

Total : (A)

Good
job.

Problem Sheet 3
B3.2: Geometry of Surfaces

Review computations in Q1.

Question 1



Let U be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^2 and let $\mathbf{r}: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a smooth parametrisation of a surface $S = \mathbf{r}(U) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$. Let $Edu^2 + 2Fdu dv + Gdv^2$ be its first fundamental form. A parametrisation is said to be *conformal* if it preserves angles between intersecting curves, and *equiareal* if it preserves areas.

- Show that the parametrisation is *conformal* if and only if $E = G$ and $F = 0$, and is *equiareal* if and only if $EG - F^2 = 1$
- What is the first fundamental form of the spherical coordinates local parametrisation of the unit sphere, given by $\mathbf{r}(\theta, \phi) = (\cos \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \phi)$? Show that this parametrisation is neither conformal nor equiareal. (In this familiar parametrisation, θ gives the longitude and ϕ the latitude.)
- *Mercator's projection* of the unit sphere minus the Date Line takes a point $\mathbf{r}(\theta, \phi)$ with latitude ϕ and longitude θ to $(\theta, \log \tan(\frac{\phi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4}))$ in $(-\pi, \pi) \times \mathbb{R}$. Show that this parametrisation is conformal but not equiareal.
- *Lambert's cylindrical projection* takes a point $\mathbf{r}(\theta, \phi)$ with latitude ϕ and longitude θ to $(\theta, \sin \phi)$. Show that this parametrisation is equiareal.

Proof. • First we shall formulate an exact definition of a conformal parametrisation:

Fix $\mathbf{p} \in U$. The map $\mathbf{r}: U \rightarrow S$ induces the differential map $d\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{p}}: T_{\mathbf{p}}U \rightarrow T_{\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{p})}S$ given by $\gamma' \mapsto (\mathbf{r} \circ \gamma)'$, where $\gamma: [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon] \rightarrow U$ is a curve with $\gamma(0) = \mathbf{p}$. Let \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} be tangent vectors of $T_{\mathbf{p}}U$. We define the angle between \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} to be

$$\angle(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) := \arccos\left(\frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{\|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\|}\right) \quad \text{Yes!}$$

We say that \mathbf{r} is conformal at $\mathbf{p} \in U$, if $\angle(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \angle(d\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{a}), d\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{b}))$ for all $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in T_{\mathbf{p}}U$. We say that \mathbf{r} is conformal in U if it is conformal at every point of U .

" \Leftarrow ": Suppose that $E = G = \lambda(u, v)$ and $F = 0$. Then $g = \lambda(du^2 + dv^2)$ is an isothermal coordinates. In particular we have $g(d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{a}), d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{b})) = \lambda \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$. Then

$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{a}) \cdot d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{b})}{\|d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{a})\| \|d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{b})\|} = \frac{g(d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{a}), d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{b}))}{\sqrt{g(d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{a}), d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{a}))} \sqrt{g(d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{b}), d\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{b}))}} = \frac{\lambda \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{\sqrt{\lambda} \|\mathbf{a}\| \sqrt{\lambda} \|\mathbf{b}\|} = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{\|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\|} \quad \checkmark$$

Hence \mathbf{r} is conformal. \checkmark

" \Rightarrow ": Suppose that \mathbf{r} is conformal. We have

$$d\mathbf{r}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u}\right) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} = \mathbf{r}_u, \quad d\mathbf{r}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial v}\right) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} = \mathbf{r}_v$$

Since \mathbf{r} is conformal, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \cos \angle(\mathbf{r}_u, \mathbf{r}_v) &= \cos \angle(\partial_u, \partial_v) = \cos \angle(\mathbf{e}_u, \mathbf{e}_v) = 0 \\ \cos \angle(\mathbf{r}_u + \mathbf{r}_v, \mathbf{r}_v) &= \cos \angle(\partial_u + \partial_v, \partial_v) = \cos \angle(\mathbf{e}_u + \mathbf{e}_v, \mathbf{e}_v) = 1/\sqrt{2} \\ \cos \angle(\mathbf{r}_u + \mathbf{r}_v, \mathbf{r}_u) &= \cos \angle(\partial_u + \partial_v, \partial_u) = \cos \angle(\mathbf{e}_u + \mathbf{e}_v, \mathbf{e}_u) = 1/\sqrt{2} \end{aligned} \quad \checkmark$$

From $E = \mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_u$, $F = \mathbf{r}_u \cdot \mathbf{r}_v$ and $G = \mathbf{r}_v \cdot \mathbf{r}_v$, we have

$$\frac{F}{\sqrt{EG}} = 0, \quad \frac{F+G}{\sqrt{E+2F+G}\sqrt{G}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \frac{E+F}{\sqrt{E+2F+G}\sqrt{E}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \checkmark$$

The first equation implies that $F = 0$. Substituting into the second and the third ones we have

$$\frac{\sqrt{E}}{\sqrt{E+G}} = \frac{\sqrt{G}}{\sqrt{E+G}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \checkmark$$

which implies that $E = G$. \checkmark

Next we formulate an exact definition of equiareal parametrisation:

Let $K \subseteq U$ be a compact subset. The area of $\mathbf{r}(K) \subseteq S$ is given by

$$A[\mathbf{r}(K)] = \iint_{\mathbf{r}(K)} d\sigma = \iint_K \sqrt{\det g} du dv$$

where g is the metric tensor of S . We say that $\mathbf{r} : U \rightarrow S$ is equiareal, if $A[K] = A[\mathbf{r}(K)]$ for any compact subset $K \subseteq U$.

Now we observe that for any compact subset $K \subseteq U$,

$$A[K] = A[\mathbf{r}(K)] \iff \iint_K \sqrt{\det g} du dv = \iint_K du dv \iff \iint_K (\sqrt{\det g} - 1) du dv = 0$$

Since $\sqrt{\det g} - 1$ is smooth, the above equation holds for all $K \subseteq U$ if and only if $\sqrt{\det g} - 1 = 0$. Finally $\det g = \det \begin{pmatrix} E & F \\ F & G \end{pmatrix} = EG - F^2$. We deduce that \mathbf{r} is equiareal if and only if $EG - F^2 = 1$.

- From $\mathbf{r}(\theta, \phi) = (\cos \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \phi)$, we have

$$\mathbf{r}_\theta = (-\sin \theta \cos \phi, \cos \theta \cos \phi, 0), \quad \mathbf{r}_\phi = (-\cos \theta \sin \phi, -\sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \phi)$$

Then

$$E = \mathbf{r}_\theta \cdot \mathbf{r}_\theta = \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \phi + \cos^2 \theta \cos^2 \phi = \cos^2 \phi$$

$$F = \mathbf{r}_\theta \cdot \mathbf{r}_\phi = \sin \theta \cos \theta \cos \phi \sin \phi - \sin \theta \cos \theta \cos \phi \sin \phi = 0$$

$$G = \mathbf{r}_\phi \cdot \mathbf{r}_\phi = \cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \phi + \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \phi + \cos^2 \phi = 1$$

Hence the metric tensor is given by

$$g = E d\theta^2 + 2F d\theta d\phi + G d\phi^2 = \cos^2 \phi d\theta^2 + d\phi^2$$

(This is not the standard spherical coordinates.)

We observe that g is not conformal because $E \neq G$, and g is not equiareal because $EG - F^2 = \cos^2 \phi \neq 1$.

- The result proven in the beginning can be generalised as follows: Let $f : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$ be a map between smooth surfaces. Then f induces a pull-back metric $f^*(g_2)$ on S_1 given by

$$f^*(g_2)(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) := g_2(df(\mathbf{a}), df(\mathbf{b}))$$

for all $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in T_{\mathbf{p}}(S_1)$ and $\mathbf{p} \in S_1$.

f is conformal if and only if there exists a continuous function λ on S_1 such that $f^*(g_2) = \lambda g_1$. f is equiareal if and only if $\det f^*(g_2) = \det g_1$.

Let $\mathbf{r}(\theta, \varphi) = \left(\theta, \log \tan \left(\frac{\phi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \right)$. We have

$$\mathbf{r}_\theta = (1, 0), \quad \mathbf{r}_\varphi = \left(0, \frac{1}{\cos \varphi} \right)$$

Hence the metric tensor is given by

$$g_2 = d\theta^2 + \frac{1}{\cos^2 \varphi} d\varphi^2$$

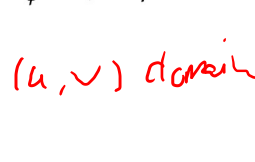
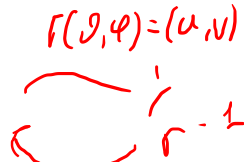
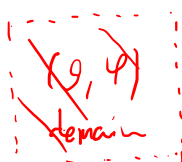
Comparing to the metric tensor of the sphere:

$$g_1 = \cos^2 \varphi d\theta^2 + d\varphi^2$$

We find that $f^*(g_2) = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \varphi} g_1$, where f is the map from the sphere (minus a line) to $(-\pi, \pi) \times \mathbb{R}$ induced by the parametrisation (u, v) . Hence the Mercator projection is conformal.

- Let $\mathbf{r}(\theta, \varphi) = (\theta, \sin \varphi)$. We have

$$\mathbf{r}_\theta = (1, 0), \quad \mathbf{r}_\varphi = (0, \cos \varphi)$$



You need to pull back by r^* !

Here you are pulling back the euclidean metric of one parameter domain to another. Why? This is the euclidean metric on $r(U)$ pulled to back to (θ, φ) domain. Why are? Computed in part (a)



Hence the metric tensor is given by

$$g_3 = d\theta^2 + \cos^2 \varphi d\varphi^2$$

Same issue as before.

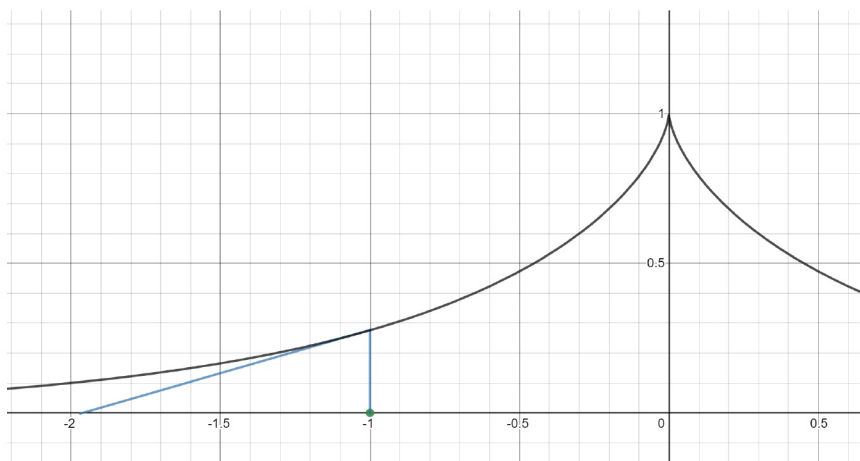
Let \tilde{f} be the map from the sphere (minus the poles) to $(-\pi, \pi) \times (-1, 1)$ induced by the parametrisation (u, v) . We find that $\det g_1 = \det \tilde{f}^*(g_3) = \cos^2 \varphi$. Hence the Lambert's cylindrical projection is equiareal. \square

Question 2

The *tractrix* is a curve in \mathbb{R}^2 such that the distance along any tangent line from its point of contact with the curve to its point of intersection with the x -axis is 1. If θ is the angle the tangent line makes with the x -axis, show that the surface of revolution (the *tractoid*) obtained by rotating the tractrix about the x -axis has first fundamental form $\cot^2 \theta d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta dv^2$ where v is the angle of rotation of the surface of revolution. By making a suitable change of coordinates between (v, θ) and (x, y) , show that the tractoid is locally isometric to the hyperbolic plane with first fundamental form $(dx^2 + dy^2)/y^2$.

Proof. First we consider the tractrix in the (x, w) -plane parametrised by θ . From the diagram below we find that

$$\checkmark \quad w = \sin \theta, \quad \frac{dw}{dx} = \tan \theta, \quad \frac{dx}{d\theta} = \frac{dx}{dw} \frac{dw}{d\theta} = \frac{\cos \theta}{\tan \theta} = \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\sin \theta} \quad \checkmark$$



Then the tractoid is parametrised by

$$\mathbf{r}(\theta, v) = (x(\theta), w \cos v, w \sin v) = (x(\theta), \sin \theta \cos v, \sin \theta \sin v)$$

Hence

$$\mathbf{r}_\theta = \left(\frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\sin \theta}, \cos \theta \cos v, \cos \theta \sin v \right), \quad \mathbf{r}_v = (0, -\sin \theta \sin v, \sin \theta \cos v)$$

The metric tensor is given by

$$g = \left(\frac{\cos^4 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} + \cos^2 \theta \right) d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta dv^2 = \cot^2 \theta d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta dv^2$$

Change of variable: $x = v$, $y = \csc \theta$. Then $dx = dv$ and $dy = -\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta$. We have

$$g = \sin^2 \theta \left(\frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\sin^4 \theta} d\theta^2 + dv^2 \right) = \frac{1}{y^2} (dx^2 + dy^2)$$

We deduce that the tractoid is locally isometric to the hyperbolic plane, because they have the same Riemannian metric. \square

Great!

(I guessed what $x(\theta)$ is, you should write it).

Question 3

Show that the Gaussian curvature of a surface which is the graph of a smooth function $z = f(x, y)$ is given by

$$K = \frac{f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2}{(1 + f_x^2 + f_y^2)^2}$$

Calculate K when $f(x, y) = xy$ and sketch the surface.

Proof. $\mathbf{r}(x, y) = (x, y, f(x, y))$ gives a global parametrisation of the surface. The tangent vectors are given by

$$\mathbf{r}_x = (1, 0, f_x), \quad \mathbf{r}_y = (0, 1, f_y)$$

The metric tensor is given by

$$g = ds^2 = \mathbf{r}_i \cdot \mathbf{r}_j du^i du^j = f_x^2 dx^2 + 2f_x f_y dx dy + f_y^2 dy^2$$

The normal vector is given by

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{\mathbf{r}_x \wedge \mathbf{r}_y}{\|\mathbf{r}_x \wedge \mathbf{r}_y\|} = \frac{(f_x, f_y, -1)}{\|(f_x, f_y, -1)\|} = \frac{(f_x, f_y, -1)}{\sqrt{1 + f_x^2 + f_y^2}}$$

The second fundamental form is given by

$$\Pi = d^2\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = -\mathbf{r}_{ij} \cdot \mathbf{n} du^i du^j = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + f_x^2 + f_y^2}} (f_{xx} dx^2 + 2f_{xy} dx dy + f_{yy} dy^2)$$

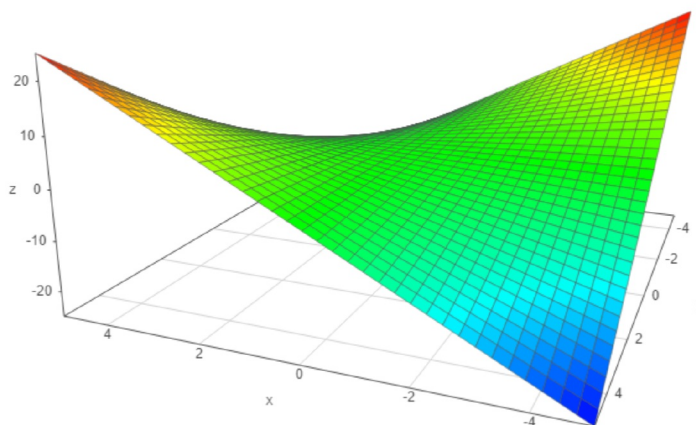
By definition the Gaussian curvature is given by

$$K = \frac{\det \Pi}{\det g} = \frac{f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2}{(1 + f_x^2 + f_y^2)^2}$$

For $f(x, y) = xy$, we have $f_x = y$, $f_y = x$, $f_{xx} = f_{yy} = 0$ and $f_{xy} = 1$. Then the Gaussian curvature is given by

$$K = -\frac{1}{(1 + x^2 + y^2)^2}$$

Sketch of the surface $z = xy$:



Great

□

Question 4

Let $\mathbf{r}(u, v)$ be a parametrized surface in \mathbb{R}^3 with $(u, v) \in U$, a connected open set in \mathbb{R}^2 . Let S^2 denote the sphere of radius 1 with centre the origin in \mathbb{R}^3 and let $\mathbf{n} : U \rightarrow S^2$ be the mapping defined by assigning to each point of the surface the unit normal. Suppose that the restriction of \mathbf{n} to U is a bijection onto $\mathbf{n}(U)$ and that the Gaussian curvature K is nowhere zero in U . Show

that the area of $\mathbf{n}(U)$ equals the absolute value of $\int_U K \, dA$.

Proof. The map $N : \mathbf{r}(U) \rightarrow S^2$ given by $N(\mathbf{r}(u, v)) = \mathbf{n}(u, v)$ is called the **Gauss map**. The surface element on $\mathbf{n}(U)$ is $d\sigma_0 = |\mathbf{n}_u \wedge \mathbf{n}_v| \, du \, dv$. The surface element on $\mathbf{r}(U)$ is given by $d\sigma = |\mathbf{r}_u \wedge \mathbf{r}_v| \, du \, dv$. So the area of $\mathbf{n}(U)$ is given by

$$\iint_U |\mathbf{n}_u \wedge \mathbf{n}_v| \, du \, dv = \iint_{\mathbf{r}(U)} \frac{|\mathbf{n}_u \wedge \mathbf{n}_v|}{|\mathbf{r}_u \wedge \mathbf{r}_v|} \, d\sigma$$

So it suffices to prove that the Gaussian curvature is given by

$$\text{absolute value } |K| = \frac{|\mathbf{n}_u \wedge \mathbf{n}_v|}{|\mathbf{r}_u \wedge \mathbf{r}_v|}$$

This result is a part of the proof of Theorema Egregium (Page 65 in Hitchin's notes). Instead I shall prove it using the Weingarten map.

Let $X = \mathbf{r}(U)$. Gauss map induces the differential map $dN : T_{\mathbf{p}}X \rightarrow T_{N(\mathbf{p})}S^2$. Note that $T_{N(\mathbf{p})}S^2$ and $T_{\mathbf{p}}X$ can be naturally identified as subspaces of \mathbb{R}^3 . The Weingarten map is then defined as $W = -dN : T_{\mathbf{p}}X \rightarrow T_{\mathbf{p}}X$. The Weingarten map also gives an alternative definition of the second fundamental form $\Pi \in T^*X \otimes T^*X$:

$$\Pi(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) := g(W(\mathbf{a}), \mathbf{b})$$

Consider the matrix representation of W in the basis $\{\mathbf{r}_u, \mathbf{r}_v\}$. Since $W(\mathbf{r}_u) = -\mathbf{n}_u$ and $W(\mathbf{r}_v) = -\mathbf{n}_v$, we have

$$-\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{n}_u \\ \mathbf{n}_v \end{pmatrix} = W \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_u \\ \mathbf{r}_v \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow -\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{n}_u \\ \mathbf{n}_v \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_u & \mathbf{r}_v \end{pmatrix} = W \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_u \\ \mathbf{r}_v \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_u & \mathbf{r}_v \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \Pi = Wg$$

Hence $W = \Pi g^{-1}$, where Π and g are the local matrix of the second and first fundamental forms. In particular we find that

$$\det W = \det(\Pi) (\det g)^{-1} =: K$$

So the Gaussian curvature K is the determinant of the Weingarten map W . We therefore deduce that

$$\|\mathbf{n}_u \wedge \mathbf{n}_v\| = |\det W| \|\mathbf{r}_u \wedge \mathbf{r}_v\| \Rightarrow |K| = \frac{|\mathbf{n}_u \wedge \mathbf{n}_v|}{|\mathbf{r}_u \wedge \mathbf{r}_v|}$$

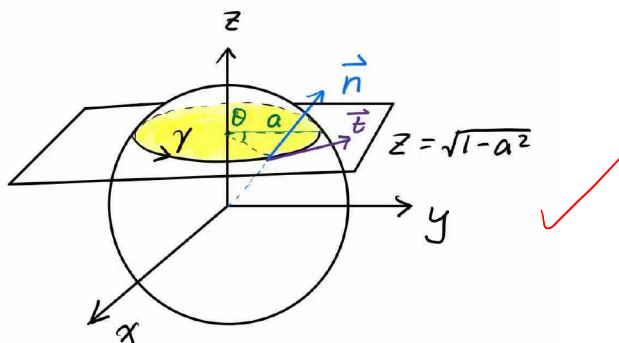
which finishes the proof. □

You forgot absolute values. Need to argue how to remove them using $K \neq 0$, K cts, U connected.

Question 5

Let S be the unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^3 and γ the circle obtained by intersecting S with the plane $z = \sqrt{1-a^2}$. Calculate the geodesic curvature of γ and the area of the smaller region of the sphere bounded by γ , and use these results to illustrate the Gauss-Bonnet theorem.

Proof. A diagram is drawn below:



The curve γ , parametrised by arc length, is given by

$$\gamma(s) = \left(a \cos \frac{s}{a}, a \sin \frac{s}{a}, \sqrt{1-a^2} \right)$$

Then the tangent vector along γ is

$$\mathbf{t} = \frac{\gamma'(s)}{\|\gamma'(s)\|} = \left(-\sin \frac{s}{a}, \cos \frac{s}{a}, 0 \right)$$

and the derivative of tangent vector is given by

$$\mathbf{t}' = -\left(\frac{1}{a} \cos \frac{s}{a}, \frac{1}{a} \sin \frac{s}{a}, 0 \right)$$

The normal vector is

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{\gamma(s)}{\|\gamma(s)\|} = \left(a \cos \frac{s}{a}, a \sin \frac{s}{a}, \sqrt{1-a^2} \right)$$

By definition, the geodesic curvature is given by

$$\kappa_g := \mathbf{t}' \cdot (\mathbf{n} \wedge \mathbf{t}) = -\left(\frac{1}{a} \cos \frac{s}{a}, \frac{1}{a} \sin \frac{s}{a}, 0 \right) \cdot \left(-\sqrt{1-a^2} \cos \frac{s}{a}, -\sqrt{1-a^2} \sin \frac{s}{a}, a \right) = \frac{\sqrt{1-a^2}}{a} = \frac{z}{a}$$

The smaller region bounded by γ has area:

$$A = \int_{\theta=0}^{\arccos z} \int_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \sin \theta \, d\varphi \, d\theta = 2\pi(1-z)$$

To illustrate the local Gauss-Bonnet Theorem, we still need to compute the Gaussian curvature of the sphere. But if we note that $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{r}$ on the unit sphere, then we immediately find that the first and the second fundamental form of the unit sphere coincide. Hence the sphere has Gaussian curvature $K = 1$.

Finally,

$$\oint_{\gamma} \kappa_g \, ds + \iint_A K \, d\sigma = 2\pi a \cdot \frac{z}{a} + 2\pi(1-z) = 2\pi$$

which is consistent with the local form of the Gauss-Bonnet Theorem. □