



# Discrete Exterior Calculus



CS 468, Spring 2013

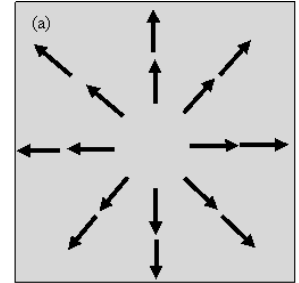
Differential Geometry for Computer Science

Justin Solomon and Adrian Butscher

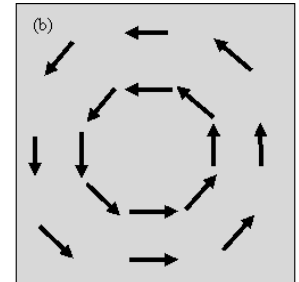
`<math_review>`

# Vector Calculus

$$\operatorname{div} \vec{v} \equiv \nabla \cdot \vec{v} \equiv \sum_i \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i}$$



$$\operatorname{curl} \vec{v} \equiv \nabla \times \vec{v} \equiv \dots$$



$$\Delta f \equiv \nabla \cdot \nabla f \equiv \sum_i \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i^2}$$

# Famous Theorems (in $R^2$ )

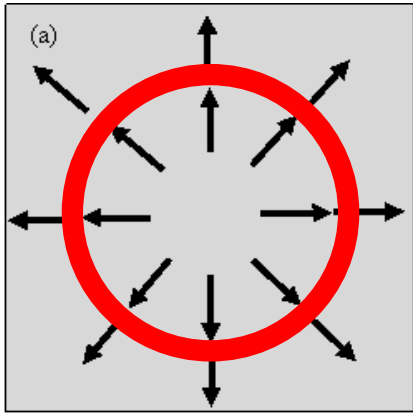
$$\int \operatorname{div} \vec{v} \, dA = \int_{\partial} \vec{v} \cdot \vec{n} \, dl$$

**“Divergence Theorem”**

$$\int \operatorname{curl} \vec{v} \, dA = \int_{\partial} \vec{v} \cdot \vec{t} \, dl$$

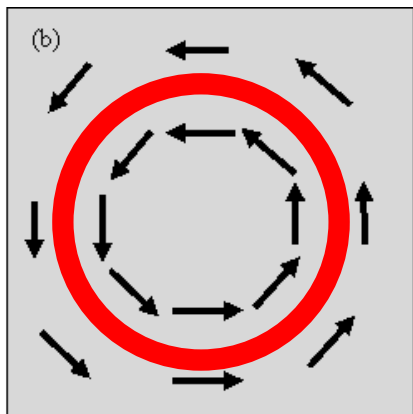
**“Green’s Theorem”**

# Famous Theorems (in $R^2$ )



$$\int \operatorname{div} \vec{v} \, dA = \int_{\partial} \vec{v} \cdot \vec{n} \, dl$$

“Divergence Theorem”



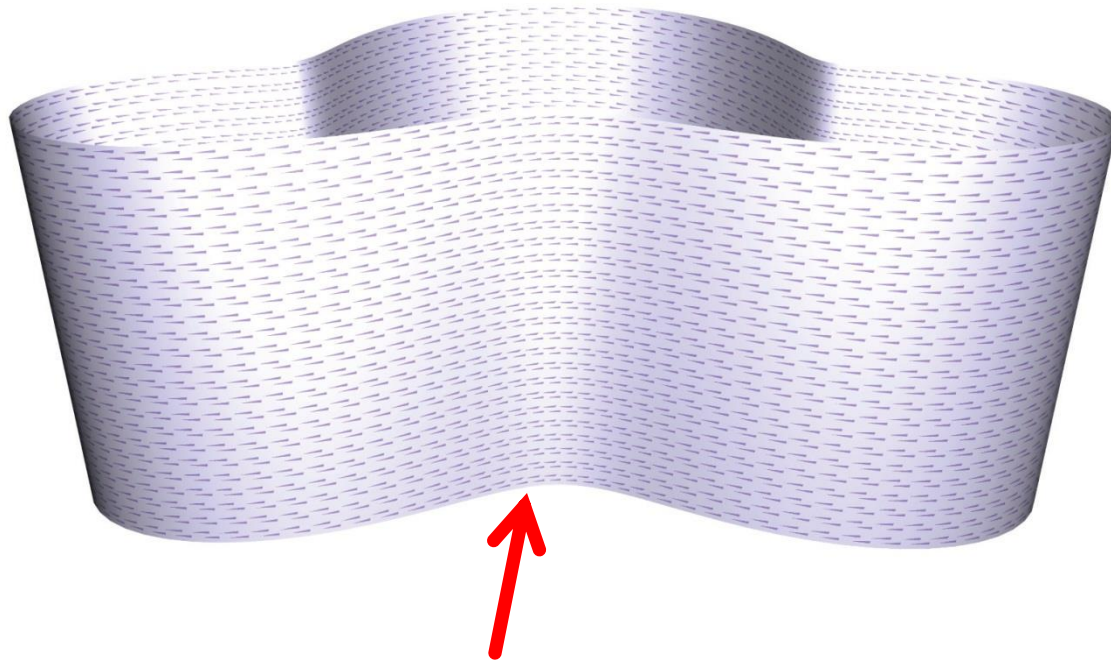
$$\int \operatorname{curl} \vec{v} \, dA = \int_{\partial} \vec{v} \cdot \vec{t} \, dl$$

“Green's Theorem”

# Exterior Calculus

**Extension of vector calculus  
to surfaces (and manifolds).**

# New Rule



Vector fields are  
**tangent!**

Everything  
must be  
**intrinsic!**

# Differential Forms

For each point  $p$  on a surface:

$k$  vectors in  
the tangent  
space at  $p$

*Differential  
 $k$ -form*

$\mathbb{R}$

$k$ -linear

Alternating

[Sanity check: In  $n$  dimensions,  $p$ -forms  
are zero for  $p > n$ .]



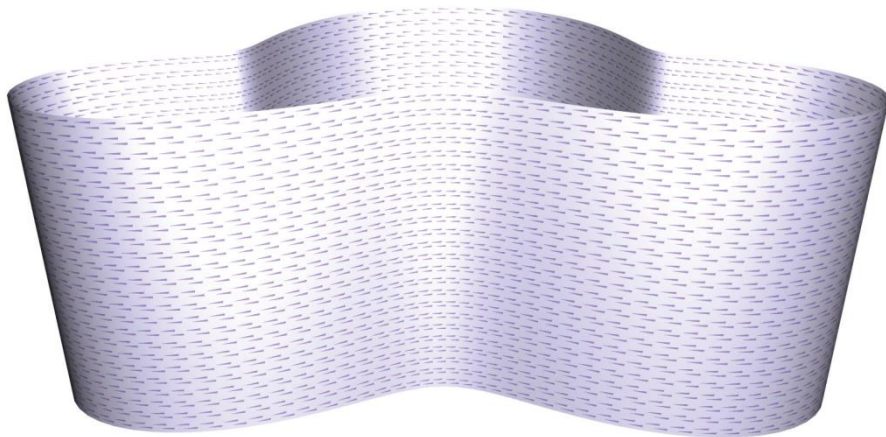
# Easiest Example



$$f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

↓  
**o-form**

# Differential One-Forms



Vector field

$$\vec{v} : \Sigma \rightarrow T\Sigma \subset \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$\vec{v}^\flat \quad \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \uparrow \end{array} \quad \omega^\sharp$$

1-form  $\omega$ :

$$\omega(\vec{x}) = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{x}$$

# Trivia: Musical Isomorphisms



$$\omega^i = \sum_j g^{ij} v_j$$

Sharp operator *raises* indices

# Trivia: Musical Isomorphisms



$$v_i = \sum_j g_{ij} \omega^j$$

**Flat operator *lowers* indices**

# Evaluating One-Forms

$$\omega(\vec{v}) = \sum_i \omega^i v_i$$

**No metric matrix  $g$**

# Zoo of Operators

 $\omega^\#$ 

1-form to vector

 $\vec{v}^\flat$ 

Vector to 1-form

 $d\omega$ 

Exterior derivative

 $\star\omega$ 

Dual

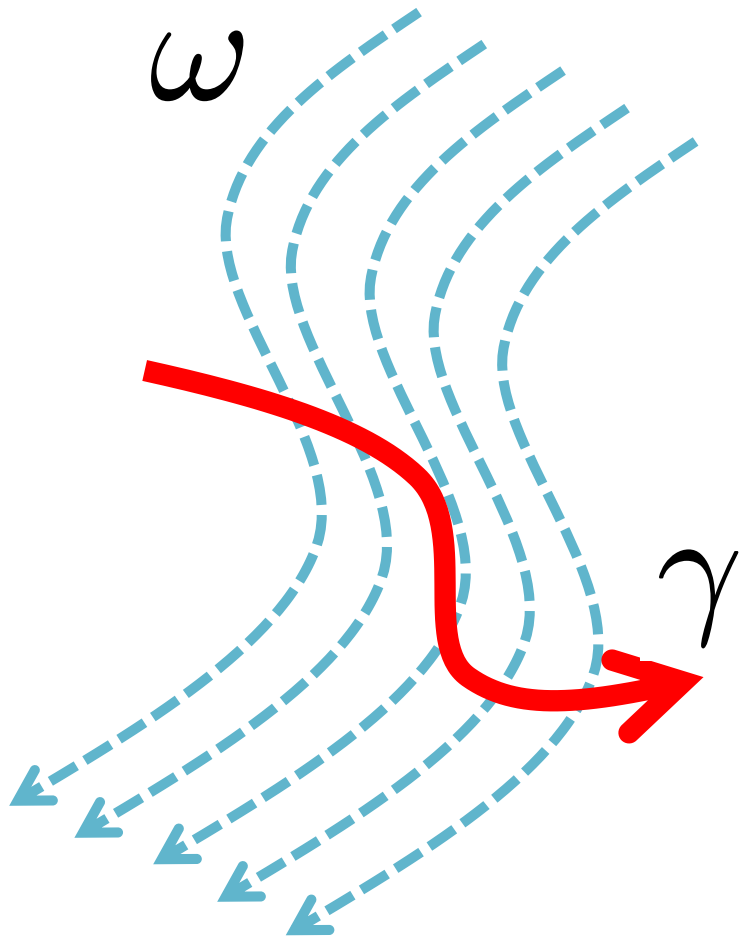
$k$ -forms  $\rightarrow$   $(n-k)$ -form (plane to its normal)

 $\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2$ 

Product of forms

$k, p$ -forms  $\rightarrow$   $(k+p)$ -form (cross product!)

# Integration of $k$ -Forms



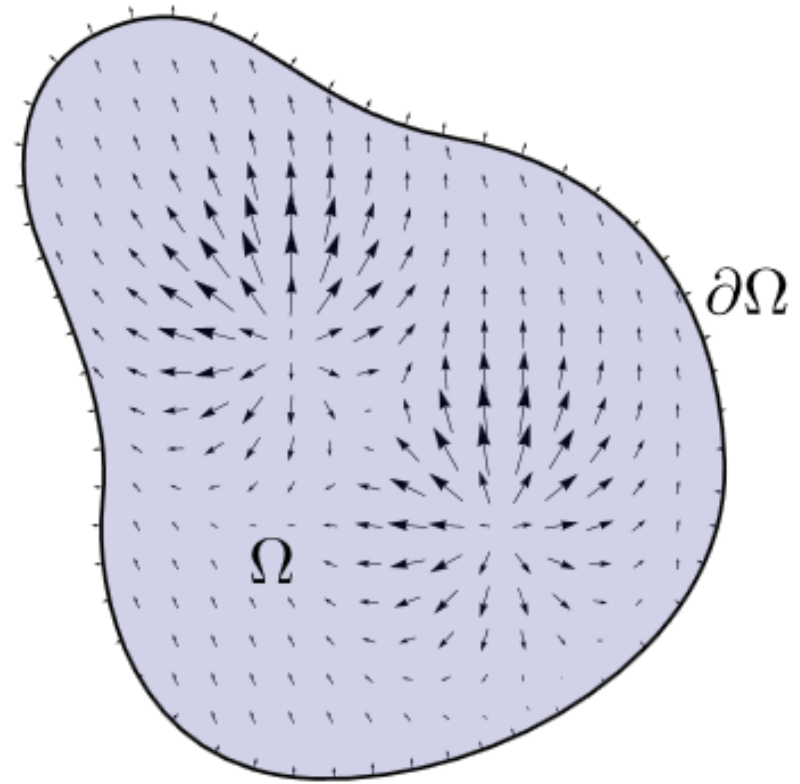
$$\int_{\gamma} \omega \equiv \int_{\gamma} \omega(T) ds$$

**Measures amount  
of  $\omega$  parallel to  $\gamma$**

**Integrate on  $k$ -dimensional objects**

# Stokes' Theorem

$$\int d\omega = \int_{\partial} \omega$$





</math\_review>

# Discrete Exterior Calculus (DEC)

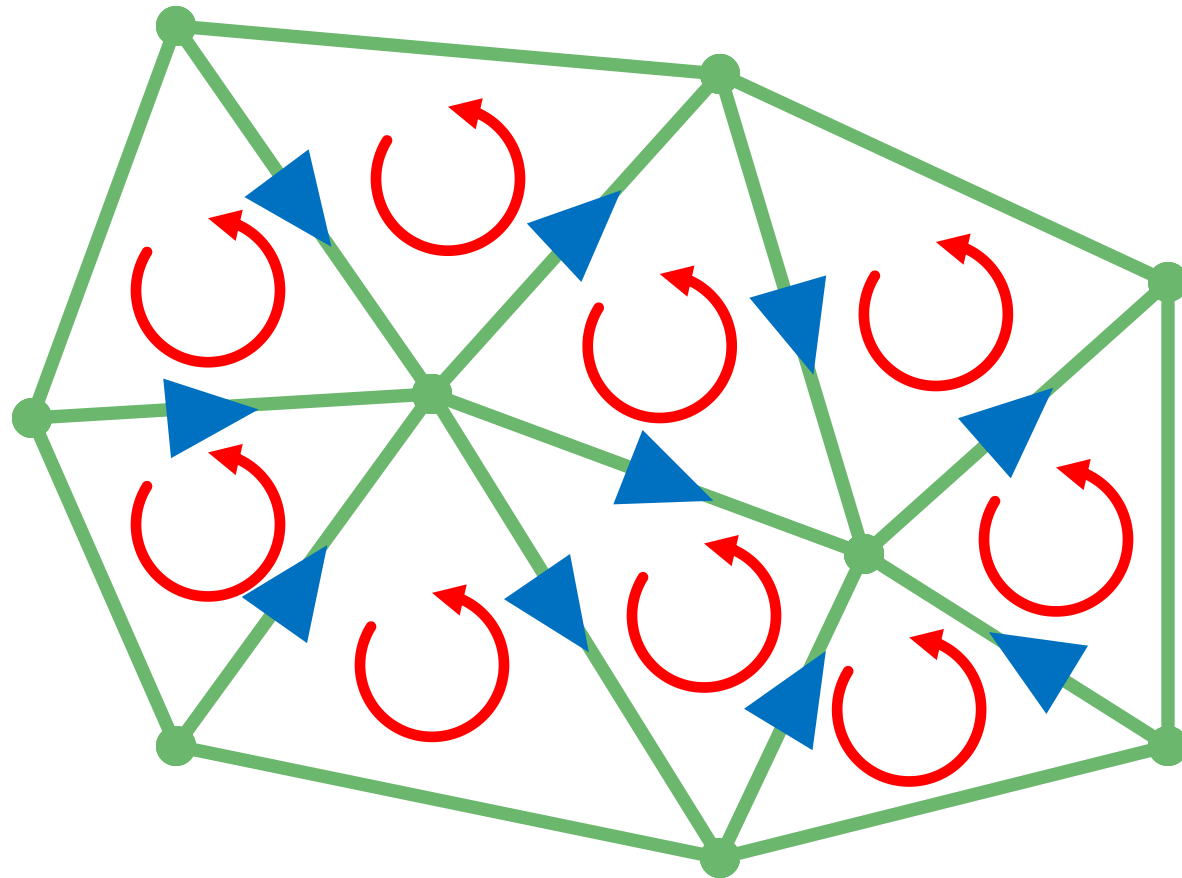
**Discrete** version of exterior calculus.

$$\omega^\# \quad \vec{v}^\flat \quad \omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 \quad \star \omega \quad d\omega$$

...

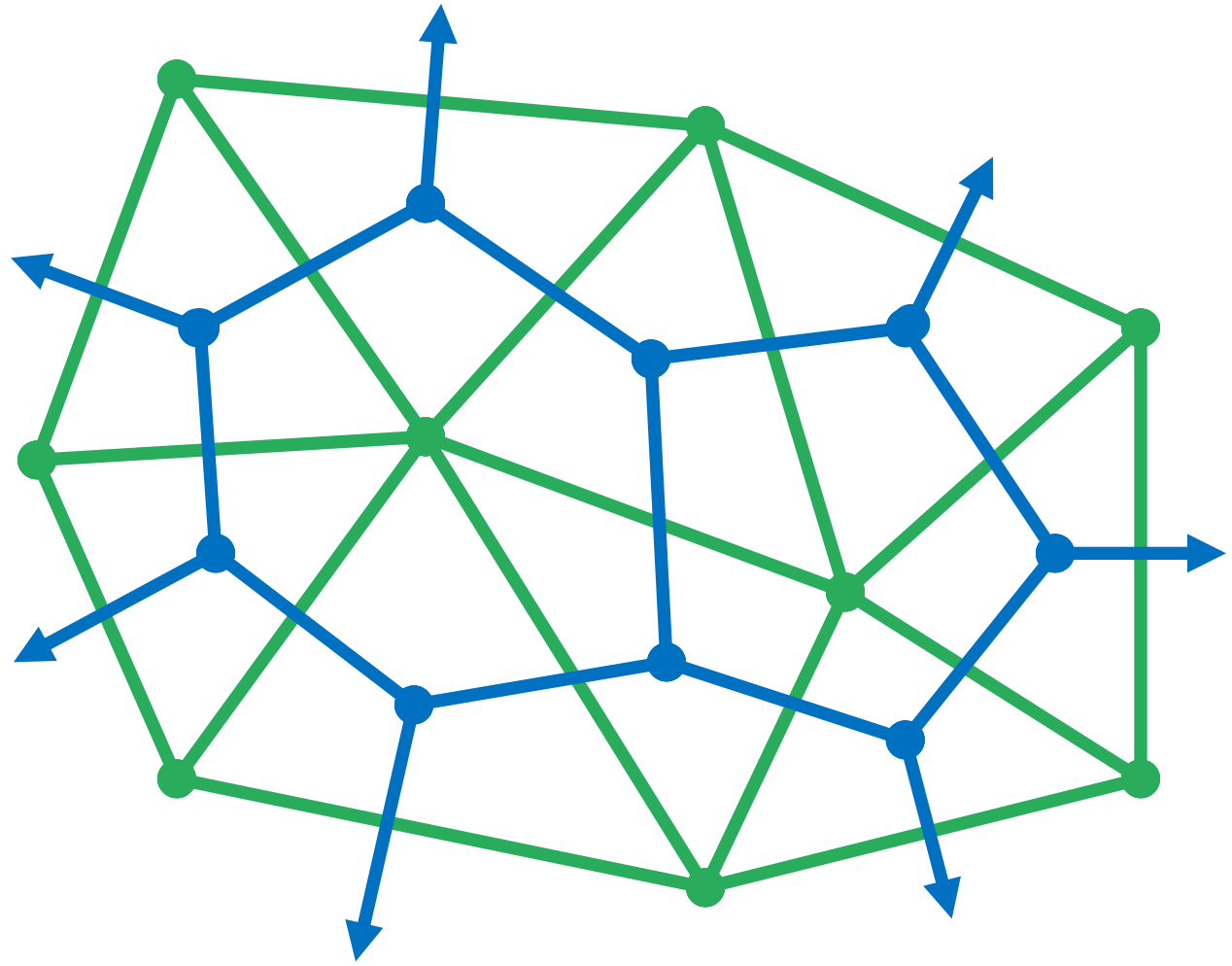
*Recall:*

# Oriented Simplicial Complex



*Recall:*

# Dual Complex

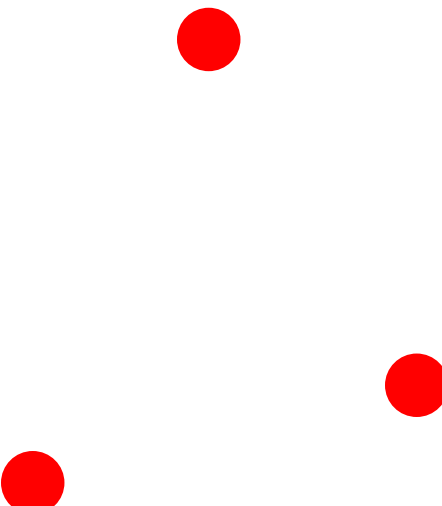


# The Trick

Store *integrals* of  
forms!

# The Trick

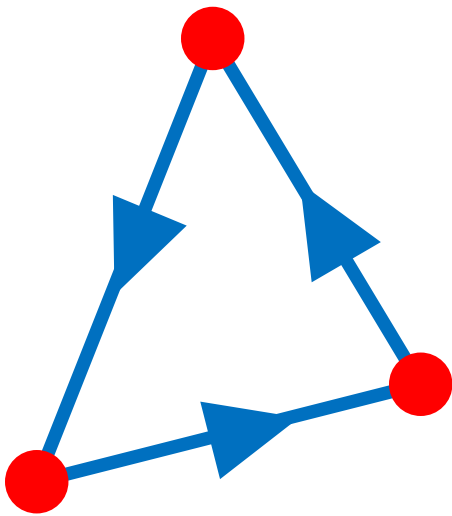
## Discrete 0-form


$$\int_v \omega = f(v) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$$

**Store *integrated* quantities!**

# The Trick

## Discrete 1-form

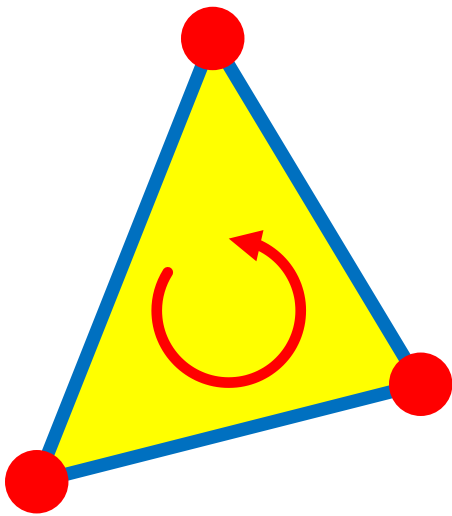


$$\int_e \omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{|E|}$$

**Store *integrated* quantities!**

# The Trick

## Discrete 2-form



$$\int_t \omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{|F|}$$

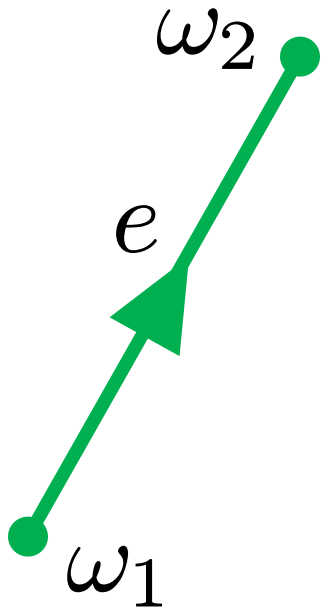
**Store *integrated* quantities!**



# Exterior Derivative

$$\int d\omega = \int_{\partial} \omega$$

Stokes' Theorem



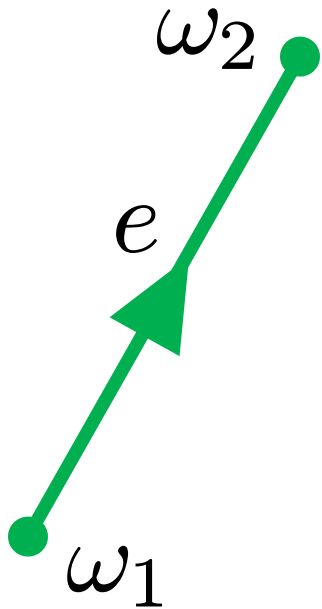
Implemented  
on homework 3!

$$\int_e d\omega = \int_{\partial e} \omega = \omega_2 - \omega_1$$

# Exterior Derivative

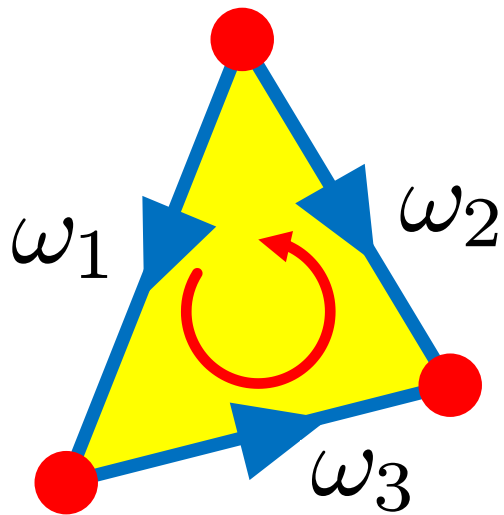
$$d \in \mathbb{R}^{|E| \times |V|}$$

consists of 1, 0, -1



$$\int_e d\omega = \int_{\partial e} \omega = \omega_2 - \omega_1$$

# Exterior Derivative

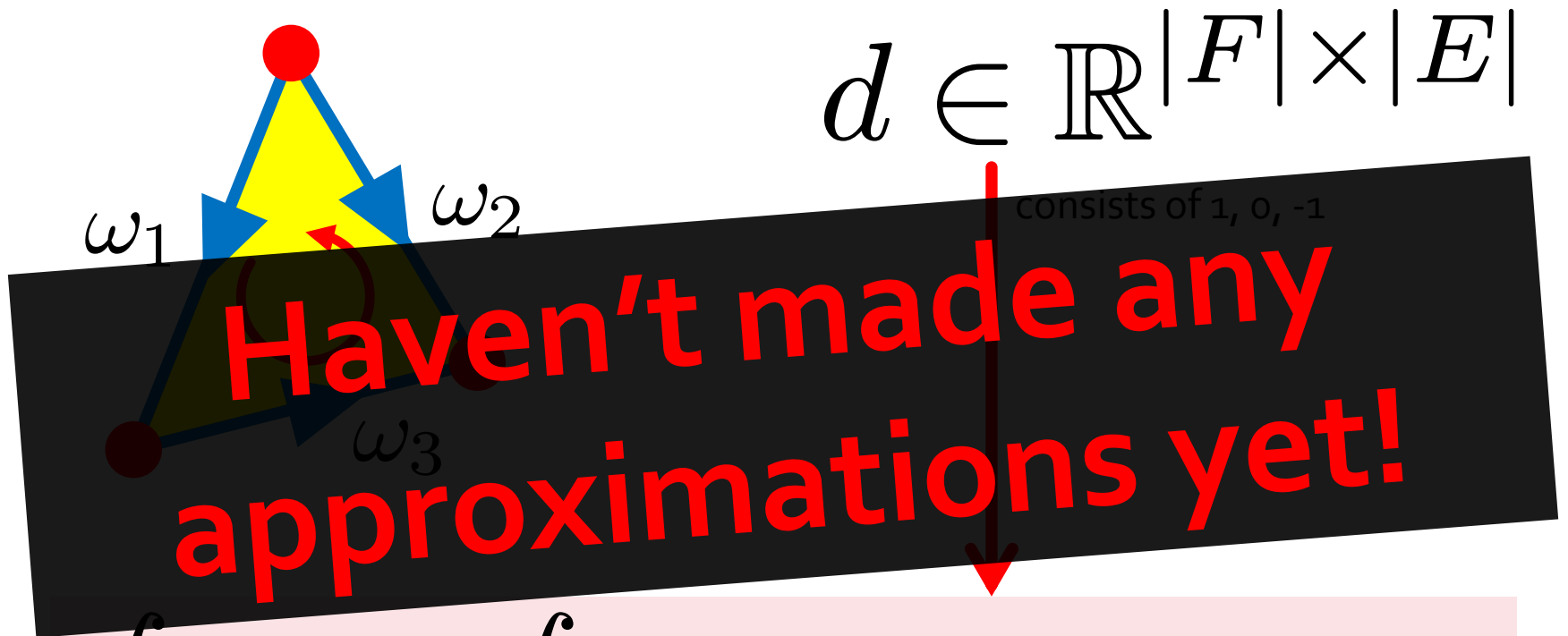


$$d \in \mathbb{R}^{|F| \times |E|}$$

consists of 1, 0, -1

$$\int_t d\omega = \int_{\partial t} \omega = \omega_1 - \omega_2 + \omega_3$$

# Exterior Derivative



$$\int_t d\omega = \int_{\partial t} \omega = \omega_1 - \omega_2 + \omega_3$$

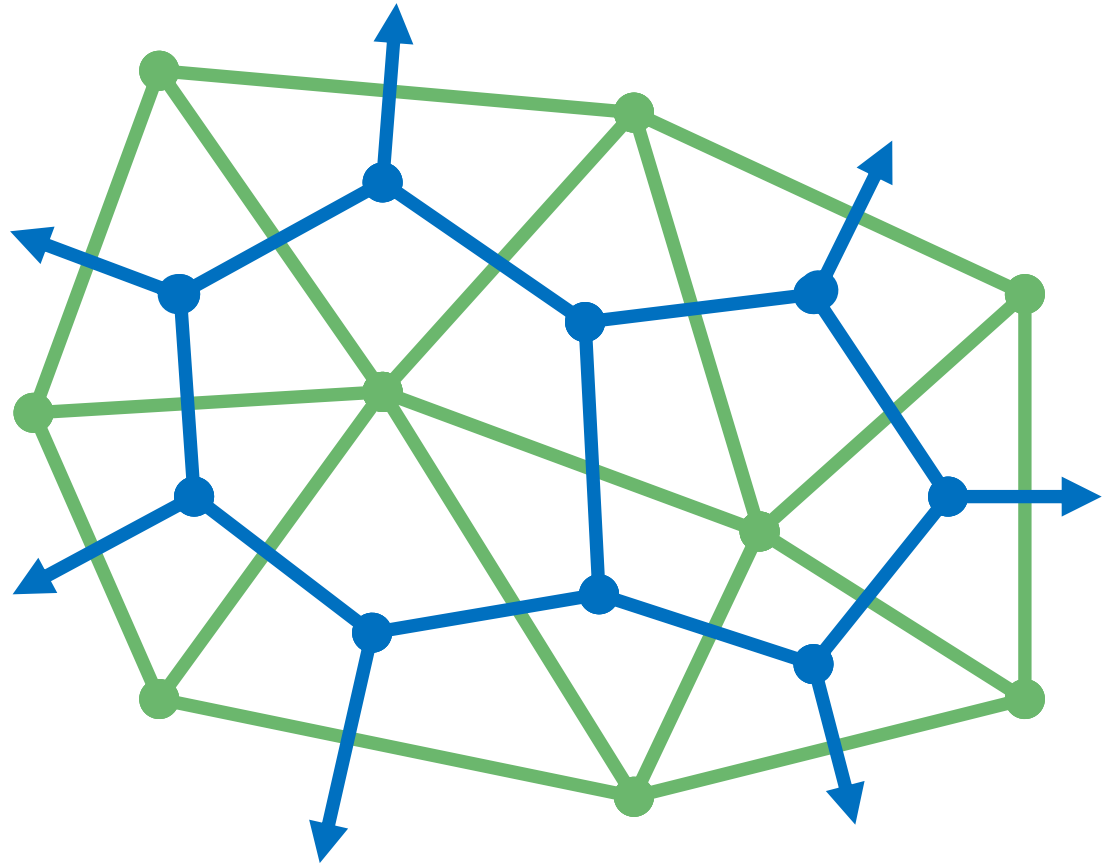
# Observation

$$“d^2 = 0”$$

Proved on  
homework 3!

Two different  $d$  matrices

# Hodge Star: Idea

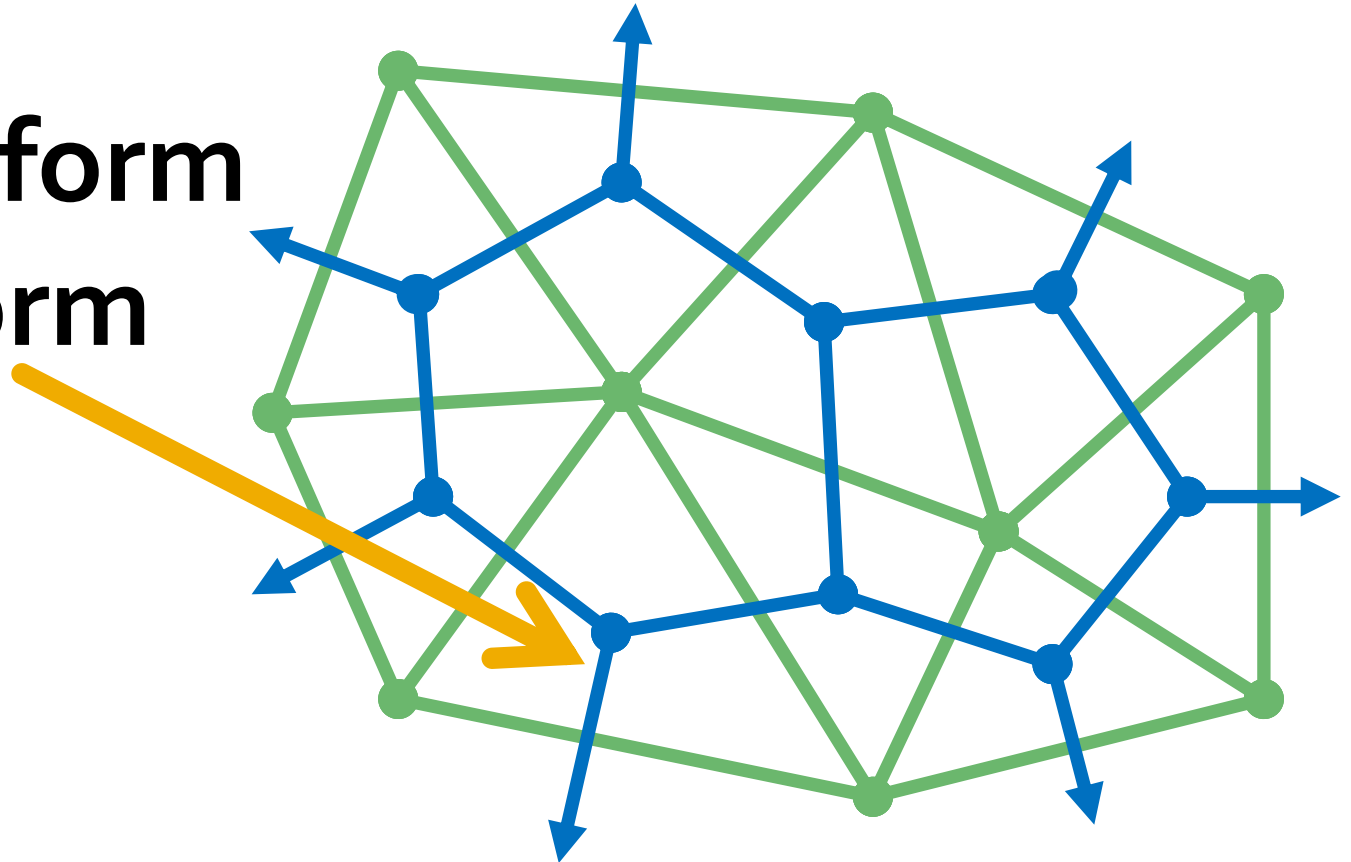


**Moves to dual mesh**

# Hodge Star

Primal **2**-form

Dual **0**-form

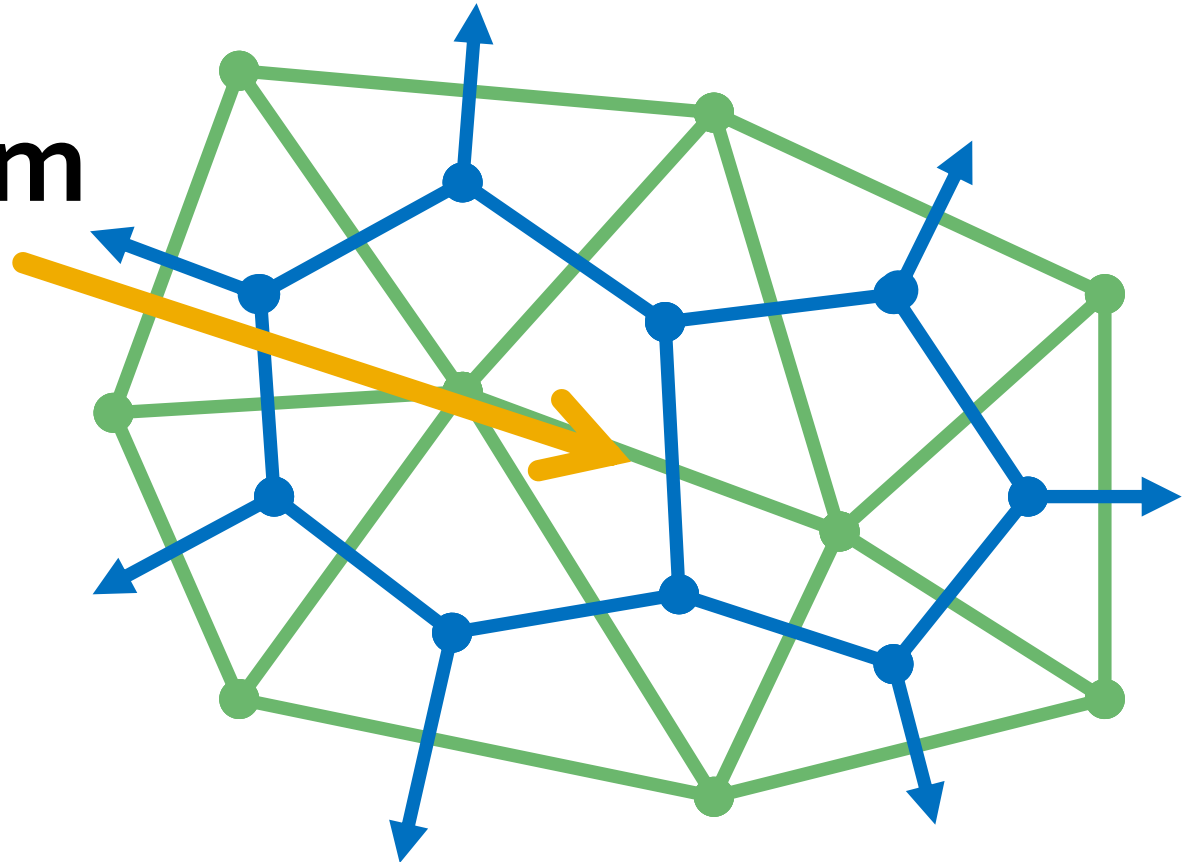


Moves to dual mesh

# Hodge Star

Primal **1**-form

Dual **1**-form

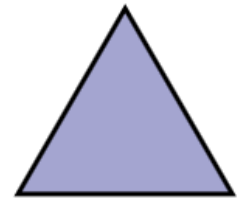
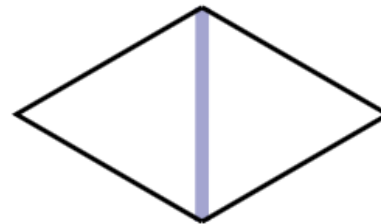
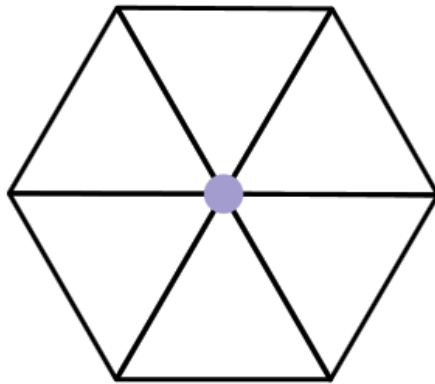


Moves to dual mesh

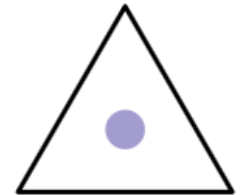
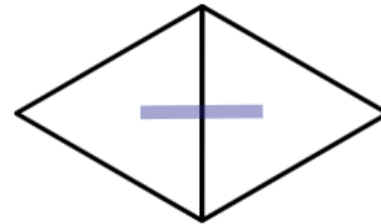
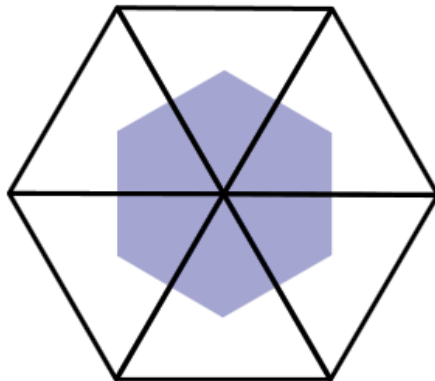


# Hodge Star Matrices

primal

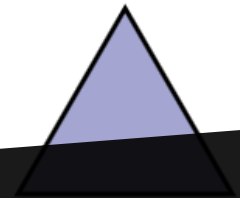
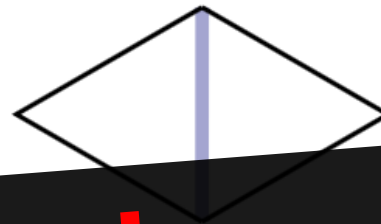
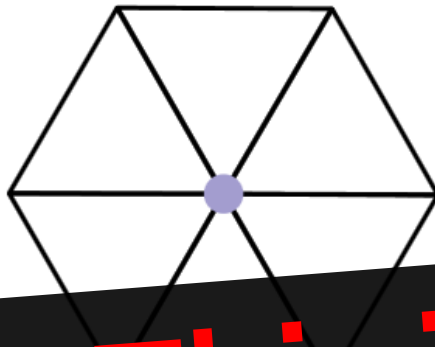


dual



# Hodge Star Matrices

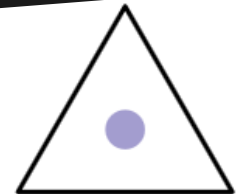
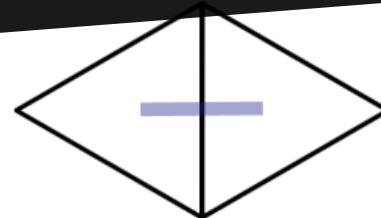
primal



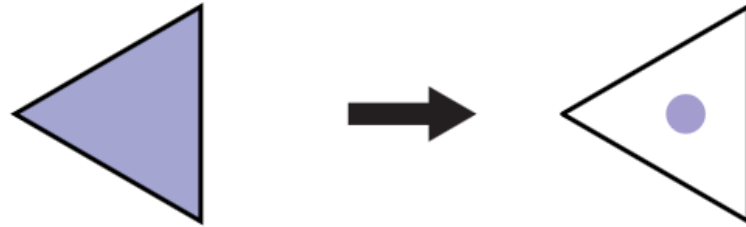
**This is where**

**approximations appear.**

dual



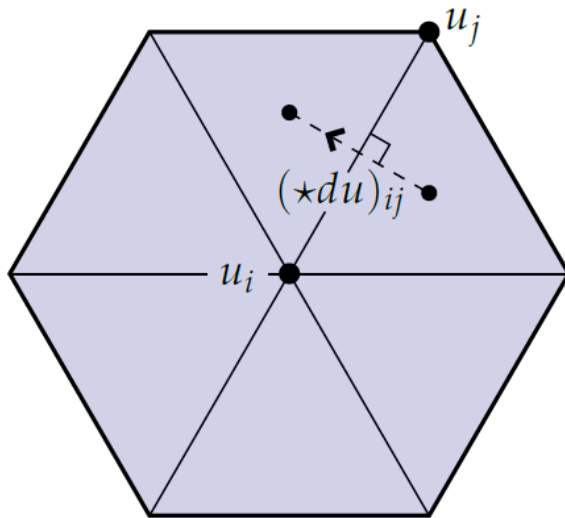
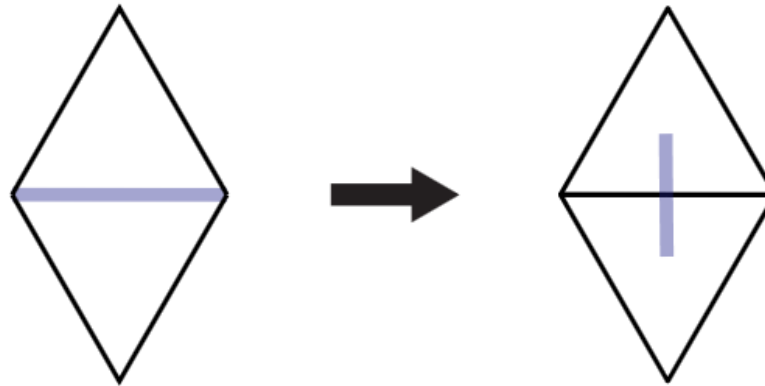
# Primal 2-Form / Dual 0-Form



$$\star_{ii} = \text{Area}(\text{triangle } i)^{-1}$$

**Just triangle areas**

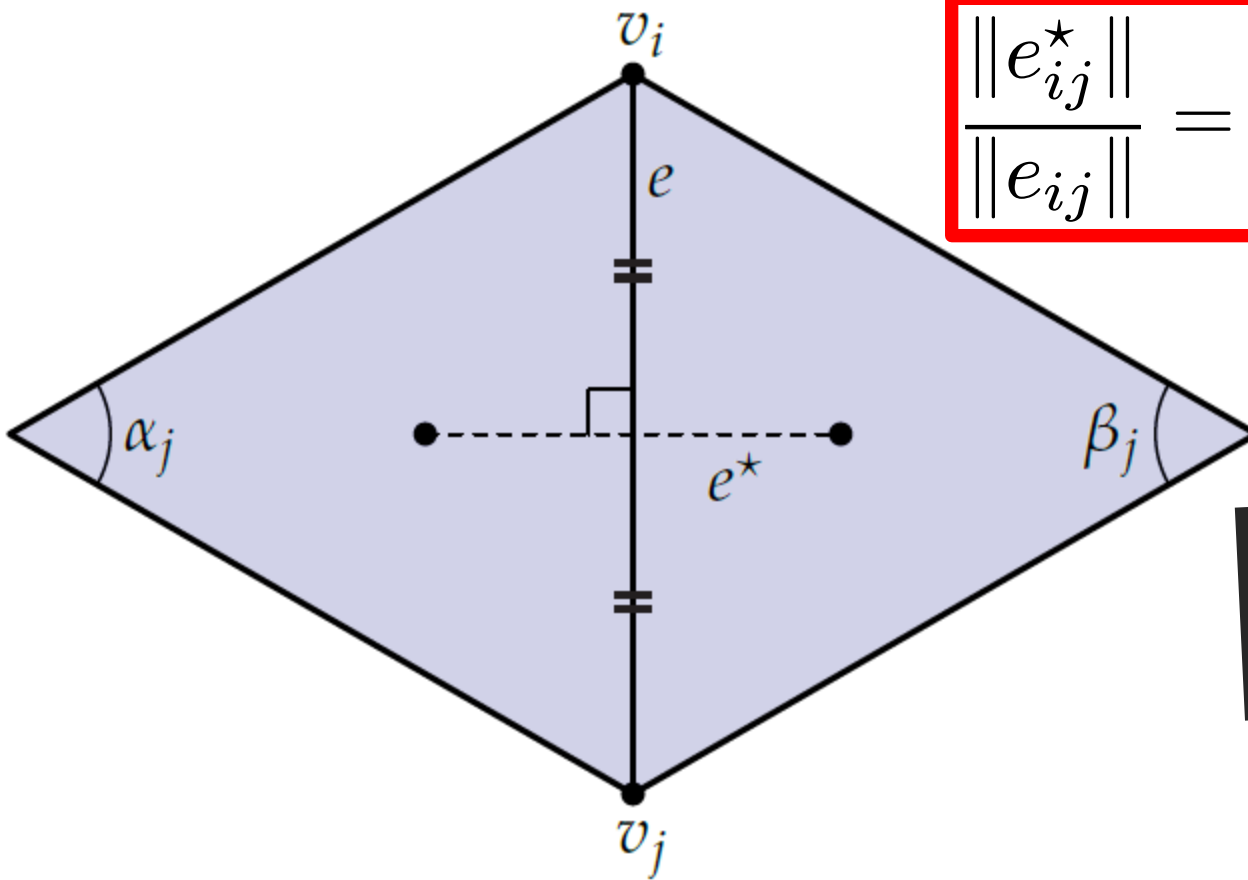
# Primal 1-Form / Dual 1-Form



$$\star\omega = \frac{|e_\star|}{|e|} \omega$$

Ratio of edge lengths

# Primal 1-Form / Dual 1-Form



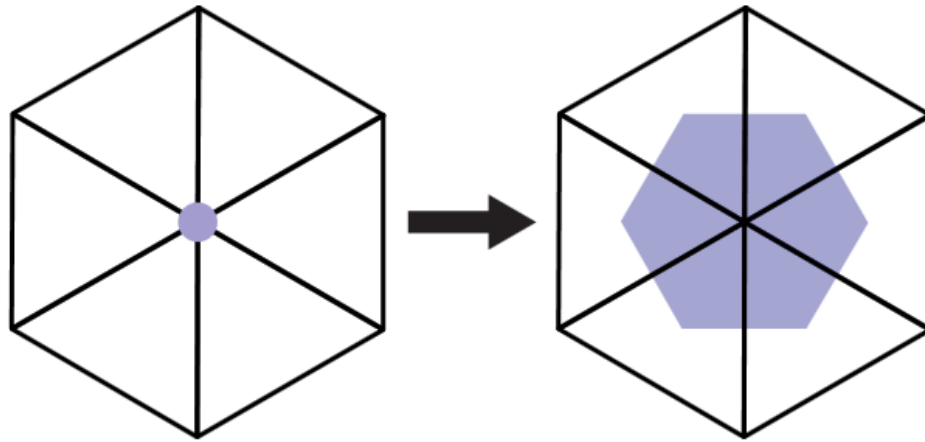
$$\frac{\|e_{ij}^*\|}{\|e_{ij}\|} = \frac{1}{2}(\cot \alpha_j + \cot \beta_j)$$

Omit  
calculation

*Enough already!*

Choice of dual: Circumcenter

# Primal 0-Form / Dual 2-Form

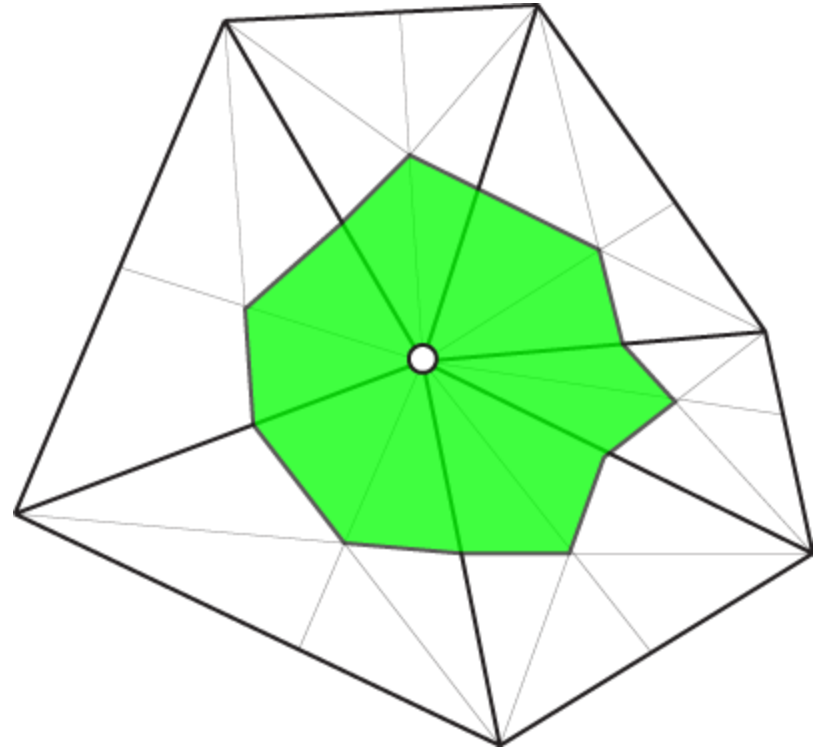
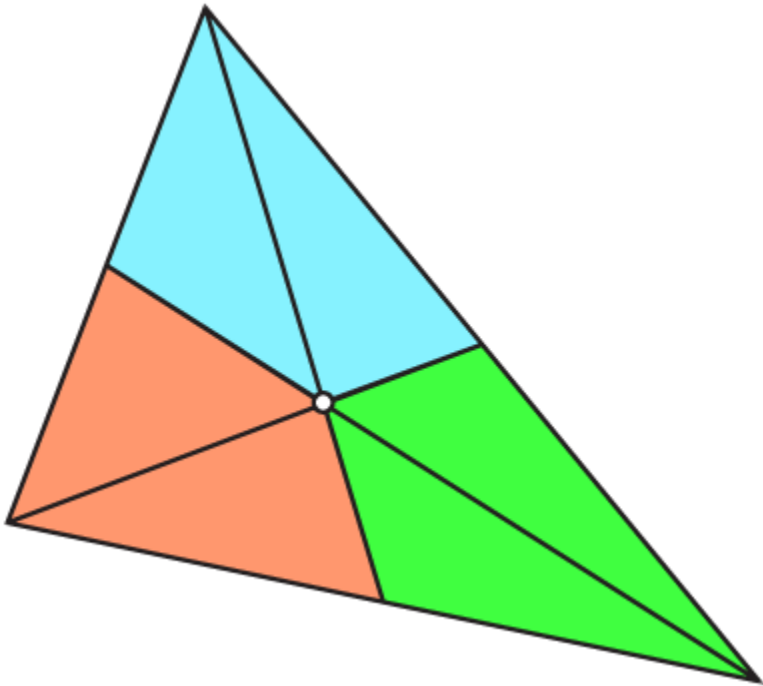


$$\star_{ii} = \text{Area}(\text{cell } i)$$

**Area of dual cell**

*Recall:*

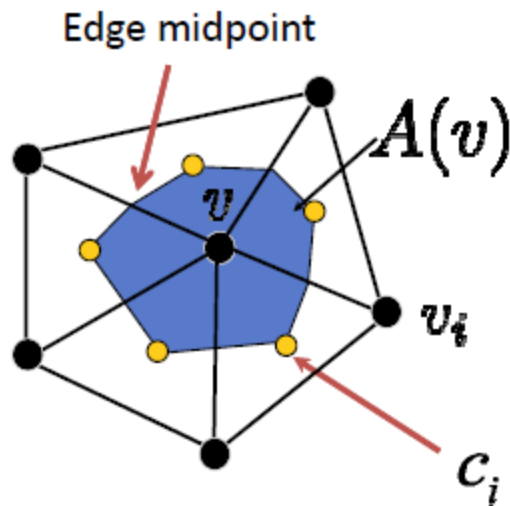
# Barycentric Lumped Mass



<http://www.alecjacobson.com/weblog?p=1146>

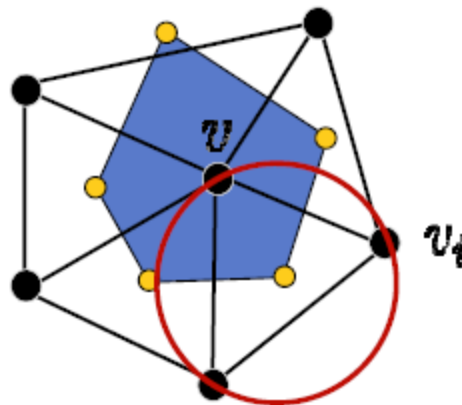
**Area/3 to each vertex**

# Additional Options



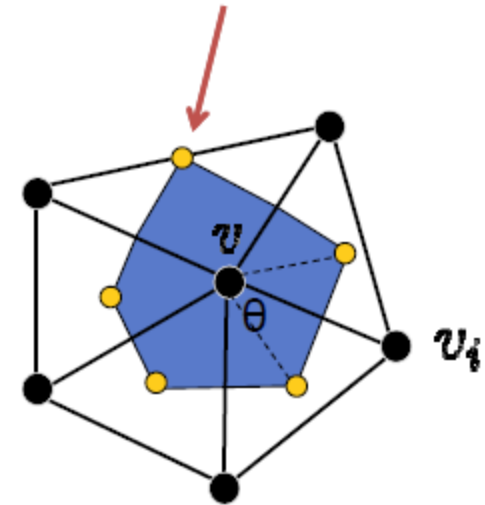
Barycentric cell

$c_i$  = barycenter  
of triangle



Voronoi cell

$c_i$  = circumcenter  
of triangle



Mixed cell

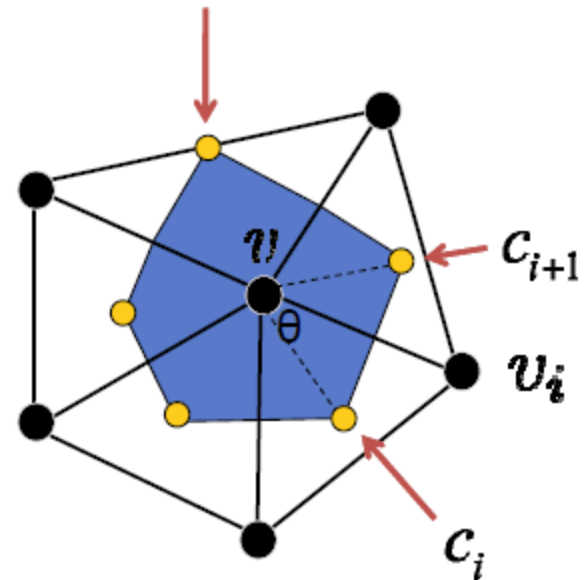


# Mixed Voronoi Cell

If  $\theta < \pi/2$ ,  $c_i$  is the circumcenter of the triangle  $(v_i, v, v_{i+1})$

If  $\theta \geq \pi/2$ ,  $c_i$  is the midpoint of the edge  $(v_i, v_{i+1})$

$$A(v) = \sum_{v_i \in \mathcal{N}(v)} \left( \text{Area}(c_i, v, (v + v_i) / 2) + \text{Area}(c_{i+1}, v, (v + v_i) / 2) \right)$$



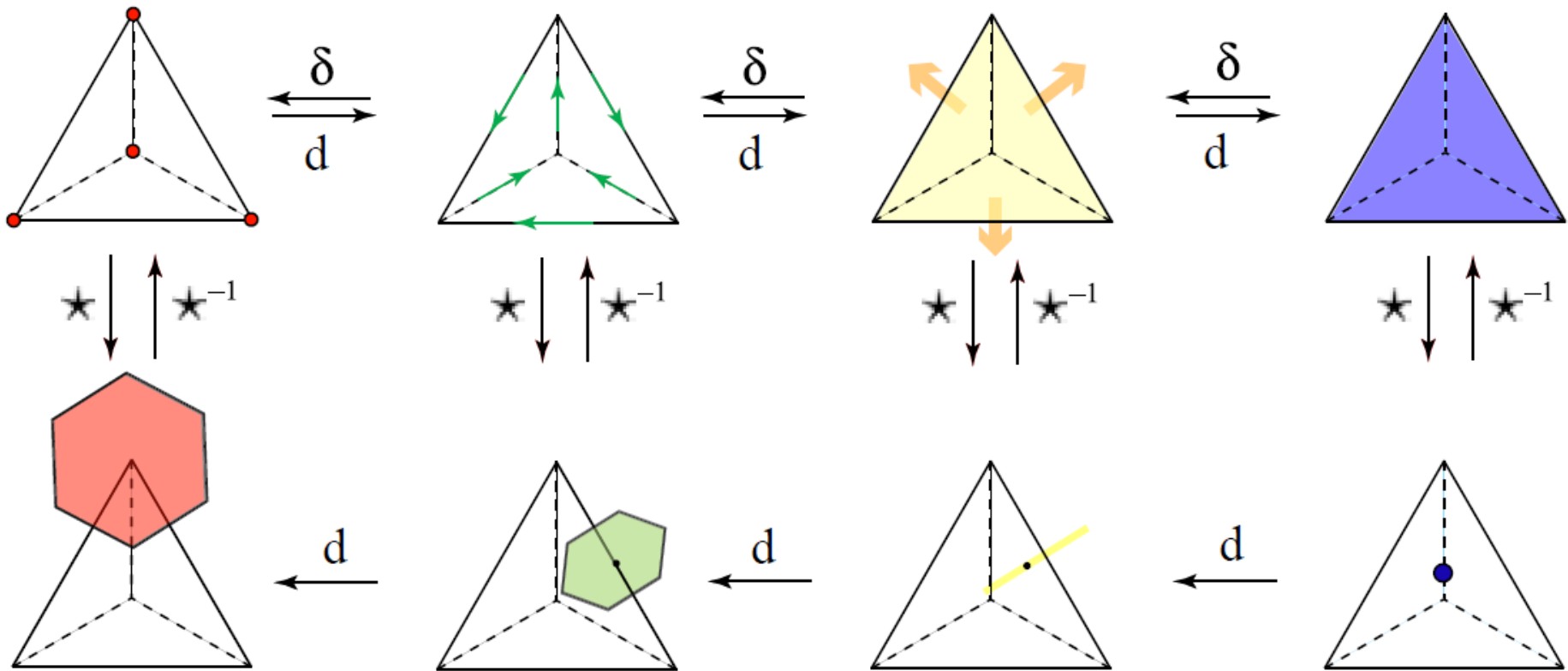
# Discrete deRham Complex

0-forms (vertices)

1-forms (edges)

2-forms (faces)

3-forms (tets)



# Co-Differential

THEOREM.  $\langle d\beta, \alpha \rangle = -\langle \beta, \star d \star \alpha \rangle$

$$\delta \equiv - \star d \star$$

# Hodge Laplacian

$$\Delta = d \star d \star + \star d \star d$$

# 0-Form Laplacian

$$\Delta = \cancel{d \star d \star} + \star \underbrace{d \star d}$$

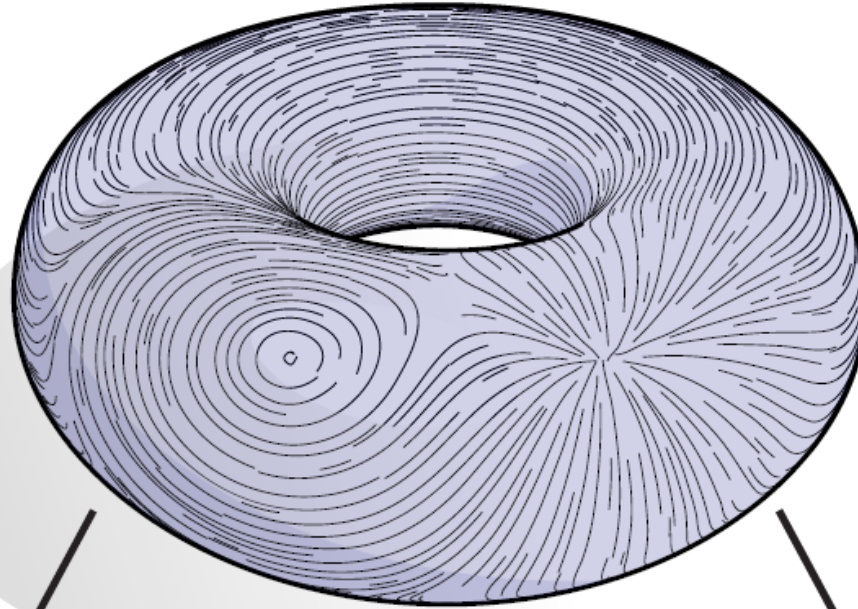
Cotangent Laplacian

# 0-Form Laplacian

$$\Delta = \cancel{d \star d \star} + \underbrace{\star}_{\text{Area weights}} d \star d$$

Area weights

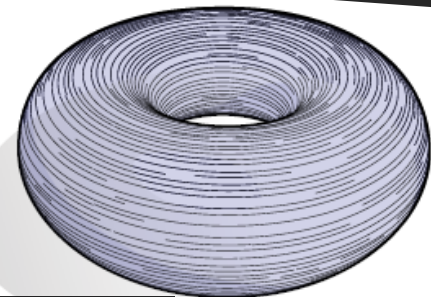
# Helmholtz-Hodge Decomposition



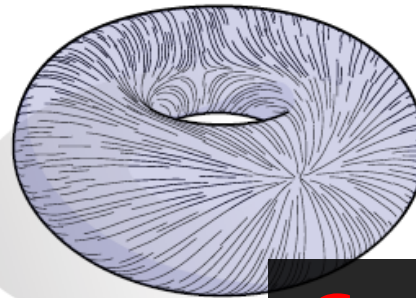
**Divergence free**



**Harmonic**



**Curl free**



# Helmholtz-Hodge Decomposition

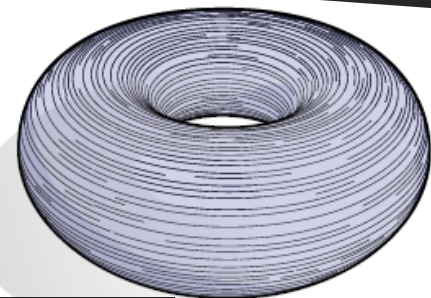
$$\omega = \delta\beta + d\alpha + \gamma$$

where  $d\gamma = 0, \delta\gamma = 0$

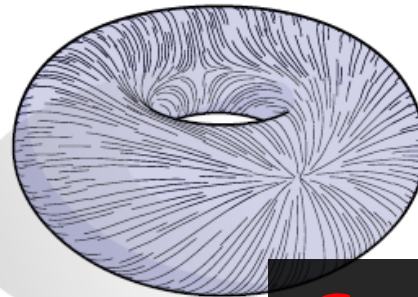
**Divergence free**



**Harmonic**



**Curl free**





# Computing the Decomposition

$$\omega = \delta\beta + d\alpha + \gamma$$

where  $d\gamma = 0, \delta\gamma = 0$

$$\delta d\alpha = \delta\omega$$

$$d\delta\beta = d\omega$$

$$\gamma = \omega - \delta\beta - d\alpha$$

Also exists a simple  
topological  
algorithm

# One-Form Laplacian Eigenforms

$$\omega = \delta\beta + d\alpha + \gamma$$

where  $d\gamma = 0, \delta\gamma = 0$

$$\lambda(-\star d\bar{\beta} + d\alpha + \gamma) = \lambda\omega = \Delta\omega$$

$$= (d\star d\star + \star d\star d)(\delta\beta + d\alpha + \gamma)$$

$$= (d\star d\star + \star d\star d)(-\star d\star\beta + d\alpha)$$

$$= -\star d\star d\star d\star\beta + d\star d\star d\alpha$$

$$= -\star d\Delta\bar{\beta} + d\Delta\alpha$$

$$\bar{\beta} \equiv \star\beta$$

**Conclusion: For  $\lambda \neq 0$ , they're obtained by  $d$  and  $\star d$  of Laplacian eigenfunctions.**

# Recommended Reading

## The Helmholtz-Hodge Decomposition - A Survey

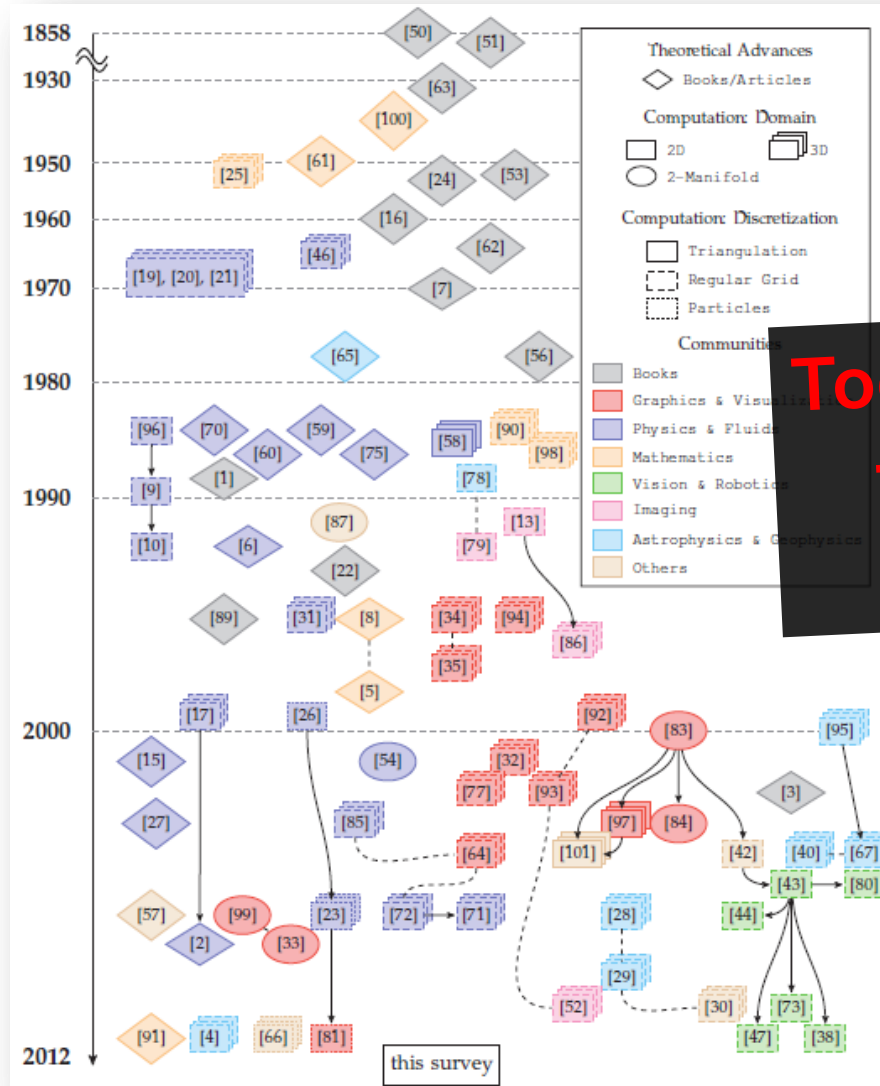
Harsh Bhatia, *Student Member IEEE*, Gregory Norgard, Valerio Pascucci, *Member IEEE*, and Peer-Timo Bremer, *Member IEEE*

**Abstract**—The *Helmholtz-Hodge Decomposition (HHD)* describes the decomposition of a flow field into its divergence-free and curl-free components. Many researchers in various communities like weather modeling, oceanology, geophysics and computer graphics are interested in understanding the properties of flow representing physical phenomena such as incompressibility and vorticity. The HHD has proven to be an important tool in the analysis of fluids, making it one of the fundamental theorems in fluid dynamics. The recent advances in the area of flow analysis have led to the application of the HHD in a number of research communities such as flow visualization, topological analysis, imaging, and robotics. However, since the initial body of work, primarily in the physics communities, research on the topic has become fragmented with different communities working largely in isolation often repeating and sometimes contradicting each others results. Additionally, different nomenclature has evolved which further obscures the fundamental connections between fields making the transfer of knowledge difficult. This survey attempts to address these problems by collecting a comprehensive list of relevant references and examining them using a common terminology. A particular focus is the discussion of boundary conditions when computing the HHD. The goal is to promote further research in the field by creating a common repository of techniques to compute the HHD as well as a large collection of example applications in a broad range of areas.

**Index Terms**—Vector fields, Incompressibility, Boundary Conditions, Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition.



# Recommended Reading

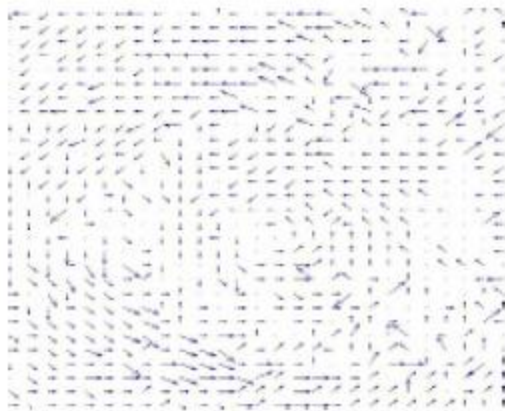


Today will take a few random samples

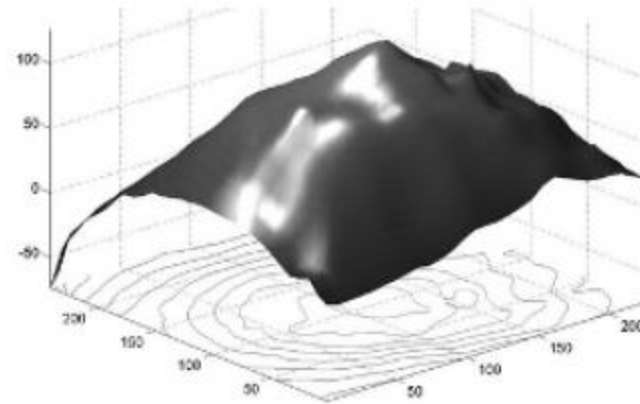
# Simple Application



**Fig. 2.** Sequence of images from the Hurricane Luis sequence, with eye segmented



(a)



(b)

**Fig. 1.** (a) Motion field in a anticlockwise rotating hurricane sequence extracted using the BMA. (b) The divergence free potential function with a distinct maximum and corresponding contours.

Palit, Basu, Mandal. "Applications of the Discrete Hodge Helmholtz Decomposition to Image and Video Processing." LNCS.

# Fluid Simulation

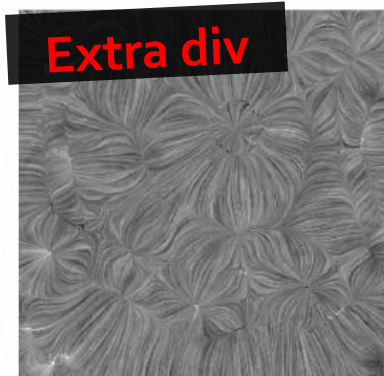
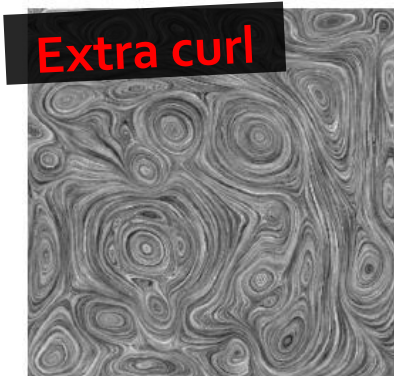
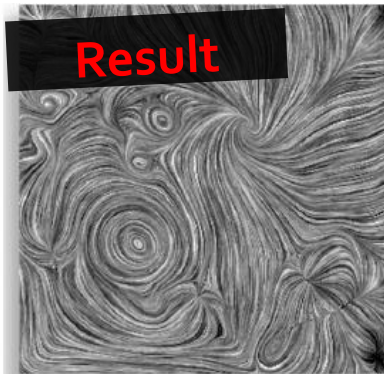
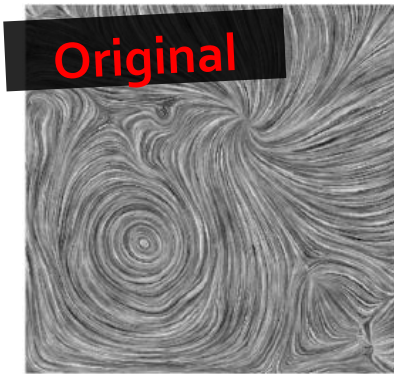


Divergence-free  
projection

Stam. "Stable Fluids." SIGGRAPH 1999. (and many others)

**Incompressible: No divergence**

# Vector Field Editing

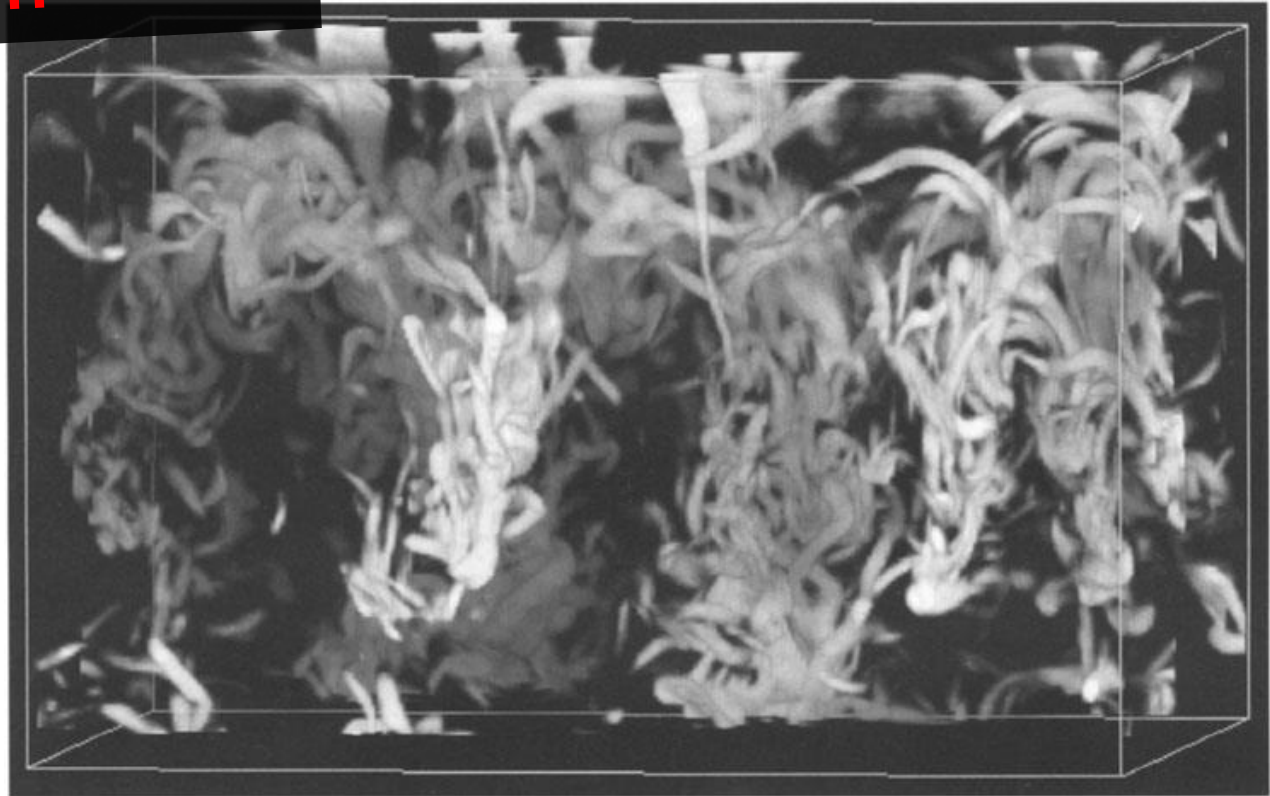


Tong et al. "Discrete Multiscale  
Vector Field Decomposition."  
TOG 2003.

# Computational Physics

Separate turbulence  
from acoustics in solar  
simulation

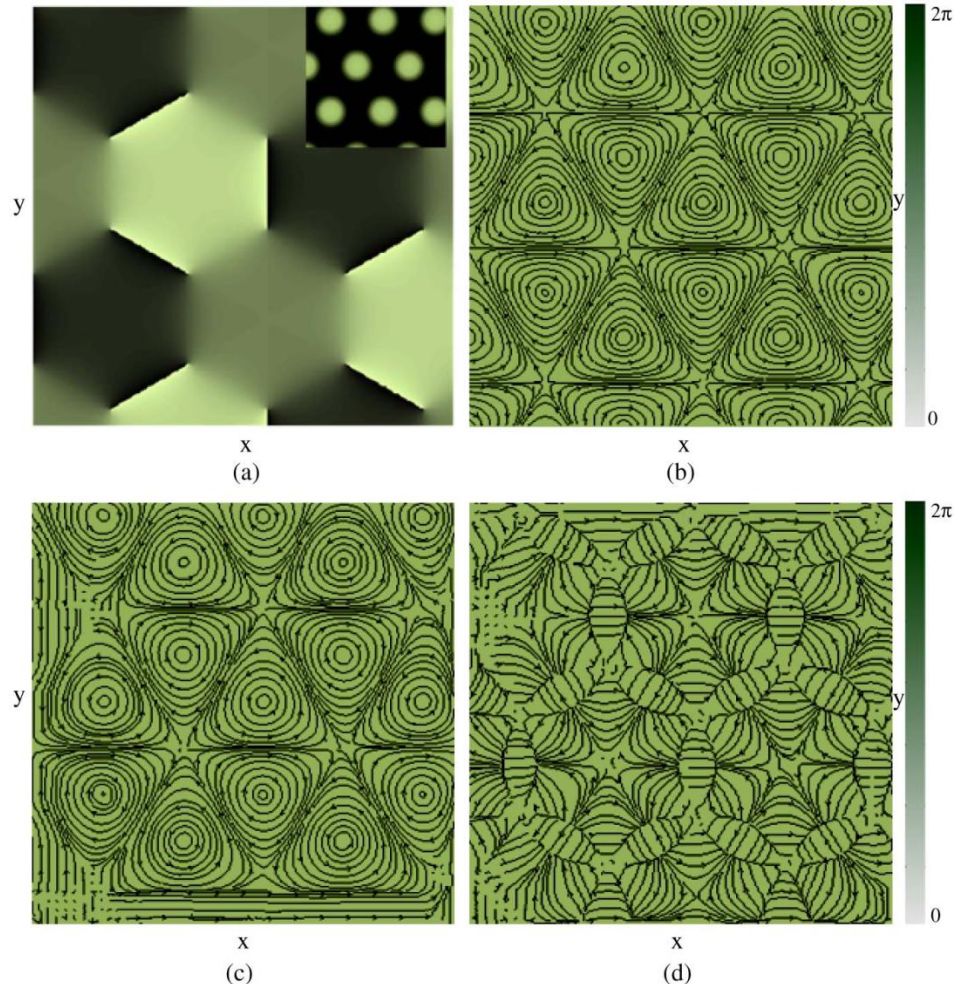
Stein and Nordlund.  
"Realistic Solar Convection  
Simulations."  
*Solar Physics* 2000.





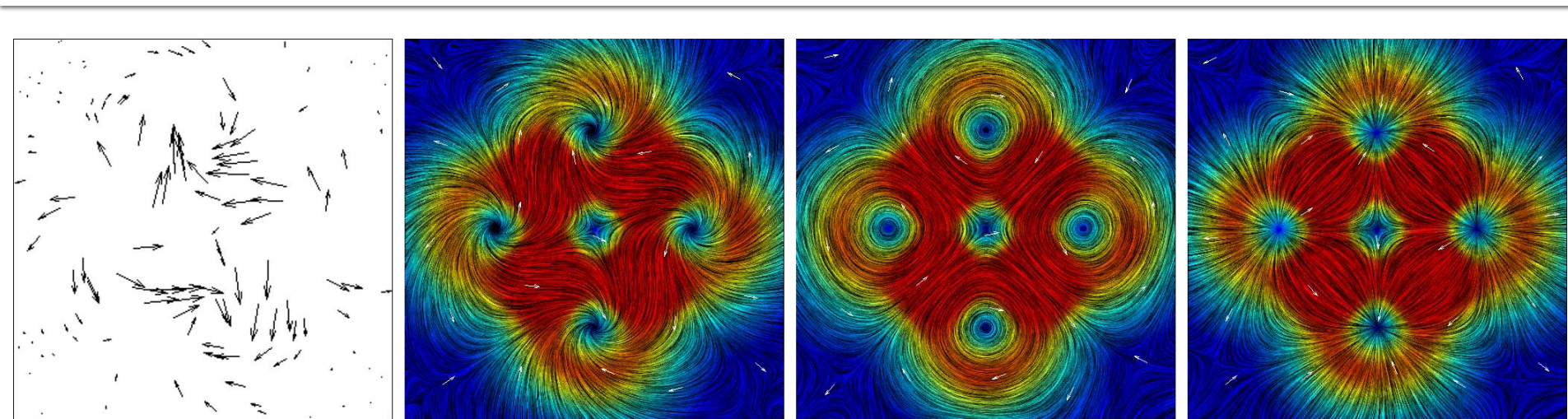
# Computational Physics

Analyze  
interference  
and  
diffraction  
optics



Bahl and Senthilkumaran. "Helmholtz Hodge Decomposition of Scalar Optical Fields." J. Opt. Soc. Am. A 2012.

# Reconstruct VF from Noisy Samples



$$\Phi_{df}(x) = H\phi(x) - \text{tr}\{H\phi(x)\}I$$

$$\Phi_{cf}(x) = -H\phi(x)$$

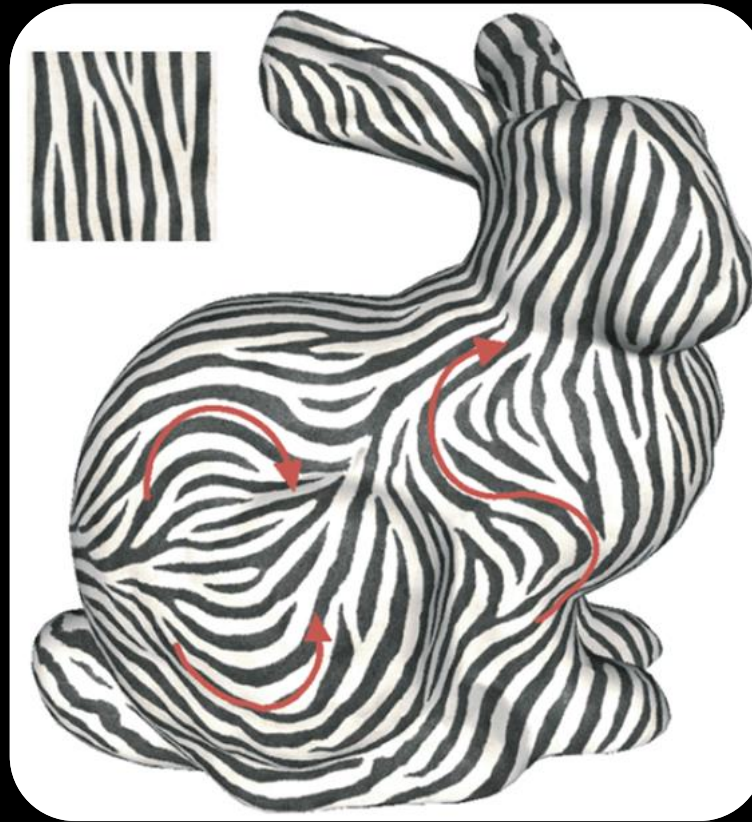
Macedo and Castro.

“Learning Divergence-Free and Curl-Free Vector Fields with Matrix-Valued Kernels.”

# Wrapping Up for Today

- Another cotangent Laplacian
- Helmholtz-Hodge Decomposition

*Many more applications!*



# Discrete Exterior Calculus



CS 468, Spring 2013

Differential Geometry for Computer Science

Justin Solomon and Adrian Butscher