

# Spectral Geometry Processing

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[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*:

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

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

# Motivation

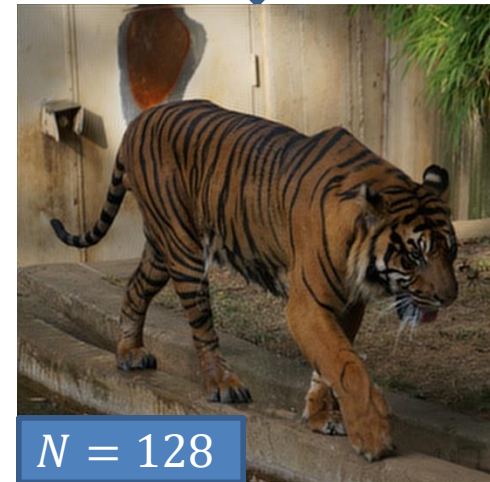
$$f(\theta) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{\mathbf{f}}_k \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

## Frequency Decomposition:

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

$$f^N(\theta) = \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{\mathbf{f}}_k \frac{e^{ik\theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

represents the lower frequency components of  $f$ .



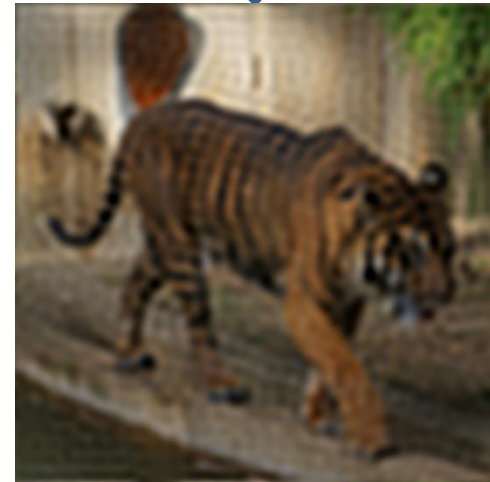
# Motivation

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

## Filtering:

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

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



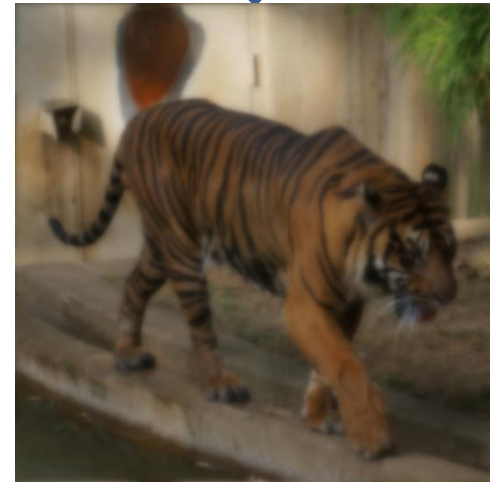
# Motivation

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

## Filtering:

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

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_k \leftarrow \hat{\mathbf{f}}_k e^{-k^2}$$



# Motivation

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

## Filtering:

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

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_k \leftarrow \hat{\mathbf{f}}_k \left(2 - e^{-k^2}\right)$$



# Motivation

## Goal:

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



$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_k \leftarrow \hat{\mathbf{f}}_k \left( 2 - e^{-k^2} \right)$$

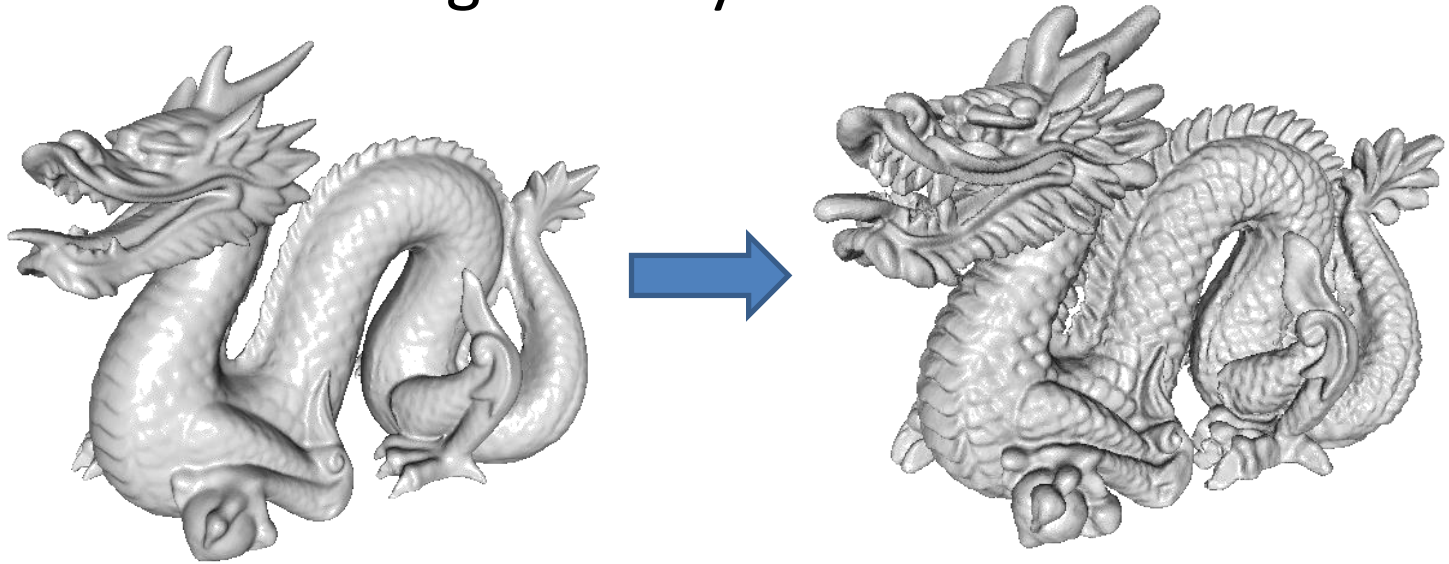
\*For simplicity, we will assume all surfaces are w/o boundary.



# 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:



$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_k \leftarrow \hat{\mathbf{f}}_k \left( 2 - e^{-k^2} \right)$$

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

# Motivation

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

[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:

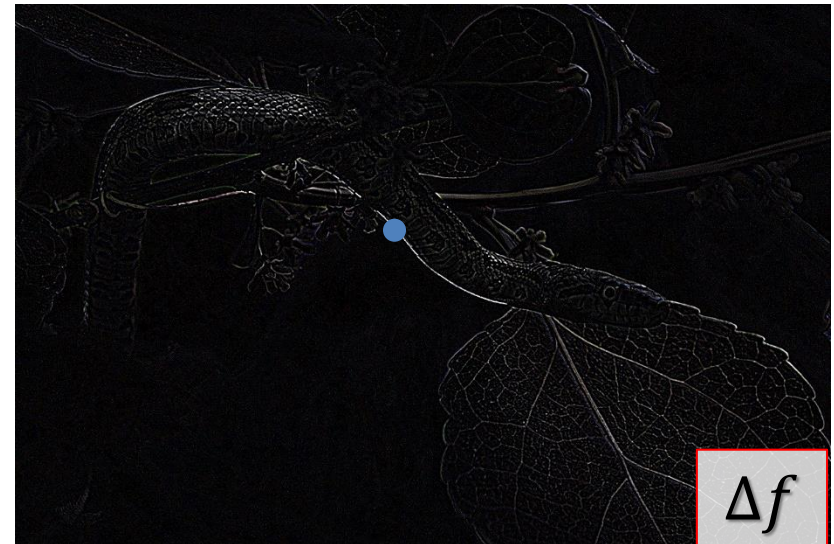
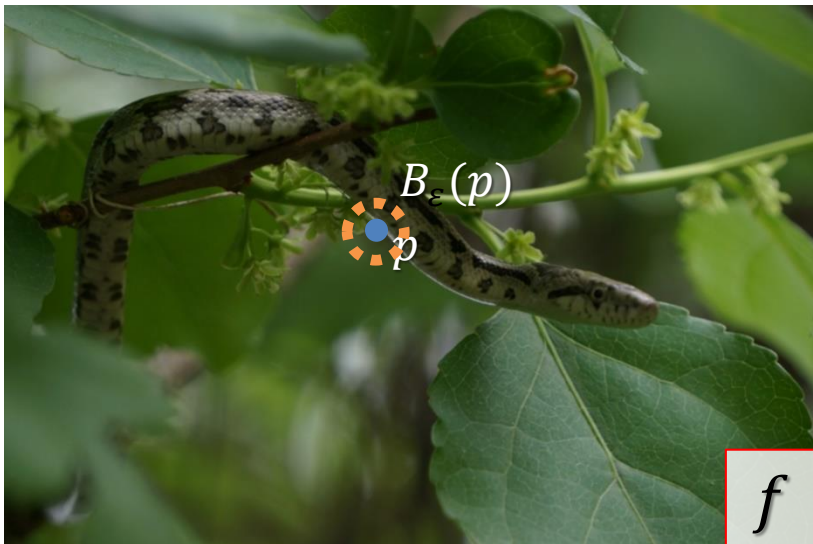
$$\Delta f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} + \dots$$

# 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:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{\mathbf{f}}_i \phi^i(x) \quad \text{with} \quad \Delta \phi^i = \lambda_i \phi^i.$$

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:

- [Definition of the Laplacian]

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

- [Product Rule]

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

- [Inner Product on Functions]

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

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

- [Divergence Theorem\*]

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

# 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:

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

---

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

# Symmetry of The Laplacian

Proof:

By the Divergence Theorem\*:

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

---

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

What happens in the  
discrete setting?

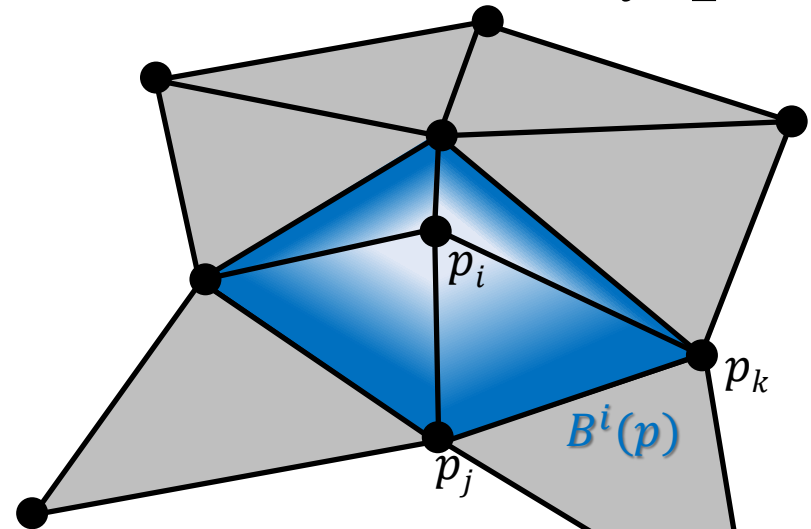


# FEM Discretization

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  
⇒ Gradients are constant within each triangle
- Interpolatory  
⇒  $B^i(p_j) = \delta_{ij}$



$$B^i(p) = \begin{cases} \frac{|\Delta p p_j p_k|}{|\Delta p_i p_j p_k|} & \text{if } p \in \Delta p_i p_j p_k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# 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  $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  as a “discrete” function:

$$\mathbf{f} \leftrightarrow f(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{f}_i B^i(p)$$

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

$$f(p_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{f}_i B^i(p_j)$$

# 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
- $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^n \leftrightarrow f(p)$ : 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:

$$g(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{g}_i B^i(p) \quad \text{and} \quad f(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{f}_i B^i(p)$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{g}_i \langle B^i, B^j \rangle_S = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{f}_i \langle \mathcal{L}(B^i), B^j \rangle_S \quad \forall j$$

# FEM Discretization

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{g}_i \langle B^i, B^j \rangle_S = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{f}_i \langle \mathcal{L}(B^i), B^j \rangle_S \quad \forall j$$

---

Setting  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{L}$  to be the matrices:

$$\mathbf{M}_{ij} = \langle B^i, B^j \rangle_S \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{L}_{ij} = \langle \mathcal{L}(B^i), B^j \rangle_S$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{M}_{ij} \mathbf{g}_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{L}_{ij} \mathbf{f}_i \quad \forall j$$

$\Downarrow$

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

# FEM Discretization

$$\mathbf{M}_{ij} = \langle B^i, B^j \rangle_S \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{L}_{ij} = \langle \mathcal{L}(B^i), B^j \rangle_S$$

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

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

$$\mathbf{L}_{ij} = \langle \Delta B^i, B^j \rangle_S$$

Definition:

The matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  is called the *mass matrix*.

The matrix  $\mathbf{S}$  is called the *stiffness matrix*.

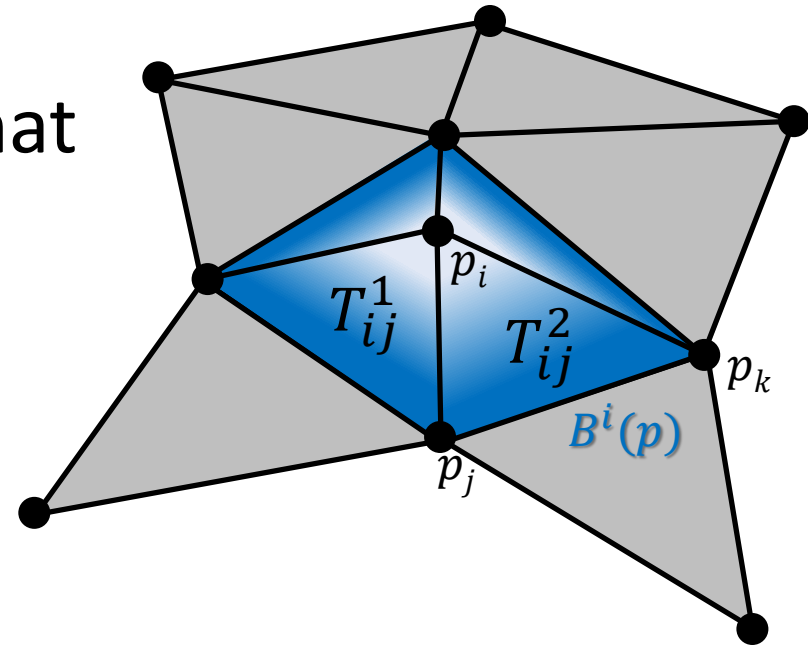
# FEM Discretization

$$\mathbf{M}_{ij} = \langle B^i, B^j \rangle_S \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{S}_{ij} = \langle \nabla B^i, \nabla B^j \rangle_S$$

---

Setting  $\{B^i: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$  to the hat functions, the matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  is:

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





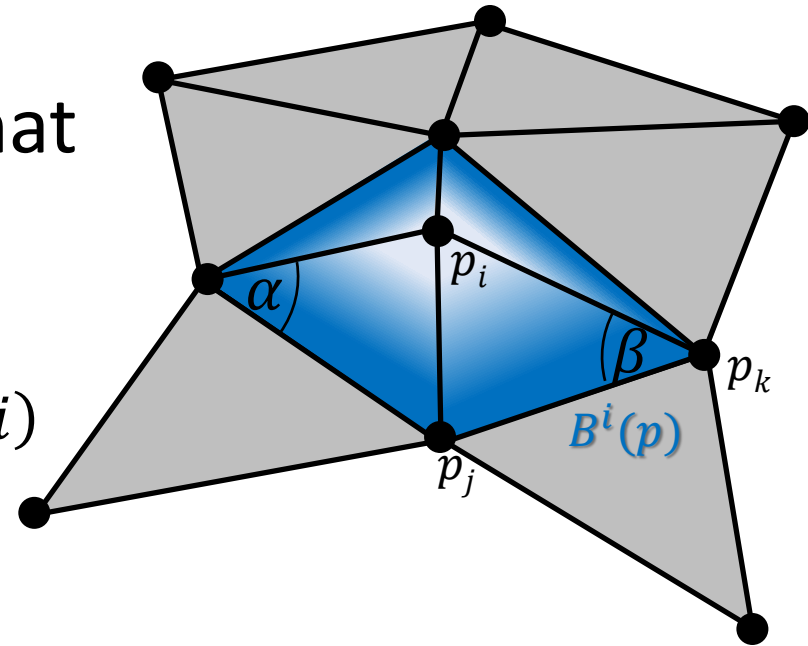
# FEM Discretization

$$\mathbf{M}_{ij} = \langle B^i, B^j \rangle_S \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{S}_{ij} = \langle \nabla B^i, \nabla B^j \rangle_S$$

---

Setting  $\{B^i: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$  to the hat functions, the matrix  $\mathbf{L}$  is the cotangent-Laplacian:

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



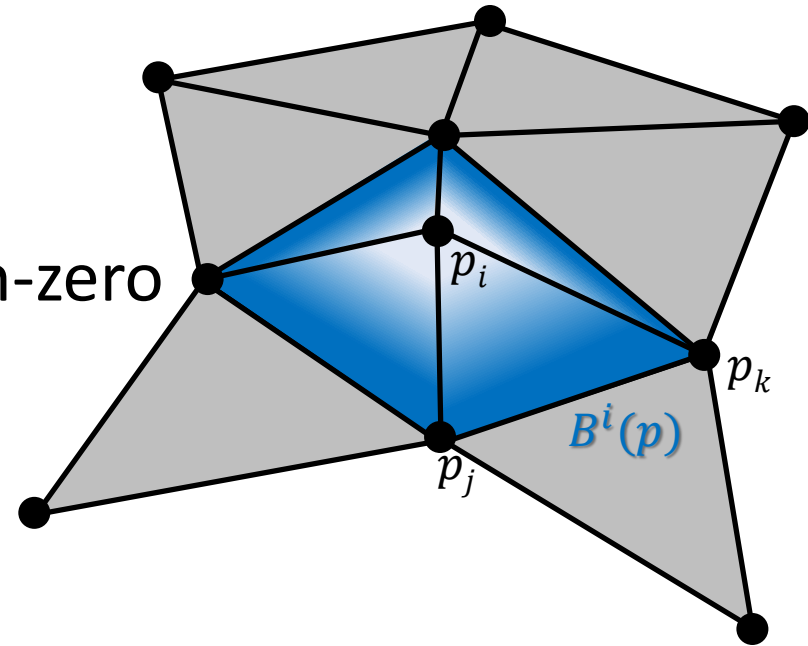
# FEM Discretization

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

## Observations:

– [Sparsity]

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



# FEM Discretization

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

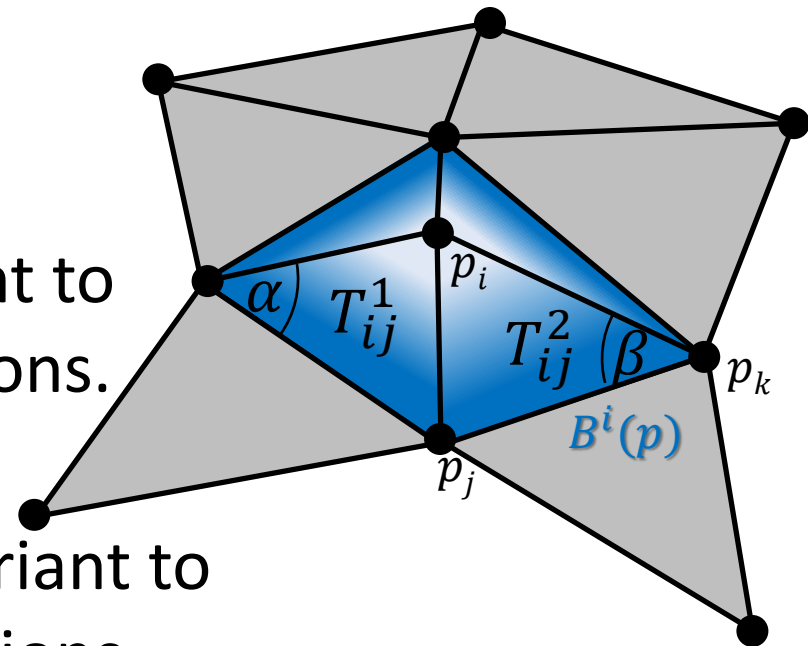
## Observations:

- [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  $\mathbf{f} \leftrightarrow f(p)$ , the vector:

$$\mathbf{g} = -\mathbf{S}\mathbf{f}$$

**does not** correspond to the Laplacian of  $f(p)$ .

The coefficients of the Laplacian of  $f(p)$  satisfy:

$$\mathbf{M}\mathbf{g} = -\mathbf{S}\mathbf{f}$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$\mathbf{g} = -\mathbf{M}^{-1}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{f}$$

# 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:

$$\Delta \phi^i = -\lambda_i \phi^i$$

And the  $\{\phi^i\}$  form an orthonormal basis:

$$\langle \phi^i, \phi^j \rangle_S = \int_S \phi^i(p) \cdot \phi^j(p) dp = \delta_{ij}$$

# The Spectrum of the Laplacian

## Interpreting the Eigenvalues:

If  $\phi$  is a (unit-norm) eigenfunction of the Laplacian, with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ :

$$\Delta\phi = -\lambda\phi$$

$$\Downarrow$$

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

$$\Downarrow$$

$$-\langle\nabla\phi, \nabla\phi\rangle_S = -\|\nabla\phi\|_S^2 = -\lambda$$

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

# FEM Discretization

## Laplacian Spectrum:

In the discrete setting, the spectrum of the Laplacian,  $\{(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i \in \mathbb{R}^n, \lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0})\}$ , satisfies:

$$\mathbf{S}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = \lambda_i \mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

And the  $\{\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i\}$  form an orthonormal basis:

$$\langle \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i, \boldsymbol{\Phi}^j \rangle_s = (\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i)^T \mathbf{M}(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^j) = \delta_{ij}$$

Finding the  $\{(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i, \lambda_i)\}$  is called the *generalized eigenvalue problem*.

How do we compute the  
spectral decomposition?



# Getting the Dominant Eigenvector

Assume matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is diagonalizable, with (unit-norm) spectrum  $\{(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i, \lambda_i)\}$ .

Given  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we have the decomposition:

$$\mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{v}_i \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{v}_i \lambda_i \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{A}^k \mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{v}_i \lambda_i^k \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

# Getting the Dominant Eigenvector

$$\mathbf{A}^k \mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{v}_i \lambda_i^k \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

---

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

$$\mathbf{A}^k \mathbf{v} = \lambda_n^k \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{v}_i \left( \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_n} \right)^k \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

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

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\mathbf{A}^k \mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{A}^k \mathbf{v}|} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\Phi}^n \quad \text{as} \quad k \rightarrow \infty$$

# Getting the Dominant Eigenvector

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

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

# Getting the Sub-Dominant Eigenvector

If the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric, the eigenvectors will be orthogonal:

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

1.  $(\mathbf{v}^0, \lambda_0) \leftarrow \text{ArnoldiDominant}(\mathbf{A})$
2.  $\mathbf{v}^1 \leftarrow \text{RandomVector}()$
3. **while**( ... )
4.      $\mathbf{v}^1 \leftarrow \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}^1$
5.      $\mathbf{v}^1 \leftarrow \mathbf{v}^1 - \langle \mathbf{v}^1, \mathbf{v}^0 \rangle \mathbf{v}^0$
6.      $\mathbf{v}^1 \leftarrow \mathbf{v}^1 / |\mathbf{v}^1|$
7.      $\lambda_1 \leftarrow \langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}^1, \mathbf{v}^1 \rangle$
8. **return** (  $\mathbf{v}^1, \lambda_1$  )

# Getting the Sub-Dominant Eigenvector

If the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric, the eigenvectors will be orthogonal:

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

1.  $(\mathbf{v}^0, \lambda_0) \leftarrow \text{ArnoldiDominant}(\mathbf{A})$
2.  $\mathbf{v}^1 \leftarrow \text{RandomVector}()$
3. **while**( ... )
4.      $\mathbf{v}^1 \leftarrow \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}^1$
5.      $\mathbf{v}^1 \leftarrow \mathbf{v}^1 - \langle \mathbf{v}^1, \mathbf{v}^0 \rangle \mathbf{v}^0$

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  $\lambda$

# Outline

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

# Signal/Geometry Filtering

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

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

$\mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$



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

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

# Signal Filtering

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



$$F(\lambda) = e^{-\lambda}$$



Input

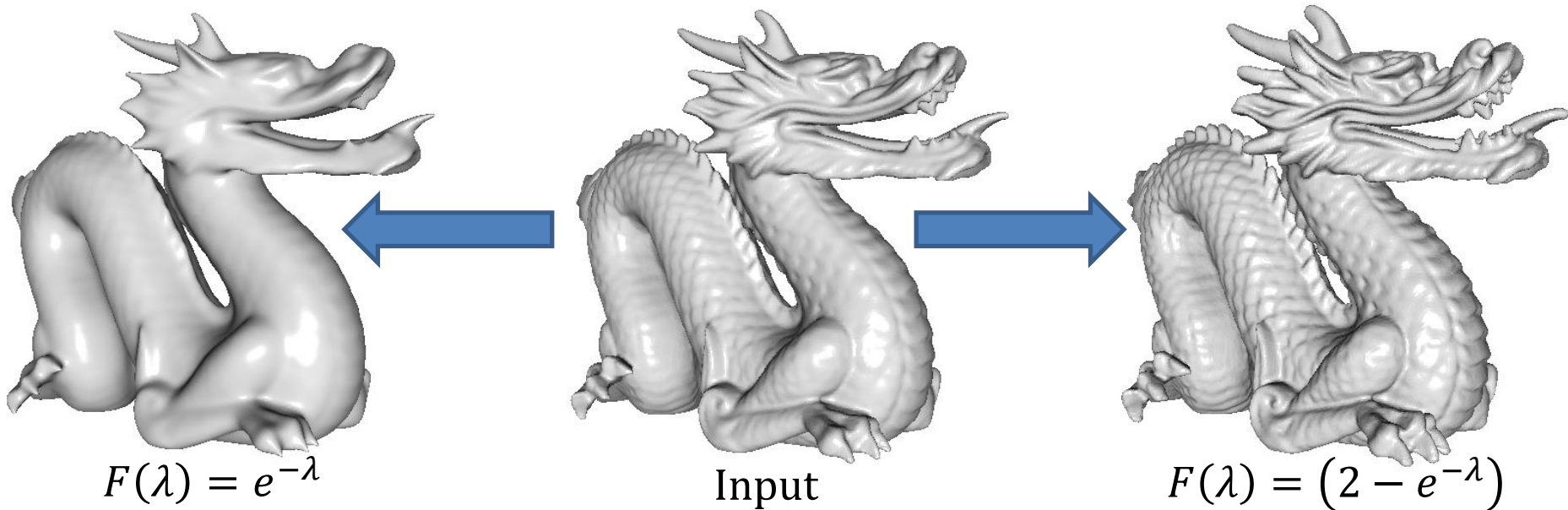


$$F(\lambda) = (2 - e^{-\lambda})$$



# 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:

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \eta \Delta h$$

# 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  $h^0: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , find the solution to the PDE:

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \eta \Delta h$$

such that:

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

# Heat Diffusion

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \eta \Delta h$$

Note:

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

$\Rightarrow$  The functions:

$$\mathcal{H}_i(p, t) = e^{-\eta \lambda_i t} \phi^i(p)$$

are solutions to the PDE.

$\Rightarrow$  Any linear sum of the  $\mathcal{H}_i(p, t)$  is a solution.

# Heat Diffusion

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \eta \Delta h$$

Compute the harmonic decomposition of  $h^0$ :

$$h^0(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^0 \phi^i(p)$$

Then consider the function:

$$h(p, t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^0 \mathcal{H}_i(p, t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^0 e^{-\eta \lambda_i t} \phi^i(p)$$

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

# Heat Diffusion (Colors)

HarmonicDecomposition(  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  ,  $h^0: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  )

1. ...

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

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



# Heat Diffusion (Geometry)

HarmonicDecomposition(  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  ,  $h^0: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  )

1. ...

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

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





# 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:

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

# 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  $h^0: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  
find the solution to the PDE:

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

such that:

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

# Wave Equation

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

Note:

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

$$\mathcal{H}_i^c(p, t) = \cos\left(\sqrt{\eta\lambda_i}t\right) \phi^i(p)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_i^s(p, t) = \sin\left(\sqrt{\eta\lambda_i}t\right) \phi^i(p)$$

are solutions to the PDE.

$\Rightarrow$  Any linear sum of the  $\mathcal{H}_i^c(p, t)$  and  $\mathcal{H}_i^s(p, t)$  is a solution to the PDE.

# Wave Equation

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

Compute the harmonic decomposition of  $h^0$ :

$$h^0(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^0 \phi^i(p)$$

Then consider the function:

$$h(p, t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^0 \mathcal{H}_i^c(p, t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^0 \cos(\sqrt{\eta \lambda_i} t) \phi^i(p)$$

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

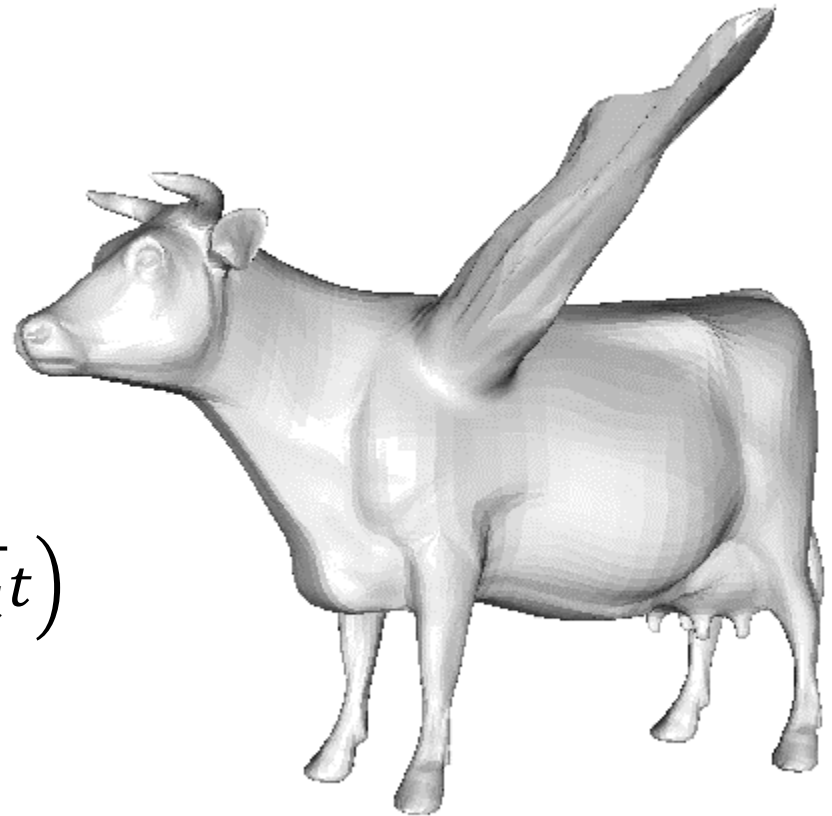
# Wave Equation

HarmonicDecomposition(  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  ,  $h^0: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  )

1. ...

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

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



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.

✓  $O(kn)$  storage

Sometimes a numerically inaccurate solution will do.

✓  $O(n)$  storage /  $O(?)$  computation



# Approximate Spectral Processing

## Preliminaries:

Let  $\mathbf{M}$  be the mass matrix,  $\mathbf{S}$  the stiffness matrix, and  $\{(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i, \lambda_i)\}$  the spectrum, we have:

$$\mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = \mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i \quad \mathbf{S}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = \lambda_i \mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

Taking  $\alpha$  times the 1<sup>st</sup> equation plus  $\beta$  times the 2<sup>nd</sup>:

$$(\alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = (\alpha + \beta \lambda_i) \mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

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

$$\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = (\alpha + \beta \lambda_i) ((\alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M}) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

$$\frac{1}{(\alpha + \beta \lambda_i)} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = ((\alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M}) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

# Approximate Spectral Processing

Preliminaries:

$$\begin{aligned}(\gamma + \delta\lambda_i)\mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i &= (\gamma\mathbf{M} + \delta\mathbf{S})\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i \\ \frac{1}{(\alpha + \beta\lambda_i)}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i &= ((\alpha\mathbf{M} + \beta\mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M})\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i\end{aligned}$$

---

Combining these, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}((\alpha\mathbf{M} + \beta\mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ (\gamma\mathbf{M} + \delta\mathbf{S}))\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i \\ = (\gamma + \delta\lambda_i)((\alpha\mathbf{M} + \beta\mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M})\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i \\ = \frac{\gamma + \delta\lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta\lambda_i}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^i\end{aligned}$$

# Approximate Spectral Processing

## Example (Signal Smoothing):

The goal is to obtain a smoothed signal:

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_i \leftarrow \hat{\mathbf{f}}_i F(\lambda_i)$$

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

$$((\alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ (\gamma \mathbf{M} + \delta \mathbf{S})) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = \left( \frac{\gamma + \delta \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \lambda_i} \right) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

---

Smoothing Example ( $\alpha = 1, \gamma = 1, \delta = 0$ ):

Consider the solution to the linear system:

$$\mathbf{g} = ((\mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M}) \mathbf{f}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{g} &= \sum \hat{\mathbf{f}}_i ((\mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M}) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i \\ &= \sum \hat{\mathbf{f}}_i \frac{1}{1 + \beta \lambda_i} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i \end{aligned}$$

# Approximate Spectral Processing

$$((\alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ (\gamma \mathbf{M} + \delta \mathbf{S})) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = \left( \frac{\gamma + \delta \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \lambda_i} \right) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

---

Smoothing Example ( $\alpha = 1, \gamma = 1, \delta = 0$ ):

Consider the solution to the linear system:

$$\mathbf{g} = ((\mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M}) \mathbf{f}$$

Solving this linear system is equivalent to filtering with:

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

with  $\beta$  the rate of decay of higher frequencies.

$$= \sum \hat{\mathbf{f}}_i \frac{1}{1 + \beta \lambda_i} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

# Approximate Spectral Processing

$$((\alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ (\gamma \mathbf{M} + \delta \mathbf{S})) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = \left( \frac{\gamma + \delta \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \lambda_i} \right) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

---

Sharpening Example ( $\alpha = 1, \gamma = 1, \delta = \beta \sigma$ ):

Consider the solution to the linear system:

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

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

$$\mathbf{g} = \sum \hat{\mathbf{f}}_i \frac{1 + \sigma \beta \lambda_i}{1 + \beta \lambda_i} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

# Approximate Spectral Processing

$$((\alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ (\gamma \mathbf{M} + \delta \mathbf{S})) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = \left( \frac{\gamma + \delta \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \lambda_i} \right) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

---

Sharpening Example ( $\alpha = 1, \gamma = 1, \delta = \beta\sigma$ ):

Consider the solution to the linear system:

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

This filter satisfies:

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

# Approximate Spectral Processing

$$((\alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ (\gamma \mathbf{M} + \delta \mathbf{S})) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i = \left( \frac{\gamma + \delta \lambda_i}{\alpha + \beta \lambda_i} \right) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^i$$

---

Sharpening Example ( $\alpha = 1, \gamma = 1, \delta = \beta \sigma$ ):

Consider the solution to the linear system:

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

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  $\sigma$ .



# Approximate Spectral Processing

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

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

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)

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

## 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

$$\frac{h^{t+\varepsilon} - h^t}{\varepsilon} \approx \Delta h^t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$h^{t+\varepsilon} = h^t + \varepsilon \Delta h^t$$

### Implicit

$$\frac{h^{t+\varepsilon} - h^t}{\varepsilon} \approx \Delta h^{t+\varepsilon}$$

$\Downarrow$

$$(1 - \varepsilon \Delta) h^{t+\varepsilon} = h^t$$

# Heat Diffusion (Revisited)

Explicit

$$h^{t+\varepsilon} = h^t + \varepsilon \Delta h^t$$

Implicit

$$(1 - \varepsilon \Delta) h^{t+\varepsilon} = h^t$$

Discretization (Spatial):

Projecting onto the discrete function basis gives:

$\Downarrow$

$$\mathbf{M}\mathbf{h}^{t+\varepsilon} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{h}^t - \varepsilon \mathbf{S}\mathbf{h}^t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\mathbf{h}^{t+\varepsilon} = (\mathbf{M}^{-1} \circ (\mathbf{M} - \varepsilon \mathbf{S})) \mathbf{h}^t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$(\mathbf{M} + \varepsilon \mathbf{S}) \mathbf{h}^{t+\varepsilon} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{h}^t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\mathbf{h}^{t+\varepsilon} = ((\mathbf{M} + \varepsilon \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M}) \mathbf{h}^t$$

# Heat Diffusion (Revisited)

## Explicit

$$\mathbf{h}^{t+\varepsilon} = (\mathbf{M}^{-1} \circ (\mathbf{M} - \varepsilon \mathbf{S})) \mathbf{h}^t$$

$$\alpha = 1, \beta = 0, \gamma = 1, \delta = -\varepsilon$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^{t+\varepsilon} = (1 - \varepsilon \lambda_i) \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^t$$

## Implicit

$$\mathbf{h}^{t+\varepsilon} = ((\mathbf{M} + \varepsilon \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M}) \mathbf{h}^t$$

$$\alpha = 1, \beta = \varepsilon, \gamma = 1, \delta = 0$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^{t+\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon \lambda_i} \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^t$$

## Discretization:

Both give an inaccurate answer when a large time-step,  $\varepsilon$ , is used. But...

$$\mathbf{g} = ((\alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ (\gamma \mathbf{M} + \delta \mathbf{S})) \mathbf{f}$$

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

# Heat Diffusion (Revisited)

## Explicit

$$\mathbf{h}^{t+\varepsilon} = (\mathbf{M}^{-1} \circ (\mathbf{M} - \varepsilon \mathbf{S})) \mathbf{h}^t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^{t+\varepsilon} = (1 - \varepsilon \lambda_i) \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^t$$

## Implicit

$$\mathbf{h}^{t+\varepsilon} = ((\mathbf{M} + \varepsilon \mathbf{S})^{-1} \circ \mathbf{M}) \mathbf{h}^t$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^{t+\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon \lambda_i} \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^t$$

## Discretization:

Both filters preserve low frequencies:

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} (1 - \varepsilon \lambda) = 1$$

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

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

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \varepsilon \lambda) = -\infty$$

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

# Heat Diffusion (Revisited)

Explicit

Implicit

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

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

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} (1 - \varepsilon \lambda) = 1$$

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

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

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \varepsilon \lambda) = -\infty$$

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

# 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.