

Specification and schedule

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Formalities

- Preliminary title: Spectral Graph Theory and High Performance Computing
- 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 second order derivatives, domain decomposition and high performance computing, it is an interesting topic to explore more possibilities of spectral graph theory. 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 2-D images, they will also be used on 3-D 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 2-D images so far, but not yet for 3-D models, which will be one of the biggest challenges of this degree project.

Examination method

Smoothing, deblurring and sharpening 2-D images are the first tasks. 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.

When the results are satisfying, we will explore the same techniques on 3-D images.

Expected scientific results

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

Evaluation & News Value

Evaluation

The degree project has been fulfilled once we achieve 3-D models processing in a reasonable time. 2-D images can be efficiently processed on smartphones, which gives an idea on the achievable goals for 3-D image processing.

The work's innovation/news value

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

Pilot Study

Description of the literature studies

The literature study will focus firstly on spectral graph theory and graph laplacian operator.

This talk will serve as base for the pre-study, including its references.

Conditions & Schedule

List of resources:

- hardware: the supplied laptop, servers for more heavy computations
- software: Python (Numpy), \LaTeX
- 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 2-D images can take up to two months. Then three months are planned to apply this to 3-D images. And finally one month for writing and completing the report and presentation.