

Let p be a point of a surface S with tangent plane $T_p S$. Suppose that Π is a plane passing p and orthogonal to $T_p S$ with $\gamma = \Pi \cap S$ (called a normal section). Prove that the geodesic curvature $k_g(p)$ of γ at p is zero.

Proof. Since $\Pi \perp T_p S$, $\vec{n} \perp T_p S$, and the curve $\gamma \subseteq \Pi$. Then γ', \vec{n} at point p is an orthogonal basis of the plane Π . Since γ is a planar curve, γ'' is the linear combination of γ' and \vec{n} . We choose a unit-speed parametrization and $\gamma'' \perp \gamma'$. Then γ'' is parallel with $\vec{n} \Rightarrow k_g = \gamma'' \circ (N \times \gamma') = 0$ \square

Suppose the surface Σ contains a straight line ℓ , show that for any point $p \in \ell$, the Gaussian curvature $K(p) \leq 0$

Proof. The normal curvature k_n for the straight line is zero. While k_n is between k_1 and k_2 , we have $K(p) = k_1 k_2 \leq 0$. \square