Geometry Homework 8

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Problem 2. 考慮直線族 $L_\lambda : \frac{x}{\lambda} + \frac{y}{1-\lambda} = 1$，令 *ruled surface* $\mathbb{X}$ 為 $(L_\lambda, \lambda) \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$

(a) 求出 *line of striction(*龍骨*)* $\beta(\lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^3$

(b) 令 $\gamma(\lambda)$ 為 $\beta(\lambda)$ 在 $\mathbb{R}^2$ 上的投影，說明 L_λ 為 $\gamma(\lambda)$ 的切線

(c) $\gamma(\lambda)$ 是圓嗎？其方程式為何（以 $f(x,y) = c$ 的方式表示）*?*

Proof. Let $\alpha(t) = (0,0,t)$. Then $\mathbf{X}(t,u) = \alpha + uw(t)$,

where $w(t) = (\frac{t}{\sqrt{2t^2-2t+1}}, \frac{1-t}{\sqrt{2t^2-2t+1}}, 0)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha' =&(0,0,1); \\ w' =&(-,-,0); \\ \frac{\langle \alpha', w' \rangle}{\langle w', w' \rangle} =&0; \\ \Rightarrow \alpha =&\beta. \end{aligned}$$

This yields (a).

$$\gamma(\lambda) = uw(\lambda) = u(\frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1}}, \frac{1-\lambda}{\sqrt{2\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1}}, 0)$$
$$w(\lambda) \in L_\lambda$$

Since the tangent line of $\gamma(\lambda)$ is $w(\lambda)$, this yields (b).

For (c), it's obvious that $f(x,y) = \frac{x}{\lambda} + \frac{y}{1-\lambda} = 1$ and thus not a circle.

□

Problem 4 (Ex p.210 6)**.** *Let*

$$\mathbf{X}(t,v) = \alpha(t) + vw(t)$$

be a developable surface. Prove that at a regular point we have

$$\langle N_v, \mathbf{X}_v \rangle = \langle N_v, \mathbf{X}_t \rangle = 0.$$

Conclude that the tangent plane of a developable surface is constant along *(the regular points of)* a fixed ruling.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{X}_{vv} =& 0 \Rightarrow g = \langle N, \mathbf{X}_{vv} \rangle = 0; \\
K =& \det(-dN) = 0 \Rightarrow eg = f^2 \Rightarrow f = 0; \\
N_v =& dN(\mathbf{X}_v) = \begin{bmatrix} E & F \\ F & G \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} e & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}; \\
\Rightarrow \langle N_v, \mathbf{X}_v \rangle =& \langle N_v, \mathbf{X}_t \rangle = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus N, the normal vector of the tangent plane, is independent of v and hence the conclusion follows. □

Problem 5 (Ex p.210 8)**.** *Show that if $C \subset S^2$ is a parallel of a unit sphere S^2, then the envelope of tangent planes of S^2 along C is either a cylinder, if C is an equator, or a cone, if C is not an equator.*

Proof. WLOG, let the unit sphere's centre be the origin and let the plane on which the C is be parallel to the xy-plane. If C is an equator, that is, on the xy-plane, the tangent plane of each point is therefore parallel to the z-axis and thus the envelope form a cylinder. Hence consider that C is not on the xy plane. By the symmetry of S and C, the intersection of the envelope and any plane containing z-axis is identical up to rotation along z-axis. Picking such a plane and observing that the intersection being a line should intersect z-axis at exactly one point since $\alpha \neq 0$, we conclude that each intersection passes through the very point in z-axis. Let the point in z-axis be the generator of the envelope. Since each ruler should pass through exactly one point in C, the envelope therefore forms a cone.

□