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Discrete Morse Theory

Abstract for the Combinatorics Seminar 2008 March 18

I will explain the basics of discrete Morse theory for regular cell complexes, and as an example I will show it at work in the study of arrangements of complex hyperplanes. Given a complex arrangement (satisfying some additional hypotheses), discrete Morse theory allows one to explicitly construct CW-complexes that are homotopy equivalent to the complement of the arrangement and have the smallest possible number of cells in each dimension.

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