

Sampling on Manifolds

Z. Guo, N. Gajate, J. Khan, K. Nguyen, Z. Zhou.

Supervised by
S. Kleene

University of Rochester

August 10, 2025

DEFINITION

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. The **Fourier transform** of f is defined by

$$\hat{f}(m) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \chi(-mx) dx, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

where $\chi(t) = e^{(2\pi it)}$.

DEFINITION

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. The **Fourier transform** of f is defined by

$$\hat{f}(m) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \chi(-mx) dx, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

where $\chi(t) = e^{(2\pi it)}$.

REMARK (FOURIER INVERSION AND PLANCHEREL)

We have

$$f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(m) \chi(xm) dm, \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)|^2 dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\hat{f}(m)|^2 dm.$$

DEFINITION (SUPPORT)

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, then the support of f is $\text{supp}(f) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : f(x) \neq 0\}$.

DEFINITION (SUPPORT)

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, then the support of f is $\text{supp}(f) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : f(x) \neq 0\}$.

THEOREM (CLASSICAL UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE)

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be supported in a subset $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ and let \hat{f} be supported in a subset $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$. Then

$$|E| \cdot |S| \geq c > 0,$$

where $|\cdot|$ is the d -dimensional Lebesgue measure.

FIGURE: Uncertainty Principle

source: <https://brilliant.org/wiki/heisenberg-uncertainty-principle/>

- ▶ However, the definition of support is too restrictive. Many functions of interest are never exactly zero anywhere (i.e., Gaussians).

- ▶ However, the definition of support is too restrictive. Many functions of interest are never exactly zero anywhere (i.e., Gaussians).
- ▶ So concentration can be seen as a relaxed version of support, and the following definition will be used throughout the presentation in different settings.

- ▶ However, the definition of support is too restrictive. Many functions of interest are never exactly zero anywhere (i.e., Gaussians).
- ▶ So concentration can be seen as a relaxed version of support, and the following definition will be used throughout the presentation in different settings.

DEFINITION (CONCENTRATION)

Let (X, μ) be a measure space, and let $E \subset X$. We say that $f \in L^p(X, \mu)$ is *L^p -concentrated on E at level ϵ* if

$$\|f - \mathbf{1}_E f\|_{L^p(X)} \leq \epsilon \|f\|_{L^p(X)}, \quad \text{for some } 0 \leq \epsilon < 1. \quad (1)$$

DEFINITION

An **n -dimensional manifold** is a topological space M such that each point $p \in M$ has a neighborhood homeomorphic to an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n .

DEFINITION

An **n -dimensional manifold** is a topological space M such that each point $p \in M$ has a neighborhood homeomorphic to an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n .

- ▶ Locally Euclidean, but the global shape can be curved or twisted.
- ▶ **Hausdorff Space:** the points can be “separated” in the topology
- ▶ **Charts:** coordinate maps from pieces of M to \mathbb{R}^n .
- ▶ **Second Countable:** there is a countable basis for the topology.
- ▶ **Locally Euclidean:** This means that $\forall p \in M$ there is some set open set $U \subset M$ where $p \in U$ and open $\hat{U} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathbf{x} : U \rightarrow \hat{U}$ is a homeomorphism.
- ▶ Examples: \mathbb{R}^n , sphere S^n , torus \mathbb{T}^n .

DEFINITION

A **derivation**, v , at a point $p \in M$, is a linear function which assigns each smooth function on M to a real number in \mathbb{R} in such a way that the product rule holds ($v(fg) = f(p)v(g) + g(p)v(f)$). The set of all such derivations is the **Tangent Space**, T_pM . This captures the idea of tangent vectors to a manifold.

In the case of surfaces from \mathbb{R}^2 to \mathbb{R}^3 dealt with in the examples later, there is an easier interpretation. Take some point $p \in M$, $w \in \mathbb{R}^2$, and some chart covering that point $\mathbf{x} : U \rightarrow \hat{U}$ where $\mathbf{x}(q) = p$. Then take some curve $\alpha : (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow M$ such that $\alpha(0) = q$ and $\alpha'(0) = v$. Then, define $d\mathbf{x}_p(w) := (\mathbf{x} \circ \alpha)'(0)$. Then the tangent space at a point p is given by $T_p M := d\mathbf{x}_p(\mathbb{R}^2)$.

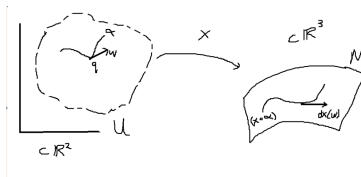


FIGURE: Showing how vectors are “pushed forward” from \mathbb{R}^2 to \mathbb{R}^3

DEFINITION

A **Riemannian manifold** (M, g) is a manifold equipped with a smoothly varying inner product g_p on each tangent space $T_p M$.

In further examples, the surfaces we deal with all have the property that, given the chart $\mathbf{x}(u, v)$ that \mathbf{x}_u and \mathbf{x}_v are linearly independent and form a basis for the tangent space. Since the inner product is a bilinear form, this has a symmetric matrix associated with it given by:

$$g_p = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle & \langle \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle & \langle \mathbf{x}_v, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Evaluated such that $\mathbf{x}(u, v) = p$.

DEFINITION

A **Riemannian manifold** (M, g) is a manifold equipped with a smoothly varying inner product g_p on each tangent space $T_p M$.

In further examples, the surfaces we deal with all have the property that, given the chart $\mathbf{x}(u, v)$ that \mathbf{x}_u and \mathbf{x}_v are linearly independent and form a basis for the tangent space. Since the inner product is a bilinear form, this has a symmetric matrix associated with it given by:

$$g_p = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle & \langle \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle & \langle \mathbf{x}_v, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Evaluated such that $\mathbf{x}(u, v) = p$.

- ▶ g lets us measure lengths, angles, and volumes.
- ▶ Examples:
 - ▶ S^2 with the round metric.
 - ▶ Flat torus $\mathbb{T}^2 = \mathbb{R}^2 / \mathbb{Z}^2$ with Euclidean metric.
- ▶ With g , we can define the Laplace–Beltrami operator.

DEFINITION

Let (M, g) be a compact Riemannian manifold without boundary. The **Laplace–Beltrami operator** is

$$\Delta_g f = |g|^{-1/2} \partial_i \left(|g|^{1/2} g^{ij} \partial_j f \right),$$

where (g^{ij}) is the inverse matrix and $|g|$ its determinant.

- ▶ Self-adjoint and negative-definite on $L^2(M)$.
- ▶ Eigenfunctions e_j satisfy $\Delta_g e_j = -\lambda_j^2 e_j$.

- ▶ For each eigenvalue λ , the **eigenspace**

$$E_\lambda = \{e_j : \lambda_j = \lambda\}$$

has dimension $\#\{j : \lambda_j = \lambda\}$ (the multiplicity of λ).

- ▶ $\{e_j\}$ can be chosen orthonormal in $L^2(M)$:

$$\int_M e_j(x) \overline{e_k(x)} dV_g(x) = \delta_{jk}.$$

- ▶ The pointwise sum

$$S_\lambda(x) = \sum_{j: \lambda_j = \lambda} |e_j(x)|^2$$

measures the total “energy density” of that eigenspace at x .

THEOREM

Let S be a finite subset of the set of eigenvalues of $\sqrt{-\Delta_g}$. Let $X_S = \{j : \lambda_j \in S\}$. Suppose that $f \in L^2(M)$ is not identically zero and that f is L^2 -concentrated in $E \subset M$ at level L with respect to the Riemannian volume density. Suppose also that \hat{f} is L^2 -concentrated on X_S at level L' with respect to the counting measure. Then

$$\left(\frac{1}{\#X_S} \sum_{j \in X_S} \frac{1}{|E|} \int_E |e_j(x)|^2 dx \right)^{-1} \leq \frac{|E| \cdot \#X_S}{(1 - \epsilon - \epsilon')^2},$$

where

$$L = (1 - \epsilon^2)^{-1/2} \quad \text{and} \quad L' = (1 - \epsilon'^2)^{-1/2}.$$

MAIN EQUATION

For each eigenvalue λ ,

$$\sum_{j: \lambda_j = \lambda} |e_j(x)|^2 \equiv c \quad \text{a.e. } x \in M,$$

with c independent of x .

This, thus will lead to the following relation:

RELATION

$$\frac{1}{\#\{j : \lambda_j \in S\}} \sum_{\lambda_j \in S} \frac{1}{|E|} \int_E |e_j(x)|^2 = \frac{1}{|M|}$$

Combined with the aforementioned theorem, we get an alternative version of the uncertainty principle below:

ALTERED UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE

$$(1 - \epsilon - \epsilon')^2 \leq \frac{|E|}{|M|} \cdot \#X_S$$

- ▶ Our goal is to understand when the constant-sum property

$$S_\lambda(x) = \sum_{j: \lambda_j = \lambda} |e_j(x)|^2 \quad \text{is constant in } x$$

holds.

- ▶ Our goal is to understand when the constant-sum property

$$S_\lambda(x) = \sum_{j: \lambda_j = \lambda} |e_j(x)|^2 \quad \text{is constant in } x$$

holds.

- ▶ Rather than start with a general manifold, we first explore *simple, symmetric surfaces*:
 - ▶ **Flat torus** \mathbb{T}^2 .
 - ▶ **Sphere** S^2 .
 - ▶ **Spheroids**.

- 1 Choose a surface.
- 2 Compute L^2 -normalized eigenfunctions for a fixed eigenvalue.
- 3 Evaluate $\sum_{j: \lambda_j = \lambda} |e_j(x)|^2$ on a grid for some fixed λ .
- 4 Test if the range is constant.

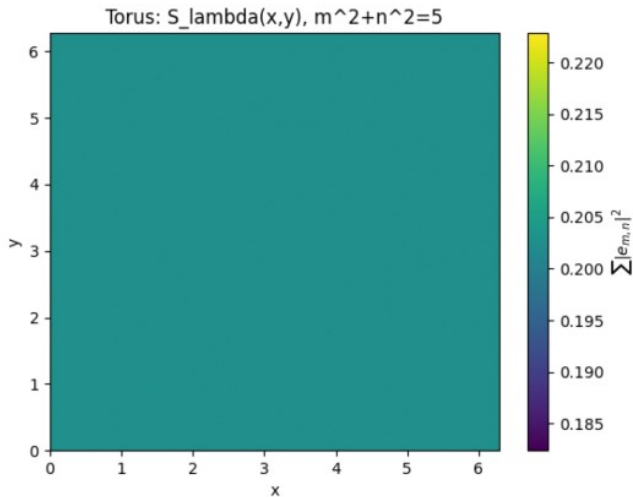


FIGURE: Sum over a torus

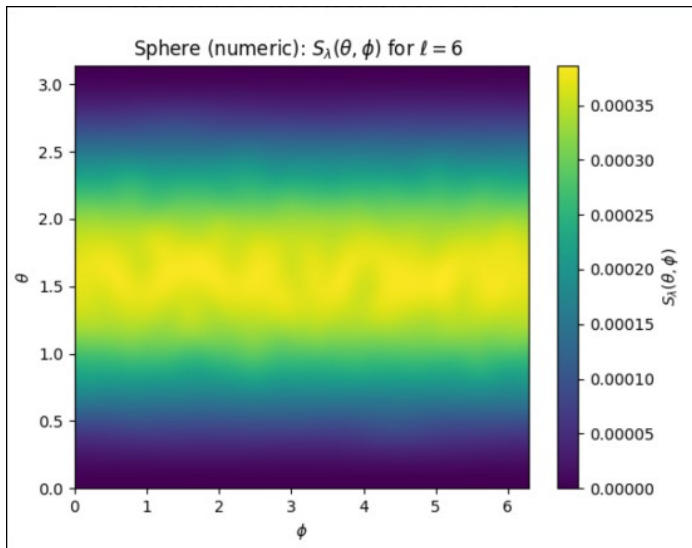


FIGURE: Sum over a sphere

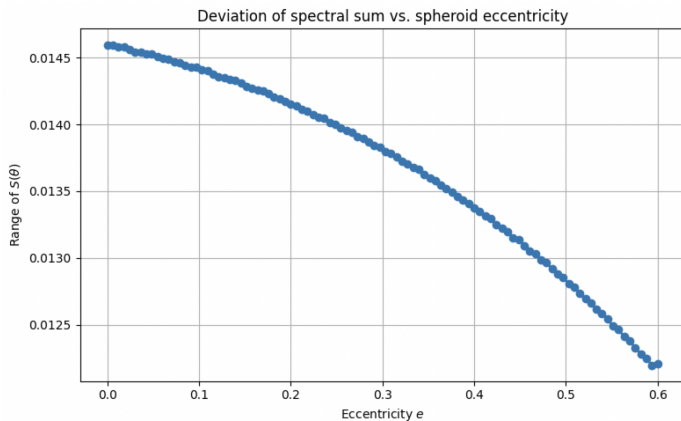


FIGURE: Sum over a spheroid

We conjecture that

$$\sum_{j: \lambda_j = \lambda} |e_j(x)|^2 \equiv c \quad \text{a.e. } x \in M,$$

For this family of surfaces as we see that we stay somewhat constant throughout these three surfaces, but more data testing for other surfaces is needed before proving this conjecture.