



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

P.O. Box 972-60200 – Meru-Kenya.

Tel: +254 (0)799529958, +254 (0)799529959, +254 (0)712524293

Website: [www.must.ac.ke](http://www.must.ac.ke) Email: [info@must.ac.ke](mailto:info@must.ac.ke)

---

## University Examinations 2022/2023

FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN  
MATHEMATICS

### SMA 8114: DIFFERENTIAL GEOMETRY

DATE: APRIL 2023

TIME: 3 HOURS

---

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

---

#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

a) Let  $\alpha : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be a curve and let  $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be a rigid motion. Prove that  $L_a^b(\alpha) = L_a^b(\varphi \circ \alpha)$ . That is, rigid motions preserve the length of curves (5 marks)

b) Let  $I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be a regular curve (not necessarily p.b.a.1), show that the curvature and torsion of  $\alpha$  at  $t \in I$  is given respectively by (5 marks)

$$k(t) = \frac{|\alpha'(t) \times \alpha''(t)|}{|\alpha'(t)|^3} \quad \text{and} \quad \tau(t) = -\frac{(\alpha'(t) \times \alpha''(t)) \cdot \alpha'''(t)}{|\alpha'(t) \times \alpha''(t)|^2}$$

c) (*Invariance under rigid motions*) Let  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  be an orientable surface and  $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be a rigid motion of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , i.e  $\varphi(p) = Ap + b$  for some  $A \in O(3)$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . Let  $S'(0) = \varphi(S)$  be the image surface of  $S$  under  $\varphi$ .

i. If  $N : S \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^2$  is a Gauss map for  $S$ , prove that  $N' = A(N \circ \varphi^{-1}) : S' \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^2$  is a Gauss map for  $S'$  (5 marks)

ii. Let  $A$  and  $A'$  be the second fundamental for  $S$  and  $S'$  respectively (with respect to  $N$  and  $N'$  in (i)). Show that for any  $p \in S$  and  $v, w \in T_p S$ ,  $A'_{\varphi(p)}(d\varphi p(v), d\varphi p(w)) = A_p(v, w)$ . (5 marks)

iii. Find the relation between the mean curvature and Gauss curvature of  $S$  and  $S'$ .

(2 marks)

d) Find a local isometry  $f : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  from the upper half plane  $S_1 = \{z = 0, y > 0\}$  to the cone  $S_2 := \{x^2 + y^2 = z^2, z > 0\}$ . Calculate the mean and Gauss curvatures of  $S_2$ . (5 marks)

e) Prove that the surfaces parametrized by  $(u, v) \in (0, +\infty) \times (0, 2\pi)$ ,

$$X(u, v) = (u \cos v, u \sin v, \log u)$$

$$\tilde{X}(u, v) = (u \cos v, u \sin v, v)$$

Have the same Gauss curvature at the points  $X(u, v)$  and  $\tilde{X}(u, v)$ . However, show that the map  $\tilde{X} \circ X^{-1}$  is not an isometry (3 marks)

### QUESTION TWO (15 MARKS)

a) Let  $\alpha(s) : [0, L] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be a simple closed convex plane curve p.b.a. I which is oriented in the counterclockwise direction. Let  $\{T(s), N(s)\}$  be the Frenet frame of  $\alpha(s)$ . The curve  $\beta(s) : [0, L] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  given by  $\beta(s) := \alpha(s) - rN(s)$ , whether  $r > 0$  is a constant, is called a *parallel curve* to  $\alpha$ . Show that

(i)  $Lenght(\beta) = Lenght(\alpha) + 2\pi r$  (4 marks)

(ii)  $Area(\Omega_\beta) = Area(\Omega_\alpha) + rL + \pi r^2$  (5 marks)

where  $\Omega_\alpha, \Omega_\beta$  are the regions bounded by  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  respectively.

b) If  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  is a closed surface with positive Gauss curvature  $K > 0$ , show that any two simple closed geodesics on  $S$  must intersect. (6 marks)

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

a) Let  $p$  be a point on a surface  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ .

(i) Prove that  $K(p) > 0$  if and only if there exists a point  $p_o \in \mathbb{R}^3$  such that  $p$  is a local maximum of the function  $f(x) = |x - p_o|^2$ . (6 marks)

(ii) Show that there is not compact surface  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  with  $K > 0$  everywhere (4 marks)

b) Find a local isometry between the helicoid and the catenoid. Are they globally isometric?

(5 marks)

#### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Let  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  be a surface
- (i) Fix a point  $p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3$  such that  $p_0 \notin S$ , show that the *distance function from  $p_0$*   $f(p) := |p - p_0|$  Defines a smooth function  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Moreover, prove that  $p \in S$  is a critical point of  $f$  if and only if the line joining  $p$  and  $p_0$  is normal to  $S$  at  $p$  (3 marks)
- (ii) Fix a unit vector  $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , show that the *height function along  $v$*   $h(p) := \langle p, v \rangle$ , defines a smooth function  $h : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Prove that  $p \in S$  is a critical point of  $h$  if and only if  $v$  is normal to  $S$  at  $p$ . (3 marks)
- b) Show that an *ellipsoid*  $S = \left\{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1 \right\}$ , where  $a, b, c, > 0$  are constants, has positive Gauss curvature at every point (9 marks)

#### QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Consider the *logarithmic spiral*  $\alpha : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  given by  $\alpha(t) = (ae^{bt} \cos t, ae^{bt} \sin t)$  with  $a > 0, b < 0$ . Compute the arc length functions  $S : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  from  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ . Reparametrize this curve by arc length and study its trace (5 marks)
- b) Does there exist a parametrization  $X(u, v) : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  of a surface  $S$  such that the first and second fundamental forms are given by:
- (a)  $(g_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $(h_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ; (5 marks)
- (b)  $(g_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2 u \end{pmatrix}$  and  $(h_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos^2 u & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ? (5 marks)

Does there exist a parametrization  $X(u, v) : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  of a surface  $S$  such that the first and second fundamental forms are given by:

- (a)  $(g_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $(h_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ ;
- (b)  $(g_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2 u \end{pmatrix}$  and  $(h_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos^2 u & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ?