

## *Nonexistence of a Projective Plane Minimally Immersed with Some Embeddedness*

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### Abstract

Assume that  $M$  is diffeomorphic to a projective plane minus  $k$  points ( $k \geq 1$ ). In this paper, we prove that there is no complete minimal embedding of  $M$  into  $R^3$ . It is also shown that if  $1 \leq k \leq 3$ , it does not exist a complete minimal immersion of  $M$  into  $R^3$  with parallel embedded ends.

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### §1. Introduction

Assume that  $M$  is diffeomorphic to a projective plane minus  $k$  points. Set  $M = P^2 - \{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$ . Let  $\pi : \tilde{M} = \mathbf{C} \cup \{\infty\} - \{q_1, q'_1, \dots, q_k, q'_k\} \rightarrow M$  be its oriented two-sheeted covering with  $\pi(q_i) = \pi(q'_i) = p_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . Put  $I(z) = -1/\bar{z}$ . Then the map  $I$  is the antipodal map of  $\mathbf{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  and  $\pi(p) = \pi(p')$  for  $p, p' \in \tilde{M}$  if and only if  $p' = I(p)$ . For a regular complete minimal immersion  $\tilde{x} : \tilde{M} \rightarrow R^3$ , there exists a regular complete minimal immersion  $x : M \rightarrow R^3$  such that  $\tilde{x} = x \cdot \pi$  if and only if  $\tilde{x}(I(z)) = \tilde{x}(z)$  for each  $z \in \tilde{M}$ . In this case, we call the immersion  $\tilde{x} : \tilde{M} \rightarrow R^3$  a double surface of  $x : M \rightarrow R^3$ . If an end  $q_i$  is an embedded end,  $q'_i$  is so and we may call the corresponding end  $p_i$  embedded. If all the ends  $q_i$  and  $q'_i$  are embedded and parallel, the minimal surface is called pseudo-embedded by Peng[8]. If it happens, the corresponding nonorientable minimal surface is said to be pseudo-embedded in the present paper. If  $x : M \rightarrow R^3$  is embedded,  $\tilde{x} : \tilde{M} \rightarrow R^3$  is pseudo-embedded. An end  $p_i$  is called a Catenoid (resp. planar) end if  $q_i$  is a Catenoid (resp. planar) end.

Lopez and Ros [5] proved that the plane and the Catenoid are the only embedded complete minimal surfaces of finite total curvature and genus zero in  $R^3$ . On the other hand, there are complete genus zero pseudo-embedded minimal surface with  $k$  ends (see [3],[6]) except when  $k = 3, 4$  or  $5$  [see [2]].

In the nonorientable case, Meeks [6] showed that there is no complete pseudo-embedded minimal immersion of a projective plane with two embedded ends. In the present paper, we will prove

**Theorem 1.** *There is no complete minimal embedding of a projective plane into  $R^3$  with  $k$  ends,  $k \geq 1$ .*

**Theorem 2.** *Assume that  $M$  is diffeomorphic to a projective plane minus  $k$  points,  $k \geq 1$ . There does not exist a complete pseudo-embedded minimal immersion of  $M$  into  $R^3$  in the following cases:*

- (1) *All the ends are planar.*
- (2) *One end is a Catenoid end and the other are planar.*
- (3) *The ends of  $M$  are two Catenoid ends or two Catenoid ends and one planar end.*
- (4) *The ends of  $M$  are three Catenoid ends.*

**Corollary.** *There is no complete pseudo-embedded minimal immersion of a projective plane with three ends.*

In the present paper, we could not find any complete pseudo-embedded minimal immersion of a projective plane with  $k$  ends.

## §2. Preliminaries

Let  $\tilde{x} : N \rightarrow R^3$  be a complete pseudo-embedded genus zero minimal surface of finite total curvature in the Euclidean space  $R^3$ . Denote by  $\omega, g$  the holomorphic 1-form and the meromorphic function on  $N$  determined by the Weierstrass representation of  $\tilde{x}$ , respectively. Modulo natural identification,  $g$  is the Gauss map of  $\tilde{x}$ . We have the representation

$$(1) \quad \tilde{x} = \text{Real} \int (\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3),$$

where  $\phi_1 = \omega(1 - g^2)/2$ ,  $\phi_2 = i\omega(1 + g^2)/2$ , and  $\phi_3 = \omega g$ . It is evident that  $N$  is conformally equivalent to  $C \cup \{\infty\} - \{q_1, \dots, q_l\}$ . An end  $q_i$  is a Catenoid (resp. planar) end if and only if  $q_i$  is the regular (resp. branch) point of the Gauss map  $g$ . We can assume that the ends of  $N$  are poles and zeros of  $g$ . Assume that  $l_1$  ends are poles and the rests are zeros. Put  $l_2 = l - l_1$ . The sum of order  $L_1$  of the poles is equal to the sum of order  $L_2$  of the zeros. Since all the ends are embedded, we have that  $L_1 = L_2 = l - 1$ . If we assume that  $t_1$  zeros and  $t_2$  poles are the catenoid ends, where  $0 \leq t_1 \leq l_1$  and  $0 \leq t_2 \leq l_2$ , we get that  $l_2 + t_1 - 1 \geq l_1$ ,  $l_1 \geq l_2 - t_2 + 1$ . Hence we get  $t_1 + t_2 \geq 2$ . Thus we have

**Proposition 1.** *A complete oriented genus zero pseudo-embedded minimal surface in  $R^3$  has at least two Catenoids ends.*

As a corollary, we have that the case (1) of theorem 2 does not occur. Next we show

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $x : M \rightarrow R^3$  be a regular complete pseudo-embedded minimal immersion. Then, the two-sheeted covering  $\tilde{M}$  is conformally equivalent to  $\mathbf{C} - \{0, a_1, -1/\bar{a}_1, \dots, a_n, -1/\bar{a}_n, b_1, -1/\bar{b}_1, \dots, b_m, -1/\bar{b}_m\}$ , where  $0, \infty, a_1, -1/\bar{a}_1, \dots, a_n, -1/\bar{a}_n$  are Catenoid ends,  $b_1, -1/\bar{b}_1, \dots, b_m, -1/\bar{b}_m$  are planar and  $n + m + 1 = k$ . Moreover, the double surface  $\tilde{x} : \tilde{M} \rightarrow R^3$  is given by (1) with*

$$(2) \quad \phi_1 = \frac{i\lambda(\bar{B}\alpha_1 - B\alpha_2)}{2}, \quad \phi_2 = -\frac{\lambda(\bar{B}\alpha_1 + B\alpha_2)}{2}, \quad \phi_3 = i\lambda\alpha_3,$$

where  $B \in \mathbf{C}$  with  $|B| = 1, \lambda \in R - \{0\}$  and

$$(3) \quad \begin{aligned} \alpha_1 &= \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n (\bar{c}_i z + 1)^2 \prod_{j=1}^m (\bar{b}_j z + 1)^2}{z^2 \prod_{i=1}^n (z - a_i)^2 \prod_{j=1}^m (z - b_j)^2} dz, \\ \alpha_2 &= \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n (z - c_i)^2 \prod_{j=1}^m (z - b_j)^2}{\prod_{i=1}^n (\bar{a}_i z + 1)^2 \prod_{j=1}^m (\bar{b}_j z + 1)^2} dz, \\ \alpha_3 &= \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n (z - c_i)(\bar{c}_i z + 1)}{z \prod_{i=1}^n (z - a_i)(\bar{a}_i z + 1)} dz. \end{aligned}$$

Here, each  $c_i$  is not an end or coincides with some of  $b_j$ . In addition, the 1-forms  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  are exact and there exist real numbers  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  such that

$$(4) \quad \alpha_3 = i \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i (\bar{a}_i z^2 + a_i)}{z(z - a_i)(\bar{a}_i z + 1)} dz.$$

Conversely, suppose that  $B \in \mathbf{C}$  with  $|B| = 1, \lambda \in R - \{0\}$  are given and 1-forms  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$  are defined by (3). If  $\alpha_1$  or  $\alpha_2$  is exact and there exist real numbers  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  which satisfy (4), the associated minimal surface given by (1) with (2) is the double surface of a regular complete pseudo-embedded minimal immersion of  $M$ .

*Proof.* We may assume that  $0, a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_m$  are zeros of the Gauss map  $g$  of the double surface  $\tilde{x} : \tilde{M} \rightarrow R^3$ . Then  $\infty, -1/\bar{a}_1, \dots, -1/\bar{a}_n, -1/\bar{b}_1, \dots, -1/\bar{b}_m$  are its poles. It is known (see [1],[5]) that  $\tilde{x} \cdot I = \tilde{x}$  if and only if

$$(5) \quad g \cdot I = -1/\bar{g}, I^* \omega = -\overline{g^2 \omega}.$$

Now we can put

$$(6) \quad g = B \frac{z \prod_{i=1}^n (z - a_i) \prod_{j=1}^m (z - b_j)^2 \prod_{l=1}^t (z - c_l)}{\prod_{i=1}^n (\bar{a}_i z + 1) \prod_{j=1}^m (\bar{b}_j z + 1)^2 \prod_{l=1}^t (\bar{c}_l z + 1)},$$

where  $|B| = 1$  and since all the ends are embedded, we have  $\deg(g) = 2k - 1$ . Hence we obtain  $t = n$ . An end is embedded if and only if

$$\text{Max}\{O(\phi_j), j = 1, 2, 3\} = 2,$$

where  $O(\phi_j)$  is the order of the pole at the end. Thus using (5), we obtain

$$(7) \quad \omega = A \frac{\prod_{i=1}^m (\bar{b}_i z + 1)^2 \prod_{j=1}^n (\bar{c}_j z + 1)^2}{z^2 \prod_{i=1}^n (z - a_i)^2 \prod_{j=1}^m (z - b_j)^2} dz,$$

where  $A$  satisfies  $\overline{AB} = -AB$ . Hence we can put  $AB = i\lambda$ . Thus we have the representation (2). Since the 1-forms  $\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3$  have no real periods on  $\tilde{M}$ ,  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  are exact and  $\alpha_3$  has no imaginary periods, that is,  $\oint \alpha_3$  is a real number. As we have

$$I^* \alpha_1 = \bar{\alpha}_2, I^* \alpha_3 = -\bar{\alpha}_3$$

$\alpha_1$  is exact if and only if  $\alpha_2$  is so, and  $\alpha_3$  has no imaginary periods if and only if there exist real numbers  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  which satisfy (4). Now, it is evident that the converse is true. Q.E.D.

### §3. A proof of theorem 1

Assume that there is an embedding  $x$  of  $M$  into  $R^3$ . Then,  $\tilde{x} : \tilde{M} \rightarrow R^3$  is a pseudo-embedded complete minimal immersion with  $\tilde{x} \cdot I = \tilde{x}$ . We may put  $q_1 = 0$  and  $q'_1 = \infty$ . We assume that  $z = 0$  is a zero of  $g$ . For  $z \in \tilde{M}$ , put  $z = re^{i\theta}$ ,  $0 \leq r \leq \infty$ ,  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ . We may suppose that the lines given by  $\theta = 0$  and by  $\theta = \pi$  do not pass the points  $q_2, q'_2, \dots, q_k, q'_k$ . We decompose the minimal surface  $\tilde{x}$  into four parts  $I_1, I_2, I_3$  and  $I_4$  such that  $I_1 = \tilde{x}(re^{i\theta}), 0 \leq r \leq 1, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ ,  $I_2 = \tilde{x}(re^{i\theta}), 1 \leq r \leq \infty, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ ,  $I_3 = \tilde{x}(re^{i\theta}), 0 \leq r \leq 1, \pi \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ , and  $I_4 = \tilde{x}(re^{i\theta}), 1 \leq r \leq \infty, \pi \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ . Let  $e_1$  and  $e_3$  be the edges of  $I_1$  given by  $0 \leq r \leq 1, \theta = 0$  and  $0 \leq r \leq 1, \theta = \pi$  respectively. Similarly,  $e_2$  and  $e_4$  are the edges of  $I_2$  given by  $1 \leq r \leq \infty, \theta = 0$  and  $1 \leq r \leq \infty, \theta = \pi$  respectively. Let  $M_0$  (resp.  $M'_0$ ) be the end corresponding to  $q_1 = 0$  (resp.  $q'_1 = \infty$ ) (see §2 in [9]). The ends have simple forms as shown in [9]. In fact, by changing coordinate in the  $\tilde{x}_1 \tilde{x}_2$ -plane we can get

$$\tilde{x}_3 = a \log y + b + \frac{c_1 \tilde{x}_1}{y^2} + \frac{c_2 \tilde{x}_2}{y^2} + O(y^{-2})$$

for suitable constants  $a, b, c_1, c_2$ , where we set  $y = \sqrt{\tilde{x}_1^2 + \tilde{x}_2^2}$ . Put  $M_1 = M_0 \cap I_1, M_2 = M'_0 \cap I_2, M_3 = M_0 \cap I_3, M_4 = M'_0 \cap I_4$ . We may consider that the image of  $M_2$  coincides with that of  $M_3$ . Think of the parts  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ . They have the common part  $r = 1, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ . The edge  $e_2$  (resp.  $e_4$ ) lies exactly on the edge  $e_3$  (resp.  $e_1$ ). But these can be done when  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  intersect. We get a contradiction. Q.E.D.

**§4. The cases (2) and (3) of theorem 2**

In the present section we prove that The cases (1) and (2) of the thorem do not occur. We use the notations in Proposition 2. Assume that the immersion  $x : M \rightarrow R^3$  has only one Catenoid end, that is,  $n = 0$ . Then  $\alpha_3 = 1/z$  and it has an imaginary period. We get a contradiction. Next we suppose the case (2). Then we can put

$$\alpha_3 = \frac{(\bar{c}z + 1)(z - c)}{z(z - a)(\bar{a}z + 1)} dz = i \frac{\lambda_i(\bar{a}z^2 + a_i)}{z(z - a)(\bar{a}z + 1)} dz.$$

Hence, we can put, up rotation in  $R^3$ ,

$$(8) \quad \lambda_1 = \frac{1}{|a|}, \quad c = -i \frac{a}{|a|}.$$

Since Meeks [3] showed that there is no complete pseudo-embedded minimal immersion of a projective plane with two ends, we suppose the nonorientable minimal surface  $x : M \rightarrow R^3$  has two Catenoids ends and one flat end. Then we can set

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{P^2}{Q^2} dz,$$

where  $P = (z - b)(z - c)$  and  $Q = (\bar{a}z + 1)(\bar{b}z + 1)$ . Lopez proved in [5] that  $\alpha_3$  is exact if and only if  $F = PQ'' - 2P'Q' = 0$  at  $-1/\bar{a}$  and  $-1/\bar{b}$ . Hence we have  $F = -6(\bar{a}z + 1)(\bar{b}z + 1)$ , that is,

$$(9) \quad \bar{a} + \bar{b} + \bar{a}\bar{b}(b + c) = 0,$$

$$(10) \quad (b + c)(\overline{a + b}) + \overline{a}bb + 3 = 0.$$

Set

$$a = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta), 0 \leq r \leq 2\pi, \quad b = x + iy.$$

Then  $c = \sin \theta - i \cos \theta$ . From (9), we get

$$(11) \quad x - ry = -r(1+t)\cos \theta, \quad rx + y = -r(1+t)\sin \theta,$$

where  $t = x^2 + y^2$ . It flows from (11) that  $t$  must satisfy the equation

$$r^2 t^2 - (1 - r^2)t + r^2 = 0.$$

There exist positive real numbers which satisfy the above equation if and only if

$$(12) \quad 0 < r \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}.$$

From (11), we get

$$x = -\frac{r(\cos \theta + r \sin \theta)(1+t)}{1+r^2}, \quad y = -\frac{r(\sin \theta - r \cos \theta)(1+t)}{1+r^2}.$$

Substituting these into (10), we obtain

$$(3 + r^2) + (1 - r^2)t = 0.$$

This contradicts (12). Thus we show the desired result.

### §5. The case (4) of theorem 2

Assume that  $M$  has three Catenoid ends, that is  $n = 2$  and  $m = 0$ . Since the 1-form  $\alpha_3$  has no imaginary periods, there exist real numbers  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  such that

$$\frac{\prod_{i=1}^2 (z - c_i)(\bar{c}_i z + 1)}{z \prod_{i=1}^2 (z - a_i)(\bar{a}_i z + 1)} dz = i \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{\lambda_i (\bar{a}_i z^2 + a_i)}{z(z - a_i)(\bar{a}_i z + 1)} dz.$$

Hence if we set

$$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 2\mu_1, \quad (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) = 2\mu_2,$$

$$c_1 + c_2 = C_1, \quad c_1 c_2 = C_2, \quad a_1 + a_2 = A_1, \quad a_1 a_2 = A_2, \quad a_1 - a_2 = A_3,$$

we have

$$(13) \quad C_2 = -i2\mu_1 A_2$$

$$(14) \quad 1 + |C_2|^2 - |C_1|^2 = i2\mu_2(a_1\bar{a}_2 - \bar{a}_1a_2),$$

$$(15) \quad i(C_1 - C_2\bar{C}_1) = \mu_1(A_1 - A_2\bar{A}_1) + \mu_2(A_3 + A_2\bar{A}_3).$$

Put  $P = z^2 - C_1z + C_2$  and  $Q = \bar{A}_2z^2 + \bar{A}_1z + 1$ . Then the 1-form  $\alpha_2 = \frac{P^2}{Q^2}dz$  is exact if and only if

$$(16) \quad \bar{A}_1 + \bar{A}_2C_1 = 0,$$

$$(17) \quad \bar{A}_1C_1 + \bar{A}_2C_2 = -3.$$

Up reparametrization in  $\mathbb{C}U\{\infty\}$ , we can assume

$$A_2 = r, \quad r > 0.$$

We set

$$A_1 = x_1 + iy_1, \quad A_3 = x_2 + iy_2.$$

Then, from (13) and (16), we have, respectively,

$$C_1 = -\frac{\bar{A}_1}{r}, \quad C_2 = -i2\mu_1r.$$

Substituting these into (17), we have

$$(18) \quad x_1^2 - y_1^2 = 3r, \quad x_1y_1 = \mu_1r^3.$$

Thus we obtain

$$(19) \quad x_1^2 = \frac{3r + D}{2}, \quad y_1^2 = \frac{-3r + D}{2},$$

where  $D = r\sqrt{9 + 4\mu_1^2r^4}$ . Using (13) and (16), we get

$$i\bar{C}_1 = \mu_1(\bar{A}_1 + \bar{A}_2A_1) - \mu_2(\bar{A}_3 + \bar{A}_2A_3).$$

This equation gives

$$(20) \quad \mu_2r(1+r)x_2 = \mu_1r(1+r)x_1 - y_1,$$

$$(21) \quad \mu_2r(1-r)y_2 = -x_1 + \mu_1r(1-r)y_1.$$

If  $\mu_2 = 0$ , from (20), we have

$$y_1 = \mu_1r(1+r)x_1.$$

Substituting this into the second equation of (18), we get  $x_1^2 = r^2/(1+r)$ . Using (19), we obtain a contradiction

$$r^2 + 3 + (1+r)D = 0.$$

Hence  $\mu_2 \neq 0$ . If  $r = 1$ , from (21), we have  $x_1 = 0$ . This contradicts the first equation of (18). The equation (14) is rewritten as

$$2\mu_2 r^2(x_1 y_2 - x_2 y_1) = x_1^2 + y_1^2 - (1 + 4\mu_1^2 r^2)r^2.$$

Using (20), (21) and (19), we obtain

$$(22) \quad (r^2 + 1)D = 4\mu_1^2 r^4(1 - r^2) - r^4 - 5r^2.$$

From this, we have

$$(23) \quad 0 < r < 1.$$

Solving (23), we get

$$(24) \quad \mu_1^2 = \frac{r(11 - 6r^2 - r^4) + (1 + r^2)(3 - r^2)\sqrt{4 - 3r^2}}{8r^3(1 - r^2)^2}.$$

Substituting this into (22), we have

$$(25) \quad D = \frac{r^2(1 + r^2) + (3 - r^3)r\sqrt{4 - 3r^2}}{2(1 - r^2)}.$$

Since  $A_2 = (A_1^2 - A_3^2)/4$ , from (18) it follows

$$(26) \quad x_2^2 - y_2^2 = -r, \quad x_2 y_2 = \mu_1 r^3.$$

Now we set

$$(27) \quad F = \mu_1 r^3 \mu_2^2 x_2 y_2.$$

Then it must be that  $F > 0$ . Using (20), (21), (23) and (24), we obtain a contradiction ;

$$F = -\frac{\mu_1^2 r^3 (r^2 - 3)^2 (r + \sqrt{4 - 3r^2})}{8}.$$

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