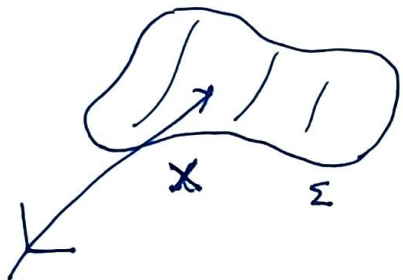


Introduction to free boundary minimal surfaces (FBMS) in  $B^3$

$$\Sigma \subset B^3 \text{ FBMS} \iff \begin{cases} \textcircled{i} \Sigma \text{ is a minimal surface} \\ \textcircled{ii} \Sigma \perp \partial B^3 \text{ along } \partial \Sigma \end{cases}$$

Def (minimal surface in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ )



2nd fundamental form  $A: T\Sigma^2 \rightarrow N\Sigma$

$$A(e_i, e_j) = (\nabla_{e_i} e_j)^\perp = h_{ij} N$$

mean curvature vector of  $\Sigma$

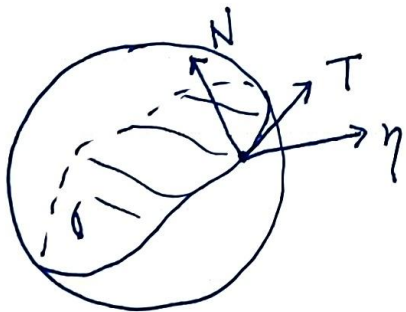
$$\vec{H} = \text{tr}_g A = \sum_{i=1}^2 A(e_i, e_i) = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 g^{ij} A(\partial_i, \partial_j)$$

$$\vec{H} = HN, \quad \Sigma \text{ is minimal} \iff \vec{H} = \vec{0} \text{ or } H=0.$$

Note 1 position vector  $X = (x, y, z) = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$

$$\Delta_\Sigma X = (\Delta_\Sigma x, \Delta_\Sigma y, \Delta_\Sigma z) = \vec{H}$$

Note 2 FBMS in  $B^3$



conormal vector field  $\eta$  of  $\Sigma$

$\{N, T\}$  ONF of  $S^2$

$\eta$  is a unit normal v.f. of  $S^2$

$\eta = X$  for FBMS in  $B^3$

Note 3



$S^3 \supset \Sigma$  minimal surface

$0 \times \Sigma$  : Free boundary minimal 3-mfd in  $B^4$

$$\text{minimal surface in } B^3 \iff \text{FBMS in } B^3$$

I Minimal surfaces

① related to complex analysis

$\Omega$  : Riemann surface (simple case  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$  domain)

$g$  : meromorphic fn on  $\Omega$ ,  $f$  : holomorphic fn on  $\Omega$

$z_0$   $z$   $\text{Re} \int_{z_0}^z \left( \frac{1}{2} f(1-g^2), \frac{i}{2} f(1+g^2), fg \right)$  : minimal surface

• order of poles of  $g = 2$  [order of zeros of  $f$ ]

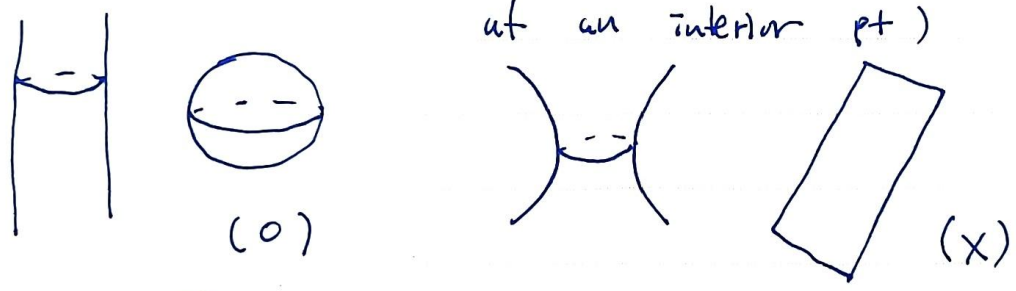
$\Omega = \mathbb{C}$ ,  $g(z) = z$ ,  $f(z) = 1$  : Enneper's surface

② related to PDE

locally  $\Sigma = \text{Graph}(u)$   $u : T_p \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

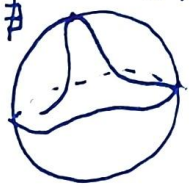
$H = \text{div} \left( \frac{Du}{\sqrt{1+|Du|^2}} \right) = 0$  ( $u$  satisfies a quasilinear 2nd order elliptic PDE)

$\Rightarrow$  maximum principle (Any two minimal surfaces can't touch each other at an interior pt)



Recall  $\Delta_\Sigma X = \vec{H}$

①  $\Delta_\Sigma |X|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^3 (2X_i \Delta X_i + 2|\nabla^\Sigma X_i|^2) = 4 > 0$  subharmonic (No interior maximum pt)

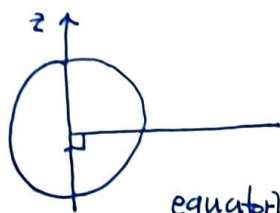


②  $4|\Sigma| = \int_\Sigma \Delta_\Sigma |X|^2 = \int_{\partial \Sigma} \langle \nabla^\Sigma |X|^2, \eta \rangle = 2|\partial \Sigma|$  ( $2|\Sigma| = |\partial \Sigma|$ )

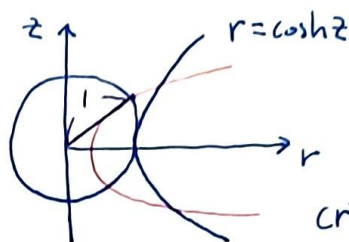
③  $\int_\Sigma \Delta_\Sigma X = 0 = \int_{\partial \Sigma} X$  ( $\int_{\partial \Sigma} x = \int_{\partial \Sigma} y = \int_{\partial \Sigma} z = 0$ )

II Existence (examples)

① rotationally symmetric case



equatorial disk



critical catenoid

②  $O(k) \times O(l)$  invariant surface (Fredin - Gulian - McGrath 2017)

$$r_2 = \sqrt{x_{k+1}^2 + \dots + x_{k+l}^2}$$

$$r_1 = \sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_k^2}$$

$\mathbb{R}^{k+l}$

Steklov eigenvalue ( $\Sigma$  is a surface with  $\partial\Sigma$ )

$\varphi \in C^\infty(\partial\Sigma)$ ,  $\hat{\varphi}$  is a harmonic extension of  $\varphi$  if  $\begin{cases} \Delta \hat{\varphi} = 0 & \text{in } \Sigma \\ \hat{\varphi} = \varphi & \text{on } \partial\Sigma \end{cases}$

$\frac{\partial \hat{\varphi}}{\partial \eta} = \lambda \varphi$  on  $\partial\Sigma \Leftrightarrow \lambda$ : Steklov eigenvalue,  $\varphi$ : Steklov eigenfn.

$\Sigma$ : FBMS in  $B^3$   $X = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$  position vector

$\Delta x_i = 0$  &  $\frac{\partial x_i}{\partial \eta} = \lambda x_i$  i.e.  $\lambda$ : Steklov eigenvalue  $x_i$ : Steklov fn.

③ (Fraser - Schoen 2016, 2011)

$\Sigma$ : compact with  $\partial$ .  $g_0$  is a smooth metric on  $\Sigma$  s.t.

$$\sigma_1(g_0)|_{\partial\Sigma|_{g_0}} = \max_g \sigma_1(g)|_{\partial\Sigma|_g}$$

Then,  $\exists u_1, u_2, u_3$  are the first Steklov eigenfn's s.t.

$(u_1, u_2, u_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow B^3$  minimal immersion



④ gluing techniques

- desingularizing (Kapouleas-Martin 2021)
  - critical catenoid  $\cup$  equatorial disk
  - Scherk's surface  $\cos x_3 = \sinh x_1 \sinh x_2$
- doubling
  - two equatorial disks  $\cup$  half catenoid
  - "  $\cup$  "  $\cup$  one catenoid
- tripling (Kapouleas-Wiygul 2019 ArXiv)

⑤ min-max method (Martin 2015, Carlotto-Franz-Schulz 2020)

FBMS with connected boundary and arbitrary genus.

etc ...

III Uniqueness

Nitsche (1985)

Any free boundary minimal disk in  $B^3$  is an equatorial disk.

(proof)  $X: D \rightarrow B^3$   
 $(u, v)$

$z = u + i v$

$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \right)$        $ds^2 = \lambda^2 (du^2 + dv^2)$

$\Phi(z) := h \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) = \frac{1}{4} \left\{ h \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \right) - h \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial v}, \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \right) - 2i h \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \right) \right\}$

$\Phi_{\bar{z}} = \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \right) \left\{ h_{11} - h_{22} - 2i h_{12} \right\}$

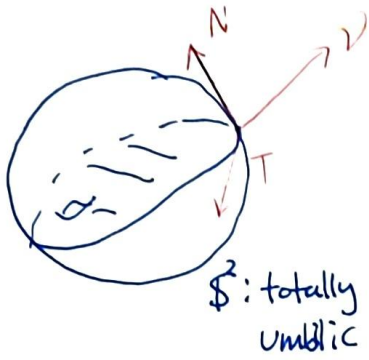
$8\Phi_{\bar{z}} = (h_{11,1} - h_{22,1} + 2h_{12,2}) + i (h_{11,2} - h_{22,2} - 2h_{12,1})$

$\uparrow$   $(h_{11,1} + h_{22,1}) - i (h_{11,2} + h_{22,2})$

Codazzi

$h_{11} + h_{22} = 0 \iff \Phi : \text{holomorphic}$





$$0 = \langle N, v \rangle \quad \alpha T + \beta v$$

$K_T \ll \beta$  umbilic

$$0 = T \langle N, v \rangle = \langle \bar{\nabla}_T N, v \rangle + \langle N, \bar{\nabla}_T v \rangle$$

$\beta = 0 \Rightarrow \partial \Sigma$  is a line of curvature of  $\Sigma$ .

i.e.  $h_{12}(z) = 0$  on  $\partial \Sigma \xrightarrow{\text{harmonicity}} h_{12}(z) \equiv 0$  on  $\Sigma$ .

$$H = 0 \quad (h_{11} + h_{22} = 0) \quad h_{11}(z) = \text{Const} = C \quad \text{on } \Sigma.$$

$$C = 0 \Rightarrow \Sigma: \text{plane}$$

$$C \neq 0 \Rightarrow \nexists \text{ umbilic pt.}$$

By Poincaré - Hopf index thm  $\sum_i \text{ind}(P_i) = \chi(D) \neq 0$ .

Ⓧ Area estimates (Fraser-Schoen 2016, Brendle 2012)

$\Sigma$ : FBMJ in  $B^3$ ,  $|\Sigma| \geq \pi$  ( $|\Sigma^k| \geq |D^k|$  in general)

(pf)  $W(x) = \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{x-y}{|x-y|^2}$  for a fixed pt  $y \in \partial B^3$ .

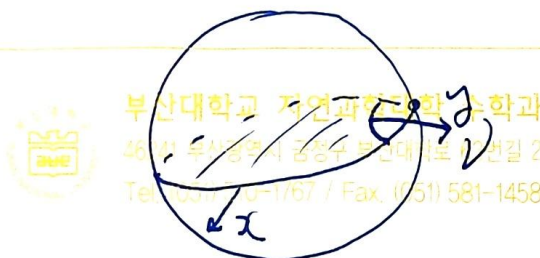
Ⓐ  $\text{div}_\Sigma W = \sum_{i=1}^2 \langle \nabla_{e_i} W, e_i \rangle \leq 1$

Ⓑ  $\langle W(x), x \rangle = 0$  i.e.  $W$  is tangential to  $S^2$ .

Ⓒ  $W(x) = -\frac{x-y}{|x-y|^2} + o\left(\frac{1}{|x-y|}\right)$  as  $x \rightarrow y$

Let's fix a pt  $y \in \partial \Sigma$ ,

Ⓐ  $0 \leq \int_{\Sigma \setminus B_\epsilon(y)} (1 - \text{div}_\Sigma W) = |\Sigma \setminus B_\epsilon(y)| - \int_{\Sigma \cap \partial B_\epsilon(y)} \langle W, \nu \rangle - \int_{\partial \Sigma \setminus B_\epsilon(y)} \langle W, x \rangle$



$$\nu = -\frac{x-y}{|x-y|} + o(1)$$



since (B),  $\int_{\partial \Sigma \setminus B_\varepsilon(y)} \langle W, \nu \rangle = 0$

since (C),  $\langle W, \nu \rangle = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} + o\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$

since  $|\Sigma \cap \partial B_\varepsilon(y)| \approx \pi \varepsilon$ ,  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Sigma \cap \partial B_\varepsilon(y)} \langle W, \nu \rangle = \pi$

Hence,  $|\Sigma| \geq \pi$ .

"=" holds  $\iff \Sigma$ : equatorial disk.

(McGrath-Zhou)

$\Sigma \subset B^3$  FBMS with genus 0 and at least 2-boundary components.

$$2\pi < |\Sigma| < 4\pi$$

This is sharp asymptotically.

