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Separation of variable is a standard usefull ansatz in order to determine some solutions of a PDE. We give the geometrical framework of two different types of separation, called by Kalnins and Miller "regular" and "non-regular" separation. The geometric interpretation of non regular separation provides an effictive method to understand and characterize some known examples, as well as the so called fixed energy separation or the constrained separation for Schroedinger equation. Furthermore, we will see how to apply this tool for an exploration of multiplicatively separable solutions of the bi-Helmoltz equation $\Delta^2 f = Ef$. This equation appears classically in the theory of sound because it is used as a model for the vibrations of a (thin) solid plate. Even if it will be shown that regular separation never occurs, however the equation naturally admits families of separated solutions (coinciding with separated solutions of Helmholtz equation). In some examples we geometrically characterize the coordinate systems where additional separated solutions are determined.