Mathematics and Richard Serra's torqued ellipse in the Guggenheim in Bilbao

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On the ground floor of the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao the visitor encounters a collection of "minimal art" sculptures by Richard Serra. These sculptures are curved surfaces, made of sheet metal, about five meters high and still a few times larger in diameter. Wandering through this area of the museum, the visitor recognises some of these surfaces as pieces of spheres and tori, but some others, called torqued ellipses, are less familiar. Although these surfaces are famous in the world of art, it seems that no mathematical description of them has been given. This talk will do just that.