

Cheap and stable quadrature

Alvise Sommariva

International Workshop on Modern Problems of Analysis,
Optimization, Approximation and Their Applications
Rome (I), June, 26-27, 2025

In this talk we will briefly discuss **cheap numerical cubature** on multivariate domains

- introduce some **basics** on the topic and theoretical results;
- show the **numerical advantages** of this approach.

Joint work with Laura Rinaldi and Marco Vianello.

Work **partially supported** by

- the DOR funds of the University of Padova,
- INdAM-GNCS 2024 Project “Kernel and polynomial methods for approximation and integration: theory and application software”,
- INdAM-GNCS 2025 Project “GNCS, Polinomi, Splines e Funzioni Kernel: dall’Approssimazione Numerica al Software Open-Source”.

Research **accomplished within**

- the RITA,
- the SIMAI Activity Group ANA&A,
- the Community of Practice “Green Computing” of the Arqus European University Alliance.

We intend to numerically approximate

$$\int_{\Omega} f(x) d\Omega \approx \sum_{i=1}^{N_M} w_i f(P_i).$$

where

- Ω is a domain of \mathbb{R}^2 or \mathbb{R}^3 ,
- $f \in C(\Omega)$.

by a formula that has algebraic degree of exactness M , that is

$$\int_{\Omega} f(x) d\Omega = \sum_{i=1}^{N_M} w_i f(P_i)$$

whenever $f \in \mathbb{P}_M$, i.e. is an algebraic polynomial of degree M .

Remark

Later, **ADE** is the algebraic degree of exactness M of the formula.

- The formula

$$\int_{\Omega} f(x) d\Omega \approx \sum_{i=1}^{N_M} w_i f(P_i).$$

is allowed to have nodes P_i external to Ω ;

- some weights may be negative, but the index of stability named conditioning of the cubature formula

$$\text{cond}(\{w_i\}) := \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_M} |w_i|}{\sum_{i=1}^{N_M} w_i}$$

tends to 1 when increasing the ADE M ;

- the determination of the nodes $\{P_i\}_{i=1,\dots,N_M}$ and the weights $\{w_i\}_{i=1,\dots,N_M}$ is fast;
- the latter does not require the solution of a linear system.

Our approach is based on the following:

- *compute a polynomial hyperinterpolant of the integrand f on a hypercube containing the domain, e.g. a bounding box, (by means of some rule with $ADE = 2M$, w.r.t. some weight function);*
- *integrate the hyperinterpolant on the domain.*

Remark (Nodes and weights)

*As in the case of classical interpolatory rules, these ideas can be converted in **determining nodes and weights** in the bounding box so that the rule has degree of exactness M on the integration domain Ω .*

Remark (Hyperinterpolation)

Hyperinterpolation is a Fourier-like orthogonal projection on a total-degree polynomial space with respect to an absolutely continuous measure, discretized by an algebraic quadrature formula with positive weights.

Our approach is based on the following:

- *compute a polynomial hyperinterpolant of the integrand f on a hypercube containing the domain, e.g. a bounding box, (by means of some rule with $ADE = 2M$, w.r.t. some weight function);*
- *integrate the hyperinterpolant on the domain Ω .*

Remark

*As in the case of classical interpolatory rules, these ideas can be converted in **determining nodes and weights** in the bounding box so that the rule has degree of exactness M on the integration domain Ω .*

Suppose that the integration domain Ω is a polyhedron. Determine:

- 1 a Cartesian **bounding box** for the polyhedron;
- 2 the **nodes** $\{P_i\}$ and **weights** $\mathbf{u} = \{u_i\}$, $1 \leq i \leq N_M$, of a cubature formula exact for \mathbb{P}_{2M} for a given absolutely continuous measure $d\mu = \sigma(P)dP$ on the bounding box;
- 3 an **orthonormal basis** $\{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_\nu\}$ of \mathbb{P}_M with respect to $d\mu$,
- 4 the corresponding **Lebesgue moments** $\mathbf{m} = \{m_1, \dots, m_N\}$, $m_j = \int_{\Omega} \phi_j(P) dP$, e.g. by the divergence theorem;
- 5 the **Vandermonde-like matrix**

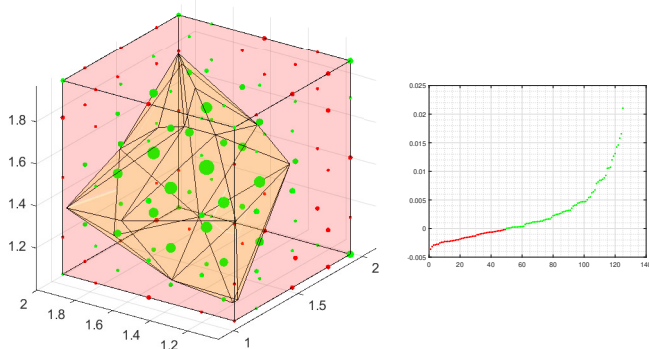
$$V = V_n(\{P_i\}) = [\phi_j(P_i)] \in \mathbb{R}^{N_M \times \nu}$$

- 6 **compute the weights** as

$$\mathbf{w} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{u}) V \mathbf{m} ,$$

or in a Matlab-like notation $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} . * V \mathbf{m} .$

Example



- On the left: quadrature nodes of the cheap rule on the nonconvex polyhedral element Ω_1 for degree 4, as red dots if the pertinent weight is negative, as green dots otherwise. The size of the dots is visually proportional to the weight magnitude.
- On the right, distribution of the weights in increasing order (in red: negative weights, in green: positive weights). We report that the smaller weight is $w_{\min} \approx -3.6 \cdot 10^{-3}$, the larger is $w_{\max} \approx 2.1 \cdot 10^{-2}$, and the smaller size is $|w|_{\min} \approx 2.6 \cdot 10^{-5}$.

Pros:

- Application to **polytopal FEM** (fast and stable computation of the integrals of products of polynomials naturally arising on arbitrary polyhedral elements, avoiding sub-tessellation into tetrahedra);
- **moment computation** does not require tessellation;
- **many computations can be done just once** and repeated on different integration domains;
- w.r.t. techniques based on approximate Fekete points
 - **cubature stability** is ensured;
 - **no QR factorization or linear system solution** is involved.

Cons:

- Though stability is ensured **some weights may be negative**;
- the integrands require in general **evaluations outside the integration domain**.

Theorem (Asymptotical optimal stability)

- 1 Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a compact subset, μ an absolutely continuous measure on Ω with respect to the Lebesgue measure.
- 2 Denote by $\{\phi_j\}_{1 \leq j \leq \nu}$ an orthonormal polynomial basis of \mathbb{P}_M for μ .
- 3 Let $(X, \mathbf{u}) = (\{P_i\}, \{u_i\})$, $1 \leq i \leq N_M$, be the nodes and positive weights of a quadrature formula for integration in $d\mu$, exact on \mathbb{P}_{2M} (the polynomials with total degree not exceeding $2M$), and $h \in L^2_\mu(K)$.

Then, the following algebraic product-like formula holds

$$\int_{\Omega} h(P)f(P) d\mu = \sum_{i=1}^{N_M} w_i f(P_i), \quad \forall f \in \mathbb{P}_n, \quad (1)$$

where the quadrature weights $\{w_i\}$ are defined by the product-like moments

$$w_i = u_i \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} \phi_j(P_i) m_j, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N_M, \quad m_j = \int_{\Omega} \phi_j(P) h(P) d\mu. \quad (2)$$

Moreover, the formula is stable, since

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N_M} |w_i| = \int_{\Omega} |h(P)| d\mu. \quad (3)$$

- We have implemented all these ideas in **Matlab** and in **Python**.
- in a forthcoming paper we extend this approach to other multivariate domains as
 - **bivariate domains** whose boundary can be tracked by **parametric splines**,
 - multivariate domains with complicated geometries in which **moments are computed by Quasi-Montecarlo methods**.

In this last section, we give some hints on what has been done over polyhedra.

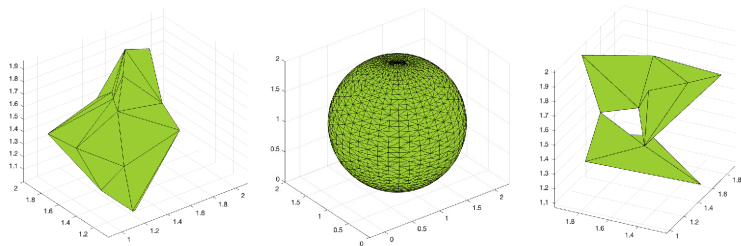


Figure: Examples of polyhedral domains. Left: Ω_1 (nonconvex, 20 facets); Center: Ω_2 (convex, 760 facets); Right: Ω_3 (multiply connected, 20 facets).

Numerical results

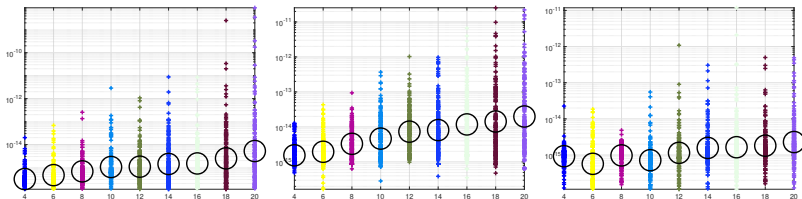


Figure: Relative errors $E(g_k)$ of the tetrahedra-free rule over 200 polynomial integrands of the form $g_k = (a_k x + b_k y + c_k z + d_k)^n$ on the three polyhedra of Figure 1, where a_k, b_k, c_k, d_k are uniform random coefficients in $[-1, 1]$ and $n = 4, 6, 8, \dots, 20$; the circles correspond to the average logarithmic error $\sum_{k=1}^{200} \log(E(g_k))/200$.

deg	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Ω_1	1.2e-03	1.4e-03	1.7e-03	2.3e-03	3.4e-03	5.1e-03	7.7e-03	1.9e-02	3.4e-02
Ω_2	3.0e-02	3.4e-02	4.3e-02	5.9e-02	8.2e-02	1.2e-01	1.8e-01	4.4e-01	9.7e-01
Ω_3	8.1e-04	9.0e-04	1.1e-03	1.7e-03	2.3e-03	3.5e-03	5.4e-03	1.3e-02	2.6e-02

Table: Average cputimes (in seconds) of *CheapQ* on the domains of Fig. 1, varying the algebraic degree of exactness.

deg n	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Ω_1	1.55	1.40	1.30	1.25	1.23	1.21	1.19	1.17	1.17
Ω_2	1.30	1.14	1.21	1.12	1.13	1.12	1.10	1.10	1.09
Ω_3	1.63	1.81	1.89	1.86	1.82	1.79	1.74	1.67	1.63

Table: Ratios $\sum_{j=1}^{\nu} |w_j| / \text{vol}(\Omega_i)$ for *CheapQ* on the domains of Fig. 1, varying the algebraic degree of exactness.

- C. Langlois, T. van Putten, H. Bériot, E. Deckers, Frugal numerical integration scheme for polytopal domains, Eng. Comput. (2024). → **A cheap technique on polyhedral elements based on Approximate Fekete points.**
- A. Sommariva and M. Vianello, *Cheap and stable quadrature on polyhedral elements*, Finite Elements in Analysis and Design, 2025 (to appear); → **Introduction of cheap technique on polyhedral elements.**
- L. Rinaldi, A. Sommariva and M. Vianello, *A new computational paradigm for cheap and stable discretized measure compression*, in preparation; → **Cheap technique on general elements.**
- A. Sommariva, M. Vianello, TetraFreeQ: tetrahedra-free quadrature on polyhedral elements, Appl. Numer. Math. 200 (2024), 389–398. → **Computation of polynomial moments on polyhedra, without tessellation.**