

Specification and schedule

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Formalities

- Preliminary title: Design and development of image processing methods using spectral graph theory
- CSC Supervisor: Stefano Markidis (`markidis@kth.se`)
- CSC Examiner: Erwin Laure (`erwinl@pdc.kth.se`)
- Supervisor at workplace: Frédéric Nataf (`nataf@ann.jussieu.fr`)

Background & Objective

Description of the area within which the degree project is being carried out

Spectral Graph Theory is a developing field with many applications through sociology, chemistry, biology, electrical engineering, computer science, topology and social networks such as Facebook or LinkedIn. Network science studies the mathematical structure of the graphs that arise in these diverse fields, and the design, analysis, and applications of algorithms that compute with and on them. For now days large graphs as the ones from social networks, memory requirements and computational times have become an issue.

Recent talks and research, especially at Google, have given that this graph theory can also be applied for new and fast image processing methods.

The principal's interest

After working a lot with scientific computation in physics (finite element method among others), domain decomposition and high performance computing, it is an interesting topic to explore more possibilities of spectral graph theory [1]. This is an important reason why delving into image processing is an application of interest.

Objective

The objective of this project is to explore the usage of graph laplacian operator on images to compute filters, do segmentation, etc. After applying these techniques on 2D images, they will also be used on 3D models.

Research Question & Method

The question that will be examined

How to adapt the partial derivatives methods for matrices coming from graphs.

Specified problem definition

Images can be interpreted as graphs, for which the Laplacian matrix can be used to build image processing tools. These tools have been used for 2D images so far, but not yet for 3D models, which will be one of the biggest challenges of this degree project.

Examination method

Smoothing, deblurring and sharpening 2D images are the first tasks [2] [3]. Image segmentation will be one the most interesting topics to dive into [4] [5]. They imply using approximation algorithms for the affinity matrix of the image graph, such as the Nyström extension. To build different filters, it will be necessary to use different kernel functions, but also try out different sampling techniques to approximate the image. These algorithms will be executed on computers, not smartphone as Google is doing it, as it is not the aim of this project. These algorithms will be implemented in Python, using the scientific modules numpy, scipy and matplotlib.

When the results are satisfying, we will explore the same techniques on 3D images. The implementation details of these techniques will be studied once the 2D algorithms are acceptable.

Expected scientific results

We first expect to master some image processing applications for 2D images and have them work properly and efficiently in order to apply the technique to 3D models. We expect that the same techniques can be used for 3D models, by extending the current theorems, and have fast 3D model processing tools when using HPC.

Evaluation & News Value

Evaluation

The degree project has been fulfilled once we achieve 3D models processing in a reasonable time. 2D images can be efficiently processed on smartphones according to [6] [3], which gives an idea on the achievable goals for 3D image processing. However, 2D algorithms will just be implemented as prototypes on a computer.

The work's innovation/news value

The added value of this project is new and fast processing techniques for 3D models.

Pilot Study

Description of the literature studies

The literature study will focus firstly on spectral graph theory and graph laplacian operator. I will explicitly mention some specific topics about spectral graph theory and image processing.

This presentation [6] will serve as base for the pre-study, including its references.

Conditions & Schedule

List of resources:

- hardware: the supplied laptop (running Ubuntu, 3GB RAM, Intel i3 processor), a server for light computations (24 cores, 64GB RAM) and a server heavier and parallel computations (160 cores, 640GB shared RAM)

- software: Python (Numpy), L^AT_EX
- people: an available supervisor and friends
- perseverance: because it's tough to write a master thesis

Collaboration with the principal

The collaboration with the supervisor happens at least once a week with a meeting. More meetings are to be expected if particular help is needed at some point. The whole research team is meeting once every two weeks.

Schedule

As an early planning of the degree project, it is expected that the first part of understanding and implementing what exists for 2D images can take up to two months. Then three months are planned to apply this to 3D images. And finally one month for writing and completing the report and presentation.

	2017												2018																			
	Septembre		Octobre			Novembre			Décembre			Janvier			Février			Mars														
Étapes du projet	18 - 22	25 - 29	02 - 06	09 - 13	16 - 20	23 - 27	30 - 03	06 - 10	13 - 17	20 - 24	27 - 01	04 - 08	11 - 15	18 - 22	25 - 29	01 - 05	08 - 12	15 - 19	22 - 26	29 - 02	05 - 09	12 - 16	19 - 23	26 - 02	05 - 09	12 - 16						
Beginning	Beginning																															
Start	Start																															
Pre-study	Pre-study																															
Implementing 2D			Implementing 2D																													
3D										3D																						
Study 3D algorithms										Study 3D algorithms																						
Impl 3D algorithms												Impl 3D algorithms																				
HPC													HPC																			
End																							End									
Writing																							Writing									

References

- [1] Victorita Dolean, Pierre Jolivet, and Frédéric Nataf. *An introduction to domain decomposition methods*. Algorithms, theory, and parallel implementation. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), Philadelphia, PA, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-611974-05-8. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1137/1.9781611974065.ch1>.
- [2] Peyman Milanfar. “A Tour of Modern Image Filtering: New Insights and Methods, Both Practical and Theoretical”. In: *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* 30.1 (Jan. 2013), pp. 106–128. ISSN: 1053-5888. DOI: 10.1109/MSP.2011.2179329. URL: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/6375938/> (visited on 10/03/2017).
- [3] Hossein Talebi and Peyman Milanfar. “Global Image Denoising”. In: *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing* 23.2 (Feb. 2014), pp. 755–768. ISSN: 1057-7149, 1941-0042. DOI: 10.1109/TIP.2013.2293425. URL: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/6678291/> (visited on 10/03/2017).
- [4] David A. Tolliver. *Spectral rounding and image segmentation*. Vol. 67. 11. 2006.
- [5] Pedro F. Felzenszwalb and Daniel P. Huttenlocher. “Efficient Graph-Based Image Segmentation”. en. In: *International Journal of Computer Vision* 59.2 (Sept. 2004), pp. 167–181. ISSN: 0920-5691, 1573-1405. DOI: 10.1023/B:VISI.0000022288.19776.77. URL: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1023/B:VISI.0000022288.19776.77> (visited on 10/17/2017).
- [6] Peyman Milanfar. *Non-conformist Image Processing with Graph Laplacian Operator*. 2016. URL: <https://www.pathlms.com/siam/courses/2426/sections/3234>.