

Lecture 13 Surface integral

- Local parameterization

We give ourselves four real numbers $a < b$, $c < d$ and a space of parameters $(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $a \leq u \leq b$ and $c \leq v \leq d$. We define the parametrized sheet Σ in space \mathbb{R}^3 by a continuously differentiable function Φ from the rectangle $\widehat{\Sigma} \equiv [a, b] \times [c, d]$ and taking its values in \mathbb{R}^3 . This application Φ is called the "local map". The parameterized sheet Σ is defined by the relation $\Sigma = \Phi(\widehat{\Sigma})$. A point $M(u, v)$ of the parametric sheet has coordinates x , y et z that are regular functions of the parameters u and v : $x = X(u, v)$, $y = Y(u, v)$ et $z = Z(u, v)$.

The fundamental example is a plane parallelogram. The equation of the plane is for example of the form $z = \alpha x + \beta y + \gamma$. For $a \leq u \leq b$ and $c \leq v \leq d$, we set $x = u$, $y = v$ and $z = \alpha u + \beta v + \gamma$.

A second example concerns a surface with equation $z = f(x, y)$. It is similar to the previous case except that the affine function $f(x, y) = \alpha x + \beta y + \gamma$ is replaced by a function f of two variables while remaining fairly regular.

The next example is the sphere centered at the origin O and of radius $R > 0$. We use the spherical coordinates of the three-dimensional space. We project the current point M of the sphere onto the xOy plane at a point m . We have: $z = R \cos \theta$ and $Om = R \sin \theta$. It comes then $x = Om \cos \varphi = R \sin \theta \cos \varphi$ and $y = Om \sin \varphi = R \sin \theta \sin \varphi$.

- Tangent plane

We suppose the function Φ différentiable at the point (u, v) :

$\Phi(u + \delta u, v + \delta v) = \Phi(u, v) + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(u, v) \delta u + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(u, v) \delta v + \|(u, v)\| \varepsilon(\delta u, \delta v)$. The two tangent vectors $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(u, v)$ and $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(u, v)$ are two vectors of space \mathbb{R}^3 . We suppose that the family $(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v})$ is non-degenerate and the point $M = \Phi(u, v)$ is a "regular point" of the surface. The tangent plane to the parametrized sheet Σ at the point $M = \Phi(u, v)$ is the affine plane that passes through the point $M(u, v)$ with an associated vector plane that has as its basis the family of two vectors $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(u, v)$ and $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(u, v)$.

In the case of a surface of the form $z = f(x, y)$, the two parameters are the abscissa x and the ordinate y . We have $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} = (1, 0, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x})^t$ and $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} = (0, 1, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y})^t$. They always form a free family whatever the function f .

For a sphere of radius $R > 0$ and centered at the origin, we introduce the spherical coordinates, so the two polar angles θ and φ such that $x = R \sin \theta \cos \varphi$, $y = R \sin \theta \sin \varphi$ and $z = R \cos \theta$.

The moving reference frame $(e_r, e_\theta, e_\varphi)$ is defined by the relations

$$e_r(\theta, \varphi) = \sin \theta (\cos \varphi e_1 + \sin \varphi e_2) + \cos \theta e_3, \quad e_\theta(\theta, \varphi) = \cos \theta (\cos \varphi e_1 + \sin \varphi e_2) - \sin \theta e_3$$

and $e_\varphi(\varphi) = -\sin \varphi e_1 + \cos \varphi e_2$. In the case of the sphere of radius R , we have $dM = R(e_\theta d\theta + e_\varphi \sin \theta d\varphi)$; we deduce $\frac{\partial M}{\partial \theta} = R e_\theta$ and $\frac{\partial M}{\partial \varphi} = R \sin \theta e_\varphi$.

- Vector product

Let u and v be two vectors in an euclidian space of dimension 3. The vector product $u \times v$ satisfies the following properties.

(i) The vector product $u \times v$ is orthogonal to the vectors u and v : $(u \times v, u) = (u \times v, v) = 0$.

(ii) If the vectors u and v are collinear, the vector product $u \times v$ is zero.

(iii) If $P(u, v)$ is the parallelogram generated by the vectors u and v :

$P(u, v) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3, \exists \theta, \xi, 0 \leq \theta \leq 1, 0 \leq \xi \leq 1, x = \theta u + \xi v\}$, then the area of this parallelogram is equal to the norm of the vector product $u \times v$: $|P(u, v)| = \|u \times v\|$. Moreover, $\|u \times v\| \leq \|u\| \|v\|$.

(iv) We give ourselves a direct orthonormal basis (e_1, e_2, e_3) and the components of the two vectors u and v : $u = \sum_{j=1}^3 u_j e_j$ and $v = \sum_{k=1}^3 v_k e_k$. The vector product $u \times v$ is expressed in

$$\text{the basis } (e_1, e_2, e_3) \text{ via the relation: } u \times v = \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & v_1 \\ u_2 & v_2 \end{vmatrix} e_3 + \begin{vmatrix} u_2 & v_2 \\ u_3 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} e_1 + \begin{vmatrix} u_3 & v_3 \\ u_1 & v_1 \end{vmatrix} e_2.$$

(v) It is possible to prove that $w = u \times v$ is a bilinear function of the two vectors u and v :

$(\alpha u + \beta u') \times v = \alpha (u \times v) + \beta (u' \times v)$ and $u \times (\alpha v + \beta v') = \alpha (u \times v) + \beta (u \times v')$, whatever the choice of vectors u, u', v, v' and whatever the choice of numbers α and β .

(vi) If $u \times v \neq 0$, the family $(u, v, u \times v)$ is a direct basis of \mathbb{R}^3 : the change matrix of basis between a direct orthonormal basis (e_1, e_2, e_3) and the family $(u, v, u \times v)$ is strictly positive.

(vii) Be careful, the vector product is not associative: in general, $u \times (v \times w) \neq (u \times v) \times w$.

- Normal vector

We assume that the point $M = \Phi(u, v)$ is a regular point of the surface, *i.e.* that the family $(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(u, v), \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(u, v))$ is free. Then the vector product $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(u, v) \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(u, v)$ is not zero. The norm $\| \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(u, v) \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(u, v) \|$ of this vector product is equal to the surface of the parallelogram constructed with the two tangent vectors $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(u, v)$ and $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(u, v)$. We define the normal vector $n(u, v)$ as the unit vector constructed from this vector product:

$$n(u, v) = \frac{1}{\| \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(u, v) \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(u, v) \|} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(u, v) \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(u, v).$$

It is a vector orthogonal to the tangent plane. Hence the name “normal” or “normal vector”.

For a surface of the form $z = f(x, y)$, we have $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} = (-\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, -\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, 1)^t$ and

$$n(x, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (\frac{\partial f}{\partial x})^2 + (\frac{\partial f}{\partial y})^2}} (-\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, -\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, 1)^t.$$

For the sphere of radius R , we have the relation $\frac{\partial M}{\partial \theta} \times \frac{\partial M}{\partial \varphi} = R^2 \sin \theta e_r$. We deduce

$$\| \frac{\partial M}{\partial \theta} \times \frac{\partial M}{\partial \varphi} \| = R^2 \sin \theta \quad \text{and} \quad n(\theta, \varphi) = e_r(\theta, \varphi).$$

- Scaled surface

To approximate a curve Γ , we give ourselves points on the curve and we approach the curve by the sequence of strings stretched between a point and its neighbor. Through two different points

there always passes one and only one line segment. Thus we obtain a continuous approximation of the curve Γ .

To approximate a surface, it is more delicate. Indeed, we give ourselves an integer $n \geq 1$ and we discretize first the rectangle $[a, b] \times [c, d]$ in the parameter space with small rectangles of the type $[a + ih, a + (i + 1)h] \times [c + jk, c + (j + 1)k]$ with $h = \frac{b-a}{n}$ and $k = \frac{d-c}{n}$. The image by the local map Φ is a curvilinear quadrangle whose four corners we denote by

$$M_{ij} = \Phi(a + ih, c + jk), M_{i+1,j} = \Phi(a + (i + 1)h, c + jk),$$

$M_{i+1,j+1} = \Phi(a + (i + 1)h, c + (j + 1)k)$ and $M_{i,j+1} = \Phi(a + ih, c + (j + 1)k)$. These four points are close enough if n is large enough belong to the surface Σ but are not coplanar in general. We propose to approximate the surface quadrilateral

$Q_{ij} = \Phi([a + ih, a + (i + 1)h] \times [c + jk, c + (j + 1)k])$ by a plane parallelogram \widetilde{Q}_{ij} localized on the tangent plane to the surface Σ at the point M_{ij} . Precisely \widetilde{Q}_{ij} is the parallelogram passing through the point M_{ij} and directed by two tangent vectors at the point M_{ij} , *i.e.* $h \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(a + ih, c + jk)$ and $k \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(a + ih, c + jk)$. We have

$\widetilde{Q}_{ij} = M_{ij} + \{\xi h \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u}(a + ih, c + jk) + \eta k \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v}(a + ih, c + jk), 0 \leq \xi, \eta \leq 1\}$. The area $|\widetilde{Q}_{ij}|$ of this parallelogram is given by the norm of the vector product of the two tangent vectors: $|\widetilde{Q}_{ij}| = hk \left\| \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v} \right)(a + ih, c + jk) \right\|$.

Such a plane parallelogram is, for n large enough, *i.e.* h and k small enough, a good approximation of the surface parallelogram Q_{ij} . When we join all these parallelograms for $0 \leq i, j < n$, we obtain an approximation $\Sigma_n = \cup_{0 \leq i, j < n} \widetilde{Q}_{ij}$ fairly accurate surface Σ , but it has the defect of being discontinuous at the interfaces. Hence the expression “scaled surface”.

- Surface of a parametrized sheet

We first define the surface $|\Sigma_n|$ of the scaled surface Σ_n associated with the rectangle cutout $\widehat{\Sigma} = [a, b] \times [c, d]$ of the parameters into $n \times n$ small rectangles: $|\Sigma_n| = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} |\widetilde{Q}_{ij}|$. Given the surface of a piece of scale \widetilde{Q}_{ij} , we have $|\Sigma_n| = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \left\| \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v} \right)(a + ih, c + jk) \right\| hk$. We then make the integer n tend to infinity. The double sum converges to the double integral on the rectangle $\widehat{\Sigma}$ of the function $(u, v) \mapsto \left\| \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v} \right)(u, v) \right\|$. We deduce an expression for the surface of the parameterized sheet: $|\Sigma| = \iint_{\widehat{\Sigma}} \left\| \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v} \right)(u, v) \right\| du dv$. We define the element of surface $d\sigma$ by the relation $d\sigma = \left\| \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v} \right\| du dv$ and then we write in a deceptively simple way: $|\Sigma| = \iint_{\widehat{\Sigma}} d\sigma$. The surface element $d\sigma$ does not depend on the chosen parameterization and the relation $|\Sigma| = \iint_{\widehat{\Sigma}} d\sigma$ is intrinsic.

The metric term $\left\| \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial v} \right) \right\|$ is to be compared to the length when calculating the length of an curve Γ : $|\Gamma| = \int_a^b \left\| \left(\frac{dM}{dt}(t) \right) \right\| dt = \int_a^b ds$. For a sphere Σ of radius R , we have seen that $n = e_r$ and $\frac{\partial M}{\partial \theta} \times \frac{\partial M}{\partial \varphi} = R^2 \sin \theta e_r$. We can therefore write the surface element $d\sigma = \left\| \frac{\partial M}{\partial \theta} \times \frac{\partial M}{\partial \varphi} \right\| d\theta d\varphi = R^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\varphi$. Then we have for the sphere Σ such that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ and $0 \leq \varphi \leq 2\pi$, $|\Sigma| = \int_0^\pi d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi R^2 \sin \theta = 4\pi R^2$.

- Surface integral

A function f defined on a parametric sheet Σ can also be written as a function of the parameters u and v : $\widehat{f}(u, v) = f(\Phi(u, v))$. For $n \geq 1$ we introduce the scaled surface Σ_n associated to a discretization $M_{ij} = \Phi(a + ih, c + jk)$ of $\widehat{\Sigma} = [a, b] \times [c, d]$. We can approximate the function

f on Σ_n by the stepped function equal to the constant $f(M_{ij})$ in each parallelogram \widetilde{Q}_{ij} . Given the value $\|(\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial v})(a+ih, c+jk)\|$ of the surface of this parallelogram, we define the approximate integral I_n of the function f on the surface Σ by

$I_n = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} f(M_{ij}) \|(\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial v})(a+ih, c+jk)\| hk$. If n tends to infinity and if the function f is continuous to fix the ideas, the sequence I_n converges to the double integral $I = \iint_{\widetilde{\Sigma}} f(\Phi(u, v)) \|(\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial v})(u, v)\| du dv$. We define the surface integral $\int_{\Sigma} f(M) d\sigma$ by the relation $\int_{\Sigma} f(M) d\sigma = \iint_{\widetilde{\Sigma}} f(\Phi(u, v)) \|(\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial v})(u, v)\| du dv$. It does not depend on the parameterization.

In the case where $f(M) \equiv 1$, we do find the value $|\Sigma|$ for the area of the surface Σ : $\int_{\Sigma} d\sigma = |\Sigma|$.

- Flow of a vector field

We give ourselves a vector field $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ continuous to fix the ideas. If $f(M) = (\Phi, n)$, scalar product of the field φ against the normal vector of the surface Σ , the corresponding surface integral defines the flux Φ of the vector field φ on the surface Σ : $\Phi = \int_{\Sigma} (\Phi, n) d\sigma$.

Exercises

- On half-spheres

We denote by Σ the half-sphere centered at the origin, of radius $R > 0$ and defined also by the inequality $z \geq 0$.

- Inroduce a parameterization of this half-sphere with the spherical coordinate system r , θ and φ such that $x = r \sin \theta \cos \varphi$, $y = r \sin \theta \sin \varphi$ and $z = r \cos \theta$.
- In what intervals vary the angles θ and φ ?
- Propose an expression for the surface element $d\sigma$ as a function of the variables of the problem.
- Compute the integral $I = \int_{\Sigma} z d\sigma$. [πR^3]
- Go back to the questions b), c) and d) of this exercice raplacing on one hand the half-sphere Σ by the half-sphere $\widetilde{\Sigma}$ of radius $R > 0$, centered at the origin and defined by the inequality $x \geq 0$ and on the other hand the integral I by $J = \int_{\widetilde{\Sigma}} x d\sigma$.
- Why the questions d) and e) are related in a simple manner ?

- Surface of a truncated cone

We consider a truncated cone with a circular basis, a radius $R > 0$ and a height equal to $h > 0$.

- Show that the half-angle θ at the summit satisfies to the relation $\tan \theta = \frac{R}{h}$.
- Show that truncated cone can be parameterized with the relations $x = R \cos \varphi (1 - \frac{z}{h})$, $y = R \sin \varphi (1 - \frac{z}{h})$ and $z = z$, with $0 \leq \varphi \leq 2\pi$ and $0 \leq z \leq h$.
- Compute the cartesian components of the vectors $\frac{\partial M}{\partial \varphi}$ and $\frac{\partial M}{\partial z}$.
- Express the element of surface $d\sigma$ as a function of the geometrical parameters R and h , of the coordinates φ and z along the truncated cone and of the product $d\varphi dz$.
- Show that the surface S of this truncated cone is equal to $\pi R \sqrt{R^2 + h^2}$.

APPLIED MATHEMATICS

- Computation of a flux

We consider the half-sphere Σ with radius $R > 0$ centered at the origin and defined by the inequality $z \geq 0$. We denote by n the normal vector field pointing in a direction such that $n_z \geq 0$. We consider also the vector field $\psi(x, y, z) = (x, y, 0)$.

- Compute the scalar product (ψ, n) on the half-sphere Σ . $[R \sin^2 \theta]$
- Compute the flux $\Phi = \int_{\Sigma} (\psi \cdot n) \, d\sigma$ of the vector field ψ on the half-sphere Σ . $[\frac{4}{3} \pi R^3]$