# Constant mean curvature surfaces in Minkowski 3-space via loop groups

#### **David Brander**

Now: Department of Mathematics Kobe University

(From August 2008: Danish Technical University)

Geometry, Integrability and Quantization - Varna 2008

#### Outline

CMC Surfaces in Euclidean Space

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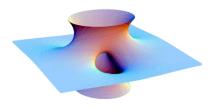
CMC surfaces in Minkowski 3-Space
The loop group construction

# Constant Mean Curvature Surfaces in Euclidean 3-space



- Soap films are CMC surfaces.
- Air pressure on both sides of surface the same
   → mean curvature H = 0, minimal surface

#### Minimal Surfaces: H = 0



 Gauss map of a minimal surface is holomorphic.

Figure: Costa's surface

#### Minimal Surfaces: H = 0

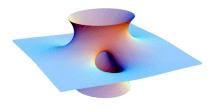


Figure: Costa's surface

- Gauss map of a minimal surface is holomorphic.

#### CMC $H \neq 0$ Surfaces



Figure: A constant non-zero mean curvature surface

 Gauss map is a harmonic (not holomorphic) map into

$$S^2 = SU(2)/K,$$

 $K = \{ diagonal matrices \}.$ 

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• Loop group frame  $F_{\lambda}$ .

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Figure: A constant non-zero mean curvature surface

 Gauss map is a harmonic (not holomorphic) map into

$$S^2 = SU(2)/K,$$

 $K = \{ \text{diagonal matrices} \}.$ 

- Loop group frame F<sub>λ</sub>.
- Can recover f from the loop group map F<sub>λ</sub> via a simple formula.

- $\Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}} = \{ \gamma : \mathbb{S}^1 \to G^{\mathbb{C}} \mid \gamma \text{ smooth} \}$
- $F_{\lambda}: M \to \Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}}$  is of *connection order* (a, b) if

$$F_{\lambda}^{-1}dF_{\lambda}=\sum_{a}^{b}a_{i}\lambda^{i}.$$

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• Example: flat surfaces in S<sup>3</sup>.

$$F_{\lambda}^{-1}dF_{\lambda} = egin{pmatrix} \omega & \lambda eta & \lambda heta \ -\lambda eta^t & 0 & 0 \ -\lambda heta^t & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = a_0 + a_1 \lambda,$$

order (0, 1).

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1. AKS theory:

- 2. KDPW Method:
- 3. Dressing:

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   Related to inverse scattering.
- 2. **KDPW Method:** Constructs order (a, b) maps, a < 0 < b, from a pair of (a, 0) and (0, b) maps.
- 3. **Dressing:** Any kind of connection order (a, b) maps. Produces families of new solutions from a given solution.

Need Birkhoff factorization:

$$\Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}}$$
 "="  $\Lambda^+ G^{\mathbb{C}} \cdot \Lambda^- G^{\mathbb{C}}$ ,

where  $\Lambda^{\pm} G^{\mathbb{C}}$  consists of loops which extend holomorphically to  $\mathbb{D}$  and  $\hat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \mathbb{D}$  resp.

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$$F = F_+ G_- = F_- G_+$$
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• Then  $F_+$  is of order (0, b) and  $F_-$  is of order (a, 0):

$$F_{+}^{-1}dF_{+} = G_{-}(F^{-1}dF)G_{-}^{-1} + G_{-}dG_{-}^{-1}$$
$$= G_{-}(\sum_{a}^{b} a_{i}\lambda^{i})G_{-}^{-1} + G_{-}dG_{-}^{-1}$$

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$$= G_{-}(\sum_{a}^{b} a_{i}\lambda^{i})G_{-}^{-1} + G_{-}dG_{-}^{-1}$$

$$= C_{0} + ... + C_{b}\lambda^{b}.$$

#### **KDPW Method**

- Conversely, given order (0, b) and (a, 0) maps, F<sub>+</sub> and F<sub>-</sub>, we can construct an order (a, b) map F.
- After a normalization, both directions unique:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
F & \longleftrightarrow & \left\{ \begin{array}{c} F_+ \\ F_- \end{array} \right\} \\
(a,b) & (a,0)
\end{array}$$

## **Specific Case**

#### Harmonic Maps into Symmetric Spaces

- G/K symmetric space,  $K = G_{\sigma}$ .
- On  $\Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}}$ , define involution  $\hat{\sigma}$ :

$$(\hat{\sigma}\gamma)(\lambda) := \sigma(\gamma(-\lambda)).$$

## Specific Case

Harmonic Maps into Symmetric Spaces

- G/K symmetric space,  $K = G_{\sigma}$ .
- On  $\Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}}$ , define involution  $\hat{\sigma}$ :

• Fixed point subgroup  $\Lambda G_{\hat{\sigma}} \subset \Lambda G_{\hat{\sigma}}^{\mathbb{C}} \subset \Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}}$ .

- $F_{\lambda}(z)$  a connection order (-1,1) map,  $\mathbb{C} \to \Lambda G_{\hat{\sigma}}$ .
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- KDPW:  $F \leftrightarrow \{F_+, F_-\}$
- In this case, F<sub>+</sub> determined by F<sub>-</sub>, so

$$F \leftrightarrow F_{-}$$

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- KDPW:

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• Fix  $\lambda \in S^1$ : then  $F_{\lambda} : \mathbb{C} \to G$ .

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- KDPW:

$$F \leftrightarrow F_{-}$$

- Fix  $\lambda \in S^1$ : then  $F_{\lambda} : \mathbb{C} \to G$ .
- Fact: Projection of F, to G/K, is a harmonic map
   C → G/K if and only if F<sub>-</sub> is holomorphic in z:

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- Fix  $\lambda \in S^1$ : then  $F_{\lambda} : \mathbb{C} \to G$ .
- Fact: Projection of F, to G/K, is a *harmonic* map  $\mathbb{C} \to G/K$  if and only if  $F_-$  is *holomorphic* in z:

order 
$$(-1,1)$$
  $F \leftrightarrow F_{-}$  order  $(-1,-1)$  harmonic holomorphic

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a(z) \\ b(z) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \lambda^{-1} dz.$$

• a(z), b(z) arbitrary holomorphic. Set

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a(z) \\ b(z) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \lambda^{-1} dz.$$

• Automatically,  $d\alpha + \alpha \wedge \alpha = 0$ . Integrate to get  $F_-: \Sigma \to \Lambda G$ , connection order (-1, -1).

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- CMC surface obtained from F by Sym-Bobenko formula.
- All CMC surfaces in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  are obtained this way.

#### Iwasawa Decomposition

 In fact for harmonic maps, for the ← direction of KDPW, need *lwasawa splitting*

$$\Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}}$$
 "="  $\Lambda G \cdot \Lambda^+ G^{\mathbb{C}}$ .

- This holds globally if G is compact.
- F is obtained from F<sub>-</sub> via:

$$F_{-}=FG_{+}$$
.

More generally, for the ← direction, the holomorphic map
 F<sub>−</sub> can be of order (-1, b) where b ≥ -1.

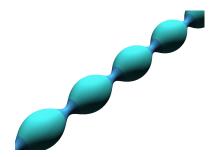


Figure: CMC Unduloid

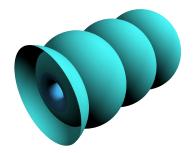


Figure: CMC Nodoid

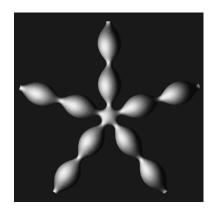


Figure: CMC 5-noid

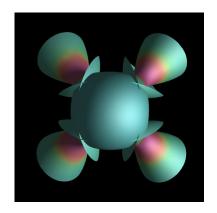


Figure: A Smyth Surface

## CMC surfaces in Minkowski space, L<sup>3</sup>

B.-, Rossman, Schmitt - "Holomorphic representation of constant mean curvature surfaces in Minkowski space" - Preprint

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- Iwasawa defined on an open dense set (the "big cell")
- · Surface has singularities at boundary of this set.

#### Classification of surfaces with rotational symmetry

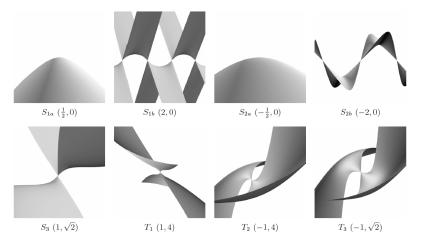


Figure: Examples from each of the eight families of surfaces with rotational symmetry in  $L^3$ . (Images made by Nick Schmitt's XLab.)

# Smyth surfaces in L<sup>3</sup>



Figure: A Smyth surface in  $L^3$ 

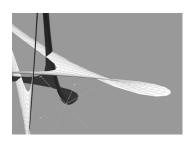


Figure: Swallowtail singularity

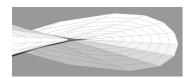


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#### Outline

CMC Surfaces in Euclidean Space

CMC surfaces in Minkowski 3-Space
The loop group construction

$$\bullet \ \sigma_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \ , \ \ \sigma_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \ , \ \ \sigma_3 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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- $G = SU(1,1) \cup i\sigma_1 \cdot SU(1,1)$
- $G^{\mathbb{C}} = SL(2, \mathbb{C})$

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- $\Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}} = \{ \gamma : \mathbb{S}^1 \to G^{\mathbb{C}} \mid \gamma \text{ smooth} \}$
- $\Lambda G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}} := \{ x \in \Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}} | \sigma(x) = x \}$ , where,

$$(\sigma(x))(\lambda) := \operatorname{Ad}_{\sigma_3} x(-\lambda).$$

•  $\Lambda^{\pm} G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}} := \Lambda G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}} \cap \Lambda^{\pm} G^{\mathbb{C}}$ 

- $\Lambda G_{\sigma} := \Lambda G \cap \Lambda G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}}$  "real form".
- Note:  $\Lambda G_{\sigma} = \Lambda SU(1,1)_{\sigma} \cup i\sigma_1 \cdot \Lambda SU(1,1)_{\sigma}$ .

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- Note:  $\Lambda G_{\sigma} = \Lambda SU(1,1)_{\sigma} \cup i\sigma_1 \cdot \Lambda SU(1,1)_{\sigma}$ .
- Setting  $x^*(\lambda) := \overline{x(\bar{\lambda}^{-1})}$ , Then

$$\Lambda SU(1,1)_{\sigma} = \Big\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & a^* \end{pmatrix} \in \Lambda G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}} \Big\},$$

$$i\sigma_1 \cdot \Lambda SU(1,1)_{\sigma} = \Big\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ -b^* & -a^* \end{pmatrix} \in \Lambda G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}} \Big\},$$

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• For  $\lambda_0 \in \mathbb{S}^1$ , set

$$f^{\lambda_0} = -\frac{1}{2H} \mathcal{S}(F) \Big|_{\lambda = \lambda_0},$$
  
 $\mathcal{S}(F) := Fi\sigma_3 F^{-1} + 2i\lambda \partial_\lambda F \cdot F^{-1}.$ 

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•  $F_-$  holomorphic if and only if  $f^{\lambda_0}: \Sigma \to L^3$  has constant mean curvature H.

# *SU*(1,1) Iwasawa decomposition

#### Need:

$$\omega_{\textit{m}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \lambda^{-\textit{m}} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \;,\;\; \textit{m} \; \text{odd} \;\; ; \quad \omega_{\textit{m}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \lambda^{1-\textit{m}} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \;,\;\; \textit{m} \; \text{even}.$$

#### Theorem

(SU(1,1) Iwasawa decomposition)

$$\Lambda G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}} = \mathcal{B}_{1,1} \sqcup \bigsqcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^+} \mathcal{P}_n,$$

big cell: 
$$\mathcal{B}_{1,1} := \Lambda G_{\sigma} \cdot \Lambda^+ G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}}$$
, n'th small cell:  $\mathcal{P}_n := \Lambda SU(1,1)_{\sigma} \cdot \omega_n \cdot \Lambda^+ G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}}$ .

- $\mathcal{B}_{1,1}$ , is an open dense subset of  $\Lambda G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}}$ .
- Any  $\phi \in \mathcal{B}_{1,1}$  can be expressed as

$$\phi = FB, \qquad F \in \Lambda G_{\sigma}, \quad B \in \Lambda^+ G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}},$$
 (1)

*F* unique up to right multiplication by  $G_{\sigma} := \Lambda G_{\sigma} \cap G$ .

• The map  $\pi: \mathcal{B}_{1,1} \to \Lambda G_{\sigma}/G_{\sigma}$  given by  $\phi \mapsto [F]$ , derived from (1), is a real analytic projection.

#### Theorem

(Holomorphic rep. for spacelike CMC surfaces in L3) Let

$$\xi = \sum_{i=-1}^{\infty} A_i \lambda^i dz \in \mathit{Lie}(\Lambda G^{\mathbb{C}}_{\sigma}) \otimes \Omega^1(\Sigma)$$

be a holomorphic 1-form over a simply-connected Riemann surface  $\Sigma$ , with

$$a_{-1} \neq 0$$
,

on  $\Sigma$ , where  $A_{-1}=\begin{pmatrix}0&a_{-1}\\b_{-1}&0\end{pmatrix}$ . Let  $\phi:\Sigma\to \Lambda G_\sigma^\mathbb{C}$  be a solution of

$$\phi^{-1}d\phi=\xi.$$

On  $\Sigma^{\circ} := \phi^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_{1,1})$ , G-Iwasawa split:

$$\phi = FB,$$
  $F \in \Lambda G_{\sigma}, B \in \Lambda^+ G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}}.$  (2)

Then for any  $\lambda_0 \in \mathbb{S}^1$ , the map  $f^{\lambda_0} := \hat{f}^{\lambda_0} : \Sigma^{\circ} \to L^3$ , given by the Sym-Bobenko formula, is a conformal CMC H immersion, and is independent of the choice of F in (2).

### Example 1: hyperboloid of two sheets.

$$\begin{split} & \xi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} dz, \qquad \quad \Sigma = \mathbb{C}. \\ & \phi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & z\lambda^{-1} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : \Sigma \to \Lambda G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}}. \end{split}$$

Takes values in  $\mathcal{B}_{1,1}$  for  $|z| \neq 1$ . *G*-lwasawa:

$$\phi = F \cdot B$$
,  $F : \Sigma \setminus \mathbb{S}^1 \to \Lambda G$ ,  $B : \Sigma \setminus \mathbb{S}^1 \to \Lambda^+ G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}}$ ,

$$F = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon(1-|z|^2)}} \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & z\lambda^{-1} \\ \varepsilon \overline{z}\lambda & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$B = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon(1-|z|^2)}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -\varepsilon \overline{z}\lambda & \varepsilon(1-z\overline{z}) \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \varepsilon = \text{sign}(1-|z|^2).$$

Sym-Bobenko formula gives

$$\hat{f}^{1}(z) = \frac{1}{H(x^{2} + y^{2} - 1)} \cdot [2y, -2x, (1 + 3x^{2} + 3y^{2})/2],$$

two-sheeted hyperboloid  $\{x_1^2 + x_2^2 - (x_0 - \frac{1}{2H})^2 = -\frac{1}{H^2}\}$ .

### Hyperboloid: boundary of big cell behaviour

- In a small cell precisely when |z| = 1:
- There, have  $\phi \in \Lambda SU(1,1)_{\sigma} \cdot \omega_2 \cdot \Lambda^+ G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & z\lambda^{-1} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} p\sqrt{z} & \lambda^{-1}q\sqrt{z} \\ \lambda q\sqrt{z}^{-1} & p\sqrt{z}^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \omega_2 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} (p+q)\sqrt{z}^{-1} & 0 \\ -\lambda q\sqrt{z}^{-1} & (p-q)\sqrt{z} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $p^2 - q^2 = 1$  and  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$ .

- That is:  $\phi \in \mathcal{P}_2$  for |z| = 1.
- Note: Surface blows up as  $|z| \rightarrow 1$ .

### Example 2: numerical experiment

$$\xi = \lambda^{-1} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 100 z & 0 \end{pmatrix} dz,$$

#### Numerically:

- 1. Integrate with i.c.  $\phi(0) = \omega_1$ , to get  $\phi : \Sigma \to \Lambda G_{\sigma}^{\mathbb{C}}$ .
- 2. Iwasawa split to get  $F : \Sigma \to \Lambda G_{\sigma}$ .
- 3. Compute Sym-Bobenko formula to get  $f^1: \Sigma \to L^3$ .
- 4. Use XLab to view the surface.



- Looks like *Shcherbak surface* singularity at z = 0.
- Since  $\phi(0) = \omega_1$ , the singularity occurs at  $\mathcal{P}_1$ .

## Results on boundary of big cell behaviour

#### • Proved:

- 1. The map  $f^{\lambda_0}: \Sigma \to L^3$  always well defined (and real analytic) at  $z_0 \in \phi^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_1)$ , but *not immersed* at such a point.
- 2. The map  $f^{\lambda_0}: \Sigma \to L^3$  always blows up as  $z \to z_0 \in \phi^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_2)$ .

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#### • Proved:

- 1. The map  $f^{\lambda_0}: \Sigma \to L^3$  always well defined (and real analytic) at  $z_0 \in \phi^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_1)$ , but *not immersed* at such a point.
- 2. The map  $f^{\lambda_0}: \Sigma \to L^3$  always blows up as  $z \to z_0 \in \phi^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_2)$ .
- Expect (have not proved yet):
  - *generic* holomorphic data does not encounter  $\mathcal{P}_n$  for n > 2.
  - Therefore: generic singularities of CMC surfaces occur only at points in  $\mathcal{P}_1$ .

