

Mathematics-AI for Protein-Protein Interactions

Jiahui Chen

Assistant Professor,
Department of Mathematical Sciences,
University of Arkansas

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1 Protein-Protein Interaction Upon Mutation


- Emerging Variant Prediction
- Antibody-Antigen Interactions and Vaccine Efficacy

2 Biological Shape Representation

- Persistent Homology and Persistent Laplacian
- Evolutionary de Rham-Hodge Method
 - Results

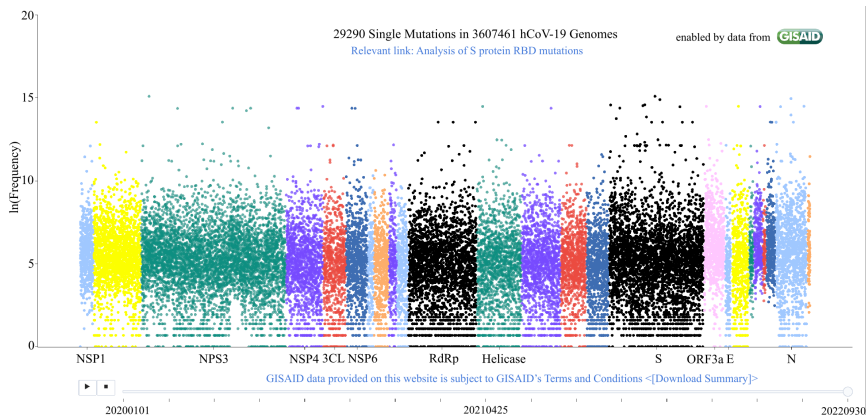
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COVID-19 shows the importance of biosciences

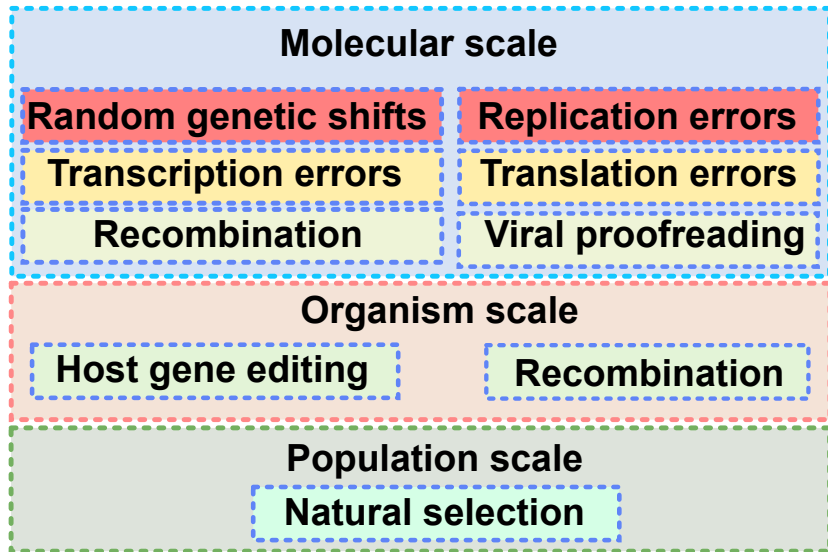


216,322,048 cases
4,500,679 deaths

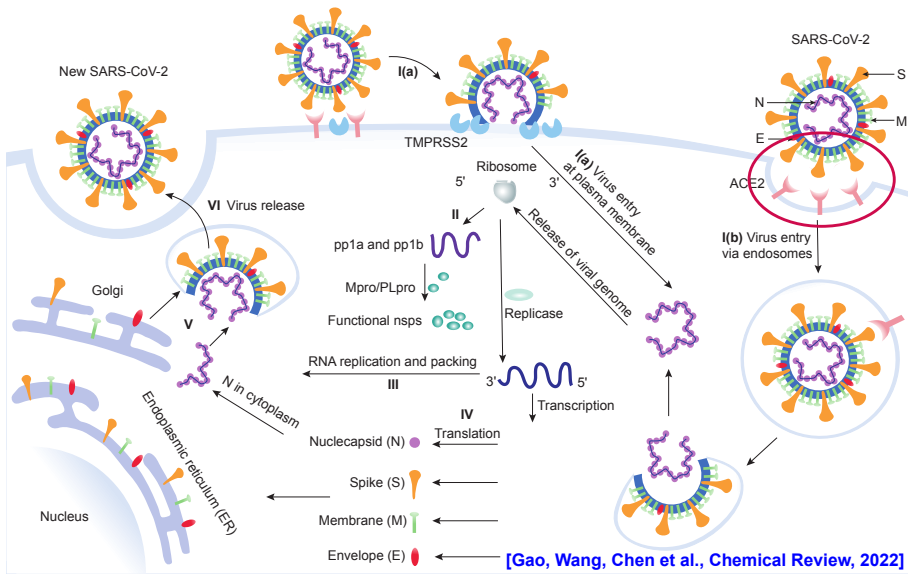
What can mathematics do?
How will COVID-19 unfold in the future?

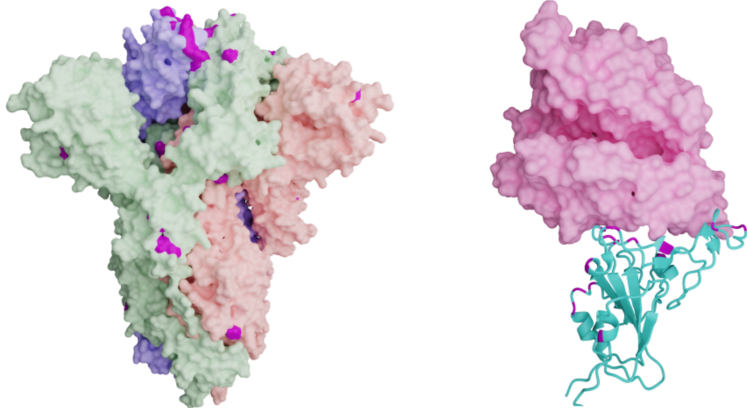


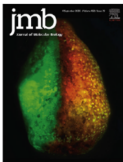
[Chen et al., J Chem Inf Model, 2022]



SARS-CoV-2 Life Cycle







Mutations Strengthened SARS-CoV-2 Infectivity

We predicted prevailing SARS-CoV-2 variants to occur at residues 452 and 501

Jiahui Chen¹, Rui Wang¹, Menglun Wang¹ and Guo-Wei Wei^{1,2,3}

1 - Department of Mathematics, Michigan State University, MI 48824, USA

2 - Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Michigan State University, MI 48824, USA

3 - Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Michigan State University, MI 48824, USA

Correspondence to Guo-Wei Wei: wei@math.msu.edu

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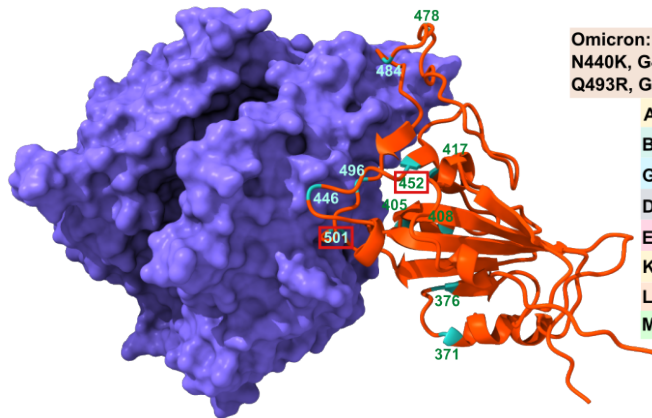
Available online 23 July 2020

Abstract

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infectivity is a major concern in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) prevention and economic reopening. However, rigorous determination of SARS-CoV-2 infectivity is very difficult owing to its continuous evolution with over 10,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) variants in many subtypes. We employ an **algebraic topology**-based machine learning model to quantitatively evaluate the binding free energy changes of SARS-CoV-2 spike glycoprotein (S protein) and host angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 receptor following mutations. **We reveal that the SARS-CoV-2 virus becomes more infectious.** Three out of six SARS-CoV-2 subtypes have become slightly more infectious, while the other three subtypes have significantly strengthened their infectivity. We also find that SARS-CoV-2 is slightly more infectious than SARS-CoV according to computed S protein-angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 binding free energy changes. Based on a systematic evaluation of **all possible 3686 future mutations** on the S protein receptor-binding domain, we show that **most likely future mutations will make SARS-CoV-2 more infectious.** Combining sequence alignment, probability analysis, and binding free energy calculation, **we predict that a few residues** on the receptor-binding motif, i.e., **452, 489, 500, 501, and 505, have high chances to mutate into significantly more infectious COVID-19 strains.**

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Predict the key RBD mutation sites in prevailing variants.
Mutations at **452** and **501** in prevailing SARS-CoV-2 variants.



Omicron: S371L, S373P, S375F, K417N, N440K, G446S, S477N, T478K, E484A, Q493R, G496S, **N501Y**, Y505H

Alpha: **N501Y**

Beta: K417N, E484K, **N501Y**

Gamma: K417T, E484K, **N501Y**

Delta: **L452R**, T478K

Epsilon: **L452R**

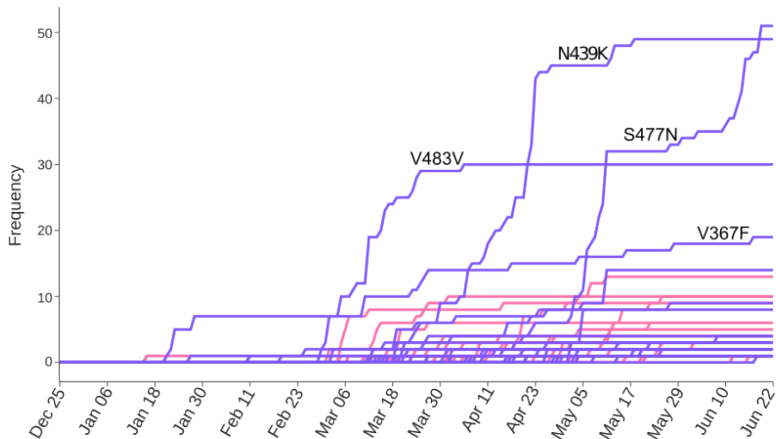
Kappa: **L452R**, E484Q

Lambda: **L452Q**, F490S

Mu: R346K, E484K, **N501Y**

[Chen, et al., JMB, 2020]

Infectivity strengthening mutations (**blue**) increase faster than infectivity weakening ones (**red**) over time.



[Chen et al., JMB, 2020]

Natural selection favors those mutations that enhance the viral transmission and evolution

Omicron BA.2 (B.1.1.529.2): high potential to becoming the next dominating variant

Jiahui Chen¹ and Guo-Wei Wei^{1,3,4*}

¹ Department of Mathematics,

Michigan State University, MI 48824, USA.

² Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
Michigan State University, MI 48824, USA.

³ Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
Michigan State University, MI 48824, USA.

February 11, 2022

WHO confirmed it on March 26, 2022

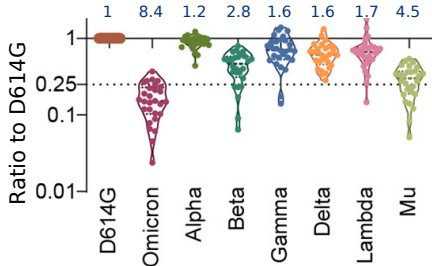
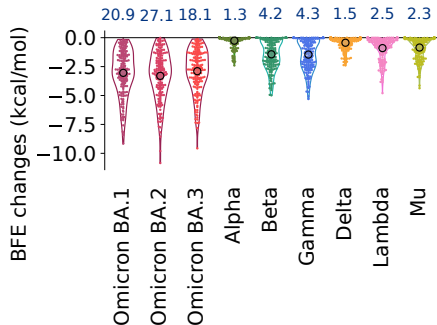
Abstract

The Omicron variant of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has rapidly replaced the Delta variant as a dominating SARS-CoV-2 variant because of natural selection, which favors the variant with higher infectivity and stronger vaccine breakthrough ability. Omicron has three lineages or subvariants, BA.1 (B.1.1.529.1), BA.2 (B.1.1.529.2), and BA.3 (B.1.1.529.3). Among them, BA.1 is the currently prevailing subvariant. BA.2 shares 32 mutations with BA.1 but has 28 distinct ones. BA.3 shares most of its mutations with BA.1 and BA.2 except for one. BA.2 is found to be able to alarmingly reinfect patients originally infected by Omicron BA.1. An important question is whether BA.2 or BA.3 will become a new dominating “variant of concern”. Currently, no experimental data has been reported about BA.2 and BA.3. We construct a novel algebraic topology-based deep learning model trained with tens of thousands of mutational and deep mutational data to systematically evaluate BA.2’s and BA.3’s infectivity, vaccine breakthrough capability, and antibody resistance. Our comparative analysis of all main variants namely, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Lambda, Mu, BA.1, BA.2, and BA.3, unveils that BA.2 is about 1.5 and 4.2 times as contagious as BA.1 and Delta, respectively. It is also 30% and 17-fold more capable than BA.1 and Delta, respectively, to escape current vaccines. Therefore, we project that Omicron BA.2 is on its path to becoming the next dominating variant. We forecast that like Omicron BA.1, BA.2 will also seriously compromise most existing mAbs, except for sotrovimab developed by GlaxoSmithKline.

All predictions has been confirmed within 50 days!

Keywords: COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, Omicron, infectivity, antibody-resistance, vaccine breakthrough,

[Chen, Wei, J. Phys. Chem. Lett., 2022]



[Chen, Wei, J. Phys. Chem. Lett., 2022]

[Wang, Emerg. Microbes Infect., 2022]

Persistent Laplacian projected Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 to become new dominating variants

Jiahui Chen¹, Yuchi Qiu¹, Rui Wang¹, and Guo-Wei Wei^{1,2,3*}

¹ Department of Mathematics,
Michigan State University, MI 48824, USA.
East Lansing, MI 48823 USA.

² Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
Michigan State University, MI 48824, USA.

³ Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
Michigan State University, MI 48824, USA.

WHO confirmed it on late June, 2022

May 3, 2022

Abstract

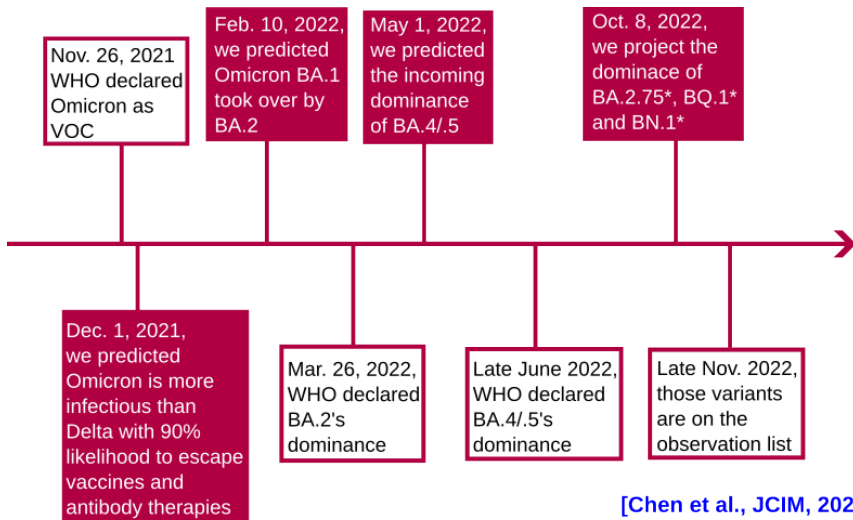
Due to its high transmissibility, Omicron BA.1 ousted the Delta variant to become a dominating variant in late 2021 and was replaced by more transmissible Omicron BA.2 in March 2022. An important question is which new variants will dominate in the future. Topology-based deep learning models have had tremendous success in forecasting emerging variants in the past. However, topology is insensitive to homotopic shape variations in virus-human protein-protein binding, which are crucial to viral evolution and transmission. This challenge is tackled with persistent Laplacian, which is able to capture both the topology and shape of data. Persistent Laplacian-based deep learning models are developed to systematically evaluate variant infectivity. Our comparative analysis of Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Lambda, Mu, and Omicron BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2, BA.2.11, BA.2.12.1, BA.3, BA.4, and BA.5 unveils that Omicron BA.2.11, BA.2.12.1, BA.3, BA.4, and BA.5 are more contagious than BA.2. In particular, BA.4 and BA.5 are about 36% more infectious than BA.2 and are projected to become new dominating variants by natural selection. Moreover, the proposed models outperform the state-of-the-art methods on three major benchmark datasets for mutation-induced protein-protein binding free energy changes.

Keywords: SARS-CoV-2, evolution, infectivity, deep learning, persistent Laplacian.

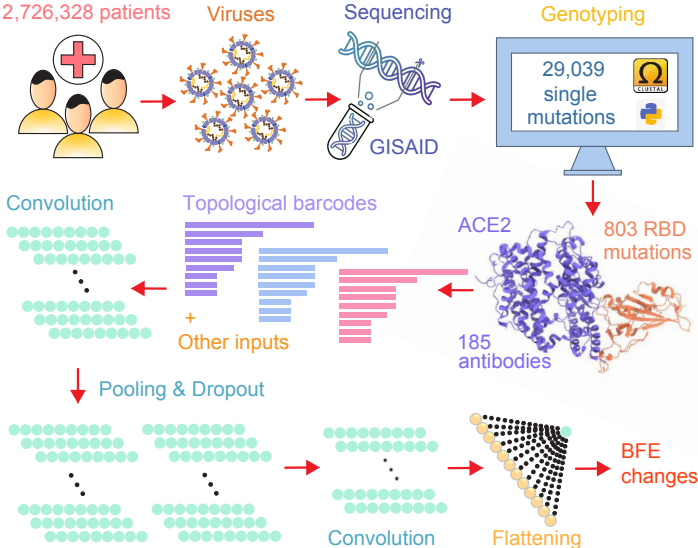
*Corresponding author. Email: weig@msu.edu

[Chen, Qiu, Wang, Wei, Comput. Biol. Med., 2022]

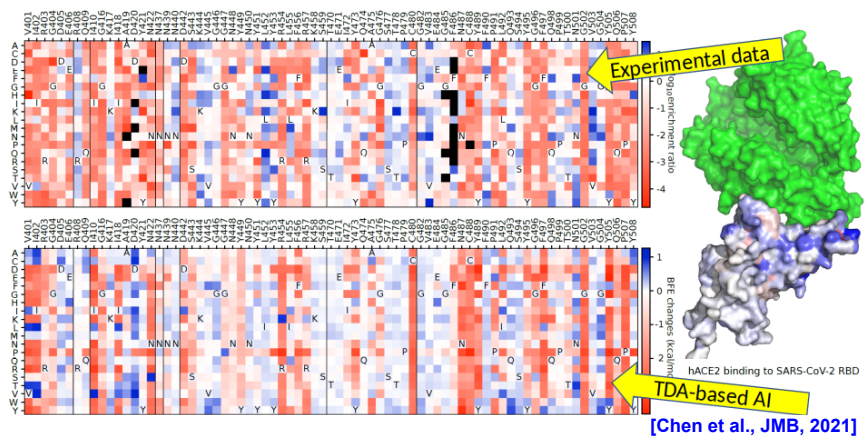
History of Omicron Variant Predictions

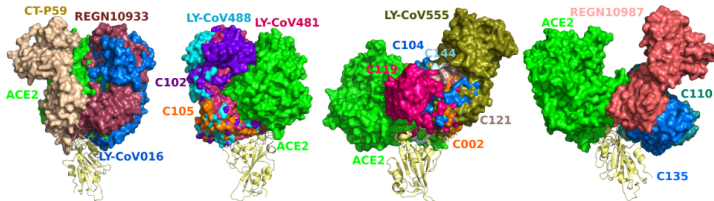


[Chen et al., JCIM, 2021]
[Chen & Wei, JPCL, 2022]
[Chen et al., CBM, 2021]
[Chen et al., JCIM, 2022]



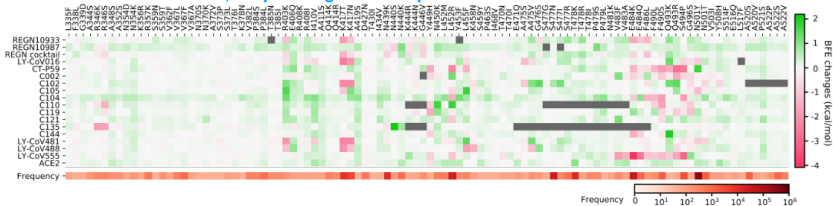
Validation of AI Predictions with Experiments



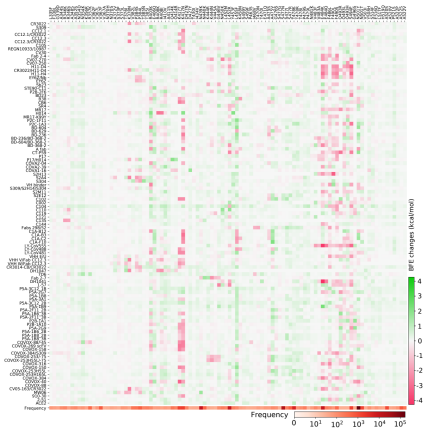
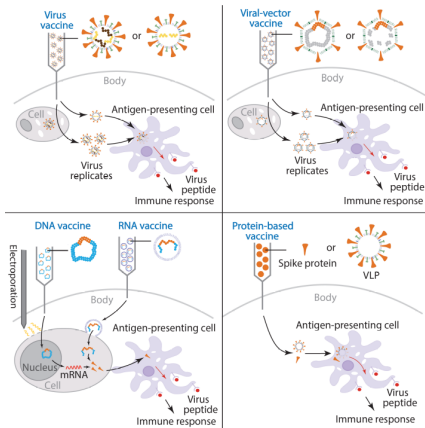


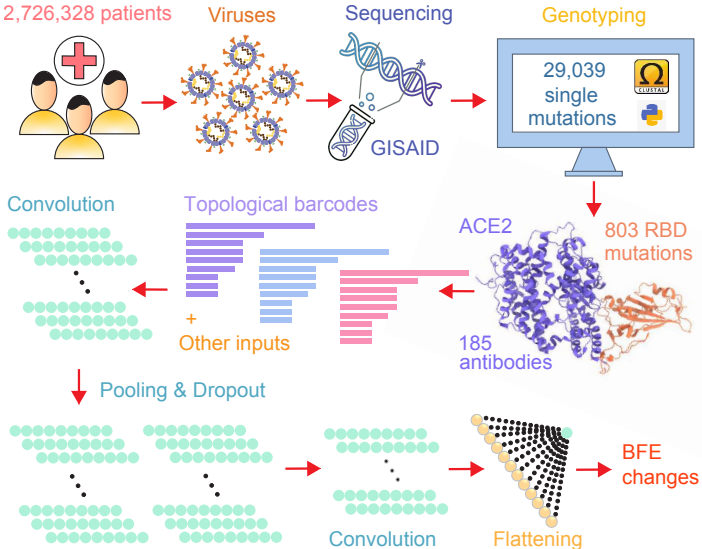
FDA emergency use authorization: REGN10933, REGN10987, LY-CoV016; In clinical trial: CT-P59, C144, C135

The top 100 most observed out of 712 RBD mutations from 506,768 patient genome sequences



[Chen, et al., JMB 2021]





1 Protein-Protein Interaction Upon Mutation

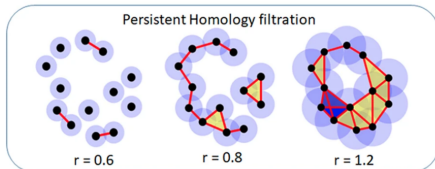
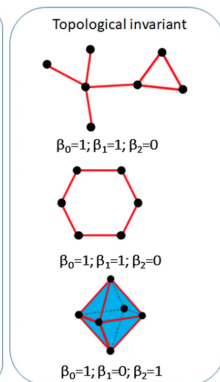
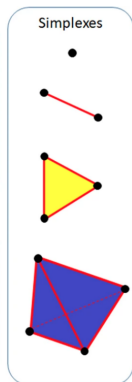
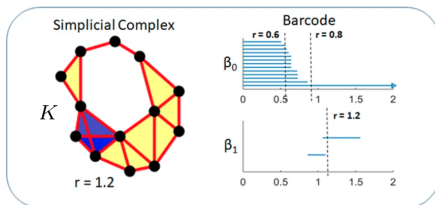
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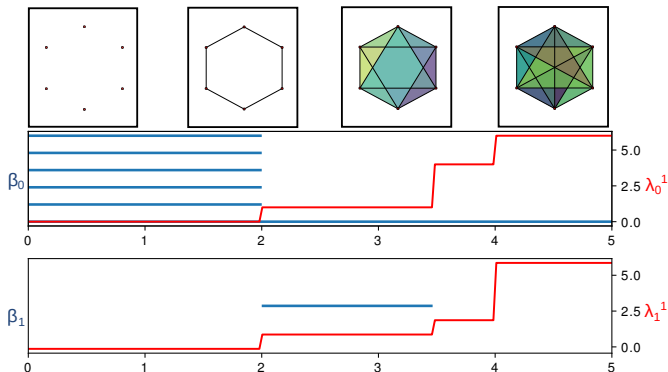
- ▶ Simplexes: 0-, 1-, 2-, 3-simplex
- ▶ Simplicial complex: K
- ▶ k -chain: $\sum_j c_j \sigma_j^k$
- ▶ Chain group: $C_k(K)$
- ▶ Boundary operator: $\partial_k \sigma_k = \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i [v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_k]$
- ▶ Homology group: $H_k = \frac{Z_k}{B_k}$, $Z_k = \ker \partial_k$, $B_k = \text{im } \partial_{k+1}$
- ▶ Betti number: $\beta_k = \text{Rank}(H_k)$

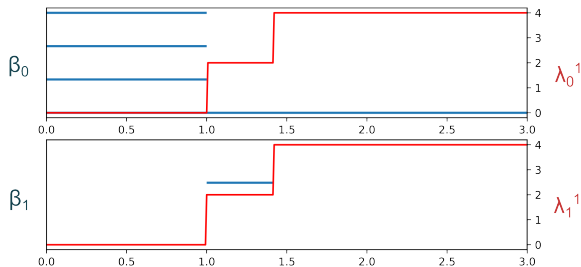
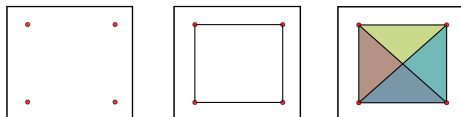
[Edelsbrunner et al., IEEE 2000, Zomorodian et al., DCG 2005, Carlsson et al., Bull. Am. Math. 2009, Ghrist, Bull. Am. Math. 2008, ...]



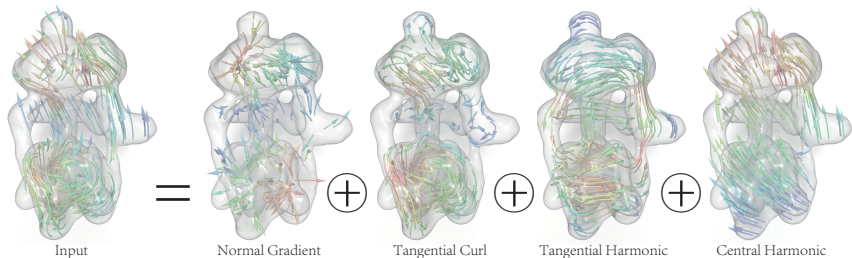
- ▶ Coboundary operator: $\partial_k^* : C_{k-1}(K) \rightarrow C_k(K)$
- ▶ Laplacian: $\Delta_k = \partial_{k+1} \partial_{k+1}^* + \partial_k^* \partial_k$
- ▶ Spectrum of Laplacian: $\text{Spec}(\Delta_k) = \{\lambda_k^1, \lambda_k^2, \lambda_k^3, \dots\}$

[Wang et al., IJNMBE 2020, Wang et al., FDS 2021, Chen et al., CBM 2022, ...]

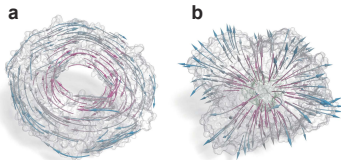




3-dimensional volumes bounded by 2-manifolds in \mathbb{R}^3



- ▶ Every cohomology class has a differential form that vanishes under the Laplacian operator of the metric
- ▶ Hodge decomposition



Manifolds with boundary, (3-dimensional volumes bounded by 2-manifolds in \mathbb{R}^3)

- ▶ A differential k -form $\omega^k \in \Omega^k(M)$
- ▶ The *differential* operator (i.e., exterior derivative) $d^k : \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$
- ▶ The *Hodge k -star* \star^k (aka Hodge dual) $\star^k : \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{3-k}(M)$
- ▶ The *codifferential* operators $\delta^k : \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k-1}(M)$, $\delta^k = (-1)^k \star^{4-k} d^{3-k} \star^k$, for $k = 1, 2, 3$

- ▶ The *de Rham-Laplace operator*, or *Hodge Laplacian*

$$\Delta^k \equiv d^{k-1}\delta^k + \delta^{k+1}d^k$$

- ▶ *de Rham complex*

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega^0(M) \xrightarrow{d^0} \Omega^1(M) \xrightarrow{d^1} \Omega^2(M) \xrightarrow{d^2} \Omega^3(M) \xrightarrow{d^3} 0$$

- ▶ *Bi-directional chain complex*

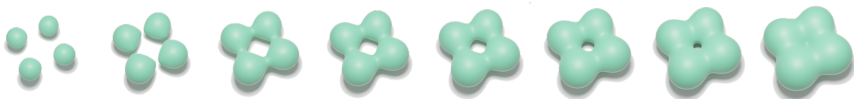
$$\Omega^0(M) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{d^0} \\ \xleftarrow{\delta^1} \end{array} \Omega^1(M) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{d^1} \\ \xleftarrow{\delta^2} \end{array} \Omega^2(M) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{d^2} \\ \xleftarrow{\delta^3} \end{array} \Omega^3(M)$$

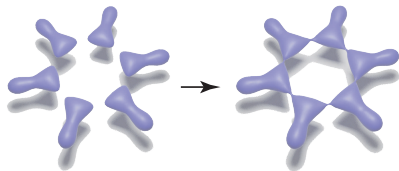
- ▶ *de Rham cohomology* $H_{dR}^k = \ker d^k / \text{im } d^{k-1}$, and $H_{dR}^k \cong \mathcal{H}_{\Delta}^k$,

$$\beta_k = \dim \mathcal{H}_{\Delta_t}^k = \dim \mathcal{H}_{\Delta_n}^{3-k}$$

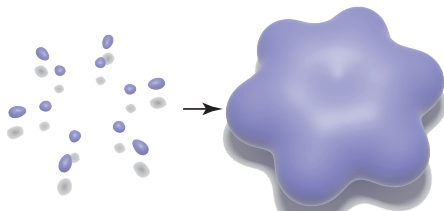
The inclusion map $\mathfrak{J}_{l,l+1} : M_l \hookrightarrow M_{l+1}$.

$$M_0 \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{J}_{0,1}} M_1 \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{J}_{1,2}} M_2 \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{J}_{2,3}} \dots \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{J}_{n-1,n}} M_n \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{J}_{n,n+1}} M = M_{c_{\max}}.$$

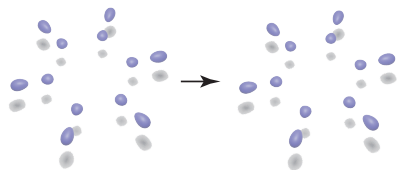




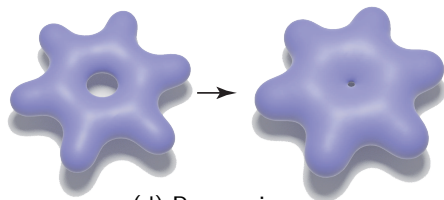
(a) Persistence



(b) Persistence and progression



(c) Identity map



(d) Progression

Figure 1: Persistence and progression on benzene.

- ▶ $\{\lambda_{l,i}^T\}$, $\{\lambda_{l,i}^C\}$ and $\{\lambda_{l,i}^N\}$ give the eigenvalues of the Laplacians.
- ▶ The multiplicities of the zero eigenvalues in $\lambda_{l,0}^T$, $\lambda_{l,0}^C$, and $\lambda_{l,0}^N$ are associated with Betti numbers β_0, β_1 and β_2 , respectively.
- ▶ $\lambda_{l,1}^T$, $\lambda_{l,1}^C$, and $\lambda_{l,1}^N$ are the first non-zero eigenvalues

Discrete Exterior Calculus (DEC) by [Desbrun2008]; Finite Element Exterior Calculus (FEEC) by [Arnold2006].

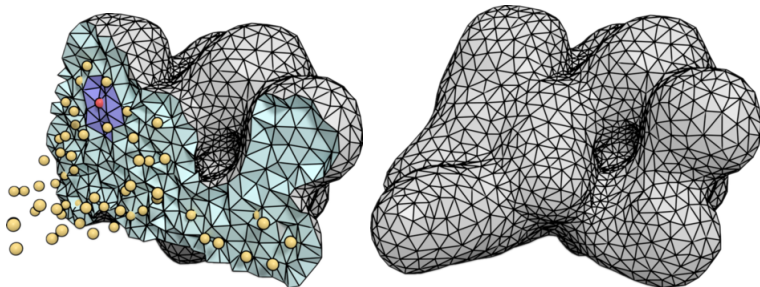


Figure 2: A 3-manifold embedded in 3D Euclidean space is tessellated into a 3D simplicial complex (Delaunay triangulation).

The boundary operator ∂ is defined as

$$\partial\sigma = \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i [v_0, v_1, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_k],$$

where \hat{v}_i means that the i th vertex is removed and an oriented k -simplex $\sigma = [v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k]$.

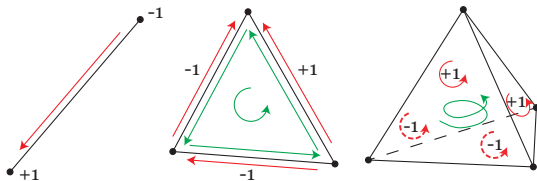


Figure 3: Pre-assigned orientation is colored in red. Induced orientation by ∂ is colored in green.

The discrete Hodge star matrices S_k is just converting primal forms and dual forms by the following equation

$$\frac{1}{|\sigma_k|} \int_{\sigma_k} \omega = \frac{1}{|*\sigma_k|} \int_{*\sigma_k} \star\omega.$$

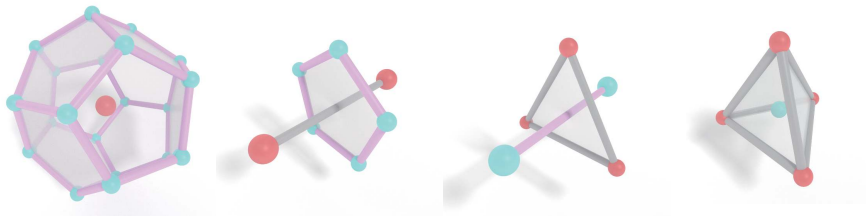


Figure 4: Illustration of the dual (Voronoi diagram) and primal elements (Delaunay triangulation) of the tetrahedral mesh.

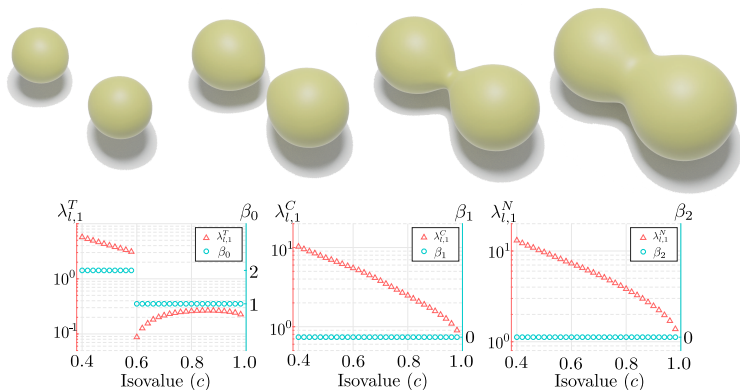
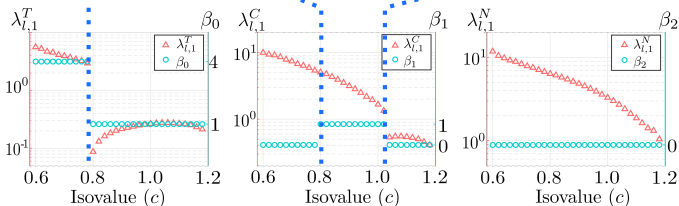
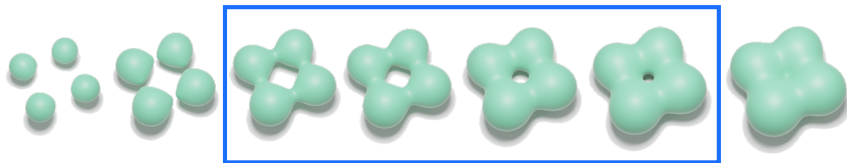


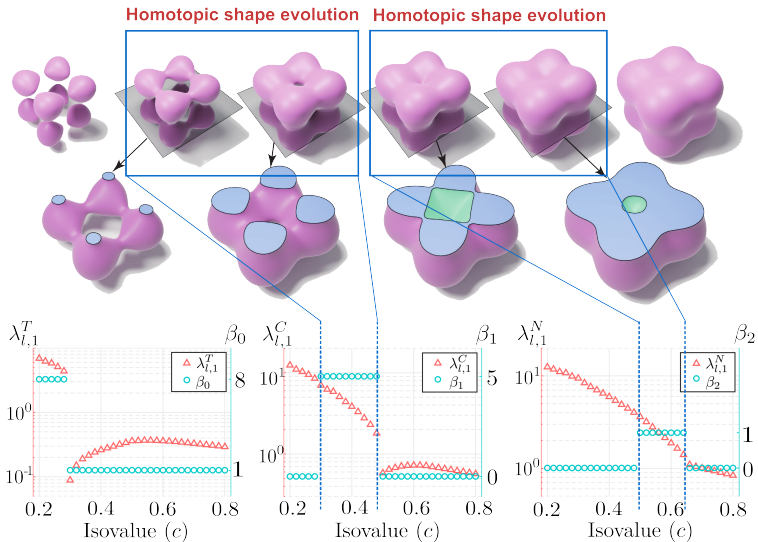
Figure 5: Eigenvalues and Betti numbers vs isovalue (c) of the two-body system with $\eta = 1.19$ and $\max(\rho) \approx 1.0$.

Homotopic shape evolution



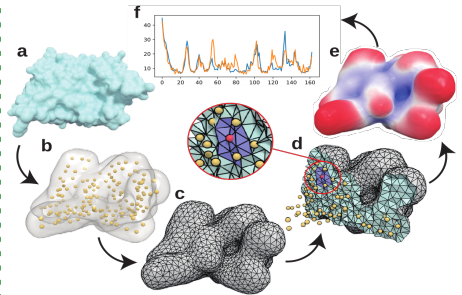
Harmonic (topology) and non-harmonic spectra

[Chen et al., DCDS-B, 2020]



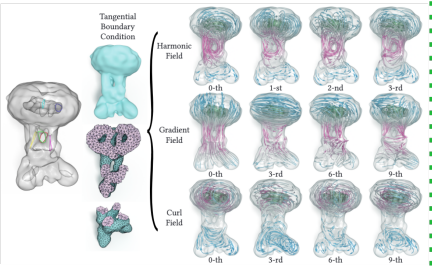
Harmonic (topology) and non-harmonic spectra

B-factor Prediction



[Zhao et al., Bull. Math. Bio. 2020]

Hodge Decomposition and Mode Analysis



[Zhao et al., Bull. Math. Bio. 2020]

- 1 **Chen et al.**, *Emerging dominant SARS-CoV-2 variants*, JCIM, 2023
- 2 **Chen et al.**, *A Cartesian FMM-accelerated Galerkin boundary integral Poisson-Boltzmann solver*, JCP, 2023
- 3 **Chen et al.**, *Persistent Laplacian projected Omicron BA. 4 and BA. 5 to become new dominating variants*, CBM, 2022
- 4 **Wilson et al.**, *Computing electrostatic binding energy with the TABI Poisson-Boltzmann solver*, CIS, 2022
- 5 **Chen et al.**, *Omicron BA.2 (B.1.1.529.2): high potential to becoming the next dominating variant*, JPCL, 2022
- 6 **Chen et al.**, *Mathematical artificial intelligence design of mutation-proof COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies*, CIS, 2022
- 7 **Gao et al.**, *Methodology-centered review of molecular modeling, simulation, and prediction of SARS-CoV-2*, Chem. Rev., 2022
- 8 **Chen et al.**, *Omicron variant (B.1.1.529): Infectivity, vaccine breakthrough, and antibody resistance*, JCIM, 2022
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- 10 **Gao et al.**, *Perspectives on SARS-CoV-2 main protease inhibitors*, JMC, 2021
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- 13 **Chen et al.**, *Revealing the threat of emerging SARS-CoV-2 mutations to antibody therapies*, JMB, 2021
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- 15 **Chen et al.**, *Prediction and mitigation of mutation threats to COVID-19 vaccines and antibody therapies*, Chemical Science, 2021
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Thank you!