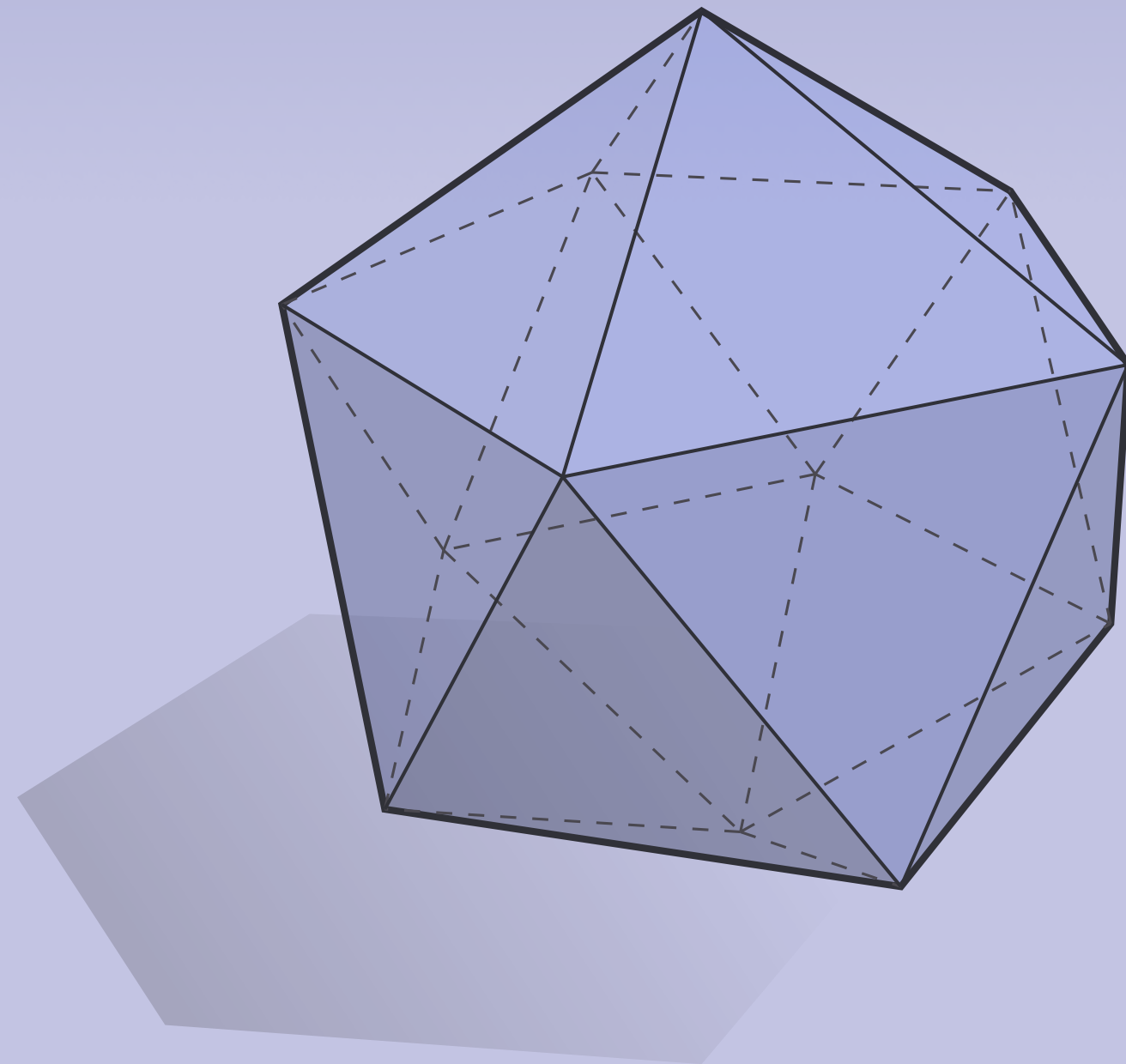


DISCRETE DIFFERENTIAL
GEOMETRY:
AN APPLIED INTRODUCTION
Keenan Crane • CMU 15-458/858

LECTURE 17:
DISCRETE CURVATURE II
(VARIATIONAL VIEWPOINT)

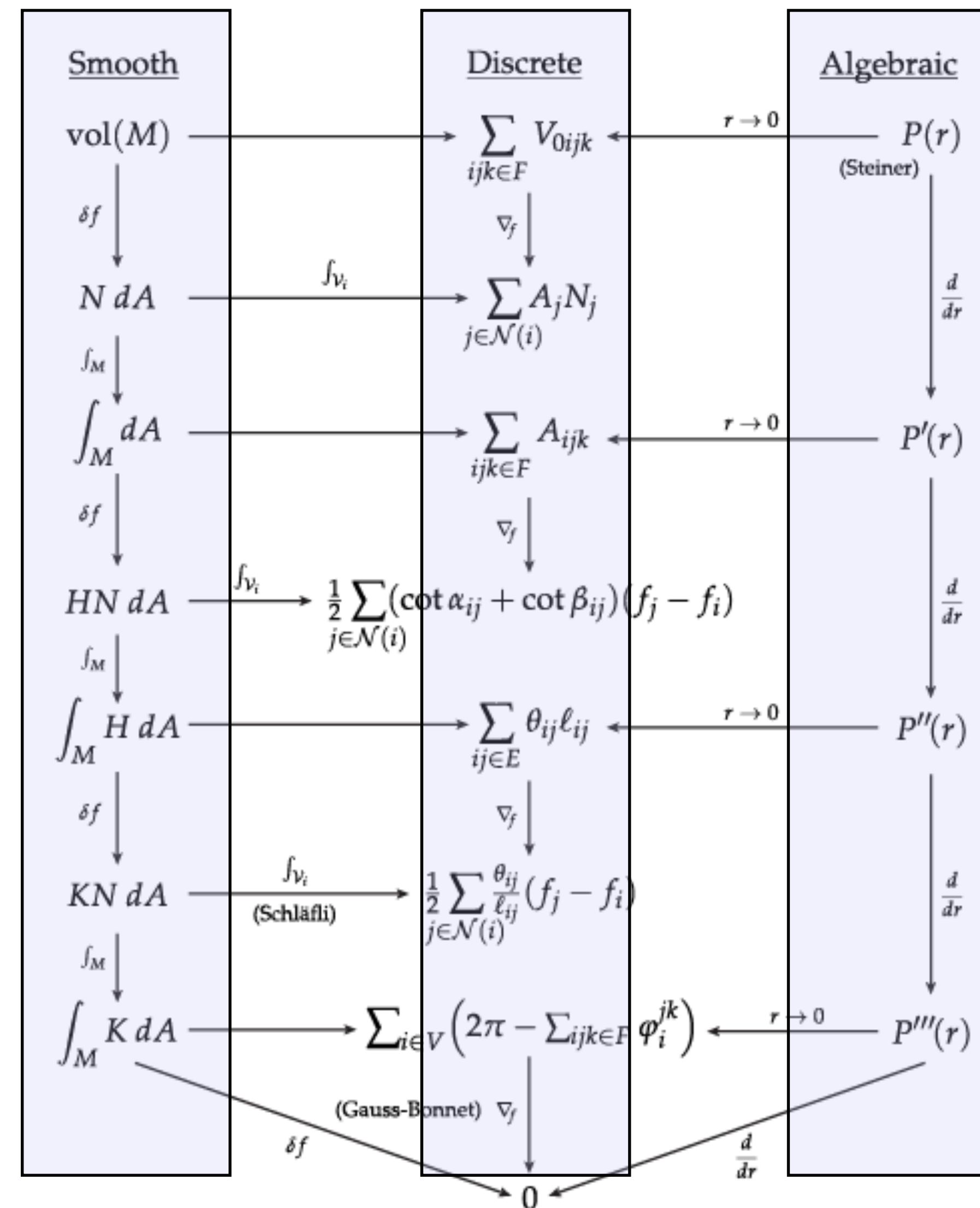


DISCRETE DIFFERENTIAL
GEOMETRY:
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A Unified Picture of Discrete Curvature

- Goal: obtain a unified picture of many different perspectives on discrete curvature by connecting smooth & discrete pictures
- Last time, took integral approach:
 - **vector-valued quantities**—integrate “curvature normals” over vertex neighborhood
 - **scalar quantities**—integrate curvatures on smoothed or “mollified” surface
- This time, take *variational* approach (derivatives)
 - Will see that our vector quantities actually just describe the change in our scalar quantities!

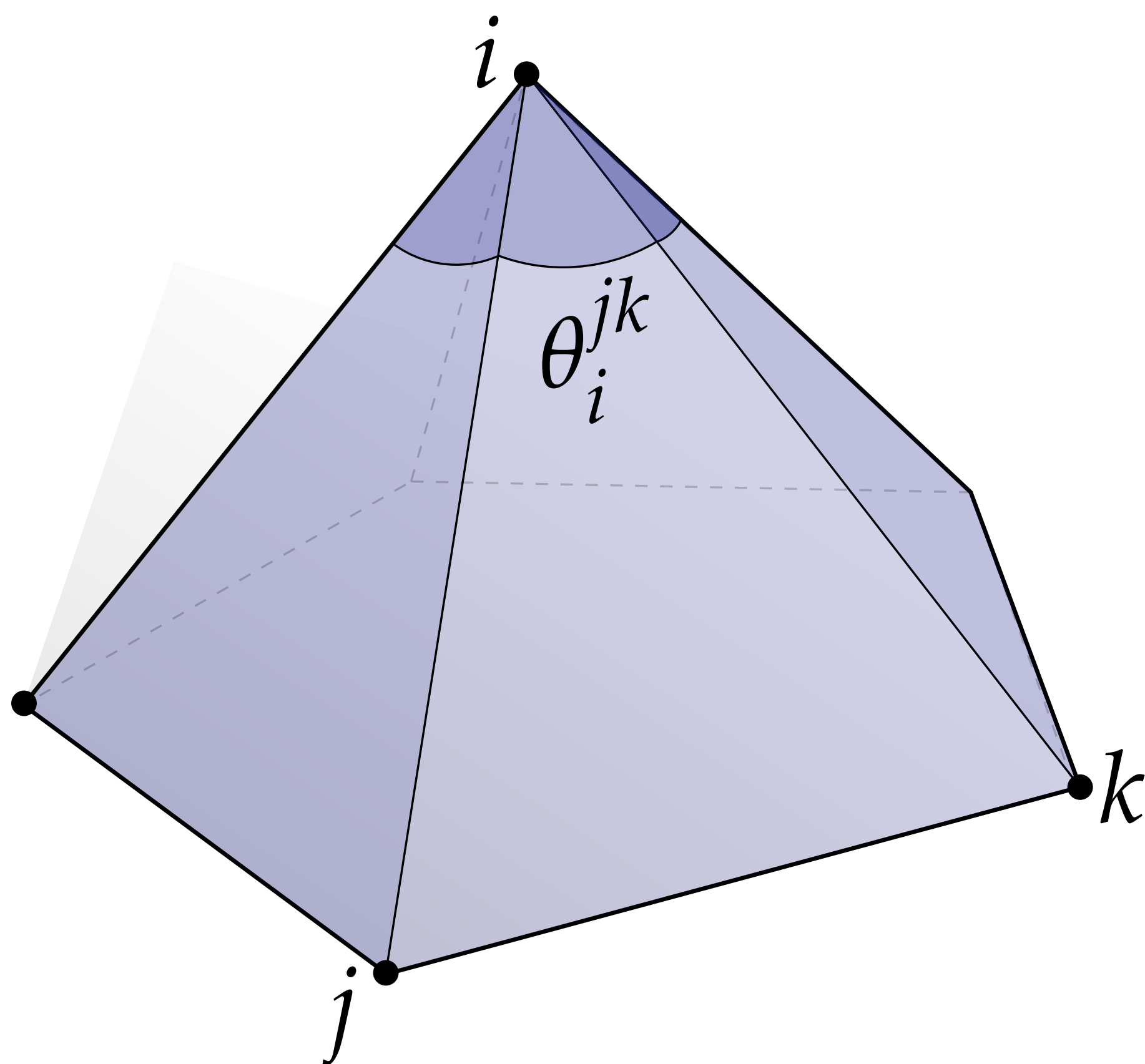


Recap: Vector Curvatures

| | area (NdA) | mean ($HNdA$) | Gauss ($KNdA$) |
|----------|--|--|---|
| smooth | $\frac{1}{2} df \wedge df$ | $\frac{1}{2} df \wedge dN$ | $\frac{1}{2} dN \wedge dN$ |
| discrete | $\frac{1}{6} \sum_{ijk \in \text{St}(i)} f_j \times f_k$ | $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij \in \text{St}(i)} (\cot \alpha_{ij} + \cot \beta_{ij})(f_i - f_j)$ | $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij \in \text{St}(i)} \frac{\varphi_{ij}}{\ell_{ij}} (f_j - f_i)$ |

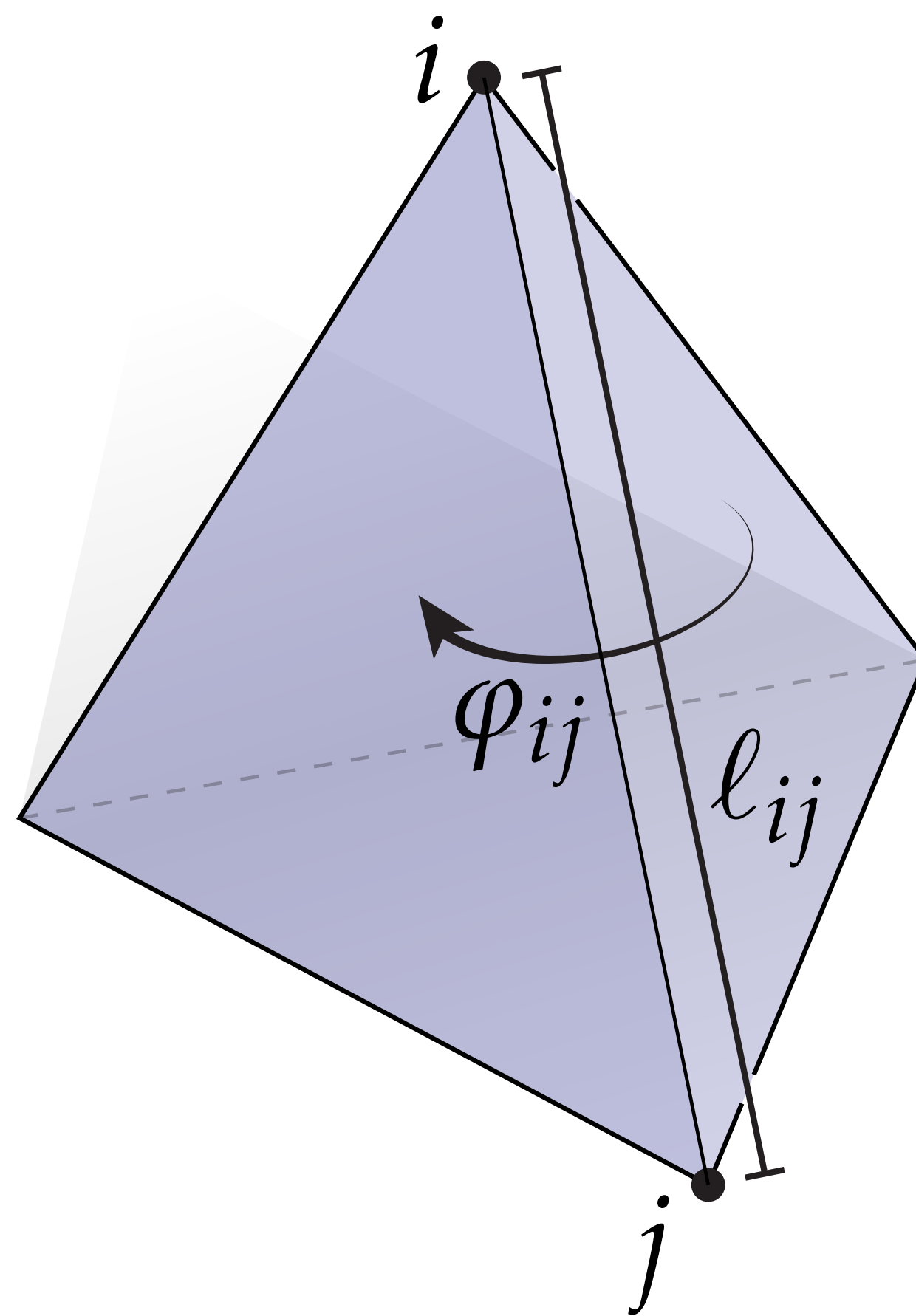
Recap: Scalar Curvatures

Gaussian curvature



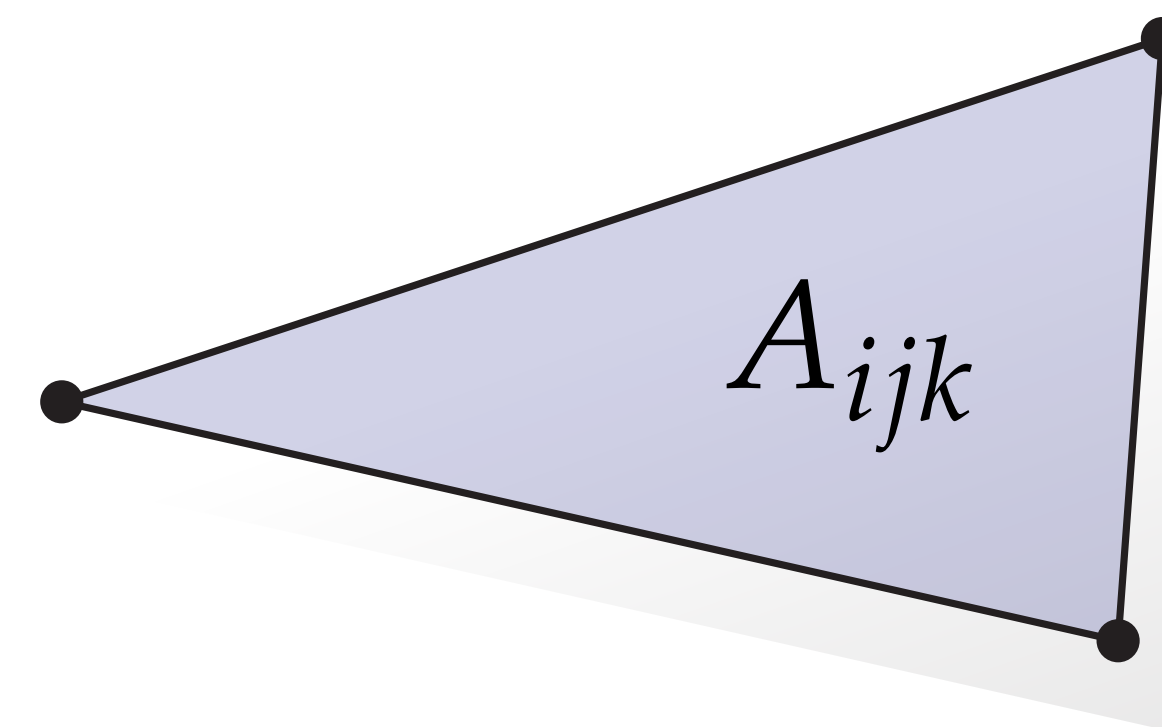
$$\Omega_i := 2\pi - \sum_{ijk} \theta_i^{jk}$$

mean curvature

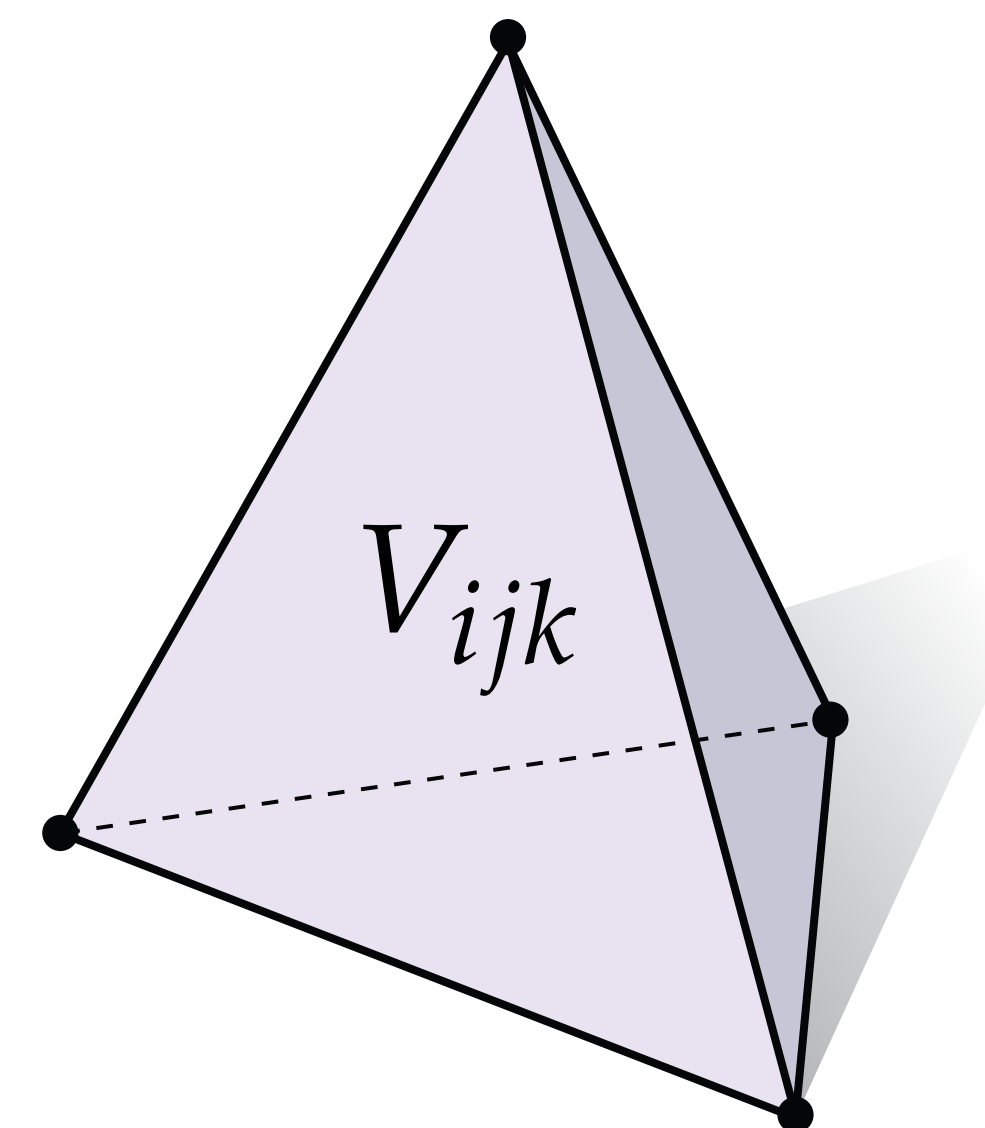


$$H_{ij} := \frac{1}{2} \ell_{ij} \varphi_{ij}$$

area



volume



Aside: Principal Curvatures

Gaussian: $K = \kappa_1 \kappa_2$

mean: $H = \frac{\kappa_1 + \kappa_2}{2}$

principal:

$$\kappa_1 = H - \sqrt{H^2 - K}$$

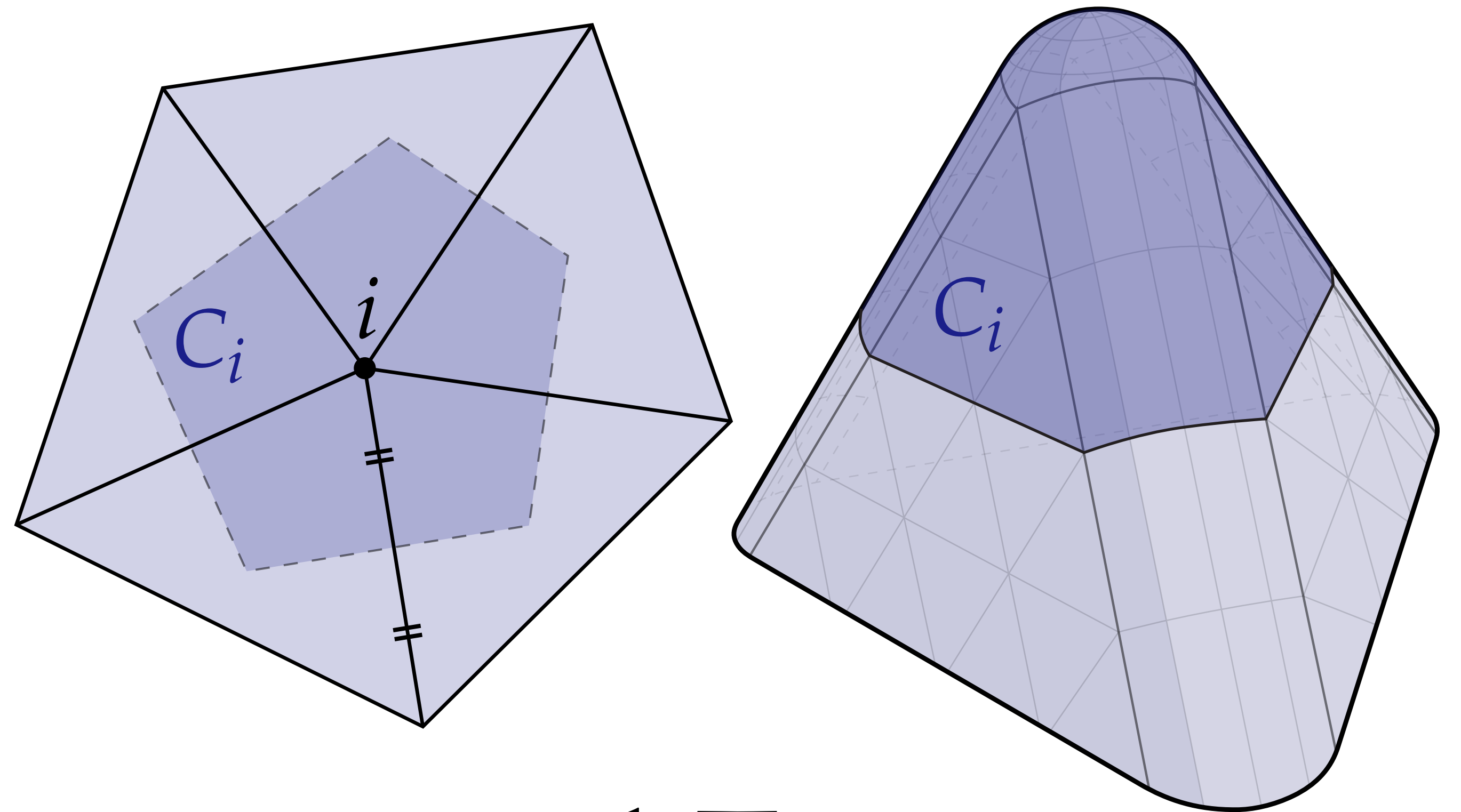
$$\kappa_2 = H + \sqrt{H^2 - K}$$

discrete principal curvatures:

$$\frac{H_i}{A_i} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{H_i}{A_i}\right)^2 - \frac{K_i}{A_i}}$$

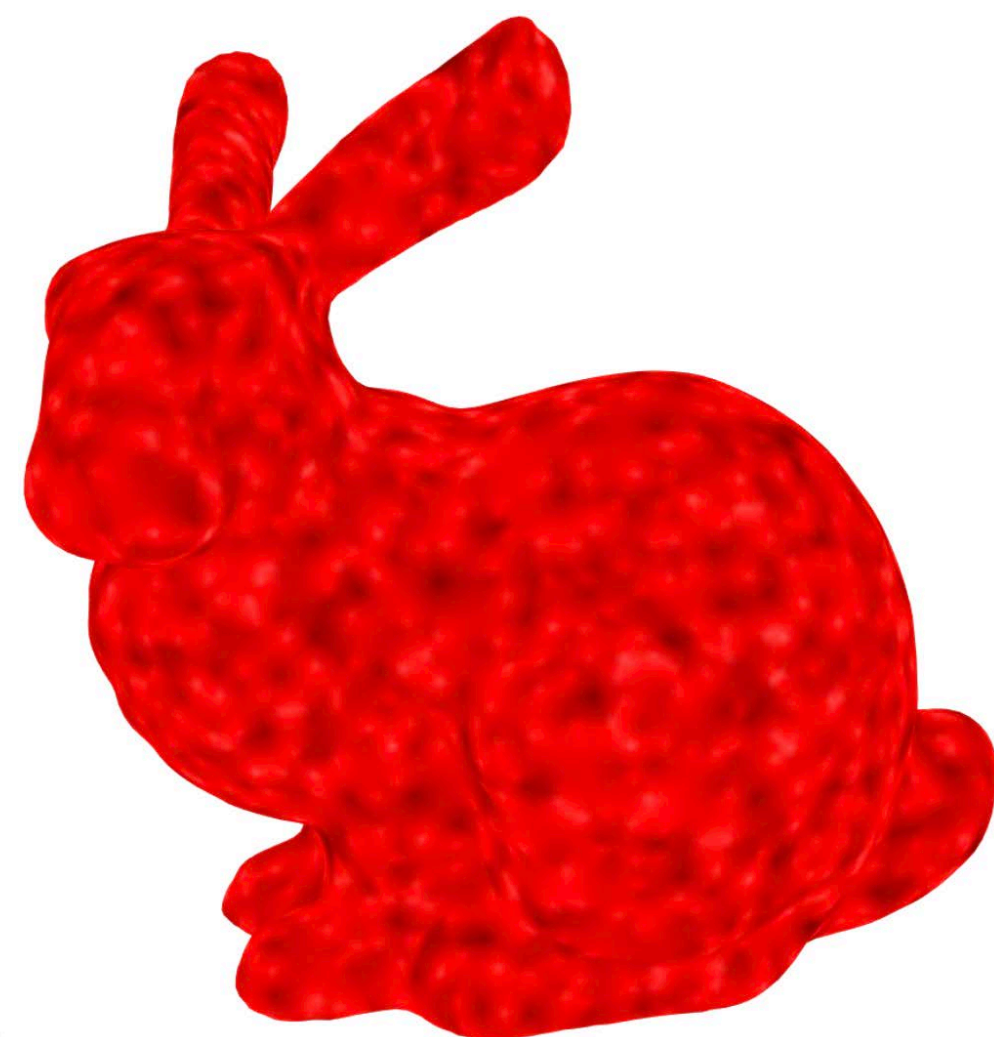
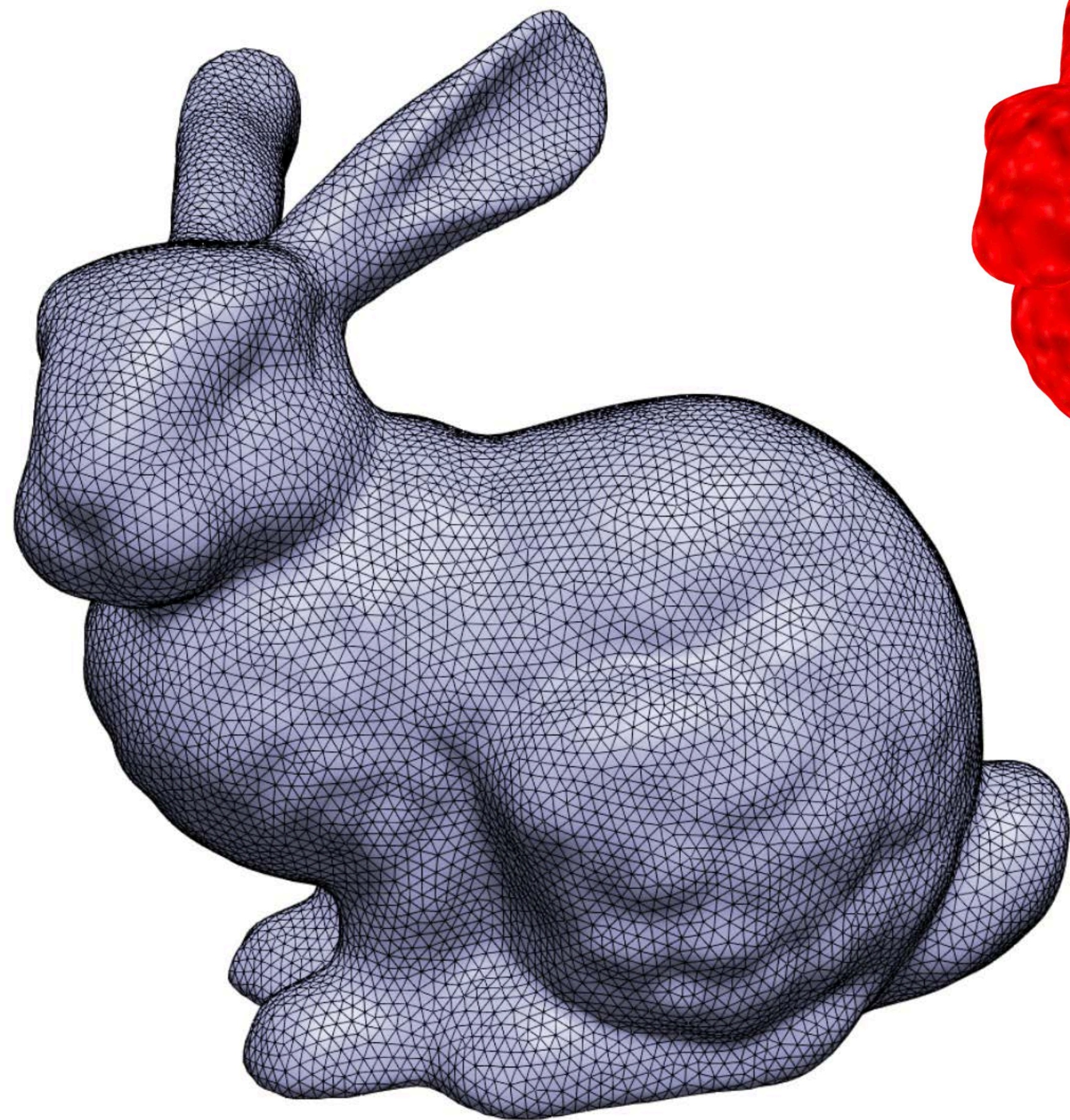
$$A_i := |C_i|$$

vertex mean curvature



$$H_i := \frac{1}{4} \sum_{ij \in E} \ell_{ij} \varphi_{ij}$$

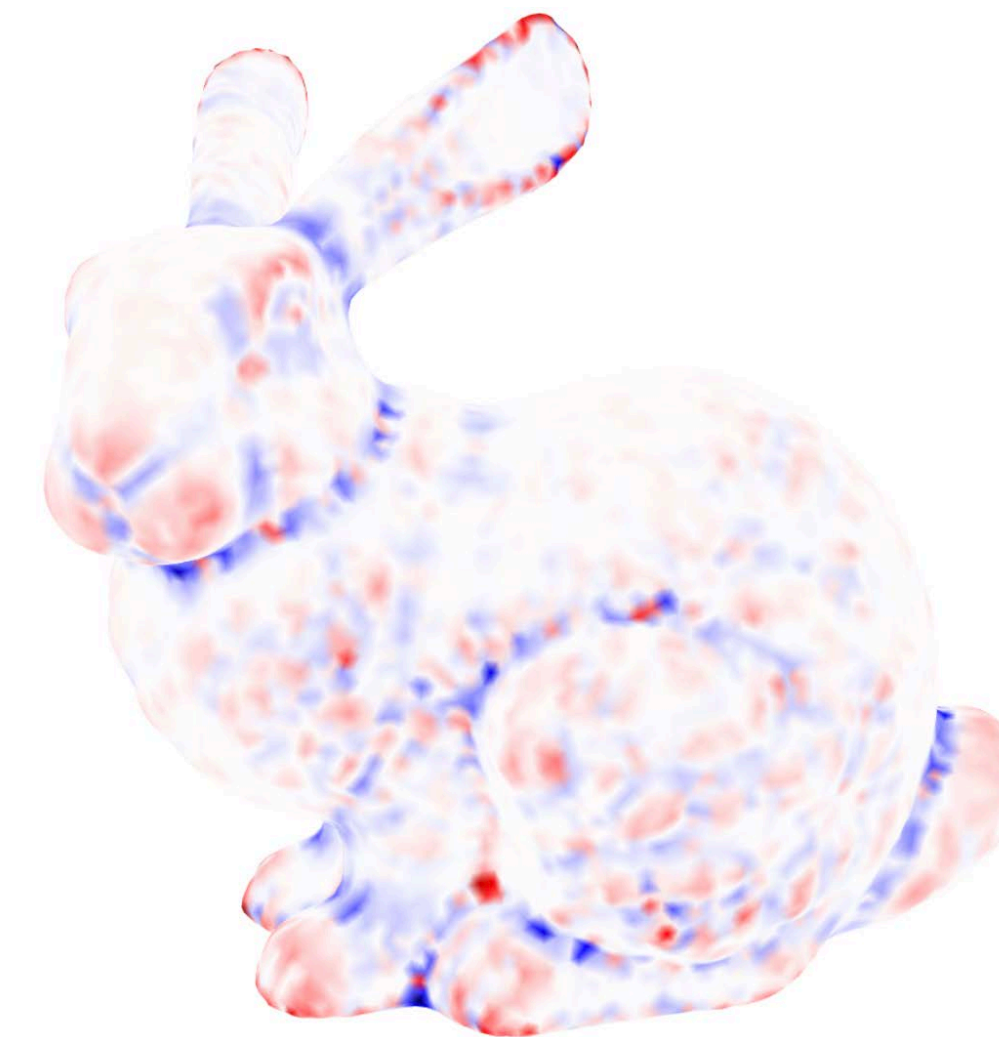
Scalar Curvatures — Visualized



area



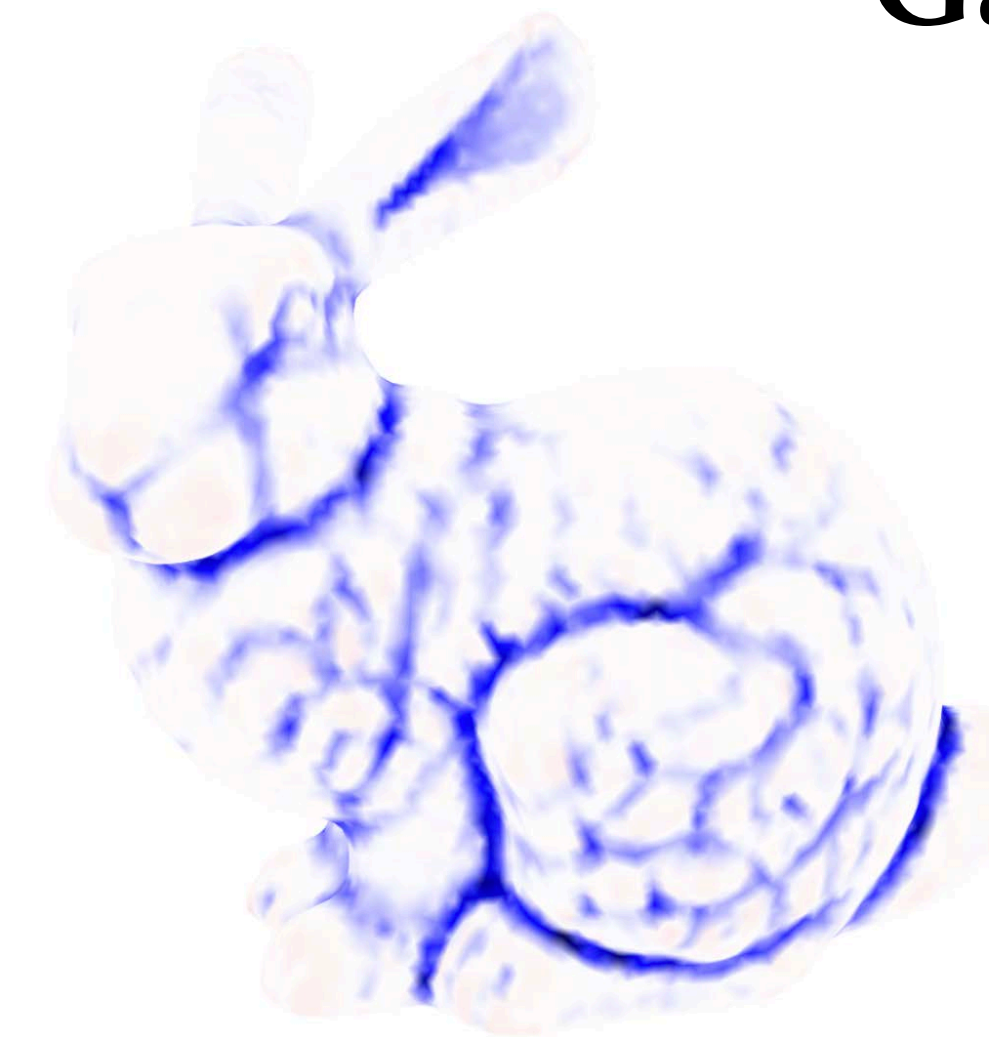
mean



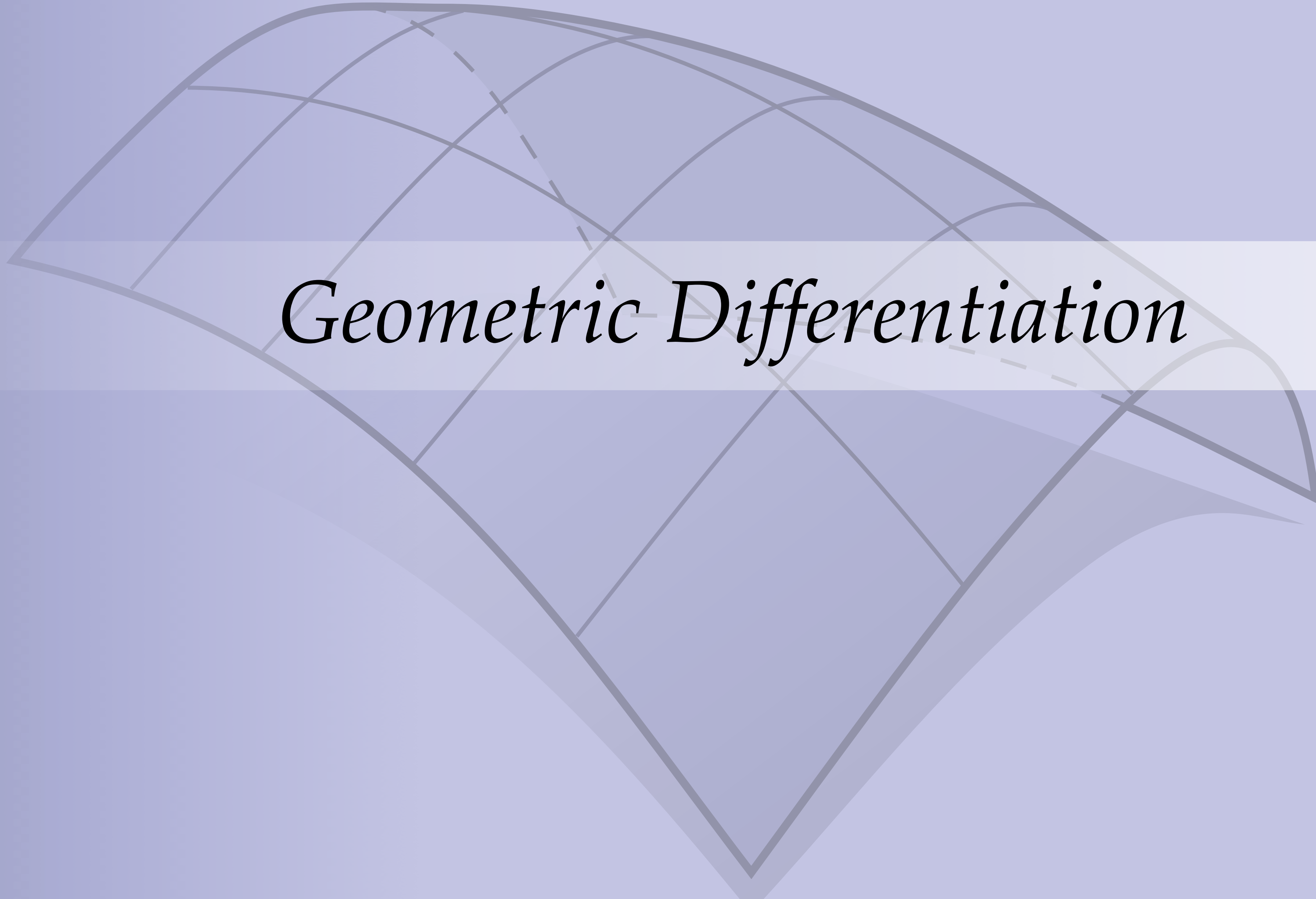
Gauss



maximum



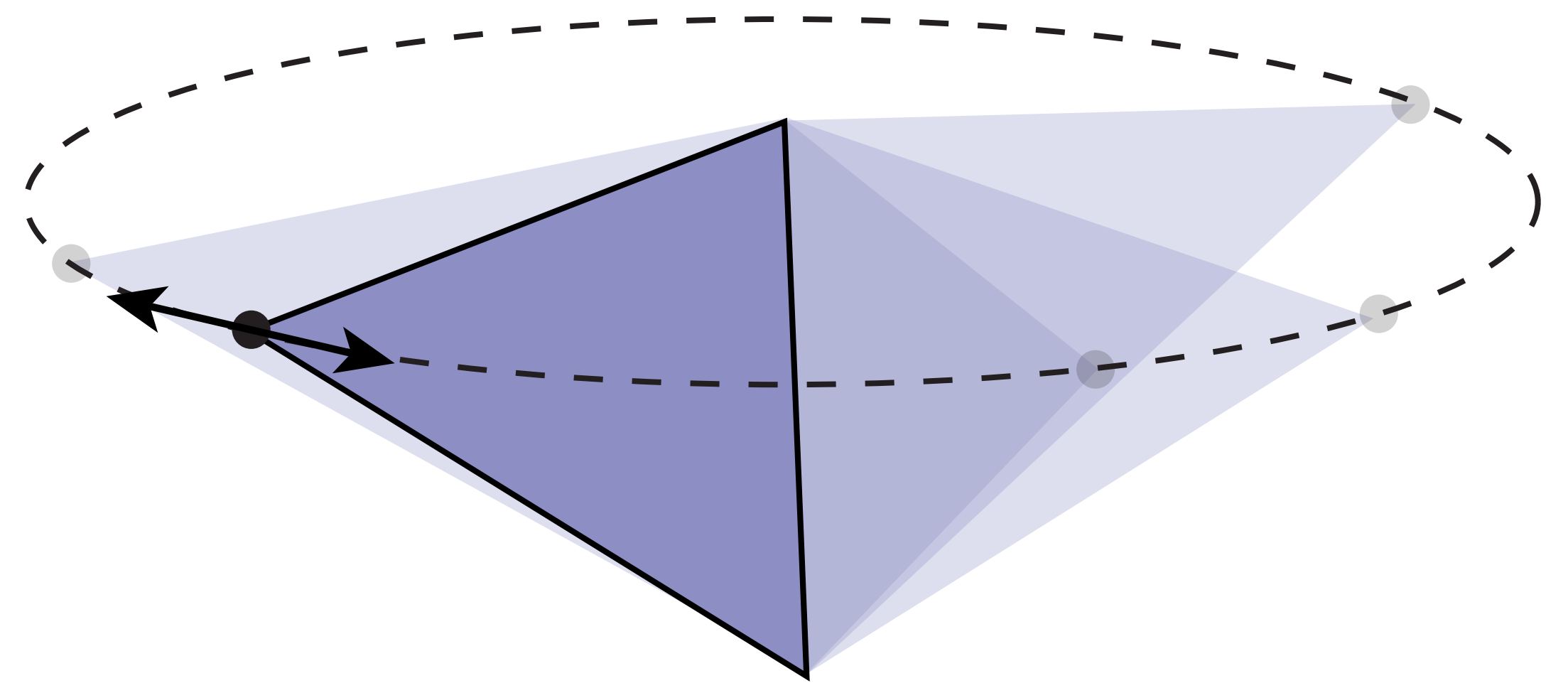
minimum



Geometric Differentiation

Geometric Differentiation

- Many geometric problems / algorithms involve taking derivatives of functions involving lengths, angles, areas, ...
- *E.g.*, how does the area of a triangle change as we move one of its vertices?
- More generally: *how does one geometric quantity change with respect to another?*
- **Don't** just grind out partial derivatives!
- **Do** follow a simple geometric recipe:
 1. First, in which **direction** does the quantity change quickest?
 2. Second, what's the **magnitude** of this change?
 3. Together, direction & magnitude give us the gradient vector



Dangers of Naïve Differentiation

- Why not just take derivatives “the usual way?”
- Usually takes way more work!
- can lead to expressions that are
 - inefficient
 - numerically unstable
 - hard to understand
- **Example:** gradient of angle between two segments (b,a) , (c,a) w.r.t. coordinates of point a

```
In[58]:= a = {a1, a2, a3};
b = {b1, b2, b3};
c = {c1, c2, c3};
theta = ArcCos[ (a - b) . (c - b) / (sqrt((a - b) . (a - b)) sqrt((c - b) . (c - b))) ];
FullSimplify[{D[theta, a1], D[theta, a2], D[theta, a3]}]
```

```
Out[62]:= { (a1 b2^2 + a1 b3^2 - a2 b2 (a1 + b1 - 2 c1) - a3 b3 (a1 + b1 - 2 c1) + a2^2 (b1 - c1) + a3^2 (b1 - c1) - b2^2 c1 - b3^2 c1 + a2 (a1 - b1) c2 - a1 b2 c2 + b1 b2 c2 + a3 (a1 - b1) c3 - a1 b3 c3 + b1 b3 c3) / ( ((a1 - b1)^2 + (a2 - b2)^2 + (a3 - b3)^2)^(3/2) sqrt((b1 - c1)^2 + (b2 - c2)^2 + (b3 - c3)^2) sqrt(1 - ((a1 - b1)(-b1 + c1) + (a2 - b2)(-b2 + c2) + (a3 - b3)(-b3 + c3))^2 / ((a1 - b1)^2 + (a2 - b2)^2 + (a3 - b3)^2) ((b1 - c1)^2 + (b2 - c2)^2 + (b3 - c3)^2)) ), (a3^2 b2 - a3 b2 b3 + b1 b2 c1 + a1^2 (b2 - c2) - a3^2 c2 - b1^2 c2 + 2 a3 b3 c2 - b3^2 c2 - a1 (a2 (b1 - c1) + b2 (b1 + c1) - 2 b1 c2) + a2 (b1 (b1 - c1) - (a3 - b3) (b3 - c3)) - a3 b2 c3 + b2 b3 c3) / ( ((a1 - b1)^2 + (a2 - b2)^2 + (a3 - b3)^2)^(3/2) sqrt((b1 - c1)^2 + (b2 - c2)^2 + (b3 - c3)^2) sqrt(1 - ((a1 - b1)(-b1 + c1) + (a2 - b2)(-b2 + c2) + (a3 - b3)(-b3 + c3))^2 / ((a1 - b1)^2 + (a2 - b2)^2 + (a3 - b3)^2) ((b1 - c1)^2 + (b2 - c2)^2 + (b3 - c3)^2)) ), (b3 (b1 c1 + (a2 - b2) (a2 - c2)) + a3 (b1 (b1 - c1) - (a2 - b2) (b2 - c2)) + a1^2 (b3 - c3) - (b1^2 + (a2 - b2)^2) c3 - a1 (a3 (b1 - c1) + b3 (b1 + c1) - 2 b1 c3)) / ( ((a1 - b1)^2 + (a2 - b2)^2 + (a3 - b3)^2)^(3/2) sqrt((b1 - c1)^2 + (b2 - c2)^2 + (b3 - c3)^2) sqrt(1 - ((a1 - b1)(-b1 + c1) + (a2 - b2)(-b2 + c2) + (a3 - b3)(-b3 + c3))^2 / ((a1 - b1)^2 + (a2 - b2)^2 + (a3 - b3)^2) ((b1 - c1)^2 + (b2 - c2)^2 + (b3 - c3)^2)) ) }
```


Geometric Derivation of Angle Derivative

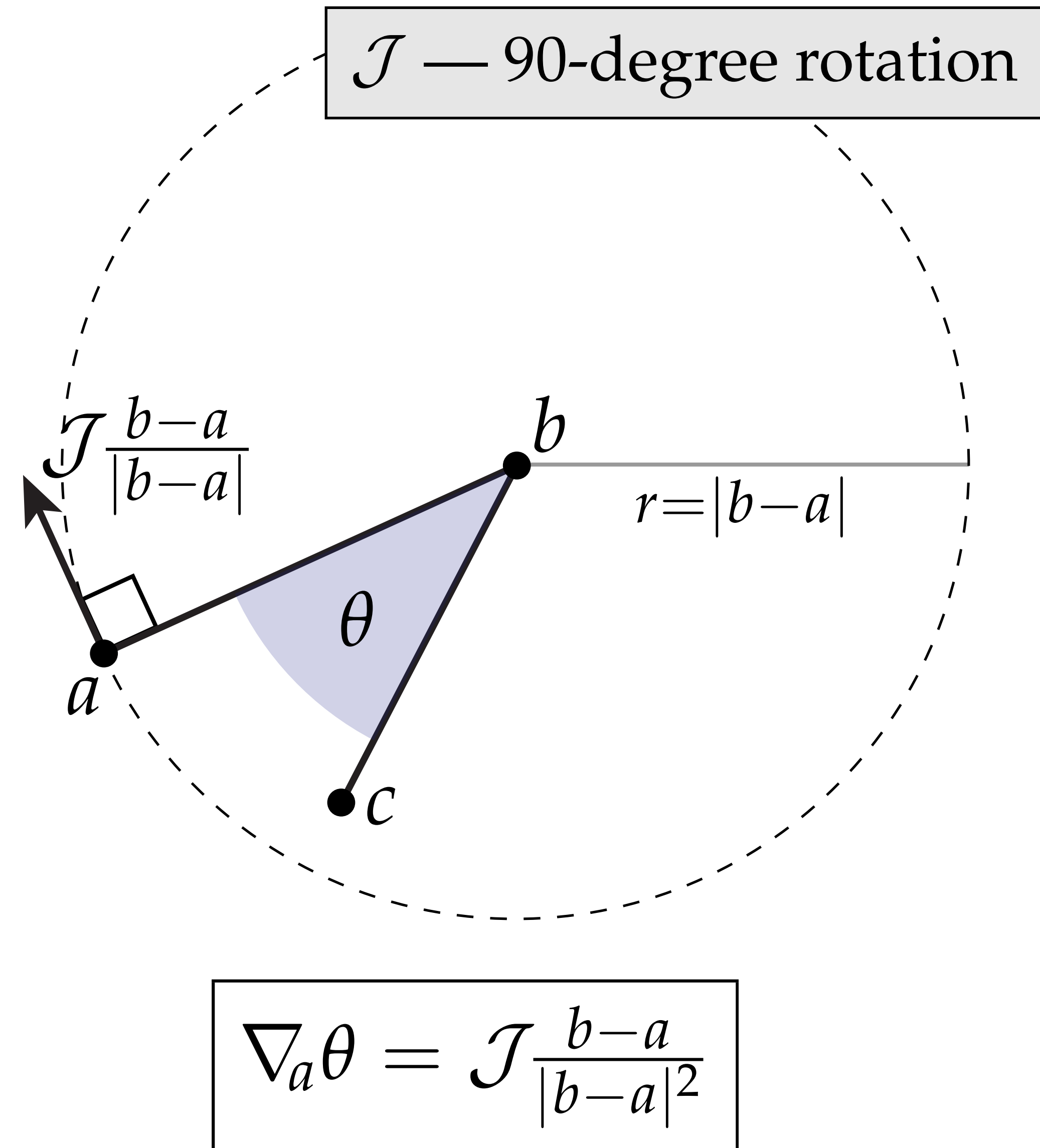
- Instead of taking partial derivatives, let's break this calculation into two pieces:
 1. **(Direction)** What direction can we move the point a to most quickly increase the angle θ ?

A: *Orthogonal to the segment ab .*

2. **(Magnitude)** How much does the angle change if we move in this direction?

A: *Moving around a whole circle changes the angle by 2π over a distance $2\pi r$. Hence, the instantaneous change is $1/|b-a|$.*

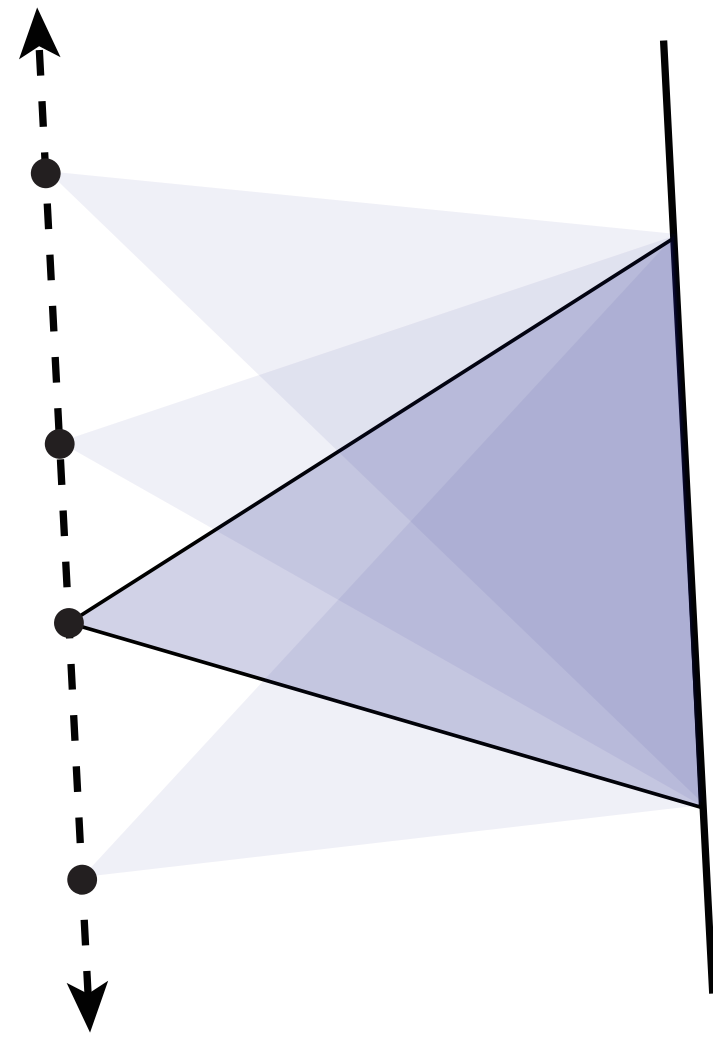
3. Multiplying the unit direction by the magnitude yields the final gradient expression.



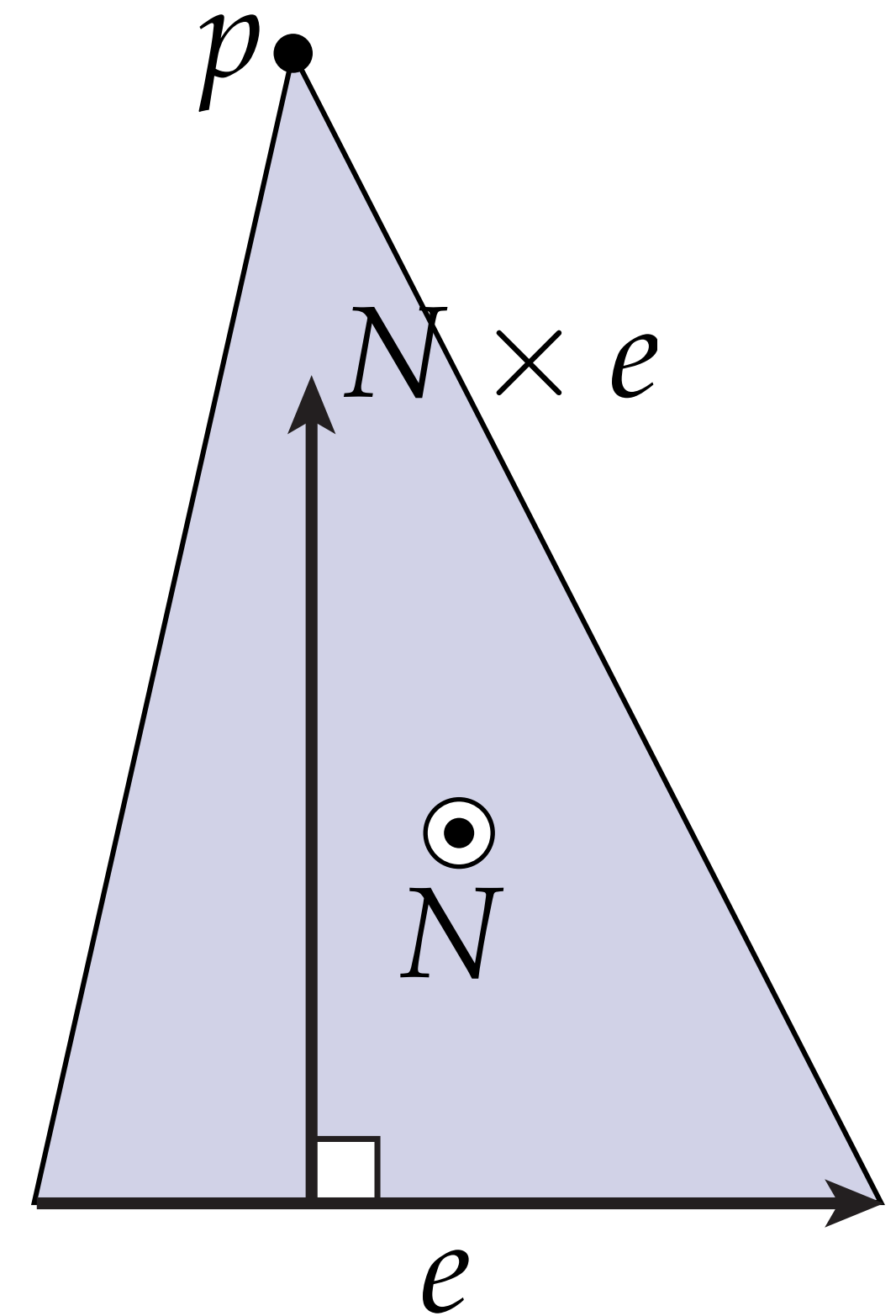
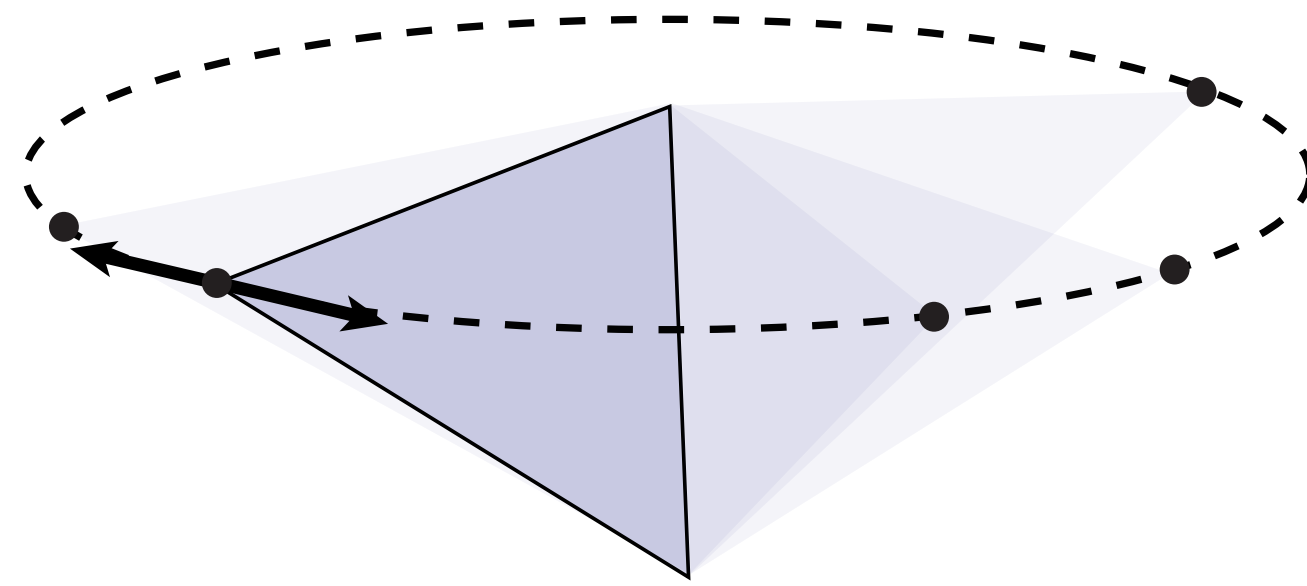
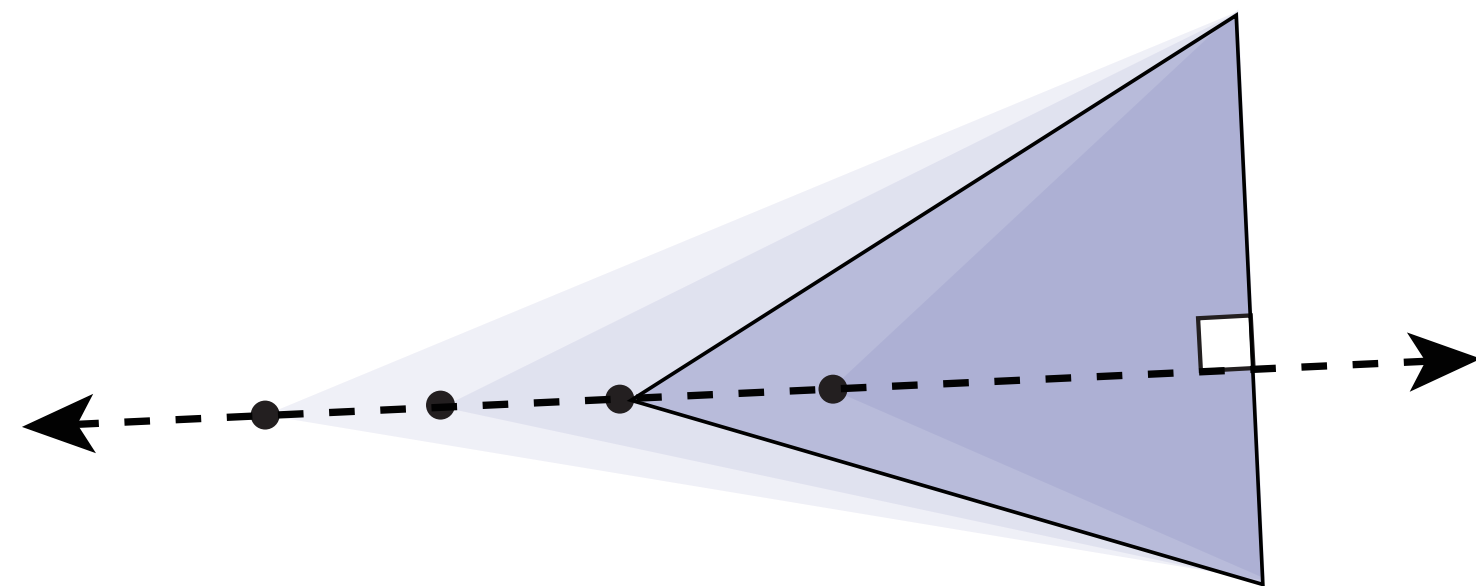
Gradient of Triangle Area

Q: What's the gradient of triangle area with respect to one of its vertices p ?

A: Can express via its unit normal N and vector e along edge opposite p :

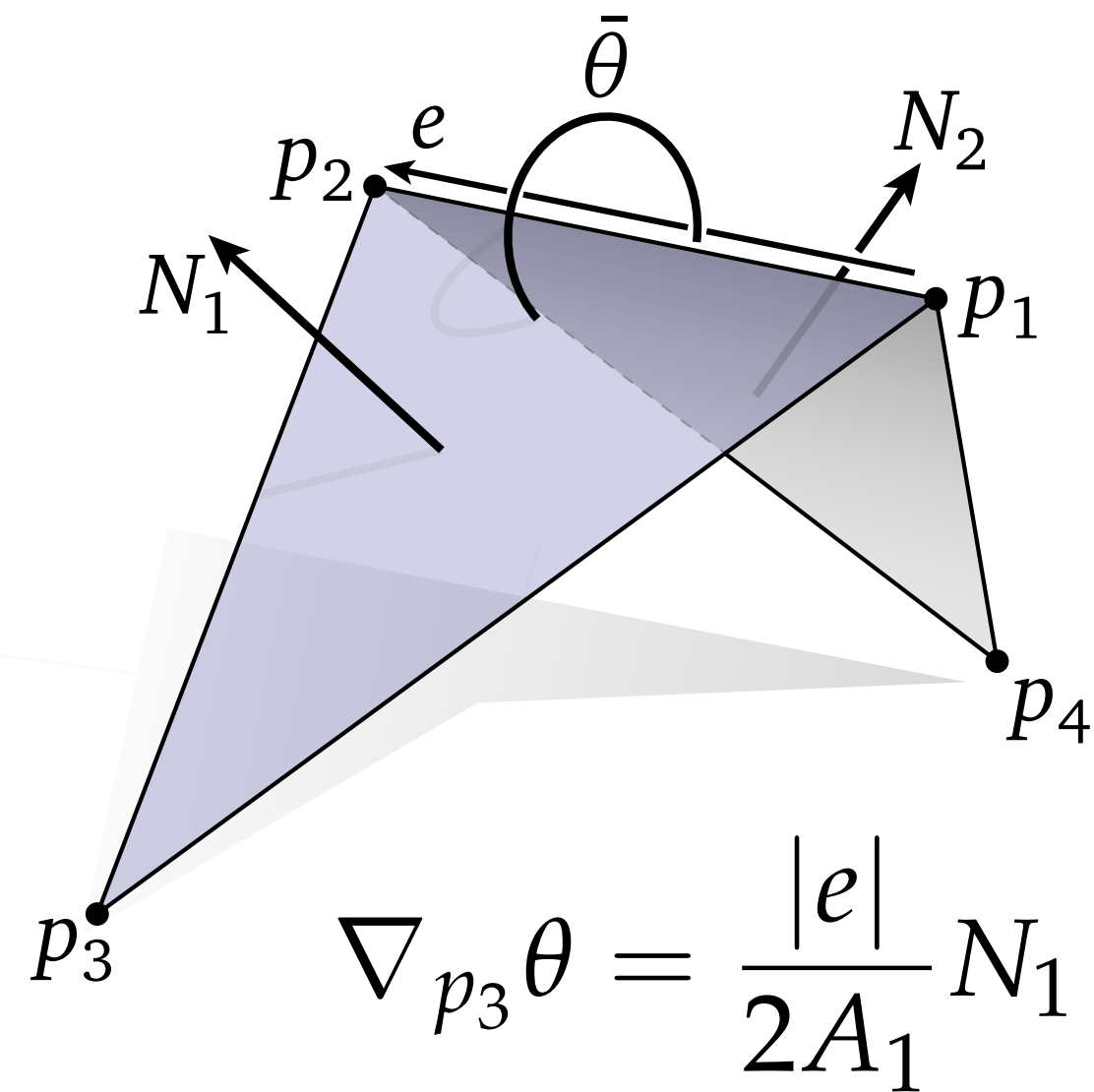


$$\nabla_p A = \frac{1}{2} N \times e$$

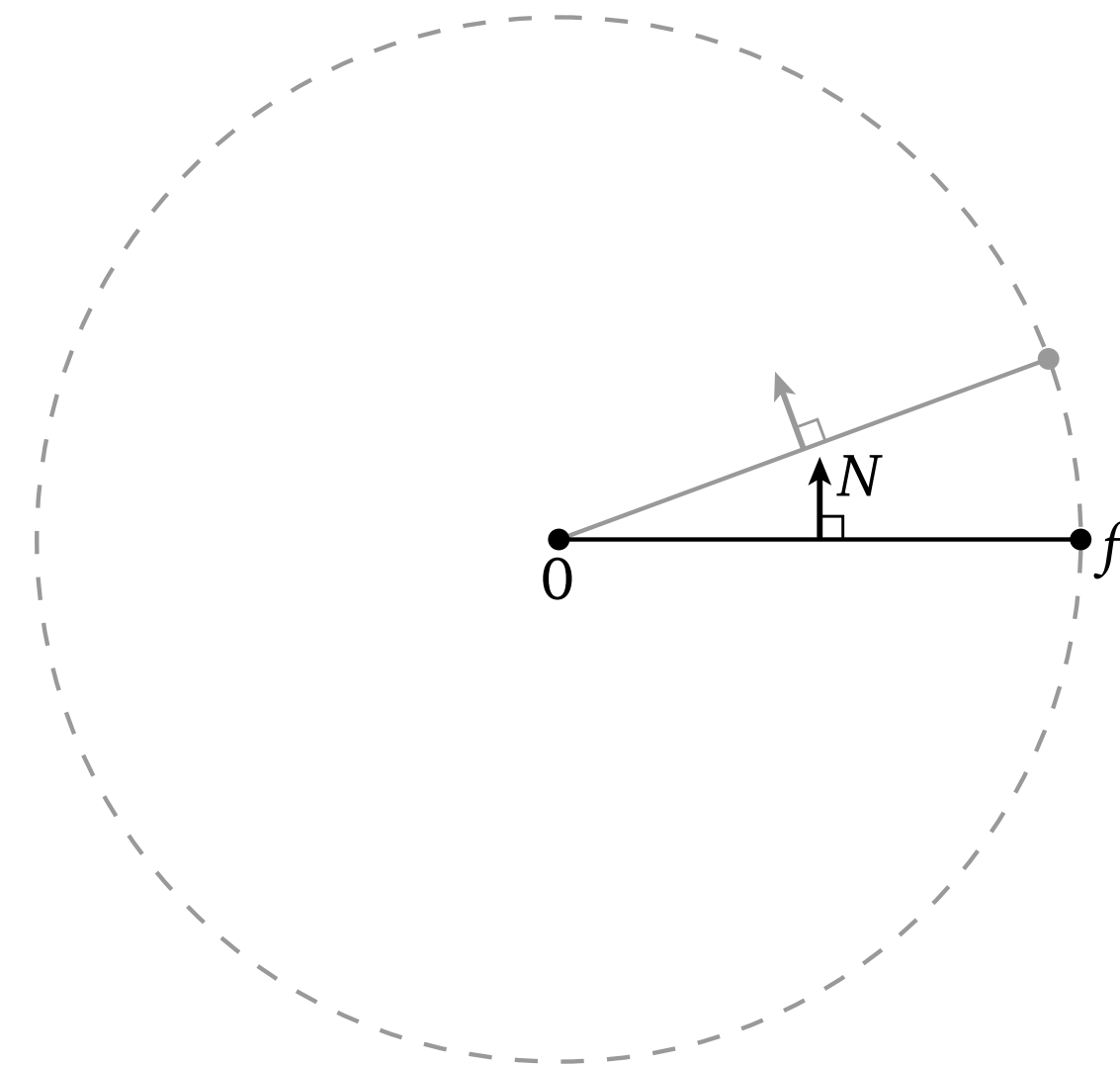


Geometric Derivation

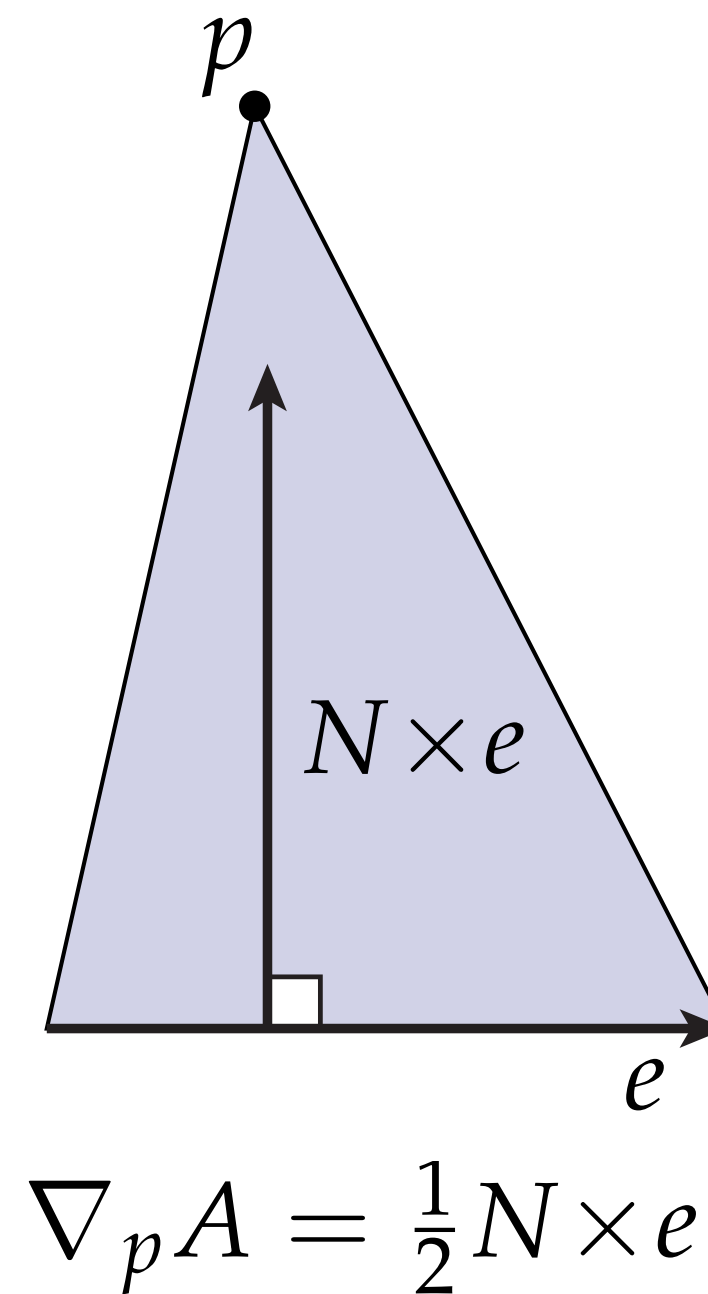
- In general, can lead to some pretty nice expressions (give it a try!)



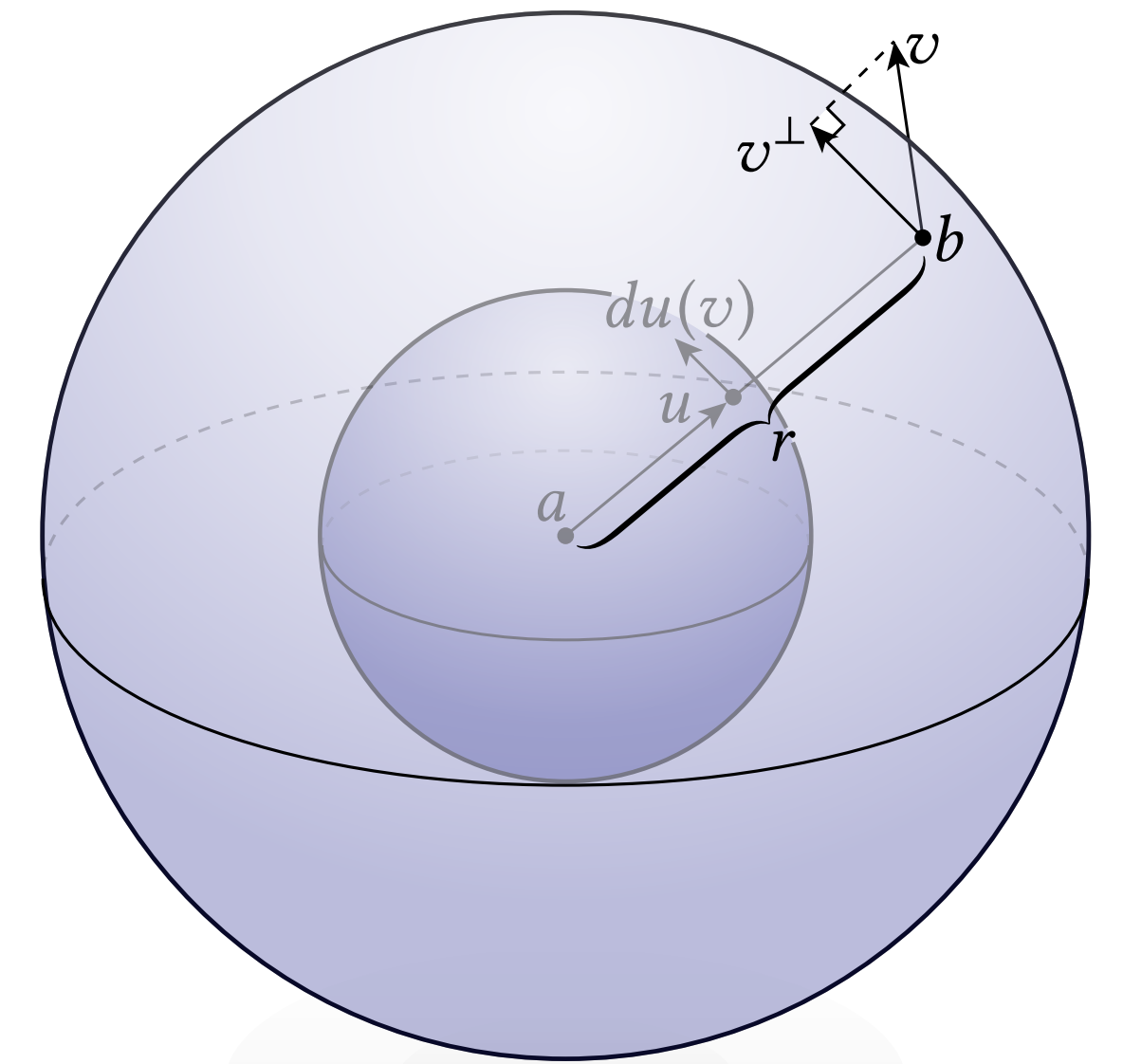
$$\nabla_{p_3} \theta = \frac{|e|}{2A_1} N_1$$



$$d_{f_i} N(X) = \frac{\langle N, X \rangle}{2A} e_i \times N$$



$$\nabla_p A = \frac{1}{2} N \times e$$



$$du(v) = \frac{v - \langle v, b - a \rangle (b - a)}{|b - a|^3}$$

(See also Appendix A of the course notes.)

Differentiation Strategies

Often have to differentiate complicated function built up from these “little pieces”—several common strategies for automating this process:

closed-form differentiation

Work it out by hand, write custom code

PROS: final code is fast and accurate

CONS: very time consuming, hard to change energy, easy to make mistakes

numerical differentiation

perturb each input by ϵ , measure change in energy

PROS: works directly with existing code / “black box” routines

CONS: expensive, inaccurate, hard to pick ϵ

automatic differentiation

differentiate each line of code; use chain rule to obtain overall derivative (“*backpropagation*”)

PROS: accurate, almost as fast as closed-form, no work “by hand”

CONS: must modify existing code / doesn’t work in “black box” scenario

symbolic differentiation

perform transformation of symbolic expression tree

PROS: accurate, only have to take derivative once

CONS: must modify existing code, can lead to (very) large expressions

Also: no use of domain-specific knowledge.



Curvature Variations

Sequence of Variations (Smooth)

For a smooth surface $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ (without boundary), let

$$\text{volume}(f) := \frac{1}{3} \int_M N \cdot f \, dA \qquad \text{mean}(f) := \int_M H \, dA$$

$$\text{area}(f) := \int_M dA \qquad \text{Gauss}(f) := \int_M K \, dA = 2\pi\chi$$

Q. What motion of the surface changes each of these quantities as quickly as possible?

A. Remarkably enough...

$$\delta \text{ volume}(f) = 2N$$

$$\delta \text{ area}(f) = 2HN$$

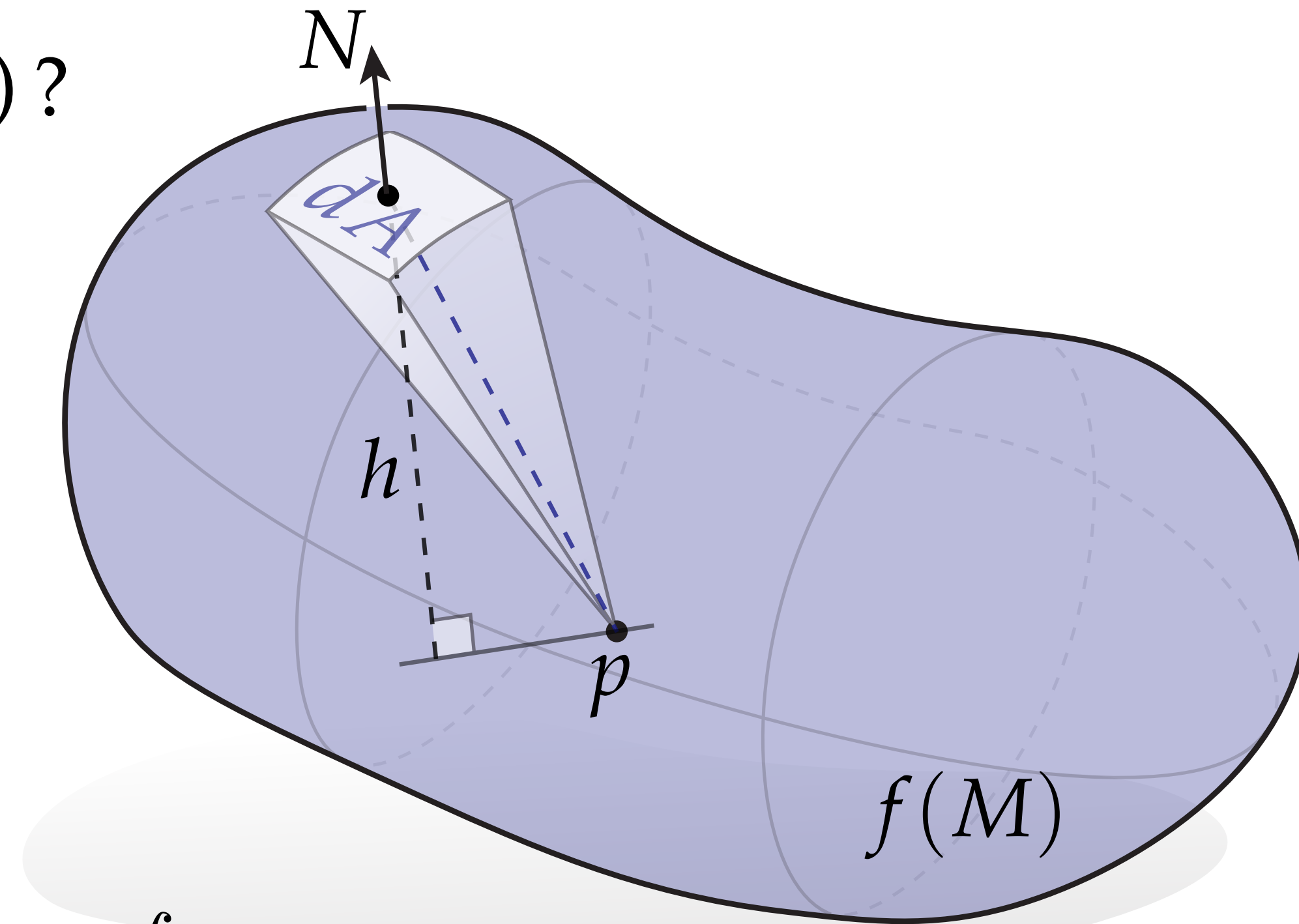
$$\delta \text{ mean}(f) = 2KN$$

$$\delta \text{ Gauss}(f) = 0$$

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|---|
| volume | $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ | area | $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ | mean | $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ | Gauss | $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ | 0 |
|--------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|---|

Volume Enclosed by a Smooth Surface

- What's the volume enclosed by a *smooth* surface $f(M)$?
 - One way: pick any point p , integrate volume of “infinitesimal pyramids” over the surface
 - For a pyramid with base area b and height h , the volume is $V = bh/3$ (for a base of any shape)
 - For our infinitesimal pyramid, the height h is the distance from the surface f to the point p along the normal direction:
- $$h = (f - p) \cdot N$$
- The area of the base is just the infinitesimal surface area dA . Now we just integrate...



$$\frac{1}{3} \int_M (f - p) \cdot N dA =$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \int_M f \cdot N dA - \frac{1}{3} p \cdot \int_M N dA =$$

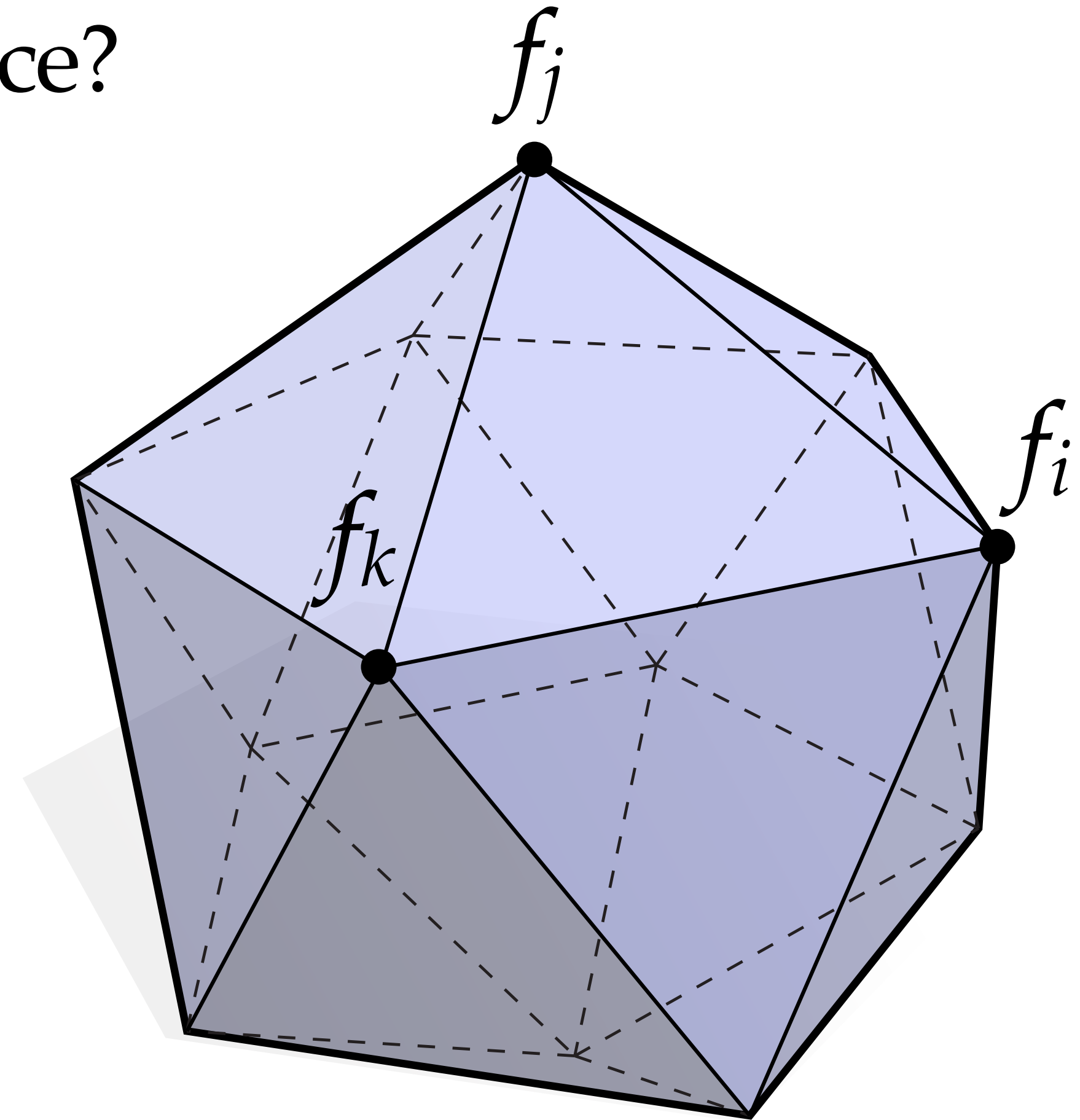
$$\boxed{\frac{1}{3} \int_M f \cdot N dA}$$

Notice: final expression doesn't depend on choice of point p !

Volume Enclosed by a Discrete Surface

- What's the volume enclosed by a *discrete* surface?
- Simply apply the smooth formula!
 - integrate $f \cdot N$ over each triangle
- **Exercise.** Show that the volume enclosed by a simplicial surface can be expressed as

$$\text{volume}(f) = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{ijk \in F} f_i \cdot (f_j \times f_k)$$



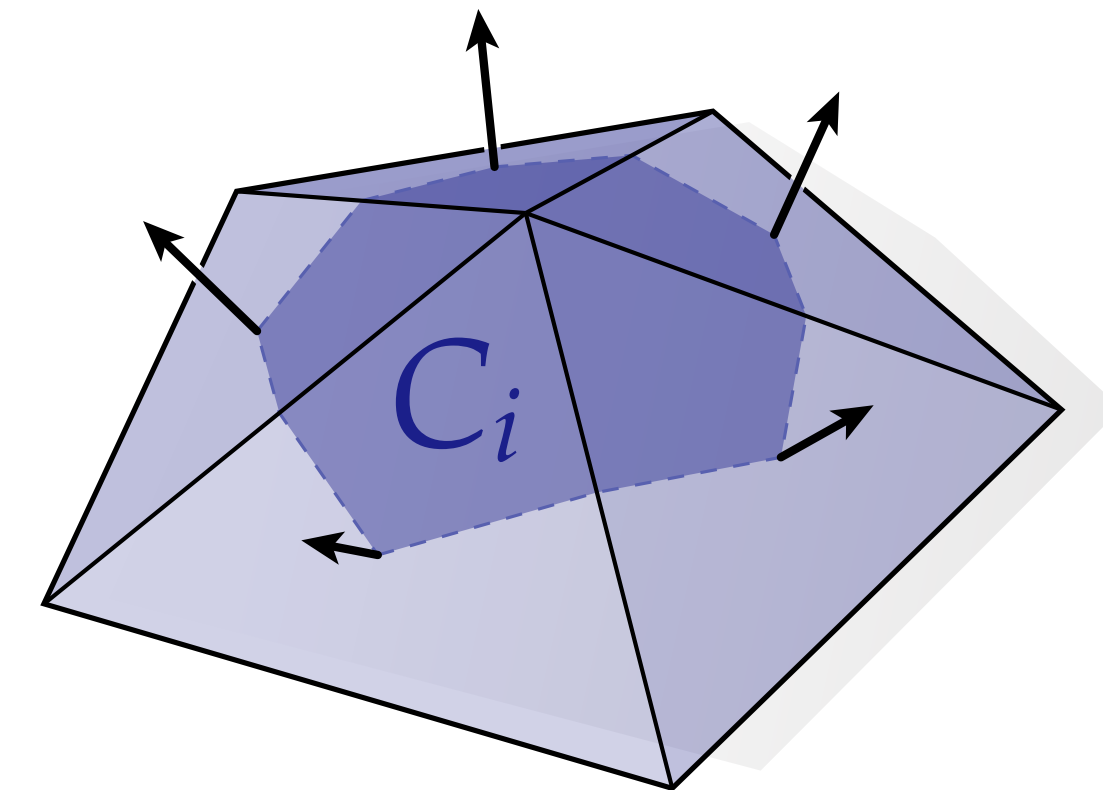
Discrete Volume Gradient

- Taking the gradient of enclosed volume with respect to the position f_i of some vertex i should now give us a notion of vertex normal:

$$\nabla_{f_i} \text{volume}(f) = \frac{1}{6} \nabla_{f_i} \sum_{ijk \in F} f_i \cdot (f_j \times f_k) = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{ijk \in F} f_j \times f_k = \int_{C_i} N dA$$

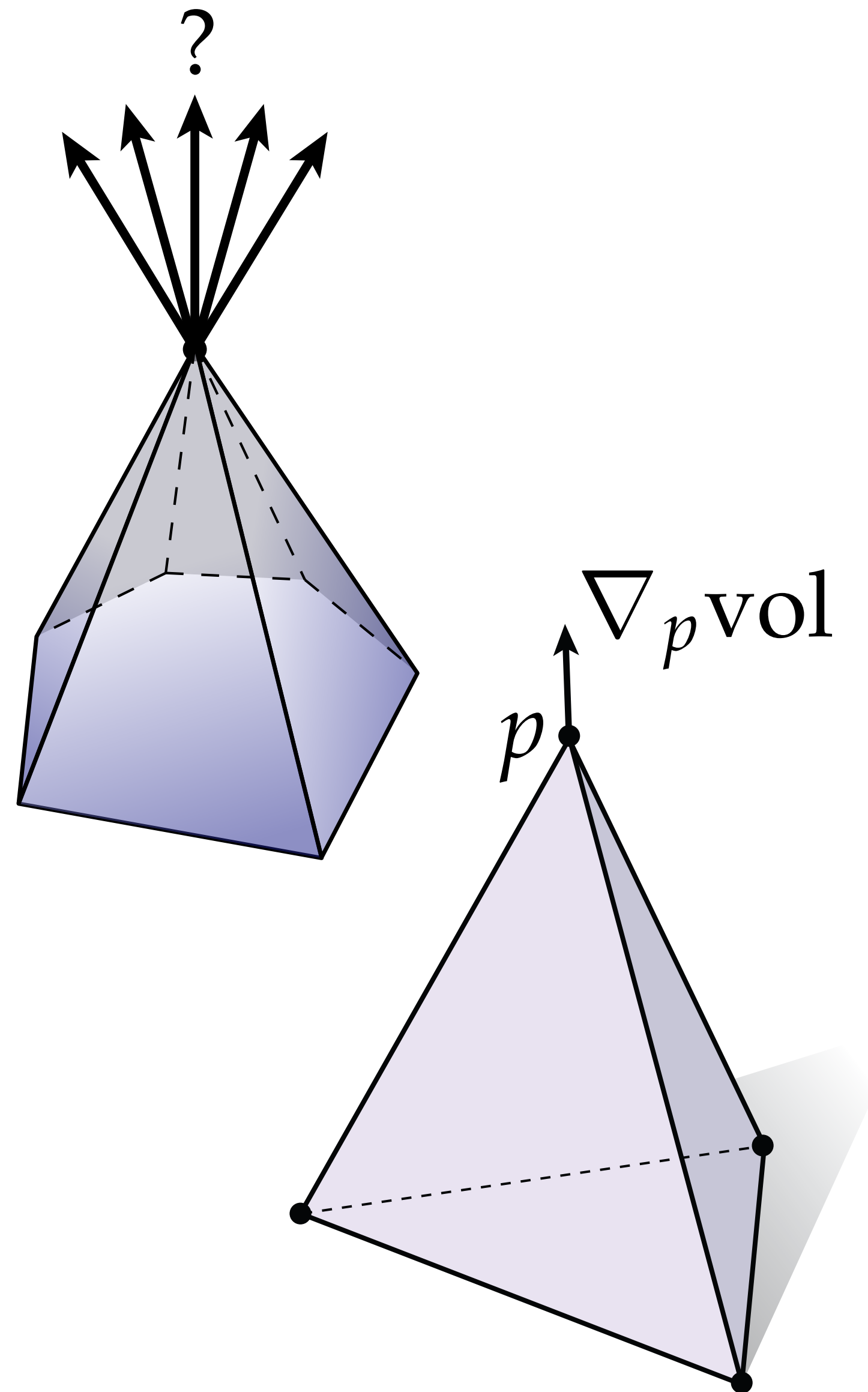
- But wait—this is the discrete vector area!
- **Key observation:** the gradient of discrete volume gives exactly the same thing as integrating the normal
- Captures the first expression in our sequence of variations:

$$\delta \text{volume}(f) = N$$



Vertex Normals via Volume Variation

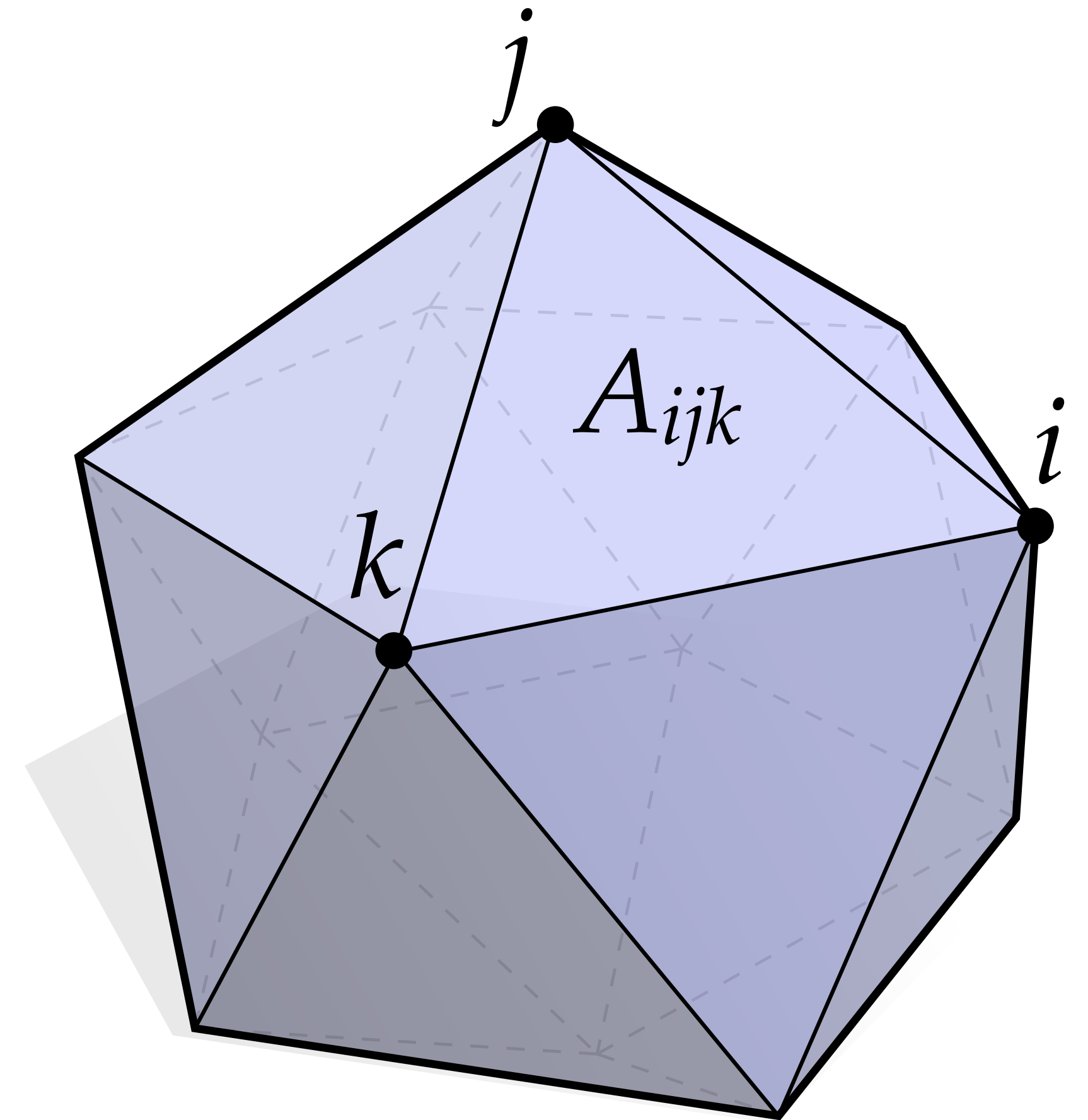
- The relationship $\delta \text{volume} = N$ justifies our use of the area vector as (one possible) definition for vertex normals.
- Another way to derive this formula (exercise):
 - write down volume of discrete surface as sum of signed tetrahedron volumes
 - use geometric reasoning to derive an expression for tet volume gradient
- In this case, all paths lead to the *same* expression



Total Area of a Discrete Surface

- Total area of a discrete surface is simply the sum of the triangle areas:

$$\text{area}(f) := \sum_{ijk \in F} A_{ijk}$$



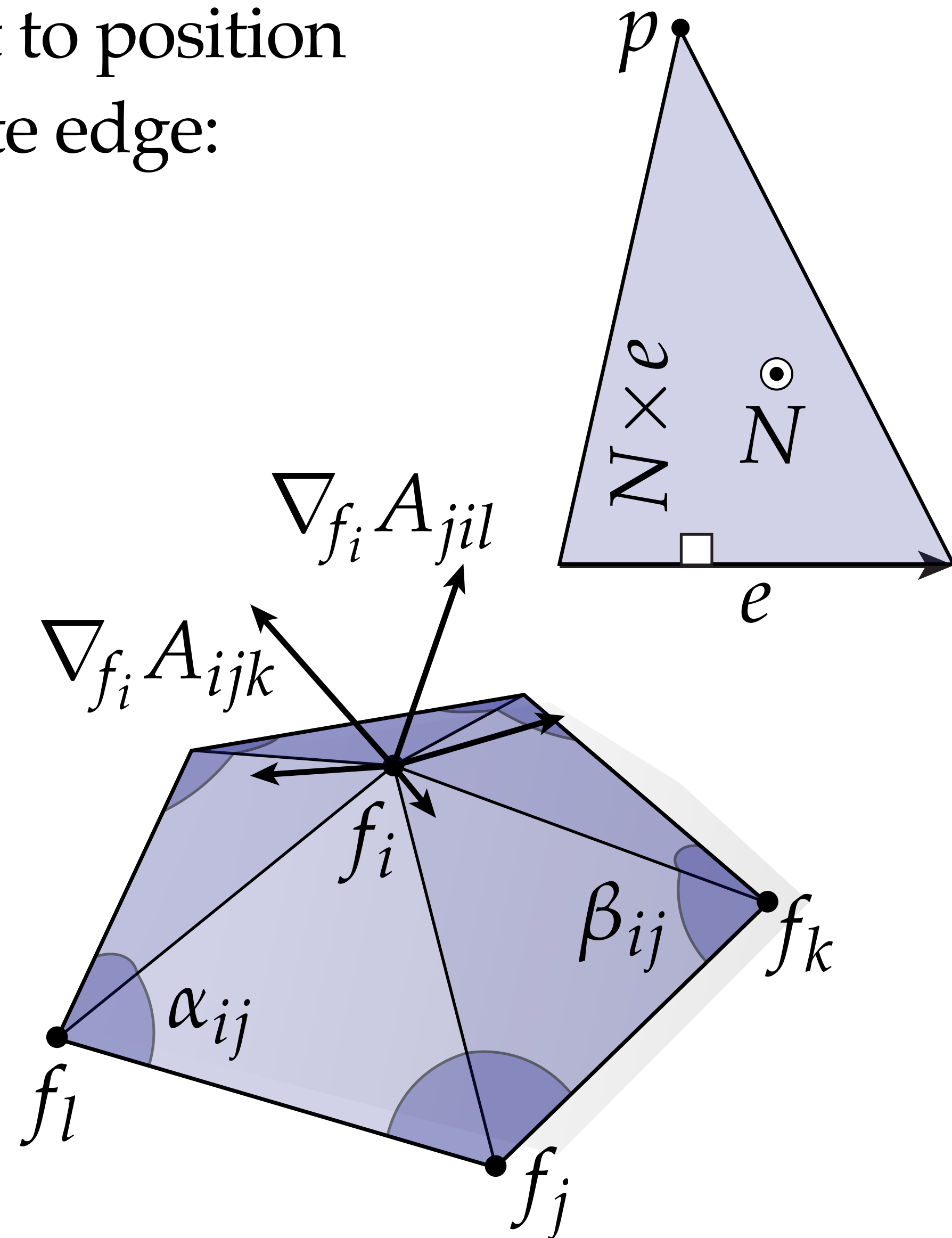
Discrete Area Gradient

- Recall that the gradient of triangle area with respect to position p of a vertex is just half the normal cross the opposite edge:

$$\nabla_p A = \frac{1}{2} N \times e$$

- Gradient of surface area with respect to position f_i of vertex i is sum of these per-triangle gradients
- Can write this sum via the *cotan formula*

$$\nabla_{f_i} \text{area}(f) = \sum_{ij \in E} \frac{1}{2} (\cot \alpha_{ij} + \cot \beta_{ij}) (f_i - f_j)$$



Discrete Area Gradient

- Recall that the gradient of triangle area with respect to position p of a vertex is just half the normal cross the opposite edge:

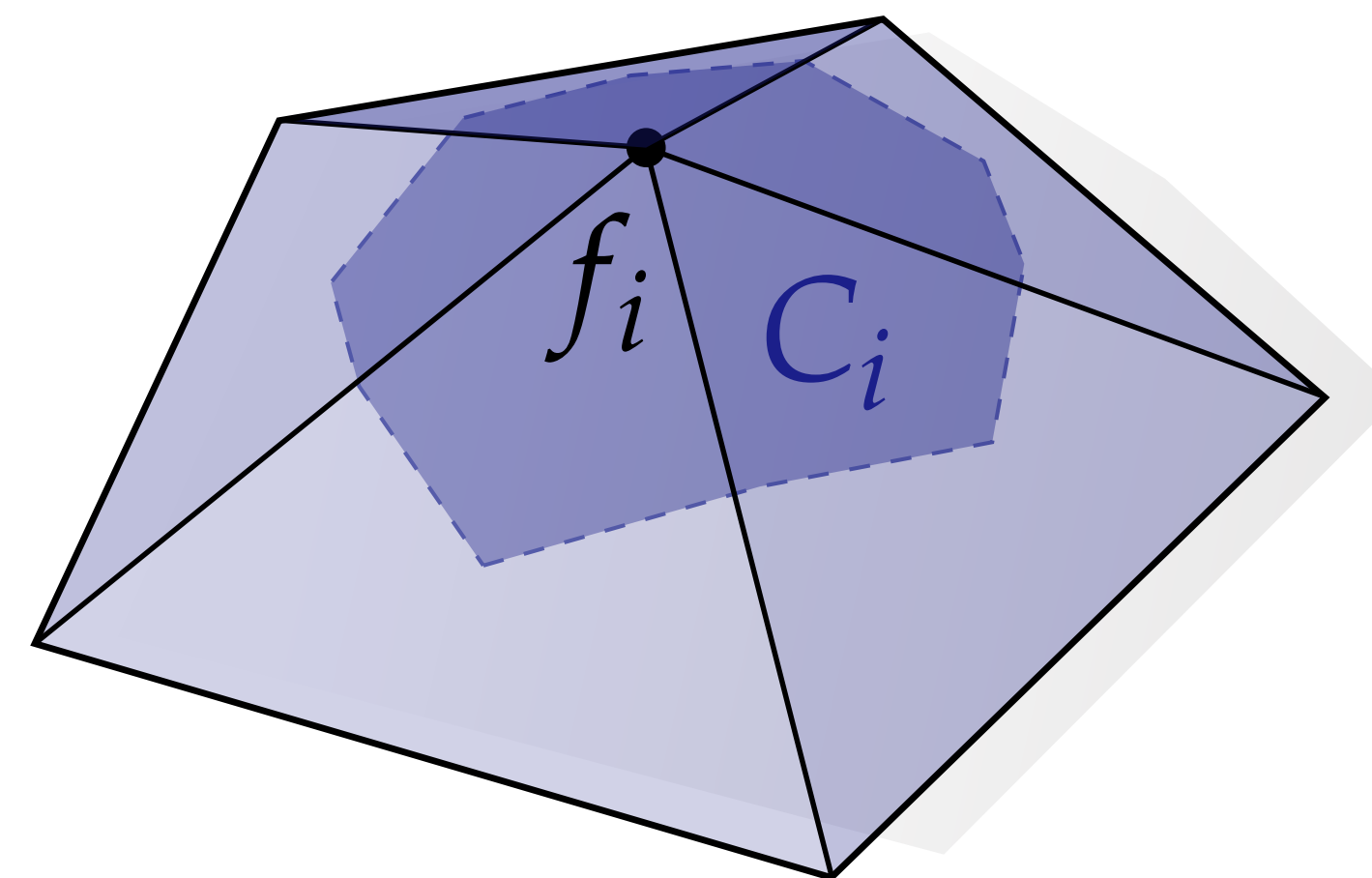
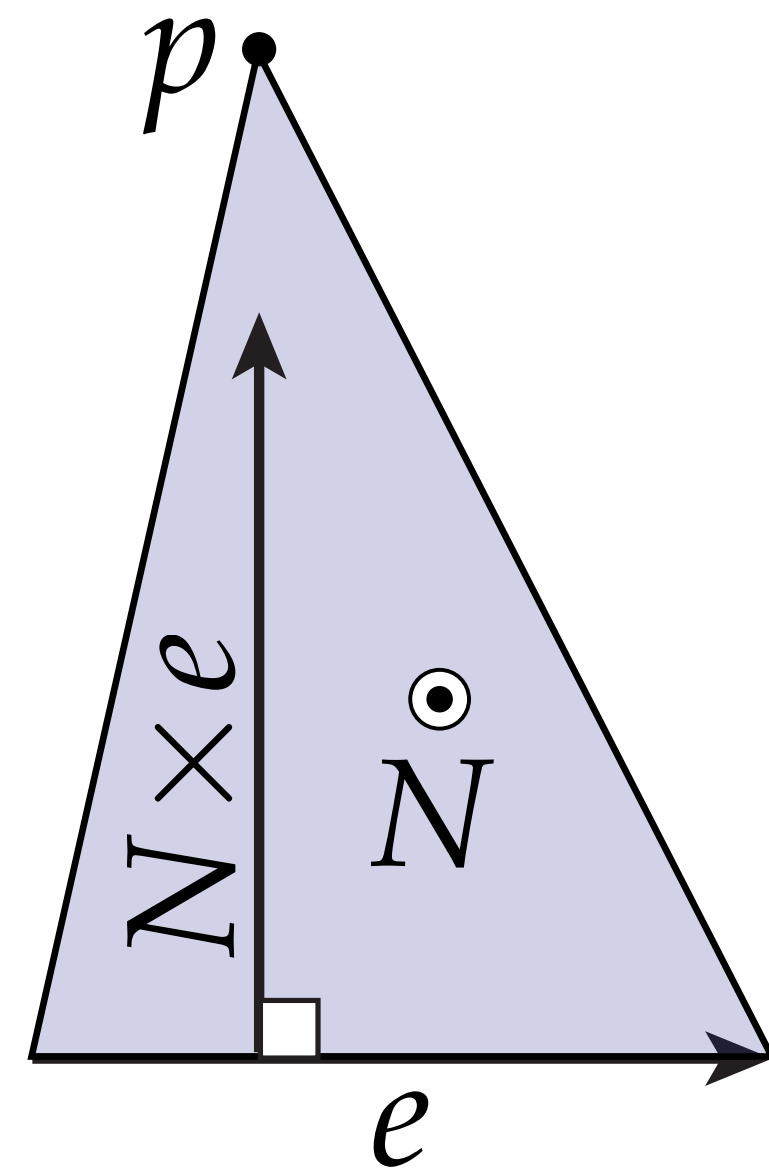
$$\nabla_p A = \frac{1}{2} N \times e$$

- Gradient of surface area with respect to position f_i of vertex i is sum of these per-triangle gradients
- Can write this sum via the *cotan formula*

$$\nabla_{f_i} \text{area}(f) = \int_{C_i} HN dA$$

- Agrees with second expression in our sequence:

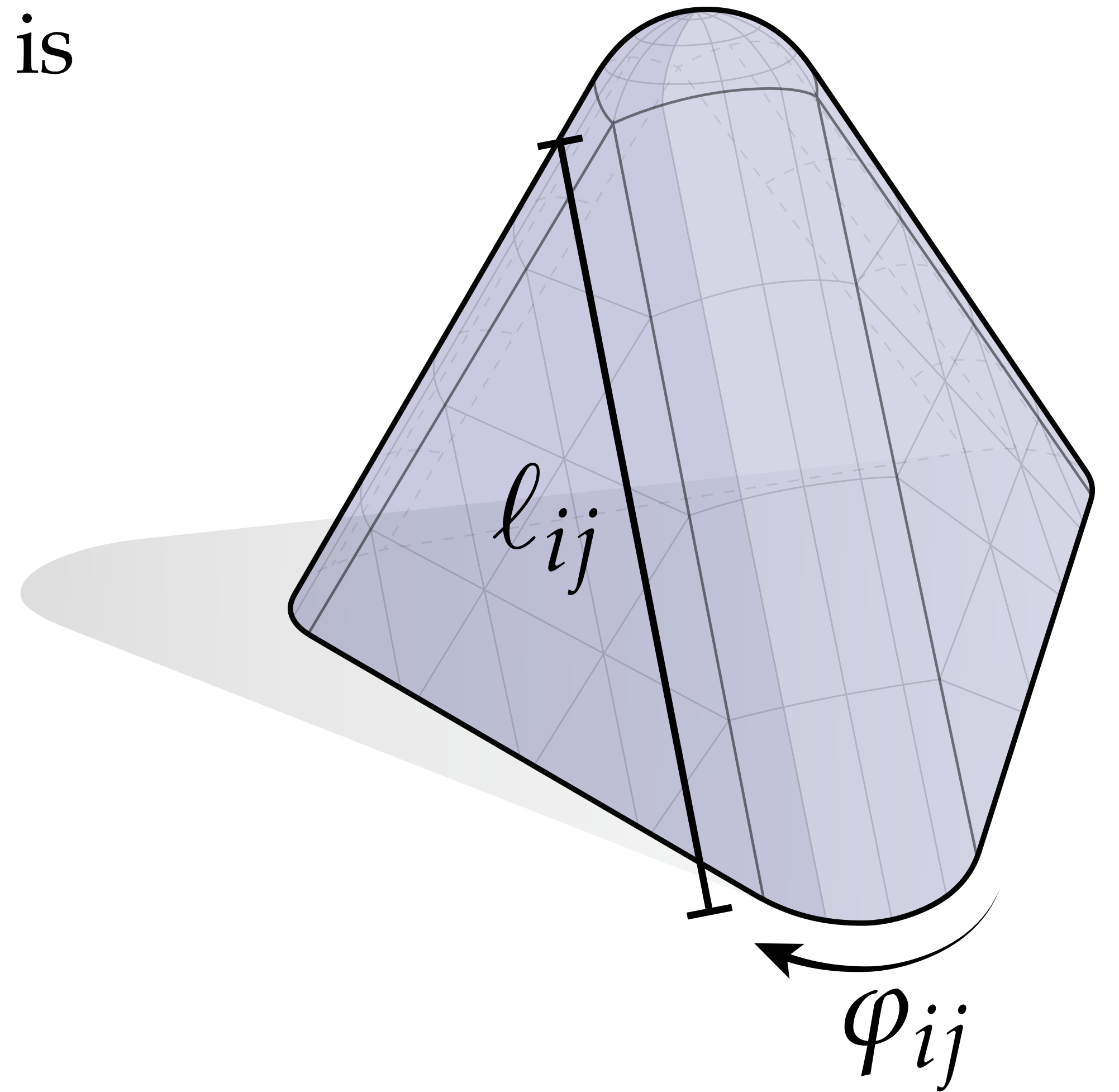
$$\delta \text{area}(f) = HN$$



Total Mean Curvature of a Discrete Surface

- According to our Steiner expansion, we know the total mean curvature of a discrete surface is

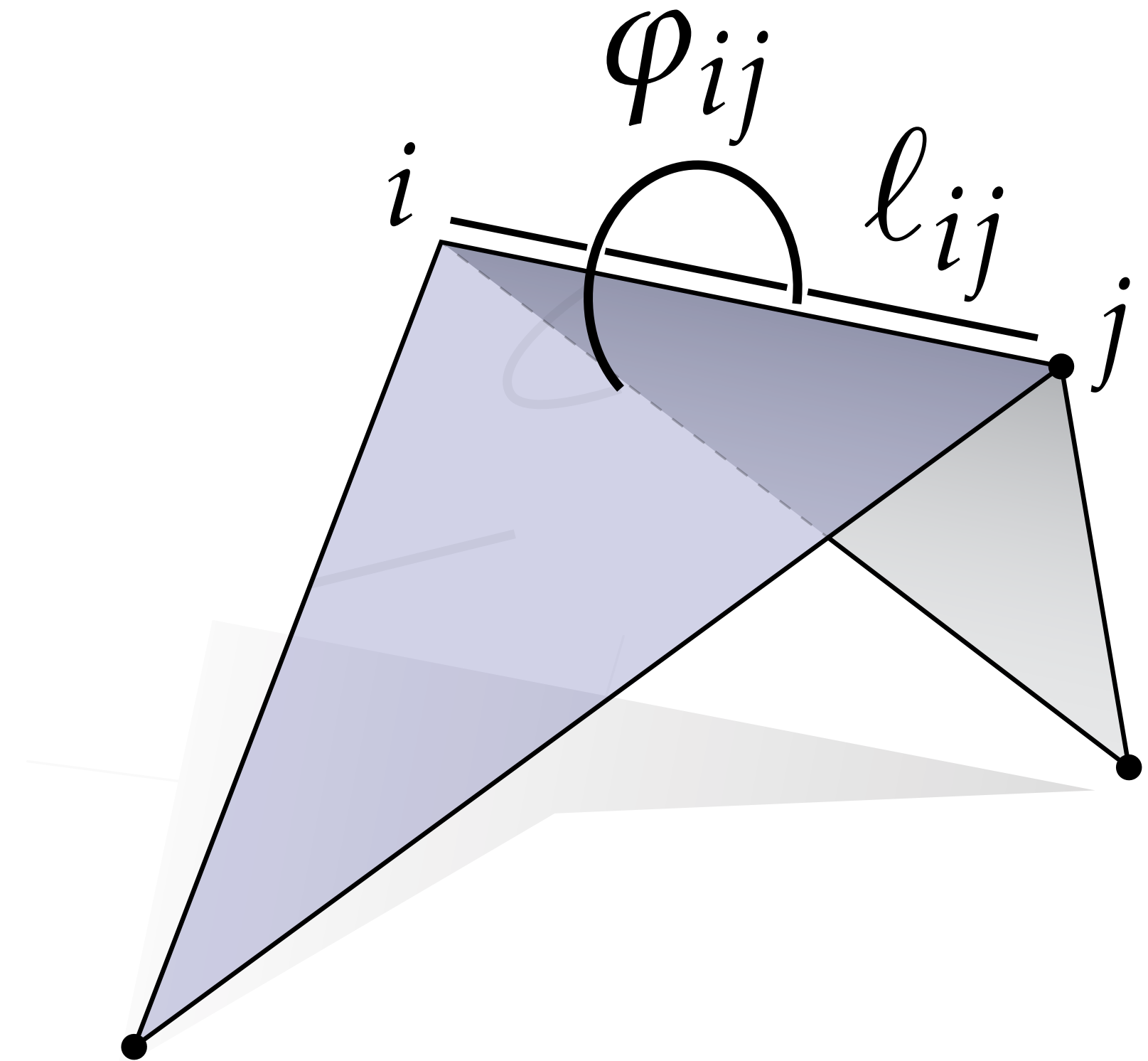
$$\text{mean}(f) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij \in E} l_{ij} \varphi_{ij}$$



Schläfli Formula

Theorem. Consider a closed polyhedron in R^3 with edge lengths l_{ij} and dihedral angles φ_{ij} . Then for *any* motion of the vertices,

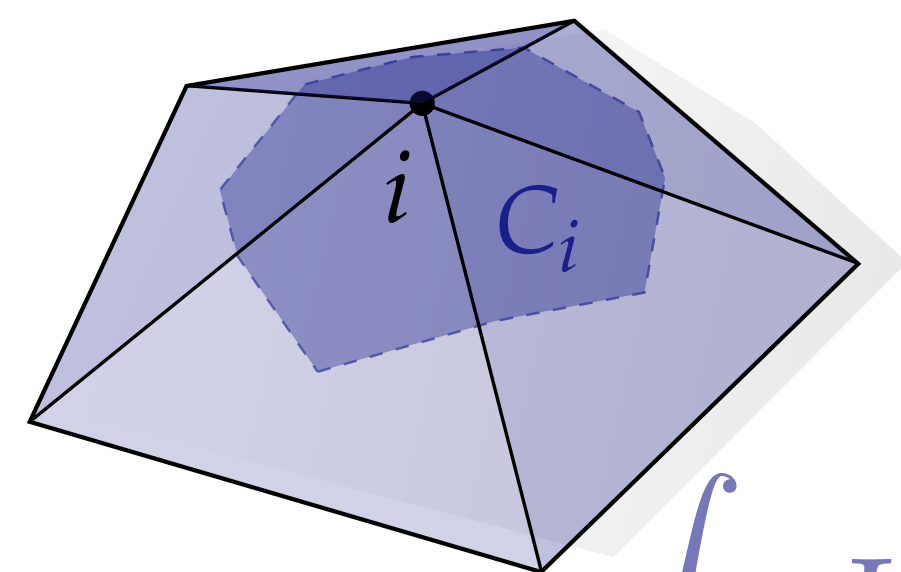
$$\sum_{ij \in E} l_{ij} \frac{d}{dt} \varphi_{ij} = 0$$



Discrete Mean Curvature Gradient

- What's the gradient of total mean curvature with respect to the location f_i of vertex i ?

$$\nabla_{f_i} \text{mean}(f) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij \in E} \nabla_{f_i} (\ell_{ij} \varphi_{ij}) =$$

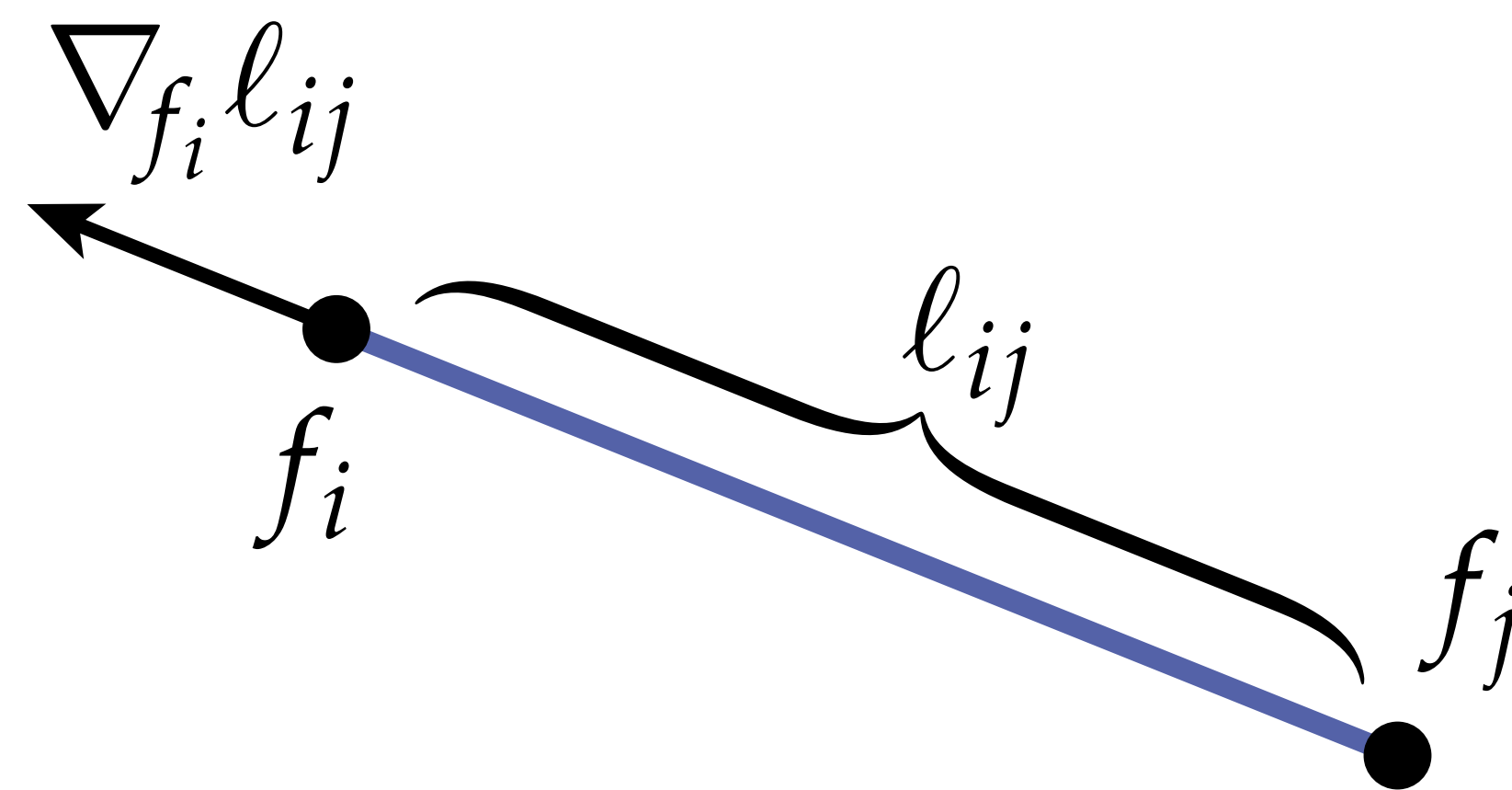


$$\int_{C_i} KN dA = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij \in E} \frac{\varphi_{ij}}{\ell_{ij}} (f_i - f_j)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij \in E} (\nabla_{f_i} \ell_{ij}) \varphi_{ij} + \cancel{\ell_{ij} (\nabla_{f_i} \varphi_{ij})} = 0 \text{ (Schläfli)}$$

- Agrees with third expression in our sequence:

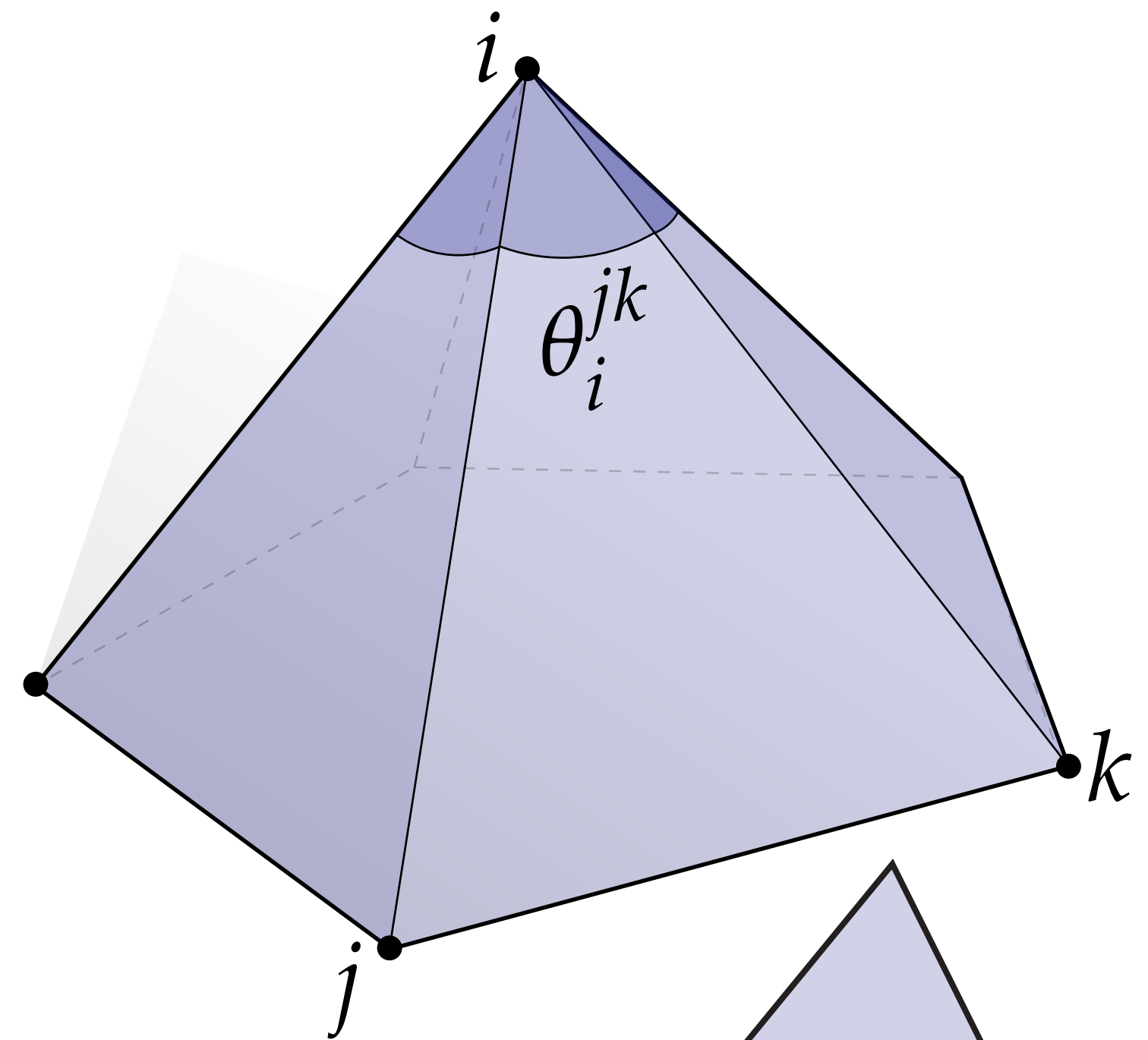
$$\delta \text{mean}(f) = KN$$



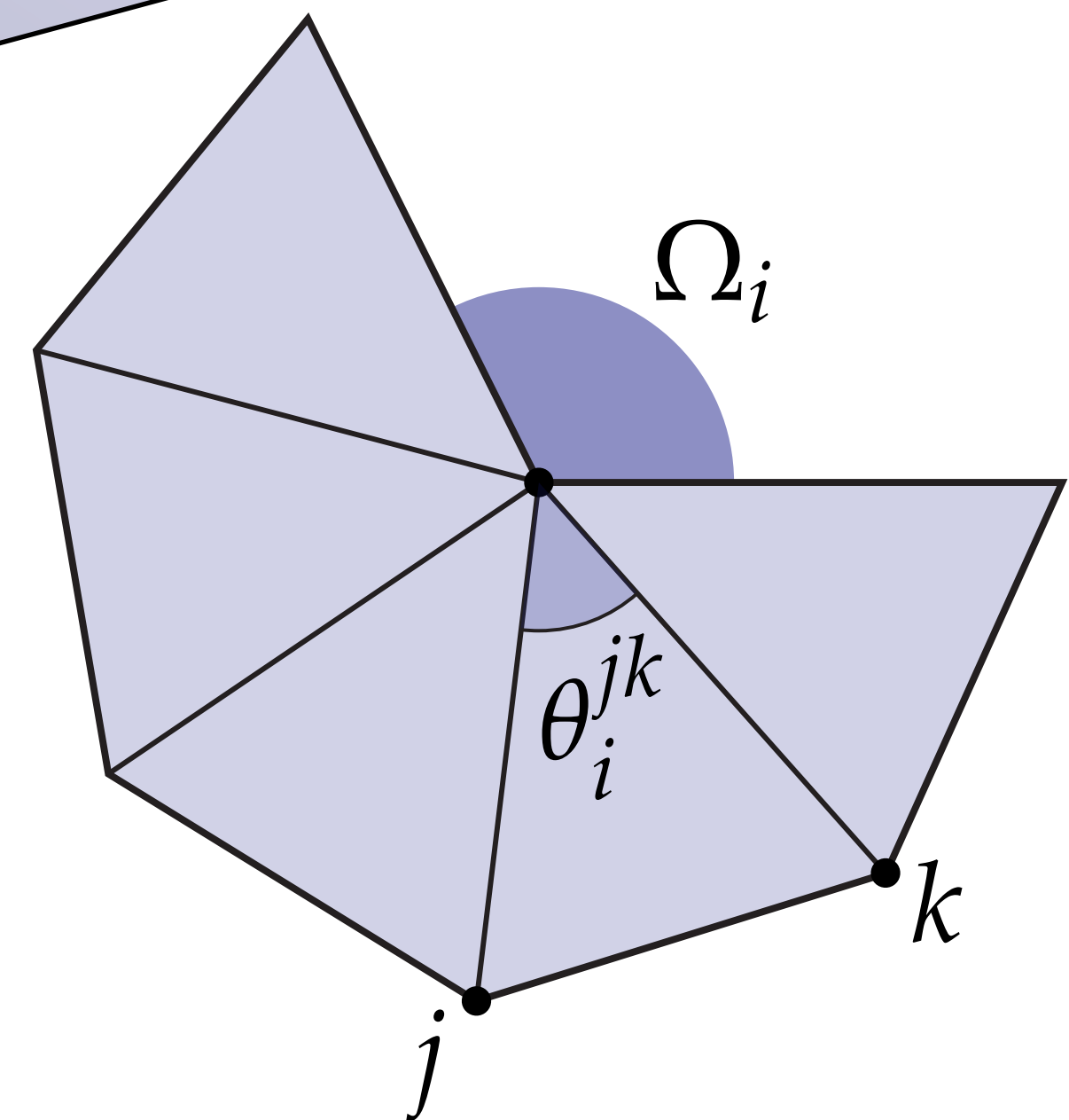
Total Gauss Curvature

- Total Gauss curvature of a discrete surface is the sum of angle defects

$$\text{Gauss}(f) = \sum_{i \in V} \left(2\pi - \sum_{ijk} \theta_i^{jk} \right)$$



- From (discrete) Gauss-Bonnet theorem, we know this sum is always equal to just $2\pi\chi = 2\pi(V-E+F)$
- Gradient with respect to motion of any vertex is therefore *zero*—sequence ends here!



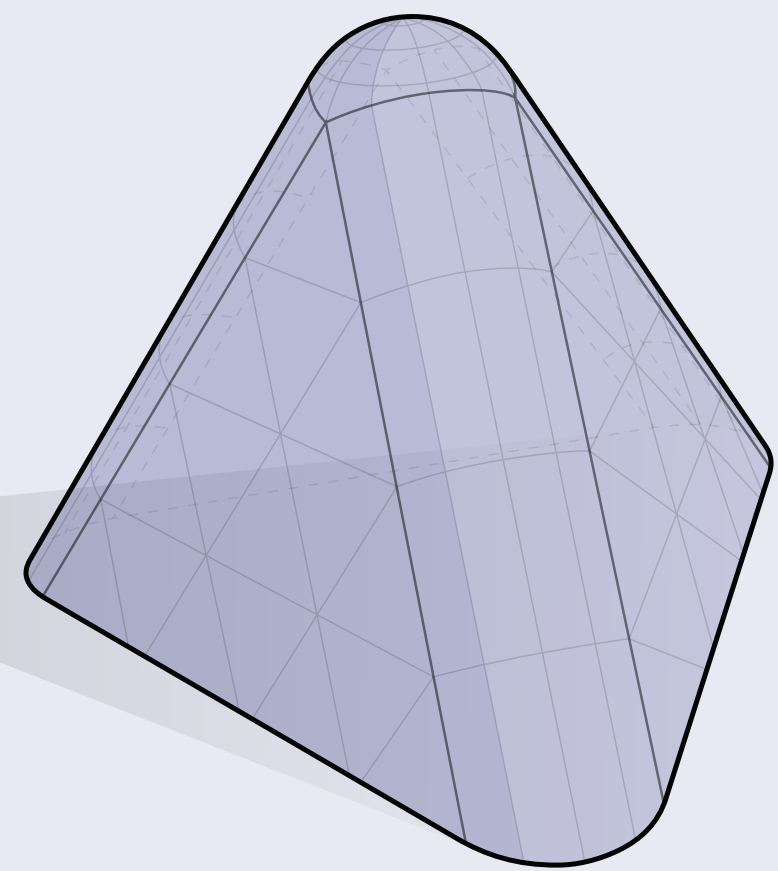


Summary

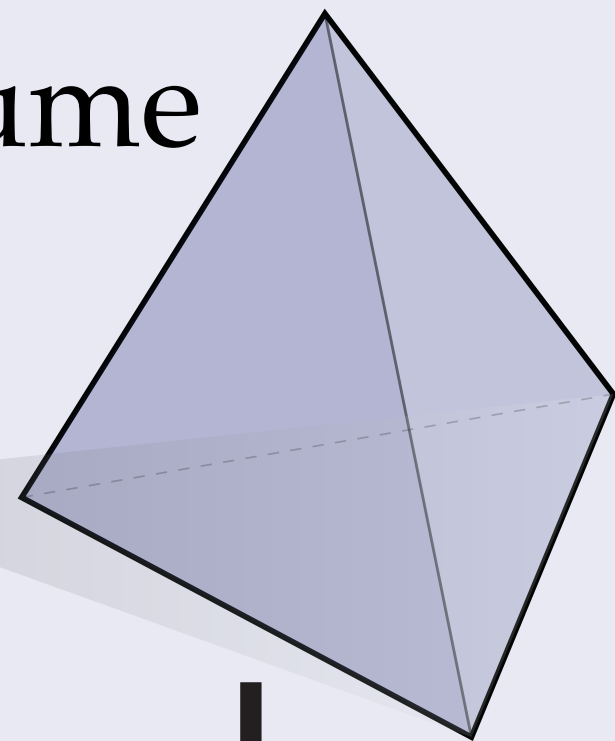
Summary—Scalar vs. Vector Curvature

$$\text{volume} \xrightarrow{\delta f} \text{area} \xrightarrow{\delta f} \text{mean} \xrightarrow{\delta f} \text{Gauss} \xrightarrow{\delta f} 0$$

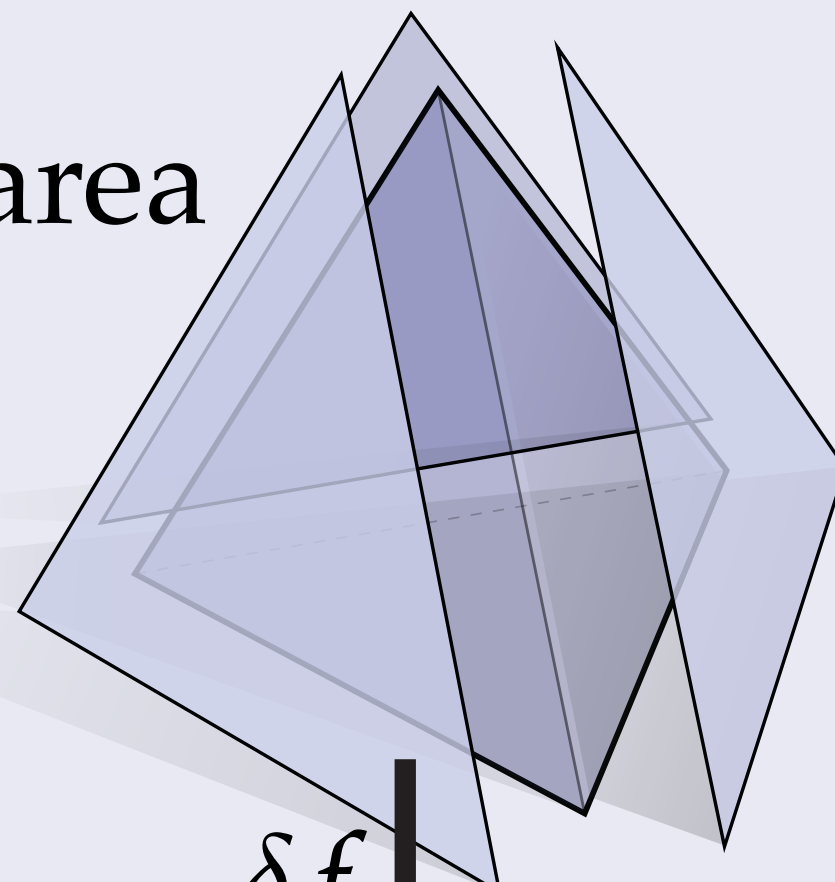
scalar curvatures



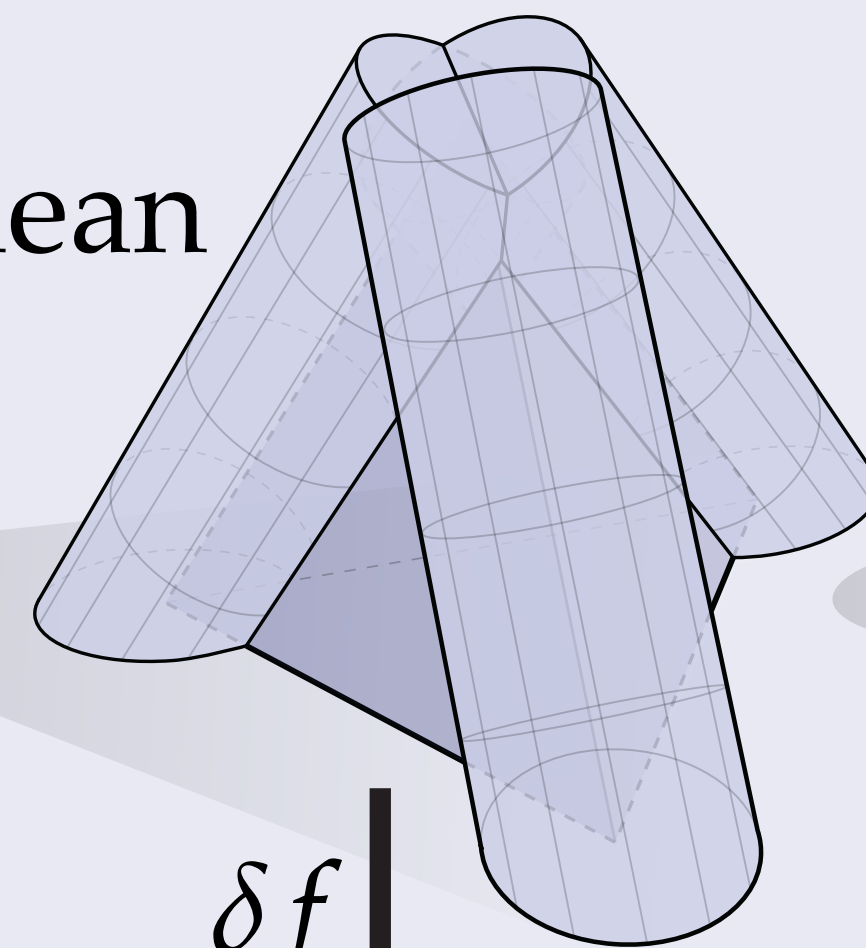
volume



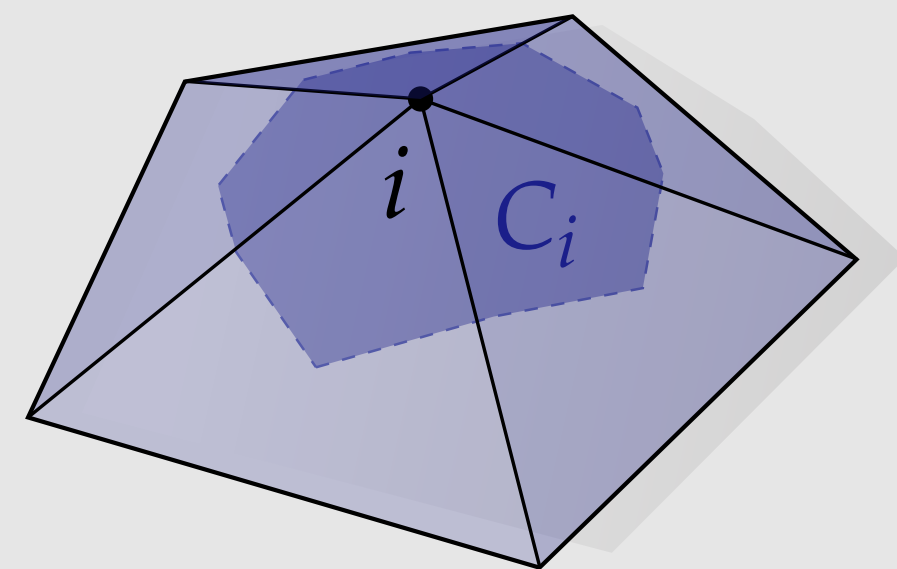
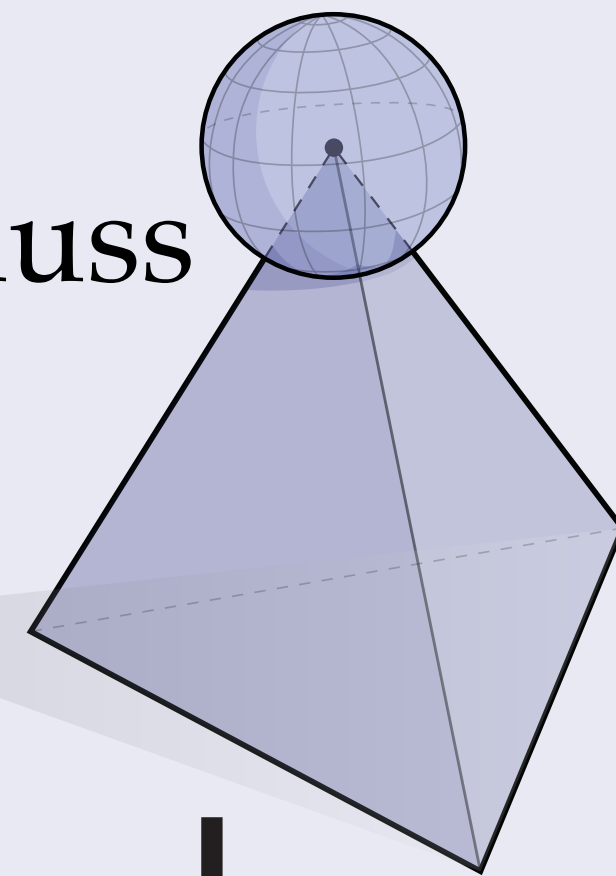
area



mean



Gauss



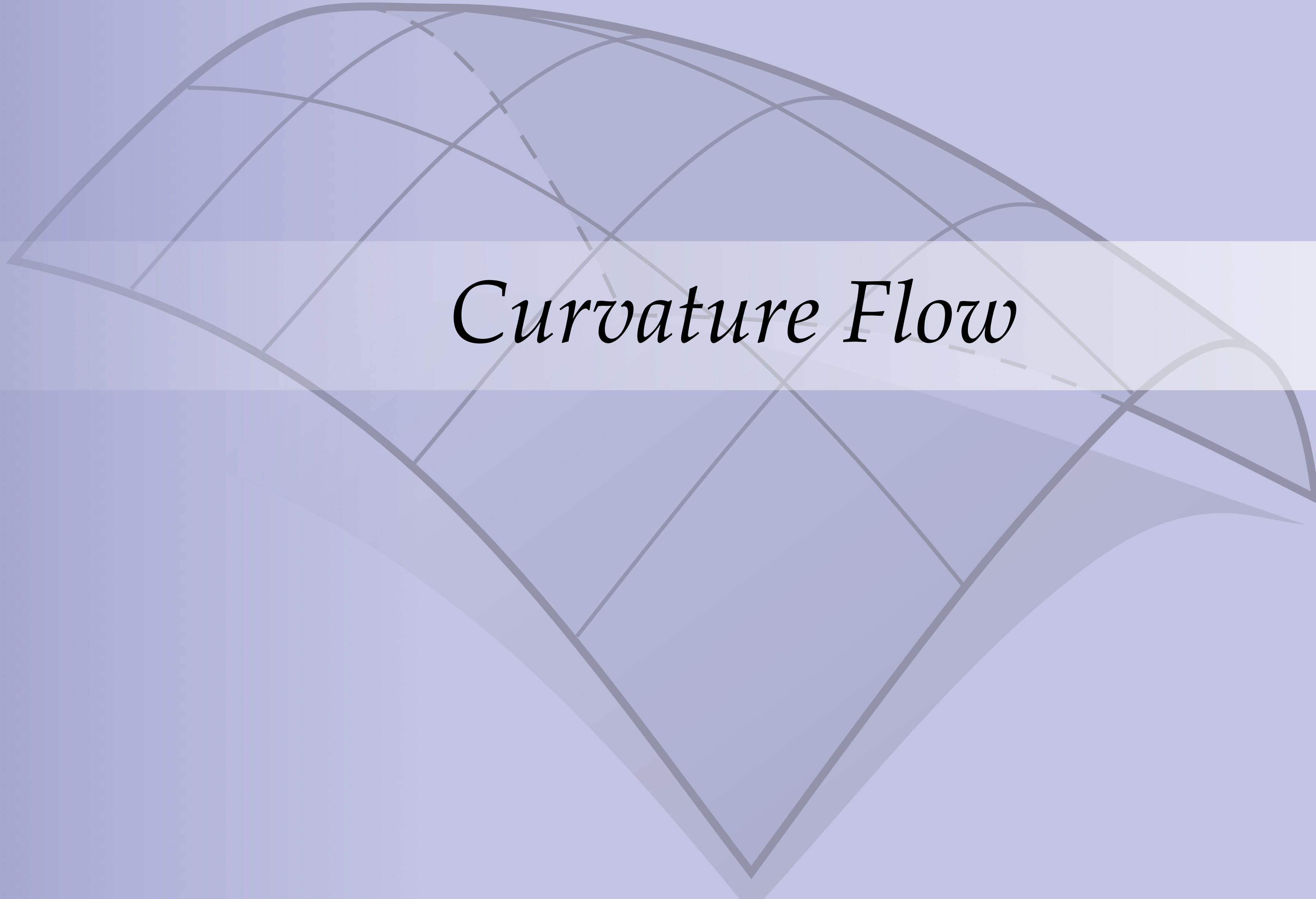
curvature vectors

$$\delta f \downarrow \int_{C_i} N dA$$

$$\delta f \downarrow \int_{C_i} HN dA$$

$$\delta f \downarrow \int_{C_i} KN dA$$

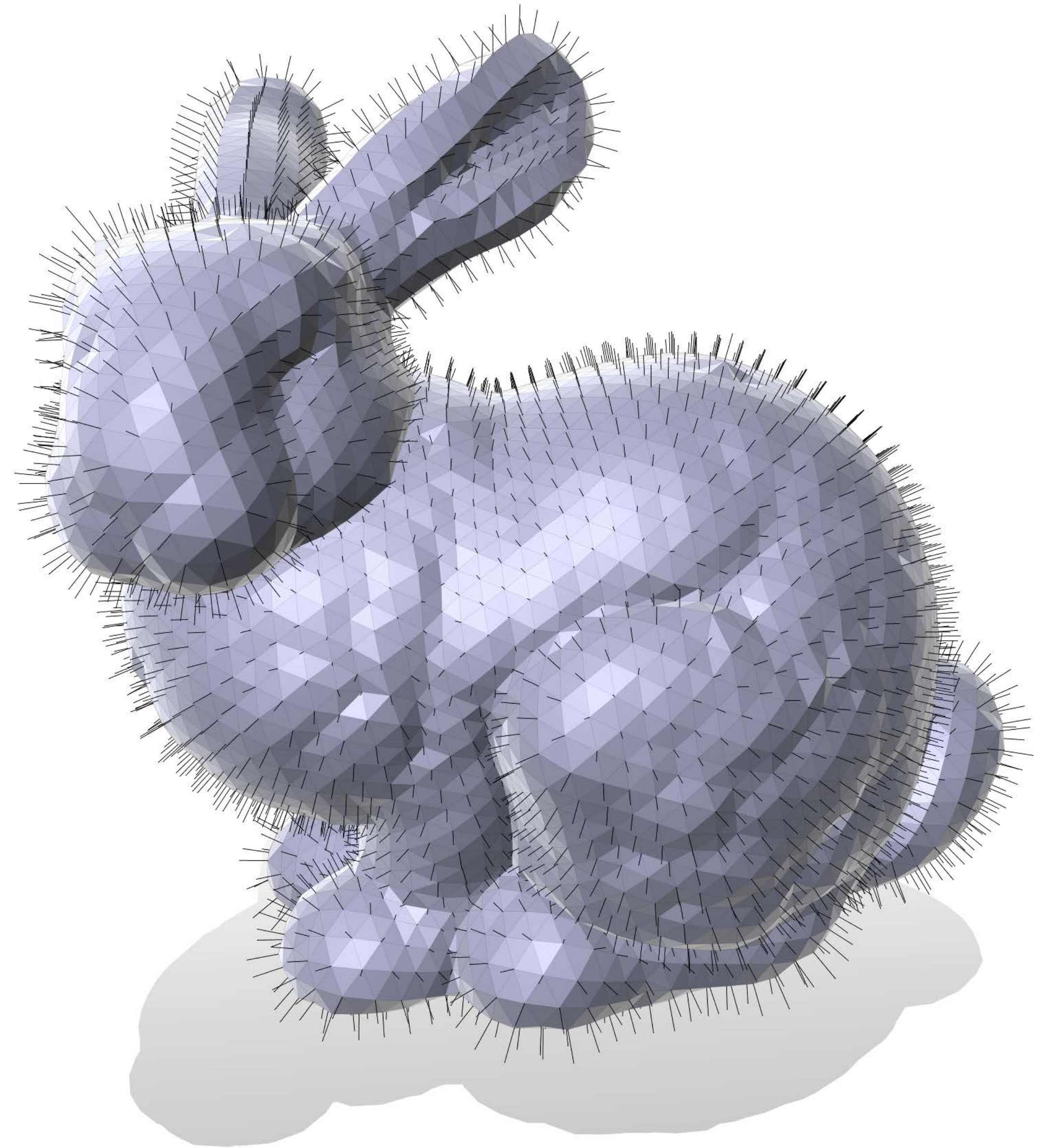
$$\delta f \downarrow 0$$



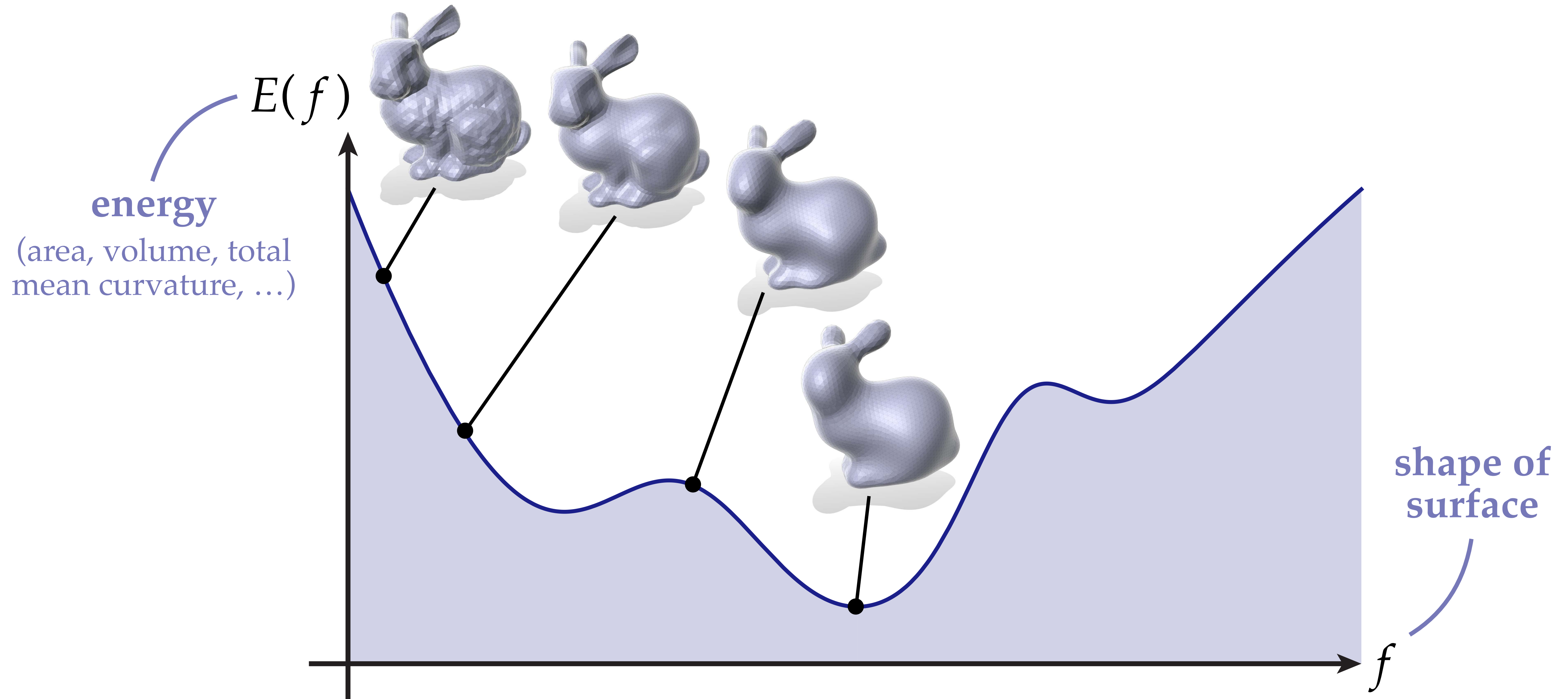
Curvature Flow

Curvature Flow

- Can use *curvature flow* to process surfaces
- Common task: smooth out surface / remove noise
- Basic strategy:
 - compute some function of curvature at each vertex
 - move in normal direction w/ speed proportional to curvature
 - *repeat*



Curvature Flow — Variational Perspective



Key idea: many curvature flows can be viewed as minimization of some energy

Curvature Flow—Numerical Integration

- Consider an energy E that assigns a “score” to any immersed surface f

$$\min_f E(f)$$

- Can reduce energy via gradient descent: “wiggle” surface in a way that decreases energy as quickly as possible

- **Smooth picture:** time derivative of the immersion f is equal to (minus) the first-order variation of energy with respect to f

$$\frac{d}{dt} f(t) = -\delta E(f(t))$$

- **Discrete picture:** replace time derivative with *difference* in time (time step τ)

$$\frac{f_i^{k+1} - f_i^k}{\tau} = -\nabla_{f_i} E(f)$$

- evaluating energy gradient at current time step k gives “forward Euler” update

$$f_i^{k+1} = f_i^k - \tau \nabla_{f_i^k} E(f^k)$$

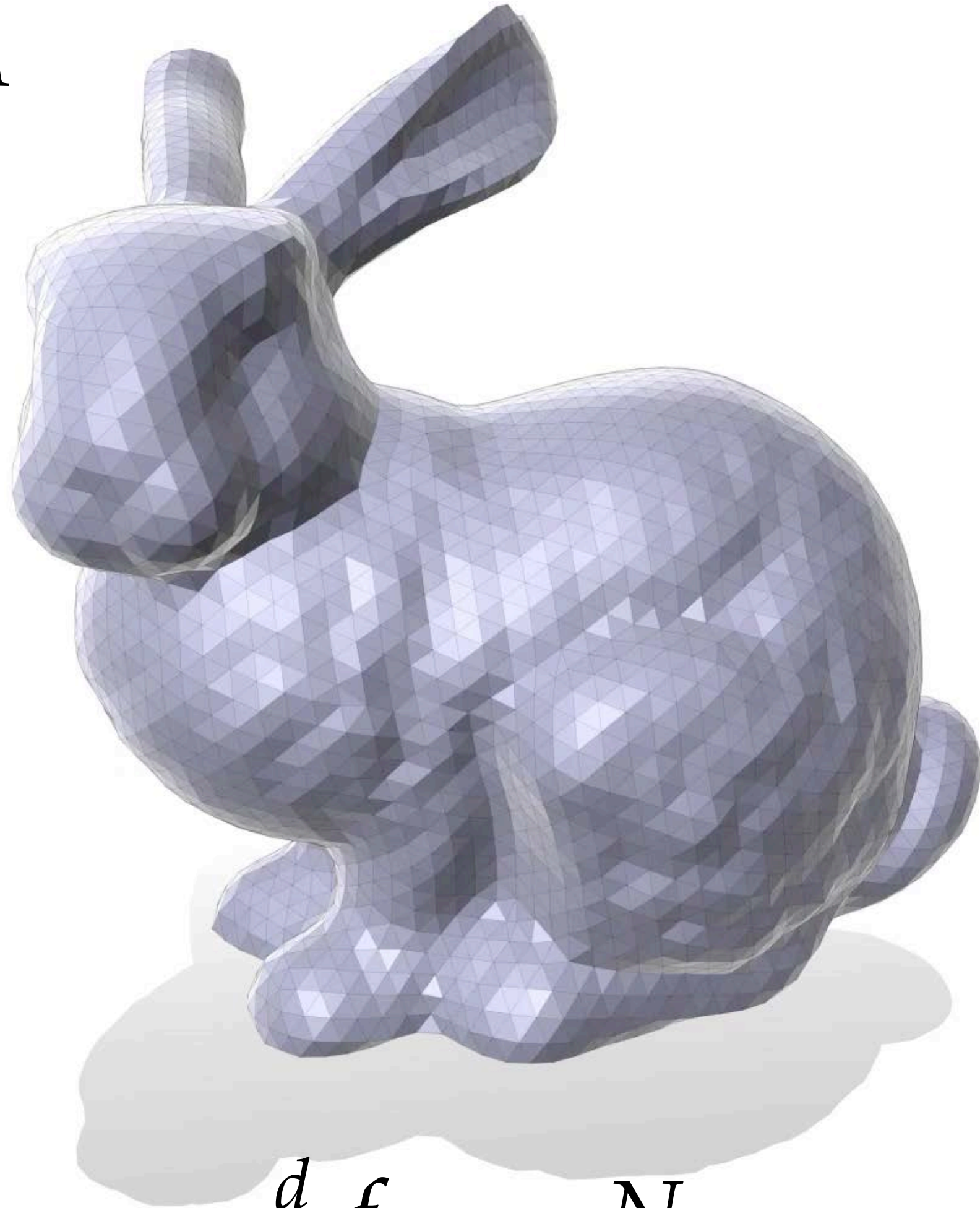
Normal Flow

$$\boxed{\text{volume} \xrightarrow{\delta f} \text{area}} \xrightarrow{\delta f} \text{mean} \xrightarrow{\delta f} \text{Gauss} \xrightarrow{\delta f} 0$$

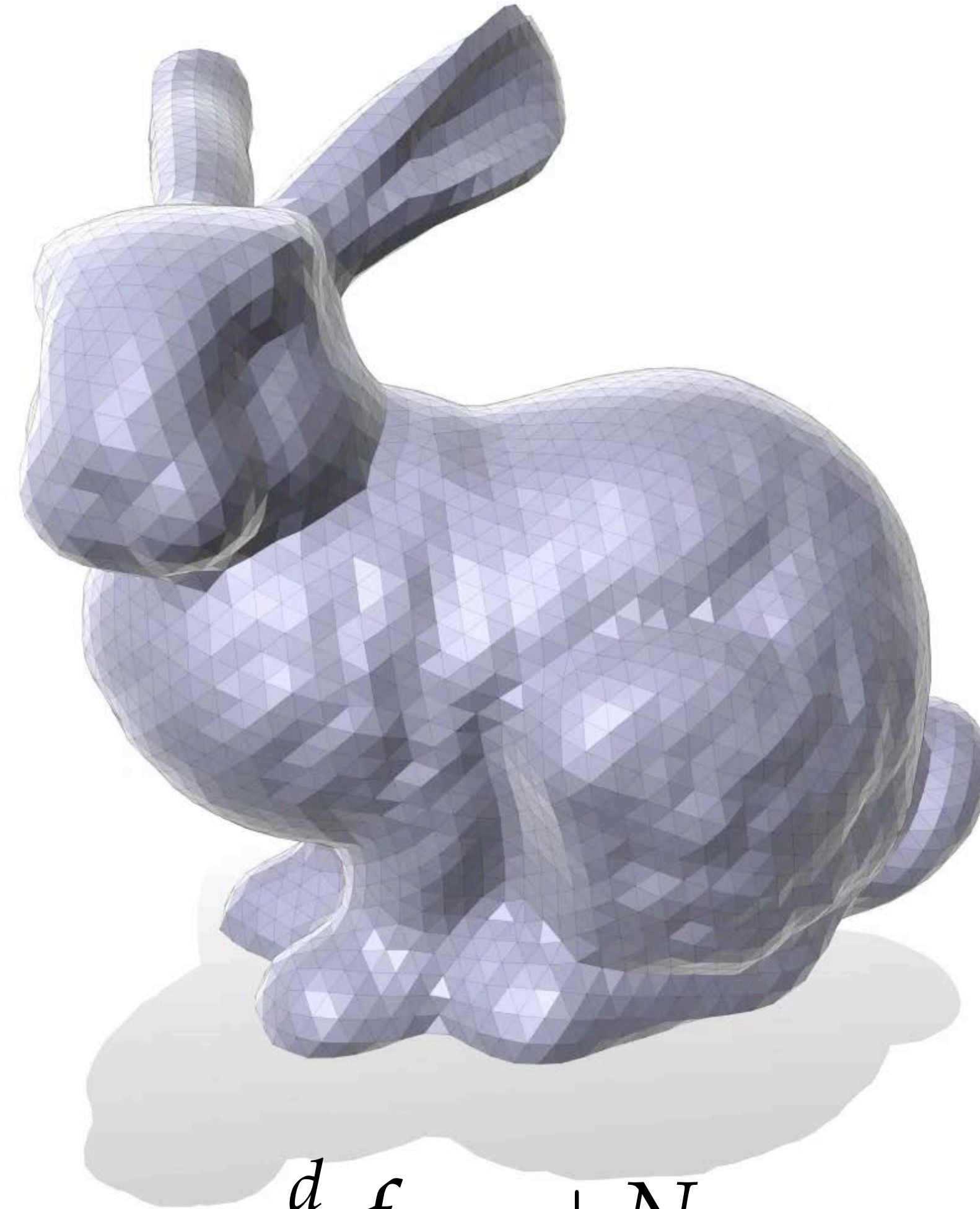
$$E(f) = \text{volume}(f)$$

$$\delta E = NdA$$

$$f_i^{k+1} = f_i^k - \frac{\tau}{6} \sum_{ijk \in \text{St}(i)} f_j \times f_k$$



$$\frac{d}{dt} f = -N$$



$$\frac{d}{dt} f = +N$$

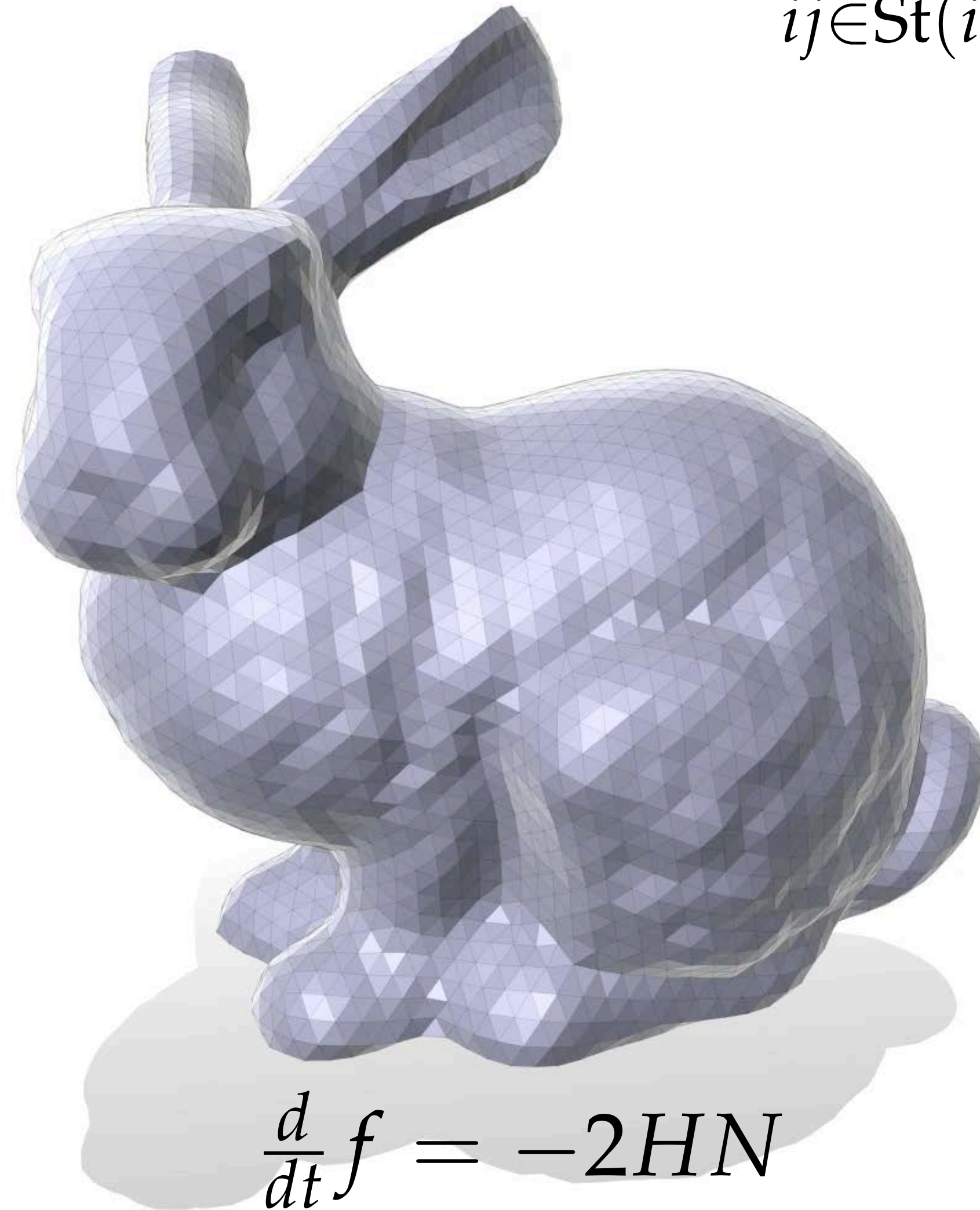
Mean Curvature Flow

volume $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ area $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ mean $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ Gauss $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ 0

$$E(f) = \int_M dA$$

$$\delta E = 2HN dA$$

$$f_i^{k+1} = f_i^k - \frac{\tau}{2} \sum_{ij \in \text{St}(i)} (\cot \alpha_{ij} + \cot \beta_{ij}) (f_j^k - f_i^k)$$



$$\frac{d}{dt} f = -2HN$$

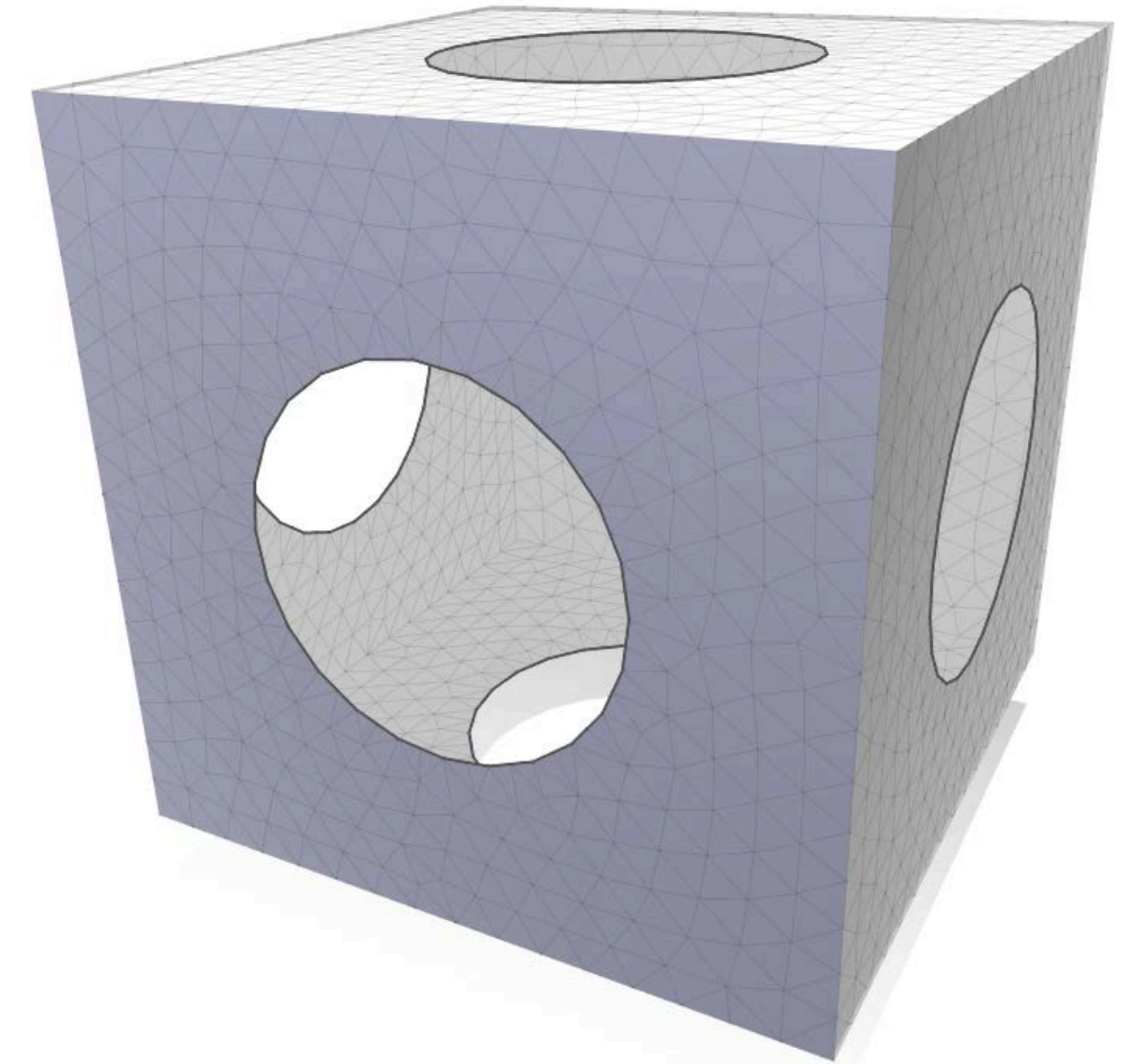
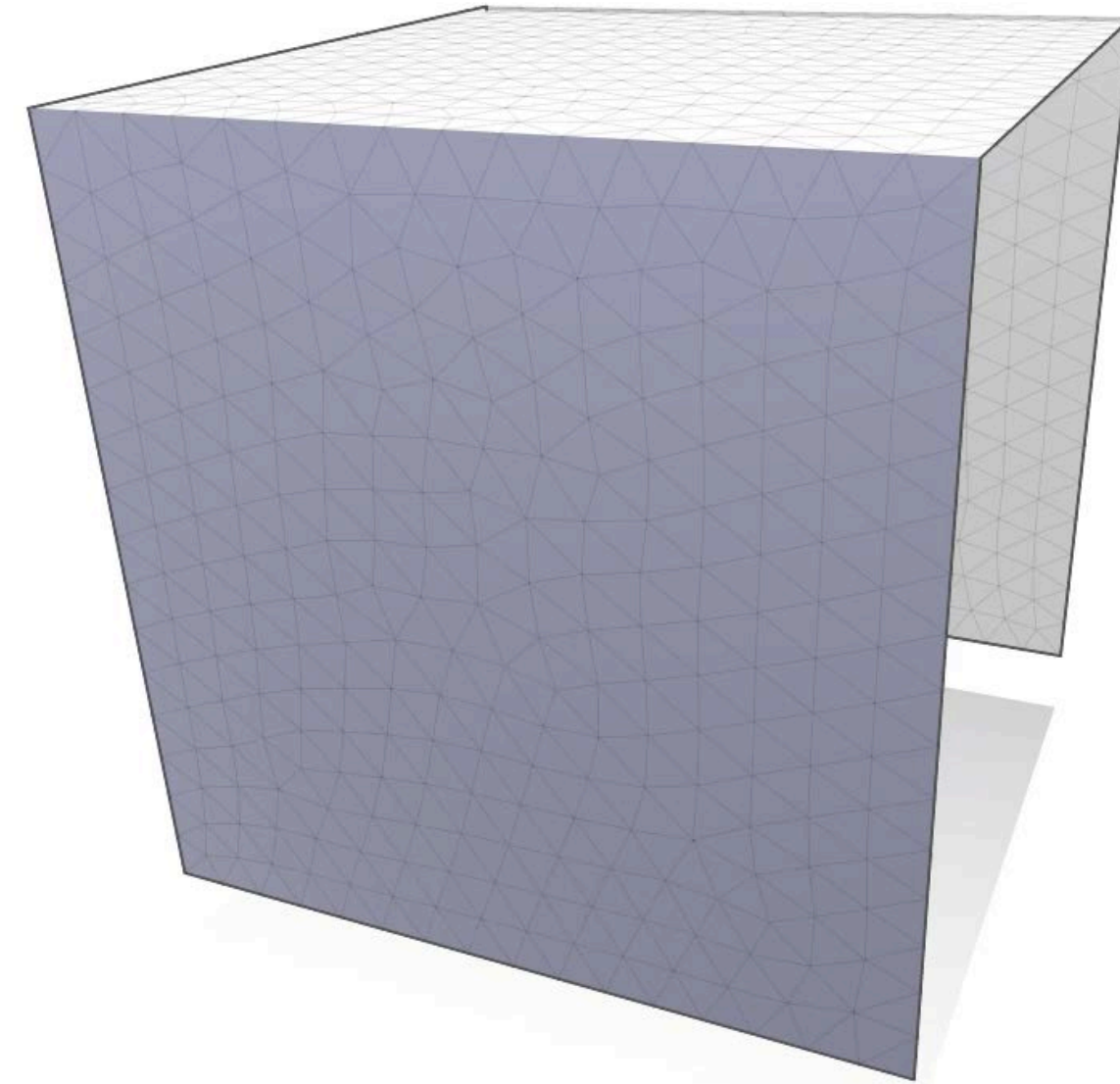
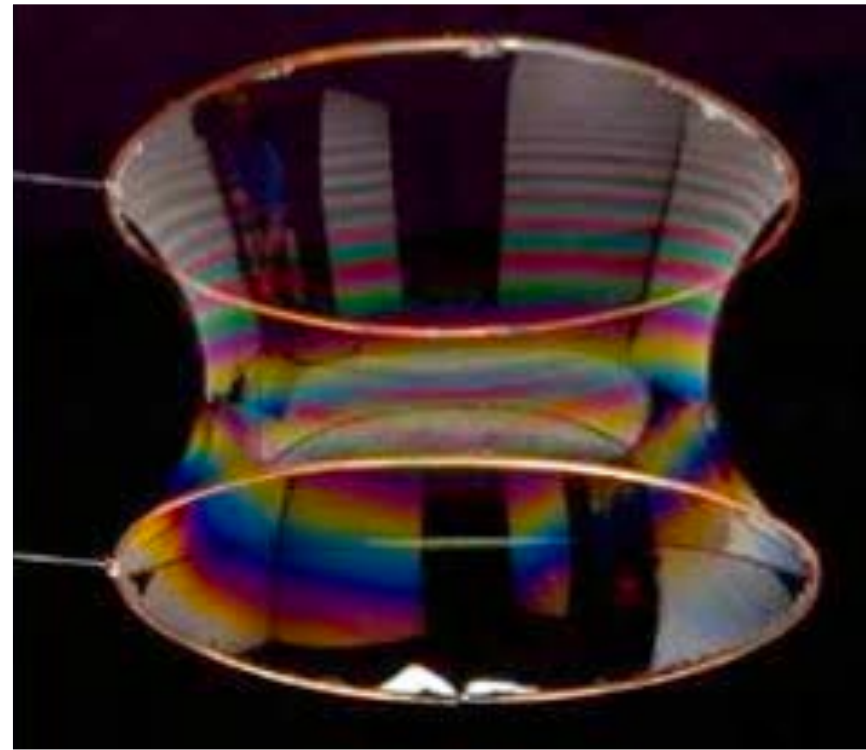
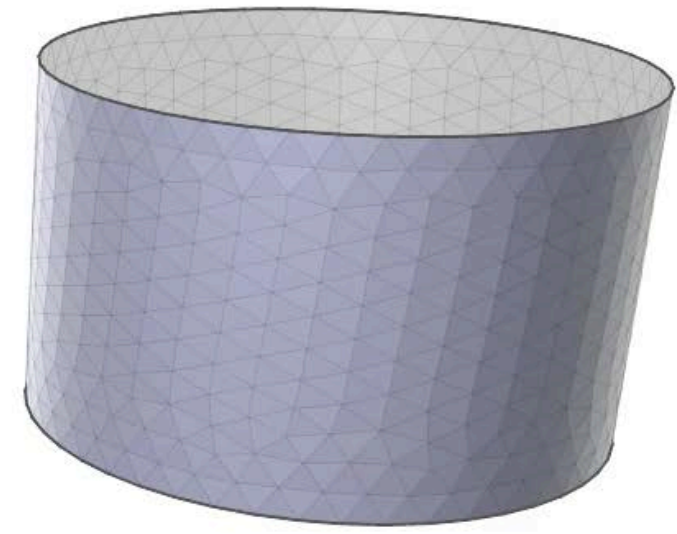
Mean Curvature Flow

$$\text{volume} \xrightarrow{\delta f} \boxed{\text{area} \xrightarrow{\delta f} \text{mean}} \xrightarrow{\delta f} \text{Gauss} \xrightarrow{\delta f} 0$$

$$E(f) = \int dA$$

$$f^{k+1} = f^k - \tau \nabla \cdot (\cot \alpha \dots + \cot \beta \dots) (f^k - f_i^k)$$

δ



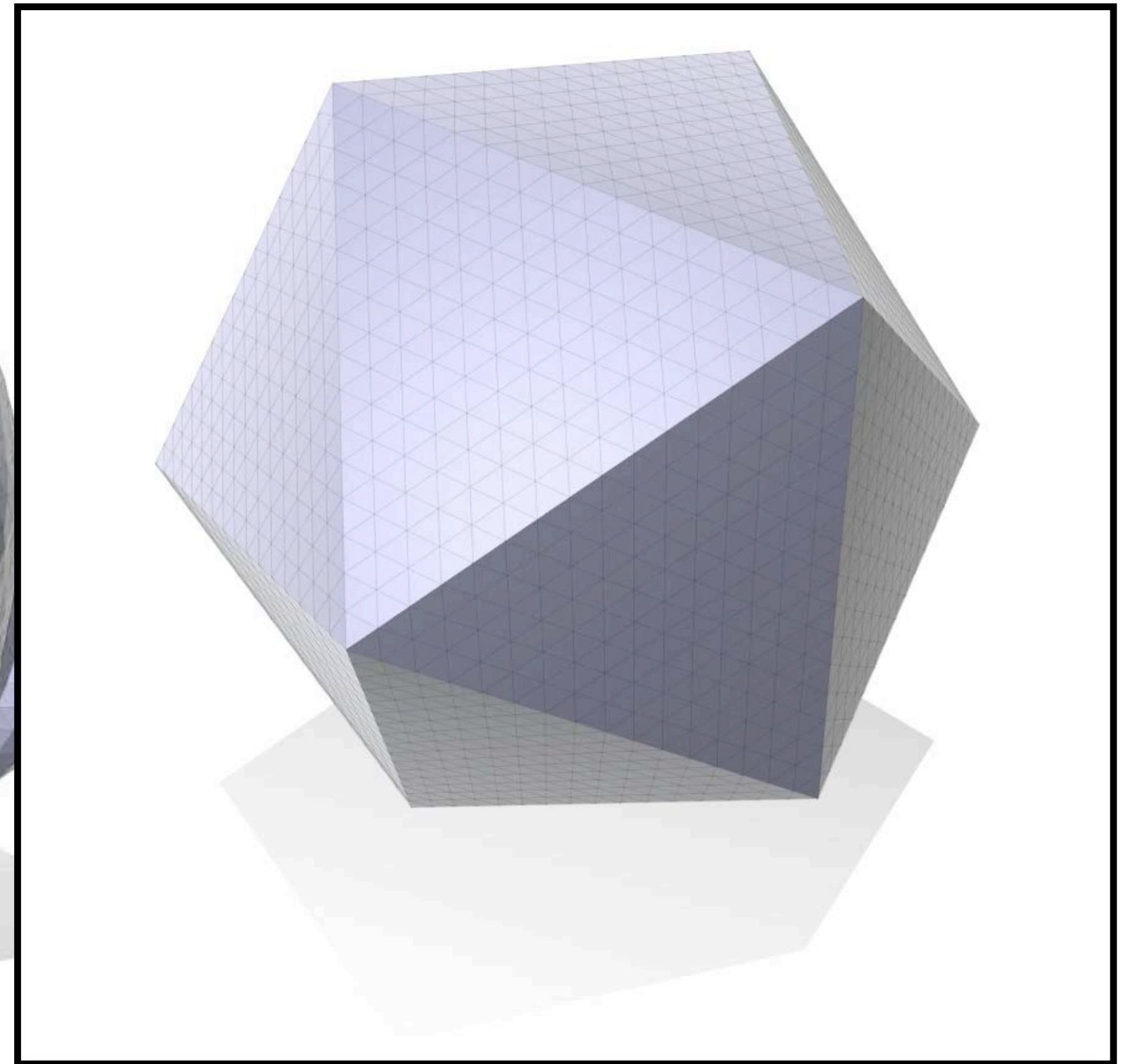
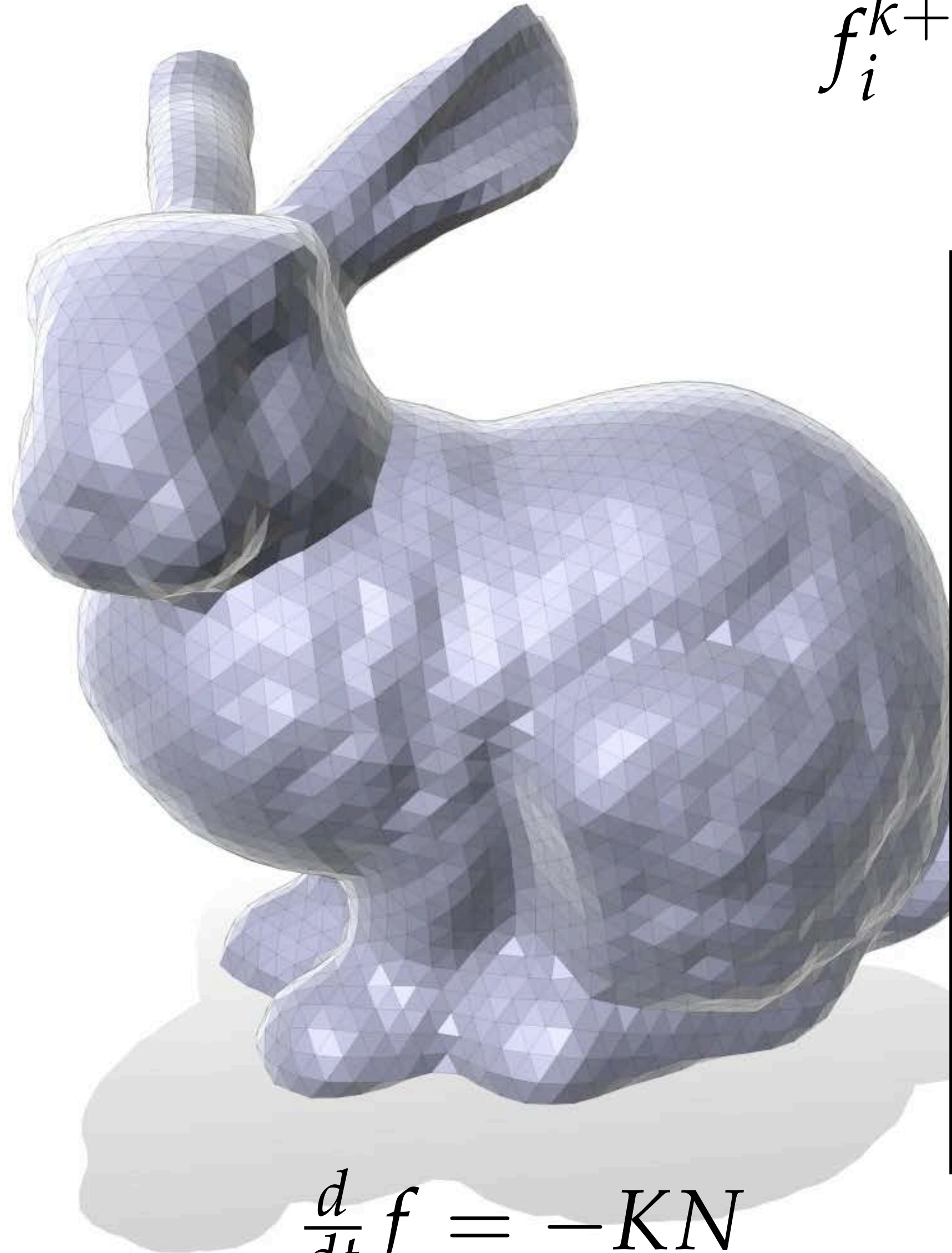
Plateau problem: find surface of smallest area with given boundary ("minimal surface")

Gauss Curvature Flow volume $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ area $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ mean $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ Gauss $\xrightarrow{\delta f}$ 0

$$E(f) = \int_M H dA$$

$$\delta E = KN dA$$

$$f_i^{k+1} = f_i^k - \frac{\tau}{2} \sum_{ij \in \text{St}(i)} \frac{\varphi_{ij}}{\ell_{ij}} (f_j^k - f_i^k)$$



Willmore Flow

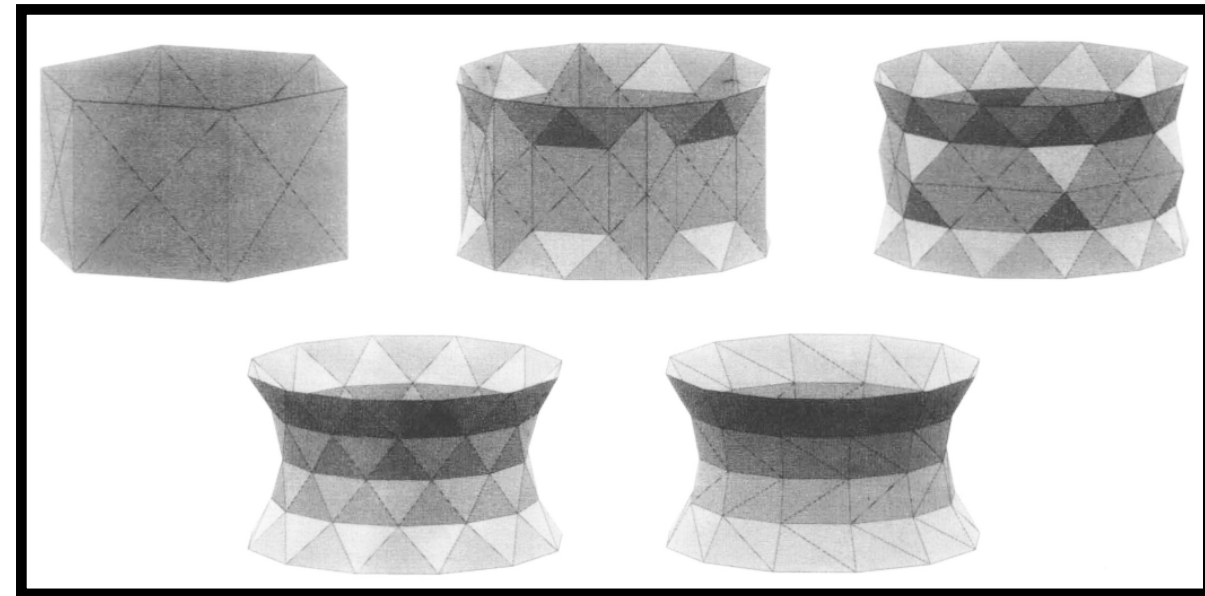
$$E = \int_M H^2 dA$$



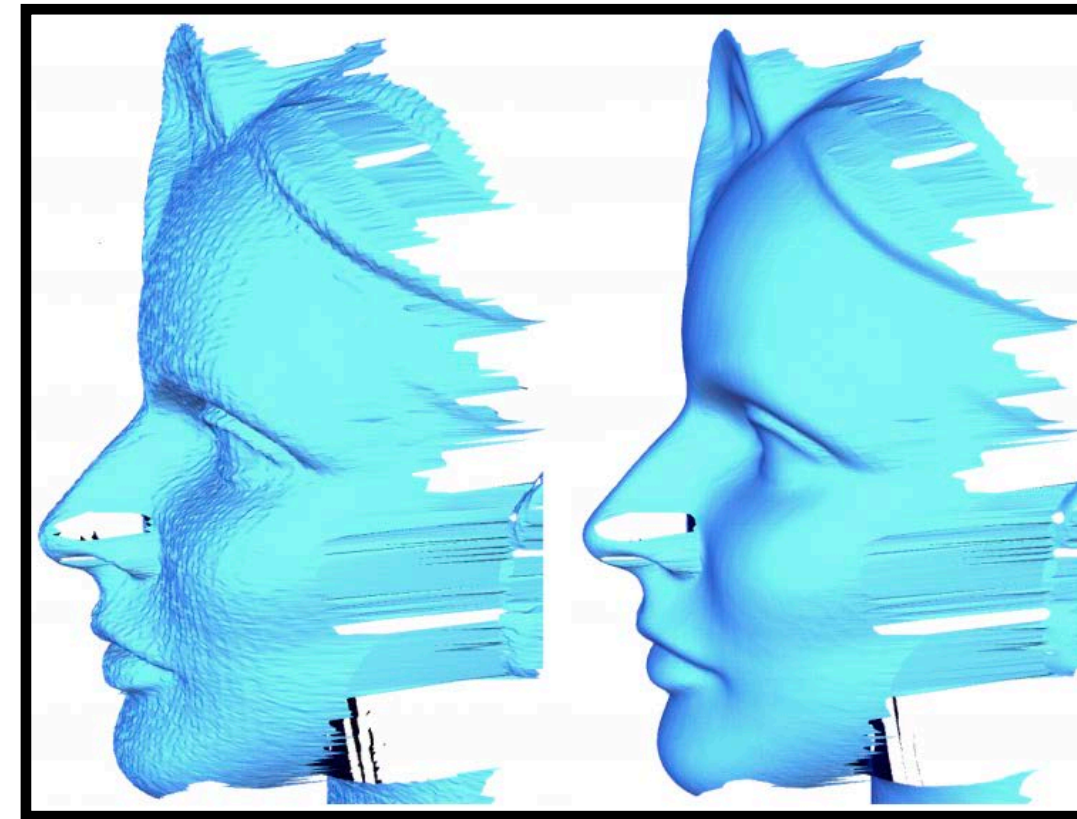
$$E_{\text{discrete}} = \sum_{i \in V} (HN)_i^2 / A_i$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} = -\nabla_f E$$

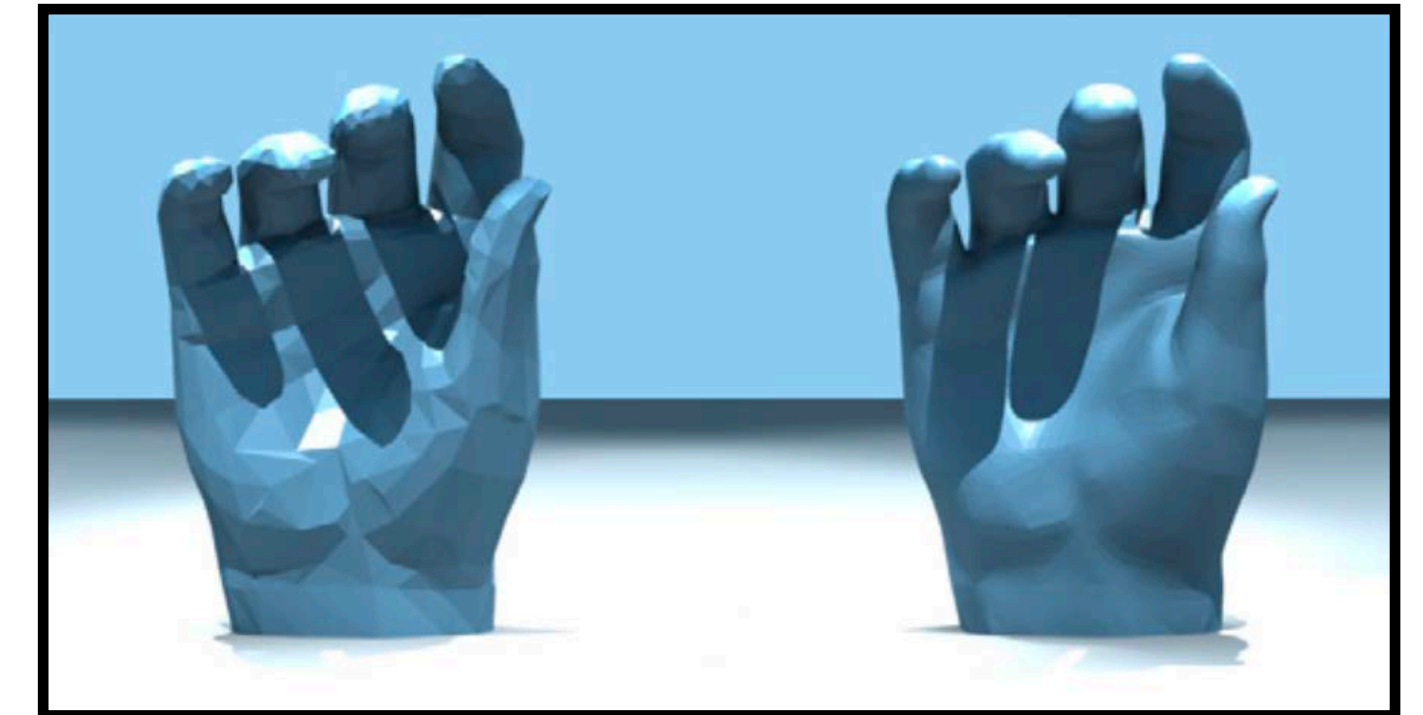
Curvature Flow Algorithms—Further Reading



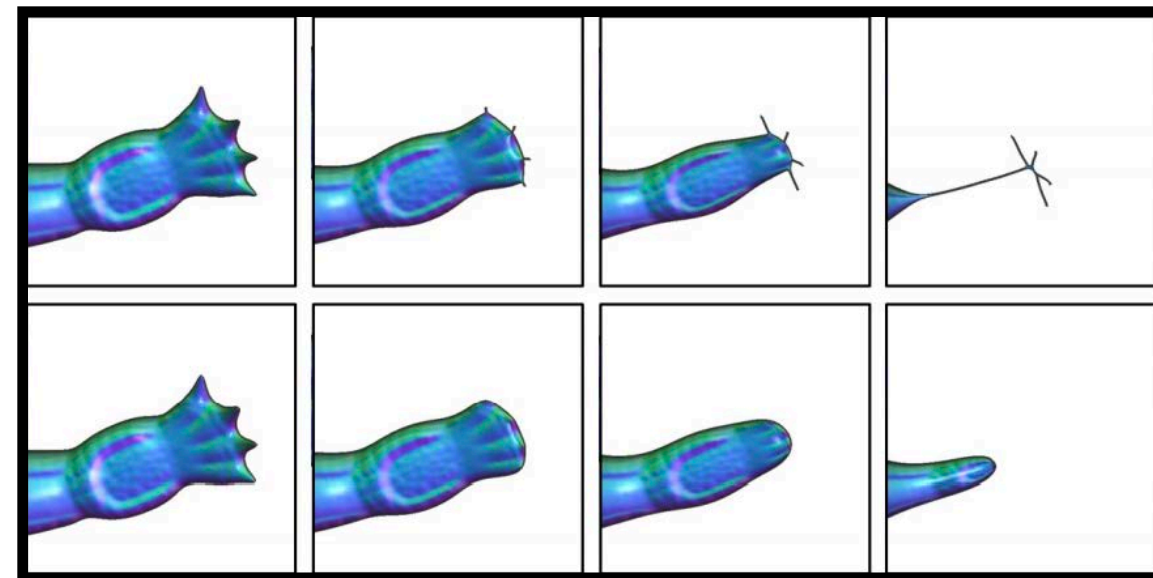
Brakke, *"The Surface Evolver"* (1992)



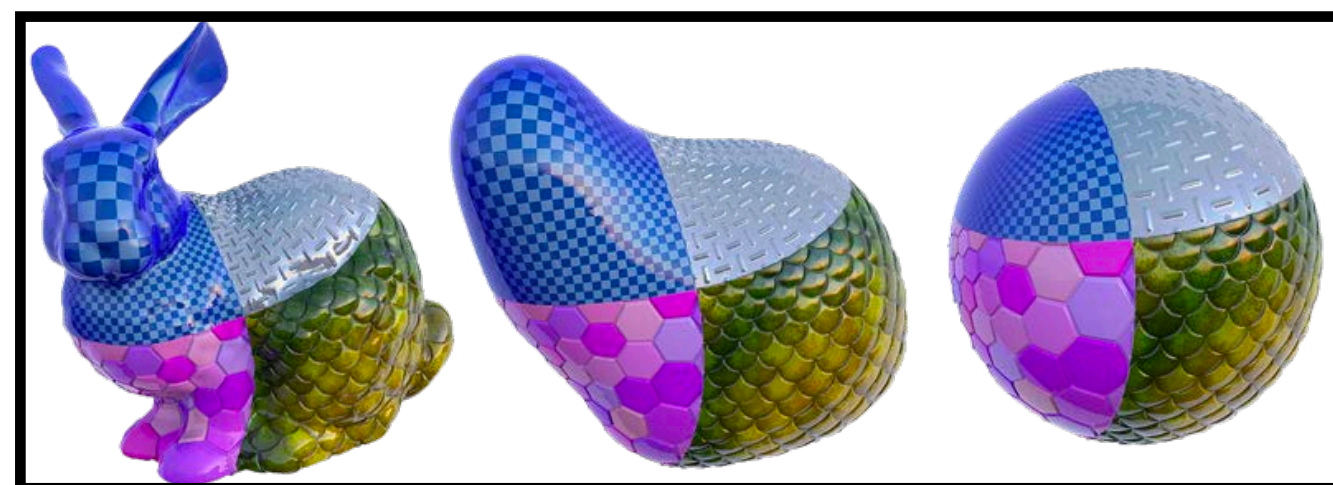
Desbrun et al, *"Implicit Fairing of Irregular Meshes using Diffusion and Curvature Flow"* (1999)



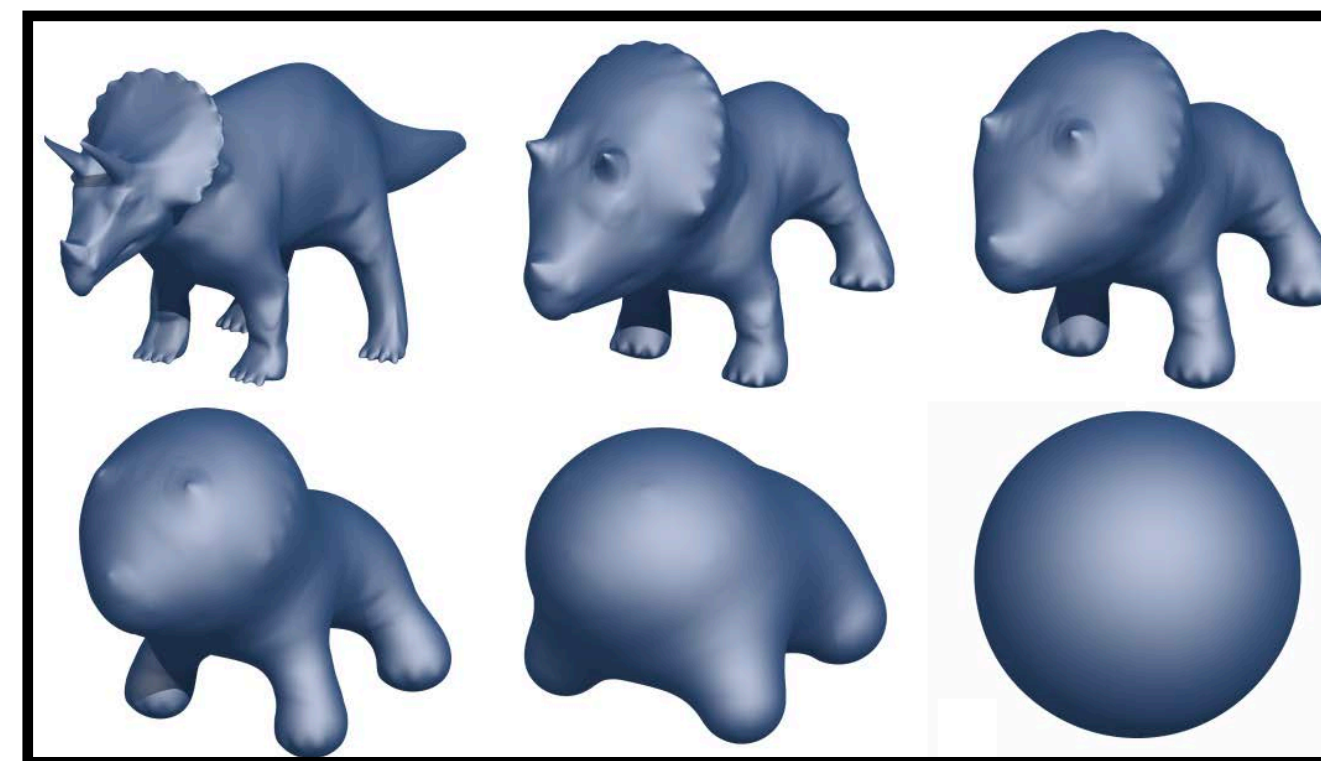
Wardetzky et al, *"Discrete Quadratic Curvature Energies"* (2007)



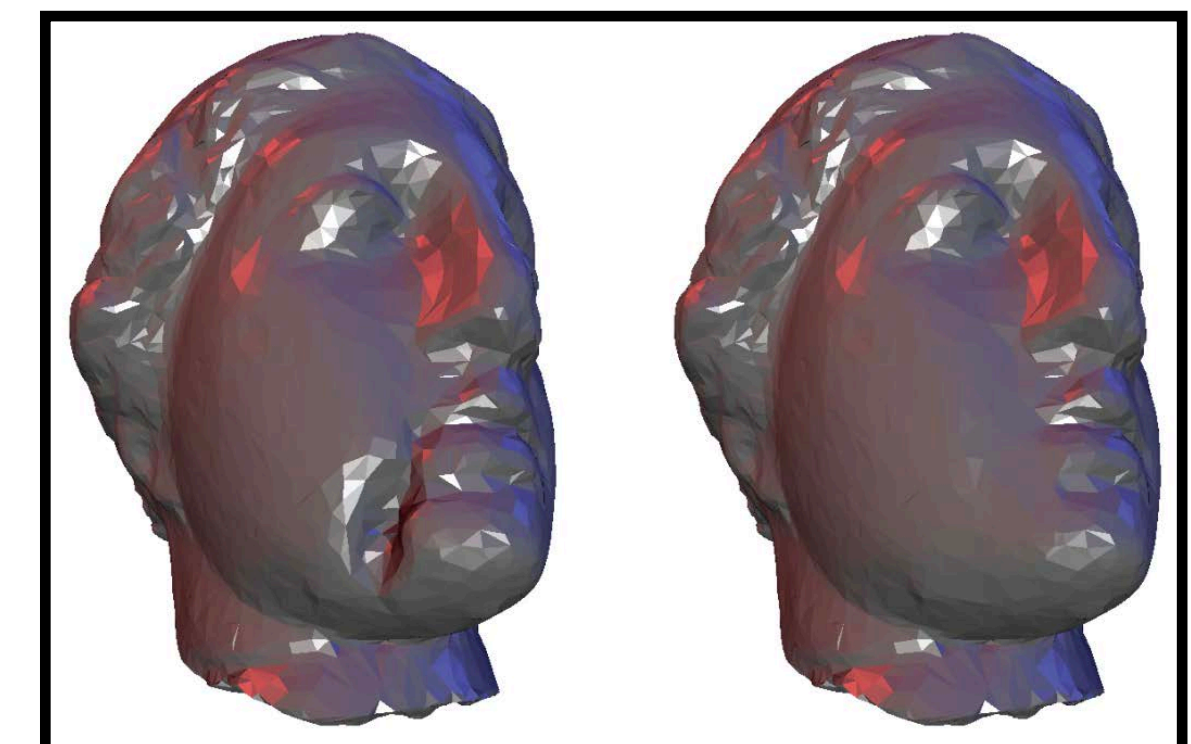
Kazhdan et al, *"Can Mean-Curvature Flow be Modified to be Non-singular?"* (2012)



Crane et al, *"Robust Fairing via Conformal Curvature Flow"* (2013)

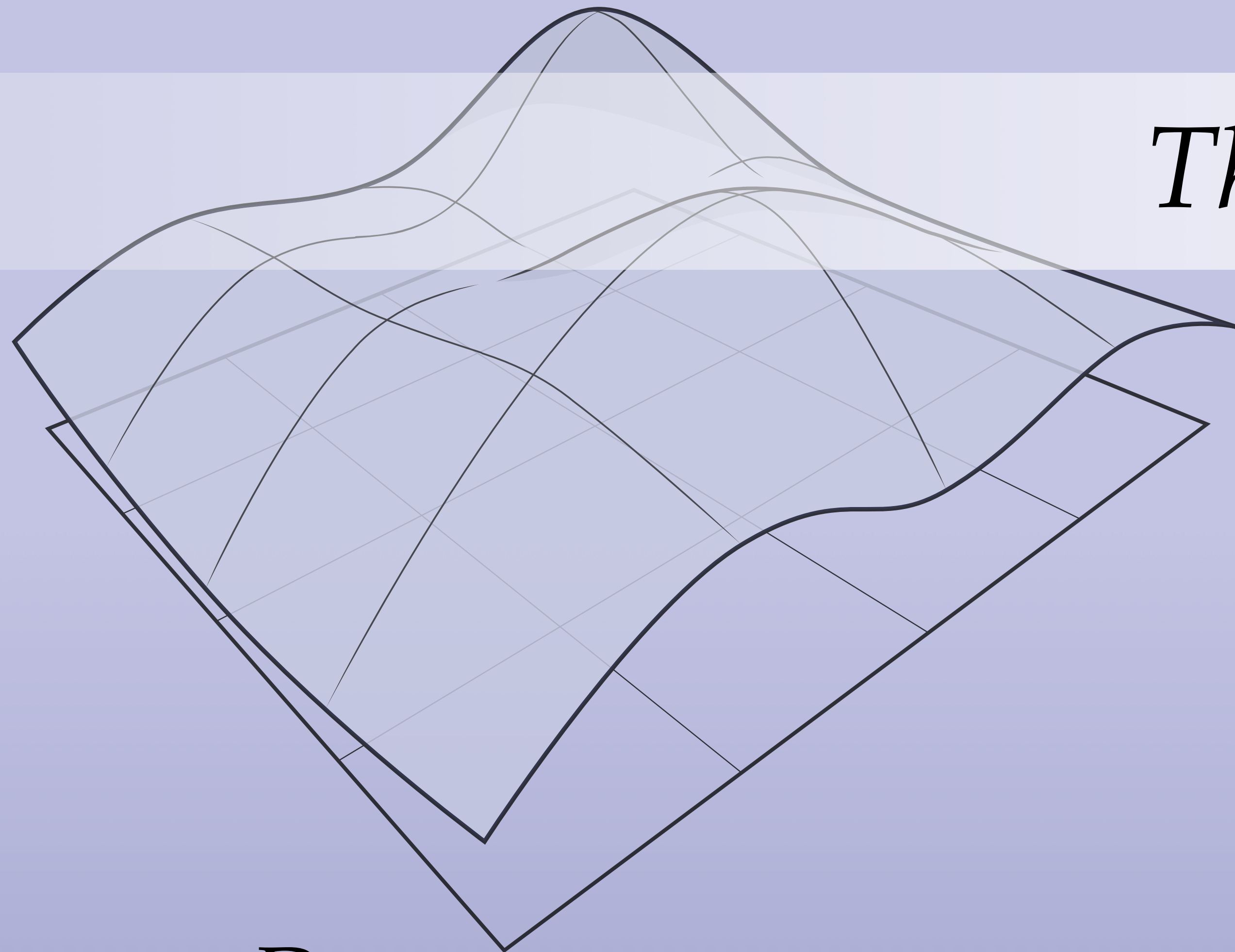


Schumacher, *"On H^2 Gradient Flows for the Willmore Energy"* (2017)



Bobenko & Schröder, *"Discrete Willmore Flow"* (2005)

Thanks!



DISCRETE DIFFERENTIAL

GEOMETRY:

AN APPLIED INTRODUCTION

Keenan Crane • CMU 15-458/858