

Surface Differential Geometry, Movable Frame Method

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Compute Geodesics

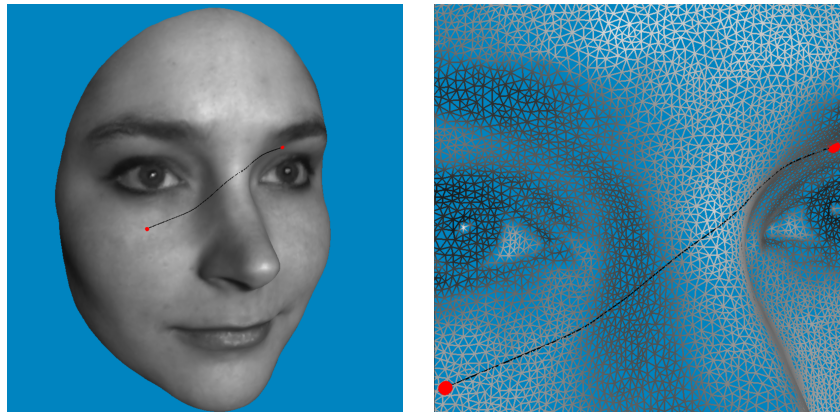


Figure: Geodesic on polyhedral surfaces.

Geodesic on a surface $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow (S, \mathbf{g})$:

$$D_{\dot{\gamma}}\dot{\gamma} \equiv 0.$$

Compute Geodesics

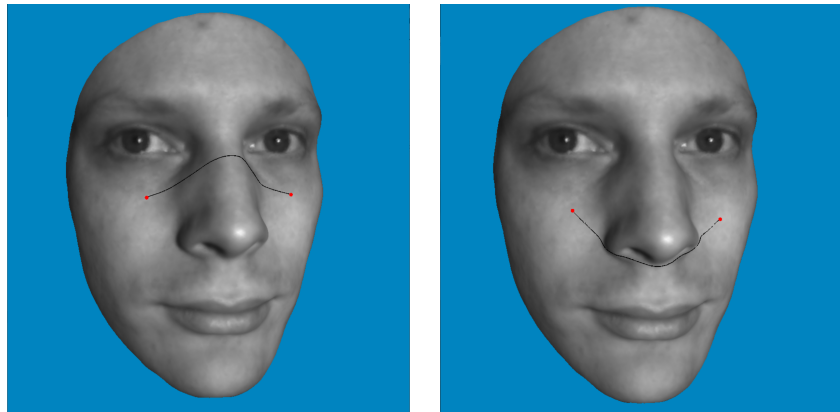
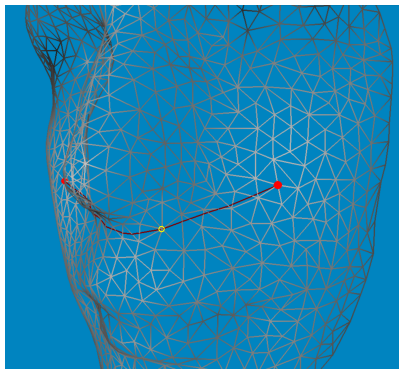
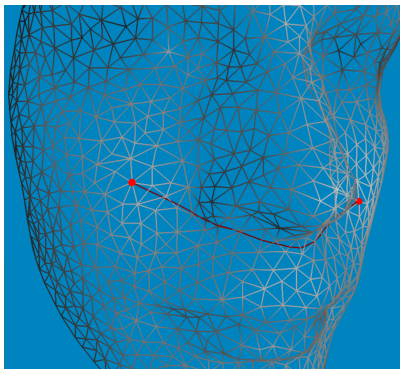


Figure: Conjugate point of geodesics.

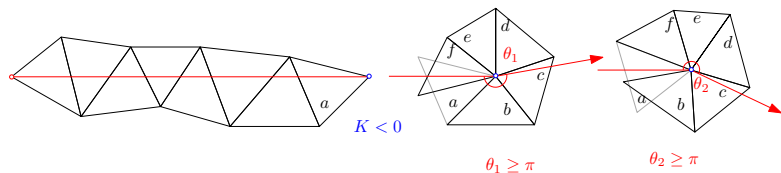
Geodesic on a surface $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow (S, \mathbf{g})$:

$$D_{\dot{\gamma}}\dot{\gamma} \equiv 0.$$

Discrete Geodesics



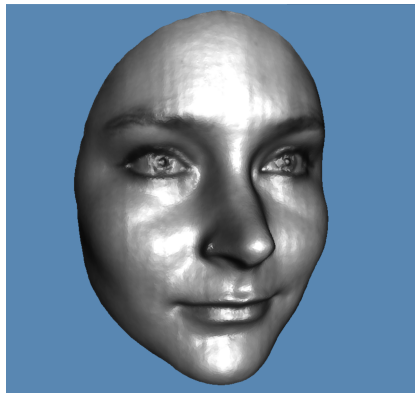
Discrete Geodesics



Suppose γ is a discrete geodesic:

- 1 isometrically flatten the strip of curve γ onto the plane;
- 2 when the γ crosses an edge, it is straight;
- 3 γ never crosses any convex vertex;
- 4 when γ crosses a concave vertex, if we flatten the neighborhood from right, then $\theta_1 \geq \pi$; flatten from left, $\theta_2 \geq \pi$.

Discrete Harmonic Map



Smooth surface harmonic map $\varphi : (S, \mathbf{g}) \rightarrow \mathbb{D}^2$, $\Delta_{\mathbf{g}}\varphi \equiv 0$, with Dirichlet boundary condition $\varphi|_{\partial S} = f$. A discrete harmonic map satisfies

$$\sum_{v_i \sim v_j} w_{ij}(\varphi(v_i) - \varphi(v_j)) = 0, \forall v_i \notin \partial M.$$

Compute Minimal Surface

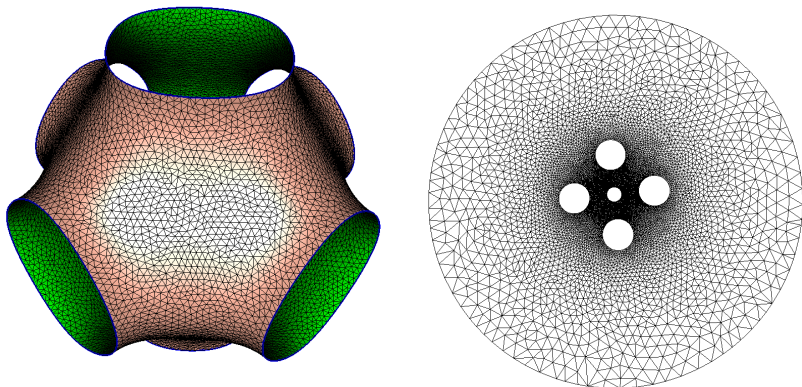
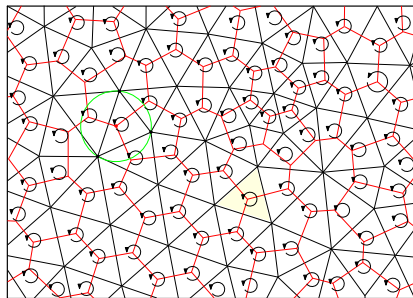


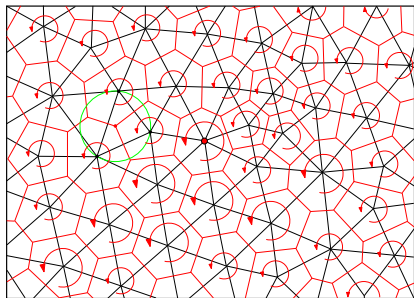
Figure: Minimal surface.

Smooth minimal surface satisfies $\Delta_{\mathbf{g}} r \equiv 0$, equivalently $H(p) \equiv 0$. A discrete minimal surface satisfies $\sum_{v_i \sim v_j} w_{ij} (\mathbf{r}(v_i) - \mathbf{r}(v_j)) = 0, \forall v_i \notin \partial M$.

Discrete Harmonic One-Form



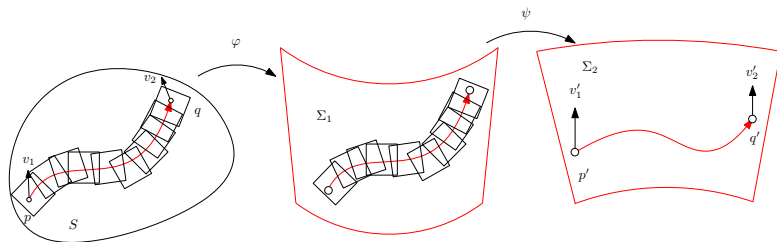
$$d\omega = 0$$



$$\delta\omega = 0$$

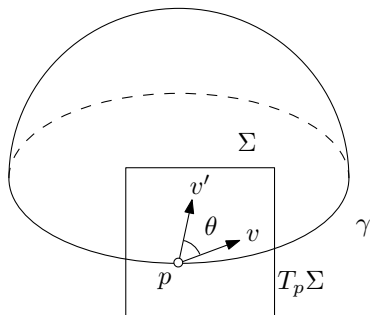
Harmonic map $\varphi : M \rightarrow \mathbb{D}^2$; minimal surface $\varphi : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$.

Parallel Transport



Given $\gamma \subset S$, find an envelope surface Σ_1 of all the tangent planes along γ , $\varphi : \gamma \rightarrow \Sigma_1$ isometrically maps γ to Σ_1 . Σ_1 is developable, flatten Σ_1 to obtain a planar domain Σ_2 , $\psi : \Sigma_1 \rightarrow \Sigma_2$. The composition $\psi \circ \varphi$ maps $p, q, v_1 \in T_p S, v_2 \in T_q S$ to p', q', v_1', v_2' . On the plane, translate a tangent vector v_1' from starting point p' to the ending point q' to get v_2' , maps back $v_2', v_2 = (\psi \circ \varphi)^{-1}(v_2')$. Then v_1 is parallelly transported along γ to get v_2 .

Gaussian Curvature



Parallel transport v along $\partial\Sigma$, to get v' when returned to the original point p , then the angle difference between v and v' equals to the total Gaussian curvature,

$$\theta = \int_{\Sigma} K dA.$$

Gaussian Curvature

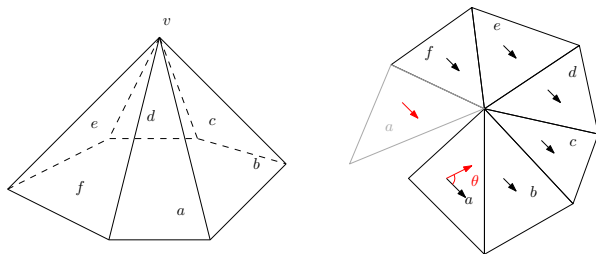


Figure: Discrete parallel transport, $K(v) = \theta$.

Parallel transport a vector, when return to the original position, the difference angle equals to the discrete Gaussian curvature of the interior vertices.

Gaussian Curvature

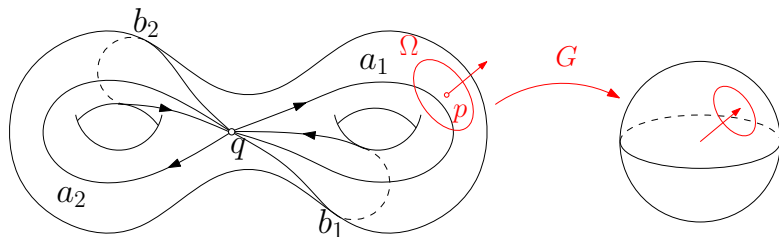


Figure: Gaussian curvature.

Gauss map: $\mathbf{r}(p) \mapsto \mathbf{n}(p)$,

$$K(p) := \lim_{\Omega \rightarrow \{p\}} \frac{|G(\Omega)|}{|\Omega|}$$

Gaussian Curvature

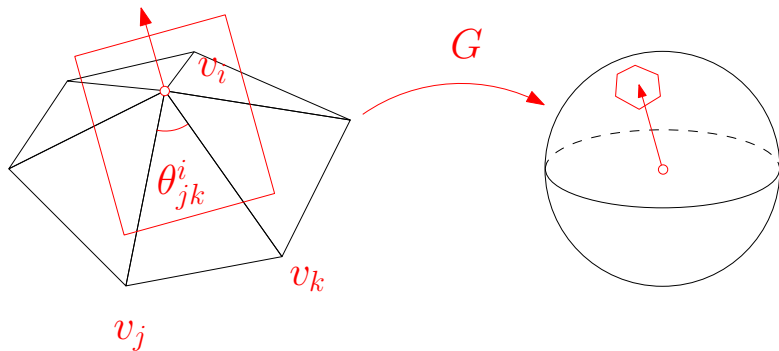


Figure: Discrete Gaussian curvature.

$$G(v_i) := \{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{S}^2 \mid \exists \text{Support plane with normal } \mathbf{n}\}.$$

Gaussian Curvature

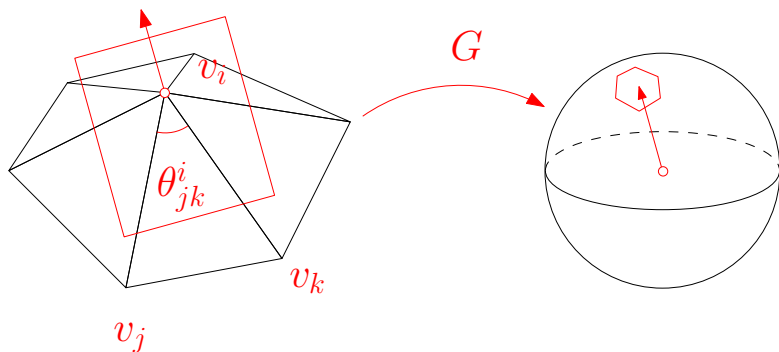


Figure: Discrete Gaussian curvature for convex vertex.

$$K(v_i) := |G(v_i)| = 2\pi - \sum_{jk} \theta_{jk}^i.$$

For a closed oriented metric surface (S, \mathbf{g}) ,

$$\int_S K dA = 2\pi\chi(S).$$

For a closed oriented discrete polygonal surface M ,

$$\sum_{v_i} K(v_i) = 2\pi\chi(M).$$

Gaussian Curvature

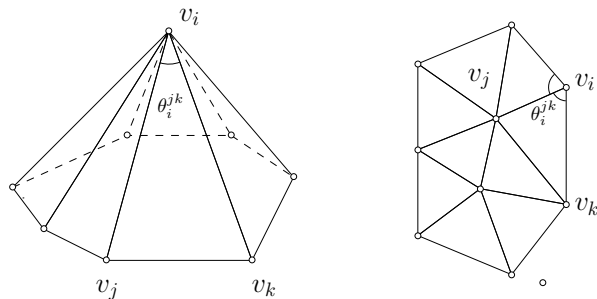


Figure: Discrete Gaussian curvature.

$$K(v_i) = \begin{cases} 2\pi - \sum_{jk} \theta_i^{jk} & v_i \notin \partial M \\ \pi - \sum_{jk} \theta_i^{jk} & v_i \in \partial M \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Theorem (Discrete Gauss-Bonnet Theorem)

Given polyhedral surface (S, V, \mathbf{d}) , the total discrete curvature is

$$\sum_{v \notin \partial M} K(v) + \sum_{v \in \partial M} K(v) = 2\pi\chi(S),$$

where $\chi(S)$ is the Euler characteristic number of S .

Proof.

We denote the polyhedral surface $M = (V, E, F)$, if M is closed, then

$$\sum_{v_i \in V} K(v_i) = \sum_{v_i \in V} \left(2\pi - \sum_{jk} \theta_i^{jk} \right) = \sum_{v_i \in V} 2\pi - \sum_{v_i \in V} \sum_{jk} \theta_i^{jk} = 2\pi|V| - \pi|F|.$$

Since M is closed, $3|F| = 2|E|$,

$$\chi(S) = |V| + |F| - |E| = |V| + |F| - \frac{3}{2}|F| = |V| - \frac{1}{2}|F|. \quad \square$$

continued.

Assume M has boundary ∂M . Assume the interior vertex set is V_0 , boundary vertex set is V_1 , then $|V| = |V_0| + |V_1|$; assume interior edge set is E_0 , boundary edge set is E_1 , then $|E| = |E_0| + |E_1|$. Furthermore, all boundaries are closed loops, hence boundary vertex number equals to the boundary edge number, $|V_1| = |E_1|$. Every interior edge is adjacent to two faces, every boundary edge is adjacent to one face, we have $3|F| = 2|E_0| + |E_1| = 2|E_0| + |V_1|$. We compute the Euler number

$$\chi(M) = |V| + |F| - |E| = |V_0| + |V_1| + |F| - |E_0| - |E_1| = |V_0| + |F| - |E_0|,$$

by $|E_0| = 1/2(3|F| - |V_1|)$

$$\chi(M) = |V_0| - \frac{1}{2}|F| + \frac{1}{2}|V_1|$$

continued.

we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{v_i \in V_0} K(v_i) + \sum_{v_j \in V_1} K(v_j) &= \sum_{v_i \in V_0} \left(2\pi - \sum_{jk} \theta_i^{jk} \right) + \sum_{v_i \in V_1} \left(\pi - \sum_{jk} \theta_i^{jk} \right) \\ &= 2\pi|V_0| + \pi|V_1| - \pi|F| \\ &= 2\pi \left(|V_0| - \frac{1}{2}|F| + \frac{1}{2}|V_1| \right) \\ &= 2\pi\chi(M).\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

□.

Movable Frame

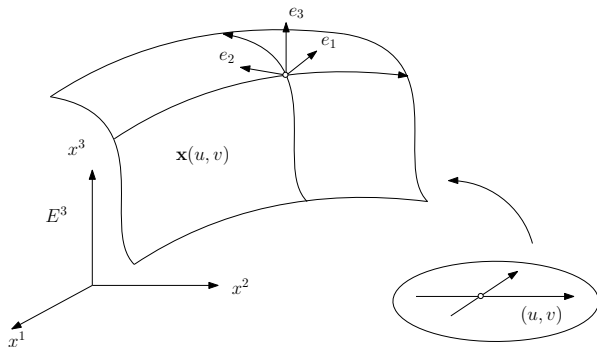


Figure: A parametric surface.

Movable Frame

Suppose a regular surface S is embedded in \mathbb{R}^3 , a parametric representation is $\mathbf{r}(u, v)$. Select two vector fields $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2$, such that

$$\langle \mathbf{e}_i, \mathbf{e}_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}.$$

Let \mathbf{e}_3 be the unit normal field of the surface. Then

$$\{\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3\}$$

form the *orthonormal frame field* of the surface.

Orthonormal Movalbe frame

Tangent Vector

The tangent vector is the linear combination of the frame bases,

$$d\mathbf{r} = \omega_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_2 \mathbf{e}_2$$

where $\omega_k(\mathbf{v}) = \langle \mathbf{e}_k, \mathbf{v} \rangle$. $d\mathbf{r}$ is orthogonal to the normal vector \mathbf{e}_3 .

Motion Equation

$$d\mathbf{e}_i = \omega_{i1} \mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_{i2} \mathbf{e}_2 + \omega_{i3} \mathbf{e}_3,$$

where $\omega_{ij} = \langle d\mathbf{e}_i, \mathbf{e}_j \rangle$. Because

$$\langle \mathbf{e}_i, \mathbf{e}_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}, \quad 0 = d\langle \mathbf{e}_i, \mathbf{e}_j \rangle = \langle d\mathbf{e}_i, \mathbf{e}_j \rangle + \langle \mathbf{e}_i, d\mathbf{e}_j \rangle$$

we get

$$\omega_{ij} + \omega_{ji} = 0, \omega_{ii} = 0.$$

Motion Equation

Motion Equation

$$d\mathbf{r} = \omega_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_2 \mathbf{e}_2,$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} d\mathbf{e}_1 \\ d\mathbf{e}_2 \\ d\mathbf{e}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \omega_{12} & \omega_{13} \\ -\omega_{12} & 0 & \omega_{23} \\ -\omega_{13} & -\omega_{23} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 \\ \mathbf{e}_2 \\ \mathbf{e}_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Fundamental Forms

The first fundamental form is

$$I = \langle d\mathbf{r}, d\mathbf{r} \rangle = \omega_1 \omega_1 + \omega_2 \omega_2.$$

The second fundamental form is

$$II = -\langle d\mathbf{r}, d\mathbf{e}_3 \rangle = -\omega_1 \omega_{31} - \omega_2 \omega_{32} = \omega_1 \omega_{13} + \omega_2 \omega_{23}.$$

Weingarten Mapping

Definition (Weingarten Mapping)

The Gauss mapping is

$$\mathbf{r} \rightarrow \mathbf{e}_3,$$

its derivative map is called the Weingarten mapping,

$$d\mathbf{r} \rightarrow d\mathbf{e}_3, \omega_1\mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_2\mathbf{e}_2 \rightarrow \omega_{31}\mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_{32}\mathbf{e}_2.$$

Definition (Gaussian Curvature)

The area ratio (Jacobian of the Weingarten mapping) is the Gaussian curvature

$$K\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 = \omega_{31} \wedge \omega_{32}.$$

Weigarten Mapping

$\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$ form the basis of the cotangent space, therefore ω_{13}, ω_{23} can be represented as the linear combination of them,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \omega_{13} \\ \omega_{23} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

therefore

$$\omega_{13} \wedge \omega_{23} = \begin{vmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} \end{vmatrix} \omega_1 \wedge \omega_2$$

so $K = h_{11}h_{22} - h_{12}h_{21}$, the mean curvature $H = \frac{1}{2}(h_{11} + h_{22})$.

Gauss's theorem Egregium

Theorem (Gauss' Theorem Egregium)

The Gaussian curvature is intrinsic, solely determined by the first fundamental form.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= d^2 \mathbf{e}_1 \\ &= d(\omega_{12} \mathbf{e}_2 + \omega_{13} \mathbf{e}_3) \\ &= d\omega_{12} \mathbf{e}_2 - \omega_{12} \wedge d\mathbf{e}_2 + d\omega_{13} \mathbf{e}_3 - \omega_{13} \wedge d\mathbf{e}_3 \\ &= d\omega_{12} \mathbf{e}_2 - \omega_{12} \wedge (\omega_{21} \mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_{23} \mathbf{e}_3) + \\ &\quad d\omega_{13} \mathbf{e}_3 - \omega_{13} \wedge (\omega_{31} \mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_{32} \mathbf{e}_2) \\ &= (d\omega_{12} - \omega_{13} \wedge \omega_{32}) \mathbf{e}_2 + (d\omega_{13} - \omega_{12} \wedge \omega_{23}) \mathbf{e}_3\end{aligned}$$

therefore

$$d\omega_{12} = -\omega_{13} \wedge \omega_{23} = -K\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2.$$

Gauss's theorem Egregium

Lemma

$$\omega_{12} = \frac{d\omega_1}{\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2} \omega_1 + \frac{d\omega_2}{\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2} \omega_2$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= d^2\mathbf{r} \\ &= d(\omega_1\mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_2\mathbf{e}_2) \\ &= d\omega_1\mathbf{e}_1 - \omega_1 \wedge d\mathbf{e}_1 + d\omega_2\mathbf{e}_2 - \omega_2 \wedge d\mathbf{e}_2 \\ &= d\omega_1\mathbf{e}_1 - \omega_1 \wedge (\omega_{12}\mathbf{e}_2 + \omega_{13}\mathbf{e}_3) + \\ &\quad d\omega_2\mathbf{e}_2 - \omega_2 \wedge (\omega_{21}\mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_{23}\mathbf{e}_3) \\ &= (d\omega_1 - \omega_2 \wedge \omega_{21})\mathbf{e}_1 + (d\omega_2 - \omega_1 \wedge \omega_{12})\mathbf{e}_2 + \\ &\quad -(\omega_1 \wedge \omega_{13} + \omega_2 \wedge \omega_{23})\mathbf{e}_3. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $d\omega_1 = \omega_2 \wedge \omega_{21}$, $d\omega_2 = \omega_1 \wedge \omega_{12}$ and $h_{12} = h_{21}$. □

Gaussian Curvature

Lemma (Gaussian curvature)

Under the isothermal coordinates, the Gaussian curvature is given by

$$K = -\frac{1}{e^{2u}} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \right) u.$$

Proof.

Let (S, \mathbf{g}) be a metric surface, use isothermal coordinates

$$\mathbf{g} = e^{2u(x,y)}(dx^2 + dy^2).$$

Then

$$\begin{cases} \omega_1 &= e^u dx \\ \omega_2 &= e^u dy \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} \mathbf{e}_1 &= e^{-u} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \\ \mathbf{e}_2 &= e^{-u} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \end{cases}$$



Continued.

By direct computation,

$$d\omega_1 = de^u \wedge dx$$

$$= e^u(u_x dx + u_y dy) \wedge dx$$

$$= e^u u_y dy \wedge dx$$

$$d\omega_2 = de^u \wedge dy$$

$$= e^u(u_x dx + u_y dy) \wedge dy$$

$$= e^u u_x dx \wedge dy.$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_{12} &= \frac{d\omega_1}{\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2} \omega_1 + \frac{d\omega_2}{\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2} \omega_2 \\ &= \frac{e^u u_y dy \wedge dx}{e^{2u} dx \wedge dy} e^u dx + \frac{e^u u_x dx \wedge dy}{e^{2u} dx \wedge dy} e^u dy \\ \omega_{12} &= -u_y dx + u_x dy.\end{aligned}$$

Continued.

$$K = -\frac{d\omega_{12}}{\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2} = -\frac{(u_{xx} + u_{yy})dx \wedge dy}{e^{2u}dx \wedge dy} = -\frac{1}{e^{2u}}\Delta u.$$

Example

The unit disk $|z| < 1$ equipped with the following metric

$$ds^2 = \frac{4dzd\bar{z}}{(1 - z\bar{z})^2},$$

the Gaussian curvature is -1 everywhere.

Proof.

$e^{2u} = \frac{4}{1-x^2-y^2}$, then $u = \log 2 - \log(1 - x^2 - y^2)$.

$$u_x = -\frac{-2x}{1 - x^2 - y^2} = \frac{2x}{1 - x^2 - y^2}.$$



Proof.

then

$$u_{xx} = \frac{2(1 - x^2 - y^2) - 2x(-2x)}{(1 - x^2 - y^2)^2} = \frac{2 + 2x^2 - 2y^2}{(1 - x^2 - y^2)^2}$$

similarly

$$u_{yy} = \frac{2 + 2y^2 - 2x^2}{(1 - x^2 - y^2)^2}$$

so

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = \frac{4}{(1 - x^2 - y^2)} = e^{2u}, K = -\frac{1}{e^{2u}}(u_{xx} + u_{yy}) = -1.$$



Yamabe Equation

Lemma (Yamabe Equation)

Conformal metric deformation $\mathbf{g} \rightarrow e^{2\lambda}\mathbf{g} = \tilde{\mathbf{g}}$, then

$$\tilde{K} = \frac{1}{e^{2\lambda}}(K - \Delta_{\mathbf{g}}\lambda).$$

Proof.

Use isothermal parameters, $\mathbf{g} = e^{2u}(dx^2 + dy^2)$, $K = -e^{2u}\Delta u$, similarly $\tilde{\mathbf{g}} = e^{2\tilde{u}}(dx^2 + dy^2)$, $\tilde{K} = -e^{2\tilde{u}}\Delta\tilde{u}$, $\tilde{u} = u + \lambda$,

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{K} &= -\frac{1}{e^{2(u+\lambda)}}\Delta(u + \lambda) \\ &= \frac{1}{e^{2\lambda}}\left(-\frac{1}{e^{2u}}\Delta u - \frac{1}{e^{2u}}\Delta\lambda\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{e^{2\lambda}}(K - \Delta_{\mathbf{g}}\lambda).\end{aligned}$$

Gauss-Bonnet Theorem

Theorem (Gauss-Bonnet)

Suppose M is a closed orientable C^2 surface, then

$$\int_M K dA = 2\pi\chi(M),$$

where dA is the area element of the surface, $\chi(M)$ is the Euler characteristic number of M .

Proof.

Construct a smooth vector field v , with isolated zeros $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$. Choose a small disk $D(p_i, \varepsilon)$. On the surface

$$\bar{M} = M \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^n D(p_i, \varepsilon)$$



Gauss-Bonnet Theorem

Proof.

construct orthonormal frame $\{p, e_1, e_2, e_3\}$, where

$$e_1(p) = \frac{v(p)}{|v(p)|}, \quad e_3(p) = n(p).$$

The integration

$$\int_{\bar{M}} K dA = \int_{\bar{M}} K \omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 = - \int_{\bar{M}} d\omega_{12}$$

by Stokes theorem and Poincarè-Hopf theorem, we obtain

$$- \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\partial D(p_i, \varepsilon)} \omega_{12} = 2\pi \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Index}(p_i, v) = 2\pi \chi(M).$$

Here by $\omega_{12} = \langle de_1, e_2 \rangle$, ω_{12} is the rotation speed of e_1 . Let $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, the equation holds. □

Computing Geodesics

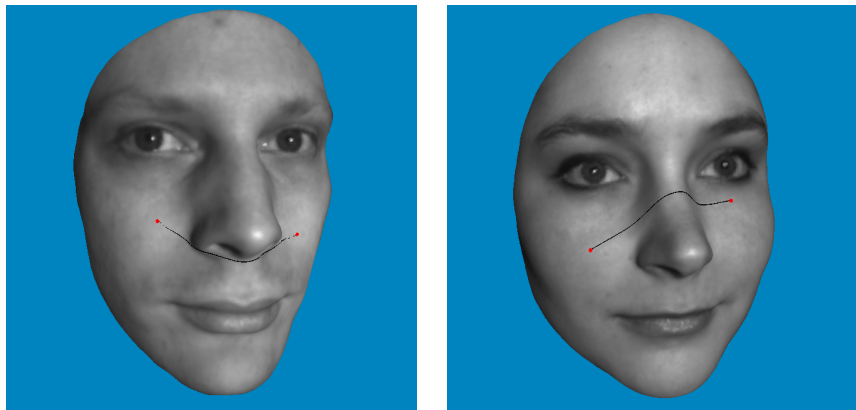


Figure: Geodesics.

Definition (Covariant Differentiation)

Covariant differentiation is the generalization of directional derivatives, satisfies the following properties: assume \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} are tangent vector fields on a surface, $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a C^1 function, then

- 1 $D(\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) = D(\mathbf{v}) + D(\mathbf{w})$,
- 2 $D(f\mathbf{v}) = df \mathbf{v} + fD\mathbf{v}$,
- 3 $D\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = \langle D\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{v}, D\mathbf{w} \rangle$.

By movable framework, the motion equation of the surface is

$$d\mathbf{e}_1 = \omega_{12}\mathbf{e}_2 + \omega_{13}\mathbf{e}_3, \quad d\mathbf{e}_2 = \omega_{21}\mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_{23}\mathbf{e}_3,$$

We only keep tangential component, and delete the normal part to obtain covariant differential

$$D\mathbf{e}_1 = \omega_{12}\mathbf{e}_2, \quad D\mathbf{e}_2 = \omega_{21}\mathbf{e}_1.$$

Definition (Parallel transport)

Suppose S is a metric surface, $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow S$ is a smooth curve, $v(t)$ is a vector field along γ , if

$$\frac{Dv}{dt} \equiv 0,$$

then we say the vector field $v(t)$ is parallel transportation along γ .

Given a tangent vector field $v = f_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + f_2 \mathbf{e}_2$, then

$$\begin{aligned} Dv &= df_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + f_1 D\mathbf{e}_1 + df_2 \mathbf{e}_2 + f_2 D\mathbf{e}_2 \\ &= (df_1 - f_2 \omega_{12}) \mathbf{e}_1 + (df_2 + f_1 \omega_{12}) \mathbf{e}_2. \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\frac{Dv}{dt} = \left(\frac{df_1}{dt} - f_2 \frac{\omega_{12}}{dt} \right) \mathbf{e}_1 + \left(\frac{df_2}{dt} + f_1 \frac{\omega_{12}}{dt} \right) \mathbf{e}_2.$$

where $\frac{\omega_{12}}{dt} = \langle \omega_{12}, \dot{\gamma} \rangle$. If $\omega_{12} = \alpha dx + \beta dy$, then $\frac{\omega_{12}}{dt} = \alpha \dot{x} + \beta \dot{y}$.

Parallel Transport Equation

Therefore parallel vector field satisfies the ODE

$$\begin{cases} \frac{df_1}{dt} - f_2 \frac{\omega_{12}}{dt} = 0 \\ \frac{df_2}{dt} + f_1 \frac{\omega_{12}}{dt} = 0 \end{cases}$$

Given an initial condition $v(0)$, the solution uniquely exists.

Suppose the geodesic has local representation $\gamma(t) = (x(t), y(t))$, then $d\gamma = \dot{x}\partial_x + \dot{y}\partial_y = e^u \dot{x} \mathbf{e}_1 + e^u \dot{y} \mathbf{e}_2$, $\omega_{12}/dt = -u_y \dot{x} + u_x \dot{y}$,

$$e^u (\ddot{x} + \dot{u} - \dot{y}(-u_y \dot{x} + u_x \dot{y})) = 0$$

$$e^u (\ddot{y} + \dot{u} + \dot{x}(-u_y \dot{x} + u_x \dot{y})) = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{x} + \dot{u} + u_y \dot{x} \dot{y} - u_x \dot{y}^2 = 0 \\ \ddot{y} + \dot{u} + u_x \dot{x} \dot{y} - u_y \dot{x}^2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Definition (Levy-Civita Connection)

The connection D is the Levy-Civita connection with respect to the Riemannian metric \mathbf{g} , it satisfies:

- 1 compatible with the metric

$$\mathbf{x}\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} = \langle D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} + \langle \mathbf{y}, D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{z} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}}$$

- 2 free of torsion

$$D_{\mathbf{v}}\mathbf{w} - D_{\mathbf{w}}\mathbf{v} = [\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}]$$

Suppose \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} are two vector fields parallel along γ , then

$$\frac{d}{dt}\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} = \dot{\gamma}\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} = \langle D_{\dot{\gamma}}\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{v}, D_{\dot{\gamma}}\mathbf{w} \rangle \equiv 0.$$

Namely, parallel transportation preserves inner product.

Definition (Geodesic Curvature)

Assume $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow S$ is a C^2 curve on a surface S , s is the arc length parameter. Construct orthonormal frame field along the curve $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3\}$, where \mathbf{e}_1 is the tangent vector field of γ , \mathbf{e}_3 is the normal field of the surface,

$$k_g := \frac{D\mathbf{e}_1}{ds} = k_g \mathbf{e}_2$$

is called geodesic curvature vector,

$$k_g = \left\langle \frac{D\mathbf{e}_1}{ds}, \mathbf{e}_2 \right\rangle = \frac{\omega_{12}}{ds}$$

is called geodesic curvature.

Geodesic curvature, normal curvature

Given a spacial curve, its curvature vector satisfies

$$\frac{d^2\gamma}{ds^2} = k_g \mathbf{e}_2 + k_n \mathbf{e}_3,$$

where k_n is the normal curvature of the curve. The curvature of the curve, geodesic curvature and normal curvature satisfy

$$k^2 = k_g^2 + k_n^2.$$

Geodesic curvature k_g only depends on the Riemannian metric of the surface, is independent of the 2nd fundamental form. Therefore k_g is intrinsic, k_n is extrinsic.

Theorem

Suppose (S, \mathbf{g}) is an oriented metric surface with boundaries, then

$$\int_S K dA + \int_{\partial S} k_g ds = 2\pi\chi(S).$$

Proof.

Construct a vector field with isolated zeros $\{p_i\}$, \mathbf{e}_1 is tangent to ∂S , small disks $D(p_i, \varepsilon)$. Define $\bar{S} := S \setminus \bigcup_i D(p_i, \varepsilon)$,

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\bar{S}} K dA &= - \int_{\bar{S}} \frac{d\omega_{12}}{\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2} dA = - \int_{\bar{S}} d\omega_{12} = - \int_{\partial \bar{S}} \omega_{12} \\ &= - \int_{\partial S - \bigcup_i \partial D(p_i, \varepsilon)} \omega_{12} = - \int_{\partial S} \frac{\omega_{12}}{ds} ds + \sum_i \int_{\partial D(p_i, \varepsilon)} \omega_{12} \\ &= - \int_{\partial S} k_g ds + 2\pi \sum_i \text{Index}(p_i) = - \int_{\partial S} k_g ds + 2\pi\chi(S).\end{aligned}$$

Geodesic Curvature

We use isothermal parameter (u, v) of (S, \mathbf{g}) , given a curve $\gamma(s)$ with arc length parameter s . Construct orthonormal frame $\{p; \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3\}$, where \mathbf{e}_3 is the normal field of S . The tangent vector of γ is $\bar{\mathbf{e}}_1$, $\bar{\mathbf{e}}_2$ is orthogonal to $\bar{\mathbf{e}}_1$ everywhere. The angle between $\bar{\mathbf{e}}_1$ and \mathbf{e}_1 is $\theta(s)$,

$$\begin{cases} \bar{\mathbf{e}}_1 &= \cos \theta \mathbf{e}_1 + \sin \theta \mathbf{e}_2 \\ \bar{\mathbf{e}}_2 &= -\sin \theta \mathbf{e}_1 + \cos \theta \mathbf{e}_2 \end{cases}$$

Direct computation

$$\begin{aligned} D\bar{\mathbf{e}}_1 &= D(\cos \theta \mathbf{e}_1 + \sin \theta \mathbf{e}_2) = d \cos \theta \mathbf{e}_1 + \cos \theta D\mathbf{e}_1 + d \sin \theta \mathbf{e}_2 + \sin \theta D\mathbf{e}_2 \\ &= -\sin \theta d\theta \mathbf{e}_1 + \cos \theta \omega_{12} \mathbf{e}_2 + \cos \theta d\theta \mathbf{e}_2 - \sin \theta \omega_{12} \mathbf{e}_1 \\ &= -\sin \theta (d\theta + \omega_{12}) \mathbf{e}_1 + \cos \theta (\omega_{12} + d\theta) \mathbf{e}_2 \end{aligned}$$

$$k_g = \left\langle \frac{D\bar{\mathbf{e}}_1}{ds}, \bar{\mathbf{e}}_2 \right\rangle = \frac{d\theta}{ds} + \frac{\omega_{12}}{ds}$$

Geodesic Curvature

Under the isothermal coordinates, we have $\omega_{12} = -u_y dx + u_x dy$. Suppose on the parameter domain, the planar curve arc length is dt , then $ds = e^u dt$. The parameterization preserves angle, therefore

$$\begin{aligned}k_g &= \frac{d\theta}{ds} + \frac{-u_y dx + u_x dy}{ds} \\&= \frac{d\theta}{dt} \frac{dt}{ds} + \frac{-u_y dx + u_x dy}{dt} \frac{dt}{ds} \\&= e^{-u}(k - \langle \nabla u, n \rangle) \\&= e^{-u}(k - \partial_n u)\end{aligned}$$

where k is the curvature of the planar curve, n is the normal to the planar curve.

Geodesic Curvature

Lemma

Given a metric surface (S, \mathbf{g}) , under conformal deformation, $\bar{\mathbf{g}} = e^{2\lambda}\mathbf{g}$, the geodesic curvature satisfies

$$k_{\bar{\mathbf{g}}} = e^{-\lambda}(k_{\mathbf{g}} - \partial_{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{g}}\lambda).$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}k_{\mathbf{g}} &= e^{-(u+\lambda)}(k - \partial_{\mathbf{n}}(u + \lambda)) \\ &= e^{-\lambda}(e^{-u}(k - \partial_{\mathbf{n}}u) - e^{-u}\partial_{\mathbf{n}}\lambda) \\ &= e^{-\lambda}(k_{\mathbf{g}} - \partial_{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{g}}\lambda)\end{aligned}$$



Definition (geodesic)

Given a metric surface (S, \mathbf{g}) , a curve $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow S$ is a geodesic if $k_{\mathbf{g}}$ is zero everywhere.

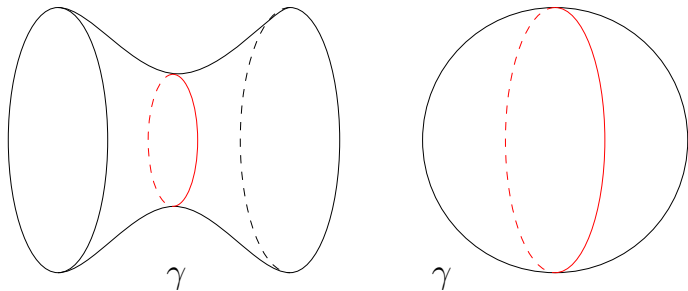


Figure: Stable and unstable geodesics.

Lemma (geodesic)

If γ is the shortest curve connecting p and q , then γ is a geodesic.

Proof.

Consider a family of curves, $\Gamma : (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow S$, such that $\Gamma(0, t) = \gamma(t)$, and

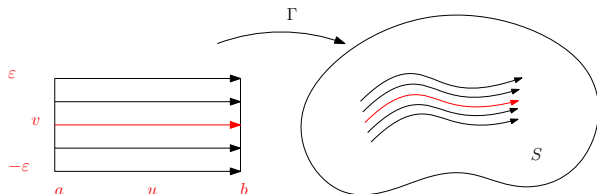
$$\Gamma(s, 0) = p, \Gamma(s, 1) = q, \frac{\partial \Gamma(s, t)}{\partial s} = \varphi(t) \mathbf{e}_2(t),$$

where $\varphi : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\varphi(0) = \varphi(1) = 0$. Fix parameter s , curve $\gamma_s := \Gamma(s, \cdot)$, $\{\gamma_s\}$ for a variation. Define an energy,

$$L(s) = \int_0^1 \left| \frac{d\gamma_s(t)}{dt} \right| dt, \quad \frac{\partial L(s)}{\partial s} = - \int_0^1 \varphi k_{\mathbf{g}}(\tau) d\tau.$$



First Variation of arc length



Let $\gamma_v : [a, b] \rightarrow M$, where $v \in (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \in \mathbb{R}$ be a 1-parameter family of paths. We define the map $\Gamma : [a, b] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ by

$$\Gamma(u, v) := \gamma_v(u).$$

Define the vector fields \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} along γ_v by

$$\mathbf{u} := \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial u} = \Gamma_*(\partial_u), \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{v} := \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial v} = \Gamma_*(\partial_v),$$

We call \mathbf{u} the *tangent vector field* and \mathbf{v} the *variation vector field*.

First Variation of arc length

Lemma (First variation of arc length)

If The length of γ_v is given by

$$L(\gamma_v) := \int_a^b |\mathbf{u}(\gamma_v(u))| du.$$

γ_0 is parameterized by arc length, that is, $|\mathbf{u}(\gamma_0(u))| \equiv 1$, then

$$\left. \frac{d}{dv} \right|_{v=0} L(\gamma_v) = - \int_a^b \langle D_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle du + \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \Big|_a^b.$$

If we choose $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{e}_1$, the tangent vector of γ , $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{e}_2$ orthogonal to \mathbf{e}_1 , and fix the starting and ending points of paths, then

$$\frac{d}{dv} L(\gamma_v) = - \int_a^b k_g ds.$$

First variation of arc length

Proof.

Fixing $u \in [a, b]$, we may consider \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} as vector fields along the path $v \mapsto \gamma_v(u)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial v} |\mathbf{u}(\gamma_v(u))| &= \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \sqrt{|\mathbf{u}(\gamma_v(u))|^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2|\mathbf{u}(\gamma_v(u))|} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} |\mathbf{u}(\gamma_v(u))|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2|\mathbf{u}|} \mathbf{v} |\mathbf{u}|^2 = |\mathbf{u}|^{-1} \langle D_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} = \langle D_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}}\end{aligned}$$



First variation of arc length

Proof.

$$\frac{d}{dv}L(\gamma_v) = \int_a^b \frac{\partial}{\partial v} |\mathbf{u}(\gamma_v(u))| du = \int_a^b \langle D_v \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} du$$

Since $D_v \mathbf{u} - D_u \mathbf{v} = [\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}]$, and $[\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}] = \Gamma_*([\partial_v, \partial_u]) = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dv}L(\gamma_v) &= \int_a^b \langle D_u \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} du \\ &= \int_a^b \left(\frac{d}{du} \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} - \langle \mathbf{v}, D_u \mathbf{u} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} \right) du \\ &= \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b \langle \mathbf{v}, D_u \mathbf{u} \rangle_{\mathbf{g}} du. \end{aligned}$$



The second derivative of the length variation $L(s)$ depends on the Gaussian curvature of the underlying surface. If $K < 0$, then the second derivative is positive, the geodesic is stable; if $K > 0$, then the secondary derivative is negative, the geodesic is unstable.

Lemma (Uniqueness of geodesics)

Suppose (S, \mathbf{g}) is a closed oriented metric surface, \mathbf{g} induces negative Gaussian curvature everywhere, then each homotopy class has a unique geodesic.

Proof.

The existence can be obtained by variational method. The uniqueness is by Gauss-Bonnet theorem. Assume two geodesics $\gamma_1 \sim \gamma_2$, then they bound a topological annulus Σ , by Gauss-Bonnet,

$$\int_{\Sigma} K dA + \int_{\partial\Sigma} k_g ds = \chi(\Sigma),$$

The first term is negative, the second is along the geodesics, hence 0, $\chi(\Sigma) = 0$. Contradiction. □

Algorithm: Homotopy Detection

Input: A high genus closed mesh M , two loops γ_1 and γ_2 ;

Output: Whether $\gamma_1 \sim \gamma_2$;

- 1 Compute a hyperbolic metric of M , using Ricci flow;
- 2 Homotopically deform γ_k to geodesics, $k = 1, 2$;
- 3 if two geodesics coincide, return true; otherwise, return false;

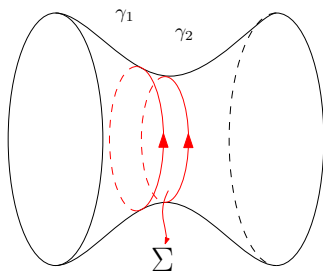


Figure: Geodesics uniqueness.

Algorithm: Shortest Word

Input: A high genus closed mesh M , one loop γ

- 1 Compute a hyperbolic metric of M , using Ricci flow;
- 2 Homotopically deform γ to a geodesic;
- 3 Compute a set of canonical fundamental group basis;
- 4 Embed a finite portion of the universal covering space onto the Poincaré disk;
- 5 Lift γ to the universal covering space $\tilde{\gamma}$. If $\tilde{\gamma}$ crosses b_i^\pm , append a_i^\pm ; crosses a_i^\pm , append b_i^\mp .

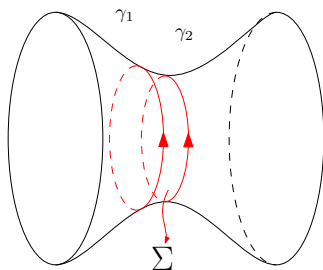


Figure: Geodesics uniqueness

Compute Minimal Surface

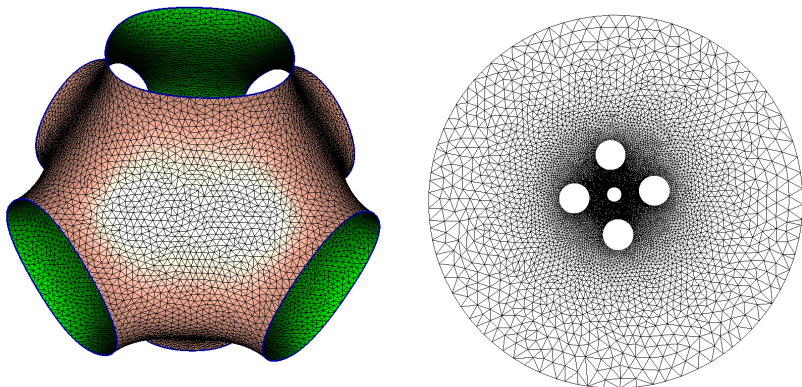


Figure: Minimal surface.

Smooth minimal surface satisfies $\Delta_{\mathbf{g}} r \equiv 0$, equivalently $H(p) \equiv 0$. A discrete minimal surface satisfies $\sum_{v_i \sim v_j} w_{ij} (\mathbf{r}(v_i) - \mathbf{r}(v_j)) = 0, \forall v_i \notin \partial M$.

Minimal Surface

Lemma

Given a metric surface (S, \mathbf{g}) embedded in \mathbb{R}^3 , then $\Delta_{\mathbf{g}} \mathbf{r} = 2H(p)\mathbf{n}$, where \mathbf{r} , \mathbf{n} are the position and normal vectors.

Proof.

We choose isothermal coordinates (x, y) . Then $\mathbf{g} = e^{2\lambda} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$,
 $\omega_1 = e^\lambda dx$, $\omega_2 = e^\lambda dy$,
 $\omega_{12} = -\lambda_y dx + \lambda_x dy$, $\omega_{13} = h_{11}\omega_1 + h_{12}\omega_2$, $\omega_{23} = h_{12}\omega_1 + h_{22}\omega_2$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{r}_x &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} e^\lambda \mathbf{e}_1 = e^\lambda \lambda_x \mathbf{e}_1 + e^\lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{e}_1 \\ &= e^\lambda \lambda_x \mathbf{e}_1 + e^\lambda \langle d\mathbf{e}_1, \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \rangle = e^\lambda \lambda_x \mathbf{e}_1 + e^\lambda \langle \omega_{12} \mathbf{e}_2 + \omega_{13} \mathbf{e}_3, \partial_x \rangle \\ &= e^\lambda \lambda_x \mathbf{e}_1 + e^\lambda (-\lambda_y) \mathbf{e}_2 + e^\lambda \mathbf{e}_3 \langle h_{11} \omega_1, \partial_x \rangle \\ &= e^\lambda \lambda_x \mathbf{e}_1 - e^\lambda \lambda_y \mathbf{e}_2 + e^{2\lambda} h_{11} \mathbf{e}_3 \end{aligned}$$

Proof.

Similarly,

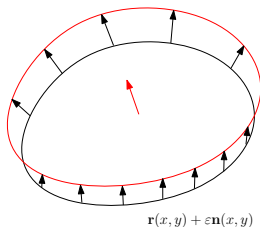
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \mathbf{r}_y &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} e^\lambda \mathbf{e}_2 = e^\lambda \lambda_y \mathbf{e}_2 + e^\lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \mathbf{e}_2 \\ &= e^\lambda \lambda_y \mathbf{e}_2 + e^\lambda \langle d\mathbf{e}_2, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rangle = e^\lambda \lambda_y \mathbf{e}_2 + e^\lambda \langle \omega_{21} \mathbf{e}_1 + \omega_{23} \mathbf{e}_3, \partial_y \rangle \\ &= e^\lambda \lambda_y \mathbf{e}_2 + e^\lambda (-\lambda_y) \mathbf{e}_2 + e^\lambda \mathbf{e}_3 \langle h_{22} \omega_2, \partial_y \rangle \\ &= e^\lambda \lambda_y \mathbf{e}_2 - e^\lambda \lambda_x \mathbf{e}_1 + e^{2\lambda} h_{22} \mathbf{e}_3\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\Delta_g \mathbf{r} = \frac{1}{e^{2\lambda}} (\mathbf{r}_{xx} + \mathbf{r}_{yy}) = (h_{11} + h_{22}) \mathbf{e}_3 = 2H \mathbf{e}_3.$$



Surface Area Variation



Lemma

Given a surface S with position vector $\mathbf{r}(x, y)$, perturb the surface along the normal direction

$$\mathbf{r}_{\varepsilon, \varphi}(x, y) = \mathbf{r}(x, y) + \varepsilon \varphi(x, y) \mathbf{n}(x, y),$$

the area variation is given by

$$\left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \right|_{\varepsilon=0} \text{Area}(\mathbf{r}_{\varepsilon, \varphi}) = \int_S 2\varphi(x, y) H e^{2u(x, y)} dx dy = \int_S 2\varphi H dA.$$

Surface Area Variation

Proof.

We use isothermal coordinate, the first fundamental form:

$$E = \langle \mathbf{r}_x + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_x, \mathbf{r}_x + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_x \rangle = e^{2u} + 2\varepsilon \langle \mathbf{r}_x, \mathbf{n}_x \rangle + \varepsilon^2 |\mathbf{n}_x|^2$$

$$G = \langle \mathbf{r}_y + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_y, \mathbf{r}_y + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_y \rangle = e^{2u} + 2\varepsilon \langle \mathbf{r}_y, \mathbf{n}_y \rangle + \varepsilon^2 |\mathbf{n}_y|^2$$

$$F = \langle \mathbf{r}_x + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_x, \mathbf{r}_y + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_y \rangle = \varepsilon \langle \mathbf{r}_x, \mathbf{n}_y \rangle + \varepsilon \langle \mathbf{r}_y, \mathbf{n}_x \rangle + \varepsilon^2 \langle \mathbf{n}_x, \mathbf{n}_y \rangle$$

$$EG - F^2 = e^{4u} + 2\varepsilon e^{2u} (\langle \mathbf{r}_x, \mathbf{n}_x \rangle + \langle \mathbf{r}_y, \mathbf{n}_y \rangle) + O(\varepsilon^2)$$

$$\left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \sqrt{EG - F^2} \right|_{\varepsilon=0} = \langle \mathbf{r}_x, \mathbf{n}_x \rangle + \langle \mathbf{r}_y, \mathbf{n}_y \rangle = 2He^{2u}$$

where we use the mean curvature formula

$$2H = \text{Tr} \left(-\frac{II}{I} \right) = -e^{-2u} (\langle \mathbf{r}_{xx}, \mathbf{n} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{r}_{yy}, \mathbf{n} \rangle) = e^{-2u} (\langle \mathbf{r}_x, \mathbf{n}_x \rangle + \langle \mathbf{r}_y, \mathbf{n}_y \rangle)$$

$$\left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \text{Area}(\varepsilon) \right|_{\varepsilon=0} = \int_S \sqrt{EG - F^2} dx dy = \int_S 2He^{2u} dx dy.$$

Minimal Surface

Lemma

A surface M , $\mathbf{x}(u, v) = (x_1(u, v), x_2(u, v), x_3(u, v))$, with isothermal coordinates is minimal if and only if x_1, x_2 , and x_3 are all harmonic.

Proof.

If M is minimal, then $H = 0$, $\Delta \mathbf{x} = (2H)e^{2\lambda} \mathbf{n} = 0$, therefore x_1, x_2, x_3 are harmonic.

If x_1, x_2, x_3 are harmonic, then $\Delta \mathbf{x} = 0$, $(2H)e^{2\lambda} \mathbf{n} = 0$. Now \mathbf{n} is the unit normal vector, so $\mathbf{n} \neq 0$ and $e^{2\lambda} = \langle x_u, x_u \rangle = |x_u|^2 \neq 0$. So $H = 0$, M is minimal. □

Weierstrass-Enneper Representation

Lemma

Let $z = u + \sqrt{-1}v$, $\frac{\partial x^j}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{2}(x_u^j - \sqrt{-1}x_v^j)$, define

$$\varphi = \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial z} = (x_z^1, x_z^2, x_z^3)$$
$$(\varphi)^2 = (x_z^1)^2 + (x_z^2)^2 + (x_z^3)^2$$

if \mathbf{x} is isothermal, then $(\varphi)^2 = 0$.

Proof.

$(\varphi^j)^2 = (x_z^j)^2 = \frac{1}{4}((x_u^j)^2 - (x_v^j)^2 - 2ix_u^j x_v^j)$, so

$(\varphi)^2 = \frac{1}{4}(|\mathbf{x}_u|^2 - |\mathbf{x}_v|^2 - 2i\mathbf{x}_u \cdot \mathbf{x}_v)$. If \mathbf{x} is isothermal, then $(\varphi)^2 = 0$. \square

Weierstrass-Enneper Representation

Theorem

Suppose M is a surface with position \mathbf{x} . Let $\varphi = \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial z}$ and suppose $(\varphi)^2 = 0$. Then M is minimal if and only if φ^j is holomorphic.

Proof.

M is minimal, then x^j is harmonic, therefore $\Delta \mathbf{x} = 0$, therefore

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial z} \right) = \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0$$

If φ^j is holomorphic, then $\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0$, then $\Delta \mathbf{x} = 0$, x^j is harmonic, hence M is minimal. □

Lemma

$$x^j(z, \bar{z}) = c_j + \Re \left(\int \varphi^j dz \right).$$

Proof.

$$\varphi^j dz + \bar{\varphi}^j d\bar{z}^j = x_u^j du + x_v^j dv = dx^j.$$

hence

$$x^j = c_j + \int dx^j = c_j + \Re \left(\int \varphi^j dz \right).$$



Weierstrass-Enneper Representation

Let f be a holomorphic function and g be a meromorphic function, such that fg^2 is holomorphic,

$$\varphi^1 = \frac{1}{2}f(1 - g^2), \varphi^2 = \frac{i}{2}f(1 + g^2), \varphi^3 = fg,$$

then

$$(\varphi)^2 = \frac{1}{4}f^2(1 - g^2)^2 - \frac{1}{4}f^2(1 + g^2)^2 + f^2g^2 = 0.$$

Theorem (Weierstrass-Enneper)

If f is holomorphic on a domain Ω , g is meromorphic in Ω , and fg^2 is holomorphic on Ω , then a minimal surface is defined by

$\mathbf{x}(z, \bar{z}) = (x^1(z, \bar{z}), x^2(z, \bar{z}), x^3(z, \bar{z}))$, where

$$x^1(z, \bar{z}) = \Re \left(\int f(1 - g^2) dz \right)$$

$$x^2(z, \bar{z}) = \Re \left(\int \sqrt{-1} f(1 + g^2) dz \right)$$

$$x^3(z, \bar{z}) = \Re \left(\int 2fg dz \right)$$