

# HIGHER COARSE MEDIAN IN HIGHER RANK

j/w Mitul Islam

VENTOTENE 2025

Grazia Rago

# Coarse Median Spaces [Bowditch'13]

**IDEA:** A metric space has a coarse median if there is a coarsely well defined median for triples of points

# Coarse Median Spaces [Bowditch'13]

**IDEA:** A metric space has a coarse median if there is a coarsely well defined median for triples of points

## Examples:

- \* Gromov-hyperbolic spaces
- \* CAT(0) cube complexes
- \* Mapping class groups

# Coarse Median Spaces [Bowditch'13]

**IDEA:** A metric space has a coarse median if there is a coarsely well defined median for triples of points

## Examples:

- \* Gromov-hyperbolic spaces
- \* CAT(0) cube complexes
- \* Mapping class groups

## Non-example:

- \* [Haettel '16]  $SL_n \mathbb{R}/SO(n)$  has no coarse median for all  $n > 2$

# Coarse Median Spaces [Bowditch'13]

**IDEA:** A metric space has a coarse median if there is a coarsely well defined median for triples of points

## Examples:

- \* Gromov-hyperbolic spaces
- \* CAT(0) cube complexes
- \* Mapping class groups

## Non-example:

- \* [Haettel '16]  $SL_n \mathbb{R}/SO(n)$  has no coarse median for all  $n > 2$

**Goal:** define a coarse  $n$ -median on  $SL_n \mathbb{R}/SO(n)$

**Notation:**  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R} \mathbb{P}^d$  is a properly convex domain (p.c.d.)

**Notation:**  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R} \mathbb{P}^d$  is a properly convex domain (p.c.d.)

**Def.** Given  $v^0, \dots, v^k \in \bar{\Omega}$ , the straight simplex  $S = \text{CH}(v^0, \dots, v^k)$  is

\*  $\delta$ -slim if  $F^i \subseteq \bigcup_{j \neq i} N_\delta(F^j)$  for all  $i=0,\dots,k$

w/  $F^i = \text{CH}(v^0, \dots, \hat{v}^i, \dots, v^k)$

$N_\delta(\cdot) = \delta$ -neighbourhood for the Hilbert metric



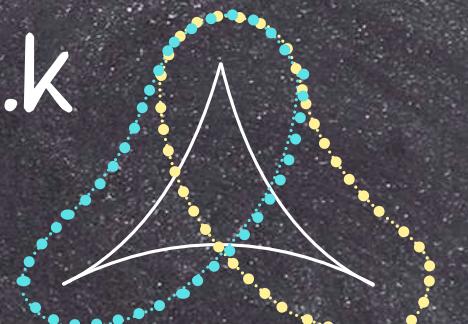
**Notation:**  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R} \mathbb{P}^d$  is a properly convex domain (p.c.d.)

**Def.** Given  $v^0, \dots, v^k \in \bar{\Omega}$ , the straight simplex  $S = \text{CH}(v^0, \dots, v^k)$  is

\*  $\delta$ -slim if  $F^i \subseteq \bigcup_{j \neq i} N_\delta(F^j)$  for all  $i=0, \dots, k$

w/  $F^i = \text{CH}(v^0, \dots, \hat{v}^i, \dots, v^k)$

\* Properly embedded (PES) if  $\partial S \subset \partial \Omega$

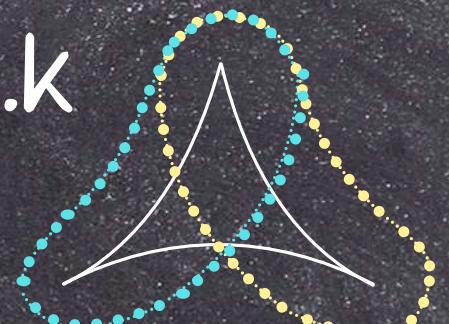


**Notation:**  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R} \mathbb{P}^d$  is a properly convex domain (p.c.d.)

**Def.** Given  $v^0, \dots, v^k \in \bar{\Omega}$ , the straight simplex  $S = \text{CH}(v^0, \dots, v^k)$  is

\*  $\delta$ -slim if  $F^i \subseteq \bigcup_{j \neq i} N_\delta(F^j)$  for all  $i=0, \dots, k$

w/  $F^i = \text{CH}(v^0, \dots, \hat{v}^i, \dots, v^k)$



\* Properly embedded (PES) if  $\partial S \subset \partial \Omega$

**Proposition [Islam-R.]**: i.e.  $\Omega$  has a cocompact action by isometries

Let  $\Omega$  be a divisible p.c.d. Fix  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ . TFAE:

\* The maximum dimension of a PES in  $\Omega$  is less than or equal to  $r$

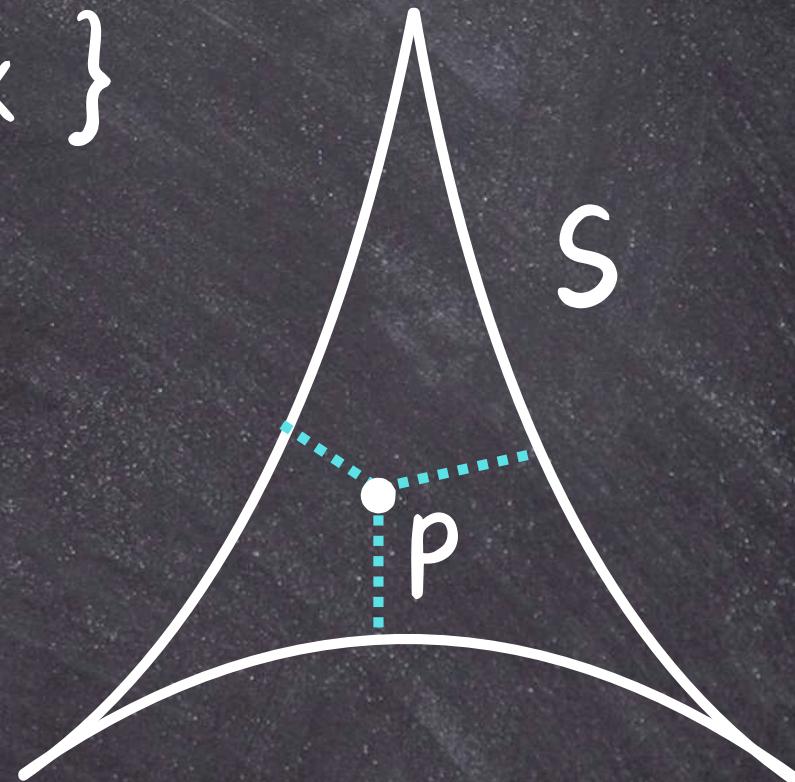
\* There exists  $\delta > 0$  such that all  $(r+1)$ -simplices are  $\delta$ -slim

## Def. [ $\delta$ -centroid]

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R} \mathbb{P}^d$  be a p.c.d. and  $S \subset \Omega$  be a simplex. Fix  $\delta > 0$ .

$$C_\delta(S) := \{p \in S \mid d_\Omega(p, F^i) < \delta \text{ for all } i=0, \dots, k\}$$

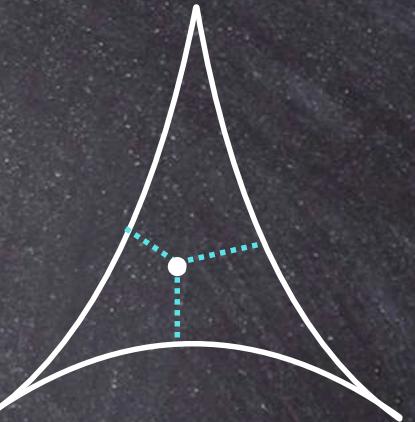
Hilbert metric



## Def. [ $\delta$ -centroid]

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R} \mathbb{P}^d$  be a p.c.d. and  $S \subset \Omega$  be a simplex. Fix  $\delta > 0$ .

$$C_\delta(S) := \{p \in S \mid d_\Omega(p, F^i) < \delta \text{ for all } i=0, \dots, k\}$$

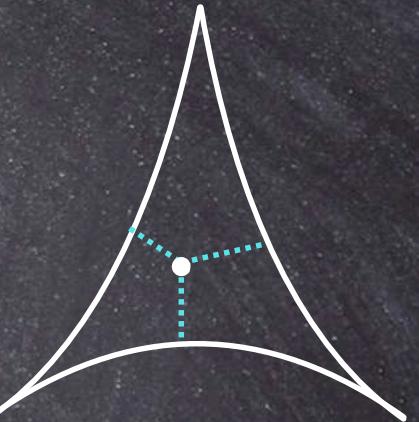


**Proposition [Islam-R.] :**  $S$   $\delta$ -slim  $\implies C_\delta(S) \neq \emptyset$

## Def. [ $\delta$ -centroid]

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R} \mathbb{P}^d$  be a p.c.d. and  $S \subset \Omega$  be a simplex. Fix  $\delta > 0$ .

$$C_\delta(S) := \{p \in S \mid d_\Omega(p, F^i) < \delta \text{ for all } i=0, \dots, k\}$$



**Proposition [Islam-R.] :**  $S \text{ } \delta\text{-slim} \implies C_\delta(S) \neq \emptyset$

**Proposition [Islam-R.] :**

Let  $\Omega$  be a divisible p.c.d. and  $1 \leq r \leq d$  be the max dim of a PES.

Fix  $\delta > 0$  s.t. any  $(r+1)$ -simplex is  $\delta$ -slim. There is a constant  $K(\delta) > 0$

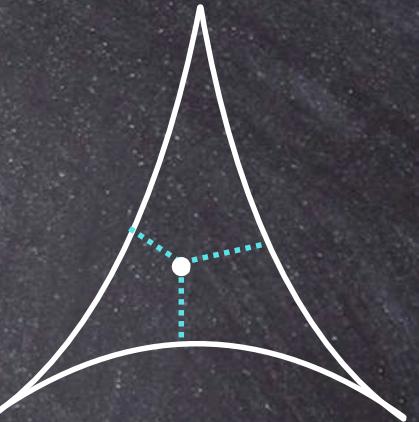
s.t. if  $v^0, \dots, v^{r+1} \in \Omega$  are generic, then

$$\text{diam}_\Omega(C_\delta(\text{CH}(v^0, \dots, v^{r+1}))) < K(\delta).$$

## Def. [ $\delta$ -centroid]

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R} \mathbb{P}^d$  be a p.c.d. and  $S \subset \Omega$  be a simplex. Fix  $\delta > 0$ .

$$C_\delta(S) := \{p \in S \mid d_\Omega(p, F^i) < \delta \text{ for all } i=0, \dots, k\}$$



**Proposition [Islam-R.] :**  $S \text{ } \delta\text{-slim} \implies C_\delta(S) \neq \emptyset$

**Proposition [Islam-R.] :**

Let  $\Omega$  be a divisible p.c.d. and  $1 \leq r \leq d$  be the max dim of a PES.

Fix  $\delta > 0$  s.t. any  $(r+1)$ -simplex is  $\delta$ -slim. There is a constant  $K(\delta) > 0$

s.t. if  $v^0, \dots, v^{r+1} \in \Omega$  are generic, then  $\text{diam}_\Omega(C_\delta(\text{CH}(v^0, \dots, v^{r+1}))) < K(\delta)$ .

**Theorem [Islam-R.] :**  $(\Omega, d_\Omega)$  admits a coarse  $r$ -median.

Thanks for your attention !