

# Laplacian Eigenfunctions: Foundations and Applications

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September 4, 2013

# Outline

- 1 Lecture Outline
- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
- 6 Applications
- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks
- 8 Summary & References

# Acknowledgment

- Mark Ashbaugh (Univ. Missouri)
- Pedro Antunes (Univ. Lisbon, Portugal)
- Alex Barnett (Dartmouth College)
- Faisal Beg & Pradeep Kumar (Simon Fraser Univ., Canada)
- Raphy Coifman & Peter Jones (Yale Univ.)
- David Donoho (Stanford Univ.)
- Lotfi Hermi (Univ. Arizona)
- John Hunter (UC Davis)
- Naofumi Iwama & Yoshio Nagayama (NIFS/SOKENDAI)
- Chiu-Yen Kao & Hrushikesh Mhaskar (Claremont Grad. Univ.)
- Braxton Osting (UCLA)
- Martin Reuter (Harvard Medical School)
- My current & former students at UC Davis
- Support from NSF & ONR
- The MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive, Wikipedia, ...

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- Motivations
- History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- Lunch Break
- Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
- Applications
- Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems on Graphs
- Summary

## General References

- H. Urakawa: *Laplacian & Networks*, Shokabo, 1996 (in Japanese).
- S. Kotani & H. Matano: *Differential Equations & Eigenfunction Expansions*, Iwanami, 2006 (in Japanese).
- W. A. Strauss: *Partial Differential Equations: An Introduction*, 2nd Ed., Chap. 10 & 11, John Wiley & Sons, 2009.
- R. Courant & D. Hilbert: *Methods of Mathematical Physics*, Vol. I, Chap. V, VI, & VII, Wiley-Interscience, 1953.
- F. R. K. Chung: *Spectral Graph Theory*, Amer. Math. Soc., 1997.
- D. S. Grebenkov & B.-T. Nguyen: “Geometrical structure of Laplacian eigenfunctions,” to appear in *SIAM Review*, 2013 (available as ArXiv:1206.1278v2 [math.AP]).
- Specific references are given within the lectures.
- Visit

<http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~saito/courses/LapEig/refs.html>

and

<http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~saito/courses/HarmGraph/refs.html>

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# Motivations

- Consider a bounded domain of general (may be quite complicated) shape  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- Want to analyze the spatial frequency information **inside** of the object defined in  $\Omega \implies$  need to avoid **the Gibbs phenomenon** due to  $\partial\Omega$ .
- Want to **represent** the object information efficiently for analysis, interpretation, discrimination, etc.  $\implies$  **fast decaying** expansion coefficients relative to a **meaningful** basis.
- Want to extract **geometric information** about the domain  $\Omega \implies$  shape clustering/classification.

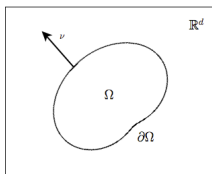


Figure:  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  with  $\nu$  being a normal vector on  $\partial\Omega$ .



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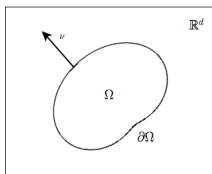


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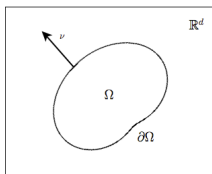


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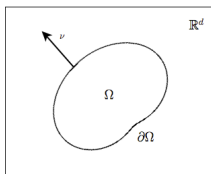
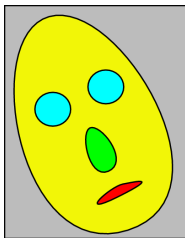
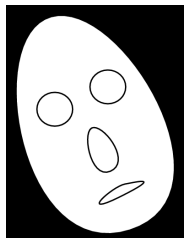


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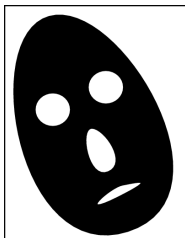
## Object-Oriented Image Analysis



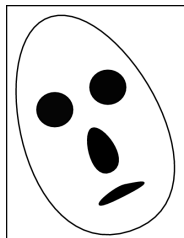
(a) Original



(b) Background

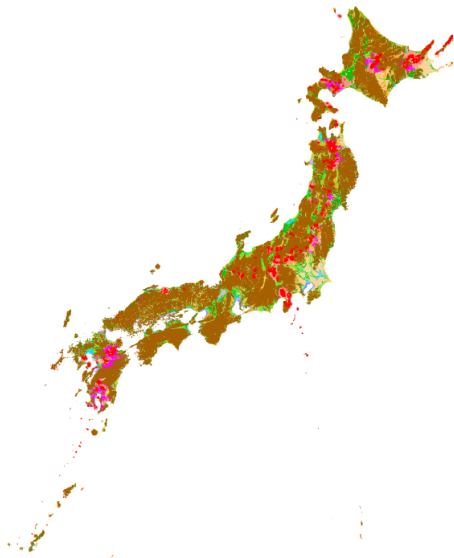


(c) Object

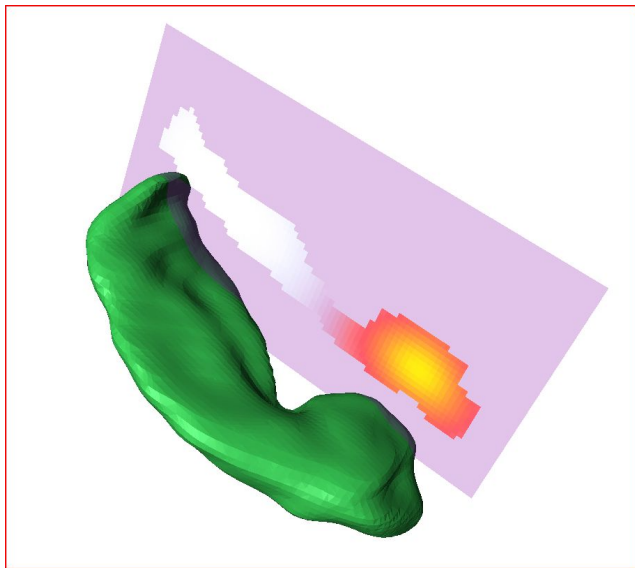


(d) Anomalies

# Data Analysis on a Complicated Domain



# 3D Hippocampus Shape Analysis



# Enter Laplacian Eigenfunctions!

- Consider a domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  of general shape.
- Let  $\mathcal{L} := -\Delta = -\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} + \cdots + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_d^2}\right)$ .
- The Laplacian eigenvalue problem is defined as:

$$\mathcal{L}u = -\Delta u = \lambda u \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

together with some **appropriate** boundary condition (BC).

- Most common (homogeneous) BCs are:
  - *Dirichlet*:  $u = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ ,
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# Enter Laplacian Eigenfunctions ...

- The nontrivial solution  $u = \varphi$  of such a *boundary value problem* (BVP) is called the **Laplacian eigenfunction** corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .
- We know that in the case of the Dirichlet BC
$$0 < \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_k \rightarrow \infty.$$
- On the other hand, the Neumann BC leads to:
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(a) P.-S.  
Laplace  
(1749–  
1827)



(b) Lejeune  
Dirichlet  
(1805–1859)



(c) Carl Neu-  
mann (1832–  
1925)



(d) Gustave  
Robin (1855–  
1897)

# Laplacian Eigenfunctions ... Why?

- Why not analyze (and synthesize) an object of interest defined or measured on a specific domain  $\Omega$  using **genuine basis functions tailored to the domain** instead of the basis functions developed for rectangles, torus, intervals, etc.?
- After all, *sines* (and *cosines*) are the eigenfunctions of the Laplacian on the *rectangular* domain with Dirichlet (and Neumann) boundary condition.
- *Spherical harmonics*, *Bessel functions*, and *Prolate Spheroidal Wave Functions*, are part of the eigenfunctions of the Laplacian (via separation of variables) for the *spherical*, *cylindrical*, and *spheroidal* domains, respectively.
- Laplacian eigenfunctions (LEs) allow us to perform **spectral analysis** of data measured at more general domains or even on **graphs and networks**  $\implies$  **Generalization of Fourier analysis!**

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# Laplacian Eigenfunctions ... Why?

- LEs have more **physical meaning** (i.e., vibration modes, heat conduction, ...) than other popular basis functions such as *wavelets and wavelet packets*.
- LEs may particularly be useful for **inverse problems and imaging**: Suppose the domain shape  $\Omega$  is **fixed** yet the material contents inside that domain, say  $u(x)$ ,  $x \in \Omega$ , change over time, i.e.,  $u(x, t)$ ,  $x \in \Omega$ ,  $t \in [0, T]$ . Suppose one want to detect whether there is any change in the material contents in  $\Omega$  over time, i.e., estimate  $u_t(x, t)$  via imaging. (More about this later.)
- LEs may also be necessary for many **shape optimization** problems: e.g., among all possible 2D shapes having unit area, what is the shape that minimizes its *fifth* smallest Dirichlet-Laplacian eigenvalues?

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







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# Shape Optimization (Courtesy of B. Osting)

## Computational results for single eigenvalues

Oudet (2004)

No	Optimal union of discs	Computed shapes
3	 46.125	 46.125
4	 64.293	 64.293
5	 82.462	 78.47
6	 92.250	 88.96
7	 110.42	 107.47
8	 127.88	 119.9
9	 138.37	 133.52
10	 154.62	 143.45

Antunes + Freitas (2012)

$i$	$\Omega$	multiplicity	$\lambda_i^*$	Oudet's result
5		2	<b>78.20</b>	78.47
6		3	<b>88.52</b>	88.96
7		3	<b>106.14</b>	107.47
8		3	<b>118.90</b>	119.9
9		3	<b>132.68</b>	133.52
10		4	<b>142.72</b>	143.45
11		4	<b>159.39</b>	-
12		4	<b>172.85</b>	-
13		4	<b>186.97</b>	-
14		4	<b>198.96</b>	-
15		5	<b>209.63</b>	-

- ▶ The level set method is used to represent the domains
- ▶ Relaxed formulation used to compute eigenvalues
- ▶ The  $k$ -th eigenvalue of the minimizer is multiple

- ▶ Eigenvalues computed via meshless method
- ▶ Domains parameterized using Fourier coefficients
- ▶  $k = 13$  minimizer is not symmetric

# Laplacian Eigenfunctions . . . Some Facts

- Analysis of  $\mathcal{L}$  is difficult due to its unboundedness, etc.
- Much better to analyze its inverse, i.e., the Green's operator because it is **compact** and **self-adjoint**.
- Thus  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}$  has discrete spectra (i.e., a countable number of eigenvalues with finite multiplicity) except 0 spectrum.
- $\mathcal{L}$  has a complete orthonormal basis of  $L^2(\Omega)$ , and this allows us to do **eigenfunction expansion** in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

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- Unfortunately, computing the Green's function for a general  $\Omega$  satisfying the usual boundary condition (i.e., Dirichlet, Neumann, Robin) is also very difficult.

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# Outline

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- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
  - 1D Wave Equation
  - Spectral Geometry 101
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
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# Laplacian Eigenfunctions in 1D — The Wave Equation

Around mid 18 C, d'Alembert, Euler, D. Bernoulli examined and created the theory behind vibrations of a 1D string.

- Consider a perfectly elastic and flexible string of length  $\ell$ .
- $\rho(x)$ : a mass density;  $T(x)$ : the tension of the string at  $x \in [0, \ell]$ .
- If  $u(x, t)$  is the vertical displacement of the string at location  $x \in [0, \ell]$  and time  $t \geq 0$ , then the string vibrates according to the **1D wave equation** (a.k.a. the **string equation**): 
$$\rho(x) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( T(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)$$

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(a) Jean  
d'Alembert  
(1717–  
1783)



(b) Leonhard  
Euler (1707–  
1783)



(c) Daniel  
Bernoulli  
(1700–1782)

# Importance of the Boundary and Initial Conditions

- From now on, for simplicity, we assume the uniform density and constant tension, i.e.,  $\rho(x) \equiv \rho$ ,  $T(x) \equiv T$ .
- Under this assumption, the above wave equation simplifies to:

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx} \quad c \equiv \sqrt{T/\rho}.$$

- The 1D wave equation above has infinitely many solutions.
- Need to specify a boundary condition (BC) and an initial condition (IC) to obtain the desired solution.
- One possibility: both ends of the string are held fixed all the time  $\implies$  the **Dirichlet** BC:  $u(0, t) = u(\ell, t) = 0$ ,  $\forall t \geq 0$ .
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# Behavior of the String $u(x, t)$

- Use the method of **separation of variables** to seek a nontrivial solution of the form:  $u(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$ .
- Plugging  $X(x)T(t)$  into the (1), we get:

$$XT'' = c^2 X''T \implies \frac{X''}{X} = \frac{T''}{c^2 T} = k,$$

where  $k$  must be a *constant*.

- This leads to the following ODEs:

$$X'' - kX = 0 \quad \text{with } X(0) = X(\ell) = 0, \quad (2)$$

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## Solving ODEs

Case I:  $k > 0 \implies r = \pm\sqrt{k}$ ; hence

$$X(x) = Ae^{\sqrt{k}x} + Be^{-\sqrt{k}x} \quad \text{or} \quad A\cosh(\sqrt{k}x) + B\sinh(\sqrt{k}x).$$

Applying the BC  $X(0) = X(\ell) = 0$  yields  $A = B = 0$ , thus the case of  $k > 0$  is *not feasible*.

Case II:  $k = 0 \implies X'' = 0 \implies X(x) = Ax + B$ , which again leads to  $X(x) \equiv 0$ .

Case III:  $k < 0$ . Set  $k = -\xi^2$  and  $\xi > 0$ . Then the characteristic equation becomes  $r^2 + \xi^2 = 0$ , i.e.,  $r = \pm i\xi$ . Therefore we get

$$X(x) = A\cos(\xi x) + B\sin(\xi x)$$

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## Forming the Solution

- Hence we have  $X(x) = B \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{\ell} x\right)$ , and for convenience, by setting  $B = \sqrt{2/\ell}$ , let us define

$$X_n(x) = \varphi_n(x) := \sqrt{\frac{2}{\ell}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{\ell} x\right),$$

so that  $\|\varphi_n\|_{L^2[0,\ell]} = 1$ . Note that  $\{\varphi_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  form an **orthonormal basis** for  $L^2[0,\ell]$ .

- Similarly, by  $T'' = -\xi^2 c^2 T$  we obtain the family of solutions

$$T_n(t) = a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi c}{\ell} t\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi c}{\ell} t\right).$$

- Now, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the function

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- Hence, by the *Superposition Principle*,

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi c}{\ell} t\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi c}{\ell} t\right) \right\} \varphi_n(x) \quad (4)$$

is a general solution with yet undetermined coefficients  $a_n$  and  $b_n$ .

- Next, we specify the coefficients  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  by matching (4) with the ICs in (1). Thus we get

$$u(x, 0) = f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sqrt{\frac{2}{\ell}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{\ell} x\right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \varphi_n(x)$$

Then

$$a_n = \langle f, \varphi_n \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\ell}} \int_0^{\ell} f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{\ell} x\right) dx,$$

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- Similarly,  $u_t(x, 0) = g(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n\pi c}{\ell} b_n \sqrt{\frac{2}{\ell}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{\ell} x\right)$ .
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which satisfies (1) completely including both BC & IC.



Figure: Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (1768–1830)

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## Remarks

- Need to check if our solution makes sense physically. Notice that

$$c^2 = \frac{T}{\rho} \implies \text{the sound frequency} = \frac{n\pi}{\ell} \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho}}.$$

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- For instance, the size of the first eigenvalue,  $\lambda_1 = (\pi/\ell)^2$  tells us the **volume** of  $\Omega$  (i.e., the length  $\ell$  of  $\Omega$  in 1D).
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# Outline

- 1 Lecture Outline
- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
  - 1D Wave Equation
  - Spectral Geometry 101
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
- 6 Applications
- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks
- 8 Summary & References

# Spectral Geometry 101

- The Laplacian eigenfunctions defined on the domain  $\Omega$  provides the orthonormal basis of  $L^2(\Omega)$ .
- The Laplacian eigenvalues encode geometric information of the domain  $\Omega \implies$  “Can we hear the shape of a drum?” (Mark Kac, 1966).
- Temporarily, consider the Laplacian eigenvalue problem on a planar domain  $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^2$  with the *Dirichlet* boundary condition:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = \lambda u & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

- Let  $0 < \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_k \leq \dots \rightarrow \infty$  be the sequence of eigenvalues of the above Dirichlet-Laplace eigenvalue problem.

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(a) Hermann Weyl (1885–1955)



(b) Subramaniam Minakshisundaram (1913–1968)



(c) Åke Pleijel (1913–1989)



(d) Mark Kac (1914–1984)

# Universal (or Payne-Pólya-Weinberger) Inequalities ( $m \in \mathbb{N}$ )

- $\lambda_{m+1} - \lambda_m \leq 2 \cdot \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j$ ;  $\lambda_{m+1} \leq 3 \cdot \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j$ ;  $\frac{\lambda_{m+1}}{\lambda_m} \leq 3$ .
- $\sum_{j=1}^m \frac{\lambda_j}{\lambda_{m+1} - \lambda_j} \geq \frac{m}{2}$  (Hile-Protter).
- $\sum_{j=1}^m (\lambda_{m+1} - \lambda_j)^2 \leq 2 \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j (\lambda_{m+1} - \lambda_j)$  (Yang).



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# Isoperimetric Inequalities

- $\lambda_1 \geq \frac{\pi^2 j_{0,1}^2}{|\Omega|^2}$  (Rayleigh-Faber-Krahn)
- $\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} \leq \frac{j_{1,1}^2}{j_{0,1}^2} \approx 2.5387$  (Ashbaugh-Benguria)
- $j_{k,1}$  is the first zero of the Bessel function of order  $k$ , i.e.,  $J_k(j_{k,1}) = 0$ .  
 $j_{0,1} \approx 2.4048$ ,  $j_{1,1} \approx 3.8317$ , and  $|\Omega|$  is the area of  $\Omega$ . In both cases, the equality is attained iff  $\Omega$  is a disk in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

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(a) Lord Rayleigh  
(1842–1919)



(b) Georg Faber  
(1877–1966)



(c) Edgar Krahn  
(1894–1961)



(d) Mark Ashbaugh  
(1953–)



(e) Rafael Benguria  
(1951–)

# Remarks

Excellent references on these inequalities are:

- R. D. Benguria, H. Linde, & B. Loewe: “Isoperimetric inequalities for eigenvalues of the Laplacian and the Schrödinger operator,” *Bull. Math. Sci.*, vol. 2, pp. 1–56, 2012.
- A. Henrot: *Extremum Problems for Eigenvalues of Elliptic Operators*, Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, 2006.

## Other Properties

- Domain monotonicity property:  $\Omega_1 \subset \Omega_2 \implies \lambda_k(\Omega_1) \geq \lambda_k(\Omega_2)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .
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This implies:

$$\frac{\lambda_k(\alpha \Omega)}{\lambda_m(\alpha \Omega)} = \frac{\lambda_k(\Omega)}{\lambda_m(\Omega)}, \quad k, m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

$\implies$  the ratios of Laplacian eigenvalues are *scale invariant*.

- Laplacian eigenvalues are *translation and rotation invariant*.
- Using these eigenvalues and eigenvalue ratios for shape recognition and classification has been quite popular recently as I will describe later.
- Some properties and inequalities listed above should hold not only for the Dirichlet Laplacian eigenvalues but also for our Laplacian eigenvalues. Note, however, that *the domain monotonicity does not hold for the Neumann Laplacian eigenvalues*.

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- Some properties and inequalities listed above should hold not only for the Dirichlet Laplacian eigenvalues but also for our Laplacian eigenvalues. Note, however, that *the domain monotonicity does **not** hold for the Neumann Laplacian eigenvalues*.

## Other Properties

- Domain monotonicity property:  $\Omega_1 \subset \Omega_2 \implies \lambda_k(\Omega_1) \geq \lambda_k(\Omega_2)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- Scaling property:  $\lambda_k(\alpha \Omega) = \frac{\lambda_k(\Omega)}{\alpha^2}$ ,  $\alpha > 0, k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

This implies:

$$\frac{\lambda_k(\alpha \Omega)}{\lambda_m(\alpha \Omega)} = \frac{\lambda_k(\Omega)}{\lambda_m(\Omega)}, \quad k, m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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## An Counterexample to the Domain Monotonicity

Consider a 2D rectangle of sides  $a$  and  $b$  with  $a > b$ . Then, let  $\Omega' := \{(x, y) \mid 0 < x < a, 0 < y < b\}$ , and  $\Omega \subset \Omega'$  be the inscribed thin rectangle of sides  $\sqrt{\alpha^2 + \beta^2} \times \sqrt{(a-\alpha)^2 + (b-\beta)^2}$ :

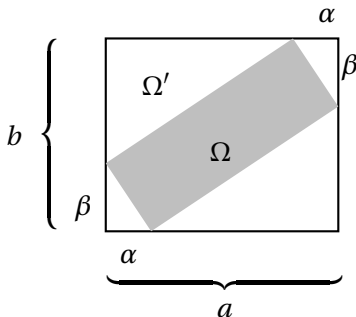


Figure: The Neumann BC generates an counterexample (From A. Henrot, 2006)



# An Counterexample to the Domain Monotonicity ...

- Can easily compute the Neumann eigenvalues and eigenfunctions for a rectangle  $\Omega'$ :

$$\lambda_n^N = \lambda_{\ell,m}^N = \pi^2 \left[ \left( \frac{\ell}{a} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{m}{b} \right)^2 \right],$$

$$\varphi_n^N(x, y) = \varphi_{\ell,m}^N(x, y) = c_0 \cos\left(\frac{\pi \ell x}{a}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m \pi y}{b}\right). \quad n, \ell, m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

where  $c_0 := 2/\sqrt{ab}$ .

- Clearly, the smallest eigenvalue is:  $\lambda_0^N = \lambda_{0,0}^N = 0$ ,  $\varphi_0^N(x, y) \equiv c_0$ .
- How about the next smallest one? Since  $a > b$ ,

$$\lambda_1^N = \lambda_{1,0}^N = \left( \frac{\pi}{a} \right)^2, \quad \varphi_1^N(x, y) = \varphi_{1,0}^N(x, y) = c_0 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{a} x\right).$$

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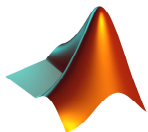


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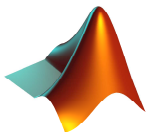


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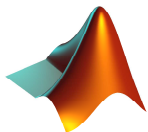


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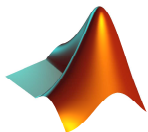


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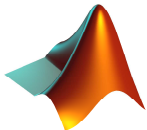


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  - T. Betcke & L. N. Trefethen: “Reviving the method of particular solutions,” *SIAM Review*, vol. 47, no. 3, pp. 469–491, 2005.
  - A. H. Barnett & T. Betcke: “Quantum mushroom billiards,” *Chaos*, no. 4, 043125, 13 pp., 2007.
- The MATLAB-based software package is available at:

<http://code.google.com/p/mpspack>

## Numerical test

eigenfunctions  $\phi_j$  for  $j =$   
 $1, 10, 10^2, 10^3, 10^4, 10^5$

background:

random plane waves,  
 a model for modes

(Berry '77)

tested 30000  $\phi_j$ 's: strong  
 evidence for QUE (B '06)

How compute many  $\phi_j$   
 efficiently to  $j \sim 10^6$ ,  
 $10^3$  wavelengths across?

# Notices

ISSN 0002-9920

of the American Mathematical Society

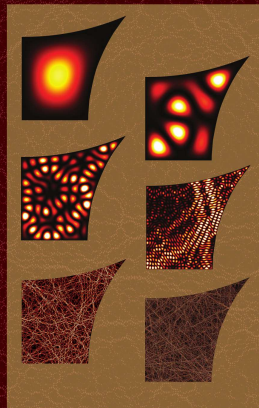
January 2008

Volume 55, Number 1

An Evaluation  
 of Mathematics  
 Competitions Using  
 Item Response Theory  
 page 8

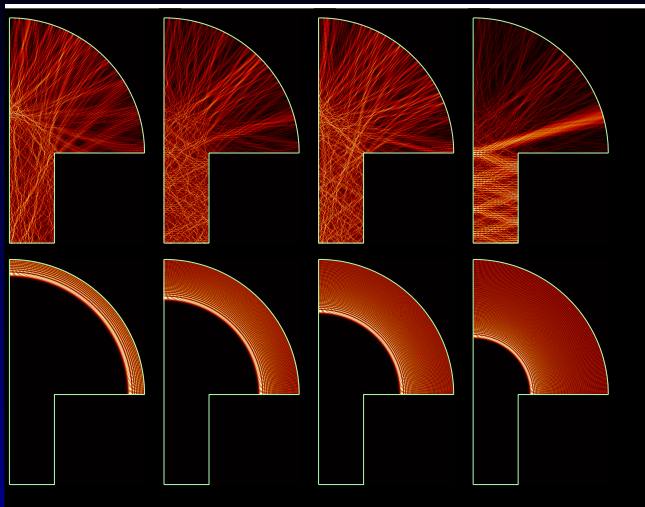
Your Hit Parade:  
 The Top Ten Most  
 Fascinating Formulas  
 in Ramanujan's Lost  
 Notebook  
 page 18

New York Meeting  
 page 98



Quantum chaos (see page 41)

# High freq. mushroom eigenfunctions



- $j \approx 5 \times 10^4$ , 20 sec per mode (bdry data only; longer for interior)

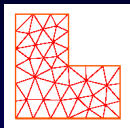
- p. 12

# Two classes of numerical methods for eigenmodes

## A) Volume discretization

finite differencing

finite element (hp-FEM)

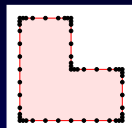


- local basis representation  
e.g. polynomials in elements
- basis satisfies BCs, not the PDE
- basis size  $N \geq O(k^d)$   
“pollution” (Babuska–Sauter)
- $k_j^2 \approx$  sparse matrix eigenvalues

## B) Boundary discretization

boundary integral equations (BIE)

method of particular solutions (MPS)



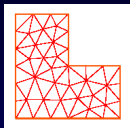
- global basis representation  
e.g. layer potentials, plane waves
- basis satisfies PDE  $-\Delta u = k^2 u$
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e.g. factor  $10^3$  smaller
- dense nonlinear eigenval. prob.

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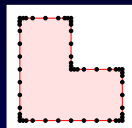


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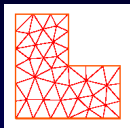
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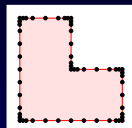
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⇒ boundary methods much more powerful, but nonlinearity an issue

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## II. Numerics: global basis methods

Want nontriv. solns to  $(\Delta + E)u = 0$  in  $\Omega$  Helmholtz  
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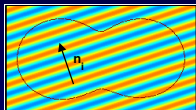
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Plane waves  $\sin(k\mathbf{n}_l \cdot \mathbf{x})$ ,  $k^2 = E$   
 Fourier-Bessel  $J_l(kr) \sin(l\theta)$

Thm:  $\Omega$  analytic  $\Rightarrow$  exponential convergence (Eisenstat '74)  
 i.e. best error in  $u = O(c^{-N})$

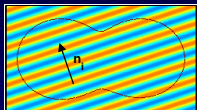
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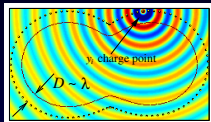
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- Practice: usually fail! (coeff  $\|\alpha\|_2 \gg 10^{16}$  to achieve theorem)

Develop better bases for when singularities nearby or at corners . . .

## More flexible global basis sets



Fundamental solutions (MFS):

$$H_0^{(1)}(k|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_l|), \text{ with } \{\mathbf{y}_l\} \text{ outside } \Omega$$

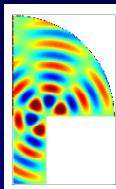
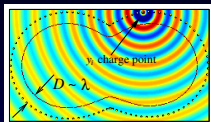
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$\Gamma$  shields singularities in anal. cont. of  $u \Leftrightarrow \|\alpha\|_2 = O(1)$

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Practice: excellent, including non-reentrant corners

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Corner-adapted Fourier-Bessel:

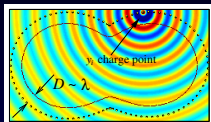
$$J_{\beta l}(kr) \sin(\beta l \theta)$$

for singular corner  $\theta = \pi/\beta$ ,  $\beta$  non-integer

Practice: exp. conv. for multiple corners (Betcke '05)

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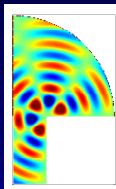
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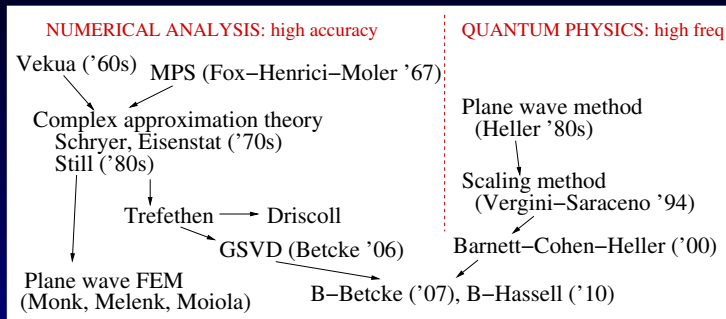
All such global methods much better than FEM at large  $k$ :  $N = O(k)$

- price to pay for high accuracy is understanding analyticity of  $u$

- p. 14

# History of global basis approximation

global bases a.k.a Method of particular solutions (MPS)



Recent weaving together of ideas from physics and numerical math. . .



## Finding eigenpairs $E_j, \phi_j$ with the MPS

If  $u$  approximates  $\phi_j$  then  $\int_{\partial\Omega} |u|^2 ds$  small (Fox et al. '67, Heller '84)

Small compared to what?

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$$\text{tension } t[u] := \left( \frac{\int_{\partial\Omega} |u|^2 ds}{\int_{\Omega} |u|^2 d\mathbf{x}} \right)^{1/2} = \left( \frac{\boldsymbol{\alpha}^* F \boldsymbol{\alpha}}{\boldsymbol{\alpha}^* G \boldsymbol{\alpha}} \right)^{1/2} \quad (\text{Betcke, Barnett, ...})$$

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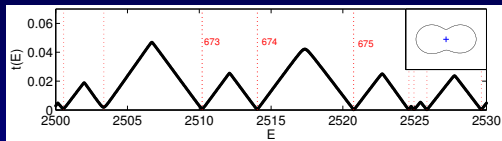
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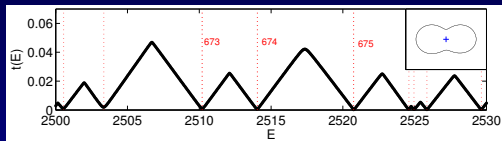
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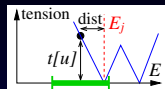


- iterative search along  $E$  axis:  $\sim 10$  func. evals to find each min
- then eigenvector gives basis coeffs of approx.  $\phi_j$  **How accurate?**

# Numerical analysis: bounding errors

Say find small  $t[u]$  at some  $E$ : how close is true  $E_j$ ?

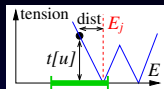
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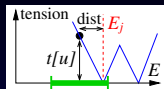
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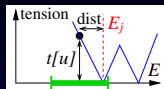
best possible power of  $E$ ; similar improvement for  $L^2$ -error of  $\phi_j$



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Proof:  $\exists E$ -dep. bdry op.  $A$  s.t.  $\int_{\Omega} uv \, d\mathbf{x} = \int_{\partial\Omega} u(s)(Av)(s)ds$

$t[u]^{-2} \leq \|A(E)\|_2$  which can bound via new **quasi-orthogonality** thm:

“all bdry funcs  $\psi_j := \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \phi_j$  in semiclassical window are nearly orthog”

$$\left\| \sum_{|E_j - E| \leq E^{1/2}} \psi_j \langle \psi_j, \cdot \rangle \right\|_2 \leq C_{\Omega} E$$

norm of each term is  $O(E)$ ,

Weyl says  $O(E^{(d-1)/2})$  such terms

- p. 17

# Example

$\Omega$  analytic

MFS (point charges) basis

$N = 500$

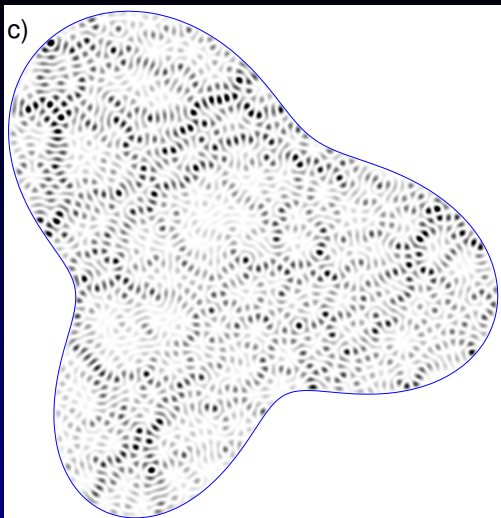
skip other details

$t[u] = 2.2 \times 10^{-12}$  at

$E = 10005.0213579739$

Thm gives  $\pm 3$  in last digit  
i.e. 14 digits accuracy

$j \approx 2552$



# Outline

- 1 Lecture Outline
- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
  - Method of Particular Solutions (MPS)
  - Method of Fundamental Solutions (MFS)
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
- 6 Applications
- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks
- 8 Summary & References

# Method of Fundamental Solutions (MFS)

- Is highly efficient and accurate for computing Laplacian eigenvalues and eigenfunctions
- Can deal with singularities such as *corners* and *cracks* in a domain
- Is one of the *meshfree* methods; i.e., no meshing/gridding.
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# Method of Fundamental Solutions (MFS)

- Is highly efficient and accurate for computing Laplacian eigenvalues and eigenfunctions
- Can deal with singularities such as *corners* and *cracks* in a domain
- Is one of the *meshfree* methods; i.e., no meshing/gridding.
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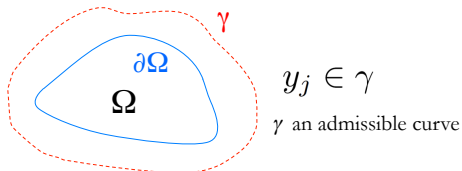
## • The Method of Fundamental Solution (MFS)

Fundamental solution:  $(\Delta + \lambda) \Phi_\lambda = -\delta$

$$\Phi_\lambda(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{i}{4} H_0^{(1)}(\sqrt{\lambda}|x|) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^2 \\ \frac{e^{i\sqrt{\lambda}|x|}}{|x|} & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \end{cases}$$

- Consider the approximation

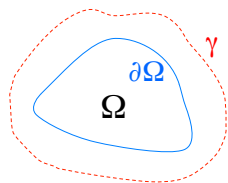
$$u(x) \approx u_N(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j \Phi_\lambda(x - y_j)$$



- The coefficients are calculated such that  $u_N(x)$  fits the boundary conditions

## • Theoretical results

$$u(x) \approx u_N(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j \Phi_\lambda(x - y_j)$$



Given an open set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_N \in \bar{\Omega}^C$  different points and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\{\Phi_\lambda(x - y_1), \dots, \Phi_\lambda(x - y_N)\}$  are linear independent on  $\partial\Omega$ .

If  $\gamma$  is the boundary of a domain which contains  $\Omega$ , the set

$$\text{Span}(\{\Phi_\lambda(x - y)|_{x \in \Omega} : y \in \gamma\})$$

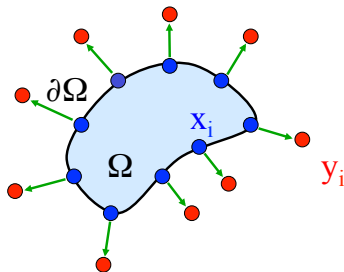
is dense in  $H^1(\partial\Omega)$ .

## • Algorithm for the source points (2D)

$$u(x) \approx u_N(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j \Phi_\lambda(x - y_j)$$

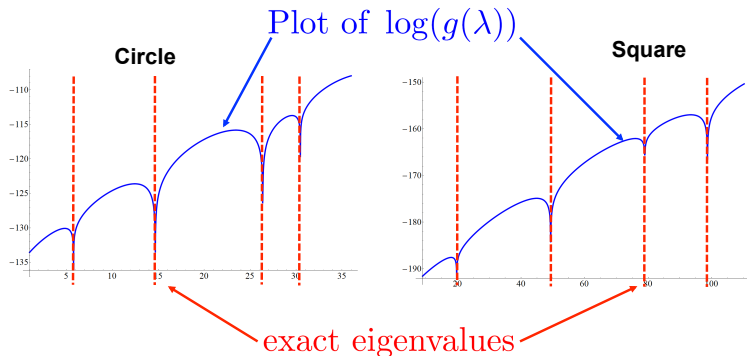
- Consider N points  $x_1, \dots, x_N \in \partial\Omega$  collocation points (*almost equally spaced*)
- Define N points  $y_1, \dots, y_N$  source points

$$y_i = x_i + \alpha n_i$$



## Algorithm for the eigenfrequency calculation

- Build the matrices  $A_N(\lambda) = \Phi_\lambda(x_i - y_j)$
- Consider  $g(\lambda) = |\det(A_N(\lambda))|$  and look for the minima

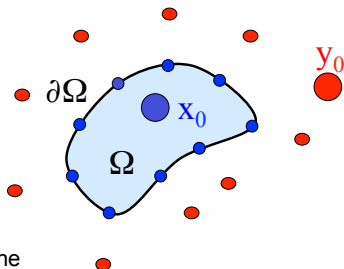


- Search for local minima using a direct search method

## • Algorithm for the eigenfunction calculation

- Define extra points  $\begin{cases} x_0 \in \Omega \\ y_0 \in \bar{\Omega}^C \end{cases}$

The extra point  $x_0$  is not on a nodal line



- Given the approximate eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , define

$$u(x) \approx \tilde{u}(x) = \sum_{j=0}^N \alpha_j \Phi_\lambda(x - y_j)$$

- To calculate  $\alpha_i$  solve the system

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{u}(x_0) = 1 \\ \tilde{u}(x_i) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N \end{cases}$$

- non null solution,
- null at boundary points

## • Error bounds (Dirichlet case)

A posteriori bound (Moler and Payne 1968)

Let  $(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{u})$  be an approximation for the pair (eigenvalue, eigenfunction) which satisfies the problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta \tilde{u} + \tilde{\lambda} \tilde{u} = 0, & \text{in } \Omega \\ \tilde{u} = \xi(x), & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (\text{with small } \xi)$$

Then there exists an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  and eigenfunction  $u$  such that

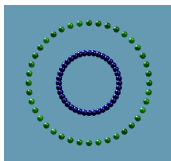
$$\boxed{\frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{1+\theta} \leq \lambda \leq \frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{1-\theta}} \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{\|u - \tilde{u}\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq c_{\Omega} \theta}$$

where  $\theta = \frac{\sqrt{|\Omega|} \|\xi\|_{L^{\infty}(\partial\Omega)}}{\|\tilde{u}\|_{L^2(\Omega)}}$  is very small if  $\tilde{u} \approx 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ .

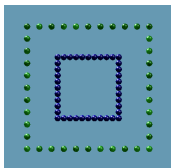


## Numerical tests (Dirichlet case) – 2D

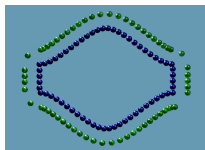
N=dimension of the matrix



N	abs. error ( $\lambda_1$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_2$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_3$ )
30	$2.31 \times 10^{-6}$	30	$4.94 \times 10^{-6}$	30	$5.21 \times 10^{-6}$
40	$5.91 \times 10^{-8}$	40	$1.21 \times 10^{-8}$	40	$1.26 \times 10^{-7}$
50	$1.64 \times 10^{-9}$	50	$3.01 \times 10^{-10}$	50	$3.27 \times 10^{-9}$
60	$8.23 \times 10^{-11}$	60	$9.31 \times 10^{-12}$	60	$9.35 \times 10^{-11}$

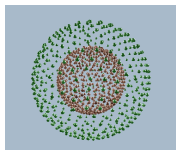


N	abs. error ( $\lambda_1$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_2$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_3$ )
30	$5.72 \times 10^{-6}$	30	$1.36 \times 10^{-6}$	30	$1.81 \times 10^{-5}$
40	$8.42 \times 10^{-8}$	40	$1.67 \times 10^{-7}$	40	$2.17 \times 10^{-7}$
50	$7.76 \times 10^{-8}$	50	$1.11 \times 10^{-8}$	50	$6.94 \times 10^{-8}$
60	$1.46 \times 10^{-9}$	60	$1.44 \times 10^{-9}$	60	$3.17 \times 10^{-9}$

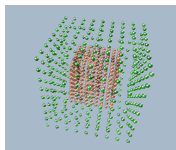


N	abs. error ( $\lambda_5$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_5$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_5$ )
20	$2.11 \times 10^{-4}$	30	$1.46 \times 10^{-5}$	40	$1.23 \times 10^{-6}$
50	$3.06 \times 10^{-7}$	60	$2.52 \times 10^{-8}$	70	$5.05 \times 10^{-9}$
80	$3.19 \times 10^{-9}$	90	$6.19 \times 10^{-10}$	100	$1.87 \times 10^{-10}$

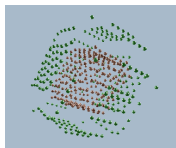
## Numerical tests (Dirichlet case) – 3D



N	abs. error ( $\lambda_1$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_2$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_3$ )
112	$1.25 \times 10^{-8}$	112	$9.21 \times 10^{-7}$	112	$8.57 \times 10^{-6}$
158	$8.61 \times 10^{-12}$	158	$1.97 \times 10^{-9}$	158	$6.53 \times 10^{-8}$
212	$2.18 \times 10^{-14}$	212	$1.61 \times 10^{-13}$	212	$9.46 \times 10^{-11}$



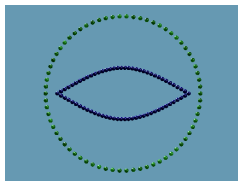
N	abs. error ( $\lambda_1$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_2$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_3$ )
218	$6.13 \times 10^{-10}$	218	$9.27 \times 10^{-7}$	218	$1.55 \times 10^{-6}$
296	$3.11 \times 10^{-10}$	296	$7.31 \times 10^{-8}$	296	$7.09 \times 10^{-8}$
386	$9.15 \times 10^{-12}$	386	$5.25 \times 10^{-9}$	386	$1.95 \times 10^{-10}$



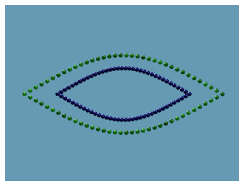
N	abs. error ( $\lambda_2$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_3$ )	N	abs. error ( $\lambda_3$ )
226	$1.36 \times 10^{-5}$	304	$5.87 \times 10^{-6}$	374	$7.21 \times 10^{-8}$

- Numerical tests (on the location of point sources)

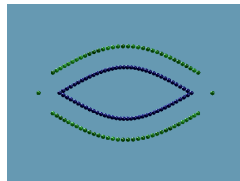
Point-sources  
on the boundary of a  
circular domain



Point-sources on an  
“expansion” of  $\partial\Omega$

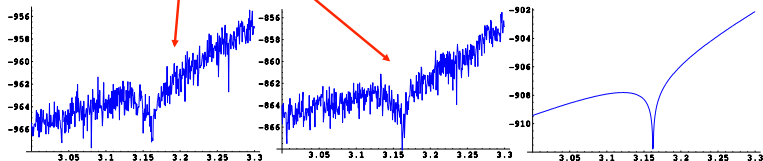


With the choice proposed

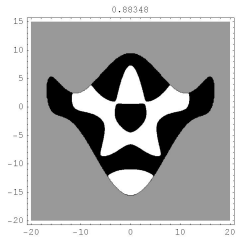


big rounding errors

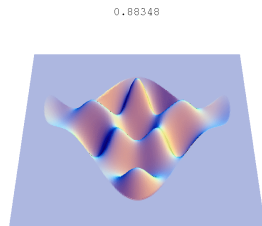
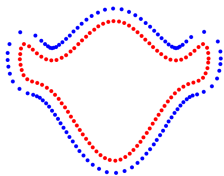
Plot of  $\log(g(\lambda))$



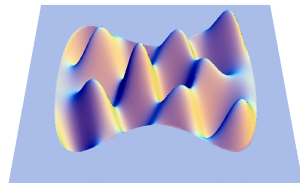
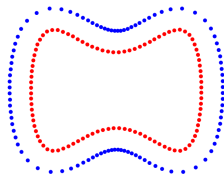
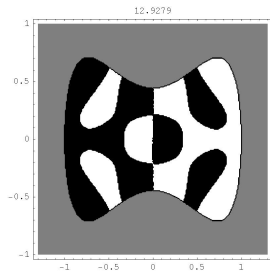
## • Numerical Simulations



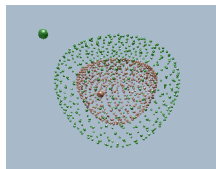
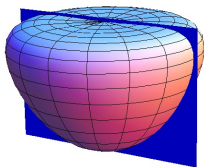
nodal domains plot



eigenfunction



- Numerical simulations – non trivial domains 3D

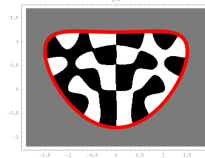
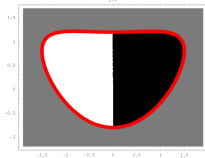
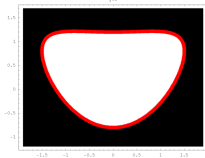
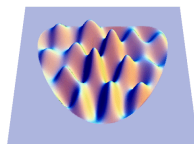
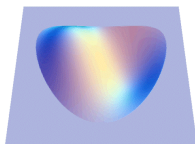
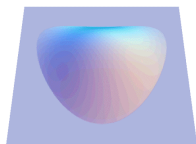


3D plots of eigenfunctions associated to three eigenvalues

$y=0$

$y=0$

$y=0$



# MFS Extensions

- The classical MFS is not accurate for corner/crack singularities
- However, splitting a solution into a regular part and a singular part combining MFS with the Method of Particular Solutions (Betcke/Trefethen), one can obtain highly accurate solutions.
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# A Potential Problem of MFS for Imaging/Inverse Problems

- MFS requires specific boundary condition to begin with (Dirichlet, Neumann, or Robin).
- In imaging and/or inverse problems, what is the natural boundary condition to use for a local region of interest (ROI)?
- The Dirichlet boundary condition  $u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$  is certainly not natural; the material value at the boundary shouldn't be 0.
- Furthermore, it may suffer from the *Gibbs phenomenon* (just like in truncated Fourier series).
- The Neumann boundary condition may be a bit better than the Dirichlet case:  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \Big|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$ .
- Is it really natural to represent an ROI within a larger domain? Cannot expect the values (intensity) across the boundary  $\partial\Omega$  are *flat*.

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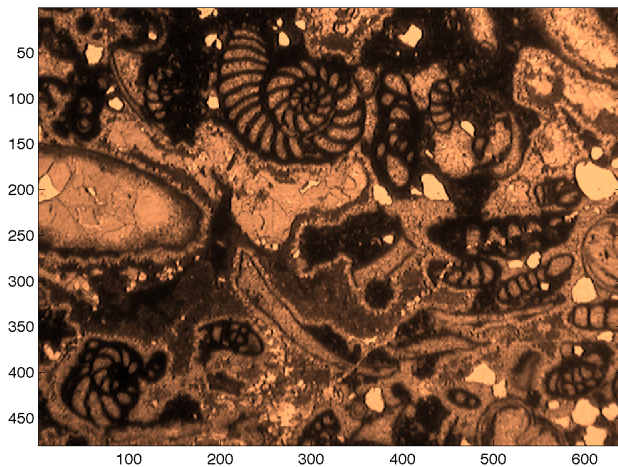
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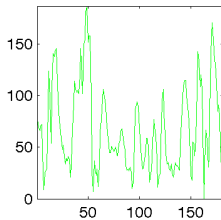
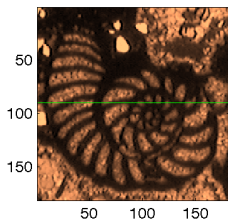
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# Photograph of Geological Specimen



# Boundary Values of an ROI





# Outline

- 1 Lecture Outline
- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator**
- 6 Applications
- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks
- 8 Summary & References

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    - Simple Examples
    - Historical Remarks
    - Discretization of the Problem
    - Fast Algorithms for Computing Eigenfunctions
- 6 Applications
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- 8 Summary & References

# Recap on Difficulties Dealing with Laplacian

- Analysis of the Laplacian  $\mathcal{L} = -\Delta$  is difficult due to its unboundedness, etc.
- Computing the eigenfunctions of  $\mathcal{L}$  by directly solving the Helmholtz equation (or eigenvalue problem) on a general domain is tough.
- Much better to analyze its inverse, i.e., the Green's operator because it is **compact** and **self-adjoint**.
- Unfortunately, computing the Green's function for a general  $\Omega$  satisfying the usual boundary condition (i.e., Dirichlet, Neumann) is also very difficult.

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# Integral Operators Commuting with Laplacian

- The key idea to avoid difficulties associated with the Laplacian  $\mathcal{L}$  is to find an integral operator  $\mathcal{K}$  **commuting** with  $\mathcal{L}$  without imposing the strict boundary condition a priori.
- Then, we know that the eigenfunctions of  $\mathcal{L}$  is the same as those of  $\mathcal{K}$ , which is easier to deal with, due to the following

Theorem (G. Frobenius 1896?; B. Friedman 1956)

*Suppose  $\mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  commute and one of them has an eigenvalue with finite multiplicity. Then,  $\mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  share the same eigenfunction corresponding to that eigenvalue. That is,  $\mathcal{L}\varphi = \lambda\varphi$  and  $\mathcal{K}\varphi = \mu\varphi$ .*

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# Integral Operators Commuting with Laplacian

- The key idea to avoid difficulties associated with the Laplacian  $\mathcal{L}$  is to find an integral operator  $\mathcal{K}$  **commuting** with  $\mathcal{L}$  without imposing the strict boundary condition a priori.
- Then, we know that the eigenfunctions of  $\mathcal{L}$  is the same as those of  $\mathcal{K}$ , which is easier to deal with, due to the following

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- The inverse of  $\mathcal{L}$  with some specific boundary condition (e.g., Dirichlet/Neumann/Robin) is also an integral operator whose kernel is called the *Green's function*  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ .
- Since it is not easy to obtain  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  in general, let's replace  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  by the **fundamental solution of the Laplacian**:

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| & \text{if } d = 1, \\ -\frac{1}{2\pi} \log|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| & \text{if } d = 2, \\ \frac{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|^{2-d}}{(d-2)\omega_d} & \text{if } d > 2, \end{cases}$$

where  $\omega_d := \frac{2\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2)}$  is the surface area of the unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $|\cdot|$  is the standard Euclidean norm.

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## Integral Operators Commuting with Laplacian ...

- Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be the integral operator with its kernel  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ :

$$\mathcal{K} f(\mathbf{x}) := \int_{\Omega} K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) f(\mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y}, \quad f \in L^2(\Omega).$$

Theorem (NS 2005, 2008)

The integral operator  $\mathcal{K}$  commutes with the Laplacian  $\mathcal{L} = -\Delta$  with the following *non-local* boundary condition:

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial\nu_{\mathbf{y}}}(\mathbf{y}) ds(\mathbf{y}) = -\frac{1}{2}\varphi(\mathbf{x}) + \text{pv} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\partial K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})}{\partial\nu_{\mathbf{y}}} \varphi(\mathbf{y}) ds(\mathbf{y}),$$

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## Integral Operators Commuting with Laplacian ...

## Corollary (NS 2009)

The eigenfunction  $\varphi(\mathbf{x})$  of the integral operator  $\mathcal{K}$  in the previous theorem can be **extended** outside the domain  $\Omega$  and satisfies the following equation:

$$-\Delta\varphi = \begin{cases} \lambda\varphi & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega; \\ 0 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \overline{\Omega}, \end{cases}$$

with the boundary condition that  $\varphi$  and  $\frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial\nu}$  are continuous **across** the boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . Moreover, as  $|\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\varphi(\mathbf{x})$  must be of the following form:

$$\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \text{const} \cdot |\mathbf{x}|^{2-d} + O(|\mathbf{x}|^{1-d}) & \text{if } d \neq 2; \\ \text{const} \cdot \ln|\mathbf{x}| + O(|\mathbf{x}|^{-1}) & \text{if } d = 2. \end{cases}$$

## Integral Operators Commuting with Laplacian ...

## Corollary (NS 2005, 2008)

The integral operator  $\mathcal{K}$  is compact and self-adjoint on  $L^2(\Omega)$ . Thus, the kernel  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  has the following **eigenfunction expansion** (in the sense of mean convergence):

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \sim \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \mu_j \varphi_j(\mathbf{x}) \overline{\varphi_j(\mathbf{y})},$$

and  $\{\varphi_j\}_j$  forms an orthonormal basis of  $L^2(\Omega)$ .



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# 1D Example

- Consider the unit interval  $\Omega = (0, 1)$ .
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- In this case, we have the following explicit solution.

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## 1D Example ...

- $\lambda_0 \approx -5.756915$ , which is a solution of  $\tanh \frac{\sqrt{-\lambda_0}}{2} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{-\lambda_0}}$ ,

$$\varphi_0(x) = A_0 \cosh \sqrt{-\lambda_0} \left( x - \frac{1}{2} \right);$$

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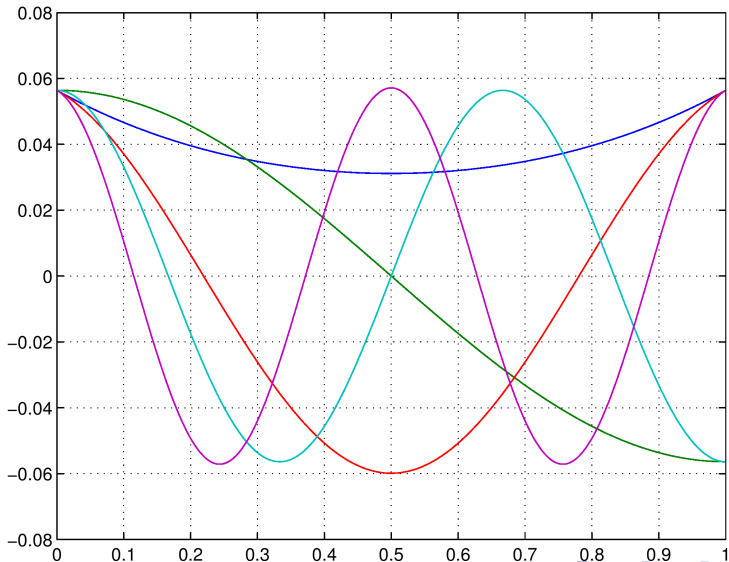
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# First 5 Basis Functions



# 1D Example: Comparison

- The Laplacian eigenfunctions with the Dirichlet boundary condition:  $-\varphi'' = \lambda\varphi$ ,  $\varphi(0) = \varphi(1) = 0$ , are *sines*. The Green's function in this case is:

$$G_D(x, y) = \min(x, y) - xy.$$

- Those with the Neumann boundary condition, i.e.,  $\varphi'(0) = \varphi'(1) = 0$ , are *cosines*. The Green's function is:

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# 1D Example: Rayleigh Functions/Trace Formula

## Corollary (NS 2008)

Let  $\{\lambda_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  be the 1D Laplacian eigenvalues of the non-local boundary problem with the commuting integral operator whose kernel is  $K(x, y) = -|x - y|/2$ . Then, they satisfy the following trace formula:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda_n} = \int_0^1 K(x, x) dx = 0.$$

Compare this with the famous Basel problem, which is based on the Dirichlet boundary condition:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\pi^2 n^2} = \int_0^1 G_D(x, x) dx = \frac{1}{6} \iff \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$

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## 1D Example: Rayleigh Functions/Trace Formula ...

## Theorem (NS 2008)

Let  $K_p(x, y)$  be the  $p$ th iterated kernel of  $K(x, y) = -|x - y|/2$ . Then,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda_n^p} = \int_0^1 K_p(x, x) dx = \frac{1}{4^p} \left( S_{2p} + \frac{(-1)^p}{\alpha^{2p}} \right) + \frac{4^p - 1}{2 \cdot (2p)!} |B_{2p}|,$$

where  $\alpha \approx 1.19967864$  satisfies  $\alpha = \coth \alpha$ ,  $B_{2p}$  is *the Bernoulli number*, and

$$S_{2p} := \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{4}{\lambda_{2m}} \right)^p,$$

satisfies the following recursion formula:

$$\sum_{\ell=1}^{n+1} \frac{(-1)^{n-\ell+1} (2(n-\ell+1)-1)}{(2(n-\ell+1))!} \left\{ S_{2\ell} + \frac{(-1)^\ell}{\alpha^{2\ell}} \right\} = \frac{(-1)^n}{2(2n)!}.$$

## 2D Example

- Consider the unit disk  $\Omega$ . Then, our integral operator  $\mathcal{H}$  with the kernel  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \log|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|$  gives rise to:

$$-\Delta\varphi = \lambda\varphi, \quad \text{in } \Omega;$$

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where  $\mathcal{H}$  is the **Hilbert transform** for the circle, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{H}f(\theta) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \text{pv} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(\eta) \cot\left(\frac{\theta - \eta}{2}\right) d\eta \quad \theta \in [-\pi, \pi].$$

- Let  $\beta_{k,\ell}$  is the  $\ell$ th zero of the Bessel function of order  $k$ ,  $J_k(\beta_{k,\ell}) = 0$ . Then,

$$\varphi_{m,n}(r, \theta) = \begin{cases} J_m(\beta_{m-1,n} r) \begin{pmatrix} \cos \\ \sin \end{pmatrix}(m\theta) & \text{if } m = 1, 2, \dots, n = 1, 2, \dots, \\ J_0(\beta_{0,n} r) & \text{if } m = 0, n = 1, 2, \dots, \end{cases}$$

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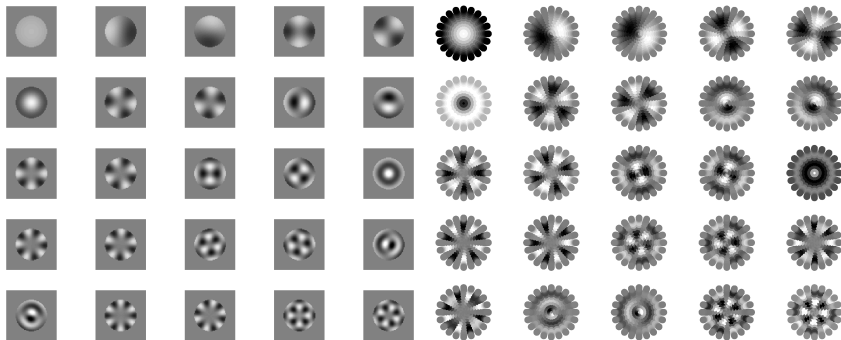
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# First 25 Basis Functions

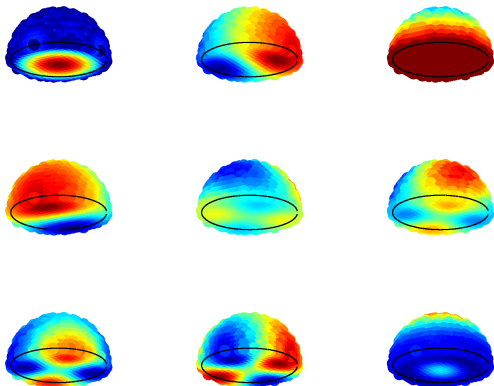


(a) Our Basis

(b) Dirichlet-Laplace

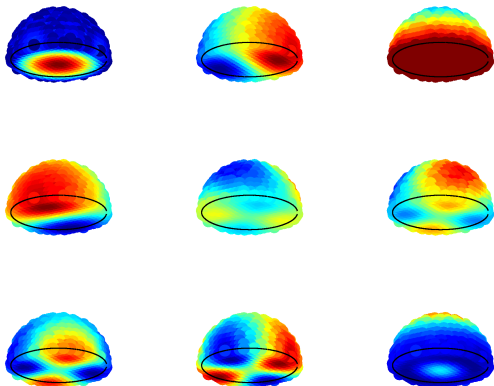
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## Connection with Potential Theory

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(a) Mark Kac  
(1914–1984)



(b) John  
Troutman  
(193?– )



(c) Tomasz Bo-  
jdecki (?)

## Connection with Volterra Operators

- The 1959 paper of Victor B. Lidskiĭ “Conditions for completeness of a system of root subspaces for non-selfadjoint operators with discrete spectra,” *Amer. Math. Soc. Transl. Ser. 2*, vol. 34, pp. 241–281, 1963, discusses the iterated *Volterra* integral operator:

$$Af(x) := \int_x^1 f(y) dy, f \in L^2(0,1) \implies A^2 f(x) = \int_x^1 (x-y)f(y) dy$$

which was decomposed into the real and imaginary parts:

$$(A^2)_R f := \frac{1}{2}(A^2 + A^{2*}) = -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 |x-y| f(y) dy;$$

$$(A^2)_I f := \frac{1}{2i}(A^2 - A^{2*}) = \frac{1}{2i} \int_0^1 (x-y)f(y) dy.$$

## Connection with Volterra Operators . . .

- The famous book of Gohberg-Kreĭn (*Introduction to the Theory of Linear Nonselfadjoint Operators*, AMS, 1969) also discusses the same operators.
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(a) Victor  
Lidskiĭ  
(1924–  
2008)



(b) Mark  
Krein (1907–  
1989)



(c) Israel Go-  
hberg (1928–  
2009)

# Connection with von Neumann–Kreĭn Extension Theory

- John von Neumann (1929) and Mark Kreĭn (1947) considered a *self-adjoint extension of symmetric operators*.
- Let  $T := -\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}(T) := H_0^2(0, 1) \subset H^2(0, 1)$ , where  $H_0^2(0, 1) := \{f \in H^2(0, 1) \mid f(0) = f(1) = f'(0) = f'(1) = 0\}$  and  $H^2(0, 1) := \{f \in C^1[0, 1] \mid f' \in AC[0, 1], f'' \in L^2(0, 1)\}$ .  $T$  is a positive symmetric operator on  $\mathcal{D}(T)$ , but *not self-adjoint* because  $\mathcal{D}(T^*) = H^2(0, 1) \supsetneq \mathcal{D}(T)$ .
- **von Neumann-Kreĭn extension** of  $T$  is the **smallest (or soft) self-adjoint extension**  $T_0 = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}(T_0) = \{f \in H^2(0, 1) \mid f'(0) = f'(1) = f(1) - f(0)\} = \mathcal{D}(T_0^*)$ .

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## Connection with von Neumann–Kreĭn Extension Theory ...

- Compare it with our boundary condition:  $-f'(0) = f'(1) = f(0) + f(1)$ .
- Also, compare it with the *Friedrichs extension* of  $T$ , which is the *largest (or hard) self-adjoint extension*:  $T_\infty = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ ,  
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(a) John von Neumann (1903–1957)



(b) Mark Krein (1907–1989)



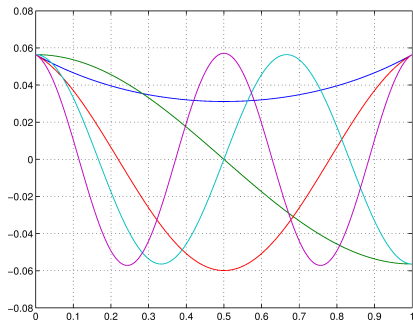
(c) Kurt Friedrichs (1901–1982)

## Connection with von Neumann–Kreĭn Extension Theory ...

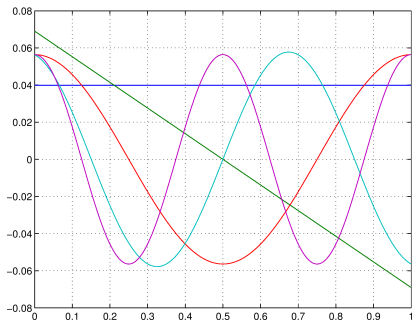
	Our Basis	Kreĭn-Laplacian Basis
$\lambda_0$	$-5.756915\dots; \tanh \sqrt{-\lambda_0}/2 = 2/\sqrt{-\lambda_0}$	0
$\varphi_0$	$\cosh \sqrt{-\lambda_0}(x-1/2)$	1
$\lambda_{2m-1}$	$((2m-1)\pi)^2$	$\tan \sqrt{\lambda_{2m-1}}/2 = \sqrt{\lambda_{2m-1}}/2$
$\varphi_{2m-1}$	$\sin(2m-1)\pi(x-1/2)$	$\sin \sqrt{\lambda_{2m-1}}(x-1/2)$
$\lambda_{2m}$	$\tan \sqrt{\lambda_{2m}}/2 = -2/\sqrt{\lambda_{2m}}$	$(2m\pi)^2$
$\varphi_{2m}$	$\cos \sqrt{\lambda_{2m}}(x-1/2)$	$\cos 2m\pi(x-1/2)$

Note that the above eigenfunctions are not normalized to have  $\|\cdot\|_2 = 1$ .

# Connection with von Neumann–Kreĭn Extension Theory ...



(a) Our Basis



(b) Kreĭn-Laplacian Basis

## Connection with von Neumann–Kreĭn Extension Theory ...

- In higher dimensions, the von Neumann–Kreĭn extension of the Laplacian  $T = -\Delta$ ,  $\mathcal{D}(T) = H_0^2(\Omega)$ , on  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  turns out to be:  $T_0 = -\Delta$ ,  $\mathcal{D}(T_0) = \left\{ f \in H^2(\Omega) \mid \frac{\partial f}{\partial \nu}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial H(f)}{\partial \nu}(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \right\}$  where  $H(f)$  is a **harmonic function** in  $\Omega$  with the boundary condition:  $H(f) = f$  on  $\partial\Omega$ ; See e.g., A. Alonso & B. Simon: “The Birman–Kreĭn–Vishik theory of self-adjoint extensions of semibounded operators,” *J. Operator Theory*, vol. 4, pp. 251–270, 1980.
- This is closely related to our **Polyharmonic Local Sine Transform** (PHLST): N. Saito & J.-F. Remy: “The polyharmonic local sine transform: A new tool for local image analysis and synthesis without edge effect,” *Appl. Comput. Harm. Anal.*, vol. 20, pp. 41–73, 2006.
- After all, the von Neumann–Kreĭn extensions do not deal with the **exterior** of the domain  $\Omega$  while our approach based on the commuting integral operators allow us to extend our eigenfunctions very naturally to the exterior of  $\Omega$ .

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- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator**
  - Integral Operators Commuting with Laplacian
  - Simple Examples
  - Historical Remarks
  - Discretization of the Problem**
  - Fast Algorithms for Computing Eigenfunctions
- 6 Applications
- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks
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## Discretization of the Problem

- Assume that the whole dataset consists of a collection of data sampled on a regular grid, and that each sampling cell is a box of size  $\prod_{i=1}^d \Delta x_i$ .
- Assume that an object of our interest  $\Omega$  consists of a subset of these boxes whose centers are  $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N$ .
- Under these assumptions, we can approximate the integral eigenvalue problem  $\mathcal{K}\varphi = \mu\varphi$  with a simple quadrature rule with node-weight pairs  $(\mathbf{x}_j, w_j)$  as follows.

$$\sum_{j=1}^N w_j K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) \varphi(\mathbf{x}_j) = \mu \varphi(\mathbf{x}_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad w_j = \prod_{i=1}^d \Delta x_i.$$

- Let  $K_{i,j} := w_j K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)$ ,  $\varphi_i := \varphi(\mathbf{x}_i)$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\varphi} := (\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_N)^T \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Then, the above equation can be written in a matrix-vector format as:  $K\boldsymbol{\varphi} = \mu\boldsymbol{\varphi}$ , where  $K = (K_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ . Under our assumptions, the weight  $w_j$  does not depend on  $j$ , which makes  $K$  **symmetric**.

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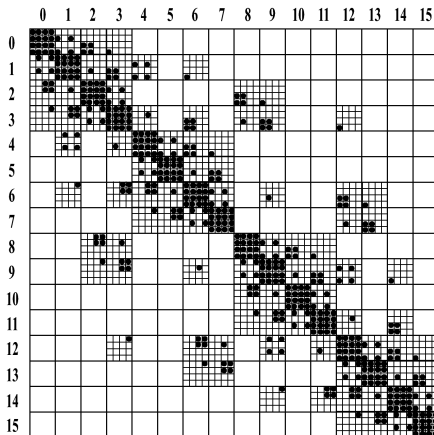
## A Possible Fast Algorithm for Computing $\varphi_j$ 's

- Observation: our kernel function  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  is of special form, i.e., the fundamental solution of Laplacian used in **potential theory**.
- Idea: Accelerate the matrix-vector product  $K\boldsymbol{\varphi}$  using the **Fast Multipole Method** (FMM).
- Convert the kernel matrix to the tree-structured matrix via the FMM whose submatrices are nicely organized in terms of their **ranks**. (Computational cost: our current implementation costs  $O(N^2)$ , but can achieve  $O(N\log N)$  via the randomized SVD algorithm of Woolfe-Liberty-Rokhlin-Tygert (2008)).
- Construct  $O(N)$  matrix-vector product module fully utilizing rank information (See also the work of Bremer (2007) and the “HSS” algorithm of Chandrasekaran et al. (2006)).
- Embed that matrix-vector product module in the Krylov subspace method, e.g., Lanczos iteration. (Computational cost:  $O(N)$  for each eigenvalue/eigenvector).

## Tree-Structured Matrix via FMM

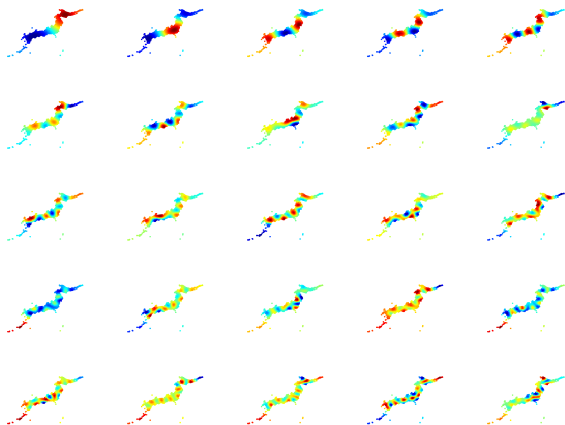
0	1	4	5	16	17	20	21
<b>0</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>5</b>	
2	3	6	7	18	19	22	23
	<b>0</b>					<b>1</b>	
8	9	12	13	24	25	28	29
<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>	
10	11	14	15	26	27	30	31
32	33	36	37	48	49	52	53
<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>13</b>	
34	35	38	39	50	51	54	55
	<b>2</b>					<b>3</b>	
40	41	44	45	56	57	60	61
<b>10</b>		<b>11</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>	
42	43	46	47	58	59	62	63

(a) Hierarchical indexing scheme

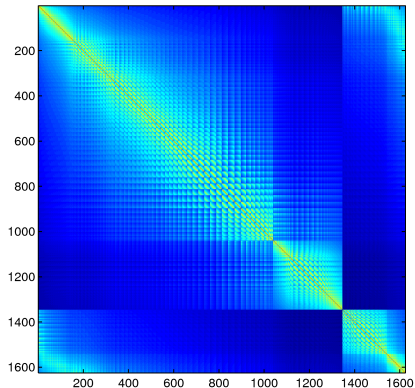


(b) Tree-Structured Matrix

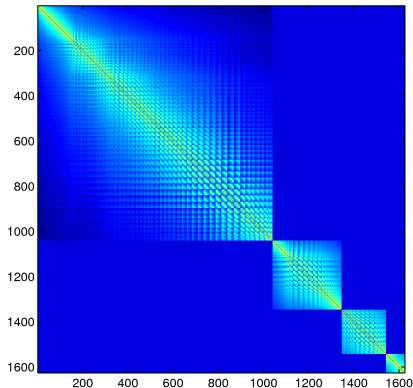
# First 25 Basis Functions via the FMM-based algorithm



# Splitting into Subproblems for Faster Computation



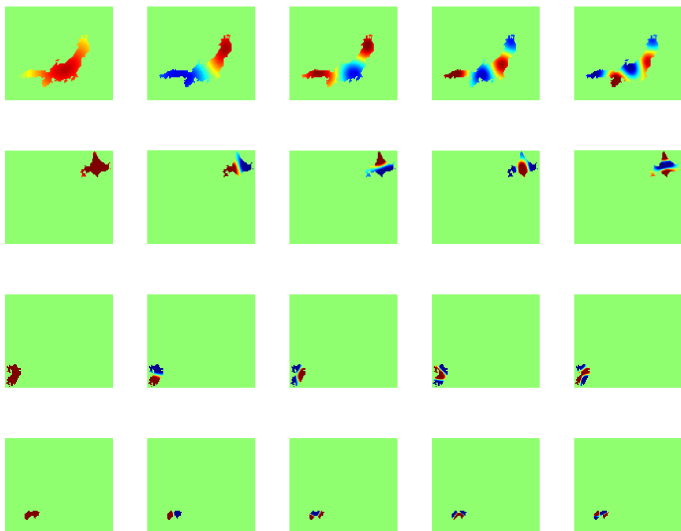
(a) Whole islands



(b) Separated islands



# Eigenfunctions for Separated Islands



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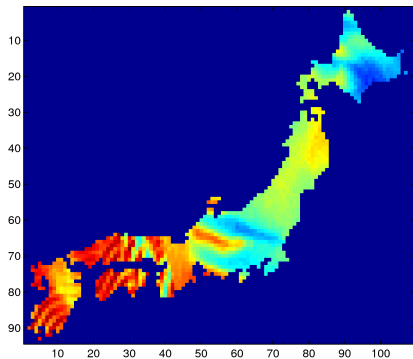
# Applications

- Suppose images (or vector-valued measurements) are recorded on the domain  $\Omega$  of general shape in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ;  $d = 2$  or  $3$ .
- Interactive image analysis, discrimination, interpretation:
  - Medical image analysis: e.g., hippocampal shape analysis for early Alzheimer's
  - Biometry: e.g., identification and characterization of eyes, faces, etc.
- Geophysical data assimilation:
  - Incorporating ocean current data measured by high frequency radar into a numerical model;
  - Interpolation, extrapolation, prediction of vector-valued meteorology data (temperature, pressure, wind speed, etc.) measured at the weather station in the 3D terrain.

# Outline

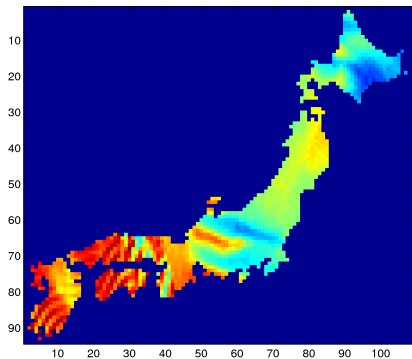
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# Image Approximation; Comparison with Wavelets

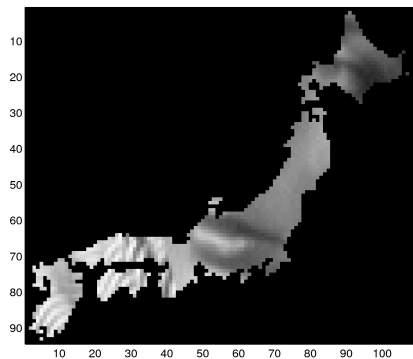


(a) What data?

# Image Approximation; Comparison with Wavelets

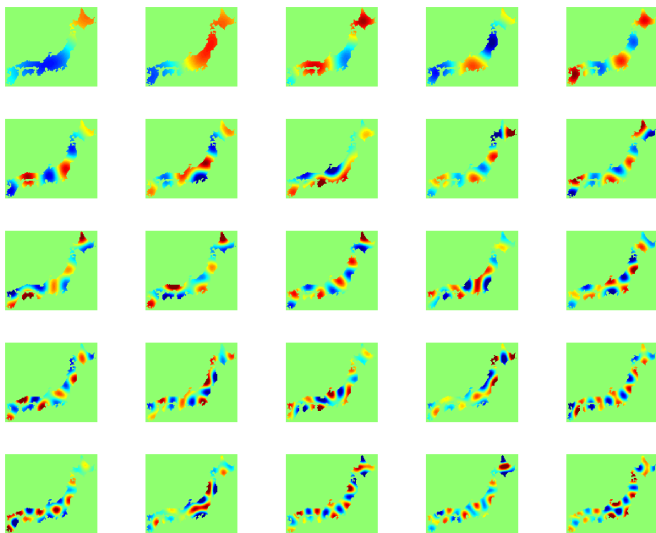


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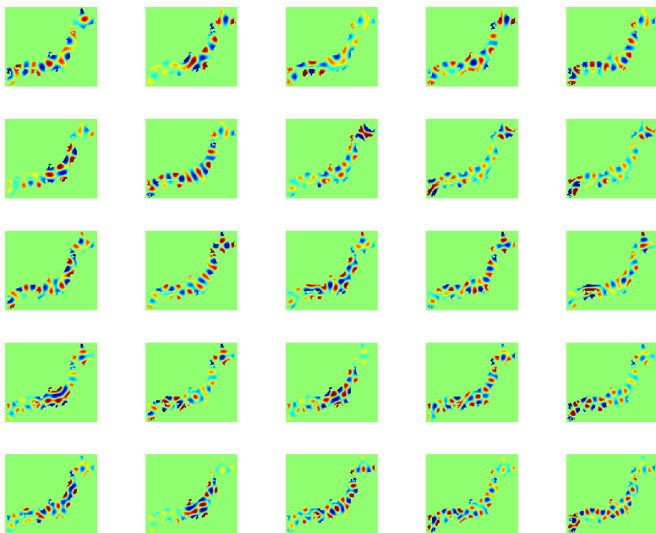


(b)  $\chi_J \cdot \text{Barbara}$

# First 25 Basis Functions

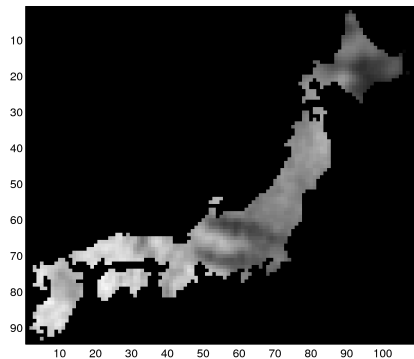


# Next 25 Basis Functions



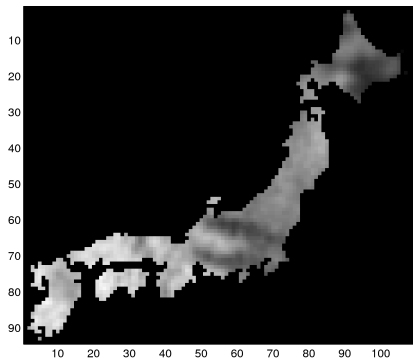


# Reconstruction with Top 100 Coefficients

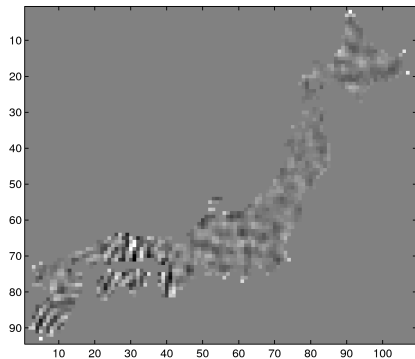


(a) Reconstruction

# Reconstruction with Top 100 Coefficients

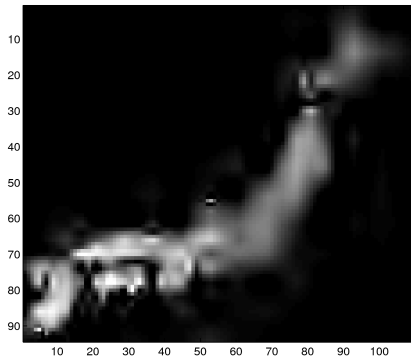


(a) Reconstruction



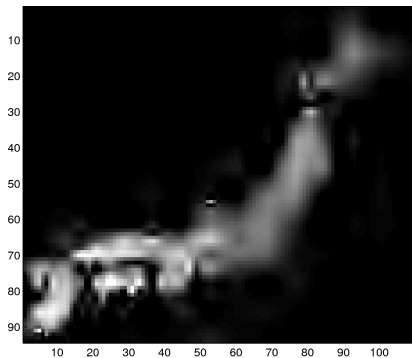
(b) Error

# Reconstruction with Top 100 2D Wavelets (Symmlet 8)

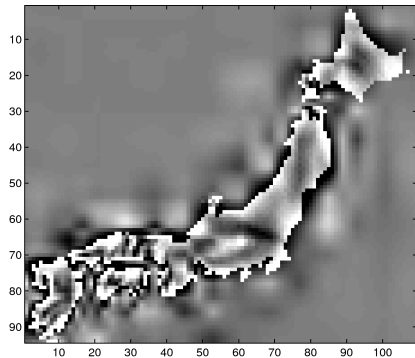


(a) Reconstruction

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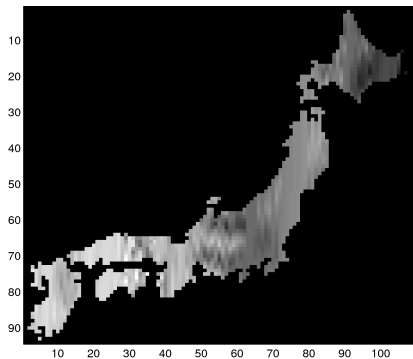


(a) Reconstruction



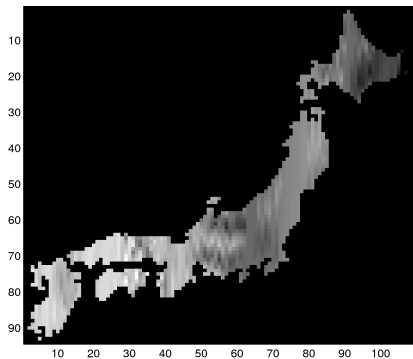
(b) Error

# Reconstruction with Top 100 1D Wavelets (Symmlet 8)

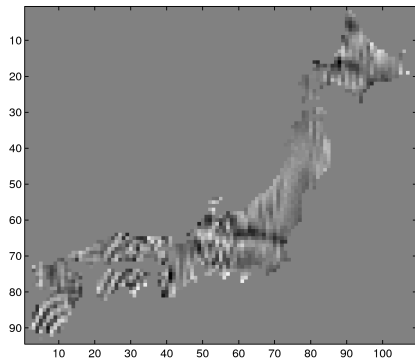


(a) Reconstruction

# Reconstruction with Top 100 1D Wavelets (Symmlet 8)

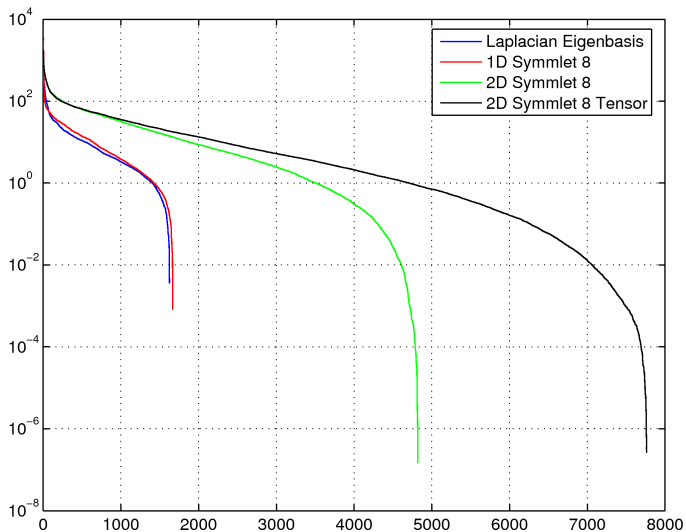


(a) Reconstruction

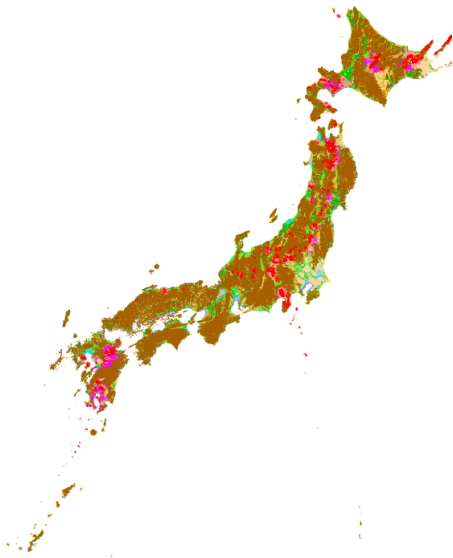


(b) Error

# Comparison of Coefficient Decay

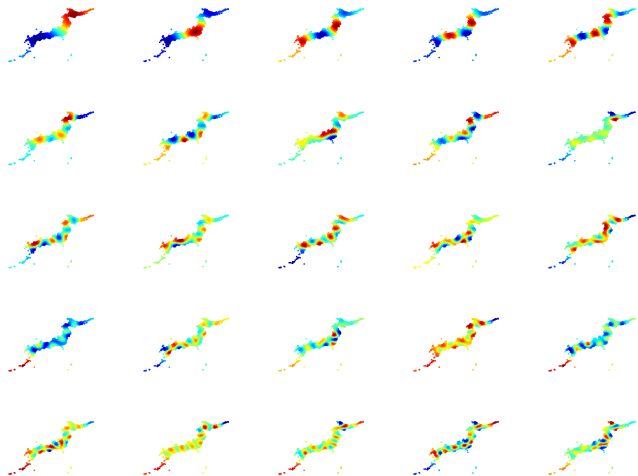


A Real Challenge: Kernel matrix is of  $387924 \times 387924$ .





# First 25 Basis Functions via the FMM-based algorithm



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# Experiments on Domains with Perturbed Boundaries

We will use the following domains for our experiments:

$\Omega_1$ : The Japanese Islands

$\Omega_2$ : A smoothed and connected version of  $\Omega_1$ ;

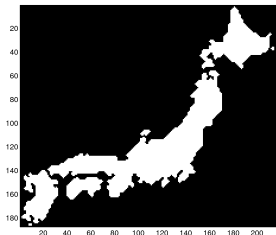
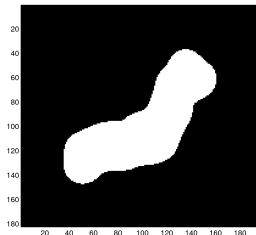
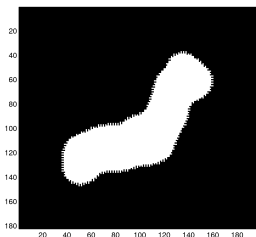
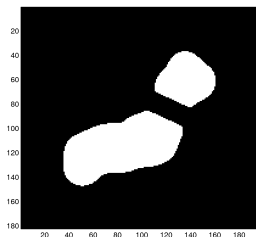
$\Omega_3$ : The same as  $\Omega_2$  but with a “jaggy” boundary curve

$\Omega_4$ : The two-component version of  $\Omega_2$ .

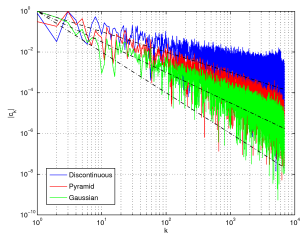
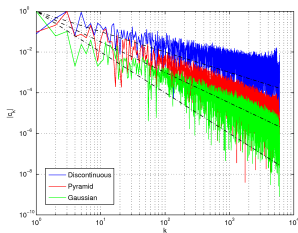
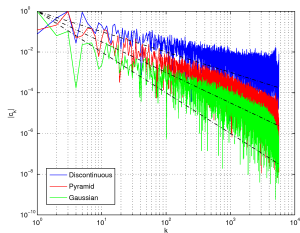
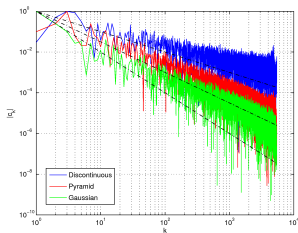
As for the data on these domains, we adopted three functions with different smoothness:

- 1 A discontinuous function (i.e., a simple step function whose discontinuity is a straight line along the “spine” or the main axis of the domain);
- 2 A pyramid-shaped function, which is continuous and its first order partial derivatives are of bounded variation;
- 3 The standard Gaussian function.

# The Domains with Perturbed Boundaries

(a)  $\chi_{\Omega_1}$ (b)  $\chi_{\Omega_2}$ (c)  $\chi_{\Omega_3}$ (d)  $\chi_{\Omega_4}$

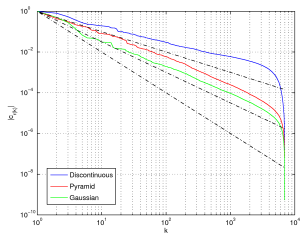
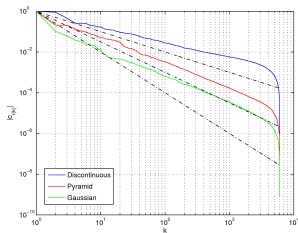
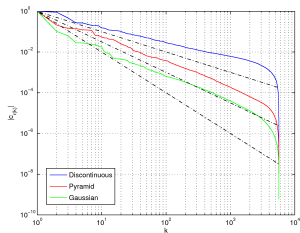
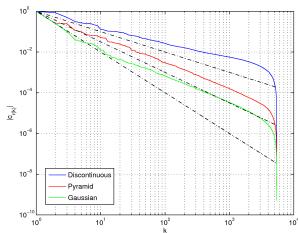
# Decay Rates of the Expansion Coefficients (Unsorted)

(a) Decay rates on  $\Omega_1$ (b) Decay rates on  $\Omega_2$ (c) Decay rates on  $\Omega_3$ (d) Decay rates on  $\Omega_4$

## Observations on the Decay Rates

- The decay rates reflect the intrinsic smoothness of the functions living in the domain, but are not affected by the existence of the boundary of the domains.
- The decay rates are rather insensitive to the smoothness of the boundary curves. In particular, the plots for  $\Omega_2$ ,  $\Omega_3$ , and  $\Omega_4$  are virtually the same whereas those for  $\Omega_1$ —the most complicated domain among these four—seem slightly worse than the others. Yet all behave better than  $O(k^{-1})$ .
- The decay rates are rather insensitive to the number of the separated subdomains. Again, it will be also of interest to investigate the behavior the conventional Laplacian eigenfunctions in this respect.
- Although the coefficient plots oscillate around the linear lines (in the log-log scale), the decay rates  $O(k^{-\alpha})$ , regardless of the domain shapes, behave as follows. For the discontinuous functions,  $\alpha < 1$ . For the pyramid-shape function,  $1 < \alpha < 1.5$ . For the Gaussian function,  $\alpha \geq 1.5$ .

# Decay Rates of the Expansion Coefficients (Sorted)

(a) Decay rates on  $\Omega_1$ (b) Decay rates on  $\Omega_2$ (c) Decay rates on  $\Omega_3$ (d) Decay rates on  $\Omega_4$

# Conjecture on the Coefficient Decay Rate

## Conjecture (NS 2007)

Let  $\Omega$  be a  $C^2$ -domain of general shape and let  $f \in C(\overline{\Omega})$  with  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} \in BV(\overline{\Omega})$  for  $j = 1, \dots, d$ . Let  $\{c_k = \langle f, \varphi_k \rangle\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  be the expansion coefficients of  $f$  with respect to our Laplacian eigenbasis on this domain. Then,  $|c_k|$  decays with rate  $O(k^{-\alpha})$  with  $1 < \alpha < 2$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus, the approximation error using the first  $m$  terms measured in the  $L^2$ -norm, i.e.,  $\|f - \sum_{k=1}^m c_k \varphi_k\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$  should have a decay rate of  $O(m^{-\alpha+0.5})$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

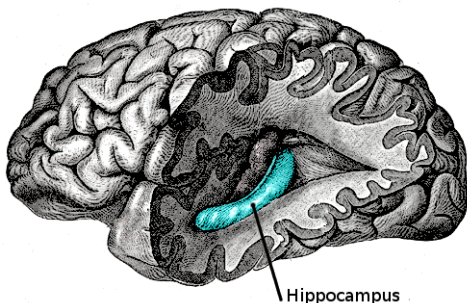


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  - Image Approximation I: Comparison with Wavelets
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# Hippocampal Shape Analysis

- Presenting the work of *Faisal Beg* and his group at Simon Fraser Univ. using our technique
- Want to distinguish people with mild dementia of the Alzheimer type (DAT) from cognitively normal (CN) people
- Hippocampus plays important roles in long-term memory and spatial navigation



# Hippocampal Shape Analysis ...

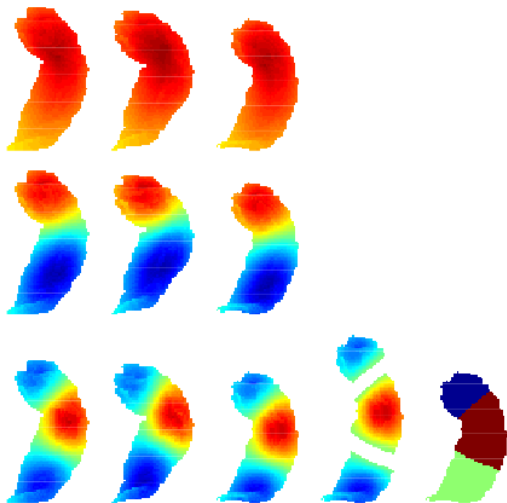
- Dataset: Left hippocampus segmented from 3D MRI images
- Compute the smallest 999 Laplacian eigenvalues (i.e., the largest 999 eigenvalues of the integral operator  $\mathcal{K}$ ) for each left hippocampus
- Construct a feature vector for each left hippocampus:

$$\mathbf{F} := \left( \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}, \dots, \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_{n+1}} \right)^\top = \left( \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1}, \dots, \frac{\mu_{n+1}}{\mu_1} \right)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

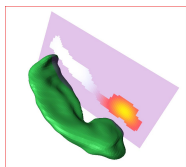
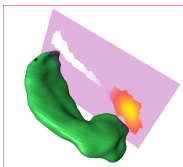
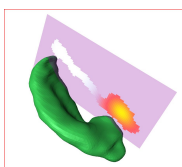
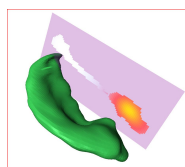
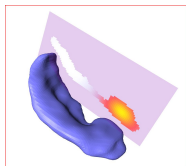
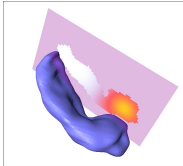
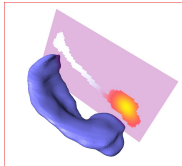
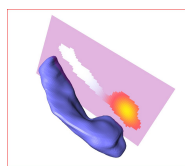
This feature vector was used by Khabou, Hermi, and Rhouma (2007) for 2D shape classification (e.g., shapes of tree leaves).

- Reduce the feature space dimension via PCA to from  $n = 998$  to  $n'$
- Classified by the linear SVM (support vector machine)

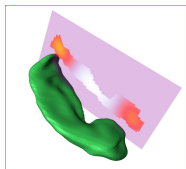
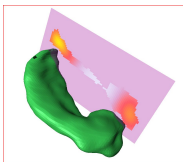
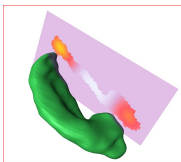
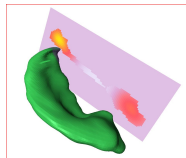
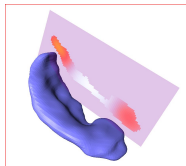
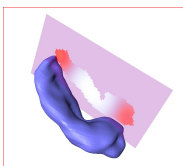
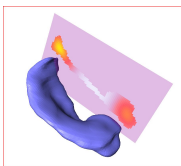
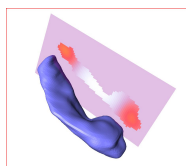
# First Three Eigenfunctions of Three Patients



# The Second Eigenfunction $\varphi_2$

(a)  $N = 15135$ (b)  $N = 15438$ (c)  $N = 14938$ (d)  $N = 15256$ (e)  $N = 14201$ (f)  $N = 15630$ (g)  $N = 12073$ (h)  $N = 12240$

# The Third Eigenfunction $\varphi_3$

(i)  $N = 15135$ (j)  $N = 15438$ (k)  $N = 14938$ (l)  $N = 15256$ (m)  $N = 14201$ (n)  $N = 15630$ (o)  $N = 12073$ (p)  $N = 12240$

## Classification Results

Dataset consists of the segmented left hippocampuses of 18 DAT subjects and of 26 CN subjects:

Method	Accuracy	Specificity	Sensitivity	$n$	$n'$
MomInv	68.1%	69.2%	66.6%	12	1
TensorInv	75.0%	76.9%	72.2%	$\geq 1.9E5$	17
LapEig	77.2%	<b>84.6%</b>	66.6%	998	14
GeodesicInv	86.3%	77.7%	92.3%	$\geq 1.3E6$	27

$$\text{accuracy} := \frac{|TP| + |TN|}{|\text{people examined}|} = \frac{|\text{people correctly diagnosed}|}{|\text{people examined}|}$$

$$\text{specificity} := \frac{|TN|}{|TN| + |FP|} = \frac{|\text{people correctly diagnosed as healthy}|}{|\text{healthy people examined}|}$$

$$\text{sensitivity} := \frac{|TP|}{|TP| + |FN|} = \frac{|\text{people correctly diagnosed as mild AD}|}{|\text{people with mild AD examined}|}$$

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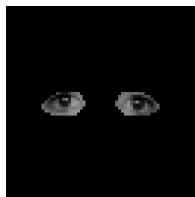
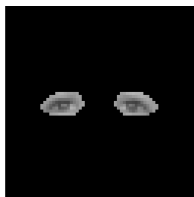
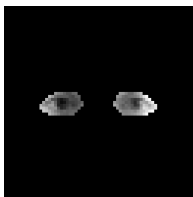


# Comparison with PCA

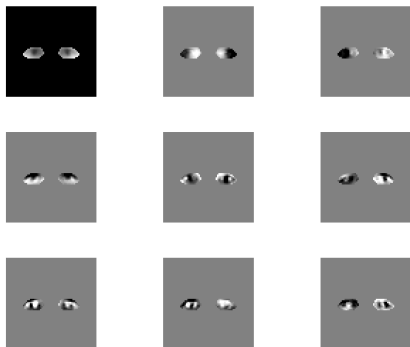
- Consider a stochastic process living on a domain  $\Omega$ .
- *PCA/Karhunen-Loève Transform* is often used.
- *PCA/KLT* *implicitly* incorporate geometric information of the measurement (or pixel) location through *data correlation*.
- Our Laplacian eigenfunctions use *explicit* geometric information through the harmonic kernel  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ .

## Comparison with PCA: Example

- “*Rogue’s Gallery*” dataset from Larry Sirovich
- 72 training dataset; 71 test dataset
- Left & right eye regions

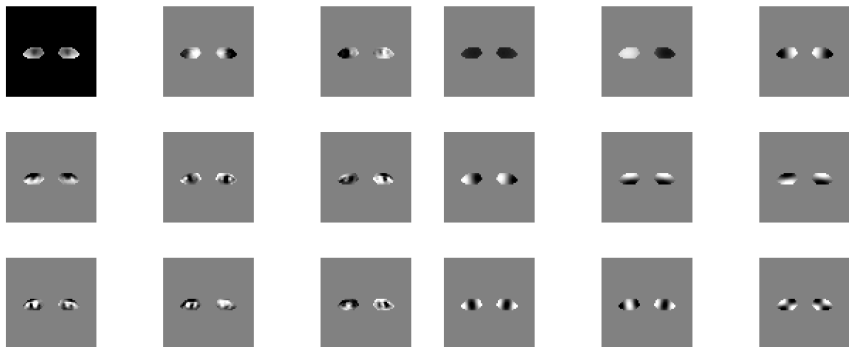


# Comparison with PCA: Basis Vectors



(a) KLB/PCA 1:9

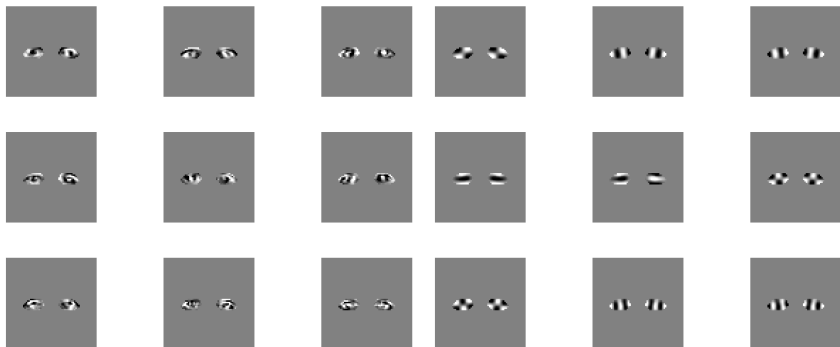
# Comparison with PCA: Basis Vectors



(a) KLB/PCA 1:9

(b) Laplacian Eigenfunctions 1:9

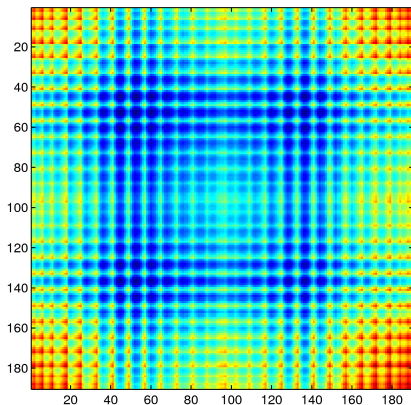
# Comparison with PCA: Basis Vectors ...



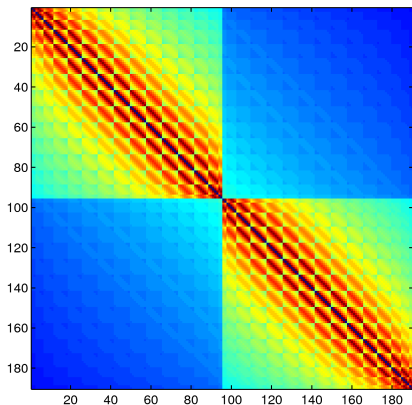
(a) KLB/PCA 10:18

(b) Laplacian Eigenfunctions 10:18

# Comparison with PCA: Kernel Matrix

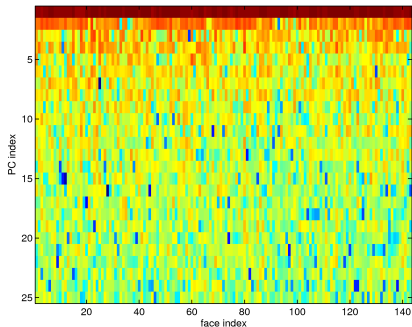


(a) Covariance

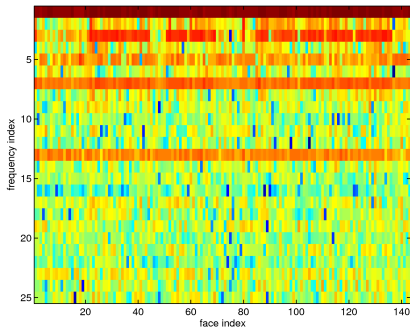


(b) Harmonic kernel

# Comparison with PCA: Energy Distribution over Coordinates

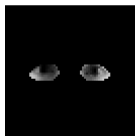


(a) KLB/PCA



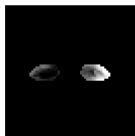
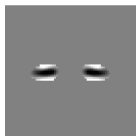
(b) Laplacian Eigenfunctions

## Comparison with PCA: Basis Vector #7 ...

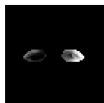
 $c_7$ :large $c_7$ :large $\varphi_7$  $c_7$ :small $c_7$ :small



## Comparison with PCA: Basis Vector #13 ...

 $c_{13}:\text{large}$  $c_{13}:\text{large}$  $\varphi_{13}$  $c_{13}:\text{small}$  $c_{13}:\text{small}$

# Asymmetry Detector



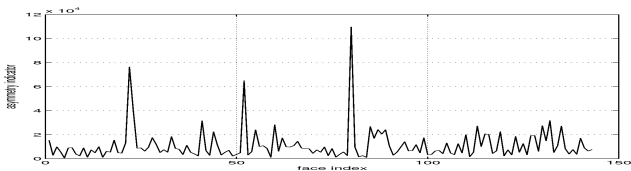
Eyes #80



Eyes #22



Eyes #52



Asymmetry detector



Eyes #5

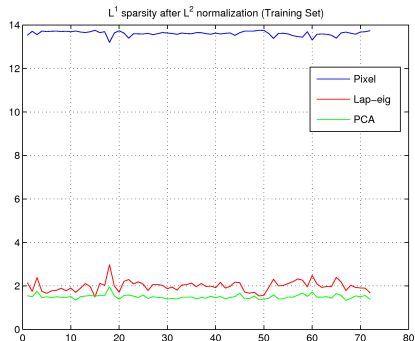


Eyes #84



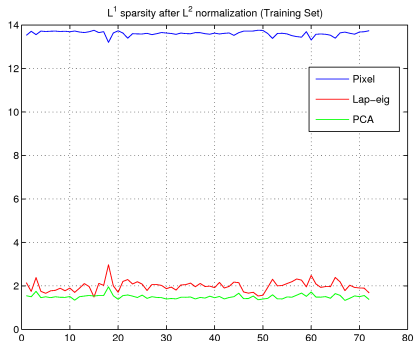
Eyes #59

# Comparison with PCA: Sparsity

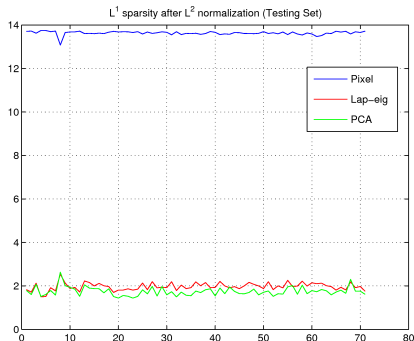


(a) Training set

# Comparison with PCA: Sparsity

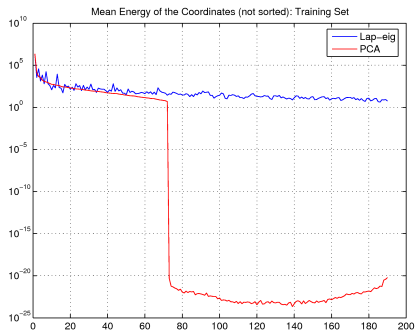


(a) Training set



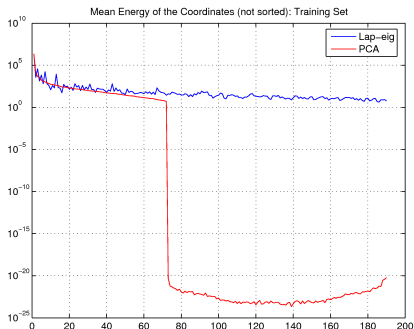
(b) Test set

# Comparison with PCA: Coefficient Decay

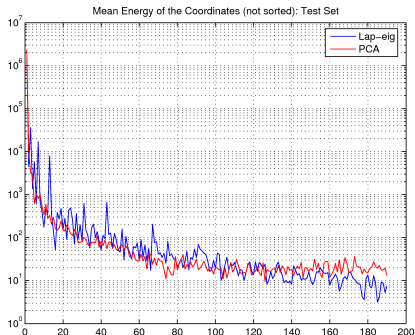


(a) Training set

# Comparison with PCA: Coefficient Decay



(a) Training set



(b) Test set

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# Solving the Heat Equation on a Complicated Domain

- It is well known that the *semigroup*  $e^{t\Delta}$  can be diagonalized using the Laplacian eigenbasis, i.e., for any initial heat distribution  $u_0(\mathbf{x}) \in L^2(\overline{\Omega})$ , we have the heat distribution at time  $t$  formally as

$$u(\mathbf{x}, t) = e^{t\Delta} u_0 = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} e^{-t\lambda_j} \langle u_0, \varphi_j \rangle \varphi_j(\mathbf{x}),$$

which is based on the expansion of the **heat kernel** (*Green's function for the heat equation*)  $p_t(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  via the Laplacian eigenfunctions as follows:

$$p_t(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda_j t} \varphi_j(\mathbf{x}) \overline{\varphi_j(\mathbf{y})} \quad (t, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in (0, \infty) \times \overline{\Omega} \times \overline{\Omega}.$$



## Discretization of the Problem

- Due to the discretization of the problem, we can write  $e^{t\Delta}$  in the matrix-vector notation as

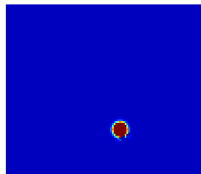
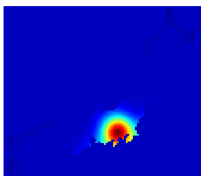
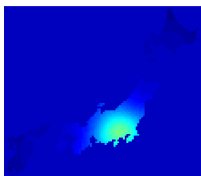
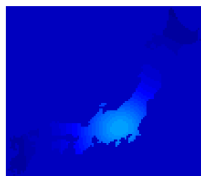
$$\Phi e^{-t\Lambda} \Phi^T = \Phi \operatorname{diag}\left(e^{-t\lambda_1}, \dots, e^{-t\lambda_N}\right) \Phi^T = \sum_{j=1}^N e^{-\lambda_j t} \boldsymbol{\varphi}_j \boldsymbol{\varphi}_j^T,$$

where  $\Phi = (\boldsymbol{\varphi}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\varphi}_N)$  is the Laplacian eigenbasis matrix of size  $N \times N$ , and  $\Lambda$  is the diagonal matrix consisting of the eigenvalues of the Laplacian, which are the inverse of the eigenvalues of the kernel matrix, i.e.,  $\Lambda_{k,k} = \lambda_k = 1/\mu_k$ .

- Given an initial heat distribution over the domain,  $\mathbf{u}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , we can compute the heat distribution at time  $t$  as

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = \Phi e^{-t\Lambda} \Phi^T \mathbf{u}_0.$$

# Simulation Experiments

 $t=0$  $t=1$  $t=10$  $t=100$  $t=250$  $t=500$ 

## Remarks on the Boundary Condition

- It is well known that the eigenvalues of the Laplacian with the Dirichlet (or Neumann) BC are positive (or non-negative, respectively) while the Robin BC could have a *negative* eigenvalue.
- Using our commuting integral operator approach, it is difficult to precisely specify the BC because our formulation satisfies neither the Dirichlet nor the Neumann nor the Robin conditions.
- Our empirical observation so far has led to the following conjecture:

*Conjecture (NS 2007)*

*The eigenvalues of the Laplacian satisfying our BC and defined over a bounded domain  $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^d$  are all positive possibly with a finite number of negative ones.*

## Remarks on the Boundary Condition

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# Outline

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- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
- 6 Applications**
  - Image Approximation I: Comparison with Wavelets
  - Image Approximation II: Robustness against Perturbed Boundaries
  - Hippocampal Shape Analysis
  - Statistical Image Analysis; Comparison with PCA
  - Solving the Heat Equation on a Complicated Domain
  - **Laplacian Eigenfunctions vs Patient-Specific Basis Functions**
- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks
- 8 Summary & References

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- Idea: Represent an ROI by a linear combination of a small number of the flexible basis functions adapted to individual patients  $\implies$  more computationally efficient than voxel-based representations.
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- Then, consider the *orthogonal complement* to the 1D subspace  $\text{span}\{\chi_\Omega\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ :

$$\tilde{G}_\Omega = (I - \chi_\Omega \chi_\Omega^\top) G_\Omega.$$

- The *Singular Value Decomposition* (SVD) of  $\tilde{G}_\Omega$  is computed, i.e.,  $\tilde{G}_\Omega = U \Sigma V^\top$ .
- Finally, Winters et al. suggest that a small number, say  $\ell (\ll N)$ , of column vectors of  $U$  to represent an object on  $\Omega$  approximately.
- Suppose the original imaging system equation be written as  $Ax = b$  where  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$  is a imaging system matrix,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is the object values over  $I$ , and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is the measured data.
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- The accuracy and efficiency of the above procedure strongly depends on the quality of the  $\ell$ -term approximation  $\mathbf{x} \approx U_\ell \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_\ell$ , i.e.,  $\ell$  is a tradeoff parameter.
- Going back to the SVD of  $\tilde{G}_\Omega$ ,  $U$  is the solution to the eigenvalue problem of  $\tilde{G}_\Omega \tilde{G}_\Omega^\top U = U \Sigma^2$ .
- This means that the columns of  $U$  form the basis of the **KLT** assuming that the underlying **autocovariance** matrix is  $\tilde{G}_\Omega \tilde{G}_\Omega^\top$ .
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- Since each realization is a shifted version of a single vector followed by truncation, we can show that the corresponding KLT/PCA basis are essentially the **Discrete Fourier Sine** basis supported on  $\Omega$ . More precisely, they are adjusted versions of DST basis orthogonal to the constant DC component  $\chi_\Omega$ .



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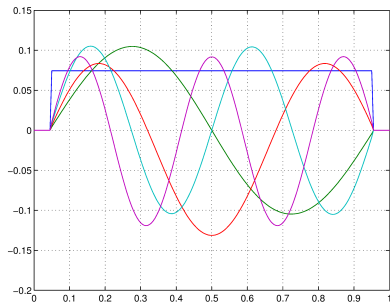
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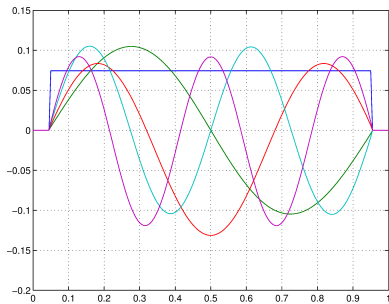
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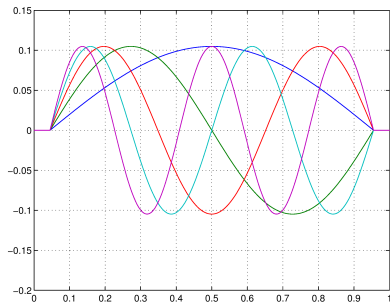
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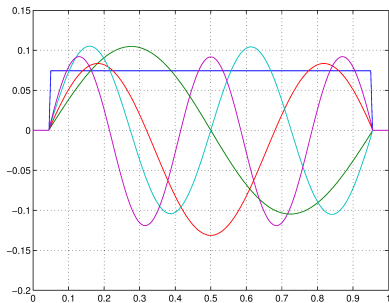
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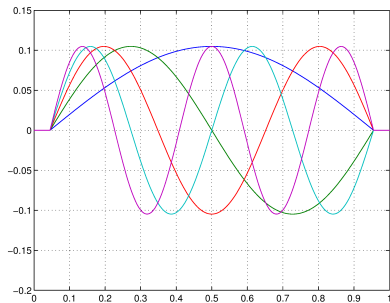
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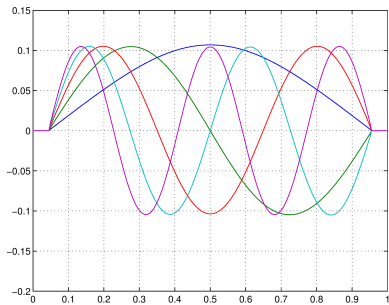
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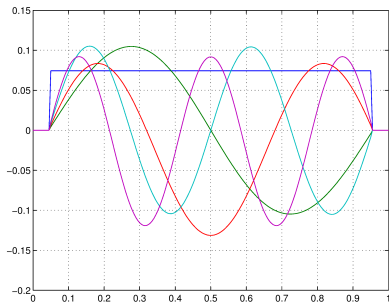
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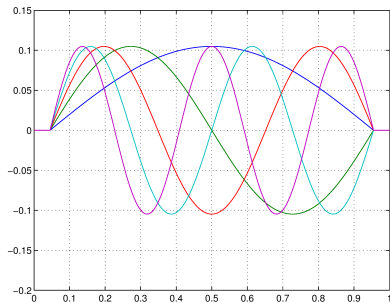
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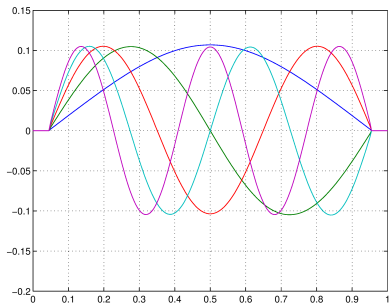
(c) PSB (No Const. DC)



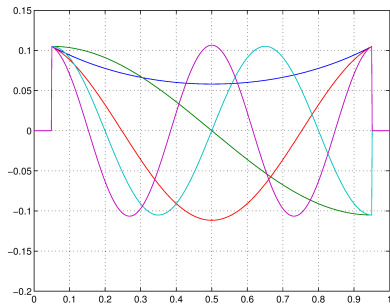
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(d) Laplacian Eigenfunctions



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- Pro: The constant DC component vector  $\chi_\Omega$  is included.

- Con 1: *Features near from the boundary of  $\Omega$*  may not be represented well with a small number of  $\ell$  due to the Dirichlet BC implicitly imposed by  $\chi_\Omega$ .

- Con 2: In reality, building a basis for a complicated 3D shape based on the *tensor products* may not be easy, and the boundary effects may become more pronounced.

- LE-CI (Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator)

- Pro 1: *Features near from the boundary* may be more efficiently represented thanks to the more natural BC.

- Pro 2: Building a basis for even a complicated 3D shape is easy; we only need pairwise distances between voxel centers.

- Con:  $\chi_\Omega$  is not included. However, if we wish, we can include  $\chi_\Omega$  by projecting the kernel matrix  $\mathcal{K}$  onto the orthogonal complement to span  $\chi_\Omega$  before diagonalizing  $\mathcal{K}$ .

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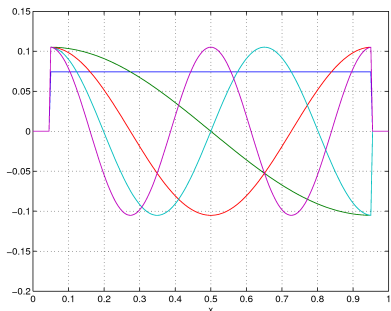
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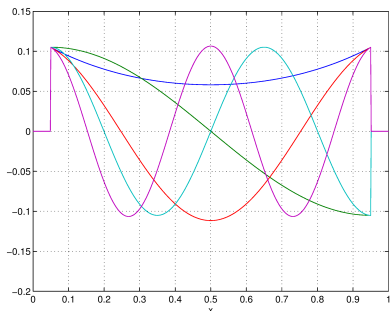


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- *Domain-adapted tensor-product DCT* might be perhaps most computationally efficient without too much boundary effects although 'Con 2' of PSB remains.



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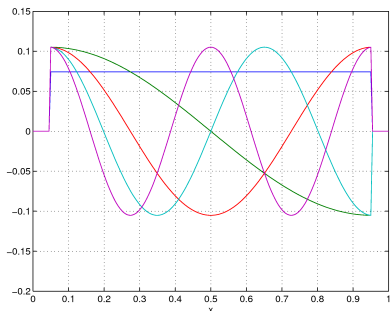


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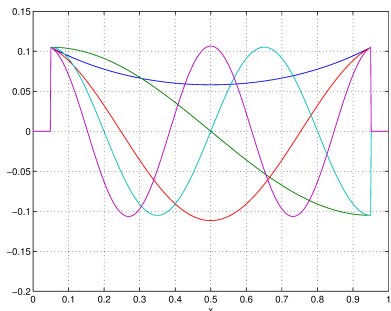
- DCT (Type II) is also used for the *JPEG* image compression standard.
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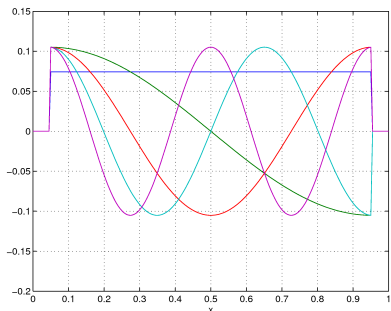


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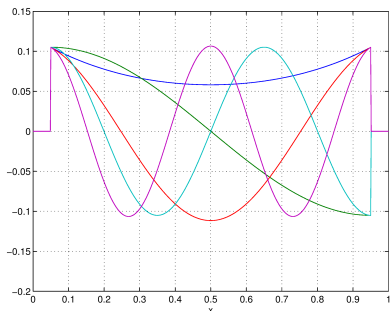
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- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
- 6 Applications
- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks**
- 8 Summary & References

# Introductory Remarks

- For much more details of this part of lecture, please check my course website on “Harmonic Analysis on Graphs & Networks”:  
<http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~saito/courses/HarmGraph/>
- Good general references on the graph Laplacian *eigenvalues* are:
  - R. B.apat: *Graphs and Matrices*, Universitext, Springer, 2010.
  - A. E. Brouwer & W. H. Haemers: *Spectra of Graphs*, Springer, 2012.
  - F. R. K. Chung: *Spectral Graph Theory*, Amer. Math. Soc., 1997.
  - D. Cvetković, P. Rowlinson, & S. Simić: *An Introduction to the Theory of Graph Spectra*, Vol. 75, London Mathematical Society Student Texts, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2010.
- As for the graph Laplacian *eigenfunctions*, there are not too many books (although there may be many papers); one of the good books is
  - T. Bıyıkođlu, J. Leydold, & P. F. Stadler, *Laplacian Eigenvectors of Graphs*, Lecture Notes in Mathematics, vol. 1915, Springer, 2007.

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  - **Motivations: Why Graphs?**
  - Basics of Graph Theory: Graph Laplacians
  - A Brief Review of Graph Laplacian Eigenvalues
  - Graph Laplacian Eigenfunctions
  - The Perron-Frobenius Theory
  - From Perron-Frobenius to Courant's Nodal Domain Theorem
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# Motivations: Why Graphs?

- More and more data are collected in a distributed and irregular manner; they are not organized such as familiar digital signals and images sampled on regular lattices. Examples include:
  - Data from sensor networks
  - Data from social networks, webpages, ...
  - Data from biological networks
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- It is quite important to analyze:
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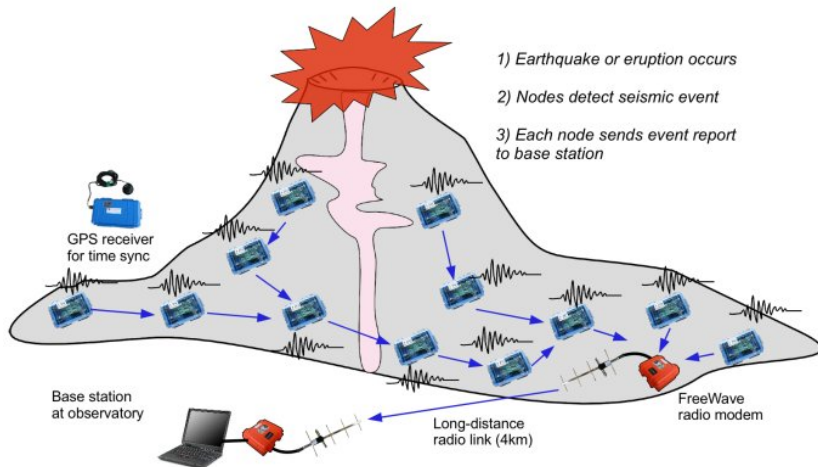


Figure: Volcano monitoring sensor network architecture of Harvard Sensor Networks Lab

# An Example of Social Networks

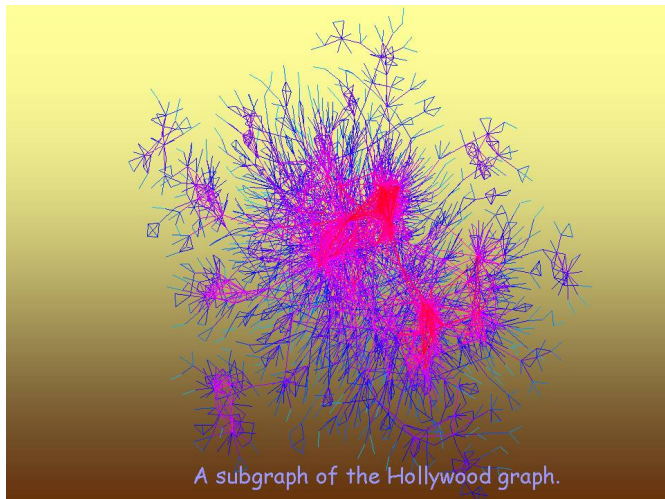


Figure: Through the courtesy of Prof. Fan Chung, UC San Diego

# An Example of Biological Networks

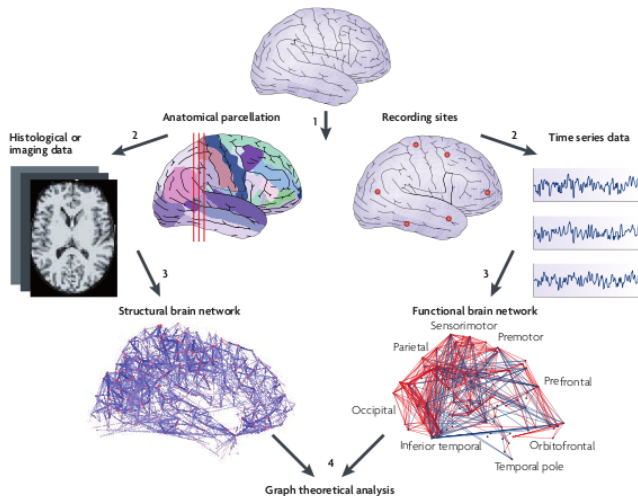
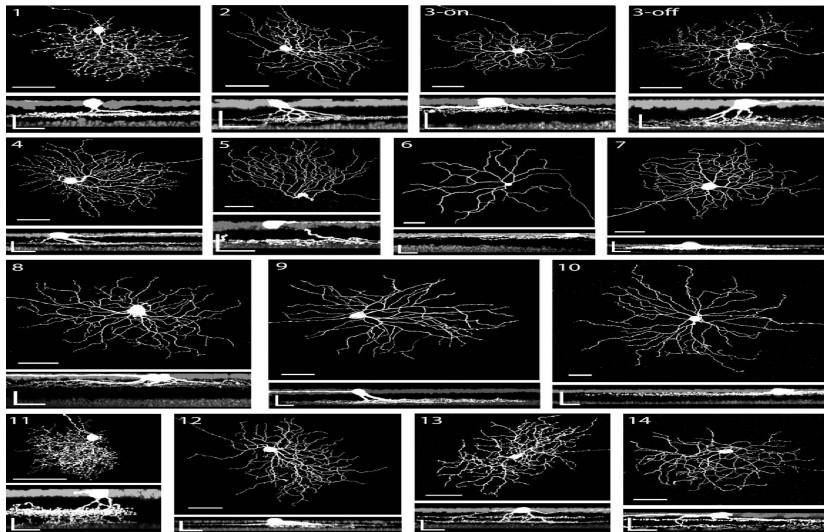
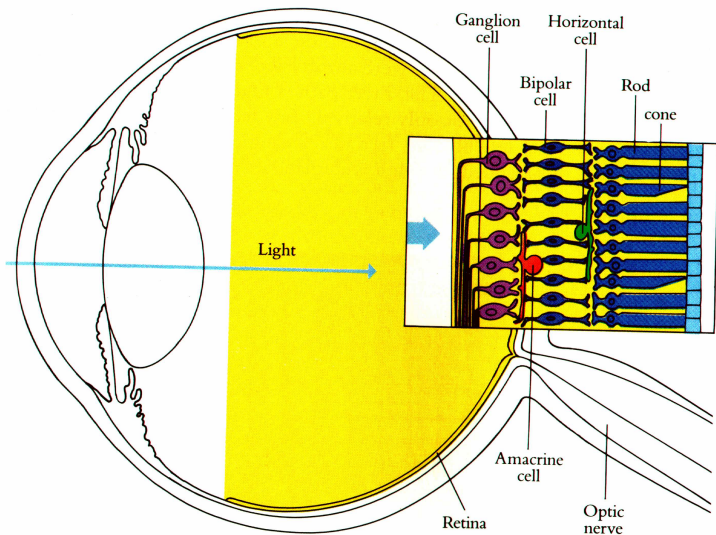


Figure: From E. Bullmore and O. Sporns, *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, vol. 10, pp.186–198, Mar. 2009.

# Another Biological Example: Retinal Ganglion Cells

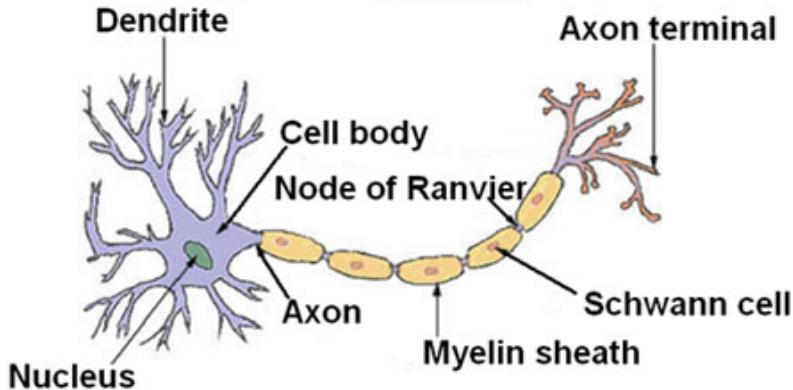


# Retinal Ganglion Cells (D. Hubel: *Eye, Brain, & Vision*, '95)

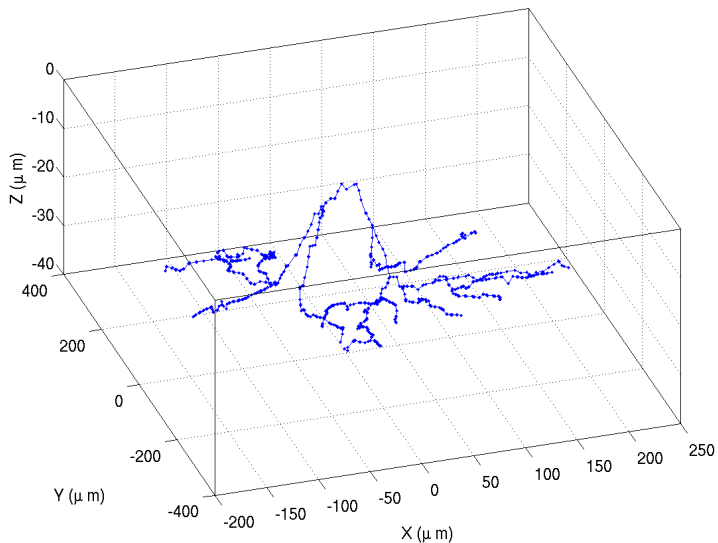


# A Typical Neuron (from Wikipedia)

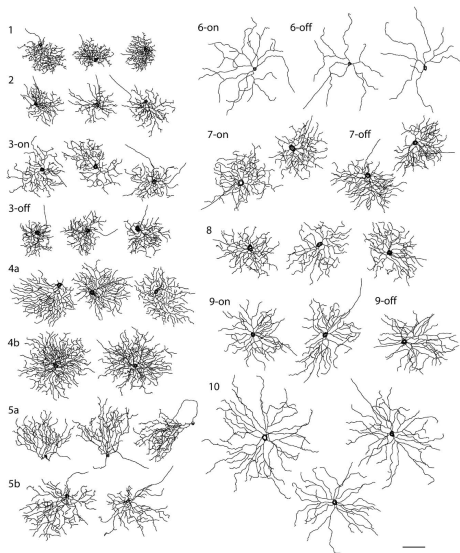
## Structure of a Typical Neuron



# Mouse's RGC as a Graph





Clustering using Features Derived by Neurolucida<sup>®</sup>

## Representing a Regular Image as a Graph

often turns out to be quite useful for various purposes. In particular, **Nonlocal Means Denoising Algorithm** of Buades-Coll-Morel is quite impressive.

- Construct a graph each of whose vertices represents  $k \times k$  patch of a given image ( $k$  may be 3, 5, ..., etc.) So each vertex represents a point in  $\mathbb{R}^{k^2}$ .
- Connect every pair of vertices with the weight  $W_{ij} = \exp(-\|\text{patch}_i - \text{patch}_j\|^2 / \epsilon^2)$  with *appropriately chosen* scale parameter  $\epsilon > 0$ .
- Compute the weighted average of the center pixel of each patch using the normalized weights  $W_{ij} / \sum_l W_{il}$ . More precisely, the average of the center of the  $i$ th patch,  $\bar{c}_i = \sum_j W_{ij} c_j / \sum_l W_{il}$ .
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- Connect every pair of vertices with the weight  $W_{ij} = \exp(-\|\text{patch}_i - \text{patch}_j\|^2 / \epsilon^2)$  with *appropriately chosen* scale parameter  $\epsilon > 0$ .
- Compute the weighted average of the center pixel of each patch using the normalized weights  $W_{ij} / \sum_l W_{il}$ . More precisely, the average of the center of the  $i$ th patch,  $\bar{c}_i = \sum_j W_{ij} c_j / \sum_l W_{il}$ .
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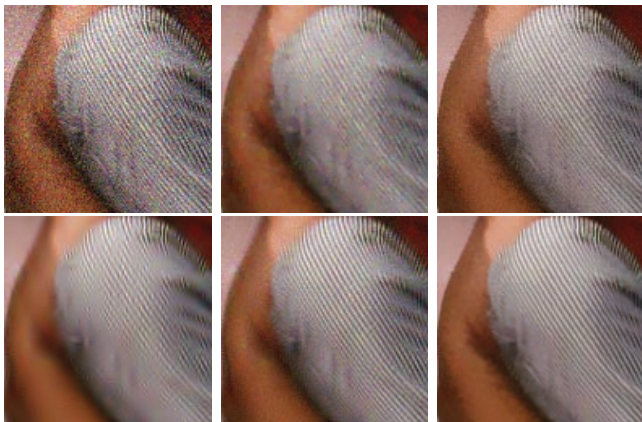
## Representing a Regular Image as a Graph

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From: A. Buades, B. Coll, and J.-M. Morel, *SIAM Review*, vol. 52, no. 1, pp. 113–147, 2010.

Noisy Image; Total Variation Denoising; Neighborhood Filter



Trans. Inv. Wavelets; Empirical Wiener; Nonlocal Means

# Outline

- 1 Lecture Outline
- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
- 6 Applications
- 7 **Laplacians on Graphs & Networks**
  - Motivations: Why Graphs?
  - **Basics of Graph Theory: Graph Laplacians**
  - A Brief Review of Graph Laplacian Eigenvalues
  - Graph Laplacian Eigenfunctions
  - The Perron-Frobenius Theory
  - From Perron-Frobenius to Courant's Nodal Domain Theorem
  - Spectral Clustering
- 8 Summary & References

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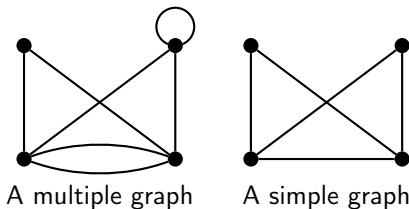
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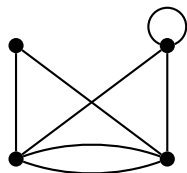
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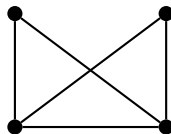
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A multiple graph



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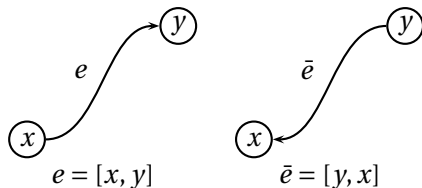
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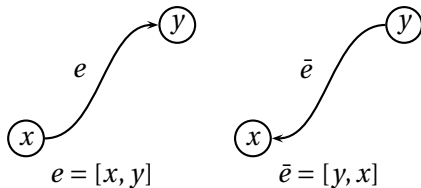
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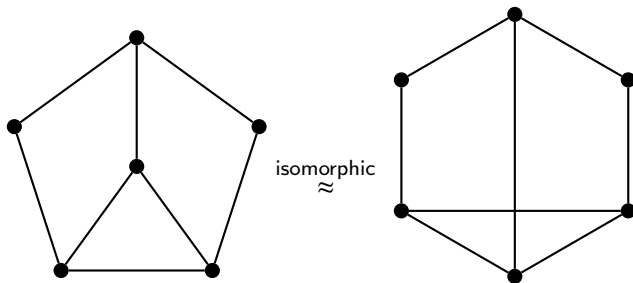
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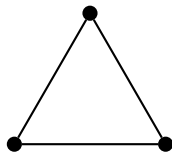
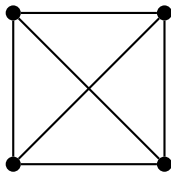
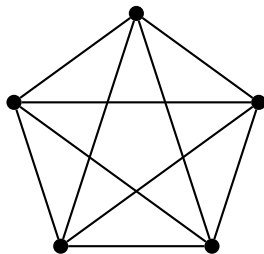
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- We say two graphs are **isomorphic** if  $\exists$  a one-to-one correspondence between the vertex sets such that if two vertices are joined by an edge in one graph, the corresponding vertices are also joined by an edge in the other graph.



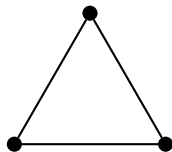
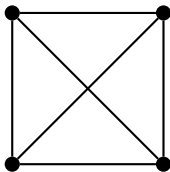
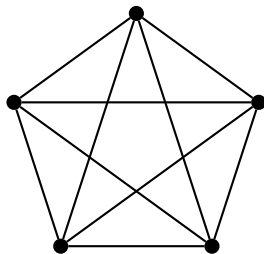


- The **complete graph**  $K_n$  on  $n$  vertices is a simple graph that has all possible  $\binom{n}{2}$  edges.

 $K_3$  $K_4$  $K_5$ 

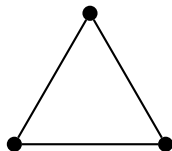
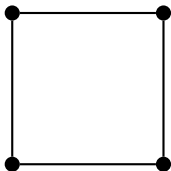
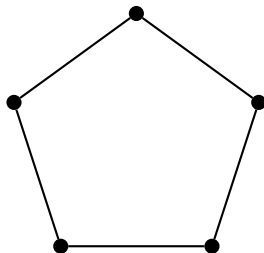
- If all the vertices of a graph has the same degree, the graph is called **regular**. Hence,  $K_n$  is regular.

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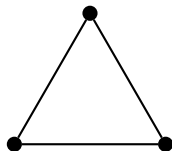
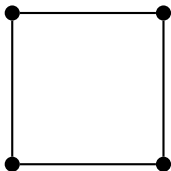
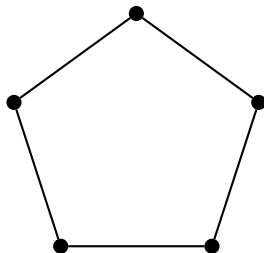
- If all the vertices of a graph has the same degree, the graph is called **regular**. Hence,  $K_n$  is regular.

- A **polygon** is a finite connected graph that is regular of degree 2.  $P_n =$  a polygon with  $n$  vertices.

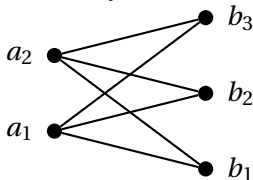
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- The **complete bipartite graph**  $K_{n,m}$  has  $n + m$  vertices  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_m$ , and all  $nm$  pairs  $(a_i, b_j)$  as edges. An example:  $K_{2,3}$ :

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# Matrices Associated with a Graph

- The **adjacency matrix**  $A = A(G) = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n = |V|$ , for an unweighted graph  $G$  consists of the following entries:

$$a_{ij} := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v_i \sim v_j; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Another typical way to define its entries is based on the **similarity** of information at  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ :

$$a_{ij} := \exp(-\text{dist}(v_i, v_j)^2 / \epsilon^2)$$

where  $\text{dist}$  is an appropriate distance measure (i.e., metric) defined in  $V$ , and  $\epsilon > 0$  is an appropriate scale parameter. This leads to a **weighted** graph. We will discuss later more about the weighted graphs, how to determine weights, and how to construct a graph from given datasets in general.

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# Matrices Associated with a Graph ...

- The **degree matrix**  $D = D(G) = \text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is a diagonal matrix whose entries are:

$$d_i := d(v_i) = d_{v_i} = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}.$$

Note that the above definition works for both unweighted and weighted graphs.

- The **transition matrix**  $P = P(G) = (p_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  consists of the following entries:

$$p_{ij} := a_{ij}/d_i \quad \text{if } d_i \neq 0.$$

- $p_{ij}$  represents the probability of a random walk from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  in one step:  $\sum_j p_{ij} = 1$ , i.e.,  $P$  is **row stochastic**.
- $A^T = A$ ,  $P^T \neq P$ ,  $P = D^{-1}A$ .

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- Let  $G$  be an *undirected* graph. Then, we can define several **Laplacian** matrices of  $G$ :

$$L(G) := D - A \quad \text{Unnormalized}$$

$$L_{\text{rw}}(G) := I_n - D^{-1}A = I_n - P = D^{-1}L \quad \text{Normalized}$$

$$L_{\text{sym}}(G) := I_n - D^{-\frac{1}{2}}AD^{-\frac{1}{2}} = D^{-\frac{1}{2}}LD^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{Symmetrically-Normalized}$$

- The **signless** Laplacian is defined as follows, but we will not deal with this in this lecture:  $Q(G) := D + A$ .
- Graph Laplacians can also be defined for **directed** graphs; see, e.g., Fan Chung: "Laplacians and the Cheeger inequality for directed graphs," *Ann. Comb.*, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 1–19, 2005.

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# Functions Defined on a Graph

$C(V) := \{\text{all functions defined on } V\}$

$C_0(V) := \{f \in C(V) \mid \text{supp } f \text{ is a finite subset of } V\}$

$\text{supp } f := \{u \in V \mid f(u) \neq 0\}$

$\mathcal{L}^2(V) := \left\{ f \in C(V) \mid \|f\| := \sqrt{\langle f, f \rangle} < \infty \right\}$

$\langle f, g \rangle := \sum_{u \in V} d(u) f(u) g(u).$

## Lemma

$$\langle Pf, g \rangle = \langle f, Pg \rangle \quad \forall f, g \in \mathcal{L}^2(V);$$

$$\|Pf\| \leq \|f\| \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{L}^2(V).$$

## Functions Defined on a Graph ...

- Let  $f \in \mathcal{L}^2(V)$ . Then

$$Lf(v_i) = d_i f(v_i) - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} f(v_j) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} (f(v_i) - f(v_j)).$$

i.e., this is a generalization of the *finite difference approximation* to the Laplace operator.

- On the other hand,

$$L_{\text{rw}}f(v_i) = f(v_i) - \sum_{j=1}^n p_{ij} f(v_j) = \frac{1}{d_i} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} (f(v_i) - f(v_j)).$$

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- Note that these definitions of the graph Laplacian corresponds to  $-\Delta$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , i.e., they are **nonnegative operators** (a.k.a. **positive semi-definite matrices**).

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- A function  $f \in C(V)$  is called **harmonic** if

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- A function  $f \in C(V)$  is called **superharmonic** at  $x \in V$  if

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# Derivatives and Green's Identity

Let  $C(\mathbf{E}) := \{\varphi \text{ defined on } \mathbf{E} \mid \varphi(\bar{e}) = -\varphi(e), e \in \mathbf{E}\}$ . For  $f \in C(V)$ , define the **derivative**  $df \in C(\mathbf{E})$  of  $f$  as

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Theorem (The discrete version of Green's first identity, Dodziuk 1984)

$$\forall f_1, f_2 \in C_0(V), \langle df_1, df_2 \rangle = \langle L_{\text{rw}} f_1, f_2 \rangle = \sum_{u \in V} L f_1(u) f_2(u).$$

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### Corollary

$L$ ,  $L_{\text{rw}}$ , and  $L_{\text{sym}}$  are nonnegative operators, e.g.,

$$\langle L_{\text{rw}} f, f \rangle = \sum_{u \in V} L f(u) f(u) = \langle df, df \rangle \geq 0.$$



# The Minimum Principle

Theorem (The discrete version of the minimum principle)

Let  $f \in C(V)$  be superharmonic at  $x \in V$ . If  $f(x) \leq \min_{y \sim x} f(y)$ , then  $f(z) = f(x)$ ,  $\forall z \sim x$ .

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Proof. From the superharmonicity of  $f$  at  $x \in V$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{d_x} \sum_{y \sim x} a_{xy} f(y) \leq f(x).$$

On the other hand, from the condition of this theorem, we have

$$\frac{1}{d_x} \sum_{y \sim x} a_{xy} f(y) \geq \frac{1}{d_x} \sum_{y \sim x} a_{xy} f(x) = f(x).$$

Hence, we must have  $\frac{1}{d_x} \sum_{y \sim x} a_{xy} f(y) = f(x)$ . But this can happen only if  $f(z) = f(x)$ ,  $\forall z \sim x$ . □

# Why Graph Laplacians?

- We already know that the Laplacian eigenvalues and eigenfunctions are extremely useful for general domains in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .
- The graph Laplacian *eigenvalues* reflect various intrinsic geometric and topological information about the graph including connectivity or the number of separated components; diameter; mean distance, ...
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- Fan Chung: *Spectral Graph Theory*, Amer. Math. Soc., 1997, says: “*This monograph is an intertwined tale of eigenvalues and their use in unlocking a thousand secrets about graphs.*”
- Due to the time limitation, I will *not* be able to discuss the details on how the graph Laplacian *eigenvalues* reveal the geometric and topological information of the graph. For the details, please check the above book, the books listed in the beginning of this section, and
  - R. Merris: “Laplacian matrices of graphs: a survey,” *Linear Algebra Appl.*, vol. 197/198, pp. 143–176, 1994.
  - N. Saito & E. Woei: “Analysis of neuronal dendrite patterns using eigenvalues of graph Laplacians,” *Japan SIAM Lett.* vol. 1 pp. 13–16, 2009 (Invited paper).



# Why Graph Laplacians? ...

- The graph Laplacian *eigenfunctions* form an **orthonormal basis** on a graph  $\Rightarrow$ 
  - can *expand* functions defined on a graph
  - can perform *spectral analysis/synthesis/filtering* of data measured on vertices of a graph
- Can be used for graph partitioning, graph drawing, data analysis, clustering, ...  $\Rightarrow$  **Graph Cut, Spectral Clustering**
- Less studied than graph Laplacian eigenvalues
- In this lecture, I will use the terms “eigenfunctions” and “eigenvectors” interchangeably.
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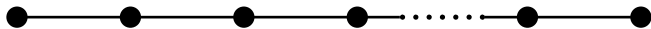
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# A Simple Yet Important Example: A Path Graph



$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & & & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & & \\ & -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ & & & & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{L(G)} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & & \\ & 2 & & & & \\ & & 2 & & & \\ & & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & 2 & \\ & & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{D(G)} - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & & \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & & & \\ & 1 & 0 & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ & & & & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{A(G)}$$

The eigenvectors of this matrix are exactly the **DCT Type II** basis vectors used for the JPEG image compression standard! (See G. Strang, "The discrete cosine transform," *SIAM Review*, vol. 41, pp. 135–147, 1999).

- $\lambda_k = 2 - 2 \cos(\pi k/n) = 4 \sin^2(\pi k/2n)$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ .
- $\phi_k(\ell) = \cos(\pi k(\ell + \frac{1}{2})/n)$ ,  $k, \ell = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ .
- In this simple case,  $\lambda$  (eigenvalue) is a monotonic function w.r.t. the frequency, which is the eigenvalue index  $k$ . However, in general, the notion of frequency is not well defined.



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# A Brief Review of Graph Laplacian Eigenvalues

- In this review part, we only consider **undirected** and **unweighted** graphs and their **unnormalized** Laplacians  $L(G) = D(G) - A(G)$ . Let  $|V(G)| = n$ ,  $|E(G)| = m$ .
- It is a good exercise to see how the statements change for the *normalized* or *symmetrically-normalized* graph Laplacians.
- Can show that  $L(G)$  is **positive semi-definite**.
- Hence, we can *sort* the eigenvalues of  $L(G)$  as  $0 = \lambda_0(G) \leq \lambda_1(G) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_{n-1}(G)$  and denote the set of these eigenvalue by  $\Lambda(G)$ .
- $m_G(\lambda) :=$  the multiplicity of  $\lambda$ .
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- Graph Laplacian matrices of the same graph are **permutation-similar**. In fact, graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are *isomorphic* iff there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that

$$L(G_2) = P^T L(G_1) P.$$

- $\text{rank} L(G) = n - m_G(0)$  where  $m_G(0)$  turns out to be the number of connected components of  $G$ . Easy to check that  $L(G)$  becomes  $m_G(0)$  diagonal blocks, and the eigenspace corresponding to the zero eigenvalues is spanned by the *indicator* vectors of each connected component.
- In particular,  $\lambda_1 \neq 0$ , i.e.,  $m_G(0) = 1$  iff  $G$  is connected.
- This led M. Fiedler (1973) to define the **algebraic connectivity** of  $G$  by  $a(G) := \lambda_1(G)$ , viewing it as a *quantitative measure of connectivity*.



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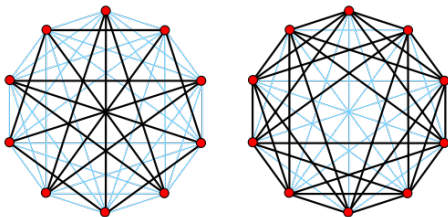
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# A Brief Review of Graph Laplacian Eigenvalues ...

- Denote the **complement** of  $G$  (in  $K_n$ ) by  $G^c$ .



The Petersen graph and its complement in  $K_{10}$  (from Wikipedia)

- Then, we have

$$L(G) + L(G^c) = L(K_n) = nI_n - J_n,$$

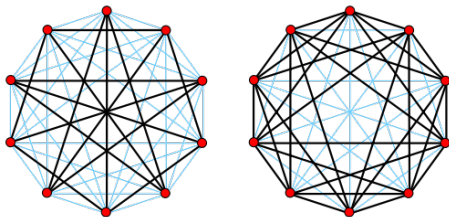
where  $J_n$  is the  $n \times n$  matrix whose entries are all 1.

- We also have:

$$\Lambda(G^c) = \{0, n - \lambda_{n-1}(G), n - \lambda_{n-2}(G), \dots, n - \lambda_1(G)\}.$$

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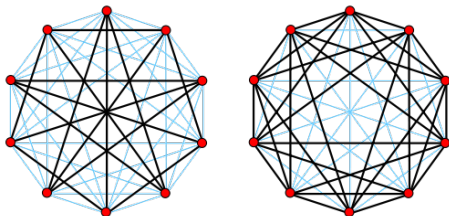
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$$\lambda_{\max}(G) = \lambda_{n-1}(G) \leq n,$$

and  $m_G(n) = m_{G^c}(0) - 1$ .

- On the other hand, Grone and Merris showed in 1994

$$\lambda_{\max}(G) = \lambda_{n-1}(G) \geq \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} d_j + 1.$$

- Let  $G$  be a connected graph and suppose  $L(G)$  has exactly  $k$  distinct eigenvalues. Then

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## Basic Properties of GL Eigenfunctions

- If  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $|V| = n$ , is connected, then  $\lambda_0 = 0$ ,  $a(G) = \lambda_1 > 0$ .
- We already know that the eigenfunction corresponding to  $\lambda_0 = 0$  is  $\phi_0 = \mathbf{1}_n$ .
- Hence,  $\phi_j$  corresponding to  $\lambda_j > 0$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n-1$ , must be orthogonal to  $\mathbf{1}_n$ :  $\sum_{x \in V} \phi_j(x) = 0$ , i.e., it must *oscillate*.
- If  $\phi(x) = 0$ , then  $(L\phi)(x) = \lambda\phi(x) = 0$ . Hence,  $\sum_{y \sim x} L_{xy}\phi(y) = 0$ .

Theorem (Grover (1990); Gladwell & Zhu (2002))

*An eigenfunction of  $L(G)$  cannot have a nonnegative local minimum or a nonpositive local maximum.*

Proof. Suppose  $\phi(x)$  is a local minimum of  $\phi$  with  $\phi(x) \geq 0$ . Then,  $\forall y \sim x$ ,  $\phi(x) - \phi(y) < 0$ . Now, recall  $L\phi(x) = \sum_{y \sim x} a_{xy}(\phi(x) - \phi(y)) = \lambda\phi(x) \geq 0$  where  $a_{xy} \geq 0$  is the  $xy$ -th entry of the adjacency matrix  $A(G)$ . These contradicts each other. □

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## Basic Properties of GL Eigenfunctions

- If  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $|V| = n$ , is connected, then  $\lambda_0 = 0$ ,  $a(G) = \lambda_1 > 0$ .
- We already know that the eigenfunction corresponding to  $\lambda_0 = 0$  is  $\phi_0 = \mathbf{1}_n$ .
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# Basic Properties of Unweighted GL Eigenfunctions

## Theorem (Merris (1998))

*If  $0 \leq \lambda < n$  is an eigenvalue of  $L(G)$ , then any eigenfunction affording  $\lambda$  takes the value 0 on every vertex of degree  $n-1$ .*

Proof. Let  $v \in V$  be a vertex with  $d(v) = n-1$ . Then,  
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## Theorem (Merris (1998))

*Let  $(\lambda, \phi)$  be an eigenpair of  $L(G)$ . If  $\phi(u) = \phi(v)$ , then  $(\lambda, \phi)$  is also an eigenpair of  $L(G')$  where  $G'$  is the graph obtained from  $G$  by either deleting or adding the edge  $e = (u, v)$  depending on whether or not  $e \in E(G)$ .*

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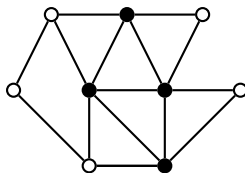
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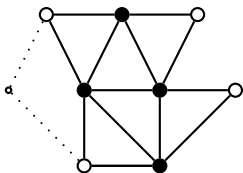
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# Basic Properties of Unweighted GL Eigenfunctions ...

## Theorem (Merris (1998))

Fix a nonempty subset  $W \subset V$ . Suppose  $\phi$  is an eigenfunction of the reduced graph  $G \setminus W$  that affords  $\lambda$  and is supported by  $W$  in the sense that if  $\phi(u) \neq 0$ , then  $u \in W$ . Then the **extension**  $\tilde{\phi}$  with  $\tilde{\phi}(v) = \phi(v)$  for  $v \in W$  and  $\tilde{\phi}(v) = 0$  for  $v \in V \setminus W$  is an eigenfunction of  $G$  affording  $\lambda$ .

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Let  $\phi$  be an eigenfunction affording  $\lambda$  of  $G$ . Let  $N_v$  be the set of neighbors of  $v$ . Suppose  $\phi(u) = \phi(v) = 0$ , where  $N_u \cap N_v = \emptyset$ . Let  $G'$  be the graph on  $n-1$  vertices obtained by coalescing  $u$  and  $v$  into a single vertex, which is adjacent in  $G'$  to precisely those vertices that are adjacent in  $G$  to  $u$  or to  $v$ . Then, the function  $\phi'$  obtained by **restricting**  $\phi$  to  $V(G) \setminus \{v\}$  is an eigenfunction of  $G'$  affording  $\lambda$ .

## Basic Properties of Unweighted GL Eigenfunctions ...

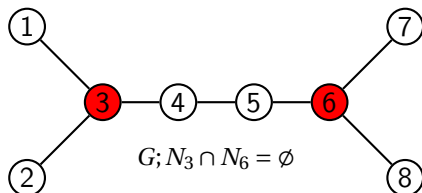
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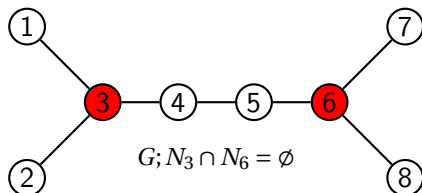
## A Simple Example



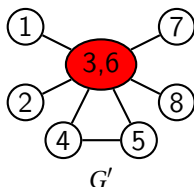
$$\lambda_2(G) = 1; \boldsymbol{\phi}_2(G) = [-0.0261, -0.0261, 0, 0.0523, 0.0523, 0, -0.7303, 0.6781]^T$$



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- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
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- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks**
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# The Perron-Frobenius Theorem

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  be a rather general symmetric matrix associated with a graph  $G$  such that  $A_{uv} \neq 0$  iff  $e = (u, v) \in E(G)$ . Then,  $A$  is called **irreducible** if its underlying graph is **connected**.

## Theorem (Perron-Frobenius Theorem)

Let  $A, B$  be real symmetric irreducible nonnegative  $n \times n$  matrices. Then,

- (i) the spectral radius  $\rho(A)$  is a simple eigenvalue of  $A$ . If  $\phi$  is an eigenfunction for  $\rho(A)$ , then no entries of  $\phi$  are zero, and all have the same sign.
- (ii) Furthermore, if  $A - B$  is nonnegative, then  $\rho(B) \leq \rho(A)$ , with equality iff  $B = A$ .

## Corollary

Let  $G$  be a connected graph. Then, the smallest eigenvalue of  $L(G)$ ,  $L_{\text{rw}}(G)$ ,  $L_{\text{sym}}(G)$ , i.e.,  $\lambda_0 = 0$ , is **simple**, and  $\phi_0$  can be taken to have all **entries positive**.  $\phi_0$  is often called the **Perron vector** of  $G$ .

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# My Comments on the Perron-Frobenius Theorem

- If  $G = P_n$ , then  $\phi_j$  is  $j$ th DCT-II basis vector, as I discussed before. Hence, the Perron vector of  $P_n$  is the constant vector for the **DC component** in the signal processing terminology.
- For the continuous case, I talked about the integral operator  $\mathcal{K}$  that commutes with the Laplace operator. In particular, I showed the 1D example where the domain is the unit interval  $\Omega = (0, 1)$ . In that case, the smallest eigenvalue is  $\lambda_0 \approx -5.756915$ , and  $\phi_0(x) \propto \cosh \sqrt{-\lambda_0} (x - \frac{1}{2})$ . This function also does not change its sign, hence it can be viewed as the Perron vector of  $\mathcal{K}$ .

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- Does there exist the P-F theory for compact operators?  $\Rightarrow$  YES!

Theorem (Krein & Rutman (1948))

*Let  $X$  be a Banach space, and let  $K \subset X$  be a convex cone such that the set  $K - K = \{f - g \mid f, g \in K\}$  is dense in  $X$ . Let  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be a non-zero compact operator which is positive, meaning that  $T(K) \subset K$ , and assume that its spectral radius  $\rho(T)$  is strictly positive. Then  $\rho(T)$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with positive eigenfunction, meaning that there exists  $\phi \in K \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $T(\phi) = \rho(T)\phi$ .*

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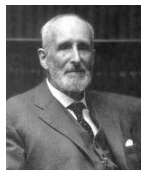
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(a) F. G.  
Frobenius  
(1849–  
1917)



(b) Oskar  
Perron  
(1880–1975)



(c) Richard  
Courant  
(1888–1972)



(d) Miroslav  
Fiedler  
(1926–)

# Courant's Nodal Domain Theorem

## Theorem (Courant (1923))

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a self-adjoint second order differential operator, and consider the following elliptic eigenvalue problem on a domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ :

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with arbitrary homogeneous boundary conditions. If its eigenfunctions are ordered according to increasing eigenvalues, then the **nodes** (a.k.a. **nodal sets** or **nodal lines**) of the  $k$ th eigenfunction  $\phi_k$  ( $k = 0, 1, \dots$ ) divide  $\Omega$  into no more than  $k + 1$  subdomains.

Of course, the nodal sets of a function  $f(x)$  in  $\Omega$  is defined as

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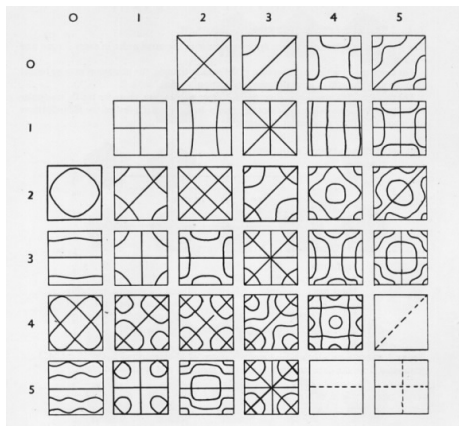
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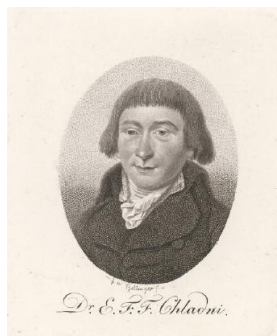
$$\mathfrak{N}[f] := \{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \mid f(\mathbf{x}) = 0\}.$$

# A Famous Example of Nodal Domain Theorem

Courtesy: [http://www.cymascope.com/cyma\\_research/history.html](http://www.cymascope.com/cyma_research/history.html)



(a) Chladni Plates



(b) Ernst Chladini (1756–1827)

## Discrete Nodal Domains

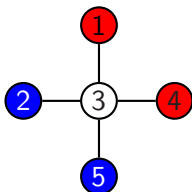
- In the context of manifolds, the **nodal domains** of  $f$  refers to the connected components of the complement of the nodal set  $\mathfrak{N}[f]$ , i.e., to the components of  $\{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \mid f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0\}$ , which are bounded by the nodal sets.
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 $K_{1,4}$ 

$$\lambda_1 = 1; m_{K_{1,4}}(1) = 3; \boldsymbol{\phi}_1 \propto [1, -1, 0, 1, -1]^\top.$$

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- A **positive** (or **negative**) **strong nodal domain** of  $f$  on  $V(G)$  is a maximal connected induced subgraph of  $G$  on vertices  $v \in V$  with  $f(v) > 0$  (or  $f(v) < 0$ ). The number of strong nodal domains of  $f$  is denoted by  $\mathfrak{S}(f)$ .
- In contrast, a **positive** (or **negative**) **weak nodal domain** of  $f$  on  $V(G)$  is a maximal connected induced subgraph of  $G$  on vertices  $v \in V$  with  $f(v) \geq 0$  (or  $f(v) \leq 0$ ) that contains at least one nonzero vertex. The number of weak nodal domains of  $f$  is denoted by  $\mathfrak{W}(f)$ .
- In the above example of  $K_{1,4}$ ,  $\mathfrak{S}(\phi_1) = 4$  and  $\mathfrak{W}(\phi_1) = 2$  because the strong nodal domains are  $\{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{4\}, \{5\}\}$  while the weak nodal domains are  $\{\{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}\}$ .
- Obviously, we always have  $\mathfrak{W}(f) \leq \mathfrak{S}(f)$ .
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We focus our attention on the  $k$ th eigenvalue  $\lambda_k$  with multiplicity  $r$  of a graph Laplacian ( $L, L_{rw}, L_{sym}$ ).

$$\lambda_0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \cdots \lambda_{k-1} < \lambda_k = \lambda_{k+1} = \cdots = \lambda_{k+r-1} < \lambda_{k+r} \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_{n-1}.$$

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*Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $n$  vertices. Then, any graph Laplacian eigenfunction  $\phi_k$  corresponding to  $\lambda_k$  with multiplicity  $r$  has at most  $k+1$  weak nodal domains and  $k+r$  strong nodal domains, i.e.,*

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In the example of  $K_{1,4}$ ,  $\lambda_1 = 1$  has multiplicity  $r = 3$ . Hence,  $\mathfrak{W}(\phi_1) = 2 \leq 1+1$  and  $\mathfrak{S}(\phi_1) = 4 \leq 1+3$  are satisfied!

## Discrete Nodal Domains ...

Corollary (Fiedler (1975))

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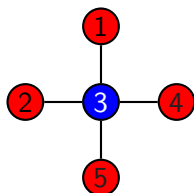
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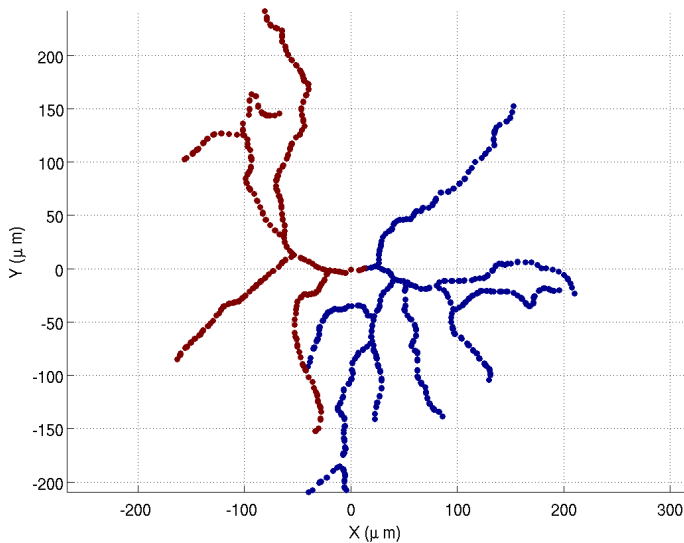
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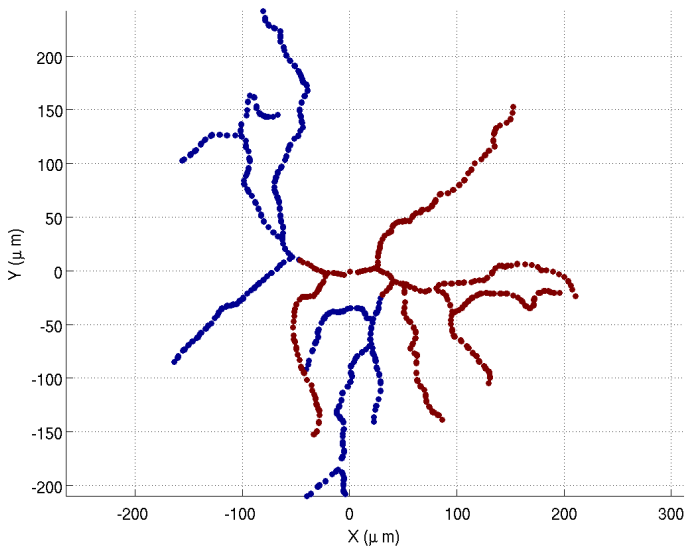
In the previous example of  $K_{1,4}$ , we have  $\lambda_{\max} = \lambda_4 = 5$ , and  $\phi_4 \propto [1, 1, -4, 1, 1]^T$ . Hence,  $\mathfrak{W}(\phi_4) = 5 \leq 2 \cdot 4 = 8$ , satisfying the corollary.

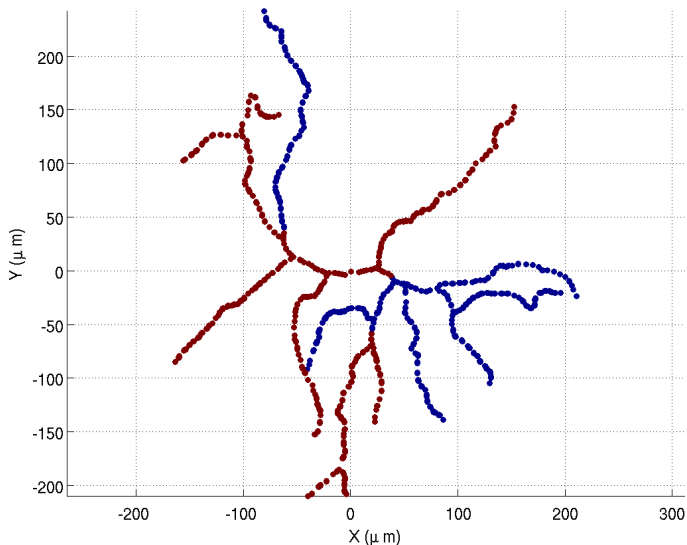


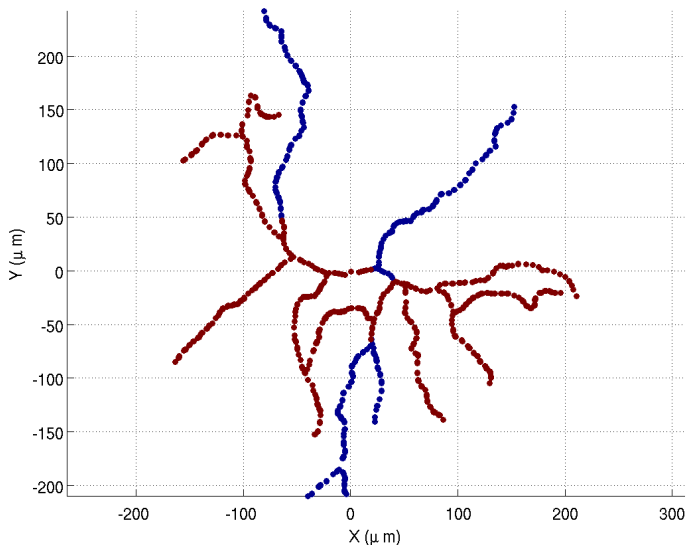
$K_{1,4}$



Discrete Nodal Domains of a Dendritic Tree:  $\text{sign}(\phi_1)$ 

Discrete Nodal Domains of a Dendritic Tree:  $\text{sign}(\phi_2)$ 

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# Outline

- 1 Lecture Outline
- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
- 6 Applications
- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks**
  - Motivations: Why Graphs?
  - Basics of Graph Theory: Graph Laplacians
  - A Brief Review of Graph Laplacian Eigenvalues
  - Graph Laplacian Eigenfunctions
  - The Perron-Frobenius Theory
  - From Perron-Frobenius to Courant's Nodal Domain Theorem
  - **Spectral Clustering**
- 8 Summary & References

# Introductory Remarks

- This part of my lecture is based on the following excellent tutorial paper:
  - U. von Luxburg: “A tutorial on spectral clustering,” *Statistics and Computing*, vol. 17, no. 4, pp. 395-416, 2007.
- Spectral clustering has been successfully used in many applications, e.g., image and video segmentation, computer graphics, etc.; see e.g.,
  - J. Shi & J. Malik: “Normalized cuts and image segmentation”, *IEEE Trans. Pattern Anal. Machine Intell.*, vol. 22, no. 8, pp. 888–905, 2000.
  - S. Dong, P.-T. Bremer, M. Garland, V. Pascucci, & J. C. Hart: “Spectral surface quadrangulation,” *ACM Trans. Graphics*, vol. 25, no. 3, pp. 1057-1066, 2006.

See also the references cited in von Luxburg’s tutorial.

## GL Eigenfunctions for $L_{\text{rw}}$ and $L_{\text{sym}}$

Recall that we have three different versions of graph Laplacians:

$$L(G) := D - A$$

Unnormalized

$$L_{\text{rw}}(G) := I_n - D^{-1}A = I_n - P = D^{-1}L$$

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$$L_{\text{sym}}(G) := I_n - D^{-\frac{1}{2}}AD^{-\frac{1}{2}} = D^{-\frac{1}{2}}LD^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

Symmetrically-Normalized

Proposition (Properties of  $L_{\text{rw}}$  and  $L_{\text{sym}}$ )

- (a)  $(\lambda, \phi)$  is an eigenpair of  $L_{\text{rw}}$  iff  $(\lambda, D^{1/2}\phi)$  is an eigenpair of  $L_{\text{sym}}$ . In particular,  $(0, \mathbf{1}_n)$  for  $L_{\text{rw}} \iff (0, D^{1/2}\mathbf{1}_n)$  of  $L_{\text{sym}}$ .
- (b)  $(\lambda, \phi)$  is an eigenpair of  $L_{\text{rw}}$  iff  $(\lambda, \phi)$  solves the generalized eigenproblem:  $L\phi = \lambda D\phi$ .
- (c) Both  $L_{\text{rw}}$  and  $L_{\text{sym}}$  are positive semi-definite and  $n$  nonnegative real-valued eigenvalues.

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# Spectral Clustering Algorithm for a Weighted Graph $G$

- 1 Construct a weighted adjacency matrix  $A$ .
- 2 Choose a graph Laplacian to use:  $L$ ,  $L_{\text{rw}}$ , or  $L_{\text{sym}}$ .
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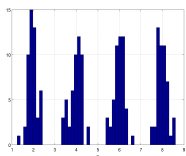
## Simple Examples for Spectral Clustering

- The following example was taken from Von Luxburg's tutorial paper with some modification.
- The dataset consists of 200 random samples from four normal distributions  $\mathcal{N}(\mu_j, \sigma^2)$  where  $\mu_j = 2j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , and  $\sigma = 0.25$ .
- These 200 points in  $\mathbb{R}$  are the vertices in  $V$ .
- A **complete** graph  $K_{200}$  was generated with the edge weight by  $a_{ij} = \exp(-|x_i - x_j|^2 / 2\epsilon^2)$  where  $\epsilon = 1$  was used.
- Applied the spectral clustering algorithms.
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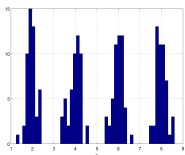
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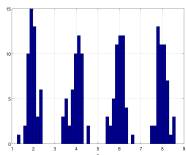
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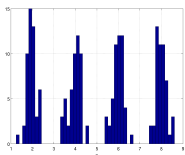
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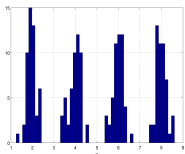
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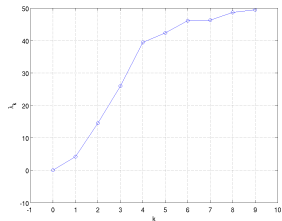
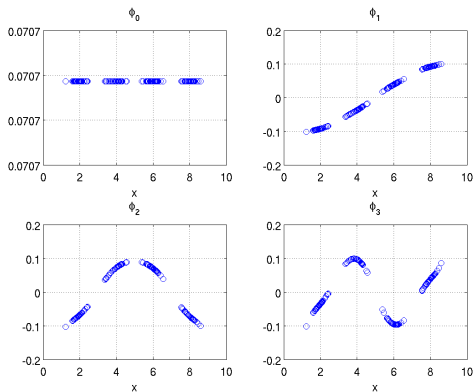
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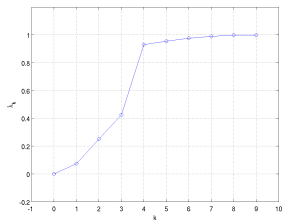
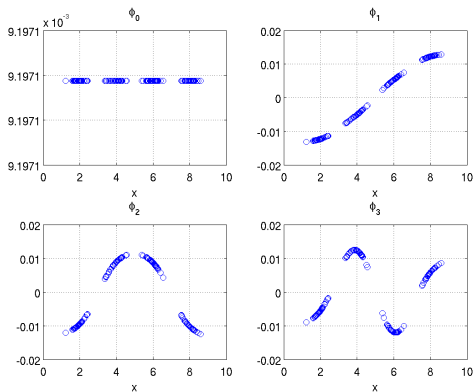
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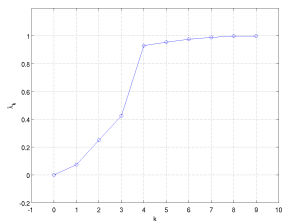
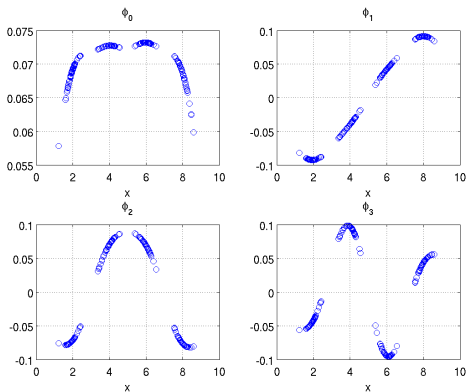
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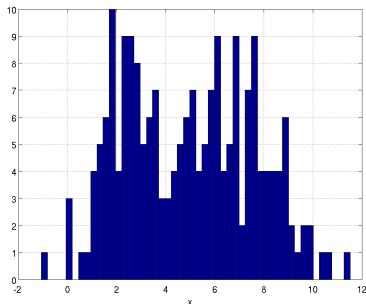
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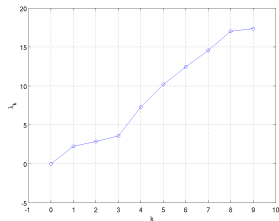
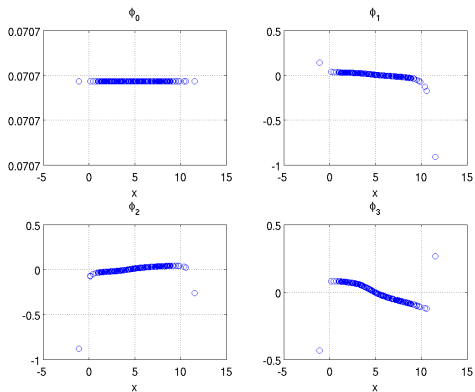
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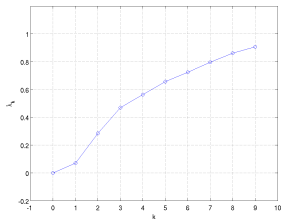
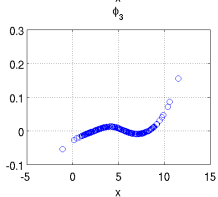
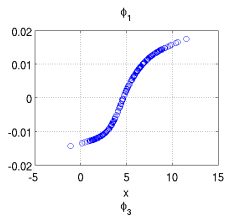
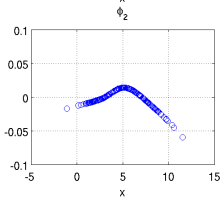
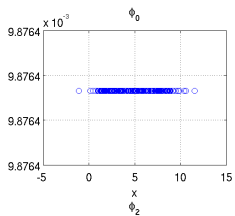
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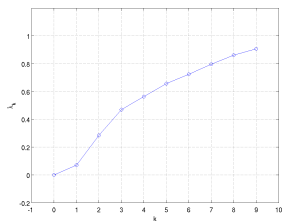
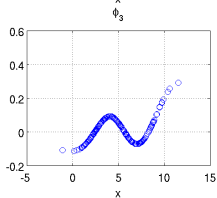
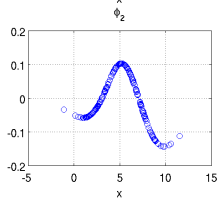
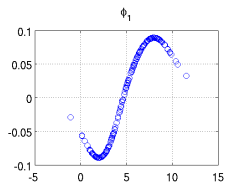
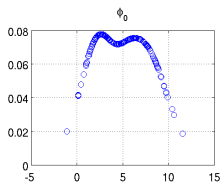
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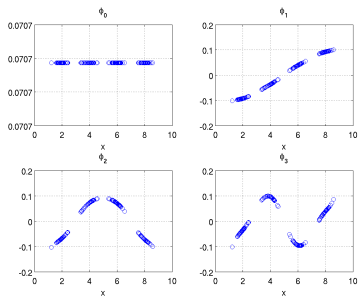
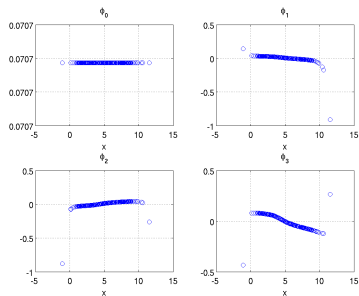


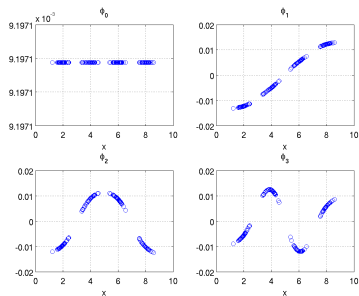
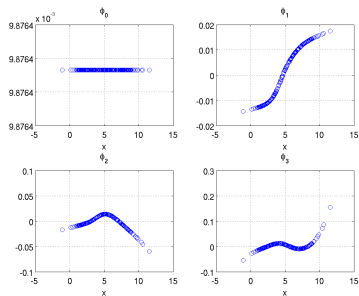
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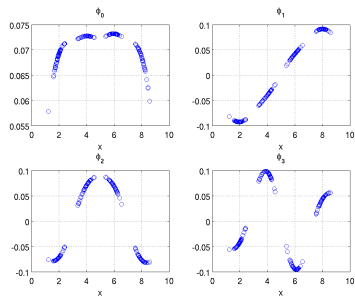
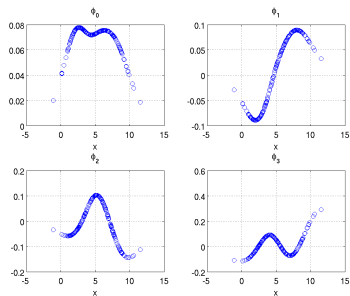
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# Outline

- 1 Lecture Outline
- 2 Motivations
- 3 History of Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems – Spectral Geometry
- 4 Some Computational Procedures for Laplacian Eigenvalue Problems
- 5 Laplacian Eigenfunctions via Commuting Integral Operator
- 6 Applications
- 7 Laplacians on Graphs & Networks
- 8 Summary & References**

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- Can **decouple** *geometry* of domains and *statistics* of data
- Can extract **geometric information** of a domain via  $\{\lambda_k\}_k$
- Allow **object-oriented** (or localized) data analysis & synthesis
- $\exists$  A variety of applications: interpolation, extrapolation, local feature computation, solving heat equations on complicated domains ...
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- Can also be defined and computed on a *Riemannian manifold* (e.g., a curved surface); to do so, we need the *Riemannian metric* of the manifold and *geodesic distances* between sample points
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# References

## Laplacian Eigenfunction Resource Page

<http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~saito/lapeig/> contains:

- My Course Note (elementary) on “Laplacian Eigenfunctions: Theory, Applications, and Computations”
- My Course Slides on “Harmonic Analysis on Graphs and Networks”
- Talk slides of the minisymposia on Laplacian Eigenfunctions at: ICIAM 2007, Zürich (Organizers: NS, Mauro Maggioni); SIAM Imaging Science Conference 2008, San Diego (Organizers: NS, Xiaomin Huo); IPAM 5-day Workshop 2009, UCLA (Organizers: Peter Jones, Denis Grebenkov, NS); SIAM Annual Meeting 2013, San Diego (Organizers: Chiu-Yen Kao, Braxton Osting, NS).

The following articles (and the other related ones) are available at <http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~saito/publications/>

- N. Saito & J.-F. Remy: “The polyharmonic local sine transform: A new tool for local image analysis and synthesis without edge effect,” *Applied & Computational Harmonic Analysis*, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 41–73, 2006.
- N. Saito: “Data analysis and representation using eigenfunctions of Laplacian on a general domain,” *Applied & Computational Harmonic Analysis*, vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 68–97, 2008.
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Thank you very much for your attention!