

# Lorentzian surfaces in semi-Euclidean spaces and their Gauss map

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# Acknowledgements

## Acknowledgements

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- E.Ö. Canfes, M. 'On the Gauss map of minimal Lorentzian surfaces in 4-dimensional semi-Euclidean spaces'(submitted)
- M., 'Some classifications of Lorentzian surfaces with finite type Gauss map in the Minkowski 4-space'(accepted) J. Aust. Math. Soc
- Y. Fu and M., 'Complete classification of biconservative hypersurfaces with diagonalizable shape operator in Minkowski 4-space'(submitted)

## 114F199

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- 1 Gauss map of Lorentzian surfaces
  - Pointwise 1-type Gauss map
  - Minimal Lorentzian surfaces
  - Semi-Euclidean space  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$
- 2 Biconservative hypersurfaces
  - Biharmonic submanifolds
  - Hypersurfaces with diagonalizable shape operator
- 3 Other problems
  - Biconservative hypersurfaces
  - A family of hypersurfaces
  - Hypersurfaces with vanishing Gauss-Kronecker curvature



# Notation

- $\mathbb{E}_t^m$  semi-Euclidean  $m$ -space with the canonical semi-Euclidean metric tensor of index  $t$  given by

$$\langle , \rangle = \langle , \rangle_t^m = - \sum_{i=1}^t dx_i^2 + \sum_{j=t+1}^m dx_j^2,$$

- $M \hookrightarrow \mathbb{E}_t^m$ : A (semi-)Riemannian submanifold of  $\mathbb{E}_t^m$ ,
- $\tilde{\nabla}$  and  $\nabla$ : Levi-Civita connections of  $\mathbb{E}_t^m$  and  $M$ ,
- $h$ : Second fundamental form of  $M$ ,  $\|h\|^2$  'squared' norm of  $h$ ,
- $A_\xi$ : Shape operator along  $\xi$ ,  $D$ : Normal connection,
- $R, R^D$ : Curvature tensor and normal curvature tensor of  $M$ ,
- $\Delta$ : Laplace operator of  $M$ .



## Basic Equations

- Gauss formula  $\tilde{\nabla}_X Y = \nabla_X Y + h(X, Y),$
- Weingarten formula  $\tilde{\nabla}_X \xi = -A_\xi(X) + D_X \xi,$
- Gauss equation  

$$R(X, Y, Z, W) = \langle h(Y, Z), h(X, W) \rangle - \langle h(X, Z), h(Y, W) \rangle,$$
- Codazzi equation  $(\tilde{\nabla}_X h)(Y, Z) = (\tilde{\nabla}_Y h)(X, Z),$
- Ricci equation  $\langle R^D(X, Y)\xi, \eta \rangle = \langle [A_\xi, A_\eta]X, Y \rangle.$



## Section 1:

# Gauss map of Lorentzian surfaces in 4-dimensional semi-Euclidean spaces



# Gauss map

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The **(tangent)** Gauss map of  $M$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \nu : M &\rightarrow G(n, m) \subset \Lambda^{m,n} \cong \mathbb{E}_S^N \\ p &\mapsto \nu(p) = (e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n)(p). \end{aligned}$$



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Note that, we have either  $\underbrace{\nu(M) \subset \mathbb{S}_S^{N-1}(1)}_{r \text{ is even}}$  or  $\underbrace{\nu(M) \subset \mathbb{H}_{S-1}^{N-1}(-1)}_{r \text{ is odd}}$ .



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### Remark: Codimension 1

If codimension of  $M$  is one, then one may put  $(e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n) = N$  to get the definition of classical Gauss map of (hyper)surfaces, where  $N$  is the unit normal vector field of  $M$ .



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A pointwise 1-type Gauss map is said to be

- of the **first kind** if  $C = 0$  ( $\Delta\nu = f\nu$ ),
- of the **second kind** if  $C \neq 0$  and  $f \neq 0$





## Section 1.2:

# Minimal Lorentzian surfaces in 4-dimensional semi-Euclidean spaces



## Lorentzian surfaces

Let  $M$  be a **Lorentzian** surface in  $\mathbb{E}_r^4$ ,  $r = 1, 2$ . Consider a local **pseudo**-orthonormal frame field  $f_1, f_2$  of the tangent space of  $M$ .



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- Normal Curvature:  $K^D = R^D(f_1, f_2; e_3, e_4)$ ,
- Laplace operator:  $\Delta = f_1 f_2 + f_2 f_1 - \nabla_{f_1} f_2 - \nabla_{f_2} f_1$ .



# Local coordinates on Lorentzian surfaces

## Theorem

<sup>a</sup> Let  $M$  be a Lorentzian surface in a semi-Euclidean space  $\mathbb{E}_r^q$ . Then, **there exist** local coordinates  $(s, t)$  such that the induced metric is of the form  $g = -m^2(dsdt + dt ds)$ .





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- The **Levi-Civita connection** of  $M$  satisfies  $\nabla_{\partial_s} \partial_t = 0$ ,
- **Second fundamental form** satisfies  $h(\partial_s, \partial_t) = -m^2 H$ .

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## Corollary

$$H = 0 \Leftrightarrow \tilde{\nabla}_{\partial_s} \partial_t = 0$$



# Minimal Lorentzian surfaces

## Theorem

<sup>a</sup> Every minimal Lorentzian surface in  $\mathbb{E}_s^m$  is locally congruent to a translation surface defined by

$$x(s, t) = \alpha(s) + \beta(t),$$

where  $\alpha(s)$  and  $\beta(t)$  are two null curves.

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<sup>a</sup>See [Y. Fu and Z.-H. Hou, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 371, 25–40 (2010).].



## Section 1.3:

# Gauss map of Lorentzian minimal surfaces in the space $\mathbb{E}_2^4$

See [M., 'Some classifications of Lorentzian surfaces with finite type  
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## Lorentzian Surfaces in $\mathbb{E}_2^4$

Let  $M_1^2$  be a **minimal** surface in  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$ . Consider the local frame field  $f_1, f_2; f_3, f_4$ . Note that we have  $h(f_1, f_2) = 0$  because of minimality of  $M$ .



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Then its **tangent** Gauss map  $\nu$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \nu : M &\rightarrow \mathbb{H}_3^5(-1) \subset \mathbb{E}_4^6 \\ p &\mapsto \nu(p) = (f_1 \wedge f_2)(p). \end{aligned}$$



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The Gauss map  $\nu$  of  $M$  satisfies

$$\Delta \nu = 2K\nu + 2h(f_1, f_1) \wedge h(f_2, f_2), \quad (1)$$





## Lorentzian Surfaces with $\Delta\nu = f\nu$

We have  $\Delta\nu = f\nu \Leftrightarrow f\nu = 2K\nu + 2h(f_1, f_1) \wedge h(f_2, f_2)$

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### Corollary

$\Delta\nu = f\nu$  if and only if  $h(f_1, f_1) \wedge h(f_2, f_2) = 0$ . In this case,  $f = 2K$



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or, equivalently,

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Note that we have 3 cases.

- ①  $h(f_1, f_1) = h(f_2, f_2) = 0$  (In this case  $M$  totally geodesic in  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$ );
- ②  $h(f_1, f_1) = 0, h(f_2, f_2) \neq 0$ ;
- ③  $h(f_1, f_1) = \zeta h(f_2, f_2), \zeta$  is non-zero:
  - $h(f_1, f_1)$  and  $h(f_2, f_2)$  are casual and linearly dependent;
  - $h(f_1, f_1)$  and  $h(f_2, f_2)$  are light-like and linearly dependent.



# Lorentzian Surfaces with $\Delta\nu = f\nu$

## Case 2

$h(f_1, f_1) = 0$ . In this case, we obtain  $M$  is congruent to

$$x(s, t) = s\eta_0 + \beta(t), \quad (2)$$

where  $\eta_0$  is a constant light-like vector and  $\beta$  is a null curve in  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$ .



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The hypersurface given in (2) has the following property:



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## Remark

The hypersurface given in (2) has the following property:

It has **degenerated relative null space**

$$\mathcal{N}_p(M) = \{X \in T_pM \mid h(X, Y) = 0, \text{ for all } Y \in T_pM\}.$$



# Lorentzian Surfaces with $\Delta\nu = f\nu$

## Case 3a

$h(f_1, f_1) = \zeta h(f_2, f_2)$  are **non-vanishing** and they **not** light-like. In this case, we obtain that  $M$  is lying on a hyperplane of  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$  by the following way.



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By the assumption, we see that we may re-define  $s, t$  as  $e_3 = h(\partial_s, \partial_s) = \pm h(\partial_t, \partial_t)$  for a unit normal vector field  $e_3$ .



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# Lorentzian Surfaces with $\Delta\nu = f\nu$

## Case 3b

$h(f_1, f_1), h(f_2, f_2) \neq 0$ ,  $h(f_1, f_1) = \zeta h(f_2, f_2)$  and they are light-like.



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## Case 3b

$h(f_1, f_1), h(f_2, f_2) \neq 0$ ,  $h(f_1, f_1) = \zeta h(f_2, f_2)$  and they are light-like. In this case, we obtain that  $M$  is lying on a degenerated hyperplane of  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$  and it is congruent to

$$x(s, t) = \left( \phi_1(s) + \phi_2(t), \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(s + t), \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(s - t), \phi_1(s) + \phi_2(t) \right)$$

for some smooth functions  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ .



## Lorentzian minimal surfaces with $\Delta\nu = f\nu$

Let  $M$  be a Lorentzian minimal surface in  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$ . Then, they have pointwise 1-type Gauss map of the first kind iff

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- A minimal Lorentzian surface lying in a hyperplane  $\mathbb{E}_1^3$  of  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$  ( $(h(f_1, f_1)$  is space-like).
- A minimal Lorentzian surface given by

$$x(s, t) = \left( \phi_1(s) + \phi_2(t), \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(s + t), \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(s - t), \phi_1(s) + \phi_2(t) \right)$$



## Lorentzian minimal surfaces with $\Delta\nu = f\nu$

Let  $M$  be a Lorentzian minimal surface in  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$ . Then, they have pointwise 1-type Gauss map of the first kind iff

- A surface with degenerated relative null space given  $x(s, t) = s\eta_0 + \beta(t)$  ( $(h(f_1, f_1) = 0)$ );
- A minimal Lorentzian surface lying in a hyperplane  $\mathbb{E}_2^3$  of  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$  ( $(h(f_1, f_1)$  is time-like);
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( $(h(f_1, f_1)$  is light-like).



# Classification Theorem

Hence, we have

## Theorem

Let  $M$  be a **minimal** Lorentzian surface **properly contained by** the semi-Euclidean space  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$ . Then, the following statements are equivalent.



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- (i)  $M$  has pointwise 1-type Gauss map of the first kind ( $\Delta\nu = f\nu$ );
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- (i)  $M$  has pointwise 1-type Gauss map of the first kind ( $\Delta\nu = f\nu$ );
- (ii)  $M$  has harmonic Gauss map ( $\Delta\nu = 0$ );
- (iii)  $M$  is congruent to one of following surfaces

$$x(s, t) = s\eta_0 + \beta(t),$$

$$x(s, t) = \left( \phi_1(s) + \phi_2(t), \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(s + t), \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(s - t), \phi_1(s) + \phi_2(t) \right).$$



# Lorentzian Surfaces with $\Delta\nu = f(\nu + C)$

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Let  $M$  be a **minimal** Lorentzian surface **properly contained by** the semi-Euclidean space  $\mathbb{E}_2^4$ . Then,  $\Delta\nu = f(\nu + C)$  if and only if  $h(f_1, f_1)$  and  $h(f_2, f_2)$  are **light-like** and **linearly independent**.

Classification of such surfaces:

$$x(s, t) = (\phi_1(s) + \phi_2(t), s + t, s + \cos c t + \sin c \phi_2(t), \phi_1(s) - \sin c t + \cos c \phi_2(t))$$



## Section 2:

# Biconservative hypersurfaces in the Minkowski space $\mathbb{E}_1^4$

See [Fu and M., '*Complete classification of biconservative hypersurfaces with diagonalizable shape operator in Minkowski 4-space*'(submitted)].



# Biharmonic submanifolds

Let  $M$  be an  $n$ -dimensional (semi-)Riemannian submanifold of a (semi-)Euclidean space.

## Biharmonic submanifold

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The following formula is well-known.

## Laplace-Beltrami formula

$\Delta x = \varepsilon nH$ , where  $H$  is the mean curvature vector of  $M$ .



# Chen's conjecture

A direct corollary of Laplace-Beltrami formula

## Corollary

If  $M$  is minimal, then it is biharmonic.



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A direct corollary of Laplace-Beltrami formula

## Corollary

If  $M$  is minimal, then it is biharmonic.

Thus, the following open problem arises:

## Chen's Biharmonic Conjecture

Let  $M$  be a submanifold of an Euclidean space. Then, it is biharmonic if and only if it is minimal



# Biconservative hypersurfaces

Now, consider a (semi-)Riemannian hypersurface  $M$  be of a (semi-)Euclidean space and let  $H$  denote its first mean curvature.

## Biconservative hypersurfaces

$M$  is said to be biconservative<sup>a</sup> if  $(\Delta^2 x)^T = 0$

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Note that by a direct computation using Laplace-Beltrami formula, we have

### Corollary

$M$  is biconservative if and only if  $S(\nabla H) = cH\nabla H$ , where  $c$  is a 'constant' depending on the index and dimension of  $M$ .



## Hypersurfaces in $\mathbb{E}_1^4$

It is well-known that the shape operator of a hypersurface in  $\mathbb{E}_1^4$  takes one of the following 4 forms.

$$\text{Case I. } S = \begin{pmatrix} k_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & k_3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{Case II. } S = \begin{pmatrix} k_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & k_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & k_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\text{Case III. } S = \begin{pmatrix} k_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & k_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{Case IV. } S = \begin{pmatrix} k_1 & -\nu & 0 \\ \nu & k_1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & k_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

for some smooth functions  $k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4$  and  $\nu$ .



# Biconservative hypersurfaces in $\mathbb{E}_1^4$

We have obtained the following families of biconservative hypersurfaces with diagonalizable shape operator.

## Two distinct principal curvatures

- $x_1(s, t, u) = (f_1(s), s \cos t \sin u, s \sin t \sin u, s \cos u)$ ;
- $x_2(s, t, u) = (s \sinh u \sin t, s \cosh u \sin t, s \cos t, f_2(s))$ ;
- $x_3(s, t, u) = (s \cosh t, s \sinh t \sin u, \sinh t \cos u, f_3(s))$ ;
- $x_4(s, t, u) = (\frac{1}{2}s(t^2 + u^2) + s + f_4(s), st, su, \frac{1}{2}s(t^2 + u^2) + f_4(s))$ .



# Biconservative hypersurfaces in $\mathbb{E}_1^4$

## Zero Gauss-Kronecker Curvature

- A generalized cylinder  $M_0^2 \times \mathbb{E}_1^1$  where  $M$  is a biconservative surface in  $\mathbb{E}^3$ ;
- A generalized cylinder  $M_0^2 \times \mathbb{E}_1^1$  where  $M$  is a biconservative Riemannian surface in  $\mathbb{E}_1^3$ ;
- A generalized cylinder  $M_1^2 \times \mathbb{E}_1^1$ , where  $M$  is a biconservative Lorentzian surface in  $\mathbb{E}_1^3$ .



# Biconservative hypersurfaces in $\mathbb{E}_1^4$

## Three distinct principal curvatures

- $x_1(s, t, u) = (s \cosh t, s \sinh t, f_1(s) \cos u, f_1(s) \sin u)$ ;
- $x_2(s, t, u) = (s \sinh t, s \cosh t, f_2(s) \cos u, f_2(s) \sin u)$ ;
- A hypersurface in  $\mathbb{E}_1^4$  given by

$$x_3(s, t, u) = \left( \frac{1}{2}s(t^2 + u^2) + au^2 + s + \phi(s), st, (s + 2a)u, \frac{1}{2}s(t^2 + u^2) + au^2 + \phi(s) \right), \quad a \neq 0.$$

(3)



## Section 3:

## Other problems



# Biconservative hypersurfaces

## Problem

Classify all biconservative hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{E}_1^4$  with non-diagonalizable shape operator.



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In other words, classify all hypersurfaces with the shape operator

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{9H}{4} & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{9H}{4} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3H/2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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$$S = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{9H}{4} & -\nu & 0 \\ \nu & -\frac{9H}{4} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3H/2 \end{pmatrix}.$$



## A family of hypersurfaces

Consider the hypersurface given by

$$x(s, \tilde{t}) = \left( \frac{s|\tilde{t}|^2}{2} + \tilde{a} \cdot \tilde{t} + s + \phi(s), s\tilde{t}, \frac{s|\tilde{t}|^2}{2} + \tilde{a} \cdot \tilde{t} + \phi(s) \right)$$

for a smooth function  $\phi$ , where  $\tilde{t} = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)$  and  $\tilde{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ .



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The shape operator of this hypersurface is

$$S = \text{diag}(k_1(s), k_2(s), \dots, k_n(s)).$$



# Hypersurfaces with vanishing Gauss-Kronecker curvature

Let  $\alpha(w)$  be a smooth, regular, space-like curve in  $\mathbb{S}_1^3(1) \subset \mathbb{E}_1^4$  and  $A(w), B(w)$  form an orthogonal frame field for the normal space of  $\alpha$  in  $\mathbb{S}_1^3(1)$ .



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Consider the hypersurface in  $\mathbb{E}_1^4$  given by

$$x(s, v, w) = s\alpha(w) + c \left( \cos \frac{v}{c} A(w) + \sin \frac{v}{c} B(w) \right).$$



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$$S = \text{diag}(0, -1/c, k_3(s, v, w)).$$



THANK YOU






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