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Leaves, flowers and torn plastic bags are all examples of thin objects that are conjectured to have no stress-free configurations in \mathbb{R}^3 . Non-euclidean elasticity is the study of energy driven pattern formation in such objects. I will discuss some recent geometric and numerical approaches to this problem, and discuss some of the intriguing results including – (i) a generalization of the Sine-Gordon equation to describe “rough” hyperbolic surfaces with constant negative curvature, and (ii) the important role of regularity in quantitative versions of the Hilbert-Efimov theorem on the nonexistence of isometric immersions of the Hyperbolic plane into \mathbb{R}^3 .

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