

Minimal and cmc surfaces in \mathbb{S}^3 foliated by circles

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Circle-foliated surfaces in \mathbb{R}^3

A circle foliated surface in \mathbb{R}^3 is a surface parametrized by

$$X(t, \theta) = c(t) + r(t)(\cos \theta e_1 + \sin \theta e_2),$$

where e_1 and e_2 are smooth ON vectors, and $c(t)$ and $r(t)$ are smooth.

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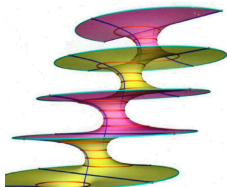
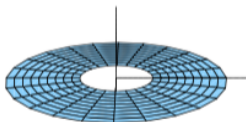
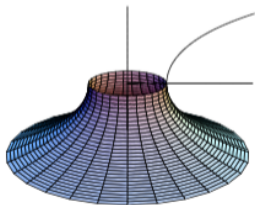
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An isometric immersion $\psi : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ is

- **minimal** if $H = 0$
- a **cmc surface** if $H = \text{const}$

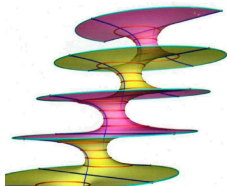
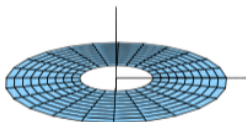
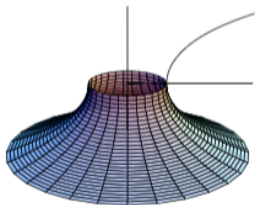
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Plane, Catenoid, Riemann's minimal surface, (Helicoid)



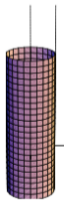
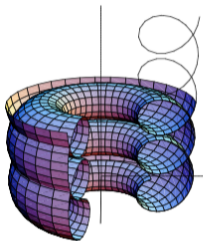
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Circle-foliated cmc surfaces in \mathbb{R}^3 :

Delaunay surfaces (cmc surfaces of rotation), sphere (Nitsche '89)



Circle foliated surfaces in \mathbb{S}^3

Let $\mathbb{S}^3 \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ be the unit sphere centered at the origin.

A smooth complete surface $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{S}^3$ is *foliated by circles* (*circle-foliated*) if, for a smooth orthonormal frames $\{e_1(t), e_2(t)\}$ of \mathbb{R}^4 and smooth $c(t)$ and $r(t)$,

$$X(t, \theta) = c(t) + r(t)(\cos \theta e_1(t) + \sin \theta e_2(t)) \quad (1)$$

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Let $\psi : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^3 \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ be an isometric immersion

- ψ is **minimal** iff $\Delta_{\Sigma}\psi = -2\psi$
- ψ has **cmc** H iff $\Delta_{\Sigma}\psi = 2H\nu - 2\psi$, where ν is a unit normal of $\psi(\Sigma) \subset \mathbb{S}^3$.

Examples of circle-foliated minimal surfaces in \mathbb{S}^3 :

- (Ruled minimal surfaces in \mathbb{S}^3 , B. Lawson) Every ruled minimal surface in \mathbb{S}^3 is an open submanifold of \mathcal{M}_α given by

$$T(x, y) = (\cos x \cos y, \sin x \cos y, \cos \alpha x \sin y, \sin \alpha x \sin y)$$

for some $\alpha \geq 0$. (\mathcal{M}_0 : great sphere, \mathcal{M}_1 : Clifford torus)

- Rotationally symmetric minimal surfaces

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Theorem (Kutev-Milousheva, 2010)

There are two types of circle-foliated minimal surfaces in \mathbb{S}^3 :

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2. Circle-foliated cmc surface in \mathbb{S}^3 is either a sphere, or ruled or rotationally symmetric

Rotationally symmetric minimal surfaces in \mathbb{S}^3 (Hynd-McCuan-P)

Stereographic 3-sphere $\mathbb{S}^3 = \left(\mathbb{R}^3, \frac{4ds_0^2}{(1 + |X|^2)^2} \right)$.

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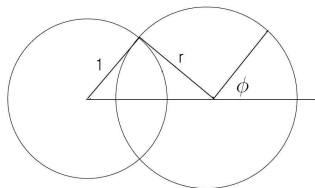
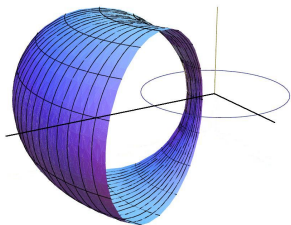
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Parametrization of rotationally symmetric surface:

$$X(\theta, \phi) = (\sqrt{1 + r^2} + r \cos \phi)(\cos \theta, \sin \theta, 0) + (r \sin \phi)e_3.$$

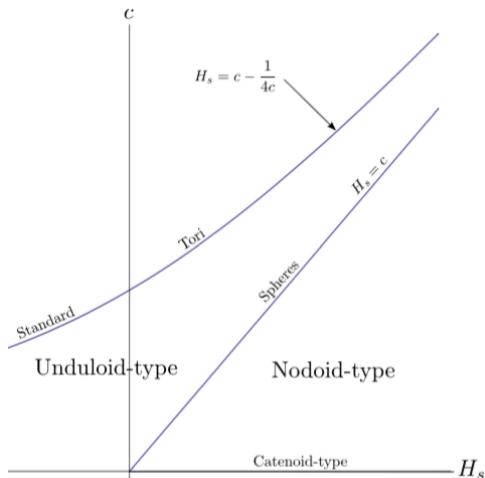


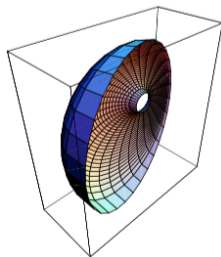
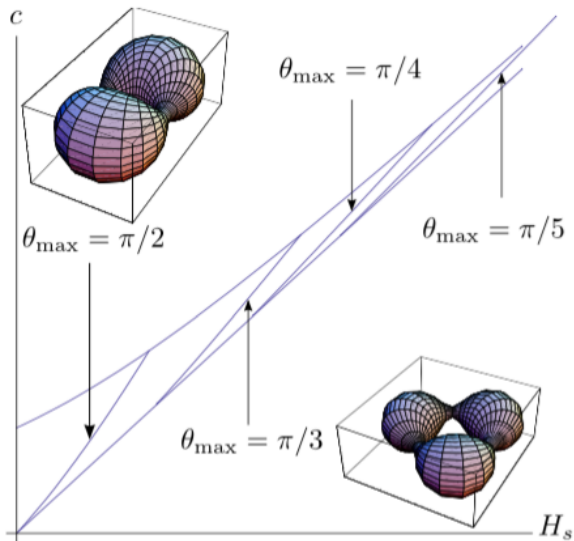
$$H_s = \frac{\sqrt{r^2 + 1}(r(r^2 + 1)r'' - r'^2 + r^4 - 1)}{2r(r'^2 + r^2 + 1)^{3/2}}$$

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Remark

1. S. Brendle proved that Clifford torus is the only embedded minimal torus in \mathbb{S}^3 (Lawson's conjecture).
2. B.Andrews and H. Li showed that every embedded cmc torus in \mathbb{S}^3 is rotationally symmetric.

Frenet type formula by Frank-Giering:

Let $\{P_t\}$ be a smooth one-parameter family of planes in \mathbb{R}^4 passing through the origin. There is a one-parameter family of orthonormal frames $\{e_1(t), e_2(t), e_3(t), e_4(t)\}$ of \mathbb{R}^4 such that $e_1(t)$ and $e_2(t)$ span P_t , and the following equations hold

$$\begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \\ e_4 \end{pmatrix}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \beta & \kappa & 0 \\ -\beta & 0 & 0 & \tau \\ -\kappa & 0 & 0 & \eta \\ 0 & -\tau & -\eta & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \\ e_4 \end{pmatrix},$$

where $' = \partial/\partial t$ and $\kappa^2 \geq \tau^2$.

Basic computations

Let Σ be circle-foliated in \mathbb{S}^3 , parametrized by,

$$X(t, \theta) = c(t) + r(t)(\cos \theta e_1(t) + \sin \theta e_2(t))$$

- Let \tilde{P}_t be the plane containing circle.

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Then $c(t) \perp \tilde{P}_t$ and $c_1 = 0 = c_2$ for $c_i = c \cdot e_i$.

Let

$$\begin{aligned} c'(t) &= \sum_{i=1}^4 \alpha_i e_i = (c_3 e_3 + c_4 e_4)' \\ &= -\kappa c_3 e_1 - \tau c_4 e_2 + (c_3' - \eta c_4) e_3 + (c_4' + \eta c_3) e_4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow X_t &= (\alpha_1 + r' \cos \theta - r\beta \sin \theta) e_1 + (\alpha_2 + r' \sin \theta + r\beta \cos \theta) e_2 \\ &\quad + (\alpha_3 + r\kappa \cos \theta) e_3 + (\alpha_4 + r\tau \sin \theta) e_4, \end{aligned}$$

$$X_\theta = -r \sin \theta e_1 + r \cos \theta e_2.$$

Let N be the normal of Σ . Then

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Since

$$\begin{aligned} *(X_t \wedge X_\theta \wedge X) &= r \cos \theta [c_3(\alpha_4 + r\tau \sin \theta) - c_4(\alpha_3 + r\kappa \cos \theta)] e_1 \\ &\quad + r \sin \theta [c_3(\alpha_4 + r\tau \sin \theta) - c_4(\alpha_3 + r\kappa \cos \theta)] e_2 \\ &\quad + [rc_4(r' + \alpha_1 \cos \theta + \alpha_2 \sin \theta) - r^2(\alpha_4 + r\tau \sin \theta)] e_3 \\ &\quad - [rc_3(r' + \alpha_1 \cos \theta + \alpha_2 \sin \theta) - r^2(\alpha_3 + r\kappa \cos \theta)] e_4, \end{aligned}$$

let

$$\begin{aligned} N &= \frac{*(X_t \wedge X_\theta \wedge X)}{r[c_3(\alpha_4 + r\tau \sin \theta) - c_4(\alpha_3 + r\kappa \cos \theta)]} \\ &= \epsilon \cos \theta e_1 + \epsilon \sin \theta e_2 + \gamma e_3 + \delta e_4 \end{aligned}$$

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Let $E = X_t \cdot X_t, \dots, I = X_{tt} \cdot N, \dots$, and

$$\mathcal{H} := IG + nE - 2mF = 2H(EG - F^2) \|N\| \quad (2)$$

Ruled minimal surfaces in \mathbb{S}^3

If X is **ruled**, then $c(t) \equiv 0$ and $r(t) \equiv 1$

$\Rightarrow c_i = 0, \alpha_i = 0, r' = 0$, and

$$\mathcal{H} = \eta\kappa^2 \cos^2 \theta + \eta\tau^2 \sin^2 \theta - (\kappa'\tau - \kappa\tau') \cos \theta \sin \theta - \beta\kappa\tau$$

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In the Frenet equation, we may let

$$e_1 = (\cos t, \sin t, 0, 0), \quad e_2 = (0, 0, \cos \tau t, \sin \tau t).$$

Then

$$X(t, \theta) = \cos \theta e_1 + \sin \theta e_2$$

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If ii holds, then we may assume that $\kappa = \tau$. Then $\eta = \beta$ from $\mathcal{H} = 0$. For φ with $\varphi' = \beta$, the new orthonormal frame fields

$$\tilde{e}_1 = \cos \phi e_1 - \sin \phi e_2, \quad \tilde{e}_2 = \sin \phi e_1 + \cos \phi e_2$$

$$\tilde{e}_3 = \cos \phi e_3 - \sin \phi e_4, \quad \tilde{e}_4 = \sin \phi e_3 + \cos \phi e_4$$

satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{e}'_1 &= \kappa \tilde{e}_3, & \tilde{e}'_2 &= \kappa \tilde{e}_4 \\ \tilde{e}'_3 &= -\kappa \tilde{e}_1, & \tilde{e}'_4 &= -\kappa \tilde{e}_2, \end{aligned}$$

and X is the Clifford torus.

Not-ruled minimal surfaces in \mathbb{S}^3

If X is not ruled, then we let

$$N = \cos \theta e_1 + \sin \theta e_2 + \gamma e_3 + \delta e_4,$$

$$\gamma = \frac{c_4(r' + \alpha_1 \cos \theta + \alpha_2 \sin \theta) - r(\alpha_4 + r\tau \sin \theta)}{c_3(\alpha_4 + r\tau \sin \theta) - c_4(\alpha_3 + r\kappa \cos \theta)},$$

$$\delta = \frac{c_3(r' + \alpha_1 \cos \theta + \alpha_2 \sin \theta) - r(\alpha_3 + r\kappa \cos \theta)}{c_3(\alpha_4 + r\tau \sin \theta) - c_4(\alpha_3 + r\kappa \cos \theta)}$$

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$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = [c_3(\alpha_4 + r\tau \sin \theta) - c_4(\alpha_3 + r\kappa \cos \theta)] \mathcal{H}$ is a trigonometric polynomial of degree 3.

We have $\kappa = 0$ and $\tau = 0$ from the coefficients of the Fourier series expansion of $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$.

Then the plane $\text{span}\{e_1, e_2\}$ is fixed. Hence we may let $\beta = 0$, $\eta = 0$.

Then $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0$, $\alpha_3 = c'_3$, $\alpha_4 = c'_4$, and

$$E = \alpha_3^2 + \alpha_4^2 + r'^2, \quad F = 0, \quad G = r^2$$

Moreover $c(t)$ lies in the plane $\text{span}\{e_3, e_4\}$.

$\Rightarrow X$ is rotationally symmetric.

Ruled cmc surfaces in \mathbb{S}^3

Theorem (P.) *Ruled surface of cmc H in \mathbb{S}^3 is given by*

$$X(t, \theta) = \cos \theta e_1 + \sin \theta e_2,$$

where e_1 and e_2 are part of an orthonormal frame e_1, \dots, e_4 of \mathbb{R}^4 satisfying

$$\begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \\ e_4 \end{pmatrix}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 2H \\ 0 & -1 & -2H & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \\ e_4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Sketch of proof

We may let $N = -\tau \sin \theta e_3 + \kappa \cos \theta e_4$.

From

$$\mathcal{H} = IG + nE - 2mF = 2H(EG - F^2)\|N\|,$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2H(EG - F^2)\|N\| - \mathcal{H} &= 2H(\kappa^2 \cos^2 \theta + \tau^2 \sin^2 \theta)^{\frac{3}{2}} \\ &\quad - (\eta \kappa^2 \cos^2 \theta + \eta \tau^2 \sin^2 \theta + (-\kappa' \tau + \kappa \tau') \cos \theta \sin \theta - \beta \kappa \tau) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then $\kappa^2 = \tau^2 > 0$ and $\kappa^2(2H|\kappa| - \eta + \beta) = 0$.

From

$$\Delta X = \frac{1}{\kappa} \left\{ X_{tt} - \left(\frac{\beta}{\kappa} \right)_t X_\theta - 2 \frac{\beta}{\kappa} X_{t\theta} + \frac{\kappa^2 + \beta^2}{\kappa} X_{\theta\theta} \right\}$$

$$\nu = N/\|N\| = -\sin \theta e_3 + \cos \theta e_4.$$

Then $(\Delta X - 2H\nu + 2X) \cdot e_1$ is

$$-\beta^2 \cos \theta - \kappa^2 \cos \theta - \beta' \sin \theta + \left(\frac{\beta}{\kappa} \right)' \sin \theta + \frac{\beta^2}{\kappa} \cos \theta + \kappa \cos \theta = 0.$$

Hence $\kappa = 1$ and $\eta = 2H + \beta$.

For ϕ with $\phi' = \beta$, let

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{e}_1 &= \cos \phi e_1 - \sin \phi e_2, & \tilde{e}_2 &= \sin \phi e_1 + \cos \phi e_2, \\ \tilde{e}_3 &= \cos \phi e_3 - \sin \phi e_4, & \tilde{e}_4 &= \sin \phi e_3 + \cos \phi e_4.\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{e}_1 \\ \tilde{e}_2 \\ \tilde{e}_3 \\ \tilde{e}_4 \end{pmatrix}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 2H \\ 0 & -1 & -2H & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{e}_1 \\ \tilde{e}_2 \\ \tilde{e}_3 \\ \tilde{e}_4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thank you!