

Simplex: A simplex is a generalization of the notion of a triangle or tetrahedron to ~~arbitrary~~ arbitrary dimension.

# Notion (idea)

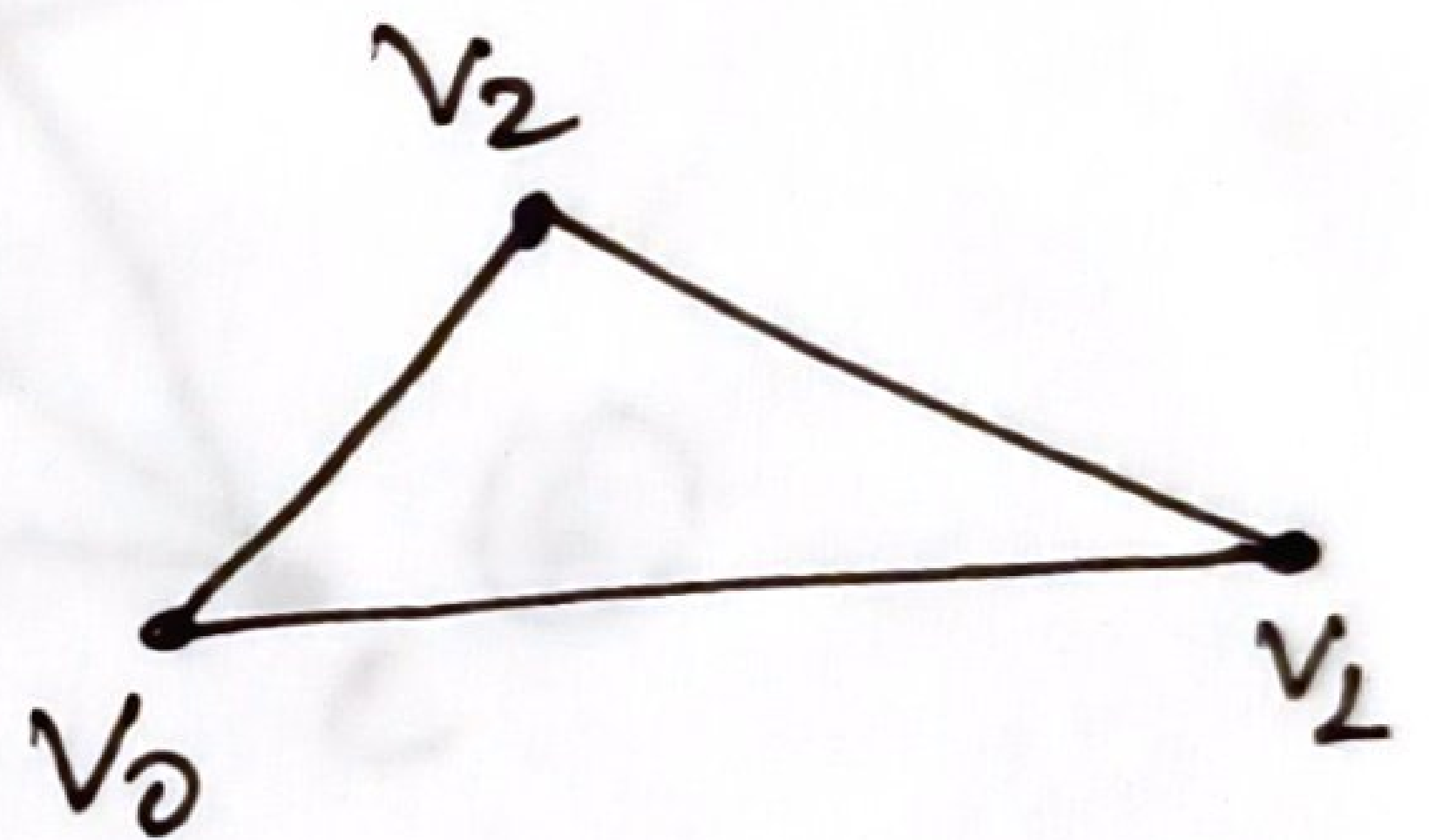
0-simplex = point



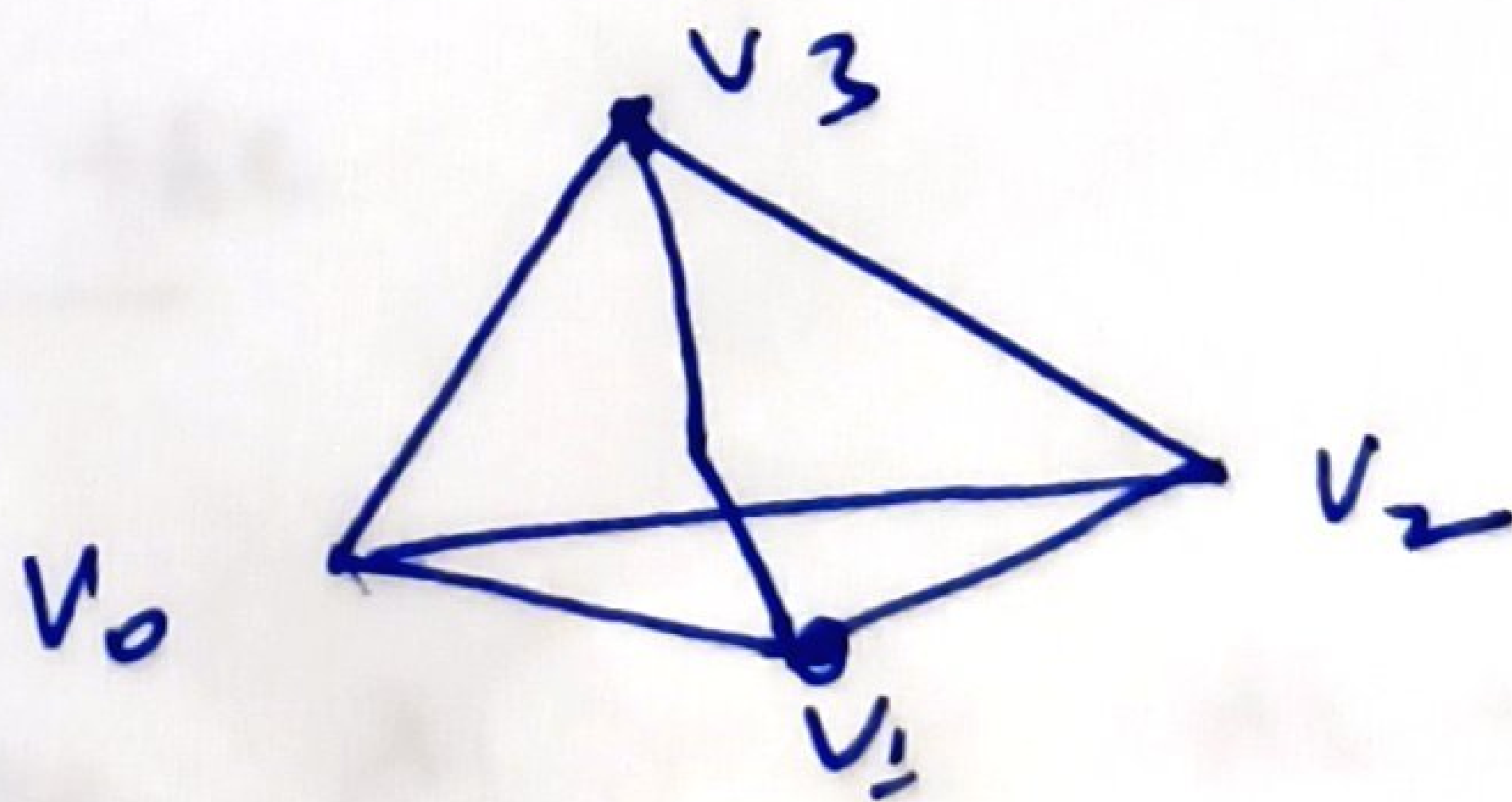
1-simplex = closed line segment



2-simplex = triangle



3-simplex = tetrahedron (solid)



## Convex Hull :

The convex hull of a set of points  $S$  in  $n$  dimensions is the intersection of all convex sets containing  $S$ .

For  $N$  points  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N$ , the convex hull  $C$  is then given by the

expression

$$C = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i P_i : \lambda_i \geq 0 \text{ for all } i \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i = 1 \right\}$$

Also, we can say that

Given points  $x_0, \dots, x_p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the convex hull of the set  $S = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_p\}$  is the smallest convex set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  that contains  $S$ .

Convex hull is given as

$$\{t_0 x_0 + \dots + t_p x_p \in \mathbb{R}^n : \sum t_i = 1, t_i \geq 0\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^n t_i x_i \mid t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \text{ and} \right.$$

$$\left. \sum_{i=1}^n t_i = 1 \right\}$$

Note :  $p = n \geq 0$  is an integer.

Flat : ( Euclidean Subspace ) :

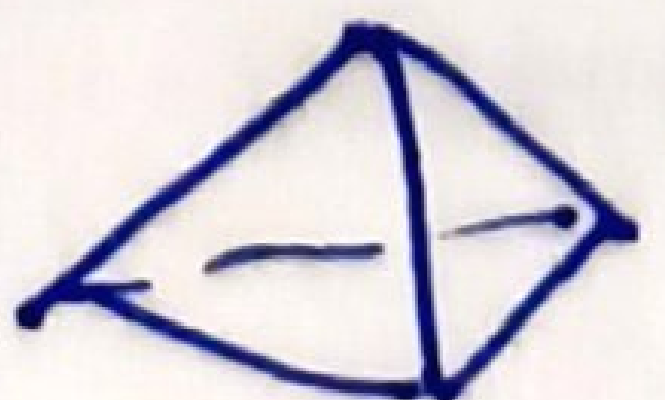
A Flat or Euclidean Subspace is a subset of a euclidean space that is itself a euclidean space of lower dimension.

Example !: Flats in two dimensional space are points and lines, and the flat in 3-dimensional spaces are points, lines and planes.

Note !: In a  $n$ -dimensional space, there are flats of every dimension from 0 to  $n-1$ .  
flats of dimension  $n-1$  are called hyperplanes.

Polyhedron / Polyhedron !:

A polyhedron is a three-dimensional shape with polygonal faces, straight edges and sharp corner or vertices.

Eg:  → tetrahedron

## Polytope :-

A polytope is a geometric object with flat sides (faces).

Example :- two dimensional polygon is a 2-polytope  
and a three-dimensional polyhedron is a 3-polytope

Note :- An  $n$ -polytope  $P$  is the convex hull of finitely many ~~pair~~ points in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .



Fig. 1

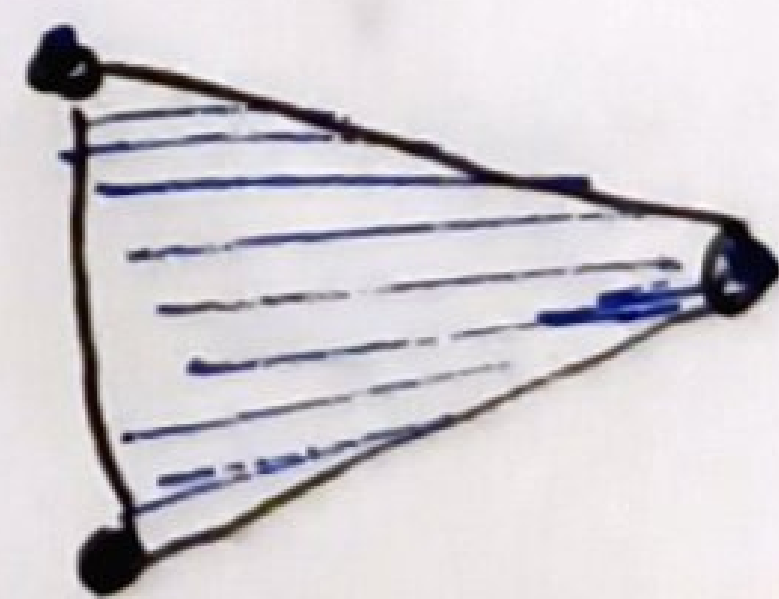
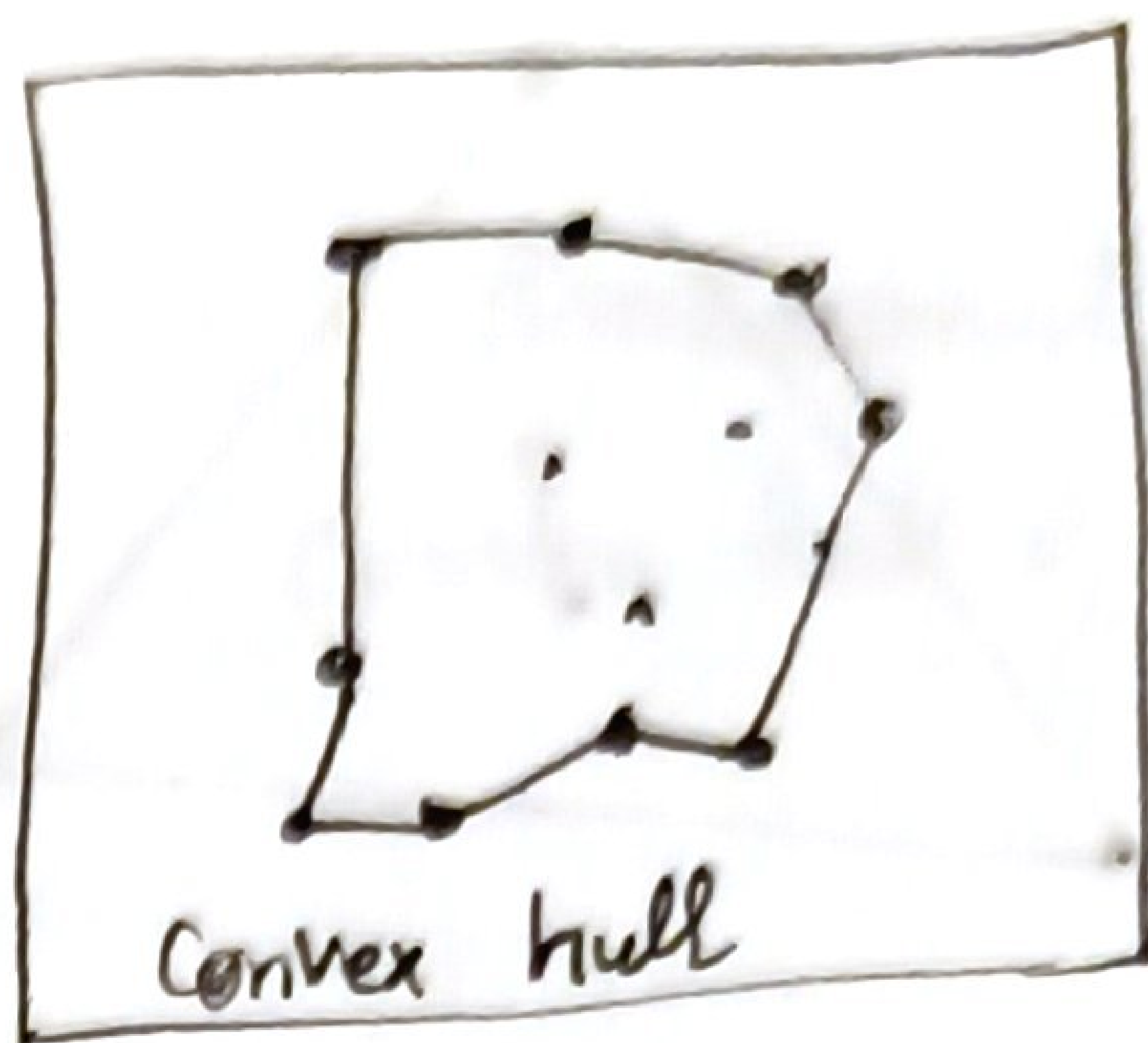
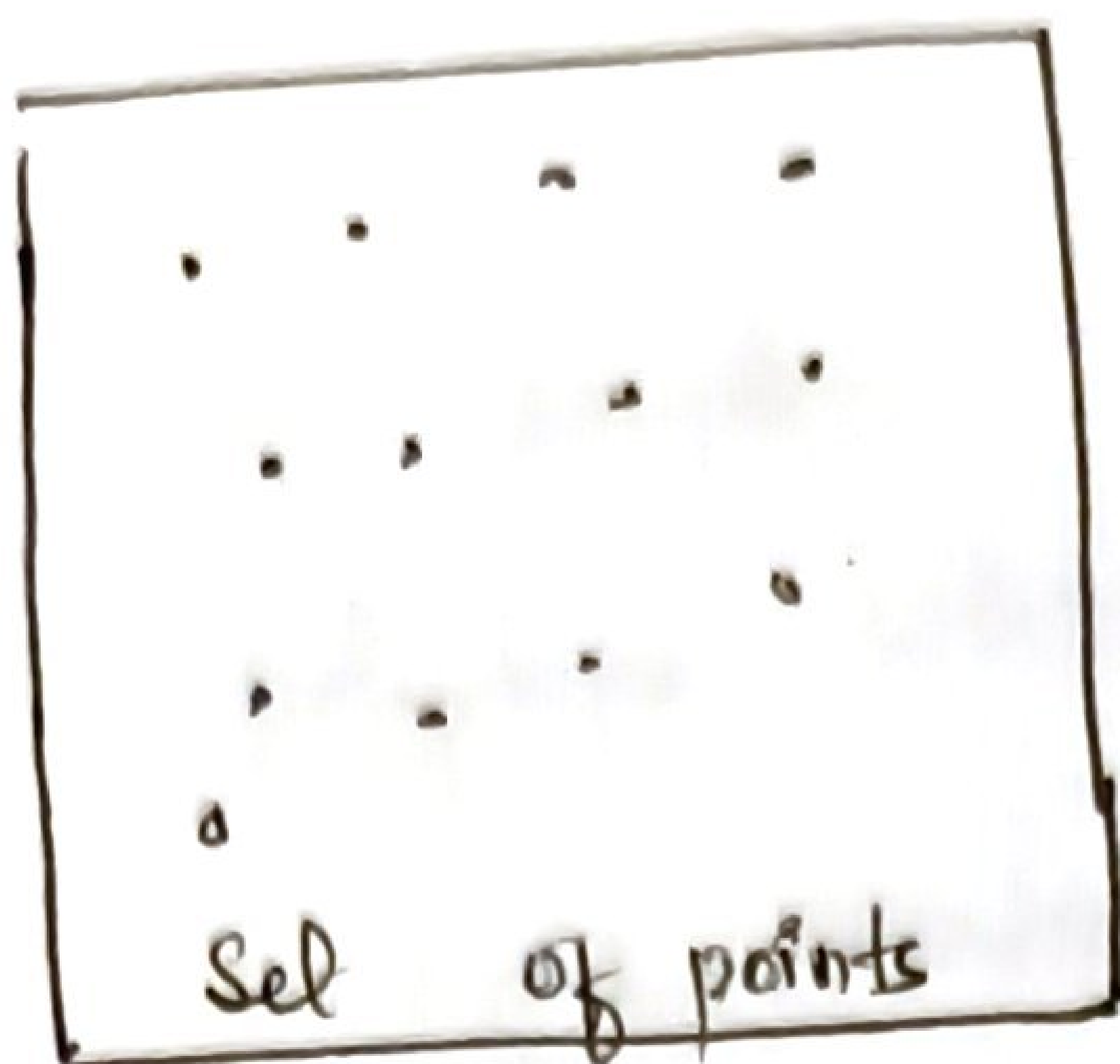


Fig. 2.

The shaded triangle in fig 2 is the convex hull of three black points.



### Convex combination :

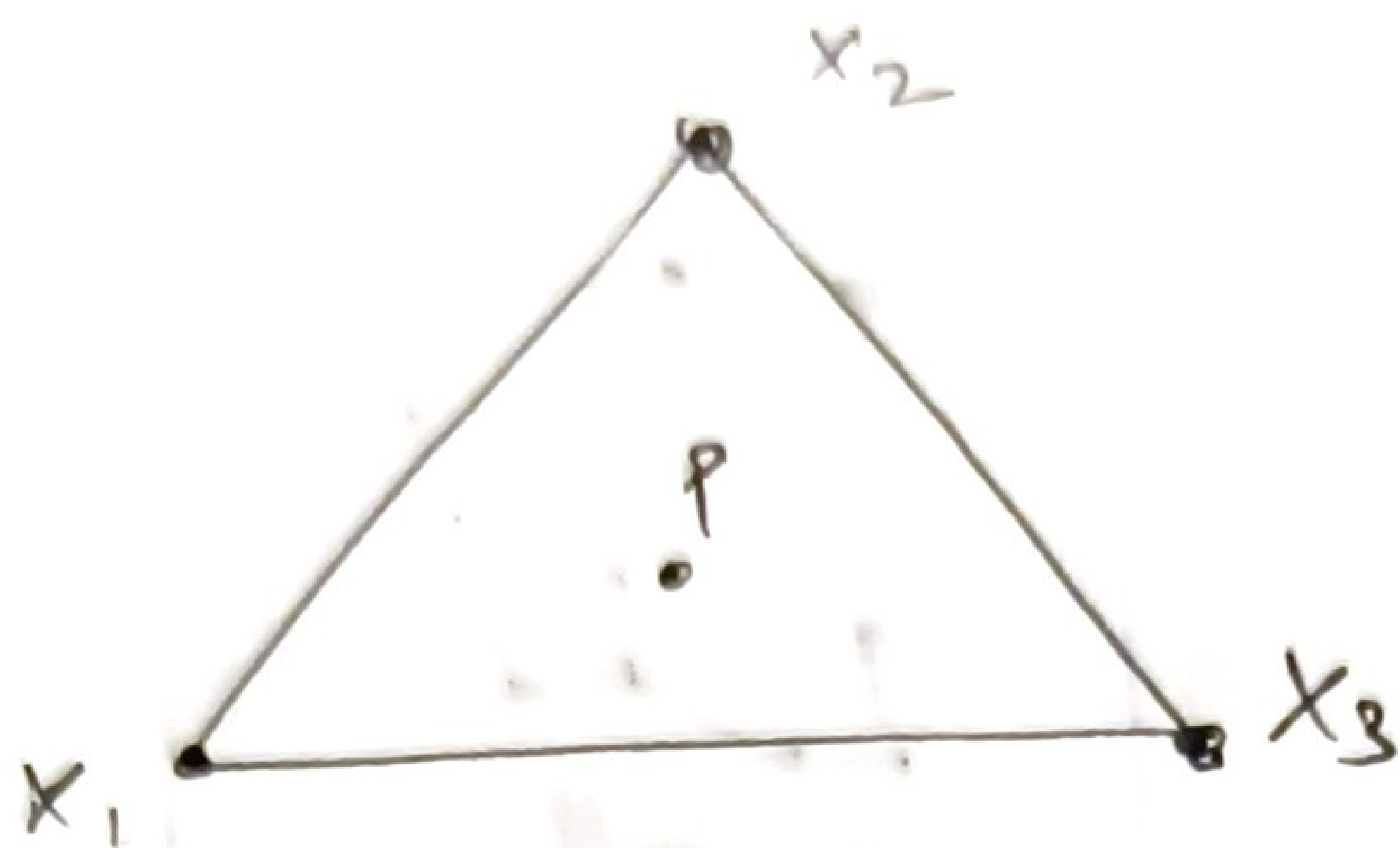
Given a finite number of points  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  in a real vector space, a convex combination of these points of the form

$$\alpha_1 x_1 + \alpha_2 x_2 + \dots + \alpha_n x_n$$

where the real numbers  $\alpha_i$  satisfy  $\alpha_i \geq 0$

$$\text{and } \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \dots + \alpha_n = 1.$$

Note : A subset  $A$  of a vector space  $V$  is said to be convex if  $\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y$  for all vector  $x, y \in A$  and for all scalars  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ .



• Q

Given three points  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  in a plane as shown in the figure, the point  $p$  is a convex combination of the three points, while

Q is not.

### Convex hull :-

A set of points in a Euclidean space is defined to be convex if it contains the line segments connecting each pair of its points.

The convex hull of a given set  $X$  may be defined as

- ① the intersection of all convex sets containing  $X$ .
- ② The set of all convex combinations of points in  $X$ .

## $n$ -simplex :-

A  $n$ -simplex is a  $n$ -dimensional polytope which is the convex hull of its  $n+1$  vertices.

Also, An  $n$ -simplex  $[v_0, \dots, v_n]$  is the convex hull of  $n+1$  ordered points (called vertices) in  $\mathbb{R}^m$  for which  $v_1 - v_0, \dots, v_n - v_0$  are linearly independent.

The standard  $n$ -simplex is

$$\Delta^n = \left\{ (t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid \sum_{i=0}^n t_i = 1 \text{ and } t_i \geq 0 \forall i \right\}$$

and there is a canonical map

$$\Delta^n \longrightarrow [v_0, \dots, v_n] \text{ via}$$

$$(t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n) \longrightarrow \sum_i t_i v_i$$

called barycentric coordinates on  $[v_0, \dots, v_n]$

# let  $A$  be  $p$ -simplex.

if  $A$  is the convex hull of  $\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$   
then every point of  $A$  has a distinct  
unique representation in the form

$$\sum t_i x_i \text{ where } t_i \geq 0 \text{ for all } i \text{ and}$$

$$\sum t_i = 1.$$

The points  $x_i$  are called the vertices of  $A$ .

If the vertices of  $A$  have been given a  
specific order, then  $A$  is called an ordered  
simplex.

let  $\sigma_p$  be the set of all points  $(t_0, \dots, t_n)$   
 $\in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  with  $\sum t_i = 1$  and  $t_i \geq 0$   
for all  $i$ .

Note ①  $t_i$  are called bary-centre  
coordinates.

② we can take  $p = n$   $i \in \sigma_p = \sigma_n$

Then  $\sigma_p$  is a  $p$ -simplex with vertices

$$x_0 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$$

$$x_1 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$$

$$\vdots$$
$$x_i = (0, \dots, 1, 0, \dots)$$

$$\vdots$$
$$x_p = (0, \dots, 0, 1) = x_p = x_n.$$

i.e.  $\sigma_p$  is called the standard  $p$ -simplex with natural ordering.

We can write

$$\boxed{\sigma_p = \Delta^p}$$

Now, let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^k$  be an ordered simplex with vertices  $x_0, \dots, x_n$ . If we define

$$f: \sigma_p \longrightarrow A \text{ by}$$

$$f(t_0, t_1, \dots, t_p) = \sum t_i x_i, \text{ then}$$

$f$  is continuous.

Since  $\sigma_p = \Delta^p$  is compact and  $A$  is Hausdorff.

Since  $A$  is Hausdorff because we can get two subcomplexes  $P_1$ -simplex =  $A_1$  and  $P_2$ -simplex =  $A_2$  such that

$$A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$$

$\Rightarrow$  there exist disjoint open subsets  $U$  and  $V$  with

$x \in A_1$  in  $U$  and  $y \in A_2$  in  $V$ .

~~$x \in A_1$~~

Therefore  $f$  is a homeomorphism

by using the theorem

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be topological spaces and

let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$ . If  $X$  is compact,  $Y$  is

Hausdorff,  $f$  is continuous  $\Rightarrow f$  is

a homeomorphism.

Note:

$\sigma = [v_0, \dots, v_n] : \Delta^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$  defined by

$$t \longmapsto \sum t_i v_i \text{ is injective.}$$

$\sigma$  is called an  $n$ -simplex and the point  $v_i = \sigma(e_i)$  are called its vertices.

We identify  $\sigma$  with its image (convex hull)

$$\Delta(\sigma) = \text{Con}(v_0, \dots, v_n) = \text{Convex hull}(v_0, \dots, v_n)$$

$$= \left\{ \sum t_i v_i \mid \sum t_i = 1, t_i \geq 0 \forall i \right\} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$$

equipped with an ordering of vertices.

$$\Delta^n = [e_0, \dots, e_n] \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}, \text{ where } (e_0, \dots, e_n)$$

is the standard basis of  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$\Delta^n$  :- Standard  $n$ -simplex.

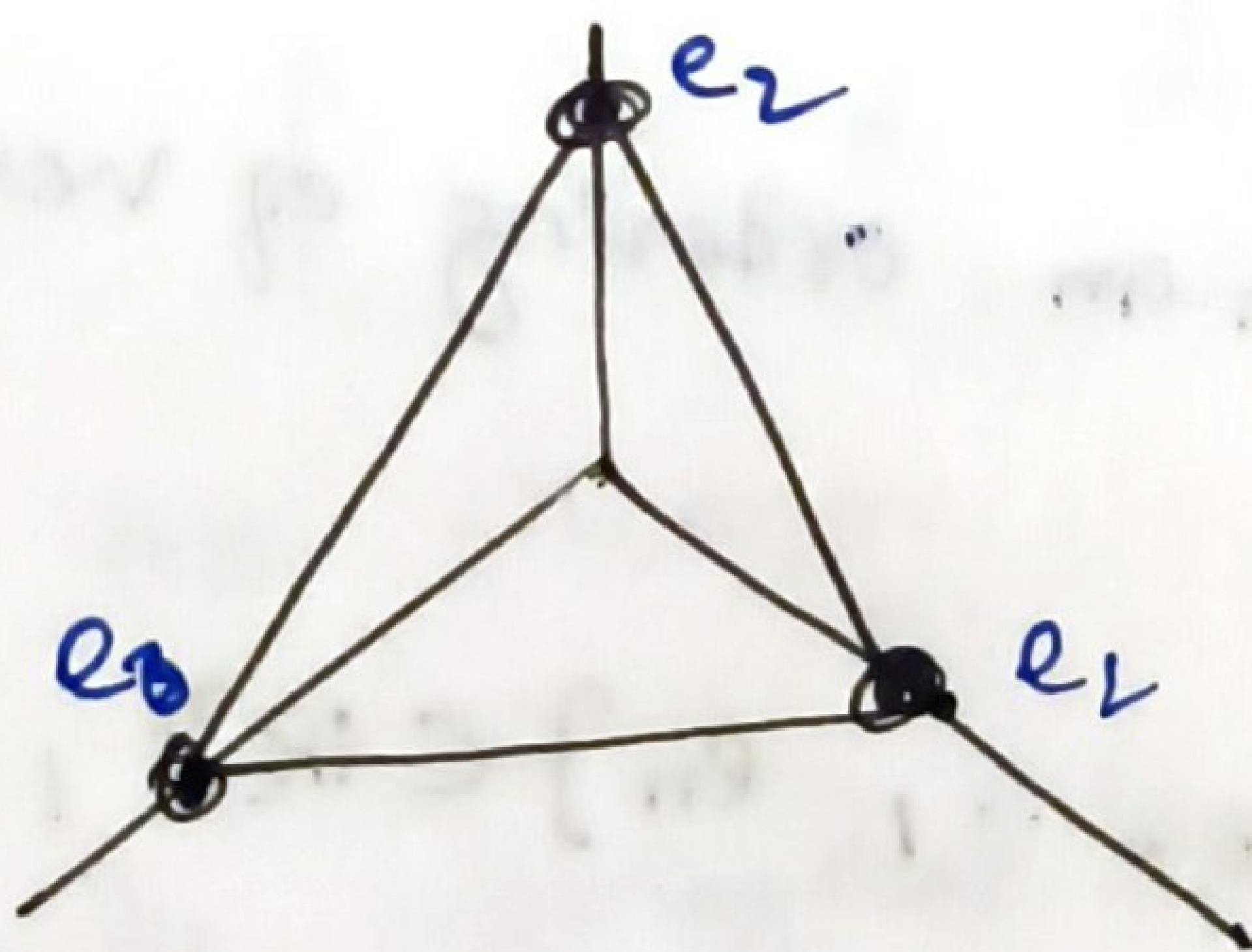
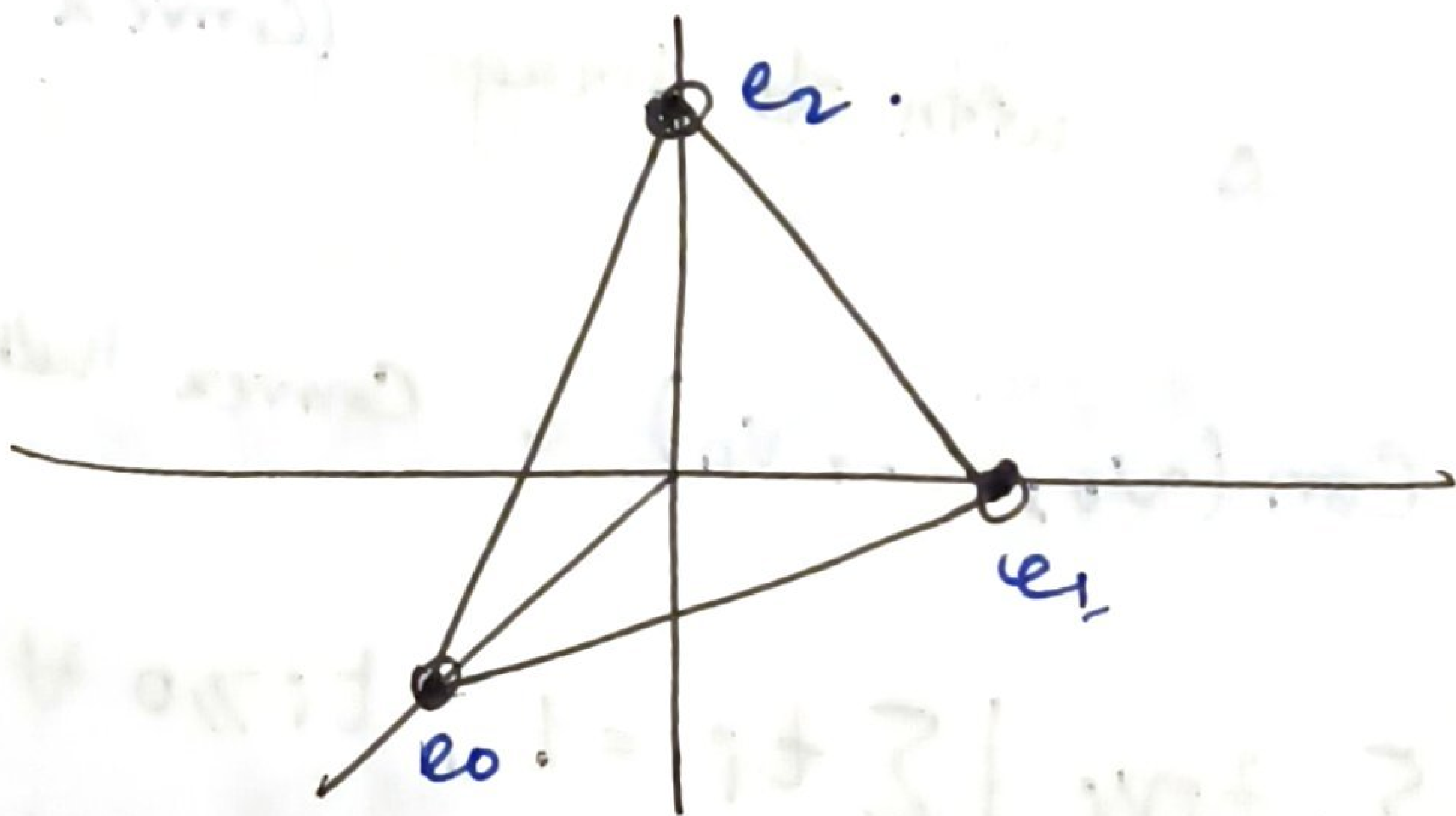
⇒ The standard (ordered)  $n$ -simplex  $[v_0, \dots, v_n]$

is the convex hull of the set

$\{e_1, \dots, e_{n+1}\}$  where  $e_i = (0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0)$

$\in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ .

Example!: Take  $n=2$



let  $v_0 = 0$  and  $v_i = e_i$  for

$i = 1, \dots, n+1$ . Then

$$\Delta^n = \text{convex-hull} (\{v_1 - v_0, \dots, v_{n+1} - v_0\})$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n t_i e_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid t_i \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^n t_i = 1$$

Example:-

Example:-

$$\Delta^0 = \bullet v_0$$

$$\Delta^1 = \text{---} \bullet v_0 \text{---} \bullet v_1$$

$$\Delta^2 = \text{---} \bullet v_0 \text{---} \bullet v_1 \text{---} \bullet v_2 \text{---}$$

$$\Delta^3 = \text{---} \bullet v_0 \text{---} \bullet v_1 \text{---} \bullet v_2 \text{---} \bullet v_3 \text{---}$$

An standard (ordered)  $n$ -simplex has

$n+1$  face map for each  $i = 0, \dots, n$

$[v_0 \dots \hat{v}_i \dots v_n]$  = an ordered  $(n-1)$ -simplex



## Polyhedron :

It is note that a simplicial complex is a set of simplices, not points of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

But if one takes the union of all the points lying on the simplices of  $K$  i.e

$$|K| = \bigcup_{\sigma \in K} \sigma, \text{ then } |K| \text{ is a}$$

subspace of the Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

This space  $|K|$  is called polyhedron of  $K$ .

$\Rightarrow$  The polyhedron defined by  $K$  is the union of the simplices in  $K$ , and denoted by  $|K|$ .

# The dimension of a simplicial complex  $K$ , denoted  $\dim K$ , is the largest dimension of a simplex in  $K$ .

i.e dimension of  $K$  is the highest dimension of a simplex of  $K$ .

## ~~Def~~ d-skeleton of K

Given a simplicial complex  $K$  and a non-negative integer  $d$ , the  $d$ -skeleton of  $K$ , denoted  $K^{(d)}$  or  $K_{(d)}$  is the set of simplices in  $K$  of dimension no greater than  $d$ .

$\Rightarrow$  The  $d$ -skeleton  $K^{(d)}$  of a simplicial complex  $K$  is the subsimplicial complex given by the simplices of  $K$  of dimension at most  $d$ .

Also, we can ~~say~~ say that the  $d$ -skeleton  $K^{(d)}$  of  $K$  is the union of the  $n$ -simplices in  $K$  for  $n \leq d$ .

$d$ -skeleton  $K^d$  is the collection  
 $\{ \sigma \in K \mid \dim(\sigma) \leq d \}$

Example :

0-skeleton is the vertices,

1-skeleton is the set of vertices and edges

2-skeleton is the set of vertices, edges and triangles and so on.

# A polygonal curve is a finite chain of line segments.

⇒ line segments called edges, their endpoints called vertices.

# A simple polygon is a closed polygonal curve without self-intersection.

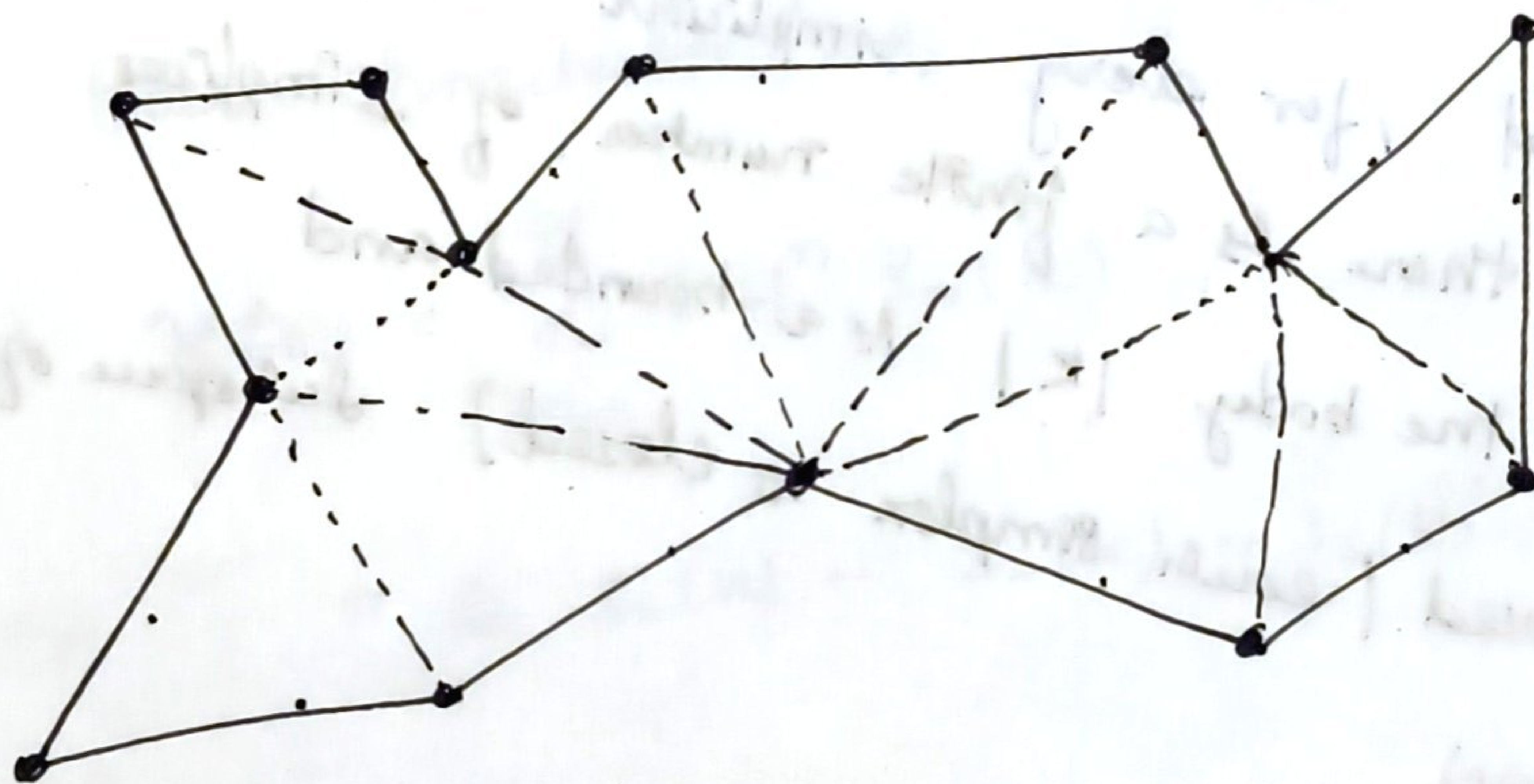
## TRIANGULATION

Triangulation is the division of a surface or plane polygon into a set of triangles, usually with the restriction that each triangle side is entirely shared by two adjacent triangles.

Triangulation reduces complex shapes to collection of simpler shapes.

Every simple polygon admits a triangulation.

⇒ Every triangulation of an  $n$ -gon has exactly  $n-2$  triangles



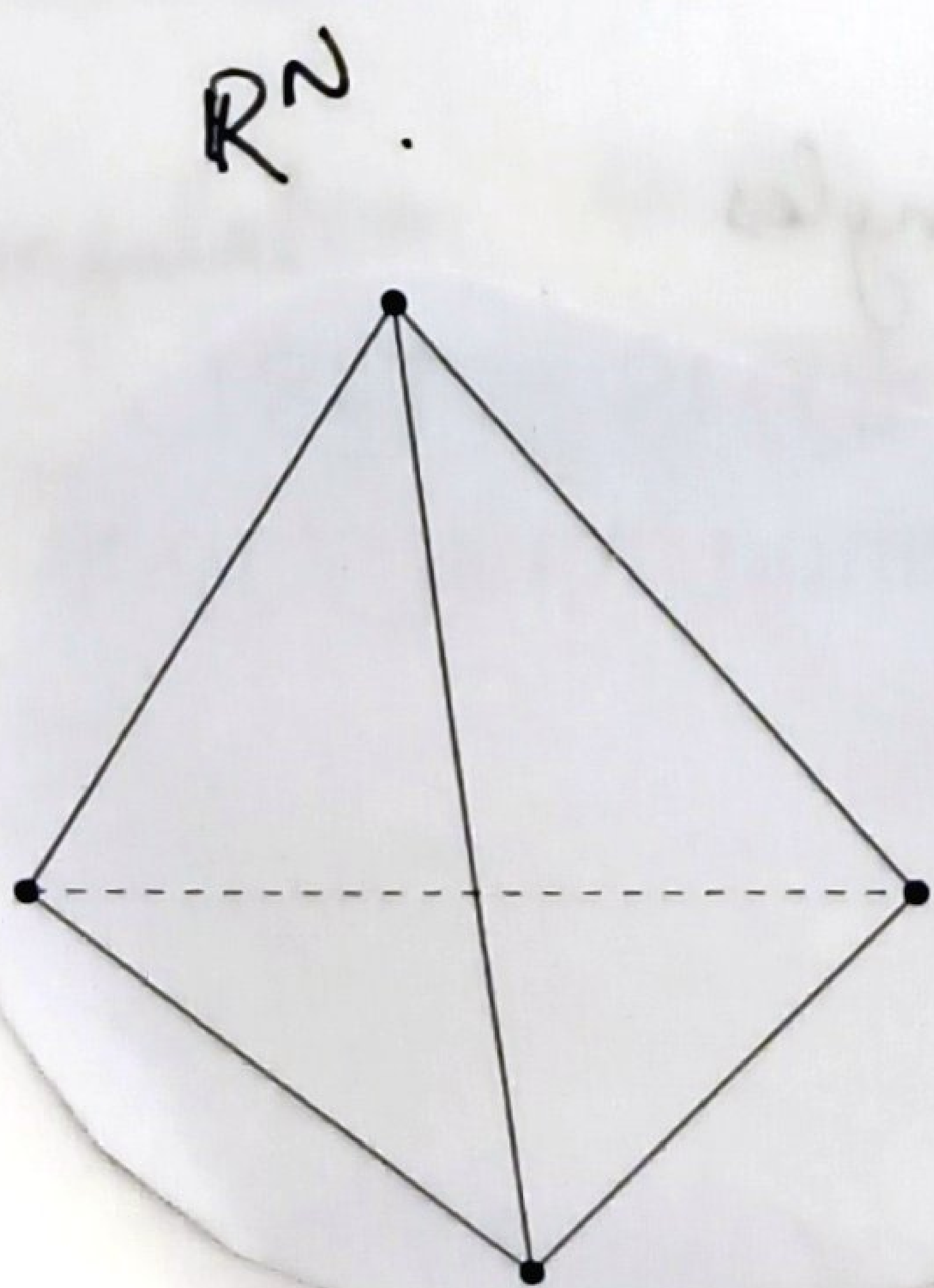
$n = 13$  and 11 triangles

A <sup>topological</sup> triangulation of a space  $X$  is a homeomorphism  $h: |K| \rightarrow X$ , where  $K$  is some simplicial complex.

Note:

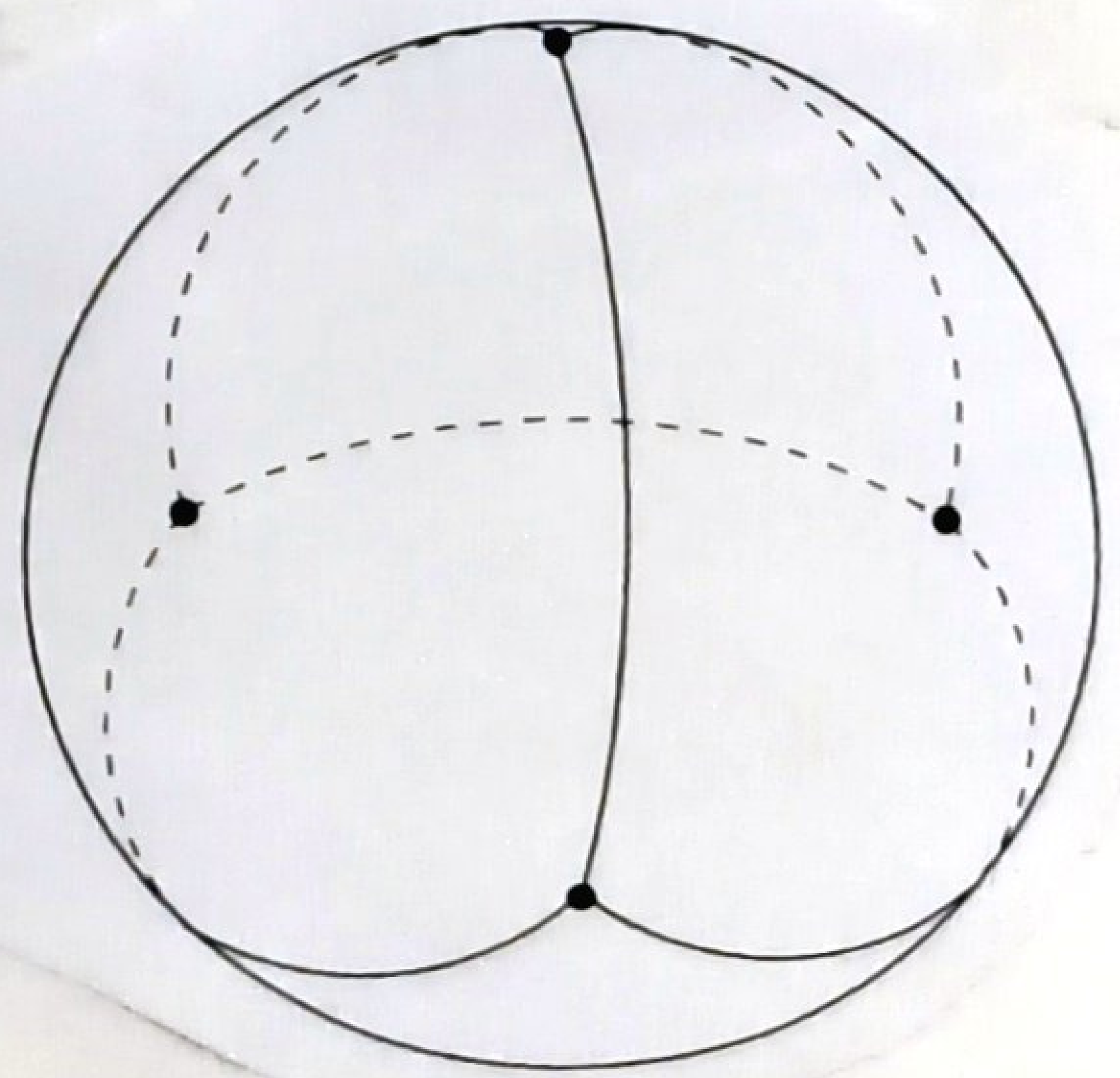
If a space  $X$  admits a triangulation, then  $X$  is compact.

Indeed, for every simplicial complex  $K$ , if there is a finite number of simplices then the body  $|K|$  is a bounded and closed (each simplex is closed) subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .



$|K|$

$\approx$



$X$

## Euler Characteristics

Suppose  $K$  is a simplicial complex.

$$S_n(K) = \# \{ \text{simplices } \sigma \in K \mid \dim \sigma = n \}$$

$S_n(K)$  denote the number of  $n$ -simplices of  $K$ .

The Euler characteristic of  $K$  is the integer

$$\chi(K) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n S_n(K)$$

$$= S_0(K) - S_1(K) + S_2(K) - \dots$$

Note: If  $X$  is a triangulated space, i.e. there is a triangulation  $X \cong |K|$  for some simplicial complex  $K$ , we set

$$\chi(X) = \chi(K)$$

and call  $\chi(X)$  the Euler characteristic of the topological space  $X$ .

Theorem :

If  $K, L$  are finite simplicial complexes such that  $|K| \cong |L|$  then  $\chi(K) = \chi(L)$

Example :- (1)  $X = \{x_0\}$  (one point space)

then  $K_1 = \{[a_0]\}$

$S_0(K) = 1, \chi(X) = 1$

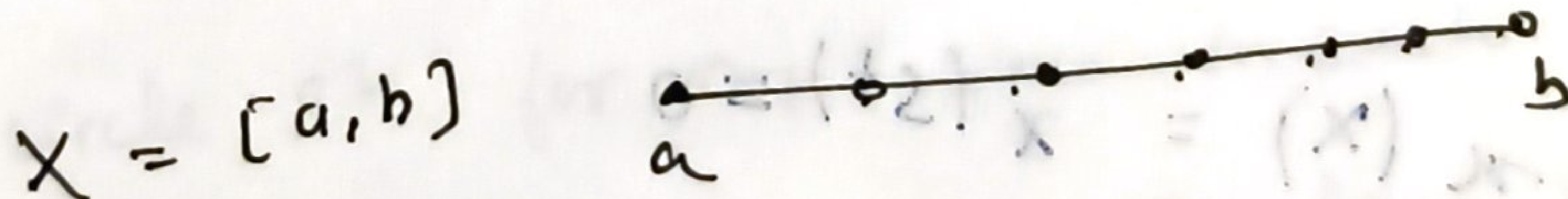


(2)  $K_2 = \{[a_0 a_1 a_2]\}$



$S_0 = 2, S_1 = 1$

$\chi = 2 - 1 = 1$



$X = [a, b]$

$C_0 = 7, C_1 = 6$

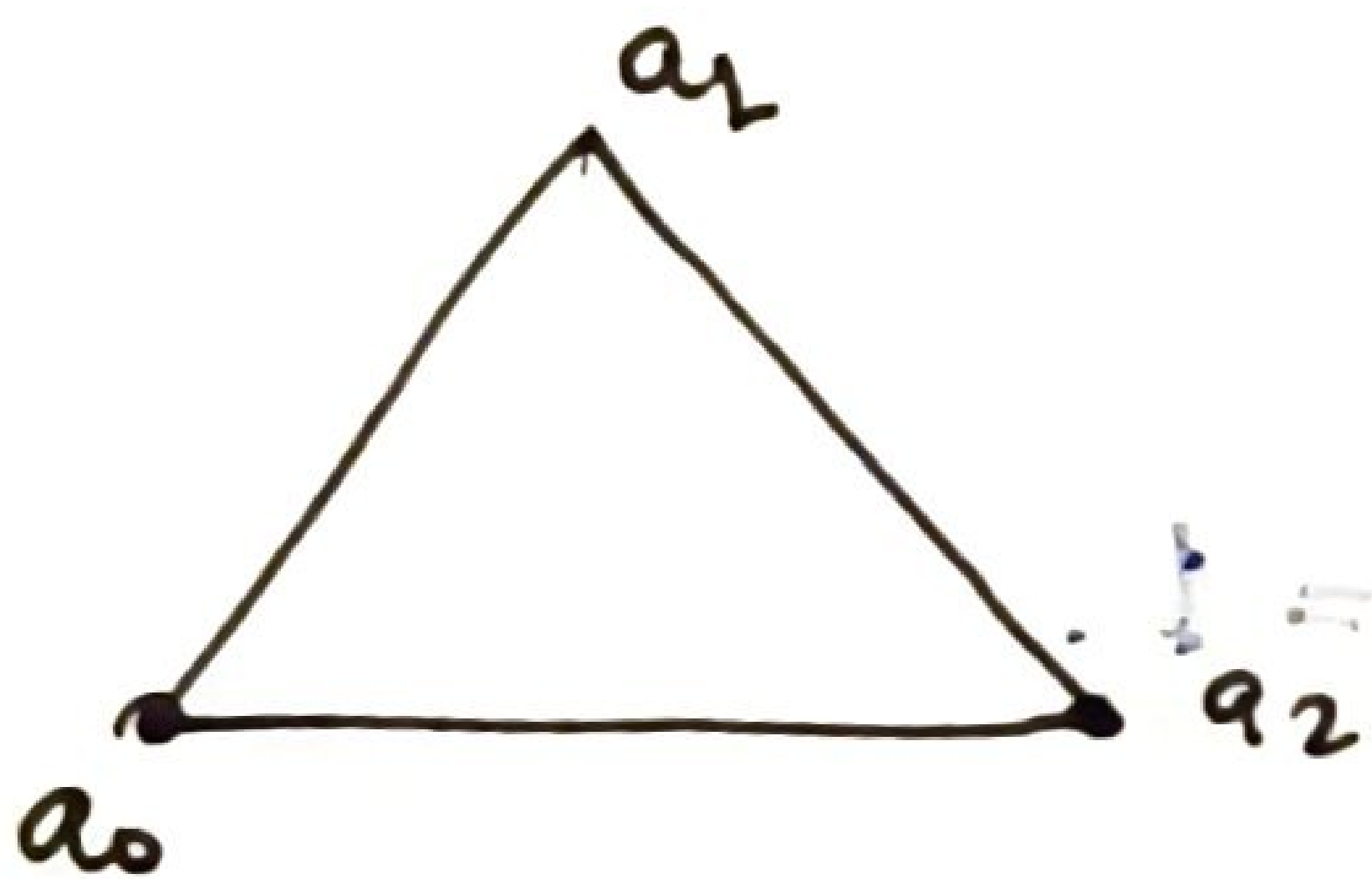
$\chi = 7 - 6 = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \chi(X) = \chi(K_2)$$

$$\chi[a, b] = \chi(K_2)$$

(3)

$$K_3 = [a_0 a_1 a_2]$$



$$S_0 = 3$$

$$S_1 = 3$$

$$\chi(K) = S_0 - S_1 = 3 - 3 = 0$$

$$X = S^1$$



$$S_0 = 3$$

$$S_1 = 3$$

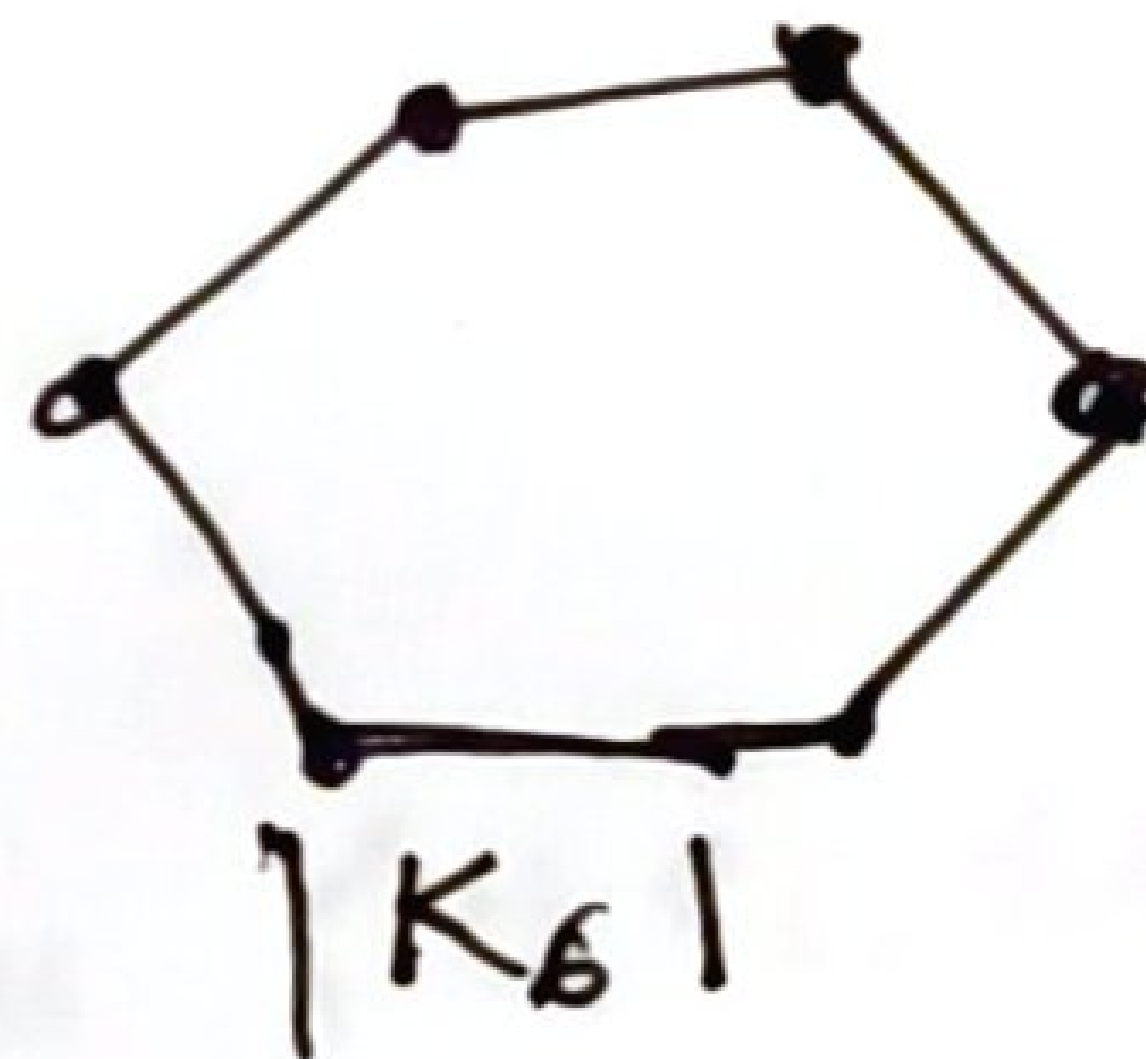
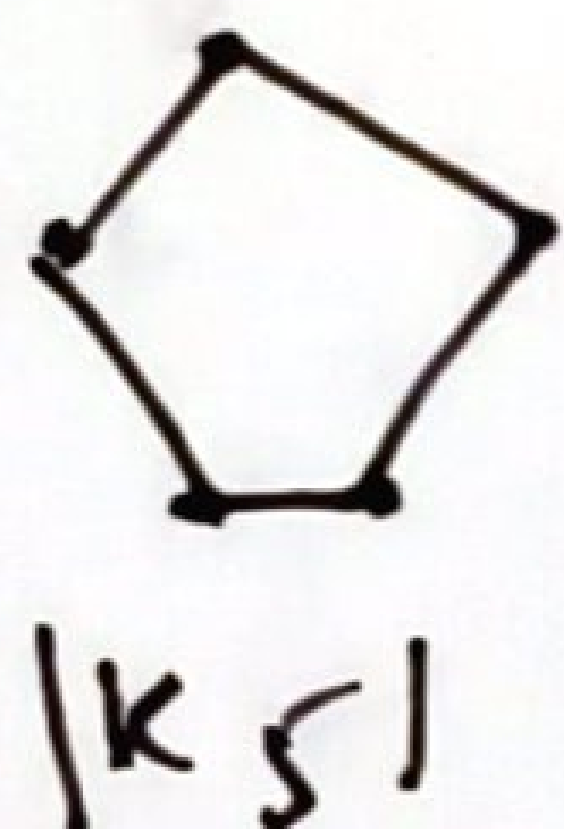
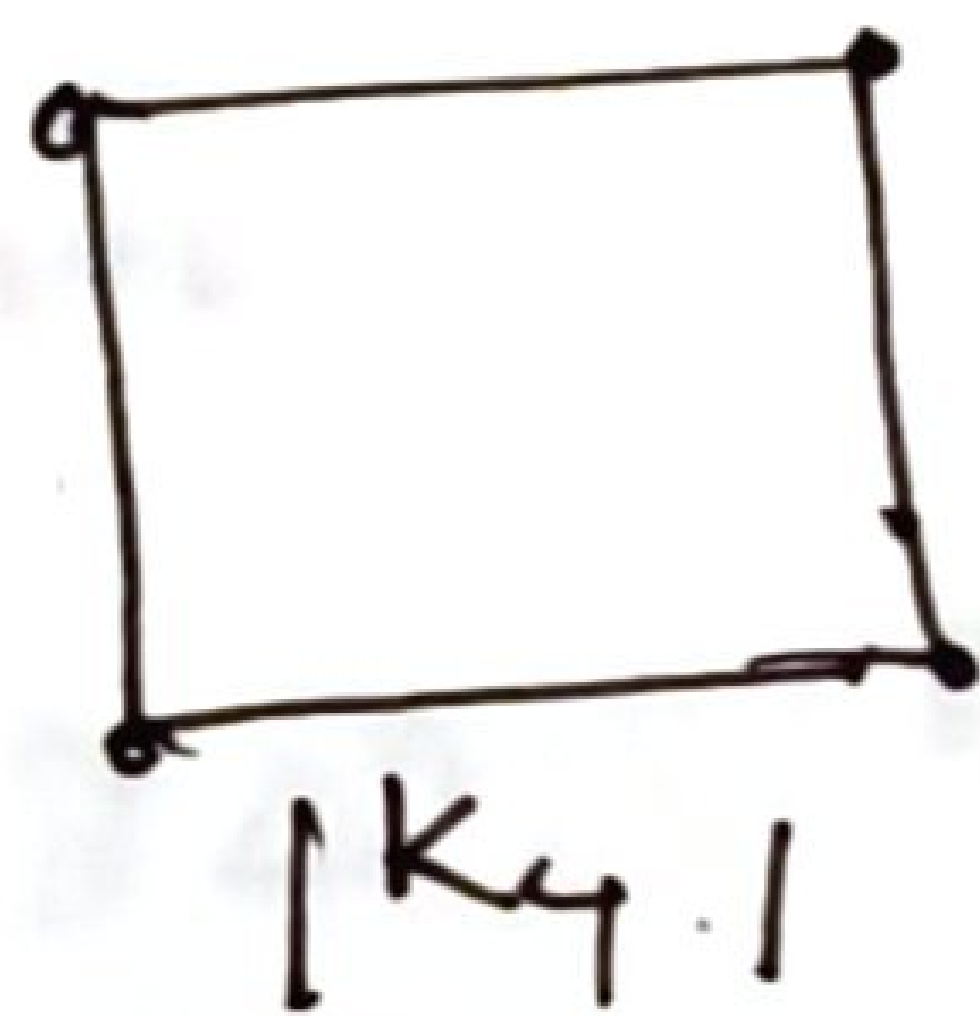
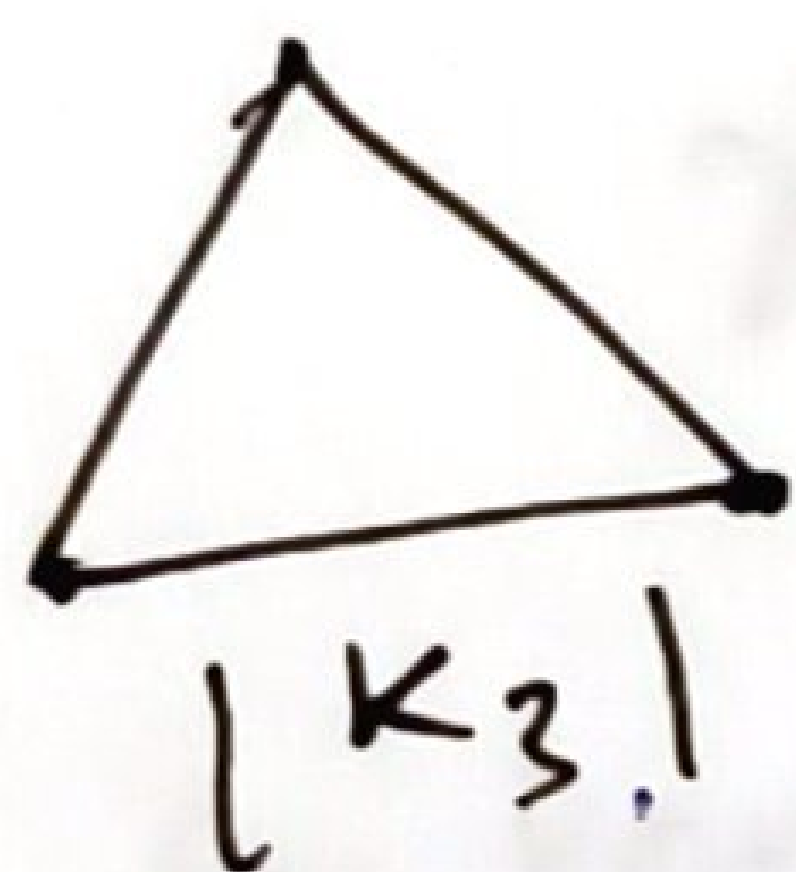
$$\chi(X) = 3 - 3 = 0$$

$$\chi(X) = \chi(S^1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \chi(S^1) = \chi(K_3) = \chi(K_2)$$

$\Rightarrow |K_3|$  is homeomorphic to the circle  $S^1$ .

In each complex  $K_3$  the number of 0-simplices is the same as the number of 1-simplices i.e.  $S_0 = S_1$ .



and ~~so on~~ ~~so~~  $S_0$  on  $\dots$

$\Rightarrow$  Each space  $|K_n|$  is homeomorphic to the circle  $S^1$  for  $n \geq 3$  since in each complex  $K_n$  the number of 0-simplices is the same as the number of 1-simplices, we have  $\chi(K_n) = 0$  for any  $n \geq 3$ .

# The standard  $n$ -simplex  $\Delta^n \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  is the simplex spanned by the basis vectors  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{n+1}$  along with all its faces, defines a simplicial complex.

# The simplicial  $(n-1)$ -sphere is the proper face of simplicial complex given by  $\Delta^n$ , and all their faces. Its polyhedron is

$$\partial \Delta^n \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$$

The boundary  $\partial \Delta^n$  is homeomorphic to  $S^{n-1}$ .

In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  Consider the simplices  $\langle \pm e_1, \pm e_2, \dots, \pm e_{n+1} \rangle$  for each possible combination of signs. So we have  $2^{n+1}$  simplices in total. Then their union defines a simplicial complex  $K$  ie  $K$  is the simplicial complex given by these simplices and their faces and  $|K| \cong S^n$

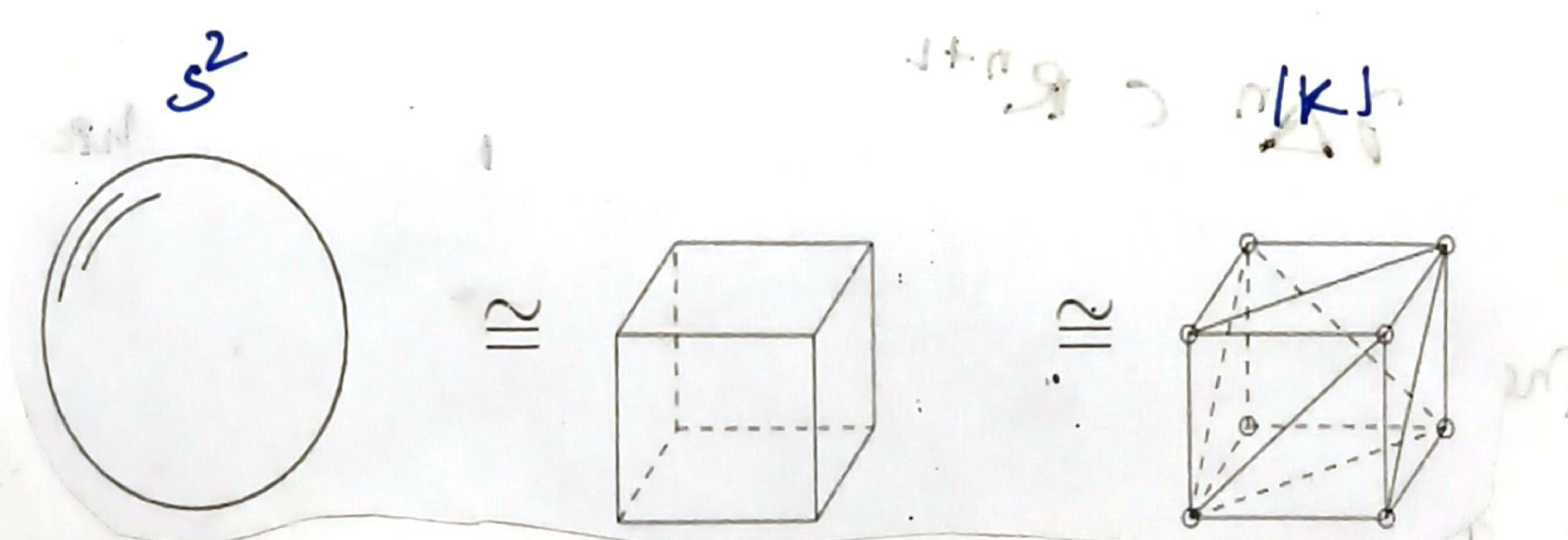
$h: (K) \rightarrow S^n$  defined by

$h(x) = \frac{x}{|x|}$  is a homeomorphism

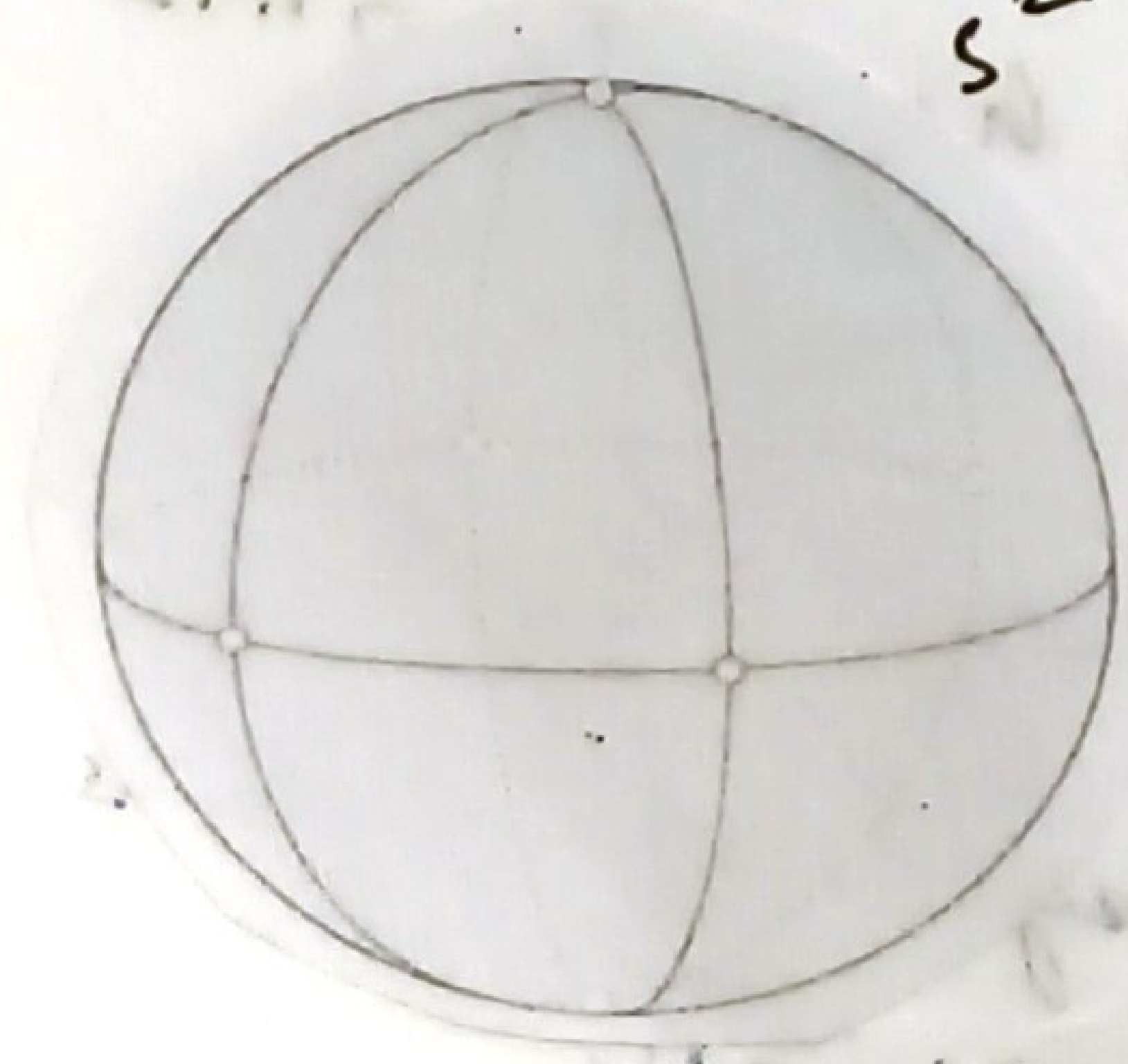
since  $(K) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  and  $h$  is the

restriction of the map  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow S^n$

This defines a triangulation of  $S^n$

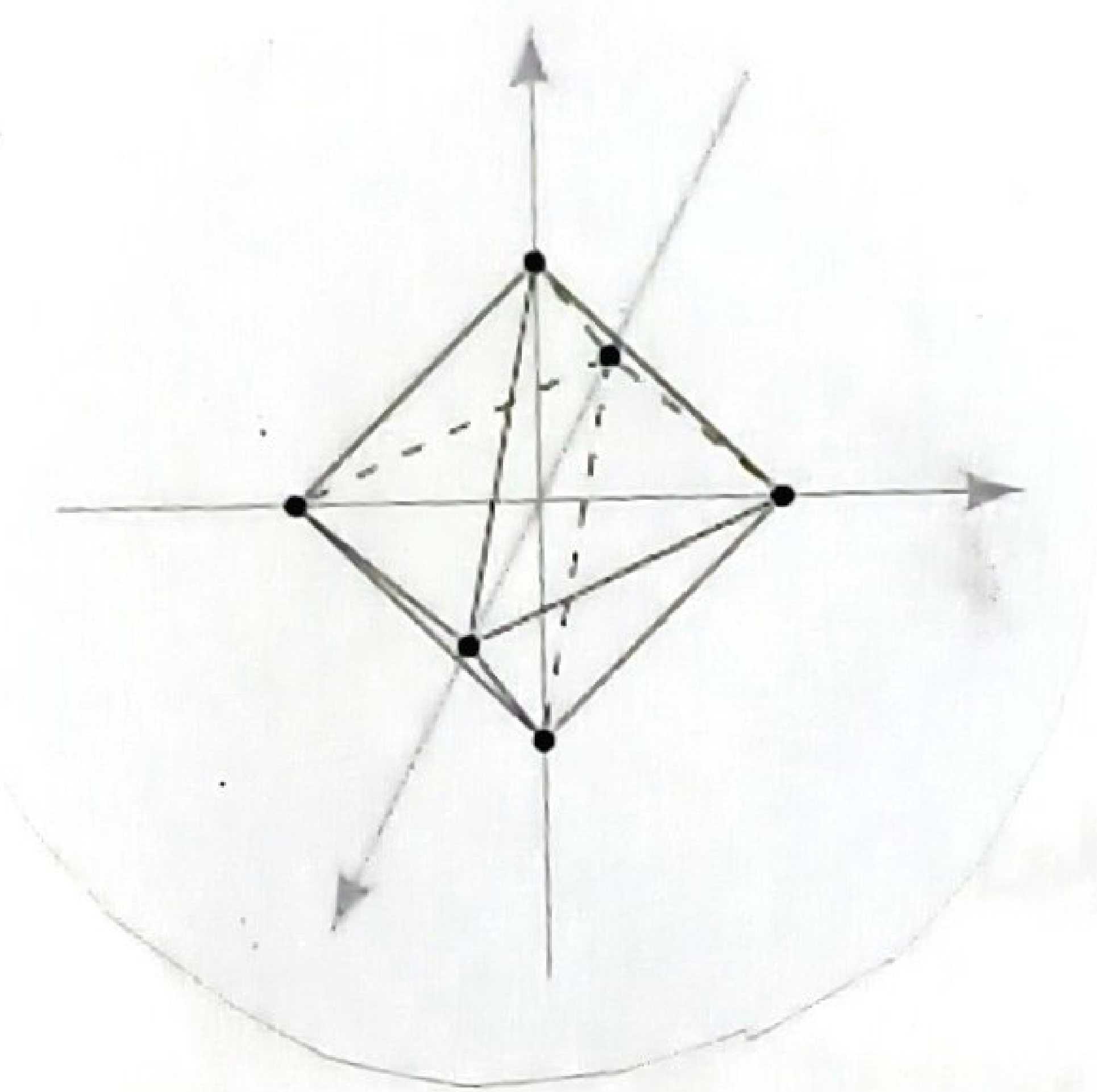


$\chi(S^2) = 2$   
 $S_0 = 8$   
 $S_1 = 18$   
 $S_2 = 12$   
 $\chi(K) = 8 - 18 + 12 = 2$



$N - E + F = 6 - 12 + 8 = 2$   
 $\Rightarrow \chi(S^2) = 2$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\chi(S^2) = \chi(K)}$

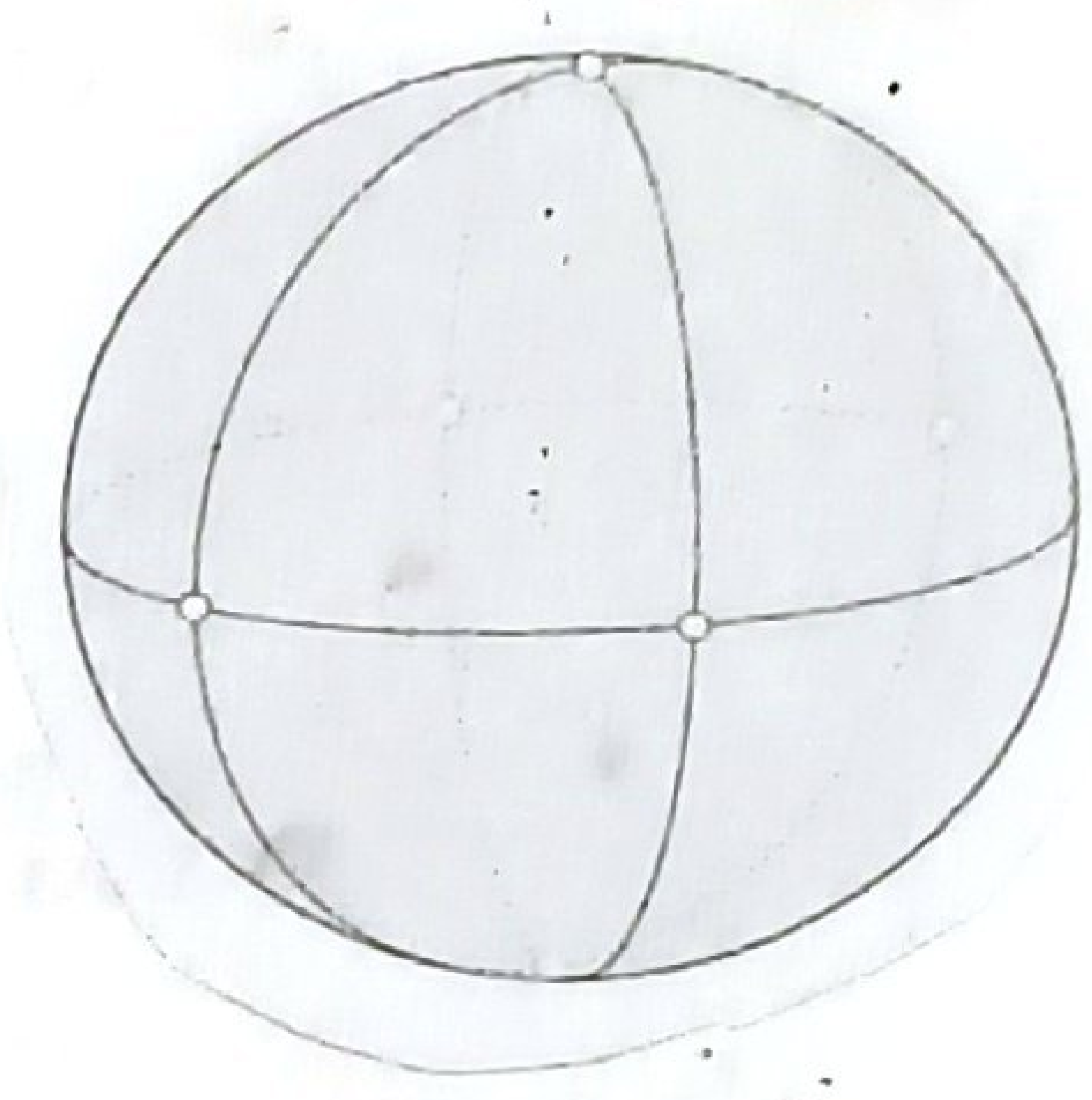


$|K|$

(polyhedron)

$\cong$

$\cong$



~~$S^2$~~   $S^2$   
(sphere)

(#)

## Simplicial chain complex and homology

Let  $K$  be a simplicial complex with a fixed orientation.

Let  $S_q$  denote the set of all oriented  $q$ -simplexes of  $K$ .

Since each  $q$ -simplex,  $q \geq 1$ , can be oriented in exactly two distinct ways, the number of elements in the set  $S_q$  is twice the number of  $q$ -simplexes in  $K$ , whereas

the number of oriented  $0$ -simplexes is the same as the number of vertices of  $K$  because  $0$ -simplexes are assumed to be always positively oriented.

## q-chain of K

let  $0 \leq q \leq \dim K$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$  be the additive group of integers.

Any map  $f: S_q \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  with the property that  $q \geq 1$ , then

$$f(-\sigma^q) = -f(\sigma^q) \text{ for each } \sigma^q \in S_q$$

is called a  $q$ -chain of  $K$ .

Note:  $S_q$  denote the family of oriented  $q$ - $B$ -simplexes or set of all oriented  $q$ -simplexes of  $K$ .

\*  $q$ -chain of  $K$  is a function  $f$ .

\* A  $0$ -chain is just a mapping from the set of all  $0$ -simplexes of  $K$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

\*  $-\sigma^q$  and  $\sigma^q$  are opposite orientations of the same simplex.

The set of all  $q$ -chains of  $K$  is denoted by  $C_q(K)$ .

If  $q < 0$  or  $q > \dim K$  we define  $C_q(K) = 0$

The set  $C_q(K)$  of all  $q$ -chains form an abelian group with point wise operation viz

$$(1) (f+g)(\sigma^q) = f(\sigma^q) + g(\sigma^q) \text{ for all } \sigma^q \in S_q$$

(2) The zero map  $0: S_q \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  defined by  $0(\sigma^q) = 0$  for all  $q$ -simplexes.

Zero map is the additive identity  
i.e.  $0$ -chain of  $K$  is the additive identity.

(3) The additive inverse of  $f$  ( $q$ -chain of  $K$ ) is  $-f$

The group  $C_q(K)$  is called the  $q$ -dimensional chain group of  $K$ .

If we imagine the collection of all chain groups  $C_q(K)$  arranged in descending order, we have an infinite sequence of abelian groups

$$C(K) : \dots, C_n(K), C_{n-1}(K), \dots, C_2(K), \dots$$

$$\dots, C_0(K), 0$$

where all  $C_q(K)$  are zero except for  $q = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n = \dim(K)$

## Simplicial homology groups

Suppose that  $K$  is a simplicial complex.

For  $\sigma \in \mathbb{Z}$  the  $\sigma$ -chain group of  $K$ , denoted  $C_\sigma(K)$ , is the free abelian group generated by  $K_\sigma$ , the set of (non-empty) oriented  $\sigma$ -simplices of  $K$  subject to the

relation  $\sigma + \tau = 0$  i.e.  $\sigma = -\tau$  whenever  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  are the same simplex with the opposite orientations.

An element of this group is called an  $\sigma$ -dimensional chain of  $K$ .

Thus, for  $\sigma \geq 0$ ,  $C_\sigma(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k$  where  $k$  is the number of  $\sigma$ -simplices in  $K$ .

For  $\sigma < 0$ ,  $C_\sigma(K) = 0$

An  $\sigma$ -chain of  $K$  is an integral linear combination  $\lambda_1 \sigma_1 + \lambda_2 \sigma_2 + \dots + \lambda_q \sigma_q$  where  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\sigma_i \in K_\sigma$ .

Define the  $k$ -chain group, denoted  $C_k(k)$ , to be the group whose elements are formal sums

$$c_1 \sigma_1 + \dots + c_m \sigma_m \text{ with } c_i \in \mathbb{Z}$$

and where addition in  $C_k(k)$  is defined by treating the  $\sigma_i$  as variables.

For example  $(2\sigma_1 + 3\sigma_2) + (4\sigma_1)$   
 $= 6\sigma_1 + 3\sigma_2$

This makes  $C_k(k)$  into a free abelian group whose generators are  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_m$ .

Of course,  $C_k(k)$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}^m$ .

An element of  $C_k(k)$  is called a  $k$ -dimensional chain or  $k$ -chain.

Note: Think generator as a basis for the group  $C_k(k)$

$C_q(K)$  is a free abelian group of rank  $I_q$

$$C_q(K) \cong \underbrace{\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}}_{I_q}$$

Note:  $C_q(K)$  is to say that it is the

$\mathbb{Z}_2$  or  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  - vector space

spanned by

$S_q$ , the set of all linear

combinations  $\lambda_1 \sigma_1 + \dots + \lambda_k \sigma_k$

where for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $\lambda_i$  is element of  $\mathbb{Z}_2$

$\lambda_i$  is either 0 or 1 and  $\sigma_i$  is an  $q$ -simplex  
in  $K$ . Such a linear combination is called

an  $q$ -chain.

# For each positively oriented  $q$ -simplex  $\sigma^q$ , define a  $q$ -chain  $f_q$

$$f_q \text{ is } f_q \sigma^q$$

$$f_q(\tau^q) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } \tau^q = \sigma^q \\ -1 & \text{if } \tau^q = -\sigma^q \\ 0 & \text{if } \sigma^q \neq \tau^q \end{cases}$$

Then  $f_q$  is indeed indeed a  $q$ -chain and is called an elementary  $q$ -chain of  $K$ .

Theorem :- For each  $q \geq 0$ ,  $C_q(K) = \bigoplus \mathbb{Z} \cdot f_q(\sigma^q)$   
where  $\sigma^q \in S_q$

The elementary  $q$ -chain  $f_q$  depends on the  $q$ -simplex  $\sigma_q$  and its orientation.

If we fix an orientation for each  $q$ -simplex

$\sigma_q$ , then the group

$$C_q(K) = \bigoplus \sigma_q \in C_q \quad \mathbb{Z} \cdot f_q \text{ is isomorphic}$$

to the group  $\bigoplus \mathbb{Z} \cdot \sigma_q$ , where  $\mathbb{Z} \cdot \sigma_q$

is the infinite cyclic group generated by

the simplex  $\sigma_q$ .

## # Boundary Homomorphism

For each  $q$ ,  $0 < q \leq \dim K$  we now define a homomorphism  $\partial_q: C_q(K) \rightarrow C_{q-1}(K)$ .

Called the boundary homomorphism as

follows: on generator  $\sigma^q$  of  $C_q(K)$ , we

define:

$$\partial_q(\sigma^q) = \sum_{i=0}^q [\sigma^q, \sigma_i^{q-1}] \sigma_i^{q-1} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

where  $\sigma_i^{q-1}$  runs over all positively oriented

$(q-1)$  faces of  $\sigma^q$ .

Then we extend it over  $C_q(K)$  by

linearity, i.e. we set

$$\partial_q(\sum n_q \sigma^q) = \sum n_q \partial_q(\sigma^q),$$

where  $\partial_q(\sigma^q)$  is defined by (1).

For  $q \leq 0$  or  $q > \dim K$ , we define  $\partial_q$  to be

the zero homomorphism.

let us observe that  $\sigma^q = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_q \rangle$   
 is oriented by the ordering  $v_0 < v_1 < \dots < v_q$

then  $\sigma^q$  has  $(q+1)$  faces  $\leftarrow v_0$

$$\langle v_0, v_1, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_q \rangle, \quad i=0, 1, \dots, q$$

where  $\hat{v}_i$  means the vertex  $v_i$  has

omitted from  $\langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_i, \dots, v_q \rangle$

and each of these faces is oriented by the

induced ordering.

Evidently the incidence number

$$[\sigma^q, \sigma^{i, q-1}] \text{ is } (-1)^i \text{ and}$$

Therefore,

$$\partial_q(\sigma^q) = \sum_{i=0}^q [\sigma^q, \sigma^{i, q-1}] \sigma^{i, q-1}$$

$$\partial_q(\sigma^q) = \sum_{i=0}^q (-1)^i \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_q \rangle$$

we define a homomorphism

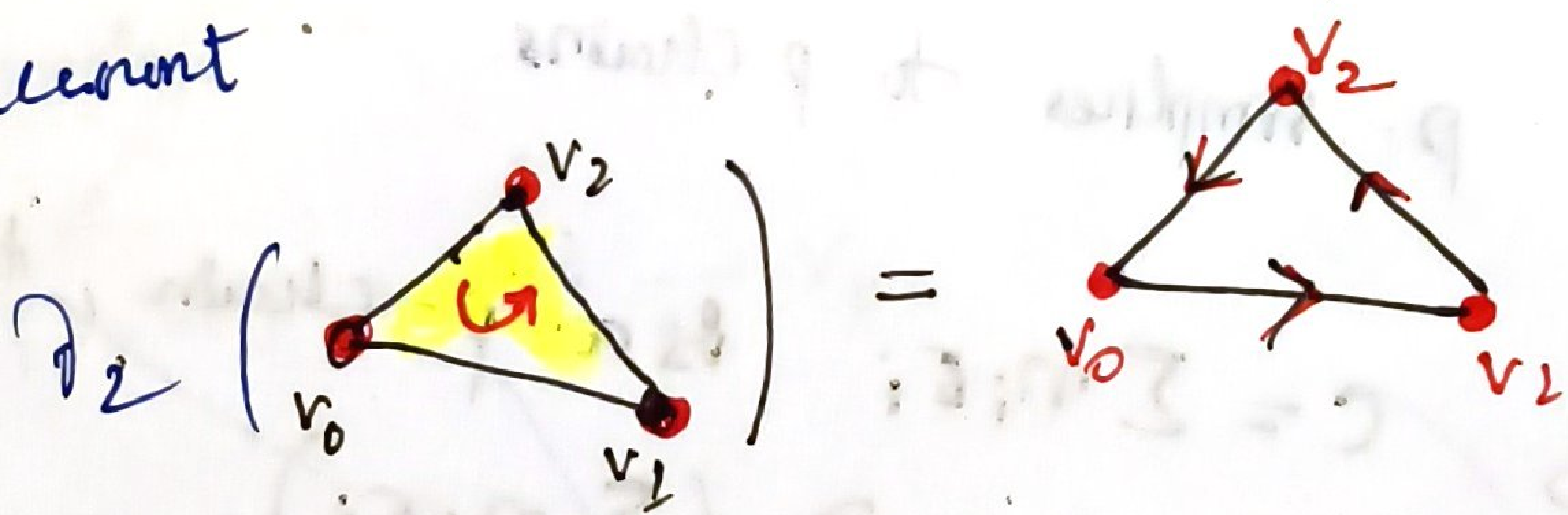
$$\partial_p: C_p(K) \longrightarrow C_{p-1}(K) \text{ called}$$

the boundary operator ( $p$ -boundary) or

boundary homomorphism.

If intuitively, the boundary of a triangle is made of three edges. But now

we need take the orientation into account.



we define the homomorphism

$$\partial_p: C_p(K) \longrightarrow C_{p-1}(K) \text{ called the}$$

boundary operator as follows:

If  $\sigma = [v_0, \dots, v_p]$ ,  $p > 0$  then

$$\partial_p \sigma = \partial_p [v_0, \dots, v_p]$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^p (-1)^i [v_0, \dots, \overset{\wedge}{v_i}, \dots, v_p]$$

where  $\hat{v}_i$  means vertex  $v_i$  is deleted

form  $[v_0, \dots, v_p]$

As  $C_p(K)$  is trivial for  $p < 0$ ,

$\partial_p$  is the trivial homomorphism for  $p \leq 0$ .

Since  $\partial_p$  is a homomorphism, we naturally extend the definition of boundary form

$p$ -simplices to  $p$  chains.

If  $c = \sum n_i \sigma_i$  is a  $p$ -chain, then

$$\partial_p c = \partial_p \left( \sum n_i \sigma_i \right)$$

$$= \sum n_i (\partial_p \sigma_i)$$




Let  $C = \sum n_i \sigma_i$  be a  $p$ -chain, then

$$\partial_p C = \partial_p \left( \sum n_i \sigma_i \right)$$

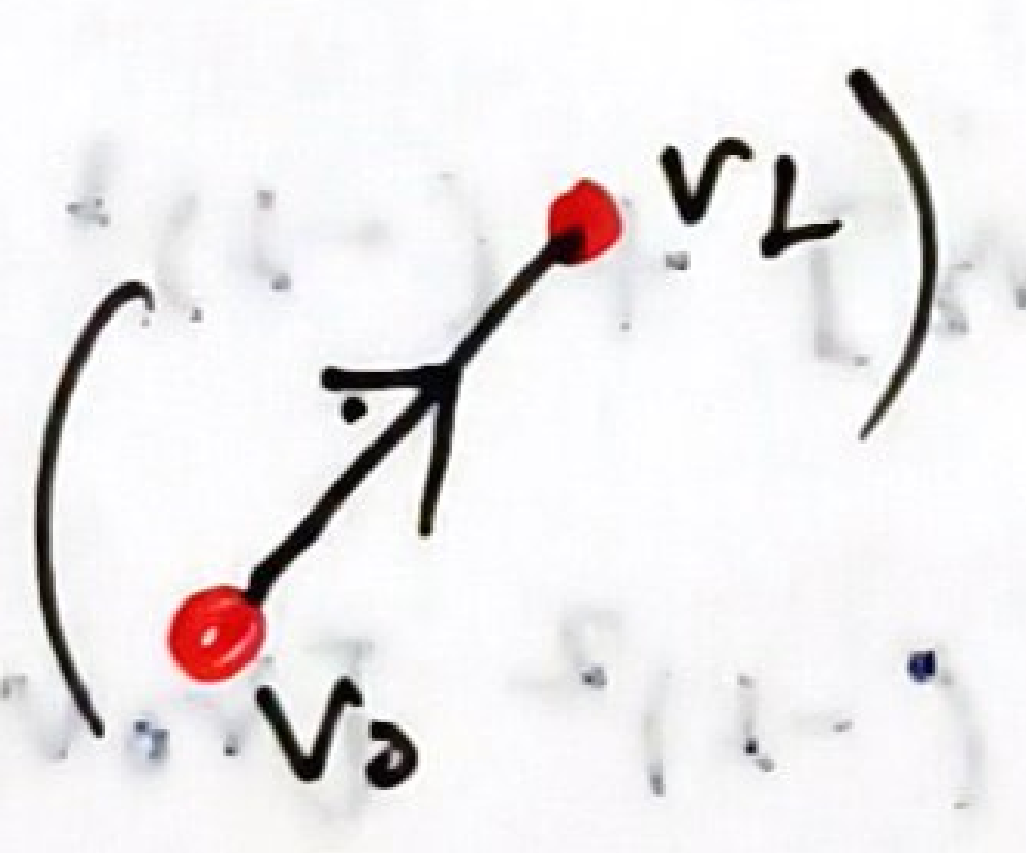
$$= \sum n_i (\partial_p \sigma_i)$$

Example 1:

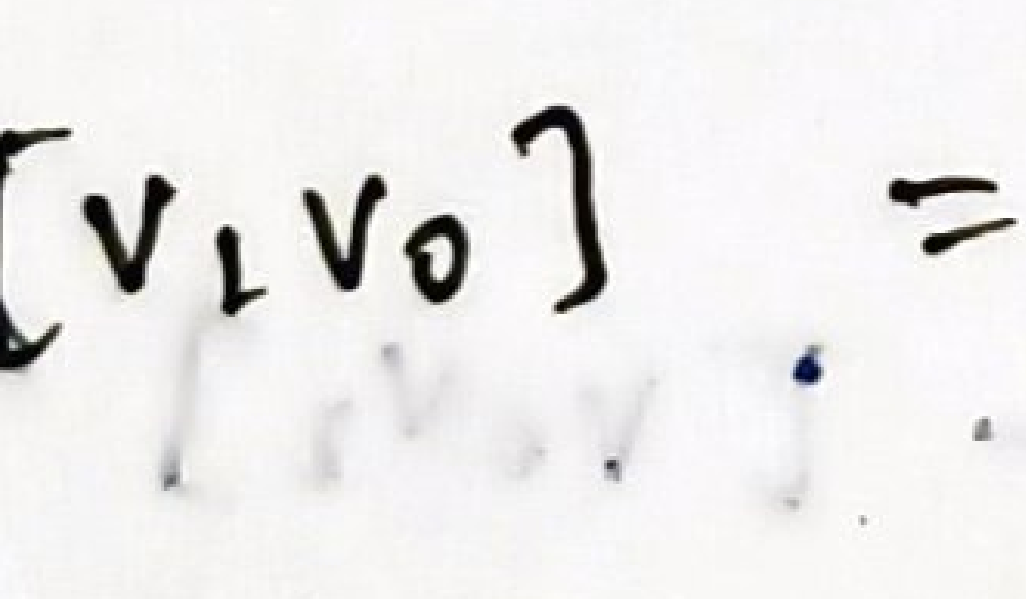
1-simplex



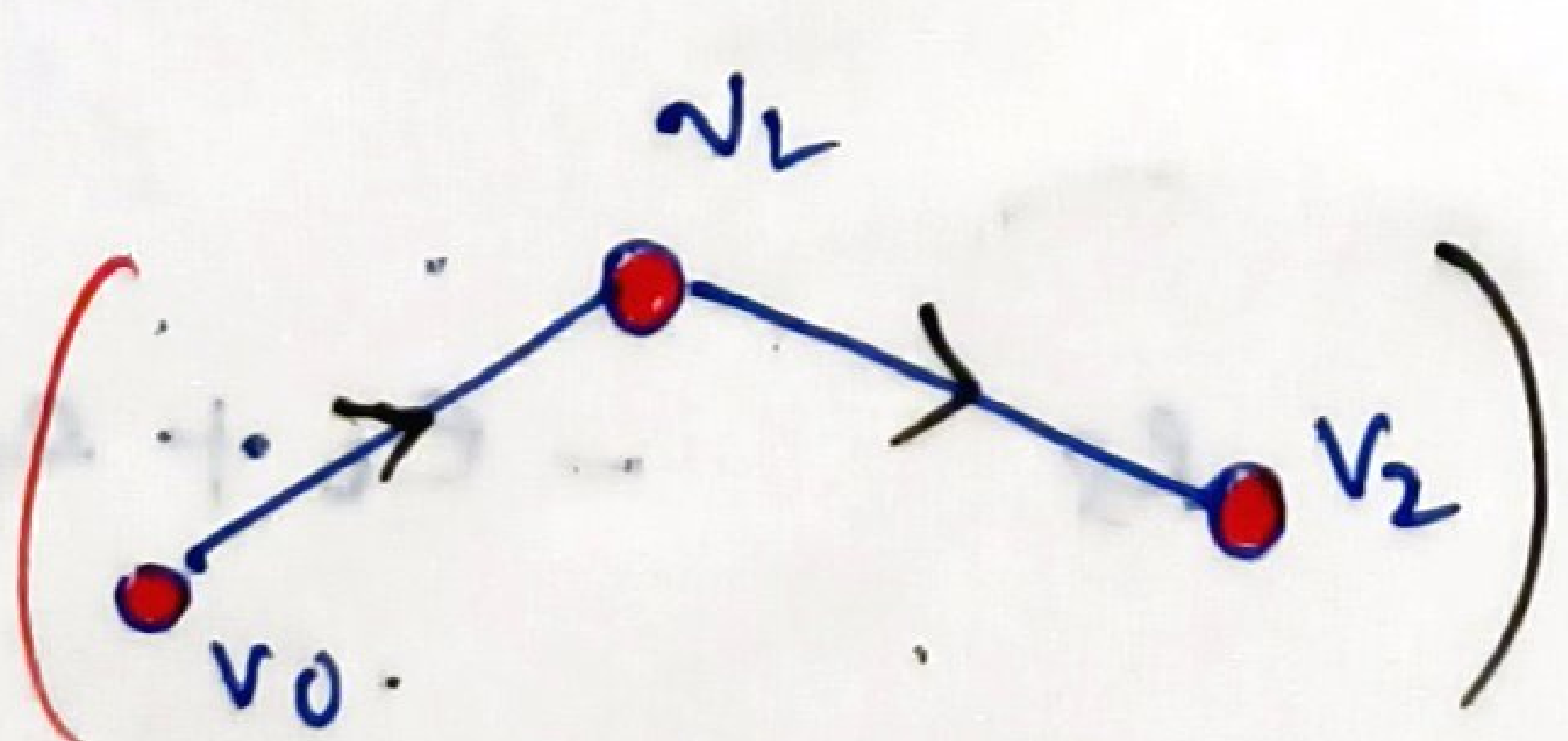
$$\partial_1 [v_0 v_1] = v_1 - v_0$$



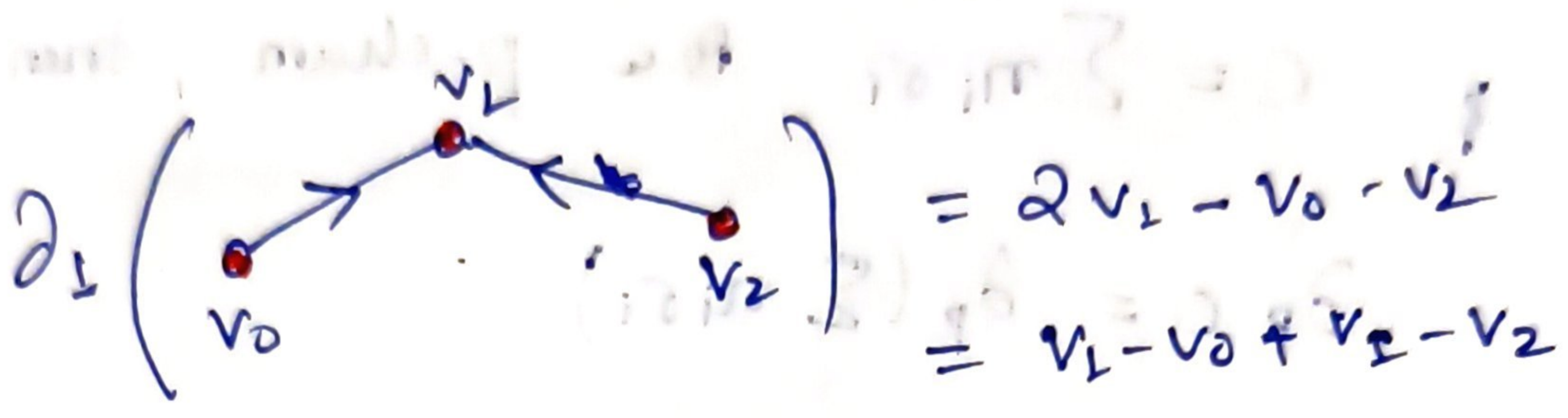
$$\partial_1 (v_1 - v_0) = v_1 - v_0$$



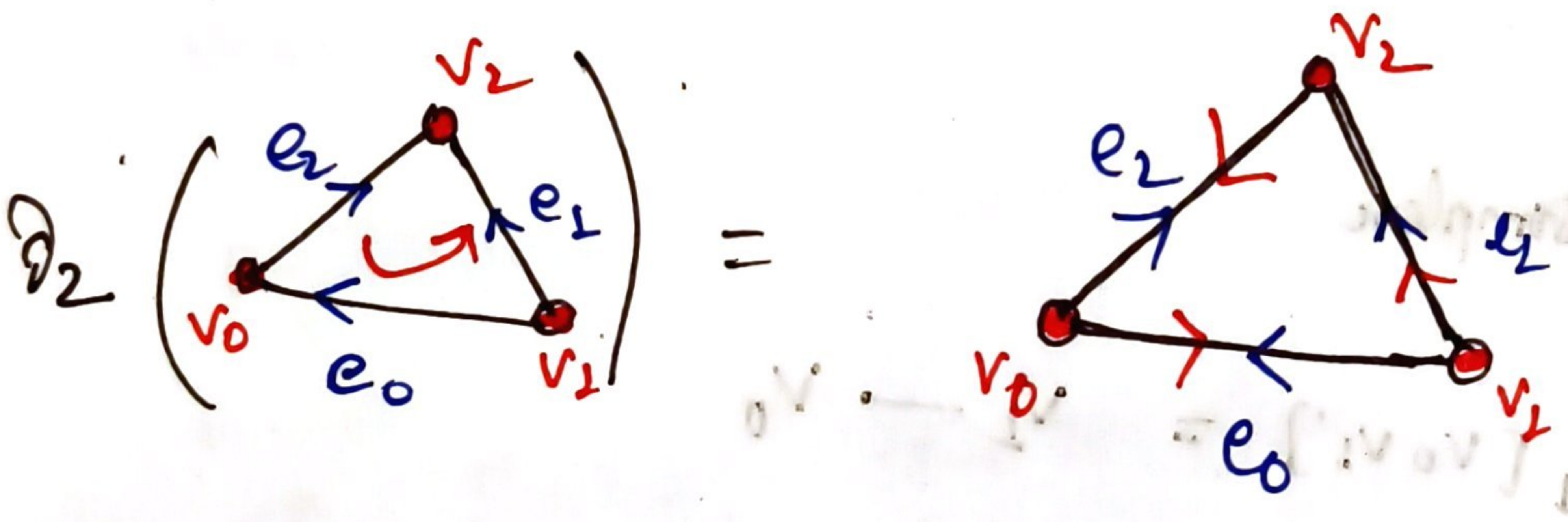
$$\partial_1 [v_1 v_0] = v_0 - v_1$$



$$\partial_1 (v_1 - v_0 + v_2 - v_1) = v_2 - v_0$$



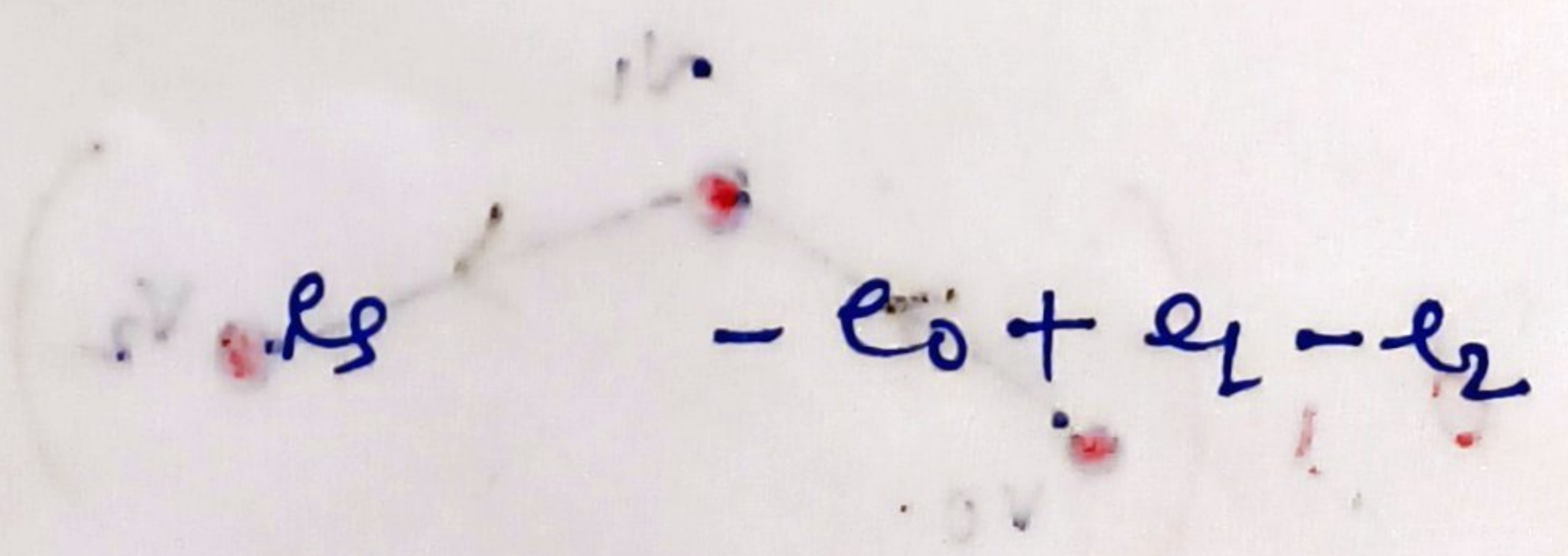
2 simplex

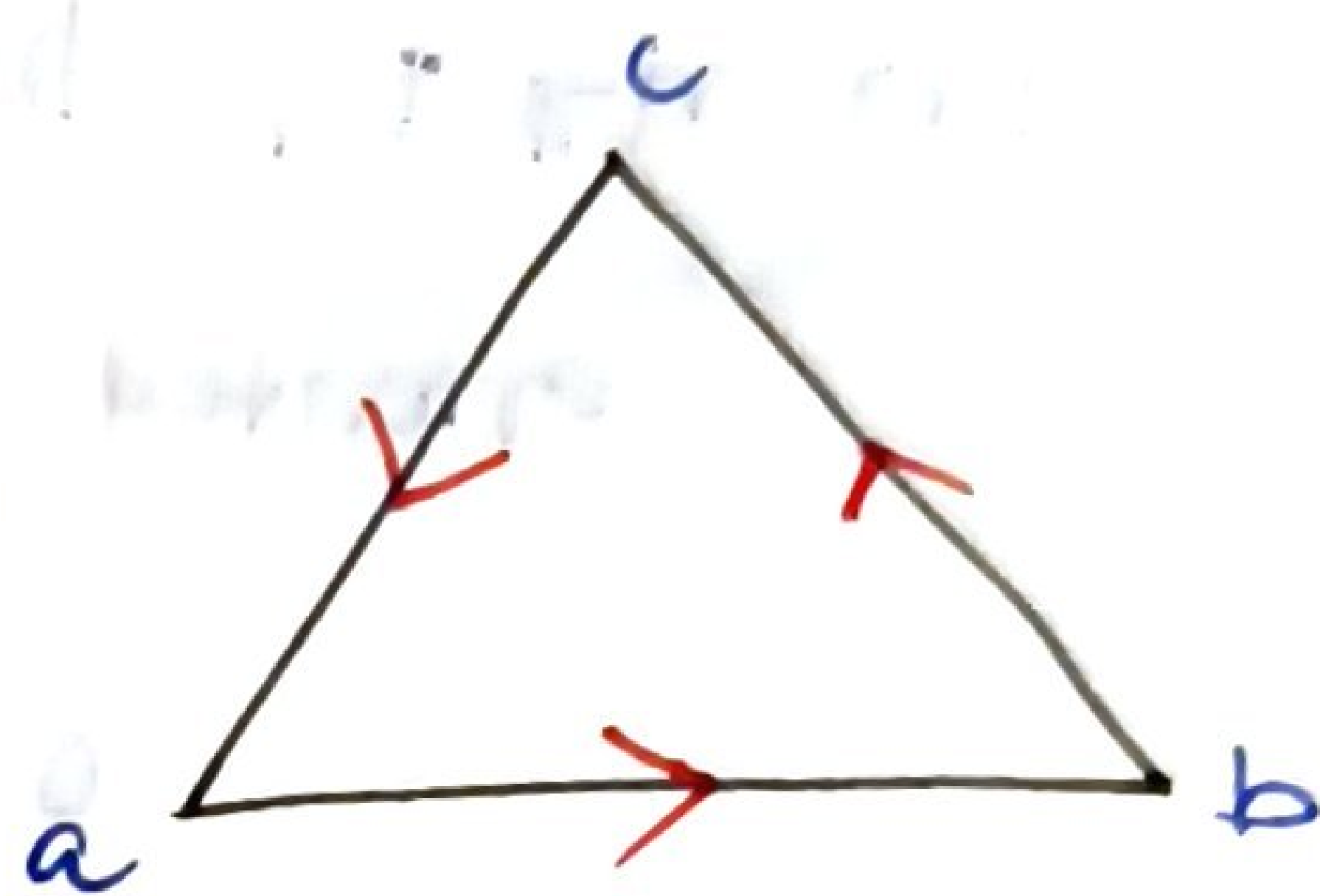
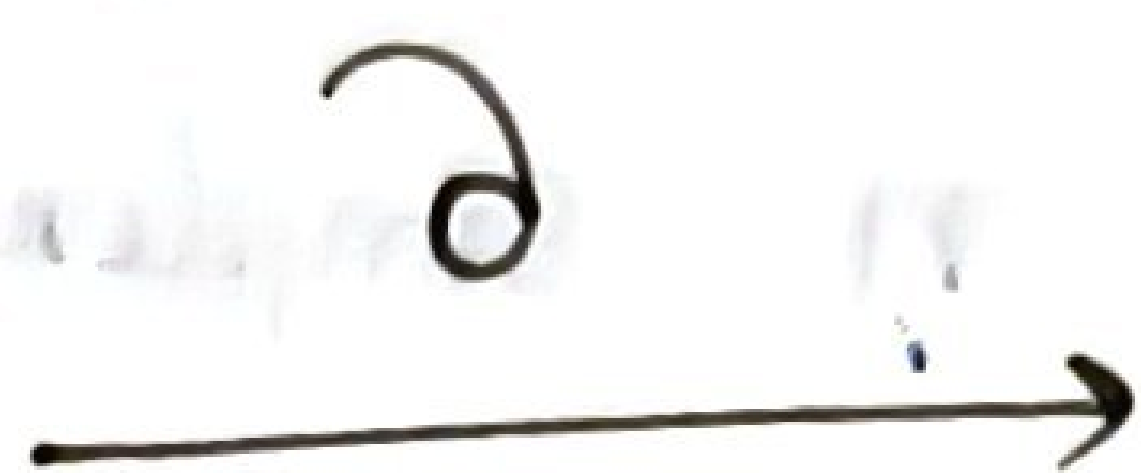
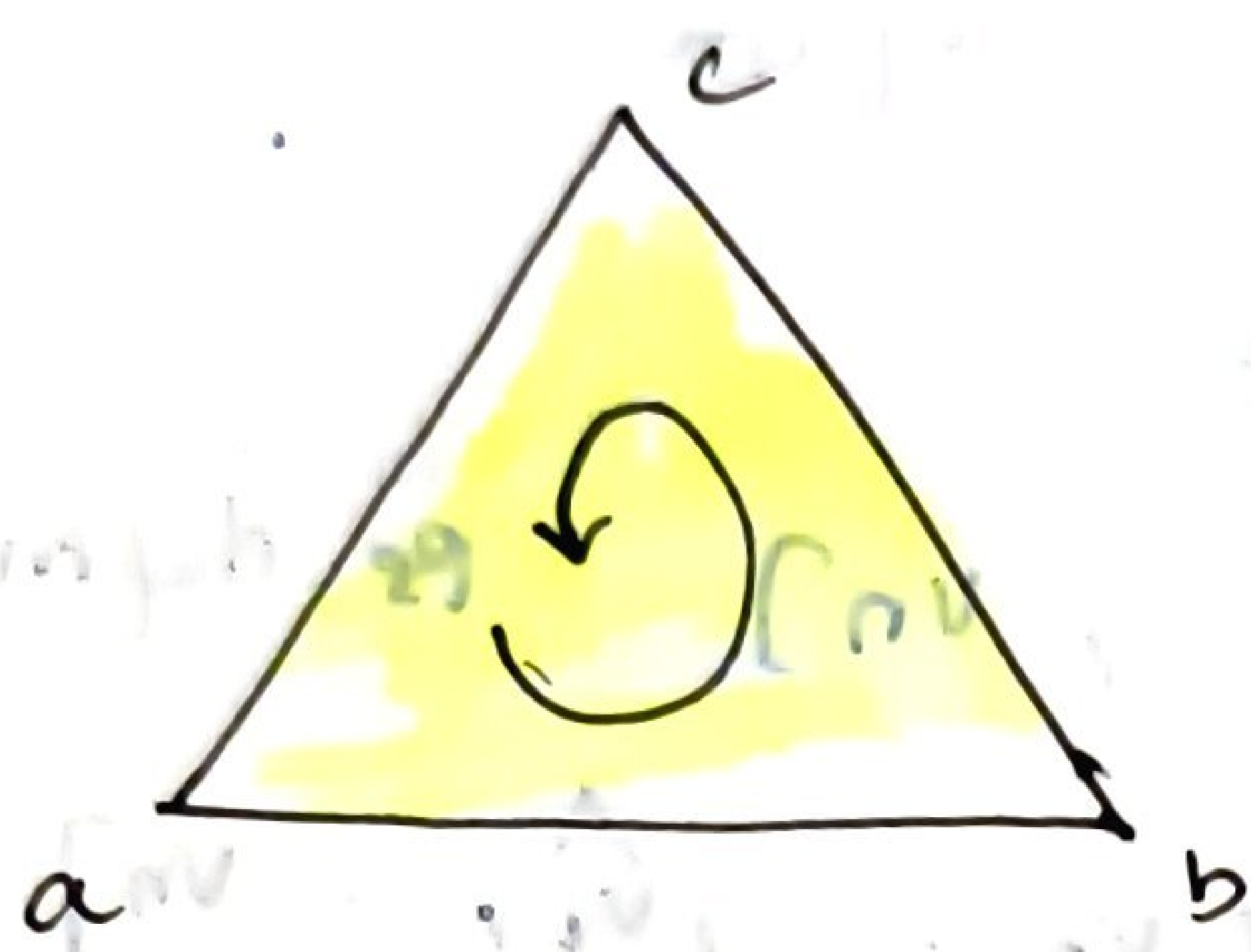


$$\partial_2 [v_0 v_1 v_2] = (-1)^0 [v_1 v_2] + (-1)^1 [v_0 v_2] + (-1)^2 [v_0 v_1]$$

$$= [v_1 v_2] - [v_0 v_2] + [v_0 v_1]$$

The 1-boundary





$$\partial [a, b, c] = (-1)^0 [\hat{a}, b, c] + (-1)^1 [a, \hat{b}, c] + (-1)^2 [a, b, \hat{c}]$$

$$= [b, c] - [a, c] + [a, b]$$

$$= [b, c] + [c, a] + [a, b]$$

For  $n \geq 1$ , the boundary of an

oriented  $n$ -simplex

$\sigma = [v_0, \dots, v_n]$  is defined by

$$\partial(\sigma) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i [v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]$$

$[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]$  represents the simplex with  $v_i$  removed.

The boundary of  $\sigma$  can be viewed as the sum of the  $(n-1)$  dimensional face of  $\sigma$ , each of which the induced orientation  $(-1)^i [v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]$ .

The boundary of an  $n$ -chain  $\sum_{i=1}^k c_i \sigma_i$  is an

$(n-1)$  chain:

$$\partial \left( \sum_{i=1}^k c_i \sigma_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i \partial(\sigma_i)$$

Thus the boundary operator is a homomorphism

$$\partial_n: C_n(K) \longrightarrow C_{n-1}(K) \quad \text{for each } n \geq 0$$

lemma: For each  $q$ , the composite

$$\text{homomorphism } \partial_{q-1} \circ \partial_q: C_q(K) \longrightarrow C_{q-2}(K)$$

is the zero map.

Kernel of the boundary homomorphism :

Let  $K$  be an oriented complex.

A  $q$ -chain  $z_q \in C_q(K)$  is called a  $q$ -dimensional cycle of  $K$  (or just a  $q$ -cycle) if  $\partial_q(z_q) = 0$ .

The set of all  $q$ -cycles of  $K$ , denoted by  $Z_q(K)$ , is the kernel of the boundary homomorphism  $\partial_q : C_q(K) \rightarrow C_{q-1}(K)$

and, therefore, is a subgroup of  $C_q(K)$ .

Thus  $Z_q(K)$  is referred to as group of  $q$ -cycles of  $K$ .

Given a simplicial complex  $K$ , the kernel of the boundary homomorphism  $\partial_q : C_q(K) \rightarrow C_{q-1}(K)$

is called the  $q$ -cycle group of  $K$  and is denoted  $Z_q(K)$ . Thus

$$Z_q(K) = \{ x \in C_q(K) \mid \partial_q(x) = 0 \}$$

An element of  $Z_q(K)$  is called an  $q$ -dimensional (or just a cycle) of  $K$ .

### Group of $q$ -boundaries of $K$

An element  $b_q \in C_q(K)$  is said to be a  $q$ -dimensional boundary (or just a  $q$ -boundary)

if there exist a  $k \in C_{q+1}(K)$

such that

$$\partial_{q+1}(k) = b_q$$

The set of all  $q$ -boundaries, being the homomorphic image  $\partial_{q+1}(C_{q+1}(K))$

is also a subgroup of  $C_q(K)$ .

It is denoted by  $B_q(K)$  and is referred to as group of  $q$ -boundaries of  $K$ .

Given a simplicial complex  $K$ , the image of the boundary homomorphism

$$d_{q+1} : C_{q+1}(K) \longrightarrow C_q(K) \text{ is}$$

called the  $q$ -boundary group of  $K$  and is denoted  $B_q(K)$ .

Thus  $B_q(K) = \{ x \in C_q(K) \mid x = d_{q+1}(y) \text{ for some } y \in C_{q+1}(K) \}$

$$B_q(K) = \left\{ x \in C_q(K) \mid x = d_{q+1}(y) \text{ for some } y \in C_{q+1}(K) \right\}$$

An element of  $B_q(K)$  is called an  $q$ -dimensional boundary (or just an  $q$ -boundary) of  $K$ .

# The chain complex is the sequence of chain groups connected by boundary homomorphisms,

$$\dots \xrightarrow{\partial_{p+2}} C_{p+1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{p+1}} C_p \xrightarrow{\partial_p} C_{p-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{p-1}} \dots$$

$$\dots \xrightarrow{\partial_{p+2}} C_{p+1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{p+1}} C_p \xrightarrow{\partial_p} C_{p-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{p-1}} \dots$$

If  $\dim K = n$ , then there is sequence

$$C(K) : \dots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow C_n(K) \xrightarrow{\partial_n} \dots \rightarrow C_{q+1}(K)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\partial_{q+1}} C_q(K) \xrightarrow{\partial_q} C_{q-1}(K)$$

$$\rightarrow \dots \rightarrow C_0(K) \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \dots$$

of free abelian groups and groups

homomorphisms in which the composite of

any two consecutive homomorphisms is 0.

This long sequence is called the

oriented simplicial chain complex of  $K$ .

~~So~~ Since  $\partial_q \circ \partial_{q+1} = 0$  for each  $q$ ,

$$\text{Im } \partial_{q+1} \subseteq \text{ker } \partial_q$$

$$\Rightarrow B_q(K) \subseteq Z_q(K)$$

Hence  $B_q(K) \subseteq Z_q(K) \subseteq C_p(K)$

### Chain complexes

A sequence  $C$  of Abelian groups and their

homomorphisms

$$\cdots \longrightarrow C_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n+1}} C_n \xrightarrow{\partial_n} C_{n-1} \longrightarrow \cdots$$

infinite in both directions, is called  
a chain complex if for all  $n$  we have  
the equality  $\partial_n \partial_{n+1} = 0$ .