

# Smooth Surface Curvature

Justin Solomon

6.838: Shape Analysis

Spring 2021

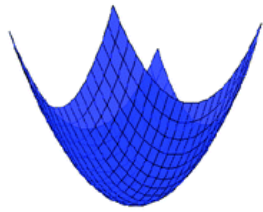


# Today's Goal

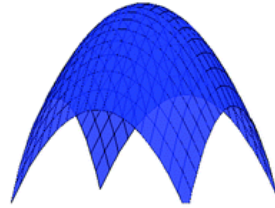
Quantify how a surface  
**deviates from flatness.**

*Curvature.*

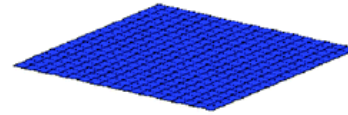
# High-Level Questions



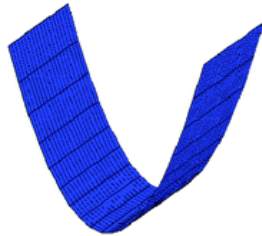
(a)  $KG > 0, KH > 0$   
elliptic concave



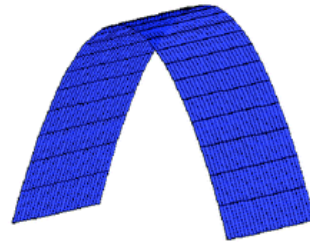
(b)  $KG > 0, KH < 0$   
elliptic convexe



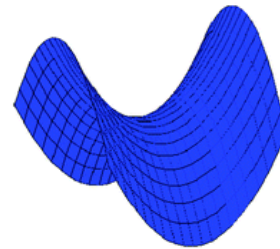
(c)  $KG = 0, KH = 0$   
plane



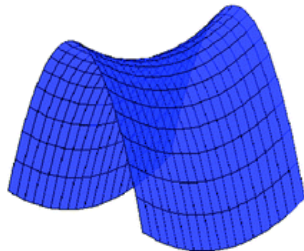
(d)  $KG = 0, KH > 0$   
parabolic concave



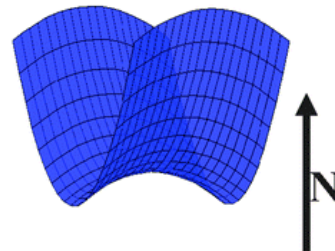
(e)  $KG = 0, KH < 0$   
parabolic convexe



(f)  $KG < 0, KH = 0$   
saddle (hyperbolic)



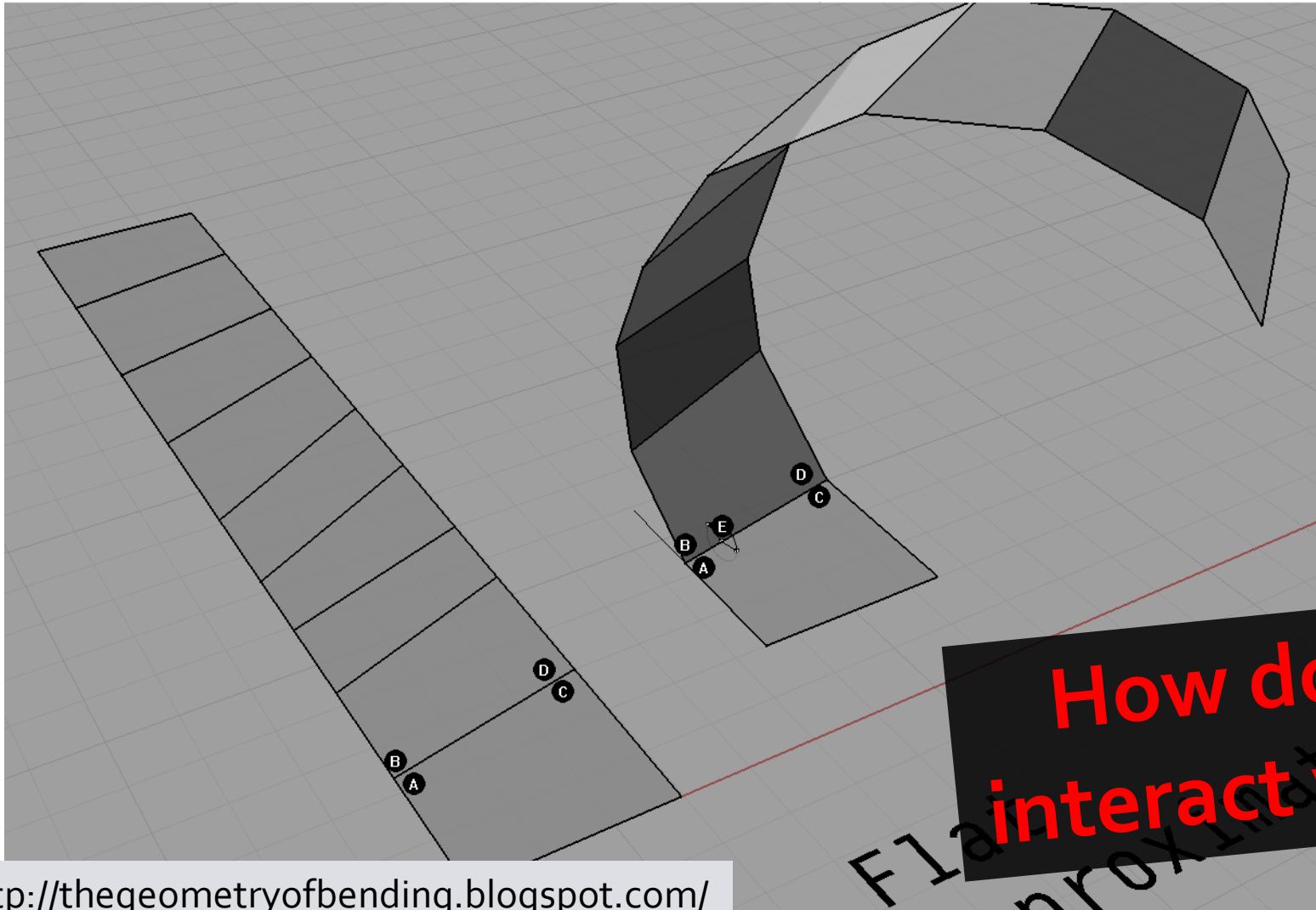
(g)  $KG < 0, KH < 0$   
hyperbolic-like



(h)  $KG < 0, KH > 0$   
hyperbolic-like

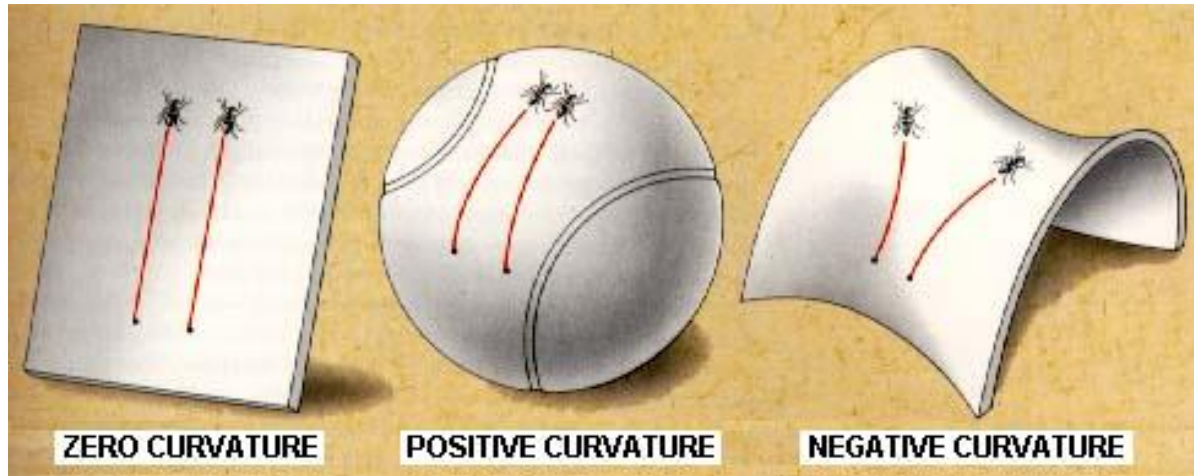
How to  
distinguish?

# High-Level Questions



**How do surfaces  
interact with space?**

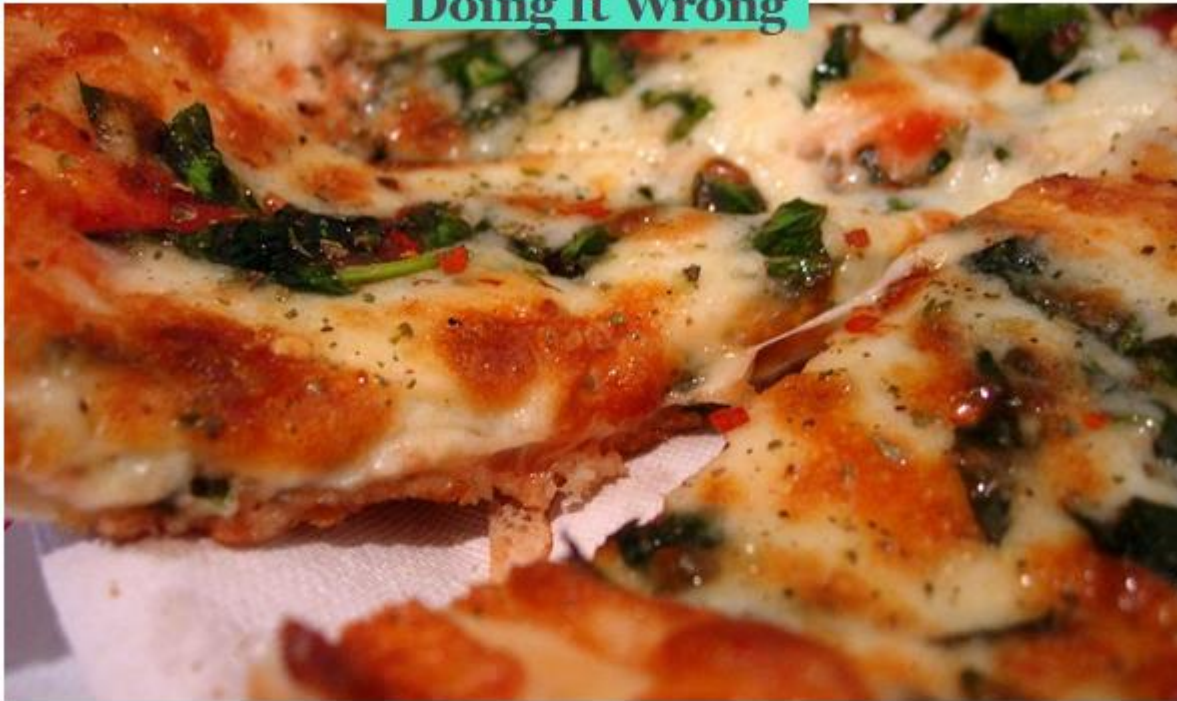
# High-Level Questions



**Does  
surrounding  
space matter?**

# Practical Application

## The Best Way to Eat Pizza, According to Science, Means You Probably Have Been Doing It Wrong



f Share this

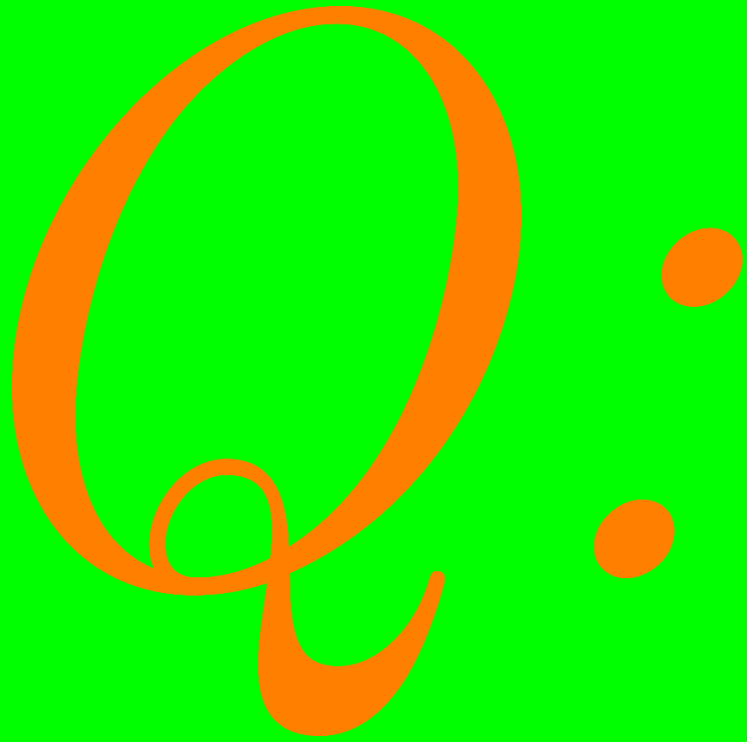
By LUCIA PETERS Oct 10 2014

Congratulations, New Yorkers: Here's proof that you are apparently

Bend It Like Gauss:

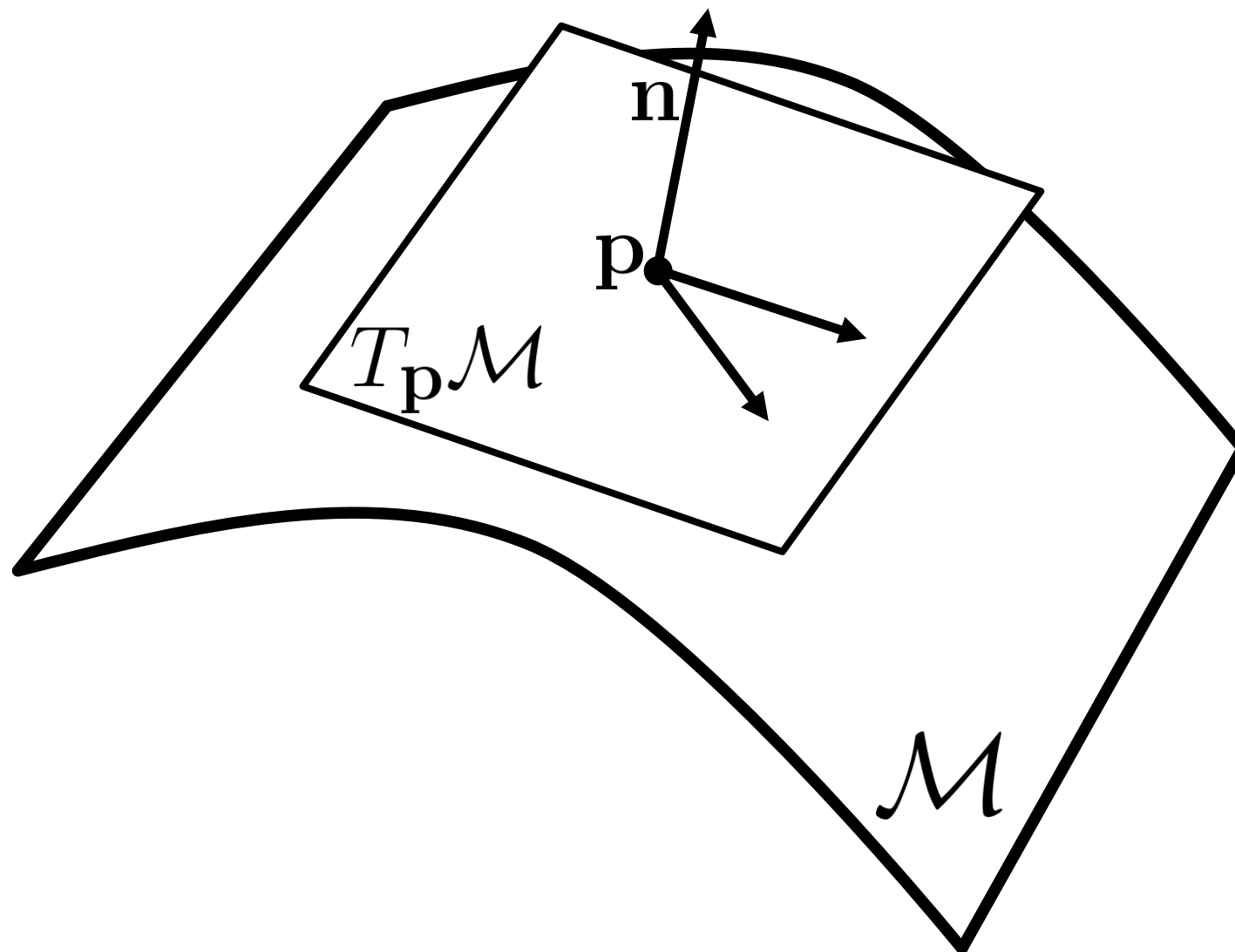


<https://www.bustle.com/articles/43697-the-best-way-to-eat-pizza-according-to-science-means-you-probably-have-been-doing-it>



Can curvature/torsion  
of a curve help us  
understand **surfaces**?

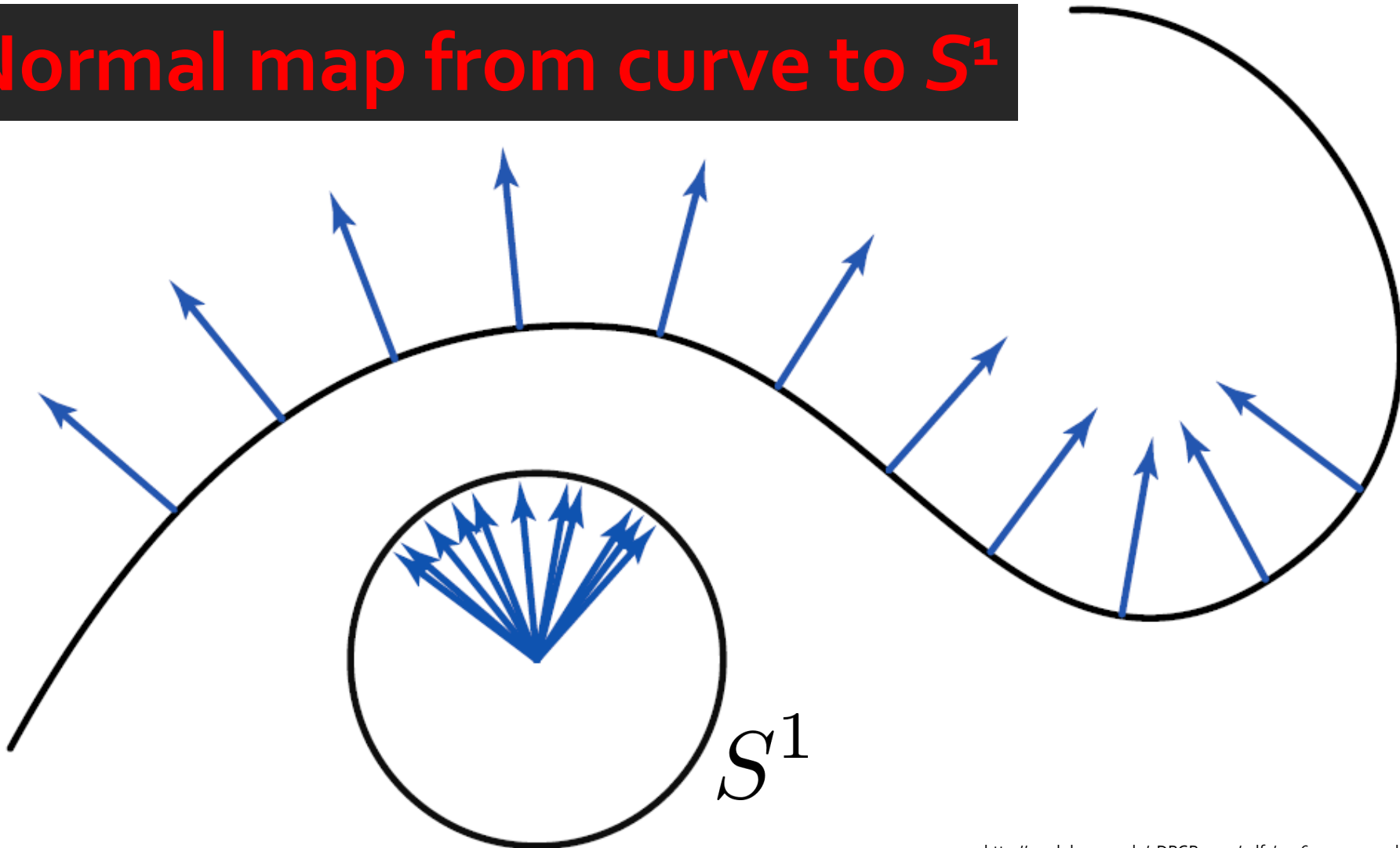
*Recall:*  
**Unit Normal**





# *Recall:* Gauss Map

Normal map from curve to  $S^1$



*Recall:*

## Frenet Frame: Curves in $\mathbb{R}^3$

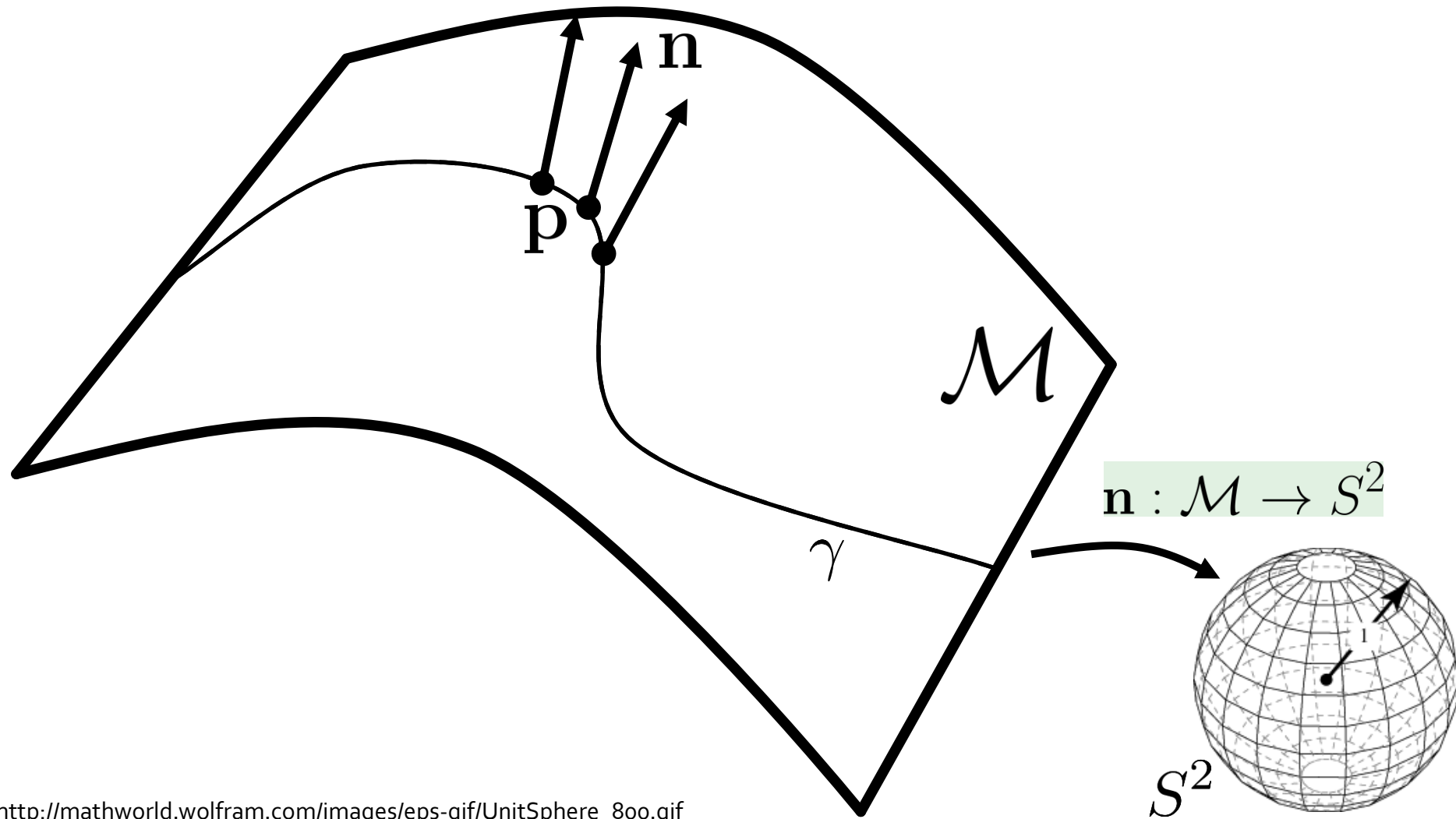
$$\frac{d}{ds} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{T} \\ \mathbf{N} \\ \mathbf{B} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \kappa & 0 \\ -\kappa & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{T} \\ \mathbf{N} \\ \mathbf{B} \end{pmatrix}$$

- **Binormal:**  $\mathbf{T} \times \mathbf{N}$
- **Curvature:** In-plane motion
- **Torsion:** Out-of-plane motion

**Theorem:**

**Curvature and torsion determine geometry of a curve up to rigid motion.**

# Gauss Map for an Oriented Surface



Recall:

# Differential of a Map

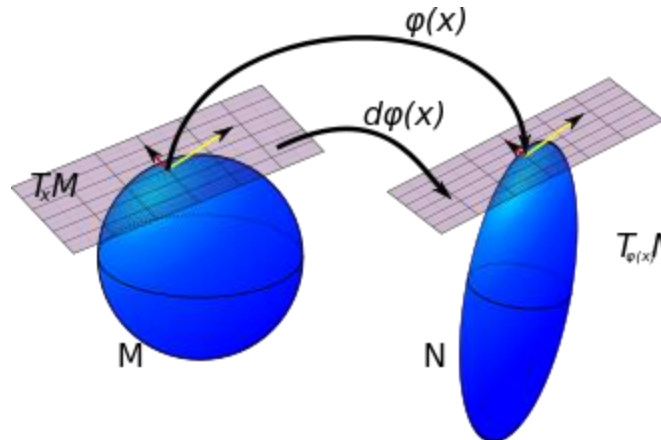
**Definition** (Differential). Suppose  $\varphi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  is a map from a submanifold  $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^k$  into a submanifold  $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^\ell$ . Then, the differential  $d\varphi_{\mathbf{p}} : T_{\mathbf{p}}\mathcal{M} \rightarrow T_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}\mathcal{N}$  of  $\varphi$  at a point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{M}$  is given by

$$d\varphi_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{v}) := (\varphi \circ \gamma)'(0),$$

where  $\gamma : (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  is any curve with  $\gamma(0) = \mathbf{p}$  and  $\gamma'(0) = \mathbf{v} \in T_{\mathbf{p}}\mathcal{M}$ .

Linear map of tangent spaces

$$d\varphi_{\mathbf{p}}(\gamma'(0)) := (\varphi \circ \gamma)'(0)$$



# Calculation

Where is the  
derivative of  $n$ ?

$$d\mathbf{n}_p : T_p\mathcal{M} \rightarrow ??$$

“Shape operator”

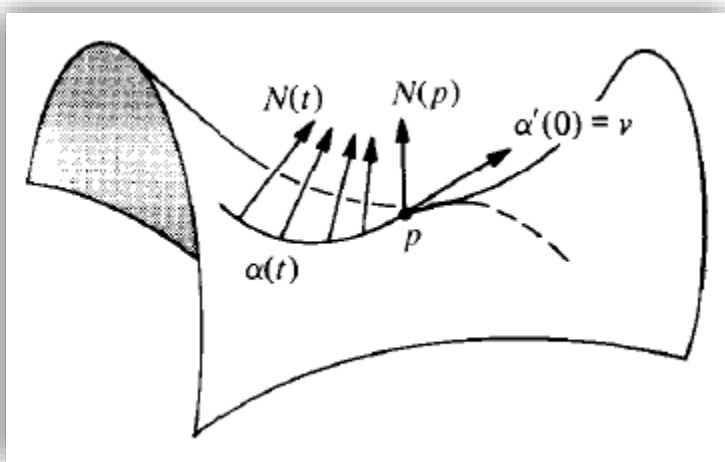
$$d\mathbf{n}_{\mathbf{p}} : T_{\mathbf{p}}\mathcal{M} \rightarrow ??$$

# Second Fundamental Form

$$\mathbb{I} : T_p\mathcal{M} \times T_p\mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

*Defined by:*

$$\mathbb{I}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) := -\mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{n}_p(\mathbf{w})$$

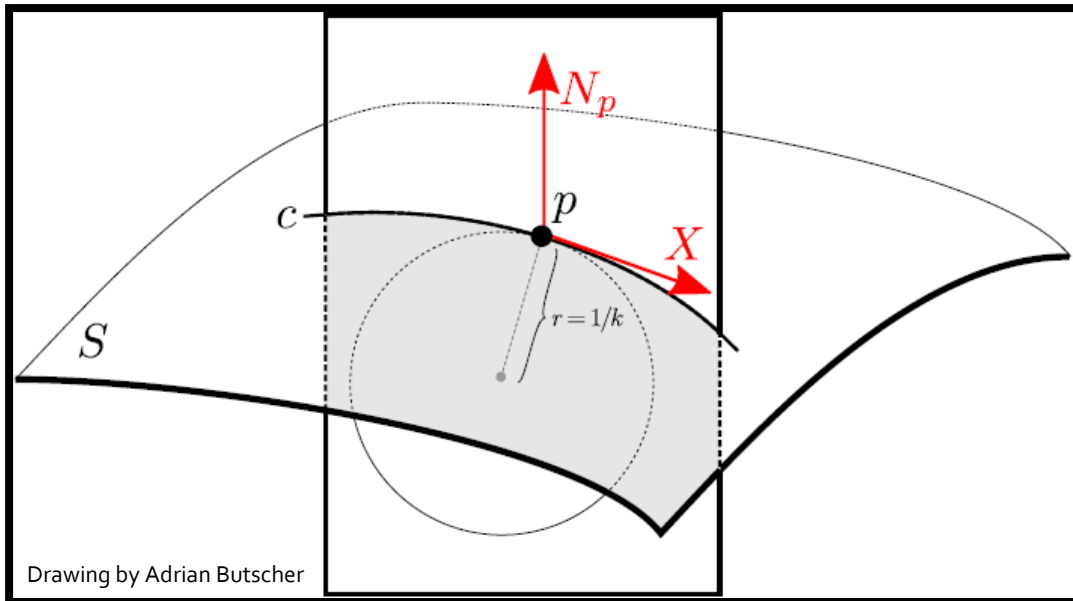


**“Lower the index”**

$$\mathbb{I}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{T})$$

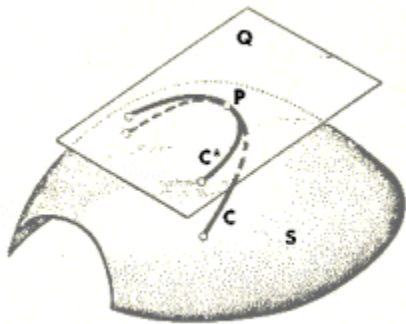


# Relationship to Curvature of Curves



$$\begin{aligned}\kappa_n &= \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{n} \\ &= \mathbb{I}_{\gamma(s)}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{T})\end{aligned}$$

“Acceleration due to geometry”



$$\kappa_g := \mathbf{K} \cdot (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{T})$$

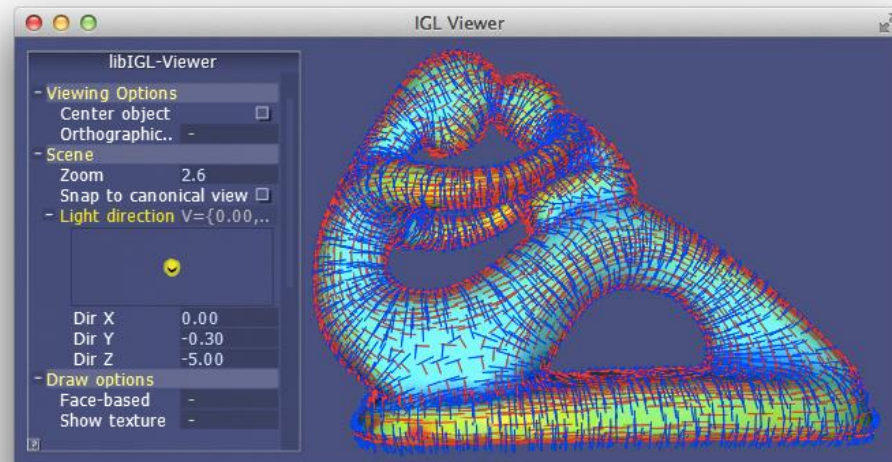
**Geodesic  
curvature**

$$\mathbb{I}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) = \mathbb{I}(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v})$$

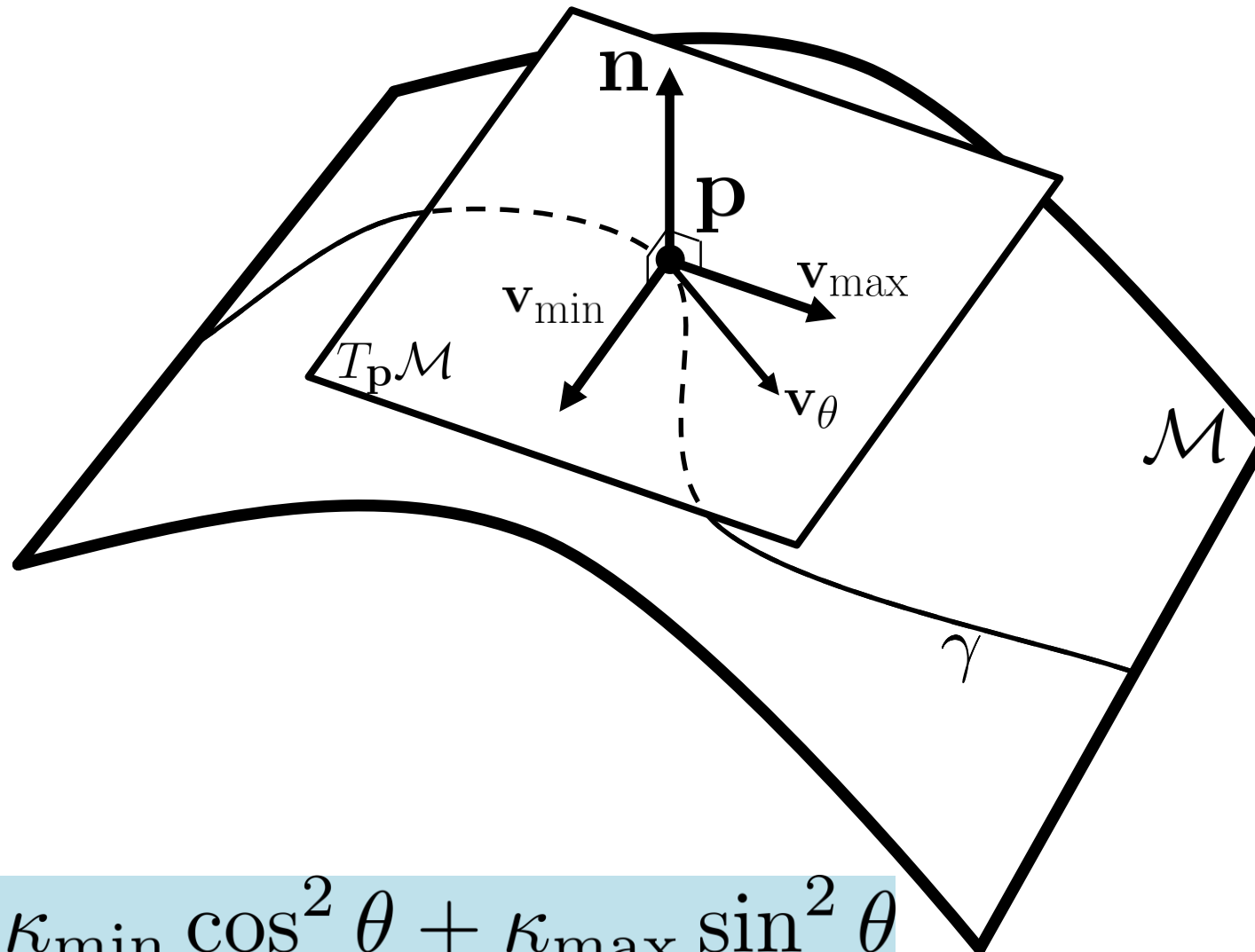
Request for help:  
How to visualize this?

# Principal Curvatures/Directions

$$\kappa_{\min} := \begin{cases} \min_{\mathbf{v} \in T_p \mathcal{M}} & \mathbb{I}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}) \\ \text{subject to} & \|\mathbf{v}\|_2 = 1 \end{cases}$$
$$\kappa_{\max} := \begin{cases} \max_{\mathbf{v} \in T_p \mathcal{M}} & \mathbb{I}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}) \\ \text{subject to} & \|\mathbf{v}\|_2 = 1 \end{cases}$$



# Principal Directions and Curvatures



$$\kappa_{\theta} = \kappa_{\min} \cos^2 \theta + \kappa_{\max} \sin^2 \theta$$

# Principal Curvatures

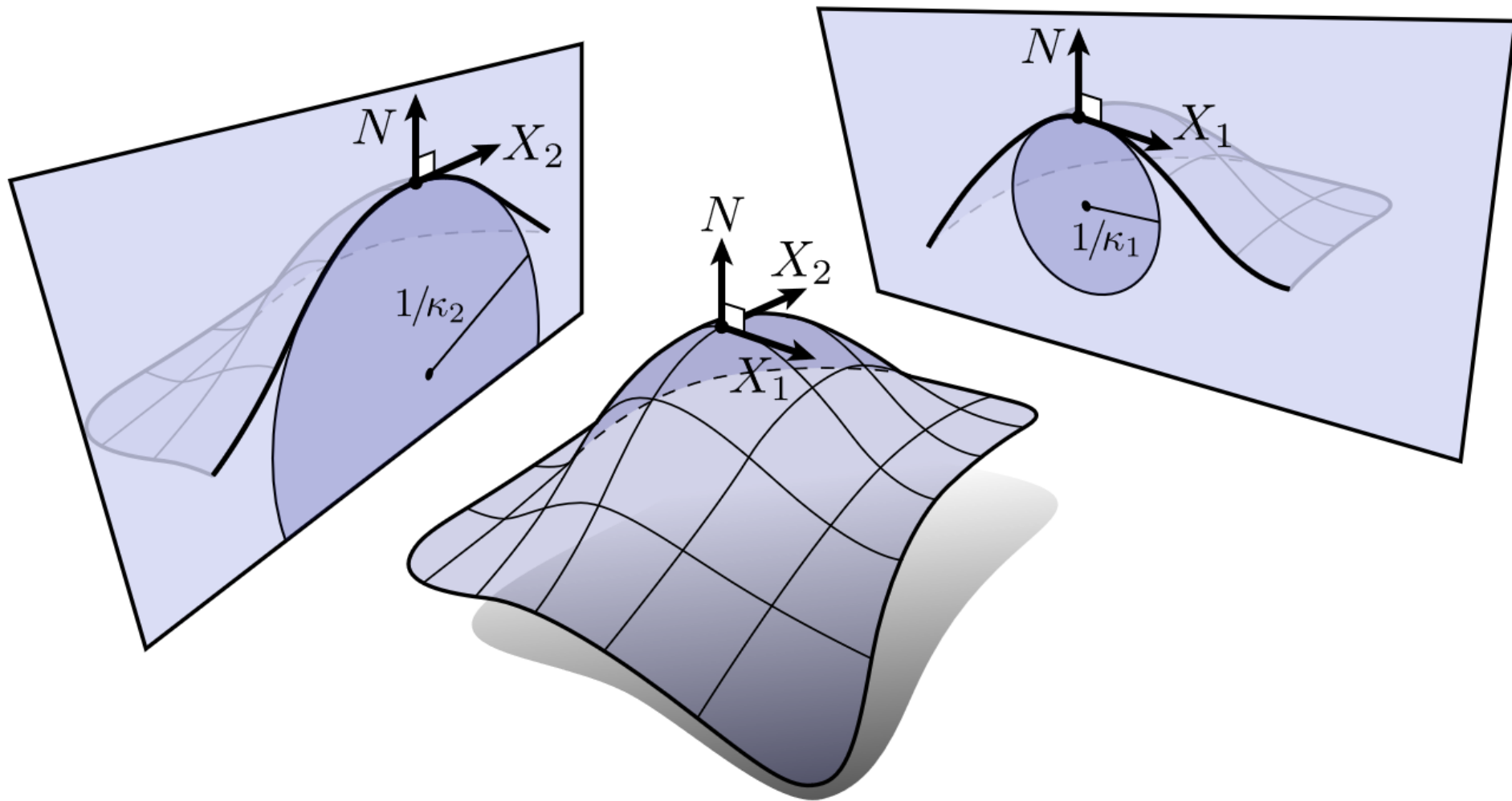
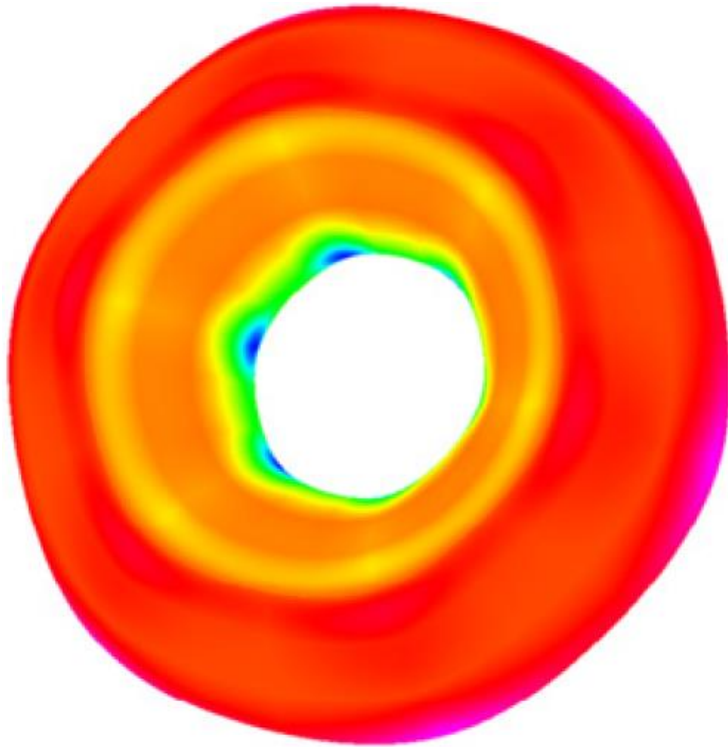
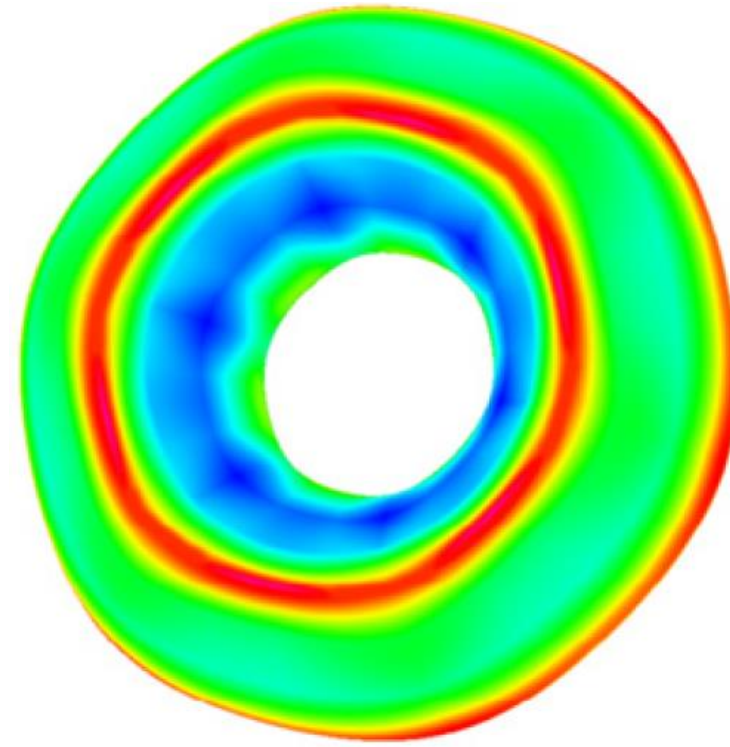


Image courtesy K. Crane, CMU

# Curvature Measures

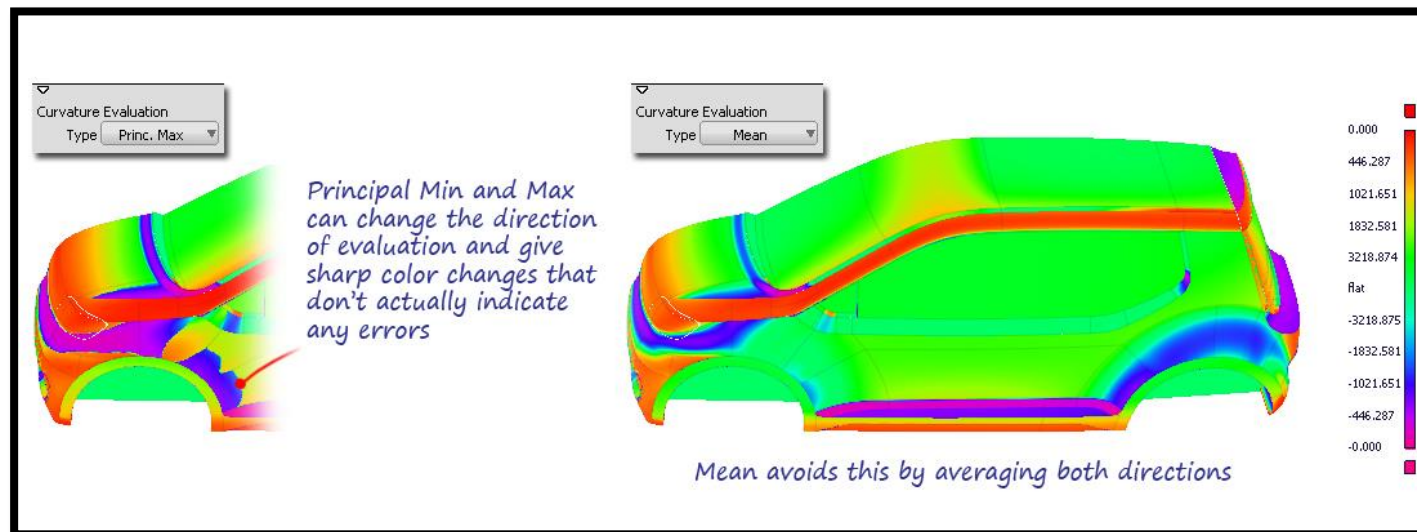
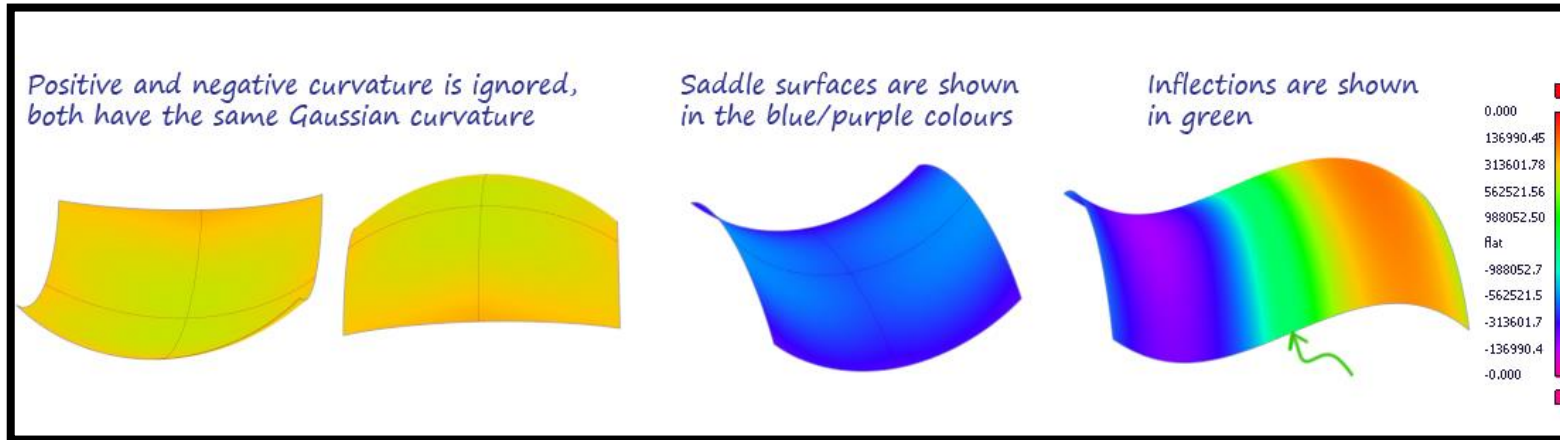


$$K := \kappa_{\min} \cdot \kappa_{\max} = \det \mathbb{I}$$



$$H := \frac{1}{2}(\kappa_{\min} + \kappa_{\max}) = \frac{1}{2}\text{tr } \mathbb{I}$$

# Interpretation



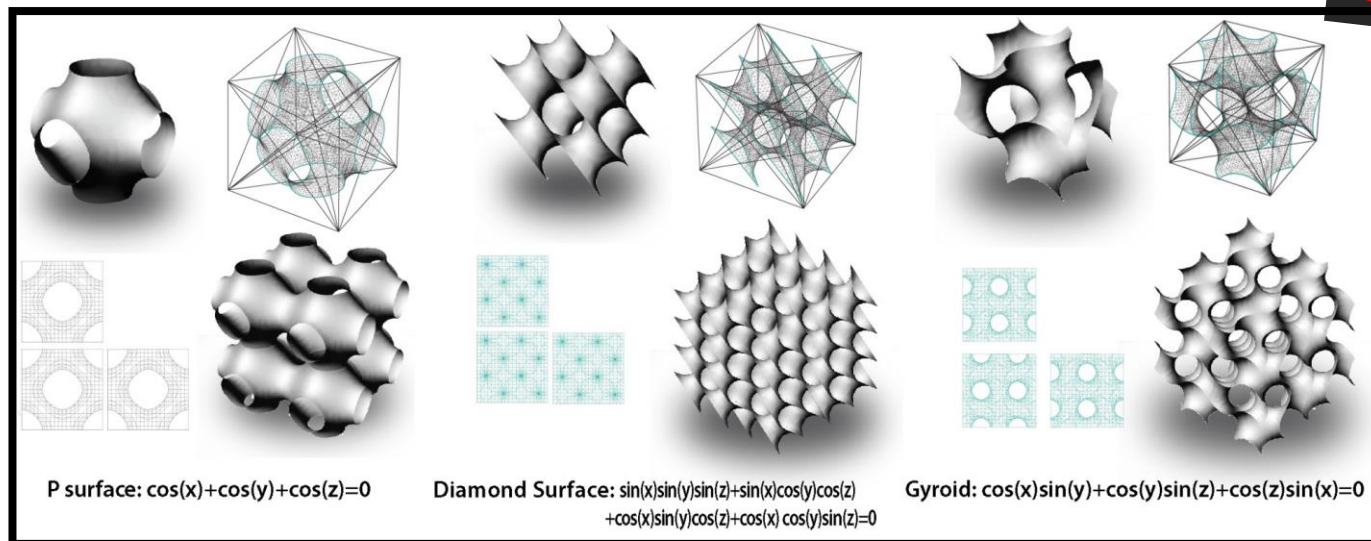


# Mean Curvature

$$H = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \kappa(\theta) d\theta$$

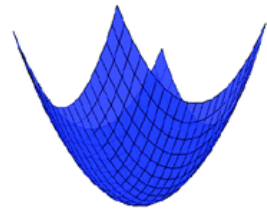
Byproduct of linear structure

Minimal  
surfaces

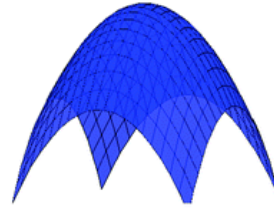




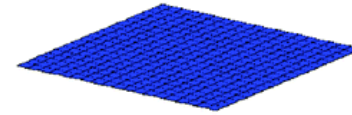
# Gaussian Curvature



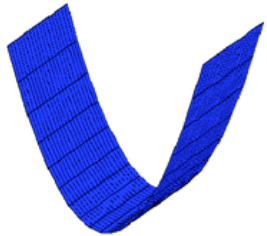
(a)  $KG > 0, KH > 0$   
elliptic concave



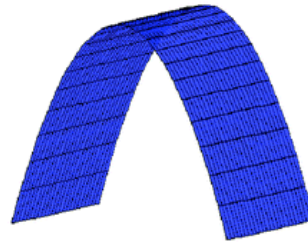
(b)  $KG > 0, KH < 0$   
elliptic convexe



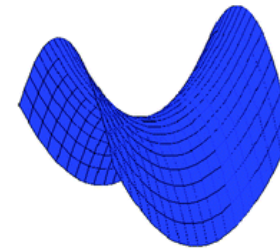
(c)  $KG = 0, KH = 0$   
plane



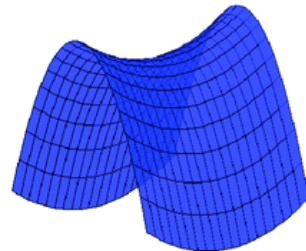
(d)  $KG = 0, KH > 0$   
parabolic concave



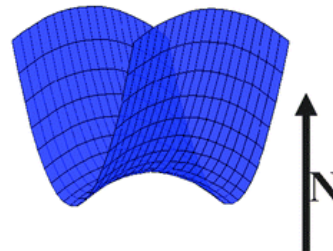
(e)  $KG = 0, KH < 0$   
parabolic convexe



(f)  $KG < 0, KH = 0$   
saddle (hyperbolic)



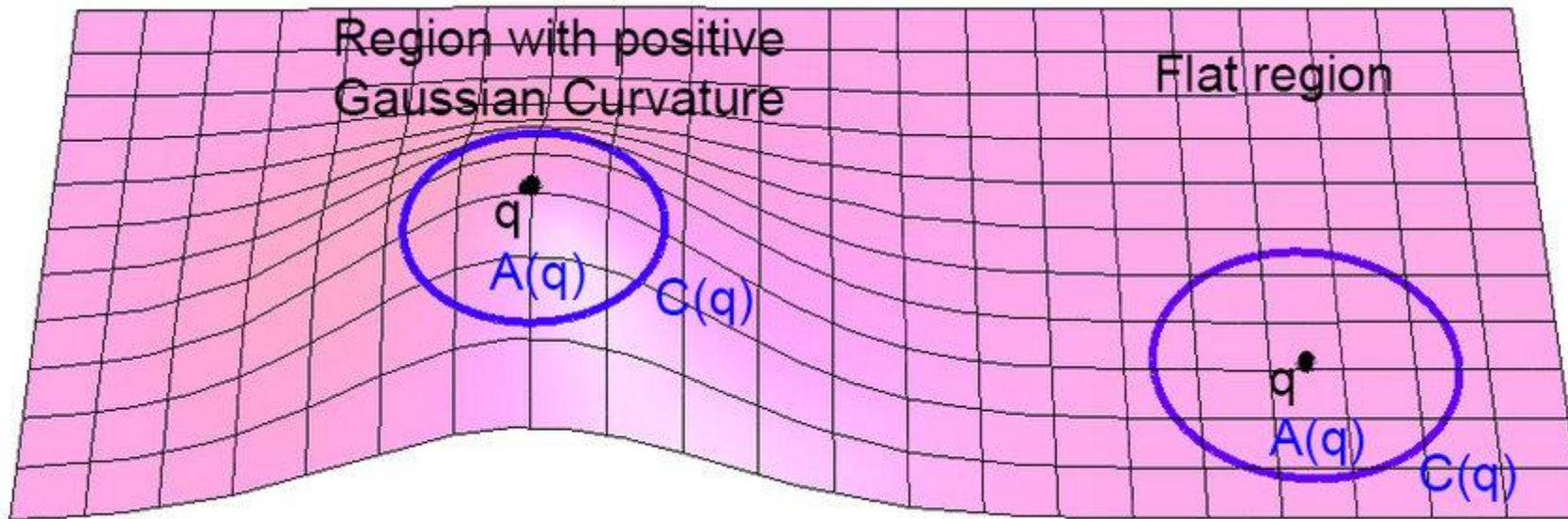
(g)  $KG < 0, KH < 0$   
hyperbolic-like



(h)  $KG < 0, KH > 0$   
hyperbolic-like

# Geodesic Circle Formulae

$$K = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} 3 \frac{2\pi r - C(r)}{\pi r^3} = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} 12 \frac{\pi r^2 - A(r)}{\pi r^4}$$



# Uniqueness Result

*Theorem:*

**The first and second fundamental forms  
determine a surface up to rigid motion.**

**Gauss-Codazzi-Mainardi equations:**  
Compatibility conditions

# Who Cares?

Curvature  
determines  
local surface geometry.

# Smooth Surface Curvature

Justin Solomon

6.838: Shape Analysis

Spring 2021



# Extra: Mean Curvature Normal

Justin Solomon

6.838: Shape Analysis

Spring 2021



# Discrete Surface Curvature

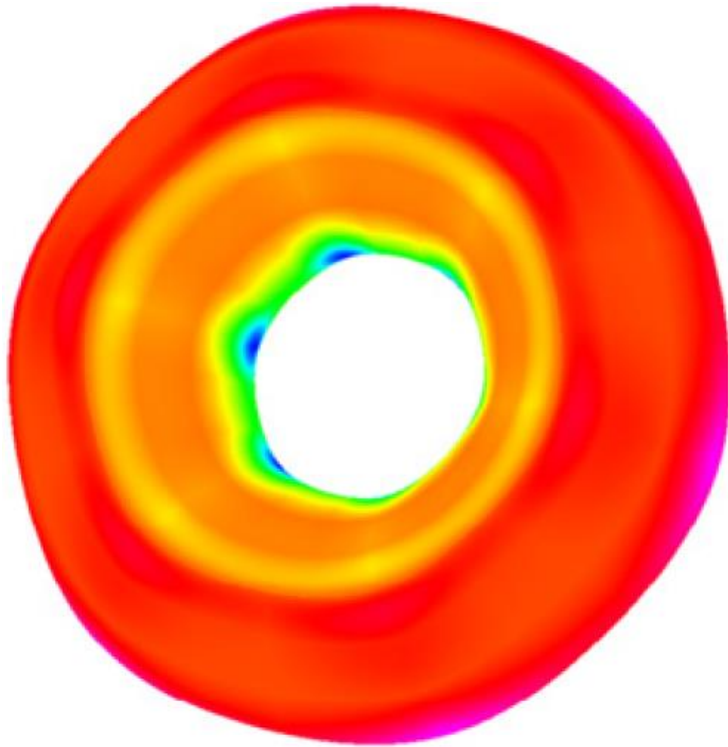
Justin Solomon

6.838: Shape Analysis

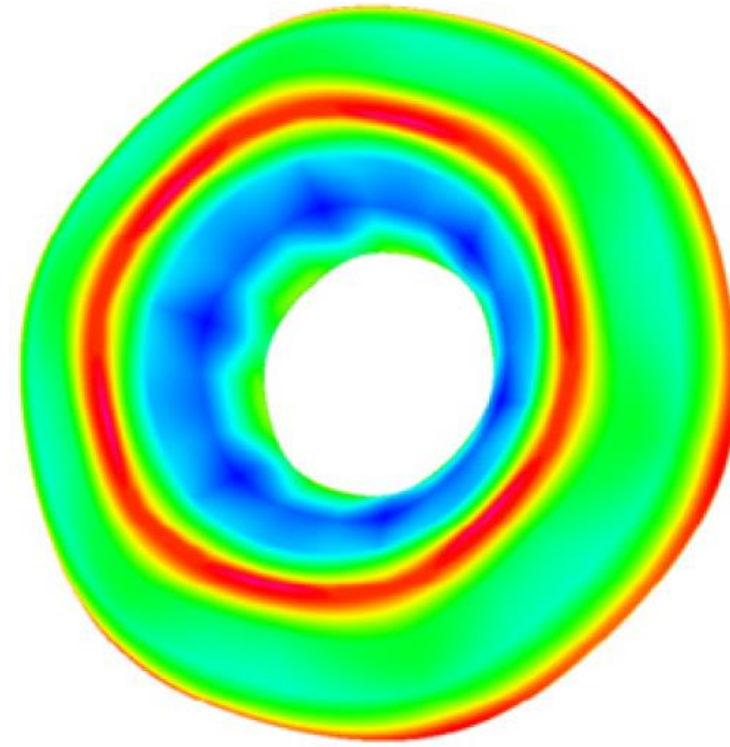
Spring 2021



# Curvature Measures



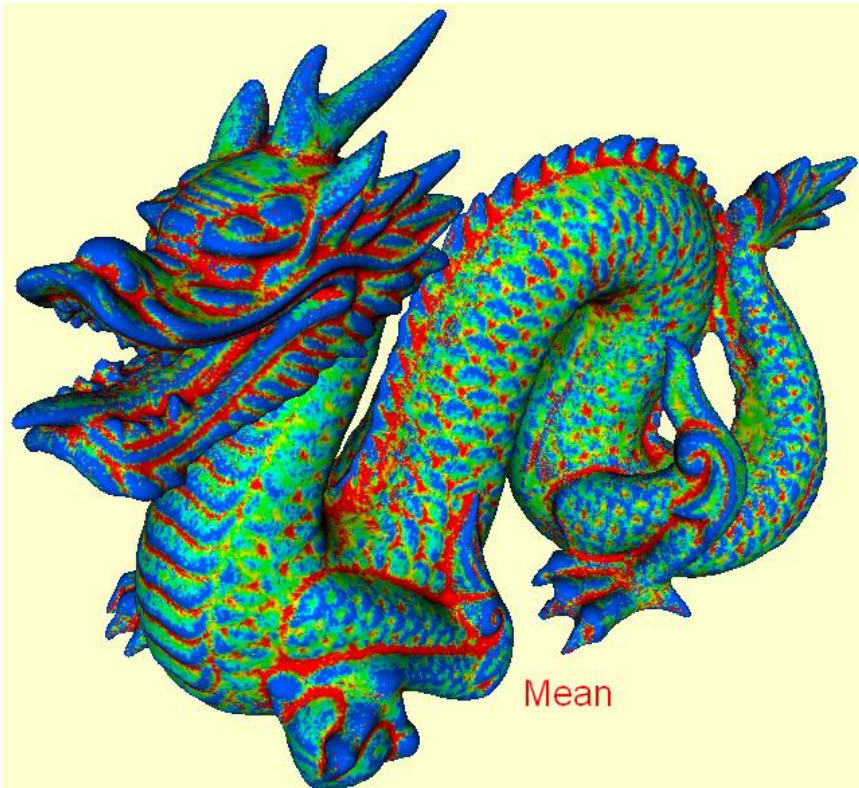
$$K := \kappa_{\min} \cdot \kappa_{\max} = \det \mathbb{I}$$



$$H := \frac{1}{2}(\kappa_{\min} + \kappa_{\max}) = \frac{1}{2}\text{tr } \mathbb{I}$$



# Use as a Descriptor



# Smoothing and Reconstruction

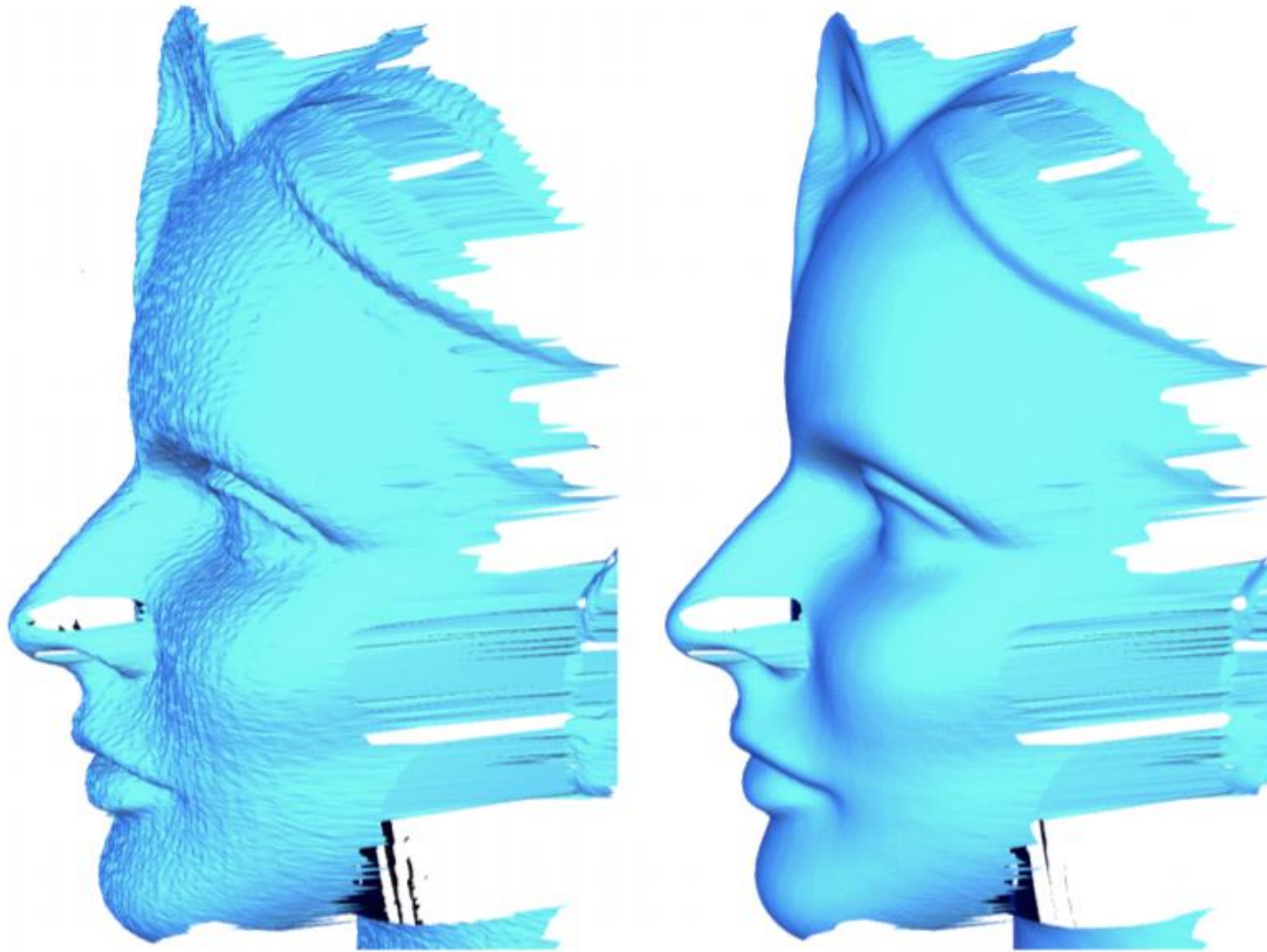


**Linear Surface Reconstruction from Discrete Fundamental Forms on Triangle Meshes**

Wang, Liu, and Tong

*Computer Graphics Forum* 31.8 (2012)

# Fairness Measure



Implicit Fairing of Irregular Meshes  
using Diffusion and Curvature Flow

Desbrun et al.  
SIGGRAPH 1999

*...and many more*



# Guiding Rendering

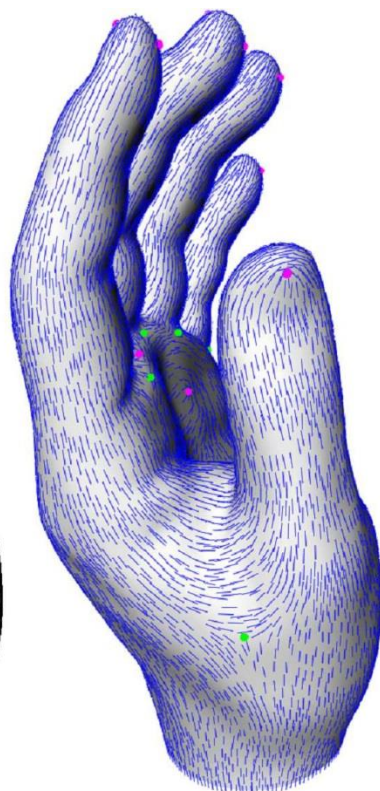


**Highlight Lines for Conveying Shape**  
DeCarlo, Rusinkiewicz  
*NPAR* (2007)

# Guiding Meshing



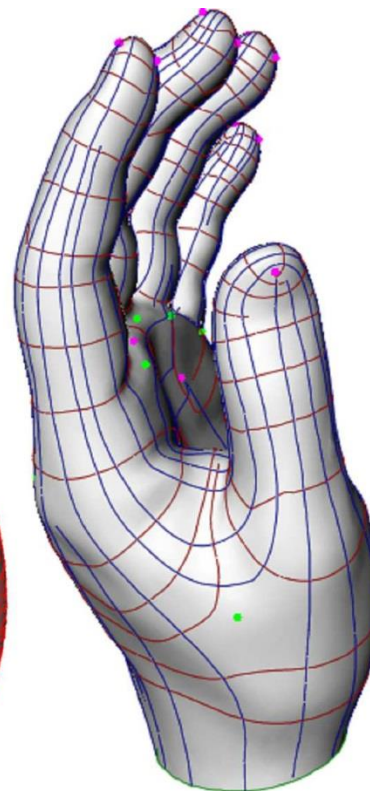
*input mesh*



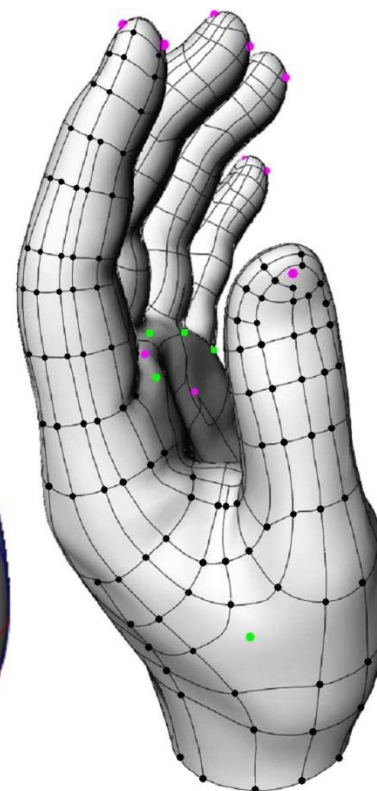
*direction fields*



*sampling*



*meshing*



**Anisotropic Polygonal Remeshing**

Alliez et al.

*SIGGRAPH* (2003)

# Special Topic for Me...

  
US 20090244082A1

(19) **United States**  
(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
Livingston et al.

(10) Pub. No.: **US 2009/0244082 A1**  
(43) Pub. Date: **Oct. 1, 2009**

(54) **METHODS AND SYSTEMS OF COMPARING FACE MODELS FOR RECOGNITION**

(76) Inventors: **Mark A. Livingston**, Alexandria, VA (US); **Justin Solomon**, Oakton, VA (US)

Correspondence Address:  
**NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL (PATENTS)  
CODE 1008.2, 4555 OVERLOOK AVENUE, S.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20375-5320 (US)**

(21) Appl. No.: **12/416,716**  
(22) Filed: **Apr. 1, 2009**

**Related U.S. Application Data**  
(60) Provisional application No. 61/041,305, filed on Apr. 1, 2008.

**Publication Classification**  
(51) Int. Cl. **G09G 5/00** (2006.01)  
**G06K 9/46** (2006.01)  
(52) U.S. Cl. **345/581; 382/203**  
(57) **ABSTRACT**  
Methods and systems of representation and manipulation of surfaces with perceptual geometric features, using a computer graphics rendering system, include executing algorithmic instructions to compute a plurality of vertices, edges and surfaces in a mesh for the purpose of defining representations of surfaces on grids. Normals and distances are determined for triangular surfaces to be considered. Additionally, height fields of a function are defined. A set of feature curves and a set of feature points are derived, based on the defined function. Infinitesimal movements along the representations of the surfaces are determined, along with derivations of properties of representations of continuous surfaces. Additional determinations of perceptual geometric features include determinations such as zero crossings, parabolic curves, flecnodes, ruffles, gutterpoints, conical points and biflcnodes in a given mesh. After these determinations are made, visual representation are rendered which captures perceptually important features for smoothly varying shapes.

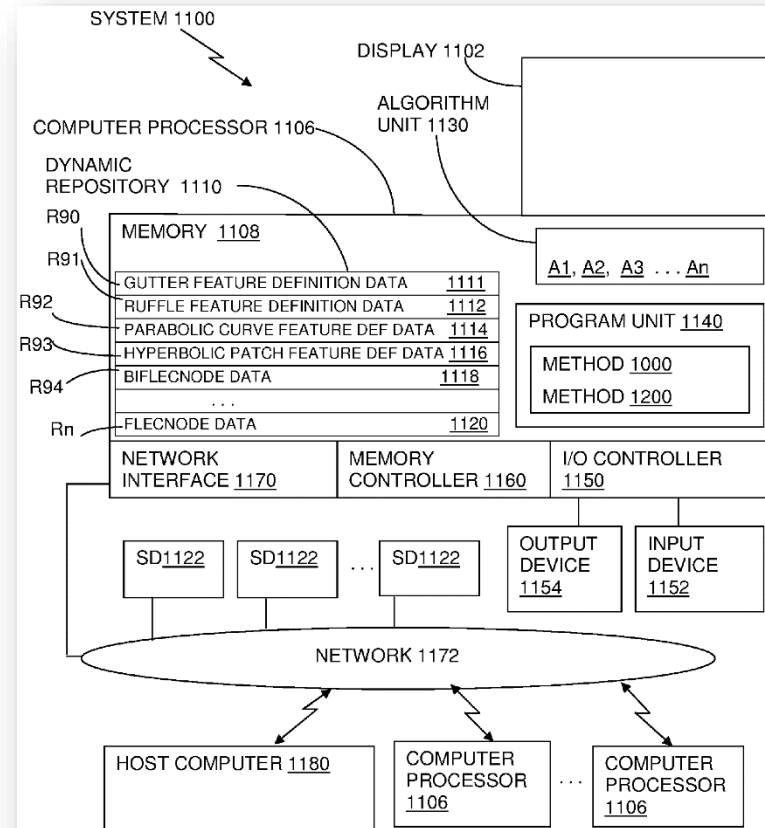
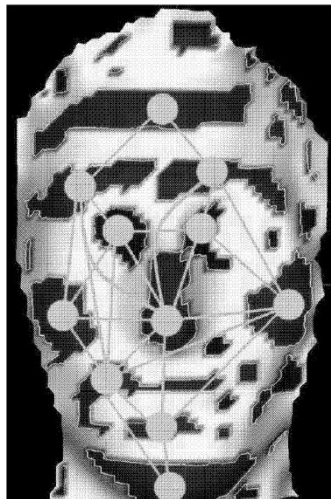
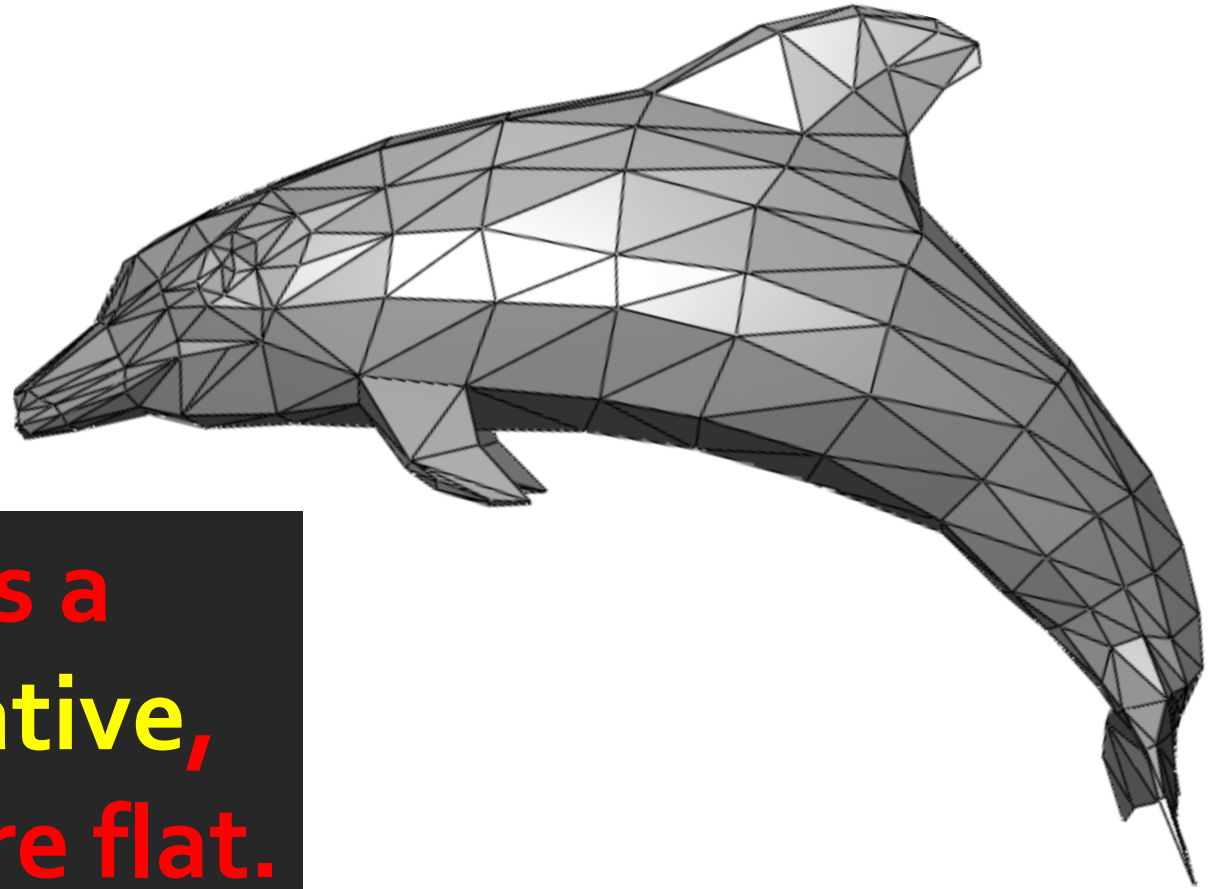


FIG. 11



# Challenge on Meshes



Curvature is a  
second derivative,  
but triangles are flat.

# Standard Citation

## ESTIMATING THE TENSOR OF CURVATURE OF A SURFACE FROM A POLYHEDRAL APPROXIMATION

*Gabriel Taubin*

*ICCV 1995*

IBM T.J.Watson Research Center  
P.O.Box 704, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598  
taubin@watson.ibm.com

### Abstract

Estimating principal curvatures and principal directions of a surface from a polyhedral approximation with a large number of small faces, such as those produced by iso-surface construction algorithms, has become a basic step in many computer vision algorithms. Particularly in those targeted at medical applications. In this paper we describe a method to estimate the tensor of curvature of a surface at the vertices of a polyhedral approximation. Principal curvatures and principal directions are obtained by computing in closed form the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of certain  $3 \times 3$  symmetric matrices defined by integral formulas, and

mate principal curvatures at the vertices of a triangulated surface. Both this algorithm and ours are based on constructing a quadratic form at each vertex of the polyhedral surface and then computing eigenvalues (and eigenvectors) of the resulting form, but the quadratic forms are different. In our algorithm the quadratic form associated with a vertex is expressed as an integral, and is constructed in time proportional to the number of neighboring vertices. In the algorithm of Chen and Schmitt, it is the least-squares solution of an overdetermined linear system, and the complexity of constructing it is quadratic in the number of neighbors.

2. The Tensor of Curvature



# Taubin Matrix

$$M_{\mathbf{p}} := \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \kappa_{\theta} \mathbf{t}_{\theta} \mathbf{t}_{\theta}^{\top} d\theta$$

$$\kappa_{\theta} := \kappa_{\min} \cos^2 \theta + \kappa_{\max} \sin^2 \theta$$

$$\mathbf{t}_{\theta} := \mathbf{t}_{\min} \cos \theta + \mathbf{t}_{\max} \sin \theta$$

# Taubin Matrix

$$M_{\mathbf{p}} := \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \kappa_{\theta} \mathbf{t}_{\theta} \mathbf{t}_{\theta}^{\top} d\theta$$

- Eigenvectors are  $\mathbf{n}$ ,  $\mathbf{t}_1$ , and  $\mathbf{t}_2$
- Eigenvalues are  $\frac{3}{8}\kappa_{min} + \frac{1}{8}\kappa_{max}$  and  $\frac{1}{8}\kappa_{min} + \frac{3}{8}\kappa_{max}$

*Prove at home!*

# Taubin's Approximation

$$M_{\mathbf{p}} := \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \kappa_{\theta} \mathbf{t}_{\theta} \mathbf{t}_{\theta}^{\top} d\theta$$

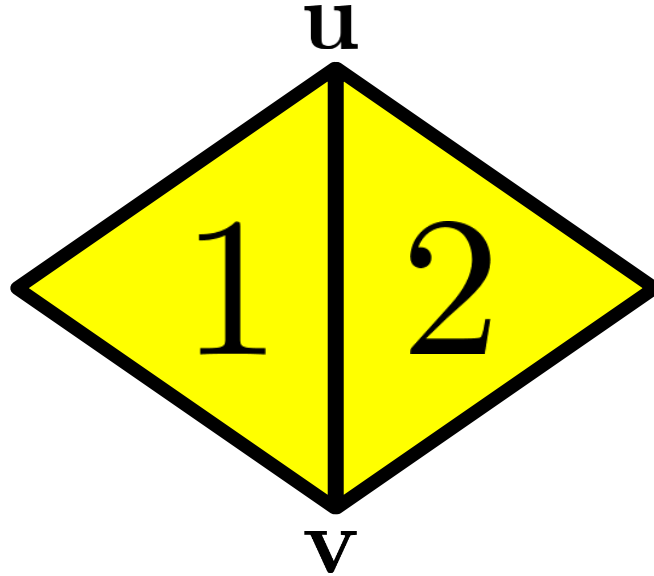


$$M_{\mathbf{v}} \approx \sum_{\mathbf{u} \sim \mathbf{v}} w_{\mathbf{vu}} \kappa_{\mathbf{vu}} \mathbf{t}_{\mathbf{vu}} \mathbf{t}_{\mathbf{vu}}^{\top}$$

$$\kappa_{\theta}(\mathbf{t})$$

# Taubin's Approximation

$$\mathbf{t}_{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{u}} := \frac{(I_{3 \times 3} - \mathbf{n}_{\mathbf{v}}\mathbf{n}_{\mathbf{v}}^{\top})(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})}{\|(I_{3 \times 3} - \mathbf{n}_{\mathbf{v}}\mathbf{n}_{\mathbf{v}}^{\top})(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})\|_2}$$
$$\kappa_{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{u}} := \frac{2\mathbf{n}_{\mathbf{v}}^{\top}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})}{\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|_2^2}$$

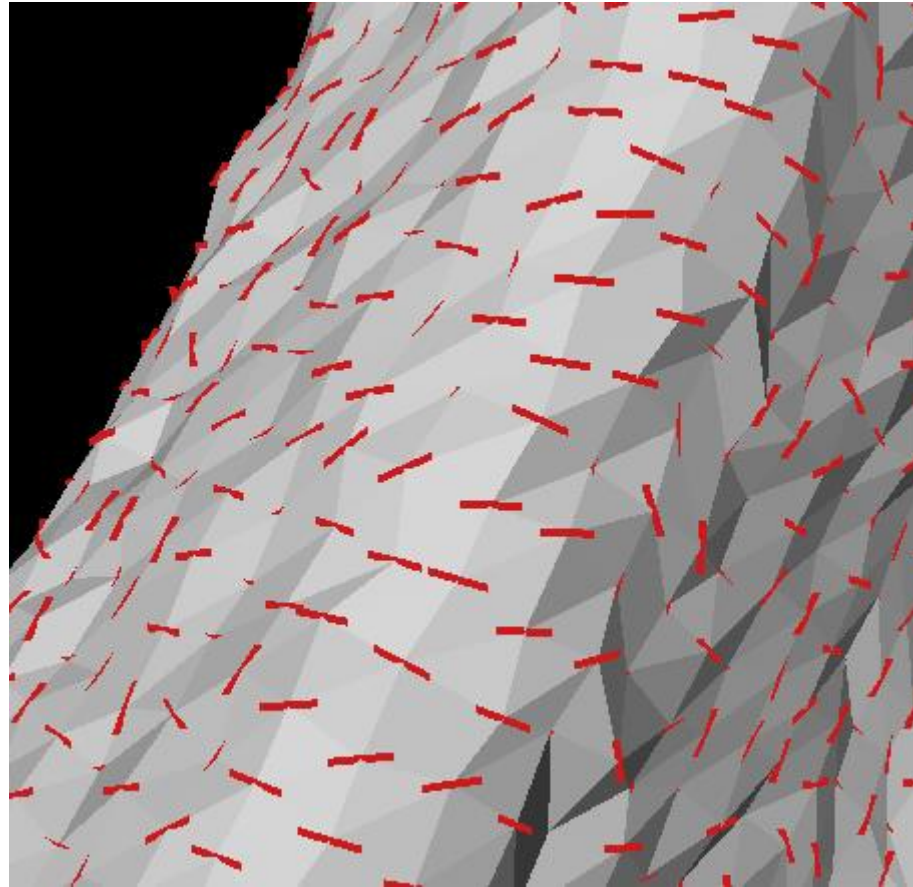


Divided difference approximation

$$M_{\mathbf{v}} \approx \sum_{\mathbf{u} \sim \mathbf{v}} w_{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{u}} \kappa_{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{t}_{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{t}_{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{u}}^{\top}$$

Area-based weighting

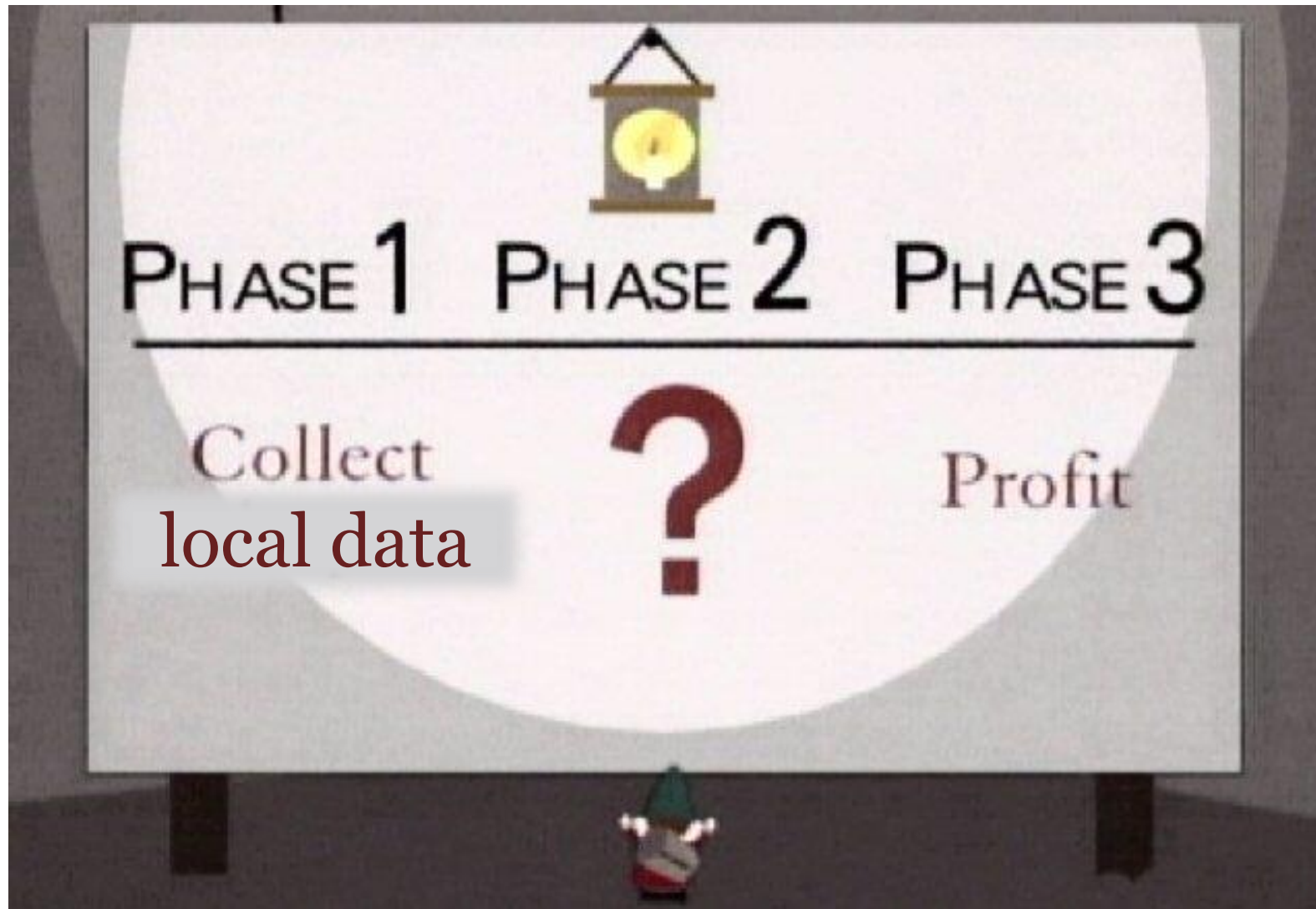
# Problem



<http://iristown.engr.utk.edu/~koschan/paper/CVPR01.pdf>

**Local estimates are noisy**

# General Strategy



 **WARNING**



**ENGINEERING  
DISGUISED AS  
MATH**



# Main Take-Away

**Use application to motivate  
choice of curvature.**

Simulation, smoothing, analysis, meshing,  
nonphotorealistic rendering, ...

# Another Example

## Estimating Curvatures and Their Derivatives on Triangle Meshes

Szymon Rusinkiewicz  
Princeton University

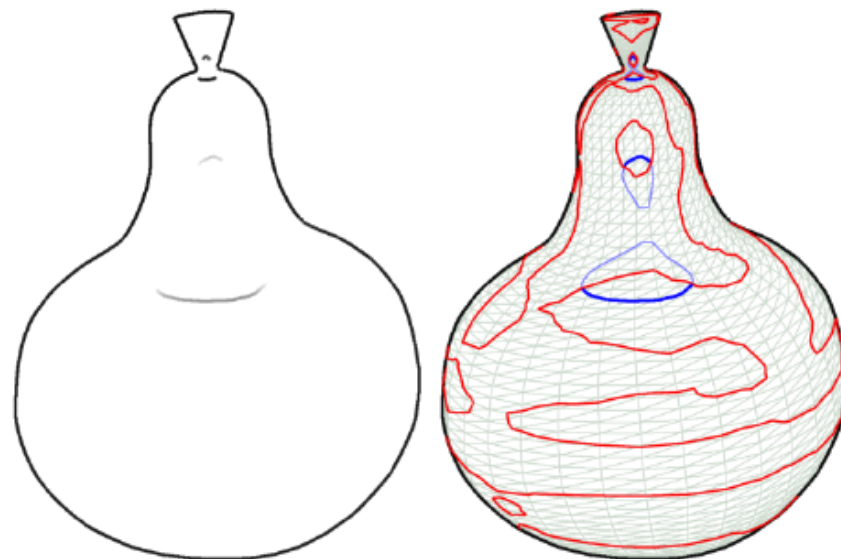
3DPVT '04

### Abstract

*The computation of curvature and other differential properties of surfaces is essential for many techniques in analysis and rendering. We present a finite-differences approach for estimating curvatures on irregular triangle meshes that may be thought of as an extension of a common method for estimating per-vertex normals. The technique is efficient in space and time, and results in significantly fewer outlier estimates while more broadly offering accuracy comparable to existing methods. It generalizes naturally to computing derivatives of curvature and higher-order surface differentials.*

### 1 Introduction

As the acquisition and use of sampled 3D geometry become more widespread, 3D models are increasingly becoming the focus of analysis and signal processing techniques previously applied to data types such as audio, images, and video. A key component of algorithms such as feature detection, filtering, and indexing, when applied to both geometry and other data



*Figure 1: Left: suggestive contours for line drawings [DeCarlo et al. 2003] are a recent example of a driving application for the estimation of curvatures and derivatives of curvature. Right: suggestive contours are drawn along the zeros of curvature in the view direction, shown here in blue, but only where the derivative of curvature in the view direction is positive (the curvature derivative is negative elsewhere). This is a recent example of a driving application for the estimation of curvatures and derivatives of curvature.*

# Second Fundamental Form Matrix

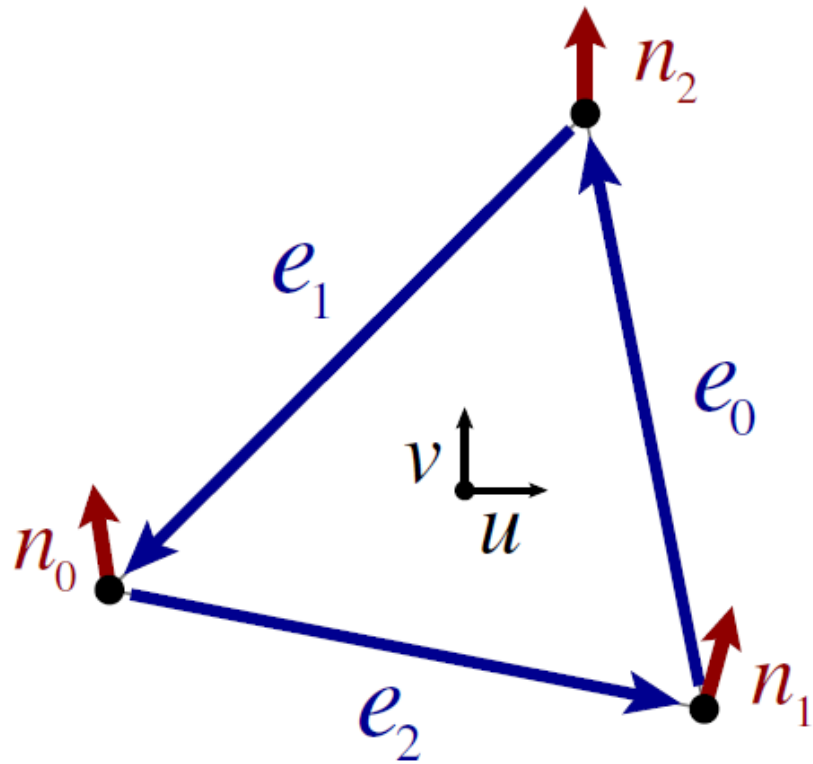
$$\mathbb{I}_p = \begin{pmatrix} d\mathbf{n}_p(\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{u} & d\mathbf{n}_p(\mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{u} \\ d\mathbf{n}_p(\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{v} & d\mathbf{n}_p(\mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{v} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{w} = c^1 \mathbf{u} + c^2 \mathbf{v}$$

$$\implies \mathbb{I}_p \cdot \begin{pmatrix} c^1 \\ c^2 \end{pmatrix} = d\mathbf{n}_p(\mathbf{w})$$

Assume  $u, v$  are orthogonal

# Finite Difference Per-Face



$$\text{II} \begin{pmatrix} e_0 \cdot u \\ e_0 \cdot v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (n_2 - n_1) \cdot u \\ (n_2 - n_1) \cdot v \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{II} \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \cdot u \\ e_1 \cdot v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (n_0 - n_2) \cdot u \\ (n_0 - n_2) \cdot v \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{II} \begin{pmatrix} e_2 \cdot u \\ e_2 \cdot v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (n_1 - n_0) \cdot u \\ (n_1 - n_0) \cdot v \end{pmatrix}$$

Figure from the paper

## Per-triangle II

# Average for Per-Vertex

- **Rotate** tangent plane about cross product of normals
- **Average** using Voronoi weights

# Completely Different Formula

## Consistent Computation of First- and Second-Order Differential Quantities for Surface Meshes

Xiangmin Jiao\*

Dept. of Applied Mathematics & Statistics  
Stony Brook University

Hongyuan Zha†

College of Computing  
Georgia Institute of Technology

### Abstract

Differential quantities, including normals, curvatures, principal directions, and associated matrices, play a fundamental role in geo-

metric analysis. However, existing methods often require *ad hoc* fixes to avoid crashing of the code, and their effects on the accuracy of the applications are difficult to analyze.

The ultimate goal of this work is to investigate a mathematically sound framework that can compute the differential quantities

**Theorem 3** *The mean and Gaussian curvature of the height function  $f(\mathbf{u}) : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are*

$$\kappa_H = \frac{\text{tr}(\mathbf{H})}{2\ell} - \frac{(\nabla f)^T \mathbf{H} (\nabla f)}{2\ell^3}, \text{ and } \kappa_G = \frac{\det(\mathbf{H})}{\ell^4}. \quad (16)$$

metric analysis. We then investigate a general, flexible numerical framework to estimate the derivatives of the height function based on local polynomial fittings formulated as weighted least squares approximations. We also propose an iterative fitting

give the explicit formulas for the transformations of the gradient and Hessian under a rotation of the coordinate system. These transformations can be obtained without forming the shape operator and the associated computation of its eigenvalues or eigenvectors. We

# Conserved Quantity Approach

## Discrete Differential-Geometry Operators for Triangulated 2-Manifolds

Mark Meyer<sup>1</sup>, Mathieu Desbrun<sup>1,2</sup>, Peter Schröder<sup>1</sup>, and Alan H. Barr<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Caltech

<sup>2</sup> USC

*Visualization and Math. III*

**Summary.** This paper proposes a unified and consistent set of flexible tools to approximate important geometric attributes, including normal vectors and curvatures on arbitrary triangle meshes. We present a consistent derivation of these first and second order differential properties using *averaging Voronoi cells* and the mixed Finite-Element/Finite-Volume method, and compare them to existing formulations. Building upon previous work in discrete geometry, these operators are closely related to the continuous case, guaranteeing an appropriate extension from the continuous to the discrete setting: they respect most intrinsic properties of the continuous differential operators. We show that these estimates are optimal in accuracy under mild smoothness conditions, and demonstrate their numerical quality. We also present applications of these operators, such as mesh smoothing, enhancement, and quality checking, and show results of denoising in higher dimensions, such as for tensor images.

*Recall:*

# Structure preservation

[struhk-cher pre-zur-vey-shuhn]:

Keeping properties from the  
continuous abstraction exactly  
true in a discretization.





# Gauss-Bonnet Theorem

$$\int_M K \, dA + \int_{\partial M} k_g \, ds = 2\pi \chi(\mathcal{M})$$

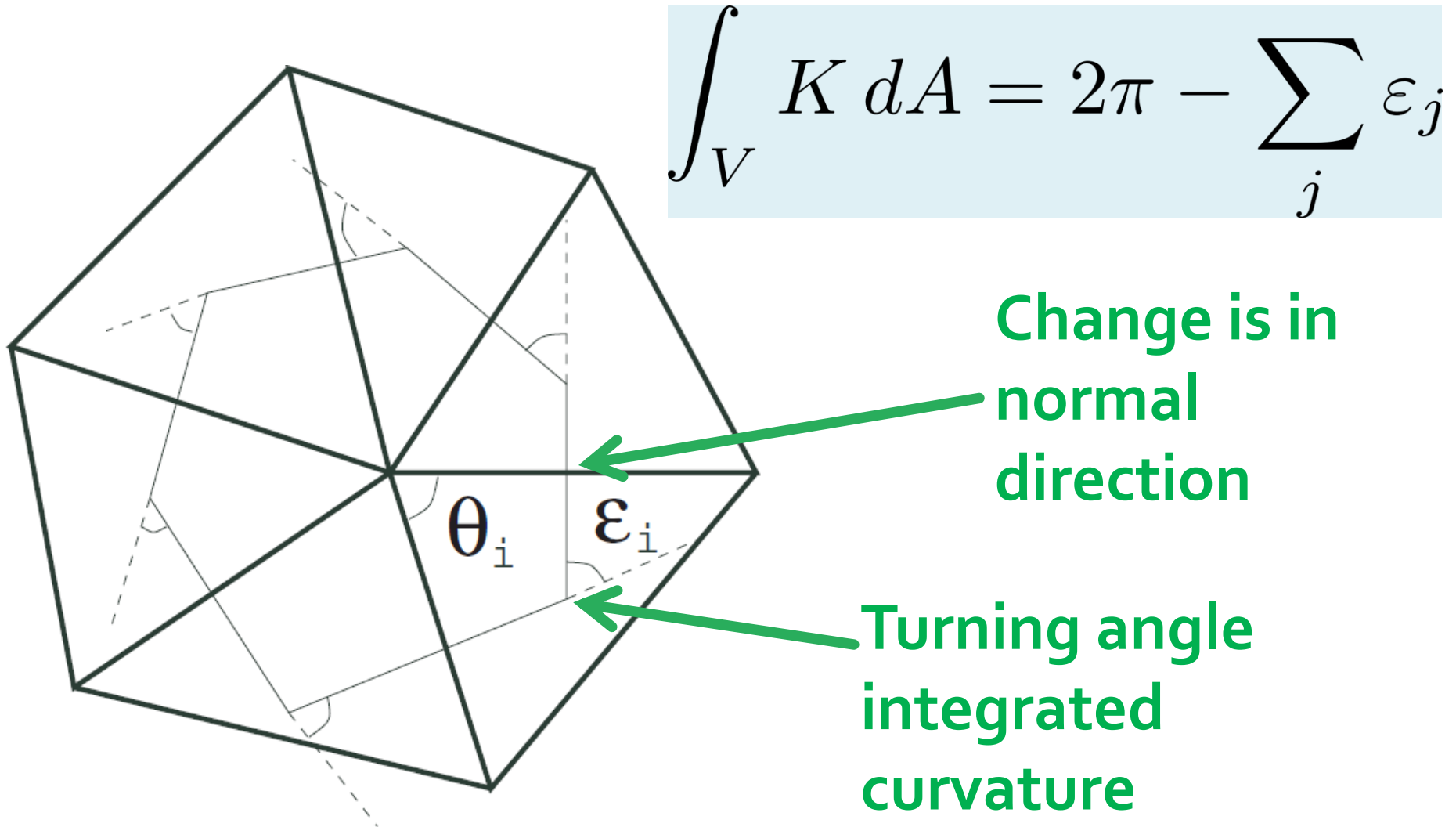
Gaussian  
curvature

Geodesic curvature  
(curvature projected  
on tangent plane)

2-2g-n

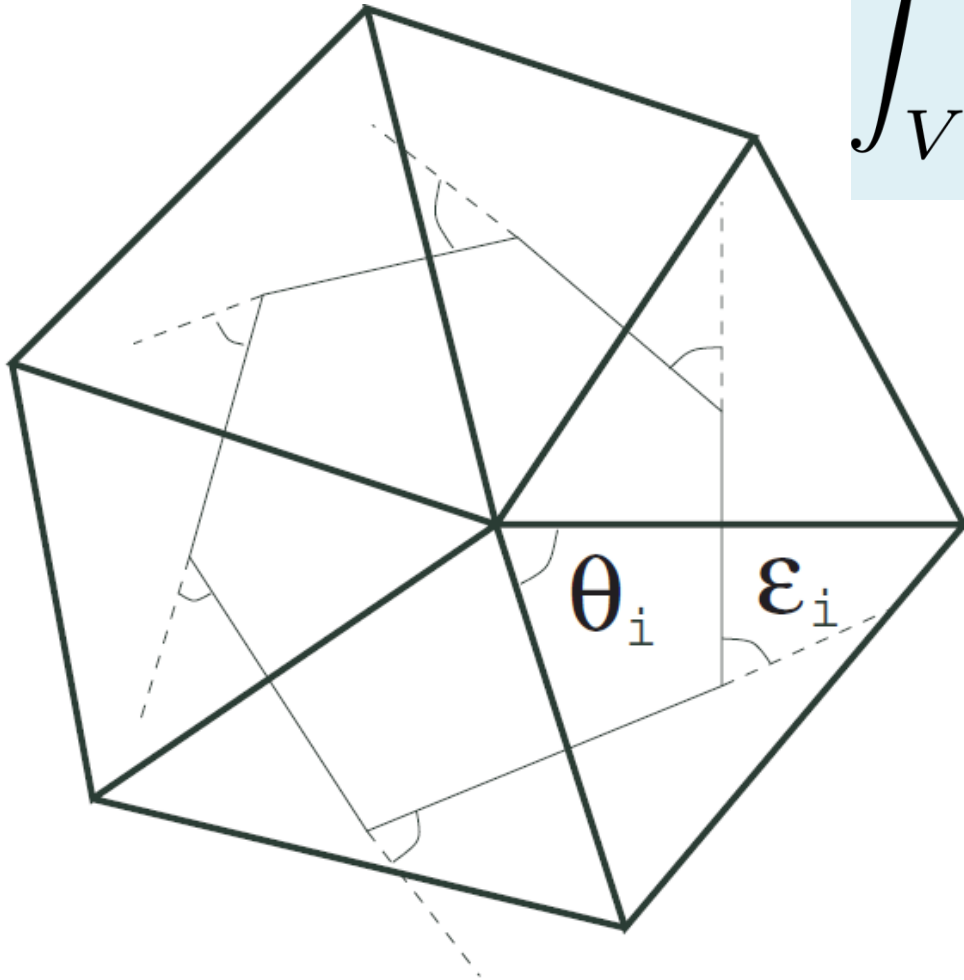
`\omit{proof}`

# For Polygonal Voronoi Cells



# Simplification

$$\int_V K dA = 2\pi - \sum_j \theta_j$$



# Flip Things Backward

## DEFINITION:

Gaussian curvature integrated over Voronoi region  $V$  is given by

$$\int_V K \, dA = 2\pi - \sum_j \theta_j$$

Divide by area for curvature estimate

*Recall:*

# Euler Characteristic

$$V - E + F := \chi$$

$$\chi = 2 - 2g$$



$$g = 0$$



$$g = 1$$



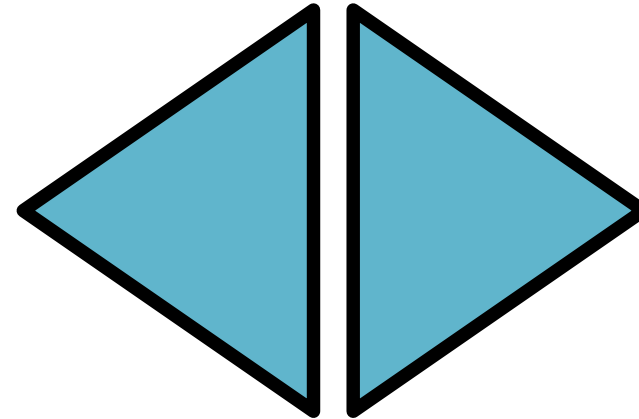
$$g = 2$$

*Recall:*

# Consequences for Triangle Meshes

$$V - E + F := \chi$$

“Each edge is adjacent to two faces. Each face has three edges.”



$$2E = 3F$$

**Closed mesh: Easy estimates!**

# Discrete Gauss-Bonnet

$$\int_M K \, dA = \sum_i \int_{V_i} K \, dA$$

**Partition the surface**

# Discrete Gauss-Bonnet

$$\begin{aligned}\int_M K \, dA &= \sum_i \int_{V_i} K \, dA \\ &= \sum_i \left( 2\pi - \sum_j \theta_{ij} \right)\end{aligned}$$

**Apply our definition**



# Discrete Gauss-Bonnet

$$\begin{aligned}\int_M K \, dA &= \sum_i \int_{V_i} K \, dA \\ &= \sum_i \left( 2\pi - \sum_j \theta_{ij} \right) \\ &= 2\pi V - \sum_{ij} \theta_{ij}\end{aligned}$$

**Pull out constants**

# Discrete Gauss-Bonnet

$$\begin{aligned}\int_M K \, dA &= \sum_i \int_{V_i} K \, dA \\ &= \sum_i \left( 2\pi - \sum_j \theta_{ij} \right) \\ &= 2\pi V - \sum_{ij} \theta_{ij} \\ &= 2\pi V - \pi F\end{aligned}$$

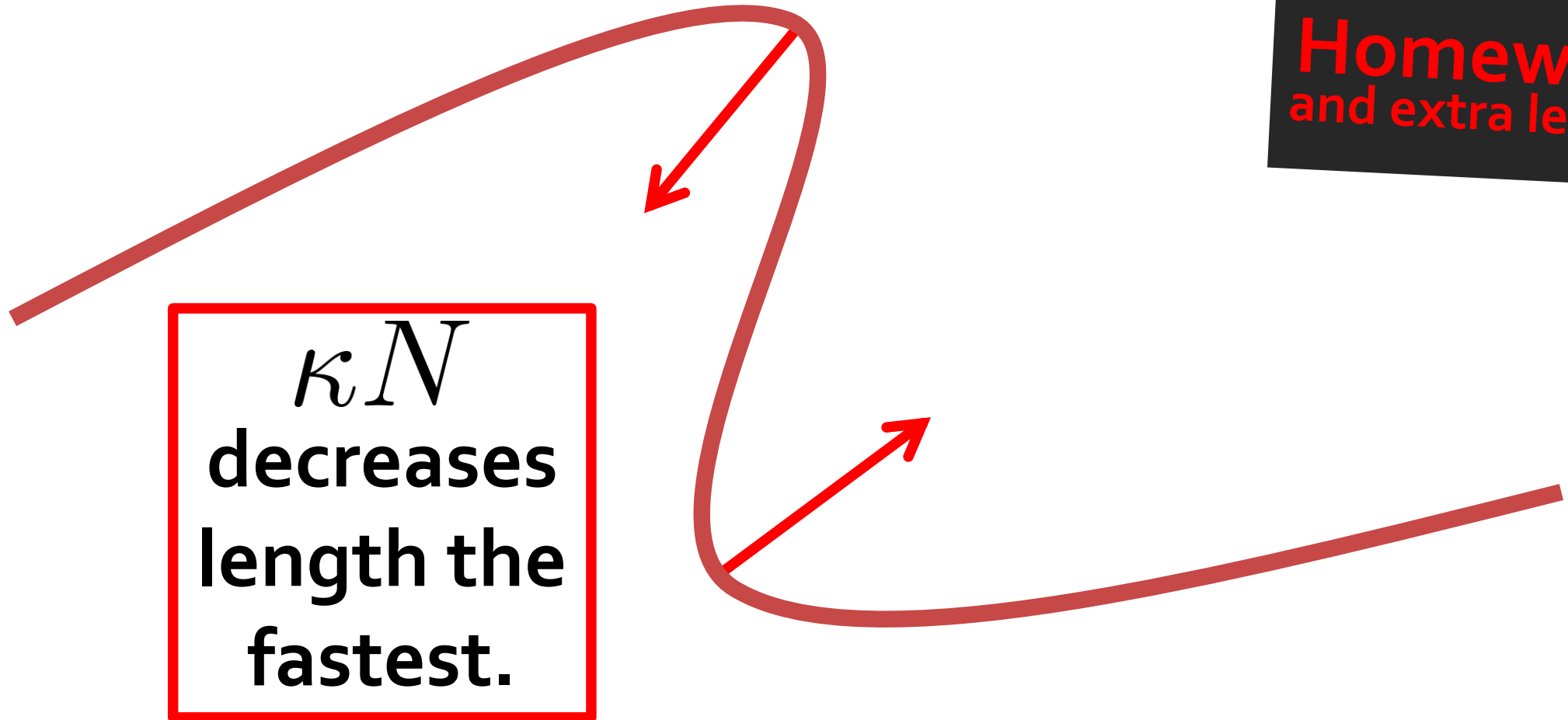
**Consider sum over triangles**

# Discrete Gauss-Bonnet

$$\begin{aligned}\int_M K \, dA &= \sum_i \int_{V_i} K \, dA \\ &= \sum_i \left( 2\pi - \sum_j \theta_{ij} \right) \\ &= 2\pi V - \sum_{ij} \theta_{ij} \\ &= 2\pi V - \pi F \\ &= \pi(2V - F) \\ &= 2\pi\chi \quad \text{<qed/>}\end{aligned}$$

By definition

*Recall:*  
**Alternative Definition**



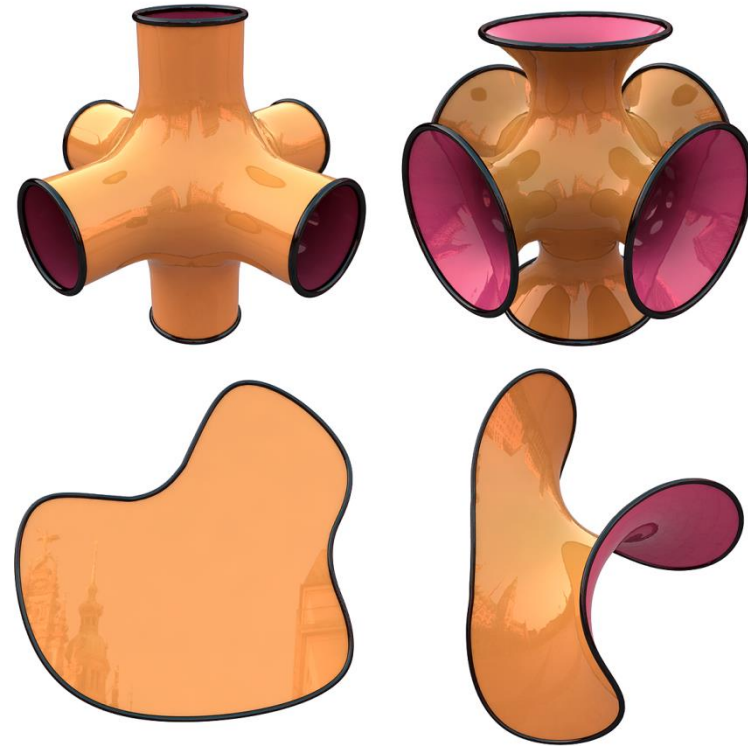
# Mean Curvature Normal

*Derived in extra lecture video.*

$$E(\mathcal{M}) = \text{Area}(\mathcal{M})$$

$$“\nabla E(\mathbf{p})” = H\mathbf{n}$$

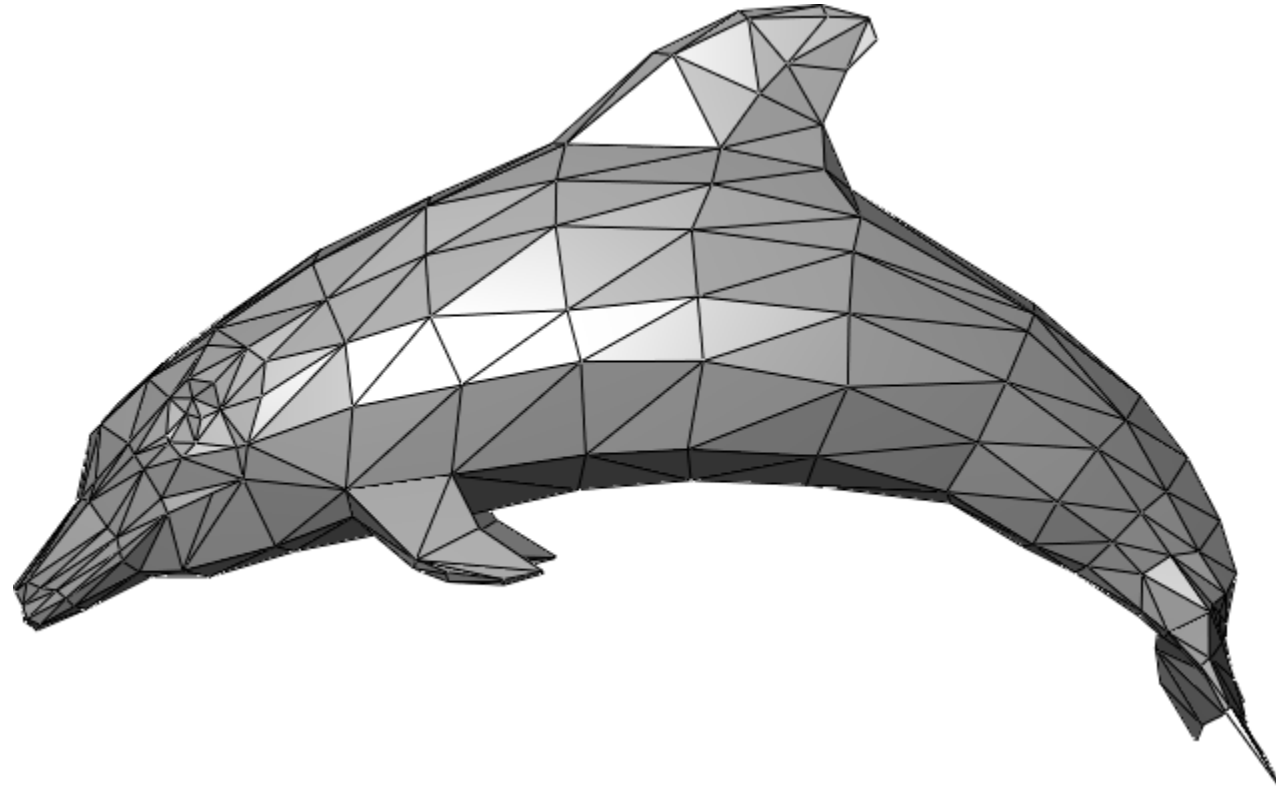
“Variational derivative”



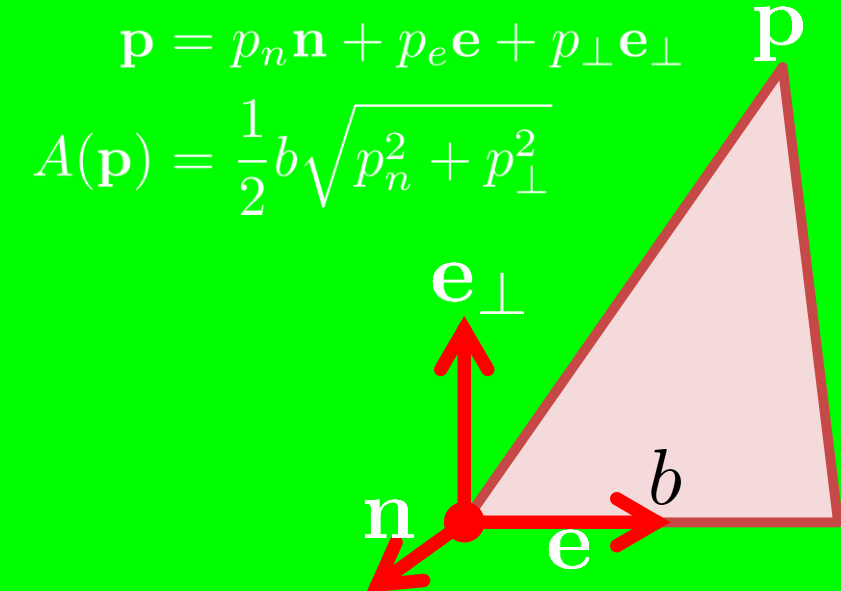
$$\nabla E(\mathbf{p}) \equiv \mathbf{0} \quad \forall p \in \text{int } \mathcal{M}$$

Minimal surfaces

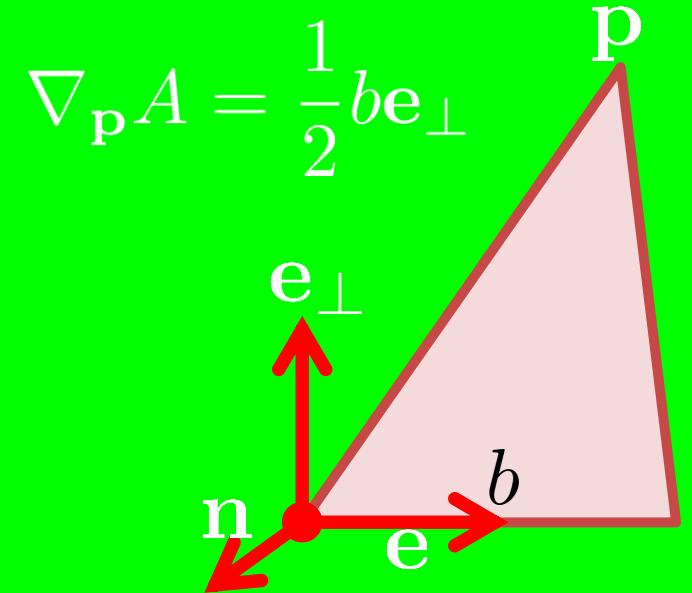
# Area Functional for Meshes



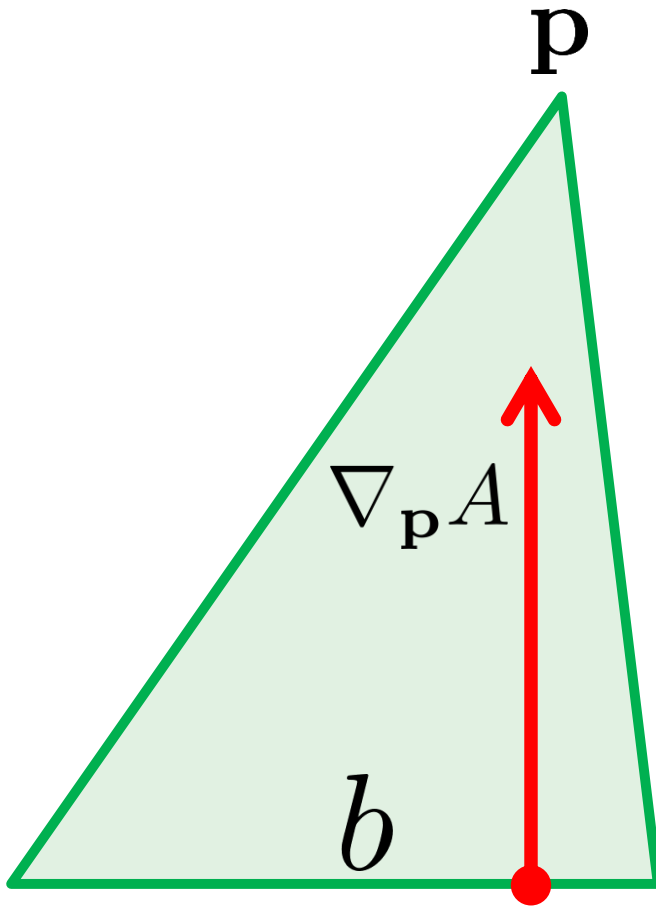
$$\text{Area} : \mathbb{R}^{3V} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$







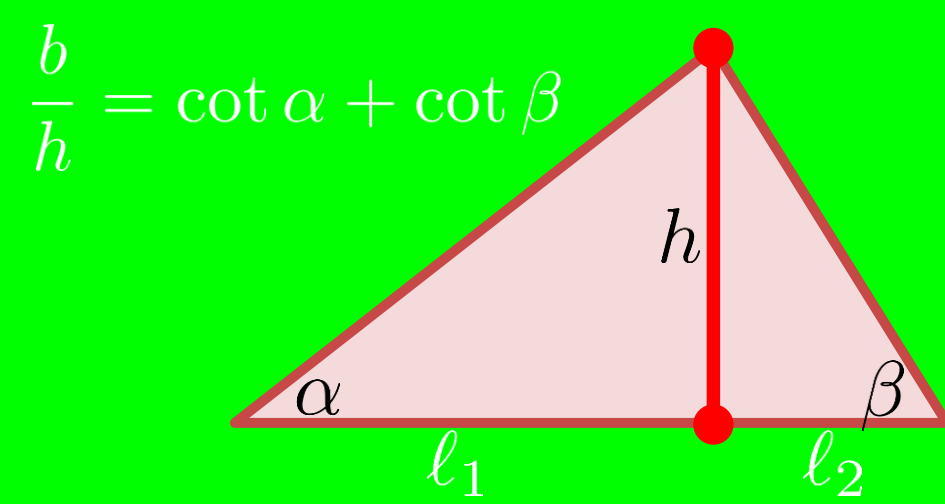
# Single Triangle: Complete

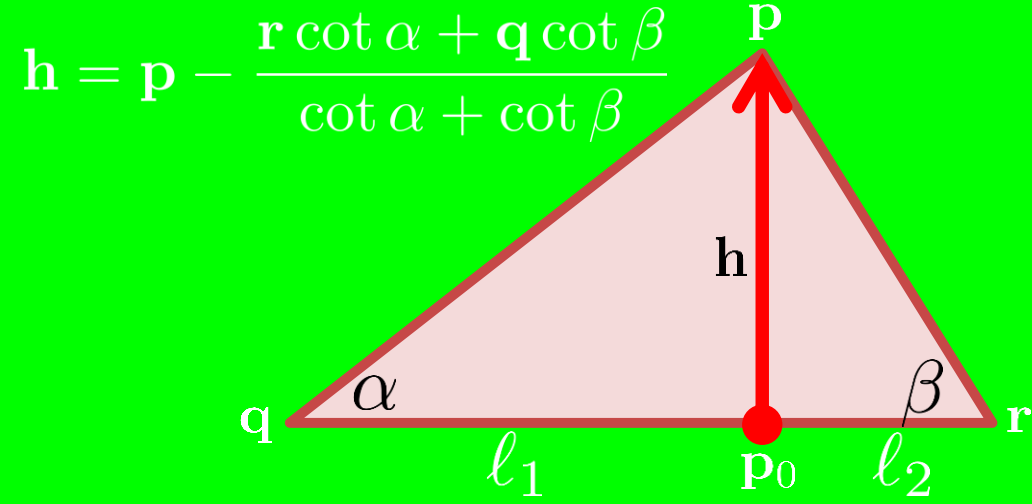


$$\mathbf{p} = p_n \mathbf{n} + p_e \mathbf{e} + p_{\perp} \mathbf{e}_{\perp}$$

$$A(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{2} b \sqrt{p_n^2 + p_{\perp}^2}$$

$$\nabla_p A = \frac{1}{2} b \mathbf{e}_{\perp}$$





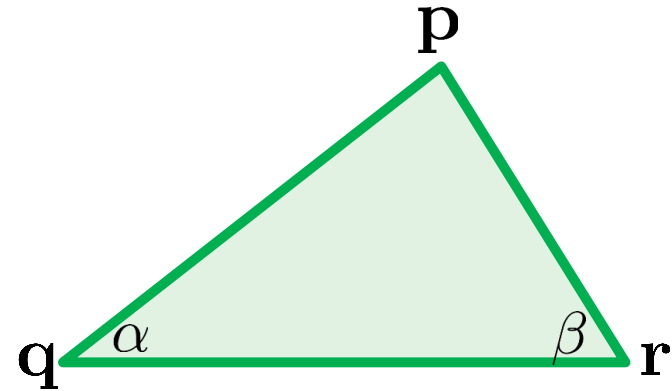
# Alternative Gradient Formula

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{p}} A = \frac{1}{2} b \mathbf{e}_{\perp}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{b}{\|\mathbf{h}\|_2} \mathbf{h}$$

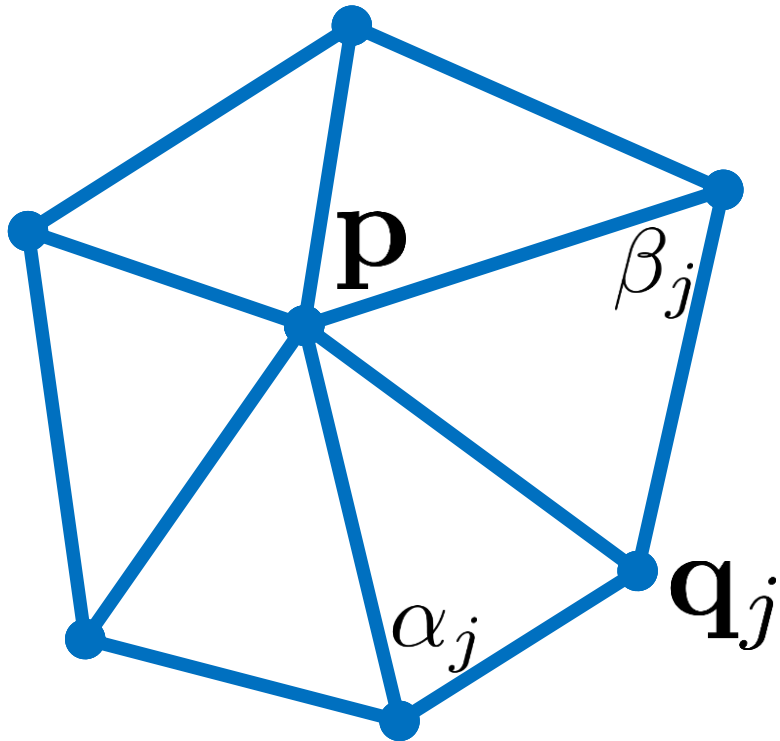
$$= \frac{1}{2} (\cot \alpha + \cot \beta) \left[ \mathbf{p} - \frac{\mathbf{r} \cot \alpha + \mathbf{q} \cot \beta}{\cot \alpha + \cot \beta} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} ((\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{r}) \cot \alpha + (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) \cot \beta)$$



# Summing Around a Vertex

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{p}} A = \frac{1}{2} \sum_j (\cot \alpha_j + \cot \beta_j) (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}_j)$$



$$\nabla_{\mathbf{p}} A = \frac{1}{2} ((\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{r}) \cot \alpha + (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) \cot \beta)$$

**Vanishes as you  
refine the mesh**

# Integrated Mean Curvature Normal

## DEFINITION:

The discrete mean curvature normal integrated over region  $V$  is given by

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{p}} A = \frac{1}{2} \sum_j (\cot \alpha_j + \cot \beta_j) (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}_j)$$

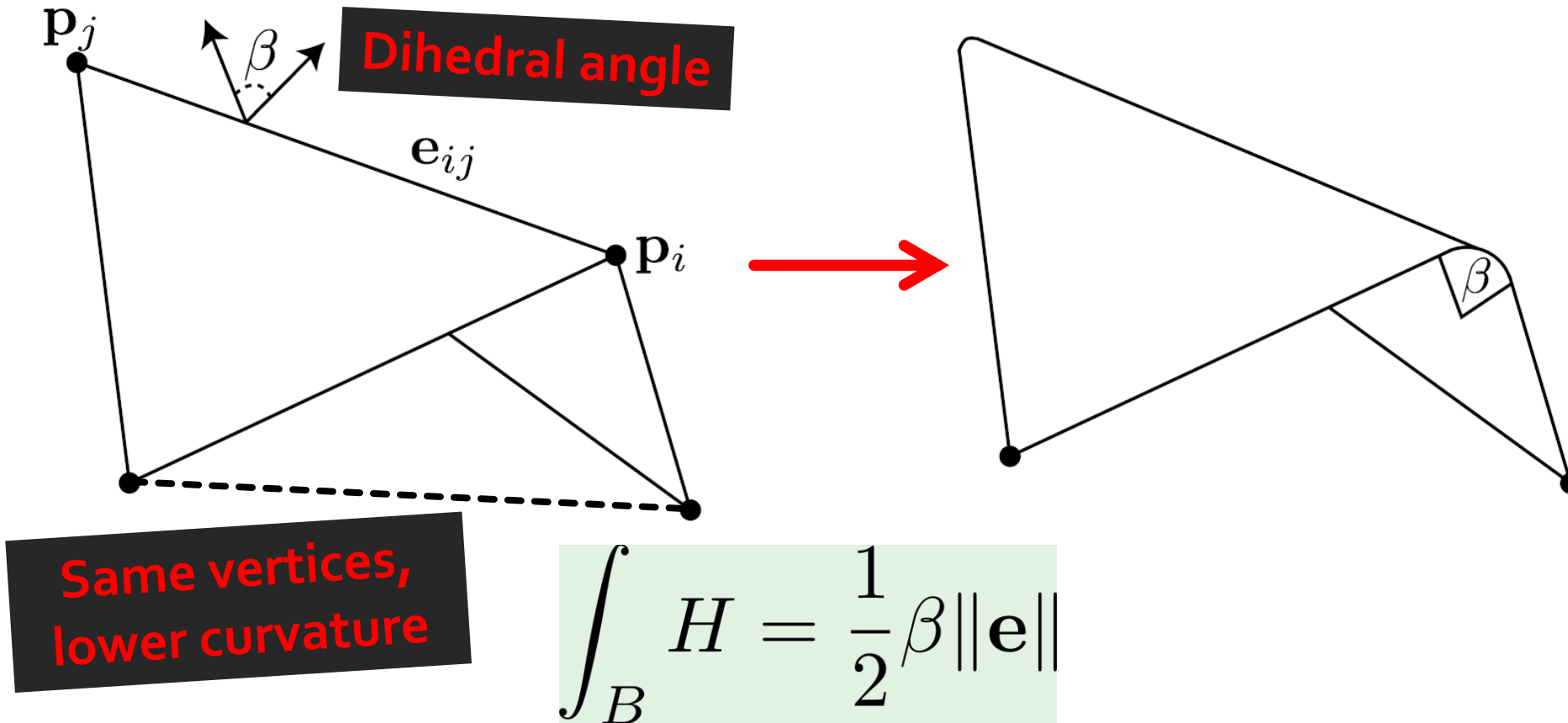
Divide by area for curvature estimate

# Pipeline

- Compute integrated  $H, K$
- Divide by **area of cell** for estimated value



# Another Mean Curvature



J.A. Bærentzen et al., *Guide to Computational Geometry Processing* (2012)

Used for triangulation applications

# Tuned for Variational Applications

## Computing discrete shape operators on general meshes

Eitan Grinspun  
Columbia University  
eitan@cs.columbia.edu

Yotam Gingold  
New York University  
gingold@mrl.nyu.edu

Jason Reisman  
New York University  
jasonr@mrl.nyu.edu

Denis Zorin  
New York University  
dzorin@mrl.nyu.edu

### Abstract

*Discrete curvature and shape operators, which are essential in a variety of applications: simulation, geometric data processing. In many of these applications, existing approaches for formulating curvature operators are expensive methods used in engineering applications and computer graphics.*

*We propose a simple and efficient formulation for discrete curvature operators that captures the essential degrees of freedom associated with normals. Our formulation is simple and efficient, and produces consistent results for different types*

Cotan



Theirs



# Tuned for Robustness

Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (2007)  
Alexander Belyaev, Michael Garland (Editors)

## Robust statistical estimation of curvature on discretized surfaces

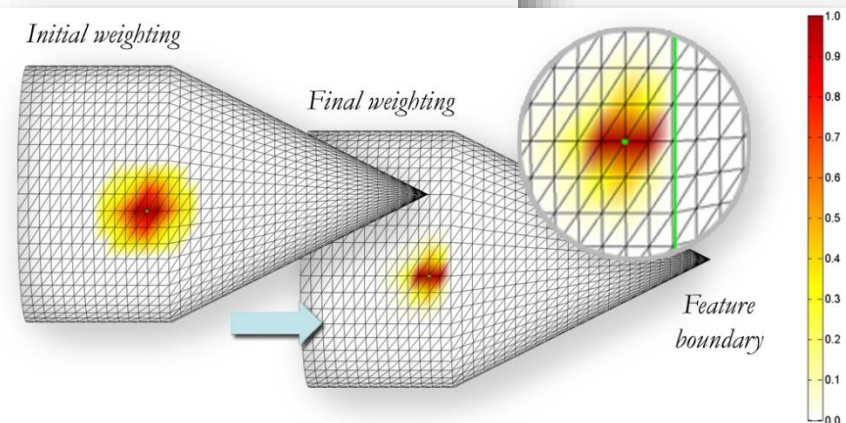
Evangelos Kalogerakis, Patricio Simari, Derek Nowrouzezahrai and Karan Singh

Dynamic Graphics Project, Computer Science Department, University of Toronto

### Abstract

A robust statistics approach to curvature estimation on discretely sampled point clouds, is presented. The method exhibits accuracy, stability and robustness to noise and structured outliers by sampling normal variations in an adaptive manner. The algorithm can be used to reliably derive higher order differential quantities such as surface normals while preserving the fine features of the normal and curvature. The method is compared with state-of-the-art curvature estimation methods and shown to improve accuracy across ground truth test surfaces under varying tessellation densities and noise. Finally, the benefits of a robust statistical estimation of curvature are demonstrated in applications of mesh segmentation and suggestive contour rendering.

Categories and Subject Descriptors (according to ACM CCS): I.3.5 [Computational Geometry and Object Modeling]: Geometric algorithms, languages, and systems; curve, surface, solid, and object representations.



# Alternative Strategies

- **Locally fit** a smooth surface  
What type of surface? How to fit?
- **Different formula**  
Function of curvature? Where on mesh?  
Convergence of approximation?
- **Learn** curvature computation  
Tune for application? Training data?

# Practical Advice

**Try as many as you can.**

**Most are easy to implement!**

# Discrete Surface Curvature

Justin Solomon

6.838: Shape Analysis

Spring 2021

