

1022-35-46

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The metric normal is an useful tool to study geometric invariants of surfaces. In particular we can compute the horizontal Hessian of the Carnot-Charathéodory signed distance from a non-characteristic smooth surface in the Heisenberg group. Moreover, as a byproduct, we obtain some new invariant objects associated with the notion of curvature of smooth non-characteristic surfaces in the Heisenberg group. (Received September 06, 2006)