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COMPUTATIONAL GEOMETRY

Lecture 3

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Reading in the Textbook

- Chapter 3, pp.49 - pp.72

# Lecture 3

## Differential geometry of surfaces

### 3.1 Definition of surfaces

- *Implicit surfaces*  $F(x, y, z) = 0$   
*Example:*  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$  Ellipsoid, see Figure 3.1.

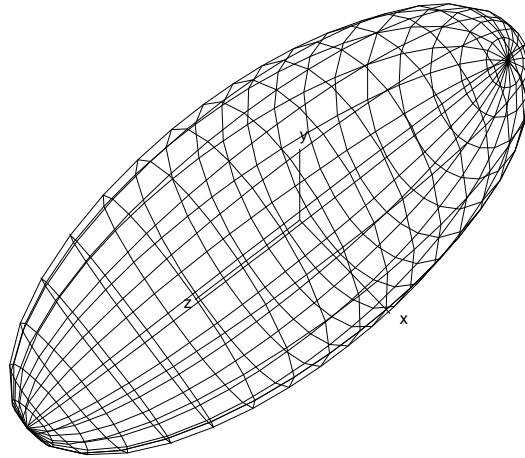


Figure 3.1: Ellipsoid.

- *Explicit surfaces*  
If the implicit equation  $F(x, y, z) = 0$  can be solved for one of the variables as a function of the other two, we obtain an explicit surface, as shown in Figure 3.2. *Example:*  $z = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha x^2 + \beta y^2)$
- *Parametric surfaces*  $x = x(u, v)$ ,  $y = y(u, v)$ ,  $z = z(u, v)$   
Here functions  $x(u, v)$ ,  $y(u, v)$ ,  $z(u, v)$  have continuous partial derivatives of the  $r^{\text{th}}$  order, and the parameters  $u$  and  $v$  are restricted to some intervals (i.e.,  $u_1 \leq u \leq u_2$ ,  $v_1 \leq v \leq v_2$ ) leading to parametric surface patches. This rectangular domain  $D$  of  $u$ ,  $v$  is called *parametric space* and it is frequently the unit square, see Figure 3.3. If derivatives of the surface are continuous up to the  $r^{\text{th}}$  order, the surface is said to be of class  $r$ , denoted  $C^r$ .

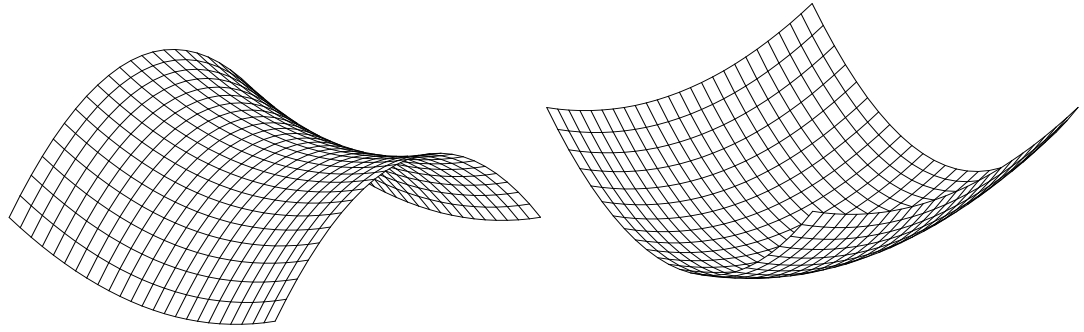


Figure 3.2: Explicit quadratic surfaces  $z = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha x^2 + \beta y^2)$ . (a) Left: Hyperbolic paraboloid ( $\alpha = -3, \beta = 1$ ). (b) Right: Elliptic paraboloid ( $\alpha = 1, \beta = 3$ ).

In vector notation:

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}(u, v)$$

where  $\mathbf{r} = (x, y, z), \quad \mathbf{r}(u, v) = (x(u, v), y(u, v), z(u, v))$

*Example:*

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{r} = (u + v, u - v, u^2 + v^2) \\ x = u + v \\ y = u - v \\ z = u^2 + v^2 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{eliminate } u, v \Rightarrow z = \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + y^2) \text{ paraboloid}$$

### 3.2 Curves on a surface

Let  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}(u, v)$  be the equation of a surface, defined on a domain  $D$  (i.e.,  $u_1 \leq u \leq u_2, v_1 \leq v \leq v_2$ ). Let  $\beta(t) = (u(t), v(t))$  be a curve in the parameter plane. Then  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}(u(t), v(t))$  is a curve lying on the surface, see Figure 3.3. A tangent vector of curve  $\beta(t)$  is given by  $\dot{\beta}(t) = (\dot{u}(t), \dot{v}(t))$ . A tangent vector of a curve on a surface is given by:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}(u(t), v(t))}{dt} \tag{3.1}$$

By using the chain rule:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}(u(t), v(t))}{dt} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \frac{du}{dt} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \frac{dv}{dt} = \mathbf{r}_u \dot{u}(t) + \mathbf{r}_v \dot{v}(t) \tag{3.2}$$

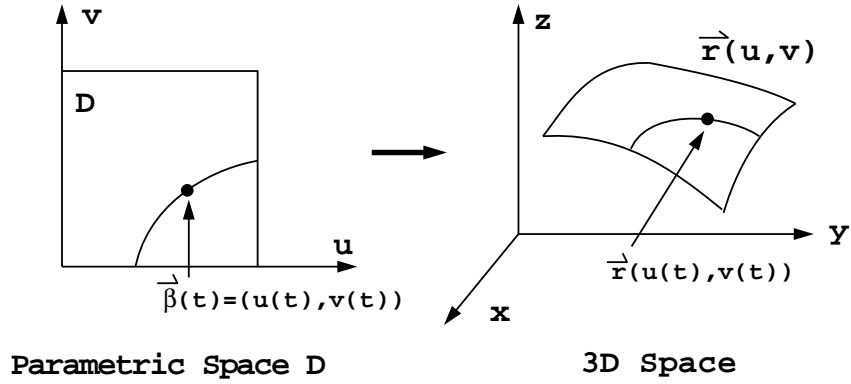


Figure 3.3: The mapping of a curve in 2D parametric space onto a 3D biparametric surface

### 3.3 First fundamental form (arc length)

Consider a curve on a surface  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}(u(t), v(t))$ . The arc length of the curve on a surface is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 ds &= \left| \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} \right| dt = \left| \mathbf{r}_u \frac{du}{dt} + \mathbf{r}_v \frac{dv}{dt} \right| dt \\
 &= \sqrt{(\mathbf{r}_u \dot{u} + \mathbf{r}_v \dot{v}) \cdot (\mathbf{r}_u \dot{u} + \mathbf{r}_v \dot{v})} dt \\
 &= \sqrt{(\mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_u) du^2 + 2\mathbf{r}_u \mathbf{r}_v du dv + (\mathbf{r}_v \cdot \mathbf{r}_v) dv^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{E du^2 + 2F du dv + G dv^2}
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

where

$$E = \mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_u, \quad F = \mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_v, \quad G = \mathbf{r}_v \cdot \mathbf{r}_v \tag{3.4}$$

The first fundamental form is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}
 I &= d\mathbf{r} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{r}_u du + \mathbf{r}_v dv) \cdot (\mathbf{r}_u du + \mathbf{r}_v dv) \\
 &= E du^2 + 2F du dv + G dv^2
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

$E, F, G$  are called first fundamental form coefficients. Note that  $E = \mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_u > 0$  and  $G = \mathbf{r}_v \cdot \mathbf{r}_v > 0$  if  $\mathbf{r}_u \neq 0$  and  $\mathbf{r}_v \neq 0$ . The first fundamental form  $I$  is positive definite. That is  $I \geq 0$  and  $I = 0$  if and only if  $du = 0$  and  $dv = 0$  since

$$I = \frac{1}{E}(E du + F dv)^2 + \frac{EG - F^2}{E} dv^2 \text{ and } EG - F^2 = |\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v|^2 > 0.$$

$I$  depends only on the surface and not on the parametrization.

The area of the surface can be derived as follows:

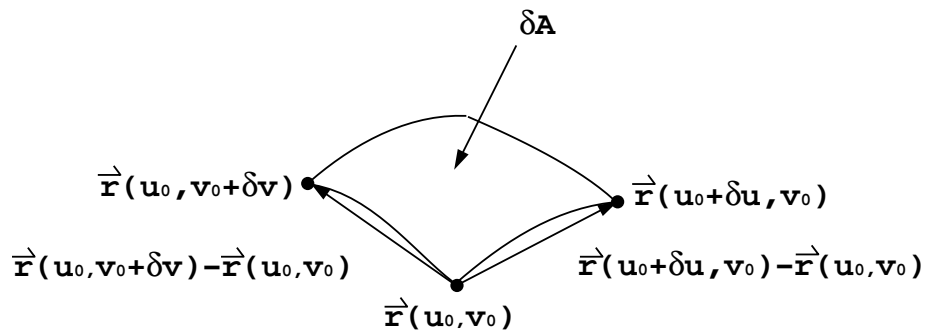


Figure 3.4: Area of an infinitesimal surface patch.

$$\mathbf{r}(u_0, v_0 + \delta v) - \mathbf{r}(u_0, v_0) \simeq \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \delta v$$

$$\mathbf{r}(u_0 + \delta u, v_0) - \mathbf{r}(u_0, v_0) \simeq \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \delta u$$

$$\delta A = |\mathbf{r}_u \delta u \times \mathbf{r}_v \delta v| = |\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v| \delta u \delta v$$

$$|\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v|^2 = (\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v) \cdot (\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v)$$

Using the vector identity  $(a \times b) \cdot (c \times d) = (a \cdot c)(b \cdot d) - (a \cdot d)(b \cdot c)$ , we get

$$|\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v|^2 = (\mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_u)(\mathbf{r}_v \cdot \mathbf{r}_v) - (\mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_v)^2 \quad (3.6)$$

$$= EG - F^2 \quad (3.7)$$

$$\delta A = \sqrt{EG - F^2} \delta u \delta v, \quad A = \iint \sqrt{EG - F^2} \, du dv \quad (3.8)$$

*Example:* For the hyperbolic paraboloid  $\mathbf{r}(u, v) = (u, v, u^2 - v^2)$ , let us derive an expression for the area of a region of its surface corresponding to a the circle  $u^2 + v^2 \leq 1$  in the parametric domain  $D$ .

We begin by forming expressions for the derivatives of the position vector  $\mathbf{r}$  and the first fundamental form coefficients.

$$\mathbf{r}_u = (1, 0, 2u)$$

$$\mathbf{r}_v = (0, 1, -2v)$$

$$E = \mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_u = 1 + 4u^2$$

$$F = \mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_v = -4uv$$

$$G = \mathbf{r}_v \cdot \mathbf{r}_v = 1 + 4v^2$$

Using Equation (3.8), we find

$$EG - F^2 = (1 + 4u^2)(1 + 4v^2) - 16u^2v^2 = 1 + 4u^2 + 4v^2 > 0$$

$$A = \iint_D \sqrt{1 + 4u^2 + 4v^2} \, du dv$$

To compute the area, we need to evaluate the double integral over the unit disk  $u^2 + v^2 \leq 1$  in the parametric domain  $D$ ;

$$A = \int \int_{u^2+v^2 \leq 1} \sqrt{1 + 4u^2 + 4v^2} \, du \, dv.$$

To perform the integration, let us change variables.

$$\begin{aligned} u &= r \cos(\theta), \quad v = r \sin(\theta), \quad \text{and} \quad du \, dv = r \, dr \, d\theta \\ A &= \int \int_{r \leq 1} \sqrt{1 + 4r^2} \, r \, dr \, d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + 4r^2} \, r \, dr \, d\theta \\ &= \frac{\pi}{6} (5\sqrt{5} - 1) \end{aligned}$$

### 3.4 Tangent plane

Tangent plane at a point  $\mathbf{r}(u_o, v_o)$  is the union of tangent vectors of all curves on the surface pass through  $\mathbf{r}(u_o, v_o)$ , as shown in Figure 3.5. Since the tangent vector of a curve on a parametric surface is given by  $\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} = \mathbf{r}_u \frac{du}{dt} + \mathbf{r}_v \frac{dv}{dt}$ , the tangent plane lies on the plane of the vectors  $\mathbf{r}_u$  and  $\mathbf{r}_v$ . The equation of the tangent plane is

$$\mathbf{T}_p(u, v) = \mathbf{r}(u, v) + \lambda \mathbf{r}_u(u, v) + \mu \mathbf{r}_v(u, v) \quad (3.9)$$

where  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are real variables parameterizing the plane.

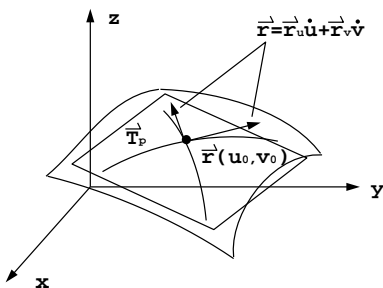


Figure 3.5: The tangent plane at a point on a surface.

### 3.5 Normal vector

The surface normal is the vector at point  $\mathbf{r}(u_o, v_o)$  perpendicular to the tangent plane, see Figure 3.6. And therefore

$$\mathbf{N} = \frac{\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v}{|\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v|} \quad (3.10)$$

Note that  $\mathbf{r}_u$  and  $\mathbf{r}_v$  are not necessarily perpendicular.

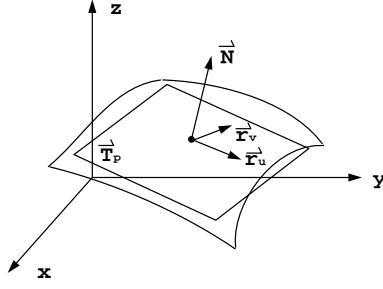


Figure 3.6: The normal to the point on a surface.

A *regular* (ordinary) point  $\mathbf{P}$  on the surface is defined as one for which  $\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v \neq \mathbf{0}$ . A point where  $\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v = \mathbf{0}$  is called a *singular* point. The condition  $\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v \neq \mathbf{0}$  requires that at that point  $\mathbf{P}$  the vectors  $\mathbf{r}_u$  and  $\mathbf{r}_v$  do not vanish and have different directions.

*Example:* Elliptic Paraboloid  $\mathbf{r}(u, v) = (u + v, u - v, u^2 + v^2)$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{r}_u &= (1, 1, 2u) \\ \mathbf{r}_v &= (1, -1, 2v)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v &= \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_x & \mathbf{e}_y & \mathbf{e}_z \\ 1 & 1 & 2u \\ 1 & -1 & 2v \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 2(u + v)\mathbf{e}_x + 2(u - v)\mathbf{e}_y - 2\mathbf{e}_z \neq \mathbf{0}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}|\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v| &= 2\sqrt{(u + v)^2 + (u - v)^2 + 1} \\ &= 2\sqrt{2u^2 + 2v^2 + 1} > 0 \Rightarrow \text{Regular !}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{N} &= \frac{(2(u + v), 2(u - v), -2)}{2\sqrt{2u^2 + 2v^2 + 1}} \\ &= \frac{(u + v, u - v, -1)}{\sqrt{2u^2 + 2v^2 + 1}}\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{at } (u, v) = (0, 0), \mathbf{N} = (0, 0, -1)$$

*Example:* Circular Cone  $\mathbf{r}(u, v) = (u \sin \alpha \cos v, u \sin \alpha \sin v, u \cos \alpha)$ , see Figure 3.7

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{r}_u &= (\sin \alpha \cos v, \sin \alpha \sin v, \cos \alpha) \\ \mathbf{r}_v &= (-u \sin \alpha \sin v, u \sin \alpha \cos v, 0)\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_x & \mathbf{e}_y & \mathbf{e}_z \\ \sin \alpha \cos v & \sin \alpha \sin v & \cos \alpha \\ -u \sin \alpha \sin v & u \sin \alpha \cos v & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

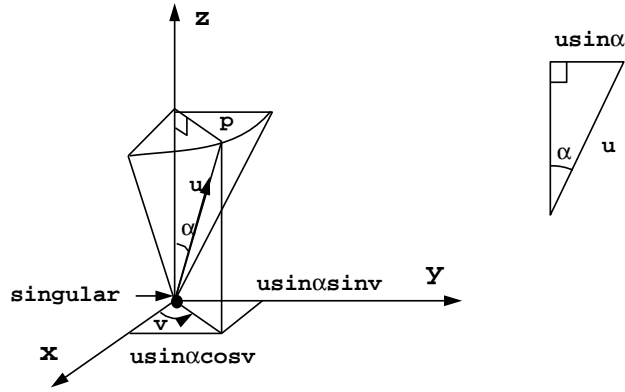


Figure 3.7: Circular cone.

$$= -u \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \cos v \mathbf{e}_x - u \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \sin v \mathbf{e}_y + u \sin^2 \alpha \mathbf{e}_z$$

At the origin  $\mathbf{n} = 0$ ,

$$\mathbf{r}_u \times \mathbf{r}_v = \mathbf{0}$$

Therefore, the apex of the cone is a singular point.

### 3.6 Second fundamental form $II$ (curvature)

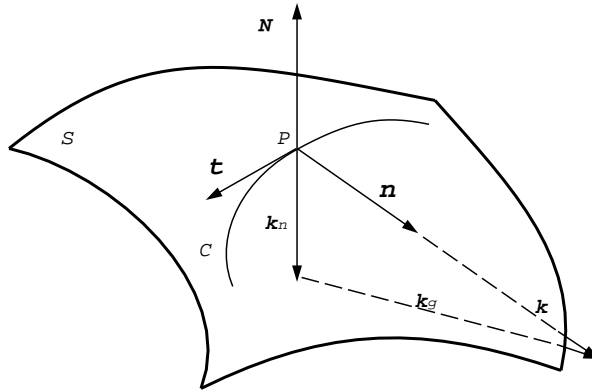


Figure 3.8: Definition of normal curvature

In order to quantify the curvatures of a surface  $S$ , we consider a curve  $C$  on  $S$  which passes through point  $P$  as shown in Figure 3.8.  $\mathbf{t}$  is the unit tangent vector and  $\mathbf{n}$  is the unit normal vector of the curve  $C$  at point  $P$ .

$$\frac{d\mathbf{t}}{ds} = \kappa \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{k}_n + \mathbf{k}_g \quad (3.11)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_n = \kappa_n \mathbf{N} \quad (3.12)$$

where  $\mathbf{k}_n$  is the normal curvature vector normal to the surface,  $\mathbf{k}_g$  is the geodesic curvature vector tangent to the surface, and  $\mathbf{k} = \kappa \mathbf{n}$  is the curvature vector of the curve  $C$  at point  $\mathbf{P}$ .  $\kappa_n$  is called the normal curvature of the surface at  $\mathbf{P}$  in the direction  $\mathbf{t}$ .



**Meusnier's Theorem** : All curves lying on a surface  $S$  passing through a given point  $p \in S$  with the same tangent line have the same normal curvature at this point.

Since  $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{t} = 0$ , differentiate w.r.t.  $s$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{ds}(\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{t}) &= \mathbf{N}' \cdot \mathbf{t} + \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{t}' \\ \frac{d\mathbf{t}}{ds} \cdot \mathbf{N} &= -\mathbf{t} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{N}}{ds} = -\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{ds} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{N}}{ds} \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

Recognizing that  $ds \cdot ds = dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2 = d\mathbf{r} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$ , we can rewrite Equation 3.13 as:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mathbf{t}}{ds} \cdot \mathbf{N} &= -\frac{d\mathbf{r} \cdot d\mathbf{N}}{d\mathbf{r} \cdot d\mathbf{r}} \\ \text{while } \frac{d\mathbf{t}}{ds} \cdot \mathbf{N} &= \kappa \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{N} \equiv \kappa_n \end{aligned}$$

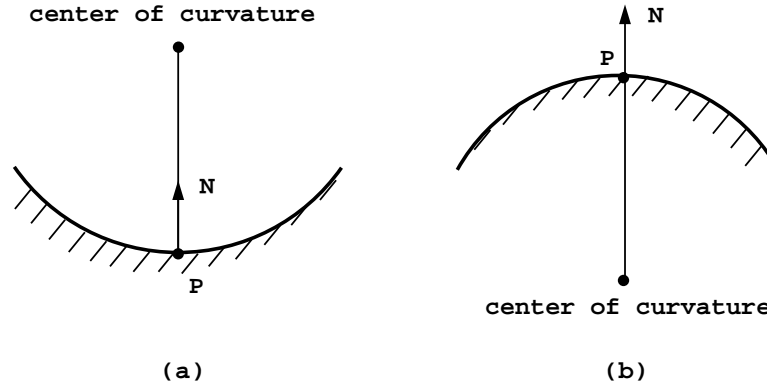


Figure 3.9: Definition of positive normal: (a)  $\kappa \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{N} = \kappa_n$ ; (b)  $\kappa \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{N} = -\kappa_n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} II &= -d\mathbf{r} \cdot d\mathbf{N} = -(\mathbf{r}_u du + \mathbf{r}_v dv) \cdot (\mathbf{N}_u du + \mathbf{N}_v dv) \\ &= L du^2 + 2M dudv + N dv^2 \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

where

$$L = \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{uu}, \quad M = \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{uv}, \quad N = \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{vv} \quad (3.15)$$

Therefore the normal curvature is given by

$$\kappa_n = \frac{II}{I} = \frac{L + 2M\lambda + N\lambda^2}{E + 2F\lambda + G\lambda^2} \quad (3.16)$$

where  $\lambda = \frac{dv}{du}$ .

Suppose  $P$  is a point on a surface and  $Q$  is a point in the neighborhood of  $P$ , as in Figure 3.10. Taylor's expansion gives

$$\mathbf{r}(u + du, v + dv) = \mathbf{r}(u, v) + \mathbf{r}_u du + \mathbf{r}_v dv + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{r}_{uu} du^2 + 2\mathbf{r}_{uv} dudv + \mathbf{r}_{vv} dv^2) + H.O.T. \quad (3.17)$$

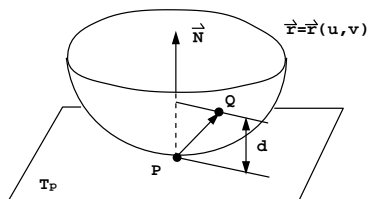


Figure 3.10: Geometrical illustration of the second fundamental form.

Therefore

$$\mathbf{PQ} = \mathbf{r}(u + du, v + dv) - \mathbf{r}(u, v) = \mathbf{r}_u du + \mathbf{r}_v dv + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{r}_{uu} du^2 + 2\mathbf{r}_{uv} dudv + \mathbf{r}_{vv} dv^2) + H.O.T.$$

Thus, the projection of  $\mathbf{PQ}$  onto  $\mathbf{N}$

$$d = \mathbf{PQ} \cdot \mathbf{N} = (\mathbf{r}_u du + \mathbf{r}_v dv) \cdot \mathbf{N} + \frac{1}{2}II$$

and since  $\mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{N} = \mathbf{r}_v \cdot \mathbf{N} = 0$ , we get

$$d = \frac{1}{2}II = \frac{1}{2}(Ldu^2 + 2Mdudv + Ndv^2)$$

We want to observe in which situation  $d$  is positive and negative. When  $d = 0$

$$Ldu^2 + 2Mdudv + Ndv^2 = 0$$

Solve for  $du$

$$du = \frac{-M \pm \sqrt{(Mdv)^2 - LNdv^2}}{L} = \frac{-M \pm \sqrt{M^2 - LN}}{L} dv \quad (3.18)$$

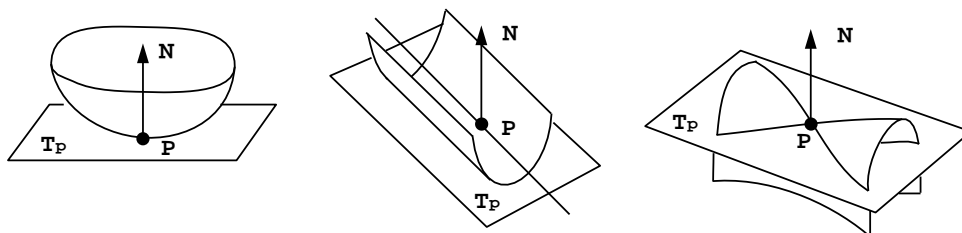


Figure 3.11: (a) Elliptic point; (b) Parabolic point; (c) Hyperbolic point.

- If  $M^2 - LN < 0$ , there is no real root. That means there is no intersection between the surface and its tangent plane except at point  $P$ .  $P$  is called *elliptic point* (Figure 3.11(a)).
- If  $M^2 - LN = 0$ , there is a double root. The surface intersects its tangent plane with one line  $du = -\frac{M}{L}dv$ , which passes through point  $P$ .  $P$  is called *parabolic point* (Figure 3.11(b)).
- If  $M^2 - LN > 0$ , there are two roots. The surface intersects its tangent plane with two lines  $du = \frac{-M \pm \sqrt{M^2 - LN}}{L}dv$ , which intersect at point  $P$ .  $P$  is called *hyperbolic point* (Figure 3.11(c)).

### 3.7 Principal curvatures

The extreme values of  $\kappa_n$  can be obtained by evaluating  $\frac{d\kappa_n}{d\lambda} = 0$  of Equation 3.16, which gives:

$$(E + 2F\lambda + G\lambda^2)(N\lambda + M) - (L + 2M\lambda + N\lambda^2)(G\lambda + F) = 0 \quad (3.19)$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} E + 2F\lambda + G\lambda^2 &= (E + F\lambda) + \lambda(F + G\lambda), \\ L + 2M\lambda + N\lambda^2 &= (L + M\lambda) + \lambda(M + N\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

equation (3.19) can be reduced to

$$(E + F\lambda)(M + N\lambda) = (L + M\lambda)(F + G\lambda) \quad (3.20)$$

Thus

$$\kappa_n = \frac{L + 2M\lambda + N\lambda^2}{E + 2F\lambda + G\lambda^2} = \frac{M + N\lambda}{F + G\lambda} = \frac{L + M\lambda}{E + F\lambda} \quad (3.21)$$

Therefore  $\kappa_n$  satisfies the two simultaneous equations

$$\begin{aligned} (L - \kappa_n E)du + (M - \kappa_n F)dv &= 0 \\ (M - \kappa_n F)du + (N - \kappa_n G)dv &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3.22)$$

These equations can be simultaneously satisfied if and only if

$$\begin{vmatrix} L - \kappa_n E & M - \kappa_n F \\ M - \kappa_n F & N - \kappa_n G \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad (3.23)$$

where  $| \quad |$  denotes the determinant of a matrix. Expanding and defining  $K$  and  $H$  as

$$K = \frac{LN - M^2}{EG - F^2} \quad (3.24)$$

$$H = \frac{EN + GL - 2FM}{2(EG - F^2)} \quad (3.25)$$

we obtain a quadratic equation for  $\kappa_n$  as follows:

$$\kappa_n^2 - 2H\kappa_n + K = 0 \quad (3.26)$$

The values  $K$  and  $H$  are called Gauss (Gaussian) and mean curvature respectively. The discriminant  $D$  can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} D &= H^2 - K \\ &= \frac{(EN + GL - 2FM)^2 - 4(EG - F^2)(LN - M^2)}{4(EG - F^2)^2} \end{aligned}$$

The denominator is always positive, so we only need to investigate the numerator. The numerator can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} &(EN + GL - 2FM)^2 - 4(EG - F^2)(LN - M^2) \\ &= 4 \left( \frac{EG - F^2}{E^2} \right) (EM - FL)^2 + [EN - GL - \frac{2F}{E}(EM - FL)]^2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $D \geq 0$ .

Upon solving Equation (3.26) for the extreme values of curvature, we have:

$$\kappa_{max} = H + \sqrt{H^2 - K} \quad (3.27)$$

$$\kappa_{min} = H - \sqrt{H^2 - K} \quad (3.28)$$

From Equations (3.27), (3.28), it is readily seen that

$$K = \kappa_{max}\kappa_{min} \quad (3.29)$$

$$H = \frac{\kappa_{max} + \kappa_{min}}{2} \quad (3.30)$$

From Equation (3.24) (since  $EG - F^2 > 0$ , see Equation 3.6).

$$K > 0 \Rightarrow LN > M^2 \Rightarrow \text{Elliptic point}$$

$$K = 0 \Rightarrow LN = M^2 \Rightarrow \text{Parabolic point}$$

$$K < 0 \Rightarrow LN < M^2 \Rightarrow \text{Hyperbolic point}$$

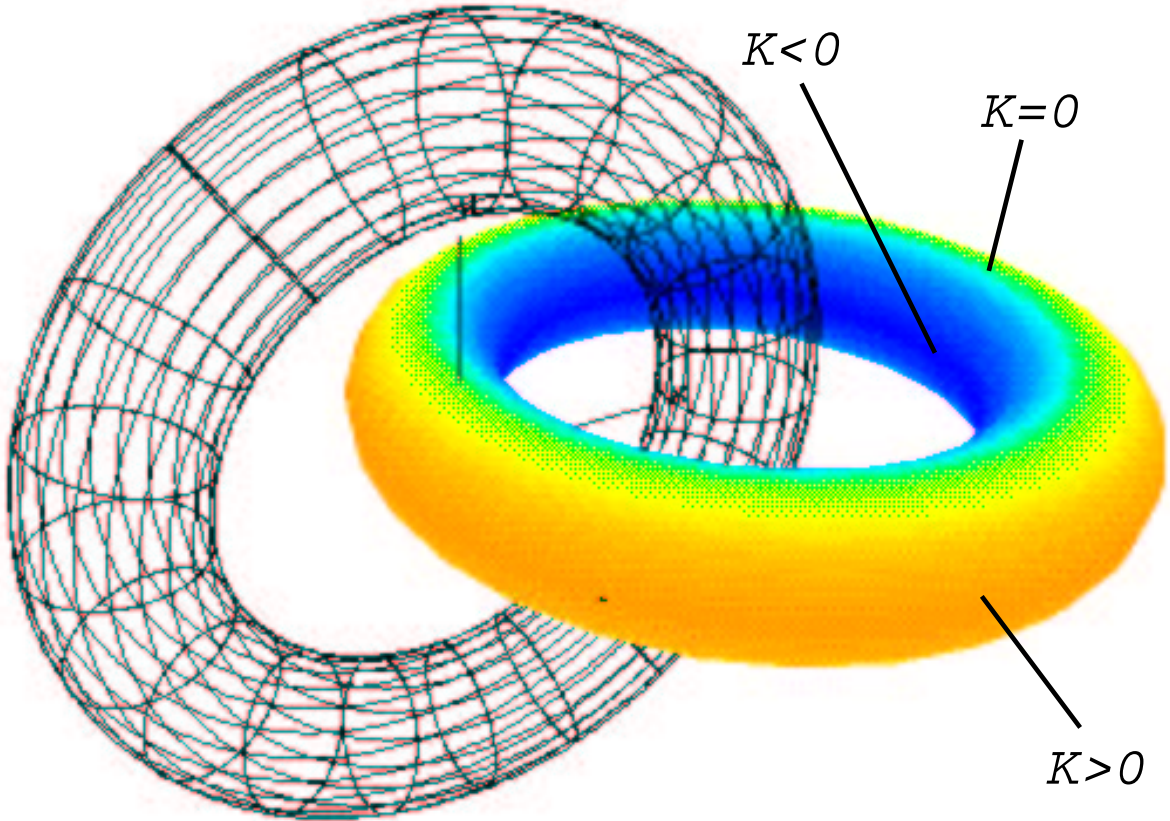


Figure 3.12: Curvature map of a torus showing elliptic, parabolic, and hyperbolic regions.

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