

On the spectra of discrete Laplacians on forms

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Abstract

In the context of infinite weighted graphs, we consider the discrete Laplacians on 0-forms and 1-forms. Using Weyl's criterion, we prove the relation between the nonzero spectrum of these two Laplacians. Moreover, we give an extension of the work of John Lott to characterize their 0-spectrum .



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In the context of infinite weighted graphs, we consider the discrete Laplacians on 0-forms and 1-forms. Using Weyl's criterion, we prove the relation between the nonzero spectrum of these two Laplacians. Moreover, we give an extension of the work of John Lott to characterize their 0-spectrum .



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- 1 Preliminaries and notation
 - Definitions and notation
 - Weighted graphs
 - Functionnel spaces
 - Operators and properties
- 2 The relation between the spectrum of Δ_0 and Δ_1
 - The nonzero spectrum of Δ_0 and Δ_1
 - The 0-spectrum of Δ_0 and Δ_1

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2 The relation between the spectrum of Δ_0 and Δ_1

- The nonzero spectrum of Δ_0 and Δ_1
- The 0-spectrum of Δ_0 and Δ_1

A **graph** G is a couple $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ where \mathcal{V} is a set at most countable whose elements are called vertices and \mathcal{E} is a set of oriented edges, considered as a subset of $\mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$.

If the graph G has a finite set of vertices, it is called a **finite graph**. Otherwise, G is called an **infinite graph**.

We assume that \mathcal{E} has no self-loops and is symmetric :

$$v \in \mathcal{V} \Rightarrow (v, v) \notin \mathcal{E}, \quad (v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{E} \Rightarrow (v_2, v_1) \in \mathcal{E}.$$

Choosing an orientation of G consists of defining a partition of $\mathcal{E} : \mathcal{E}^+ \sqcup \mathcal{E}^- = \mathcal{E}$

$$(v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{E}^+ \Leftrightarrow (v_2, v_1) \in \mathcal{E}^-.$$

For $e = (v_1, v_2)$, we denote

$$e^- = v_1, \quad e^+ = v_2 \text{ and } -e = (v_2, v_1).$$

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For $e = (v_1, v_2)$, we denote

$$e^- = v_1, \quad e^+ = v_2 \quad \text{and} \quad -e = (v_2, v_1).$$

The graph G is **connected** if any two vertices x, y in \mathcal{V} can be joined by a path of edges γ_{xy} , that means $\gamma_{xy} = \{e_k\}_{k=1, \dots, n}$ such that

$$e_1^- = x, e_n^+ = y \text{ and, if } n \geq 2, \forall j; 1 \leq j \leq (n-1) \Rightarrow e_j^+ = e_{j+1}^-.$$

A *cycle* is a path whose end and origin are identical ($e_n^+ = e_1^-$).

A *tree* is a connected graph containing no cycles.

The degree (or valence) of a vertex x is the number of edges emanating from x . We denote

$$\deg(x) := \#\{e \in \mathcal{E}; e^- = x\}.$$

If $\deg(x) < \infty, \forall x \in \mathcal{V}$, we say that G is a **locally finite graph**.

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A **weighted graph** (G, c) is given by a graph $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ and weights on the edges $c : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow [0, \infty[$ such that

- $c(x, x) = 0, \forall x \in \mathcal{V}$.
- $c(x, y) > 0, \forall (x, y) \in \mathcal{E}$.
- $c(x, y) = c(y, x), \forall (x, y) \in \mathcal{E}$.

If $\sum_{y \sim x} c(x, y) < \infty$ for each $x \in \mathcal{V}$, we can define a weight on \mathcal{V} by

$$\tilde{c}(x) = \sum_{y \sim x} c(x, y), \quad x \in \mathcal{V}.$$

Remark

If the graph G is locally finite, the weight \tilde{c} on any vertex is well defined.

All the graphs we shall consider will be connected, locally finite and weighted .

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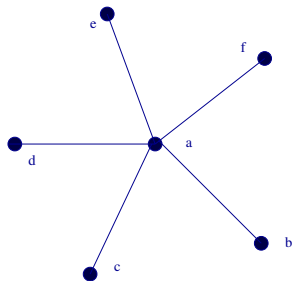
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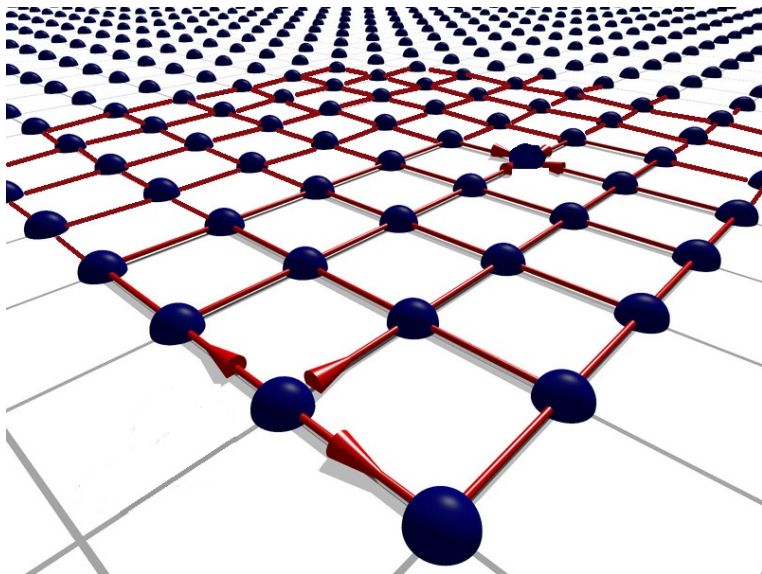
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Exemples :

Star graph :



Infinite network :

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We define on G the following function spaces endowed with the scalar products.

a)

$$l^2(\mathcal{V}) := \left\{ f \in \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{V}); \sum_{x \in \mathcal{V}} \tilde{c}(x) f^2(x) < \infty \right\},$$

with the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{\mathcal{V}} = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{V}} \tilde{c}(x) f(x) g(x)$$

and the norm

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{V}} = \sqrt{\langle f, f \rangle_{\mathcal{V}}}.$$

b)

$$l^2(\mathcal{E}) := \left\{ \varphi \in C^a(\mathcal{E}); \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} c(e) \varphi^2(e) < \infty \right\},$$

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The difference operator : is the operator

$$d : l^2(\mathcal{V}) \longrightarrow l^2(\mathcal{E}),$$

is given by

$$d(f)(e) = f(e^+) - f(e^-).$$

The coboundary operator : is δ , the formal adjoint of d . Thus it satisfies

$$\langle df, \varphi \rangle_{\mathcal{E}} = \langle f, \delta\varphi \rangle_{\mathcal{V}}$$

for all $f \in l^2(\mathcal{V})$ and for all $\varphi \in l^2(\mathcal{E})$.

Lemma

The coboundary operator δ is characterized by the formula

$$\delta\varphi(x) = \frac{1}{\tilde{c}(x)} \sum_{e, e^+=x} c(e)\varphi(e),$$

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Definition

The Laplacian on 0-forms Δ_0 defined by δd on $l^2(\mathcal{V})$ is given by

$$\Delta_0 f(x) = \frac{1}{\tilde{c}(x)} \sum_{y \sim x} c(x, y) (f(x) - f(y)).$$

In fact, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_0 f(x) &= \delta(df)(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{\tilde{c}(x)} \sum_{e, e^+ = x} c(e) df(e) \\ &= \frac{1}{\tilde{c}(x)} \sum_{e, e^+ = x} c(e) (f(e^+) - f(e^-)) \\ &= \frac{1}{\tilde{c}(x)} \sum_{y \sim x} c(x, y) (f(x) - f(y)). \end{aligned}$$

Definition

The Laplacian on 1-forms Δ_1 defined by $d\delta$ on $l^2(\mathcal{E})$ is given by

$$\Delta_1\varphi(e) = \frac{1}{\tilde{c}(e^+)} \sum_{e_1, e_1^+ = e^+} c(e_1)\varphi(e_1) - \frac{1}{\tilde{c}(e^-)} \sum_{e_2, e_2^+ = e^-} c(e_2)\varphi(e_2).$$

In fact, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_1\varphi(e) &= d(\delta\varphi)(e) \\ &= \delta\varphi(e^+) - \delta\varphi(e^-) \\ &= \frac{1}{\tilde{c}(e^+)} \sum_{e_1, e_1^+ = e^+} c(e_1)\varphi(e_1) - \frac{1}{\tilde{c}(e^-)} \sum_{e_2, e_2^+ = e^-} c(e_2)\varphi(e_2). \end{aligned}$$

Proposition

The operator Δ_0 is bounded and self-adjoint.

Remark

The operators d and δ are bounded. Notice that since Δ_1 is the composite operator of d and δ , this gives another proof that Δ_1 is bounded.

Remark

As the operator Δ_0 is bounded, self-adjoint and positive, its spectrum is real and lies in $[0, 2]$.

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Theorem

$$\sigma(\Delta_1) \setminus \{0\} = \sigma(\Delta_0) \setminus \{0\}.$$

Sketch of the proof :

① We have

- $d\Delta_0 = \Delta_1 d.$
- $\delta\Delta_1 = \Delta_0 \delta.$

② Weyl's criterion : Let \mathcal{H} be a separable Hilbert space, and let Δ be a bounded self-adjoint operator on \mathcal{H} . Then λ is in the spectrum of Δ if and only if there exists a sequence $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ so that $\|f_n\| = 1$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|(\Delta - \lambda)f_n\| = 0.$

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First, we start with preliminary results.

Definition

The graph G verifies the isoperimetric inequality if there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that for all finite sub-graphs $G_U = (U, \mathcal{E}_U)$ of G , we have

$$|\partial\mathcal{E}_U| \geq C |U|,$$

where

$$|\partial\mathcal{E}_U| = \sum_{x \in U} \sum_{y \notin U} c(x, y) \text{ and } |U| = \sum_{x \in U} \tilde{c}(x).$$

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If Δ_0 is invertible then the isoperimetric inequality holds.

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$$|\partial\mathcal{E}_U| \geq C |U|,$$

where

$$|\partial\mathcal{E}_U| = \sum_{x \in U} \sum_{y \notin U} c(x, y) \text{ and } |U| = \sum_{x \in U} \tilde{c}(x).$$

Lemma

If Δ_0 is invertible then the isoperimetric inequality holds.

Definition

- A **branch** B is a finite sequence of vertices x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{m+1} such that for all j ; $1 \leq j \leq m$, we have $\deg(x_j) = 2$.
- The length of a branch B , denoted $\text{long}(B)$, is the number of vertices in this branch, here, $\text{long}(B) = m + 2$.
- The interior of the branch B is the set of vertices x_j of B satisfying the following conditions :
 - $\deg(x_j) = 2$.
 - $\forall y \in \mathcal{V}; y \sim x_j \Rightarrow y \in B$.

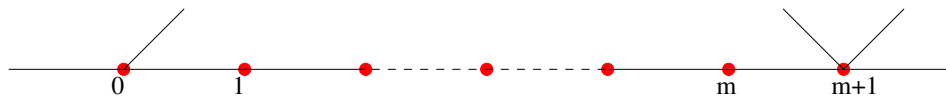


FIGURE : A branch of length $m + 2$

Instead of the argument of J. Lott, we use the following lemma :

Lemma

We suppose that the following conditions are satisfied :

- *The weight on edges c is bounded, i.e., there exists a constant $\alpha > 0$ such that $\frac{1}{\alpha} \leq c(x, y) \leq \alpha, \forall (x, y) \in \mathcal{E}$.*
- *The operator Δ_0 is invertible.*
- *The operator Δ_1 is injective.*

Then the graph (G, c) is a tree which contains branches with uniformly bounded lengths, that means $\exists M > 0, \forall B$ branch of $G, \text{long}(B) \leq M$.

Theorem

Let (G, c) be a connected, locally finite and weighted infinite graph such that the weight on edges c is bounded, i.e., there exists a constant $\alpha > 0$ such that $\frac{1}{\alpha} \leq c(x, y) \leq \alpha$, for all $(x, y) \in \mathcal{E}$. Then

$$0 \in \sigma(\Delta_1) \text{ or } 0 \in \sigma(\Delta_0).$$



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*Thank you
for your attention*