Digital Geometry Processing (236329)
Homework #3
Due date: 11/05/2015

Introduction

In this assignment you will compute discrete differential geometry operators and curvature quantities. Moreover, you will perform some analysis on the resulting differential operators.

Objectives

1. Vector field visualization: implement a function which allows the user to visualize general vector fields on surfaces. In addition, your code should support visualizing a function on top of the vector field. Tip: hold on/off, quiver3.

2. Discrete differential operators: follow the constructions we showed in class and implement functions which take a mesh and return the differential operators $\text{grad}$, $\text{div}$ and $L$. Add to your report snapshots of the gradient and divergence of several functions and vector fields for various meshes.

3. Vertex normals: compute a normal field on vertices $n_V$ through the normalization of $\tilde{n}_V(i) = \sum_j A_F(j) n_F(j)$, where $i$ is a vertex and the sum runs over the neighboring faces with associated areas $A_F$ and normals $n_F$. Namely, $n_V(i) = \tilde{n}_V(i)/||\tilde{n}_V(i)||$.

4. Mean and Gaussian curvatures: implement functions which compute the mean and Gaussian curvatures. Verify your code by using it on a couple of meshes and add the results to the report.

Analysis

1. Properties of the cotangent weights matrix: in the tutorial we defined $W = \frac{1}{4} E^T G_F^{-1} E$ to be the cotangent weights matrix. Follow the paper “Discrete Laplace Operators: No free lunch” by Wardetzky et al. and show numerically which properties $W$ obtain. Specifically, you should show
   - (NULL) $W f = 0$, whenever $f$ is a constant function, e.g., compute the norm of $W f$ for various meshes and attach the results to your report.
   - (SYM) $W$ is a symmetric matrix, e.g., compute $\|W - W^T\|_F$ for various meshes, where $\|\cdot\|_F$ is the Frobenius norm.
   - (LOC) $W$ is sparse, e.g., compute the non-zero elements of $W$. How this value is related to the number of edges $|E|$?
   - (POS) Unfortunately, $W$ is not positive. Show it for various meshes. Tip: which triangles have negative cotangent weights?
   - (PSD) $W$ is positive semi-definite and you should show it for a couple of meshes. Tip: $\text{eigs}$ with parameters ‘sm’ and ‘lm’.

The paper describes additional properties (LIN) and (CON), but you can ignore them for now.
2. Representation using a reduced basis: in this section we will investigate how discrete functions can be approximated using a reduced smooth basis. To this end, you will compute a basis for functions of different sizes $k_i$ and then, you will project a function onto this basis and measure the error per $i$. Specifically, you should implement the following,

- A smooth basis: given a positive scalar $k_i$, compute the eigendecomposition of $W$ to $k_i$ eigenvectors. We denote the result by $B_i \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{V}| \times k_i}$. Tip: eigs with ‘sm’ and $k_i$. In your report, please include a snapshot of the first 9 eigenfunctions corresponding to the lowest eigenvalues on a couple of meshes.
- Take a “hard-to-represent” function $f$, e.g., a hat function (1 in one vertex and zero everywhere else) or the eigenvector corresponding to the biggest eigenvalue.
- Project $f$ onto $B_i$ and back: this can be achieved simply by computing $g_i = B_i (B_i^T f)$, where the parentheses are important.
- Compute the norm of $g_i - f$.
- Repeat the process for various $k_i$, e.g., spanned linearly between 10 to 300 with jumps of 20. Add the resulting graph of pairs $(k_i, \|g_i - f\|)$ to your report with snapshots of the desired function and some of its approximations. Tip: you can precompute $B$ for the highest $k$ and take only some its vectors for each computation.

**Submission**

The HW can be done in either pairs or singles. Please submit a single **zip** file containing your report and MATLAB code using the electronic submission button in the course’s website. For evaluation of your work, we will mainly focus on the attached report, please consider it while composing your report and strive to make it as detailed as possible.

Good Luck!