

Math 335: Differential Geometry  
Homework 6 (due October 30)

1. Let  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be given by  $f(\bar{p}) = |p - p_0|^2$ , where  $\bar{p} \in S$  and  $\bar{p}_0$  is a fixed point of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  not in  $S$ . Show that  $df_{\bar{p}}(\bar{w}) = 2\bar{w} \cdot (\bar{p} - \bar{p}_0)$ , for all  $\bar{w} \in T_{\bar{p}}S$ .

2. (Gradient on surfaces.) The *gradient* of a differentiable function  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a differentiable map  $\text{grad}f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  which assigns to each point  $\bar{p} \in S$  a vector  $\text{grad}f(\bar{p}) \in T_{\bar{p}}S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  such that

$$\text{grad}f(\bar{p}) \cdot v = df_{\bar{p}}(\bar{v}) \quad \text{for all } \bar{v} \in T_{\bar{p}}S.$$

Show that if  $E$ ,  $F$ , and  $G$  are the coefficients of the first fundamental form in a parametrization  $\bar{x} : U \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow S$ , then  $\text{grad}f$  on  $\bar{x}(U)$  is given by

$$\text{grad}f = \frac{f_u G - f_v F}{EG - F^2} \bar{x}_u + \frac{f_v E - f_u F}{EG - F^2} \bar{x}_v,$$

where  $f_u$  denotes  $\frac{\partial(f \circ \bar{x})}{\partial u}$  and  $f_v$  denotes  $\frac{\partial(f \circ \bar{x})}{\partial v}$ .

(Note that if  $S = \mathbb{R}^2$ , with chart  $\bar{x}(x, y) = (x, y, 0)$ , then  $\text{grad}f = f_x \bar{e}_1 + f_y \bar{e}_2$ , where  $\{\bar{e}_1, \bar{e}_2\}$  is the standard basis. Thus the definition agrees with the definition of gradient that we learned in multivariable calculus.)

3. (Chain Rule.) Show that if  $\phi : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  and  $\psi : S_2 \rightarrow S_3$  are differentiable maps and  $\bar{p} \in S_1$ , then

$$d(\psi \circ \phi)_{\bar{p}} = d\psi_{\phi(\bar{p})} \circ d\phi_{\bar{p}}.$$

4. Show that a diffeomorphism  $\phi : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  is an isometry if and only if the arc length of any parametrized curve in  $S$  is equal to the arc length of the image of the curve by  $\phi$ .
5. A map  $G : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is a *distance-preserving* map if

$$|G(\bar{p}) - G(\bar{q})| = |\bar{p} - \bar{q}| \quad \text{for all } \bar{p}, \bar{q} \in \mathbb{R}^3.$$

Give an example to show that there are local isometries  $\phi : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  which cannot be extended into distance-preserving maps  $G : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ .

6. Let  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ , and  $S_3$  be regular surfaces. Prove that

(a) If  $\phi : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  is an isometry, then  $\phi^{-1} : S_2 \rightarrow S_1$  is also an isometry.

(b) If  $\phi : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  and  $\psi : S_2 \rightarrow S_3$  are isometries, then  $\psi \circ \phi : S_1 \rightarrow S_3$  is an isometry.

For those who have seen abstract algebra: this implies that the set of isometries from a regular surface  $S$  to itself forms a group, called the *group of isometries of  $S$* . Here's one way in which abstract algebra shows up in other fields of math!