

SHAPE DERIVATIVES OF GEOMETRIC CONSTRAINTS WITHOUT INTEGRATION ALONG RAYS

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Abstract: A variational method is proposed to compute integral quantities along the characteristic curves of a velocity field without the need for computing these curves explicitly on the spatial discretization. Such needs occur for instance when computing shape derivatives of geometric constraints built upon the sign distance function, which involves integration along normal rays of the optimized shape. Here, we rely on a symmetric variational problem that can be solved conveniently with the finite element method. The well-posedness of the formulation is established through a detailed analysis of weighted graph spaces of the advection operator for C1 velocity fields. Our working assumptions are fulfilled in the context of shape optimization of C2 domains, for which the velocity field is a unit extension of the outward normal. The variational method is compared numerically to direct integration along rays on several analytical examples. Implementation issues such as curvature estimation or taking the skeleton of the shape into account are discussed. Finally, we illustrate the use of our method to enforce conveniently maximum and minimum thickness constraints in structural shape optimization.