



UNIVERSITY  
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# Mimetic Methods and why they are better

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**Theoretical and Computational Fluid Dynamics Laboratory**

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# Numerical Methods: Are more than Mathematics

## Math:

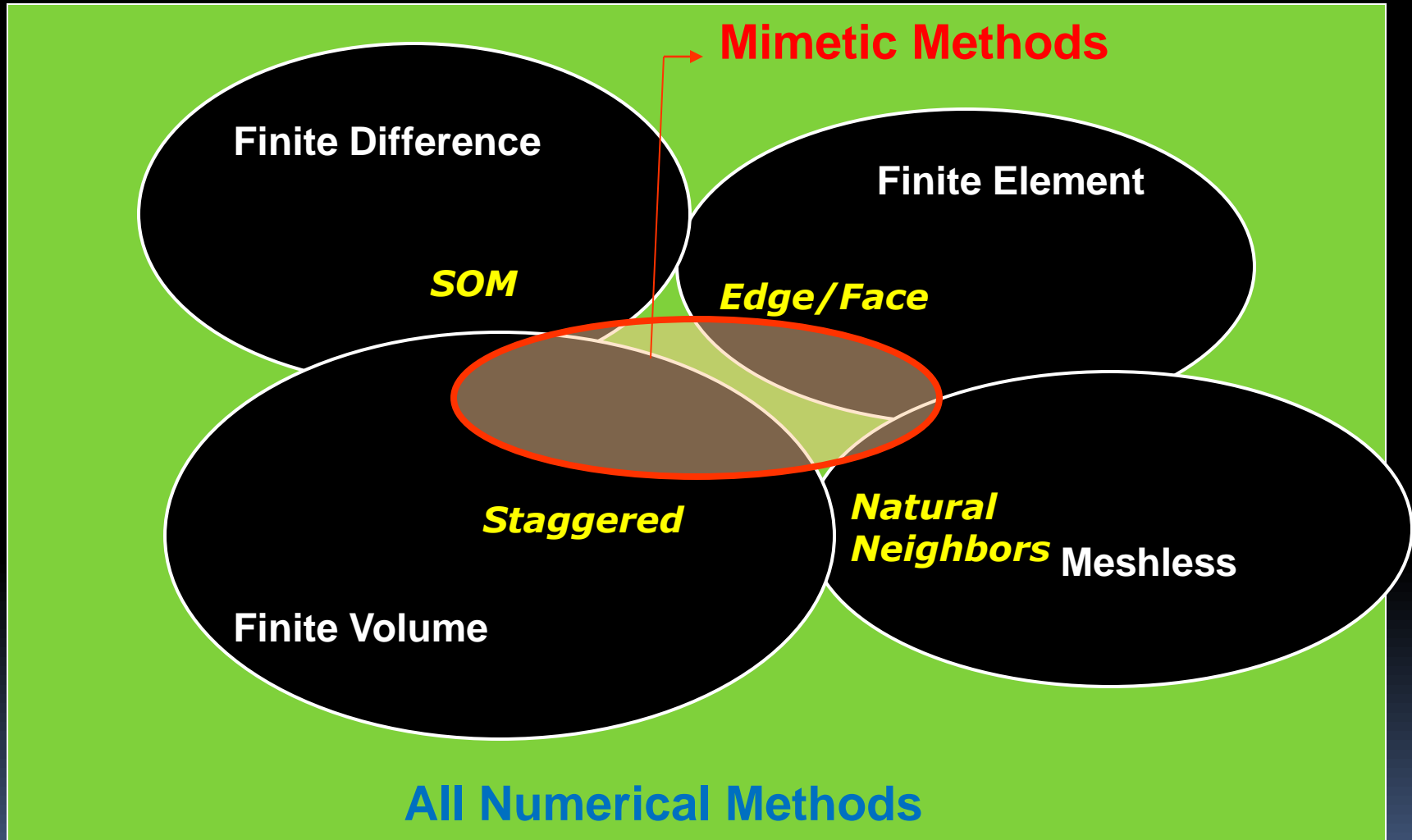
Accuracy  
Stability  
Convergence  
Consistency

Mimetic methods  
**mimic** the physics.

## Physics:

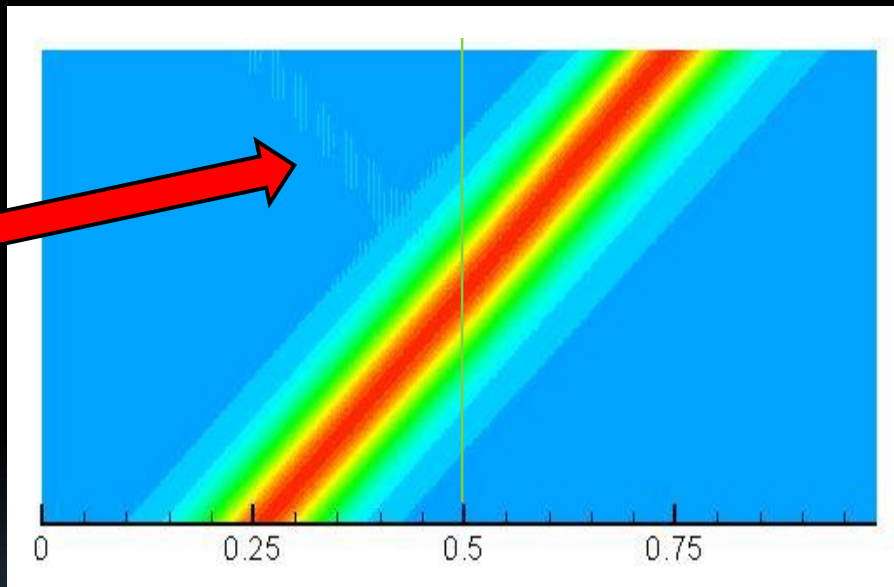
Conservation  
Spurious Modes  
Wave propagation  
Maximum/minimum  
Constraints

# Relationship



# Mimetic Advection $\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla T = 0$

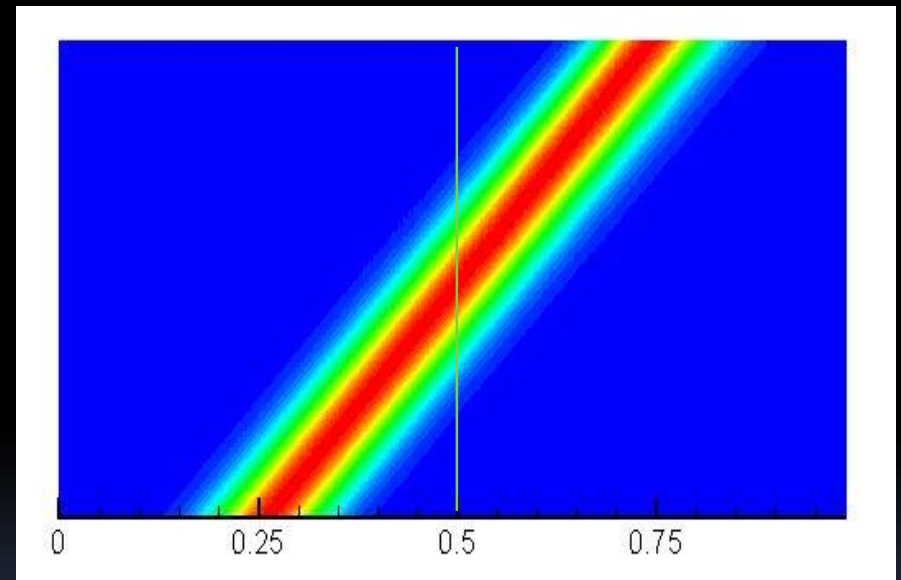
**1D Advection: Change in mesh size  
(3x more mesh on the right side)**



150

50

**Central**



**Box Method**

**Spurious Wave Reflection**

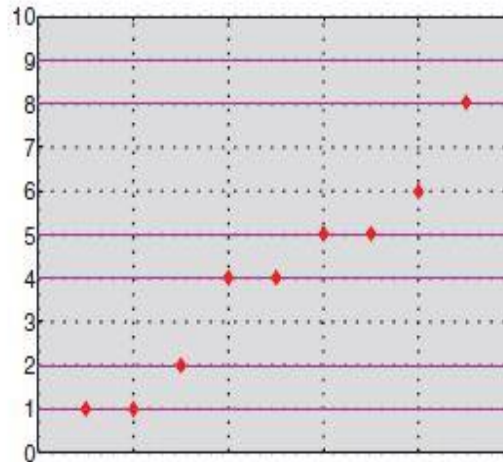
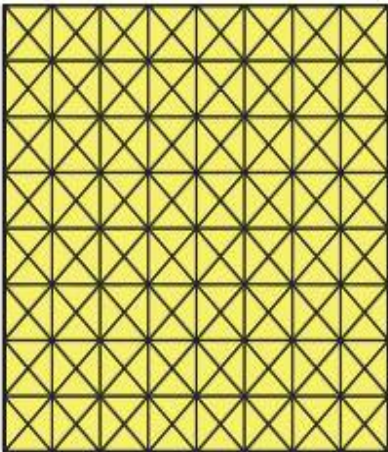


# Eigenvalues: Theory

## Vector Laplacian

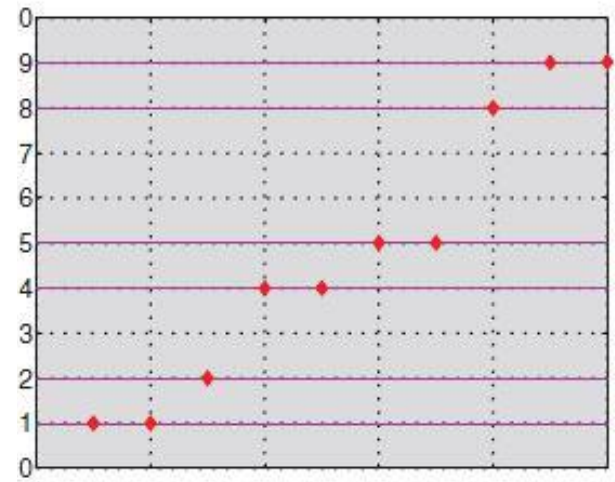
$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{v} - \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) = \lambda \mathbf{v} \quad \lambda = m^2 + n^2$$

**1, 1, 2, 4, 4, 5, 5, 8, ..**



**Linear FE**

$$\mathbf{v}_{node}$$

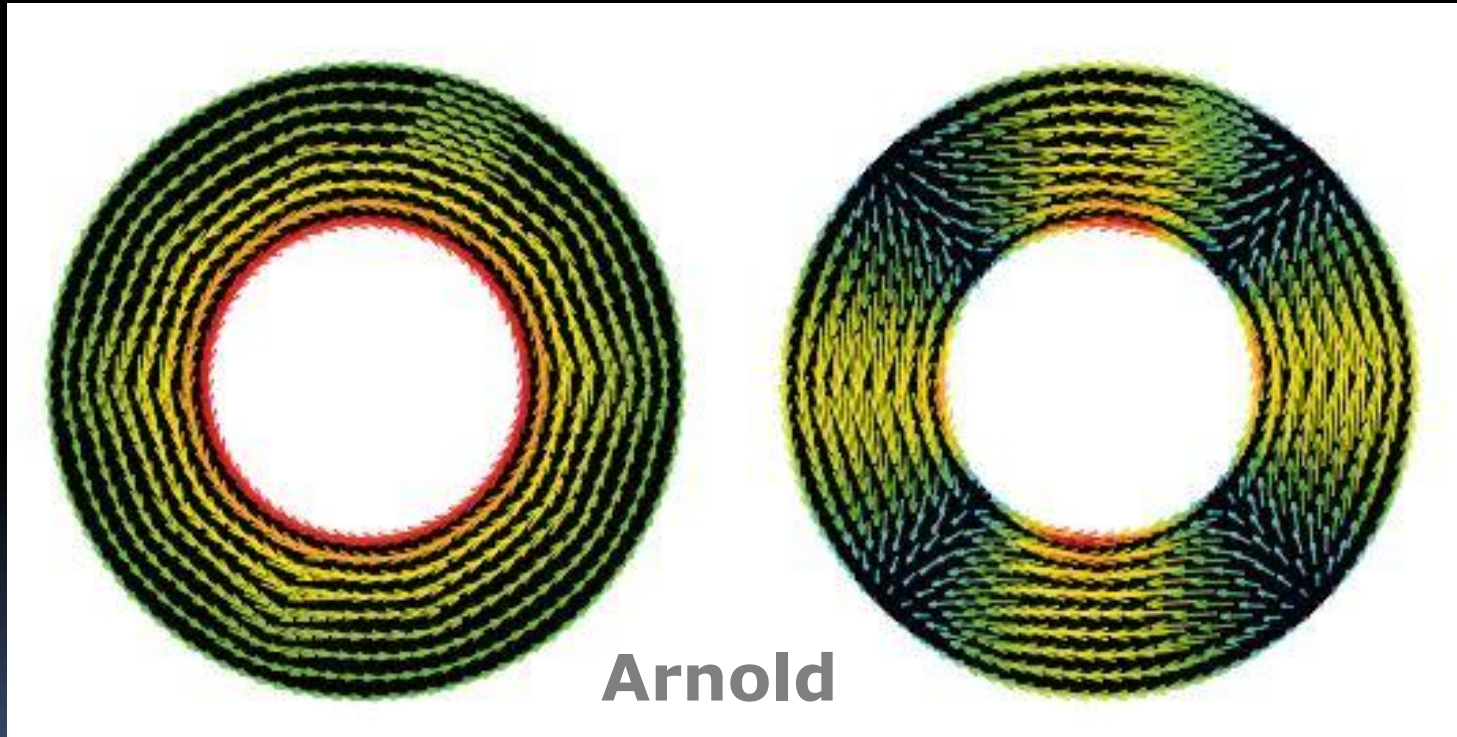


**Nedelec FE**

$$u = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{t}_{edge}$$

# Eigenvectors: Practice

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{v} - \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) = f$$



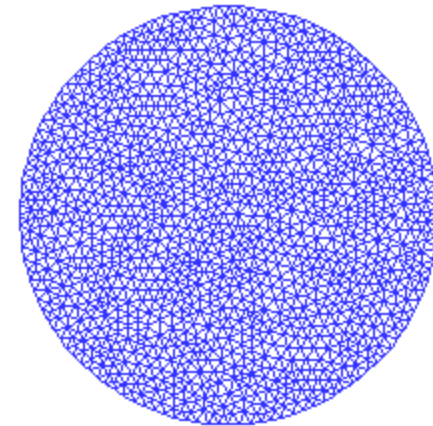
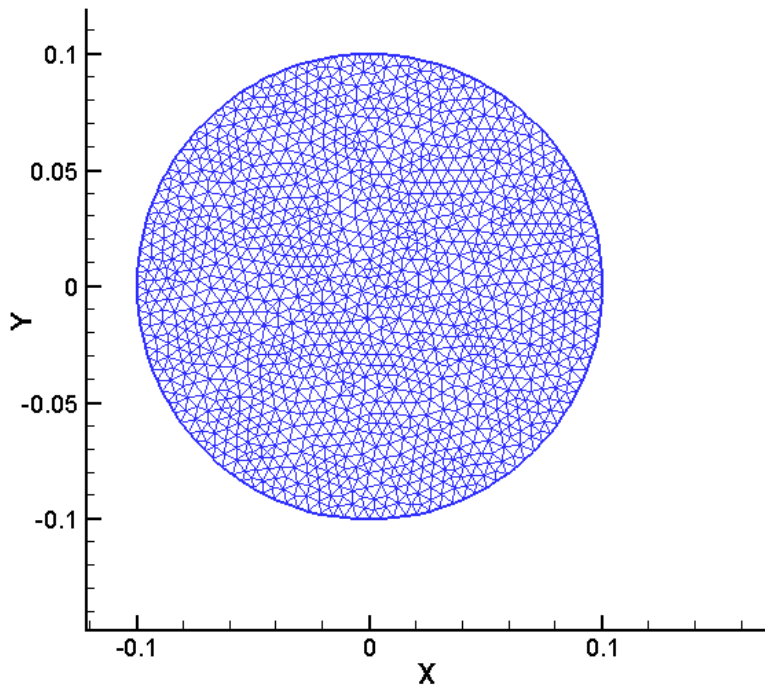
Arnold

Linear FE

Nedelec FE



# Mimetic Surface Tension



# Overview

Use Exact Discretization

Separate **Discretization**  
from **Approximation**

PDE to LA  
LA to square LA

- **Do ALL discretization exactly.**
- This means that the calculus and the physics remain exact.
- **Numerical approximation in material laws.**
- Which are engineering approximations already.
- Numerical approximation goes with physical approximation.



# Discrete Calculus: Part 1

## Exact Discretization

$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{\mathbf{a}} \\ \vec{\mathbf{b}} \end{pmatrix} = \vec{\mathbf{r}}$$

**Infinite Dimensional**

**Finite Dimensional**

**Partial Differential Eqn.**

**Matrix Problem**

**Basic unknowns are integral quantities.  
Collect infinite data into finite groups.**

# Discrete Calculus: Part 2

**Solution requires Approximation**

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{\mathbf{a}} \\ \vec{\mathbf{b}} \end{pmatrix} = \vec{\mathbf{r}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{D} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{\mathbf{a}} \\ \vec{\mathbf{b}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{\mathbf{r}} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

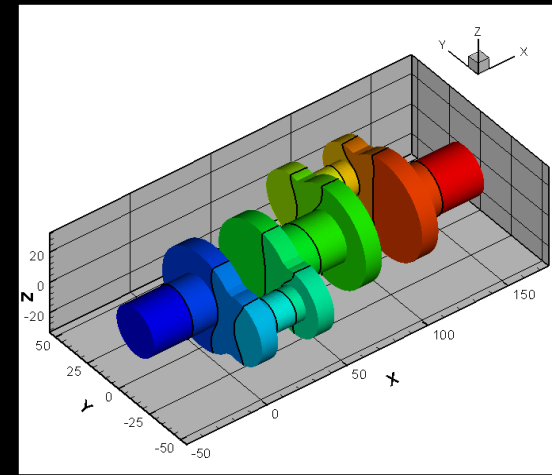
**Underdetermined**

**Unique Square**

**Relate discrete unknowns to each other.  
This relation is a material law.  
Also related to interpolation.  
Also related to discrete inner products**

# Example: Heat Eqn

$$\frac{\partial(\rho c T)}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot k \nabla T$$



## Components of the Physical Equation

$$\frac{\partial i}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = 0$$

Conservation of Energy

$$\mathbf{g} = \nabla T$$

Definition of Gradient

**Physics**

**Math**

**Material  
Approximation**

$$\mathbf{q} = -k \mathbf{g}$$

Fourier's Law

$$i = \rho c T$$

Perfectly Caloric Material

# Exact Discretization

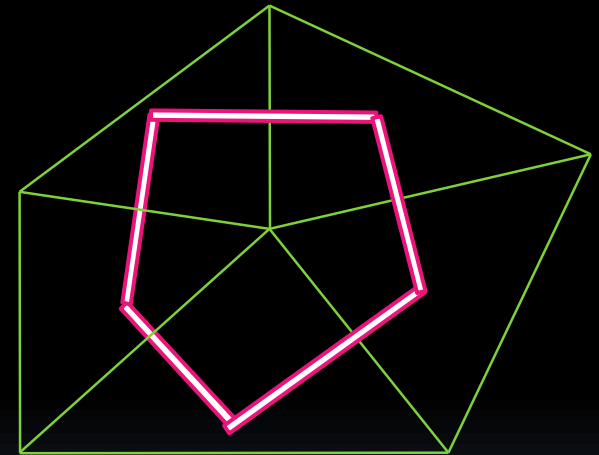
## Perfect representation of Physics and Calculus

■ 
$$\int_{\tilde{c}} idV |^{n+1} - \int_{\tilde{c}} idV |^n + \sum_{\tilde{f}} \int dt \int_{\tilde{f}} \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n} dA_{\tilde{f}} = 0$$

■ 
$$\int_e \mathbf{g} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = T_{n2} - T_{n1}$$

$$I_{\tilde{c}}^{n+1} - I_{\tilde{c}}^n + \mathbf{DQ}_{\tilde{f}} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{g}_e = \mathbf{GT}_n$$



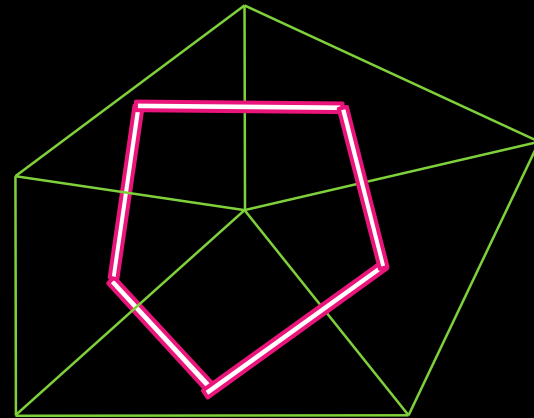
*Exact*

# Solution

## Numerical Approximation of Constitutive Eqns.

$$\blacksquare Q_{\tilde{f}} = -M_1 g_e \blacksquare$$

$$\blacksquare I_{\tilde{c}} = M_2 T_n \blacksquare$$



$$Q_{\tilde{f}} = -k \frac{A_{\tilde{f}}}{L_e} g_e$$

$$I_{\tilde{c}} = \rho c V_{\tilde{c}} T_n$$

*Approximate*

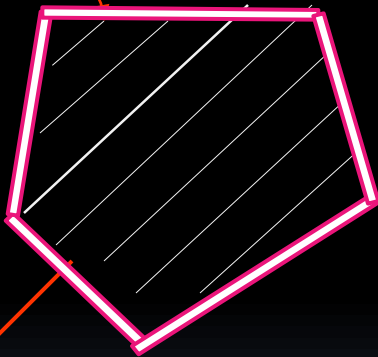
*Dependent on Mesh*

# Dual Mesh Viewpoint

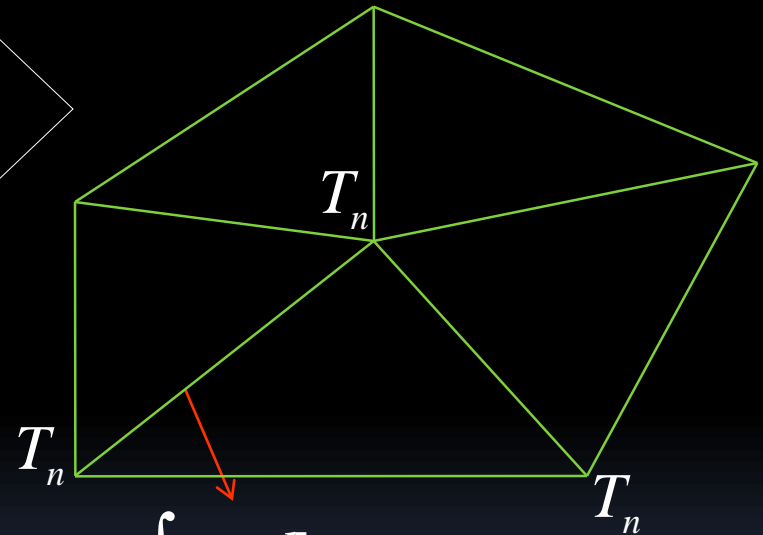
$$I_{\tilde{c}}^{n+1} - I_{\tilde{c}}^n + \mathbf{D}Q_{\tilde{f}} = 0$$

$$g_e = \mathbf{G}T_n$$

$$I_{\tilde{c}}^{n+1} = \int_{\tilde{c}} i dV |^{n+1}$$



$$I_{\tilde{c}} = \rho c V_{\tilde{c}} T_n$$



$$Q_{\tilde{f}} = \int dt \int_{\tilde{f}} \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n} dA_{\tilde{f}}$$

$$Q_{\tilde{f}} = -k \frac{A_{\tilde{f}}}{L_e} g_e$$

$$\int_e \mathbf{g} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = g_e$$

**Dual Mesh**

**Primary Mesh**



# Properties

**Conservation of Energy**

**Entropy Production**

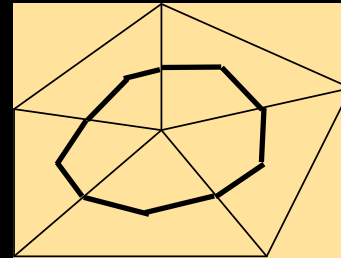
**Maximum Principle**

**Any continuous principle for  
the PDE ...**

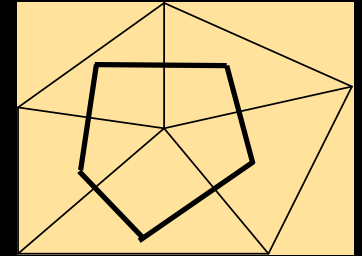
**All errors appear as imperfect  
material properties.**

# Variations

## Choice of the Dual Mesh.



Median Dual



Voronoi Dual

## Dual or Primary

Node centered pressure.

Cell centered pressure.

## Choice of interpolation.

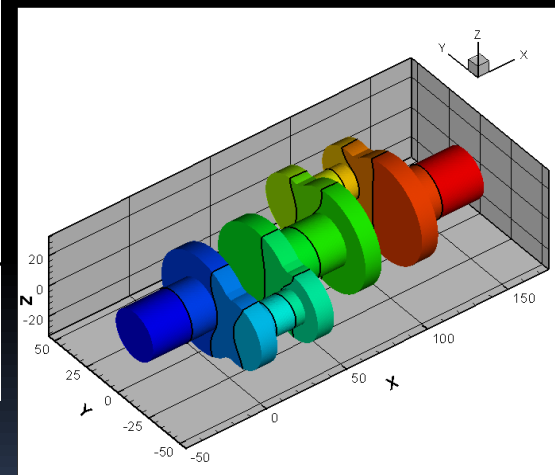
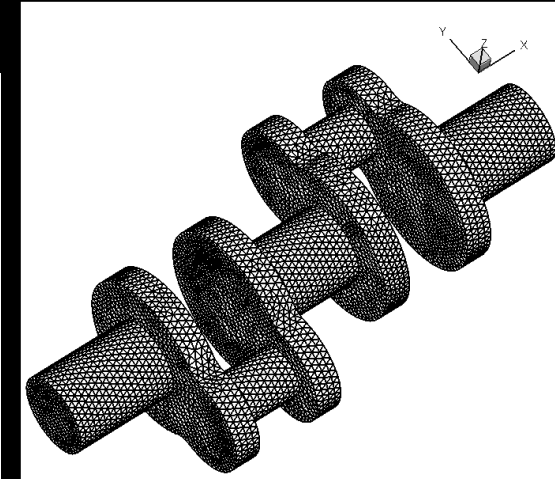
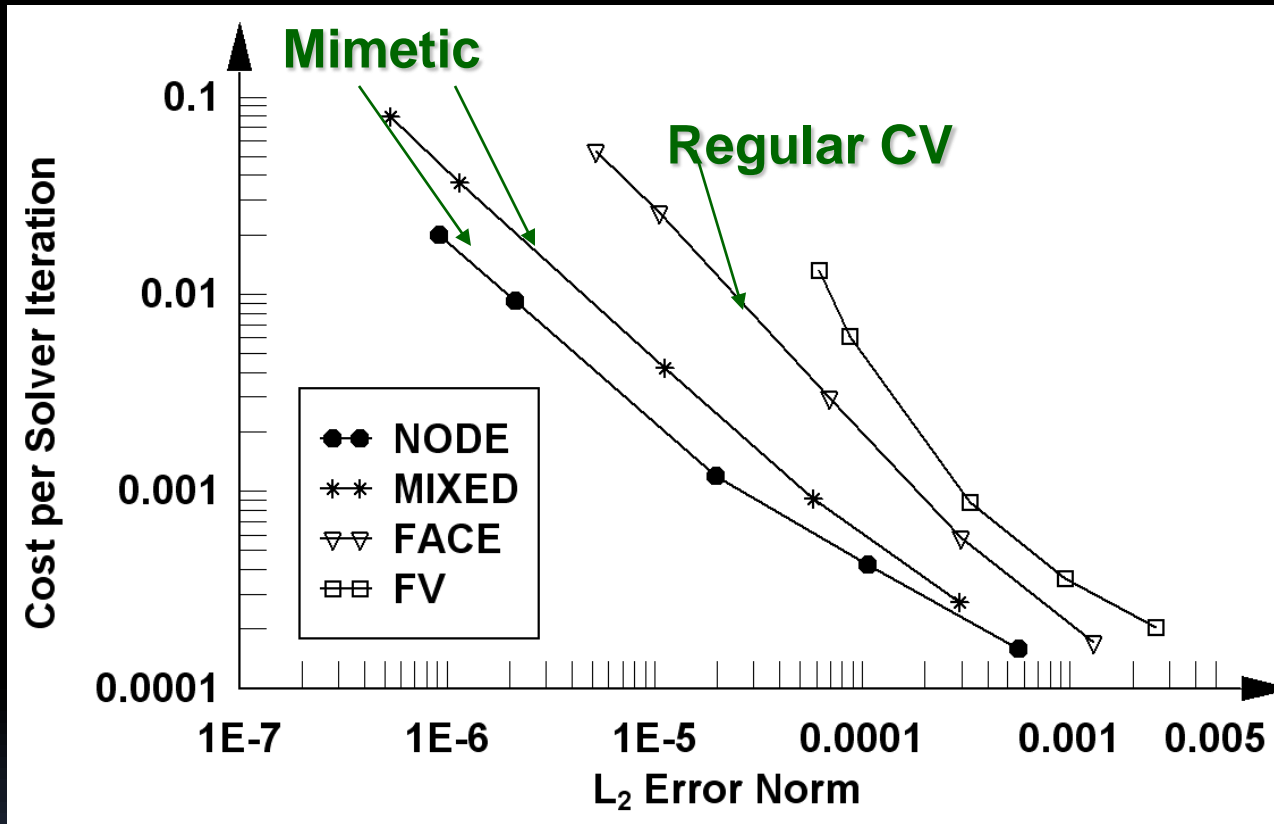
polynomial reconstruction in cells.

reconstruction in dual cells

weighted interpolations (FE).



# Results



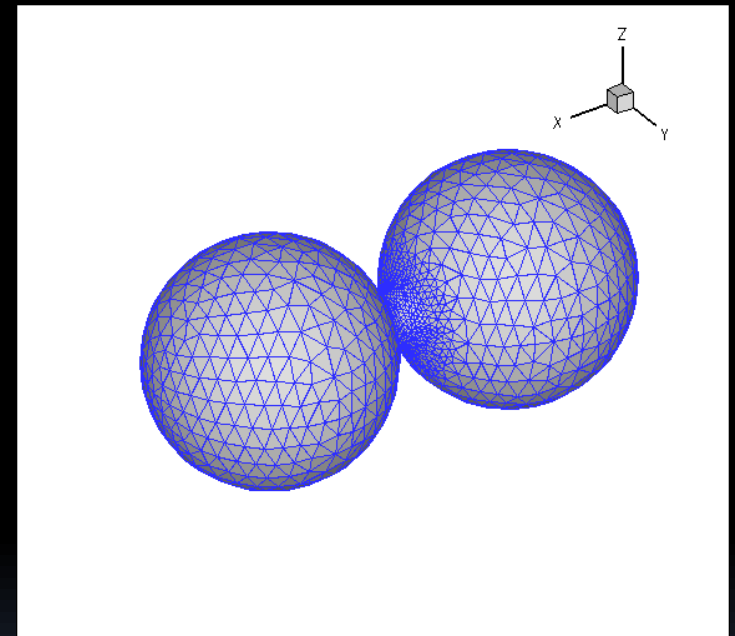
● Log scale

# References

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<http://www.discretphysics.org/papers/TONTI/TontiJCPWHY.pdf>

# Summary

- **Numerical Methods are changing.**
- **Exact Discretization Approx Solution.**
- **Works on all types of PDEs**



# Questions

# Navier-Stokes Results

