



# FFTs in Graphics and Vision

Differential Equations



# Outline

A Simple PDE

Solving the PDE

Relationship to the Fourier Transform

Generalizations

Examples



# Evolving Systems

In many physical systems, the way the system changes over time only depends on the system's current state.

## Examples:

- Population growth
- Radioactive decay
- Vibrations of a plucked string
- Heat dissipation
- Advection of particles in a vector field



# Evolving Systems

In many physical systems, the way the system changes over time only depends on the system's current state.

What we would like to be able to answer is:

- Given the dependency of the change in the system on its current state, and
- Given the initial state of the system,

How does the system evolve over time?



# Evolving Systems

## A Simple Case:

Consider a 1D system represented by the function  $F(x, t)$ , where  $x$  represents the point in space and  $t$  the point in time.



# Evolving Systems

## A Simple Case:

If the change in the system can be described by:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial F(x, t)}{\partial t} &= a_0 \cdot F(x, t) + \cdots + a_n \cdot \frac{\partial^n F(x, t)}{\partial x^n} \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p F(x, t)}{\partial x^p}\end{aligned}$$

and the initial state is defined by:

$$F(x, 0) = f^0(x)$$

How do we compute the state at time  $t$ :

$$F(x, t) = ?$$



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**Solving the PDE**

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# Solving the PDE

## General Approach:

1. Solve the time PDE  $h'(t) = \lambda \cdot h(t)$
2. Get a set of solutions to the space/time PDE
3. Find the linear combination of solutions that satisfies the initial condition



# Solve the time PDE $h'(t) = \lambda \cdot h(t)$

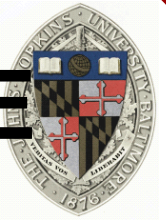


This we know how to do:

$$h'(t) = \lambda \cdot h(t)$$



$$h(t) = C \cdot e^{\lambda t}$$



# Get Solutions to the space/time PDE

$$\frac{\partial F(x, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p F(x, t)}{\partial x^p}$$

Approach (separation of variables):

Consider the case when  $F(x, t)$  is the product:

$$F(x, t) = g(x) \cdot h(t)$$

Our goal is to solve for  $g(x)$  and  $h(t)$  s.t.:

$$\frac{\partial (g(x) \cdot h(t))}{\partial t} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p (g(x) \cdot h(t))}{\partial x^p}$$

# Get Solutions to the space/time PDE



## Observation 1:

Taking the  $p$ -th derivative is a linear operation:

$$\frac{\partial^p (\alpha \cdot f(x) + \beta \cdot g(x))}{\partial x^p} = \alpha \cdot \frac{\partial^p f(x)}{\partial x^p} + \beta \cdot \frac{\partial^p g(x)}{\partial x^p}$$

$\Rightarrow$  The map:

$$f(x) \rightarrow \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p f(x)}{\partial x^p}$$

is linear.

# Get Solutions to the space/time PDE



## Observation 1:

The map:

$$f(x) \rightarrow \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p f(x)}{\partial x^p}$$

is linear.

We will write out this linear operator as:

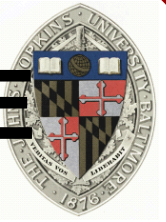
$$D_{\mathbf{a}} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_k \cdot \frac{\partial^p}{\partial x^p}$$

# Get Solutions to the space/time PDE



## Observation 2:

If we can find an eigenvalue/eigenvector of  $D_a$ ,  
we can find a solution to the space/time PDE.



# Get Solutions to the space/time PDE

## Observation 2:

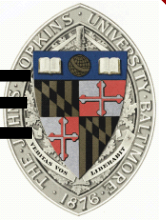
Suppose that  $\mathbf{g}^\lambda(x)$  is an eigenvector of  $D_a$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ :

$$D_a \left( \mathbf{g}^\lambda(x) \right) = \lambda \cdot \mathbf{g}^\lambda(x)$$

We want to find  $\mathbf{h}^\lambda(t)$  such that:

$$\frac{\partial (\mathbf{g}^\lambda(x) \cdot \mathbf{h}^\lambda(t))}{\partial t} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p (\mathbf{g}^\lambda(x) \cdot \mathbf{h}^\lambda(t))}{\partial x^p}$$

# Get Solutions to the space/time PDE



Observation 2:

$$\frac{\partial(\mathbf{g}^\lambda(x) \cdot \mathbf{h}^\lambda(t))}{\partial t} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p(\mathbf{g}^\lambda(x) \cdot \mathbf{h}^\lambda(t))}{\partial x^p}$$

Since  $\mathbf{g}^\lambda(x)$  does not depend on  $t$  we can re-write the left-hand side as:

$$\text{LHS} = \mathbf{g}^\lambda(x) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^\lambda(t)}{\partial t}$$



# Get Solutions to the space/time PDE

Observation 2:

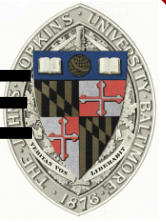
$$\mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{\lambda}(t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p (\mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x) \cdot \mathbf{h}^{\lambda}(t))}{\partial x^p}$$

Since  $\mathbf{h}^{\lambda}(t)$  does not depend on  $x$  we can re-write the right-hand side as:

$$\begin{aligned} RHS &= \mathbf{h}^{\lambda}(t) \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p \mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x)}{\partial x^p} \\ &= \mathbf{h}^{\lambda}(t) \cdot D_{\mathbf{a}} \left( \mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x) \right) \\ &= \lambda \cdot \mathbf{h}^{\lambda}(t) \cdot \mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x) \end{aligned}$$



# Get Solutions to the space/time PDE



Observation 2:

$$\mathbf{g}^\lambda(x) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^\lambda(t)}{\partial t} = \lambda \cdot \mathbf{h}^\lambda(t) \cdot \mathbf{g}^\lambda(x)$$

$\Uparrow$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^\lambda(t)}{\partial t} = \lambda \cdot \mathbf{h}^\lambda(t)$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\mathbf{h}^\lambda(t) = C \cdot e^{\lambda t}$$

# Get Solutions to the space/time PDE



## Observation 2:

⇒ If  $\mathbf{g}^\lambda(x)$  is an eigenvector of the linear operator  $D_a$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , then any multiple of:

$$\mathbf{F}^\lambda(x, t) = e^{\lambda \cdot t} \cdot \mathbf{g}^\lambda(x)$$

is a solution to the differential equation:

$$\frac{\partial F(x, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p F(x, t)}{\partial x^p}$$



# Satisfying the Initial Condition

## Observation 3:

If  $\mathbf{F}^1(x, t)$  and  $\mathbf{F}^2(x, t)$  are solutions to the (partial) differential equation then their linear combination is also a solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}^1}{\partial t} = D_a(\mathbf{F}^1) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}^2}{\partial t} = D_a(\mathbf{F}^2) \\ \Downarrow \\ \frac{\partial(\alpha \cdot \mathbf{F}^1 + \beta \cdot \mathbf{F}^2)}{\partial t} = D_a(\alpha \cdot \mathbf{F}^1 + \beta \cdot \mathbf{F}^2) \end{aligned}$$



# Satisfying the Initial Condition

- For every  $\mathbf{g}^\lambda(x)$  that is an eigenvector of  $D_a$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , the function:

$$\mathbf{F}^\lambda(x, t) = e^{\lambda \cdot t} \cdot \mathbf{g}^\lambda(x)$$

is a solution.

- A linear combination of solutions is a solution.

⇒ Any function  $F(x, t)$  that is expressible as:

$$F(x, t) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} \cdot e^{\lambda \cdot t} \cdot \mathbf{g}^\lambda(x)$$

is a solution to the PDE.



# Satisfying the Initial Condition

To satisfy the initial value conditions, we need to choose  $c_\lambda$  so that the function:

$$F(x, t) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} \cdot e^{\lambda \cdot t} \cdot \mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x)$$

satisfies the initial value conditions:

$$F(x, 0) = f^0(x)$$

But this implies that:

$$f^0(x) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} \cdot \mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x)$$



# Satisfying the Initial Condition

To satisfy the initial value conditions, we need to choose  $c_\lambda$  so that the function:

$$F(x, t) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} \cdot e^{\lambda \cdot t} \cdot \mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x)$$

satisfies the initial condition:

Satisfying the initial value conditions is equivalent to finding the coefficients of

But  $f^0(x)$  with respect to the functions  $\{\mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x)\}$

$$f^0(x) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} \cdot \mathbf{g}^{\lambda}(x)$$



# Outline

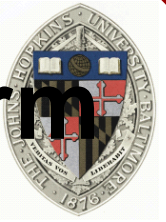
A Simple PDE

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# Relationship to the Fourier Transform

Recall that the Fourier decomposition expresses a circular function  $f(\theta)$  as a sum of complex exponentials of different frequencies:

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





# Relationship to the Fourier Transform

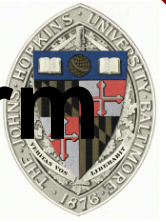
The complex exponentials are the eigenvectors of (all) the derivative operator:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta} = i \cdot k \cdot e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta} = -k^2 \cdot e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\frac{\partial^n}{\partial \theta^n} e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta} = (i \cdot k)^n \cdot e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta}$$



# Relationship to the Fourier Transform

So, if we are given the linear map:

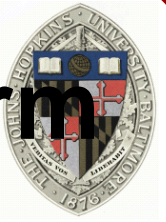
$$D_{\mathbf{a}} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p}{\partial \theta^p}$$

it acts on  $e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta}$  as:

$$D_{\mathbf{a}}(e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta}) = \left( \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot (i \cdot k)^p \right) e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta}$$

$\Rightarrow \zeta^k(\theta)$  is an eigenvector with eigenvalue:

$$\lambda_k = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot (i \cdot k)^p$$



# Relationship to the Fourier Transform

In particular, this implies that:

$$\mathbf{F}^k(\theta, t) = e^{\lambda_k \cdot t} \cdot \boldsymbol{\zeta}^k(\theta) \quad \text{w/ } \lambda_k = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot (i \cdot k)^p$$

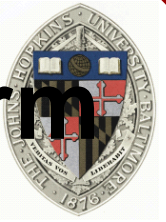
are solutions to the partial differential equation:

$$\frac{\partial F(\theta, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p F(\theta, t)}{\partial \theta^p}$$

⇒ All functions of the form:

$$F(\theta, t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c_k \cdot e^{\lambda_k \cdot t} \cdot \boldsymbol{\zeta}^k(\theta)$$

are solutions to the PDE



# Relationship to the Fourier Transform

$$F(\theta, t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c_k \cdot e^{\lambda_k t} \cdot \zeta^k(\theta)$$

To satisfy the initial condition:

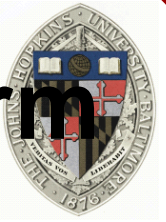
$$F(\theta, 0) = f^0(\theta)$$

we need to solve for the values of  $c_k$  such that:

$$f^0(\theta) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c_k \cdot \zeta^k(\theta)$$

$\Rightarrow c_k$  is the  $k$ -th Fourier coefficients of  $f^0(\theta)$ :

$$c_k = \hat{f}_k^0$$



# Relationship to the Fourier Transform

The solution to the PDE is the function  $F(\theta, t)$  whose  $k$ -th Fourier coefficient at time  $t$  is the modulation of the  $k$ -th Fourier coefficient of  $f^0(\theta)$  by a function of  $t$ :

$$\hat{f}_k(t) = \hat{f}_k^0 \cdot e^{\lambda_k \cdot t}$$



# Relationship to the Fourier Transform

To implement this, we start off by:

- Computing the Fourier coefficients of  $f^0(\theta)$

Then, at each time  $t$ , we:

- Compute the modulated Fourier coefficients:

$$\hat{f}_k(t) = \hat{f}_k^0 \cdot e^{\lambda_k \cdot t}$$

- And compute the inverse Fourier transform.



# Outline

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Solving the PDE

Relationship to the Fourier Transform

Generalizations

- Higher dimensions
- Second order time derivatives

Examples



# 2D Systems

In the case that the system is 2D, we want to consider functions of the form  $F(\theta, \phi, t)$ .

The linear partial differential equation becomes:

$$\frac{\partial F(\theta, \phi, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{p=0}^m \sum_{q=0}^n a_{pq} \cdot \frac{\partial^p \partial^q F(\theta, \phi, t)}{\partial \theta^p \partial \phi^q}$$

The initial state becomes:

$$F(\theta, \phi, 0) = f^0(\theta, \phi)$$

And the challenge is to compute the state of the system at an arbitrary point in time:

$$F(\theta, \phi, t) = ?$$





# 2D Systems

As in the 1D case, we can use the fact that the a periodic 2D function  $f(\theta, \phi)$  can be expressed in terms of its Fourier decomposition:

$$f(\theta, \phi) = \sum_{k,l=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}_{kl} \cdot \zeta^{kl}(\theta, \phi) = \sum_{k,l=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}_{kl} \cdot \frac{e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot \frac{e^{i \cdot l \cdot \phi}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$



# 2D Systems

And again, we use the fact that the complex exponentials are eigenvectors of the partial derivative operator:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta} \cdot e^{i \cdot l \cdot \phi} = (i \cdot k) \cdot e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta} \cdot e^{i \cdot l \cdot \phi}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta} \cdot e^{i \cdot l \cdot \phi} = (i \cdot l) \cdot e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta} \cdot e^{i \cdot l \cdot \phi}$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\frac{\partial^m \partial^n}{\partial \theta^m \partial \phi^n} e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta} \cdot e^{i \cdot l \cdot \phi} = (i \cdot k)^m \cdot (i \cdot l)^n e^{i \cdot k \cdot \theta} \cdot e^{i \cdot l \cdot \phi}$$



# 2D Systems

Thus, given the linear map:

$$D_{\mathbf{a}} = \sum_{p=0}^m \sum_{q=0}^n a_{pq} \cdot \frac{\partial^p \partial^q}{\partial \theta^p \partial \phi^q}$$

the complex exponential  $\zeta^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$  is an eigenvector with eigenvalue:

$$\lambda_{kl} = \sum_{p=0}^m \sum_{q=0}^n a_{pq} \cdot (i \cdot k)^p (i \cdot l)^q$$



# 2D Systems

$$\lambda_{kl} = \sum_{p=0}^m \sum_{q=0}^n a_{pq} \cdot (i \cdot k)^p (i \cdot l)^q$$

Given these eigenvectors, we can proceed as before, obtaining a solution to the differential equation for each eigenvector:

$$\mathbf{F}^{kl}(\theta, \phi, t) = e^{\lambda_{kl} \cdot t} \cdot \boldsymbol{\zeta}^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$$

And we can satisfy the initial condition:

$$F(\theta, \phi, 0) = f^0(\theta, \phi)$$

by setting the Fourier coefficients of  $F(\theta, \phi, t)$  at time  $t$  equal to:

$$\hat{f}_{kl}(t) = \hat{f}_{kl}^0 \cdot e^{\lambda_{kl} \cdot t}$$



# Outline

A Simple PDE

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## Generalizations

- Higher dimensions
- **Second order time derivatives**



# Second Order Time Derivatives

What if the change in the system is characterized by the second derivative with respect to time:

$$\frac{\partial^2 F(\theta, t)}{\partial t^2} = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p \cdot \frac{\partial^p F(\theta, t)}{\partial \theta^p}$$



# Second Order Time Derivatives

Recall that the solution to the original PDE was derived by solving the (first-order time) derivative:

$$h'(t) = \lambda \cdot h(t)$$

In this case, we need to solve the second-order time derivative:

$$h''(t) = \lambda \cdot h(t)$$

$\Downarrow$

$$h(t) = e^{\sqrt{\lambda}t} \quad \text{and} \quad h(t) = e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}t}$$



# Second Order Time Derivatives

As before, if  $\mathbf{g}^\lambda(\theta)$  is an eigenvector of the linear operator  $D_a$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , then the functions:

$$\mathbf{F}^{\lambda,+}(\theta, t) = e^{\sqrt{\lambda}t} \cdot \mathbf{g}^\lambda(\theta)$$

$$\mathbf{F}^{\lambda,-}(\theta, t) = e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}t} \cdot \mathbf{g}^\lambda(\theta)$$

will both be solutions to the PDE.





# Second Order Time Derivatives

Note that in this case, one eigenvector of  $D_a$  gives us two solutions to the differential equation.



We have more functions with which we can satisfy the initial boundary conditions.



We can specify more boundary conditions.



# Second Order Time Derivatives

In practice, this amounts to specifying two boundary conditions:

- Initial value conditions:

$$F(\theta, 0) = f^0(\theta)$$

- Initial derivative conditions:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} F(\theta, 0) = v^0(\theta)$$



# Second Order Time Derivatives

Intuitively:

In the first-order case the PDE gives the velocity at every point.

⇒ If we know the initial positions, this is enough to know where things end up.

In the second-order case the PDE gives the acceleration at every point.

⇒ To know where things end up, we need to know the initial position and the initial velocity.



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## Examples

- The Laplacian
- The 2D heat equation
- The 2D wave equation



# The Laplacian

Given a function  $f$  in 1D, how do we interpret its second derivative:

$$\Delta f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^2}$$



# The Laplacian

The first derivative of  $f(x)$  is approximated by looking at the difference between the value of  $f$  at  $x$  and the value of  $f$  at a neighboring point:

$$f'(x) \approx f(x+1) - f(x)$$

The Laplacian of  $f(x)$  is approximated by applying the process to the derivative of  $f(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} f''(x) &\approx f'(x) - f'(x-1) \\ &\approx (f(x+1) - f(x)) - (f(x) - f(x-1)) \\ &= f(x+1) + f(x-1) - 2f(x) \end{aligned}$$



# The Laplacian

The first derivative of  $f(x)$  is approximated by looking at the difference between the value of  $f$  at  $x$  and the value of  $f$  at a neighboring point:

$$f'(x) \approx f(x+1) - f(x)$$

The Laplacian of  $f(x)$  is approximated by applying the process to the derivative of  $f(x)$ :

$$f''(x) \approx 2 \left( \frac{f(x+1) + f(x-1)}{2} - f(x) \right)$$

i.e. it is a measure of the difference between the value of  $f$  at  $x$  and the average value of  $f$  at the neighbors of  $x$ .



# The Laplacian

The same interpretation holds for the Laplacian of a 2D function  $f$ :

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

i.e. The Laplacian of a function is a measure of how the value of  $f$  at a point  $(x, y)$  differs from the average of the values of its neighbors.





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- The Laplacian
- **The 2D heat equation**
- The 2D wave equation



# 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  $F(\theta, \phi, t)$  is the heat at position  $(x, y)$  at time  $t$ , then:

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



# Newton's Law of Cooling

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

In this case, the linear operator  $D_a$  is defined by:

$$D_a = \eta \cdot \Delta$$

and the complex exponential  $\zeta^{kl}$  is an eigenvector with eigenvalue:

$$\lambda_{kl} = -\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)$$



# Newton's Law of Cooling

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

Thus, the solution to this equation:

$$F(\theta, \phi, 0) = f^0(\theta, \phi)$$

is the function whose  $(k, l)$ -th Fourier coefficient at time  $t$  is:

$$\hat{f}_{kl}(t) = \hat{f}_{kl}^0 \cdot e^{-\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2) \cdot t}$$

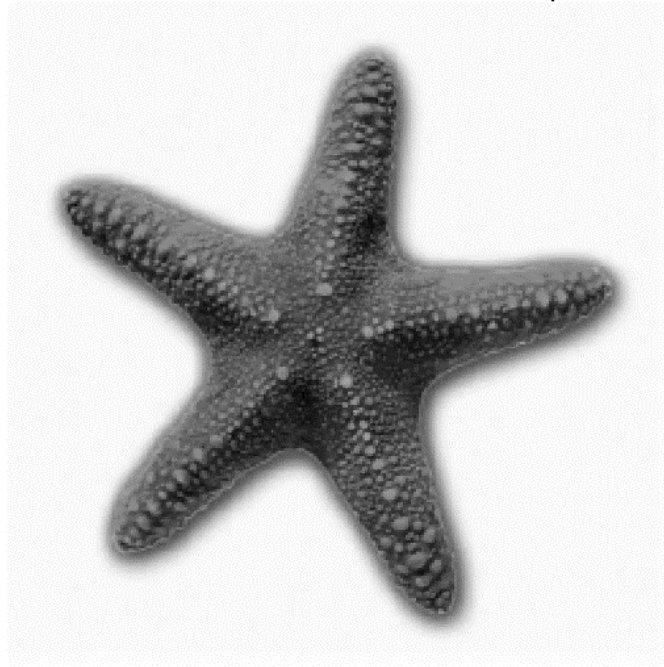


# Newton's Law of Cooling

$$\hat{f}_{kl}(t) = \hat{f}_{kl}^0 \cdot e^{-\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2) \cdot t}$$

This is equivalent to Gaussian smoothing for the plane,  
but extends the definition to other domains.

This looks remarkably like what we get when  
implement Gaussian smoothing...





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# The 2D Wave Equation

Consider a square (periodic) rubber sheet.

If we displace the points on the sheet, then at any point  $(\theta, \phi)$ , the neighbors of  $(\theta, \phi)$  will exert a force to pull the point towards them.

The force exerted on  $(\theta, \phi)$  is proportional to the distance of  $(\theta, \phi)$  from its neighbors.



# The 2D Wave Equation

If the height of the point  $(\theta, \phi)$  is given by the function  $h(\theta, \phi)$  then the force at  $(\theta, \phi)$  is:

$$f(\theta, \phi) = \eta \cdot \Delta h(\theta, \phi) \quad \text{w/ } \eta > 0$$

Using the fact that Force = Mass · Acceleration, the PDE for the height at time  $t$  is:

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





# The 2D Wave Equation

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

We would like to solve this equation, subject to the constraints that at the initial time-step:

- The height at each point is given by:

$$H(\theta, \phi, 0) = h^0(\theta, \phi)$$

- The sheet is not moving:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} H(\theta, \phi, 0) = 0$$



# The 2D Wave Equation

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

Again, the linear operator  $D_a$  is defined by:

$$D_a = \eta \cdot \Delta$$

and the complex exponential  $\zeta^{kl}$  is an eigenvector with eigenvalue:

$$\lambda_{kl} = -\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)$$



# The 2D Wave Equation

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

Thus, the solutions to this equation are:

$$\mathbf{H}^{kl,+}(\theta, \phi, t) = e^{i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} \cdot \boldsymbol{\zeta}^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$$

$$\mathbf{H}^{kl,-}(\theta, \phi, t) = e^{-i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} \cdot \boldsymbol{\zeta}^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$$

and a general solution takes the form:

$$H(\theta, \phi, t) = \sum_{k,l} \left( a_{kl} \cdot e^{i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} + b_{kl} \cdot e^{-i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} \right) \boldsymbol{\zeta}^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$$



# The 2D Wave Equation

$$H(\theta, \phi, t) = \sum_{k,l} \left( a_{kl} \cdot e^{i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} + b_{kl} \cdot e^{-i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} \right) \zeta^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$$

To satisfy the initial value condition:

$$H(\theta, \phi, 0) = h^0(\theta, \phi)$$

we need to have:

$$h^0(\theta, \phi) = \sum_{k,l} (a_{kl} + b_{kl}) \cdot \zeta^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\hat{h}_{kl}^0 = a_{kl} + b_{kl}$$



# The 2D Wave Equation

$$H(\theta, \phi, t) = \sum_{k,l} \left( a_{kl} \cdot e^{i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} + b_{kl} \cdot e^{-i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} \right) \zeta^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$$

To satisfy the initial derivative condition:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} H(\theta, \phi, 0) = 0$$

we need to have:

$$0 = \sum_{k,l} (a_{kl} - b_{kl}) \left( i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \right) \cdot \zeta^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$$

$\Downarrow$

$$a_{kl} = b_{kl}$$



# The 2D Wave Equation

$$H(\theta, \phi, t) = \sum_{k,l} \left( a_{kl} \cdot e^{i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} + b_{kl} \cdot e^{-i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} \right) \zeta^{kl}(\theta, \phi)$$
$$\hat{h}_{kl}^0 = a_{kl} + b_{kl} \quad \text{and} \quad a_{kl} = b_{kl}$$

⇒ The solution to the 2D wave equation, with initial position  $h^0(\theta, \phi)$  and zero initial derivative is the function  $H(\theta, \phi, t)$  whose Fourier coefficients at time  $t$  are equal to:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{h}_{kl}(t) &= \hat{h}_{kl}^0 \cdot \frac{e^{i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t} + e^{-i\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t}}{2} \\ &= \hat{h}_{kl}^0 \cdot \cos \left( \sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t \right) \end{aligned}$$



# The 2D Wave Equation

$$\hat{h}_{kl}(t) = \hat{h}_{kl}^0 \cdot \cos\left(\sqrt{\eta \cdot (k^2 + l^2)} \cdot t\right)$$

This looks nothing like what we get when implement Gaussian smoothing...





# The 2D Wave Equation

## Note:

The discussion didn't need the full force of the Fourier transform. As long as we can compute the eigenvalues/eigenvectors  $\{\lambda, \mathbf{g}^\lambda\}$  of the differential operator  $D_a$ , we can generate solutions as the linear combinations of:

$$\mathbf{H}^{\lambda,+}(p, t) = e^{\sqrt{\lambda}t} \cdot \mathbf{g}^\lambda(p)$$

$$\mathbf{H}^{\lambda,-}(p, t) = e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}t} \cdot \mathbf{g}^\lambda(p)$$

