



FFTs in Graphics and Vision

The Laplace Operator



Goal

We would like a general way for finding (small) sub-representations for the space of functions.

Recall:

1. Given a representation (ρ, V) of a group G , a map $\Phi: V \rightarrow V$ is G -linear if:

$$\rho_g \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ \rho_g \quad \forall g \in G$$

2. Given a G -linear map Φ , the kernel (and hence any eigenspace) is a sub-representation.

\Rightarrow We can find sub-representations by finding a G -linear map and considering its eigenspaces.



Outline

Math Stuff

- Symmetric/Hermitian Matrices
- Gradients
- Lagrange Multipliers
- Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices

The Laplacian Operator



Linear Operators

Definition:

Given a real inner product space $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ and a linear operator $L: V \rightarrow V$, the adjoint of the L is the linear operator L^* , with the property that:

$$\langle v, Lw \rangle = \langle L^*v, w \rangle \quad \forall v, w \in V$$



Linear Operators

Note:

Let $V = \mathbb{R}^n$ with the standard inner product:

$$\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \cdot w_i = \mathbf{v}^\top \cdot \mathbf{w}$$

\Rightarrow The adjoint of a matrix $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is its transpose:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{M}\mathbf{w} \rangle &= \mathbf{v}^\top \cdot \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{w} \\ &= (\mathbf{M}^\top \cdot \mathbf{v})^\top \cdot \mathbf{w} \\ &= \langle \mathbf{M}^\top \cdot \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle \end{aligned}$$



Linear Operators

Definition:

A real linear operator L is self-adjoint if it is its own adjoint, i.e.:

$$\langle v, Lw \rangle = \langle Lv, w \rangle \quad \forall v, w \in V$$



Linear Operators

Note:

Let $V = \mathbb{R}^n$ with the standard inner product:

$$\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \cdot w_i = \mathbf{v}^T \cdot \mathbf{w}$$

\Rightarrow A matrix $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is self-adjoint if it is symmetric:

$$\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^T$$



Linear Operators

Definition:

Given a complex inner product space $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ and given a linear operator $L: V \rightarrow V$, the adjoint of the L is the linear operator L^* , with the property that:

$$\langle v, Lw \rangle = \langle L^*v, w \rangle \quad \forall v, w \in V$$



Linear Operators

Note:

Let $V = \mathbb{C}^n$ with the standard inner product:

$$\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \cdot \bar{w}_i = \mathbf{v}^T \cdot \bar{\mathbf{w}}$$

\Rightarrow The adjoint of matrix $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ is its conjugate transpose:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{M}\mathbf{w} \rangle &= \mathbf{v}^T \cdot \overline{\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{w}} \\ &= (\bar{\mathbf{M}}^T \cdot \mathbf{v})^T \cdot \bar{\mathbf{w}} \\ &= \langle \bar{\mathbf{M}}^T \cdot \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle \end{aligned}$$



Linear Operators

Definition:

A complex linear operator L is self-adjoint if it is its own adjoint, i.e.:

$$\langle v, Lw \rangle = \langle Lv, w \rangle \quad \forall v, w \in V$$



Linear Operators

Note:

Let $V = \mathbb{C}^n$ with the standard inner product:

$$\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \cdot \bar{w}_i = \mathbf{v}^T \cdot \bar{\mathbf{w}}$$

\Rightarrow A matrix $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ is self-adjoint if it is Hermitian:

$$\mathbf{M} = \bar{\mathbf{M}}^T$$



Outline

Math

- Symmetric/Hermitian Matrices
- **Gradients**
- Lagrange Multipliers
- Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices

The Laplacian Operator



Gradients

Given a real inner-product space V and given a function $g: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the gradient of g at $v \in V$ is the vector $\nabla g|_v \in V$ such that:

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(v + \varepsilon w) - g(v)}{\varepsilon} = \langle \nabla g|_v, w \rangle$$



Gradients

Example 1:

Let g be the function describing the unit sphere:

$$g(v) = \|v\|^2 - 1$$

For any $w \in V$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} g(v + \varepsilon w) &= \|v + \varepsilon w\|^2 - 1 \\ &= \langle v + \varepsilon w, v + \varepsilon w \rangle - 1 \\ &= \|v\|^2 + 2\varepsilon \langle v, w \rangle + \varepsilon^2 \|w\|^2 - 1 \\ &= g(v) + 2\varepsilon \langle v, w \rangle + \varepsilon^2 \|w\|^2 \end{aligned}$$



Gradients

Example 1:

Let g be the function describing the unit sphere:

$$g(v) = \|v\|^2 - 1$$
$$g(v + \varepsilon w) = g(v) + 2\varepsilon \langle v, w \rangle + \varepsilon^2 \|w\|^2$$

Taking the derivative, we get:

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(v + \varepsilon w) - g(v)}{\varepsilon} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{2\varepsilon \langle v, w \rangle + \varepsilon^2 \|w\|^2}{\varepsilon}$$
$$= \langle 2v, w \rangle$$
$$\Downarrow$$
$$\nabla g \Big|_v = 2v$$



Gradients

Example 2:

Let L be a self-adjoint operator on V , define f to be the function:

$$f(v) = \langle v, Lv \rangle$$

For any $w \in V$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} f(v + \varepsilon w) &= \langle v + \varepsilon w, L(v + \varepsilon w) \rangle \\ &= \langle v, Lv \rangle + \varepsilon \langle w, Lv \rangle + \varepsilon \langle v, Lw \rangle + \varepsilon^2 \langle w, Lw \rangle \\ &= f(v) + 2\varepsilon \langle Lv, w \rangle + \varepsilon^2 \langle w, Lw \rangle \end{aligned}$$



Gradients

Example 2:

Let L be a self-adjoint operator on V , define f to be the function:

$$\begin{aligned} f(v) &= \langle v, Lv \rangle \\ f(v + \varepsilon w) &= f(v) + 2\varepsilon \langle Lv, w \rangle + \varepsilon^2 \langle w, Lw \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Taking the derivative, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(v + \varepsilon w) - f(v)}{\varepsilon} &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{2\varepsilon \langle Lv, w \rangle + \varepsilon^2 \langle w, Lw \rangle}{\varepsilon} \\ &= \langle 2Lv, w \rangle \\ &\Downarrow \\ \nabla f \Big|_v &= 2Lv \end{aligned}$$

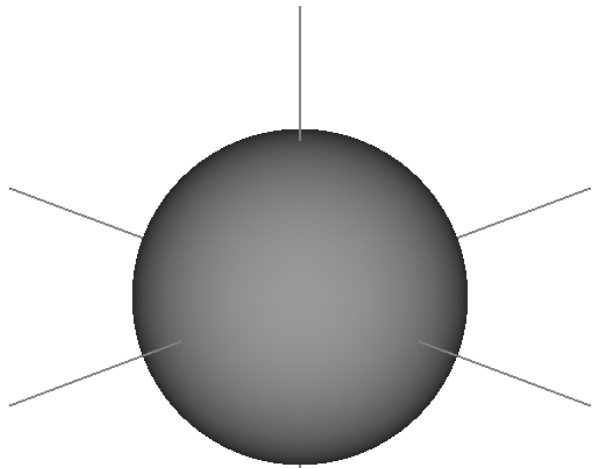


Implicit Surface

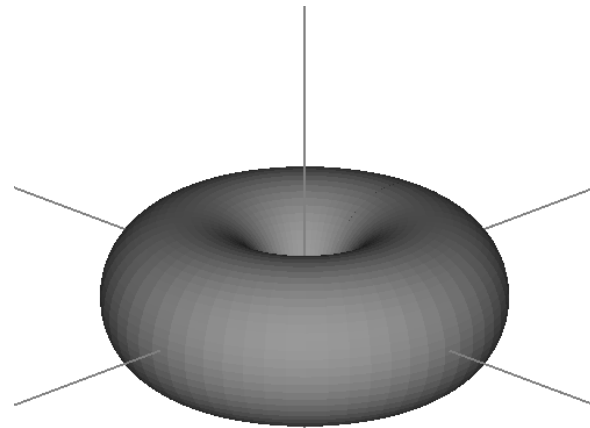
Definition:

Given an inner-product space V and a function $g: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the implicit surface or iso-surface defined by g is the set of vectors $v \in V$ satisfying:

$$g(v) = 0$$



$$g(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 1$$



$$g(x, y, z) = \left(x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - (R^2 + r^2)\right)^2 - 4R^2(r^2 - z^2)$$



Gradients

Example 3:

Given a vector on the implicit surface, $v \in V$ with $g(v) = 0$, a direction $w \in V$ is tangent to the implicit surface at v if:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(v + \varepsilon w)}{\varepsilon} \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(v + \varepsilon w) - g(v)}{\varepsilon} \\ &\quad \Updownarrow \\ 0 &= \left\langle \nabla g \Big|_v, w \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

The tangents of the implicit surface at $v \in V$ are orthogonal to the gradient of g at v .



Outline

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- Gradients
- Lagrange Multipliers
- Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices

The Laplacian Operator



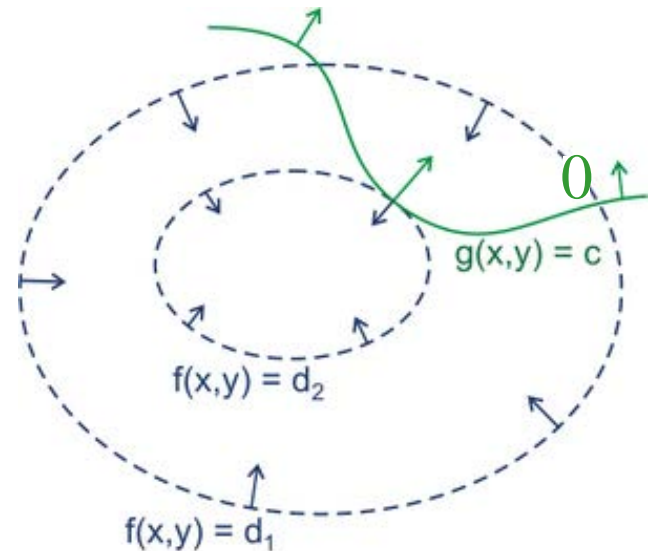
Lagrange Multipliers

Goal:

Given an implicit surface defined by a function $g: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and given a function $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, we want to find the extrema of f on the implicit surface.

This can be done by finding points $v \in V$ with:

- $g(v) = 0$, and
- the gradient of f is orthogonal to the tangents at v .





Lagrange Multipliers

Want points $v \in V$ such that:

- $g(v) = 0$, and
- the gradient of f is orthogonal to the tangents at v .

Since the tangents at v are perpendicular to the gradient of g finding the extrema amounts to finding the points $v \in V$ such that:

- $g(v) = 0$ (the point is on the surface)
- $\lambda \cdot \nabla f|_v = \nabla g|_v$ (the point is a local extrema)



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The Laplacian Operator

Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices



Claim:

Given a real inner-product space V and a self-adjoint operator L :

The eigenvectors of L form an orthogonal basis

Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices



The Eigenvectors Form an Orthogonal Basis:

To show this we will show two things:

1. If $v \in V$ is an eigenvector, then the space of vectors orthogonal to v is fixed by L .
2. At least one eigenvector exists.



Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices

1. If $v \in V$ is an eigenvector, then the space of vectors orthogonal to v is fixed by L .

Suppose that $v \in V$ is an eigenvector and $w \in V$ is a vector that is orthogonal to v :

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

Since v is an eigenvector, this implies that:

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

Since L is self-adjoint, we have:

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



Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices

1. If $v \in V$ is an eigenvector, then the space of vectors orthogonal to v is fixed by L .

Let W be the subspace of vectors orthogonal to v :

$$W = \{w \in V \mid \langle w, v \rangle = 0\}.$$

\Rightarrow We have:

$$\langle v, Lw \rangle = 0 \quad \forall w \in W$$



$$Lw \in W \quad \forall w \in W$$



Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices

1. If $v \in V$ is an eigenvector, then the space of vectors orthogonal to v is fixed by L .

Implications:

Suppose we can always find one eigenvector v of L , we can consider the restriction of L to W .

We know that:

- $L(W) \subset W$
- $\langle Lu, w \rangle = \langle u, Lw \rangle \quad \forall u, w \in W$

\Rightarrow Recurse on W to find the next eigenvector.



Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices

2. At least one eigenvector must exist

We show this using Lagrange multipliers:

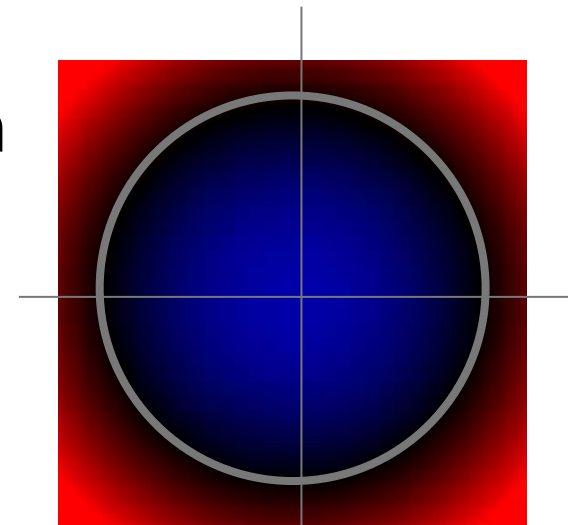
- The implicit surface will be the sphere in V :

$$g(v) = \|v\|^2 - 1$$

- The function we optimize will be:

$$f(v) = \langle v, Lv \rangle$$

Because the sphere is compact, an extrema must exist.



$$g(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 - 1$$

Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices



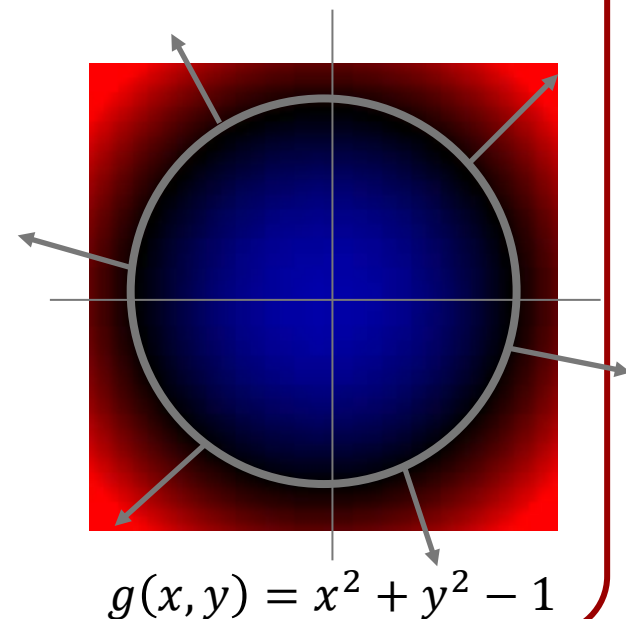
2. At least one eigenvector must exist

The gradient of g is:

$$\nabla g \Big|_v = 2v$$

and the gradient of f is:

$$\nabla f \Big|_v = 2Lv$$





Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices

2. At least one eigenvector must exist

Since the function f must have a maximum on the sphere, we know that there exists v s.t.:

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda \cdot \nabla g \Big|_v &= \nabla f \Big|_v \\ \Downarrow \\ \lambda \cdot v &= Lv\end{aligned}$$

So at the maximum, we have our eigenvalue.



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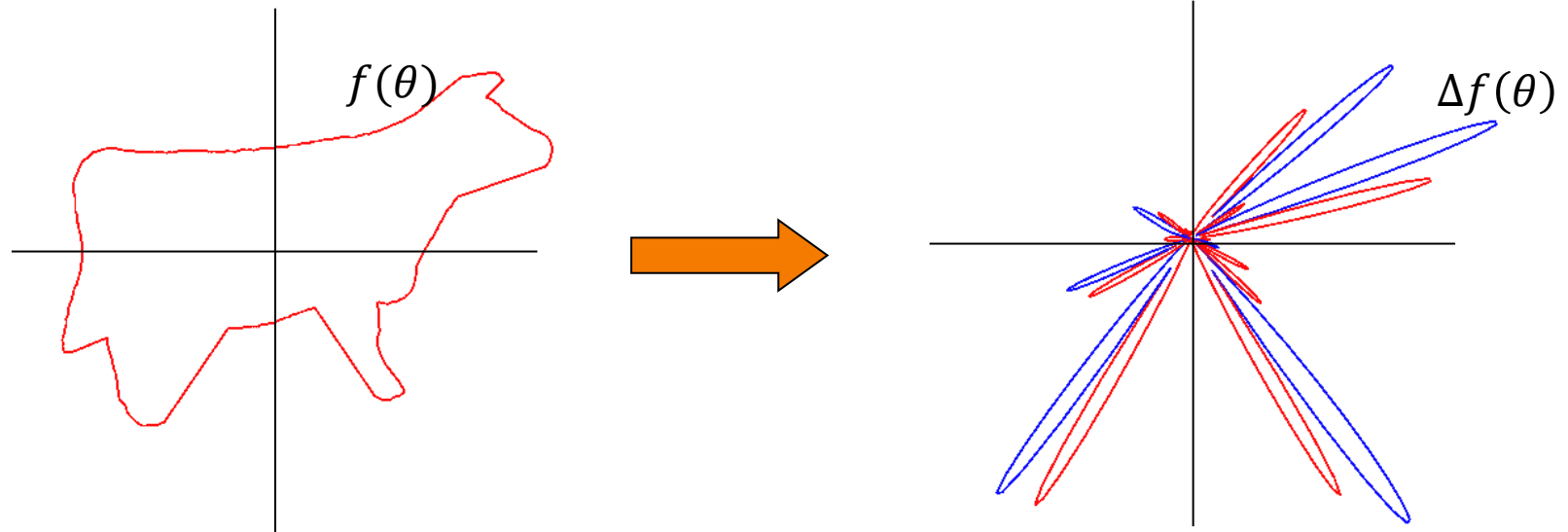
The Laplacian Operator



The Laplacian Operator

Recall:

The Laplacian of a function f at a point measures how similar the value of f at the point is to the average values of its neighbors.





The Laplacian Operator

Recall:

Formally, for a function in 2D, the Laplacian is the sum of unmixed partial second derivatives:

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



The Laplacian Operator

Observation 1:

The Laplacian is a self-adjoint operator.

To show this, we need to show that for any two functions f and g , we have:

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



The Laplacian Operator

Observation 1:

First, we show this in the 1D case, for functions $f(\theta)$ and $g(\theta)$:

$$\langle f, g'' \rangle = \langle f'', g \rangle$$

Writing the dot-product as an integral gives:

$$\langle f, g'' \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \cdot g''(\theta) d\theta$$



The Laplacian Operator

Observation 1:

Using the product rule for derivatives:

$$(f \cdot g)' = f' \cdot g + f \cdot g'$$
$$\Downarrow$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} (f \cdot g)'(\theta) d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} f'(\theta) \cdot g(\theta) d\theta + \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \cdot g'(\theta) d\theta$$

Since f and g are functions on a circle, their values at 0 and 2π are the same:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} (f \cdot g)'(\theta) d\theta = (f \cdot g)(2\pi) - (f \cdot g)(0) = 0$$



The Laplacian Operator

Observation 1:

Thus, we have:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \cdot g'(\theta) d\theta = - \int_0^{2\pi} f'(\theta) \cdot g(\theta) d\theta$$

“Moving” the derivative twice gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} f''(\theta) \cdot g(\theta) d\theta &= - \int_0^{2\pi} f'(\theta) \cdot g'(\theta) d\theta \\ &= (-1)^2 \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \cdot g''(\theta) d\theta \end{aligned}$$

\Updownarrow

$$\langle f'', g \rangle = \langle f, g'' \rangle$$



The Laplacian Operator

Observation 1:

To generalize this to higher dimensions, we write out the dot-product as:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \Delta f, g \rangle &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \theta^2} g \, d\theta \, d\phi + \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2} g \, d\phi \, d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial \theta^2} \, d\theta \, d\phi + \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial \phi^2} \, d\phi \, d\theta \\ &= \langle f, \Delta g \rangle\end{aligned}$$



The Laplacian Operator

Observation 2:

The Laplacian operator commutes with rotation –
i.e. computing the Laplacian and rotating gives
the same function as first rotating and then
computing the Laplacian:

$$\Delta(\rho_R(f)) = \rho_R(\Delta(f))$$

Formally:

The Laplacian is G -linear.



The Laplacian Operator

Implications:

- **Observation 1:** Since the Laplacian operator is self-adjoint, it must be diagonalizable.

⇒ There is an orthogonal basis of eigenvectors.

⇒ If we group the eigenvectors with the same eigenvalues together, we get a set of vector spaces V^λ such that for any function $f \in V^\lambda$:

$$\Delta f = \lambda \cdot f$$



The Laplacian Operator

Implications:

- **Observation 2:** Since the Laplacian operator commutes with rotation, rotations map vectors in V^λ back into V^λ .

For any $f \in V^\lambda$:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta(\rho_R(f)) &= \rho_R(\Delta(f)) \\ &= \rho_R(\lambda \cdot f) \\ &= \lambda \cdot \rho_R(f)\end{aligned}$$

- \Rightarrow The space V^λ fixed under the action of rotation.
- \Rightarrow The space V^λ is a sub-representations for the group of rotation.



The Laplacian Operator

Going back to the problem of finding the irreducible representations, this means we can begin by looking for the eigenspaces of the Laplacian operator.



Computing the Laplacian

We know how to compute the Laplacian of a circular function represented by parameter:

$$\Delta f(\theta) = f''(\theta)$$

How do we compute the Laplacian for a function represented by restriction?



Computing the Laplacian

If we define a function on a circle as the restriction of a 2D function, the 2D Laplacian is not the same as the circular Laplacian!

Example:

Consider the function $f(x, y) = x$.

- In the plane, the Laplacian is:

$$\Delta f(x, y) = 0$$

- On the circle this is the function $f(\theta) = \cos(\theta)$:

$$\Delta f(\theta) = -\cos(\theta)$$



Computing the Laplacian

If we define a function on a circle as the restriction of a 2D function, the 2D Laplacian is not the same as the circular Laplacian!

Intuitively:

The Laplacian measures the difference between the value of a point and the average value of the “neighbors”.

Who the “neighbors” are changes depending on whether we are considering the plane or the circle.



Computing the Laplacian

Recall:

For a vector field:

$$\vec{F}(x, y) = (F_1(x, y), F_2(x, y))$$

the divergence is defined:

$$\operatorname{div}(\vec{F}) = \nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y}$$

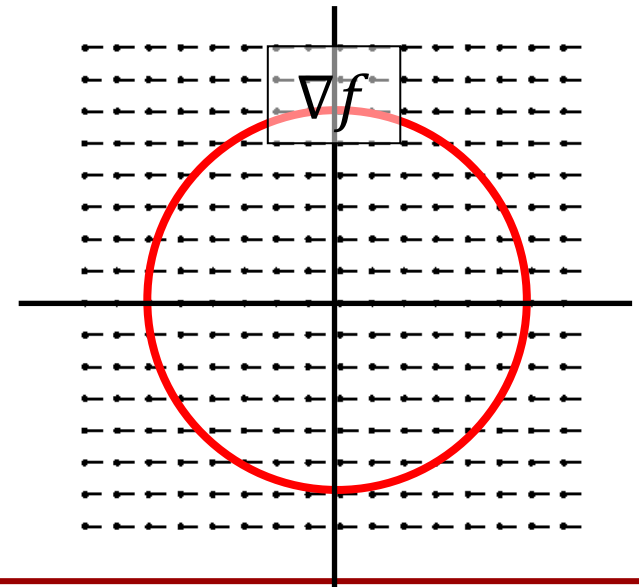
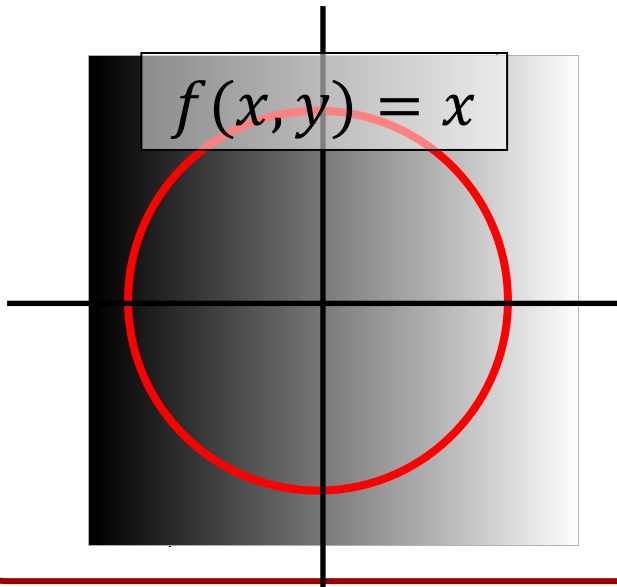
We can also express the Laplacian as the divergence of the gradient:

$$\Delta f \equiv \nabla \cdot \nabla f$$



Computing the Gradient

In general, the gradient of the function $f(x, y)$ need not lie along the unit-circle.



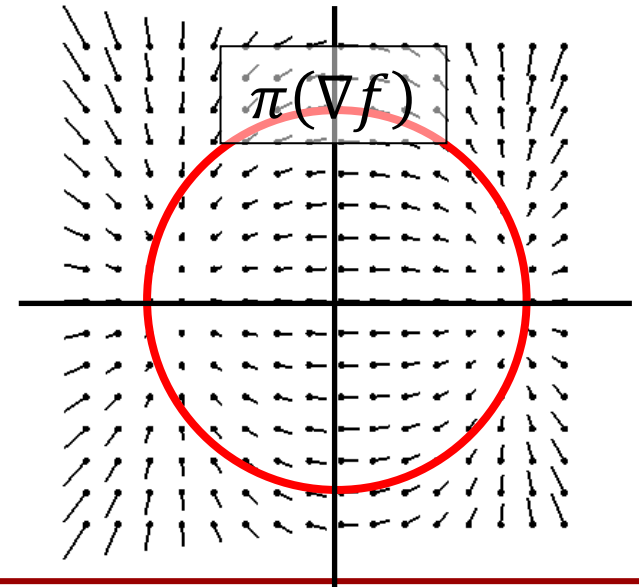
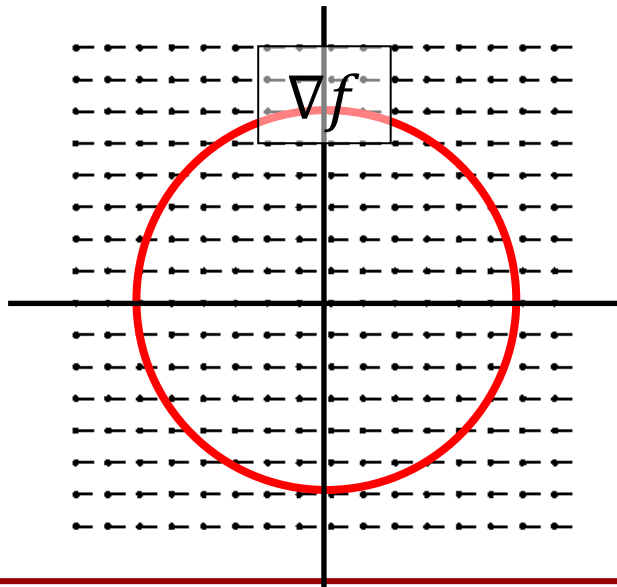


Computing the Gradient

In general, the gradient of the function $f(x, y)$ need not lie along the unit-circle.

We can fix this by “projecting” the gradient onto the unit circle:

$$\pi(\nabla f) = \nabla f - \langle \nabla f, (x, y) \rangle (x, y)$$





Computing the Laplacian

The divergence of a vector field \vec{F} can be expressed as the sum of partials:

$$\operatorname{div}(\vec{F}) = \nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y}$$

This measures how much \vec{F} converges/diverges in the neighborhood of a point.

When considering restricted function, we are only interested in the convergence/divergence in the neighborhood on the circle.



Computing the Laplacian

Given any orthogonal basis $\{v, w\}$, the divergence is the derivative of the v -component of the vector field in the v -direction, plus the derivative of the w -component of the vector field in the w -direction:

$$\operatorname{div}(\vec{F}) = \nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \frac{\partial \langle \vec{F}, v \rangle}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial \langle \vec{F}, w \rangle}{\partial w}$$



Computing the Laplacian

⇒ To compute the divergence of the vector field along the circle, we can compute the 2D divergence, and subtract off the contribution from the normal direction:

$$\text{div}_{\text{circle}}(\vec{F}) = \text{div}_{2D}(\vec{F}) - \frac{\partial \langle \vec{F}, n \rangle}{\partial n}$$

Since the component of \vec{F} in the normal direction is a scalar function, its derivative in the normal direction can be expressed as a gradient:

$$\frac{\partial \langle \vec{F}, n \rangle}{\partial n} = \langle \nabla \langle \vec{F}, n \rangle, n \rangle$$

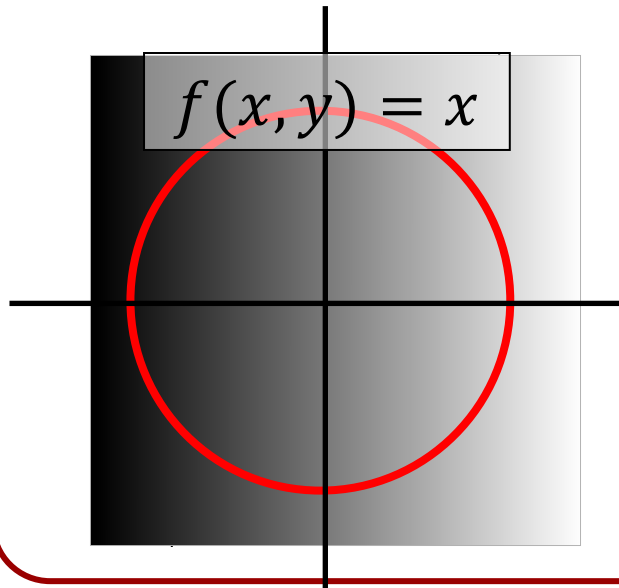
Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)



Example:

Consider the function:

$$f(x, y) = x$$



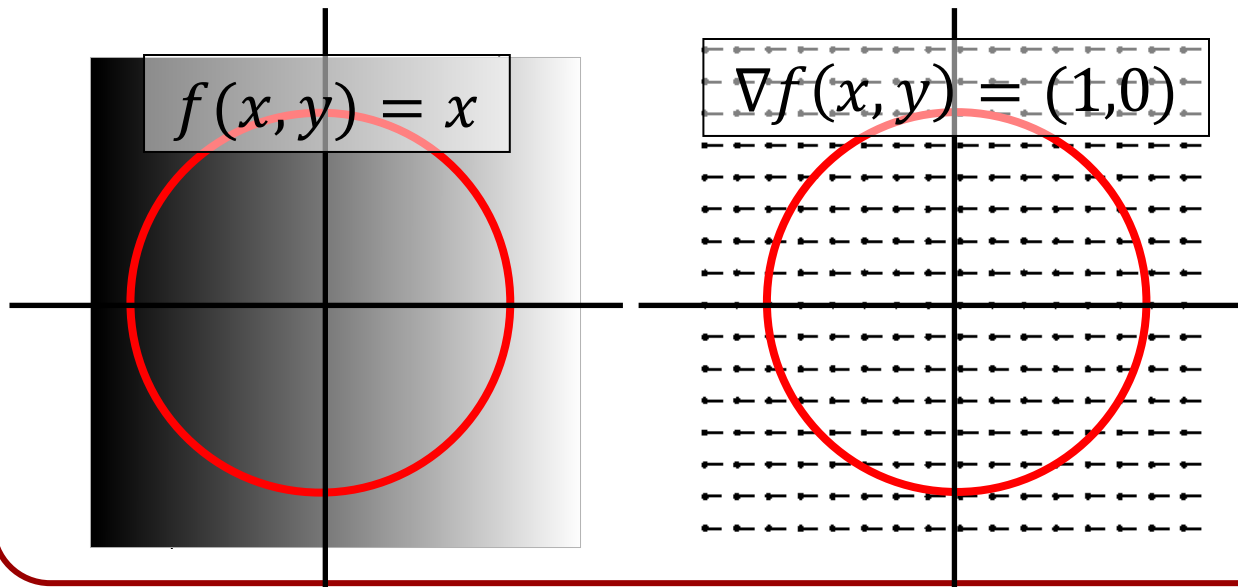
Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)



Example:

Its gradient is:

$$\nabla f = (1, 0)$$



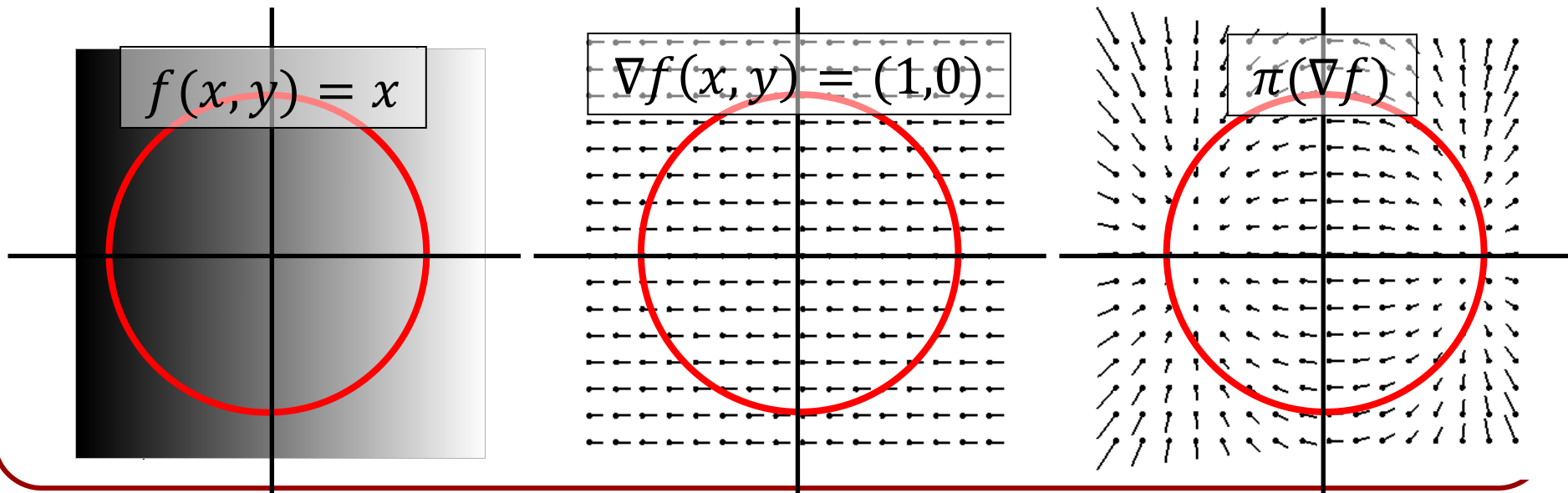


Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)

Example: $\nabla f = (1, 0)$

Projecting the gradient onto the unit-circle we get:

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(\nabla f) &= \nabla f - \langle \nabla f, n \rangle n \\ &= \nabla f - \langle \nabla f, (x, y) \rangle (x, y) \\ &= (1, 0) - x(x, y)\end{aligned}$$



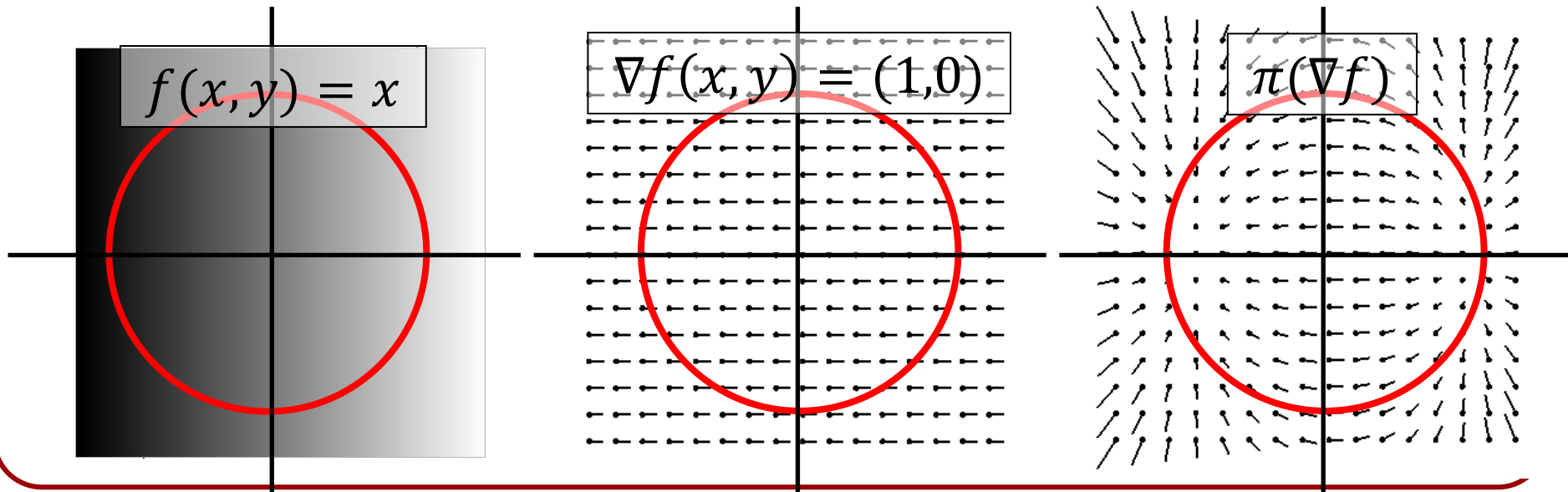


Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)

Example: $\pi(\nabla f) = (1, 0) - x(x, y)$

The divergence of the vector field $\pi(\nabla f)$ is:

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{div}_{2D}(\pi(\nabla f)) &= -2x - x \\ &= -3x\end{aligned}$$



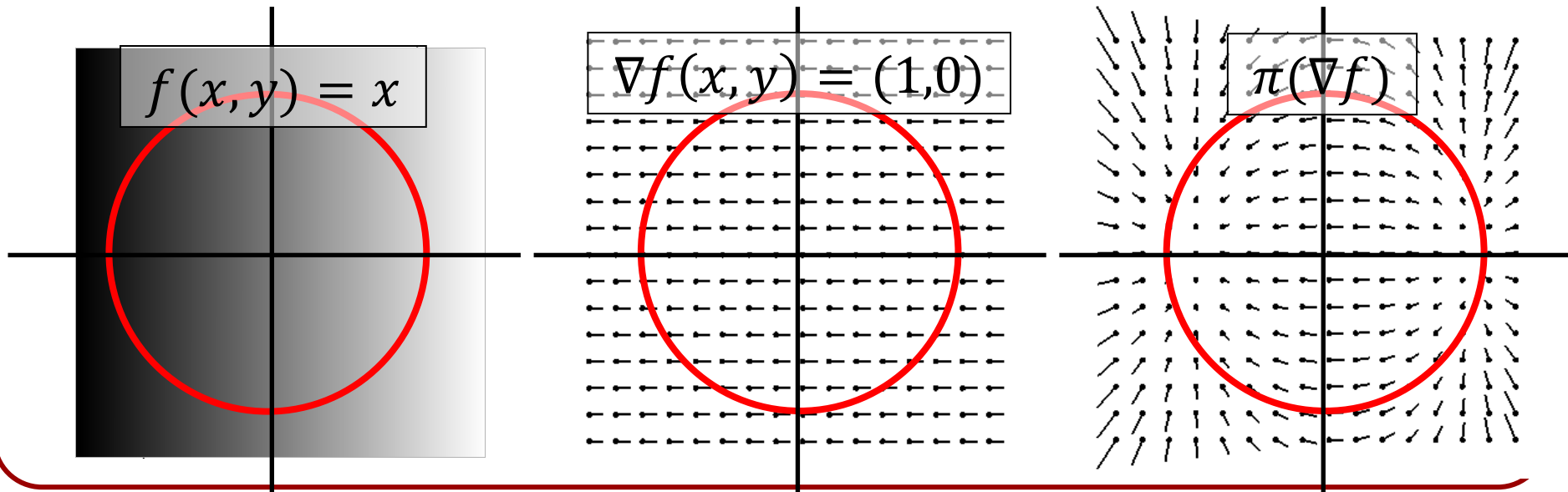


Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)

Example: $\pi(\nabla f) = (1, 0) - x(x, y)$

Taking the inner-product with the normal gives:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \pi(\nabla f), n \rangle &= \langle (1, 0) - x(x, y), (x, y) \rangle \\ &= x - x(x^2 + y^2) \\ &= x - x^3 + xy^2\end{aligned}$$



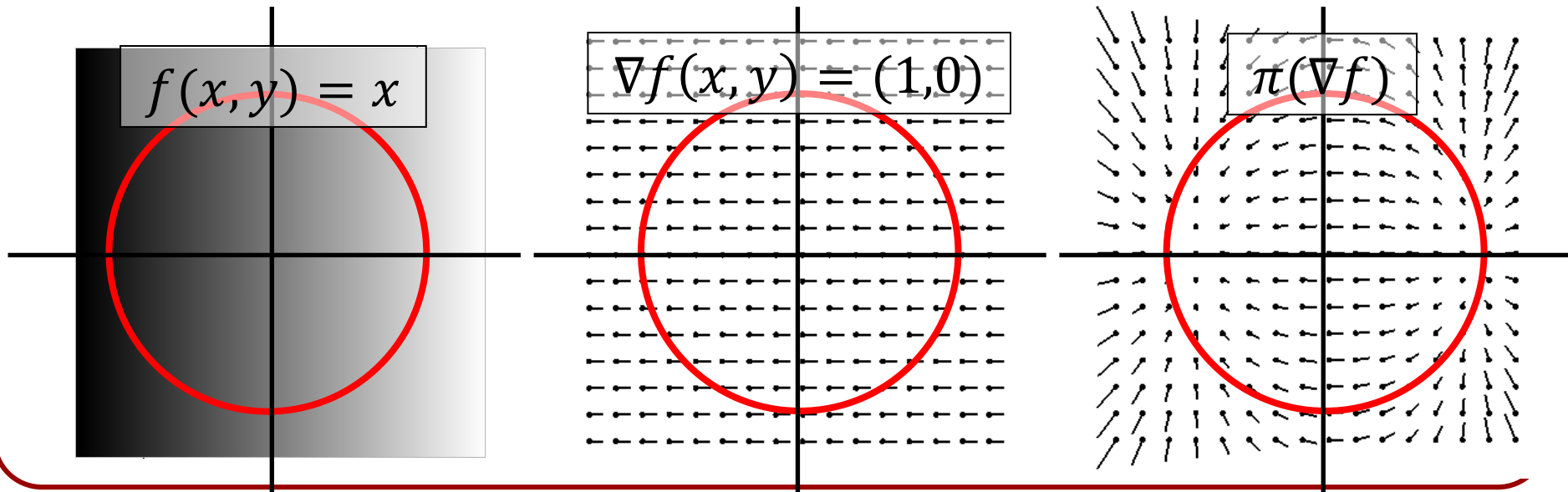


Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)

Example: $\langle \pi(\nabla f), n \rangle = x - x^3 + xy^2$

The gradient of the projection is:

$$\nabla \langle \pi(\nabla f), n \rangle = (1, 0) - (3x^2 + y^2, 2xy)$$



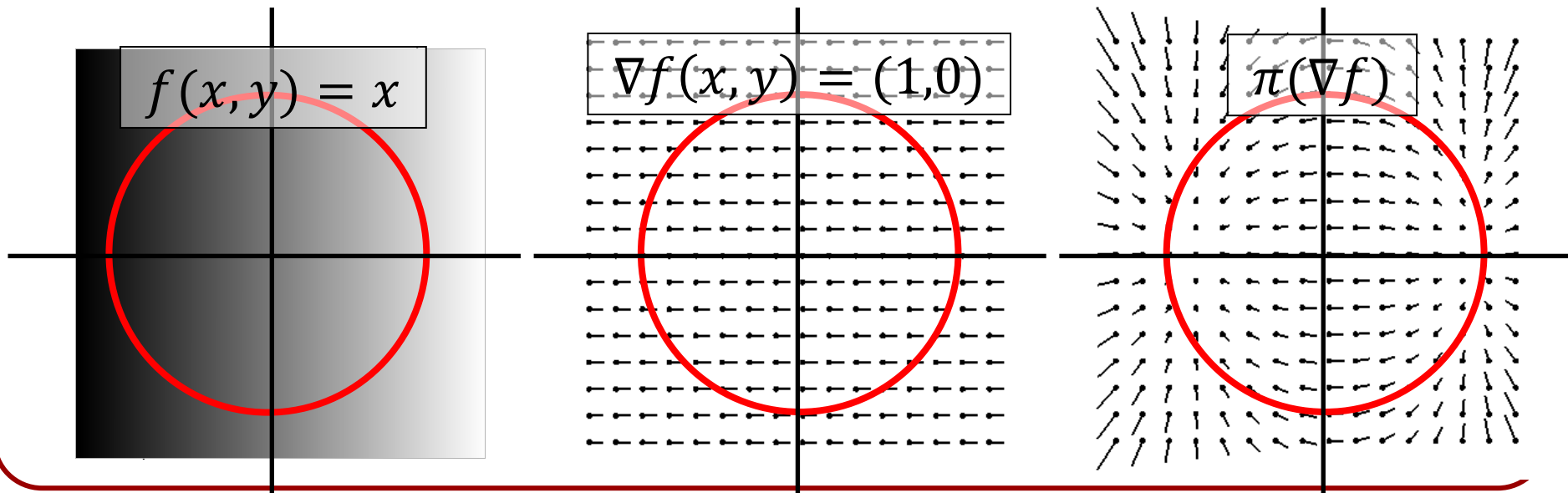


Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)

Example: $\nabla \langle \pi(\nabla f), n \rangle = (1, 0) - (3x^2 + y^2, 2xy)$

So the divergence in the normal direction is:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div}_n(\pi(\nabla f)) &= \langle (1, 0) - (3x^2 + y^2, 2xy), (x, y) \rangle \\ &= x - 3x - xy^2 - 2xy^2 \\ &= x - 3x^3 - 3xy^2 \end{aligned}$$



Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)



Example:

$$\operatorname{div}_{2D}(\pi(\nabla f)) = -3x \quad \operatorname{div}_n(\pi(\nabla f)) = x - 3x^3 - 3xy^2$$

Thus the circular Laplacian can be expressed as the difference between the 2D divergence and the divergence in the normal direction:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\text{circle}} f(x, y) &= \operatorname{div}_{2D}(\pi(\nabla f)) - \operatorname{div}_n(\pi(\nabla f)) \\ &= -3x - (x - 3x^3 - 3xy^2) \\ &= -4x + 3x(x^2 + y^2) \end{aligned}$$

Since points on the circle satisfy $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, this implies that for (x, y) on the circle:

$$\Delta_{\text{circle}} f(x, y) = -x$$

Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)



Example:

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$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\text{circle}} f(x, y) &= \operatorname{div}_{2D}(\pi(\nabla f)) - \operatorname{div}_n(\pi(\nabla f)) \\ &= -3x - (x - 3x^3 - 3xy^2) \\ &= -4x + 3x(x^2 + y^2) \end{aligned}$$

Since points on the circle satisfy $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, this implies that for (x, y) on the circle:

$$\Delta_{\text{circle}} f(x, y) = -f(x, y)$$

Computing the Laplacian ($f(x, y) = x$)



Example:

Just as in the parameter case, $f(\theta) = \cos(\theta)$, the function f is an eigenvector of the circular Laplacian operator, with eigenvalue -1 .