

[Adamaszek, Michał](#); [Adams, Henry](#); [Gasparovic, Ellen](#); [Gommel, Maria](#); [Purvine, Emilie](#); [Sazdanovic, Radmila](#); [Wang, Bei](#); [Wang, Yusu](#); [Ziegelmeier, Lori](#)

On homotopy types of Vietoris-Rips complexes of metric gluings. (English) Zbl 1455.55005
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The Vietoris-Rips complex is a fundamental tool in persistent homology theory or Topological Data Analysis (TDA). This complex can recover topological features of a sample underlying the data. Indeed, it was proved that if the underlying space is a closed Riemannian manifold M , the scale parameter is sufficiently small, and a sample is sufficiently close to M , then the Vietoris-Rips complex of the sample is homotopy equivalent to M [*J.-C. Hausmann*, *Ann. Math. Stud.* 138, 175–188 (1995; [Zbl 0928.55003](#)); *J. Latschev*, *Arch. Math.* 77, No. 6, 522–528 (2001; [Zbl 1001.53026](#))]. In this paper, the authors study the Vietoris-Rips complexes of glued metric spaces at all scale parameters. In particular, it is proved that the Vietoris-Rips complex of the wedge sum of two pointed metric spaces $\text{VR}(X \vee Y; r)$ is homotopy equivalent to the wedge sum of the Vietoris-Rips complexes $\text{VR}(X; r) \vee \text{VR}(Y; r)$ for all $r > 0$. More generally, the Vietoris-Rips complex of the glued space of two metric spaces along a common isometric subset is studied. These results enable us to compute the persistent homology of a glued space completely. Čech analogies are also studied. As an application, the Vietoris-Rips complexes of glued metric graphs are discussed.

Reviewer: [Yuichi Ike \(Kawasaki\)](#)

MSC:

- [55N31](#) Persistent homology and applications, topological data analysis
- [55U10](#) Simplicial sets and complexes in algebraic topology
- [68T09](#) Computational aspects of data analysis and big data
- [55P15](#) Classification of homotopy type
- [05E45](#) Combinatorial aspects of simplicial complexes

Keywords:

Vietoris-Rips complex; Čech complex; metric space gluings; wedge sums; metric graphs; persistent homology

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