

# Surface modalities

## Geometric Computer Vision

GCV v2021.1, Module 7

Alexey Artemov, Spring 2021

# Lecture Outline

## **§1. Mesh data structures [30 min]**

- 1.1. What is a mesh?
- 1.2. Level of detail
- 1.3. Editing operators
- 1.4. Mesh data structures

## **§2. Meshing: constructing meshes [15 min]**

- 2.1. Marching cubes

## **§3. Defining convolutions on meshes [20 min]**

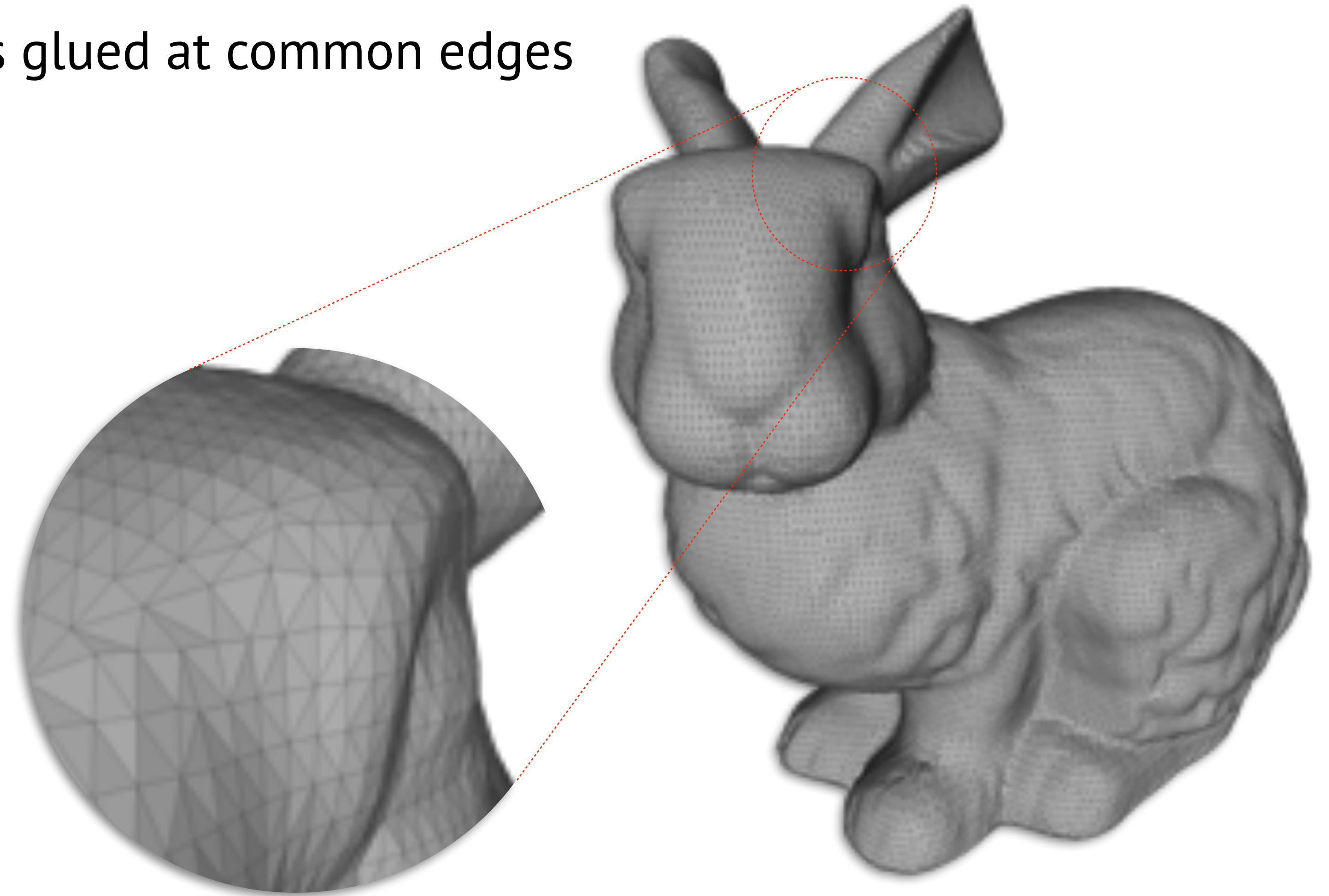
- 3.1. MeshCNN architecture

# §1. Mesh data structures

# What is a mesh?

# What is a mesh?

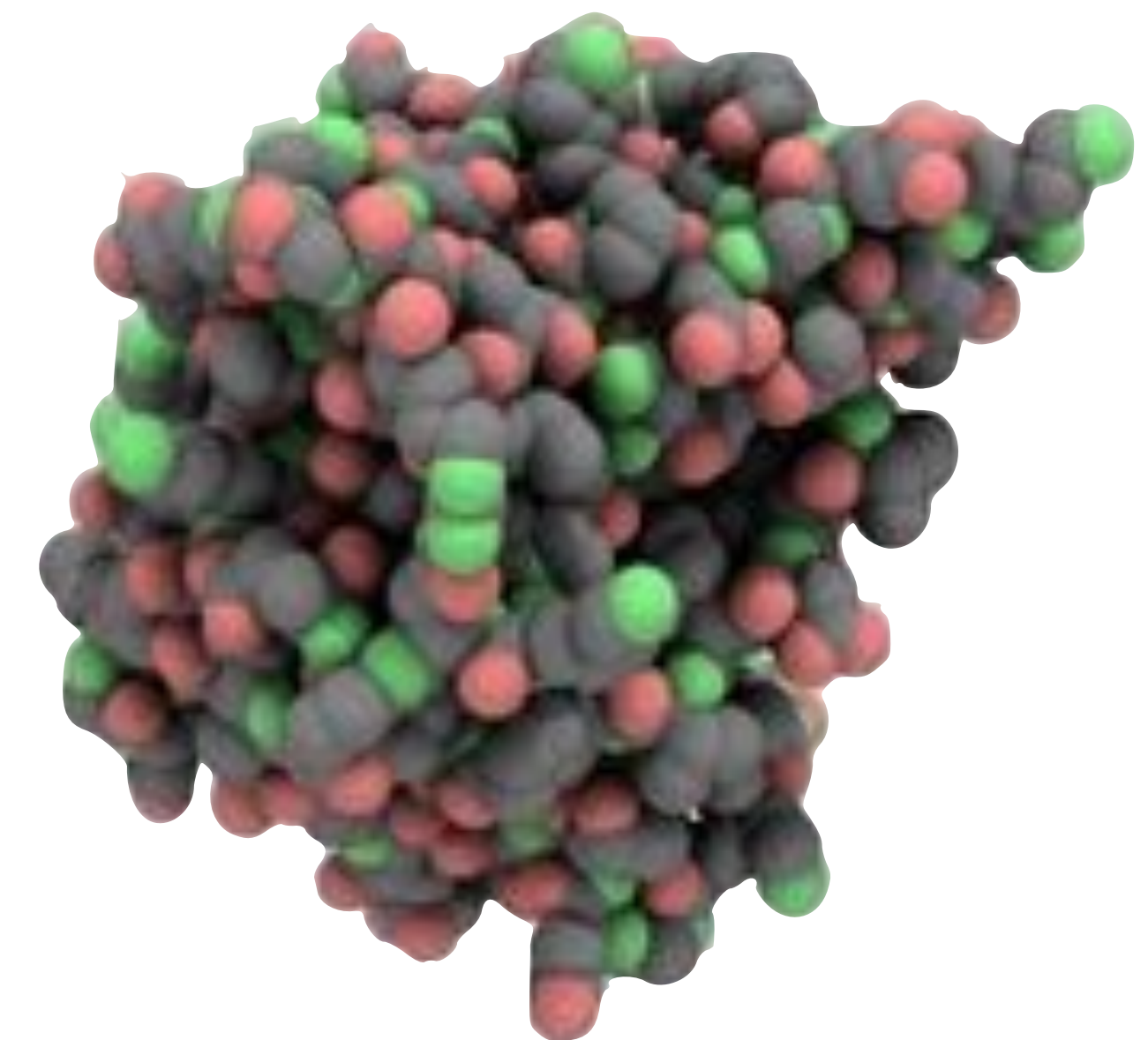
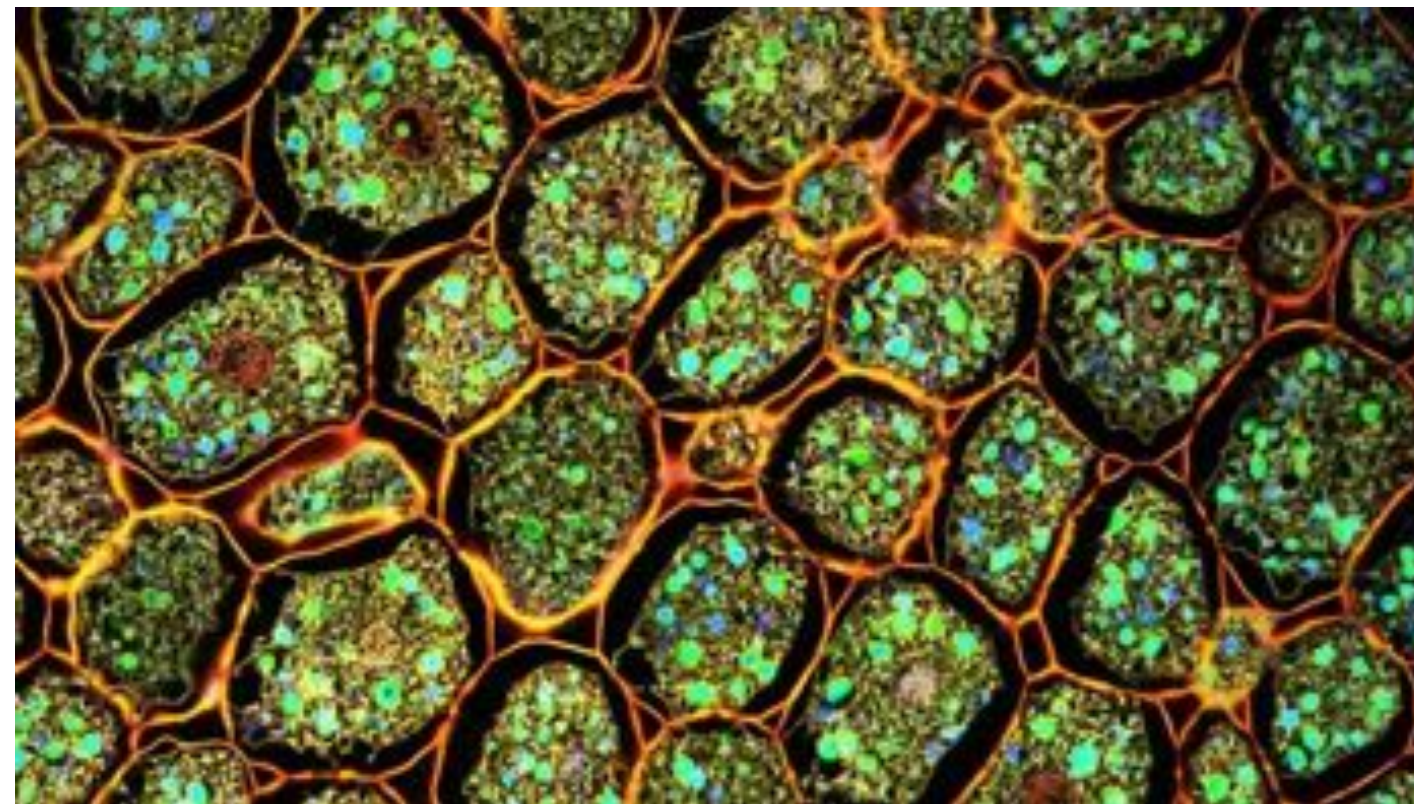
A surface made of polygonal faces glued at common edges





# Origin of Meshes

- In nature, meshes arise in a variety of contexts:
  - Cells in organic tissues
  - Crystals
  - Molecules
  - Mostly *convex* but *irregular* cells
  - Common concept: *complex* shapes can be described as *collections of simple building blocks*



**Credit:** Fernan Federici Moment Getty Images

By Mark A. Wilson (Department of Geology, The College of Wooster).[1] -  
Own work, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12666593>



# Basic Math of Meshes

- A  $n$ -cell is a set homeomorphic to a Euclidean disc of dimension  $n$ :

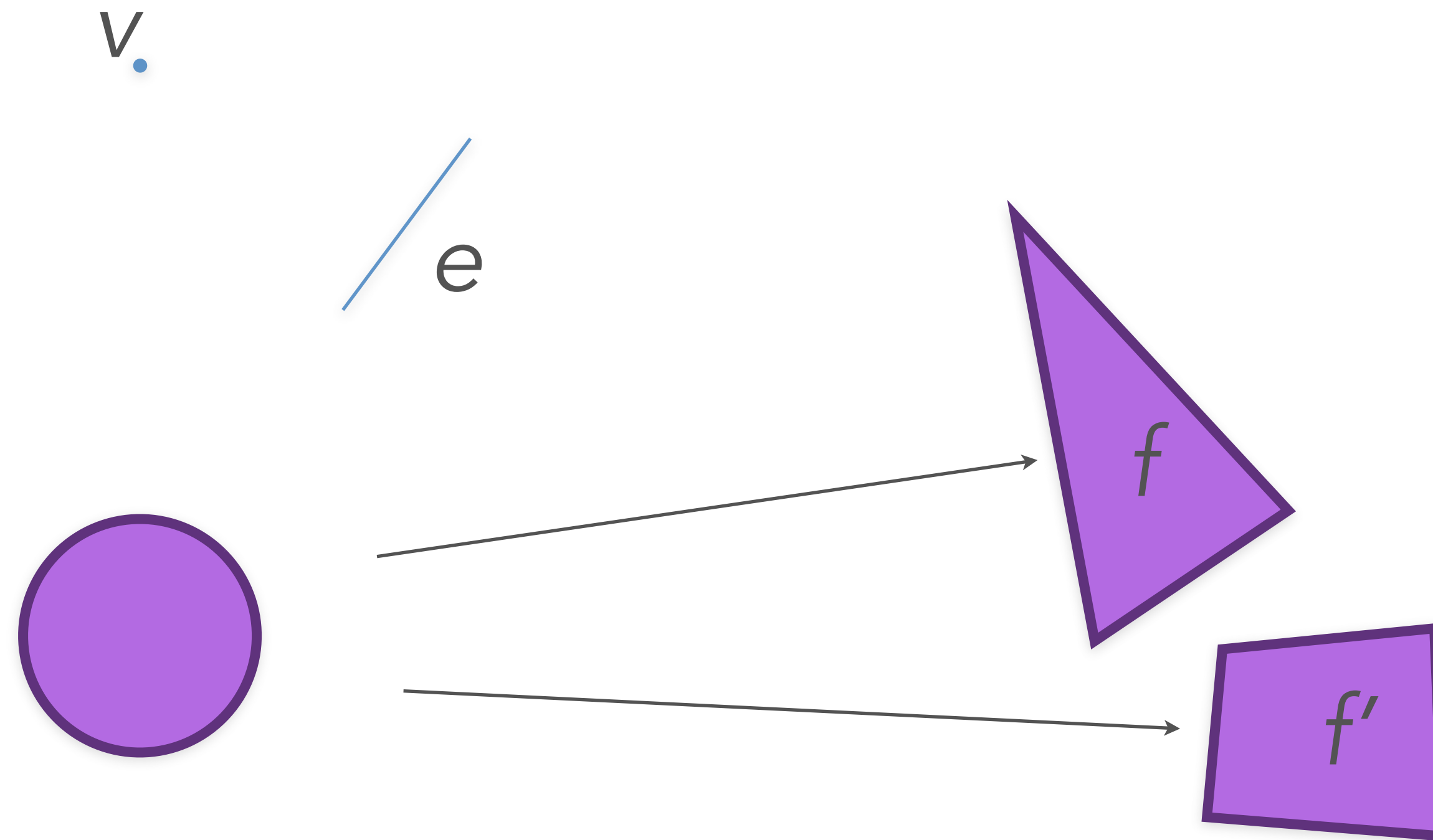
- 0-cell: *vertex*

- 1-cell: *edge*

- 

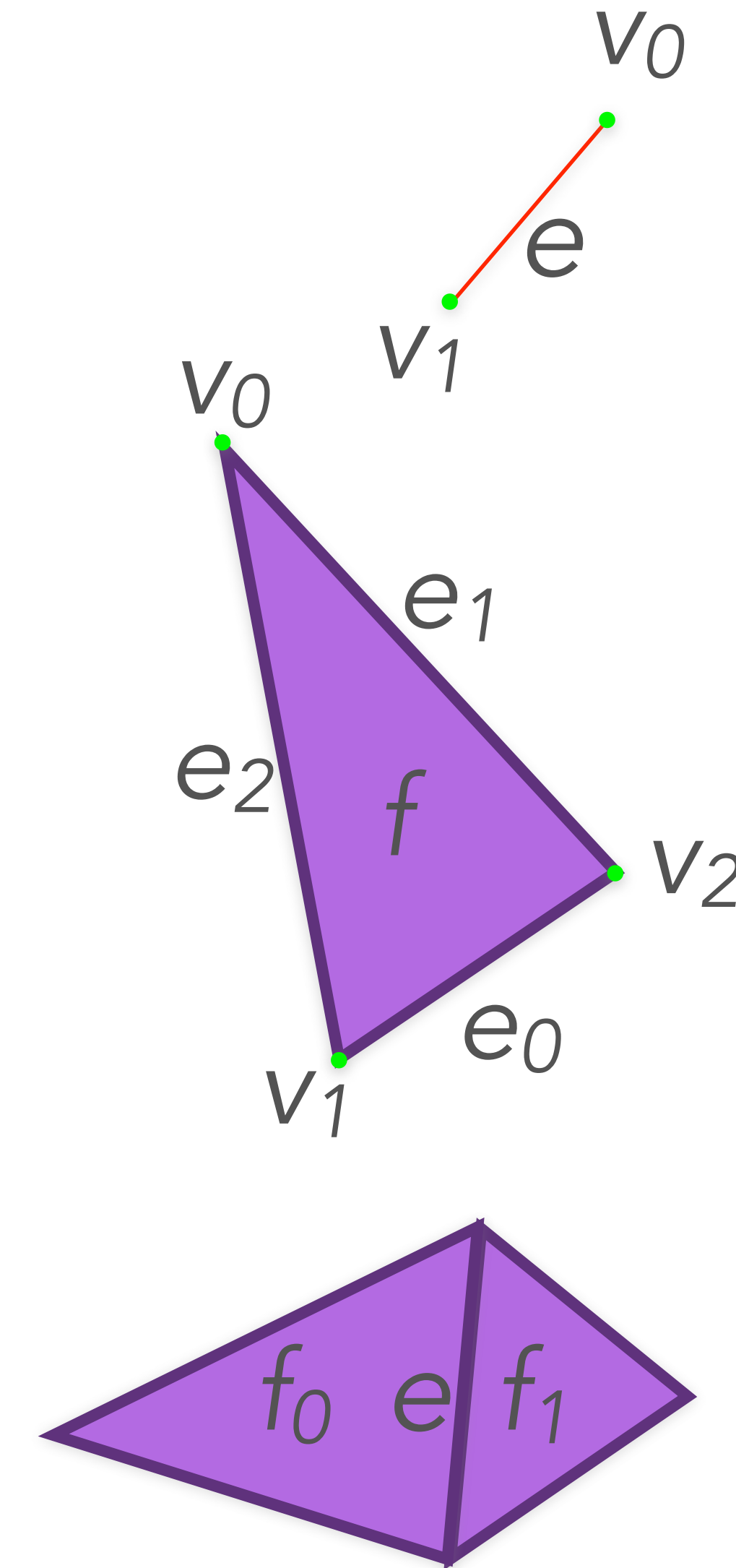
- 2-cell: *face*

$[0,1] \rightarrow$



# Structure

- A mesh  $M=(V,E,F)$  of dimension 2 is made of a collection of  $k$ -cells for  $k = 0, 1, 2$ :
  - 0-cells of  $V$  lie on the boundary of 1-cells of  $E$
  - 1-cells of  $E$  lie on the boundary of 2-cells of  $F$ 
    - (manifoldness) each 1-cell of  $E$  lies on the boundary of either one or two 2-cells of  $F$
  - the intersection of two distinct 1- / 2-cells is either empty or it coincides with a collection of 0- / 1-cells





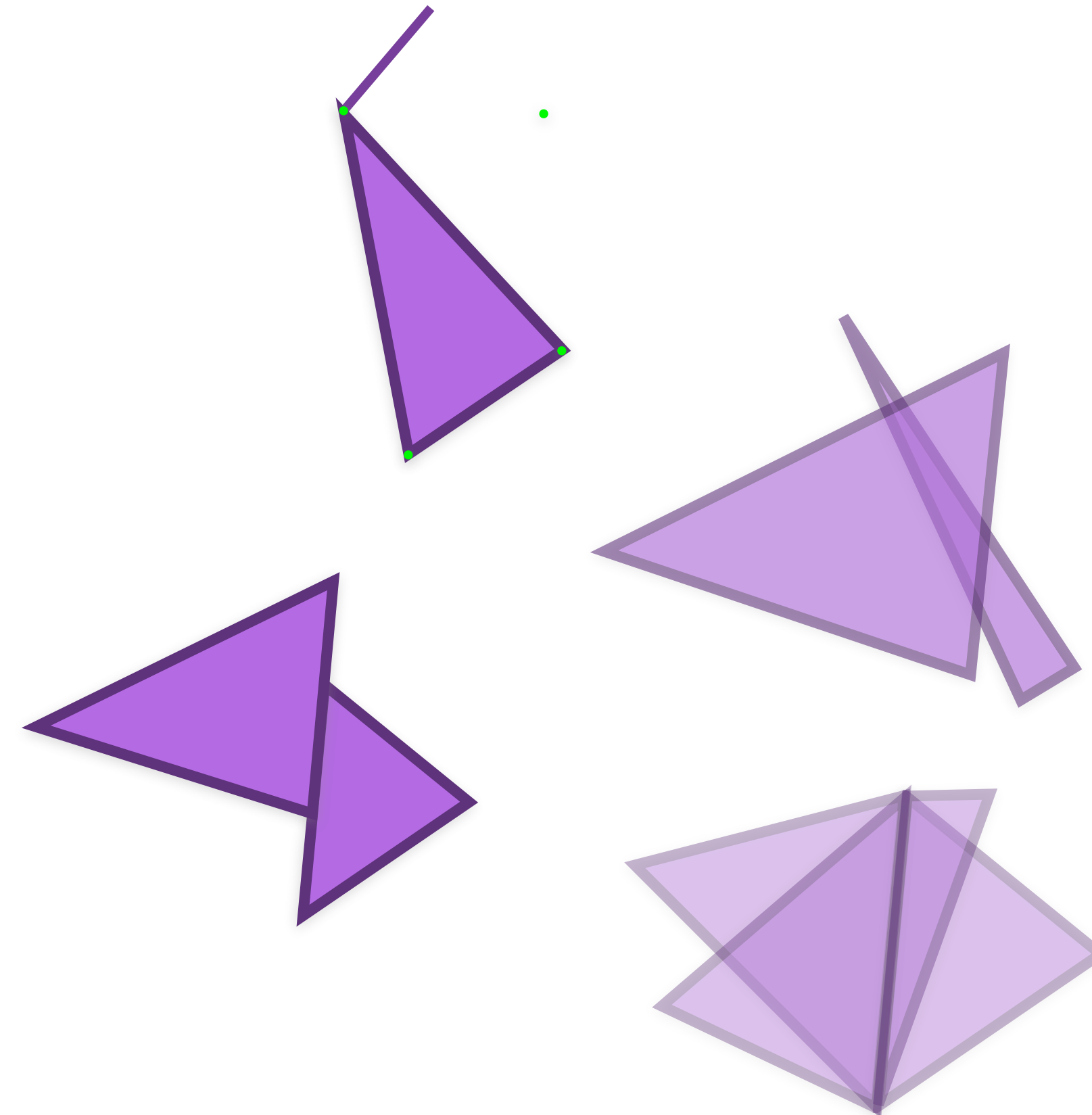
# Structure

- Properties 1 and 2 guarantee that there are no “dangling” edges and isolated vertices
- Property 3 guarantees that faces abut properly
- Property 2.1 extends property 2. to guarantee that the *carrier* of the mesh (i.e., the union of all its cells) is a manifold (i.e., a surface)

# Structure

Forbidden configurations:

- Dangling edges and isolated vertices
- Intersecting faces
- Non-conforming adjacency
- Non-manifold edges



# Topological Informations

- A mesh can be treated as a purely combinatorial structure

$$M = (V, E, F)$$

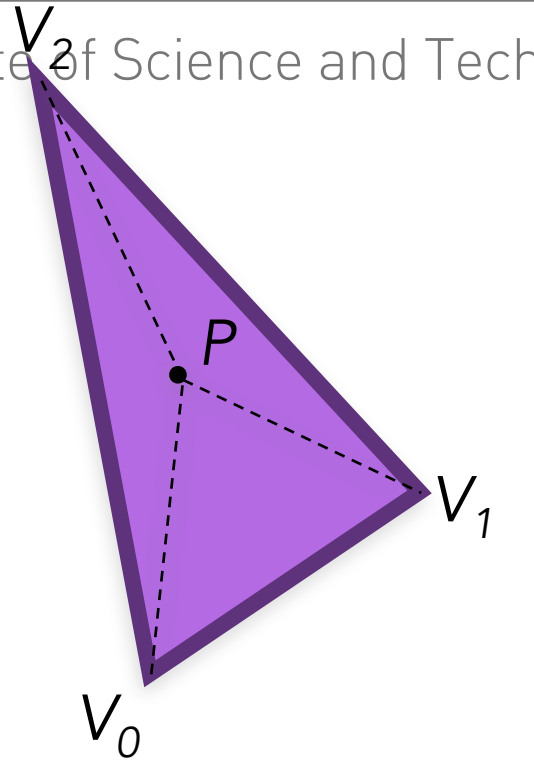
- For some applications, geometry of edges and faces it not relevant. Just encode:
  - vertices as singletons ( $V$ )
  - how vertices are connected among them ( $E$ )
  - how cycles of vertices bound faces ( $F$ )

# Geometrical Information

- Geometric embedding:
  - position in space for each 0-cell (vertex - point)
  - geometry for each 1-cell (edge - line) and 2-cell (face - disk-like surface)
- Polygonal meshes are embedded:
  - edges are straight-line segments
  - are faces flat? not always true: vertices of a face might be *not coplanar*



# Triangle Meshes



- A *triangle mesh* is a polygonal mesh with all triangular faces
  - all faces are flat (there exist a unique plane for three points)
- All cells are *simplices*, i.e., they are the convex combinations of their vertices

$$P = \lambda_0 V_0 + \lambda_1 V_1 + \lambda_2 V_2 \quad \lambda_i \in [0,1] \quad \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 1$$

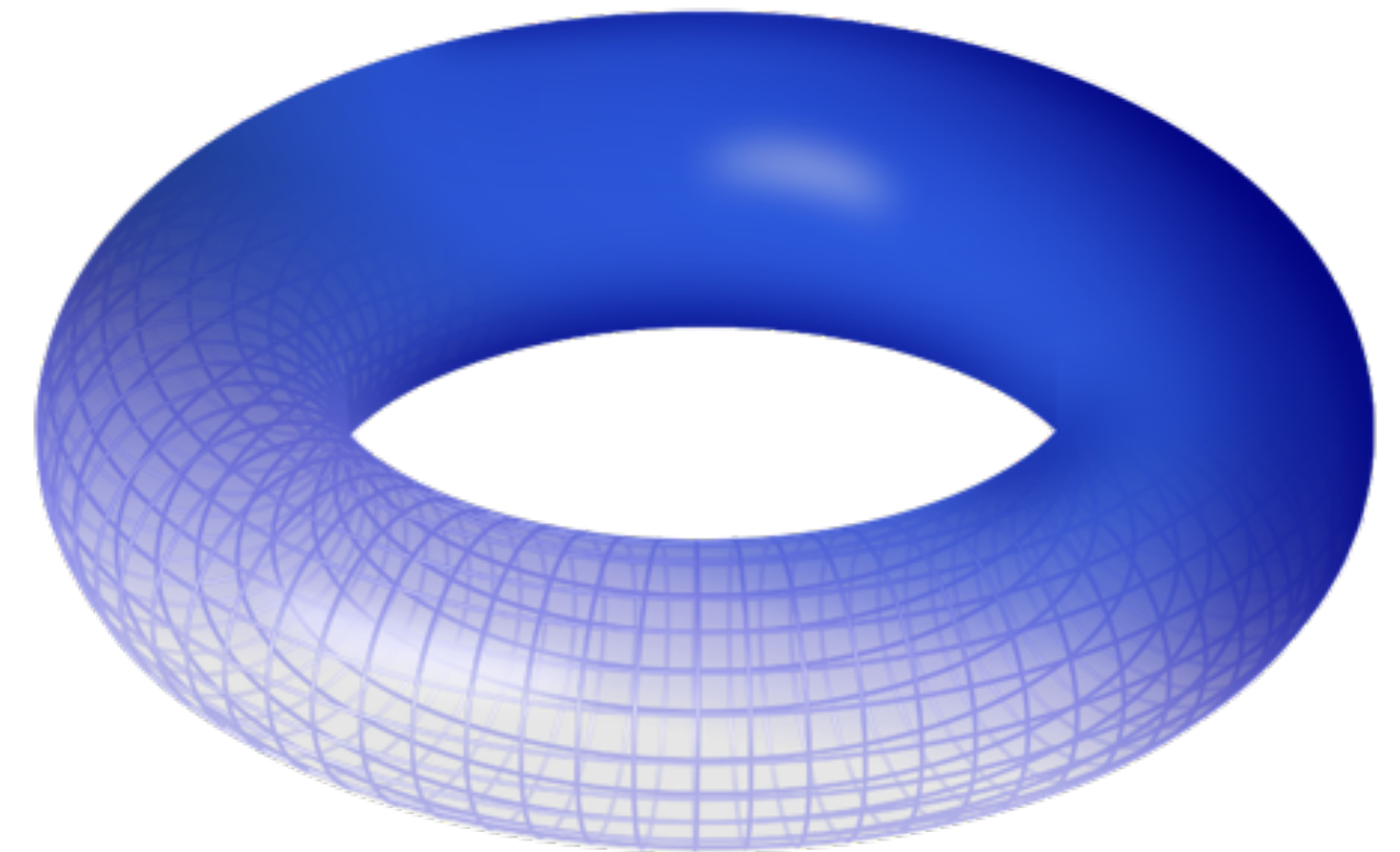
- embedding of vertices + combinatorial structure characterize the embedding of the whole mesh

# Euler-Poincaré Formula

- Relates the number of cells in a mesh with the characteristics of the surface it represents:

$$v - e + f = 2s - 2g - h$$

- Shells  $s = \#$  connected components
- Genus  $g = \#$  handles (ex.: sphere: genus 0; torus: genus 1)
- Holes  $h = \#$  boundary loops (watertight:  $h = 0$ )



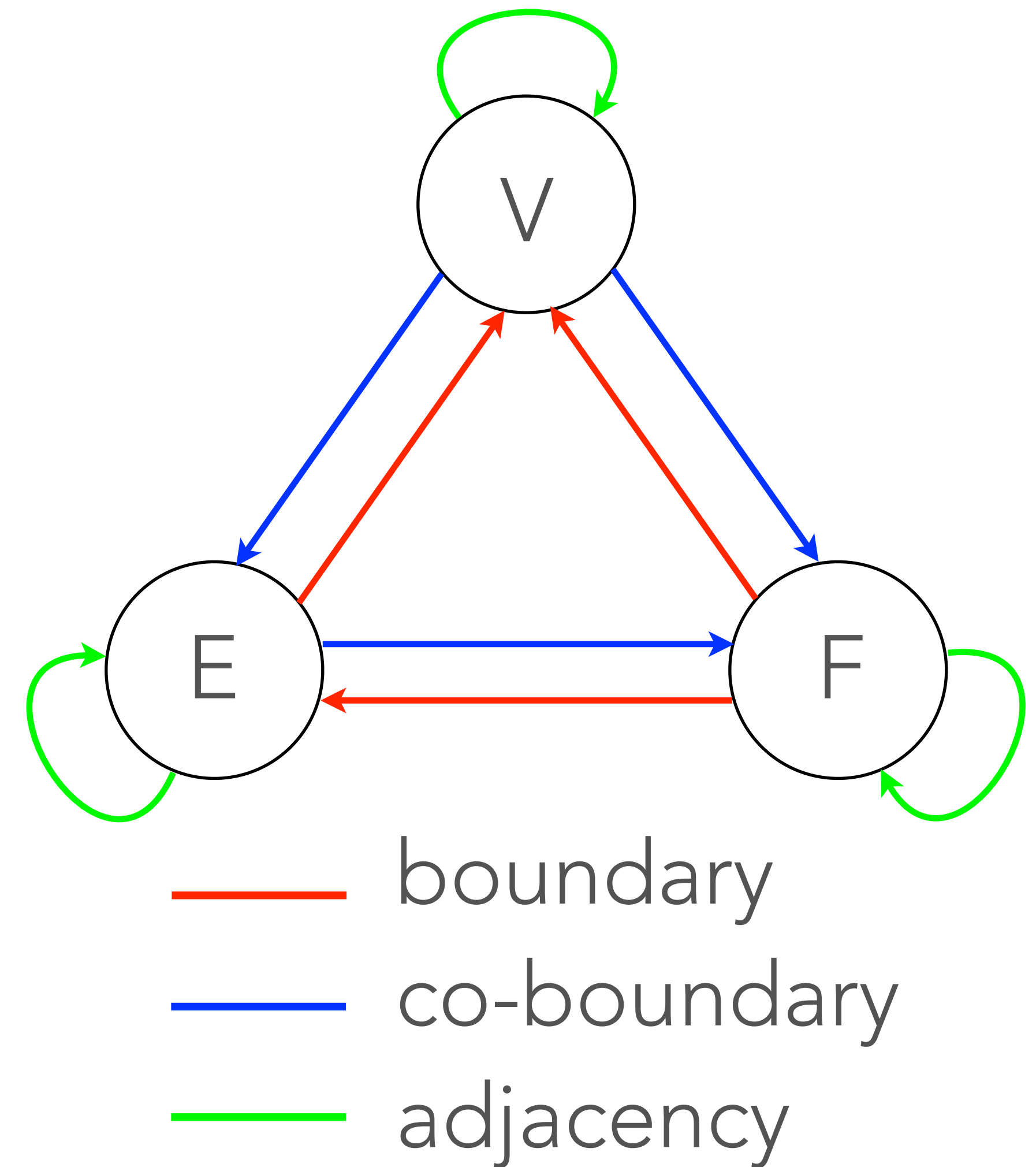
# Euler-Poincaré Formula

$$v - e + f = 2s - 2g - h$$

- In a (watertight manifold) triangle mesh:
  - each face has three edges, each edge is shared by two faces:
    - $e = 3f/2$
    - $e = 3v + 6g - 6 \approx 3v$
    - $f = 2v + 4g - 4 \approx 2v$
- The formula can be adapted to bordered surfaces to take into account boundary loops and edges

# Topological Relations

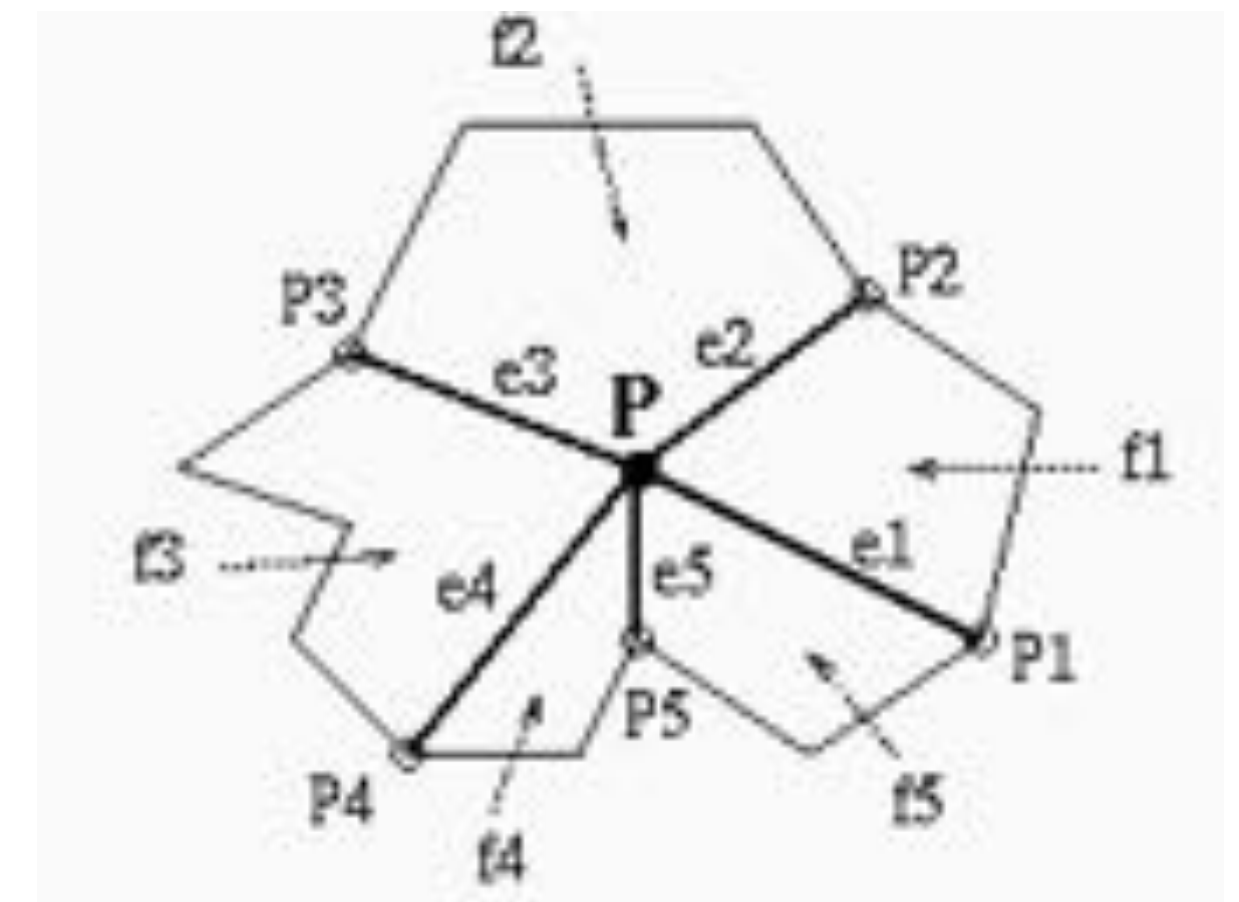
- Boundary relations:
  - for each cell  $c$  of dimension  $n$ , all cells of dimension  $< n$  that belong to its boundary
- Co-boundary relations:
  - for each cell  $c$  of dimension  $n$ , all cells of dimension  $> n$  such that  $c$  belongs to their boundary
- Adjacency relations:
  - for each cell  $c$  of dimension  $n=1,2$ , all cells of dimension  $=n$  such that share some of their boundary with  $c$





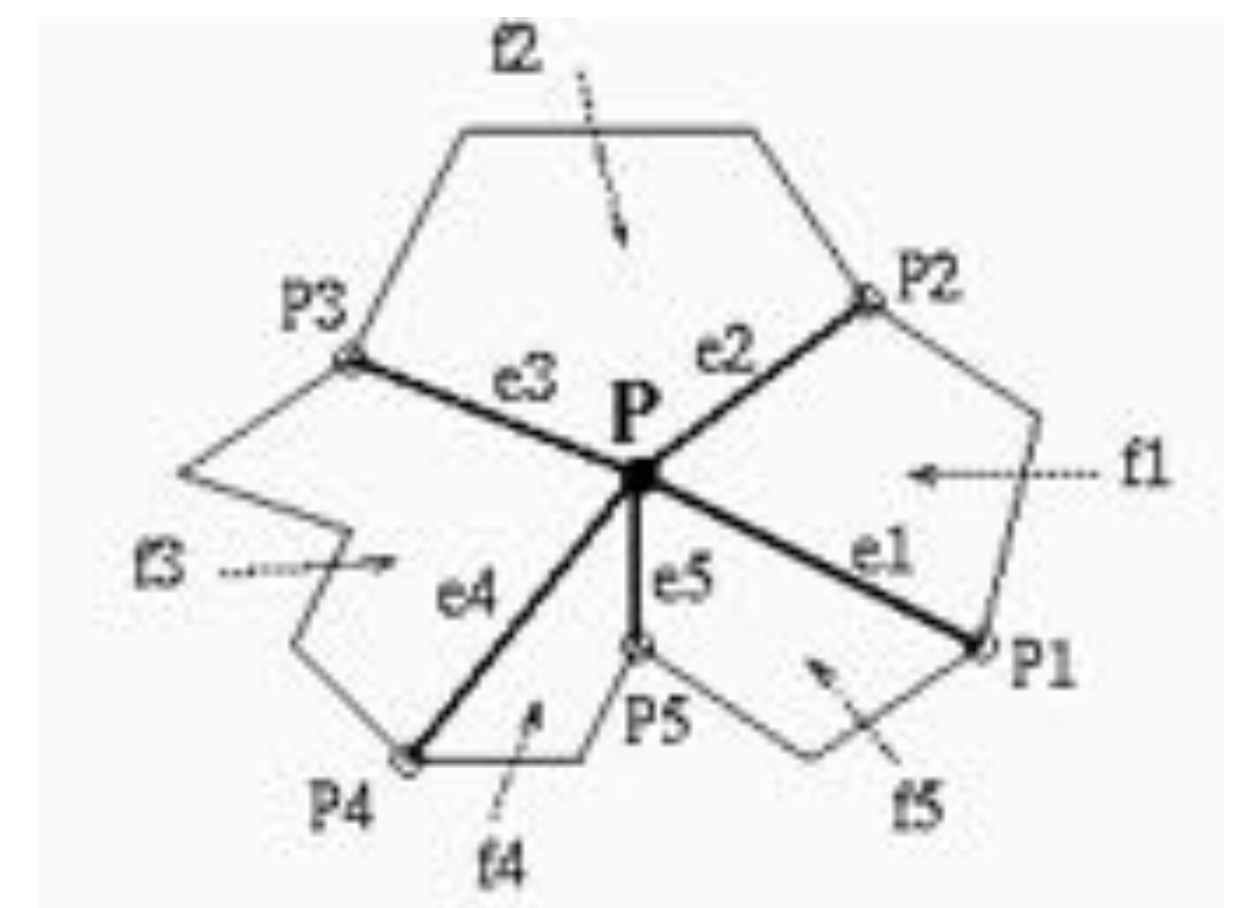
# Vertex-Based Relations

- VE (Vertex-Edge):
  - for each vertex  $v$ , the list of edges  $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_r)$  having an endpoint in  $v$  (*incident edges*) arranged in counter-clockwise radial order around  $v$
  - list is circular: initial vertex  $e_1$  is arbitrarily chosen



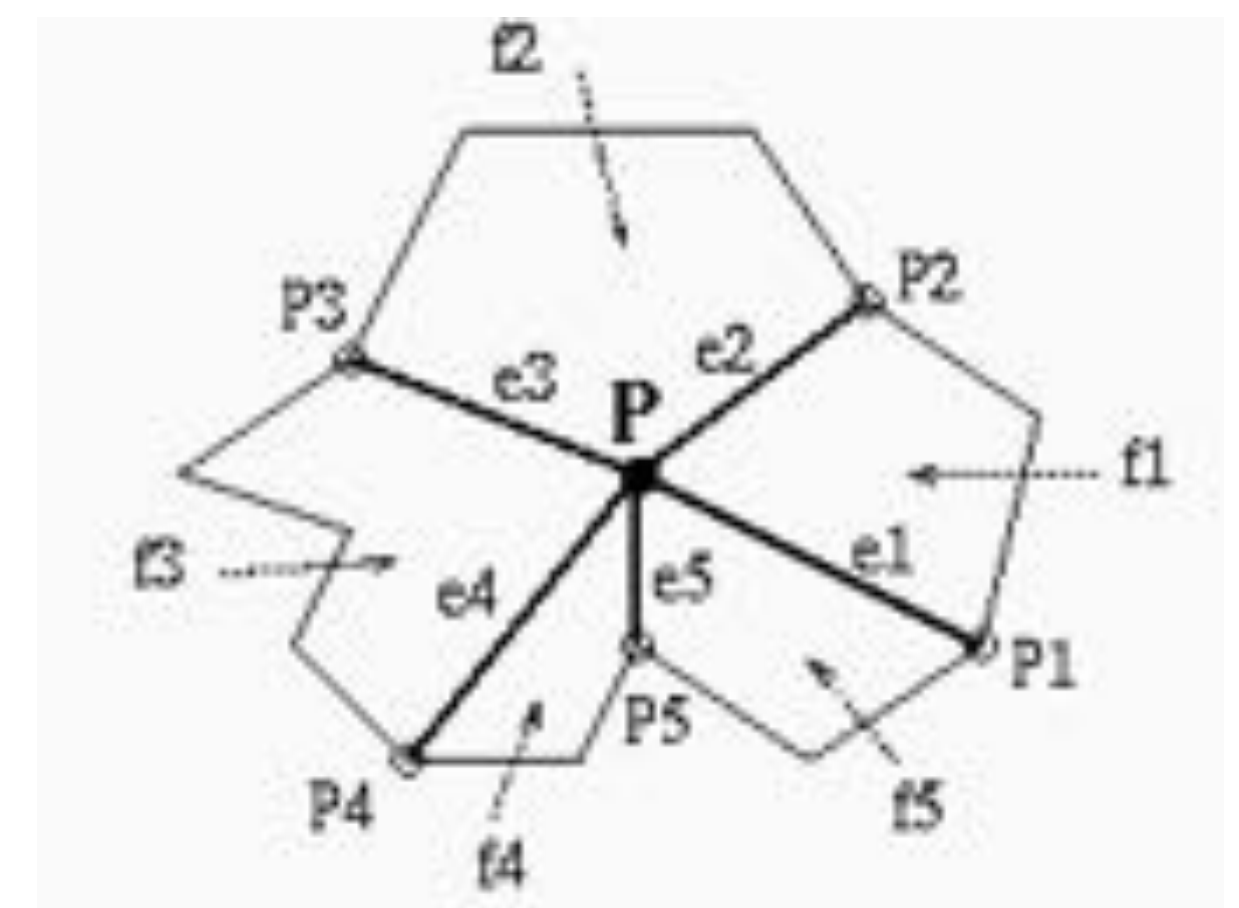
# Vertex-Based Relations

- VV (Vertex-Vertex):
  - for each vertex  $v$ , the list of vertices  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r)$  connected to  $v$  with an edge (*adjacent vertices*) arranged in counter-clockwise radial order around  $v$
  - consistency rule: vertex  $v_i$  in  $VV(v)$  is an endpoint of edge  $e_i$  in  $VE(v)$



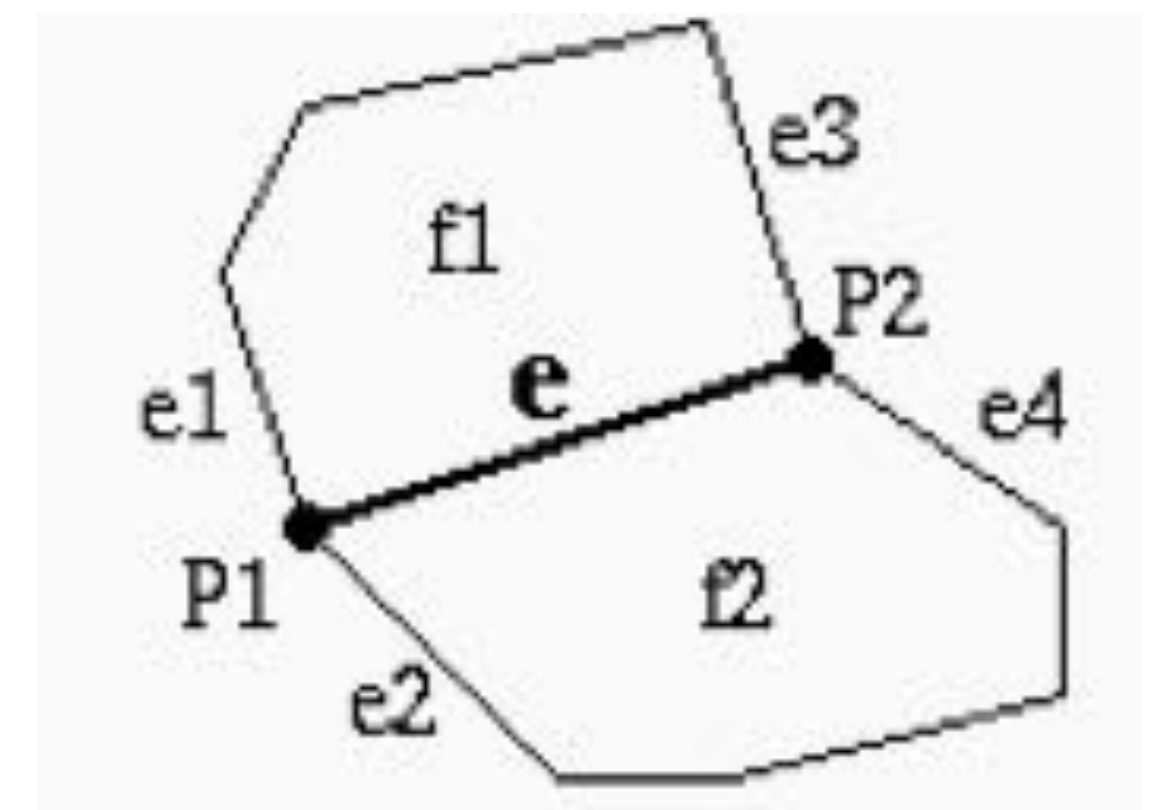
# Vertex-Based Relations

- VF (Vertex-Face):
  - for each vertex  $v$ , the list of faces  $(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_r)$  having  $v$  on their boundary (*incident faces*) arranged in counter-clockwise radial order around  $v$
  - consistency rule: face  $f_i$  in  $VF(v)$  is bounded by edges  $e_i$  and  $e_{i+1}$  in  $VE(v)$



# Edge-Based Relations

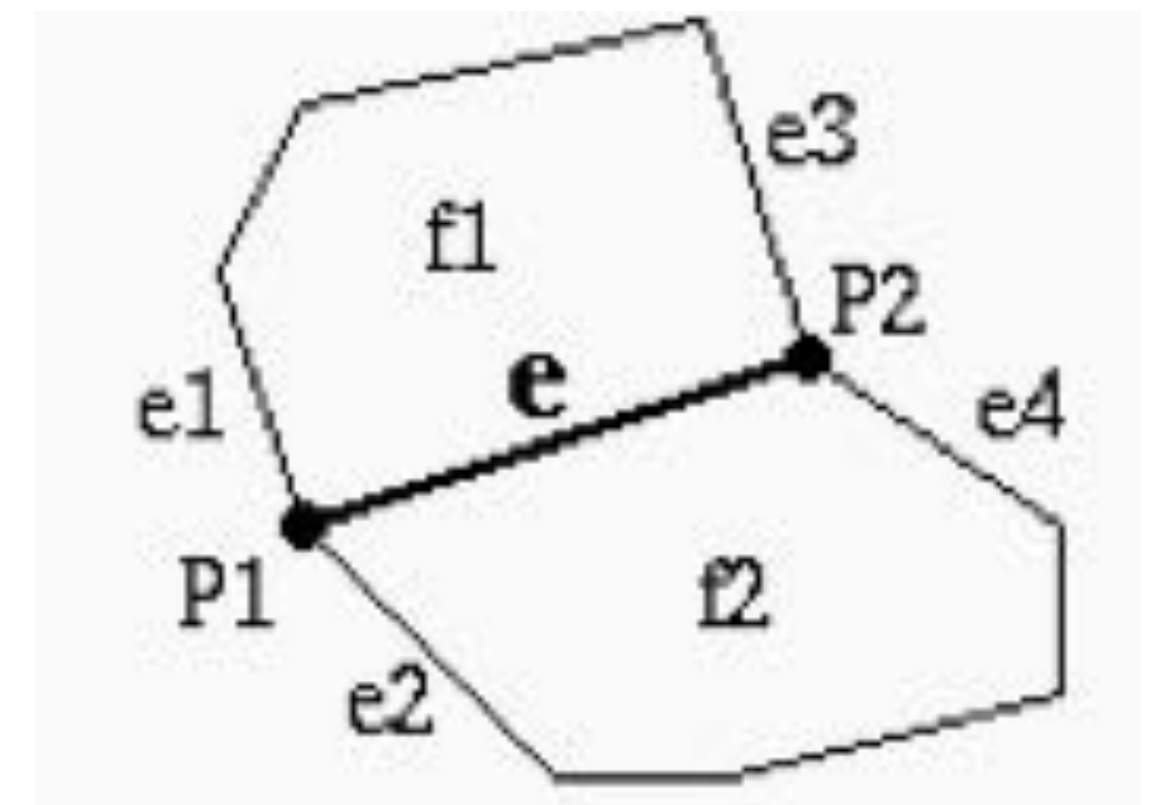
- EV (Edge-Vertex):
  - for each edge  $e$ , the two endpoints  $(v_1, v_2)$  of  $e$  (*incident vertices*)
- EF (Edge-Face):
  - for each edge  $e$ , the two faces  $(f_1, f_2)$  having  $e$  on their boundary (*incident faces*)
- Consistency rule: face  $f_1$  [ $f_2$ ] is on the left [right] of the oriented line from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$





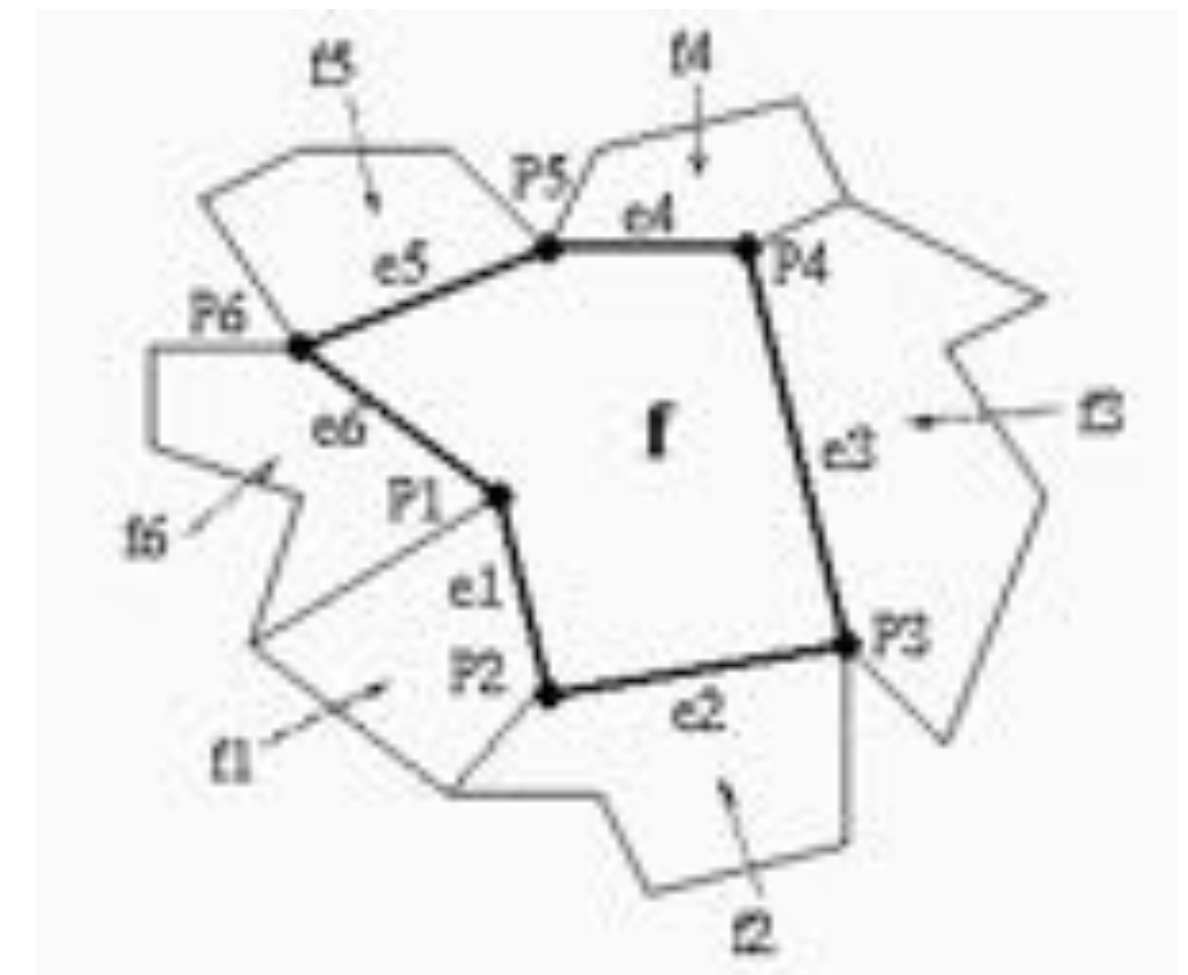
# Edge-Based Relations

- EE (Edge-Edge):
  - for each edge  $e$ , two pairs of edges  $((e_1, e_2), (e_3, e_4))$  that share a vertex and a face with  $e$  (*adjacent edges*)
- Consistency rule:
  - $e_1$  is incident on  $v_1$  and  $f_1$
  - $e_2$  is incident on  $v_1$  and  $f_2$
  - $e_3$  is incident on  $v_2$  and  $f_1$
  - $e_4$  is incident on  $v_2$  and  $f_2$



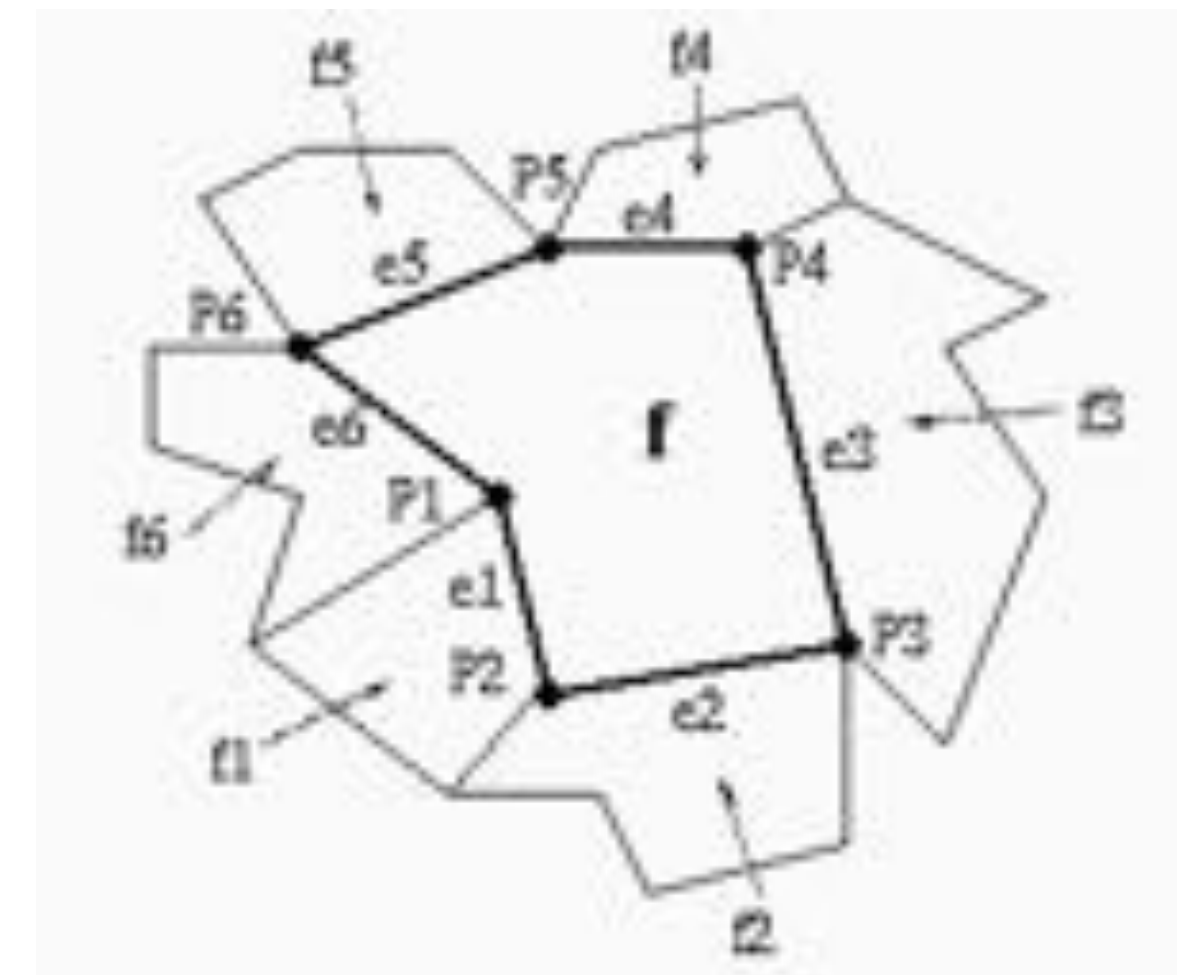
# Face-Based Relations

- FE (Face-Edge):
  - for each face  $f$ , the list  $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m)$  of edges of its boundary (*incident edges*), in counter-clockwise order about  $f$
  - list is circular: initial vertex  $e_1$  is arbitrarily chosen



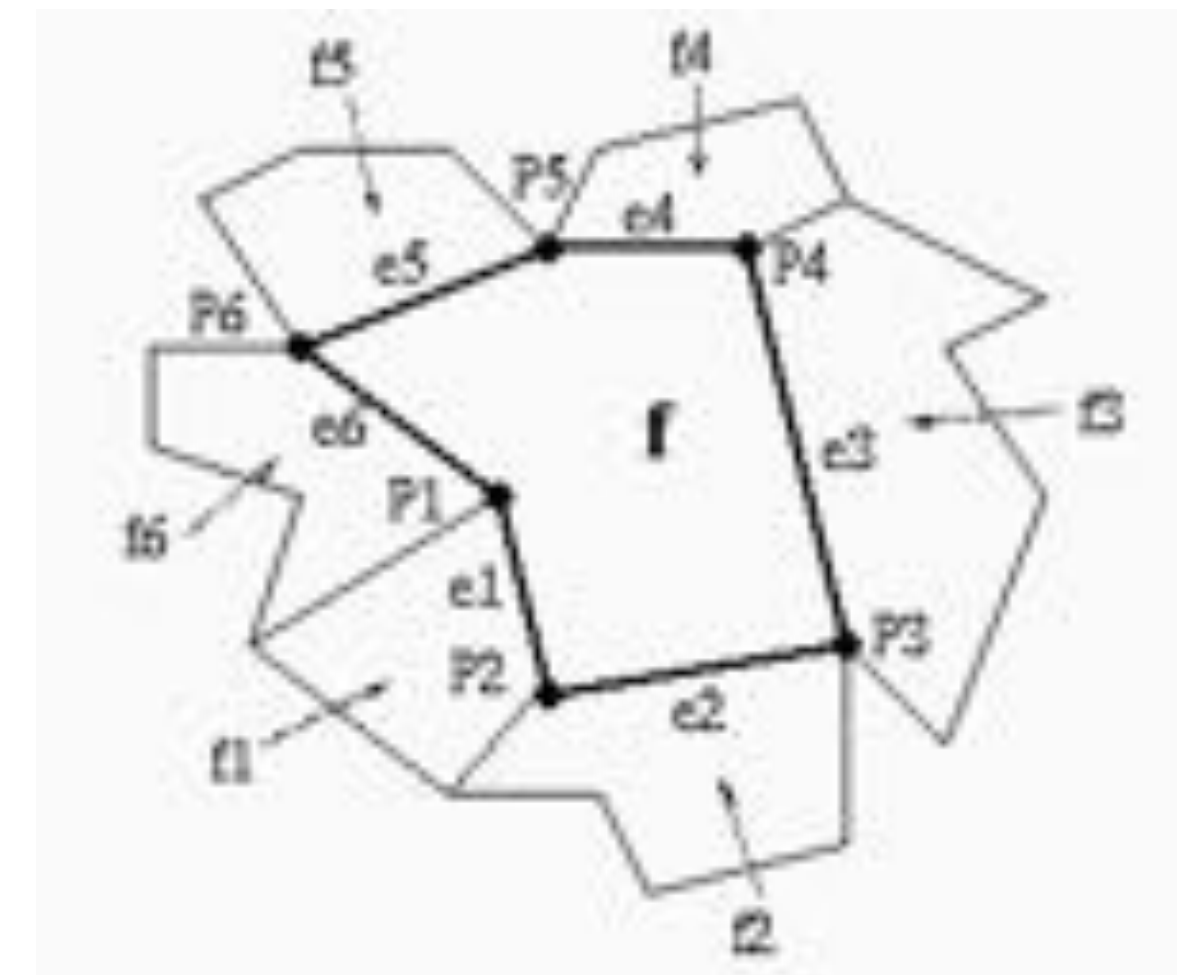
# Face-Based Relations

- FV (Face-Vertex):
  - for each face  $f$ , the list  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m)$  of vertices of its boundary (*incident vertices*), in counter-clockwise order about  $f$
  - consistency rule: edge  $e_i$  in  $FE(f)$  has endpoints  $v_i$  and  $v_{i+1}$



# Face-Based Relations

- FF (Face-Face):
  - for each face  $f$ , the list  $(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m)$  of faces that share an edge with  $f$  (*adjacent faces*), in counter-clockwise order about  $f$
  - consistency rule: face  $f_i$  in  $FF(f)$  shares edge  $e_i$  in  $FE(f)$



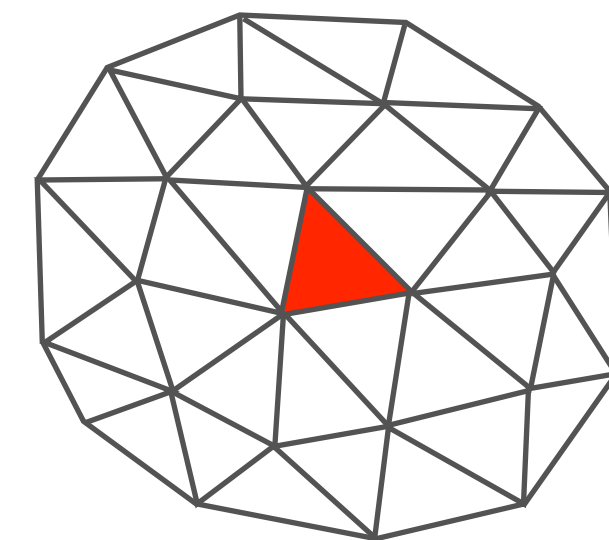
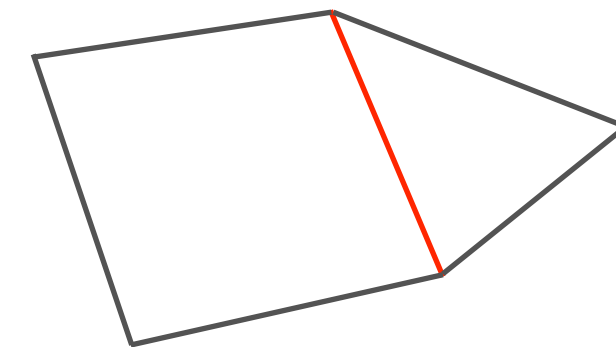
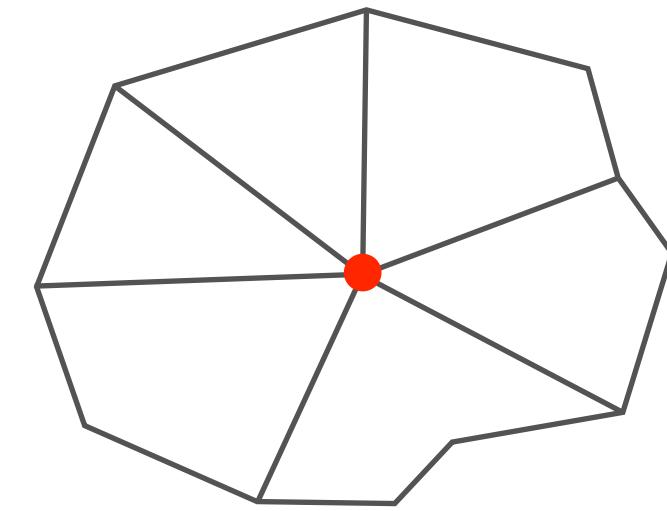


# Topological Relations

- Constant relations return a constant number of elements:
  - EV (each edge has two endpoints)
  - EE (each edge has four adjacent edges)
  - EF (each edge has two incident faces)
- Variable relations return a variable number of elements:
  - VV, VE, VF, FV, FE, FF: the number of vertices/edges/faces incident/adjacent to a given vertex/face is not constant and it can be of the same order of the total number of vertices/edges/faces

# Stars and Rings






- The star of a vertex  $v$  is formed by  $v$  plus the set of cells incident at  $v$  (edges and faces of its co-boundary)
- The star of an edge  $e$  is formed by  $e$  plus the set of faces incident at  $e$  (faces of its co-boundary)
- The 1-ring of a face  $f$  is the formed by the union of the stars of its boundary vertices
- The  $k$ -ring of a face  $f$ , for  $k > 1$  is the formed by the union of the 1-rings of faces in its  $(k-1)$ -ring



# Level of Details

# Continuous Methods

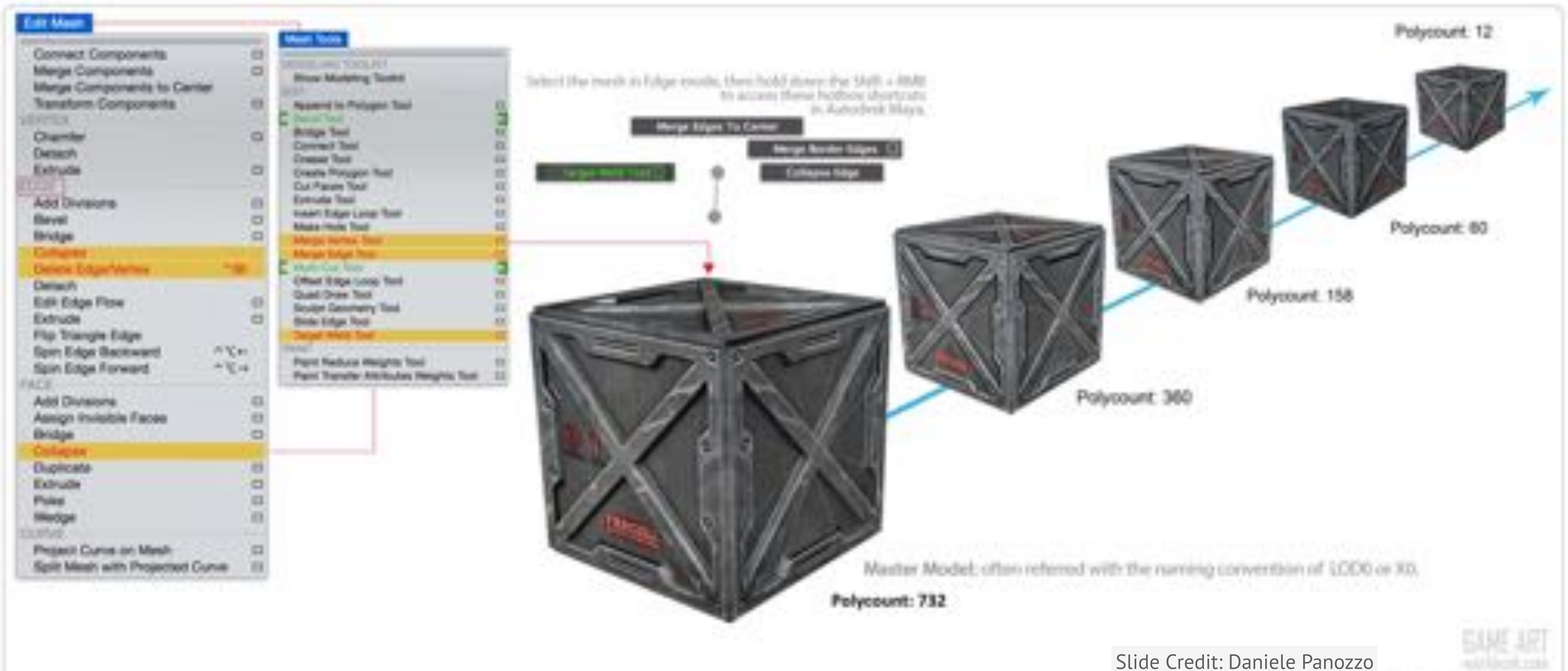
- Widely used for rendering terrains

Image					
Vertices	~5500	~2880	~1580	~670	140
Notes	Maximum detail, for closeups.				Minimum detail, very far objects.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Level\\_of\\_detail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Level_of_detail)



# Discrete LOD





# Editing Operators

# Euler Operators

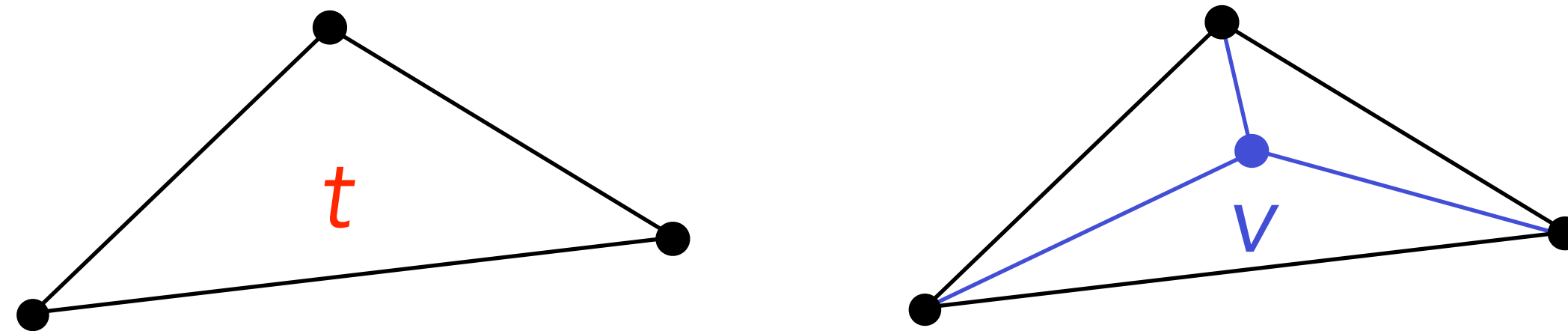
- Change a mesh while fulfilling the Euler formula  $v - e + f = 2s - 2g - h$
- Challenging to implement
- Examples:
  - MVS - MakeVertexShell: creates a new connected component composed of a single vertex
  - MEV - MakeEdgeVertex: creates a new vertex and a new edge, joining it to an existing vertex
  - MEF - MakeEdgeFace: connects two existing vertices with an edge creating a new face - this can either make and fill a loop, or split an existing face into two
  - KHMF - KillHoleMakeFace: fills a hole loop with a face
  - ...

# Operators for Triangle Meshes

- Specific operators that specific for triangle meshes
- **Refinement operators:** produce a mesh with more vertices/edges/faces
- **Simplification operators:** produce a mesh with less vertices/edges/faces
- Can be implemented on any topological data structure for triangle meshes

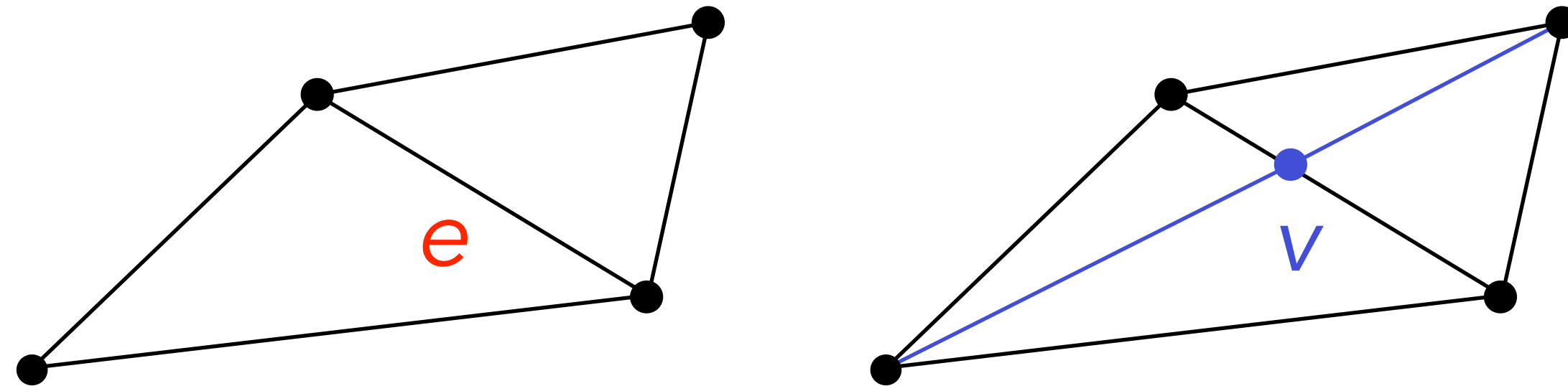
# Refinement Operators

- Triangle split:
  - insert a new vertex  $v$  in a triangle  $t$  and connect  $v$  to the vertices of  $t$  by splitting it into three triangles



# Refinement Operators

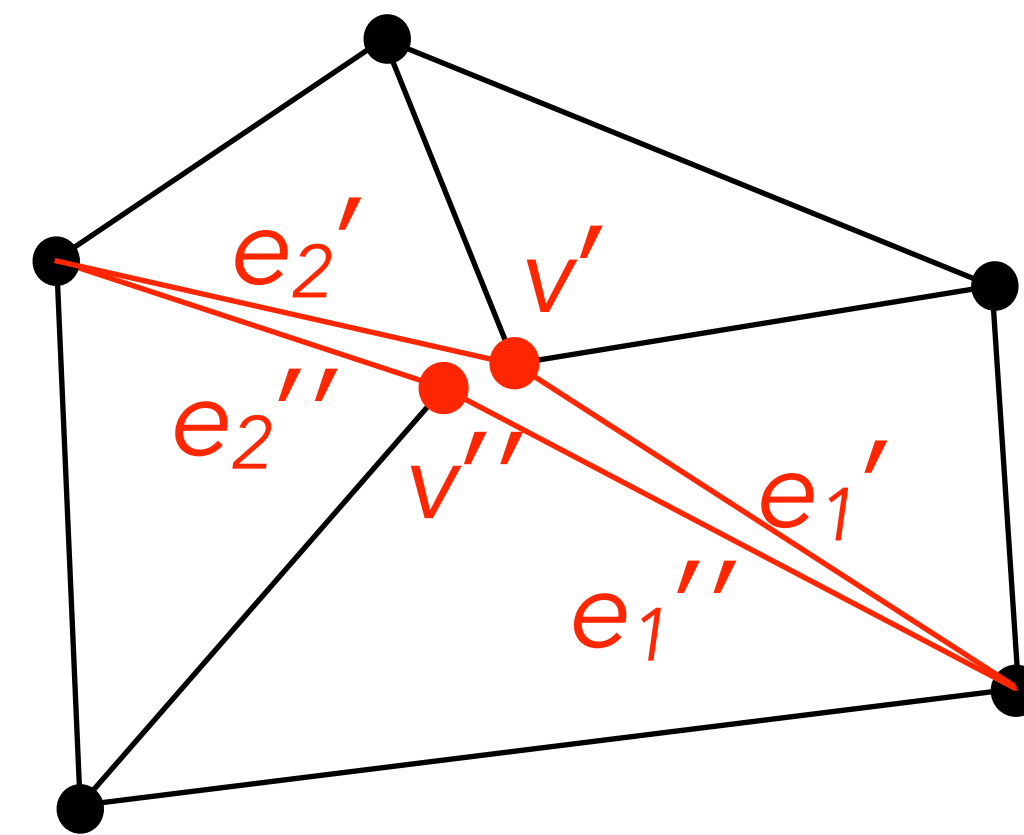
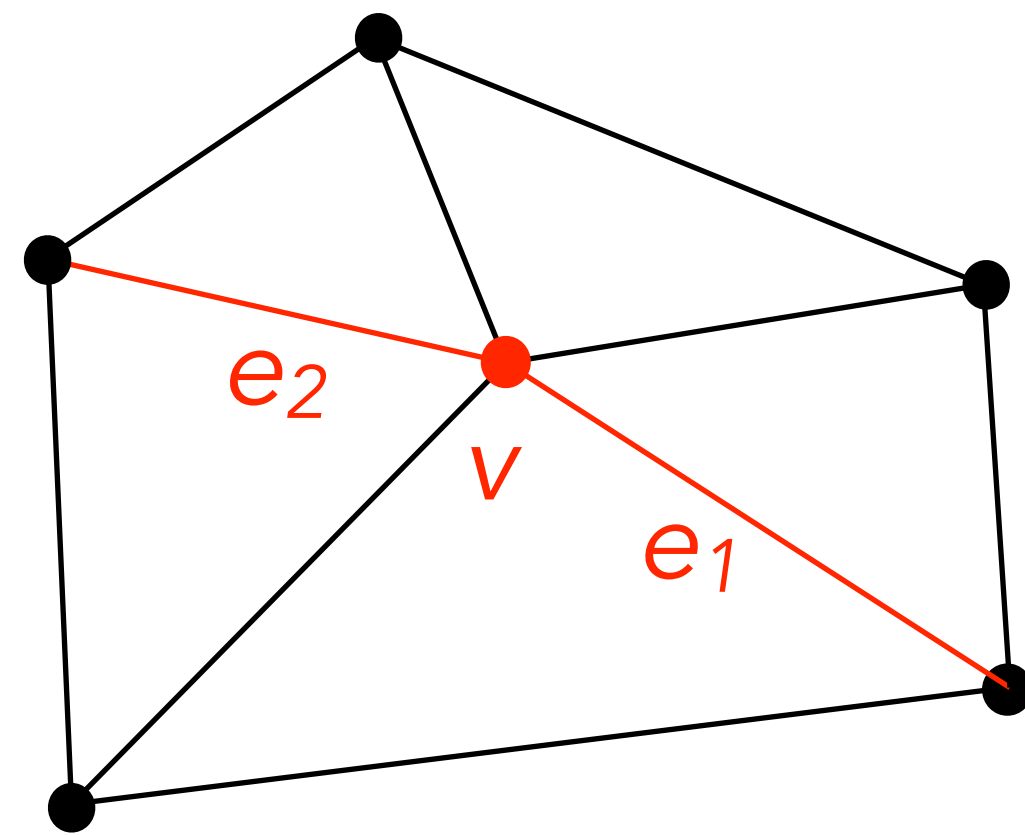
- Edge split:
  - insert a new vertex  $v$  on an edge  $e$  and connect  $v$  to the opposite vertices of triangles incident at  $e$  by splitting  $e$  as well as each such triangle into two





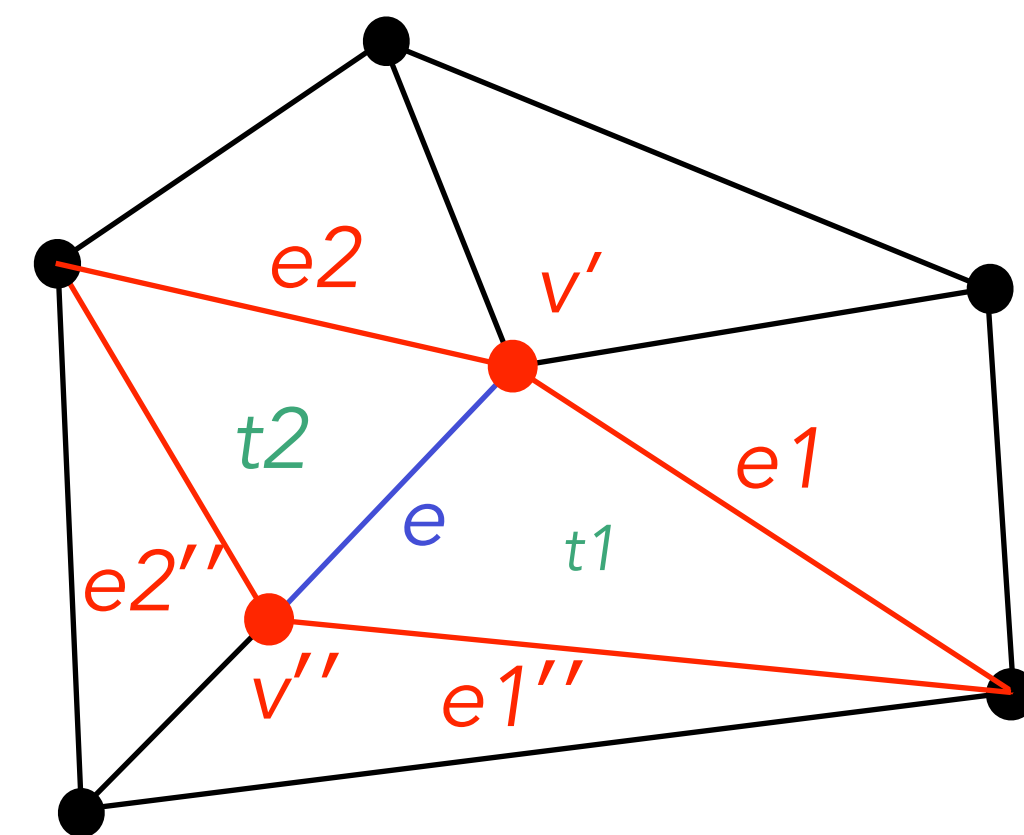
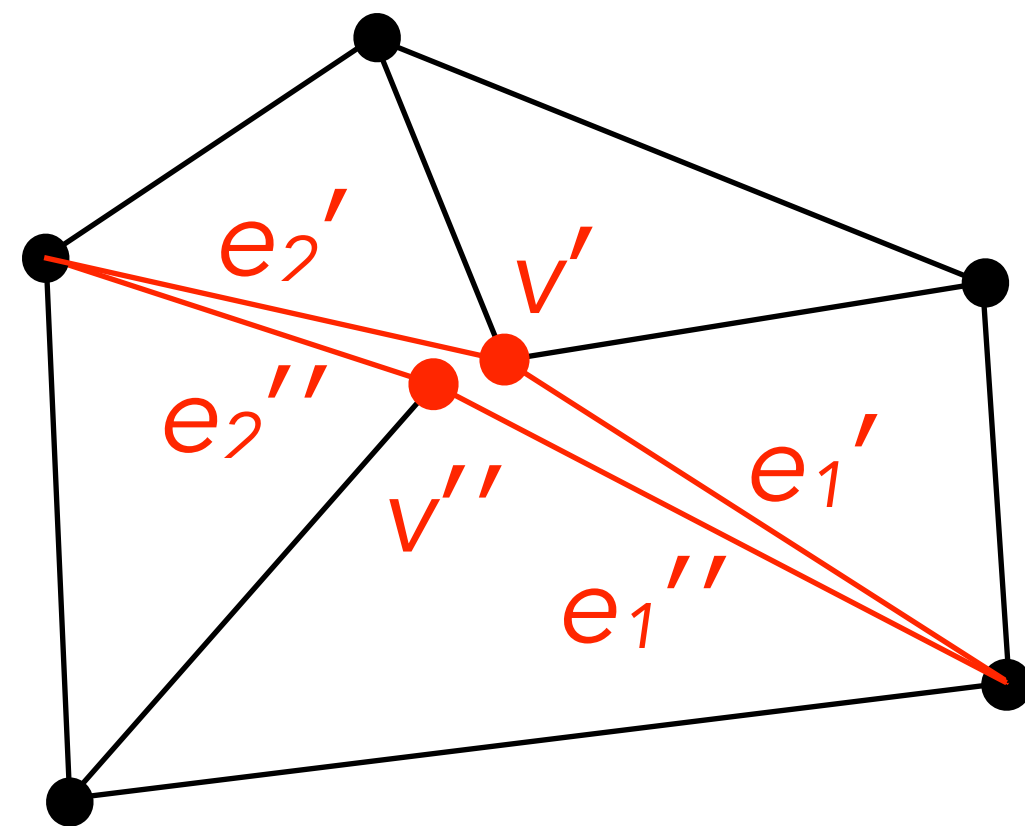
# Refinement Operators

- Vertex split:
  - cut open the mesh along two edges  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  incident at a common vertex  $v$ , by duplicating such edges as well as  $v$



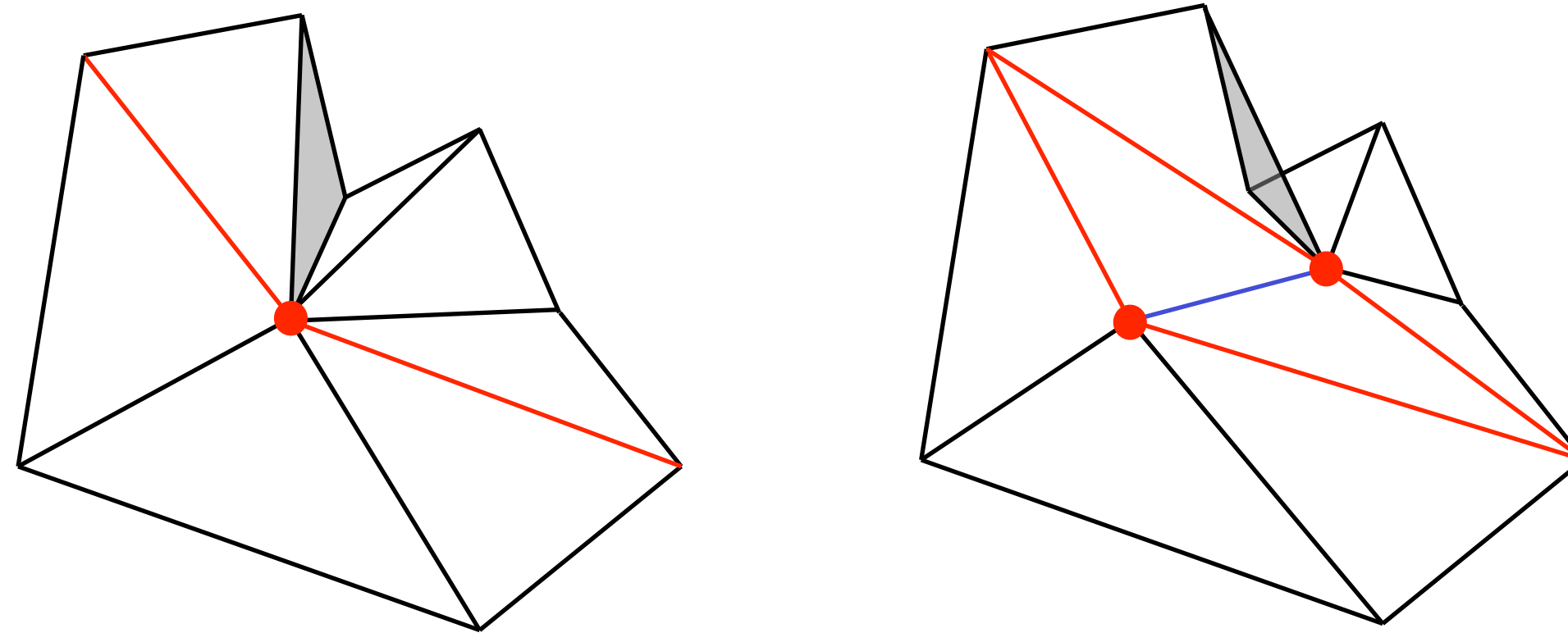
# Refinement Operators

- Vertex split:
  - cut open the mesh along two edges  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  incident at a common vertex  $v$ , by duplicating such edges as well as  $v$
  - fill the quadrangular hole with two new triangles and an edge joining the two copies of  $v$



# Refinement Operators

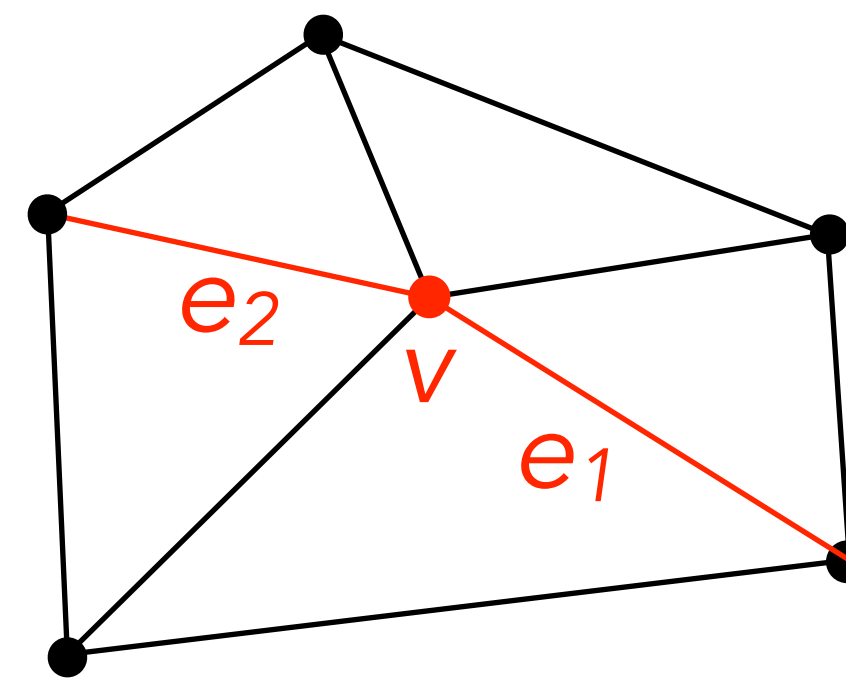
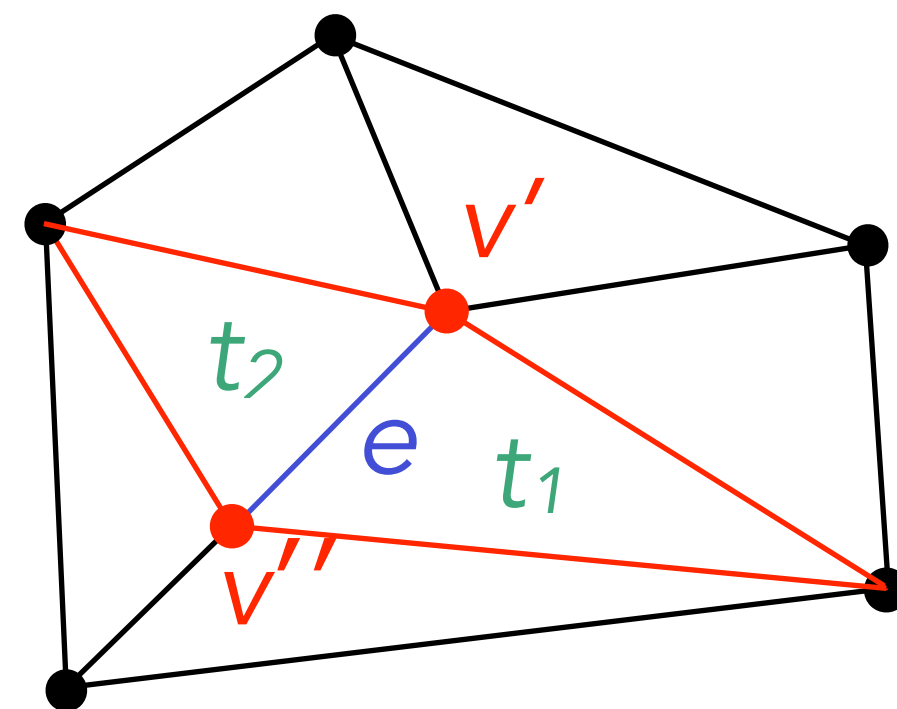
- Vertex split:
  - possible inconsistencies because of *triangle flip*



- flips can be detected by a local test on the orientation of faces: flips changes orientation from clockwise to counter-clockwise and vice-versa

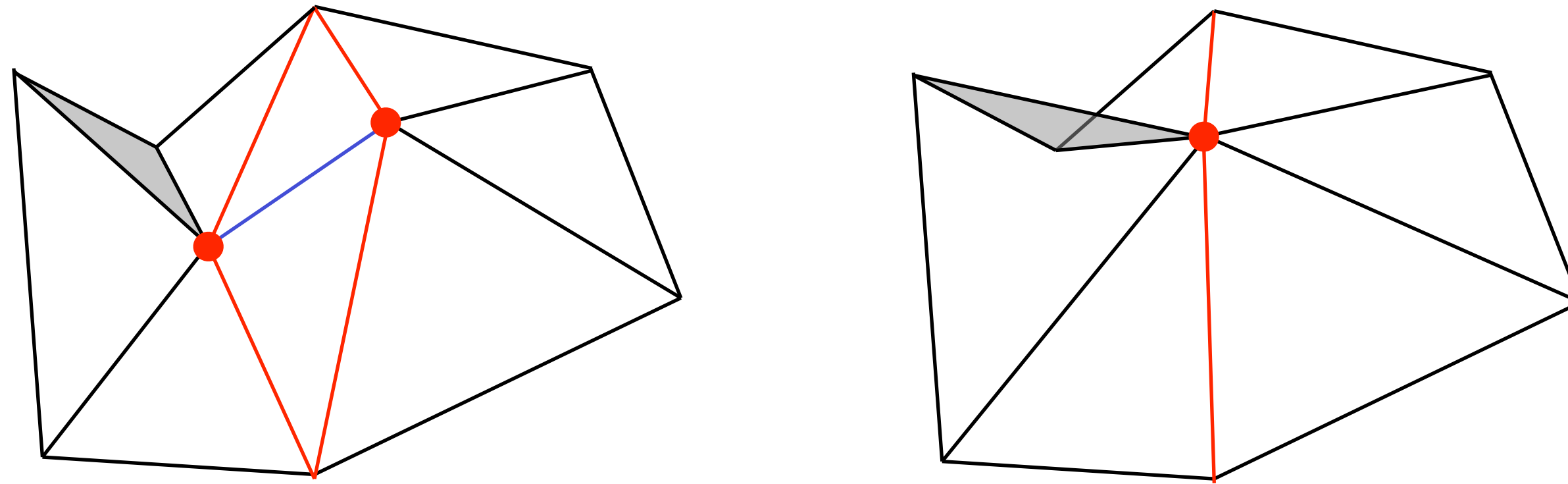
# Simplification Operators

- Edge collapse (reverse of vertex split):
  - collapse an edge  $e$  to a single point
  - $e$  is removed together with its two incident triangles
  - the endpoints of  $e$  are identified
  - the other edges bounding the deleted triangles are pairwise identified



# Simplification Operators

- Edge collapse:
  - possible inconsistencies because of *triangle flip*

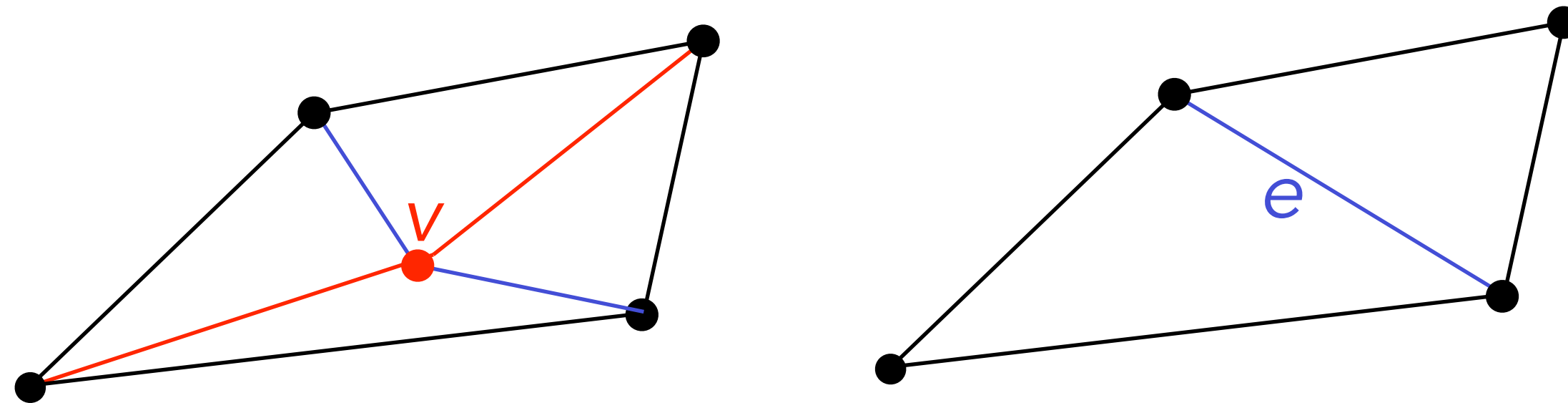


- consistency check analogous to vertex split



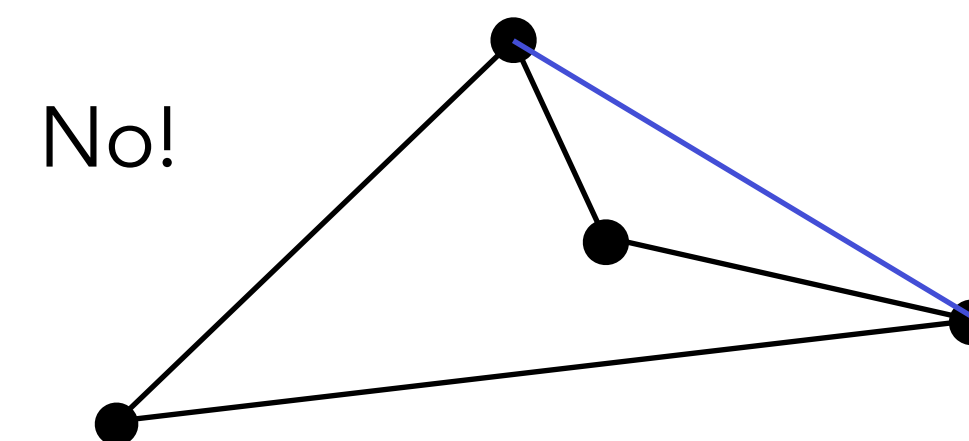
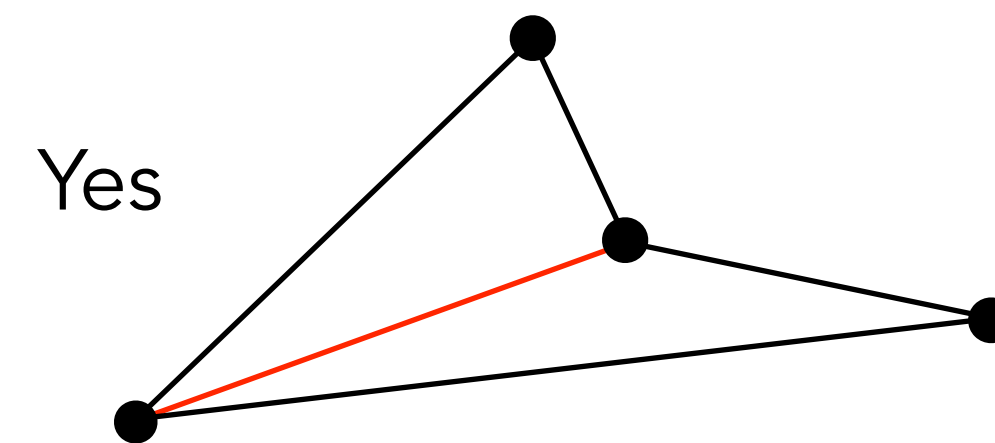
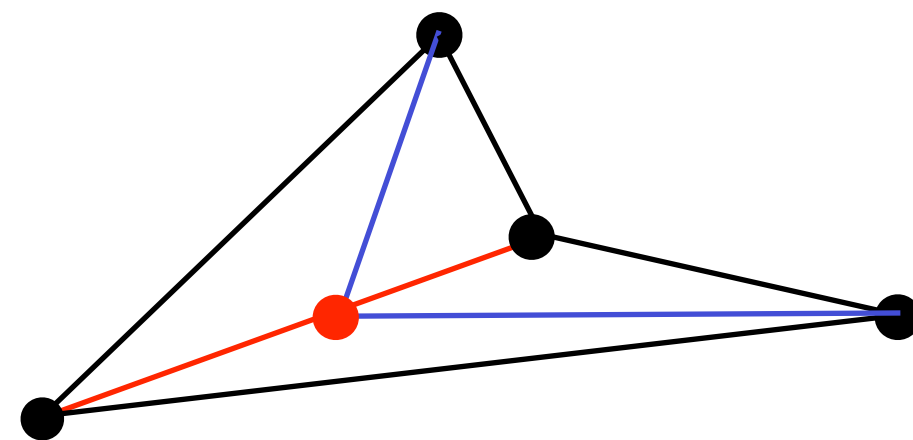
# Simplification Operators

- Edge merge (reverse of edge split):
  - take an internal vertex  $v$  with valence 4
  - delete  $v$  together with its incident triangles and edges and fill the hole with two new triangles sharing a new edge  $e$



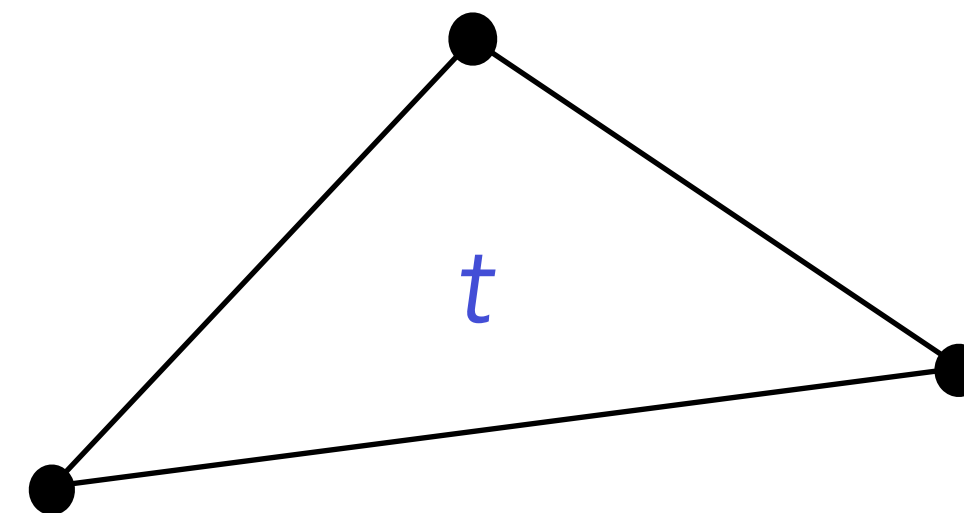
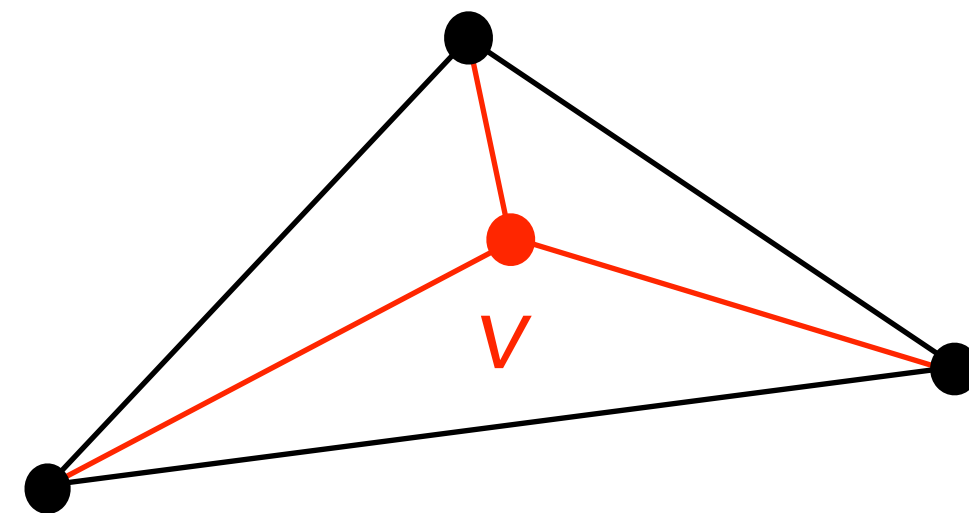
# Simplification Operators

- Edge merge:
  - if the hole is not convex, only one diagonal edge can be inserted



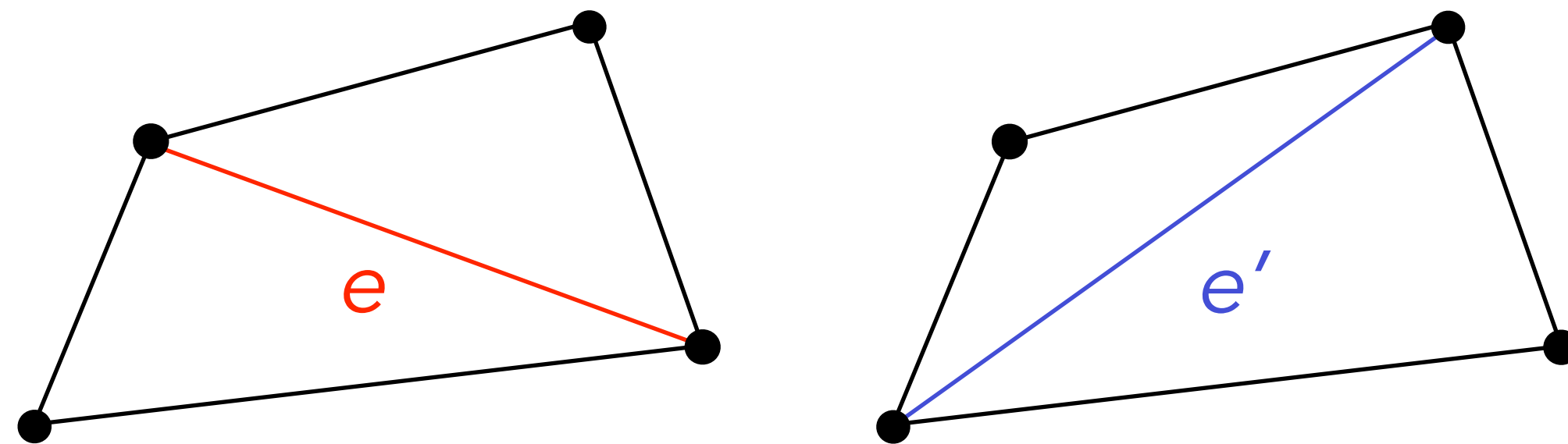
# Simplification Operators

- Delete vertex (reverse of triangle split):
  - remove an internal vertex  $v$  of valence 3 together with its incident triangles and edges and fill the hole with a new triangle



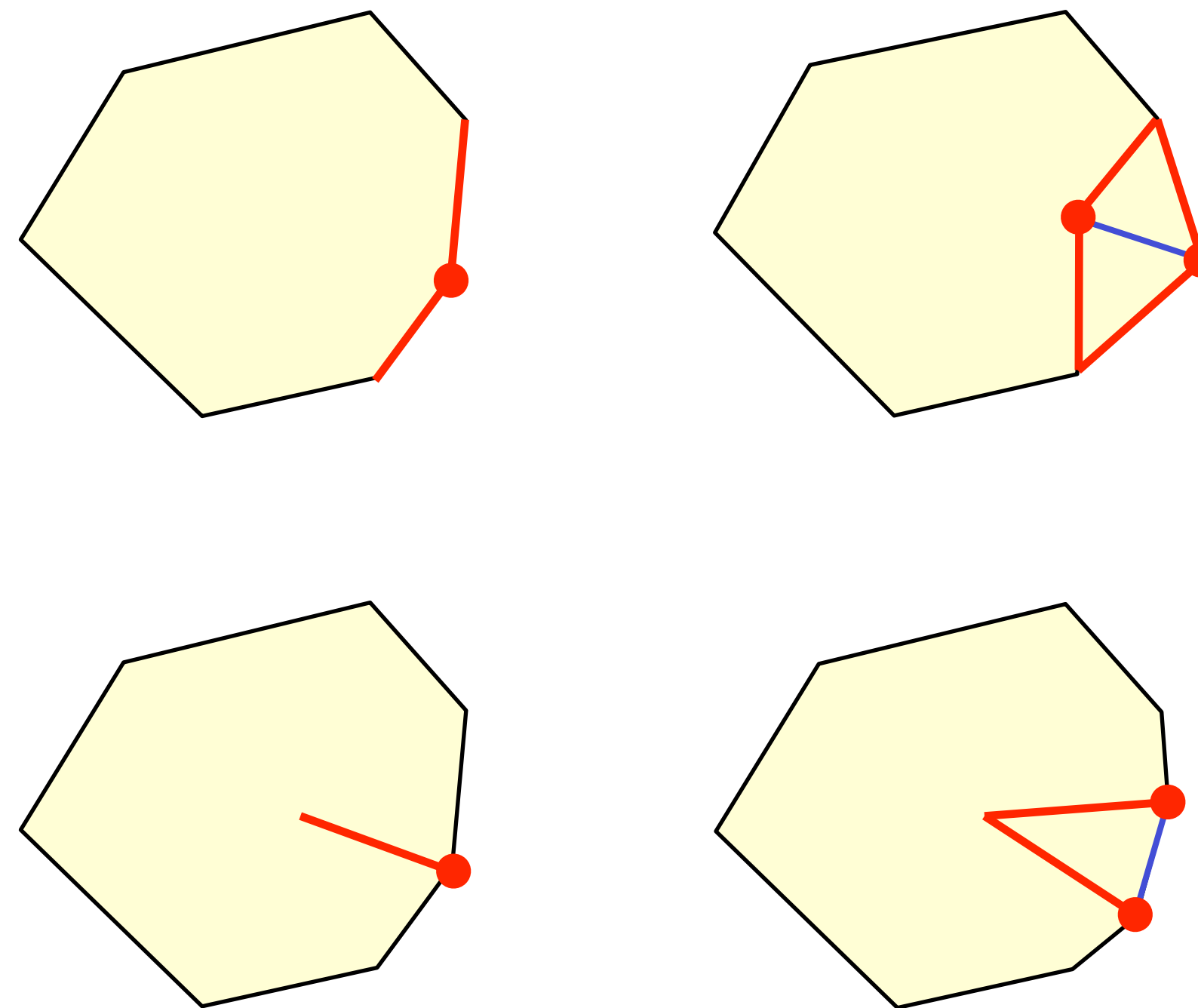
# Neutral Operator

- Edge swap:
  - consider an edge  $e$  such that its two incident triangles form a convex quadrilateral
  - replace  $e$  with the opposite diagonal of the quadrilateral, rearranging the two incident triangles accordingly



# Boundary Cases

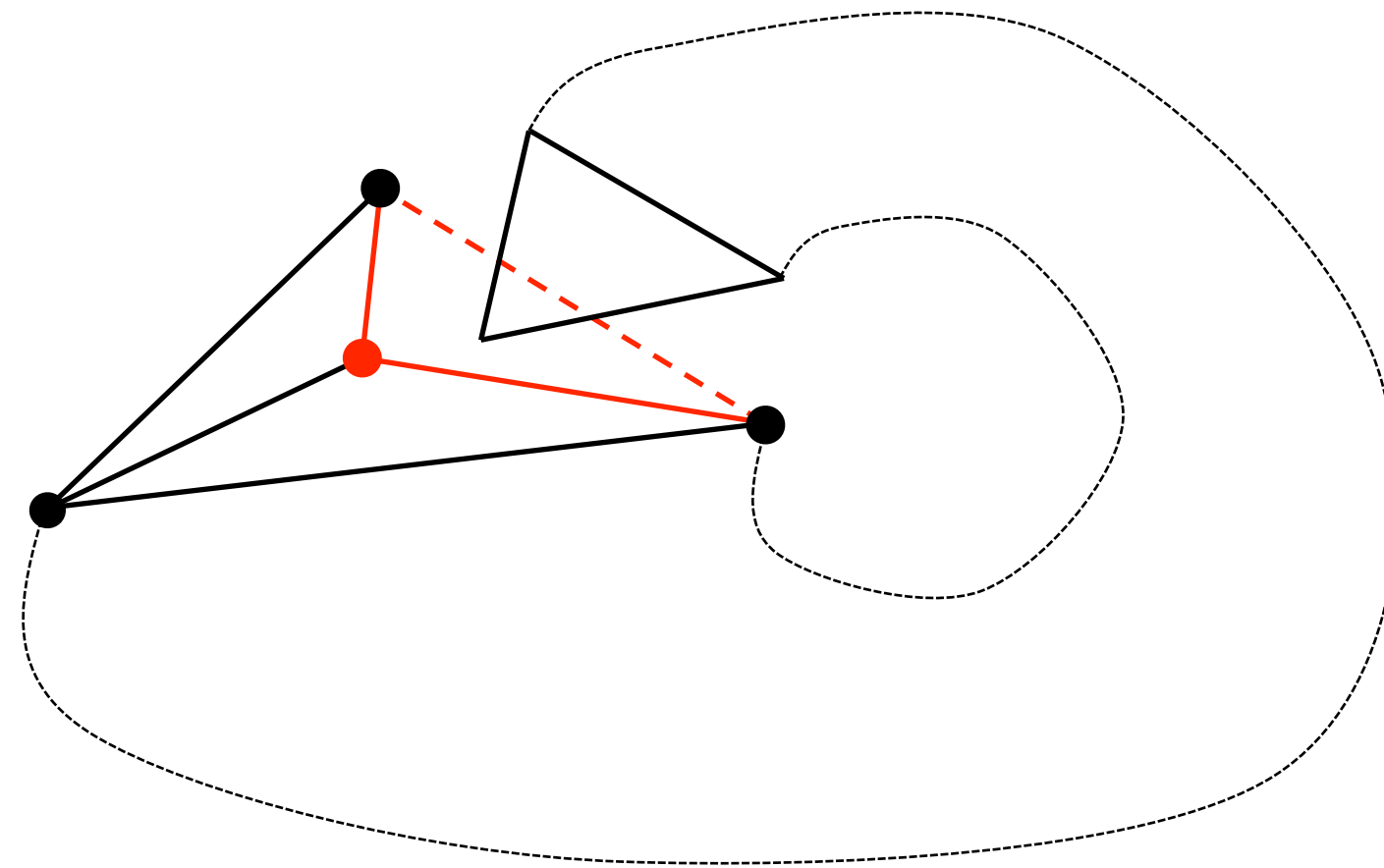
- Vertex split / Edge collapse:





# Boundary Cases

- Edge merge on a concave boundary may cause self-intersection of the mesh
- It is a global check! intersecting parts may be far on the mesh



- Similar problems with edge collapse on concave boundary and vertex split on convex boundary

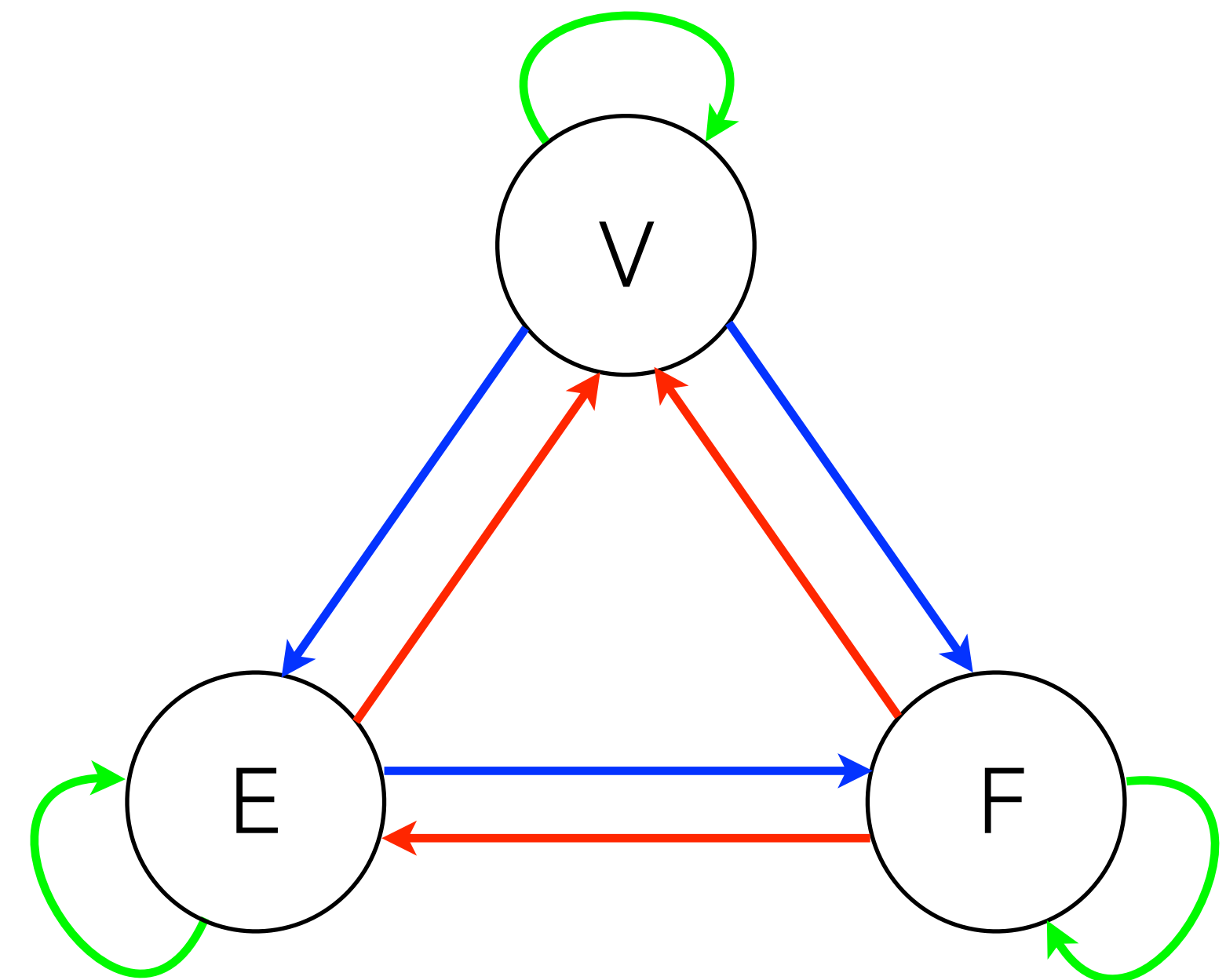
# Mesh Data Structures

# Data Structures

- Storing a mesh:
  - geometry: position of vertices
  - connectivity: edges, faces
  - topology: topological relations
- Compactness vs efficiency trade-off: data structures should be compact, while efficiently supporting time-critical operations
  - storage requirements
  - traversal operations
  - update operations

# Data Structures

- Information to store/retrieve:
  - Entities: vertices, edges, faces
  - Relations: VV, VE, VF, EV, EE, EF, FV, FE, FF
  - Additional properties attached to any entity (Positions, Normals, Colors)
- The data structure to use is application-dependent



# Polygon Soup

- a.k.a. Face set - STL files
- Just store a list of faces
- For each face, store positions of its vertices
  - For general polygonal mesh, the number of vertices of each face must also be stored
  - Number implicit for triangle meshes
- For a triangle mesh: 36 bytes/face  $\approx$  72 bytes/vertex
- No connectivity! just a collection of polygons
- Streaming structure: no need to store it all in memory to render the mesh

Triangles								
$x_{11}$	$y_{11}$	$z_{11}$	$x_{12}$	$y_{12}$	$z_{12}$	$x_{13}$	$y_{13}$	$z_{13}$
$x_{21}$	$y_{21}$	$z_{21}$	$x_{22}$	$y_{22}$	$z_{22}$	$x_{23}$	$y_{23}$	$z_{23}$
...			...			...		
$x_{F1}$	$y_{F1}$	$z_{F1}$	$x_{F2}$	$y_{F2}$	$z_{F2}$	$x_{F3}$	$y_{F3}$	$z_{F3}$

# Indexed Structure

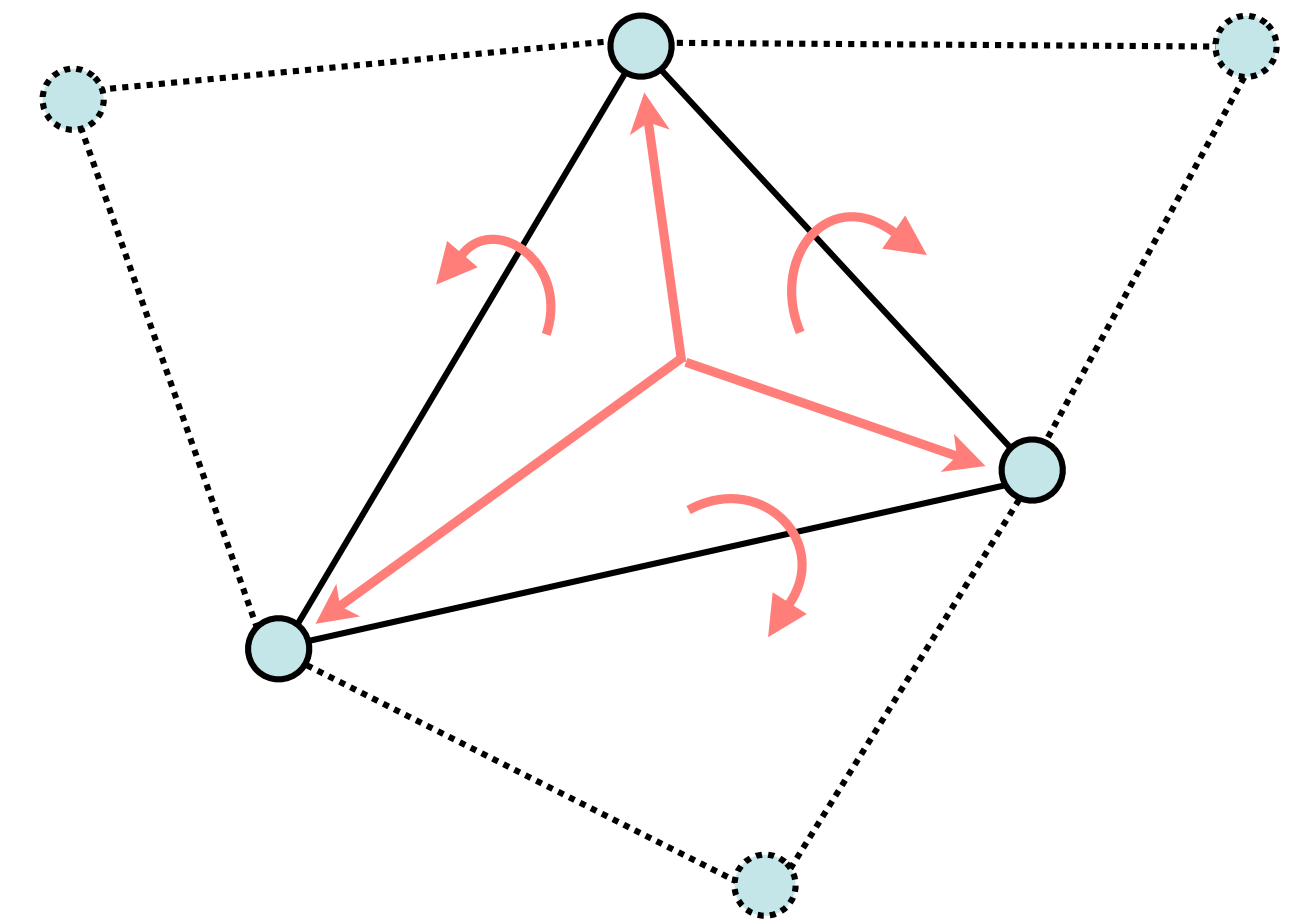
- Avoid replication of vertices - OBJ, OFF, PLY files
- Maintain a vector of vertices and a vector of faces
  - For each vertex: position
  - For each face: references to positions of its vertices (FV) in the vector
  - in general, the number of vertices of each face must also be stored
  - number implicit for triangle meshes
- For a triangle mesh: 12 bytes/vertex + 12 bytes/face  $\approx$  36 bytes/vertex
- Encodes connectivity through the FV relation
- Main memory structure: need to store in memory at least the whole list of vertices

Vertices	Triangles
$x_1 \ y_1 \ z_1$	$v_{11} \ v_{12} \ v_{13}$
$\dots$	$\dots$
$x_v \ y_v \ z_v$	$\dots$
	$\dots$
	$\dots$
	$v_{F1} \ v_{F2} \ v_{F3}$



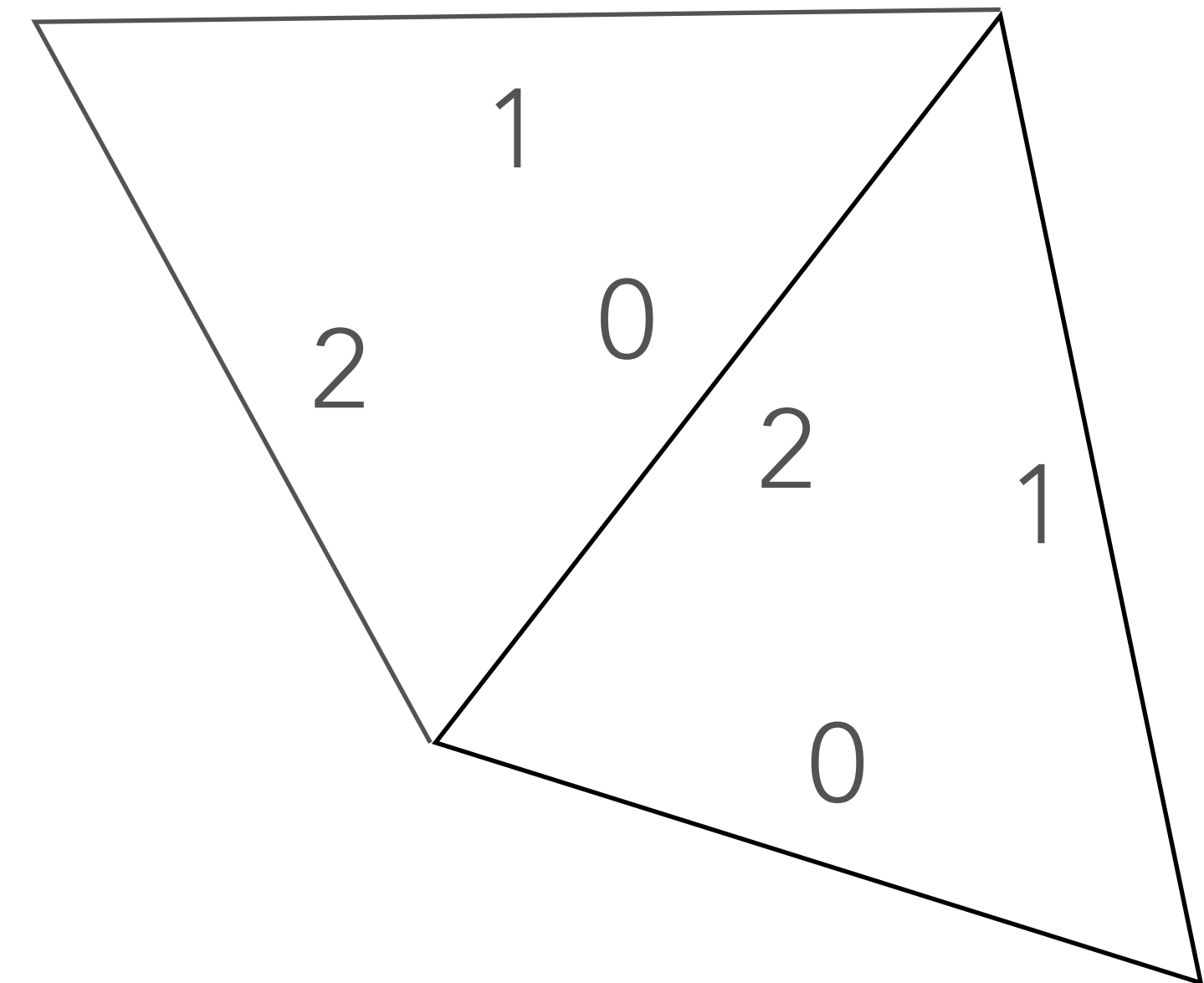
# Indexed Structure with Adjacencies

- Just for triangle meshes
- Extends indexed structure with some topological relations:
  - For each vertex:
    - position
    - one reference to an incident triangle ( $VF^*$  relation)
  - For each face:
    - references to its three vertices (FV)
    - references to its three adjacent triangles (FF)



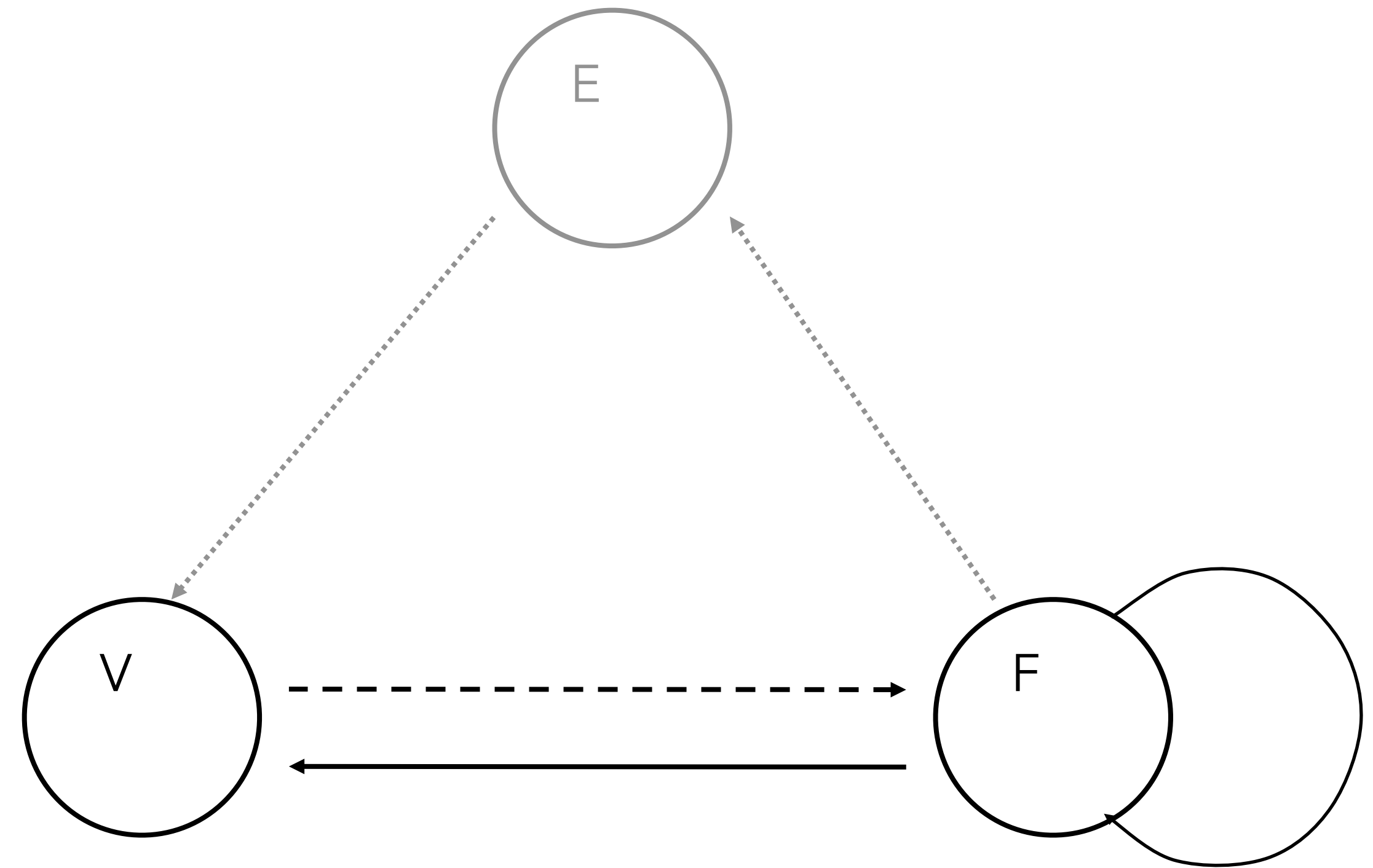
# Indexed Structure with Adjacencies

- No explicit edges!
  - implicitly defined as pairs of vertices (unique)
  - or as pairs  $(f,i)$  with  $f$  triangle and  $i$  index in  $0,1,2$  (not unique!)
- Attributes for edges require care, especially when modifying the mesh with editing operators



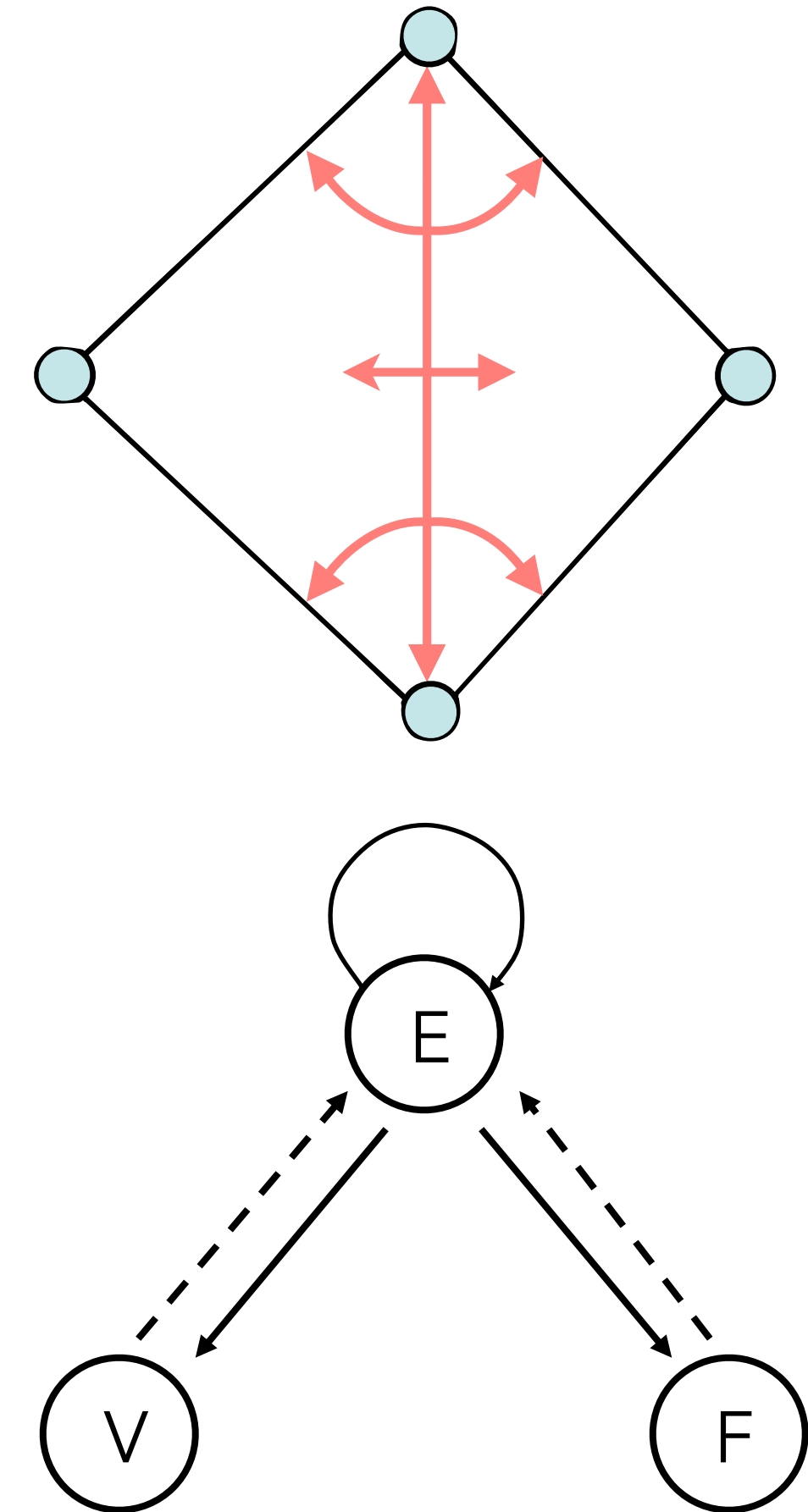
# Indexed Structure with Adjacencies

- Evaluation of topological relations:
  - FV, FF: encoded - optimal
  - $VF = VF^* + FF + FV$  optimal
  - VV analogous to VF
- Relations involving edges are either implicit or they can be evaluated in optimal time by the (f,i) encoding



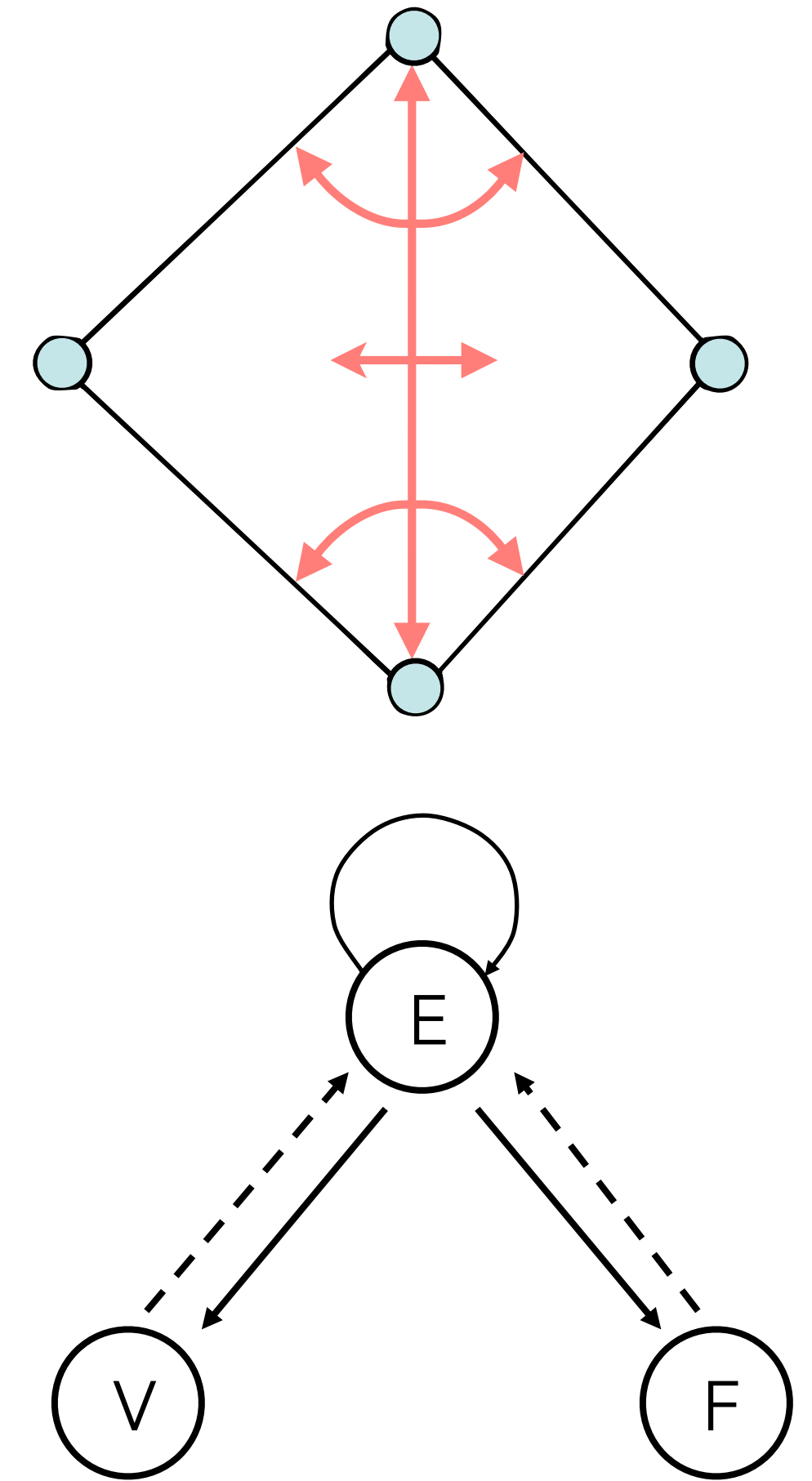
# Winged Edge Data Structure

- Topological structure for general polygonal meshes
  - For each vertex:
    - position
    - one reference to an incident edge ( $VE^*$ )
  - For each edge:
    - references to its two vertices (EV)
    - references to its two incident faces (EF)
    - references to its four adjacent edges (EE)
  - For each face:
    - one reference to an incident edge ( $FE^*$ )



# Winged Edge Data Structure

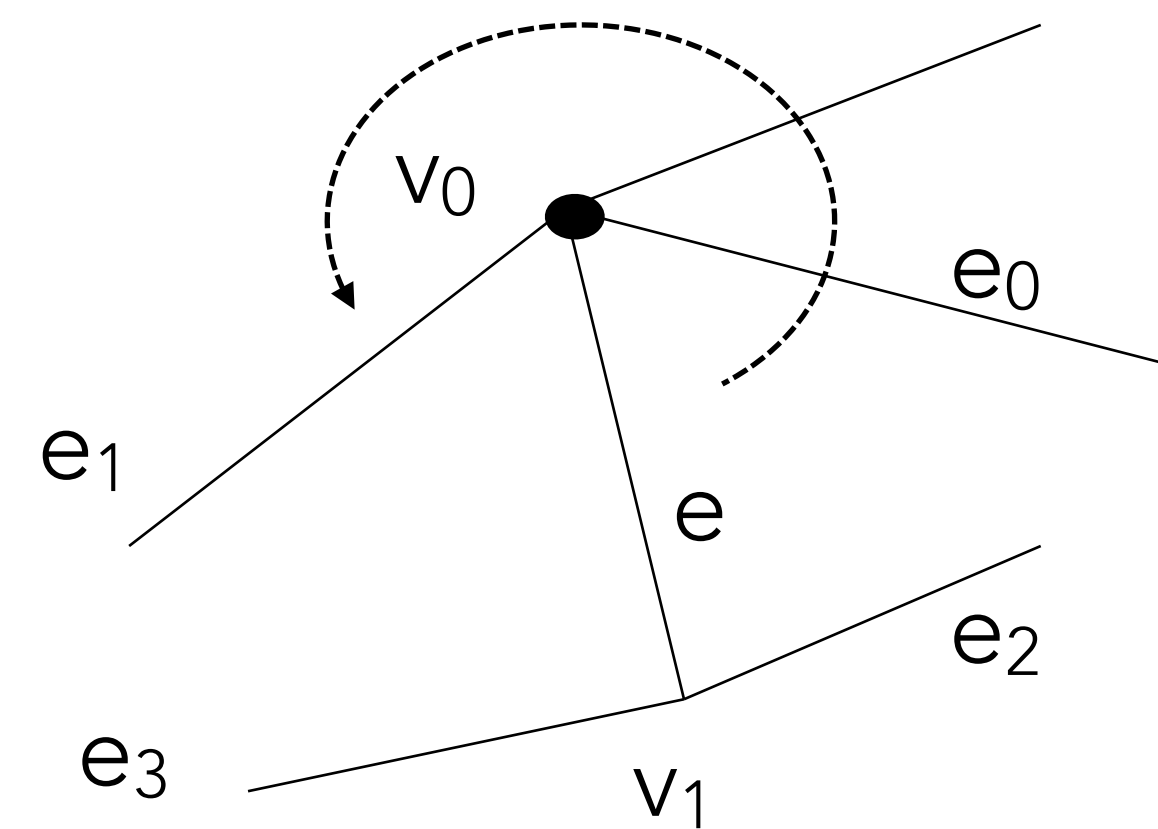
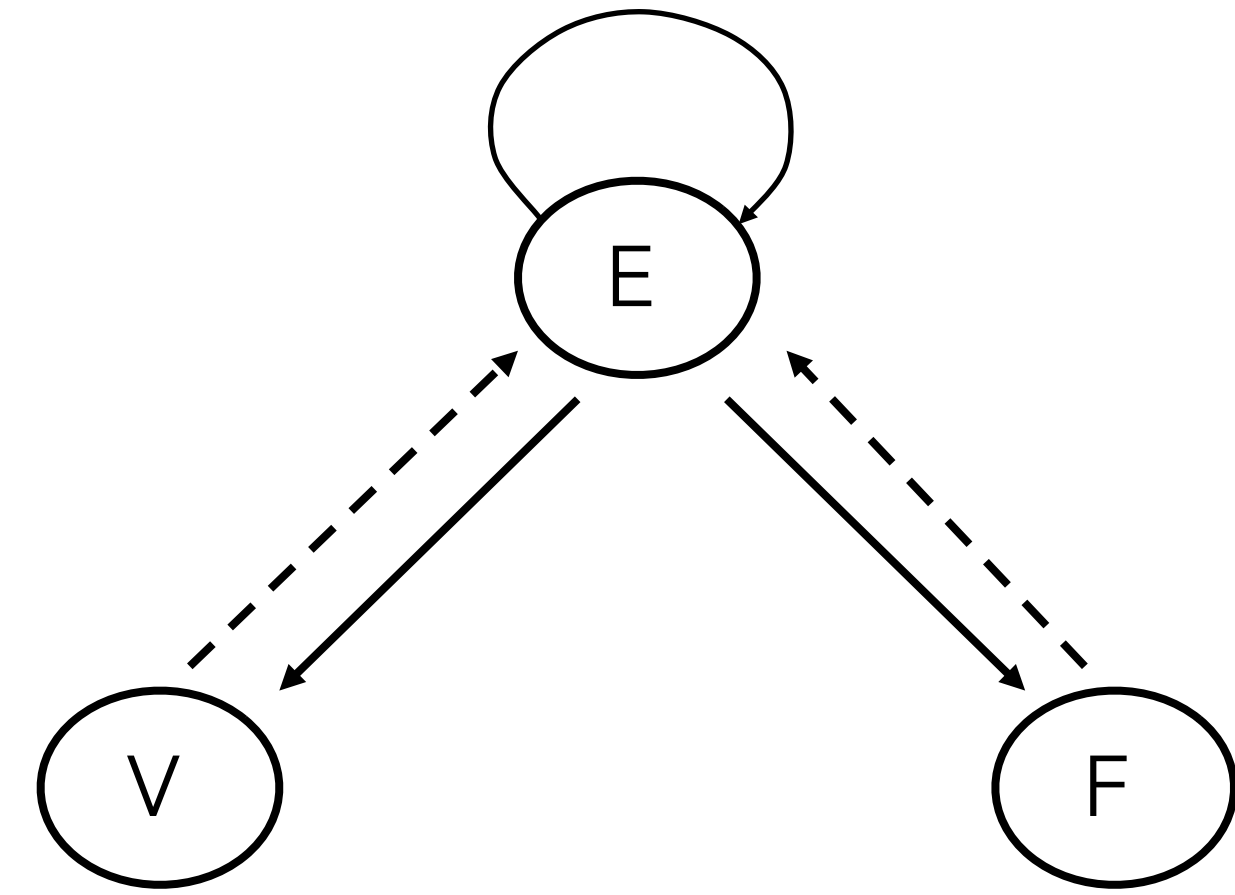
- 120 bytes/vertex
- all entities are represented explicitly
- all topological relations can be retrieved in optimal time
- ambiguous orientation of edges:
  - does  $EV(e)$  return  $(v_i, v_j)$  or  $(v_j, v_i)$ ?





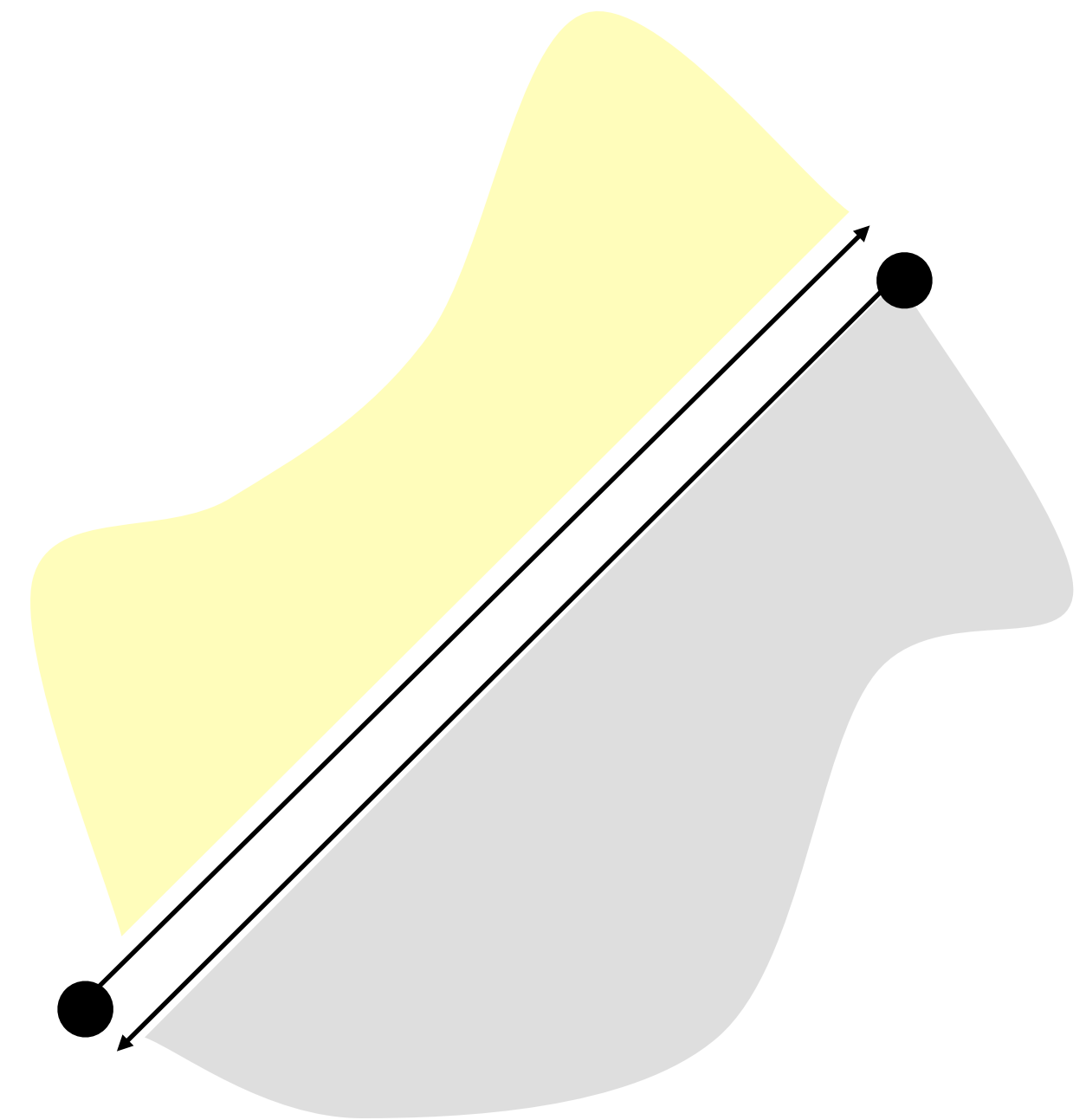
# Winged Edge Data Structure

- Example: evaluation of  $VE(v)$ :
  - get first edge  $e = VE^*(v)$
  - evaluate  $(e_0, e_1, e_2, e_3) = EE(e)$
  - evaluate  $(v_0, v_1) = EV(e)$
  - in counter-clockwise order, set next edge at either  $e_0$  or  $e_3$ , depending on whether  $v=v_0$  or  $v=v_1$
  - cycle until hitting  $e$



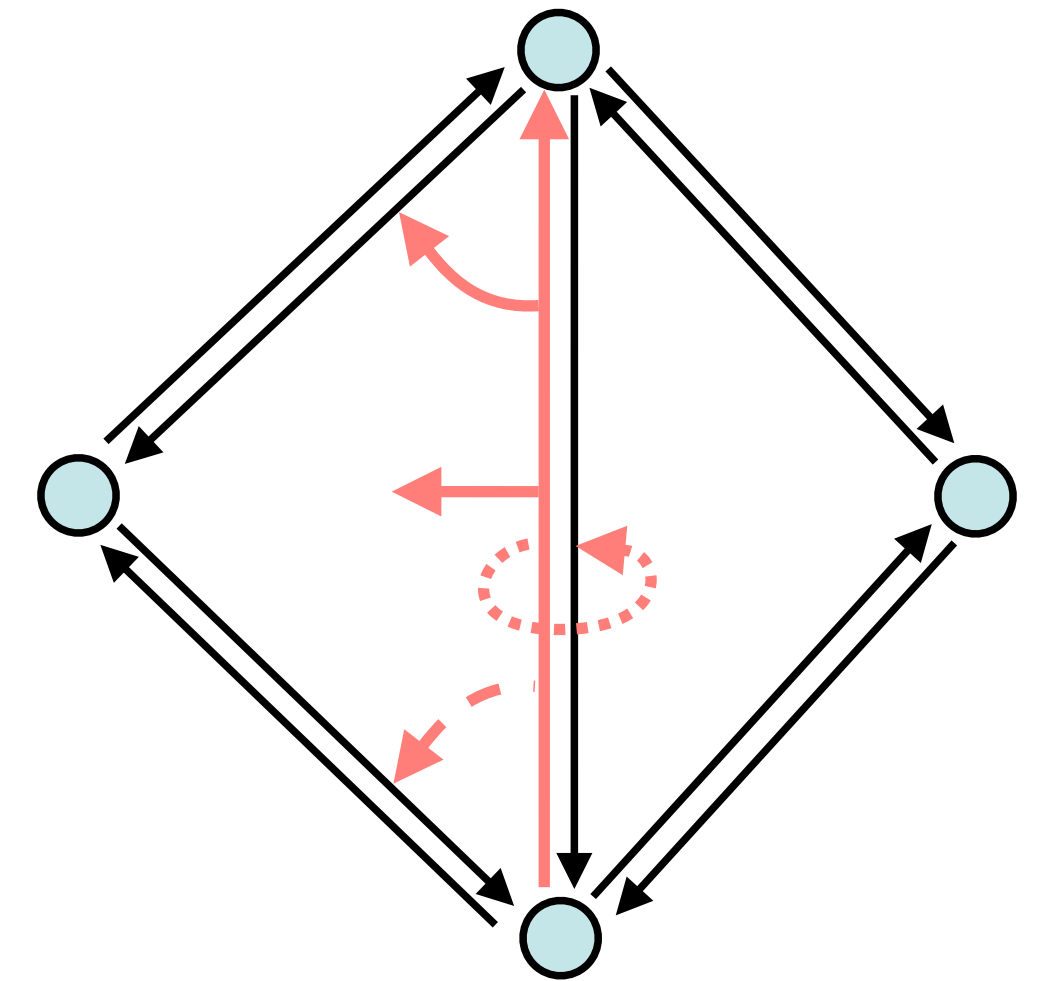
# Half-Edge Data Structure

- Half-edge: each edge is duplicated by also considering its orientation
- An edge corresponds to a pair of sibling half-edges with opposite orientations
- Each half-edge stores half topological information concerning the edge



# Half-Edge Data Structure

- For each vertex:
  - position
  - one reference to an incident half-edge
- For each half-edge:
  - reference to one its two vertices (origin)
  - references to one of its two incident faces (face on its left)
  - references to: next/previous half-edge on the same face, sibling half-edge
- For each face:
  - one reference to an incident half-edge (FE\*)

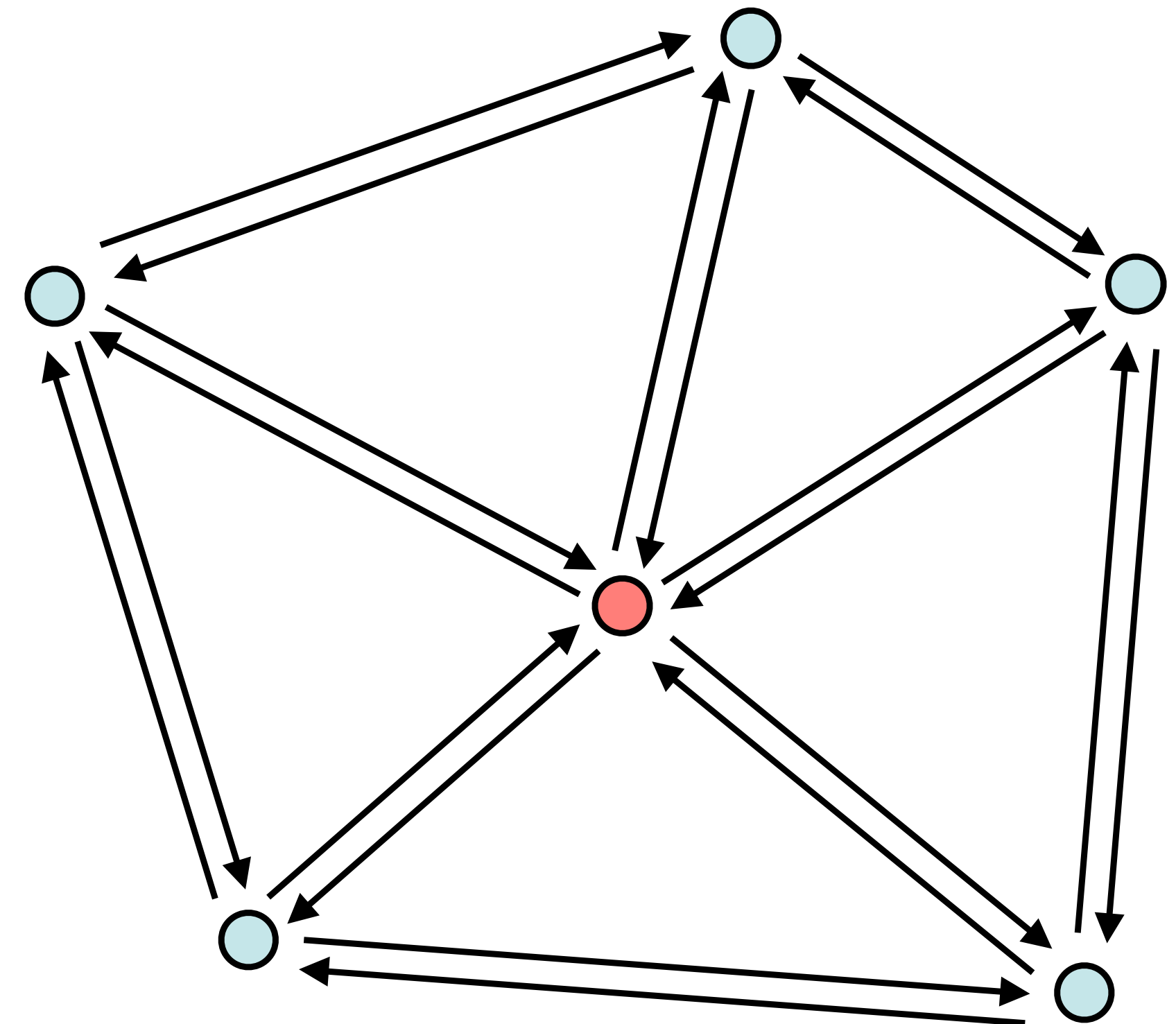


# Half-Edge Data Structure

- 96-144 bytes/vertex depending on number of references to adjacent edges
  - reference to sibling half-edge can be avoided by storing siblings at consecutive entries of a vector
  - for triangle meshes, just one reference to either next or previous half-edge is sufficient
- Efficient traversal and update operations
- Attributes for edges must be stored separately

# Half-Edge Data Structure

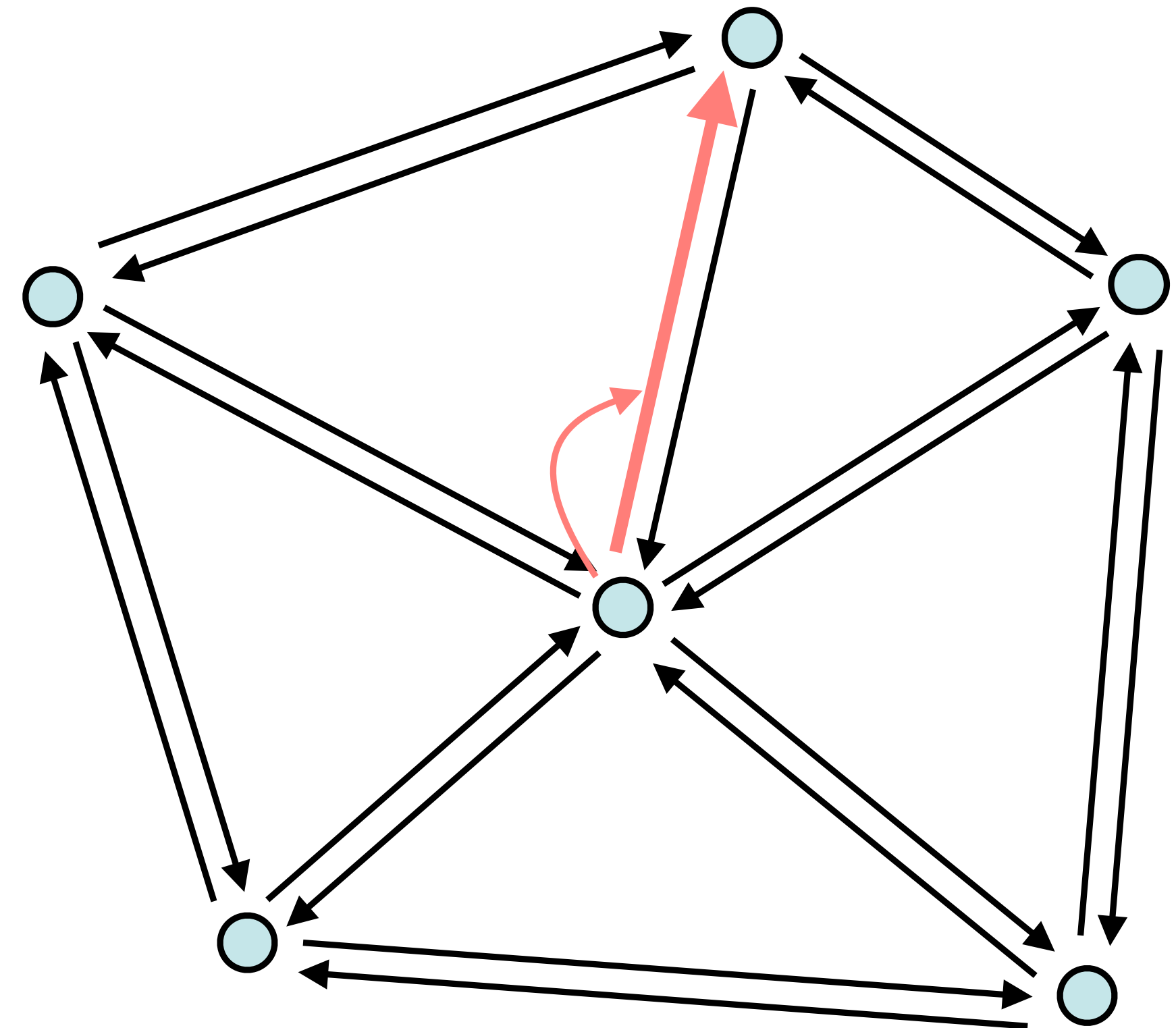
- One-ring traversal ( $V^*$  relations):  
1.start at vertex





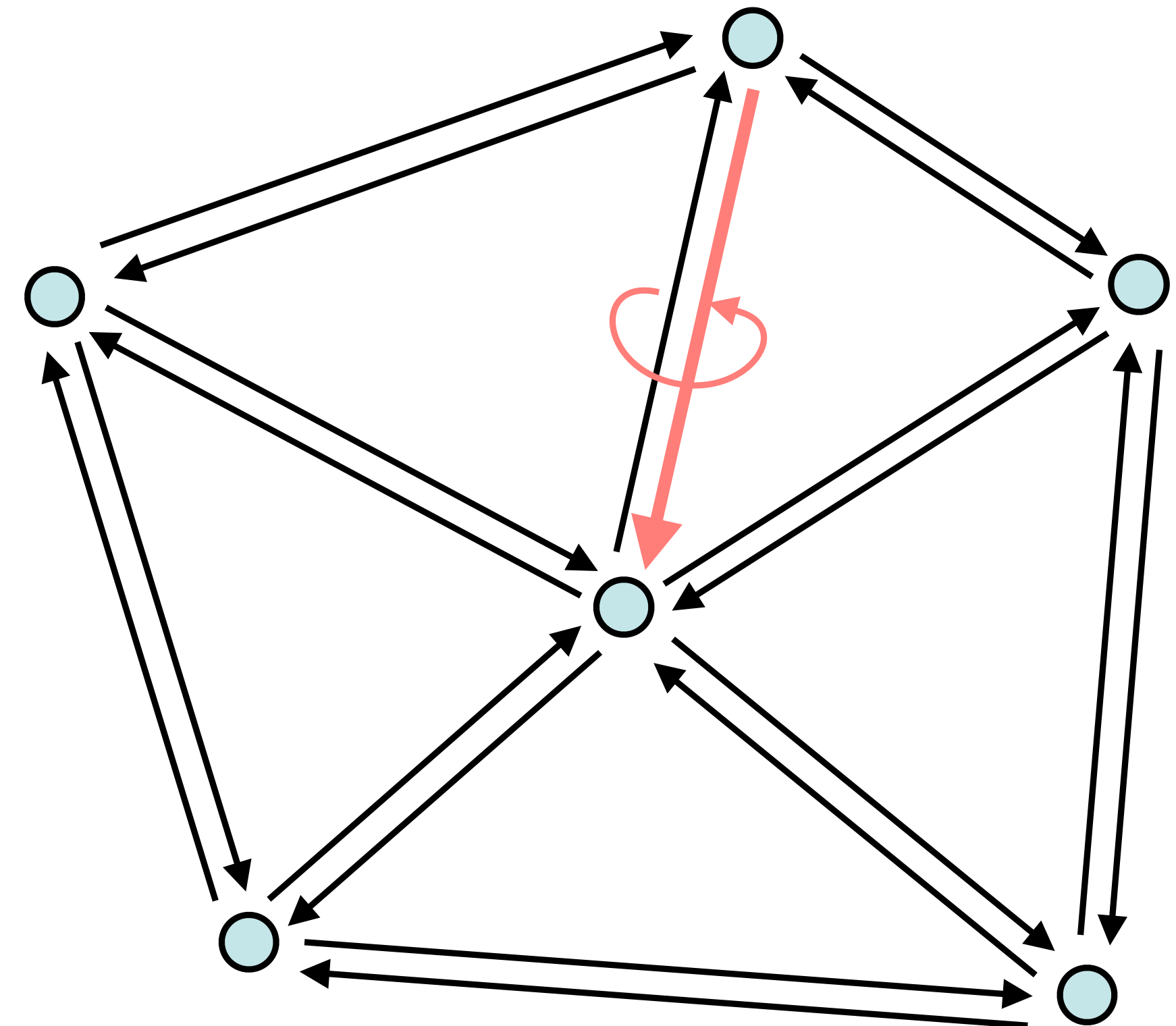
# Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal ( $V^*$  relations):
  - 1.start at vertex
  - 2.outgoing half-edge



# Half-Edge Data Structure

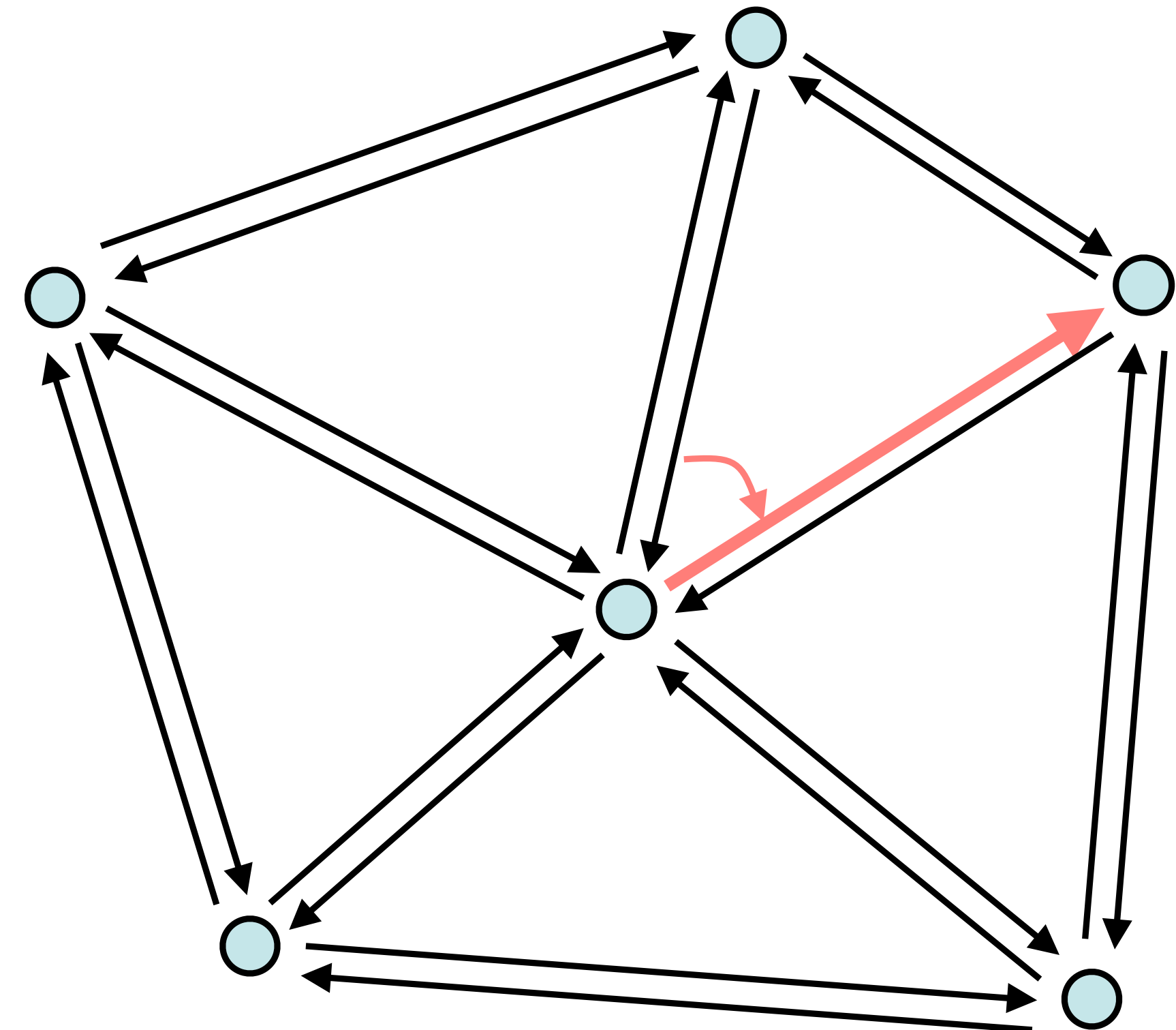
- One-ring traversal ( $V^*$  relations):
  - 1.start at vertex
  - 2.outgoing half-edge
  - 3.opposite half-edge



# Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal ( $V^*$  relations):

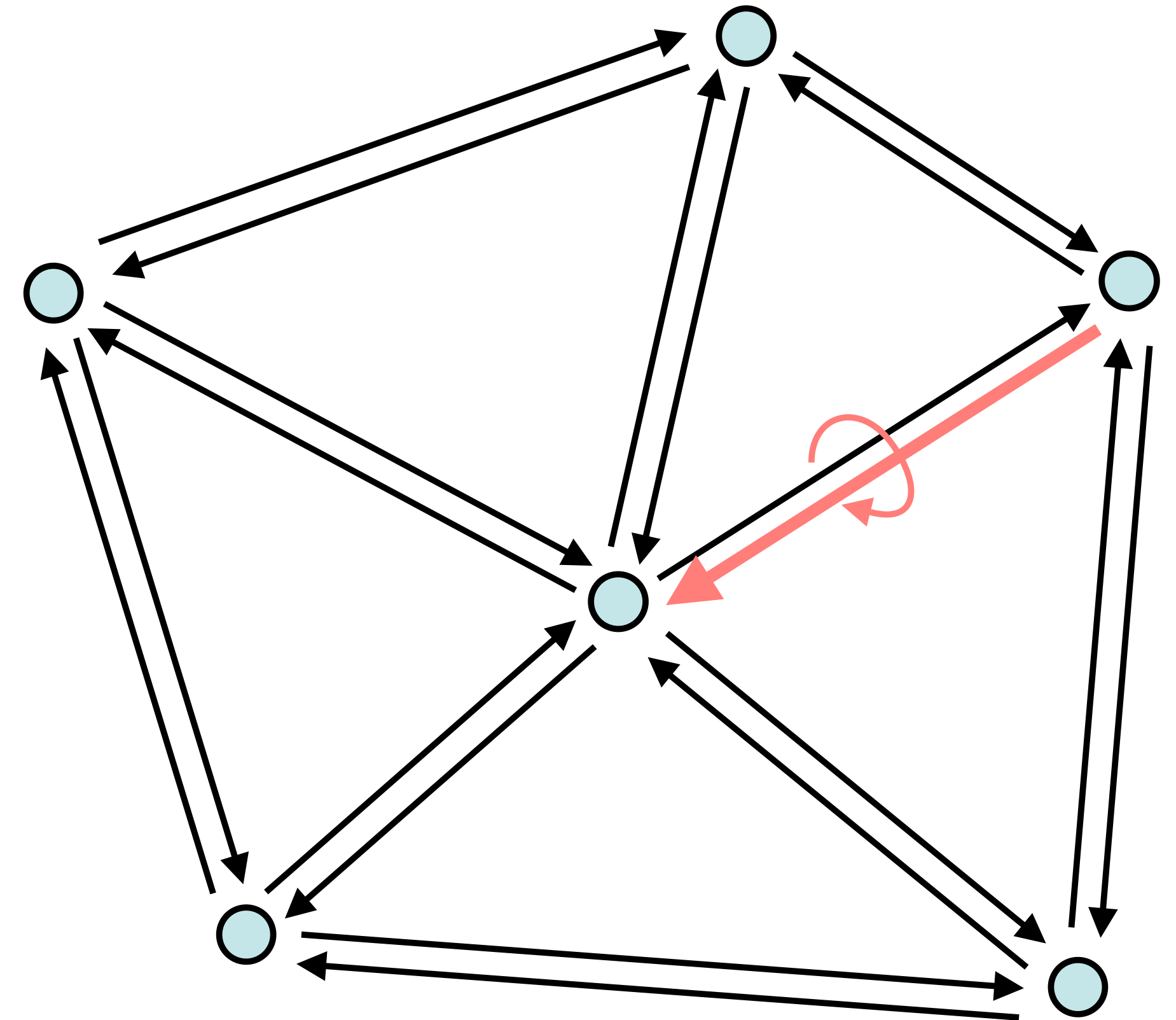
- 1.start at vertex
- 2.outgoing half-edge
- 3.opposite half-edge
- 4.next half-edge



# Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal ( $V^*$  relations):

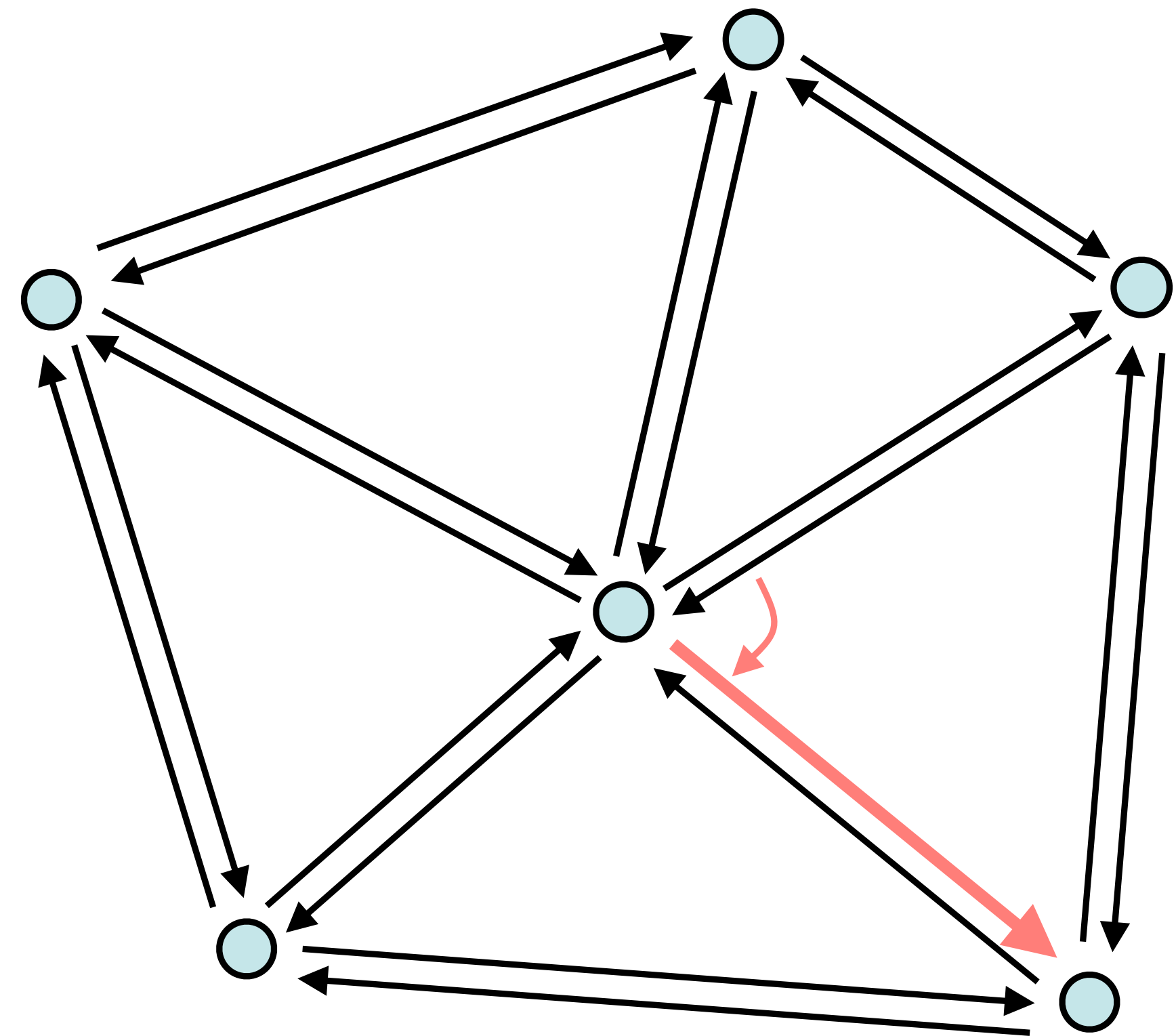
- 1.start at vertex
- 2.outgoing half-edge
- 3.opposite half-edge
- 4.next half-edge
- 5.opposite



# Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal ( $V^*$  relations):

- 1.start at vertex
- 2.outgoing half-edge
- 3.opposite half-edge
- 4.next half-edge
- 5.opposite
- 6.next.....



# C++ libraries

- Indexed based:
  - libigl ([igl.ethz.ch/projects/libigl/](http://igl.ethz.ch/projects/libigl/)):
    - light mesh representation compatible with numerical software (e.g., Eigen, Matlab)
    - topological relations are computed on-the-fly and can be stored for later use
    - several geometry processing algorithms algorithms
    - free, MPL2 licence



# C++ libraries

- Adjacency based:
  - VCGlib ([vcg.sourceforge.net](http://vcg.sourceforge.net)):
    - optimized for triangle and tetrahedral meshes
    - extensions with half-edge for more general meshes
    - several geometry processing algorithms and spatial data structures
    - free, LGPL licence

# C++ libraries

- Half-edge based:
  - CGAL ([www.cgal.org](http://www.cgal.org)):
    - rich, complex
    - computational geometry algorithms
    - free for non-commercial use
  - OpenMesh ([www.openmesh.org](http://www.openmesh.org)):
    - mesh processing algorithms
    - free, LGPL licence

- Meshlab ([meshlab.sourceforge.net](http://meshlab.sourceforge.net)) - free:
  - triangle mesh processing with many features
  - based on the VCGlib
- OpenFlipper ([www.openflipper.org](http://www.openflipper.org)) - free:
  - polygon mesh modeling and processing
  - based on OpenMesh
- Graphite ([alice.loria.fr](http://alice.loria.fr)) - free:
  - polygon mesh modeling, processing and rendering
  - based on CGAL

# References

**Fundamentals of Computer Graphics, Fourth Edition**  
4th Edition **by Steve Marschner, Peter Shirley**  
Chapter 12

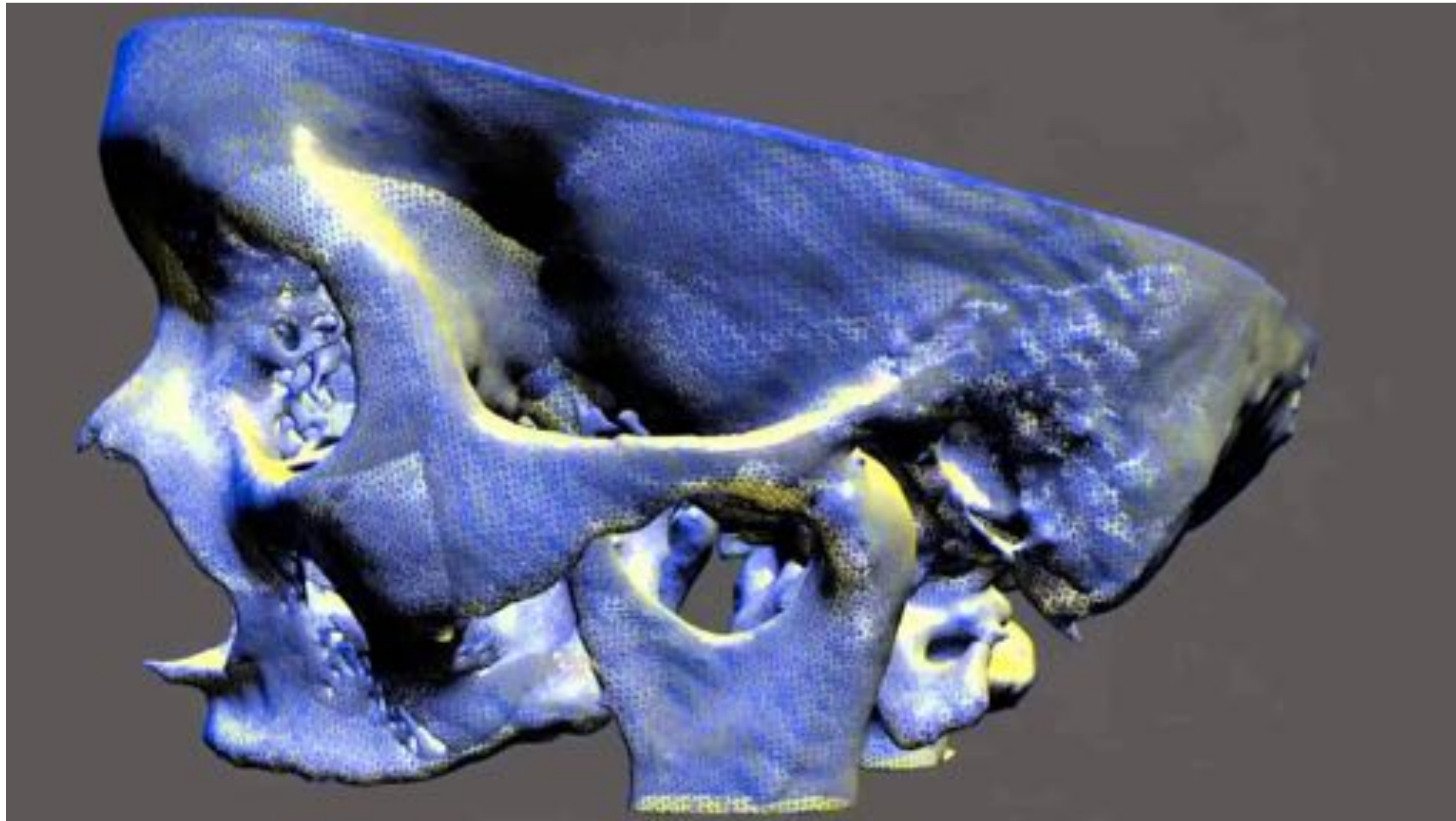
# **§2. Meshing: constructing meshes**

# Marching cubes



# Meshing: Motivation

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes





# Meshing: Extracting the Surface

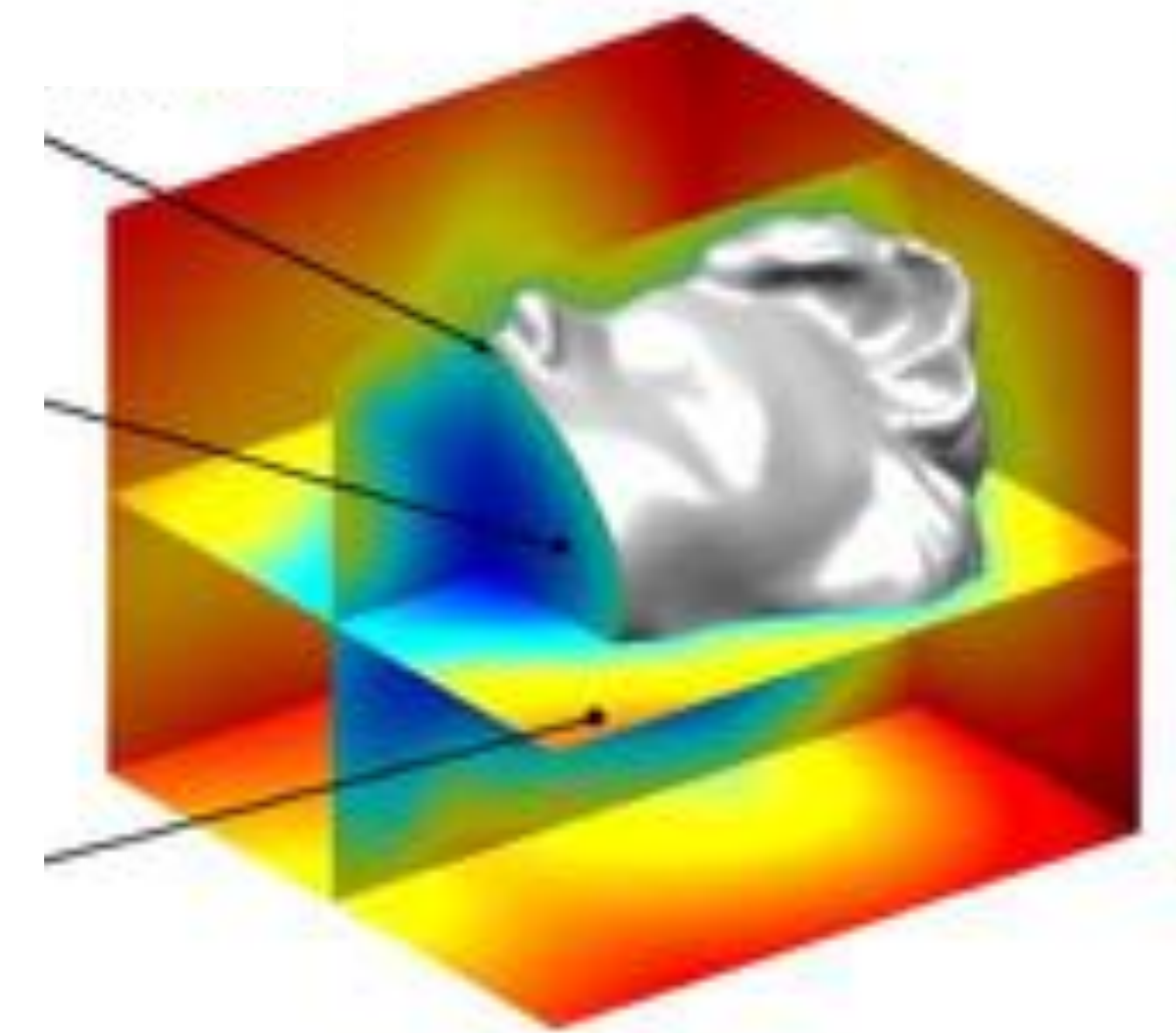
## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Wish to compute a manifold mesh of the level set
- **Mesh:** a subdivision of a continuous geometric space into discrete geometric and topological cells (often simplicial surface is constructed)
- **Meshing:** implicit surface  $\rightarrow$  simplicial surface

$F(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \rightarrow$   
surface

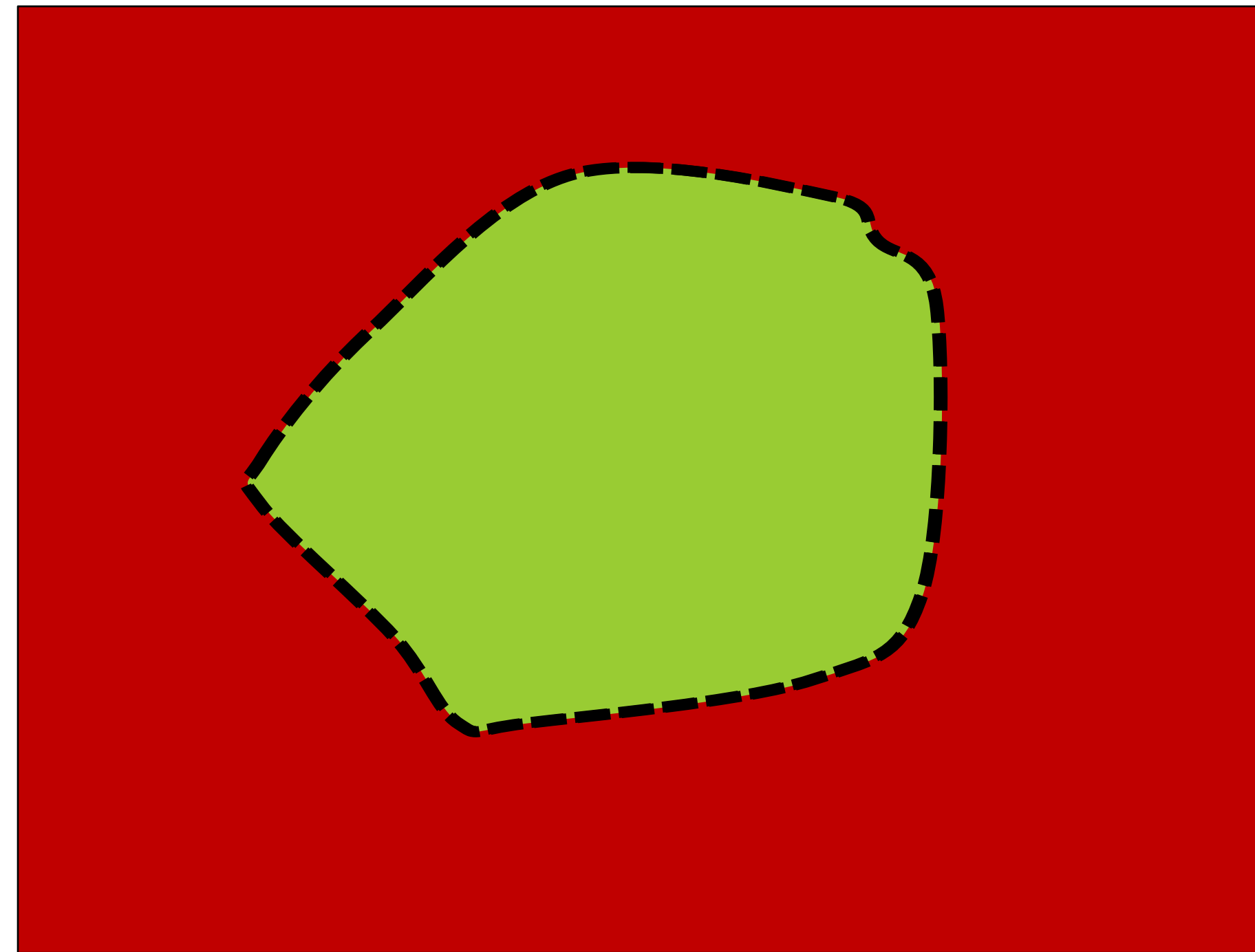
$F(\mathbf{x}) < 0 \rightarrow$   
inside

$F(\mathbf{x}) > 0 \rightarrow$   
outside



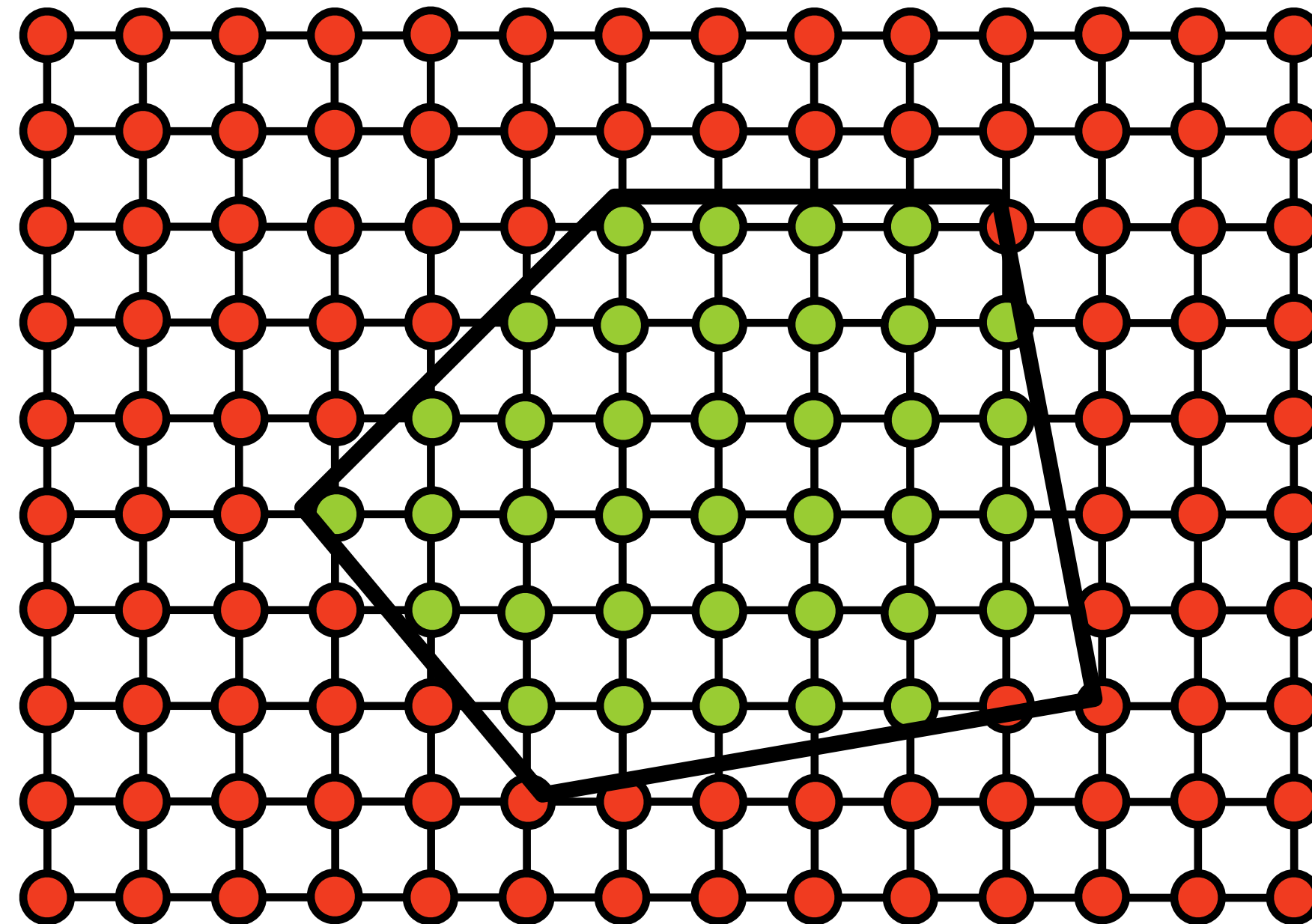
# Meshing: Sample the SDF

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes



# Meshing: Sample the SDF

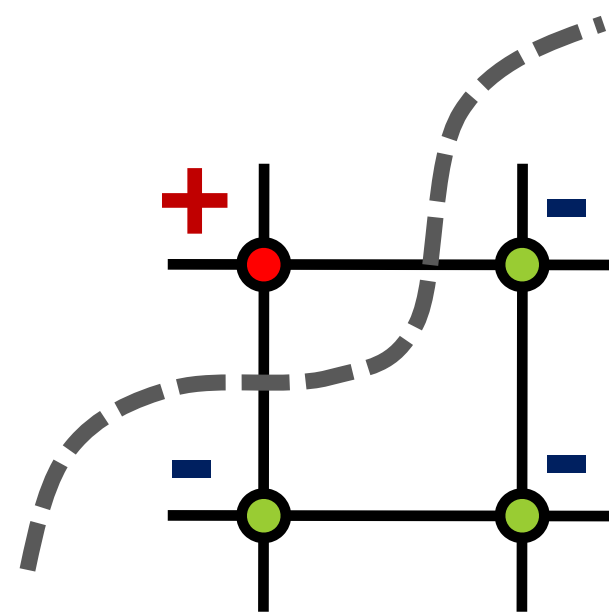
## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes



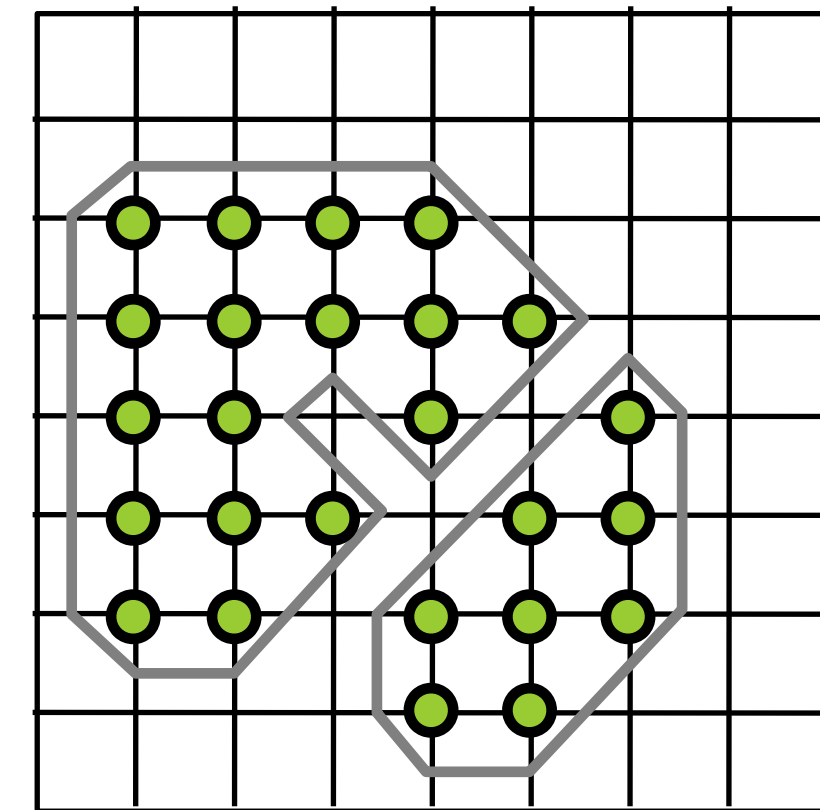
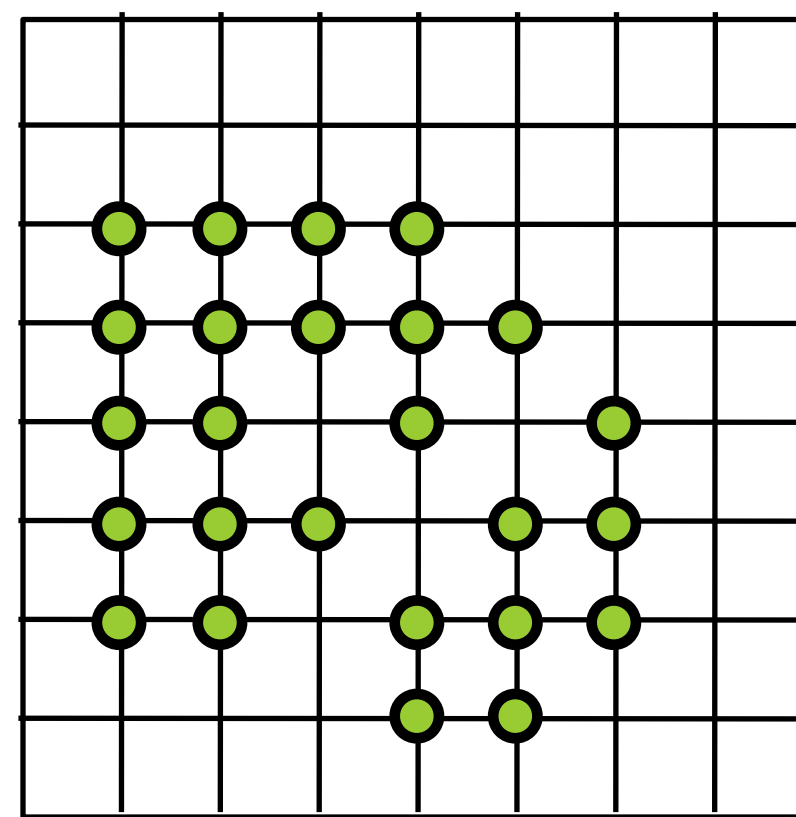
# Meshing: Tessellation

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Want to approximate an implicit surface with a mesh
- Can't explicitly compute all the roots
  - Sampling the level set is difficult (root finding)
- Solution: find approximate roots by trapping the implicit surface in a grid (lattice)



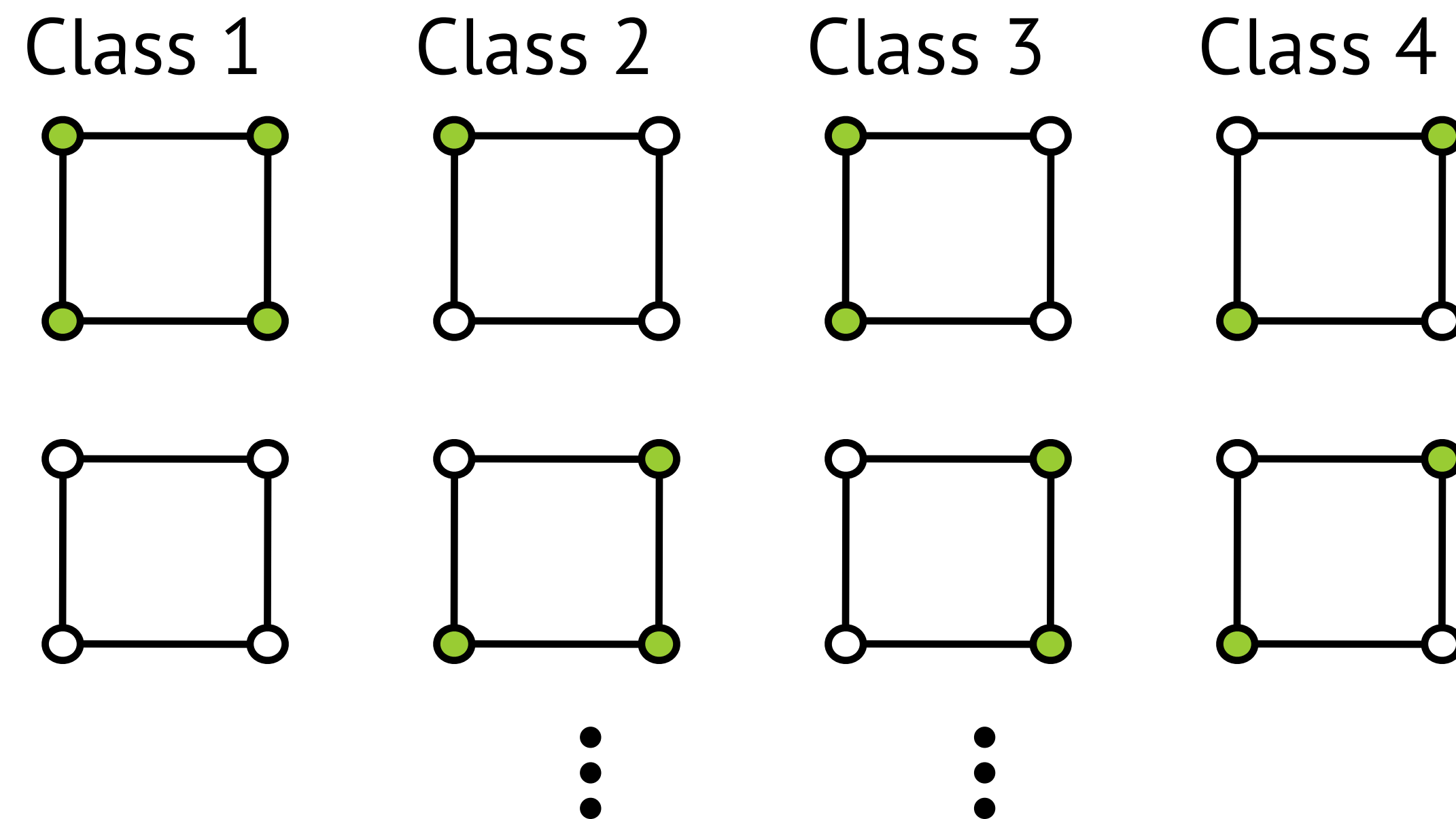
•  $F(\mathbf{x}) < 0$



# Meshing: Marching Squares

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- 16 different configurations in 2D
- 4 equivalence classes (up to rotational and reflection symmetry + complement)

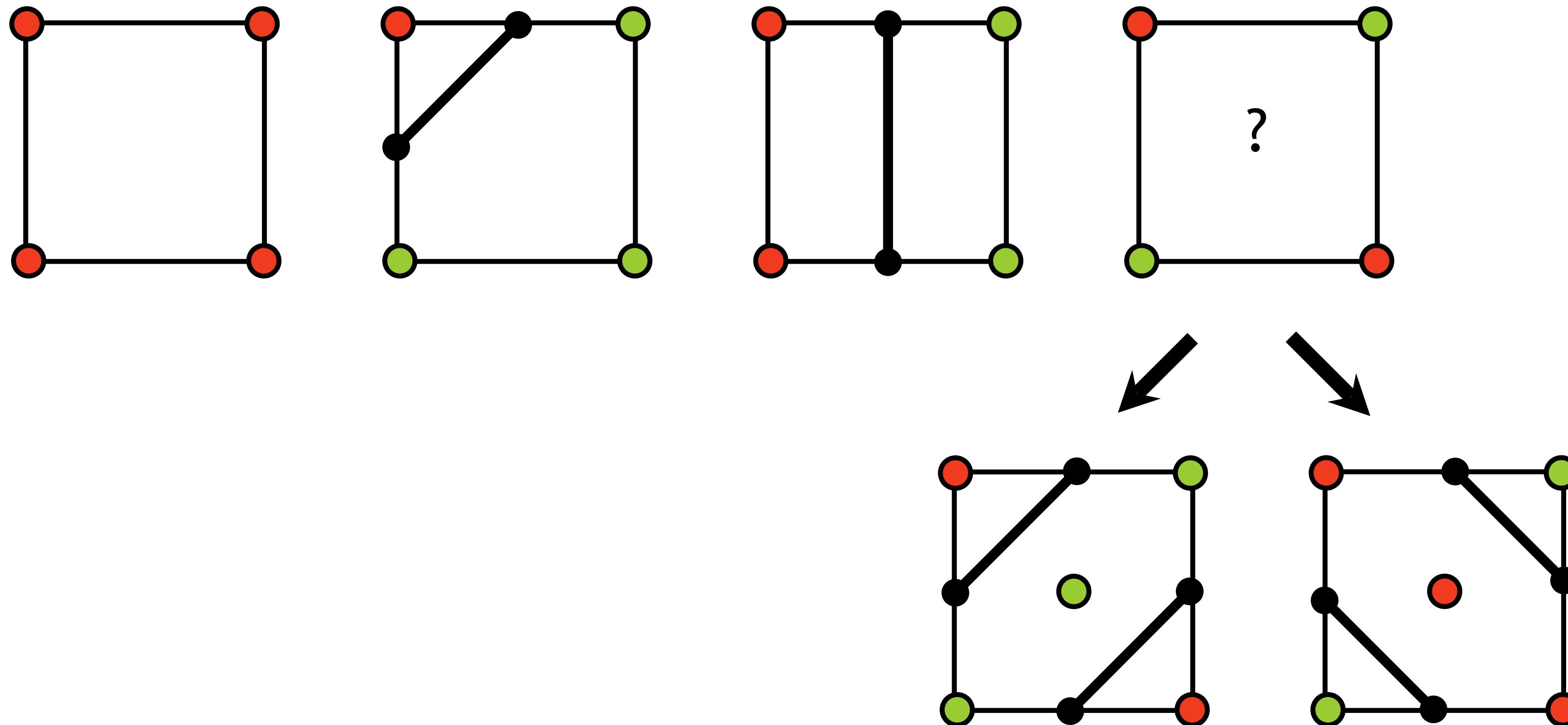




# Meshing: Tessellation in 2D

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

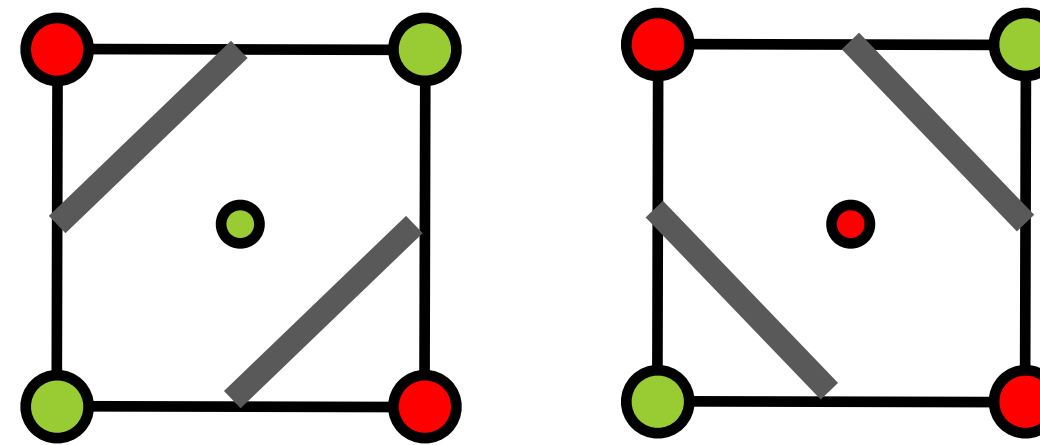
- 4 equivalence classes (up to rotational and reflection symmetry + complement)



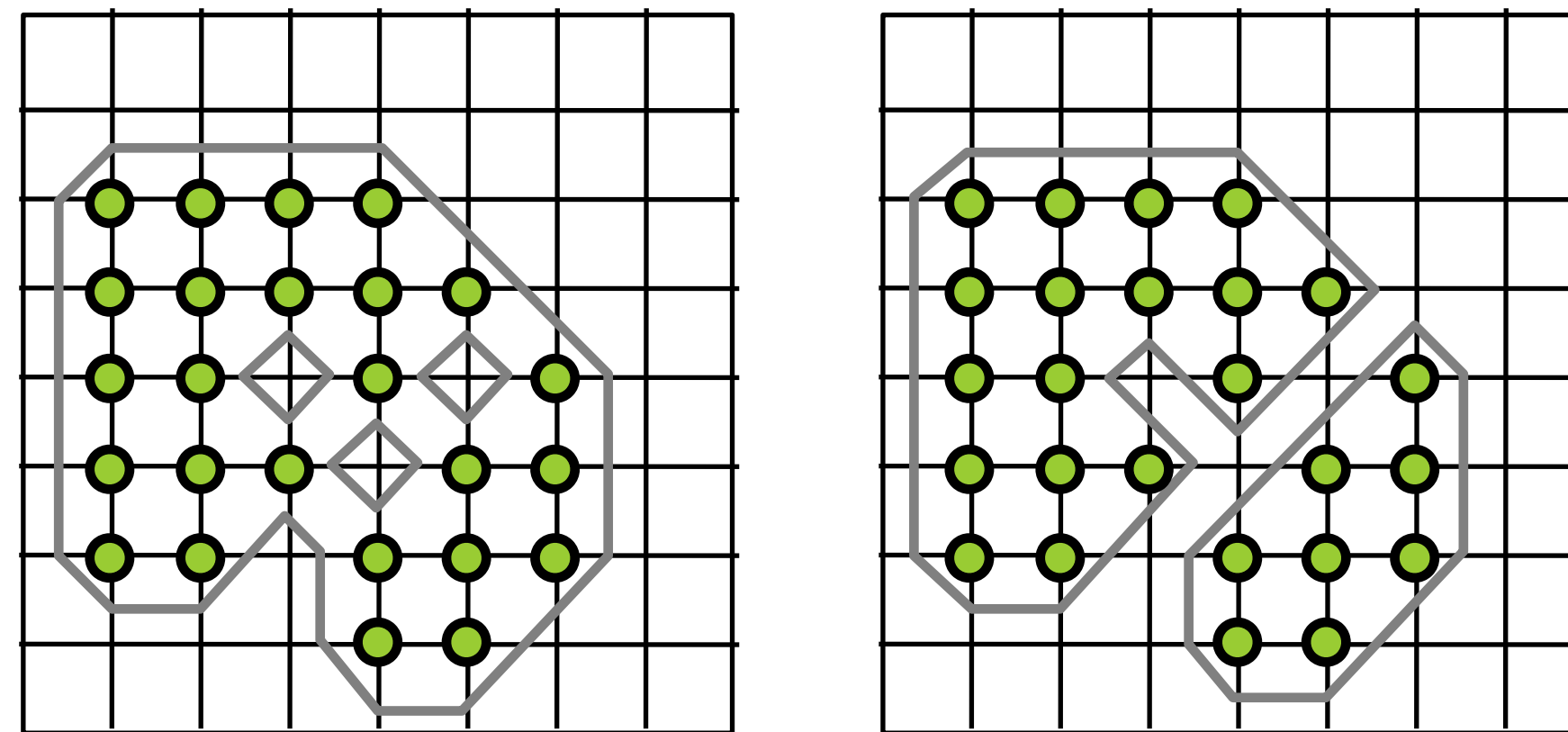
# Meshing: Tessellation in 2D

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Case 4 is ambiguous:



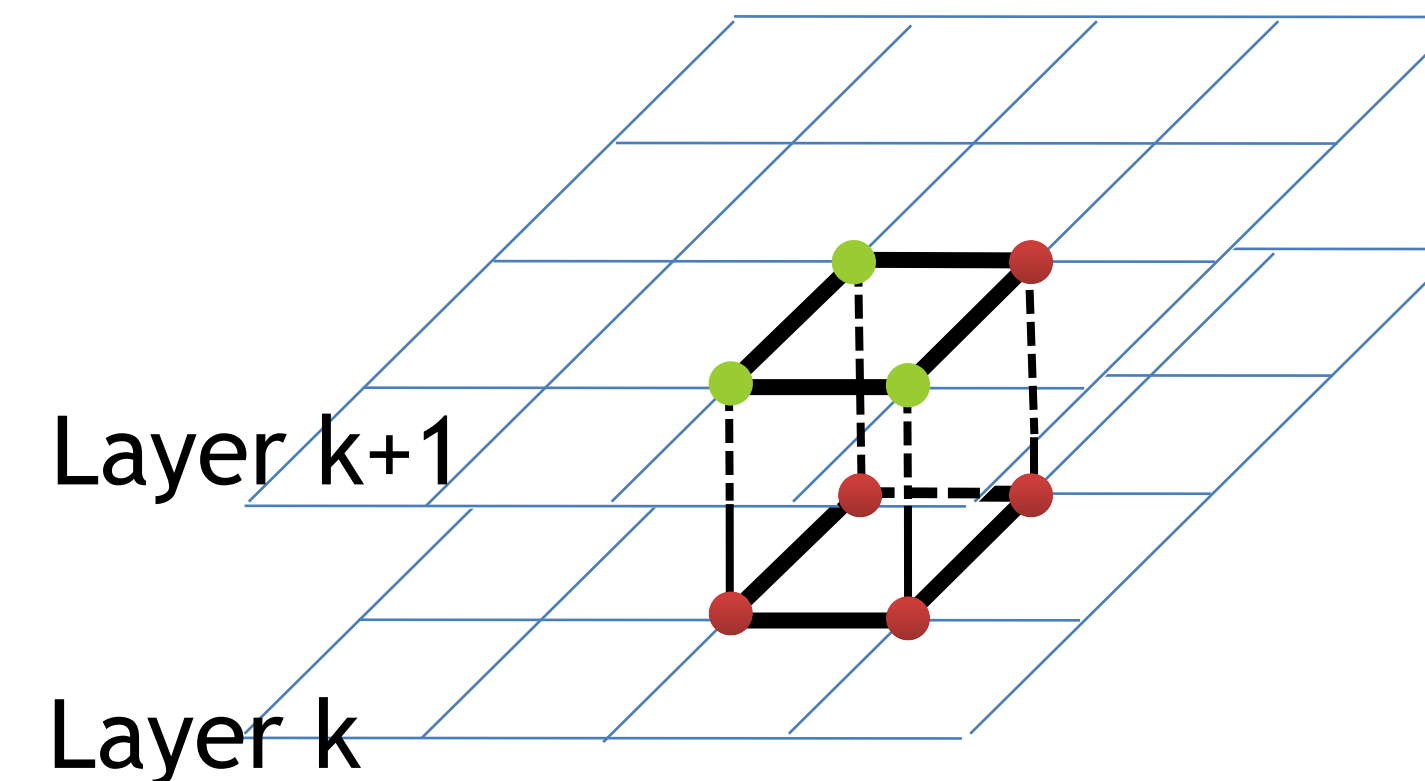
- Always pick consistently to avoid problems with the resulting mesh



# Meshing: 3D Marching Cubes

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

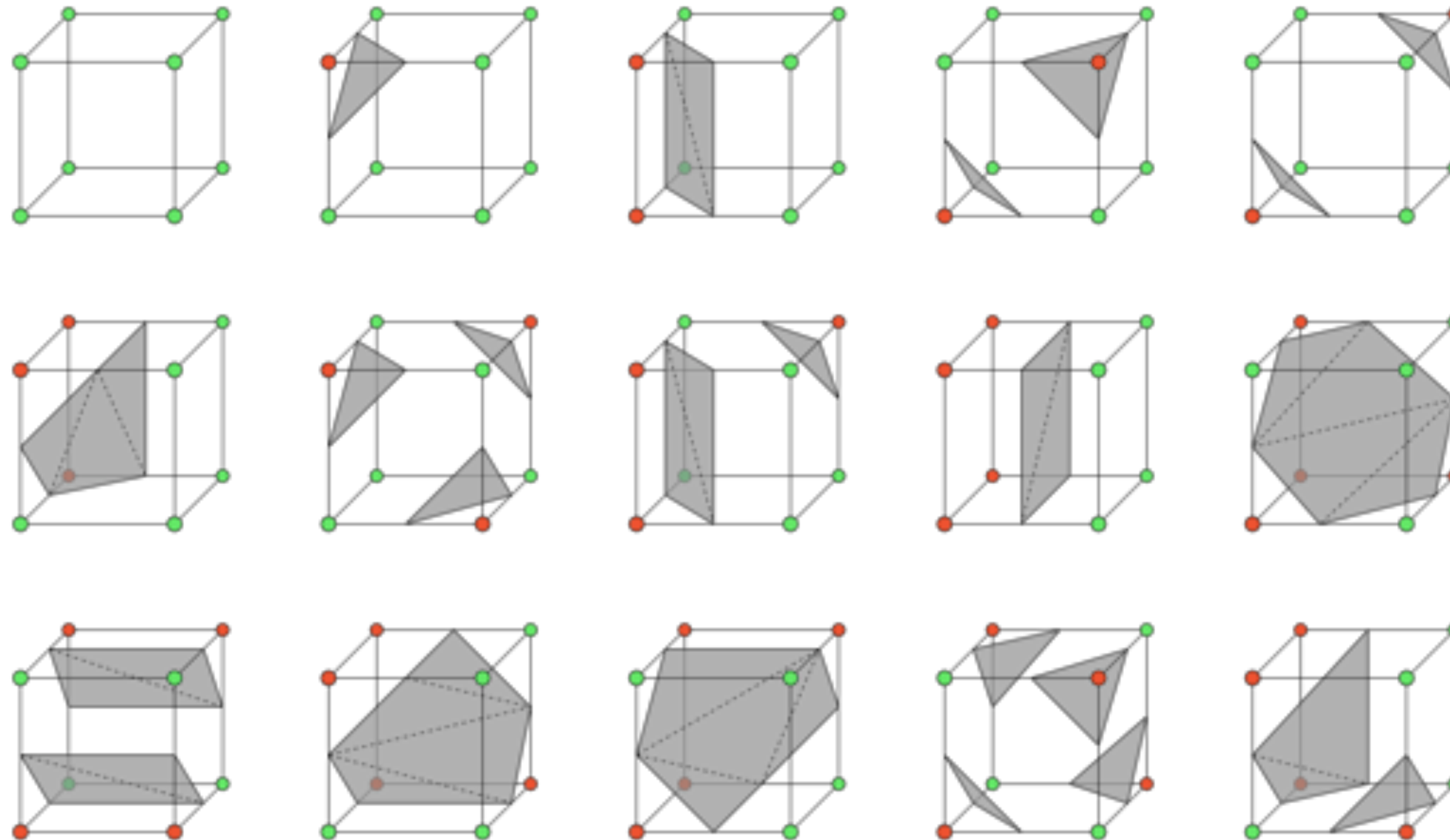
- Marching Cubes (Lorensen and Cline 1987)
  1. Load 4 layers of the grid into memory
  2. Create a cube whose vertices lie on the two middle layers
  3. Classify the vertices of the cube according to the implicit function (inside, outside or on the surface)



# Meshing: 3D Marching Cubes

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

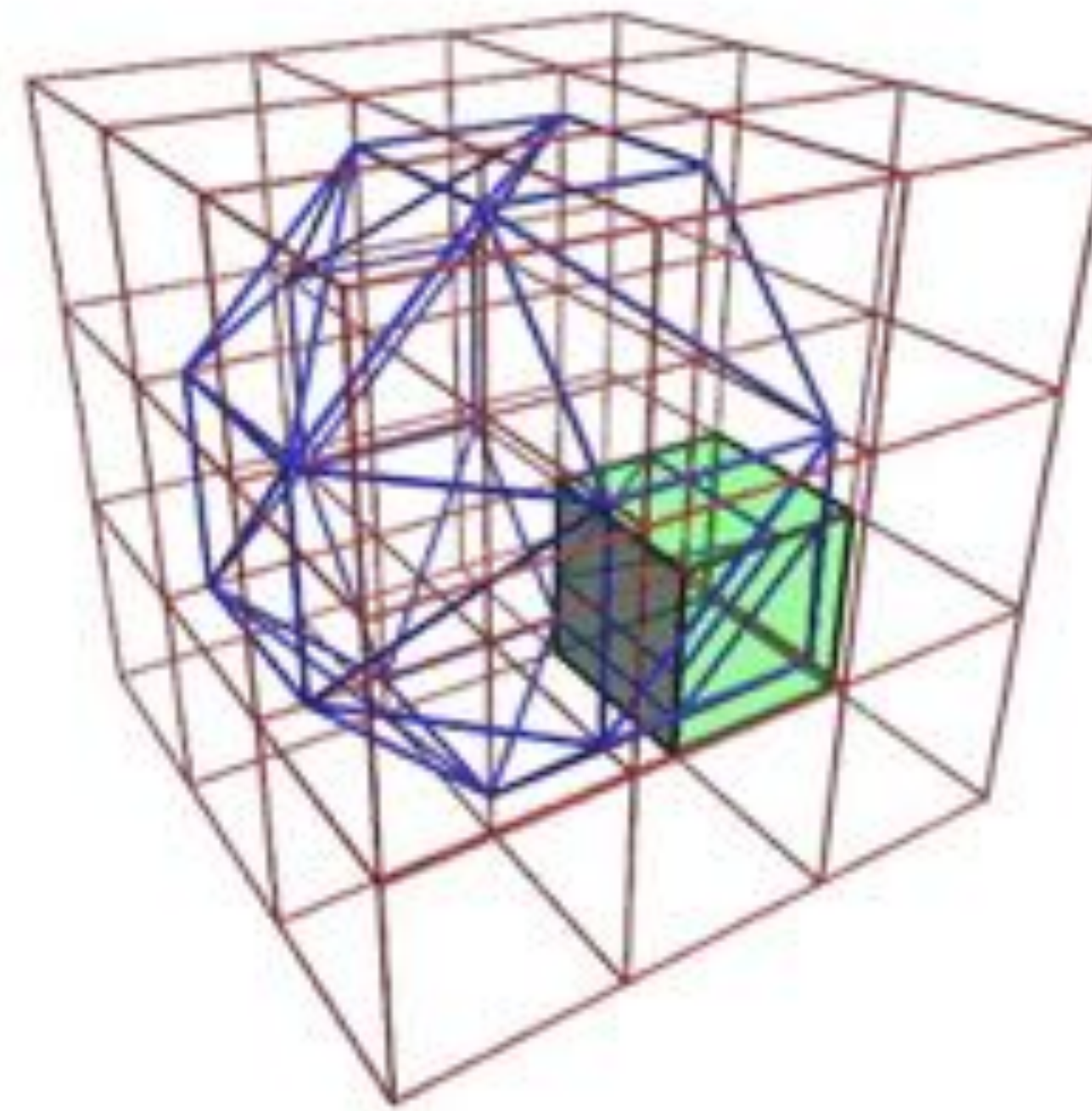
- Unique cases (by rotation, reflection and complement)



# Meshing: 3D Marching Cubes

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

Implementation

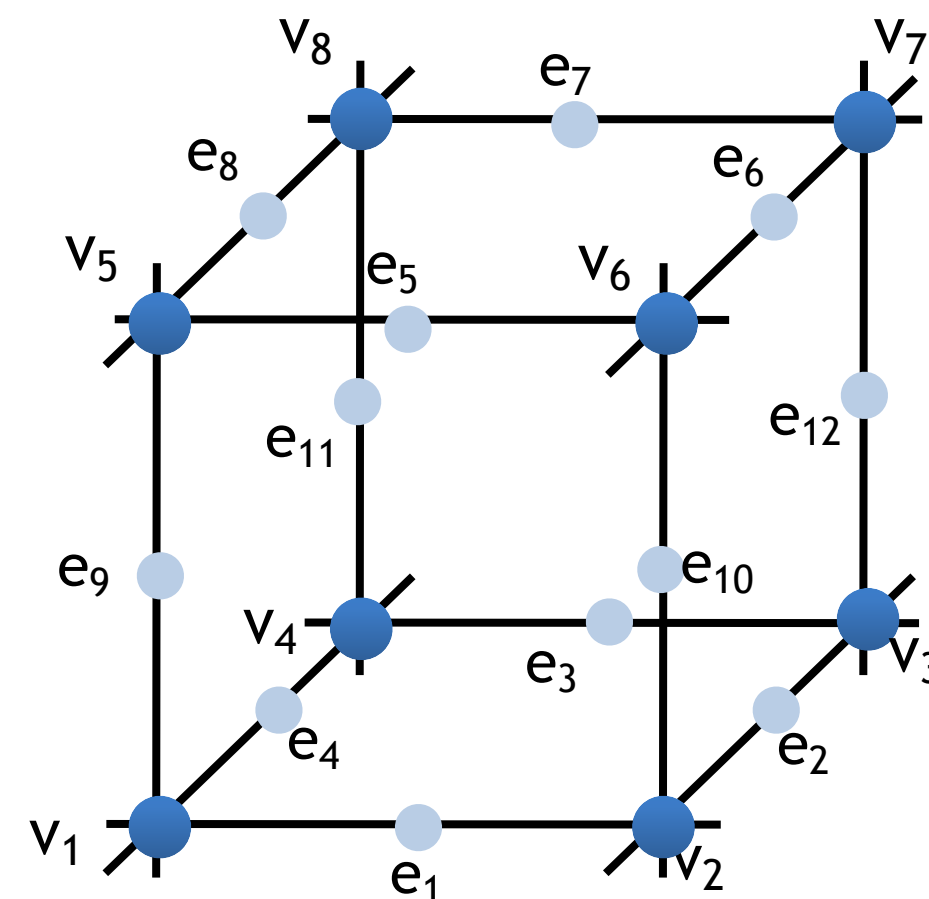




# Marching Cubes

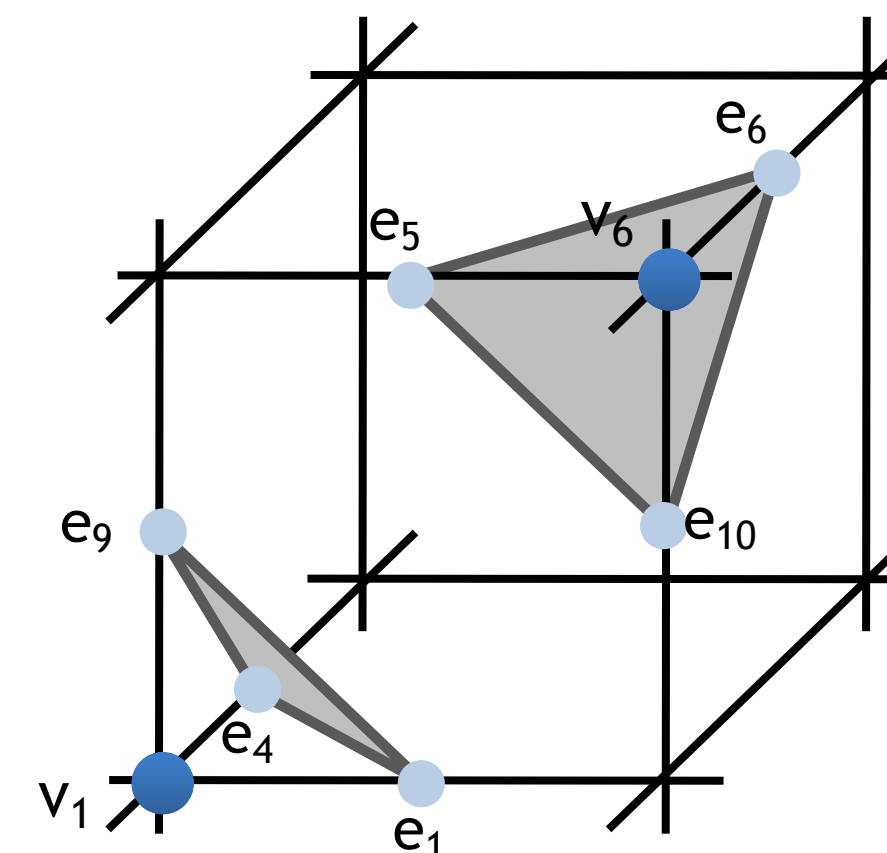
## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Compute case index. We have  $2^8 = 256$  cases (0/1 for each of the eight vertices) – can store as 8 bit (1 byte) index.



index = 

$v_1$	$v_2$	$v_3$	$v_4$	$v_5$	$v_6$	$v_7$	$v_8$
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------



index = 

0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

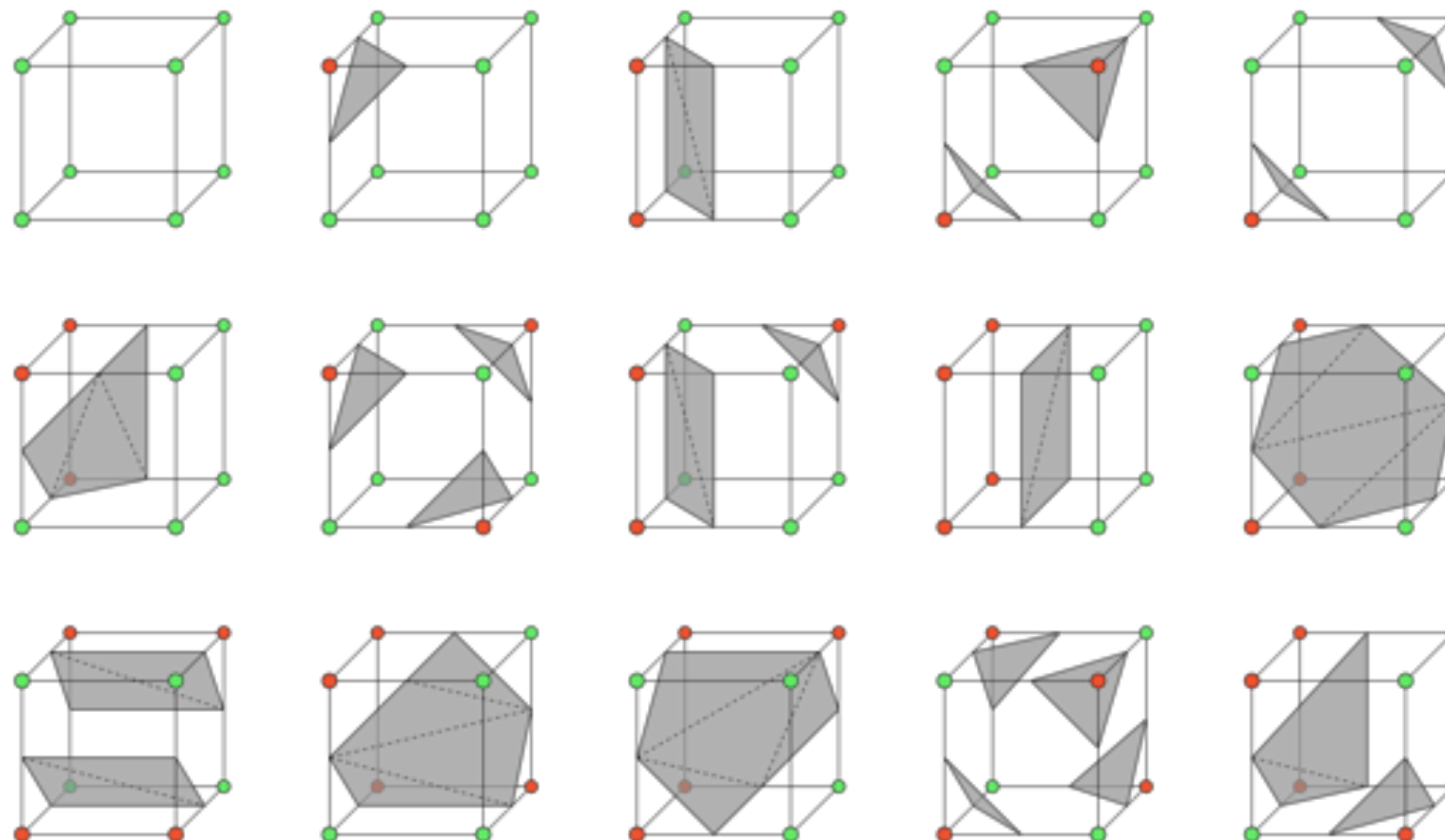
 = 33



# Marching Cubes

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

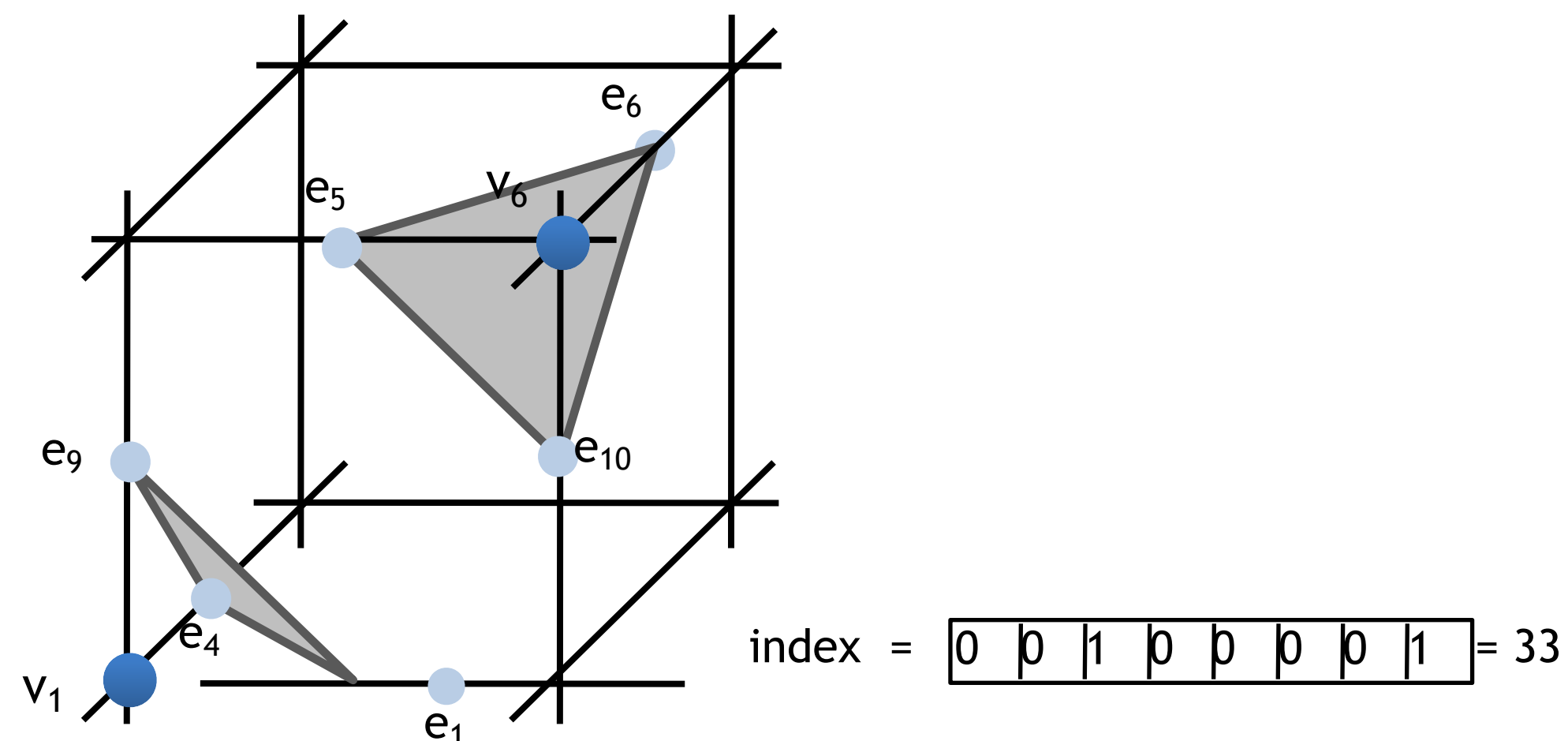
- Unique cases (by rotation, reflection and complement)



# Tessellation 3D – Marching Cubes

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Using the case index, retrieve the connectivity in the look-up table
- Example: the entry for index 33 in the look-up table indicates that the cut edges are  $e_1$ ;  $e_4$ ;  $e_5$ ;  $e_6$ ;  $e_9$  and  $e_{10}$ ; the output triangles are  $(e_1; e_9; e_4)$  and  $(e_5; e_{10}; e_6)$ .



# Marching Cubes

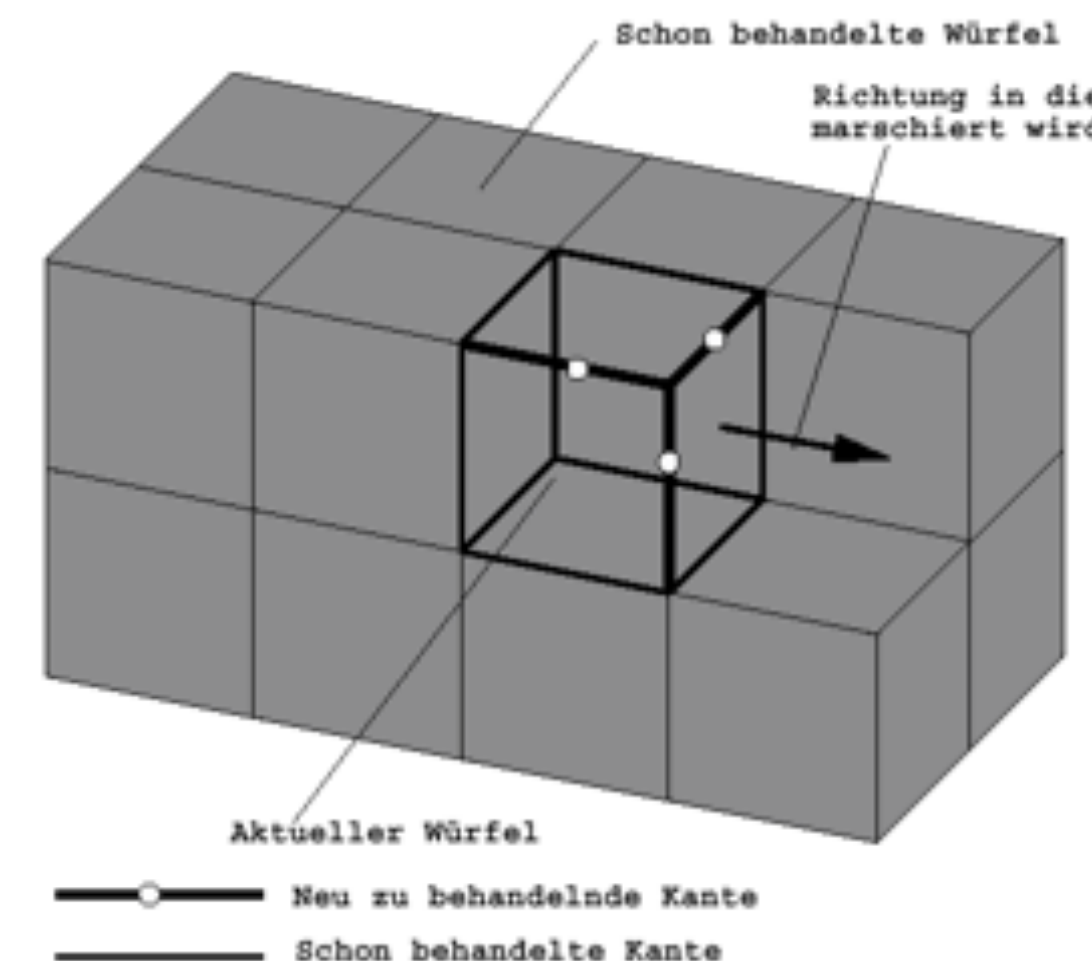
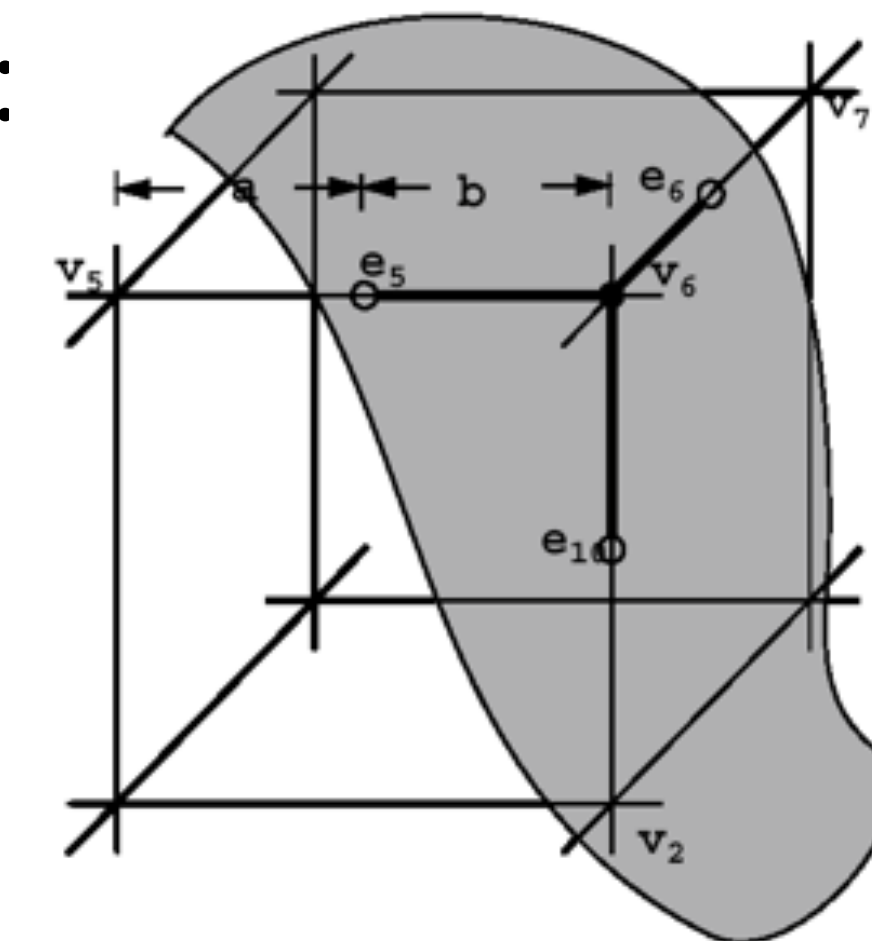
## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Compute the position of the cut vertices by linear interpolation:

$$\mathbf{v}_s = t\mathbf{v}_a + (1 - t)\mathbf{v}_b$$

$$t = \frac{F(\mathbf{v}_b)}{F(\mathbf{v}_b) - F(\mathbf{v}_a)}$$

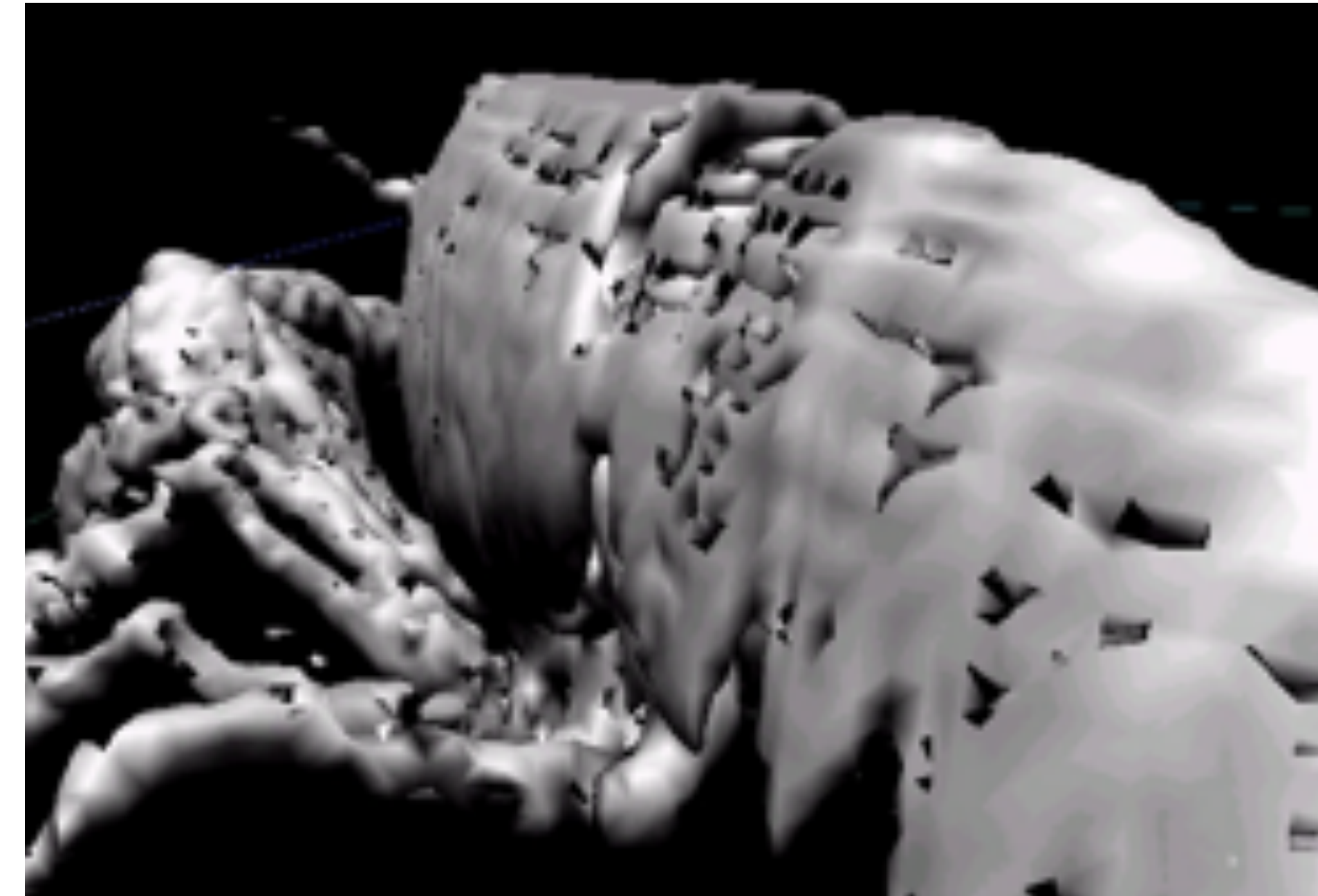
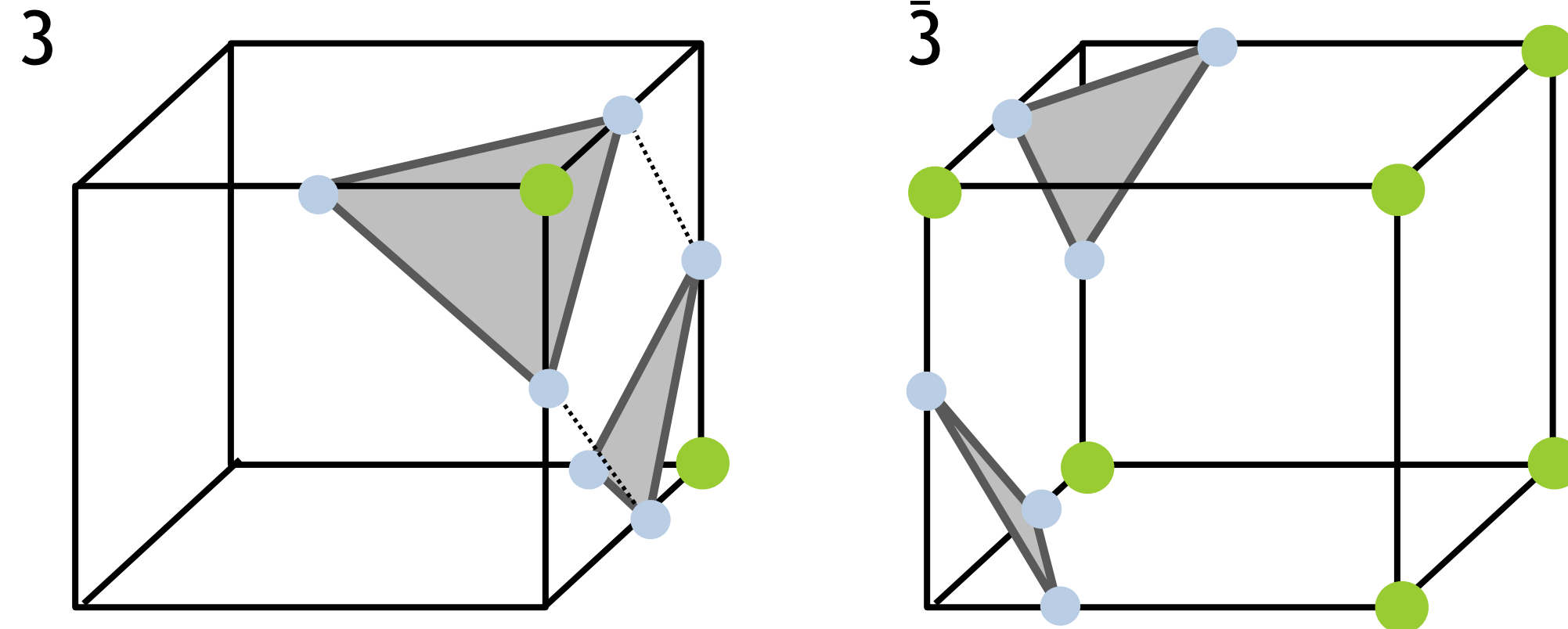
- Move to the next cube



# Marching Cubes – Problems

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Have to make consistent choices for neighboring cubes – otherwise get holes

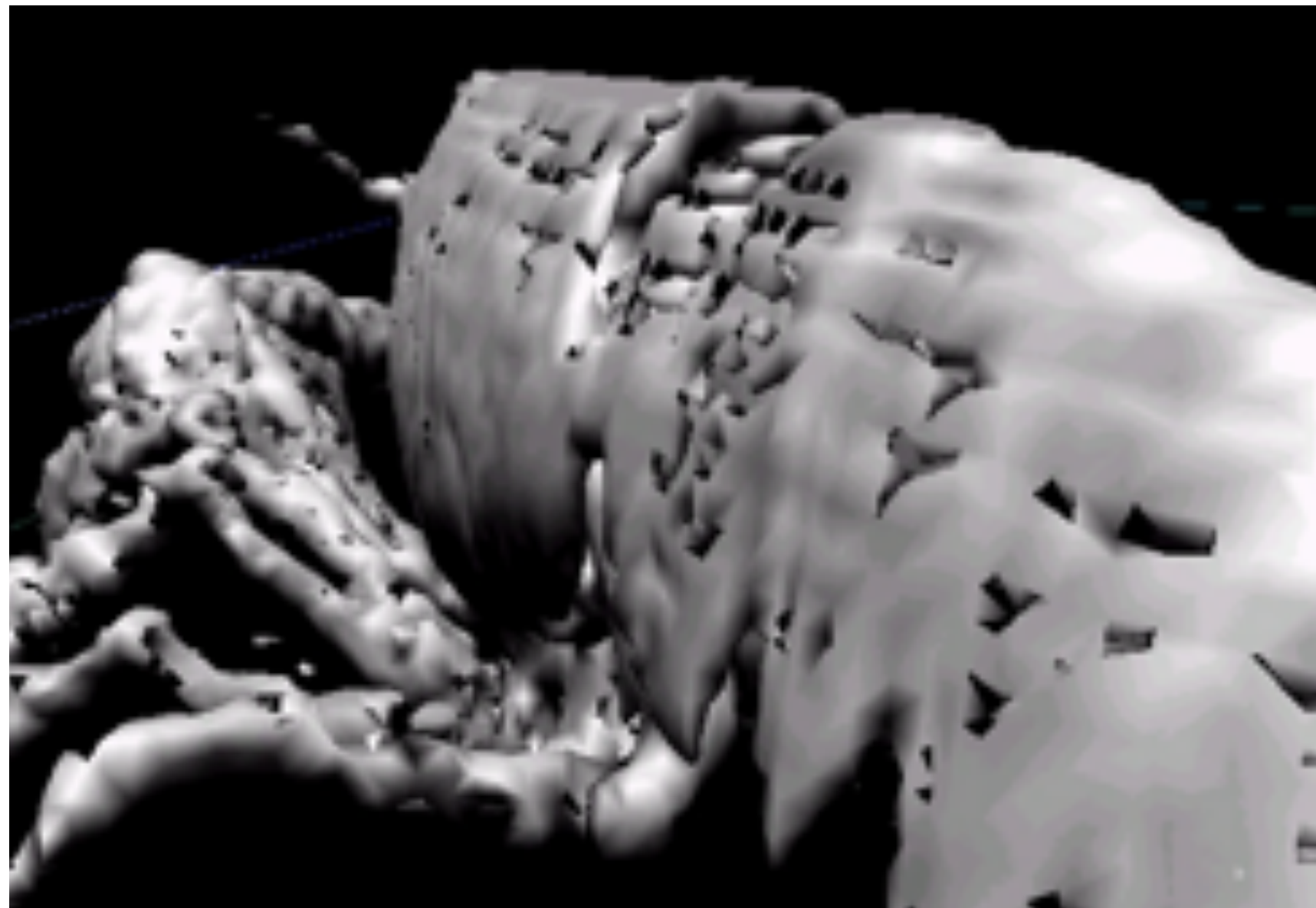




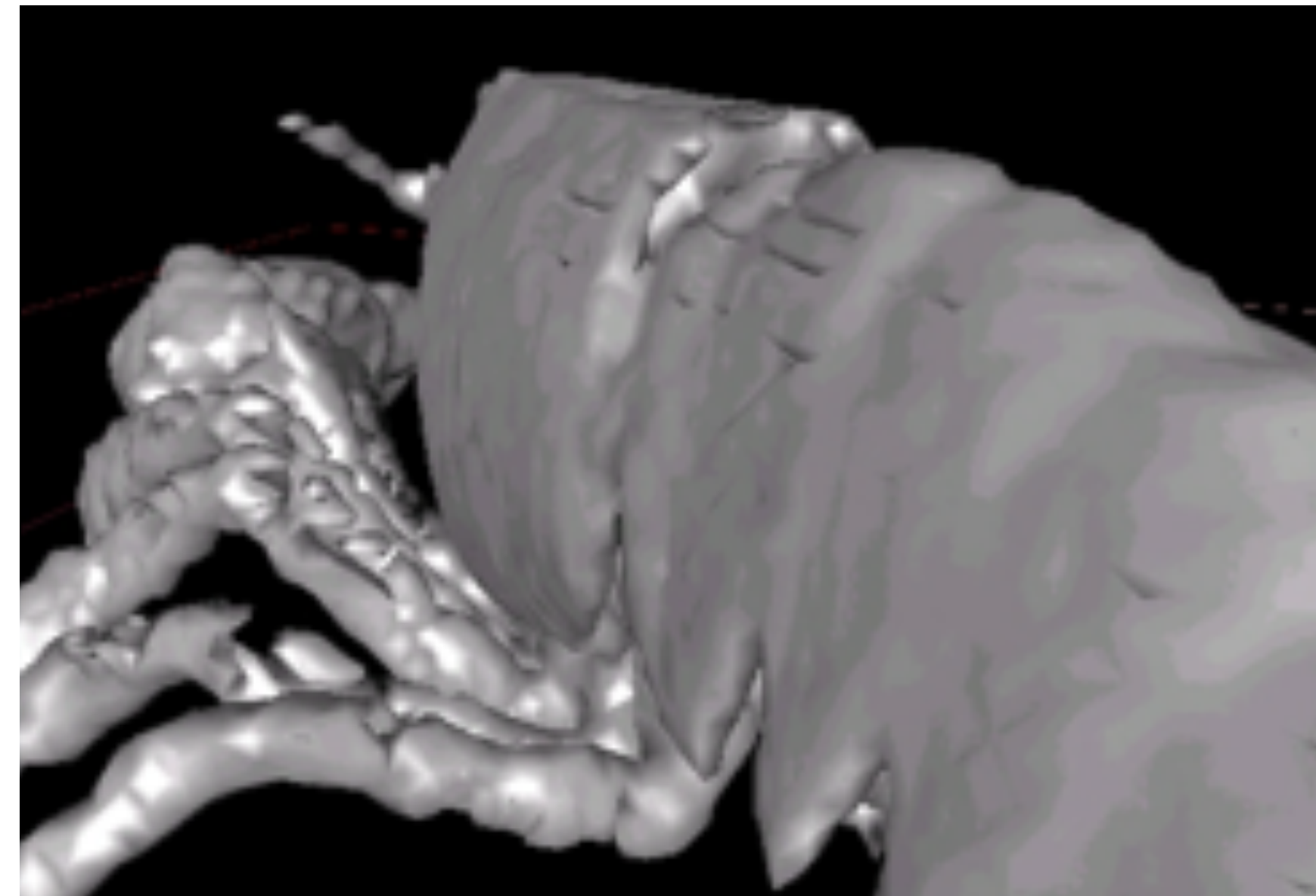
# Marching Cubes – Problems

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Resolving ambiguities



Ambiguity

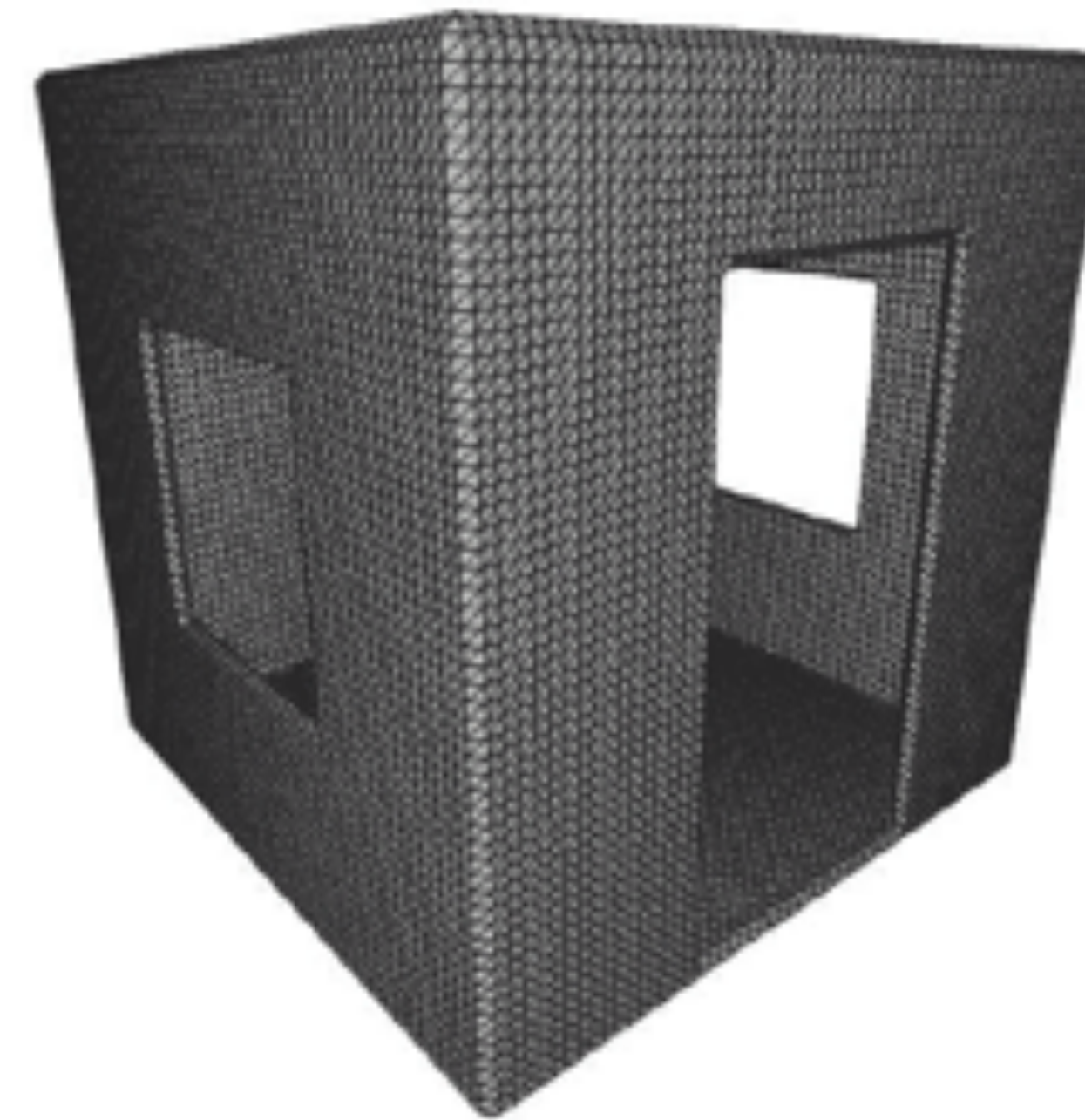


No Ambiguity

# Marching Cubes – Problems

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Grid not adaptive
- Many polygons required to represent small features

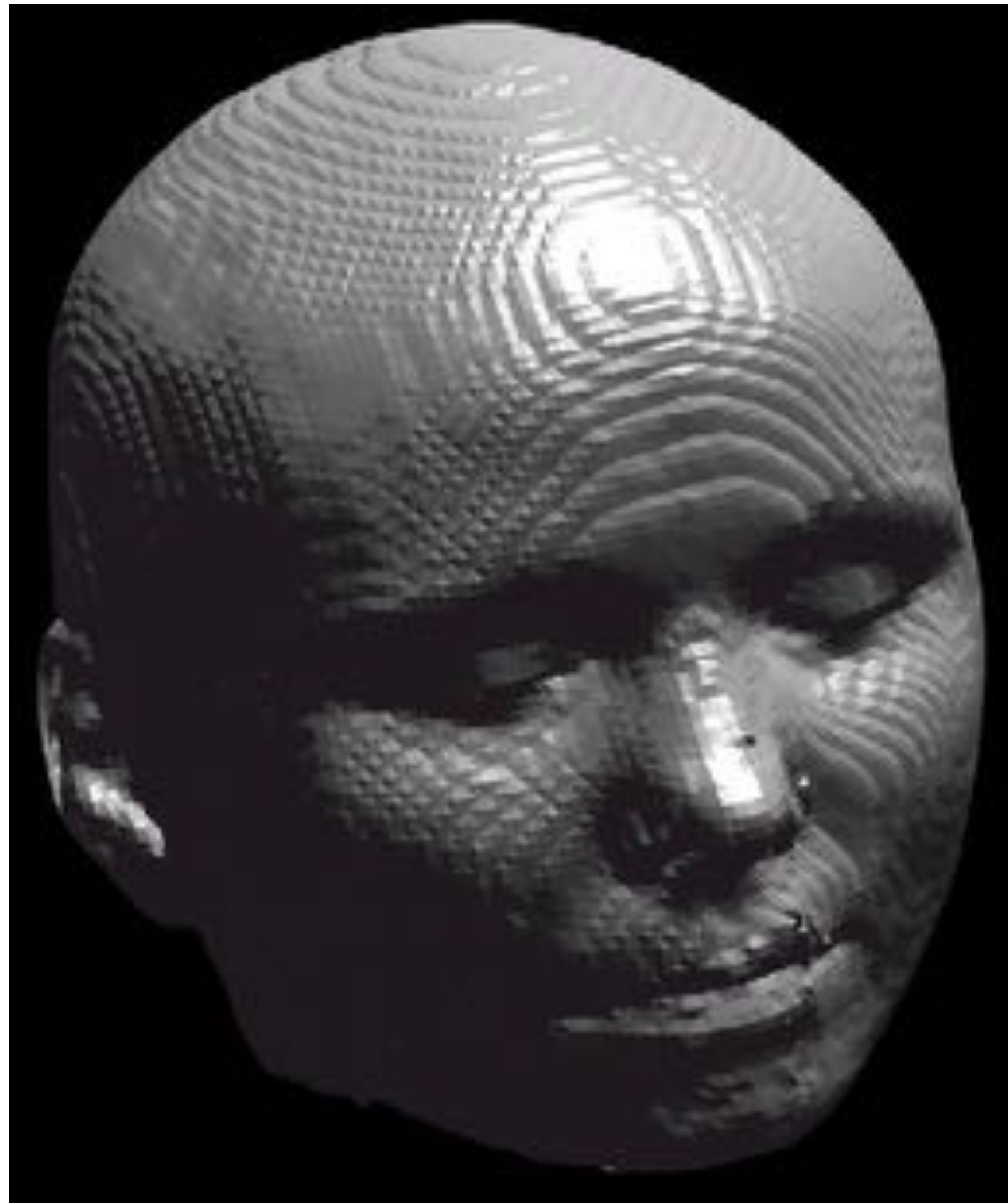


Images from: “Dual Marching Cubes: Primal Contouring of Dual Grids”  
by Schaeffer et al.



# Marching Cubes – Problems

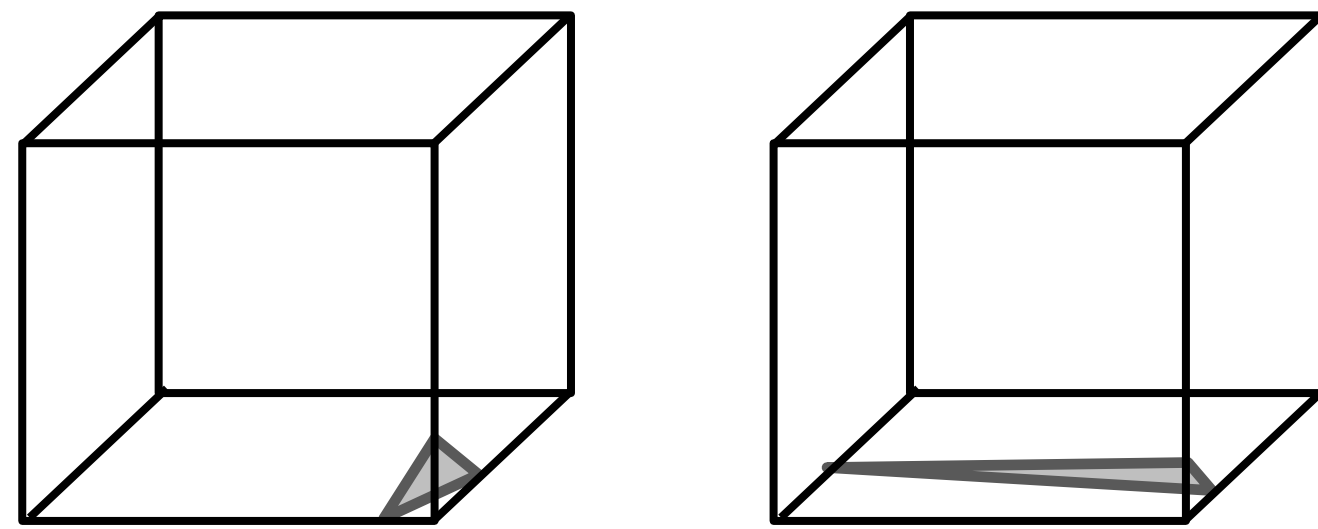
## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes



# Marching Cubes – Problems

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Problems with short triangle edges
  - When the surface intersects the cube close to a corner, the resulting tiny triangle doesn't contribute much area to the mesh
  - When the intersection is close to an edge of the cube, we get skinny triangles (bad aspect ratio)
- Triangles with short edges waste resources but don't contribute to the surface mesh representation





# Grid Snapping

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Solution: threshold the distances between the created vertices and the cube corners
- When the distance is smaller than  $d_{\text{snap}}$  we snap the vertex to the cube corner
- If more than one vertex of a triangle is snapped to the same point, we discard that triangle altogether



# Grid Snapping

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

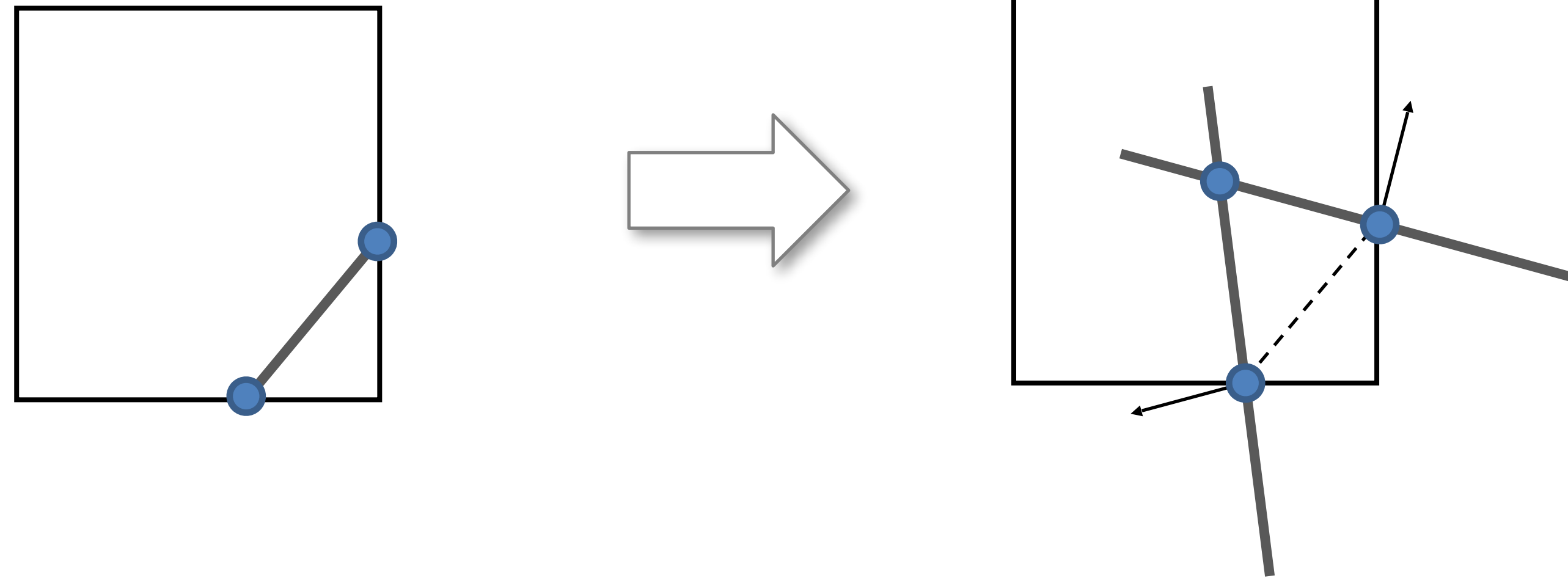
- With Grid-Snapping one can obtain significant reduction of space consumption

Parameter	0	0,1	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,46	0,495
Vertices	1446	1398	1254	1182	1074	830	830
Reduction	0	3,3	13,3	18,3	25,7	42,6	42,6

# Sharp Corners and Features

## §2. Meshing: constructing meshes

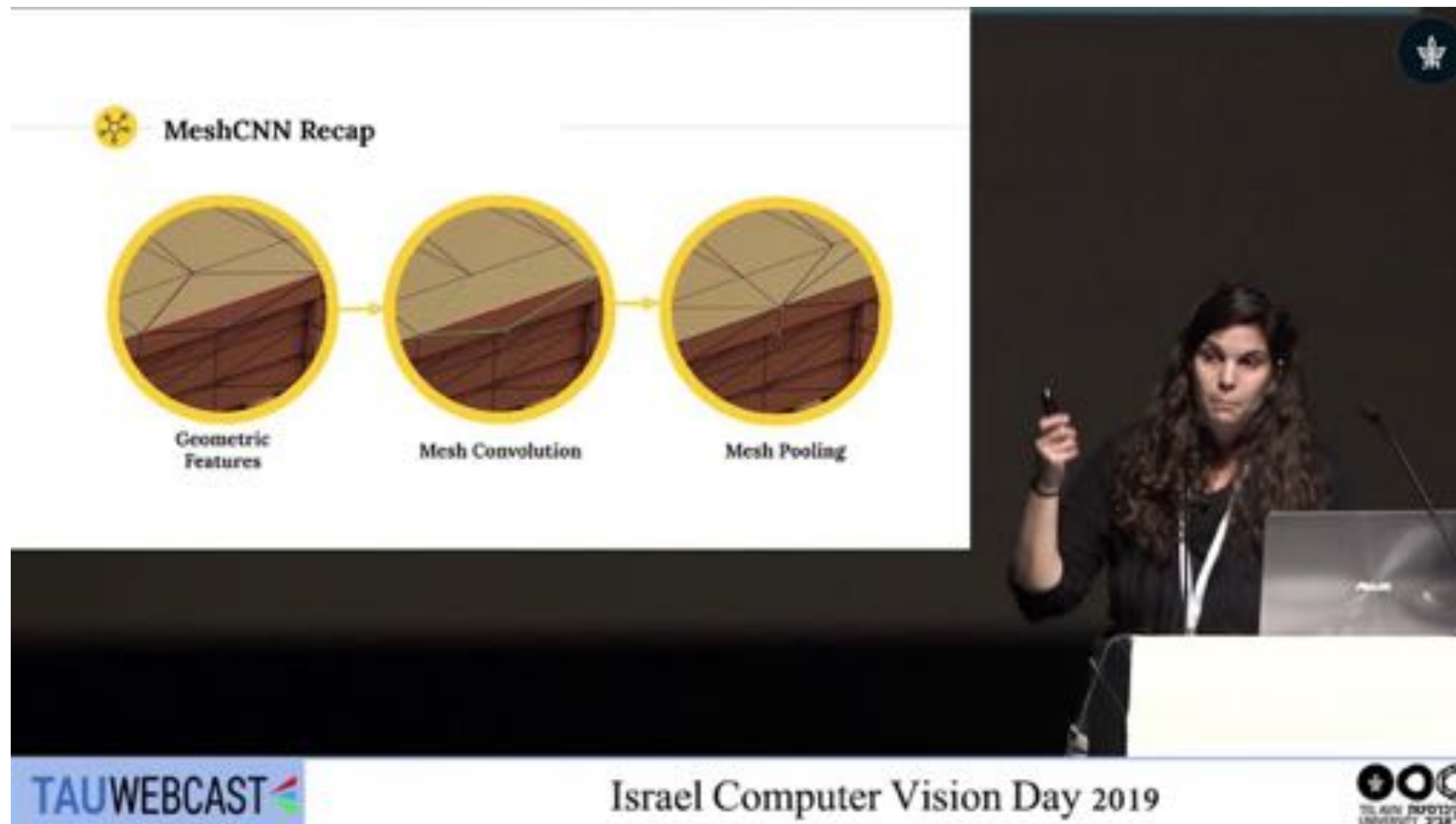
- (Kobbelt et al. 2001):
  - Evaluate the normals (use gradient of  $F$ )
  - When they significantly differ, create additional vertex



# §3. Defining convolutions on meshes

# 3.1. MeshCNN: convolutions on edges

## §3. Defining convolutions on meshes


 MeshCNN Recap

The diagram illustrates the MeshCNN process through three sequential stages, each represented by a circular image of a mesh structure:

- Geometric Features**: The first stage shows a mesh with highlighted edges and vertices, representing the extraction of geometric information.
- Mesh Convolution**: The second stage shows the same mesh with a different highlighting, representing the application of convolutional operations on the edges.
- Mesh Pooling**: The third stage shows the mesh with a further simplified structure, representing the pooling of features to reduce resolution.

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UNIVERSITY תל אביב



# References

1. Botsch, M., Kobbelt, L., Pauly, M., Alliez, P., & Lévy, B. (2010). *Polygon mesh processing*. CRC press.

