

# Topological Data Analysis

## Lecture 8

### Hodge decomposition

Oleg Kachan

# Motivation

## Higher-order Laplacian operator

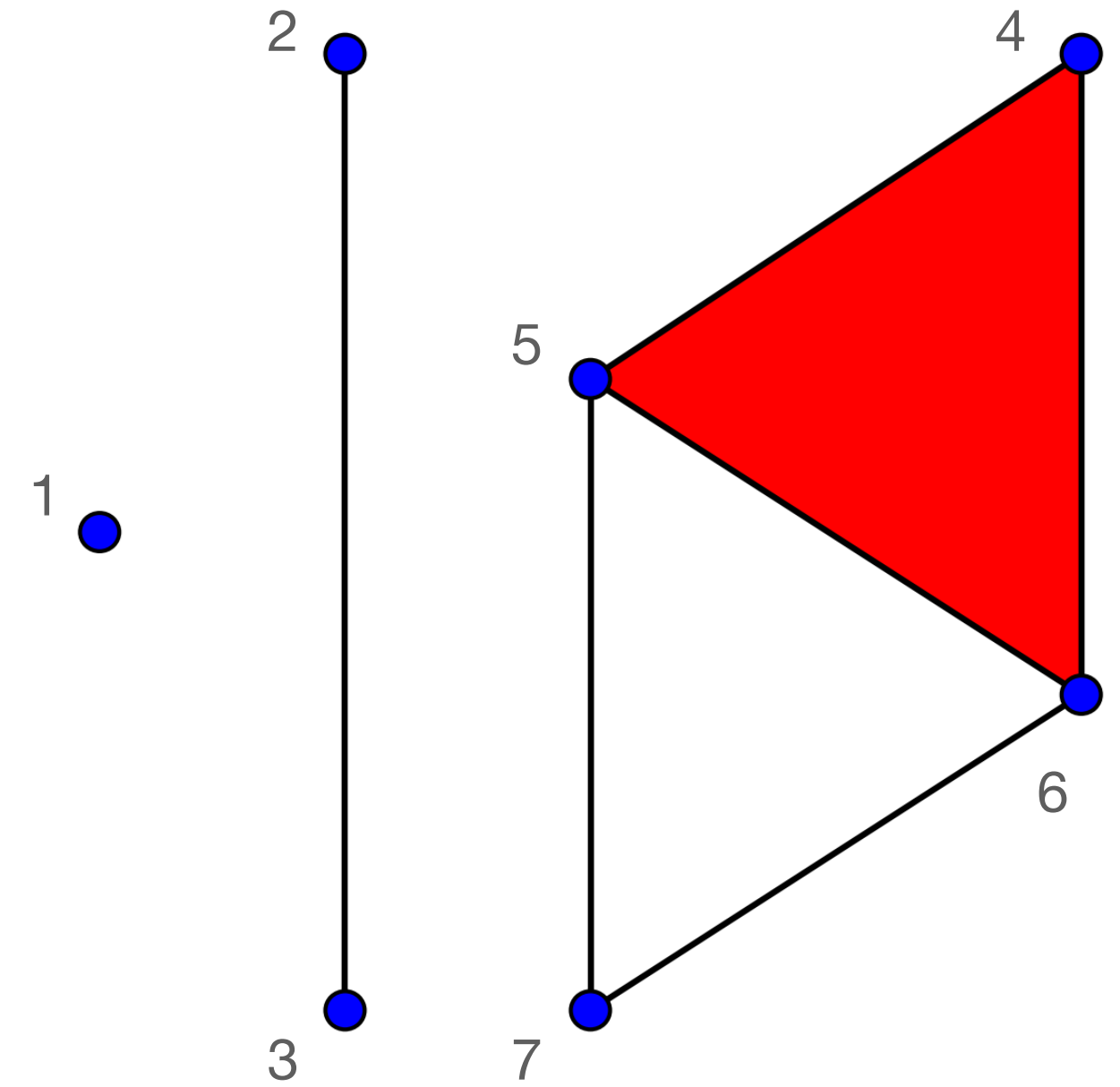
$$C_2 \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\partial_2} \\ \xleftarrow{\partial_2^*} \end{array} C_1 \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\partial_1} \\ \xleftarrow{\partial_1^*} \end{array} C_0$$

$$\mathbf{L}_k = \mathbf{B}_k^T \mathbf{B}_k + \mathbf{B}_{k+1} \mathbf{B}_{k+1}^T$$

## Betti numbers via higher-order Laplacian

$$\beta_k = \dim \ker(\mathbf{L}_k)$$

$\ker(\mathbf{L}_k)$  recovers topological properties of a simplicial complex,  
but there is more!



**Simplicial complex  $K$**

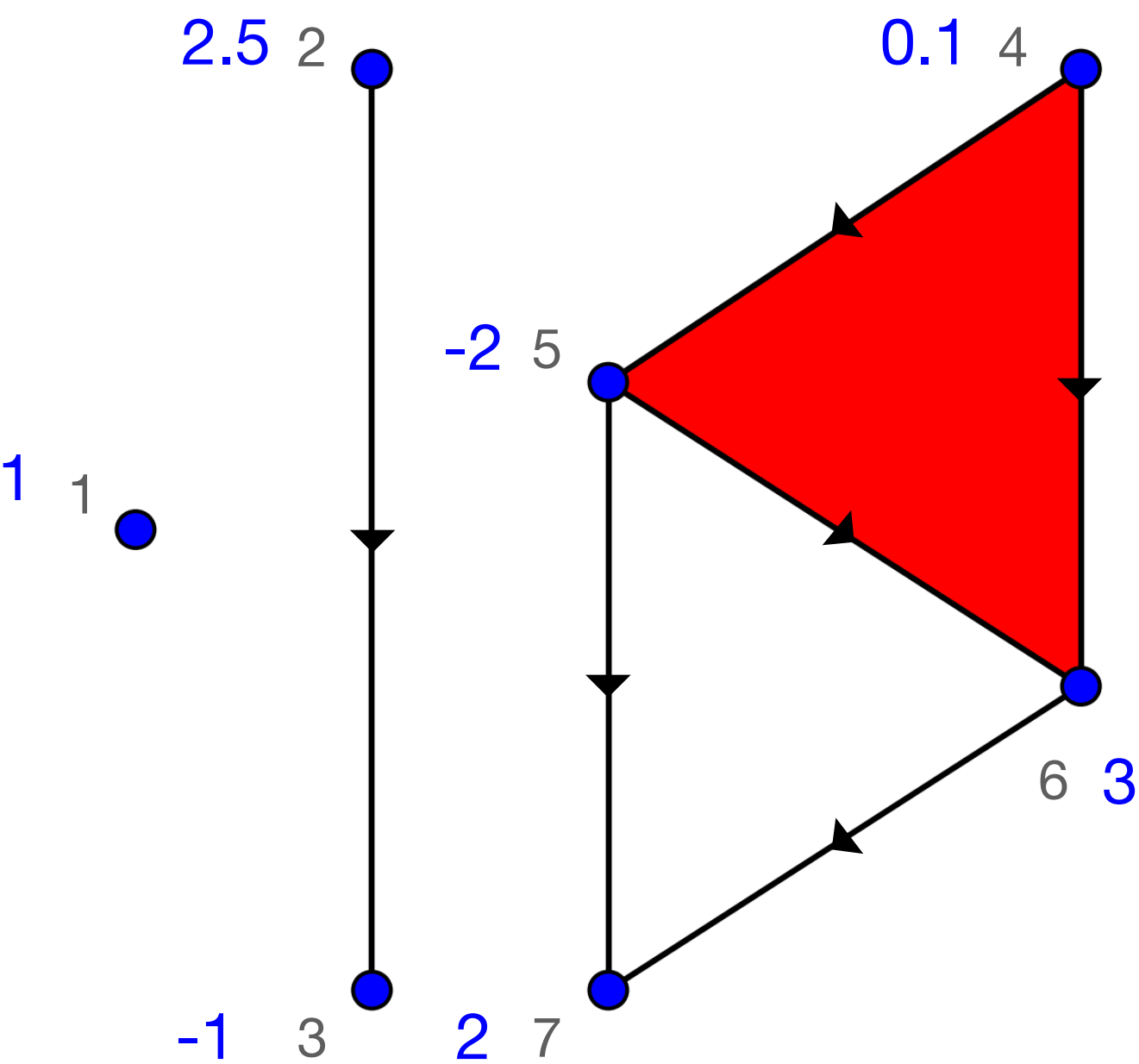
# Functions on simplicial complex

**Simplicial complex**

$$K = \left( \Sigma_0, \Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_{\dim(K)} \right)$$

**Functions on a simplicial complex**

$$c_k : \Sigma_k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



**Simplicial complex  $K$**

$$c_0 : \Sigma_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

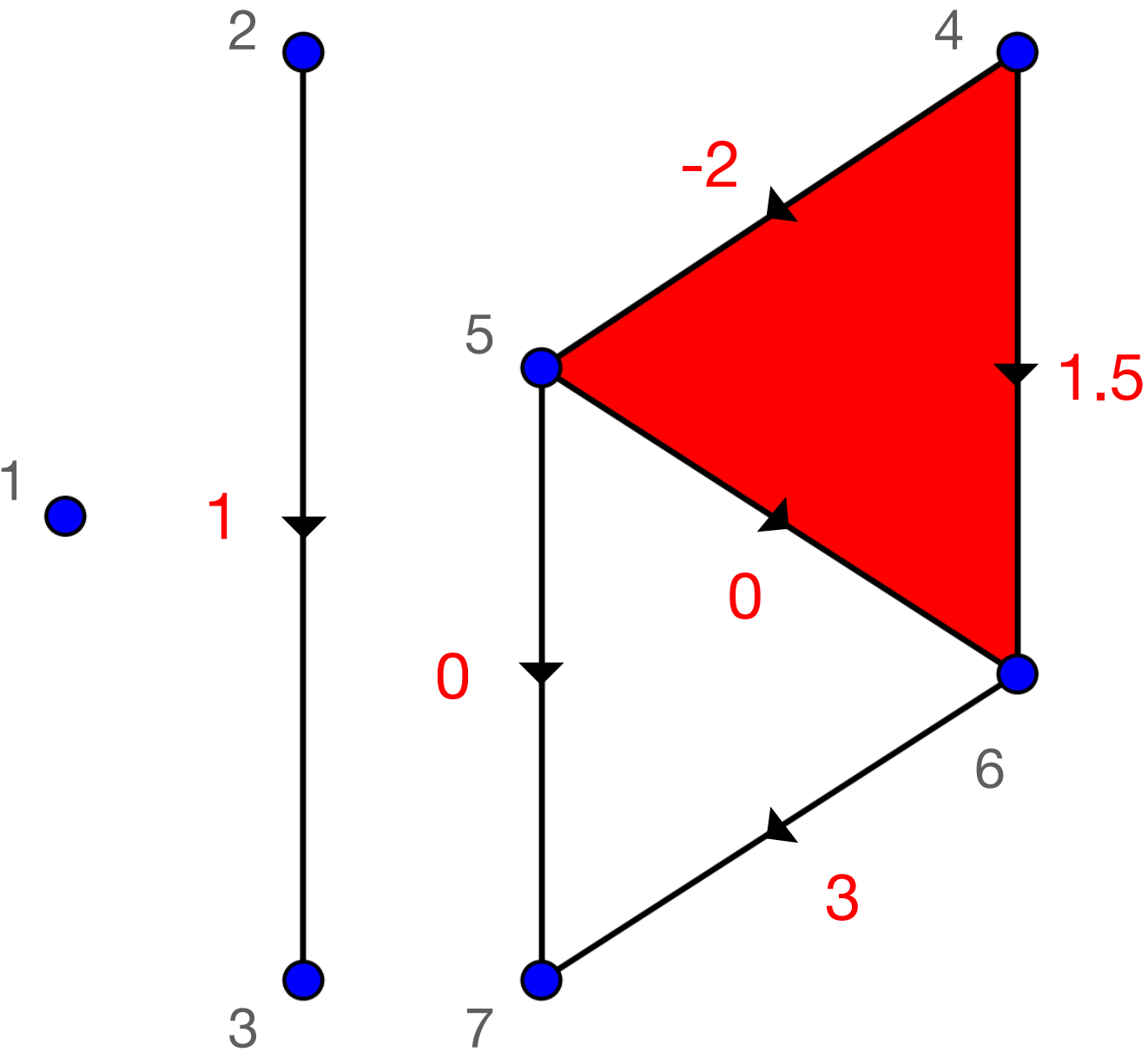
# Functions on simplicial complex

**Simplicial complex**

$$K = \left( \Sigma_0, \Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_{\dim(K)} \right)$$

**Functions on a simplicial complex**

$$c_k : \Sigma_k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



**Simplicial complex  $K$**

$$c_1 : \Sigma_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

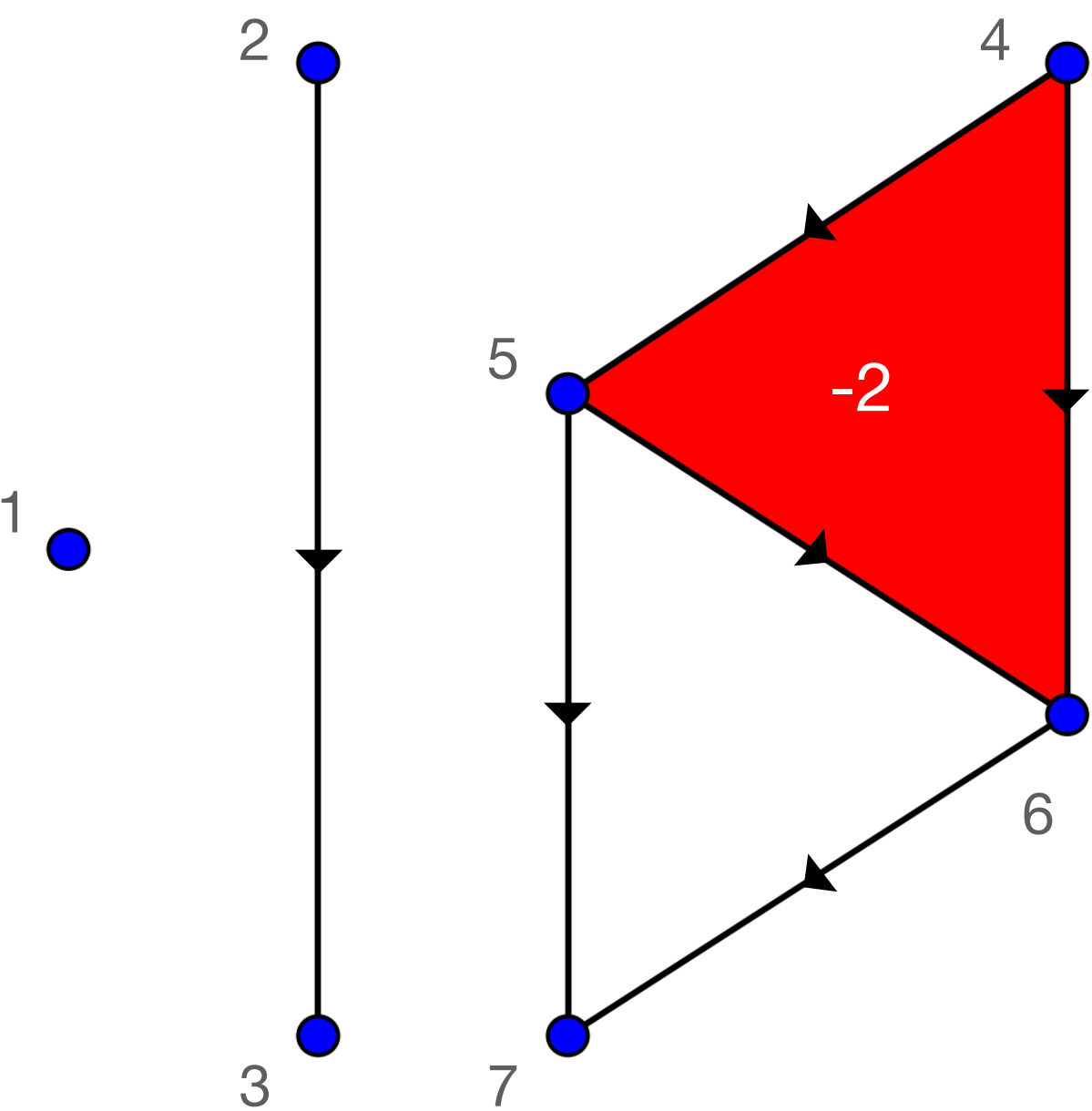
# Functions on simplicial complex

**Simplicial complex**

$$K = \left( \Sigma_0, \Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_{\dim(K)} \right)$$

**Functions on a simplicial complex**

$$c_k : \Sigma_k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



**Simplicial complex  $K$**

$$c_2 : \Sigma_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

# Functions on simplicial complex

## Simplicial complex

$$K = \left( \Sigma_0, \Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_{\dim(K)} \right)$$

## Functions on a simplicial complex

$$c_k : \Sigma_k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

## Cochain complex

$$C^{k+1} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\delta_k^*} \\ \xleftarrow{\delta_k} \end{array} C^k \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\delta_{k-1}^*} \\ \xleftarrow{\delta_{k-1}} \end{array} C^{k-1} \quad \delta_k \delta_{k-1} = 0$$

## Coboundary operator

$$\delta_k : C^{k+1} \rightarrow C^k$$

$$(\delta_k c)([v_0, \dots, v_{k+1}]) = \sum_{i=0}^{k+1} (-1)^i c([v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_{k+1}])$$

## Higher-order Laplacian operator

$$L_k = \delta_{k-1} \delta_{k-1}^* + \delta_k^* \delta_k$$

# Functions on simplicial complex

## Cochain complex

$$C^{k+1} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\delta_k^*} \\ \xleftarrow{\delta_k} \end{array} C^k \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\delta_{k-1}^*} \\ \xleftarrow{\delta_{k-1}} \end{array} C^{k-1} \quad \delta_k \delta_{k-1} = 0$$

$$H^k = \ker \delta_k / \ker \delta_{k-1}$$

## Chain complex

$$C_{k+1} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\partial_{k+1}} \\ \xleftarrow{\partial_{k+1}^*} \end{array} C_k \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\partial_k} \\ \xleftarrow{\partial_k^*} \end{array} C_{k-1} \quad \partial_k \partial_{k+1} = 0$$

$$H_k = \ker \partial_k / \operatorname{im} \partial_{k+1}$$

## Higher-order Laplacian operator

$$L_k = \delta_{k-1} \delta_{k-1}^* + \delta_k^* \delta_k$$

$$L_k = \partial_k^* \partial_k + \partial_{k+1} \partial_{k+1}^*$$

## Higher-order Laplacian operator

Matrix notation

$$\mathbf{L}_k = \mathbf{B}_k^T \mathbf{B}_k + \mathbf{B}_{k+1} \mathbf{B}_{k+1}^T$$

# Hodge decomposition

## Chain complex

$$C_{k+1} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\partial_{k+1}} \\ \xleftarrow{\partial_{k+1}^*} \end{array} C_k \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\partial_k} \\ \xleftarrow{\partial_k^*} \end{array} C_{k-1}$$

$$\partial_k \partial_{k+1} = 0 \iff \ker \partial_k \subseteq \text{im} \partial_{k+1}$$

## Higher-order Laplacian operator

$$\mathbf{L}_k = \mathbf{B}_k^T \mathbf{B}_k + \mathbf{B}_{k+1} \mathbf{B}_{k+1}^T$$

$$\mathbf{L}_k^{LOW} = \mathbf{B}_k^T \mathbf{B}_k$$

$$\mathbf{L}_k^{UP} = \mathbf{B}_{k+1} \mathbf{B}_{k+1}^T$$

## Hodge decomposition

Every function on a simplicial complex (weighted oriented simplicial complex) can be decomposed into three orthogonal components

$$C_k = \text{im } \partial_k^* \oplus \overbrace{\ker \mathbf{L}_k^{LOW}} \oplus \text{im } \partial_{k+1}$$

$$C_k = \text{im } \mathbf{B}_k^T \oplus \underbrace{\ker \mathbf{L}_k}_{\ker \mathbf{L}_k^{UP}} \oplus \text{im } \mathbf{B}_{k+1}$$

$$\mathbf{c}_k = \mathbf{B}_k^T \mathbf{c}_{k-1} + \mathbf{c}_k^H + \mathbf{B}_{k+1} \mathbf{c}_{k+1}$$

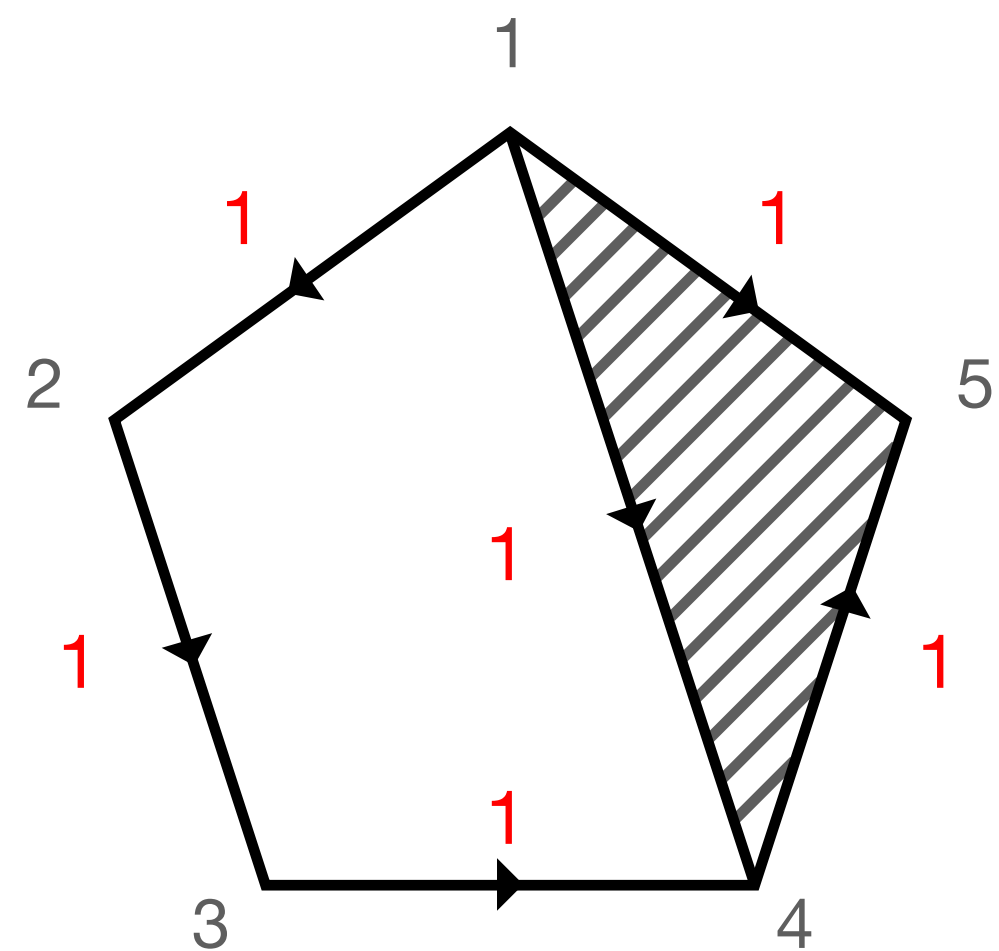
## Harmonic component

Solution of the discrete Laplace equation

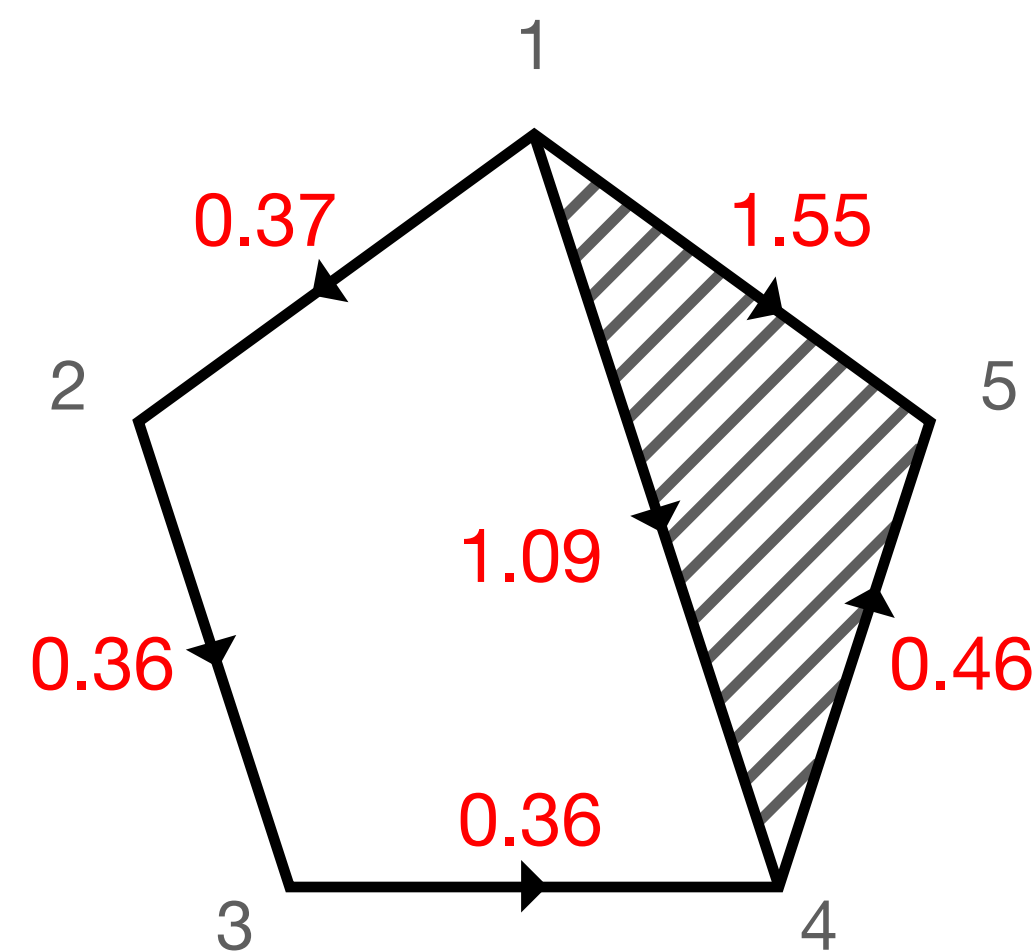
$$\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}_k^H = 0 \qquad \mathbf{c}_k^H \in \ker \mathbf{L}_k$$



# Hodge decomposition

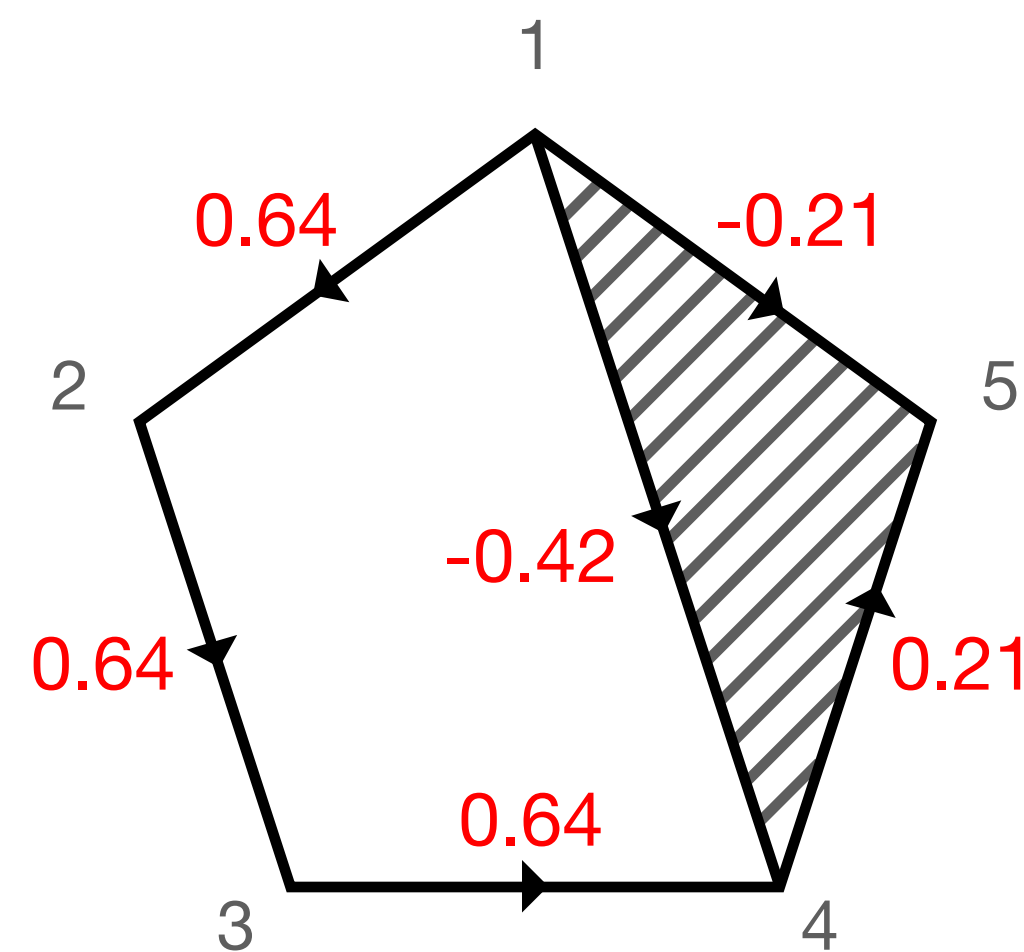


Edge signal  $c_1$

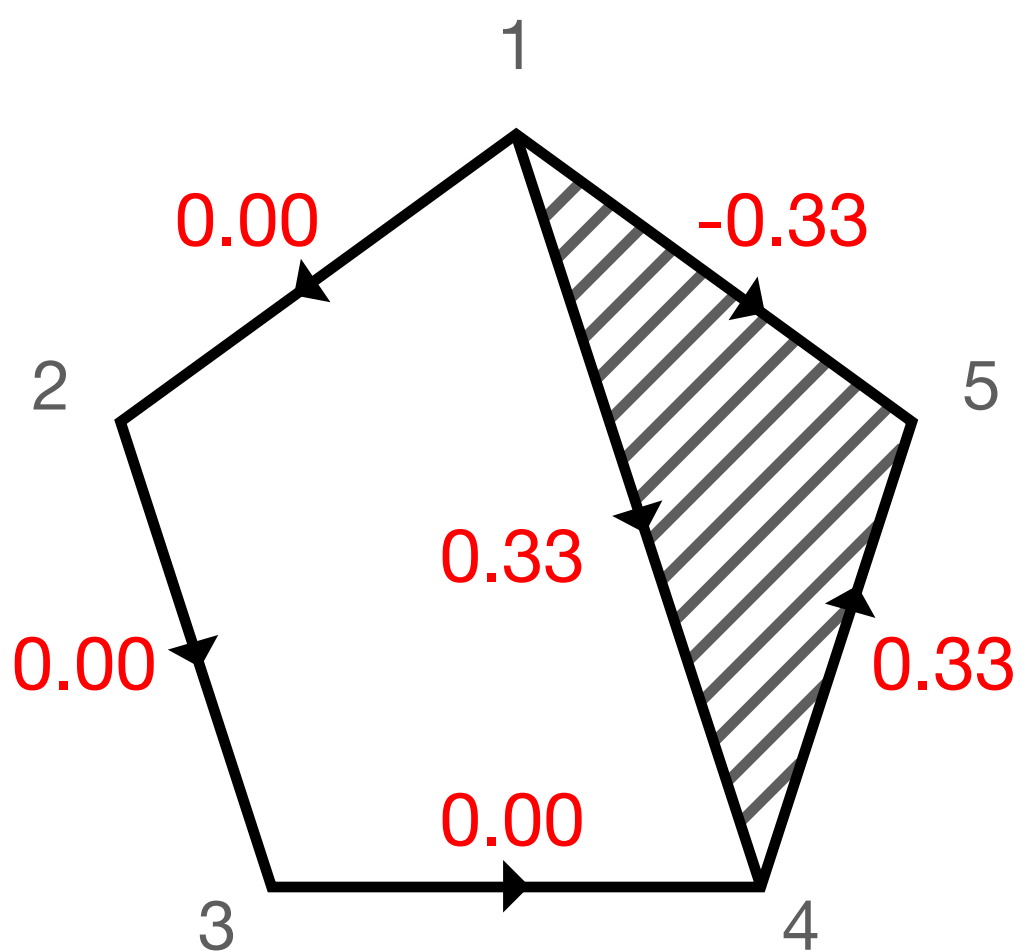


Gradient component  $c_1^G$

Zero curl



Harmonic component  $c_1^H$



Solenoidal component  $c_1^S$

Zero div

# Hodge decomposition

Edge signals

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \text{Div} & & \\
 C_2 & \xrightleftharpoons[\partial_2^*]{\partial_2} & C_1 & \xrightleftharpoons[\partial_1^*]{\partial_1} & C_0 \\
 & \text{Curl} & & \text{Grad} & 
 \end{array}$$

**Div**

Netflow passing through a vertex

$$\text{div}(\mathbf{c}_1) = \mathbf{B}_1\mathbf{c}_1$$

**Curl**

Flow around triangles edges

$$\text{curl}(\mathbf{c}_1) = \mathbf{B}_2^T\mathbf{c}_1$$

**Grad**

$$\text{grad}(\mathbf{c}_0) = \mathbf{B}_1^T\mathbf{c}_0$$

**Zero curl**      $\text{curl}(\mathbf{c}_1) = \mathbf{B}_2^T\mathbf{c}_1$

$$\mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{B}_2^T\mathbf{c}_1 = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & \text{ker } \mathbf{L}_1^{LOW} & \text{Zero curl} & & \\
 \hline
 C_1 = \text{im } \mathbf{B}_1^T & \oplus & \text{ker } \mathbf{L}_1 & \oplus & \text{im } \mathbf{B}_2 \\
 \text{Gradient} & & \text{Harmonic} & & \text{Solenoidal} \\
 & & \text{ker } \mathbf{L}_1^{UP} & & \text{Zero div} \\
 & & \hline
 \end{array}$$

$$\mathbf{c}_1 = \mathbf{B}_1^T\mathbf{c}_0 + \mathbf{c}_k^H + \mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{c}_2$$

$$\mathbf{c}_1 = \mathbf{c}_1^G + \mathbf{c}_1^H + \mathbf{c}_1^S$$

**Zero div**      $\text{div}(\mathbf{c}_1) = \mathbf{B}_1\mathbf{c}_1$

$$\mathbf{B}_1\mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{c}_2 = 0$$

# Hodge decomposition

Given edge function  $\mathbf{c}_1$

$$C_2 \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{\partial_2} \\ \xleftarrow{\partial_2^*} \end{matrix} C_1 \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{\partial_1} \\ \xleftarrow{\partial_1^*} \end{matrix} C_0$$

$$\mathbf{c}_1 = \mathbf{B}_1^T \mathbf{c}_0 + \mathbf{c}_k^H + \mathbf{B}_2 \mathbf{c}_2$$

$$\mathbf{c}_1 = \mathbf{c}_1^G + \mathbf{c}_1^H + \mathbf{c}_1^S$$

$\mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{B}_1^T \mathbf{c}_0 = \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{c}_1$

Div

 $\text{div}(\mathbf{c}_1) = \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{c}_1$

Solve for  $\mathbf{c}_0$

$$\mathbf{c}_0 = (\mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{B}_1^T)^+ \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{c}_1$$

Gradient component

 $\mathbf{c}_1^G = \mathbf{B}_1^T \mathbf{c}_0$

$$\mathbf{c}_1^G = \mathbf{B}_1^T (\mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{B}_1^T)^+ \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{c}_1$$

Curl

 $\text{curl}(\mathbf{c}_1) = \mathbf{B}_2^T \mathbf{c}_1$

Solve for  $\mathbf{c}_2$

$$\mathbf{c}_2 = (\mathbf{B}_2^T \mathbf{B}_2)^+ \mathbf{B}_2^T \mathbf{c}_1$$

Solenoidal component

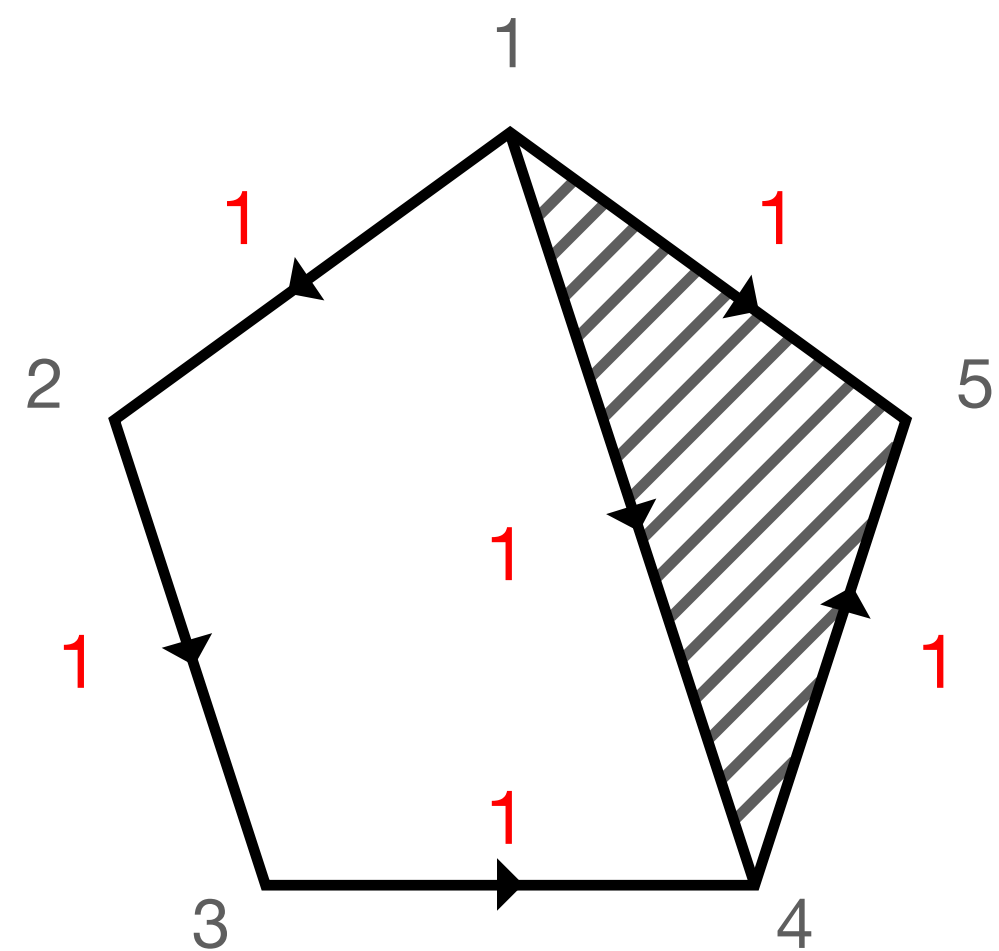
 $\mathbf{c}_1^S = \mathbf{B}_2 \mathbf{c}_2$

$$\mathbf{c}_1^S = \mathbf{B}_2 (\mathbf{B}_2^T \mathbf{B}_2)^+ \mathbf{B}_2^T \mathbf{c}_1$$

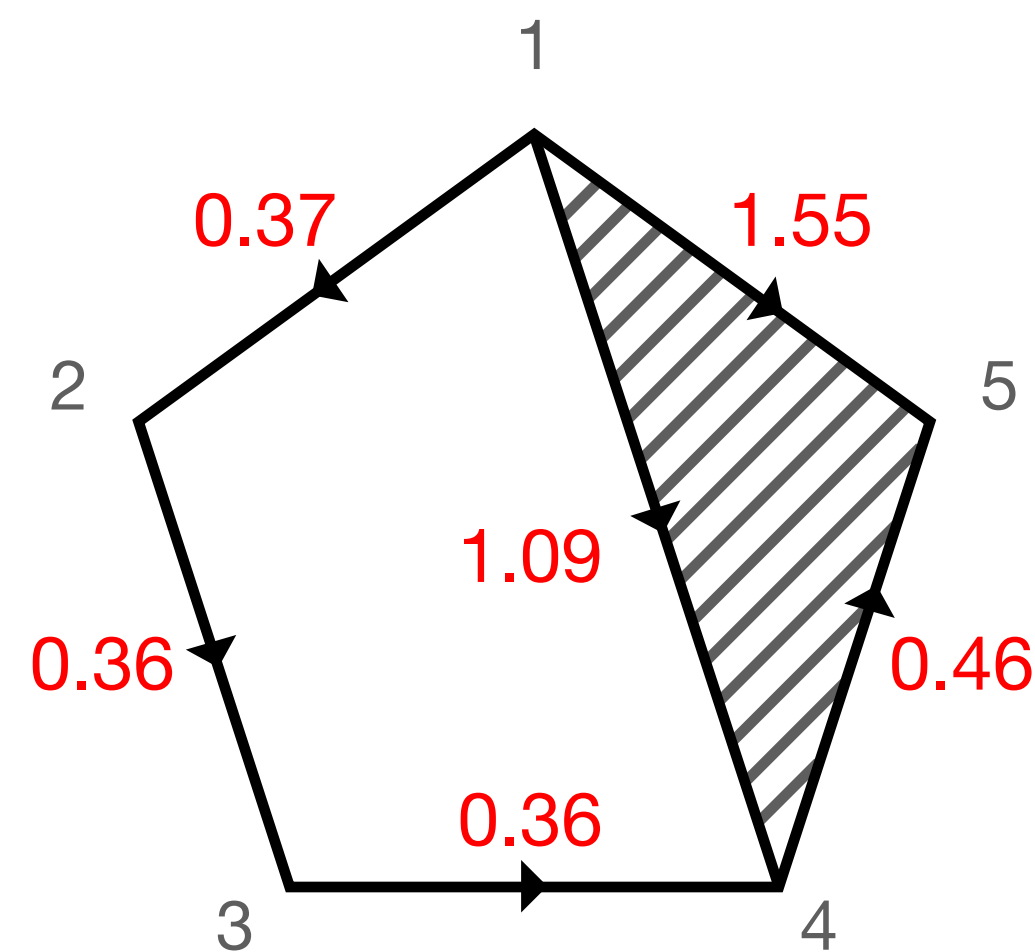
Harmonic component

$$\mathbf{c}_1^H = \mathbf{c}_1 - \mathbf{c}_1^G - \mathbf{c}_1^S$$

# Hodge decomposition

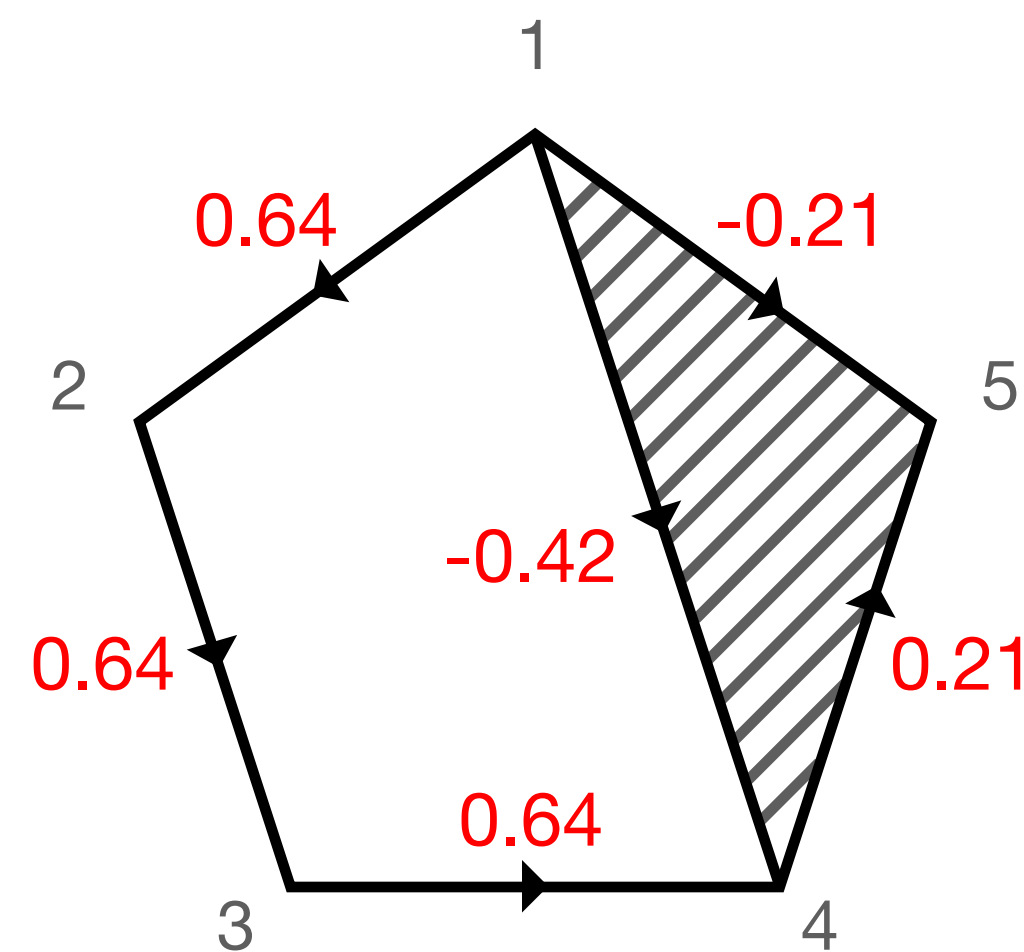


Edge signal  $c_1$

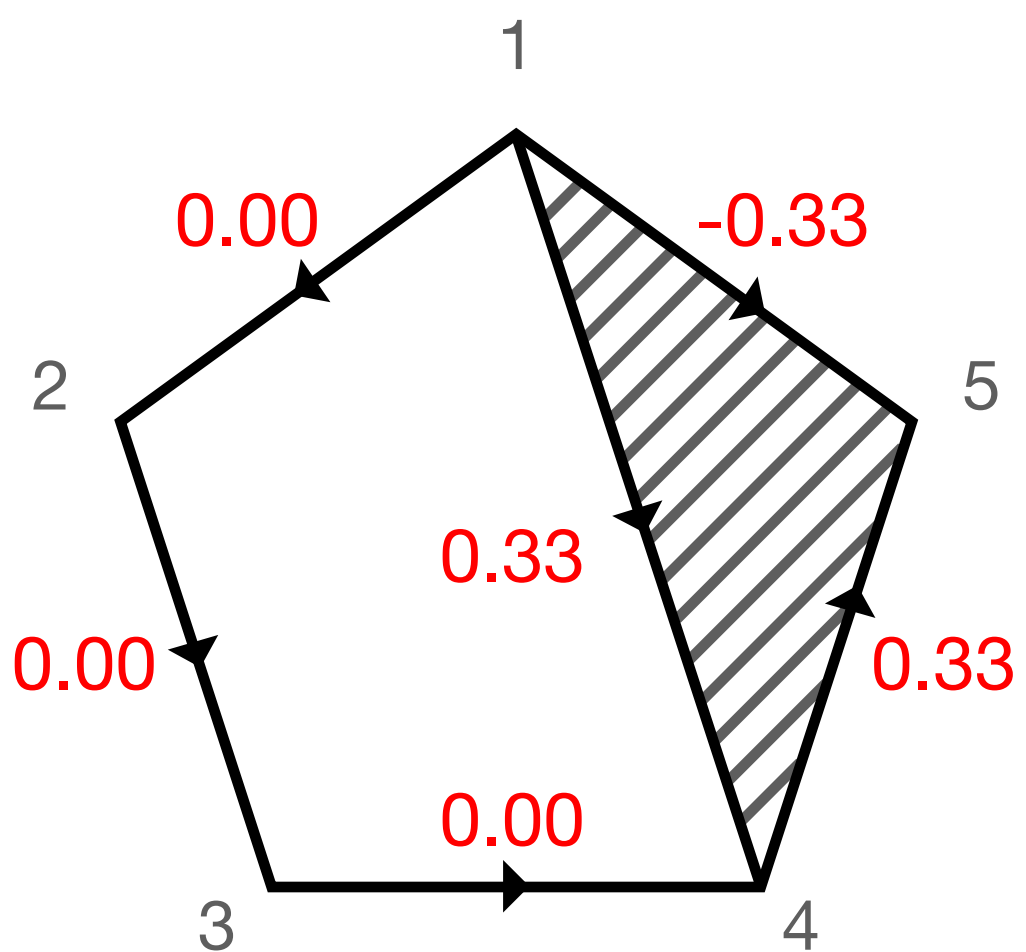


Gradient component  $c_1^G$

Zero curl



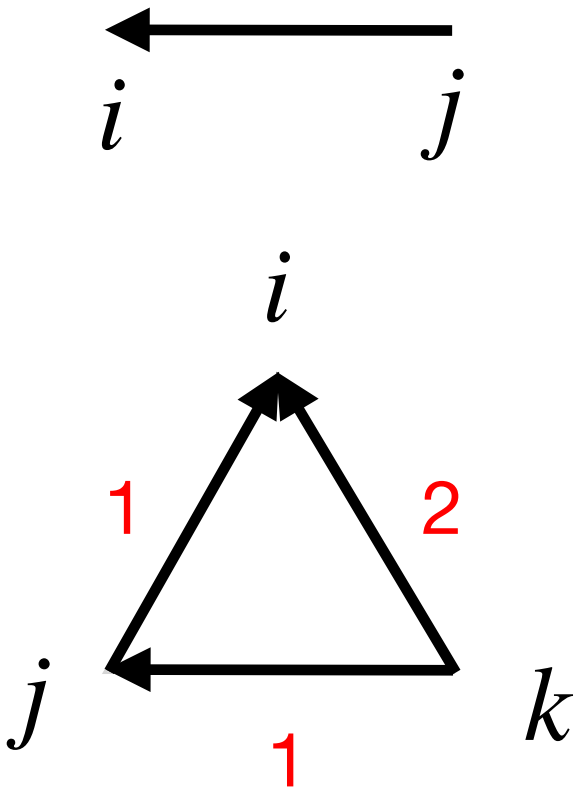
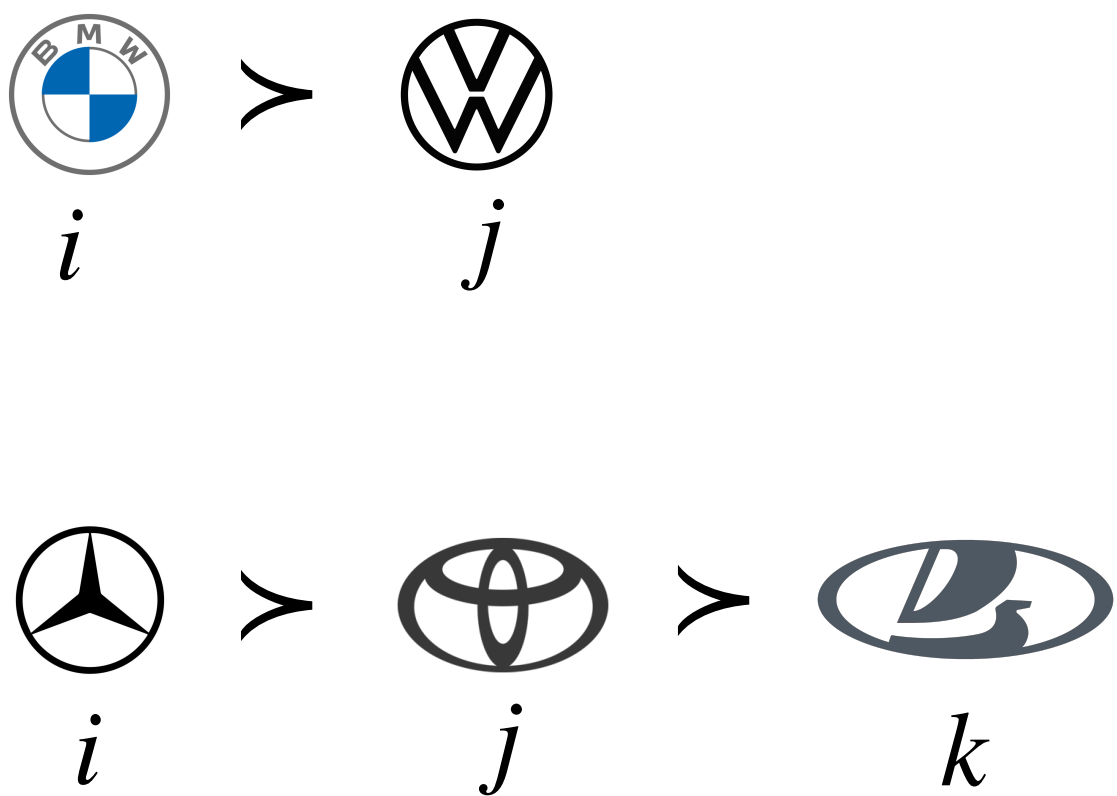
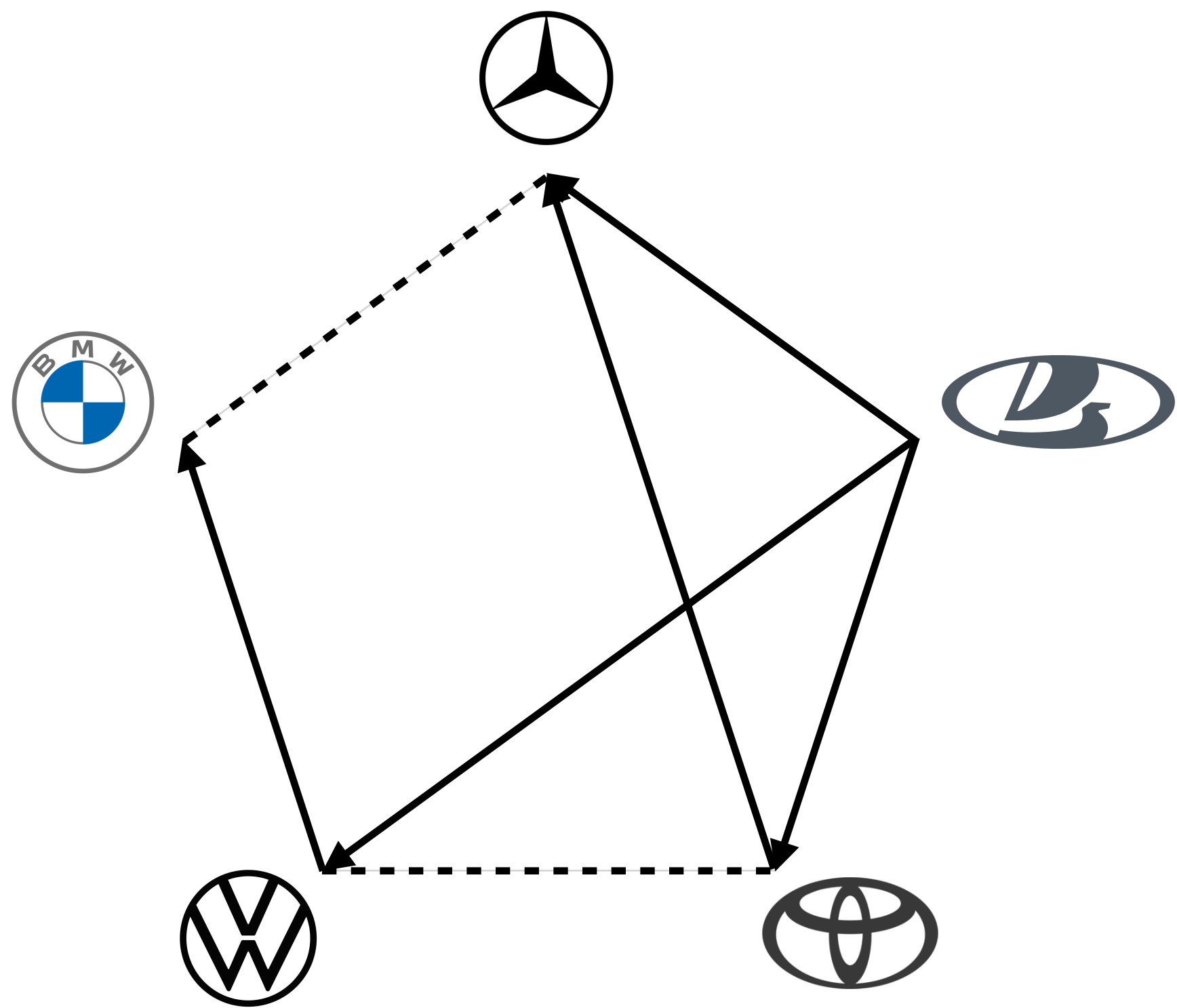
Harmonic component  $c_1^H$



Solenoidal component  $c_1^S$

Zero div

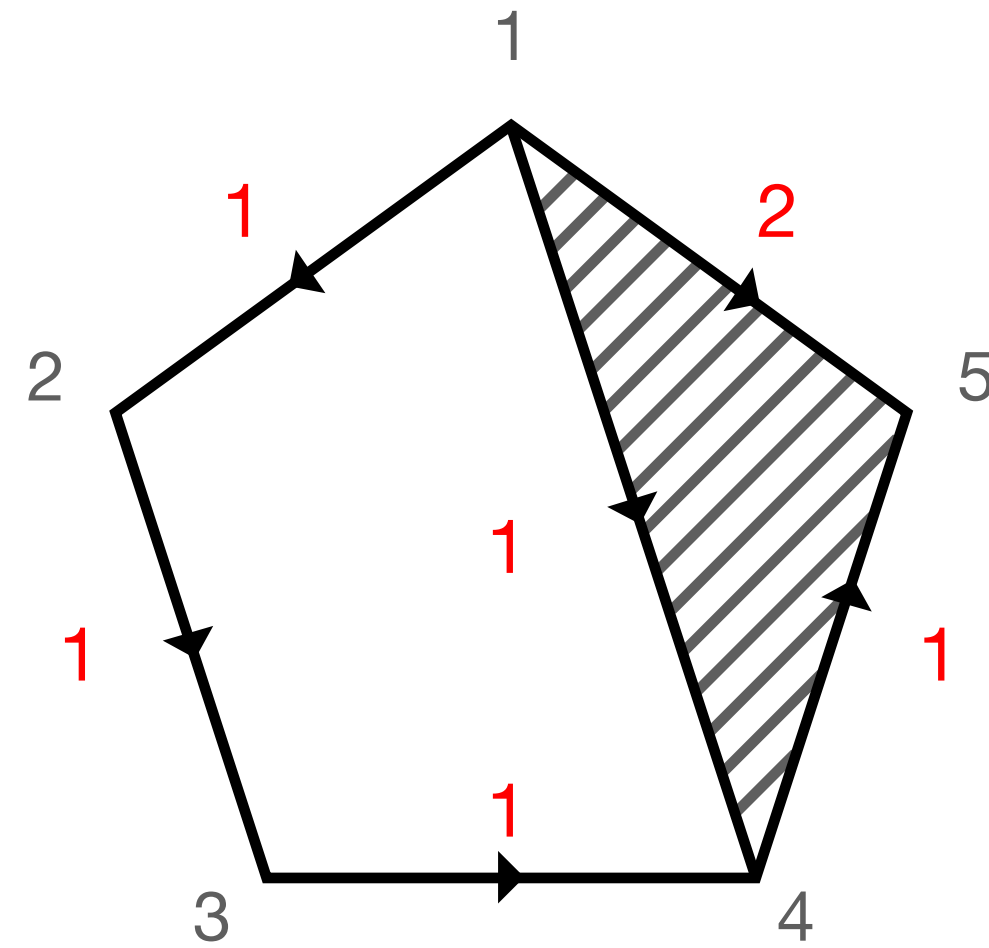
# Ranking problem



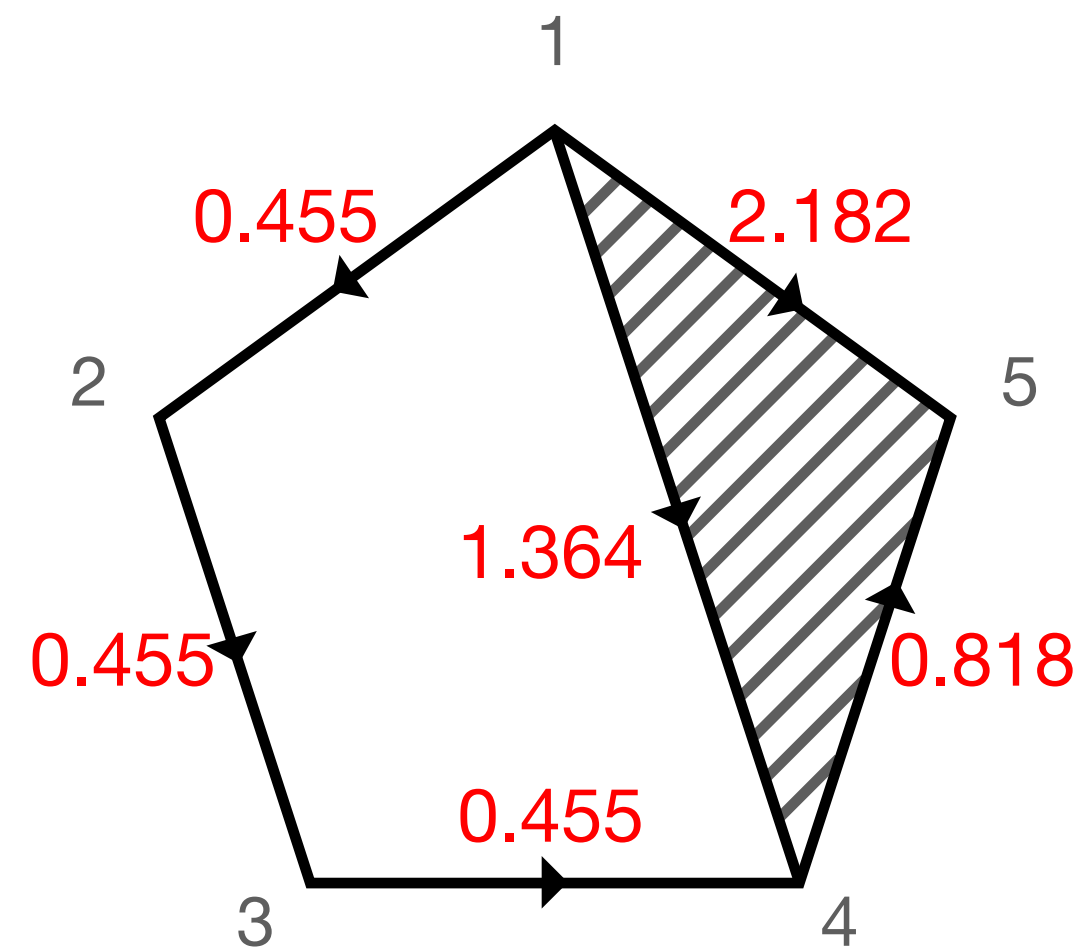
Cyclic rankings could occur!

$$i > j > k > \dots > i$$

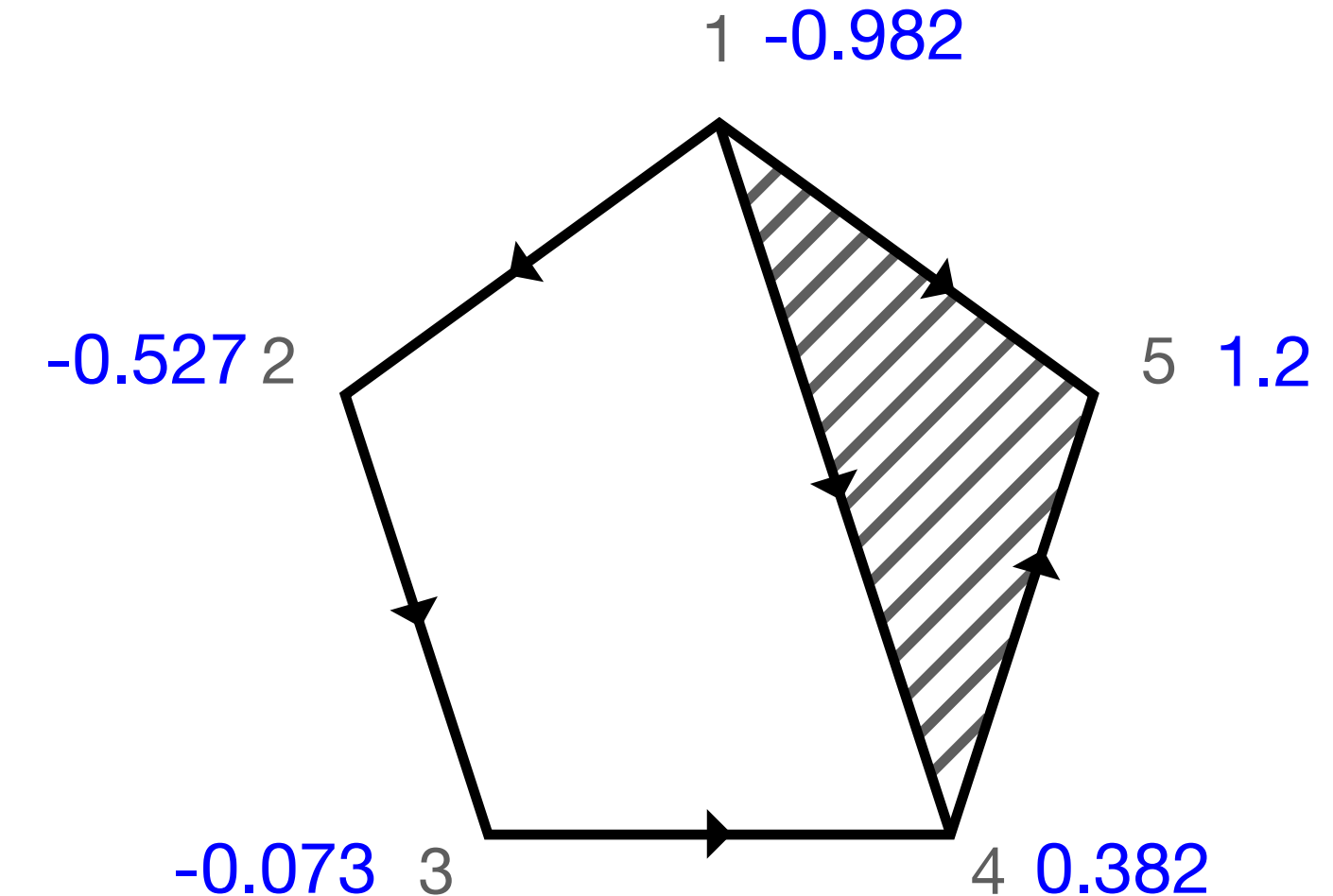
# Ranking problem



Edge signal  $\mathbf{c}_1$



Gradient component  $\mathbf{c}_1^G$



Potential function  $\mathbf{c}_0$

Gradient flow induces global ranking, given  $\mathbf{c}_1$

Solve for  $\mathbf{c}_0$  (potential function on vertices)

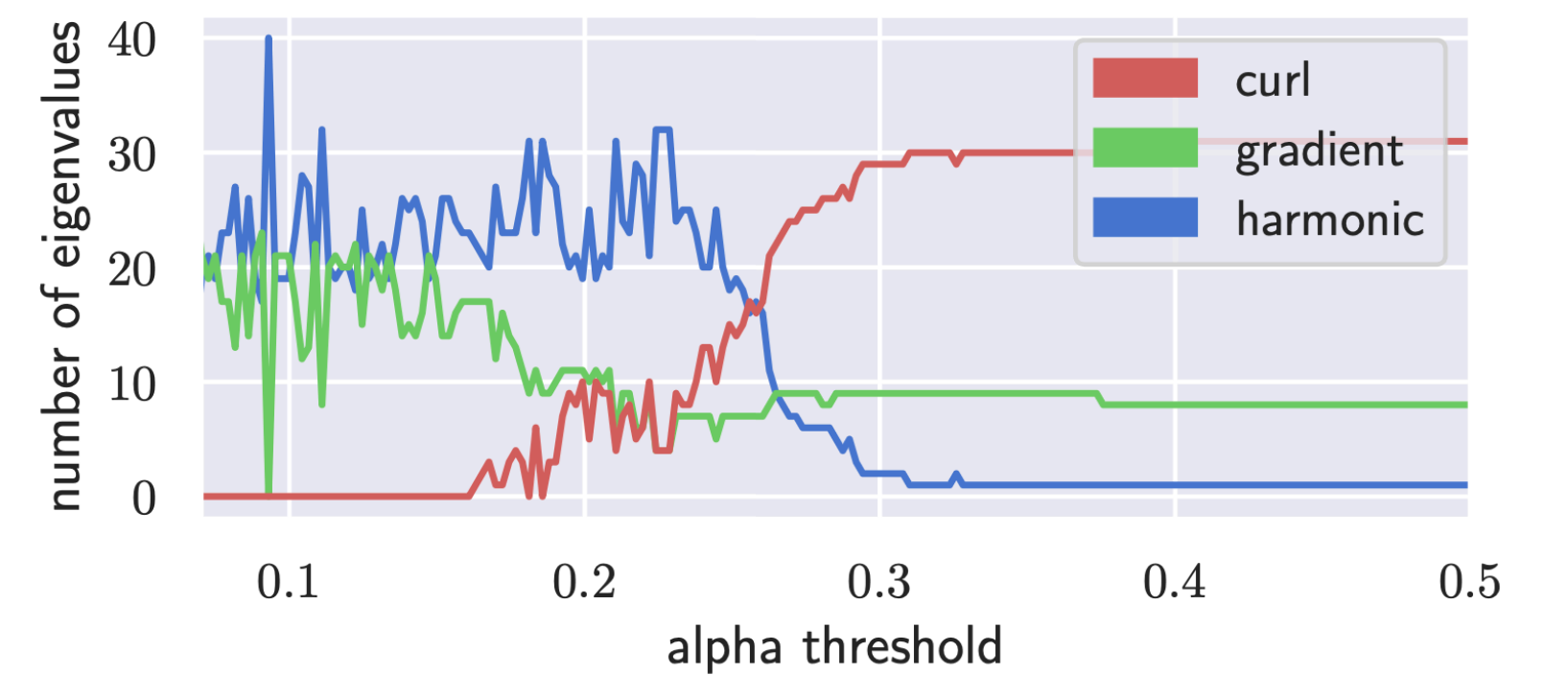
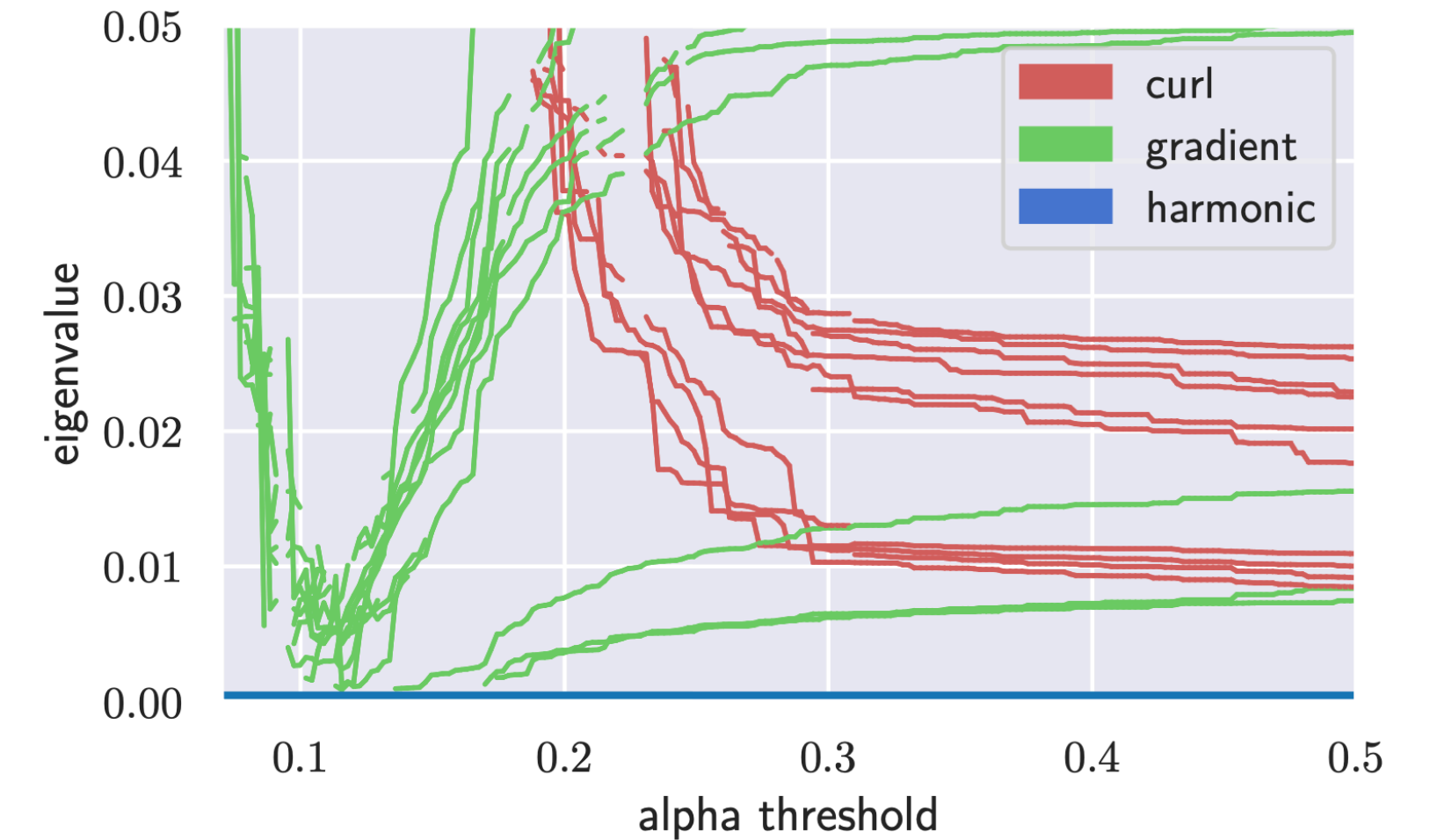
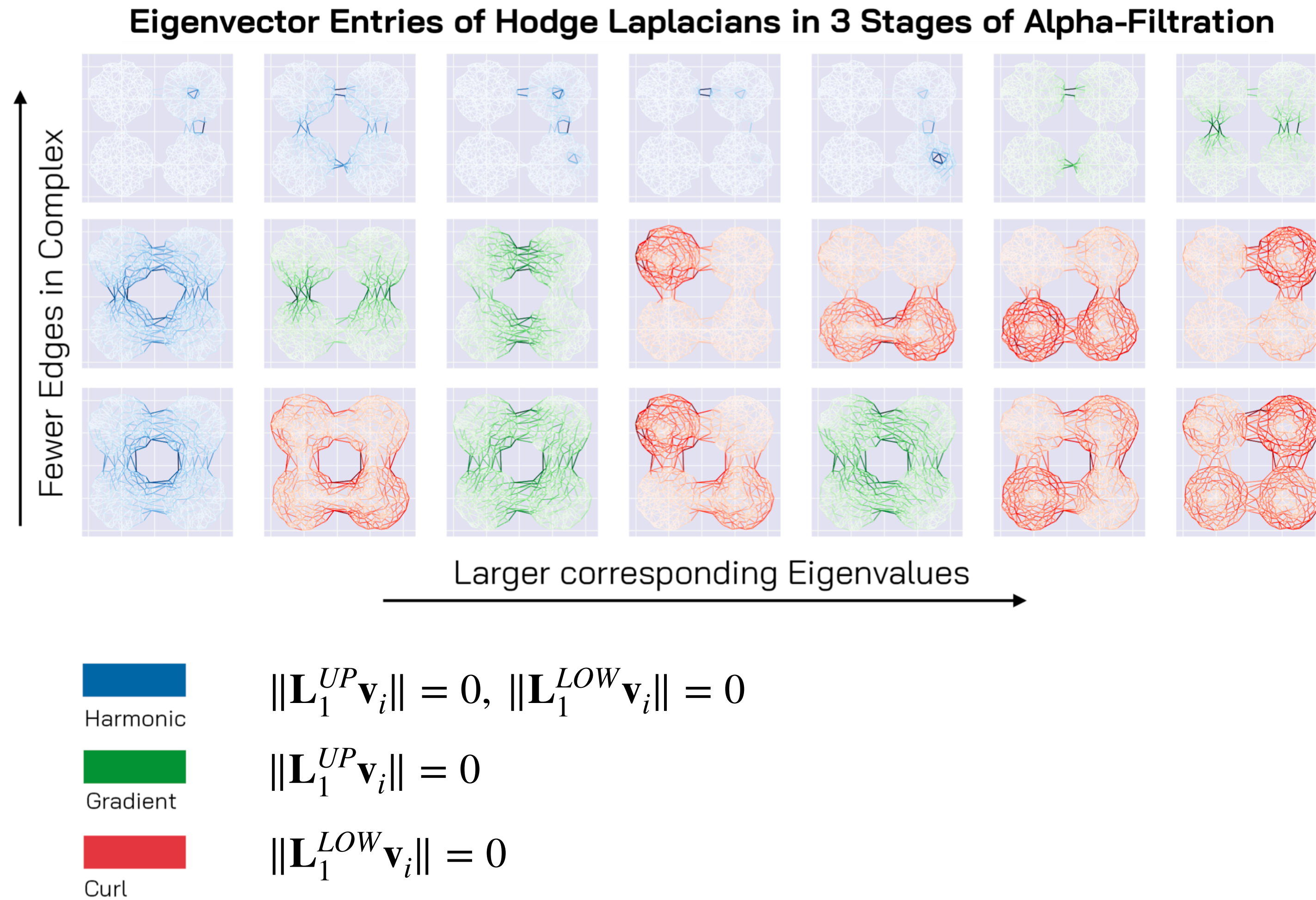
$$\mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{B}_1^T \mathbf{c}_0 = \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{c}_1$$

$$\mathbf{c}_0 = (\mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{B}_1^T)^+ \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{c}_1$$

Order vertices according to the potential function



# Gradient, harmonic, solenoidal eigenvalues



Disentangling the Spectral Properties of the Hodge Laplacian: Not All Small Eigenvalues Are Equal  
 Grande V., Schaub M. *ICASSP* (2024)