

# On Laplacian Eigenmaps for Dimensionality Reduction

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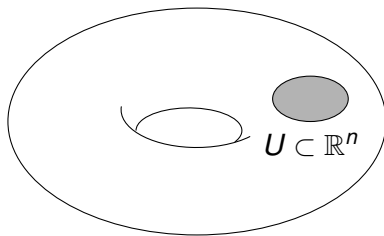
The Laplacian

The Heat Kernel

# Can One Hear the Shape of a Drum?

[Kac66]

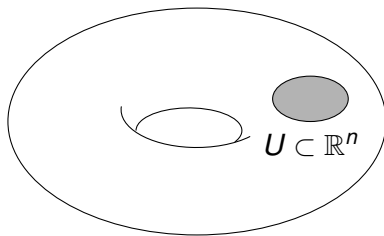
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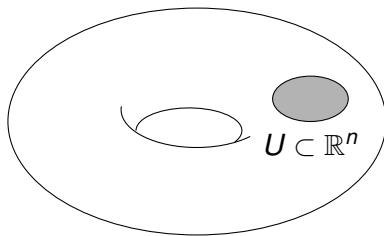


We can consider the **Laplacian**  $L : C^\infty(M) \longrightarrow C^\infty(M)$  and its **spectrum**  $\text{spec}(L) = \{\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k, \dots \longrightarrow \infty\}$ .

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- If we are given  $\text{spec}(L)$  we can infer the dimension of  $M$ , its volume and its total scalar curvature.

# Spectral Geometry for Dimensionality Reduction?

Let us assume we have data points  $x_1, \dots, x_k \in \mathbb{R}^N$  which lie on an unknown submanifold  $M \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ .

## Key Observation

- ▶ Eigenfunctions of  $L$  on  $M$  can be used to define lower dimensional embeddings.

## Idea ([BN03])

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- ▶ Construct the graph Laplacian  $L$  on  $G$ .
- ▶ Compute  $\text{spec}(L)$  and the corresponding eigenfunctions.
- ▶ Use these eigenfunctions to construct an embedding  $F : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  for  $m < N$ .

# The Spectral Theorem

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## Recall

- ▶  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  is an **eigenvalue** for  $A$  with **eigenvector**  $f \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $f \neq 0$ , if

$$Af = \lambda f.$$

- ▶ A set of vectors  $\mathcal{B} = \{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n\}$  is a **basis** for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  if:
  - ▶ They are linearly independent.
  - ▶ They generate  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
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There exists an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  consisting of eigenvectors of  $A$ . Each eigenvalue is real.

# Min(Max)imizing Properties of Eigenvalues

Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  be a symmetric matrix with spectral decomposition  $\lambda_0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$ .

For later purposes, we would like to find

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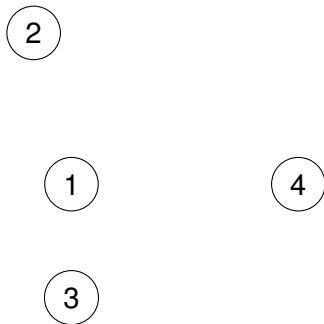
- ▶ Hence,

$$\arg \max_{\|f\|=1} \langle Af, f \rangle = f_n \quad \text{and} \quad \arg \min_{\|f\|=1} \langle Af, f \rangle = f_0.$$



## Step 0: Understand the Problem

Consider the problem of mapping these points to a line so that close points stay as together as possible.

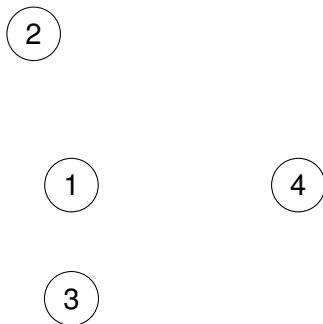


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- ▶ Define a distance function: first nearest neighbour.

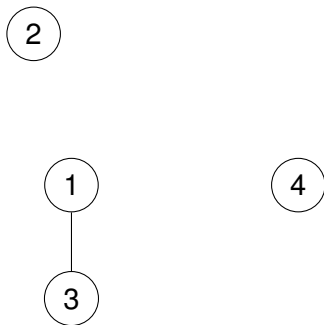
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- ▶ For each node, attach an edge for close points.



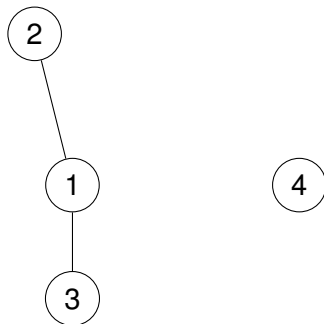
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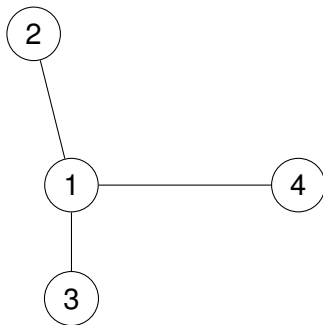
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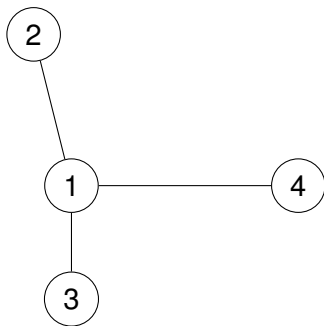


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## Step 2: Construct the Adjacency and Degree Matrices



$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad D = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Step 3: Spectrum of the Graph Laplacian

- ▶ Construct the operator  $L$  defined by

$$L := D - W = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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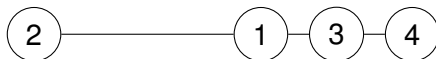
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- An eigenvector for  $\lambda_1 = 1$  is  $y := f_1 = (0, -3, 1, 2)$ .
- The vector  $y : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defines an embedding.



# The Algorithm

Let  $x_1, \dots, x_k \in \mathbb{R}^N$ .

1. **Construct a weighted graph**  $G = (V, E)$  with  $k$  nodes, one for each point, and a set of edges connecting neighbouring points. **Select a distance function:**
  - ▶ (Euclidean Distance) Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We connect an edge between  $i$  and  $j$  if  $\|x_i - x_j\|^2 < \varepsilon$ .
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2. **Choose Weights.** If nodes  $i$  and  $j$  are connected, put
  - ▶  $W_{ij} = 1$ .
  - ▶ (Heat Kernel)  $W_{ij} := e^{-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{t}}$  for some  $t > 0$ .

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  - ▶  $D$  is the diagonal weight matrix,  $D_{ii} = \sum_{j=1}^k W_{ij}$ .
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4. **Construct Embedding.** Let  $f_0, f_1, \dots, f_{k-1}$  be the corresponding eigenvectors ordered according to their eigenvalues ( $\lambda_0 = 0$ ). For  $m < N$ , set

$$F(i) := (f_1(i), \dots, f_m(i)).$$

# Why does it work?

$m = 1$

Assume you have constructed the weighted graph  $G = (V, E)$ .  
We want to construct an embedding  $F : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Hint: Minimize

$$J(y) := \sum_{i,j=1}^k (y_i - y_j)^2 W_{ij} \stackrel{*}{=} 2y^\dagger L y.$$



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Thus, the problem reduces to find

$$\arg \min_{\substack{y^\dagger Dy=1 \\ y^\dagger D1=0}} y^\dagger Ly = \arg \min_{\substack{y^\dagger Dy=1 \\ y^\dagger D1=0}} \langle Ly, y \rangle$$

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This translates to finding the minimum non-zero eigenvalue and eigenvector of

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# Why does it work?

$m > 1$  (Vectorize)

Assume you have constructed the weighted graph  $G = (V, E)$ .  
We want to construct an embedding  $F : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ .

Hint: Minimize, for  $Y = (y_1 \cdots y_m) \in M_{k \times m}(\mathbb{R})$ ,

$$J(Y) := \sum_{i,j=1}^k \|Y_i - Y_j\|^2 W_{ij} = \text{tr}(Y^\dagger L Y).$$

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This translates to finding the minimum non-zero eigenvalues  
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# Examples: Scikit-Learn

Let us go to a Jupyter notebook to see some examples.

# The Laplacian

Second order differential operator  $L : C_c^\infty(M) \longrightarrow C_c^\infty(M)$ .

- For  $M = \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$L = - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2}$$

- For  $(M, g)$  Riemannian manifold,

$$L = - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n g^{ij} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + \text{lower order terms.}$$

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## Spectral Theorem ([Ros97])

$L$  is symmetric with respect to the inner product in  $C_c^\infty(M)$ ,

$$(f, g)_{L^2} = \int_M f(x)g(x)dx.$$

If  $M$  is compact, there exists an orthonormal basis of  $L^2(M)$  consisting of eigenvectors of  $L$ . Each eigenvalue is real.

# Embedding through Eigenmaps

Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact Riemannian manifold and  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

- ▶ If  $x, z \in M$  are close, then

$$|f(x) - f(z)| \leq \text{dist}_M(x, z) \|\nabla f\| + o(\text{dist}_M(x, z)).$$

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- ▶ We want a map that best preserves locality on average,

$$\arg \min_{\|f\|_{L^2(M)}=1} \int_M \|\nabla f\|^2 dx. \quad (1)$$



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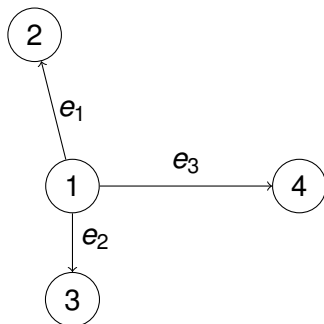
$$\arg \min_{\|f\|_{L^2(M)}=1} \int_M \|\nabla f\|^2 dx. \quad (1)$$

- ▶ By Stokes' Theorem

$$\int_M \|\nabla f\|^2 dx = \int_M (Lf) f dx = (Lf, f)_{L^2}.$$

- ▶ (1) must be an eigenvalue of the Laplacian.

# The Graph Laplacian as a Differential Operator



$$\nabla = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \nabla^\dagger \nabla = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

So we see,

$$L = \nabla^\dagger \nabla.$$

# The Heat Kernel

Let  $f : M \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Consider the **Heat Equation** on  $M$ ,

$$(\partial_t + L) u(x, t) = 0 \quad \text{with initial condition} \quad u(x, 0) = f(x).$$

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- ▶ The solution is given by ([Ros97])

$$u(x, t) = \int_M H_t(x, y) f(y) dy,$$

where the **Heat Kernel** has the form

$$H_t(x, y) = (4\pi t)^{-\dim(M)/2} e^{-\frac{\text{dist}_M(x, y)^2}{4t}} (\phi(x, y) + O(t)),$$

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- ▶ It can be shown that, for  $x_1, \dots, x_k \in M$  and  $t > 0$  small,

$$Lf(x_i) \approx \frac{1}{t} \left( f(x_i) - \frac{\sum_{0 < \|x_i - x_j\|^2 < \varepsilon} e^{-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{4t}} f(x_j)}{\sum_{0 < \|x_i - x_j\|^2 < \varepsilon} e^{-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{4t}}} \right)$$

which justifies  $W_{ij} = e^{-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{4t}}$ .

# References

Slides and notebook available at [juanitorduz.github.io](https://juanitorduz.github.io)



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