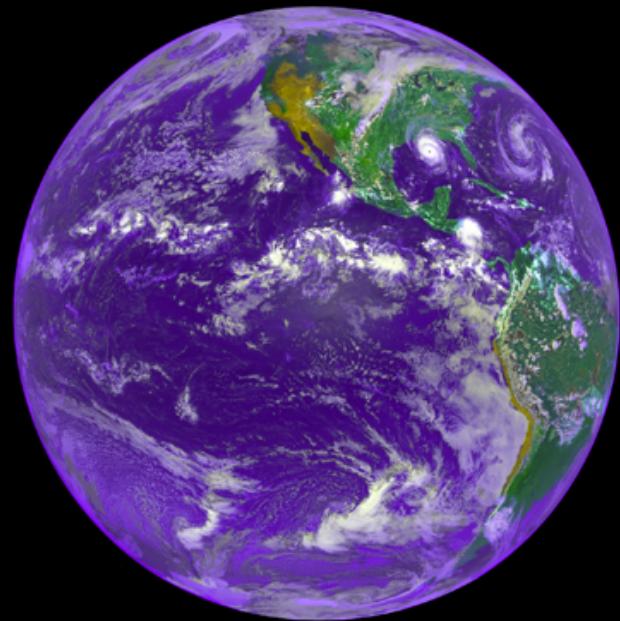
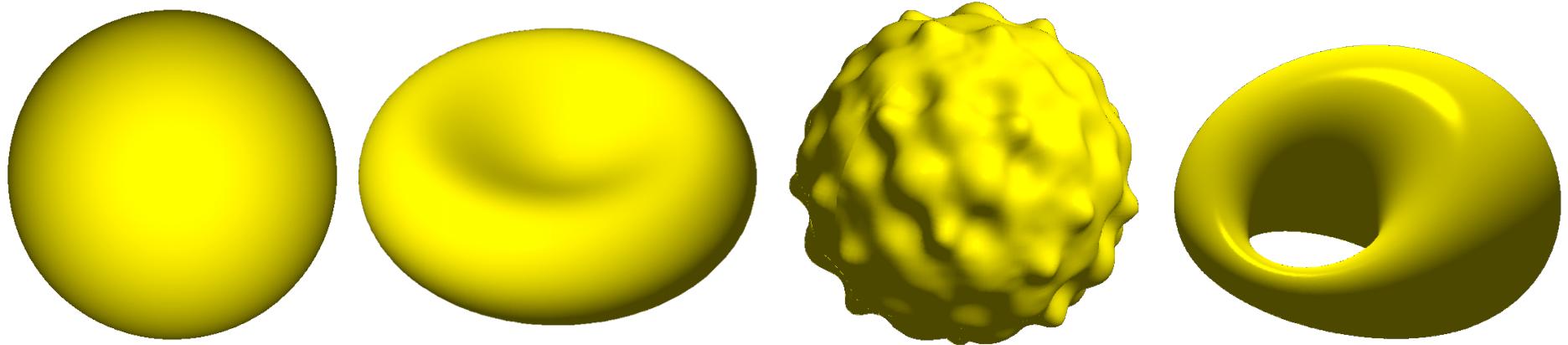


# 2013 Dolomites Research Week on Approximation

## Lecture 7: Kernel methods for more general surfaces



Grady B. Wright  
Boise State University

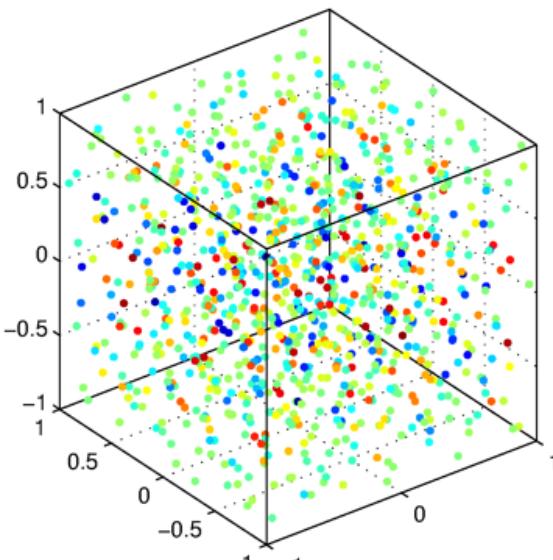


- Background
- Kernel approximation on surfaces
- Applications to numerically solving PDEs on surfaces

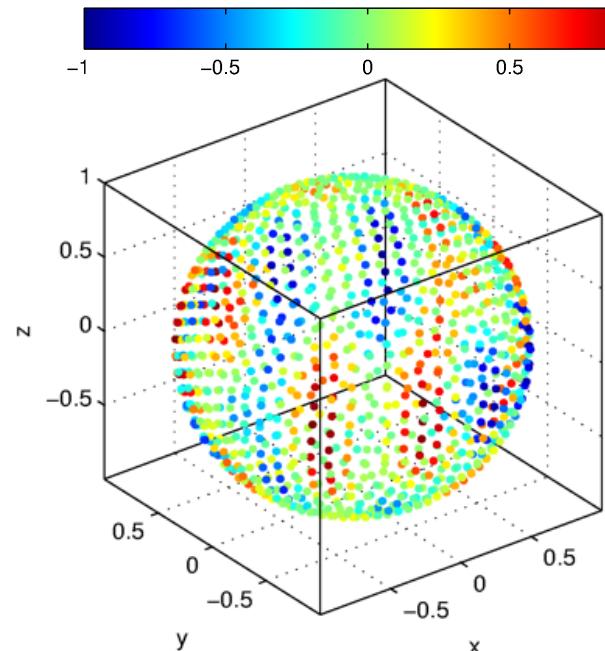
# Interpolation with kernels

- Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N$  a set of nodes on  $\Omega$ .
- Consider a continuous target function  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  sampled at  $X$ :  $f|_X$ .

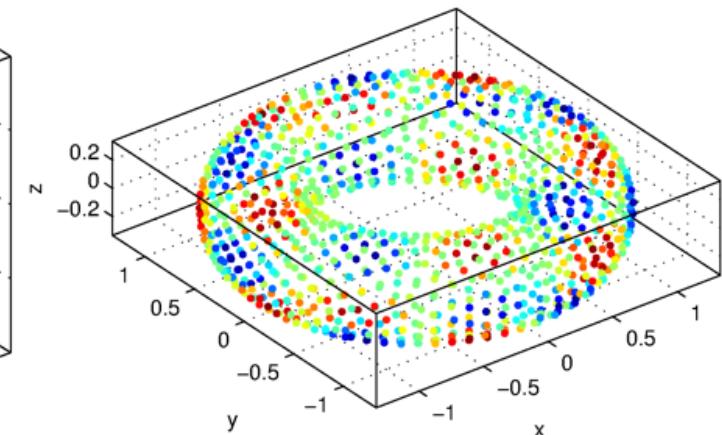
Examples:



$$\Omega = [-1, 1]$$



$$\Omega = \mathbb{S}^2$$



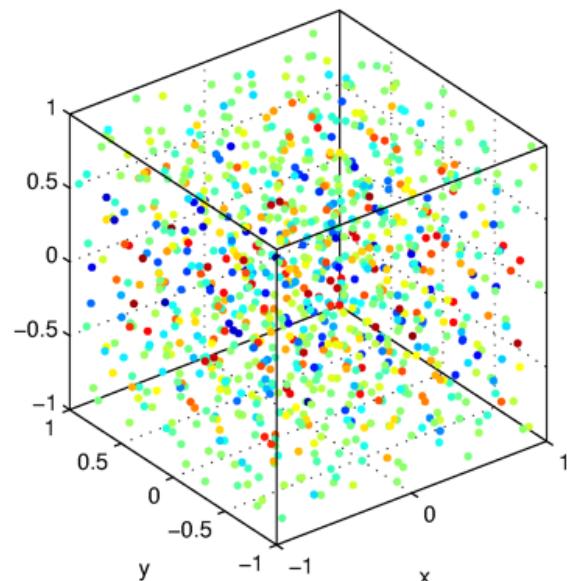
$$\Omega = \mathbb{T}^2$$

- Kernel interpolant to  $f|_X$ : 
$$I_X f = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \phi(\cdot, \mathbf{x}_j)$$

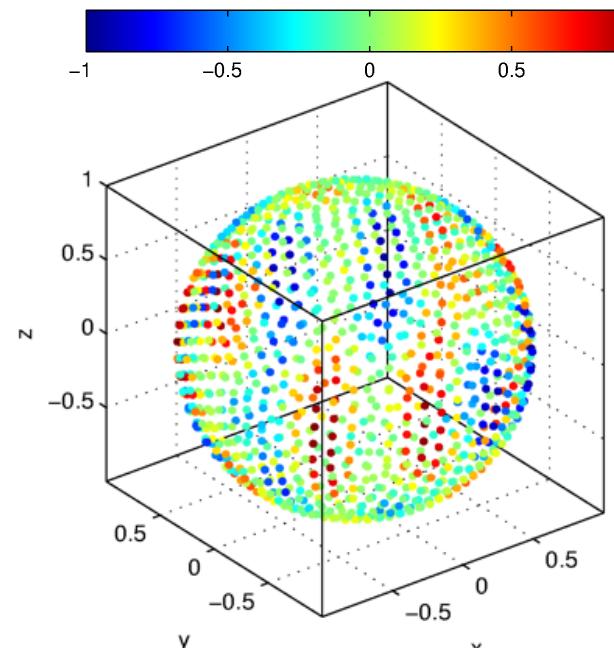
where  $\phi : \Omega \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $c_j$  come from requiring  $I_X f|_X = f|_X$

# Interpolation with kernels

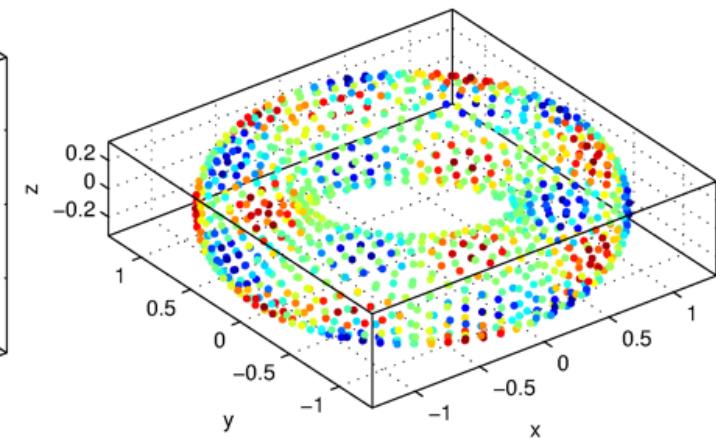
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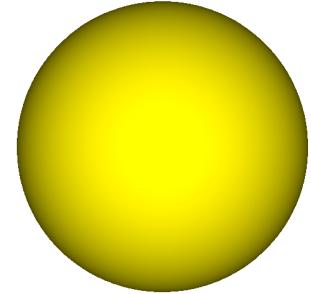
$$\Omega = \mathbb{S}^2$$



$$\Omega = \mathbb{T}^2$$

- Kernel interpolant to  $f\Big|_X$ :  
$$I_X f = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \phi(\cdot, \mathbf{x}_j)$$
- We call  $\phi$  a **positive definite kernel** if  $A = \{\phi(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)\}$  is positive definite for any  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \Omega$ .
- In this case  $c_j$  are **uniquely determined**.

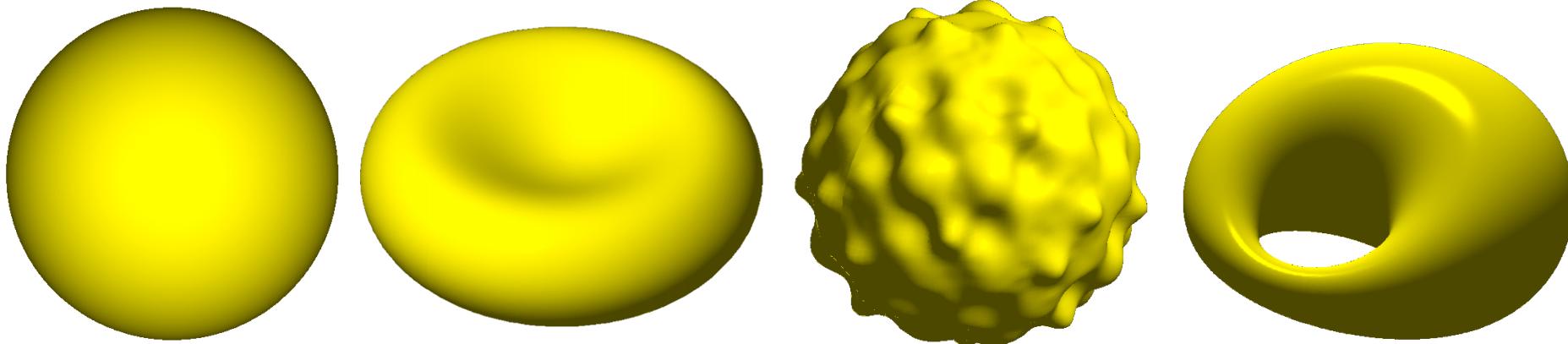
- Kernels on the sphere:
  - Schoenberg (1942)
  - See Lecture 1 slides for more...
- Kernels on specific manifolds ( $SO(3)$ , motion group, projective spaces):
  - Erb, Filber, Hangelbroek, Schmid, zu Castel,...
- Kernels on arbitrary Riemannian manifolds:
  - Narcowich (1995)
  - Dyn, Hangelbroek, Levesley, Ragozin, Schaback, Ward, Wendland.
- In these studies the kernels used are highly dependent on the manifold.
  - Inherent benefits to this.
  - However, for arbitrary manifolds it is difficult (or impossible) to compute these kernel.



- Types of surfaces:  $\mathbb{M}$

Compact, smooth embedded submanifolds of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  without a boundary.

- Examples:

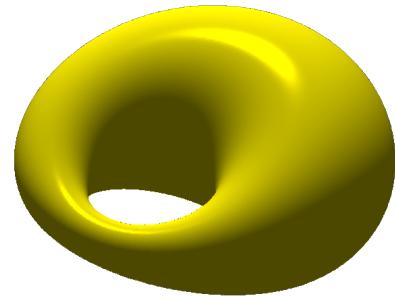


- Applications:
  - geophysics
  - atmospheric sciences
  - biology
  - chemistry
  - computer graphics

- One approach for kernels on general surfaces:  
Use a restricted positive definite kernel from  $\mathbb{R}^d$

- Let  $\phi$  be a positive definite kernel on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\psi(\cdot, \cdot) = \phi(\cdot, \cdot) \Big|_{\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{M}}$ :

$$I_X f = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \psi(\cdot, \mathbf{x}_j)$$

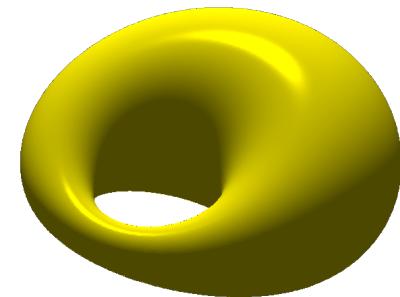


- Such  $\phi$  are easy to come, e.g.
  - Let  $\phi$  be a positive definite radial kernel (RBFs):  
 $\phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \phi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2) = \phi(r)$

- One approach for kernels on general surfaces:  
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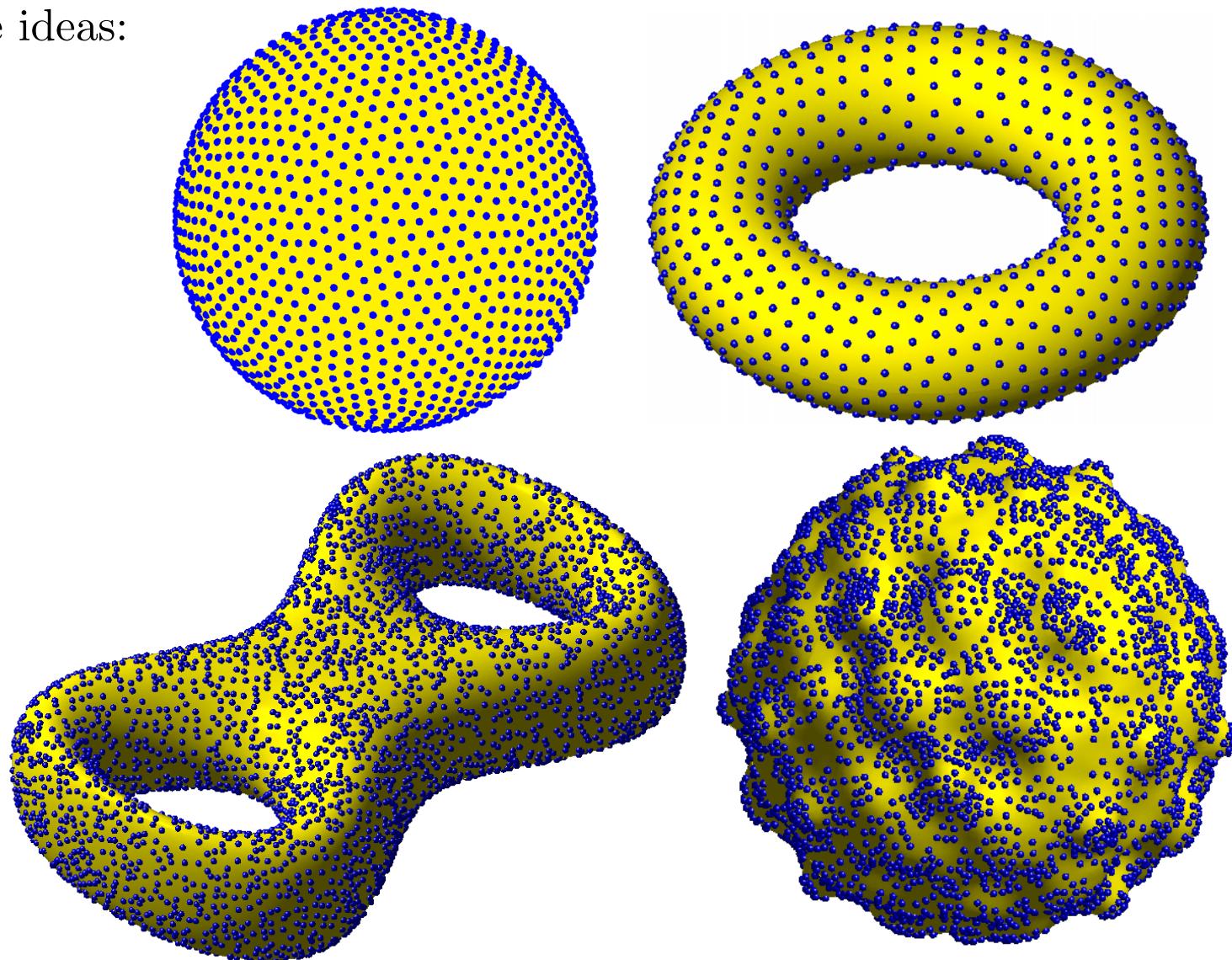
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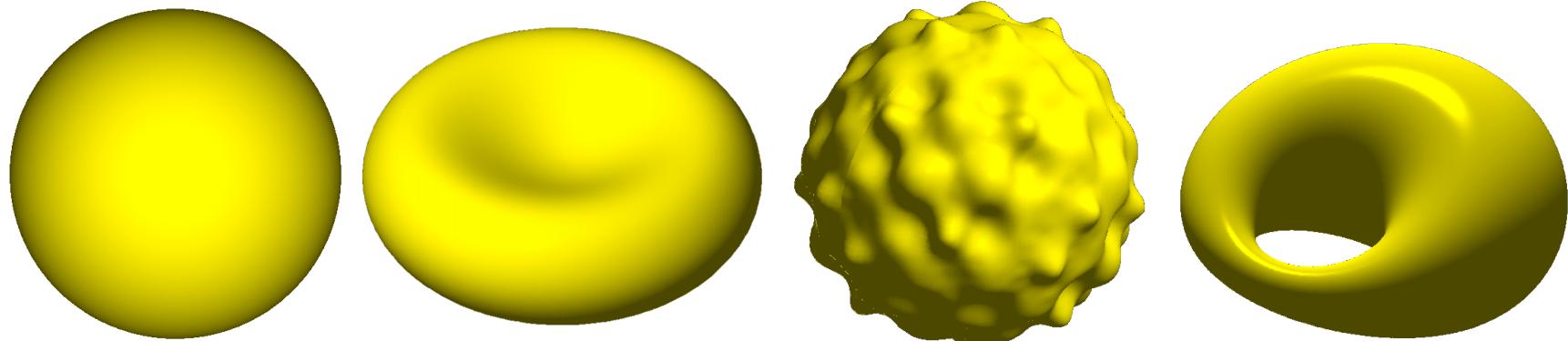


- Such  $\phi$  are easy to come, e.g.
  - Let  $\phi$  be a positive definite radial kernel (RBFs):  
 $\phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \phi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2) = \phi(r)$
- For  $\mathbb{M} = \mathbb{S}^2$ , this approach has been thoroughly studied.
- Surprisingly, for general surfaces, virtually nothing had been done:
  - Powell (2001) DAMTP Technical Report.
  - Fasshauer (2007), p. 83

# Nodes on surfaces

- Kernel methods do not require a mesh, just a set of nodes.
- Some ideas:





- Prototypical model: 2 interacting species

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \delta_u \Delta_{\mathbb{M}} u + f_u(t, u, v)$$

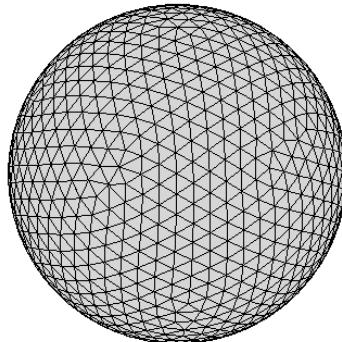
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \delta_v \Delta_{\mathbb{M}} v + f_v(t, u, v)$$

$\Delta_{\mathbb{M}}$  is the **Laplace-Beltrami** operator for the surface

- Applications
  - **Biology:** diffusive transport on a membrane, pattern formation on animal coats, and tumor growth.
  - **Chemistry:** waves in excitable media (cardiac arrhythmia, electrical signals in the brain).
  - **Computer graphics:** texture mapping and synthesis and image processing.

# Current methods and kernel-based approach

- Current numerical method can be split into 2 categories:
  1. **Surface-based:** approximate the PDE *on the surface* using *intrinsic* coordinates.



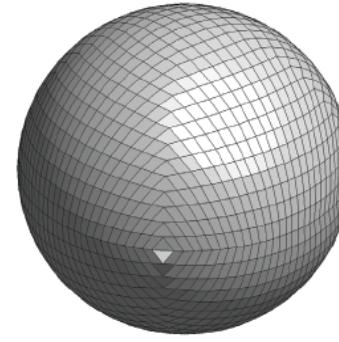
Triangulated Mesh

Dziuk (1988)

Stam (2003)

Xu (2004)

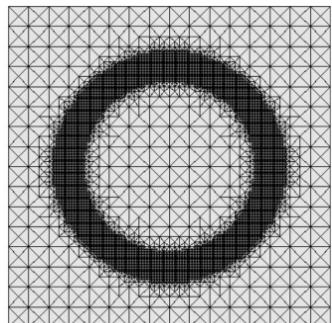
Dziuk & Elliot (2007)



Logically rectangular grid

Calhoun and Helzel (2009)

- 2. **Embedded:** approximate the PDE in the *embedding space*, restrict solution to surface.



Level Set

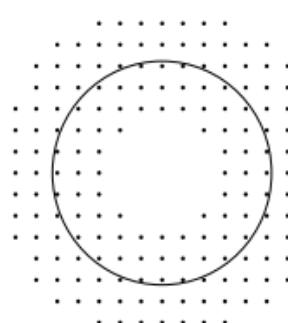
Bertalmio *et al.* (2001)

Schwartz *et al.* (2005)

Greer (2006)

Sbalzarini *et al.* (2006)

Dziuk & Elliot (2010)



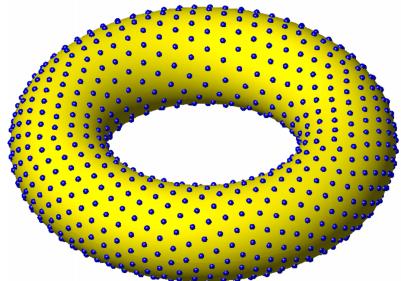
Closest point:

Ruuth & Merriman (2008)

MacDonald & Ruuth (2008)

MacDonald & Ruuth (2009)

- **Kernel-based method:** Fuselier & W (2013)



- **Similarity to 1:** approximate the PDE *on the surface*.
- **Similarity to 2:** use *extrinsic* coordinates.
- **Differences:** method is mesh-free;  
computations done in same dimension as the surface.

- Let  $\phi$  be a positive definite kernel on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\psi(\cdot, \cdot) = \phi(\cdot, \cdot)|_{\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{M}}$ , and  $k = \dim(\mathbb{M})$ .

- Kernel interpolant:**  $I_X f = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \psi(\cdot, \mathbf{x}_j)$ , where  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{M}$
- Approximation classes can be found from the native space of  $\psi$ :  $\mathcal{N}_\psi$

$$\circ \quad F_\psi = \left\{ f = \sum_j c_j \psi(\cdot, \mathbf{x}_j) \mid c_j \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbf{x}_j \in \mathbb{M} \right\}$$

$$\circ \quad \|f\|_{\mathcal{N}_\psi}^2 = \sum_j \sum_k c_j c_k \psi(\mathbf{x}_j, \mathbf{x}_k), \quad f \in F_\psi$$

$$\circ \quad \mathcal{N}_\psi = \overline{F_\psi}$$

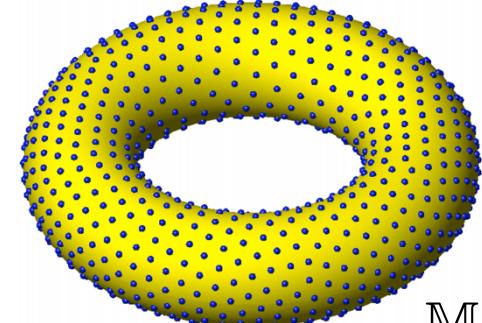
- What is  $\mathcal{N}_\psi$ ?

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- What is  $\mathcal{N}_\psi$ ?
- Suppose the Fourier transform of  $\phi$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  satisfies  $\hat{\phi}(\xi) \sim (1 + \|\xi\|_2^2)^{-\tau}$  then  $\mathcal{N}_\phi = H^\tau(\mathbb{R}^d)$
- Theorem (Fuselier,W 2012): If  $\phi$  satisfies  $\hat{\phi}(\xi) \sim (1 + \|\xi\|_2^2)^{-\tau}$  with  $\tau > d/2$ , then  $\mathcal{N}_\psi = H^{\tau - (d-k)/2}(\mathbb{M})$  with equivalent norms.

Main idea: Trace theorem and restriction and extension operators on the native space from Schaback (1999).

- Specific error estimate results from Fuselier & W (2012).
  - More general results are given in the paper.

## Notation:

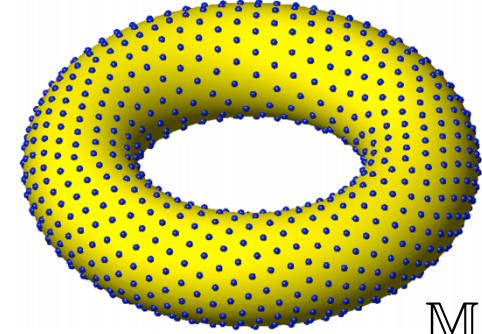
- $\mathbb{M} \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $\dim(\mathbb{M}) = 2$ .
  - $\psi(\cdot, \cdot) = \phi(\cdot, \cdot)|_{\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{M}}$
  - $\hat{\phi}(\xi) \sim (1 + \|\xi\|_2^2)^{-\tau}$ ,  $\tau > 3/2$
  - $s = \tau - 1/2$
  - $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{M}$
  - $h_X$  = mesh-norm
  - $q_X$  = separation radius
  - $\rho_X = h_X/q_X$ , mesh ratio
- 

Theorem: target functions in the native space

$$\text{If } f \in H^s(\mathbb{M}) \text{ then } \|f - I_X f\|_{L_2(\mathbb{M})} = \mathcal{O}(h_X^s)$$

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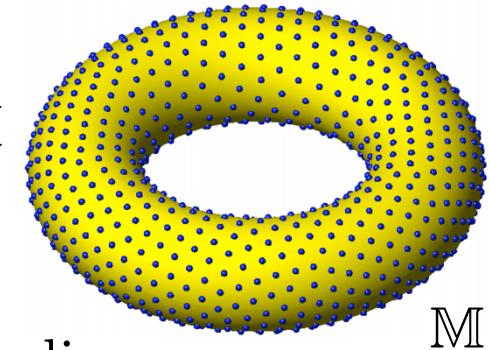
Corollary: target functions approx. **twice as smooth** as the native space

If  $f \in H^s(\mathbb{M})$  and  $\mathcal{T}^{-1}f \in L_2(\mathbb{M})$  then  $\|f - I_X f\|_{L_2(\mathbb{M})} = \mathcal{O}(h_X^{2s})$

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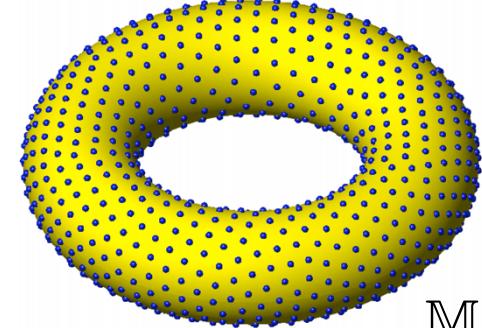
Theorem: target functions **rounger** than the native space

If  $f \in H^\beta(\mathbb{M})$  with  $s > \beta > 1$  then  $\|f - I_X f\|_{L_2(\mathbb{M})} = \mathcal{O}(h_X^\beta \rho_X^{s-\beta})$

Proof required results Narcowich, Ward, & Wendland (2005; 2006) on  $\mathbb{R}^d$

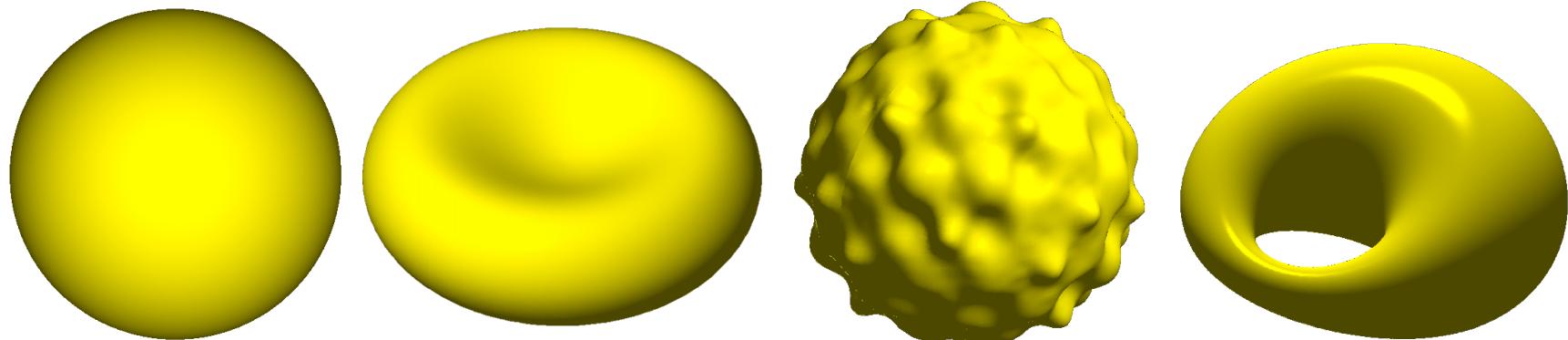
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- 
- $\mathbb{M}$

Main point: can use simple RBFs for interpolation on surfaces:

$$I_X f = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_j) = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \phi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2)$$



- Prototypical model: 2 interacting species

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \delta_u \Delta_{\mathbb{M}} u + f_u(t, u, v)$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \delta_v \Delta_{\mathbb{M}} v + f_v(t, u, v)$$

$\Delta_{\mathbb{M}}$  is the **Laplace-Beltrami** operator for the surface

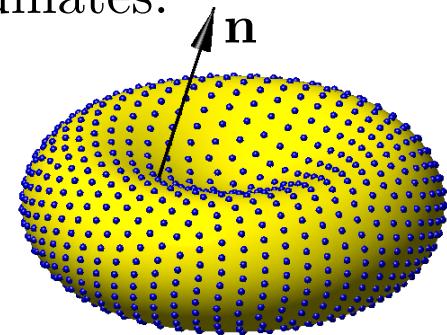
- Applications
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- Surface gradient on  $\mathbb{M}$  in *extrinsic* (or Cartesian) coordinates:

$$\nabla_{\mathbb{M}} := \mathbf{P} \nabla = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{n} \otimes \mathbf{n}) \nabla$$

- After some manipulations

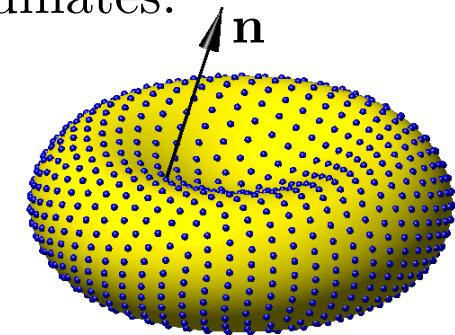
$$\nabla_{\mathbb{M}} := \begin{bmatrix} (\mathbf{e}_x \cdot \mathbf{P}) \nabla \\ (\mathbf{e}_y \cdot \mathbf{P}) \nabla \\ (\mathbf{e}_z \cdot \mathbf{P}) \nabla \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (\mathbf{e}_x - n_x \mathbf{n}) \cdot \nabla \\ (\mathbf{e}_y - n_y \mathbf{n}) \cdot \nabla \\ (\mathbf{e}_z - n_z \mathbf{n}) \cdot \nabla \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla \\ \mathbf{p}_y \cdot \nabla \\ \mathbf{p}_z \cdot \nabla \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{G}^x \\ \mathcal{G}^y \\ \mathcal{G}^z \end{bmatrix}$$



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- Surface divergence of smooth vector field  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  ( $\mathbf{f} = (f_x, f_y, f_z)$ ):

$$\nabla_{\mathbb{M}} \cdot \mathbf{f} := (\mathbf{P}\nabla) \cdot \mathbf{f} = \mathcal{G}^x f_x + \mathcal{G}^y f_y + \mathcal{G}^z f_z$$

- Laplace-Beltrami operator on  $\mathbb{M}$  in *extrinsic coordinates*:

$$\Delta_{\mathbb{M}} := (\mathbf{P}\nabla) \cdot (\mathbf{P}\nabla) = \mathcal{G}^x \mathcal{G}^x + \mathcal{G}^y \mathcal{G}^y + \mathcal{G}^z \mathcal{G}^z = \mathcal{D}_{xx} + \mathcal{D}_{yy} + \mathcal{D}_{zz}$$

$\Delta_{\mathbb{M}}$  is the Laplace-Beltrami operator for the surface.

Idea from Fuselier & W (2013):

- Let  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{M}$  and some smooth target  $f : \mathbb{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
- Interpolate  $\underline{f} := f|_X$ , using **restricted (RBF) kernel interpolant**:

$$I_X f = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_j) = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \phi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j\|)$$

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- Apply  $\mathcal{G}^x, \mathcal{G}^y, \mathcal{G}^z$  to  $I_X f$  and evaluate at  $X$ :

$$(\mathcal{G}^x[I_X f])|_X = G_x \underline{f}, \quad (\mathcal{G}^y[I_X f])|_X = G_y \underline{f}, \quad (\mathcal{G}^z[I_X f])|_X = G_z \underline{f}$$

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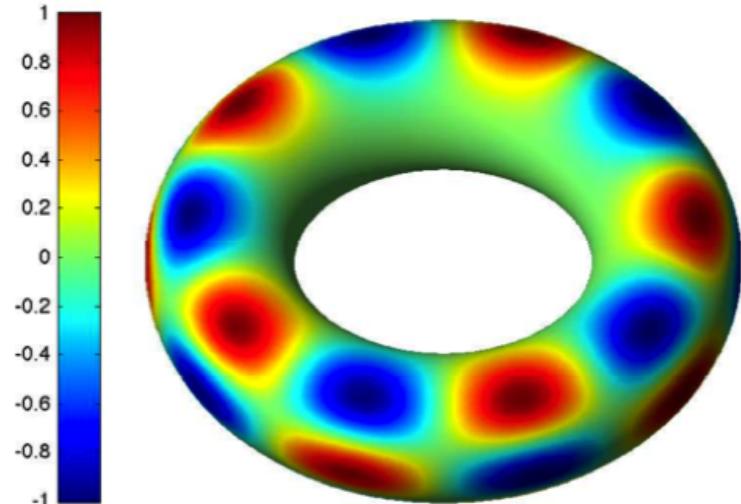
- Approximate  $(\Delta_{\mathbb{M}} f)|_X$  using  $G_x, G_y, G_z$ :

$$(\Delta_{\mathbb{M}} f)|_X = ([\mathcal{G}^x \mathcal{G}^x + \mathcal{G}^y \mathcal{G}^y + \mathcal{G}^z \mathcal{G}^z] f)|_X \approx \underbrace{(G_x G_x + G_y G_y + G_z G_z)}_{L_{\mathbb{M}}} \underline{f}$$

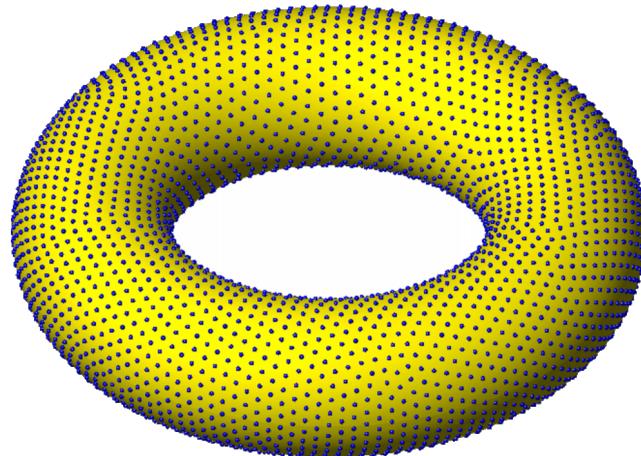
- $L_{\mathbb{M}}$  is an  $N \times N$  differentiation matrix

# Example: convergence of discrete surface Laplacian

Smooth target  $f$



$N$  near-minimal Riesz energy nodes

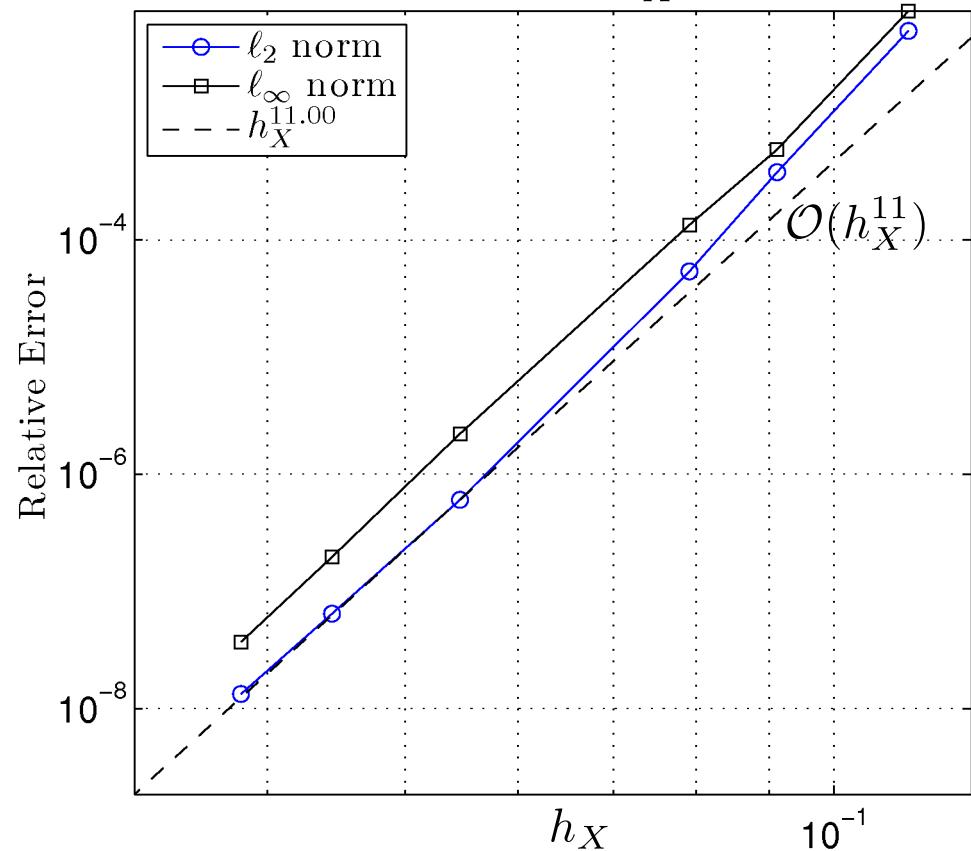


Mesh-norm:  $h_X \sim 1/\sqrt{N}$

Matérn kernel:  $\psi \Rightarrow \phi(r) = (\varepsilon r)^{9/2} K_{9/2}(\varepsilon r)$

$$\mathcal{N}_\psi = H^{11/2}(\mathbb{M})$$

$$\text{Error: } \|(\Delta_{\mathbb{M}} f)|_X - L_{\mathbb{M}} f\|$$



- Error estimates given in Fuselier & W (2013)
- Observed convergence rate is 2 orders higher than theory predicts.

# Applications: Turing patterns

- Pattern formation via **non-linear reaction-diffusion systems**; Turing (1952)  
Possible mechanism for animal coat formation (and other morphogenesis phenomena)



- Example system: Barrio *et al.* (1999)

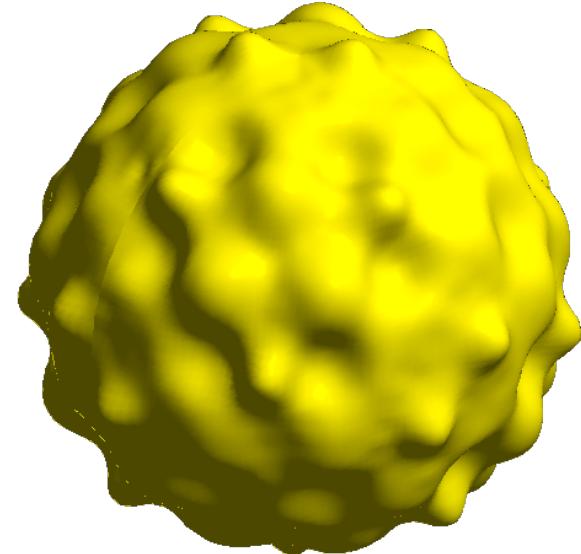
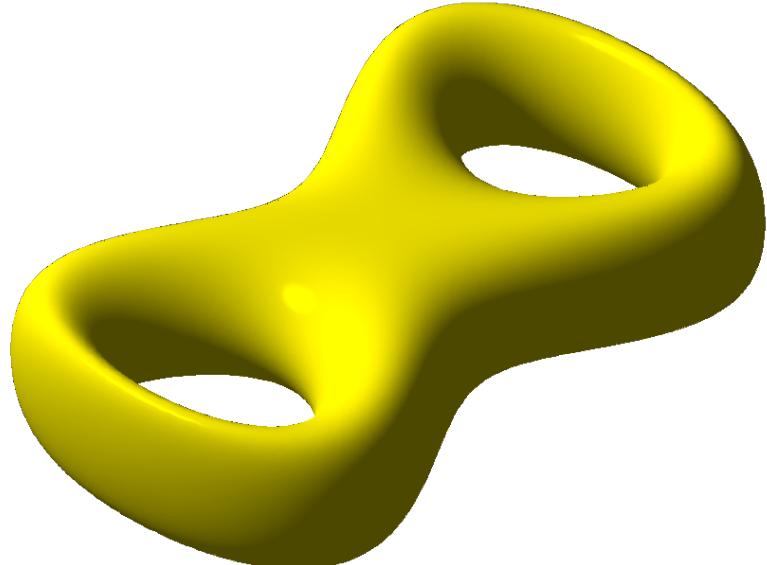
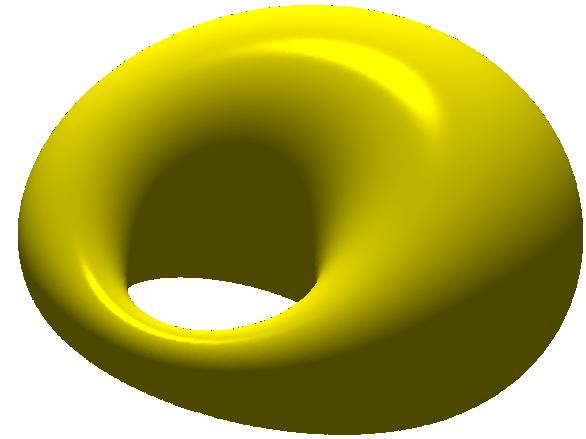
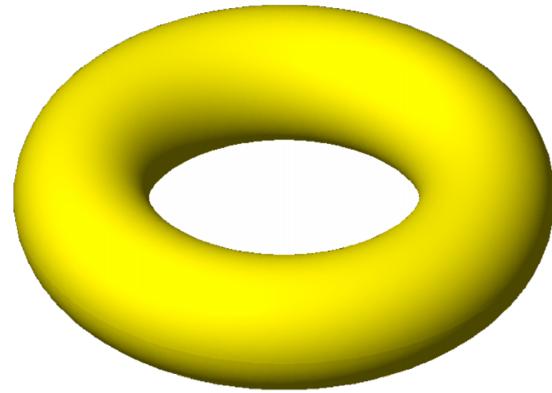
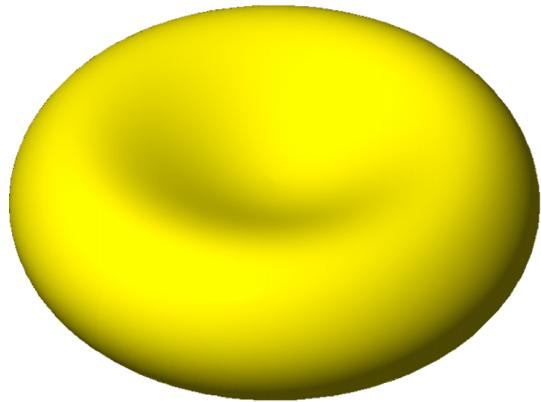
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \delta_u \Delta_{\mathbb{M}} u + \alpha u(1 - \tau_1 v^2) + v(1 - \tau_2 u) \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} &= \delta_v \Delta_{\mathbb{M}} v + \beta v \left(1 + \frac{\alpha \tau_1}{\beta} u v\right) + u(\gamma + \tau_2 v)\end{aligned}$$

- These types of systems have been studied extensively in planar domains.
- Recent studies have focused on the sphere.
- Growing interest in studying these on more general surfaces.
- Numerical method: collocation and method-of-lines (like method from Tutorials 4-6)

# Application: Turing patterns

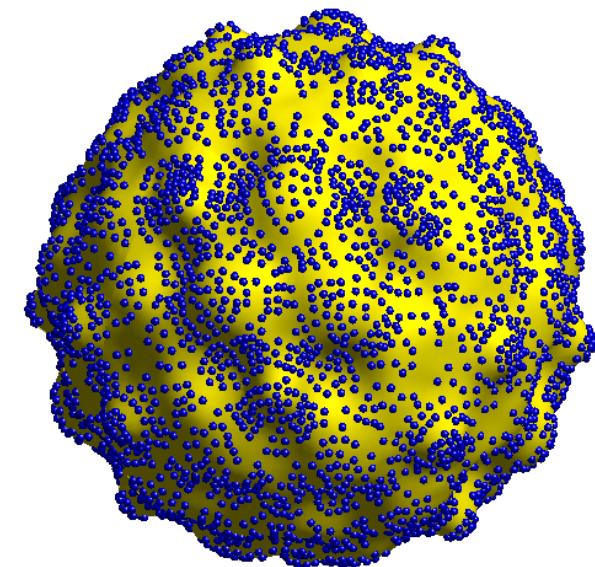
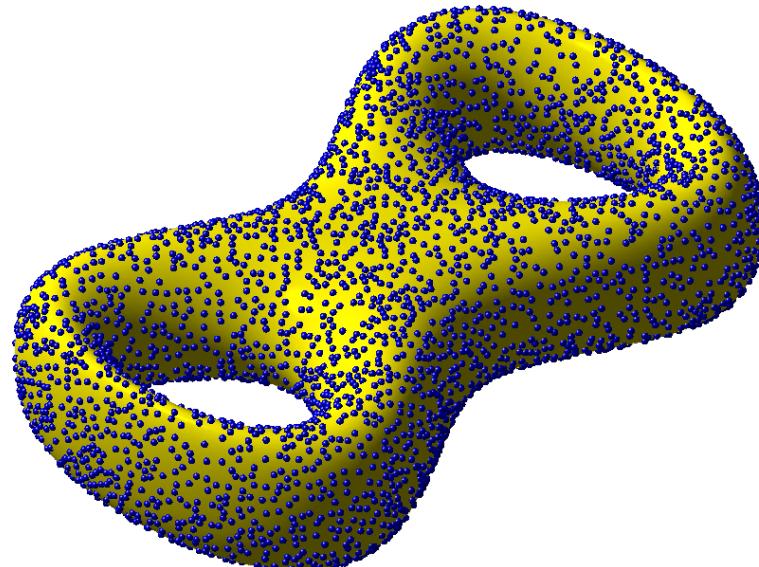
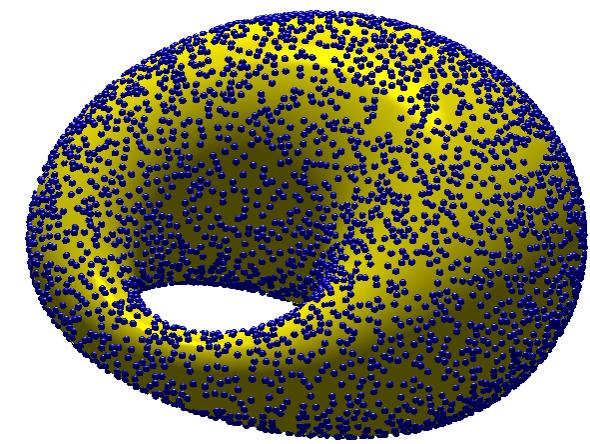
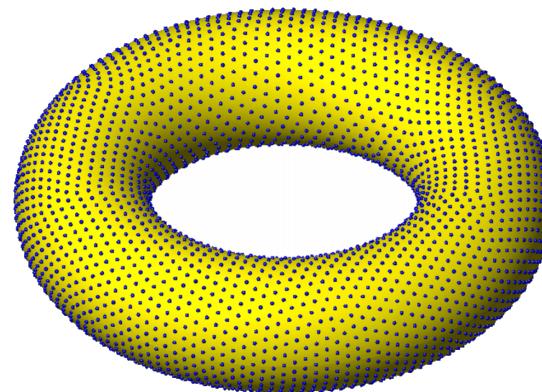
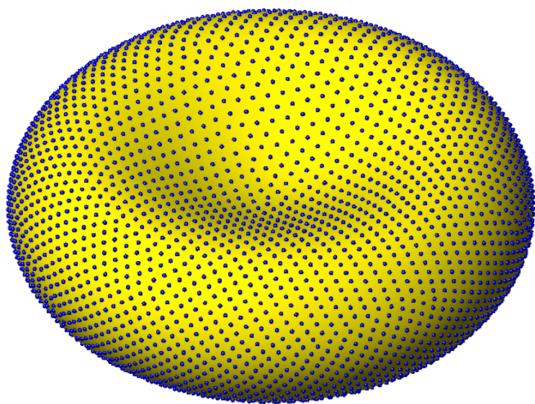
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- Surfaces used in the numerical experiments:



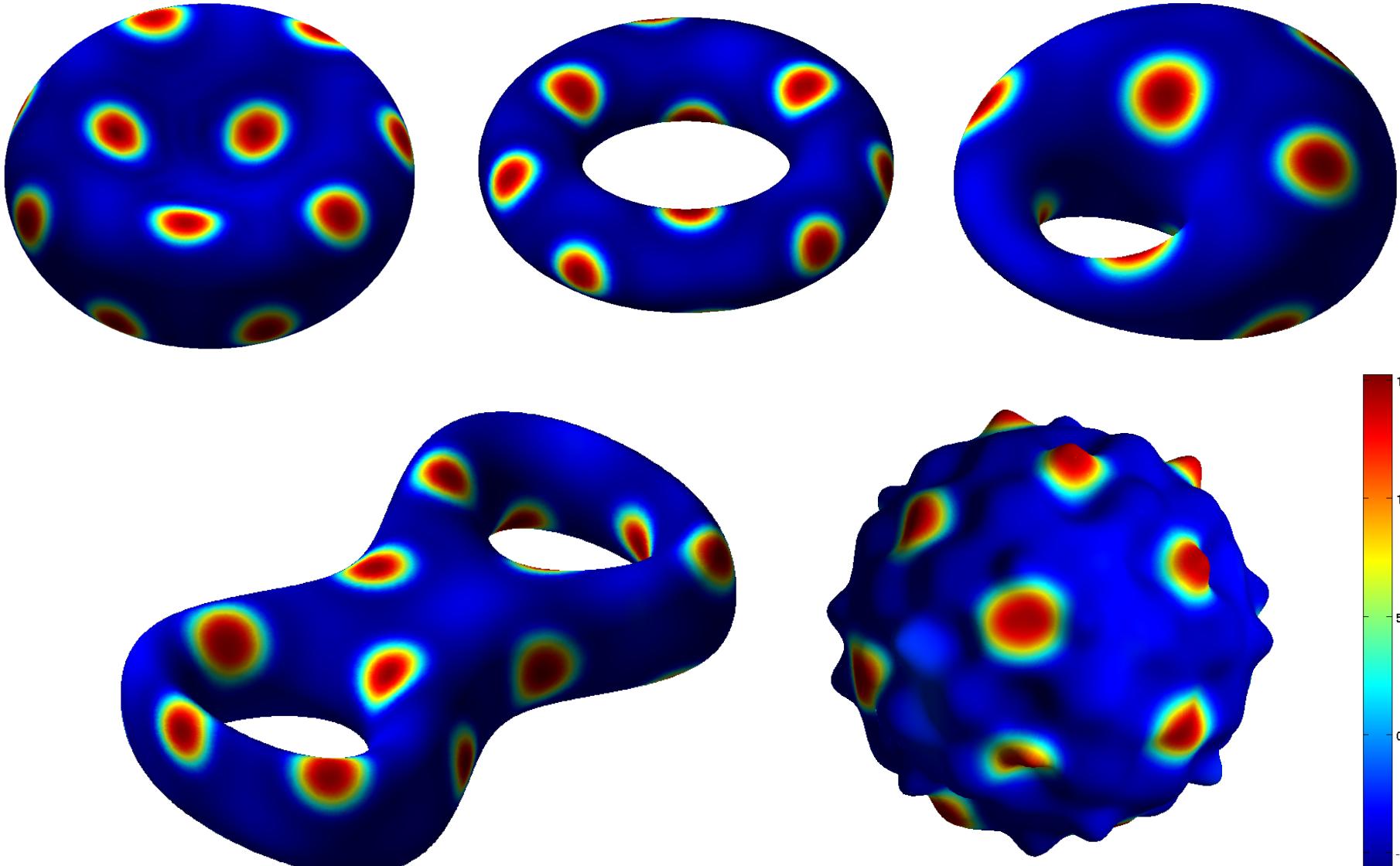
# Application: Turing patterns

- Node sets  $X$  used in the numerical experiments:



# Application: Turing patterns

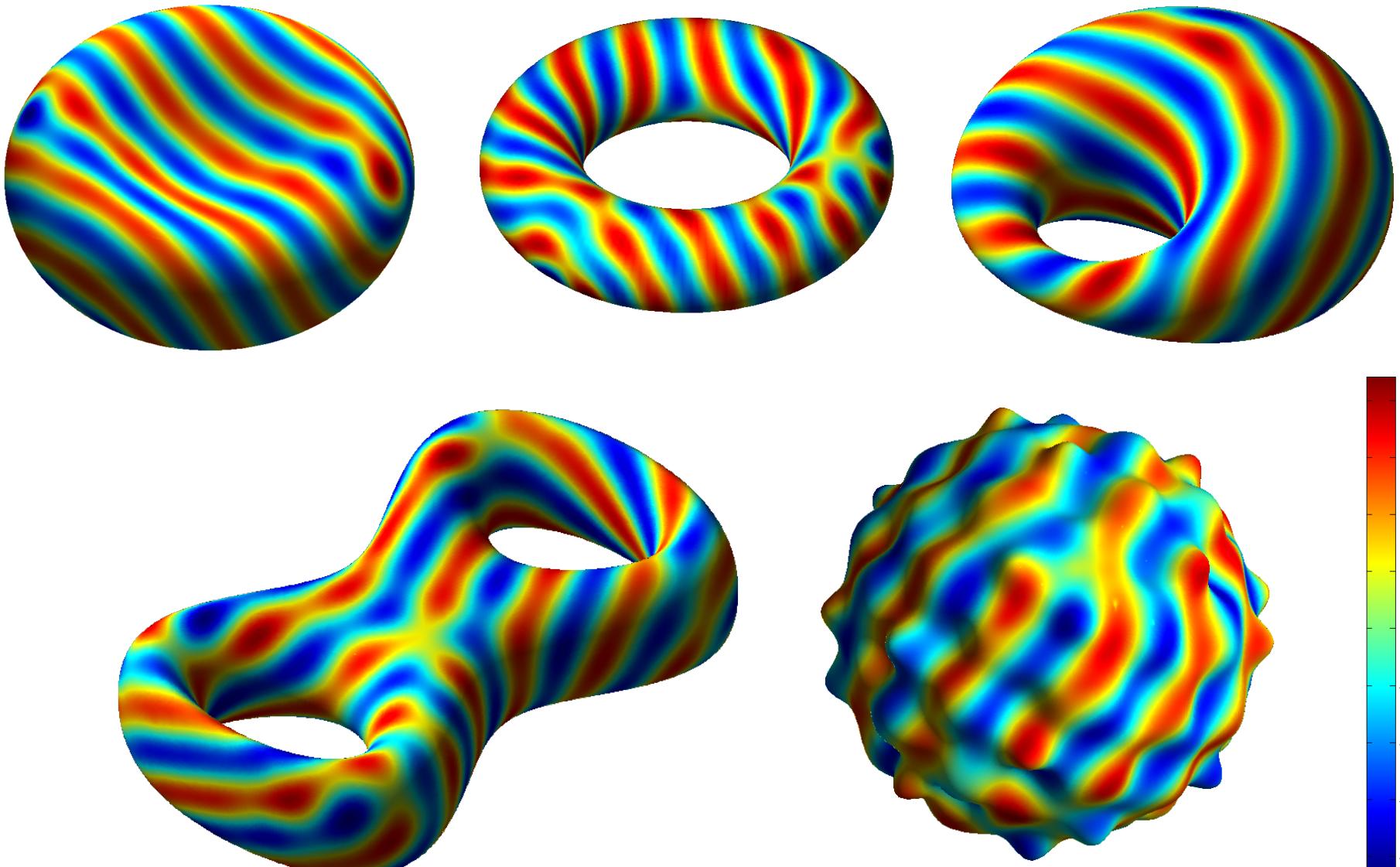
- Numerical solutions: *steady spot* patterns (visualization of  $u$  component)



Initial condition:  $u$  and  $v$  set to random values between  $+/- 0.5$

# Application: Turing patterns

- Numerical solutions: *steady stripe* patterns (visualization of  $u$  component)



Initial condition:  $u$  and  $v$  set to random values between  $+/- 0.5$

# Application: spiral waves in excitable media

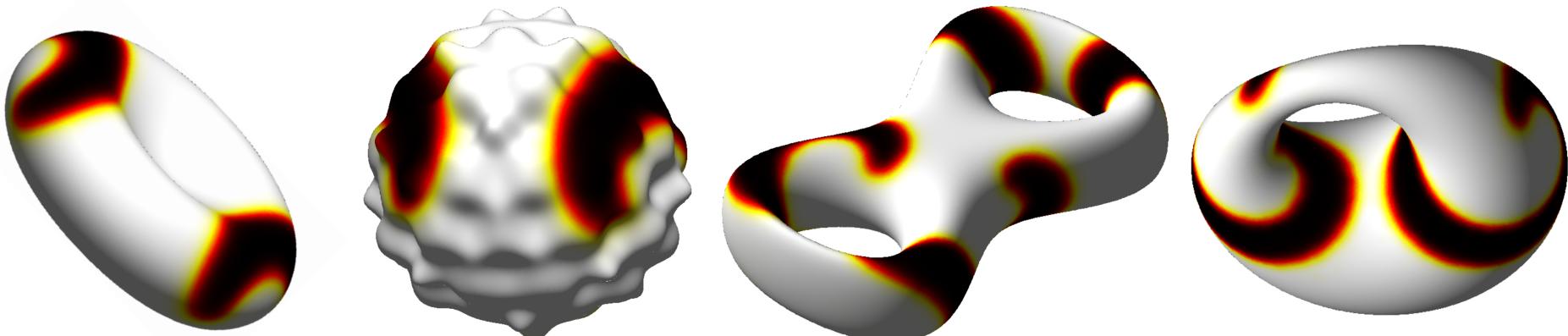
- Example system: Barkley (1991)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \delta_u \Delta_{\mathbb{M}} u + \frac{1}{\epsilon} u (1 - u) \left( u - \frac{v + b}{a} \right) \quad u = \text{activator species}$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \delta_v \Delta_{\mathbb{M}} v + u - v \quad v = \text{inhibitor species}$$

Simplification of [FitzHugh-Nagumo](#) model for a spiking neuron.

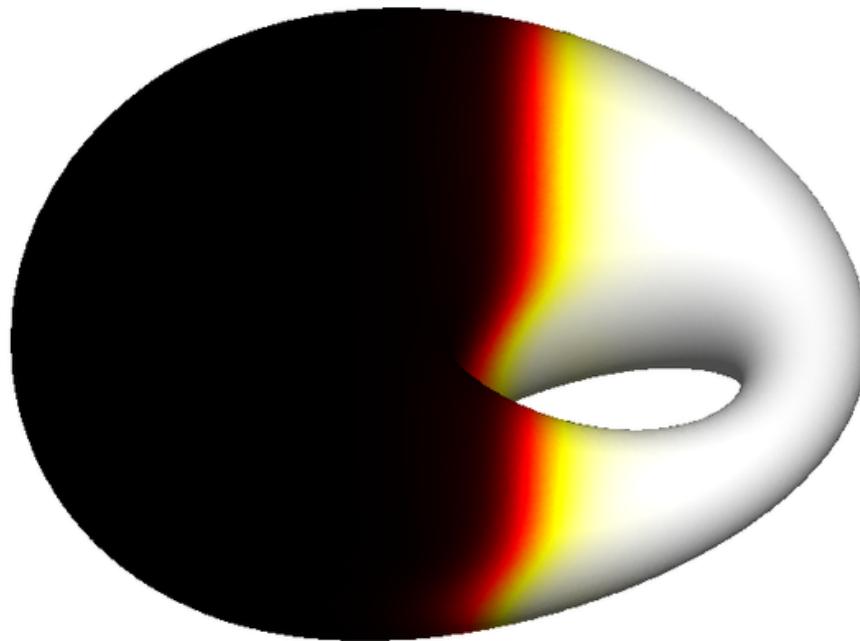
- Studied extensively on [planar regions](#) and somewhat on the [sphere](#).
- Growing interest more [physically relevant](#) domains like [surfaces](#).
- Snapshots from different numerical simulations with our method:



visualization of the  $u$  (activator) component

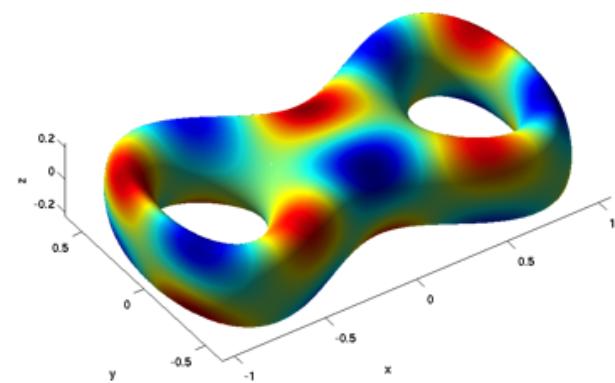
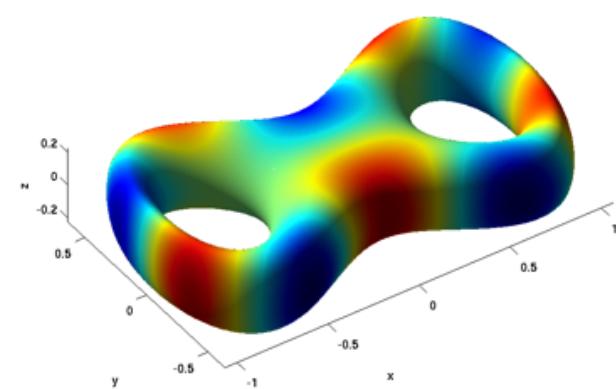
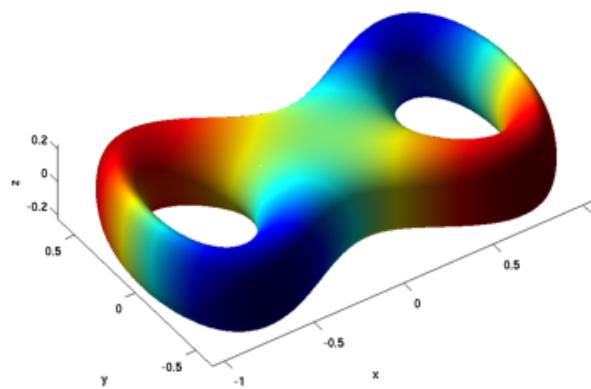
# Application: spiral waves in excitable media

time=0.000000



# Other applications

- The discrete approximation to the surface Laplacian can also be used to approximate the surface harmonics.
- Question: Can one hear the shape of a Bretzel?



- We are presently developing an **RBF-FD** approach to approximating the surface Laplacian (Joint work with PhD student Varun Shankar).
- This will reduce the computational complexity from  $O(N^2)$  per-time step to  $O(N)$ .
- It will also allow us to go use much larger node sets, and handle more complicated surfaces.
- Below is an example of simulations of the Turing model using the RBF-FD method:



- Restricted kernels offer a relatively simple method for interpolation on rather general surfaces.
  - Interpolation error estimates are similar to what you expect from  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .
- Method can be used to approximate surface derivatives in a relatively straightforward manner.
  - These approximation can provide high rates of approximation.
  - Can be used to also solve PDEs to high accuracy.
- Future: Biological Applications
  - PDEs on moving surfaces.
  - PDEs that feed back on the shape of the object.
- Future: Improve computational cost
  - Radial basis finite difference formulas (RBF-FD)
  - Partition of unity methods
  - Localized bases

# Thank you to the organizers

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DRWA 2013  
Lecture 7

