

Math 4441

October 24, 2022

LAST TIME

With great pain, we found formulas for κ_n and κ_g in terms of $\vec{\alpha}_n$, \vec{x} , and their derivatives.

Point: Separate surface contributions from downstairs curve contributions.

THESE SLIDES

We can write κ_g in terms of (g_{ij}) and $\vec{\alpha}_n$, so geodesic curvature is intrinsic — it can be computed without reference to \mathbb{R}^3 .

The formulas we have

$$K_g \vec{S} = \sum_{k=1}^2 \left[(\alpha_u^k)'' + \sum_{i,j=1}^2 (\alpha_u^i)' (\alpha_u^j)' \Gamma_{ij}^k \right] \vec{x}_k \quad ; \quad K_n = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 (\alpha_u^i)' (\alpha_u^j)' L_{ij}$$

So K_g depends on $\vec{\alpha}_u$ and $\underline{\Gamma_{ij}^k}$, while

K_n depends on $\vec{\alpha}_u$ and $\underline{L_{ij}}$.

So K_g will be intrinsic if the Christoffel symbols are intrinsic.


Recall: $\Gamma_{ij}^k := \sum_{\ell=1}^2 \langle \vec{x}_{ij}, \vec{x}_\ell \rangle g^{\ell k}$

only depends on \vec{x} .

Proposition. The Christoffel symbols satisfy

$$\Gamma_{ij}^k = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^2 g^{\ell k} \left[\frac{\partial g_{i\ell}}{\partial u^j} - \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial u^\ell} + \frac{\partial g_{j\ell}}{\partial u^i} \right],$$

and are thus intrinsic.

(Proof.) Not hard, but need to skip for time. 

Note: The formula itself isn't that important
— the point is that it exists at all!

Corollary The geodesic curvature is given by

$$K_g = \sqrt{g} \left[(\alpha_u^1)' (\alpha_u^2)'' - (\alpha_u^1)'' (\alpha_u^2)' + \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \left((\alpha_u^1)' \Gamma_{ij}^2 - \Gamma_{ij}^1 (\alpha_u^2)' \right) (\alpha_u^i)' (\alpha_u^j)' \right],$$

and is thus intrinsic.

(Proof.) Another skipped computation.



Remarks

① Again, the point is that a formula exists.

② Normal curvature is not intrinsic b/c L_{ij} depends on \vec{x} .