



## Graduate School Event

# Thesis Defense: Braiding Geometry and Topology to Study Shapes and Data

**Christopher Fillmore (Edelsbrunner Group)**

Edelsbrunner Group

Host: Matthew Robinson

This thesis examines how geometry and topology intersect in the representation, transformation, and analysis of complex shapes. It considers how continuous manifolds relate to their discrete analogues, how topological structures evolve in persistence vineyards, and how tools from topological data analysis can illuminate problems in mathematical physics. Central to this exploration is the question of how structure, both geometric and topological, persists or changes under approximation, sampling, or deformation. The work develops new approaches to skeletal and grid-based representations of surfaces, reveals the full expressive capacity of persistence vineyards, and applies topological methods to the longstanding problem of equilibria in electrostatic fields. These threads braid together into a broader understanding of how topology and geometry inform one another across theory, computation, and application.

**Monday, November 24, 2025 09:00am - 10:00am**

Central Bldg / O1 / Mondi 2b (I01.O1.008)



This invitation is valid as a ticket for the ISTA Shuttle from and to Heiligenstadt Station.

Please find a schedule of the ISTA Shuttle on our webpage:

<https://ista.ac.at/en/campus/how-to-get-here/> The ISTA Shuttle bus is marked ISTA Shuttle (#142) and has the Institute Logo printed on the side.