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In the classical differential geometry of surfaces there are two curvature invariants: the Gaussian curvature (introduced by Gauss in 1827) and the mean curvature (introduced by Sophie Germain in 1831). At the end of the 19th century Casorati investigated another curvature invariant. In the present work we introduce a new curvature invariant, the tangential curvature, and we investigate its fundamental properties. (Received September 26, 2017)