



Introduction to Visualization and Computer Graphics
DH2320
Prof. Dr. Tino Weinkauff

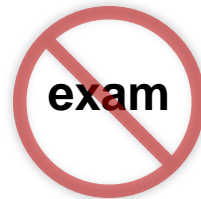
Introduction to Visualization and Computer Graphics

Grids and Interpolation

- In general, the content of **all** slides can be asked in the exam.
- Some content is very likely to be asked in the exam. Marked with this sign:

very important

- Some content will not be asked. Marked with this sign:

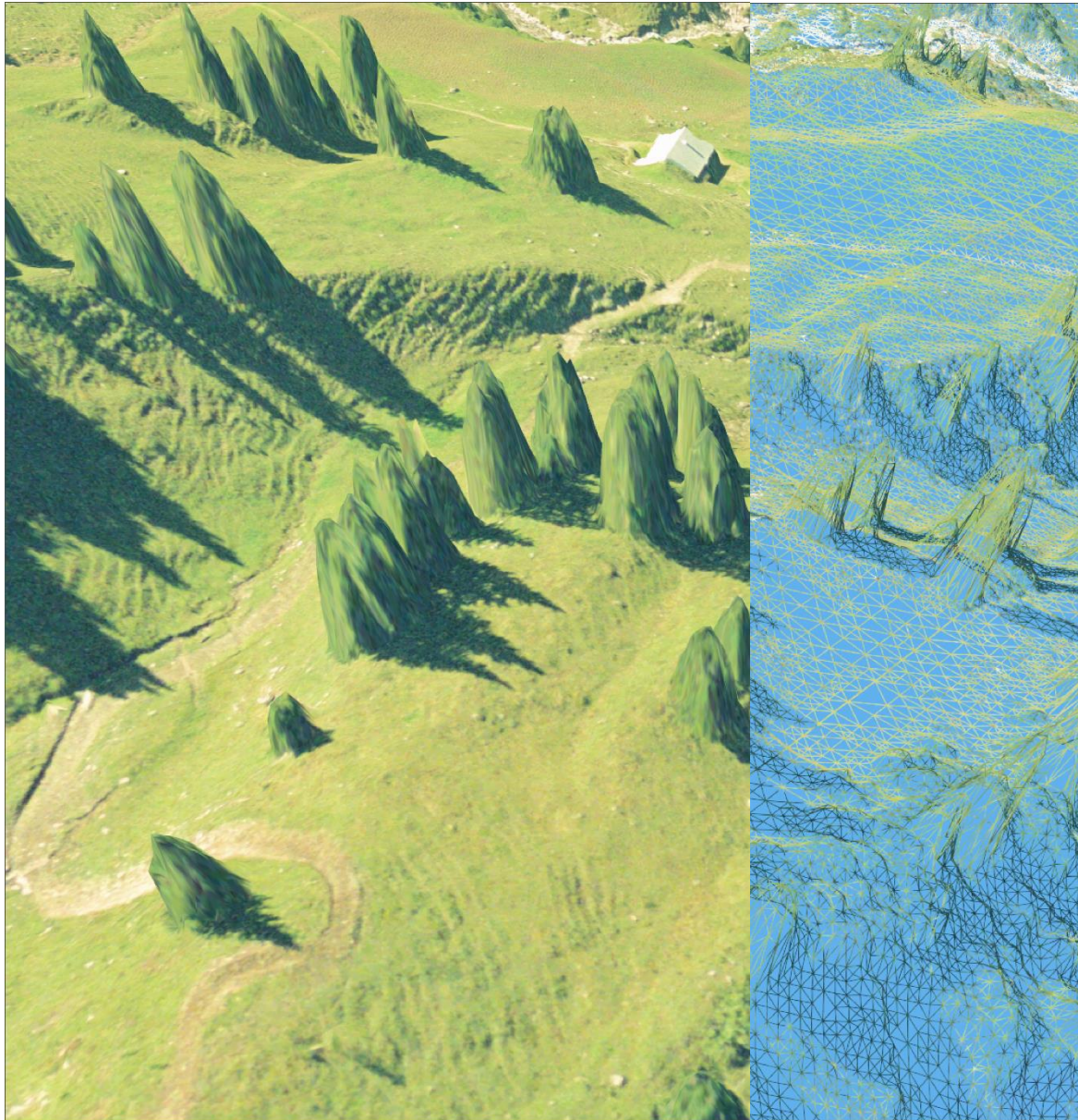


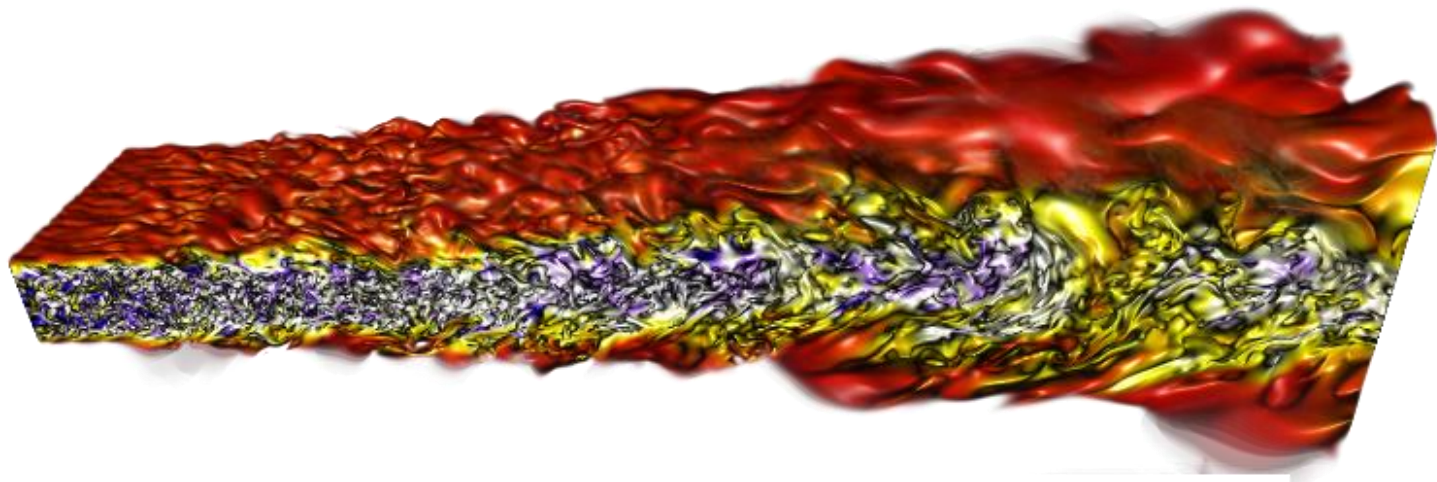
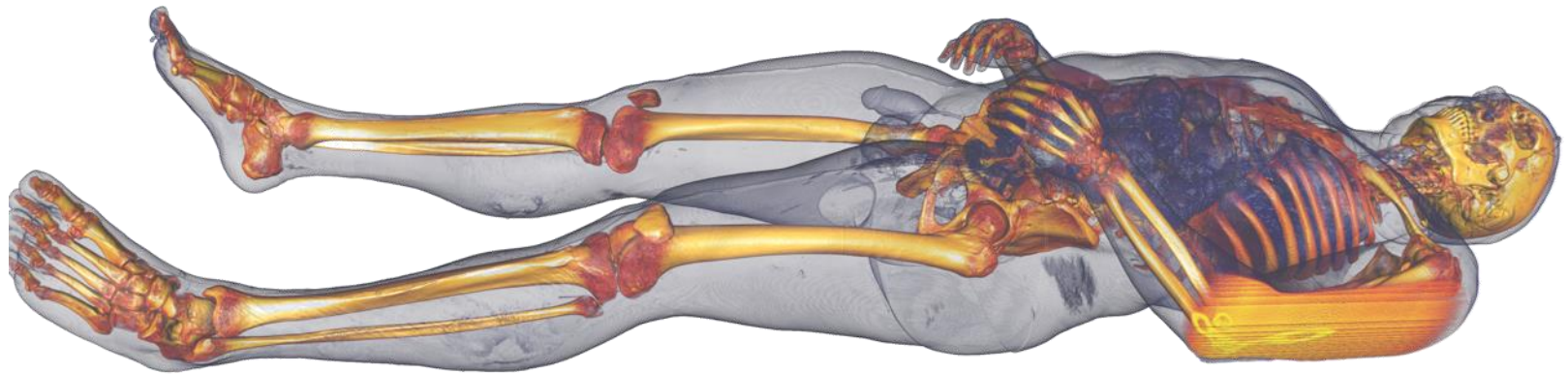


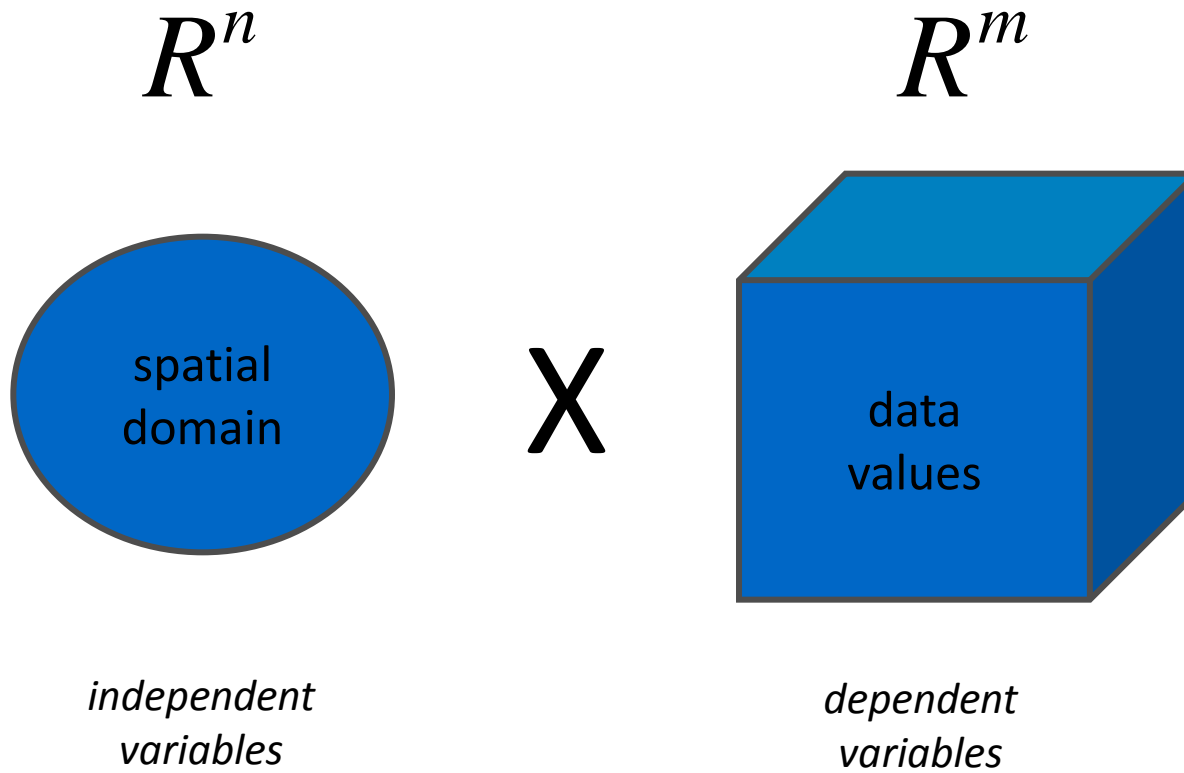
Introduction to Visualization and Computer Graphics
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Grids and Interpolation

Structured Grids
Unstructured Grids

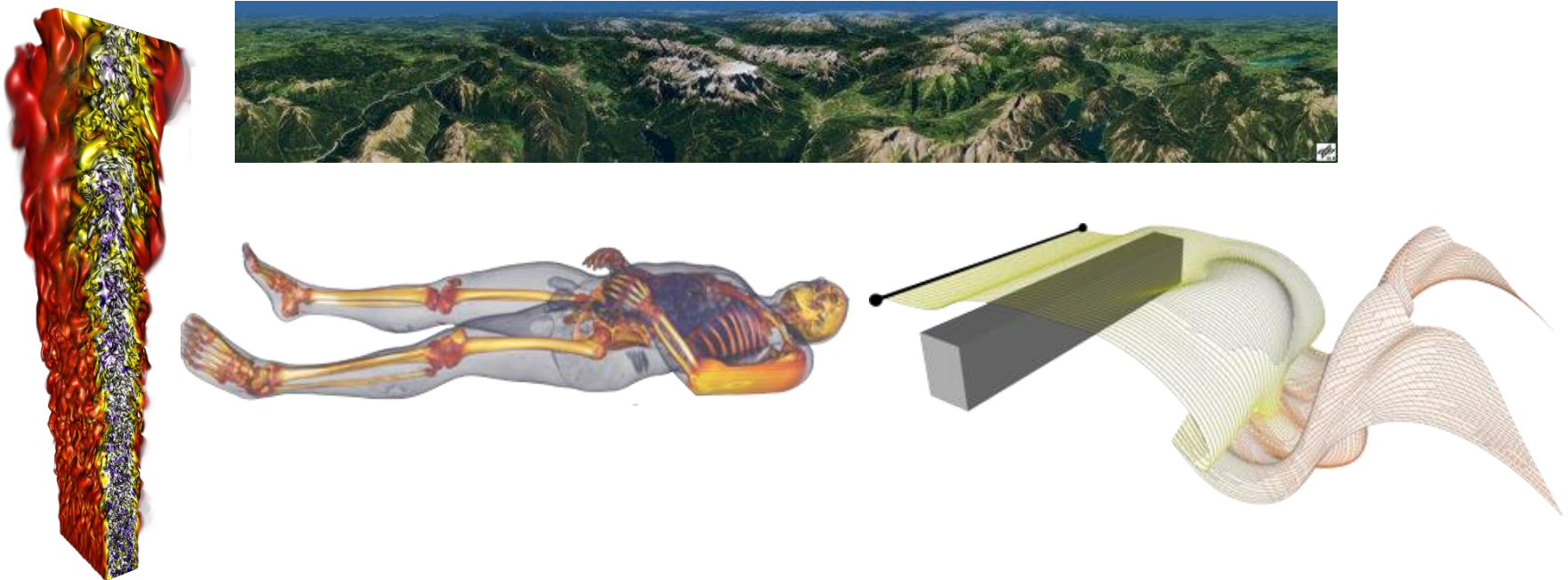






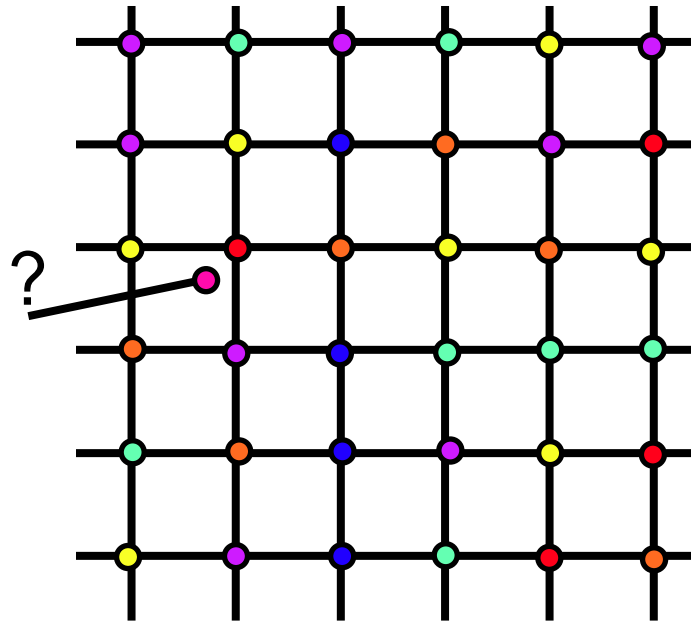
- In most cases, the visualization data represent a **continuous real object**, e.g., an oscillating membrane, a velocity field around a body, an organ, human tissue, etc.
 - This object lives in an n -dimensional space - the **domain**
- Usually, the data is only given at a finite set of locations, or **samples**, in space and/or time
 - Remember imaging processes like numerical simulation and CT-scanning, note similarity to pixel images
- We call this a **discrete structure**, or a **discrete representation** of a continuous object

- Discrete representations
 - We usually deal with the reconstruction of a continuous real object from a given discrete representation



- Discrete structures consist of point samples
- Often, we build **grids/meshes** that connect neighboring samples

- Discrete representations
 - We usually deal with the reconstruction of a continuous real object from a given discrete representation



- Discrete structures consist of point samples
- Often, we build **grids/meshes** that connect neighboring samples

- Grid terminology

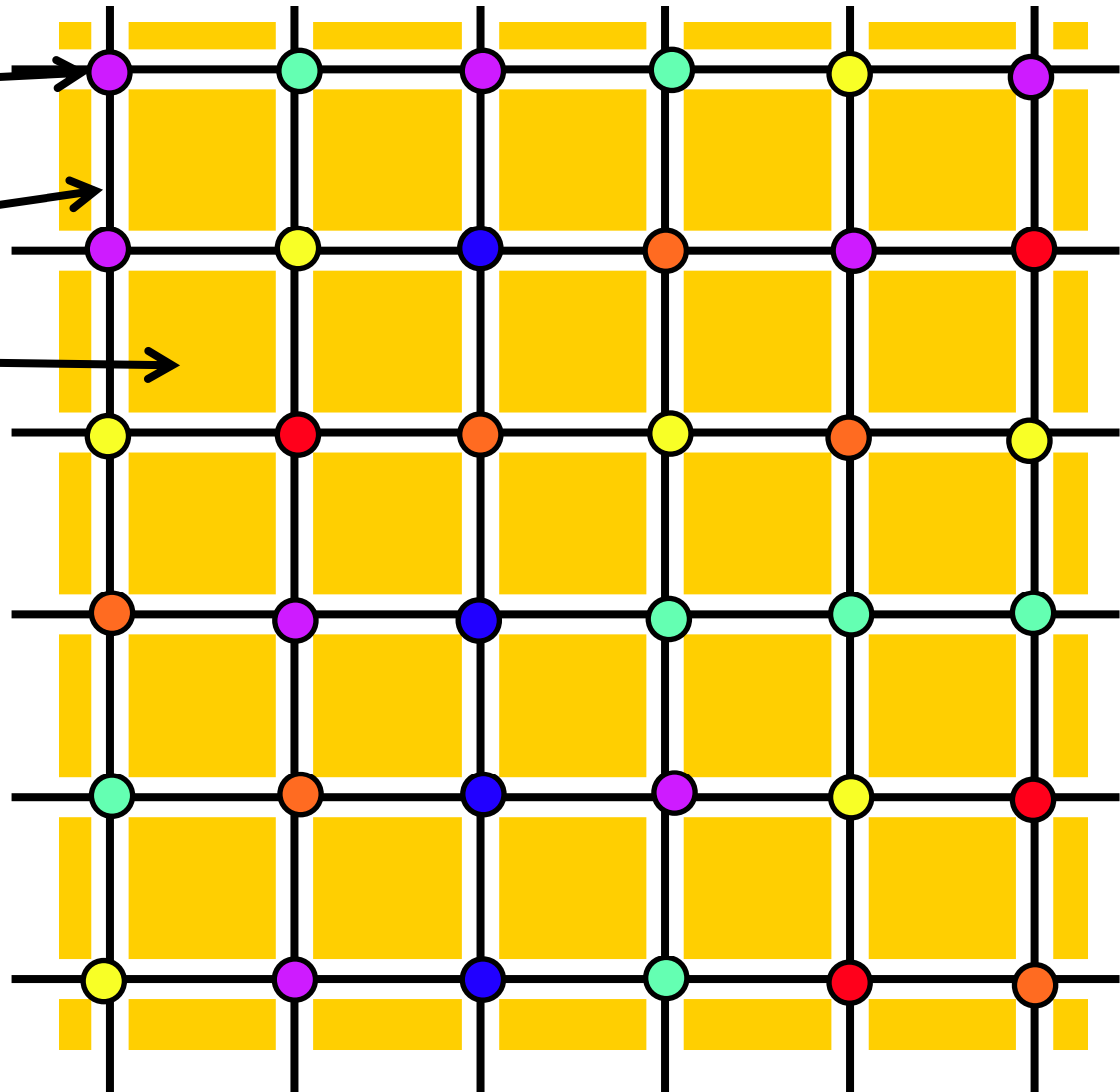
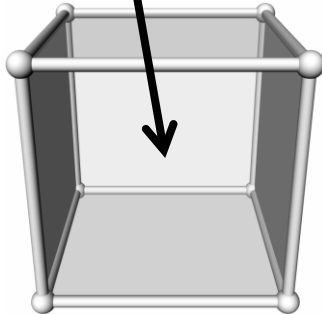
0D: grid vertex
(grid point)

1D: grid line

2D: grid face

3D: grid voxel

grid vertices
grid lines
grid faces



grid cell: largest-dimensional
element in a grid

2D: grid face

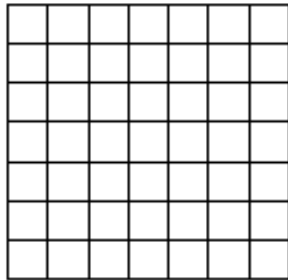
3D: grid voxel

Data Connectivity

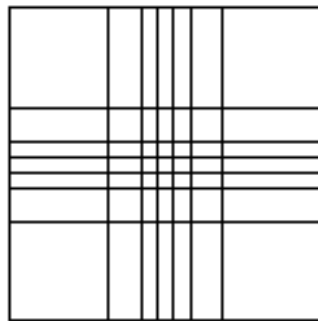
- There are different types of grids:
- **Structured grids**
connectivity is implicitly given.
 - **Block-structured grids**
combination of several structured grids
- **Unstructured grids**
connectivity is explicitly given.
- **Hybrid grids**
combination of different grid types

Structured grids

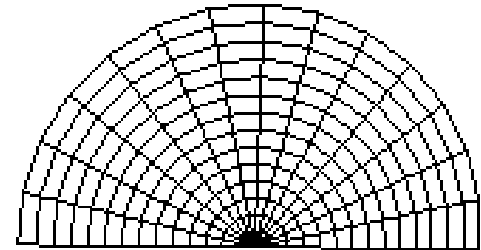
- “Structured” refers to the implicitly given connectivity between the grid vertices
- We distinguish different types of structured grids regarding the implicitly or explicitly given coordinate positions of the grid vertices



uniform grid
implicitly given coordinates



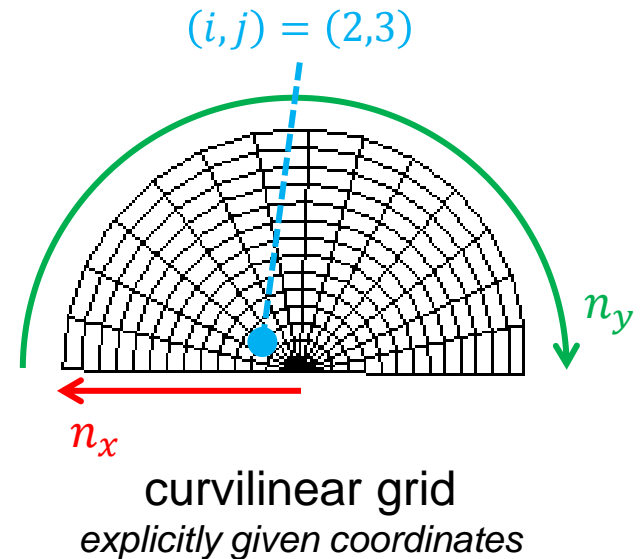
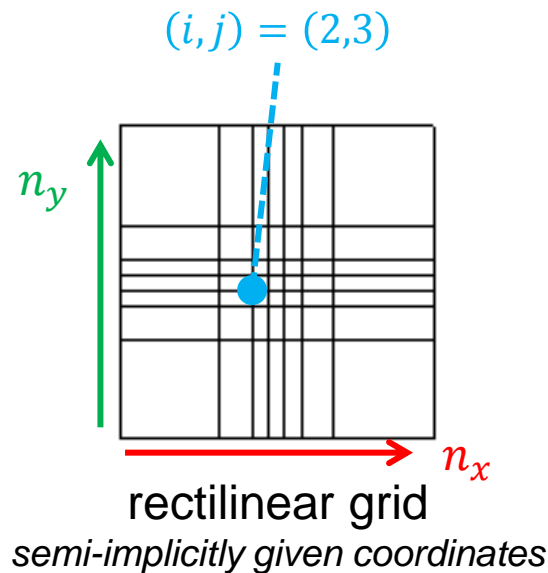
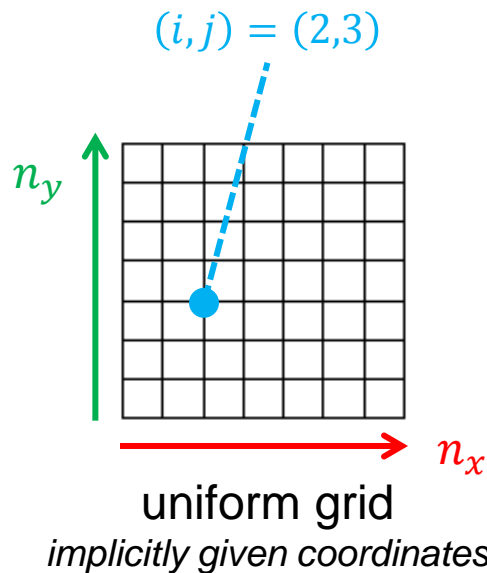
rectilinear grid
semi-implicitly given coordinates



curvilinear grid
explicitly given coordinates

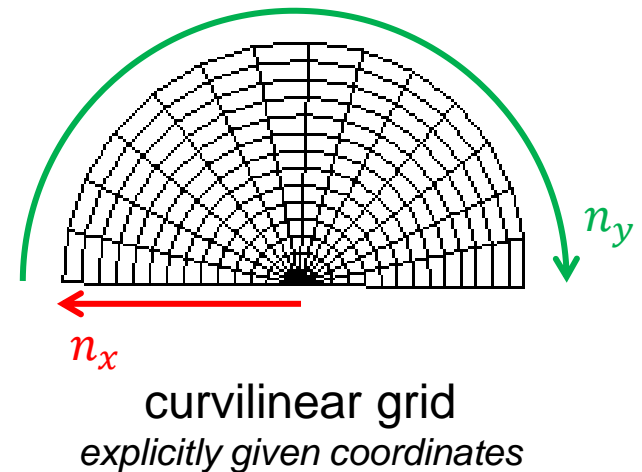
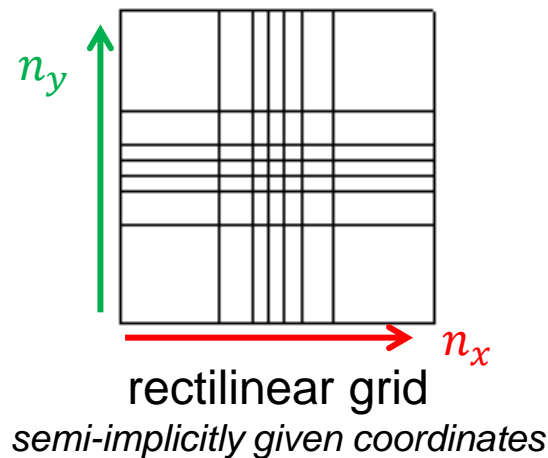
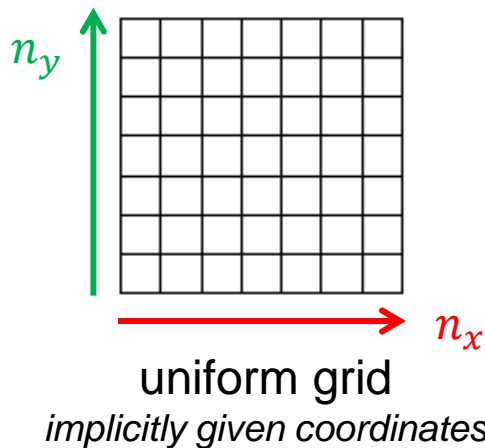
Structured grids

- Number of grid vertices: n_x, n_y, n_z
- We can address every grid vertex with an index tuple (i, j, k)
 - $0 \leq i < n_x$ $0 \leq j < n_y$ $0 \leq k < n_z$

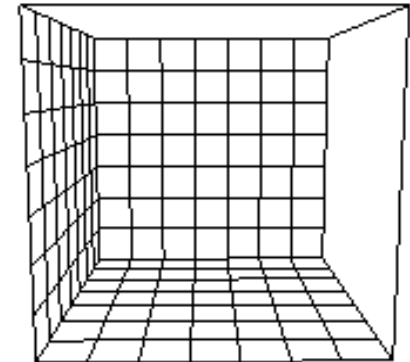
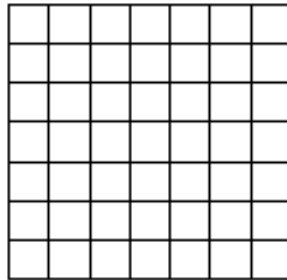


Structured grids

- Number of grid vertices: n_x, n_y, n_z
- We can address every **grid cell** with an index tuple (i, j, k)
 - $0 \leq i < n_x - 1$ $0 \leq j < n_y - 1$ $0 \leq k < n_z - 1$
- ➔ Number of cells: $(n_x - 1) \times (n_y - 1) \times (n_z - 1)$

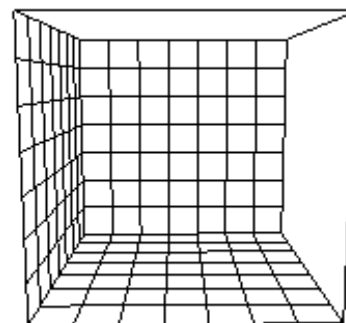
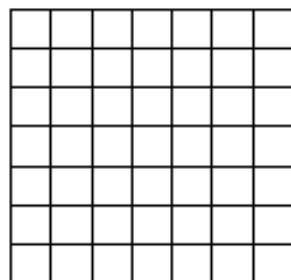


- **Regular or uniform grids**
- Cells are rectangles or rectangular cuboids of the same size
- All grid lines are parallel to the axes



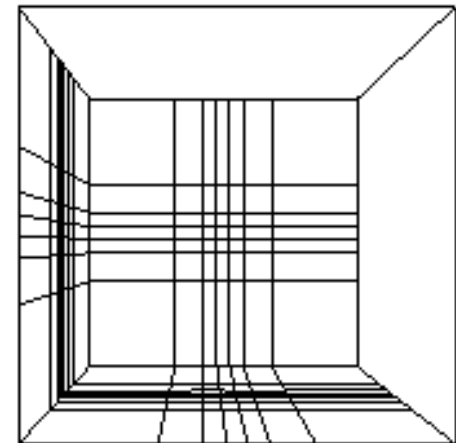
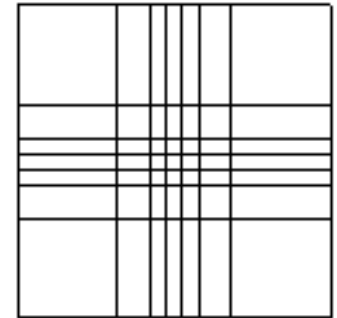
- To define a uniform grid, we need the following:
 - Bounding box: $(x_{min}, y_{min}, z_{min}) - (x_{max}, y_{max}, z_{max})$
 - Number of grid vertices in each dimension: n_x, n_y, n_z
 - → Cell size: d_x, d_y, d_z

- **Regular or uniform grids**
- Well suited for image data (medical applications)
- Coordinate \rightarrow cell is very simple and cheap
 - Global search is good enough; local search not required
- Coordinate of a grid vertex:
 $(i \cdot d_x, j \cdot d_y, k \cdot d_z)$

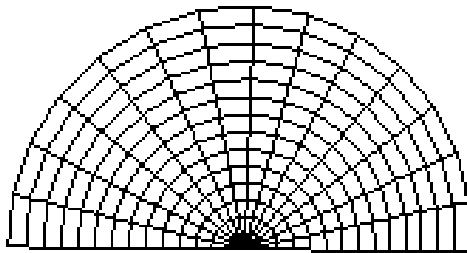


- **Cartesian grid**
- Special case of a uniform grid: $d_x = d_y = d_z$
- Consists of squares (2D), cubes (3D)

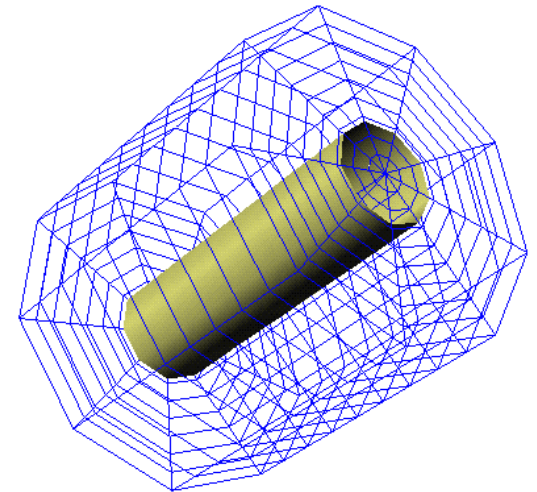
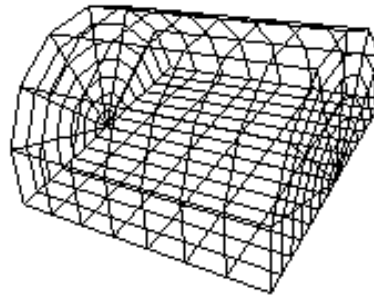
- **Rectilinear grids**
- Cells are rectangles of *different* sizes
- All grid lines are parallel to the axes
- Vertex locations are inferred from positions of grid lines for each dimension:
 - $XLoc = \{0.0, 1.5, 2.0, 5.0, \dots\}$
 - $YLoc = \{-1.0, 0.3, 1.0, 2.0, \dots\}$
 - $ZLoc = \{3.0, 3.5, 3.6, 4.1, \dots\}$
- Coordinate \rightarrow cell still quite simple



- **Curvilinear grids**
- Vertex locations are explicitly given
 - $XYZLoc = \{(0.0, -1.0, 3.0), (1.5, 0.3, 3.5), (2.0, 1.0, 3.6), \dots\}$
- Cells are quadrilaterals or cuboids
- Grid lines are not (necessarily) parallel to the axes

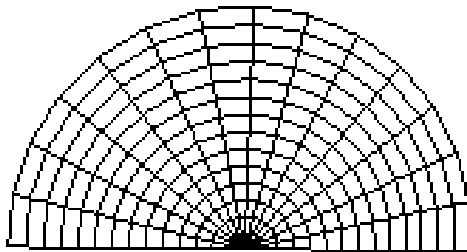


2D curvilinear grid

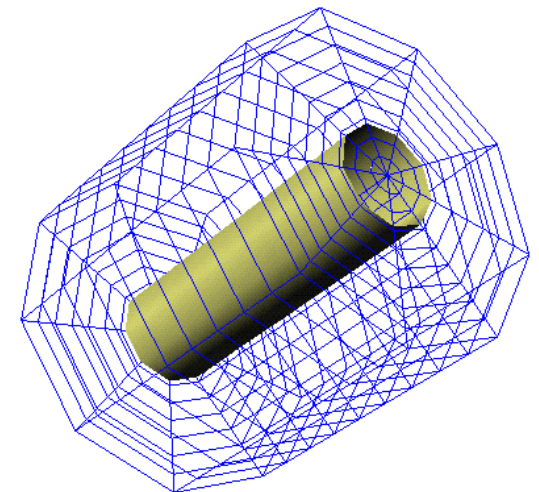
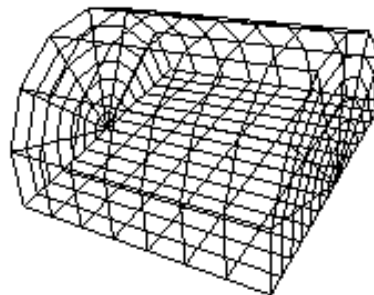


3D curvilinear grids

- **Curvilinear grids**
- Coordinate → cell:
 - **Local search** within last cell or its immediate neighbors
 - **Global search** via quadtree/octree

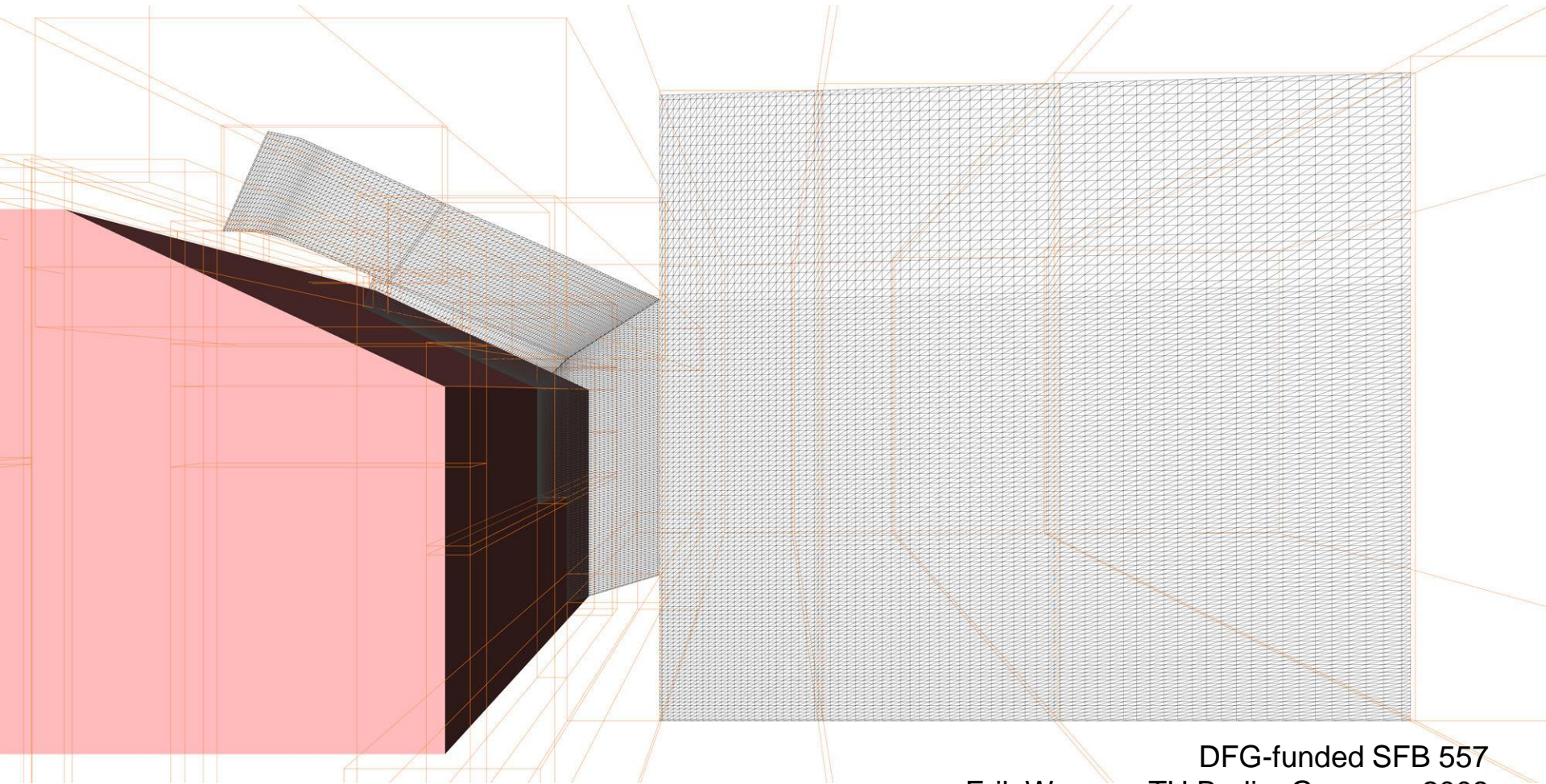


2D curvilinear grid



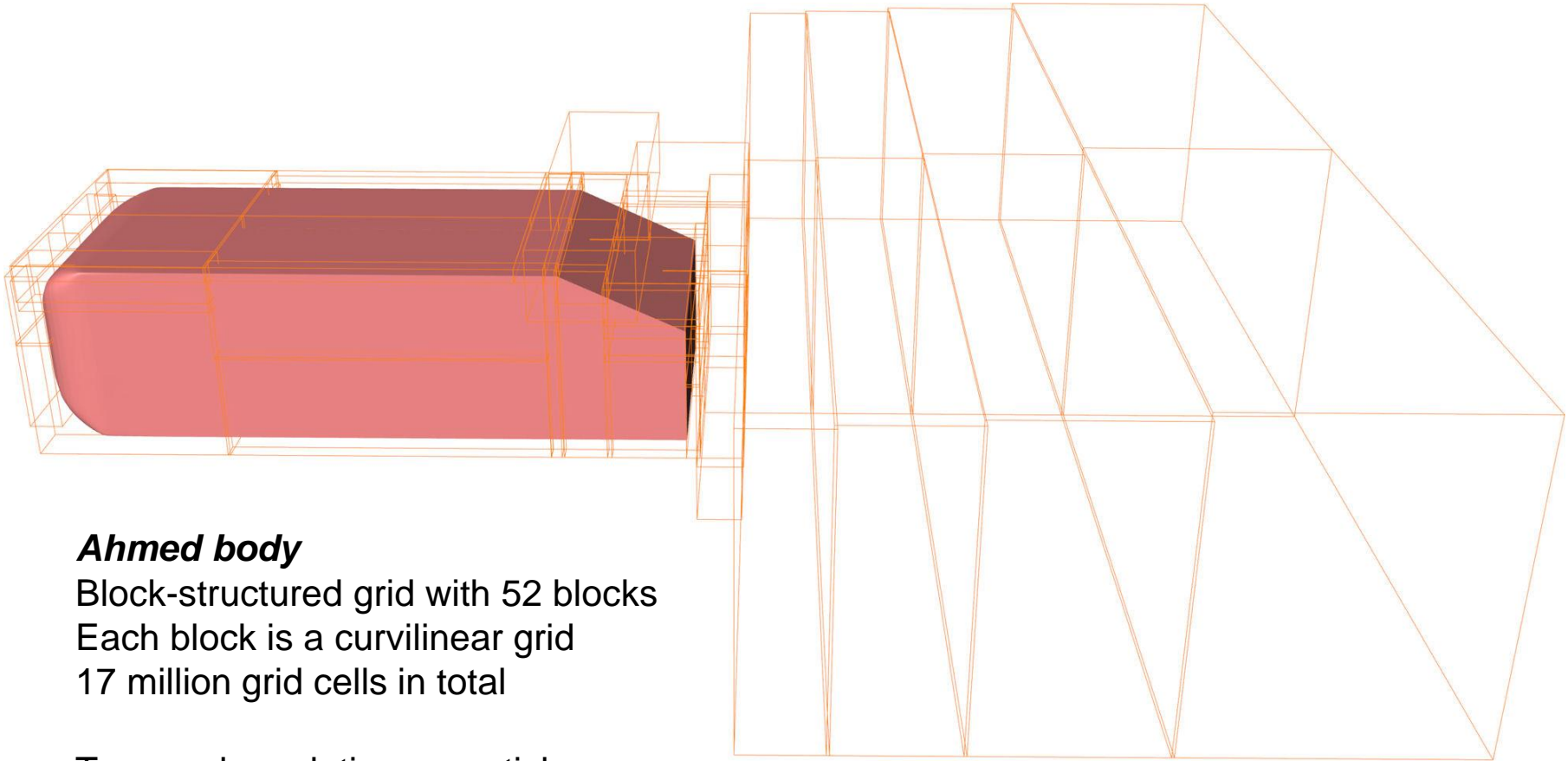
3D curvilinear grids

- **Block-structured grids**
- combination of several structured grids



DFG-funded SFB 557
Erik Wassen, TU Berlin, Germany 2008

- Demands on data storage, an example:



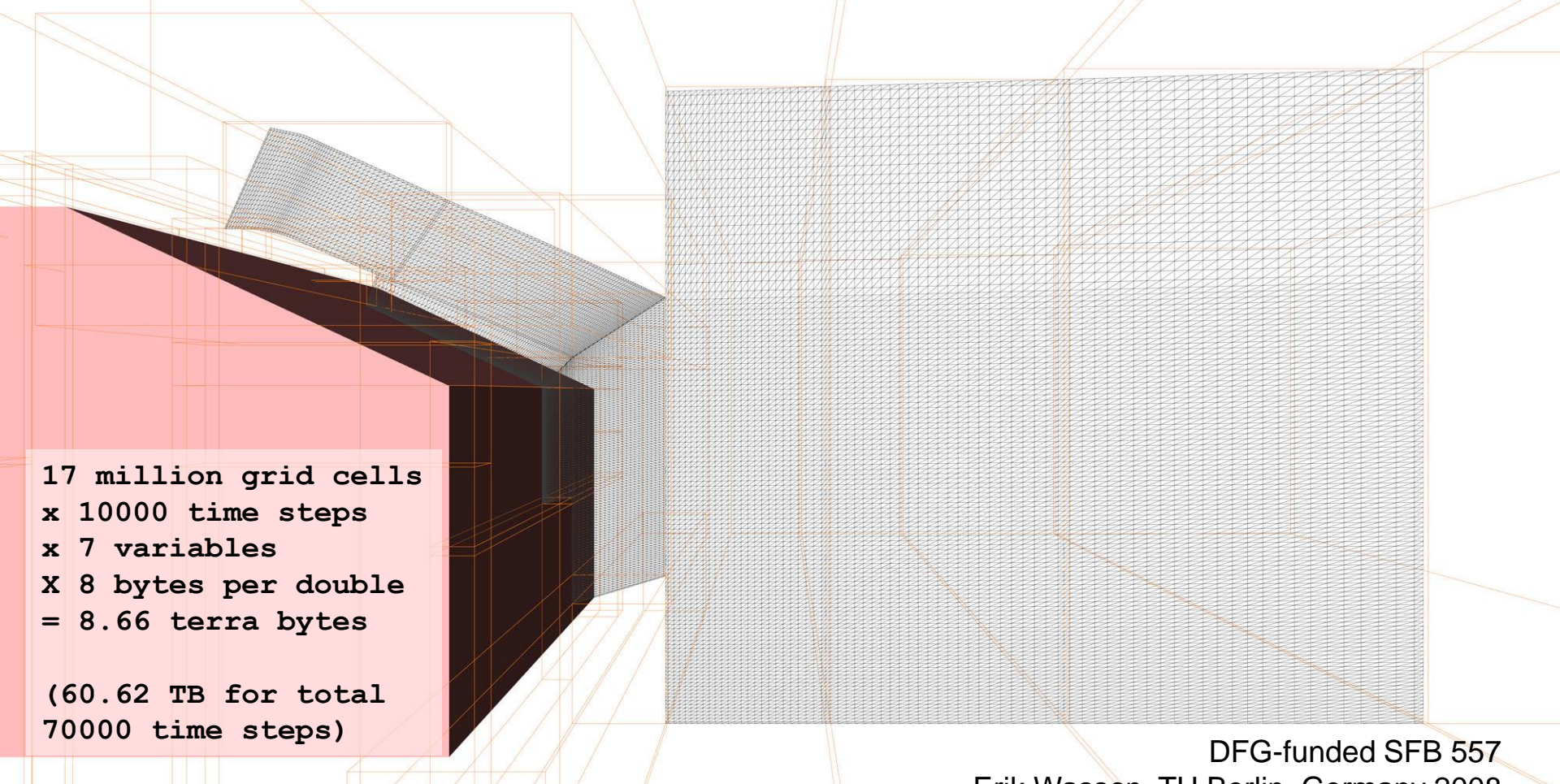
Ahmed body

Block-structured grid with 52 blocks
Each block is a curvilinear grid
17 million grid cells in total

Temporal resolution: a particle
needs 10000 time steps from front
to back of the Ahmed body

DFG-funded SFB 557
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- Demands on data storage, an example:



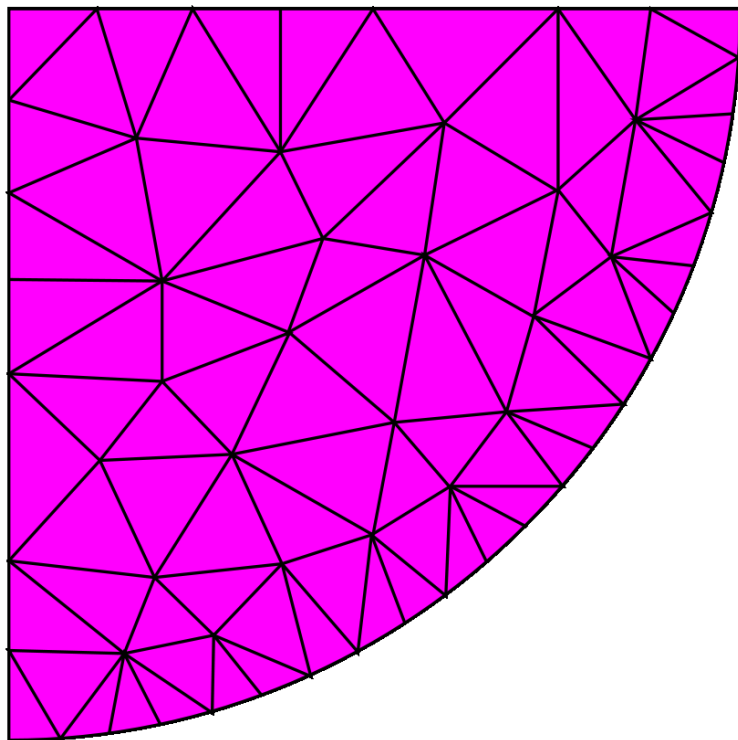
17 million grid cells
x 10000 time steps
x 7 variables
x 8 bytes per double
= 8.66 terra bytes

(60.62 TB for total
70000 time steps)

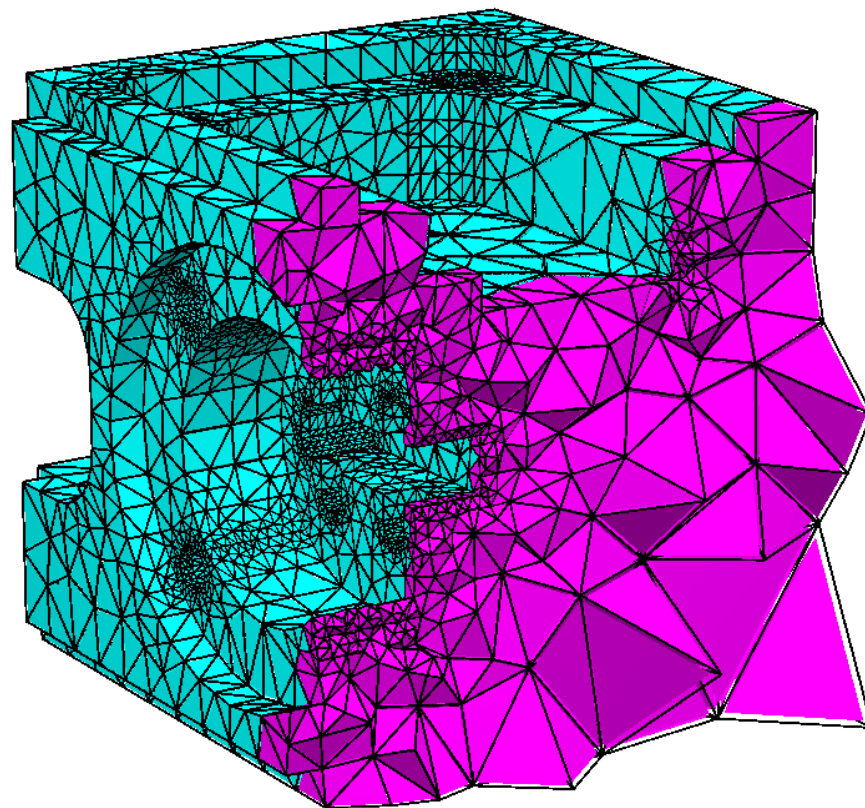
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➔ Do not save every time step, not every variable, and not every block.

- **Unstructured grids**

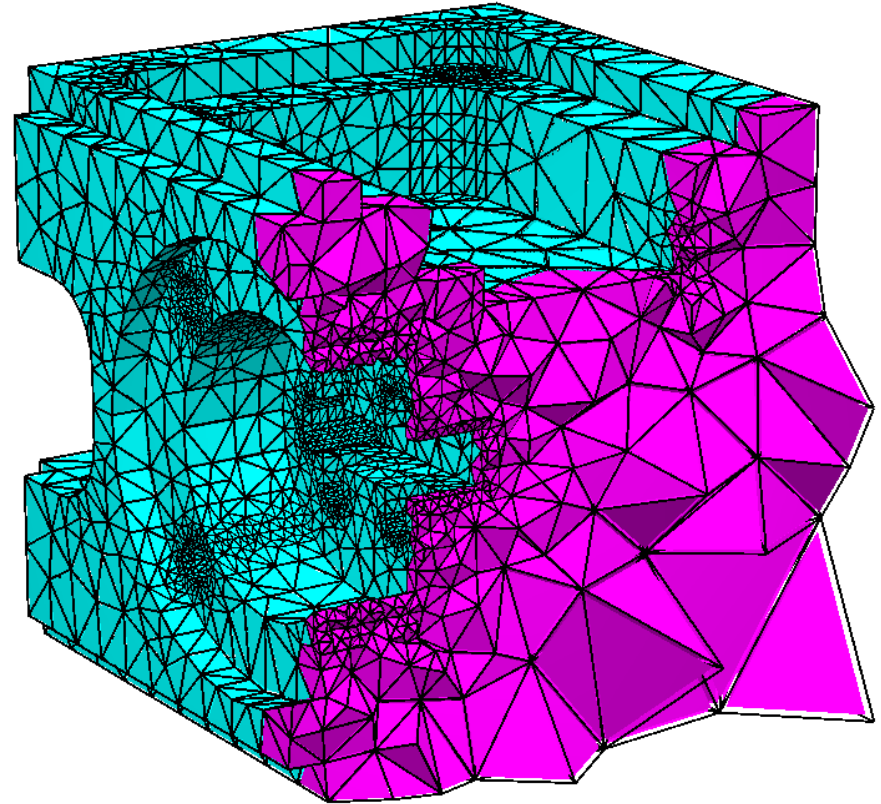


2D unstructured grid
consisting of triangles



3D unstructured grid
consisting of tetrahedra
(from TetGen user manual)

- **Unstructured grids**
- Vertex locations and connectivity explicitly given
- Linear interpolation within a triangle/tetrahedron using barycentric coordinates
- Coordinate \rightarrow triangle/tetra:
 - **Local search** within last triangle/tetra or its immediate neighbors
 - **Global search** via quadtree/octree



3D unstructured grid
consisting of tetrahedra
(from TetGen user manual)

How to store unstructured grids? Different requirements:

- Efficient storage
 - bytes per face / bytes per vertex
- Efficient access
 - of face / vertex properties (e.g., position)
- Efficient traversal
 - e.g., neighboring face, 1-ring of a vertex,...
- Requirements are competing

Face set

- Store faces
 - 3 positions
 - no connectivity
("match positions")
- Example: STL
 - very simple structure
(too simple, unpractical!)
 - easily portable

Triangles								
x ₁₁	y ₁₁	z ₁₁	x ₁₂	y ₁₂	z ₁₂	x ₁₃	y ₁₃	z ₁₃
x ₂₁	y ₂₁	z ₂₁	x ₂₂	y ₂₂	z ₂₂	x ₂₃	y ₂₃	z ₂₃
...				
x _{F1}	y _{F1}	z _{F1}	x _{F2}	y _{F2}	z _{F2}	x _{F3}	y _{F3}	z _{F3}

36 B/f = 72 B/v
no connectivity!

Shared vertex

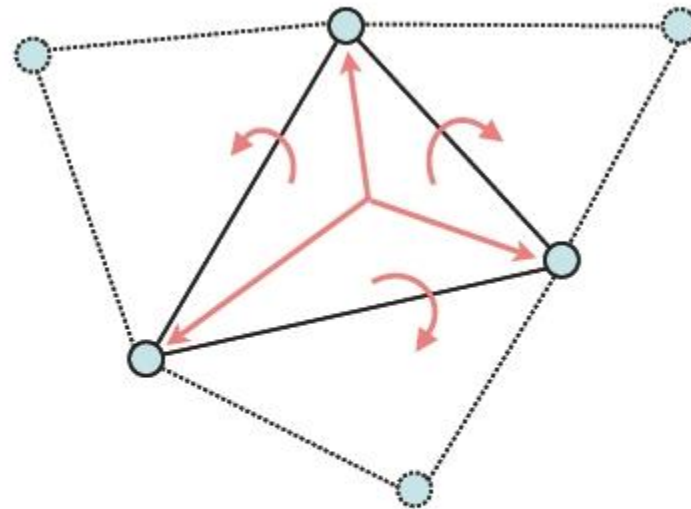
- vertex table stores positions
- triangle table stores indices into vertices
- No explicit connectivity
- Examples: OFF, OBJ, PLY
 - Quite simple and efficient
 - Enables efficient operations on *static* meshes

Vertices	Triangles
$x_1 \ y_1 \ z_1$	$v_{11} \ v_{12} \ v_{13}$
...	...
$x_v \ y_v \ z_v$...
	...
	...
	$v_{f1} \ v_{f2} \ v_{f3}$

$12 \text{ B/v} + 12 \text{ B/f} = 36 \text{ B/v}$
no neighborhood info

Face-based connectivity

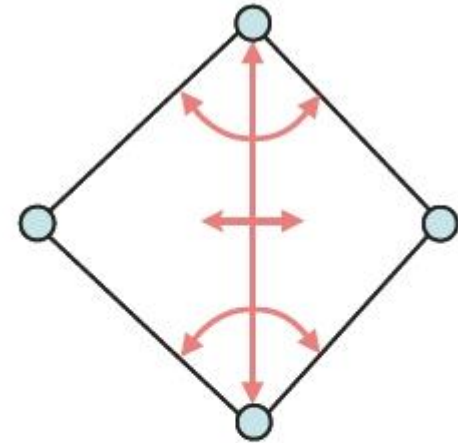
- vertices store
 - position
 - face reference
- faces store
 - 3 vertex references
 - references to 3 neighboring faces



64 B/v
no edges!

Edge-based connectivity

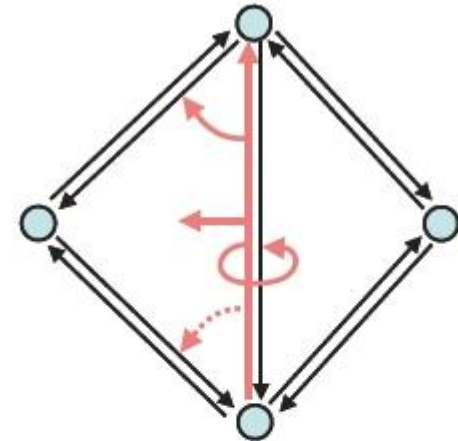
- vertex stores
 - position
 - reference to 1 edge
- edge stores references to
 - 2 vertices
 - 2 faces
 - 4 edges
- face stores
 - reference to 1 edge



120 B/v
edge orientation?

Half-edge based connectivity

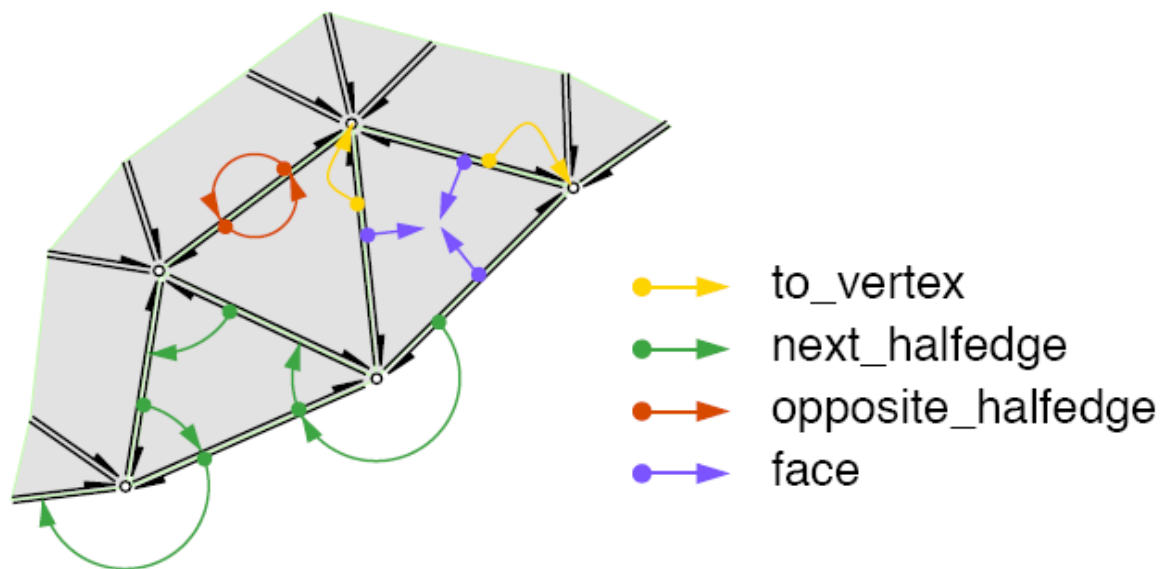
- vertex stores
 - position
 - reference to 1 half-edge
- half-edge stored references to
 - 1 vertex
 - 1 face
 - 1, 2, or 3 half-edges
- face stores
 - reference to 1 half-edge



96 to 144 B/v

no case distinctions
during traversal

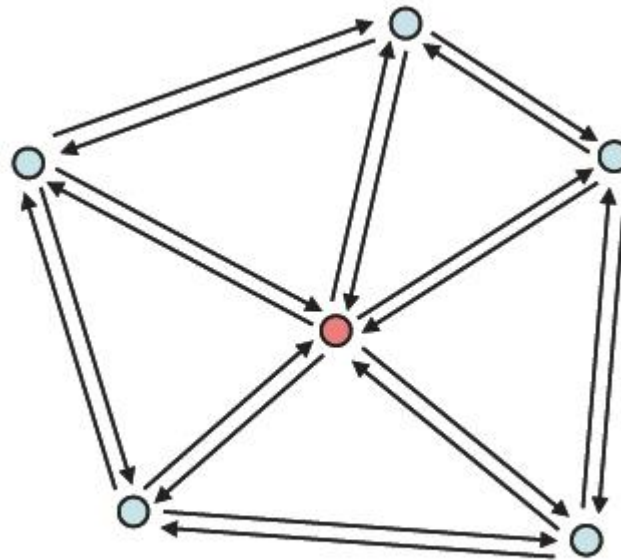
- **Half-edge based connectivity**



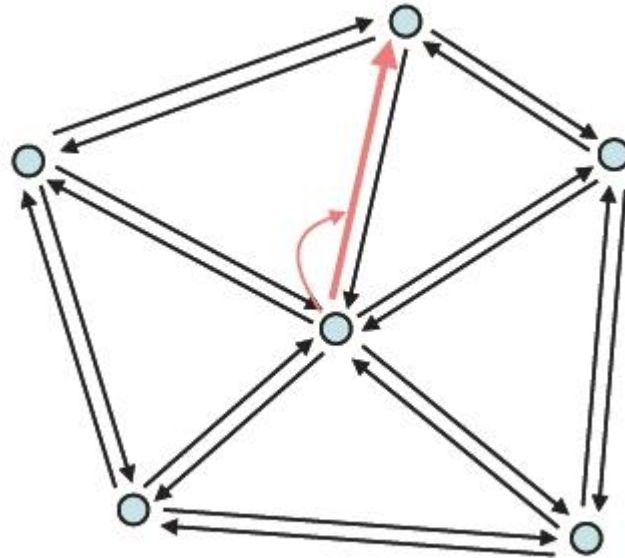
Half-edge based connectivity: Traversal

- Building blocks
 - Vertex to (outgoing) halfedge
 - half-edge to next (previous) halfedge
 - half-edge to neighboring half-edge
 - half-edge to face
 - half-edge to start (end) vertex
- Example: Traverse around vertex (1-ring)
 - enumerate vertices/faces/half-edges

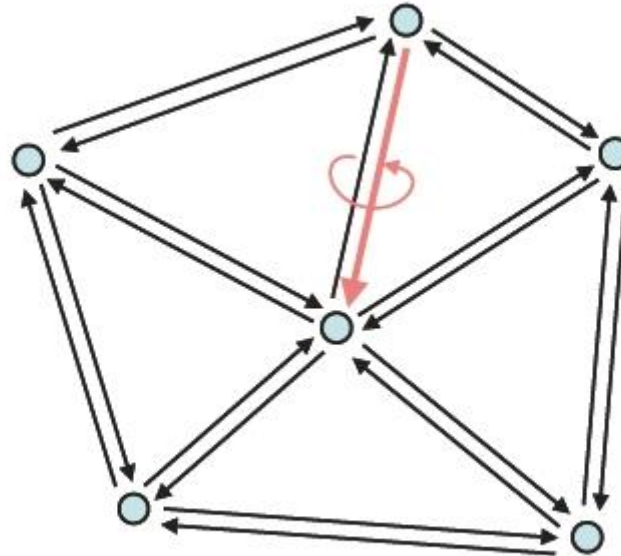
- Start at vertex



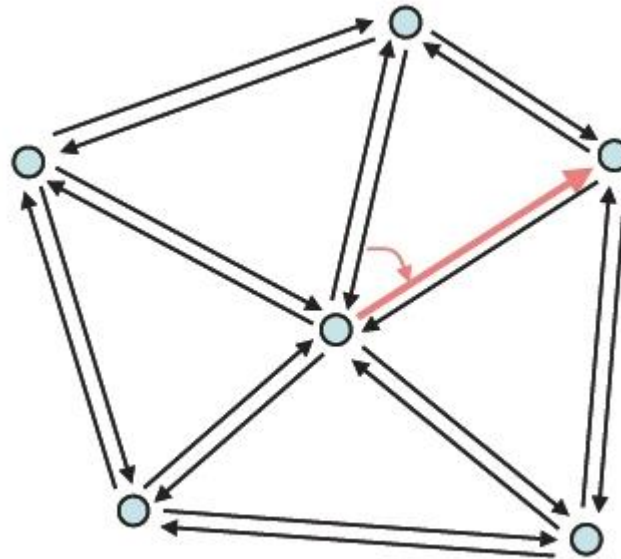
- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge



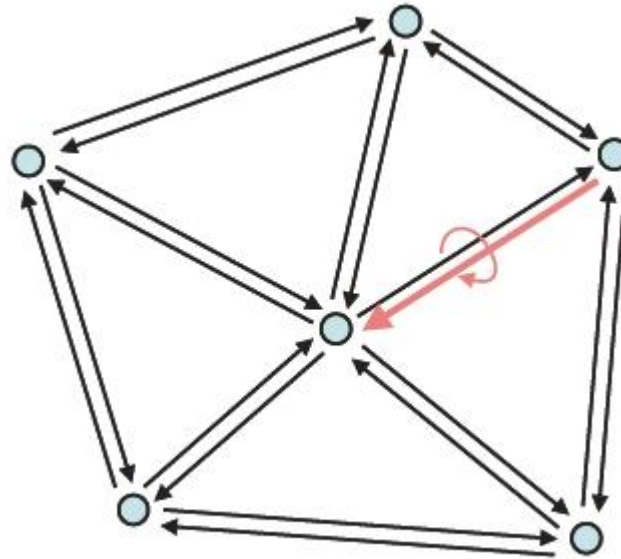
- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge
- Opposite halfedge



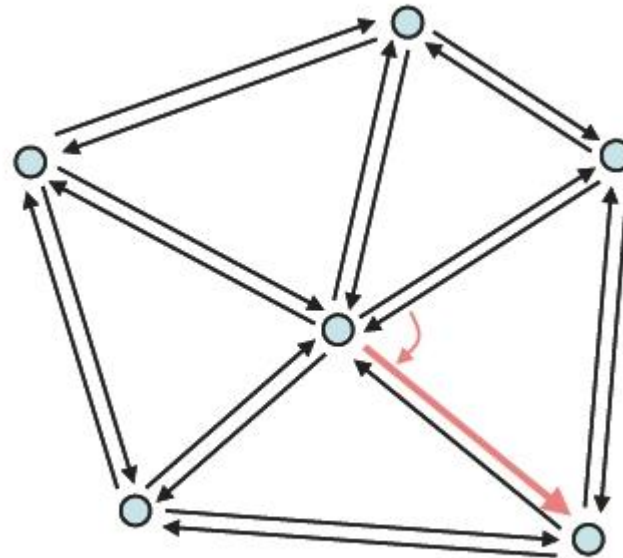
- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge
- Opposite halfedge
- Next half-edge



- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge
- Opposite halfedge
- Next half-edge
- Opposite ...

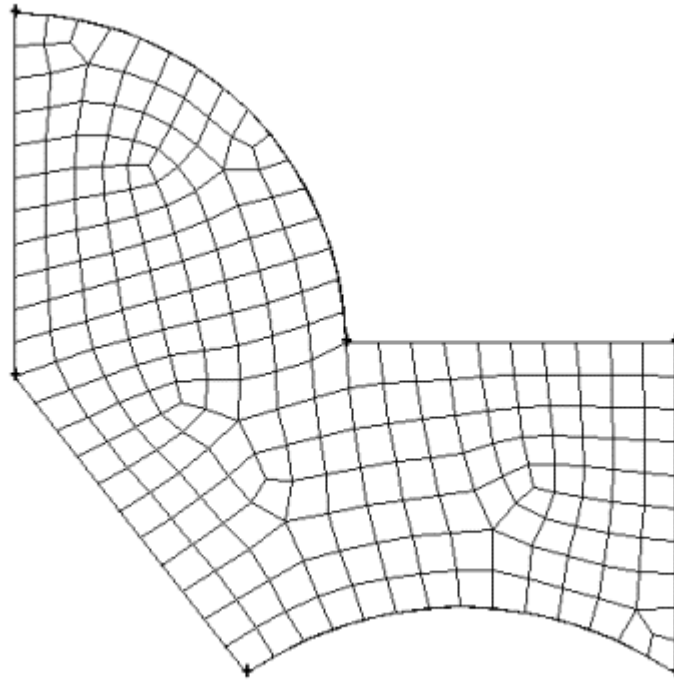


- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge
- Opposite halfedge
- Next half-edge
- Opposite ...
- Next ...
- ...



- CGAL
 - www.cgal.org
 - Computational geometry
 - Free for non-commercial use
- Open Mesh
 - www.openmesh.org
 - Mesh processing
 - Free, LGPL license
- gmu (gmu-lite)
 - proprietary, directed edges

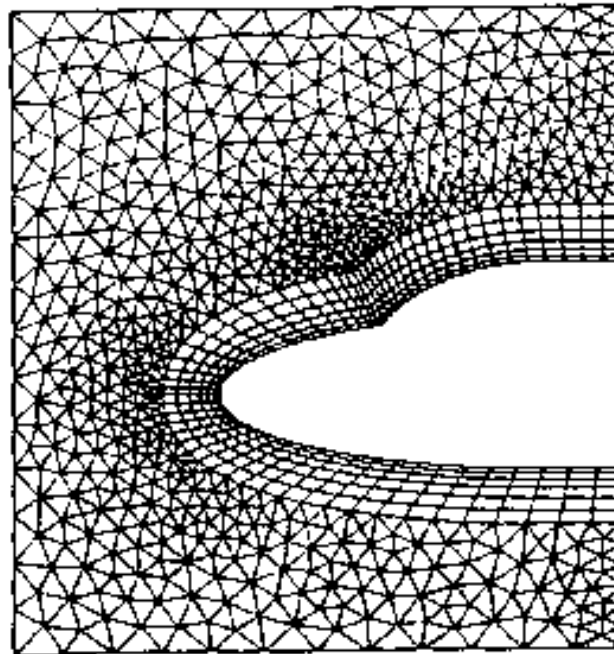
- **Unstructured grids**



2D unstructured grid
consisting of quads

Source: https://www.sharcnet.ca/Software/Gambit/html/modeling_guide/mg0303.htm

- **Hybrid grids**
- combination of different grid types



2D hybrid grid

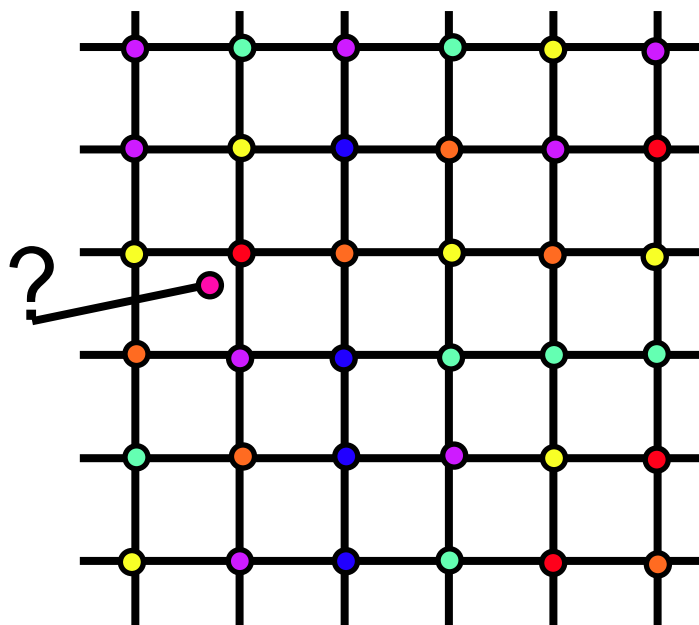


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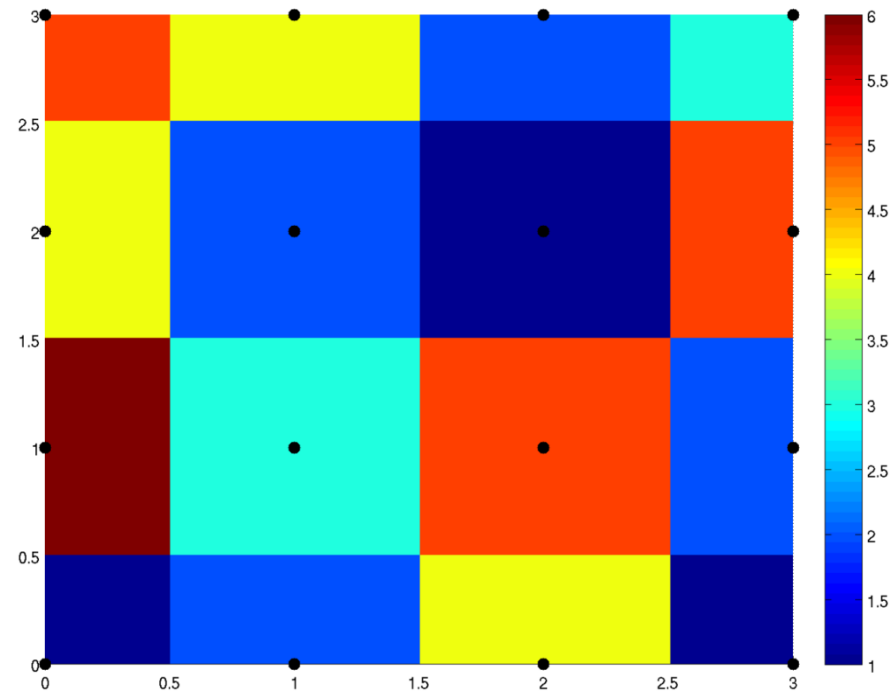
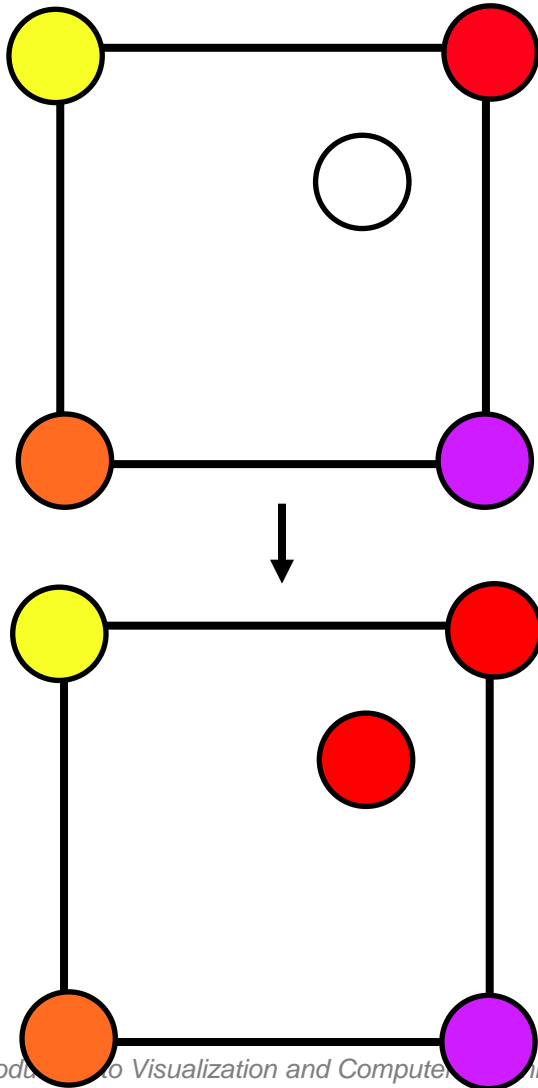
Grids and Interpolation

Linear, Bilinear, Trilinear Interpolation in Structured Grids
Gradients
Linear Interpolation in Unstructured Grids

- A grid consists of a finite number of **samples**
 - The continuous signal is known only at a few points (**data points**)
 - In general, data is needed in between these points
- By **interpolation** we obtain a representation that matches the function at the data points
 - **Reconstruction** at any other point possible

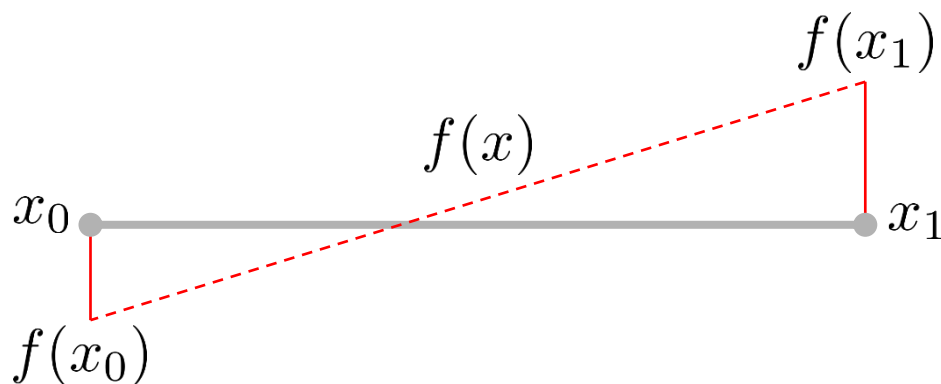


- Simplest approach: **Nearest-Neighbor Interpolation**
 - Assign the value of the nearest grid point to the sample.



- **Linear Interpolation** (in 1D domain)

- Domain points x , scalar function $f(x)$



General:

$$f(x) = \frac{x_1 - x}{x_1 - x_0} f(x_0) + \frac{x - x_0}{x_1 - x_0} f(x_1) \quad x \in [x_0, x_1]$$

Special Case:

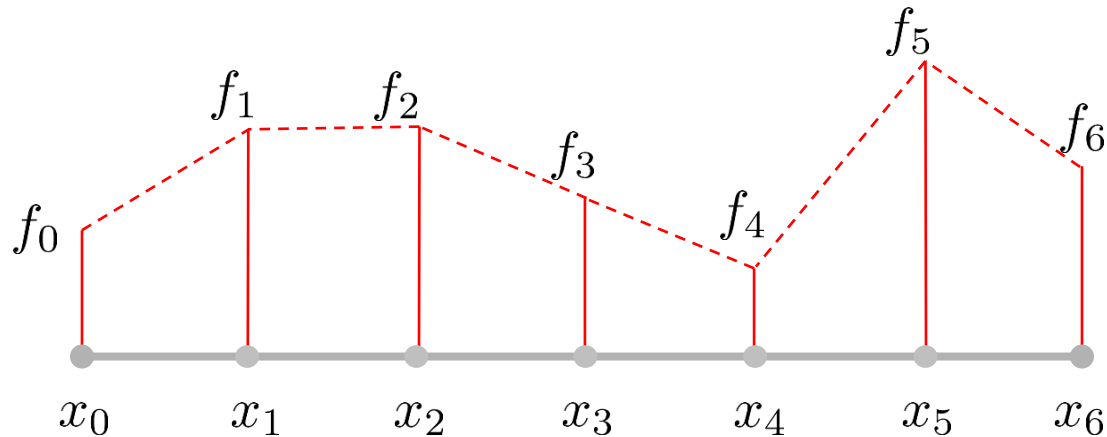
$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= (1 - x) f(0) + x f(1) & x \in [0, 1] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} (1 - x) & x \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f(0) \\ f(1) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f(0) \\ f(1) \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Basis

Coefficients

- **Linear Interpolation** (in 1D domain)

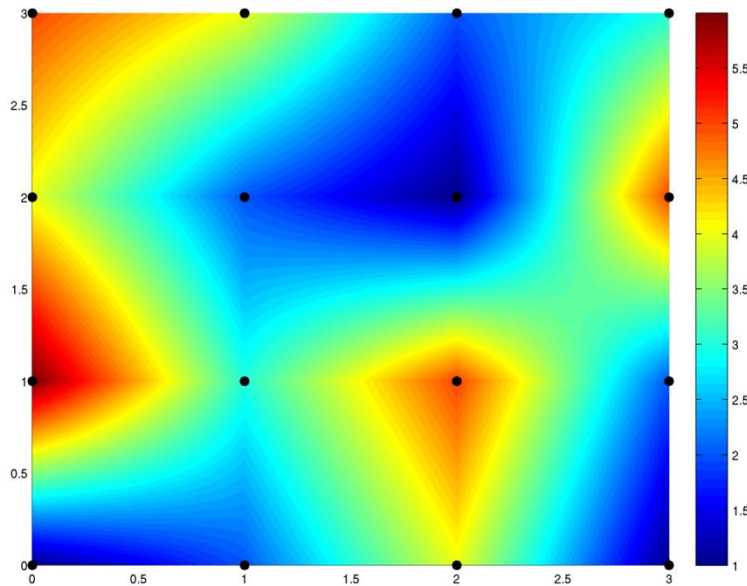
- Sample values $f_i := f(x_i)$



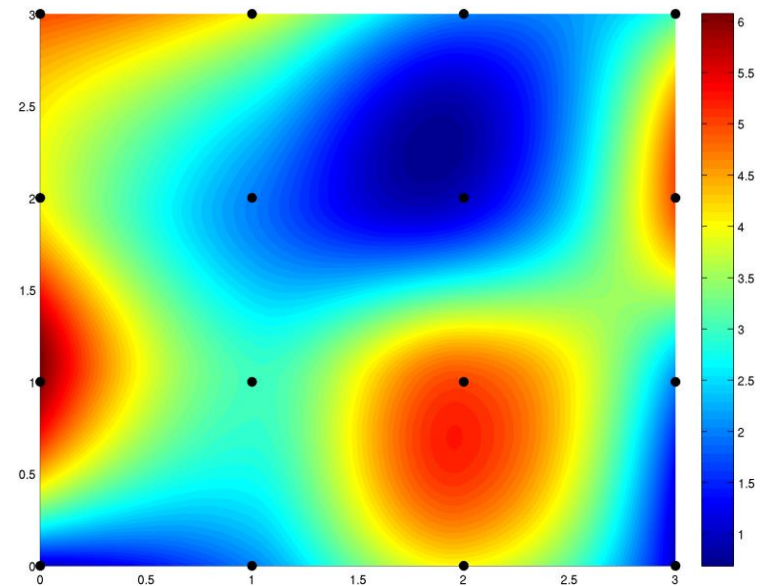
- C^0 Continuity (discontinuous first derivative)

- Use higher order interpolation for smoother transition, e.g., **cubic** interpolation

- Interpolation in 2D, 3D, 4D, ...



Bi-Linear



Bi-Cubic

- Tensor Product Interpolation

- Perform linear / cubic ... interpolation in each x,y,z ... direction separately

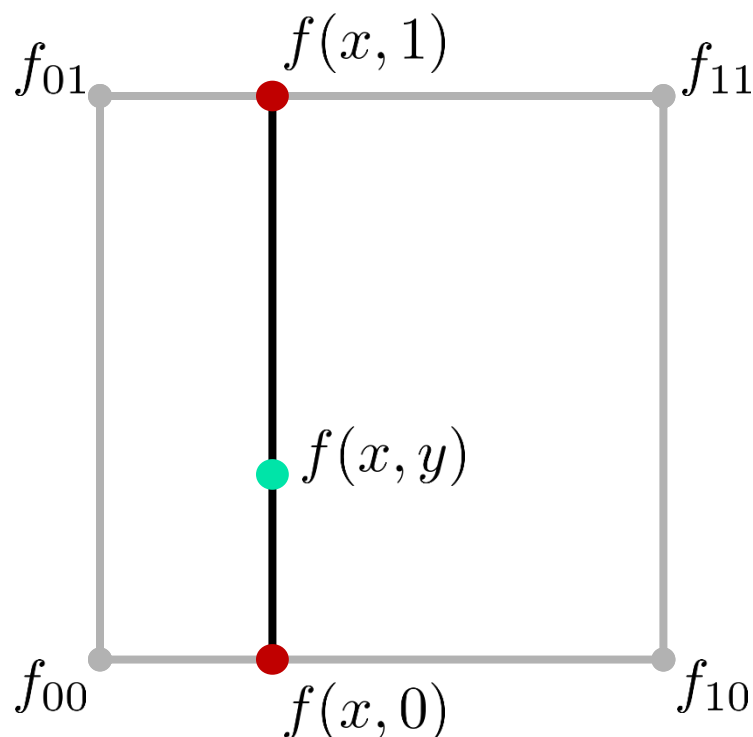
- Bilinear Interpolation

2D, “bi-linear”

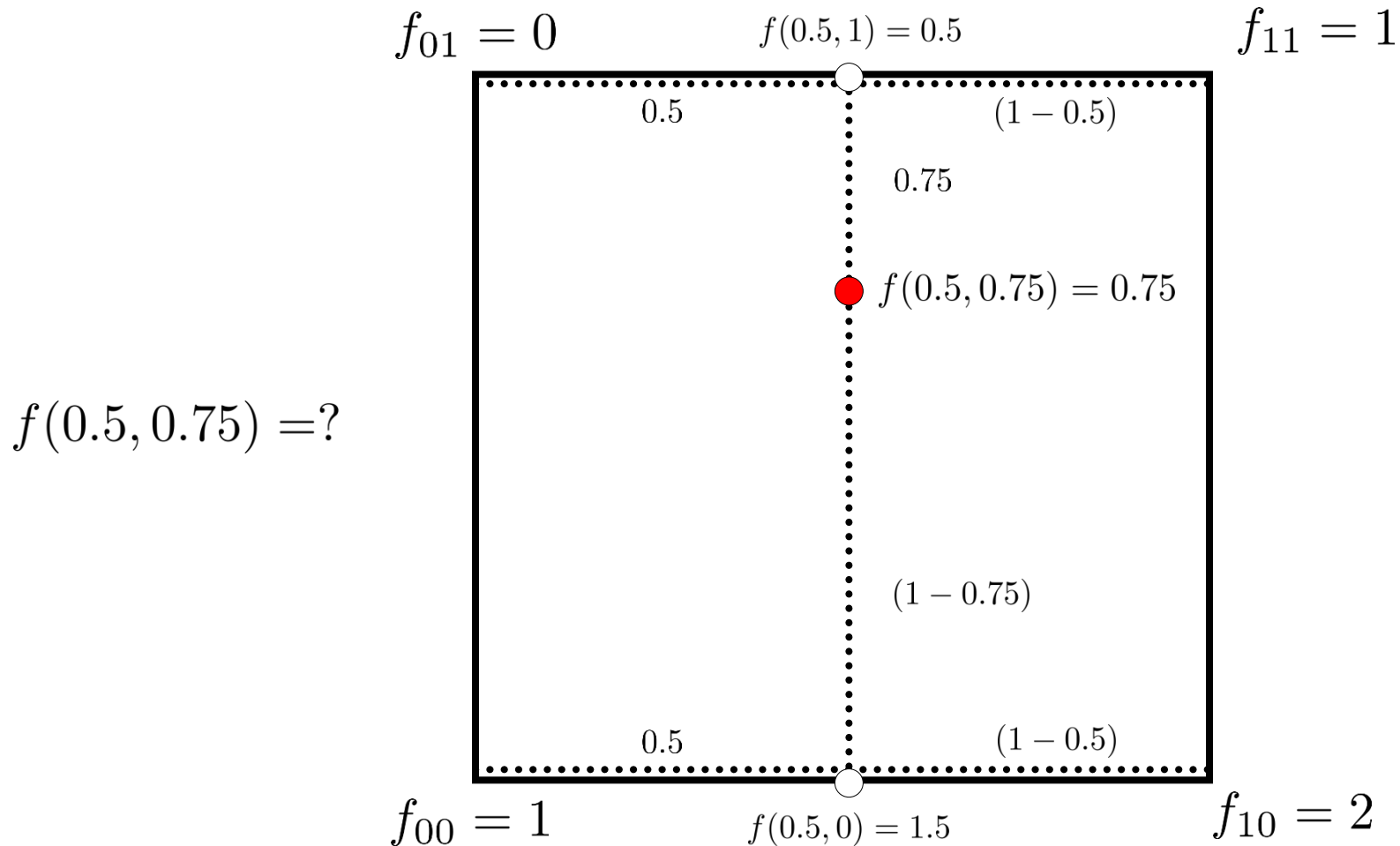
$$f(x, y) = (1 - x)(1 - y)f_{00} + x(1 - y)f_{10} + (1 - x)yf_{01} + xyf_{11}$$

$$= (1 - y)((1 - x)f_{00} + xf_{10}) + y((1 - x)f_{01} + xf_{11})$$

“interpolate twice in x direction
and then once in y direction”



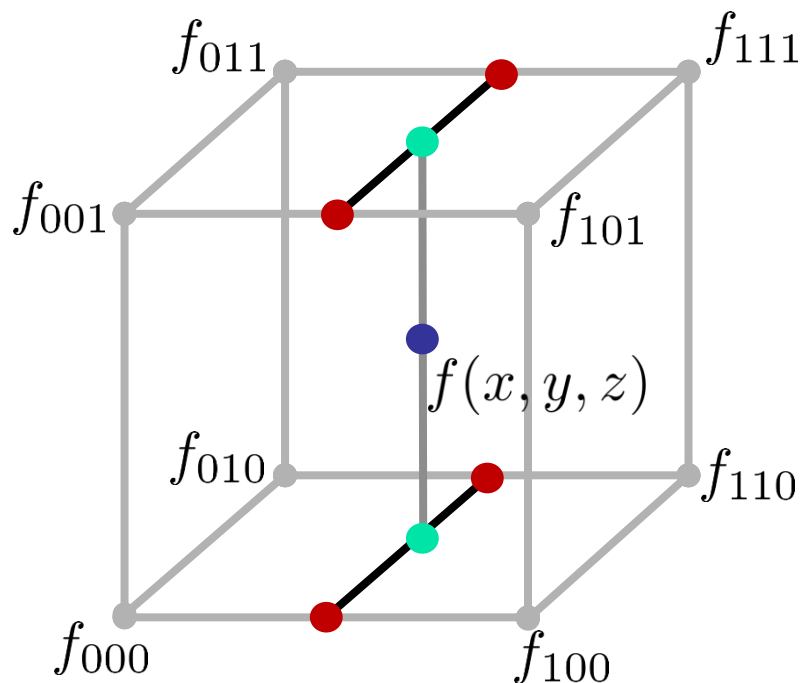
- **Example: Bi-linear interpolation in a 2D cell**
 - Repeated linear interpolation



● Trilinear Interpolation

3D, “tri-linear”

$$f(x, y, z) = \sum_{k=0}^p \sum_{j=0}^m \sum_{i=0}^n b_i(x)b_j(y)b_k(z) f_{ijk}$$



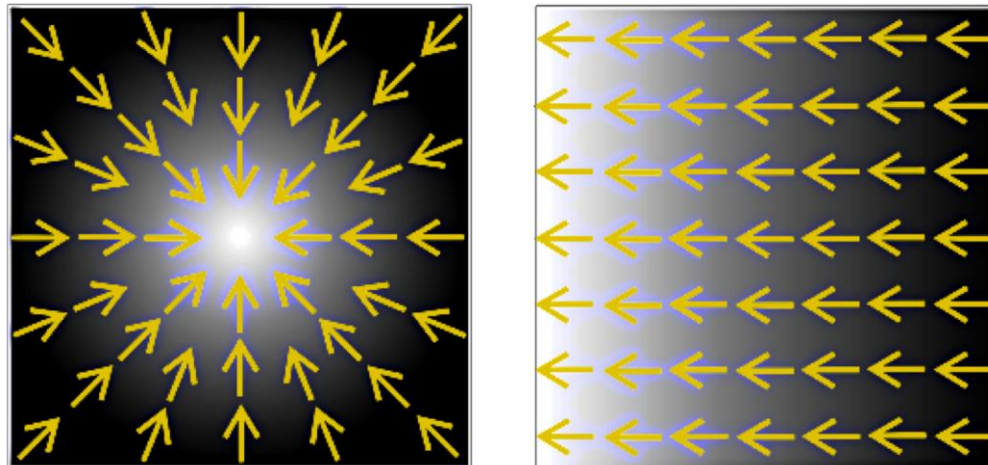
“interpolate four times in x direction, twice in y direction, and once in z direction”

● Function Derivative Estimation

- Called **Gradients** for multidimensional functions
- Have a lot of important applications (e.g., normal for volume rendering, critical point classification for vector field topology ...)

$$\nabla f(x, y, z) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} f(x, y, z) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{“vector of partial derivatives”}$$

- Describes direction of steepest ascend



- Two ways to estimate gradients:
 - Direct derivation of interpolation formula
 - Finite differences schemes

● Field Function Derivatives, Bi-Linear

$$f(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} (1-x) & x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{00} & f_{01} \\ f_{10} & f_{11} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} (1-y) \\ y \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \text{derive this interpolation formula}$$

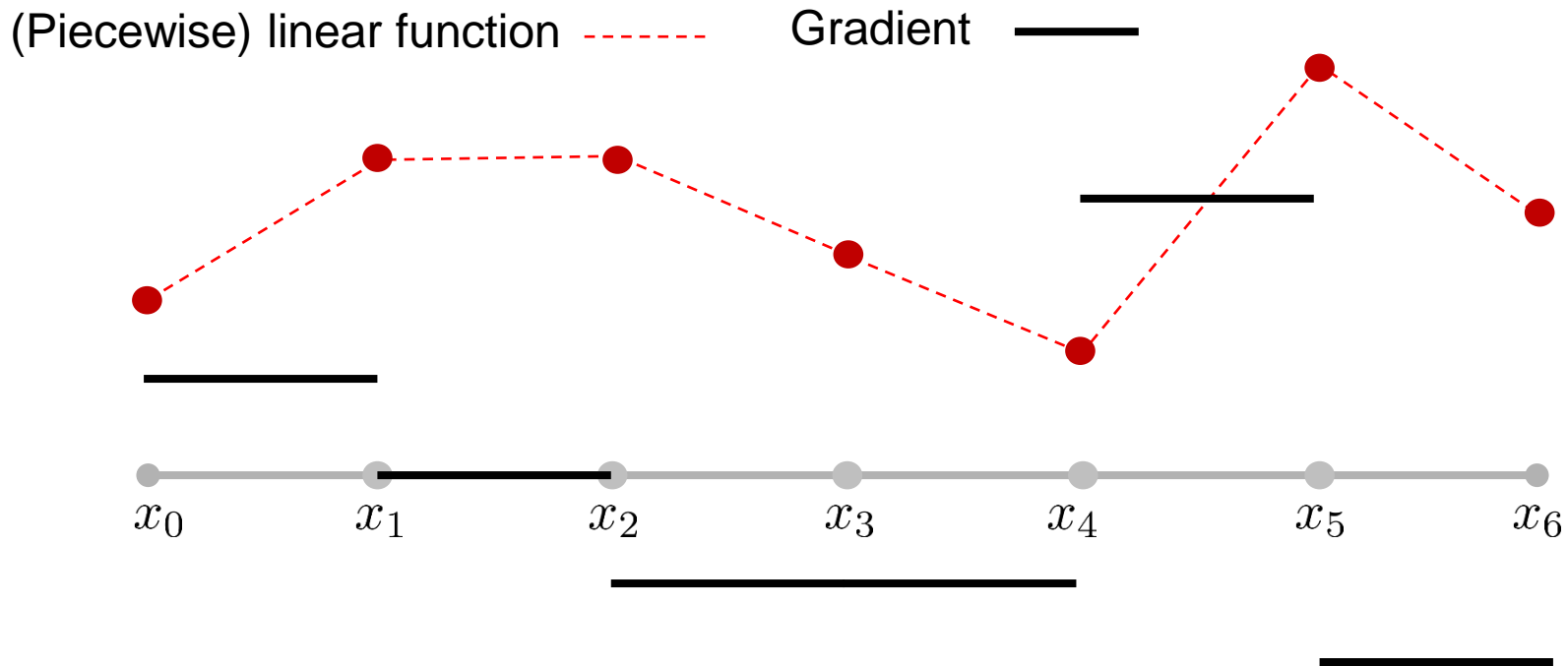
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{00} & f_{01} \\ f_{10} & f_{11} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} (1-y) \\ y \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (f_{10} - f_{00})(1 - y) + (f_{11} - f_{01})y \end{aligned}$$

“constant in x direction”

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y} &= \begin{bmatrix} (1-x) & x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{00} & f_{01} \\ f_{10} & f_{11} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (f_{01} - f_{00})(1 - x) + (f_{11} - f_{10})x \end{aligned}$$

“constant in y direction”

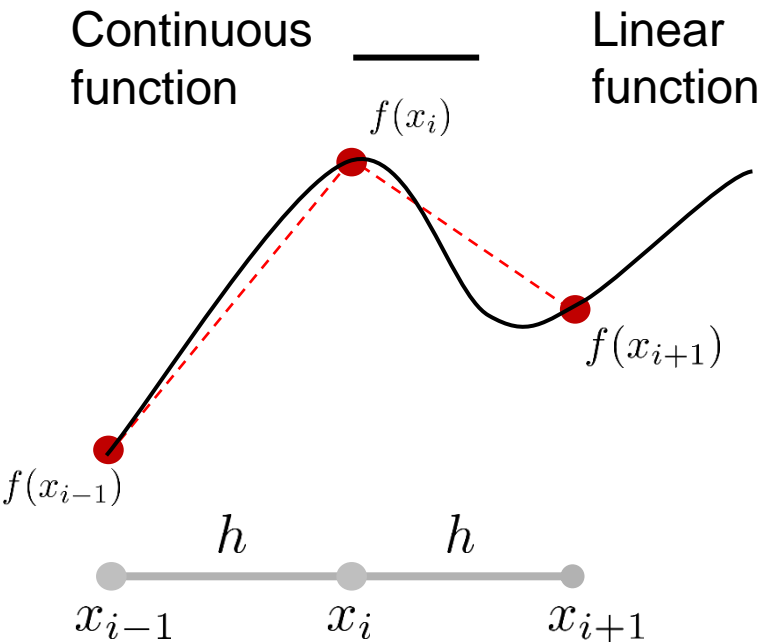
- Problem of exact linear function differentiation:
discontinuous gradients



- Solution:
 - Use higher order interpolation scheme (cubic)
 - Use **finite difference estimation**

• Finite Differences Schemes

- Apply Taylor series expansion around samples



Taylor expansion

$$f(x_i + h) = f(x_i) + h \frac{df(x_i)}{dx} + \frac{h^2}{2} \frac{d^2f(x_i)}{dx^2} + O(h^3)$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{df(x_i)}{dx} \approx \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)}{h} \quad \textbf{Forward difference}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{df(x_i)}{dx} \approx \frac{f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})}{h} \quad \textbf{Backward difference}$$

- **Finite Differences Schemes**

$$f(x_{i+1}) = f(x_i) + h \frac{df(x_i)}{dx} + \frac{h^2}{2} \frac{d^2 f(x_i)}{dx^2} + O(h^3)$$

$$f(x_{i-1}) = f(x_i) - h \frac{df(x_i)}{dx} + \frac{h^2}{2} \frac{d^2 f(x_i)}{dx^2} + O(h^3)$$

Difference

$$\longrightarrow (f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)) - (f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_i)) = 2h \frac{df(x_i)}{dx} + O(h^3)$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{df(x_i)}{dx} \approx \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_{i-1}))}{2h} \quad \textbf{Central difference}$$

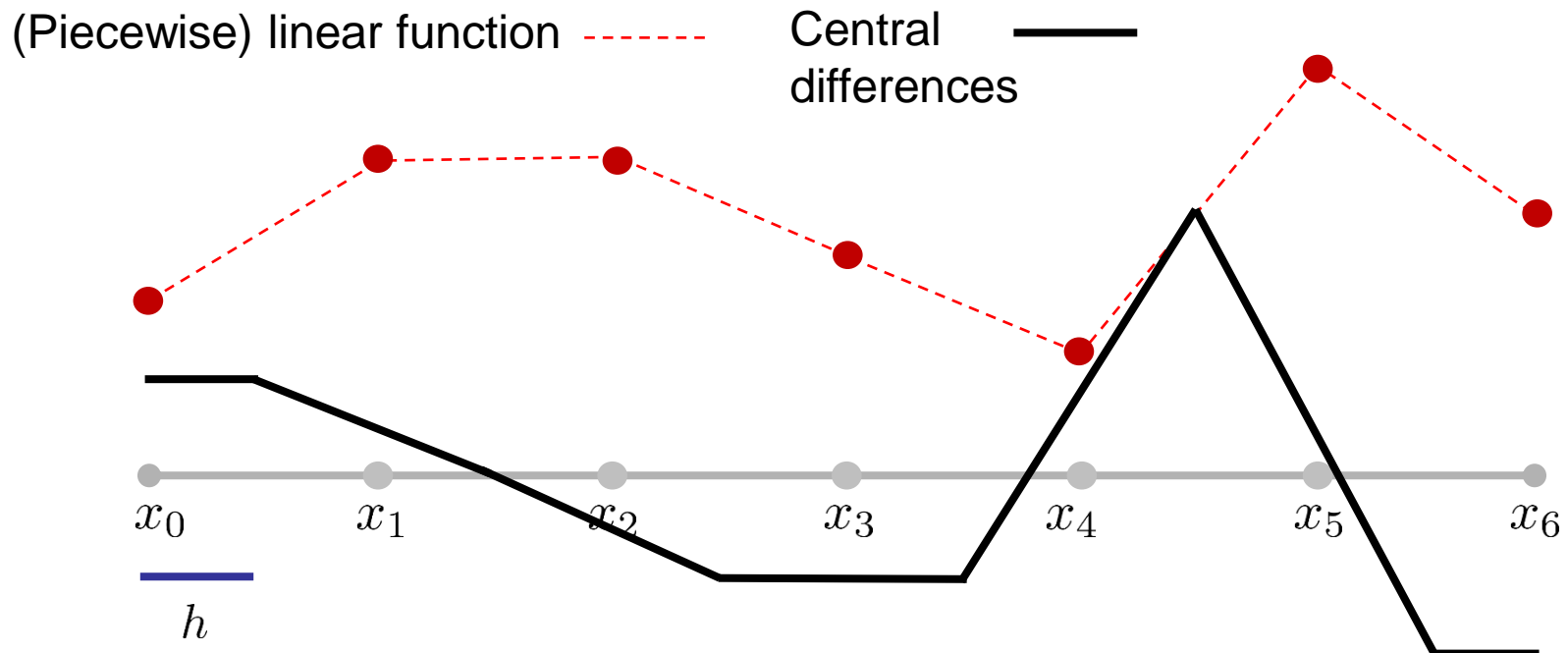
- Central differences have higher approximation order than forward / backward differences

- **Finite Differences Schemes, Higher order derivatives**

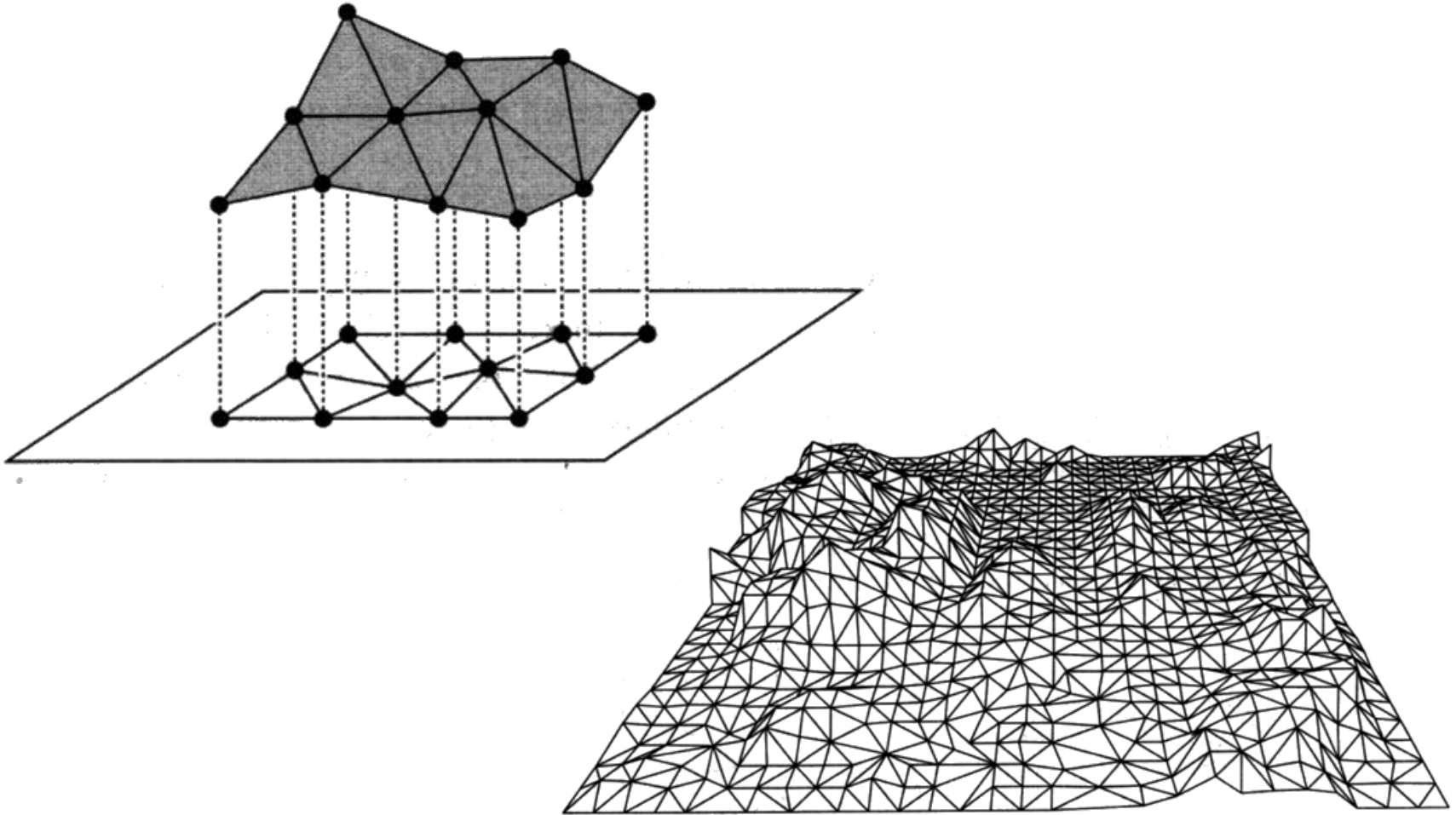
$$\frac{d^2 f(x_i)}{dx^2} \approx \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - 2f(x_i) + f(x_{i-1}))}{h^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f(x_i, y_j)}{\partial xy} \approx \frac{f(x_{i+1}, y_{j+1}) - f(x_{i+1}, y_{j-1}) - f(x_{i-1}, y_{j+1}) + f(x_{i-1}, y_{j-1}))}{4 h_x h_y}$$

- **1D Example, linear interpolation**



- **Piecewise Linear Interpolation in Triangle Meshes**



- **Linear Interpolation in a Triangle**

- There is exactly one linear function that satisfies the interpolation constraint

- A linear function can be written as

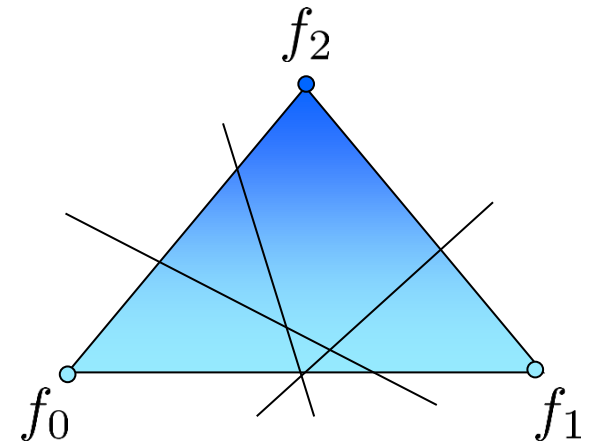
$$f(x, y) = a + b x + c y$$

- Polynomial can be obtained by solving the linear system

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_0 & y_0 \\ 1 & x_1 & y_1 \\ 1 & x_2 & y_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_0 \\ f_1 \\ f_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Linear in x and y

- Interpolated values along any ray in the plane spanned by the triangle are linear along that ray



- Barycentric Coordinates:

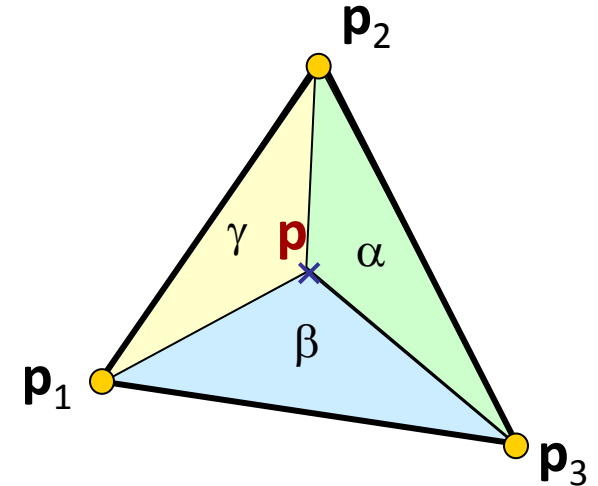
- Planar case:

Barycentric combinations of 3 points

$$\mathbf{p} = \alpha \mathbf{p}_1 + \beta \mathbf{p}_2 + \gamma \mathbf{p}_3, \text{ with } \alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1$$

$$\gamma = 1 - \alpha - \beta$$

- Area formulation:

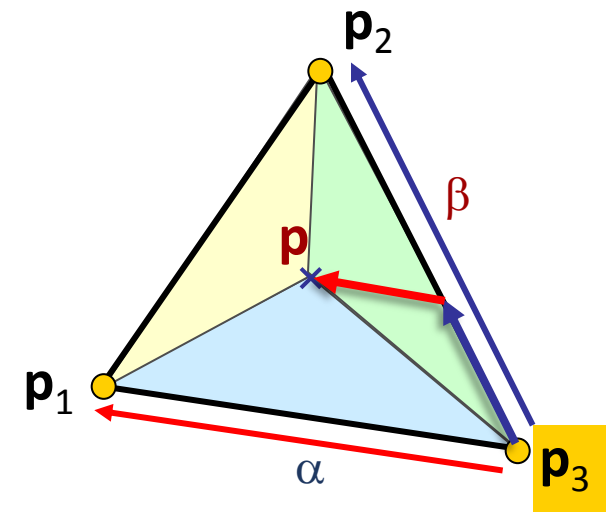
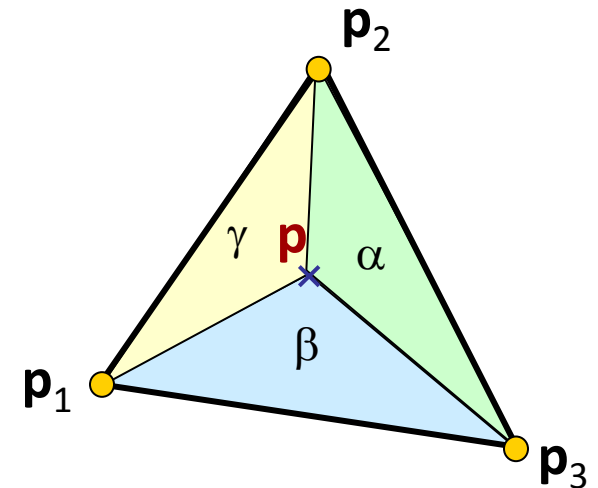


$$\alpha = \frac{\text{area}(\Delta(\mathbf{p}_2, \mathbf{p}_3, \mathbf{p}))}{\text{area}(\Delta(\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \mathbf{p}_3))}, \beta = \frac{\text{area}(\Delta(\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_3, \mathbf{p}))}{\text{area}(\Delta(\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \mathbf{p}_3))}, \gamma = \frac{\text{area}(\Delta(\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \mathbf{p}))}{\text{area}(\Delta(\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \mathbf{p}_3))}$$

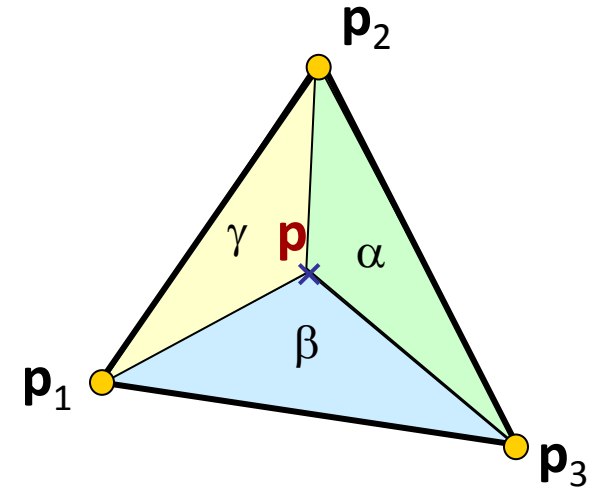
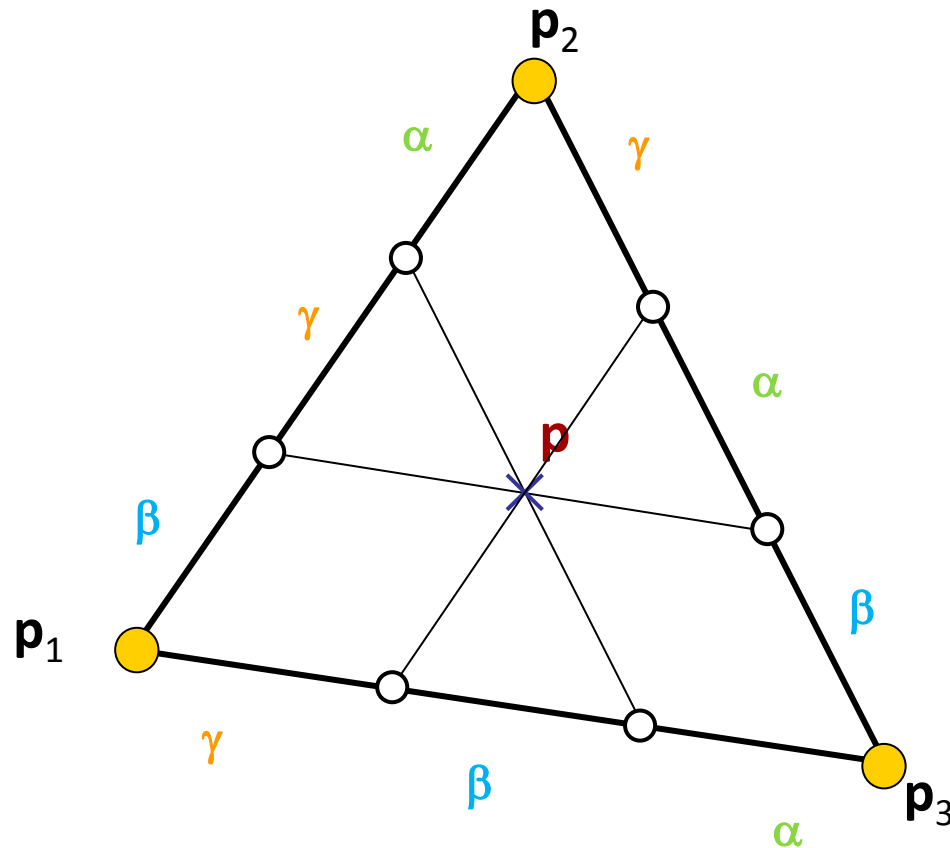
- Barycentric Coordinates:

- Linear formulation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{p} &= \alpha \mathbf{p}_1 + \beta \mathbf{p}_2 + \gamma \mathbf{p}_3 \\
 &= \alpha \mathbf{p}_1 + \beta \mathbf{p}_2 + (1 - \alpha - \beta) \mathbf{p}_3 \\
 &= \alpha \mathbf{p}_1 + \beta \mathbf{p}_2 + \mathbf{p}_3 - \alpha \mathbf{p}_3 - \beta \mathbf{p}_3 \\
 &= \mathbf{p}_3 + \alpha(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_3) + \beta(\mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_3)
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\mathbf{p} = \alpha \mathbf{p}_1 + \beta \mathbf{p}_2 + \gamma \mathbf{p}_3, \text{ with } \alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1$$



• Barycentric Interpolation in a Triangle

- The linear function of a triangle can be computed at any point as

$$f(x, y) = \alpha_0(x, y)f_0 + \alpha_1(x, y)f_1 + \alpha_2(x, y)f_2$$

with $\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = 1$ (**Barycentric Coordinates**)

- This also holds for the coordinate $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ of the triangle:

$$\mathbf{x} = \alpha_0 \mathbf{x}_0 + \alpha_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{x}_2$$

→ Can be used to solve for unknown coefficients α_i :

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_0 & x_1 & x_2 \\ y_0 & y_1 & y_2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

• Barycentric Interpolation in a Triangle

- Solution of
$$\begin{bmatrix} x_0 & x_1 & x_2 \\ y_0 & y_1 & y_2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
 (e.g. Cramer's rule):

$$\alpha_0 = \frac{1}{2A} \det \begin{pmatrix} x & x_1 & x_2 \\ y & y_1 & y_2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

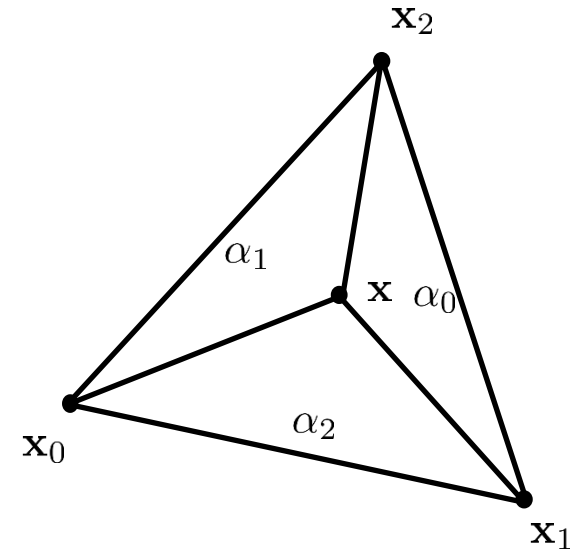
$$\alpha_0 = \frac{\text{Area}([\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2])}{\text{Area}([\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2])}$$

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{1}{2A} \det \begin{pmatrix} x_0 & x & x_2 \\ y_0 & y & y_2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{\text{Area}([\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_2])}{\text{Area}([\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2])}$$

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{1}{2A} \det \begin{pmatrix} x_0 & x_1 & x \\ y_0 & y_1 & y \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{\text{Area}([\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}])}{\text{Area}([\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2])}$$



with

$$A = \frac{1}{2} \det \begin{pmatrix} x_0 & x_1 & x_2 \\ y_0 & y_1 & y_2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Inside triangle criteria

$$0 \leq \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \leq 1$$

- **Barycentric Interpolation in a Tetrahedron**
- Analogous to the triangle case

Gradient of a linearly interpolated function in a triangle/tetrahedron

- **Constant!**

