

# Lecture 3: Function Spaces I

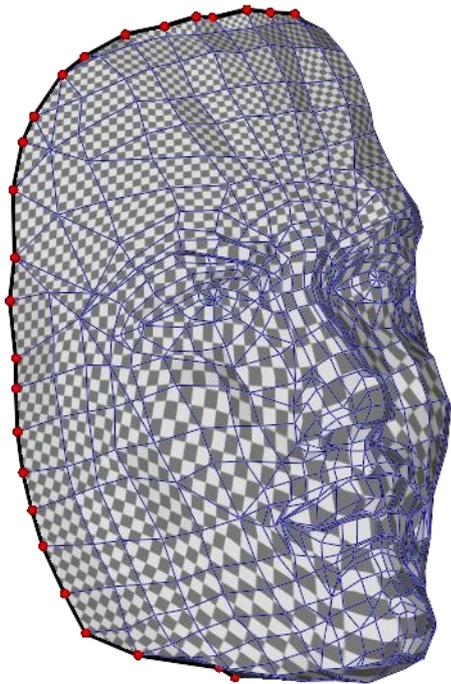
## Finite Elements Modeling

Bruno Lévy

- 1. Motivations
- 2. Function Spaces
- 3. Discretizing a PDE
- 4. Example: Discretizing the Laplacian
- 5. Eigenfunctions → Spectral Mesh Processing (Richard)
- Epilogue – Continuous or Discrete ?

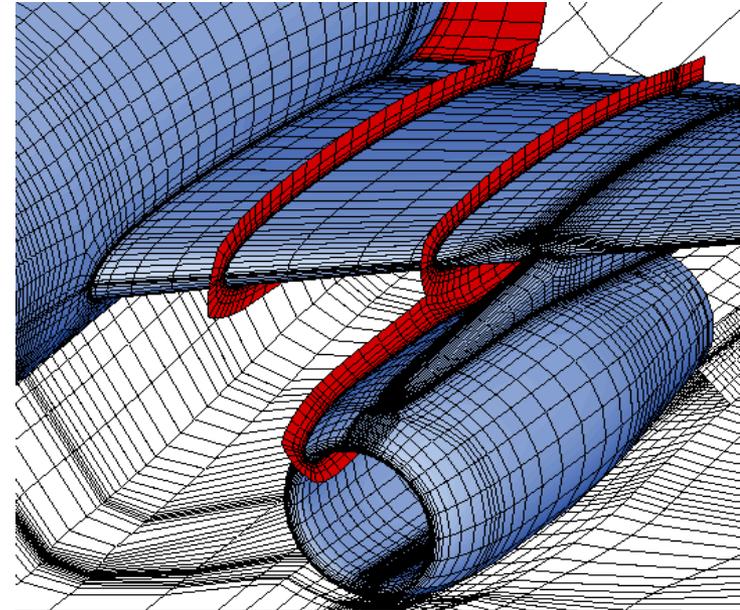
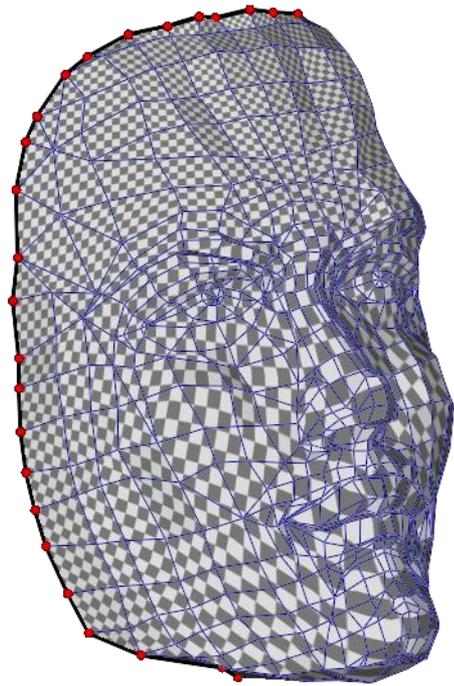
# 1. Motivations

Computing with meshes



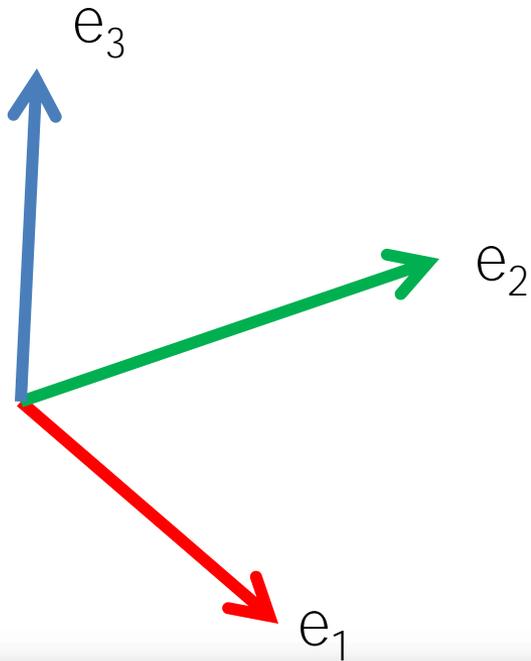
# 1. Motivations

Computing with meshes



# 2. Function spaces

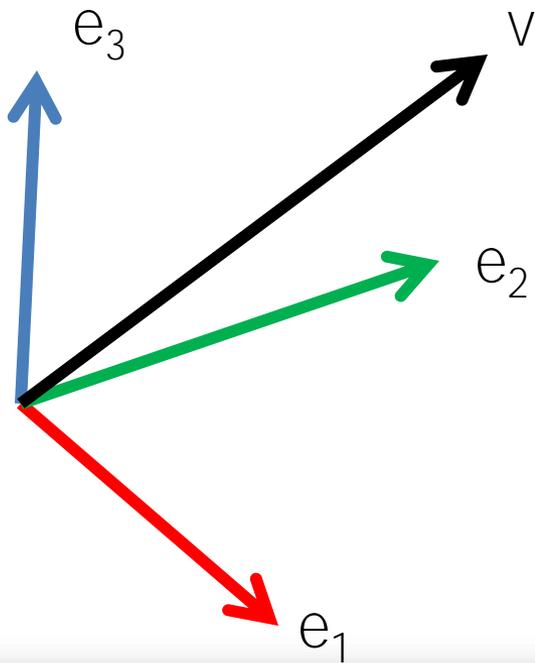
Vector spaces



# 2. Function spaces

Vector spaces - coordinates

$$V = x e_1 + y e_2 + z e_3$$



# 2. Function spaces

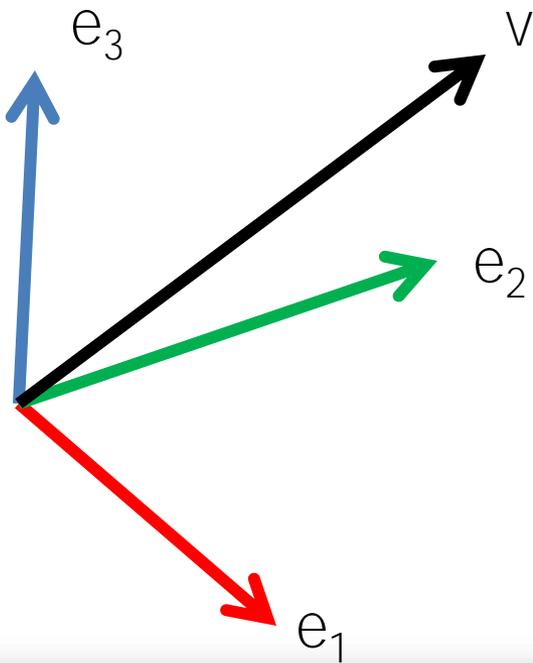
Vector spaces - coordinates

$$V = x e_1 + y e_2 + z e_3$$

$$x = V \cdot e_1$$

$$y = V \cdot e_2$$

$$z = V \cdot e_3$$



# 2. Function spaces

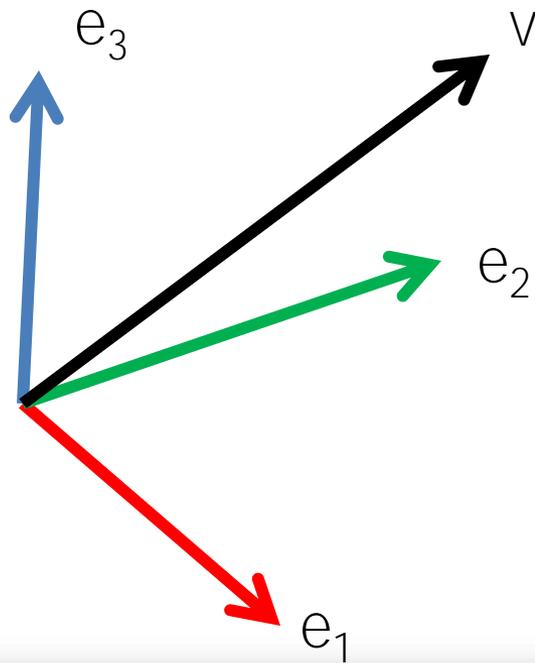
## Vector spaces - coordinates

$$V = x e_1 + y e_2 + z e_3$$

$$x = V \cdot e_1$$

$$y = V \cdot e_2$$

$$z = V \cdot e_3$$

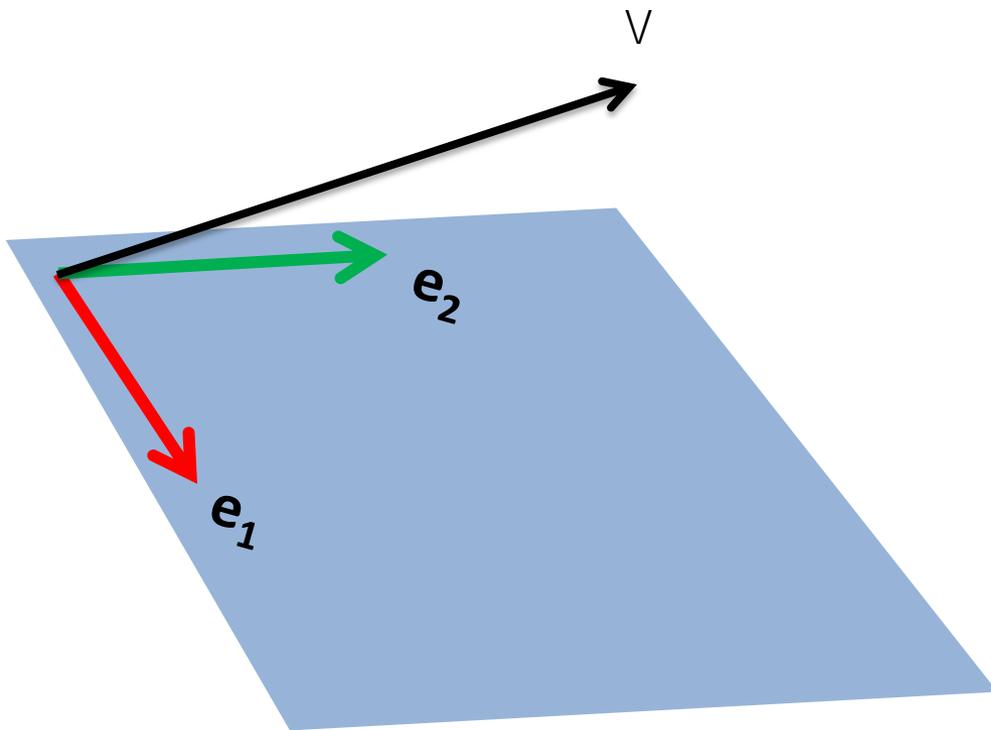


Dot product:

$$V \cdot W = V_x W_x + V_y W_y + V_z W_z$$

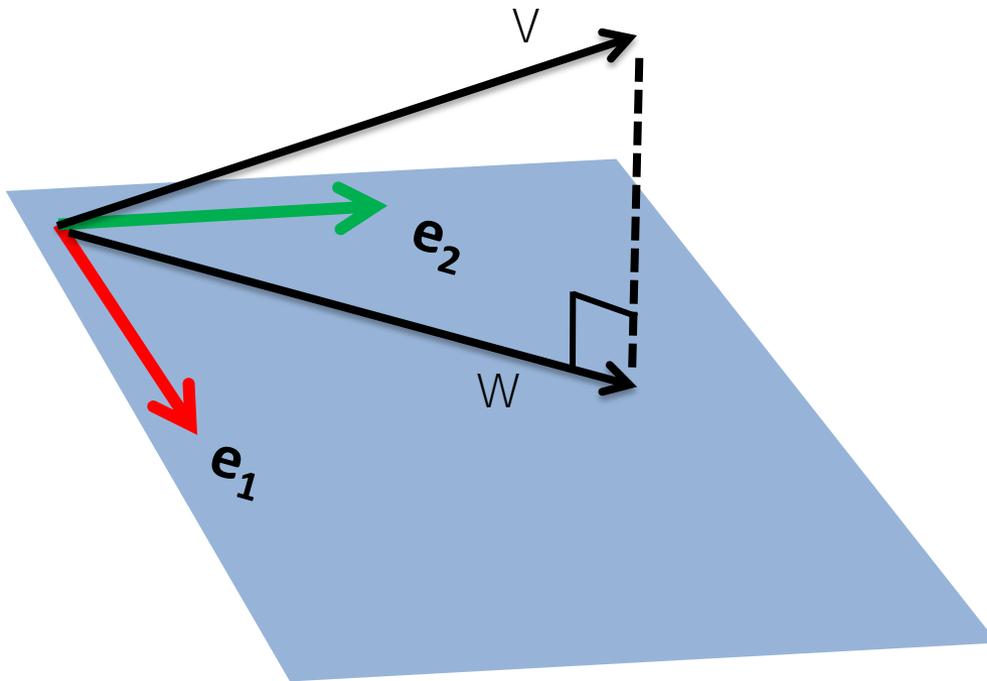
# 2. Function spaces

Vector spaces - projection



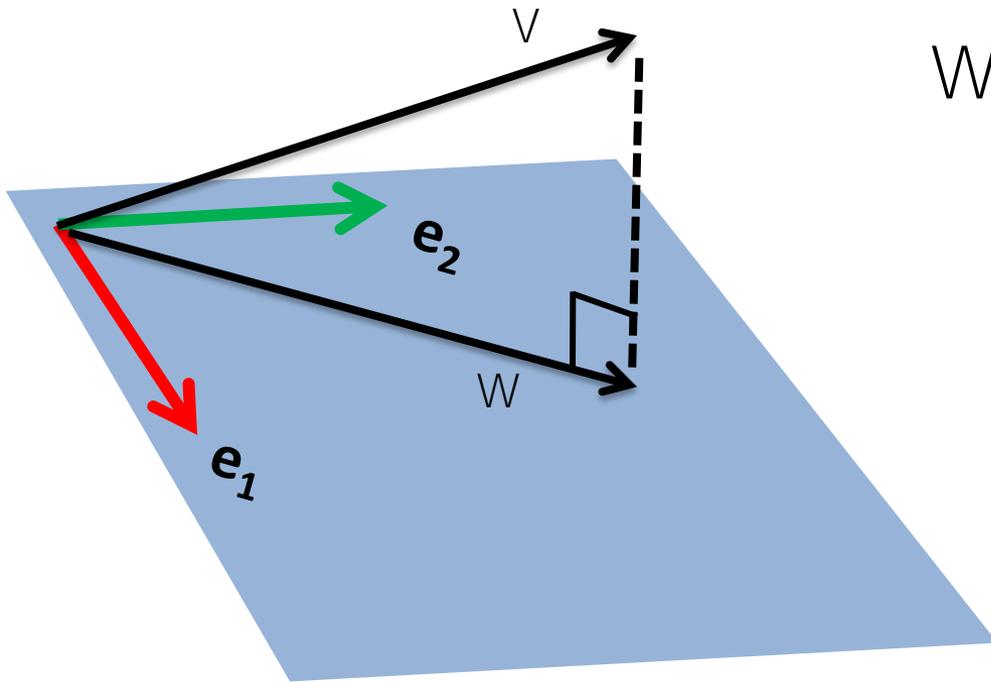
# 2. Function spaces

Vector spaces - projections



# 2. Function spaces

Vector spaces - projections



$$W = (V \cdot e_1)e_1 + (V \cdot e_2)e_2$$

# 2. Function spaces

Vector spaces – importance of the dot product

The dot product can compute

- Coordinates of a vector in a basis
- Projection of a vector onto a subspace
- **Length of a vector =  $\sqrt{v \cdot v}$**

# 2. Function spaces

Vector spaces – importance of the dot product

The dot product can compute

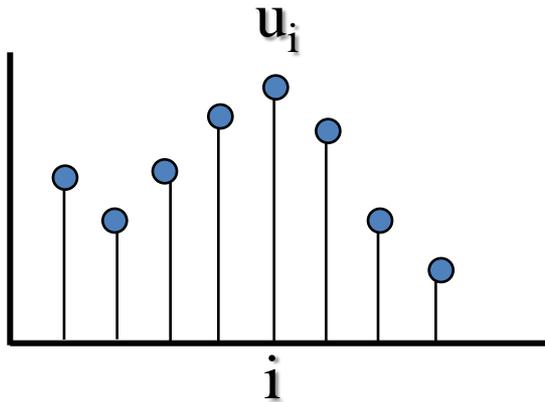
- Coordinates of a vector in a basis
- Projection of a vector onto a subspace
- **Length of a vector** =  $\sqrt{v \cdot v}$



Hilbert space

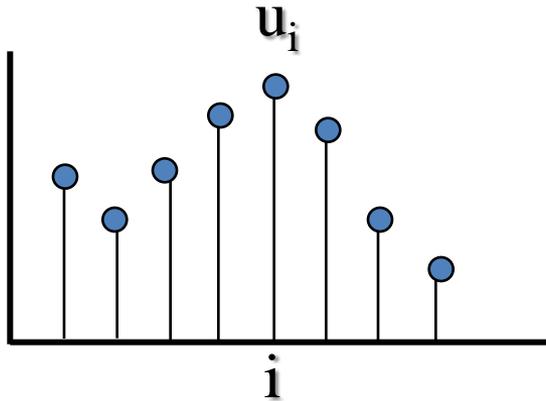
# 2. Function spaces

Dot product for vectors



# 2. Function spaces

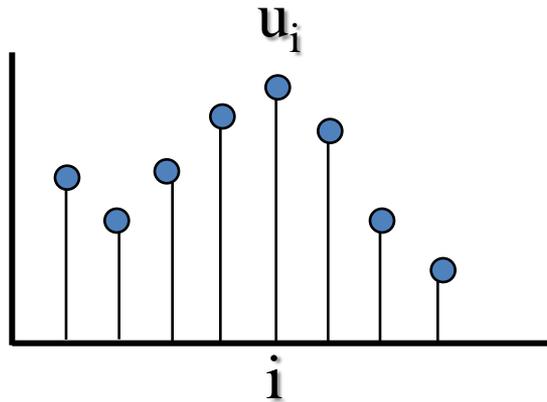
Dot product for vectors



$$u \cdot v = \sum u_i v_i$$

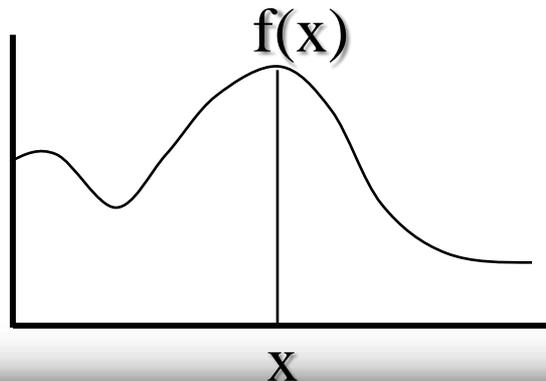
# 2. Function spaces

Dot product for vectors



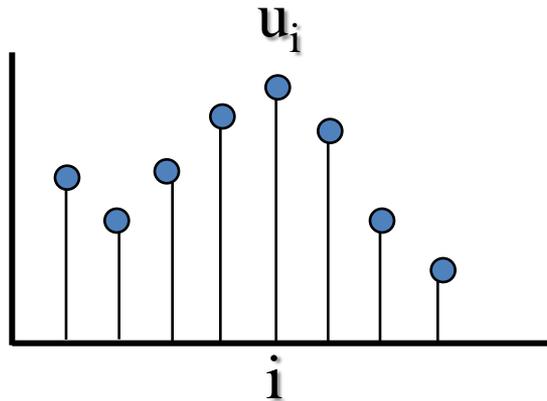
$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \sum u_i v_i$$

Dot product for functions



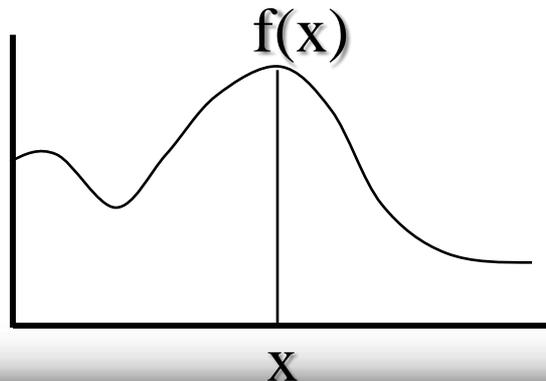
# 2. Function spaces

Dot product for vectors



$$u \cdot v = \sum u_i v_i$$

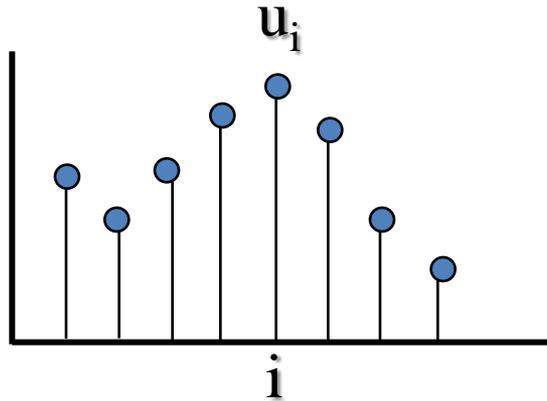
Dot product for functions



$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int f(t)g(t)dt$$

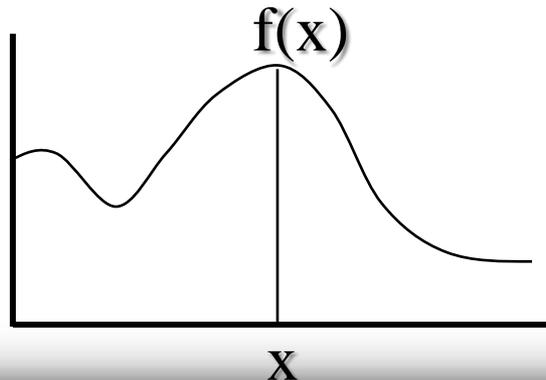
# 2. Function spaces

Dot product for vectors



$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \sum u_i v_i$$

Dot product for functions



$$\langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g} \rangle = \int f(t)g(t)dt$$

The inner product (dot product for functions)

# 2. Function spaces

Vector spaces – importance of the dot product

## The inner (“dot”) product can compute

- Coordinates of a function in a function basis
- Projection of a function onto a subspace
- “Norm” of a function =  $\sqrt{\langle f, f \rangle}$

# 2. Function spaces

## Examples of function basis

The canonical polynomial basis ( $\phi_i$ )

$$\phi_0(x) = 1$$

$$\phi_1(x) = x$$

$$\phi_2(x) = x^2$$

$$\phi_3(x) = x^3$$

$$f(x) = \sum \alpha_i \phi_i(x)$$

# 2. Function spaces

## Examples of function basis

The Fourier basis ( $\phi_i$ )

$$\phi_0(x) = 1$$

$$\phi_{2k}(x) = \sin(2k\pi x)$$

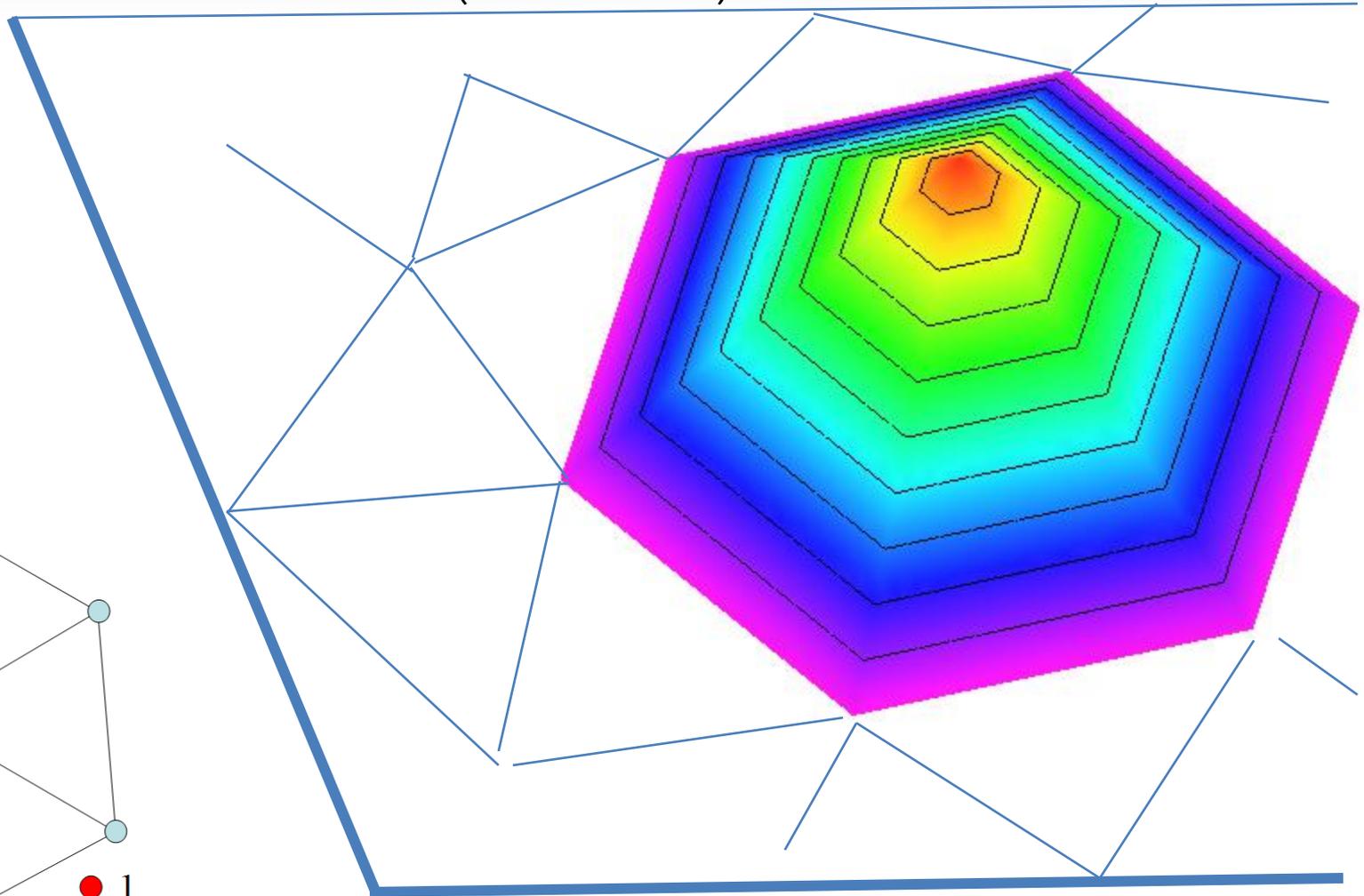
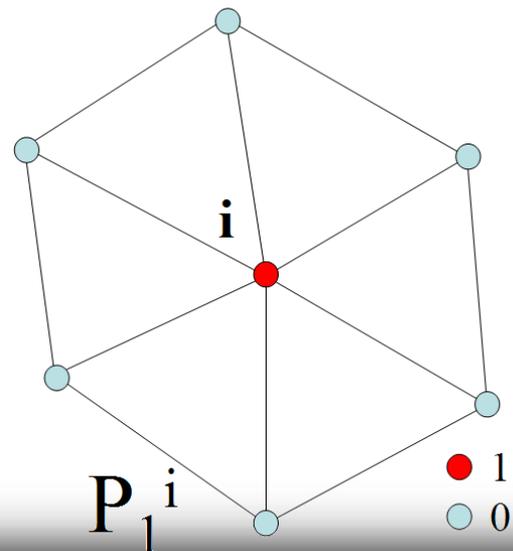
$$\phi_{2k+1}(x) = \cos(2k\pi x)$$

$$f(x) = \sum \alpha_i \phi_i(x)$$

# 2. Function spaces

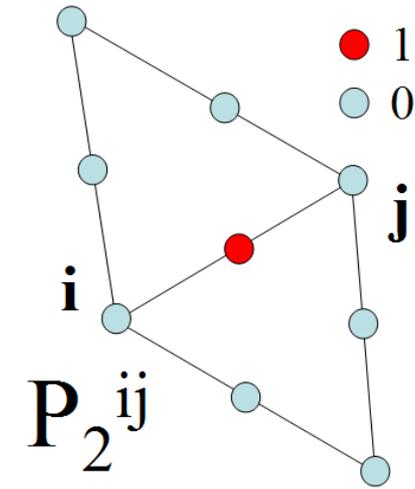
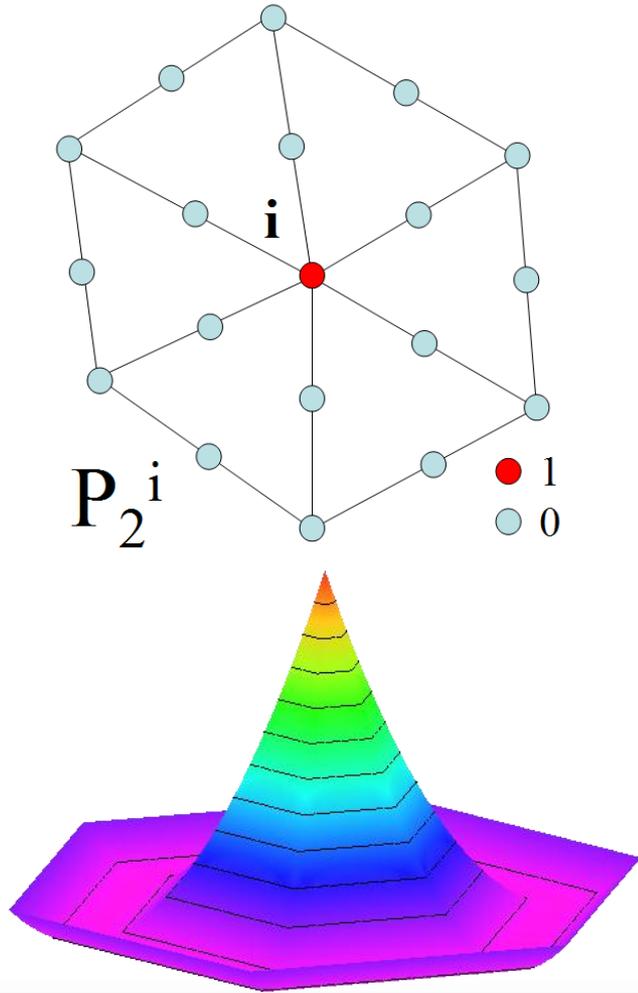
Meshes – The P1 Function Basis (linear FEM)

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_i(p_i) &= 1 \\ \phi_i(p_j) &= 0\end{aligned}$$



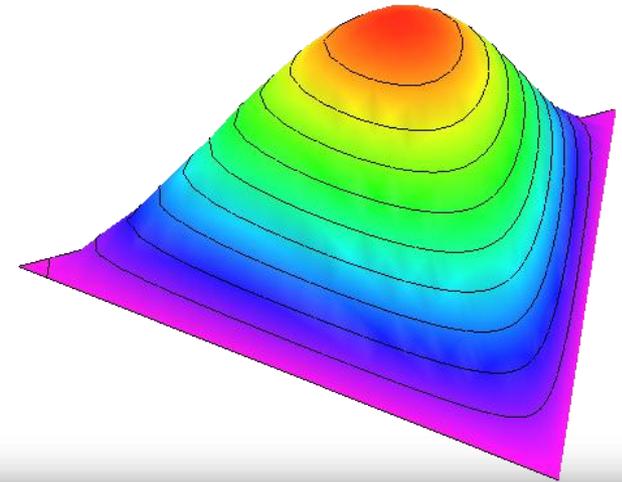
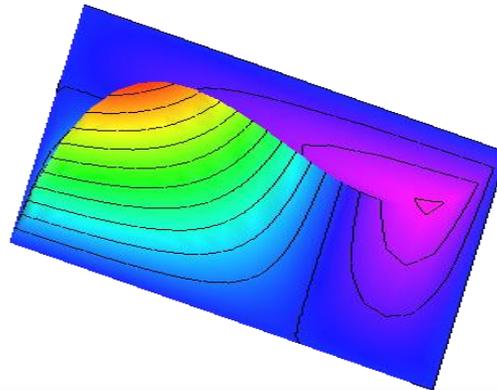
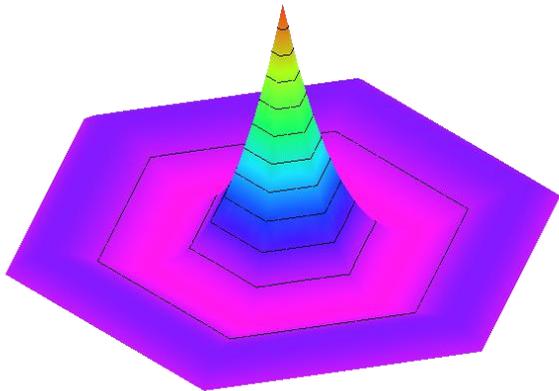
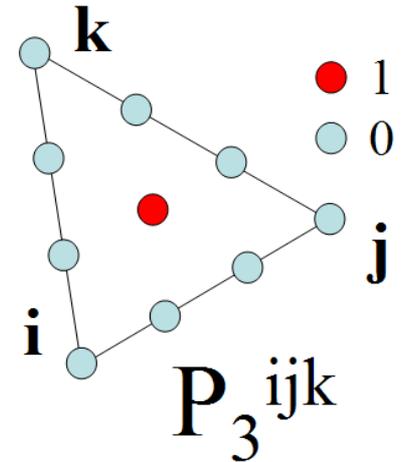
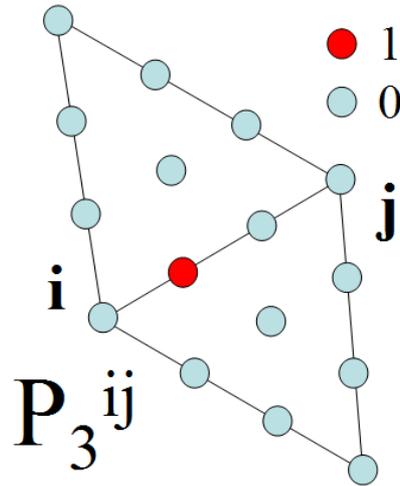
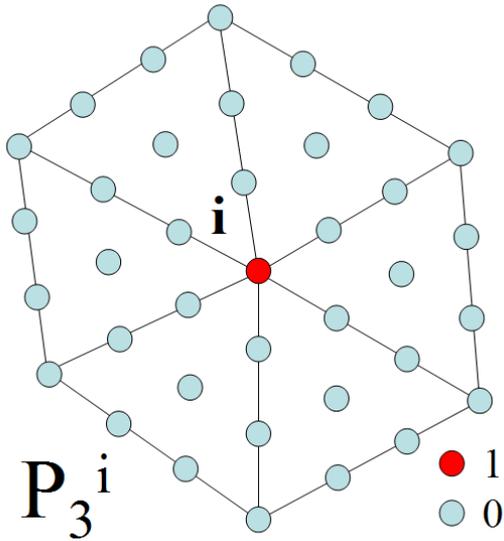
# 2. Function spaces

Meshes – The P2 Function Basis (quadratic FEM)



# 2. Function spaces

Meshes – The P3 Function Basis (cubic FEM)



# 3. Discretizing a PDE

General form of a linear PDE:

$$Lf = g$$

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

General form of a linear PDE:

$$Lf = g$$



Linear operator

e.g.,  $\Delta$

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

General form of a linear PDE:

$$Lf = g$$



Unknown function  
(the one we want to compute)

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

General form of a linear PDE:

$$Lf = g$$



Known function  
(right hand side)

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

General form of a linear PDE:

$$Lf = g$$

Weak form:  $\forall h, \langle Lf, h \rangle = \langle g, h \rangle$

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

General form of a linear PDE:

$$Lf = g$$

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Test function

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

General form of a linear PDE:

$$Lf = g$$

Weak form:  $\forall h, \langle Lf, h \rangle = \langle g, h \rangle$



Test function

Intuitively, weak form: “ $Lf = g$ ” projected onto all possible test functions

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

Step 1: project PDE onto function basis ( $\phi_i$ )

$$\forall i, \langle Lf, \phi_i \rangle = \langle g, \phi_i \rangle \quad (1)$$

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

Step 1: project PDE onto function basis  $(\phi_i)$

$$\forall i, \langle Lf, \phi_i \rangle = \langle g, \phi_i \rangle \quad (1)$$

Step 2: express  $f$  in  $(\phi_i)$ :  $f = \sum \alpha_j \phi_j$  and inject in (1)

$$\forall i, \langle L \sum \alpha_j \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \langle g, \phi_i \rangle$$

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

$$\forall i, \langle L \sum \alpha_j \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \langle g, \phi_i \rangle$$

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$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

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$$\forall i, \sum \alpha_j \langle L \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \langle g, \phi_i \rangle \quad (\text{by linearity of } \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \text{ and } L)$$

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

$$\forall i, \langle L \sum \alpha_j \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \langle g, \phi_i \rangle$$

$$\forall i, \sum \alpha_j \langle L \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \langle g, \phi_i \rangle \quad (\text{by linearity of } \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \text{ and } L)$$

$$\forall i, \sum \alpha_j \langle L \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \sum \beta_j \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle \quad (\text{rhs } g = \sum \beta_j \phi_j)$$

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

$$\forall i, \sum \alpha_j \langle L \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \sum \beta_j \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle \quad \text{Galerkin}$$

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

$$\forall i, \sum \alpha_j \langle L \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \sum \beta_j \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle \quad \text{Galerkin}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle L \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

$$\forall i, \sum \alpha_j \langle L \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \sum \beta_j \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle \quad \text{Galerkin}$$

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↑  
Discretization of  
the operator L  
(stiffness matrix)

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

$$\forall i, \sum \alpha_j \langle L \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \sum \beta_j \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle \quad \text{Galerkin}$$

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Discretization of  
the solution  $f$   
(unknown vector)

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

$$\forall i, \sum \alpha_j \langle L \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \sum \beta_j \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle \quad \text{Galerkin}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle L \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$

  
Discretization of  
the inner product  
(bilinear form)

# 3. Discretizing a PDE

$$Lf = g$$

Discretization

$$\forall i, \sum \alpha_j \langle L \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle = \sum \beta_j \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle \quad \text{Galerkin}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle L \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Discretization of  
the rhs  $g$   
(known vector)

# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian

$$\Delta f = g \quad (\text{Poisson equation})$$

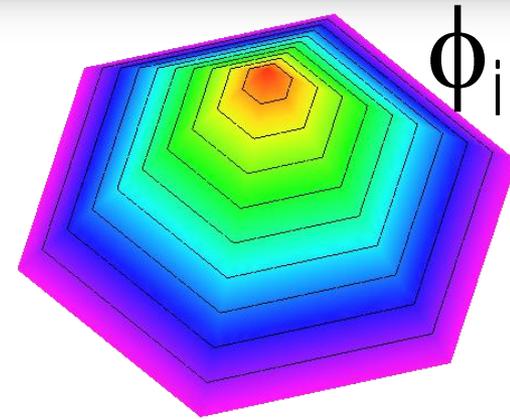
Discretization

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian

Discretization – P1

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$



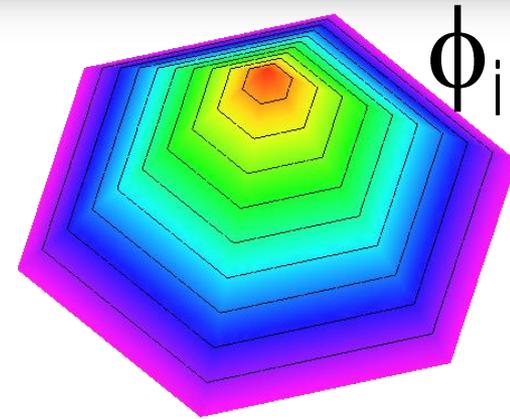
$$\int_{P \in t} \Phi_i \Phi_j dA = 2|t| \int_{\Phi_i=0}^1 \int_{\Phi_j=0}^{1-\Phi_i} \Phi_i \Phi_j d\Phi_i d\Phi_j =$$

$$|t| \int_{\Phi_i=0}^1 \Phi_i (1 - \Phi_i)^2 d\Phi_i = |t| \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{4} \right) = \frac{|t|}{12}$$

# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian

Discretization – P1

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Coefficients of the mass matrix:

$\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle = (|t| + |t'|) / 12$  if  $i$  and  $j$  share an edge

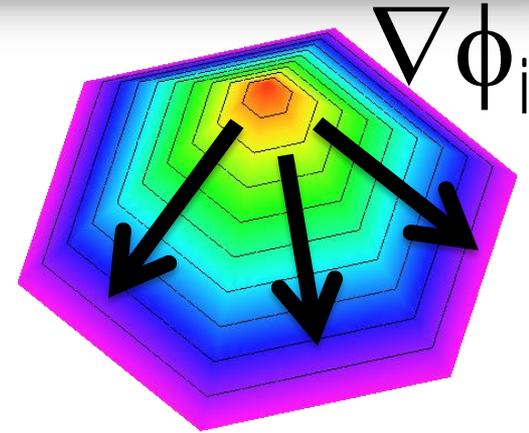
$\langle \phi_i, \phi_i \rangle = (\sum_{t \text{ in } St(i)} |t|) / 6$

$\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle = 0$  otherwise

# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian

Discretization – P1

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \\ \downarrow \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$

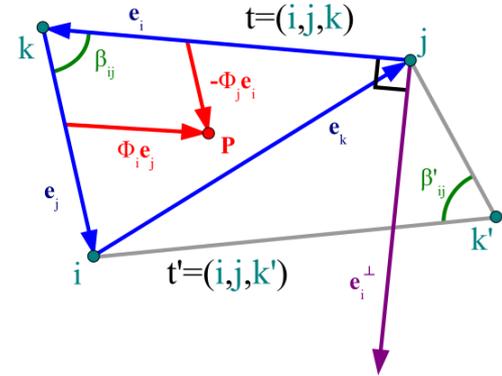


$$\langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle = -\langle \nabla \phi_i, \nabla \phi_j \rangle \text{ (+ boundary term)}$$

# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian

Discretization – P1

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \\ \downarrow \\ \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \\ \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle = -\langle \nabla \phi_i, \nabla \phi_j \rangle \text{ (+ boundary term)}$$

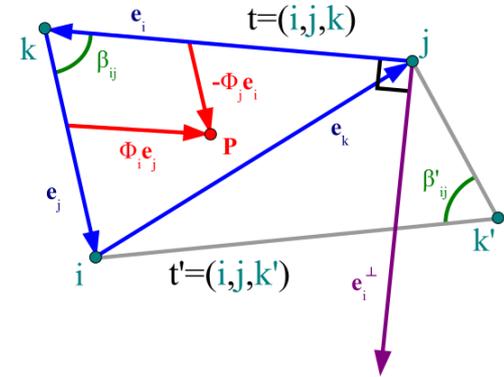
$$\int_t \nabla \Phi^i \cdot \nabla \Phi^j dA = \frac{\mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}_j}{4|t|} = \frac{\|\mathbf{e}_i\| \cdot \|\mathbf{e}_j\| \cos(\beta_{ij})}{2\|\mathbf{e}_i\| \cdot \|\mathbf{e}_j\| \sin(\beta_{ij})} = \frac{\cot(\beta_{ij})}{2}$$

Summing over the triangles gives ...

# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian

Discretization – P1

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \\ \downarrow \\ \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \\ \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$

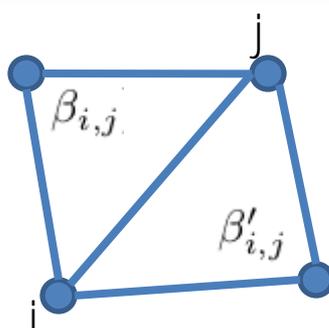


$$Q_{i,j} = (\cotan(\beta_{i,j}) + \cotan(\beta'_{i,j})) / 2$$

$$Q_{i,i} = -\sum_j Q_{i,j}$$

# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian

P1 FEM Laplacian - summary

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle \Delta \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix}$$


$$\begin{aligned} Q_{i,j} &= (\cotan(\beta_{i,j}) + \cotan(\beta'_{i,j})) / 2 \\ Q_{i,i} &= -\sum_j Q_{i,j} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} B_{i,j} &= (|t| + |t'|) / 12 \\ B_{i,i} &= (\sum_{t \in St(i)} |t|) / 6 \end{aligned}$$

# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian



P1 FEM Laplacian

[Pinkall and Polthier 94]

[Meyer and Desbrun 99]



# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian



## P1 FEM Laplacian

THE SOLUTION OF PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL  
EQUATIONS BY MEANS OF ELECTRICAL  
NETWORKS

Thesis by

Richard H. MacNeal

California Institute of Technology

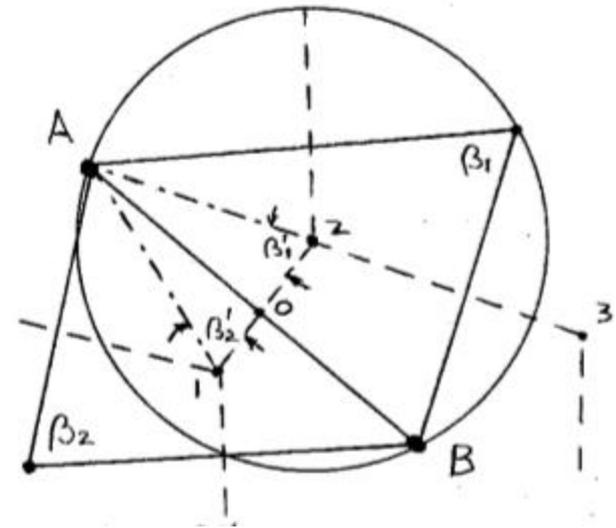
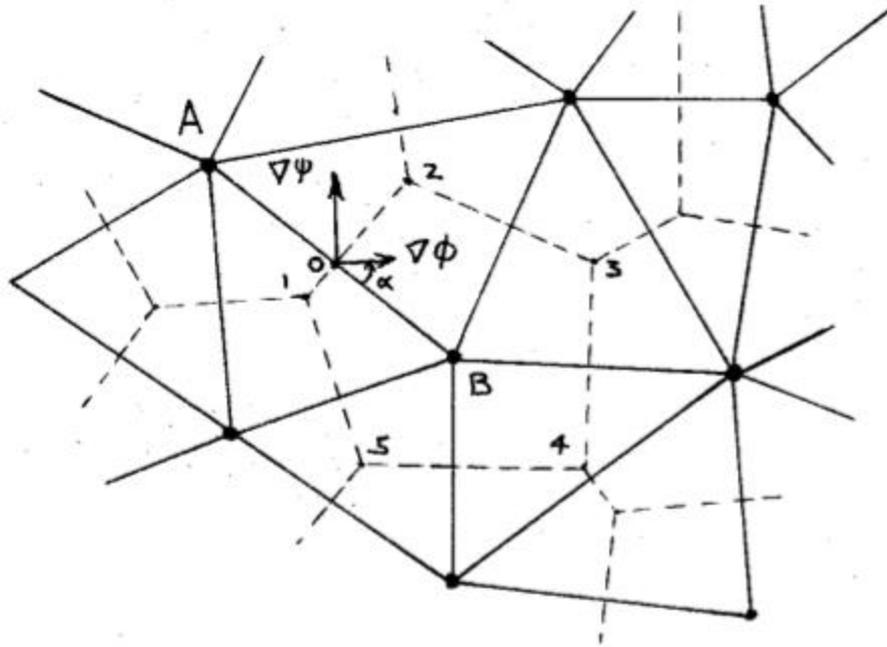
Pasadena, California

1949



# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian

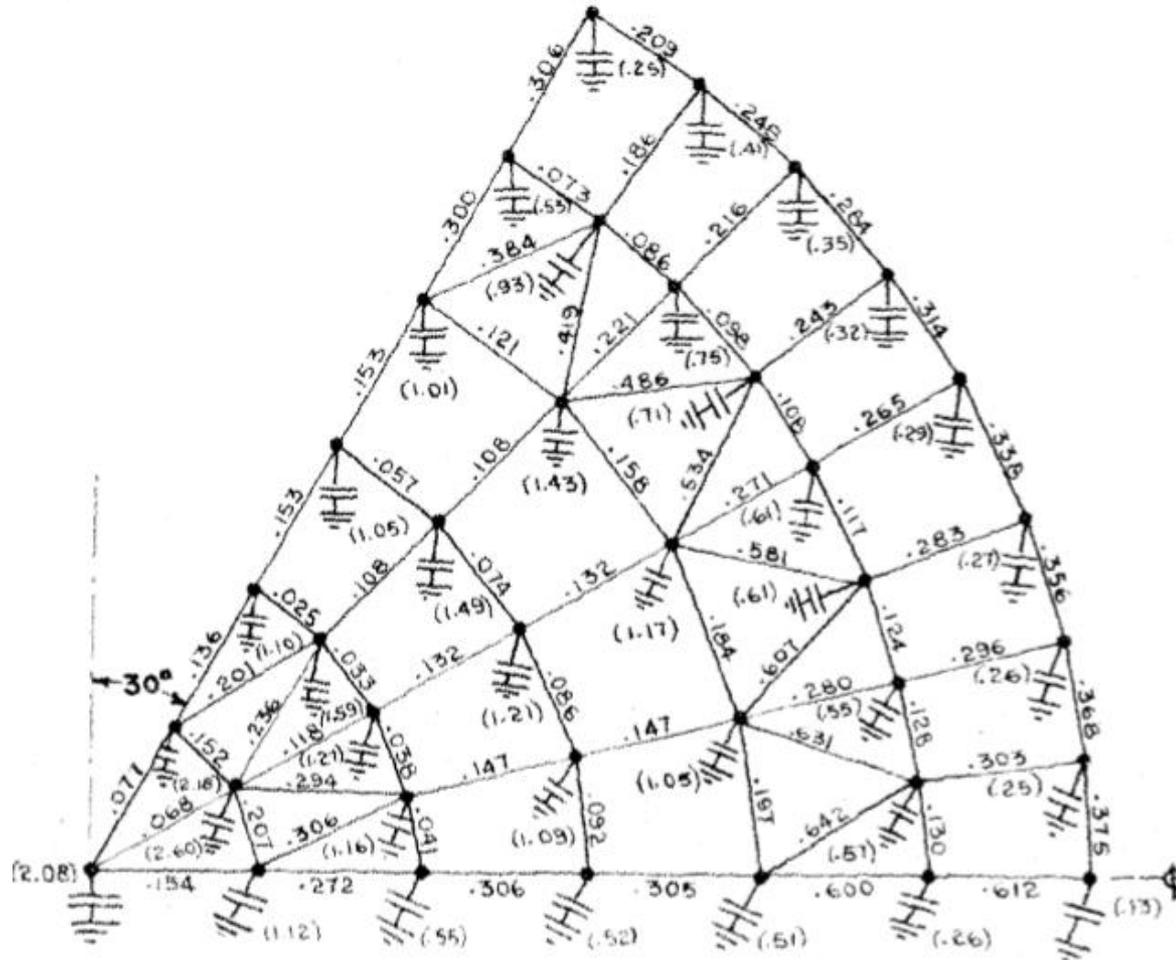
P1 FEM Laplacian [Mac Neal 1949]



$$\frac{1}{4} \overline{AB} \ell_{12} = \frac{(\overline{AB})^2}{8} (\text{ctn} \beta_1 + \text{ctn} \beta_2)$$

# 4. Discretizing the Laplacian

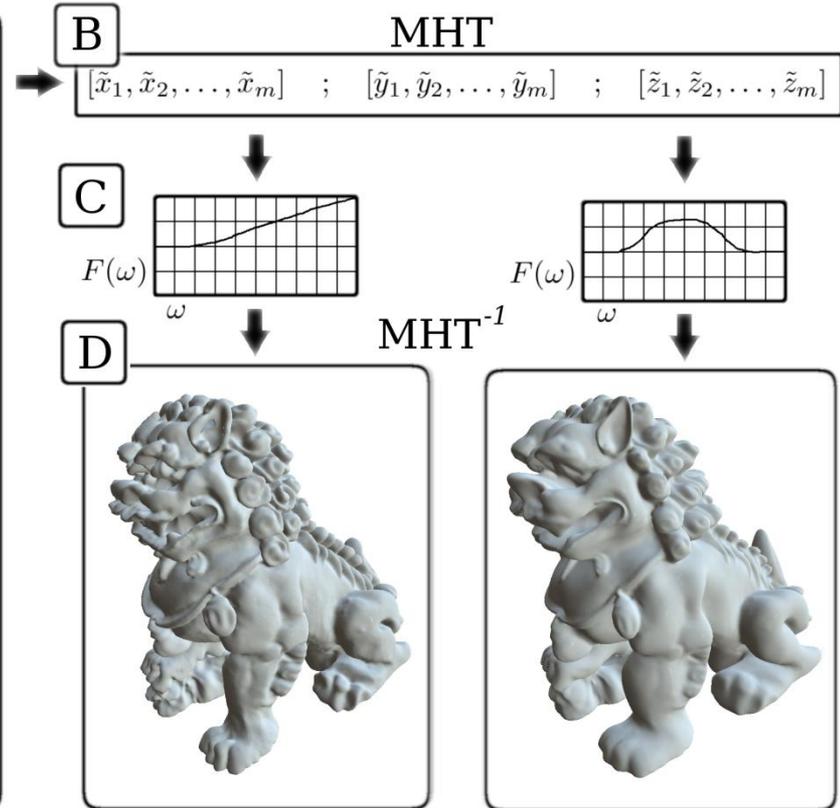
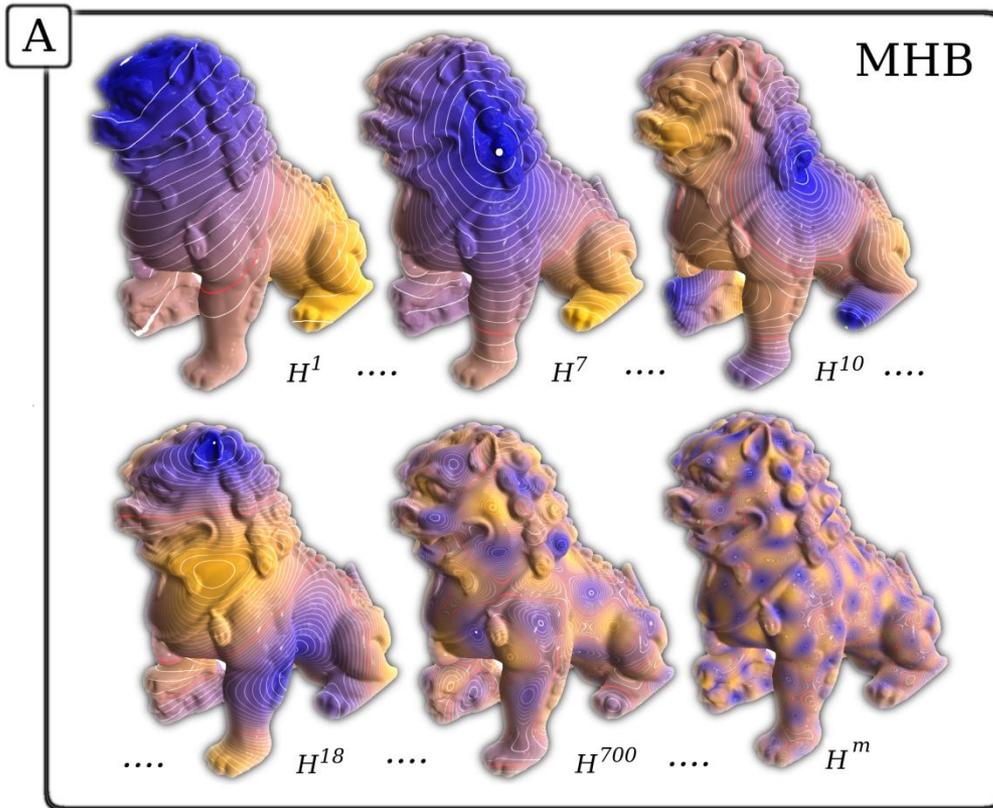
## P1 FEM Laplacian [Mac Neal 1949]



# 5. Eigenfunctions

Operator equation:  $Lf = \lambda f$   
 $Lf = \Delta f = \text{div}(\text{grad } f)$

Manifold Harmonics  
 [Vallet & L, 2007]



# 5. Eigenfunctions

- Operator equation:  $Lf = \lambda f$
- Function basis ( $\phi_i$ ):  $f = \sum \alpha_i \phi_i$
- Inner Product:  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int f(x) g(x) dx$
- $\forall i, \langle Lf, \phi_i \rangle = \lambda \langle f, \phi_i \rangle$

# 5. Eigenfunctions

Test function space ( $\phi_i$ ):  $f = \sum \alpha_i \phi_i$  (P1,P2,P3)

$$\forall i, \langle \Delta f, \phi_i \rangle = \lambda \langle f, \phi_i \rangle$$

$$\langle \Delta f, g \rangle = -\langle \nabla f, \nabla g \rangle (+ \text{boundary term})$$

$$Ax = \lambda Bx$$

$$a_{ij} = -\langle \nabla \phi_i, \nabla \phi_j \rangle ; b_{ij} = \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle$$

Generalized eigenvalue problem  
(solved by ARPAK or MATLAB)

# 5. Eigenfunctions

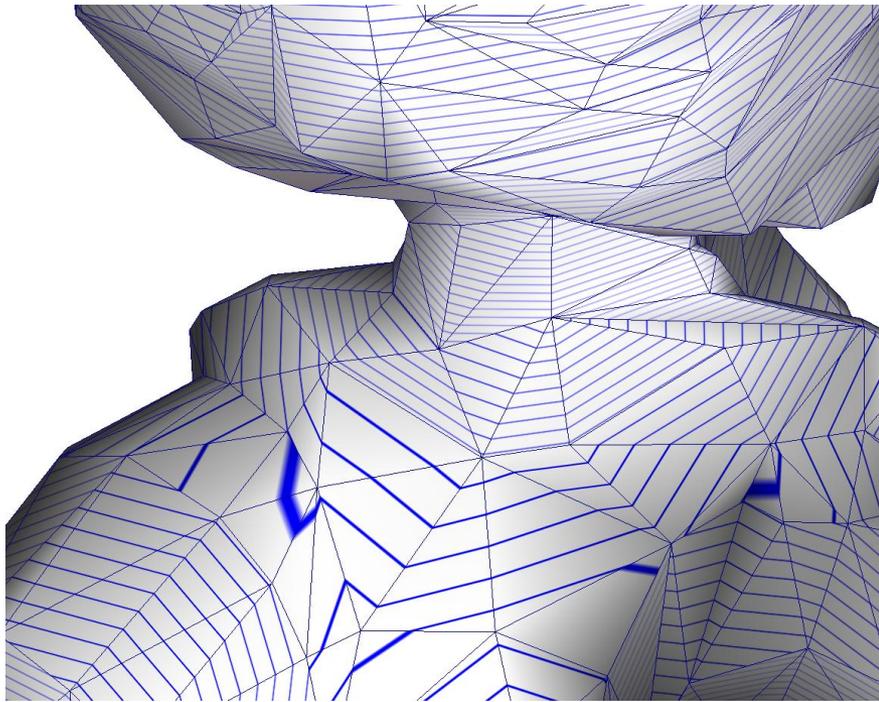


P1 function basis

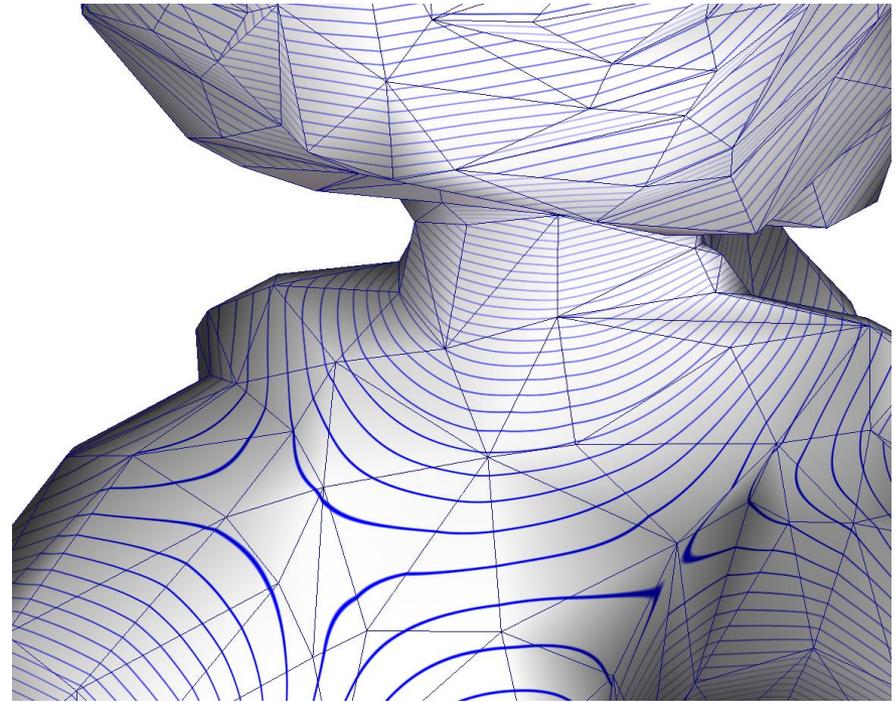


P3 function basis

# 5. Eigenfunctions



P1 function basis



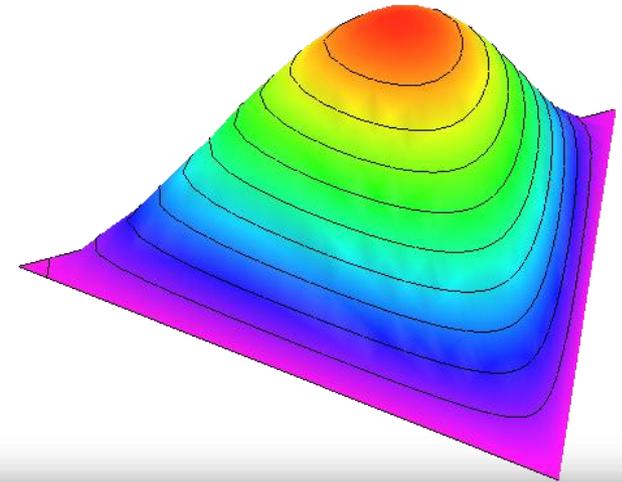
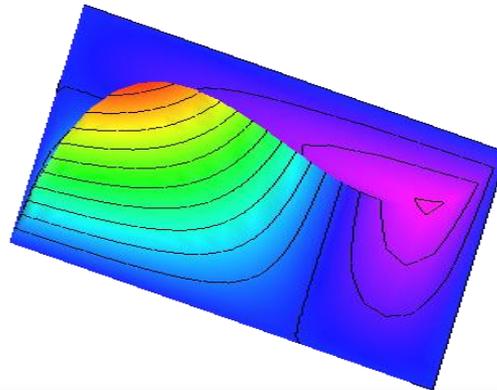
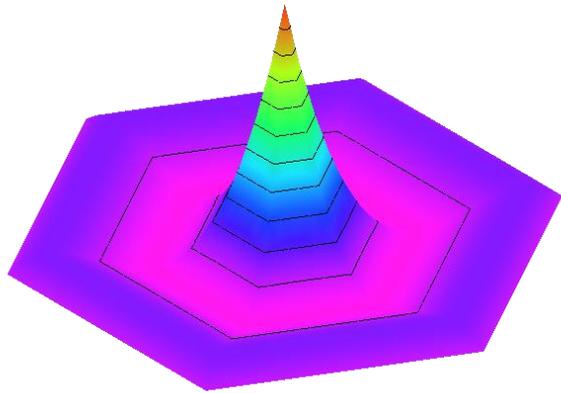
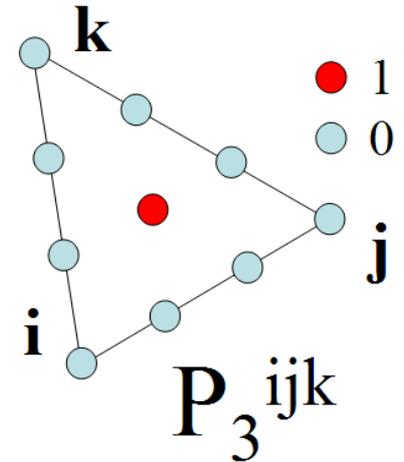
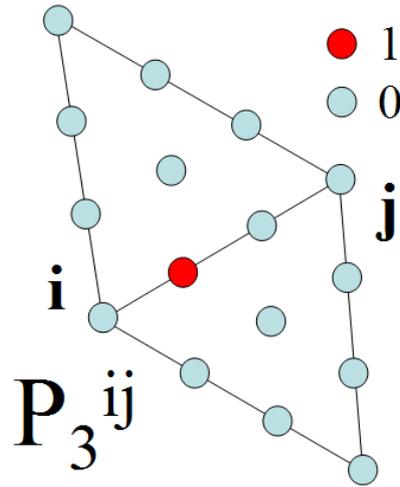
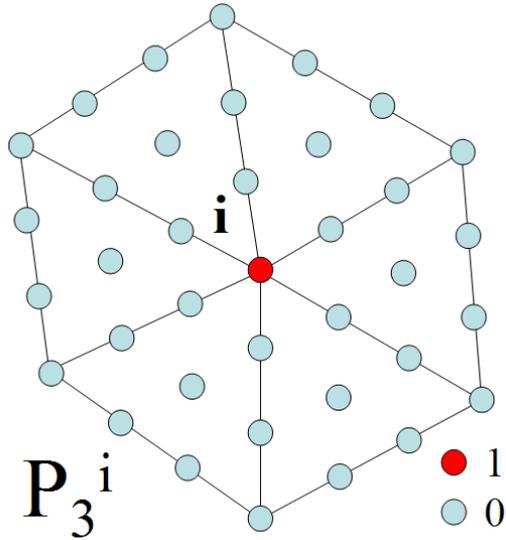
P3 function basis

# 5. Eigenfunctions



# 5. Eigenfunctions

Compute the terms  $\langle \nabla \phi_i, \nabla \phi_j \rangle$  and  $\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle$  using the P3 function basis ...



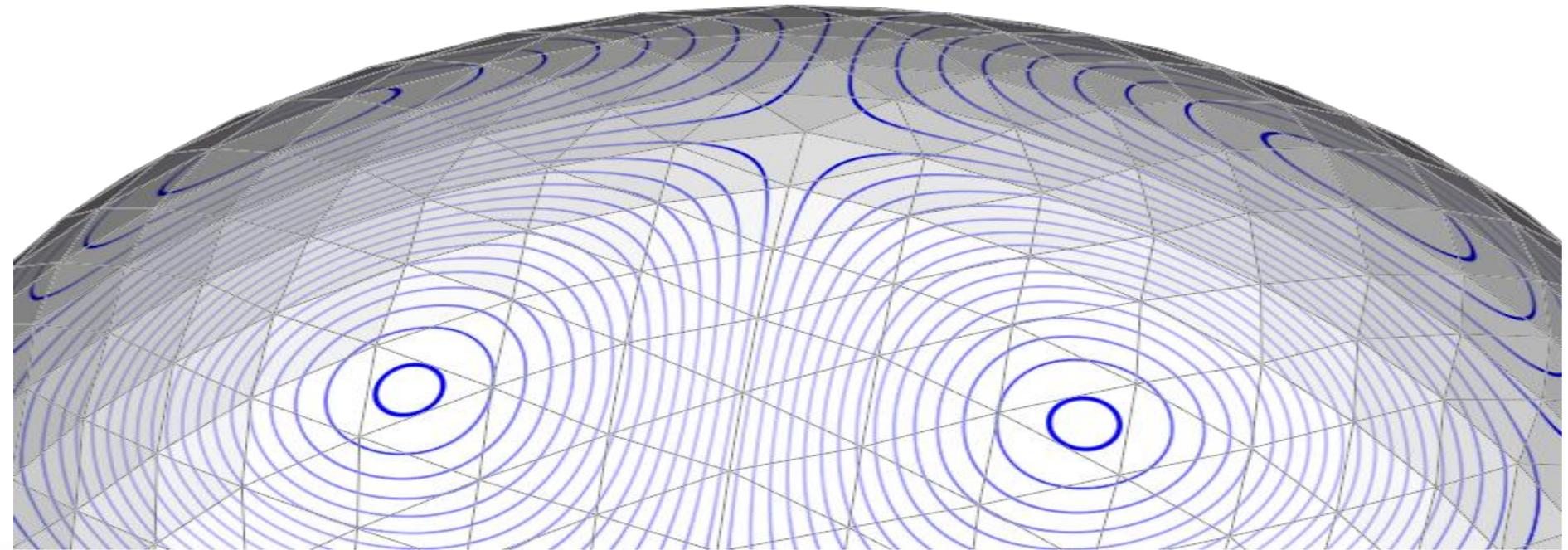
# 5. Eigenfunctions

Compute the terms  $\langle \nabla \phi_i, \nabla \phi_j \rangle$  and  $\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle$  using the P3 function basis ...

Derivations: see Bruno **Vallet's** Ph.D thesis

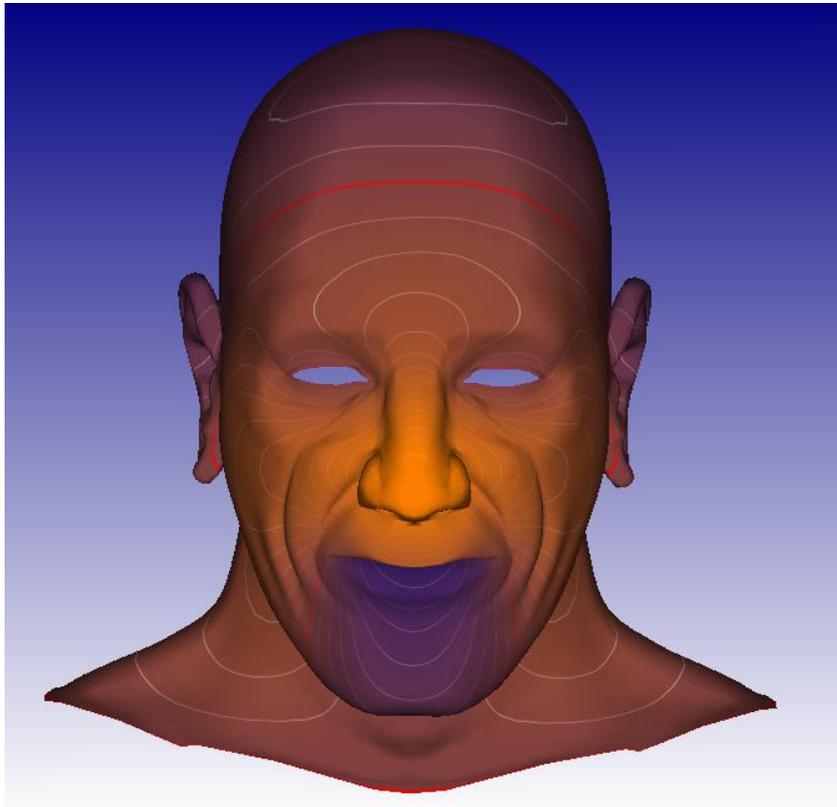
Implementation available in Graphite / ManifoldHarmonics plugin

See <http://alice.loria.fr/software>

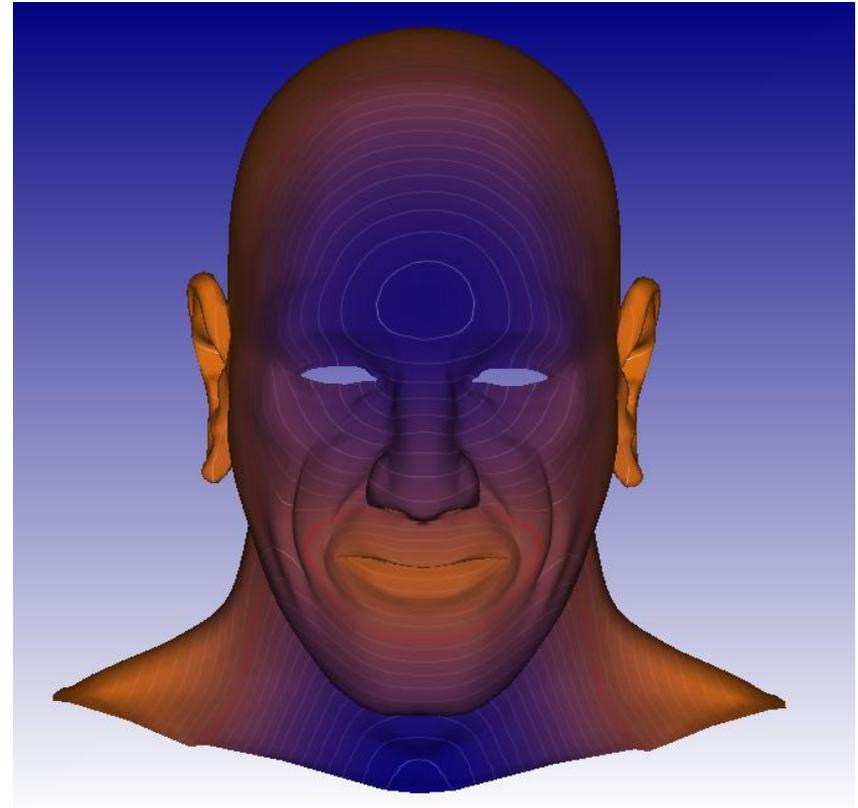


# 5. Eigenfunctions

## Boundary conditions



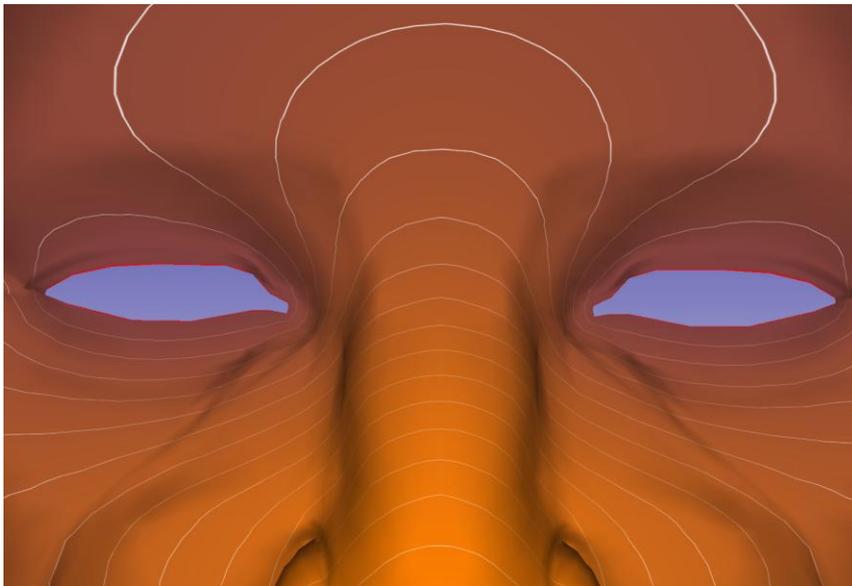
Dirichlet



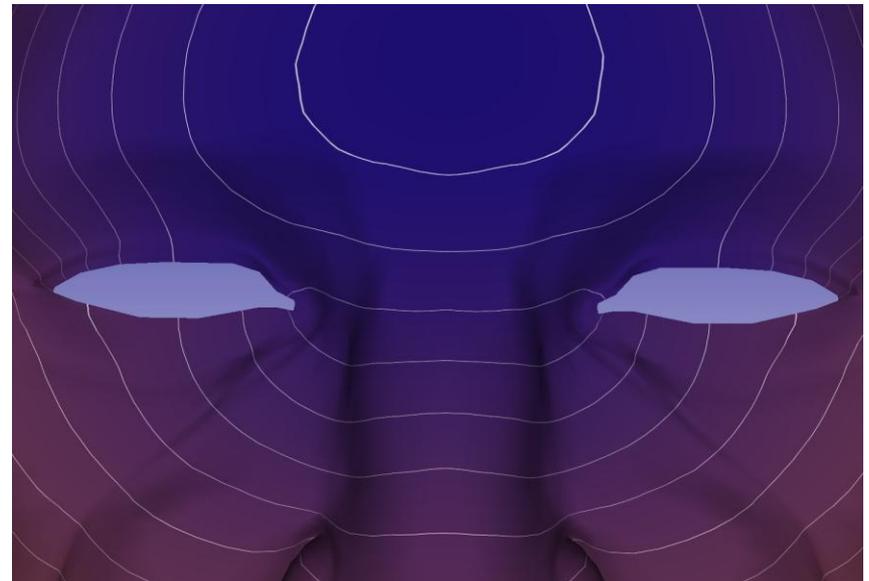
Neumann

# 5. Eigenfunctions

## Boundary conditions

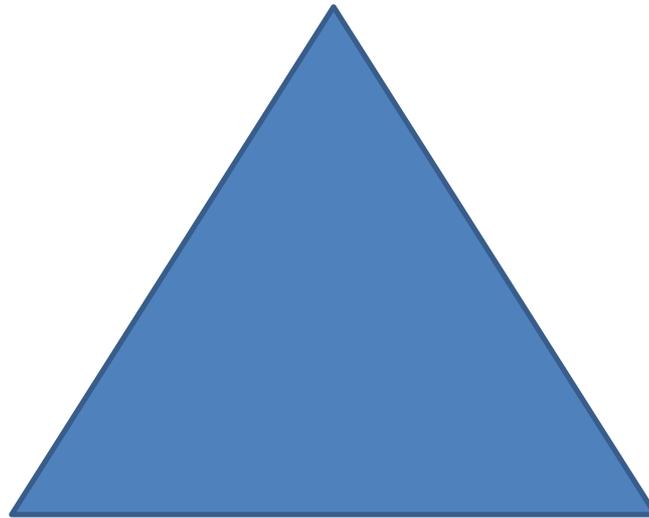


Dirichlet



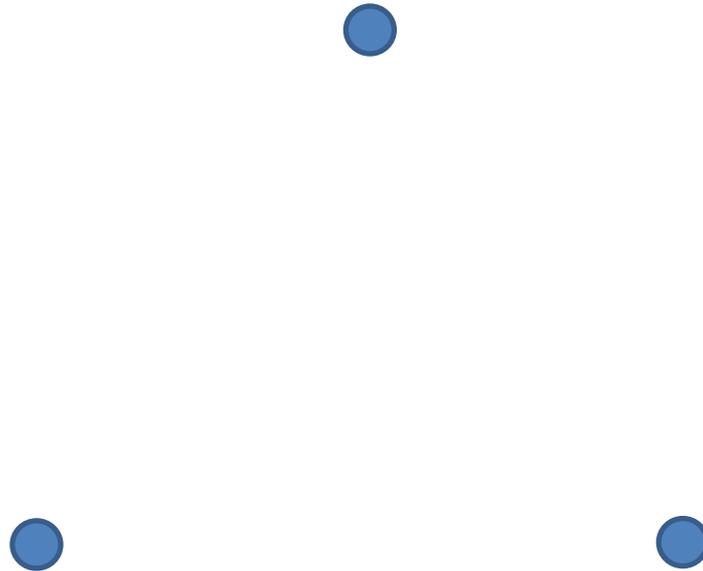
Neumann

Discrete or continuous ?



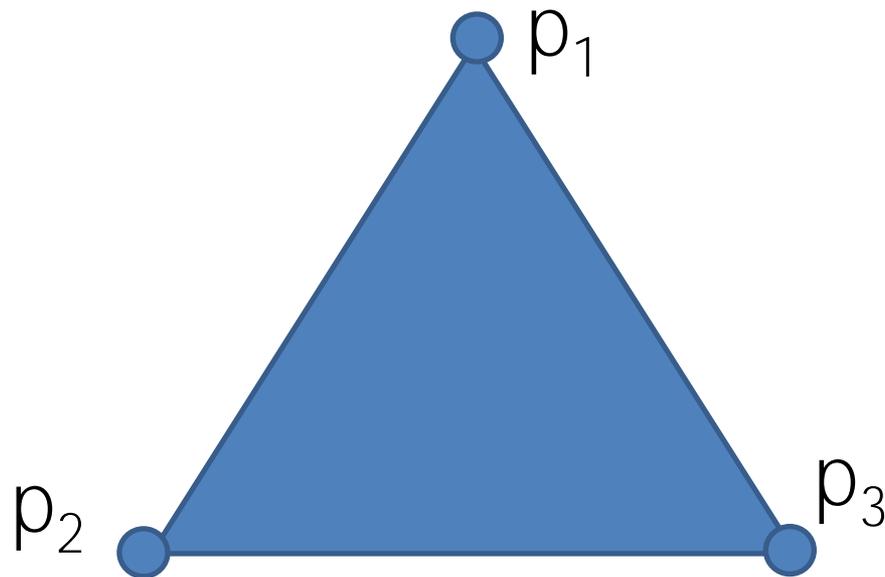
How many points in a triangle ?

Discrete or continuous ?



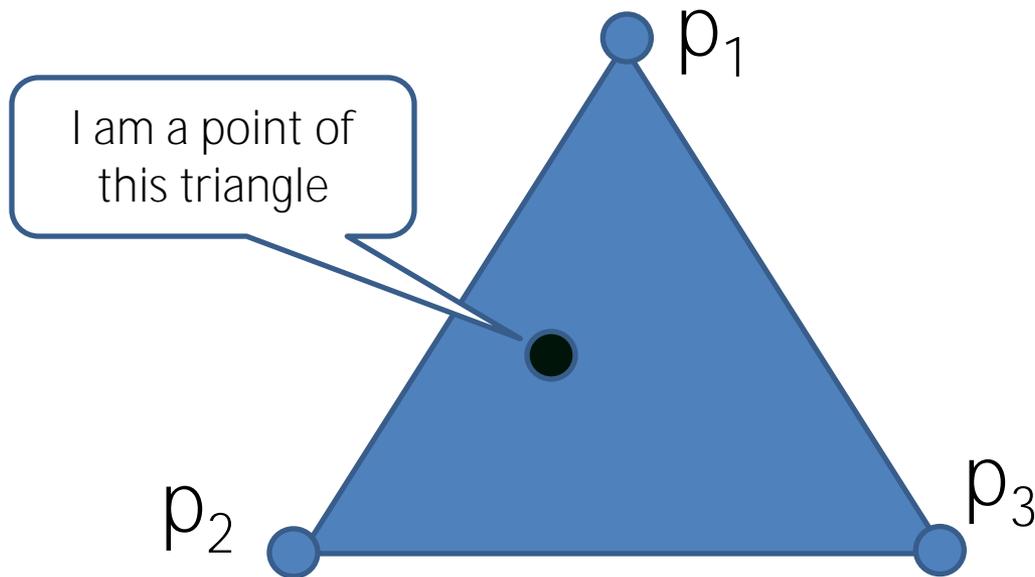
Is this a triangle ?

Discrete or continuous ?



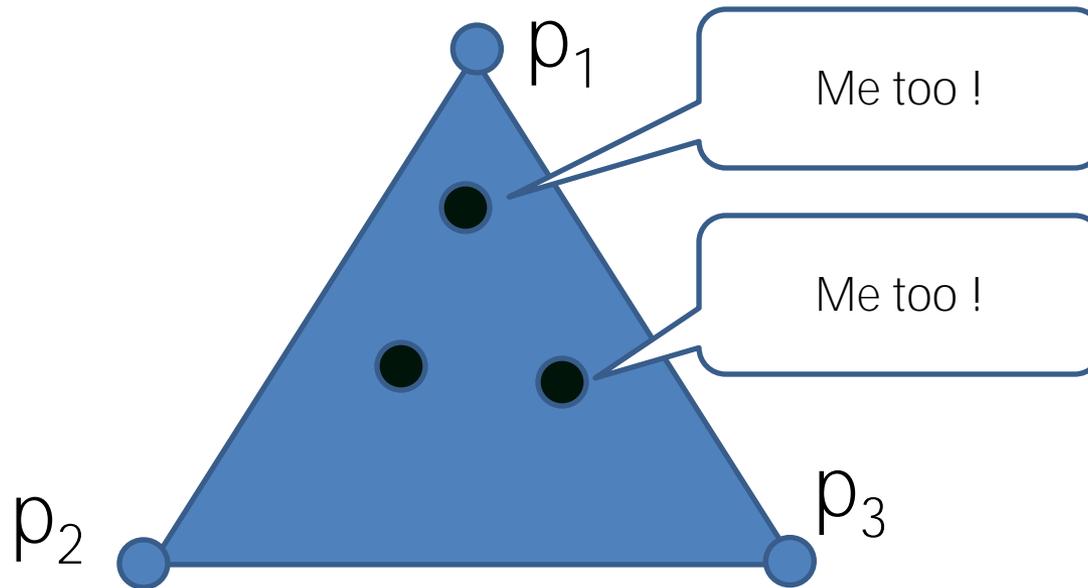
$$t = \{ \lambda_1 p_1 + \lambda_2 p_2 + \lambda_3 p_3, 0 < \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = 1 \}$$

Discrete or continuous ?



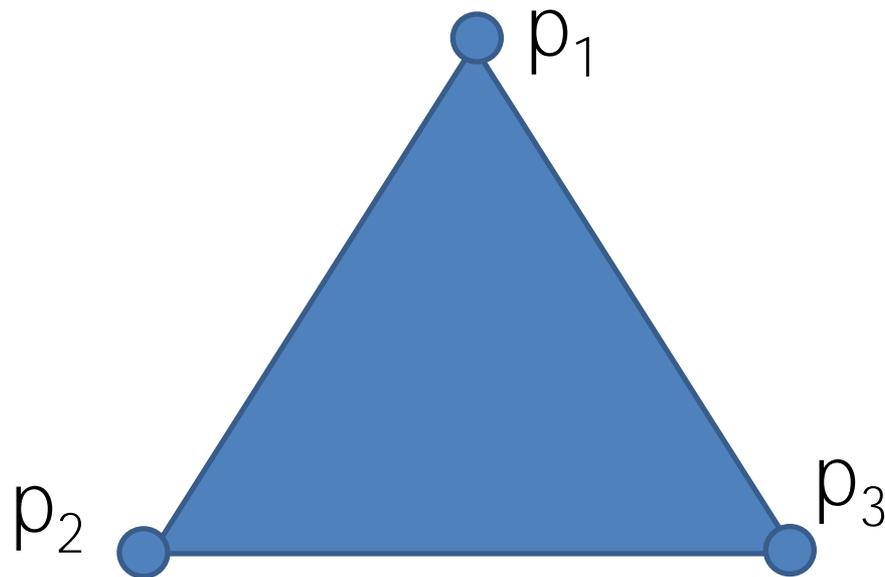
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Discrete or continuous ?



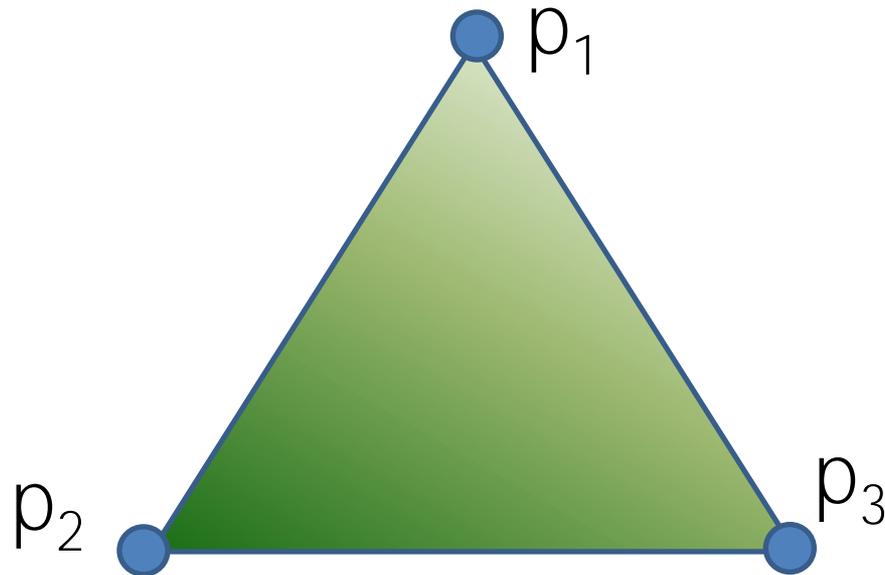
$$t = \{ \lambda_1 p_1 + \lambda_2 p_2 + \lambda_3 p_3, 0 < \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = 1 \}$$

A mesh surface is a continuous object encoded by a discrete set of parameters



$$t = \{ \lambda_1 p_1 + \lambda_2 p_2 + \lambda_3 p_3, 0 < \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = 1 \}$$

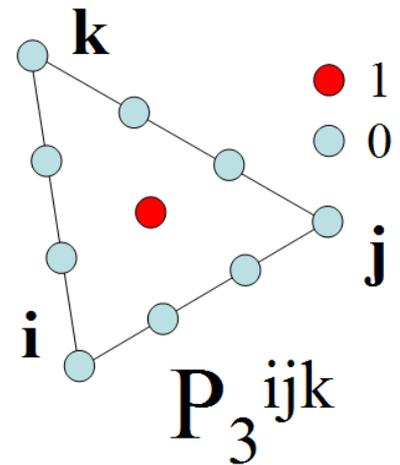
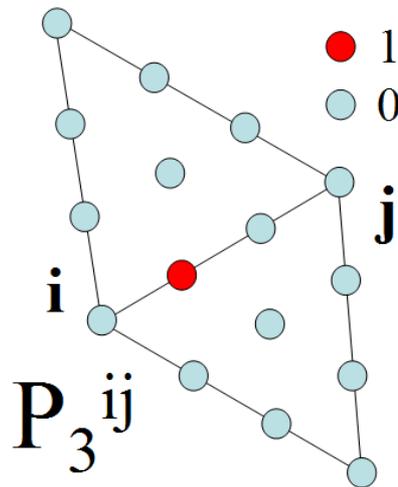
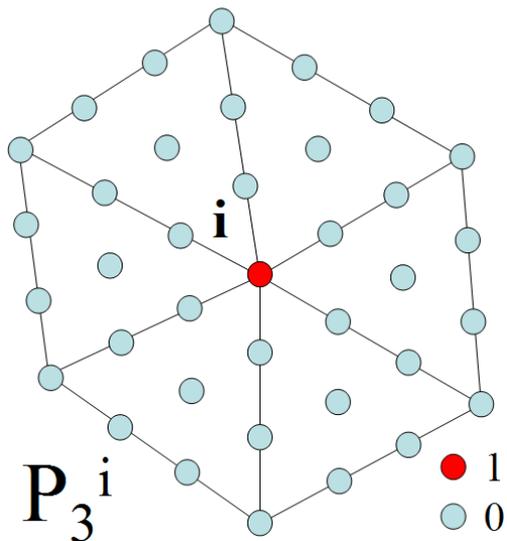
We can compute integrals over the triangle



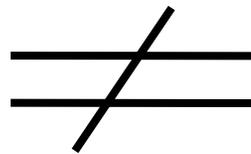
$$t = \{ \lambda_1 p_1 + \lambda_2 p_2 + \lambda_3 p_3, 0 < \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = 1 \}$$

# Epilogue

A  $P_n$  function is also a continuous object encoded by a discrete set of parameters



Discretization of parameters (geo. or func.)



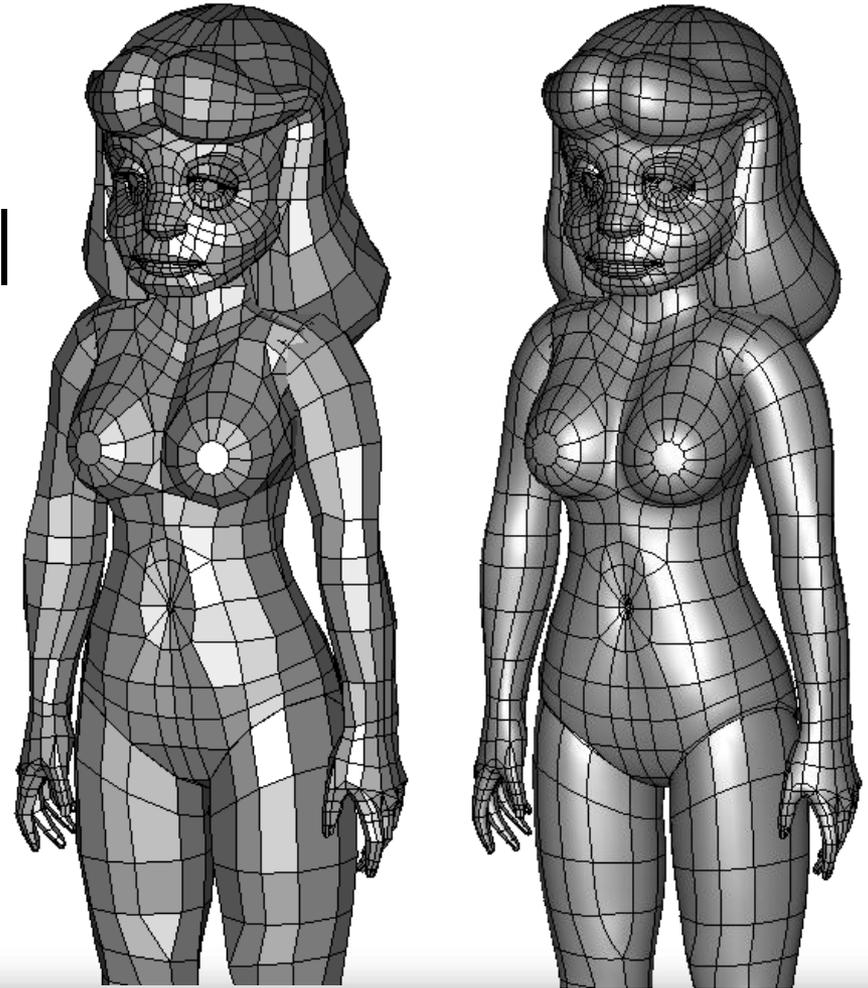
Discretization of geometry

# Epilogue

What's the point ?

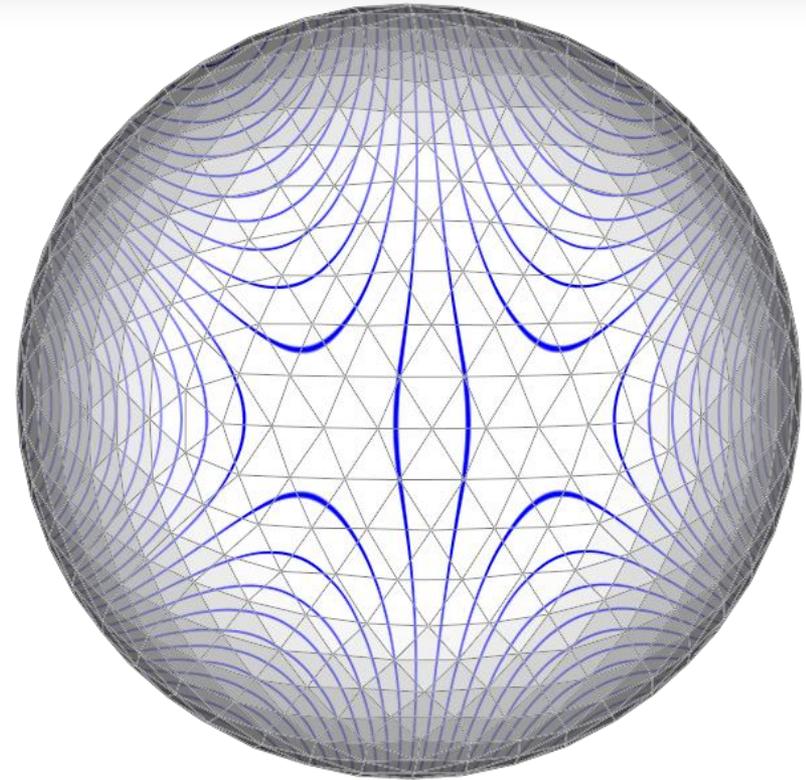
What's the point ?

(1) Smooth is beautiful



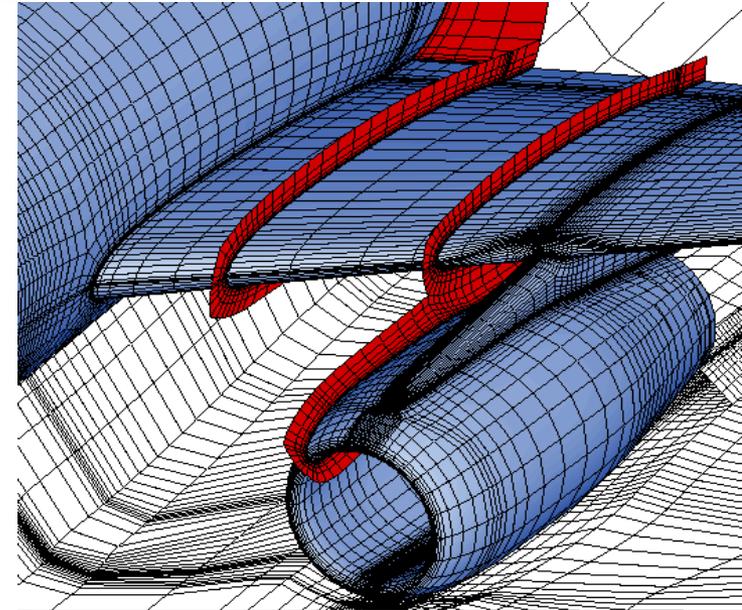
What's the point ?

(1) Smooth is beautiful



## What's the point ?

- (1) Smooth is beautiful
- (2) FEM framework is general



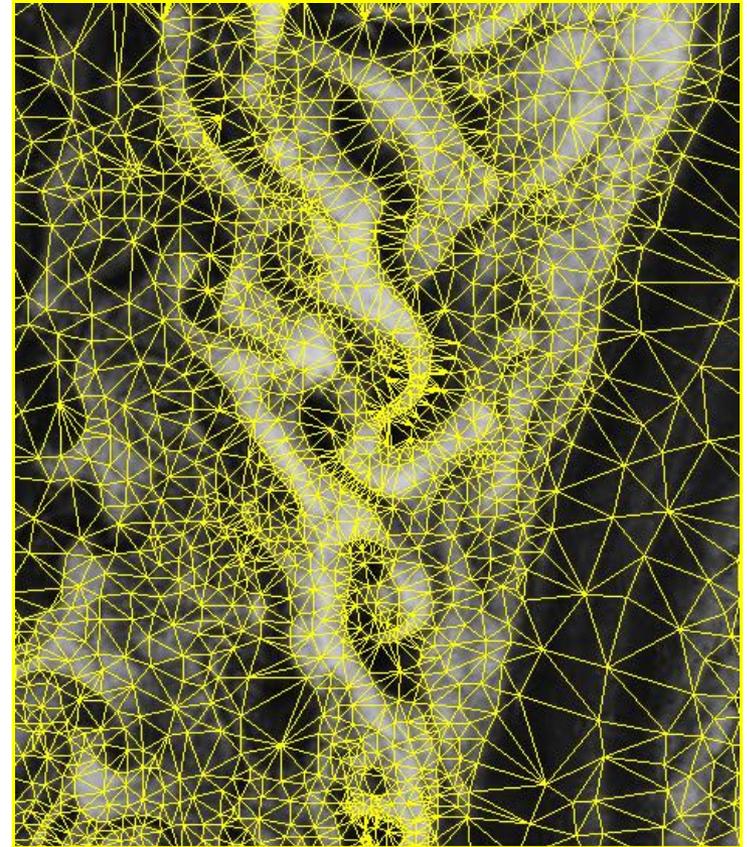
From bunnies to spaceships ...

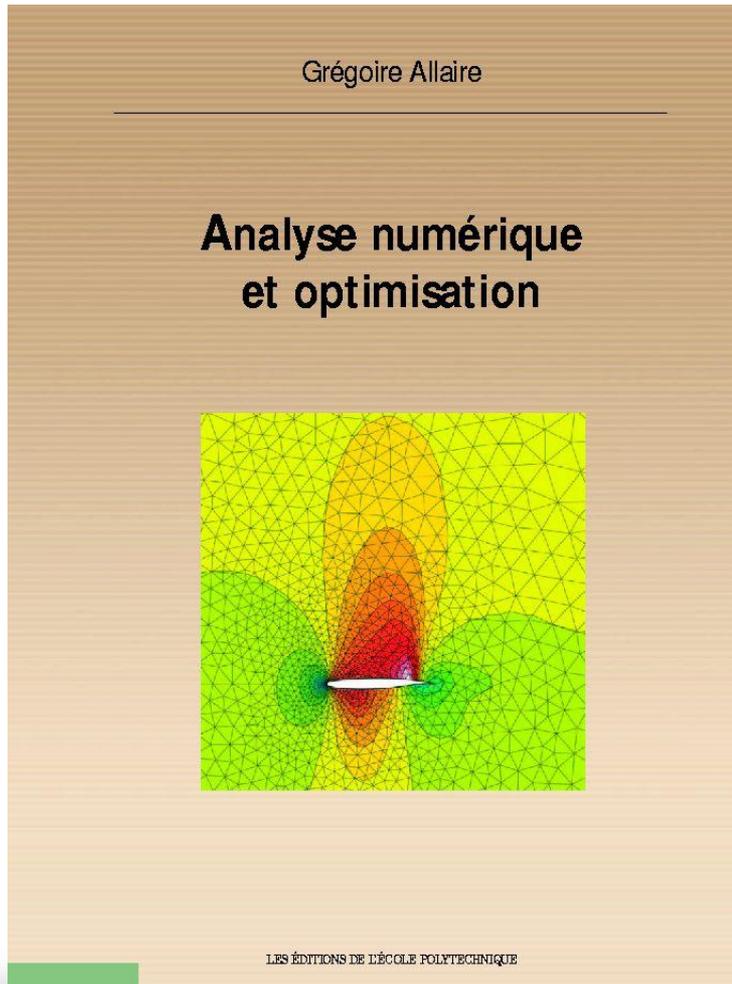
## What's the point ?

(1) Smooth is beautiful

(2) FEM framework is  
general

(3) P1 does not always suffice (Bi-Laplacian...)

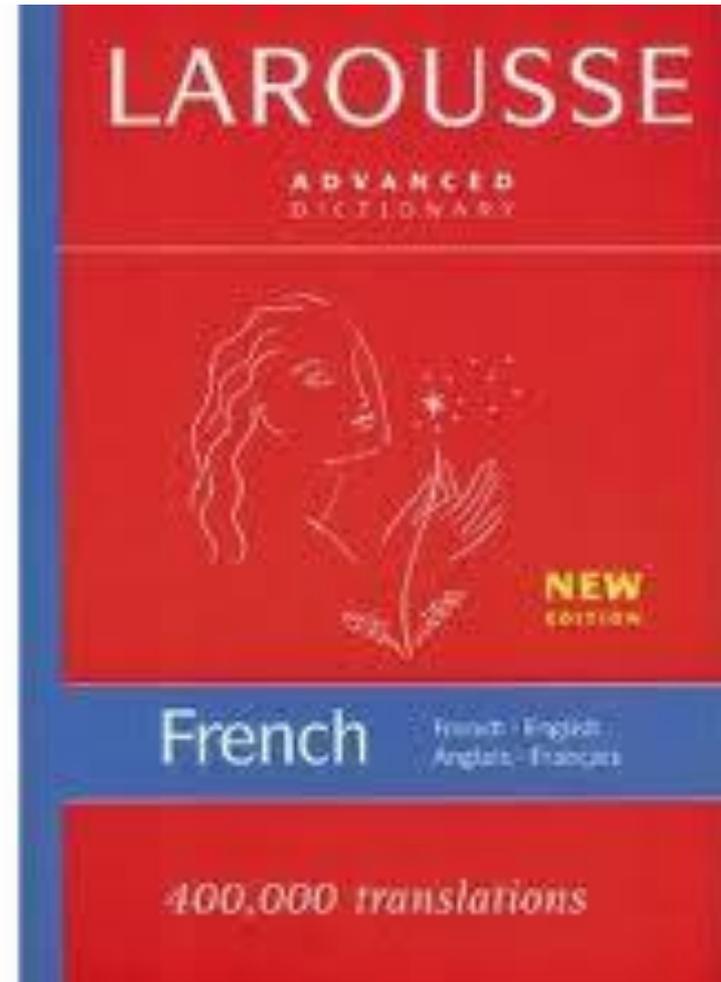
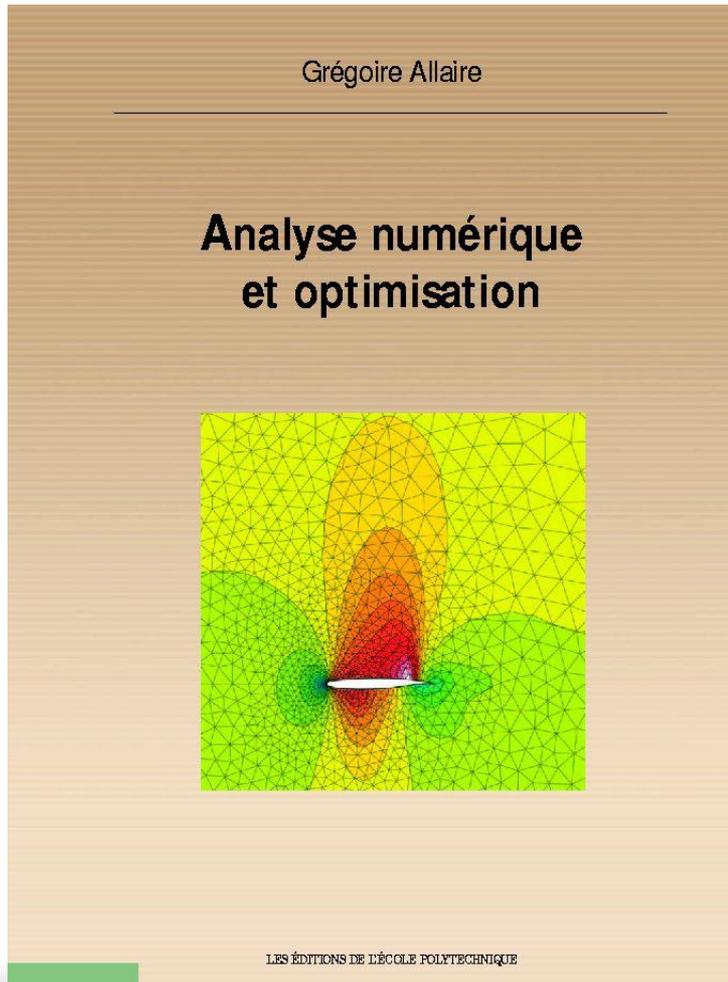




Theory, validity, convergence  
Sobolev spaces  
Lax-Milgram  
Other function bases  
Other inner products

...

# Further reading



# Further reading

