

Are Graphs Manifolds?

1 Graphs

Definition 1.1. Let \mathcal{G} be a connected simplicial complex such that $\dim \mathcal{G} = 1$ and let $\mathcal{V} := \text{Vert} \mathcal{G}$ and $\mathcal{E} := \mathcal{G}^{(1)}$, let $F, G : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ and $f, g : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we want to define a scalar product on $L^2(\mathcal{E})$ and on $L^2(\mathcal{V})$:

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{\mathcal{V}} = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} a_i f_i g_i$$

$$\langle F, G \rangle_{\mathcal{E}} = \sum_{\mathcal{E}} w_{ij} F_{ij} G_{ij} \text{ DO NOT COUNT THE EDGES TWICE!}^*$$

Definition 1.2. $\text{grad} : L^2(\mathcal{V}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathcal{E})$ such that $f \mapsto f_i - f_j$

$\text{div} : L^2(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathcal{V})$ such that $F \mapsto \frac{1}{a_i} \sum_{j:(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} w_{ij} F_{ij}$

Proposition 1.1. $\langle \text{div} F, f \rangle_{\mathcal{V}} = \langle F, \text{grad} f \rangle_{\mathcal{E}}$ if $F_{ij} = -F_{ji}$

Proof. $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} a_i f_i \text{div} F_i = \sum_{\mathcal{E}} w_{ij} F_{ij} (f_i - f_j) = \sum_{i,j:(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} w_{ij} F_{ij} f_i$

then $a_i \text{div} F_i = \sum_{j:(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} w_{ij} F_{ij}$ □

Definition 1.3. $\partial \mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{V} := \{(i, j) \in \mathcal{E} : i \in \mathcal{A}, j \notin \mathcal{A}\}$ the second condition is equivalent to outwards oriented surface

Proposition 1.2. $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}} \text{div} F_i = \sum_{i,j:(i,j) \in \partial \mathcal{A}} F_{ij}$ assuming $a_i = w_{ij} = 1$

Proof. $\sum_{i,j:i \in \mathcal{A}, (i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} = \sum_{i,j:i \in \mathcal{A}, (i,j) \in \mathcal{E}, j \notin \mathcal{A}} + \sum_{i,j:i \in \mathcal{A}, (i,j) \in \mathcal{E}, j \in \mathcal{A}}$

In the second sum the symmetric adjacency matrix kills the antisymmetric F_{ij} , so only the first one remains □