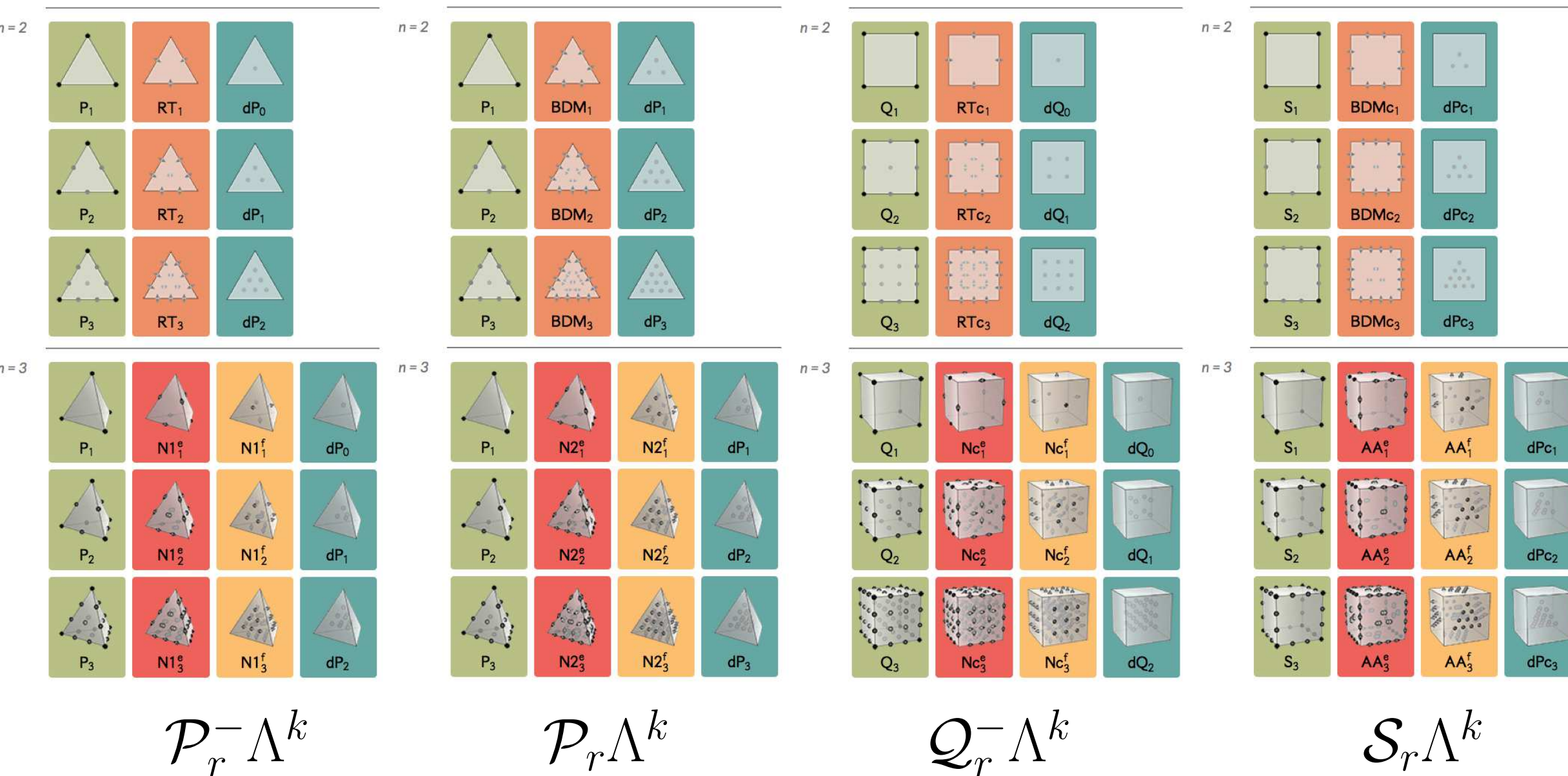


## The Periodic Table of Finite Elements

→ The **Periodic Table of Finite Elements** identifies four families of conforming finite elements on simplices and cubes.  
→ We describe a new family on cubes, called **Trimmed Serendipity Finite Elements**.



## Definitions and Notation

The space of differential  $k$ -forms with polynomial coefficients of homogeneous degree  $r$  is denoted  $\mathcal{H}_r \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . The **exterior derivative**  $d$  and **Koszul operator**  $\kappa$  are maps

$$d : \mathcal{H}_r \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{r-1} \Lambda^{k+1}(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad \kappa : \mathcal{H}_r \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{r+1} \Lambda^{k-1}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

The space of **polynomial differential  $k$ -forms of degree at most  $r$**  is

$$\mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n) := \bigoplus_{j=0}^r \mathcal{H}_j \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

The space of **trimmed polynomial differential  $k$ -forms of degree at most  $r$**  is

$$\mathcal{P}_r^- \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n) := \mathcal{P}_{r-1} \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n) + \kappa \mathcal{P}_{r-1} \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

The **linear degree** of  $x^\alpha dx_\sigma$  is defined to be  $\text{ldeg}(x^\alpha dx_\sigma) := \#\{i \in \sigma^* : \alpha_i = 1\}$ .

*Example:*  $\text{ldeg}(xyz^2 dx) = 1$ , b/c  $y$  is the only variable with exponent 1 not appearing in  $dx$ .

Two key building blocks for both the serendipity and trimmed serendipity spaces are

$$\mathcal{H}_{r,l} \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n) := \{\omega \in \mathcal{H}_r \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n) : \text{ldeg } \omega \geq l\}, \text{ and}$$

$$\mathcal{J}_r \Lambda^k(\mathbb{R}^n) := \sum_{l \geq 1} \kappa \mathcal{H}_{r+l-1,l} \Lambda^{k+1}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

The **serendipity differential  $k$ -forms of order  $r$  on an  $n$ -cube  $\square_n$**  are given by

$$\mathcal{S}_r \Lambda^k(\square_n) := \mathcal{P}_r \Lambda^k(\square_n) \oplus \mathcal{J}_r \Lambda^k(\square_n) \oplus d \mathcal{J}_{r+1} \Lambda^{k-1}(\square_n).$$

## Trimmed Serendipity Finite Elements

We define **trimmed serendipity differential  $k$ -forms of order  $r$  on an  $n$ -cube  $\square_n$**  by

$$\mathcal{S}_r^- \Lambda^k(\square_n) := \mathcal{S}_{r-1} \Lambda^k(\square_n) + \kappa \mathcal{S}_{r-1} \Lambda^{k+1}(\square_n).$$

$$\textbf{Theorem: } \mathcal{S}_r^- \Lambda^k(\square_n) = \mathcal{P}_r^- \Lambda^k(\square_n) + \mathcal{J}_r \Lambda^k(\square_n) + d \mathcal{J}_r \Lambda^{k-1}(\square_n)$$

The **degrees of freedom** for  $\mathcal{S}_r^- \Lambda^k(\square_n)$  associated to a  $d$ -dimensional sub-face  $f$  of  $\square_n$  are

$$u \mapsto \int_f (\text{tr}_f u) \wedge q, \quad q \in \mathcal{P}_{r-2(d-k)-1} \Lambda^{d-k}(f) \oplus d \mathcal{H}_{r-2(d-k)+1} \Lambda^{d-k-1}(f),$$

for any  $k \leq d \leq \min\{n, \lfloor r/2 \rfloor + k\}$ .

$$\textbf{Theorem: (Unisolvence)} \text{ If } u \in \mathcal{S}_r^- \Lambda^k(\square_n) \text{ and all the degrees of freedom vanish, then } u \equiv 0.$$

## Dimension Count

**Theorem:** Fix  $n, r \geq 1$  and  $0 \leq k \leq n$ . Then

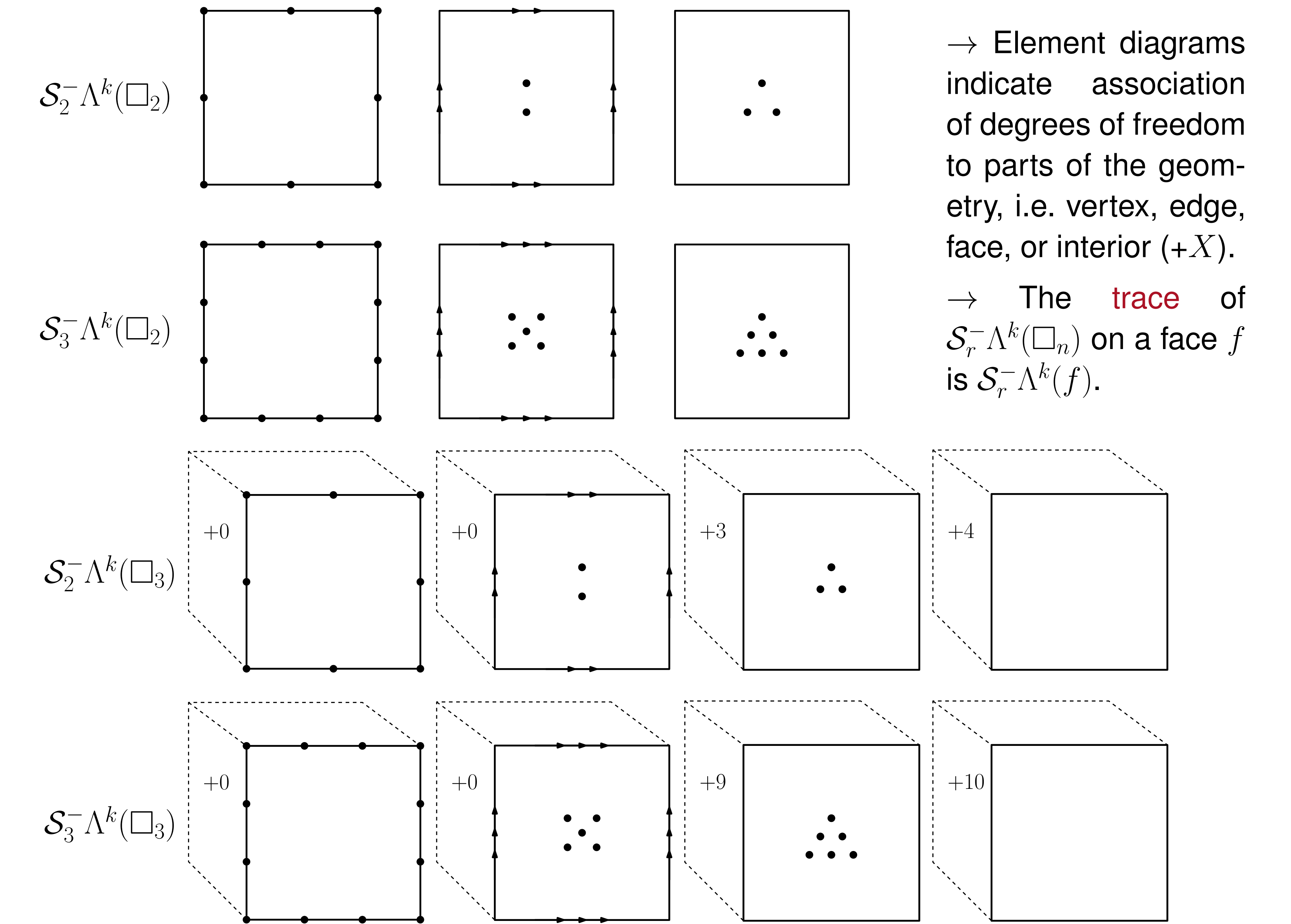
$$\dim \mathcal{S}_r^- \Lambda^k(\square_n) = \dim \mathcal{P}_r^- \Lambda^k(\square_n) + \dim \mathcal{J}_r \Lambda^k(\square_n) + \dim \mathcal{J}_r \Lambda^{k-1}(\square_n)$$

Further, each summand has a closed-form expression in terms of binomial coefficients depending only on  $n, k$ , and  $r$ .

$n$	$k$	$\dim \mathcal{S}_r^- \Lambda^k(\square_n)$							$k$	$\dim \mathcal{S}_r \Lambda^k(\square_n)$						
		$r=1$	2	3	4	5	6	7		$r=1$	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	0	4	8	12	17	23	30	38	0	4	8	12	17	23	30	38
	1	4	10	17	26	37	50	65	1	8	14	22	32	44	58	74
	2	1	3	6	10	15	21	28	2	3	6	10	15	21	28	36
3	0	8	20	32	50	74	105	144	0	8	20	32	50	74	105	144
	1	12	36	66	111	173	255	360	1	24	48	84	135	204	294	408
	2	6	21	45	82	135	207	301	2	18	39	72	120	186	273	384
	3	1	4	10	20	35	56	84	3	4	10	20	35	56	84	120

We find that  $\dim \mathcal{S}_r^- \Lambda^k(\square_n) \leq \dim \mathcal{S}_r \Lambda^k(\square_n)$  with equality **only** when  $k = 0$ .

## Element Diagrams and Related Work



## Vector element analogues

→ Arbogast and Correa (2015) define spaces  $(\mathbf{V}_{AC}^r, W_{AC}^r) \subset H(\text{div}) \times L^2$ . Interpreting these spaces on a reference square as differential forms via the flat operator, we find that  $(\text{rot} \mathbf{V}_{AC}^r, W_{AC}^r)$  is identical to  $(\mathcal{S}_{r+1}^- \Lambda^1(\square_2), \mathcal{S}_{r+1}^- \Lambda^2(\square_2))$  where  $\text{rot}$  means rotation by  $\pi/2$ .

→ Cockburn and Fu (2016) define sequences of spaces  $\mathcal{S}_{2,r}^{\square_2}$  on a reference square and  $\mathcal{S}_{2,r}^{\square_3}$  on a reference cube. Interpreting these sequences by the flat operator we recover the trimmed serendipity sequences:

$$\mathcal{S}_{r+1}^- \Lambda^0(\square_2) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{r+1}^- \Lambda^1(\square_2) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{r+1}^- \Lambda^2(\square_2)$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{r+1}^- \Lambda^0(\square_3) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{r+1}^- \Lambda^1(\square_3) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{r+1}^- \Lambda^2(\square_3) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{r+1}^- \Lambda^3(\square_3)$$

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