

Spectral Processing

Misha Kazhdan

[Taubin, 1995] A Signal Processing Approach to Fair Surface Design

[Desbrun, *et al.*, 1999] Implicit Fairing of Arbitrary Meshes...

[Vallet and Levy, 2008] Spectral Geometry Processing with Manifold Harmonics

[Bhat *et al.*, 2008] Fourier Analysis of the 2D Screened Poisson Equation...

And much, much, much, more...

Outline

- Motivation
- Laplacian Spectrum
- Applications
- Conclusion

Motivation

Recall:

Given a signal, $f: [0, 2\pi) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, we can write it out in terms of its *Fourier decomposition*:

$$f(\theta) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}[k] \cdot \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

$\hat{f}[k] \in \mathbb{C}$ is the k -th *Fourier coefficients* of f .

Motivation

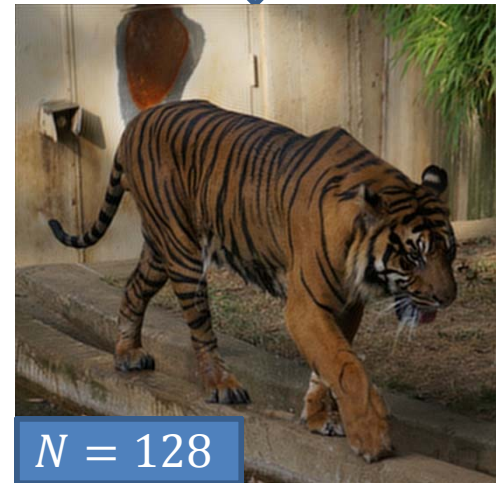
$$f(\theta) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}[k] \cdot \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

Frequency Decomposition:

For smaller $N \in \mathbb{Z}$, the finite sum:

$$f_N(\theta) = \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{f}[k] \cdot \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

represents the lower frequency components of f .



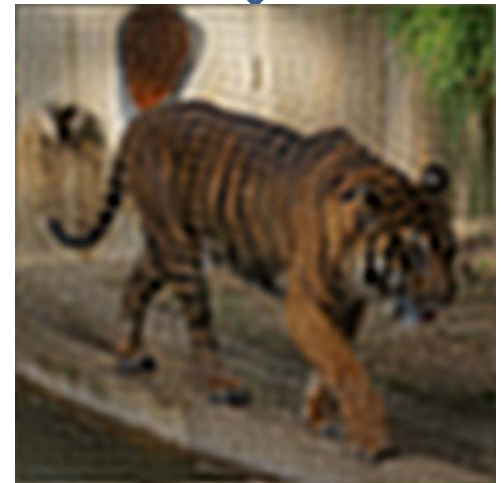
Motivation

$$f(\theta) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}[k] \cdot \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

Filtering:

By modulating the values of $\hat{f}[k]$ as a function of frequency, we can realize different signal filters:

$$\hat{f}[k] \leftarrow \begin{cases} \hat{f}[k] & \text{if } |k| < N \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



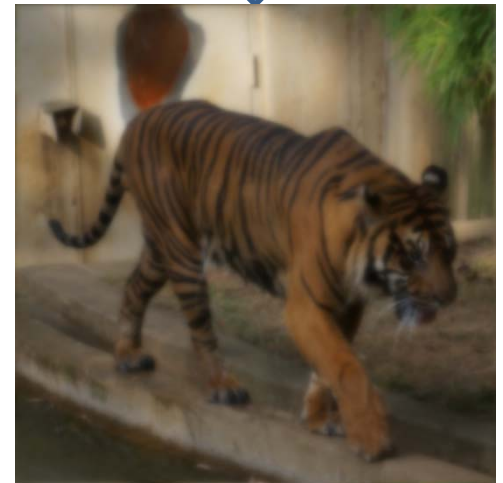
Motivation

$$f(\theta) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}[k] \cdot \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

Filtering:

By modulating the values of $\hat{f}[k]$ as a function of frequency, we can realize different signal filters:

$$\hat{f}[k] \leftarrow \hat{f}[k] \cdot e^{-k^2}$$



Motivation

$$f(\theta) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}[k] \cdot \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

Filtering:

By modulating the values of $\hat{f}[k]$ as a function of frequency, we can realize different signal filters:

$$\hat{f}[k] \leftarrow \hat{f}[k] \cdot (2 - e^{-k^2})$$



Motivation

Goal:

We would like to extend this type of processing to the context of signals defined on surfaces*:



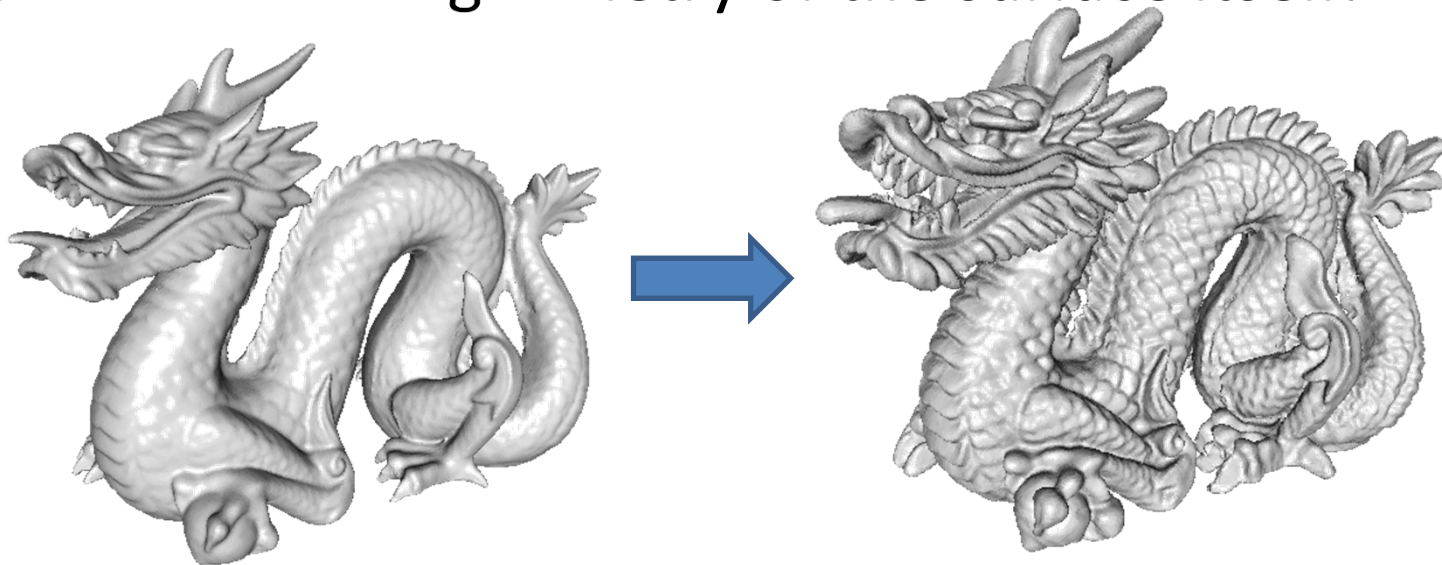
$$\hat{f}[k] \leftarrow \hat{f}[k] \cdot (2 - e^{-k^2})$$

*For simplicity, we will assume all surfaces are w/o boundary.

Motivation

Goal:

We would like to extend this type of processing to the context of signals defined on surfaces* and even to the geometry of the surface itself:



$$\hat{f}[k] \leftarrow \hat{f}[k] \cdot (2 - e^{-k^2})$$

*For simplicity, we will assume all surfaces are w/o boundary.

Motivation

$$f(\theta) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}[k] \cdot \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

[WARNING]:

- In Euclidean space we can use the FFT to obtain the Fourier decomposition efficiently.
- For signals on surfaces, this is more challenging.

Outline

- Motivation
- Laplacian Spectrum
 - Fourier $\leftrightarrow$ Laplacian
 - FEM discretization
- Applications
- Conclusion

How do we obtain the
Fourier decomposition?

Fourier $\leftrightarrow$ Laplacian

Recall:

In Euclidean space, the *Laplacian*, is the operator that takes a function and returns the sum of (unmixed) second partial derivatives:

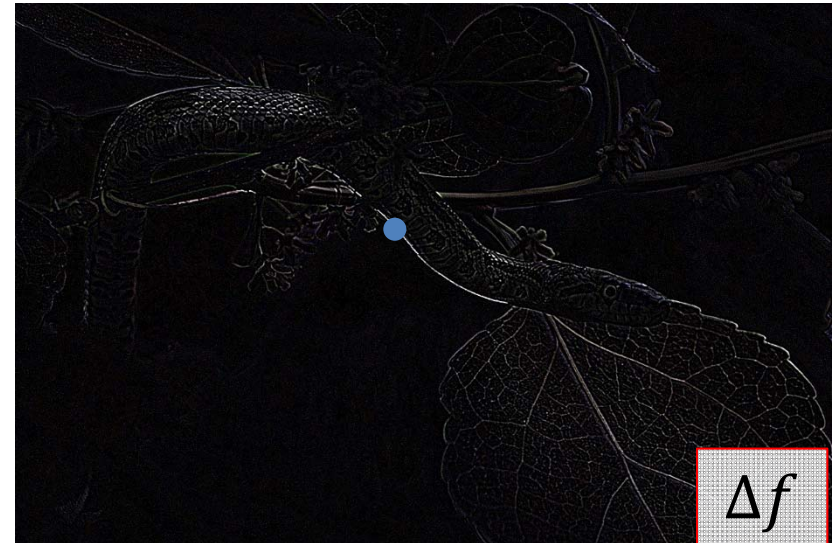
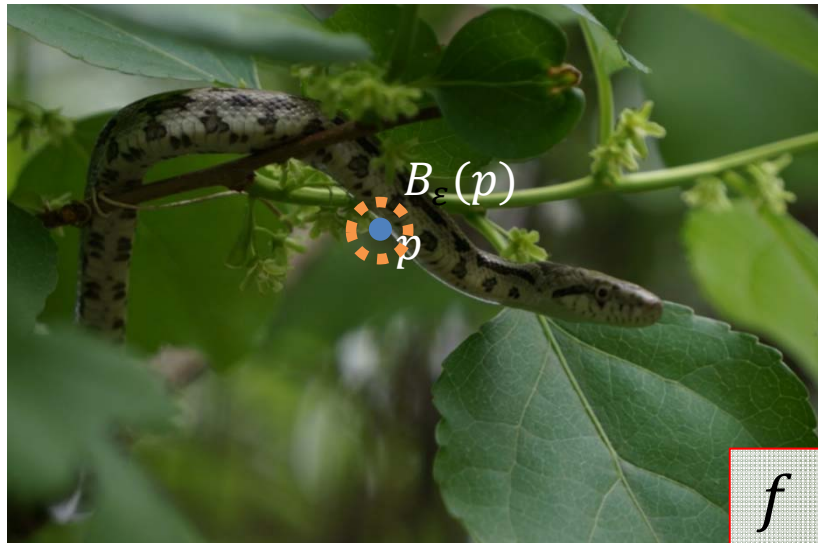
$$\Delta f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} + \dots$$

Fourier $\leftrightarrow$ Laplacian

Informally:

The Laplacian gives the difference between the value at a point and the average in the vicinity:

$$\Delta f(p) \sim \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \left(\text{Avg}_{B_\varepsilon(p)}(f) - f(p) \right)$$



Fourier $\leftrightarrow$ Laplacian

Note:

The complex exponential $f(\theta) = \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$ has Laplacian:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \left(\frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \right)$$

$\Downarrow$

$f(\theta) = \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$ is an eigenfunction of the Laplacian with eigenvalue $-k^2$.

Fourier $\leftrightarrow$ Laplacian

Note:

Similarly, $f(\theta, \phi) = \frac{e^{ik\theta} \cdot e^{il\phi}}{2\pi}$ has Laplacian:

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \right) \left(\frac{e^{ik\theta} \cdot e^{il\phi}}{2\pi} \right) = -(k^2 + l^2) \cdot \left(\frac{e^{ik\theta} \cdot e^{il\phi}}{2\pi} \right)$$

$\Downarrow$

$f(\theta, \phi) = \frac{e^{ik\theta} \cdot e^{il\phi}}{2\pi}$ is an eigenfunction of the Laplacian with eigenvalue $-(k^2 + l^2)$.

Fourier $\leftrightarrow$ Laplacian

Approach:

- Though we cannot compute the FFT for signals on general surfaces, we can define a Laplacian.
- To compute the Fourier decomposition of a signal, f , on a mesh we decompose f as the linear combination of eigenvectors of the Laplacian:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{f}[i] \cdot \phi_i(x) \quad \text{with} \quad \Delta \phi_i = \lambda_i \cdot \phi_i.$$

This is called the
harmonic decomposition of f .

Fourier $\leftrightarrow$ Laplacian

How do we know the eigenvectors of the Laplacian form a basis?

Claims:

1. The Laplacian is a symmetric operator.
2. The eigenvectors of a symmetric operator form an orthogonal basis (and have real eigenvalues).

Fourier $\leftrightarrow$ Laplacian

Preliminaries (1):

- [Definition of the Laplacian]

$$\Delta f = \operatorname{div}(\nabla f)$$

- [Product Rule]

$$\operatorname{div}(f \cdot \vec{v}) = f \cdot \operatorname{div}(\vec{v}) + \langle \nabla f, \vec{v} \rangle$$

- [Inner Product on Functions]

Given a surface $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$:

$$\langle f, g \rangle_S = \int_S f(x) \cdot g(x) \, dx$$

- [Divergence Theorem*]

$$\int_S [\operatorname{div}(\vec{v})](p) = \int_{\partial S} \langle \vec{v}(s), \vec{n}(s) \rangle \, ds$$

Fourier $\leftrightarrow$ Laplacian

Preliminaries (2):

- [Lagrange Multipliers]

The constrained maximizer:

$$\arg \max_x E(x) \text{ s. t. } f(x) = c$$

is obtained when the gradient of E is perpendicular to the contour lines of f :

$$\nabla E = \lambda \nabla g$$

Symmetry of The Laplacian

1. The Laplacian is a symmetric operator

Given a surface $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$, we want to show that for any functions $f, g: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we have:

$$\langle \Delta f, g \rangle_S = \langle f, \Delta g \rangle_S$$



$$\int_S \Delta f \cdot g \, dx = \int_S f \cdot \Delta g \, dx$$

Symmetry of The Laplacian

Proof:

By the definition of the Laplacian:

$$\Delta f = \operatorname{div}(\nabla f)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \Delta f, g \rangle_S &= \int_S \Delta f \cdot g \, dx \\ &= \int_S \operatorname{div}(\nabla f) \cdot g \, dx \\ &= \int_S (\operatorname{div}(g \cdot \nabla f) - \langle \nabla f, \nabla g \rangle) \, dx \\ &= - \int_S \langle \nabla f, \nabla g \rangle \, dx\end{aligned}$$

Symmetry of The Laplacian

Proof:

By the product rule:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \Delta f, g \rangle_S &= \int_S \Delta f \cdot g \, dx \\ &= \int_S \operatorname{div}(\nabla f) \cdot g \, dx \\ &= \int_S (\operatorname{div}(g \cdot \nabla f) - \langle \nabla f, \nabla g \rangle) \, dx \\ &= - \int_S \langle \nabla f, \nabla g \rangle \, dx\end{aligned}$$

Symmetry of The Laplacian

Proof:

By the Divergence Theorem*:

$$\int_S [\operatorname{div}(\vec{v})](p) = \int_{\partial S} \langle \vec{v}(s), \vec{n}(s) \rangle ds = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Delta f, g \rangle_S &= \int_S \Delta f \cdot g \, dx \\ &= \int_S \operatorname{div}(\nabla f) \cdot g \, dx \\ &= \int_S (\operatorname{div}(g \cdot \nabla f) - \langle \nabla f, \nabla g \rangle) \, dx \\ &= - \int_S \langle \nabla f, \nabla g \rangle \, dx \end{aligned}$$

Spectra of Symmetric Operators

2. The e.vectors of a symmetric operator form an orthogonal basis (and have real e.values)

We show this in two steps:

- I. There always exists at least one real eigenvector.
- II. If v is an eigenvector, then the space of vectors perpendicular to v is fixed by the operator.



We can restrict to the subspace perpendicular to the found eigenvectors and recurse.

Spectra of Symmetric Operators

Proof (II):

Suppose that v is an eigenvector of a symmetric operator M and w is orthogonal to v :

$$\langle v, w \rangle = 0$$

Since v is an eigenvector, this implies that:

$$\langle Mv, w \rangle = \langle \lambda v, w \rangle = \lambda \langle v, w \rangle = 0$$

Since M is symmetric, we have:

$$\langle v, Mw \rangle = \langle Mv, w \rangle = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$ The space of vectors orthogonal to v stays orthogonal after applying M .

Spectra of Symmetric Operators

Proof (I):

Consider the constrained maximization

$$\arg \max_v E(v) = \langle v, Mv \rangle \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|v\|^2 = 1$$

The sphere is compact so a maximizer v_0 exists.

At the maximizer, we have:

$$\nabla E = \lambda \nabla \|v_0\|^2$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$2Mv_0 = 2\lambda v_0$$

$\Rightarrow v_0$ is an eigenvector with (real) eigenvalue λ .

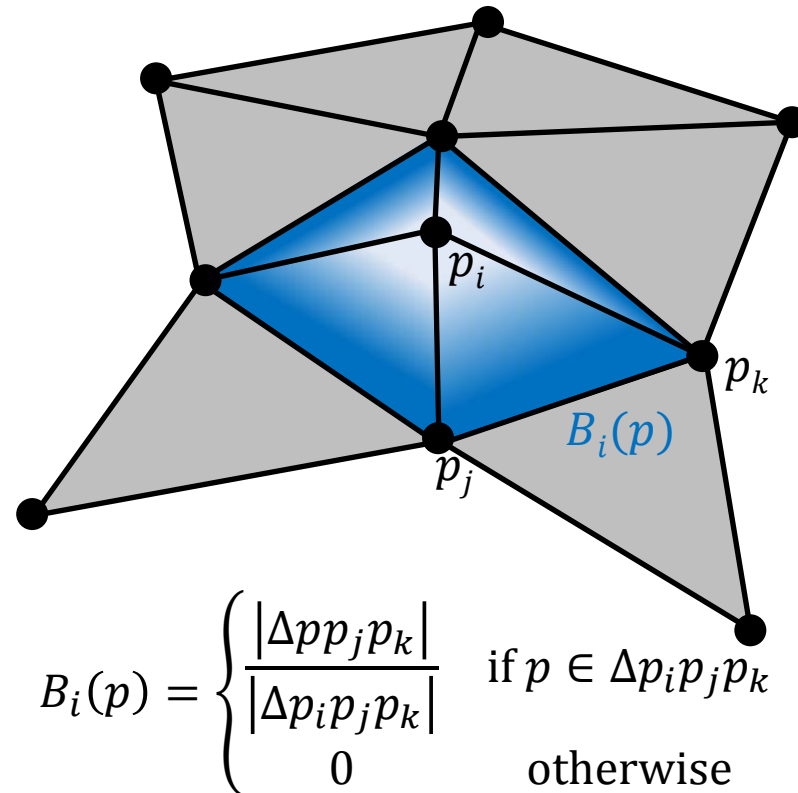
What happens in the
discrete setting?

FEM Discretization

1. To enable computation, we restrict ourselves to a *finite-dimensional* space of functions, spanned by basis functions $\{B_i: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}_{i=1}^n$.

Often these are defined to be the hat functions centered at vertices.

- Piecewise linear
 $\Rightarrow$ Gradients are constant within each triangle
- Interpolatory
 $\Rightarrow B_i(p_j) = \delta_{ij}$



FEM Discretization

1. To enable computation, we restrict ourselves to a *finite-dimensional* space of functions, spanned by basis functions $\{B_i: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}_{i=1}^n$.

Having chosen a basis, we can think of a vector $\vec{f} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ as a “discrete” function:

$$\vec{f} \leftrightarrow f(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \cdot B_i(p)$$

If we use the hat functions as a basis, then:

$$f(p_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \cdot B_i(p_j)$$

FEM Discretization

1. To enable computation, we restrict ourselves to a *finite-dimensional* space of functions, spanned by basis functions $\{B_i: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}_{i=1}^n$.

[WARNING]:

In general, given:

- $\mathcal{L}$: A continuous linear operator
- $\vec{f} \in \mathbb{R}^n \leftrightarrow f(p)$: A discrete function

The function $\mathcal{L}(f)$ will *not* be in the space of functions spanned by $\{B_i: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}_{i=1}^n$.

FEM Discretization

1. To enable computation, we restrict ourselves to a *finite-dimensional* space of functions, spanned by basis functions $\{B_i: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}_{i=1}^n$.
2. Given a continuous linear operator $\mathcal{L}$, we discretize the operator by *projecting*:

$$g = \mathcal{L}(f)$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$\langle g, B_j \rangle_S = \langle \mathcal{L}(f), B_j \rangle_S \quad \forall j$$

FEM Discretization

$$\langle g, B_j \rangle_S = \langle \mathcal{L}(f), B_j \rangle_S \quad \forall j$$

Writing out the discrete functions:

$$g(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n g_i \cdot B_i(p) \quad \text{and} \quad f(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \cdot B_i(p)$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n g_i \cdot \langle B_i, B_j \rangle_S = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \cdot \langle \mathcal{L}(B_i), B_j \rangle_S \quad \forall j$$

FEM Discretization

$$\sum_{i=1}^n g_i \cdot \langle B_i, B_j \rangle_S = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \cdot \langle \mathcal{L}(B_i), B_j \rangle_S \quad \forall j$$

Setting M and L to be the matrices:

$$M_{ij} = \langle B_i, B_j \rangle_S \quad \text{and} \quad L_{ij} = \langle \mathcal{L}(B_i), B_j \rangle_S$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n M_{ij} \cdot g_i = \sum_{i=1}^n L_{ij} \cdot f_i \quad \forall j$$

$\Downarrow$

$$M \vec{g} = L \vec{f}$$

FEM Discretization

$$M_{ij} = \langle B_i, B_j \rangle_S \quad \text{and} \quad L_{ij} = \langle \mathcal{L}(B_i), B_j \rangle_S$$

Both the mass and stiffness matrices are symmetric and positive (semi)-definite.

When $\mathcal{L} = \Delta$, we have:

$$L_{ij} = \langle \Delta B_i, B_j \rangle_S$$

Definition:

The matrix M is called the *mass matrix*.

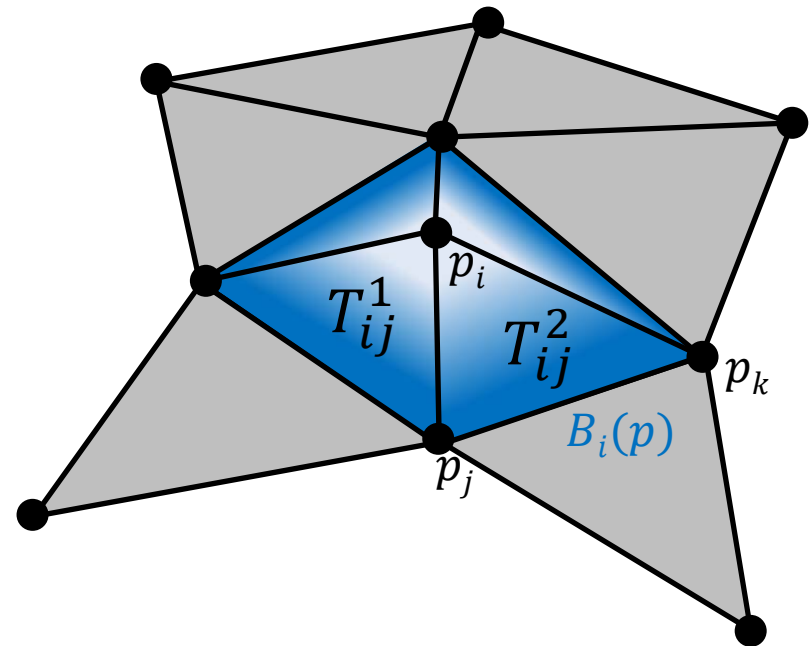
The matrix $-L$ is called the *stiffness matrix*.

FEM Discretization

$$M_{ij} = \langle B_i, B_j \rangle_S \quad \text{and} \quad L_{ij} = -\langle \nabla B_i, \nabla B_j \rangle_S$$

Setting $\{B_i: \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$ to the hat functions, the matrix M is:

$$M_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{|T_{ij}^1| + |T_{ij}^2|}{12} & \text{if } j \in N(i) \\ \sum_{k \in N(i)} M_{ik} & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

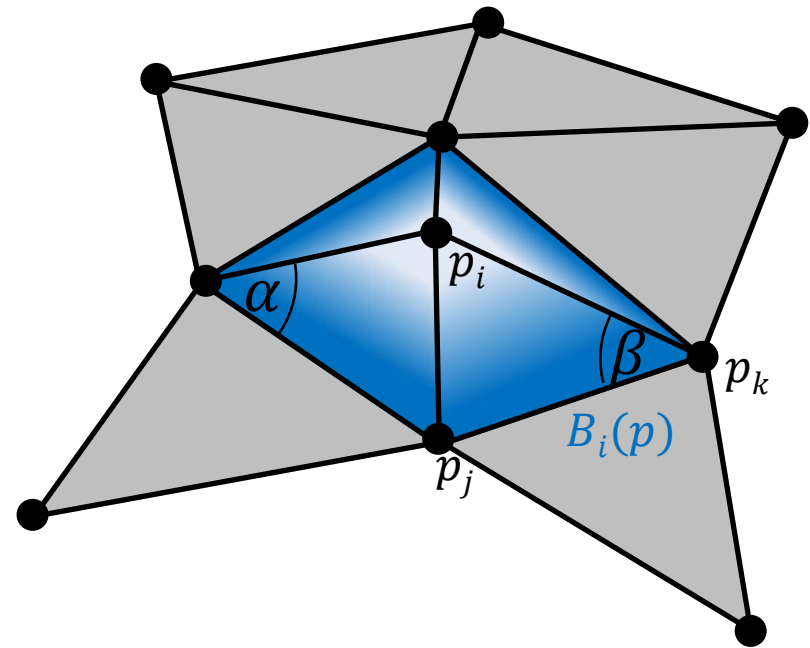


FEM Discretization

$$M_{ij} = \langle B_i, B_j \rangle_S \quad \text{and} \quad L_{ij} = -\langle \nabla B_i, \nabla B_j \rangle_S$$

Setting $\{B_i: \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$ to the hat functions, the matrix L is the cotangent-Laplacian:

$$L_{ij} = \begin{cases} \cot \alpha + \cot \beta & \text{if } j \in N(i) \\ -\sum_{k \in N(i)} L_{ik} & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$



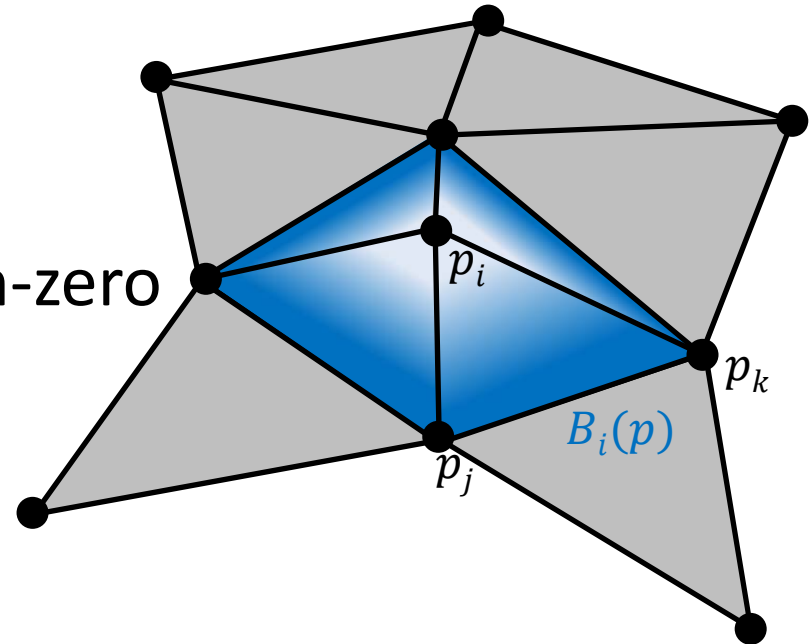
FEM Discretization

$$M_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{|T_{ij}^1| + |T_{ij}^2|}{12} & \boxed{\text{if } j \in N(i)} \\ \sum_{k \in N(i)} M_{ik} & \text{if } i = j \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad L_{ij} = \begin{cases} \cot \alpha + \cot \beta & \boxed{\text{if } j \in N(i)} \\ - \sum_{k \in N(i)} L_{ik} & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

Observations:

– [Sparsity]

Entry (i, j) can only be non-zero if vertex i and vertex j are neighbors in the mesh.

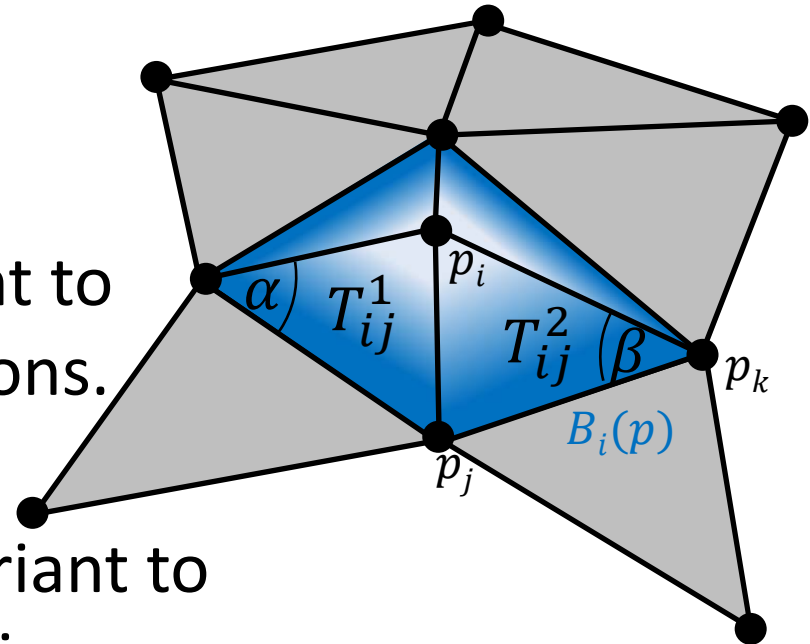


FEM Discretization

$$M_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{|T_{ij}^1| + |T_{ij}^2|}{12} & \text{if } j \in N(i) \\ \sum_{k \in N(i)} M_{ik} & \text{if } i = j \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad L_{ij} = \begin{cases} \cot \alpha + \cot \beta & \text{if } j \in N(i) \\ - \sum_{k \in N(i)} L_{ik} & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

Observations:

- [Authalicity]
The mass matrix is invariant to area-preserving deformations.
- [Conformality]
The stiffness matrix is invariant to angle-preserving deformations.



FEM Discretization

[WARNING]:

Given a discrete function $\vec{f} \leftrightarrow f(p)$, the vector:
 $\vec{g} = L \vec{f}$

Often, the matrix M is approximated by the diagonal *lumped mass matrix*, making inversion simple.

In the literature, the operator $M^{-1}L$ is sometimes called the *normalized Laplacian*.

$$\vec{g} = M^{-1}L\vec{f}$$

FEM Discretization

Laplacian Spectrum:

In the continuous setting, the spectrum of the Laplacian, $\{(\phi_i: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, -\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0})\}$, satisfies:

$$\Delta \phi_i = -\lambda_i \cdot \phi_i$$

And the $\{\phi_i\}$ form an orthonormal basis:

$$\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle_S = \int_S \phi_i(p) \cdot \phi_j(p) dp = \delta_{ij}$$

FEM Discretization

Laplacian Spectrum:

In the discrete setting, the spectrum of the Laplacian, $\{(\vec{\phi}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n, -\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0})\}$, satisfies:

$$L\vec{\phi}_i = -\lambda_i \cdot M\vec{\phi}_i$$

And the $\{\vec{\phi}_i\}$ form an orthonormal basis:

$$\langle \vec{\phi}_i, \vec{\phi}_j \rangle_s = \vec{\phi}_i^T \cdot M \cdot \vec{\phi}_j = \delta_{ij}$$

Finding the $\{(\vec{\phi}_i, \lambda_i)\}$ is called the *generalized eigenvalue problem*.

The Spectrum of the Laplacian

Interpreting the Eigenvalues:

If ϕ is a (unit-norm) eigenfunction of the Laplacian, with eigenvalue λ :

$$\Delta\phi = \lambda \cdot \phi$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$\langle \Delta\phi, \phi \rangle_S = \lambda \cdot \langle \phi, \phi \rangle_S$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$-\langle \nabla\phi, \nabla\phi \rangle_S = \lambda$$

$\Rightarrow$ The eigenvalue λ is a measure of how much ϕ changes, i.e. the frequency of ϕ .

How do we compute the
spectral decomposition?

Getting the Dominant Eigenvector

Assume that a matrix A is diagonalizable, with (unit-norm) spectrum $\{(\vec{\phi}_i, \lambda_i)\}$.

Given $\vec{v}$, we have the harmonic decomposition:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{v} &= \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{v}[i] \cdot \vec{\phi}_i \\ \Rightarrow A\vec{v} &= \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{v}[i] \cdot \lambda_i \cdot \vec{\phi}_i \\ \Rightarrow A^k \vec{v} &= \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{v}[i] \cdot \lambda_i^k \cdot \vec{\phi}_i\end{aligned}$$

Getting the Dominant Eigenvector

$$A^k \vec{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{v}[i] \cdot \lambda_i^k \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$$

Without loss of too much generality, assume λ_n is the largest eigenvalue, $|\lambda_i/\lambda_n| < 1$ for $i \neq n$.

$$A^k \vec{v} = \lambda_n^k \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{v}[i] \cdot \left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_n}\right)^k \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$$

Then $(\lambda_i/\lambda_n)^k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, for $i \neq n$.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{A^k \vec{v}}{|A^k \vec{v}|} \rightarrow \vec{\phi}_n \quad \text{as} \quad k \rightarrow \infty$$

Getting the Dominant Eigenvector

ArnoldiDominant($A \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$)

1. $\vec{v} \leftarrow \text{RandomVector}()$
2. **while**(...)
3. $\vec{v} \leftarrow A\vec{v}$
4. $\vec{v} \leftarrow \vec{v}/|\vec{v}|$
5. $\lambda \leftarrow \langle A\vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle$
6. **return** ($\vec{v}$, λ)

Getting the Sub-Dominant Eigenvector

If the matrix A is symmetric, the eigenvectors will be orthogonal:

ArnoldiSubDominant($A \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$)

1. $(\vec{v}_0, \lambda_0) \leftarrow \text{ArnoldiDominant}(A)$
2. $\vec{v}_1 \leftarrow \text{RandomVector}()$
3. **while**(...)
4. $\vec{v}_1 \leftarrow A\vec{v}_1$
5. $\vec{v}_1 \leftarrow \vec{v}_1 - \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_0 \rangle \cdot \vec{v}_0$

A similar approach can be applied to:

- Solving the generalized eigenvalue problem
- Finding the eigenvectors with smallest eigenvalues
- Finding the eigenvectors with eigenvalues closest to λ

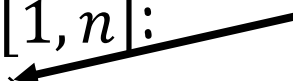
Outline

- Motivation
- Laplacian Spectrum
- Applications
 - Signal/Geometry Filtering
 - Partial Differential Equations
 - Complexity and Approximation
- Conclusion

Signal/Geometry Filtering

HarmonicDecomposition($S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$, $\vec{f} \in \mathbb{R}^n$)

1. $(M, L) \leftarrow \text{MassAndStiffness}(S)$
2. $\{(\vec{\phi}_i, -\lambda_i)\}_{i=1}^n \leftarrow \text{GeneralizedEigen}(M, L)$
3. For each $i \in [1, n]$:
4. $\hat{f}[i] \leftarrow \langle \vec{f}, \vec{\phi}_i \rangle_S$

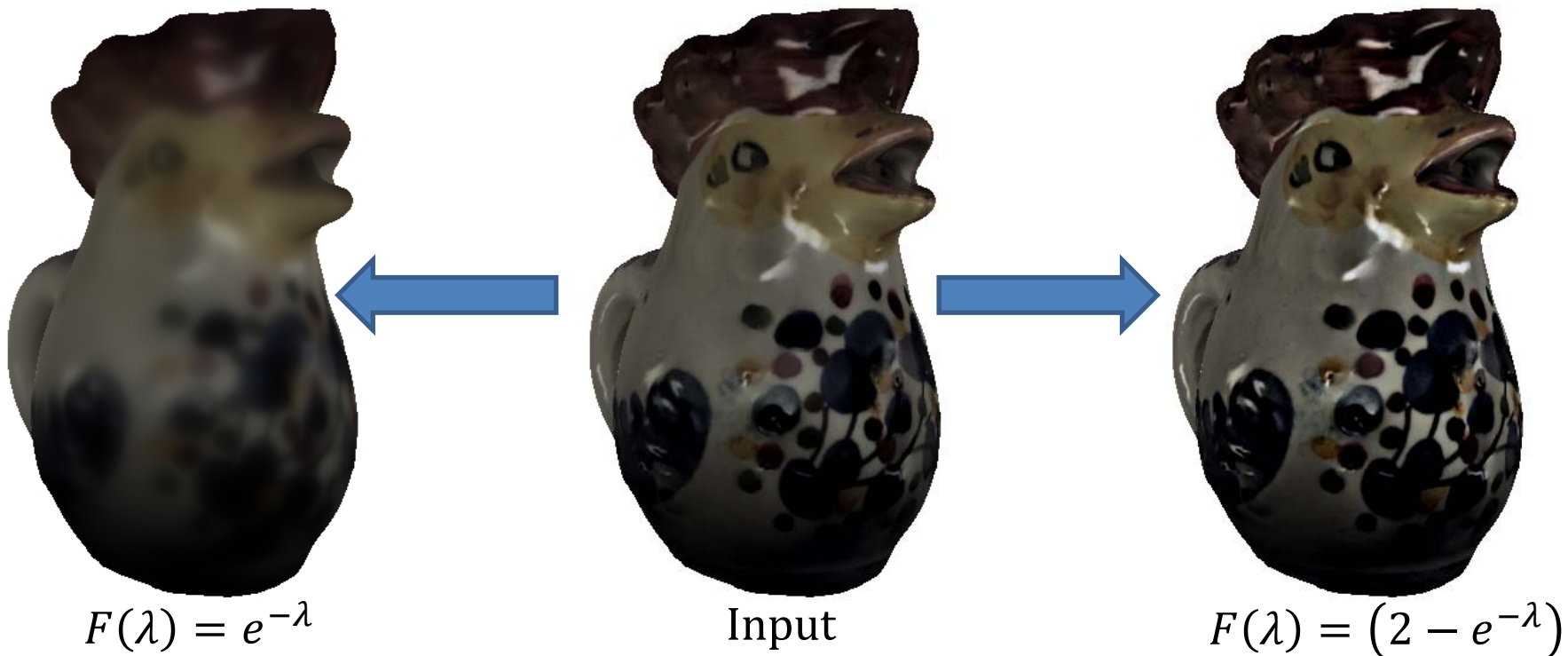
$$\vec{f}^T \cdot M \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$$


Process($F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$)

1. $\vec{g} \leftarrow 0$
2. For each $i \in [1, n]$:
3. $\hat{g}[i] \leftarrow \hat{f}[i] \cdot F(\lambda_i)$
4. $\vec{g} \leftarrow \vec{g} + \hat{g}[i] \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$
5. return $\vec{g}$

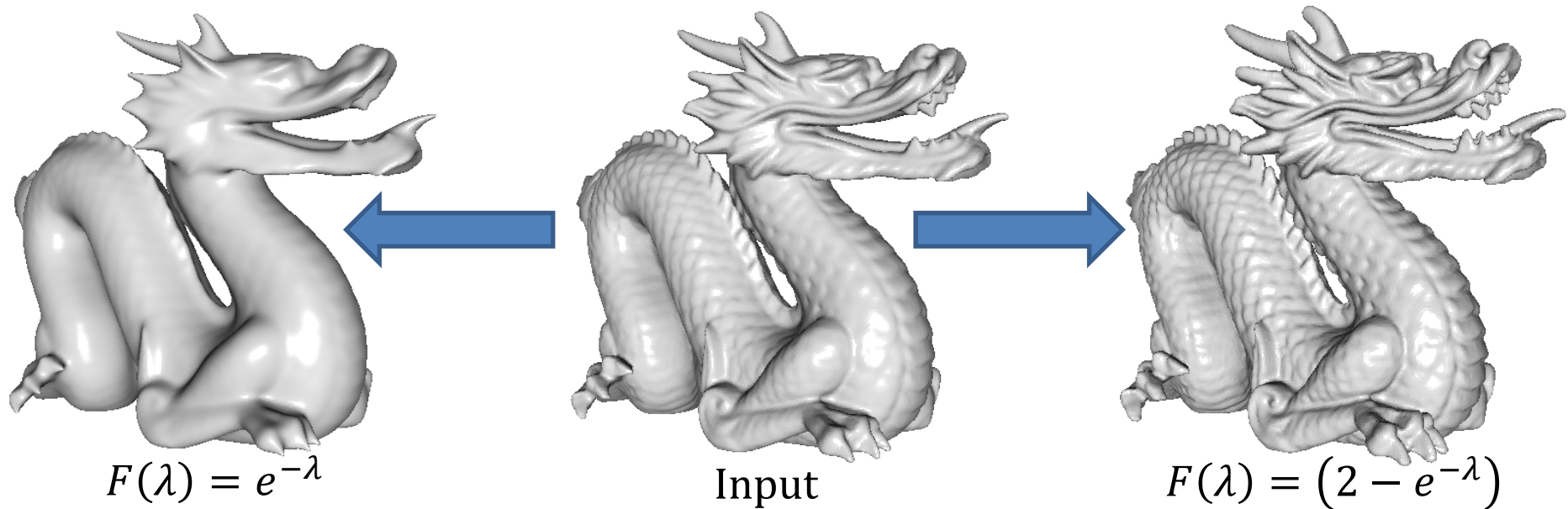
Signal Filtering

Given a color at each vertex, we can modulate the frequency coefficients of each channel to smooth/sharpen the colors.



Geometry Filtering

Using the position of the vertices as the signal, we can modulate the frequency coefficients of each coordinate to smooth/sharpen the shape.



Partial Differential Equations

Recall:

The Laplacian of a function at a point $p \in S$ is the difference between the value at p and the average value of its neighbors.

Heat Diffusion

Newton's Law of Cooling:

The rate of heat loss of a body is proportional to the difference in temperatures between the body and its surroundings.

Translating this into the PDE, if $H(p, t)$ is the heat at position $p \in S$ at time t , then:

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = \eta \cdot \Delta H$$

Heat Diffusion

Newton's Law of Cooling:

The rate of heat loss of a body is proportional to the difference in temperatures between the body and its surroundings.

Goal:

Given an initial heat distribution $h: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, find the solution to the PDE:

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = \eta \cdot \Delta H$$

such that:

$$H(p, 0) = h(p)$$

Heat Diffusion

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = \eta \cdot \Delta H$$

Note:

Let $\{(\phi_i, -\lambda_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ be the Laplacian spectrum.

$\Rightarrow$ The functions:

$$H_i(p, t) = e^{-\eta \cdot \lambda_i \cdot t} \cdot \phi_i(p)$$

are solutions to the PDE.

$\Rightarrow$ Any linear sum of the $H_i(p, t)$ is a solution.

Heat Diffusion

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = \eta \cdot \Delta H$$

Compute the harmonic decomposition of h :

$$h(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{h}[i] \cdot \phi_i(p)$$

Then consider the function:

$$H(p, t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{h}[i] \cdot H_i(p, t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{h}[i] \cdot e^{-\eta \cdot \lambda_i \cdot t} \cdot \phi_i(p)$$

- It is a solution to the heat equation.
- It satisfies $H(p, 0) = h(p)$.

Heat Diffusion (Colors)

HarmonicDecomposition($S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$, $h: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$)

1. ...

Process($t \in [0, \infty)$)

1. $\vec{g} \leftarrow 0$
2. For each $i \in [1, n]$:
3. $\hat{g}[i] \leftarrow \hat{h}[i] \cdot e^{-\eta \cdot \lambda_i \cdot t}$
4. $\vec{g} \leftarrow \vec{g} + \hat{g}[i] \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$
5. return $\vec{g}$



Heat Diffusion (Geometry)

HarmonicDecomposition($S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$, $h: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$)

1. ...

Process($t \in [0, \infty)$)

1. $\vec{g} \leftarrow 0$
2. For each $i \in [1, n]$:
3. $\hat{g}[i] \leftarrow \hat{h}[i] \cdot e^{-\eta \cdot \lambda_i \cdot t}$
4. $\vec{g} \leftarrow \vec{g} + \hat{g}[i] \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$
5. return $\vec{g}$



Heat Diffusion (Geometry)

[WARNING]:

1. As the geometry diffuses, the areas and angles of the triangles change.

⇒ The mass and stiffness matrices change.

⇒ The harmonic decomposition changes.

If we take this into account, we get a non-linear PDE called *mean curvature flow*.

2. Mean curvature flow can create singularities.



Wave Equation

The acceleration of a wave's height is proportional to the difference in height of the surrounding.

Translating this into the PDE, if $H(p, t)$ is the height at position $p \in S$ at time t , then:

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial t^2} = \eta \cdot \Delta H$$

Wave Equation

The acceleration of a wave's height is proportional to the difference in height of the surrounding.

Goal:

Given an initial height distribution $h: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,
find the solution to the PDE:

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial t^2} = \eta \cdot \Delta H$$

such that:

$$H(p, 0) = h(p) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial H}{\partial t}(p, 0) = 0$$

Wave Equation

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial t^2} = \eta \cdot \Delta H}$$

Note:

If $\{(\phi_i, -\lambda_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ are the eigenfunctions/values of the Laplacian, then:

$$H_i^c(p, t) = \cos(\sqrt{\eta \cdot \lambda_i} \cdot t) \cdot \phi_i(p)$$

$$H_i^s(p, t) = \sin(\sqrt{\eta \cdot \lambda_i} \cdot t) \cdot \phi_i(p)$$

are solutions to the PDE.

$\Rightarrow$ Any linear sum of the $H_i^c(p, t)$ and $H_i^s(p, t)$ is a solution to the PDE.

Wave Equation

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial t^2} = \eta \cdot \Delta H}$$

Compute the harmonic decomposition of h :

$$h(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{h}[i] \cdot \phi_i(p)$$

Then consider the function:

$$H(p, t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{h}[i] \cdot H_i^c(p, t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{h}[i] \cdot \cos(\sqrt{\eta \cdot \lambda_i} \cdot t) \cdot \phi_i(p)$$

- It is a solution to the wave equation.
- It satisfies $H(p, 0) = h(p)$.
- It satisfies $\frac{\partial H}{\partial t}(p, 0) = 0$.

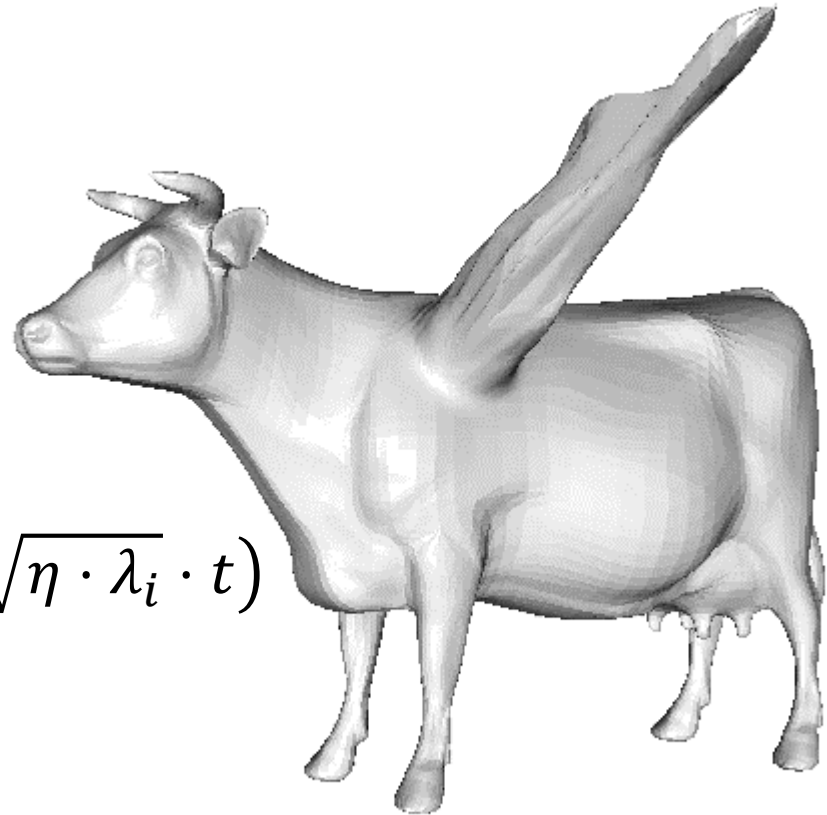
Wave Equation

HarmonicDecomposition($S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$, $h: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$)

1. ...

Process($t \in [0, \infty)$)

1. $\vec{g} \leftarrow 0$
2. For each $i \in [1, n]$:
3. $\hat{g}[i] \leftarrow \hat{h}[i] \cdot \cos(\sqrt{\eta \cdot \lambda_i} \cdot t)$
4. $\vec{g} \leftarrow \vec{g} + \hat{g}[i] \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$
5. return $\vec{g}$



How practical is it to use the
spectral decomposition?

Complexity

Challenge:

If we have a mesh with n vertices we get n generalized eigenvectors.

✗ $O(n^2)$ storage / $O(> n^2)$ computation.

Approximate:

Sometimes a low-frequency solution will do.

✓ $O(k \cdot n)$ storage

Sometimes a numerically inaccurate solution will do.

✓ $O(n)$ storage / $O(?)$ computation

Approximate Spectral Processing

Preliminaries:

Let M be the mass matrix, $-L$ the stiffness matrix, and $\{(\vec{\phi}_i, -\lambda_i)\}$ the spectrum, we have:

$$M\vec{\phi}_i = M\vec{\phi}_i \quad -L\phi_i = \lambda_i \cdot M\phi_i$$

Taking α times the 1st equation plus β times the 2nd:

$$(\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)\vec{\phi}_i = (\alpha + \beta \cdot \lambda_i) \cdot M\vec{\phi}_i$$

Multiplying by $(\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1}$:

$$\vec{\phi}_i = (\alpha + \beta \cdot \lambda_i) \cdot ((\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ M)\vec{\phi}_i$$

$$\frac{1}{(\alpha + \beta \cdot \lambda_i)} \cdot \vec{\phi}_i = ((\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ M)\vec{\phi}_i$$

Approximate Spectral Processing

Preliminaries:

$$\begin{aligned}(\gamma + \delta \cdot \lambda_i) \cdot M \vec{\phi}_i &= (\gamma \cdot M - \delta \cdot L) \vec{\phi}_i \\ \frac{1}{(\alpha + \beta \cdot \lambda_i)} \cdot \vec{\phi}_i &= ((\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ M) \vec{\phi}_i\end{aligned}$$

Combining these, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}((\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ (\gamma \cdot M - \delta \cdot L)) \vec{\phi}_i &= \\ &= (\gamma + \delta \cdot \lambda_i) \cdot ((\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ M) \vec{\phi}_i \\ &= \frac{\gamma + \delta \cdot \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \cdot \lambda_i} \cdot \vec{\phi}_i\end{aligned}$$

Approximate Spectral Processing

Example (Signal Smoothing):

The goal is to obtain a smoothed signal:

$$\hat{f}[i] \leftarrow \hat{f}[i] \cdot F(\lambda_i)$$

We can relax the condition that $F(\lambda) = e^{-\lambda}$ and use a different filter $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

The new filter should:

- preserve the low frequencies
- decay at higher frequencies

Approximate Spectral Processing

$$((\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ (\gamma \cdot M - \delta \cdot L)) \vec{\phi}_i = \left(\frac{\gamma + \delta \cdot \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \cdot \lambda_i} \right) \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$$

Example (Signal Smoothing):

Consider the solution to the linear system:

$$\vec{g} = ((M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ M) \vec{f}$$

Solving this linear system is equivalent to filtering with:

$$F(\lambda) = \frac{1}{1 + \beta \cdot \lambda}$$

with β the rate of decay of higher frequencies.

$$= \sum \hat{f}[i] \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \beta \cdot \lambda_i} \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$$

Approximate Spectral Processing

$$((\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ (\gamma \cdot M - \delta \cdot L))\vec{\phi}_i = \left(\frac{\gamma + \delta \cdot \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \cdot \lambda_i} \right) \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$$

Example (Signal Sharpening):

Consider the solution to the linear system:

$$\vec{g} = ((M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ (M - \beta \cdot \sigma \cdot L))\vec{f}$$

Taking the spectral decomposition of $\vec{f}$:

$$\vec{g} = \sum \hat{f}[i] \cdot \frac{1 + \sigma \cdot \beta \cdot \lambda_i}{1 + \beta \cdot \lambda_i} \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$$

Approximate Spectral Processing

$$((\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ (\gamma \cdot M - \delta \cdot L)) \vec{\phi}_i = \left(\frac{\gamma + \delta \cdot \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \cdot \lambda_i} \right) \cdot \vec{\phi}_i$$

Example (Signal Sharpening):

Consider the solution to the linear system:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{g} &= ((M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ (M - \beta \cdot \sigma \cdot L)) \vec{f} \\ \Rightarrow F(\lambda) &= \frac{1 + \sigma \cdot \beta \cdot \lambda}{1 + \beta \cdot \lambda} \end{aligned}$$

Signal smoothing is a special instance, with $\sigma = 0$.

- $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} F(\lambda) = 1$: Low-frequencies preserved
- $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} F(\lambda) = \sigma$: High frequencies scaled by σ .

Approximate Spectral Processing

Process($S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$, $\vec{f} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$, $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$)

1. $(M, L) \leftarrow \text{MassAndStiffness}(S)$
2. $\vec{g} \leftarrow (M - \beta \cdot \sigma \cdot L)\vec{f}$
3. $A \leftarrow (M - \beta \cdot L)$
4. return $\text{Solve}(A, \vec{g})$

By approximating, we replace the computational complexity of storing/computing the spectral decomposition with the complexity of solving a sparse linear system.

Heat Diffusion (Revisited)

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = \Delta H \quad \text{s. t.} \quad H(p, 0) = h(p)$$

Discretization (Temporal):

Letting $H_t: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the solution at time t , we can (temporally) discretize the PDE in two ways:

Explicit

$$\frac{H_{t+\delta} - H_t}{\delta} \approx \Delta H_t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$H_{t+\delta} = H_t + \delta \cdot \Delta H_t$$

Implicit

$$\frac{H_{t+\delta} - H_t}{\delta} \approx \Delta H_{t+\delta}$$

$\Downarrow$

$$(1 - \delta \cdot \Delta) H_{t+\delta} = H_t$$

Heat Diffusion (Revisited)

Explicit

$$H_{t+\delta} = H_t + \delta \cdot \Delta H_t$$

Implicit

$$(1 - \delta \cdot \Delta)H_{t+\delta} = H_t$$

Discretization (Spatial):

Projecting onto the discrete function basis gives:

$\Downarrow$

$$M\vec{H}_{t+\delta} = M\vec{H}_t + \delta \cdot L\vec{H}_t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\vec{H}_{t+\delta} = (M^{-1} \circ (M + \delta \cdot L))\vec{H}_t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$(M - \delta \cdot L)\vec{H}_{t+\delta} = M\vec{H}_t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\vec{H}_{t+\delta} = ((M - \delta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ M)\vec{H}_t$$

Heat Diffusion (Revisited)

Explicit

$$\vec{H}_{t+\delta} = (M^{-1} \circ (M + \delta \cdot L)) \vec{H}_t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\hat{H}_{t+\delta}[i] = (1 - \delta \cdot \lambda_i) \cdot \hat{H}_t[i]$$

Implicit

$$\vec{H}_{t+\delta} = ((M - \delta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ M) \vec{H}_t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\hat{H}_{t+\delta}[i] = \frac{1}{1 + \delta \cdot \lambda_i} \cdot \hat{H}_t[i]$$

Discretization:

Both methods give an inaccurate answer when a large time-step, δ , is used.

But...

$$\vec{g} = ((\alpha \cdot M - \beta \cdot L)^{-1} \circ (\gamma \cdot M - \delta \cdot L)) \vec{f}$$

$$\Rightarrow F(\lambda) = \frac{\gamma + \delta \cdot \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \cdot \lambda_i}$$

Heat Diffusion (Revisited)

Explicit

Implicit

Though neither approximation gives an accurate answer at large times-steps, implicit integration is guaranteed to be *(unconditionally) stable*.

D
B A similar approach can be used to approximate the solution to the wave equation without a harmonic decomposition.

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} (1 - \delta \cdot \lambda_i) = 1$$

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{1 + \delta \cdot \lambda_i} \right) = 1$$

But at high frequencies (and large time-steps):

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \delta \cdot \lambda_i) = -\infty$$

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{1 + \delta \cdot \lambda_i} \right) = 0$$

Outline

- Motivation
- Laplacian Spectrum
- Applications
- Conclusion

Conclusion

Though there is no Fourier Transform for general surfaces, we can use the spectrum of the Laplacian to get a frequency decomposition.

This enables:

- Filtering of signals
- Solving PDEs

by modulating the frequency coefficients.

Conclusion

Though computing a full spectral decomposition is not space/time efficient, we can often:

- Use the lower frequencies.
- Design linear operators whose solution has the desired frequency modulation.

Using the theory of spectral decomposition:

- We can design stable simulations, without explicitly computing the decomposition.

Future

We have seen that the mass and stiffness matrices are invariant to (respectively) authalic and conformal deformations.

- Eigenvalues as isometry-invariant signatures
[Reuter, 2006] Laplace-Beltrami Spectra as 'Shape-DNA'...
- Isometric embedding for intrinsic symmetry detection
[Ovsjanikov *et al.*, 2008] Global Intrinsic Symmetries of Shapes
- Heat diffusion for computing isometry-invariant distances.
[Sun *et al.*, 2009] A Concise and Provably Informative Multi-Scale...
- Authalicity/Conformality constraints for correspondence
[Rustamov *et al.*, 2013] Map-Based Exploration of Intrinsic Shape...
- And much, much, much more...

Thank You!