

Intertwining wavelets on graphs: a tool for the inverse problem in E/MEG ?

Joint work with

L. Avena (Univ. di Firenze), F. Castell (I2M, Marseille), A. Gaudillière (I2M, Marseille), C. Melot (I2M, Marseille) Spécials guests: Dominique Benielli and Sasha Duverger (Project Fosfor, CNRS initiative Open)

Workshop BMWs, June 2025

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Laplacian of the graph $\mathcal{L}$

$$w(x) := \sum_{y \neq x} w(x, y) .$$

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$$\mathcal{L}(x, x) = -w(x).$$

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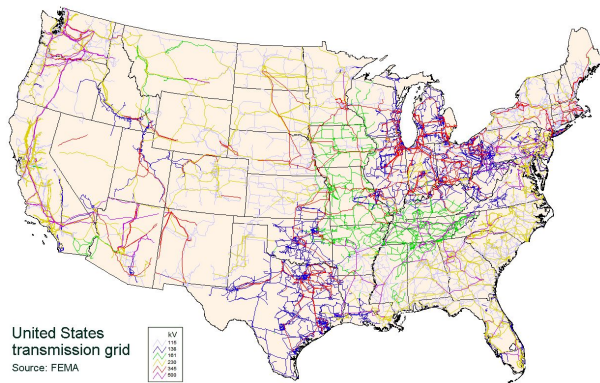
$$\mathcal{L}(x, x) = -w(x).$$

$(-\mathcal{L})$ is a positive symetric matrix with eigenvalues :

$$\lambda_0 = 0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_{n-1}.$$

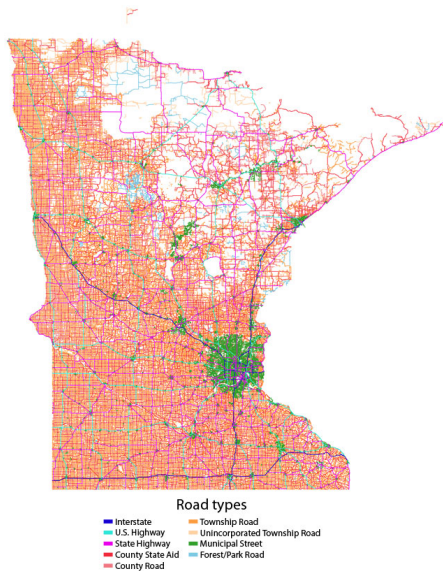
Examples

Electrical grid



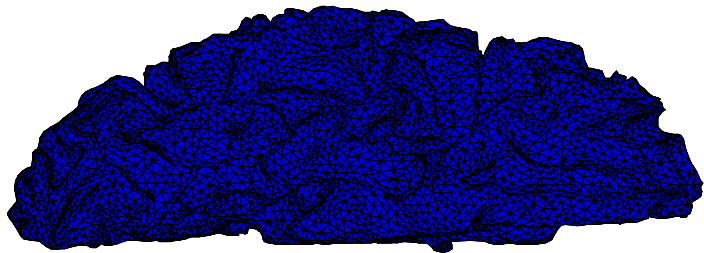
Examples

Street network



Examples

Discretized surfaces (data J. Lefèvre, LIS Marseille)



Sparsity of a signal

Signal on graph

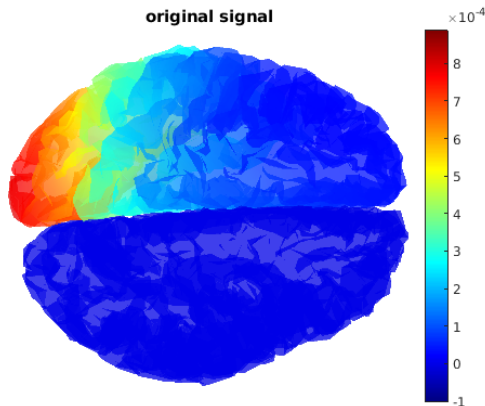
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A smooth signal (data J.M Lina, Université de Montréal)



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- We want to build a multiresolution analysis of signals defined on a generic graph, i.e. to encode $f \in \mathbb{R}^n$ as a sum of a general trend, **the approximation**, and oscillations at different scales, **the details** :
our signal f is encoded through n coefficients structured as

$$\left[\underbrace{f_k}_{\text{approximation}}, \underbrace{g_1, \dots, g_k}_{\text{details}} \right].$$

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- we would like $[g_1, \dots, g_k]$ to be a sparse vector whenever f has some "regularity".

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An iterative algorithm made of filtering and subsampling.

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local "mean" : $\tilde{f}_1(m) = (h \star f_0)(m)$ for the approximation.
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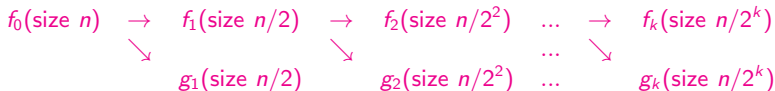
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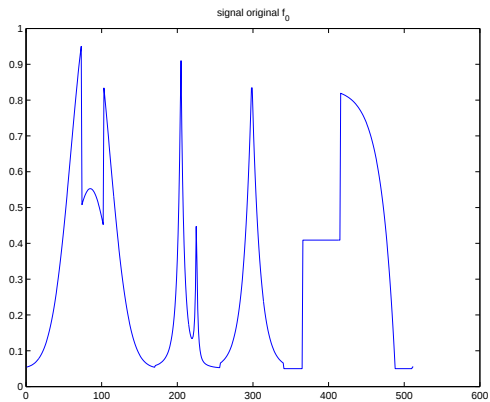
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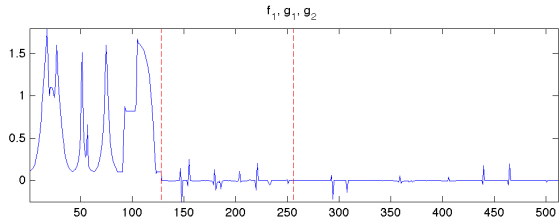
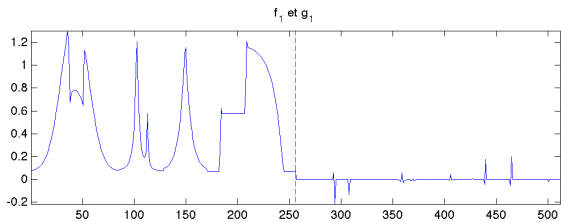
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- Iterate.



Example





one step or two steps of the scheme

Basis functions

One step $\iff$ definition of a basis of $\mathbb{R}^n$:

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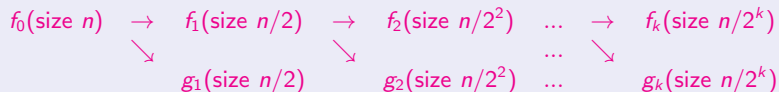
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- Conditioning index, to be able to **reconstruct** signal from the coefficients.

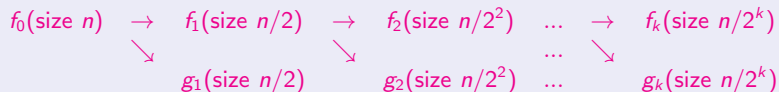
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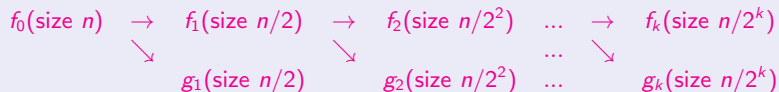
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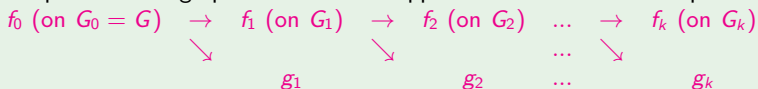
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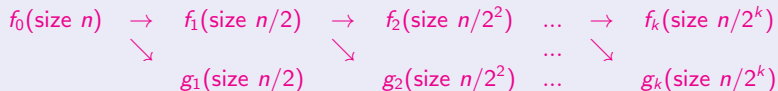
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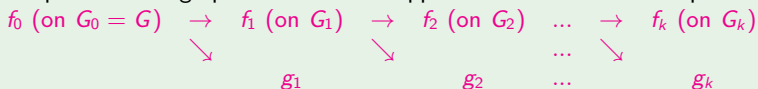
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- We want $G_1, G_2, \dots, G_k$ to be a sequence of subgraphs which keep as much as possible the important features of the original graph.

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Proposed answers to these questions :

- Subsampling a graph : find a random set with guarantees that in some sense it is well spread on the graph
- Filtering the data : compute local means.
- Compute the weights between the points of the subsampling set, which means compute the coefficients of a Laplacian matrix based on the subsampling set.

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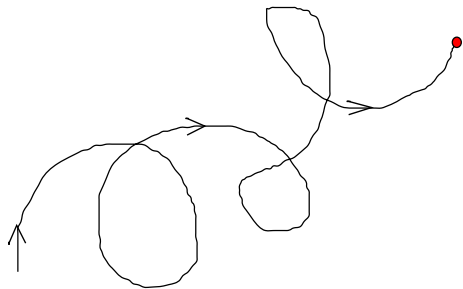
Markov process in continuous time

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- a Laplacian matrix. $\mathcal{L}f(x) = \sum_{y \in V} w(x, y) (f(y) - f(x))$ for any vector $(f(x))_{x \in \mathcal{X}}$.
- We denote $X = (X_t, t \geq 0)$ a Markov process with generator $\mathcal{L}$: X jumps from x to y with probability $w(x, y)/w(x)$ after a random time of law $\mathcal{E}(w(x))$.

Subsampling. Choosing a well-spread subset $\bar{\mathcal{X}}$ of $\mathcal{X}$

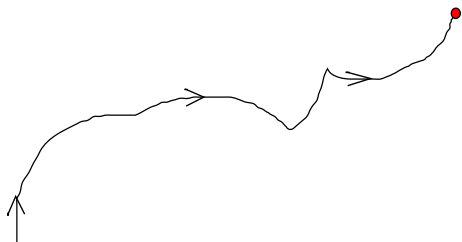
Wilson's algorithm :



- Choose a point $x \in \mathcal{X}$. From x , run a Markov process X with generator $\mathcal{L}$ until a random time T_q , an exponential time with parameter q .

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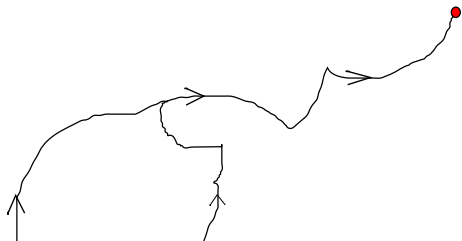
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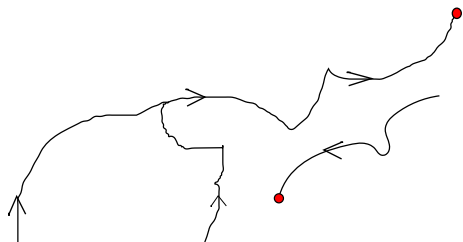
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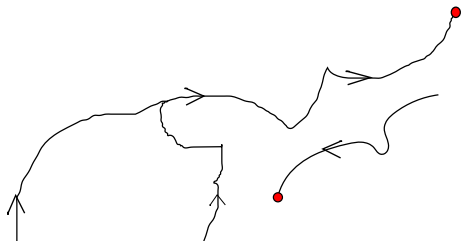
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We end up with an oriented spanning forest Φ_q .

Our proposal to choose "one out of two points".

$$\bar{\mathcal{X}} = \text{set of the trees roots} = \rho(\Phi_q).$$

Subsampling. Choosing a well-spread subset $\bar{\mathcal{X}}$ of $\mathcal{X}$

Properties of this set (Wilson (96)).

Let $(X(t), t \geq 0)$ be a Markov process with generator $\mathcal{L}$ and $T_q \sim \mathcal{E}(q)$. Set

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- $|\rho(\Phi_q)|$ is distributed as the sum of independent Bernoulli with parameters $\frac{q}{q+\lambda_i}$.
Hence,

$$m = \mathbb{E}[|\rho(\Phi_q)|] = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{q}{q+\lambda_i} .$$

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- $|\rho(\Phi_q)|$ is distributed as the sum of independent Bernoulli with parameters $\frac{q}{q+\lambda_i}$.
Hence,

$$m = \mathbb{E}[|\rho(\Phi_q)|] = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{q}{q+\lambda_i} .$$

As a determinantal process, the points in $\rho(\Phi_q)$ repulse one each other :

$$\text{For } x \neq y, \mathbb{P}[y \in \rho(\Phi_q) | x \in \rho(\Phi_q)] \leq \mathbb{P}[y \in \rho(\Phi_q)]$$

Subsampling. Choosing a well-spread subset $\bar{\mathcal{X}}$ of $\mathcal{X}$

Properties of this set (Wilson (96)).

Let $(X(t), t \geq 0)$ be a Markov process with generator $\mathcal{L}$ and $T_q \sim \mathcal{E}(q)$. Set

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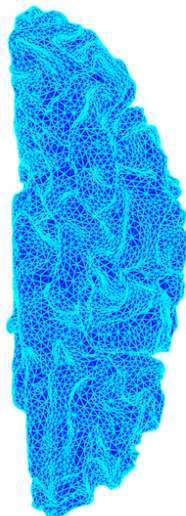
Moreover (Avena & Gaudillière (17)), let $H_{\rho(\Phi_q)}$ the hitting time of $\rho(\Phi_q)$:

$$\mathbb{E}(E_x[H_{\rho(\Phi_q)}]) \text{ does not depend on } x.$$

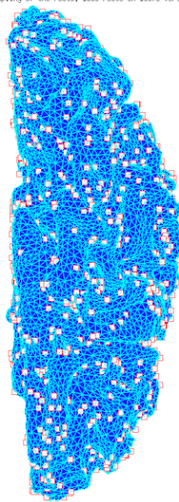
In some sense, the points of $\rho(\Phi_q)$ are well spread in $\mathcal{X}$.

Examples

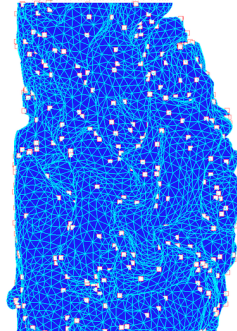
Set of roots for small q . About 10% of the points are kept.



sampling of the roots: 1868 roots on 19576 vertices

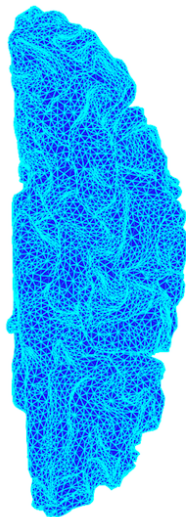


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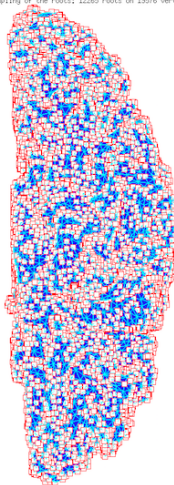


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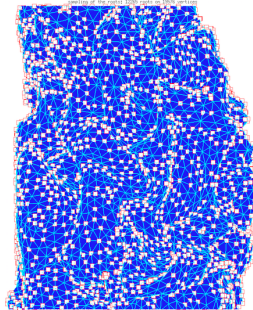
Set of roots for large q . About 2/3 of the points are kept.



sampling of the roots: 12355 roots on 19576 vertices



sampling of the roots: 1000 roots on 1000 vertices



Subgraph and filtering.

Issues :

We want to compute a subgraph $G_1 = \{\mathcal{X}_1, \mathcal{L}_1\}$ and $f_1 = \Lambda_1 f$ defined on $\mathcal{X}_1$ such that

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- Avoid diagonalization of the Laplacian.

Weighting and Filtering : Markov intertwining

Markov intertwining (Rogers & Pitman (81), Diaconis & Fill (90)) :

A way to link two Markov processes on different state spaces :

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Why is it useful for us ?

- It provides a natural choice of the weights on $\tilde{\mathcal{X}}$: $\bar{w}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) = \tilde{\mathcal{L}}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y})$.
- It provides a natural choice of the approximation coefficients : $\bar{f}(\tilde{x}) = \nu_{\tilde{x}}(f) = \Lambda f(\tilde{x})$.

Weighting and Filtering : Markov intertwining

Our goal : Given $\tilde{\mathcal{X}} \subset \mathcal{X}$, find an approximate solution $(\Lambda, \tilde{\mathcal{L}})$ to $\Lambda \mathcal{L} = \tilde{\mathcal{L}} \Lambda$ such that

- $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ is symmetric.
- The $(\nu_{\bar{x}}; \bar{x} \in \tilde{\mathcal{X}})$ are "well-localized" in space (non overlapping), to get good reconstruction.
- The $(\nu_{\bar{x}}; \bar{x} \in \tilde{\mathcal{X}})$ are "well-localized" in frequency, to separate high and low frequency parts of the signal.
- $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ and Λ are easy to compute (we do not want to compute the spectral decomposition of $\mathcal{L}$).

Weighting and Filtering : Markov intertwining

Our proposal. Assume $\bar{\mathcal{X}} \subset \mathcal{X}$ and $q' > 0$ are given.

- For $\bar{x} \in \bar{\mathcal{X}}$ and $y \in \mathcal{X}$,
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where $H_{\bar{\mathcal{X}}}^+$ is the return time of the process X in $\bar{\mathcal{X}}$.
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Definition of the approximation and detail coefficients.

- For $\bar{x} \in \bar{\mathcal{X}}$, $\bar{f}(\bar{x}) = \nu_{\bar{x}}(f) = K_{q'}f(\bar{x})$.
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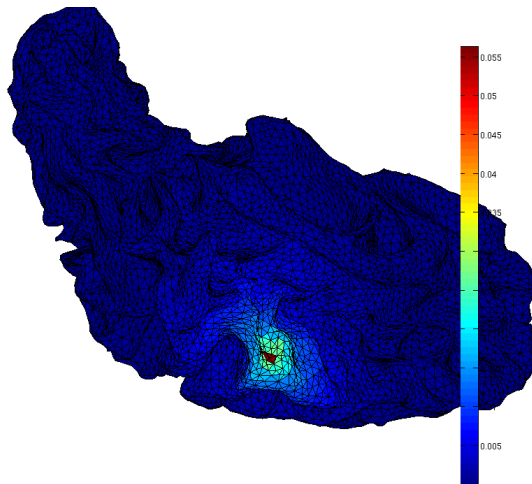
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Some comments.

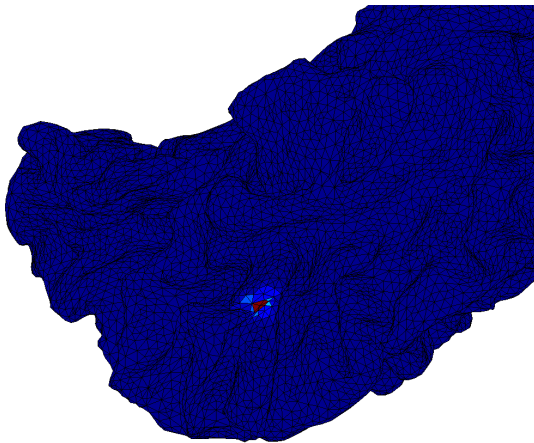
- When $q' \ll 1$, $K_{q'}(\bar{x}, \cdot) \simeq \mu$ is well frequency-localized, is a solution to the intertwining relation, is poorly space-localized.
- When $q' \gg 1$, $K_{q'}(\bar{x}, \cdot) \simeq \delta_{\bar{x}}$ is well space-localized. The frequency localization is lost, and depends on the choice of the subset $\bar{\mathcal{X}}$.

Example of one $\nu_{\bar{x}}$



small q'

Example of one $\nu_{\bar{x}}$



large q'

Some additional results

An explicit reconstruction formula.

$$f = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Id}_{\bar{x}} - \frac{1}{q'} \bar{\mathcal{L}} & \mathcal{L}_{\bar{x}\check{x}} (-\mathcal{L}_{\check{x}\check{x}})^{-1} \\ (-\mathcal{L}_{\check{x}\check{x}})^{-1} \mathcal{L}_{\check{x}\bar{x}} & q' \mathcal{L}_{\check{x}\check{x}}^{-1} - \text{Id}_{\check{x}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{f} \\ \check{f} \end{pmatrix} = \bar{R}\bar{f} + \check{R}\check{f},$$

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$$\|\bar{R}\|_{\infty, \infty} \leq 1 + 2 \frac{\bar{\alpha}}{q'}, \quad \|\check{R}\|_{\infty, \infty} \leq \max\left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}; 1 + \frac{q'}{\gamma}\right).$$

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Regularity implies small details. Jackson type inequality

$$\|f - \bar{R}_0 \bar{R}_1 \dots \bar{R}_{K-1} f_K\|_{\infty} \leq C_K \|\mathcal{L}f\|_{\infty} + D_K \|f\|_{\infty}.$$

with

$$\frac{1}{\beta} := \max_{\bar{x} \in \bar{\mathcal{X}}} E_{\bar{x}} [H_{\bar{\mathcal{X}}}^+ - \tau_1], \quad \frac{1}{\gamma} := \max_{\check{x} \in \check{\mathcal{X}}} E_{\check{x}} [H_{\check{\mathcal{X}}}] .$$

Choice of q and q' .

Wished Properties.

We are looking for (q, q') such that

- $|\rho(\Phi_q)|$ is approximately a given proportion of $|\mathcal{X}|$ (say between $[1/2, 2/3]$);
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- and also... we have a procedure to keep the subgraph "sparse"

The bases and its by-products

You give to the algorithm

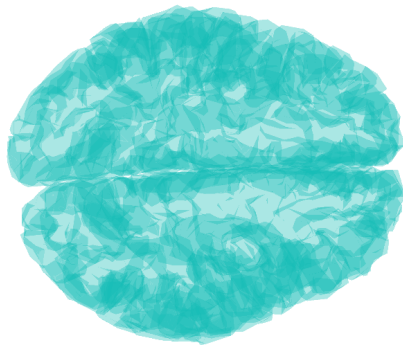
- A graph
- and if you wish a maximum number of levels

you end up with

- a sequence of subgraphs
- multiscale bases on your graph until the coarsest approximation level you decided.

Subgraphs

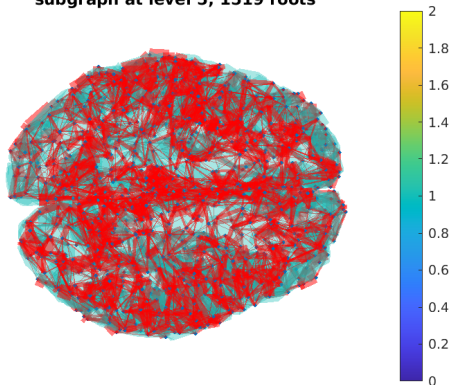
(data J.M. Lina, Université de Montréal)



A transparent brain

Subgraphs

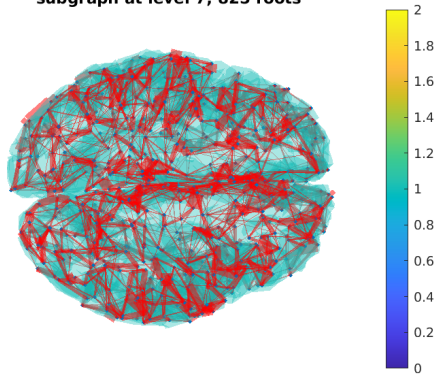
subgraph at level 5; 1519 roots



Subgraph at level 5

Subgraphs

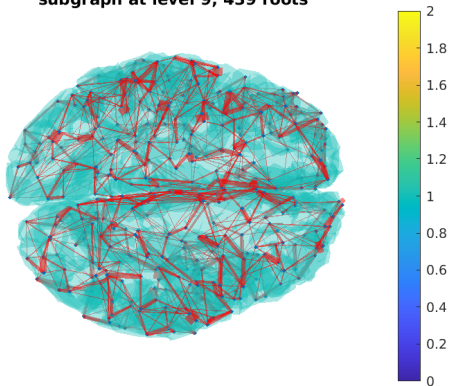
subgraph at level 7; 825 roots



Subgraph at level 7

Subgraphs

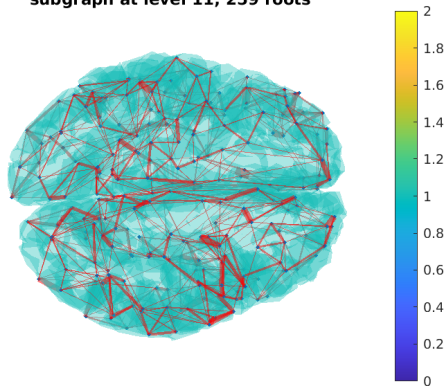
subgraph at level 9; 439 roots



Subgraph at level 9

Subgraphs

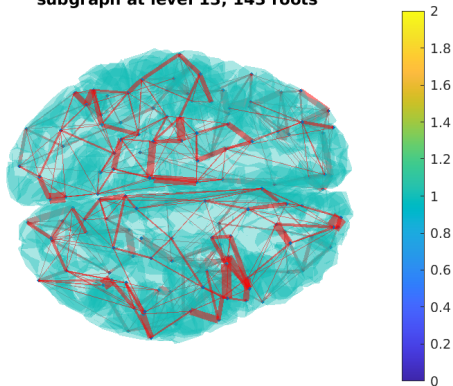
subgraph at level 11; 259 roots



Subgraph at level 11

Subgraphs

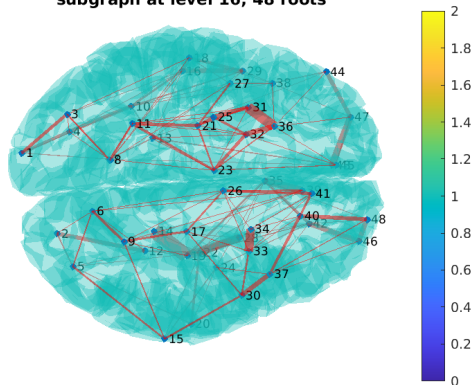
subgraph at level 13; 143 roots



Subgraph at level 13

Subgraphs

subgraph at level 16; 48 roots

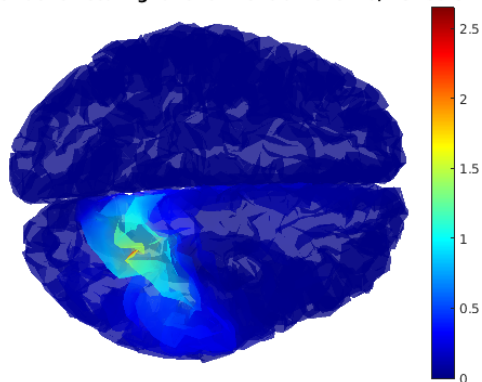


Subgraph at level 16

Choose your level of approximation

Coarse level : approximation function

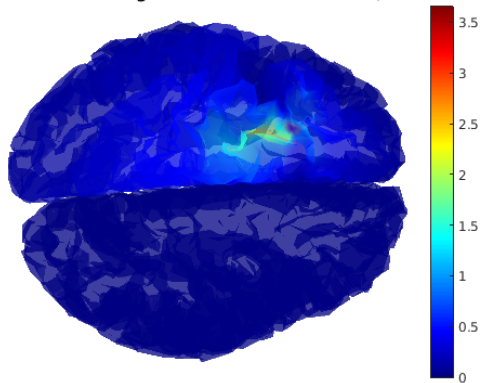
reconstruction scaling function 1826 at level 18; 13 roots



Choose your level of approximation

Coarse level : approximation function

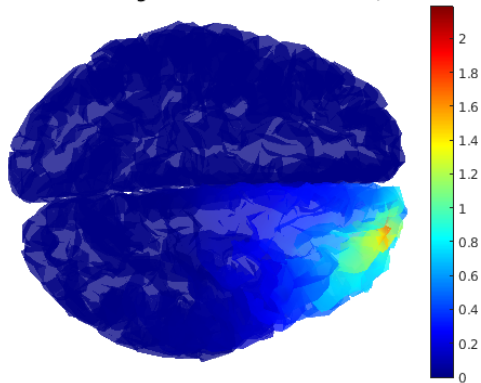
reconstruction scaling function 5477 at level 18; 13 roots



Choose your level of approximation

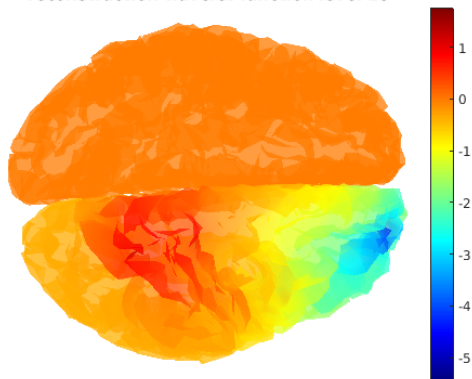
Coarse level : approximation function

reconstruction scaling function 7911 at level 18; 13 roots



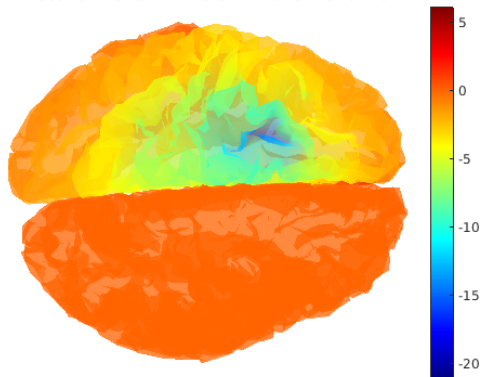
Choose your level of approximation

Coarse level : wavelet function
reconstruction wavelet function level 18



Choose your level of approximation

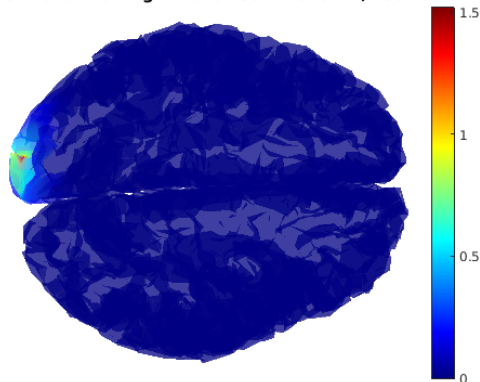
Coarse level : wavelet function
reconstruction wavelet function level 18



Choose your level of approximation

Intermediate level : approximation function

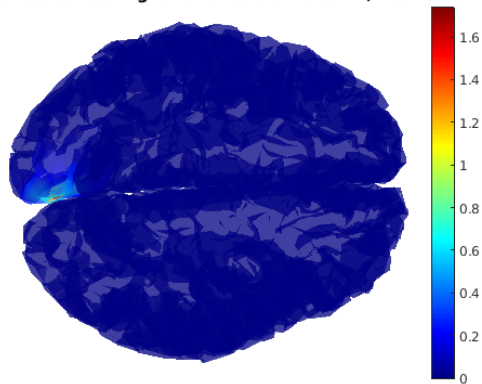
reconstruction scaling function 39 at level 11; 259 roots



Choose your level of approximation

Intermediate level : approximation function

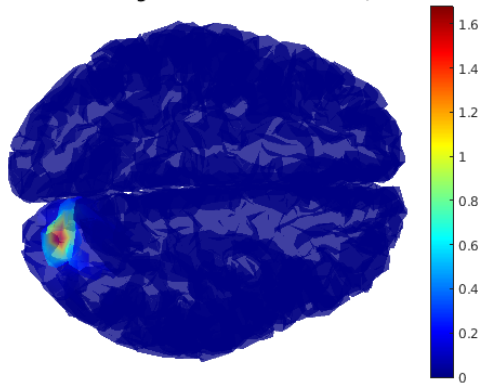
reconstruction scaling function 349 at level 11; 259 roots



Choose your level of approximation

Intermediate level : approximation function

reconstruction scaling function 522 at level 11; 259 roots



Choose your level of approximation

Intermediate level : wavelet function
reconstruction wavelet function level 11



Choose your level of approximation

Intermediate level : wavelet function

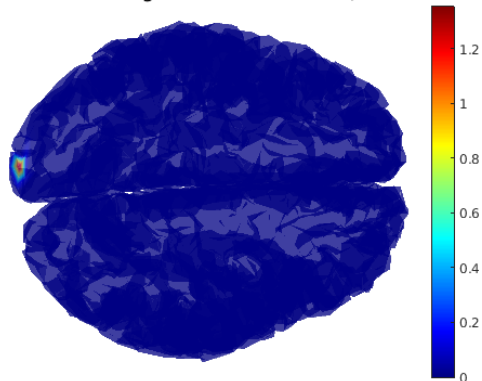
reconstruction wavelet function level 11



Choose your level of approximation

Fine level : approximation function

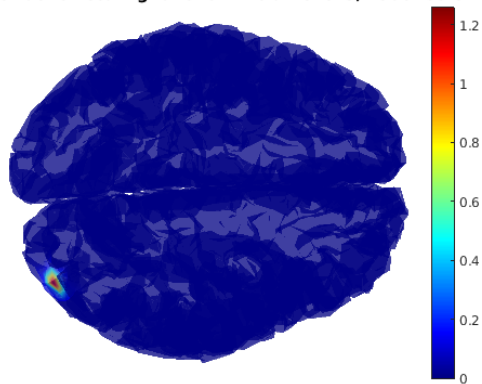
reconstruction scaling function 26 at level 3; 2900 roots



Choose your level of approximation

Fine level : approximation function

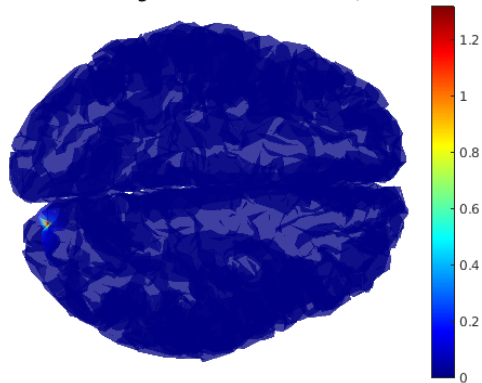
reconstruction scaling function 276 at level 3; 2900 roots



Choose your level of approximation

Fine level : approximation function

reconstruction scaling function 259 at level 3; 2900 roots



Choose your level of approximation

Fine level : wavelet function
reconstruction wavelet function level 3



Choose your level of approximation

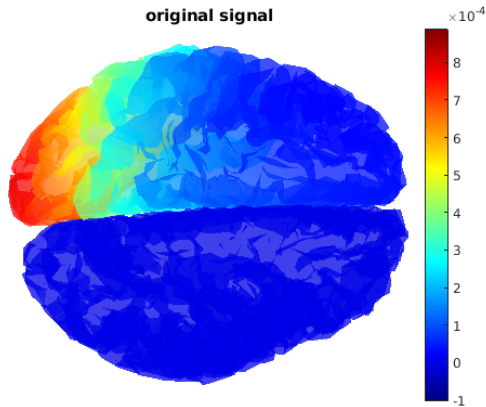
Fine level : wavelet function
reconstruction wavelet function level 3



A sparse representation of smooth signals

A smooth signal

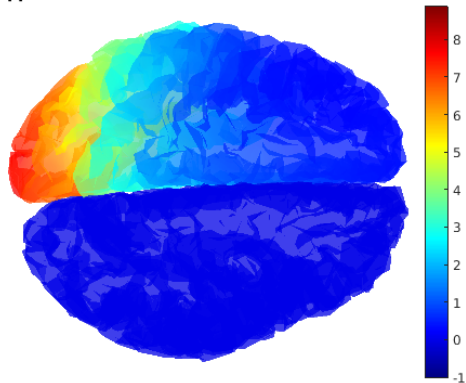
original signal



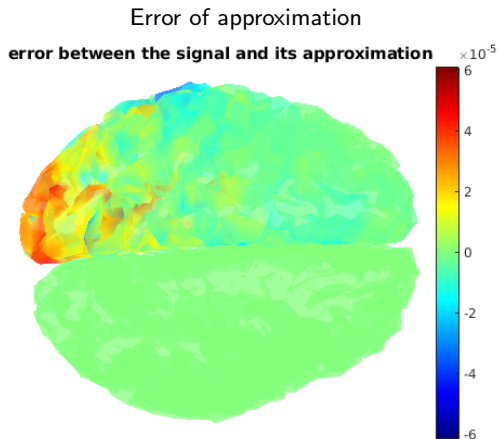
A sparse representation of smooth signals

Approximation with 3% of coefficients

approximation with 259 coefficients at scale 11 $\times 10^{-4}$



A sparse representation of smooth signals



Good news !

A Python toolbox should be soon available !