

# Differential Complexes and Mixed Finite Elements for Elasticity

Douglas N. Arnold

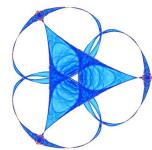
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Mathematics  
and Applications

1. Mixed finite elements for elasticity
2. Exterior calculus
3. Discrete exterior calculus
4. Construction of the elasticity complex

Coming Attractions!

Construction of the elements

1. Mixed finite elements for elasticity
2. Exterior calculus
3. Discrete exterior calculus
4. Construction of the elasticity complex

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{displacement} & u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{V} := \mathbb{R}^n & A\sigma = \epsilon u := [\nabla u + (\nabla u)^T]/2 \\ \text{stress} & \sigma : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{S} := \mathbb{R}_{\text{sym}}^{n \times n} & \operatorname{div} \sigma = f \end{array}$$

$\sigma \in H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega; \mathbb{S})$ ,  $u \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{V})$  satisfy

$$\int_{\Omega} A\sigma : \tau dx + \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \tau \cdot u dx = 0 \quad \forall \tau \in H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega; \mathbb{S})$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \sigma \cdot v dx = \int_{\Omega} f \cdot v \quad \forall v \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{V})$$

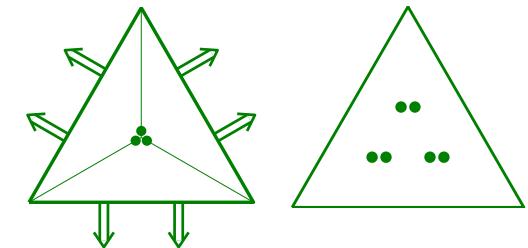
$(\sigma, u) \in H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega; \mathbb{S}) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{V})$  saddle point of

$$\mathcal{L}(\tau, v) = \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{2} A\tau : \tau + \operatorname{div} \tau \cdot v - f \cdot v \right) dx.$$

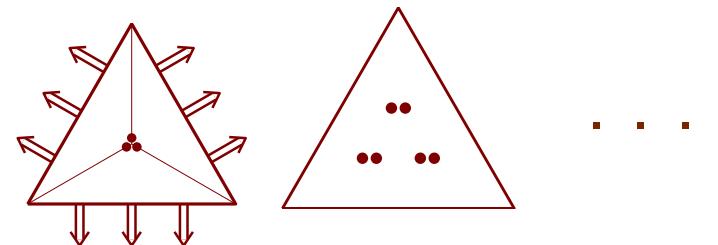
# Stable mixed elements

2D composite elts: Johnson–Mercier '78

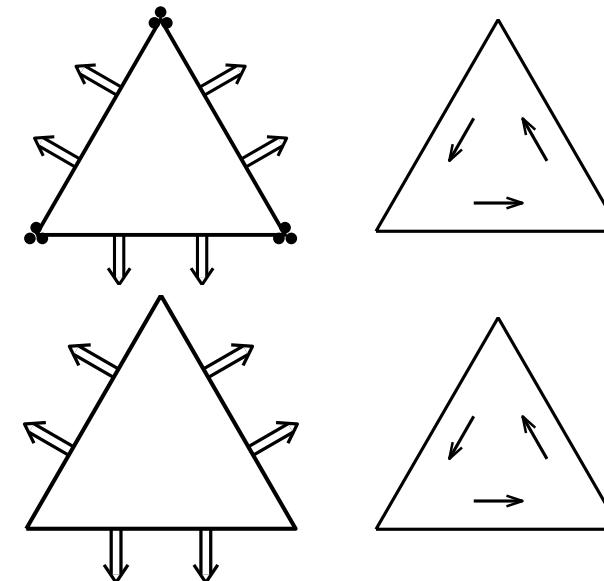
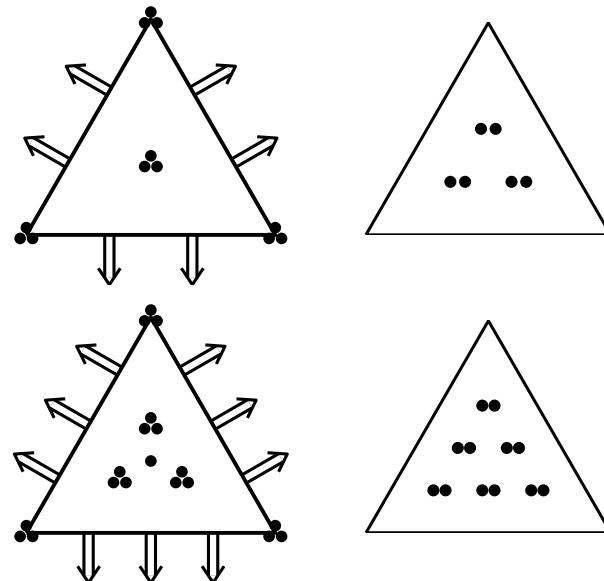
cf. Fraeijs de Veubeke '65; Watwood–Hartz '68



Arnold–Douglas–Gupta '84



2D polynomial elements, Arnold–Winther 2002:



nonconf.

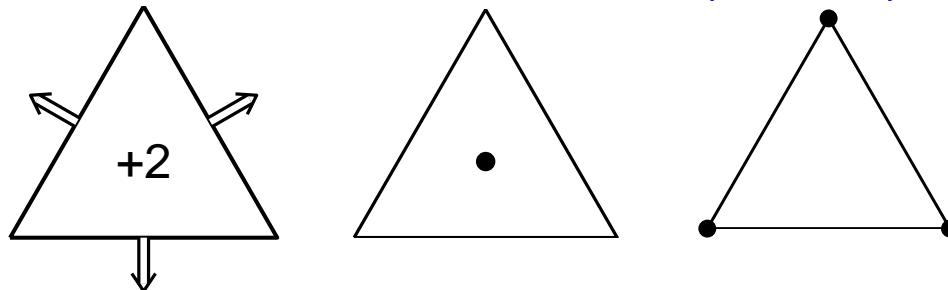
3D very complicated. . .

## Weak symmetry

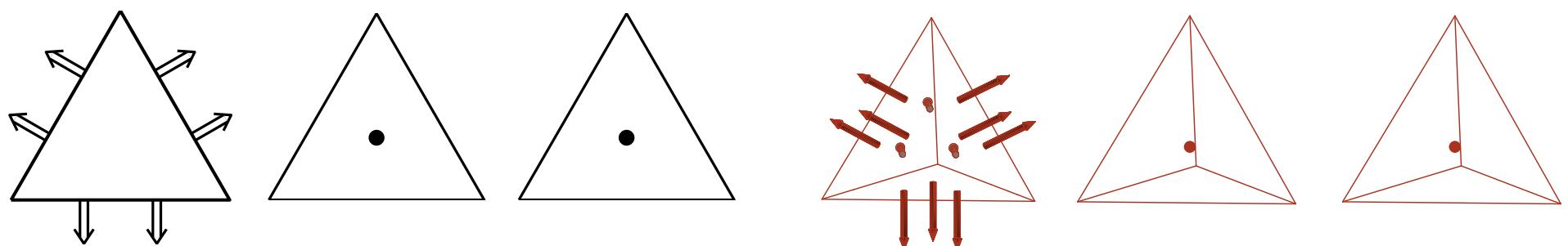
To avoid the problems arising from the symmetry of the stress tensor, it can be imposed *weakly*

$$(\sigma, u, p) = \operatorname{argcrit}_{\begin{array}{l} H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega; \mathbb{M}) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{V}) \\ \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{K}) \end{array}} \left( \frac{1}{2} \int A\tau : \tau + \int v \cdot \operatorname{div} \tau + \int \tau : p + \int f \cdot v \right)$$

Fraeis de Veubeke '75, Arnold-Brezzi-Douglas '84 (PEERS), Stenberg, Morley, . . .



Major result of these talks: new elements in 2D and 3D



These were obtained via a new “homological” viewpoint. . .

# The elasticity complexes

A key to developing stable elements for elasticity (with strongly imposed symmetry) is the *elasticity complex*:

$$\mathbb{T} \hookrightarrow C^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{V}) \xrightarrow{\epsilon} C^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{S}) \xrightarrow{J} C^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{S}) \xrightarrow{\text{div}} C^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{V}) \longrightarrow 0$$

$\uparrow$  displacement       $\uparrow$  strain       $\uparrow$  stress       $\uparrow$  load

$$J = \text{curl}_c \text{curl}_r, \text{ second order}$$

$\mathbb{T}$  is the space of infinitesimal rigid motions

For weakly imposed symmetry the relevant sequence is

$$\mathbb{T} \hookrightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{K}) \xrightarrow{(\text{grad}, -I)} C^\infty(\mathbb{M}) \xrightarrow{J} C^\infty(\mathbb{M}) \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} \text{div} \\ \text{skw} \end{pmatrix}} C^\infty(\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{K}) \longrightarrow 0$$

where  $J$  is defined to be zero on skew matrices.

1. Mixed finite elements for elasticity
2. **Exterior calculus**
3. Discrete exterior calculus
4. Construction of the elasticity complex

## De Rham complex

de Rham complex:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xhookrightarrow{\quad} \Lambda^0(\Omega) \xrightarrow{d} \Lambda^1(\Omega) \xrightarrow{d} \dots \xrightarrow{d} \Lambda^n(\Omega) \rightarrow 0$$

$\omega \in \Lambda^k(\Omega) \iff \omega_x$  is  $k$ -linear alternating form on  $T_x\Omega \ \forall x \in \Omega$

$L^2$  de Rham complex:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xhookrightarrow{\quad} H\Lambda^0(\Omega) \xrightarrow{d} H\Lambda^1(\Omega) \xrightarrow{d} \dots \xrightarrow{d} H\Lambda^n(\Omega) \rightarrow 0$$

$$H\Lambda^k(\Omega) = \{ \omega \in L^2\Lambda^k(\Omega) \mid d\omega \in L^2\Lambda^{k+1}(\Omega) \}$$

Polynomial de Rham complexes

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xhookrightarrow{\quad} \mathcal{H}_r\Lambda^0 \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{H}_{r-1}\Lambda^1 \xrightarrow{d} \dots \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{H}_{r-n}\Lambda^n \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xhookrightarrow{\quad} \mathcal{P}_r\Lambda^0 \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_{r-1}\Lambda^1 \xrightarrow{d} \dots \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_{r-n}\Lambda^n \rightarrow 0$$

# Koszul complex

Koszul differential  $\kappa : \Lambda^{k+1} \rightarrow \Lambda^k$ :

$$(\kappa\omega)_x(v^1, \dots, v^k) = \omega_x(x, v^1, \dots, v^k)$$

- $\kappa : \mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_{r+1} \Lambda^{k-1}$  (c.f.  $d : \mathcal{P}_{r+1} \Lambda^{k-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k$ )

$$0 \leftarrow \mathbb{R} \leftarrow \mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^0 \xleftarrow{\kappa} \mathcal{P}_{r-1} \Lambda^1 \xleftarrow{\kappa} \cdots \xleftarrow{\kappa} \mathcal{P}_{r-n} \Lambda^n \leftarrow 0$$

Koszul complex

- $(d\kappa + \kappa d)\omega = (r+k)\omega \quad \forall \omega \in \mathcal{H}_r \Lambda^k$

$\kappa$  is a contracting chain homotopy

- $\mathcal{H}_r \Lambda^k = d\mathcal{H}_{r+1} \Lambda^{k-1} \oplus \kappa \mathcal{H}_{r-1} \Lambda^{k+1}$

$$\mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k \text{ and } \mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^k$$

Using the Koszul differential, we define a special space of polynomial differential  $k$ -forms between  $\mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{r+1} \Lambda^k$ :

$$\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^k := \mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k + \kappa \mathcal{H}_r \Lambda^{k+1}$$

Note that  $\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^0 = \mathcal{P}_{r+1} \Lambda^0$  and  $\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^n = \mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^n$



*God made  $\mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k$  and  $\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^k$ ,  
all the rest is the work of man.*



## The case $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\subseteq} \Lambda^0(\Omega) \xrightarrow{d} \Lambda^1(\Omega) \xrightarrow{d} \Lambda^2(\Omega) \xrightarrow{d} \Lambda^3(\Omega) \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\subseteq} C^\infty(\Omega) \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} C^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^3) \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} C^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^3) \xrightarrow{\text{div}} C^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow 0$$

smooth de Rham complex

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\subseteq} H^1(\Omega) \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} H(\text{curl}) \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} H(\text{div}) \xrightarrow{\text{div}} L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow 0$$

$L^2$  de Rham complex

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\subseteq} \mathcal{P}_r(\Omega) \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} \mathcal{P}_{r-1}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^3) \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} \mathcal{P}_{r-2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^3) \xrightarrow{\text{div}} \mathcal{P}_{r-3}(\Omega) \rightarrow 0$$

polynomial de Rham complex

$$0 \leftarrow \mathbb{R} \leftarrow \mathcal{P}_r(\Omega) \xleftarrow{\cdot x} \mathcal{P}_{r-1}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^3) \xleftarrow{\times x} \mathcal{P}_{r-2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^3) \xleftarrow{x} \mathcal{P}_{r-3}(\Omega) \leftarrow 0$$

Koszul complex

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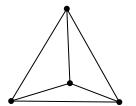
# Piecewise polynomial differential forms

$\mathcal{T}$  a triangulation of  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{V}$  by  $n$ -simplices

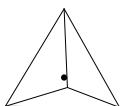
$$\mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k(\mathcal{T}) := \{ \omega \in H\Lambda^k(\Omega) \mid \omega|_T \in \mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k(T) \quad \forall T \in \mathcal{T} \}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^k(\mathcal{T}) := \{ \omega \in H\Lambda^k(\Omega) \mid \omega|_T \in \mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^k(T) \quad \forall T \in \mathcal{T} \}$$

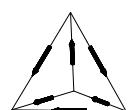
- $\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^0(\mathcal{T}) = \mathcal{P}_{r+1} \Lambda^0(\mathcal{T}) \subset H^1$  Lagrange elts



- $\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^n(\mathcal{T}) = \mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^n(\mathcal{T}) \subset L^2$  discontinuous elts



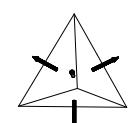
- $n = 3$ :  $\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^1(\mathcal{T}) \subset H(\text{curl})$  Nedelec 1st kind elts



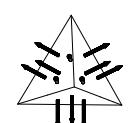
- $\mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^1(\mathcal{T}) \subset H(\text{curl})$  Nedelec 2nd kind elts



- $\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^2(\mathcal{T}) \subset H(\text{div})$  Raviart–Thomas elts



- $\mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^2(\mathcal{T}) \subset H(\text{div})$  Brezzi–Douglas–Marini elts



$T$  an  $n$ -simplex,  $\Delta_d(T) = \text{set of faces of dimension } d, 0 \leq d \leq n$

DOF for  $\mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k(T)$ :

$$u \mapsto \int_f u \wedge v, \quad v \in \mathcal{P}_{r-d-1+k}^+ \Lambda^{d-k}(f), \quad f \in \Delta_d(T), \quad k \leq d \leq n$$

DOF for  $\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^k(T)$ :

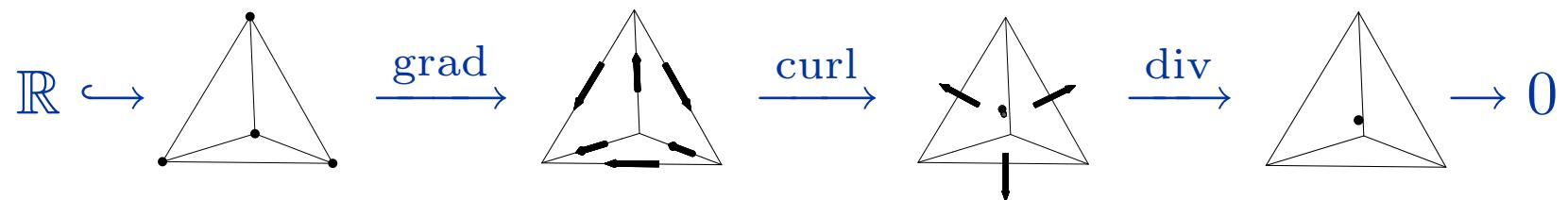
$$u \mapsto \int_f u \wedge v, \quad v \in \mathcal{P}_{r-d+k} \Lambda^{d-k}(f), \quad f \in \Delta_d(T_n), \quad k \leq d \leq n$$

## Discrete exact sequences

For every  $r \geq 0$ , the  $\mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^k$  spaces give an exact piecewise polynomial subcomplex:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xhookrightarrow{\quad} \mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^0(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^1(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \cdots \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^n(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow 0$$

For  $n = 3$ ,  $r = 0$  these are the Whitney elements:



For all  $r$ , the natural projections  $\Pi_{r+}^k : \Lambda^k(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^k(\mathcal{T})$  relate this to the de Rham sequence commutatively:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} & \xhookrightarrow{\quad} & \Lambda^0(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{d} & \Lambda^1(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{d} & \cdots \xrightarrow{d} & \Lambda^n(\Omega) \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \Pi_{r+}^0 & & \downarrow \Pi_{r+}^1 & & & \downarrow \Pi_{r+}^n \\ 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} & \xhookrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^0(\mathcal{T}) & \xrightarrow{d} & \mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^1(\mathcal{T}) & \xrightarrow{d} & \cdots \xrightarrow{d} & \mathcal{P}_r^+ \Lambda^n(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

## Other discrete exact sequences

Another exact sequence ending at  $\mathcal{P}_r\Lambda^n(\mathcal{T})$  uses the  $\mathcal{P}_s\Lambda^k$  spaces of increasing degree: (Demkowicz-Vardepeyan '99):

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\subseteq} \mathcal{P}_{r+n}\Lambda^0(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_{r+n-1}\Lambda^1(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \cdots \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_r\Lambda^n(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow 0$$

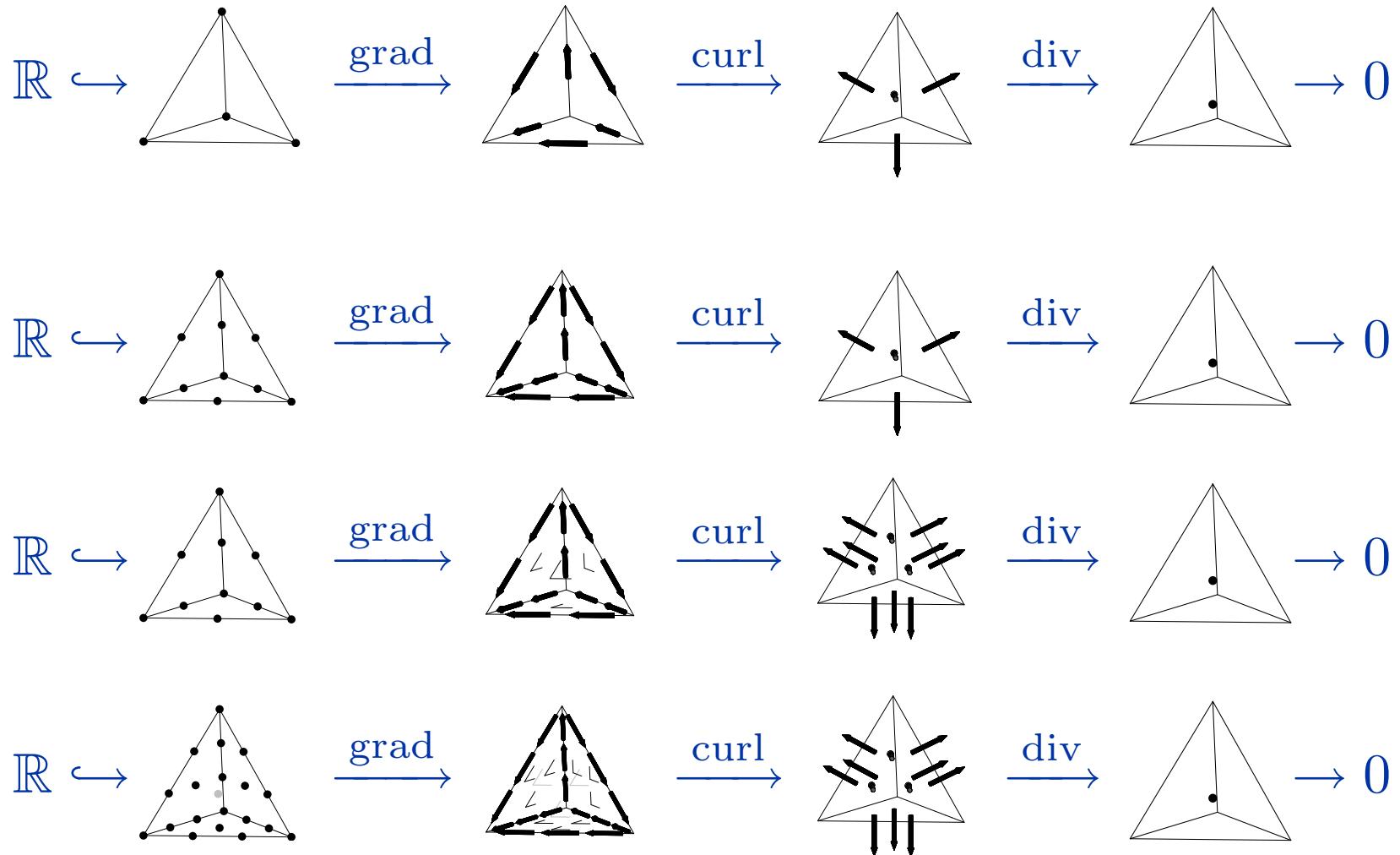
In fact, these are just the extreme cases. There are  $2^{n-1}$  pw polynomial de Rham sequences in  $n$  dimensions. All relate to the de Rham complex through a commuting diagram.

For  $n = 3$  the other two are:

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\subseteq} \mathcal{P}_{r+2}\Lambda^0(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_{r+1}\Lambda^1(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_r^+\Lambda^2(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_r\Lambda^3(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow 0$$

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\subseteq} \mathcal{P}_{r+2}\Lambda^0(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_{r+1}^+\Lambda^1(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_{r+1}\Lambda^2(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{P}_r\Lambda^3(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow 0$$

# The four sequences ending with $\mathcal{P}_0\Lambda^3(\mathcal{T})$ in 3D



1. Mixed finite elements for elasticity
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# Bernstein–Gelfand–Gelfand construction, I

1. Start with the de Rham sequence with values in  $\mathbb{W} := \mathbb{K} \times \mathbb{V}$ :

$$\mathbb{W} \hookrightarrow \Lambda^0(\Omega; \mathbb{W}) \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} d & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix}} \Lambda^1(\Omega; \mathbb{W}) \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} d & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix}} \Lambda^2(\Omega; \mathbb{W}) \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} d & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix}} \Lambda^3(\Omega; \mathbb{W}) \longrightarrow 0$$

2. For any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$  define  $K_x : \mathbb{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$  by  $K_x v = 2 \operatorname{skw}(xv^T)$  and  $K : \Lambda^k(\Omega; \mathbb{V}) \rightarrow \Lambda^k(\Omega; \mathbb{K})$  by

$$(K\omega)_x(v_1, \dots, v_k) = K_x[\omega_x(v_1, \dots, v_k)].$$

3. Define automorphisms  $\Phi : \Lambda^k(\mathbb{W}) \rightarrow \Lambda^k(\mathbb{W})$  by

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} I & K \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Phi^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} I & -K \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$$

4. Define  $\mathcal{A} = \Phi \circ \begin{pmatrix} d & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix} \circ \Phi^{-1}$  to get a modified de Rham sequence:

$$\Phi(\mathbb{W}) \hookrightarrow \Lambda^0(\mathbb{W}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} \Lambda^1(\mathbb{W}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} \Lambda^2(\mathbb{W}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} \Lambda^3(\mathbb{W}) \rightarrow 0$$

## Bernstein–Gelfand–Gelfand construction, II

5. Note that  $\mathcal{A} = \begin{pmatrix} d & -S \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $S = dK - Kd : \Lambda^k(\Omega; \mathbb{V}) \rightarrow \Lambda^{k+1}(\Omega; \mathbb{K})$  is given by

$$(S\omega)_x(v_1, \dots, v_{k+1}) = \sum_{\mu} \text{sign}(\mu) K_{v_{\mu_{k+1}}} \omega_x(v_{\mu_1}, \dots, v_{\mu_k}).$$

Properties:  $S$  is algebraic; for  $k = 1$ ,  $S$  is an isomorphism;  $dS = -Sd$   
 $d(dK - Kd) = -dKd = -(dK - Kd)d$

6. Define subspaces  $\Gamma^k \subset \Lambda^k(\Omega; \mathbb{W})$  satisfying  $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma^k) \subset \Gamma^{k+1}$  and projections

$$\pi_k : \Lambda^k(\Omega; \mathbb{W}) \rightarrow \Gamma^k \quad \text{satisfying} \quad \pi_{k+1}\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}\pi_k :$$

$$\Gamma^0 = \Lambda^0(\Omega; \mathbb{W}), \quad \pi_0 = id, \quad \Gamma^3 = \Lambda^3(\Omega; \mathbb{W}), \quad \pi_3 = id,$$

$$\Gamma^1 = \{ (\omega, \mu) \in \Lambda^1(\Omega; \mathbb{W}) : d\omega = S\mu \}, \quad \Gamma^2 = \{ (\omega, \mu) \in \Lambda^2(\Omega; \mathbb{W}) : \omega = 0 \}$$

$$\pi^1 = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ S^{-1}d & 0 \end{pmatrix} : \Lambda^1(\Omega; \mathbb{W}) \rightarrow \Gamma^1, \quad \pi^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ dS^{-1} & I \end{pmatrix} : \Lambda^2(\Omega; \mathbb{W}) \rightarrow \Gamma^2.$$

## Bernstein–Gelfand–Gelfand construction, III

6. The following diagram commutes (use  $dS = -Sd$ ):

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \Phi(\mathbb{W}) \hookrightarrow \Lambda^0(\mathbb{W}) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \Lambda^1(\mathbb{W}) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \Lambda^2(\mathbb{W}) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \Lambda^3(\mathbb{W}) \rightarrow 0 \\ \downarrow \pi_0 & & \downarrow \pi^1 & & \downarrow \pi^2 & & \downarrow \pi_3 \\ \Phi(\mathbb{W}) \hookrightarrow \Gamma^0 & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \Gamma^1 & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \Gamma^2 & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \Gamma^3 \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

Therefore, the subcomplex on the bottom row is exact.

7. This subcomplex may be identified with the elasticity complex.

# Bernstein–Gelfand–Gelfand construction, concluded

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \Gamma^0 & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \Gamma^1 & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \Gamma^2 & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \Gamma^3 \\
 = & & \cong & & \cong & & = \\
 \Lambda^0(\mathbb{K} \times \mathbb{V}) & \xrightarrow{(d_0, -S_0)} & \Lambda^1(\Omega; \mathbb{K}) & \xrightarrow{d_1 \circ S_1^{-1} \circ d_1} & \Lambda^2(\Omega; \mathbb{V}) & \xrightarrow{(-S_2, d_2)^T} & \Lambda^3(\mathbb{K} \times \mathbb{V})
 \end{array}$$

With the identifications

$$\Lambda^0(\mathbb{K} \times \mathbb{V}) \leftrightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{K})$$

$$\Lambda^1(\mathbb{K}) \leftrightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{M})$$

$$\Lambda^2(\mathbb{K}) \leftrightarrow C^\infty(M)$$

$$\Lambda^3(\mathbb{K} \times \mathbb{V}) \leftrightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{K})$$

this becomes the elasticity sequence

$$\mathcal{T}' \hookrightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{K}) \xrightarrow{(\text{grad}, -I)} C^\infty(\mathbb{M}) \xrightarrow{J} C^\infty(\mathbb{M}) \xrightarrow{(\text{div}, \text{skw})^T} C^\infty(\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{K}) \rightarrow 0$$