

Topological methods in combinatorics - tutorials

Class work – Tverberg’s theorem, chessboard complexes, polyhedral complexes

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Definition 1. A (*geometric*) *polyhedral complex* is a collection of polyhedra $\mathbf{M} = \{M_1, \dots, M_k\}$ such that each M_i is a bounded polyhedron in \mathbb{R}^d for some d and such that the following holds:

1. If $M \in \mathbf{M}$ and F is a face of M , then $F \in \mathbf{M}$.
2. If $M_1, M_2 \in \mathbf{M}$, then $M_1 \cap M_2$ is a face of both M_1 and M_2 .
1. Let v_1, \dots, v_{d+1} be vertices of a simplex in \mathbb{R}^d and let B_i be a set of $r-1$ points lying very close to v_i . Prove that there is no partition of $B := B_1 \cup \dots \cup B_{d+1}$ into r disjoint parts whose convex hulls have a nonempty intersection.
2. A *chessboard complex* $\mathcal{C}_{m,n}$ is a simplicial complex whose vertex set is $[n] \times [m]$, and its simplices can be interpreted as placements of rooks on an $n \times m$ chessboard such that no rook threatens any other; that is, no two rooks share a row or a column.

Which well-known topological space is homeomorphic to $\mathcal{C}_{3,4}$?

3. Is the following statement true? For each $d \geq 1$ every two simplicial subdivisions of the cube $[0, 1]^d$ (viewed as a polyhedral complex consisting of all faces of the cube), which do not use any new vertices, have the same number of d -simplices.