Chapter 1

Mathematical Background

This chapter sets the stage and introduces already existing material.

A frame F is a set of 6 vectors $\{\pm F_0, \pm F_1, \pm F_2\}$. We can represent such a frame F as a 3×3 matrix F, where the ith-column is F_i. A frame field then maps to every point in 3D-space such a frame, i.e. $F : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}^{3\times 3}$. Usually, we work on a 3-manifold $\mathcal{M}$ and a positively oriented frame field, i.e. $F|_{\mathcal{M}} : \mathcal{M} \to \mathbb{R}^{3\times 3}$, where $\det(F) > 0$. To allow for anisotropic, nonuniform meshes, we generalize orthonormality of frames to g-orthonormal frames. Orthonormality is measured in some metric g, and a frame F satifisfies the condition $\langle F_i, F_j \rangle_g = \delta_{ij}$. Any frame field with $\det(F) > 0$ naturally defines a metric $g = (FF^\top)^{-1}$, where F is g-orthonormal

$$F^\top g F = Id.$$

We can factor the frame field F into a symmetric part $g^{1/2}$ and a rotational part R

$$F = g^{-1/2} R$$

The symmetric part $g^{-1/2}$ keeps F g-orthonormal

$$\implies F^\top g F = (g^{-1/2}R)^\top g g^{-1/2} R) = R^\top g^{-1/2} g g^{-1/2} R = Id.$$

and R represents a rotational field $R : \mathcal{M} \to SO(3)$. The requirements for our frame field are:

- Smoothness
- Integrability
- Metric consistency: $g = (FF^\top)^{-1}$