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Computation of Potentials on Curvilinear Elements.

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Abstract
This paper presents new techniques to compute with an extremely high accuracy the moment integrals of high order vector basis functions on curved patches.

1 Introduction.

Fully interpolatory higher-order divergence-conforming vector basis functions on surface patches of triangular and quadrilateral shape were defined in [1]. These basis functions become very effective in the numerical solution of the electric or the magnetic field integral equation provided one is able to compute with a good accuracy the moment integrals. The kernel of the moment integrals is the free space Green’s function $\exp(-jkR)/R$, and these integrals are quite difficult to compute when the integration patch contains or is close to the observation point.

A feature of the bases derived in [1], is that they contain a factor $1/J$, where $J$ is the Jacobian of the curved patch, which cancels with a similar factor in the differential surface area, allowing evaluation of the moment integrals in parent dependent coordinates ($\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3$ for triangular patches; $\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3, \xi_4$ for quadrilateral patches). Furthermore, in parent coordinates, the bases are a product of a polynomial $P$ of degree $p$ times a low order vector function, a feature which facilitates determining a Taylor’s series expansion of each basis function near the observation point for arbitrarily high polynomial order $p$.

We present two integration schemes, both based on integration in the plane tangent to the surface of the patch at the observation point, or its projection onto the patch surface. The first scheme, summarized in Section 2, is used to deal with observation points not lying on the integration surface. This integration scheme is based on a systematic (recursive) procedure able to express the integrand as the divergence of a finite vector sum, so that surface integration is easily reduced to an integration along the patch contour. The second scheme, discussed in Section 3, considers the case of observation points located on the patch surface. In this case we define a new quadrature function $q_m(n, \alpha)$ used to analytically integrate in one direction $[Q R^m \exp(-jkR)]$, for $m \geq -1$, where $Q$ is a monomial of $n$-th degree (for a plane patch it suffices to consider $m = -1$); the moment integrals are then reduced to one-dimensional integrals along the patch contour. The functions $q_m(n, \alpha)$ satisfy recursive formulas which permit their evaluation from knowledge of $q_{-1}(0, \alpha)$.

2 Integration for observation point located outside of the surface of the patch or of the plane of the tangent patch

For sake of brevity we can consider in this Section only the case of a plane patch. We call $R_t$ the distance from the observation point $r'$ to the (integration) point $r_t$ located on the plane of the patch. The subscript $t$ is used to clarify that here we are talking of a distance from the observation point to a

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point on a plane patch (subscript \( t \) stays for “tangent” plane when dealing with curved patches). We call \( \rho \) the length of the projection of \( r_t - r' \) onto the plane of the patch and \( \hat{\rho} \) the unit vector directed toward \( r_t \) along the projection of \( r_t - r' \) onto the patch plane.

Our derivation has been inspired after recognizing that it is very convenient to work in parent independent coordinates; in fact, the polynomial \( P^p (\xi_1, \xi_2) \) is supposed to be known as a function of the two independent parent coordinates \( \xi_1, \xi_2 \). The normal projection of \( r' \) onto the plane patch specifies the point with parent coordinates \( (\xi'_1, \xi'_2) \). Hence, the vector \( \rho \) (in the observation domain, not in parent domain) can be expressed in terms of the two unitary basis vectors \( \ell_1, \ell_2 \) as follows:

\[
\rho = (\xi_1 - \xi'_1) \ell_1 + (\xi_2 - \xi'_2) \ell_2
\]

where \( \ell_1, \ell_2 \) are constant vectors which are known for a given patch. The knowledge of the unit vector \( \hat{n} \) normal to the plane patch and the introduction of the reciprocal basis vectors \( h_1 = \ell_2 \times \hat{n}, h_2 = \hat{n} \times \ell_1 \) allows one to write:

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{h_1}{J_t} \cdot \rho &= \xi_1 - \xi'_1, \\
\frac{h_2}{J_t} \cdot \rho &= \xi_2 - \xi'_2
\end{align*}
\]

Use of the above dot-product expressions is the key point of our derivation.

For both the triangular and quadrilateral patch \( h_1 (h_2) \) is the inward vector in the plane of \( P \) normal to side 1 (2), and it is constant; \( J_t \) is the Jacobian relative to the plane patch \( P \). By assuming, for a moment, that the parent-domain point \( (\xi'_1, \xi'_2) \) is located outside of the parent patch we are able to demonstrate the following result:

\[
P^p (\xi_1, \xi_2) \frac{\exp(-jkR_t)}{R_t} = - \sum_{m=2}^{p+2} \nabla_s \left[ g_m F^p_{m+2-m} \right]
\]

where the differential operator \( \nabla_s \) operates on the unprimed (integration) coordinates and it is a surface operator relative to the surface of the plane patch. This result will then be extended to consider also the cases where the point \( (\xi'_1, \xi'_2) \) is inside or on the border of the parent patch. The nice features of expression (2) are:

1. the scalar functions \( g_m \) are computed recursively for increasing \( m \), on the basis of the knowledge of the function \( g_0 \);

2. the vector functions \( F^p_{m+2-m} \) are computed recursively for increasing \( m \) (decreasing \( p + 2 - m \)), on the basis of the knowledge of the function \( F^p \).

The scalar functions \( g_{2n} \) are defined by the recursive formulas (the minus sign is important):

\[
\begin{align*}
g_0 (R_t) &= \frac{\exp(-jkR_t)}{R_t} \\
g_{2n} (R_t) &= - \int_{R_t} R_t g_{2(n-1)} \, dR_t \implies \nabla_s [g_{2n}] = -\rho g_{2(n-1)} \quad \text{for } n \geq 1
\end{align*}
\]
The integration constants defining each of these functions are chosen so to make the limit for $k \to 0$ finite. The technique and all the details to obtain the vector functions $F_{p+2-m}^p$ will be presented at the Conference. Knowledge of all the functions $g_{2n}$ up to a given $n$ permits one to express $P^p \exp(-jkR_t)/R_t$ as the divergence of a known vector, for all values of $p$ up to $p = 2(n - 1)$ (for example, one can easily handle cases with $p = 6$ knowing $g_{2n}$ up to $2n = 8$). Use of (2) yields:

$$\int_P P^p_{\xi, \eta} \frac{\exp(-jkR_t)}{R_t} \, dS = -\frac{1}{J_t} \sum_i \hat{u}_i \cdot \int_{\partial P} \sum_{m=2}^{p+2} g_m F_{p+2-m}^p \, d\ell$$

where $\partial P$ is the boundary of the plane patch $P$ and quantities with subscript $i$ are associated with the $i$-th edge, $\partial_i P$, of $\partial P$. The surface divergence theorem has been used to convert the surface integral to a line integral, and $\hat{u}$ denotes the outgoing unit normal to the boundary in the plane of $P$.

If the parent-domain point $(\xi'_1, \xi'_2)$ is located inside or on the border of the parent patch one has to break $P$ into the two regions $P_r$ and $(P-P_r)$. $P_r$ is the intersection of $P$ and a small disk of radius $\epsilon$ centered at $(\xi'_1, \xi'_2)$. In the limit for $\epsilon \to 0$ (principal value integral) the following result is obtained:

$$\int_P P^p_{\xi, \eta} \frac{\exp(-jkR_t)}{R_t} \, dS = \int_{P_r} T^p_{\epsilon, 0} \frac{\exp(-jkR_t)}{R_t} \, dS + \frac{1}{J_t} \sum_i \hat{u}_i \cdot \int_{\partial P} \sum_{m=2}^{p+2} g_m F_{p+2-m}^p \, d\ell$$

where $T^p_{\epsilon, 0} = P^p (\xi'_1, \xi'_2)$, and the integral over $P_r$ is intended in the limit for $\epsilon \to 0$; expressions of the integral over $P_r$ are available in the literature. The technique used to integrate on a curved patch for observation point located outside of the tangent patch will be discussed at the Conference.

3 Integration for observation point located on the surface of the patch or on the plane of the tangent patch

In this section we consider the problem of integrating on a two-dimensional patch $P$ a polynomial function $P^p$ of $p$-th degree times a scalar function of the form

$$\exp(-jkR_t) R_t^m, \quad m = -1, 0, 1, 2, \ldots \quad \text{for a plane patch}$$

$$\exp(-jkR)/R, \quad \text{for a curved patch}$$

where $R_t$ is the distance from the observation point $r'$ to the (integration) point $r_t$ located on the plane of the tangent patch; while $R$ is the distance from the observation point $r'$ to the (integration) point $r$, both located on the patch surface.

Indeed, the subscript $t$ is used to clarify that here we are talking of a distance from the observation point to a point on a plane patch (subscript $t$ stays for "tangent" plane when dealing with curved patches). The reason why to consider kernels of the form $\exp(-jkR_t) R_t^m$ rather than just the 3D scalar Green’s kernel is due to the fact that we want to derive formulas to be used to integrate on curved patches, where the curvature of the patch plays a very important role when the observation point belongs to the curved patch.

$P^p$ is a polynomial function of two independent parent coordinates $\xi_1, \xi_2$ as well as of some dependent parent coordinates ($\xi_3$ for a triangular patch and $\xi_3, \xi_4$ for a quadrilateral patch).

Our derivation is presented here by considering, for simplicity, the case of a triangular patch; however, the results are readily extended to quadrilateral patches.

3.1 Integration on a plane patch for observation point located on the plane of the patch

In case of a triangular patch, the parent coordinates of the observation point (point of tangency) are $(\xi'_1, \xi'_2, \xi'_3)$. In the parent domain, the point of tangency (pot) is used to subdivide the triangular patch into
three subtriangles, by joining with straight lines the vertices of the triangle to the point of tangency. In object space we call \( R_1, R_2, R_3 \) the distances from observation point to vertex 1, 2 and 3, respectively; while the length of side 1, 2, 3 is \( \ell_1, \ell_2, \ell_3 \), respectively. Each subtriangle of the parent domain is mapped into a square domain \( \{0 \leq s_i \leq 1; \quad 0 \leq \lambda_i \leq 1\} \). For each subtriangle, the point of tangency \((\xi_1', \xi_2', \xi_3')\) is reached at \( \lambda_i = 1 \) (where \( s_i \) is undetermined). The Jacobian \( J_i \) of the \( i \)-th nonlinear transformation (\( i = 1, 2, 3 \)) has a first order zero at \( \lambda_i = 1 \).

In object space, the distance \( R \) of a point \( r \) of the plane (tangent) triangle from \( r' = r(\xi_1', \xi_2', \xi_3') \) is a function of \( \lambda \) and \( s \) of the form \( R = (1 - \lambda_i)\sqrt{A_i - s_r B_i + s_r^2 C_i} \), where \( A_i, B_i, C_i \) (\( i = 1, 2, 3 \)) are known positive constants.

We will see that when dealing with curved patches one need also to evaluate some surface integral by means of some quadrature rule which specifies the sampling points. When a sampling point is given, it is important to be able to evaluate the \( \lambda \) and \( s \) coordinates. For a given sampling point \((\xi_1', \xi_2', \xi_3') \) inside one subtriangle (as said, the sampling points on the subtriangle are chosen, for example, by the surface integration routine used to integrate the “regular” part), one can easily evaluate \( s_i \) (for \( i = 1, 2, 3 \)) and then the parent coordinates \((\xi_i, \xi_2, \xi_3)\) of any point close to \((\xi_1', \xi_2', \xi_3')\) having the same value of \( s_i \).

By use of the above specified nonlinear transformations, on each subtriangle of the plane (tangent) patch, it is then possible to integrate polynomial functions of \((\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3)\) times some radial functions:

\[
\int \int \int P(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) \exp(-jkr) R^{m}_{i} \, d\xi_1 \, d\xi_2 \quad \text{for } m = -1, 0, 1, 2, \ldots
\]

For \( m = -1 \), the singularity \( (1/R_i) \) is in fact eliminated by the first order zero of the Jacobian of the NL-transformation. The first integration along \( \lambda \) is performed analytically, the remaining integration along \( s \) is performed numerically. This technique “de facto” reduces the surface integration to a contour integration along the oriented contour of the patch.

To perform this integration the polynomial function \( P^p \) must be represented in terms of the \( \lambda \) and \( s \) variables. Since \( P^p \) is of \( p \)-th degree and the parent variable vary linearly in \( \lambda \), the expression of \( P^p \) as a function of \( \lambda \) will be a polynomial in \( \lambda \) of \( p \)-th degree:

\[
P^p = a_p(s) \lambda^p + a_{p-1}(s) \lambda^{p-1} + a_{p-2}(s) \lambda^{p-2} + \cdots + a_0(s)
\]

The algorithm to obtain the coefficients \( a_r(s) \) (\( r = 0, 1, \ldots, p \)) on the basis of the expression of \( \xi_i \) (\( i = 1, 2, 3 \)) in terms of \( \lambda \) and \( s \) variables and of \( P^p(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) \) is so simple that does not need to be discussed.

### 3.2 The quadrature function \( q_m(p, \alpha) \)

The potential integrals we are interested in have the following form:

\[
\int \int \int P(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) \exp(-jkr) R^{m}_{i} \, d\xi_1 \, d\xi_2 =
\]

\[
= \sum_i \xi_i' \int_0^1 ds_i \left( \frac{\alpha}{jk} \right)^m \sum_{p=0}^{\text{max}} a_p(s_i) \int_0^1 d\lambda \lambda^p \exp\{-\alpha (1 - \lambda)\} (1 - \lambda)^{m+1}
\]

with \( \alpha = jk \sqrt{A_i - s_r B_i + s_r^2 C_i} \)

Thus, to integrate along \( \lambda \) we need to define and use the following function:

\[
q_m(p, \alpha) = \int_0^1 (1 - \lambda)^m \lambda^p \exp\{-\alpha (1 - \lambda)\} (1 - \lambda) \, d\lambda
\]

\( m \) and \( p \) integer; \( m \geq -1, \, p \geq 0 \) \hfill (6)

For \( m = -1 \) and \( p = 0 \) this function has a simple analytic expression whereas, for other values of \( m \) and \( p \), this function can be evaluated by recursive formulas. In fact, for \( m = -1 \), one has:

\[
q_{-1}(0, \alpha) = \frac{1 - \exp(-\alpha)}{\alpha}
\]

\( q_{-1}(0, \alpha) = \frac{1 - \exp(-\alpha)}{\alpha} \), \( p \geq 1 \) \hfill (7)

\[
q_{-1}(p, \alpha) = \frac{1 - p q_{-1}(p-1, \alpha)}{\alpha}, \quad p \geq 1
\]

\hfill (8)
(7), (8) permit one to recursively compute \( q_{-1}(p, \alpha) \), for \( p = 0 \) up to \( p = p_{\text{max}} \). This knowledge is then used to compute the functions \( q_0(p, \alpha) \) for \( 0 \leq p \leq p_{\text{max}} \) which, in turns, allows computation of \( q_1(p, \alpha) \) up to \( p = p_{\text{max}} \), etc. In fact, for \( m \geq 0 \) one has:

\[
q_m(0, \alpha) = q_{m-1}(0, \alpha) - q_{m-1}(1, \alpha)
\]

(9)

\[
q_m(p, \alpha) = \frac{(1 + m) q_{m-1}(p, \alpha) - p q_m(p-1, \alpha)}{\alpha}, \quad (p \geq 1)
\]

(10)

The recursive evaluation of \( q_m(p, \alpha) \) becomes critical for \( |\alpha| \approx 0 \). In this case one can use Taylor series approximations which are always convergent and, for a real positive, take the form of alternating series. For \( |\alpha| \) small, a general and more effective (under a computational point of view) expression can be given in terms of infinite continued products.

### 3.3 Integration on the tangent plane or on a plane patch

For a plane patch \( P_t \), the results of the previous two subsections yield:

\[
\int_{P_t} \frac{P^p(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3)}{R_t} \exp(-jkR_t) \, dS = \int_{P_t} \frac{P^p(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3)}{R_t} \frac{\exp(-jkR_t)}{R_t} \, d\xi_1 \, d\xi_2
\]

\[
= \sum \xi_i^j \int_{0}^{1} \frac{d s_i}{\sqrt{A_i - s_i B_i + s_i^2 C_i}} \sum_{p=0}^{p_{\text{max}}} a_p(s_i) q_{-1}(p, \alpha)
\]

with \( \alpha = jk \sqrt{A_i - s_i B_i + s_i^2 C_i} \)

(11)

In order to derive the result valid for a curved patch we first need to study an approximation of the 3D Green’s kernel on the tangent plane. This is done in the following subsection.

### 3.4 Approximation of the kernel on the tangent plane along a line \( s = \text{constant} \)

Let us call \( R \) the distance from a point \( r(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) \) of the curved patch and the point of tangency \( r' = r(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) \) (observation point). In the neighborhood of the point of tangency, the integral kernel \( \exp(-jkR)/R \) can be approximated by a function of the distance \( R_t \) from a point \( r_t(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) \) on the tangent plane and the point of tangency. The point \( r_t \) of the tangent patch is reached for the same values of dependent coordinates relative to the point \( r \) of the curved patch. In the neighborhood of the point of tangency, and along a line \( s = \text{constant} \), one has:

\[
\frac{\exp(-jkR)}{R} \approx \frac{\exp(-jkR_t)}{R_t} = \exp(-jkR_t) \left[ \frac{1}{R_t} - \kappa_1(s) + \kappa_2(s) R_t + \kappa_3(s) R_t^2 \right]
\]

(12)

The argument of the exponential function on the left-hand side of eq. (12) is approximated on the right-hand side to first order in \( R_t \), whereas the factor inside the square brackets on the right-hand side of (12) is obtained by assuming the following representation for small \( R \approx R_a \) and \( R_t \):

\[
R_a = \frac{R_t}{1 - \kappa_1(s) R_t + \kappa_2(s) R_t^2 + \kappa_3(s) R_t^3}
\]

which yields

\[
\frac{1}{R_a} = \frac{1}{R_t} - \kappa_1(s) + \kappa_2(s) R_t + \kappa_3(s) R_t^2
\]

and

\[
R_a \approx R_t \{ 1 + \kappa_1(s) R_t + [\kappa_2(s) - \kappa_2(s)] R_t^2 + [\kappa_3(s) - 2 \kappa_2(s) \kappa_1(s) - \kappa_3(s)] R_t^3 + \cdots \}
\]
In the latter equation \( \kappa_1(s) \) approximates the curvature of the patch at the point of tangency (where \( R_t \approx 0 \)), but it is not the true curvature. For \( \kappa_1(s) \) to become the curvature one should represent \( R \) in the neighbourhood of the point of tangency as it follows (infinite series):

\[
R = \frac{R_t}{1 - \kappa_1(s) R_t + \kappa_2^2(s) R_t^2 + \cdots + \kappa_{n+1}^n(s) R_t^n + \cdots}
\]

Therefore, the function coefficients \( \kappa_1(s), \kappa_2^2(s) \) and \( \kappa_3^3(s) \) must be evaluated numerically by enforcing (12) at three points located very close to the point of tangency. Because of the presence of the complex exponential functions, these coefficients are complex. The three points used to evaluate the coefficients have the same value of s-coordinate (s is known when one integrates along \( s \)), while it can be evaluated when integrating the regular part, since the sampling quadrature-point is always given); whereas the \( \lambda \)-values are \((1 - \Delta), (1 - 2\Delta)\) and \((1 - 3\Delta)\) (with \( \Delta = 10^{-2} \), for example). By calling \((R_{11}, R_1), (R_{12}, R_2), (R_{13}, R_3)\) the distance couples \((R_t, R)\) relative to the three interpolation points, the numerical-curvature coefficients are easily expressed in terms of matrix product.

The numerically obtained values for \( \kappa_1, \kappa_2^2 \) and \( \kappa_3^3 \) yield a regular part which, numerically, is zero at \( r = r' \) (i.e., at the point of tangency, where \( R = R_t = 0 \)) and with zero first and second derivatives along the direction \( s = \text{constant} \).

Since \( R \) and \( R_t \) are continuous functions of \( s \), also \( \kappa_1(s), \kappa_2^2(s) \) and \( \kappa_3^3(s) \) are continuous functions of \( s \).

3.5 Integration on a curved patch

We either recall or introduce the following functions:

\[
\frac{\exp(-jkR_t)}{R_a} = \exp(-jkR_t) \left[ \frac{1}{R_t} - \kappa_1(s) + \kappa_2^2(s) R_t + \kappa_3^3(s) R_t^2 \right] \tag{13}
\]

\[
\alpha = jk \sqrt{A_i - s_i B_i + s_i^2 C_i} \tag{14}
\]

\[
P^p = a_p(s) \lambda^p + a_{p-1}(s) \lambda^{p-1} + a_{p-2}(s) \lambda^{p-2} + \cdots + a_0(s) \tag{15}
\]

\[
Q(s_i) = -\kappa_1(s_i) q_0(p, \alpha) \left. \frac{q_{-1}(p, \alpha)}{\sqrt{A_i - s_i B_i + s_i^2 C_i}} - \kappa_2^2(s_i) q_1(p, \alpha) \sqrt{A_i - s_i B_i + s_i^2 C_i} + \kappa_3^3(s_i) q_2(p, \alpha) (A_i - s_i B_i + s_i^2 C_i) \right. \tag{16}
\]

For a curved patch one has:

\[
\int_{P} \frac{P^p(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3)}{J} \exp\left(-jkR\right) \frac{\exp\left(-jkR\right)}{R_a} \ dS = \int_{P} \frac{P^p(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3)}{J} \left[ \exp\left(-jkR\right) - \exp\left(-jkR_a\right) \right] \ d\xi_1 \ d\xi_2 + \sum_{i} \xi_i \int_{0}^{1} \left. \sum_{p=0}^{P_{max}} a_p(s_i) Q(s_i) \right| \ ds_i \tag{17}
\]

The surface integral on the right-hand side is evaluated by first subdividing the parent patch into sub-triangles. The quadrature rule used to integrate on each sub-triangle defines some sampling points in parent space. To evaluate \( R_a \) one needs first to evaluate the \( s_i \) coordinate of the sampling point (and then \( \kappa_1(s_i), \kappa_2^2(s_i), \kappa_3^3(s_i) \)), as explained previously.

References