## Solution to Exercise 6<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>If you have any questions or spot any mistakes, find feel free to contact Michael Cheung through **michaelche-ung0723@gmail.com** for Questions 1 to 3, and Max Shung through **maxshung.math@gmail.com** for Questions 4 to 5.

2. (a) Since F = 0, by considering Theorem 3.3.11 in lecture notes, we have

$$K = -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{EG}} \left[ \left( \frac{E_v}{\sqrt{EG}} \right)_v + \left( \frac{G_u}{\sqrt{EG}} \right)_u \right] = -\frac{1}{2f^2} \left[ \left( \frac{2ff_v}{f^2} \right)_v + \left( \frac{2ff_u}{f^2} \right)_u \right]$$
$$= -\frac{1}{f^2} \left[ \left( \frac{f_u}{f} \right)_u + \left( \frac{f_v}{f} \right)_v \right] = -\frac{1}{f^2} \left[ (\ln f)_{uu} + (\ln f)_{vv} \right] = -\frac{1}{f^2} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial u^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v^2} \right) \ln f$$

(b) Note that 
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{u^2 + v^2 + 1}} > 0.$$

$$K = -(u^2 + v^2 + 1)\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial u^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v^2}\right)\ln\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{u^2 + v^2 + 1}}\right)$$
$$= \frac{u^2 + v^2 + 1}{2}\left[\frac{-2u^2 + 2v^2 + 2}{(u^2 + v^2 + 1)^2} + \frac{2u^2 - 2v^2 + 2}{(u^2 + v^2 + 1)^2}\right] = \frac{2}{u^2 + v^2 + 1}$$

(c) Note that  $e^{-u} > 0$ .

$$K = -e^{u^2} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial u^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v^2}\right) \ln(e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}}) = -e^{u^2} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial u^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v^2}\right) \left(-\frac{u^2}{2}\right) = e^{u^2}$$

3. (a) 
$$\mathbf{x}_u = (\cos v, \sin v, 0), \mathbf{x}_v = (-u \sin v, u \cos v, 1).$$
  
Hence,  $\mathbf{x}_u \times \mathbf{x}_v = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{i}} & \hat{\mathbf{j}} & \hat{\mathbf{k}} \\ \cos v & \sin v & 0 \\ -u \sin v & u \cos v & 1 \end{vmatrix} = (\sin v, -\cos v, u).$   
 $\|\mathbf{x}_u \times \mathbf{x}_v\| = \sqrt{(\sin v)^2 + (-\cos v)^2 + u^2} = \sqrt{u^2 + 1}.$   
Therefore,  $\hat{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{\mathbf{x}_u \times \mathbf{x}_v}{\|\mathbf{x}_u \times \mathbf{x}_v\|} = \frac{(\sin v, -\cos v, u)}{\sqrt{u^2 + 1}}.$ 

- (b) Since  $\langle \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_v \rangle = 0$ ,  $\mathbf{x}(u, v)$  is an orthogonal parametrization.
- (c) Note that  $E = \langle \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle = 1$ , F = 0,  $G = \langle \mathbf{x}_u, \mathbf{x}_u \rangle = u^2 + 1$ . Also,  $\mathbf{x}_{uu} = (0, 0, 0)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_{uv} = (-\sin v, \cos v, 0)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_{vv} = (-u\cos v, -u\sin v, 0)$ . Hence,  $e = \langle \mathbf{x}_{uu}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle = 0$ ,  $f = \langle \mathbf{x}_{uv}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{u^2 + 1}}$ ,  $g = \langle \mathbf{x}_{vv}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle = 0$ . As a result,  $K = \frac{\det \mathbf{II}}{\det \mathbf{I}} = \frac{eg - f^2}{EG - F^2} = \frac{-\frac{1}{u^2 + 1}}{u^2 + 1} = -\frac{1}{(u^2 + 1)^2}$ .

- 4. (a) S is a minimal surface if the mean curvature H = 0 at every points of S.
  - (b) We see that the mean curvatures of Helicoid and Catenoid are both zero, at everywhere. Thus, Helicoid and Catenoid are minimal surfaces.
  - (c) i. Parametrize the surface  $\Phi$  by

$$X(\theta, z) = (f(z)\cos\theta, f(z)\sin\theta, z), \text{ for } (\theta, z) \in (0, 2\pi) \times \mathbb{R}$$

Then, we have

$$\begin{cases} X_{\theta} = (-f(z)\sin\theta, f(z)\cos\theta, 0) \\ X_{z} = (f'(z)\cos\theta, f'(z)\sin\theta, 1) \end{cases}$$

The first fundamental form of the surface is given by

$$\mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} (f(z))^2 & 0\\ 0 & (f'(z))^2 + 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Consider the unit normal vector

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{X_{\theta} \times X_z}{\|X_{\theta} \times X_z\|} = \frac{1}{f(z)\sqrt{1 + (f'(z))^2}} \left(f(z)\cos\theta, f(z)\sin\theta, -f(z)f'(z)\right)$$
$$= \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (f'(z))^2}} \left(\cos\theta, \sin\theta, -f'(z)\right)$$

Also, we have

$$\begin{cases} X_{\theta\theta} = (-f(z)\cos\theta, -f(z)\sin\theta, 0) \\ X_{\theta z} = (-f'(z)\sin\theta, f'(z)\cos\theta, 0) = X_{z\theta} \\ X_{zz} = (f''(z)\cos\theta, f''(z)\sin\theta, 0) \end{cases}$$

With respect to the normal vector n, the second fundamental form is given by

$$\mathbf{II} = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (f'(z))^2}} \begin{pmatrix} -f(z) & 0\\ 0 & f''(z) \end{pmatrix}$$

Therefore, the Gaussian curvature of the surface  $\Phi$  is given by

$$K_{\Phi}(z) = \frac{\det(\mathbf{II})}{\det(\mathbf{I})} = \frac{-f(z)f''(z)/(1+(f'(z))^2)}{(f(z))^2(1+(f'(z))^2)} = -\frac{f''(z)}{f(z)(1+(f'(z))^2)^2}$$

Also, the mean curvature of the surface  $\Phi$  is

$$H_{\Phi}(z) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (f'(z))^2}} \left( \frac{f''(z)(f(z))^2 - 0 + (1 + (f'(z))^2)(-f(z))}{(f(z))^2 (1 + (f'(z))^2)} \right)$$
$$= \pm \frac{1}{2(f(z))^2 (1 + (f'(z))^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left( f(z) \left[ f(z)f''(z) - 1 - (f'(z))^2 \right] \right)$$
$$= \pm \frac{1 + (f'(z))^2 - f(z)f''(z)}{2f(z) (1 + (f'(z))^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

Remark. The original problem set omitted the " $\pm$ " sign. The mean curvature depends on which unit normal vector you pick.

ii. Define

$$f(z) = a\left(\cosh\frac{z}{a}\cosh b + \sinh\frac{z}{a}\sinh b\right) = a\cosh\left(\frac{z}{a} + b\right)$$

Note that

$$f'(z) = \sinh\left(\frac{z}{a} + b\right)$$
 and  $f''(z) = \frac{1}{a}\cosh\left(\frac{z}{a} + b\right)$ 

Then, we have

$$1 + (f'(z))^2 - f(z)f''(z) = 1 + \sinh^2\left(\frac{z}{a} + b\right) - a \cdot \frac{1}{a}\cosh^2\left(\frac{z}{a} + b\right)$$
$$= \cosh^2\left(\frac{z}{a} + b\right) - \cosh^2\left(\frac{z}{a} + b\right)$$
$$= 0$$

with a > 0 and  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ . Also, we have f(z) > 0 and  $1 + (f'(z))^2 > 0$ , hence by using part (c)i., the mean curvature of the surface obtained by rotating the graph of x = f(z) is

$$H = \frac{1 + (f'(z))^2 - f(z)f''(z)}{2f(z)\left(1 + (f'(z))^2\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \equiv 0$$

everywhere. Thus, using part (a), the surface is a minimal surface.

## 5. (a) Note that

$$\begin{cases} \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{n}_{u} \rangle = a_{11} \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{x}_{u} \rangle + a_{12} \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{x}_{v} \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{n}_{v} \rangle = a_{21} \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{x}_{u} \rangle + a_{22} \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{x}_{v} \rangle \end{cases} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{x}_{u} \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{x}_{v} \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

Also, we have

$$\begin{cases} \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{n}_{u} \rangle = a_{11} \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{x}_{u} \rangle + a_{12} \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{x}_{v} \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{n}_{v} \rangle = a_{21} \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{x}_{u} \rangle + a_{22} \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{x}_{v} \rangle \end{cases} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{x}_{u} \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{x}_{v} \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

Therefore, it follows that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{n}_{u} \rangle & \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{n}_{v} \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{n}_{u} \rangle & \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{n}_{v} \rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{x}_{u} \rangle & \langle \mathbf{x}_{u}, \mathbf{x}_{v} \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{x}_{u} \rangle & \langle \mathbf{x}_{v}, \mathbf{x}_{v} \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$
$$-(\mathbf{II}) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}$$

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} = -(\mathbf{II})(\mathbf{I})^{-1}$$

(b) The differential of the Gauss map is defined by

$$\begin{cases} d\mathbf{n}_{p}\left(\mathbf{x}_{u}\right) = \mathbf{n}_{u} \\ d\mathbf{n}_{p}\left(\mathbf{x}_{v}\right) = \mathbf{n}_{v} \end{cases}$$

and its matrix representation is given by

$$d\mathbf{n}_p = \left(\begin{array}{cc} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{array}\right)$$

As the shape operator of  $\mathbf{X}$  is the negative differential of the Gauss map, the matrix representation is defined as follows:

$$-d\mathbf{n}_p = -\left(\begin{array}{cc}a_{11} & a_{12}\\a_{21} & a_{22}\end{array}\right)$$

Thus, from part (a), we have

$$S = -d\mathbf{n}_p = (\mathbf{II})(\mathbf{I})^{-1}$$

(c) Note that

$$K = \frac{\det(\mathbf{II})}{\det(\mathbf{I})} = \det\left((\mathbf{II})(\mathbf{I})^{-1}\right) = \det(S)$$

and

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{gE - 2fF + eG}{EG - F^2} \right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr} \left[ \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ f & g \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{EG - F^2} \begin{pmatrix} G & -F \\ -F & E \end{pmatrix} \right]$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr} \left( (\mathbf{II})(\mathbf{I})^{-1} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(S)$$

(d) By direct computation, we have

$$A^{2} - \operatorname{tr}(A)A + \det(A)I = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{pmatrix}^{2} - (a+c)\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{pmatrix} + (ac-b^{2})\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{pmatrix} a^{2} + b^{2} & ab + bc \\ ab + bc & b^{2} + c^{2} \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} a^{2} + ac & ab + bc \\ ab + bc & ac + c^{2} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} ac-b^{2} & 0 \\ 0 & ac-b^{2} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

Remark. See Cayley Hamilton's Theorem. Hence, from (\*) and part (c), we have

$$S^{2} - 2HS + KI = S^{2} - 2\left(\frac{1}{2}\operatorname{tr}(S)\right)S + \det(S)I \quad \text{(from part (c))}$$
$$= S^{2} - \operatorname{tr}(S)S + \det(S)I$$
$$= \mathbf{0} \quad \text{(from(*))}$$

(e) i.  $K(\mathbf{p}) = \det(S) = (-2)^2 - 1 = 3$ ,

$$H(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{2}\operatorname{tr}(S) = \frac{1}{2}(-2-2) = -2$$

ii. Consider

$$det(S - \kappa I) = 0$$
  

$$\kappa^{2} - 2(-2)\kappa + 3 = 0$$
  

$$(\kappa + 1)(\kappa + 3) = 0$$
  

$$\kappa = -1 \quad \text{or } \kappa = -3$$

Thus, the principal curvatures of X at p are  $\kappa_1 = -3$  and  $\kappa_2 = -1$ . iii. When  $\kappa = \kappa_1 = -3$ , then we have

$$(S+3I)\boldsymbol{\xi}_1 = \boldsymbol{0}$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\xi}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0\\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

By solving the simultaneous equations, we have

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_1 = \left\{ s \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} : s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \right\}$$

Thus,  $\boldsymbol{\xi}_1 = (1, -1)$  is the principal direction associated with the principal curvature is  $\kappa_1 = -3$ .

- When  $\kappa = \kappa_2 = -1$ , then we have

$$(S+I)\boldsymbol{\xi}_2 = \boldsymbol{0}$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1\\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\xi}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0\\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

By solving the system again, it follows that

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_2 \in \left\{ t \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} : t \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \right\}$$

This implies that  $\xi_2 = (1, 1)$  is the principal direction associated with the principal curvature is  $\kappa_1 = -1$ .

iv. From part (e) iii., we have

$$\langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_1, \boldsymbol{\xi}_2 \rangle = 1(-1) + 1(1) = 0$$

Hence, two principal directions are orthogonal. For any unit vector  $\mathbf{v} \in T_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{X}(u, v))$ , the normal curvature of the surface at  $\mathbf{p}$ along  $\mathbf{v}$  is defined by

$$\kappa_n(\mathbf{v}) = -\langle \mathbf{v}, d\mathbf{n}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{v}) \rangle$$
  
As  $T_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{X}) = \operatorname{span} \{ \mathbf{X}_u, \mathbf{X}_v \} = \operatorname{span} \{ \boldsymbol{\xi}_1, \boldsymbol{\xi}_2 \}$  and  $\langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_1, \boldsymbol{\xi}_2 \rangle = 0$ , we write  
$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_1\|^2 + b^2 \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_2\|^2}} (a\boldsymbol{\xi}_1 + b\boldsymbol{\xi}_2)$$

since v is a unit vector. Then, we have

$$\kappa_{n}(\mathbf{v}) = -\frac{1}{\left(\sqrt{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2} + b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}}\right)^{2}} \langle a\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1} + b\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}, d\mathbf{n}_{\mathbf{p}} (a\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1} + b\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}) \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2} + b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}} \langle a\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1} + b\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}, a\kappa_{1}\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1} + b\kappa_{2}\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2} \rangle$$

$$= \frac{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2}}{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2} + b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}} \kappa_{1} + \frac{b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}}{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2} + b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}} \kappa_{2}$$

Also, from our assumption, we have  $\kappa_1 \leq \kappa_2$ , thus it follows that

$$\kappa_{n}(\mathbf{v}) \leq \frac{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2}}{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2} + b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}} \kappa_{2} + \frac{b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}}{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2} + b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}} \kappa_{2} = \kappa_{2}$$

and

$$\kappa_{n}(\mathbf{v}) \geq \frac{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2}}{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2} + b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}} \kappa_{1} + \frac{b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}}{a^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{1}\|^{2} + b^{2} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{2}\|^{2}} \kappa_{1} = \kappa_{1}$$

Thus, we have

$$-3 = \kappa_1 \le \kappa_n(\mathbf{v}) \le \kappa_2 = -1.$$