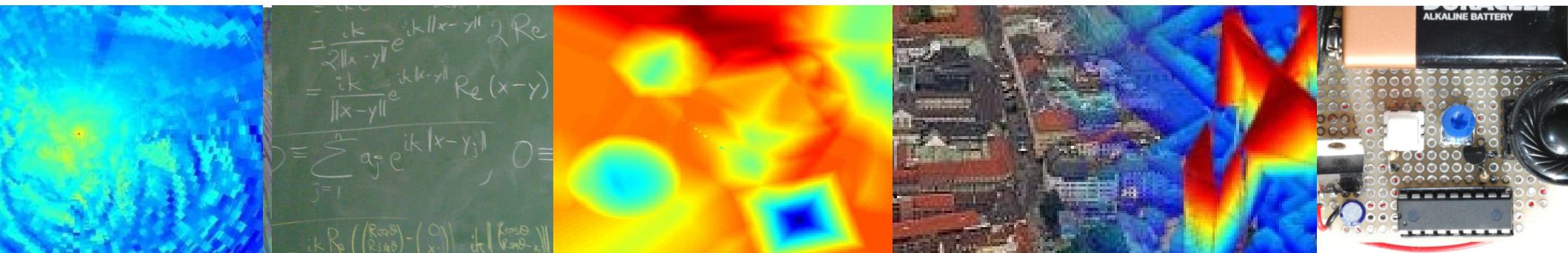


# Practical Systems Modeling *in* Categories using Sheaves



Michael Robinson



# Acknowledgments

---

This is joint work with a number of people in different roles:

- Collaborators:
  - Letitia Li, Cory Anderson, Denley Lam (BAE Systems)
  - Kris Ambrose, Steve Huntsman, Allyson O'Brien, Matvey Yutin (all formerly at BAE Systems)
  - Cliff Joslyn, Brenda Praggastis, Emilie Purvine (PNNL)
  - Chris Capraro, DJ Isereau (SRC)
  - Donna Dietz (American University) ← Python Colab notebooks!
- Numerous students at American University
- Funding:
  - DARPA, ONR, AFRL, PNNL, AU, among others



# Categories!

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- Category theory is a good way to organize compositional models of systems
- Category theory is the "theory of mathematical analogies"
- Surprisingly, it's expressive enough to represent mathematical logic!
- But in a sense, that's too expressive... it's hard to get a handhold
- Sheaf theory is a part of category theory, and provides some useful constraints to simplify modeling



# Why sheaves?

---

Sheaves:

- Are the **universal reductionist paradigm** that guide the composition of more complicated models from simpler ones
- Moderate between **different levels of abstraction** and/or domains of validity for models

And recently, they can handle noisy real-world data with practical models in software



# Sheaves are universal

---

- Theorem: (Lawvere, 1960s & 70s) Formal logic can be encoded in a category of sheaves
  - All nontraditional logics can be encoded as well
  - (this hasn't been realized in software; it's somehow too unwieldy...)
- Theorem: (R., 2017) Any framework that assembles local models into global ones consistently will yield sheaves

Hence,

- Any systematic reductionist approach to science entails the use of sheaves, at least in part



# Sheaves guide the level of abstraction

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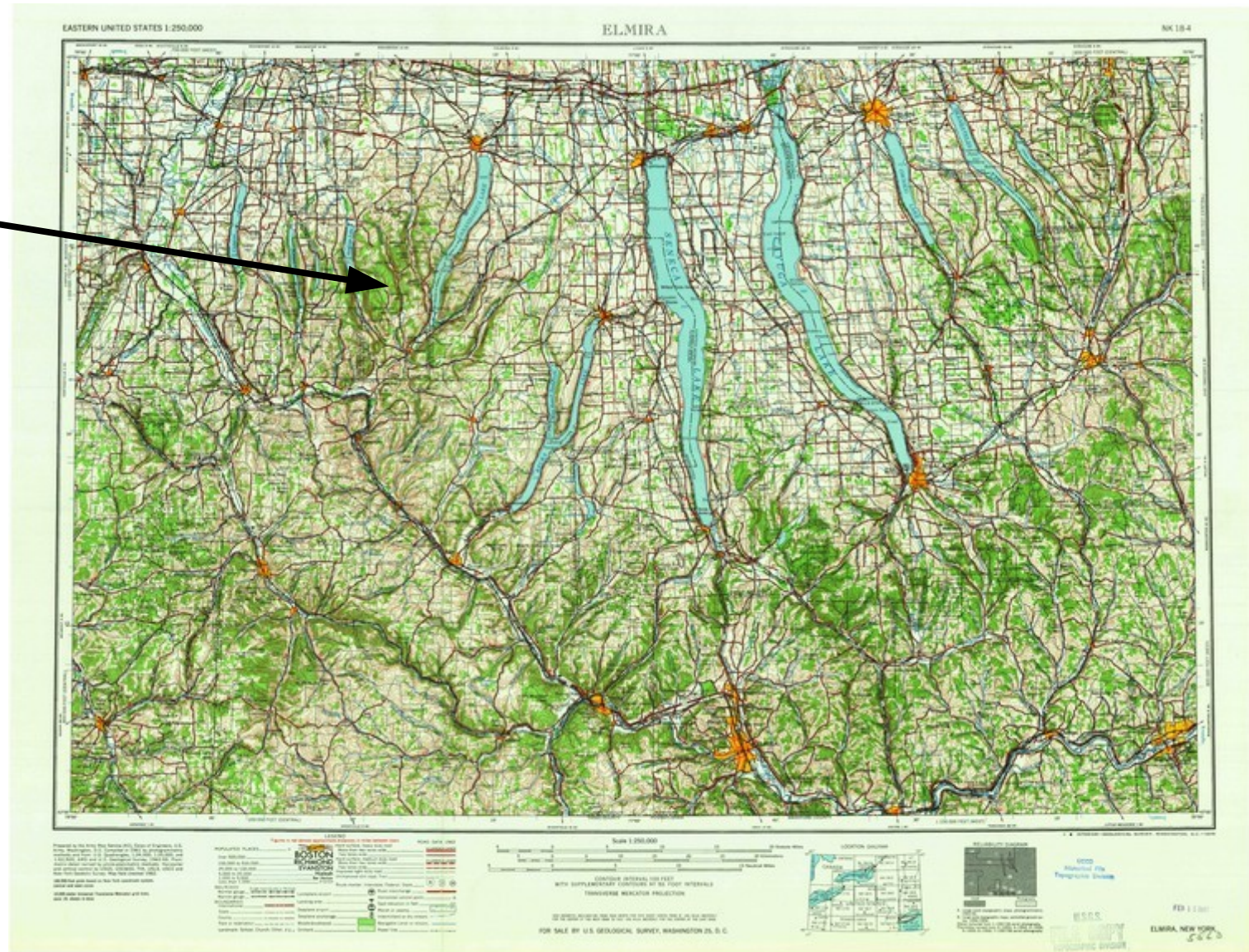
- George Box (1978), "All models are wrong but some are useful"
- Question: What is the *domain of validity* for a model?
  - Box, again, "It is inappropriate to be concerned about safety from mice when there are tigers abroad."
- Claim: This is a *topological* notion





# What is topology?

Not this!  
This is  
TopoGRAPHY!



(Thanks USGS!)



# What is topology?

---



=

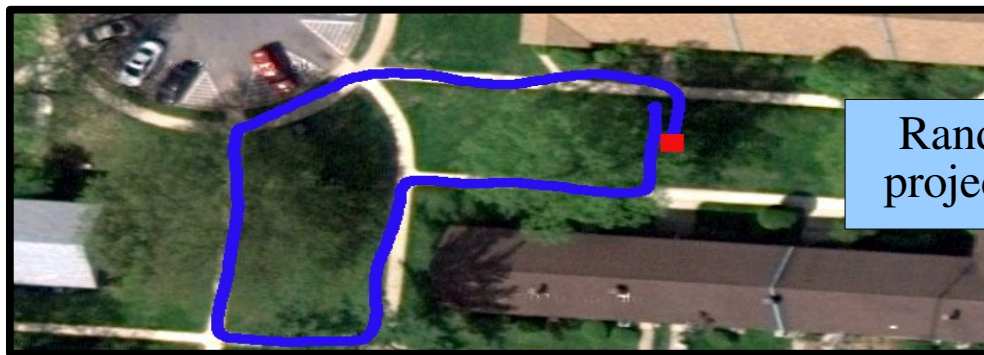


Topology is the study of spaces under continuous deformations

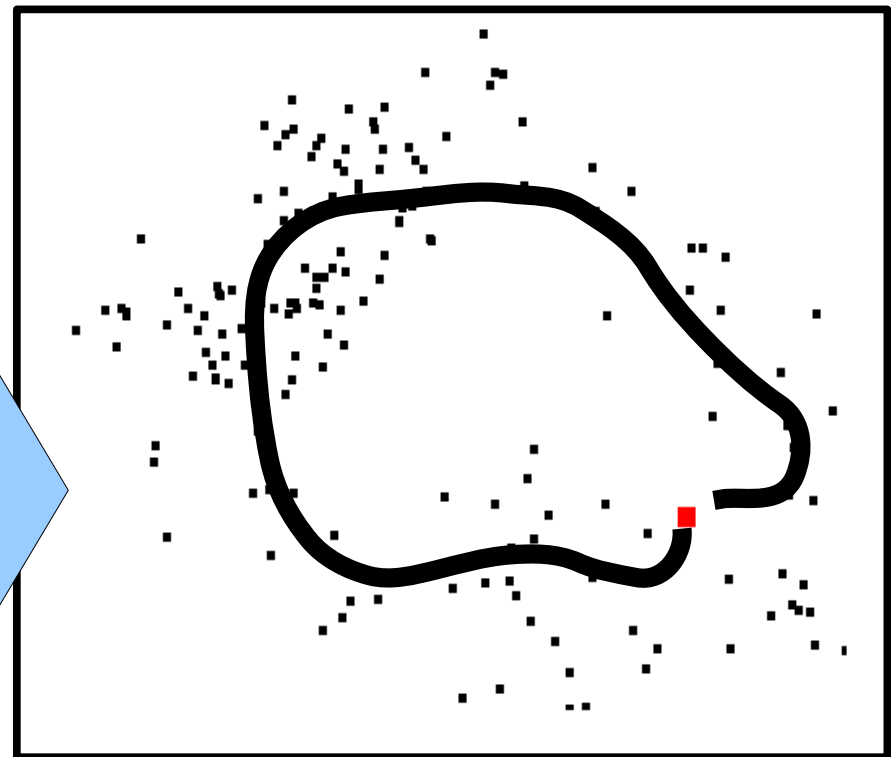


# Topology is present in data

- Cellphone used to record signal level of 802.11 access points near several apartment buildings
- Signal level (dBm) and station MAC address recorded periodically
  - Uniquely identified 52 WAPs
- Random projection to 2d



Random  
projection



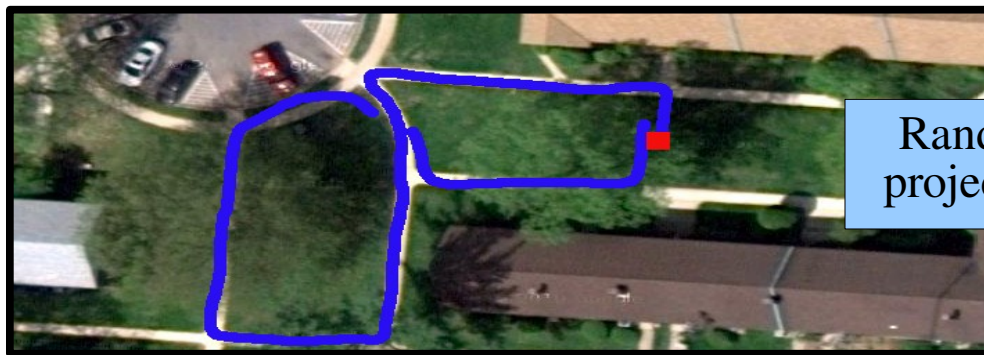
(image courtesy of Google)

Software credit: Daniel Muellner and Mikael Vejdemo-Johansson

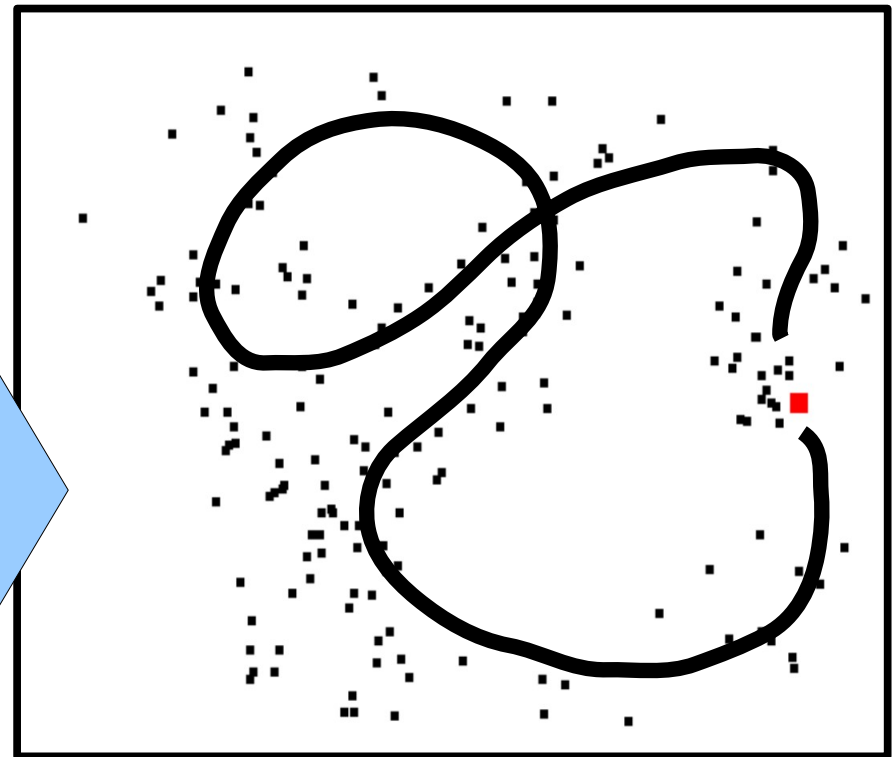


# Topology is present in data

- Goal: measure environment and targets with minimal sensing and opportunistic sources
- Key theoretical guarantees proven
- First generation algorithms
  - Simulated extensively
  - Validated experimentally



Random  
projection

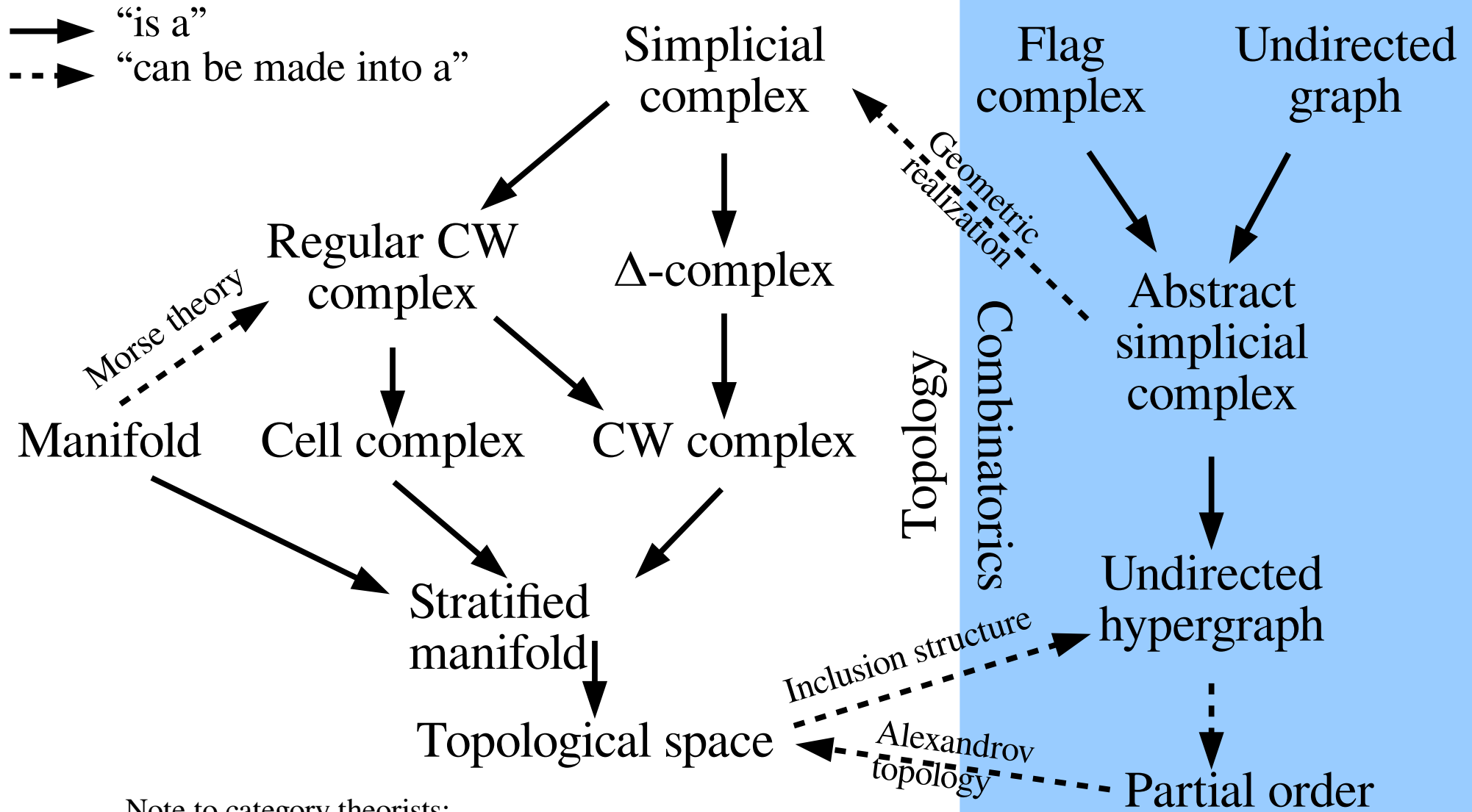


(image courtesy of Google)

Software credit: Daniel Muellner and Mikael Vejdemo-Johansson



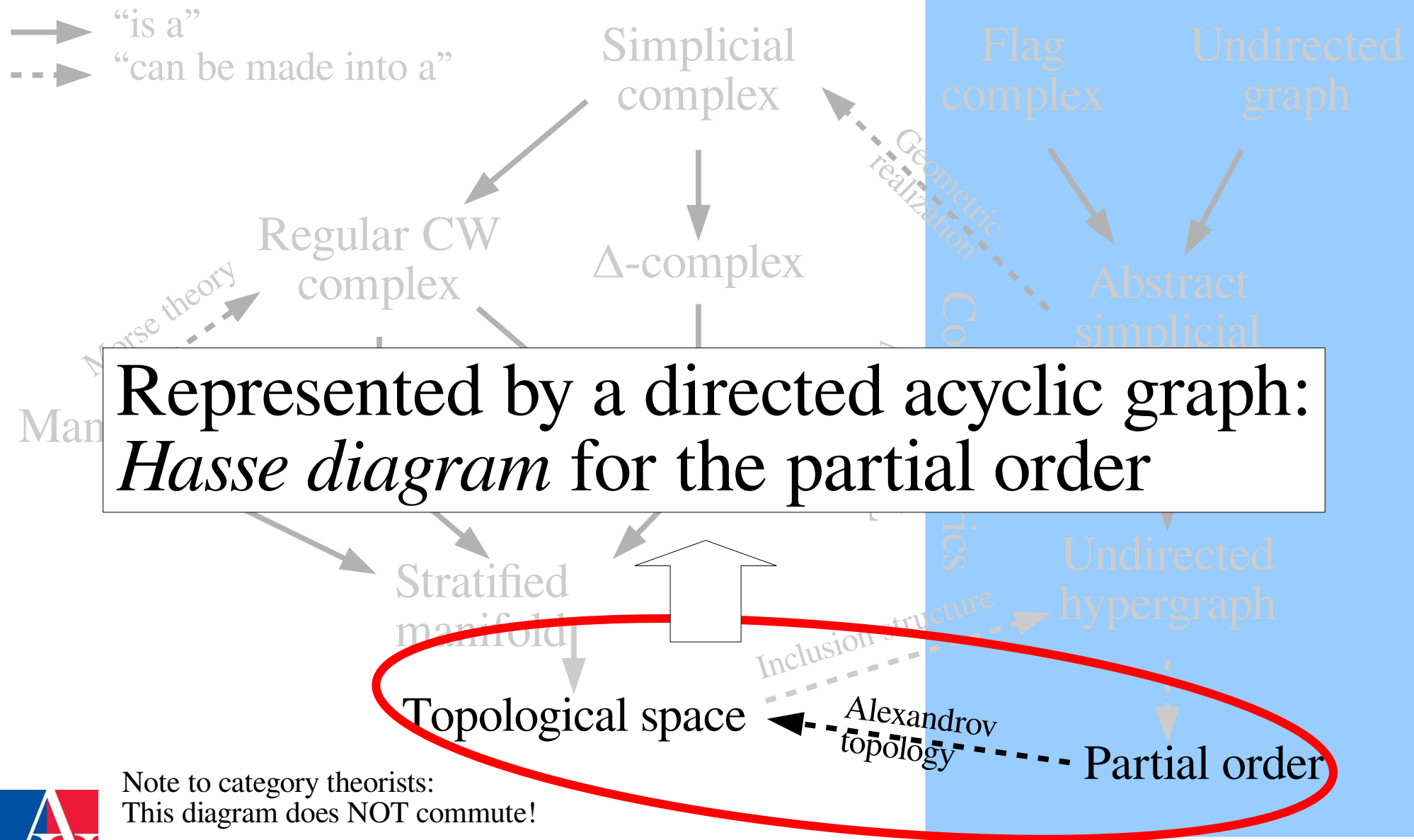
# There are lots of topologies...



Note to category theorists:  
This diagram does NOT commute!



# In practice, we only need these...



Note to category theorists:  
 This diagram does NOT commute!



# A sheaf relates Topology $\rightarrow$ Models

---

- A *sheaf* is a data structure that:

- Pairs a domain of validity with a corresponding model,  
and

Graph node: *cell*

Distance metric: *stalk*

- Explains how the model changes with the domain

Function on each graph edge: *restriction*

We say "sheaf ON a partial order OF metric spaces"

- Formally: a *sheaf* is a functor from the partial order to the category of metric spaces & continuous maps





# Historical note

---

- The sheaf theory literature before 2015 mostly treats:  
sheaves **ON** abstract topological spaces **OF** vectors

Serves pure mathematicians,  
but no one else, sadly

Algebraic; good for  
algorithms, but not able to  
handle noise very well

- The traditional "tool" is *sheaf cohomology*, an algebraic invariant
  - Studies the models in the **absence of data**
  - **Not** noise tolerant
  - Computationally burdensome until very recently (software releases imminent, but still to come!)



# Our discussion today

---

- The sheaf theory literature before 2015 mostly treats:  
sheaves ON abstract topological spaces OF vectors

Serves pure mathematicians,  
but no one else, sadly

Algebraic; good for  
algorithms, but not able to  
handle noise very well

- Our approach:

sheaves ON a partial order OF metric spaces

- Handles both models & data, separately or together
- **Provably** noise tolerant
- Computationally more efficient (with caveats)



# Learning objectives for today

---

Topology provides a handhold for diagrammatic/category-theory modeling:

- Learn to encode various problems as sheaves
  - Some will have "standard" solutions; some won't
- Derive practical solutions from these sheaves
  - Use PySheaf to get numerical estimates!
- Measure, localize, and interpret the extent of consistency within a model with respect to observations



# Starting point...

---

- A *sheaf* is a data structure that:

- Pairs a domain of validity with a corresponding model,  
and

Graph node: *cell*

Distance metric: *stalk*

- Explains how the model changes with the domain

Function on each graph edge: *restriction*

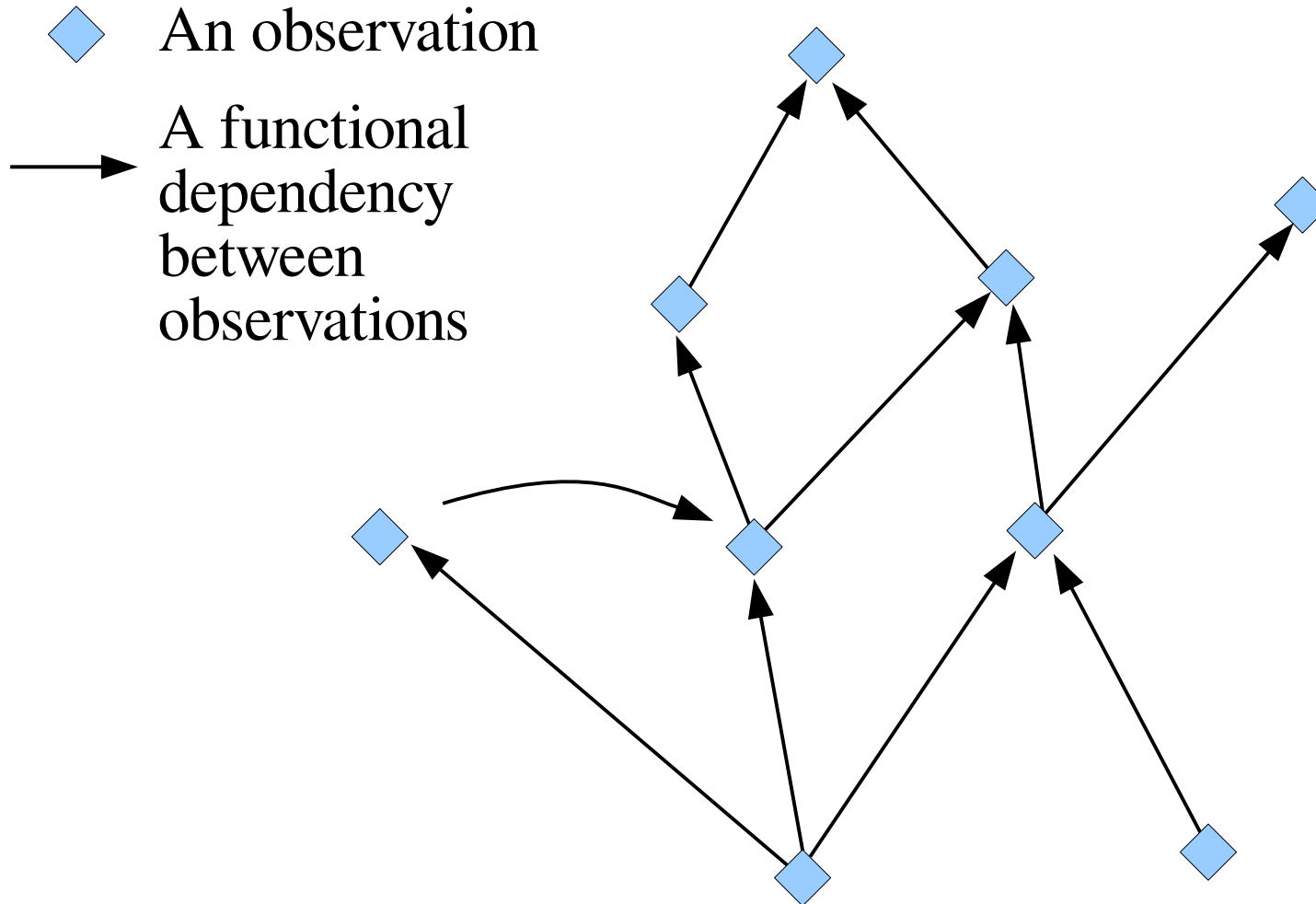
- An *assignment* is some data "within" the sheaf
- *Consistency radius* measures data-model fit

Let's be a little more precise about what these mean



# Partial order of data sets

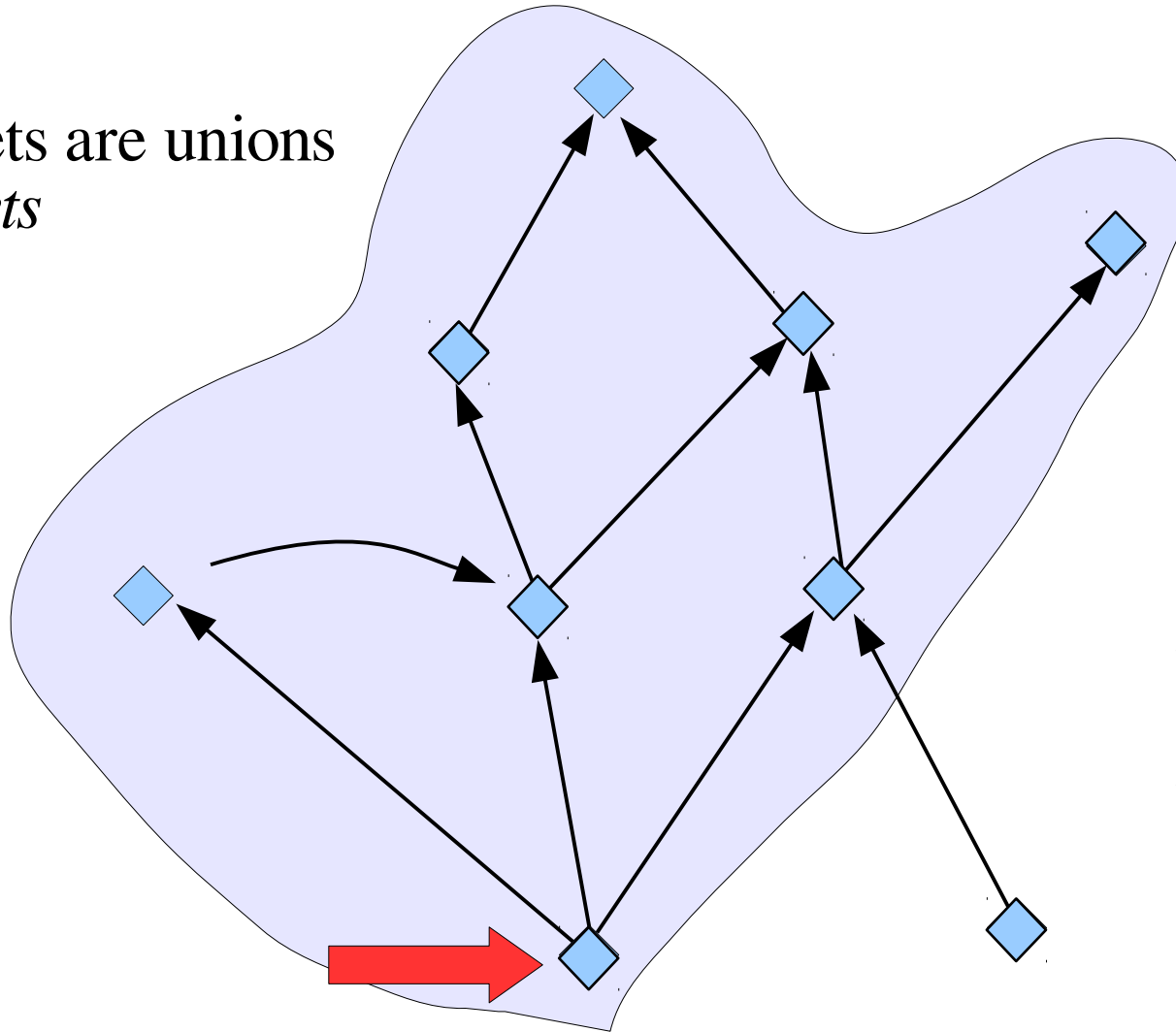
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# Topologizing a partial order

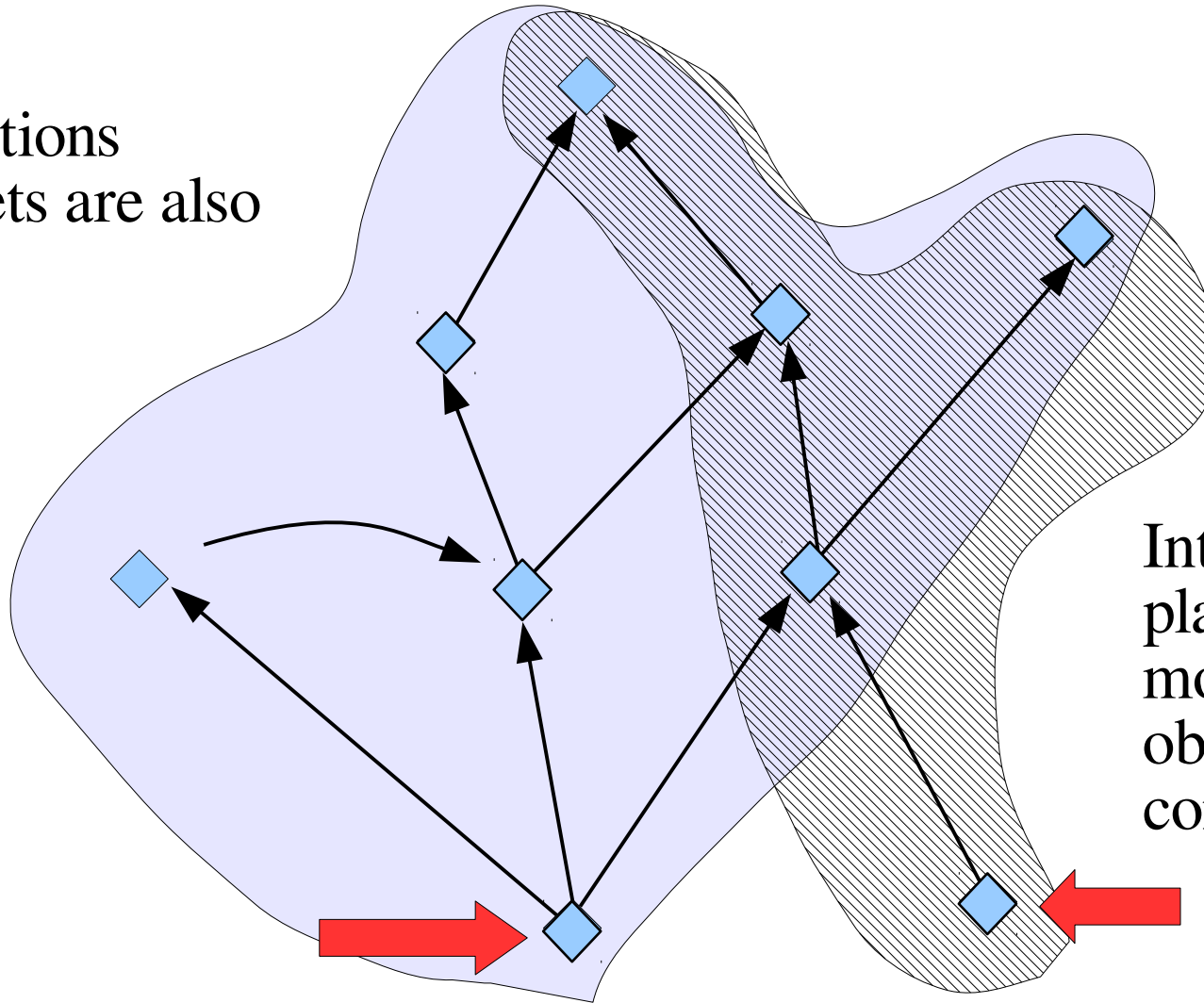
Open sets are unions  
of *up-sets*



The domain of  
validity for the  
observation marked  
with the arrow

# Topologizing a partial order

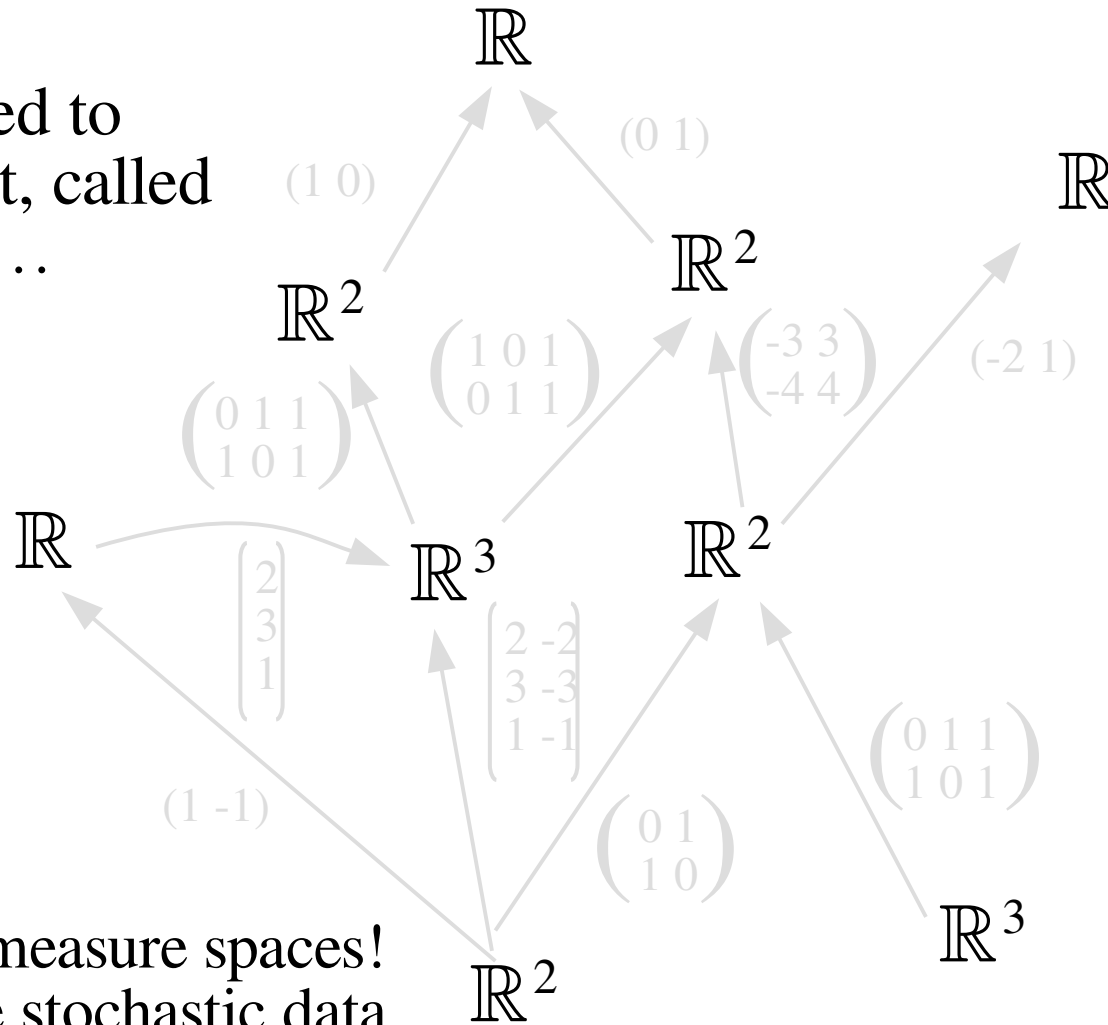
Intersections  
of up-sets are also  
up-sets



Intersections are  
places where two  
models and their  
observations might  
conflict

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

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



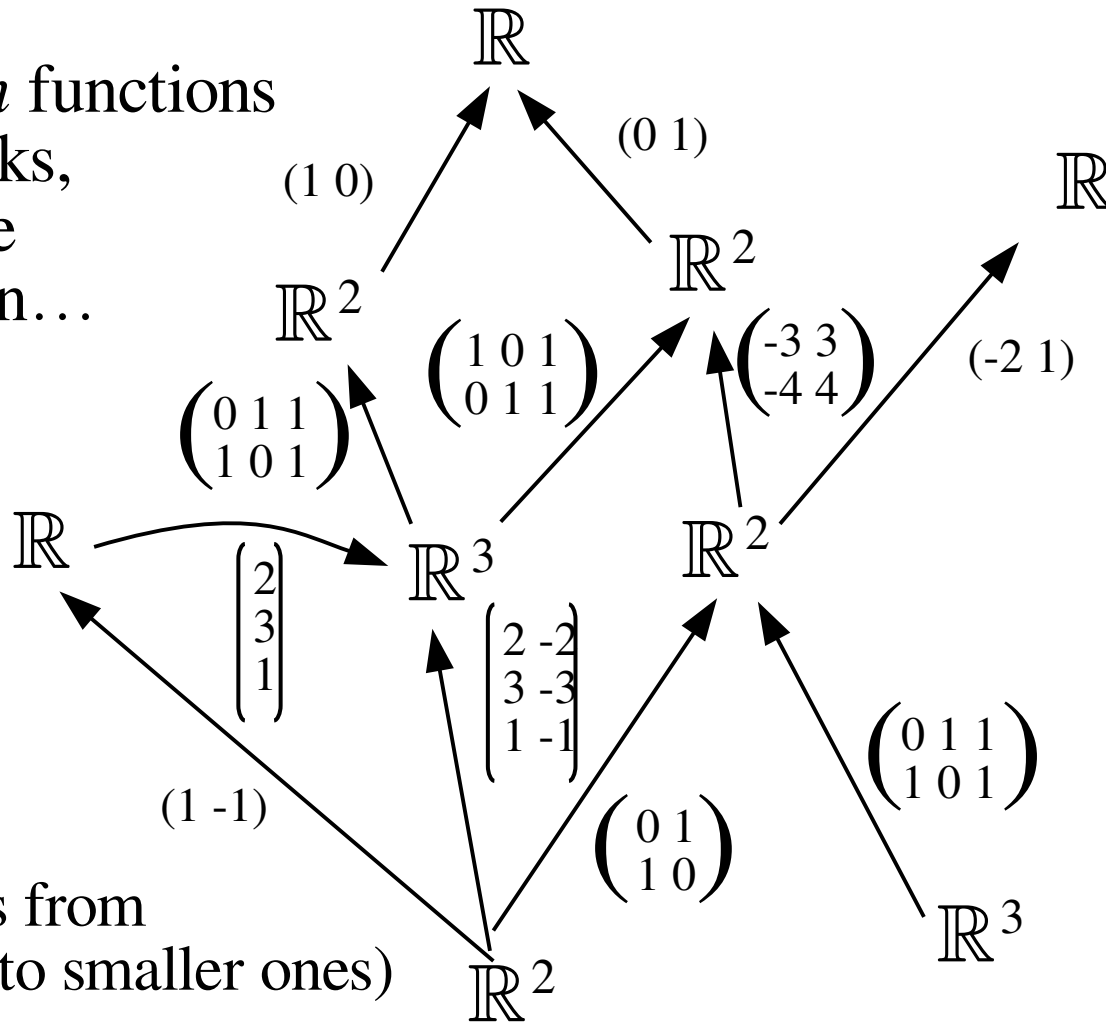
Stalks can be measure spaces!  
We can handle stochastic data

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...



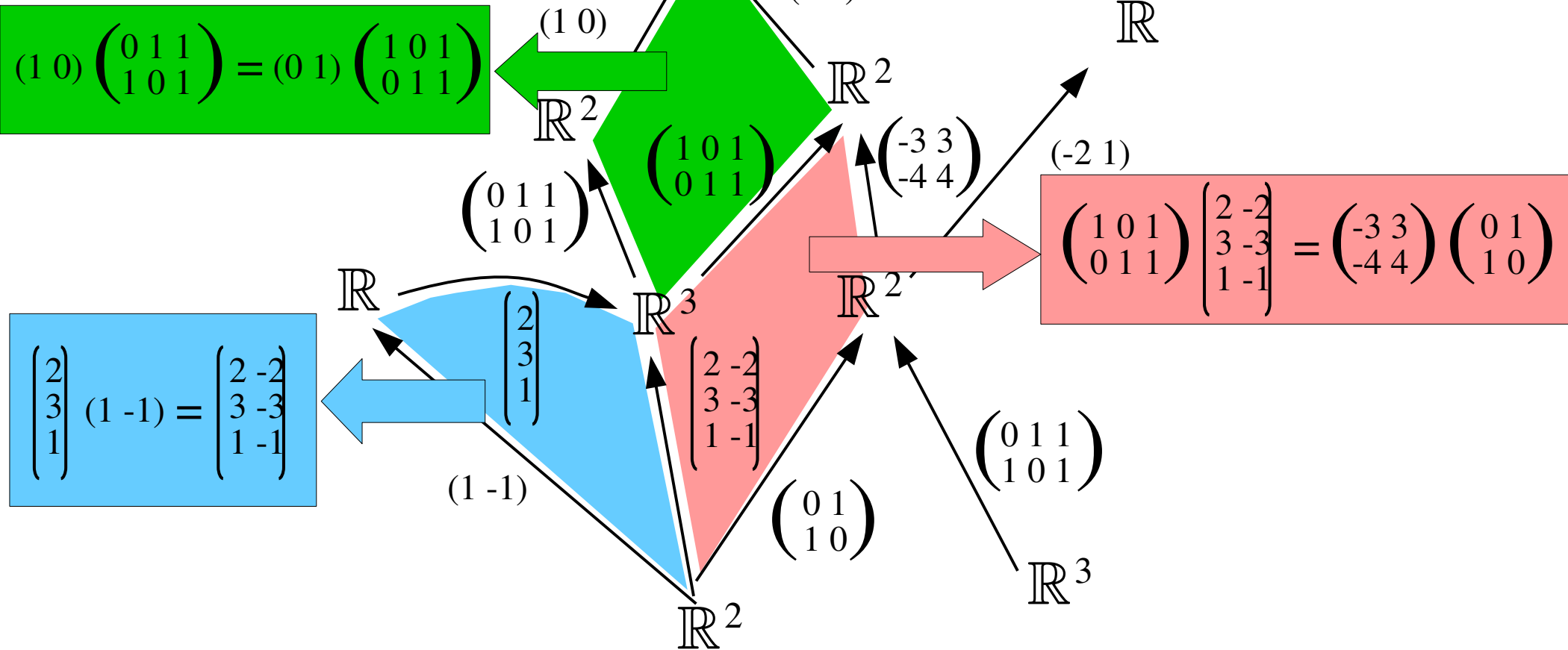
(“Restriction”  
because it goes from  
bigger up-sets to smaller ones)

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



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

... so that the diagram commutes!



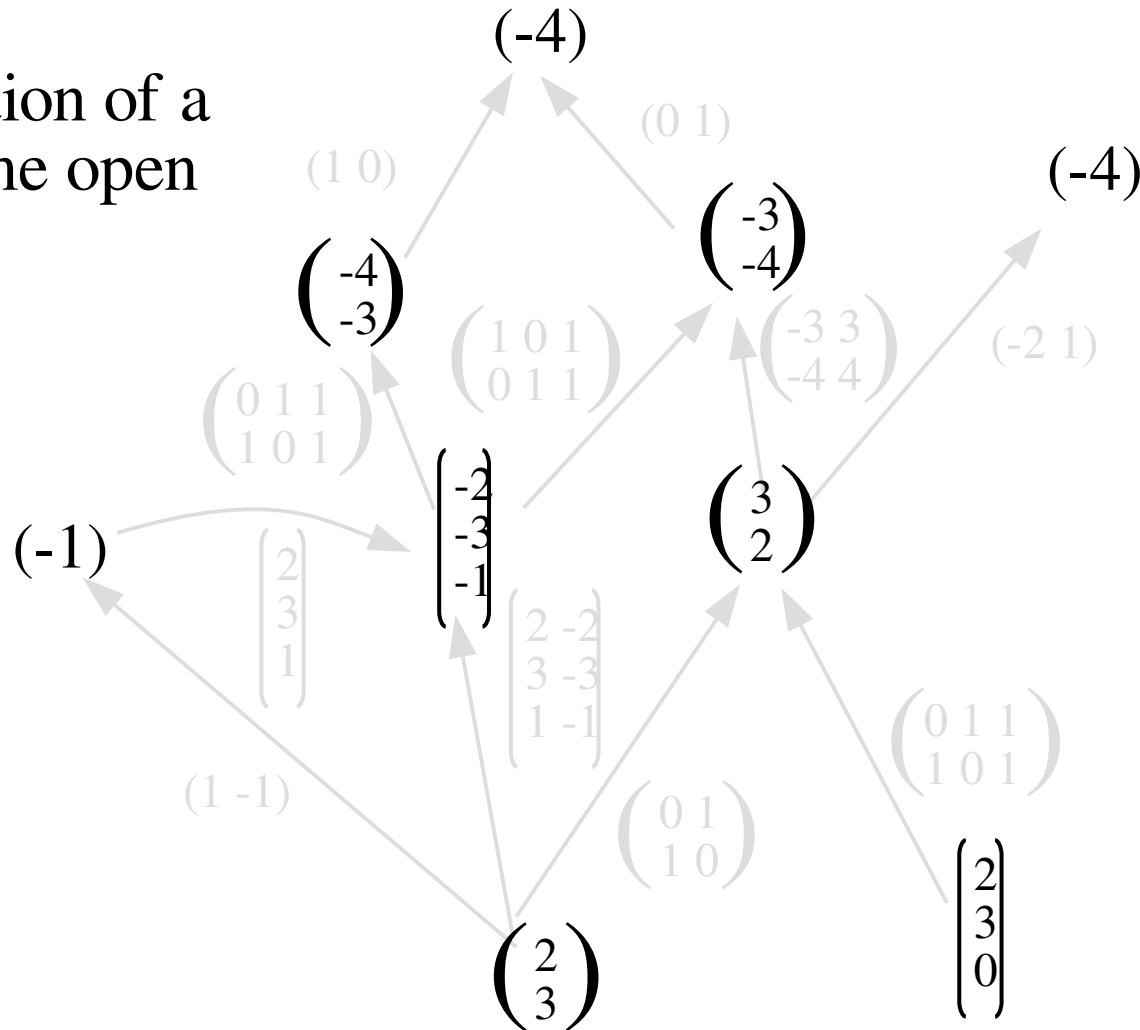
This is a *sheaf* of vector spaces on a partial order





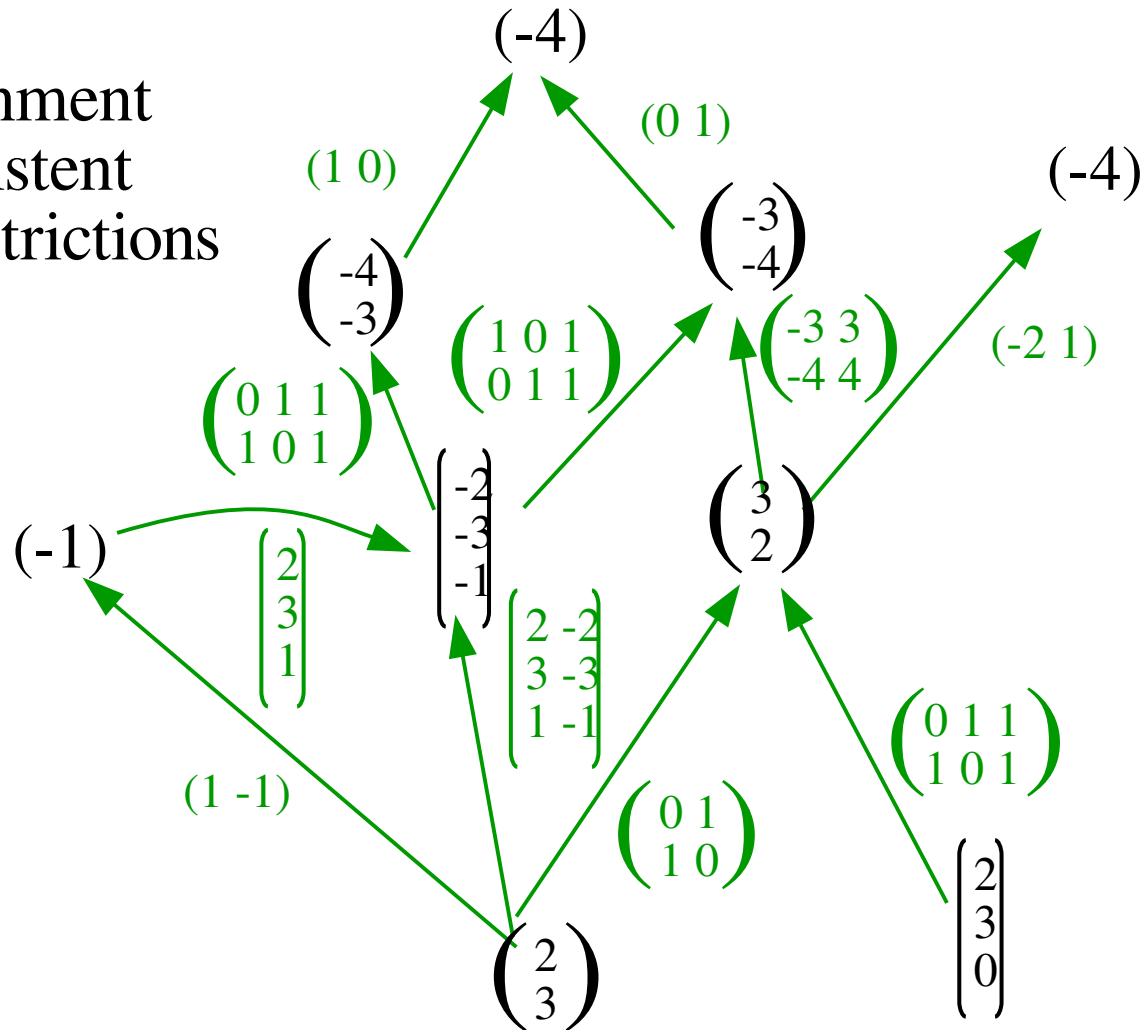
# An *assignment* is...

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



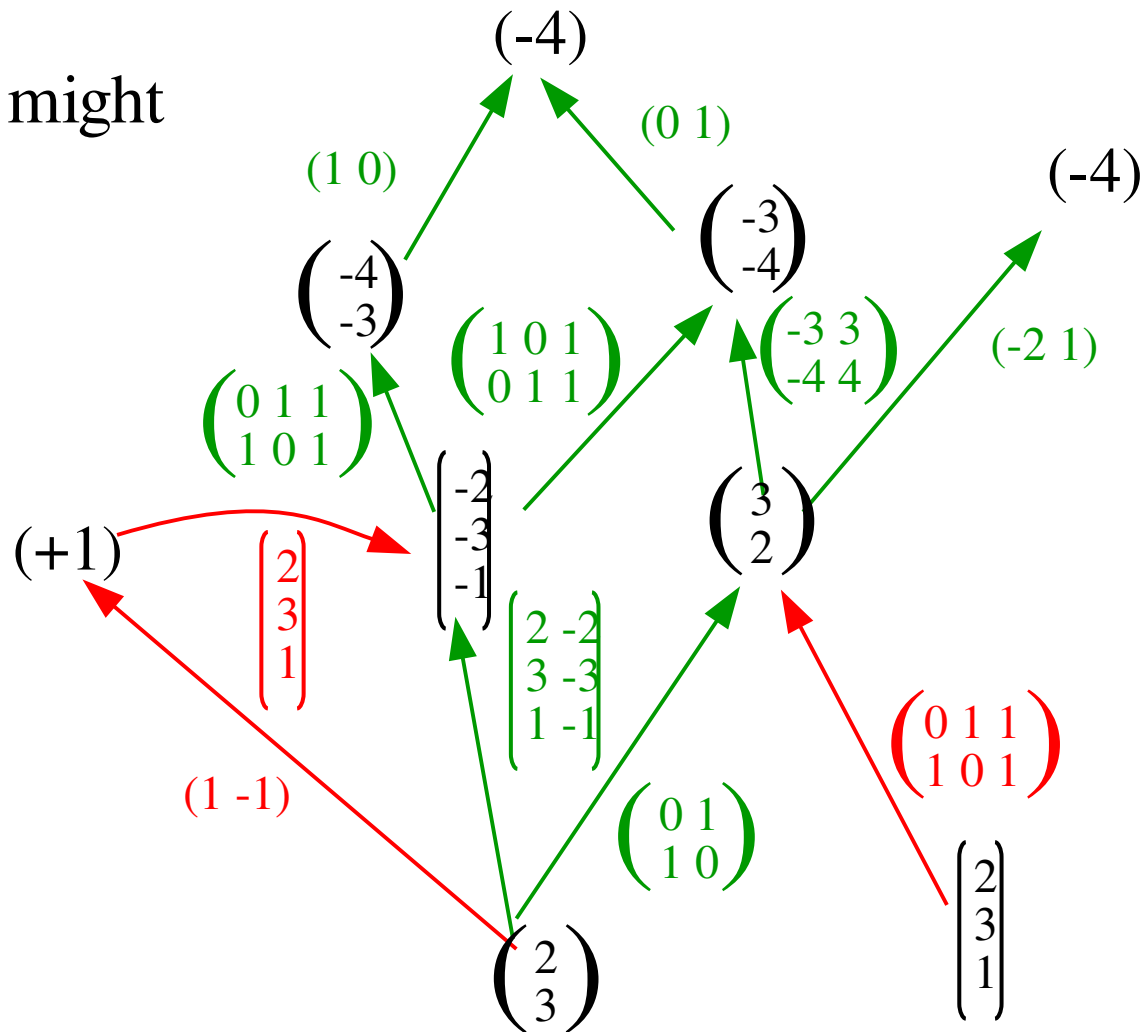
# A global section is...

... an assignment that is consistent with the restrictions



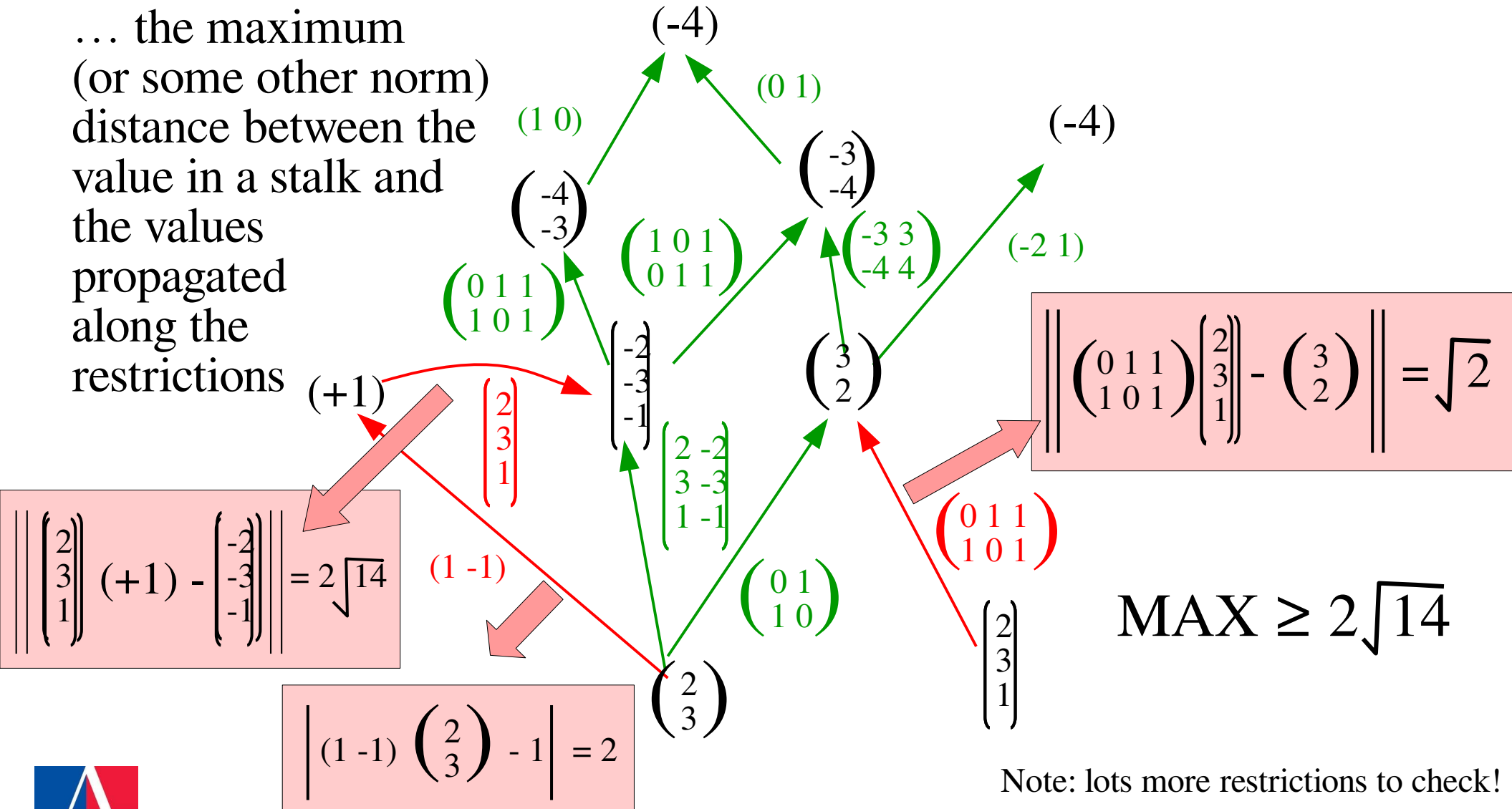
# Some assignments aren't consistent

... but they might be partially consistent



# Consistency radius is...

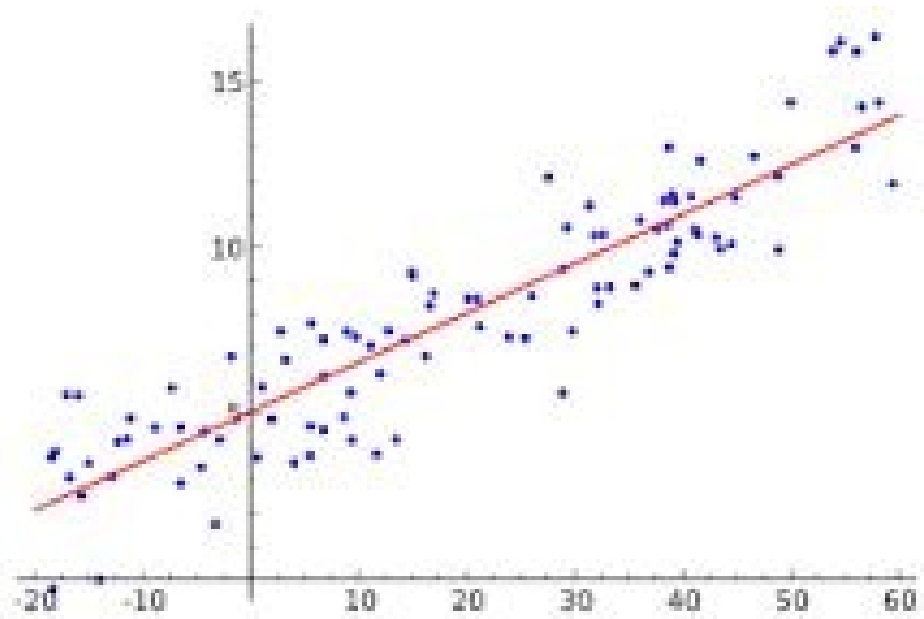
... the maximum (or some other norm) distance between the value in a stalk and the values propagated along the restrictions





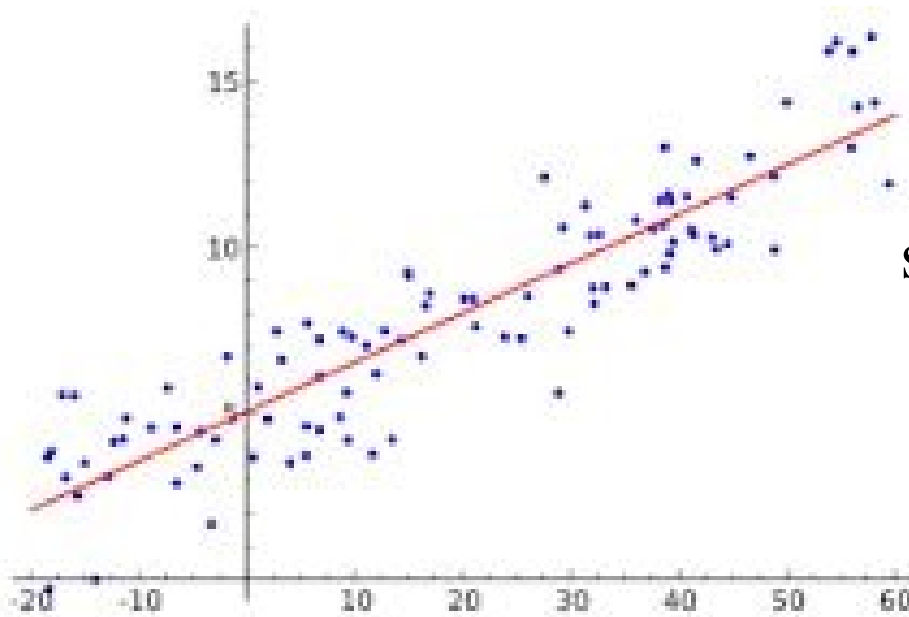
# Consistency radius = aggregated residuals

---

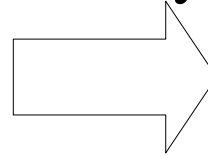


... yes this thing!

# Linear regression...



sheafify!



Datum #1 ... Datum # $n$

predictor #1

predictor # $n$

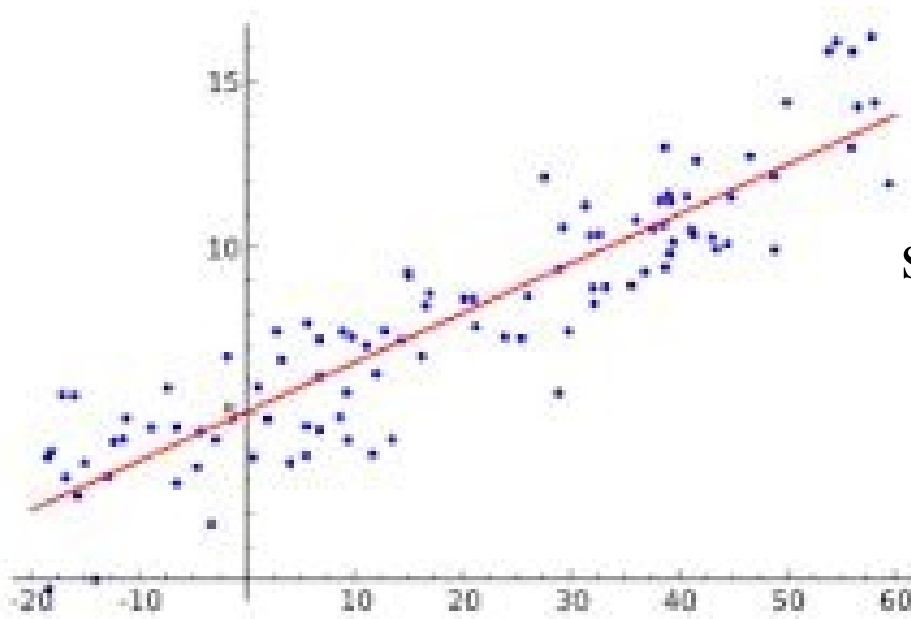
Model  
coefficients

... yes this thing!

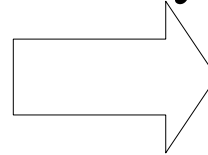




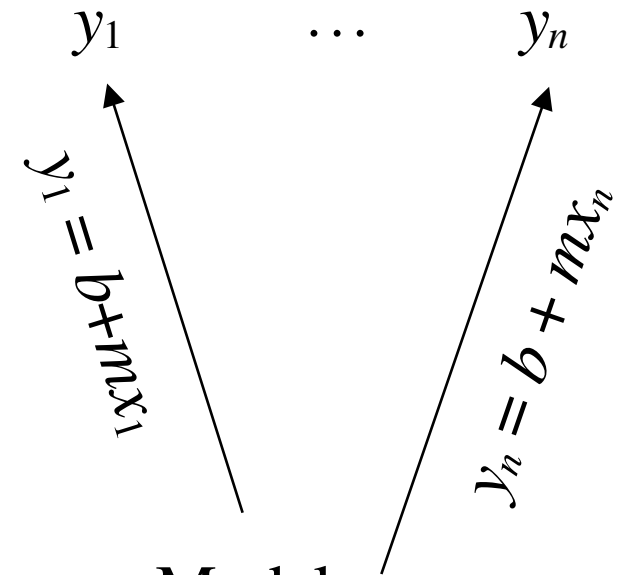
# Linear regression...



sheafify!



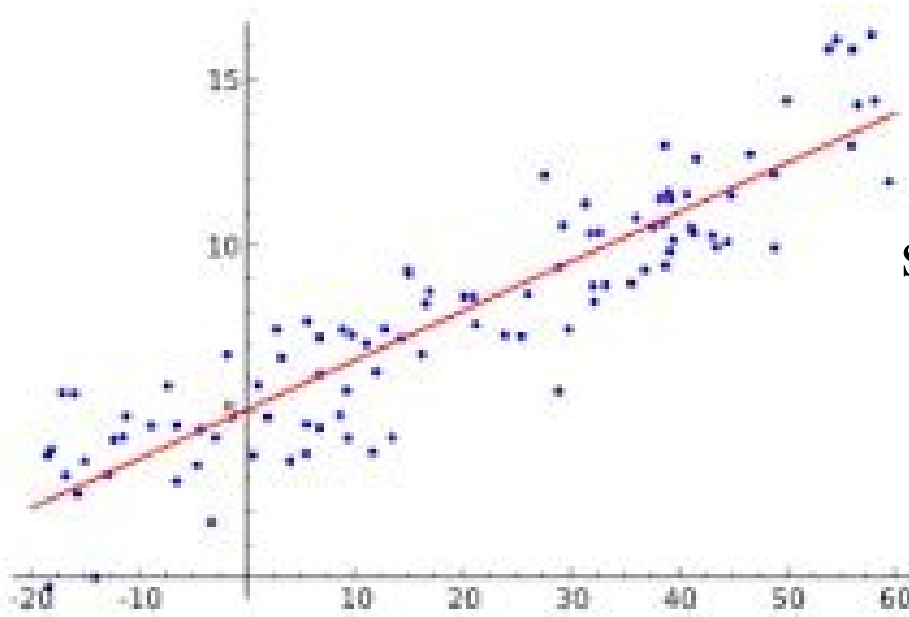
... yes this thing!



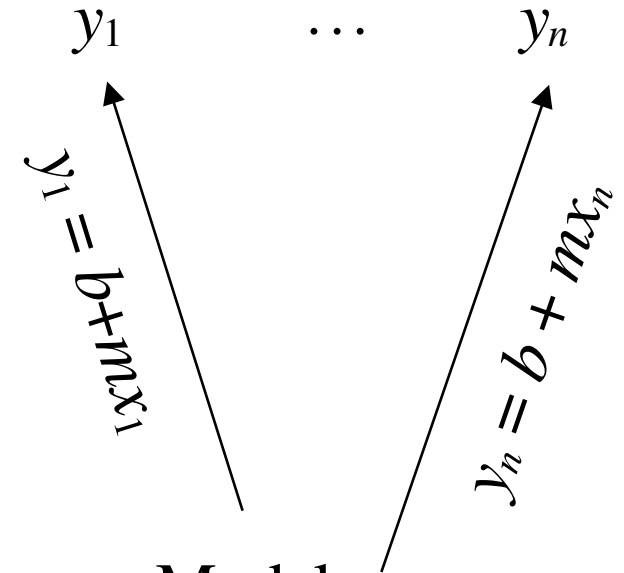
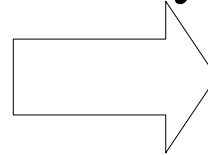
Model  
coefficients  
( $m, b$ )



# Linear regression...



sheafify!



... yes this thing!

**Tip: Use spans!**



# Software!

- Regression as sheaf

[https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1o7N\\_yQy4QdcUBq48pYzUbUauFVfZVDPp](https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1o7N_yQy4QdcUBq48pYzUbUauFVfZVDPp)

- Radio foxhunting

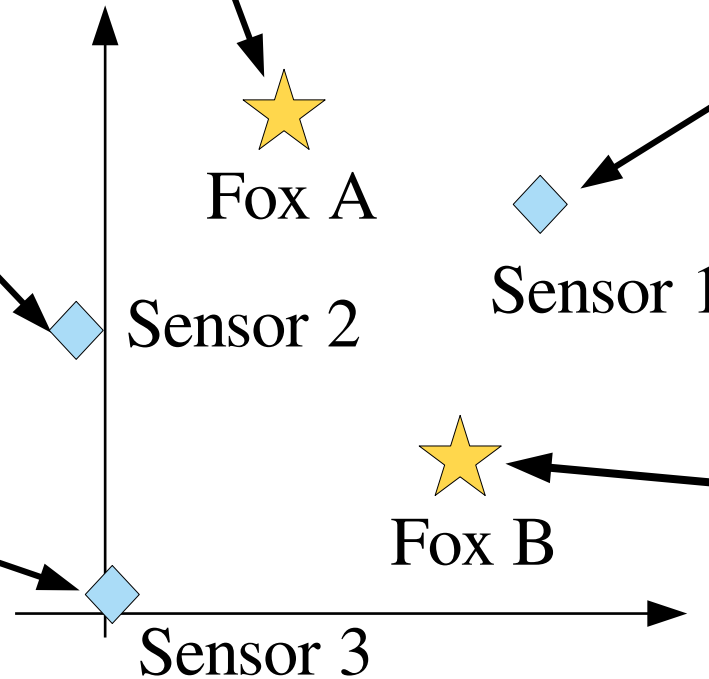
<https://colab.research.google.com/drive/16DA4ZEJpgij1paD8eAS8S6-m5pDavnr>



# Amateur radio foxhunting

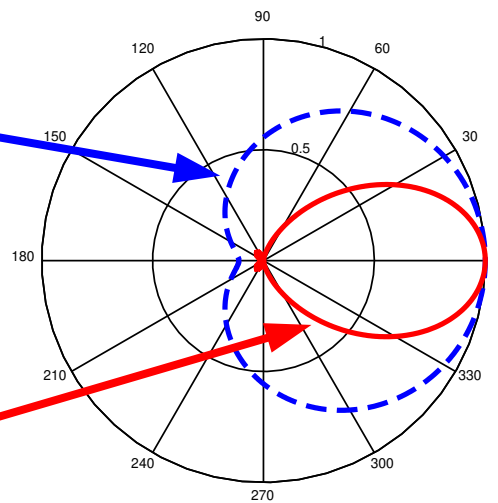
Typical sensors:

- Bearing to Fox
- Fox signal strength
- GPS location



# Bearing sensors

---

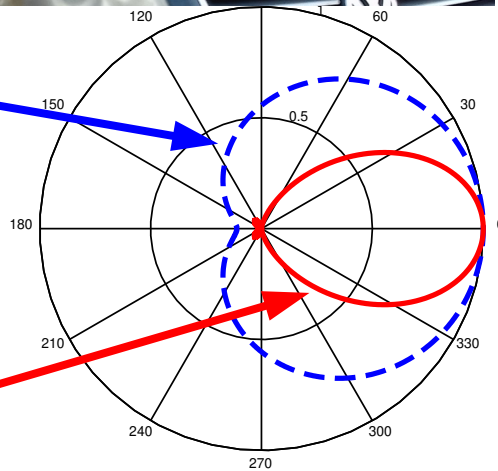
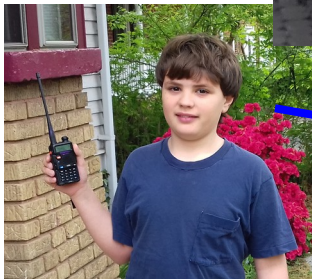
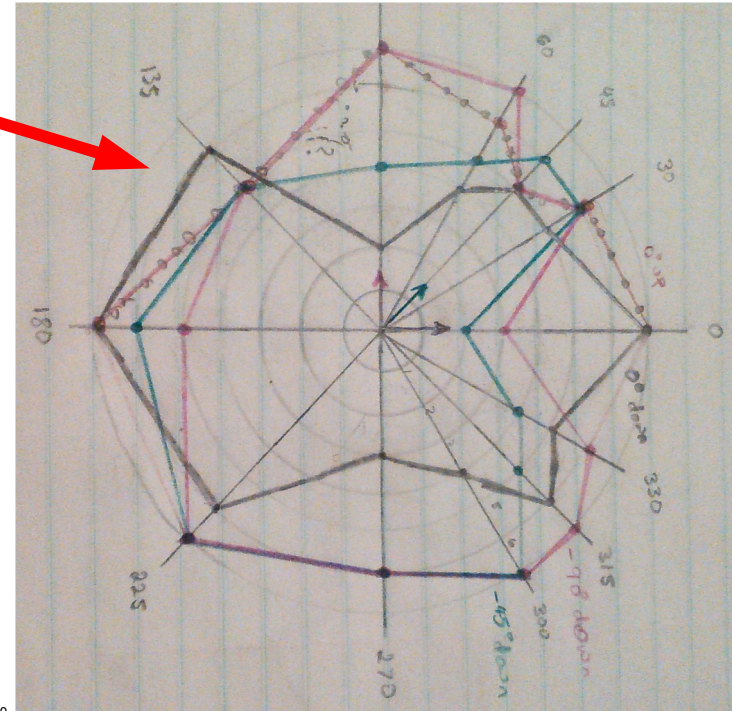


Antenna pattern





# Bearing sensors... reality...

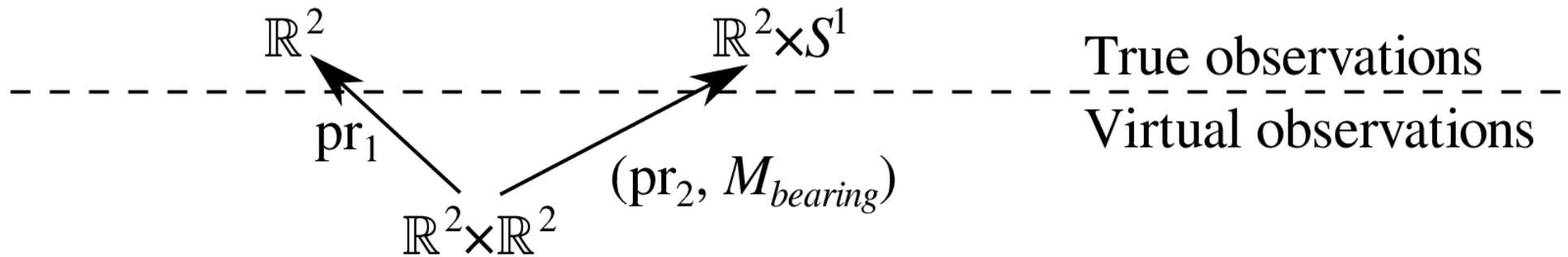


Antenna pattern

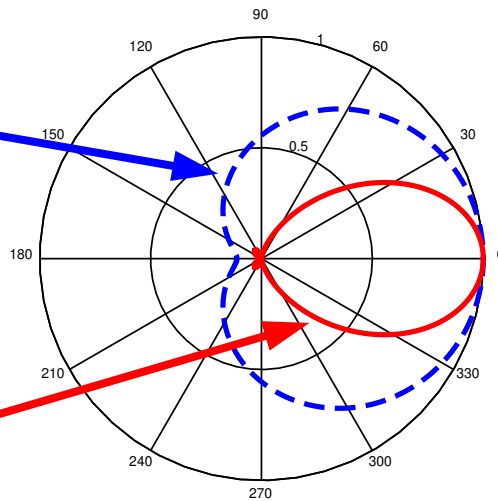


# Bearing sheaf

**Fox position    Sensor position, Bearing**



**Fox position, Sensor position**



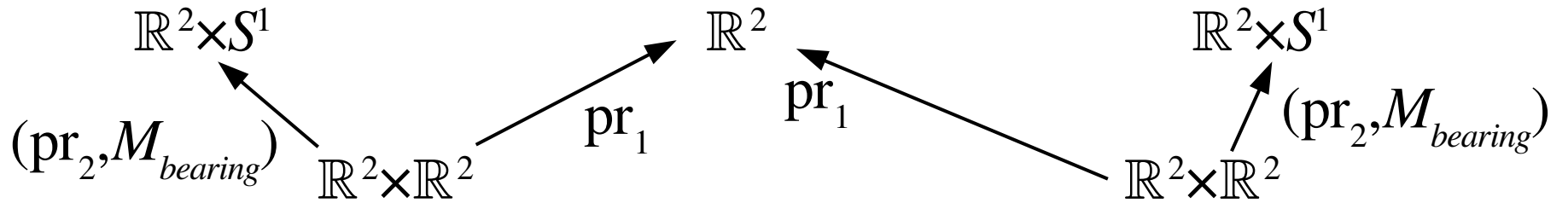
Antenna pattern





# Bearing sheaf (two sensors)

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



Fox position, Sensor 1 position

Fox position, Sensor 2 position

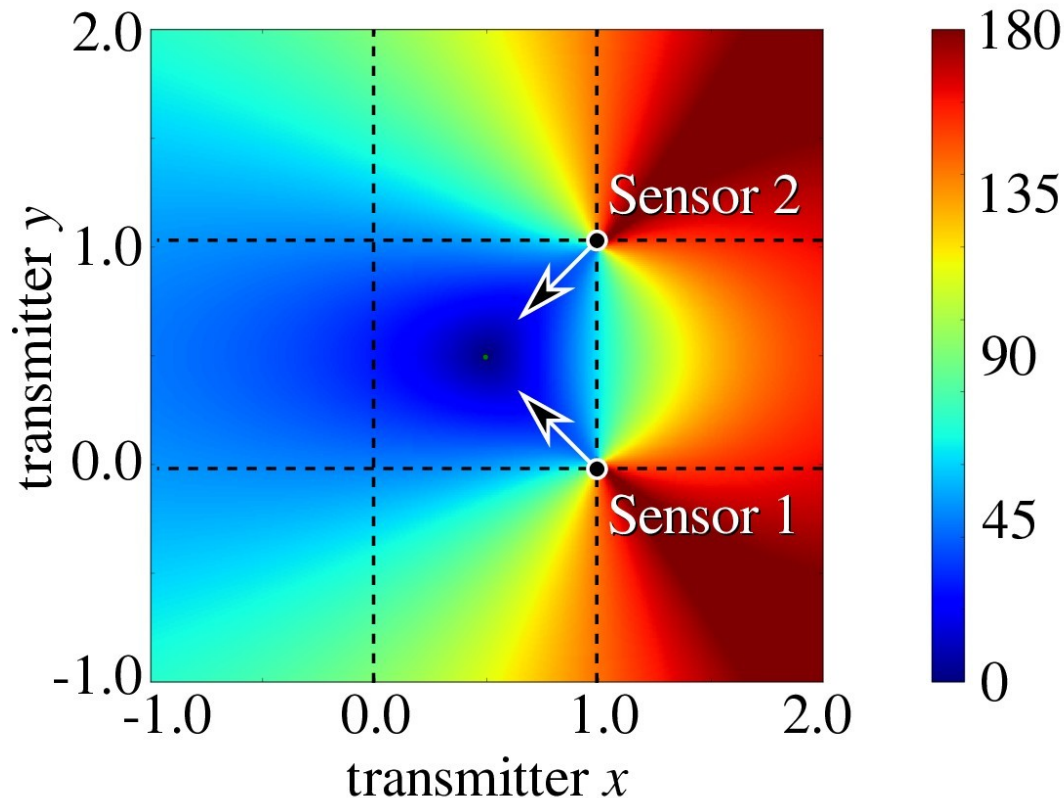


Global sections of this sheaf correspond to two bearings whose sight lines intersect at the fox transmitter

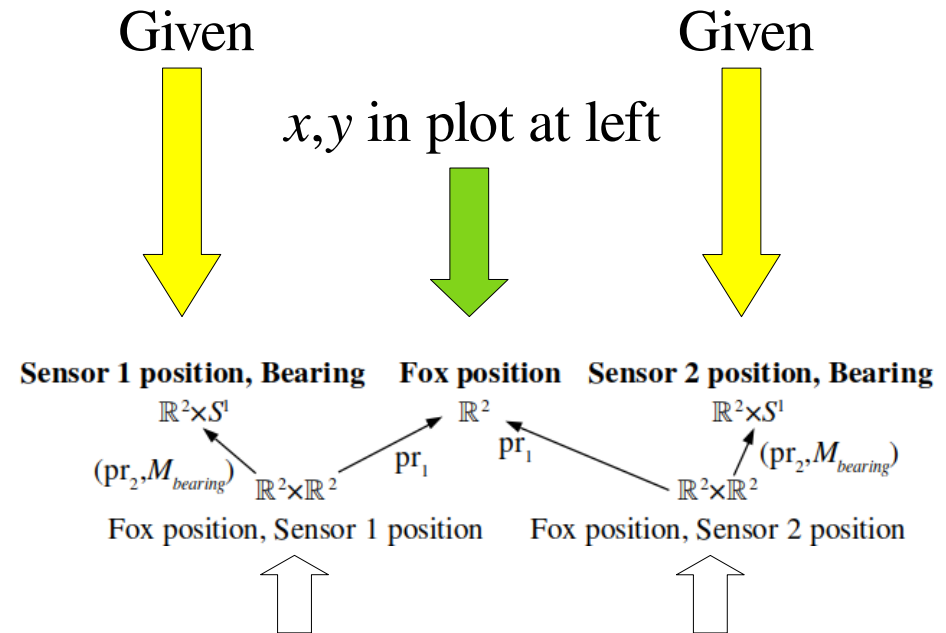


# Consistency of proposed fox locations

Consistency radius minimization ...



... converges to a likely fox location

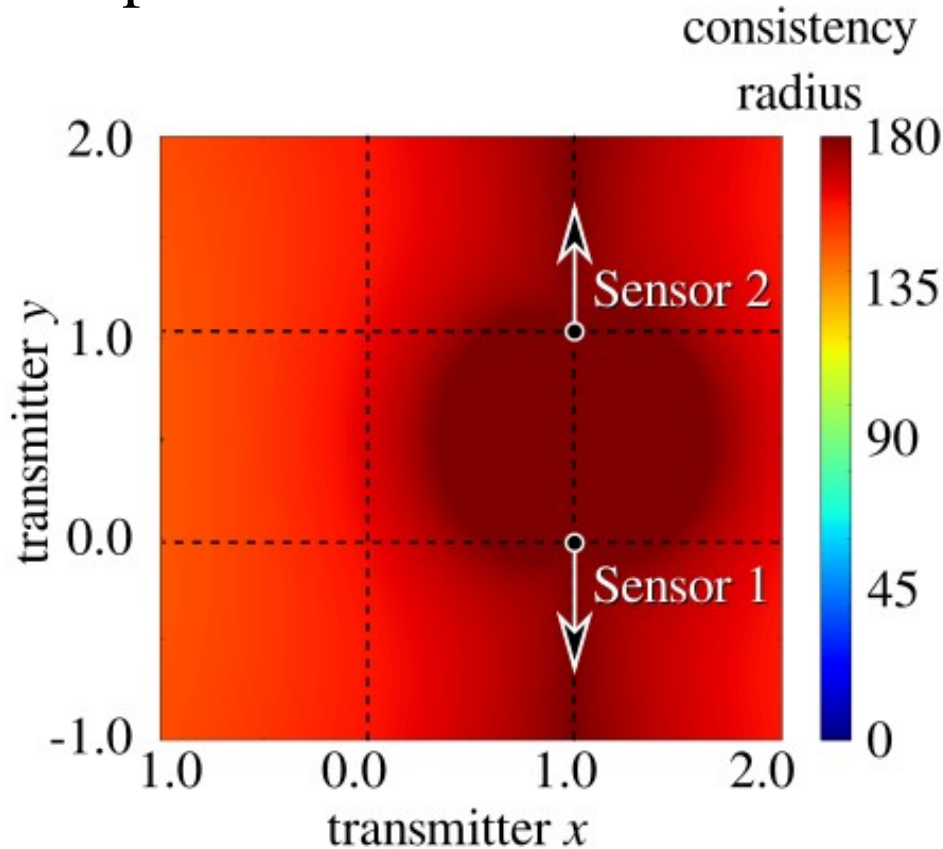


Inferred by minimum consistency radius (closed form solution in this case)

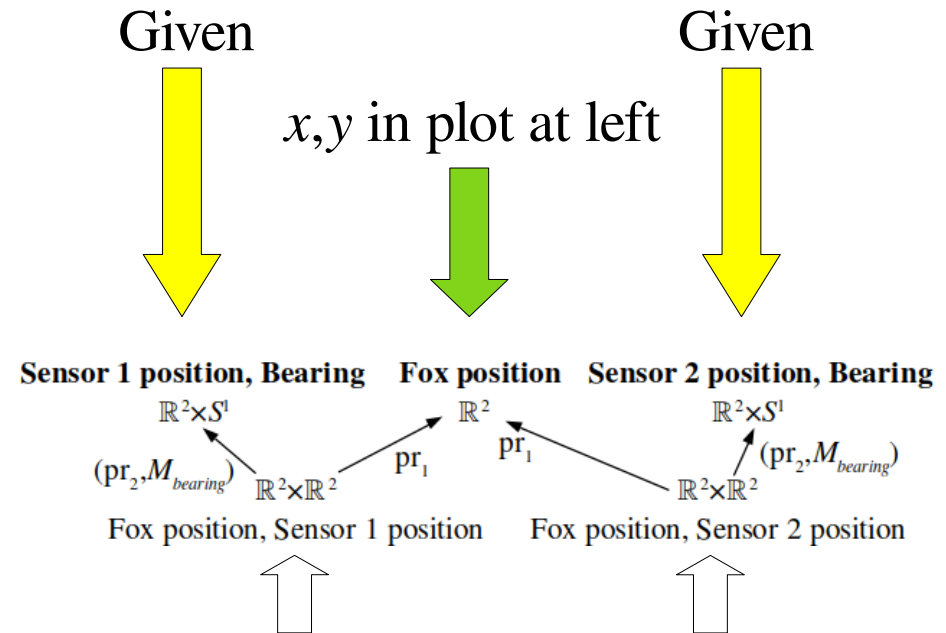


# Consistency of proposed fox locations

An impossible situation...



... does not converge!

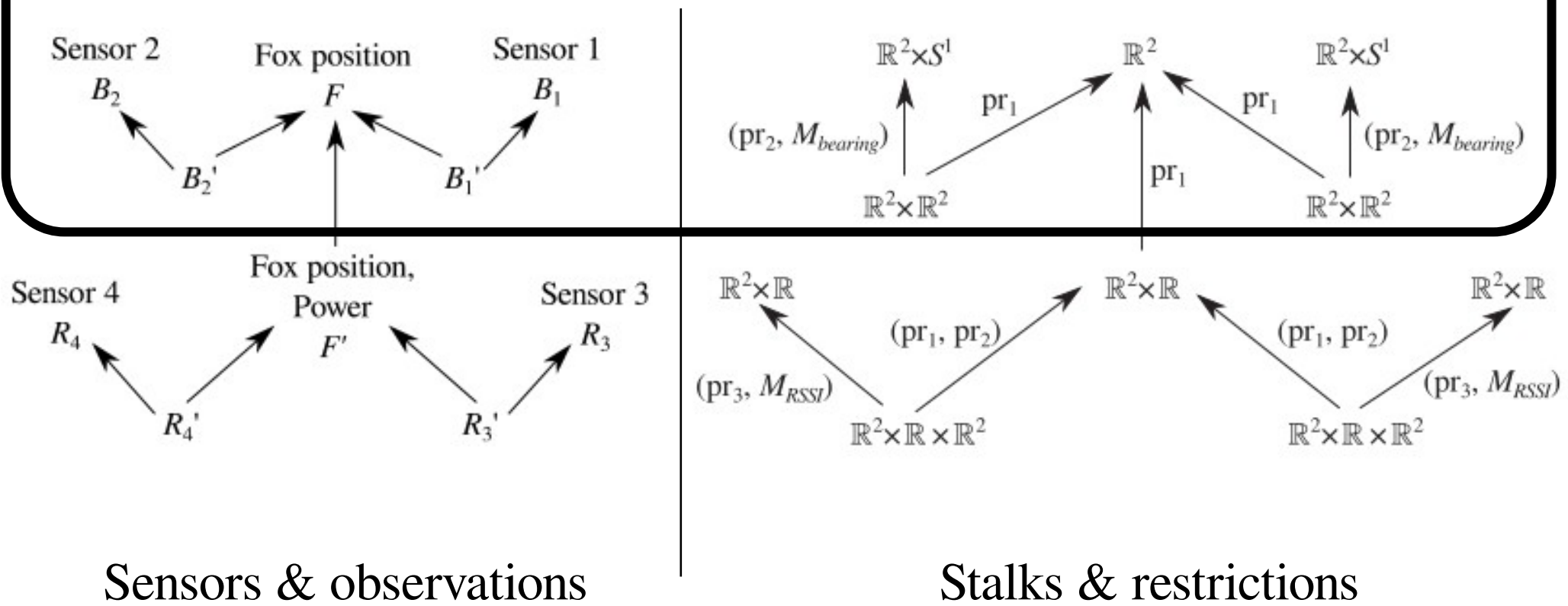


Inferred by minimum consistency radius  
(closed form solution in this case)



# A larger sheaf from more sensors

Previous sheaf (bearing sensors)

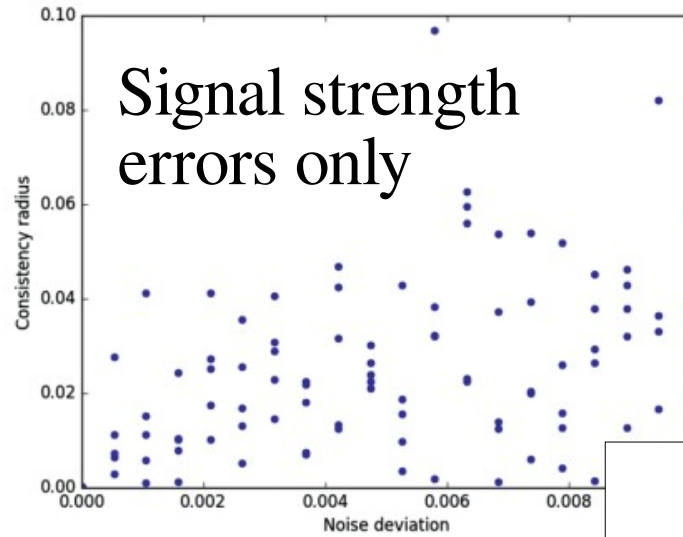
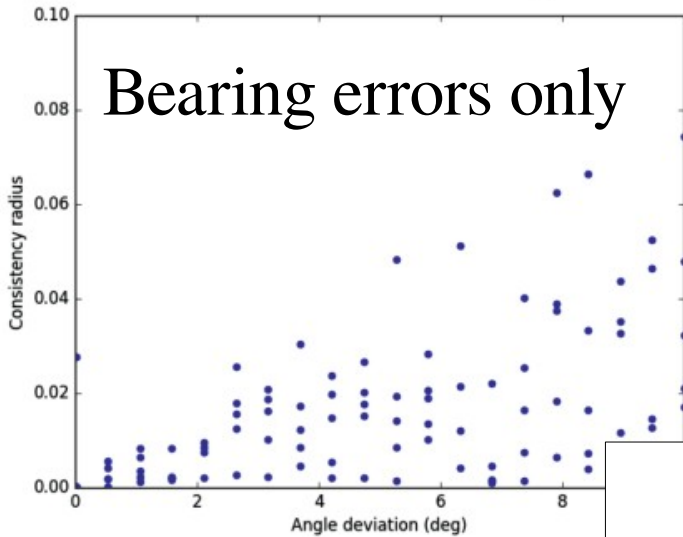


This larger sheaf contains bearing and signal strength sensors



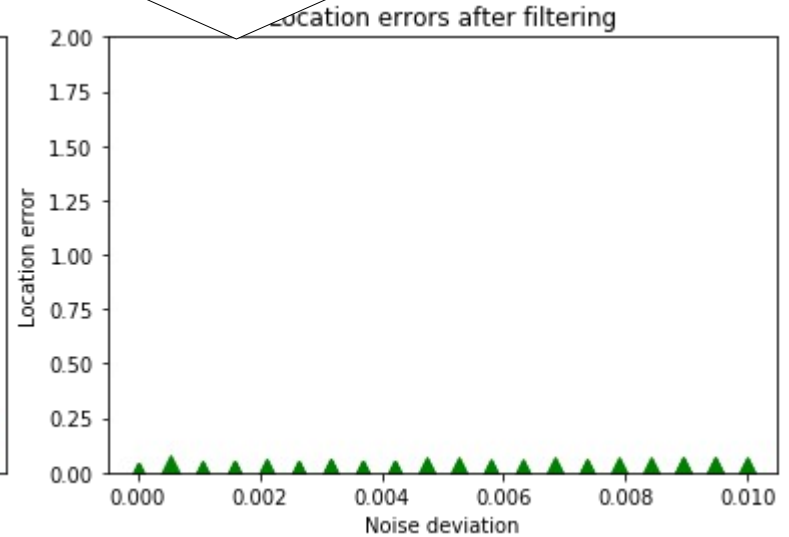
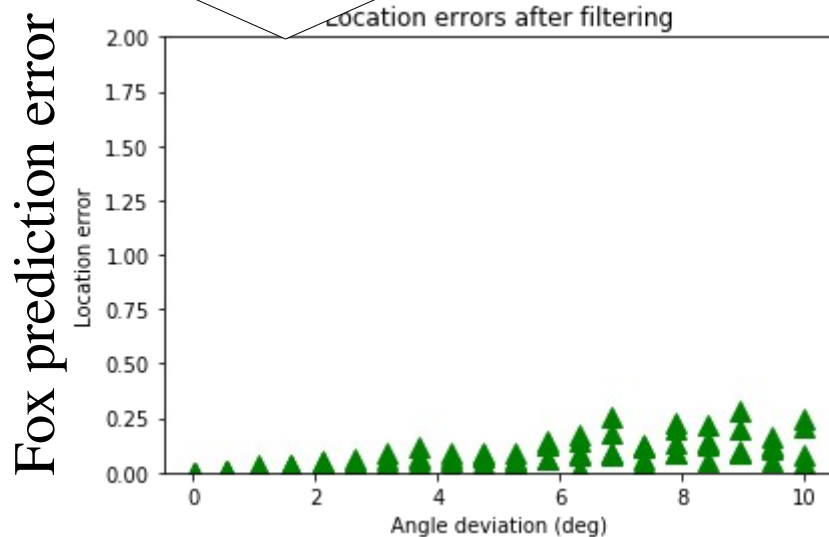
# Consistency radius tracks noise level

Consistency radius as a function of stochastic noise



all cells with unknown values were randomized

Optimization finds the fox!



# Interpretation

---

- Sheaf: a **data structure** for modeling consistency
- Assignment: an **instance** of the data housed in a sheaf
- Consistency radius: **how well** do data and model agree?
- Consistency radius optimization: **predict** some missing or less-noisy data



# We've now seen...

---

- A few examples of sheaf models for a few problems
- How do we build sheaf models in general?





# A differential equation example

---

- Consider  $u' = f(u)$  on the real line
- $C^k(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d)$  is the space of  $k$ -times continuously differentiable functions
- The equation might be expressed diagrammatically:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} u' : C^0(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) & & \\ \uparrow f & & \uparrow d/dt \\ u : C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) & & \end{array}$$



# A differential equation example

---

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But wait, diagram does not commute, so it cannot be a sheaf!



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But wait, diagram does not commute, so it cannot be a sheaf!  
Well, OK. It **is** a sheaf on the free category gen'd by the graph.  
That's awkward\*. We are going to stick with posets today.



---

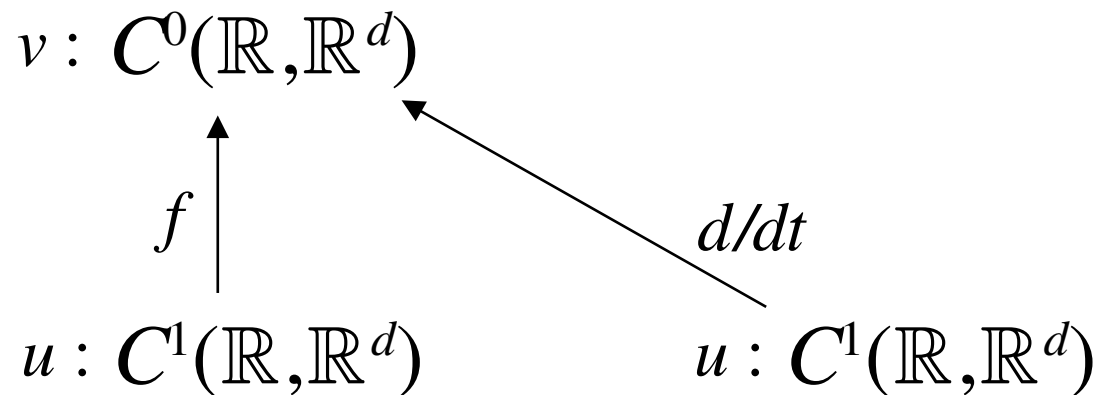
\*I would need to define sieves &c, but won't b/c that is rather subtle

# A differential equation example

---

A standard trick: replace  $u' = f(u)$  with the system:

- $v = f(u)$
- $v = d/dt (u)$



But wait, now the two copies of  $u$  don't have to agree...



# A differential equation example

---

A standard trick: replace  $u' = f(u)$  with the system:

- $v = f(u)$
- $v = d/dt (u)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 v : C^0(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) & & u : C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) \\
 \uparrow f & \swarrow \text{id} & \uparrow \text{id} \\
 u : C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) & & u : C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) \\
 & \searrow d/dt & \\
 & & v : C^0(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d)
 \end{array}$$

Sections of this sheaf are solutions to the original equation, because this requires all three copies of  $u$  to agree



# Multi-equation sheaves

---

- Theorem: (R.) For every system of equations, there is a sheaf whose global sections are solutions
  - Base poset has two levels: Equations  $<$  Variables
  - Stalk over each variable is that variable's set of possible values
  - Stalk over an equation is a subset of the product of the variables involved
  - Restriction maps are projections

Source: M. Robinson, "Sheaf and duality methods for analyzing multi-model systems," arXiv:1604.04647



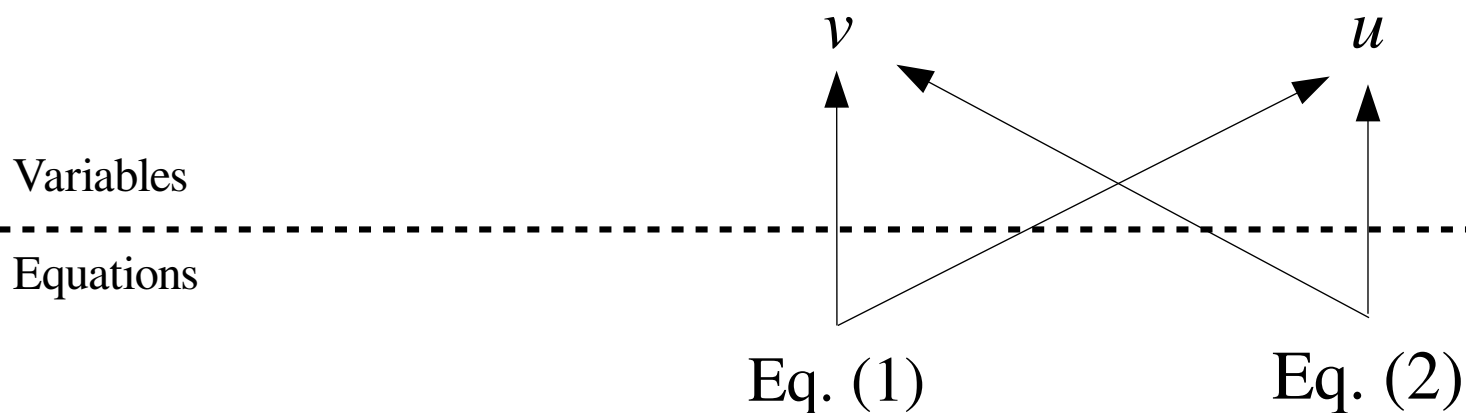
# Goodwin macroeconomic model

---

- A simple description of a national economy:

$$\dot{v} = v(t) \left( \frac{1}{\sigma} - (\alpha + \beta) - \frac{u(t)}{\sigma} \right) \quad (1) \quad v = \text{Employment rate}$$

$$\dot{u} = u(t) (-(\alpha + \gamma) + (\rho v(t))). \quad (2) \quad u = \text{Workers' share of income}$$



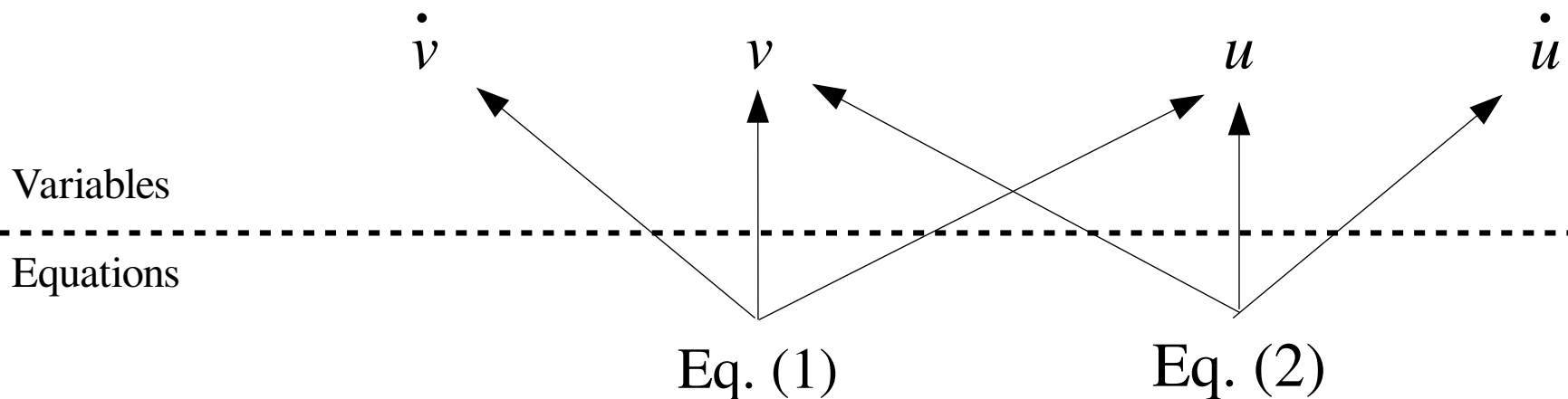


# Goodwin macroeconomic model

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$$\dot{u} = u(t) (-(\alpha + \gamma) + (\rho v(t))). \quad (2) \quad u = \text{Workers' share of income}$$



# Goodwin macroeconomic model

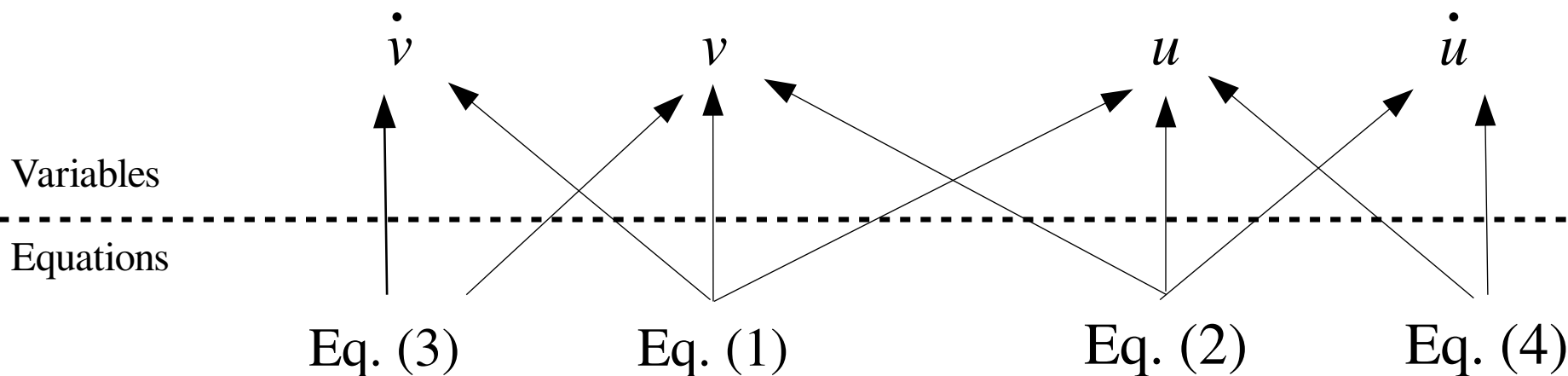
- A simple description of a national economy:

$$\dot{v} = v(t) \left( \frac{1}{\sigma} - (\alpha + \beta) - \frac{u(t)}{\sigma} \right) \quad (1) \quad v = \text{Employment rate}$$

$$\dot{u} = u(t) (-(\alpha + \gamma) + (\rho v(t))). \quad (2) \quad u = \text{Workers' share of income}$$

$$\dot{v} = dv/dt \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{u} = du/dt \quad (4)$$



# Goodwin macroeconomic model

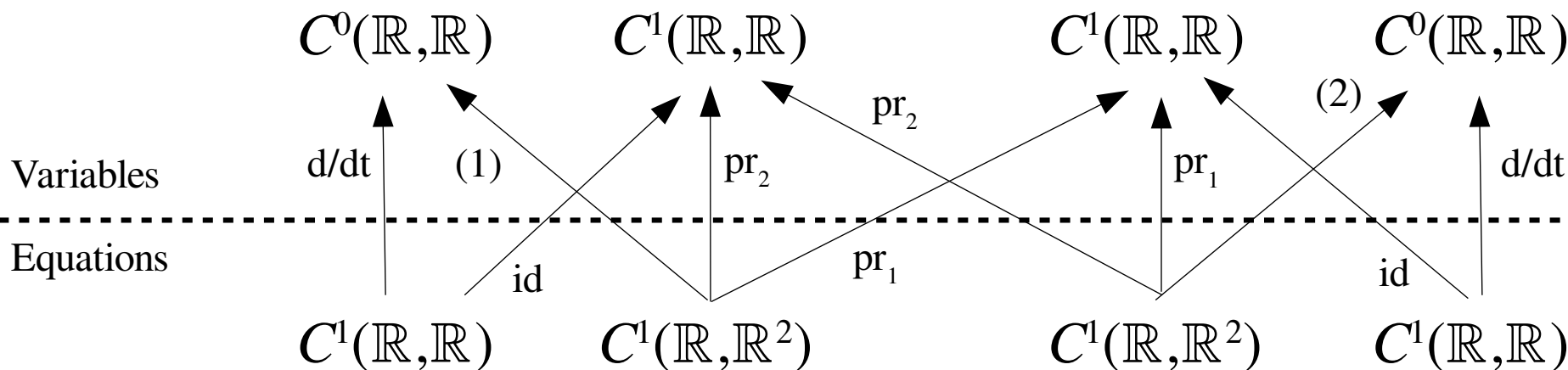
- A simple description of a national economy:

$$\dot{v} = v(t) \left( \frac{1}{\sigma} - (\alpha + \beta) - \frac{u(t)}{\sigma} \right) \quad (1) \quad v = \text{Employment rate}$$

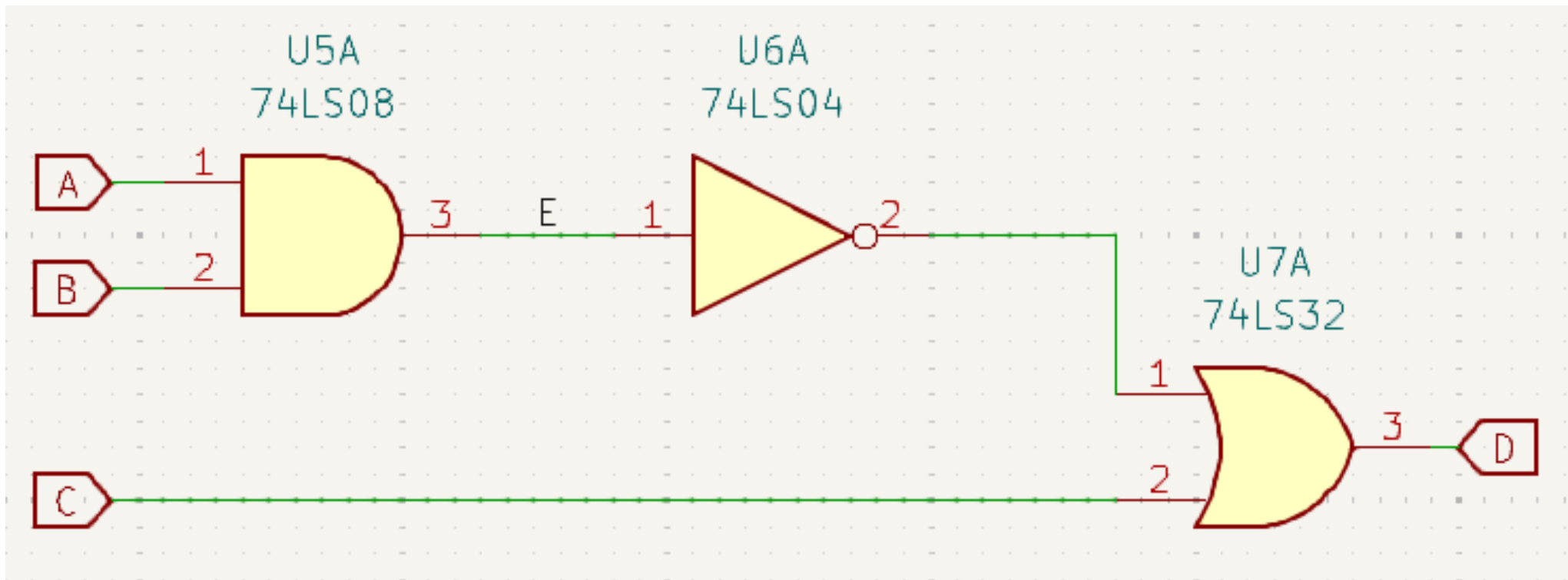
$$\dot{u} = u(t) (-(\alpha + \gamma) + (\rho v(t))). \quad (2) \quad u = \text{Workers' share of income}$$

$$\dot{v} = dv/dt \quad (3)$$

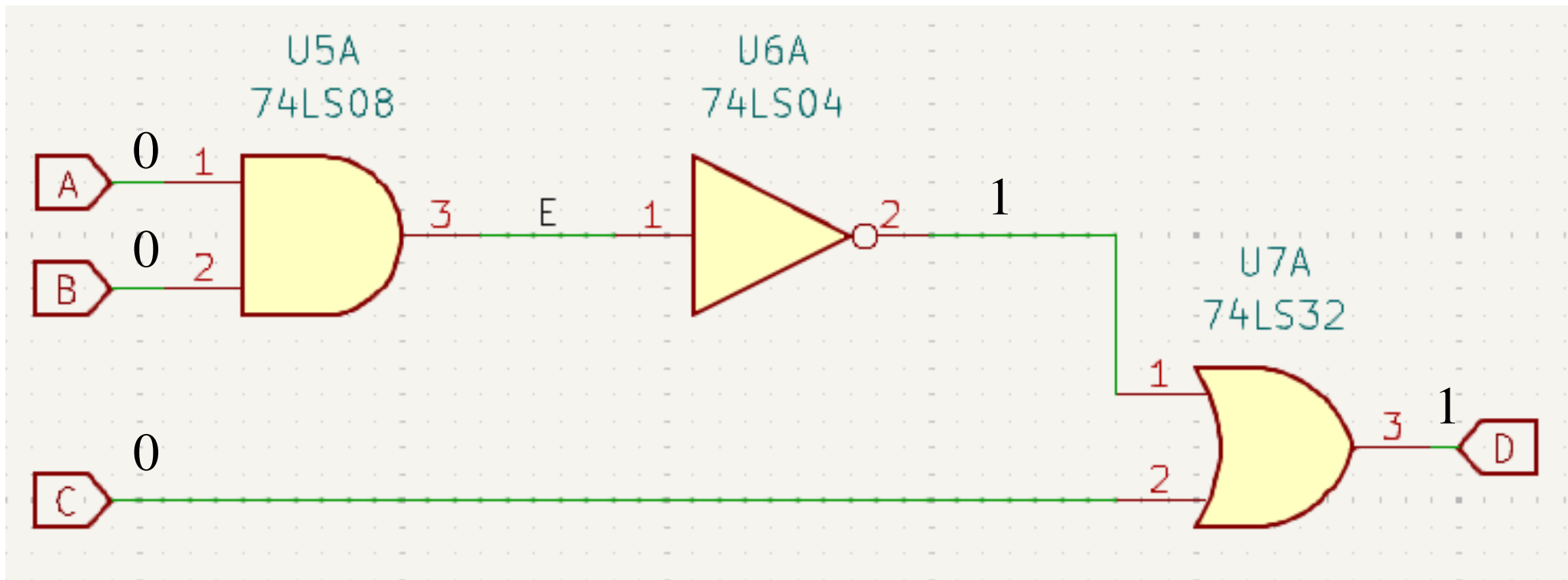
$$\dot{u} = du/dt \quad (4)$$



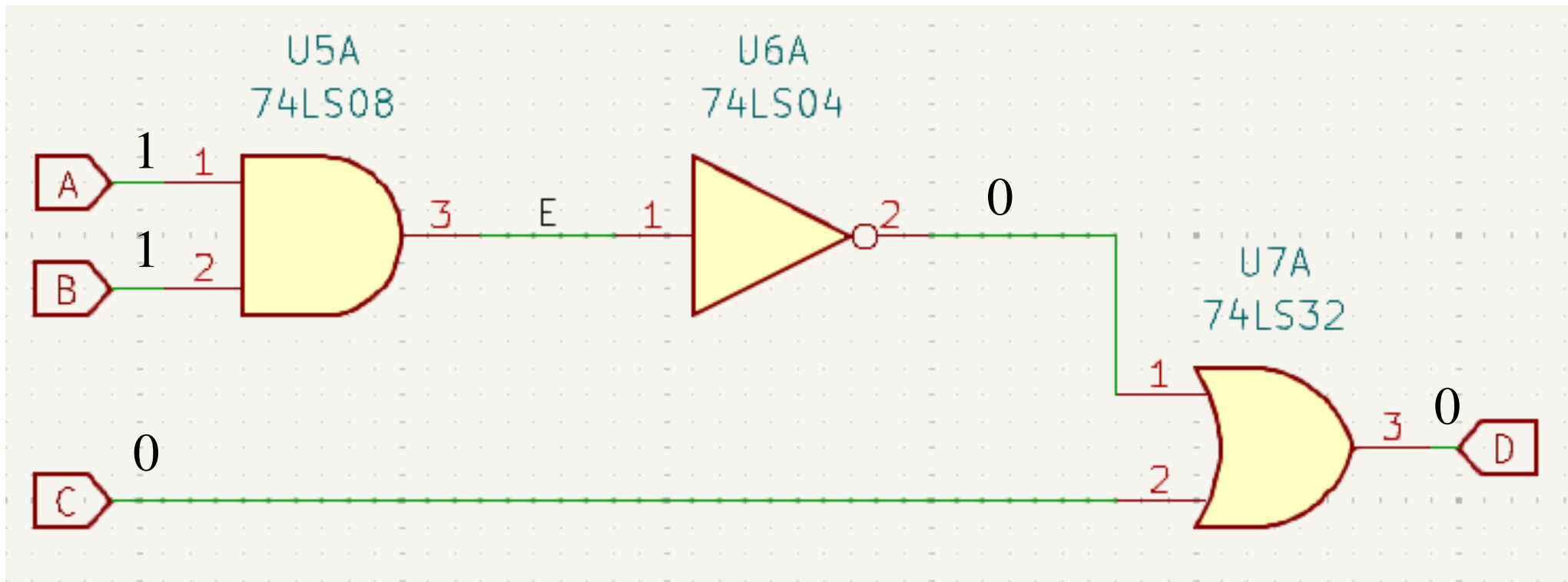
# Also equation systems: Logic circuits



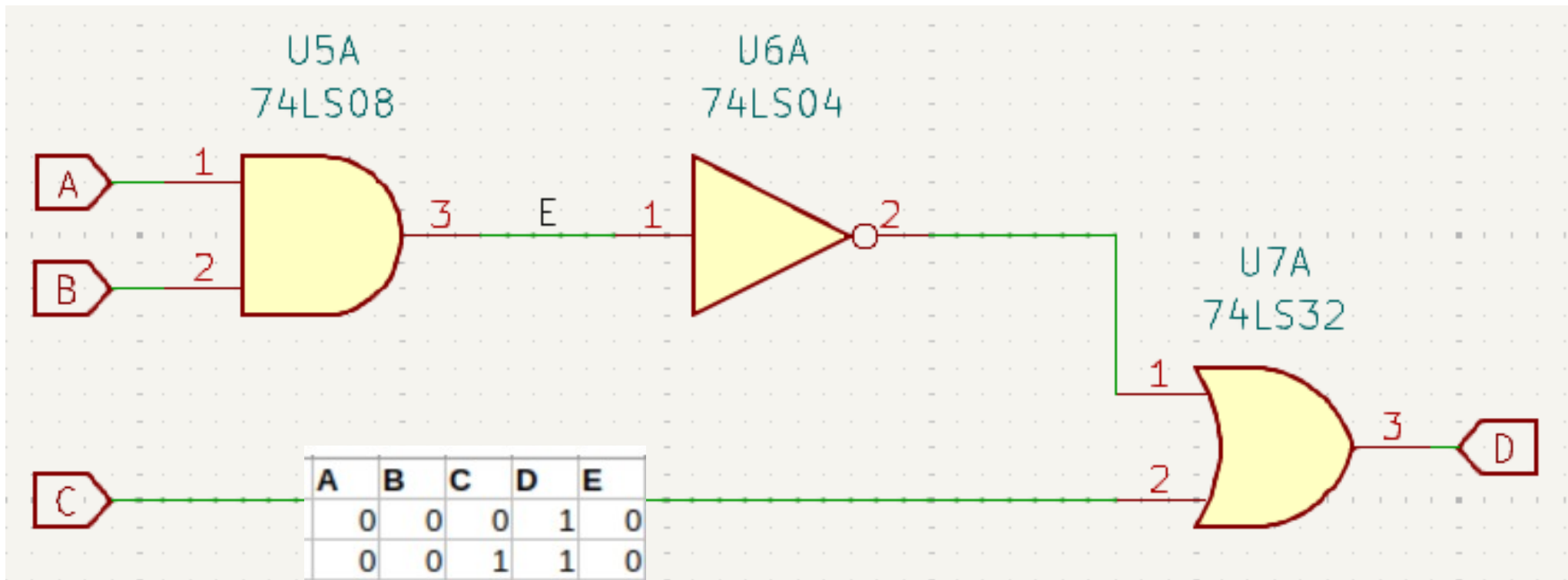
# Logic circuits



# Logic circuits



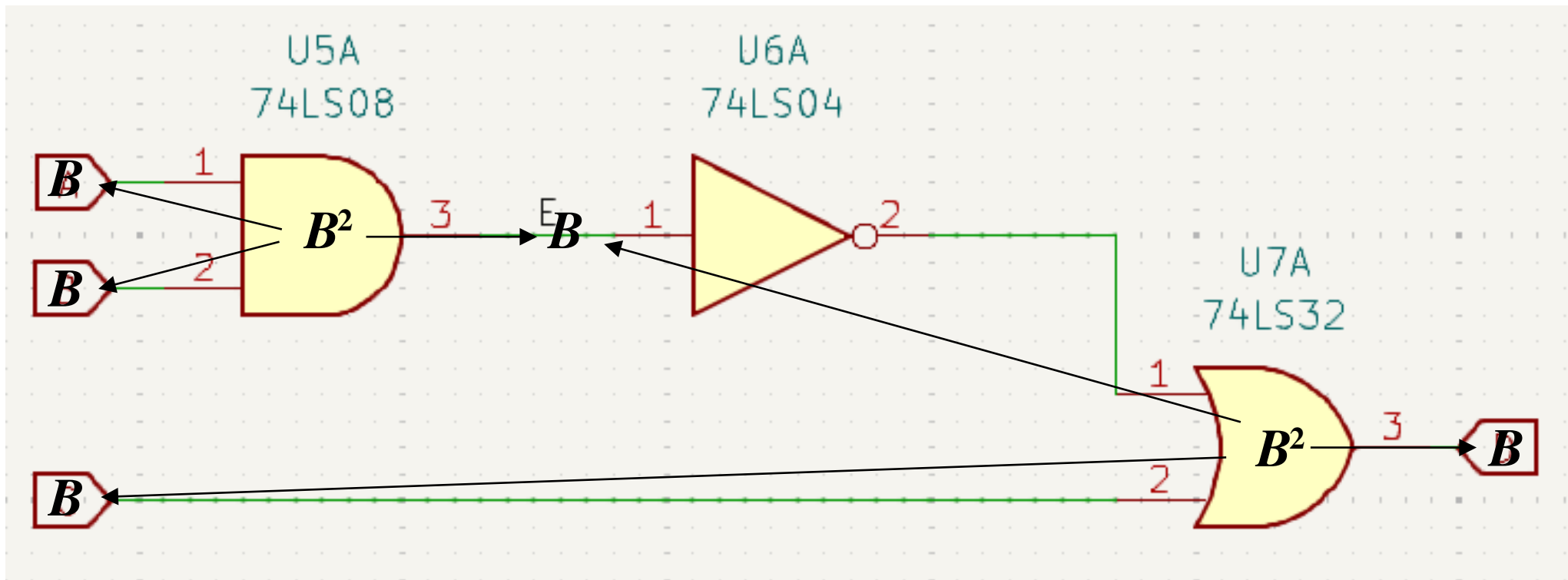
# Logic circuits



A	B	C	D	E
0	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0
0	1	1	1	0
1	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1



# Sheafify... via spans!



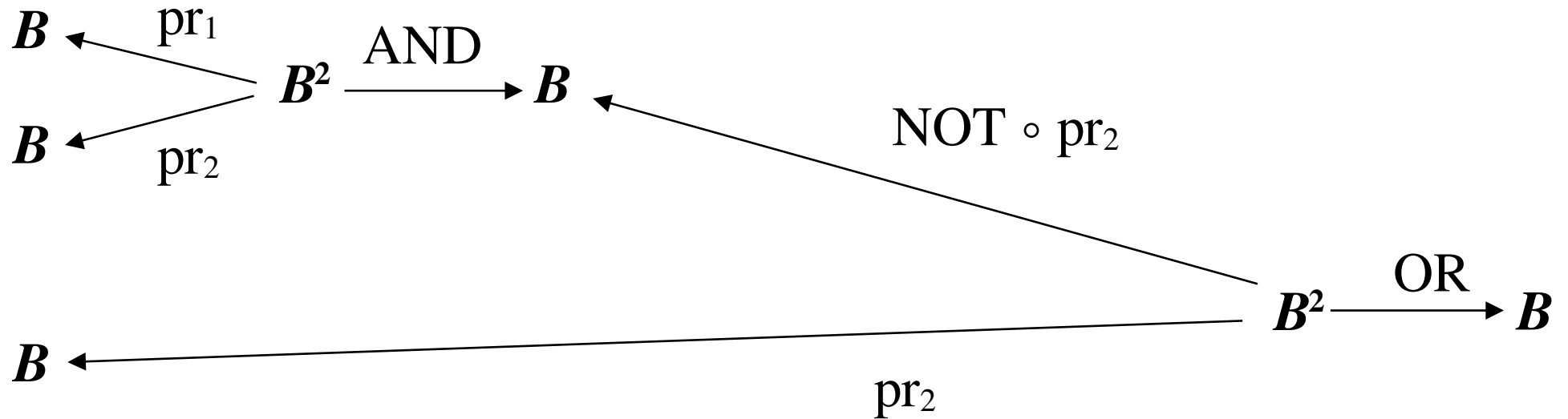
$B = \{0,1\}$ , ie. Boolean values





# Sheafify... via spans!

---



# Software!

- Logic circuits

[https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1S\\_c3rQ88JDTTdtBP8VYu5Y7aP7w0F41T](https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1S_c3rQ88JDTTdtBP8VYu5Y7aP7w0F41T)



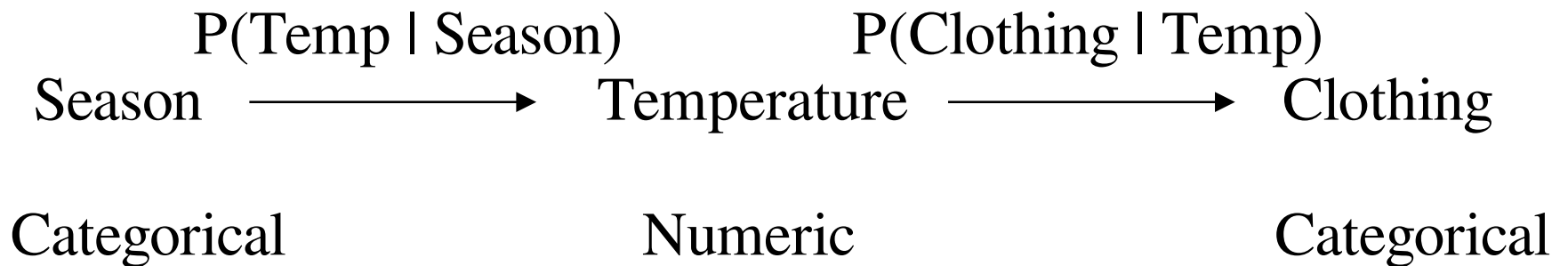
# Bayesian networks (aka "Bayes nets")

---



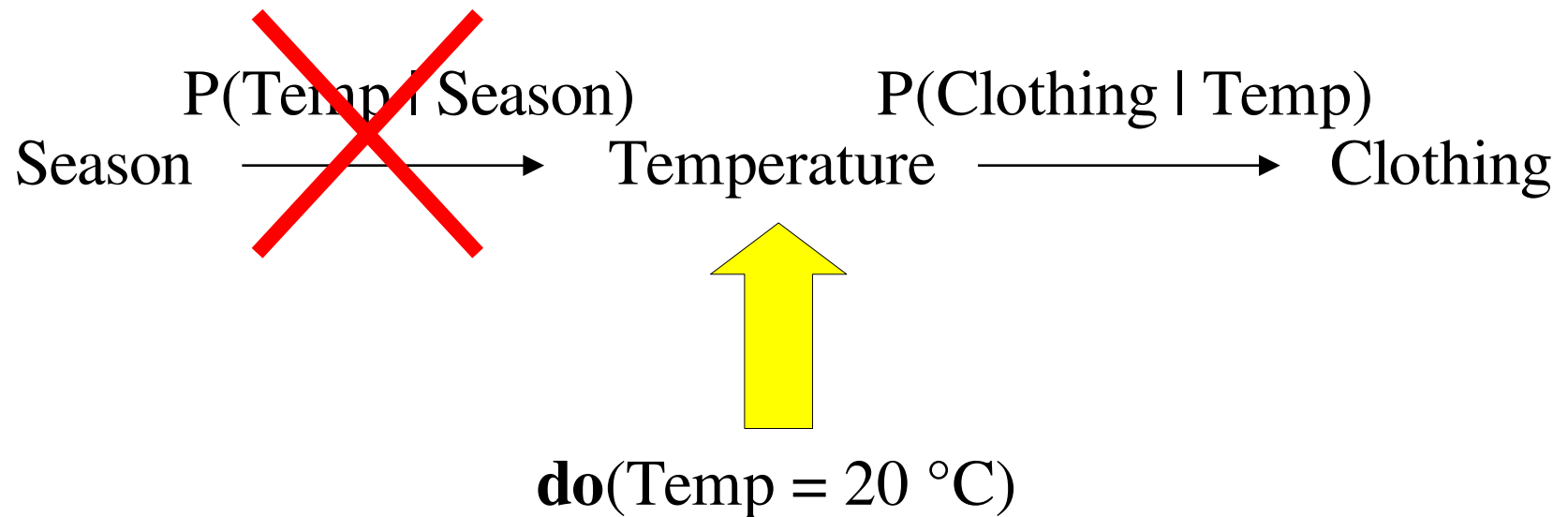
# Bayesian networks (aka "Bayes nets")

---



# Causal networks

---



Let's see what happens when we turn on the A/C;  
we don't care about the season any more...

# Let's try to write some equations...

---

Definition:  $P(A | B) P(B) = P(A, B)$



$$P(\text{Temp}, \text{Season}) = P(\text{Temp} | \text{Season}) P(\text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Temp}) = P(\text{Clothing} | \text{Temp}) P(\text{Temp})$$



# Let's try to write some equations...

---

Definition:  $P(A | B) P(B) = P(A,B)$



$$P(\text{Temp}, \text{Season}) = P(\text{Temp} | \text{Season}) P(\text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Temp}) = P(\text{Clothing} | \text{Temp}) P(\text{Temp})$$

... it seems that we don't have enough equations to fully solve for  $P(\text{Clothing})$ , say...

... what we're missing are the equations that marginalize out variables from a joint distribution. There are quite a few of these!



# But wait, there's more...

---

Since there are three variable in play, there are many ways to marginalize all the various joints, including those "not in" the Bayes net



$$P(\text{Temp}, \text{Season}) = P(\text{Temp} \mid \text{Season}) P(\text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Temp}) = P(\text{Clothing} \mid \text{Temp}) P(\text{Temp})$$

$$P(\text{Season}) = \sum_t P(\text{Temp} = t, \text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Temp}) = \sum_s P(\text{Temp}, \text{Season} = s)$$

$$P(\text{Temp}) = \sum_c P(\text{Clothing} = c, \text{Temp})$$

$$P(\text{Clothing}) = \sum_t P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Temp} = t)$$

$$P(\text{Season}) = \sum_c P(\text{Clothing} = c, \text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Clothing}) = \sum_s P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Season} = s)$$





# But wait, there's **even** more...

---

We forgot the three-way marginals too! (But this is now everything)



$$P(\text{Temp}, \text{Season}) = P(\text{Temp} \mid \text{Season}) P(\text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Temp}) = P(\text{Clothing} \mid \text{Temp}) P(\text{Temp})$$

$$P(\text{Season}) = \sum_t P(\text{Temp} = t, \text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Temp}) = \sum_s P(\text{Temp}, \text{Season} = s)$$

$$P(\text{Temp}) = \sum_c P(\text{Clothing} = c, \text{Temp})$$

$$P(\text{Clothing}) = \sum_t P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Temp} = t)$$

$$P(\text{Season}) = \sum_c P(\text{Clothing} = c, \text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Clothing}) = \sum_s P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Season} = s)$$

$$P(\text{Season}, \text{Temp}) = \sum_c P(\text{Clothing} = c, \text{Temp}, \text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Season}, \text{Clothing}) = \sum_t P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Temp} = t, \text{Season})$$

$$P(\text{Temp}, \text{Clothing}) = \sum_s P(\text{Clothing}, \text{Temp}, \text{Season} = s)$$

---



# We'd like to sheafify...

... but things are getting very busy; let's summarize the names

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X_1 & \xrightarrow{P(X_2 | X_1)} & X_2 & \xrightarrow{P(X_3 | X_2)} & X_3 \\
 \\
 P(X_1, X_2) = P(X_2 | X_1) P(X_1) & & & & \\
 P(X_2, X_3) = P(X_3 | X_2) P(X_2) & & & & \\
 P(X_1) = \sum_t P(X_2 = t, X_1) & & & & \\
 P(X_2) = \sum_s P(X_2, X_1 = s) & & & & \\
 P(X_2) = \sum_c P(X_3 = c, X_2) & & & & \\
 P(X_3) = \sum_t P(X_3, X_2 = t) & & & & \\
 P(X_1) = \sum_c P(X_3 = c, X_1) & & & & \\
 P(X_3) = \sum_s P(X_3, X_1 = s) & & & & \\
 P(X_1, X_2) = \sum_c P(X_3 = c, X_2, X_1) & & & & \\
 P(X_1, X_3) = \sum_t P(X_3, X_2 = t, X_1) & & & & \\
 P(X_2, X_3) = \sum_s P(X_3, X_2, X_1 = s) & & & & 
 \end{array}$$

} 2 conditional equations

} 9 Marginal equations



# What are the stalks & restrictions?

---

Each "variable" in our system of equations is a probability distribution

Definition:  $M(X_1, X_2, X_3)$  is the set of joint probability distributions on  $X_1, X_2, X_3$ . (Similar for more/fewer variables)

Equations:

$$P(X_1, X_2) = P(X_2 \mid X_1) P(X_1)$$

$$P(X_2, X_3) = P(X_3 \mid X_2) P(X_2)$$

$$P(X_1) = \sum_t P(X_2 = t, X_1)$$

$$P(X_2) = \sum_s P(X_2, X_1 = s)$$

$$P(X_2) = \sum_c P(X_3 = c, X_2)$$

$$P(X_3) = \sum_t P(X_3, X_2 = t)$$

$$P(X_1) = \sum_c P(X_3 = c, X_1)$$

$$P(X_3) = \sum_s P(X_3, X_1 = s)$$

$$P(X_1, X_2) = \sum_c P(X_3 = c, X_2, X_1)$$

$$P(X_1, X_3) = \sum_t P(X_3, X_2 = t, X_1)$$

$$P(X_2, X_3) = \sum_s P(X_3, X_2, X_1 = s)$$

Restriction types:

$$M(X_1) \rightarrow M(X_1, X_2)$$

$$M(X_2) \rightarrow M(X_2, X_3)$$

$$M(X_1, X_2) \rightarrow M(X_1)$$

$$M(X_1, X_2) \rightarrow M(X_2)$$

$$M(X_2, X_3) \rightarrow M(X_2)$$

$$M(X_2, X_3) \rightarrow M(X_3)$$

$$M(X_1, X_3) \rightarrow M(X_1)$$

$$M(X_1, X_3) \rightarrow M(X_3)$$

$$M(X_1, X_2, X_3) \rightarrow M(X_1, X_2)$$

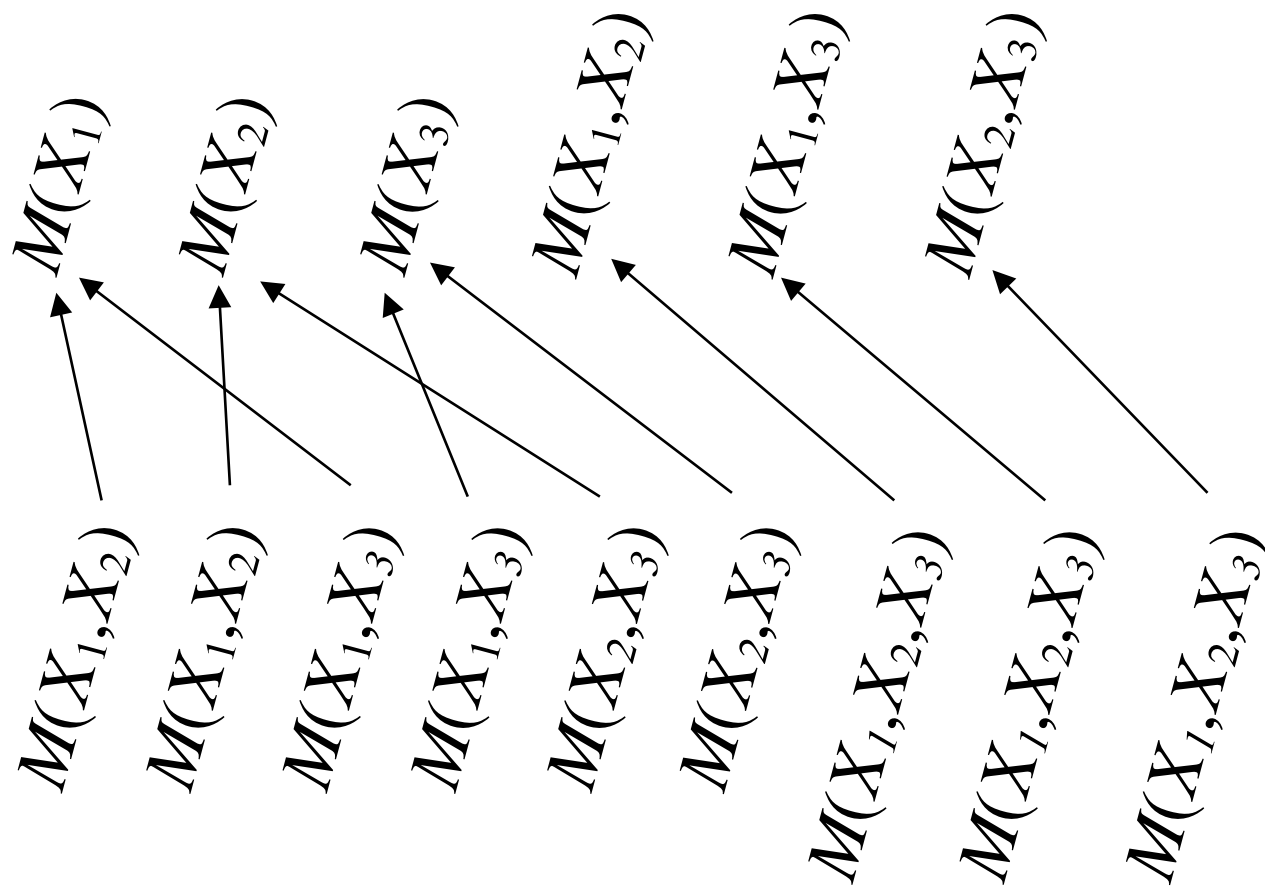
$$M(X_1, X_2, X_3) \rightarrow M(X_1, X_3)$$

$$M(X_1, X_2, X_3) \rightarrow M(X_2, X_3)$$



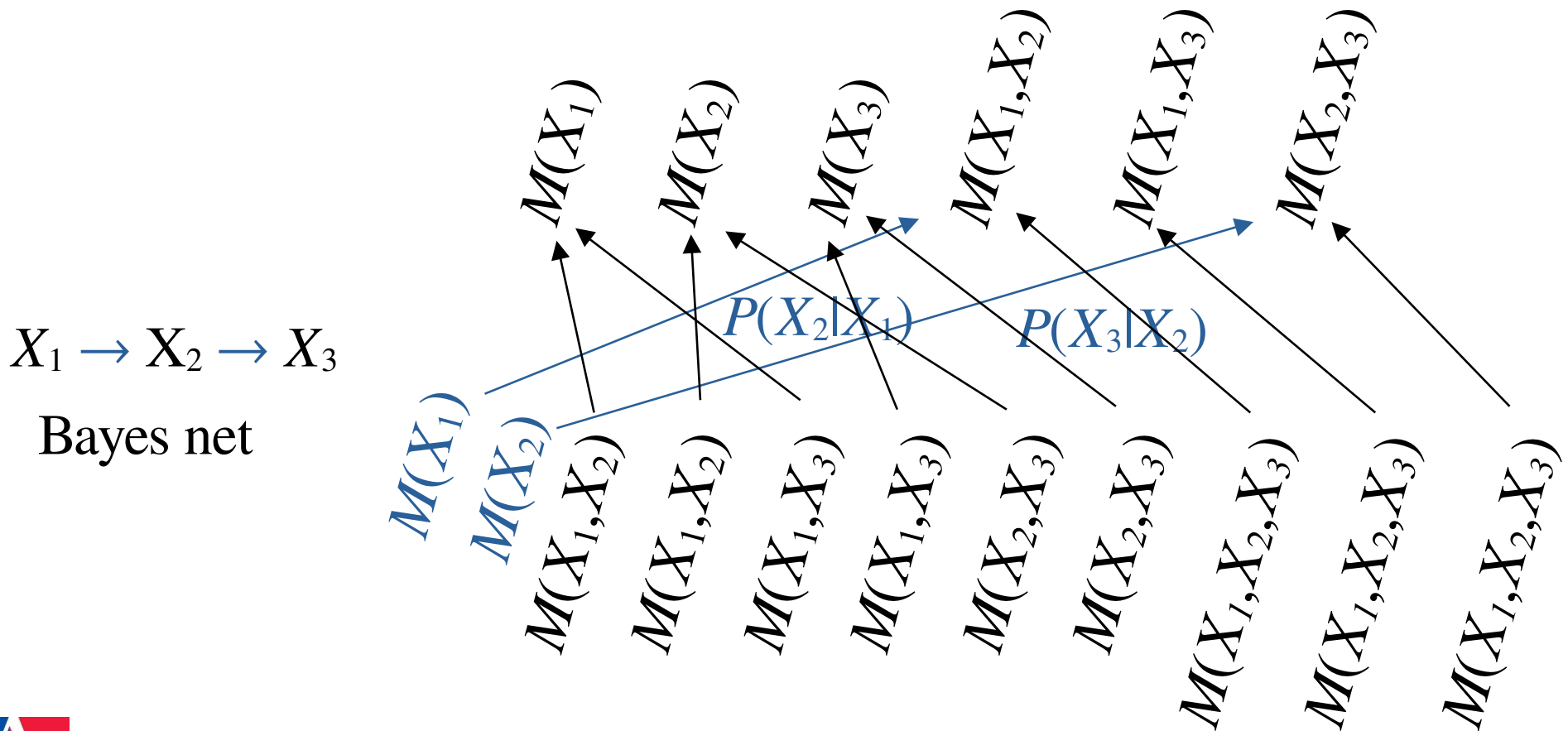
# Bayesian network as a sheaf

- Marginals... (Always present)



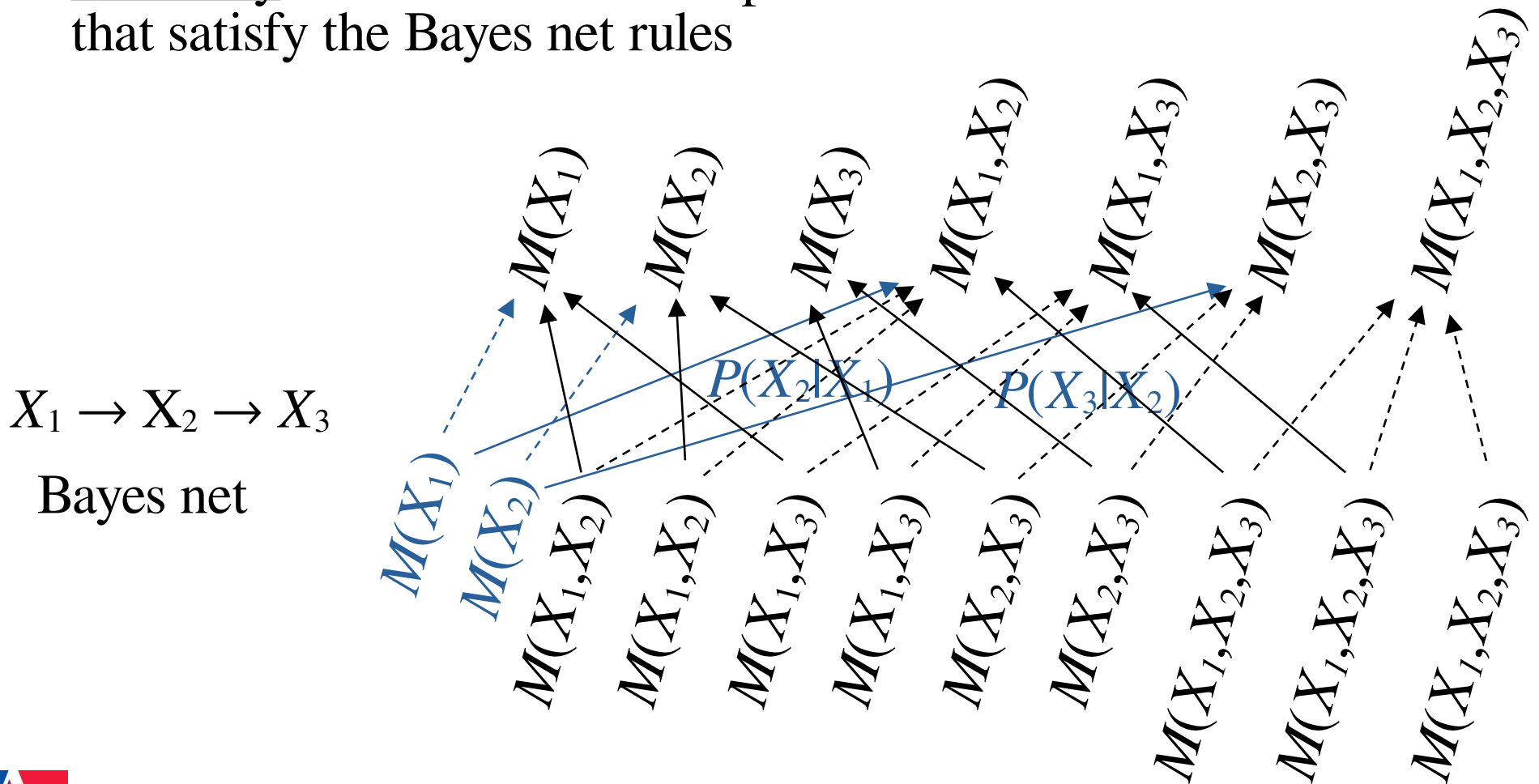
# Bayesian network as a sheaf

- ... conditionals ... (based upon the Bayes net)



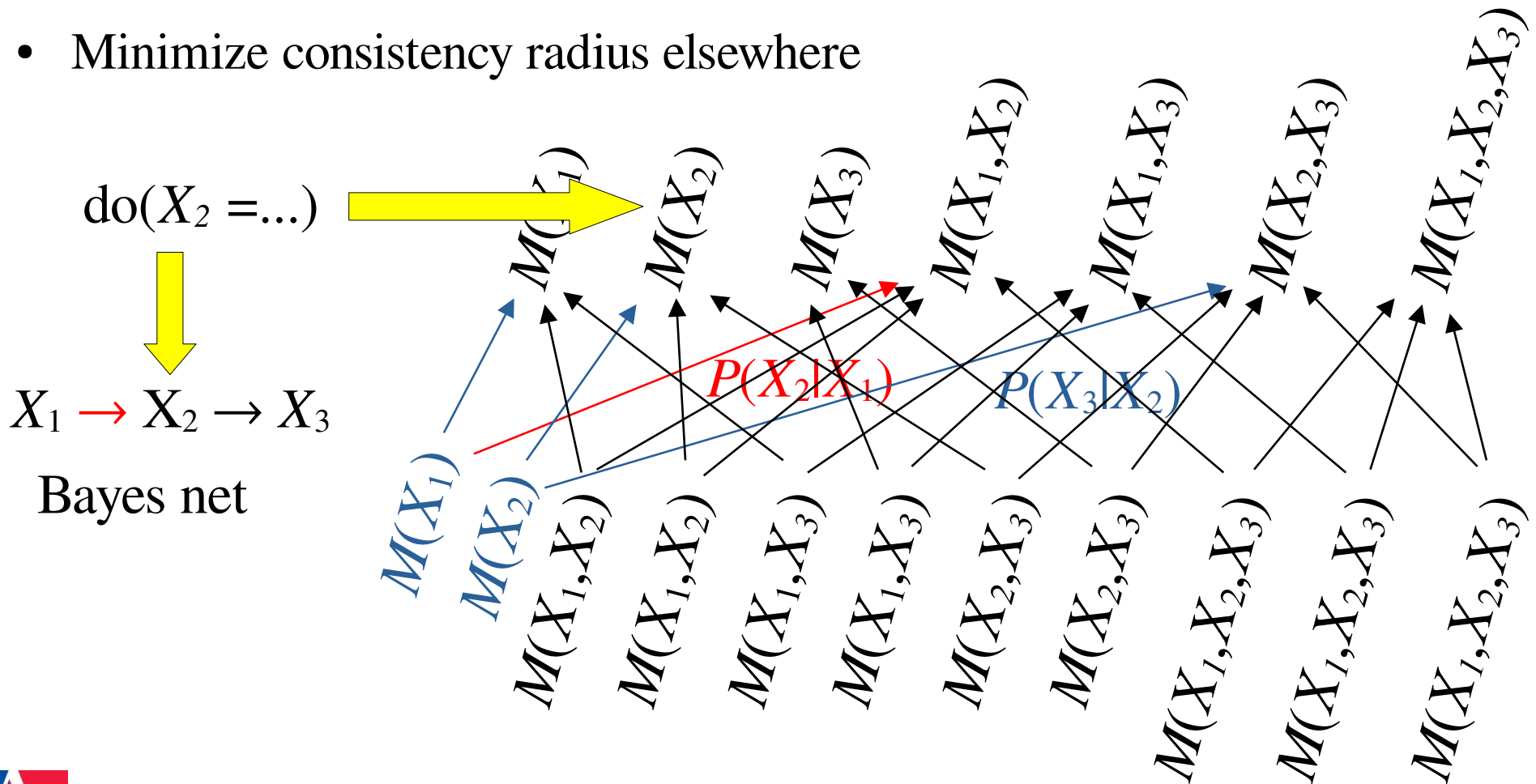
# Bayesian network as a sheaf

- ... identities! (Added to ensure consistency across copies.)
- Corollary: Global sections are possible sets of distributions that satisfy the Bayes net rules



# Causal modeling using **do** operator

- Make an assignment to variable in top row with  $P(\text{desired value}) = 1$
- Delete the **conditional arrows** (leave the marginals) into that variable
- Minimize consistency radius elsewhere



# Consistency: Discretizing correctly





# Discretization of functions

---

$$C^k(X, Y) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

$f$

$(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n))$



# Discretization of functions

---

$$\mathbb{R}^m \longrightarrow C^k(X, Y) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

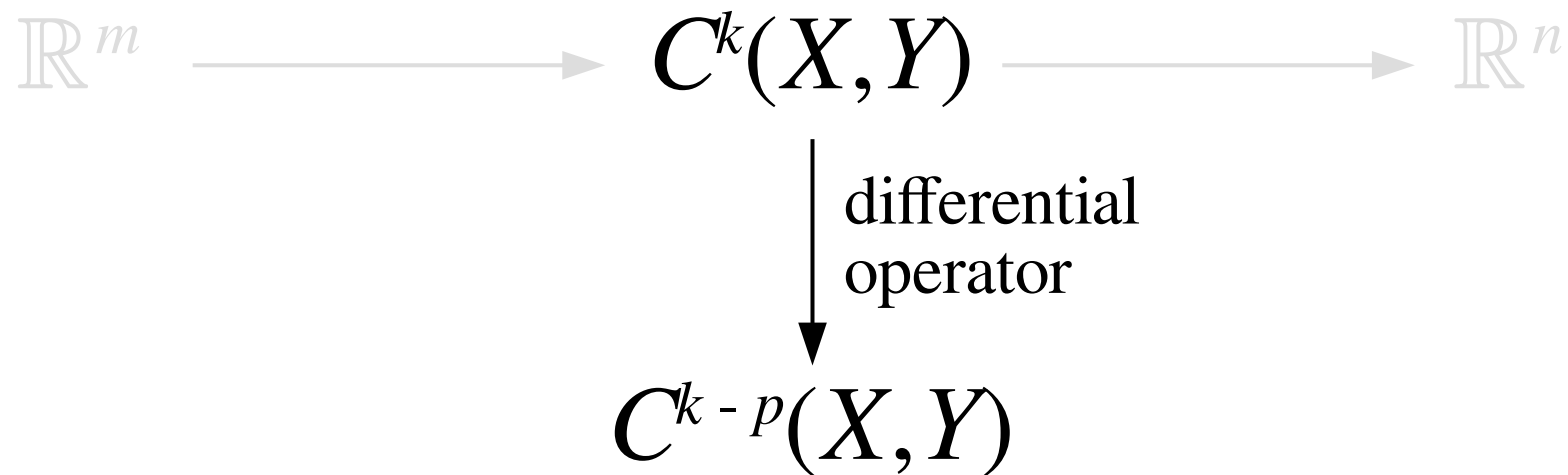
$$(a_1, \dots, a_m)$$

$$f = \sum a_i f_i(x)$$



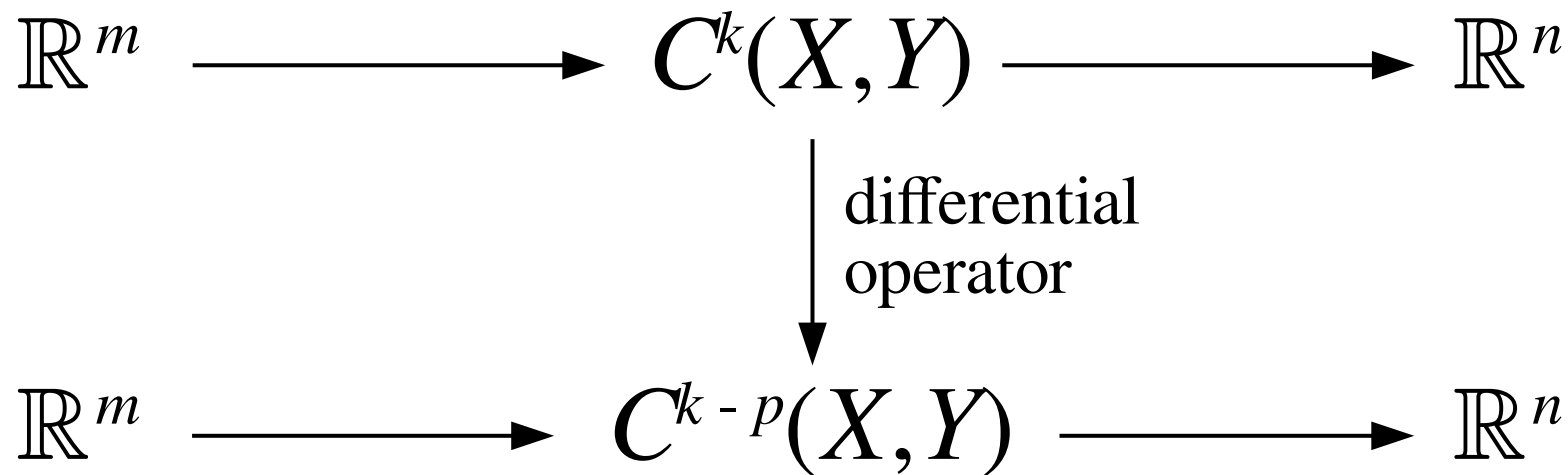
# Why discretize?

---

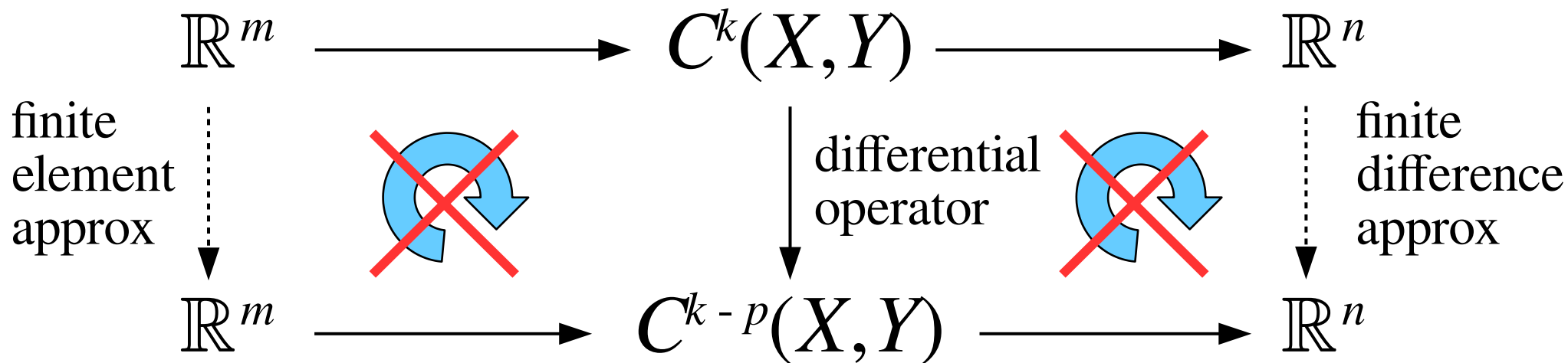


# Why discretize?

---



# Why discretize?



## Goals:

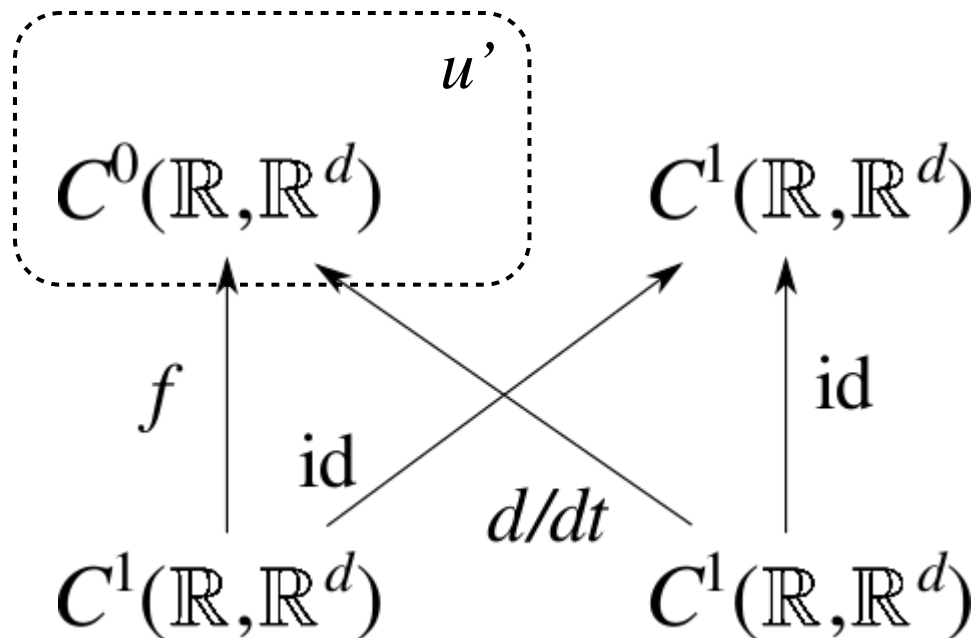
1. Make the diagram commute as  $m, n \rightarrow \infty$   
(*consistency* of the approximation)
2. Recover properties of the differential operator from the approximations (*convergence* of the approximation)



# Back to our original example

---

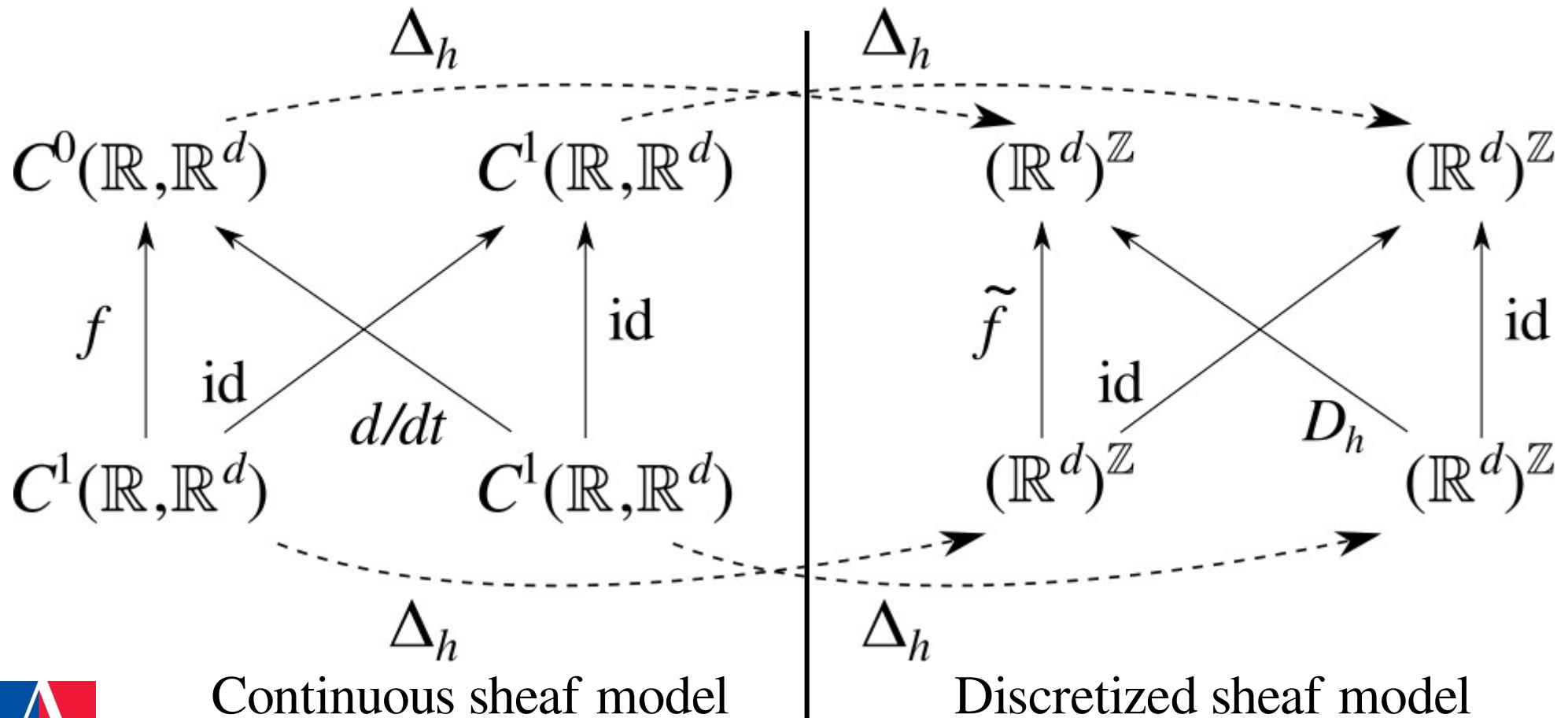
- Consider  $u' = f(u)$  on the real line
- This has a sheaf diagram



# Finite differences

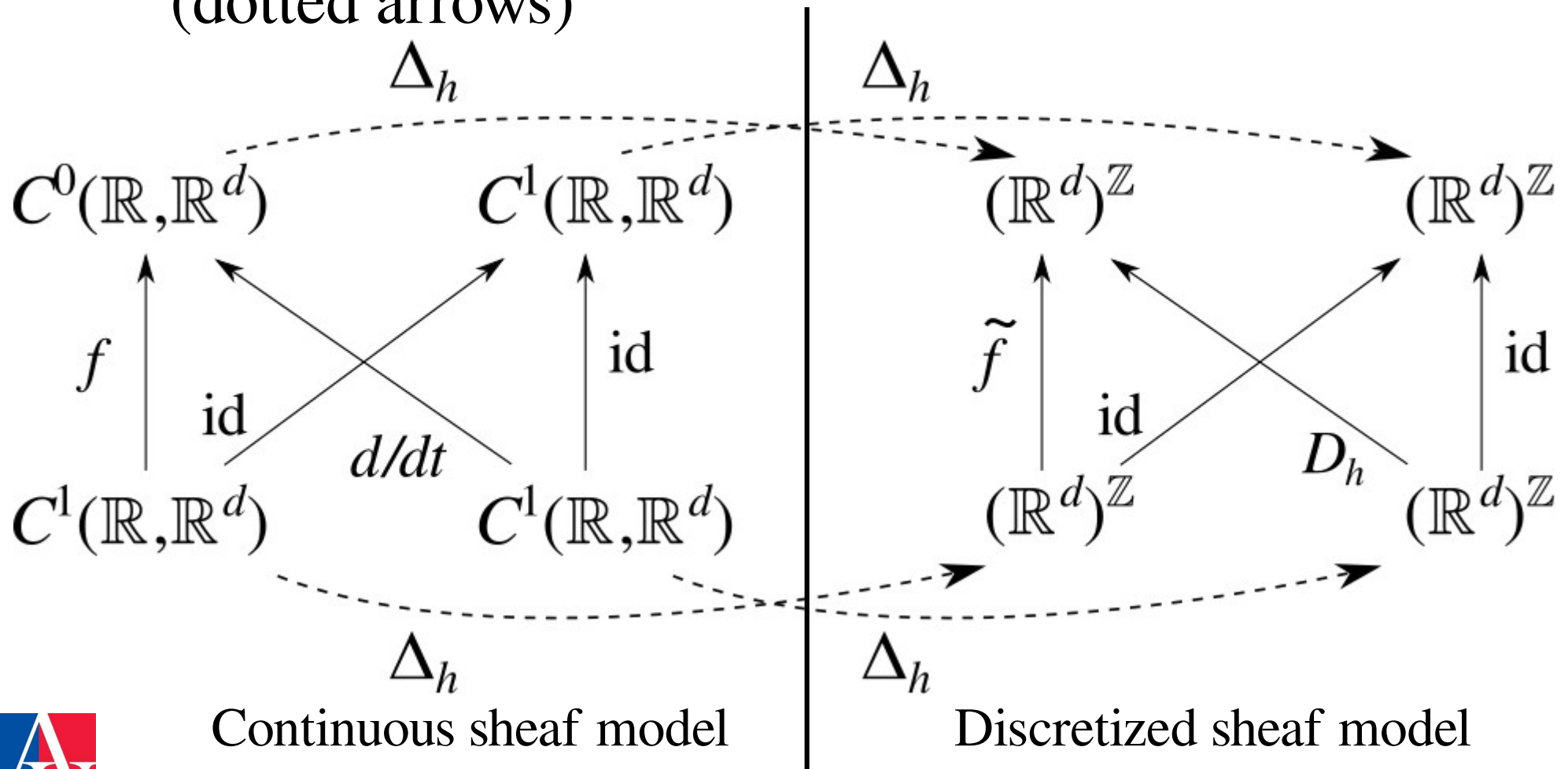
- Discretizing each function space via a fixed step  $h$

$$(\Delta_h u)_n = u(nh)$$



# Is it a *sheaf morphism*?

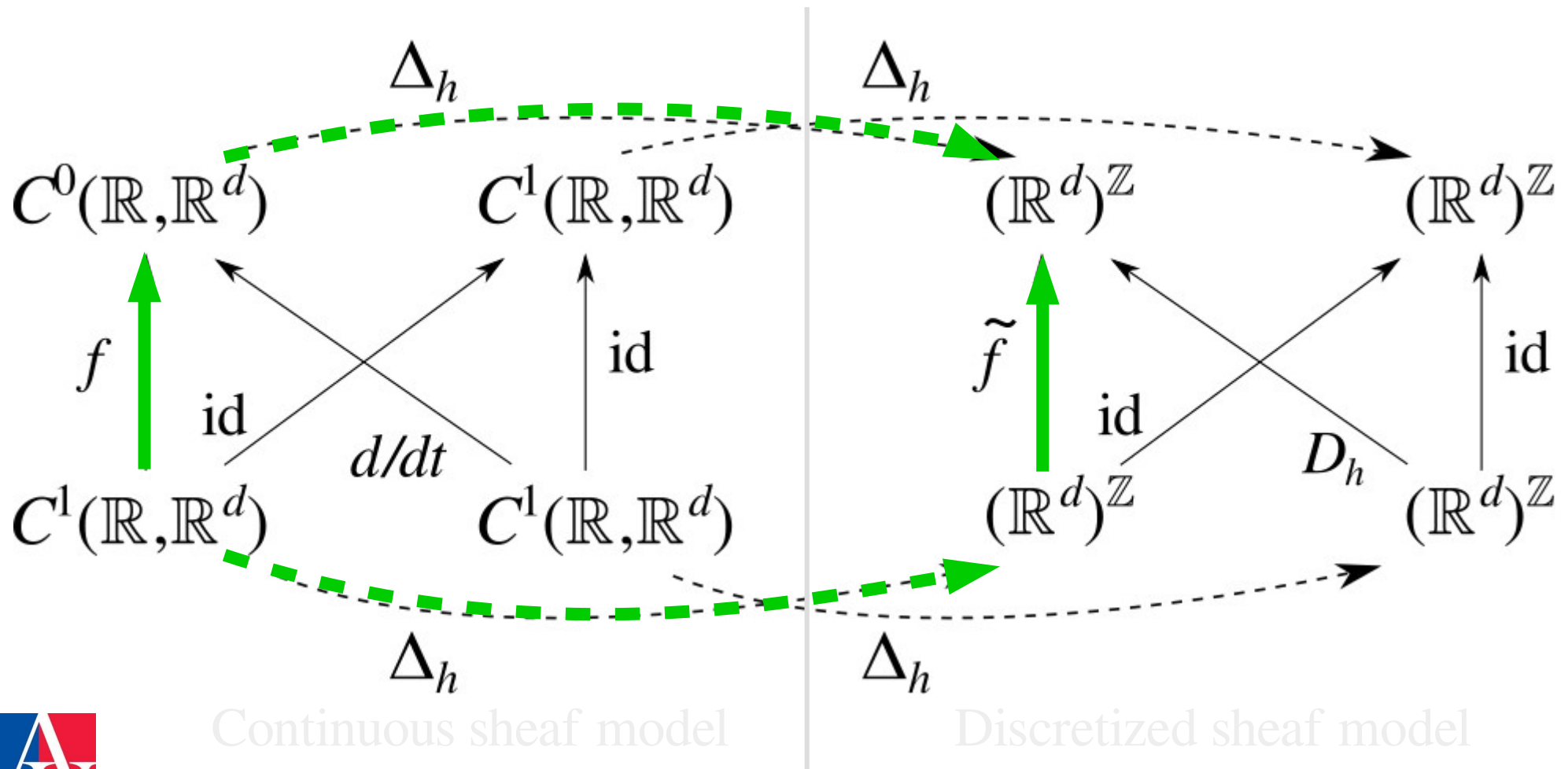
- A *sheaf morphism* is a commutative diagram of maps between stalks of two sheaves... is this one? (dotted arrows)





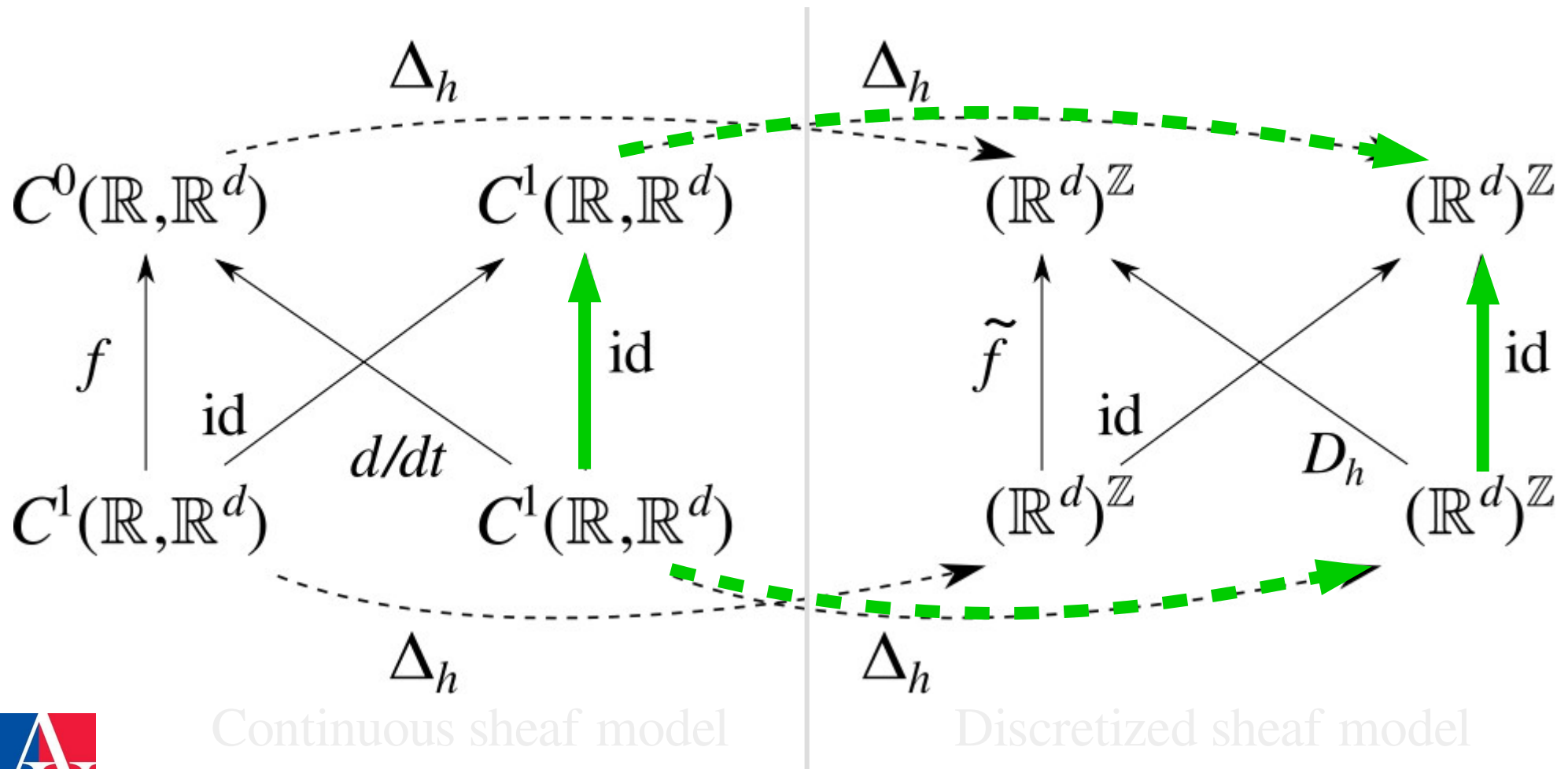
# Is it a *sheaf morphism*?

- This square commutes if we pick  $\tilde{f}$  correctly...



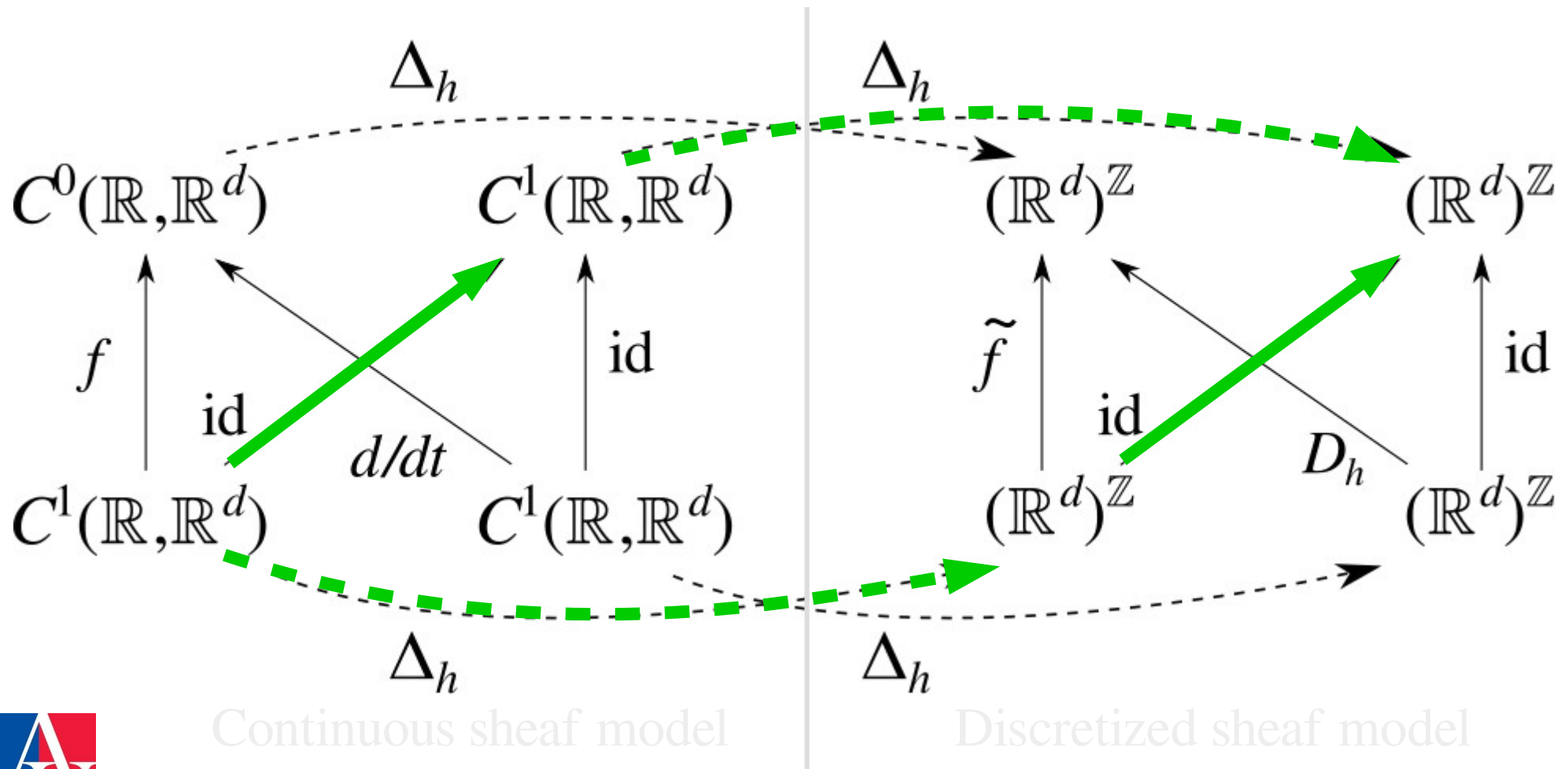
# Is it a *sheaf morphism*?

- ... this one commutes trivially ...



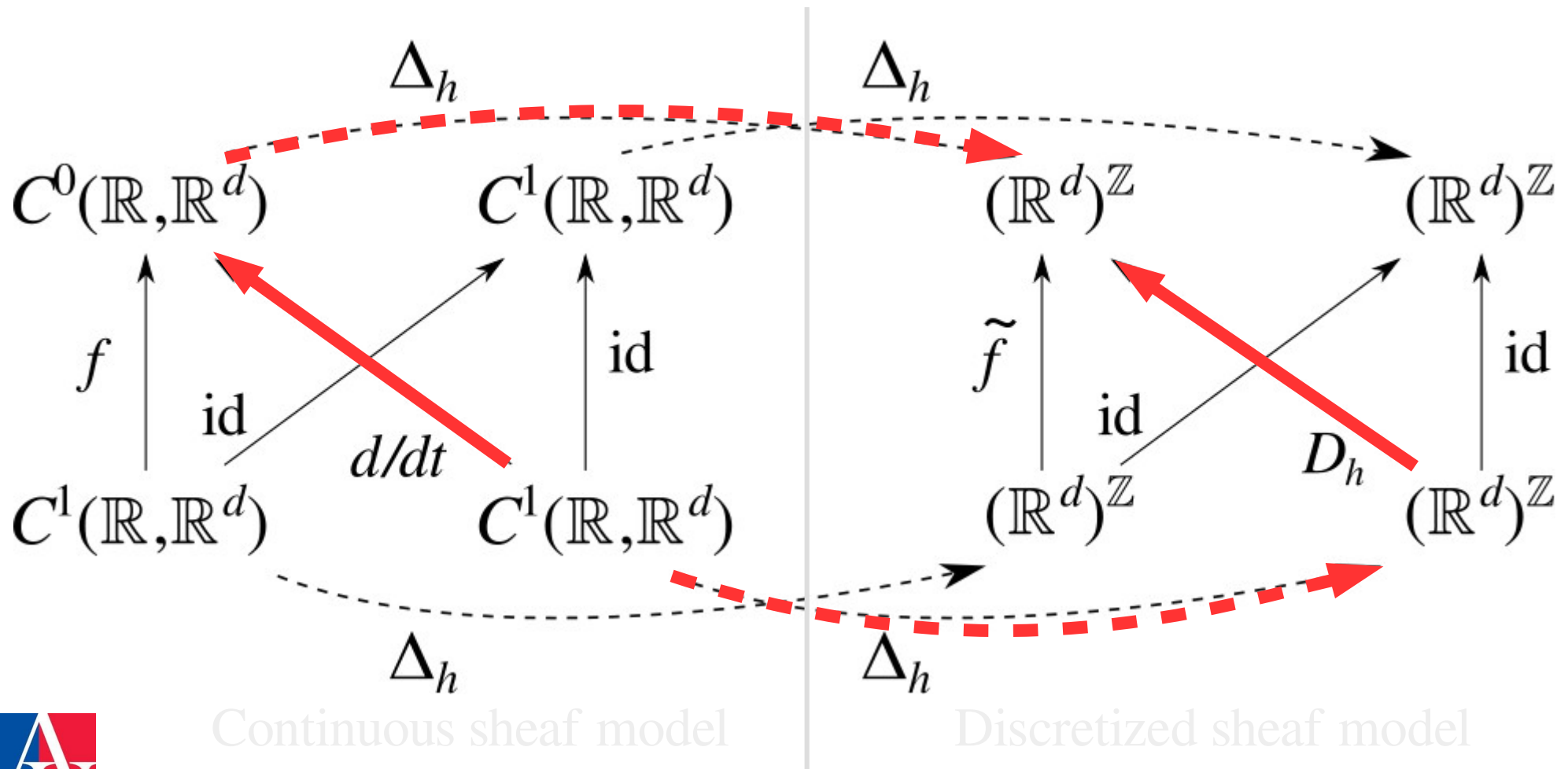
# Is it a *sheaf morphism*?

- ... this one also commutes trivially ...



# Is it a *sheaf morphism*?

- ...but this asks that  $u'(nh) = D_h u_n$ , which means discretized version is **exactly correct**. Oops!



# Finite elements

---

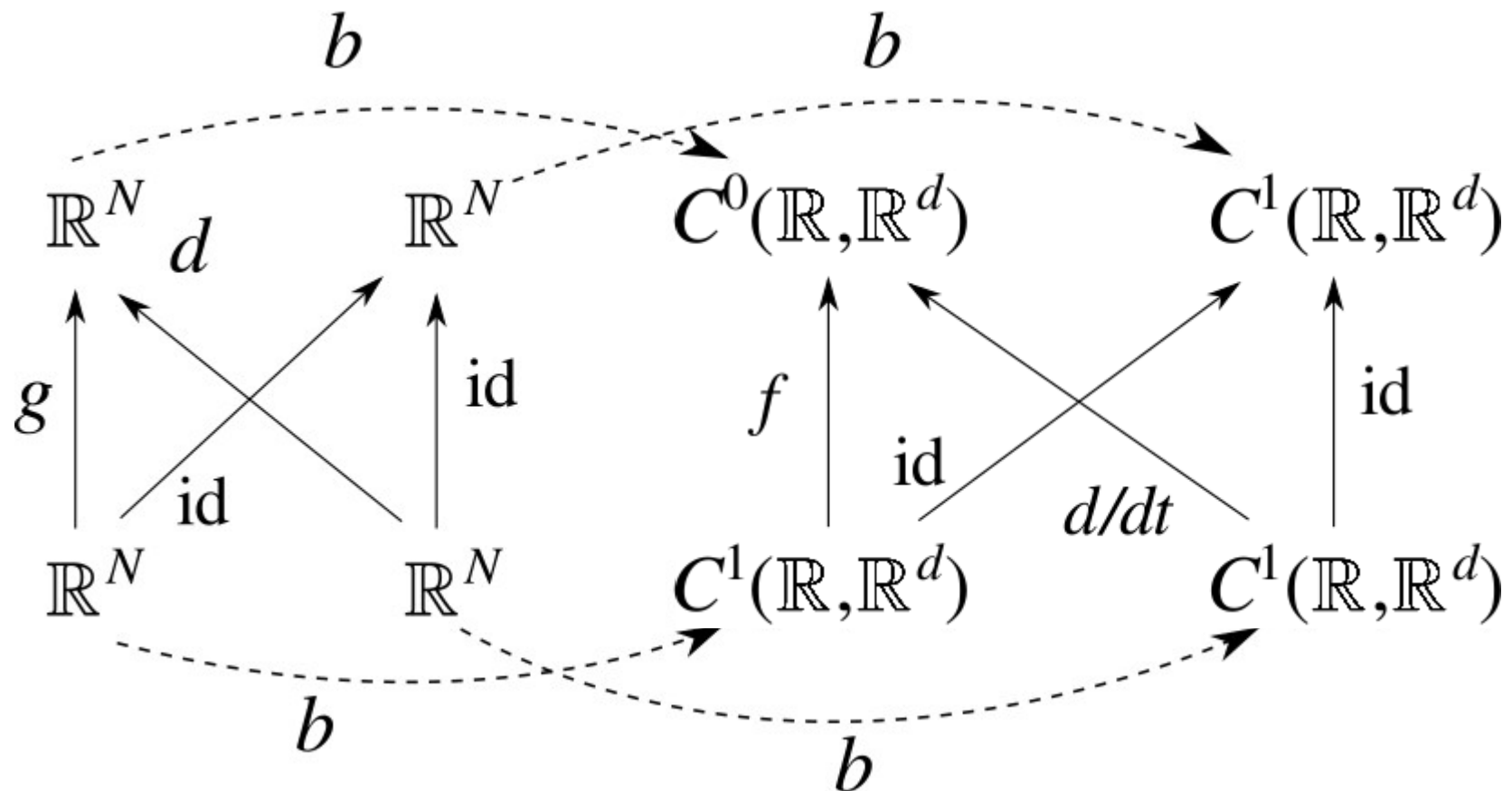
- We can also try to construct a finite elements approximation... from the “other side”
- Again start with the same continuous sheaf model

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C^0(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) & & C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) \\ \uparrow f & \swarrow \text{id} & \uparrow \text{id} \\ C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) & & C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d) \\ & \searrow d/dt & \end{array}$$



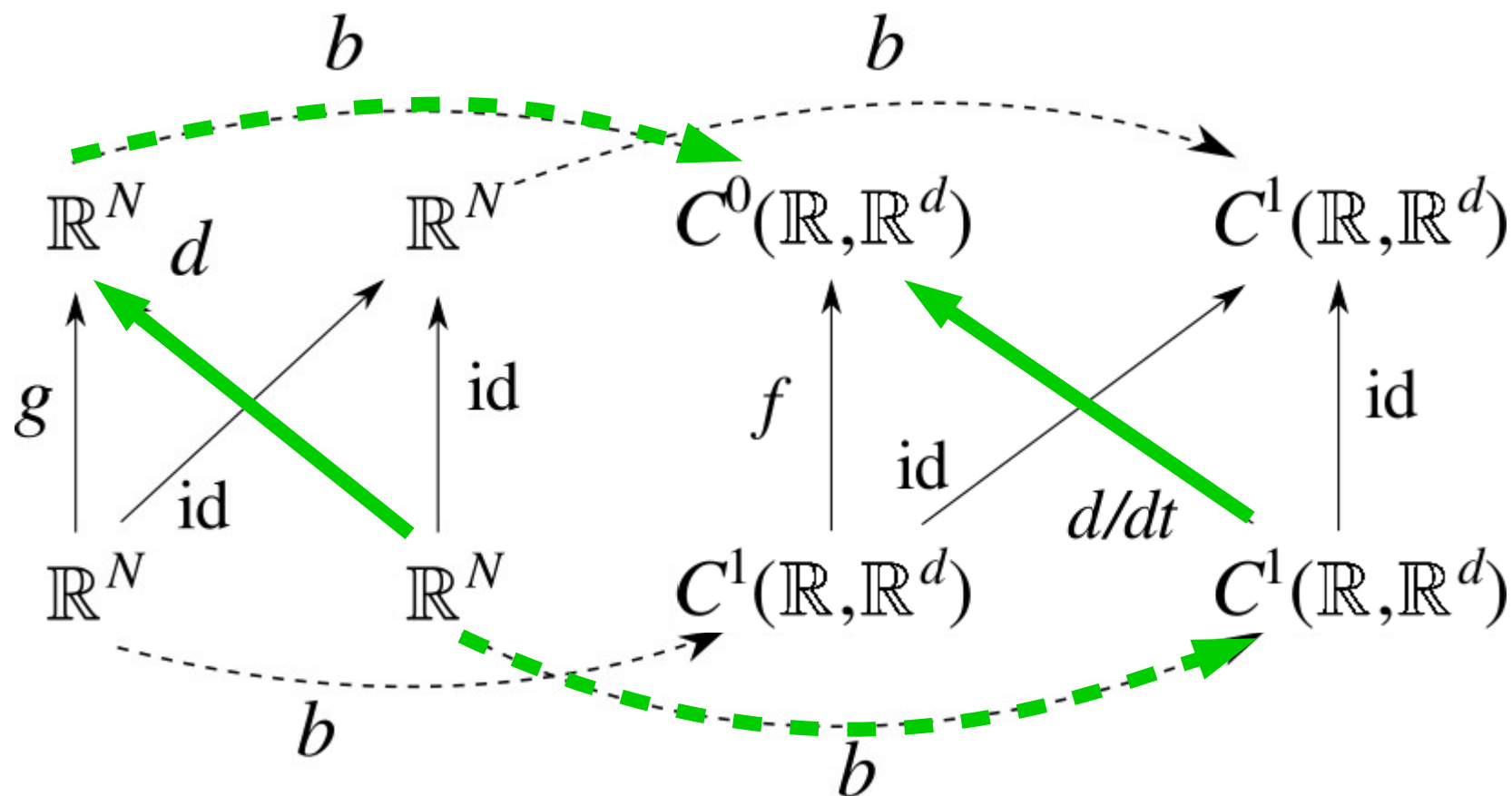
# Finite elements sheaf model

- Use an  $N$  dimensional subspace of functions with a linear embedding  $b : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow B \subseteq C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^d)$ .



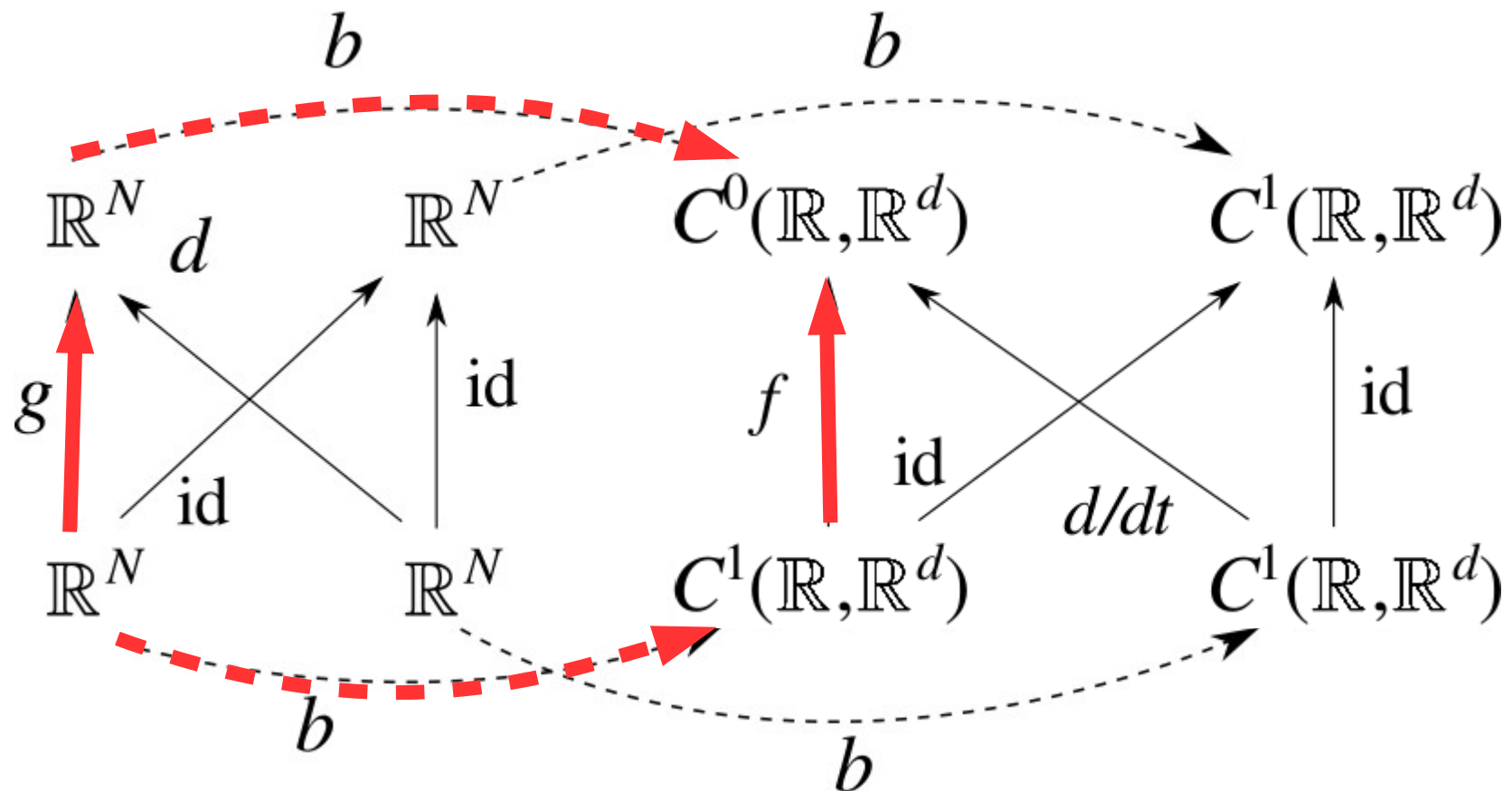
# Is it a sheaf morphism?

- Although the derivative approximation can now be corrected by a judicious choice of embedding  $b$ ...



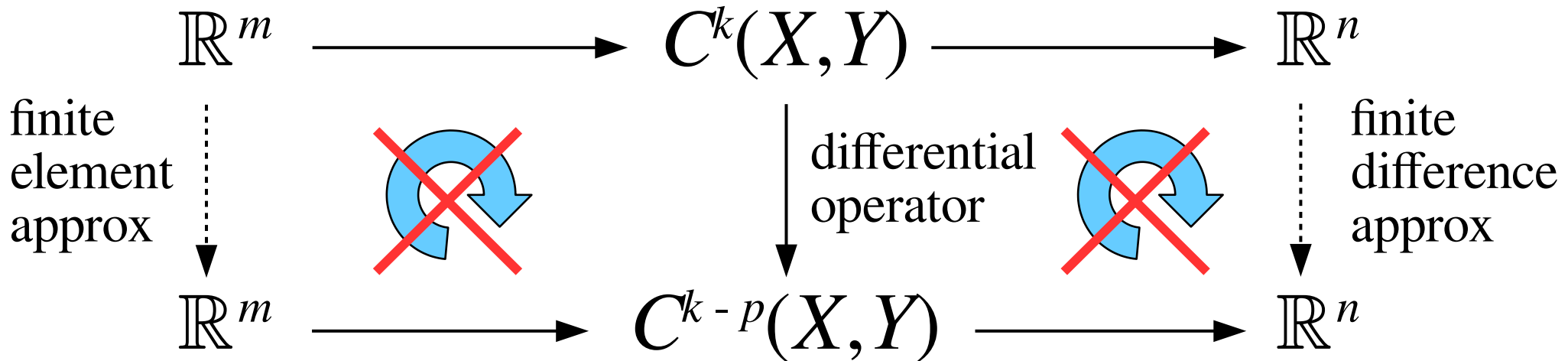
# Might be a sheaf morphism...

- ...if not linear, now the equation itself fails
- ...if linear, we may get a morphism; *Galerkin method*.

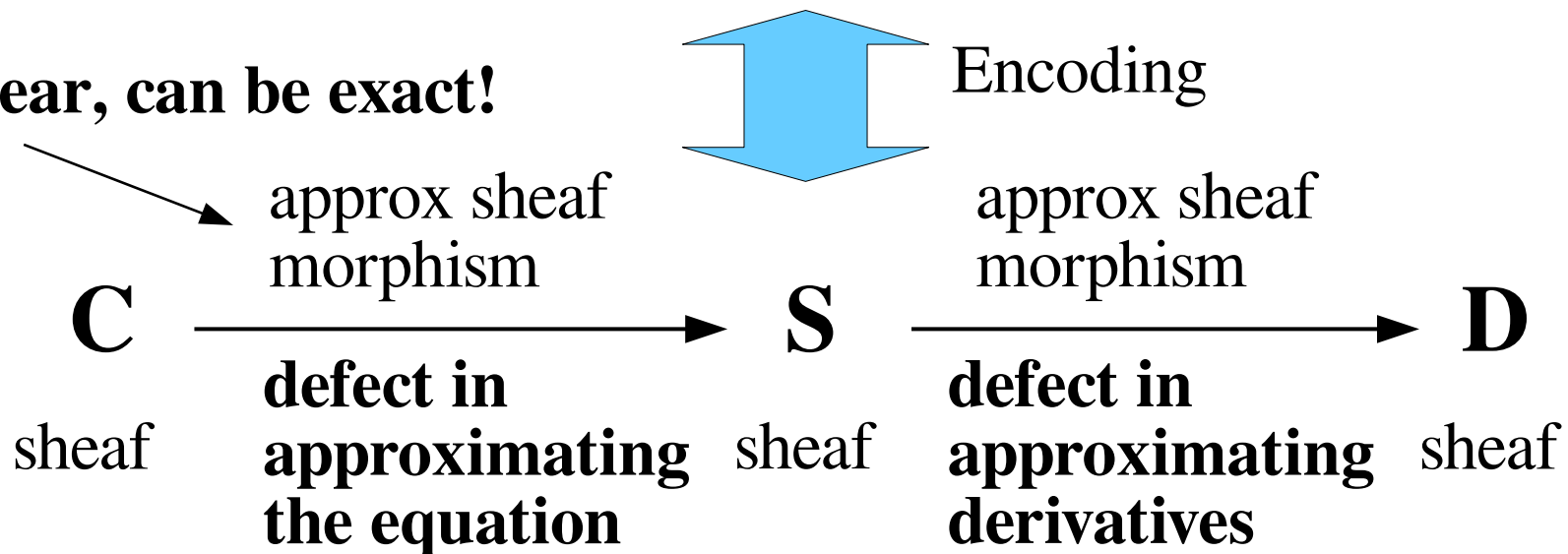




# Observations about consistency



**If linear, can be exact!**



# In summary...

---

Sheaves capture variable relationships in any system of equations; that's most scientific models!

- Differential equation systems
- Bayes & causal nets
- ... basically anything described by equations

Consistency radius estimates:

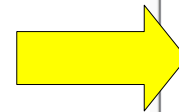
- Measurement error,
- Data modeling error, and
- Discretization error



# We've now seen...

---

- Building of several sheaf models
- Inferring/imputing missing or noisy data using the sheaf
- But what of the domain of validity?



### Why sheaves?


---

Sheaves:

- Are the **universal reductionist paradigm** that guide the composition of more complicated models from simpler ones
- Moderate between **different levels of abstraction** and/or domains of validity for models

And recently, they can handle noisy real-world data with practical models in software

---

Michael Robinson



Reference: <https://doi.org/10.32408/compositionality-2-2>

---

# What's the right domain of validity?

- How many variables do you really need?
- Concrete example: counting stars in a star cluster

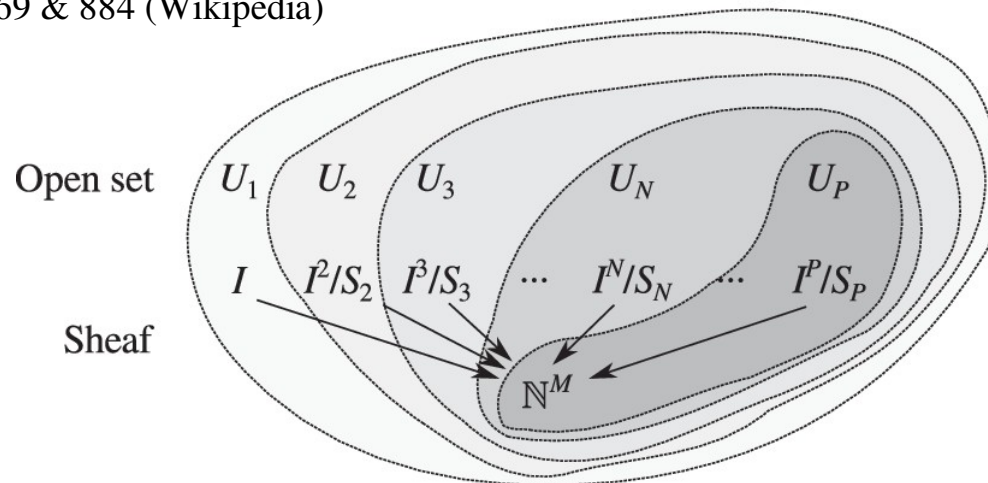


NGC 869 & 884 (Wikipedia)

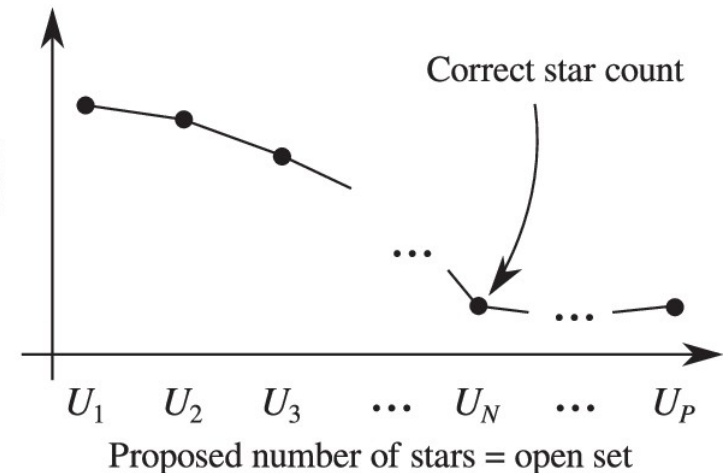
$I$  = Position and brightness

Variables for  $P$  stars:  $I^P/S_P$

"Symmetric group on  $P$  elements" = ignore order

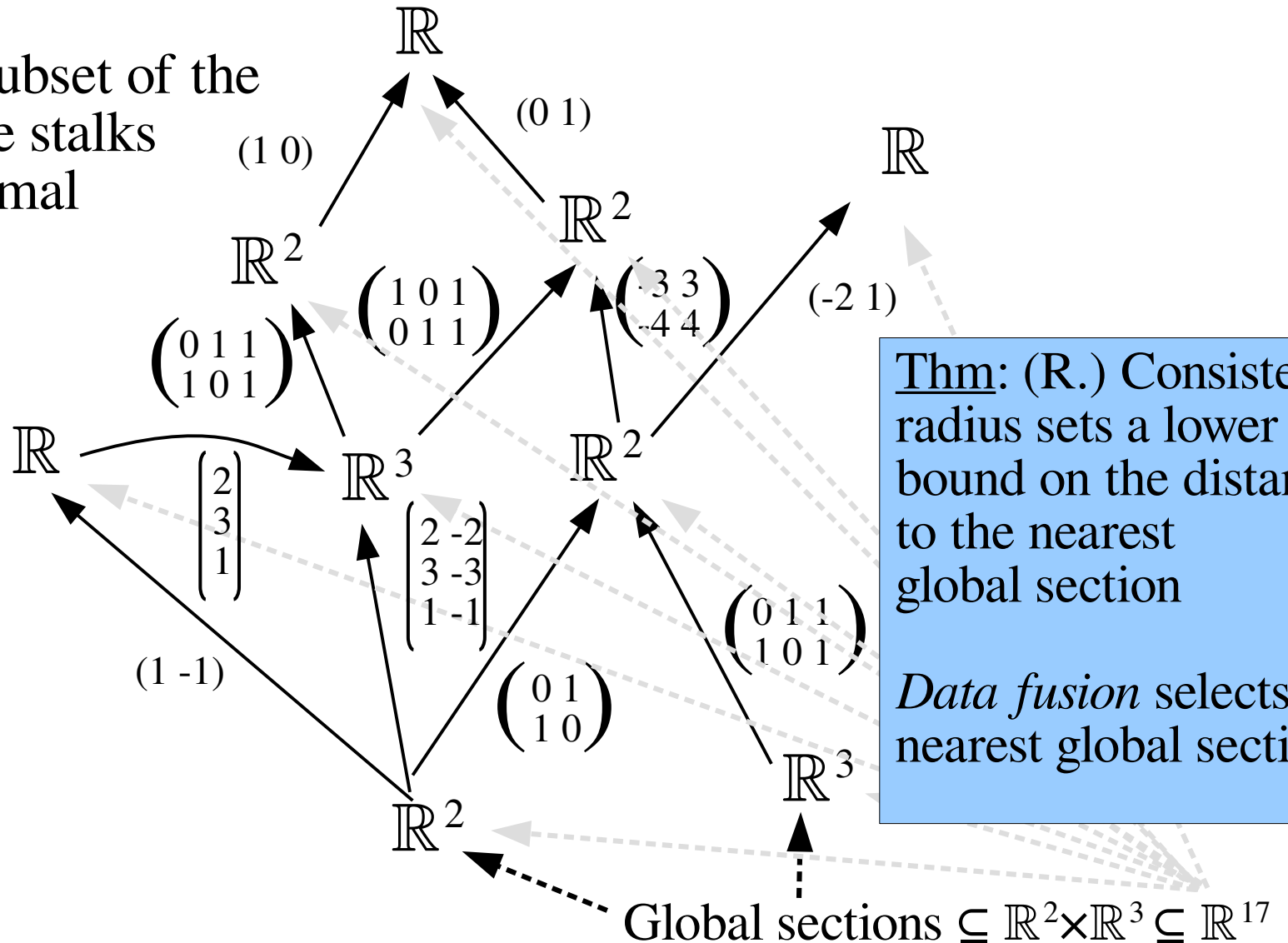


local consistency radius



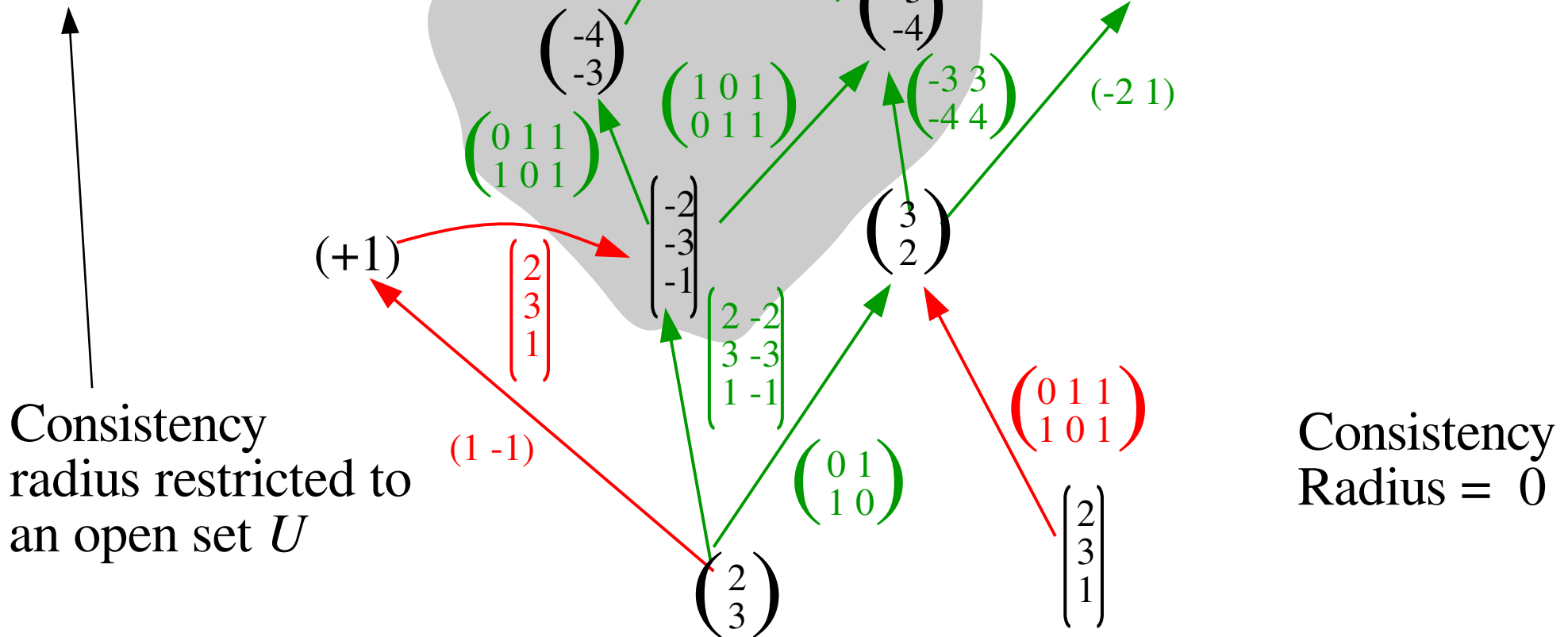
# The space of global sections

It's a closed subset of the product of the stalks over the minimal elements



# Consistency radius is monotonic

Proposition:  
If  $U \subseteq V$  then  
 $c(U) \leq c(V)$

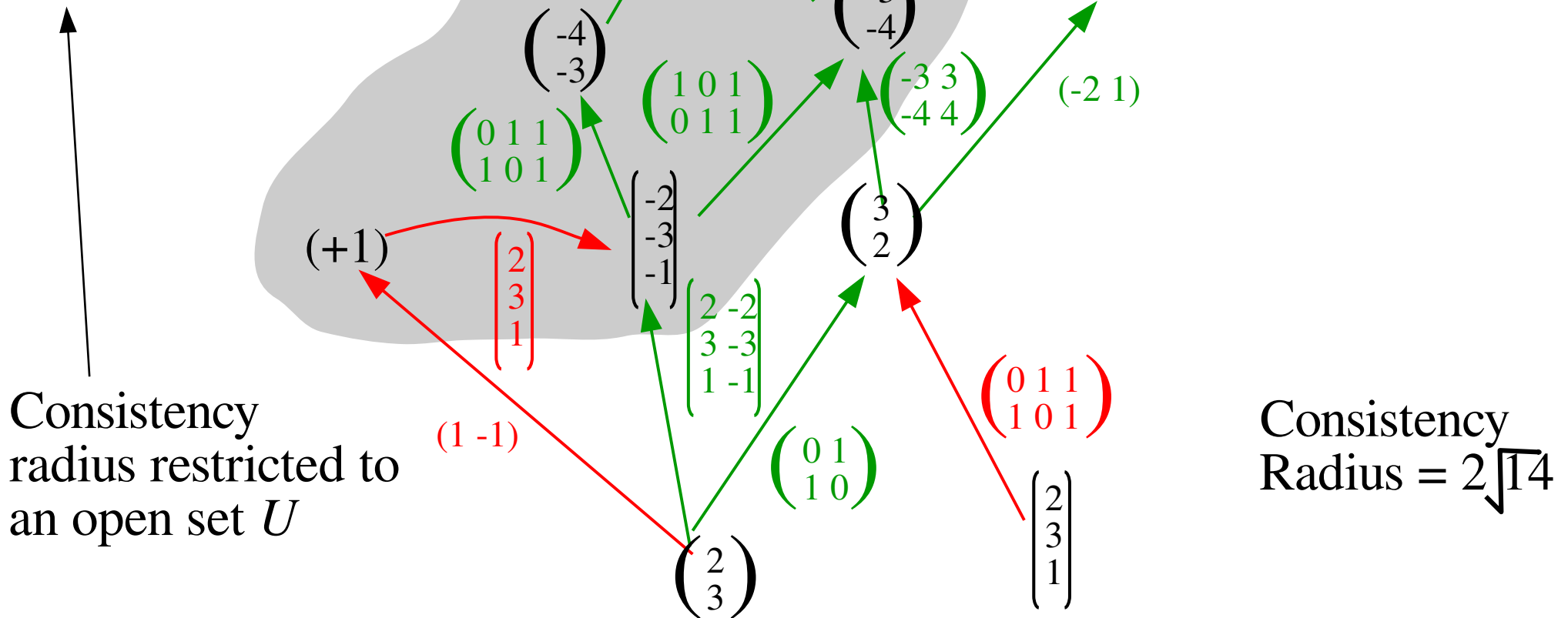


Note: lots more restrictions to check!



# Consistency radius is monotonic

Proposition:  
If  $U \subseteq V$  then  
 $c(U) \leq c(V)$



Consistency radius restricted to an open set  $U$

Consistency Radius =  $2\sqrt{14}$

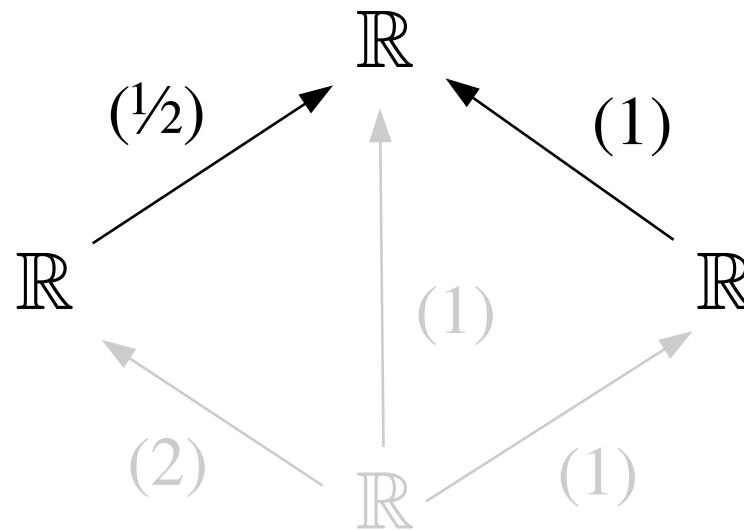
Note: lots more restrictions to check!



# Consistency radius optimization

---

NB: restrictions act by multiplication



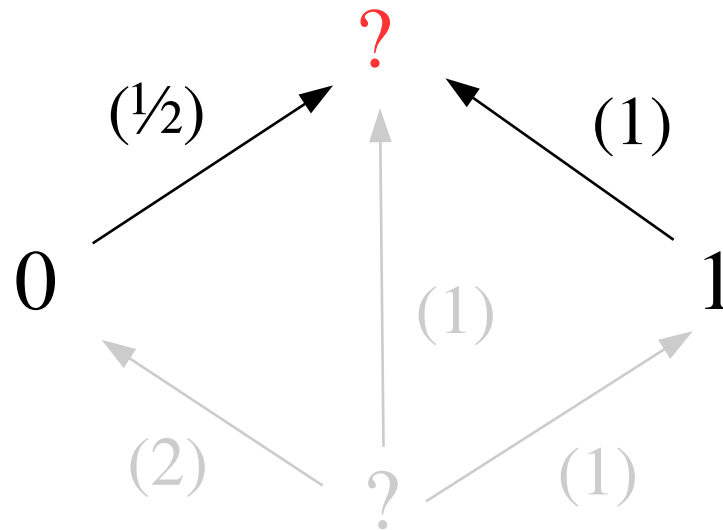
This is a sheaf on a small poset





# *Consistency radius optimization*

---

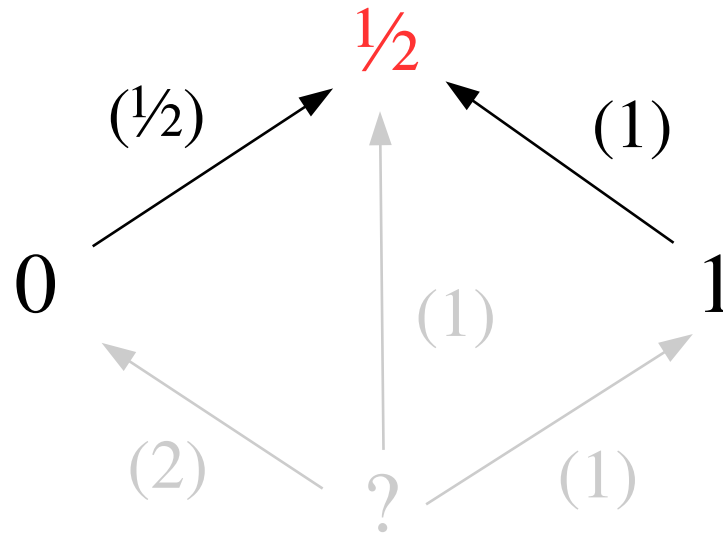


Here is an assignment supported on part of it



# *Consistency radius optimization*

---

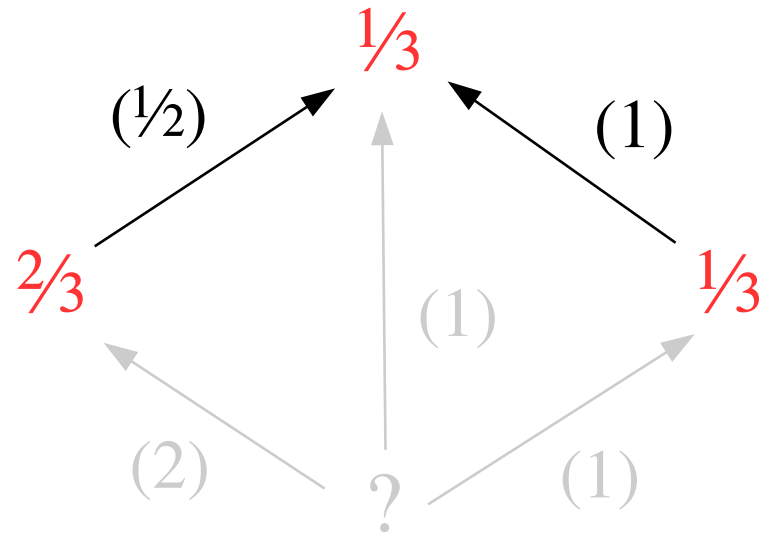


Minimizing the consistency radius when extending globally



# Consistency radius optimization

---

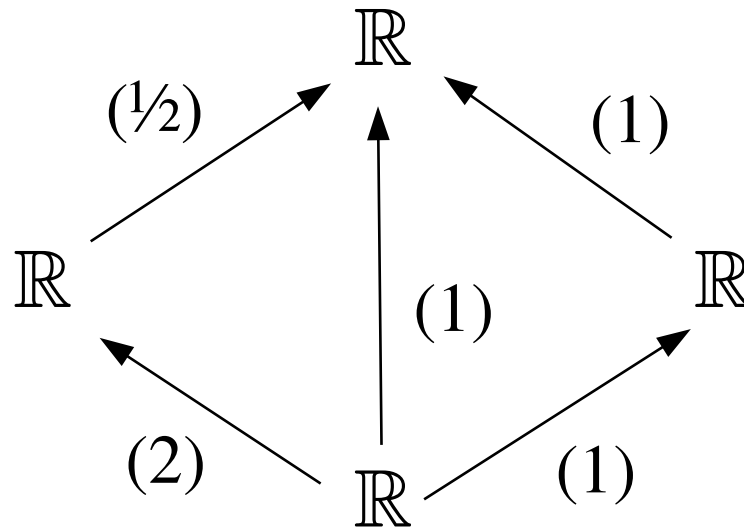


Here is the closest global section (everything can be changed)



# Extending to a larger sheaf...

---

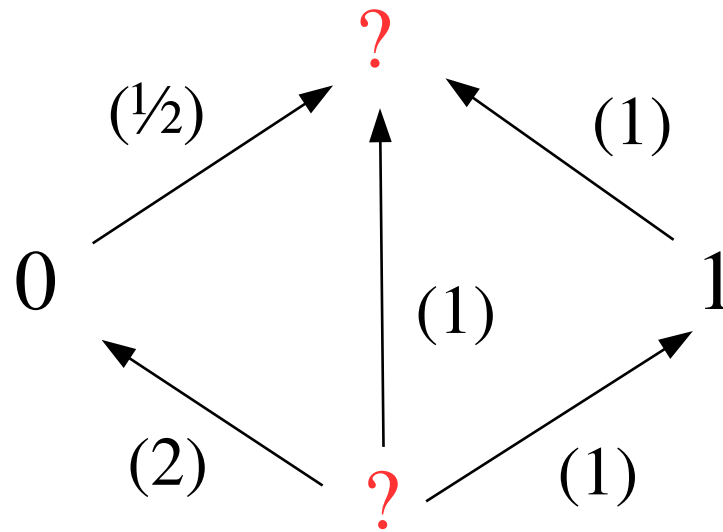


This is the full sheaf diagram including all open sets in the Alexandrov topology, not just the base



# Extending to a larger sheaf...

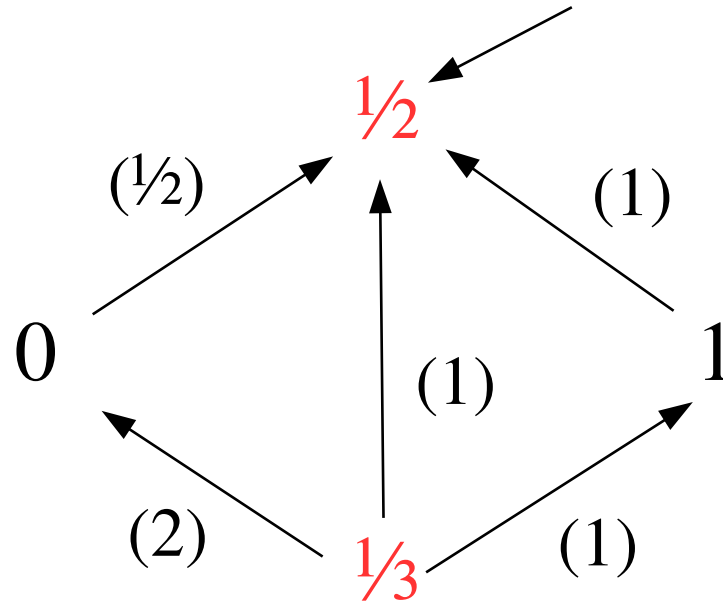
---



# Extending to a larger sheaf...

---

This value can be anything between  $\frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{2}{3}$

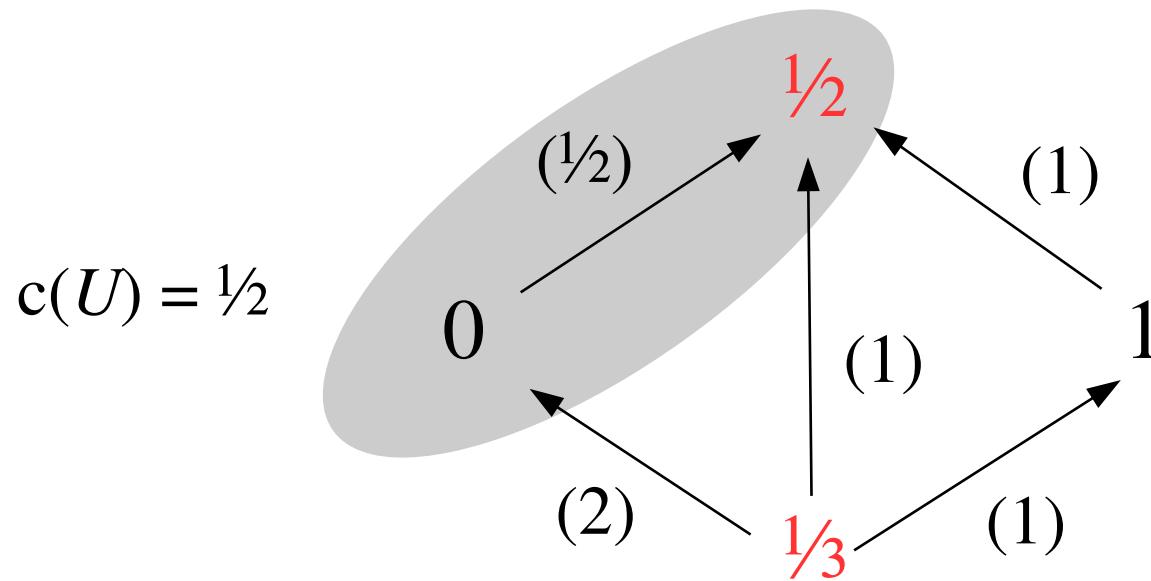


Minimizing the consistency radius when extending  
The value on the intersection is no longer unique!



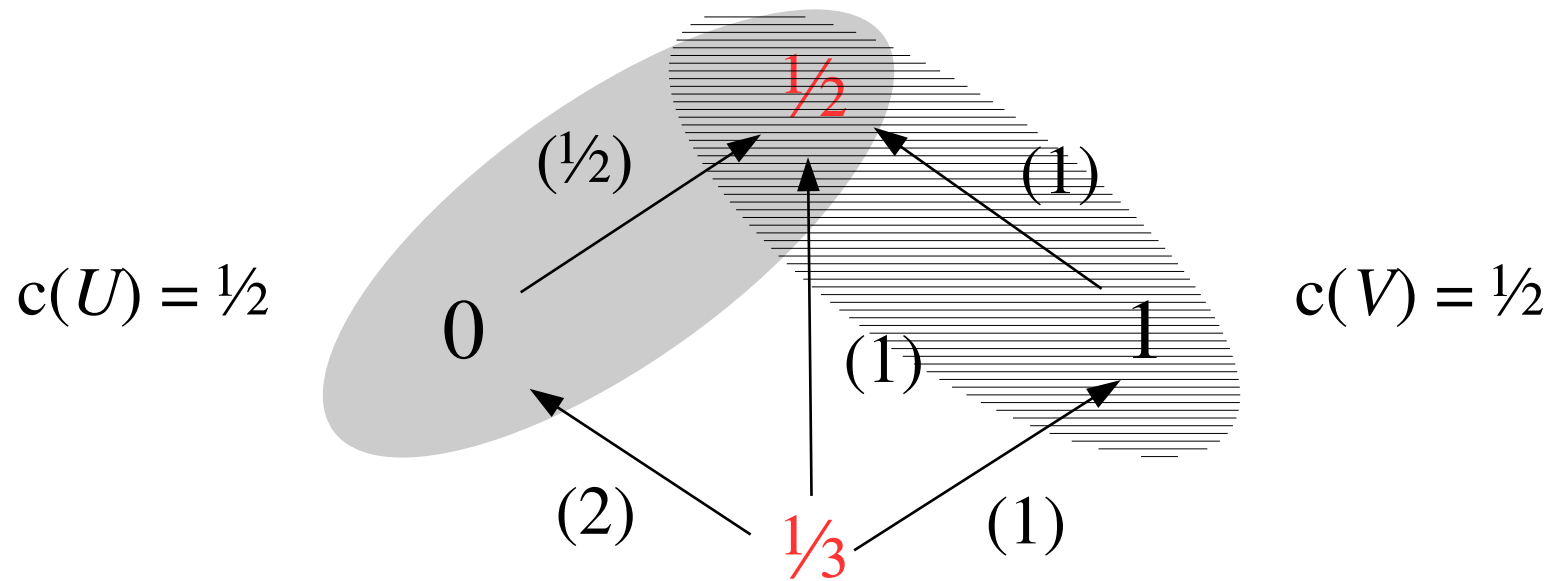
# Extending to a larger sheaf...

---



# Extending to a larger sheaf...

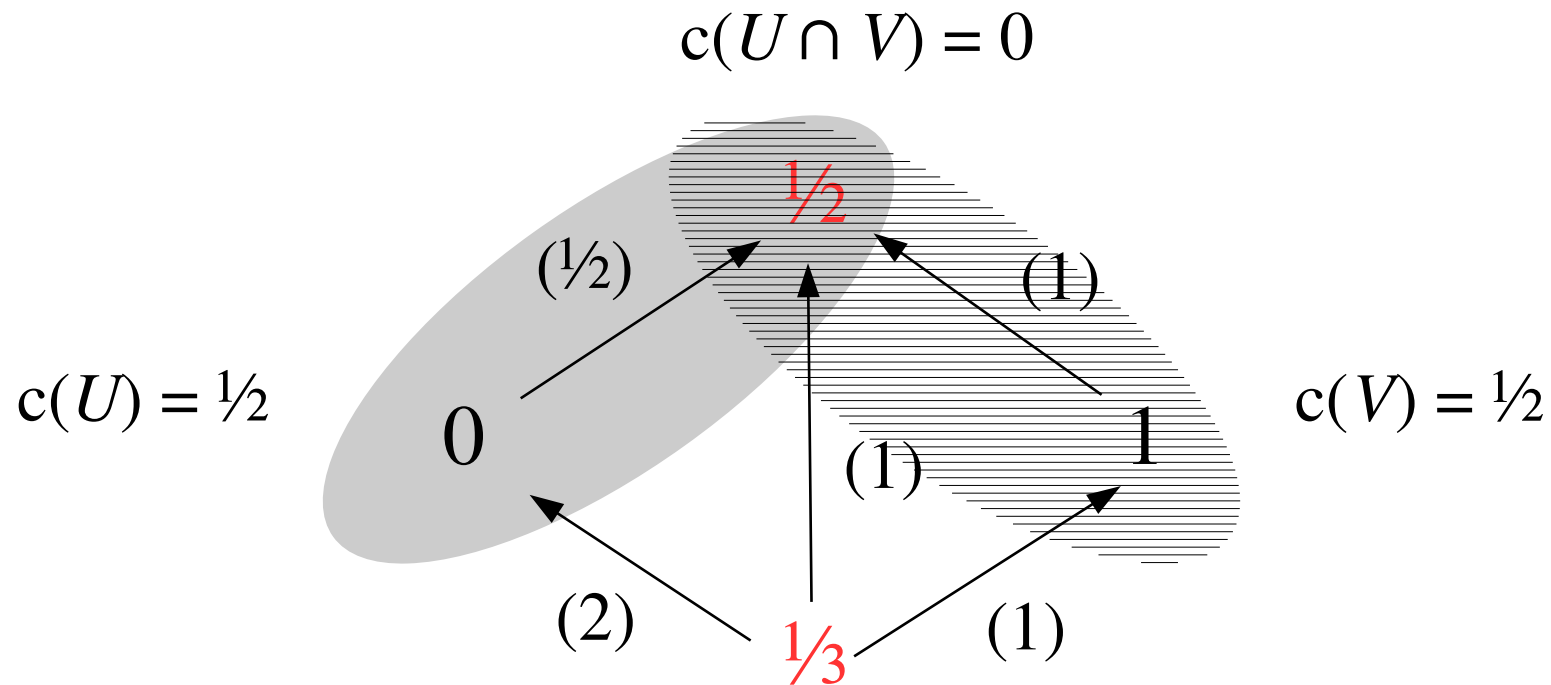
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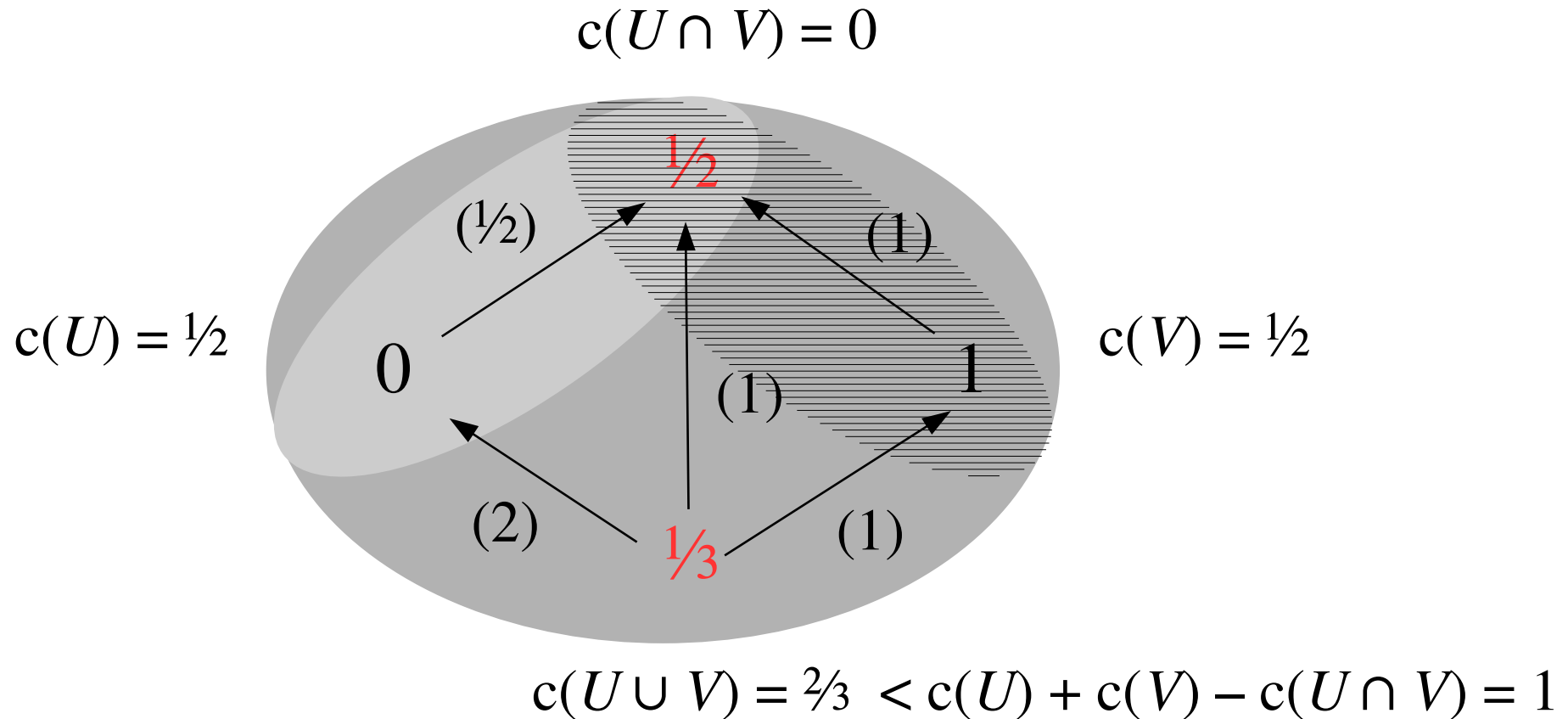


# Extending to a larger sheaf...

---



# Consistency radius is not a measure



Proposition:

“Local consistency of a Global assignment” is a (loose) upper bound for “Global consistency of a Local assignment”



# Software!

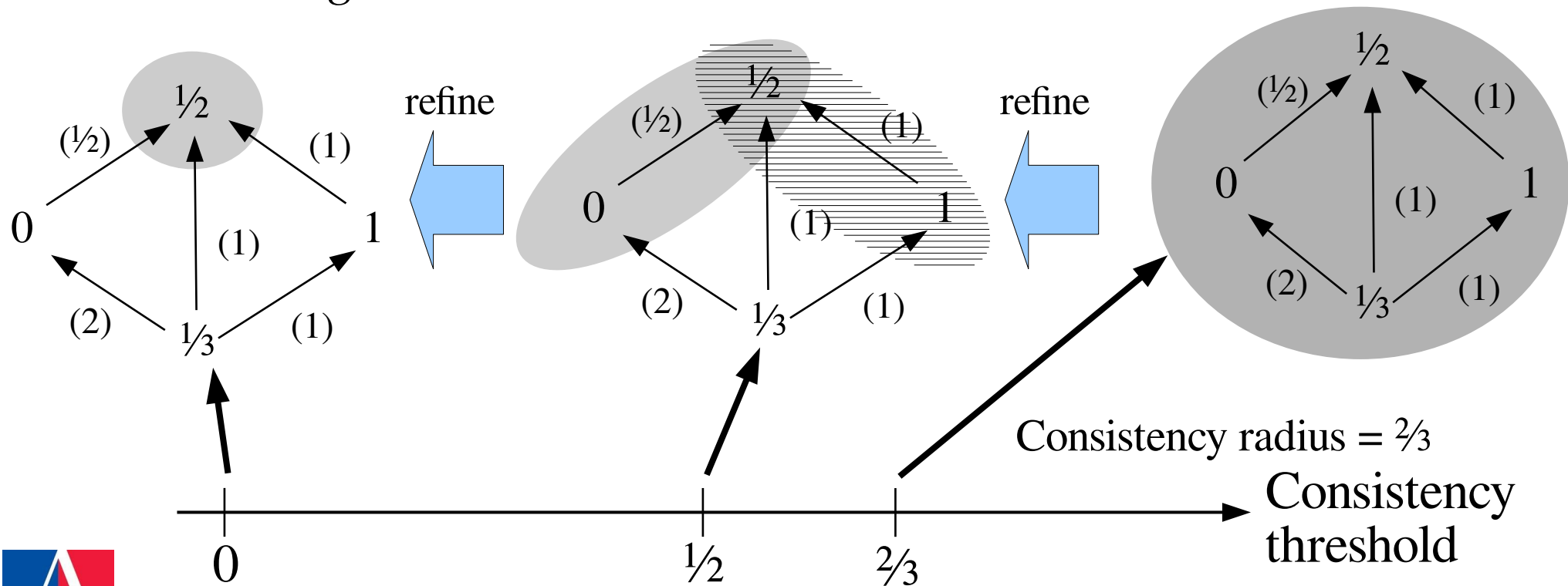
- Computing local consistency radius

[https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1hscWfilQFls\\_fOBS03YtpVMQ-Tz2UNWn](https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1hscWfilQFls_fOBS03YtpVMQ-Tz2UNWn)



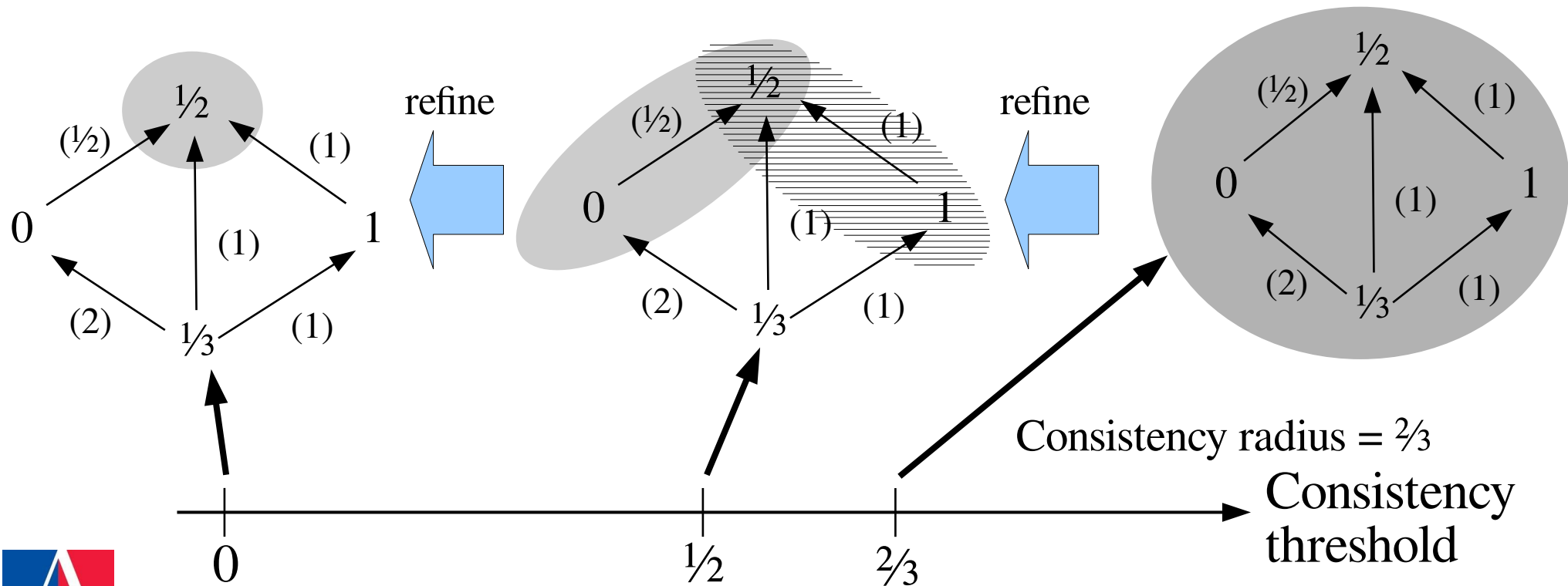
# The *consistency filtration*

- ... 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*.



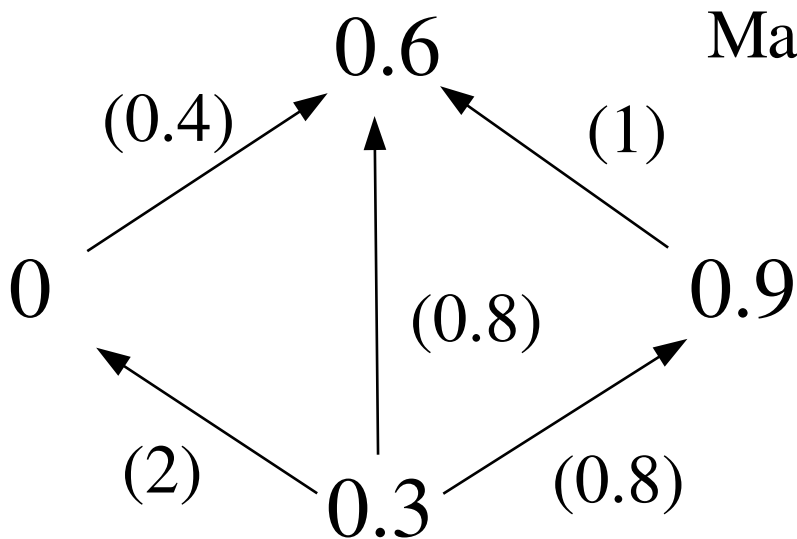
# Consistency filtration is natural

- Theorem: Consistency filtration is continuous under the an *interleaving distance*
- Theorem: Consistency filtration is also functorial
- (Note: the proof is quite intricate...)

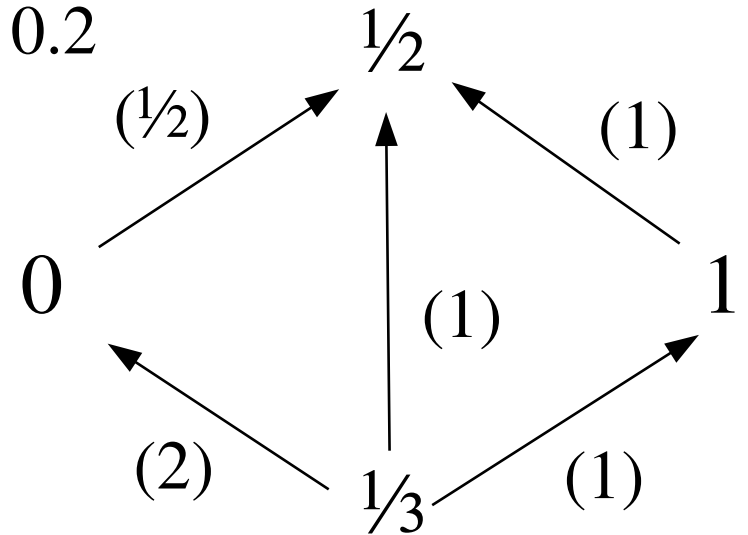


# A small perturbation ...

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

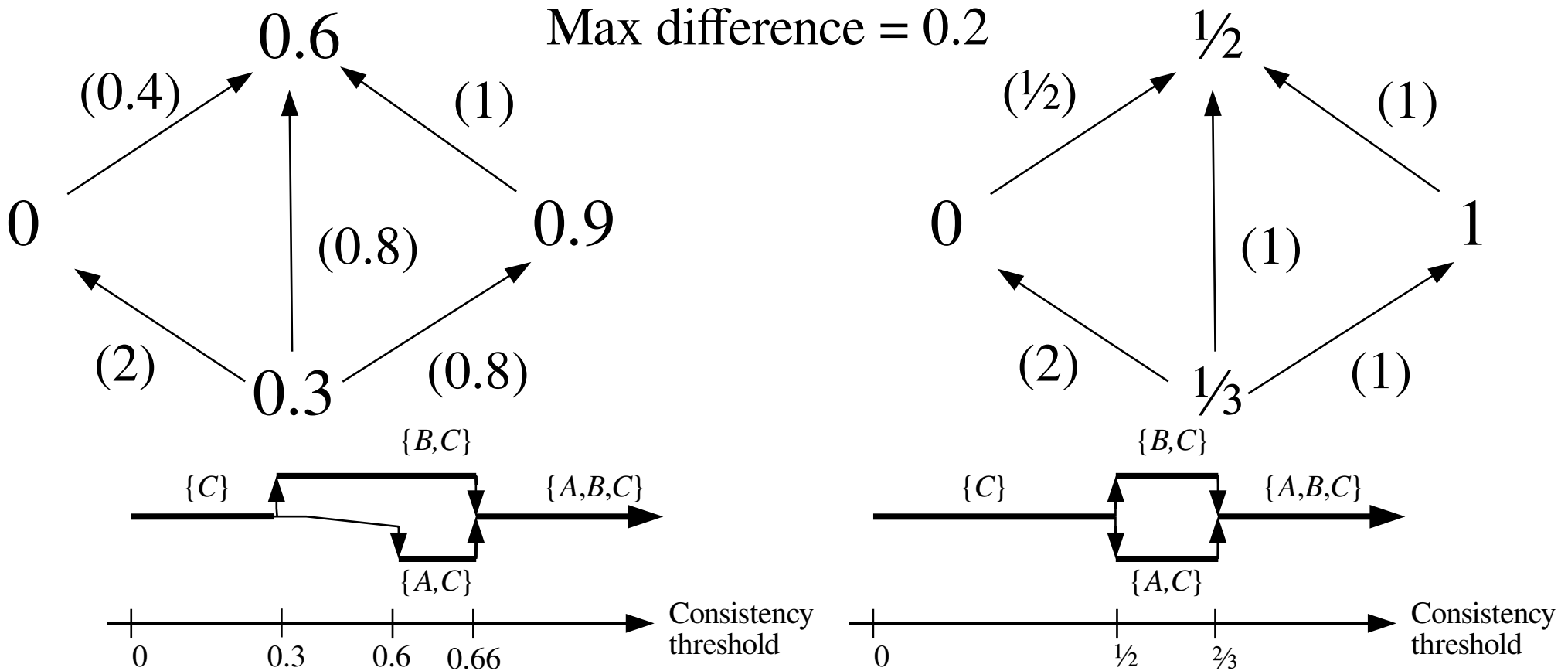


Max difference = 0.2



# A small perturbation ...

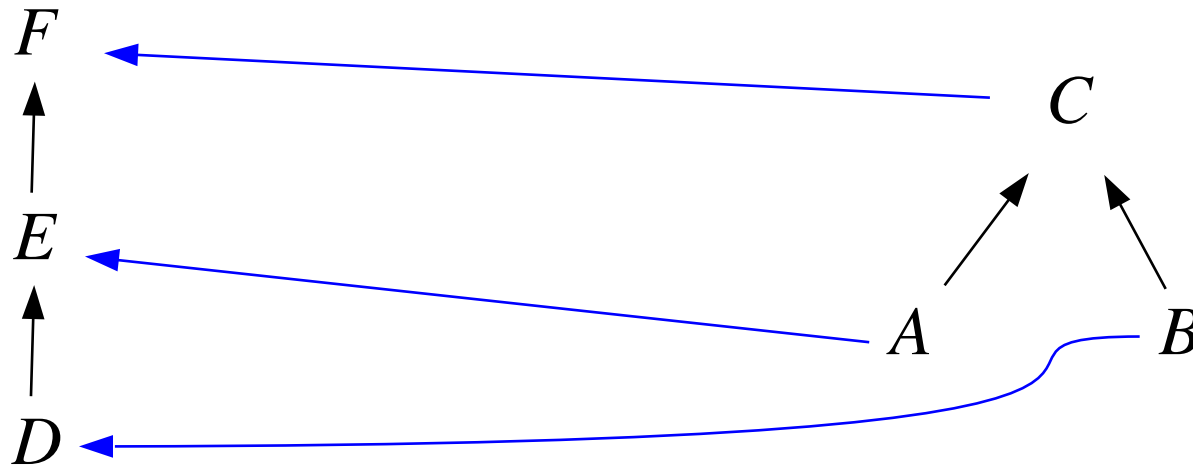
- Compute consistency filtrations... they're similar



# A sheaf assignment *morphism* is ...

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- ... first, an order preserving map between base posets...



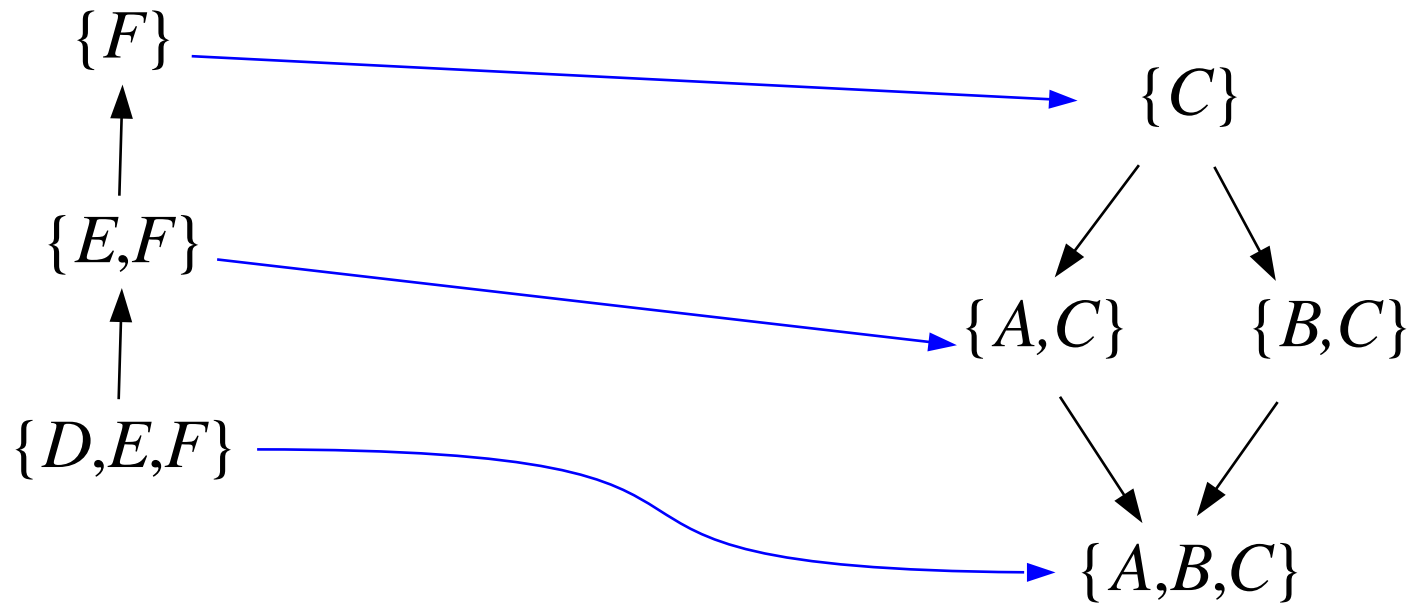


# A sheaf assignment *morphism* is ...

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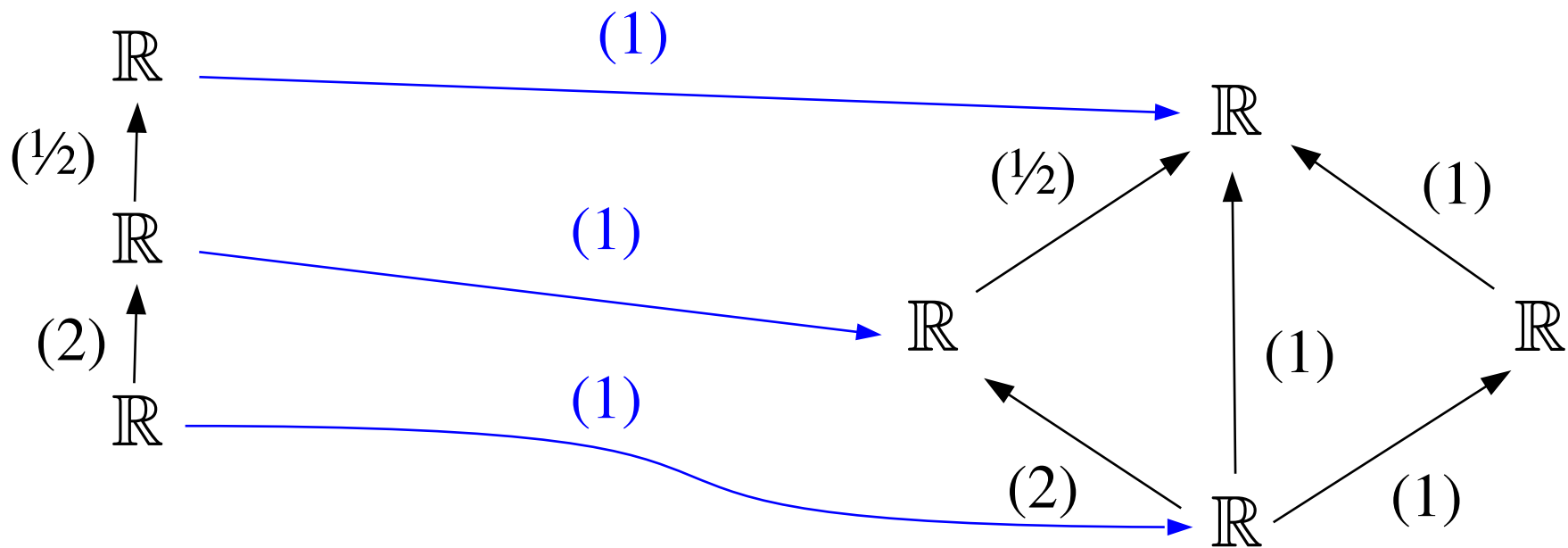
- ... which is a continuous map ...

(preimages shown below)



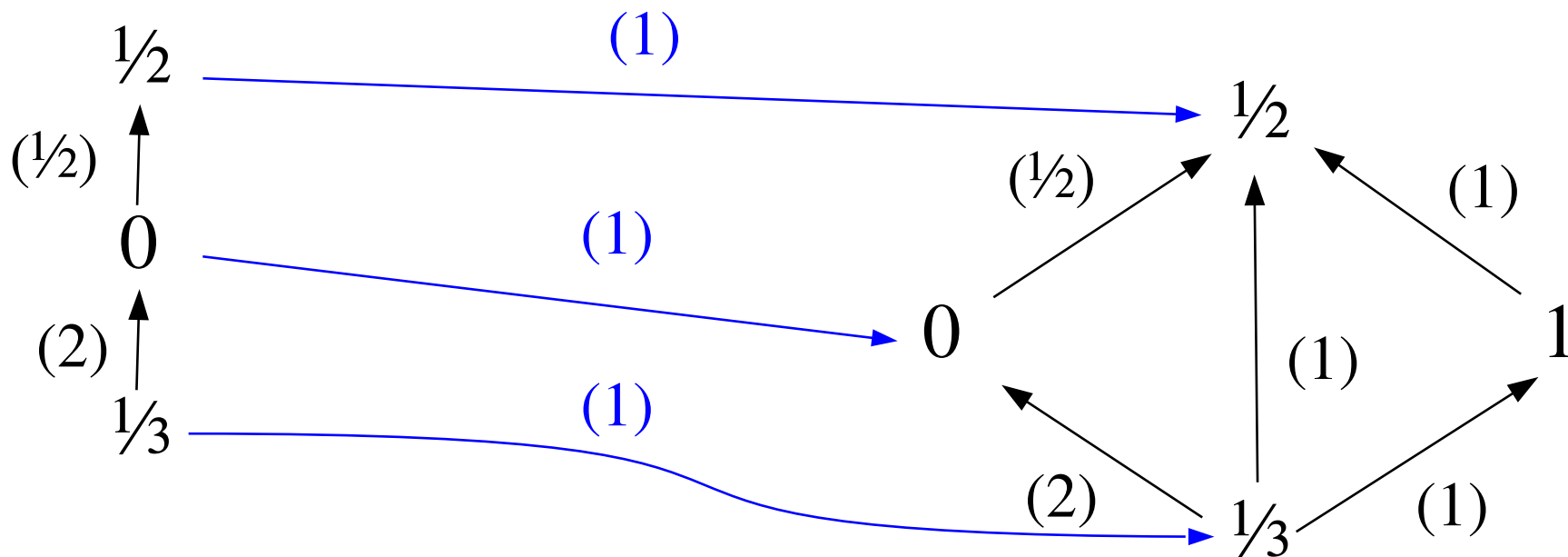
# A sheaf assignment *morphism* is ...

- ... add to this, a commuting set of *component maps* for the two sheaves ...



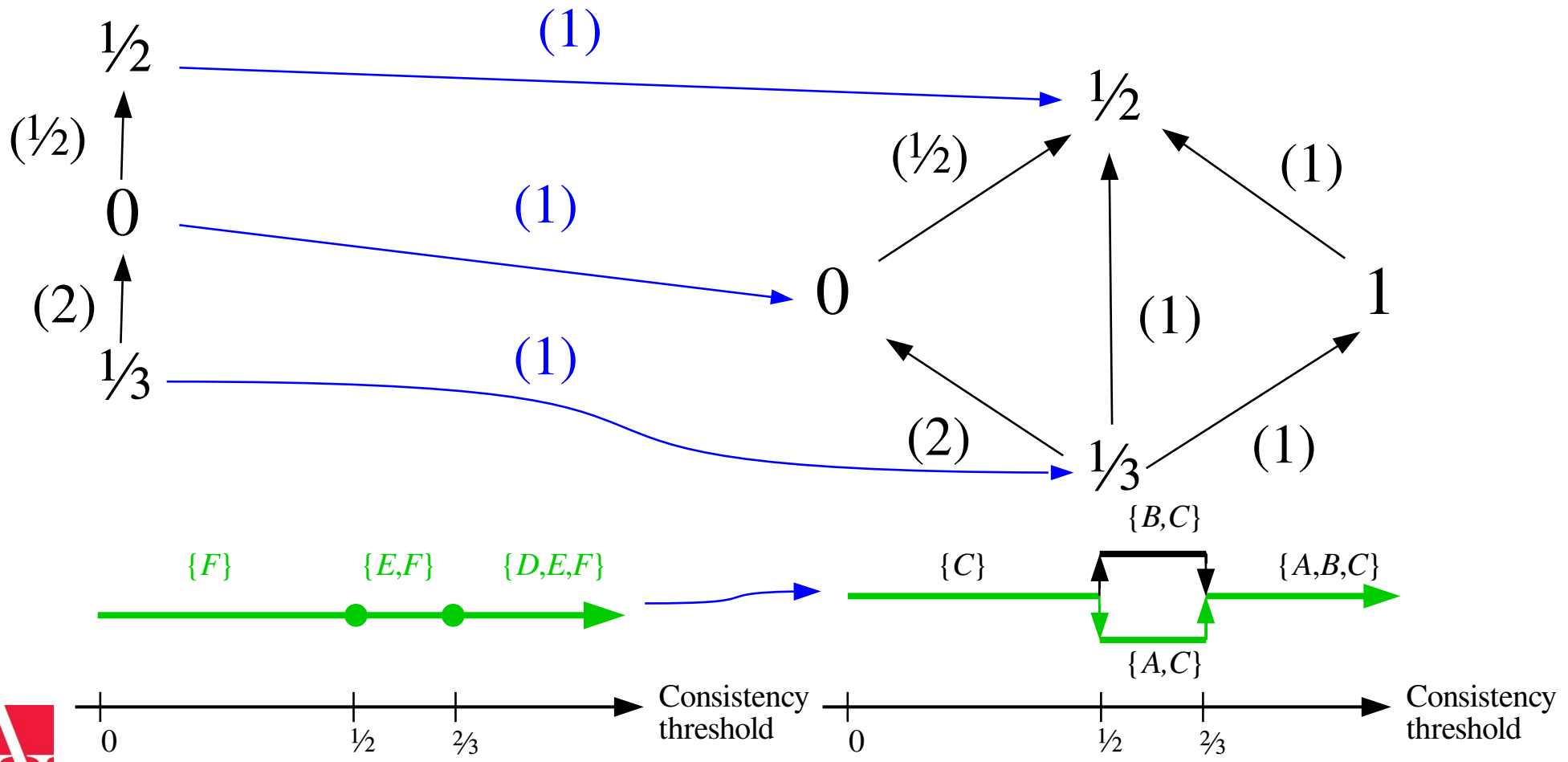
# A sheaf assignment *morphism* is ...

- ... such that the assignments on both ends are preserved.



# Functoriality!

- Compute consistency filtrations, and all that's really needed is to align the open sets in the covers!



# Interpretation

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- Sheaf: a **data structure** for modeling consistency
- Assignment: an **instance** of the data housed in a sheaf
- Consistency radius: **how well** do data and model agree?
- Consistency radius optimization: **predict** some missing or cleaner data
- Consistency filtration: **where** do data and model agree?

