

Almost local metrics

The problem at hand is the following: we wish to construct a notion of distance between two points in $B_e(S^1, \mathbb{R}^2)$ by defining a metric, such that the distance between two points is the length of geodesics between the points. As we have seen, the distance induced by the L^2 -metric vanishes on $B_e(S^1, \mathbb{R}^2)$, so we seek to define metrics, which do not vanish. One type of such metrics is *almost local metrics*, which, given $f \in B_e(S^1, \mathbb{R}^2)$, are metrics of the form

$$G_f^\Phi(h, k) = \int_M \Phi(\text{Vol}(f), H_f, K_f) \bar{g}(h, k) \text{vol}(f^* \bar{g}),$$

where $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ is smooth, $\text{Vol}(f) = \int_M \text{vol}(f^* \bar{g})$ is the total volume of $f(M)$, H_f is the mean curvature of f and K_f is the Gauss curvature of f . Both H_f and K_f are local invariant properties with respect to the Riemannian metric, defined to be the trace and the determinant of the Weingarten mapping, respectively, and so Φ is often chosen to only depend on one of the two curvatures.

The total volume of f , $\text{Vol}(f)$, is defined via the volume form induced by the pullback metric, $f^* \bar{g}$, so this definition of almost-local metrics only applies to manifolds which possess a volume form. All compact, oriented manifolds do this (Reference?), and almost local metrics are often defined for this class of manifolds. In the case of $f \in B_e(S^1, \mathbb{R}^2)$, the volume form on S^1 induced by f , is given by $\text{vol}(f^* \bar{g}) = |f_\theta| d\theta$. (Reference to Riemannian Geometries on Spaces of PLane Curves 2.2)

$\text{Vol}(f)$ is a non-local property of f , and thus the metrics are not only dependent on the local properties, K_f, H_f , but must be *almost* local metrics.

Note that if Φ depends only on f through $\text{Vol}(f)$ then $G_f^\Phi(h, k)$ is equal to the L^2 -metric (up to a constant) (is this obvious from our definition of the L^2 metric?). But if Φ actually depends on either curvature and the total volume, then point-separation is achieved under certain conditions imposed on Φ ;

Theorem 0.1. *If $\Phi(\text{Vol}(f), H_f, K_f) \geq AH_f$ for some $A > 0$, then G_f^Φ induces a point-separating metric on $B_e(S^1, \mathbb{R}^2)$.*

Proof.

Reference - perhaps explain heuristically?

□