

### Vector Fields in Computer Graphics

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### Introduction

# The Bestiary: ambient vs. Intrinsinc Vector Fields, Direction fields, k-RoSy fields....



ambient per face



ambient per vertex



1-RoSy direction field

*RoSy* = *Rotational Symmetry* 



2-RoSy vector field



intrinsic per vertex



*intrinsic per face* 



4-RoSy direction field



4-RoSy vector field



## Integrability / Smooth (tangent) vector fields





 $\Rightarrow$  Notion of parallel transport of vectors on a manifold

- ⇒ Energy model
- ▲ Singularities!!







### Let's comb some bunnies...





### Let's comb some bunnies...





## Let's try simpler shapes...





### Singularities encode the topology

Singularities have rational indices Sum of indices == Euler characteristics  $\sum_i k_i = \chi$ 

N-RoSy fields:  $k_i = n_i/N, n_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ 



+1/2

+1/4

+1



### Singularities encode the topology

Singularities have rational indices

Sum of indices == E

 $\sum_i k_i = \chi$ 

1-fields, or a single +2 one.

N-RoSy fields:  $k_i = n_i/N, n_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ 









 $\chi = 0$ 





 $\chi = -1440$ 



## Controlling a vector field ?

### 1. Add hard / soft constraints on the field per triangle constraints via brushing tools

2. Play with singularities (location+indices)







(a) Smoothest vector field (b) a user-specified stroke



(c) prescribed singularities



(d) both



### Objectives: authoring vector fields



### Objectives: authoring vector fields



### Objectives: authoring vector fields





### QuadMeshes

### 4-RoSy field + meshing

(usually curvature guided, singularities matter)





### Sweet kitty warm kitty little ball of fur...

## 1-RoSy field to control the hair in the tangent plane + extrusion to 3D





### Scales, Feathers, geometries...

## 1-RoSy field to have a consistent local frame + patterns glued to the base maesh



### Example: VF controlled micro-geometries

Base mesh + pattern

- Compute consistent frames using a smooth 1-field with smooth constraints
- Surface sampling
- Oriented instances
- Rendering





## Mathematical background

### Directional/vector fields

1	1-vector field	One vector, classical "vector field"
/	2-direction field	Two directions with $\pi$ symmetry, "line field", "2-RoSy field"
$\succ$	1 <sup>3</sup> -vector field	Three independent vectors, "3- polyvector field"
$\times$	4-vector field	Four vectors with $\pi/2$ symmetry, "non-unit cross field"
$\times$	4-direction field	Four directions with $\pi/2$ symmetry, "unit cross field", "4-RoSy field"
+	$2^2$ -vector field	Two pairs of vectors with $\pi$ symme- try each, "frame field"
$\neq$	2 <sup>2</sup> -direction field	Two pairs of directions with $\pi$ symmetry each, "non-ortho. cross field"
$\rightarrow$	6-direction field	Six directions with $\pi/3$ symmetry, "6-RoSy"
$\times$	$2^3$ -vector field	Three pairs of vectors with $\pi$ symmetry each
$ \times $	2 <sup>3</sup> -vector field	Three pairs of vectors with $\pi$ symmetry each



2-RoSy direction field



2-RoSy vector field



4-direction field



4-vector field



- Smooth 2-manifold  $M, p \in M$
- Tangent space  $T_pM$ : orthogonal subspace of the surface normal of M at p





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- **Projection of a vector** :  $\pi$  :  $TM \rightarrow M$ •
- **Tangent Vector field:**  $\mathbf{v}: M \to TM$  such that  $\pi \circ \mathbf{v} = Id$





### Connections, Parallel Transport...

- Directional derivative:  $V_{\rm v} f$
- **Affine Connection:**

- **Parallel Transport** of a vector  $\mathbf{v}_0$  along a curve  $c : [0,1] \to M$ •
  - $\nabla_{\dot{c}(t)}\mathbf{v}(t) = 0$
  - s.t.  $v(0) = v_0$

 $\nabla_{\mathbf{w}}(f\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2) = (\nabla_{\mathbf{w}}f)\mathbf{v}_1 + f\nabla_{\mathbf{w}}\mathbf{v}_1 + \nabla_{\mathbf{w}}\mathbf{v}_2$  $\nabla_{f\mathbf{w}_1+\mathbf{w}_2}\mathbf{v} = f\nabla_{\mathbf{w}_1}\mathbf{v} + \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_2}\mathbf{v}$ 



• Rienmannian metric  $g = \text{scalar product } \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_p$  on  $T_p M$ 

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• Levi-Civita Connection:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{u}} g(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) = g(\nabla_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) + g(\mathbf{v}, \nabla_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{w})$ 



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 on  $T_p M$ 

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- i.e. scalar product between pairs of vectors does not change when paralleltransported
- linked to geodesic curvature of a curve on M•

$$\langle \cdot \rangle_p$$
 on  $T_p M$ 

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{v},\mathbf{w}) + g(\mathbf{v},\nabla_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{w})$$


### Holonomy

Holomony angle: angle defect when parallel transporting a • vector along a closed curve

Using Levi-Citiva connection: holomony  $\equiv$  integral of the • Gaussian curvature on the patch (mod  $2\pi$ )





• Gradient of a function  $f: VF \ll \operatorname{grad} f \gg$  such that  $\langle \operatorname{grad} f, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} f, \ \forall \mathbf{v} \in TM$ 







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**Gradient of a function** f: VF « grad f » such that •  $\langle \operatorname{grad} f, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} f, \ \forall \mathbf{v} \in TM$ 

**Divergence:** div  $\mathbf{v}(p) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle \nabla_{\mathbf{e}_{i}} \mathbf{v}(p), \mathbf{e}_{i} \rangle$ • i=1

### $(\{\mathbf{e}_i\} \text{ an orthogonal basis of } T_p M)$



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- **Divergence:** div  $\mathbf{v}(p) = \sum \langle \nabla_{\mathbf{e}_i} \mathbf{v}(p), \mathbf{e}_i \rangle$ • i=1
- Curl:  $\operatorname{curl} \mathbf{v} = -\operatorname{div} \mathbf{J} \mathbf{v}$  $J: \mathbf{v} \longmapsto \mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{v}$

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  - $J: \mathbf{v} \longmapsto \mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{v}$



### $(\{\mathbf{e}_i\} \text{ an orthogonal basis of } T_p M)$

# rotation around a point



# Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition



### Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition



 $\mathscr{X} = \operatorname{Image}(\operatorname{grad}) \oplus \operatorname{Image}(\operatorname{J}\operatorname{grad}) \oplus \mathscr{H}$ 





# Fields on patches



### ▲ boundary conditions







# Fields on patches



### ▲ boundary conditions



# Bounary points ≅ singularities or hard constraints







### Fairness of a vector field

• How to evaluate / control the smoothness of a VF?









### **Dirichlet energy**

. |K('PS1.

### Killing energy (self-isometries)

BCBSCIO



**Symmetry/antisymmetry constraints** 

d ABCCOLS



# Computing smooth intrinsic n-RoSy fields



### Discretization issues

• Piecewise constant VF per face vs linearly interpolated VF



Closely related to space of scalar functions







### Lagrange elements

Crouzeix-Raviart elements



### Discretization issues

Piecewise constant VF per face vs linearly interpolated VF



Closely related to Computational efficiency, Discrete Helmotz-Hodge, implicit/explicit singularities...









Lagrange elements

Crouzeix-Raviart elements



# How to compute discrete N-RoSy fields ?

TL;DR: unknowns are one angle per face, big linear operator (matrix) to encode the geometry and topology, minimizing energy  $\Leftrightarrow$  solve linear system or eigendecomposition problem.

### **Globally Optimal Direction Fields**

Felix Knöppel TU Berlin Keenan Crane Caltech Ulrich Pinkall TU Berlin

Eurographics Sympos Olga Sorkine and Bru (Guest Editors)

### **Trivial Connections on Discrete Surfaces**

Keenan Crane<sup>1</sup> and Mathieu Desbrun<sup>1</sup> and Peter Schröder<sup>1,2</sup>

**Spectral Processing of Tangential Vector Fields** 

Christopher Brandt, Leonardo Scandolo, Elmar Eisemann and Klaus Hildebrandt

Delft University of Technology, Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science, The Netherlands {C.Brandt, L.Scandolo, E.Eisemann, K.A.Hildebrandt}@tudelft.nl





# **Two algorithms:**

- one focusing on holonomy
- one based on a PDE approach

# olonomy DE approach

Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing 2010 Olga Sorkine and Bruno Lévy (Guest Editors)

### **Trivial Connections on Discrete Surfaces**

Keenan Crane<sup>1</sup> and Mathieu Desbrun<sup>1</sup> and Peter Schröder<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Computing and Mathematical Sciences, Caltech <sup>2</sup>Institute for Advanced Study, TU München



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### Basis for loops on a surface

### Cycles: contractibles / noncontractibles



 $d_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{|E| imes |V|}$ 

 $(d_0)_{ij} = \begin{cases} \pm 1, & \text{dual edge } i \text{ is contained in dual cell } j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$ 



 $H \in \mathbb{R}^{|E| \times 2g}$ 

 $H_{ij} = \begin{cases} \pm 1, & \text{if dual edge } i \text{ is in generator } j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$ 





# Holonomy, angular defects and trivial connection

Contractibles : Gaussian curvature Non contractibles : holonomie





# Holonomy, angular defects and trivial connection

Contractibles : Gaussian curvature Non contractibles : holonomie





 $z \in \mathbb{R}^{2g}$ 

### Singularities and indices

 $k \in \mathbb{Z}^{|V|+2g}$ Index of a vertex:  $\sum_i k_i = \chi$ New angle defects:  $\tilde{K}_i = K_i - 2k_i\pi$  $\tilde{z}_i = z_i - 2k_i\pi$ n-RoSy fields:  $k_i = n_i/N, n_i \in$ 

### (Euler)

$$[\tilde{K}\tilde{z}]^T$$

$$\mathbb{Z}$$

### Solve

# $\min_{x} ||x||_2 \quad s$

### A unique solution exists, using a projection onto the kernel:

Ax = -b $x^* = \tilde{x} - d_1^T (d_1 d_1^T)^{-1} d_1 \tilde{x}$ 

s.t. 
$$Ax = -b$$
,

### The Vector Heat Method

### NICHOLAS SHARP, YOUSUF SOLIMAN, and KEENAN CRANE, Carnegie Mellon University

This paper describes a method for efficiently computing parallel transport of tangent vectors on curved surfaces, or more generally, any vector-valued data on a curved manifold. More precisely, it extends a vector field defined over any region to the rest of the domain via parallel transport along shortest geodesics. This basic operation enables fast, robust algorithms for extrapolating level set velocities, inverting the exponential map, computing geometric medians and Karcher/Fréchet means of arbitrary distributions, constructing centroidal Voronoi diagrams, and finding consistently ordered landmarks. Rather than evaluate parallel transport by explicitly tracing geodesics, we show that it can be computed via a short-time heat flow involving the con*nection Laplacian*. As a result, transport can be achieved by solving three prefactored linear systems, each akin to a standard Poisson problem. Moreover, to implement the method we need only a discrete connection Laplacian, which we describe for a variety of geometric data structures (point clouds, polygon meshes, etc.). We also study the numerical behavior of our method, showing empirically that it converges under refinement, and augment the construction of intrinsic Delaunay triangulations (iDT) so that they can be used in the context of tangent vector field processing.

### CCS: • Mathematics of computing → Discretization; Partial differential equations; • Computing methodologies → Shape analysis;

Additional Key Words and Phrases: discrete differential geometry, parallel transport velocity extrapolation logarithmic map exponential map Karcher



### Prelim: Heat diffusion







# $\Delta u$ subject to $u(x,0) = u_0(x)$

# Discrete Laplace Operator in 2D



 $\ln \mathbb{R}^2, \quad \Delta f(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$ 

# Discrete Laplace Operator in 2D



In 
$$\mathbb{R}^2$$
,  $\Delta f(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$ 

In  $[0,n]^2$ , with 1st order finite diff. appRox.

$$Lf(x, y) = f(x + 1, y) + f(x - 1, y)$$
$$+f(x, y + 1) + f(x, y - 1)$$
$$-4f(x, y)$$

# Discrete Laplace Operator in 2D



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$$+f(x, y + 1) + f(x, y - 1)$$
$$-4f(x, y)$$

 $L \in \mathbb{R}^{|V| \times |V|}$ L(i, j) = 1 if i is adjacent to jL(i, i) = degree(i)

### Discrete Heat Equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u \quad \Rightarrow \quad (id - t\Delta)u_t = u_0 \quad \text{(backwas})$$

Solve a (sparse) linear system  $(Id - tL)u_t = u_0$ 



 $u_t = (Id - tL)^{-1}u_0$ 

### vard Euler)

### Laplace-Beltrami operator on surfaces

### $\tilde{L} \in \mathbb{R}^{|V| \times |V|}$

$$\tilde{L}(i,j) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \cot(\alpha_{ij}) + \cot(\beta_{ij}) \right) \text{ if } i \text{ is adjacent } \tilde{L}(i,i) = -\sum_{j} L(i,j)$$

weak form of the laplacian, Heat equation becomes

$$(M + t\tilde{L})u_t = u_0$$

triangle areas



```
if (ImGui::Button("Heat diffusion"))
{
 //Sources
 u0[mesh->vertex(2714)] = 42.0;
 u0[mesh->vertex(1613)] = 17;
 //We solve are solving the Poisson problem
 SquareSolver<double> heatSolver(Poisson);
  auto ut = heatSolver.solve(u0.toVector());
 //Display
 utQ.fromVector(ut);
  polyscope::getSurfaceMesh()->addQuantity("u_t", utQ);
```

```
polyscope::getSurfaceMesh()->addQuantity("u_0", u0);
```

### Eigen::SparseMatrix<double> Poisson = (massMatrix + delta\*laplacian); //same as (Id - tL)



### Heat kernel ~ geodesic distances



# Connection Laplacian and Vector Heat equation

 $\Delta^{\nabla}$  is the connection Laplacian (second derivative of vector fields)





Vector heat kernel behaves like parallel transport along geodesics!

ation: 
$$\frac{d}{dt}X_t = \Delta^{\nabla}X_t$$

$$+ tL^{\nabla})Y = Y_0$$





### Vector Heat Method [Sharp et al 2019]

### ALGORITHM 1: Vector Heat Method

**Input:** A vector field *X* supported on a subset  $\Omega \subset M$  of the domain *M*. **Output:** A vector field  $\overline{X}$  on all of *M*.

- I. Integrate the vector heat flow
- II. Integrate the scalar heat flow  $\frac{1}{6}$
- III. Integrate the scalar heat flow -
- IV. Evaluate the vector field  $\overline{X}_t$  =

$$\frac{d}{dt}Y_t = \Delta \nabla Y_t \text{ for time } t, \text{ with } Y_0 = X.$$
  

$$\frac{d}{dt}u_t = \Delta u_t \text{ for time } t, \text{ with } u_0 = |X|.$$
  

$$\frac{d}{dt}\phi_t = \Delta \phi_t \text{ for time } t, \text{ with } \phi_0 = \mathbb{1}_{\Omega}.$$
  

$$u_t Y_t / \phi_t |Y_t|.$$

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- III. Integrate the scalar heat flow -
- IV. Evaluate the vector field  $\overline{X}_t =$

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$$\frac{d}{dt}u_t = \Delta u_t \text{ for time } t, \text{ with } u_0 = |X|.$$
  

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Heat diffusion on scalars 🥹


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# Vector Heat Method in Euclidean domains

- $Y_0$ : input vectors
- $u_0$ : input vector norms
- $\phi_0$ : Diracs at vector positions

Solve 4 (sparse) Poisson problems

$$(Id - tL)u = u_0 \qquad (Id - tL)\phi = \phi_0$$
$$(Id - tL)Y^x = Y_0^x \qquad (Id - tL)Y^y = Y_0^y$$
$$\Rightarrow \bar{Y} = \frac{u}{\phi} \cdot \frac{Y}{\|Y\|}$$

 $(\Delta^{\nabla} \equiv \Delta \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d)$ 



(toroidal boundary conditions (19))



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Static (prefactorized solver)

```
int W=512,H=512;
Eigen::SparseMatrix<double> lap(W*H,W*H);
Eigen::SparseMatrix<double> Id(W*H,W*H);
Id.setIdentity();
Eigen::Vector2d u_0(W*H);
Eigen::Vector2d phi_0(W*H);
Eigen::Vector2d v_x0(W*H);
Eigen::Vector2d v_y0(W*H);
//Single vector source
v_x0[123] = 1.0;
v_y0[123] = 1.0;
u_0[123] = std::sqrt(2.0); // norm
phi_0[123]= 1.0; //diracs
//Lap
for(auto i=0; i < W*H; ++i)</pre>
  for(auto j=0; j< H*W; ++j)</pre>
    lap.coeffRef(i, j) = -4.0;
    if (adjacent(i,j))
      lap.coeffRef(i,j) = 1.0;
  }
//Solve
SquareSolver<double> solver(Id - t*lap);
auto u_t = solver.solve(u_0);
auto phi_t = solver.solve(phi_0);
auto v_xt = solver.solve(v_x0);
auto v_yt = solver.solve(v_y0);
Eigen::Vector2d final_x(W*H);
Eigen::Vector2d final_y(W*H);
for(auto i=0; i < W*H; ++i)</pre>
  final_x[i] = v_xt[i] / std::sqrt((v_xt[i]*v_xt[i] + v_yt[i]*v_yt[i])) * u_t[i] / phi_t[i];
  final_y[i] = v_yt[i] / std::sqrt((v_xt[i]*v_xt[i] + v_yt[i]*v_yt[i])) * u_t[i] / phi_t[i];
```

### Discrete Connection Laplacian

Intrinsic vector per vertex = a complex number  $z = re^{i\theta}$ 

 $L^{\nabla} \in \mathbb{C}^{|V| \times |V|}$ 

 $L^{\nabla}(i,j) = r_{ij} \cdot \tilde{L}(i,j)$  if *i* is adjacent to *j*  $L^{\nabla}(i,i) = \tilde{L}(i,i)$  $r_{ij} = e^{\phi_{ji} + \pi - \phi_i j}$ 

#### $(L^{v} \text{ is sparse!})$





```
//Connection Laplacian
connectionLaplacian=Eigen::SparseMatrix<Complex> (laplacian.cast<std::complex<double>>());
for(auto edge: mesh->edges())
```

```
auto he = edge.halfedge();
Complex r_ij = gc.vertexTransportCoefs[ he ];
auto i = gc.vertexIndices[ he.vertex() ];
auto j = gc.vertexIndices[ he.twin().vertex() ];
connectionLaplacian.coeffRef(i, j) = connectionLaplacian.coeffRef(i, j)*inv(r_ij);
connectionLaplacian.coeffRef(j, i) = connectionLaplacian.coeffRef(j, i)*(r_ij);
```





#### Heat Vector Field

2 linear solves on real numbers + 1 solve on complex numbers

 $(M + t\tilde{L})u = u_0 \qquad (M + t\tilde{L})\phi = \phi_0$  $(M + tL^{\nabla})Y = Y_0$  $\Rightarrow \bar{Y} = \frac{u}{\phi} \cdot \frac{Y}{\|Y\|}$ 

```
//Two vectors
vf0[mesh->vertex(1613)] = (double)scale* std::exp((double)theta*IM_I);
vf0[mesh->vertex(2714)] = (double)scale* std::exp((double)theta*IM_I);
//Vector norms
u0[mesh->vertex(2714)] = std::abs(vf0[mesh->vertex(2714)]);
u0[mesh->vertex(1613)] = std::abs(vf0[mesh->vertex(1613)]);
//Diracs
phi0[mesh->vertex(2714)] = 1.0;
phi0[mesh->vertex(1613)] = 1.0;
//Solve
auto ut = solver->solve(u0.toVector());
auto Y = solverConnection->solve(vf0.toVector());
auto phi = solver->solve(phi0.toVector());
//Final
for(auto v: mesh->vertices())
 YfinalQ2[v] = YQ[v] / std::abs(YQ[v]) * utQ[v] / phiQ[v];
```



#### Heat Vector Field

2 linear solves on real numbers + 1 solve on complex numbers

 $(M + t\tilde{L})u = u_0 \qquad (M + t\tilde{L})\phi = \phi_0$  $(M + tL^{\nabla})Y = Y_0$  $\Rightarrow \bar{Y} = \frac{u}{\phi} \cdot \frac{Y}{\|Y\|}$ 

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u0[mesh->vertex(2714)] = std::abs(vf0[mesh->vertex(2714)]);
u0[mesh->vertex(1613)] = std::abs(vf0[mesh->vertex(1613)]);
//Diracs
phi0[mesh->vertex(2714)] = 1.0;
phi0[mesh->vertex(1613)] = 1.0;
//Solve
auto ut = solver->solve(u0.toVector());
auto Y = solverConnection->solve(vf0.toVector());
auto phi = solver->solve(phi0.toVector());
//Final
for(auto v: mesh->vertices())
 YfinalQ2[v] = YQ[v] / std::abs(YQ[v]) * utQ[v] / phiQ[v];
```



#### < Demo >

:00 -100 



#### < Demo >

:00 -100 





# Further readings

Similarly to Laplace-Beltrami for scalar functions, VF • admits a spectral decomposition (and eigenvector basis)

• N-polyvector fields



VF interpretation of optimal transport  $(\mathcal{W}_1)$ 



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