



University of Wisconsin  
**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
**AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

# Hodge Theory for Medical Image

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# References

\* Lee et al. 2014 MICCAI 8675:297-304

<http://pages.stat.wisc.edu/~mchung/papers/lee.2014.MICCAI.pdf>

*Introduction of Hodge Laplacian for graphs/networks*

Lee et al. 2018 ISBI 20-23

<http://pages.stat.wisc.edu/~mchung/papers/lee.2018.ISBI.pdf>

*Introduction of cycles*

Lee et al. 2019 LNCS 11382:110-122

<http://pages.stat.wisc.edu/~mchung/papers/lee.2018.CTIC.pdf>

*Distance between cycles*

\* Lee et al. 2019 MICCAI 11767:674-682

<http://pages.stat.wisc.edu/~mchung/papers/lee.2019.MICCAI.pdf>

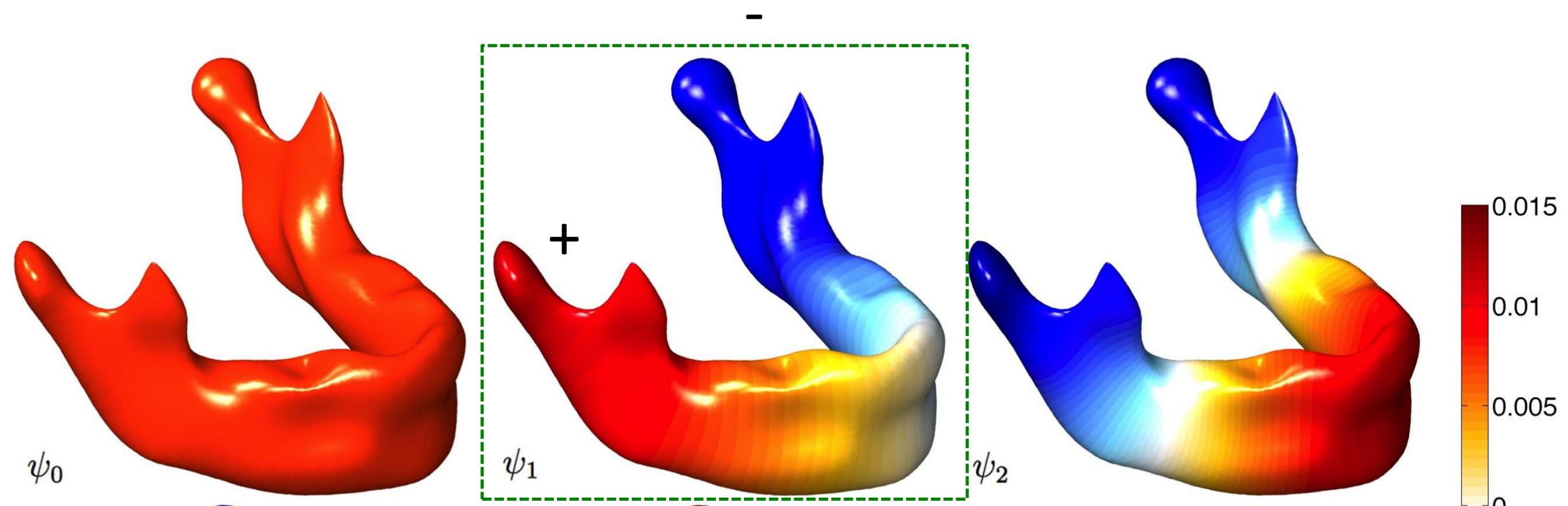
*Co-identification of cycles through the Stiefel optimization*

\* Songdechakraiwut et al. 2020 arXiv:2012.00675

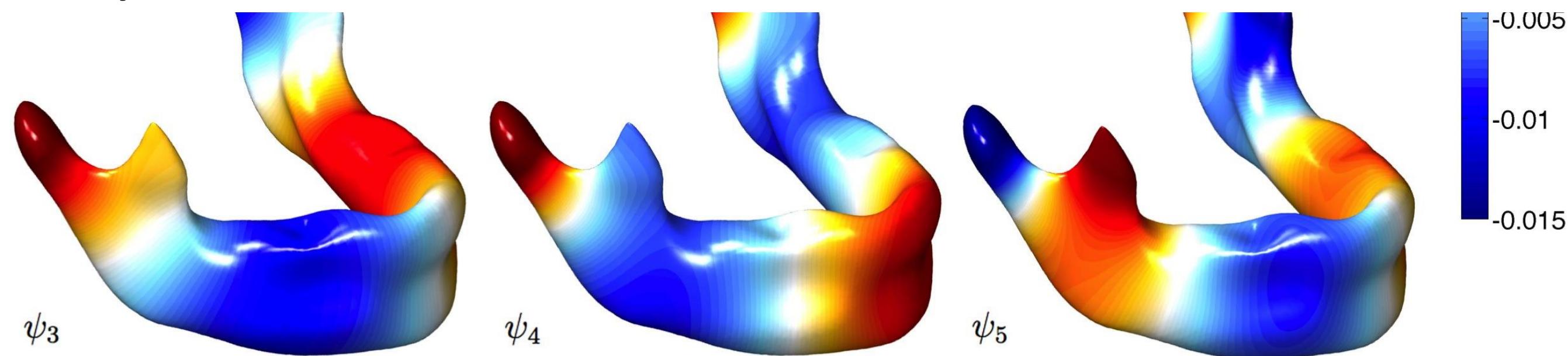
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2012.00675.pdf>

*Wasserstein distance between cycles*

# Motivation: Laplace-Beltrami eigenfunctions on a mandible



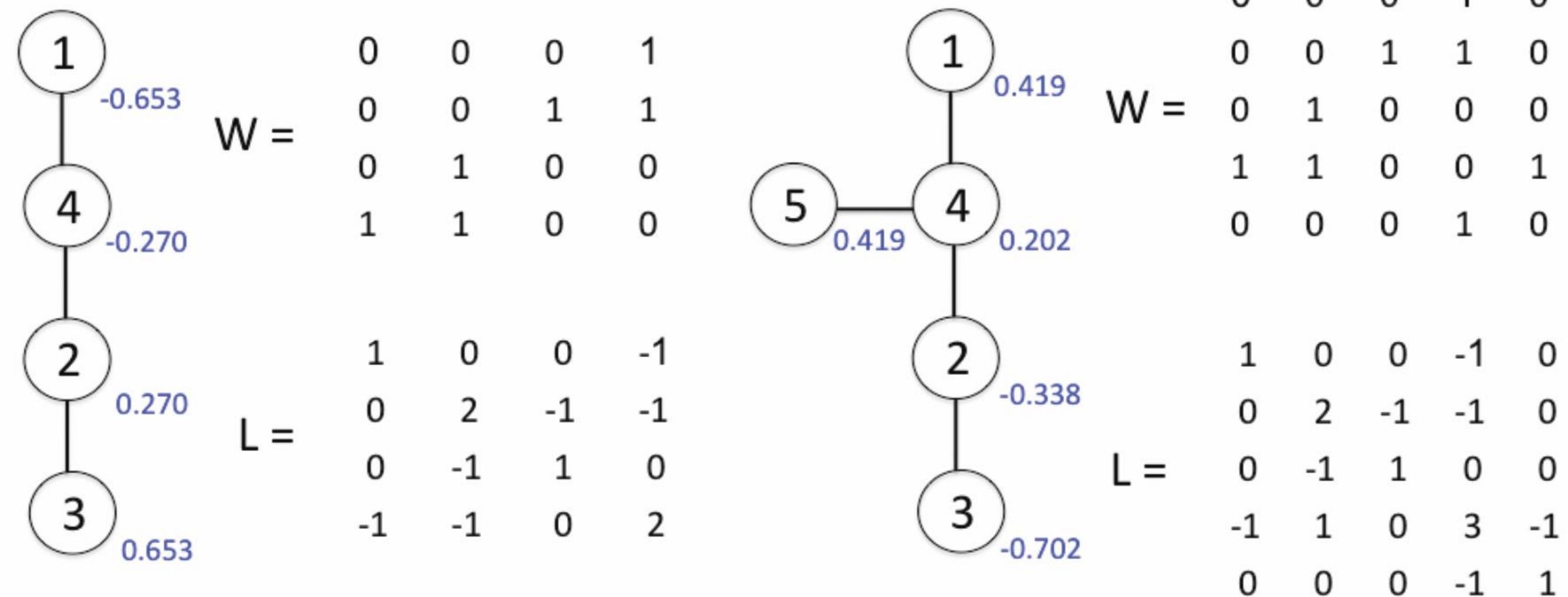
Why the maximum and minimum occurs at the extreme?



$$\Delta\psi_j = \lambda_j\psi_j$$

# Graph Laplacian

$$L = (l_{ij}) \quad l_{ij} = \begin{cases} -w_{ij}, & i \sim j \\ \sum_{i \neq j} w_{ij}, & i = j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

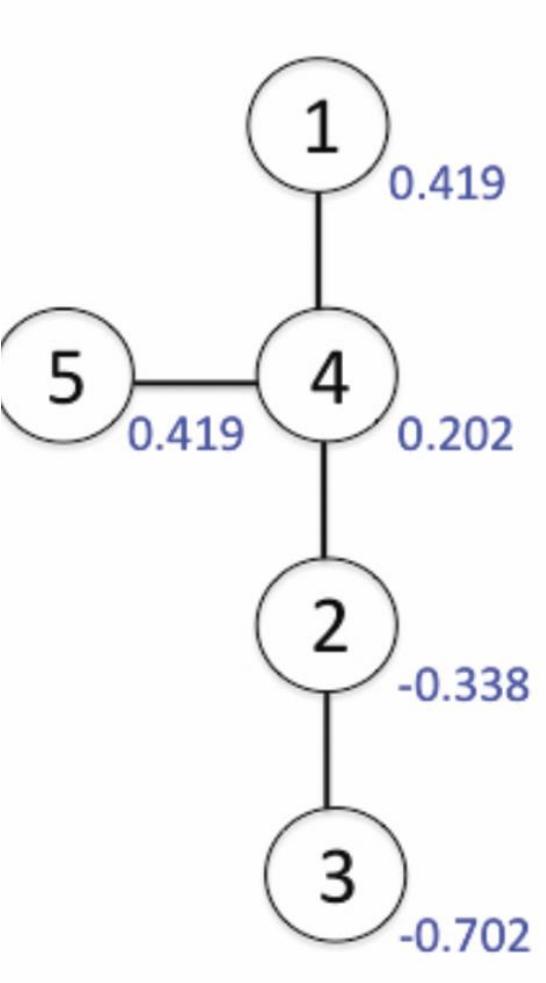


# Graph Laplacian from adjacency matrix

$$L = D - A$$

A: adjacency matrix

$$D = \text{diag}(\deg(1), \dots, \deg(p))$$



$$W = \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{matrix}$$
$$L = \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

## graph Laplacian from incidence matrix

$(i,j)$ -th entry = 1 if  $\tau_i \subset \sigma_j$

Sign depends on the orientation of  $\tau_i$

$M$	# of edges $\sigma_j$						
$\tau_i$	1	0	1	...	1	0	1
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
( $i,j$ )	1	1	0	...	0	0	1

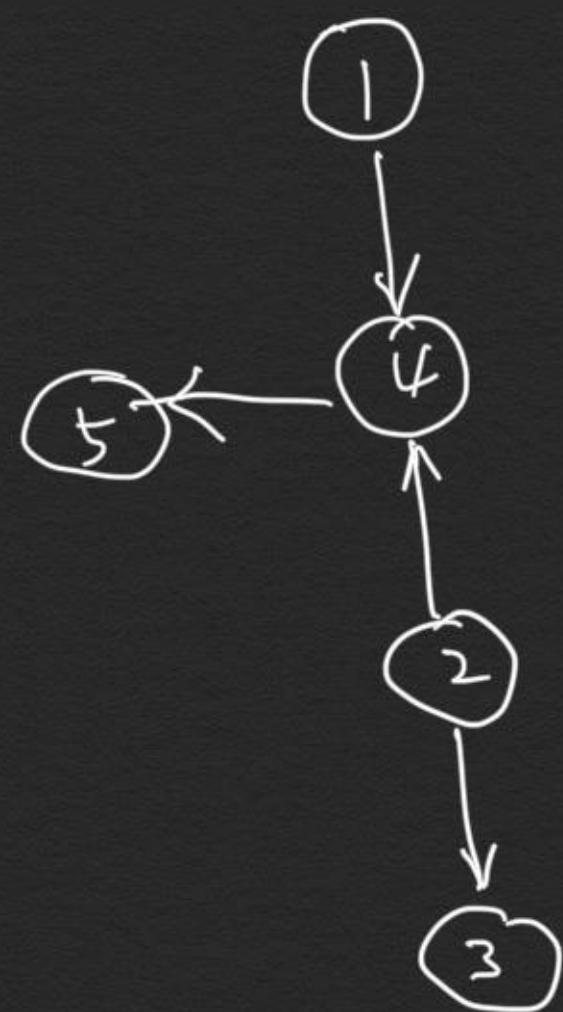


$$L = MM^\top$$

For most graphs,  
# of vertices < # of edges

# Graph Laplacian from Adjacency matrix

matrix



M	12	13	14	15	23	24	25	34	35	45
1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	-1
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Lexical indexing

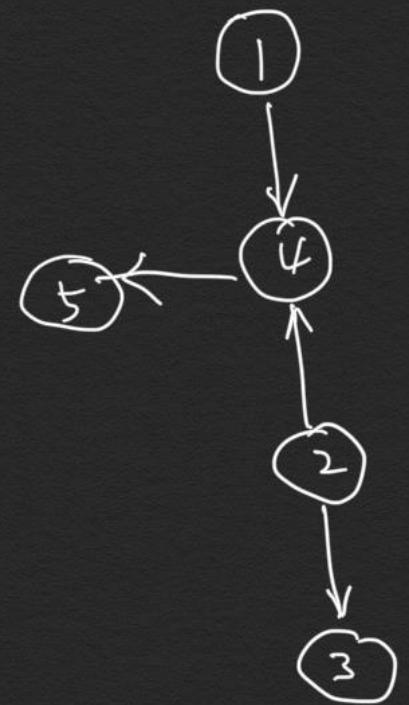
$$MM^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Multiply  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> rows

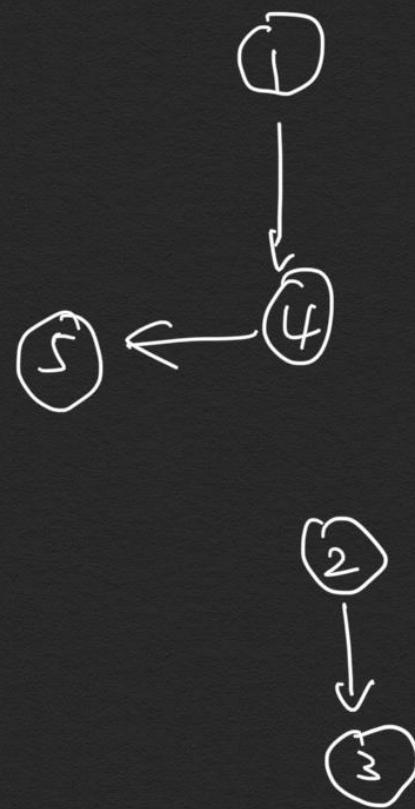
Laplacian invariant under  
indexing (parameterization)

# How the incidence matrix changes over edge deletion

How the Laplacian changes over edge deletion



$$MM^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$MM^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Eigenvectors of Laplacian

$$Lf_i = \lambda_i f_i$$

$$0 = \lambda_0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_p$$

What is  $f_0$ ?

Fiedler vector  $L\mathbf{f}_1 = \lambda_1 \mathbf{f}_1$

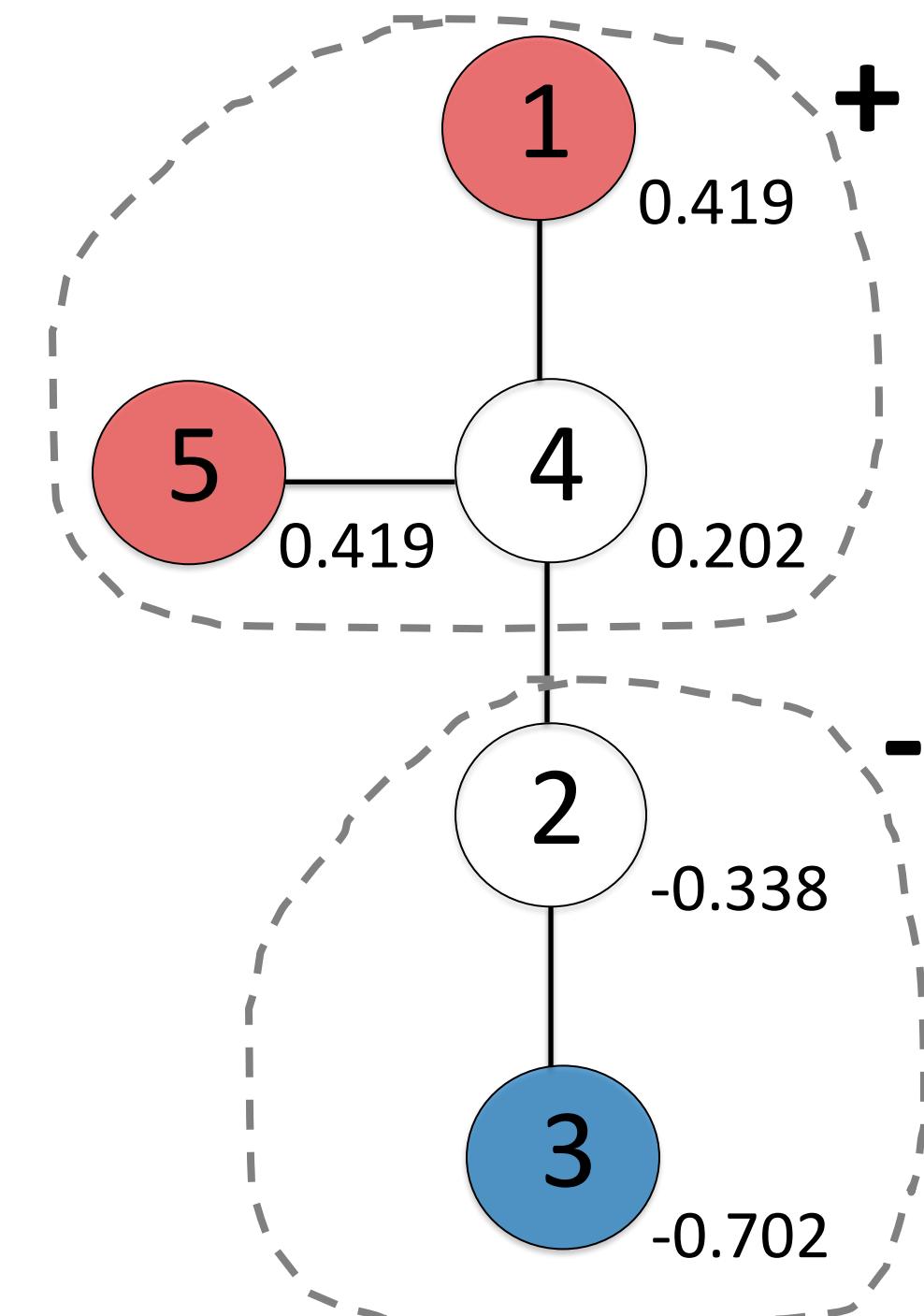
*Hilbert nodal line theorem:* The Fiedler vector partitions the node set into exactly two sign domains.



Hot spot at the positive domain.  
Cold spot at the negative domain.

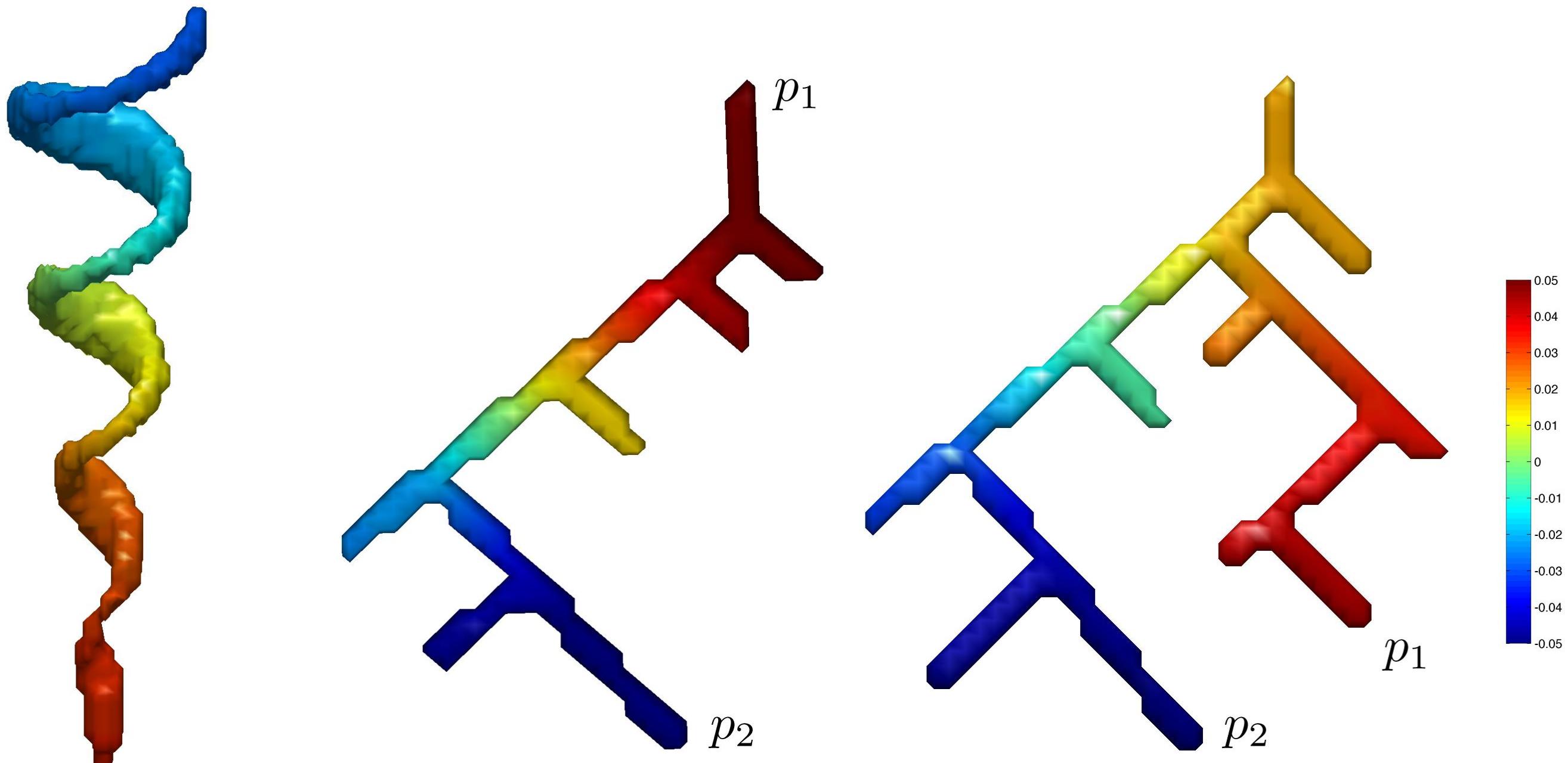


Tlusty 2007: The hot/cold spots have to occur at the boundary.

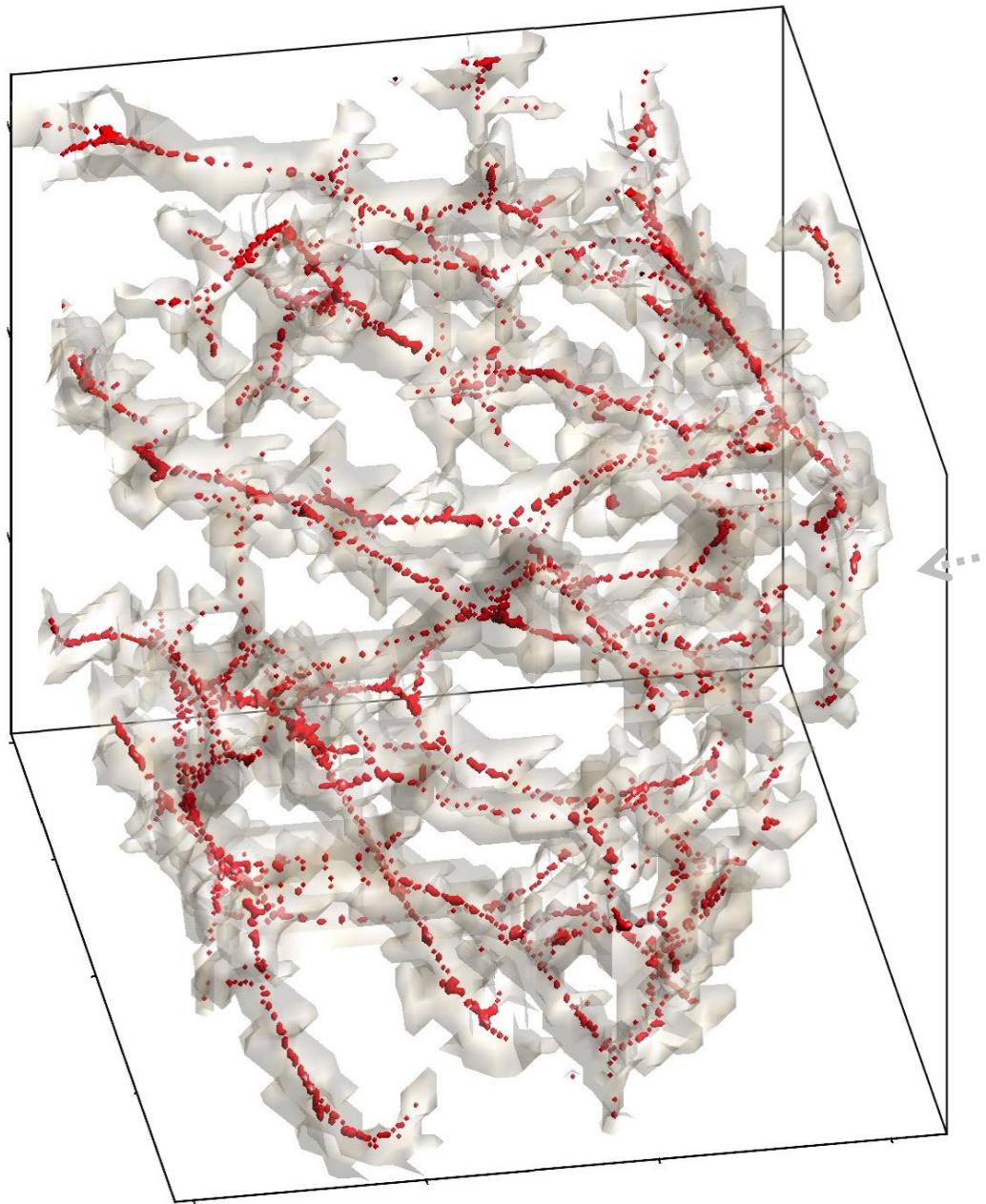


# Fiedler vector on trees

$$Lf_1 = \lambda_1 f_1$$

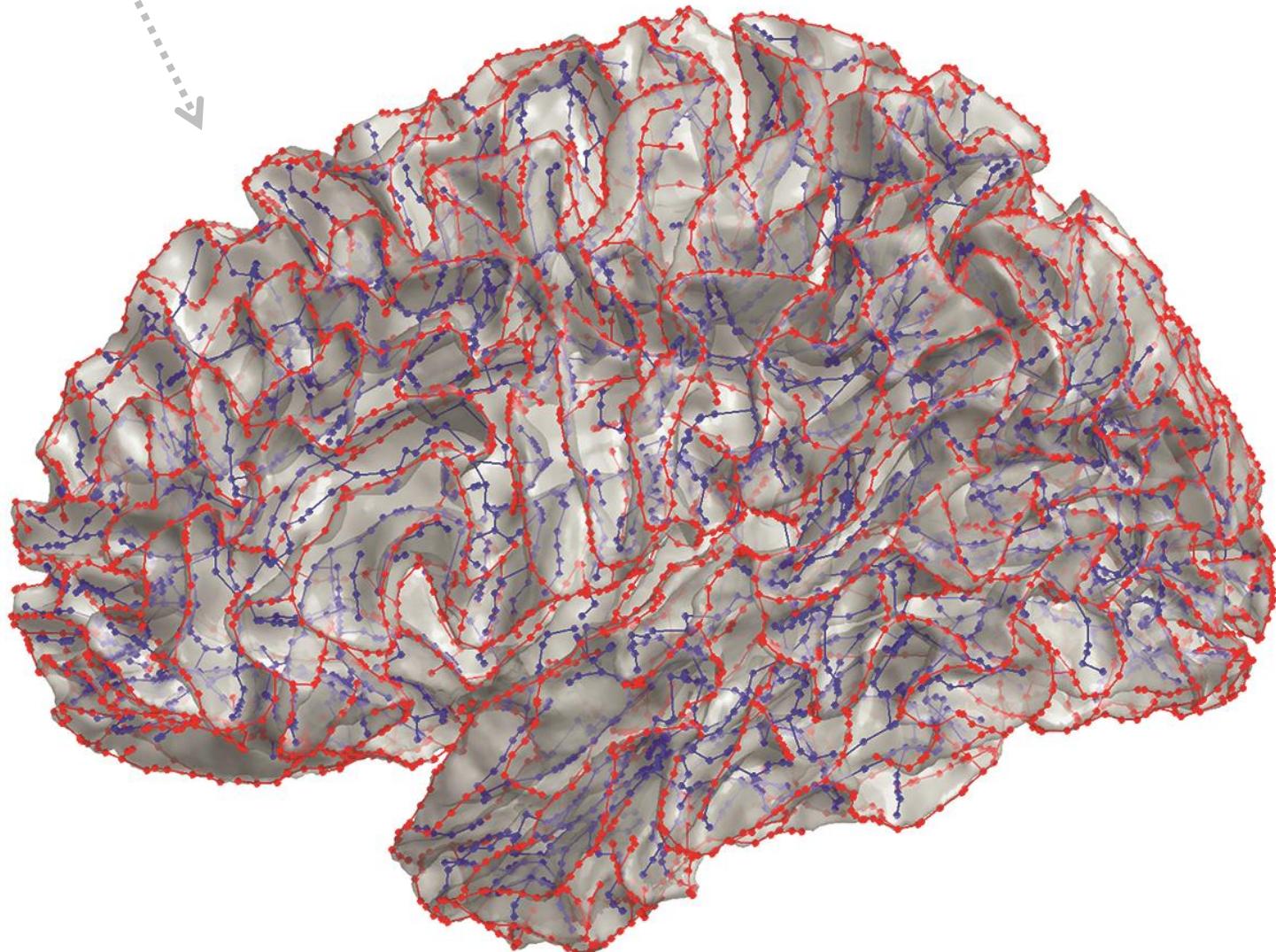


*Fiedler's vector will elongate data → clustering*



Blood vessels in lung CT image  
Chung et al. 2018 EMBC 5101-5104

*Research problem:* Determining the length of extremely complicated tubular structures and networks (lung blood vessel trees, structural brain networks, sulcal trees) in medical imaging.



Chung & Ombao 2021 Biometrika  
Discussion on TDA

# Multiplicity of eigenvalues

Multiplicity  $m$  of eigenvalue  $\lambda$  :

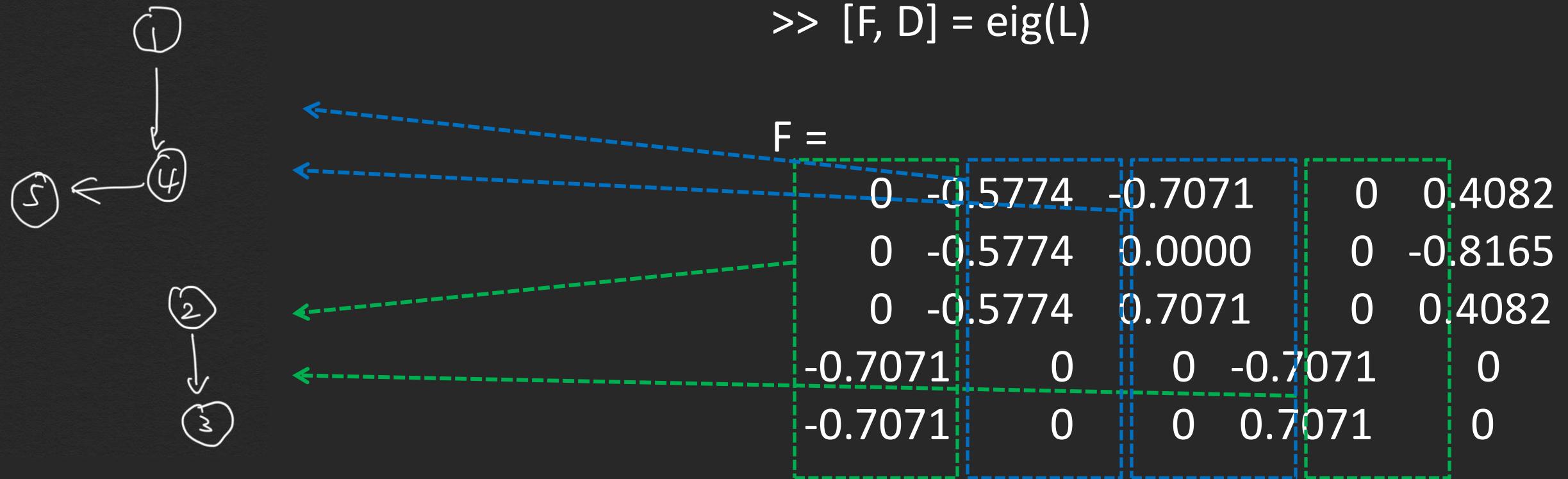
$$L\mathbf{v}_1 = \lambda\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, L\mathbf{v}_m = \lambda\mathbf{v}_m$$

Theorem: The multiplicity of eigenvalue  $\lambda_0 = 0$  is the number of connected components: **0-th Betti number**  $\beta_0$ .

Equivalently  $\beta_0 = p - \text{rank}(L)$

Matrix Theory

# eigenvalues



$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D =$$

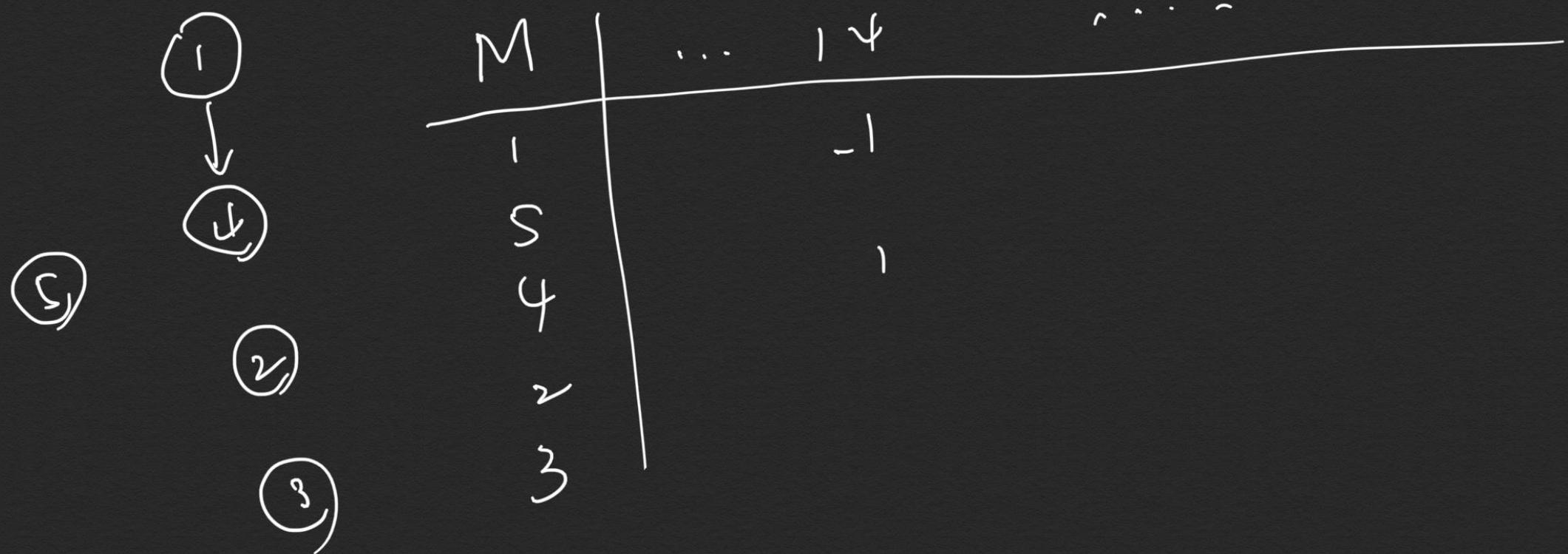
0	0	0	0	0
0	0.0000	0	0	0
0	0	1.0000	0	0
0	0	0	2.0000	0
0	0	0	0	3.0000

$$\text{rank}(L) = 3 \quad \beta_0 = 2$$

Theorem:  $\beta_0 = p - \text{rank}(L)$

Proof.  $\text{rank}(L) = \text{rank}(MM^\top) = \text{rank}(M^\top)$

$$\ker L = \{\sigma : L\sigma = 0\} = \{\sigma : M^\top \sigma = 0\}$$

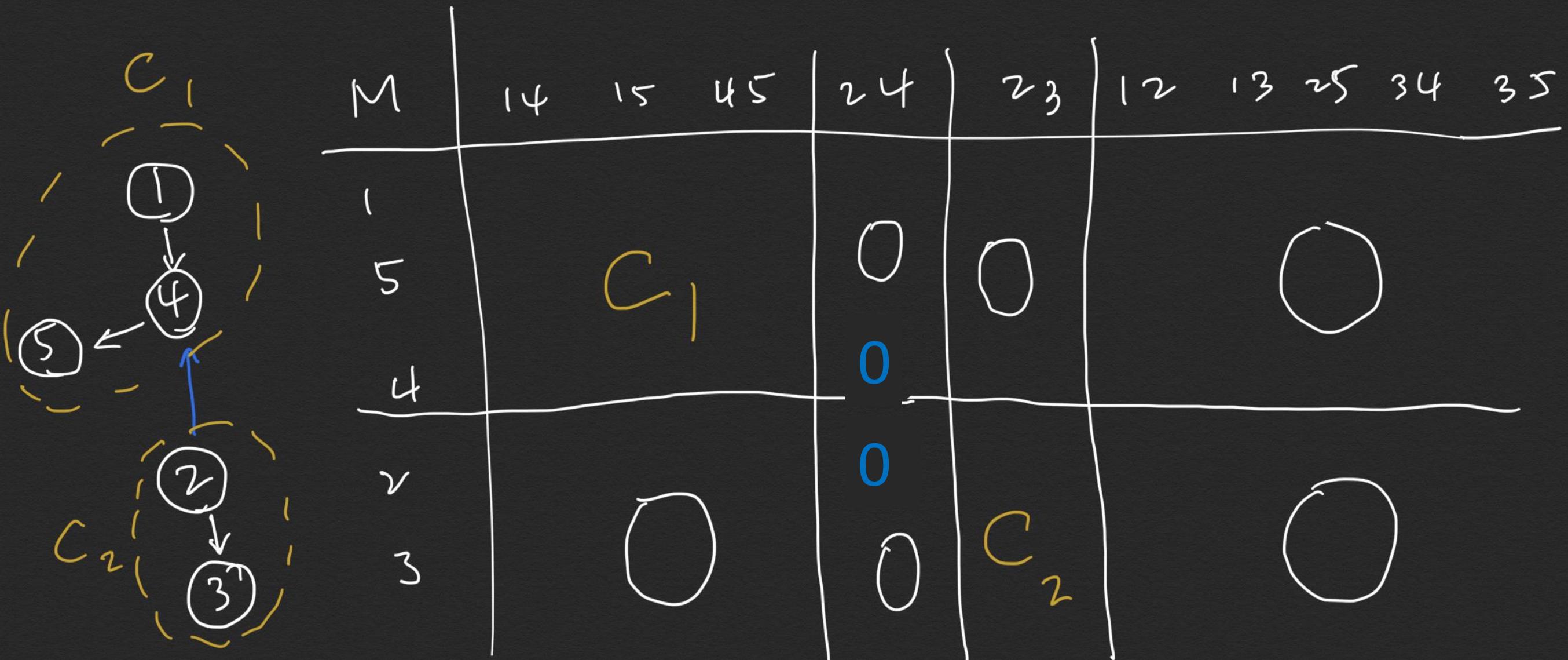


$$\sigma = [a, a, b, c, d]^\top$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{rank}(\ker L) &= 4 \\ \text{rank}(L) &= 1\end{aligned}$$

# Graph with 2 disconnected components

$$\ker L = \{\sigma : L\sigma = 0\} = \{\sigma : M^\top \sigma = 0\}$$



$$\sigma = [a, a, a, b, b]^\top$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rank}(\ker L) &= \beta_0 = 2 \\ \text{rank}(L) &= p - 2 \end{aligned}$$

# Rank-nullity theorem for graph Laplacian

$$\ker L = \{\sigma : L\sigma = 0\} = \{\sigma : M^\top \sigma = 0\}$$

$$imgL = \{L\sigma : \sigma \in \mathbb{R}^p\}$$

$$\text{rank}(imgL) + \text{rank}(\ker L) = p$$

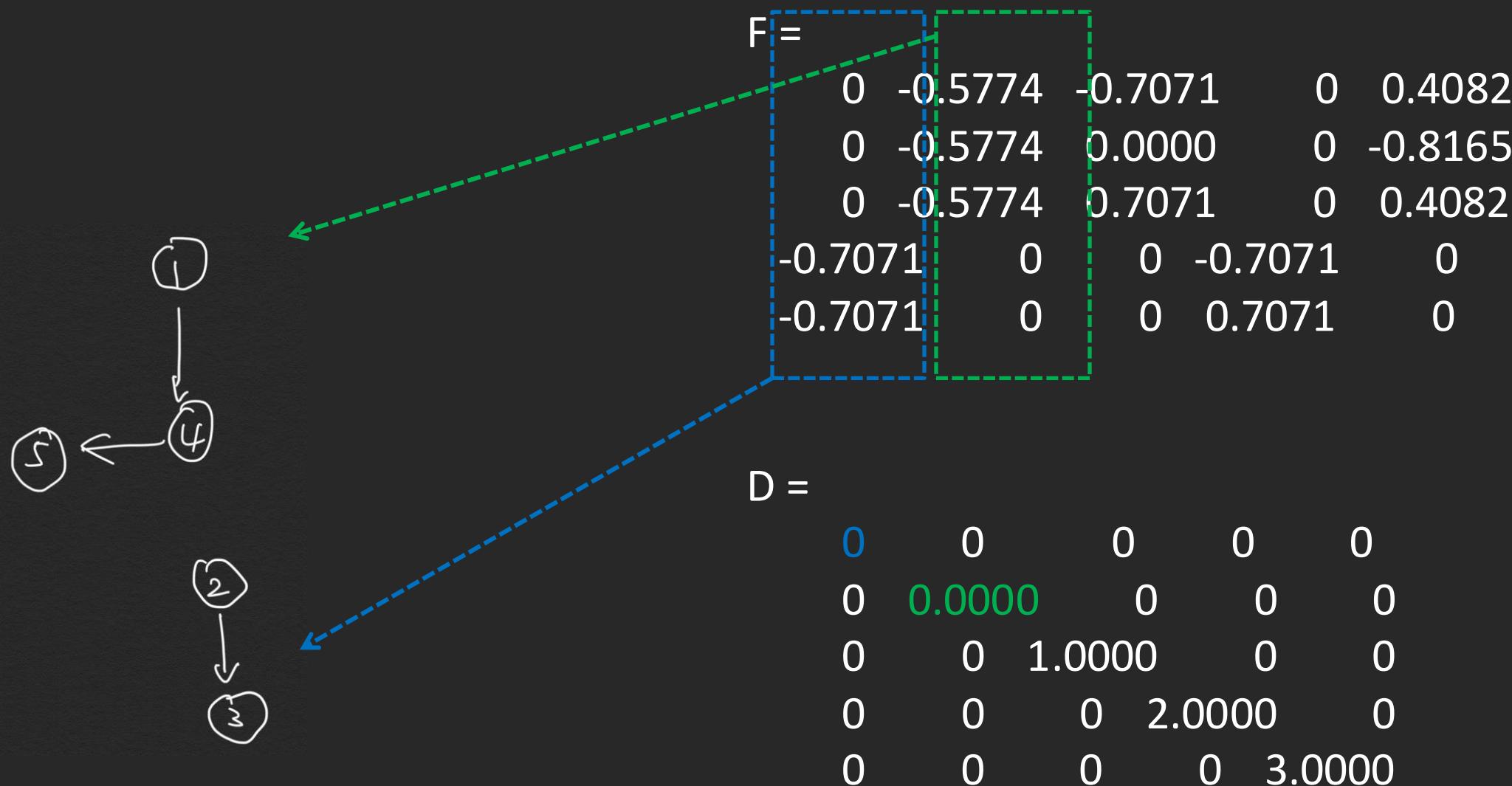
$$\text{rank}(L) \qquad \qquad \beta_0$$

How do I find the connected components?

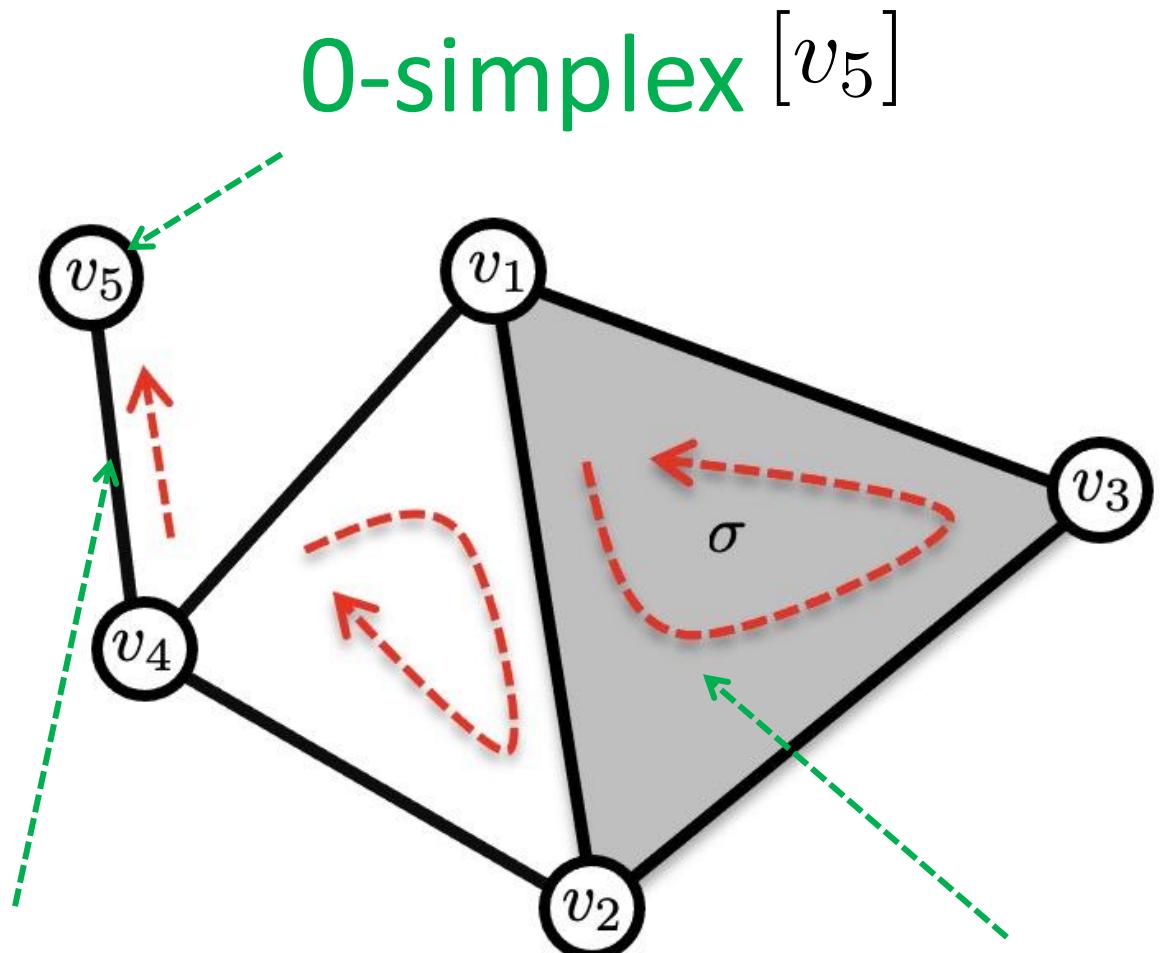
$$\ker L = \{\sigma : L\sigma = 0\} = \{\sigma : M^\top \sigma = 0\}$$

The kernel space is spanned by the eigenvectors corresponding to zero eigenvalue

```
>> [F, D] = eig(L)
```



# $k$ -simplex



0-simplex  $[v_5]$

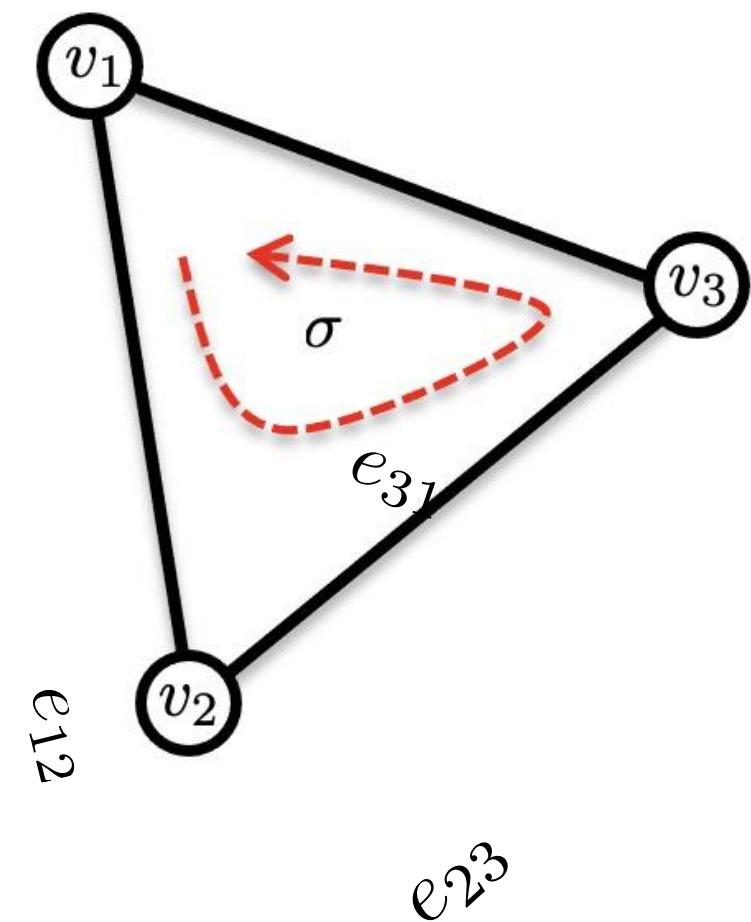
1-simplex

$$[v_4, v_5] = -[v_5, v_4]$$

2-simplex

$$\sigma = [v_1, v_2, v_3]$$

$$\partial_2 \rightarrow$$

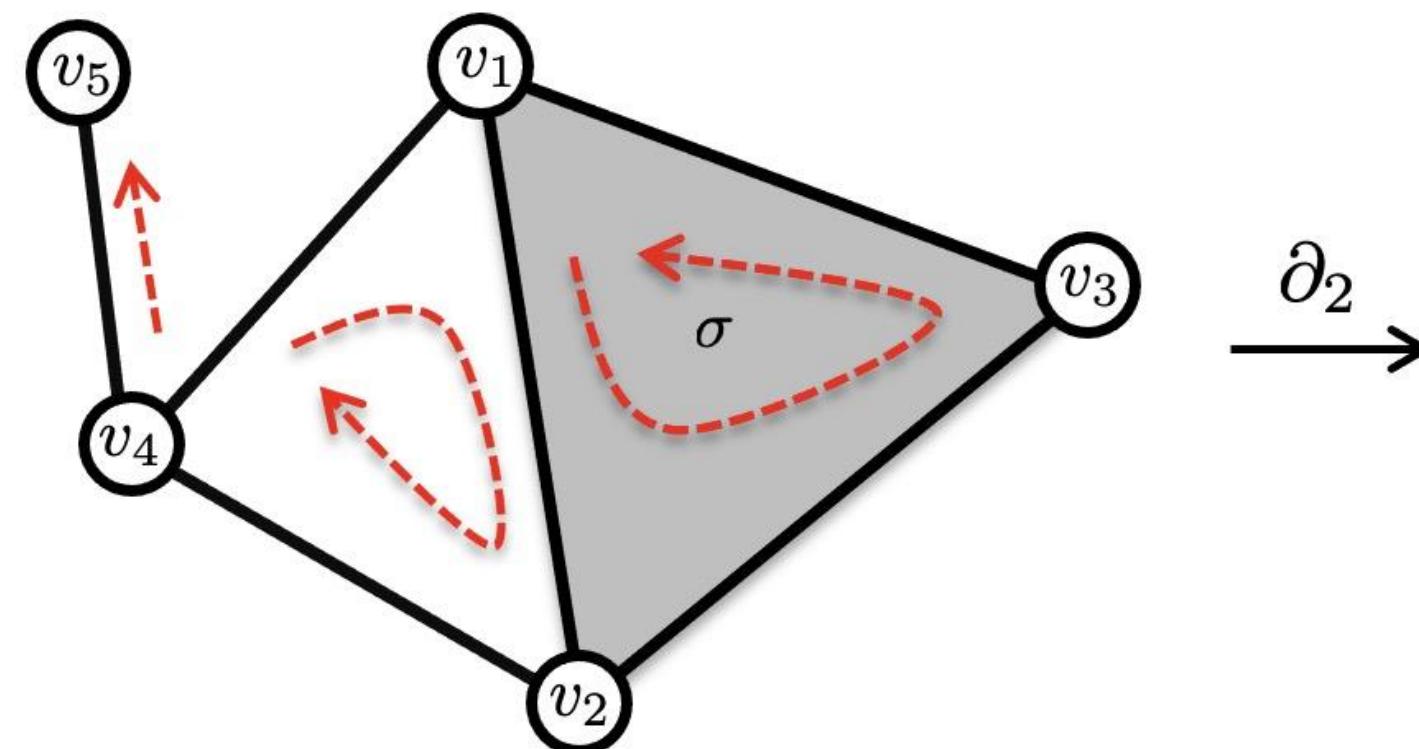


$C_k$  :collection of  $k$ -simplices (or simplices)

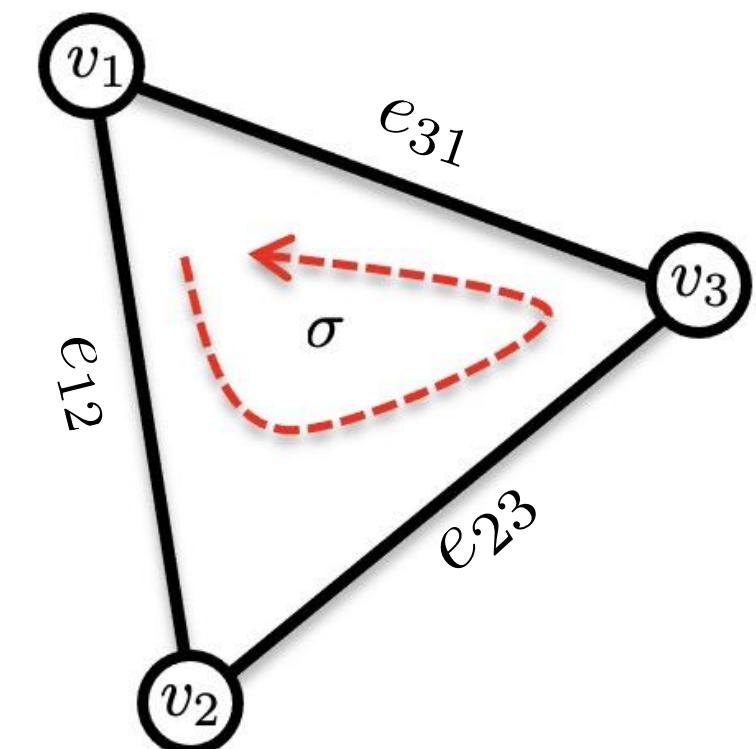
# Boundary operators $\partial_k$

$\partial_k$  Removes the filled-in interior of  $k$ -simplexes

$$\partial_k : C_k \rightarrow C_{k-1}$$



$$\partial_2$$



$$\partial_2 \sigma = [v_1, v_2] + [v_2, v_3] + [v_3, v_1]$$

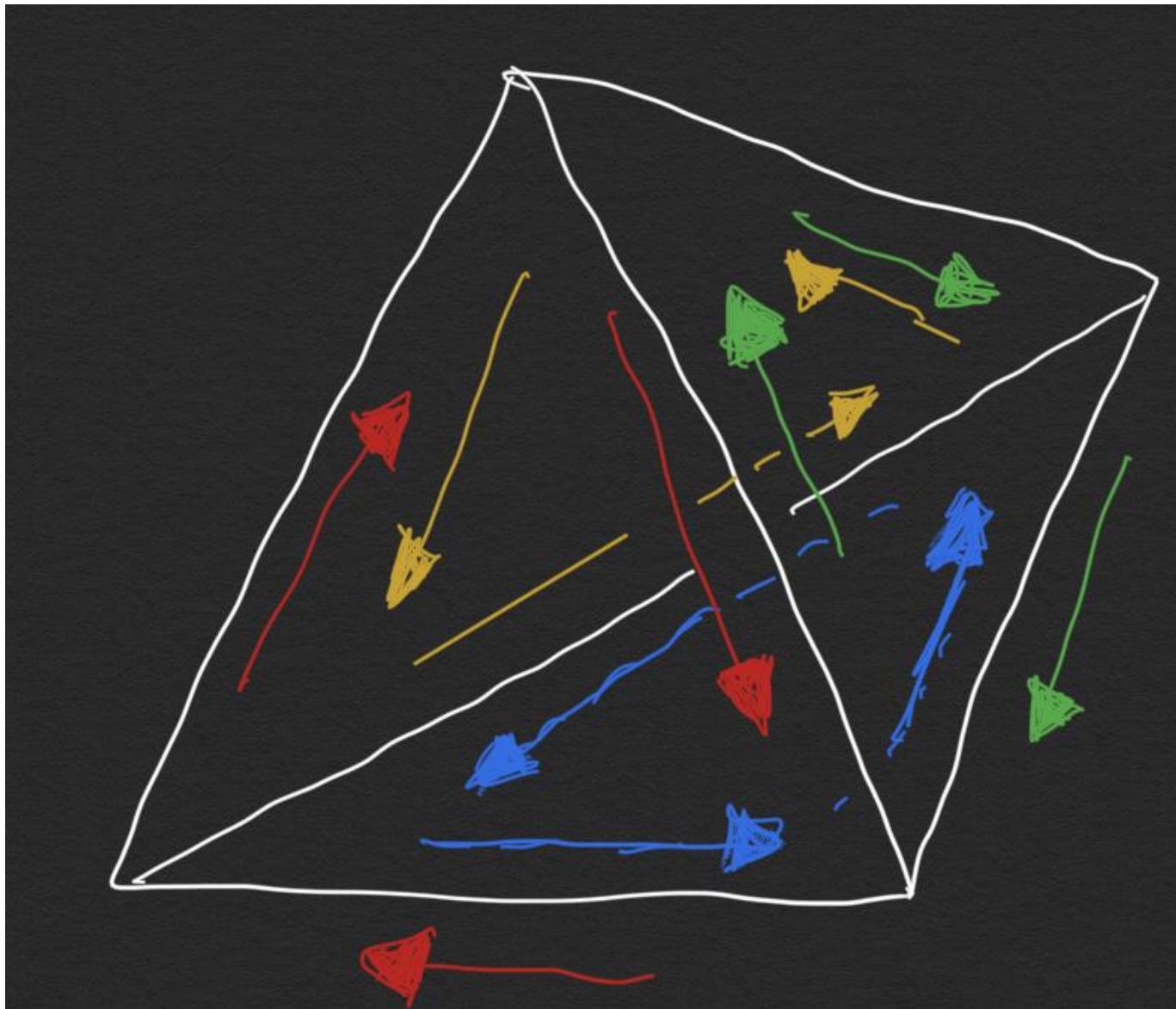
$$\partial_1 \partial_2 \sigma = v_2 - v_1 + v_3 - v_2 + v_1 - v_3 = 0$$

$$\partial_1 \partial_2 \sigma = v_2 - v_1 + v_3 - v_2 + v_1 - v_3 = 0$$

Theorem .  $\partial_{k-1} \partial_k \sigma = 0$

Example. Boundary of boundary of a filled-in tetrahedron = edges

→ Does the sum of edges vanish?

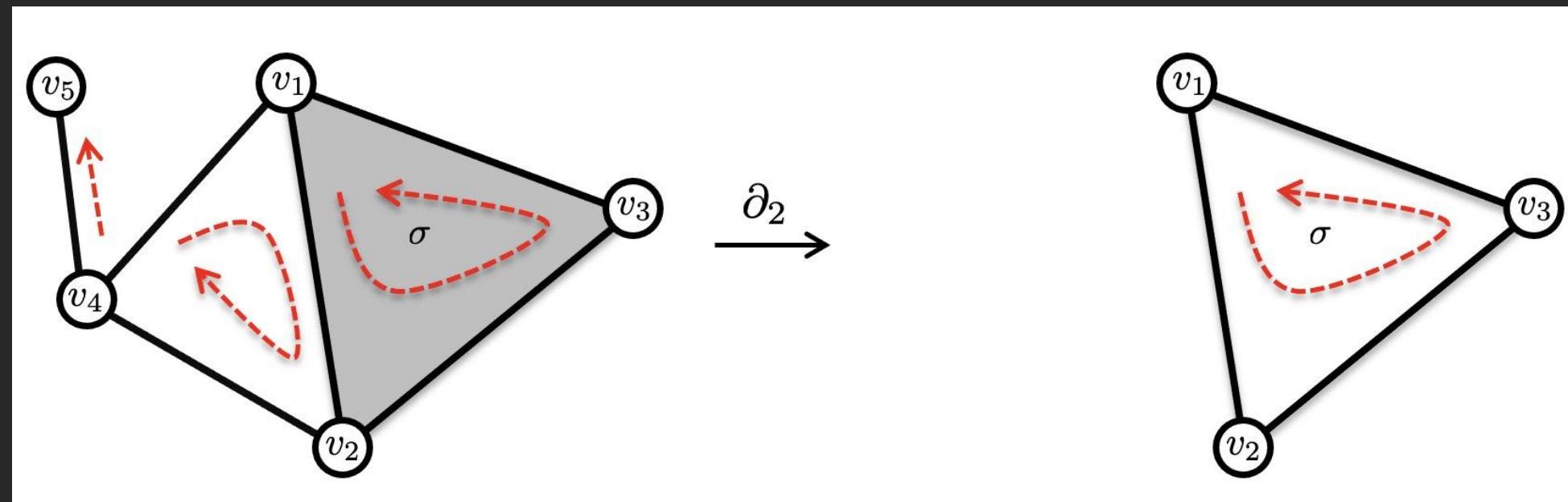


# Image of boundary operator

$$img \ \partial_{k+1} = \{\partial_{k+1}\sigma : \sigma \in C_{k+1}\}$$

collection of  $k$ -boundaries

$\partial_2\sigma = [v_1, v_2] + [v_2, v_3] + [v_3, v_1]$  is 1-boundary



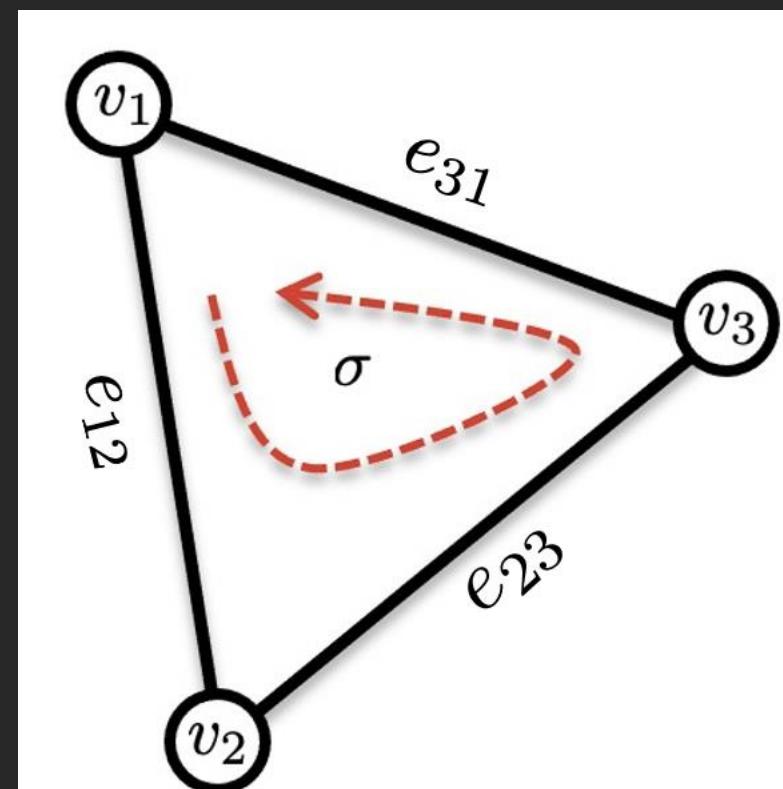
# Kernel of boundary operator

$$\ker \partial_k = \{\sigma \in C_k : \partial_k \sigma = 0\}$$

collection of  $k$ -cycles

$$\partial_1 \partial_2 \sigma = v_2 - v_1 + v_3 - v_2 + v_1 - v_3 = 0$$

$\partial_2 \sigma = [v_1, v_2] + [v_2, v_3] + [v_3, v_1]$  is 1-cycle



## Image of boundary operator

From theorem     $\partial_k \partial_{k+1} \sigma = 0$   
boundary  $\partial_{k+1} \sigma$  is always a cycle.

$$\ker \partial_k \supset \text{img} \partial_{k+1}$$

Set of cycles

Set of boundaries

Quotient space:

$$H_k = \ker \partial_k / \text{img} \partial_{k+1}$$

Total number of algebraically  
independent cycles  
(# of basis).

$$\beta_k = \text{rank}(\ker \partial_k) - \text{rank}(\text{img} \partial_{k+1})$$

-

matrix

$\partial_k$

$(i,j)$ -th entry = 1 if  $\tau_i \subset \sigma_j$

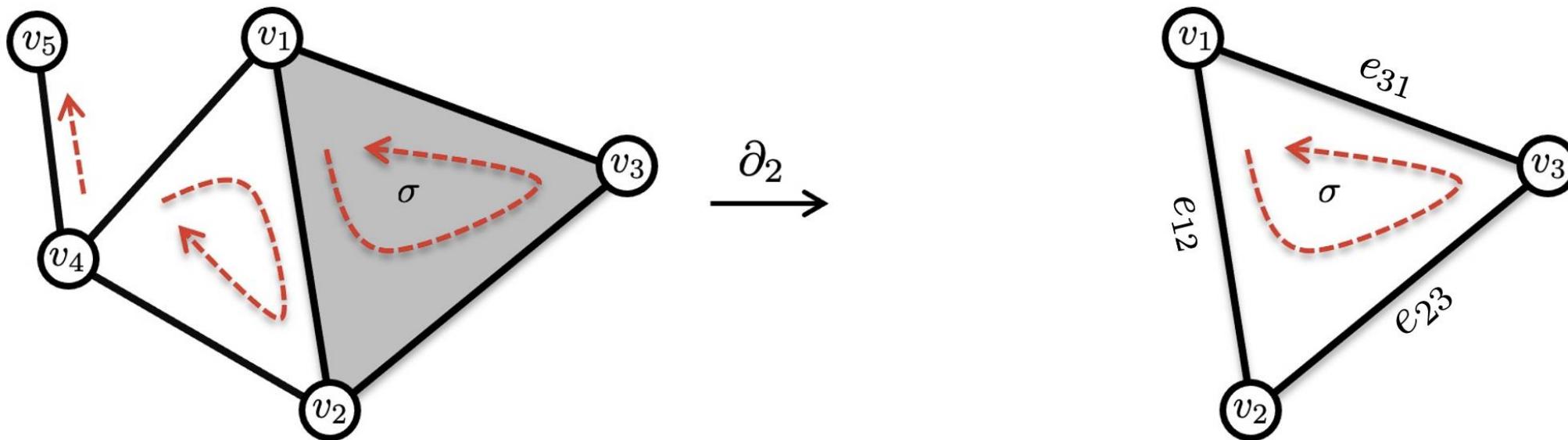
Sign depends on the orientation of  $\tau_i$

# of  $(k-1)$ -dimensional simplices  $\tau_i$

# of  $k$ -dimensional simplices  $\sigma_j$

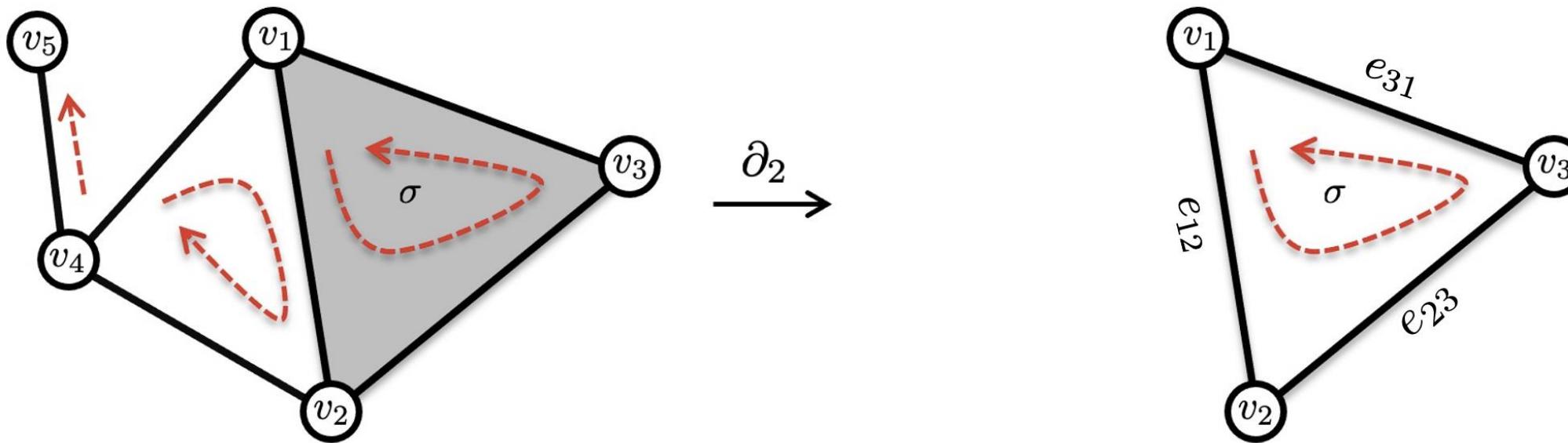
1	0	1	...	1	0	1
.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	1			0	0	
0	1	0	...	0	1	-1

# Boundary matrix $\partial_0$



$$\partial_0 = \begin{matrix} & v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & v_4 & v_5 \\ 0 & ( & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{matrix}$$

# Boundary matrix $\partial_1$



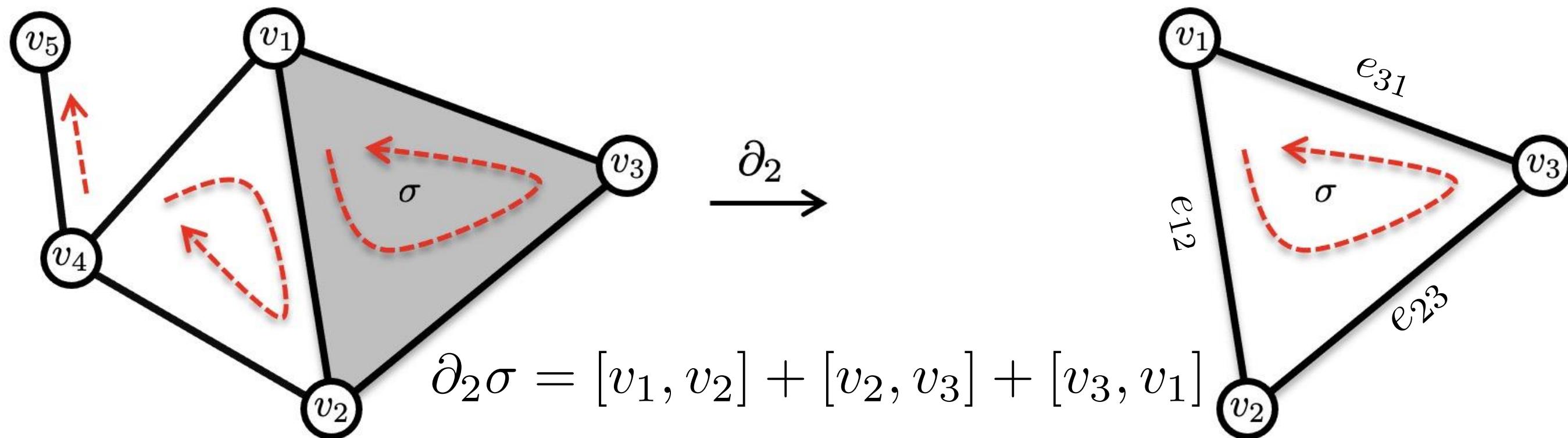
$$\partial_1 \partial_2 \sigma = v_2 - v_1 + v_3 - v_2 + v_1 - v_3 = 0$$

$$\partial_1 = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & v_4 & v_5 \\ \end{pmatrix} \left( \begin{array}{cccccc} \sigma & & & & & \\ \hline e_{12} & e_{23} & e_{31} & e_{24} & e_{41} & e_{45} \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

# Boundary operators $\partial_k$

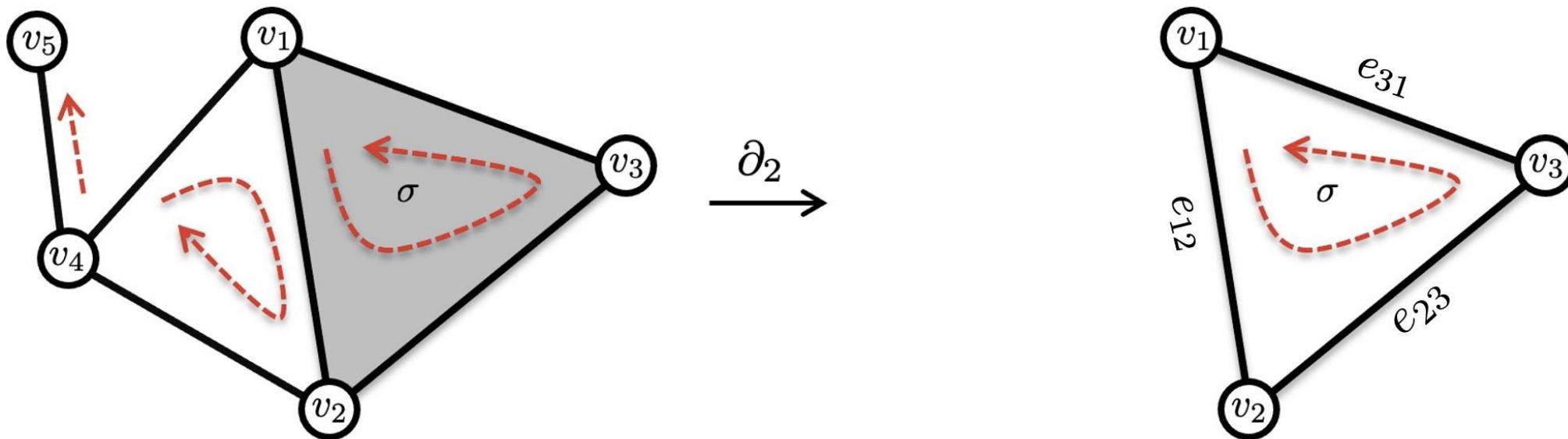
$\partial_k$  Removes the filled-in interior of  $k$ -simplexes

$$\partial_k : C_k \rightarrow C_{k-1}$$



$$\partial_2 = \begin{pmatrix} & e_{12} & e_{23} & e_{31} & e_{24} & e_{41} & e_{45} \\ v_1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ v_2 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ v_3 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ v_4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ v_5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

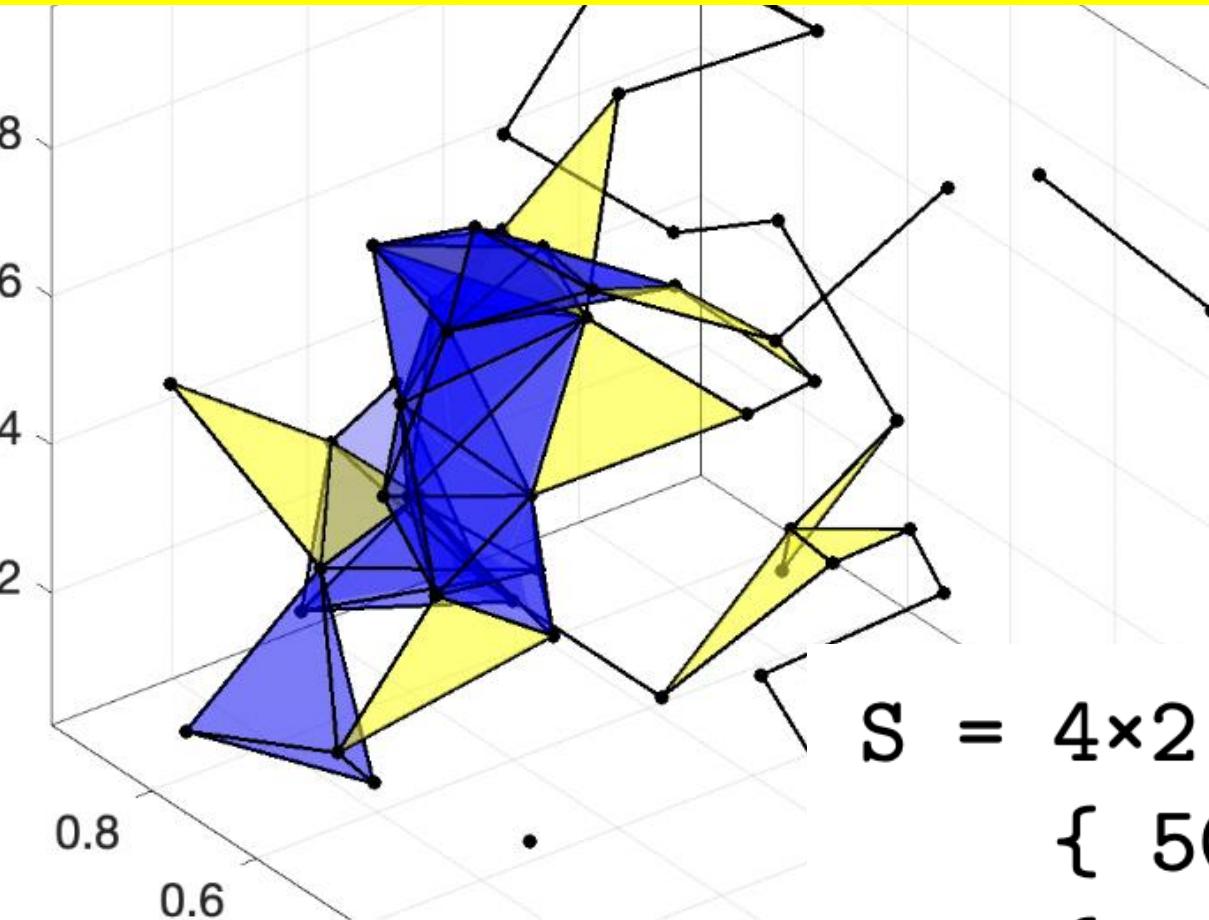
# Boundary matrix $\partial_2$



$$\partial_2 \sigma = [v_1, v_2] + [v_2, v_3] + [v_3, v_1]$$

$$\partial_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma & e_{12} & e_{23} & e_{31} \\ & e_{24} & e_{41} & e_{45} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Numerical implementation: PH-STAT



$S = 4 \times 2$  cell array  
{ 50×1 double }  
{ 101×2 double }  
{ 73×3 double }  
{ 27×4 double }

Connectivity

Functional data over simplex

ex. 3-node connectivity

[S{3,1} S{3,2}]

ans = 1 5 13 0.2932  
1 5 16 0.2579  
1 5 26 0.2766  
. . .

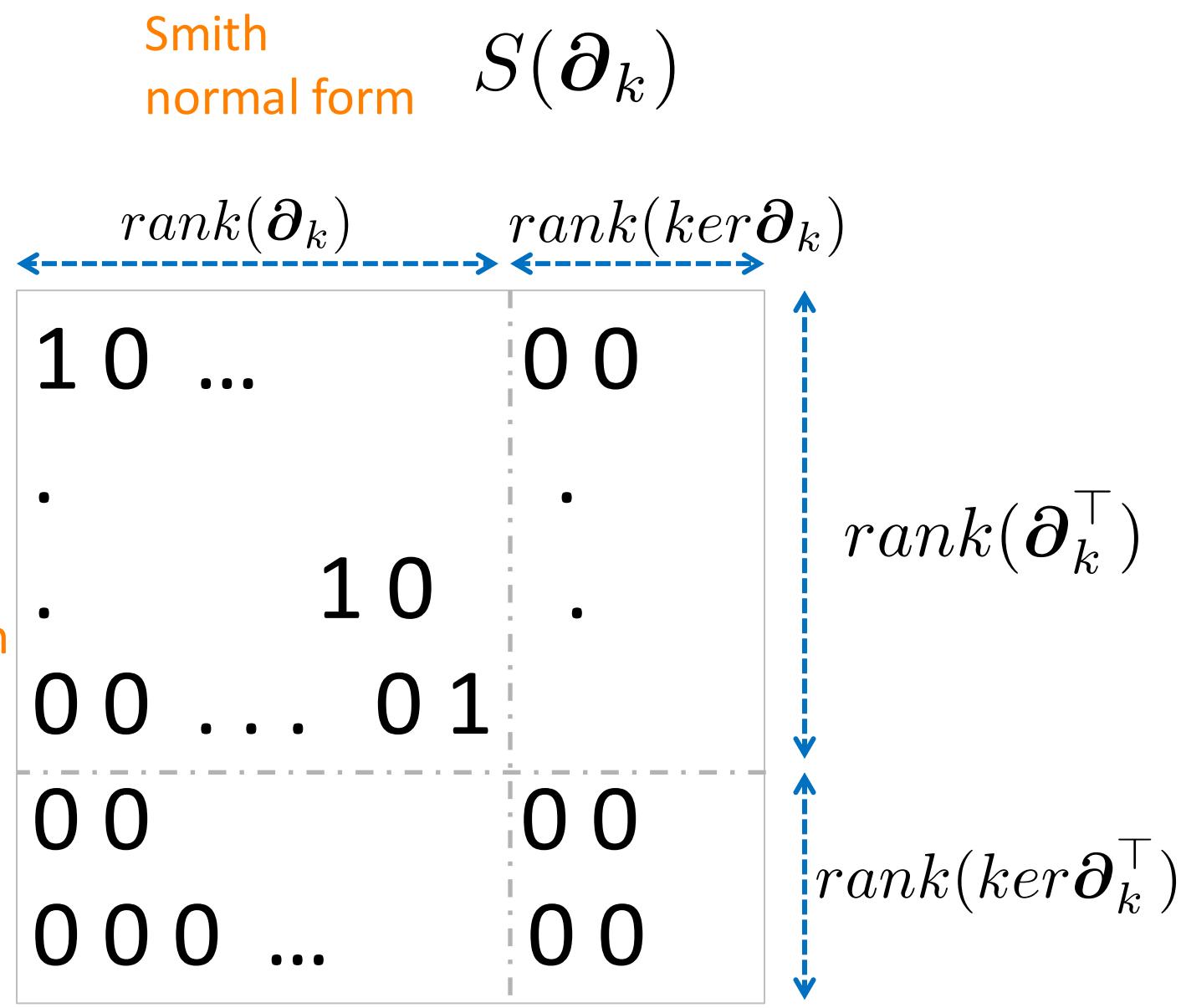
## matrix

 $\partial_k$ 

# of $k$ -D simplices	$\sigma_j$
1 0 1 ... 1 0 1	
.	.
.	.
.	.
1 1	0 0
0 1 0 ... 0 1 1	

$\tau_i$

Gaussian  
elimination  
→



$(i,j)$ -th entry = 1 if  $\tau_i \subset \sigma_j$

Sign depends on the orientation of  $\tau_i$

$$\beta_k = \text{rank}(\ker \partial_k) - \text{rank}(\partial_{k+1})$$

# Smith normal form

$$\partial_1 = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 & e_{12} & e_{23} & e_{31} & e_{24} & e_{41} & e_{45} \\ v_2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ v_3 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ v_4 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ v_5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Gaussian elimination

$$\mathcal{S}(\partial_1) = \left( \begin{array}{cccc|cc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

rank( $\partial_1$ )      rank( $\ker \partial_1$ )

# of edges = 6

rank( $\partial_1^\top$ ) = 4      # of nodes = 5

rank( $\ker \partial_1^\top$ ) = 1

# Matlab

$$\partial_1 = \begin{pmatrix} e_{12} & e_{23} & e_{31} & e_{24} & e_{41} & e_{45} \\ v_1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ v_2 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ v_3 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ v_4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ v_5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

```
>M = [-1 0 1 0 1 0  
        1 -1 0 -1 0 0  
        0 1 -1 0 0 0  
        0 0 0 1 -1 -1  
        0 0 0 0 0 1]
```

```
>L=M*M'
```

```
>rank(M') = rank(L)
```

4

```
>null(M') = null(L)
```

0.4472

0.4472

0.4472

0.4472

0.4472

# Betti number computation

$\partial_k$

$S(\partial_k)$

# of $k$ -D simplices	$\sigma_j$
1 0 1 ... 1 0 1	
.	.
.	.
.	.
1 1	0 0
0 1 0 ... 0 1 1	

Gaussian  
elimination  
→

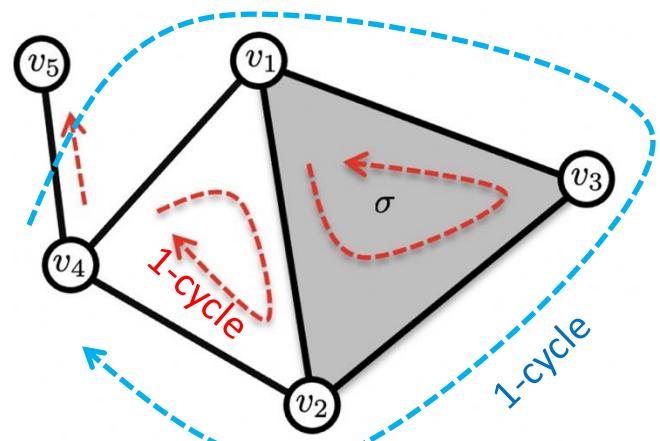
$rank(\partial_k)$	$rank(ker\partial_k)$
1 0 ...	0 0
.	.
.	.
1 0	0 1
0 0 ... 0 1	0 0
0 0	0 0
0 0 0 ...	0 0

$rank(\partial_k^\top)$

$rank(ker\partial_k^\top)$

$$\beta_k = rank(ker\partial_k) - rank(\partial_{k+1})$$

# Computing Betti numbers



$$S(\partial_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S(\partial_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\beta_0 = \text{rank}(\ker \partial_0) - \text{rank}(\partial_1) = 5-4$$

$$\beta_1 = \text{rank}(\ker \partial_1) - \text{rank}(\partial_2) = 2-1$$

Hodge  
(1903–1975)

Hodge theory

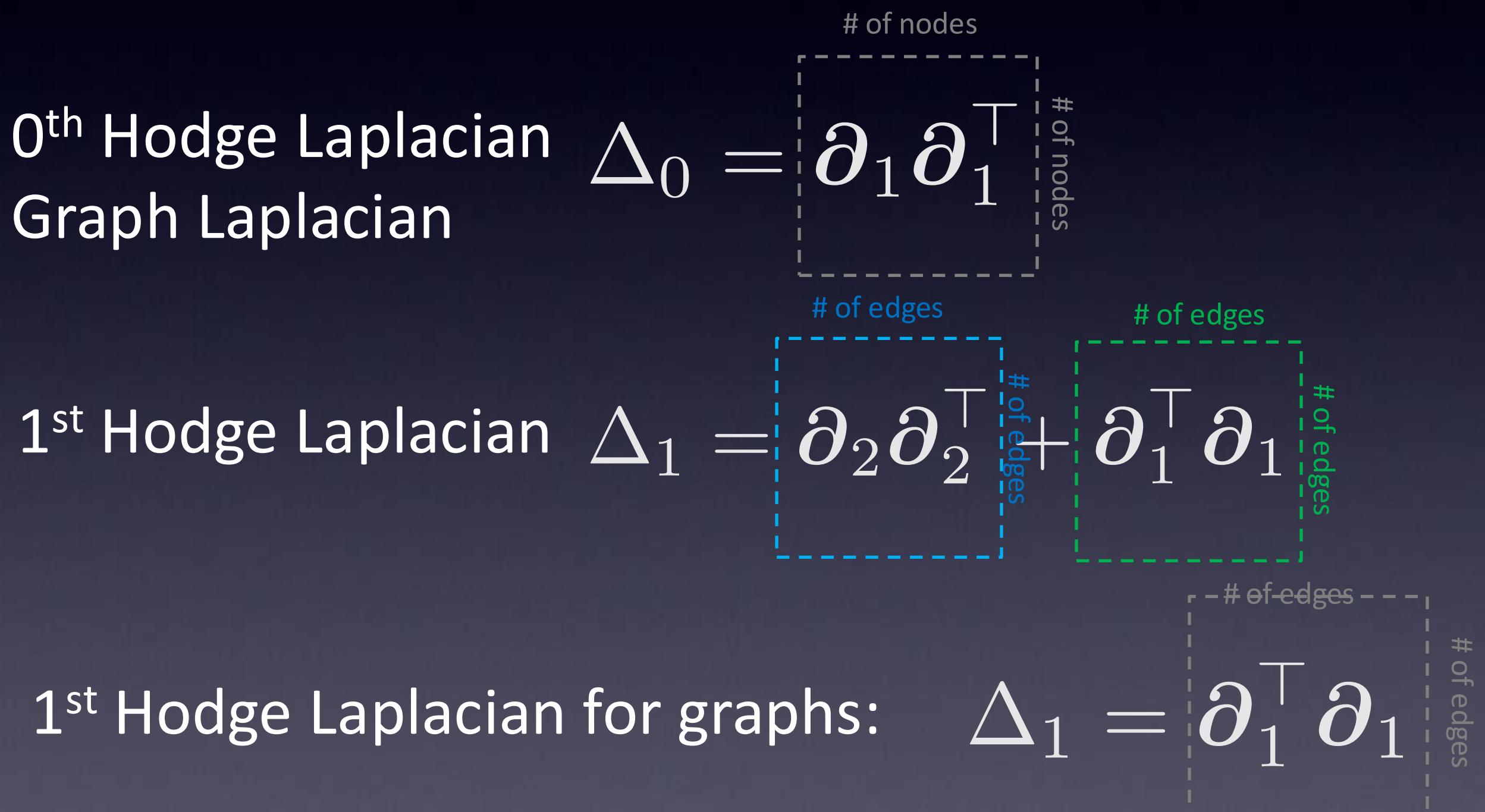
Hodge Laplacian

Hodge conjecture:  
Millennium prize  
problem



# $k$ -th Hodge Laplacian

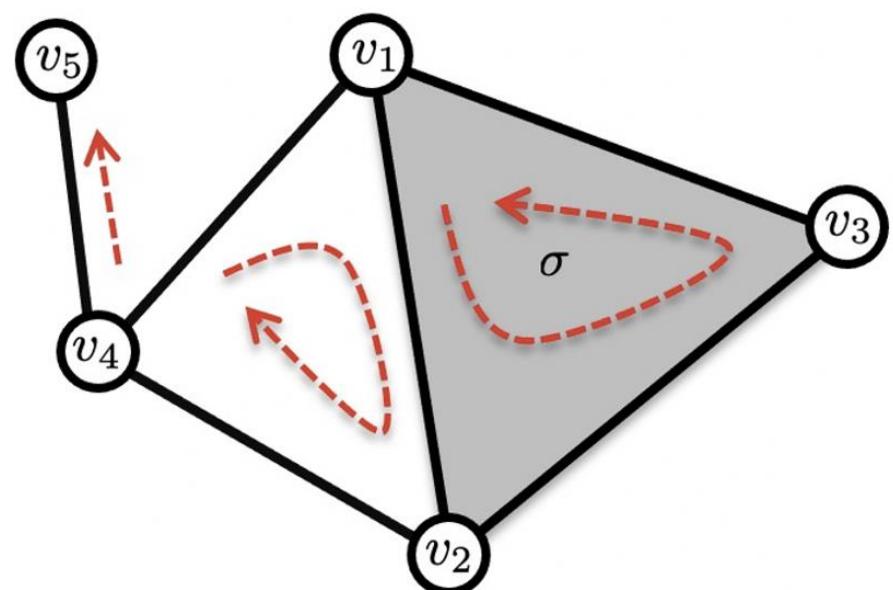
$$\Delta_k = \partial_{k+1} \partial_{k+1}^\top + \partial_k^\top \partial_k$$



# 1<sup>st</sup> Hodge Laplacian (for loop computation in graphs)

$$\partial_1 = \begin{matrix} v_1 & \left( \begin{array}{cccccc} e_{12} & e_{23} & e_{31} & e_{24} & e_{41} & e_{45} \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ v_4 \\ v_5 \end{matrix} \quad \partial_1^\top \partial_1 = \left( \begin{array}{cccccc} 2 & -1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\partial_2 = \begin{matrix} e_{12} & \left( \begin{array}{c} \sigma \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} \right) \\ e_{23} \\ e_{31} \\ e_{24} \\ e_{41} \\ e_{45} \end{matrix} \quad \partial_2 \partial_2^\top = \left( \begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$



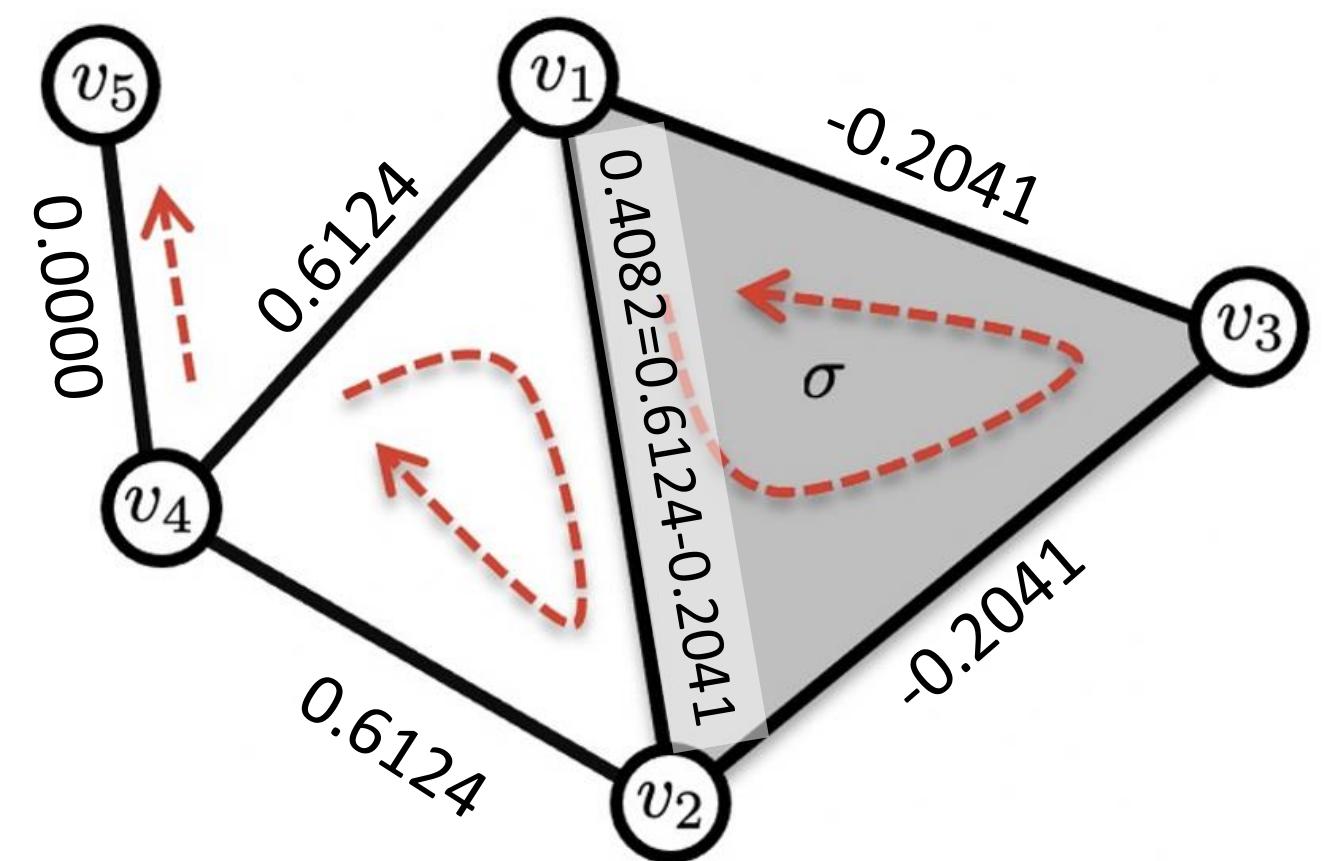
$$\Delta_1 = \left( \begin{array}{ccccccc} 3 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right)$$

# Eigenvectors of Hodge Laplacian

$$Diag(\lambda_0, \dots, \lambda_5) = \begin{pmatrix} 0.0000 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.8299 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2.6889 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3.0000 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4.0000 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4.4812 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(\mathbf{f}_0, \dots, \mathbf{f}_5) = \begin{pmatrix} 0.4082 & -0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.5774 & 0.7071 & -0.0000 \\ -0.2041 & 0.1993 & -0.5765 & 0.5774 & -0.3536 & 0.3578 \\ -0.2041 & -0.1993 & 0.5765 & 0.5774 & -0.3536 & -0.3578 \\ 0.6124 & -0.4325 & 0.1793 & -0.0000 & -0.3536 & 0.5299 \\ 0.6124 & 0.4325 & -0.1793 & -0.0000 & -0.3536 & -0.5299 \\ 0.0000 & -0.7392 & -0.5207 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.4271 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Eigenvectors of Hodge Laplacian at zero eigenvalue



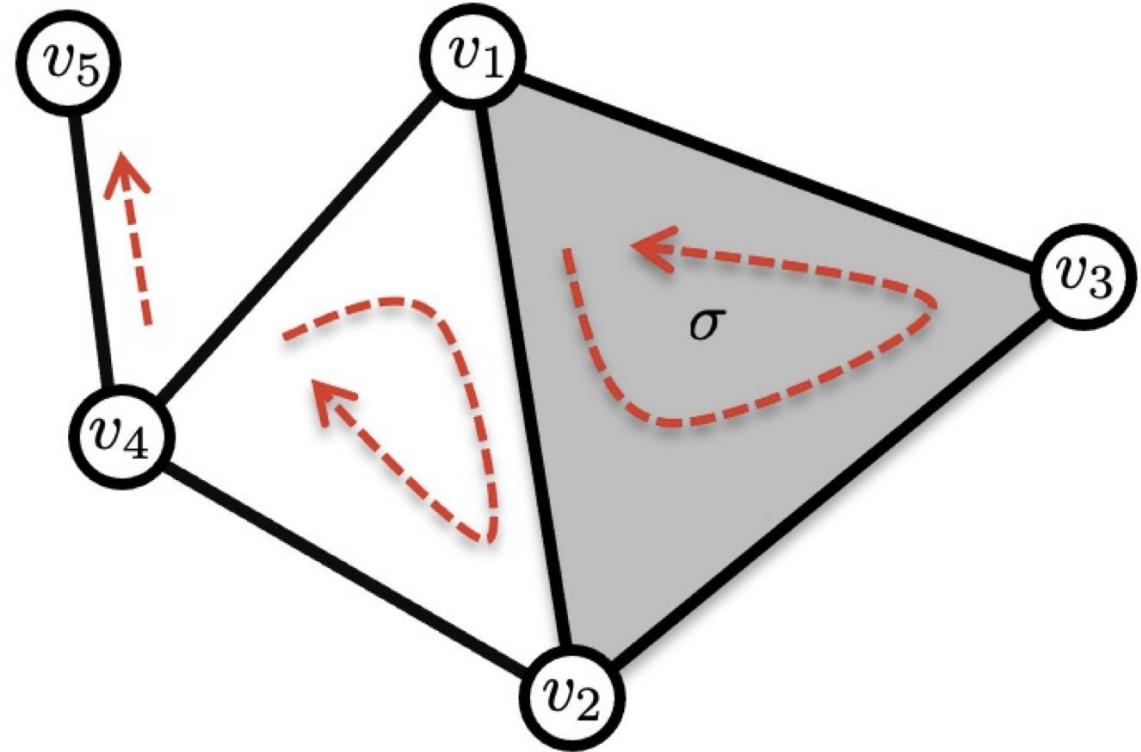
$$cycle = \sum_{i < j} a_{ij} e_{ij}$$

Method will likely only work in sparse networks without many cycles.

$a_{ij}$

$$(\mathbf{f}_0, \dots, \mathbf{f}_5) = \begin{pmatrix} 0.4082 & -0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.5774 & 0.7071 & -0.0000 \\ -0.2041 & 0.1993 & -0.5765 & 0.5774 & -0.3536 & 0.3578 \\ -0.2041 & -0.1993 & 0.5765 & 0.5774 & -0.3536 & -0.3578 \\ 0.6124 & -0.4325 & 0.1793 & -0.0000 & -0.3536 & 0.5299 \\ 0.6124 & 0.4325 & -0.1793 & -0.0000 & -0.3536 & -0.5299 \\ 0.0000 & -0.7392 & -0.5207 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.4271 \end{pmatrix}$$

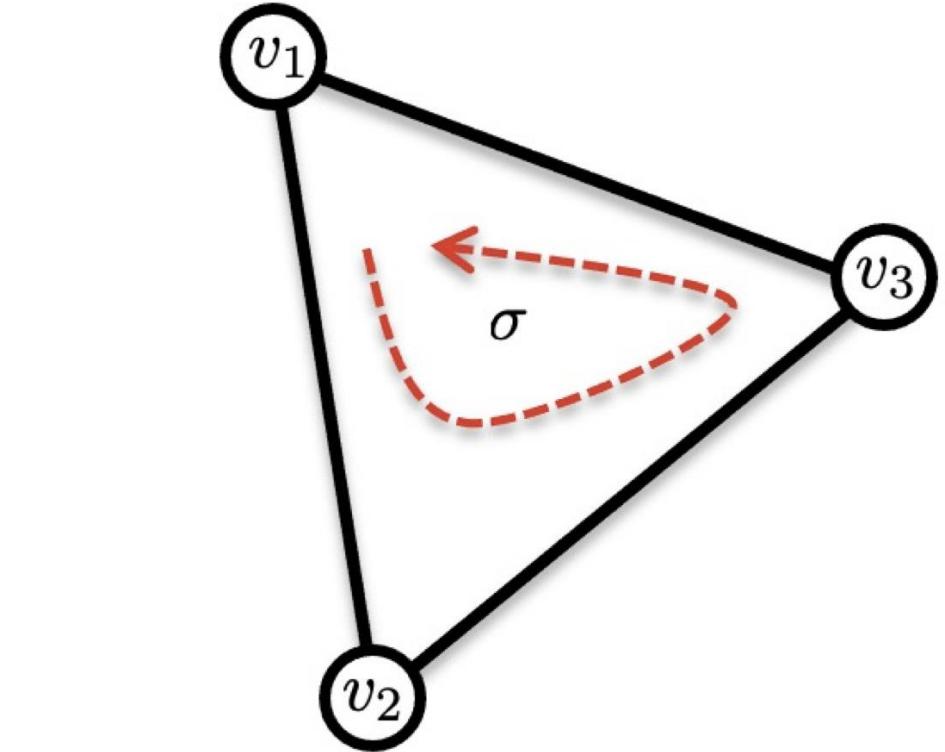
# Hodge Laplacian on Simplicial Complex vs. Graph



$\partial_2 \rightarrow$   
Boundary  
operation

$$\Delta_1 = \partial_2 \partial_2^\top + \partial_1^\top \partial_1$$

If we form 2-simplx for every 3 nodes, we cannot have a cycle with 3 nodes.



$$\Delta_1 = \partial_1^\top \partial_1$$

If we treat all three nodes to form a cycle, there will be too many cycles

# vector representation of 1-cycles

$$cycle = \sum_{i < j} a_{ij} e_{ij}$$

	$\beta_1$	
2.3	...	1.39
.	.	.
.	.	.
.	.	.
-1.4	...	0

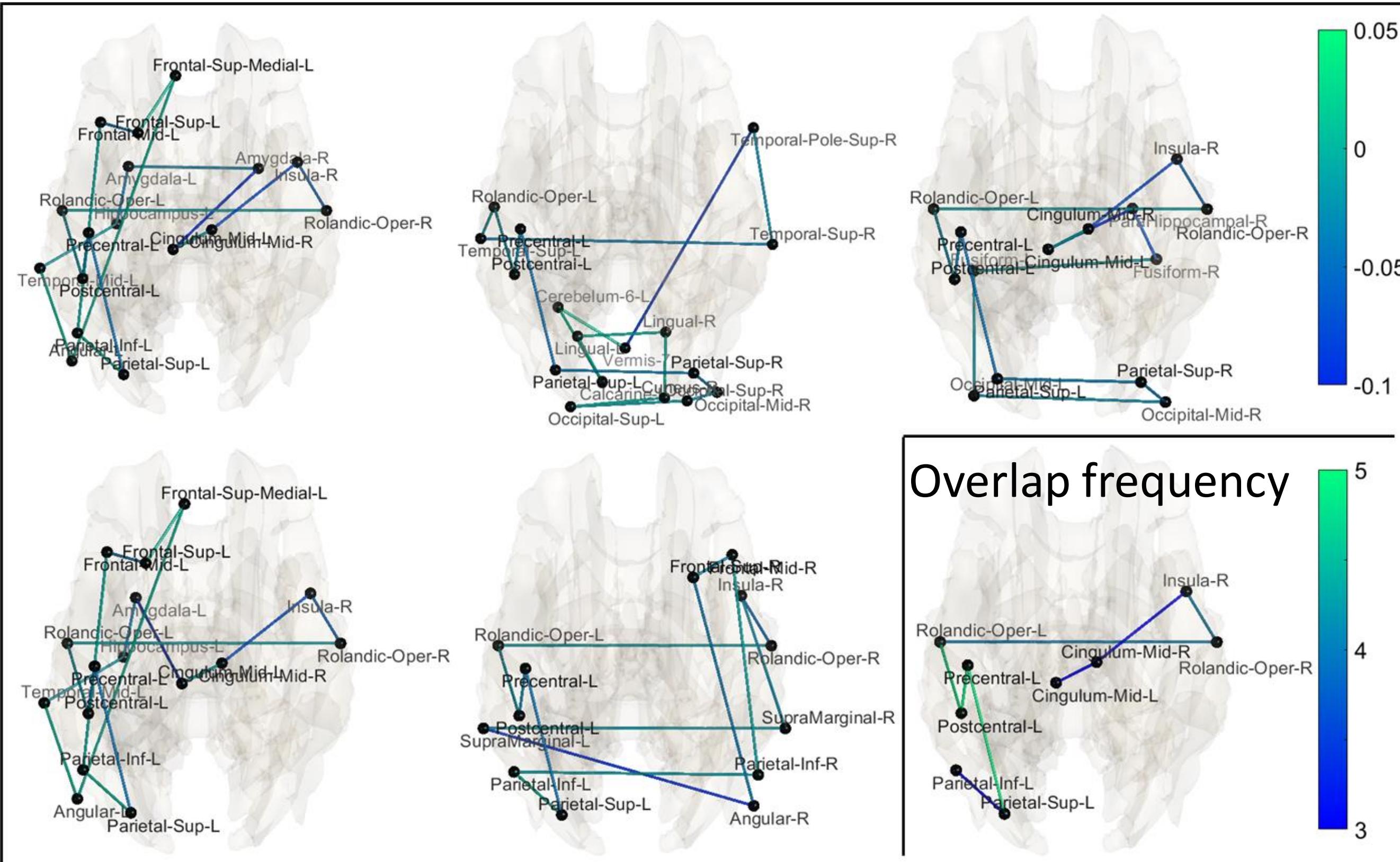
Gaussian elimination →

	$\beta_1$	
1	0...	0
1	0	.
0	1	.
0	1	.
1.	...	0
		1

Linearly independent columns

More meaningful representation

# Fourier analysis on cycles → Five dominating cyclic basis



Lee et al. 2014 MICCAI 8675:297-304

Anand and Chung 2023, IEEE TMI Hodge Laplacian of Brain

# cycles across brain networks?

Lee et al. 2019 MICCAI 11767:674-682

<http://pages.stat.wisc.edu/~mchung/papers/lee.2019.MICCAI.pdf>

## 2.3 Stiefel Optimization for Group-Level Harmonic Forms

Given a network  $K$ , the problem of estimating harmonic  $k$ -forms of  $\mathbf{L}_k$  can be written by an optimization problem on a Stiefel manifold

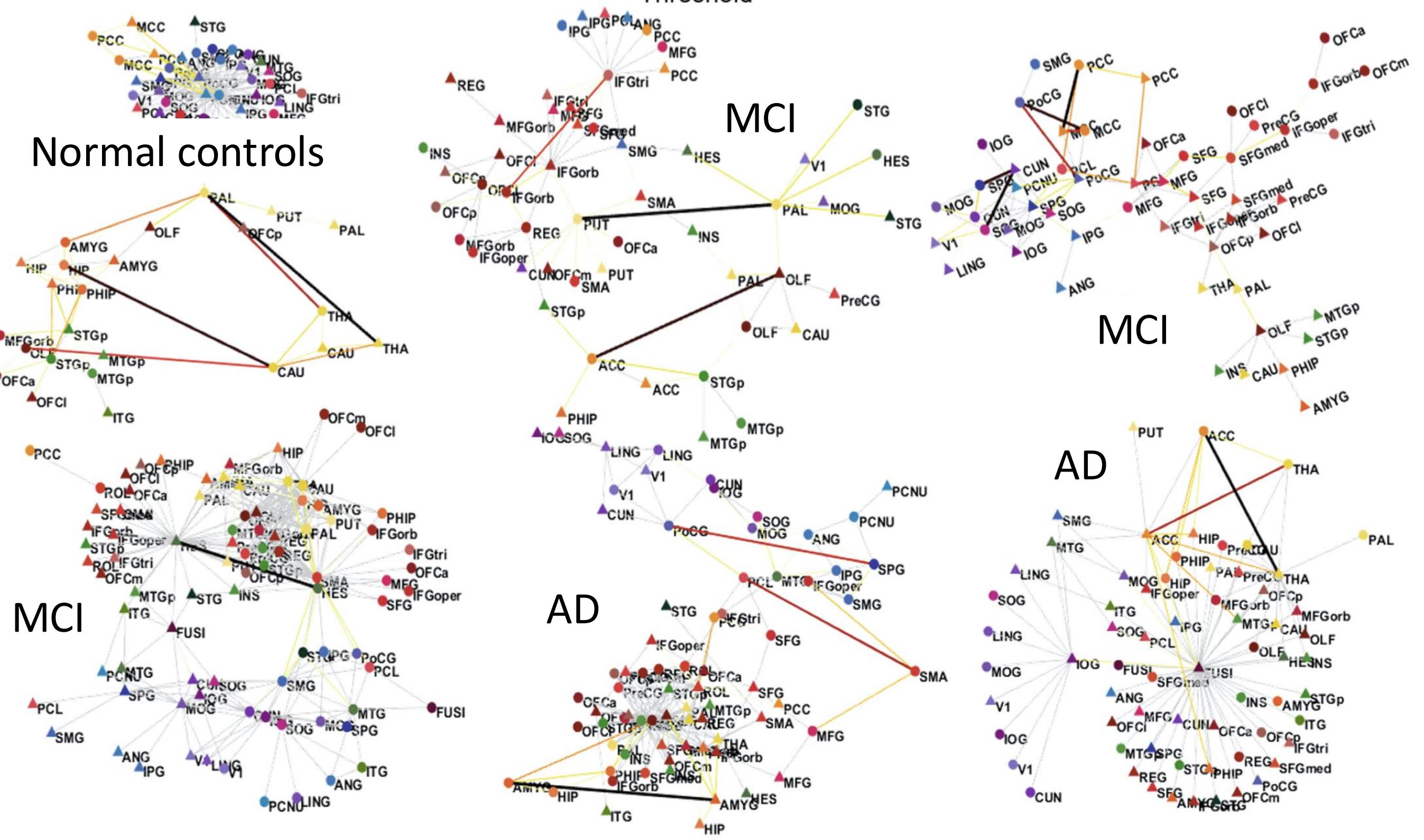
$$\min_{H_k \in \mathcal{S}(|K_k|, r)} \text{tr } \mathbf{H}_k^\top \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{H}_k + \beta \| \mathbf{H}_k \|_1, \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathcal{S}(|K_k|, r)$  is a Stiefel manifold which is the set of all  $r$ -tuples of orthonormal vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^{|K_k|}$ ,  $\| \cdot \|_1$  is the  $l_1$ -norm of  $\cdot$ , and  $\beta$  is the control parameter for sparseness [8].

**Pairwise Similarity Constraint for Group Analysis.** Suppose that there are  $N$  simplicial networks in a group. Their  $k$ th Hodge Laplacians and harmonic forms are denoted by  $\mathbf{L}_k^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{L}_k^{(N)}$  and  $\mathbf{H}_k^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{H}_k^{(N)}$ , respectively. To estimate group-level harmonic forms, we extend (3) to

$$\min_{H_n \in \mathcal{S}(|K_k|, r)} \sum_{n=1}^N \left( (\mathbf{H}_k^{(n)})^\top \mathbf{L}_k^{(n)} \mathbf{H}_k^{(n)} + \beta \| \mathbf{H}_k^{(n)} \|_1 \right)$$

The probability of having identical joint cycles is very low



Difficult biological interpretation

# Hodge Decomposition

## HODGE-DECOMPOSITION OF BRAIN NETWORKS

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# Hodge decomposition (orthogonal)

Edge  
flow

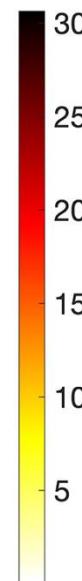
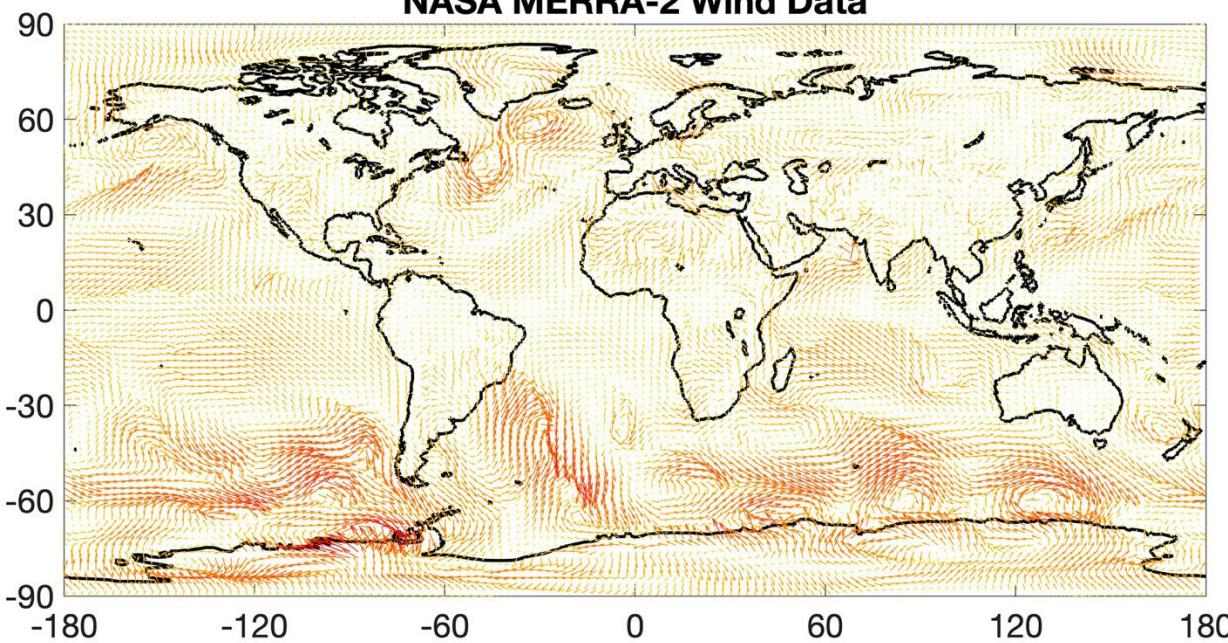
Gradient

Curl

Harmonic

$$X = X_G + X_C + X_H = \partial_1^\top s + \partial_2 \phi + X_H$$

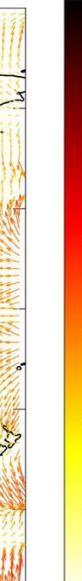
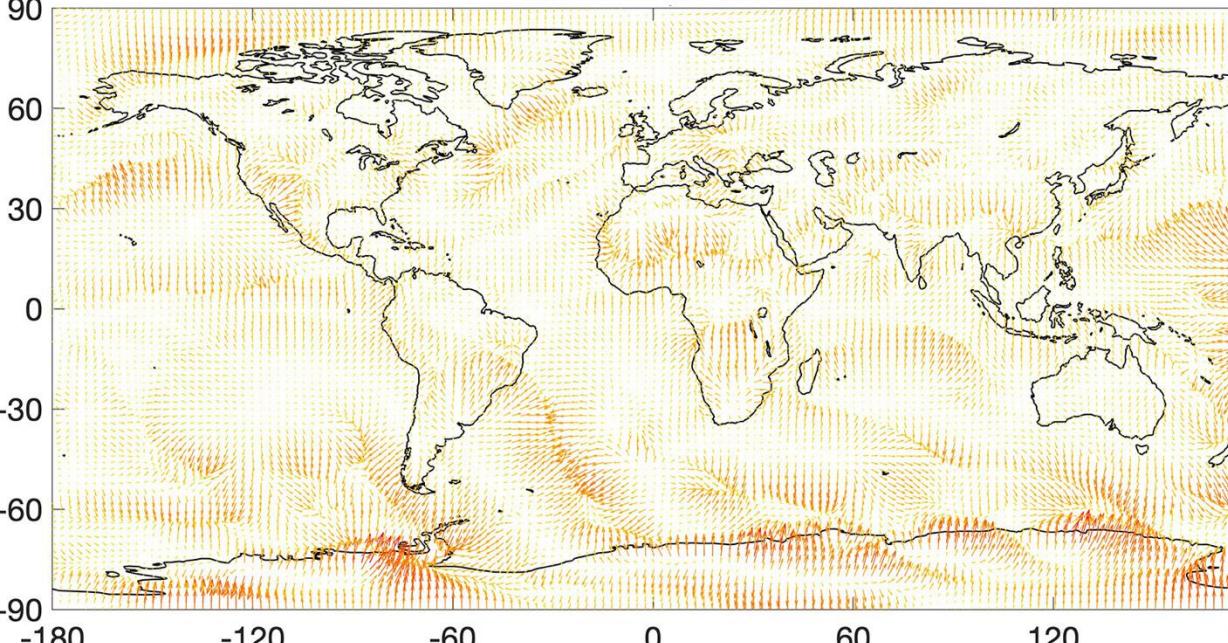
NASA MERRA-2 Wind Data



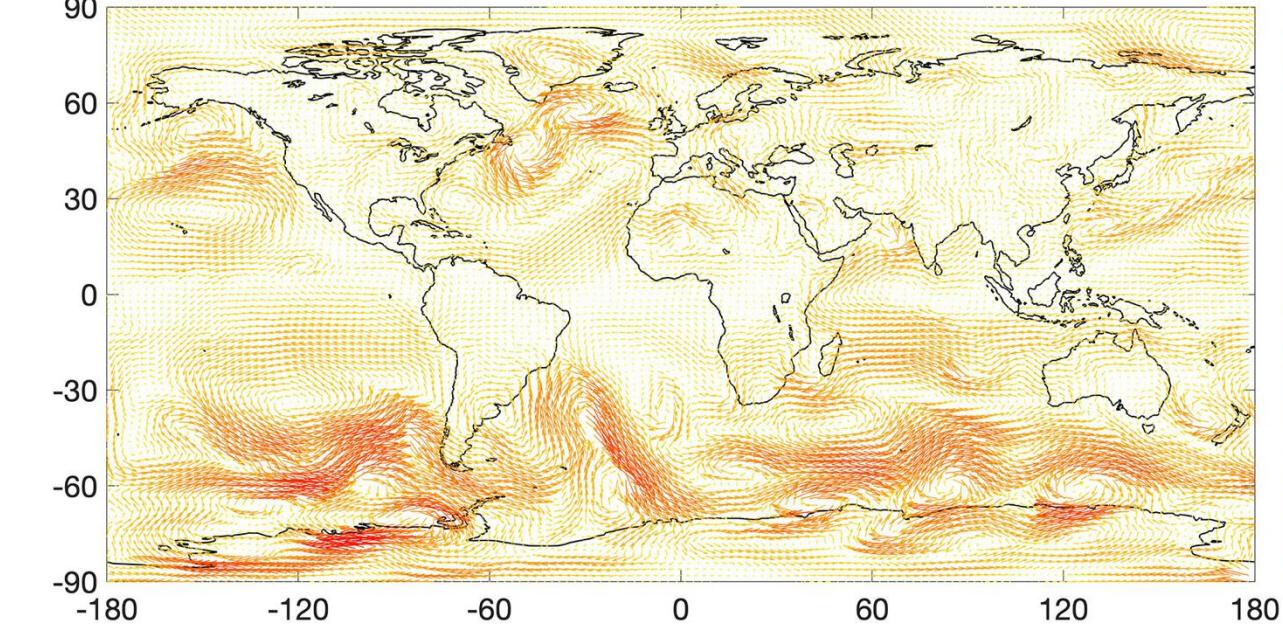
Function  
over edge

Function  
over  
triangle

Gradient flow



Curl flow



# Hodge decomposition

Edge  
flow

Gradient

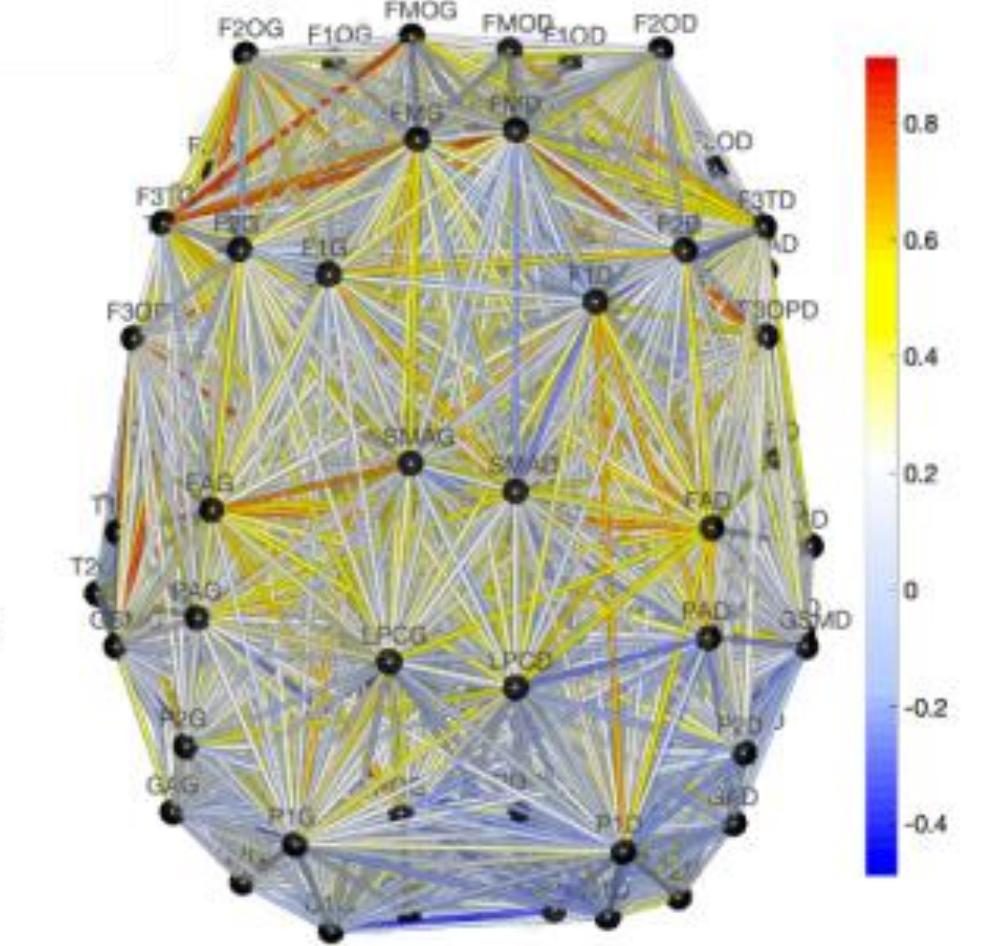
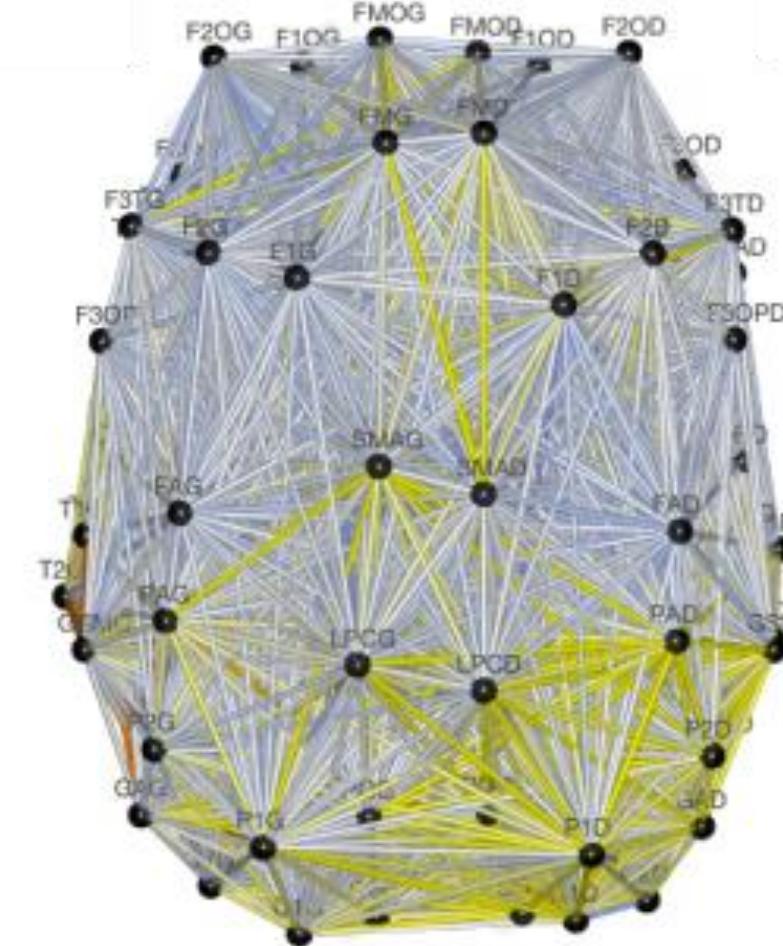
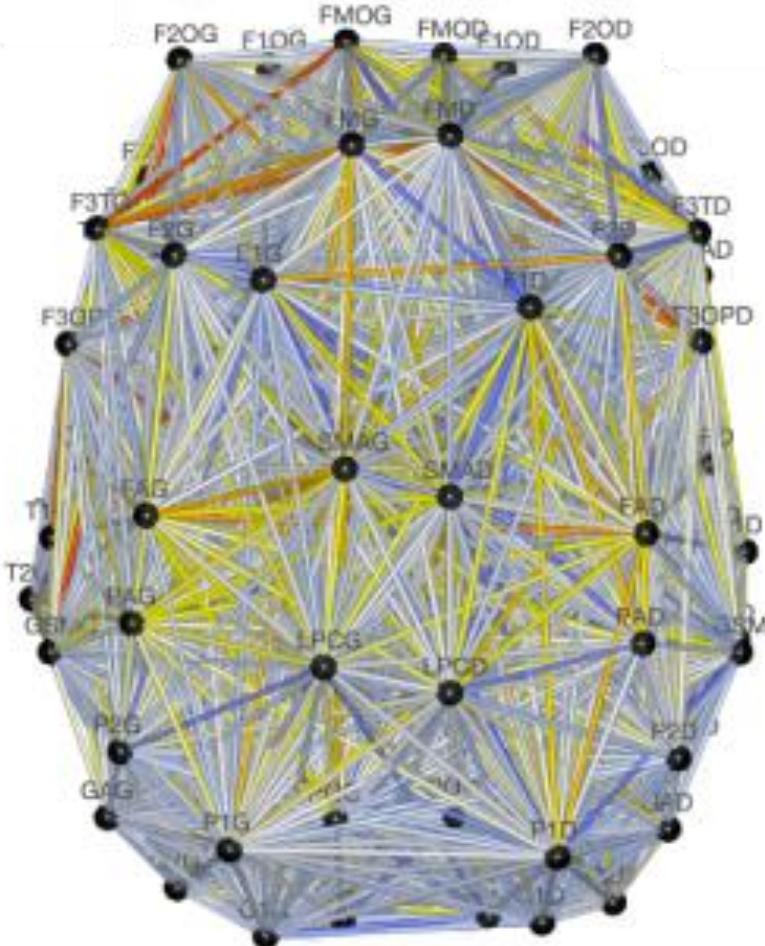
Curl

Harmonic

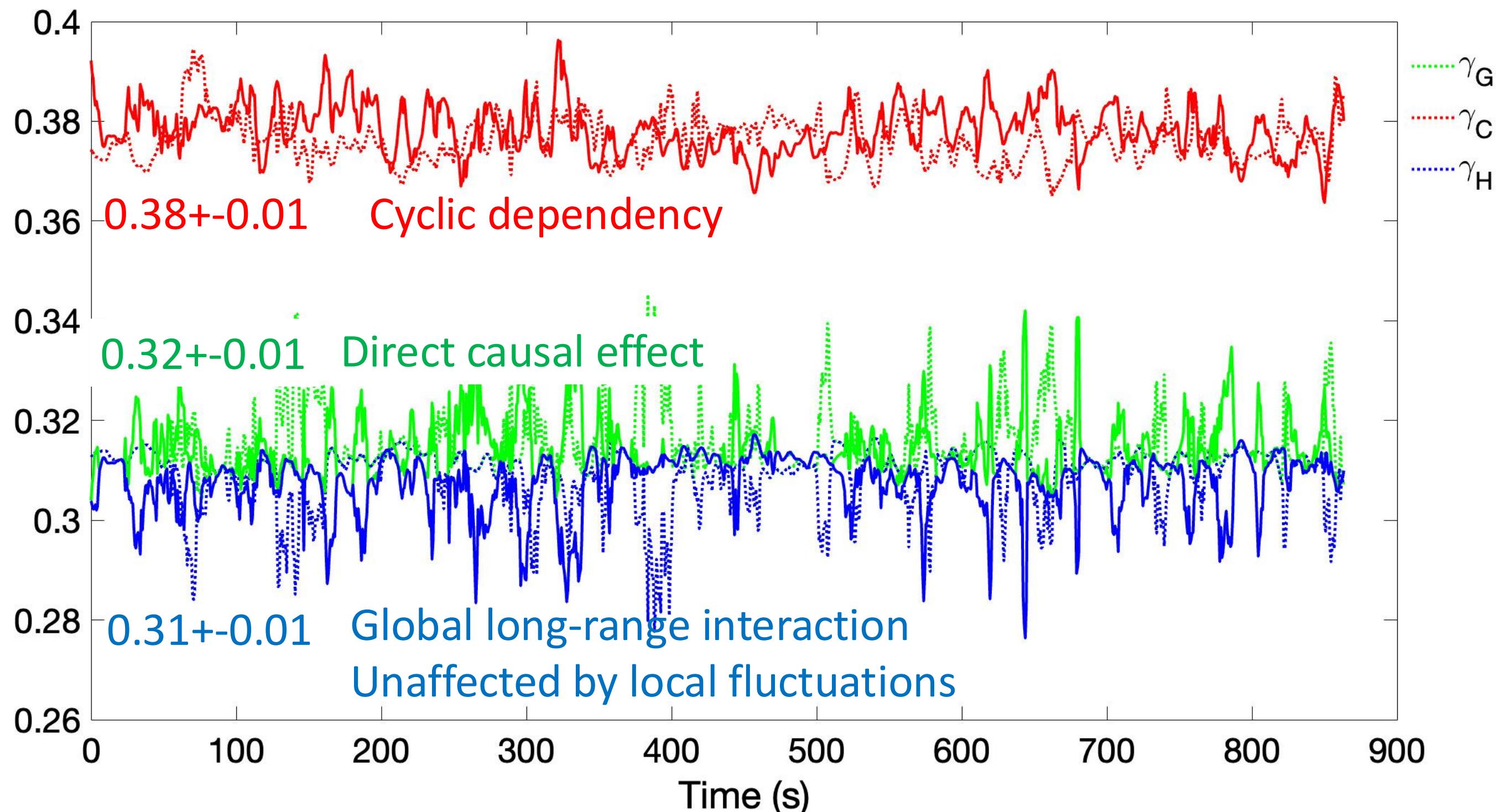
$$X = X_G + X_C + X_H = \partial_1^\top s + \partial_2 \phi + X_H$$

Function  
over edge

Function  
over face



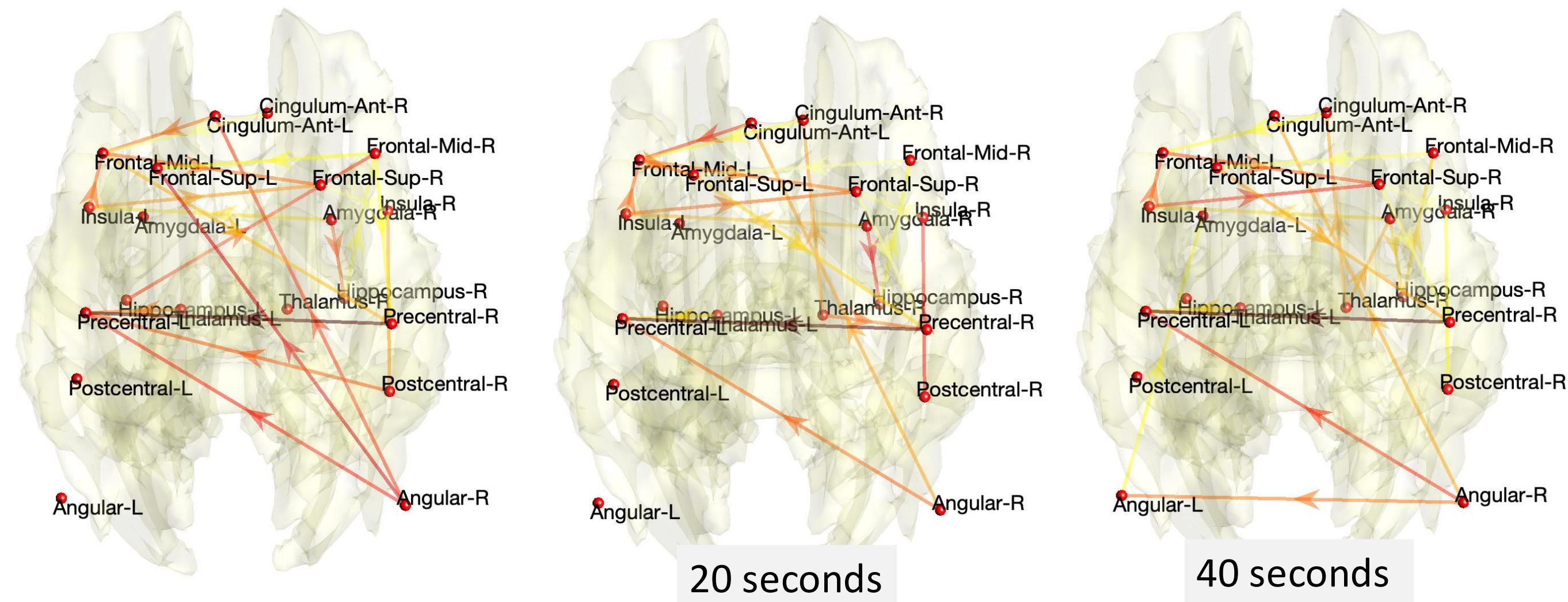
# Dynamics of Hodge decomposition of brain network



$$\gamma_G = \frac{\|\boldsymbol{\partial}_1^\top s\|_2}{\|vec X\|_2}, \gamma_C = \frac{\|\boldsymbol{\partial}_2 \phi\|_2}{\|vec X\|_2}, \gamma_H = 1 - \gamma_G - \gamma_C$$

# Topological Causal Model of dynamic brain network

Stability of direct causal paths over 40 seconds  
20 largest gradients components



Right precentral gyrus to the left precentral gyrus has the highest causal ranking (largest magnitude of gradient)