

Adapted http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~henderson/courses/M4540-S12/11-DG-front+Ch1.pdf

Dr. Sarah Math 4140/5530: Differential Geometry

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Adapted http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~henderson/courses/M4540-S12/11-DG-front+Ch1.pdf Don't feel any curvature in the tangent plane  $T_p$ Surface – only normal to the surface (toy car)



Adapted http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~henderson/courses/M4540-S12/11-DG-front+Ch1.pdf Don't feel any curvature in the tangent plane  $T_p$ Surface – only normal to the surface (toy car)  $\mathbf{v} = |\alpha'(t)| = |\vec{\mathbf{v}}|, \quad T(t) = \frac{\alpha'(t)}{|\alpha'(t)|} = \frac{\alpha'(t)}{\mathbf{v}(t)}$  so  $\alpha'(t) = \mathbf{v}(t)T(t)$  $\alpha''(t)$ 



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Don't feel any curvature in the tangent plane  $T_{\rho}$ Surface – only normal to the surface (toy car)

 $\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v} &= |\alpha'(t)| = |\vec{\mathbf{v}}|, \quad T(t) = \frac{\alpha'(t)}{|\alpha'(t)|} = \frac{\alpha'(t)}{\mathbf{v}(t)} \text{ so } \alpha'(t) = \mathbf{v}(t)T(t) \\ \alpha''(t) &= \mathbf{v}'(t)T(t) + \mathbf{v}(t)T'(t) \end{aligned}$ 

v'(t): linear or tangential acceleration (tangential component of acceleration vector)

For a geodesic, since we don't feel any curvature in the tangent plane—only normal to the surface—



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For a geodesic, since we don't feel any curvature in the tangent plane—only normal to the surface—v'(t)=0 so v is constant.



 $\mathbf{x}(0,z) = \mathbf{y}(w,z)$ 

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Adapted http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~henderson/courses/M4540-S12/11-DG-front+Chl.pdf x(u, v) = (cos(u), sin(u), v) Normal U to the surface?  $\vec{x}_u = (-sin(u), cos(u), 0), \vec{x}_v = (0, 0, 1).$   $U = \frac{\vec{x}_u \times \vec{x}_v}{|\vec{x}_u \times \vec{x}_v|} = (cos(u), sin(u), 0)$ **Ex 1**:  $\alpha(t) = (cos(t), sin(t), sin(t)).$ 

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x(8,c) = y(w,c)

Adapted http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~henderson/courses/M4540-S12/11-DG-front+Chl.pdf x(u, v) = (cos(u), sin(u), v) Normal *U* to the surface?  $\vec{x}_u = (-sin(u), cos(u), 0), \vec{x}_v = (0, 0, 1).$   $U = \frac{\vec{x}_u \times \vec{x}_v}{|\vec{x}_u \times \vec{x}_v|} = (cos(u), sin(u), 0)$  **Ex 1**:  $\alpha(t) = (cos(t), sin(t), sin(t))$ . Then  $\alpha'(t) = (-sin(t), cos(t), cos(t))$  and the speed is  $\sqrt{1 + cos^2(t)}$ , which is not constant, so  $\alpha$  can't possibly be a geodesic. Notice that  $T(t) = (\frac{-sin(t)}{\sqrt{1 + cos^2t}}, \frac{cos(t)}{\sqrt{1 + cos^2(t)}}, \frac{cos(t)}{\sqrt{1 + cos^2(t)}})$ 

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Adapted http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~henderson. ourses/M4540-S12/11-DG-front+Ch1.pdf Normal U to the surface? x(u, v) = (cos(u), sin(u), v) $\vec{x}_{u} = (-\sin(u), \cos(u), 0), \vec{x}_{v} = (0, 0, 1).$  $\boldsymbol{U} = \frac{\vec{x}_{u} \times \vec{x}_{v}}{|\vec{x}_{v} \times \vec{x}_{v}|} = (\cos(u), \sin(u), 0)$ **Ex 1**:  $\alpha(t) = (\cos(t), \sin(t), \sin(t))$ . Then  $\alpha'(t) = (-\sin(t), \cos(t), \cos(t))$  and the speed is  $\sqrt{1 + \cos^2(t)}$ , which is not constant, so  $\alpha$  can't possibly be a geodesic. Notice that  $T(t) = \left(\frac{-\sin(t)}{\sqrt{1+\cos^2 t}}, \frac{\cos(t)}{\sqrt{1+\cos^2(t)}}, \frac{\cos(t)}{\sqrt{1+\cos^2(t)}}\right)$  and  $\vec{\kappa} = \frac{T'(t)}{\sqrt{1+\cos^2(t)}}$  will require quotient rule or similar and certainly felt by the bug because it is not only in the U direction

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Adapted http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~henderson/courses/M4540-S12/11-DG-front+Chl.pdf  $\vec{x}_{u} = (-sin(u), cos(u), 0), \vec{x}_{v} = (0, 0, 1).$   $U = \frac{\vec{x}_{u} \times \vec{x}_{v}}{|\vec{x}_{u} \times \vec{x}_{v}|} = (cos(u), sin(u), 0)$   $\vec{\kappa}_{\alpha}$  (curve's curvature vector):  $\frac{T'(t)}{|\alpha'(t)|}$   $\vec{\kappa}_{n}$  (normal curvature): projection of  $\vec{\kappa}_{\alpha}$  onto  $U = (U \cdot \vec{\kappa}_{\alpha})U$  $\vec{\kappa}_{g}$  (geodesic curvature):  $\vec{\kappa}_{\alpha} - \vec{\kappa}_{n}$ 

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**Ex 3**:  $\gamma(t) = (cos(t), sin(t), 0)$  is a geodesic.  
 $\frac{\gamma'(t)}{|\gamma'(t)|} = T = (-sin(t), cos(t), 0)$  (speed is 1).  
 $\vec{\kappa} = \frac{T'(t)}{|\gamma'(t)|} = (-cos(t), -sin(t), 0)$  no  $T_{p}M$  component, only  $U$ 

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**Ex 4**:  $\gamma(t) = (cos(0), sin(0), t)$  is a geodesic.

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 $\vec{\kappa}_{\alpha}$  (curve's curvature vector):  $\frac{T'(t)}{|\alpha'(t)|}$   
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 $\vec{\kappa} = \frac{T'(t)}{|\gamma'(t)|} = (-cos(0), sin(0), t)$  is a geodesic.  
 $\frac{\gamma'(t)}{|\gamma'(t)|} = T = (0, 0, 1)$  and  $\vec{\kappa} = (0, 0, 0)$  no  $T_{p}M$  component nor  $U$   
component

## Classifying Cylinder Geodesics Using $\alpha''$



Adapted http://pi.math.cornell.edu/-henderson/courses/M4540-S12/11-DG-front+Ch1.pdf surface x(u, v) = (cos(u), sin(u), v)—two free variables u, v  $\vec{x}_u = (-sin(u), cos(u), 0), \vec{x}_v = (0, 0, 1).$   $U = \frac{\vec{x}_u \times \vec{x}_v}{|\vec{x}_u \times \vec{x}_v|} = (cos(u), sin(u), 0)$ curve on surface  $\alpha(t) = (cos(u(t)), sin(u(t)), v(t))$ — t free geodesic will have no tangential components of  $\alpha''(t)$ 

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$$\kappa_g \equiv \kappa_\alpha - \kappa_n$$

## Intrinsic Coordinates on a Cylinder



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• Choose (0,0) as an intrinsic origin. There is 1 geodesic

that will return there, so call that the base curve

• Choose +z as a direction  $\perp$  to the base curve Geodesic rectangular coordinates: y(w, z) = walk w units along base curve and turn 90° to positive z and travel z units. Geodesic polar coordinates:  $y(\alpha, s) =$  turn  $\alpha$  degrees from the base curve and walk s units along that geodesic

## (Intrinsically Straight) Geodesics on a Sphere



- symmetry and our feet, rolling a ball in a line of paint, but can't flatten a sphere with a *C*<sup>2</sup> isometry
- 1. Is a latitude a geodesic?
- 2. How many differently shaped geodesics can you find?
- 3. Can a geodesic ever intersect itself? Why?
- 4. Is straight always shortest distance? Explain.
- 5. Is shortest distance always straight? Explain.
- 6. How many geodesics join 2 points?



If a surface is smooth (in the  $C^2$  sense, with local coordinates whose first and second derivatives exist and are continuous), then a geodesic on the surface is always the locally shortest path between "nearby" points. If the surface is also geodesically complete (that is, every geodesic on it can be extended indefinitely, for example, there are no holes), then any two points can be joined by a geodesic that is the shortest path.