# UNIFORM NETWORKS, SPONGE SURFACES AND UNIFORM SPONGE POLYHEDRA IN 3-D SPACE

by: Arch. Michael Burt, D.Sc., Professor Emeritus Technion, Israel Institute of Technology (I.I.T) The diversity of shapes and forms which meets the eye is overwhelming. They shape our environment: physical, mental, intellectual. Theirs is a dynamic milieu; time induced transformation, flowing with the change of light, with the relative movement of the eye, with physical and biological transformation and the evolutionary development of the perceiving mind. В

"Our study of natural form, "the essence of morphology", is part of that wider science of form which deals with the forms assumed by nature under all aspects and conditions, and in a still wider sense, with forms which are theoretically imaginable.....(On Growth and Form – D'Arcy Thompson), "Theoretically" to imply that we are dealing with causal- rational forms.



Finite Saddle Polyhedra.



Periodic, uniform and non-uniform infinite sponge polyhedra related to a minimal (hyperbolic) surface of g =3 which subdivides space between two diamond lattices.







#### С

Abstract and physical 3-D space is not a passive vacuum. It is populated with inter-relating and inter-connected entities, generating configurations represented as diagrams with a network characteristics and hyperbolic 'force fields', and surface partitions, aptly described as sponge surface configurations. Diagrams of this kind can represent the structure of almost any plurality that may exist; from a reality of any battle field, cultural economical or political, to transportation and communication systems, to social patterns, cosmological arrays and patterns of perception, knowledge and thought .

D

A periodic ordered network is formed by extended repetition of a locally symmetrical association of vertex figures. The resulting configuration of vertices and axes-edges could be described as a polyhedral network, with edges terminated at one or two vertices, each, and vertices joining n-edges together, featuring its bonding valency, so as to conform with the following relation: = , with E: V&Val.av. standing for the number of Edges, Vertices and average Valency value in a vertex, respectively. In the case of a periodic network, the same applies to its translation unit (T.U.):

=





WITH VERY HIGH DEGREE OF REBULARITY.

- A REPETITIVE PERIODIC SURFACE UNIT.







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**networks come in dual pairs.** Each network is uniquely determined by, and reciprocal of its dual (complementary) companion.

ery dual pair of networks is associated with a continuous hyperbolical sponge face which subdivides the space between the two, into two complementary -spaces.

s trinity of the dual pair and the associated-reciprocal sponge surface is most conspicuous, all pervading geometric-topological phenomenon of our 3pace, associated with its order and organization and more than anything else ermines the way we perceive and comprehend its structure













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By defining as 'morphic' those processes which display a movement oward greater 3-dimensional spatial order, symmetry or form (Whyte-1969) and morphology as the logical preoccupation with and manipulation of those processes, than the research into the nature of networks and the associated sponge surfaces may be classified as the essence of morphology.









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the vertex figure characteristics (geometric-symmetrical and topological) of a given network, tightly correspond to the topological-symmetrical characteristics of the close-pack cells of it's dual. By proxy it may be stated that all constituents of a given 'trinity' (the dual networks pair and the associated sponge surface) act under the same topological – Symmetrical regime.

-Connectivity value (C) of the two continuous dual network graphs is one and the same for both, and is the same as genus-(g) value of the associated sponge surface:

 $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{N} + \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{a}$  (with 1.8 N as the number of Line edges and

Н

Each of the sponge surfaces may be mapped with a grid, representing eventually a sponge polyhedron which conforms with the Euler's heorem and formula, stating that:

**/-E+F=2(1-g),** with g ≥ 2 (when V, E, F&g correspond to the number of /ertices, Edges, Faces and the genus value of the 2d-manifold, respectively).

e total average curvature value  $\sum \alpha_{av}$ . of a vertex region of a onge polyhedron may be expressed as :

 $[\alpha_{av.} = 2\pi \left[1 - \frac{2(1 - g_{T.U})}{V_{T.U.}}\right],$  as derived from Descartes' panded) theorem, (with  $V_{T.U.}$  representing the number of tices in a translation unit, when the polyhedron is of a rodic nature).

## T-1

Nature is saturated with sponge structures on every possible scale of physical-biological reality. The term was first adopted in biology: "Sponge: any member of the phylum Porifera, sessile aquatic animals, with single cavity in the body, with numerous pores. The fibrous skeleton of such an animal, remarkable for its power of sucking up water". (Wordsworth dictionary).

Of course the term applied to **'spherical sponges'.** It turns out that the key characteristic of porosity is attributable to a much wider morphological phenomenon.

#### T-2

With some extrapolation of the perceiving mind it is right to claim that the sponge phenomenon, with its porosity and permeability characteristics, is central to the physical morphological nature of the human habitat, and represents its defining imagery.



















ignificant venture into **the field of periodic sponge surfaces and** edra dictates a systematic exploration of the uniform space lattice in.

J

he as a shocking surprise to realize that in spite of the great efforts of the last centuries or so, in the exploration of the structure of matter and space allography included), **no systematic effort was committed to exhaustively re the network domain in the "abstract realm of the theoretically nable".** 

### Κ

Valency appears to be the most conspicuous and domineering characteristic of the 3-dimensional uniform networks, of the 'Trinity' type.

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a) Anything less than Val.=3 does not lead to a construction of a space lattice, and -

b) There cannot be anything of a higher valency value than the dodecavalent Octet (close-packing of  $3_0^3+3_0^4$ ) space lattice (?!).

ial density (in terms of a/a3) of the space lattice (the number of edges of ength of <u>a</u> per cubic volume of **a3**). As a referential basis we should have in that the spatial density of the tetravalent diamond lattice is ~ 1,299a/a3; of the hexavalent cubic lattice is 3,000 a/a3 and that of the dodecavalent lattice is ~ 8,485 a/a3 (By density we refer to the lowest possible value for tinct topology). It is of great theoretical interest and probably even of tical importance how far down and up can the density values descend spire.



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Although it is still too early to establish all the possible interrelations, it seems that the parameters - Val.; Den.;  $C_{T.U.}$  or  $g_{T.U.}$  and  $\sum \alpha$ , are capturing the essence of the related topological-geometrical phenomenon.

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An assumption is formed that we are dealing with probably not more than few hundreds of uniform space lattices in 3-D space and in view of the valency limiting values and symmetry constraints it seems that an exhaustive systematic search of these configurations is tenable.

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#### **Uniform Trivalent Space Lattices**

A.F. Wells in his monumental work on Structural Inorganic Chemistry (-1962) started that...."The theory of these nets does not appear to be known and in fact no attempt to derive them systematically seems to have been made until comparatively recently (P.100). As a result of these "recent" attempts he lists **three**, 3-D 3- connected nets... "in which all the smallest circuits are 10-gons"... One of these was announced again by A.F. Wells in 1977 and rediscovered by Toshikazu Sunada (Feb. notices of the American Mathematical society – 2008). Looking into the issue (Jan-2008) it was quite surprising to



## Crystal Math

Diamonds are rarities not just on earth but also mathematically. The crystal structure of diamond has two key distinguishing properties, notes mathematician Toshikazu Sunada of Meiji University in Japan. It has maximal symmetry, which means that its components cannot be rearranged to make it any more symmetrical than it is, and a strong isotropic property, which means that it looks the same when viewed from the direction of any edge. In

the February Notices of the American Mathematical Society, Sunada finds that out of an infinite universe of crystals that can exist mathematically, just one other shares these properties with diamond. Whereas diamond is a web of hexagonal rings, its cousin is made of 10sided rings.

Sunada had originally thought that no one had described this object be"I rediscovered the crystal structure mathematically in rather an accidental way" while working on another problem, Sunada says. After his paper was published, chemists and crystallographers informed him that they had long known about the crystal, which was called (10,3)-a by A. F. Wells in 1977. Diamond's mathematical twin can exist in a slightly distorted form as an arrangement of silicon atoms in strontium silicide. — *Charles Q. Choi* 



TWO OUT OF INFINITY: Diamond and the K4, or (10,3)-a,











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NOTATION CONNECTIVITY SPATIAL DENSITY				
1	3-4.8.1249	49	Disurf	0.2402366734 THE LOWEST DENSITY
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2	3-8444	4	(3.122)	0.2545584414@
3	3-4.8.12.1825	25	.0.2	0.270501284%
4	3-4.8.16 5	5	(4.8°)	0.285181197 a/a3
5	3-4.123	13	F.C.	0.288972738a/a
6	3-4.143	5	(4.82)	0.310392110 a/a
			(4.8°)	0.3369009264/a
7	3-4.1243	13	C.C.	0.319805153 4/4
8	3-4.124	7	Hex.	0.369504172 <i>4</i> 63
9	3-4.1225	25	C.	0.397747564 4/23
10	3-4.12.3187	7	Hex.	0.43755919994/2
11	3-4.16.1827	7	Hex.	0.43755919946
12	3-841249	49	EC. surg!	0.4522727854/2
13	3-6.931213	13	Tet.	0.452272785 0/2
14	3-124144	4	Hex.	0.456911844 a/23
15	3-6.82127	7	Tet.	0.4710452 a/a3
16	3-6.102	4	Hex.	0.481713275 <i>4a</i>
17	3-6.825	25	C.	0.493078451263
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UNFORM 9-VALENT SPACE -LATTICES.



UNIFORM DECAVALENT SPACE-LATTICES.





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UNIFORM DODECAIALENT 12-3545 SDACE LATTICE (OCTET LATTICE) AND RELATED SPONSE SURFACE AND UNIFORM SPONSE POLYHEDRON





UNIFORM DECAVALENT 10-394% SPACE LATTICE AND RELATED SPONCE SURFACE AND SPONGE POLYMEDRA Den. 10-3:45=10.000a/as



UNIFORM 11-VALENT 11-3°475 SPACE LATTICE AND RELATED SPONSE SURFACE AND UNIFORM SPONSE POLYHEDRON



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## niform Dodecavalent and higher valency Space Lattices or: how far alency and spatial density values can go.

Iniform dodecavalent 'octet' based space lattices exist in more than one pological version, but all come to same spatial density of **8,485281374 /a3.** 

The infinite sponge polyhedron 3 gives rise to a uniform dodecavalent **12-34)** space lattice, the density of which **is 10,73918545a/a3 (!)** 

Q

e quest for higher density networks led to a spatial experiment as llows:

Its perform an edge-length translation of a given uniform n-valent ace lattice in an arbitrary direction from position A into position B. The resulting network is a 4-dimensional feature, the 3-dimensional presentation of which displays a uniform(n+1)-valent lattice as cell.

e spatial density of the resulting space lattice will be:

en.  $(n+1) = \frac{Den.(n)}{E_{T.U.}}(2E_{T.U.}+1)$ , with  $E_{T.U.}$  as the number of edges thin the translation unit of the lattice.



M 11-VALENT 11-3'54'S SPACE LATTICE











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The edge length translation could be performed  $\mathbf{m}$  times, leading to a uniform  $(\mathbf{n}+\mathbf{m})$ -valent space lattice, the spatial density of which will amount to:

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Den.(n+m) = 
$$\frac{\text{Den.}(n)}{\text{E}_{\text{T.U.}}} [2^{\text{m}} \cdot \text{E}_{\text{T.U.}} + \frac{(1+m)m}{2}]$$

In fact <u>m</u> and the spatial density values can reach to infinity (!) and that, at least theoretically, without causing any edge intersections. These lattices represent a novel class, that of the Uniform Entangled Space Lattices.

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**nclusion**, the networks in 3-D space represent two basically different otypes:

orks which could be characterized as consisting of a trinity of spatially ciated features of a dual pair of space lattices and the reciprocal rbolic surface partition, subdividing the space between the two, entangled networks, in themselves representing few classes, the nature of duals and the associated partition surfaces are still to be explored.

erning the 'Trinity Networks' (1), on the basis of their symmetry constraints d space and the resulting valency range in a vertex (Val.=3÷12), a lusion was drawn that their domain of all 'theoretically imaginable' uniform e lattices is limited in scope to the extent that enables their exhaustive matic identification and enumeration. So far nearly 180 such uniform e lattices were identified with their density ranging from 0,24023 a/a3 (for ivalent) to 10,7392 a/a3 (for the dodecavalent)