

NUMERICAL EVALUATION OF SURFACE INTEGRALS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

DAVID CHIEN

ABSTRACT. In this paper, we consider the evaluation of surface integrals over piecewise smooth surfaces in three dimensions. The method consists in first replacing a parametrization for the surface and the integrand function by piecewise polynomial interpolants of them, and second, using a numerical integration scheme for the resulting integral. The order of convergence is higher than would be expected based on the underlying interpolation theory.

1. INTRODUCTION

An efficient numerical integration scheme for surface integrals is important in boundary element methods. This paper investigates a method which consists in first replacing both the integrand function and a parametrization for the surface by piecewise polynomial interpolants of them, and then applying a numerical integration scheme to the resulting integral.

Let the surface $S = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \cdots \cup S_J$, where each S_K is a smooth surface. Let $F_K : R_K \xrightarrow{1-1} \mathbf{R}^3$, $R_K \subset \mathbf{R}^2$, be a smooth parametrization of the surface S_K in \mathbf{R}^3 , with $D_s F_K(s, t) \times D_t F_K(s, t) \neq 0$ at all points. For each K , consider the evaluation of the surface integral

$$(1.1) \quad \int_{S_K} f(Q) dS_Q = \int_{R_K} f(F_K(s, t)) |D_s F_K(s, t) \times D_t F_K(s, t)| ds dt,$$

where f is a given continuous function defined on S , and smooth on each S_K .

In this paper, we approximate the function f and each parametrization F_K by polynomials of degree n and r , respectively. Thus, we approximate the integration (1.1) by evaluating

$$(1.2) \quad \int_{R_K} f_n(F_K(s, t)) |D_s \tilde{F}_K(s, t) \times D_t \tilde{F}_K(s, t)| ds dt.$$

Also, we approximate the integration (1.2) by using various numerical integration schemes.

Recently, Georg and Tausch [8] have investigated the rate of convergence for the case in which the surface parametrization is approximated by piecewise

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linear interpolation. They obtained asymptotic error results when using integration rules with degree of precision zero and one. Verlinden and Cools [12] and Lyness [10] have independently proved a conjecture from Georg and Tausch [8], obtaining a full asymptotic expansion of the error.

In this paper, we refine the surface S with uniform subdivision, and the results and their proofs are valid for sufficiently smooth integrand functions. Schwab and Wendland [11] carry out a detailed analysis for the singular surface integrals arising in solving boundary integral equations. Also, Yang and Atkinson [13] show how the singular case can be treated by composite quadrature with nonuniform subdivision.

We introduce the method of discretization in §2, and describe the method of interpolation for the integrand function and the surface parametrization in §3. Section 4 gives the error analysis when using (1.2), and §5 has the error analysis for the numerical integration scheme. Section 6 gives some numerical examples, which illustrate the theorem in §5.

2. THE TRIANGULATION AND REFINEMENT

As discussed in Atkinson [1], we assume the surface S can be written as

$$(2.1) \quad S = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \cdots \cup S_J,$$

where each S_i is a closed, "smooth" surface in \mathbf{R}^3 . The only possible intersection of a pair S_i and S_j is to be along a common portion of the edges of these two subsurfaces. We assume that each S_i has a parametrization in a region of \mathbf{R}^2 , with the parametrization $r+3$ times continuously differentiable. In this case, we say S is *piecewise smooth*. By a *smooth surface*, we mean that for each point $P \in S$ there is a neighborhood on S of P having a local $r+3$ times continuously differentiable parametrization in \mathbf{R}^2 with the Jacobian of the transformation not vanishing.

For a smooth surface S , we also assume that the integrand f can be extended into a neighborhood of S , with preservation of its differentiability as a function on S . For S piecewise smooth, as in (2.1), we assume that $f|_{S_K}$ has a smooth extension to a neighborhood of S_K , for each K . The required differentiability of f depends on the degree of the interpolant, i.e., if f is approximated by a polynomial of degree n , then $f \in C^{n+2}(S_K)$. Thus S_K , for each K , should admit an at least $n+2$ times continuously differentiable parametrization F_K . For a partial discussion of the existence of extensions of f preserving differentiability, see Günter [6, p. 10]

The surface S of (2.1) is divided into a triangular mesh

$$(2.2) \quad \{ \Delta_{K,N} \mid 1 \leq K \leq N \},$$

where N is the total number of triangles on the surface S . Each S_j is to be broken apart into a set of nonoverlapping triangularly shaped elements Δ_{K,N_j} , about which we say more below. In referring to the element $\Delta_{K,N}$, the reference to N will be omitted, but understood implicitly. Define the mesh size of (2.2) by

$$\delta_N = \max_{1 \leq K \leq N} \text{diam}(\Delta_K),$$

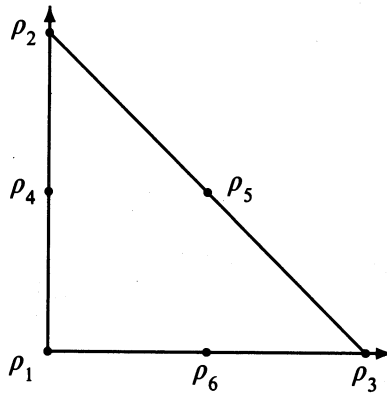


FIGURE 1. The unit simplex

$$\text{diam}(\Delta_K) = \max_{p, q \in \Delta_K} |p - q|.$$

Let σ denote the unit simplex in the st -plane

$$\sigma = \{(s, t) \mid 0 \leq s, t, s + t \leq 1\}.$$

Let ρ_1, \dots, ρ_6 denote the three vertices and three midpoints of the sides of σ , numbered according to Figure 1.

One way of obtaining the triangulation (2.2) and the mappings from σ to each Δ_K is by means of a parametric representation for the region S_j of (2.1). Assume that for each S_j , there is a mapping

$$(2.3) \quad F_j : R_j \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1-1} S_j, \quad 1 \leq j \leq J,$$

where R_j is a polygonal domain in the plane and $F_j \in C^{r+3}(R_j)$. Then the mapping of a triangulation of R_j , using F_j , yields a triangulation of S_j . Since the R_j 's are polygonal domains and can be written as a union of triangles, without loss of generality, we assume in this paper that the R_j 's are triangles. A paraboloid with top is a good example of an S that satisfies our assumptions; but a circular cone is an example of an S for which some of the above assumptions are not valid, because of the discontinuity of the gradient at the vertex.

Let $\hat{\Delta}_K$ be an element in the triangulation of R_j , and let \hat{v}_1, \hat{v}_2 , and \hat{v}_3 be its vertices. Define

$$(2.4) \quad m_K(s, t) = F_j(u\hat{v}_1 + t\hat{v}_2 + s\hat{v}_3), \quad u = 1 - s - t, \quad (s, t) \in \sigma,$$

and let Δ_K be the image of $\hat{\Delta}_K$ under this mapping. Also, if any two elements in this triangulation have a side in common, then their intersection will be an entire side of both triangles. Most surfaces S of interest can be decomposed as in (2.1), with each S_j representable as in (2.3). Also, the surface S could be smooth, and we would often still want to decompose it as in (2.1).

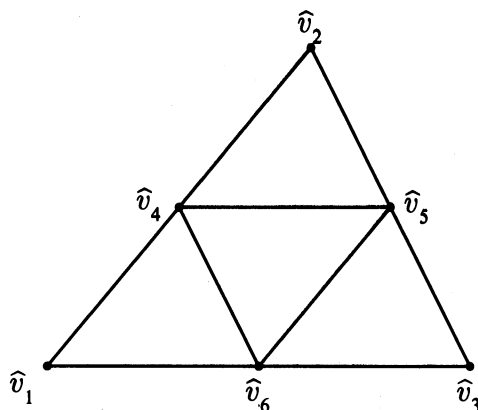


FIGURE 2. Refinement

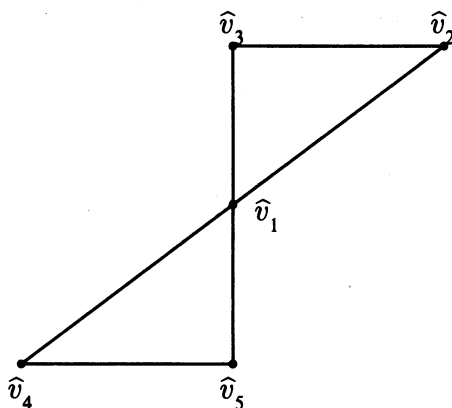


FIGURE 3. A Symmetric pair of triangles

The mapping (2.4) is used in defining interpolation and numerical integration on Δ_K . Introduce the node points for Δ_K by

$$v_{j,K} = m_K(\rho_j), \quad j = 1, \dots, 6.$$

The sequence of (2.2) will usually be obtained by successive refinements. The refinement process is based on connecting the midpoints of the sides of a given element $\hat{\Delta}_K$. Given $\{\hat{v}_1, \dots, \hat{v}_6\}$, connect $\hat{v}_4, \hat{v}_5, \hat{v}_6$ by lines parallel to the sides of $\hat{\Delta}_K$, as in Figure 2, producing four new triangular elements. The new elements all are congruent, and they are similar to $\hat{\Delta}_K$. More importantly, in a triangulation of a polygonal region, any *symmetric pair of triangles*, as shown in Figure 3, has the following property:

$$(2.5) \quad \hat{v}_1 - \hat{v}_2 = -(\hat{v}_1 - \hat{v}_4) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{v}_1 - \hat{v}_3 = -(\hat{v}_1 - \hat{v}_5).$$

3. INTERPOLATION

We use Lagrange polynomials to define our polynomial interpolation. As an example, introduce the basis functions for quadratic interpolation on σ .

Letting $u = 1 - (s + t)$, define

$$l_1(s, t) = u(2u - 1), \quad l_2(s, t) = t(2t - 1), \quad l_3(s, t) = s(2s - 1), \\ l_4(s, t) = 4tu, \quad l_5(s, t) = 4st, \quad l_6(s, t) = 4su.$$

The functions $l_j(s, t)$ are quadratic Lagrange polynomials satisfying

$$l_i(\rho_j) = \delta_{ij}.$$

Define a corresponding set of basis functions $\{l_{j,K}(q)\}$ on Δ_K :

$$l_{j,K}(m_K(s, t)) = l_j(s, t), \quad 1 \leq j \leq 6, \quad 1 \leq K \leq N.$$

Given a function $f \in C(S)$, define

$$(3.1) \quad f_n(q) = \sum_{j=1}^6 f(v_{j,K})l_{j,K}(q), \quad q \in \Delta_K,$$

for $K = 1, \dots, N$. This is called the *piecewise polynomial interpolation of f on the nodes of the mesh $\{\Delta_K\}$ for S* .

Other kinds of interpolation can be used, such as piecewise cubic interpolation in the parametrization variables, and in this case, we need ten node points, ρ_1, \dots, ρ_{10} , and ten basis functions for the interpolation on σ . For any degree n , it is possible to define the needed interpolation by using $(n + 1)(n + 2)/2$ uniformly spaced points on σ .

The integrand function $f(m_K(s, t))$, $(s, t) \in \sigma$, is approximated by a polynomial of degree n in (s, t) :

$$f(m_K(s, t)) \approx f_n(m_K(s, t)) \equiv \sum_{j=1}^{n_d} f(m_K(\rho_j))l_j(s, t),$$

where n_d is the number of node points required for a polynomial of degree n .

Because it is difficult or inconvenient to calculate the derivatives of parametrizations of many surfaces S , we use an approximate surface \tilde{S}_N with a parametrization that is easy to differentiate. The approximate surface \tilde{S}_N is composed of elements $\tilde{\Delta}_1, \dots, \tilde{\Delta}_K$, with $\tilde{\Delta}_K$ an interpolant of Δ_K . Define

$$\tilde{m}_K(s, t) = \sum_{j=1}^{r_d} m_K(\rho_j)l_j(s, t) = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{j=1}^{r_d} v_{j,K}^1 l_j(s, t) \\ \sum_{j=1}^{r_d} v_{j,K}^2 l_j(s, t) \\ \sum_{j=1}^{r_d} v_{j,K}^3 l_j(s, t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (s, t) \in \sigma,$$

where $v_{j,K}^i$ is the i th coordinate of $m_K(\rho_j)$, and r_d is the number of node points required for a polynomial of degree r . Thus, $\tilde{m}_K(s, t)$ interpolates $m_K(s, t)$ at $\{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_{r_d}\}$, and each component is a polynomial of degree r in (s, t) .

In this paper, the interpolation methods we use for an integrand function f and the surface parametrization m are not necessarily the same, i.e., we

could have two different sets of node points and two interpolants with different degrees for f and m . Later on, we will introduce a numerical integration scheme, and we could have yet another set of node points. Thus, there might be up to three different sets of node points used in this paper, although in practice, we often have them coincide.

4. APPROXIMATION OF INTEGRALS

The following is the criterion for choosing node points on each Δ_K , and it is important to the proof of Theorem 4.2.

Criterion 1. Let $g(s, t)$ be a polynomial of degree $r + 1$. Let $\{l_i(s, t)\}$ be the Lagrange polynomials of degree r , and let $\{\rho_j\}_{j=1}^{r_d}$ be the associated interpolation points on σ . Let

$$g_r(s, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{r_d} g(\rho_i) l_i(s, t)$$

be the Lagrange form of the interpolating polynomial. Choose the node points such that

$$\int_{\sigma} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [g(s, t) - g_r(s, t)] ds dt = 0$$

and

$$\int_{\sigma} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [g(s, t) - g_r(s, t)] ds dt = 0.$$

In this paper, using the evenly spaced node points $(i\delta, j\delta)$, $0 \leq i, j, i + j \leq r$, $\delta = 1/r$, with r even, satisfies the Criterion 1, and we prove it in the following lemma.

Lemma 4.1. *Using evenly spaced node points on σ and the Lagrange form of the interpolating polynomial of degree r , with $r > 0$ and even, satisfies Criterion 1.*

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\sigma} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [g(s, t) - g_r(s, t)] ds dt \\ (4.1) \quad &= \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [g(s, t) - g_r(s, t)] ds dt \\ &= \int_0^1 \{[g(1-t, t) - g_r(1-t, t)] - [g(0, t) - g_r(0, t)]\} ds dt. \end{aligned}$$

Examining (4.1), we can see that $g(0, t) - g_r(0, t)$ is a polynomial of degree $r + 1$ in t . On the line segment $\{(0, t) : 0 \leq t \leq 1\}$, the interpolation node points are $\{(0, 0), (0, 1/r), \dots, (0, 1)\}$. Using the error formula for the interpolation error in one variable, we have

$$\int_0^1 [g(0, t) - g_r(0, t)] ds dt = 0.$$

With a similar argument, we can show

$$\int_0^1 [g(1-t, t) - g_r(1-t, t)] ds dt = 0,$$

based on examining the interpolation error on the line segment $\{(1-t, t) : 0 \leq t \leq 1\}$. Therefore,

$$\int_{\sigma} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [g(s, t) - g_r(s, t)] ds dt = 0$$

and

$$\int_{\sigma} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [g(s, t) - g_r(s, t)] ds dt = 0.$$

This completes the proof. \square

Criterion 1 imposes implicitly conditions for choosing node points, and Lemma 4.1 shows that evenly spaced node points satisfy the criterion. Although Lemma 4.1 did not emphasize any symmetry for the nodes, a symmetry requirement could be essential to showing Criterion 1.

In light of Lemma 4.1, we henceforth choose evenly spaced node points on σ , and we use the Lagrange form of the interpolating polynomial. Note that if the degree of the interpolant is r , the number of node points, r_d , can be calculated by the following formula:

$$r_d = \frac{(r+1)(r+2)}{2}.$$

We state the first result below, in which we investigate the error of using (1.2) to approximate (1.1).

Theorem 4.2. *Let S be a piecewise smooth surface in R^3 . Let $\hat{\delta}$ be the mesh size of the triangulation $\{\hat{\Delta}_{K,N}\}$ of the various regions R_j . Use the Lagrange interpolating polynomials of degree n to approximate the integrand function f , and use interpolation polynomials of degree $r > 0$ to approximate the parametrization functions m_K . Also, choose two sets of equally spaced node points for approximating f and S over each triangular region. Define*

$$\tilde{r} = \begin{cases} r+2 & \text{if } r \text{ is even,} \\ r+1 & \text{if } r \text{ is odd,} \end{cases} \quad \tilde{n} = \begin{cases} n+2 & \text{if } r \text{ is even,} \\ n+1 & \text{if } r \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Then

$$E_1 = \int_S f(Q) dS_Q - \int_{\tilde{S}} f_n(Q) dS_Q = O(\hat{\delta}^u),$$

where $u = \min\{\tilde{r}, \tilde{n}\}$, $\tilde{S} = \tilde{S}_1 \cup \dots \cup \tilde{S}_J$, and $f \in C^{n+2}(S_i) \cap C(S)$, $i = 1, \dots, J$.

We prove the theorem by using the following three lemmas. The first lemma examines the error of approximating the surface S , and the third lemma computes the error of approximating the integrand function f . The second lemma

estimates an intermediate term which does not have an intuitive meaning. Write

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_1 &= \int_S f(Q) dS_Q - \int_{\tilde{S}} f_n(Q) dS_Q \\
 (4.2) \quad &= \sum_{K=1}^N \int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t)) |D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| ds dt \\
 &\quad - \sum_{K=1}^N \int_{\sigma} f_n(m_K(s, t)) |D_s \tilde{m}_K \times D_t \tilde{m}_K| ds dt
 \end{aligned}$$

with f_n denoting the piecewise polynomial of degree n interpolant of f . Decompose E_1 as

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_1 &= E_{11} + E_{12} + E_{13}, \\
 E_{11} &= \sum_{K=1}^N \int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t)) (|D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| - |D_s \tilde{m}_K \times D_t \tilde{m}_K|) ds dt, \\
 E_{12} &= \sum_{K=1}^N \int_{\sigma} [f(m_K(s, t)) - f_n(m_K(s, t))] (|D_s \tilde{m}_K \times D_t \tilde{m}_K| \\
 &\quad - |D_s m_K \times D_t m_K|) ds dt, \\
 E_{13} &= \sum_{K=1}^N \int_{\sigma} [f(m_K(s, t)) - f_n(m_K(s, t))] |D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| ds dt.
 \end{aligned}$$

As in equation (2.4), we let

$$(4.3) \quad m_K(s, t) = F_j(u\hat{v}_1 + t\hat{v}_2 + s\hat{v}_3) = \begin{bmatrix} x^1(u\hat{v}_1 + t\hat{v}_2 + s\hat{v}_3) \\ x^2(u\hat{v}_1 + t\hat{v}_2 + s\hat{v}_3) \\ x^3(u\hat{v}_1 + t\hat{v}_2 + s\hat{v}_3) \end{bmatrix}$$

for some j and $u = 1 - s - t$, $(s, t) \in \sigma$, $x^i \in C^{r+3}(R_j)$, $i = 1, 2, 3$. Since the x^i are functions of s and t , and also of x and y , we use both $x^i(s, t)$ and $x^i(x, y)$, with the context indicating which is intended.

Lemma 4.3. Use the Lagrange form of the interpolating polynomial of degree $r > 0$ to approximate the surface parametrization m as in (4.3). Define

$$\hat{r} = \begin{cases} r + 3 & \text{if } r \text{ is even,} \\ r + 2 & \text{if } r \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Then for each Δ_K ,

$$\left| \int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t)) (|D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| - |D_s \tilde{m}_K \times D_t \tilde{m}_K|) ds dt \right| \leq C \hat{\delta}_K^{\hat{r}},$$

where $\hat{\delta}_K$ is the size of $\tilde{\Delta}_K$, and C depends on f and $\{F_j\}$.

Proof. Let

$$\tilde{x}^i(s, t) = \sum_{j=1}^6 x^i(s_j, t_j) l_j(s, t), \quad \text{where } (s_j, t_j) = \rho_j, \quad i = 1, 2, 3.$$

By using the Taylor error formula, we have

$$x^i(s, t) - \tilde{x}^i(s, t) = H^i(s, t) + G^i(s, t) + O(\widehat{\delta}_K^{r+3}),$$

where

$$H^i(s, t) = \frac{1}{(r+1)!} \left[\left(s \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + t \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right)^{r+1} x^i(0, 0) - \sum_{j=1}^6 \left(s_j \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + t_j \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right)^{r+1} x^i(0, 0) l_j(s, t) \right],$$

$$G^i(s, t) = \frac{1}{(r+2)!} \left[\left(s \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + t \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right)^{r+2} x^i(0, 0) - \sum_{j=1}^6 \left(s_j \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + t_j \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right)^{r+2} x^i(0, 0) l_j(s, t) \right],$$

and $O(\widehat{\delta}_K^{r+3})$ comes from the $(r+3)$ rd derivative of $x^i(s, t)$. Note that the derivatives of x^i with respect to (s, t) give rise to formulas involving $\widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1$ and $\widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1$. For example,

$$x_s^i(s, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} x^i(u\widehat{v}_1 + t\widehat{v}_2 + s\widehat{v}_3) = \nabla x^i \cdot (\widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1)$$

with $\nabla x^i = \left[\frac{\partial x^i}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial x^i}{\partial y} \right]^T$. Using the Taylor error formula and expanding functions at $(s, t) = (0, 0)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & |D_s m_K(s, t) \times D_t m_K(s, t)| - |D_s \tilde{m}_K(s, t) \times D_t \tilde{m}_K(s, t)| \\ &= E(r+2)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) \\ &+ E(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) + O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+4}), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & E(r+2)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) \\ &= \{ (x_s^2 x_t^3 - x_s^3 x_t^2) [x_s^2 H_t^3 + x_t^3 H_s^2 - x_s^3 H_t^2 - x_t^2 H_s^3] \\ &+ (x_s^3 x_t^1 - x_s^1 x_t^3) [x_s^3 H_t^1 + x_t^1 H_s^3 - x_s^1 H_t^3 - x_t^3 H_s^1] \\ &+ (x_s^1 x_t^2 - x_s^2 x_t^1) [x_s^1 H_t^2 + x_t^2 H_s^1 - x_s^2 H_t^1 - x_t^1 H_s^2] \} / |D_s m(0, 0) \times D_t m(0, 0)|. \end{aligned}$$

Note that x_s^i and x_t^i are the abbreviations of $x_s^i(0, 0)$ and $x_t^i(0, 0)$, respectively, whereas H_s^i and H_t^i are functions of (s, t) . The error term, $E(r+2)$, is the collection of terms which are of order $r+2$ in $\widehat{\delta}$. When r is even, $E(r+2)$ has the following property:

$$E(r+2)(s, t; -(\widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1), -(\widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1)) = E(r+2)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1).$$

We do not give the explicit formula of $E(r+3)$ here, but it is the collection of terms which are of order $r+3$ in $\widehat{\delta}$. It is similar to $E(r+2)$, and it is

an “odd function” of $\widehat{\delta}$:

$$E(r+3)(s, t; -(\widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1), -(\widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1)) = -E(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1).$$

Expanding $f(m_K(s, t))$ about $(s, t) = (0, 0)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (4.4) \quad & f(m_K(s, t))(|D_s m_K(s, t) \times D_t m_K(s, t)| - |D_s \widetilde{m}_K(s, t) \times D_t \widetilde{m}_K(s, t)|) \\ &= f(m_K(0, 0))(E(r+2) + E(r+3)) \\ & \quad + [sf_s(m_K(0, 0)) + tf_t(m_K(0, 0))]E(r+2) + O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+4}). \end{aligned}$$

Case 1. If r is even, Lemma 4.1 shows

$$(4.5) \quad \int_{\sigma} E(r+2)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) ds dt = 0.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t))(|D_s m_K(s, t) \times D_t m_K(s, t)| \\ & \quad - |D_s \widetilde{m}_K(s, t) \times D_t \widetilde{m}_K(s, t)|) ds dt \\ &= IE(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) + O(\widehat{\delta}_K^{r+2}), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} & IE(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) \\ &= \int_{\sigma} \{f(m_K(0, 0))E(r+3) \\ & \quad + [sf_s(m_K(0, 0)) + tf_t(m_K(0, 0))]E(r+2)\} ds dt. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, this shows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t))(|D_s m_K(s, t) \times D_t m_K(s, t)| \\ & \quad - |D_s \widetilde{m}_K(s, t) \times D_t \widetilde{m}_K(s, t)|) ds dt \\ &= O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+3}) \quad \text{for every } \Delta_K. \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$(4.6) \quad \begin{aligned} & IE(r+3)(s, t; -(\widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1), -(\widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1)) \\ &= -IE(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) \end{aligned}$$

and this odd function property will play an important role in the next lemma.

Case 2. If r is odd,

$$IE(r+2) \equiv \int_{\sigma} E(r+2)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) ds dt \neq 0,$$

but $IE(r+2)$ has the same property as $IE(r+3)$ in (4.6). Hence, when r is odd,

$$\int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t))(|D_s m_K(s, t) \times D_t m_K(s, t)| - |D_s \widetilde{m}_K(s, t) \times D_t \widetilde{m}_K(s, t)|) ds dt$$

is $O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+2})$ for every Δ_K . \square

Lemma 4.4. *There holds $E_{11} = O(\widehat{\delta}^r)$.*

Proof. For r even, consider a symmetric pair of triangles, as in Figure 3. For the parametrizations of the two triangles, use

$$\begin{aligned} m_1(s, t) &= F(u\widehat{v}_1 + t\widehat{v}_2 + s\widehat{v}_3), \\ m_2(s, t) &= F(u\widehat{v}_1 + t\widehat{v}_4 + s\widehat{v}_5). \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{K=1}^2 \int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t)) (|D_s m_K(s, t) \times D_t m_K(s, t)| \\ &\quad - |D_s \widetilde{m}_K(s, t) \times D_t \widetilde{m}_K(s, t)|) ds dt \\ &= IE(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) + IE(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_4 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_5 - \widehat{v}_1) \\ &\quad + O(\widehat{\delta}_K^{r+4}). \end{aligned}$$

Using (4.6) and (2.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &IE(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) + IE(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_4 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_5 - \widehat{v}_1) \\ &= IE(r+3)(s, t; \widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1, \widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1) \\ &\quad + IE(r+3)(s, t; -(\widehat{v}_2 - \widehat{v}_1), -(\widehat{v}_3 - \widehat{v}_1)) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, cancellation occurs on each symmetric pair of triangles, and the error contributed by each such pair of symmetric Δ_K is $O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+4})$. If there are n_j^2 triangles for each R_j , we have $(n_j^2 - n_j)/2$ pairs of triangles with error of $O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+4})$, and n_j remaining triangles with error of $O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+3})$. We also can see that

$$\widehat{\delta} \approx 1/n_j.$$

Therefore,

$$E_{11} = (n_j^2 - n_j)O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+4}) + n_jO(\widehat{\delta}^{r+3}) = C \cdot O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+2}),$$

i.e., the global error from using the Jacobian determinant of the approximate surface is $O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+2})$.

If r is odd, $IE(r+2)$ has the same property as $IE(r+3)$ for r even, and we can use the same argument as above to get the global error of $O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+1})$. \square

Lemma 4.5. *Use the Lagrange form of the interpolating polynomial of degree n to approximate the integrand function f , and use interpolation of degree $r > 0$ to approximate the surface parametrization m . Then, $E_{12} = O(\widehat{\delta}^{n+r+1})$.*

Proof. Let

$$f(m_K(s, t)) - f_n(m_K(s, t)) = H_{f,K}(s, t) + O(\widehat{\delta}^{n+2}),$$

where

$$H_{f,K}(s, t) = \frac{1}{(n+1)!} \left[\left(s \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + t \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right)^{n+1} f(m_K(0, 0)) - \sum_{j=1}^{n_d} \left(s_j \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + t_j \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right)^{n+1} f(m_K(0, 0)) l_j(s, t) \right].$$

Since

$$f(m_K(s, t)) - f_n(m_K(s, t)) = O(\widehat{\delta}^{n+1})$$

and

$$|D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| - |D_s \tilde{m}_K \times D_t \tilde{m}_K| = O(\widehat{\delta}^{r+2})$$

for every $(s, t) \in \sigma$ and for $K = 1, \dots, N$, we can conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\sigma} [f(m_K(s, t)) - f_n(m_K(s, t))] (|D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| - |D_s \tilde{m}_K \times D_t \tilde{m}_K|) ds dt \\ & = O(\widehat{\delta}^{n+r+3}). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the global error of E_{12} is $O(\widehat{\delta}^{n+r+1})$. \square

Lemma 4.6. *There holds $E_{13} = O(\widehat{\delta}^n)$.*

Proof. If n is even, for every (s, t) in σ we can expand about $(s, t) = (0, 0)$ to obtain

$$(4.7) \quad \begin{aligned} & \int_{\sigma} [f(m_K(s, t)) - f_n(m_K(s, t))] |D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| ds dt \\ & = \int_{\sigma} H_{f,K}(s, t) |D_s m(0, 0) \times D_t m(0, 0)| ds dt + O(\widehat{\delta}^{n+4}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have proved that E_{13} is of order $n+2$. But, if n is odd, the cancellation does not occur and we can only prove that E_{13} is of order $n+1$. \square

5. THE NUMERICAL SCHEME

In §4, we computed (1.1) by evaluating (1.2) analytically. Here we will evaluate (1.2) numerically and examine the error. Let $\{w_j\}$ represent the weights appropriate for the numerical integration scheme, and let $\{u_j\}$ be the node points on σ . Note that the node points u_j are not necessarily the same as the node points we use for constructing the approximation of the integrand function f and the surface parametrization m . Therefore, we could have three different sets of node points involved in this paper. One thing to remember is that the node points for the numerical integration scheme do not have to be evenly spaced, in contrast to the way we chose node points for interpolation in §4.

Consider the general numerical integration scheme

$$(5.1) \quad \int_S f(Q) dS_Q = \sum_{K=1}^N \int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t)) |D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| ds dt$$

$$\approx \sum_{K=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{\mu_d} w_j f_n(m_K(u_j)) |D_s \tilde{m}_K(u_j) \times D_t \tilde{m}_K(u_j)|,$$

where μ_d is the number of node points required for the numerical integration scheme, and μ is the degree of precision of the integration scheme, i.e., the scheme integrates exactly all polynomials of degree less than or equal to μ . Using the numerical integration scheme to approximate (1.1), we have the following theorem. In order to prove the theorem, we have to assume that f and m_K for each $K = 1, \dots, J$ are at least $\mu + 2$ times continuously differentiable because the numerical scheme being chosen has degree of precision μ .

Theorem 5.1. *Let $f, f_n, m,$ and \tilde{m} be defined as in §4 and choose a numerical scheme which has degree of precision μ . If $\mu \geq r$, then*

$$E_2 = \sum_{K=1}^N \int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t)) |D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| ds dt$$

$$- \sum_{K=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{\mu_d} w_j f_n(m_K(u_j)) |D_s \tilde{m}_K(u_j) \times D_t \tilde{m}_K(u_j)|$$

$$= O(\hat{\delta}^u),$$

where $u = \min\{\tilde{n}, \tilde{r}\}$. If $\mu < r$, then $E_2 = O(\hat{\delta}^u)$, where $u = \min\{\tilde{\mu}, \tilde{n}\}$ with $\tilde{\mu} = \mu + 2$ if μ is even, and $\tilde{\mu} = \mu + 1$ if μ is odd.

Proof. In order to analyze the error, we decompose the error into four parts:

$$E_2 = E_{21} + E_{22} + E_{23} + E_{24},$$

where

$$E_{21} = \sum_{K=1}^N \int_{\sigma} f(m_K(s, t)) |D_s m_K \times D_t m_K| ds dt$$

$$- \sum_{K=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{\mu_d} w_j f(m_K(u_j)) |D_s m_K(u_j) \times D_t m_K(u_j)|,$$

$$E_{22} = \sum_{K=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{\mu_d} w_j f(m_K(u_j)) (|D_s m_K(u_j) \times D_t m_K(u_j)|$$

$$- |D_s \tilde{m}_K(u_j) \times D_t \tilde{m}_K(u_j)|),$$

$$E_{23} = \sum_{K=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{\mu_d} w_j [f(m_K(u_j)) - f_n(m_K(u_j))] (|D_s \tilde{m}_K(u_j) \times D_t \tilde{m}_K(u_j)| - |D_s m_K(u_j) \times D_t m_K(u_j)|),$$

$$E_{24} = \sum_{K=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{\mu_d} w_j [f(m_K(u_j)) - f_n(m_K(u_j))] |D_s m_K(u_j) \times D_t m_K(u_j)|.$$

E_{21} is the error from the numerical integration, and $E_{22} - E_{24}$ are the errors from using the approximate surface \tilde{m} and integrand f_n . For notation, recall that $f_n, \tilde{w}, \tilde{r},$ and \tilde{n} are defined as in §4.

Lemma 5.2. *If the numerical integration scheme being chosen has precision of degree μ , then E_{21} is $O(\hat{\delta}^\mu)$.*

Proof. This is a standard result and we omit the proof. \square

Lemma 5.3. *If the degree of precision of the numerical scheme, μ , is less than r , which is the degree of the Lagrange interpolant of the surface parametrization, then $E_{22} = O(\hat{\delta}^r)$ if r is even and $E_{22} = O(\hat{\delta}^{r+1})$ if r is odd. If $\mu \geq r$, then $E_{22} = O(\hat{\delta}^r)$.*

Proof. Using (4.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & f(m_K(s, t)) (|D_s m_K(s, t) \times D_t m_K(s, t)| - |D_s \tilde{m}_K(s, t) \times D_t \tilde{m}_K(s, t)|) \\ &= f(m_K(0, 0)) (E(r+2) + E(r+3)) \\ &+ [s f_s(m_K(0, 0)) + t f_t(m_K(0, 0))] E(r+2) + O(\hat{\delta}^{r+4}). \end{aligned}$$

We divide the proof into two cases.

Case 1. $\mu \geq r$. If r is even, (4.5) is true. Since $E(r+2)$ is a polynomial of degree r in s and t , and the degree of precision of the numerical scheme is equal or higher than r , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{j=1}^{\mu_d} w_j E(r+2)(u_j; \hat{v}_2 - \hat{v}_1, \hat{v}_3 - \hat{v}_1) \\ &= \int_{\sigma} E(r+2)(s, t; \hat{v}_2 - \hat{v}_1, \hat{v}_3 - \hat{v}_1) ds dt = 0. \end{aligned}$$

An argument similar to the one in the proof of Lemma 4.4 completes the proof in this case.

Case 2. $\mu < r$. In this case, (4.5) is not true, and the error contributed by each Δ_K is $O(\hat{\delta}_K^{r+2})$. Therefore, the global error is $O(\hat{\delta}^r)$ if r is even, and it is $O(\hat{\delta}^{r+1})$ because cancellation occurs when r is odd. \square

Lemma 5.4. *There holds $E_{23} = O(\hat{\delta}^{n+r+1})$.*

Proof. This is a direct application of Lemma 4.5, and the degree of precision of the numerical scheme does not affect this result. \square

Lemma 5.5. *There holds $E_{24} = O(\widehat{\delta}^n)$.*

Proof. Replacing the integration in (4.7) by a numerical scheme, we get the result. Also, this result is not affected by the degree of precision of the numerical scheme which we choose to use. \square

Combining Lemmas 5.2–5.5 yields the assertion in Theorem 5.1. \square

6. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES

We give two sets of numerical examples by using the methods analyzed in §5. All of the numerical examples of this paper were computed on an HP 700 series work station and were computed by using the boundary element package from Atkinson [3].

The first set of numerical examples gives results for the 3-point numerical integration method. Thus, we approximate the integrand f and the surface parametrization m by piecewise quadratic polynomials and we approximate the integration by the formula

$$(6.1) \quad \int_{\sigma} h(s, t) ds dt \approx \frac{1}{6} \sum_{j=4}^6 h(\rho_j),$$

which has degree of precision two over σ . This numerical scheme uses three midpoints, and all the three sets of node points are the same.

Consider the numerical evaluation of

$$(6.2) \quad \begin{aligned} I &= \int_S F(Q) dS_Q, \\ F(Q) &= F(x, y, z) = \frac{\partial}{\partial n_Q}(e^z). \end{aligned}$$

The exterior unit normal to S at Q is n_Q . For S we first take the ellipsoid given by

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1.$$

We have

$$I = \frac{2ab\pi}{c^2} [(c - 1)e^c + (c + 1)e^{-c}].$$

The normal derivative in the definition of F is done exactly. The results are given in Table 1. The column labelled *Order* gives the logarithm to the base

TABLE 1. Ellipsoidal surface with $(a, b, c) = (1, .75, .5)$

N	Error	Order
8	2.39E-1	
32	3.28E-2	2.87
128	2.51E-3	3.71
512	1.66E-4	3.92
2048	1.05E-5	3.98

TABLE 2. Elliptical paraboloid surface with $(a, b, c) = (1, .75, .5)$

N	Error	Order
8	-4.29E-2	
32	-1.19E-2	1.85
128	-1.79E-3	2.73
512	-1.95E-4	3.20
2048	-1.80E-5	3.43
8192	-1.52E-6	3.57

TABLE 3. Elliptical paraboloid surface with $(a, b, c) = (1, .75, .5)$

N	Error	Order
8	-1.37E-1	
32	-1.41E-1	-0.04
128	-4.66E-2	1.60
512	-1.25E-2	1.90
2048	-3.17E-3	1.98

two of the ratios of successive errors. Thus for $u = \text{Order}$, the error at the node points is behaving like $O(\hat{\delta}^u)$.

The second surface we use is an elliptical paraboloid

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = z, \quad 0 \leq z \leq c,$$

together with the "cap" of points (x, y, z) satisfying

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} \leq c, \quad z = c.$$

The numerical results for this surface are given in Table 2. The integral and integrand are given in (6.2), the same as for Table 1. This numerical example shows that the order of convergence approaches four more slowly than for the ellipsoidal surface.

In the next example, we use three vertices to construct the numerical scheme:

$$\int_{\sigma} h(s, t) ds dt \approx \frac{1}{6} \sum_{j=1}^3 h(\rho_j)$$

which has degree of precision one over σ . As in the previous examples, we use piecewise quadratic approximation of the surface, but use linear interpolation for the integrand. Thus, we would expect the rate of convergence to be two, and Table 3 agrees with this.

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS, SAN MARCOS,
CALIFORNIA 92096-0001

E-mail address: chien@abel.csusm.edu