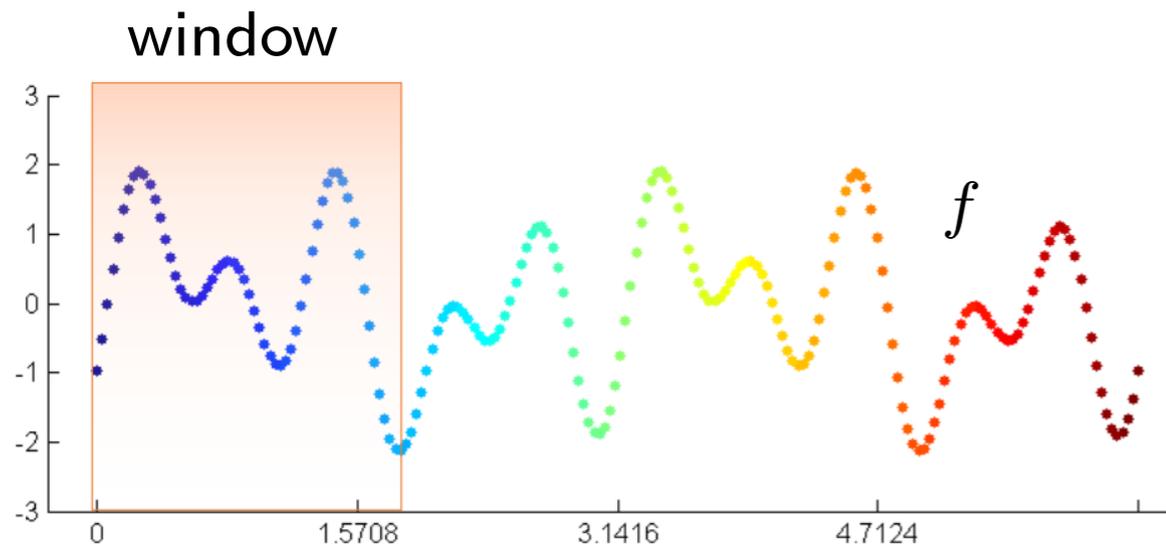
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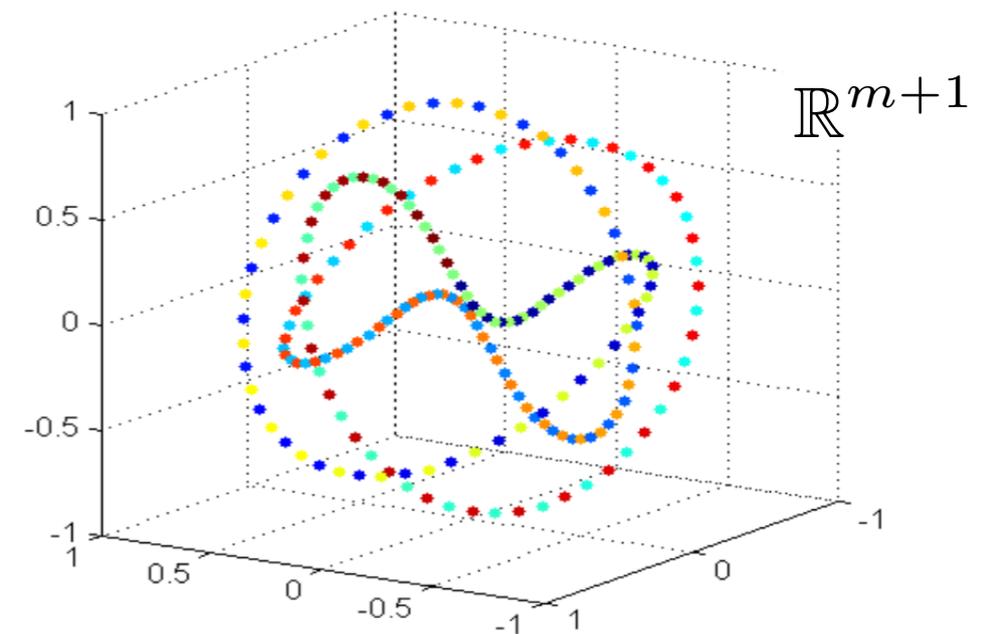
correspondences in flat regions are improved by topological signatures



Application to supervised time series analysis



$\text{TD}_{m,\tau}$
 \Rightarrow
 (time-delay embedding)



$$f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\text{TD}_{m,\tau}(f) := \begin{bmatrix} f(t) \\ f(t+\tau) \\ \vdots \\ f(t+m\tau) \end{bmatrix}$$

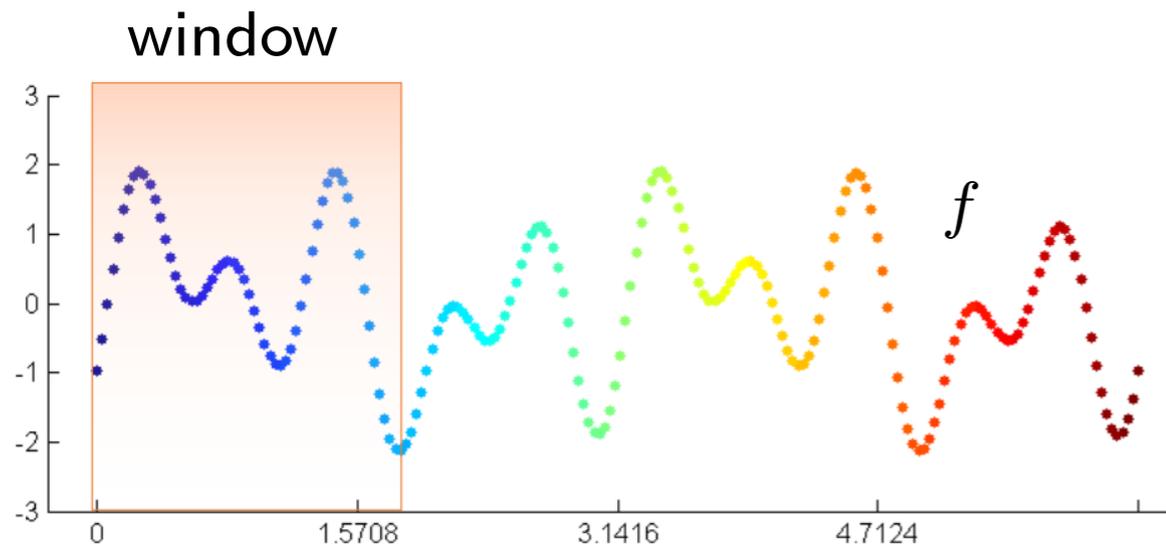
τ : step / delay

$m\tau$: window size

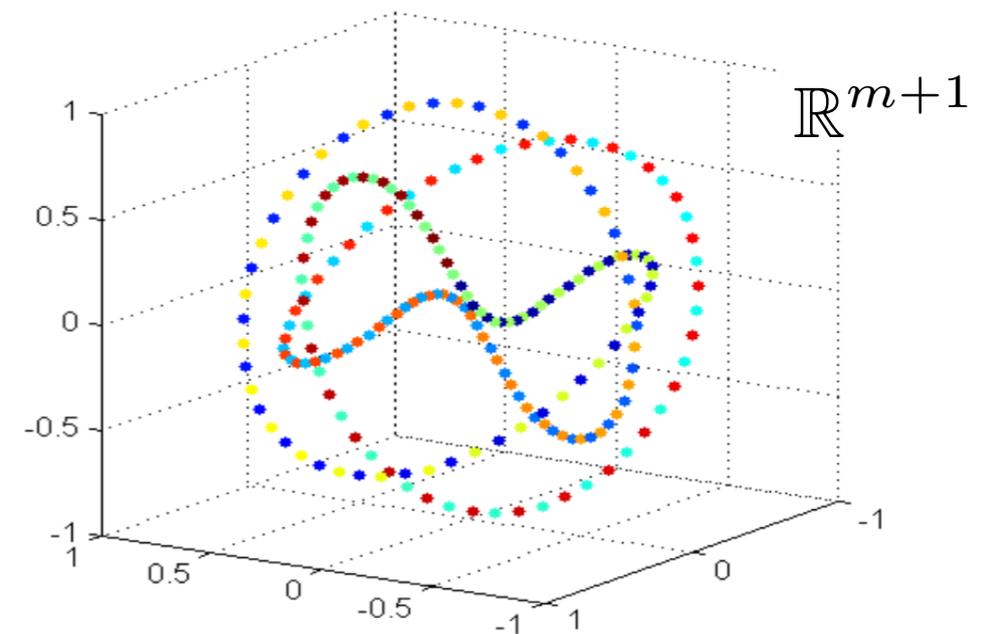
$m + 1$: embedding dimension

signal	embedded data
periodicity	circularity
# prominent harmonics (N)	min. ambient dimension ($m \geq 2N$)
# non-commensurate freq.	intrinsic dimension ($\mathbb{S}^1 \times \dots \times \mathbb{S}^1$)

Application to supervised time series analysis



$TD_{m,\tau}$
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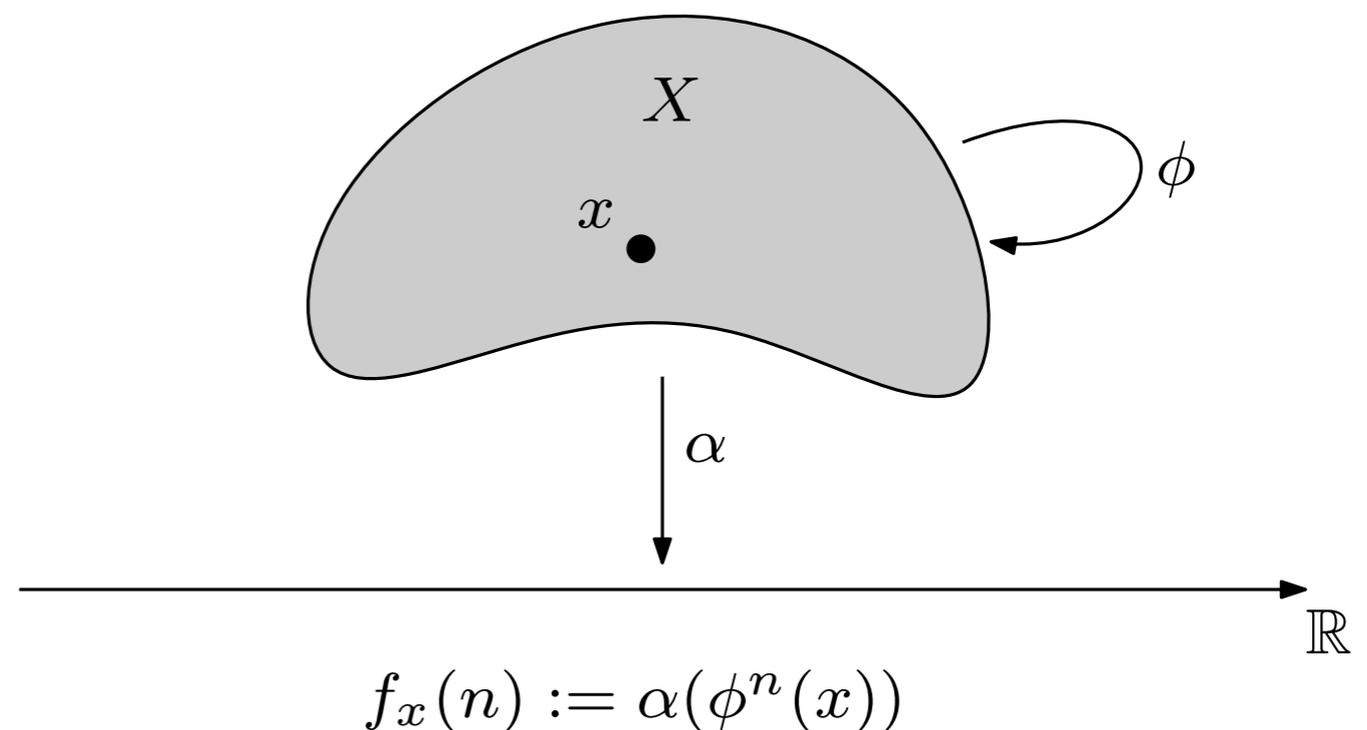
Contributions of TDA:

inference of:

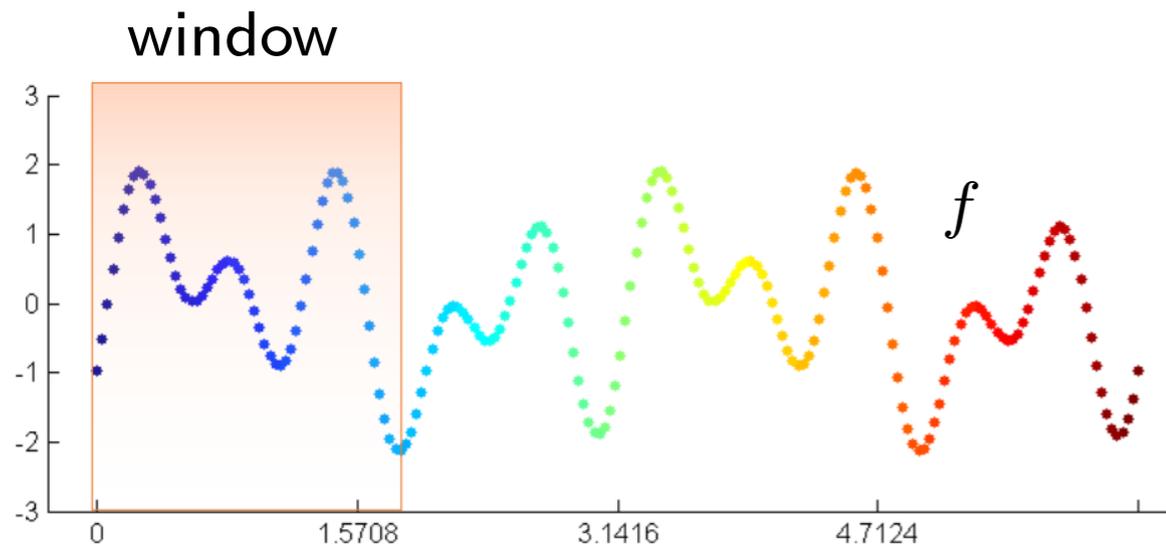
- periodicity
- harmonics
- non-commensurate freq.
- underlying state space

no Fourier transform needed

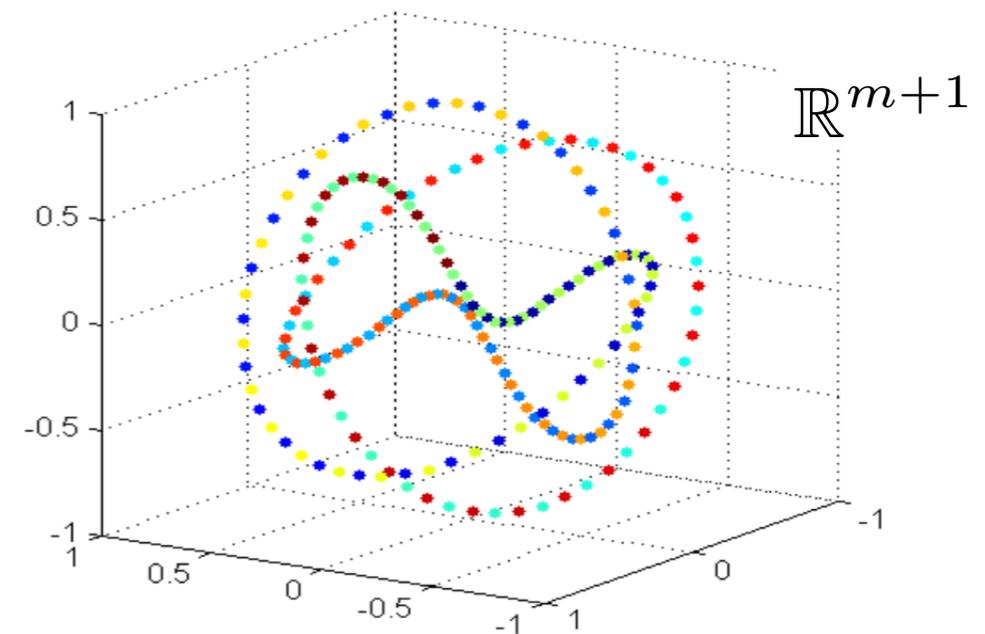
► Dynamical system:



Application to supervised time series analysis



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Contributions of TDA:

inference of:

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- harmonics
- non-commensurate freq.
- underlying state space

no Fourier transform needed

► Dynamical system:

Thm: [Nash, Takens]

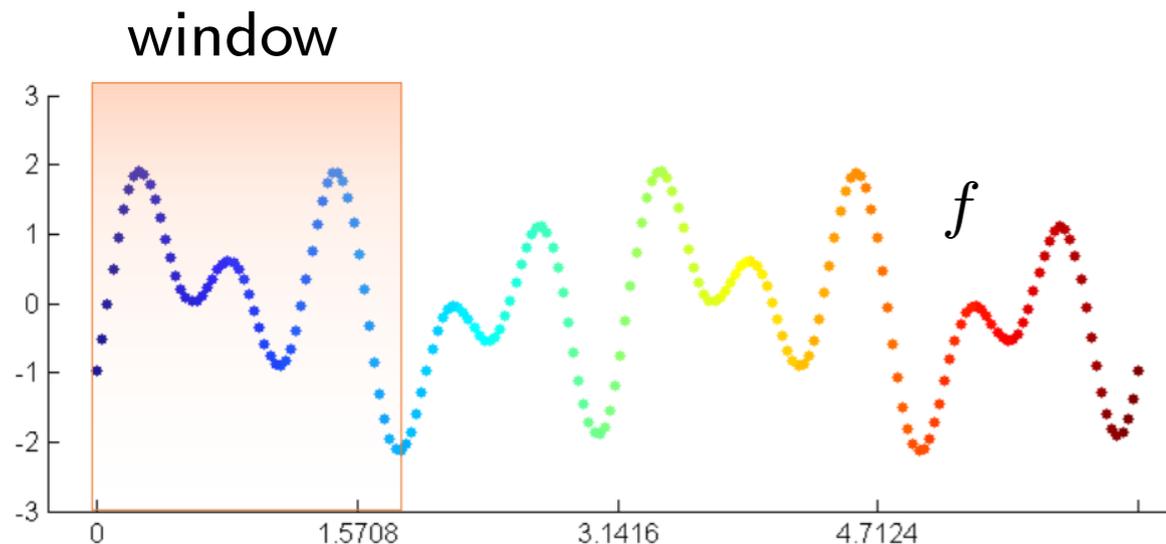
Given a Riemannian manifold X of dimension $\frac{m}{2}$, it is a **generic property** of $\phi \in \text{Diff}_2(X)$ and $\alpha \in C^2(X, \mathbb{R})$ that

$$X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m+1}$$

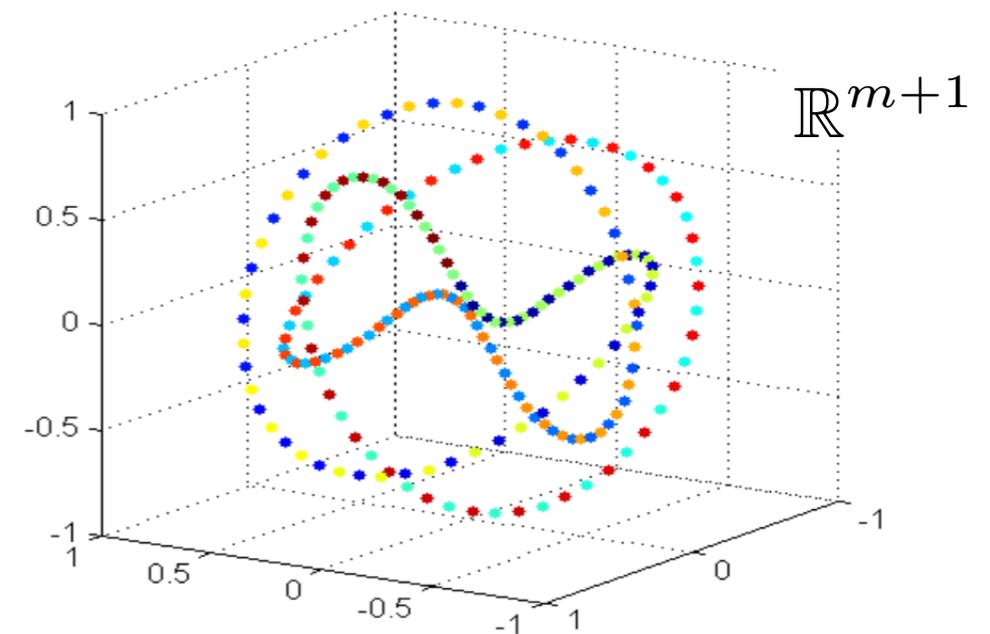
$$x \mapsto (\alpha(x), \alpha \circ \phi(x), \dots, \alpha \circ \phi^m(x))$$

is an embedding.

Application to supervised time series analysis

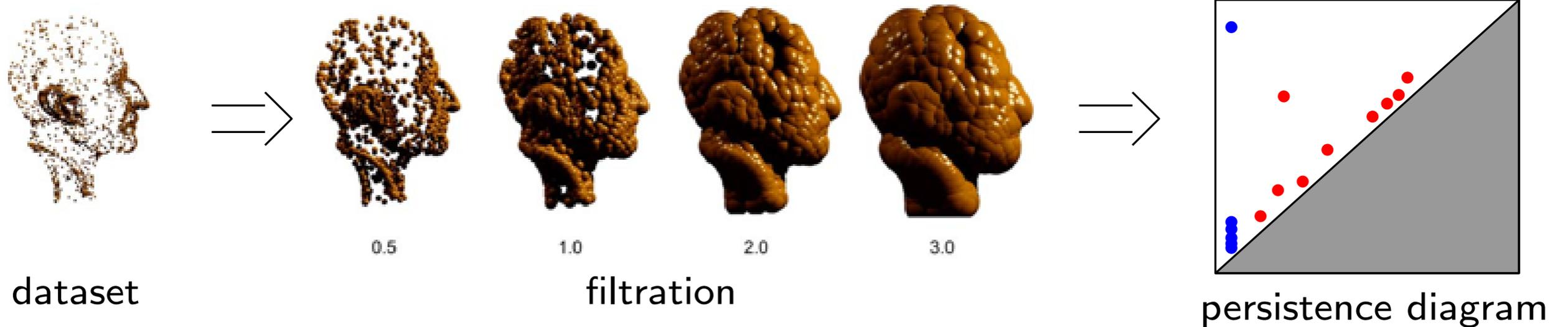


$TD_{m,\tau}$
 \Rightarrow
 (time-delay embedding)



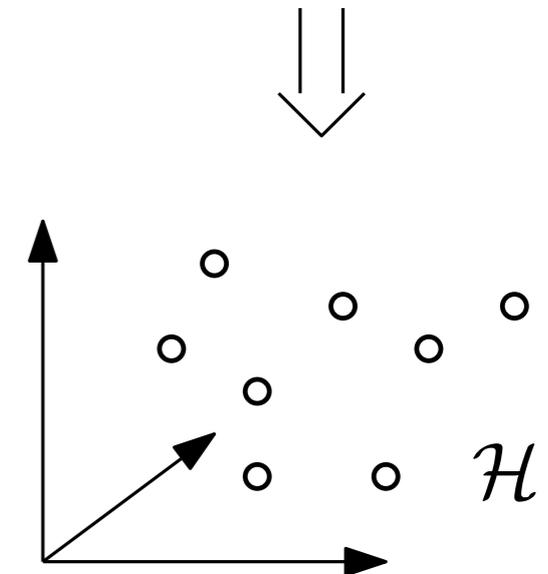
method / dataset	Gyro sensor	EEG dataset	EMG dataset
SVM + statistical features	67.6 ± 4.7	44.4 ± 19.8	15.0 ± 10.0
SVM + Betti sequence	63.5 ± 11.3	66.7 ± 5.6	49.6 ± 18.2
1-d CNN + dynamic time warping	6.4 ± 5.1	72.4 ± 6.1	15.0 ± 10.0
imaging CNN	18.9 ± 5.2	48.9 ± 4.2	10.0 ± 0.0
1-d CNN + Betti sequence	79.8 ± 5.0	75.38 ± 5.7	74.4 ± 10.6

Wrap'up



- kernels for persistence diagrams:

- stable
- discriminative
- easy to compute (closed-form expr., finite-dim. vectors)
- additive, universal, etc.



- other topic: integration of TDA into learning methods (clustering, NNs, etc.)