

## ON HARMONIC DIFFERENCE FORMS ON A MANIFOLD

Dedicated to Professor Yûsaku Komatu on his 60th birthday

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### Introduction.

In the present note we aim to obtain an orthogonal decomposition theorem of difference forms on a *polyangulation* of a 3-dimensional manifold which is analogous to de Rham-Kodaira's theory on a Riemannian manifold.

In the previous paper [6], we concerned ourselves with the problem of constructing a theory of discrete harmonic and analytic differences on a polyhedron and the problem of approximating harmonic and analytic differentials on a Riemann surface by harmonic and analytic differences respectively, where our definition of a polyhedron differs from the ordinary one based on a triangulation and admits also a polygon and a lune as 2-simplices (cf. §1. 1 of [6]). In order to set the definitions of a conjugate difference, we introduced concepts of a conjugate polyhedron and a complex polyhedron. In the present note, we shall also introduce similar concepts of a conjugate polyhedron and a complex polyhedron (cf. §1. 3) on a 3-dimensional manifold, and we shall show that on such a complex polyhedron a theory of harmonic difference forms analogous to de Rham-Kodaira's theory on Riemannian manifold is obtained.

### §1. Foundation of topology.

**1. Polyangulation.** Let  $E^3$  be the 3-dimensional euclidean space. By a *euclidean 0-simplex* we mean a point on  $E^3$ . By a *euclidean 1-simplex* we mean a closed line segment or a closed circular arc. By a *euclidean 2-simplex* we mean a closed polygon on a hyperplane or a convex surface, surrounded by a finite number ( $\geq 2$ ) of segments and circular arcs. A lune (biangle) and a triangle are also admitted as a euclidean 2-simplex. By a *euclidean 3-simplex* we mean a closed convex polyhedron surrounded by a finite number ( $\geq 2$ ) of such polygons (euclidean 2-simplices). A dihedron and a trihedron (closed convex polyhedra surrounded by two polygons and three ones respectively) are also admitted as a euclidean 3-simplex.

Let  $F$  be a 3-dimensional orientable manifold. By an *n-simplex*  $s^n$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) on  $F$  we mean a pair of a euclidean  $n$ -simplex  $e^n$  and a one-to-one bi-

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continuous mapping  $\phi$  of  $e^n$  into  $F$ . We shall write  $s^n = [e^n, \phi]$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ). The image of  $e^n$  under  $\phi$  is called the *carrier* of  $s^n$ , and is denoted by  $|s^n|$ ; that is,  $\phi(e^n) = |s^n|$ . The images of the faces, edges and vertices of a euclidean 3-simplex  $e^3$  by  $\phi$  are called *faces*, *edges* and *vertices* of  $s^3 = [e^3, \phi]$ . Each face, each edge and each vertex of  $s^3$  is a 2-simplex, a 1-simplex and a 0-simplex respectively. We say that a point  $p$  belongs to  $s^n$  when  $p \in |s^n|$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ).

Let us suppose that a collection  $K$  of 3-simplices is defined on  $F$  in such a way that each point  $p$  on  $F$  belongs to at least one 3-simplex in  $K$  and such that the following conditions (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) are satisfied:

(i) if  $p$  belongs to a 3-simplex  $s^3$  of  $K$  but is not on a face of  $s^3$ , then  $s^3$  is the only 3-simplex containing  $p$  and  $|s^3|$  is a neighborhood of  $p$ ;

(ii) if  $p$  belongs to a face  $s^2$  of a 3-simplex  $s_1^3$  in  $K$  but does not belong to an edge of  $s_1^3$ , there is exactly one other 3-simplex  $s_2^3$  in  $K$  such that  $|s^2| \subset |s_1^3| \cap |s_2^3|$ ,  $s_1^3$  and  $s_2^3$  are the only 3-simplices containing  $p$ , and  $|s_1^3| \cup |s_2^3|$  is a neighborhood of  $p$ ;

(iii) if  $p$  belongs to an edge  $s^1$  of a 3-simplex  $s_1^3$  in  $K$  but is not a vertex of  $s_1^3$ , there are a finite number of 3-simplices  $s_1^3, \dots, s_\kappa^3$  ( $\kappa \geq 2$ ) such that each successive pair of 3-simplices  $s_j^3, s_{j+1}^3$  ( $j=1, \dots, \kappa$ ;  $s_{\kappa+1}^3 = s_1^3$ ) have at least one face in common,  $s_1^3, \dots, s_\kappa^3$  are the only 3-simplices containing  $p$ , and  $|s_1^3| \cup \dots \cup |s_\kappa^3|$  forms a neighborhood of  $p$ , where it is permitted that some pair of 3-simplices have two or more faces in common;

(iv) if  $p$  is a vertex of  $s_1^3$ , there are a finite number of 3-simplices  $s_1^3, \dots, s_\nu^3$ , ( $\nu \geq 2$ ), each having  $p$  as a vertex,  $s_1^3, \dots, s_\nu^3$  are the only 3-simplices containing  $p$ , and  $|s_1^3| \cup \dots \cup |s_\nu^3|$  forms a neighborhood of  $p$ .

Then,  $K$  is called a *polyangulation* of  $F$  or a *polyhedron*<sup>1)</sup>, and  $F$  on which a polyangulation is defined, is called a *polyangulated manifold*.

Let  $\Omega$  be a compact bordered subregion of  $F$  whose boundary consists of faces (2-simplices) of a polyangulation  $K$ . Then the collection of 3-simplices of  $K$  having their carriers in  $\Omega$  is called a *compact bordered polyhedron*. If  $F$  is closed (open resp.), then  $K$  is said to be *closed* (*open* resp.).

Let  $K$  and  $L$  be two polyhedra. If every 3-simplex of  $L$  is a 3-simplex of  $K$ , then  $L$  is called a *subpolyhedron* of  $K$  and  $K$  is said to *contain*  $L$ .

**2. Homology.** On a polyhedron we can define a homology in the same manner as the case of a triangulated polyhedron. An *ordered*  $n$ -simplex ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) is defined in a similar way. An ordered  $n$ -simplex ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) is denoted by the same notation  $s^n$  as an  $n$ -simplex. The orientation of simplices induces an orientation of the manifold  $F$ .

For a fixed dimension  $n$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) a free Abelian group  $C_n(K)$  is defined by the following conditions (i) and (ii):

(i) all ordered  $n$ -simplices are generators of  $C_n(K)$ ;

(ii) each element  $c^n$  of  $C_n(K)$  can be represented in the form of finite sum

1) Throughout the present paper, the terminology "polyhedron" will be taken in this sense.

$$c^n = \sum_j x_j s_j^n,$$

where  $x_j$  are integers. Each element of  $C_n(K)$  is called an  $n$ -dimensional chain or an  $n$ -chain.

The boundary  $\partial$  of an  $n$ -simplex  $s^n$  ( $n=1, 2, 3$ ) is defined by

$$\partial s^n = s_1^{n-1} + \dots + s_k^{n-1} \quad (\kappa=2 \text{ if } n=1; \kappa \geq 2 \text{ if } n=2, 3),$$

where  $s_1^{n-1}, \dots, s_k^{n-1}$  are vertices, edges and faces of  $s^n$  in the cases of  $n=1, 2, 3$ , respectively, with the orientation induced by the orientation of  $s^n$ . The boundary  $\partial s^0$  of a 0-simplex  $s^0$  is defined as 0;  $\partial s^0=0$ . The boundary of an  $n$ -chain  $c^n = \sum_j x_j s_j^n$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) is defined by

$$\partial c^n = \sum_j x_j \partial s_j^n.$$

An  $n$ -chain whose boundary is zero, is called a cycle.

**3. Complex polyhedron.** If two open or closed polyangulations  $K$  and  $K^*$  of a common manifold  $F$  satisfy the following conditions (i) and (ii), then  $K^*$  ( $K$  resp.) is called the conjugate polyhedron of  $K$  ( $K^*$  resp.):

(i) To each 0-simplex  $s^0$  of  $K$  and  $K^*$ , there is exactly one 3-simplex  $s^3$  of  $K^*$  and  $K$  respectively such that  $|s^0| \in |s^3|$ . Then,  $s^3$  and  $s^0$  are said to be conjugate to  $s^0$  and  $s^3$  respectively, and the conjugate simplices of  $s^0$  and  $s^3$  are denoted by  $*s^0$  and  $*s^3$  respectively;

(ii) To each 1-simplex  $s^1$  of  $K$  and  $K^*$ , there is exactly one 2-simplex  $s^2$  of  $K^*$  and  $K$  respectively such that  $|s^1|$  intersects  $|s^2|$  at only one point. If the oriented 1-simplex  $s^1$  runs through the oriented 2-simplex  $s^2$  from the reverse side to the front side, then  $s^2$  and  $s^1$  are said to be conjugate to  $s^1$  and  $s^2$  respectively, and the conjugate simplices of  $s^1$  and  $s^2$  are denoted by  $*s^1$  and  $*s^2$  respectively.

By the definition, we have always  $**s^n = *(s^n) = s^n$  for  $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ .

The pair of  $K$  and  $K^*$  is called a complex polyangulation of  $F$  or a complex polyhedron, and is denoted by  $\mathbf{K} = \langle K, K^* \rangle$ . A manifold  $F$  on which a complex polyangulation is defined, is called a complex polyangulated manifold. If  $F$  is open or closed, then  $\mathbf{K} = \langle K, K^* \rangle$  is said to be open or closed respectively. Let  $L$  be a compact bordered subpolyhedron of  $K$  and  $L^*$  be the sum of 3-simplices of  $K^*$  having their carriers in  $|L|$ . Let us suppose that  $L^*$  is not vacuous and is connected. Then  $L^*$  is the maximal compact bordered subpolyhedron of  $K^*$  under the condition  $|L^*| \subset |L|$ . The pair  $\mathbf{L} = \langle L, L^* \rangle$  is called a compact bordered complex polyhedron.

Let  $\mathbf{K} = \langle K, K^* \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{L} = \langle L, L^* \rangle$  be two complex polyhedra. If  $L$  and  $L^*$  are subpolyhedra of  $K$  and  $K^*$  respectively, then  $\mathbf{L}$  is called a complex subpolyhedron of  $\mathbf{K}$ .

By an  $n$ -chain  $X$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) of a complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}$ , we mean a formal sum  $X = X_1 + X_2$  of an  $n$ -chain  $X_1$  of  $K$  and an  $n$ -chain  $X_2$  of  $K^*$ . Here we

agree that if  $K$  is compact bordered then the conjugate 2-simplex  $*s^1$  of each 1-simplex  $s^1 \in \partial K$  and the conjugate 1-simplex  $*s^2$  of each 2-simplex  $s^2 \in \partial K$  is admitted as a generator of  $C_2(K^*)$  and that of  $C_1(K^*)$  respectively, and thus  $X_2$  is precisely an  $n$ -chain of  $K^* + \{ *s^1, *s^2 | s^1, s^2 \in \partial K \}$ . The boundary  $\partial X$  is defined by  $\partial X = \partial X_1 + \partial X_2$ .  $X$  is said to be *homologous to zero*, denoted by  $X \sim 0$ , if and only if  $X_1 \sim 0$  and  $X_2 \sim 0$ .

**4. Complex boundary.** Let  $K = \langle K, K^* \rangle$  be a compact bordered complex polyhedron. Now we shall try to define a new polyhedron  $K^{**}$  such that  $K^* \subset K^{**}$  and  $|K^{**}| = |K|$ . Let  $s^2$  be an arbitrary 2-simplex of  $\partial K$ . Then the carrier  $|*s^2|$  of the conjugate 1-simplex  $*s^2$  is divided into two portions by the point  $p = |s^2| \cap |*s^2|$ . We divide  $*s^2$  into two 1-simplices  $s_1^1$  and  $s_2^1$  whose carriers are the portions of  $|*s^2|$  lying on the reverse side and the front side of  $s^2$  respectively. Then  $s_1^1$  is called the *conjugate half 1-simplex of  $s^2$  with respect to  $\partial K$*  and is denoted by  $*s^2$ . The terminal vertex of  $s_1^1$ , whose carrier lies on  $|s^2|$ , is called the *conjugate 0-simplex of  $s^2$  on  $\partial K$*  and is denoted by  $*s^2(\partial K)$ .

Let  $s^1$  be an arbitrary oriented 1-simplex of  $\partial K$ . Then there exist exactly two oriented 2-simplices  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\sigma_2^2$  of  $\partial K$  such that  $s^1$  is a common edge of  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\sigma_2^2$ , where  $s^1$  is assumed to have the orientation induced by the orientation of  $\sigma_2^2$  and thus of  $-\sigma_1^2$ . Let  $s_1^3, \dots, s_k^3$  ( $k \geq 1$ ) be the collection of 3-simplices of  $K$  having  $s^1$  as their common edge such that  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\sigma_2^2$  are the faces of  $s_1^3$  and  $s_k^3$  respectively, and such that each successive pair  $s_j^3, s_{j+1}^3$  of 3-simplices has a common face  $s_j^2$  with the edge  $s^1$ , where  $s_j^2$  is assumed to be oriented so that the orientation of  $s_j^2$  induces that of  $s^1$ . Here if  $k=1$ , then  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\sigma_2^2$  are the faces of the common 3-simplex  $s_1^3 = s_k^3$ , and  $\{s_j^2\}_{j=1}^{k-1} = \emptyset$ . Let  $\sigma_1^0$  and  $\sigma_2^0$  be the terminal vertices of  $*\sigma_1^2$  and  $*\sigma_2^2$  lying on  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\sigma_2^2$  respectively. We define a new 1-simplex  $\sigma^1$  with  $\partial\sigma^1 = \sigma_2^0 - \sigma_1^0$  whose carrier  $|\sigma^1|$  is a line segment lying on  $|\sigma_2^2| \cup |\sigma_1^2|$  and intersects  $|s^1|$  at only one point. The 1-simplex  $\sigma^1$  is said to be *conjugate to  $s^1$  on  $\partial K$*  and is denoted by  $*s^1(\partial K)$ . Furthermore we define a new 2-simplex  $\sigma^2$  such that

$$(1.1) \quad \partial\sigma^2 = -*s^1(\partial K) - *\sigma_1^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} *s_j^2 + *\sigma_2^2.$$

The 2-simplex  $\sigma^2$  is called the *conjugate half 2-simplex of  $s^1$  with respect to  $\partial K$*  and is denoted by  $*s^1$ .

Let  $s^0$  be an arbitrary 0-simplex of  $\partial K$ . Let  $s_1^1, \dots, s_\nu^1$  ( $\nu \geq 2$ ) be the collection of 1-simplices of  $K$  whose common initial vertex is  $s^0$ , and let  $s_1^1, \dots, s_\mu^1$  ( $\mu \leq \nu$ ) be the collection of those lying on  $\partial K$ . Then we define a new 2-simplex  $\sigma^2$  with  $|\sigma^2| \subset |\partial K|$  such that

$$\partial\sigma^2 = \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} *s_j^1(\partial K).$$

The 2-simplex  $\sigma^2$  is said to be *conjugate to  $s^0$  on  $\partial K$*  and is denoted by  $*s^0(\partial K)$ . Furthermore we define a new 3-simplex  $\sigma^3$  such that

$$(1.2) \quad \partial\sigma^3 = *s^0(\partial K) + \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} *\sigma_j^2 + \sum_{j=\mu+1}^{\nu} *s_j^1,$$

where if  $\mu=\nu$ , then the last term of (1.2) is vacuous. The 3-simplex  $\sigma^3$  is called the *conjugate half 3-simplex of  $s^0$  with respect to  $\partial K$*  and is denoted by  $*s^0$ .

The (simple) boundary  $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^* \rangle$  of  $K$  is defined by the sum of the 1-chains  $\partial K$  and  $\partial K^*$ . Next, by  $K^{**}$  we denote the new polyhedron defined as the sum of all 3-simplices of  $K^*$  and the conjugate half 3-simplices of all 0-simplices  $s^0 \in \partial K$  with respect to  $\partial K$ . Then  $|K^{**}| = |K|$ . The sum of  $\partial K$  and  $\partial K^{**}$  is called the *complex boundary* of  $K$  and denoted by  $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^{**} \rangle$ , where  $\partial K^{**}$  is the 2-chain defined as the sum of  $*s^0(\partial K)$  for all  $s^0 \in \partial K$ . Throughout the present paper we shall preserve these notations.

§ 2. Differences on a polyhedron.

1. **Difference calculus.** Let  $K = \langle K, K^* \rangle$  be an arbitrary complex polyhedron.

By an *n-th order difference* or *n-difference  $\varphi^n$  on  $K$*  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ), we mean the complex valued function  $\varphi^n$  on the set of oriented *n*-simplices of  $K$  such that  $\varphi^n$  has a value  $\varphi^n(s^n)$  for each oriented *n*-simplex  $s^n$  and  $\varphi^n(-s^n) = -\varphi^n(s^n)$ . A zero order difference  $\varphi^0$  on  $K$  is also called a *function on  $K$* .

We assume that differences of arbitrary order satisfy the linearity property:

$$(c_1\varphi^n + c_2\psi^n)(s^n) = c_1 \cdot \varphi^n(s^n) + c_2 \cdot \psi^n(s^n) \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3),$$

where  $\varphi^n$  and  $\psi^n$  are *n*-differences on  $K$ , and  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are complex constants.

The multiplication of a 2-difference  $\psi^2$  with a 0-difference  $\varphi^0$  is defined as a 2-difference satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^0\psi^2(s^2) = \psi^2\varphi^0(s^2) = \frac{1}{2} \{ \varphi^0(s_1^0) + \varphi^0(s_2^0) \} \psi^2(s^2)$$

for each 2-simplex  $s^2 \in K$ , where  $s_1^0$  and  $s_2^0$  are the 0-simplices such that  $\partial*s^2 = s_2^0 - s_1^0$ . The multiplication of a 3-difference  $\psi^3$  with a 0-difference  $\varphi^0$  is defined as a 3-difference satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^0\psi^3(s^3) = \varphi^0(*s^3)\psi^3(s^3) \quad \text{for each 3-simplex } s^3 \in K.$$

The *exterior product* of a 1-difference  $\varphi^1$  and a 2-difference  $\psi^2$  is defined as a 3-difference satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^1\psi^2(s^3) = \psi^2\varphi^1(s^3) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^k \varphi^1(*s_j^2) \psi^2(s_j^2)$$

for each 3-simplex  $s^3 \in K$ , where  $s_1^2, \dots, s_k^2$  are the 2-simplices such that  $\partial s^3 = s_1^2 + \dots + s_k^2$ .

The *complex conjugate  $\bar{\varphi}^n$  of an n-difference  $\varphi^n$*  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) is defined by  $\bar{\varphi}^n(s^n) = \overline{\varphi^n(s^n)}$ .

The *difference of an n-difference  $\varphi^n$*  ( $n=0, 1, 2$ ) is defined as an  $(n+1)$ -difference  $\Delta\varphi^n$  satisfying the condition

$$\Delta\varphi^n(s^{n+1}) = \sum_{j=1}^k \varphi^n(s_j^n) \quad \text{for each } (n+1)\text{-simplex } s^{n+1} \in K,$$

where  $s_1^n, \dots, s_k^n$  are the  $n$ -simplices such that  $\partial s^{n+1} = s_1^n + \dots + s_k^n$ . The difference of a 3-difference  $\varphi^3$  is defined as 0;  $\Delta\varphi^3 = 0$ . If  $\Delta\varphi^n = 0$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ), then  $\varphi^n$  is said to be *closed*. If for an  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  ( $n=1, 2, 3$ ) there exists an  $(n-1)$ -difference  $\psi^{n-1}$  such that  $\varphi^n = \Delta\psi^{n-1}$ , then  $\varphi^n$  is said to be *exact*. Obviously, if  $\varphi^n$  is exact, then  $\varphi^n$  is closed. We can easily verify that the partial difference formula

$$(2.1) \quad \Delta(\varphi^0\psi^2) = (\Delta\varphi^0)\psi^2 + \varphi^0\Delta\psi^2$$

holds for a 0-difference  $\varphi^0$  and a 2-difference  $\psi^2$ .

**2. Summation of differences.** We can define the *sum* of an  $n$ -difference ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) over an  $n$ -chain. Let  $c^n = \sum_j x_j s_j^n$  be an  $n$ -chain ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) of a complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}$ . The *sum of an  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  over  $c^n$*  is defined by

$$\int_{c^n} \varphi^n = \sum_j x_j \varphi^n(s_j^n) \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

The basic duality between a chain and a difference

$$(2.2) \quad \int_{c^n} \Delta\varphi^{n-1} = \int_{\partial c^n} \varphi^{n-1} \quad (n=1, 2, 3)$$

is obvious, where  $c^n$  is an  $n$ -chain and  $\varphi^n$  is an  $n$ -difference. The formula for partial summation

$$(2.3) \quad \int_{c^3} (\Delta\varphi^0)\psi^2 = \int_{\partial c^3} \varphi^0\psi^2 - \int_{c^3} \varphi^0\Delta\psi^2$$

follows from (2.1) and (2.2).

The following two criteria are also obvious:

An  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  ( $n=0, 1, 2$ ) is closed if and only if  $\int_{c^n} \varphi^n = 0$  for every cycle  $c^n$  that is homologous to 0;

An  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  ( $n=1, 2, 3$ ) is exact if and only if  $\int_{c^n} \varphi^n = 0$  for every cycle  $c^n$ .

If an  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  ( $n=0, 1, 2$ ) is closed, then the *period of  $\varphi^n$  along an  $n$ -cycle  $c^n$*  is defined by  $\int_{c^n} \varphi^n$ , which depends only on the homology class of  $c^n$ .

Now we shall define the *sum* of 3-difference over a complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K} = \langle K, K^* \rangle$ . If  $\mathbf{K}$  is compact bordered or closed, then the sum of a 3-difference  $\varphi^3$  over  $\mathbf{K}$

$$\int_{\mathbf{K}} \varphi^3$$

is defined as the sum of  $\varphi^3$  over the 3-chain  $\mathbf{K}$  because  $\mathbf{K}$  is itself a 3-chain. If  $\mathbf{K}$  is open, then we can set

$$(2.4) \quad \int_{\mathbf{K}} \varphi^3 = \lim_{c^3 \rightarrow \mathbf{K}} \int_{c^3} \varphi^3$$

provided that the limit exists, where  $c^3$  is a 3-chain of  $\mathbf{K}$  such that  $c^3 \subset \mathbf{K}$ .

**3. Conjugate differences.** Let  $\varphi^n$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) be an  $n$ -difference on a complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}$ . Then the *conjugate difference*  $*\varphi^n$  of  $\varphi^n$  is defined as a  $(3-n)$ -difference satisfying the condition

$$*\varphi^n(*s^n)=\varphi^n(s^n) \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3)$$

for each  $n$ -simplex  $s^n \in \mathbf{K}$ . Then we can easily see that

$$(2.5) \quad **\varphi^n=\varphi^n \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3),$$

$$(2.6) \quad *\varphi^n*\phi^{3-n}=\varphi^n\phi^{3-n} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

An  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  ( $n=1, 2$ ) is said to be *harmonic* if  $\varphi^n$  and  $*\varphi^n$  are both closed. By (2.5) and the definition,  $\varphi^n$  and  $*\varphi^n$  are simultaneously harmonic. Let  $u$  be a function (0-difference) on  $\mathbf{K}$ .  $u$  is called a *harmonic function on  $\mathbf{K}$*  if the difference  $\Delta u$  is harmonic. A function  $u$  is harmonic on  $\mathbf{K}$  if and only if

$$u(s^0)=\frac{1}{\kappa}\sum_{j=1}^{\kappa}u(s_j^0)$$

for every 0-simplex  $s^0$  of  $\mathbf{K}$  whose carrier  $|s^0|$  is in the interior of  $|K|$ , where  $\partial s_j^1=s_j^0-s^0$  ( $j=1, \dots, \kappa$ ) and  $s_1^1, \dots, s_{\kappa}^1$  are all 1-simplices having  $s^0$  as a vertex.

**§ 3. The Hilbert space of differences.**

**1. The inner product.** Let  $\varphi^n$  and  $\phi^n$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) be two  $n$ -differences on a complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}=\langle K, K^* \rangle$ . We shall define the *inner product*  $(\varphi^n, \phi^n) = (\varphi^n, \phi^n)_{\mathbf{K}}$  of  $\varphi^n$  and  $\phi^n$ . If  $\mathbf{K}$  is closed, then it is defined by

$$(\varphi^n, \phi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} = \sum_{s^n \in \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(s^n) \overline{\phi^n(s^n)} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

If  $\mathbf{K}$  is compact bordered, then it is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi^0, \phi^0)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^3 \in \mathbf{K}} \varphi^0(*s^3) \overline{\phi^0(*s^3)}, \\ (\varphi^n, \phi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^n \in \mathbf{K} - \partial \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(s^n) \overline{\phi^n(s^n)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^n \in \partial \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(s^n) \overline{\phi^n(s^n)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{s^{3-n} \in \mathbf{K} - \partial \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(*s^{3-n}) \overline{\phi^n(*s^{3-n})} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^{3-n} \in \partial \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(*s^{3-n}) \overline{\phi^n(*s^{3-n})} \quad (n=1, 2), \\ (\varphi^3, \phi^3)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^3 \in \mathbf{K}} \varphi^3(s^3) \overline{\phi^3(s^3)}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $\mathbf{K}$  is open, then it is defined by the limit process

$$(\varphi^n, \phi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} = \lim_{L \rightarrow \mathbf{K}} (\varphi^n, \phi^n)_L \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3),$$

provided that the limit exists, where  $L = \langle L, L^* \rangle$  is a compact bordered complex polyhedron such that  $L \subset K$ .

If  $K$  is closed or open, then we can easily see that

$$(\varphi^n, \psi^n)_K = \int_K \varphi^n * \bar{\psi}^n \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

If  $K$  is compact bordered, then we can easily verify that

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi^n, \psi^n)_K &= \int_K \varphi^n * \bar{\psi}^n \quad (n=0, 3), \\ (\varphi^1, \psi^1)_K &= \int_K \varphi^1 * \bar{\psi}^1 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \varphi^1(s^1) \overline{\psi^1(s^1)} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial K^*} \varphi^1(*s^2) \overline{\psi^1(*s^2)}, \\ (\varphi^2, \psi^2)_K &= \int_K \varphi^2 * \bar{\psi}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \varphi^2(*s^1) \overline{\psi^2(*s^1)} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial K^*} \varphi^2(s^2) \overline{\psi^2(s^2)}. \end{aligned}$$

By the definition of the inner product, for every case of  $K$  and for  $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ , we have

$$(3.1) \quad (*\varphi^n, *\psi^n) = (\varphi^n, \psi^n),$$

$$(3.2) \quad (\varphi^n, \psi^n) = (\bar{\varphi}^n, \bar{\psi}^n).$$

Let  $\varphi^n$  be an  $n$ -difference ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) on a complex polyhedron  $K$ . Then the norm  $\|\varphi^n\| = \|\varphi^n\|_K$  of  $\varphi^n$  is defined by

$$(3.3) \quad \|\varphi^n\|_K = (\varphi^n, \varphi^n)_K^{1/2} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

Let us denote the Hilbert space of all  $n$ -differences  $\varphi^n$  on  $K$  with  $\|\varphi^n\| < \infty$  by  $\Gamma$ , for a fixed  $n=1$  or  $n=2$ . Furthermore, we define the closed subspaces of  $\Gamma$  as follows:

$$\Gamma_c = \{\varphi^n \mid \varphi^n \text{ is closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\},$$

$$\Gamma_e = \{\varphi^n \mid \varphi^n \text{ is exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\},$$

$$\Gamma_h = \{\varphi^n \mid \varphi^n \text{ is harmonic, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\},$$

$$\Gamma_c^* = \{\varphi^n \mid *\varphi^n \text{ is closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\},$$

$$\Gamma_e^* = \{\varphi^n \mid *\varphi^n \text{ is exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\},$$

$$\Gamma_h^* = \{\varphi^n \mid *\varphi^n \text{ is harmonic, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\}.$$

Then it is obvious that  $\Gamma_h^* = \Gamma_h$ ,  $\Gamma_e \subset \Gamma_c$ ,  $\Gamma_h = \Gamma_c \cap \Gamma_c^*$ .

**2. The definition of  $\varphi^n$  on  $\partial K^{**}$ .** Let  $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^{**} \rangle$  be a complex boundary of a compact bordered complex polyhedron  $K = \langle K, K^* \rangle$ . We shall define an  $n$ -difference ( $n=0, 1, 2$ ) on  $\partial K^{**}$ .

Let  $\varphi^0$  be a 0-difference on  $K$ . Then  $\varphi^0$  is defined on  $\partial K^{**}$  by

$$(3.4) \quad \varphi^0(\sigma^0) = -\frac{1}{2} \{ \varphi^0(s_1^0) + \varphi^0(s_2^0) \} \quad \text{for each 0-simplex } \sigma^0 \text{ of } \partial K^{**},$$

where  $\partial *s^2 = s_2^0 - s_1^0$ ,  $s^2$  is the 2-simplex of  $\partial K$  with  $\sigma^0 = *s^2(\partial K)$  and  $\varphi^0$  is assumed to be defined at  $s_j^0$ .

Let  $\varphi^1$  be a 1-difference on  $K$ . Then  $\varphi^1$  is defined on  $\partial K^{**}$  by

$$\varphi^1(\sigma^1) = -\frac{1}{2} \varphi^1(*\sigma_1^1) + \sum_{j=1}^{\kappa-1} \varphi^1(*s_j^1) + \frac{1}{2} \varphi^1(*\sigma_2^1)$$

for each 1-simplex  $\sigma^1$  of  $\partial K^{**}$ , where

$$\partial \sigma^2 = -\sigma^1 - *\sigma_1^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{\kappa-1} *s_j^2 + *\sigma_2^2,$$

$\sigma^2$  is the conjugate half 2-simplex of  $s^1$  with respect to  $\partial K$ ,  $s^1$  is the 1-simplex of  $\partial K$  with  $\sigma^1 = *s^1(\partial K)$ , and  $\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2$  and  $s_j^2$  ( $j=1, \dots, \kappa-1$ ) is the notations defined in (1.1).

Let  $\varphi^2$  be a 2-difference on  $K$ . Then  $\varphi^2$  is defined on  $\partial K^{**}$  by

$$\varphi^2(\sigma^2) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} \varphi^2(*s_j^2) - \sum_{j=\mu+1}^{\nu} \varphi^2(*s_j^2)$$

for each 2-simplex  $\sigma^2$  of  $\partial K^{**}$ , where

$$\partial \sigma^3 = \sigma^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} *\sigma_j^3 + \sum_{j=\mu+1}^{\nu} *s_j^3,$$

$\sigma^3$  is the conjugate half 3-simplex of  $s^0$  with respect to  $\partial K$ ,  $s^0$  is the 0-simplex of  $\partial K$  with  $\sigma^2 = *s^0(\partial K)$  and  $s_j^3$  ( $j=1, \dots, \nu$ ) is the notations defined in (1.2).

The multiplication of a 2-difference  $\psi^2$  with a 0-difference  $\varphi^0$  on  $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^{**} \rangle$  is defined as a 2-difference on  $\partial K$  satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^0 \psi^2(s^2) = \psi^2 \varphi^0(s^2) = \varphi^0(s^0) \psi^2(s^2) \quad \text{for each 2-simplex } s^2 \in \partial K,$$

where if  $s^2 \in \partial K$  then  $s^0 = *s^2(\partial K)$  and if  $s^2 \in \partial K^{**}$  then  $s^2 = *s^0(\partial K)$ .

The exterior product of two 1-differences  $\varphi^1$  and  $\psi^1$  on  $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^* \rangle$  is defined as a 2-difference  $\varphi^1 \psi^1$  satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^1 \psi^1(s^2) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{\kappa} \varphi^1(\sigma_j^1) \psi^1(s_j^1) \quad \text{for each 2-simplex } s^2 \in \partial K,$$

where  $\partial s^2 = s_1^1 + \dots + s_k^1$ , and if  $s^2 \in \partial K$  then  $\sigma_j^1 = *s_j^1(\partial K)$  and if  $s^2 \in \partial K^{**}$  then  $s_j^1 = -*\sigma_j^1(\partial K)$ .

For an arbitrary 1-difference  $\varphi^1$ , we shall agree to define

$$(3.5) \quad \Delta \varphi^1(*s^1) = 0 \quad \text{for each 1-simplex } s^1 \in \partial K.$$

### 3. Fundamental theorem.

**THEOREM 3.1.** *If a complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}$  is compact bordered or closed, then we have*

$$(3.6) \quad (\Delta\varphi^{n-1}, \psi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} = \sum_{\partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi^{n-1} * \bar{\psi}^n + (\varphi^{n-1}, \delta\psi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} \quad (n=1, 2, 3),$$

where  $\delta$  is the operator  $(-1)^n * \Delta *$  for an  $n$ -difference, and if  $\mathbf{K}$  is closed then the first term of the right-hand side vanishes.

*Proof.* The case of  $n=1$ : By the definition of the inner product and (2.3), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta\varphi^0, \psi^1)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi * \bar{\psi} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^1) \overline{\psi(s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \Delta\varphi(*s^2) \overline{\psi(*s^2)} \\ &= \left( \sum_{\partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi * \bar{\psi} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^1) \overline{\psi(s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \Delta\varphi(*s^2) \overline{\psi(*s^2)} \right) \\ &\quad - \sum_{\mathbf{K}} \varphi \Delta * \bar{\psi} \\ &= \left( \sum_{\partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi * \bar{\psi} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \{ \varphi(s_1^0) + \varphi(s_2^0) \} * \overline{\psi(s^2)} \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^1) * \overline{\psi(*s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \Delta\varphi(*s^2) * \overline{\psi(s^2)} \\ &\quad + (\varphi, \delta\psi)_{\mathbf{K}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\varphi = \varphi^0$  and  $\psi = \psi^1$ , and  $\partial * s^2 = s_2^0 - s_1^0$ . Here if we note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\partial\mathbf{K}^*} \varphi * \bar{\psi} &= \sum_{s^0 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi(s^0) * \overline{\psi(*s^0(\partial\mathbf{K}))} \\ &= \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \varphi(s_2^0) * \overline{\psi(s^2)} + \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^1) * \frac{1}{2} * \overline{\psi(*s^1)}, \end{aligned}$$

then we obtain (3.6).

The case of  $n=3$  can be easily reduced to the case of  $n=1$ .

The case of  $n=2$ : By the definition of the inner product, we see that

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{aligned} (\Delta\varphi^1, \psi^2)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^2 \in \mathbf{K} - \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^2) * \overline{\psi(*s^2)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^2) * \overline{\psi(*s^2)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{s^1 \in \mathbf{K} - \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(*s^1) * \overline{\psi(s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(*s^1) * \overline{\psi(s^1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\varphi = \varphi^1$  and  $\psi = \psi^2$ . By the definition (3.5) the last term of the right-hand side of (3.7) is equal to zero, and further we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{s^2 \in \mathbf{K} - \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^2) * \overline{\psi(*s^2)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^2) * \overline{\psi(*s^2)} \\ = \sum_{s^1 \in \mathbf{K} - \partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi(s^1) \Delta * \overline{\psi(*s^1)} + \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi(s^1) * \overline{\psi(*s^1(\partial\mathbf{K}))}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\varphi^1, \delta\psi^2)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^2 \in \bar{K} - \partial K} \varphi(*s^2) \overline{\Delta*\psi(s^2)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial K} \varphi(*s^2) \overline{\Delta*\psi(s^2)} \\
 &\quad + \sum_{s^1 \in \bar{K} - \partial K} \varphi(s^1) \overline{\Delta*\psi(*s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \varphi(s^1) \overline{\Delta*\psi(*s^1)} \\
 &= \sum_{s^1 \in \bar{K} - \partial K} \overline{* \psi(s^1)} \Delta\varphi(*s^1) + \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \overline{* \psi(s^1)} \varphi(*s^1(\partial K)) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{s^1 \in \bar{K} - \partial K} \varphi(s^1) \overline{\Delta*\psi(*s^1)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence we find that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\Delta\varphi^1, \psi^2)_{\mathbf{K}} - (\varphi^1, \delta\psi^2)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \varphi(s^1) \overline{* \psi(*s^1(\partial K))} - \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \overline{* \psi(s^1)} \varphi(*s^1(\partial K)) \\
 &= \int_{\partial K} \varphi^1 \overline{\psi^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

**4. Orthogonal projection on a compact polyhedron.** In 4~5, we shall briefly state the method of orthogonal projection of the Hilbert space of differences which is analogous to de Rham-Kodaira's orthogonal decomposition theorem for differential forms on a Riemannian manifold.

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be a closed complex polyhedron. Then the orthogonal decomposition*

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_c \dot{+} \Gamma_e^* = \Gamma_c^* \dot{+} \Gamma_e$$

holds for the Hilbert space  $\Gamma$  of  $n$ -differences ( $n=1, 2$ ).

*Proof.* By Theorem 3.1 we see that

$$(\psi^n, *\Delta\varphi^{2-n}) = (-1)^{3-n} (\Delta\psi^n, *\varphi^{2-n}) \quad (n=1, 2).$$

Hence  $\Delta\psi^n=0$  implies that  $(\psi^n, *\Delta\varphi^{2-n})=0$ , and thus  $\psi^n$  is orthogonal to every element of  $\Gamma_e^*$ .

Conversely, if

$$(\Delta\psi^n, *\varphi^{2-n})=0$$

holds for all  $(2-n)$ -differences  $\varphi^{2-n}$  on  $\mathbf{K}$ , then we can easily verify that  $\Delta\psi^n=0$  on  $\mathbf{K}$ . Hence on a closed complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}$ ,  $\Gamma_c$  is the orthogonal complement of  $\Gamma_e^*$ . Then by the general theory, we have the orthogonal decomposition  $\Gamma = \Gamma_c \dot{+} \Gamma_e^*$ . The orthogonal decomposition  $\Gamma = \Gamma_c^* \dot{+} \Gamma_e$  for  $n$ -differences immediately follows from the decomposition  $\Gamma = \Gamma_c \dot{+} \Gamma_e^*$  for  $(3-n)$ -differences.

**COROLLARY.** (de Rham-Kodaira's decomposition theorem.)

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_n \dot{+} \Gamma_e \dot{+} \Gamma_e^* \quad (n=1, 2).$$

Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be a compact bordered complex polyhedron. An  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$

( $n=0, 1, 2$ ) on  $\mathbf{K}$  is said to *vanish on the complex boundary*  $\partial\mathbf{K}$  if  $\varphi^n(s^n)=0$  for every  $n$ -simplex  $s^n$  of  $\partial\mathbf{K}=\langle\partial K, \partial K^{*+}\rangle$ . A closed  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  ( $n=1, 2$ ) is said to belong to the subspace  $\Gamma_{e_0}$  if  $\varphi^n$  vanishes on  $\partial\mathbf{K}$ . Similarly, an exact  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n=\Delta\phi^{n-1}$  ( $n=1, 2$ ) is said to belong to the subspace  $\Gamma_{e_0}$  if  $\phi^{n-1}=0$  on the complex boundary  $\partial\mathbf{K}$ .

By Theorem 3.1 we have the formula

$$(3.8) \quad (\phi^n, *\Delta\phi^{2-n}) = \int_{\partial\mathbf{K}} \overline{\phi^{2-n}}\phi^n + (-1)^{3-n}(\Delta\phi^n, *\phi^{2-n}) \quad (n=1, 2).$$

By making use of (3.8) and the similar argument to the theorem 3.2, for the Hilbert space  $\Gamma$  of  $n$ -differences ( $n=1, 2$ ) on a compact bordered complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}$  we have the orthogonal decompositions

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma &= \Gamma_{c_0} \dot{+} \Gamma_e^* = \Gamma_{e_0}^* \dot{+} \Gamma_e, \\ \Gamma &= \Gamma_c \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}^* = \Gamma_c^* \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0} \end{aligned}$$

and hence we have immediately the orthogonal decomposition

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_h \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0} \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}^*.$$

**5. Orthogonal projection on a generic polyhedron.** Let us suppose that  $\mathbf{K}$  is an open or closed complex polyhedron. An  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) on  $\mathbf{K}$  is said to have *compact support* if  $\varphi^n(s^n)=0$  for all  $n$ -simplex  $s^n \in \mathbf{K}$  except for a finite number of  $n$ -simplices of  $\mathbf{K}$ .

Let  $\Gamma'_{e_0}$  be the subclass of  $\Gamma_e$  consisting of the  $n$ -differences  $\varphi^n$  such that  $\varphi^n=\Delta\phi^{n-1}$  for an  $(n-1)$ -difference  $\phi^{n-1}$  with compact support. We define the subspace  $\Gamma_{e_0}$  of  $\Gamma$  as the closure in  $\Gamma$  of  $\Gamma'_{e_0}$ . From the definition it follows that  $\Gamma_{e_0}=\Gamma_e$  for a closed complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}$ .

On an arbitrary complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}$  we can prove that the following orthogonal decompositions for the Hilbert spaces of  $n$ -differences ( $n=1, 2$ ) hold:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma &= \Gamma_{e_0} \dot{+} \Gamma_c^* = \Gamma_{e_0}^* \dot{+} \Gamma_c, \\ \Gamma &= \Gamma_h \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0} \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}^*, \\ \Gamma_c &= \Gamma_h \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}, \\ \Gamma_e &= \Gamma_{he} \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Gamma_{he}=\Gamma_h \cap \Gamma_e$ .

**§ 4. Network flow problem.**

**1.  $\rho^n$ -harmonic differences.** Let  $\mathbf{K}=\langle K, K^*\rangle$  be an arbitrary complex polyhedron.

By an  $n$ -th order density or  $n$ -density  $\rho^n$  on  $\mathbf{K}$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) we mean the positive valued function defined on the set of  $n$ -simplices of  $\mathbf{K}$  such that  $\rho^n$  has

a positive value  $\rho^n(s^n)$  for each  $n$ -simplex  $s^n$  of  $\mathbf{K}$ .

A product of an  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  with an  $n$ -density  $\rho^n$  is defined as an  $n$ -difference  $\rho^n\varphi^n$  satisfying the condition

$$\rho^n\varphi^n(s^n)=\rho^n(s^n)\varphi^n(s^n) \quad \text{for each } n\text{-simplex } s^n \in \mathbf{K}.$$

If  $\rho^n\varphi^n$  is closed, i. e.  $\Delta(\rho^n\varphi^n)=0$ , then the  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  is said to be *closed with respect to the density  $\rho^n$*  or  $\rho^n$ -closed. If  $\rho^n\varphi^n$  is exact, then the  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  is said to be *exact with respect to the density  $\rho^n$*  or  $\rho^n$ -exact.

The *conjugate density*  $*\rho^n$  of an  $n$ -density  $\rho^n$  is defined as a  $(3-n)$ -density satisfying the condition

$$*\rho^n(*s^n)=\rho^n(s^n) \quad \text{for each } n\text{-simplex } s^n \in \mathbf{K}.$$

An  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  is said to be *harmonic with respect to a density  $\rho^n$*  or  $\rho^n$ -harmonic if  $\varphi^n$  is closed and  $*\varphi^n$  is  $*\rho^n$ -closed. By the definition, an  $n$ -difference  $\varphi^n$  is  $\rho^n$ -harmonic if and only if the  $(3-n)$ -difference  $*(\rho^n\varphi^n)$  is  $*(1/\rho^n)$ -harmonic.

**2. The inner product with a density and orthogonal projection.** Let  $\rho^n$  ( $n=0, 1, 2, 3$ ) be a fixed  $n$ -density on  $\mathbf{K}$ , and let  $\varphi^n$  and  $\psi^n$  be arbitrary  $n$ -differences on  $\mathbf{K}$ . Then the *inner product*  $(\varphi^n, \psi^n)_\rho=(\varphi^n, \psi^n)_{\rho, \mathbf{K}}$  of  $\varphi^n$  and  $\psi^n$  with the density  $\rho^n$  is defined by

$$(4.1) \quad (\varphi^n, \psi^n)_\rho=(\sqrt{\rho^n}\varphi^n, \sqrt{\rho^n}\psi^n)_\mathbf{K}=(\rho^n\varphi^n, \psi^n)_\mathbf{K} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3),$$

where  $(\sqrt{\rho^n}\varphi^n, \sqrt{\rho^n}\psi^n)$  is the inner product of  $\sqrt{\rho^n}\varphi^n$  and  $\sqrt{\rho^n}\psi^n$  defined in in § 3. 1.

By the definitions (4.1), (3.2) and (3.1), we have

$$(4.2) \quad (\psi^n, \varphi^n)_\rho=(\bar{\psi}^n, \bar{\varphi}^n)_\rho,$$

$$(4.3) \quad (*\varphi^n, *\psi^n)_{*,\rho}=(\varphi^n, \psi^n)_\rho.$$

The *norm*  $\|\varphi^n\|_\rho=\|\varphi^n\|_{\rho, \mathbf{K}}$  of  $\varphi^n$  with the density  $\rho^n$  is defined by

$$(4.4) \quad \|\varphi^n\|_\rho=\sqrt{(\varphi^n, \varphi^n)_\rho}=\sqrt{(\rho^n\varphi^n, \varphi^n)} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

Let us denote the Hilbert space of all  $n$ -differences  $\varphi^n$  on  $\mathbf{K}$  with  $\|\varphi^n\|_\rho<\infty$  by  $\Gamma^\rho$ , for a fixed  $n=1$  or  $2$ . Furthermore we define the closed subspaces of  $\Gamma^\rho$  as follows :

$$\Gamma_c^\rho = \{\varphi^n | \varphi^n \text{ is closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\Gamma_e^\rho = \{\varphi^n | \varphi^n \text{ is exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\Gamma_c^{\rho*} = \{\varphi^n | *\varphi^n \text{ is closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\Gamma_e^{\rho*} = \{\varphi^n | *\varphi^n \text{ is exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\Gamma_{\rho c} = \{\varphi^n | \varphi^n \text{ is } \rho^n\text{-closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{\rho e} &= \{ \Gamma^n | \varphi^n \text{ is } \rho^n\text{-exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho \}, \\ \Gamma_{\rho e}^* &= \{ \varphi^n | * \varphi^n \text{ is } *\rho^n\text{-closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho \}, \\ \Gamma_{\rho e}^* &= \{ \varphi^n | * \varphi^n \text{ is } *\rho^n\text{-exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho \}, \\ \Gamma_{\rho h} &= \{ \varphi^n | \varphi^n \text{ is } \rho^n\text{-harmonic, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho \}. \end{aligned}$$

Then it is obvious that  $\Gamma_e^\rho \subset \Gamma_c^\rho$ ,  $\Gamma_{\rho e} \subset \Gamma_{\rho c}$  and  $\Gamma_{\rho h} = \Gamma_c^\rho \cap \Gamma_{\rho e}^*$ .

Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be a closed complex polyhedron. Then, by an argument similar to Theorem 3.2 we can prove the orthogonal decompositions

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma^\rho &= \Gamma_{\rho c} \dot{+} \Gamma_e^{\rho*} = \Gamma_{\rho c}^* \dot{+} \Gamma_e^\rho, \\ \Gamma^\rho &= \Gamma_c^\rho \dot{+} \Gamma_{\rho e}^* = \Gamma_c^{\rho*} \dot{+} \Gamma_{\rho e} \end{aligned}$$

for the Hilbert space  $\Gamma^\rho$  of  $n$ -differences ( $n=1, 2$ ). Hence we obtain the orthogonal decompositions

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma^\rho &= \Gamma_{\rho h} \dot{+} \Gamma_e^\rho \dot{+} \Gamma_{\rho e}^*, \\ \Gamma_c^\rho &= \Gamma_{\rho h} \dot{+} \Gamma_e^\rho. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, on a compact bordered or an open complex polyhedron  $\mathbf{K}$ , we can also show the orthogonal decompositions for the Hilbert space  $\Gamma^\rho$  which are analogous to those in § 3. 4 and § 3. 5.

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