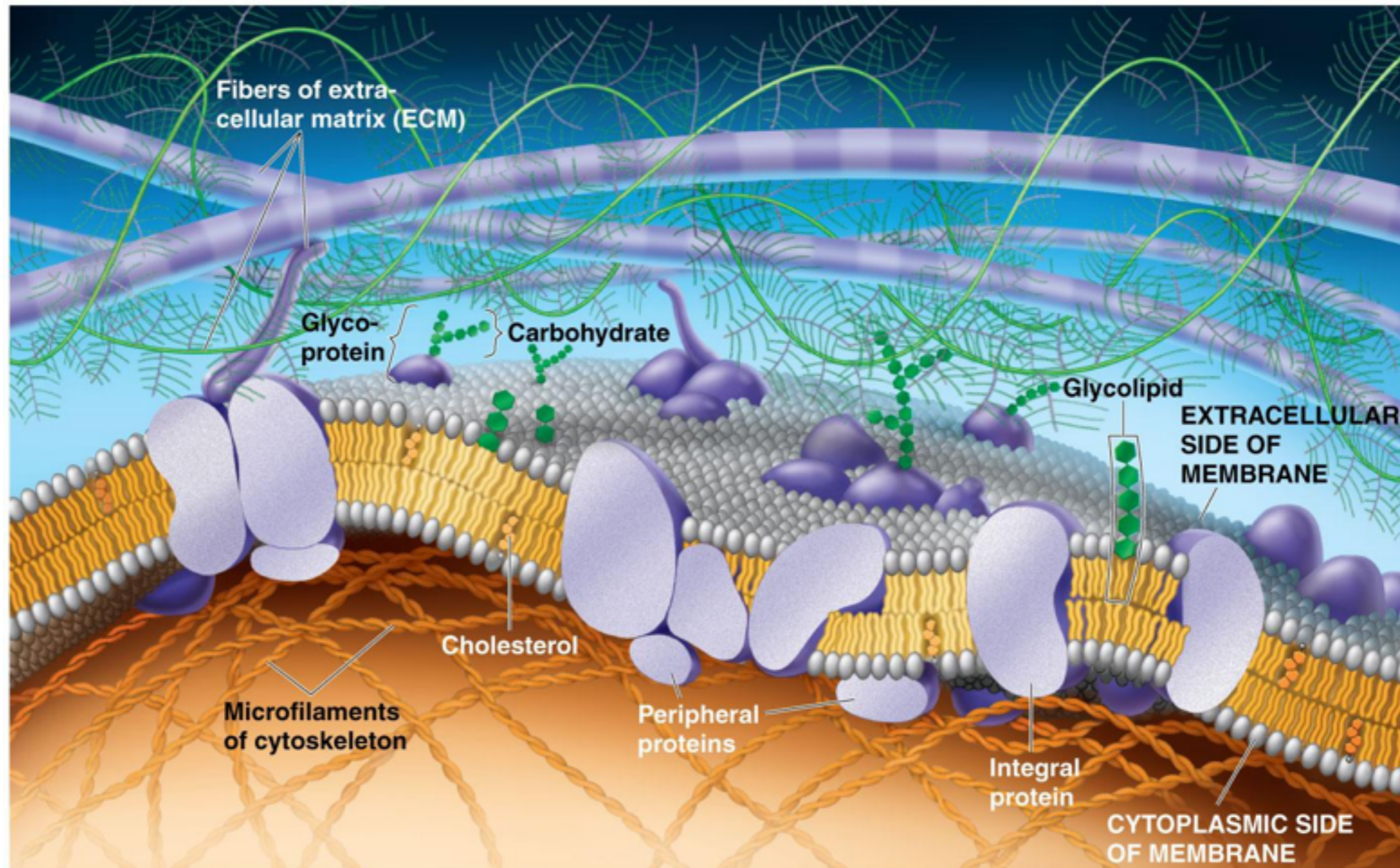
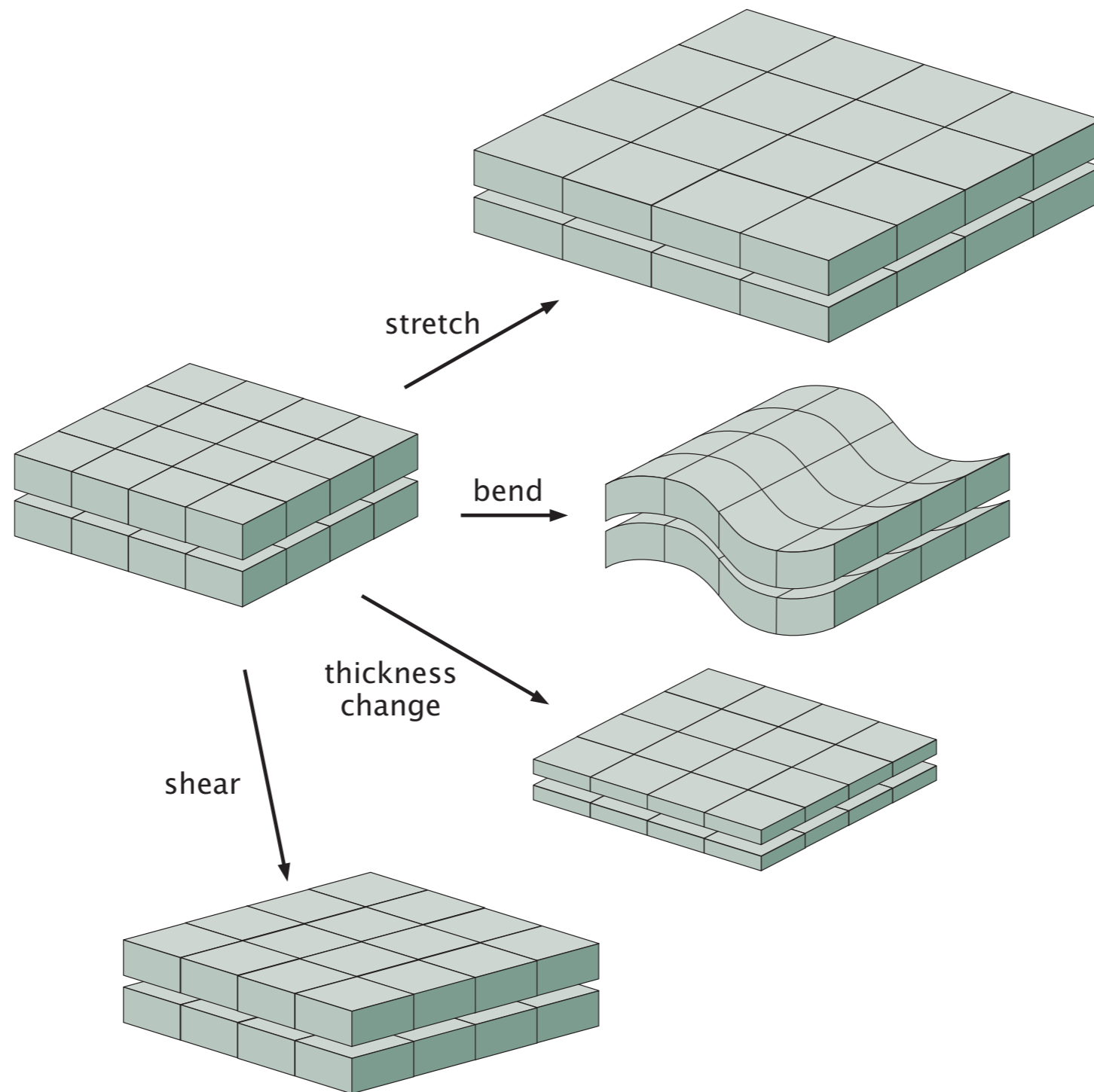


MAE 545: Lecture 15 (11/12)

Mechanics of cell membranes



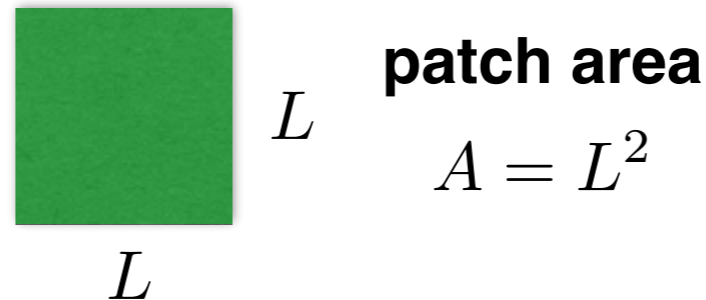
Membrane deformations



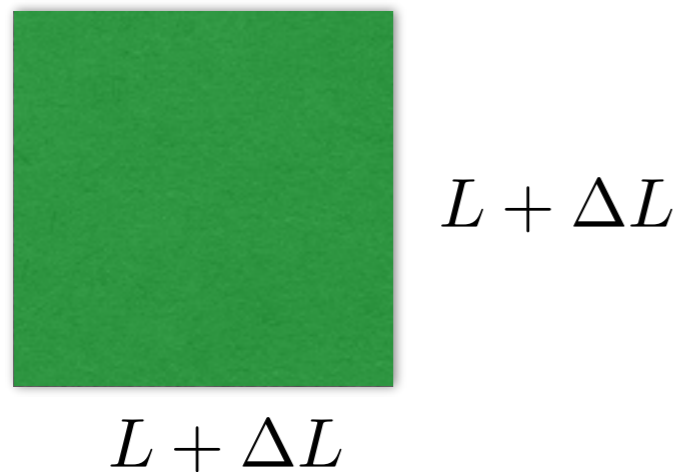
R. Phillips et al., Physical
Biology of the Cell

Energy cost for stretching and shearing

undeformed
square patch



isotropic
deformation



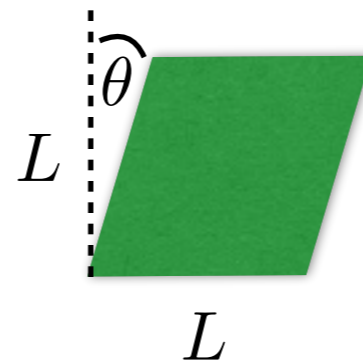
$$\frac{E}{A} = \frac{B}{2} \left(\frac{\Delta A}{A} \right)^2 \approx \frac{B}{2} \left(\frac{2\Delta L}{L} \right)^2$$

bulk modulus

$$B \sim 0.2 \text{ N/m}$$

(lipid bilayer)

shear
deformation



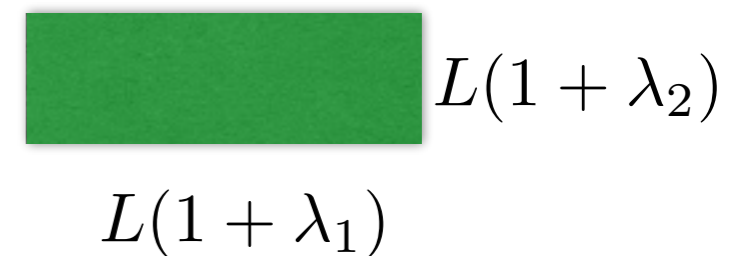
$$\frac{E}{A} = \frac{\mu \theta^2}{2}$$

shear modulus

$$\mu \sim 10^{-5} \text{ N/m}$$

(spectrin network)

anisotropic
stretching



$$\frac{E}{A} \approx \frac{B}{2} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2 + \frac{\mu}{2} (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2$$

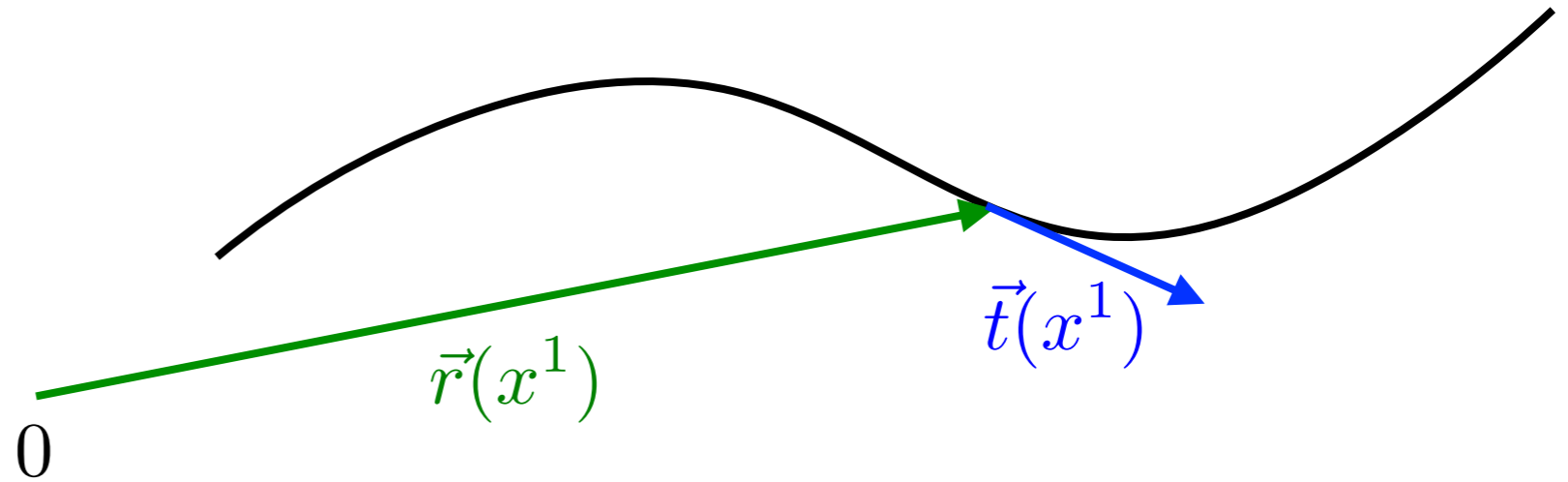
$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \ll 1$$

(shearing can be interpreted
as anisotropic stretching)

Metric for measuring distances along curves

x^1 parameter describing position along the curve

$\vec{r}(x^1)$ function describing shape of the curve



$$\vec{t}(x^1) = \frac{d\vec{r}(x^1)}{dx^1} \quad \text{local tangent to the curve}$$

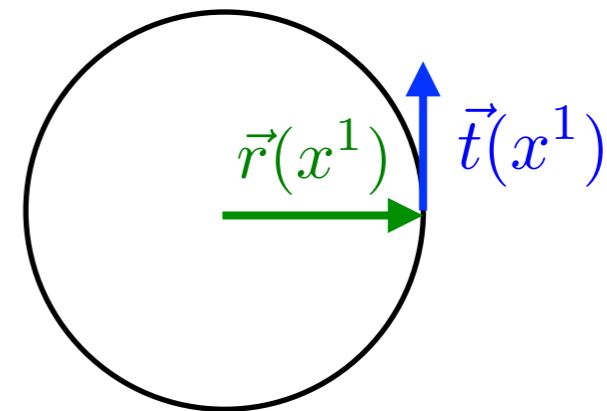
metric for measuring lengths

$$d\ell^2 = d\vec{r}^2 = \vec{t}^2 (dx^1)^2 = g (dx^1)^2$$

$$g = \vec{t}^2$$

$$d\ell = \sqrt{g} dx^1$$

Example



$$\vec{r}(x^1) = R(\cos(\omega x^1), \sin(\omega x^1))$$

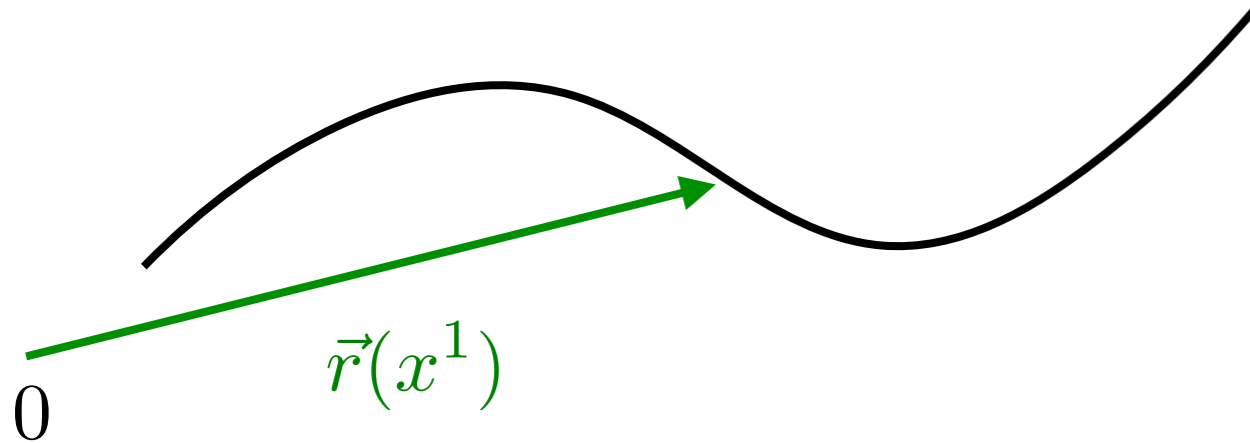
$$\vec{t}(x^1) = R\omega(-\sin(\omega x^1), \cos(\omega x^1))$$

$$g(x^1) = R^2\omega^2$$

$$d\ell = R\omega dx^1$$

Strain for deformation of beams

undeformed beam



$$g = (d\vec{r}/dx^1)^2$$

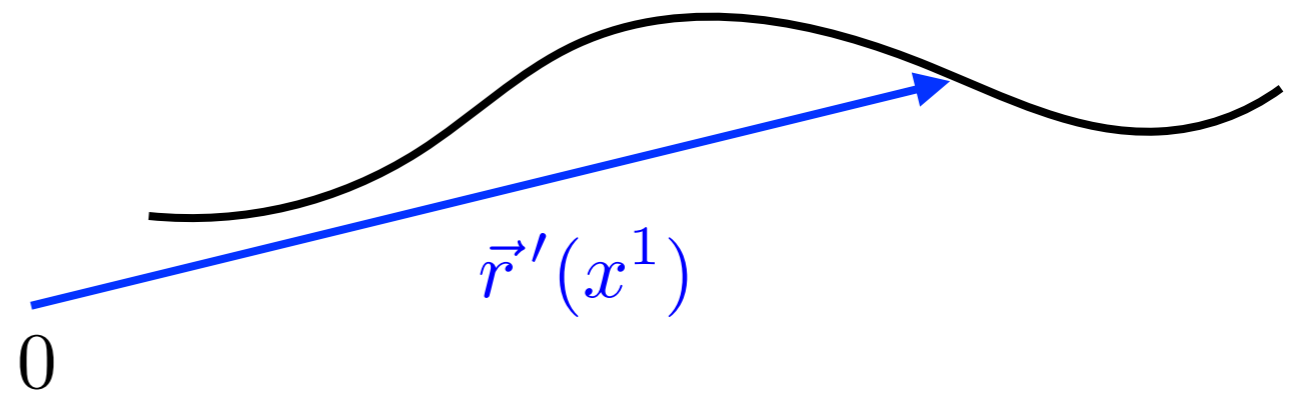
$$dl = \sqrt{g}dx^1$$

strain

$$dl'^2 - dl^2 = (2\epsilon + \epsilon^2)dl^2 \approx 2\epsilon dl^2$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{dl'^2 - dl^2}{2dl^2} = \frac{1}{2}g^{-1}(g' - g)$$

deformed beam



$$g' = (d\vec{r}'/dx^1)^2$$

$$dl' = \sqrt{g'}dx^1 = dl(1 + \epsilon)$$

Energy cost for stretching/compressing

$$E = \int (\sqrt{g}dx^1) \frac{1}{2}k\epsilon^2$$

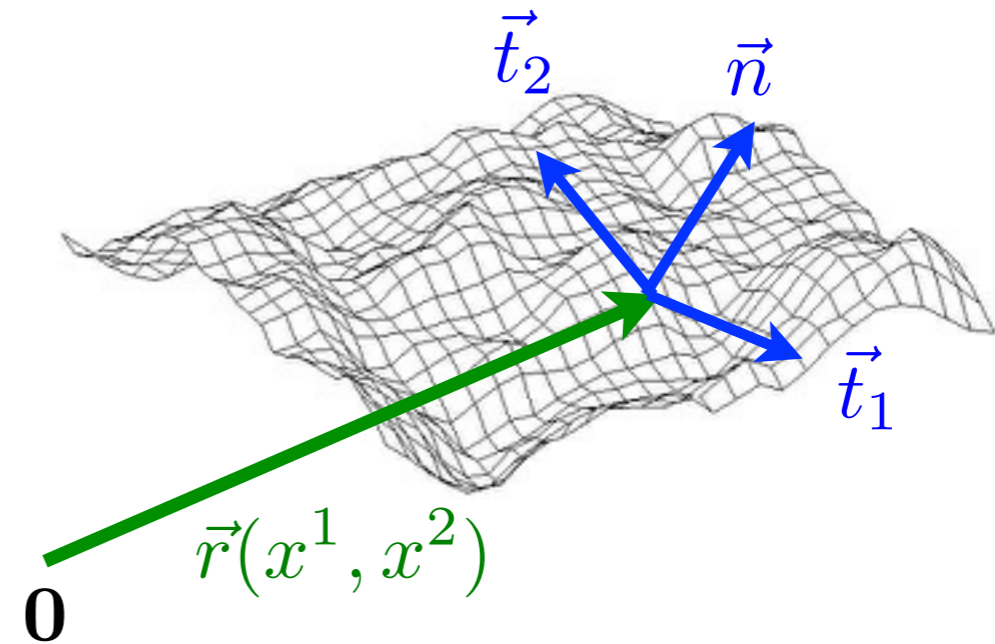
Metric tensor for measuring distances on surfaces

x^1, x^2 parameters describing position along the surface

$\vec{r}(x^1, x^2)$ function describing shape of the surface

$\vec{t}_i = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial x^i}$ local tangent vectors to the surface

$\vec{n} = \frac{\vec{t}_1 \times \vec{t}_2}{|\vec{t}_1 \times \vec{t}_2|}$ unit normal vector of the surface



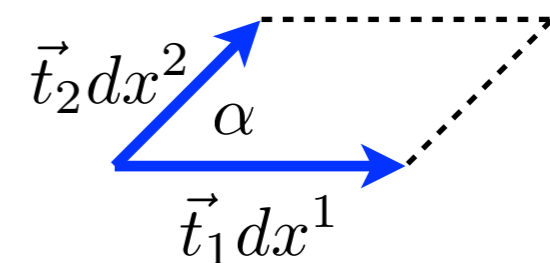
metric tensor for measuring lengths

$$d\ell^2 = d\vec{r}^2 = \sum_{i,j} \vec{t}_i \cdot \vec{t}_j dx^i dx^j = \sum_{i,j} g_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

$$g_{ij} = \vec{t}_i \cdot \vec{t}_j = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{t}_1 \cdot \vec{t}_1 & \vec{t}_1 \cdot \vec{t}_2 \\ \vec{t}_2 \cdot \vec{t}_1 & \vec{t}_2 \cdot \vec{t}_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$g = \det(g_{ij}) = |\vec{t}_1 \times \vec{t}_2|^2$$

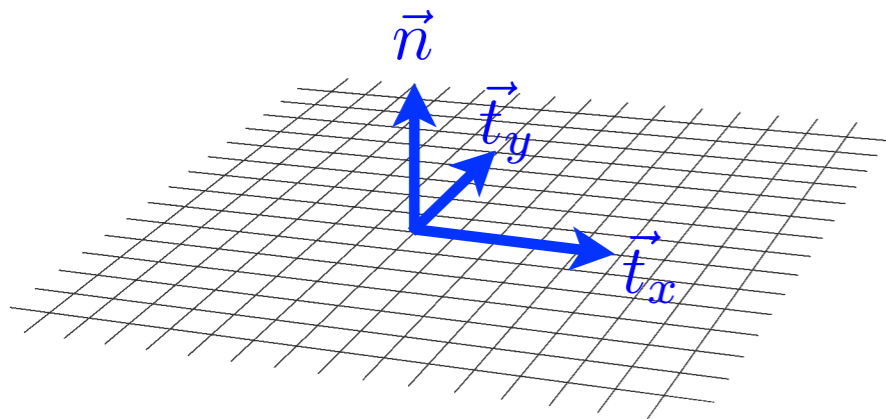
area element



$$dA = |\vec{t}_1| |\vec{t}_2| \sin \alpha dx^1 dx^2$$

$$dA = \sqrt{g} dx^1 dx^2$$

Examples



$$\vec{r}(x, y) = (x, y, 0)$$

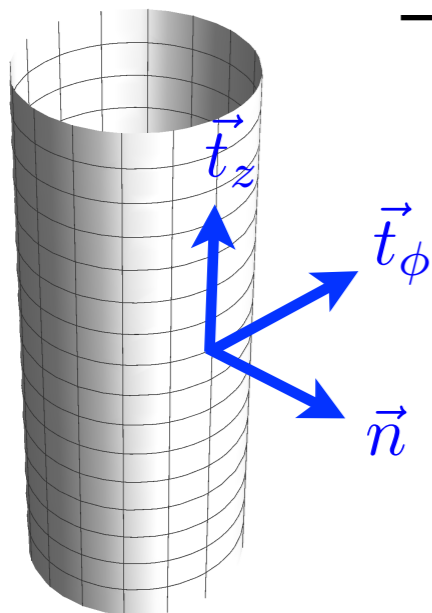
$$\vec{t}_x = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial x} = (1, 0, 0)$$

$$\vec{t}_y = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial y} = (0, 1, 0)$$

$$\vec{n} = \frac{\vec{t}_x \times \vec{t}_y}{|\vec{t}_x \times \vec{t}_y|} = (0, 0, 1)$$

$$g_{ij} = \vec{t}_i \cdot \vec{t}_j = \begin{pmatrix} 1, & 0 \\ 0, & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$dA = dx dy$$



$$\vec{r}(\phi, z) = (R \cos \phi, R \sin \phi, z)$$

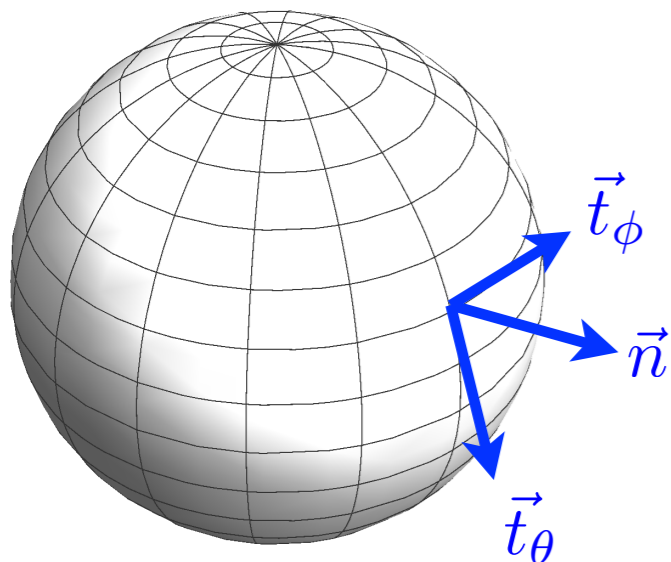
$$\vec{t}_\phi = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \phi} = R(-\sin \phi, \cos \phi, 0)$$

$$\vec{t}_z = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial z} = (0, 0, 1)$$

$$\vec{n} = \frac{\vec{t}_\phi \times \vec{t}_z}{|\vec{t}_\phi \times \vec{t}_z|} = (\cos \phi, \sin \phi, 0)$$

$$g_{ij} = \vec{t}_i \cdot \vec{t}_j = \begin{pmatrix} R^2, & 0 \\ 0, & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$dA = R d\phi dz$$



$$\vec{r}(\theta, \phi) = R(\sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \theta)$$

$$\vec{t}_\theta = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta} = R(\cos \theta \cos \phi, \cos \theta \sin \phi, -\sin \theta)$$

$$\vec{t}_\phi = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \phi} = R \sin \theta (-\sin \phi, \cos \phi, 0)$$

$$\vec{n} = \frac{\vec{t}_\theta \times \vec{t}_\phi}{|\vec{t}_\theta \times \vec{t}_\phi|} = (\sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \theta)$$

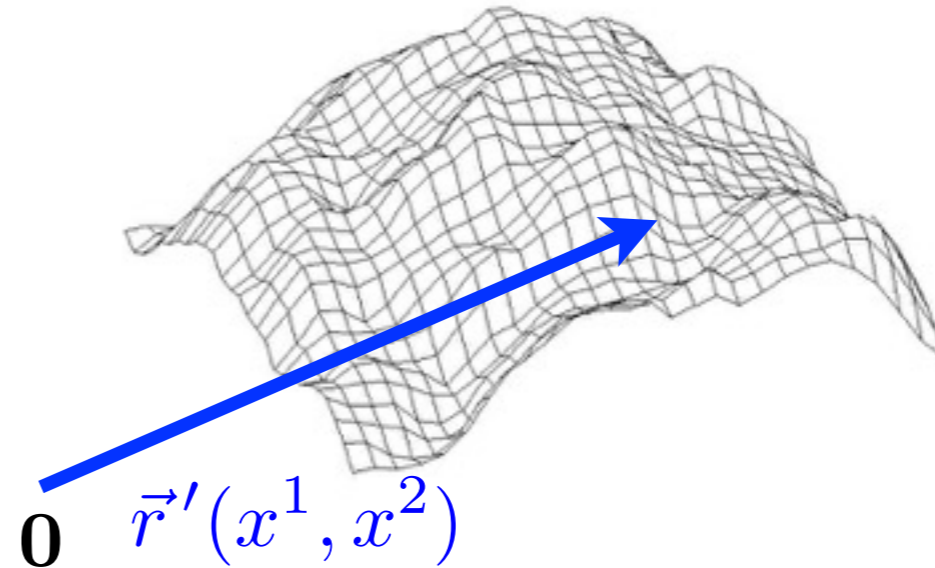
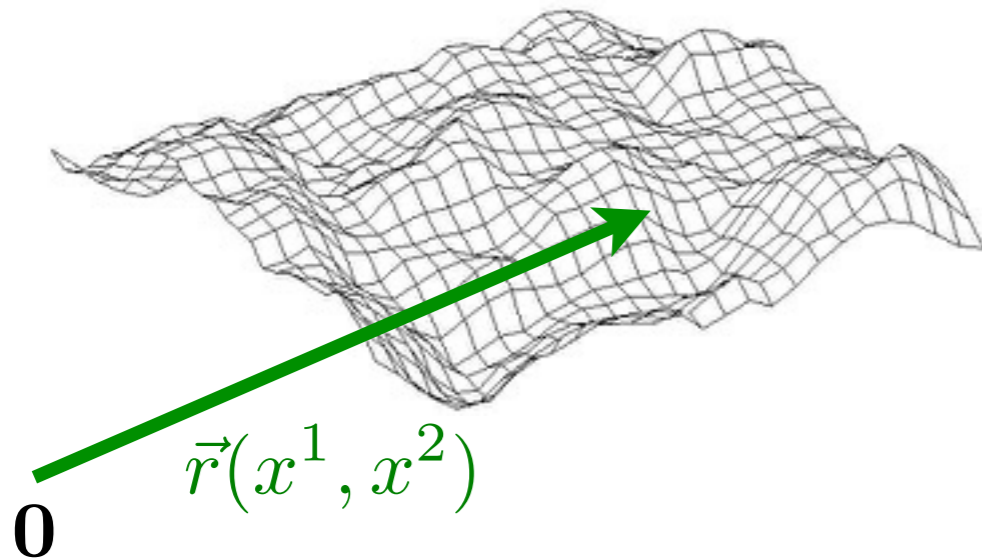
$$g_{ij} = \vec{t}_i \cdot \vec{t}_j = \begin{pmatrix} R^2, & 0 \\ 0, & R^2 \sin^2 \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$dA = R^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi$$

Strain tensor for deformation of membranes

undeformed membrane

deformed membrane



$$g_{ij} = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial x^i} \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial x^j}$$

$$d\ell^2 = \sum_{i,j} g_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

strain tensor

$$g'_{ij} = \frac{\partial \vec{r}'}{\partial x^i} \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}'}{\partial x^j}$$

$$d\ell'^2 = \sum_{i,j} g'_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

Energy cost for stretching/compressing

$$u_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_k (g^{-1})_{ik} (g'_{kj} - g_{kj})$$

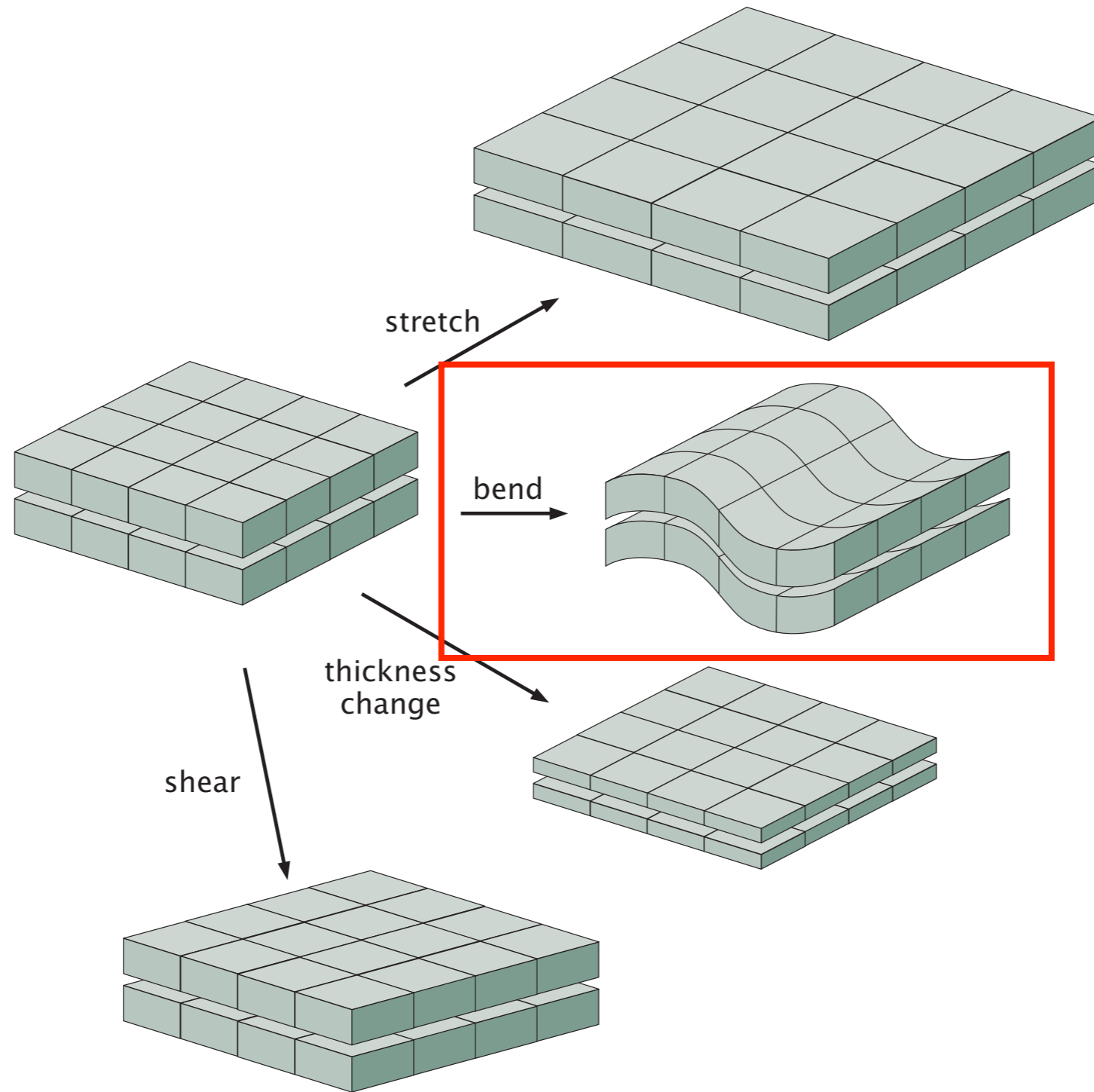
inverse metric tensor

$$\sum_k (g^{-1})_{ik} g_{kj} = \sum_k g_{ik} (g^{-1})_{kj} = \delta_{ij}$$

$$E = \int \sqrt{g} dx^1 dx^2 \frac{1}{2} \left[(B - \mu) \left(\sum_i u_{ii} \right)^2 + 2\mu \sum_{i,j} u_{ij}^2 \right]$$

$$g = \det(g_{ij})$$

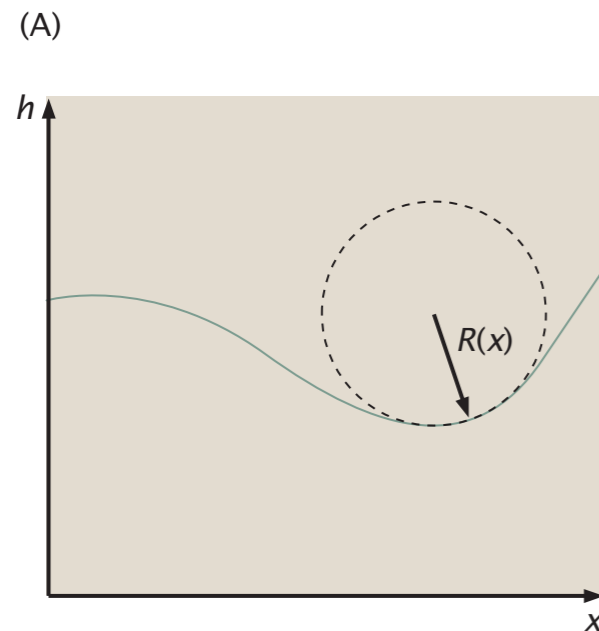
Membrane deformations



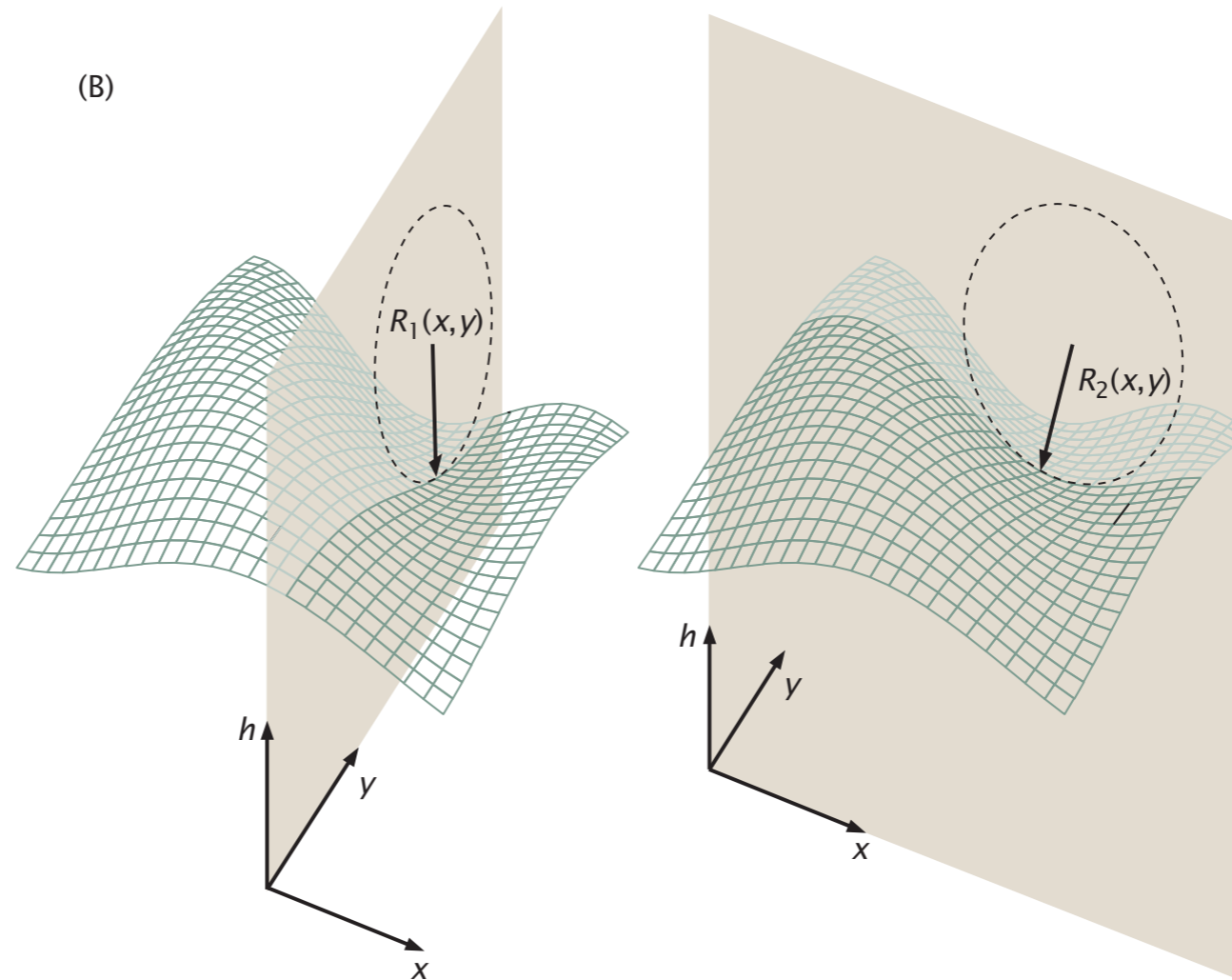
R. Phillips et al., Physical
Biology of the Cell

Curvature of surfaces

curvature for space curves

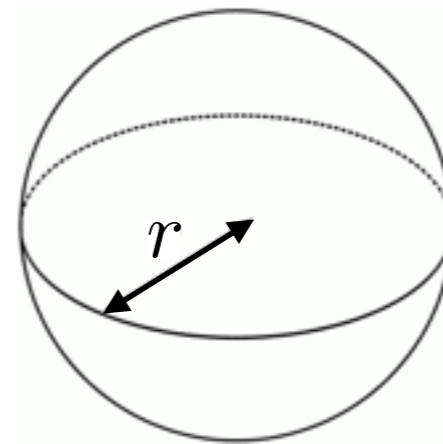
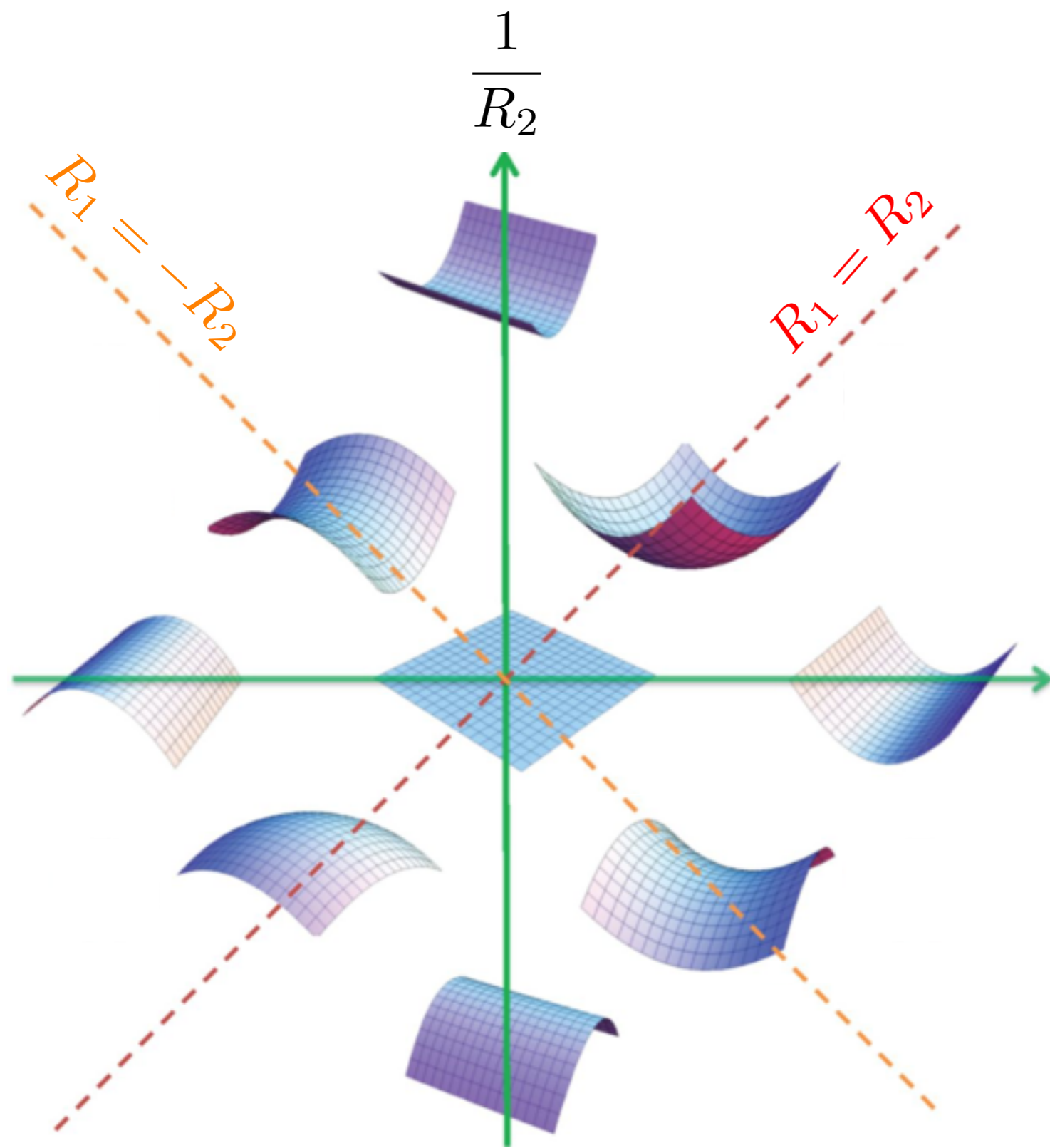


curvature for surfaces depends on the orientation



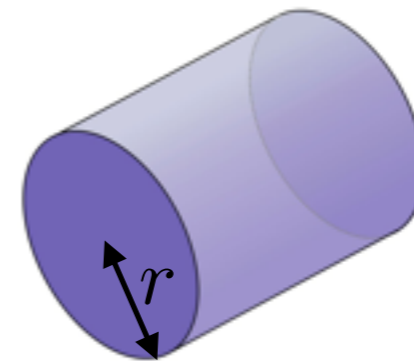
maximal and minimal curvatures are called principal curvatures and they appear in orthogonal directions

Surfaces of various principal curvatures



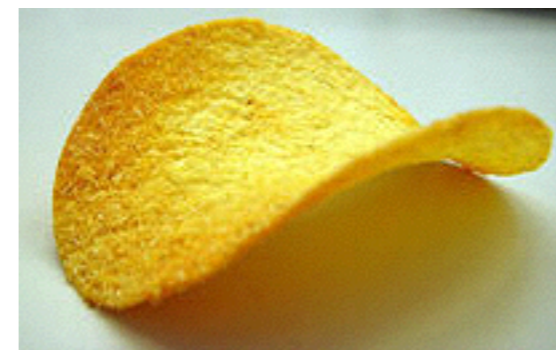
$$\frac{1}{R_1} = \frac{1}{R_2} = \frac{1}{r}$$

$$\frac{1}{R_1}$$



$$\frac{1}{R_1} = \frac{1}{r}$$

$$\frac{1}{R_2} = 0$$



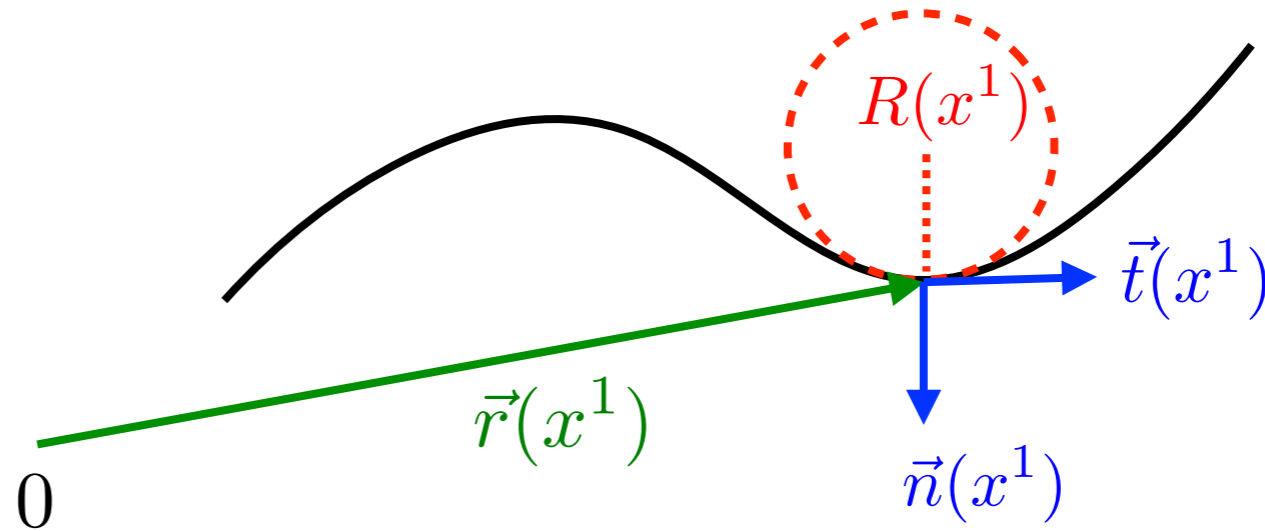
$$\frac{1}{R_1} > 0$$

$$\frac{1}{R_2} < 0$$

Curvature of curves

x^1 parameter describing position along the curve

$\vec{r}(x^1)$ function describing shape of the curve



$\vec{t}(x^1) = \frac{d\vec{r}(x^1)}{dx^1}$ local tangent to the curve

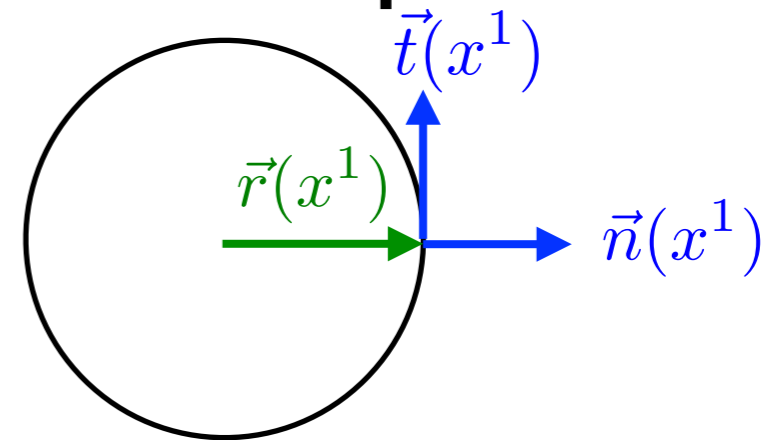
$\vec{n}(x^1)$ local unit normal vector to the curve

$g = \vec{t}^2$ metric for measuring lengths

curvature of curve

$$\frac{1}{R} = K = \frac{1}{g} \left(\vec{n} \cdot \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{d(x^1)^2} \right)$$

Example



$$\vec{r}(x^1) = R(\cos(\omega x^1), \sin(\omega x^1))$$

$$\vec{n}(x^1) = (\cos(\omega x^1), \sin(\omega x^1))$$

$$g(x^1) = R^2\omega^2$$

$$K = -\frac{1}{R}$$

Curvature tensor for surfaces

x^1, x^2 parameters describing position along the surface

$\vec{r}(x^1, x^2)$ function describing shape of the surface

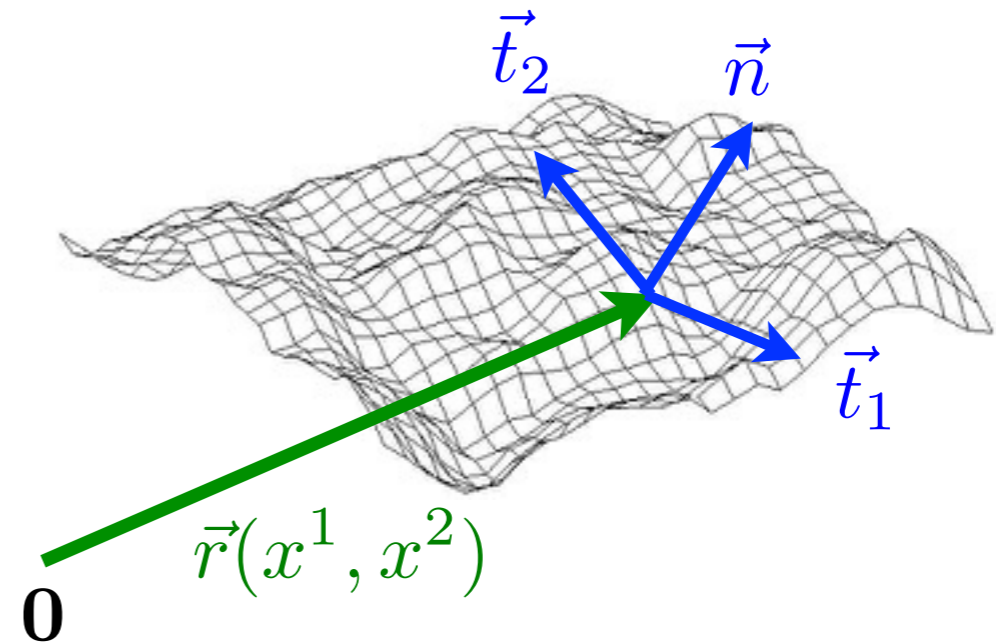
$\vec{t}_i = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial x^i}$ local tangent vectors to the surface

$\vec{n} = \frac{\vec{t}_1 \times \vec{t}_2}{|\vec{t}_1 \times \vec{t}_2|}$ unit normal vector of the surface

$g_{ij} = \vec{t}_i \cdot \vec{t}_j$ metric tensor for measuring lengths

curvature tensor for surfaces

$$K_{ij} = \sum_k (g^{-1})_{ik} \left(\vec{n} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \vec{r}}{\partial x^k \partial x^j} \right)$$



principal curvatures correspond to the eigenvalues of curvature tensor

$$\frac{1}{R_1}, \frac{1}{R_2}$$

mean curvature

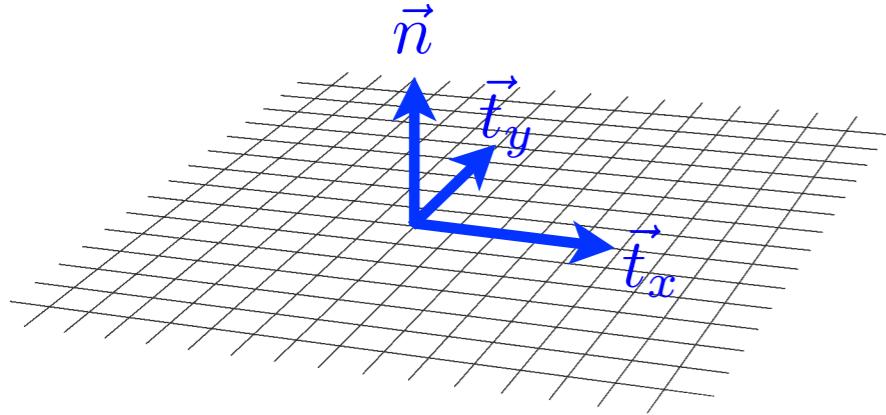
$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i K_{ii} = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(K_{ij})$$

Gaussian curvature

$$\frac{1}{R_1 R_2} = \det(K_{ij})$$

Examples

$$K_{ij} = \sum_k (g^{-1})_{ik} \left(\vec{n} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \vec{r}}{\partial x^k \partial x^j} \right)$$



$$\vec{r}(x, y) = (x, y, 0)$$

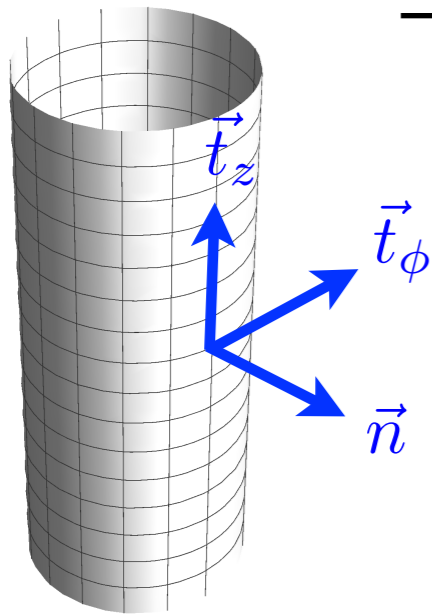
$$\vec{t}_x = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial x} = (1, 0, 0)$$

$$\vec{t}_y = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial y} = (0, 1, 0)$$

$$\vec{n} = \frac{\vec{t}_x \times \vec{t}_y}{|\vec{t}_x \times \vec{t}_y|} = (0, 0, 1)$$

$$g_{ij} = \vec{t}_i \cdot \vec{t}_j = \begin{pmatrix} 1, & 0 \\ 0, & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$K_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} 0, & 0 \\ 0, & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\vec{r}(\phi, z) = (R \cos \phi, R \sin \phi, z)$$

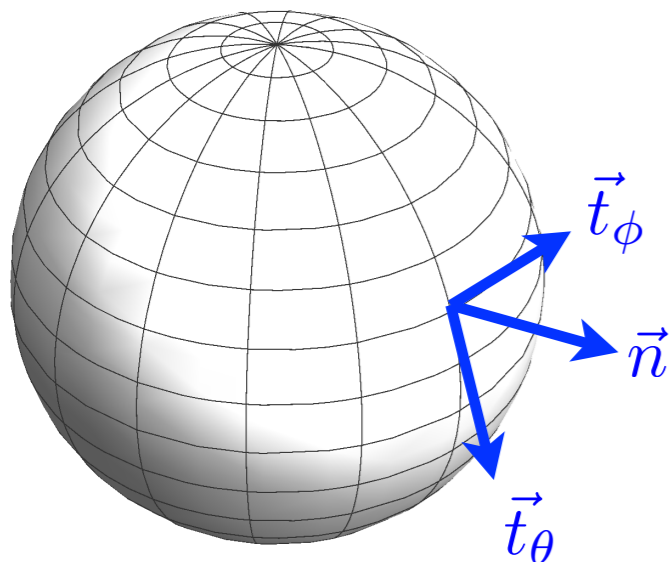
$$\vec{t}_\phi = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \phi} = R(-\sin \phi, \cos \phi, 0)$$

$$\vec{t}_z = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial z} = (0, 0, 1)$$

$$\vec{n} = \frac{\vec{t}_\phi \times \vec{t}_z}{|\vec{t}_\phi \times \vec{t}_z|} = (\cos \phi, \sin \phi, 0)$$

$$g_{ij} = \vec{t}_i \cdot \vec{t}_j = \begin{pmatrix} R^2, & 0 \\ 0, & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$K_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{R}, & 0 \\ 0, & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\vec{r}(\theta, \phi) = R(\sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \theta)$$

$$\vec{t}_\theta = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta} = R(\cos \theta \cos \phi, \cos \theta \sin \phi, -\sin \theta)$$

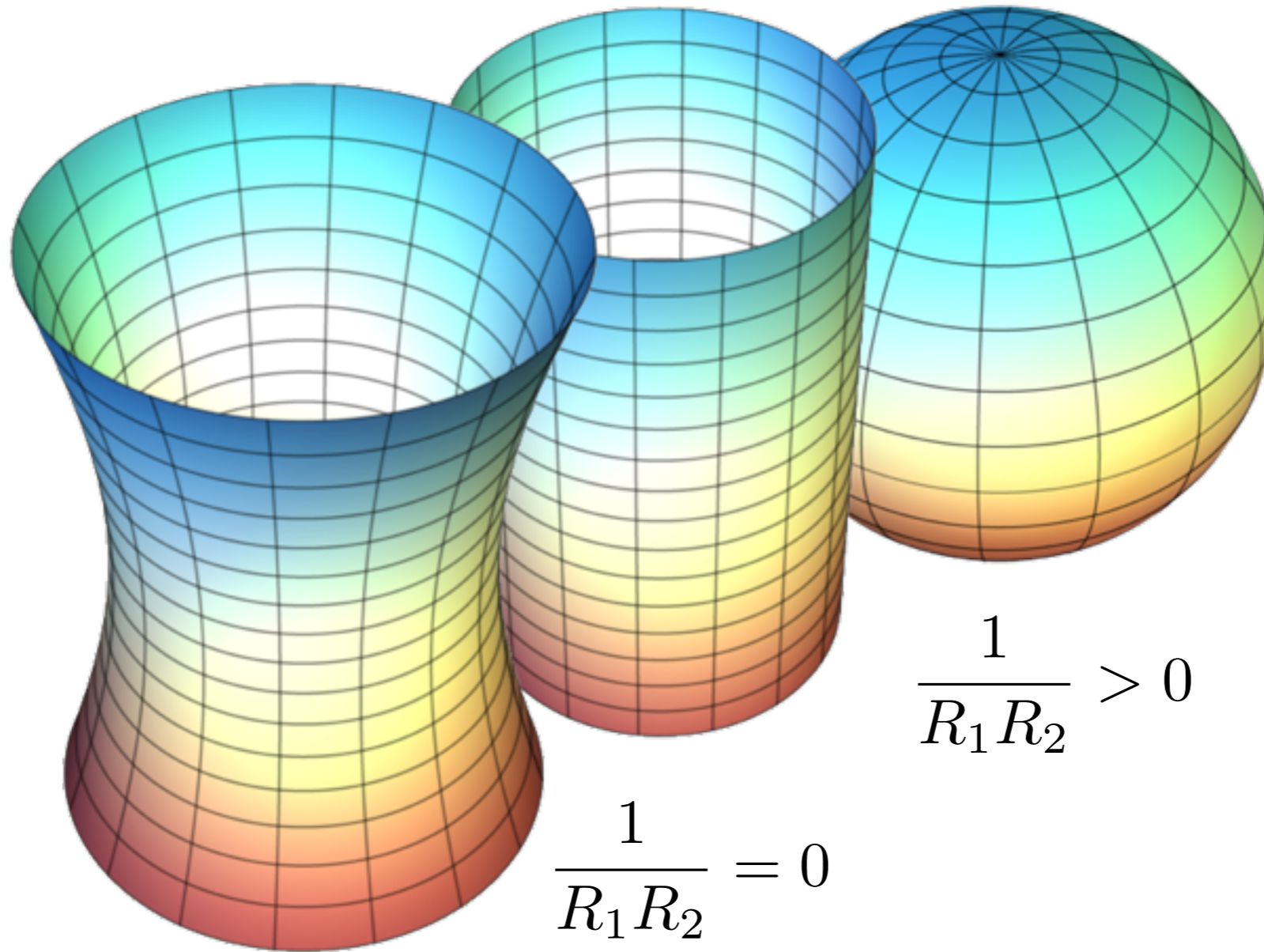
$$\vec{t}_\phi = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \phi} = R \sin \theta (-\sin \phi, \cos \phi, 0)$$

$$\vec{n} = \frac{\vec{t}_\theta \times \vec{t}_\phi}{|\vec{t}_\theta \times \vec{t}_\phi|} = (\sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \theta)$$

$$g_{ij} = \vec{t}_i \cdot \vec{t}_j = \begin{pmatrix} R^2, & 0 \\ 0, & R^2 \sin^2 \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$K_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{R}, & 0 \\ 0, & -\frac{1}{R} \end{pmatrix}$$

Examples for Gaussian curvature



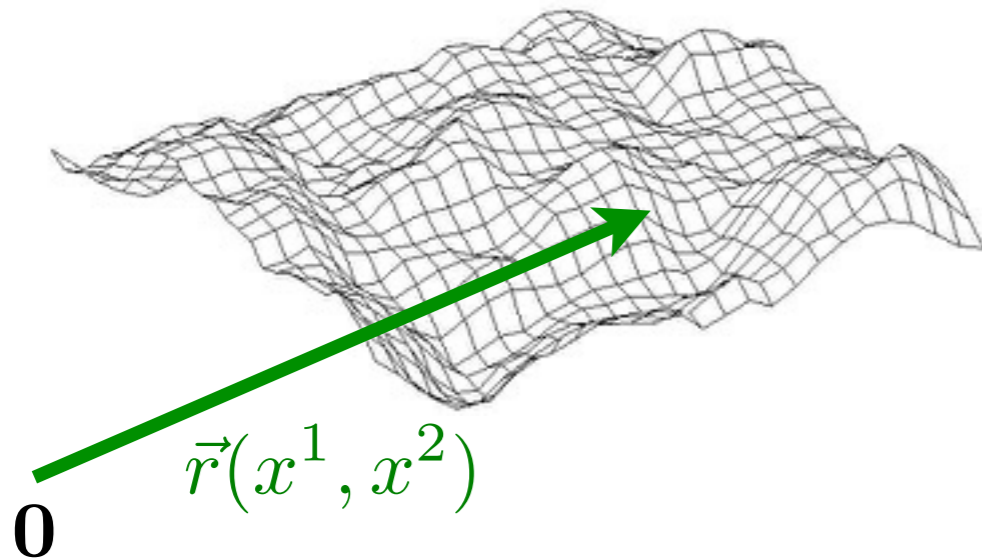
$$\frac{1}{R_1 R_2} < 0$$

$$\frac{1}{R_1 R_2} = 0$$

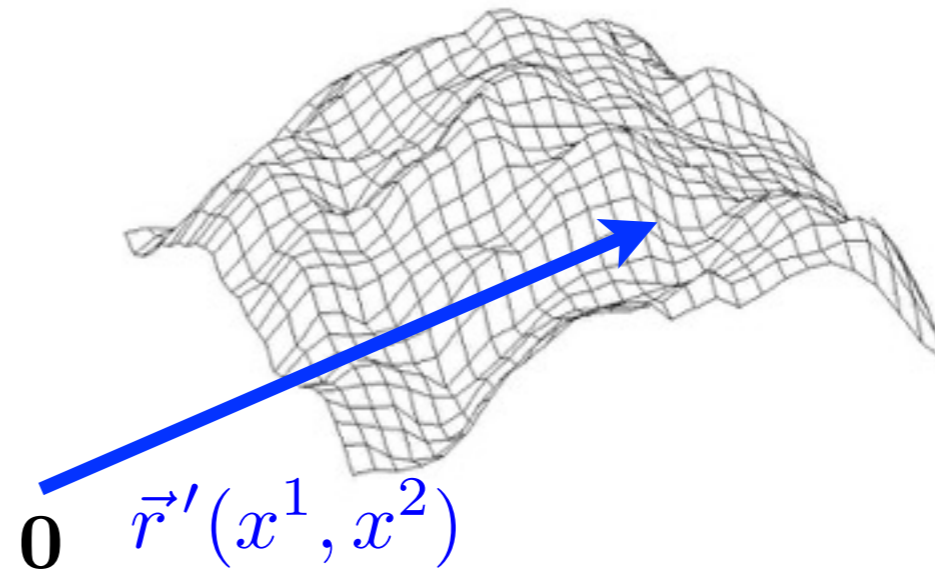
$$\frac{1}{R_1 R_2} > 0$$

Bending energy for deformation of membranes

undeformed membrane



deformed membrane



$$K_{ij} = \sum_k (g^{-1})_{ik} \left(\vec{n} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \vec{r}}{\partial x^k \partial x^j} \right)$$

$$K'_{ij} = \sum_k (g'^{-1})_{ik} \left(\vec{n}' \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \vec{r}'}{\partial x^k \partial x^j} \right)$$

bending strain tensor

$$b_{ij} = K'_{ij} - K_{ij}$$

(local measure of deviation from preferred curvature)

Energy cost of bending

$$E = \int \sqrt{g} dx^1 dx^2 \left[\frac{1}{2} \kappa \text{tr}(b_{ij})^2 + \kappa_G \det(b_{ij}) \right]$$

Bending energy

$$E = \int dA \left[\frac{\kappa}{2} \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} - C_0 \right)^2 + \frac{\kappa_G}{R_1 R_2} \right]$$

**Helfrich
free energy**

bending rigidity $\kappa \sim 20k_B T$

mean curvature $H = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \right)$

**Gaussian
bending rigidity** $\kappa_G \sim -0.8\kappa$

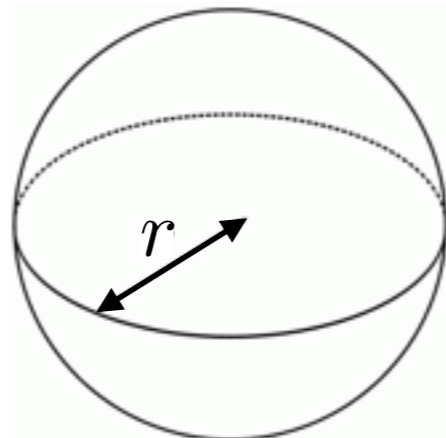
**Gaussian
curvature** $G = \frac{1}{R_1 R_2}$

**spontaneous
curvature** C_0

Example: bending energy for a sphere

$$\frac{1}{R_1} = \frac{1}{R_2} = \frac{1}{r}$$

$$C_0 = 0$$



$$E = 4\pi (2\kappa + \kappa_G) \sim 300k_B T$$

**bending energy is independent
of the sphere radius!**

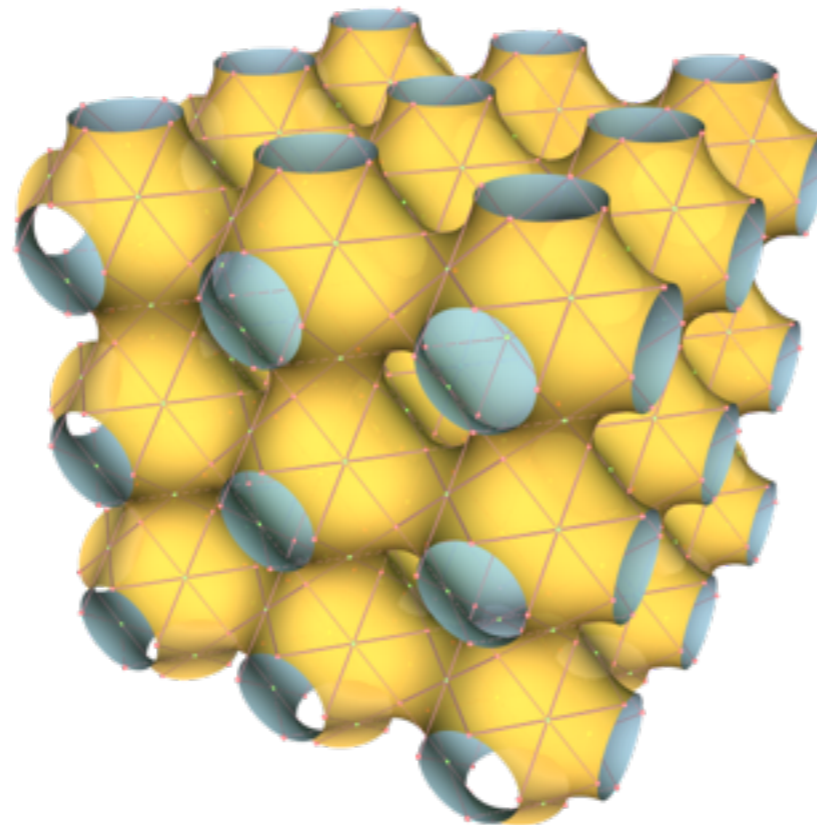
Bending energy

$$E = \int dA \left[\frac{\kappa}{2} \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} - C_0 \right)^2 + \frac{\kappa_G}{R_1 R_2} \right]$$

Gaussian bending rigidity κ_G has to be negative for stability of membranes

Schwarz minimal surface

Such surfaces would be preferred for positive Gaussian bending rigidity, when $C_0=0$.



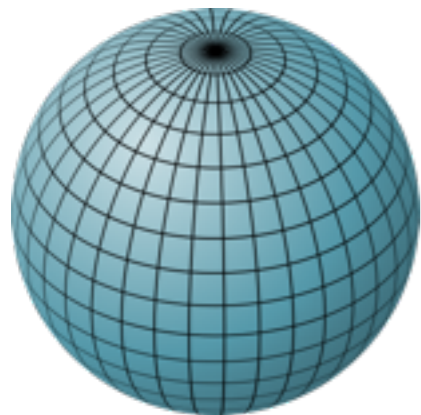
$$\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} = 0$$
$$\frac{1}{R_1 R_2} < 0$$

Gauss-Bonnet theorem

For closed surfaces the integral over Gaussian curvature only depends on the surface topology!

$$\int \frac{dA}{R_1 R_2} = 4\pi (1 - g)$$

$g = 0$



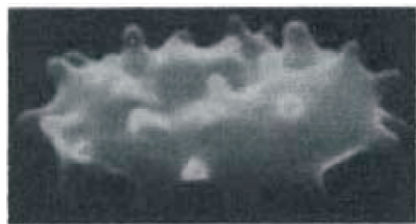
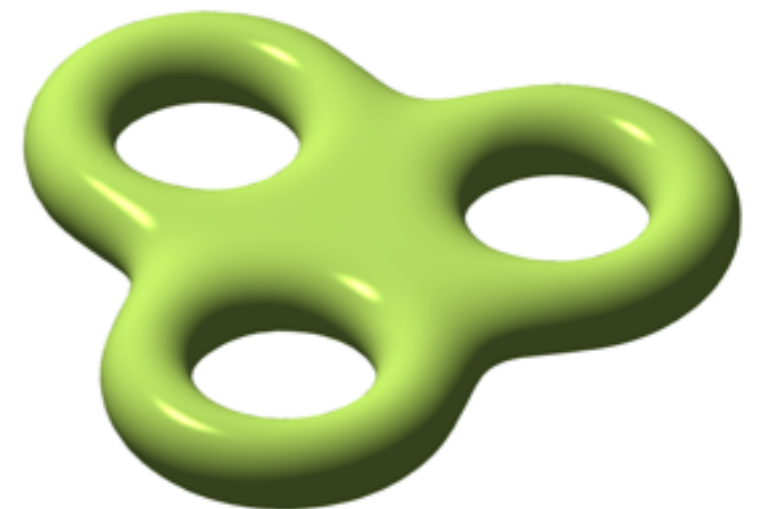
$g = 1$



$g = 2$



$g = 3$



It is hard to experimentally measure the Gaussian bending rigidity for cells, because cell deformations don't change the topology!