



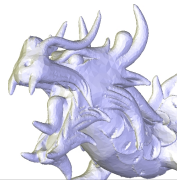
Lyon 1

## Mesh and Computational Geometry

Raphaëlle Chaîne

Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1

M2 ID3D  
Image, Développement  
et Technologie 3D  
et 3A Centrale



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## Differential operators

- Laplace equation

$$f : U \in \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\Delta f = 0$$

- Solutions of Laplace equation :

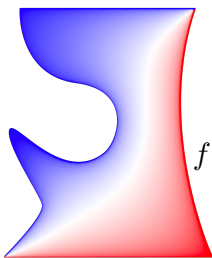
- Harmonic functions = kernel of the Laplacian operator
- No local maxima or minima in  $U$
- Minimizing the Dirichlet energy that measures the smoothness of a function

$$E(f) = \int_U \langle \nabla f, \nabla f \rangle dA$$

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## Differential operators

- Solutions of Laplace equation :
  - Used for interpolation

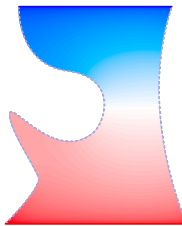


$$\begin{aligned} \Delta f(x) &= 0 & x \in U \\ f(x) &= f_0(x) & x \in \partial U \end{aligned}$$

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## Differential operators

- Solutions of Laplace equation :
  - Used for interpolation



$$\begin{aligned} \Delta f(x) &= 0 & x \in U \\ f(x) &= f_0(x) & x \in \delta U_D \text{ (Dirichlet boundary)} \\ \nabla f \cdot n &= g_0(x) & x \in \delta U_N \text{ (Neumann boundary)} \end{aligned}$$

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## Differential operators

- Harmonic functions not to be misunderstood with the eigenvectors and eigen values of the Laplacian operator

$$\Delta f = \lambda f$$

When  $U = \mathbb{R}$  eigenvectors are the sines and cosines functions that are used within Fourier framework

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## Differential operators

- In a multivariate context, differential operators are also used in differential equations

- Generally expressed in  $\mathbb{R}^k$

- Spatial notation "nabla" :

Think of it as a vector

of partial derivative operators!

– Gradient operator of a **scalar** function  $f$  :  $\nabla f$

– Divergence operator of a **vector** function  $\mathbf{V}$  :  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}$

– Laplacian operator of a **scalar** function  $f$  :  $\Delta f = \nabla \cdot \nabla f$

– Curl (rotational) operator of a **vector** function  $\mathbf{V}$  :  $\nabla \times \mathbf{V}$

- Expression of nabla depending on the coordinate system of the input domain

Cartesian  
coordinates  $u, v$

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## Differential operator

- A few reminders :
  - Gradient : direction  $(u_{\max}, v_{\max})$  of maximal slope
  - Divergence : flow traversing a unit element around  $(u, v)$
  - Laplacian : measures the difference between the function and its mean value in a small neighborhood
    - Useful for several geometry processing tasks (interpolation by heat diffusion, spectral analysis, mean-curvature, smoothing)
  - Curl (Rotational) : does the vector field locally turn around one vector?
- Questions :
  - How could you define the “gradient” of a vector field? Jacobian matrix
  - How could you define the “laplacian” of a vector field? Vector with the Laplacian of each component

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## Other use of Nabla

- Nabla transpose  
 $\delta_x$  : Derivative of the scalar field on the left  

$$\nabla^t = [x \delta, y \delta, z \delta]$$
- Jacobian matrix of a vector field  $\mathbf{V}$ 

$$\mathbb{J}_{\mathbf{V}} = \mathbf{V} \nabla^t = \begin{bmatrix} \delta_x v_x, \delta_y v_x, \delta_z v_x \\ \delta_x v_y, \delta_y v_y, \delta_z v_y \\ \delta_x v_z, \delta_y v_z, \delta_z v_z \end{bmatrix}$$
- Remark : circulation of  $\mathbf{V}$  around small parallelogram  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}$  :  $\text{curl}(\mathbf{V}) \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = \mathbb{J}_{\mathbf{V}} \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} - \mathbb{J}_{\mathbf{V}} \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A}$

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## Differential operator

- Functions defining a curve  
 $\mathbf{x} : [0, L] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  de classe  $C^3$   
 Tangent, normal and binormal vectors?
  - Vecteur tangent** :  $\mathbf{t}(s) = \frac{\mathbf{x}'(s)}{\|\mathbf{x}'(s)\|}$
  - Vecteur normal** :  $\mathbf{m}(s) = \frac{\mathbf{x}''(s)}{\|\mathbf{x}''(s)\|}$
  - Vecteur binormal** :  $\mathbf{b}(s) = \mathbf{t}(s) \times \mathbf{m}(s)$
  - Repère de Serret-Frénet** :  $(\mathbf{x}(s); \mathbf{t}(s), \mathbf{m}(s), \mathbf{b}(s))$

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## Differential operator

- Let  $s$  be the curvilinear abscissa
  - $s$  : length of curve between 0 and  $t$ 

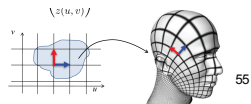
$$s(t) = \int_0^t \|\mathbf{x}'(t)\| dt$$
  - parameterize the curve wrt  $s$
  - $\mathbf{x}'(s)$  is a unit vector
- Courbure** :  $\kappa(s) = \|\mathbf{x}''(s)\|$ 
  - Mesure la déviation par rapport à une droite
- Torsion** :  $\tau(s) = \frac{\det[\mathbf{x}'(s), \mathbf{x}''(s), \mathbf{x}'''(s)]}{\kappa^2(s)}$ 
  - Mesure le défaut de planarité

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## Differential operator

- Functions defining a surface  
 $\mathbf{X} : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  de classe  $C^r$   
 Analogues vecteurs tangent/normal/binormal?
  - On note  $\mathbf{X}_u = \frac{\partial \mathbf{X}}{\partial u}$  et  $\mathbf{X}_v = \frac{\partial \mathbf{X}}{\partial v}$
  - Plan tangent** en  $p$  :  $T_p \mathbf{X}$  = plan passant par  $p$  et engendré par les vecteurs  $\mathbf{X}_u(p)$  et  $\mathbf{X}_v(p)$
  - Vecteur normal** :  $\mathbf{n}(p) = \frac{\mathbf{X}_u(p) \times \mathbf{X}_v(p)}{\|\mathbf{X}_u(p) \times \mathbf{X}_v(p)\|}$
  - $(\mathbf{X}(p); \mathbf{X}_u(p), \mathbf{X}_v(p), \mathbf{n}(p))$  forme aussi un repère local



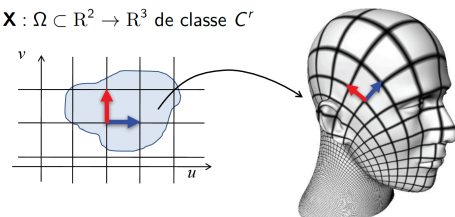
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## Differential operator

- Functions defining a surface
- How do unitary vectors are transformed by the parameterization?
  - Length and angles distortion?

$$\mathbf{X} : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \text{ de classe } C^r$$



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## Differential operator

### • Functions defining a surface?

On note de manière analogue  $\mathbf{X}_{uu} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{X}_u}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{X}}{\partial u^2}$ , etc.

Première forme fondamentale :

$$\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} E & F \\ F & G \end{bmatrix} := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_u^T \mathbf{x}_u & \mathbf{x}_u^T \mathbf{x}_v \\ \mathbf{x}_v^T \mathbf{x}_u & \mathbf{x}_v^T \mathbf{x}_v \end{bmatrix}$$

Angle change

Seconde forme fondamentale :

$$\mathbf{II} = \begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ f & g \end{bmatrix} := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{uu}^T \mathbf{n} & \mathbf{x}_{uv}^T \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{x}_{uv}^T \mathbf{n} & \mathbf{x}_{vv}^T \mathbf{n} \end{bmatrix}$$

Length change

Opérateur de forme/ Application de Weingarten :

$$\mathbf{W} := \frac{1}{EG - F^2} \begin{bmatrix} eG - fF & fG - gF \\ fE - eF & gE - fF \end{bmatrix} = (D_u n \ D_v n)$$

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$\mathbf{I}$  = outil géométrique (**tenseur métrique**)

► Permet de mesurer aires locales, longueurs de courbes sur la surface, angles, ...  $dA = \sqrt{EG - F^2} du dv$

► Exemple : anisotropie locale de la surface : décomposition spectrale de  $\mathbf{I}$   
Propriétés différentielles ne dépendant que de  $\mathbf{I}$  sont dites **intrinsèques**

► Ne dépendent pas de la paramétrisation  
► Ne dépendent pas de l'espace 3D

Eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{I}$  : maximal/minimal stretching of a tangent vector

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$\mathbf{II}$  = propriétés **extrinsèques** de la surface

► Dépendent du plongement dans l'espace ambiant  $\mathbb{R}^3$

$\mathbf{W}$  détermine les directions de courbure locale de la surface

► Valeurs propres = courbures principales  
► Vecteurs propres = directions principales de courbure

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Courbures principales et directions principales de courbure :

$$\mathbf{W} = [\bar{\mathbf{t}}_1 \ \bar{\mathbf{t}}_2] \begin{bmatrix} \kappa_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \kappa_2 \end{bmatrix} [\bar{\mathbf{t}}_1 \ \bar{\mathbf{t}}_2]^{-1}$$

Courbure moyenne :  $H = \frac{\kappa_1 + \kappa_2}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \text{trace}(\mathbf{W})$

Courbure de Gauss :  $K = \kappa_1 \cdot \kappa_2 = \det(\mathbf{W})$

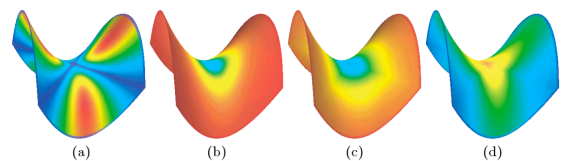


Fig. 5. Curvature plots of a triangulated saddle using pseudo-colors: (a) Mean, (b) Gaussian, (c) Minimum, (d) Maximum.

[Meyer et al. 2003]

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## Differential operators

### • Functions defined on a surface

- Let  $u$  be a scalar function defined on a surface
- We would like to express local variations of  $u$

### • Let consider the discrete case of a surface being approximated by a simplicial mesh

- Function  $u$  discretized on vertices
- Gradient of  $u$  discretized on triangles
- Divergence of a vector (defined on triangles) discretized on vertices

### • Bibliography : Keenan Crane

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## Differential operators

### • Simplicial meshes

– Laplacian  $\Delta$  of  $u$  at vertex  $i$  = sum over neighbor vertices  $j$

$$(Lu)_i = \frac{1}{2A_i} \sum_j (\cot \alpha_{ij} + \cot \beta_{ij})(u_j - u_i)$$

– Gradient  $\nabla$  of  $u$  inside a triangle = sum over the 3 vertices  $i$

$$\nabla u = \frac{1}{2A_f} \sum_i u_i (N \times e_i)$$

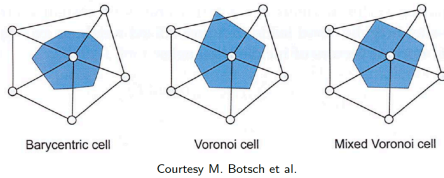
Divergence at vertex  $i$  of a vector  $\mathbf{X}$  defined on faces = sum over incident faces  $j$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{X} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_j \cot \theta_1 (e_1 \cdot \mathbf{X}_j) + \cot \theta_2 (e_2 \cdot \mathbf{X}_j)$$

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## Area $A_i$

- Computed by duality to a vertex



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## Differential geometry

- How to generalize normal, curvatures?
- Consider  $u$  corresponding to each coordinate function in turn
  - $u = {}^t(x, y, z)$

$$\Delta_{\mathbf{x}} u = -2H\mathbf{n}$$

$H$  : mean curvature

$\mathbf{n}$  : normal vector

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## Signals being studied in Computer Graphics

- Signals defined on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ 
  - Scalar signals :
    - height value (terrain)
    - density of some fluid flowing in the plane
  - Vector fields
    - Surface parameterization  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$
    - Displacement field of some fluid flowing in the plane
- Signals defined in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ 
  - Density of a volume material (scalar)
  - Displacement field of some fluid (vector)

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## Signals being studied in Computer Graphics

- Signals defined on a surface  $\mathbb{S}$ 
  - Scalar values :
    - Temperature, grey color ...
    - Position coordinates (x, y or z)
  - Vector fields
    - Normal vector
    - Maximal/minimal curvature direction
    - Displacement field
    - ...

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## Problem of a triangulating a surface passing through points

- Case of points belonging to a plane
- Ideas for constructing a mesh from these data?
  - Link the projected points together avoiding crossings to produce triangular pieces of surface.

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