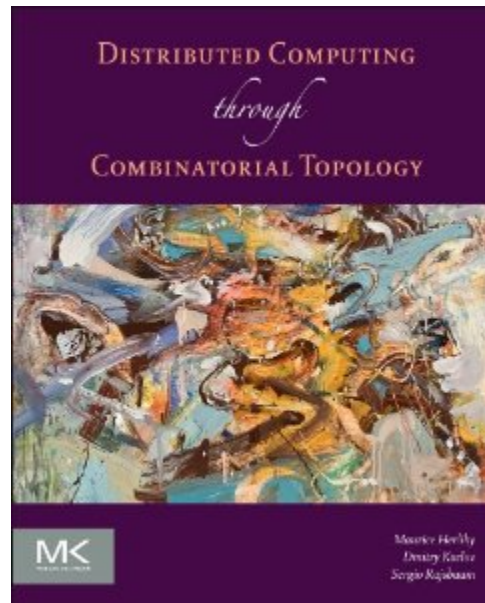


# Elements of Combinatorial Topology



Companion slides for  
**Distributed Computing  
Through Combinatorial Topology**  
Maurice Herlihy & Dmitry Kozlov & Sergio Rajsbaum  
Distributed Computing through  
Combinatorial Topology

# Road Map

Simplicial Complexes

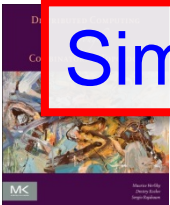
Standard Constructions

Carrier Maps

Connectivity

Subdivisions

Simplicial & Continuous Approximations



# Road Map

Simplicial Complexes

Standard Constructions

Carrier Maps

Connectivity

Subdivisions

Simplicial & Continuous Approximations

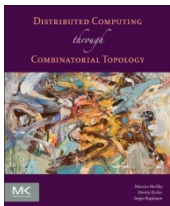
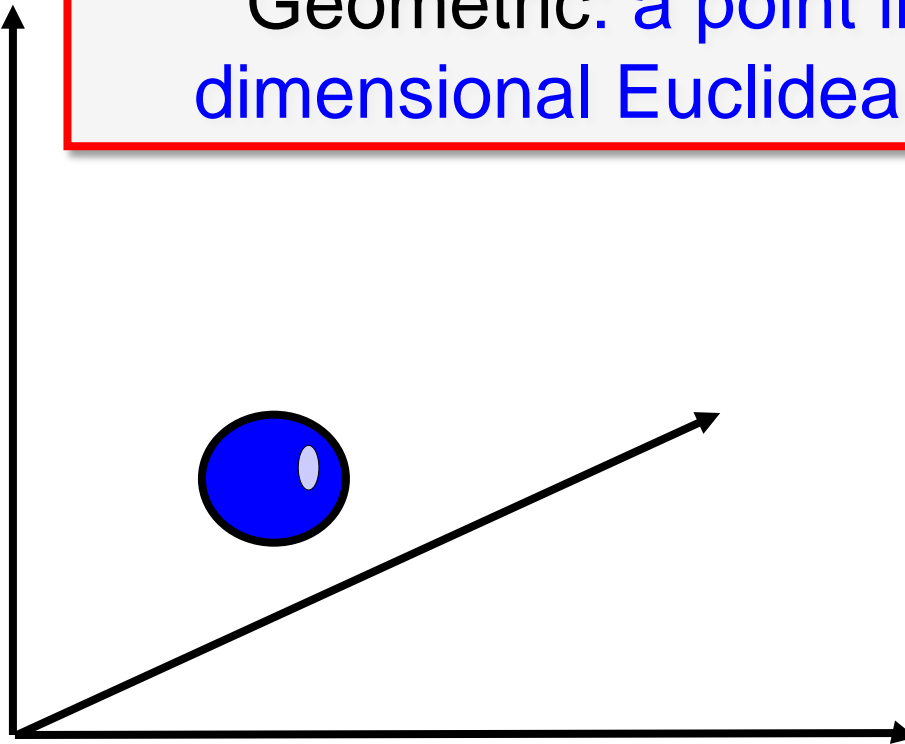




# A Vertex

Combinatorial: an element of a set

Geometric: a point in high-dimensional Euclidean Space



# Simplexes

Combinatorial: a set of vertexes

Geometric: convex hull of points in general position

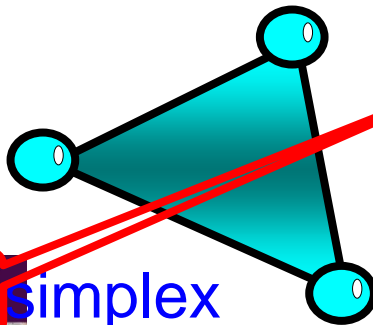


0-simplex

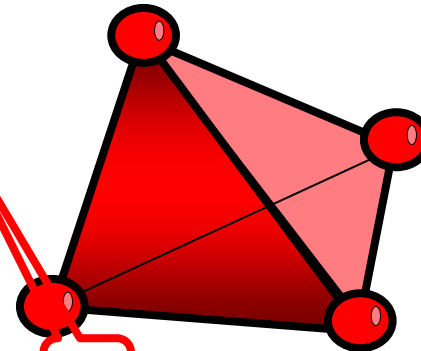


1-simplex

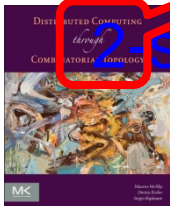
dimension



2-simplex



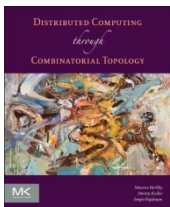
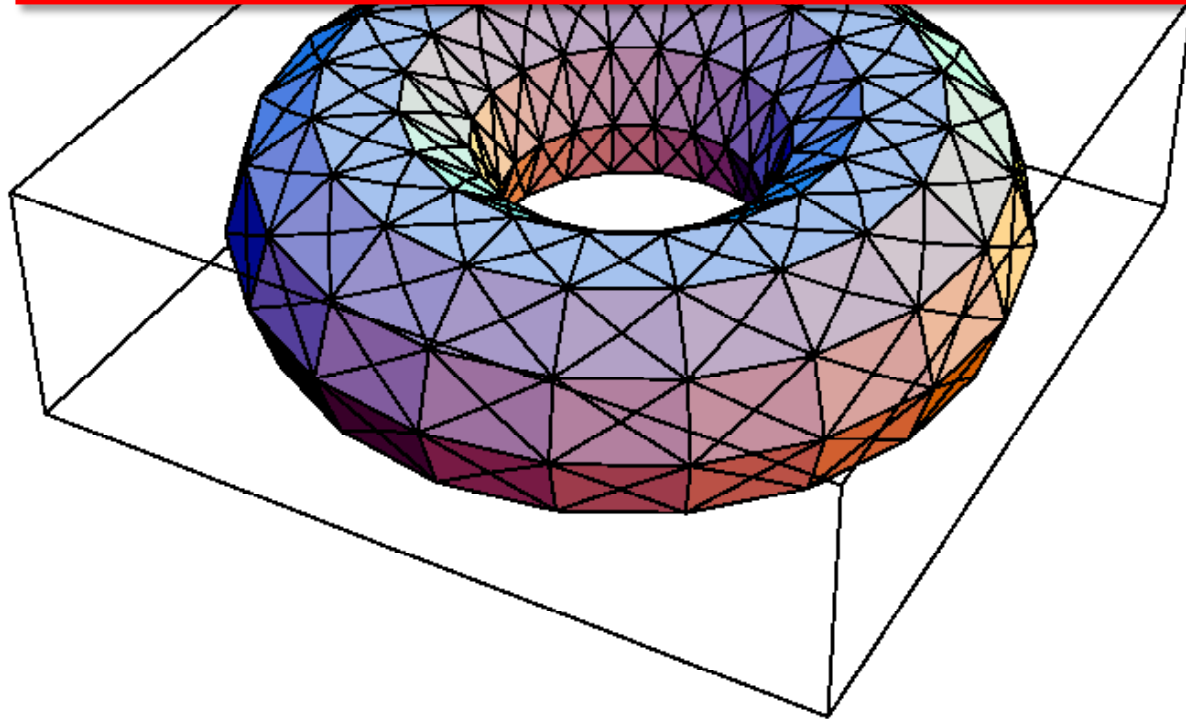
3-simplex



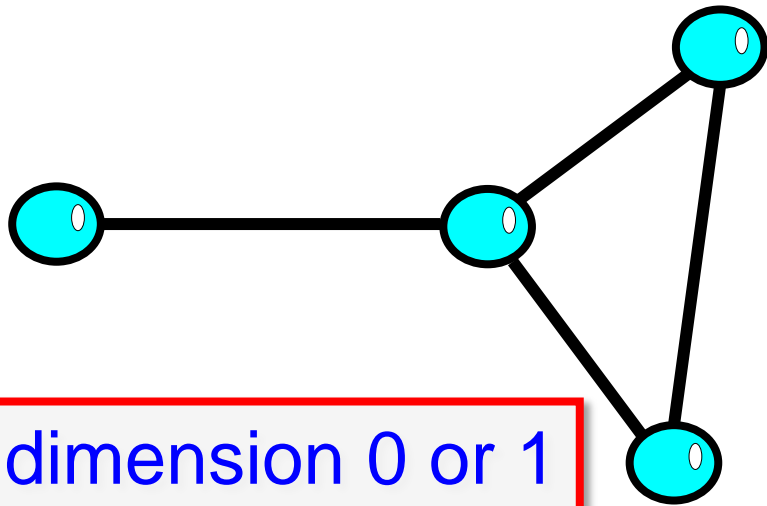
# Simplicial Complex

Combinatorial: a set of simplexes

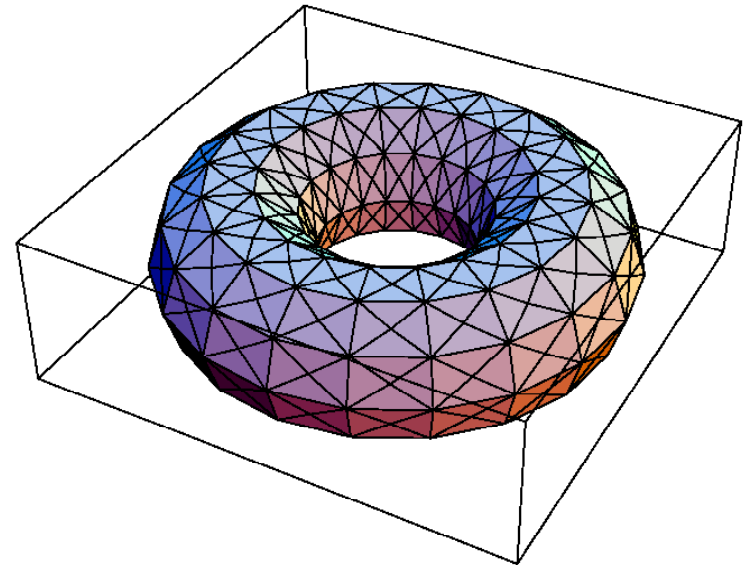
Geometric: simplexes “glued together” along faces ...



# Graphs vs Complexes



dimension 0 or 1



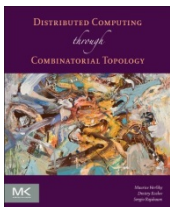
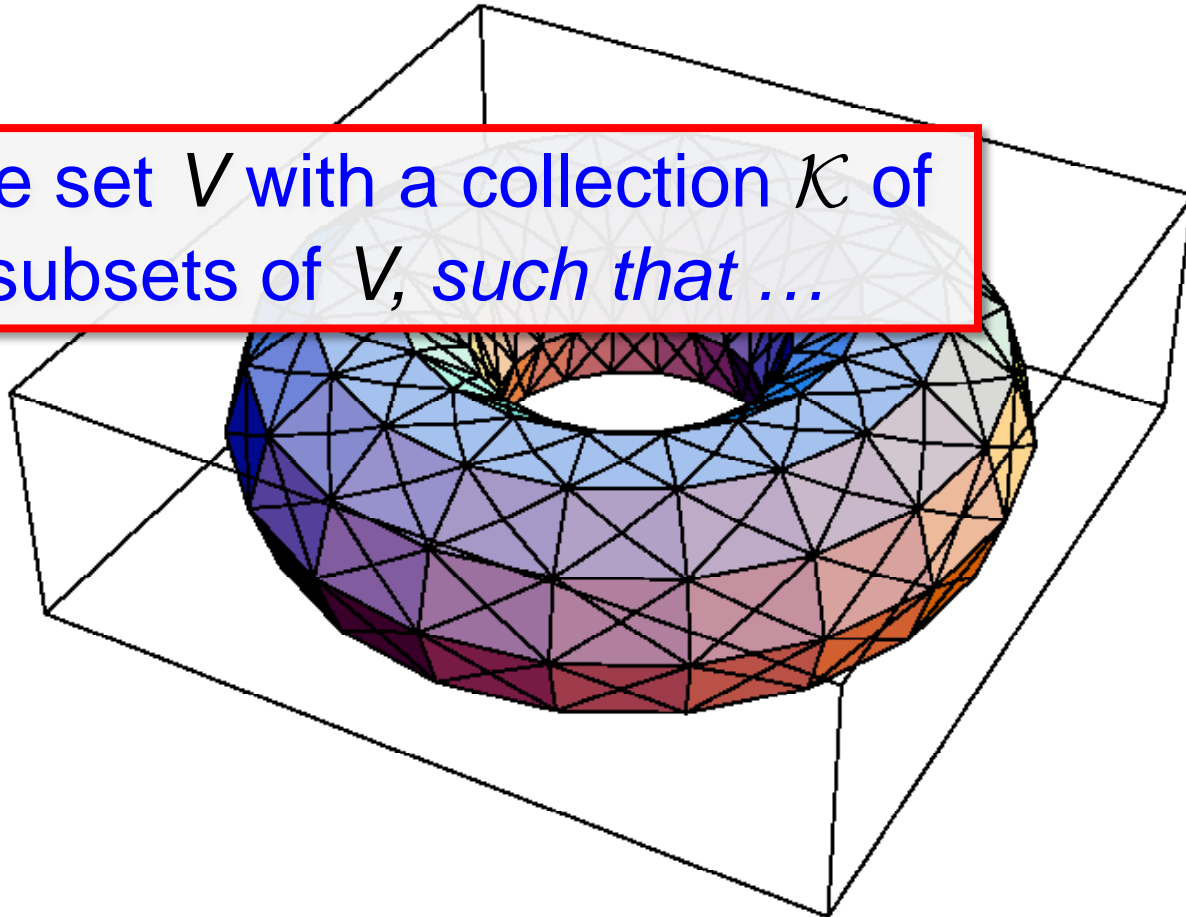
arbitrary dimension

complexes are a natural *generalization* of graphs



# Abstract Simplicial Complex

finite set  $V$  with a collection  $\mathcal{K}$  of subsets of  $V$ , such that ...

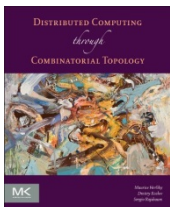
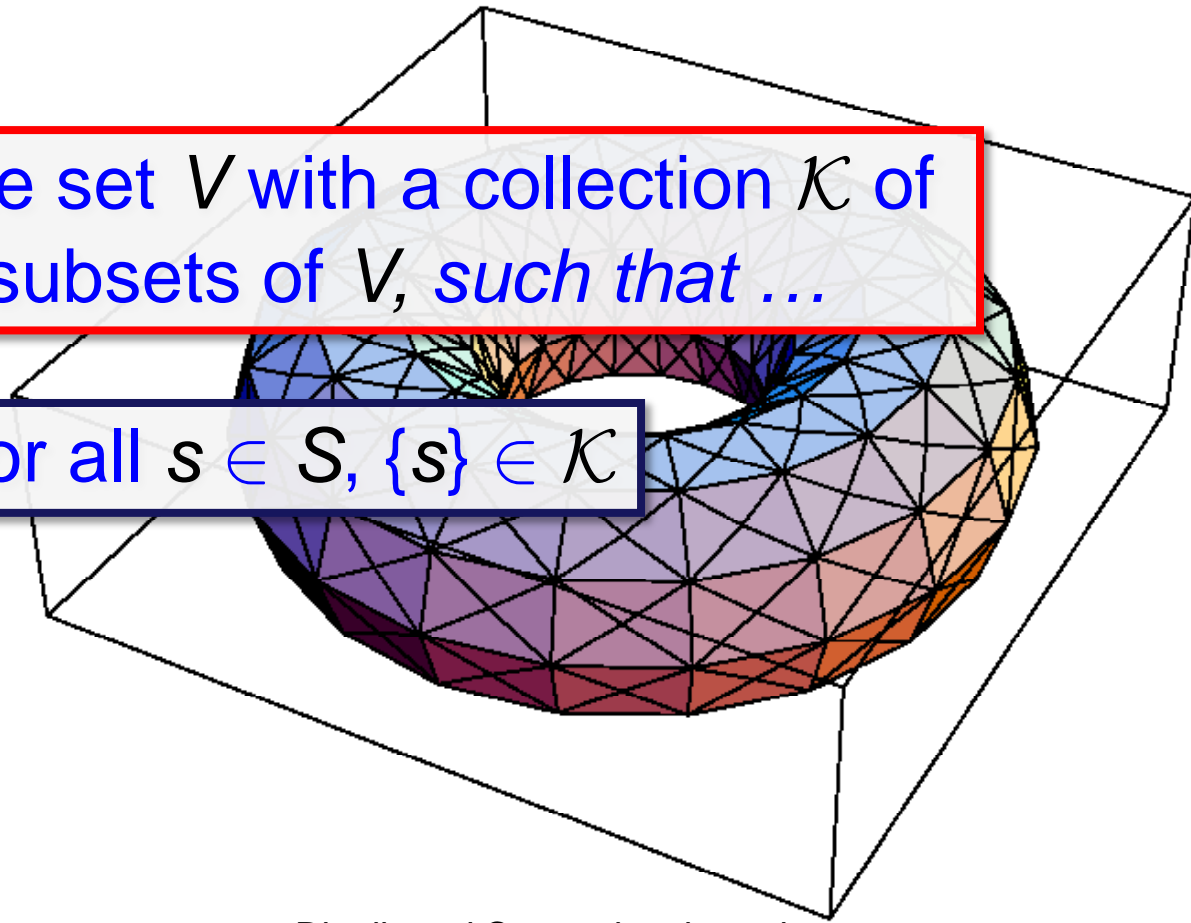




# Abstract Simplicial Complex

finite set  $V$  with a collection  $\mathcal{K}$  of subsets of  $V$ , such that ...

1. for all  $s \in \mathcal{S}$ ,  $\{s\} \in \mathcal{K}$

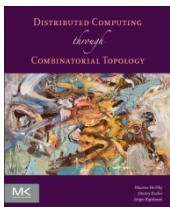


# Abstract Simplicial Complex

finite set  $S$  with a collection  $\mathcal{K}$  of subsets of  $S$ , such that ...

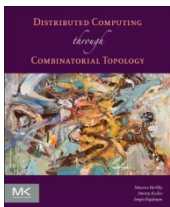
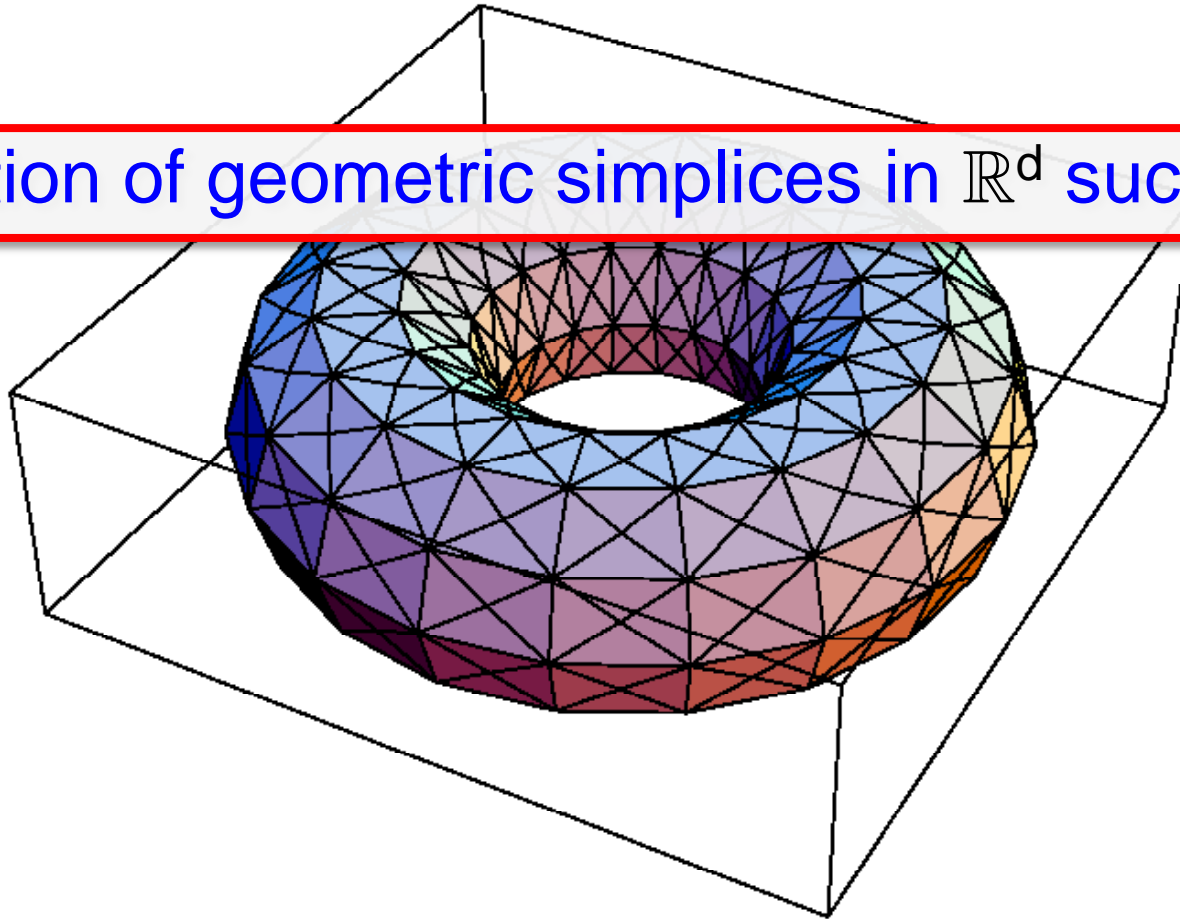
1. for all  $s \in S$ ,  $\{s\} \in \mathcal{K}$

2. for all  $X \in \mathcal{K}$ , and  $Y \subset X$ ,  $Y \in \mathcal{K}$



# Geometric Simplicial Complex

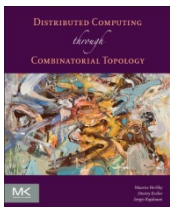
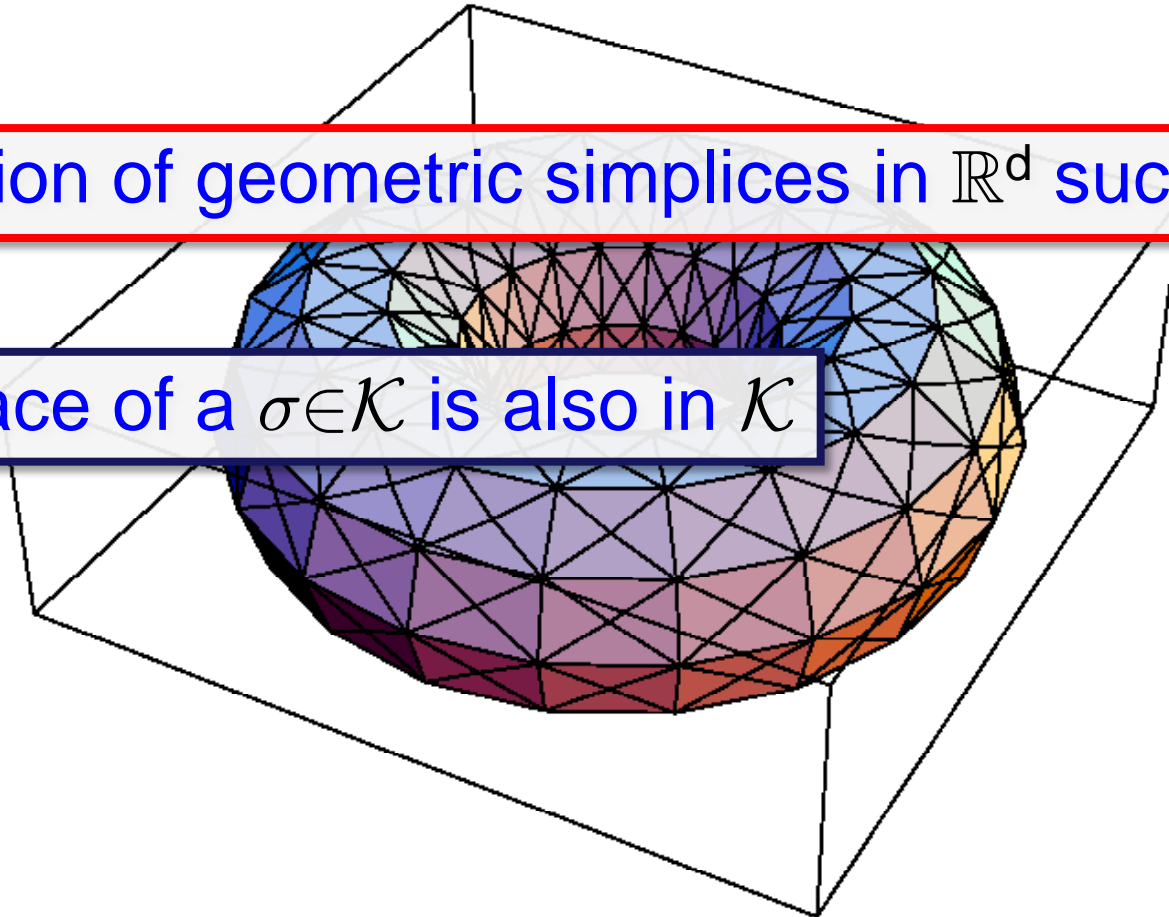
A collection of geometric simplices in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  such that



# Geometric Simplicial Complex

A collection of geometric simplices in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  such that

1. any face of a  $\sigma \in \mathcal{K}$  is also in  $\mathcal{K}$

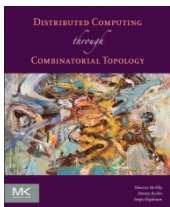


# Geometric Simplicial Complex

A collection of geometric simplices in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  such that

1. any face of a  $\sigma \in \mathcal{K}$  is also in  $\mathcal{K}$

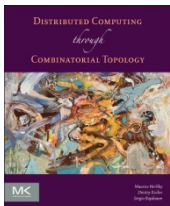
2. for all  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{K}$ , their intersection  $\sigma \cap \tau$  is a face of each of them.



# Abstract vs Geometric Complexes

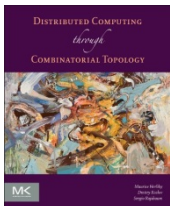
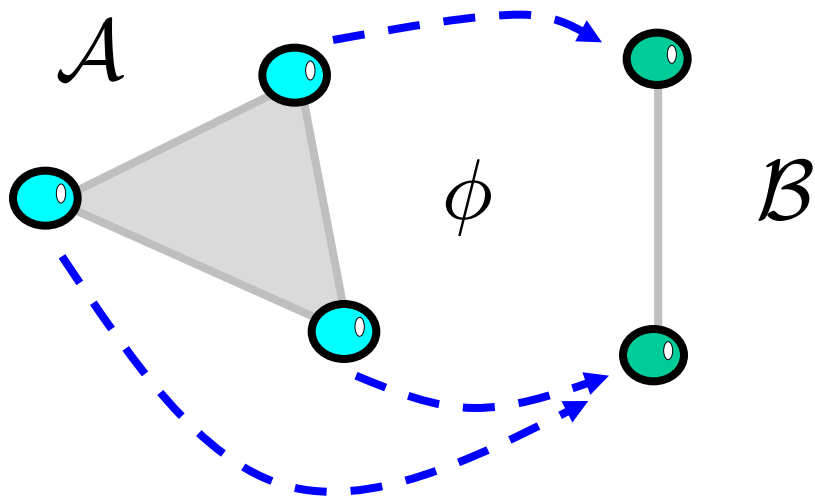
Abstract:  $\mathcal{A}$

Geometric:  $|\mathcal{A}|$

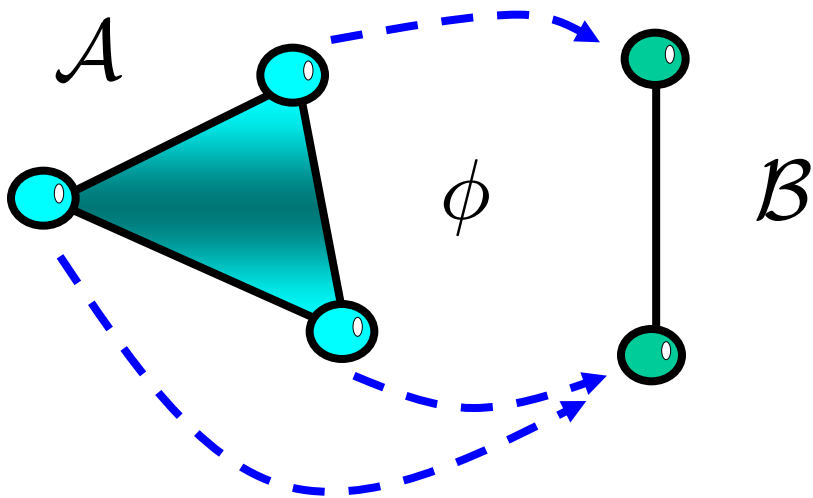


# Simplicial Maps

Vertex-to-vertex map ...



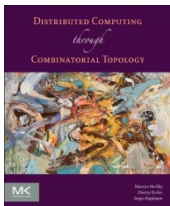
# Simplicial Map



Vertex-to-vertex map ...

that sends simplexes to simplexes

$$\phi: A \rightarrow B$$





# Road Map

Simplicial Complexes

**Standard Constructions**

Carrier Maps

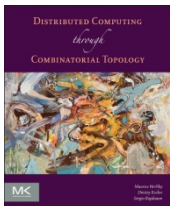
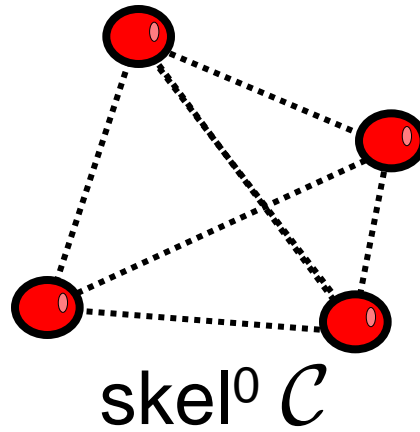
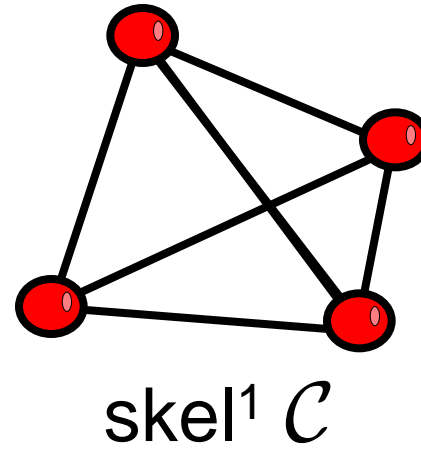
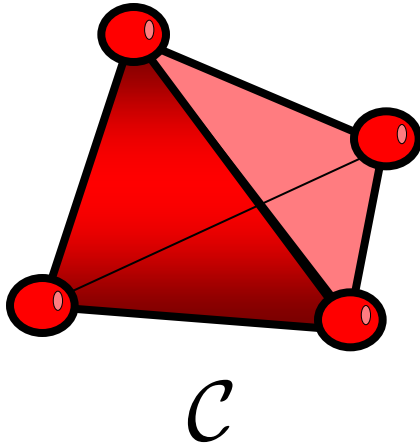
Connectivity

Subdivisions

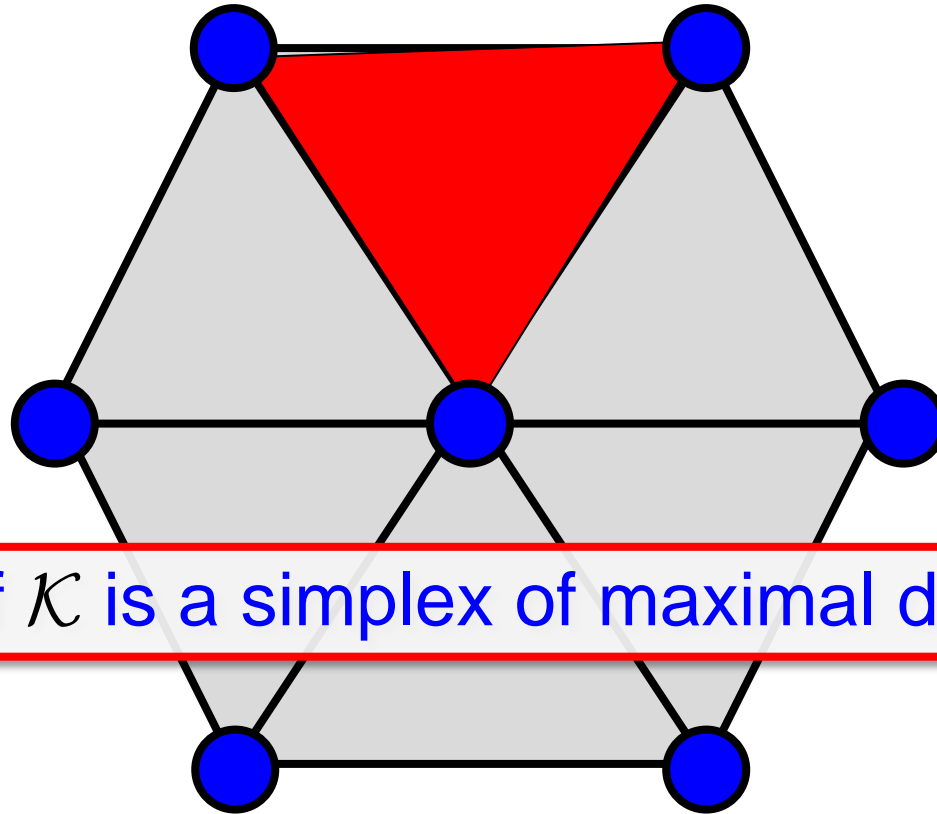
Simplicial & Continuous Approximations



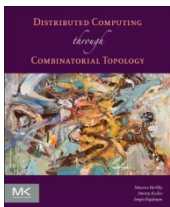
# Skeleton



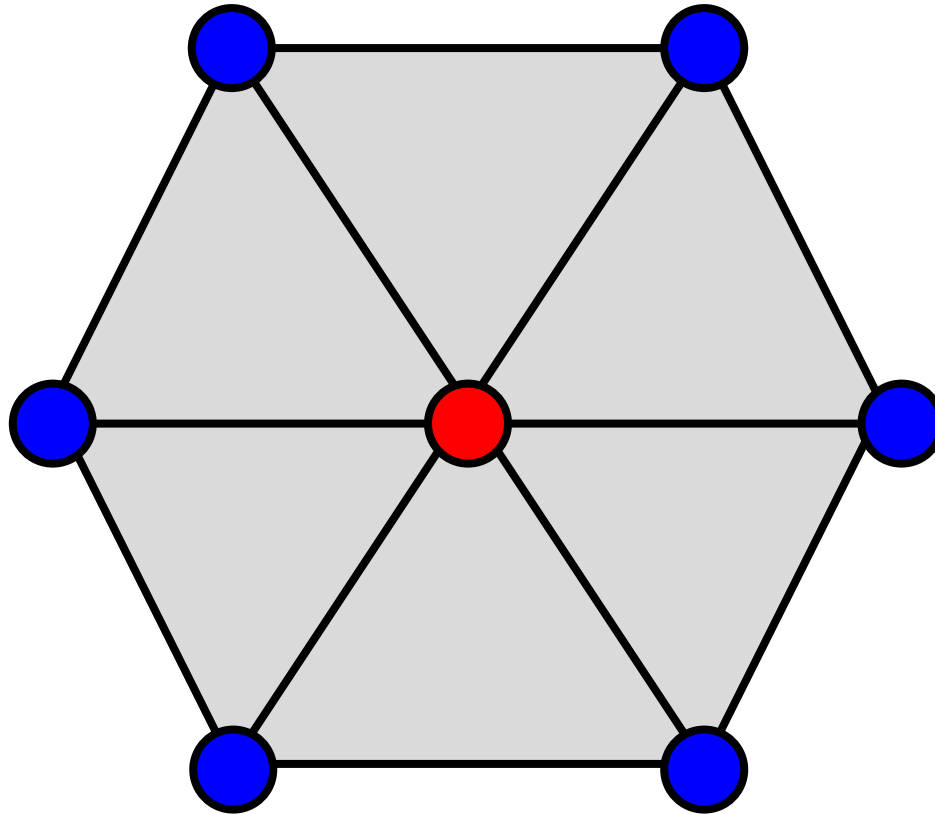
# Facet



A facet of  $\mathcal{K}$  is a simplex of maximal dimension



# Star

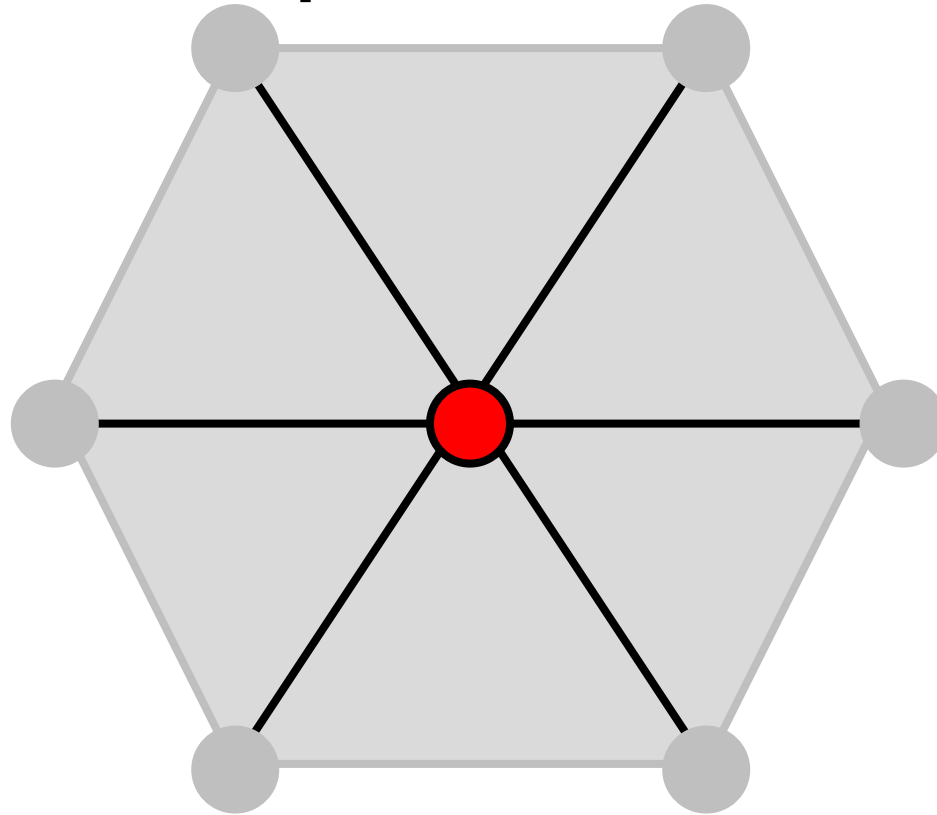


$\text{Star}(\sigma, \mathcal{K})$  is the complex of facets of  $\mathcal{K}$  containing  $\sigma$

Complex



# Open Star

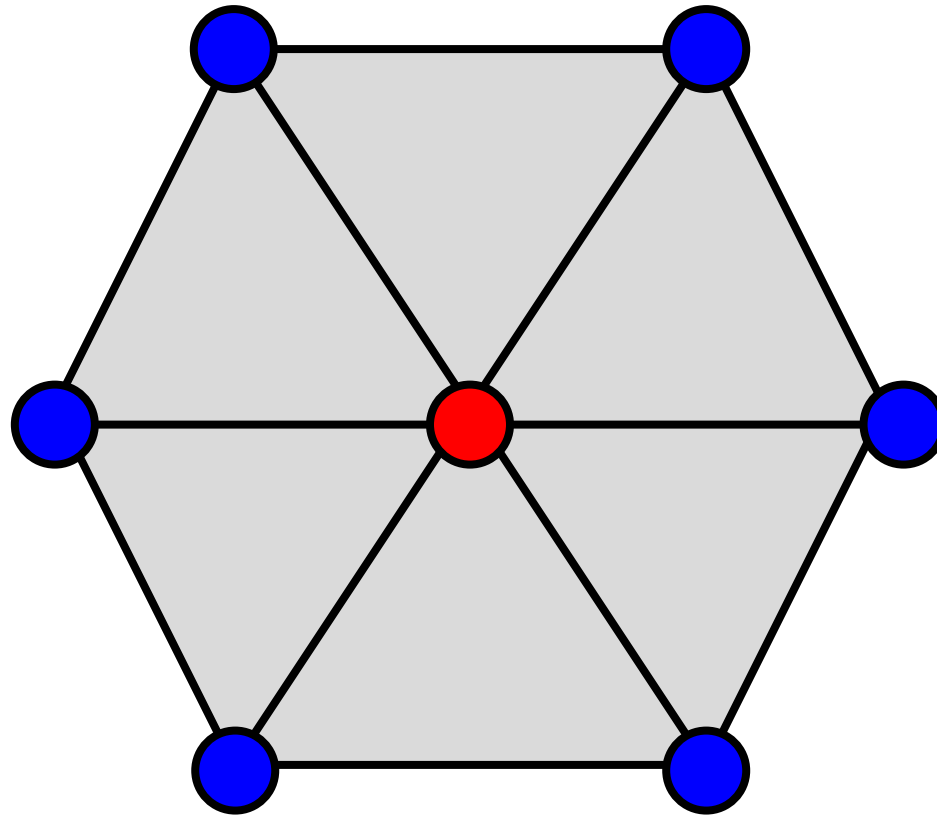


$\text{Star}^o(\sigma, \mathcal{K})$  union of interiors of simplexes containing  $\sigma$

Point Set



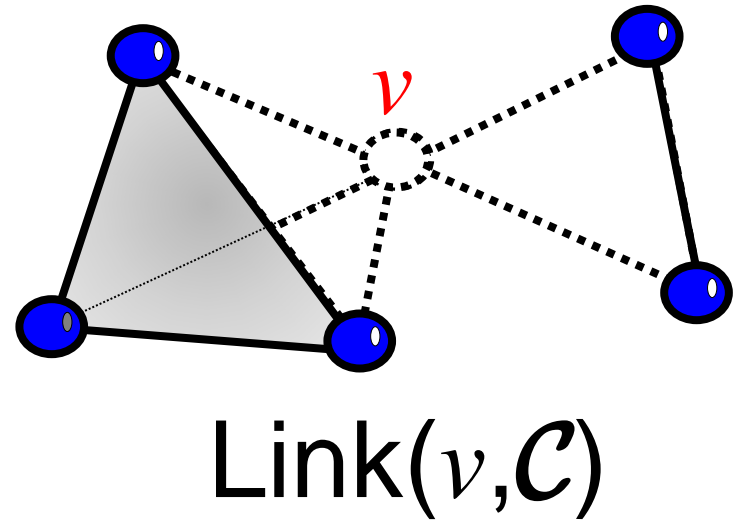
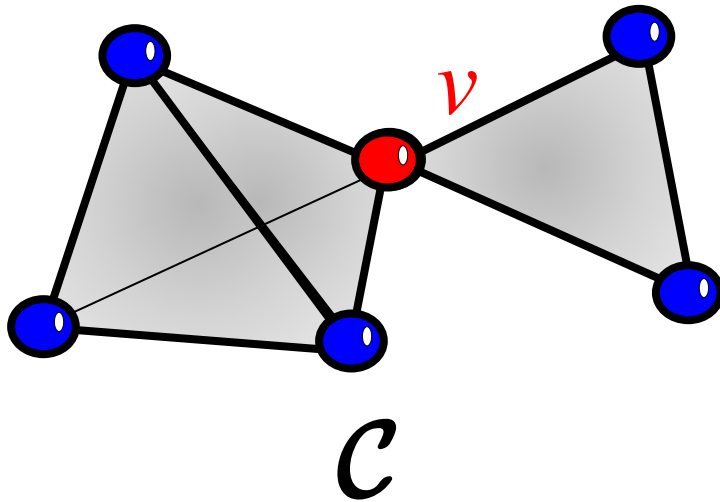
# Link



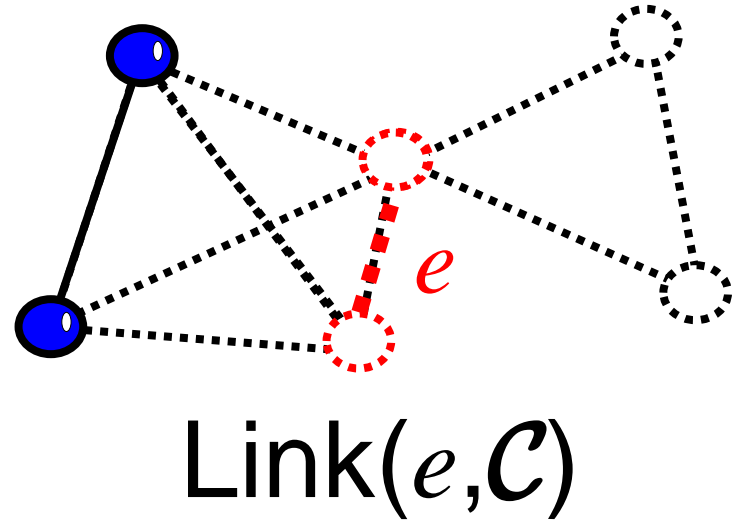
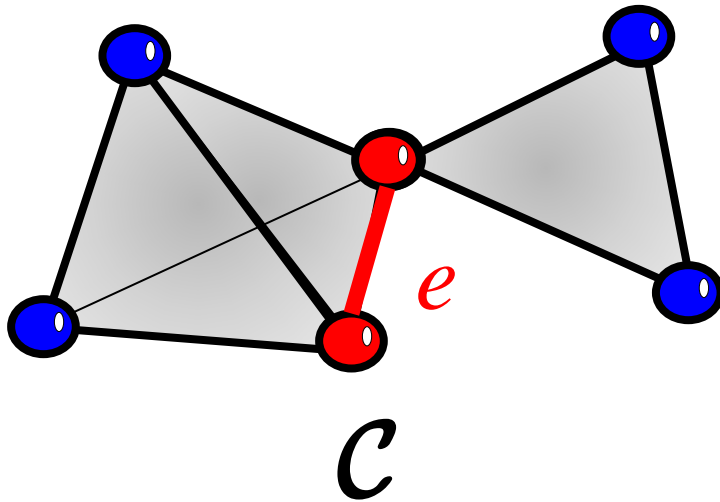
$\text{Link}(\sigma, \mathcal{K})$  is the complex of simplices of  $\text{Star}(\sigma, \mathcal{K})$  not containing  $\sigma$

Complex

# More Links



# More Links





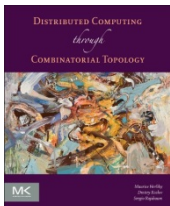
# Join

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be complexes with disjoint sets of vertices

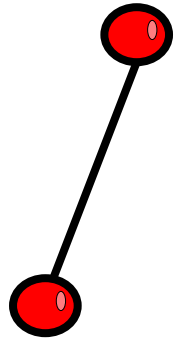
their *join*  $\mathcal{A} * \mathcal{B}$  is the complex

with vertices  $V(\mathcal{A}) \cup V(\mathcal{B})$

and simplices  $\alpha \cup \beta$ , where  $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ , and  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}$ .



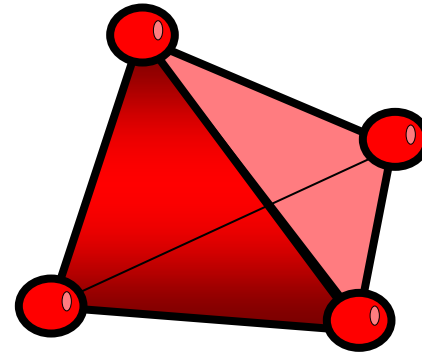
# Join



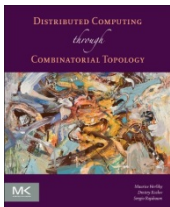
$A$



$B$



$A^*B$



# Road Map

Simplicial Complexes

Standard Constructions

**Carrier Maps**

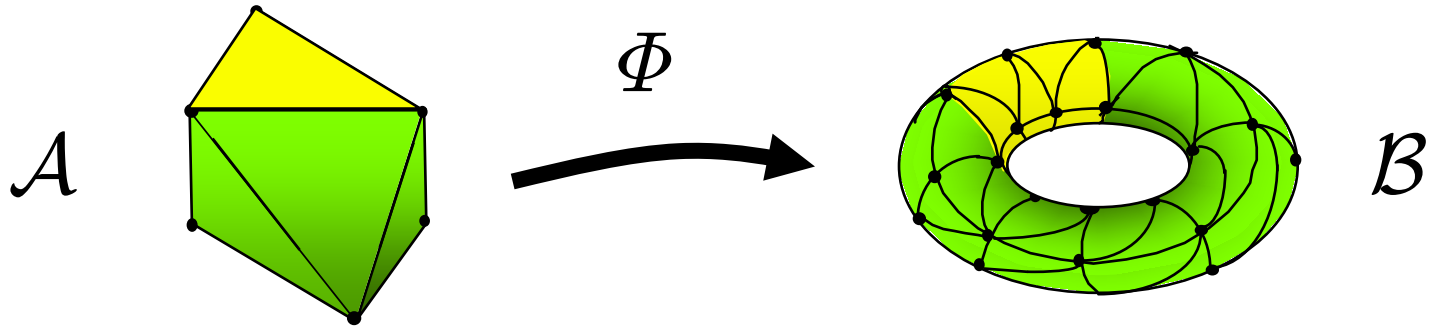
Connectivity

Subdivisions

Simplicial & Continuous Approximations



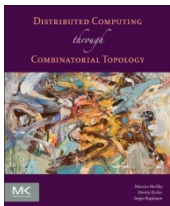
# Carrier Map



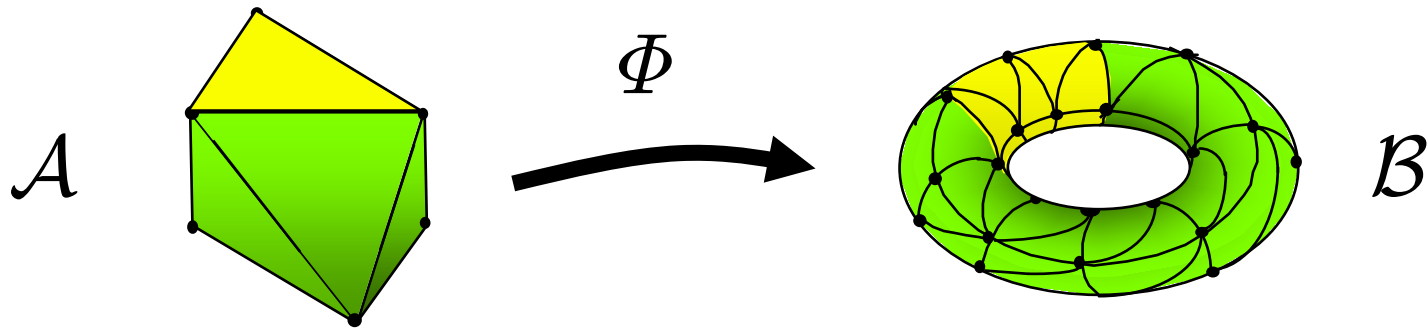
Maps simplex of  $A$

to subcomplex of  $B$

$$\Phi: A \rightarrow 2^B$$



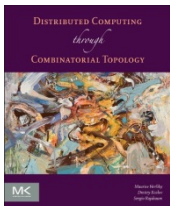
# Carrier Maps are Monotonic



If  $\tau \subseteq \sigma$  then  $\Phi(\tau) \subseteq \Phi(\sigma)$

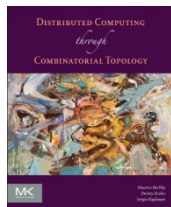
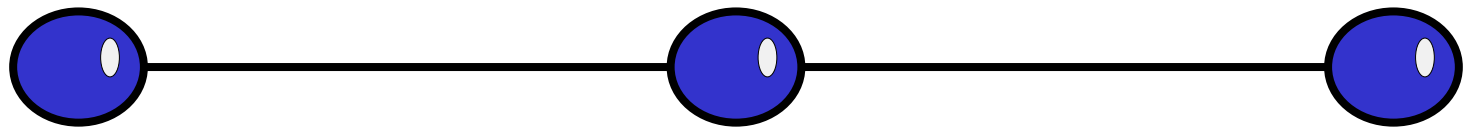
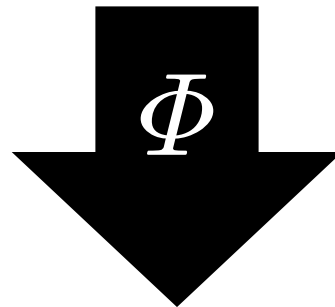
or

for  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\Phi(\sigma \cap \tau) \subseteq \Phi(\sigma) \cap \Phi(\tau)$



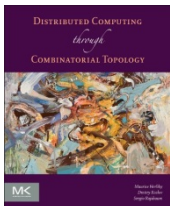
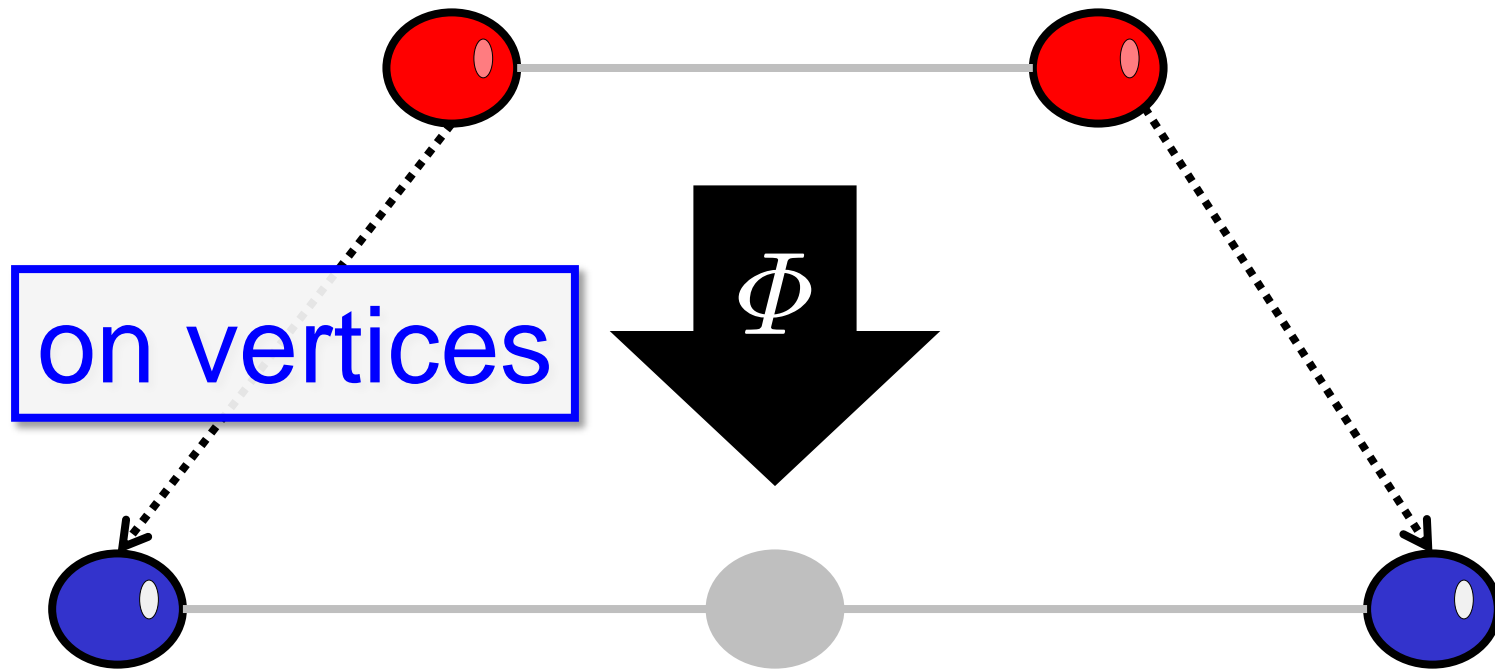


# Example

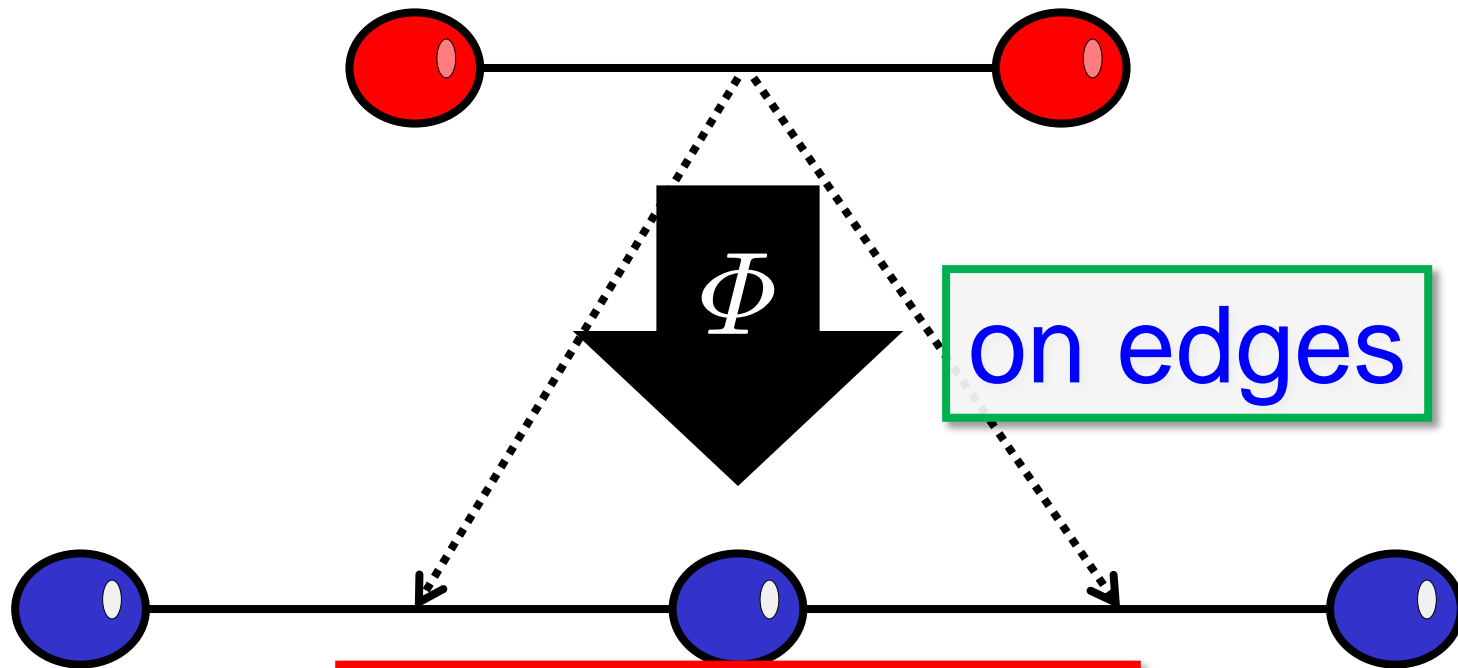




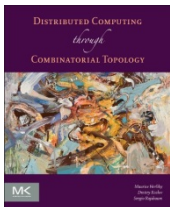
# Example



# Example

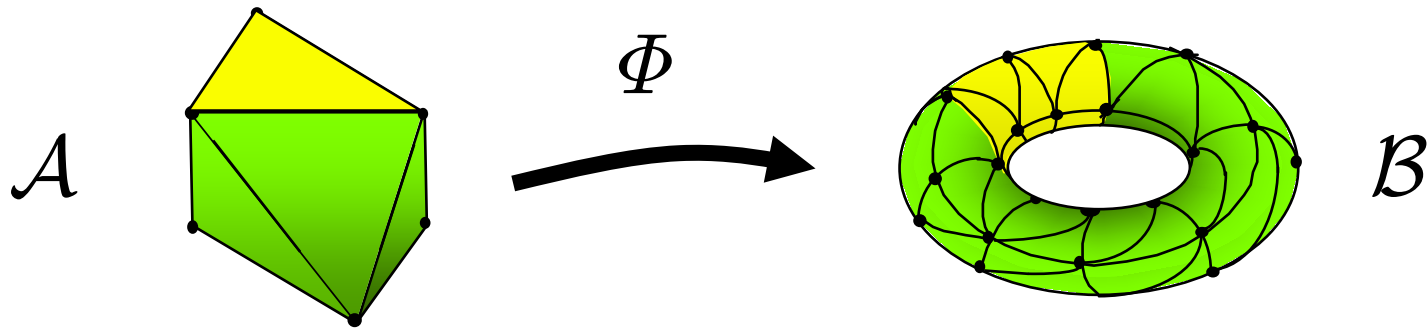


There is no simplicial map carried by  $\Phi$



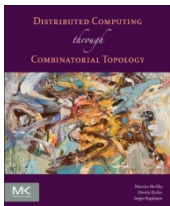


# Strict Carrier Maps

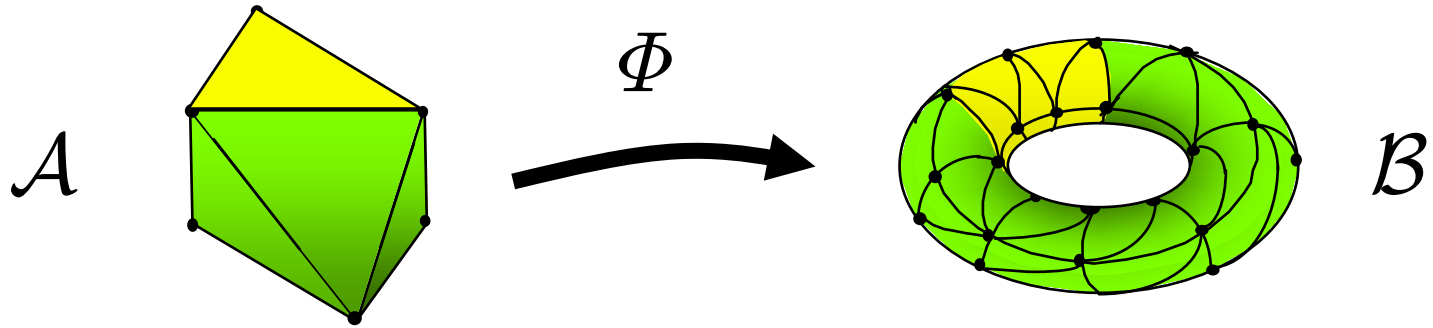


for all  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\Phi(\sigma \cap \tau) = \Phi(\sigma) \cap \Phi(\tau)$

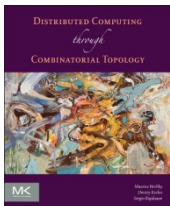
replace  $\subseteq$  with  $=$



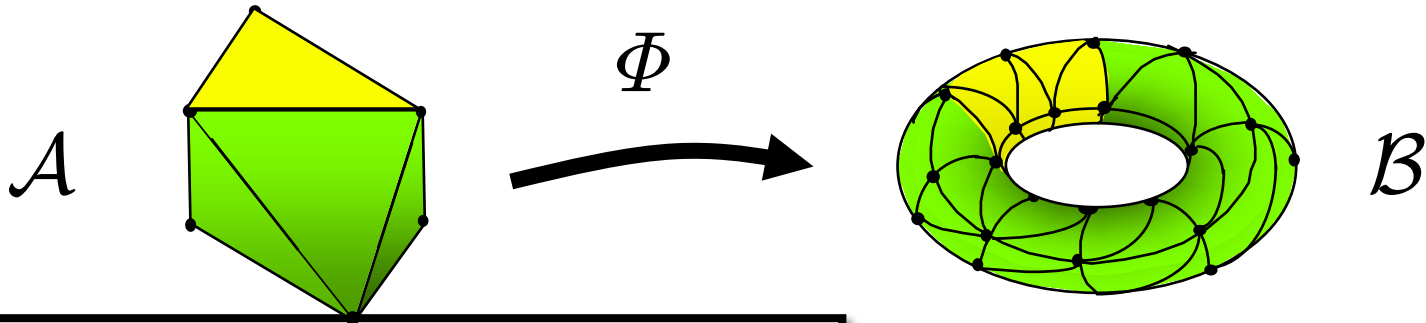
# Rigid Carrier Maps



for  $\sigma \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\Phi(\sigma)$  is pure of dimension  $\dim \sigma$



# Carrier of a Simplex



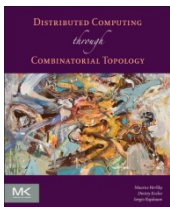
given *strict*  $\Phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{B}}$

for each  $\tau \in \mathcal{B}$ ,

$\exists$  unique smallest  $\sigma \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\tau \in \Phi(\sigma)$ .

$$\sigma = \text{Car}(\tau, \Phi(\sigma))$$

sometimes omitted



# Carrier Map Carried By Carrier Map

Given carrier maps

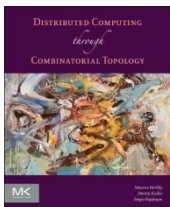
$$\Phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{B}}$$

$$\Psi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{B}}$$

$\Phi$  is carried by  $\Psi$  if

for all  $\sigma \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\Phi(\sigma) \subseteq \Psi(\sigma)$

written:  $\Phi \subseteq \Psi$



# Simplicial Map Carried By Carrier Map

Given carrier and simplicial maps

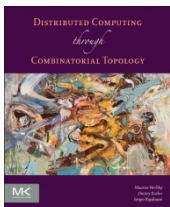
$$\Phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{B}}$$

$$\varphi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$$

$\varphi$  is carried by  $\Phi$  if

for all  $\sigma \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\varphi(\sigma) \subseteq \Phi(\sigma)$

written:  $\varphi \subseteq \Phi$



# Continuous Map Carried By Carrier Map

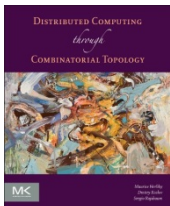
Given carrier and continuous maps

$$\Phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{B}}$$

$$f: |\mathcal{A}| \rightarrow |\mathcal{B}|$$

$f$  is carried by  $\Phi$  if

for all  $\sigma \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $f(\sigma) \subseteq |\Phi(\sigma)|$



# Compositions

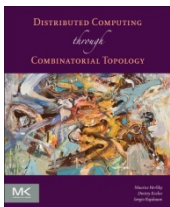
Given carrier maps

$$\Phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{B}}$$

$$\Psi: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{C}}$$

their composition is

$$(\Psi \circ \Phi)(\sigma) := \bigcup_{\tau \in \Phi(\sigma)} \Psi(\tau)$$



# Theorem

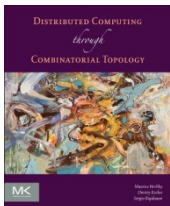
If  $\Phi, \Psi$  are both

strict

so is  $\Phi \circ \Psi$

rigid

so is  $\Phi \circ \Psi$





# Compositions

Given carrier and simplicial maps

$$\Phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{B}}$$

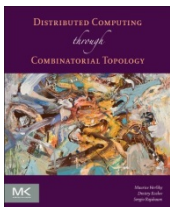
$$\varphi: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

their *composition is the carrier map*

$$(\Phi \circ \varphi): \mathcal{C} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{B}}$$

defined by

$$(\Phi \circ \varphi)(\sigma) := \Phi(\varphi(\sigma))$$



# Compositions

Given carrier and simplicial maps

$$\Phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{B}}$$

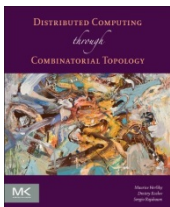
$$\varphi: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

their *composition is the carrier map*

$$(\varphi \circ \Phi): \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{C}}$$

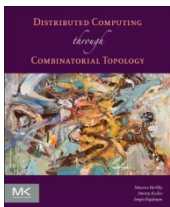
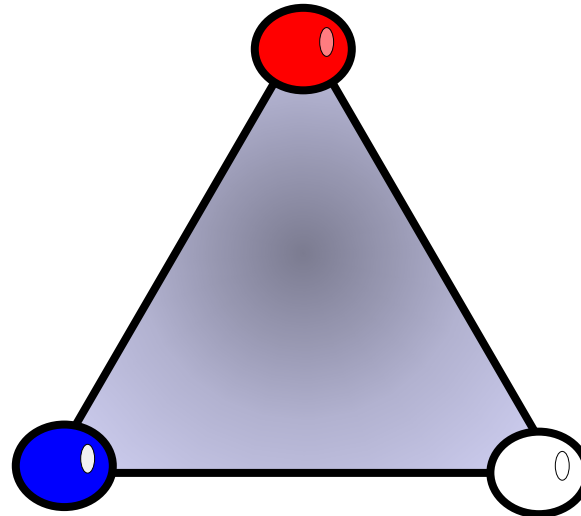
defined by

$$(\Phi \circ \varphi)(\sigma) := \bigcup_{\tau \in \Phi(\sigma)} \varphi(\tau)$$

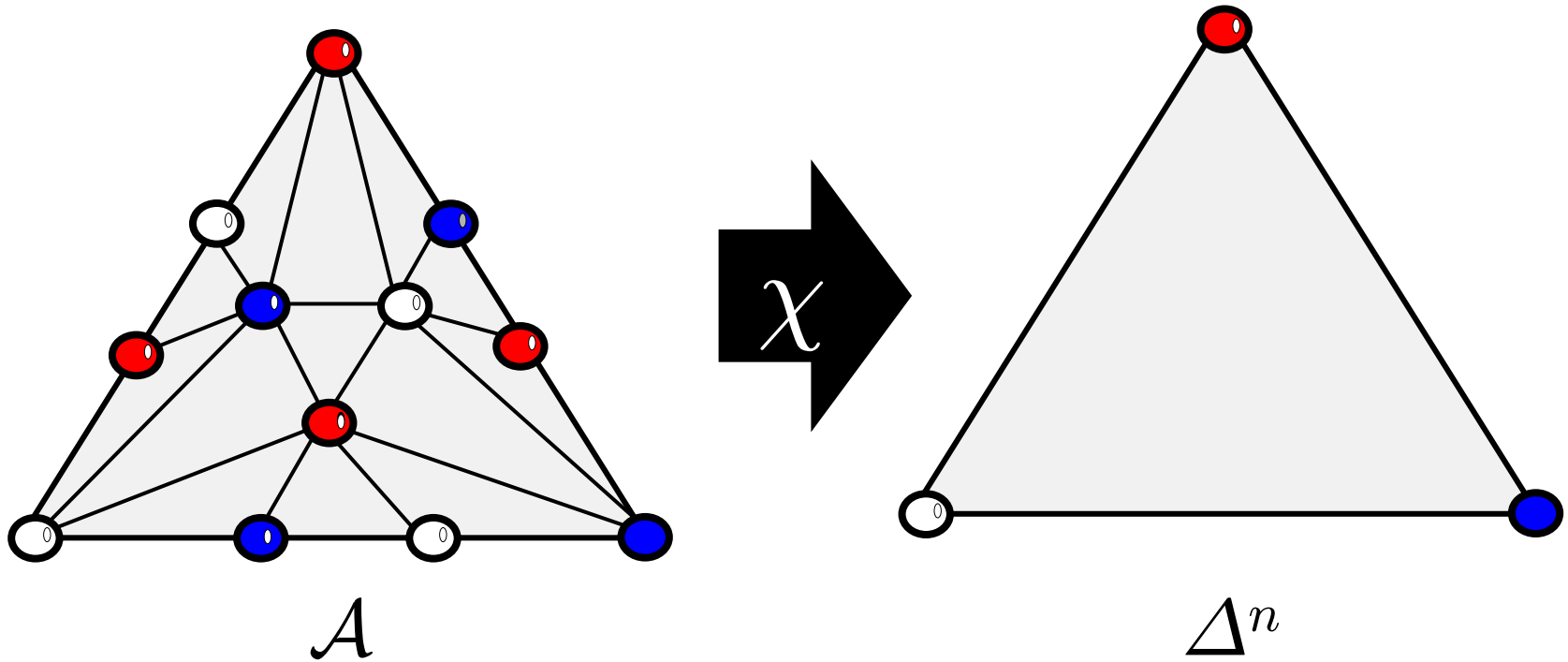


# Colorings

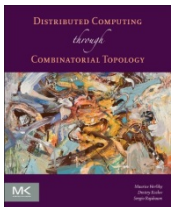
$$\Delta^n :=$$



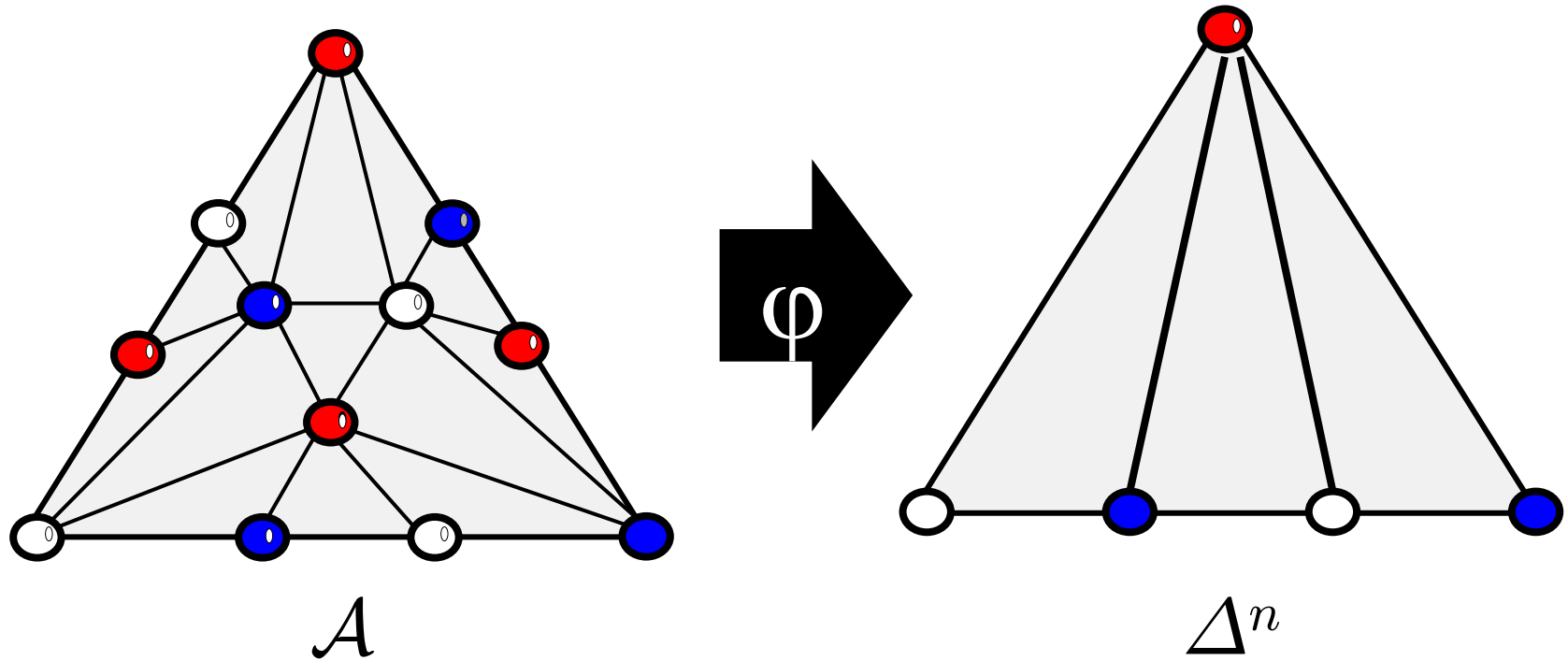
# Chromatic Complex



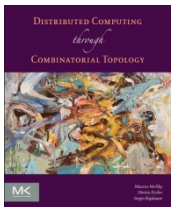
rigid simplicial map



# Color-Preserving Simplicial Map



color of  $v = \text{color of } \varphi(v)$



# Road Map

Simplicial Complexes

Standard Constructions

Carrier Maps

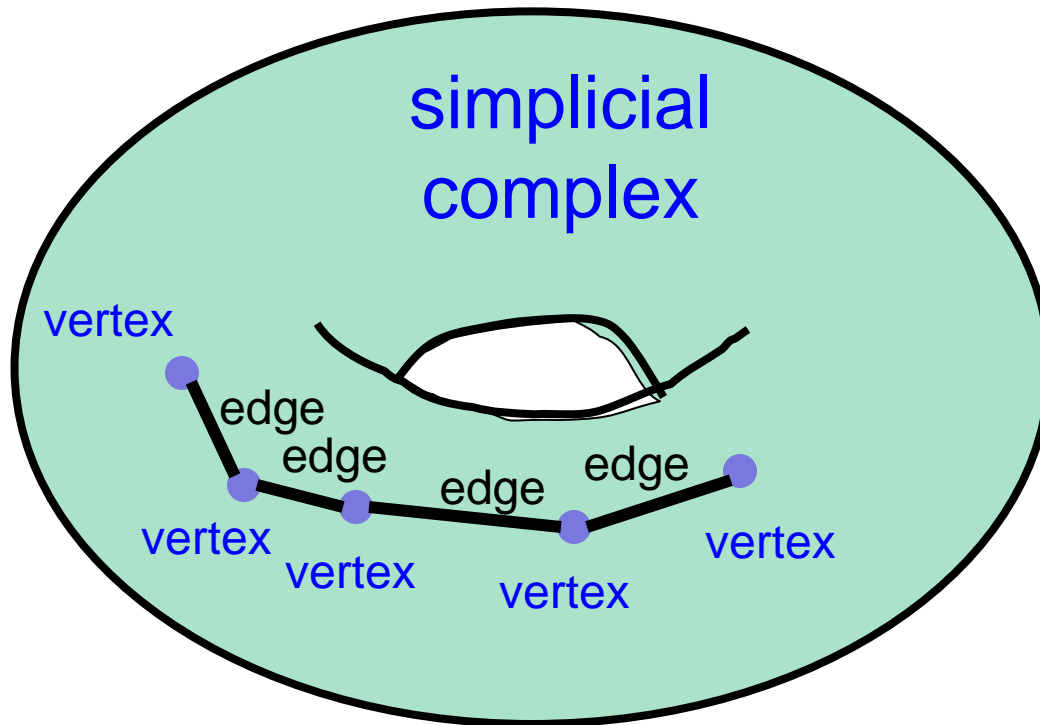
Connectivity

Subdivisions

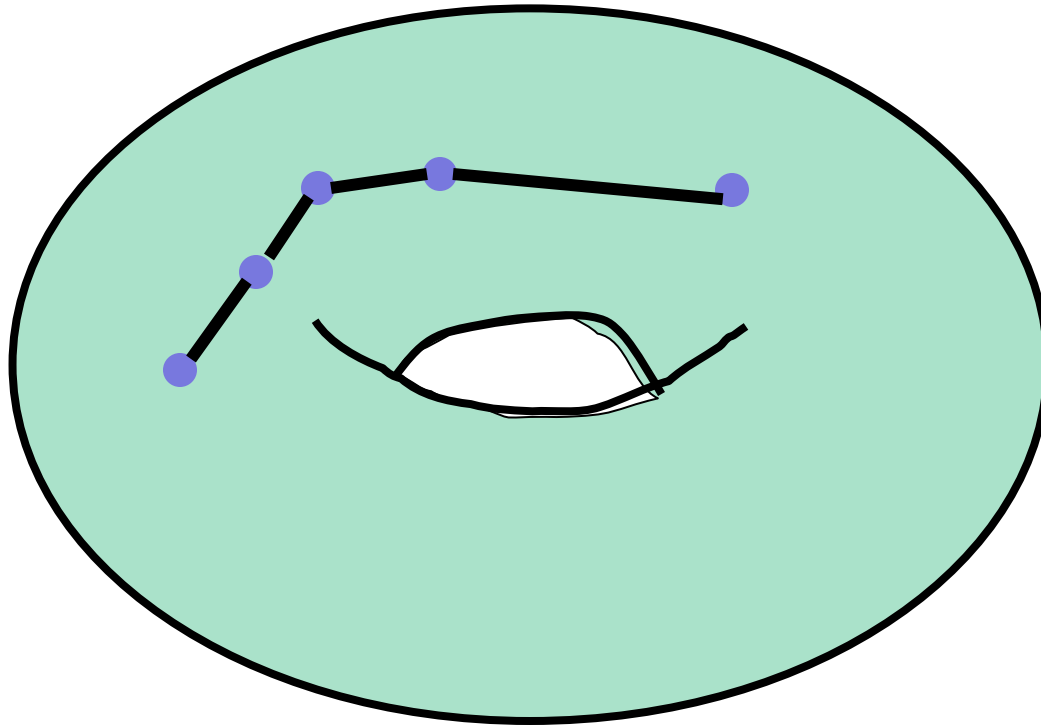
Simplicial & Continuous Approximations



# A Path



# Path Connected

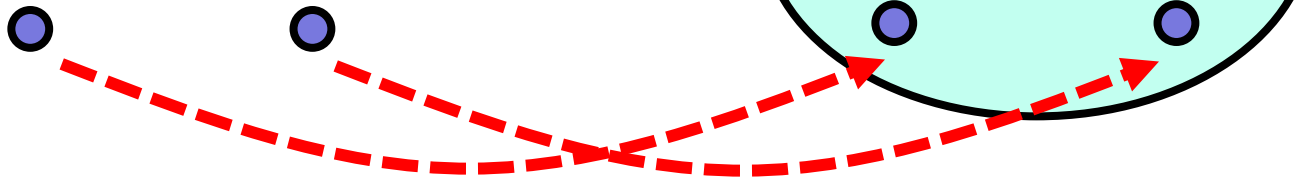


Any two vertexes can be linked by a path



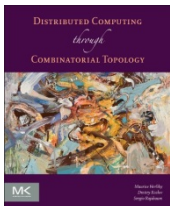
# Rethinking Path Connectivity

0-sphere

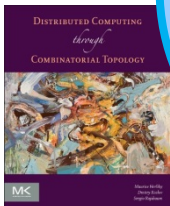
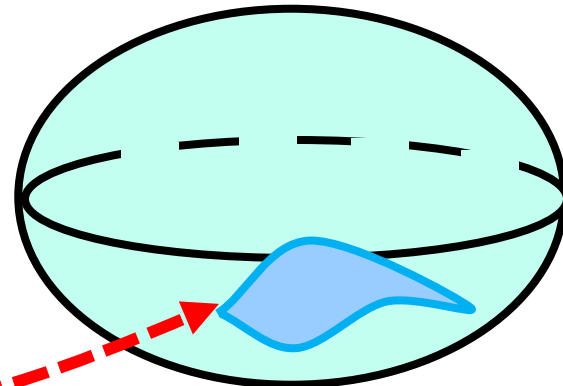
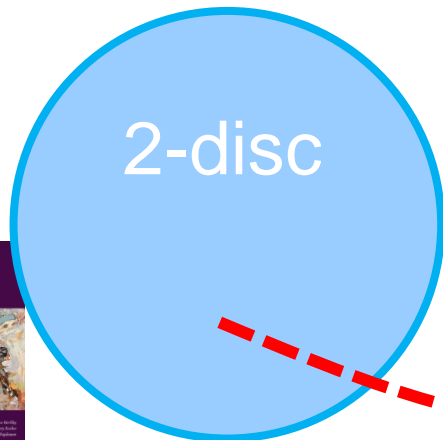
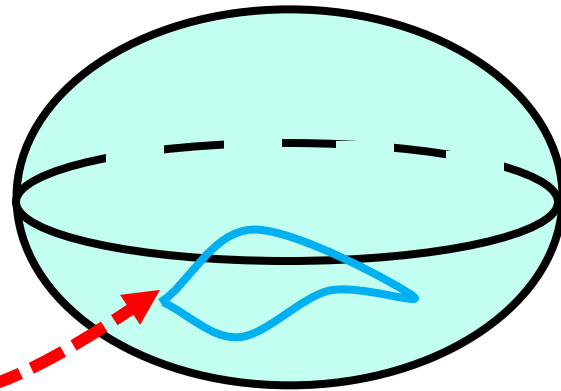
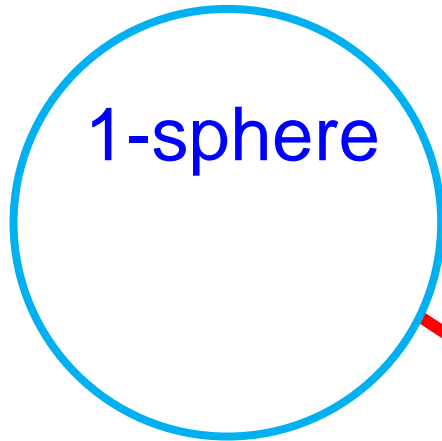


Let's call this complex *0-connected*

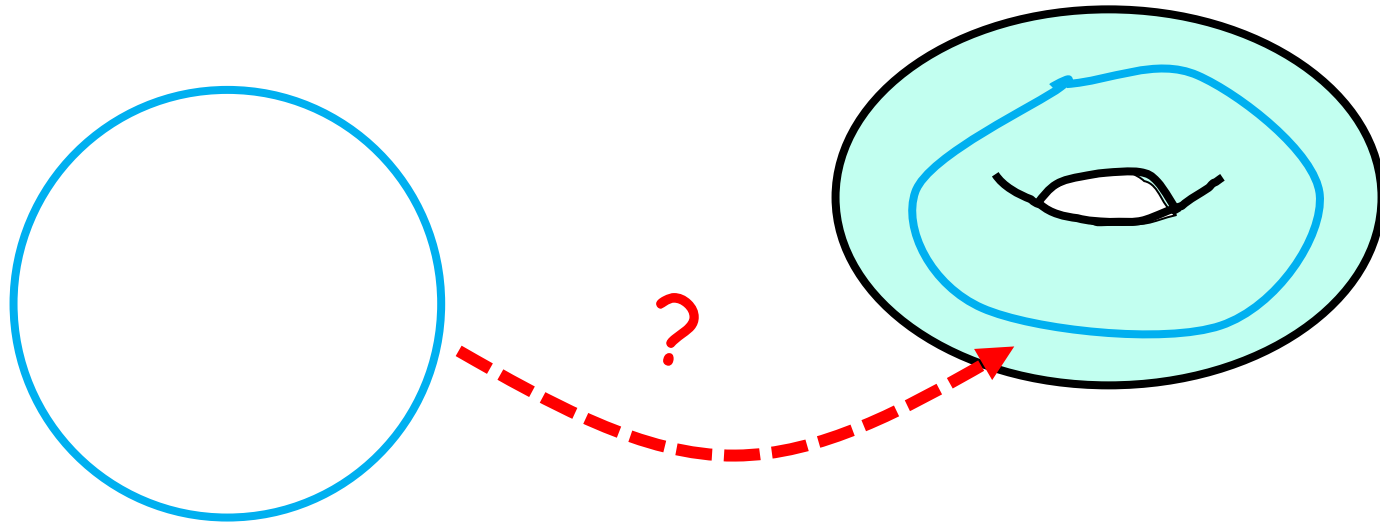
1-disc



# 1-Connectivity

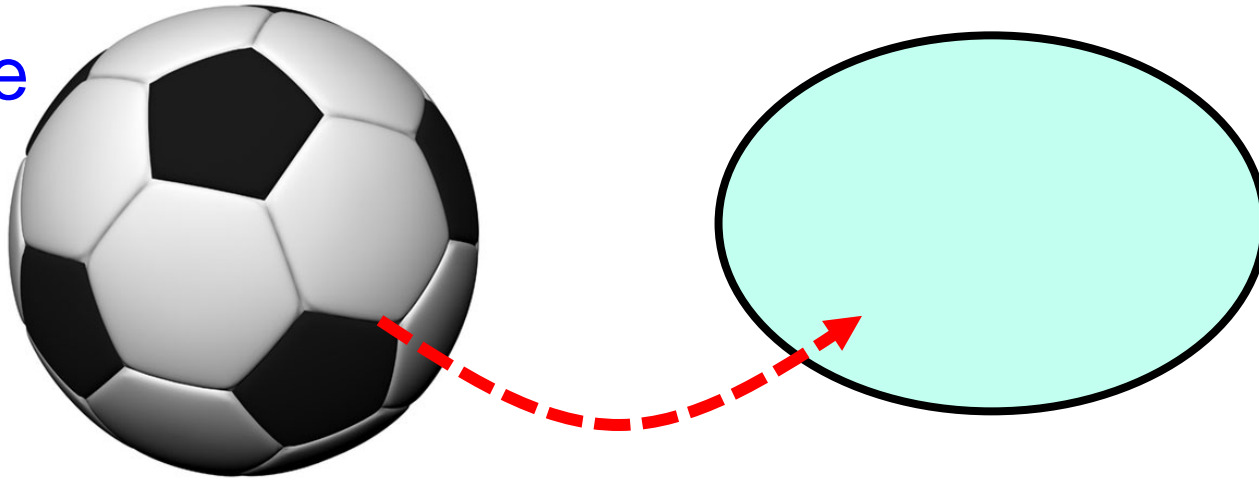


# This Complex is not 1-Connected

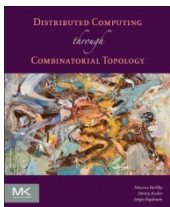
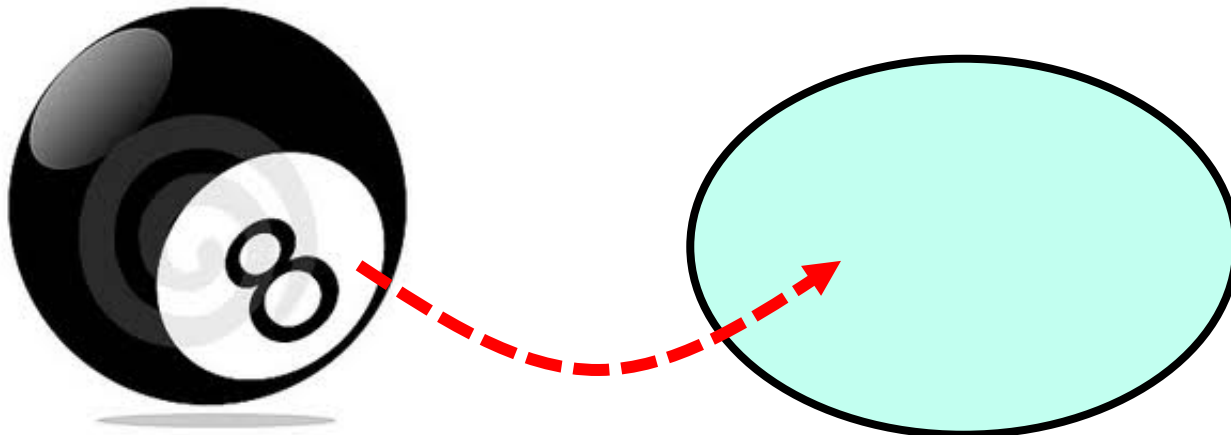


# 2-Connectivity

2-sphere



3-disk



# $n$ -connectivity

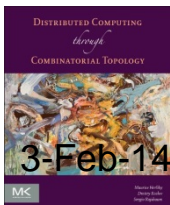
$\mathcal{C}$  is  $n$ -connected, if, for  $m \leq n$ , every continuous map of the  $m$ -sphere

$$f : S^m \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

can be extended to a continuous map of the  $(m+1)$ -disk

$$f : D^{m+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

$(-1)$ -connected is non-empty



# Road Map

Simplicial Complexes

Standard Constructions

Carrier Maps

Connectivity

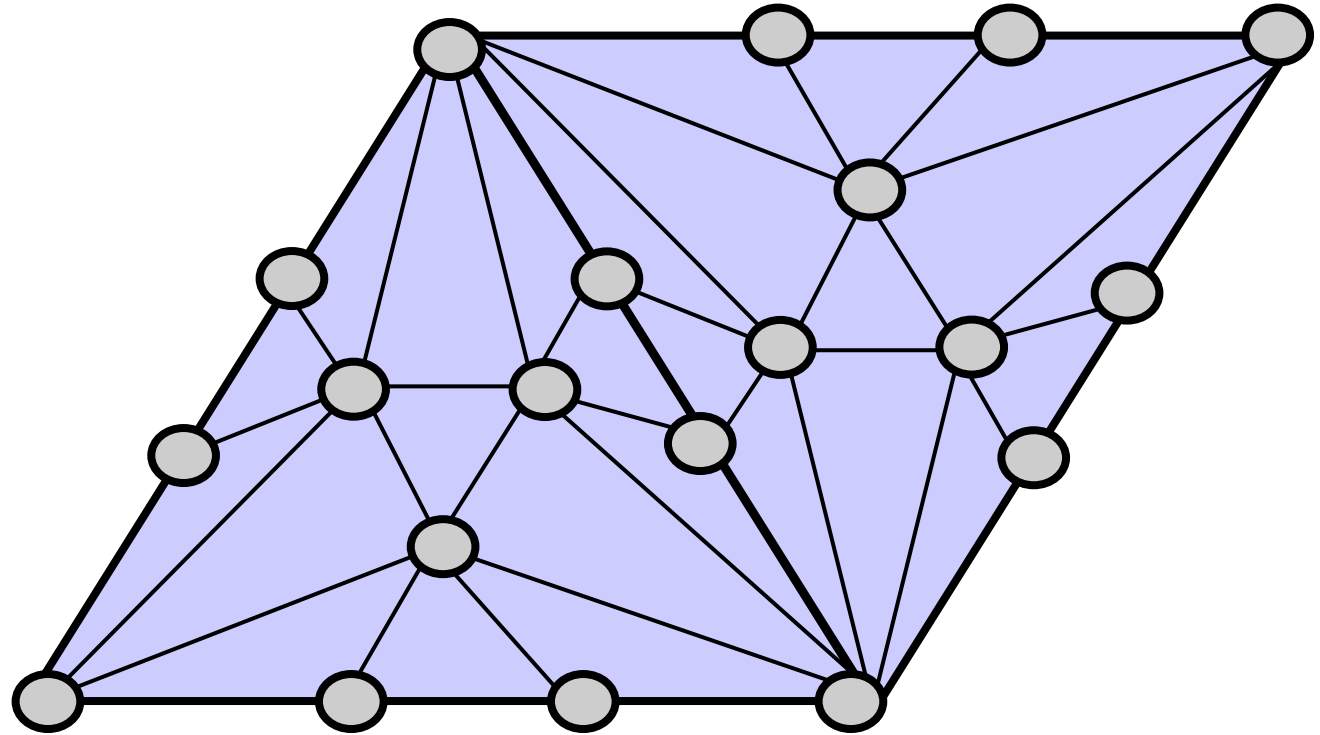
**Subdivisions**

Simplicial & Continuous Approximations

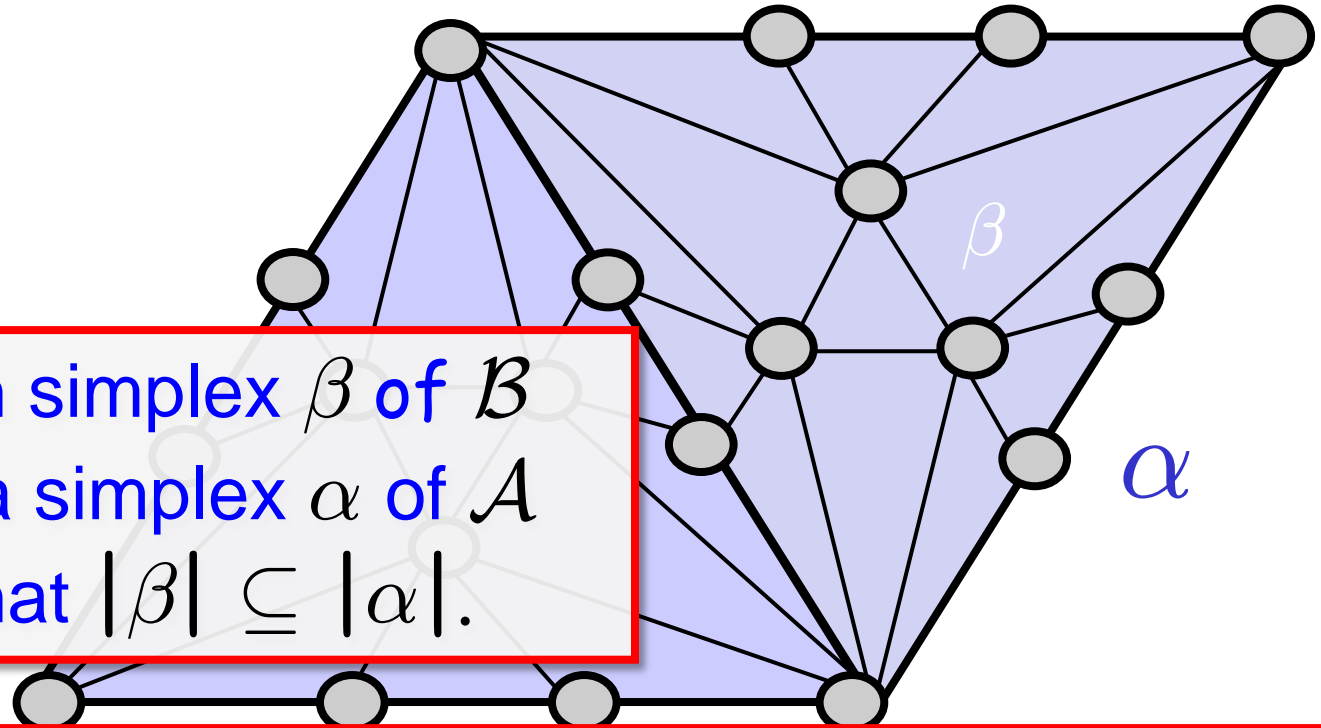




# Subdivisions



$\mathcal{B}$  is a subdivision of  $\mathcal{A}$  if ...



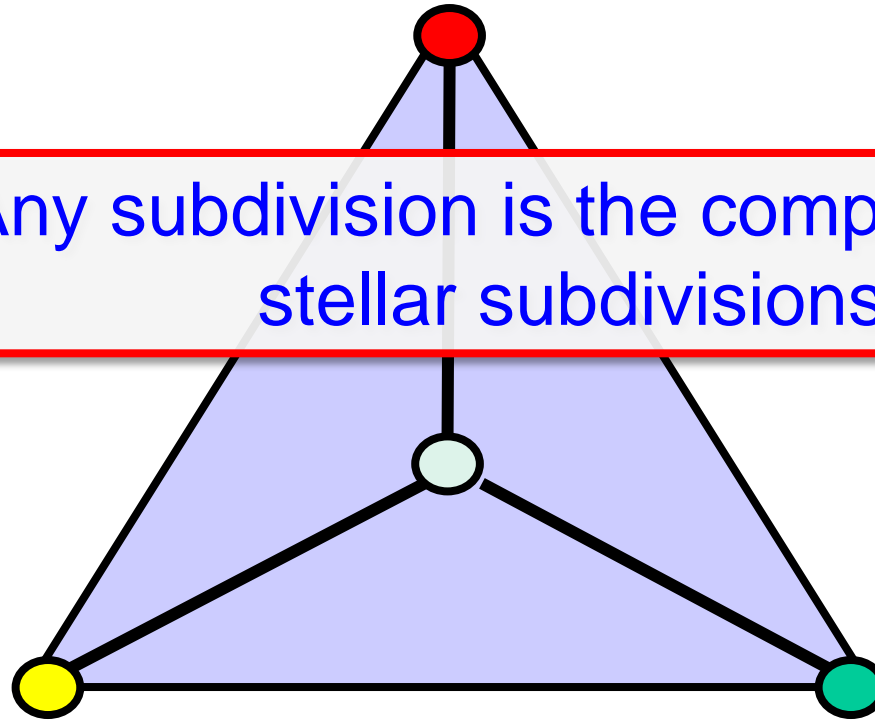
For each simplex  $\beta$  of  $\mathcal{B}$   
there is a simplex  $\alpha$  of  $\mathcal{A}$   
such that  $|\beta| \subseteq |\alpha|$ .

For each simplex  $\alpha$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $|\alpha|$  is the union of a  
finite set of geometric simplexes of  $\mathcal{B}$ .



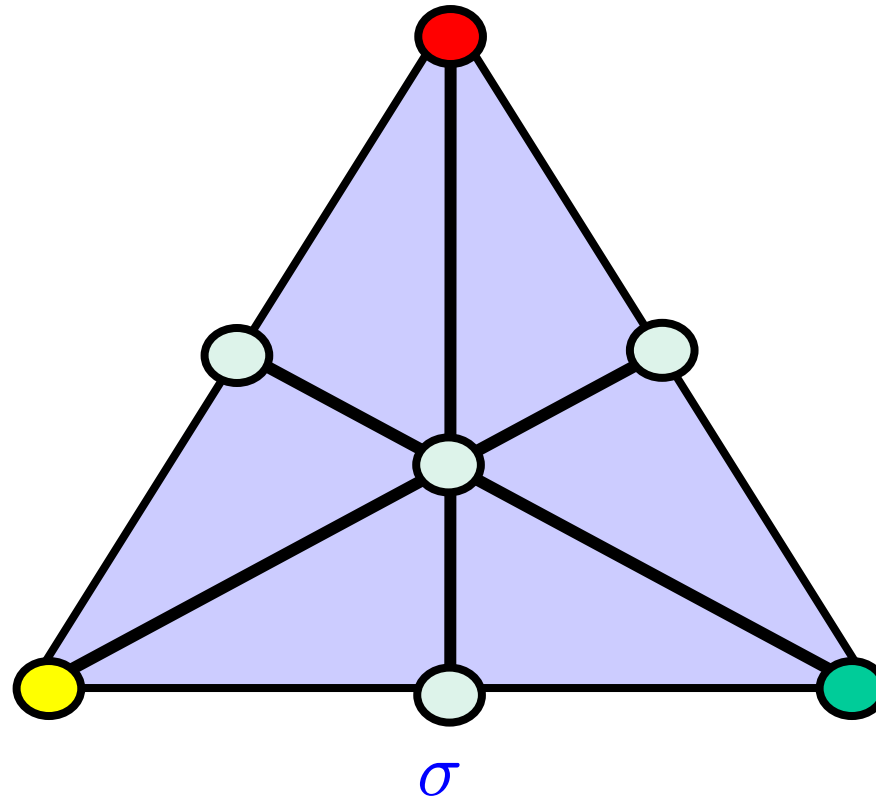
# Stellar Subdivision

Any subdivision is the composition of stellar subdivisions



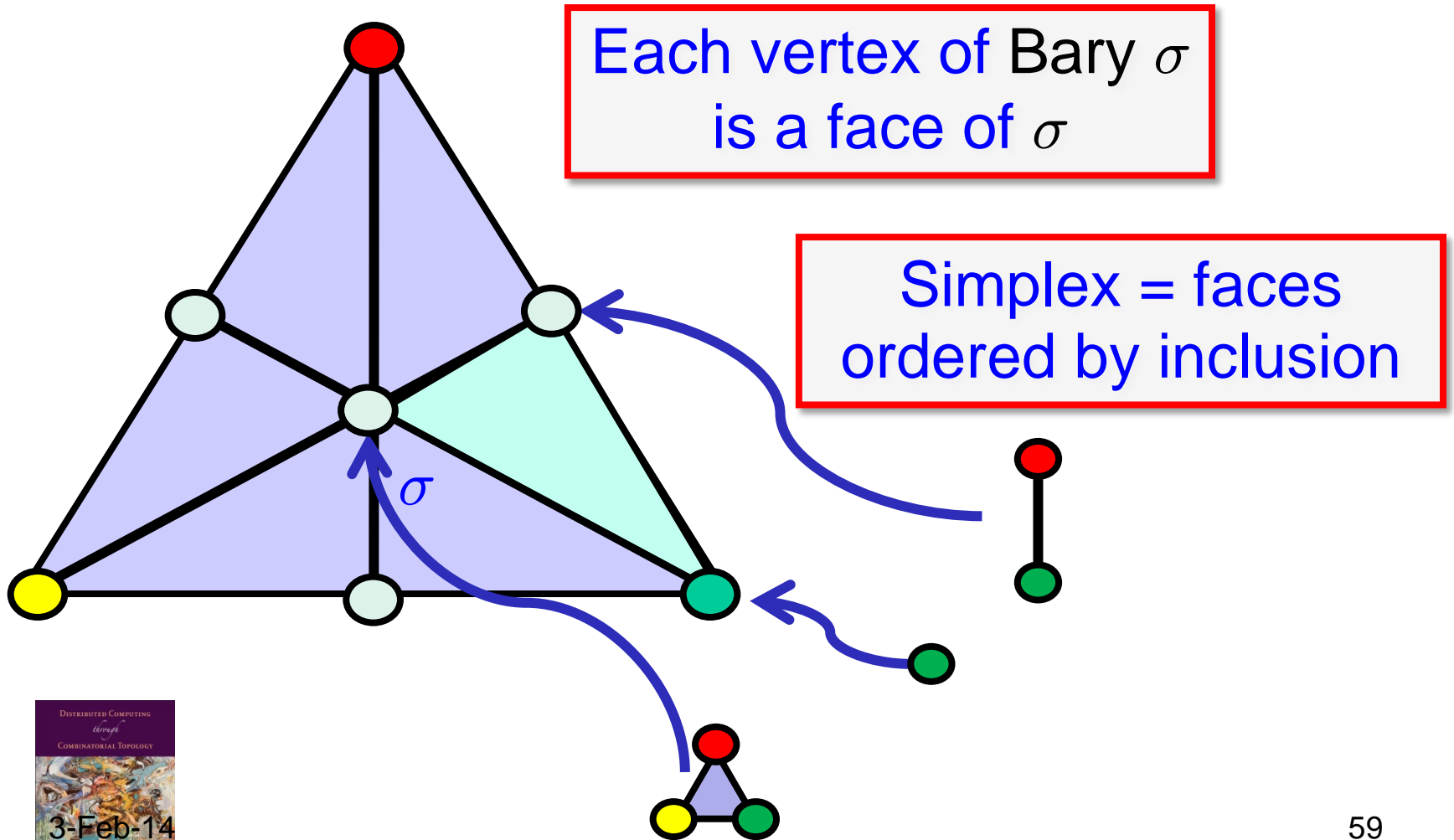
$\sigma$   
Stel  $\sigma$

# Barycentric Subdivision



Bary  $\sigma$

# Barycentric Subdivision

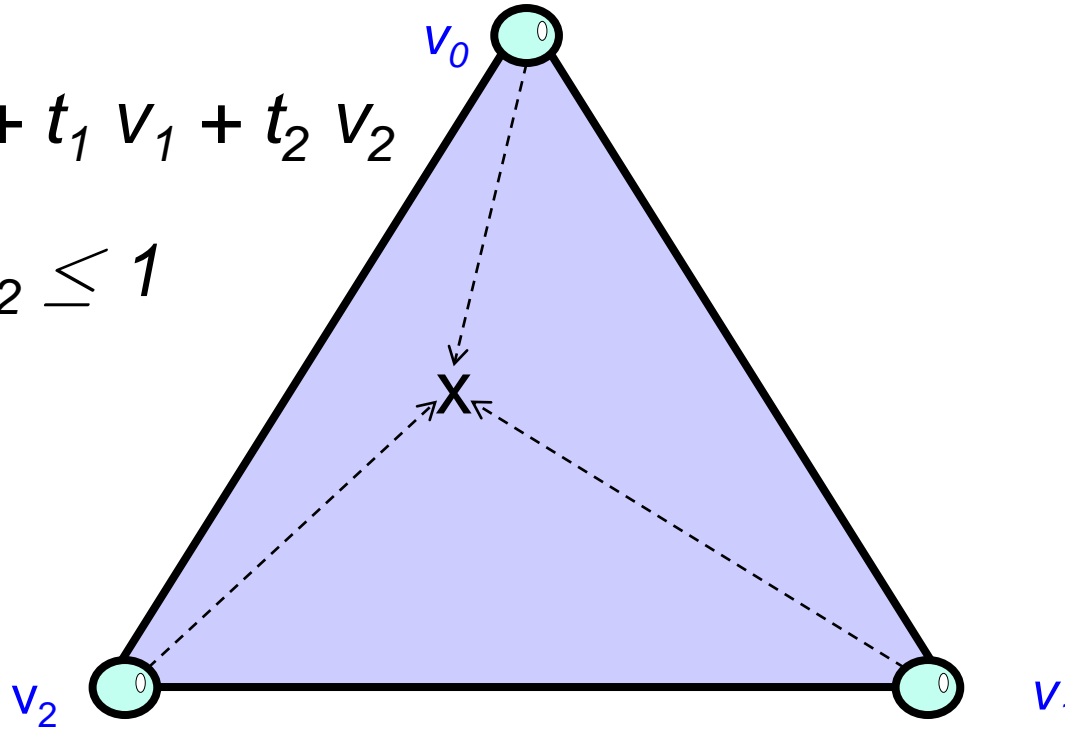


# Barycentric Coordinates

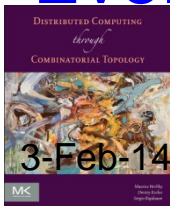
$$x = t_0 v_0 + t_1 v_1 + t_2 v_2$$

$$0 \leq t_0, t_1, t_2 \leq 1$$

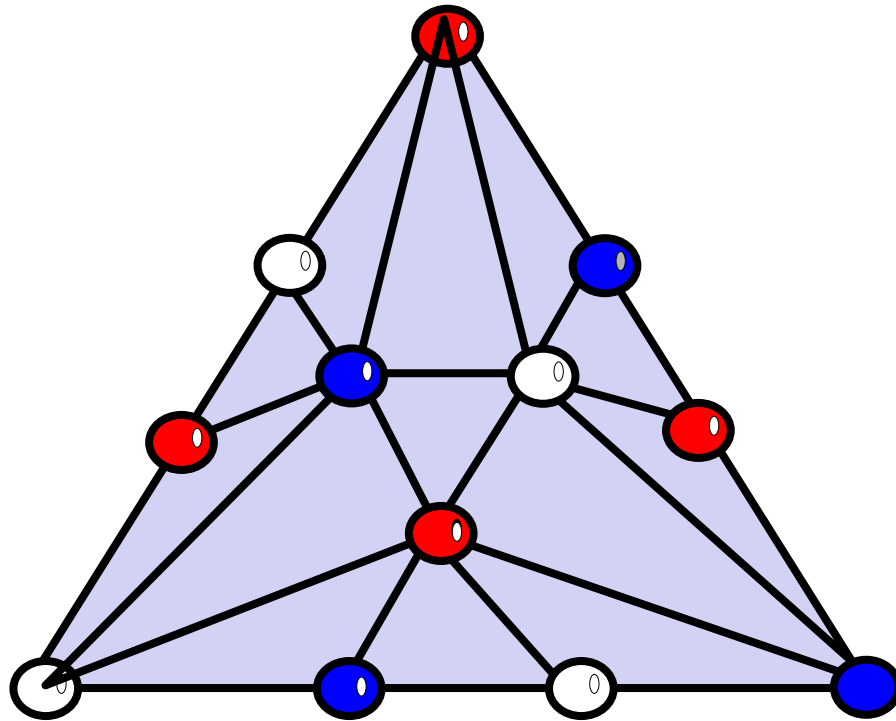
$$\sum t_i = 1$$



Every point of  $|C|$  has a unique representation using barycentric coordinates

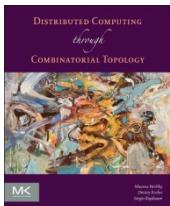


# Standard Chromatic Subdivision



$\text{Ch } \sigma$

Chromatic form of  
Barycentric



# Road Map

Simplicial Complexes

Standard Constructions

Carrier Maps

Connectivity

Subdivisions

**Simplicial & Continuous Approximations**





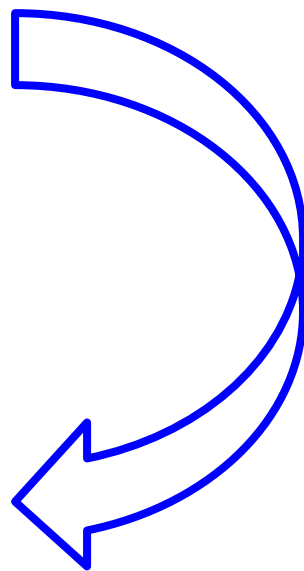
# From Simplicial to Continuous

simplicial

$$\phi : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$$

continuous

$$f : |\mathcal{A}| \rightarrow |\mathcal{B}|$$



$$f(x) = \sum_i t_i \cdot |\phi(s_i)|$$

extend over barycentric  
coordinates  
(piece-wise linear map)

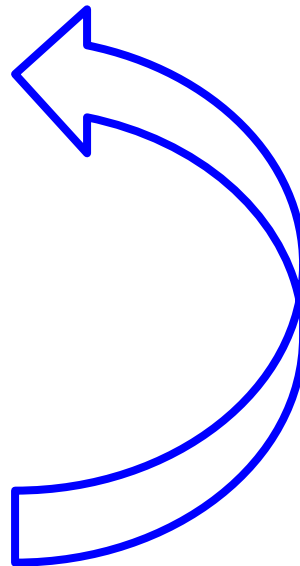
# Maps

simplicial

$$\phi : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$$

continuous

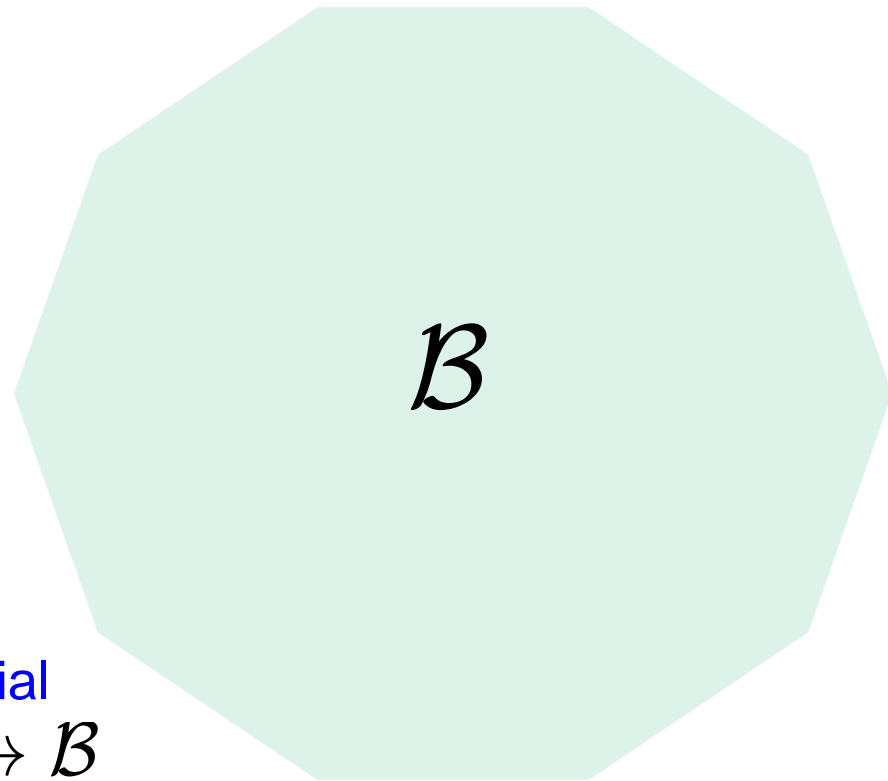
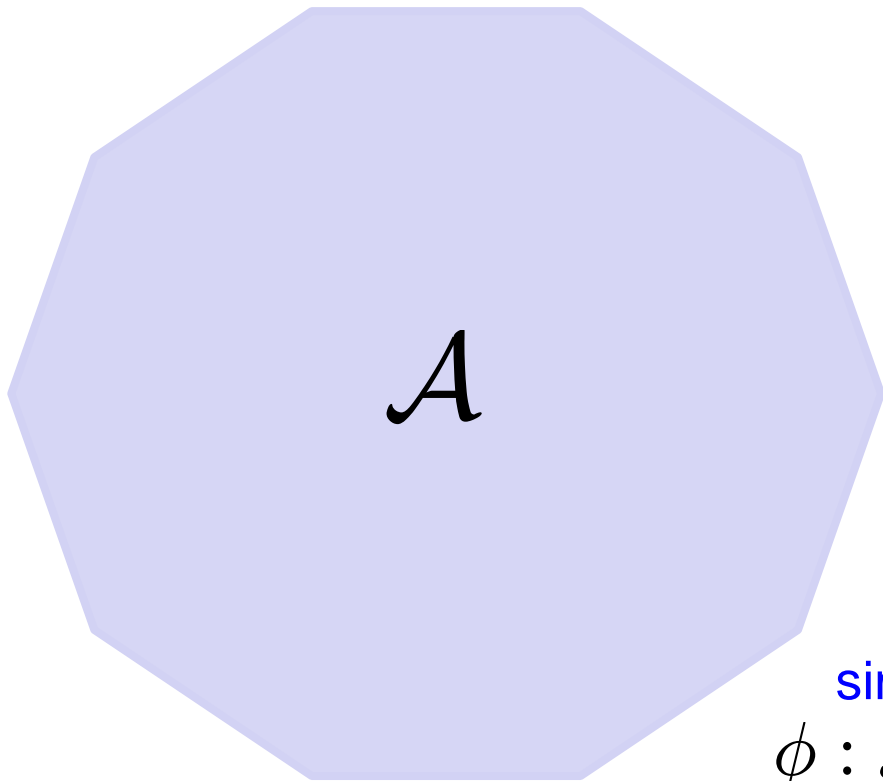
$$f : |\mathcal{A}| \rightarrow |\mathcal{B}|$$



Simplicial Approximation  
Theorem



# Simplicial Approximation

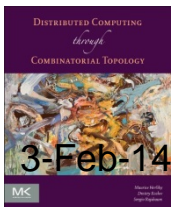


simplicial

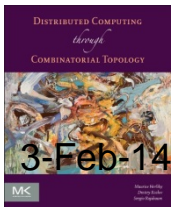
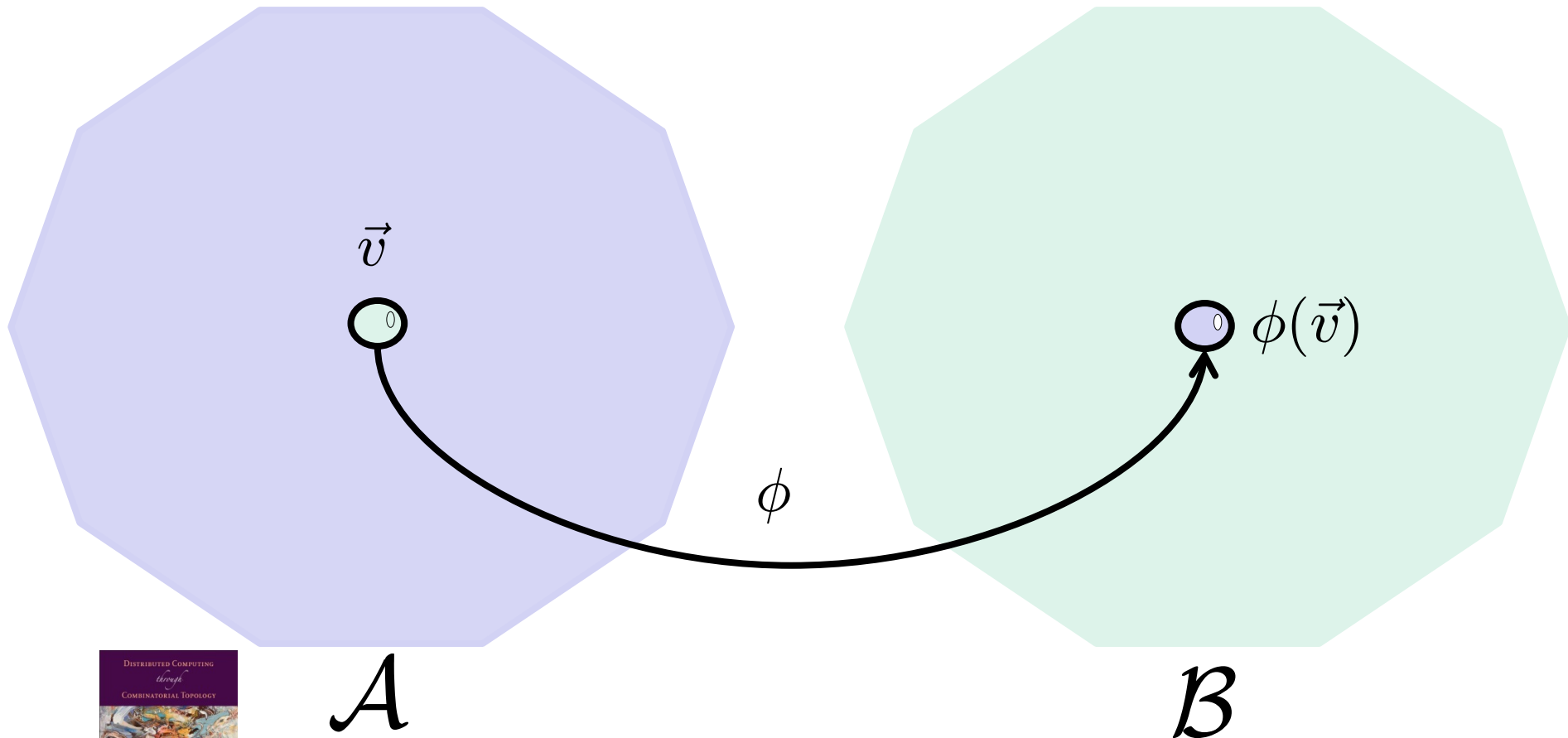
$$\phi : A \rightarrow B$$

continuous

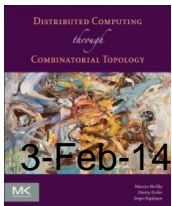
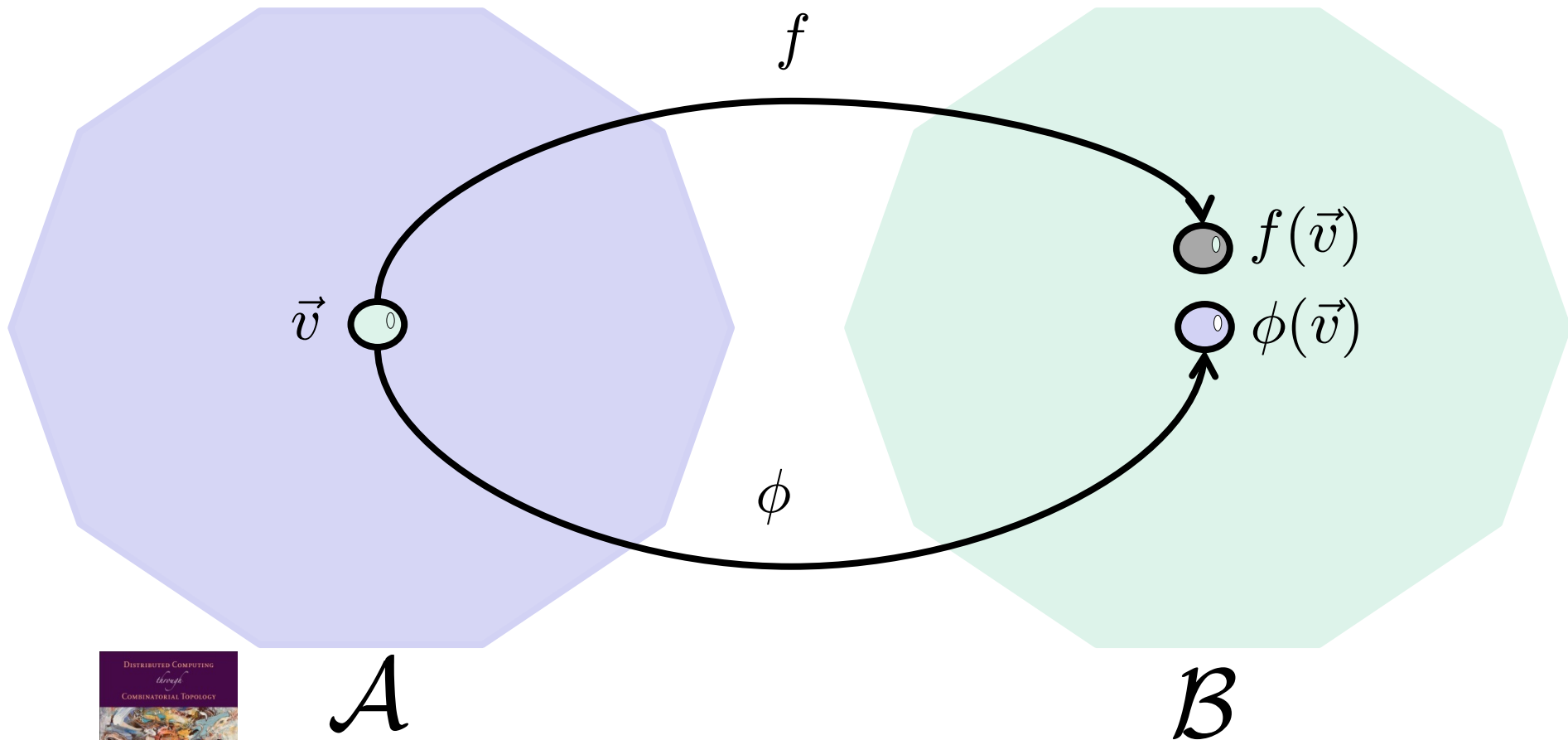
$$f : |A| \rightarrow |B|$$



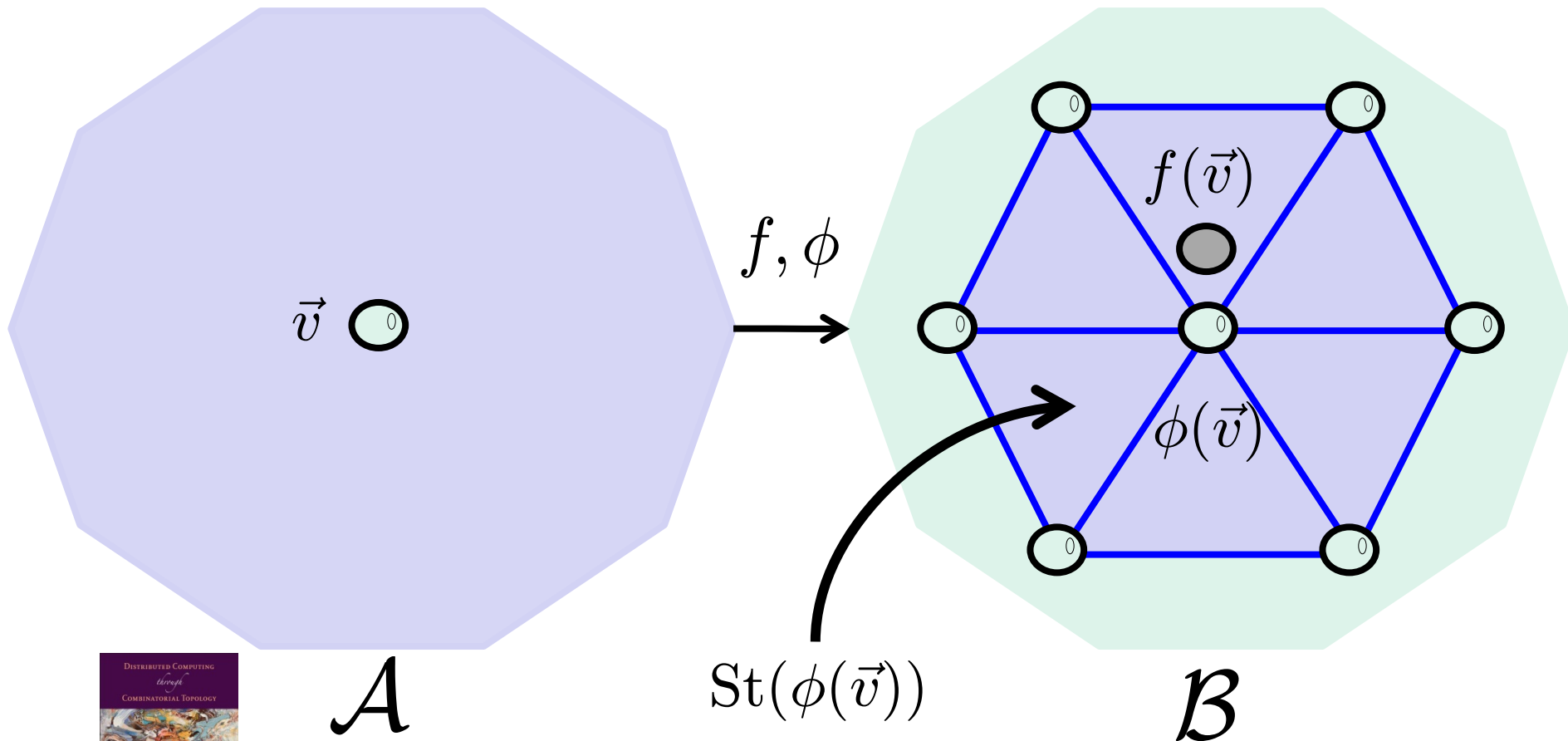
# Simplicial Approximation



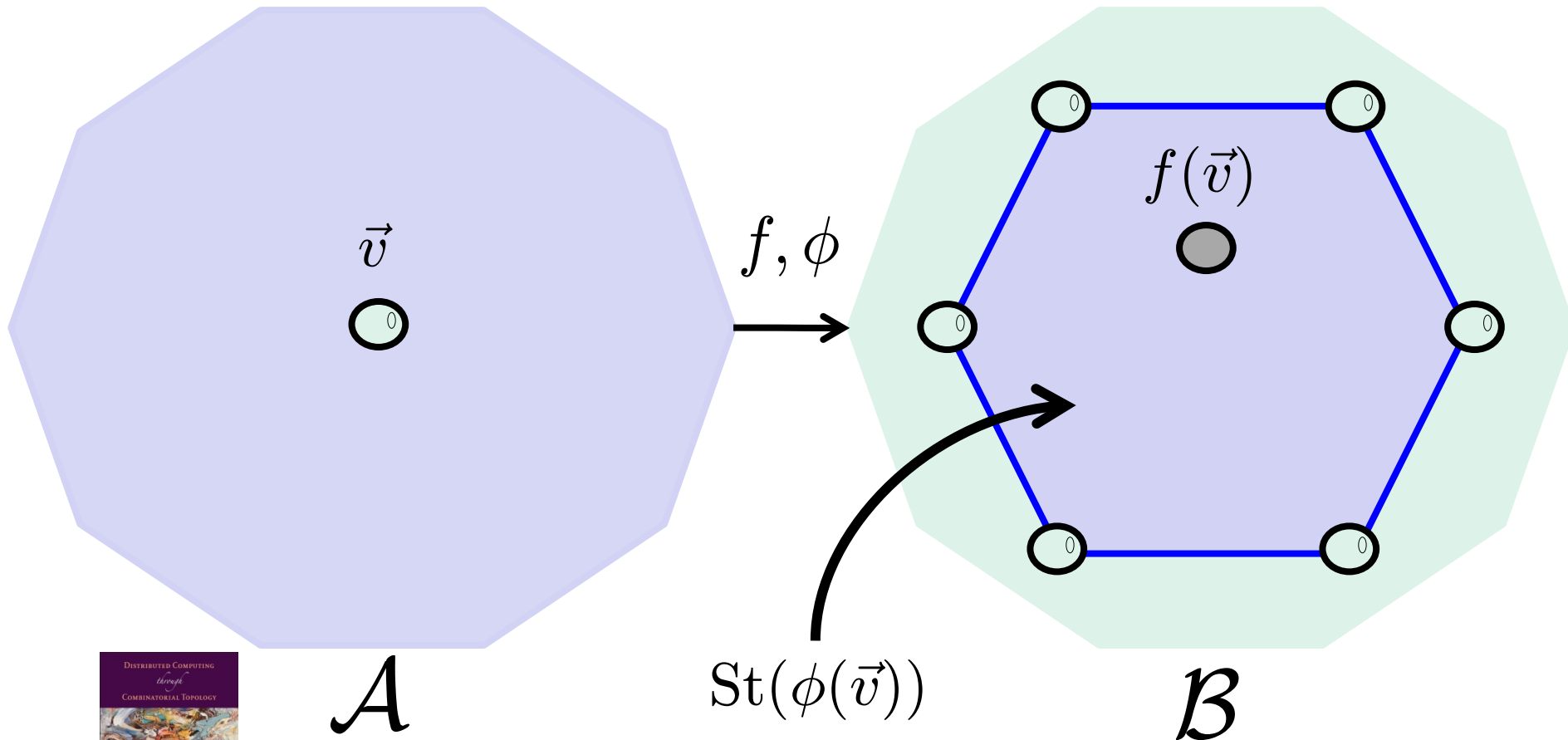
# Simplicial Approximation



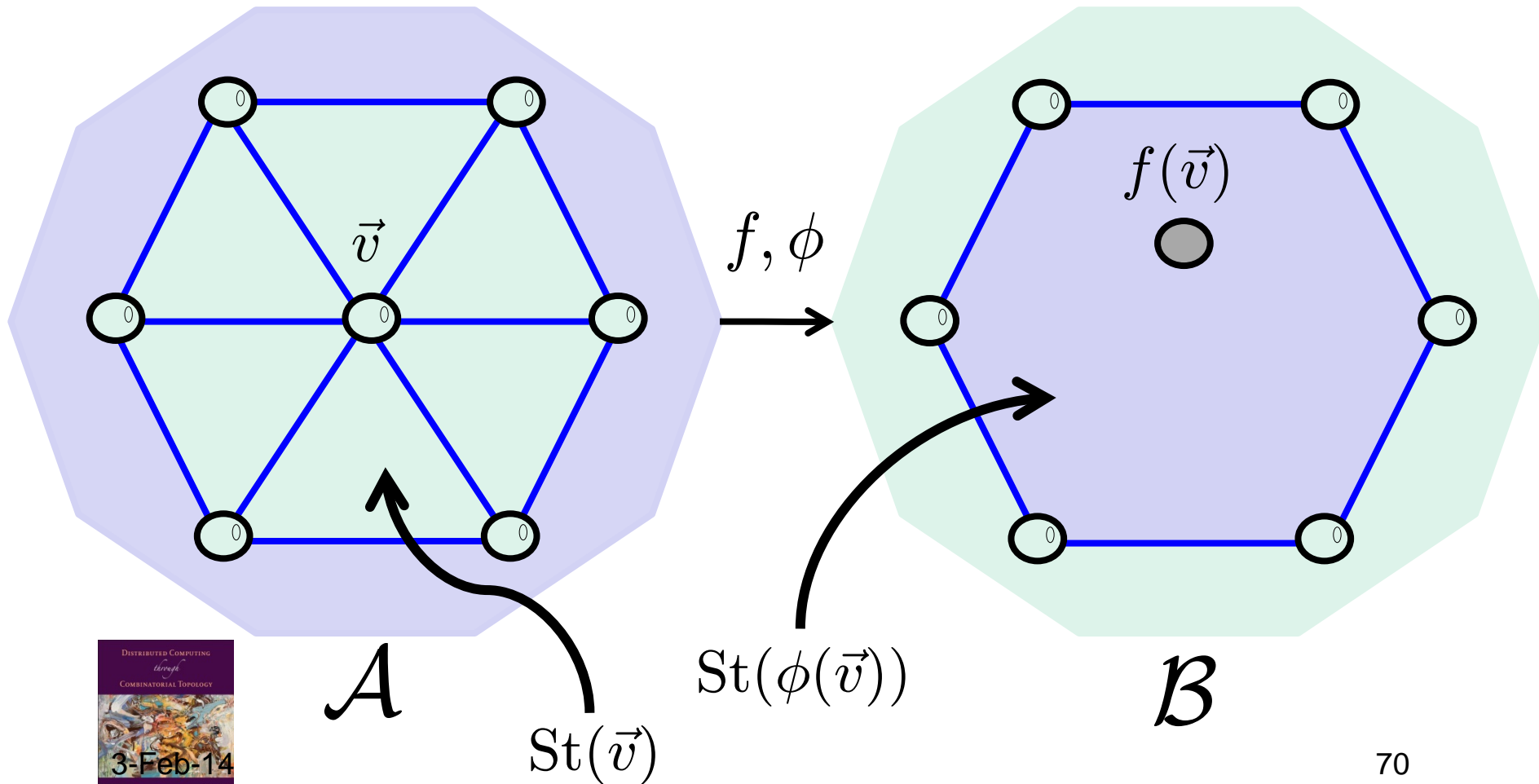
# Simplicial Approximation



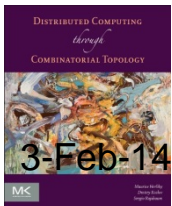
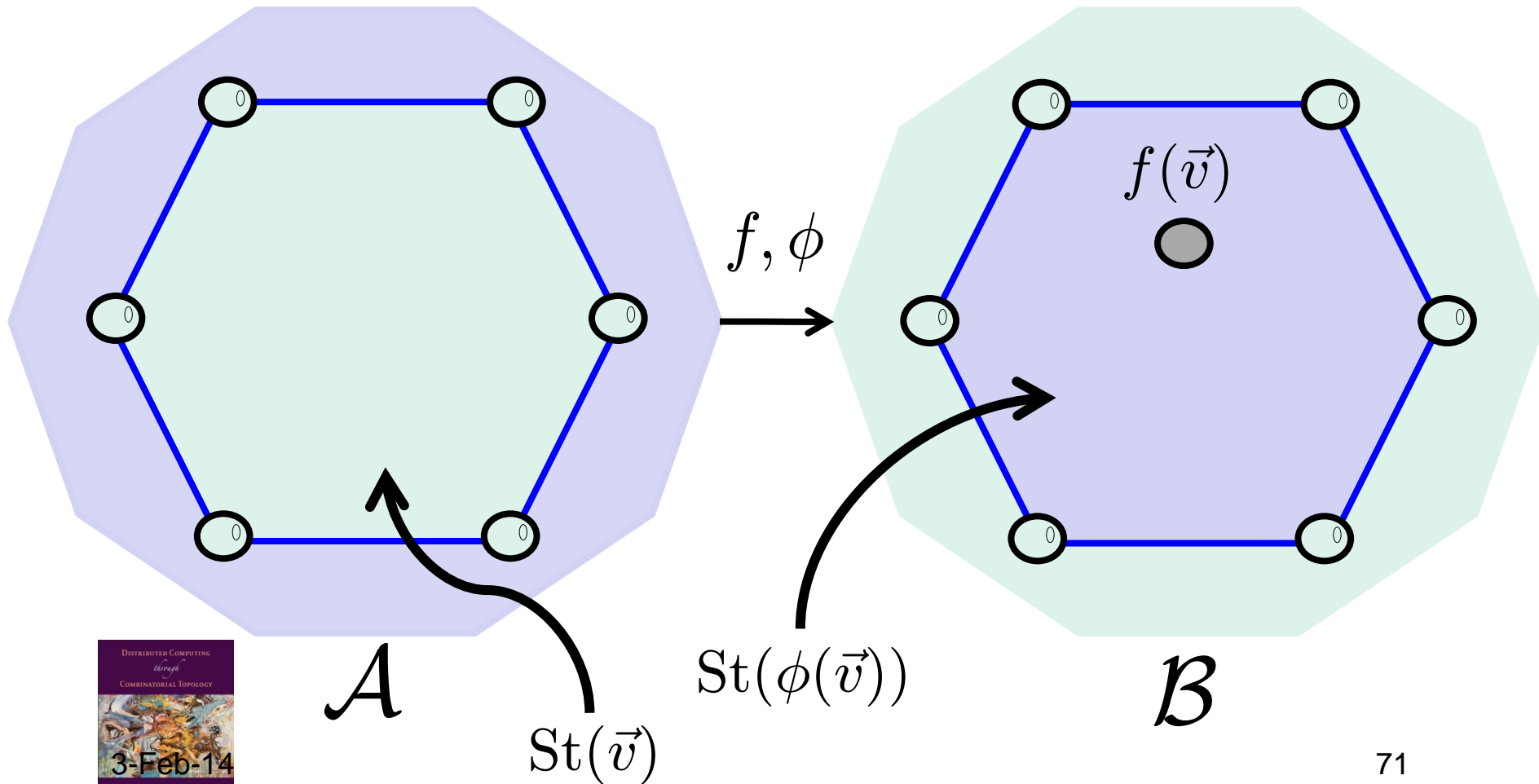
# Simplicial Approximation



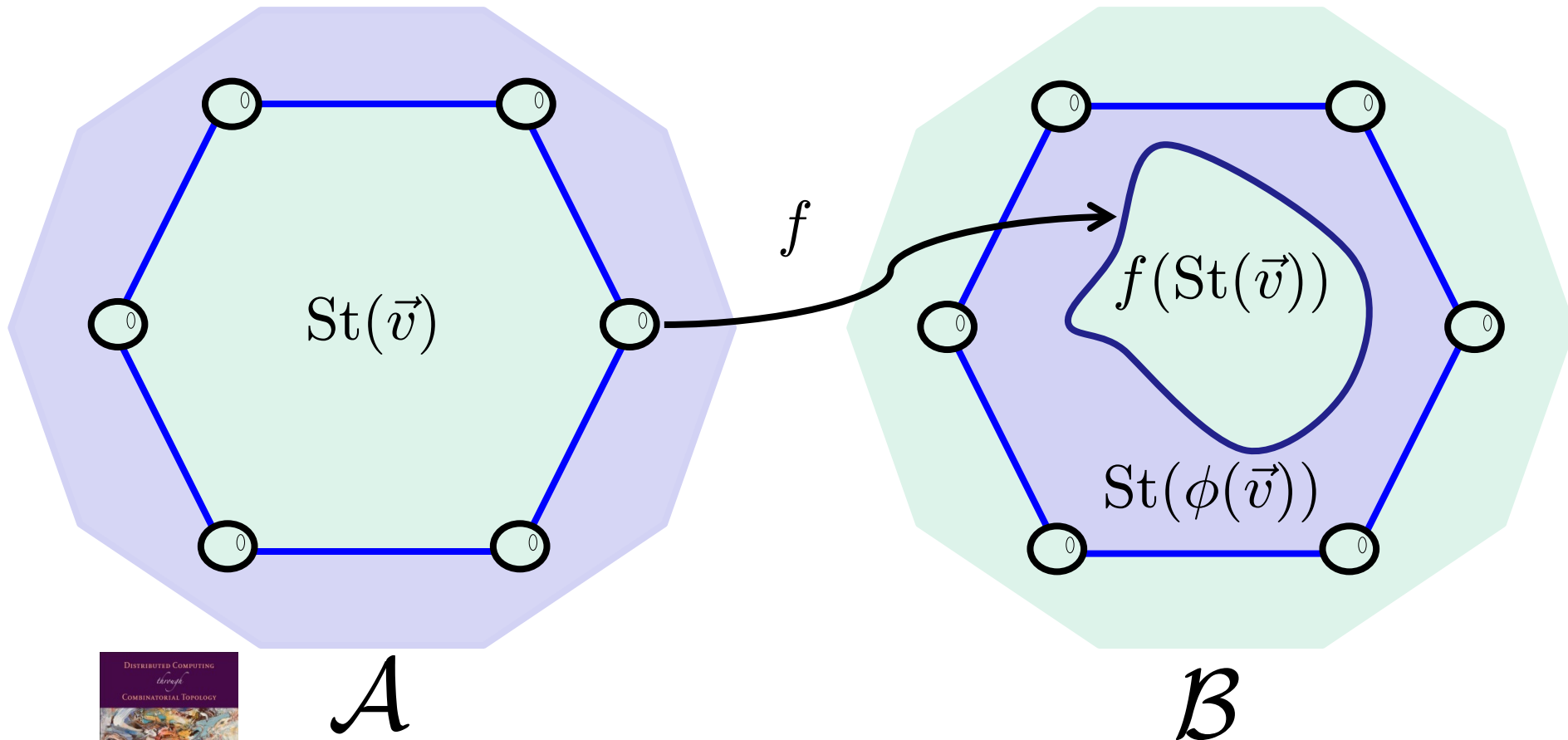
# Simplicial Approximation



# Simplicial Approximation



# Simplicial Approximation



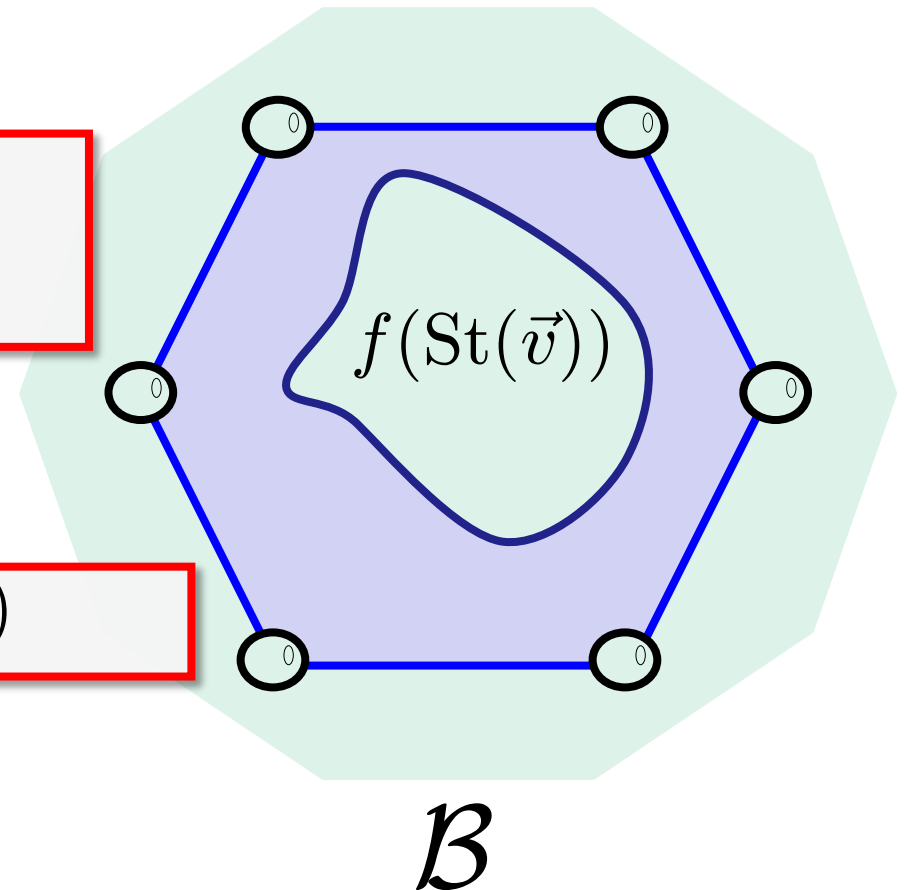


# Simplicial Approximation

$\phi$  is a simplicial approximation of  $f$  if ...

for every  $v$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  ...

$$f(\text{St}(\vec{v})) \subseteq \text{St}(\phi(\vec{v}))$$



# Simplicial Approximation Theorem

- Given a continuous map

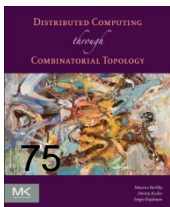
$$f : |\mathcal{A}| \rightarrow |\mathcal{B}|$$

- there is an  $N$  such that  $f$  has a simplicial approximation

$$\phi : \text{Bary}^N \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$$

Actually Holds for most other subdivisions....

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Distributed Computing through  
Combinatorial Topology