



# The Relationship between Discrete Calculus Methods and other Mimetic Approaches

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Theoretical and Computational Fluid Dynamics Laboratory

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**Woudschoten Conference**  
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# Background

## Hardware:

GPUs, FPGAs, HPC, Algorithms



## Numerical Methods:

Unstructured Staggered mesh methods, Fractional step methods, **Discrete Calculus Methods.**



## Turbulence Modeling:

Turbulent Potentials, Eddy Collision Model



## Applications:

Wind Turbines, DNS, Super-hydrophobic surfaces, droplets.

# Mimetic Methods

**FE: Raviart-Thomas/Nedelec/Whitney**

- Algebraic Topology
- Electromagnetics

**FV: Staggered Mesh Methods**

- Many local conservation properties
- Fluid Dynamics

**FD: Keller Box**

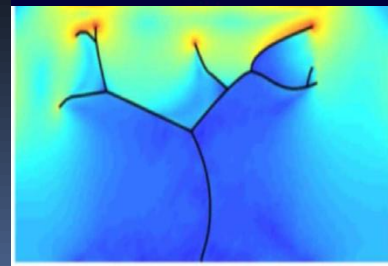
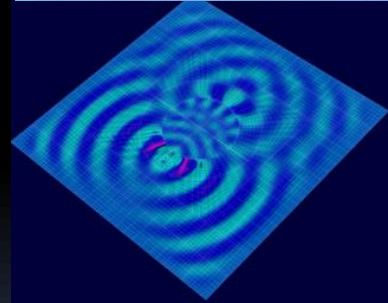
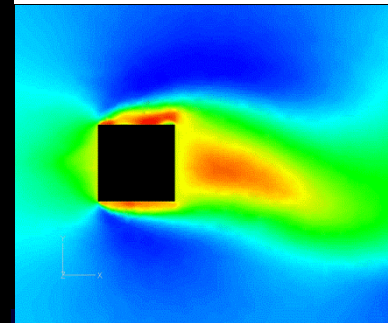
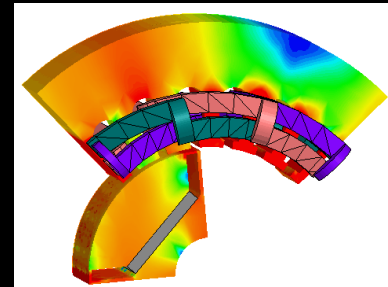
- Multi-symplectic
- Wave Eqns

**FD: SOM Box**

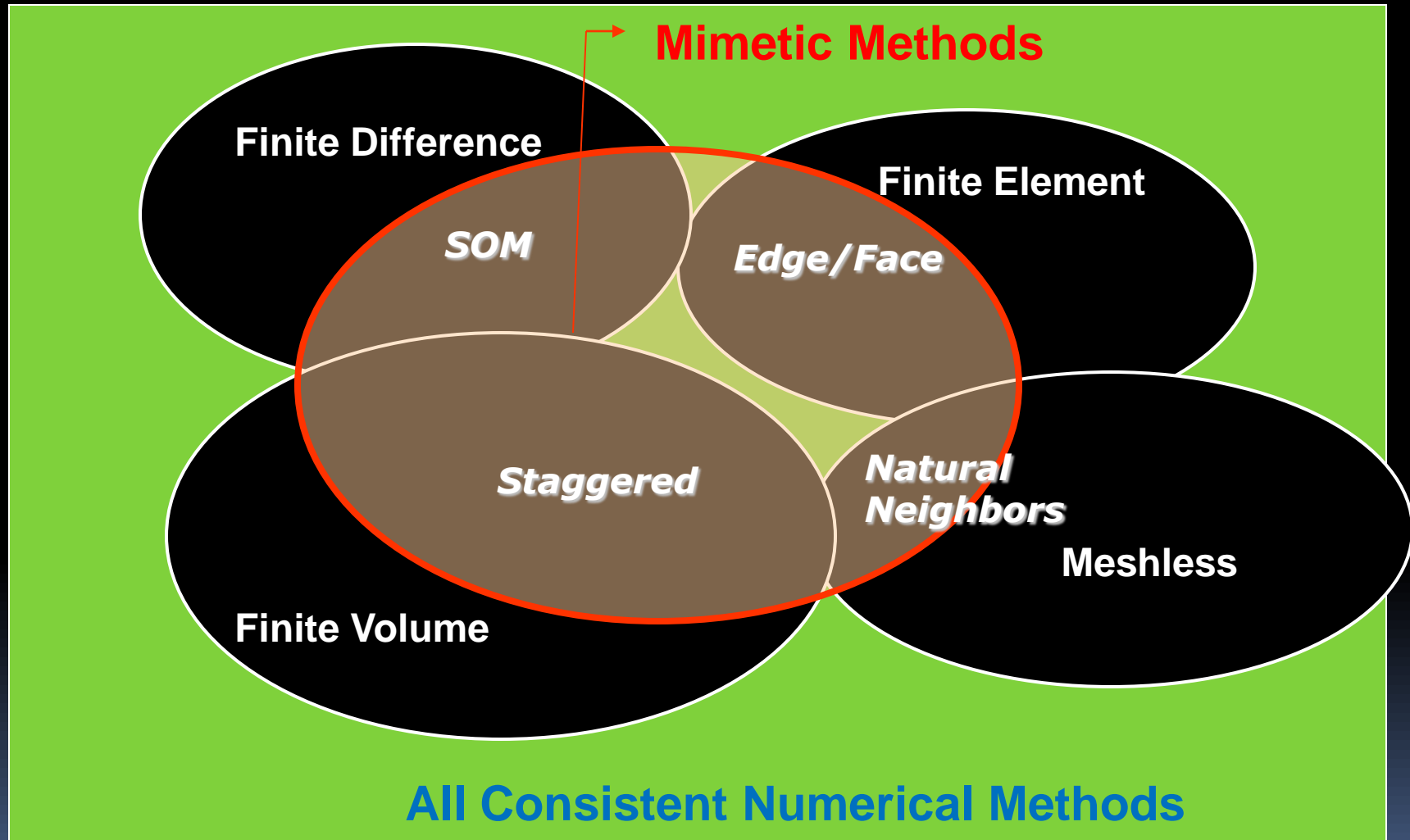
- Robust
- Heat Eqn

**NN: Non-Sibsonian Meshless methods**

- Time-dependent domains
- Solid mechanics



# Numerical Methods



# Question

**Is there any relationships between the various mimetic methods?**

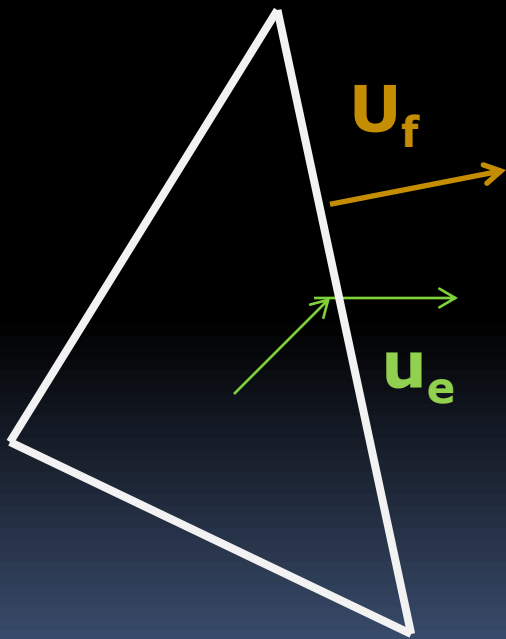
**(1) Yes – many (all ?) can be derived as discrete calculus methods.**

**(2) Yes – they tend to use the same basis functions.**

# Incompressible Fluid Dynamics

$$u_{\tilde{e}}^{n+1} - u_{\tilde{e}}^n = \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} dt \int (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}) \cdot d\mathbf{l} - \mathbf{G} \bar{p}_{\tilde{c}}$$

$$\mathbf{D}U_f^{n+1} = 0$$



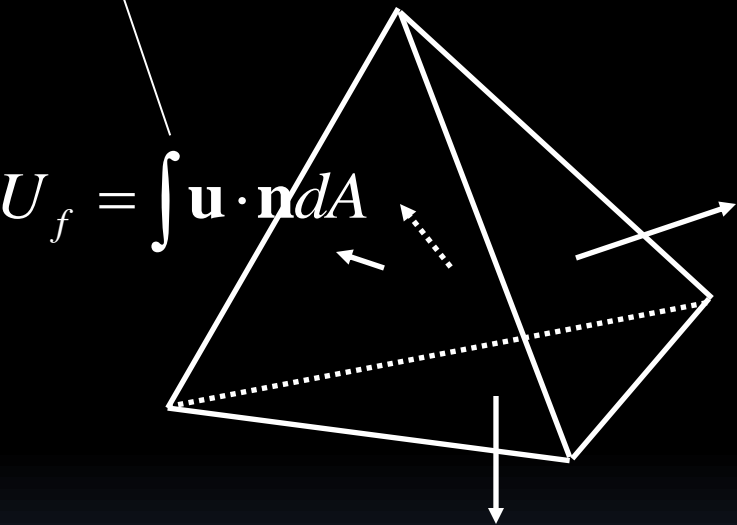
**Need to relate these two**

$$U_f = \int \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} dA$$

$$u_{\tilde{e}} = \int \mathbf{u} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$

# FE Basis Functions

Heat Flux  
Magnetic Flux  
Velocity Flux



## Face Elements Nedelec/RT/Whitney

$$\vec{\mathbf{u}}^h(\mathbf{x}) = \vec{\mathbf{u}}^0 + \frac{D}{n} \vec{\mathbf{x}}$$

**Interpolant with continuity of the normal flux**

$$\mathbf{u}^h \cdot \mathbf{n}^f = \mathbf{u}^0 \cdot \mathbf{n}^f + \frac{D}{n} L_{\perp}^f$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}^h = D$$

**Constant normal velocity on each face**

**Constant divergence**

# FE Hodge

$$\vec{\mathbf{u}}^h(\mathbf{x}) = \vec{\mathbf{u}}^0 + \frac{D}{n} \vec{\mathbf{x}}$$

Find the constants given the data (4x4)

$$\mathbf{u}^0 \cdot \mathbf{n}^{f1} + \frac{L_{\perp}^{f1}}{n} D = \frac{1}{A_{f1}} U_{f1}$$

$$u_{\tilde{e}} = \int \mathbf{u}^h \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$

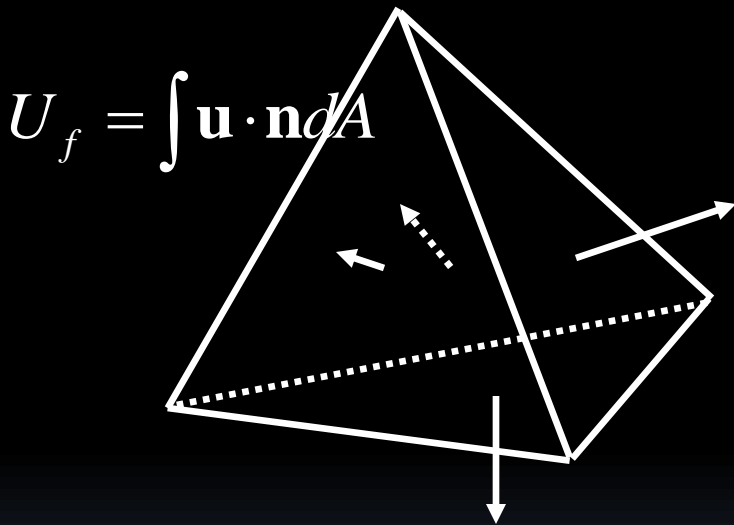
Evaluate the integral

The basis function determines the relationship between the two velocities



# StagMesh Interpolation

$$\int (u_{i,i} x_j + u_j) dV = \int (u_i x_j)_{,i} dV = \int (x_j) u_i n_i dA$$



- **Gauss' Theorem (Again)**
- **Assume constant flux on face**
- **Assume constant divergence**

$$\bar{\mathbf{u}}_c V = \sum_{faces} U_f (\mathbf{x}_f^{cg} - \mathbf{x}_c^{cg})$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{u}}_c = \frac{1}{V_c} \mathbf{R} U_f$$

**SM = implicit  
basis functions**

# StagMesh Hodge

**Average Cell velocity**  $\bar{\mathbf{u}}_c = \frac{1}{V_c} \mathbf{R} U_f$

$$u_e = \mathbf{R}^T \bar{\mathbf{u}}_c \quad \text{for incompressible}$$

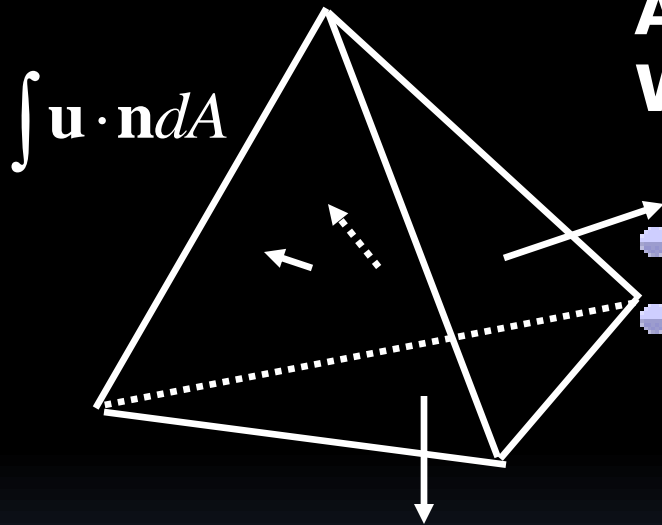
$$u_e = (\mathbf{R}^T \frac{1}{V_c} \mathbf{R}) U_f$$

- **Explicit Formula for the same matrix relationship (Hodge\*) as FE**
- **Symmetric**
- **Generalizable to polyhedra**
- **The intermediate is a (cell average) velocity vector. (Momentum, KE)**

# FD Interpolation

**SOM**

**Use 3 face values at each vertex**  
**Average vectors to center**  
**Works on (almost) any polygon**



- **Assumes constant on face**
- **Assumes constant divergence**

**CoVolume**

**Use Least Squares**  $\mathbf{N}\vec{\mathbf{u}}_c = \frac{1}{A_f} U_f$

- **Also same cell velocity**

# FE Basis Functions

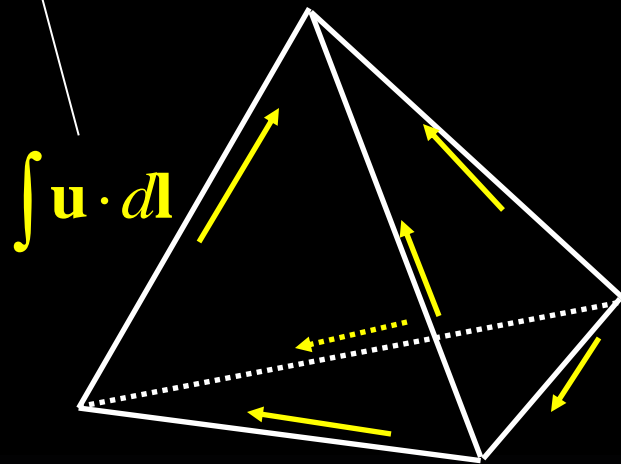
1-forms

Temperature Gradient  
Electric Field  
Velocity

Edge Elements  
Nedelec/RT/Witney

$$\vec{\mathbf{u}}^h(\mathbf{x}) = \vec{\mathbf{u}}^0 + \frac{1}{n-1} \vec{\mathbf{w}} \times \vec{\mathbf{x}}$$

Interpolant with  
continuity of the  
tangential components



Constant tangential  
velocity on each edge

$$\mathbf{u}^h \cdot \mathbf{t}^e = \mathbf{u}^0 + \frac{1}{n-1} (\mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{L}_{\perp}^e) \cdot \mathbf{t}^e$$

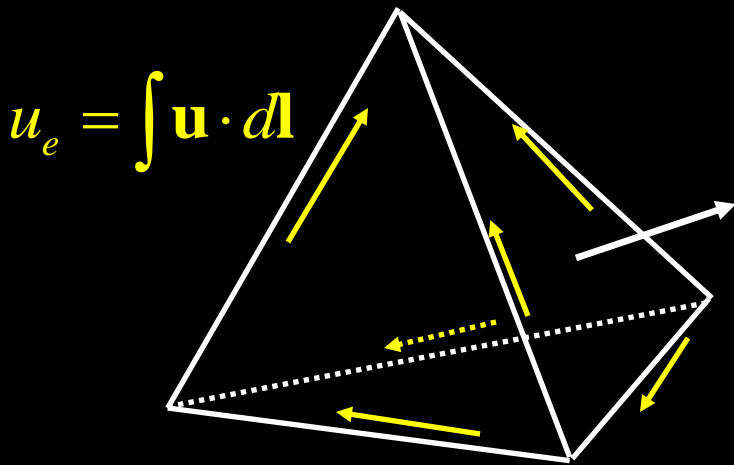
Constant vorticity

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{u}^h = \mathbf{w}$$



# StagMesh Interpolation

$$(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x})\mathbf{u} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \int (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{x}\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{n})dA = \int \mathbf{x}\mathbf{u} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$



- Stokes' Theorem
- Assume constant along edge
- Assume constant vorticity

$$\vec{\mathbf{u}}_f^{cg} \times \vec{\mathbf{n}}_f A_f = \sum_{edges} u_e (\vec{\mathbf{x}}_e^{cg} - \vec{\mathbf{x}}_f^{cg})$$

**SM = Rampant use of Stokes' Theorem**

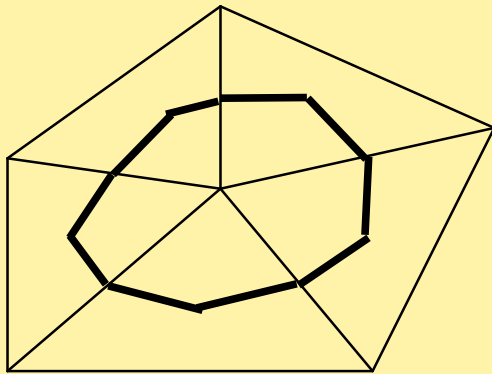
$$\int \nabla \times \vec{\mathbf{u}} \bar{\mathbf{X}} dV = - \int \vec{\mathbf{u}} \times \vec{\mathbf{n}} dA$$

# Summary: Basis Functions

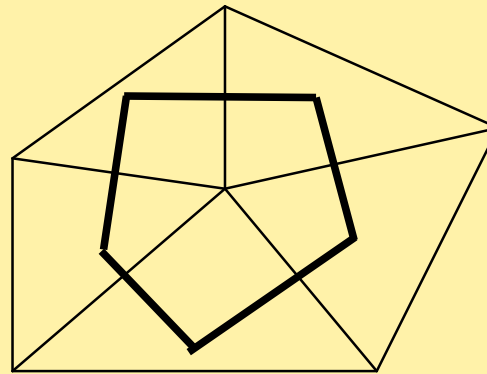
- **FE uses Explicit Basis Functions**
- **SM uses Stokes' Theorem**  
This approach can be applied to arbitrary polygons.
- **SOM uses Discrete Inner Products**  
highly discontinuous/anisotropic materials and arbitrary polygons

**Many approaches to achieving the same underlying interpolation (Hodge  $*$ ) .**

# Test Functions



Median Dual



Voronoi Dual

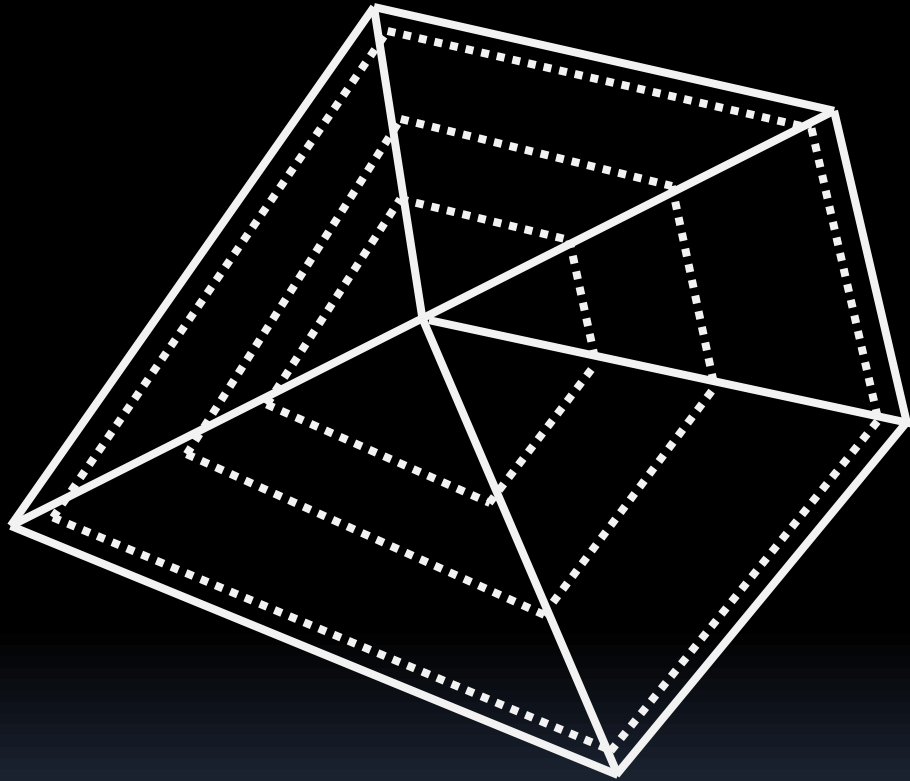
**Dual mesh is not unique.**

**FV = top hat**

**FE = tent functions (unique for Galerkin)**



# FE / FV relationship



**FV = one CV**

**FE = weighted average of CV**

Mattiussi C, 1997, An analysis of finite volume, finite element, and finite difference methods using some concepts from algebraic topology, *J. Computational Physics*, 133: 289-309.



# FE Discrete Calculus

## Weighted Exact Discretization

$$\int w(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u})dV = \int w\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n}dA - \int (\nabla w) \cdot \mathbf{u}dV = \int \mathbf{u} \cdot (-\nabla w)dV$$

**Smearred Flux**



$$D^w = \sum_{faces} U_f^w$$

**Compare**

$$D = \int \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}dV = \sum_{faces} \int \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n}dA = \sum_{faces} U_f$$



# FE Exact Discretization

$$\int \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} dV = \sum_{\text{faces}} \int \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} dA$$

$$\int (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{n} dA = \sum_{\text{edges}} \int \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$

$$\int \nabla T \cdot d\mathbf{l} = T_2 - T_1$$

$$\int w \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} dV = \sum_{\text{cells}} \int \mathbf{u} \cdot (-\nabla w) dV$$

$$\int (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot (-\nabla w) dV = \sum_{\text{faces}} \int \mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{n} \times \nabla w) dA$$

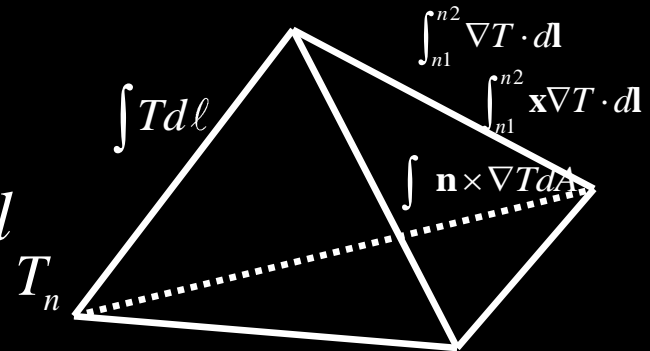
$$\int \nabla T \cdot (\mathbf{n} \times \nabla w) dA = \sum_{\text{edges}} \int T (\nabla w) \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$

# Higher-Order Exact Gradient

$$\int_{edge} \nabla T \cdot d\mathbf{l} = T_{n2} - T_{n1}$$

$$\int_{edge} \mathbf{x} \nabla T \cdot d\mathbf{l} = (\mathbf{x}_{n2} T_{n2} - \mathbf{x}_{n1} T_{n1}) - \mathbf{t}_e \int_{n1}^{n2} T dl$$

$$\int_{face} \mathbf{n} \times \nabla T dA = \sum_{edges} \mathbf{t}_e \int T dl$$



**20 outputs / tet**

**10 inputs / tet**

$$\begin{bmatrix} \int_{edge} \nabla T \cdot d\mathbf{l} \\ \int_{edge} \mathbf{x} \nabla T \cdot d\mathbf{l} \\ \int_{face} \mathbf{n} \times \nabla T dA \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{G}^{[2]} \begin{bmatrix} T_n \\ \int_{edge} T dl \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{G}\mathbf{x}_n & -\mathbf{t}_e \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{T} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_n \\ \int_{edge} T dl \end{bmatrix}$$

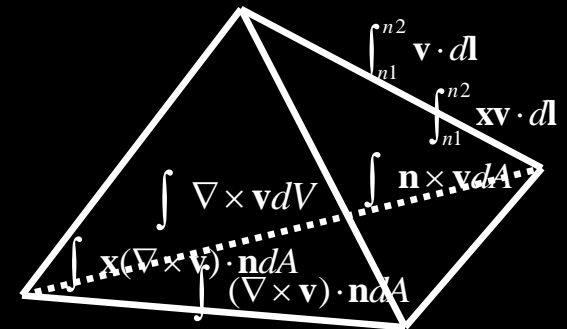


# Higher-Order Exact Curl

$$\int (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{n} dA = \sum_{edges} \int \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$

$$\int \mathbf{x}(\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{n} dA = \sum_{edges} \int \mathbf{x}\mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{l} + \int \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v} dA$$

$$\int \nabla \times \mathbf{v} dV = \sum_{faces} \int \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v} dA$$



**15 outputs / tet**

**20 inputs / tet**

**Note:**  $\mathbf{C}^{[2]} \mathbf{G}^{[2]} = 0$

**Mimetic**

$$\begin{bmatrix} \int_{face} (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{n} dA \\ \int_{face} \mathbf{x}(\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{n} dA \\ \int_{cell} (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) dV \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{C}^{[2]} \begin{bmatrix} \int_{edge} \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{l} \\ \int_{edge} \mathbf{x}\mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{l} \\ \int_{face} \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v} dA \end{bmatrix}$$

# Review

**FE:**

**Explicit basis functions**

**Fixed geometry – precise proofs**

**Implicit dual mesh**

**Semi-implicit Hodge\***

**StagMesh:**

**Implicit basis functions**

**Arbitrary polygons.**

**Explicit dual mesh**

**Explicit Factored Hodge\***

# Summary

- **Underlying assumptions about the solution (basis functions) are often the same.**
- **The Test Functions are different. Test functions affect the metric (geom).**
- **Higher Order is achieved by noticing that you can exactly discretize different ways and with different moments**
- **Anyone can do it.**

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