



# FFTs in Graphics and Vision

Spherical Harmonics  
and  
Legendre Polynomials



# Outline

## Math Stuff

Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization

Completing Homogenous Polynomials

## Review

## Defining the Harmonics



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Given an inner product space  $V$ , and given a basis  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  we can define an orthonormal basis  $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$  for  $V$ :

$$\langle w_i, w_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Given an inner product space  $V$ , and given a basis  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  we can define an orthonormal basis  $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$  for  $V$ :

$$\langle w_i, w_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

Algorithm:

Start by making  $v_1$  a unit vector:

$$w_1 = \frac{v_1}{\|v_1\|}$$



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Given an inner product space  $V$ , and given a basis  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  we can define an orthonormal basis  $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$  for  $V$ :

$$\langle w_i, w_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

Algorithm:

To get the 2<sup>nd</sup> basis element, subtract from  $v_2$  the  $w_1$  component and then normalize:

$$w_2 = \frac{v_2 - \langle v_2, w_1 \rangle w_1}{\|v_2 - \langle v_2, w_1 \rangle w_1\|}$$



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Given an inner product space  $V$ , and given a basis  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  we can define an orthonormal basis  $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$  for  $V$ :

$$\langle w_i, w_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

## Algorithm:

To get the  $i$ -th basis element, subtract off all the earlier components from  $v_i$  and then normalize:

$$w_i = \frac{v_i - \langle v_i, w_{i-1} \rangle w_{i-1} - \dots - \langle v_i, w_1 \rangle w_1}{\|v_i - \langle v_i, w_{i-1} \rangle w_{i-1} - \dots - \langle v_i, w_1 \rangle w_1\|}$$



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

## Example:

Consider the space of polynomials of degree  $N$  on the interval  $[-1,1]$ , with the inner-product:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 f(x) \cdot g(x) dx$$

We would like to obtain an orthogonal basis:

$$\{p_0(x), \dots, p_N(x)\}$$

Start with the basis of monomials:

$$\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^N\}$$

and perform Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization.



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

## Example:

Consider the space of polynomials of degree  $N$  on the interval  $[-1,1]$ , with the inner-product:

By induction,  $p_k(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $k$  since G.S. orthogonalization only subtracts off lower-degree basis functions.

We would like to obtain an orthogonal basis:

$$\{p_0(x), \dots, p_N(x)\}$$

Start with the basis of monomials:

$$\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^N\}$$

and perform Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization.





# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

Starting with the constant term, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} p_0(x) &= \frac{1}{\|1\|} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\int_{-1}^1 dx}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{aligned}$$



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

For the linear term, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} p_1(x) &= \frac{x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|} \\ &= \frac{x - \left( \int_{-1}^1 x \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} dx \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}}{\|x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|} \\ &= \frac{x}{\sqrt{\int_{-1}^1 x^2 dx}} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} x \end{aligned}$$



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

And for the quadratic term:

$$p_2(x) = \frac{x^2 - \langle x^2, p_1(x) \rangle p_1(x) - \langle x^2, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x^2 - \langle x^2, p_1(x) \rangle p_1(x) - \langle x^2, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|}$$

These are the *Legendre Polynomials*.



# Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials are all even/odd:

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-1} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction:



# Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials are all even/odd:

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-1} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction ( $k = 0$ ):

$$p_0(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$



# Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials are all even/odd:

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-1} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction (assume true for  $k = n$ ):

$$p_{n+1}(x) = \frac{x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \dots - \langle x^{n+1}, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \dots - \langle x^{n+1}, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|}$$

Recall that:

$$\langle x^{n+1}, p_m(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 x^{n+1} \cdot p_m(x) dx$$



# Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials are all even/odd:

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-1} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction (assume true for  $k = n$ ):

$$\langle x^{n+1}, p_m(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 x^{n+1} \cdot p_m(x) dx$$

Since  $m \leq n$  we can assume that the monomials comprising  $p_m(x)$  are all even/odd if  $m$  is.



# Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials are all even/odd:

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-1} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction (assume true for  $k = n$ ):

So if  $n$  and  $m$  are both even/odd, then the polynomial  $x^{n+1} \cdot p_m(x)$  is comprised of strictly odd-powered monomials:

$$\langle x^{n+1}, p_m(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 x^{n+1} \cdot p_m(x) dx = 0$$





# Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials are all even/odd:

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-1} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction (assume true for  $k = n$ ):

$$p_{n+1}(x) = \frac{x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-1}(x) \rangle p_{n-1}(x) - \dots}{\|x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-1}(x) \rangle p_{n-1}(x) - \dots\|}$$

So  $p_{n+1}(x)$  is obtained by starting with the monomial  $x^{n+1}$  and subtracting off monomials with the same parity.



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

## Example:

Consider the space of polynomials of degree  $N$  on the interval  $[-1,1]$ , with an inner-product giving more weight to points near the origin:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = \int_{-1}^1 (1 - x^2)^m \cdot f(x) \cdot g(x) dx$$

We would like to obtain an orthonormal basis:

$$\{p_0^m(x), \dots, p_N^m(x)\}$$



# Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = \int_{-1}^1 (1 - x^2)^m \cdot f(x) \cdot g(x) dx$$

We proceed as before with the new inner-product.

Since the weighting function is even, if  $f$  is an even function and  $g$  is an odd function (or vice-versa), the inner product must be zero:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = 0$$

Thus, as before, the degree of the monomials comprising  $p_l^m(x)$  must all have the same parity.



# Completing Homogenous Polynomials

Given a polynomial  $p(x, y, z)$  of degree  $d$ , consisting of monomials of powers  $d, d - 2, \dots$ :

$$p(x, y, z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} \left( \sum_{l+m+n=d-2k} a_{lmn} \cdot x^l \cdot y^m \cdot z^n \right)$$

This is *not* a homogenous polynomial.

However, if we restrict it to the sphere, we can think of it as homogenous:

$$p(x, y, z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^k \left( \sum_{l+m+n=d-2k} a_{lmn} \cdot x^l \cdot y^m \cdot z^n \right)$$



# Completing Homogenous Polynomials

Example:

$$p(x, y, z) = x^2y + y + z$$

is not a homogenous polynomial.

But on the unit-sphere, the polynomial:

$$q(x, y, z) = x^2y + (y + z)(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$$

has identical values and is homogenous of degree 3.



# Outline

Math Stuff

Review

Spherical Harmonics

Defining the Harmonics



# Spherical Harmonics

For each non-negative integer  $l$ , there are  $2l + 1$  spherical harmonics of degree  $l$  satisfying:

1. Each spherical harmonic of degree  $l$  can be expressed as the restriction of a homogenous polynomial of degree  $l$  to the unit-sphere.
2. The different spherical harmonics are orthogonal to each other.



# Spherical Harmonics

We saw that by considering just rotations about the  $y$ -axis, we could factor the spherical harmonics as:

$$\begin{aligned} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) &= e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\phi) \\ &= (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^m \cdot P_l^m(\phi) \end{aligned}$$

where  $|m| \leq l$ .

Writing  $x = \cos \phi$ , the functions  $P_l^m(\phi)$  are given by the associated Legendre polynomials:

$$P_l^k(\phi) = \frac{(-1)^k}{2^l l!} (1 - x^2)^{k/2} \frac{d^{l+k}}{dx^{l+k}} (x^2 - 1)^l$$



# Outline

Math Stuff

Review

Defining the Harmonics





# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

To define the spherical harmonics, we would like to express the function:

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^m \cdot P_l^m(\phi)$$

as the restriction of a homogenous polynomial of degree  $l$  to the unit sphere.



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

Using the parameterization of the unit-sphere

$$\Phi(\theta, \phi) = (\cos \theta \cdot \sin \phi, \cos \phi, \sin \theta \cdot \sin \phi)$$

we get:

$$\begin{aligned} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) &= (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^m \cdot P_l^m(\phi) \\ &= \left( \frac{x}{\sin \phi} + i \frac{z}{\sin \phi} \right)^m \cdot P_l^m(\phi) \\ &= (x + iz)^m \cdot \frac{P_l^m(\phi)}{\sin^m \phi} \\ &= (x + iz)^m \cdot \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{(\sqrt{1 - y^2})^m} \end{aligned}$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \cdot \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{(1 - y^2)^{m/2}}$$

This • is a homogenous polynomial of degree  $l$ .

This • is a homogenous polynomial of degree  $m$ .

So we want:

1. This • to complete to a homogenous polynomial of degree  $l - m$ .
2. The different  $Y_l^m$  to be orthogonal



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \cdot \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{(1 - y^2)^{m/2}}$$

## Homogeneous Completion:

To satisfy the homogeneity constraint, we need:

$$\frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{(1 - y^2)^{m/2}} = a_{l-m} y^{l-m} + a_{l-m-2} y^{l-m-2} + \dots$$

Or equivalently:

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \cdot (1 - y^2)^{m/2}$$

for some polynomial:

$$q_l^m(y) = a_{l-m} y^{l-m} + a_{l-m-2} y^{l-m-2} + \dots$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)$$

## Orthogonality:

To satisfy the orthogonality constraint, we need:

$$\langle Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta, \phi) \rangle = 0 \quad \forall l \neq l' \text{ or } m \neq m'$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)$$

Orthogonality ( $m \neq m'$ ):

Since we have:

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\phi)$$

we know that:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta, \phi) \rangle &= \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\phi) \cdot \overline{e^{im'\theta} \cdot P_{l'}^{m'}(\phi)} d\theta \sin \phi d\phi \\ &= \left( \int_0^\pi P_l^m(\phi) \cdot \overline{P_{l'}^{m'}(\phi)} \sin \phi d\phi \right) \cdot \left( \int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(m-m')\theta} d\theta \right) \end{aligned}$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)$$

## Orthogonality ( $m \neq m'$ ):

$$\langle Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), Y_l^{m'}(\theta, \phi) \rangle = \left( \int_0^\pi P_l^m(\phi) \cdot \overline{P_l^{m'}(\phi)} \sin \phi d\phi \right) \cdot \boxed{\left( \int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(m-m')\theta} d\theta \right)}$$

But this • is zero whenever  $m \neq m'$ :

$$\int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(m-m')\theta} d\theta = \frac{1}{i(m-m')} \cdot e^{i(m-m')\theta} \Big|_0^{2\pi} = 0$$





# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)$$

Orthogonality ( $m = m'$  and  $l \neq l'$ ):

We have to choose the function:

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \cdot (1 - y^2)^{m/2}$$

so that:

$$0 = \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\phi) \cdot \overline{e^{im\theta} \cdot P_{l'}^m(\phi)} d\theta \sin \phi d\phi$$

$\Downarrow$

$$0 = \int_0^\pi P_l^m(\phi) \cdot \overline{P_{l'}^m(\phi)} \cdot \sin \phi d\phi$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)$$

Orthogonality ( $m = m'$  and  $l \neq l'$ ):

We have to choose the function:

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \cdot (1 - y^2)^{m/2}$$

Using the change of variables:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\pi P_l^m(\phi) \cdot \overline{P_{l'}^m(\phi)} \cdot \sin \phi \, d\phi &= \int_{-1}^1 P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) \cdot \overline{P_{l'}^m(\cos^{-1} y)} \, dy \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 q_l^m(y) \cdot \overline{q_{l'}^m(y)} \cdot (1 - y^2)^m \, dy \end{aligned}$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)$$
$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \cdot (1 - y^2)^{m/2}$$

Thus, the polynomials  $q_l^m(y)$  should:

1. Complete to homogeneous polynomials of degree  $l - m$ :

$$q_l^m(y) = a_{l-m}y^{l-m} + a_{l-m-2}y^{l-m-2} + \dots$$

2. Satisfy the orthogonality condition:

$$0 = \int_{-1}^1 q_l^m(y) \cdot \overline{q_{l'}^m(y)} \cdot (1 - y^2)^m dy$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)$$
$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \cdot (1 - y^2)^{m/2}$$

This is what we get with G.S. orthogonalization  $\{1, y, y^2, \dots\} \rightarrow \{p_0^m(y), p_1^m(y), p_2^m(y), \dots\}$  relative to the inner-product:

$$\langle f(y), g(y) \rangle_m = \int_{-1}^1 f(y) \cdot g(y) \cdot (1 - y^2)^m dy$$

and set:

$$q_l^m(y) = p_{l-m}^m(y)$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)$$
$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \cdot (1 - y^2)^{m/2}$$

In sum, we get an expression for the spherical harmonics as:

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \cdot \left( \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \phi} \right)^m$$
$$= e^{im\theta} \cdot p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \cdot \sin^m \phi$$

where  $p_{l-m}^m(y)$  is a (homogeneously completable) polynomial of degree  $l - m$ .



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \cdot \sin^m \phi$$

Examples ( $l = 0$ ):

$$Y_0^0(\theta, \phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}}$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \cdot \sin^m \phi$$

Examples ( $l = 1$ ):

$$Y_1^{-1}(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \phi \cdot e^{-i\theta}$$

$$Y_1^0(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \phi$$

$$Y_1^1(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \phi \cdot e^{i\theta}$$



# Defining the Harmonics ( $m \geq 0$ )

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \cdot \sin^m \phi$$

Examples ( $l = 2$ ):

$$Y_2^{-2}(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{32\pi}} \sin^2 \phi \cdot e^{-i2\theta}$$

$$Y_2^{-1}(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{8\pi}} \sin \phi \cdot \cos \phi \cdot e^{-i\theta}$$

$$Y_2^0(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{5}{16\pi}} (3 \cos^2 \phi - 1)$$

$$Y_2^1(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{8\pi}} \sin \phi \cdot \cos \phi \cdot e^{i\theta}$$

$$Y_2^2(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{32\pi}} \sin^2 \phi \cdot e^{i2\theta}$$