

# Random Approximation of the Sierpinski Gasket

Ranju Iyer, Benjamin Roark, Ty Wick  
University of Connecticut Fractals REU Summer 2025

December 30, 2025

# Table of Contents

- 1 Deterministic Results
- 2 Probabilistic Results
- 3 Numerics: Laplacian Eigenmaps of  $H_n$
- 4 References

# Uniform Case Lemma

In the uniform case where each cell has equal points distributed.

## Lemma

*Starting with  $H_n$  reducing to  $H_{n-1}$  the resistances  $r_{xy}$  are adjusted by a factor of  $\frac{5}{3}$*

## Theorem

*If starting with graph  $H_n$  having edge resistance  $r_{xy}$  and reducing to  $H_1$  we get the resistance to be  $\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^{n-1} r_{xy}$ . From here we can reduce to 2 points, where the effective resistance is  $\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^n r_{xy}$ .*

## Corollary

*Between tail points  $p$  and  $q$  we find that to get  $R_n(p, q) = 1$ , we should have  $r_{xy} = (\frac{3}{5})^n$ , except for the tail weights, which should be  $\frac{1}{2}(\frac{3}{5})^n$ .*

## Lemma

$$\mathbb{E}r_{xy} = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} + \epsilon, \text{ where } |\epsilon| \leq \frac{2e^{-\lambda}}{\lambda^2}.$$

$$r_{xy} = \frac{1}{1+X} \frac{1}{1+Y}$$

where  $X$  and  $Y$  are i.i.d. Poisson random variables.

$$\mathbb{E}r_{xy} = \mathbb{E} \frac{1}{1+X} \frac{1}{1+Y} = \left( \mathbb{E} \frac{1}{1+X} \right)^2$$

because  $X$  and  $Y$  are i.i.d. With direct computation, we get

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \frac{1}{1+X} \right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+n} \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^n}{n!} = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{(n+1)!}$$

$$= e^{-\lambda} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^{j-1}}{j!} = \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{\lambda} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^j}{j!} - 1 \right) = \frac{1}{\lambda} (1 - e^{-\lambda}).$$

Thus,

$$\mathbb{E}r_{xy} = \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda} (1 - e^{-\lambda}) \right]^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} - \frac{2e^{-\lambda}}{\lambda^2} + \frac{e^{-2\lambda}}{\lambda^2}.$$

We then note that, for  $\lambda > 0$ ,

$$\frac{-2e^{-\lambda}}{\lambda^2} + \frac{e^{-2\lambda}}{\lambda^2} = \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{\lambda^2} (-2 + e^{-\lambda}) \leq \frac{-2e^{-\lambda}}{\lambda^2} \leq \frac{2e^{-\lambda}}{\lambda^2},$$

completing the proof.

## Lemma

$$\mathbb{V}r_{xy} = \frac{1}{\lambda^5} + o$$

Proof: For large  $\lambda$ ,

$$\frac{1}{1+X} \frac{1}{1+Y} \approx \frac{1}{XY}.$$

If we write  $X = \lambda + \sqrt{\lambda}Z_X + o$  and  $Y = \lambda + \sqrt{\lambda}Z_Y + o$ , then

$$\frac{1}{XY} = \frac{1}{\lambda^2(1 + \frac{Z_X}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + o)(1 + \frac{Z_Y}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + o)} = \frac{1}{\lambda^2(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{\lambda}}Z + o)}.$$

So,

$$\mathbb{V}\left(\frac{1}{XY}\right) = \frac{1}{\lambda^4} \mathbb{V}\left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{2}{\lambda}}Z + o\right) = \frac{2}{\lambda^5} + o$$

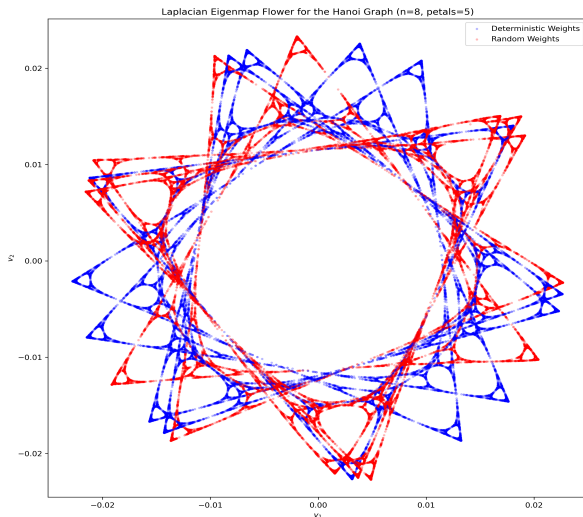
## Goals and Outline

- We aim to provide numerical evidence that the Laplacian eigenmaps of  $H_n$  when weighted randomly converge to the eigenmaps when weighted deterministically.
- In the deterministic case we fix all edge resistances  $r_{xy} = (3/5)^n$ , whereas in the random case we let  $r_{xy} = [(1 + X)(1 + Y)]^{-1}$  where  $X, Y \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \text{Pois}(\lambda)$  and  $\lambda(n)$  fulfills  $\mathbb{E}(r_{xy}) = (3/5)^n$ .
- Given our random and deterministic eigenmaps  $A$  and  $B$ , we expect to see that

$$\|A - B\|_F \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

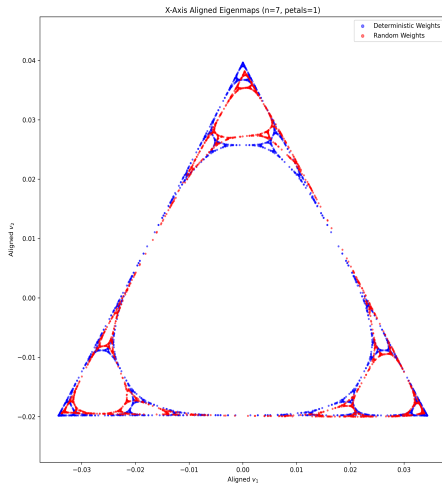
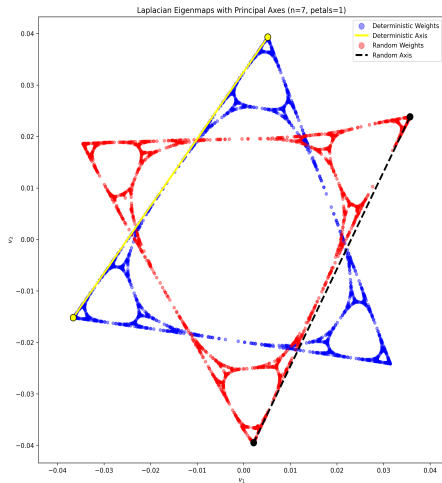
# Initial Computations: The Hanoi Flower

A picture of the initial computation of the Eigenmaps of both the random and deterministic case is shown below.



# Fixing Spurious Rotations





- We use the Convex Hull algorithm to attain the axis of rotation by which we can align the eigenmaps.



# Remaining Work For Numerics

- Although we can align the point clouds visually, we still need to ensure that the indices of the maps coincide with the same points.
- Once this has been completed, we can easily find  $\|A - B\|_n$  and report on the convergence of these maps

# References I

-  Mikhail Belkin and Partha Niyogi.  
Laplacian eigenmaps for dimensionality reduction and data representation.  
*Neural computation*, 15(6):1373–1396, 2003.
-  Mikhail Belkin and Partha Niyogi.  
Convergence, optimization and stability of singular eigenmaps.  
*arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.19510*, 2024.
-  David A. Croydon.  
An introduction to stochastic processes associated with resistance forms and their scaling limits, 2018.
-  Brett Hungar, Gamal Mograby, Madison Phelps, Luke G Rogers, and Jonathan Wheeler.  
Spectra of three-peg hanoi towers graphs.  
*arXiv preprint arXiv:2107.02697*, 2021.



Jun Kigami.

*Analysis on fractals.*

Number 143. Cambridge University Press, 2001.



Robert S Strichartz.

Differential equations on fractals: a tutorial.  
2006.



Eric W. Weisstein.

Resistance distance.

<https://mathworld.wolfram.com/ResistanceDistance.html>,  
2025.

From MathWorld—A Wolfram Resource.