

## A moving frame along a regular surface

Along a regular curve in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  we had a Frenet frame  $\{\vec{T}, \vec{N}\}$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and Frenet's formula describes how they vary along the curve:

We had 
$$\begin{cases} \vec{T}' = kN \\ \vec{N}' = -kT \end{cases}$$
 if the curve is arc length parametrized,

where  $k$  is the curvature of the curve.

Let's do something similar on an oriented regular surface  $S$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Let  $\mathbf{x}: U \rightarrow \mathbf{x}(U) \subseteq S$  be a local parametrization defined on some open set  $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ . Then  $\{\mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v, N\}$  form a moving frame of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  along  $S$ , where  $N$  is the unit normal to  $S$  given by its orientation.

Question: Can we study derivatives of  $\mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v, N$  along  $S$ ?

2 possible partial derivatives (with respect to  $u$  and  $v$ )  $\rightarrow$   $\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_{uu}, \mathbf{x}_{uv}, \\ \mathbf{x}_{vu}, \mathbf{x}_{vv}, \\ N_u, N_v \end{cases}$

Will that give us some relation to the curvature of  $S$ ?

Goal: At any  $p \in \Sigma(U)$ , express  $\Sigma_{uu}$ ,  $\Sigma_{uv}$ ,  $\Sigma_{vu}$ ,  $\Sigma_{vv}$ ,  $N_u$ ,  $N_v$  in terms of  $\Sigma_u, \Sigma_v, N$  (Possible because  $\{\Sigma_u, \Sigma_v, N\}$  at  $p$  form a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ).

This is easy given what we had done:

$$\textcircled{1} \begin{cases} N_u = dN_p(\Sigma_u) \\ N_v = dN_p(\Sigma_v) \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N_u = a_{11}\Sigma_u + a_{12}\Sigma_v \\ N_v = a_{21}\Sigma_u + a_{22}\Sigma_v \end{cases} \quad \text{where } \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ f & g \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E & F \\ F & G \end{pmatrix}^{-1}$$

is the matrix representation of the differential of the Gauss map at  $p$  in the basis  $\{\Sigma_u, \Sigma_v\}$  of  $T_p(S)$ ; here  $E, F, G$  and  $e, f, g$  are the first and second fundamental forms on  $S$  at  $p$ .

$$\textcircled{2} \Sigma_{uu} = \nabla_{\Sigma_u} \Sigma_u + \text{some multiple of } N. \text{ Taking dot product with } N, \text{ we get } \Sigma_{uu} \cdot N = (\text{some multiple of } N) \cdot N \Rightarrow \Sigma_{uu} = \nabla_{\Sigma_u} \Sigma_u + eN.$$

$$\text{This gives } \Sigma_{uu} = \Gamma_{11}^1 \Sigma_u + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Sigma_v + eN$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \Sigma_{uv} = \Gamma_{12}^1 \Sigma_u + \Gamma_{12}^2 \Sigma_v + fN = \Sigma_{vu}$$

$$\Sigma_{vv} = \Gamma_{22}^1 \Sigma_u + \Gamma_{22}^2 \Sigma_v + gN.$$

To get to curvatures we need to differentiate once more.

Note that  $(x_{uu})_v = (x_{uv})_u$ , so ①  $\langle (x_{uu})_v - (x_{uv})_u, x_v \rangle = 0$  and ②  $\langle (x_{uu})_v - (x_{uv})_u, N \rangle = 0$

① implies  $R_{211}^1 F + R_{211}^2 G = eg - f^2$  where  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} R_{211}^1 = \partial_v \Gamma_{11}^1 - \partial_u \Gamma_{12}^1 + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^1 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^1 - \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^1 - \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^1 \\ R_{211}^2 = \partial_v \Gamma_{11}^2 - \partial_u \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^2 - \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^2 - \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^2 \end{array} \right.$   
 (Gauss equations)

Indeed,  $(x_{uu})_v = (\Gamma_{11}^1 x_u + \Gamma_{11}^2 x_v + eN)_v = (\partial_v \Gamma_{11}^1) x_u + \Gamma_{11}^1 x_{uv} + (\partial_v \Gamma_{11}^2) x_v + \Gamma_{11}^2 x_{vv} + e_v N + e N_v$   
 $= (\partial_v \Gamma_{11}^1 + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^1 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^1) x_u + (\partial_v \Gamma_{11}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^2) x_v + e N_v + (e_v + \Gamma_{11}^1 f + \Gamma_{11}^2 g) N$

$(x_{uv})_u = (\Gamma_{12}^1 x_u + \Gamma_{12}^2 x_v + fN)_u = (\partial_u \Gamma_{12}^1) x_u + \Gamma_{12}^1 x_{uu} + (\partial_u \Gamma_{12}^2) x_v + \Gamma_{12}^2 x_{vu} + f_u N + f N_u$   
 $= (\partial_u \Gamma_{12}^1 + \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^1 + \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^1) x_u + (\partial_u \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^2 + \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^2) x_v + f N_u + (f_u + \Gamma_{12}^1 e + \Gamma_{12}^2 f) N$

So  $(x_{uu})_v - (x_{uv})_u = R_{211}^1 x_u + R_{211}^2 x_v + e N_v - f N_u + (e_v + \Gamma_{11}^1 f + \Gamma_{11}^2 g - f_u - \Gamma_{12}^1 e - \Gamma_{12}^2 f) N$ . Since

$\langle x_u, x_v \rangle = F, \langle x_v, x_v \rangle = G, \langle N, x_v \rangle = 0, \langle N_v, x_v \rangle = -g$  and  $\langle N_u, x_v \rangle = -f$ , ① implies  $R_{211}^1 F + R_{211}^2 G = eg - f^2$ .

Similarly, since  $\langle x_u, N \rangle = \langle x_v, N \rangle = \langle N_u, N \rangle = \langle N_v, N \rangle = 0$ , from ② we obtain that

(Codazzi equations)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} e_v - \Gamma_{12}^1 e - \Gamma_{12}^2 f = f_u - \Gamma_{11}^1 f - \Gamma_{11}^2 g \\ f_v - \Gamma_{22}^1 e - \Gamma_{22}^2 f = g_u - \Gamma_{12}^1 f - \Gamma_{12}^2 g \end{array} \right.$  ; we also have, from ③  $\langle (x_{uv})_v - (x_{vv})_u, N \rangle = 0$ , that  
 c.f. Fundamental theorem of surfaces

Remarkably the Gauss and Codazzi equations are the only compatibility conditions that three functions  $e, f, g$  has to satisfy, for them to be the second fundamental forms of a regular surface in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with prescribed first fundamental form  $E, F, G$ .

## Gaussian curvature revisited

Now define  $R_{2112} := R_{211}^1 F + R_{211}^2 G$  ( $= \langle R_{211}^1 \mathbf{x}_u + R_{211}^2 \mathbf{x}_v, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle$ ), so that the Gauss equation may simply be written as  $R_{2112} = eg - f^2$ . Then the Gaussian curvature  $K$  on  $S$  can be calculated as follows.

Recall  $K = \frac{eg - f^2}{EG - F^2}$ . Hence Gauss equation implies  $K = \frac{R_{2112}}{EG - F^2}$ .

This is a remarkable formula, because  $\begin{cases} R_{211}^1 = \partial_v \Gamma_{11}^1 - \partial_u \Gamma_{12}^1 + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^1 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^1 - \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^1 - \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^1 \\ R_{211}^2 = \partial_v \Gamma_{11}^2 - \partial_u \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^2 - \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^2 - \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^2 \end{cases}$

depend only on the Christoffel symbols  $\Gamma_{ij}^k$  on  $S$ , which in turn depend only on the first fundamental form  $E, F, G$  on  $S$ !

Theorem Egregium (Gauss). The Gaussian curvature  $K$  of a regular surface  $S$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  depends only on the first fundamental form on  $S$ .

So the Gaussian curvature is invariant under (local) **isometries**.

Definition. Let  $S_1, S_2$  be regular surfaces in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

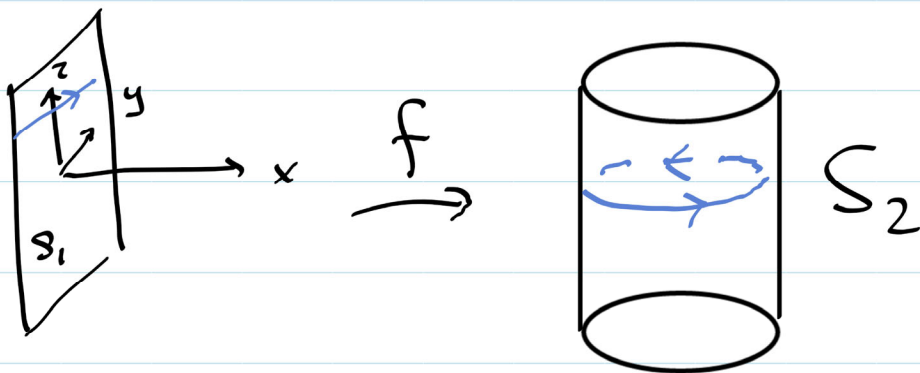
- ①  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are said to be isometric, if there exists a diffeomorphism  $f: S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  such that  $\langle df_p(v_1), df_p(v_2) \rangle = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$  for every  $p \in S_1$  and every  $v_1, v_2 \in T_p(S_1)$ .
- ② If  $W$  is an open subset of  $S_1$  and  $f: W \rightarrow f(W) \subseteq S_2$  is an isometry between  $W$  and  $f(W)$ , then  $f$  is called a local isometry.

Proposition. If there exists an open set  $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  and local parametrizations  $\underline{x}: U \rightarrow \underline{x}(U) \subseteq S_1$ ,  $\underline{\tilde{x}}: U \rightarrow \underline{\tilde{x}}(U) \subseteq S_2$  such that the coefficients of the first fundamental forms satisfy

$$E = \tilde{E}, \quad F = \tilde{F}, \quad G = \tilde{G}$$

(where  $E = \langle \underline{x}_u, \underline{x}_u \rangle$ ,  $F = \langle \underline{x}_u, \underline{x}_v \rangle$ ,  $G = \langle \underline{x}_v, \underline{x}_v \rangle$ ,  $\tilde{E} = \langle \underline{\tilde{x}}_u, \underline{\tilde{x}}_u \rangle$ ,  $\tilde{F} = \langle \underline{\tilde{x}}_u, \underline{\tilde{x}}_v \rangle$  and  $\tilde{G} = \langle \underline{\tilde{x}}_v, \underline{\tilde{x}}_v \rangle$ ), then  $\underline{\tilde{x}} \circ \underline{x}^{-1}: \underline{x}(U) \rightarrow \underline{\tilde{x}}(U)$  is an isometry between  $\underline{x}(U)$  and  $\underline{\tilde{x}}(U)$ , hence a local isometry from  $S_1$  into  $S_2$ .

Example 1. Let  $S_1 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x=0\}$  be the  $y$ - $z$  plane and  $S_2 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$  be a cylinder. If  $W = \{(0, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : |y| < \pi\} \subseteq S_1$  and  $f: W \rightarrow S_2$  is defined by  $f(0, y, z) = (\cos y, \sin y, z)$ , then  $f$  is an isometry between  $W$  and  $f(W)$ ; indeed, if  $\tilde{x}(u, v) = (0, u, v) \in S_1$ ,  $\tilde{x}(u, v) = (\cos u, \sin u, v) \in S_2$ , both defined for  $(u, v) \in \mathcal{U} := (-\pi, \pi) \times \mathbb{R}$ , then it is easily checked  $E = \langle \tilde{x}_u, \tilde{x}_u \rangle = 1$ ,  $F = \langle \tilde{x}_u, \tilde{x}_v \rangle = 0$ ,  $G = \langle \tilde{x}_v, \tilde{x}_v \rangle = 1$ , while  $\tilde{E} = \langle \tilde{\tilde{x}}_u, \tilde{\tilde{x}}_u \rangle = 1$  (since  $\tilde{\tilde{x}}_u = (-\sin u, \cos u, 0)$ ),  $\tilde{F} = \langle \tilde{\tilde{x}}_u, \tilde{\tilde{x}}_v \rangle = 0$ ,  $\tilde{G} = \langle \tilde{\tilde{x}}_v, \tilde{\tilde{x}}_v \rangle = 1$  so we do have  $E = \tilde{E}$ ,  $F = \tilde{F}$ ,  $G = \tilde{G}$ .



Example 2. Let  $\underline{x}(u,v) = (\cosh v \cos u, \cosh v \sin u, v)$ ,  $(u,v) \in (-\pi, \pi) \times (0, \infty)$  be a parametrization of (part of) the catenoid  $S_1$ , and  $\underline{y}(u,v) = (v \cos u, v \sin u, u)$ ,  $(u,v) \in (-\pi, \pi) \times (0, \infty)$  be a parametrization of the helicoid  $S_2$ .

Then they are locally isometric, because

$$\begin{cases} \underline{x}_u = (\cosh v \sin u, \cosh v \cos u, 0) \\ \underline{x}_v = (\sinh v \cos u, \sinh v \sin u, 1) \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow E = \langle \underline{x}_u, \underline{x}_u \rangle = \cosh^2 v, \quad F = \langle \underline{x}_u, \underline{x}_v \rangle = 0, \quad G = \langle \underline{x}_v, \underline{x}_v \rangle = \cosh^2 v,$$

while if  $\tilde{\underline{x}}(u,v) := \underline{y}(u, \sinh v) = (\sinh v \cos u, \sinh v \sin u, u)$ , then

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{\underline{x}}_u = (-\sinh v \sin u, \sinh v \cos u, 0) \\ \tilde{\underline{x}}_v = (\cosh v \cos u, \cosh v \sin u, 1) \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{E} = \langle \tilde{\underline{x}}_u, \tilde{\underline{x}}_u \rangle = \cosh^2 v, \quad \tilde{F} = \langle \tilde{\underline{x}}_u, \tilde{\underline{x}}_v \rangle = 0, \quad \tilde{G} = \langle \tilde{\underline{x}}_v, \tilde{\underline{x}}_v \rangle = \cosh^2 v.$$

Hence  $E = \tilde{E}$ ,  $F = \tilde{F}$ ,  $G = \tilde{G}$ , and  $\tilde{\underline{x}} \circ \underline{x}^{-1} : \underline{x}(U) \rightarrow \tilde{\underline{x}}(U)$  is an isometry if  $U = (-\pi, \pi) \times (0, \infty)$ .

(Check out youtube videos for a deformation of a catenoid into a helicoid).

If  $S_1, S_2$  are regular surfaces in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\underline{x}: U \rightarrow \underline{x}(U) \subseteq S_1$ ,  $\tilde{\underline{x}}: U \rightarrow \tilde{\underline{x}}(U) \subseteq S_2$  are local parametrizations defined on some common open set  $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  with  $\underline{E} = \hat{\underline{E}}$ ,  $\underline{F} = \hat{\underline{F}}$ ,  $\underline{G} = \hat{\underline{G}}$ , then the Christoffel symbols  $\Gamma_{ij}^k$  on  $\underline{x}(U) \subseteq S_1$  and  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{ij}^k$  on  $\tilde{\underline{x}}(U) \subseteq S_2$  are the same. Hence  $R_{2112} = \tilde{R}_{2112}$ , and the Gaussian curvature  $K$  of  $S_1$  at  $\underline{x}(u_0, v_0)$  is the same as the Gaussian curvature  $\tilde{K}$  of  $S_2$  at  $\tilde{\underline{x}}(u_0, v_0)$ , for any  $(u_0, v_0) \in U$ .

This is because 
$$K = \frac{R_{2112}}{EG - F^2} = \frac{R_{2112}}{\hat{E}\hat{G} - \hat{F}^2} = \tilde{K}.$$

Example. The Gaussian curvature of the cylinder  $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$  is identically zero (because the plane has zero Gaussian curvature and the cylinder is locally isometric to the plane).



Remark: Only the Gaussian curvature is preserved under local isometries; the mean curvature is not. For example, the plane  $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3: x=0\}$  has zero mean curvature, but the cylinder  $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3: x^2+y^2=1\}$  has mean curvature equal to  $\frac{0+1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$  (because the principal curvatures of this cylinder is 0 and 1 respectively at every point), even though the plane and the cylinder are locally isometric.

We say the Gaussian curvature is an **intrinsic** property of a regular surface, meaning that it can be determined by measurements (of the first fundamental form) within the surface; it is independent of how the surface is embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (contrary to say the mean curvature)

To summarize, the Gaussian curvature  $= \frac{eg - f^2}{EG - F^2}$  can be calculated using the first fundamental form  $E, F, G$ , because  $eg - f^2 = R_{2112}$  where

$$R_{2112} = R_{211}^1 F + R_{211}^2 G \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{cases} R_{211}^1 = \partial_v \Gamma_{11}^1 - \partial_u \Gamma_{12}^1 + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^1 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^1 - \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^1 - \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^1 \\ R_{211}^2 = \partial_v \Gamma_{11}^2 - \partial_u \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^2 - \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^2 - \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^2 \end{cases}$$

Question. How can one remember such a complicated formula?

Theorem. Let  $\mathbf{x}: U \rightarrow \mathbf{x}(U) \subseteq S$  be a local parametrization of a regular surface  $S$ . Then  $R_{2112} = \langle (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v}) \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle$ .

Proof.  $\nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} \mathbf{x}_u = \Gamma_{11}^1 \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{11}^2 \mathbf{x}_v$ ,  $\nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v} \mathbf{x}_u = \Gamma_{12}^1 \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{12}^2 \mathbf{x}_v$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} \mathbf{x}_u &= (\partial_v \Gamma_{11}^1) \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{11}^1 \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v} \mathbf{x}_u + (\partial_v \Gamma_{11}^2) \mathbf{x}_v + \Gamma_{11}^2 \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v} \mathbf{x}_v \\ &= (\partial_v \Gamma_{11}^1) \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^1 \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^2 \mathbf{x}_v + (\partial_v \Gamma_{11}^2) \mathbf{x}_v + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^1 \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^2 \mathbf{x}_v, \\ \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v} \mathbf{x}_u &= (\partial_u \Gamma_{12}^1) \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{12}^1 \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} \mathbf{x}_u + (\partial_u \Gamma_{12}^2) \mathbf{x}_v + \Gamma_{12}^2 \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} \mathbf{x}_v \\ &= (\partial_u \Gamma_{12}^1) \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^1 \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^2 \mathbf{x}_v + (\partial_u \Gamma_{12}^2) \mathbf{x}_v + \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^1 \mathbf{x}_u + \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^2 \mathbf{x}_v, \end{aligned}$$

so  $(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v}) \mathbf{x}_u = R_{211}^1 \mathbf{x}_u + R_{211}^2 \mathbf{x}_v \Rightarrow \langle (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_u} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_v}) \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle = R_{2112}$ .

Notation. For  $i, j, k, l \in \{1, 2\}$ , define  $R_{ijkl} := \langle (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}_i} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_j} - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_j} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_i}) \mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{x}_l \rangle$  where  $\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_1 := \mathbf{x}_u \\ \mathbf{x}_2 := \mathbf{x}_v \end{cases}$ .

Fact. In 2 dimensions,  $R_{2112} = R_{1221} = -R_{1212} = -R_{2121} = eg - f^2$ , all other  $R_{ijkl} = 0$ .

Example. Calculate the Gaussian curvature of the sphere  $S^2 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1\}$  using the Christoffel symbols.

Solution. Parametrize  $S^2$  by  $\mathbf{x}(u, v) = (\cos u \cos v, \cos u \sin v, \sin u)$

$$\text{We saw } \mathbf{x}_u = (-\sin u \cos v, -\sin u \sin v, \cos u)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_v = (-\cos u \sin v, \cos u \cos v, 0)$$

$$\text{So } E = 1, F = 0, G = \cos^2 u.$$

From  $E_u = E_v = 0$ ,  $F_u = F_v = 0$ ,  $G_u = -2\sin u \cos u$ ,  $G_v = 0$ ,  
we have  $\Gamma_{11}^1 = \Gamma_{11}^2 = \Gamma_{12}^1 = \Gamma_{22}^2 = 0$ ,  $\Gamma_{12}^2 = -\tan u$ ,  $\Gamma_{22}^1 = \sin u \cos u$ .

Hence  $R_{2112} = R_{211}^1 F + R_{211}^2 G = R_{211}^2 \cos^2 u$ , but

$$\begin{aligned} R_{211}^2 &= \partial_2 \Gamma_{11}^2 - \partial_1 \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{12}^2 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^2 - \Gamma_{12}^1 \Gamma_{11}^2 - \Gamma_{12}^2 \Gamma_{21}^2 \\ &= -\partial_u (-\tan u) - (-\tan u)^2 = \sec^2 u - \tan^2 u = 1. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that the Gaussian curvature at  $\mathbf{x}(u, v)$  is

$$K = \frac{R_{2112}}{EG - F^2} = \frac{1 \cdot \cos^2 u}{\cos^2 u} = 1. \text{ By rotational symmetry, the}$$

Gaussian curvature is 1 at every point on  $S^2$ .

Alternatively, from  $\Gamma_{11}^1 = \Gamma_{11}^2 = \Gamma_{12}^1 = \Gamma_{22}^2 = 0$ ,  $\Gamma_{12}^2 = -\tan u$ ,  $\Gamma_{22}^1 = \sin u \cos u$ ,

we compute  $\nabla_{\underline{x}_u} \underline{x}_u = 0$ ,  $\nabla_{\underline{x}_v} \underline{x}_u = -\tan u \underline{x}_v$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\underline{x}_v} \nabla_{\underline{x}_u} \underline{x}_u - \nabla_{\underline{x}_u} \nabla_{\underline{x}_v} \underline{x}_u &= -\nabla_{\underline{x}_u} (-\tan u \underline{x}_v) = \frac{\partial}{\partial u} (\tan u) \underline{x}_v + \tan u \nabla_{\underline{x}_u} \underline{x}_v \\ &= \sec^2 u \underline{x}_v - \tan^2 u \underline{x}_v = \underline{x}_v, \text{ so } R_{2112} = \langle \underline{x}_v, \underline{x}_v \rangle = \cos^2 u, \text{ and} \end{aligned}$$

the Gaussian curvature at  $\underline{x}(u,v)$  is  $K = \frac{R_{2112}}{EG - F^2} = \frac{1 \cdot \cos^2 u}{\cos^2 u} = 1$ .

Example. Calculate the Gaussian Curvature of the paraboloid

$S = \{(x,y,z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : z = x^2 + y^2\}$  using Christoffel symbols.

Solution. Parametrize  $S$  by  $\underline{x}(u,v) = (u, v, u^2 + v^2)$ . Then  $\underline{x}_u = (1, 0, 2u)$ ,  $\underline{x}_v = (0, 1, 2v)$ ,

so  $E = 1 + 4u^2$ ,  $F = 4uv$ ,  $G = 1 + 4v^2$ , and  $EG - F^2 = 1 + 4u^2 + 4v^2$ .

$$\text{Hence } \begin{cases} \Gamma_{11}^1 E + \Gamma_{11}^2 F = \underline{x}_{uu} \cdot \underline{x}_u = \frac{1}{2} E_u = 4u \\ \Gamma_{11}^1 F + \Gamma_{11}^2 G = \underline{x}_{uu} \cdot \underline{x}_v = F_u - \frac{1}{2} E_v = 4v \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma_{11}^1 \\ \Gamma_{11}^2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{EG - F^2} \begin{pmatrix} G & -F \\ -F & E \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4u \\ 4v \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{1 + 4u^2 + 4v^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + 4v^2 & -4uv \\ -4uv & 1 + 4u^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4u \\ 4v \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Gamma_{11}^1 = \frac{4u}{1 + 4u^2 + 4v^2}, \quad \Gamma_{11}^2 = \frac{4v}{1 + 4u^2 + 4v^2}.$$

$$\text{Similarly } \begin{cases} \Gamma_{12}^1 E + \Gamma_{12}^2 F = \Sigma_{uv} \cdot \Sigma_u = \frac{1}{2} E_v = 0 \\ \Gamma_{12}^1 F + \Gamma_{12}^2 G = \Sigma_{uv} \cdot \Sigma_v = \frac{1}{2} G_u = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \Gamma_{12}^1 = \Gamma_{12}^2 = 0,$$

$$\text{and } \begin{cases} \Gamma_{22}^1 E + \Gamma_{22}^2 F = \Sigma_{vv} \cdot \Sigma_u = F_v - \frac{1}{2} G_u = 4u \\ \Gamma_{22}^1 F + \Gamma_{22}^2 G = \Sigma_{vv} \cdot \Sigma_v = \frac{1}{2} G_v = 4v \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \Gamma_{22}^1 = \frac{4u}{1+4u^2+4v^2} \\ \Gamma_{22}^2 = \frac{4v}{1+4u^2+4v^2} \end{cases}.$$

$$\text{So } (\nabla_{\Sigma_v} \nabla_{\Sigma_u} - \nabla_{\Sigma_u} \nabla_{\Sigma_v}) \Sigma_u = \nabla_{\Sigma_v} \left( \frac{4u}{1+4u^2+4v^2} \Sigma_u + \frac{4v}{1+4u^2+4v^2} \Sigma_v \right) - \nabla_{\Sigma_u} (0 \Sigma_u + 0 \Sigma_v)$$

$$= \frac{-32uv}{(1+4u^2+4v^2)^2} \Sigma_u + \frac{4u}{1+4u^2+4v^2} \nabla_{\Sigma_v} \Sigma_u + \frac{4(1+4u^2-4v^2)}{(1+4u^2+4v^2)^2} \Sigma_v + \frac{4v}{1+4u^2+4v^2} \nabla_{\Sigma_v} \Sigma_v$$

$$= \frac{-32uv + 16uv}{(1+4u^2+4v^2)^2} \Sigma_u + \frac{4(1+4u^2-4v^2) + 16v^2}{(1+4u^2+4v^2)^2} \Sigma_v$$

$$= \frac{-16uv}{(1+4u^2+4v^2)^2} \Sigma_u + \frac{4(1+4u^2)}{(1+4u^2+4v^2)^2} \Sigma_v$$

$$\text{As a result, } R_{2112} = -\frac{16uv}{(1+4u^2+4v^2)^2} \cdot 4uv + \frac{4(1+4u^2)}{(1+4u^2+4v^2)^2} (1+4v^2) = \frac{4}{1+4u^2+4v^2}.$$

It follows that the Gaussian curvature at  $\Sigma(u,v)$  is

$$K = \frac{R_{2112}}{EG-F^2} = \frac{4}{(1+4u^2+4v^2)^2}.$$

(Remark: This is not the fastest way to compute Gaussian curvature...)