

# Local boundary constraints on free edges of unstretchable sheets

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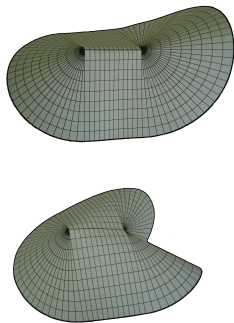
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# Elastic sheets



J. Dervaux, M. Ben Amar, *PRL* 2008



J. Guven *et al.*, *EPJE* 2013

soft growing tissues & defects in paper

# Surface model

- Use a continuum description and model the elastic sheet as a two-dimensional surface.
- Its energy is given as a surface integral over a scalar density  $\mathcal{H}$ :

$$H = \int_{\Sigma} dA \mathcal{H} .$$

- Elastic sheets offer resistance to bending and tangential strain.

$$H_{\text{elastic sheet}} = \int_{\Sigma} dA (\mathcal{H}_{\text{bend}} + \mathcal{H}_{\text{stretching}})$$

- Bending:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{bend}} = \frac{1}{2}kK^2 + \bar{k}K_G$$

Helfrich (1973)

$k$ : bending modulus

$\bar{k}$ : saddle splay modulus

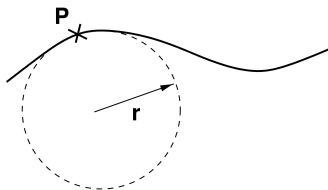
- Bending:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{bend}} = \frac{1}{2}K^2 + k_G K_G$$

Helfrich (1973)

Scaling:  $k_G = k/\bar{k}$

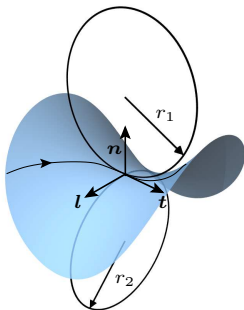
- Curvature in one dimension:  $c = \frac{1}{r}$



# Definition of $K$ and $K_G$

In two dimensions:

$$H_{\text{bend}} = \int dA \left( \frac{1}{2} K^2 + k_G K_G \right)$$



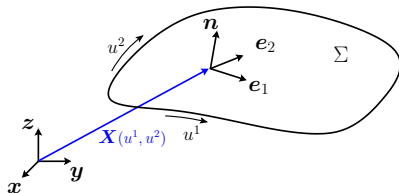
$$K = c_1 + c_2 = \frac{1}{r_1} + \frac{1}{r_2}$$

$$K_G = c_1 \cdot c_2 = \frac{1}{r_1} \cdot \frac{1}{r_2}$$

# Differential geometry

- Consider 2D surface  $\Sigma$ , which is described locally by its position  $\mathbf{X}(u^1, u^2) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , where the  $u^a$  are a suitable set of local coordinates on the surface.
- Basis:

$$\mathbf{e}_a = \frac{\partial \mathbf{X}}{\partial u^a}; \quad \mathbf{n} = \frac{\mathbf{e}_1 \times \mathbf{e}_2}{|\mathbf{e}_1 \times \mathbf{e}_2|}.$$



- metric and extrinsic curvature tensor ( $a, b \in \{1, 2\}$ ):

$$g_{ab} = \mathbf{e}_a \cdot \mathbf{e}_b; \quad K_{ab} = \mathbf{e}_a \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{n}}{\partial u^b} = \mathbf{e}_a \cdot \nabla_b \mathbf{n}.$$

- Note that:  $K = K_{ab}g^{ab}$  and  $K_G = \frac{1}{2}(K^2 - K_{ab}K^{ab})$ .

# Surface model

- Elastic sheets offer resistance to tangential strain.

$$H_{\text{elastic sheet}} = \int_{\Sigma} dA \left( \underbrace{\mathcal{H}_{\text{bend}}}_{\propto h^3} + \underbrace{\mathcal{H}_{\text{stretching}}}_{\propto h} \right) \quad h: \text{thickness}$$

- IDEA for  $h \rightarrow 0$ : fix the metric of the surface to  $g_{ab}^{(0)}$  via a Lagrange multiplier  $T^{ab}$ .

$$H = \int_{\Sigma} dA \mathcal{H}_{\text{bend}} - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma} dA T^{ab} (g_{ab} - g_{ab}^{(0)})$$

J. Guven, M. M. Müller, *J. Phys. A* **41**, 055203 (2008).



# Shape equation

- Variation of the surface vector function:  $\mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{X} + \delta\mathbf{X} \Rightarrow \delta H$
- Ground state in equilibrium  $\Rightarrow \delta H = 0$

$$\delta H = \int_{\Sigma} dA (\nabla_a \mathbf{f}^a) \cdot \delta\mathbf{X} + \delta H_{\text{boundary}} = 0 . \quad (\mathbf{f}^a: \text{stress tensor})$$

# Shape equation

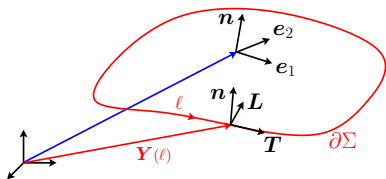
- Variation of the surface vector function:  $\mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{X} + \delta\mathbf{X} \Rightarrow \delta H$
- Decomposition:  $\delta\mathbf{X} = \Psi^a \mathbf{e}_a + \Phi \mathbf{n}$

$$\delta H = \int_{\Sigma} dA \left( \mathcal{E}_0 - K_{ab} T^{ab} \right) \Phi + \left( \nabla_a T^{ab} \right) \Psi_b + \delta H_{\text{boundary}} = 0 .$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{-\Delta K - K \left( \frac{K^2}{2} - 2K_G \right) - K_{ab} T^{ab} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla_a T^{ab} = 0 .}$$

- This set of nonlinear partial differential equations has to be solved to determine the shape of the sheet.
- But: What about the boundary conditions?

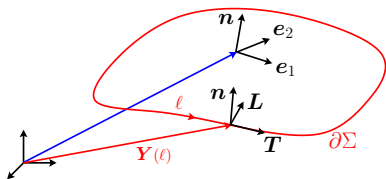
# Darboux frame adapted to the boundary



- Darboux frame adapted to the boundary  $\mathbf{Y}(\ell)$  with tangent  $\mathbf{T} = T^a \mathbf{e}_a$  and conormal  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{T} = L^a \mathbf{e}_a$
- Motion of the frame along the boundary ( $\dot{\mathbf{T}} = \partial_\ell \mathbf{T}, \dots$ ):

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{T}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{L}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{n}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \kappa_g & -\kappa_n \\ -\kappa_g & 0 & \tau_g \\ \kappa_n & -\tau_g & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{T} \\ \mathbf{L} \\ \mathbf{n} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Darboux frame adapted to the boundary



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- Geodesic curvature  $\kappa_g = \dot{\mathbf{T}} \cdot \mathbf{L} = L_a T^b \nabla_a T^a$   
Normal curvature  $\kappa_n = \dot{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \mathbf{T} = K_{ab} T^a T^b = K_{\parallel}$   
Geodesic torsion  $\tau_g = \dot{\mathbf{L}} \cdot \mathbf{n} = -K_{ab} L^a T^b = -K_{\perp}$

# The boundary integral

- Variation of the energy:

$$\delta H = \int_{\Sigma} dA (\nabla_a \mathbf{f}^a) \cdot \delta \mathbf{X} + \delta H_{\text{boundary}} .$$

# The boundary integral

- Variation of the energy due to surface boundary changes:

$$\delta H_{\text{boundary}} = - \oint_{\partial\Sigma} dl L_a \left( \mathbf{f}^a \cdot \delta \mathbf{X} - \mathcal{H}^{ab} \mathbf{e}_b \cdot \delta \mathbf{n} \right),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}^a &= K(K^{ab} - \frac{1}{2}Kg^{ab} + T^{ab}) \mathbf{e}_b - \nabla^a K \mathbf{n} \quad \text{and} \\ \mathcal{H}^{ab} &= Kg^{ab} + k_G(Kg^{ab} - K^{ab}). \end{aligned}$$

- Decomposition w.r.t the Darboux frame:

$$\delta \mathbf{X} = \Psi_{\parallel} \mathbf{T} + \Psi_{\perp} \mathbf{L} + \Phi \mathbf{n}.$$

# The boundary integral

- In equilibrium ( $\nabla_{\perp} = L^a \nabla_a$ ):

$$\delta H_{\text{boundary}} = - \oint_{\partial \Sigma} dl \left[ T_{\perp \parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} \Psi_{\parallel} + (T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \mathcal{H}_{\text{bend}}) \Psi_{\perp} - (\nabla_{\perp} K + k_G \dot{\tau}_g) \Phi + (K + k_G \kappa_n) \nabla_{\perp} \Phi \right] = 0 ,$$

- Naïvely,  $\Psi_{\parallel}$ ,  $\Psi_{\perp}$ ,  $\Phi$  and  $\nabla_{\perp} \Phi$  can be varied independently on free boundaries.

# The boundary integral

- In equilibrium ( $\nabla_{\perp} = L^a \nabla_a$ ):

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- Naïvely,  $\Psi_{\parallel}$ ,  $\Psi_{\perp}$ ,  $\Phi$  and  $\nabla_{\perp} \Phi$  can be varied independently on *free* boundaries.
- However, consider the balance of torques captured by

$$K + k_G \kappa_n = 0 .$$



# The boundary integral

- In equilibrium ( $\nabla_{\perp} = L^a \nabla_a$ ):

$$\delta H_{\text{boundary}} = - \oint_{\partial \Sigma} dl \left[ T_{\perp \parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} \Psi_{\parallel} + (T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \mathcal{H}_{\text{bend}}) \Psi_{\perp} - (\nabla_{\perp} K + k_G \dot{\tau}_g) \Phi + (K + k_G \kappa_n) \nabla_{\perp} \Phi \right] = 0 ,$$

- Naïvely,  $\Psi_{\parallel}$ ,  $\Psi_{\perp}$ ,  $\Phi$  and  $\nabla_{\perp} \Phi$  can be varied independently on free boundaries.
- For a flat sheet:

$$K = 0 .$$

*This does not make sense!*

# The boundary integral on free edges

- The three components of  $\delta\mathbf{X}$  on free boundaries are *not* independent!
- Proposition: Fix the intrinsic geometry of the boundary curve itself, *i.e.*, local arc-length  $\ell$  and geodesic curvature  $\kappa_g$ .
- Using Lagrange multipliers  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $\Lambda$ :

$$H^{\text{tot}} = \int_{\Sigma} dA \mathcal{H}_{\text{bend}} - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma} dA T^{ab} (g_{ab} - g_{ab}^{(0)}) \\ + \oint_{\partial\Sigma} d\nu \mathcal{T} (\sqrt{G} - \sqrt{G^{(0)}}) + \oint_{\partial\Sigma} d\nu \Lambda (\sqrt{G} \kappa_g - \sqrt{G^{(0)}} \kappa_g^{(0)})$$

finally yields

# The boundary integral on free edges

$$\begin{aligned}\delta H_{\text{boundary}}^{\text{tot}} = & - \oint_{\partial\Sigma} dl \left[ T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} + \dot{\mathcal{T}} + \dot{\Lambda}\kappa_g \right] \Psi_{\parallel} \\ & - \oint_{\partial\Sigma} dl \left[ T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \frac{1}{2}K^2 + \kappa_g\mathcal{T} - \ddot{\Lambda} - (\Lambda + k_G)K_G \right] \Psi_{\perp} \\ & + \oint_{\partial\Sigma} dl \left[ \nabla_{\perp}K + \kappa_n\mathcal{T} + 2\dot{\Lambda}\tau_g + (\Lambda + k_G)\dot{\tau}_g \right] \Phi \\ & + \oint_{\partial\Sigma} dl \left[ K + (\Lambda + k_G)\kappa_n \right] \nabla_{\perp}\Phi\end{aligned}$$

J. Guven, M. M. Müller & P. Vázquez-Montejo, *Math. Mech. Solids* 24, 4051 (2019).

# The boundary integral on free edges

$$\begin{aligned}\delta H_{\text{boundary}}^{\text{tot}} = & - \oint_{\partial\Sigma} dl \left[ T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} + \dot{\mathcal{T}} + \dot{\Lambda}\kappa_g \right] \Psi_{\parallel} \\ & - \oint_{\partial\Sigma} dl \left[ T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \frac{1}{2}K^2 + \kappa_g \mathcal{T} - \ddot{\Lambda} - (\Lambda + k_G)K_G \right] \Psi_{\perp} \\ & + \oint_{\partial\Sigma} dl \left[ \nabla_{\perp} K + \kappa_n \mathcal{T} + 2\dot{\Lambda}\tau_g + (\Lambda + k_G)\dot{\tau}_g \right] \Phi \\ & + \oint_{\partial\Sigma} dl \left[ K + (\Lambda + k_G)\kappa_n \right] \nabla_{\perp} \Phi\end{aligned}$$

Terms from **bending** and the constraints on **surface isometry**, **arc-length**, and **geodesic curvature**

# Boundary conditions on free edges

- With  $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda + k_G$ , we obtain the boundary conditions:

$$\mathcal{T}_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} + \dot{\mathcal{T}} + \dot{\Lambda}\kappa_g = 0$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \frac{1}{2}K^2 + \kappa_g\mathcal{T} - \ddot{\Lambda} - \Lambda K_G = 0$$

$$\nabla_{\perp}K + \kappa_n\mathcal{T} + 2\dot{\Lambda}\tau_g + \Lambda\dot{\tau}_g = 0$$

$$K + \Lambda\kappa_n = 0$$

Solve the shape equations subject to these boundary conditions!

# Boundary conditions on free edges

- With  $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda + k_G$ , we obtain the boundary conditions:

$$T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} + \dot{\mathcal{T}} + \dot{\Lambda}\kappa_g = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \frac{1}{2}K^2 + \kappa_g\mathcal{T} - \ddot{\Lambda} - \Lambda K_G = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\nabla_{\perp}K + \kappa_n\mathcal{T} + 2\dot{\Lambda}\tau_g + \Lambda\dot{\tau}_g = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$K + \Lambda\kappa_n = 0 \quad (4)$$

- For a boundary with  $\kappa_n \neq 0$ , we obtain  $\Lambda = -\frac{K}{\kappa_n}$  from (4).
- Eq. (3)  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  in terms of the boundary geometry  
 $\Rightarrow T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}}$  and  $T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}}$  via (1) and (2).

# Conical geometry

Position vector:

$$\mathbf{X}(r, s) = r \mathbf{u}(s)$$

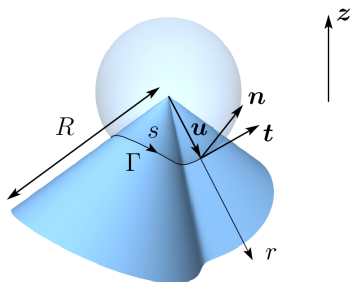
Curvature  $(a, b) \in \{r, s\}$ :

$$K_{ab} = r \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \kappa(s) \end{pmatrix}$$

with  $\kappa(s) = -\mathbf{n} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{t}}{ds} = -\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{t}'$ .

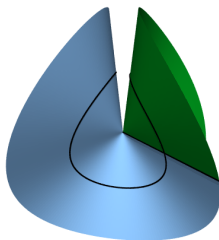
$$\kappa'' + \frac{\kappa^3}{2} + (1 + r^2 T_{\parallel}) \kappa = 0$$

with  $T_{\parallel} = t^a t^b T_{ab} = -C_{\parallel}(s)/r^2$ .



# The conical defect

- For a circular outer boundary ( $r = R$ ), the energy is rotationally invariant  $\Rightarrow C_{||}$  is constant.
- No need to solve the other shape equation  $\nabla_a T^{ab} = 0$  to determine the equilibrium geometry!



M. M. Müller, M. Ben Amar & J. Guven, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **101**, 156104 (2008).  
N. Stoop *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **105**, 068101 (2010).  
J. Guven, M. M. Müller & P. Vázquez-Montejo, *J. Phys. A* **45**, 015203 (2012).



## Including the boundary conditions

- Let's do it now! Solution of  $\nabla_a T^{ab} = 0$ :

$$T_{\parallel}(s, r) := t^a t^a T_{ab} = -\frac{C_{\parallel}}{r^2}$$

$$T_{\perp\parallel}(s, r) := l^a t^b T_{ab} = -\frac{1}{r^2} (C'_{\parallel} \ln r + C_{\parallel\perp})$$

$$T_{\perp}(s, r) := l^a l^b T_{ab} = \frac{1}{r^2} [C''_{\parallel} (\ln r + 1) + C_{\parallel} + C'_{\parallel\perp}] + \frac{C_{\perp}}{r}$$

# Including the boundary conditions

- Solution for a circular outer boundary ( $C_{\parallel} = \text{const.}$ )

$$T_{\parallel}(r) = -\frac{C_{\parallel}}{r^2}$$
$$T_{\perp\parallel}(s, r) = -\frac{1}{r^2} C_{\parallel\perp}(s)$$
$$T_{\perp}(s, r) = \frac{1}{r^2} [C_{\parallel} + C_{\parallel\perp}(s)'] + \frac{C_{\perp}(s)}{r}$$

- Boundary conditions (at  $r = R$ ):

$$T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} + \dot{\mathcal{T}} + \dot{\Lambda} \kappa_g = 0$$

$$T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \frac{1}{2} K^2 + \kappa_g \mathcal{T} - \ddot{\Lambda} - \Lambda K_G = 0$$

$$\nabla_{\perp} K + \kappa_n \mathcal{T} + 2\dot{\Lambda} \tau_g + \Lambda \dot{\tau}_g = 0$$

$$K + \Lambda \kappa_n = 0$$

# Including the boundary conditions

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$$\nabla_{\perp} K + K \mathcal{T} + 2\dot{\Lambda} \tau_g + \Lambda \dot{\tau}_g = 0$$

$$K + \Lambda K = 0$$

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$$\nabla_{\perp} K + K \mathcal{T} + 2\dot{\Lambda} \tau_g + \Lambda \dot{\tau}_g = 0$$

$$\Lambda = -1$$

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$$T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \frac{1}{2}K^2 + \kappa_g \mathcal{T} = 0$$

$$\nabla_{\perp} K + K\mathcal{T} = 0$$

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- Boundary conditions (at  $r = R$ ):

$$T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} + \dot{\mathcal{T}} = 0$$

$$T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \frac{\kappa^2}{2R^2} + \kappa_g \mathcal{T} = 0$$

$$-\partial_r \left( \frac{\kappa}{r} \right) \Big|_{r=R} + \frac{\kappa}{R} \mathcal{T} = 0$$

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$$\mathcal{T} = -\frac{1}{R}$$

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$$T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} = 0$$

$$T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} - \frac{\kappa^2}{2R^2} - \frac{1}{R^2} = 0$$

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- Boundary conditions (at  $r = R$ ):

$$T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} = 0$$

$$T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} = \frac{1}{R^2} \left( \frac{\kappa^2}{2} + 1 \right)$$

$$\mathcal{T} = -\frac{1}{R}$$

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$$T_{\perp}(s, r) = \frac{1}{r^2} [C_{\parallel} + C_{\parallel\perp}(s)'] + \frac{C_{\perp}(s)}{r}$$

- Boundary conditions (at  $r = R$ ):

$$T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} = 0 = T_{\perp\parallel}(s, R)$$

$$T_{\perp}^{\mathcal{D}} = \frac{1}{R^2} \left( \frac{\kappa^2}{2} + 1 \right) = T_{\perp}(s, R)$$

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$$\mathcal{T} = -\frac{1}{R}$$

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$$T_{\perp\parallel}(s, r) = 0$$

$$T_{\perp}(s, r) = \frac{C_{\parallel}}{r^2} + \frac{C_{\perp}(s)}{r}$$

- Boundary conditions (at  $r = R$ ):

$$T_{\perp\parallel}^D = 0 = T_{\perp\parallel}(s, R)$$

$$C_{\perp}(s) = \frac{1}{R} \left( \frac{\kappa^2}{2} + 1 - C_{\parallel} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{T} = -\frac{1}{R}$$

$$\Lambda = -1$$

# Including the boundary conditions

- Solution for a circular outer boundary ( $C_{\parallel} = \text{const.}$ )

$$T_{\parallel}(r) = -\frac{C_{\parallel}}{r^2}$$

$$T_{\perp\parallel}(s, r) = 0$$

$$T_{\perp}(s, r) = \frac{C_{\parallel}}{r^2} \left(1 - \frac{r}{R}\right) + \frac{1}{rR} \left(\frac{\kappa^2}{2} + 1\right)$$

- Boundary conditions (at  $r = R$ ):

$$T_{\perp\parallel}^{\mathcal{D}} = 0 = T_{\perp\parallel}(s, R)$$

$$C_{\perp}(s) = \frac{1}{R} \left(\frac{\kappa^2}{2} + 1 - C_{\parallel}\right)$$

$$\mathcal{T} = -\frac{1}{R}$$

$$\Lambda = -1$$

# Stresses in the bulk

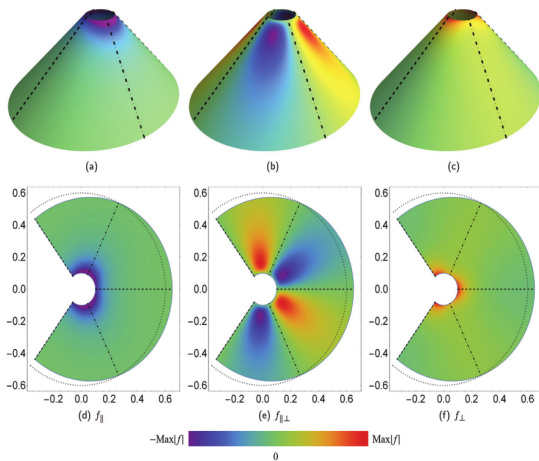
- For the complete tangential stress, one has to add the bending contribution:

$$\begin{aligned}f_{\parallel} &= \frac{\kappa^2}{2r^2} - \frac{C_{\parallel}}{r^2} \\f_{\perp\parallel} &= 0 \\f_{\perp} &= -\frac{\kappa^2}{2r^2} + \frac{C_{\parallel}}{r^2} \left(1 - \frac{r}{R}\right) + \frac{1}{rR} \left(\frac{\kappa^2}{2} + 1\right)\end{aligned}$$

- Example: icecream cone for which  $\kappa = \text{const.}$   
 $\Rightarrow C_{\parallel} = \frac{\kappa^2}{2} + 1$  and thus

$$f_{\parallel} = -\frac{1}{r^2}, \quad f_{\perp\parallel} = 0, \quad f_{\perp} = \frac{1}{r^2}$$

# Cones with non-circular boundary



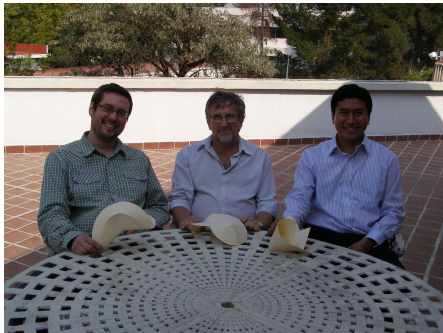
J. Guven, M. M. Müller & P. Vázquez-Montejo, *Math. Mech. Solids* 24, 4051 (2019).



# Conclusions

- Introduction of a framework allowing to analyze the stress distribution in isometric sheets.
- No need to introduce boundary layers!
- The introduction of two local constraints on the boundary curve (arc-length and geodesic curvature) ensures that boundary deformations are consistent with isometry.
- The equilibrium shapes of conical geometries are remarkably insensitive to boundary conditions.
- The framework can easily be extended to other geometries.

# Acknowledgements



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Webpage:

**Geometry**  
**in Nature**  
[www.geomnat.com](http://www.geomnat.com)

Many thanks for your attention!