### **IFT 6112 08 – DISCRETE LAPLACIAN**

http://www-labs.iro.umontreal.ca/~bmpix/teaching/6112/2018/



### Mikhail Bessmeltsev

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Recall: Planar Region







### Discretizing the Laplacian





### Today's Approach

#### **Finite element method (FEM)** *First-order Galerkin*



http://www.stressebook.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Airbus\_A320\_k.jpg

### Integration by Parts to the Rescue



### Slightly Easier?





 $g = \Delta f$ 



$$
g = \Delta f \qquad \Rightarrow \langle g, \psi \rangle = \langle \Delta f, \psi \rangle
$$

For any **test function**  $\psi$ 

## Uverview:<br>Galerkin FEM Approach

$$
g = \Delta f
$$
  
\n
$$
\implies \int \psi g \, dA = \int \psi \Delta f \, dA
$$

For any **test function**  $\psi$ 

Galerkin FEM Approach

$$
g = \Delta f
$$
  
\n
$$
\implies \int \psi g \, dA = \int \psi \Delta f \, dA = -\int (\nabla \psi \cdot \nabla f) \, dA
$$
  
\nFor any **test**  
\n**function**  $\psi$ 

## Overview:<br>Galerkin FEM Approach

$$
g = \Delta f
$$
  

$$
\implies \int \psi g \, dA = \int \psi \Delta f \, dA = -\int (\nabla \psi \cdot \nabla f) \, dA
$$

Approximate 
$$
f \approx \sum_i a_i \psi_i
$$
 and  $g \approx \sum_i b_i \psi_i$   
\n $\Rightarrow$  Linear system  $\sum_i b_i \langle \psi_i, \psi_j \rangle = -\sum_i a_i \langle \nabla \psi_i, \nabla \psi_j \rangle$ 

#### Overview: Galerkin FEM Approach

$$
\Rightarrow \int \psi g \, dA = \int \psi \Delta f \, dA = -\int (\nabla \psi \cdot \nabla f) \, dA
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Mass matrix:  $M_{ij} := \langle \psi_i, \psi_j \rangle$ Which Stiffness matrix:  $L_{ij} := \langle \nabla \psi_i, \nabla \psi_j \rangle$ basis? $\implies Mb=La$ 

### Important to Note

### Not the only way

*to approximate the Laplacian operator.*

- Divided differences
- Higher-order elements
- Boundary element methods
- Discrete exterior calculus

• **…**

# *L* <sup>2</sup> Dual of a Function Function  $f: M \to \mathbb{R}$ Operator  $\mathcal{L}_f: L^2(M) \to \mathbb{R}$  $\mathcal{L}_f[g] := \int_M f(x)g(x) dA$ **Test function**

### Observation



### **Can recover function from dual**

### Dual of Laplacian

**Space of test functions (no boundary!):** $\{g \in L^{\infty}(M) : g|_{\partial M} \equiv 0\}$ 

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\Delta f}[g] = \int_M g \Delta f \, dA
$$

$$
= -\int_M \nabla g \cdot \nabla f \, dA
$$

### **Use Laplacian without evaluating**

### Galerkin's Approach

*Choose one of each:*

# •Function space

•Test functions

*Often the same!*

### One Derivative is Enough

 $\mathcal{L}_{\Delta f}[g] = -\int_M \nabla g \cdot \nabla f \, dA$ 

### First Order Finite Elements



Image courtesy K. Crane, CMU

### **One "hat function" per vertex**

### Representing Functions

















$$
\|\nabla f\| = \frac{1}{\ell_3 \sin \theta_3} = \frac{1}{h}
$$





### Recall: Single Triangle: Complete



 $\vec{p} = p_n \vec{n} + p_e \vec{e} + p_\perp \vec{e}_\perp$  $A = \frac{1}{2}b\sqrt{p_n^2 + p_\perp^2}$  $\nabla_{\vec{p}}A=\frac{1}{2}b\vec{e}_{\perp}$ 

**Similar expression**

### Recall: Single Triangle: Complete



### **Similar expression**



What We Actually Need  
\n
$$
\mathcal{L}_{\Delta f}[g] = -\int_M \overline{\nabla g \cdot \nabla f} dA
$$

$$
\nabla f = \frac{e_{23}^{\perp}}{2A}
$$
\n
$$
\begin{aligned}\n\n\sqrt{\nabla f} &= \frac{e_{23}^{\perp}}{2A} \\
h\n\end{aligned}
$$
\n
$$
\begin{aligned}\n\int_{T} \langle \nabla f, \nabla f \rangle \, dA = A \|\nabla f\| 2 \\
&= \frac{A}{h^2} = \frac{b}{2h} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (\cot \alpha + \cot \beta)
$$

### What We Actually Need

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\Delta f}[g] = -\int_M \nabla g \cdot \nabla f dA
$$

#### **Case 2: Different vertices**

$$
\int_{T} \langle \nabla f_{\alpha}, \nabla f_{\beta} \rangle dA = A \langle \nabla f_{\alpha}, \nabla f_{\beta} \rangle
$$
  
=  $\frac{1}{4A} \langle e_{31}^{\perp}, e_{12}^{\perp} \rangle = -\frac{\ell_1 \ell_2 \cos \theta}{4A}$   
=  $\frac{-h^2 \cos \theta}{4A \sin \alpha \sin \beta} = \frac{-h \cos \theta}{2b \sin \alpha \sin \beta}$   
=  $-\frac{\cos \theta}{2 \sin(\alpha + \beta)} = -\frac{1}{2} \cot \theta$ 



### Summing Around a Vertex

$$
\sqrt{\beta_i}
$$
  $\langle \nabla h_p, \nabla h_p \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\cot \alpha_i + \cot \beta_i)$ 

$$
\theta_1
$$
\n
$$
\theta_2
$$
\n
$$
\langle \nabla h_p, \nabla h_q \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\cot \theta_1 + \cot \theta_2)
$$

#### Recall: Summing Around a Vertex

$$
\nabla_{\vec{p}}A = \frac{1}{2}\sum_j(\cot\alpha_j + \cot\beta_j)(\vec{p} - \vec{q}_j)
$$



$$
\nabla_{\vec{p}}A = \frac{1}{2}((\vec{p} - \vec{r}) \cot \alpha + (\vec{p} - \vec{q}) \cot \beta)
$$

Same weights up to sign!

### **THE COTANGENT LAPLACIAN**

 $L_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \sim k} (\cot \alpha_{ik} + \cot \beta_{ik}) \\ -\frac{1}{2} (\cot \alpha_{ij} + \cot \beta_{ij}) \\ 0 \end{cases}$ if  $i = j$ if  $i \sim j$ otherwise  $\dot{\imath}$  $\overline{\alpha_{ij}}$  $\beta_{ij}$ 

### Poisson Equation

 $\Delta f = q$ 





http://nylander.wordpress.com/2006/05/24/finite-element-method-fem-solution-to-poisson%E2%80%99s-equation-ontriangular-mesh/

### Weak Solutions



### FEM Hat Weak Solutions

 $\int_M h_i \Delta f dA = \int_M h_i g dA \ \forall \text{ hat functions } h_i$ 

$$
\int_{M} h_{i} \Delta f dA = -\int_{M} \nabla h_{i} \cdot \nabla f dA
$$
\n
$$
= -\int_{M} \nabla h_{i} \cdot \nabla \sum_{j} a_{j} h_{j} dA
$$
\n
$$
= -\sum_{j} a_{j} \int_{M} \nabla h_{i} \cdot \nabla h_{j} dA
$$
\n
$$
= \sum_{j} L_{ij} a_{j}
$$

### Stacking Integrated Products

 $\begin{pmatrix} \int_M h_1 \Delta f \, dA \\ \int_M h_2 \Delta f \, dA \\ \vdots \\ \int_M h_{|V|} \Delta f \, dA \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_j L_{1j} a_j \\ \sum_j L_{2j} a_j \\ \vdots \\ \sum_j L_{|V|j} a_j \end{pmatrix} = L \vec{a}$ 

### **Multiply by Laplacian matrix!**

### Problematic Right Hand Side

$$
\int_M h_i \Delta f \, dA = \int_M h_i g \, dA \,\,\forall \,\, \text{hat functions} \,\, h_i
$$



### **Product of hats is quadratic**

### A Few Ways Out

### • **Just do the integral**

**"Consistent" approach**

- **Approximate some more**
- **Redefine** *g*

### A Few Ways Out

### • **Just do the integral**

**"Consistent" approach**

• **Approximate some more**

### • **Redefine** *g*

### The Mass Matrix

 $A_{ij} := \int_M h_i h_j dA$ 

- **Diagonal elements:** Norm of  $h_i$
- **Off-diagonal elements: Overlap between**  $h_i$  **and**  $h_j$

### Consistent Mass Matrix



### Non-Diagonal Mass Matrix



### Properties of Mass Matrix

- Rows sum to one ring area / 3
- Involves only vertex and its neighbors
- Partitions surface area

### **Issue: Not trivial to invert!**

### Use for Integration

 $\int_M f = \int_M \sum_i a_j h_j(\cdot 1)$  $= \int_M \sum_j a_j h_j \sum_i h_i$  $=\sum A_{ij}a_j$  $= \mathbf{1}^\top A \vec{a}$ 

### Lumped Mass Matrix



$$
\tilde{a}_{ii} := \text{Area}(\text{cell } i)
$$

#### Won't make big difference for smooth functions

### Approximate with diagonal matrix

### Simplest: Barycentric Lumped **Mass**



http://www.alecjacobson.com/weblog/?p=1146

### **Area/3 to each vertex**

### Ingredients

- •**Cotangent Laplacian** *L* **Per-vertex function to integral of its Laplacian against each hat**
- •**Area weights** *A* **Integrals of pairwise products of hats (or approximation thereof)**

### Solving the Poisson Equation



# Helmholtz Equation  $\Delta f = \lambda f$  $\int \Delta f \cdot \psi = - \int \nabla f \cdot \nabla \psi = \int \lambda f \cdot \psi$

 $\Rightarrow La = \lambda Ma$  Generalized

Eigenvalue Problem

### Important Detail: Boundary Conditions

$$
\Delta f(x) = g(x) \,\forall x \in \Omega
$$

$$
f(x) = u(x) \,\forall x \in \Gamma_D
$$

$$
\nabla f \cdot n = v(x) \,\forall x \in \Gamma_N
$$

Strong form

$$
\int_{\Omega} \nabla f \cdot \nabla \phi = \int_{\Gamma_N} v(x) \phi(x) d\Gamma - \int_{\Omega} f(x) \phi(x) d\Omega
$$

$$
f(x) = u(x) \,\forall x \in \Gamma_D
$$
Weak form

### Eigenhomers



### Higher-Order Elements



**https://www.femtable.org/**

### Point Cloud Laplace: Easiest **Option**



**"Laplacian Eigenmaps for Dimensionality Reduction and Data Representation" Belkin & Niyogi 2003**