

# Geometry Processing (601.458/658)

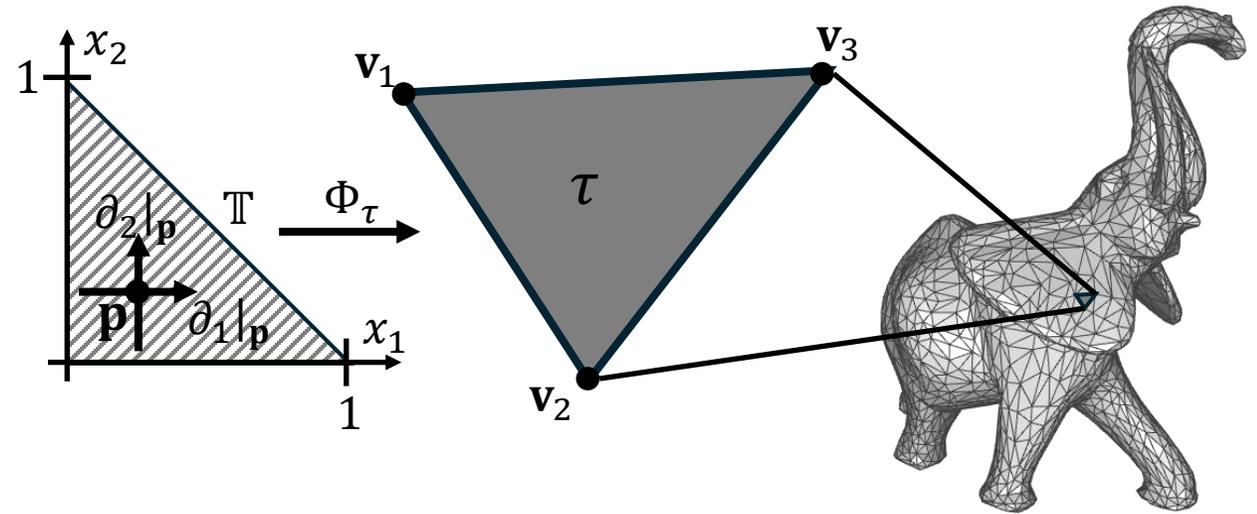
Misha Kazhdan

# Outline

Recall

Constant Vector Fields

# Recall



Given a triangle mesh  $\mathcal{M} = \{\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{T}\}$ , we perform integration/differentiation over the unit right triangle,  $\mathbb{T}$ .

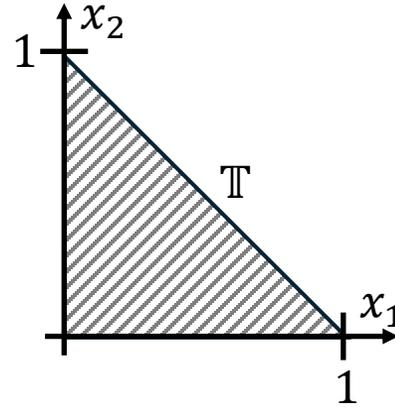
At each point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{T}$  we have a tangent space  $T_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbb{T}$  spanned by  $\{\partial_1|_{\mathbf{p}}, \partial_2|_{\mathbf{p}}\}$ .

The dual space  $T_{\mathbf{p}}^*\mathbb{T}$  is spanned by the canonical dual basis  $\{dx_1|_{\mathbf{p}}, dx_2|_{\mathbf{p}}\}$ .

We denote the pulled back inner-product as  $g_{\tau}|_{\mathbf{p}}: T_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbb{T} \rightarrow T_{\mathbf{p}}^*\mathbb{T}$ .

Since the inner-product is constant, we will often drop the subscript  $\mathbf{p}$ .

# Recall

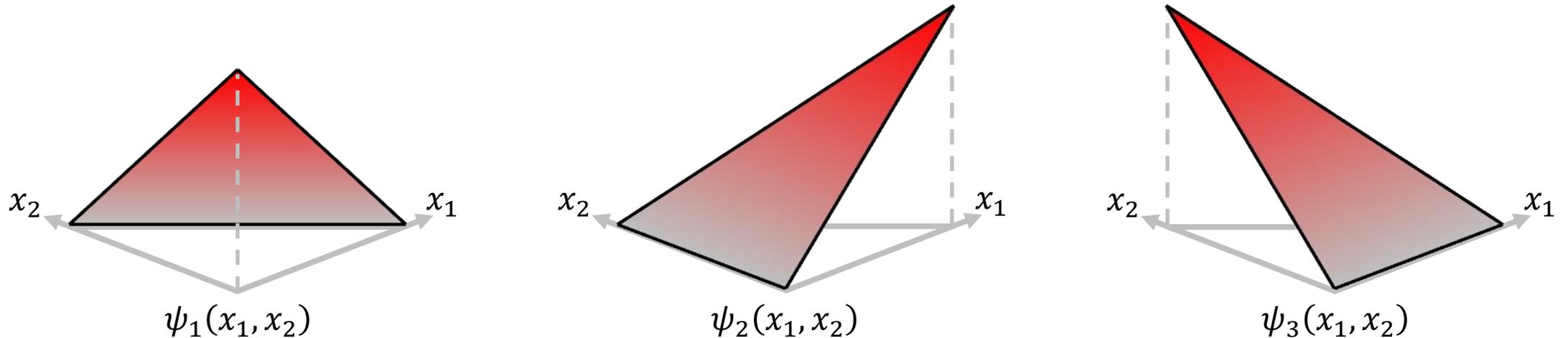


For the unit right triangle  $\mathbb{T}$ , we have the basis for linear functions:

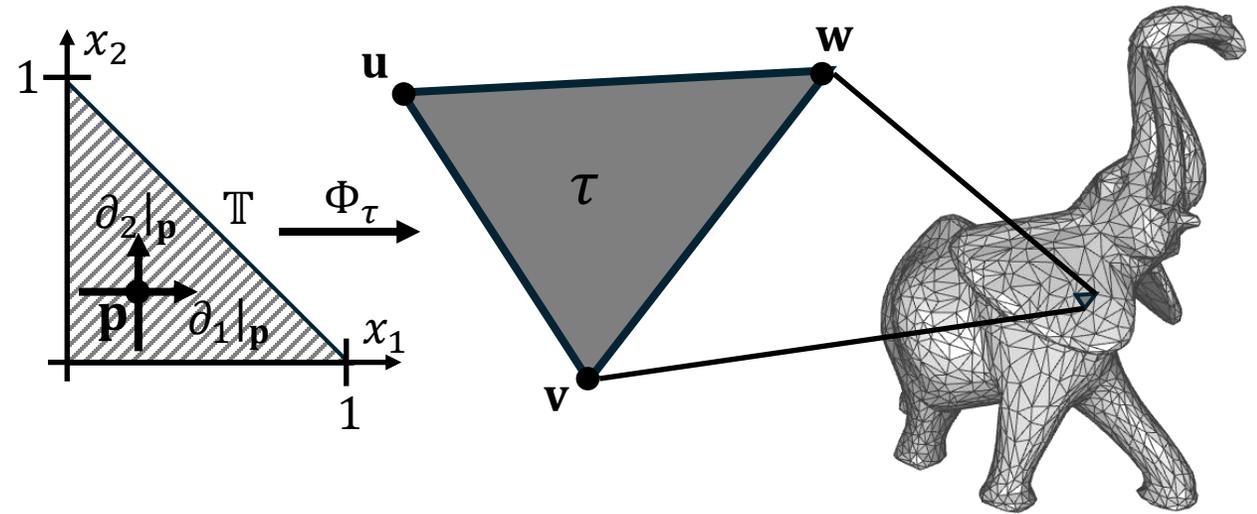
$$\psi_1(x_1, x_2) = 1 - x_1 - x_2$$

$$\psi_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1$$

$$\psi_3(x_1, x_2) = x_2$$

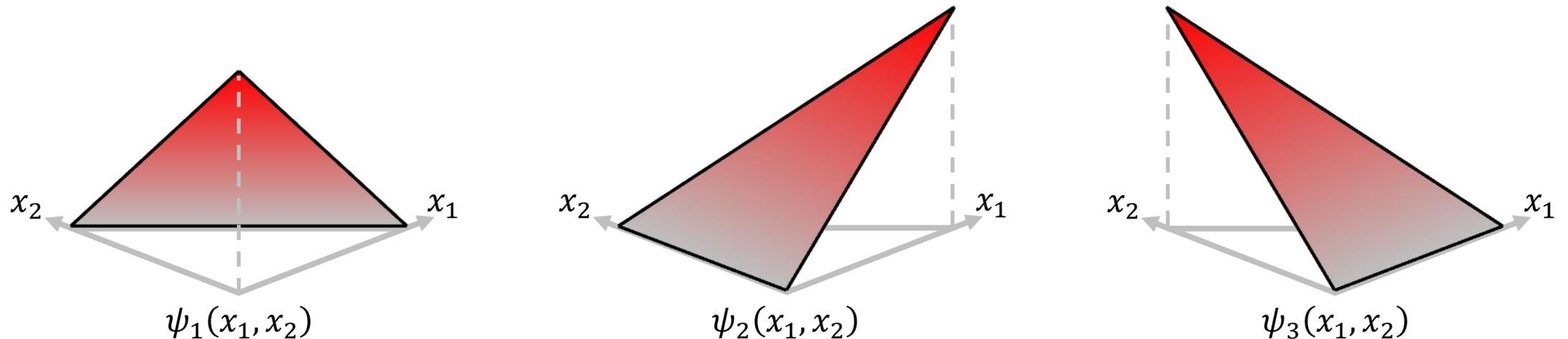


# Recall



Given a triangle mesh  $\mathcal{M} = \{\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{T}\}$ , we define a vector space  $V$  of piecewise-linear functions, spanned by the “hat” functions  $\{\phi_v\}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}$ .

Given a function  $f \in V$ , we denote by  $f_\tau$  the restriction of the function to triangle  $\tau \subset \mathcal{T}$ , realized as a function on  $\mathbb{T}$ .

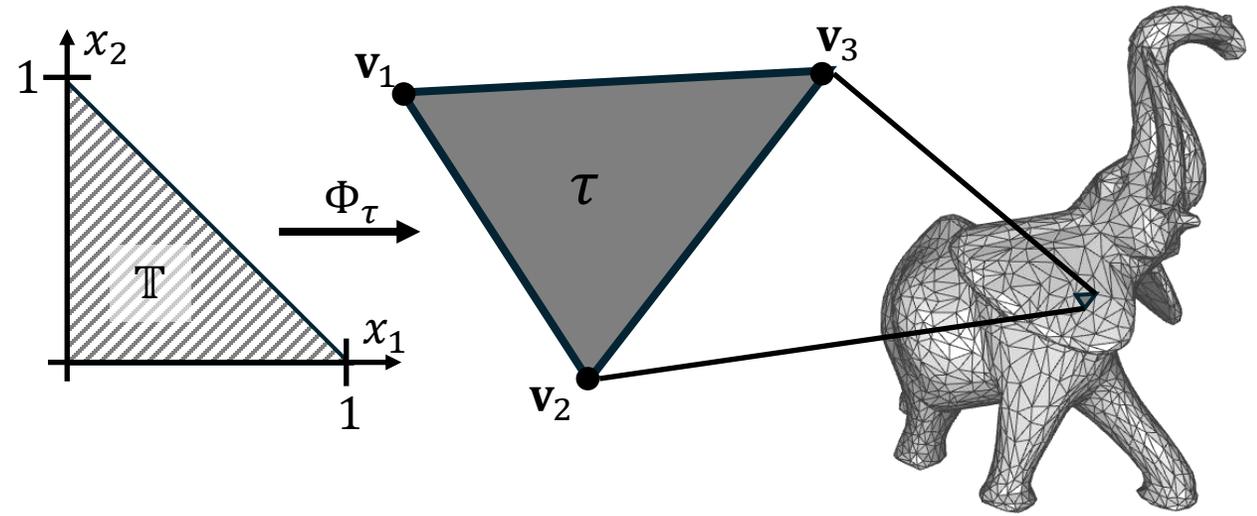


# Outline

Recall

Constant Vector Fields

# Vector Fields



Definition:

We say that a function  $v$  on  $\mathbb{T}$  is a *cotangent vector field* if for all  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{T}$ :

$$v(\mathbf{p}) \in T_{\mathbf{p}}^* \mathbb{T}$$

We say that a function  $v$  on  $\mathbb{T}$  is a *tangent vector field* if for all  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{T}$ :

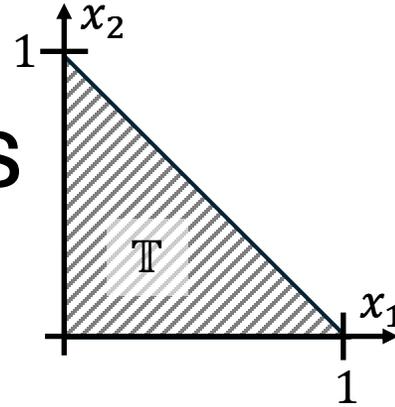
$$v(\mathbf{p}) \in T_{\mathbf{p}} \mathbb{T}$$

If we have a metric  $g_\tau$ , we can turn cotangent vector fields into tangent vector fields:

$$v \equiv g_\tau(v)$$

and vice versa.

# Constant Vector Fields



## Scalar Functions:

Real-valued linear functions on a triangle are spanned by the “hat” basis:

$$\psi_1(x_1, x_2) = 1 - x_1 - x_2$$

$$\psi_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1$$

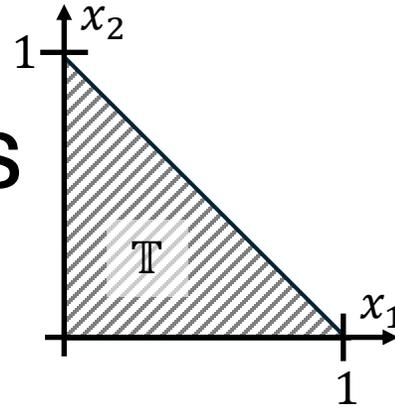
$$\psi_3(x_1, x_2) = x_2$$

These are defined independent of a metric.

Using these, we define the mass and stiffness matrices,  $\mathbf{m}^\tau, \mathbf{s}^\tau \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$ .

These incorporate the inner-product,  $g_\tau$ , pulled back from the embedded triangle  $\tau \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ .

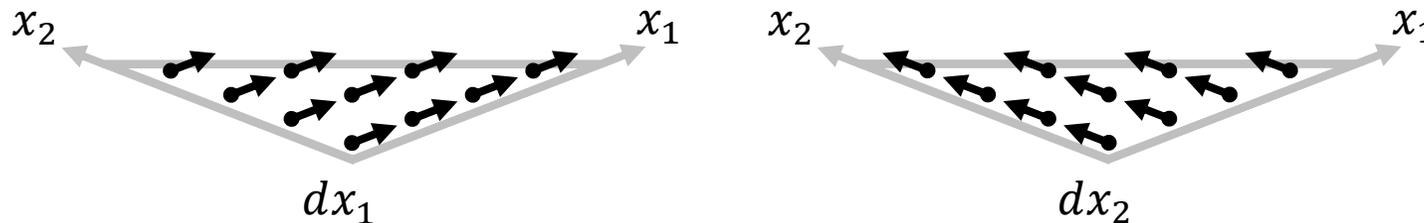
# Constant Vector Fields



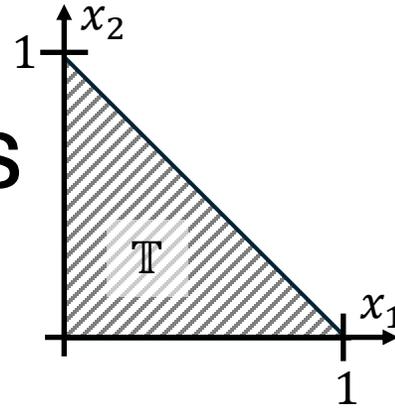
$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1(x_1, x_2) &= 1 - x_1 - x_2 \\ \psi_2(x_1, x_2) &= x_1 \\ \psi_3(x_1, x_2) &= x_2\end{aligned}$$

## Cotangent Vector Fields:

We can also consider the space of **cotangent** vector fields that are constant w.r.t. the basis  $\{dx_1, dx_2\}$ .



# Constant Vector Fields



$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1(x_1, x_2) &= 1 - x_1 - x_2 \\ \psi_2(x_1, x_2) &= x_1 \\ \psi_3(x_1, x_2) &= x_2\end{aligned}$$

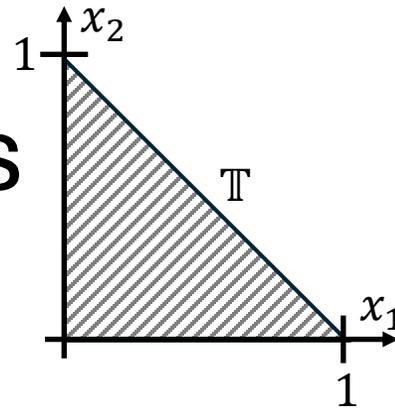
## Properties:

Because the hat basis is linear within a triangle, its differentials are constant w.r.t.  $\{dx_1, dx_2\}$ .

⇒ The differentials can be expressed in the basis  $\{dx_1, dx_2\}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}d\psi_1 &= \frac{\partial \psi_1}{\partial x_1} \cdot dx_1 + \frac{\partial \psi_1}{\partial x_2} \cdot dx_2 = -dx_1 - dx_2 \\ d\psi_2 &= \frac{\partial \psi_2}{\partial x_1} \cdot dx_1 + \frac{\partial \psi_2}{\partial x_2} \cdot dx_2 = dx_1 \\ d\psi_3 &= \frac{\partial \psi_3}{\partial x_1} \cdot dx_1 + \frac{\partial \psi_3}{\partial x_2} \cdot dx_2 = dx_2\end{aligned}$$

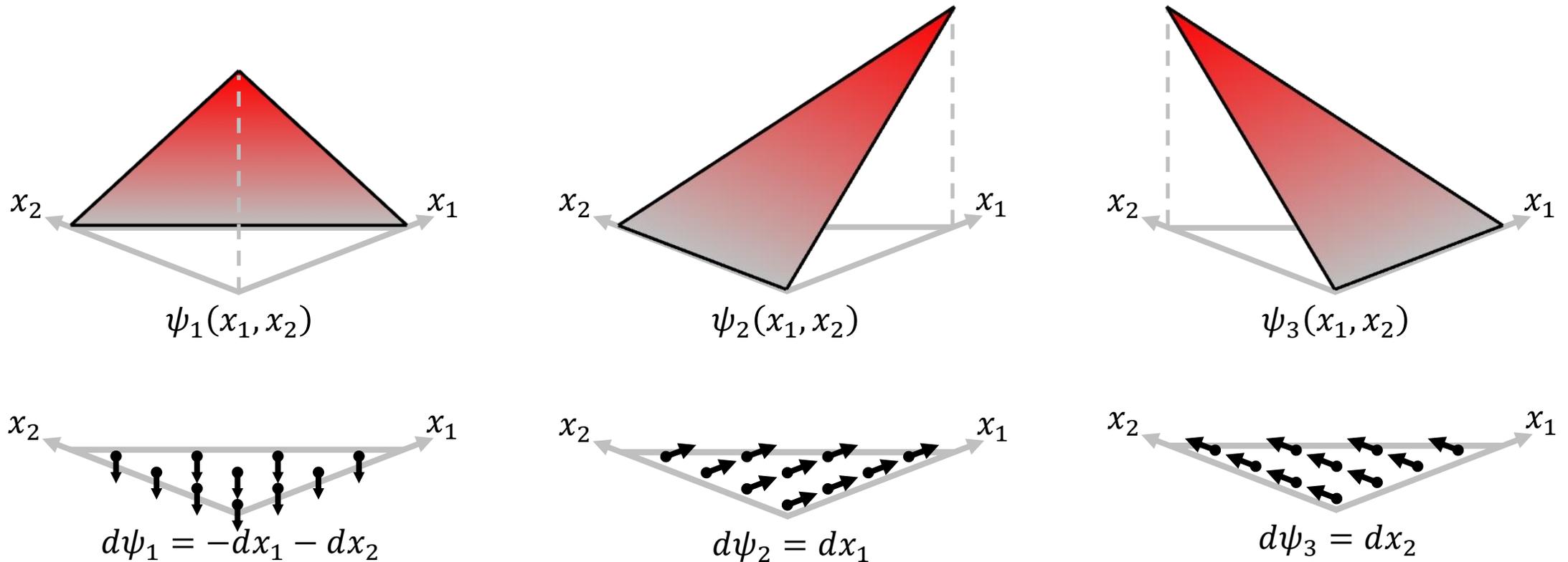
# Constant Vector Fields



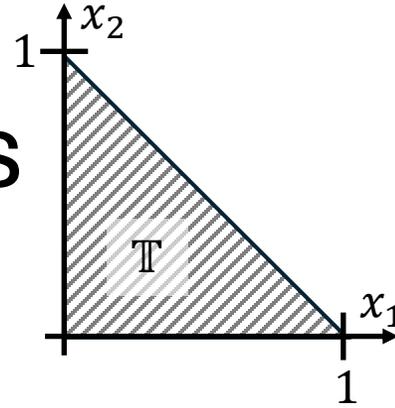
$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1(x_1, x_2) &= 1 - x_1 - x_2 \\ \psi_2(x_1, x_2) &= x_1 \\ \psi_3(x_1, x_2) &= x_2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}d\psi_1 &= -dx_1 - dx_2 \\ d\psi_2 &= dx_1 \\ d\psi_3 &= dx_2\end{aligned}$$

We can express the differentials of  $\{\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3\}$  in terms of  $\{dx_1, dx_2\}$ .



# Constant Vector Fields



$$\psi_1(x_1, x_2) = 1 - x_1 - x_2$$

$$\psi_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1$$

$$\psi_3(x_1, x_2) = x_2$$

$$d\psi_1 = -dx_1 - dx_2$$

$$d\psi_2 = dx_1$$

$$d\psi_3 = dx_2$$

## Matrix Representation:

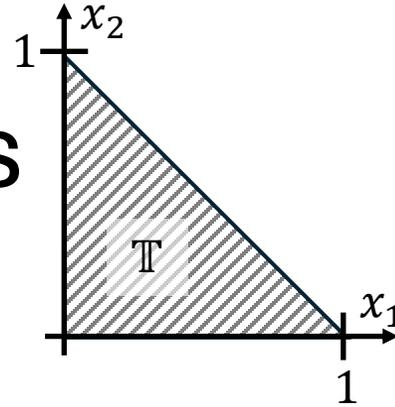
Given a scalar function  $\psi = \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \psi_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot \psi_2 + \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \psi_3$ , its differential is:

$$\begin{aligned} d\psi &= d(\mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \psi_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot \psi_2 + \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \psi_3) \\ &= \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot d\psi_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot d\psi_2 + \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot d\psi_3 \\ &= \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot (-dx_1 - dx_2) + \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot dx_1 + \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot dx_2 \\ &= (-\mathbf{a}_1 + \mathbf{a}_2) \cdot dx_1 + (-\mathbf{a}_1 + \mathbf{a}_3) \cdot dx_2 \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$  With respect to the bases  $\{\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3\}$  and  $\{dx_1, dx_2\}$ , the differential operator is expressed by the matrix  $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 3}$ :

$$\mathbf{d} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Constant Vector Fields



$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1(x_1, x_2) &= 1 - x_1 - x_2 \\ \psi_2(x_1, x_2) &= x_1 \\ \psi_3(x_1, x_2) &= x_2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}d\psi_1 &= -dx_1 - dx_2 \\ d\psi_2 &= dx_1 \\ d\psi_3 &= dx_2\end{aligned}$$

## Matrix Representation:

Given a scalar function  $\psi = \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \psi_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot \psi_2 + \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \psi_3$ , its differential is:

$$\begin{aligned}d\psi &= d(\mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \psi_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot \psi_2 + \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \psi_3) \\ &= \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot d\psi_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot d\psi_2 + \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot d\psi_3\end{aligned}$$

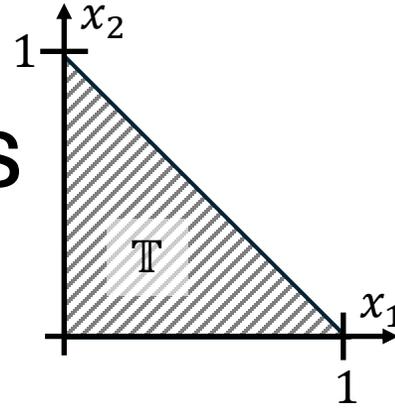
Note:

The matrix representation of the differential is metric-independent.

⇒ With respect to the basis  $\{\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3\}$ , the differential operator is expressed by the matrix  $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{K}^{3 \times 3}$ :

$$\mathbf{d} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Constant Vector Fields



$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1(x_1, x_2) &= 1 - x_1 - x_2 \\ \psi_2(x_1, x_2) &= x_1 \\ \psi_3(x_1, x_2) &= x_2\end{aligned}$$

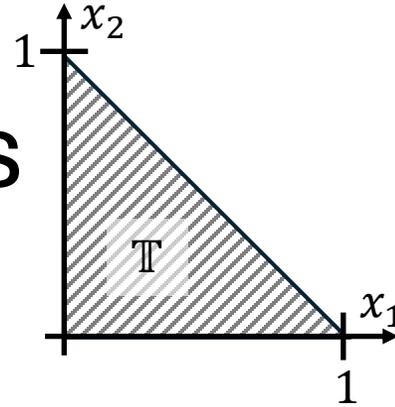
$$\begin{aligned}d\psi_1 &= -dx_1 - dx_2 \\ d\psi_2 &= dx_1 \\ d\psi_3 &= dx_2\end{aligned}$$

## Matrix Representation:

Given two cotangent vector fields,  $\nu = \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot dx_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot dx_2$  and  $\eta = \mathbf{b}_1 \cdot dx_1 + \mathbf{b}_2 \cdot dx_2$ , the inner product of the vector fields is:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle\langle \nu, \eta \rangle\rangle_\tau &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \langle \nu, \eta \rangle_{g_\tau^{-1}} \cdot \sqrt{\det(E^{-1} \circ g_\tau)} \cdot \omega_E \\ &= \sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_\tau)} \cdot \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^2 \mathbf{a}_i \cdot dx_i, \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathbf{b}_j \cdot dx_j \right\rangle_{g_\tau^{-1}} \cdot \omega_E \\ &= \sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_\tau)} \cdot \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{b}_j \int_{\mathbb{T}} \langle dx_i, dx_j \rangle_{g_\tau^{-1}} \cdot \omega_E \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_\tau)}}{2} \cdot \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{b}_j \cdot (\mathbf{g}_\tau^{-1})_{ij}\end{aligned}$$

# Constant Vector Fields



$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1(x_1, x_2) &= 1 - x_1 - x_2 \\ \psi_2(x_1, x_2) &= x_1 \\ \psi_3(x_1, x_2) &= x_2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}d\psi_1 &= -dx_1 - dx_2 \\ d\psi_2 &= dx_1 \\ d\psi_3 &= dx_2\end{aligned}$$

## Matrix Representation:

Given two cotangent vector fields,  $\nu = \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot dx_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot dx_2$  and  $\eta = \mathbf{b}_1 \cdot dx_1 + \mathbf{b}_2 \cdot dx_2$ , the inner product of the vector fields is:

$$\langle\langle \nu, \eta \rangle\rangle_\tau = \frac{\sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_\tau)}}{2} \cdot \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{b}_j \cdot (\mathbf{g}_\tau^{-1})_{ij}$$

Setting  $\overline{\mathbf{m}}^\tau \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$  to be the differential mass matrix:

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{\mathbf{m}}^\tau &= \frac{\sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_\tau)}}{2} \cdot \mathbf{g}_\tau^{-1} \\ &\Downarrow \\ \langle\langle \nu, \eta \rangle\rangle_\tau &= \mathbf{a}^\top \cdot \overline{\mathbf{m}}^\tau \cdot \mathbf{b}\end{aligned}$$

# Algebraic Interpretation

The constant cotangent vector field basis defines a 2-dimensional space:

$$\bar{V} = \text{Span}(dx_1, dx_2)$$

Mass matrix:

Letting  $\bar{m}^\tau$  be the symmetric, positive-definite bilinear map:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{m}^\tau: \bar{V} \times \bar{V} &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ (v, \eta) &\mapsto \langle\langle v, \eta \rangle\rangle_\tau\end{aligned}$$

this makes  $\bar{V}$  into an inner-product space  $\{\bar{V}, \bar{m}^\tau: \bar{V} \rightarrow \bar{V}^*\}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  The mass matrix  $\bar{\mathbf{m}}^\tau \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$  gives us an expression for the map  $\bar{m}^\tau: \bar{V} \rightarrow \bar{V}^*$  w.r.t. the bases  $\{dx_1, dx_2\}$ .

# Algebraic Interpretation

The constant cotangent vector field basis defines a 2-dimensional space:

$$\bar{V} = \text{Span}(dx_1, dx_2)$$

The linear scalar field basis defines a 3-dimensional space:

$$V = \text{Span}(\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3)$$

Differential matrix:

Let  $d \in \text{Hom}(V, \bar{V})$  be the differential:

$$\begin{aligned} d: V &\rightarrow \bar{V} \\ f &\mapsto df \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$  The matrix  $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 3}$  gives an expression for the map  $d: V \rightarrow \bar{V}$  w.r.t. the bases  $\{\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3\}$  and  $\{dx_1, dx_2\}$ .

# Algebraic Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{d} & \bar{V} \\ d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d \downarrow & & \downarrow \bar{m}^\tau \\ V^* & \xleftarrow{d^*} & \bar{V}^* \end{array}$$

We have a vector space  $V$ , an inner-product space  $\{\bar{V}, \bar{m}^\tau : \bar{V} \rightarrow \bar{V}^*\}$ , and a linear map  $d \in \text{Hom}(V, \bar{V})$ .

$\Rightarrow$  We can pull back the bilinear form  $\bar{m}^\tau$  to obtain a bilinear form on  $V$ :

$$d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d$$

Properties:

Since  $\bar{m}^\tau$  is symmetric, so is the pull-back  $d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d$ .

Since  $\bar{m}^\tau$  is positive semi-definite, so is the pull-back  $d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d$ .

Note:

Though  $\bar{m}^\tau$  is positive definite, the pull-back is not since  $d$  is not invertible.

# Algebraic Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 V & \xrightarrow{d} & \bar{V} \\
 \downarrow d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d & & \downarrow \bar{m}^\tau \\
 V^* & \xleftarrow{d^*} & \bar{V}^*
 \end{array}$$

We have a vector space  $V$ , an inner-product space  $\{\bar{V}, \bar{m}^\tau : \bar{V} \rightarrow \bar{V}^*\}$ , and a linear map  $d \in \text{Hom}(V, \bar{V})$ .

$\bar{m}^\tau$  is a bilinear map taking two constant cotangent vector-fields and returning their integrated inner-product:

$$\bar{m}^\tau(v, \eta) = \langle\langle v, \eta \rangle\rangle_\tau$$

$\Rightarrow$  The pull-back to scalar fields is the bilinear map  $\bar{m}^\tau$  applied to the differentials of the scalar fields:

$$(d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d)(f, g) = \langle\langle df, dg \rangle\rangle_\tau$$

$\Rightarrow$  Applied to the same function:

$$(d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d)(f, f) = E_D(f)$$

# Algebraic Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{d} & \bar{V} \\ d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d \downarrow & & \downarrow \bar{m}^\tau \\ V^* & \xleftarrow{d^*} & \bar{V}^* \end{array}$$

We have a vector space  $V$ , an inner-product space  $\{\bar{V}, \bar{m}^\tau : \bar{V} \rightarrow \bar{V}^*\}$ , and a linear map  $d \in \text{Hom}(V, \bar{V})$ .

Applied to the same function, the pull-back of  $\bar{m}^\tau$  gives the Dirichlet energy:  
$$(d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d)(f, f) = E_D(f)$$

This is how we defined the stiffness operator:

$$\begin{array}{c} s^\tau : V \rightarrow V^* \\ \Downarrow \\ s^\tau = d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d \end{array}$$

# Algebraic Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{d} & \bar{V} \\ d^* \circ \bar{m}^\tau \circ d \downarrow & & \downarrow \bar{m}^\tau \\ V^* & \xleftarrow{d^*} & \bar{V}^* \end{array}$$

We have a vector space  $V$ , an inner-product space  $\{\bar{V}, \bar{m}^\tau : \bar{V} \rightarrow \bar{V}^*\}$ , and a linear map  $d \in \text{Hom}(V, \bar{V})$ .

$$s^\tau = \boxed{d^*} \circ \boxed{\bar{m}^\tau} \circ \boxed{d}$$

The stiffness operator factors as a composition of:

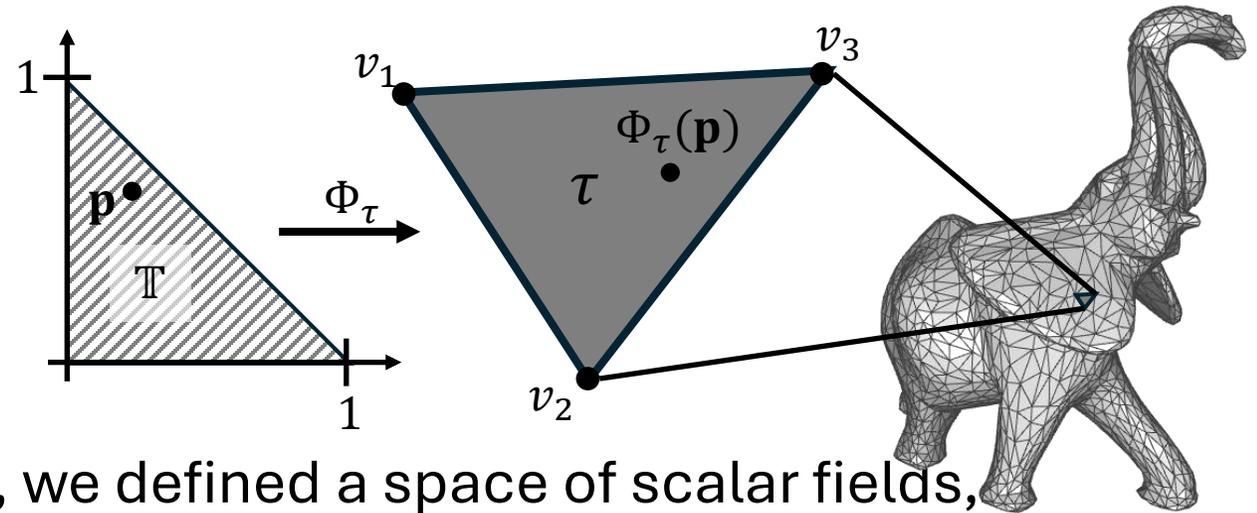
- **Metric-independent** components, and
- **Metric-dependent** components

Or, in terms of the bases  $\{\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3\}$  and  $\{\nu_1, \nu_2\}$ :

$$\mathbf{s}^\tau = \boxed{\mathbf{d}^\top} \circ \boxed{\bar{\mathbf{m}}^\tau} \circ \boxed{\mathbf{d}}$$

# Triangle Meshes

Recall:



Given a triangle mesh,  $\mathcal{M} = \{\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{T}\}$ , we defined a space of scalar fields, assigning a piecewise-linear scalar field to each **vertex**  $\{\phi_v\}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}$ :

$$\phi_v(\Phi_\tau(\mathbf{p})) = \psi_{\tau(v)}(\mathbf{p})$$

Using finite-element assembly, we constructed mass and stiffness matrices,  $\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{V}| \times |\mathcal{V}|}$ .

For piecewise-linear functions  $f, h \in \text{Span}(\phi_1, \dots, \phi_{|\mathcal{V}|})$ :

$$f = \mathbf{f}_1 \cdot \phi_1 + \dots + \mathbf{f}_{|\mathcal{V}|} \cdot \phi_{|\mathcal{V}|}$$

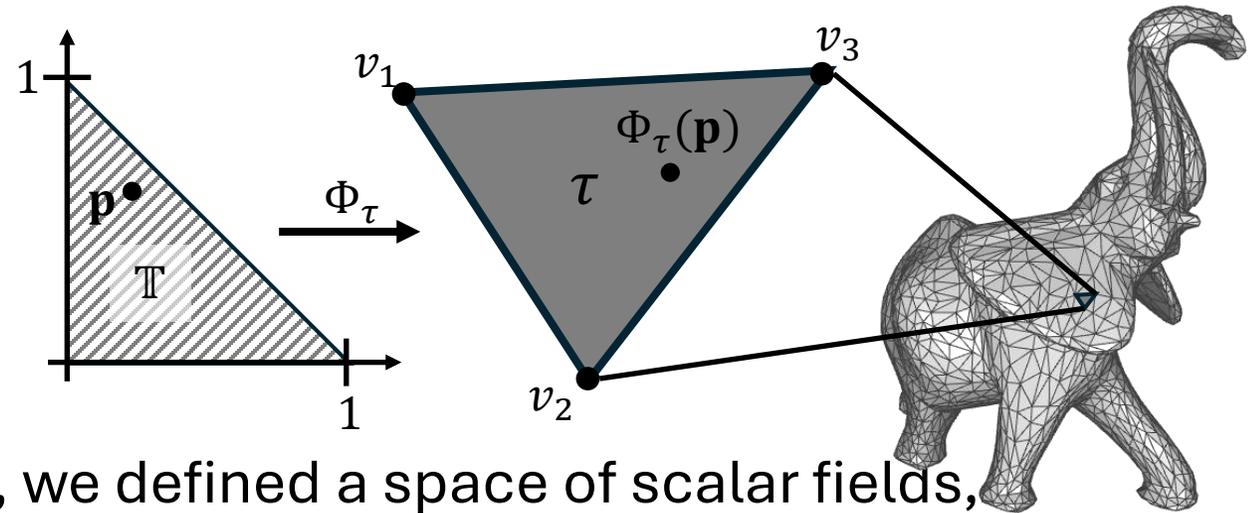
$$h = \mathbf{h}_1 \cdot \phi_1 + \dots + \mathbf{h}_{|\mathcal{V}|} \cdot \phi_{|\mathcal{V}|}$$

Their inner-product is:

$$\langle\langle f, h \rangle\rangle_{\mathcal{M}} = \mathbf{f}^\top \cdot \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{h}$$

# Triangle Meshes

Recall:



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Using finite-element assembly, we constructed mass and stiffness matrices,  $\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{V}| \times |\mathcal{V}|}$ .

For piecewise-linear functions  $f, h \in \text{Span}(\phi_1, \dots, \phi_{|\mathcal{V}|})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} f &= \mathbf{f}_1 \cdot \phi_1 + \dots + \mathbf{f}_{|\mathcal{V}|} \cdot \phi_{|\mathcal{V}|} \\ h &= \mathbf{h}_1 \cdot \phi_1 + \dots + \mathbf{h}_{|\mathcal{V}|} \cdot \phi_{|\mathcal{V}|} \end{aligned}$$

The inner-product of their differentials is:

$$\langle\langle df, dh \rangle\rangle_{\mathcal{M}} = \mathbf{f}^\top \cdot \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{h}$$

# Triangle Meshes

Similarly:

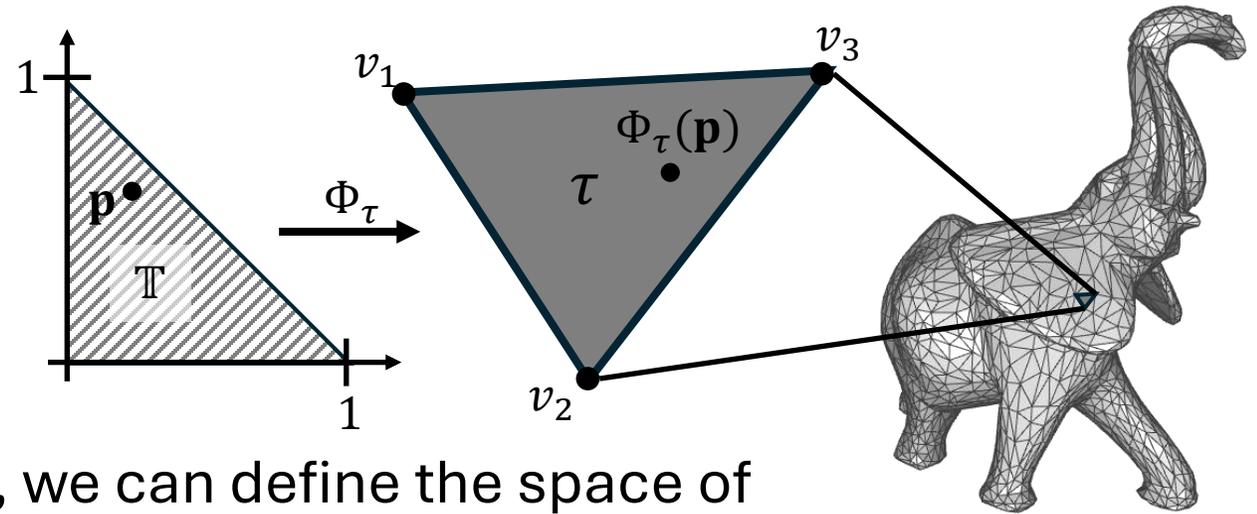
Given a triangle mesh,  $\mathcal{M} = \{\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{T}\}$ , we can define the space of cotangent vector fields, assigning two piecewise-constant cotangent vector fields to each **triangle**  $\{\eta_\tau^1, \eta_\tau^2\}_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}}$ :

$$\eta_\tau^k(\Phi_\tau(\mathbf{p})) = dx_k$$

Note:

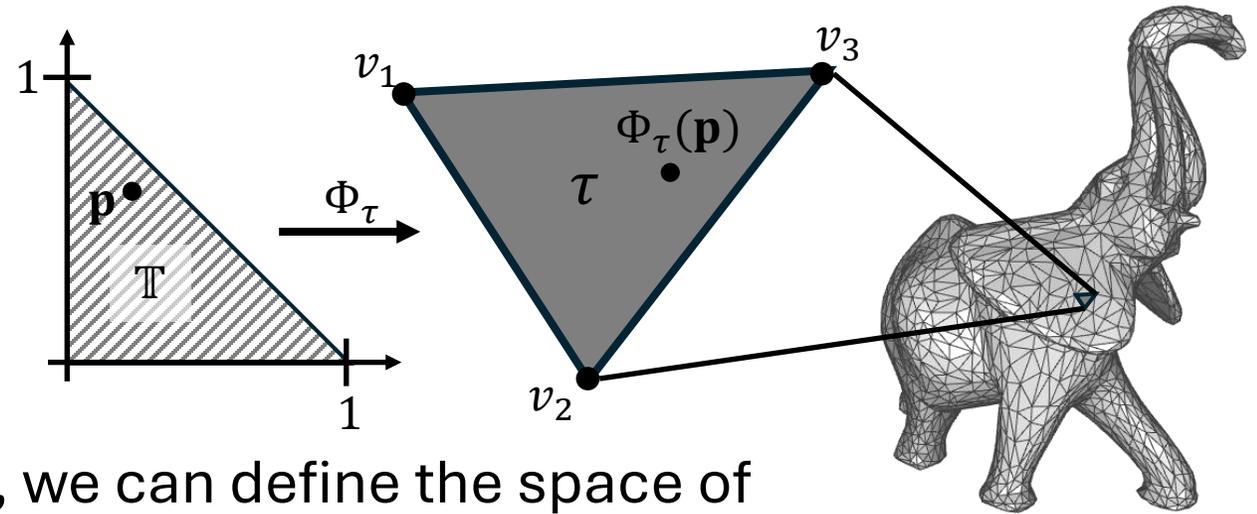
The basis functions  $\eta_\tau^k$  are defined on the mesh, but return values in the cotangent space of the parameterization domain:

$$\eta_\tau^k(\Phi_\tau(\mathbf{p})) \in T_{\mathbf{p}}^* \mathbb{T}$$



# Triangle Meshes

Similarly:



Given a triangle mesh,  $\mathcal{M} = \{\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{T}\}$ , we can define the space of cotangent vector fields, assigning two piecewise-constant cotangent vector fields to each **triangle**  $\{\eta_{\tau}^1, \eta_{\tau}^2\}_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}}$ :

$$\eta_{\tau}^k(\Phi_{\tau}(\mathbf{p})) = dx_k$$

Again, we can construct the mass matrix,  $\overline{\mathbf{M}} \in \mathbb{R}^{2|\mathcal{T}| \times 2|\mathcal{T}|}$ .

For piecewise-constant vector fields  $v, w \in \text{Span}(\eta_1^1, \eta_1^2, \dots, \eta_{|\mathcal{T}|}^1, \eta_{|\mathcal{T}|}^2)$ :

$$v = \mathbf{v}_1^1 \cdot \eta_1^1 + \mathbf{v}_1^2 \cdot \eta_1^2 + \dots + \mathbf{v}_{|\mathcal{T}|}^1 \cdot \eta_{|\mathcal{T}|}^1 + \mathbf{v}_{|\mathcal{T}|}^2 \cdot \eta_{|\mathcal{T}|}^2$$

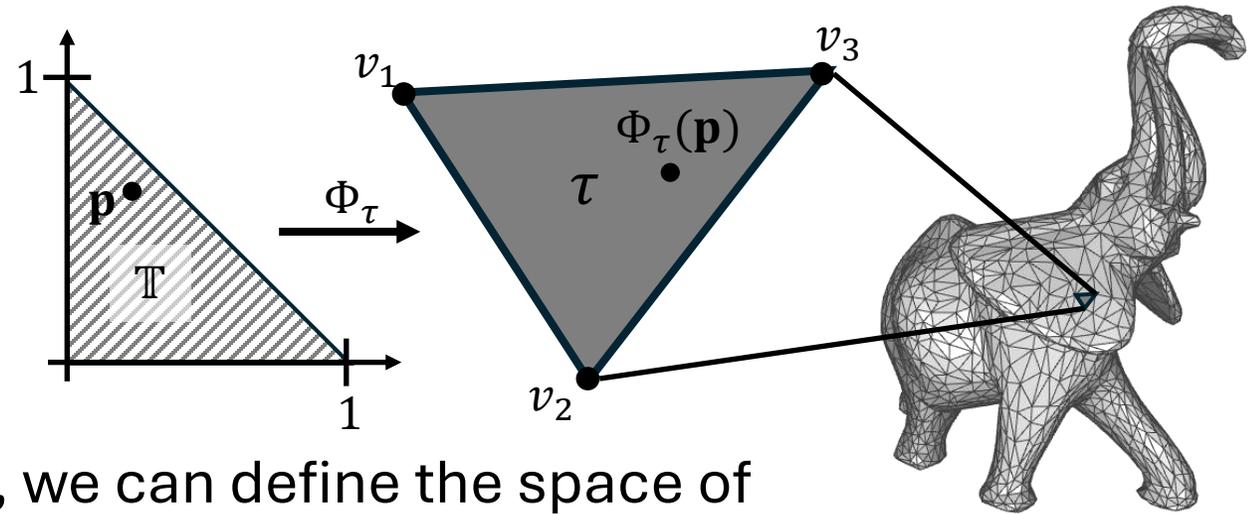
$$w = \mathbf{w}_1^1 \cdot \eta_1^1 + \mathbf{w}_1^2 \cdot \eta_1^2 + \dots + \mathbf{w}_{|\mathcal{T}|}^1 \cdot \eta_{|\mathcal{T}|}^1 + \mathbf{w}_{|\mathcal{T}|}^2 \cdot \eta_{|\mathcal{T}|}^2$$

Their inner-product is:

$$\langle\langle v, w \rangle\rangle_{\mathcal{M}} = \mathbf{v}^{\top} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{M}} \cdot \mathbf{w}$$

# Triangle Meshes

Similarly:



Given a triangle mesh,  $\mathcal{M} = \{\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{T}\}$ , we can define the space of cotangent vector fields, assigning two piecewise-constant cotangent vector fields to each **triangle**  $\{\eta_\tau^1, \eta_\tau^2\}_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}}$ :

$$\eta_\tau^k(\Phi_\tau(\mathbf{p})) = dx_k$$

And, we can construct the differential matrix,  $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{2|\mathcal{T}| \times |\mathcal{V}|}$ .

For a piecewise-linear function  $f \in \text{Span}(\phi_1, \dots, \phi_{|\mathcal{V}|})$ :

$$f = \mathbf{f}_1 \cdot \phi_1 + \dots + \mathbf{f}_{|\mathcal{V}|} \cdot \phi_{|\mathcal{V}|}$$

We can set  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^{2|\mathcal{T}|}$ .

This gives the coefficients of the differential of  $\mathbf{f}$  in the basis  $\{\eta_\tau^1, \eta_\tau^2\}_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}}$ :

$$df = \mathbf{v}_1^1 \cdot \eta_1^1 + \mathbf{v}_1^2 \cdot \eta_1^2 + \dots + \mathbf{v}_{|\mathcal{T}|}^1 \cdot \eta_{|\mathcal{T}|}^1 + \mathbf{v}_{|\mathcal{T}|}^2 \cdot \eta_{|\mathcal{T}|}^2$$

# Triangle Meshes

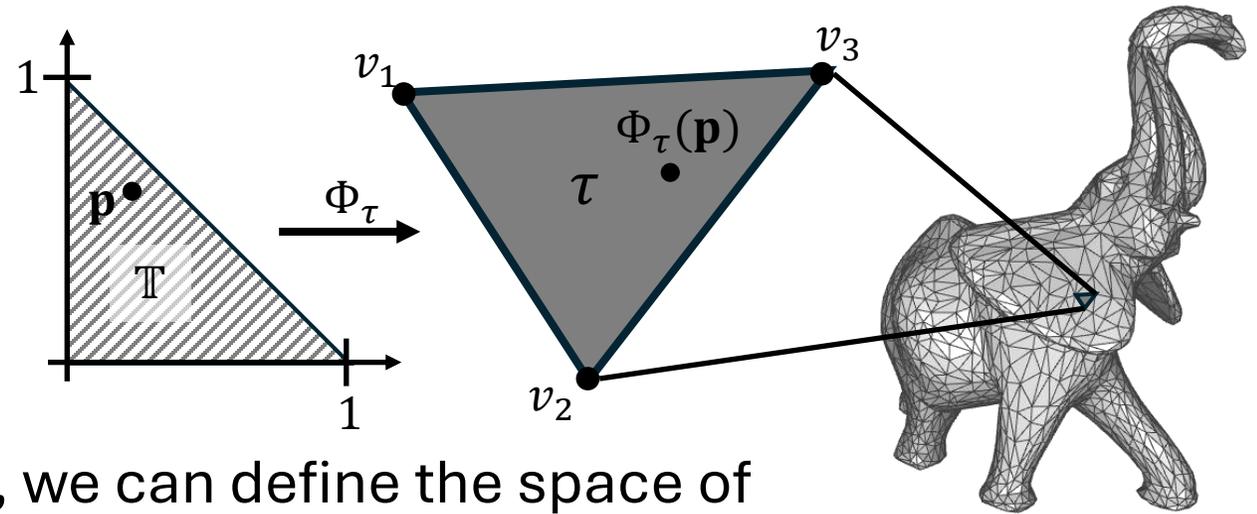
Similarly:

Given a triangle mesh,  $\mathcal{M} = \{\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{T}\}$ , we can define the space of cotangent vector fields, assigning two piecewise-constant cotangent vector fields to each **triangle**  $\{\eta_\tau^1, \eta_\tau^2\}_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}}$ :

$$\eta_\tau^k(\Phi_\tau(\mathbf{p})) = dx_k$$

As for a single triangle, this gives a factorization of the stiffness matrix:

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{D}^\top \cdot \overline{\mathbf{M}} \cdot \mathbf{D}$$



# Algebraic Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{d} & \bar{V} \\ M \downarrow & & \downarrow \bar{M} \\ V^* & \xleftarrow{d^*} & \bar{V}^* \end{array}$$

Given per-vertex scalar field basis  $\{\phi_v\}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}$ , we have a  $|\mathcal{V}|$ -dimensional inner-product space  $\{V, M: V \rightarrow V^*\}$ .

Given the per-triangle cotangent vector field basis  $\{\eta_\tau^1, \eta_\tau^2\}_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}}$ , we have a  $2|\mathcal{T}|$ -dimensional inner-product space  $\{\bar{V}, \bar{M}: \bar{V} \rightarrow \bar{V}^*\}$ .

The differential is a linear map from scalar fields to cotangent vector fields:

$$d \in \text{Hom}(V, \bar{V})$$

The (symmetric positive semi-definite) stiffness operator is the pull-back of the inner-product  $\bar{M}: \bar{V} \rightarrow \bar{V}^*$  to a bilinear form on  $V$ , via the differential:

$$S = d^* \circ \bar{M} \circ d$$

# Caution

We are now working with three types of inner-product spaces.

$$\{T_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbb{T}, g_{\mathbf{p}}: T_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbb{T} \rightarrow T_{\mathbf{p}}^*\mathbb{T}\}:$$

Tangent vectors at the point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{T}$ , with inner-product  $g_{\mathbf{p}}$  defined by pulling back the Euclidean inner-product using the differential of the parametrization  $\Phi_{\tau}: \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \tau$ .

$$\{V, M: V \rightarrow V^*\}:$$

Piecewise-linear functions on the mesh, with inner-product  $M$  defined by integrating over the mesh.

$$\{\bar{V}, \bar{M}: \bar{V} \rightarrow \bar{V}^*\}:$$

Piecewise-constant cotangent vector fields on the mesh, with inner-product  $\bar{M}$  defined by integrating over the mesh.