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Spectral Mesh Analysis

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Matrices as transformations

- Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix
 - It can be thought of as a function that maps a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ to a vector $A\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$
- *A* is a linear transformation

- f is linear if
$$f(a + b) = f(a) + f(b)$$



Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- Let A be an $n \times n$ square matrix
- An eigenvalue of A is a scalar
 λ such that

 $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$

where \mathbf{x} is some n-D vector

- x is the corresponding **eigenvector**
 - Interpretation: x is a vector that is left
 unchanged in direction by the linear transformation
 - It is not unique: sx is also an eigenvector for scalar s
 - If, for the same eigenvalue λ , there are k linearly independent eigenvectors $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, ..., \mathbf{x}_k$, then the eigenvalue is said to have **geometric multiplicity** k, and any linear combination $\Sigma_i w_i \mathbf{x}_i$ is also an eigenvector



Blue arrow is eigenvector of shear transform, red is not

Functions as vectors

- Functions from *A* to *B* form a vector space: we can think of functions as "vectors"
 - E.g. we can commutatively add two functions: f + g = g + f
 - Or distribute multiplication with a scalar: s(f+g) = sf + sg
 - If we want, we can also associate a **norm** ("vector length") with a function: e.g. $||f|| = (\int f^2(x) dx)^{1/2}$

A function can be discretized

- Characterize a function *f* by its values at a finite set of *n* sample points
 - This results in a discrete function, let's call it f^*
 - The discrete function is perfectly defined by its values at the *n* points
 - In other words, f^* is represented by a finitedimensional vector $[f(x_1), f(x_2), ..., f(x_n)]$



Linear operators

• An operator *T* is a mapping from a vector space *U* to another vector space *V*

- *T* is a linear operator if T(a + b) = T(a) + T(b)

- The set of functions *F* from domain *A* to codomain *B* is a vector space
 - So we can have operators T that map from one function space F to another function space G
 - Note that *T* maps functions to functions!
- The differentials $\frac{d}{dx}$, $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$, $\frac{d^3}{dx^3}$ etc are linear operators
 - They map functions to their derivatives

Eigenfunctions

• An **eigenvalue** of a linear operator T that maps a vector space to itself is a scalar λ s.t.

 $T(\mathbf{x}) = \lambda \mathbf{x}$

and \boldsymbol{x} is the corresponding <code>eigenvector</code>

• If *T* maps functions to functions, then we call **x** an eigenfunction: $T(f) = \lambda f$

Discrete Linear Operators

- Theorem: Any linear operator between finitedimensional vector spaces can be represented by a matrix
 - Let's say we have a set of functions F from A to B
 - The discrete versions of the functions form a finitedimensional vector space F^* equivalent to \mathbb{R}^n
 - Each function is sampled at the same finite set of points
 - Let T be a linear operator from F to itself
 - ... and T^* be a "discrete version" of T acting on F^*
 - Then T^* can be represented by a $n \times n$ matrix (cf. theorem)

Example: Discrete Derivative

Continuous

- Function: *f*
- Operator: $\frac{d}{dx}$
- Applying operator:

$$\frac{df}{dx} = f'$$

Discrete

- Vector: $\mathbf{f} = [f(x_1), f(x_2) \dots f(x_n)]$
- Matrix:

$$A = \frac{1}{h} \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 \end{vmatrix}$$

- Applying matrix:
 - $A\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{f}$

Example: Discrete Derivative

Continuous



Discrete



Example: Discrete 2nd Derivative

Continuous

- Function: *f*
- Operator: $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$
- Applying operator:

$$\frac{d^2f}{dx^2} = f''$$

Discrete

- Vector: $\mathbf{f} = [f(x_1), f(x_2) \dots f(x_n)]$
- Matrix:

$$L = \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{vmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ & 1 & -2 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & & 1 & -2 \end{vmatrix}$$

• Applying matrix:

 $L\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{f}$ "

Operators in higher dimensions

• The underlying function space can have a higherdimensional domain



2D discrete Laplace operator

Discrete approximation

Interpreting eigenfunctions

- Eigenvalues of a linear operator form its **spectrum**
- The eigenfunctions are unchanged (except for scaling) when transformed by the operator
 - Think of them as standing waves on the surface

• E.g.

$$\frac{d^2 \sin(nx)}{dx^2} = -n^2 \times \sin(nx) \qquad \qquad \frac{d^2 e^{\lambda x}}{dx^2} = \lambda^2 \times e^{\lambda x}$$
$$\frac{d^2 \cos(nx)}{dx^2} = -n^2 \times \cos(nx)$$

Interpreting eigenfunctions

- The eigenfunctions of the operator form a basis for the function space
 - E.g. the sinusoidal eigenfunctions of $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ form the Fourier basis



The first 8 sinusoidal eigenfunctions of the second derivative operator. The eigenvalues are the negative squared frequencies.

Operators on manifolds

- We can define a function on a manifold curve/surface!
 - E.g. the coordinate function:
 gives the (X, Y, Z) position of
 a point on the surface
- A common operator is the Laplace-Beltrami operator
 - Its eigenfunctions define a basis for functions over the surface



Eigenfunctions of Laplace-Beltrami

- Intrinsic basis for functions over surface
 - Doesn't change under isometry
- We can discretize it as usual: the function is defined at a fixed set of sample points on the shape



Eigenfunctions of Laplace-Beltrami

• The spectrum of the L-B operator characterizes the intrinsic geometry of the shape



• Two shapes related by isometry have the same Laplace-Beltrami spectrum

Expressing a function with eigenfunctions

• Continuous:

 $f(p) = w_1 \varphi_1(p) + w_2 \varphi_2(p) + \ldots + w_n \varphi_n(p)$

• Discrete:

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{e}_{i} \tilde{x}_{i} = \begin{bmatrix} E_{11} \\ E_{21} \\ \vdots \\ E_{n1} \end{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_{1} + \ldots + \begin{bmatrix} E_{1n} \\ E_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ E_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_{n} = \begin{bmatrix} E_{11} & \ldots & E_{1n} \\ E_{21} & \ldots & E_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ E_{n1} & \ldots & E_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_{1} \\ \tilde{x}_{2} \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{x}_{n} \end{bmatrix} = E\tilde{X}$$

$$\tilde{X} = E^{T}X$$

$$\tilde{x}_{i} = \mathbf{e}_{i}^{T} \cdot X.$$

$$\tilde{x}_{i} = \mathbf{e}_{i}^{T} \cdot X.$$

$$Projection of X \\ along eigenvector$$

$$Spatial \\ domain$$

$$Spectral \\ domain$$

Reconstruction in 2D

- More accuracy with more eigenfunctions
- Function is the coordinate function
 - We're reconstructing the extrinsic shape of the object



Reconstruction in 3D

- More accuracy with more eigenfunctions
- Function is the coordinate function
 - We're reconstructing the extrinsic shape of the object

