

Differential Geometry Notes of 04/23/2013

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1 The Gauss Map

- Given a parameterization $\mathbf{x} : U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow S$ at a point p . We can choose a unit normal vector at each point of $\mathbf{x}(U)$ by the rule

$$N(q) = \frac{\mathbf{x}_u \wedge \mathbf{x}_v}{|\mathbf{x}_u \wedge \mathbf{x}_v|}(q)$$

for all $q \in U$.

It is clear that N is differentiable.

- If $V \subseteq S$ is an open set in S and $N : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ is differentiable map which associates each point $q \in V$ a unit vector at q , we say that N is a **differentiable field of unit normal vectors on V**
- Not all surfaces admit a differentiable field of unit normal vectors *defined on the whole surface*.
For example, the Möbius strip does not have one.

- We say that a regular surface is **orientable** if it admits a differentiable field of unit normal vectors defined on the whole surface.

The choice of one such N is called an **orientation** of S .

- An orientation on N on S induces an orientation on each tangent plane $T_p(S)$, $p \in S$.
A basis $\{v, w\} \in T_p(S)$ to be **positive** if $\langle v \wedge w, N \rangle$ is positive.
- In this note, S denotes an orientable surface. That is, there exists an orientation N is defined on the whole surface.
- **Definition 1.1.** Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ be a regular surface with an orientation N . The map $N : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ takes its value in the unit sphere $S^2 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1\}$.
The map $N : S \rightarrow S^2$ thus defined is called the **Gauss map** of S .
- The differential dN_p of N at $p \in S$ is a linear map from $T_p(S)$ to $T_{N(p)}(S^2)$.
Because $T_p(S)$ and $T_{N(p)}(S^2)$ are parallel, dN_p can be viewed as a linear map on $T_p(S)$.
- The map $dN_p : T_p(S) \rightarrow T_p(S)$ works as follows. For each curve $\alpha : (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow S$ with $\alpha(0) = p$. We have that

$$dN_p(\alpha'(0)) = (N \circ \alpha)'(0).$$

It measures the rate of change of the normal N when restricted to the points of the curve α . In other words, it measures how fast N pulls away from $N(p)$ in the neighborhood of p .

In the case of curve, this measure is given by a number, which is the curvature. However, in the case of surfaces, this measure is characterized by a linear map. (This is because the point p can be approached from a whole range of directions.)

- Consider the sphere unit sphere S^2 .

Let $\alpha(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$. Since $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$, we have that $2xx' + 2yy' + 2zz' = 0$. Hence, $0 = (x, y, z) \cdot (x', y', z') = (x, y, z) \cdot \alpha'$. So, $p = (x, y, z)$ is normal to any vector in $T_p(S^2)$. As such, $\bar{N}(p) = p$ and $N(p) = -p$ are fields of unit normal vectors in S^2 . Fix N as the orientation of the sphere. Notice that N points inside the sphere.

Now, we have that

$$(N \circ \alpha)(t) = (-x(t), -y(t), -z(t)).$$

So,

$$dN_p(x'(t), y'(t), z'(t)) = (N \circ \alpha)'(t) = (-x(t), -y(t), -z(t)).$$

That is, $dN_p(v) = -v$.

- Consider the cylinder $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$.

We have that for $\alpha(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$. Because $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, we have that $2xx' + 2yy' = 0$. We have that $(x, y, 0)$ is perpendicular to $(x'(t), y'(t), z'(t))$, which consists of all vectors in $T_p(S)$. As a result, we have two possible orientations $\bar{N} = (x, y, 0)$ and $N = (-x, -y, 0)$. We choose N as the orientation again.

So,

$$dN_p(x'(t), y'(t), z'(t)) = (N \wedge \alpha)'(t) = (-x'(t), -y'(t), 0).$$

As a result, if v is tangent to the cylinder and parallel to the z -axis, then $dN_p(v) = \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}v$. Otherwise, if w is tangent to the cylinder and parallel to the xy -plane, then $dN_p(w) = w$. Therefore, v and w are eigenvectors of dN_p with eigenvalues 0 and -1 .

- **Proposition 1.2.** *The differential $dN_p : T_p(S) \rightarrow T_p(S)$ of the Gauss map is a self-adjoint linear map.*

Proof. We have to verify that $\langle dN_p(w_1), w_2 \rangle = \langle w_1, dN_p(w_2) \rangle$. Let \mathbf{x} be a parameterization of S at p . We have that \mathbf{x}_u and \mathbf{x}_v consist a basis of $T_p(S)$. If $\alpha(t) = \mathbf{x}(u(t), v(t))$ and $\alpha(0) = p$, we have that $\alpha'(0) = \mathbf{x}_u u'(0) + \mathbf{x}_v v'(0)$. Therefore,

$$dN_p(\alpha'(0)) = dN_p(\mathbf{x}_u u'(0) + \mathbf{x}_v v'(0)) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} N(u(t), v(t)) \right|_{t=0} = N_u u'(0) + N_v v'(0).$$

In particular $dN_p(\mathbf{x}_u) = N_u$ and $dN_p(\mathbf{x}_v) = N_v$. Thus, to show that dN_p is self-adjoint, it suffices to show that

$$\langle N_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle = \langle \mathbf{x}_u, N_v \rangle.$$

To see this, we differentiate $\langle N, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle = 0$ and $\langle N, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle = 0$ relative to v and u , respectively:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle N_v, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle + \langle N, \mathbf{x}_{uv} \rangle &= 0 \\ \langle N_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle + \langle N, \mathbf{x}_{uv} \rangle & \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\langle \mathbf{x}_u, N_v \rangle = \langle N_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle = -\langle N, \mathbf{x}_{uv} \rangle$. □

2 Second Fundamental Form

- Because dN_p is a self-adjoint linear map, we can associate it with a quadratic form $Q(w) = \langle w, dN_p(w) \rangle$ defined for all $w \in T_p(S)$. For convenience, we shall work with the quadratic form $-Q$ instead.

• **Definition 2.1.** The quadratic form $\Pi_p(v) = -\langle v, dN_p(v) \rangle$ is called the **second fundamental form** of S at p .

• **Definition 2.2.** Let C be a regular curve in S passing through $p \in S$.

Let κ being the curvature of C at p .

Let $\cos \theta = \langle n, N \rangle$ where n is the normal vector to C at p and N is the normal vector to S at p .

The number $\kappa_n = \kappa \cos \theta$ is then called the **normal curvature** of C at p .

In other words, κ_n is the length of the projected vector κn over the normal to the surface at p .

- Consider a regular curve $C \subseteq S$ parameterized by $\alpha(s)$ where s is the arc length of C . Suppose that $\alpha(0) = p$. Let $N(s)$ denote $N(\alpha(s))$. We have that

$$\langle N(s), \alpha'(s) \rangle = 0$$

because $\alpha'(s)$ lies inside $T_p(\alpha(s))$. Thus, differentiating both sides of the above equation with respect to s , we have

$$\langle N(s), \alpha''(s) \rangle = -\langle N'(s), \alpha'(s) \rangle.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_p(\alpha'(0)) &= -\langle \alpha'(0), dN_p(\alpha'(0)) \rangle \\ &= -\langle \alpha'(0), N'(0) \rangle \\ &= \langle \alpha''(0), N(0) \rangle \\ &= \langle \kappa n(p), N(p) \rangle \\ &= \kappa_n(p). \end{aligned}$$

As such, the value of the second fundamental form $\Pi_p(v)$ for a unit vector v is equal to the normal curvature of a regular curve passing through p with tangent v .

- **Proposition 2.3 (Meusnier).** All curves lying on a surface S and having at a given point $p \in S$ the same tangent line have at this point the same normal curvature.

This allows us to talk about the **normal curvature along a given direction** at p .

- Let $v \in T_p(S)$ be a unit vector.
The intersection of S with the plane containing v and $N(p)$ is called the **normal section** of S at p along v .
- The normal section of S at p along v is a curve whose normal vector n at p is parallel to N . (The curve is contained in a plane whose orthonormal basis is given by v and N . The normal n is perpendicular to v , so n must be parallel to N .) So, the curvature of the curve is equal to the absolute value of the normal curvature along v at p .

As such, the normal curvature at p along v is the curvature of the normal section of S at p along v .

- Consider a plane. All of the normal sections are straight lines, which have curvature 0. Therefore, we have that the differential of the Gauss map dN_p must be identically zero.
- Consider a sphere. All of the normal sections are circles with radius 1. The curvature of the normal sections are all 1, so the normal curvature at any point along any direction is 1.

- Since linear map dN_p is self-adjoint, there exists an orthonormal basis $\{e_1, e_2\}$ of $T_p(S)$ such that $dN_p(e_1) = -\kappa_1 e_1$ and $dN_p(e_2) = -\kappa_2 e_2$, and κ_1 and κ_2 are the minimum and the maximum values of the second fundamental form Π_p restricted to the unit circle of $T_p(S)$. These are the extreme values of the normal curvatures at p .

• **Definition 2.4.** The maximum normal curvature κ_1 and the minimum normal curvature κ_2 are called the **principal curvatures** at p . The corresponding directions e_1 and e_2 are called the **principal directions** at p .

- In the plane, all directions at all points are principal directions. The same also happens with the sphere.

This is because, for these surfaces, the second fundamental form at each point is constant for unit vectors.

• **Definition 2.5.** If a regular connecte curve C on S is such that for all $p \in C$, the tangent line of C is a principal direction at p , then C is said to be a **line of curvature** of S .

• **Proposition 2.6 (Olinde Rodrigues).** A necessary and sufficient condition for a connected regular curve C on S to be a line of curvature of S is that $(N \circ \alpha)(t) = \lambda(t)\alpha'(t)$ for any parameterization $\alpha(t)$ of C and $\lambda(t)$ is a differentiable function of t . In this case, $-\lambda(t)$ is the (principal) curvature along α .

Proof. If $\alpha'(t)$ is parallel to the principal direction, then $\alpha'(t)$ is an eigenvector of dN . Thus,

$$dN(\alpha'(t)) = (N \circ \alpha)'(t) = \lambda(t)\alpha'(t).$$

Now, if the above equation is true, $\alpha'(t)$ is an eigenvector, so it is along the principal direction. So α is a line of curvature. \square

- Given a vector $v \in T_p(S)$, we can write v as a linear combination of e_1 and e_2 . In particular, since e_1 and e_2 are orthonormal, there exists θ such that:

$$v = e_1 \cos \theta + e_2 \sin \theta.$$

Here, θ is the angle from e_1 to v . With the knowledge of θ , κ_1 and κ_2 , we can compute the normal curvature along v as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_n(v) &= \Pi_p(v) \\ &= -\langle v, dN_p(v) \rangle \\ &= -\langle e_1 \cos \theta + e_2 \sin \theta, dN_p(e_1 \cos \theta + e_2 \sin \theta) \rangle \\ &= -\langle e_1 \cos \theta + e_2 \sin \theta, -e_1 \kappa_1 \cos \theta - e_2 \kappa_2 \sin \theta \rangle \\ &= \kappa_1 \cos^2 \theta + \kappa_2 \sin^2 \theta. \end{aligned}$$

This last expression is know as **Euler's formula**.

- The determinant of dN_p is given by $(-\kappa_1)(-\kappa_2) = \kappa_1 \kappa_2$, the product of the principal curvatures. The trace of dN_p is given by $-(\kappa_1 + \kappa_2)$, the negative of the sum of the principal curvatures.
- If we change the orientation of the surface, the determinant does not change. However, the trace changes sign.
- **Definition 2.7.** Let $p \in S$, and let $dN_p : T_p(S) \rightarrow T_p(S)$ be the differential of the Gauss map. The determinant of dN_p is called the **Gaussian curvature** K of S at p . The negative of the half of the trace of dN_p is called the **mean curvature** H of S at p .

- By the definition, we have that

$$K = \kappa_1 \kappa_2$$

$$H = \frac{\kappa_1 + \kappa_2}{2}.$$

- **Definition 2.8.** *A point of a surface is called*

- **Elliptic** if $K > 0$.
- **Hyperbolic** if $K < 0$.
- **Parabolic** if $K = 0$, but $dN_p \neq 0$.
- **Planar** if $dN_p = 0$.

- At an elliptic point, the principal curvatures have the same sign. So, all the curves passing through this point have their normal vectors pointing toward the same side of the tangent plane.

At a hyperbolic point, the principal curvatures have different signs. So, some curves have their normals point toward the different sides of the tangent plane.

At a planar point, one of the principal direction is an eigenvector with eigenvalue 0, but the other has a non-zero eigenvalue. All points on a cylinder are parabolic points.

At a planar point, all principal curvatures are zero.

3 Umbilical Points

- **Definition 3.1.** *If at $p \in S$, $\kappa_1 = \kappa_2$, then p is called an **umbilical point** of S .*

- All planar points are umbilical points.
All points on a plane and on a sphere are umbilical points.

- **Proposition 3.2.** *If all points of a connected surface S are umbilical points, then S is either contained in a sphere or in a plane.*

Proof. Let $p \in S$ and let $\mathbf{x}(u, v)$ be a parameterization of S at p such that the coordinate neighborhood V is connected.

Since each $q \in V$ is an umbilical point, we have, for any vector $w = a_1 \mathbf{x}_u + a_2 \mathbf{x}_v$ in $T_q(S)$,

$$dN(w) = \lambda(q)w$$

where $\lambda(q)$ is a real differentiable function in V . We will show that $\lambda(q)$ is constant in V . For that, we write the above equation as

$$N_u a_1 + N_v a_2 = \lambda(\mathbf{x}_u a_1 + \mathbf{x}_v a_2).$$

Since w is arbitrary,

$$N_u = \lambda \mathbf{x}_u$$

$$N_v = \lambda \mathbf{x}_v$$

Differentiating the first equation in u and the second one in v , we have

$$N_{uv} = \lambda_v \mathbf{x}_u + \lambda \mathbf{x}_{uv}$$

$$N_{uv} = \lambda_u \mathbf{x}_v + \lambda \mathbf{x}_{uv}.$$

Subtracting the first from the second, we have

$$\lambda_u \mathbf{x}_v - \lambda_v \mathbf{x}_u = 0$$

Because \mathbf{x}_u and \mathbf{x}_v are linearly independent, we conclude that $\lambda_u = \lambda_v = 0$ for all $q \in V$. Since V is connected, λ is constant in V , as we claimed.

If $\lambda \equiv 0$, we have that $N_u = N_v = 0$. So, $N = N_0$ is a constant in V . This allows us to conclude that the all points in V is contained in a plane.

If $\lambda \neq 0$, then the point $\mathbf{x}(u, v) - (1/\lambda)N(u, v) = \mathbf{y}(u, v)$ is fixed because

$$\left(\mathbf{x}(u, v) - \frac{1}{\lambda}N(u, v) \right)_u = \left(\mathbf{x}(u, v) - \frac{1}{\lambda}N(u, v) \right)_v = 0.$$

Since

$$|\mathbf{x}(u, v) - \mathbf{y}|^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda^2},$$

all points of V are contained in a sphere of center \mathbf{y} and radius $1/|\lambda|$.

This proves that, for any neighborhood of any point p , the neighborhood is contained either in a plane or in a sphere. We can use the Heine-Borel theorem to prove that the path from any two points are contained either in a plane or in a sphere. We can then conclude that the proposition is true for all points. \square

4 Asymptotic Directions

- **Definition 4.1.** Let p be a point in S .
An **asymptotic direction** of S at p is a direction of $T_p(S)$ for which the normal curvature is zero.
An **asymptotic curve** of S is a regular connected curve $C \subseteq S$ such that for each $p \in C$ the tangent line of C at p is an asymptotic direction.
- At an elliptical point, there are no asymptotic directions.
At a parabolic point, there's one asymptotic directions.
At a hyperbolic point, there are two asymptotic directions.
At a planar point, every direction is the asymptotic direction.

5 The Gauss Map in Local Coordinates

- We shall assume that, for any parameterization \mathbf{x} , it is compatible with the orientation N . That is,

$$N = \frac{\mathbf{x}_u \wedge \mathbf{x}_v}{|\mathbf{x}_u \wedge \mathbf{x}_v|}.$$

- Let $\mathbf{x}(u, v)$ be a parameterization at point $p \in S$.
Let $\alpha(t) = \mathbf{x}(u(t), v(t))$ and $\alpha(0) = p$.
- To simplify the notation, assume that all functions take values at p .
- The tangent vector to $\alpha(t)$ at p is $\alpha' = \mathbf{x}_u u' + \mathbf{x}_v v'$. Moreover,

$$dN(\alpha') = N'(u(0), v(0)) = N_u u' + N_v v'.$$

Since N_u and N_v belong to $T_p(S)$, we may write

$$\begin{aligned} N_u &= a_{11}\mathbf{x}_u + a_{21}\mathbf{x}_v \\ N_v &= a_{12}\mathbf{x}_u + a_{22}\mathbf{x}_v. \end{aligned}$$

In other words,

$$\begin{bmatrix} N_u \\ N_v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{21} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_u \\ \mathbf{x}_v \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore,

$$dN(\alpha') = (a_{11}u' + a_{12}v')\mathbf{x}_u + (a_{21}u' + a_{22}v')\mathbf{x}_v.$$

Hence,

$$dN \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix}.$$

That is, in the basis $\{\mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v\}$, the linear map dN is given by the matrix (a_{ij}) .

- Now, the expression of the second fundamental form is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_p(\alpha') &= -\langle dN(\alpha'), \alpha' \rangle = -\langle N_u u' + N_v v', \mathbf{x}_u u' + \mathbf{x}_v v' \rangle \\ &= e(u')^2 + 2f u' v' + g(v')^2 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} e &= -\langle N_u, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle = \langle N, \mathbf{x}_{uu} \rangle \\ f &= -\langle N_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle = \langle N, \mathbf{x}_{uv} \rangle = \langle N, \mathbf{x}_{vu} \rangle = -\langle N_v, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle \\ g &= -\langle N_v, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle = \langle N, \mathbf{x}_{vv} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

- Now, we can obtain the expression for the a_{ij} 's in terms of the above coefficients. We have that

$$\begin{aligned} -f &= \langle N_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle = a_{11}F + a_{21}G \\ -f &= \langle N_v, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle = a_{12}E + a_{22}F \\ -e &= \langle N_u, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle = a_{11}E + a_{21}F \\ -g &= \langle N_v, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle = a_{12}F + a_{22}G. \end{aligned}$$

As a result

$$-\begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ f & g \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{21} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} E & F \\ F & G \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{21} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = -\begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ f & g \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} E & F \\ F & G \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

Because

$$\begin{bmatrix} E & F \\ F & G \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{EG - F^2} \begin{bmatrix} G & -F \\ -F & E \end{bmatrix}$$

As such, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11} &= \frac{fF - eG}{EG - F^2} \\ a_{12} &= \frac{gF - fG}{EG - F^2} \\ a_{21} &= \frac{eF - fE}{EG - F^2} \\ a_{22} &= \frac{fF - gE}{EG - F^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The equations above are known as **equations of Weingarten**.

- We have that

$$K = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{21} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} e & f \\ f & g \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} E & F \\ F & G \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{eg - f^2}{EG - F^2}.$$

- For the mean curvatures, we recall that $-\kappa_1$ and $-\kappa_2$ are the eigenvalues of dN . Let $-\kappa$ be an eigenvalue, we have that

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} + \kappa & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} + \kappa \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

In other words,

$$\kappa^2 + \kappa(a_{11} + a_{22}) + a_{11}a_{22} - a_{21}a_{12} = 0 = (\kappa - \kappa_1)(\kappa - \kappa_2).$$

As a result,

$$H = \frac{1}{2}(\kappa_1 + \kappa_2) = -\frac{1}{2}(a_{11} + a_{22}) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{eG - 2fF + gE}{EG - F^2}.$$

- Now, because

$$\kappa^2 - 2H\kappa + K = 0,$$

we have that

$$\kappa = H \pm \sqrt{H^2 - K}.$$

- If we denote $\langle u \wedge v, w \rangle$ with (u, v, w) , we have that we have another set of expressions for e , f , and g .

$$\begin{aligned} e &= \langle N, \mathbf{x}_{uu} \rangle = \left\langle \frac{\mathbf{x}_u \wedge \mathbf{x}_v}{|\mathbf{x}_u \wedge \mathbf{x}_v|}, \mathbf{x}_{uu} \right\rangle = \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}_u \wedge \mathbf{x}_v, \mathbf{x}_{uu} \rangle}{\sqrt{EG - F^2}} = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v, \mathbf{x}_{uu})}{\sqrt{EG - F^2}} \\ f &= \frac{(\mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v, \mathbf{x}_{uv})}{\sqrt{EG - F^2}} = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v, \mathbf{x}_{vu})}{\sqrt{EG - F^2}} \\ g &= \frac{(\mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v, \mathbf{x}_{vv})}{\sqrt{EG - F^2}}. \end{aligned}$$