

EXAMPLE SHEET 3

1. Let $S : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be defined by

$$S(u, v) = \frac{(2u, 2v, u^2 + v^2 - 1)}{1 + u^2 + v^2}.$$

Show that S defines a parametrized surface whose image is contained in S^2 .

2. Using the chart from the previous exercise, verify that the tangent space to S^2 at a point \mathbf{x} in the image of S is \mathbf{x}^\perp .
3. Find an atlas of charts on S^2 for which each chart preserves area, and the transition functions relating charts have derivatives with determinant 1. (Hint: consider the circumscribed cylinder.)
4. Using the geodesic equations, show directly that the geodesics in the hyperbolic plane are hyperbolic lines parametrized with constant speed. (Hint: first consider vertical lines in the upper half-plane model.)
5. Let Σ be the cylinder $\Sigma = \{(x, y, z) \mid x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$. Prove that Σ is locally isometric to the Euclidean plane. Show all geodesics on Σ are spirals of the form $\gamma(t) = (\cos at, \sin at, bt)$ where $a^2 + b^2 = 1$.
6. For $a > 0$, let Σ be the circular half-cone $\Sigma = \{(x, y, z) \mid z^2 = a(x^2 + y^2), z > 0\}$. Show that Σ minus a ray through the origin is locally isometric to the Euclidean plane. When $a = 3$, give an explicit formula for the geodesics on S and show that no geodesic intersects itself. For $a < 3$ show that there are geodesics which intersect themselves.
7. Let $F : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a smooth function, and let $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ be its graph. Show that Σ is an embedded surface, and that its Gauss curvature at the point $(x, y, F(x, y))$ is the value of

$$\frac{F_{xx}F_{yy} - F_{xy}^2}{(1 + F_x^2 + F_y^2)^2}$$

at the point (x, y) .

8. Let γ be an embedded curve in the xz -plane given by the parametrization $\gamma(t) = (f(t), 0, g(t))$, where $f(t) > 0$ for all t , and let Σ be the surface obtained by rotating γ around the z -axis. Show that the Gauss curvature of Σ is

$$K = \frac{(\dot{f}\ddot{g} - \ddot{f}\dot{g})\dot{g}}{f(\dot{f}^2 + \dot{g}^2)^2}.$$

If γ is parametrized so as to have unit speed ($\dot{f}^2 + \dot{g}^2 = 1$), show that this reduces to $K = -\dot{f}/f$.

9. Using the previous question, compute the Gauss curvature of the surfaces given by the equations $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 1$ and $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = -1$. Describe the qualitative properties of the curvature in these cases (sign and behavior near ∞) and explain what you find using pictures of these surfaces.

10. Let T be the torus obtained by rotating the circle in the xz -plane given by the equation $(x - 2)^2 + z^2 = 1$ around the z -axis. Find the Gauss curvature K of T , and identify the points on T where K is positive, negative, and zero. Verify that

$$\int_T K \, dA = 0.$$

11. Let D be an open disc centered at the origin in \mathbb{R}^2 . Give D a Riemannian metric of the form $(dx^2 + dy^2)/f(r)^2$, where $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ and $f(r) > 0$. Show that the curvature of this metric is $K = f f'' - (f')^2 + f f'/r$.
12. Show that the embedded surface given by the equation $x^2 + y^2 + c^2 z^2 = 1$ ($c > 0$) is homeomorphic to S^2 . Deduce from the global Gauss-Bonnet theorem that

$$\int_0^1 (1 + (c^2 - 1)u^2)^{-3/2} du = c^{-1}.$$

Can you verify this formula directly?

13. Let $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be a curve in the plane with $\|\gamma'(t)\| = 1$, and let \mathbf{n} be the unit normal vector obtained by rotating $\gamma'(t)$ counterclockwise by an angle of $\pi/2$. Show that $\gamma''(t) = \kappa(t)\mathbf{n}$ for some function $\kappa(t)$. $\kappa(t)$ is called the curvature of γ at the point $\gamma(t)$. If $C(t)$ is the circle which is tangent to second-order to γ at $\gamma(t)$, show that the radius of $C(t)$ is $1/|\kappa(t)|$. If the image of γ is a graph $(x, f(x))$ with $f(0) = f'(0) = 0$, show that the curvature at $(0, 0)$ is $f''(0)$.
14. Suppose Σ is a surface of revolution obtained by rotating a curve γ in the xz -plane about the z -axis. Find γ such that the Gauss curvature of Σ is identically -1 .
15. Let Σ be a compact embedded surface in \mathbb{R}^3 . By considering the smallest closed ball centered at the origin which contains Σ , show that the Gauss curvature must be strictly positive at some point of Σ . Conclude that the locally Euclidean metric on the torus cannot be obtained as the first fundamental form of a smoothly embedded torus in \mathbb{R}^3 .
16. Show that a genus two surface can be obtained by appropriately identifying the sides of a regular octagon. Using problem 10 on example sheet 2, show that the genus two surface admits a Riemannian metric with constant curvature $K = -1$. Explain how to generalize your argument to arbitrary surfaces of genus $g > 1$.

Note to the reader: You should look at all questions up to question (12), and then any further questions you have time for.

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