

# Dual Spaces are Real: Orientation Types in Geometric Algebra

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computer  
 vision lab

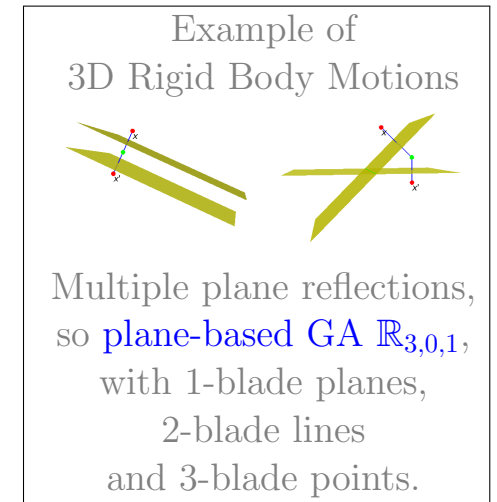
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# 1 Duality within the Structure of Geometric Algebra

How we set up a geometric algebra  $\mathbb{R}_{p,n,z}$  for an application, to obtain structure-preserving transformation operators:

- Determine what the desired **symmetry operations** are.
- Make those into **orthogonal transformations**...
- ... by multiple reflections, through **Cartan-Dieudonné**.
- That determines what **vectors model**, and hence the **metric space**.
- **Geometric product** gives the **versors** (orthogonal transformations).
- Higher level **symmetry invariants** are then the  **$\wedge$ -blades**.
- Highest element is the **pseudoscalar  $\mathbb{I}$** , invariant (modulo scale/sign).
- Then use **complementarity principles** (**duality**) for more expressivity (OPNS/IPNS).



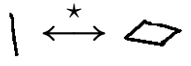

Is duality then *convenient*, rather than *essential* for modelling?

NO! There are aspects of geometrical reality not yet captured in the above.

We want all of  $\uparrow$ ,  $\diamond$ ,  $\downarrow$ ,  $\dagger$  represented to transform algebraically and geometrically correctly.

## 2 The Two Dualities

- Basic **wedge product**  $\wedge$  of the GA constructs the **geometric primitives** (as invariants).
- Two ways of doing *complement of wedge* (Gunn's polarity vs duality):

$(X \wedge Y)^* = X \cdot Y^*$	inner product, <b>orthogonal complement</b>	
$(X \wedge Y)^* = X^* \vee Y^*$	join product, <b>orientational complement</b>	

We have overloaded the notation for now, they may be different!

- Such constructions are truly **geometric** ('Clifford equivariant').
- They coexist, but 'orientational' takes probe  $X$  to dual probe  $X^*$ , so to a dual space?
- Both forms of dualization are **complementation** and involve the **pseudoscalar**  $\mathbb{I}$ .

### 3 Duals as Complementation of Blades within Same Algebra

- In numerical computations on multivectors, the dual involves **complementation of indices**, with a sign determined by the choice of pseudoscalar  $\mathbb{I}$ , since  $X^* \equiv X \mathbb{I}$ .
- For a  $k$ -blade, it gives an  $(n - k)$ -blade *in the same geometric algebra  $\mathcal{Cl}(W)$* .
- This complementation definition can also be mimicked in **degenerate algebras** (with  $\mathbb{I}^2 = 0$ ). On ONB blades  $E_i$ , the **Hodge dual**  $\star E_i$  is then defined by:  $E_i \wedge \star E_i = \mathbb{I}$
- Both duals  $X^*$  and  $\star X$  are interpreted in terms of **orthogonality of subspaces**.
- $A^*$  can be used for **orthogonal characterization** of subspaces:  $x \wedge A = 0 = x \cdot A^*$  (OPNS/IPNS).

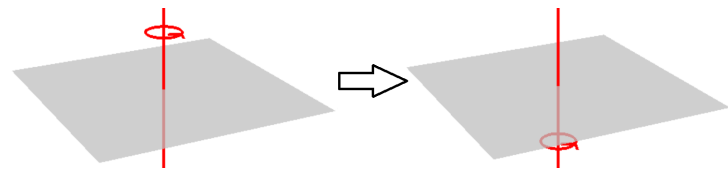
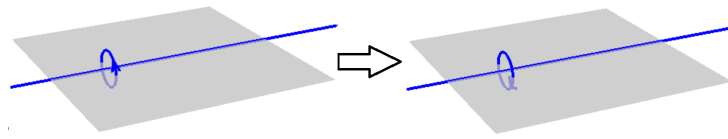
## 4 Dual Space: Complementary Orientations Transform Differently

- Transforming a dual by a versor may involve an extra sign:

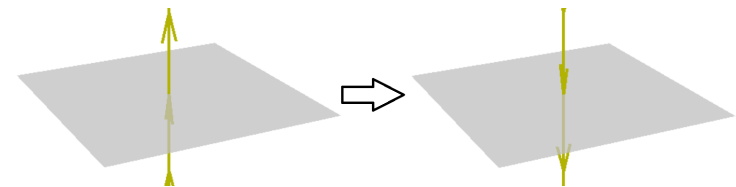
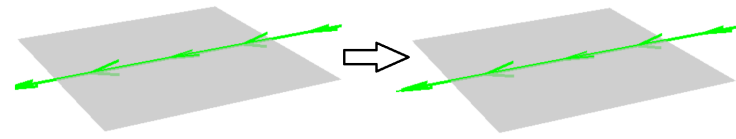
orthogonal complement:  $\underline{V}[A\mathbb{I}] = \underline{V}[A]\underline{V}[\mathbb{I}] = \underline{V}[A]\mathbb{I}\det(\underline{V})$ , so  $\underline{V}[A^*] = \underline{V}[A]^* \det(\underline{V})$ .

Hodge-type dualization:  $\underline{V}[E_i \wedge \star E_i] = \underline{V}[\mathbb{I}] = \mathbb{I}\det(\underline{V})$ , so  $\star \underline{V}[E_i] = \underline{V}[\star E_i] / \det(\underline{V})$ .

- Such a reflection sign is also observed for differently oriented geometric elements:



extrinsically oriented lines  
(axes)

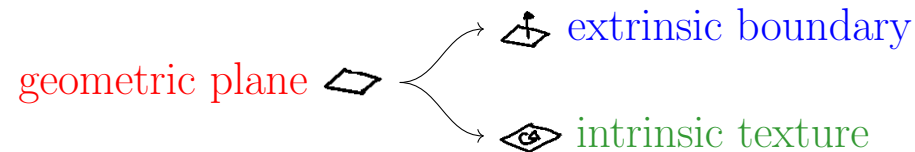


intrinsically oriented lines  
(spears)

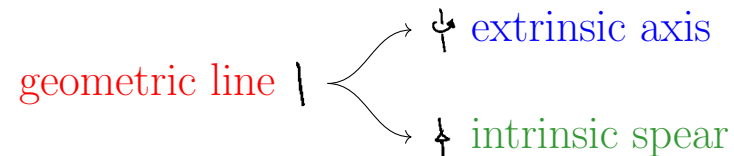
- Complementary orientation** of an element is a consistent geometric interpretation of its dual.

## 5 Complementary Orientations

- There are two orientation types for a plane  $\diamond$ : **extrinsic**  $\updownarrow$  and **intrinsic**  $\diamond\textcircled{G}$ .



- Each has a sign/weight, for **inside/outside** (boundary spec) or **handedness/chirality** (texture).
- Similarly, in 3D we may want **axes**  $\updownarrow$  (lines to turn around, **extrinsic**) and **spears**  $\updownarrow$  (lines to move along, **intrinsic**).



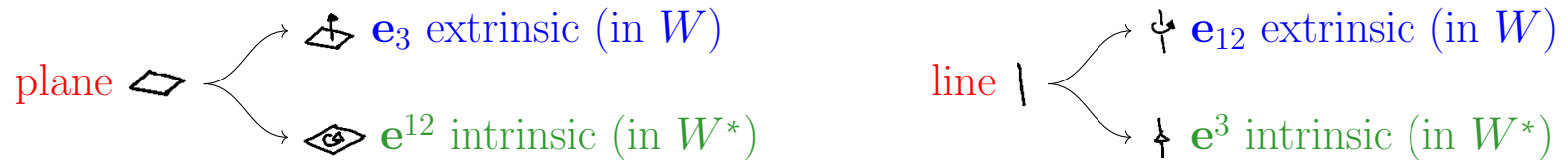
Both are needed in classical mechanics, in the GA version of ‘**axial**’ and ‘**polar**’ vectors.

- All these orientation specifications are in principle *independent*, when modelling: for planes, we may want an **outside pointing border** with a **left-handed texture**, or any of the four combinations.

## 6 Encoding Orientation Types Algebraically

We want all of  $\triangleleft$ ,  $\triangleleft_{\mathcal{G}}$ ,  $\psi$ ,  $\dagger$  represented to transform algebraically and geometrically correctly.

- But how to tell them apart: is algebraic element  $\mathbf{e}_3$  normal vector of plane  $\triangleleft$ , or a spear line  $\dagger$  in direction  $\mathbf{e}_3$ ? They transform the same, but are different as subspaces! And  $\mathbf{e}_{12}$  is taken by  $\psi$ ...
- Not enough elements to encode! So need another space  $W^*$  to maintain/administrate the duals.
- In coordinate notation, let us use superscripts for those dual elements.

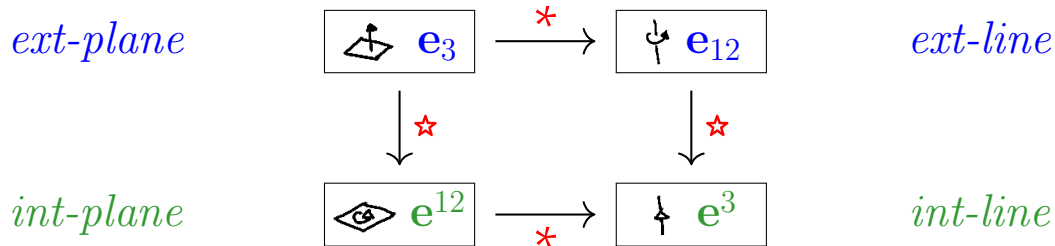


- In OGA  $\mathbb{R}_3$ , the geometric plane  $\triangleleft$  with extrinsic normal vector  $\mathbf{e}_3 \triangleleft$  has an intrinsic representation  $\mathbf{e}^1 \wedge \mathbf{e}^2 = \mathbf{e}^{12} \triangleleft_{\mathcal{G}}$ , the wedge of two spears  $\mathbf{e}^1 \dagger$  and  $\mathbf{e}^2 \dagger$  in dual algebra  $\mathbb{R}_3^*$ .
- Related by duality  $\star$  as  $\star \mathbf{e}_3 = \mathbf{e}^{12}$ , relative to the pseudoscalar  $\mathbb{I} = \mathbf{e}_{123}$  or  $\star 1 = \mathbf{e}^{123}$ .
- Now each orientation type transforms automatically correctly under odd or even versors.
- The two types can be coupled by the pseudoscalar; but in some applications, we want as independently specifiable properties. Now studying Laguerre/Lie geometry for that purpose.

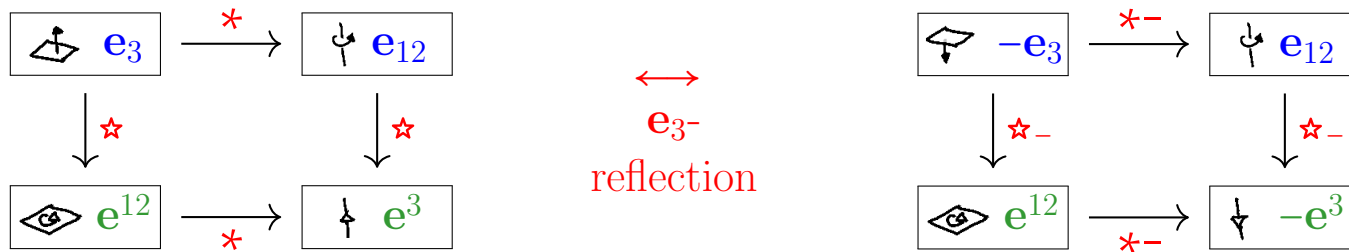
## 7 The Two Dualities Interpreted

Duality  $*$  gives **orthogonal complement** within same orientation type.

Duality  $\star$  gives **orientational complement** of same geometrical element.



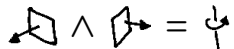
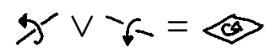
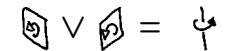

Either duality gets a sign under reflection. Therefore **diagonally opposite elements** have the same transformational symmetries.





## 8 Constructing Oriented Elements: New Space, New Algebra?

- Our **usual duality** relates subspace characterization to **wedge** and **dot** products (OPNS/IPNS). That gives the **orthogonal complement** interpretation:  $(X \wedge Y)^* = X \cdot Y^*$ .
- The **projective duality** more naturally relates to the **meet** and **join** products. This gives the **orientation type** interpretation:  $\star(X \wedge Y) = \star X \vee \star Y$ .
- For instance, an **(extrinsic) axis**  $\psi$  is the intersection (**meet**) of two 3D planes, and an **(intrinsic) plane** is the union (**join**) of two 3D lines. Indifferent to orientation type.

<b>OGA</b> $\mathbb{R}_3$	meet of planes gives <b>ext-line</b>	join of spears gives <b>int-plane</b>
space of planes ( <b>extrinsic</b> )	 $e_1 \wedge e_2 = e_{12}$	 $e_{23} \vee e_{31} = \star e_3$
space of spears ( <b>intrinsic</b> )	 $e^{23} \vee e^{31} = \star e^3$	 $e^1 \wedge e^2 = e^{12}$

NOTE: Classical join maps  $W \times W \rightarrow W$ , new join  $W \times W \rightarrow W^*$ . New join  $X \vee Y \equiv \star X \wedge \star Y$  was redefined to involve 2 rather than 3 pseudoscalars, for better orientational reflection properties. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>See Leo Dorst [2023] *Poincaré Duality Encodes Complementary Orientations in Geometric Algebras*, doi 10.1002/mma.9754

## 9 The Metrics of $\mathcal{C}(W)$ and $\mathcal{C}(W^*)$

- Plane-based GA is modelled as  $\mathbb{R}_{d,0,1}$ , which is proper for Euclidean geometry.
- Point-based GA, as Klein dual construction, would get  $\mathbb{R}_{1,0,d}^*$ ; but its natural use in paraxial optics (see [poster]) requires  $\mathbb{R}_{d,0,1}$ . There Euclidean distances are ‘join strengths’.
- There thus seems no necessary relationship between the GA metric structure of a space  $W$  and its dual space  $W^*$ .
- How much freedom do we have to choose the  $W^*$ -metric given a  $W$ -metric?  
The oriented projective relationships of meet and join will work anyway.  
Subspace definition in either  $W$  or  $W^*$ , by point probing  $P \wedge \star A = 0 = \star P \vee A$ .
- This is the question I had hoped to answer definitively for AGACSE 2024...

## 10 The Metric Relationship Between the Dual Spaces in PGA

Sensible distance measures for an application need to be computable between elements of  $W$  or  $W^*$ , since they represent the same basic geometry. However, the form of the formulas may differ...

- **Plane-based PGA:** base distances on **translation versor**.

Distance vector  $\mathbf{d}$  of **parallel** planes from geometric **ratio**:

$$(\mathbf{u} - \delta_2 e_0) / (\mathbf{u} - \delta_1 e_0) = 1 + (\delta_2 - \delta_1) \mathbf{u} e_0 = 1 + \mathbf{d} e_0$$

Distance vector  $\mathbf{d}$  of **points** from geometric **ratio**:

$$(\mathbb{I}_d + \mathbf{q} e_0 \mathbb{I}_d) / (\mathbb{I}_d + \mathbf{p} e_0 \mathbb{I}_d) = 1 + (\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{p}) e_0 = 1 + \mathbf{d} e_0$$

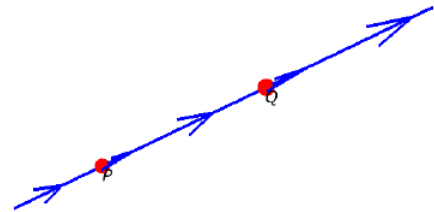
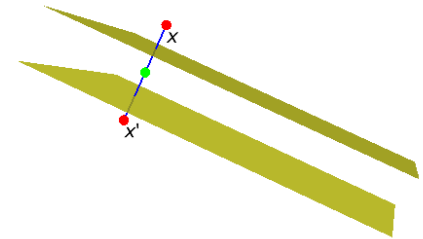
- **Point-based PGA:** base distances on **join magnitude**.

Distance vector  $\mathbf{d}$  of **points** from their **join** (connection):

$$(e^0 + \mathbf{p}) \wedge (e^0 + \mathbf{q}) = (e^0 + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q})) \wedge (\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{p}) = (e^0 + \mathbf{c}) \wedge \mathbf{d}$$

This is a wedge product  $\wedge$ , so non-metric.

Then extract  $\mathbf{d}$ -coefficients from  $e^0 \wedge \mathbf{d}$ .



Geometric ratio in point-based PGA would give  $(e_0 + \mathbf{p})(e_0 + \mathbf{q}) = (\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q}^{-1}) (1 + e_0(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{p}) / (\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q}))$ , perspective distance.

## 11 PGA as Subalgebra of CGA: Newtonian Mechanics and Optics

- The **point-based distance** formulas in both **plane-based** and **point-based** are strongly related; they do not even allow a scaling factor let alone a metric with a different signature?
- **Plane-based**  $\mathbb{R}_{d,0,1}$  and **Point-based**  $\mathbb{R}_{d,0,1}^*$  come together as subalgebras of **CGA**  $\mathbb{R}_{d+1,1}$ :
  - **Plane-based**  $\mathbf{n} - \delta e_0$  is like  $\mathbf{n} + \delta n_\infty$ , so  $e_0$  corresponds to  $-n_\infty$ . Subalgebra:  $n_\infty \cdot X = 0$ .
  - **Point-based**  $e^0 + \mathbf{p}$  is like flat point  $(n_o + \mathbf{p}) \wedge n_\infty$ , so  $e^0$  is like  $n_o$ . Subalgebra:  $n_\infty \wedge X = 0$ .
- Euclidean parts in  $\mathbb{R}_{d+1,1} = \mathbb{R}_d \oplus \mathbb{R}_{1,1}$  can be identified for a metric relationship of  $W$  and  $W^*$ .

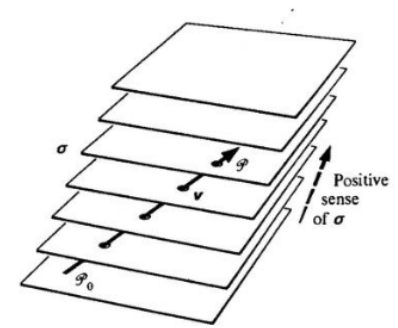
$$\text{sphere-based} = \left\{ \overbrace{n_o, \mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_d}^{\text{point-based}}, \underbrace{n_\infty}_{\text{plane-based}} \right\}$$

- In **homogeneous coordinates**, similar clue in  $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{R} & \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{f}^\top & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ : together **projective**, **upper triangular** is **Euclidean motions**, **lower triangular** is **paraxial perspective**.
- Does this generalize? Is there always a meaningful minimal superalgebra with common metric subspace? Consulting UvA colleague Patrick Forré on such issues.

## 12 BONUS: The Dual Space of Forms in Mathematics

- Both GA dualities differ from the  $k$ -forms, employed in standard multi-linear algebra.
- They produce a scalar when evaluated on a  $k$ -form. Extension of 1-form on vector space  $W$  with bilinear form  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ :

$$W \rightarrow W^* : v \rightarrow v^* : v^*(w) \equiv \langle v, w \rangle, \quad \forall w \in W.$$



From *Gravitation* by Misner, Thorne, Wheeler.

- Those are a non-metric way of making duality, much used in projective geometry and (as differential forms) in calculus. **No explicit pseudoscalar!**
- The dual elements are viewed as **linear maps**, rather than as **complementary subspaces**.
- Their physical interpretation is in terms of quantities vs densities (heights vs contours).
- The  $k$ -forms do form a linear space, with a dimensionality that is the same as our dual  $(n - k)$ -grade element (since  $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$ ), so they can be **related isomorphically**, to  $W$  or  $W^*$ .
- Forré [unpublished] introduces a **natural dual  $A^\natural$**  related to the **pseudoscalar**, to formally treat the mathematical differences with  $k$ -forms and study equivariance.

### 13 BONUS: Convention-free Duality Programming?

- GA duality involves the [projection onto the pseudoscalar  \$\mathbb{I}\$](#) :

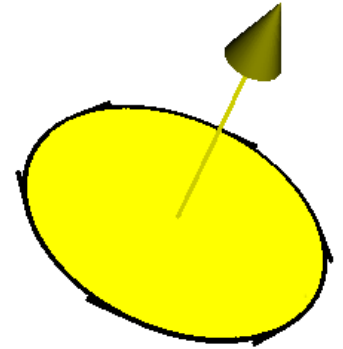
$$A = A\mathbb{I}^{-1}\mathbb{I} = (A \cdot \mathbb{I}^{-1}) \cdot \mathbb{I}.$$

- We keep the **dual**  $A \cdot \mathbb{I}^{-1}$ , and memorize the  $\mathbb{I}$ -convention used.
- More formally, we could see this as a *pseudoscalar split*:

$$\mathcal{C}^{\ell(k)}(W) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\ell(n-k)}(W) \otimes \mathcal{C}^{\ell(n)}(W) : A \mapsto (A\mathbb{I}^{-1}) \otimes \mathbb{I}$$

and concentrating on the first term of this tensor product.

- $\mathbb{I}$  division works only for non-degenerate algebras, which have an invertible pseudoscalar. For degenerate, we mimic it with coordinate-based dual (Hodge dual).  $E_i \wedge (\star E_i) = \mathbb{I}$ .
- But complementation aspect of duality in formal proofs can be codified without getting specific.
- The tensor view may be the way to convention-free programming?



## 14 BONUS: Why We Use Planes Rather Than Points, as Vectors in PGA

### DIMENSION-AGNOSTIC REPRESENTATION OF GEOMETRY!

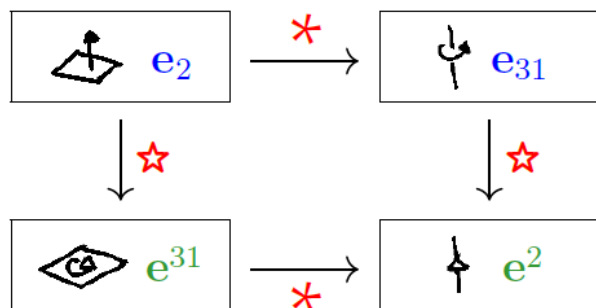
algebra	ext-plane	int-plane
OGA $\mathbb{R}_3$	$\mathbf{e}_1$	$\mathbf{e}^{23}$
PGA $\mathbb{R}_{3,0,1}$	$\mathbf{e}_1$	$e^0 \wedge \mathbf{e}^{23} = e^{023}$
CGA $\mathbb{R}_{3+1,1,0}$	$\mathbf{e}_1$	$n_o \wedge n_\infty \wedge \mathbf{e}^{23} = e^{+-23}$

For these relatively dual primitives compared to the classical approach, we should use

$$D^* = D\mathbb{I},$$

to correspond to the usual Hestenes dualization  $A^* = A/\mathbb{I}$  ( $=D$ ) in geometrical semantics.

## 15 Summary and Future Direction



- Two compatible dualizations: **orthogonal complement** and **orientational complement**.
- Both **pseudoscalar-based** (unlike forms), both useful.
- They couple **outer product**  $\wedge$  to **inner product**  $\cdot$  and **join product**  $\vee$ , respectively.
- Consistent geometric interpretation of either and both, within one's chosen semantics.
- So far in this talk, coupled by the **pseudoscalar**  $\mathbb{I}$ .

Pure **oriented geometry** appears in **Laguerre geometry**  $\mathbb{R}_{d,1,1}$  of oriented flats, and **Lie sphere geometry**  $\mathbb{R}_{d+1,2,0}$  for oriented rounds.

- They decouple the two dualizations from their relationships by pseudoscalar  $\mathbb{I}$ .
- These geometries thus give more explicit control of intrinsic/extrinsic properties...
- ...and versors that act on them (**Huygens wave propagation**, **contact transformations**).
- It will make a nice retirement project, after January 2025.





**ANY QUESTIONS?**

## 16 (Appendix) Orthogonal Complement; IPNS/OPNS

- Let us focus on blades, which represent subspaces as **outer product null space**:

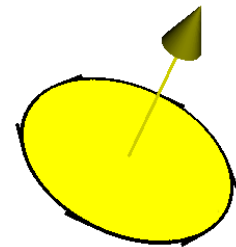
$$[A] \equiv \text{OPNS}[A] = \{\mathbf{x} \in W : \mathbf{x} \wedge A = 0\}$$

- For invertible pseudoscalars, the usual view is that the dual of a blade characterizes the **orthogonal complement**  $[A]^\perp$ :

$$[A]^\perp = \text{OPNS}[A^*]$$

- By duality of outer and inner product, we then have an alternative dual characterization of the subspace  $[A]$ :

$$[A] = \text{IPNS}[A^*] = \{\mathbf{x} \in W : \mathbf{x} \cdot (A^*) = 0\}$$



These subspace characterizations involve only the geometric locality, not the **orientation** (or weight).