

Regge finite elements in differential geometry: metric, geodesic, and curvature approximation

Michael Neunteufel (TU Wien)

Evan Gawlik (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

Jay Gopalakrishnan (Portland State University)

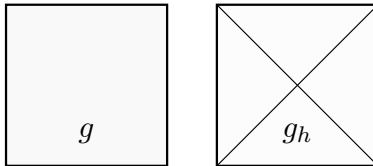
Joachim Schöberl (TU Wien)

Max Wardetzky (University of Göttingen)

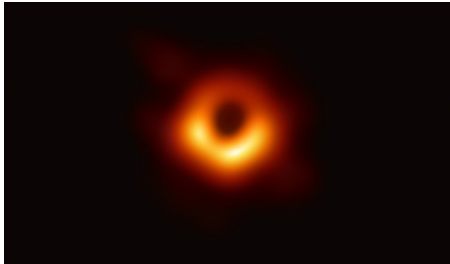


Feb 15th, 2023

- How and with which FE to approximate the metric of a Riemannian manifold?
- How to compute geodesics on such discrete, non-smooth metrics?
- How to compute curvature quantities like Gauss curvature on non-smooth metrics?



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Regge metric

Geodesics

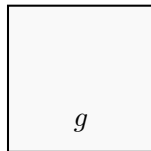
Distributional Gauss and scalar curvature

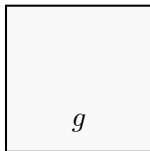
Distributional Riemann curvature

Regge metric

Riemannian manifold (M, g)

Riemannian manifold $(M \subset \mathbb{R}^2, g)$





Riemannian manifold (M, g)

Levi-Civita connection ∇

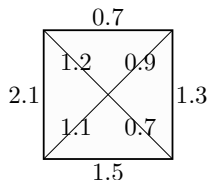
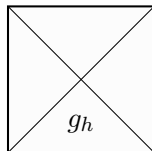
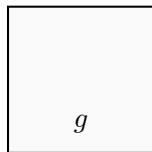
$$\nabla_X g(Y, Z) = g(\nabla_X Y, Z) + g(Y, \nabla_X Z)$$

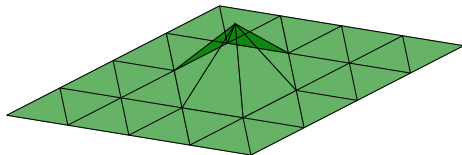
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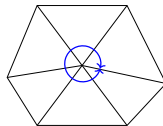
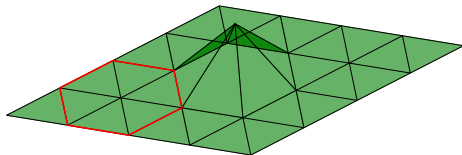
$$\nabla_X g(Y, Z) = g(\nabla_X Y, Z) + g(Y, \nabla_X Z)$$

- Approximation of g on a triangulation
- Compute lengths and angles
- Regge calculus and finite elements

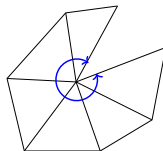
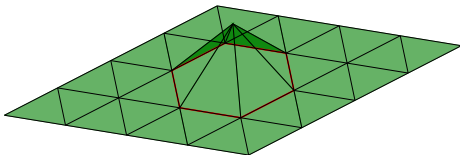




REGGE: General relativity without coordinates, *Il Nuovo Cimento* (1955-1965), 19 (1961).



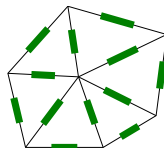
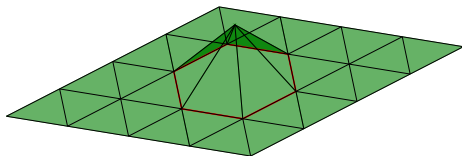
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- angle defect



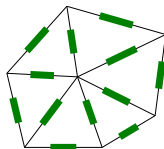
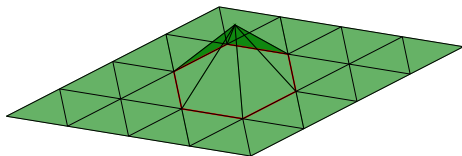
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- metric tensor

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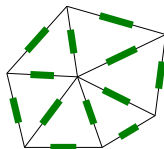
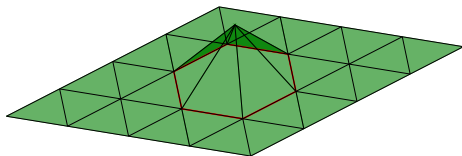
 SORKIN: Time-evolution problem in Regge calculus, *Phys. Rev. D* 12 (1975).



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 CHEEGER, MÜLLER, SCHRADER: On the curvature of piecewise flat spaces, *Communications in Mathematical Physics*, 92(3) (1984).



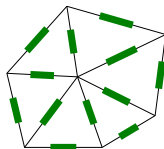
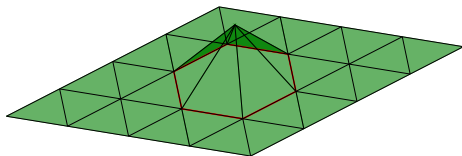
- metric tensor (tangential-tangential continuous)

$$\text{Reg}_h^k = \{\varepsilon \in \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}, \mathbb{R}_{\text{sym}}^{d \times d}) \mid \llbracket t^\top \varepsilon t \rrbracket_E = 0 \text{ for all edges } E\}$$

$$H(\text{curl curl}) = \{\varepsilon \in L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}_{\text{sym}}^{d \times d}) \mid \text{curl}^\top \text{curl}(\varepsilon) \in H^{-1}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^{(2d-3) \times (2d-3)})\}$$



CHRISTIANSEN: On the linearization of Regge calculus, *Numerische Mathematik* 119, 4 (2011).



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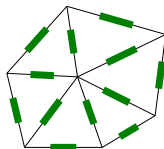
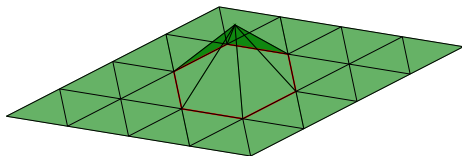
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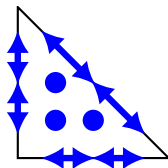
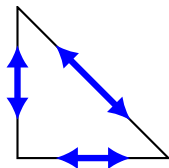
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N.: Mixed Finite Element Methods for Nonlinear Continuum Mechanics and Shells, *PhD thesis, TU Wien (2021)*.

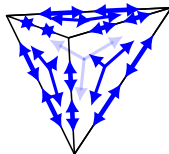
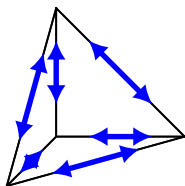


$$\varphi_{E_i} = \nabla \lambda_j \odot \nabla \lambda_k, \quad \varphi_{T_i} = \lambda_i \nabla \lambda_j \odot \nabla \lambda_k, \quad i \neq j \neq k$$

$$\mathcal{R}_h^k : C^0(\Omega) \rightarrow \text{Reg}_h^k \quad \text{canonical interpolant}$$

$$\int_E (g - \mathcal{R}_h^k g)_{tt} q \, dl = 0 \text{ for all } q \in \mathcal{P}^k(E)$$

$$\int_T (g - \mathcal{R}_h^k g) : Q \, da = 0 \text{ for all } Q \in \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(T, \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2})$$



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$$\int_F (g - \mathcal{R}_h^k g) : Q_F \, da = 0 \text{ for all } Q_F \in \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F, \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3} \cap TF)$$

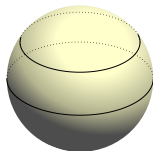
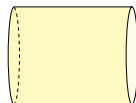
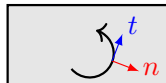
$$\int_T (g - \mathcal{R}_h^k g) : Q_T \, dx = 0 \text{ for all } Q_T \in \mathcal{P}^{k-2}(T, \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$$

Geodesics

Geodesic curvature

$$\kappa(g) = g(\nabla_t t, n)$$

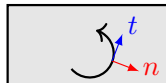
$$n = t \times \nu \text{ (for embedded surface)}$$



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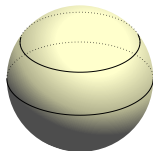
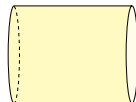
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Christoffel symbols: $\nabla_{\partial_j} \partial_k = \Gamma_{jk}^l \partial_l$

$$\Gamma_{ij}^k(g) = \frac{1}{2} g^{kl} (\partial_i g_{jl} + \partial_j g_{il} - \partial_l g_{ij}) = g^{kl} \Gamma_{ijl}(g)$$

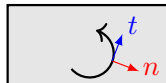
$$\nabla_X Y = (X^i \partial_i Y^k + X^i Y^j \Gamma_{ij}^k) \partial_k$$



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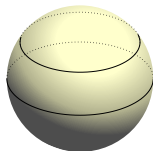
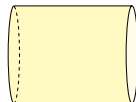
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$$\kappa(g) = \frac{\sqrt{\det g}}{g_{\hat{t}\hat{t}}^{3/2}} \left(\partial_{\hat{t}} \hat{t} \cdot \hat{n} + \Gamma_{\hat{t}\hat{t}}^{\hat{n}} \right)$$

$$\Gamma_{\hat{t}\hat{t}}^{\hat{n}} = \Gamma_{ij}^k \hat{t}^i \hat{t}^j \hat{n}_k$$



$\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow M$ is geodesic if $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma} = 0$, i.e.

$$\ddot{\gamma}^k + \dot{\gamma}^i \dot{\gamma}^j \Gamma_{ij}^k = 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, n$$

Geodesics are critical points of energy

$$E(\gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T g_{ij}(\gamma(s)) \dot{\gamma}^i(s) \dot{\gamma}^j(s) ds$$

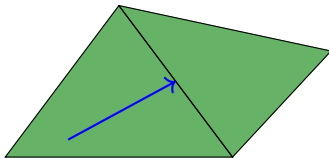
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What to do for non-smooth g ?



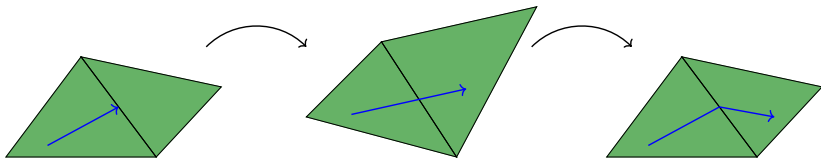
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What to do for non-smooth g ?



Discrete local geodesic

Let $g \in \text{Reg}_h^k$. A pw smooth $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ not intersecting faces of dimension $\leq (N - 2)$ is a local geodesic iff it satisfies the geodesic equation in T and where γ intersects a facet F

$$g_{ij}^+ \dot{\gamma}_+^i t^j = g_{ij}^- \dot{\gamma}_-^i t^j, \quad g_{ij}^+ \dot{\gamma}_+^i n_+^j = -g_{ij}^- \dot{\gamma}_-^i n_-^j.$$

Its kinematic energy $g_{ij} \dot{\gamma}^i \dot{\gamma}^j$ is constant.

Update formula: $\dot{\gamma}_-^i = \dot{\gamma}_+^i - (g_{ij}^+ \dot{\gamma}_+^j n_+^k)(n_+^i + n_-^i)$



LI: Regge Finite Elements with Applications in Solid Mechanics and Relativity, *PhD thesis, University of Minnesota (2018)*.

Convergence geodesic

Assume that $g_h \in \text{Reg}_h^k$ is a family of Regge metrics fulfilling $\|g - g_h\|_{L^\infty} \leq \frac{1}{2} \|g^{-1}\|_{L^\infty}^{-1}$ uniformly in h . Let $\gamma : [0, T] \rightarrow M$ be a smooth geodesic and γ_h a family of geodesics with respect to g_h with the same initial conditions as γ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} |\dot{\gamma}(t) - \dot{\gamma}_h(t)| &\leq C(\|g - g_h\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\mathcal{T}_h)} + h^{-1} \|g - g_h\|_{L^\infty}), \\ |\gamma(t) - \gamma_h(t)| &\leq C(h \|g - g_h\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\mathcal{T}_h)} + \|g - g_h\|_{L^\infty}). \end{aligned}$$



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$$|\dot{\gamma}(t) - \dot{\gamma}_h(t)| \leq C h^k |g|_{W^{k+1,\infty}},$$

$$|\gamma(t) - \gamma_h(t)| \leq C h^{k+1} |g|_{W^{k+1,\infty}}.$$



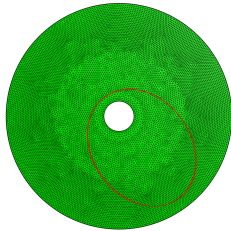
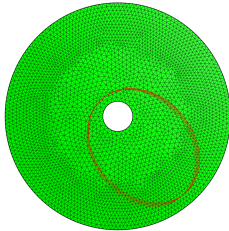
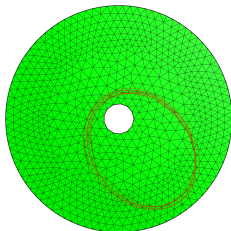
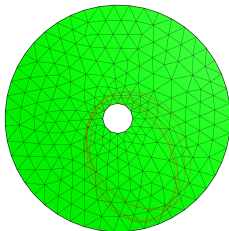
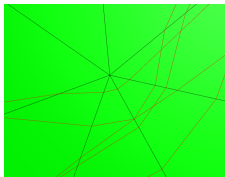
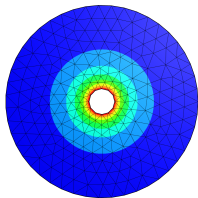
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$$E = E_{\text{kin}} + V, \quad V(q) = -|q|^{-1}$$

$$\text{Jacobi metric: } g = 2(E - V)\delta = 2(E + |q|^{-1})\delta$$



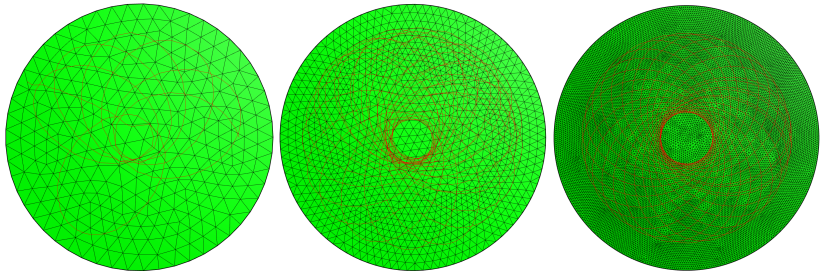
NGSolve



Taking into account of relativistic effects (Mercury orbit)

Star mass M , particle mass m , total energy $E \leq m$

$$ds = \left(E^2 - m^2 + \frac{2Mm^2}{r}\right) \left(\frac{dr^2}{\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^2} + \frac{r^2 d\Phi^2}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}} \right)$$



Distributional Gauss and scalar curvature

Riemann curvature tensor:

$$\mathfrak{R}(X, Y)Z = \nabla_X \nabla_Y Z - \nabla_Y \nabla_X Z - \nabla_{[X, Y]} Z$$

$$R(X, Y, Z, W) = g(\mathfrak{R}(X, Y)Z, W)$$

$$R_{ijkl} = \partial_i \Gamma_{jkl} - \partial_j \Gamma_{ikl} + \Gamma_{ik}^p \Gamma_{jpl} - \Gamma_{jk}^p \Gamma_{ipl}$$

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- **Gauss curvature**

$$K = \frac{g(R(u, v)v, u)}{\|u\|_g \|v\|_g - g(u, v)^2} = \frac{R_{1221}}{\det g}$$

- **Scalar curvature**

$$S = g^{ik} g^{jl} R_{ijkl}$$



Riemann curvature tensor:

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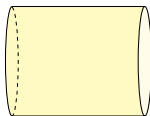
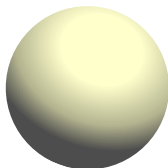
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- **Ricci tensor**

$$\text{Ric}_{ij} = g^{ab} R_{aibj}$$

- **Einstein tensor**

$$G = \text{Ric} - \frac{1}{2} S g$$



Gauss–Bonnet

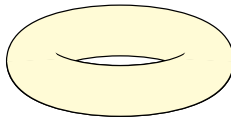
On manifold M :

$$\int_M K(g) + \int_{\partial M} \kappa(g) + \sum_V (\pi - \angle_V^M(g)) = 2\pi\chi_M$$

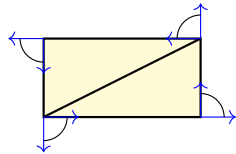
$$\chi_M(\mathcal{T}) = n_V - n_E + n_T$$



$$\chi_M = 2$$



$$\chi_M = 0$$



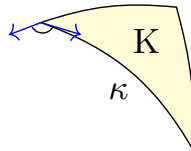
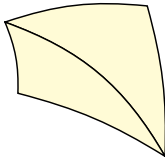
$$\chi_M = 1$$

Gauss–Bonnet

On triangle T :

$$\int_T K(g) + \int_{\partial T} \kappa(g) + \sum_{i=1}^3 (\pi - \angle_{V_i}^T(g)) = 2\pi$$

$$\chi_T = 3 - 3 + 1 = 1$$

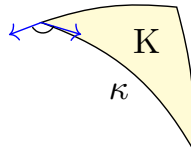
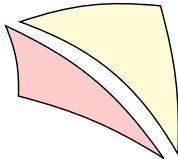


Gauss–Bonnet

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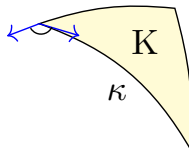
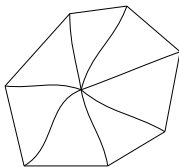


Gauss–Bonnet

On triangle T :

$$\int_T K(g) + \int_{\partial T} \kappa(g) + \sum_{i=1}^3 (\pi - \angle_{V_i}^T(g)) = 2\pi$$

$$\chi_T = 3 - 3 + 1 = 1$$



Distributional densitized Gauss curvature

Let $g \in \text{Reg}_h^k(\mathcal{T})$ and $\varphi \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$

$$\langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} K_T(\varphi, g) + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} K_E(\varphi, g) + \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} K_V(\varphi, g)$$



BERCHENKO-KOGAN, GAWLIK: Finite element approximation of the Levi-Civita connection and its curvature in two dimensions, *Found Comput Math* (2022).

Distributional densitized Gauss curvature

Let $g \in \text{Reg}_h^k(\mathcal{T})$ and $\varphi \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$

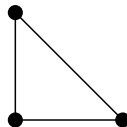
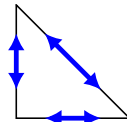
$$\langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} K_T(\varphi, g) + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} K_E(\varphi, g) + \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} K_V(\varphi, g)$$

$$K_T(\varphi, g) = \int_T K(g) \varphi \omega_T$$

$$K_E(\varphi, g) = \int_E \llbracket \kappa(g) \rrbracket \varphi \omega_E$$

$$K_V(\varphi, g) = (2\pi - \sum_{T: V \subset T} \angle_V^T(g)) \varphi(V)$$

$$=: \Theta_V(g) \varphi(V)$$



Distributional densitized Gauss curvature

Let $g \in \text{Reg}_h^k(\mathcal{T})$ and $\varphi \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$

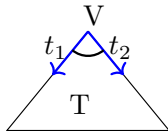
$$\langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} K_T(\varphi, g) + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} K_E(\varphi, g) + \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} K_V(\varphi, g)$$

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$$K_V(\varphi, g) = \left(2\pi - \sum_{T: V \subset T} \angle_V^T(g) \right) \varphi(V)$$

$$=: \Theta_V(g) \varphi(V)$$



$$\angle_V^T(g) = \arccos \left(\frac{t_1^\top g t_2}{\|t_1\|_g \|t_2\|_g} \right)$$

- Second fundamental form $\mathbb{I}(X, Y) = g(\nabla_X n, Y)$
2D $\mathbb{I}(t, t) = \kappa(g)$
- mean curvature $H = \text{tr}(\mathbb{I} |_F)$

- Second fundamental form $\mathbb{I}(X, Y) = g(\nabla_X n, Y)$
2D $\mathbb{I}(t, t) = \kappa(g)$
- mean curvature $H = \text{tr}(\mathbb{I} |_F)$

Distributional densitized scalar curvature

Let $g \in \text{Reg}_h^k$ and $\varphi \in \dot{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (S\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T S\varphi \omega_T + 2 \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \int_F \llbracket H \rrbracket \varphi \omega_F \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E \Theta_E(g) \varphi \omega_E \end{aligned}$$



GAWLIK, N.: Finite element approximation of scalar curvature in arbitrary dimension, *arXiv:2301.02159*.

Convergence scalar curvature 2D

Let $\{g_h\}_{h>0}$ Regge metrics on shape-regular $\{\mathcal{T}_h\}_{h>0}$ triangulations of Ω . Assume $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \|g_h - g\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} = 0$ and $C_1 = \sup_{h>0} \max_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \|g_h\|_{W^{1,\infty}(T)} < \infty$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|(S\omega)(g_h) - (S\omega)(g)\|_{H^{-2}} &\leq C \left(1 + \max_T h_T^{-1} \|g_h - g\|_{L^\infty(T)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \max_T \|g_h - g\|_{W^{1,\infty}(T)} \right) \|g_h - g\| \end{aligned}$$

$$\|\sigma\|^2 = \|\sigma\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \sum_T h_T^2 |\sigma|_{H^1(T)}^2$$



GAWLIK, N.: Finite element approximation of scalar curvature in arbitrary dimension, *arXiv:2301.02159*.

Convergence scalar curvature 2D

Let $\{g_h\}_{h>0} \in \text{Reg}_h^k$ optimal-order **interpolants** on shape-regular $\{\mathcal{T}_h\}_{h>0}$ triangulations of Ω . Assume $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \|g_h - g\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} = 0$ and $C_1 = \sup_{h>0} \max_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \|g_h\|_{W^{1,\infty}(T)} < \infty$. Then

$$\|(S\omega)(g_h) - (S\omega)(g)\|_{H^{-2}} \leq C h^{k+1} |g|_{H^{k+1}}$$

$$\|\sigma\|^2 = \|\sigma\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \sum_T h_T^2 |\sigma|_{H^1(T)}^2$$

Optimal-order interpolant: $|\mathcal{I}_h g - g|_{H^m(T)} \leq C h_T^{k-m} |g|_{H^m(T)}$



GAWLIK, N.: Finite element approximation of scalar curvature in arbitrary dimension, *arXiv:2301.02159*.

Convergence scalar curvature $N > 2$

Assume additionally $C_2 = \sup_{h>0} \max_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} |g_h|_{W^{2,\infty}(T)} < \infty$.

$$\begin{aligned} \|(S\omega)(g_h) - (S\omega)(g)\|_{H^{-2}(\Omega)} &\leq C \left(1 + \max_T h_T^{-2} \|g_h - g\|_{L^\infty(T)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \max_T h_T^{-1} |g_h - g|_{W^{1,\infty}(T)} \right) \|g_h - g\|. \end{aligned}$$

$$\|\sigma\|^2 = \|\sigma\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \sum_T h_T^2 |\sigma|_{H^1(T)}^2 + \sum_T h_T^4 |\sigma|_{H^2(T)}^2$$



GAWLIK, N.: Finite element approximation of scalar curvature in arbitrary dimension, *arXiv:2301.02159*.

Convergence scalar curvature $N > 2$

Assume additionally $C_2 = \sup_{h>0} \max_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} |g_h|_{W^{2,\infty}(T)} < \infty$.

$$\|(S\omega)(g_h) - (S\omega)(g)\|_{H^{-2}(\Omega)} \leq C h^{k+1} |g|_{H^{k+1}}$$

for $k > 0$.

$$\|\sigma\|^2 = \|\sigma\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \sum_T h_T^2 |\sigma|_{H^1(T)}^2 + \sum_T h_T^4 |\sigma|_{H^2(T)}^2$$



GAWLIK, N.: Finite element approximation of scalar curvature in arbitrary dimension, *arXiv:2301.02159*.

Lifting of distributional Gauss curvature

For $g \in \text{Reg}_h^k$ find $K_h \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$ such that for all $\varphi \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$

$$\int_{\Omega} K_h \varphi \omega = \langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle.$$

Convergence Gauss curvature

$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \|g_h - g\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} = 0, \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} h^{-1} \log h^{-1} \|g_h - g\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = 0$

$$\|K_h - K\|_{H_h^l} \leq C h^{-l-1} (\|g_h - g\|_{H_h^1} + \inf_{u_h \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^k} \|K - u_h\|_{L^2})$$



GAWLIK: High-Order Approximation of Gaussian Curvature with Regge Finite Elements, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.* (2020).

Lifting of distributional Gauss curvature

For $g \in \text{Reg}_h^k$ find $K_h \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$ such that for all $\varphi \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$

$$\int_{\Omega} K_h \varphi \omega = \langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle.$$

Convergence Gauss curvature

$g_h \in \text{Reg}_h^k$ **opt-order interp**, $-1 \leq l \leq k-2$, $q \geq \max\{1, k-2\}$

$$\|K_h - K\|_{H_h^l} \leq C h^{-l+k-1} (|g|_{H^{k+1}} + |K|_{H^k})$$



GAWLIK: High-Order Approximation of Gaussian Curvature with Regge Finite Elements, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.* (2020).

Lifting of distributional Gauss curvature

For $g \in \text{Reg}_h^k$ find $K_h \in \dot{\mathcal{V}}_h^{k+1}$ such that for all $\varphi \in \dot{\mathcal{V}}_h^{k+1}$

$$\int_{\Omega} K_h \varphi \omega = \langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle.$$

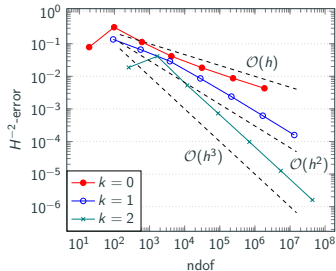
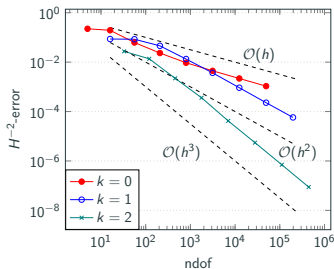
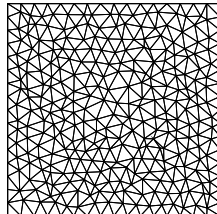
Convergence Gauss curvature

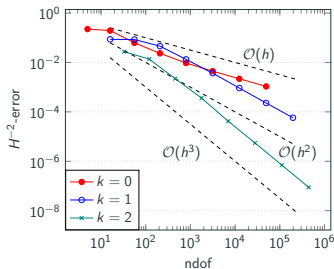
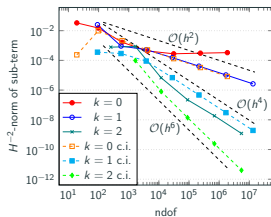
$g_h \in \text{Reg}_h^k$ canonical interpolant, $-1 \leq l \leq k-1$

$$\|K_h - K\|_{H_h^l} \leq C h^{-l+k} (|g|_{W^{k+1,\infty}} + |K|_{H^k})$$

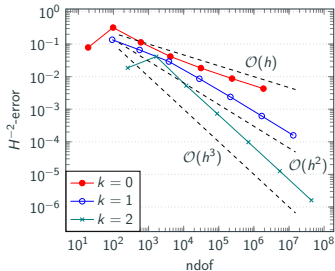


GOPALAKRISHNAN, N., SCHÖBERL, WARDETZKY: Analysis of curvature approximations via covariant curl and incompatibility for Regge metrics, *arXiv:2206.09343*.





2D



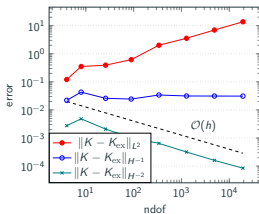
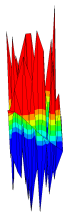
3D



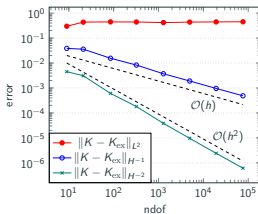
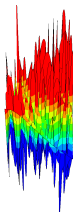
$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + (\partial_x f)^2 & \partial_x f \partial_y f \\ \partial_x f \partial_y f & 1 + (\partial_y f)^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad f = \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + y^2) - \frac{1}{12}(x^4 + y^4)$$

$$K(g) = \frac{81(1 - x^2)(1 - y^2)}{(9 + x^2(x^2 - 3))^2 + y^2(y^2 - 3)^2}$$

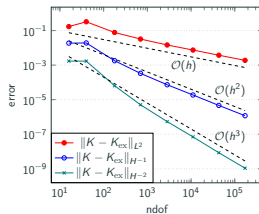
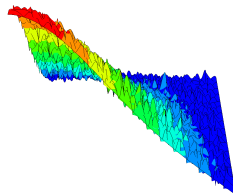
Optimal-order interpolant ($q = k + 1$)



$k = 0$

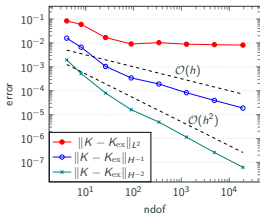
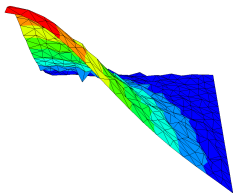


$k = 1$

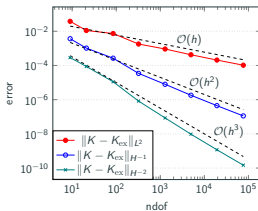
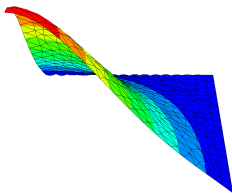


$k = 2$

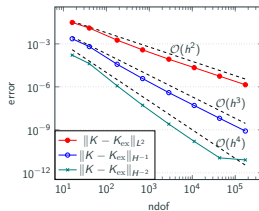
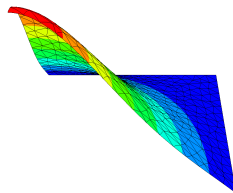
Canonical interpolant



$k = 0$



$k = 1$



$k = 2$

$$\langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T K(g) \varphi \omega_T + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E \llbracket \kappa(g) \rrbracket \varphi \omega_E + \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} \Theta_V(g) \varphi(V)$$

- Consistency: For $g \in C^2(M, \mathbb{R}_{\text{sym}}^{2 \times 2})$, $\varphi \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$ there holds
$$\langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathcal{T}} K(g) \varphi \omega$$

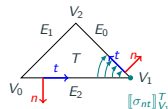
$$\langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T K(g) \varphi \omega_T + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E \llbracket \kappa(g) \rrbracket \varphi \omega_E + \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} \Theta_V(g) \varphi(V)$$

- Consistency: For $g \in C^2(M, \mathbb{R}_{\text{sym}}^{2 \times 2})$, $\varphi \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^q$ there holds

$$\langle (K\omega)(g), \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathcal{T}} K(g) \varphi \omega$$
- Observation: $(\mathbb{S}_g \sigma = \sigma - \text{tr}_g(\sigma) g)$

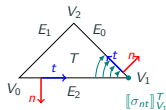
$$\frac{d}{dt} ((K\omega)(g + t\sigma))|_{t=0} = \frac{1}{2} \text{div}_g \text{div}_g (\mathbb{S}_g \sigma) \omega_g$$

Hellan–Herrmann–Johnson method



$$\begin{aligned} \langle \operatorname{div} \operatorname{div} \mathbb{S} \sigma, u_h \rangle &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T \operatorname{div} \operatorname{div} \mathbb{S} \sigma u_h \, dx - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E [(\operatorname{div} \mathbb{S} \sigma)_n + \nabla_t(\sigma_{nt})] u_h \, ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} \sum_{T \supset V} [[\sigma_{nt}]]_V^T u_h(V) \end{aligned}$$

Hellan–Herrmann–Johnson method



$$\begin{aligned} \langle \operatorname{div} \operatorname{div} \mathbb{S} \sigma, u_h \rangle &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T \operatorname{div} \operatorname{div} \mathbb{S} \sigma u_h \, dx - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E [(\operatorname{div} \mathbb{S} \sigma)_n + \nabla_t(\sigma_{nt})] u_h \, ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} \sum_{T \supset V} [\sigma_{nt}]_V^T u_h(V) \end{aligned}$$

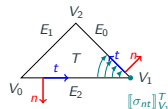
$$G(t) = g_h + t(g - g_h), \quad \sigma_h = G'(t) = g - g_h$$

$$\langle (K\omega)(g), u_h \rangle - \langle (K\omega)(g_h), u_h \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \langle \operatorname{div}_{G_h(t)} \operatorname{div}_{G_h(t)} \mathbb{S}_{G_h(t)}(\sigma_h), u_h \rangle \, dt$$



GAWLIK: High-Order Approximation of Gaussian Curvature with Regge Finite Elements, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.* (2020).

Hellan–Herrmann–Johnson method



$$\begin{aligned} \langle \operatorname{div} \operatorname{div} \mathbb{S} \sigma, u_h \rangle &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T \operatorname{div} \operatorname{div} \mathbb{S} \sigma u_h \, dx - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E [(\operatorname{div} \mathbb{S} \sigma)_n + \nabla_t(\sigma_{nt})] u_h \, ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} \sum_{T \supset V} [\sigma_{nt}]_V^T u_h(V) \end{aligned}$$

$$G(t) = g_h + t(g - g_h), \quad \sigma_h = G'(t) = g - g_h$$

$$\langle (K\omega)(g), u_h \rangle - \langle (K\omega)(g_h), u_h \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \langle \operatorname{div}_{G_h(t)} \operatorname{div}_{G_h(t)} \mathbb{S}_{G_h(t)}(\sigma_h), u_h \rangle \, dt$$

$$\text{Show } |\langle \operatorname{div}_{G_h(t)} \operatorname{div}_{G_h(t)} \mathbb{S}_{G_h(t)}(\sigma_h), u_h \rangle| \leq Ch^{-1} \|g_h - g\|_{H_h^1} \|u_h\|_{H^1}$$



GAWLIK: High-Order Approximation of Gaussian Curvature with Regge Finite Elements, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.* (2020).

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle (S\omega)(g(t)), u \rangle = \langle \operatorname{div}_g \operatorname{div}_g \mathbb{S}_g \sigma, u \rangle - a_h(g; \sigma, u)$$

$$\bar{\mathbb{I}} = \mathbb{I} - H g$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_h(g; \sigma, u) = & \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T \langle G, \sigma \rangle u \omega_T + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \int_F \langle [\bar{\mathbb{I}}]_F, \sigma|_F \rangle u \omega_F \\ & - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E \langle \Theta_{EG|E}, \sigma|_E \rangle u \omega_E \end{aligned}$$



GAWLIK, N.: Finite element approximation of scalar curvature in arbitrary dimension, *arXiv:2301.02159*.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle (S\omega)(g(t)), u \rangle = \langle \operatorname{div}_g \operatorname{div}_g \mathbb{S}_g \sigma, u \rangle - a_h(g; \sigma, u)$$

$$\bar{\mathbb{I}} = \mathbb{I} - H g$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_h(g; \sigma, u) = & \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T \langle G, \sigma \rangle u \omega_T + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \int_F \langle [\bar{\mathbb{I}}]_F, \sigma|_F \rangle u \omega_F \\ & - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E \langle \Theta_{EG|E}, \sigma|_E \rangle u \omega_E \end{aligned}$$

leads to **distributional Einstein tensor** for $u = 1$



GAWLIK, N.: Finite element approximation of scalar curvature in arbitrary dimension, *arXiv:2301.02159*.

Alternative representation: $\langle \operatorname{div}_g \operatorname{div}_g \mathbb{S}_g \sigma, u_h \rangle = -\langle \operatorname{inc}_g \sigma, u_h \rangle$

$$\int_E (\sigma - \mathcal{R}_h^k \sigma)_{tt} q \, dl = 0 \text{ for all } q \in \mathcal{P}^k(E)$$

$$\int_T (\sigma - \mathcal{R}_h^k \sigma) : q \, da = 0 \text{ for all } q \in \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(T, \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2})$$

$$\langle \operatorname{inc}(\sigma - \mathcal{R}_h^k \sigma), u_h \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } u_h \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^{k+1}$$



GOPALAKRISHNAN, N., SCHÖBERL, WARDETZKY: Analysis of curvature approximations via covariant curl and incompatibility for Regge metrics, *arXiv:2206.09343*.

Alternative representation: $\langle \operatorname{div}_g \operatorname{div}_g \mathbb{S}_g \sigma, u_h \rangle = -\langle \operatorname{inc}_g \sigma, u_h \rangle$

$$\int_E (\sigma - \mathcal{R}_h^k \sigma)_{tt} q \, dl = 0 \text{ for all } q \in \mathcal{P}^k(E)$$

$$\int_T (\sigma - \mathcal{R}_h^k \sigma) : q \, da = 0 \text{ for all } q \in \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(T, \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2})$$

$$\langle \operatorname{inc}(\sigma - \mathcal{R}_h^k \sigma), u_h \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } u_h \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^{k+1}$$

$$|\langle \operatorname{inc}_g(\sigma - \mathcal{R}_h^k \sigma), u_h \rangle| \leq C \|\sigma - \mathcal{R}_h^k \sigma\| \|u_h\|_{H^1} \text{ for all } u_h \in \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_h^{k+1}$$



GOPALAKRISHNAN, N., SCHÖBERL, WARDETZKY: Analysis of curvature approximations via covariant curl and incompatibility for Regge metrics, *arXiv:2206.09343*.

Distributional Riemann curvature

- Riemann curvature tensor R_{ijkl} has 6 independent entries
- Curvature operator $Q : M \rightarrow \wedge^2(M) \odot \wedge^2(M)$

$$\langle Q(u \wedge v), w \wedge z \rangle = \langle R(u, v)z, w \rangle \text{ for all } u, v, w, z \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$$

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- No Gauss–Bonnet theorem in 3D

B fourth order tensor with same (skew-)symmetries as R

$$\begin{aligned}\langle (R\omega)(g), B \rangle &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T \langle R, B \rangle \omega_T + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \int_F \langle [\![\mathbb{I}]\!], B_{n \cdot n \cdot} \rangle \omega_F \\ &\quad + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E \Theta_E(g) B_{n \nu n \nu} \omega_E\end{aligned}$$

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In 3D: $V \in \text{Reg}_h^k$

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$$(A \times B)^{ij} = \frac{1}{\omega_T^2} \varepsilon^{ikl} \varepsilon^{jmn} A_{km} B_{ln}$$

B fourth order tensor with same (skew-)symmetries as R

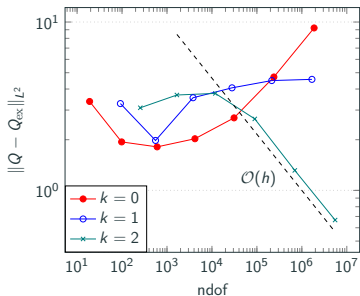
$$\begin{aligned}\langle (R\omega)(g), B \rangle &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T \langle R, B \rangle \omega_T + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \int_F \langle [\mathbb{I}], B_{n \cdot n} \rangle \omega_F \\ &\quad + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E \Theta_E(g) B_{n\nu n\nu} \omega_E\end{aligned}$$

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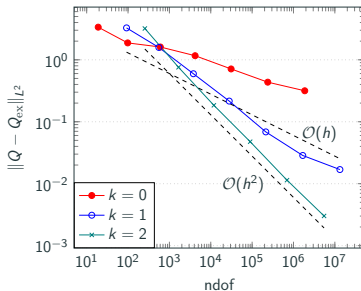
$$\begin{aligned}\langle (Q\omega)(g), V \rangle &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T \langle Q, V \rangle \omega_T + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \int_F \langle [\mathbb{I}], (n \otimes n) \times V \rangle \omega_F \\ &\quad + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} \int_E \Theta_E(g) V_{t_E t_E} \omega_E\end{aligned}$$

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Analysis: WIP



optimal-order interpolant



canonical interpolant

- Regge finite elements approximating metrics
- Approximation of geodesics and curvature quantities

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- Approximation of geodesics and curvature quantities
- Analysis of distributional Riemann curvature tensor
- Analysis of Einstein tensor
- Application to general relativity (Einstein field equation)

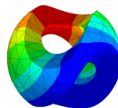
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Thank You for Your attention!