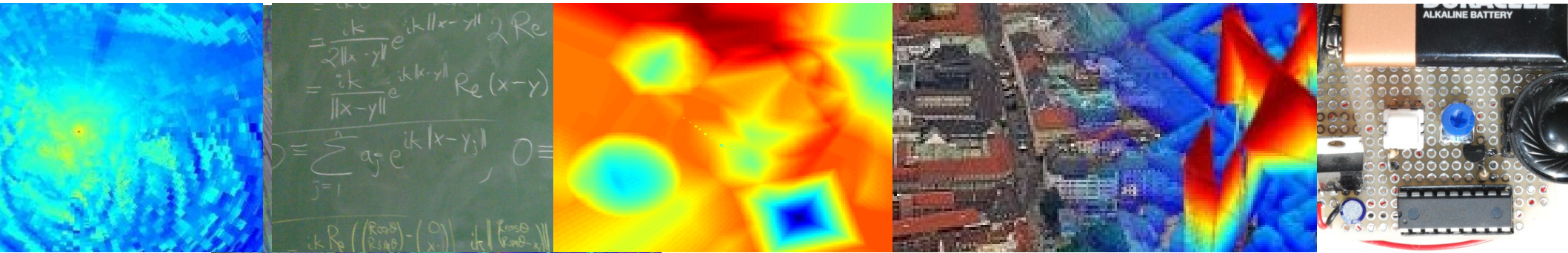


# Assignments to sheaves *of* pseudometric spaces



Michael Robinson



# Acknowledgements

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- Collaborators:
  - Brett Jefferson, Cliff Joslyn, Brenda Praggastis, Emilie Purvine (PNNL)
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  - Ken Ewing
  - Samara Fantie
  - Robby Green
  - Fangei Lan
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  - Metin Toksoz-Exley
  - Jackson Williams
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# Key ideas

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- Sheaves of **pseudometric spaces** rather than of sets
- **Motivate** *filtrations of partial covers* as generalizing *consistency filtrations* of sheaf assignments
- **Explore** filtrations of partial covers as interesting mathematical objects in their own right with a dual categorial/topological nature:
  - The consistency filtration is a covariant functor
  - The consistency filtration is a continuous function

Big caveat: Only finite spaces are under consideration!



# Context

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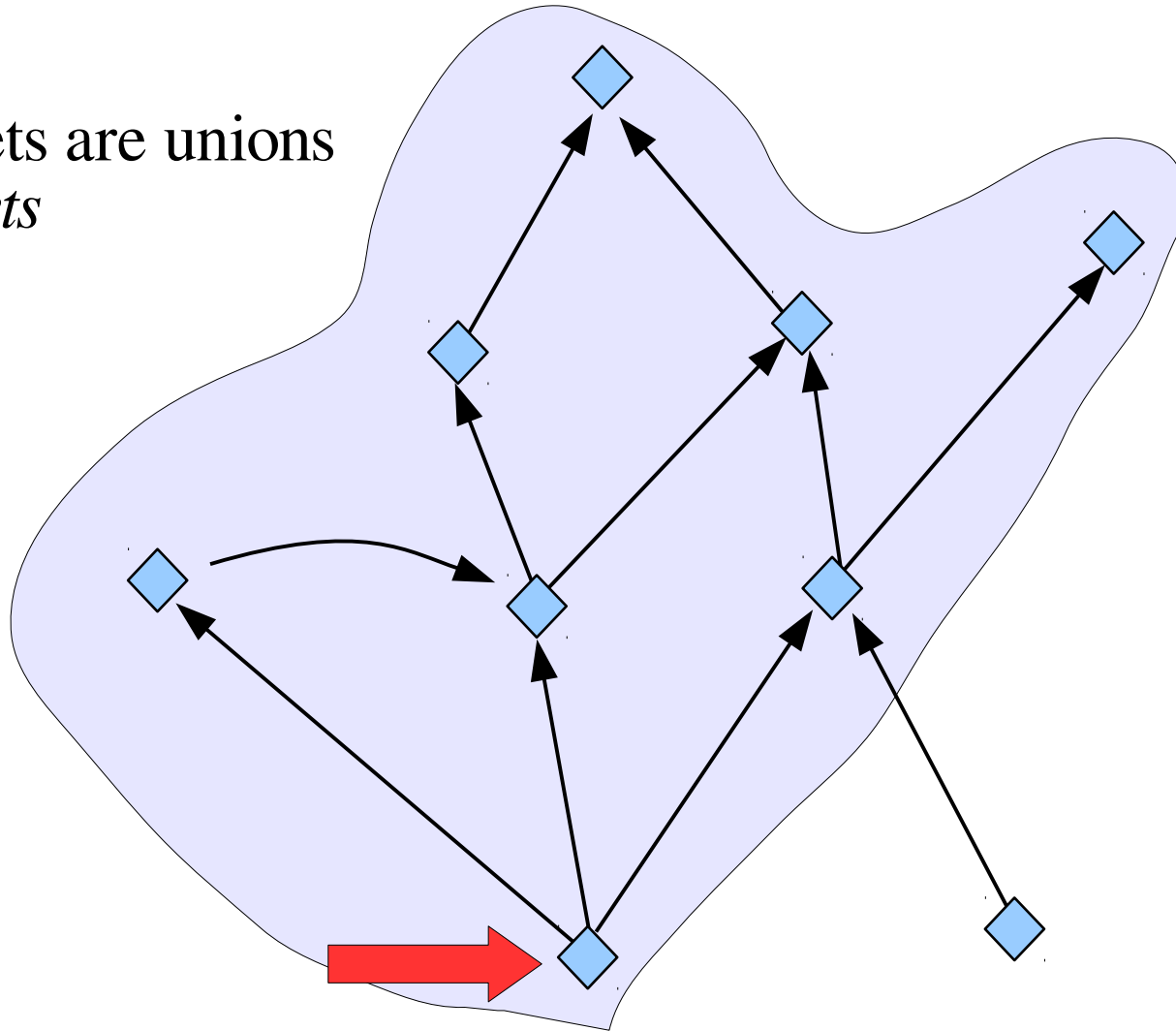
- Assemble stochastic models of data locally into a global topological picture
  - *Persistent homology* is sensitive to outliers
  - Statistical tools are less sensitive to outliers, but cannot handle (much) global topological structure
  - *Sheaves* can be built to mediate between these two extremes... this is what I have tried to do for the past decade or so
- The output is the *consistency filtration* of a sheaf *assignment*



# Topologizing a partial order

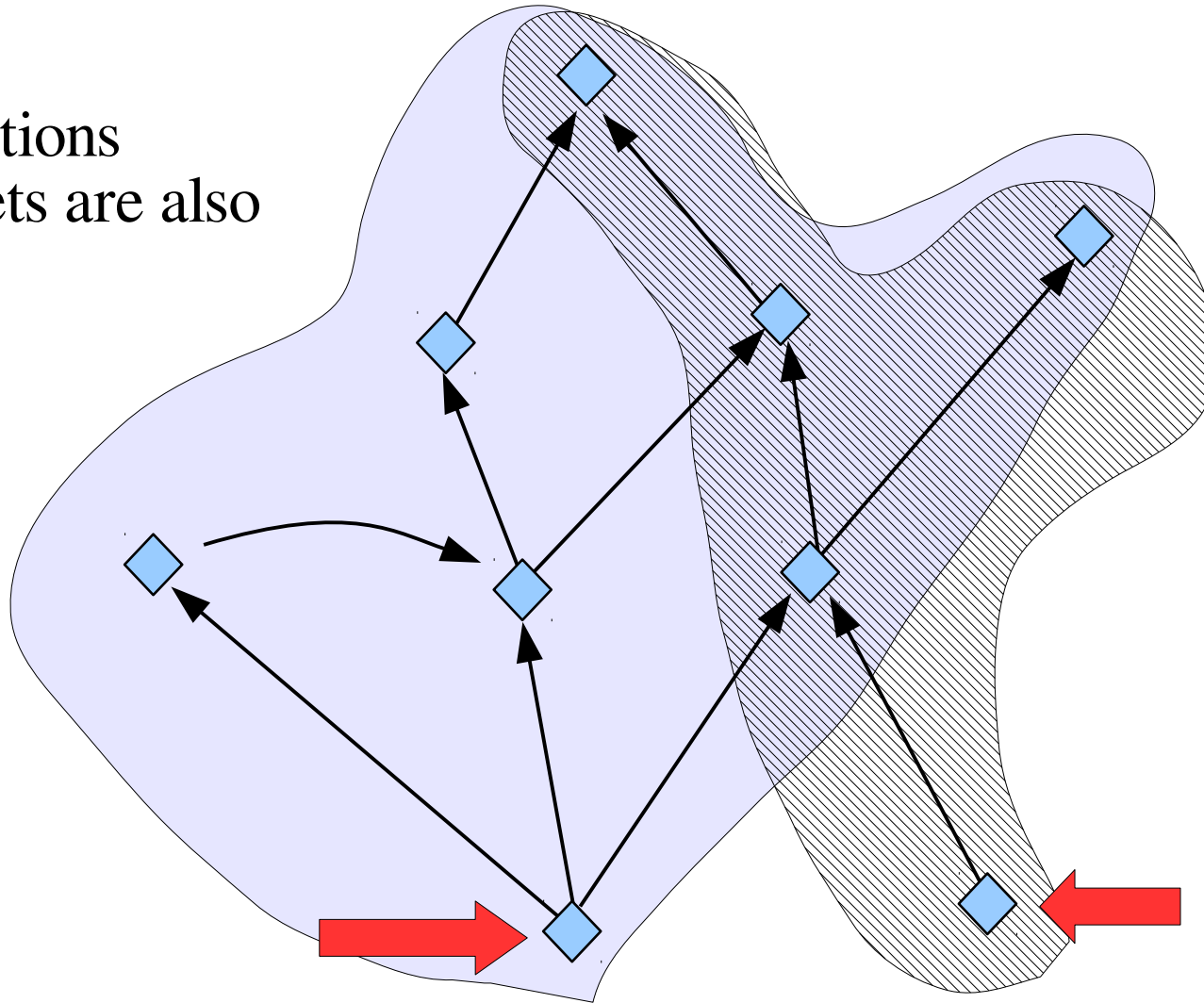
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Open sets are unions  
of *up-sets*



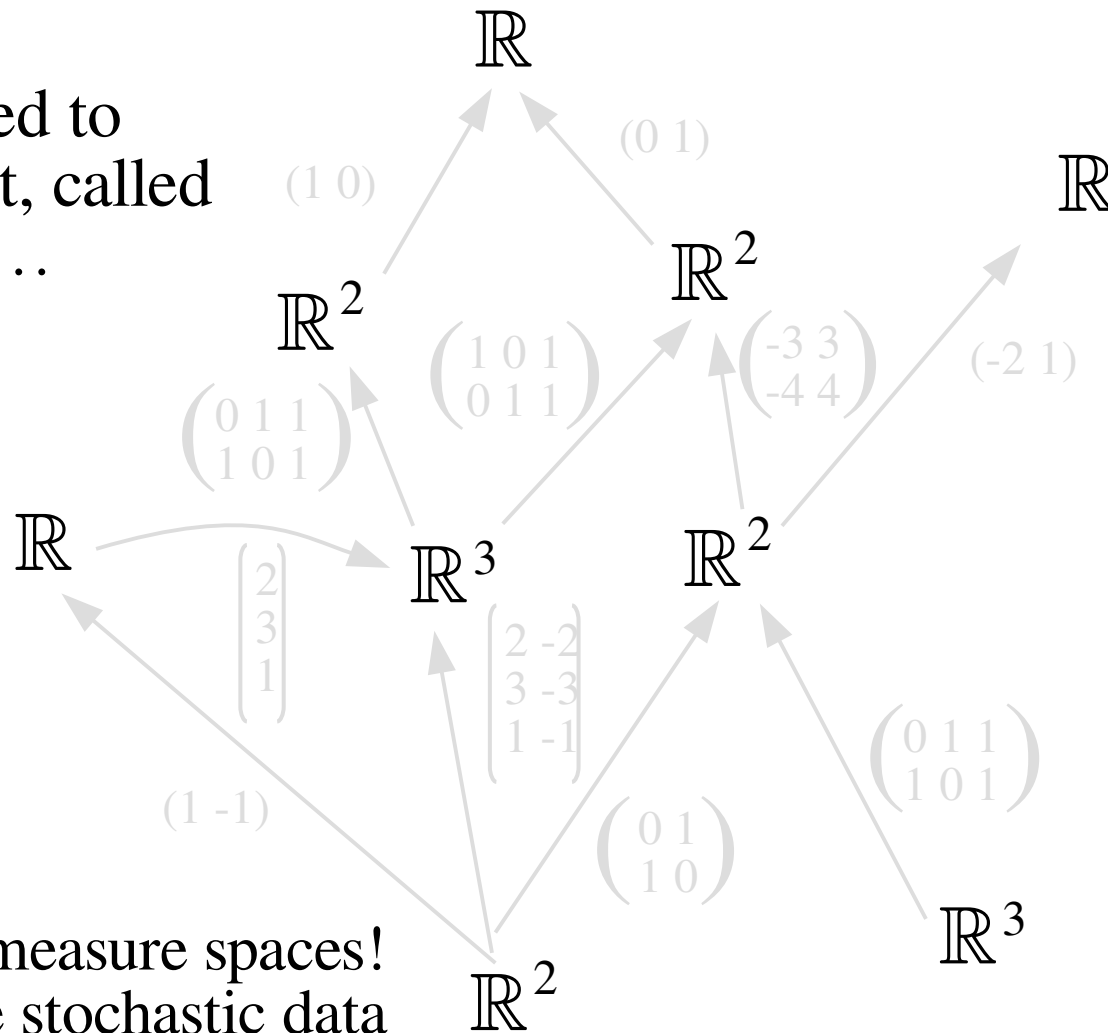
# Topologizing a partial order

Intersections  
of up-sets are also  
up-sets



# A *sheaf* on a poset is...

A set assigned to each element, called a *stalk*, and ...



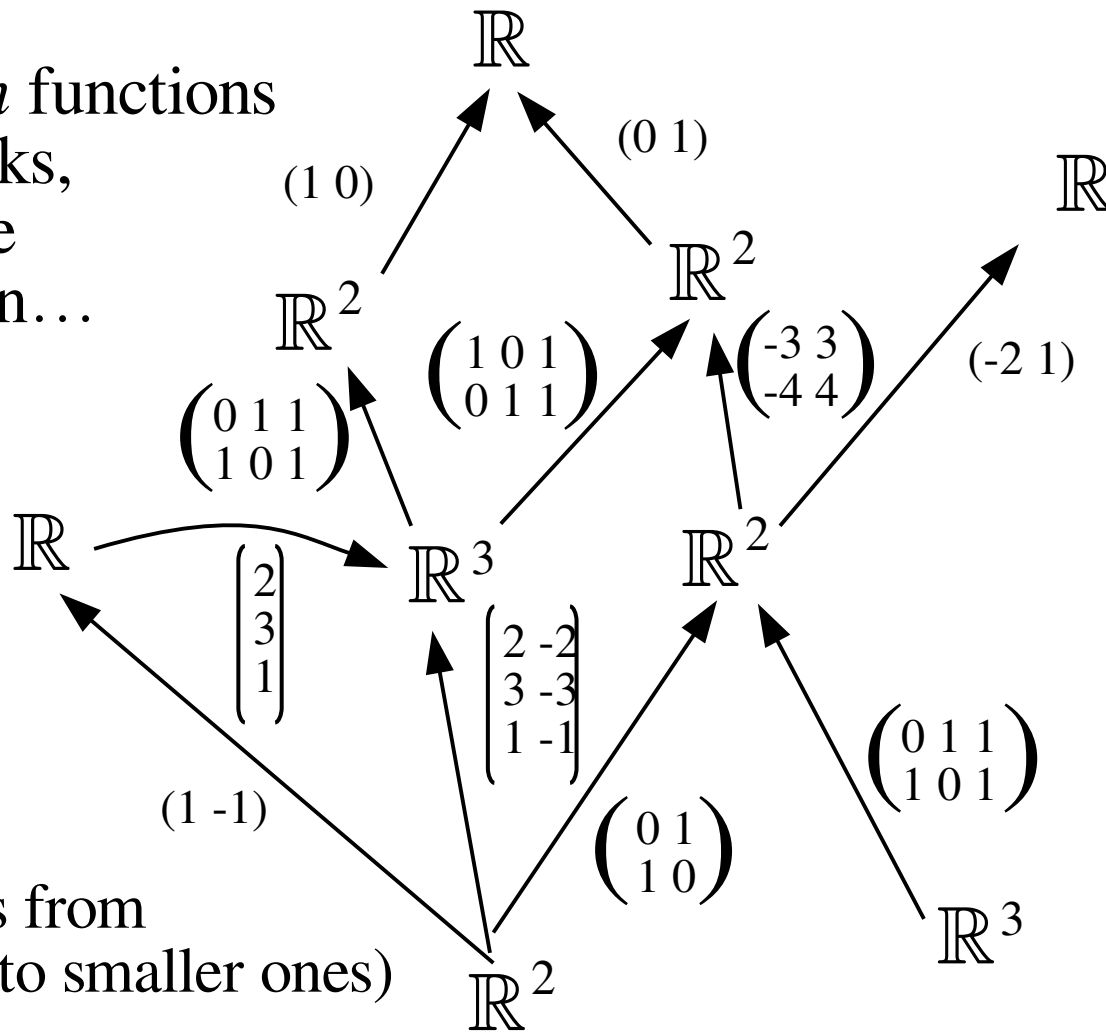
Stalks can be measure spaces!  
We can handle stochastic data

This is a *sheaf* of vector spaces on a partial order



# A *sheaf* on a poset is...

... *restriction* functions  
between stalks,  
following the  
order relation...



(“Restriction”  
because it goes from  
bigger up-sets to smaller ones)

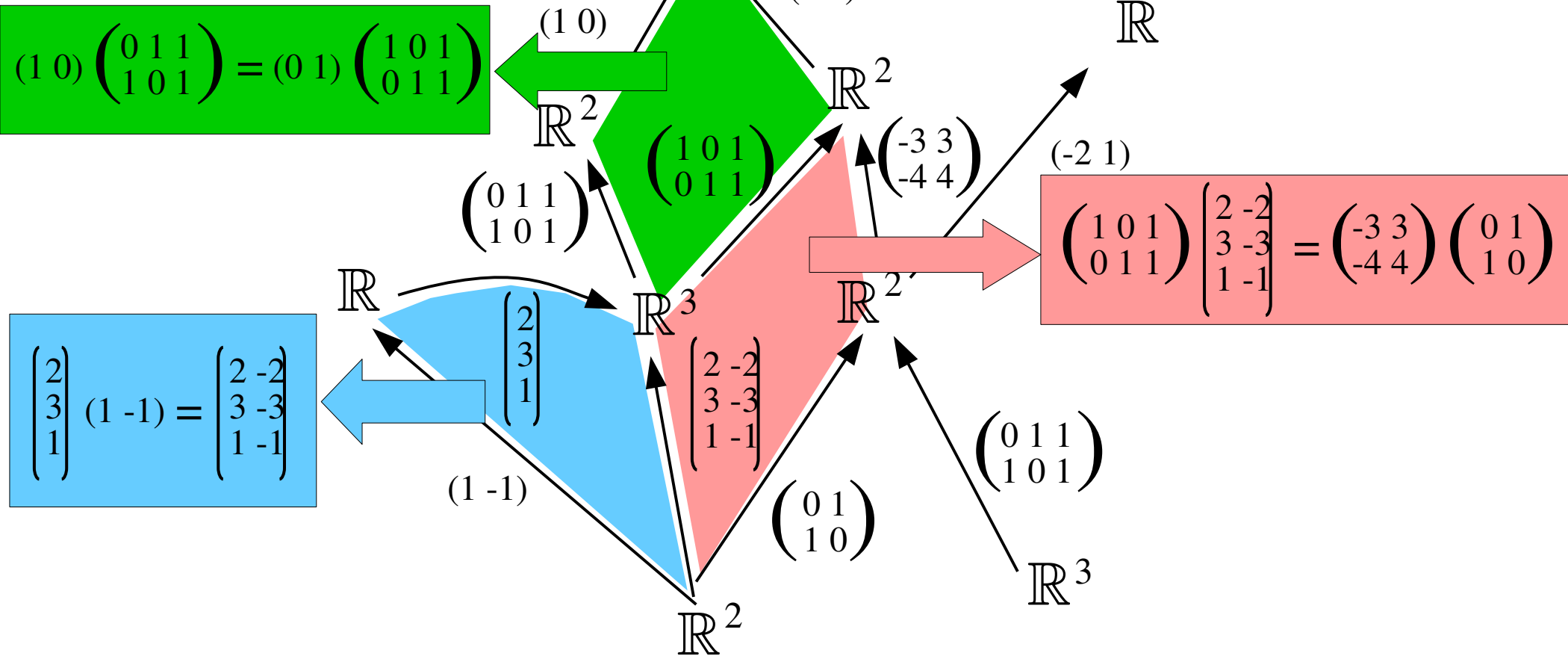
This is a *sheaf* of vector spaces on a partial order





# A *sheaf* on a poset is...

... so that the diagram commutes!

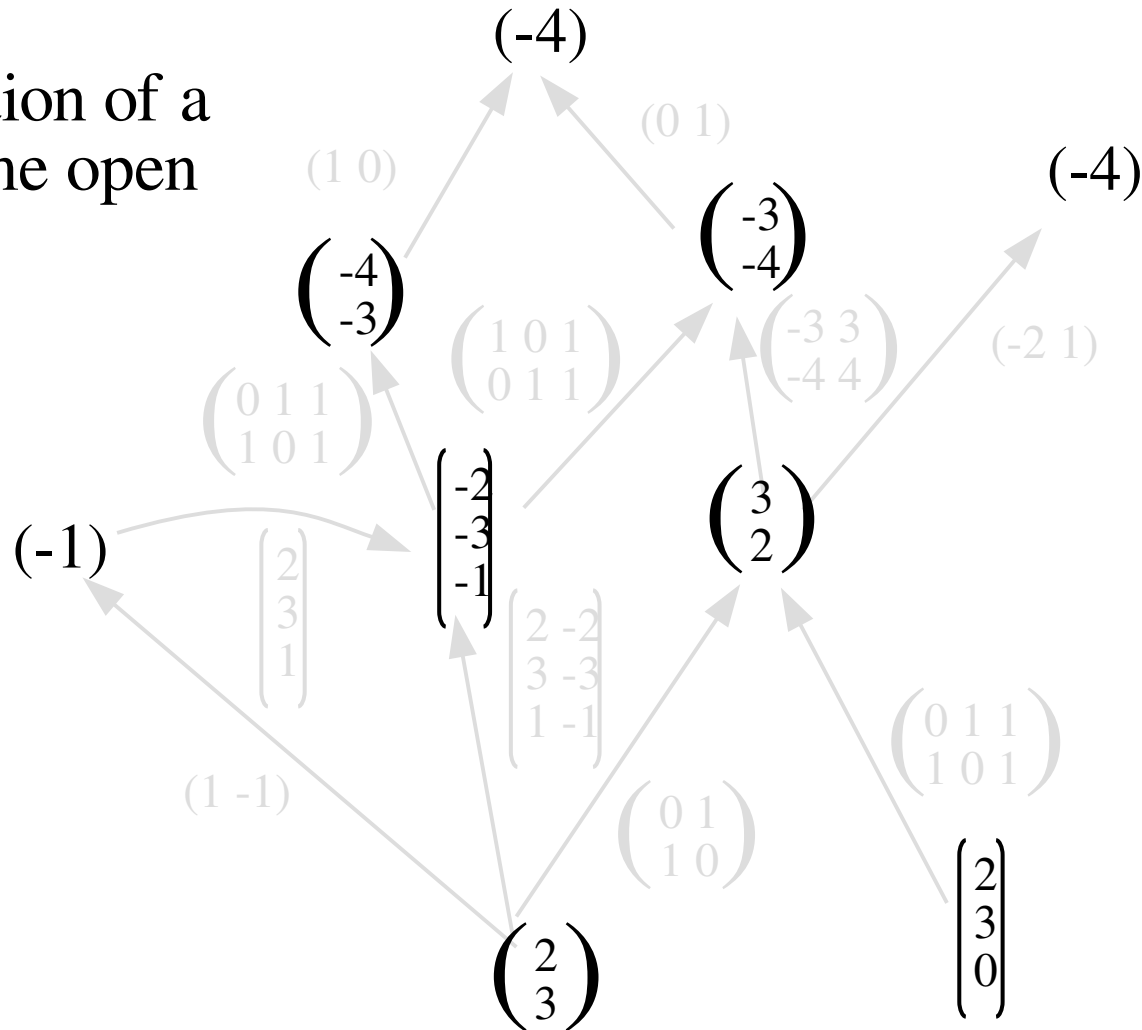


This is a *sheaf* of vector spaces on a partial order



# An *assignment* is...

... the selection of a value on some open sets

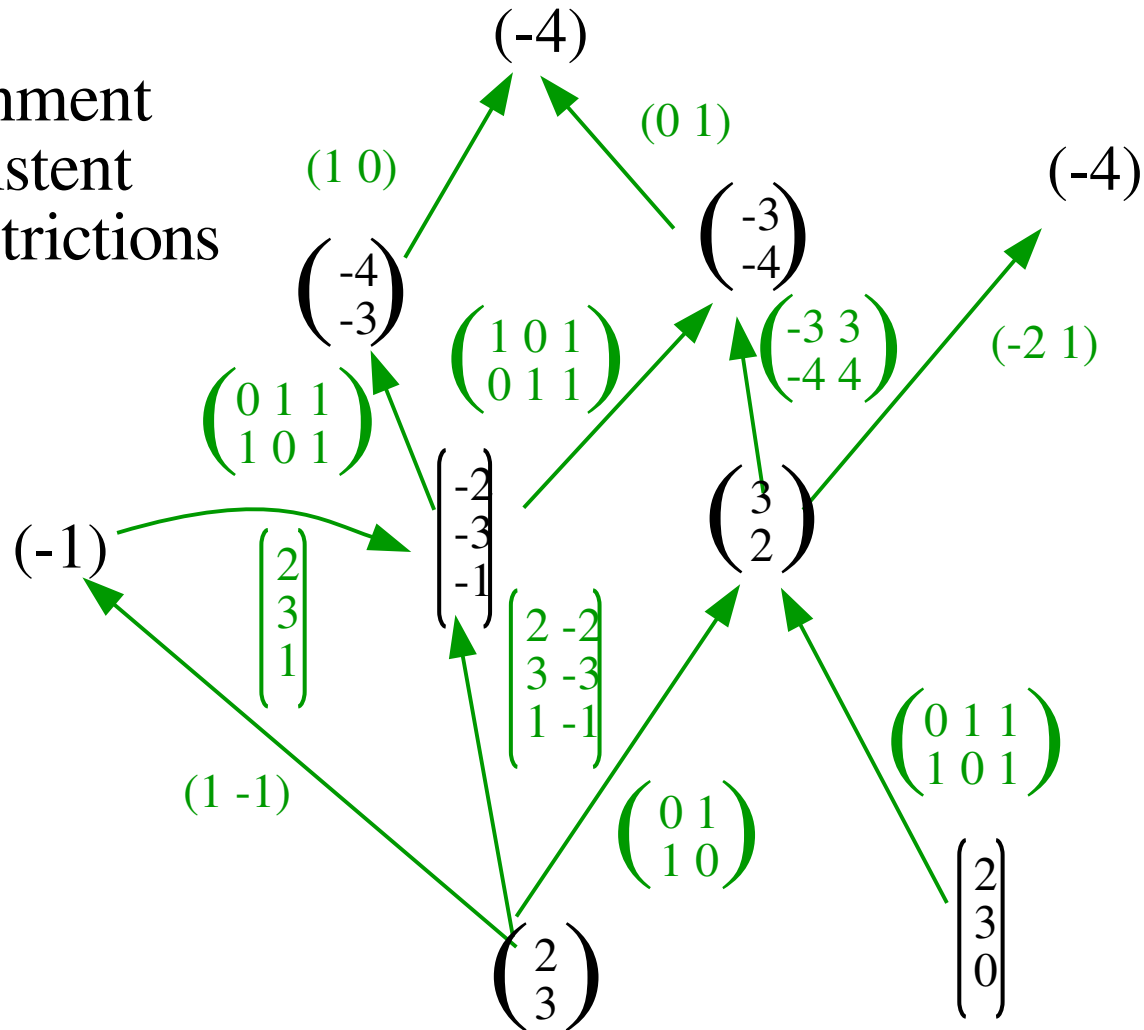


The term *serration* is more common, but perhaps more opaque.



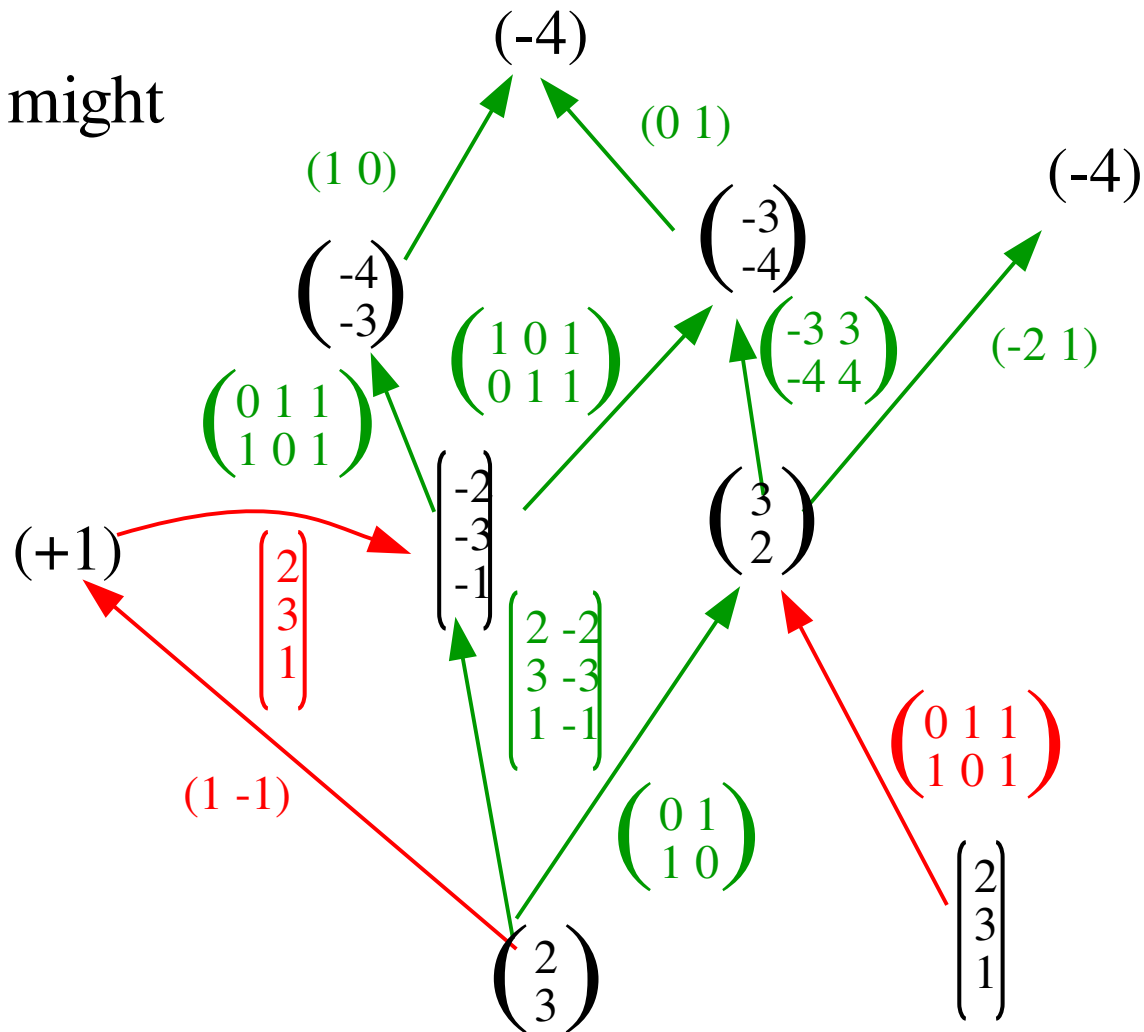
# A global section is...

... an assignment that is consistent with the restrictions



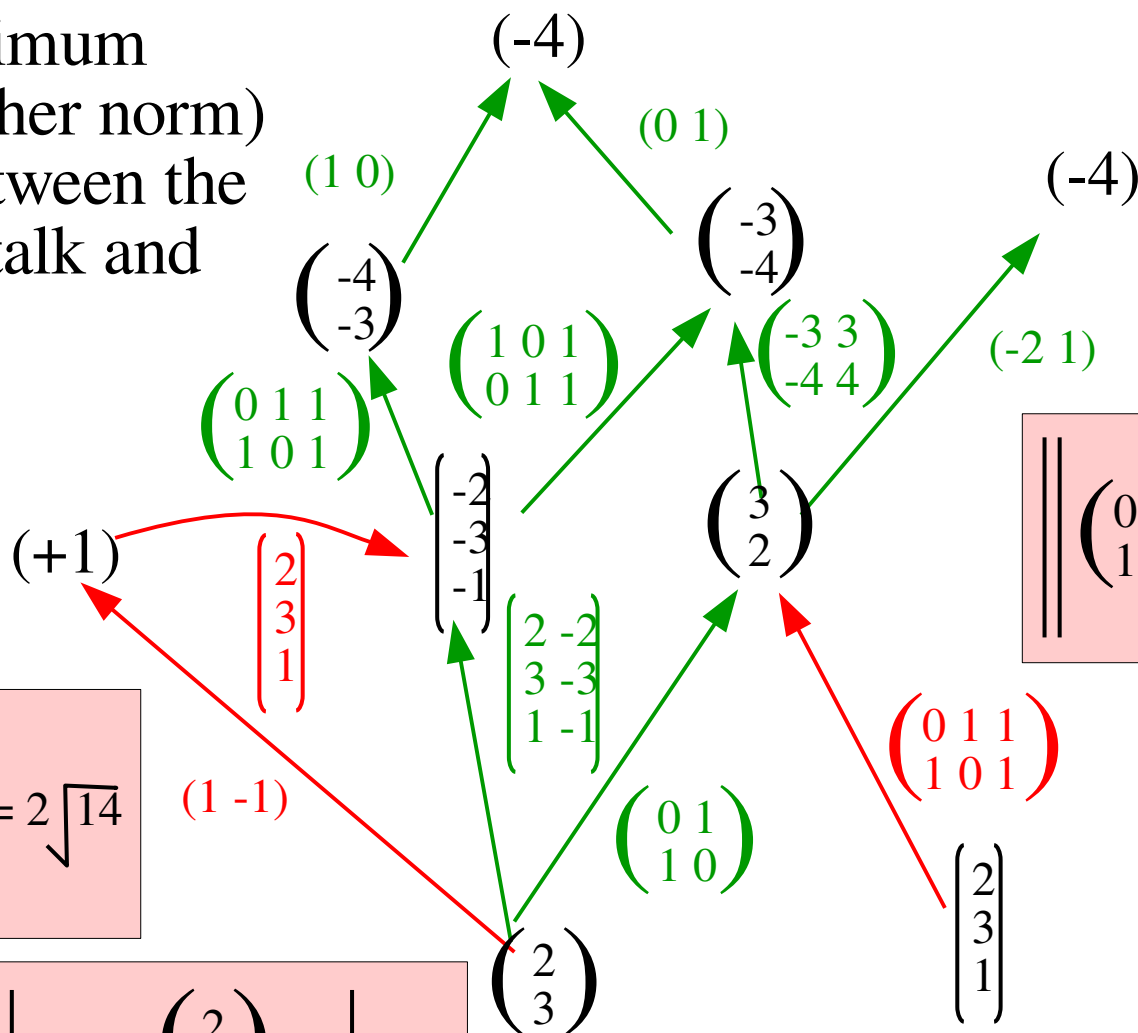
# Some assignments aren't consistent

... but they might be partially consistent



# Consistency radius is...

... the maximum (or some other norm) distance between the value in a stalk and the values propagated along the restrictions



$$\left\| \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{2}$$

$$\left\| \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} (+1) - \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = 2\sqrt{14}$$

$$\left| (1 \ -1) \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} - 1 \right| = 2$$

$$\text{MAX} \geq 2\sqrt{14}$$

Note: lots more restrictions to check!

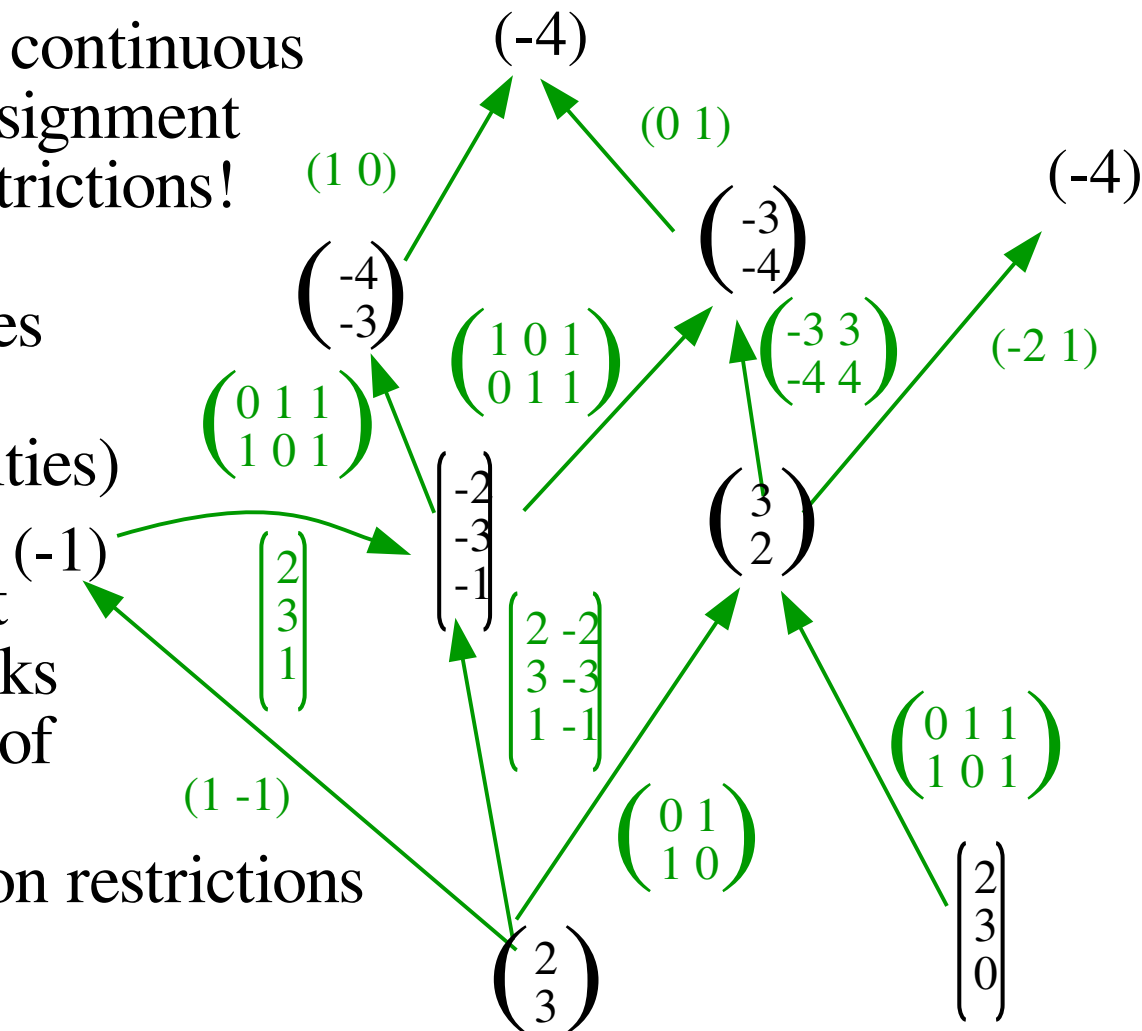


# Consistency radius is continuous

Theorem: It's continuous both in the assignment and in the restrictions!

(Proof involves establishing some inequalities)

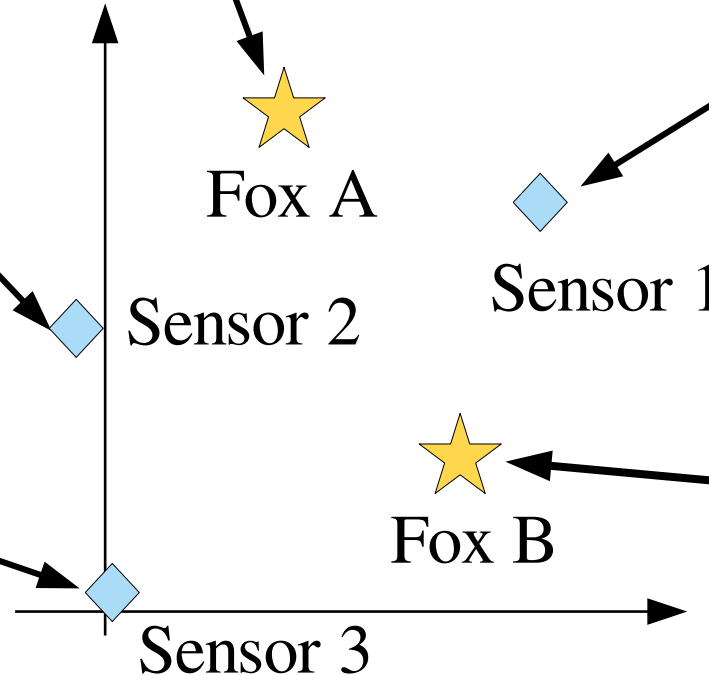
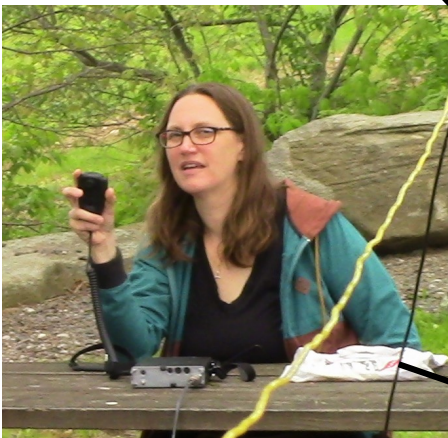
Use a product metric on stalks and topology of uniform convergence on restrictions



# Amateur radio foxhunting

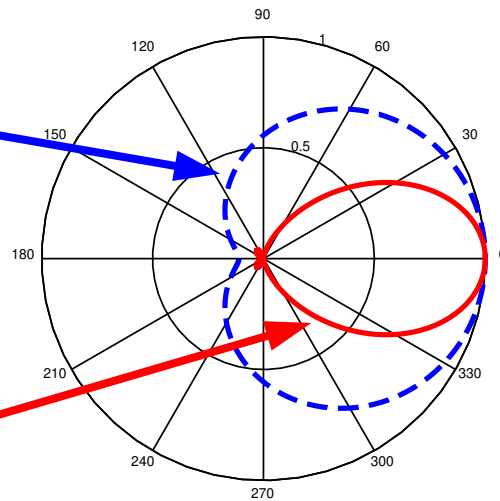
Typical sensors:

- Bearing to Fox
- Fox signal strength
- GPS location



# Bearing sensors

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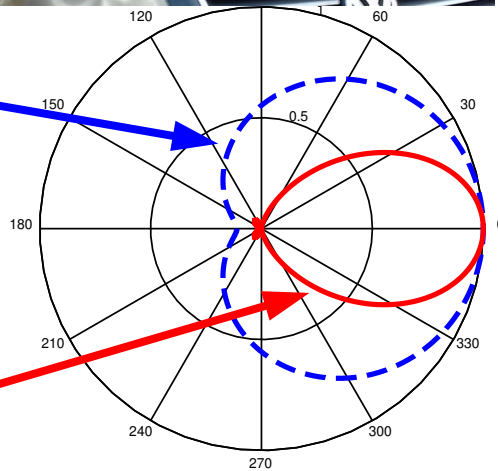
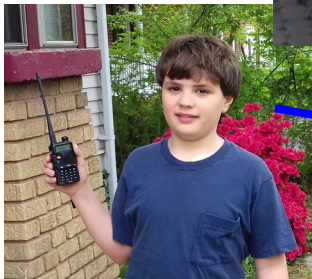


Antenna pattern

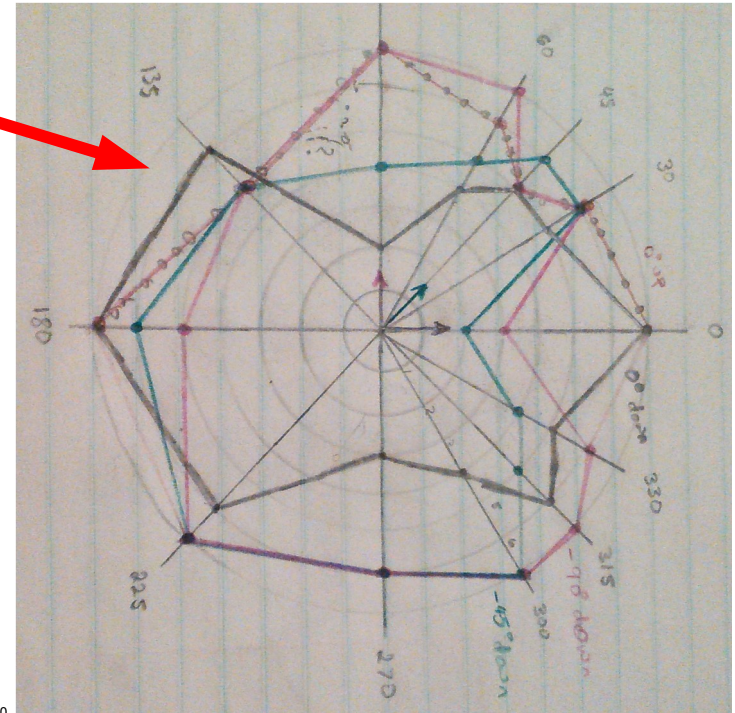




# Bearing sensors... reality...

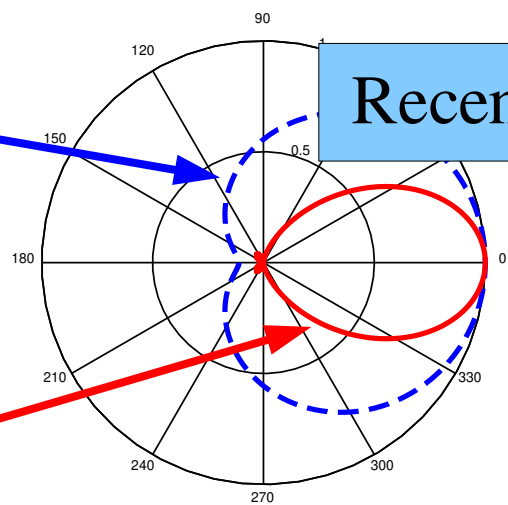


Antenna pattern

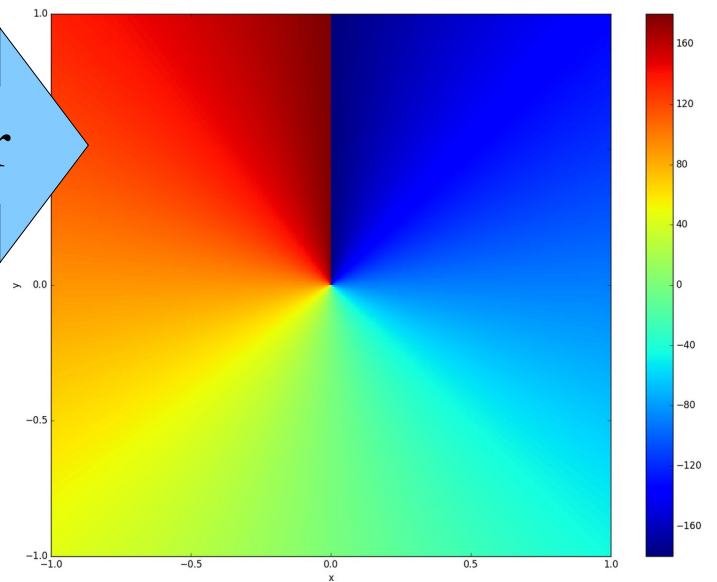


# Bearing observations

Bearing as a function of sensor position

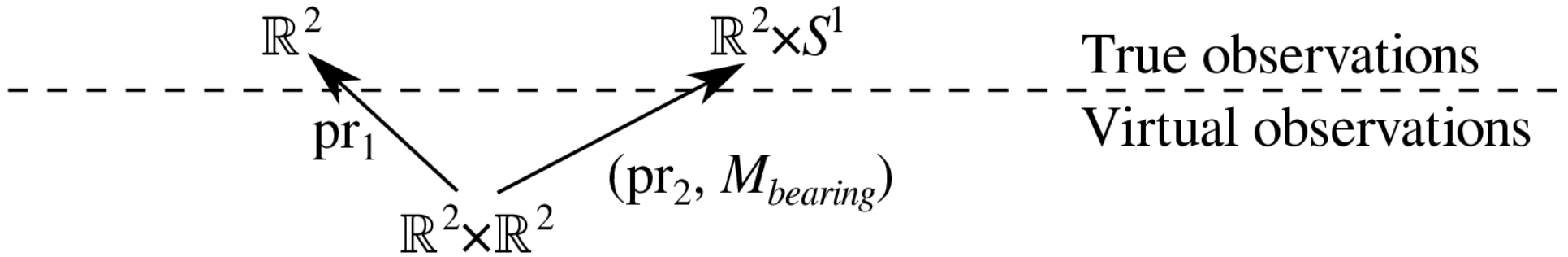


Antenna pattern

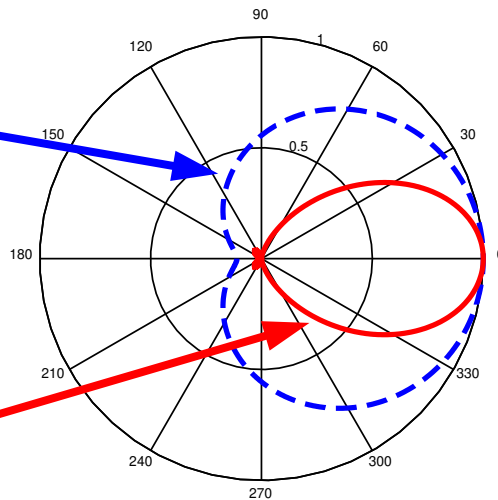


# Bearing sheaf

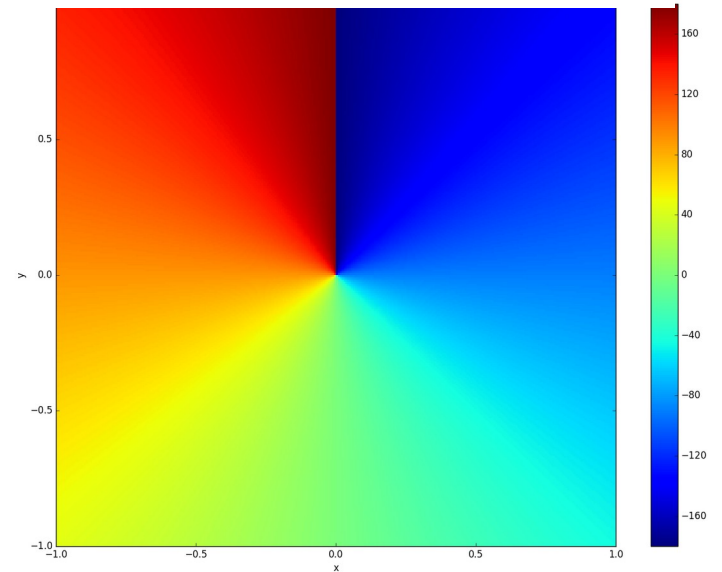
**Fox position    Sensor position, Bearing**



**Fox position, Sensor position**

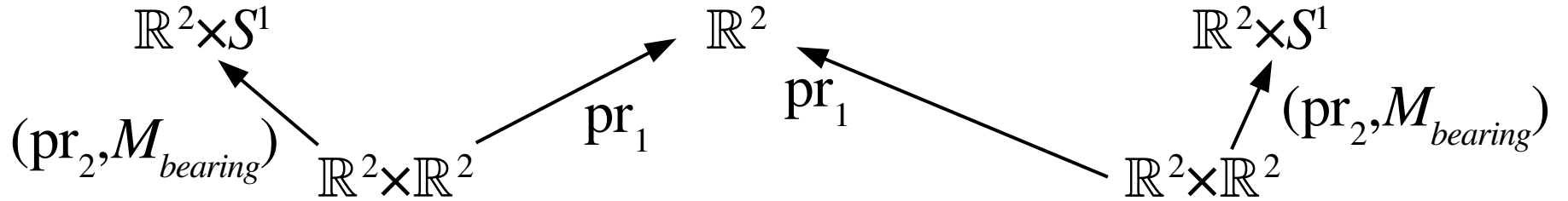


Antenna pattern



# Bearing sheaf (two sensors)

Sensor 1 position, Bearing      Fox position      Sensor 2 position, Bearing



Fox position, Sensor 1 position

Fox position, Sensor 2 position

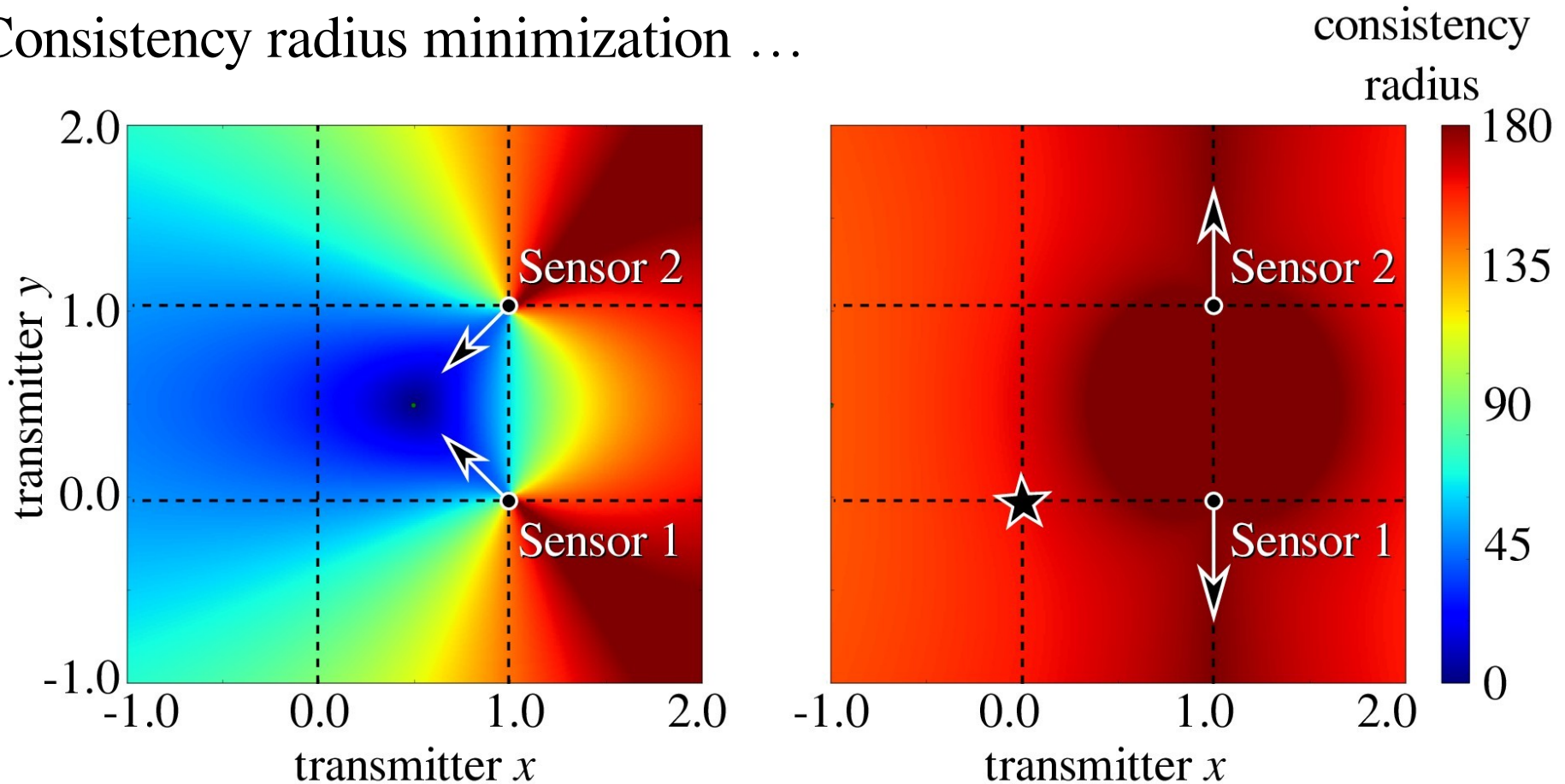


Global sections of this sheaf correspond to two bearings whose sight lines intersect at the fox transmitter



# Consistency of proposed fox locations

Consistency radius minimization ...



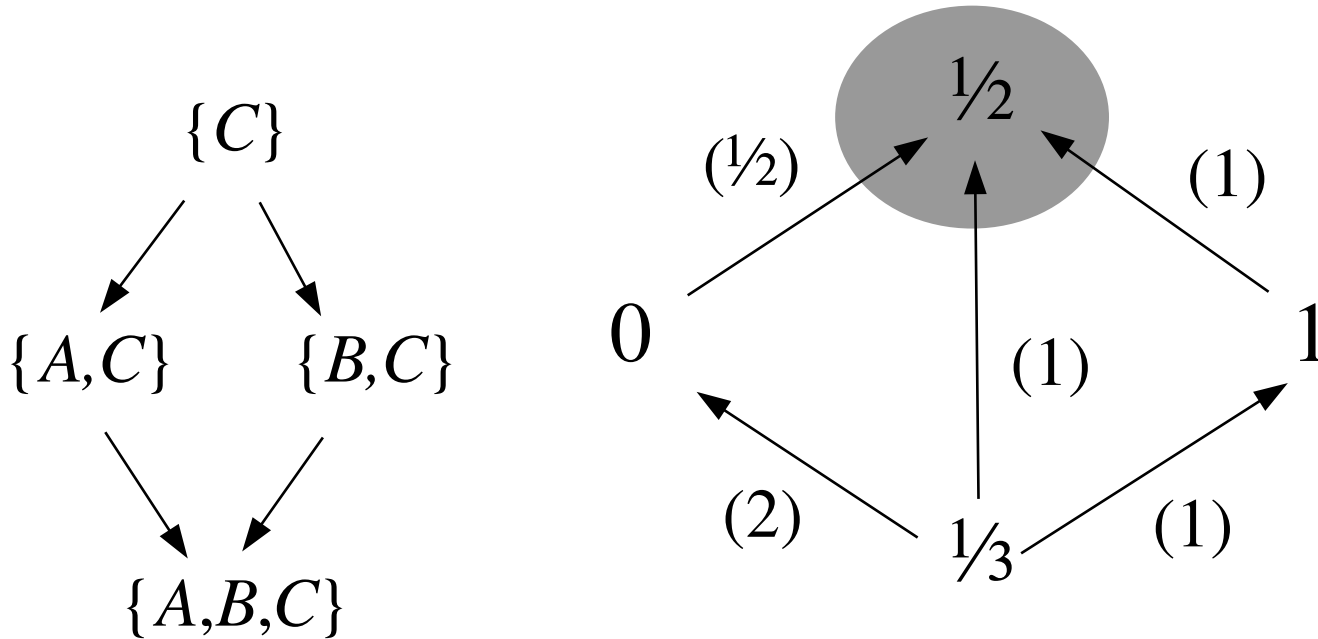
... converges to a likely fox location

... does not converge!



# Local consistency radius

Consistency radius of this open set = 0



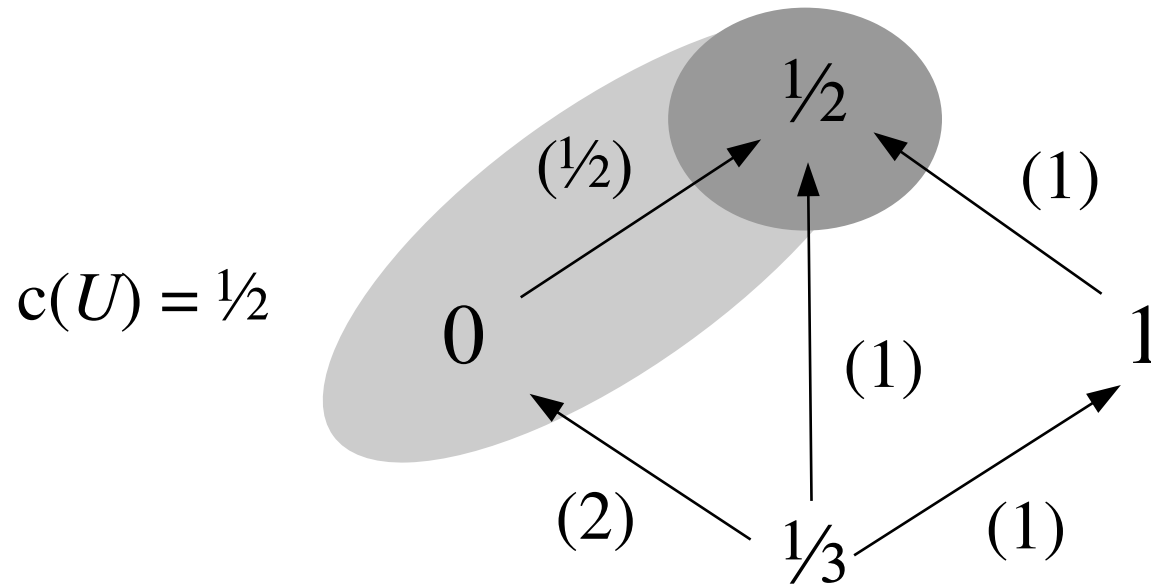
Lemma: Consistency radius on an open set  $U$  is computed by only considering open sets  $V_1 \subseteq V_2 \subseteq U$



# Local consistency radius

---

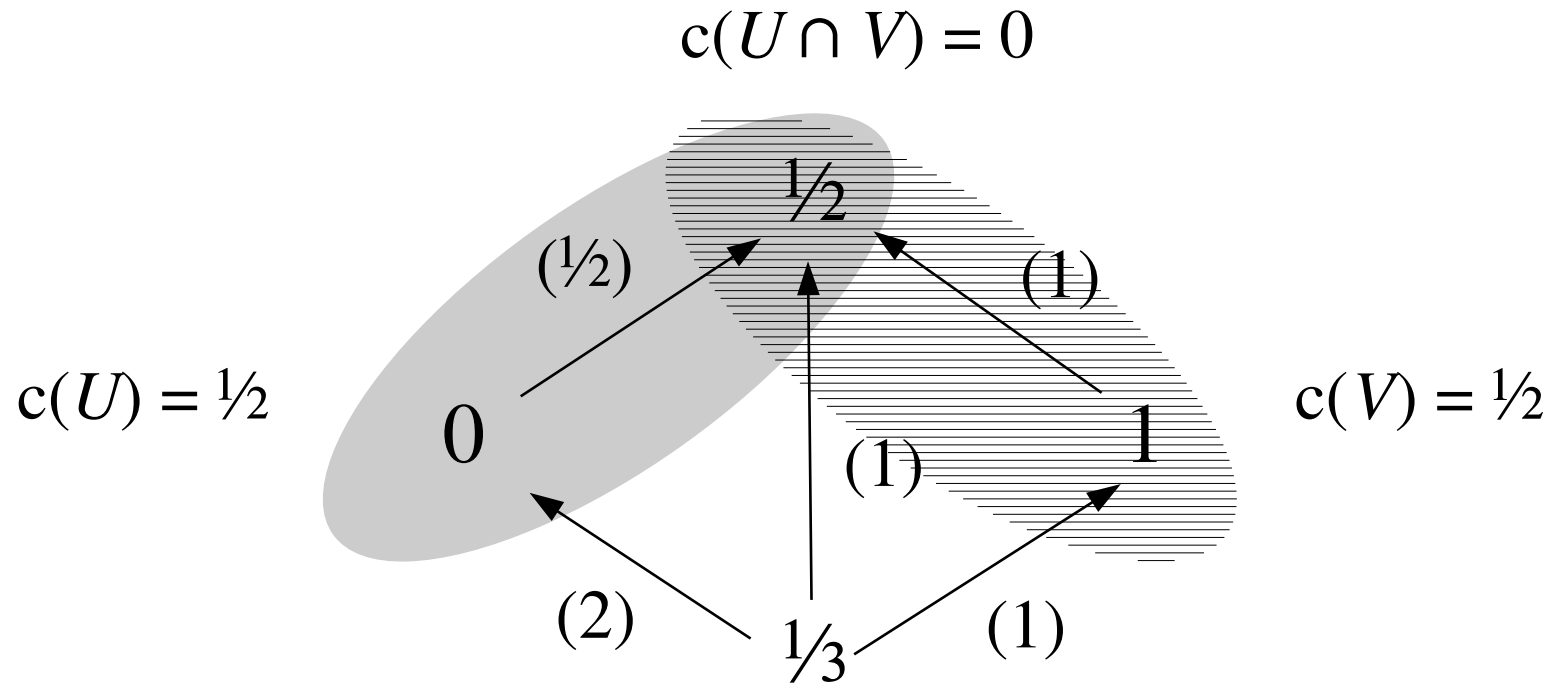
Consistency radius of this open set = 0



Lemma: Consistency radius does not decrease as its support grows:  
if  $U \subseteq V$  then  $c(U) \leq c(V)$ .



# Local consistency radius

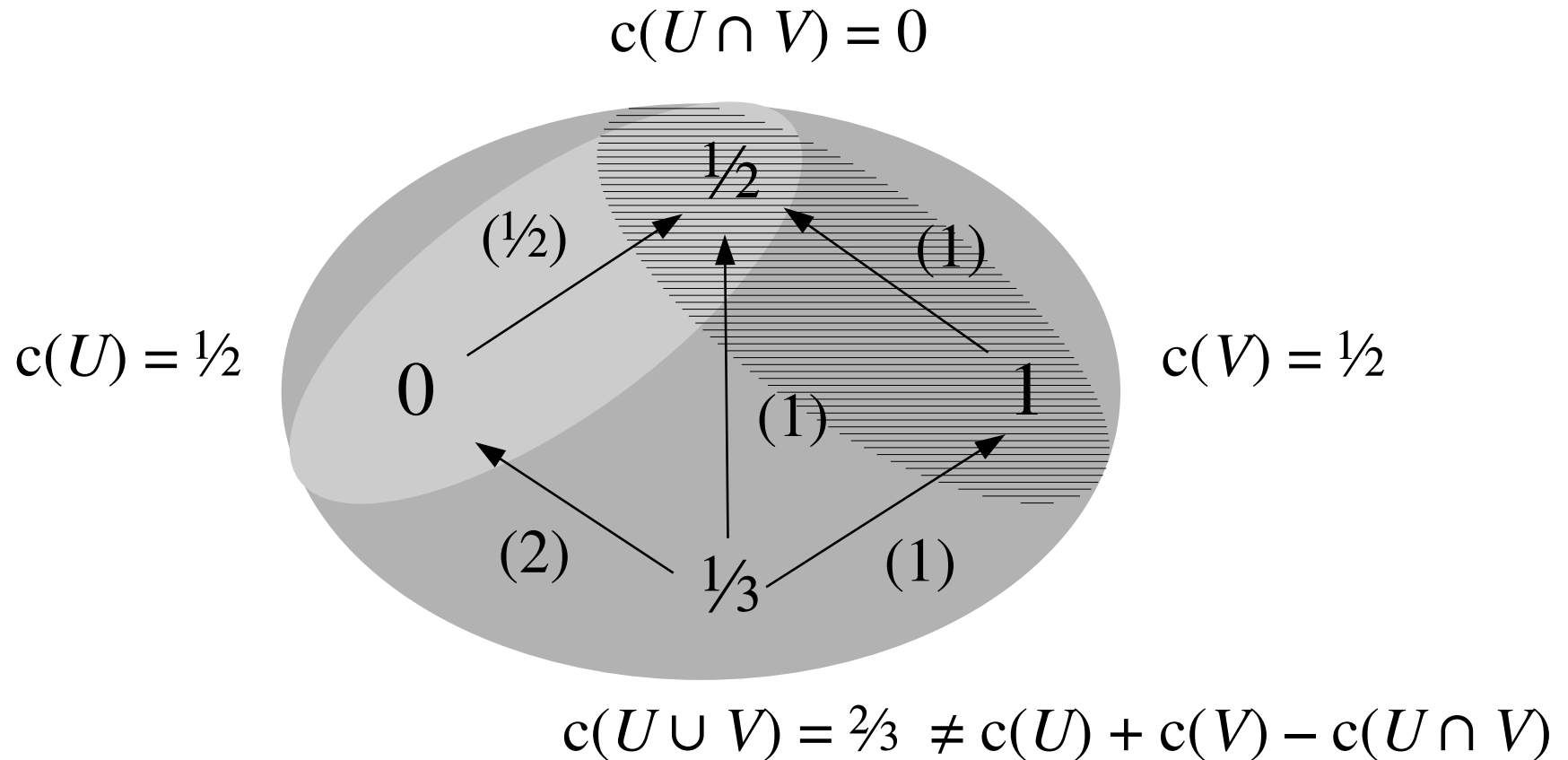


Lemma: Consistency radius does not decrease as its support grows:  
if  $U \subseteq V$  then  $c(U) \leq c(V)$ .





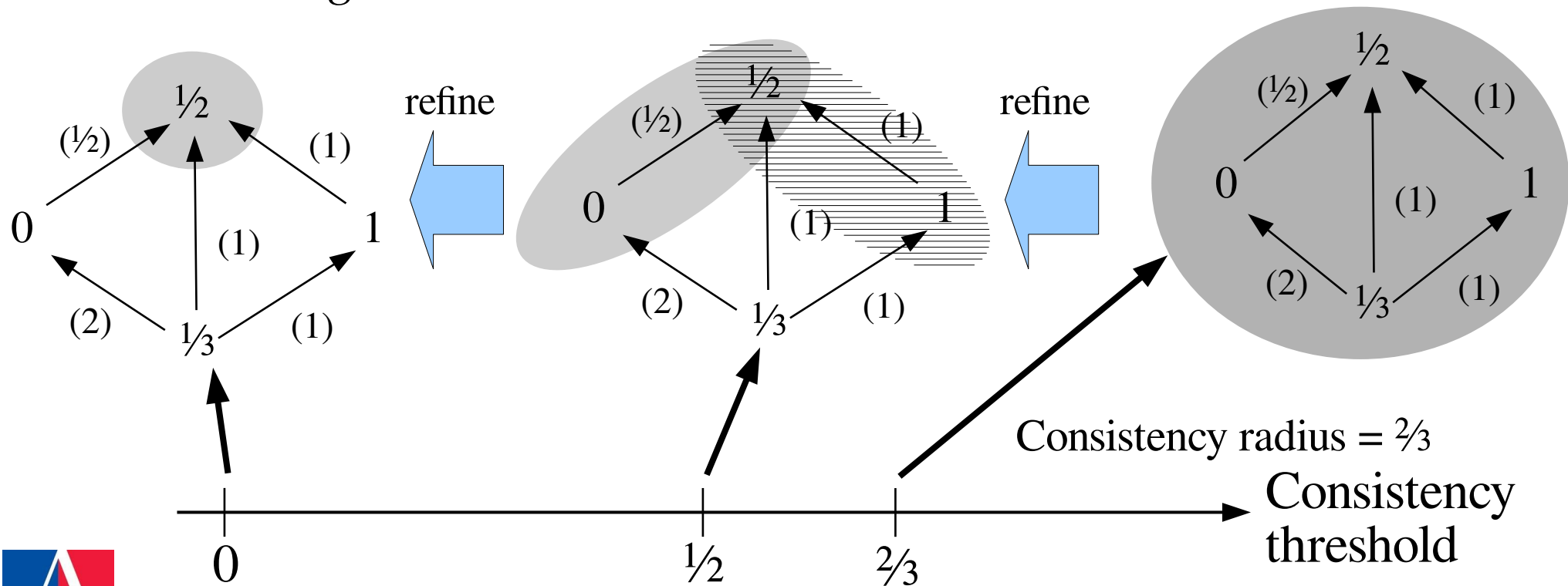
# Consistency radius is not a measure



(Consistency radius yields an *inner measure* after some work)

# The *consistency filtration*

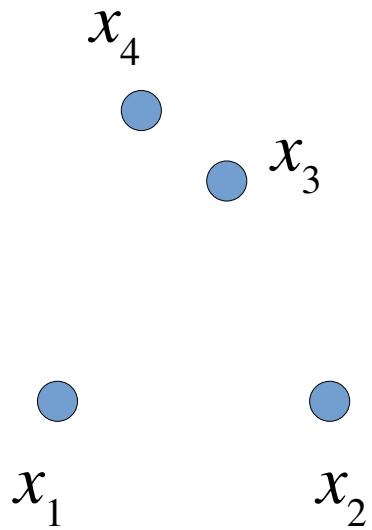
- ... assigns the set of open sets (open cover) with consistency less than a given threshold
- **Lemma:** consistency filtration **is itself a sheaf** of collections of open sets on  $(\mathbb{R}, \leq)$ . Restrictions in this sheaf are *cover coarsenings*.



# Persistent Čech cohomology

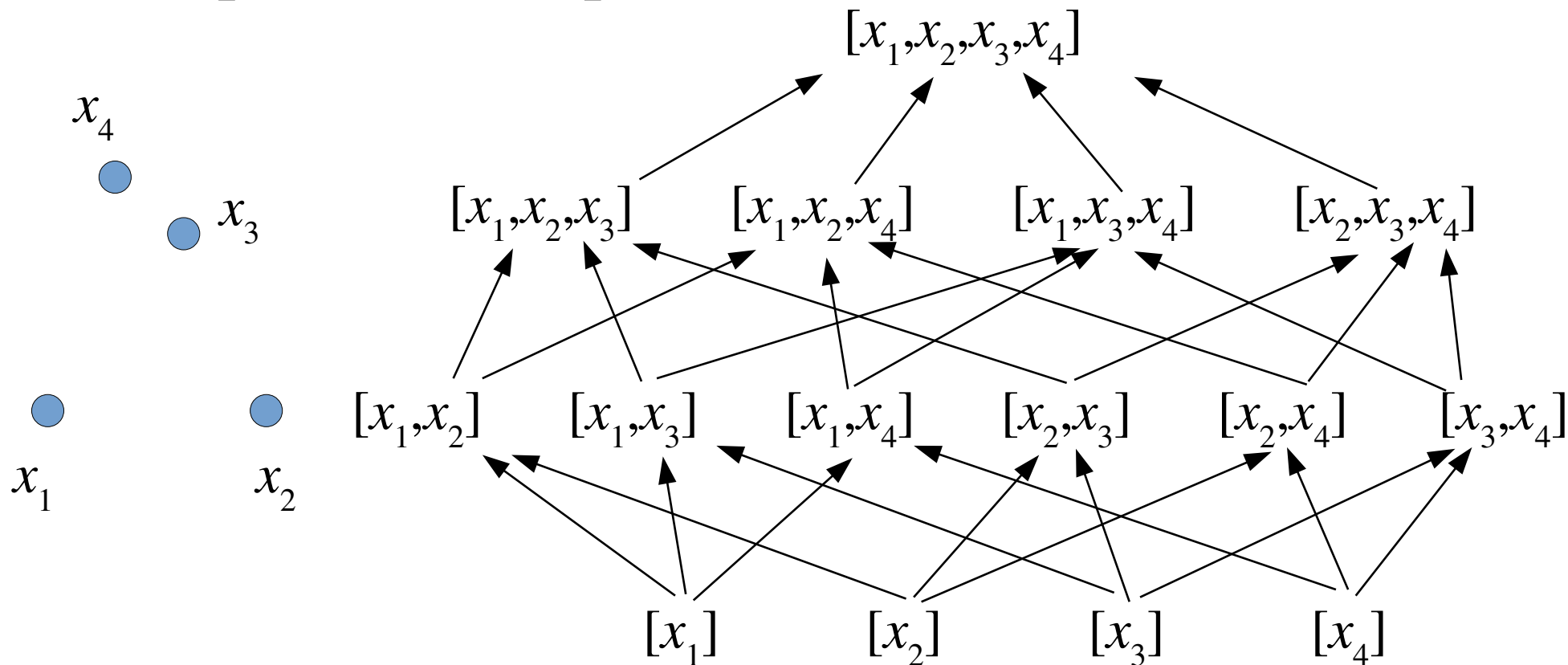
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- Consider a point cloud



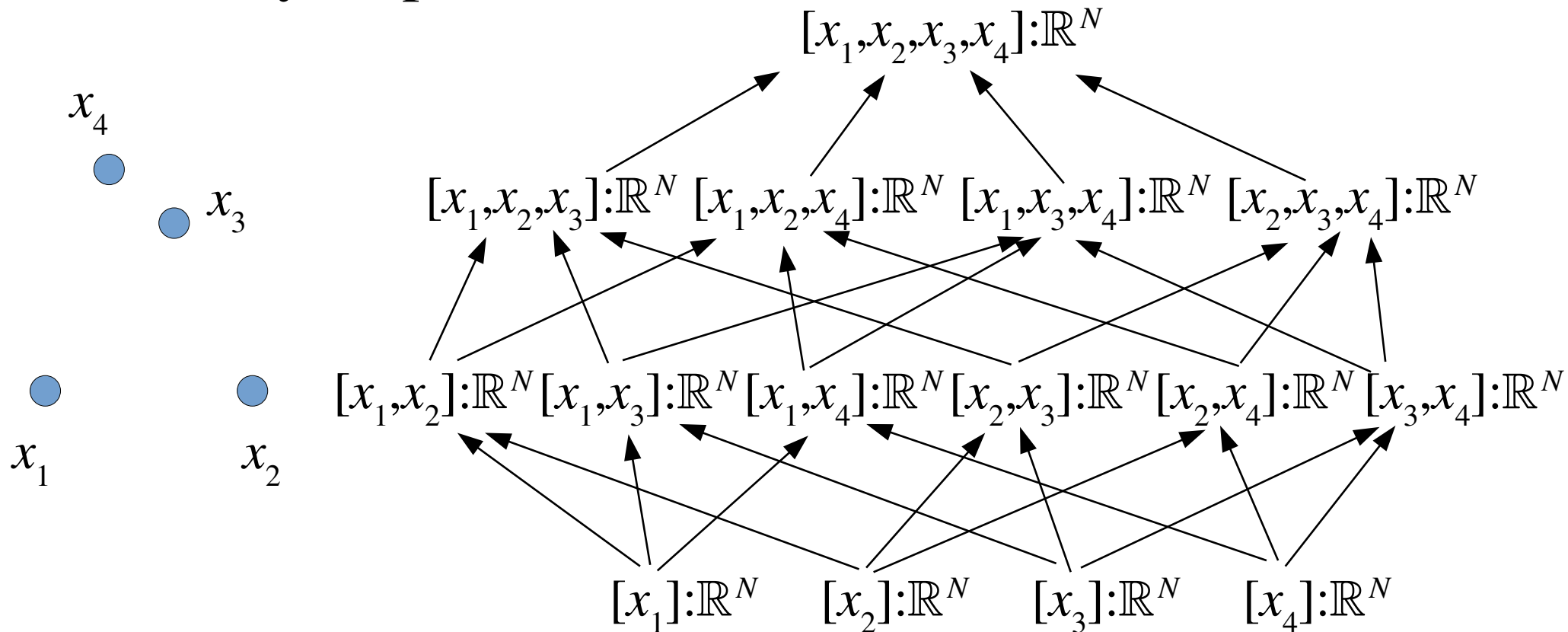
# Persistent Čech cohomology

- Build the Alexandrov topology on the complete simplex with the points as vertices...



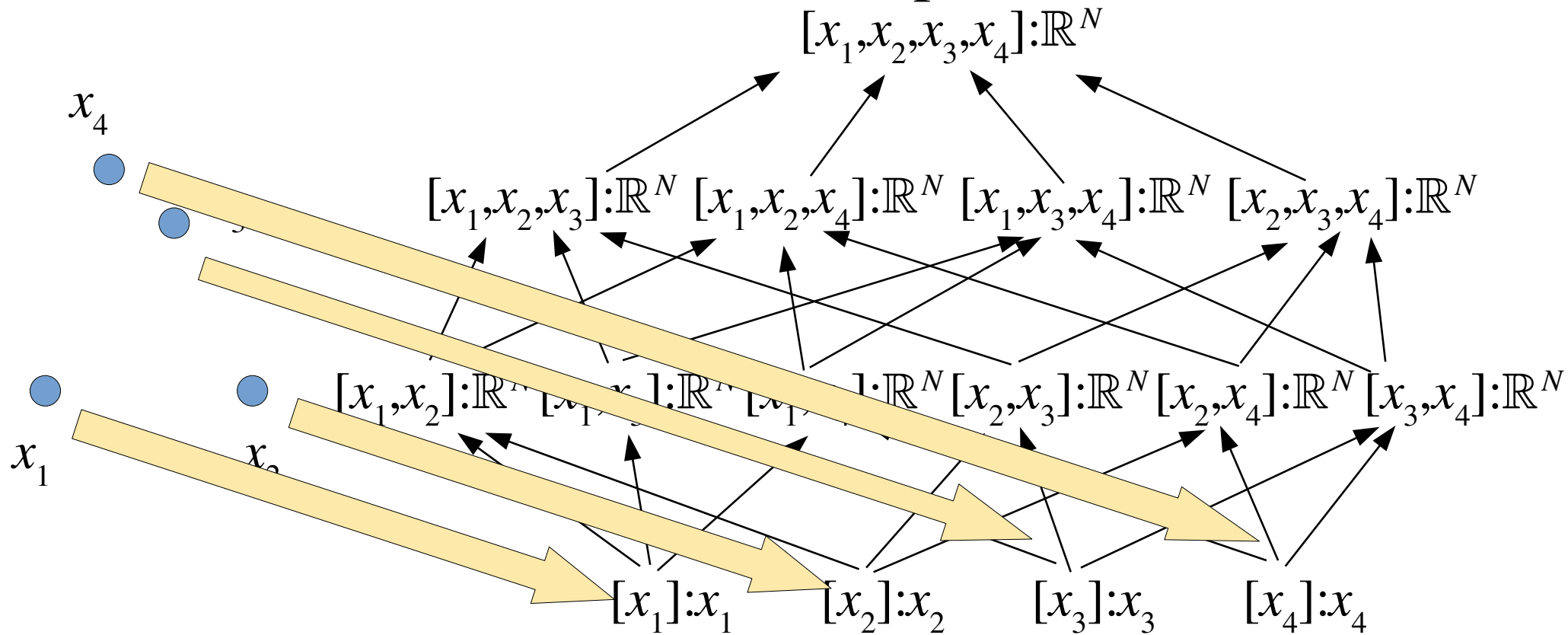
# Persistent Čech cohomology

- ...Build the constant sheaf on that. (Restrictions are identity maps.)



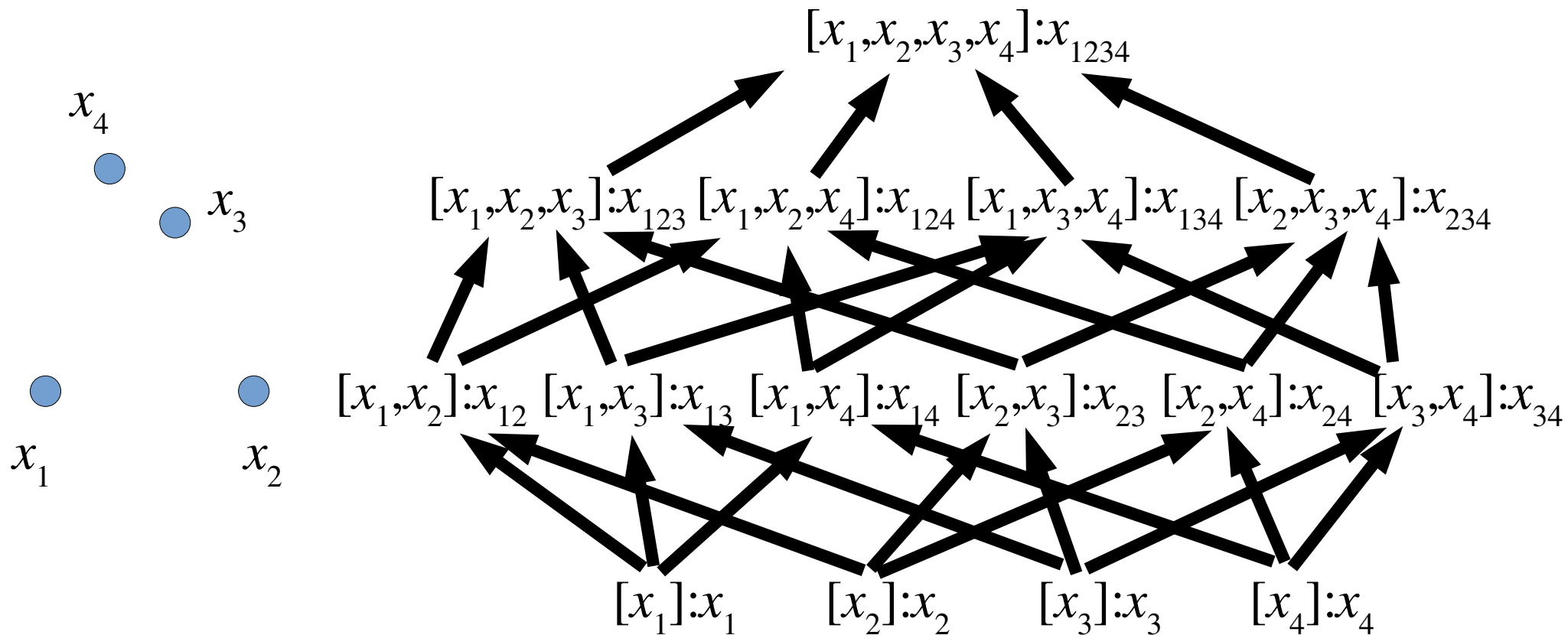
# Persistent Čech cohomology

- The coordinates of the points form an assignment to the vertices (lowest level in the poset)



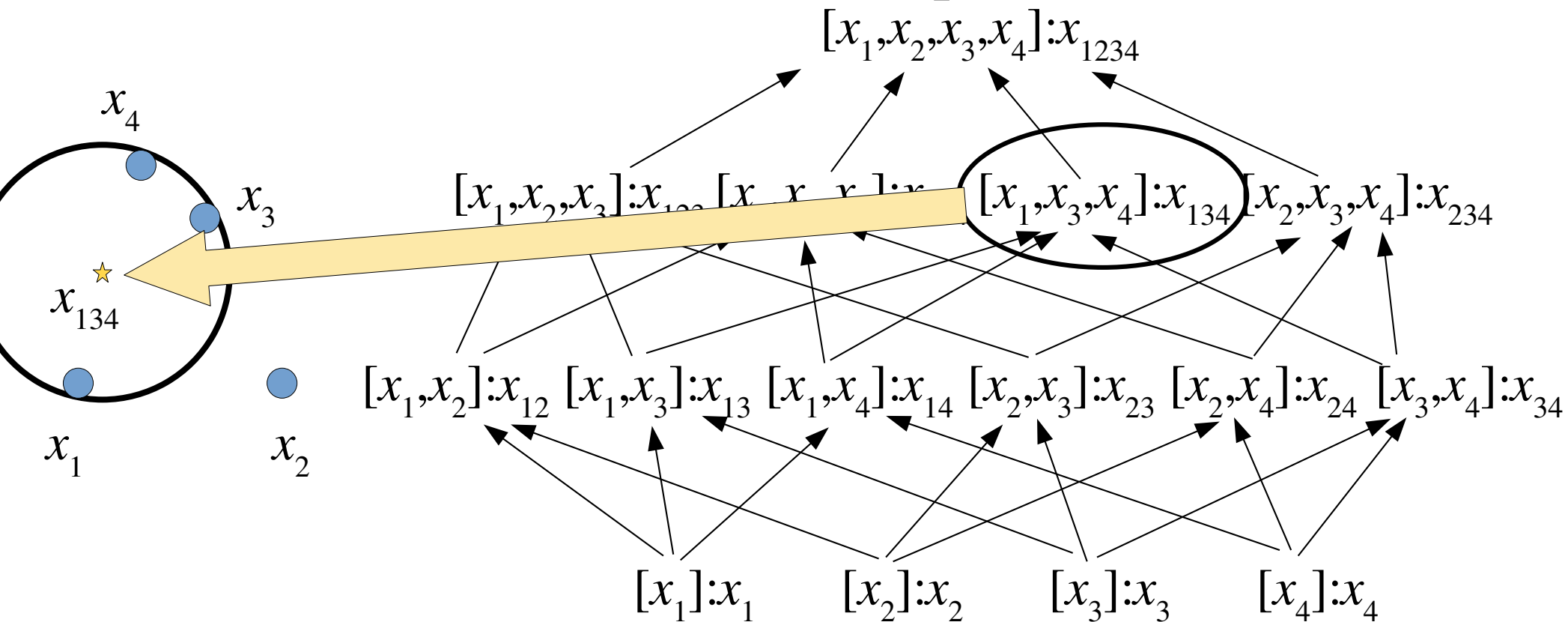
# Persistent Čech cohomology

- Find the global assignment with minimal consistency radius



# Persistent Čech cohomology

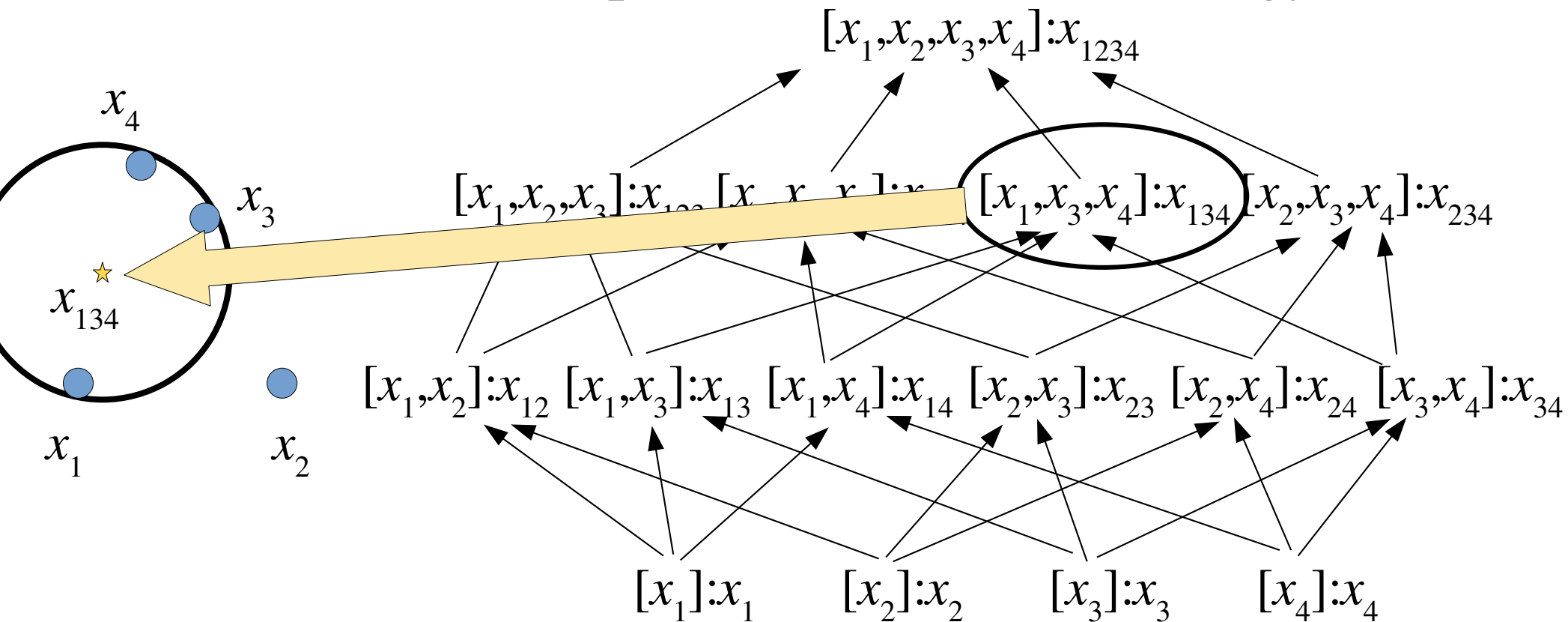
- Each value in the assignment turns out to be the circumcenter of each subset of points





# Persistent Čech cohomology

- Theorem: The consistency filtration is isomorphic to the one in “usual” persistent Čech cohomology



# Filtrations of partial covers



# Covers of topological spaces

---

- Classic tool: Čech cohomology
  - Coarse
  - Usually blind to the cover; only sees the underlying space
- Cover measures (Purvine, Pogel, Joslyn, 2017)
  - How fine is a cover?
  - How overlappy is a cover?



# Cover measures

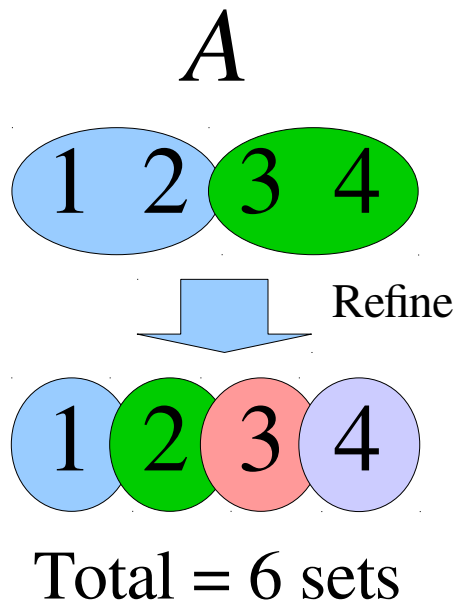
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- Theorem: (Birkhoff) The set of covers ordered by refinement has an explicit rank function
  - The rank of a given cover is the number of sets in its downset as an antichain of the Boolean lattice
  - This counts the number of sets of consistent faces there are
- Conclusion: An assignment whose maximal cover has a higher rank is more self-consistent

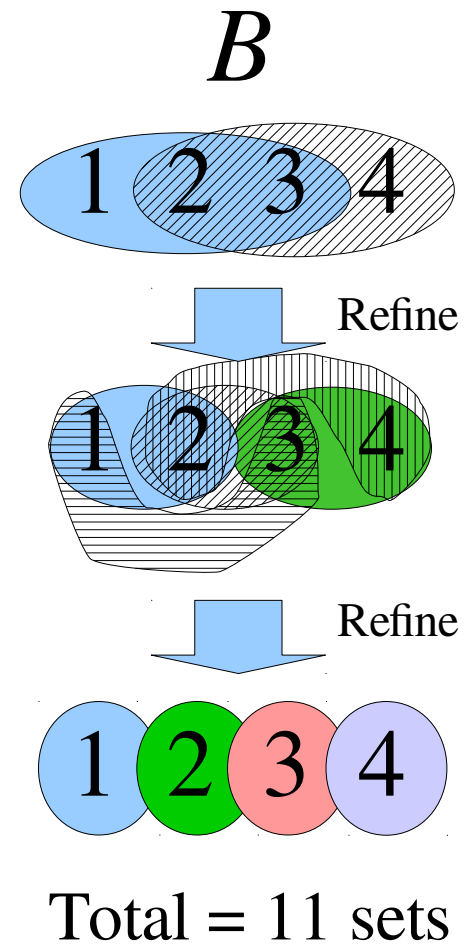


# Cover measures

- Consider the following two covers of  $\{1,2,3,4\}$



Since  $6 < 11$ ,  
cover *B* is coarser

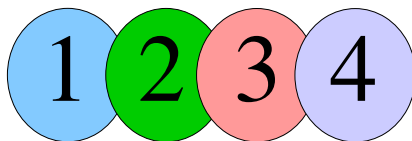
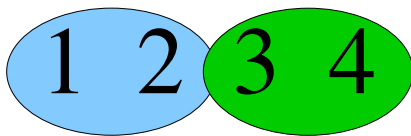
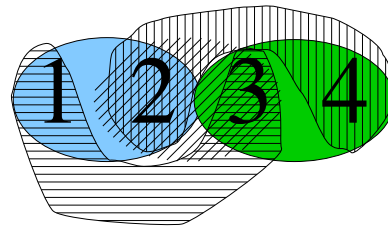
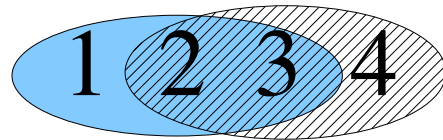


Computing the number of sets in its downset  
as an antichain of the Boolean lattice



# The lattice of covers

- Theorem: The lattice of covers is graded using this rank function



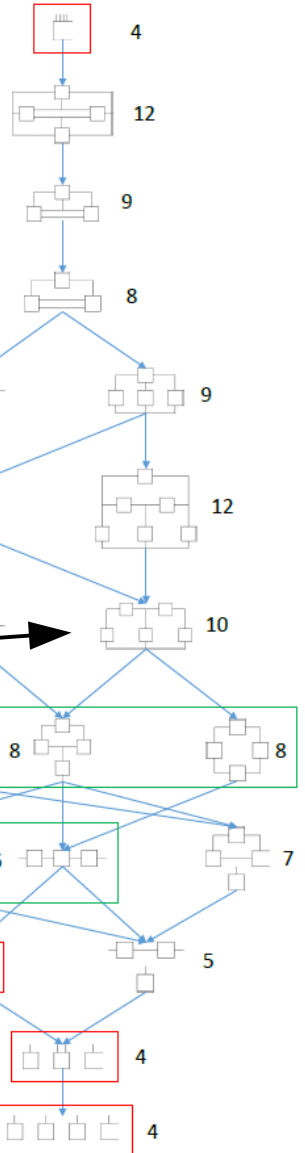
Ordering by  $\sum |a_i| = N_A$

Pros:

- Guarantee partitions on left

Cons:

- No relationship with G on partitions
- There are collisions, two of the same value on the same rank, in green boxes
- There is no way to avoid crossings in the Hasse diagram since the smallest value on rank 8 is a cover of the largest element on rank 9



Coarser

Finer

Lattice graphic by E. Purvine

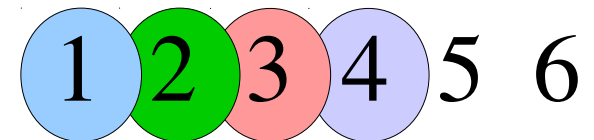
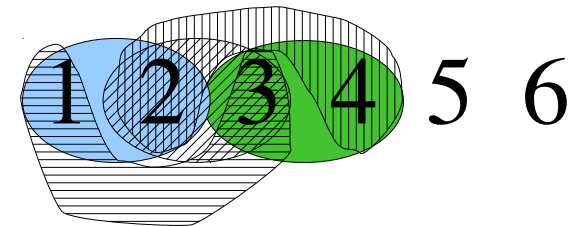
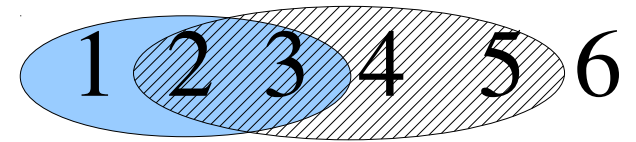
Michael Robinson



# Defining PartCovers : partial covers

---

- Start with a fixed topological space
- Objects: Collections of open sets
- No requirement of coverage

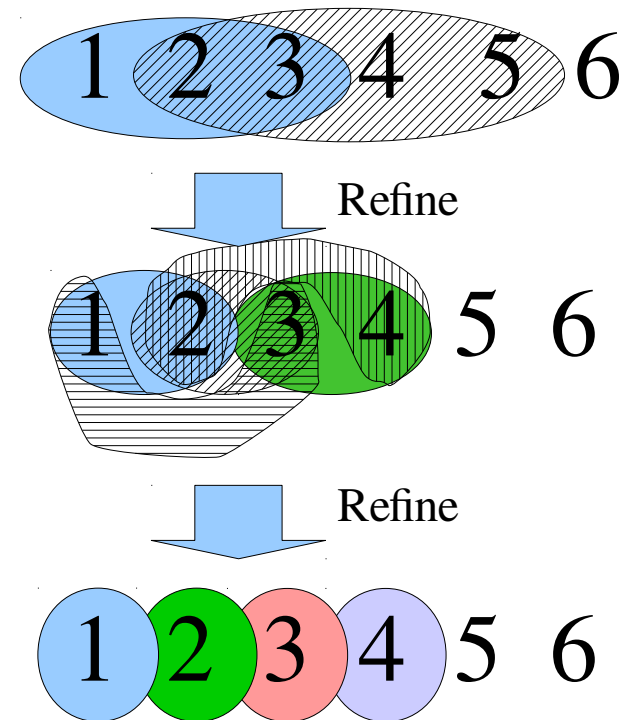


# Defining PartCovers : partial covers

- Morphisms are *refinements* of covers:

If  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{V}$  are partial covers,  $\mathcal{V}$  *refines*  $\mathcal{U}$  if for all  $V$  in  $\mathcal{V}$  there is a  $U$  in  $\mathcal{U}$ , with  $V \subseteq U$ .

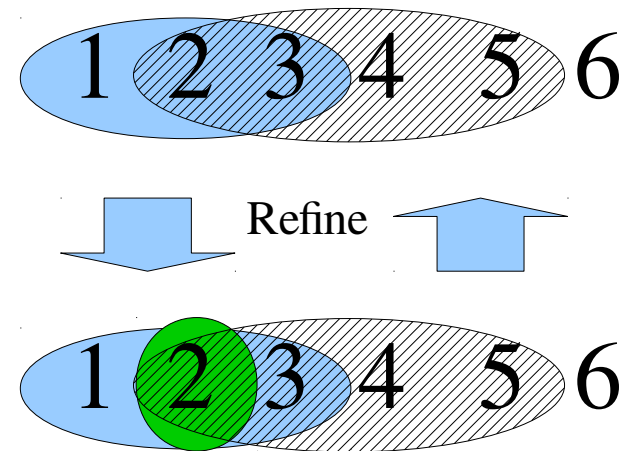
- Convention:  $\mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$





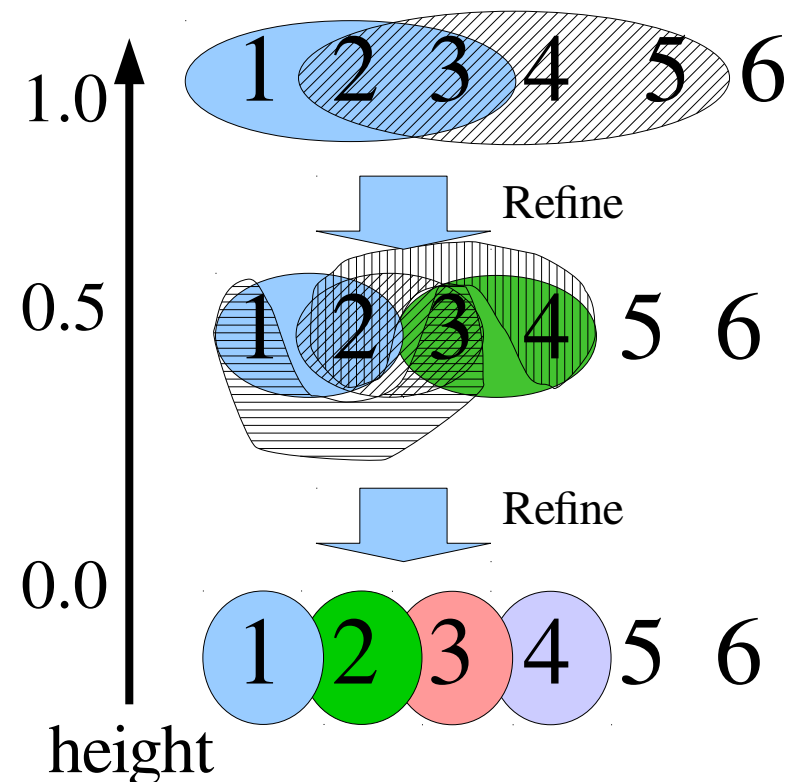
# Irredundancy

- *Irredundant cover* has no cover elements contained in others
- Minimal representatives of **PartCovers** isomorphism classes
  - Minimal according to **inclusion**, not refinement
- Lemma: Every finite partial cover is **PartCovers**-isomorphic to a unique irredundant one



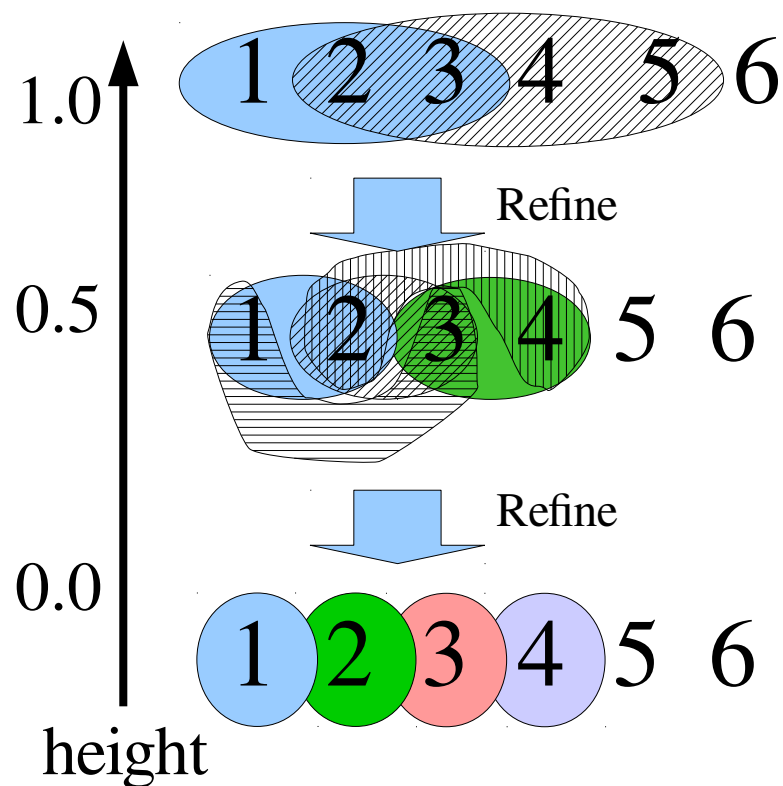
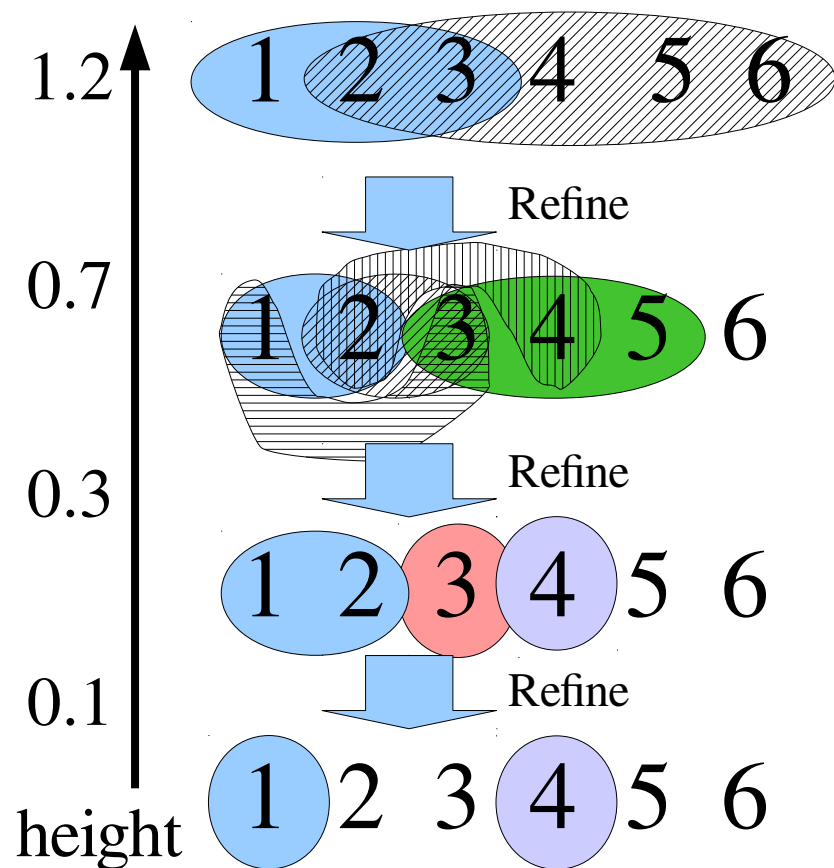
# CoarseFilt : Filtrations in PartCovers

- Objects are chains of morphisms in **PartCovers** with a monotonic height function
  - Height increases as cover coarsens
  - Could be the cover lattice rank, but need not be



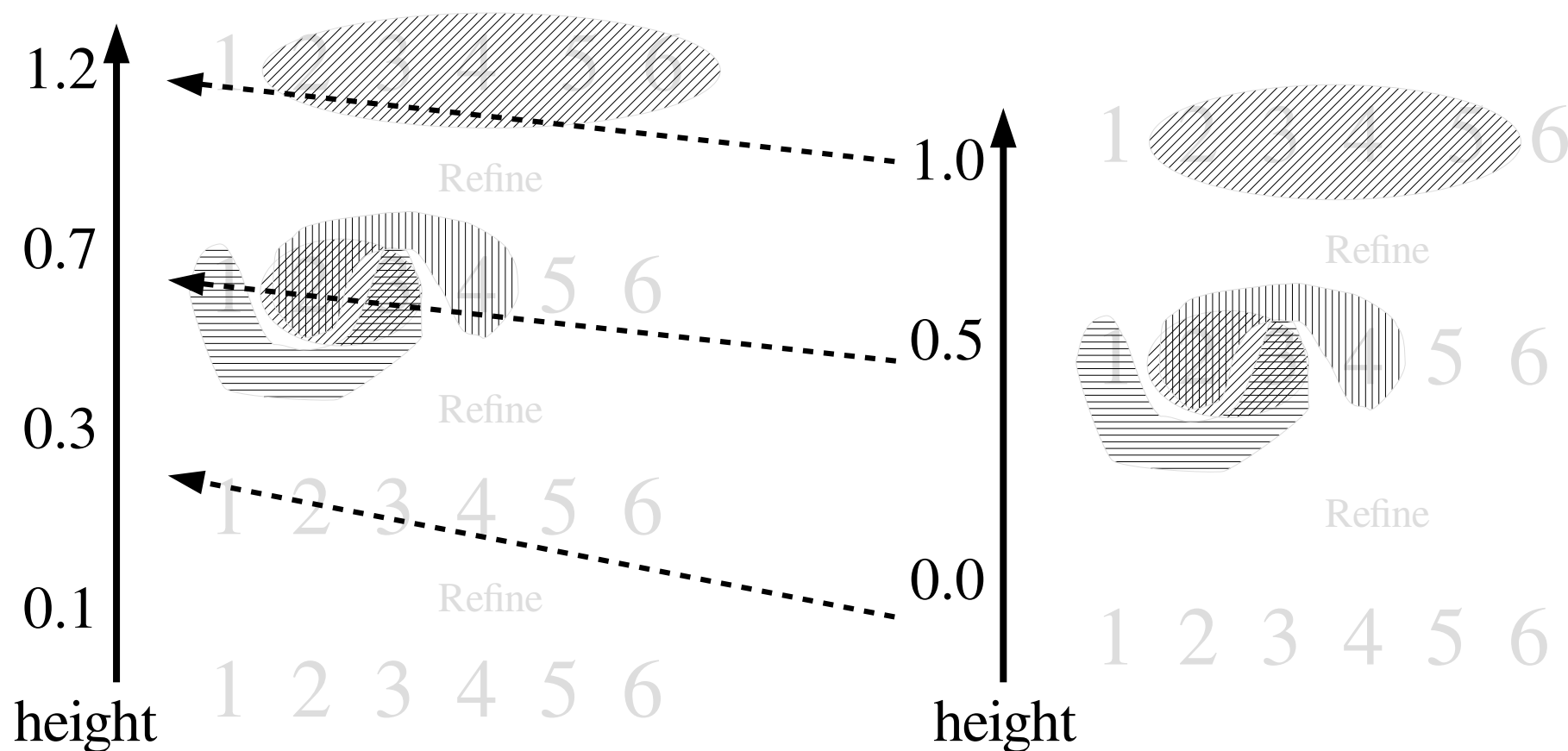
# CoarseFilt : Filtrations in PartCovers

- Morphisms are commutative ladders of refinements with a monotonic mapping  $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of height functions



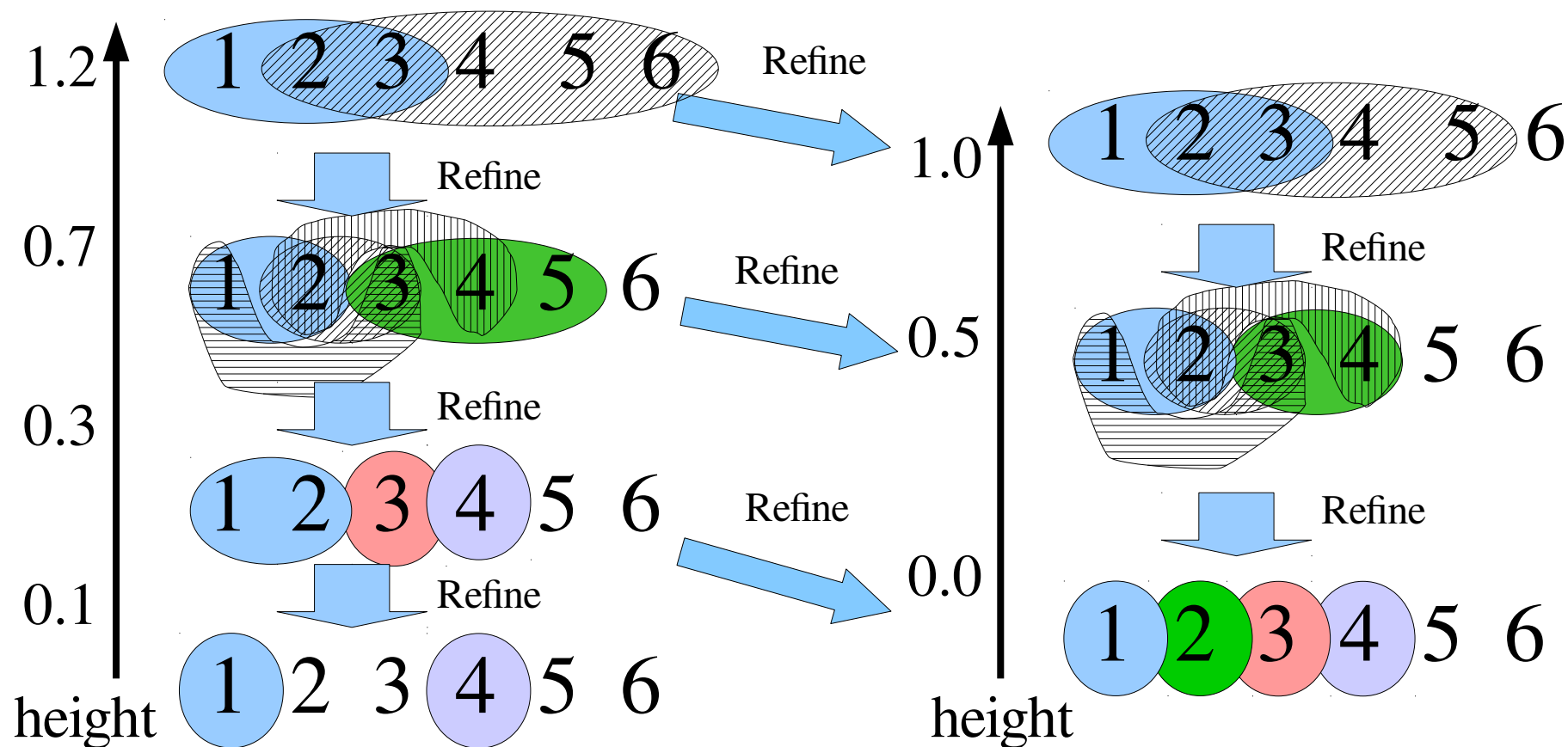
# CoarseFilt : Filtrations in PartCovers

- Morphisms are commutative ladders of refinements with a **monotonic mapping**  $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of height functions



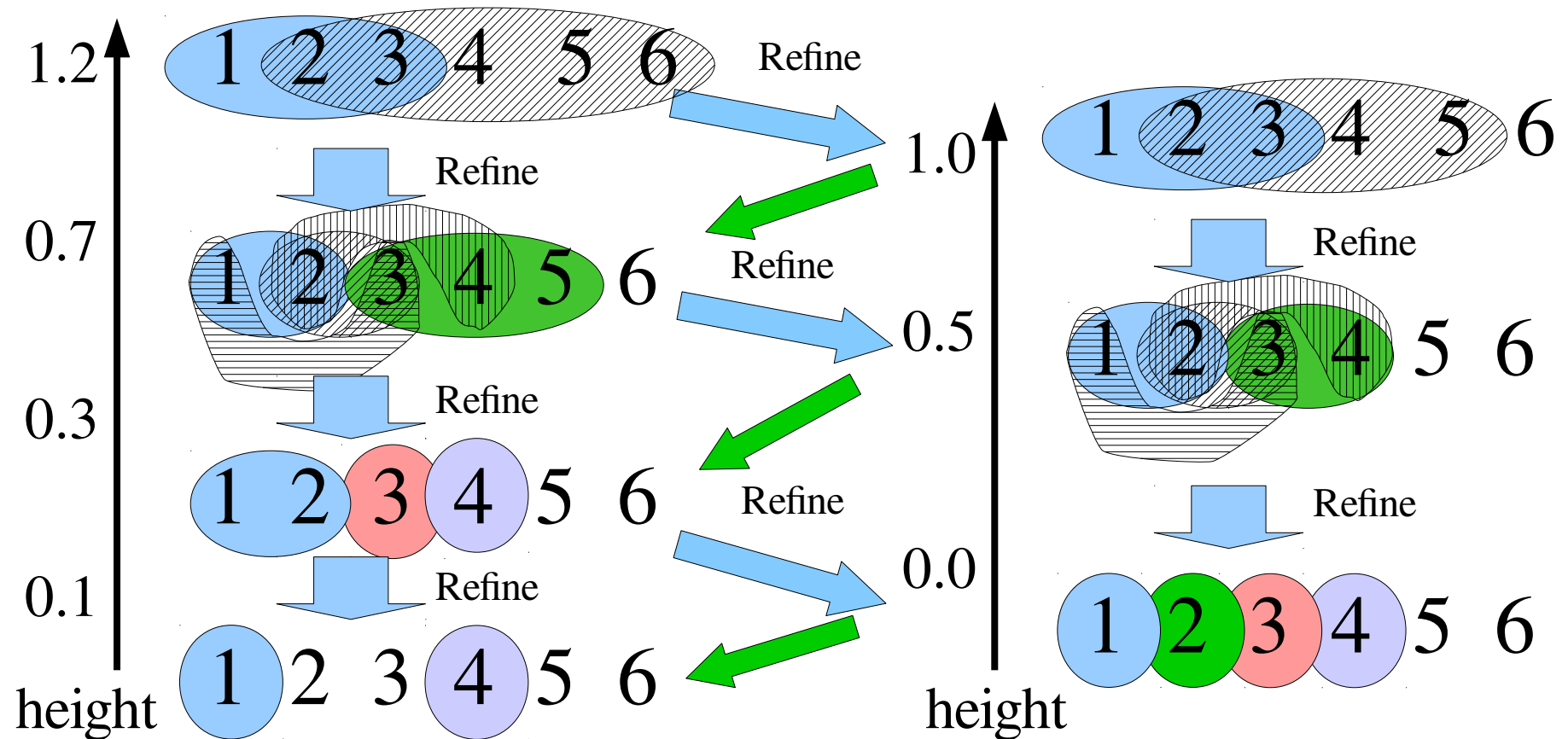
# CoarseFilt : Filtrations in PartCovers

- Morphisms are **commutative ladders of refinements** with a monotonic mapping  $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of height functions



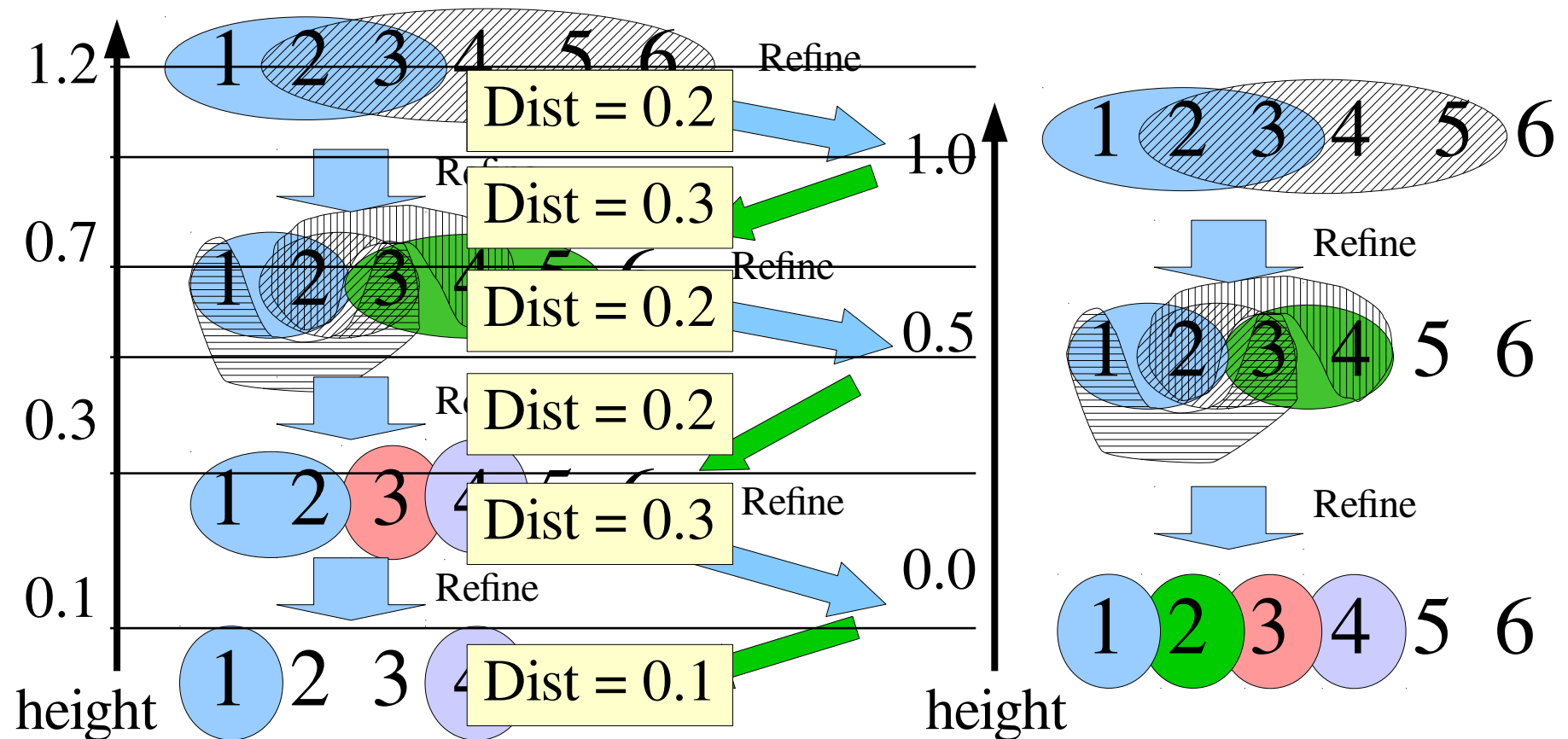
# Interleavings in CoarseFilt

- Pair of morphisms between two objects



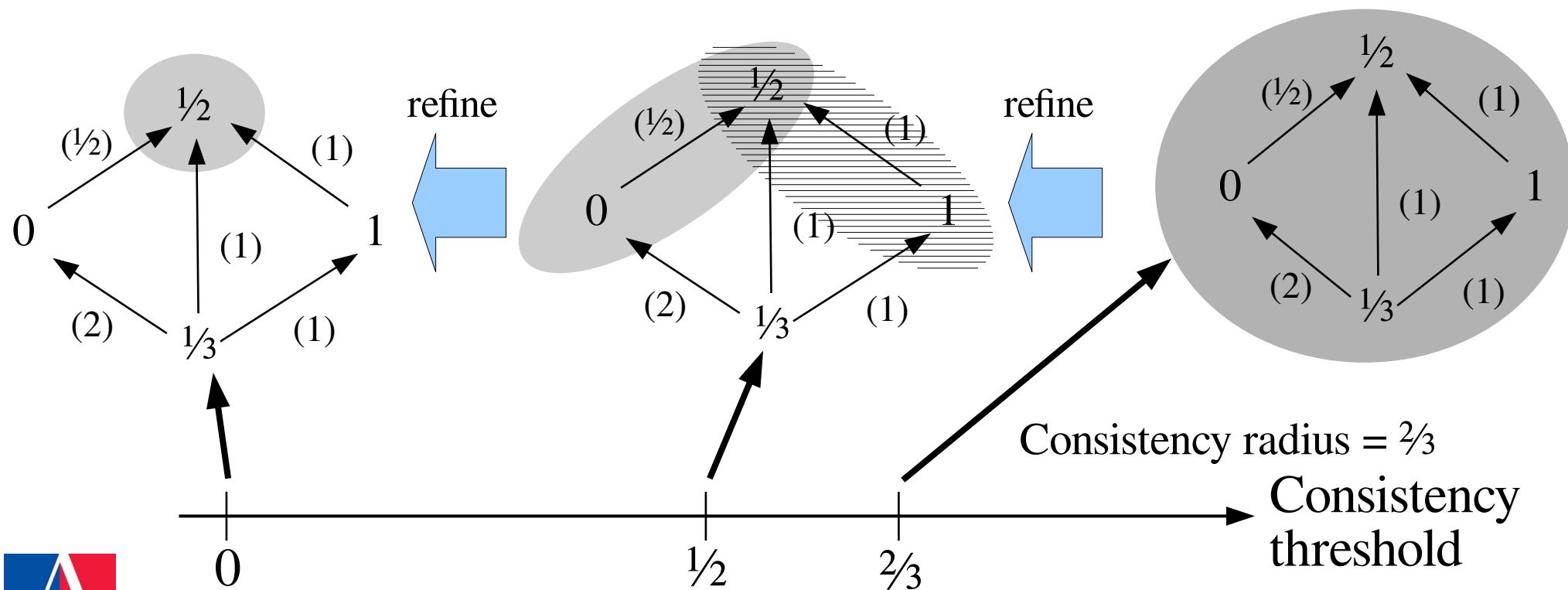
# Interleavings in CoarseFilt

- Measure the maximum displacement of the heights, minimize over all interleavings = *interleaving distance*



# Consistency filtration stability

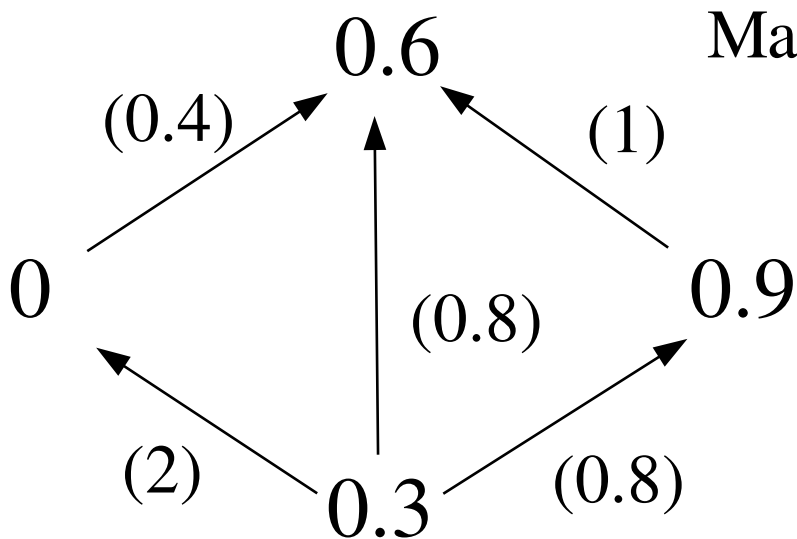
- Theorem: Consistency filtration is continuous under the **CoarseFilt** interleaving distance
- Thus the persistent Čech cohomology of the consistency filtration is **robust** to perturbations



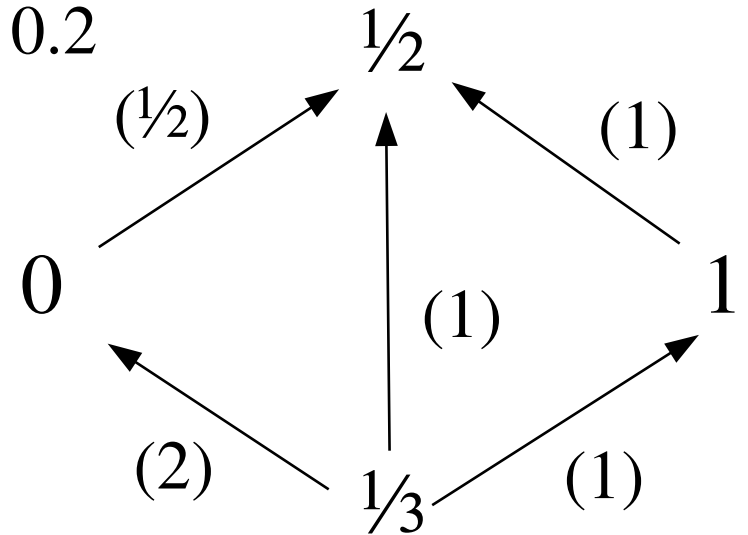


# A small perturbation ...

- Perturbations allowed in both assignment **and** sheaf (subject to it staying a sheaf!)

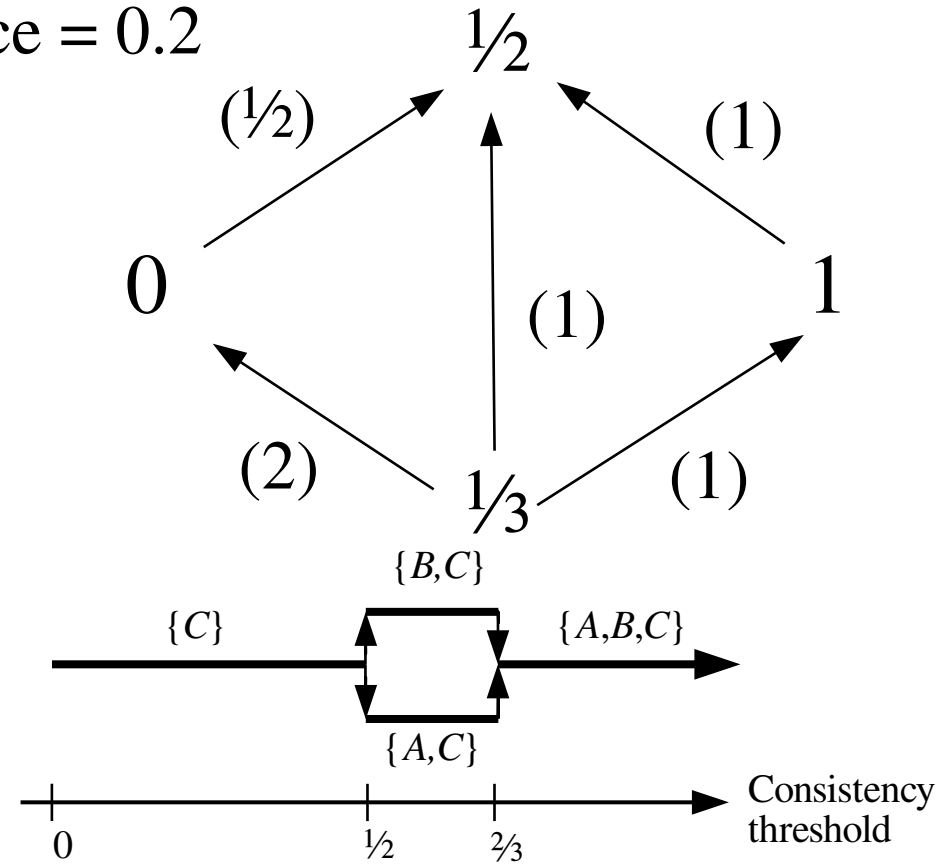
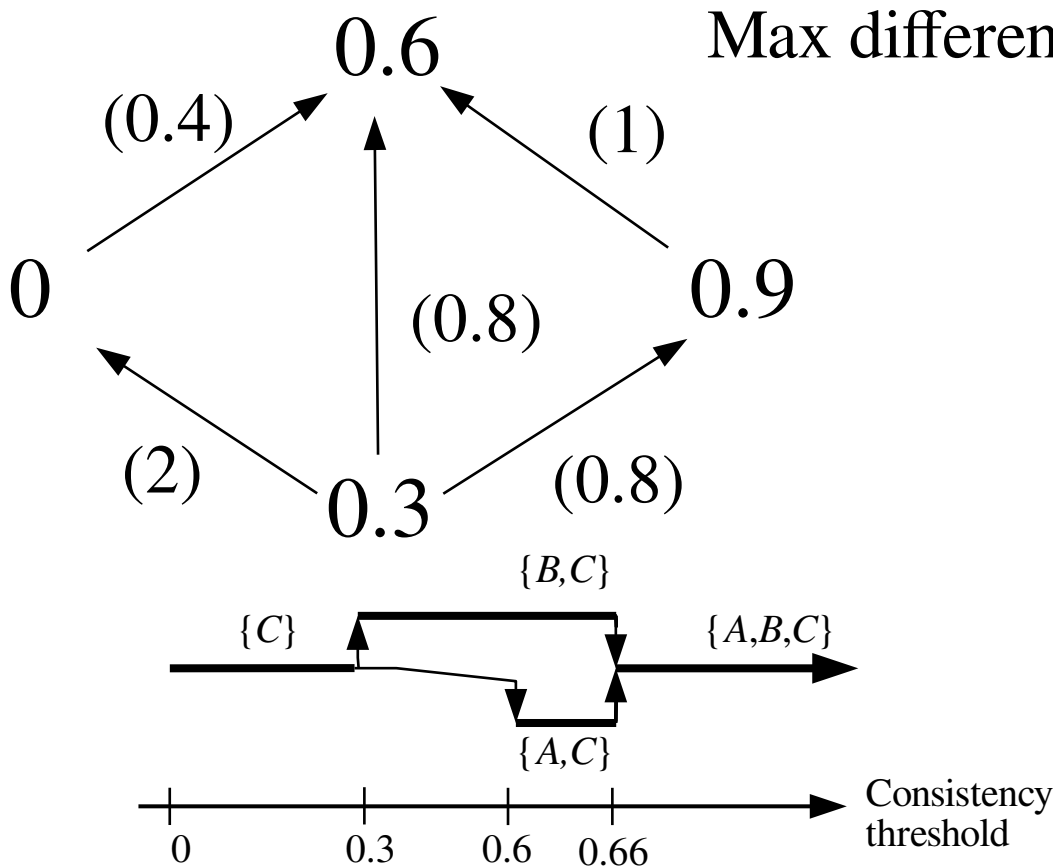


Max difference = 0.2

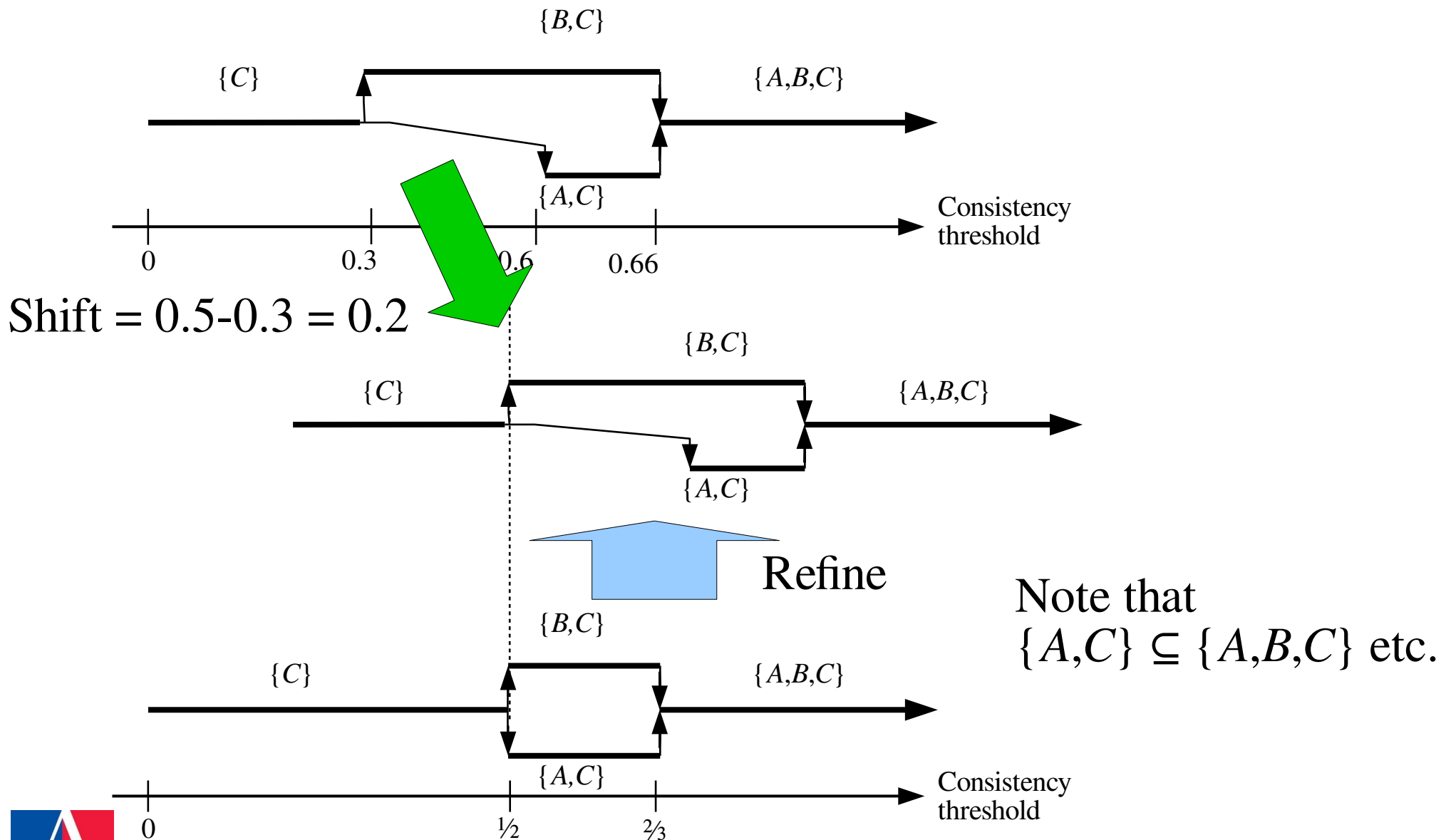


# A small perturbation ...

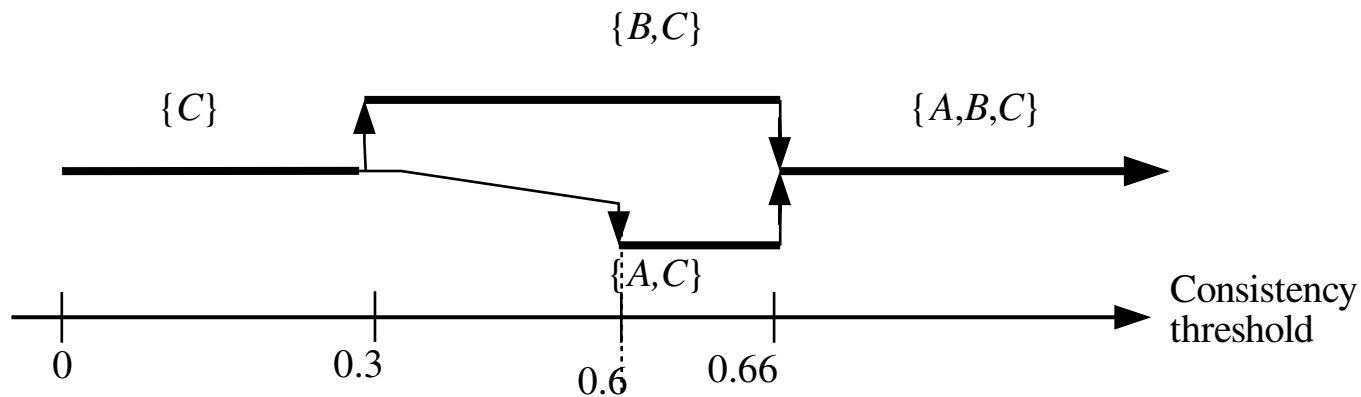
- Compute consistency filtrations...



# ... bounds interleaving distance

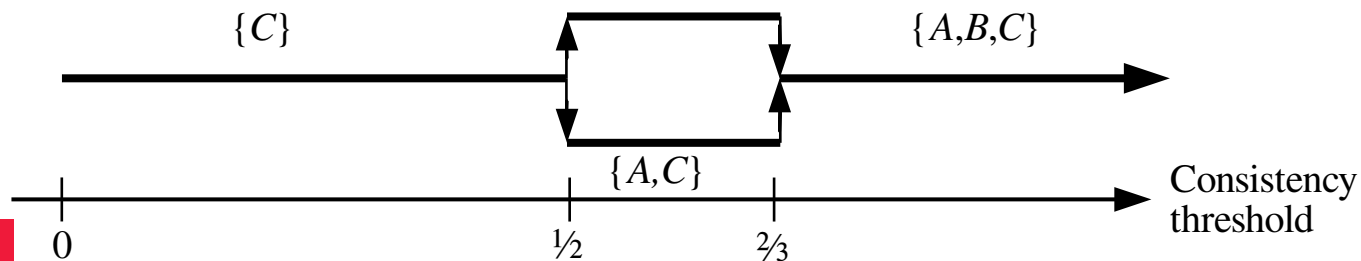
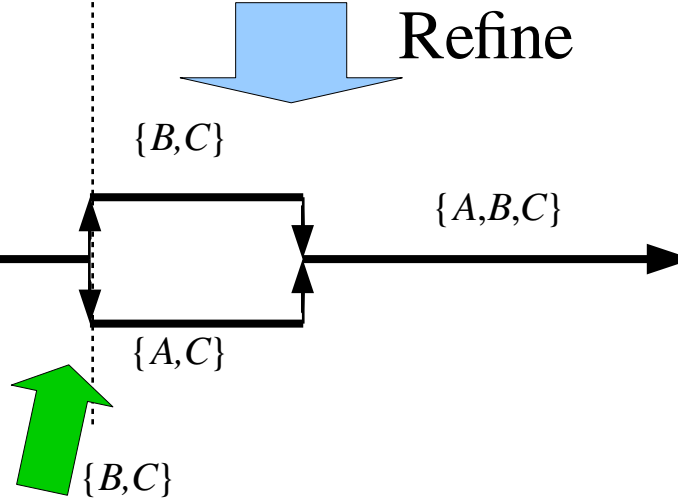


# ... bounds interleaving distance



**Max shift = 0.2,**  
This is bounded  
above by constant  
times the  
perturbation (0.2  
in this case)

Shift =  $0.6 - 0.5 = 0.1$



# Functoriality of consistency filtrations



# Consistency and functoriality

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- Category of sheaves **and** assignments: **ShvFPA**

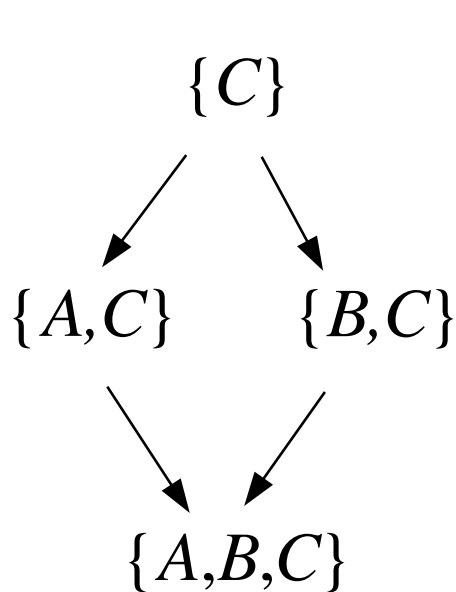
**Sheaves on Finite spaces with Pseudometrics** paired with **Assignments**  
(a bit of a mouthful. Sorry!)

- Suppose  $\mathcal{S}$  is a sheaf on  $X$  and  $\mathcal{R}$  is a sheaf on  $Y$
- Assignments  $a$  and  $b$
- A *morphism*  $m: (\mathcal{S}, a) \rightarrow (\mathcal{R}, b)$  consists both of
  - A *base space map* on the base spaces  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  and
  - Component maps  $m_U: \mathcal{S}(f^{-1}(U)) \rightarrow \mathcal{R}(U)$  for each open set  $U$  in  $Y$  such that  $m_U(a(f^{-1}(U))) = b(U)$  for each open  $U$  in  $Y$
- Theorem: Consistency filtration is a covariant functor  
**ShvFPA**  $\rightarrow$  **CoarseFilt**

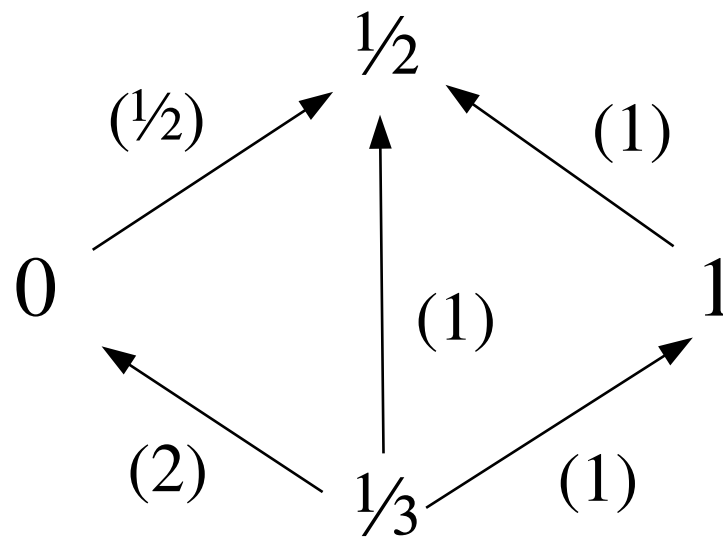


# Defining **Con** : consistency functions

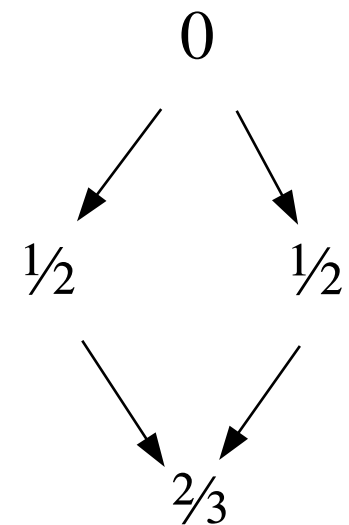
- Objects: order preserving functions  $\text{Open}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$
- Example: local consistency radius



Open sets



Assignment



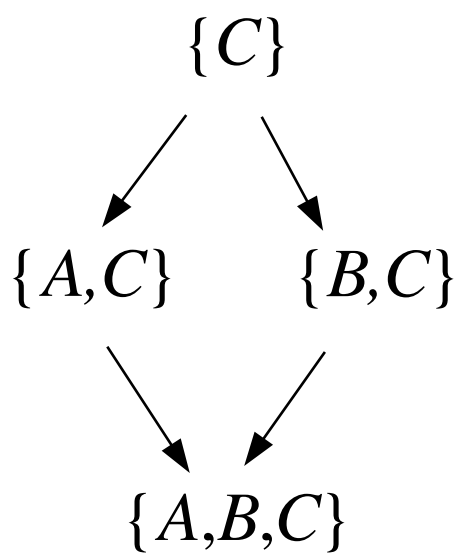
Local consistency radius  
Object in **Con**



# Defining **Con** : consistency functions

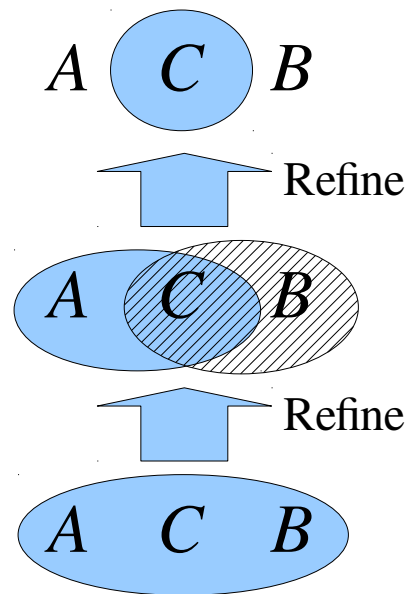
Ideally, we want...

- Consistency radius is a functor **ShvFPA**  $\rightarrow$  **Con**
- A functor **Con**  $\rightarrow$  **CoarseFilt** acting by thresholding

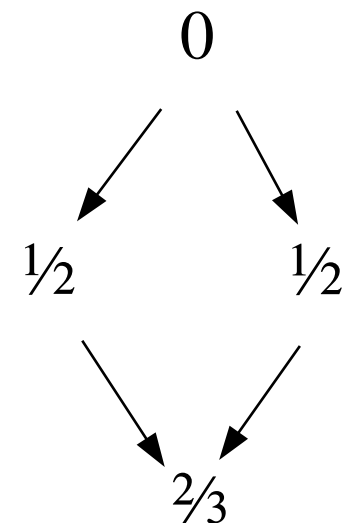
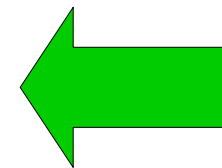


Open sets

Height = consistency



Consistency filtration  
Object in **CoarseFilt**



Local consistency radius  
Object in **Con**





# Defining **Con** : consistency functions

---

Ideally, we want...

- Consistency radius is a functor **ShvFPA**  $\rightarrow$  **Con**
- A functor **Con**  $\rightarrow$  **CoarseFilt** acting by thresholding

To get this, the morphisms of **Con** are a little strange

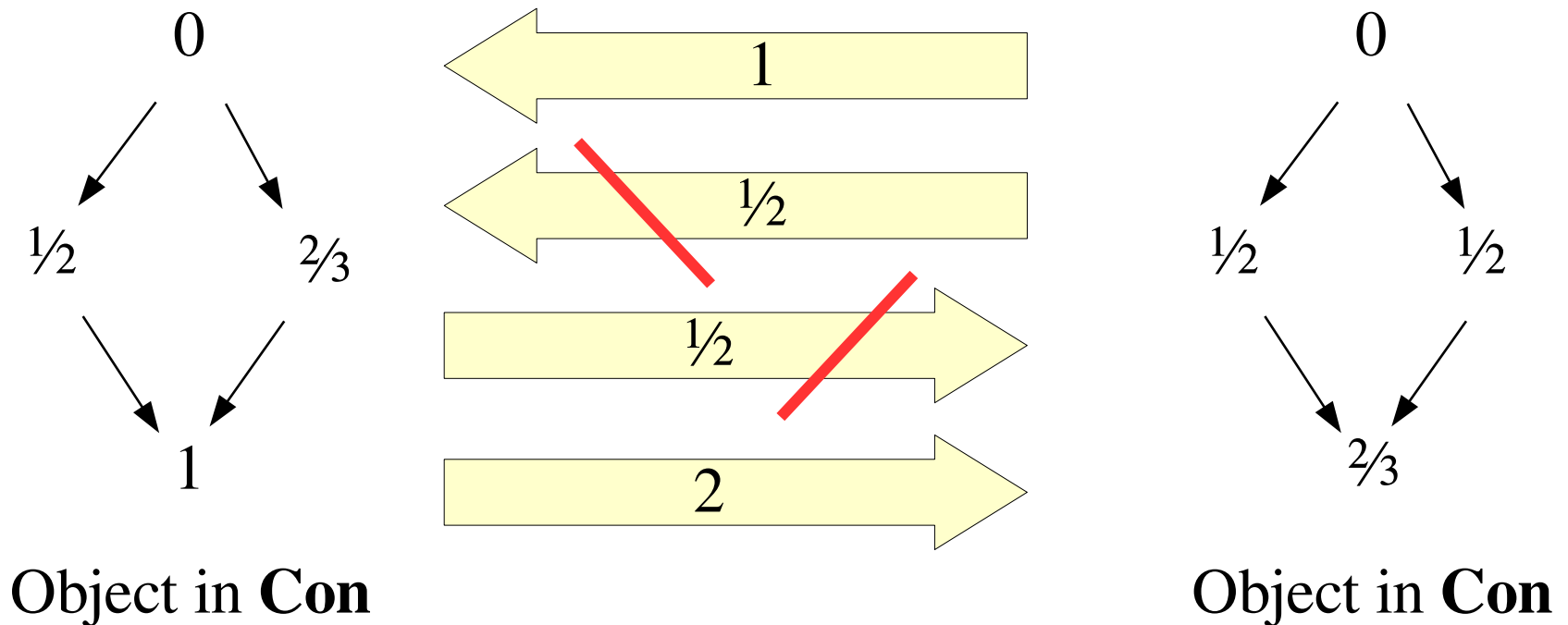
A morphism  $K: m \rightarrow n$  of **Con** is a nonnegative real  $K$  so that  $m(U) \leq K n(U)$  for all open  $U$ .

Composition works by multiplication!



# Defining **Con** : consistency functions

A morphism  $K: m \rightarrow n$  of **Con** is a nonnegative real  $K$  so that  $m(U) \leq K n(U)$  for all open  $U$ .



These objects are not **Con**-isomorphic!



# Con and CoarseFilt

---

Theorem: **Con** is equivalent to a subcategory of **CoarseFilt** by way of two functors:

- A faithful functor **Con**  $\rightarrow$  **CoarseFilt**
- A non-faithful functor **CoarseFilt**  $\rightarrow$  **Con**

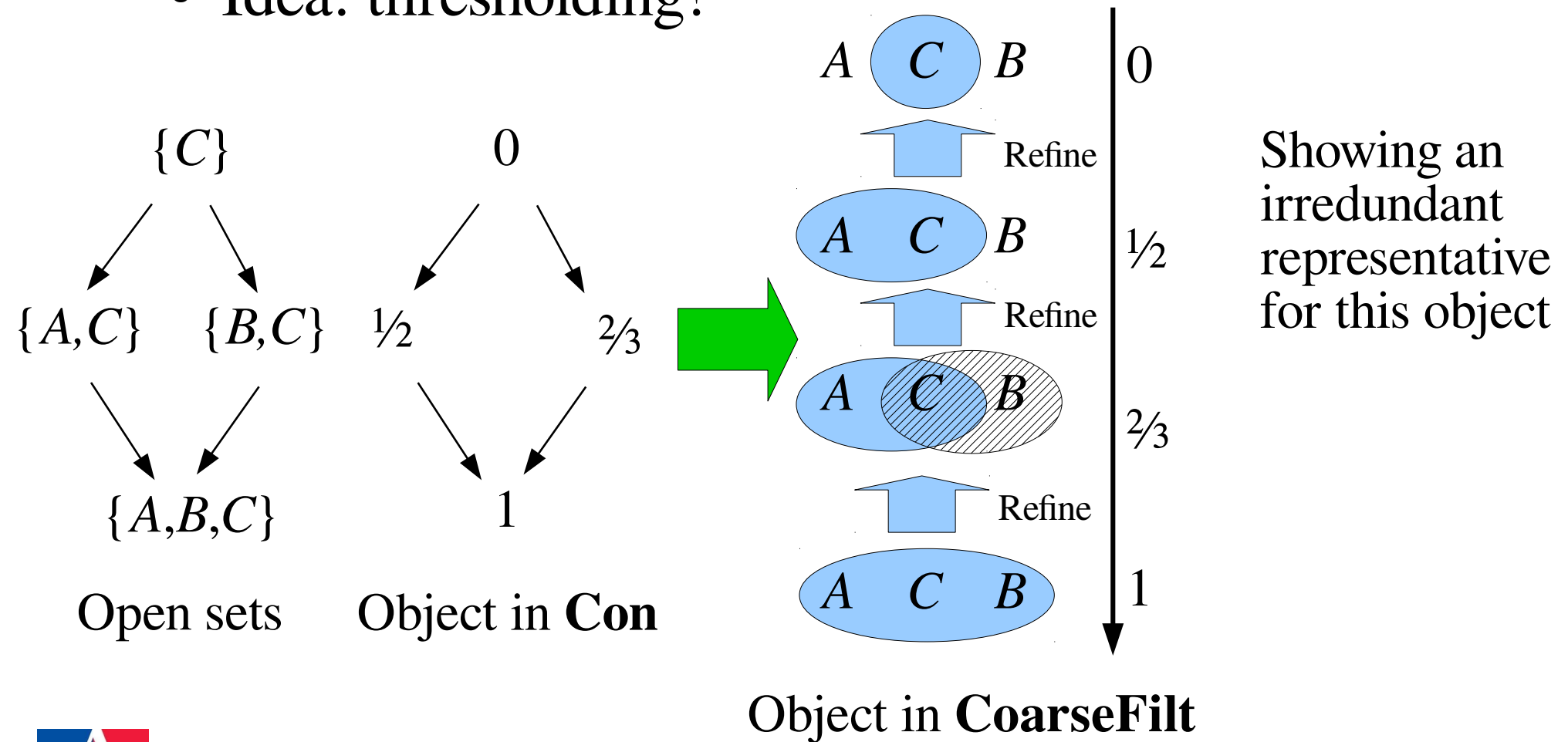
such that **Con**  $\rightarrow$  **CoarseFilt**  $\rightarrow$  **Con** is the identity functor.

Interpretation: May be able to summarize filtrations of partial covers using consistency functions, but this is lossy!



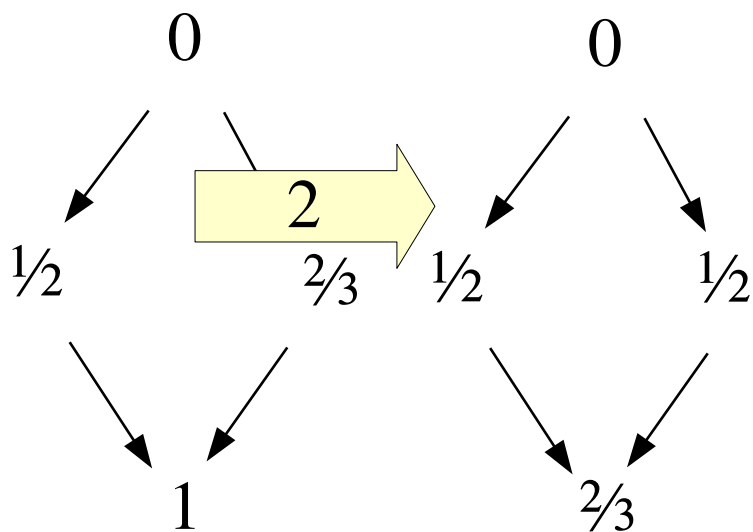
# Con $\rightarrow$ CoarseFilt

- Motivation: generalization of consistency filtration
- Idea: thresholding!

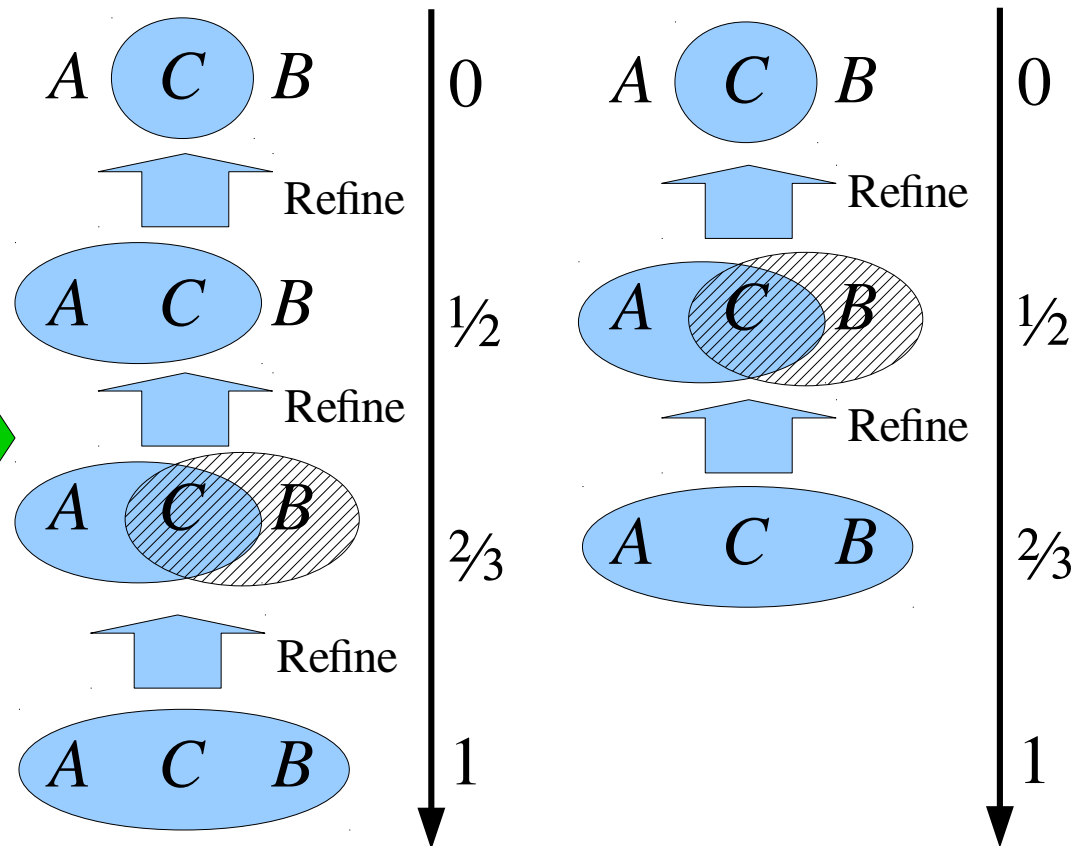
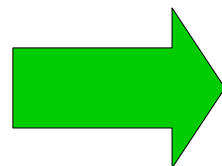


# Con $\rightarrow$ CoarseFilt

- Morphisms in **Con** transform to linear rescalings of the heights in **CoarseFilt** ... monotonicity does the rest



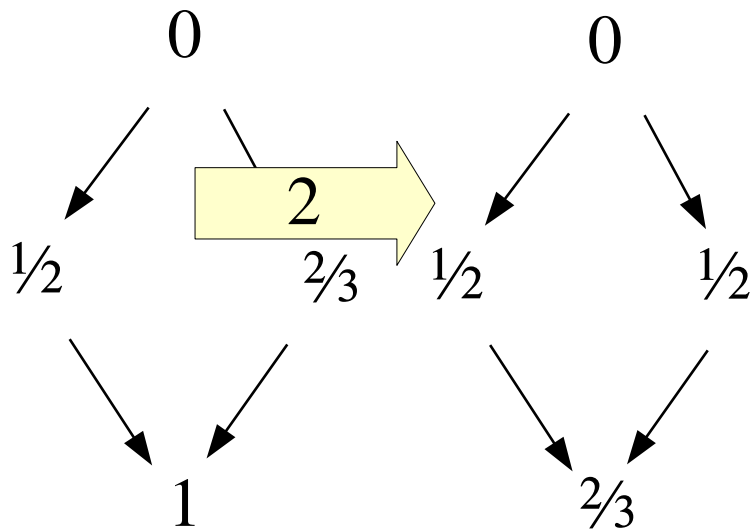
Morphism in **Con**



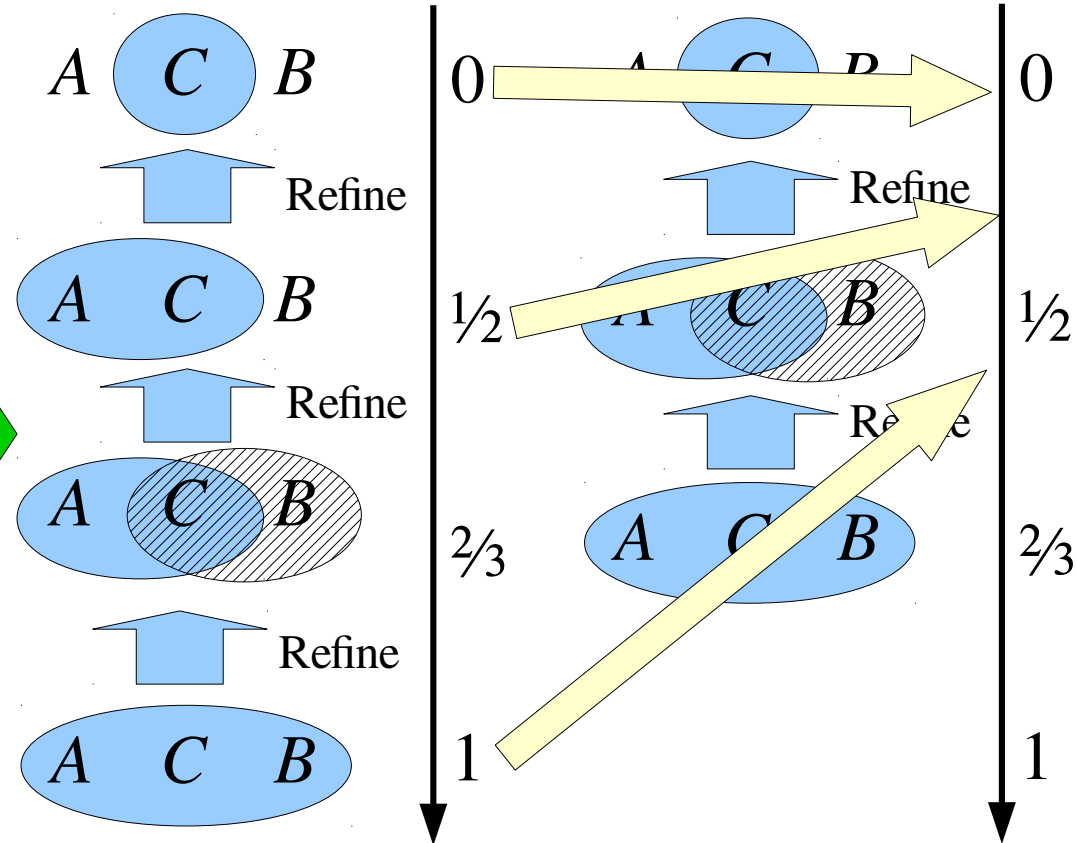
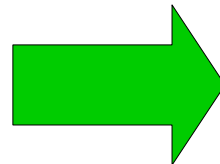
Morphism in **CoarseFilt**

# Con $\rightarrow$ CoarseFilt

- Morphisms in **Con** transform to linear rescalings of the heights in **CoarseFilt** ... monotonicity does the rest



Morphism in **Con**

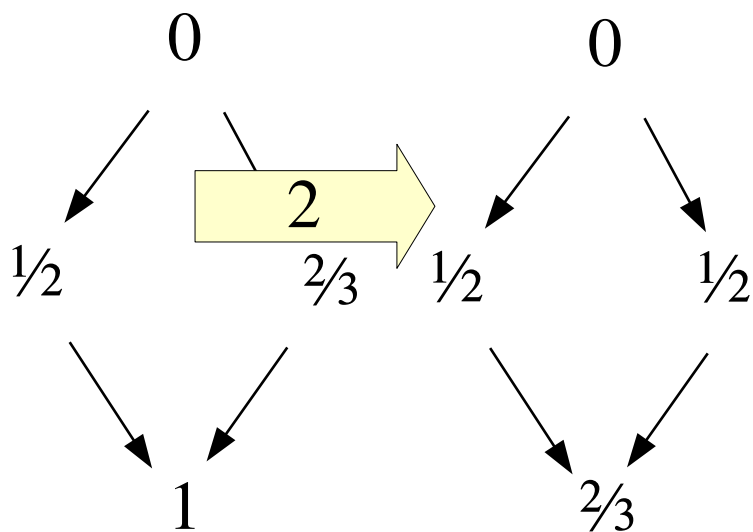


Morphism in **CoarseFilt**

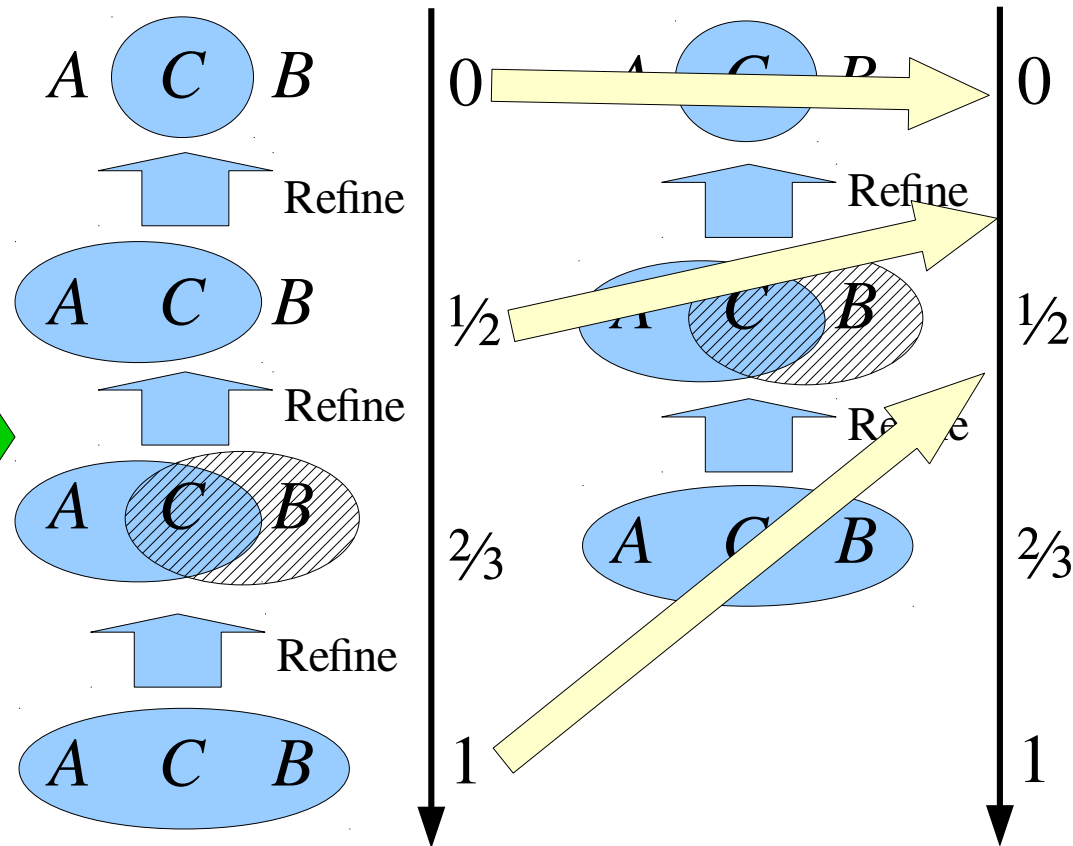
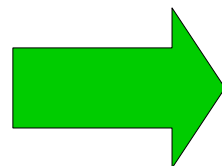


# Con $\rightarrow$ CoarseFilt

- Morphisms in **Con** transform to linear rescalings of the heights in **CoarseFilt** ... monotonicity does the rest: **Faithful!**



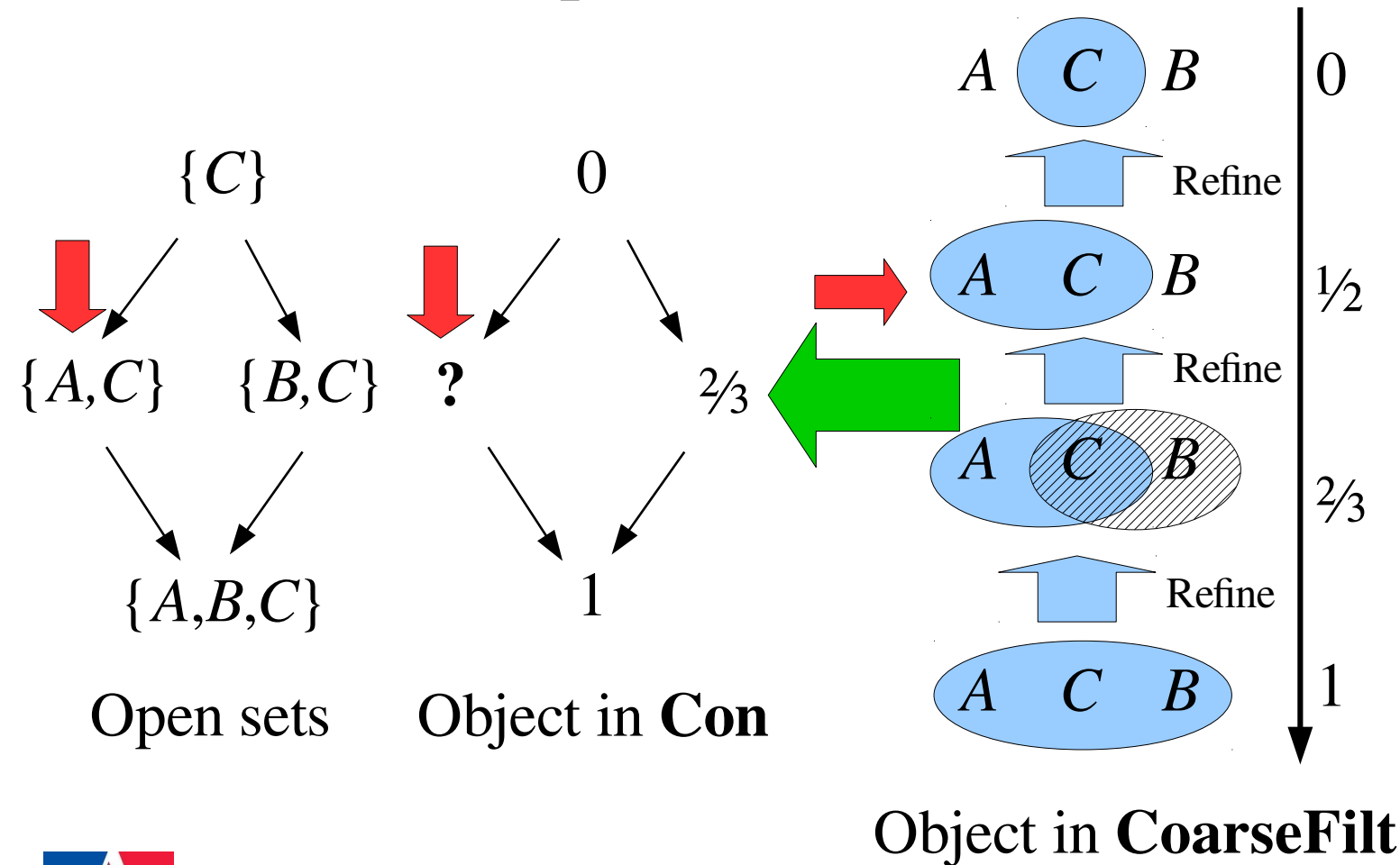
Morphism in **Con**



Morphism in **CoarseFilt**

# CoarseFilt $\rightarrow$ Con

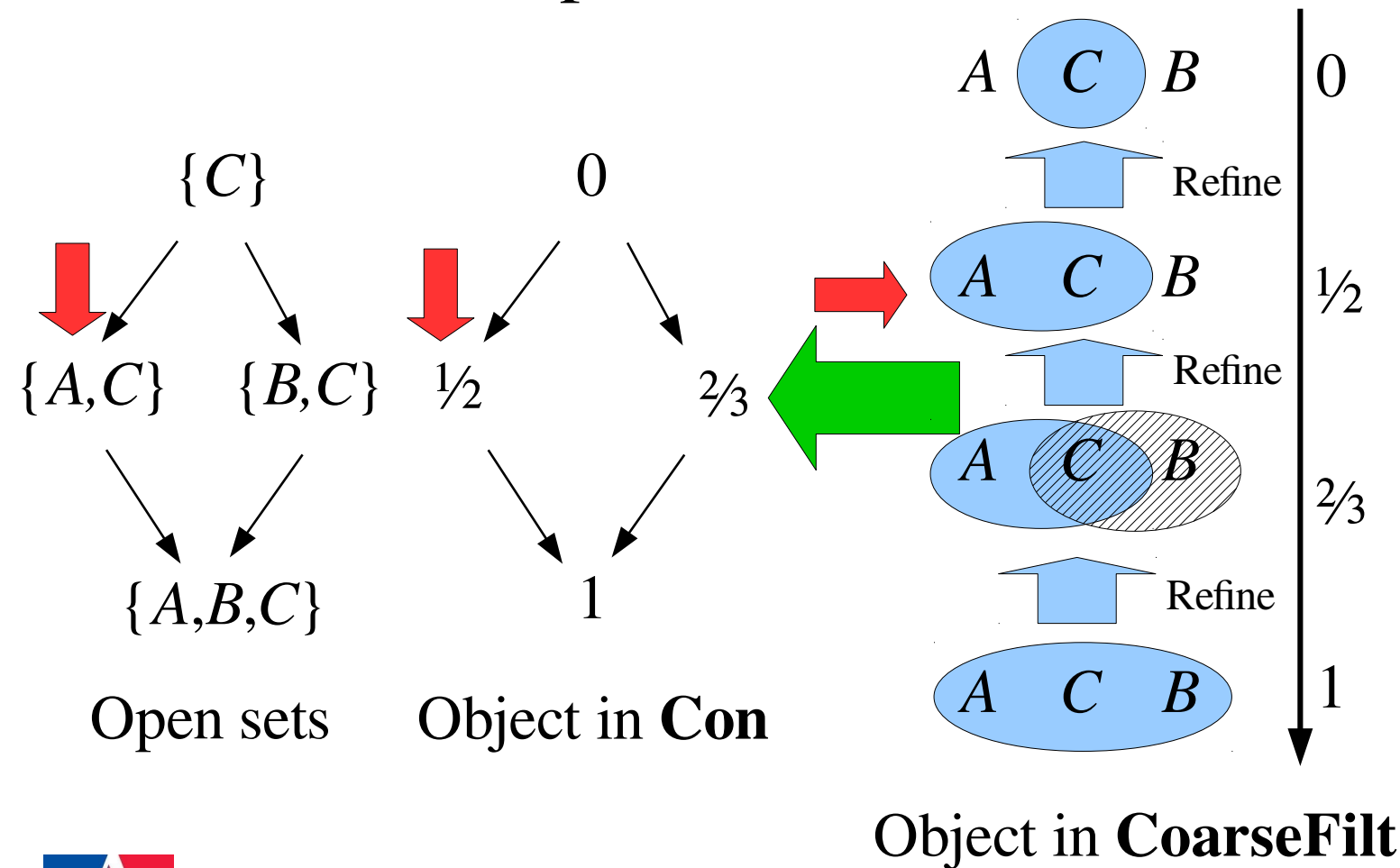
- At first, this seems easy. Just look up the threshold for each open set





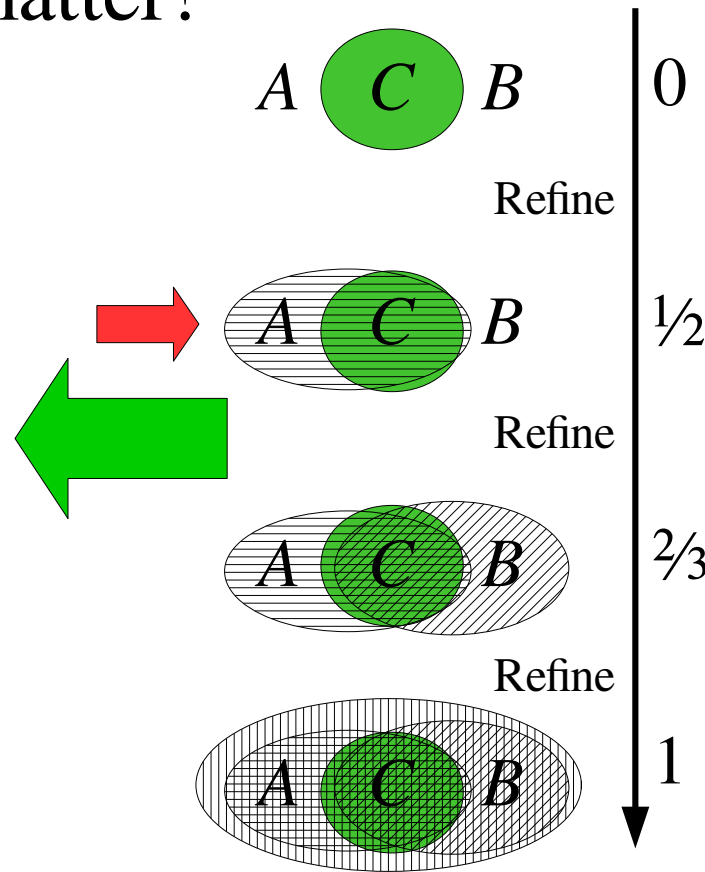
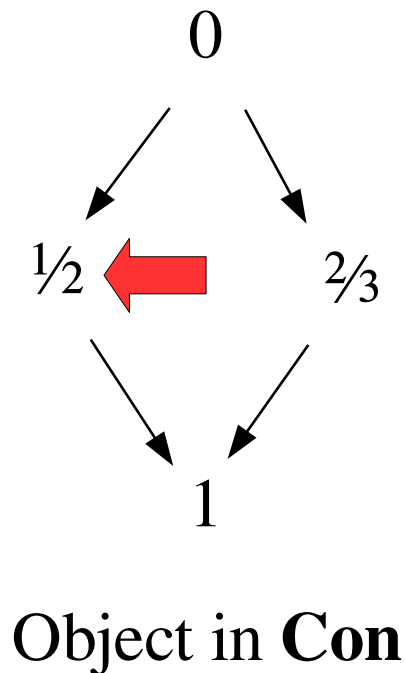
# CoarseFilt $\rightarrow$ Con

- At first, this seems easy. Just look up the threshold for each open set



# CoarseFilt $\rightarrow$ Con

- But what if the cover is not irredundant?
- This does not matter!

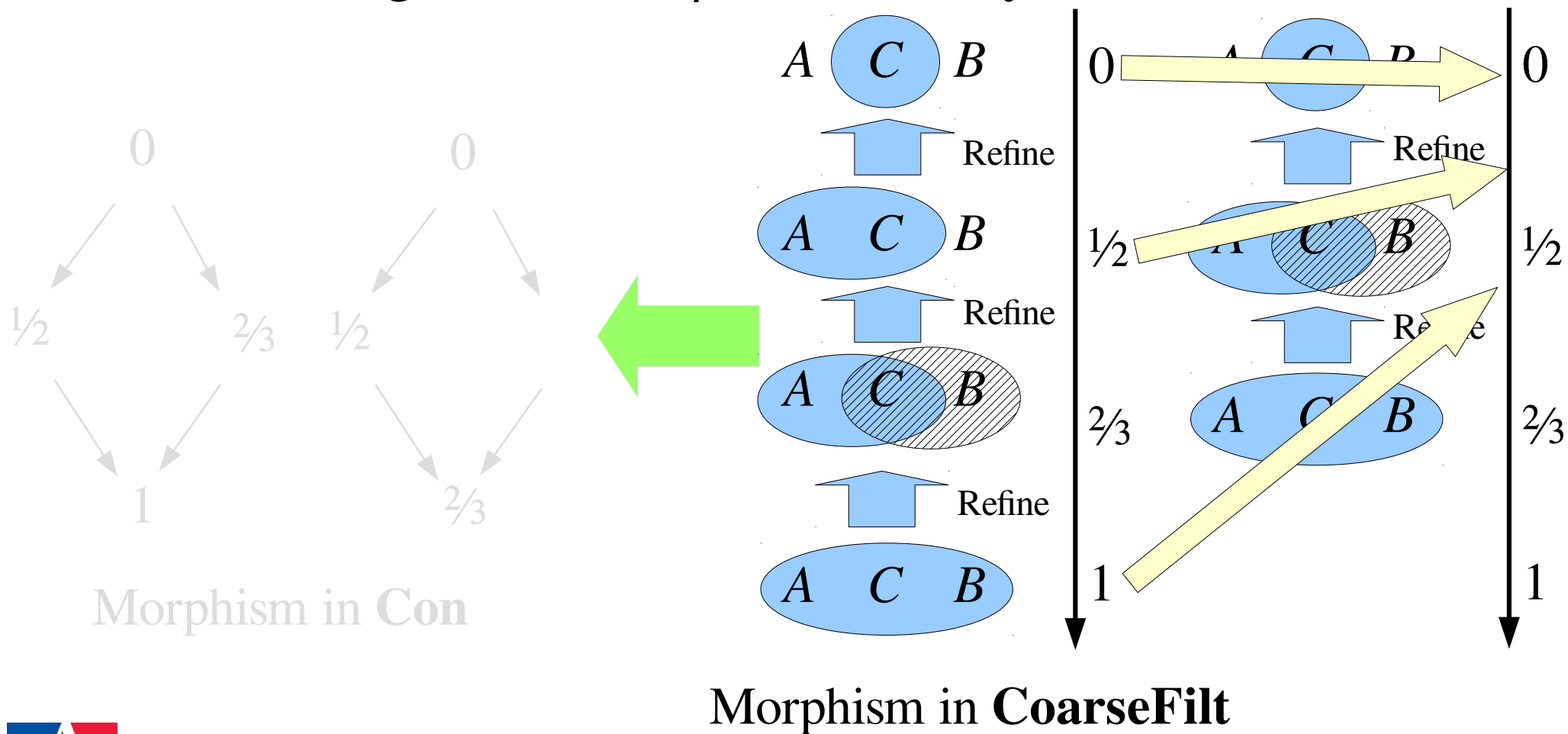


Object in **CoarseFilt**

Fix: take the smallest threshold where the open set is contained in a cover element

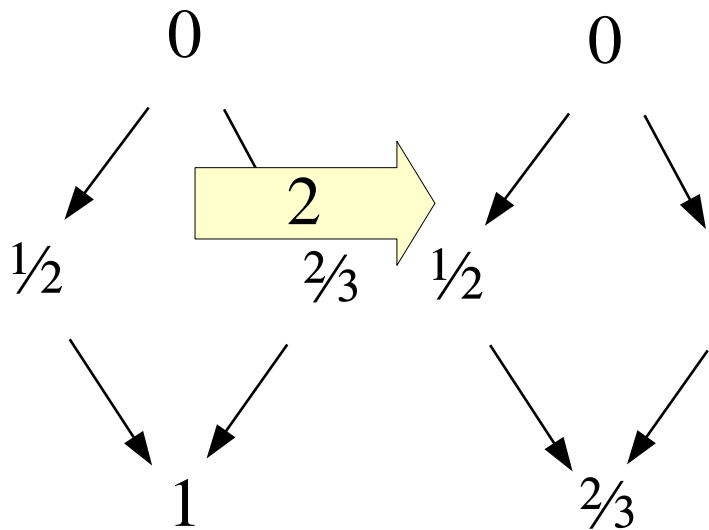
# CoarseFilt $\rightarrow$ Con

- Recall: **CoarseFilt** morphisms are given by height rescaling functions  $\phi$ , which may not be linear

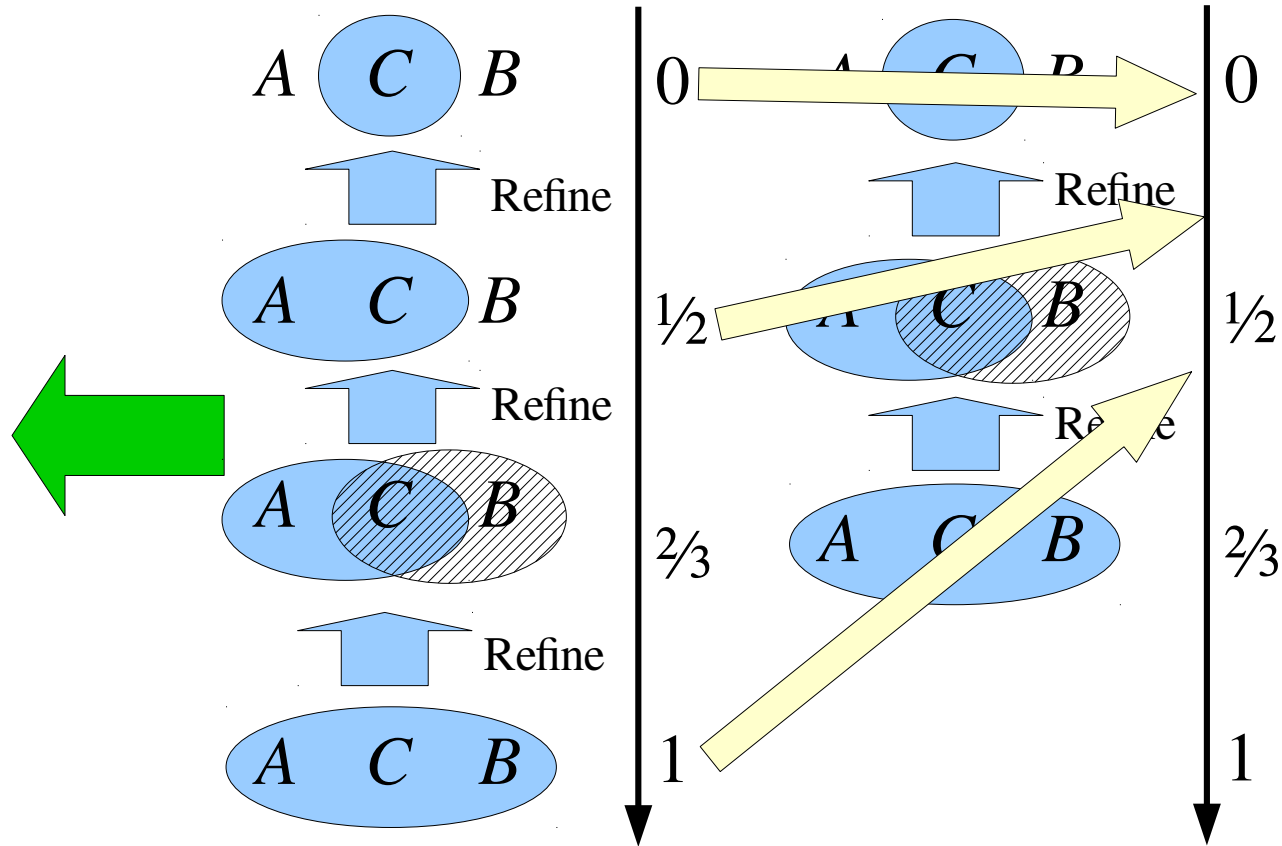


# CoarseFilt $\rightarrow$ Con

- Morphism in **Con** is given by  $K = \max \frac{t}{\phi(t)}$
- **Not faithful!**



Morphism in **Con**



Morphism in **CoarseFilt**



# Wrapping up...

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- Assignments to sheaves can be studied using both topology and category theory...
- The main tools are the consistency radius and consistency filtration
- Although consistency radius isn't functorial, there are fancier invariants that are!
- Open question: Can we relate structure of local consistency of a sheaf assignment to the structure of functions on the base?



# To learn more...

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<http://drmichaelrobinson.net>

Main reference for this talk: “Assignments to sheaves of pseudometric spaces,” *Compositionality*, 2:2, 2020.

Software: <https://github.com/kb1dds/pysheaf>

