

A fast approximation to $\nabla^2 G_\sigma$ is a scaled version of the difference of two Gaussians with different and carefully selected σ 's.

$$B(G_{\sigma_1} - G_{k\sigma_1})$$

where

$$B = 2 \frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma^4} \frac{k^2}{1 - k^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_1^2 = \sigma^2 \frac{k^2 - 1}{k^2 \ln k^2}$$

and where $1 < k < 2$ gives acceptable approximations.

