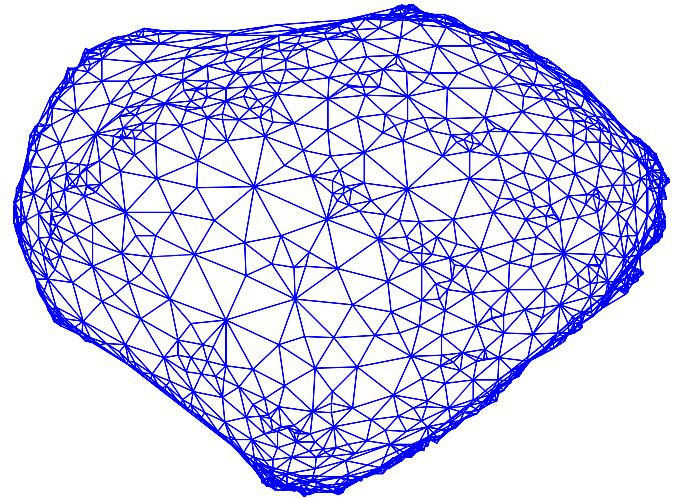
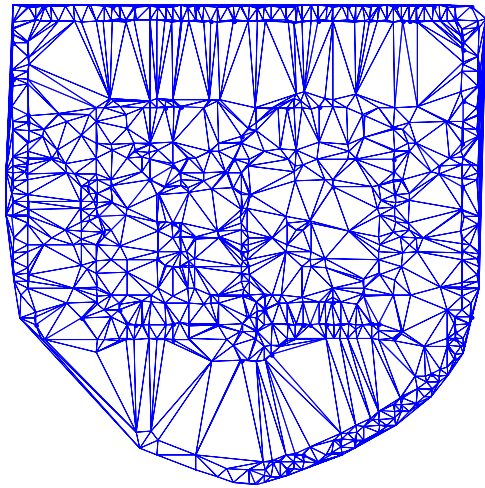


# Spectral Graph Theory and its Applications



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# Outline

Adjacency matrix and Laplacian

Intuition, spectral graph drawing

Physical intuition

Isomorphism testing

Random walks

Graph Partitioning and clustering

Distributions of eigenvalues and compression

Computation

# What I'm Skipping

Matrix-tree theorem.

Most of algebraic graph theory.

Special graphs (e.g. Cayley graphs).

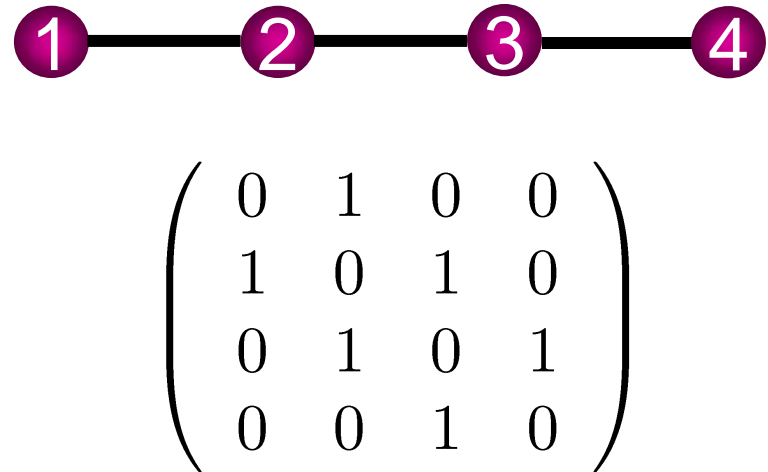
Connections to codes and designs.

Lots of work by theorists.

**Expanders.**

# The Adjacency Matrix

$$A(i, j) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i, j) \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



$\lambda$  is eigenvalue and  $v$  is eigenvector if

$$Av = \lambda v$$

Think of  $v \in \mathbb{R}^V$ , or even better  $v : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Symmetric  $\rightarrow$   $n$  real eigenvalues and  
real eigenvectors form orthonormal basis

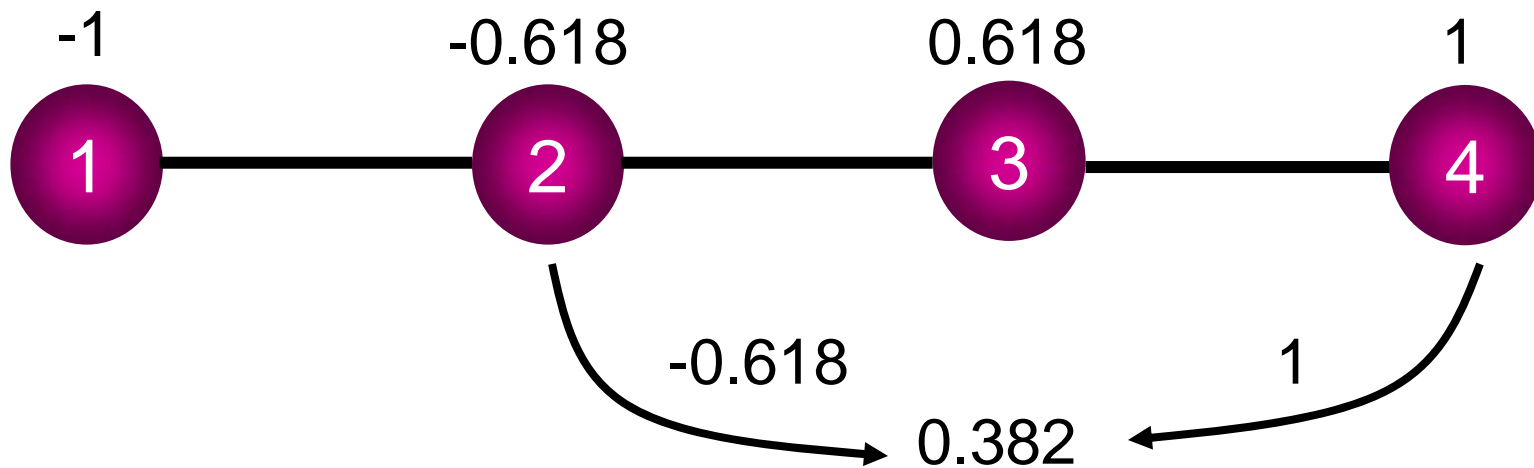
# Example

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -0.618 \\ 0.618 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0.618 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -0.618 \\ 0.618 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Example

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -0.618 \\ 0.618 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0.618 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -0.618 \\ 0.618 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$









# Operators and Quadratic Forms

View of  $A$  as an operator:

$$y = Ax \qquad y(i) = \sum_{j:(i,j) \in E} x(j)$$

View of  $A$  as quadratic form:

$$x^T Ax = \sum_{(i,j) \in E} x(i)x(j)$$

if  $Ax = \lambda x$  and  $\|x\| = 1$  then  $x^T Ax = \lambda$

# Laplacian: natural quadratic form on graphs

$$x^T Lx = \sum_{(i,j) \in E} (x(i) - x(j))^2$$

$L = D - A$  where  $D$  is diagonal matrix of degrees

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Laplacian: fast facts

$L\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{0}$       so, zero is an eigenvalue

$$0 = \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n$$

If  $k$  connected components,  $0 = \lambda_k < \lambda_{k+1}$

Fiedler ('73) called  $\lambda_2$

“algebraic connectivity of a graph”

The further from 0, the more connected.

# Embedding graph in line (Hall '70)

map  $V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

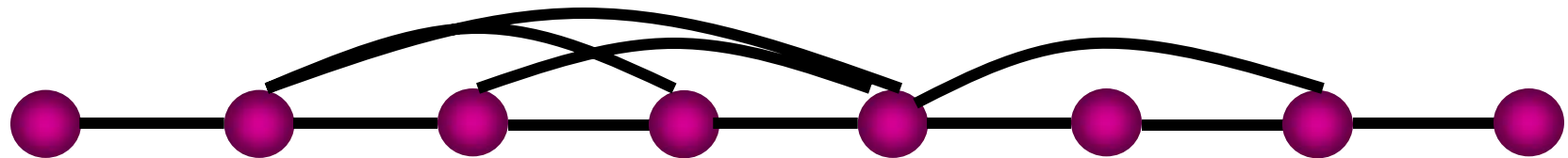
$$\text{minimize } \sum_{(i,j) \in E} (x(i) - x(j))^2 = x^T L x$$

trivial solution:  $x = \mathbf{1}$     So, require  $x \perp \mathbf{1}$

Solution  $x = v_2$

Atkins, Boman, Hendrickson '97:

Gives correct embedding for graphs like



# Courant-Fischer definition of eigvals/vecs

$$\lambda_1 = \min_{x \neq 0} \frac{x^T L x}{x^T x} \quad v_1 = \arg \min_{x \neq 0} \frac{x^T L x}{x^T x}$$

$$\lambda_2 = \min_{x \perp v_1} \frac{x^T L x}{x^T x} \quad v_2 = \arg \min_{x \perp v_1} \frac{x^T L x}{x^T x}$$

(here  $v_1 = 1$ )

$$\lambda_k = \min_{S \text{ of dim } k} \max_{x \in S} \frac{x^T L x}{x^T x}$$

$$v_k = \arg \min_{x \perp v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}} \frac{x^T L x}{x^T x}$$

# Embedding graph in plane (Hall '70)

map  $V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$   $\vec{x}(i) \in \mathbb{R}^2$

minimize  $\sum_{(i,j) \in E} (\text{dist}(\vec{x}(i), \vec{x}(j)))^2$

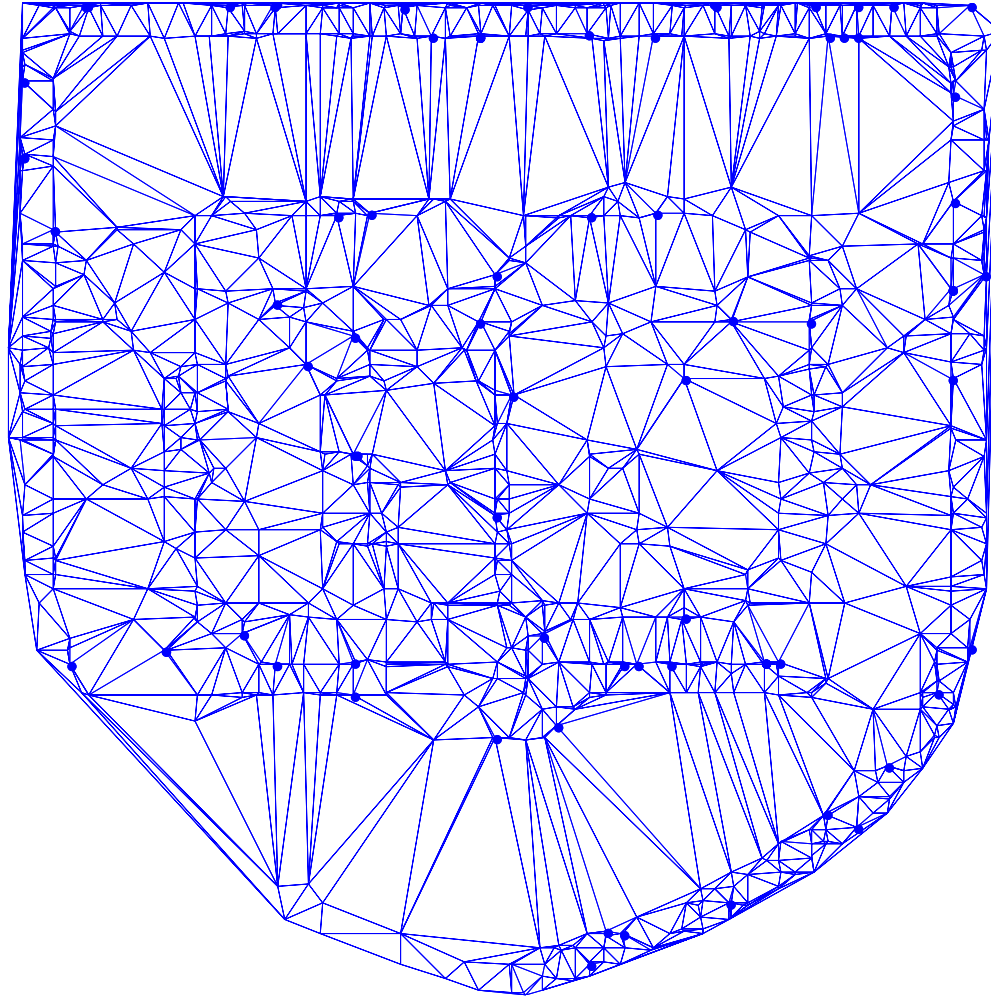
~~trivial solution:  $\vec{x}(i) = (1, 1)$  So, require  $\sum_i \vec{x}(i) = \mathbf{0}$~~

~~degenerate solution:  $\vec{x}(i) = (v_2(i), v_2(i))$~~

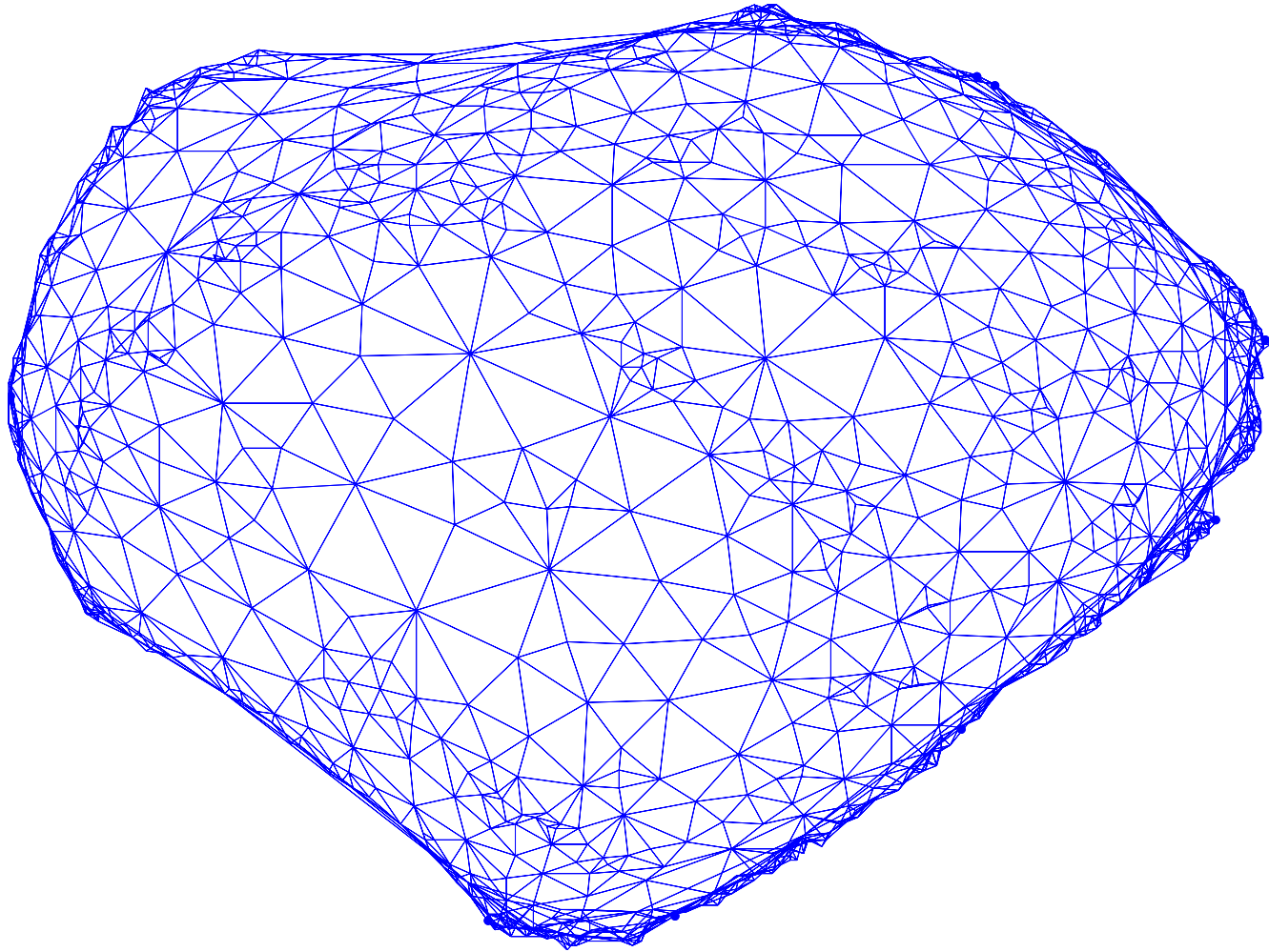
Also require  $\sum_i \vec{x}_1(i) \vec{x}_2(i) = 0$

Solution  $\vec{x}(i) = (v_2(i), v_3(i))$  up to rotation

# A Graph

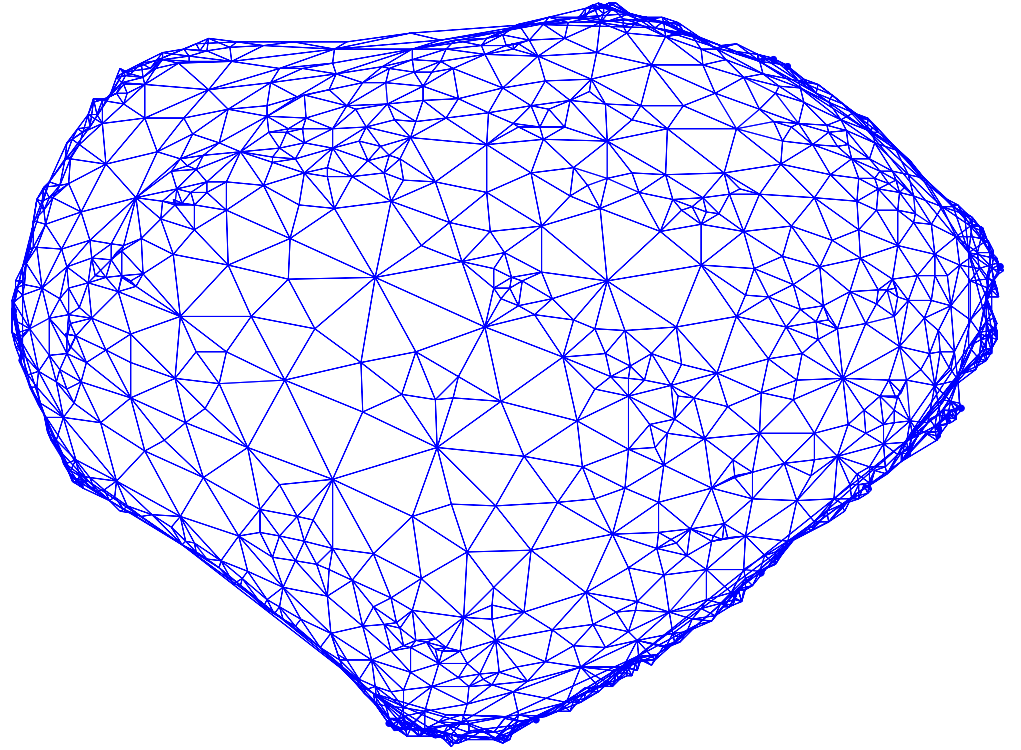
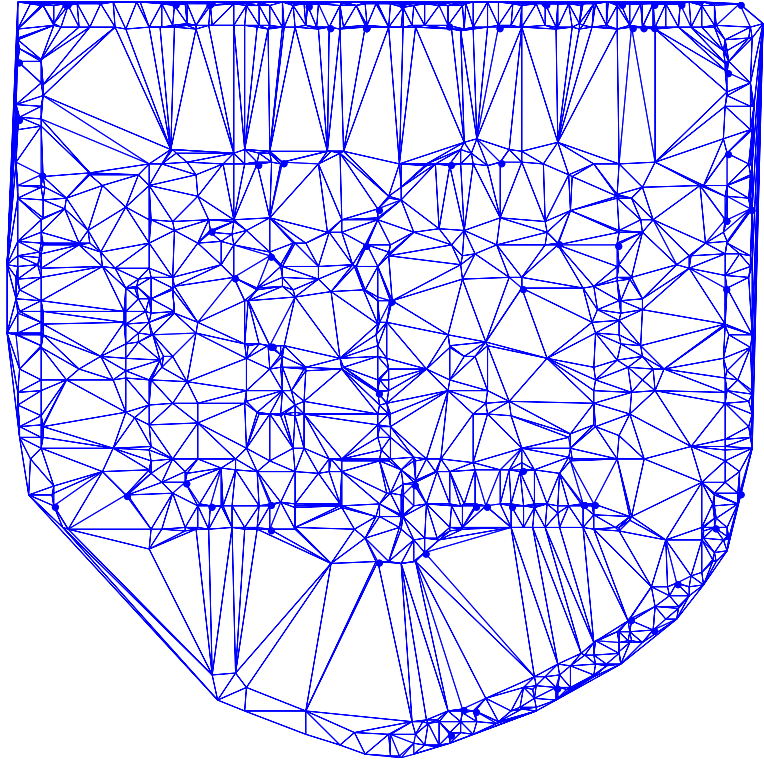


# Drawing of the graph using $v_2, v_3$

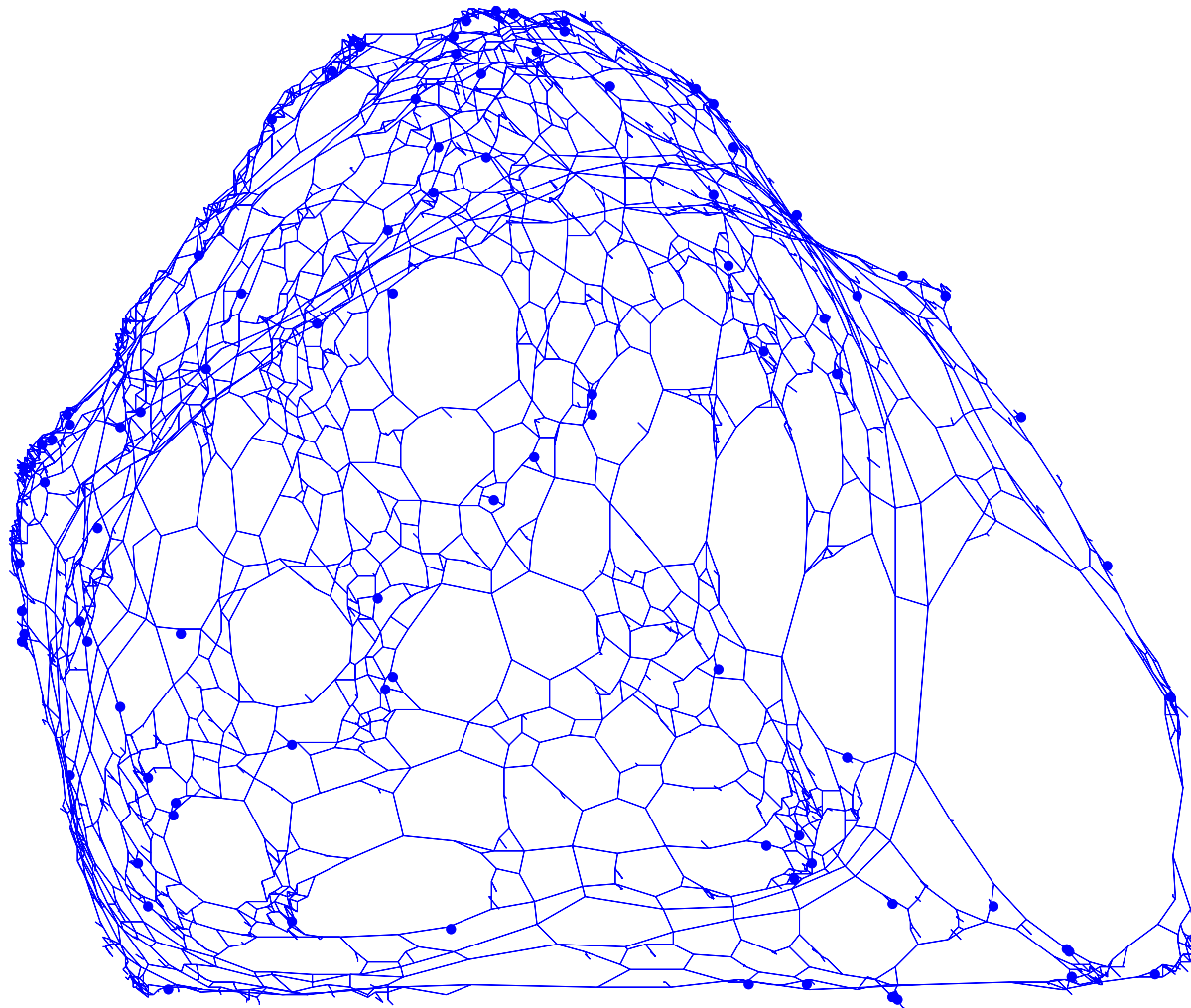


Plot vertex  $i$  at  $(v_2(i), v_3(i))$

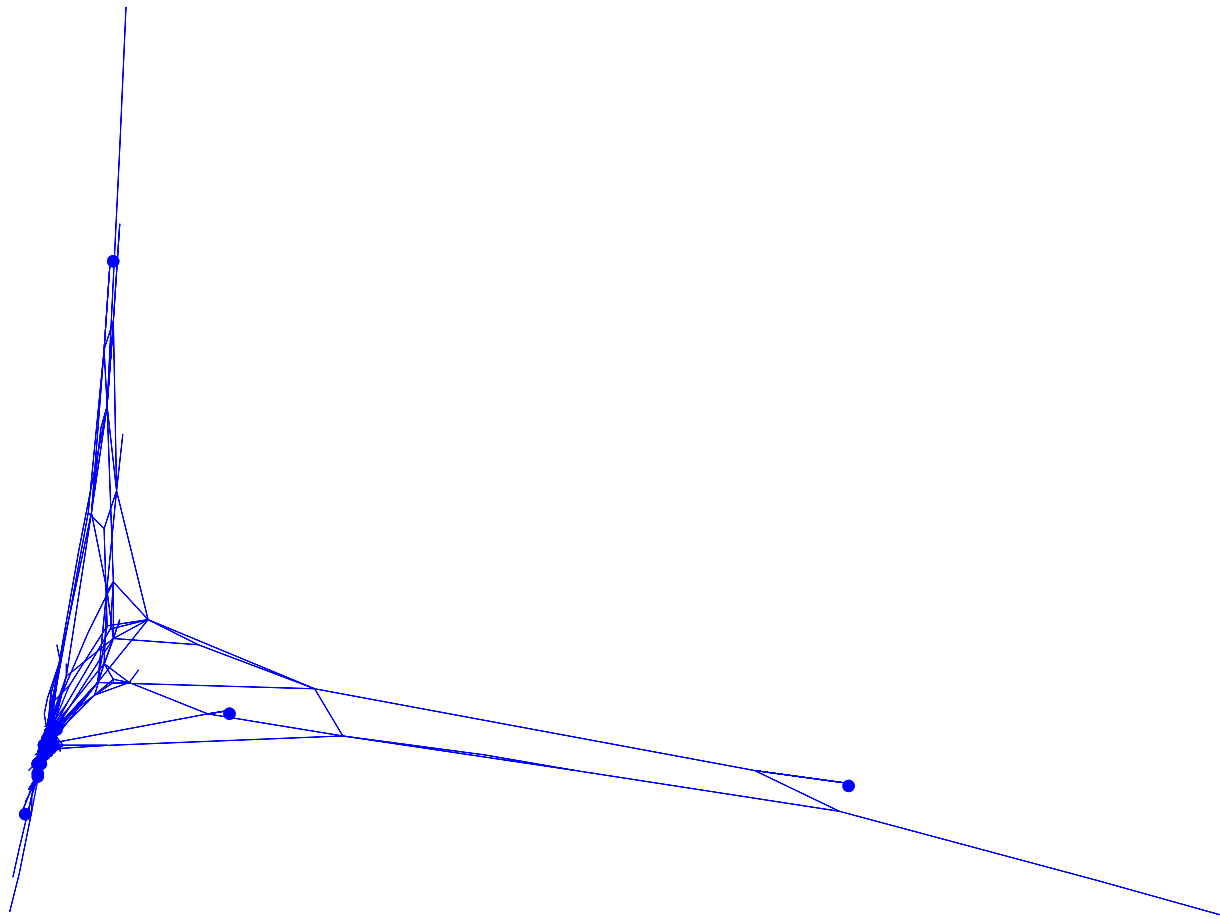




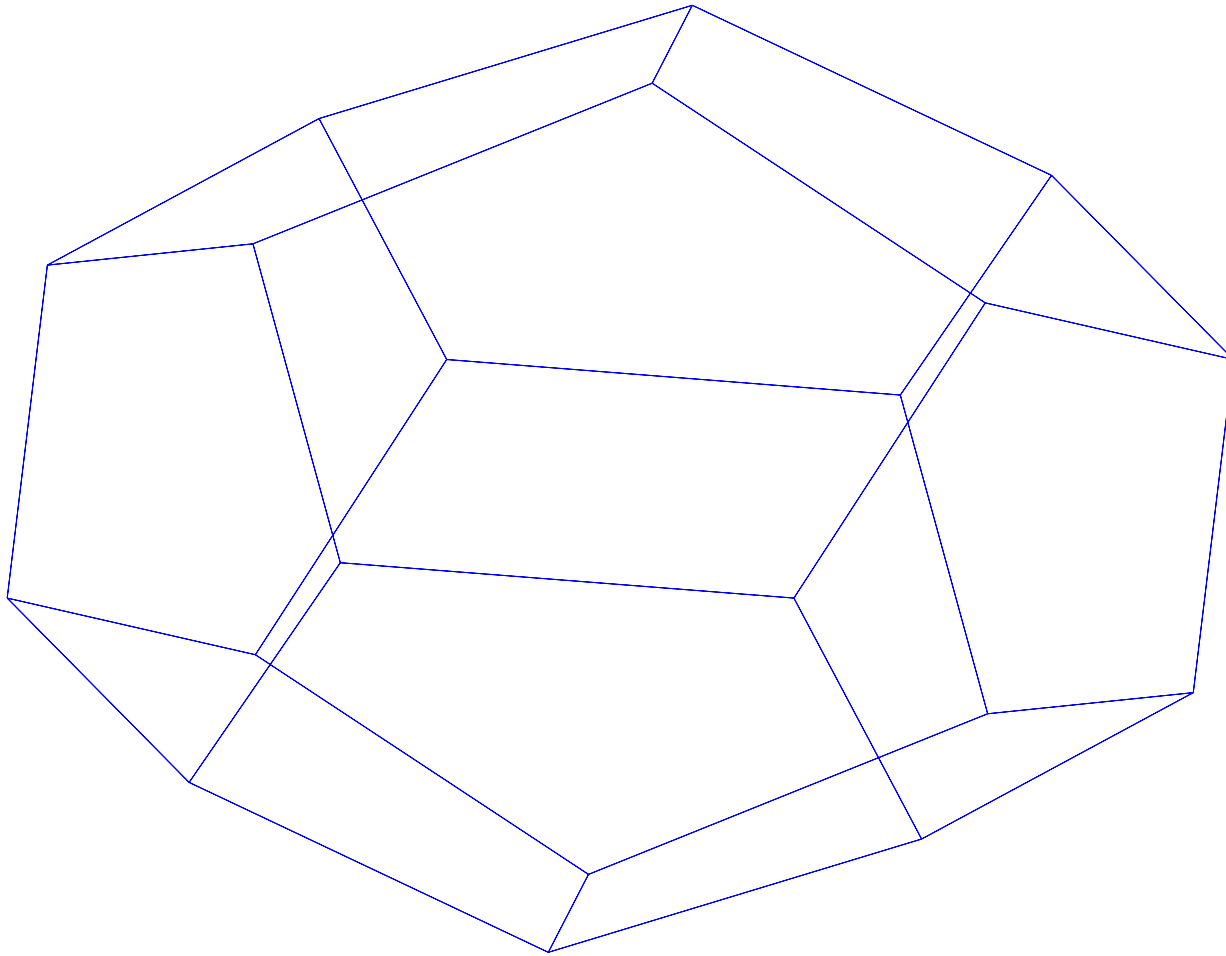
# Spectral drawing of Streets in Rome



# Spectral drawing of Erdos graph: edge between co-authors of papers



# Dodecahedron



Best embedded by first three eigenvectors

# Spectral graph drawing: Tutte justification

Condition for eigenvector  $Lx = \lambda x$

Gives  $x(i) = \frac{1}{d_i - \lambda} \sum_{j \sim i} x(j)$  for all  $i$

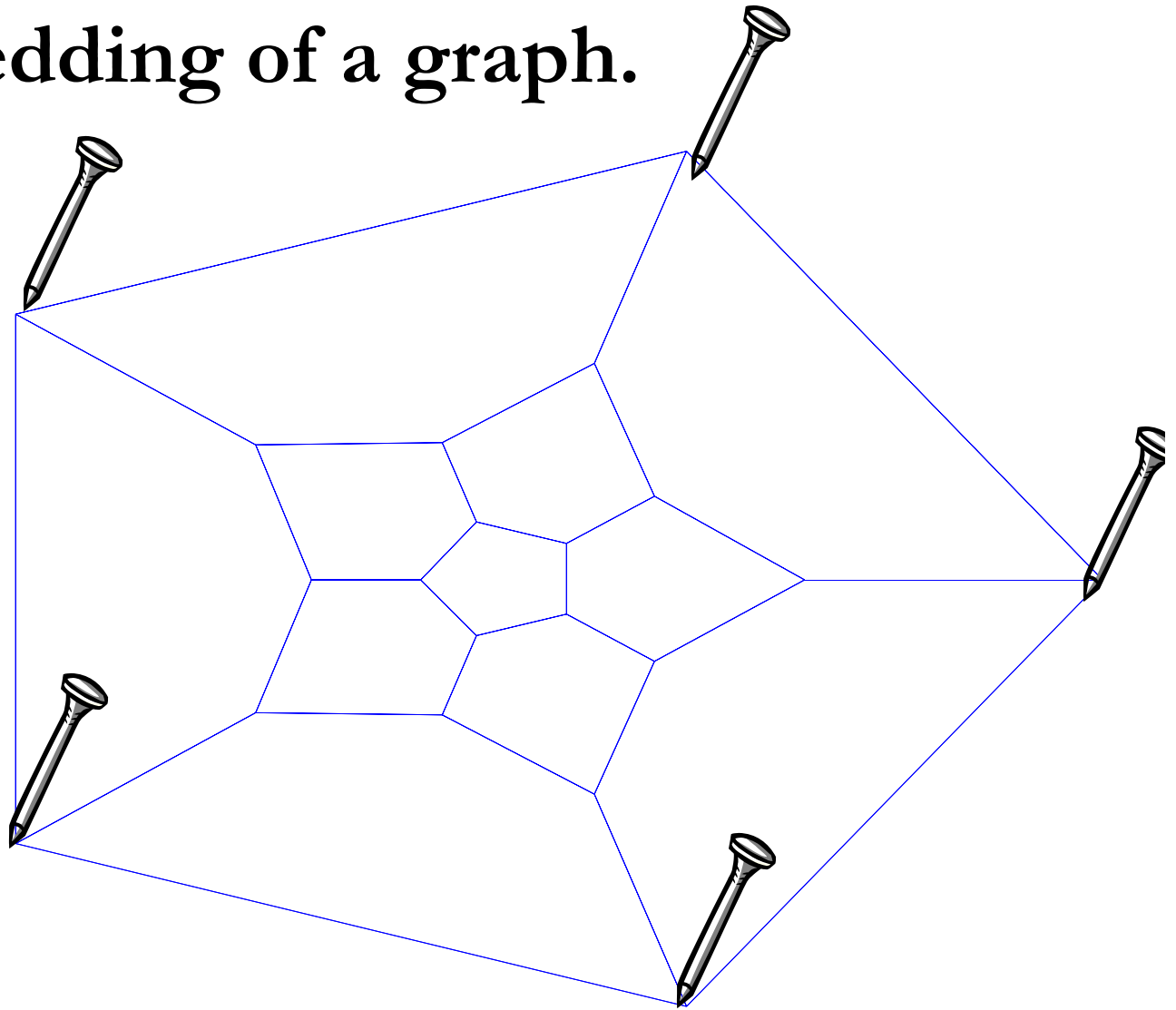
$\lambda$  small says  $x(i)$  near average of neighbors

Tutte '63: If fix outside face, and let every other vertex be average of neighbors, get planar embedding of planar graph.

# Tutte '63 embedding of a graph.

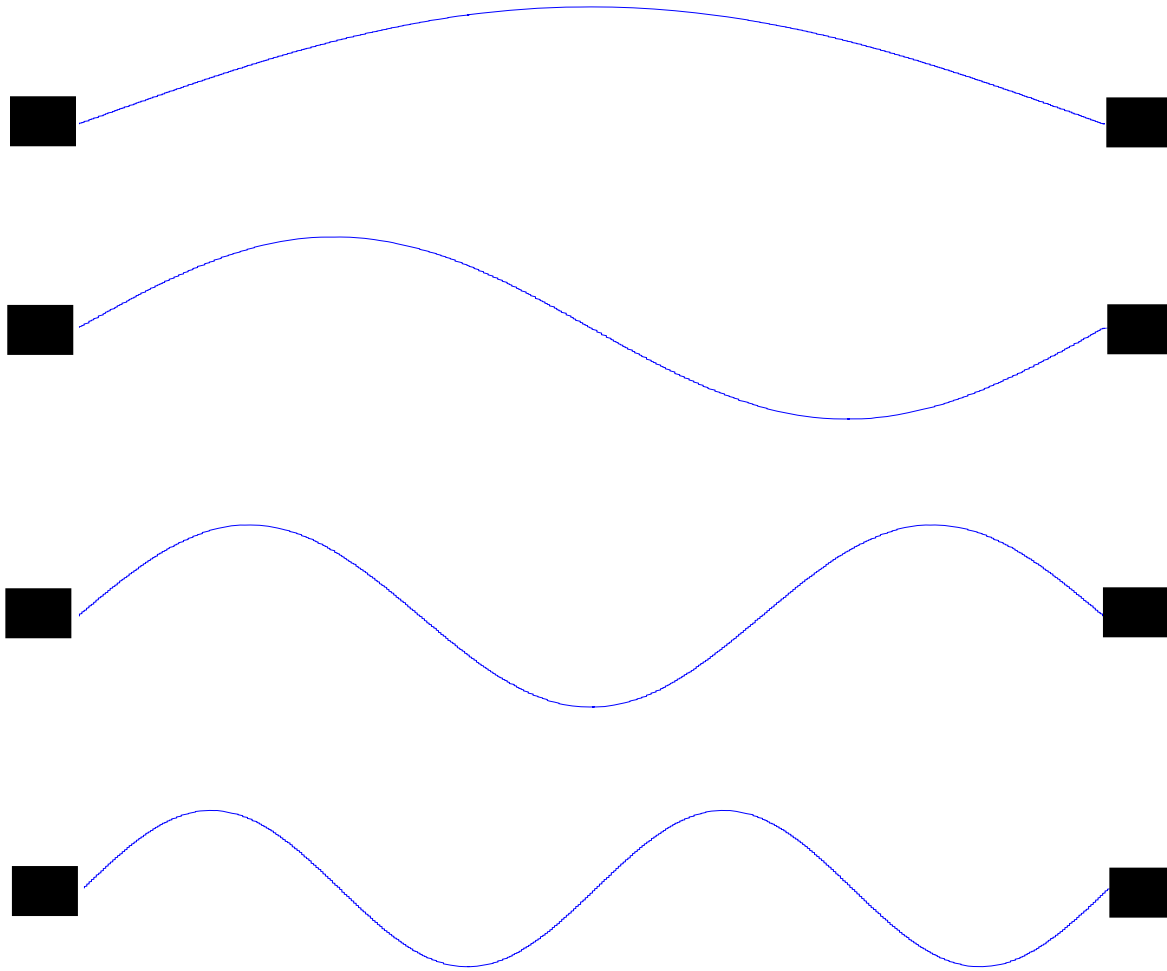
Fix outside face.  
Edges  $\rightarrow$  springs.

Vertex at center  
of mass of nbrs.

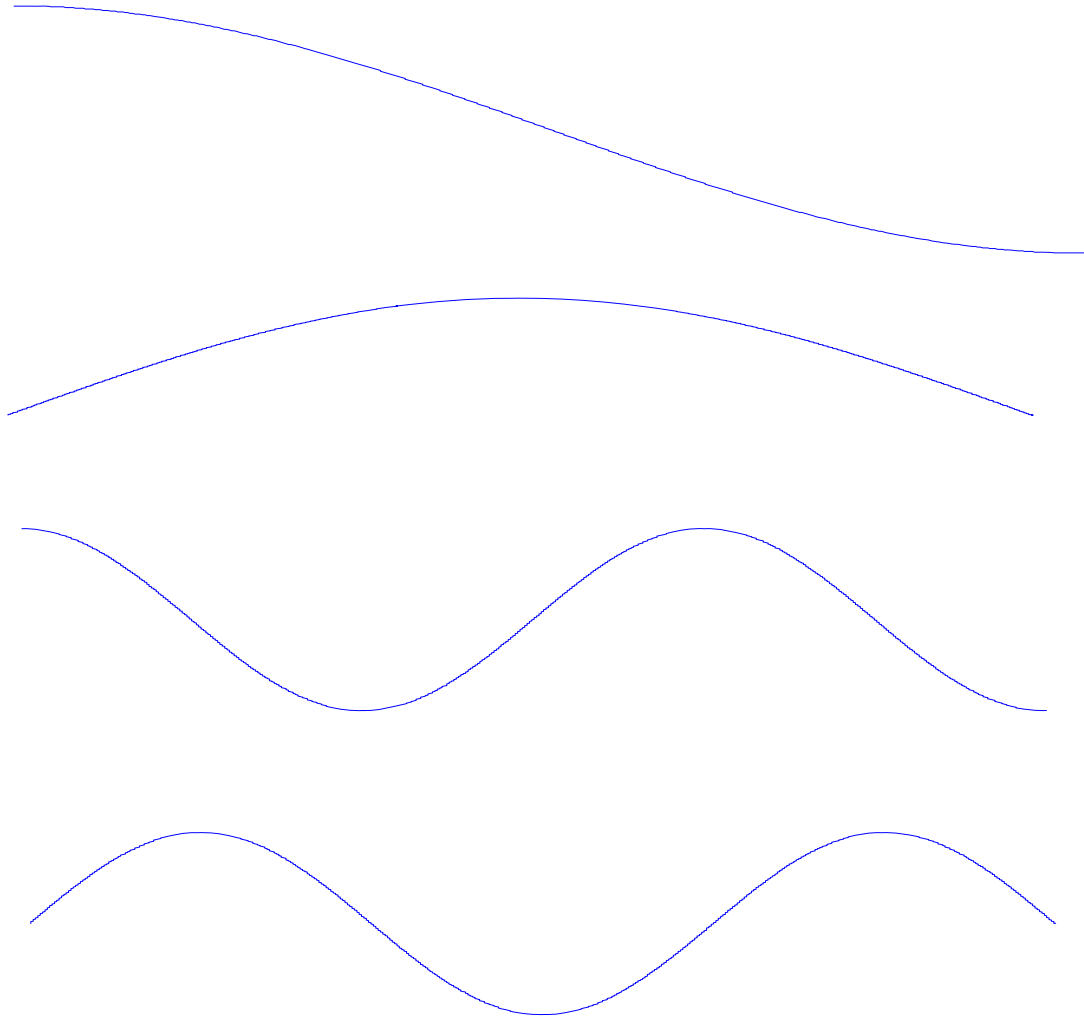


*3-connected  $\rightarrow$  get planar embedding*

# Fundamental modes: string with fixed ends

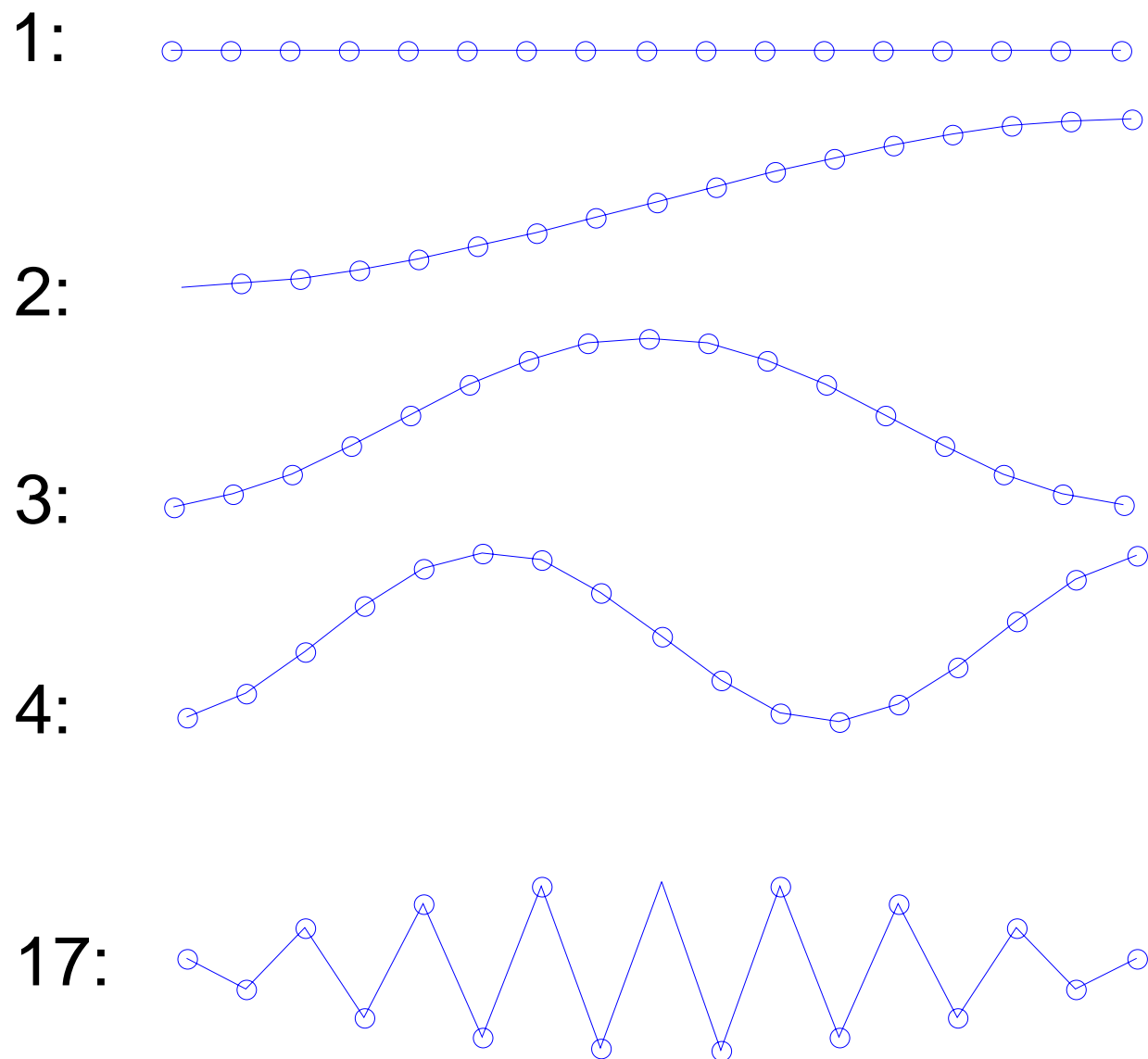


# Fundamental modes: string with free ends

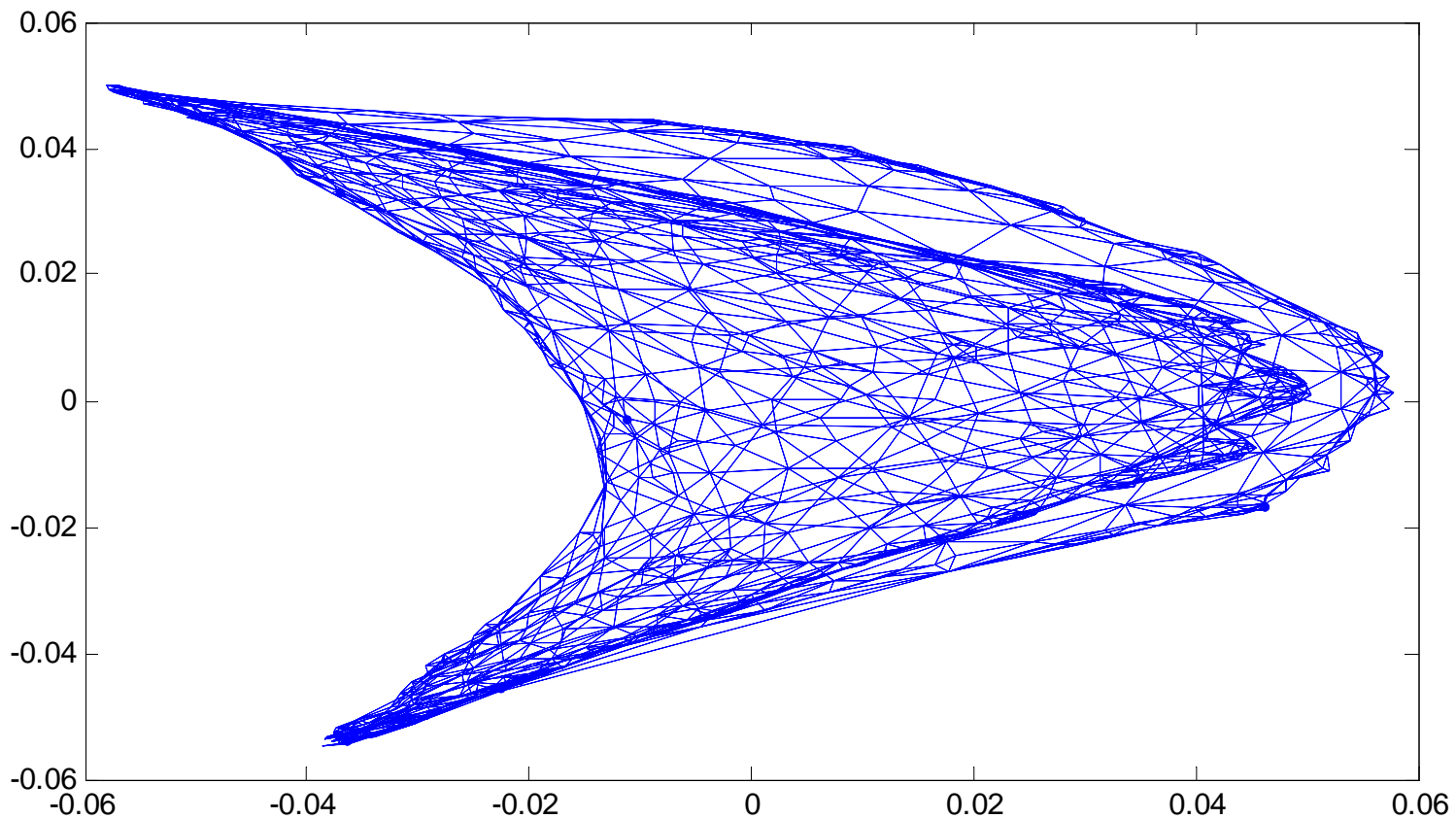




# Eigenvectors of path graph

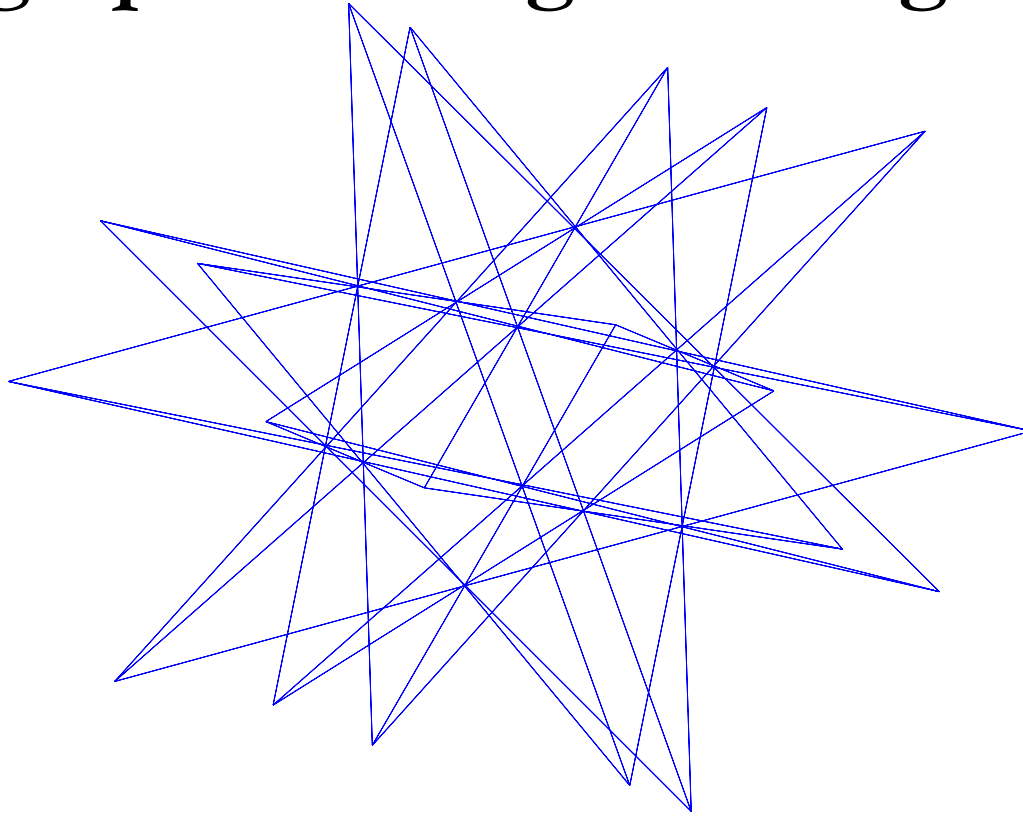


# Drawing of the graph using $v_3, v_4$



Plot vertex  $i$  at  $(v_4(i), v_3(i))$

# Spectral graph coloring from high eigenvectors



Embedding of dodecahedron by 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> eigvecs.

Coloring 3-colorable random graphs [Alon-Kahale '97]

# Spectral graph drawing: FEM justification

If apply finite element method to solve

Laplace's equation in the plane

with a Delaunay triangulation

Would get graph Laplacian,

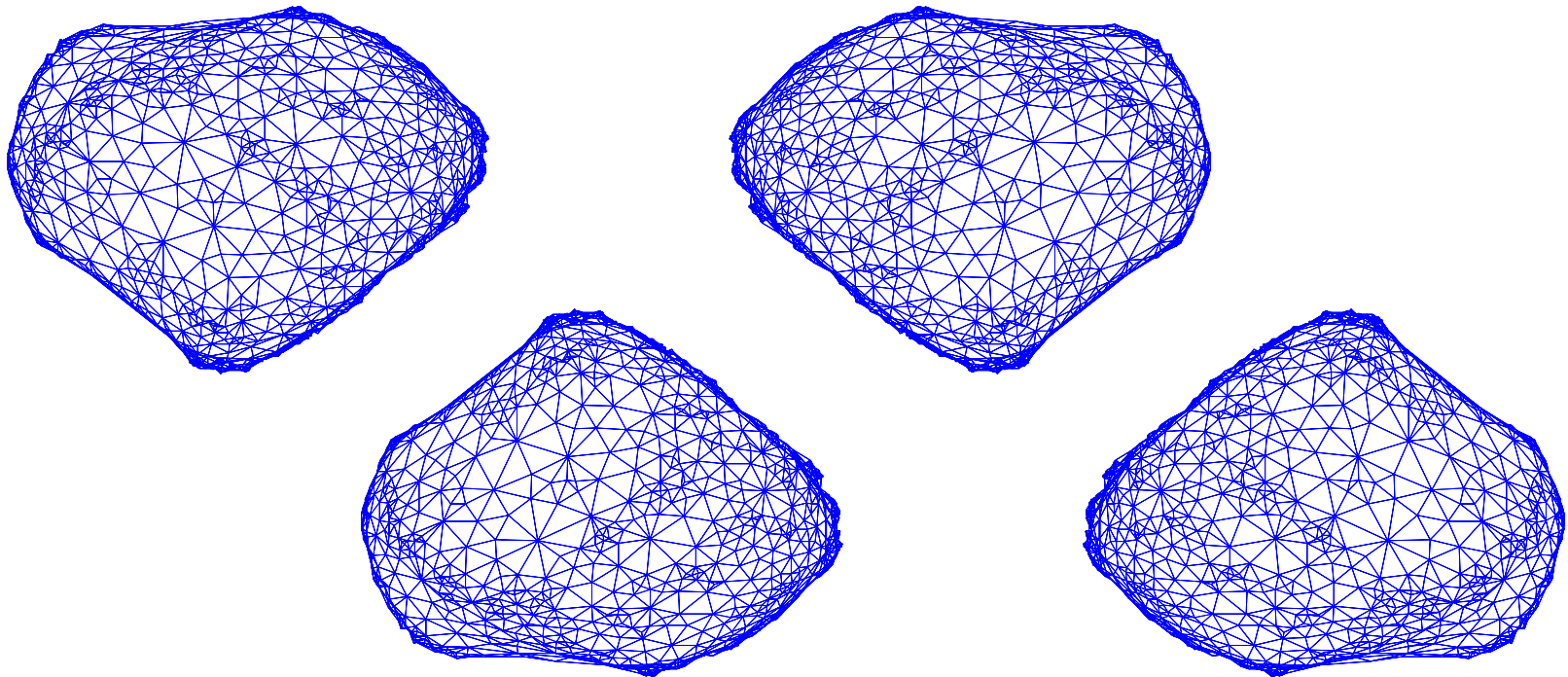
but with some weights on edges

Fundamental solutions are  $x$  and  $y$  coordinates

(see Strang's Introduction to Applied Mathematics)

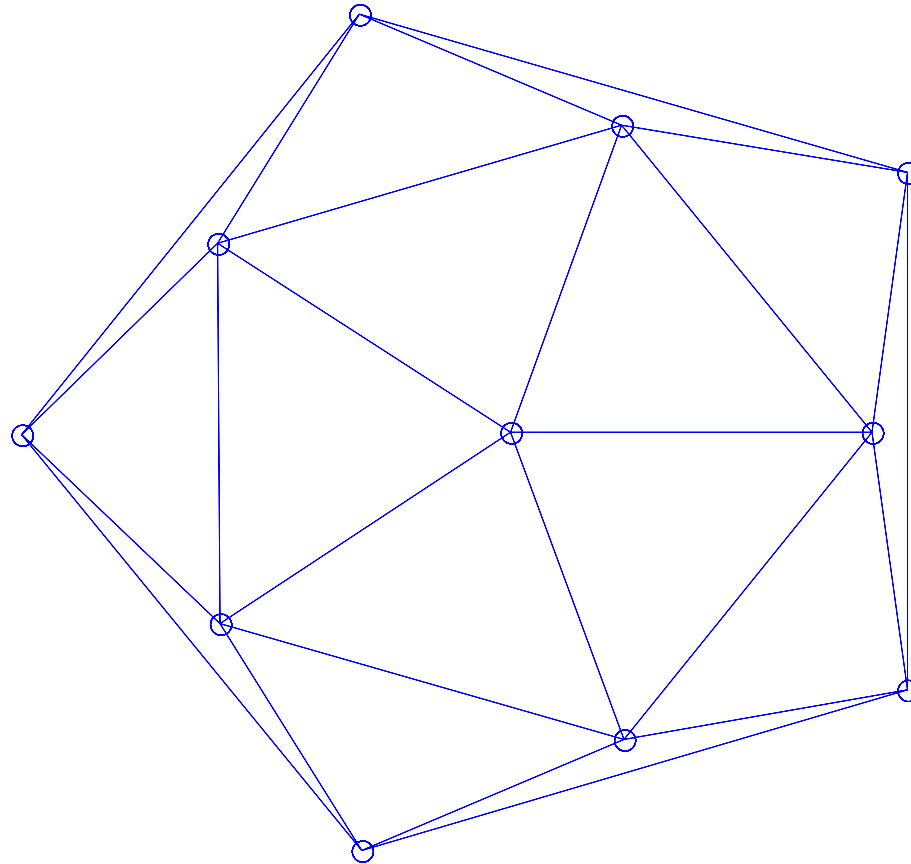
# Isomorphism testing

1. different eigenvalues  $\rightarrow$  non-isomorphic
2. If each vertex distinct in spectral embedding, just need to line up embeddings.



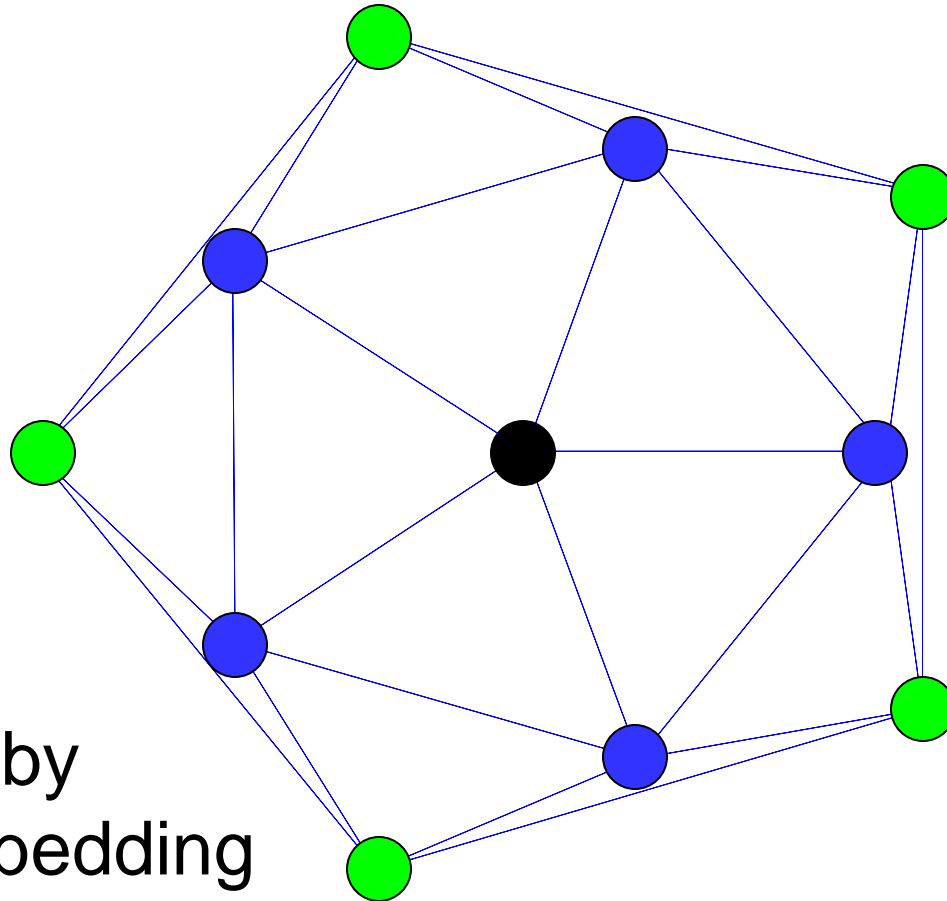
*Each eigvec determined up to sign.*

# Isomorphism testing



$\lambda_2 = \lambda_3$ , eigvecs determined up to rotation

# Isomorphism testing



Distinguish by  
norm in embedding

$\lambda_2 = \lambda_3$ , eigvecs determined up to rotation

# Isomorphism testing: difficulties

1. Many vertices can map to same place in spectral embedding, if only use few eigenvectors.

2. If  $\lambda_i$  has a high dimensional space, eigvecs only determined up to basis rotations

Ex.: Strongly regular graphs with only 3 eigenvalues, of multiplicities 1,  $(n-1)/2$  and  $(n-1)/2$

3. Some pairs have an exponential number of isomorphisms.



# Isomorphism testing: success

## [Babai-Grigoryev-Mount '82]

If each eigenvalue has multiplicity  $O(1)$ , can test in polynomial time.

Ideas:

Partition vertices into classes by norms in embeddings.

Refine partitions using other partitions.

Use vertex classes to split eigenspaces.

Use computational group theory to fuse information, and produce description of all isomorphisms.

# Random Walks

# Random walks and PageRank

Adjacency matrix of directed graph:

$$A(i, j) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (j, i) \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Walk transition matrix:  $W = AD^{-1}$

Walk distribution at time t:  $p_t = W^t p_0$

PageRank vector p:  $p = Wp$

*Eigenvector of Eigenvalue 1*

# Random walks and PageRank

PageRank vector  $p$ :  $p = Wp$

Linear algebra issues:

$W$  is not symmetric, not similar to symmetric,  
does not necessarily have  $n$  eigenvalues

If no nodes of out-degree 0,

Perron-Frobenius Theorem:

Guarantees a unique, positive eigenvector  $p$  of  
eigenvalue 1.

Is there a theoretically interesting spectral theory?

# Kleinberg and the singular vectors

Consider eigenvectors of largest eigenvalue of

$$AA^T \quad \text{and} \quad A^T A$$

Are left and right singular values of  $A$ .

Always exist.

Usually, a more useful theory than eigenvectors,  
when not symmetric.

(see Strang's Intro. to Linear Algebra)

# Random walks on Undirected Graphs

$$W = AD^{-1}$$

Trivial PageRank Vector:  $d = Wd$        $\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}W$

Not symmetric, but similar to  
symmetrized walk matrix

$$D^{-1/2}WD^{1/2} = D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2} = S$$

$W$  and  $S$  have same eigvals,

$$Sv = \lambda v \quad \longrightarrow \quad W \left( D^{1/2}v \right) = \lambda \left( D^{1/2}v \right)$$

# Random walk converges at rate $1/1-\lambda_{n-1}$

For lazy random walk (stay put with prob  $1/2$ ):

$$|p_t(v) - \pi(v)| \leq \sqrt{\frac{d(v)}{\min_u d(u)}} (1 - \lambda_{n-1})^t$$

Where  $\pi$  is the stable distribution

For symmetric  $S$  
$$p_0 = \sum_i (v_i^T p_0) v_i$$

$$p_1 = Sp_0 = \sum_i \lambda_i (v_i^T p_0) v_i$$

$$p_t = S^t p_0 = \sum_i \lambda_i^t (v_i^T p_0) v_i$$

# Normalized Laplacian [Chung]

If consider  $1 - \lambda_{n-1}$  should look at

$$\mathcal{L} = I - S = D^{-1/2} L D^{-1/2}$$

$$\lambda_2(\mathcal{L}) = 1 - \lambda_{n-1}(W)$$

Relationship to cuts:

$$\lambda_2(\mathcal{L}) = \min_{v \perp d} \frac{v^T L v}{v^T D v} = \min_{v \perp d} \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \in E} (v(i) - v(j))^2}{\sum_i d(i) (v(i))^2}$$



# Cheeger's Inequality (Jerrum-Sinclair '89) (Alon-Milman '85, Diaconis-Stroock '91)

$$\lambda_2(\mathcal{L}) = \min_{v \perp d} \frac{v^T L v}{v^T D v} = \min_{v \perp d} \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \in E} (v(i) - v(j))^2}{\sum_i d(i) (v(i))^2}$$

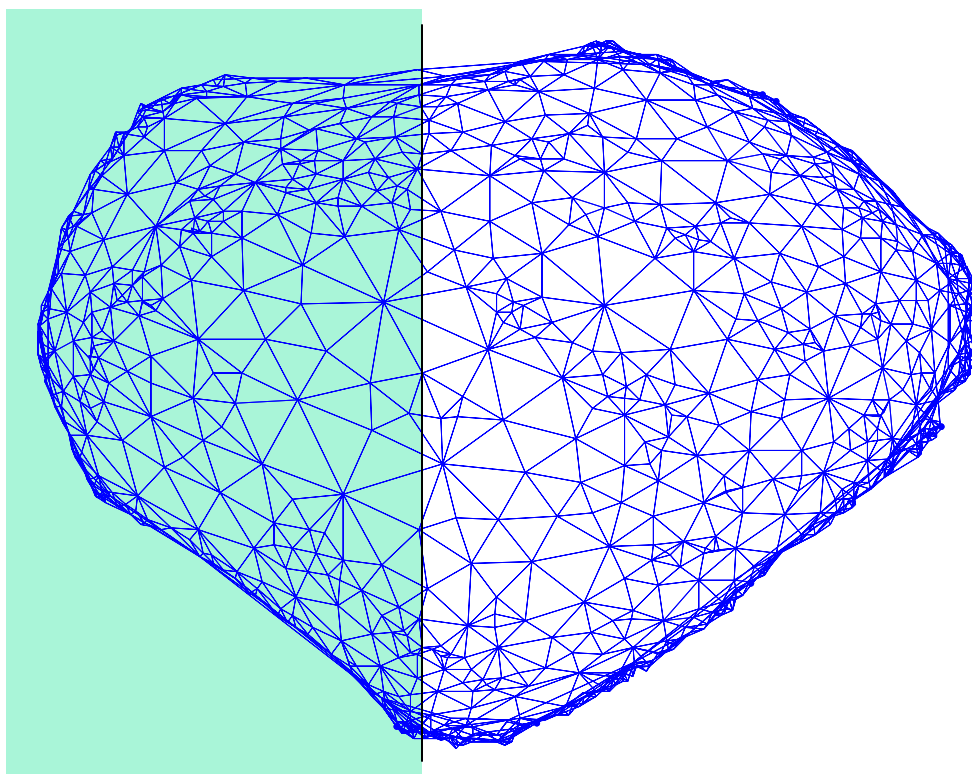
$$\phi(S) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{w(\partial(S))}{\min(d(S), d(V - S))}$$

$$\lambda_2(\mathcal{L})/2 \leq \min_S \phi(S) \leq \sqrt{2\lambda_2(\mathcal{L})}$$

# Cheeger's Inequality (Jerrum-Sinclair '89) (Alon-Milman '85, Diaconis-Stroock '91)

Can find the cut by looking at  $w = D^{-1/2}v$

$$S = \{i : w(i) < t\} \quad \text{for some } t$$



# Only need approximate eigenvector (Mihail '89)

Can find the cut by looking at  $w = D^{-1/2}v$

$$S = \{i : w(i) < t\} \quad \text{for some } t$$

Guarantee

$$\phi(S) \leq \sqrt{2 \frac{v^T \mathcal{L} v}{v^T v}}$$

Lanczos era.

# Normalized Cut

Alternative definition of conductance [Lovasz '96 (?)]

$$\phi(S) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{d(V)w(\partial(S))}{d(S)d(V-S)}$$

This way,  $\lambda_2$  is a relaxation [see Hagen-Kahng '92].

$$\lambda_2(\mathcal{L}) = \min_{v \perp d} \frac{v^T L v}{v^T D v} = \min_{v \perp d} \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \in E} (v(i) - v(j))^2}{\sum_i d(i)(v(i))^2}$$

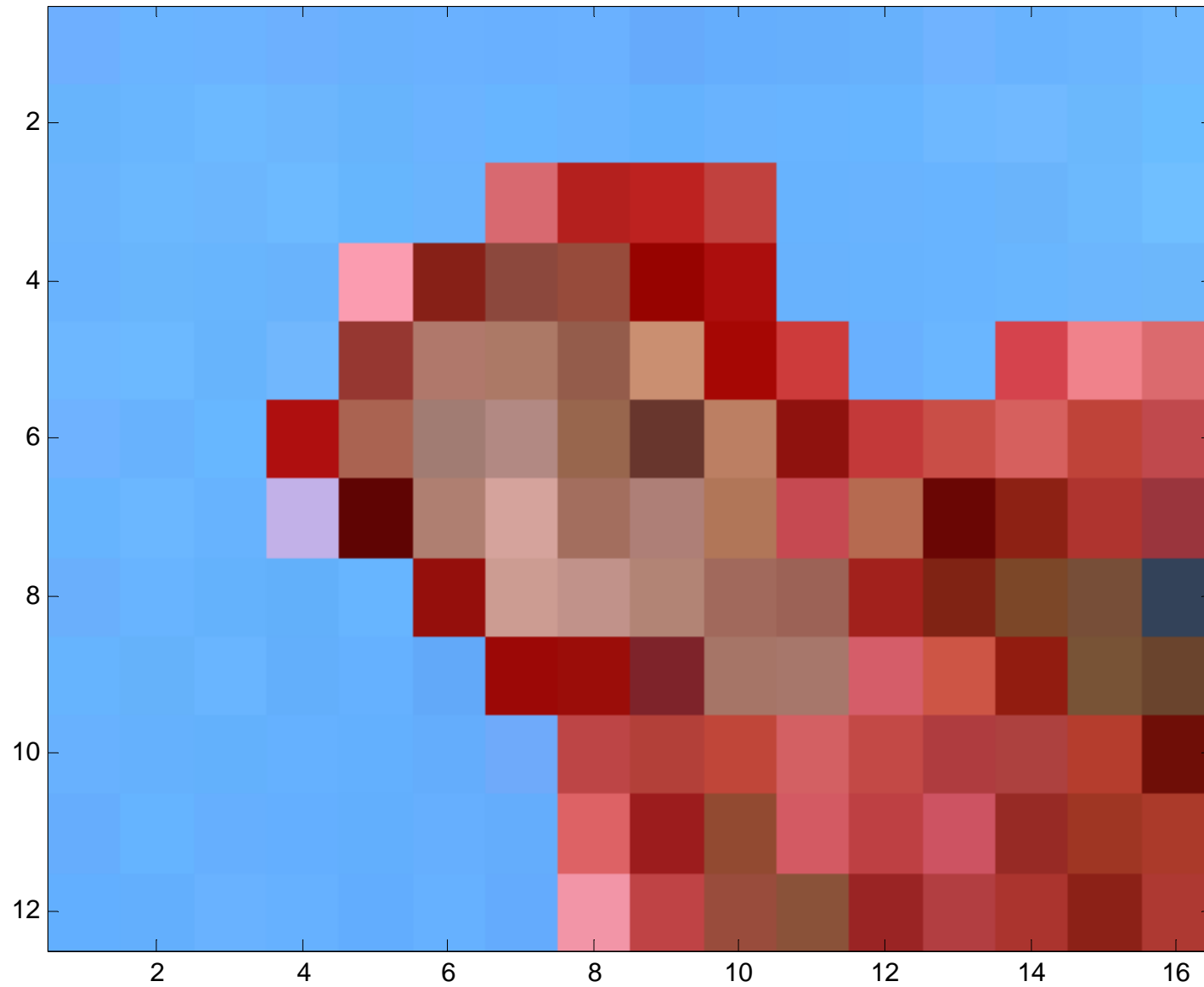
Equivalent to Normalized Cut [Shi-Malik '00]

$$\frac{w(\partial(S))}{d(S)} + \frac{w(\partial(S))}{d(V-S)}$$

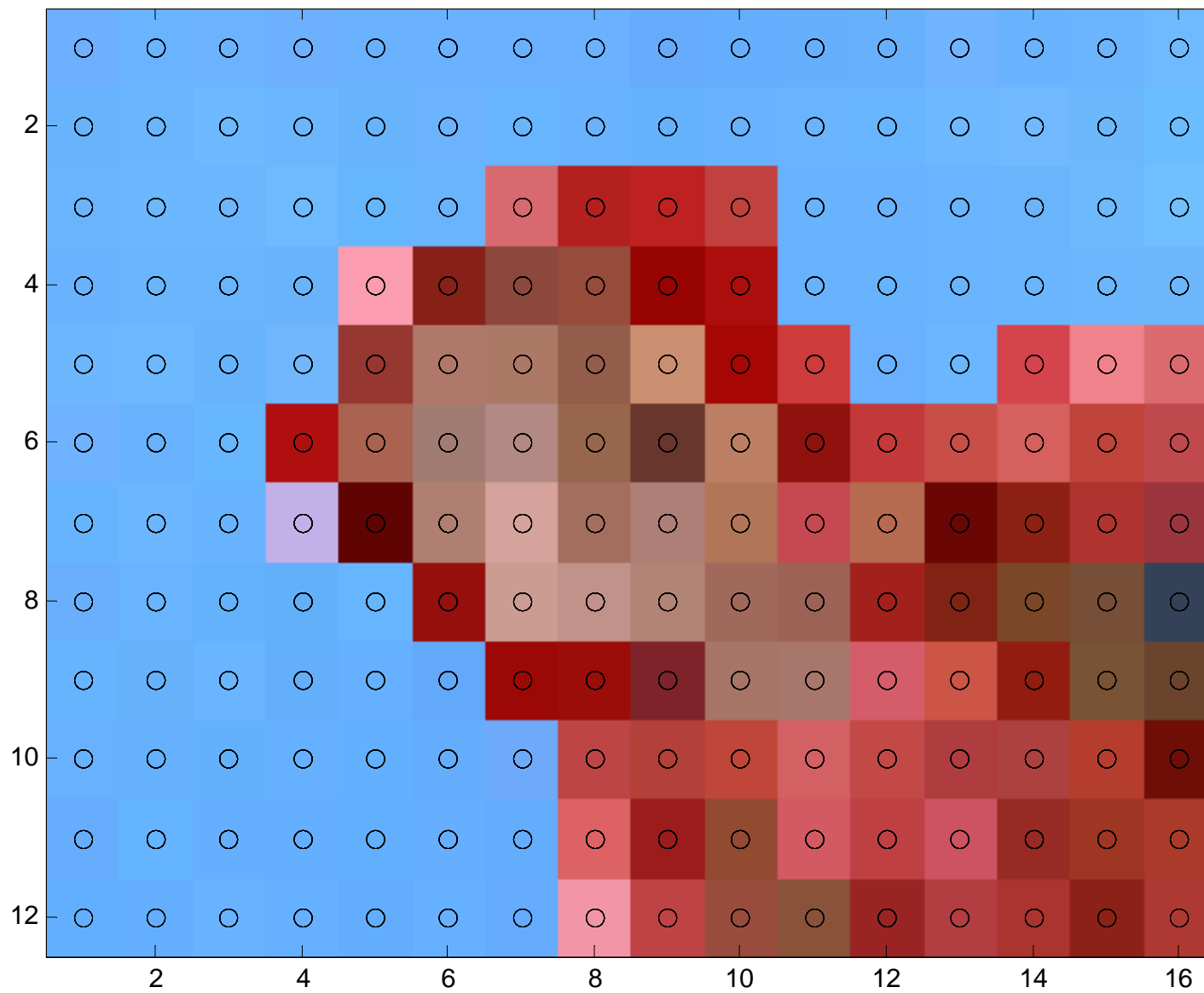
# Spectral Image Segmentation (Shi-Malik '00)



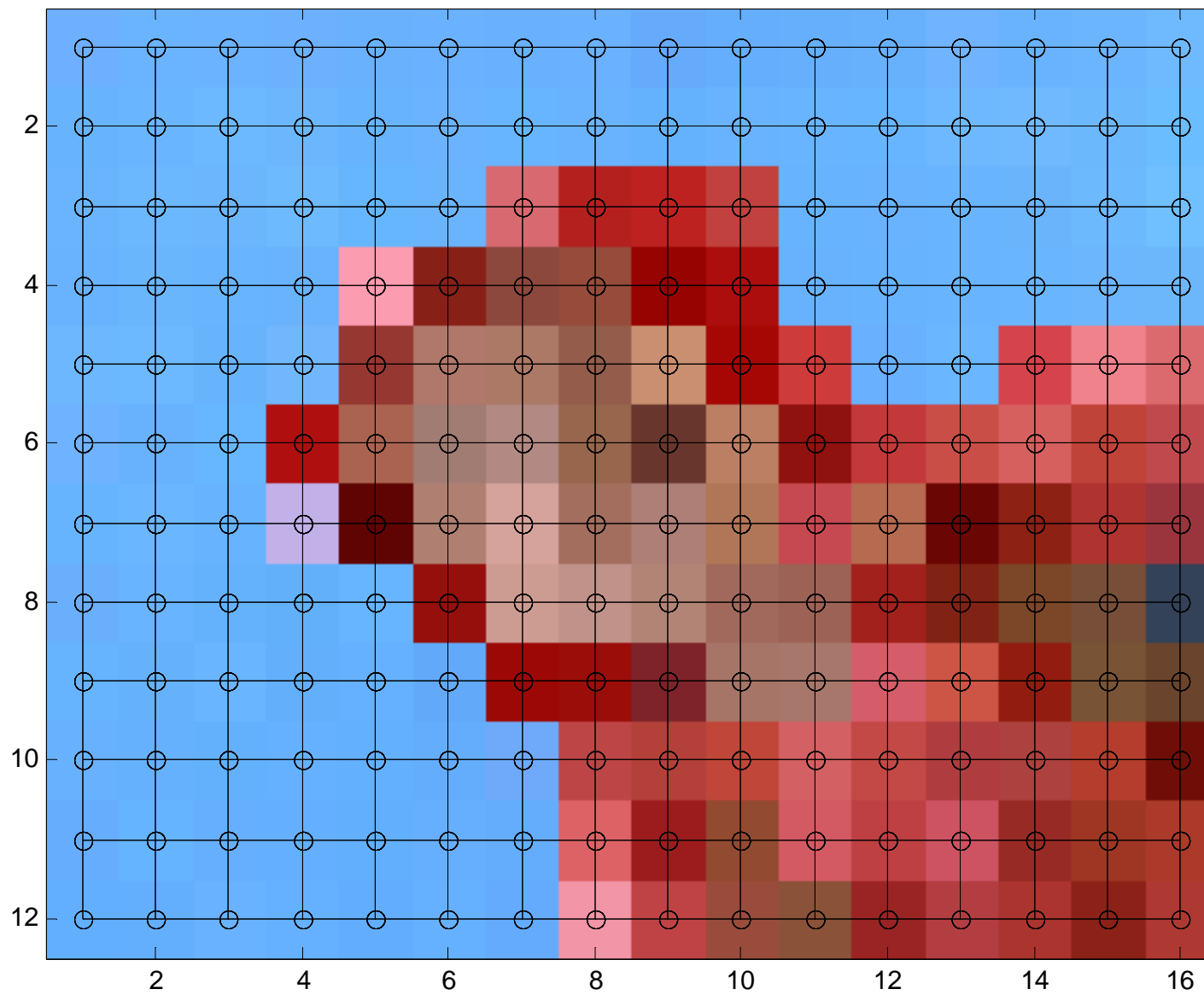
# Spectral Image Segmentation (Shi-Malik '00)



# Spectral Image Segmentation (Shi-Malik '00)

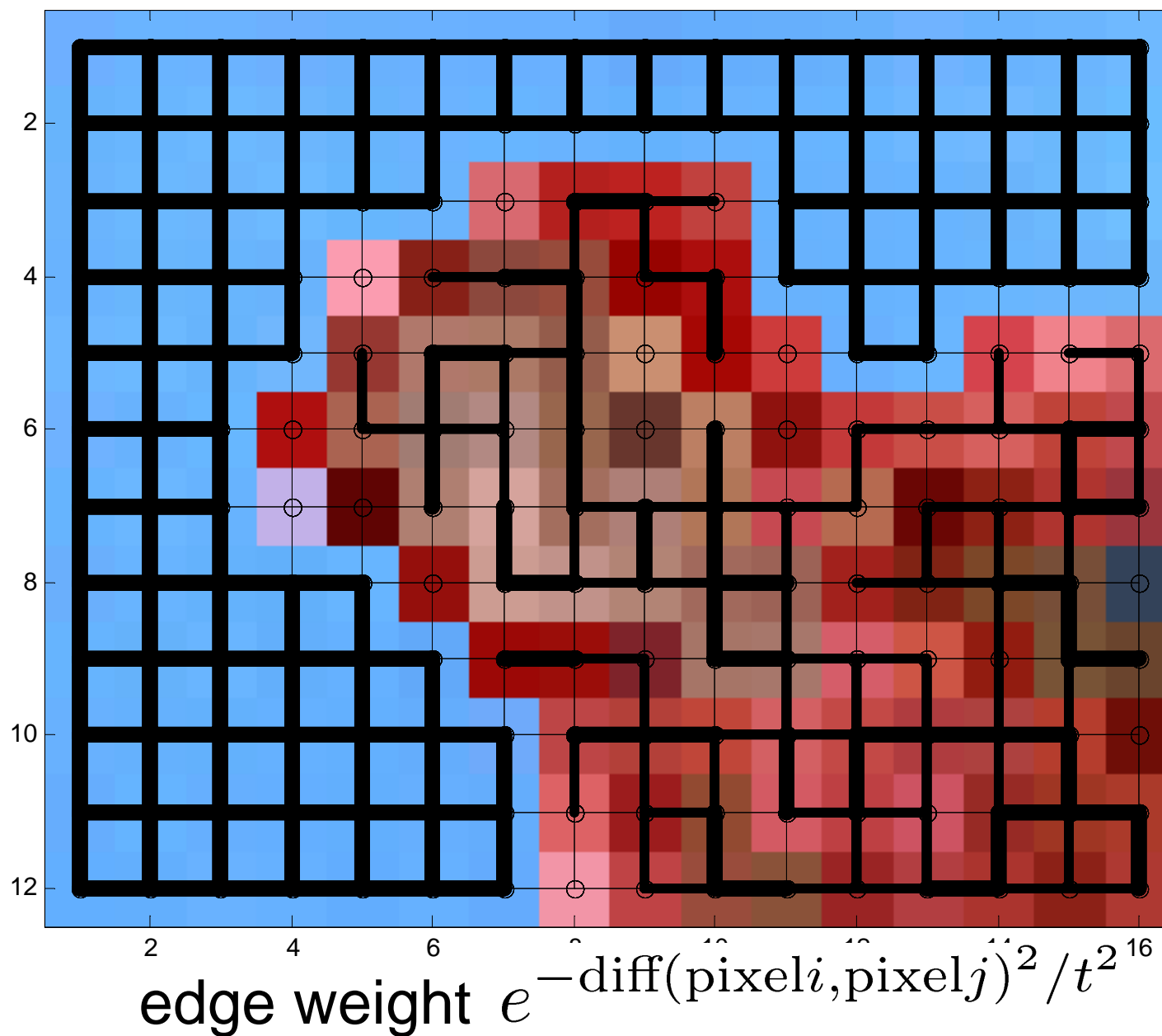


# Spectral Image Segmentation (Shi-Malik '00)

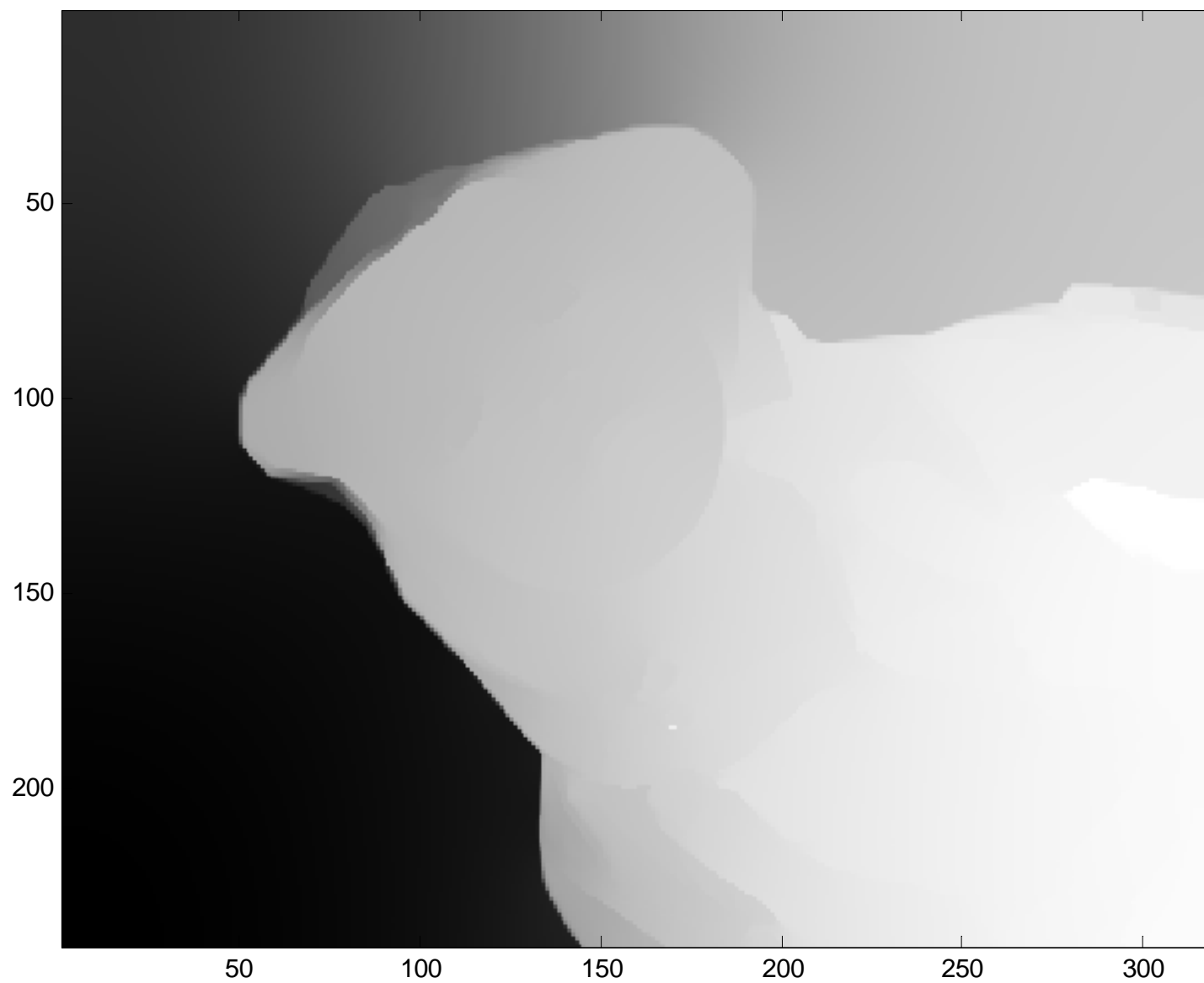




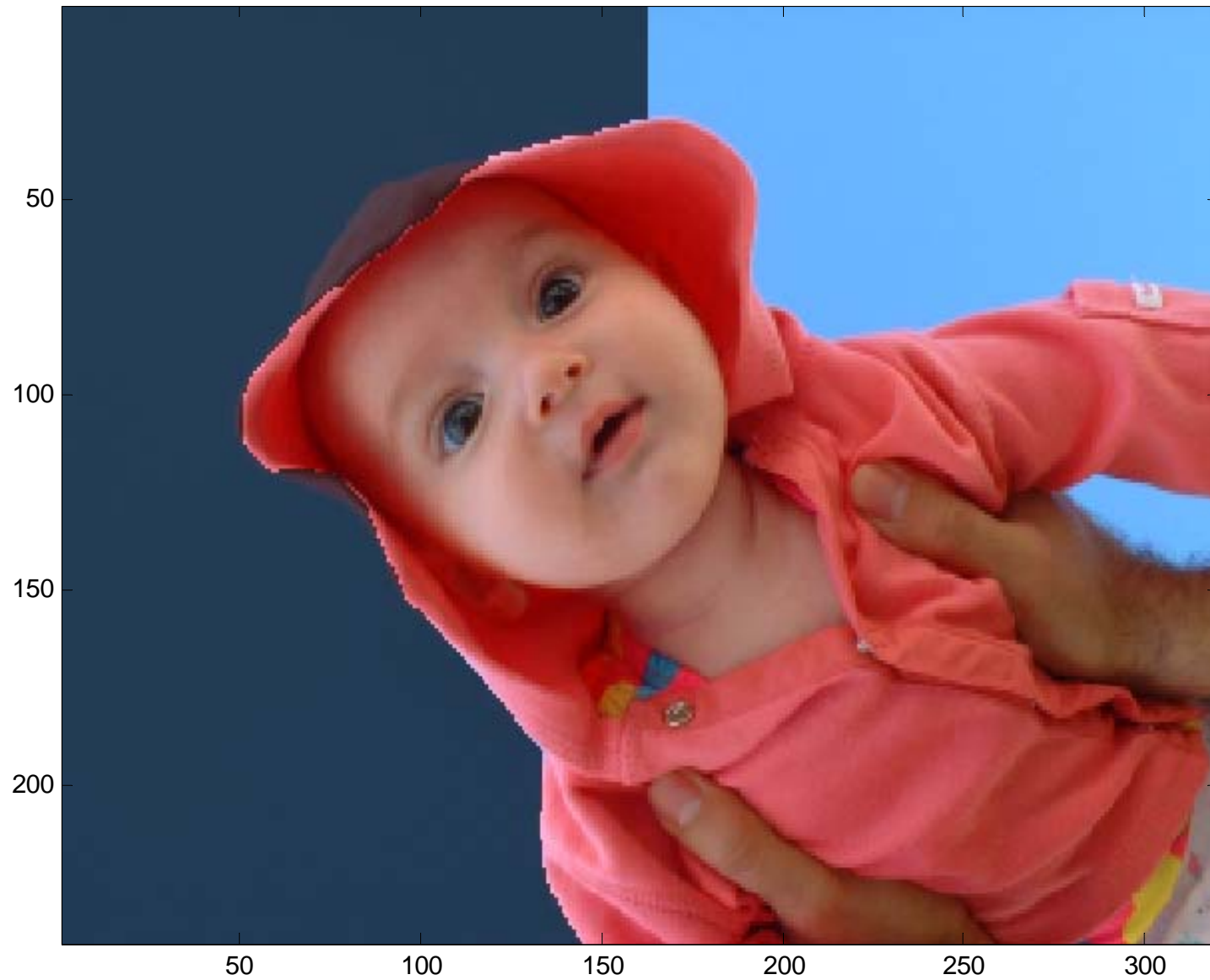
# Spectral Image Segmentation (Shi-Malik '00)



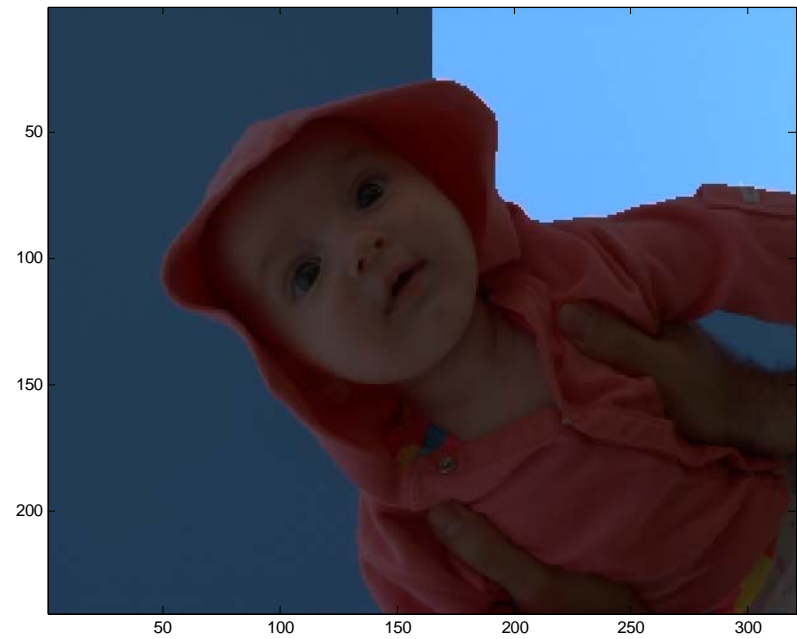
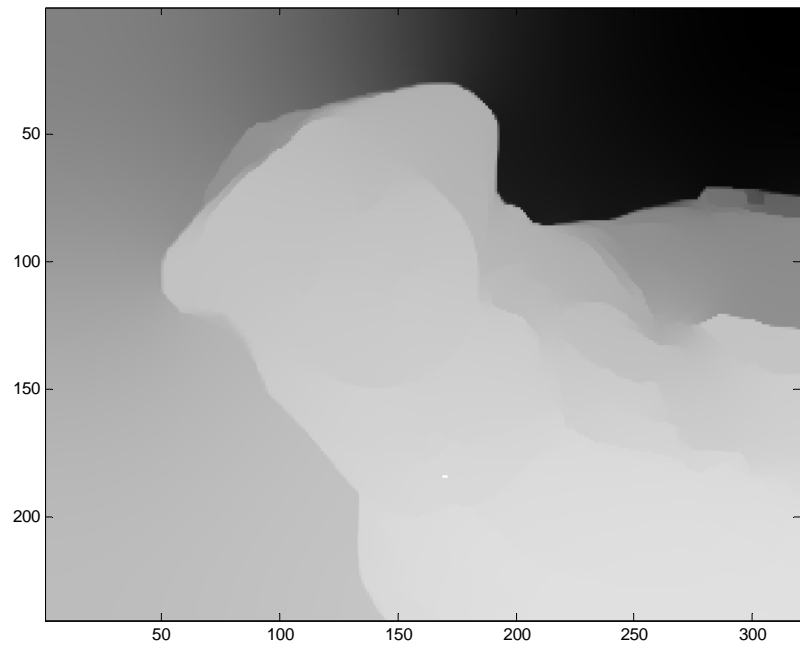
# The second eigenvector



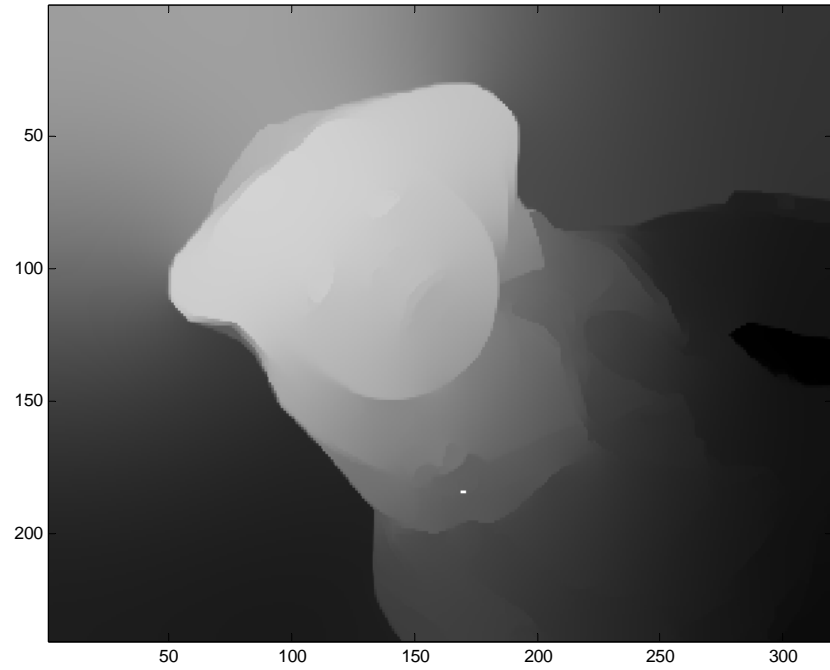
# Second Eigenvector's sparsest cut



# Third Eigenvector



# Fourth Eigenvector



# Perspective on Spectral Image Segmentation

Ignoring a lot we know about images.

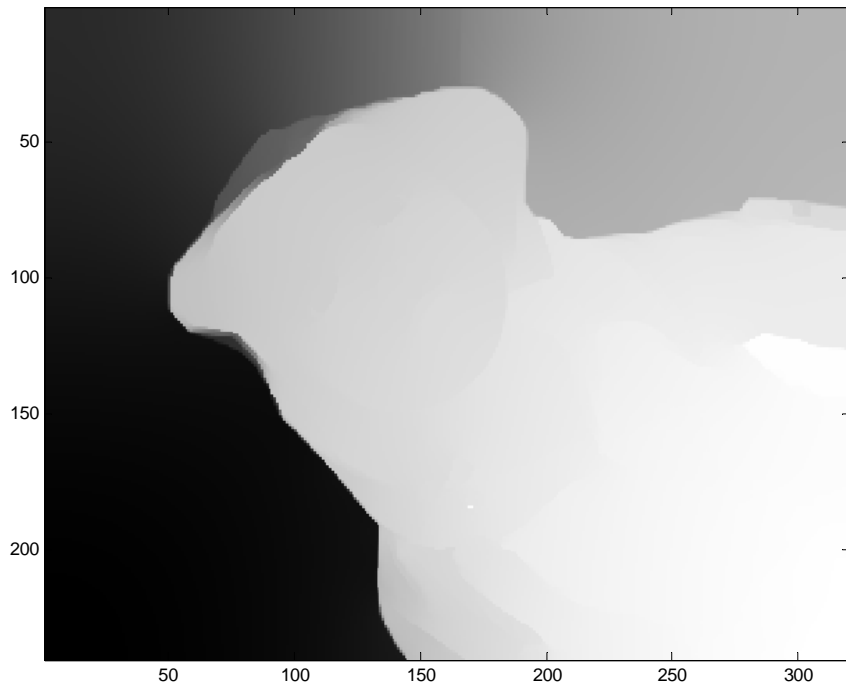
On non-image data, gives good intuition.

Can we fuse with what we know about images?

Generally, can we fuse with other knowledge?

What about better cut algorithms?

# Improvement by Miller and Tolliver '06



# Improvement by Miller and Tolliver '06

$$\frac{x^T Lx}{x^T Dx} = \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \in E} (v(i) - v(j))^2 w_{i,j}}{\sum_{(i,j) \in E} (v(i)^2 + v(j)^2) w_{i,j}}$$

Idea: re-weight (i,j) by  $\frac{(v(i)^2 + v(j)^2)}{(v(i) - v(j))^2}$

Actually, re-weight by  $\Psi \left( \frac{(v(i)^2 + v(j)^2)}{(v(i) - v(j))^2} \right)$

Prove: as iterate  $\lambda_2 \rightarrow 0$ , get 2 components

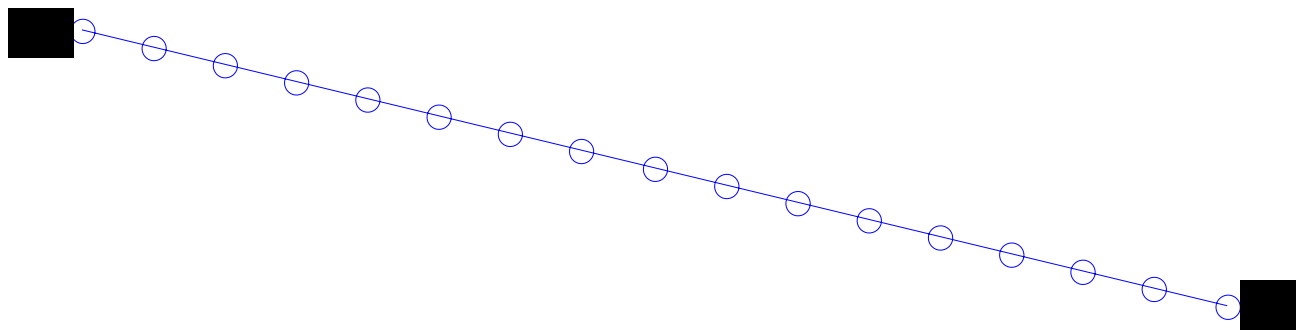


# One approach to fusing: Dirichlet Eigenvalues

Fixing boundary values to zero [Chung-Langlands '96]

Fixing boundary values to non-zero. [Grady '06]

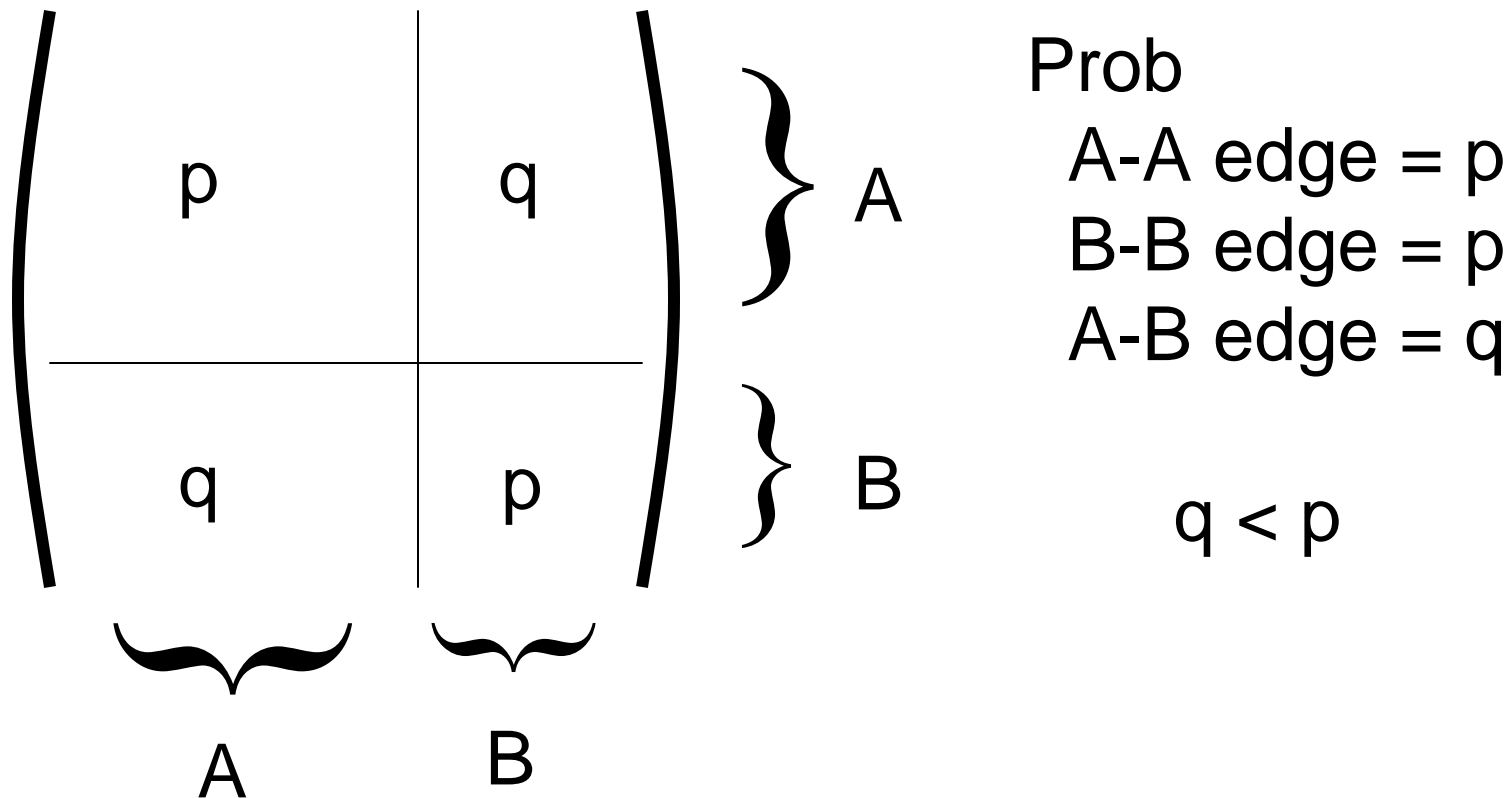
Dominant mode by solving linear equation:  
computing electrical flow in resistor network



# Analysis of Spectral Partitioning

Finite Element Meshes (eigvals right) [S-Teng '07]

Planted partitions (eigvecs right) [McSherry '01]



# Other planted problems

Finding  $cn^{1/2}$  clique in random graph  
[Alon-Krivelevich-Sudakov '98]

Color random sparse  $k$ -colorable graph  
[Alon-Kahale '97]

Asymmetric block structure (LSI and HITS)  
[Azar-Fiat-Karlin-McSherry-Saia '01]

Partitioning with widely varying degrees  
[Dasgupta-Hopcroft-McSherry '04]

# Planted problem analysis

Sampled  $A$  as perturbation of

$$\begin{pmatrix} p & q \\ q & p \end{pmatrix}$$

Small perturbations don't change eigenvalues too much.

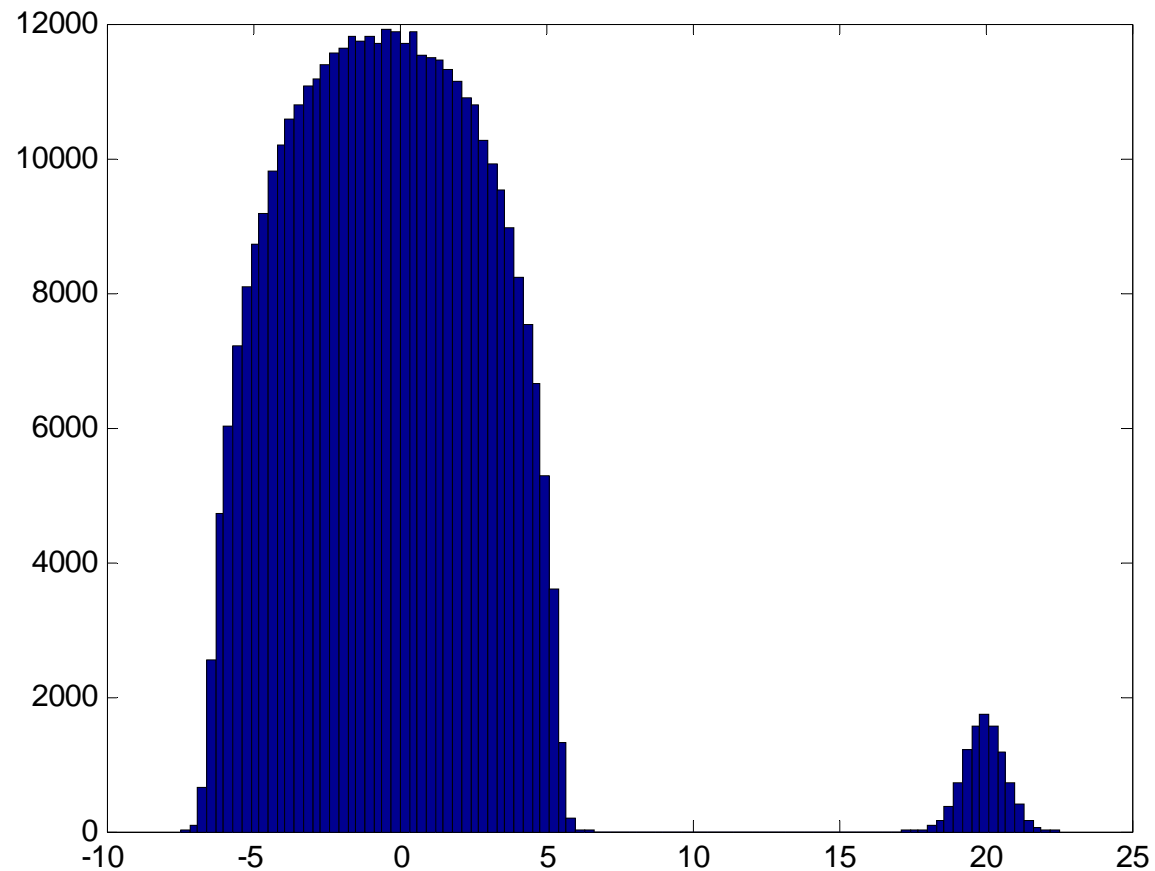
Eigenvectors stable too, if well-separated from others.

Understand eigenvalues of random matrices

[Furedi-Komlos '81, Alon-Krivelevich-Vu '01, Vu '05]

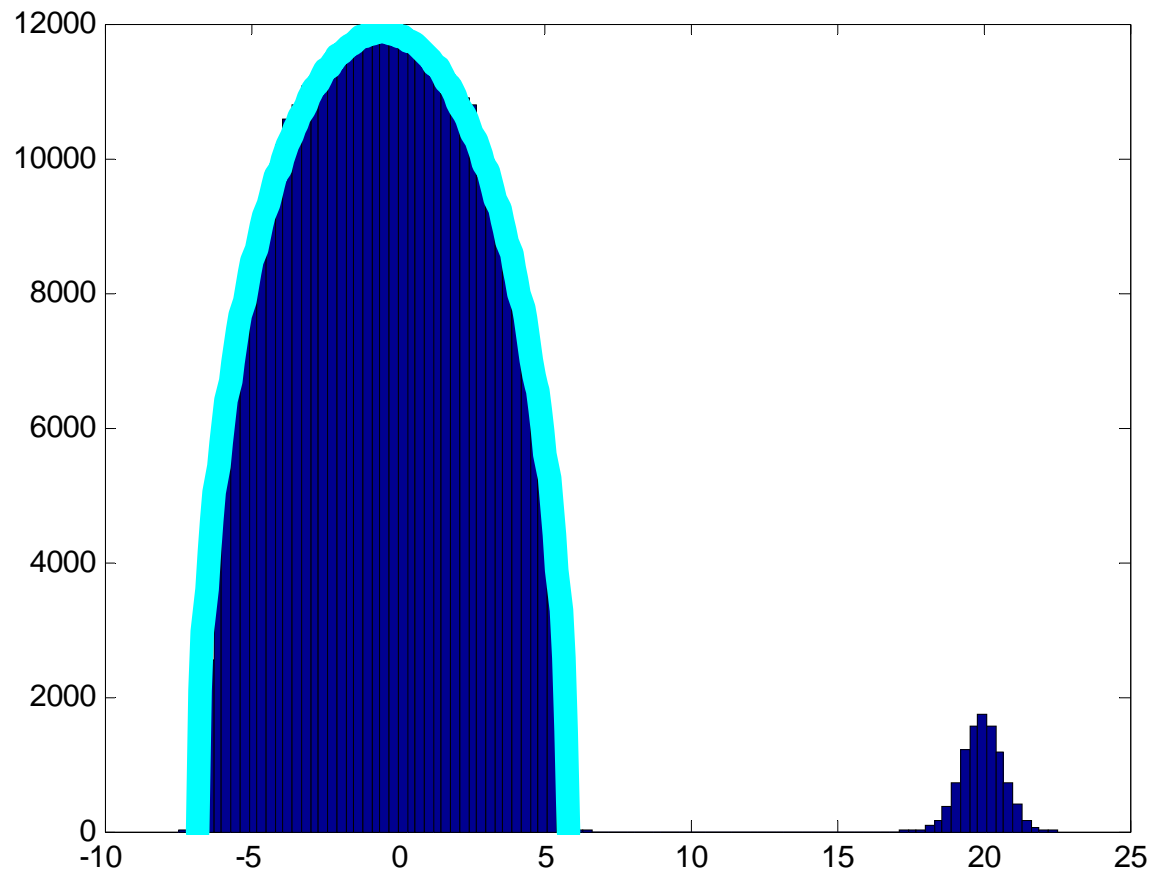
# Distribution of eigenvalues of Random Graphs

Histogram of  
eigvals of  
random  
40-by-40  
adjacency  
matrices



# Distribution of eigenvalues of Random Graphs

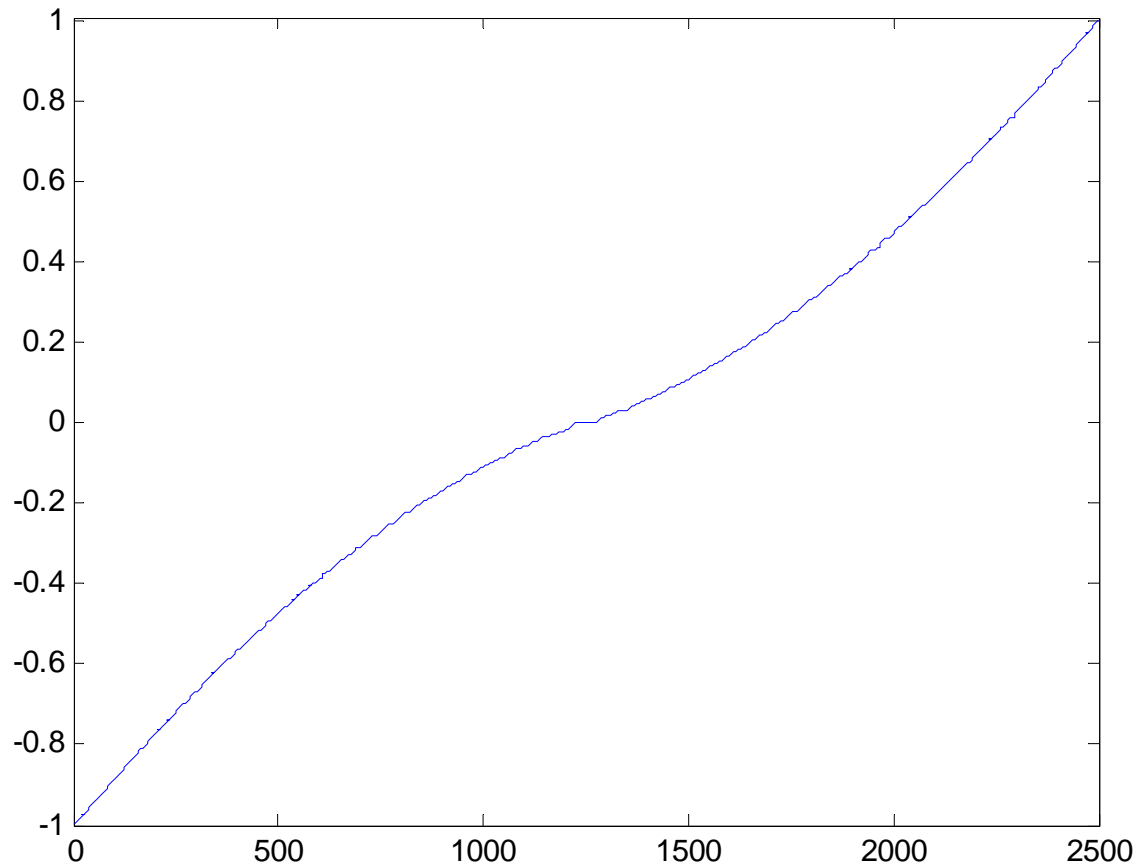
Histogram of  
eigvals of  
random  
40-by-40  
adjacency  
matrices



Predicted curve: Wigner's Semi-Circle Law

# Eigenvalue distributions

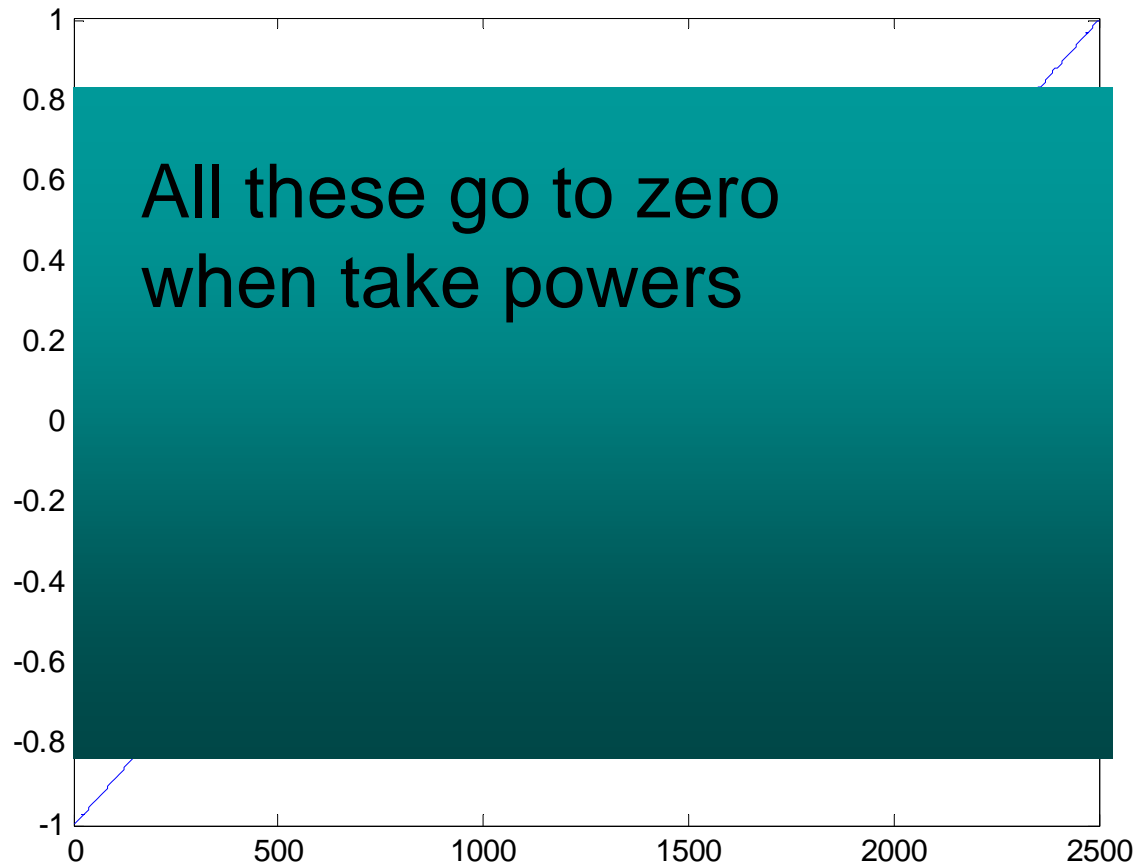
Eigenvalues of walk matrix of 50-by-50 grid graph



Number greater than  $1-\varepsilon$  proportional to  $\varepsilon$

# Eigenvalue distributions

Eigenvalues of walk matrix of 50-by-50 grid graph



Number greater than  $1-\varepsilon$  proportional to  $\varepsilon$



# Compression of powers of graphs

[Coifman, Lafon, Lee, Maggioni, Nadler, Warner, Zucker '05]

If most eigenvalues of  $A$  and  $W$  bounded from 1.

Most eigenvalues of  $A^t$  very small.

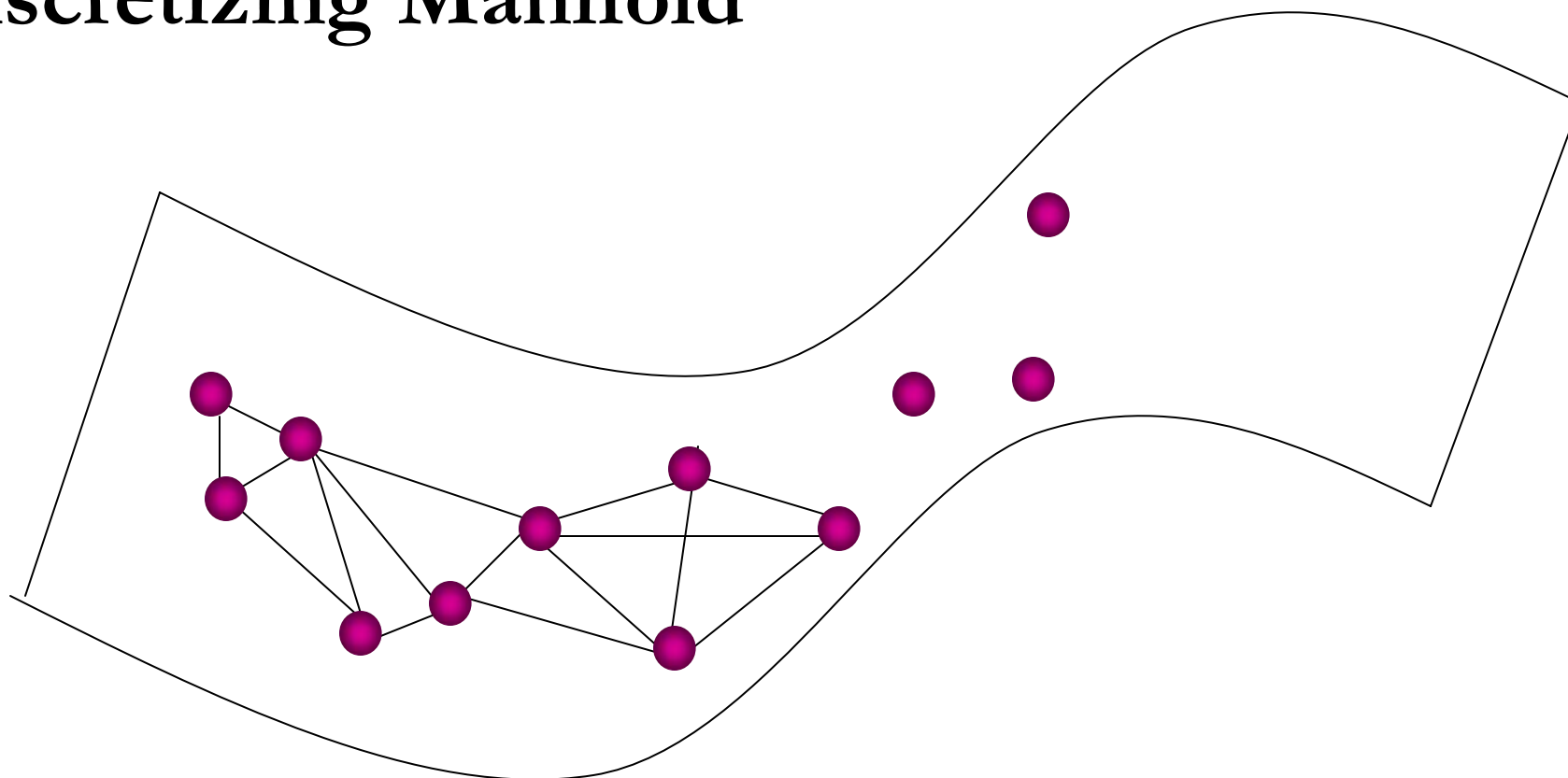
Can approximate  $A^t$  by low-rank matrix.

Build wavelets bases on graphs.

Solve linear equations and compute eigenvectors.

Make rigorous by taking graph from  
discretization of manifold

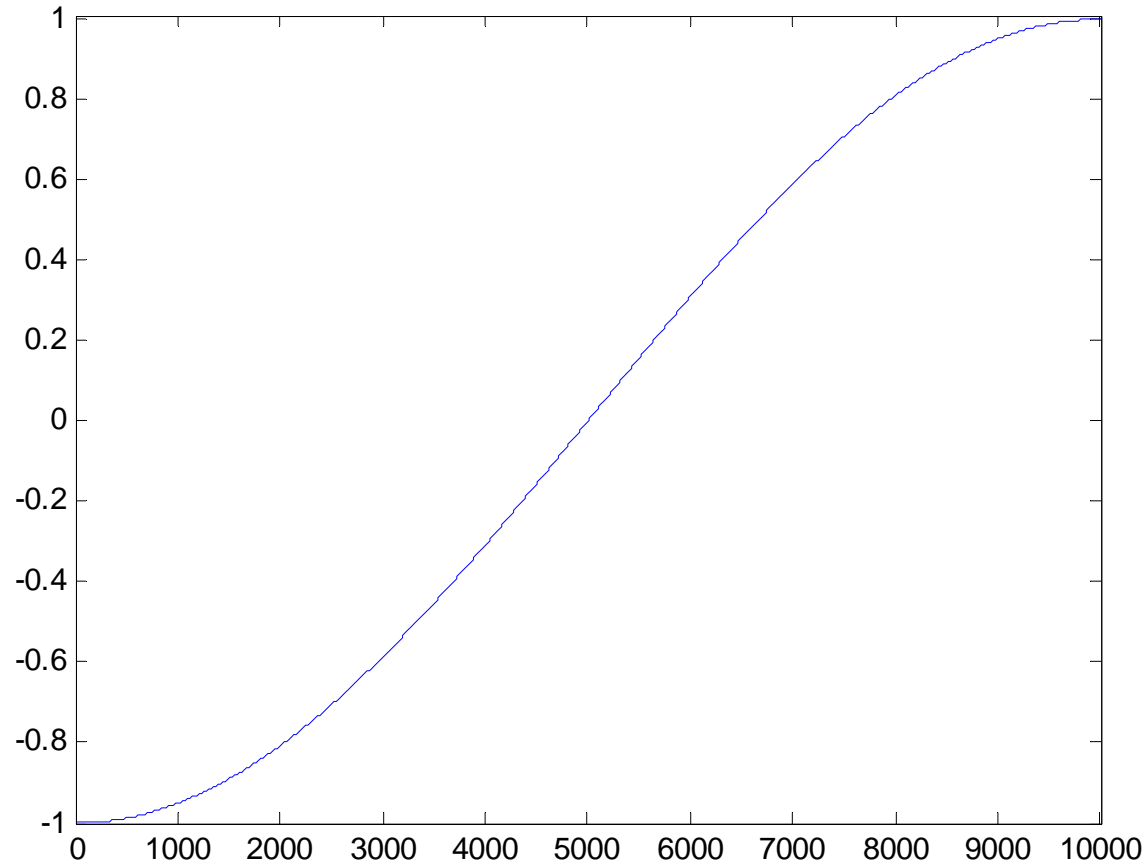
# Discretizing Manifold



edge weight  $e^{-\text{dist}(x,y)^2 / t^2}$

# Eigenvalue distributions

Eigenvalues of path graph on 10k nodes



Number greater than  $1-\epsilon$  proportional to  $\sqrt{\epsilon}$

# Theorem: Eigenvalue distributions

Theorem:

If bounded degree,

number eigenvalues greater than  $1-\epsilon$  is  $O(\sqrt{\epsilon})$

Proof: can choose  $\sqrt{\epsilon n}$  vertices to collapse so that conductance becomes at least  $\epsilon$  (like adding an expander on those nodes).

New graph has all eigvals at most  $1-\epsilon$  in abs value. Is rank  $\sqrt{\epsilon n}$  change, so by Courant-Fischer

$$|\lambda_{\sqrt{\epsilon n}}| \leq 1 - \epsilon$$

# Eigenvalue distributions of planar graphs?

For planar graphs,  
Colan de Verdiere's results imply

$$\lambda_2 < \lambda_5$$

How big must the gap be?  
Must other gaps exist?

# Computation

If  $\lambda$  exactly an eigenvalue,  
eigvecs =  $\text{Null}(A - \lambda I)$

Not rational, so only approximate

If  $\lambda$  close to just one eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$

$$(A - \lambda I)^{-1} \approx \frac{1}{\lambda_i - \lambda} v_i v_i^T$$

If  $\lambda_i$  close to  $\lambda_{i+1}$  is like  $\lambda_i = \lambda_{i+1}$

$v_i$  and  $v_{i+1}$  can rotate with each other

# General Symmetric Matrices

Locate any eigval in time  $O(n^3 + n \log(1/\epsilon))$

1. Orthogonal similarity transform to tri-diagonal in time  $O(n^3)$  by elimination algorithm.
2. Given tri-diagonal matrix,  
count number eigenvalues in any interval in time  $O(n)$
3. Do binary search to locate eigenvalue

Locate eigenvector:  $O(n)$  steps on tri-diagonal,  
 $O(n^2)$  time to map back to A

# Largest eigenvectors by power method

Apply A to random vector r:

$$r = \sum_i (v_i^T r) v_i$$

$$Ar = \sum_i \lambda_i (v_i^T r) v_i$$

$$A^t r = \sum_i \lambda_i^t (v_i^T r) v_i \approx \lambda_n^t (v_n^T r) v_n$$

In  $O((\log n)/\epsilon)$  iters, expect x such that

$$\frac{x^T Ax}{x^T x} \geq (1 - \epsilon)\lambda_n$$

Using Lanczos, expect  $O(\sqrt{(\log n)/\epsilon})$  iters  
(better polynomial)



# Smallest eigenvectors by inverse power method

Apply  $L^{-1}$  to random vector  $r$  orthogonal to  $\mathbf{1}$

$$L^{-1}r = \sum_{i \geq 2} (1/\lambda_i) (v_i^T r) v_i$$

$$L^{-t}r = \sum_{i \geq 2} \lambda_i^{-t} (v_i^T r) v_i \approx \lambda_2^{-t} (v_2^T r) v_2$$

In  $O((\log n)/\epsilon)$  iters, expect  $x$  such that

$$\frac{x^T Lx}{x^T x} \leq (1 + \epsilon)\lambda_2$$

Compute  $L^{-1}r$  in time  $m \log^{O(1)} n \log(1/\epsilon)$  [STeng04]

if planar, in time  $O(m \log(1/\epsilon))$  [Koutis-Miller 06]

# Sparsification

Key to fast computation.

Replace  $A$  by sparse  $B$  for which

$$\max \frac{x^T L_A x}{x^T L_B x} \leq c \qquad \min \frac{x^T L_A x}{x^T L_B x} \geq 1/c$$

Generalized eigenvalues provide notion of approximation in graphs.

# Questions

Cheeger's inequality for other physical problems?

How to incorporate other data into spectral methods?

Make multilevel coarsening rigorous.

What can we do with boundary conditions?

What about generalized eigenvalue problems?

$$\frac{x^T L x}{x^T M x}$$