

Consider a point x on a 3-surface U of revolution made by rotation a curve along a sphere, and a vector v in the tangent space U_x .

Consider the component v_0 of v along S^2 .

Consider the great circle made by extending x to a geodesic in the direction of v_0 .

We can reflect across this great circle on all the spherical cross-sections of U .

By symmetry, the geodesic made by extending x in the v direction must stay on this slice of U .

This reduces finding the geodesic on a 3-surface of revolution to finding one on a 2-surface.

Consider the quotient space in \mathbb{H}^2 made by identifying two ultraparallel lines so that the intersections with their mutual perpendiculars are identified, and they both go in the same direction.

Then a miracle happend.

The resulting space is a surface of revolution.

We can extend this to a 3-surface of revolution, then use the above method to reduce finding a geodesic to finding one on this space.

???

$$y_0 = a \sin(x_0 - \theta_0), y_1 = a \sin(x_1 - \theta_0)$$

$$\frac{y_1}{y_0} = \frac{\sin(x_1 - \theta_0)}{\sin(x_0 - \theta_0)}$$

???

Rather than mapping a sphere to \mathbb{R}^2 , we can embed it in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Given points \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} ,

First, we take the first thee coordinates, which gives us points in S^2 .

We can easily find the great circle between them.

We set up a geodesic along \mathbb{H}^2 , and place \mathbf{x} at the distance given by x_4 from the bottleneck, where the spherical cross-section is thinnest.

We then move along the spherical cross-section a distance equal to the distance the first three coordinates of \mathbf{x} are along the great circle. We do this simply by scaling $e^{k\theta}$, where θ is the angle along the great circle, and k is some constant that depends on the specific surface we're using.

We do a similar process for \mathbf{y} .

Now we can find the geodesic between them along this \mathbb{H}^2 slice.

We can then find the vector representing the distance and direction from \mathbf{x} to \mathbf{y} .

Now we simply transform this back to a point on the full space.

(v_1, v_2, v_3) is the component of \mathbf{v} along the S^2 slice, which is just the the component along the line perpendicular to the circle on the euclidean map used to represent the hyperbolic slice. Just transform this back onto S^2 . Don't worry about the radius of S^2 . We didn't actually use it to calculate distance, so it doesn't matter.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbf{e}_1 \mapsto \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{z} \mapsto \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{e}_3, \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{z} \mapsto \mathbf{e}_4 \\
& (\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}, (\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{y}'))^{-1} \\
& = (\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}, (\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{y}'))^T, \text{ since it's a rotation matrix.} \\
& ??? \\
& (\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}, (\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{z}))^T
\end{aligned}$$

$$(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}, (\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{z})) \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_1 & -\sin \theta_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \theta_1 & \cos \theta_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_0 & \sin \theta_0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_0 & \cos \theta_0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} (\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}, (\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{z}))^T$$

This still fails to take into account the rotation around the sphere.

It just rotates between \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{z} , so if we do it mid-conjugation, we can just do it with a 2×2 matrix like so:

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}, (\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{z})) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_1 & -\sin \theta_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \theta_1 & \cos \theta_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\
& \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_0 & \sin \theta_0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_0 & \cos \theta_0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} (\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}, (\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{z}))^T
\end{aligned}$$

Where $\theta = \frac{1}{2k} \ln \|\mathbf{y}'\|^2$