

Ribaucour transformations for constant mean curvature and linear Weingarten surfaces

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Abstract

We provide a method to obtain linear Weingarten surfaces from a given such surface, by imposing a one parameter algebraic condition on a Ribaucour transformation. Our main result extends classical results for surfaces of constant Gaussian or mean curvature. By applying the theory to the cylinder, we obtain a two-parameter family of complete linear Weingarten surfaces (hyperbolic, elliptic and tubular), asymptotically close to the cylinder, which have constant mean curvature when one of the parameters vanishes. The family contains n -bubble Weingarten surfaces which are 1-periodic, have genus zero and two ends of geometric index m , where n/m is an irreducible rational number. Their total curvature vanishes, while the total absolute curvature is $8\pi n$. We also apply the method to obtain families of complete constant mean curvature surfaces, associated to the Delaunay surfaces, which are 1-periodic for special values of the parameter.

Introduction.

In the last two decades a great activity in research has been devoted to surfaces of constant mean curvature (cmc) surfaces. After the first example of a non totally umbilical compact cmc surface immersed in R^3 found by Wente [W1], a series of papers by Meeks [M], Korevaar, Kusner and Solomon [KKS], Pinkal and Sterling [PS], Kapouleas [K], Karcher [Ka], Abresch [A], Walter [Wa] gave important contributions to the theory and to the construction of examples of complete immersed cmc surfaces.

Some of the results proved for cmc surfaces were also extended by Rosenberg and Sa Earp [RS], and by Brito and Sa Earp [BS] to the so called special Weingarten immersed surfaces, and in particular to surfaces whose mean curvature H and Gaussian curvature K satisfy a linear relation $aH + K = b$ where $a \geq 0$, $b > 0$.

In this paper, we consider a method of constructing linear Weingarten surfaces based on Ribaucour transformations. A *linear Weingarten surface* of R^3 is a surface whose Gaussian curvature K and mean curvature H satisfy a linear relation $\alpha + \beta H + \gamma K = 0$, where $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in R$. Such a surface is said to be *hyperbolic* (resp. *elliptic*) when $\Delta := \beta^2 - 4\alpha\gamma < 0$ (resp. $\Delta > 0$). The relation $\Delta = 0$ characterizes the tubular surfaces. In particular, surfaces of constant negative Gaussian curvature are hyperbolic, while surfaces of constant mean curvature (including minimal) and constant positive curvature are elliptic. Ribaucour transformations for constant Gaussian curvature and constant mean curvature surfaces, were considered at the beginning of last century (see Bianchi [Bi]) and they were recently applied for the first time to obtain minimal surfaces [CFT2]. We should mention that Bäcklund transformations for hyperbolic

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linear Weingarten surfaces were considered by [Bi] and generalized to higher dimensions by [Bu].

Our main result in this paper extends Ribaucour transformations to linear Weingarten surfaces and also provides a unified version for the classical results. As an application of the theory, we obtain an interesting, two-parameter family of complete linear Weingarten surfaces associated to the cylinder. This family shows that the Ribaucour transformation under consideration is not necessarily a Darboux transformation and it provides an unexpected result. Namely, the existence of complete hyperbolic linear Weingarten surfaces immersed in R^3 . Hilbert's theorem shows that there are no complete surfaces of constant negative curvature immersed in R^3 . Although such surfaces and hyperbolic linear Weingarten surfaces correspond to solutions of the sine-Gordon equation, the family of examples associated to the cylinder shows that there exist infinitely many complete hyperbolic linear Weingarten surfaces immersed in R^3 . The results of this paper were announced in [T].

We point out that although linear Weingarten surfaces are locally parallel to minimal surfaces or surfaces of constant Gaussian curvature, with same Δ , the parallelism procedure cannot be applied to extend the method of Ribaucour transformation to linear Weingarten surfaces, since it is not a global construction and in general it produces singularities. This is reinforced by the existence of complete hyperbolic linear Weingarten surfaces, which obviously cannot be parallel to any complete surface of constant negative Gaussian curvature.

The paper is organized as follows: In section 1, we consider Ribaucour transformations for surfaces and we provide an algebraic condition for such a transformation to relate two linear Weingarten surfaces. We show that the linear system of differential equations corresponding to the Ribaucour transformation with the additional algebraic condition is integrable on linear Weingarten surfaces. As a consequence of the theory we get the corresponding results for H -cmc surfaces. In this case, for a given such surface, the parameter must satisfy $c(c - 2H) > 0$.

In section 2, by considering the cylinder as a linear Weingarten surface satisfying $-1/2 + H + \gamma K = 0$, we obtain a two-parameter family of immersions $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$, of R^2 into euclidean space R^3 , which are linear Weingarten surfaces. Not all of them are complete. We characterize the complete ones in terms of the pair of real numbers (c, γ) . This family of complete surfaces contains hyperbolic, elliptic and tubular linear Weingarten surfaces which are all asymptotically close to the cylinder. One family of lines of curvature is planar while the other one is spherical (which may degenerate into planar). We describe the symmetries of these surfaces, which are quite distinct whenever $c < 0$ and $c > 0$. For generic values of the parameters, the immersions are not periodic. However, for special values of (c, γ) , namely for each $c < 0$ and $\sqrt{1 - c(2\gamma + 1)} = n/m$ an irreducible rational number, we get an n -bubble surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$. This is an immersed cylinder into R^3 , with two ends of geometric index m and n isolated points of maximum and of minimum for the Gaussian curvature. We show that its total curvature vanishes while its total absolute curvature is $8\pi n$. Moreover, we prove that the ends are embedded if and only if $m = 1$ and in this case, they are cylindrical ends. If $c > 0$ or $c < 0$ and $\sqrt{1 - c(2\gamma + 1)}$ is not a rational number, then $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is a complete immersion of R^2 into R^3 , not periodic in any variable and it has an infinite number of isolated critical points for the Gaussian curvature.

In section 3, by restricting the constant $\gamma = 0$ in the previous section, we get a one parameter family of complete $1/2$ -cmc immersions \tilde{X}_c from R^2 into R^3 . These surfaces are not periodic for generic values of c . However, special values of c , produce 1-periodic cmc n -bubble surfaces. These immersed cmc-cylinders were first described by Sievert [S] for $n = 2$ (see also [PS]), and their existence was proved later in [G-B] and [SW]. We also show that these surfaces are of finite

type one (as defined in [PS]).

In section 4, we obtain families of cmc surfaces associated to the Delaunay surface by Ribaucour transformations. By restricting the range of the parameter c conveniently we obtain families of complete H -cmc surfaces. We describe their symmetries and as in the case of the surfaces associated to the cylinder, for special values of c we get a family of 1-periodic surfaces.

1. Ribaucour transformation for linear Weingarten surfaces.

In this section, we first recall the theory of Ribaucour transformation for surfaces. For the proofs and more details see [Bi] and [CFT1]. We then prove that, imposing a one-parameter algebraic condition on a Ribaucour transformation, we have a correspondence between linear Weingarten surfaces. We show that starting with such a surface the system of equations is integrable and provides a family of new Weingarten surfaces. As a consequence of the theory we get the corresponding results for cmc surfaces.

Let M be an orientable surface of R^3 without umbilic points. We denote by N its Gauss map. We say that \tilde{M} is *associated by a Ribaucour transformation to M* , if and only if, there exists a differentiable function h defined on M and a diffeomorphism $\psi : M \rightarrow \tilde{M}$ such that: $p + h(p)N(p) = \psi(p) + h(p)\tilde{N}(\psi(p))$, for all $p \in M$, where \tilde{N} is the normal map of \tilde{M} ; the subset $p + h(p)N(p)$, $p \in M$, is a 2-dimensional submanifold and ψ preserves lines of curvature.

We say that \tilde{M} is *locally associated by a Ribaucour transformation to M* if for all $\tilde{p} \in \tilde{M}$ there exists a neighborhood of \tilde{p} in \tilde{M} which is associated by a Ribaucour transformation to an open subset of M . Similarly, one may consider the corresponding definitions for parametrized surfaces.

The following results give a characterization of Ribaucour transformations.

Theorem 1.1. *Let M be an orientable surface of R^3 , without umbilic points and N its Gauss map. Let e_i , $1 \leq i \leq 2$ be orthonormal principal directions, λ^i the corresponding principal curvatures, i.e. $dN(e_i) = \lambda_i e_i$. A surface \tilde{M} is locally associated to M by a Ribaucour transformation, if and only if, there exist parametrizations $\tilde{X} : U \subset R^2 \rightarrow \tilde{M}$ and $X : U \subset R^2 \rightarrow M$ and a differentiable function $h : U \rightarrow R$ such that $1 + h\lambda^i \neq 0$,*

$$\tilde{X} = X + h(N - \tilde{N}), \quad (1)$$

where \tilde{N} is a unit vector field normal to $\tilde{X}(U)$ given by

$$\tilde{N} = \frac{1}{\Delta + 1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n 2Z^i e_i + (\Delta - 1)N \right), \quad (2)$$

$$Z^i = \frac{dh(e_i)}{1 + h\lambda^i} \quad \Delta = \sum_{i=1}^n (Z^i)^2 \quad (3)$$

and h satisfies the differential equation

$$dZ^j(e_i) + Z^i \omega_{ij}(e_i) - Z^i Z^j \lambda^i = 0, \quad 1 \leq i \neq j \leq 2, \quad (4)$$

where ω_{ij} are the connection forms of the frame e_i .

Proof: Let \tilde{N} be a unit vector field given by

$$\tilde{N} = \sum_{i=1}^2 b^i e_i + b^3 N, \quad \text{where} \quad \sum_{i=1}^2 (b^i)^2 + (b^3)^2 = 1. \quad (5)$$

We introduce the following notation

$$d\tilde{N}(e_i) = \sum_{k=1}^2 L_i^k e_k + L_i^3 N, \quad (6)$$

where for $1 \leq i, k \leq 2$

$$L_i^k = db^k(e_i) + \sum_j b^j \omega_{jk}(e_i) + b^3 \lambda^i \delta_{ik}, \quad L_i^3 = db^3(e_i) - b^i \lambda^i. \quad (7)$$

We will later show that the following relations hold

$$b^i = Z^i(1 - b^3). \quad (8)$$

In this case, from (5) we get

$$b^3 = \frac{\Delta - 1}{\Delta + 1}. \quad (9)$$

We will now prove the theorem. Assume that \tilde{M} is locally associated to M by a Ribaucour transformation. Then by definition there exist local parametrizations X of M , \tilde{X} of \tilde{M} and a function h defined on $U \subset R^2$ such that $\tilde{X} + h\tilde{N} = X + hN$, where \tilde{N} is a unit vector field normal to \tilde{M} , which may be considered as in (5). Since

$$d\tilde{X} = dX + dh(N - \tilde{N}) + h(dN - d\tilde{N}) \quad (10)$$

it follows from the relations $dX = \sum_j \omega_j e_j$ and $dN(e_i) = \lambda^i e_i$ that

$$d\tilde{X}(e_i) = (1 + h\lambda^i)e_i + dh(e_i)(N - \tilde{N}) - hd\tilde{N}(e_i). \quad (11)$$

Hence, $\langle d\tilde{X}(e_i), \tilde{N} \rangle = 0$ implies

$$(1 + h\lambda^i)b^i + dh(e_i)(b^3 - 1) = 0, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (12)$$

Since $X + hN$ is two dimensional, it follows that $1 + h\lambda^i \neq 0$ for all i . Therefore we conclude from (12) that the relations (8) hold and hence b^3 is given by (9). $d\tilde{X}(e_i)$ are orthogonal principal directions, i.e.

$$\langle d\tilde{X}(e_i), d\tilde{X}(e_j) \rangle = \langle d\tilde{N}(e_j), d\tilde{X}(e_i) \rangle = \langle d\tilde{N}(e_j), d\tilde{N}(e_i) \rangle = 0 \quad \text{for } i \neq j.$$

Hence, using (6) and equation (11), we get

$$\langle d\tilde{N}(e_i), d\tilde{X}(e_j) \rangle = L_i^j(1 + h\lambda^j) + L_i^3 dh(e_j) = 0, \quad \text{for } i \neq j.$$

It follows from (7) and the last equality, that h satisfies equation (4).

Conversely, assume h is a solution of (4) such that $1 + h\lambda^i \neq 0, \forall i$, then we define Z^i and Δ by (3), b^i and b^3 by (8) and (9). It follows from (7) and (4) that

$$L_i^k + Z^k L_i^3 = 0, \quad i \neq k. \quad (13)$$

and

$$Z^i L_i^i + \left((Z^i)^2 - \frac{\Delta + 1}{2} \right) L_i^3 = 0. \quad (14)$$

We consider \tilde{N} and \tilde{X} as in (5) and (1) respectively. We need to show that \tilde{X} is associated to X by a Ribaucour transformation. We first observe that \tilde{N} is a unit vector field. In fact, $\sum_i (b^i)^2 + (b^3)^2 = (1 - b^3)^2 \Delta + (b^3)^2 = 1$, since b^3 is given by (9). We next verify that \tilde{N} is normal to \tilde{X} . From the definition of \tilde{X} , we have that $d\tilde{X}(e_i)$ is given by (11). Hence, using the fact that $|\tilde{N}| = 1$, we conclude that $\langle d\tilde{X}(e_i), \tilde{N} \rangle = -(1 + h\lambda^i)Z^i + dh(e_i)(b^3 - 1) = 0$.

Using (6), equation (14) and the definition of Δ , one proves that $\langle d\tilde{N}(e_1), d\tilde{N}(e_2) \rangle = 0$. Therefore, it follows from equations (10) and (13), that for $i \neq j$

$$\langle d\tilde{N}(e_i), d\tilde{X}(e_j) \rangle = L_i^j(1 + h\lambda^j) + L_i^3 dh(e_j) = 0.$$

Finally, we prove that $d\tilde{X}(e_1)$ and $d\tilde{X}(e_2)$ are orthogonal. In fact,

$$\langle d\tilde{X}(e_1), d\tilde{X}(e_2) \rangle = dh(e_2) \left[-(1 + h\lambda^1)b^1 + dh(e_1)(1 - b^3) \right] = 0,$$

where the last equality follows from the definition of b^i and equation (13). Moreover, \tilde{X} is an immersed surface. In fact, introducing the eigenvalues $\tilde{\lambda}^i$, $d\tilde{N}(e_i) = \tilde{\lambda}^i d\tilde{X}(e_i)$, it follows from (11) that

$$(1 + h\tilde{\lambda}^i)d\tilde{X}(e_i) = (1 + h\lambda^i)e_i + dh(e_i)(N - \tilde{N}).$$

Hence we conclude that from (5) and (8) that

$$|1 + h\tilde{\lambda}^i| |d\tilde{X}(e_i)|^2 = |1 + h\lambda^i|.$$

One can linearize equation (4) as we will show in Proposition 1.2. We first observe that from the proof given above and from (6), we have $\langle d\tilde{N}(e_i), N \rangle = L_i^3 = \tilde{\lambda}^i \langle d\tilde{X}(e_i), N \rangle$. Therefore, whenever $dh(e_i) \neq 0$, using (11), (5) and (6) we obtain the principal curvatures given by

$$\tilde{\lambda}^i = \frac{L_i^3}{dh(e_i)(1 - b^3) - hL_i^3}. \quad (15)$$

Proposition 1.2. *If h is a solution of (4) which does not vanish on a simply connected domain, then $h = \Omega/W$ where Ω and a nonvanishing function W satisfy*

$$d\Omega_i(e_j) = \Omega_j \omega_{ij}(e_j), \quad \text{for } i \neq j, \quad (16)$$

$$d\Omega = \sum_{i=1}^2 \Omega_i \omega_i, \quad (17)$$

$$dW = - \sum_{i=1}^2 \Omega_i \lambda^i \omega_i. \quad (18)$$

Conversely, suppose (16)-(18) are satisfied, such that $W(W + \Omega\lambda^i) \neq 0$, then $h = \Omega/W$ is a solution of (4).

Proof: Assume h is a nonvanishing solution of (4), then $\psi = \sum_i Z^i \omega_i / h$, is a closed form. Hence, on a simply connected domain there exists a differentiable function Ω such that $d(\log \Omega) = \psi$. We define $\Omega_i = d\Omega(e_i)$ and $W = \Omega/h$. Then $dh(e_i) = \Omega_i(1 + \Omega\lambda^i/W)/W$ and (17) holds. Moreover, it follows from (4) that (16) and (18) are satisfied. Conversely if (16)-(18) hold,

considering $Z^i = \Omega_i/W$ one concludes that (4) is satisfied. We define $h = \Omega/W$, then it follows that $dh(e_i) = Z^i(1 + h\lambda^i)$. \square

We observe that it follows from the proof of Proposition 1.2 that

$$dh(e_i) = \frac{\Omega_i}{W}(1 + \Omega\lambda^i/W) \quad Z^i = \frac{\Omega_i}{W} \quad \Delta = \frac{\sum_j(\Omega_j)^2}{(W)^2}. \quad (19)$$

Hence $dh(e_i) \neq 0$ if and only if $\Omega_i \neq 0$. For each solution Ω_i , $1 \leq i \leq 2$, of (16), there exists a 2-parameter family of solutions of the system (17), (18). In fact, equation (16) is the integrability condition of the system of equations (17), (18) for Ω and W .

The Ribaucour transformation of a surface is given in terms of the solutions of the above system.

Theorem 1.3. *Let M be an orientable surface of R^3 , without umbilic points, parametrized by $X : U \subset R^2 \rightarrow M$. Assume e_i , $1 \leq i \leq 2$ are orthogonal principal directions, λ^i the corresponding principal curvatures and N is a unit vector field normal to M . A surface \tilde{M} is locally associated to M , by a Ribaucour transformation, if and only if, there exist differentiable functions $W, \Omega, \Omega_i : V \subset U \rightarrow R$, which satisfy (16)-(18), such that $W(W + \Omega\lambda^i) \neq 0, \forall i$ and $\tilde{X} : V \subset R^2 \rightarrow \tilde{M}$, is a parametrization of \tilde{M} given by*

$$\tilde{X} = X - \frac{2\Omega}{S} \left(\sum_i \Omega_i e_i - WN \right). \quad (20)$$

where

$$S = \sum_i (\Omega_i)^2 + W^2 \quad (21)$$

Moreover, the normal map of \tilde{X} is given by

$$\tilde{N} = N + \frac{2W}{S} \left(\sum_i \Omega_i e_i - WN \right) \quad (22)$$

and the principal curvatures of \tilde{X} for each $1 \leq i \leq 2$ are given by

$$\tilde{\lambda}^i = \frac{dS(e_i)W + \Omega_i \lambda^i S}{\Omega_i S - \Omega dS(e_i)} \quad \text{if } \Omega_i \neq 0 \quad (23)$$

Proof: Let X and \tilde{X} be parametrizations of M and \tilde{M} . We have seen in Theorem 1.1 that the normal vector field \tilde{N} is given by (2). Hence it follows from (19) and (9) that (22) holds. The expression (20) follows directly from (1) and (22). The condition $W(W + \Omega\lambda^i) \neq 0, \forall i$ follows from the fact that $h = \Omega/W$ and $1 + h\lambda^i \neq 0$.

If $\Omega_i \neq 0$, then we consider (15). It follows from (7)-(9) and (19) that

$$L_i^3 = 2 \frac{W}{S^2} (W dS(e_i) + \Omega_i S \lambda^i).$$

Therefore, using (19) and (9) we have that

$$dh(e_i)(1 - b^3) - hL_i^3 = 2 \frac{W}{S^2} (\Omega_i S - \Omega dS(e_i)).$$

From the last two relations we conclude that (23) holds. \square

We observe that, eventually, the parametrization of \tilde{M} given by (20) may extend regularly to wherever $W(W + \Omega\lambda^i)$ vanishes (see for example section 2). From now on, whenever we say that a surface \tilde{M} is locally associated by a Ribaucour to a surface M , we are assuming that there are functions Ω , Ω_i and W locally defined, satisfying (16)-(18).

We now provide a sufficient condition for a Ribaucour transformation to transform a linear Weingarten surface into another such surface.

Theorem 1.4. *Let M be a surfaces of R^3 , without umbilic points and let \tilde{M} be associated to M by a Ribaucour transformation, such that the normal lines intersect at a distance function h . Assume that $h = \Omega/W$ is not constant along the lines of curvature and the functions Ω_i , Ω and W satisfy the additional relation*

$$S = 2c(\alpha\Omega^2 + \beta\Omega W + \gamma W^2), \quad (24)$$

where S is defined by (21), $c \neq 0$ and α, β, γ are real constants. Then \tilde{M} is a linear Weingarten satisfying $\alpha + \beta\tilde{H} + \gamma\tilde{K} = 0$, if and only if $\alpha + \beta H + \gamma K = 0$ holds for the surface M , where K , H and \tilde{K} , \tilde{H} are the Gaussian and mean curvatures of M and \tilde{M} respectively. Moreover, \tilde{M} has no umbilic points.

Proof. We will introduce the following notation for the right hand side of the algebraic equation (24)

$$P = \alpha\Omega^2 + \beta\Omega W + \gamma W^2 \quad (25)$$

Since S satisfies $S = 2cP$, it follows from (17) and (18) that

$$dS = 2cdP = 2c \sum_i [(2\alpha\Omega + \beta W)\omega_i + (2\gamma W + \beta\Omega)\omega_{i3}] \Omega_i \quad (26)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} WdS(e_i) + S\Omega_i\lambda^i &= 2c\Omega_i \left\{ [(2\alpha\Omega + \beta W) - (2\gamma W + \beta\Omega)\lambda^i] W + \lambda^i P \right\} \\ S\Omega_i - \Omega dS(e_i) &= 2c\Omega_i \left(P - \Omega [(2\alpha\Omega + \beta W) - (2\gamma W + \beta\Omega)\lambda^i] \right) \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

By assumption $dh(e_i) \neq 0$, i.e. $\Omega_i \neq 0$, for all i , therefore from (23), (25) and (27) we get

$$\tilde{\lambda}^i = \frac{2\alpha\Omega W + \beta W^2 + \lambda^i(\alpha\Omega^2 - \gamma W^2)}{(2\gamma\Omega W + \beta\Omega^2)\lambda^i - (\alpha\Omega^2 - \gamma W^2)}. \quad (28)$$

In order to conclude the proof we introduce the following notation:

$$L = 2\alpha\Omega W + \beta W^2 \quad T = \alpha\Omega^2 - \gamma W^2 \quad Q = 2\gamma\Omega W + \beta\Omega^2.$$

Then, $\tilde{\lambda}^i = (L + \lambda^i T)/(Q\lambda^i - T)$ and hence, the numerator of $\alpha - \frac{\beta}{2}(\tilde{\lambda}^1 + \tilde{\lambda}^2) + \gamma\tilde{\lambda}^1\tilde{\lambda}^2$ is equal to

$$\alpha T^2 + \beta LT + \gamma L^2 + H(2\alpha TQ - \beta T^2 + \beta LQ - 2\gamma LT) + K(\alpha Q^2 - \beta TQ + \gamma T^2).$$

By substituting α , βH and γK , on the right hand side of this last equality, by the two other terms of the expression $\alpha + \beta H + \gamma K = 0$, we get

$$\alpha + \beta\tilde{H} + \gamma\tilde{K} = 0 \text{ if and only if } (\beta T + \gamma L - \alpha Q)(L - 2TH - QK) = 0,$$

where the last equality follows from the fact that the expression $\beta T + \gamma L - \alpha Q$ is identically zero.

We conclude the proof of the theorem by observing that

$$\tilde{\lambda}^2 - \tilde{\lambda}^1 = \frac{LQ + T^2}{(Q\lambda^1 - T)(Q\lambda^2 - T)}(\lambda^2 - \lambda^1).$$

Since $LQ + T^2 = P^2 = S^2/(4c^2) \neq 0$ and M has no umbilic points, it follows that \tilde{M} has no umbilic points. \square

The natural question one poses is if the system (16)-(18) with the additional condition (24) is integrable, whenever we start with a linear Weingarten surface. The following theorem answers this question affirmatively.

Theorem 1.5. *Let M be a surface of R^3 , which satisfies $\alpha + \beta H + \gamma K = 0$ and $H^2 - K > 0$. Then the system of equations (16)-(18) and (24) is integrable and the solution is uniquely determined on a simply connected domain U by any given initial condition satisfying (24). Moreover, whenever $\alpha \neq 0$, any solution of the system defined on U is either identically zero and hence annihilates S or else the function S does not vanish on U .*

Proof: We initially observe that as a consequence of (16)-(18) and (24) we only need to prove that the system

$$\begin{aligned} d\Omega &= \sum_i \Omega_i \omega_i \\ dW &= \sum_i \Omega_i \omega_{i3} \\ d\Omega_i &= \Omega_j \omega_{ij} + c(2\alpha\Omega + \beta W)\omega_i - [(1 - 2c\gamma)W - c\beta\Omega]\omega_{i3} \quad i \neq j \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

is integrable.

We start by showing that if (29) holds then $S - 2cP$ is a constant function, where S and P are defined by (21) and (25) respectively. In fact,

$$\begin{aligned} dS - 2cdP &= 2 \sum_i \Omega_i d\Omega_i + 2(W - c\beta\Omega - 2c\gamma W)dW - 2c(2\alpha\Omega + \beta W)d\Omega \\ &= 2 \sum_{i,j} \Omega_i \Omega_j \omega_{ij} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by choosing the initial condition at a point such that $S = 2cP$, we will have (24) identically satisfied on a connected domain.

Now we consider the ideal \mathcal{I} generated by the 1-forms

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= d\Omega - \sum_i \Omega_i \omega_i \\ \varphi &= dW - \sum_i \Omega_i \omega_{i3} \\ \theta_i &= d\Omega_i - \Omega_j \omega_{ij} - c(2\alpha\Omega + \beta W)\omega_i + [(1 - 2c\gamma)W - c\beta\Omega]\omega_{i3} \quad i \neq j. \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

A straightforward computation shows that $d\theta = -\sum_i \theta_i \wedge \omega_i$ and $d\varphi = -\sum_i \theta_i \wedge \omega_{i3}$. Similarly, using (30) we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} d\theta_i &= -\theta_j \wedge \omega_{ij} + \varphi \wedge [(1 - 2c\gamma)\omega_{i3} - c\beta\omega_i] - c\theta \wedge (\beta\omega_{i3} + 2\alpha\omega_i) \\ &\quad + 2c\Omega_j(\alpha + \beta H + \gamma K)\omega_i \wedge \omega_j \end{aligned}$$

where $i \neq j$. Since the surface is linear Weingarten, it follows that \mathcal{I} is closed under exterior differentiation, hence the system (29) is integrable.

Assume that $S(p_0) = 0$ for $p_0 \in U$. Then it follows from (21) that Ω_1, Ω_2 and W vanish at p_0 . Since (24) holds we conclude that if $\alpha \neq 0$, then $\Omega(p_0) = 0$. Since U is simply connected, the uniqueness of solutions for the system implies that $\Omega \equiv \Omega_1 \equiv \Omega_2 \equiv W \equiv 0$ and hence $S \equiv 0$. This concludes the proof of the theorem. \square

As a consequence of Theorems 1.3. and 1.4. we obtain

Theorem 1.6. *Let M be a linear Weingarten surface, without umbilic points, satisfying $\alpha + \beta H + \gamma K = 0$ and locally parametrized by $X : U \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow M \subset \mathbb{R}^3$. Any linear Weingarten parametrized surface, locally associated to X by a Ribaucour transformation as in Theorem 1.5. is given by*

$$\tilde{X} = X - \frac{2\Omega}{S} \left(\sum_i \Omega_i e_i - WN \right), \quad (31)$$

where e_i are orthogonal principal directions, Ω, Ω_i, W are solutions of (16)-(18) and (24), and \tilde{X} is defined on

$$\tilde{U} = \left\{ (u_1, u_2) \in U; T^2 + 2TQH + Q^2K \neq 0 \right\} \quad (32)$$

where $T = \alpha\Omega^2 - \gamma W^2$ and $Q = 2\gamma\Omega W + \beta\Omega^2$.

Proof: We only need to show that \tilde{X} , defined by (31), is a parametrized surface of \mathbb{R}^3 . With the same notation introduced in the proof of Theorem 1.4., we observe that $S = 2cP$, where P is defined by (25) and the differential of S is given by (26). Therefore, we get that

$$d\left(\frac{\Omega}{S}\right) = \frac{1}{2cP^2} \sum_k \Omega_k \eta_k$$

where η_k for $k = 1, 2$ is a 1-form defined by

$$\eta_k = (\gamma W^2 - \alpha\Omega^2)\omega_k - (\beta\Omega^2 + 2\gamma\Omega W)\omega_{k3}. \quad (33)$$

It follows from this expression and the last two equations of system (29) that

$$d\tilde{X} = \frac{1}{P} \sum_{i=1}^2 \eta_i \tilde{e}_i \quad (34)$$

where

$$\tilde{e}_1 = \frac{1}{cP} [(cP - \Omega_1^2)e_1 - \Omega_1\Omega_2e_2 + W\Omega_1e_3] \quad (35)$$

$$\tilde{e}_2 = \frac{1}{cP} [-\Omega_1\Omega_2e_1 + (cP - \Omega_2^2)e_2 + W\Omega_2e_3]. \quad (36)$$

A simple computation shows that these vectors are orthonormal. Therefore, \tilde{X} is an immersion wherever $\eta_1 \wedge \eta_2 \neq 0$, i.e. on the subset \tilde{U} described by (32). \square

Remark 1.7. We observe that, as a consequence of the proof of Theorem 1.6., the principal directions \tilde{e}_1, \tilde{e}_2 , of \tilde{X} are given by (35) and (36). Moreover, its dual forms, which are determined by (34), are given by $\tilde{\omega}_i = \frac{1}{P}(\gamma W^2 - \alpha\Omega^2 + (\beta\Omega + 2\gamma W)\Omega\lambda^i)\omega_i$. We also observe that the surfaces described in Theorem 1.6. depend on 4 parameters. However, in some cases the number of

parameters may reduce to one (the parameter c), if we exclude surfaces which are congruent by rigid motions of R^3 .

Our next results give the H-cmc case, which is obtained by considering H a nonzero constant, $\alpha = -H$, $\beta = 1$ and $\gamma = 0$ on Theorems 1.4.-1.6. For later use, we will explicitly give the corresponding results.

Corollary 1.8. *Let M be a regular surface of R^3 , with no umbilic point. Let \tilde{M} be associated by a Ribaucour transformation to M , such that the normal lines intersect at a distance function h . Assume that $h = \Omega/W$ is not constant along the lines of curvature and the functions Ω_i , Ω and W satisfy the additional relation*

$$S = 2c\Omega(-H\Omega + W), \quad (37)$$

where S is defined by (21), $c \neq 0$ and $H \neq 0$ are real constants. Then \tilde{M} is an H-cmc surface, if and only if, M is an H-cmc surface. Moreover, \tilde{M} has no umbilic points.

Corollary 1.9. *Let M be an H-cmc surface of R^3 . Then the system of equations (16)-(18) and (37) is integrable and the solution is uniquely determined on a simply connected domain U by any given initial condition satisfying (37). Moreover, for any solution of the system defined on U the function S does not vanish on U .*

As a consequence of Theorem 1.6, we get our next result. We observe that in the case of H-cmc surfaces, by considering $\alpha = -H$, $\beta = 1$ and $\gamma = 0$, we conclude that (32) reduces to $\Omega^4(K - H^2) \neq 0$.

Corollary 1.10. *Let M be an H-cmc surface with no umbilic points, locally parametrized by $X : U \subset R^2 \rightarrow M \subset R^3$. Any H-cmc parametrized surface, locally associated to X by a Ribaucour transformation as in Corollary 1.9. is given by*

$$\tilde{X} = X - \frac{1}{c(W - H\Omega)} \left(\sum_i \Omega_i e_i - WN \right), \quad (38)$$

where e_i are orthogonal principal directions, Ω , Ω_i , W are solutions of (16)-(18) and (37) and the constant c satisfies $c(c - 2H) > 0$.

Proof: We only need to prove that c satisfies $c(c - 2H) > 0$. This follows from the algebraic condition (37), which can be written as

$$\sum_i (\Omega_i)^2 + (W - c\Omega)^2 - c(c - 2H)\Omega^2 = 0.$$

Remark 1.11. It follows from the proof of Theorem 1.6. that if M and \tilde{M} are H-cmc surfaces associated by a Ribaucour transformation as in Corollary 1.10, then the principal directions \tilde{e}_1 , \tilde{e}_2 , of \tilde{M} are given by (35) and (36) where $P = \Omega(W - H\Omega)$. Its dual forms are,

$$\tilde{\omega}_i = \frac{(H + \lambda^i)\Omega}{W - H\Omega} \omega_i. \quad (39)$$

Moreover, it follows from (28) that

$$\tilde{\lambda}_i = \frac{W^2 - H\Omega(2W + \lambda^i\Omega)}{\Omega^2(\lambda^i + H)} \quad (40)$$

and the Gaussian curvature is given by

$$\tilde{K} = H^2 + \frac{(W - H\Omega)^4}{\Omega^4(K - H^2)}. \quad (41)$$

2. Families of linear Weingarten surfaces associated to the cylinder.

In this section, by applying Theorem 1.6. to the cylinder, we obtain a two parameter (c, γ) family of complete linear Weingarten surfaces. The parameters belong to a region composed by two connected components of R^2 . One of these components contains curves which provide n -bubble surfaces (Weingarten and cmc) which are 1-periodic, have genus zero and two ends of finite geometric index. We also show that their total curvature vanishes, while the total absolute curvature is $8\pi n$.

Proposition 2.1. *Consider the cylinder parametrized by*

$$X(u_1, u_2) = (\cos(u_2), \sin(u_2), u_1) \quad (u_1, u_2) \in R^2 \quad (42)$$

as a linear Weingarten surface satisfying $-1/2 + H + \gamma K = 0$. A parametrized surface is a linear Weingarten surface locally associated to X by a Ribaucour transformation as in Theorem 1.5., if and only if, it is given by

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma} = X - \frac{2(f+g)}{c[(2\gamma+1)g^2 - f^2]}(f'X_{u_1} + g'X_{u_2} - gN) \quad (43)$$

where N is the inner unit normal vector field of the cylinder, $c \neq 0$ and γ are real constants such that

$$\xi(c, \gamma) = 1 - c(2\gamma + 1) \quad (44)$$

and c are not simultaneously positive, and $f(u_1)$, $g(u_2)$ are solutions of the equations

$$f'' + cf = 0, \quad (45)$$

$$g'' + \xi g = 0 \quad (46)$$

with initial conditions satisfying

$$\left((f')^2 + (g')^2 + \xi g^2 + cf^2 \right) (u_1^0, u_2^0) = 0. \quad (47)$$

Moreover, $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is a regular surface defined on the subset of U where

$$\left((f+g)^2 + 2\gamma g^2 \right) \left(f^2 + 2(2\gamma+1)fg + (2\gamma+1)g^2 \right) \neq 0. \quad (48)$$

Proof. The first fundamental form of the cylinder is given by $ds^2 = du_1^2 + du_2^2$ and $\lambda^1 = 0$, $\lambda^2 = -1$. In order to obtain the Ribaucour transformations, we need to solve the following system of equations, which is obtained from (16)-(18),

$$\frac{\partial \Omega_i}{\partial u_j} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial u_i} = \Omega_i, \quad \frac{\partial W}{\partial u_i} = -\Omega_i \lambda^i, \quad 1 \leq i \neq j \leq 2.$$

The associated surface will be linear Weingarten when Ω_1 and Ω_2 satisfy $\partial \Omega_1 / \partial u_1 = c(W - \Omega)$ and $\partial \Omega_2 / \partial u_2 = (c - 1 + 2c\gamma)W$.

Since $\Omega_{u_1 u_2} = 0$, it follows that $\Omega = f(u_1) + g(u_2)$, where f and g are functions of u_1 and u_2 respectively. Therefore $\Omega_1 = f'$ and $\Omega_2 = g'$. Moreover, $W = g + a$, where a is a real constant and the functions f and g satisfy the following equations

$$\begin{aligned} f'' + cf - ca &= 0 \\ g'' + \xi(g + a) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from these equations and the expressions of Ω and W , that without loss of generality we can consider $a = 0$. Therefore, f and g must satisfy equations (45) and (46) and the algebraic condition (24), which reduces to (47). Moreover, since this last condition should be identically satisfied by the nontrivial solution functions f and g , we conclude that the constants $c \neq 0$ and γ are such that c and ξ cannot be simultaneously positive.

Moreover, from (20) we conclude that the associated linear Weingarten surface is given by (43). From (32) we obtain the domain where \tilde{X} is regular, which is described by (48). \square

The family of linear Weingarten surfaces given by (43) includes the cylinder. In fact, if we choose the initial conditions such that $f \equiv 0$, $g \neq 0$ for $\xi \leq 0$ or $f \neq 0$, $g \equiv 0$ for $c < 0$, we get a reparametrization of the cylinder.

Each linear Weingarten surface associated to the cylinder as in Proposition 2.1, is parametrized by lines of curvature and the metric is given (see Remark 1.7.) by $ds^2 = \psi_1^2 du_1^2 + \psi_2^2 du_2^2$, where

$$\psi_1 = \frac{(f+g)^2 + 2\gamma g^2}{(1+2\gamma)g^2 - f^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_2 = \frac{(1+2\gamma)g^2 + 2(1+2\gamma)fg + f^2}{(1+2\gamma)g^2 - f^2}. \quad (49)$$

These expressions show that the Ribaucour transformation, applied to the cylinder for $\gamma \neq 0$, is not a Darboux transformation.

We now introduce a notation, which will be useful in the following results. A *rotation of angle θ* in the xy plane of R^3 will be denoted by

$$R_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (50)$$

We denote by T_δ the *translation* defined by

$$T_\delta(x, y, z) = (x, y, z + \delta). \quad (51)$$

Corollary 2.2 *Consider the linear Weingarten surfaces associated to the cylinder and parametrized by (43). Excluding the cylinder,*

i) *if $c\xi \geq 0$, then any surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ has curves of singularities.*

ii) *If $c\xi < 0$ then, up to rigid motions of R^3 , the surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is determined by the functions*

$$f = \varepsilon_1 \sqrt{|\xi|} \sin(\sqrt{c} u_1) \quad g = \varepsilon_2 \sqrt{c} \cosh(\sqrt{|\xi|} u_2) \quad \text{if } c > 0, \xi < 0 \quad (52)$$

$$f = \varepsilon_1 \sqrt{\xi} \cosh(\sqrt{|c|} u_1) \quad g = \varepsilon_2 \sqrt{|c|} \sin(\sqrt{\xi} u_2) \quad \text{if } c < 0, \xi > 0 \quad (53)$$

where $\varepsilon_i = \pm 1$, $c \neq 0$ and γ are real numbers and $\xi(c, \gamma)$ is defined by (44).

Proof. We observe that the functions f and g of the family of surfaces described by (43) are given by

$$f = \begin{cases} a_1 \cos(\sqrt{c} u_1) + b_1 \sin(\sqrt{c} u_1) & \text{if } c > 0 \\ a_1 \cosh(\sqrt{|c|} u_1) + b_1 \sinh(\sqrt{|c|} u_1) & \text{if } c < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$g = \begin{cases} a_2 u_2 + b_2 & \text{if } \xi = 0 \\ a_2 \cosh(\sqrt{|\xi|} u_2) + b_2 \sinh(\sqrt{|\xi|} u_2) & \text{if } \xi < 0, \\ a_2 \cos(\sqrt{\xi} u_2) + b_2 \sin(\sqrt{\xi} u_2) & \text{if } \xi > 0, \end{cases}$$

and the constants satisfy the algebraic relation given by (47),

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 = b_1 = a_2 = 0 & \quad \text{if } c > 0 \text{ and } \xi = 0 \\ c(b_1^2 - a_1^2) - a_2^2 = 0 & \quad \text{if } c < 0 \text{ and } \xi = 0 \\ c(b_1^2 + a_1^2) + \xi(a_2^2 - b_2^2) = 0 & \quad \text{if } c > 0 \text{ and } \xi < 0 \\ c(b_1^2 - a_1^2) - \xi(a_2^2 - b_2^2) = 0 & \quad \text{if } c < 0 \text{ and } \xi < 0 \\ c(b_1^2 - a_1^2) - \xi(a_2^2 + b_2^2) = 0 & \quad \text{if } c < 0 \text{ and } \xi > 0 \end{aligned}$$

If $c > 0$, and $\xi = 0$, then the surface \tilde{X} reduces to the cylinder. If $c < 0$ and $\xi = 0$, there are curves in R^2 where (48) vanishes.

If $c\xi > 0$, since by Proposition 2.1 c and $\xi(c, \gamma)$ cannot be simultaneously positive, then we may only have $c < 0$ and $\xi < 0$. In this case, the functions f and g are defined as above, $\gamma < -1/2$ and there are four curves on R^2 determined by (48)

$$f + g \pm \sqrt{2|\gamma|} g = 0 \quad f + (2\gamma + 1)g \pm \sqrt{2\gamma(2\gamma + 1)} g = 0$$

where \tilde{X} is not regular.

If $c > 0$ and $\xi < 0$, then by choosing $a_1 = b_1 = 0$ we have $b_2 = \pm a_2$, $f = 0$, $g = a_2 \exp(\pm\sqrt{|\xi|} u_2)$ and the surface \tilde{X} reduces to a reparametrization of the cylinder. Therefore, excluding the cylinder, we may assume $a_1^2 + b_1^2 \neq 0$ and

$$f = \varepsilon_1 \sqrt{|\xi|} \sin(A + \sqrt{c} u_1) \quad g = \varepsilon_2 \sqrt{c} \cosh(B + \sqrt{|\xi|} u_2)$$

Similarly, If $c < 0$ and $\xi > 0$, then excluding the cylinder, we may assume $a_2^2 + b_2^2 \neq 0$ and hence

$$f = \varepsilon_1 \sqrt{\xi} \cosh(A + \sqrt{|c|} u_1) \quad g = \varepsilon_2 \sqrt{|c|} \sin(B + \sqrt{\xi} u_2)$$

We conclude the proof by observing that the constants A and B , without loss of generality, may be considered to be zero. One can verify that the surfaces with different values of A , B are congruent by rigid motions of R^3 . In fact, using the notation $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma AB}$ for the surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ with fixed constants A and B , we have

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma AB} = R_{-\frac{B}{\sqrt{|\xi|}}} \tilde{X}_{c\gamma 00} \circ h + T_{-\frac{A}{\sqrt{|c|}}}$$

where $h(u_1, u_2) = (u_1 + A/\sqrt{|c|}, u_2 + B/\sqrt{|\xi|})$. □

We observe that it follows from the above expressions that the function P defined by (25), reduces to

$$P = [(2\gamma + 1)g^2 - f^2]/2 \quad (54)$$

and it does not vanish on R^2 . This will be useful for considering global properties of the surfaces obtained in Proposition 2.2.

In order to study the regularity of the surfaces obtained in Proposition 2.2, we introduce the following notation:

$$h_1(c, \gamma) = 2c(2\gamma + 1) \left(\sqrt{2\gamma(2\gamma + 1)} - 2\gamma \right) - 1 \quad (55)$$

$$h_2(c, \gamma) = 2c \left(\sqrt{2|\gamma|} + 2\gamma \right) - 1 \quad (56)$$

$$h_3(c, \gamma) = -2c(2\gamma + 1) \left(\sqrt{2\gamma(2\gamma + 1)} + 2\gamma \right) - 1 \quad (57)$$

$$h_4(c, \gamma) = 2c \left(\sqrt{2|\gamma|} - 2\gamma \right) + 1 \quad (58)$$

$$h_5(c, \gamma) = -2c(2\gamma + 1) \left(\sqrt{2\gamma(2\gamma + 1)} - 2\gamma \right) + 1 \quad (59)$$

Our next result shows that a surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ given by (43) is an immersion of R^2 if and only if the pair (c, γ) belongs to a region with two connected components of R^2 determined by the functions $\xi(c, \gamma)$ and $h_1(c, \gamma) \dots h_5(c, \gamma)$ (see Fig.1).

Proposition 2.3. *A Weingarten surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ given by Proposition 2.2 is an immersion of R^2 , if and only if, $c\xi(c, \gamma) < 0$ and the pair (c, γ) belongs to one of the following subsets of R^2 :*

i) $c > 0$ and one of the following holds

- a) $\gamma \geq 0$ and $\xi(c, \gamma) < 0$, $h_1(c, \gamma) < 0$
- b) $-1/2 < \gamma < 0$ and $\xi(c, \gamma) < 0$, $h_2(c, \gamma) < 0$

ii) $c < 0$ and one of the following holds

- a) $\gamma \geq 0$ and $h_3(c, \gamma) < 0$;
- b) $-1 \leq \gamma < 0$ and $h_4(c, \gamma) > 0$;
- c) $\gamma \leq -1$ and $h_5(c, \gamma) > 0$.

Proof: From Corollary 2.2, we have seen that if the surface \tilde{X} is a regular immersion of R^2 , then excluding the cylinder, we only need to consider $c\xi < 0$.

i) If $c > 0$ and $\xi < 0$ then the functions f and g are given by (52). If $\gamma \geq 0$, $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is an immersion of R^2 if and only if the second factor of (48) does not vanish. It follows from (44) that this is equivalent to having $h_1(c, \gamma) < 0$, where h_1 is defined by (55).

If $\gamma < 0$, then $1/c - 1 < 2\gamma < 0$. Hence, $c > 1$ and $-1/2 < \gamma < 0$. Then $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is a regular immersion of R^2 , if and only if the first factor of (48) does not vanish i.e. $1/(2\gamma + 1) < c < 1/2(\sqrt{2|\gamma|} + 2\gamma)$, or equivalently $h_2(c, \gamma) < 0$, where h_2 is defined by (56). This concludes the proof of i).

ii) If $c < 0$ and $\xi(c, \gamma) < 0$, then the surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is defined by (43) and the functions f and g are given by (53). We need to consider four cases for γ . If $\gamma \geq 0$, then the nonvanishing of the second factor of (48) is equivalent to $\sqrt{|c|} \left(2\gamma + 1 + \sqrt{2\gamma(2\gamma + 1)} \right) < \sqrt{\xi}$, i.e. $h_3(c, \gamma) < 0$, where h_3 is defined by (57). If $-1/2 < \gamma < 0$, from the first factor of (48) we conclude that the pair (c, γ) must satisfy $h_4(c, \gamma) > 0$, where h_4 is defined by (58).

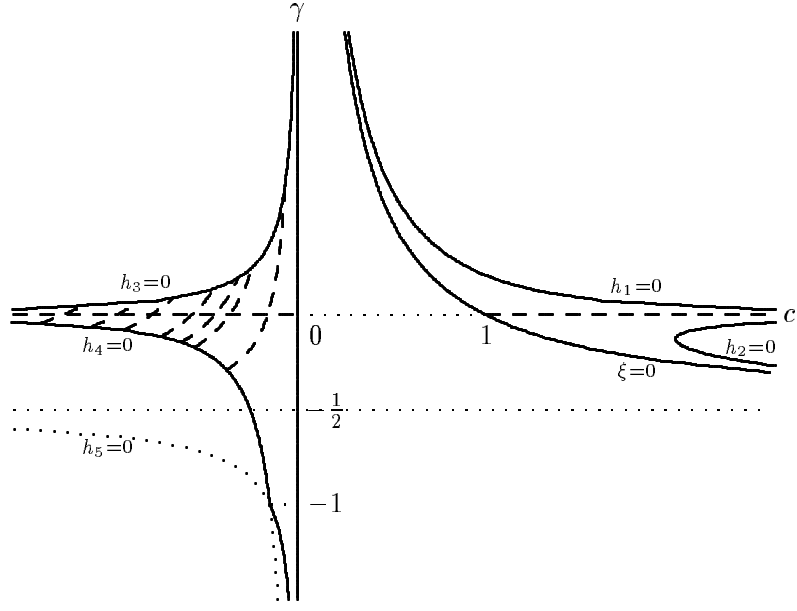


Figure 1: Any pair (c, γ) , in each of the two connected components, generates a complete linear Weingarten surface, which satisfies the relation $-1/2 + H - \gamma K = 0$ and it is cmc when $\gamma = 0$. The dashed curves in the left region, given by $1 - c(2\gamma + 1) = n^2/m^2$, generate 1-periodic n -bubble surfaces with two ends of geometric index m (see figure 2).

If $\gamma \leq -1/2$, then both factors of (48) should not vanish on R^2 . This occurs if and only if the following inequalities hold

$$|1 \pm \sqrt{2|\gamma|}|\sqrt{|c|} < \sqrt{\xi} \quad |2\gamma + 1 \pm \sqrt{2\gamma(2\gamma + 1)}|\sqrt{|c|} < \sqrt{\xi}. \quad (60)$$

If $-1 \leq \gamma \leq -1/2$ then $\sqrt{2\gamma(2\gamma + 1)} - 2\gamma - 1 \leq 1 + \sqrt{2|\gamma|}$. Hence, the system (60) holds if and only if $h_4(c, \gamma) > 0$. If $\gamma \leq -1$ then $1 + \sqrt{2|\gamma|} \leq \sqrt{2\gamma(2\gamma + 1)} - 2\gamma - 1$. Therefore, (60) holds if and only if

$$\left(\sqrt{2\gamma(2\gamma + 1)} - 2\gamma - 1 \right) \sqrt{|c|} < \sqrt{\xi}$$

i.e. $h_5(c, \gamma) > 0$, where h_5 is defined by (59). This concludes the proof. \square

Our next result shows that the linear Weingarten surfaces, locally associated to the cylinder by a Ribaucour transformation, are asymptotically close to cylinders.

Proposition 2.4. *Let $X(u_1, u_2)$ be the parametrized cylinder given by (42). Any linear Weingarten surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ given by Proposition 2.3, satisfies the following:*

i) *If $c < 0$ and $\xi(c, \gamma) > 0$ then $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ there exists $L > 0$ such that*

$$|\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2) - X(u_1 \pm 2/\sqrt{|c|}, u_2)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall (u_1, u_2) \in R^2 \text{ with } \pm u_1 \geq L.$$

and

$$\left| \frac{\partial^{i+j} \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}}{\partial u_1^i \partial u_2^j}(u_1, u_2) - \frac{\partial^{i+j} X}{\partial u_1^i \partial u_2^j}(u_1, u_2) \right| < \varepsilon,$$

where $1 \leq i+j \leq 2$, and i, j are non negative integer numbers.

ii) If $c > 0$ and $\xi(c, \gamma) < 0$ then $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ there exists $L > 0$ such that

$$|\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2) - X(u_1, u_2 \pm \theta)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall (u_1, u_2) \in R^2 \text{ with } \pm u_2 \geq L,$$

where θ is such that $\cos \theta = 1 - 2/(c(1+2\gamma))$ and $\sin \theta = -2\sqrt{-\xi}/(c(1+2\gamma))$.

Proof: If $c < 0$ and $\xi(c, \gamma) > 0$ then the functions f and g are given by (53). It follows from a straightforward computation that

$$\frac{c^2}{4} \left| \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2) - X(u_1 \pm 2/\sqrt{|c|}, u_2) \right|^2 = S_1^2 + S_2^2 + S_3^2,$$

where

$$S_1 = \frac{(f+g)f'}{2P} \pm \sqrt{|c|}, \quad S_2 = \frac{(f+g)g'}{2P}, \quad S_3 = \frac{(f+g)g}{2P},$$

where P is given by (54). Since g and g' are bounded functions, we have that $\lim_{u_1 \rightarrow \pm\infty} S_i(u_1, u_2) = 0$ uniformly with respect to u_2 . Similarly, considering the difference of the first and second derivatives of $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ and X as a linear combination of the vectors X_{u_1} , X_{u_2} and N , one can show that each coefficient tends to 0 uniformly in u_2 , when $u_1 \rightarrow \pm\infty$. This concludes the proof of i). Similar arguments prove ii). \square

Our next result shows that the regular surfaces $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ given in Proposition 2.3 are complete. Moreover, the connected region described by ii) contains an infinite number of curves (determined by considering $\sqrt{1-c(2\gamma+1)}$ to be a rational number) such that the corresponding surfaces are 1-periodic n -bubbles whose total absolute curvature is $8\pi n$.

Proposition 2.5. *Any linear Weingarten surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$, given by Proposition 2.3 is complete.*

- a) *If $c < 0$ and $\sqrt{\xi(c, \gamma)} = n/m$ is an irreducible rational number, then $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is an immersion of a cylinder into R^3 , with two ends of geometric index m and n isolated points of maximum (respectively minimum) for the Gaussian curvature. Moreover, the total curvature of $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is zero, while its total absolute curvature is $8\pi n$. The ends are embedded if and only if $m = 1$. In this case they are cylindrical ends.*
- b) *If $c > 0$ or $c < 0$ and $\sqrt{\xi}$ is not a rational number then $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is an immersion of R^2 into R^3 (not periodic in any variable) with an infinite number of isolated critical points of its Gaussian curvature.*

Proof: Assume $\xi > 0$ and $c < 0$ then the functions f and g are given by (53) and the coefficients of the first fundamental form ψ_i of $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ are given by (49). Therefore, $\lim_{|u_1| \rightarrow \infty} |\psi_i| = 1$ for $i = 1, 2$ uniformly in u_2 . Hence, there exists $k > 0$ such that $|\psi(u_1, u_2)| > 1/2$ for all $(u_1, u_2) \in R^2$ with $|u_1| > k$. Let

$$m_i = \min \left\{ |\psi_i(u_1, u_2)|, (u_1, u_2) \in [-k, k] \times [0, \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{\xi}}] \right\}.$$

Since $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is regular, $m_i > 0$. Moreover, $g(u_2) = g(u_2 + 2\pi/\sqrt{\xi})$, therefore $|\psi_i(u_1, u_2)| \geq m_i$ in $[-k, k] \times R$. Now consider $m_0 = \min\{m_1, m_2, 1/2\}$, then $|\psi_i| \geq m_0$ in R^2 . We conclude that $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is a complete surface. The case $\xi < 0$ and $c > 0$ is analogous.

For $c < 0$ if $\sqrt{\xi(c, \gamma)} = n/m$ is an irreducible rational number, then $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is periodic in the variable u_2 with period $2m\pi$. Hence it is an immersion of a cylinder into R^3 . Moreover, the surface has two ends \mathcal{F}^\pm corresponding to $u_1 \rightarrow \pm\infty$.

It follows from (41) that the Gaussian curvature \tilde{K} of $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$, is given by

$$\tilde{K} = \frac{2fg(f^2 + (1 + 2\gamma)g^2)}{((f + g)^2 + 2\gamma g^2)(f^2 + (1 + 2\gamma)g(2f + g))}.$$

Therefore, the domain $R \times [0, 2m\pi]$ of \tilde{X} is composed of $2n$ horizontal strips where \tilde{K} changes sign from positive to negative at each open consecutive strip and vanishes on the bordering straight lines. Moreover, $\lim_{u_1 \rightarrow \pm\infty} \tilde{K} = 0$ uniformly in u_2 in each strip. The critical points of \tilde{K} are determined by the points (u_1, u_2) which annihilate f' and g' , which occur at $\tilde{X}(0, u_2^0)$, where $u_2^0 = m(2k + 1)\pi/2n$, $0 \leq k \leq 2n - 1$. We conclude that the image of each of the n regions of positive (resp. negative) curvature has an isolated point of maximum (resp. minimum) Gaussian curvature.

As an immediate consequence of \tilde{K} , it follows that the total curvature vanishes. Moreover, a straightforward computation shows that on a horizontal strip with positive curvature, the total curvature is 4π . Hence, the total absolute curvature is $8\pi n$.

In order to show that the ends \mathcal{F}^\pm have geometric index m , we consider for each $\lambda \in R$, the intersection curve Γ_λ of the surface with the horizontal plane $z = \lambda$. Let

$$\gamma_\lambda = \{(u_1, u_2) \in R^2; \tilde{z}(u_1, u_2) = u_1 + \frac{2f'(f + g)}{c[f^2 - (1 + 2\gamma)g^2]} = \lambda\}.$$

It is not difficult to prove that γ_λ is a regular connected curve, which is the graph of a function $u_1 = \beta_\lambda(u_2)$, for $\lambda > 0$ sufficiently large. Moreover, it follows from Proposition 2.4 that the curvature k_λ of the curve $\Gamma_\lambda(u_2) = \tilde{X}(\beta_\lambda(u_2), u_2)$, has the following property: $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} k_\lambda(u_2) = 1$ uniformly in u_2 .

If $\sqrt{\xi(c, \gamma)} = n/m$ then \tilde{z} and hence β_λ are periodic functions in u_2 with period $2m\pi$. Therefore, for λ sufficiently large, Γ_λ is a closed curve and

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2m\pi} k_\lambda(u_2) du_2 = m$$

The curve Γ_λ will be a simple closed (convex) curve if and only if $m = 1$. We conclude that the end \mathcal{F}^+ has geometric index m and it is embedded if and only if $m = 1$. Using the symmetry of the surface ($\tilde{X}_{c,\gamma}(-u_1, u_2)$ is obtained by $\tilde{X}_{c,\gamma}(u_1, u_2)$ by reflecting with respect to the x_0y plane) we get the result for \mathcal{F}^- .

If $c > 0$ or $c < 0$ and $\sqrt{\xi}$ is not a rational number then $\tilde{X}_{c,\gamma}$ is a nonperiodic immersion of the plane into R^3 , with an infinite number of isolated critical points of its Gaussian curvature. \square

Our next two results provide the symmetries of the complete linear Weingarten surfaces given by Proposition 2.3. In Figure 2, one can visualize some of the surfaces given by $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$. In order to describe the symmetries of the surfaces we introduce the following notation.

A reflection with respect to a plane $z = z_0$ will be denoted by

$$Z_{z_0}(x, y, z) = (x, y, -z + 2z_0). \quad (61)$$

Let $V_\beta = (-\sin \beta, \cos \beta, 0)$ be a unit vector determined by a constant β . The reflection with respect to the plane orthogonal to V_β which passes through the origin is denoted by

$$S_\beta(p) = p - 2 \langle p, V_\beta \rangle V_\beta, \quad p \in R^3, \quad (62)$$

where \langle, \rangle denotes the euclidean inner product of R^3 .

Proposition 2.6. Any complete linear Weingarten surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$, given by Proposition 2.3 with $c < 0$ satisfies the following symmetries

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2 + \theta) = R_\theta \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2), \quad \text{where } \theta = 2\pi/\sqrt{\xi(c, \gamma)}, \quad (63)$$

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2 + \beta_k) = S_{\beta_k} \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, -u_2 + \beta_k), \quad \text{where } \beta_k = (2k+1)\pi/2\sqrt{\xi(c, \gamma)}, \quad (64)$$

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(-u_1, u_2) = Z_0 \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2), \quad (65)$$

where ξ is given by (44) and R_θ, Z_0 and S_{β_k} are defined by (50)-(62).

Proof: The surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ with $c < 0$ is described by (43) where f and g are given by (53). Moreover, $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2) = R_{u_2} Y(u_1, u_2)$ where $Y = (1 - g\Lambda, -g'\Lambda, u_1 - f'\Lambda)$, $\Lambda = (f + g)/cP$ and P is given by (54). Therefore, we have

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2 + \theta) = R_{u_2 + \theta} Y(u_1, u_2 + \theta) = R_\theta R_{u_2} Y(u_1, u_2) = R_\theta \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2),$$

which proves (63).

From the definition of S_{β_k} we have $S_{\beta_k}(x, y, z) = R_{2\beta_k} S_0(x, y, z)$. Moreover, $g(-u_2 + \beta_k) = g(u_2 + \beta_k)$ and $g'(-u_2 + \beta_k) = -g'(u_2 + \beta_k)$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\beta_k} \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, -u_2 + \beta_k) &= R_{2\beta_k} S_0 R_{-u_2 + \beta_k} Y(u_1, -u_2 + \beta_k) \\ &= R_{2\beta_k} S_0 R_{-u_2 + \beta_k} S_0 Y(u_1, u_2 + \beta_k) \\ &= R_{u_2 + \beta_k} Y(u_1, u_2 + \beta_k) = \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2 + \beta_k), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the identity $S_0 R_{-u_2 + \beta_k} S_0 = R_{u_2 - \beta_k}$. This proves (64). The proof of (65) follows from the equalities

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(-u_1, u_2) = R_{u_2} Y(-u_1, u_2) = Z_0 \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2).$$

Proposition 2.7. Any complete linear Weingarten surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$, given by Proposition 2.3 with $c > 0$ satisfies the following symmetries □

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1 + \delta, u_2) = T_\delta \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2), \quad \text{where } \delta = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{c}}, \quad (66)$$

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1 + z_0, u_2) = Z_{z_0} \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(-u_1 + z_0, u_2), \quad \text{where } z_0 = \frac{(2k+1)\pi}{2\sqrt{c}}, \quad (67)$$

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2) = S_0 \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, -u_2), \quad (68)$$

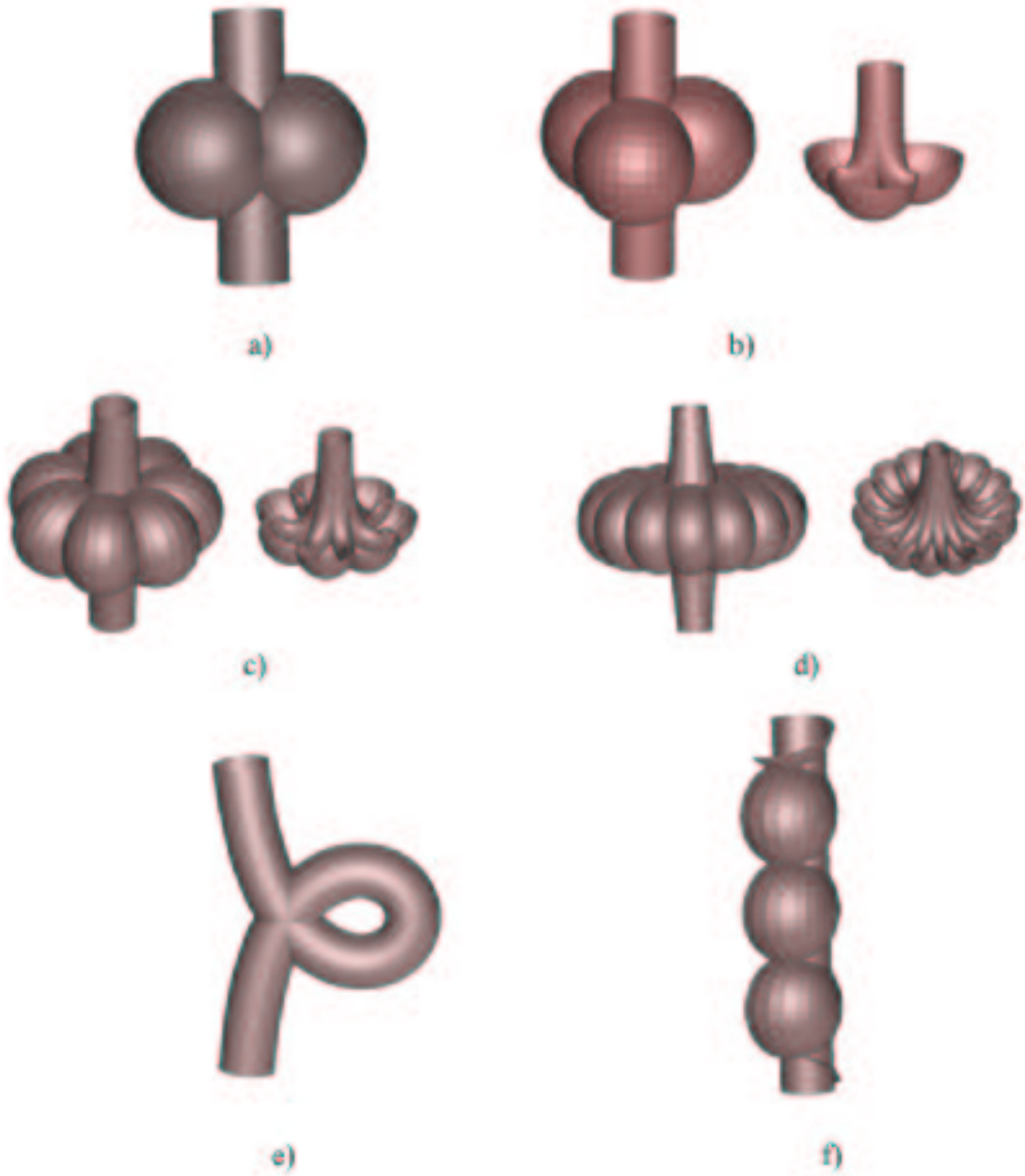


Figure 2: Complete Weingarten surfaces $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ which satisfy the relation $-1/2 + H + \gamma K = 0$ and they are associated to the cylinder by Ribaucour transformations. a), b) and c) are 1-periodic cmc surfaces obtained by considering $\gamma = 0$ and $\sqrt{1-c} = n/m$ a rational number equal to $2/1$, $3/2$ and $7/6$ respectively. d) and e) are 1-periodic Weingarten surfaces for which $\gamma = 0.2$, $\sqrt{1-c(2\gamma+1)} = 14/13$ and $\gamma = -1/2$, $c = -0.1$ respectively. f) is a cmc surface obtained by considering $c = 2.8$ and $\gamma = 0$.

where k is an integer, T_δ , Z_{z_0} and S_0 are defined by (51), (61) and (62) respectively.

Proof: The surface $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ is described by (43) where f and g are given by (52). Therefore, (66) follows immediately. In order to prove (67), we observe that $f(-u_1 + z_0) = f(u_1 + z_0)$, and $f'(u_1 + z_0) = -f'(-u_1 + z_0)$. Therefore, we conclude that

$$\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1 + z_0, u_2) = R_{u_2}Y(u_1 + z_0, u_2) = Z_{z_0}\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(-u_1 + z_0, u_2),$$

where we have used the function Y introduced in the proof of Proposition 2.6.

Finally, we prove (68) by observing that

$$\begin{aligned} S_0\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, -u_2) &= S_0R_{-u_2}Y(u_1, -u_2) = S_0R_{-u_2}S_0Y(u_1, u_2) \\ &= R_{u_2}Y(u_1, u_2) = R_{u_2}Y(u_1, u_2) = \tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2) \end{aligned}$$

□

We conclude by observing that the linear Weingarten surfaces given by $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}$ are tubular surfaces when $\gamma = -1/2$, since they satisfy $\Delta = \beta^2 - 4\alpha\gamma = 0$, and they provide examples of complete surfaces with $\Delta < 0$ and $\Delta > 0$. The lines of curvature $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1, u_2^0)$ are planar, while the curves $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1^0, u_2)$, when $f'(u_1^0) \neq 0$, are contained on a sphere centered at $(0, 0, f/f'(u_1^0))$ with radius $\sqrt{1 + (f/f')^2}$. Whenever $f'(u_1^0) = 0$ (it can only occur for $c > 0$) then $\tilde{X}_{c\gamma}(u_1^0, u_2)$ are planar lines of curvature. Surfaces with one family of planar curvature lines while the other family of curvature lines is spherical is said to be of Joachimsthal type by Wente [W2].

3. Families of cmc surfaces associated to the cylinder.

In this section we describe a one parameter family of 1/2-cmc surfaces obtained from the cylinder by Ribaucour transformations. The surfaces are contained in the class of linear Weingarten surfaces described in Proposition 2.1. where we restrict $\gamma = 0$. These surfaces could also be obtained directly from the cylinder by applying Ribaucour transformations as in Corollary 1.9 and 1.10.

In [PS], Pinkal and Sterling introduced the notion of a solution of finite type of the equation $w_{z\bar{z}} + \sinh(2w)/2 = 0$, where z is the complex variable $z = u_1 + iu_2$. The cmc surfaces associated to such solutions, i.e those parametrized by isothermal coordinates such that the metric is given by $ds^2 = 4e^{2w}(du_1^2 + du_2^2)$, are also called cmc surfaces of finite type. In particular a solution w is of finite type 1, if considering $\varphi_1 = w_z$ and $\varphi_2 = w_{zzz} - 2w_z^3$, there exist complex numbers a and b such that $\varphi_2 = a\varphi_1 + b\bar{\varphi}_1$. We will show that the cmc surfaces we obtain associated to the cylinder are of finite type 1.

Proposition 3.1. *Excluding the cylinder, any 1/2-cmc parametrized surface locally associated to the cylinder as in Theorem 1.5., is given, up to rigid motions of R^3 , by*

$$\tilde{X}_c = X + \frac{2}{c(f-g)}(f'X_{u_1} + g'X_{u_2} - gN) \quad (69)$$

where N is the inner unit normal field of the cylinder parameterized by (42), c is a real constant such that $c < 0$ or $c > 1$, and the functions $f(u_1)$ and $g(u_2)$ are given by

$$f = \varepsilon_1\sqrt{c-1}\sin(\sqrt{c}u_1) \quad g = \varepsilon_2\sqrt{c}\cosh(\sqrt{c-1}u_2) \quad \text{if } c > 1, \quad (70)$$

$$f = \varepsilon_1\sqrt{1-c}\cosh(\sqrt{|c|}u_1) \quad g = \varepsilon_2\sqrt{|c|}\sin(\sqrt{1-c}u_2) \quad \text{if } c < 0, \quad (71)$$

where $\varepsilon_i = \pm 1$. These surfaces are of finite type 1.

Proof: By considering $\gamma = 0$ in (43)-(47), we get the right hand side of (69), where f and g are solutions of

$$f'' + cf = 0 \quad g'' + (1 - c)g = 0 \quad (72)$$

and the initial conditions for f and g must satisfy

$$\left((f')^2 + (g')^2 + (1 - c)g^2 + cf^2 \right) (u_1^0, u_2^0) = 0. \quad (73)$$

Moreover, since this last condition should be identically satisfied by the nontrivial solution functions f and g , we conclude that the constant $c \neq 0$ is such that $c(1 - c) \leq 0$, hence $c < 0$ or $c \geq 1$. However, when $c = 1$, it follows from (73) that $g = b_2$ where $b_2 \neq 0$ is a real constant and $f \equiv 0$. In this case \tilde{X} reduces to the cylinder and therefore $c \neq 1$.

From (44) we have that $\xi = 1 - c$. Therefore, using Corollary 2.2, we conclude that if $c > 1$ then (52) reduces to (70) and if $c < 0$ then (53) reduces to (71). Each 1/2-cmc surface described by (69) is parametrized by isothermal coordinates where the metric is given (see (49)) by $ds^2 = \psi^2(du_1^2 + du_2^2)$, with $\psi = (f + g)/(g - f)$. Any 1/2-cmc surface described above is of finite type 1. In fact, considering $w = \log(\psi/2)$, $\varphi_1 = w_z$, $\varphi_2 = w_{zzz} - 2w_z^3$, it is a straightforward computation to verify that $\varphi_2 = (1/2 - c)\varphi_1 + \bar{\varphi}_1$. \square

The properties of these cmc surfaces are given in the following results.

Proposition 3.2. *Any 1/2-cmc surfaces \tilde{X}_c given by (69) is a complete surface asymptotically close to the cylinder. Moreover,*

a) *If $c < 0$ and $\sqrt{1 - c} = n/m$ is an irreducible rational number, then \tilde{X}_c is an immersion of a cylinder into R^3 , with two ends of geometric index m and n isolated points of maximum (respectively minimum) for the Gaussian curvature. The total curvature of \tilde{X}_c is zero, while its total absolute curvature is $8\pi n$. The ends are embedded if and only if $m = 1$. In this case they are cylindrical ends.*

b) *If $c > 1$ or $c < 0$ and $\sqrt{1 - c}$ is not a rational number then \tilde{X}_c is a nonperiodic immersion of R^2 into R^3 , with an infinite number of isolated critical points of its Gaussian curvature.*

Proof: The properties of any surface \tilde{X}_c and its asymptotic behaviour are consequences of Propositions 2.4 and 2.5, where we consider $\gamma = 0$. We observe that in this case the Gaussian curvature \tilde{K}_c of \tilde{X}_c , is given by $\tilde{K}_c = 2fg(f^2 + g^2)/(f + g)^4$. \square

Proposition 3.3. *Any 1/2-cmc surface \tilde{X}_c with $c < 0$ satisfies the symmetries defined by (63)-(65) where $\theta = 2\pi/\sqrt{1 - c}$ and $\beta_k = (2k + 1)\pi/(2\sqrt{1 - c})$.*

Proposition 3.4. *Any 1/2-cmc surface \tilde{X}_c with $c > 1$ satisfies the symmetries defined by (66)-(68).*

We observe that the family of cmc surfaces considered in this section, is a special case ($\gamma = 0$) of the linear Weingarten surfaces of the previous section. Therefore, they are cmc surfaces of Joachimsthal type (see [A, Wa, W2]).

4. Families of cmc surfaces associated to Delaunay surfaces.

In this section, by using Ribaucour transformations, we will obtain families of cmc surfaces associated to the Delaunay surfaces. We will consider the Delaunay surfaces parametrized by

$$X(u_1, u_2) = (\rho(u_1) \cos(u_2), \rho(u_1) \sin(u_2), \varphi(u_1)), \quad (74)$$

where $a \neq 0$ is a real constant such that $1 - 4aH > 0$,

$$\rho(u_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}H} \left(1 - 2aH + \sqrt{1 - 4aH} \cos(2Hu_1)\right)^{1/2}, \quad (75)$$

$$\varphi(u_1) = \int_0^{u_1} \left(H\rho + \frac{a}{\rho}\right) dt \quad u_1 \in R. \quad (76)$$

The generating curves are unduloids when $a > 0$ and they are nodoids when $a < 0$.

Proposition 4.1. *A parametrized surface is a H -cmc surface locally associated to a Delaunay surface X , given by (74), by a Ribaucour transformation as in Corollary 1.10, if and only if, it is given by*

$$\tilde{X} = X - \frac{\rho}{c[ag + (\ell - Hf)\rho]} \left((\rho'g + f')X_{u_1} + \frac{g'}{\rho}X_{u_2} - \left(\frac{ag}{\rho} + \ell + H\rho g\right)N \right) \quad (77)$$

where N is the inner unit normal vector field of the Delaunay surface, $c \neq \frac{1}{2a}$ is such that $c < 0$ or $c > 2H$ and $\ell(u_1)$, $f(u_1)$, $g(u_2)$ are solutions of the equations

$$f'' - (c + \lambda^1)\ell - c\lambda^2 f = 0, \quad (78)$$

$$g'' + (1 - 2ac)g = 0, \quad (79)$$

$$-\rho'f' + c\rho\lambda^1 f + \rho(c + \lambda^2)\ell = 0, \quad (80)$$

where

$$\lambda^1 = -H + a/\rho^2 \quad \lambda^2 = -H - a/\rho^2 \quad (81)$$

and the initial conditions must satisfy

$$\left((g')^2 + (1 - 2ac)g^2 + (f')^2 + \ell^2 + 2cHf^2 - 2cf\ell \right) (u_1^0, u_2^0) = 0. \quad (82)$$

Proof: The first fundamental form of the Delaunay surface is given by $ds^2 = du_1^2 + \rho^2(u_1)du_2^2$ and the eigenvalues λ^1 and λ^2 of dN are given by (81). There are no umbilic points and the 1-forms dual to the principal directions are $\omega_1 = du_1$ $\omega_2 = \rho du_2$. Moreover, the connection forms are given by $\omega_{12} = \rho' du_2$, $\omega_{13} = -\lambda^1 du_1$ and $\omega_{23} = -\lambda^2 \rho du_2$.

In order to obtain the Ribaucour transformations of the Delaunay surface, we need to solve the integrable system (16)-(18), and (37) (see Corollary 1.10), which reduces to the following system of differential equations:

$$\Omega_{,u_1} = \Omega_1 \quad \Omega_{,u_2} = \Omega_2 \rho \quad (83)$$

$$W_{,u_1} = -\Omega_1 \lambda^1 \quad W_{,u_2} = -\Omega_2 \lambda^2 \rho \quad (84)$$

$$\Omega_{1,u_1} = c\lambda^2 \Omega + (c + \lambda^1)W \quad \Omega_{1,u_2} = \rho' \Omega_2 \quad (85)$$

$$\Omega_{2,u_1} = 0 \quad \Omega_{2,u_2} = -\rho' \Omega_1 + c\rho\lambda^1 \Omega + \rho(c + \lambda^2)W. \quad (86)$$

where the initial condition for the solution must satisfy (37) at a given point.

From (86) and (85) we get

$$\Omega_2 = g'(u_2) \quad \Omega_1 = \rho'g + f'(u_1) \quad (87)$$

where g and f are functions of u_2 and u_1 respectively, and it follows from (83) and (84) that

$$\Omega = \rho g + f \quad W = -\rho g \lambda^2 + \ell(u_1), \quad (88)$$

where

$$\ell'(u_1) = -\lambda^1 f'. \quad (89)$$

Substituting (87) and (88) into equations (85) and (86), we get

$$\begin{aligned} (\rho'' + \rho \lambda^1 \lambda^2)g &= -f'' + c\lambda^2 f + (c + \lambda^1)\ell \\ g'' &= \left(-(\rho')^2 + c\rho^2 \lambda^1 - \rho^2(c + \lambda^2)\lambda^2\right)g - \rho' f' + c\rho \lambda^1 f + \rho(c + \lambda^2)\ell. \end{aligned}$$

From the expression of ρ , we have $\rho'' = -\frac{1}{\rho^3}(H^2 \rho^4 - a^2)$ and $-(\rho')^2 + c\rho^2 \lambda^1 - \rho^2(c + \lambda^2)\lambda^2 = -1 + 2ac \neq 0$.

On the other hand, using the expressions of λ^1 and λ^2 , we have $\rho \lambda^1 \lambda^2 = (H^2 \rho^4 - a^2)/\rho^3$. Therefore, we conclude that f satisfies equation (78) and

$$\begin{aligned} g'' + (1 - 2ac)g &= B \\ -\rho' f' + c\rho \lambda^1 f + \rho(c + \lambda^2)\ell &= B \end{aligned}$$

where B is a real constant, which we may consider, without loss of generality, to be zero. Hence g satisfies (79) and the functions $f(u_1)$, $\ell(u_1)$ must satisfy (80). Moreover, from Corollary 1.10 $c(c - 2H) > 0$ and since $H > 0$, it follows that $c < 0$ or $c > 2H$.

Finally, from (87)-(88) and using the equalities $(\rho')^2 + \rho^2(\lambda^2)^2 = 1$ and

$$\rho' f' + c(\rho H - \frac{a}{\rho})f - \rho(\lambda^2 + c)\ell = 0,$$

we conclude that (37) reduces to (82).

We observe that in the open subset of R^2 where $c + \lambda^2$ does not vanish ℓ is defined by (80). Moreover, ℓ can be extended continuously to R^2 . It is a straightforward computation to verify that ℓ satisfies (89). \square

The cmc-surfaces given by (77) are called of Enneper type by Wente [W2], since one family of curvature lines is spherical. In fact, the curves $\tilde{X}(u_1^0, u_2)$ are contained on a sphere centered at $(0, 0, \varphi(u_1^0) - \phi(u_1^0))$ with radius $\sqrt{\rho^2 + \phi^2}$, where $\phi = [c\rho^2(\lambda^1 f + \ell) - f]/(\rho'\ell + \lambda^2 \rho f')$.

The cmc surfaces described in Proposition 4.1 by \tilde{X} depend on ℓ which is well defined on R^2 . However, the points where $c + \lambda^2 = 0$ may introduce singularities for the function f which must satisfy (78). In the following result, we will restrict the range of the parameter c providing a sufficient condition for the surfaces \tilde{X} to be defined on R^2 .

Proposition 4.2. *Let $\tilde{X}(u_1, u_2)$ be an H -cmc surface locally associated to a Delaunay surface by a Ribaucour transformation as in Proposition 4.1. If c satisfies*

$$c < \frac{1}{2a} - \frac{\sqrt{1 - 4aH}}{2|a|}, \quad \text{or} \quad c > \frac{1}{2a} + \frac{\sqrt{1 - 4aH}}{2|a|} \quad (90)$$

then \tilde{X} is defined on R^2 and it is given by (77), where $f(u_1)$ is a solution of the equation

$$\rho^2(c + \lambda^2)f'' - \rho\rho'(c + \lambda^1)f' + 2ac(c - 2H)f = 0 \quad (91)$$

$g(u_2)$ satisfies (79), $\ell(u_1)$ is given by (80), λ^1 and λ^2 are given by (81) and the initial conditions for f and g satisfy (82).

Proof: Since $c(c-2H) > 0$ we have $c \neq H$, and the hypothesis of c satisfying (90), is equivalent to

$$\left| \frac{c - H - 2acH}{(c - H)\sqrt{1 - 4aH}} \right| > 1.$$

This inequality occurs, if and only if, the function $c + \lambda^2$ does not vanish for any real value of u_1 . Moreover, we observe that whenever c satisfies the first inequality of (90) then $c + \lambda^2 < 0$ and if c satisfies the second one then $c + \lambda^2 > 0$. It follows from (80) that the differential equation (78) for the function f reduces to (91). \square

In order to show that the H-cmc surfaces obtained in Proposition 4.2 are complete, we will need the following result, where we consider an assumption on the functions f and g which is equivalent to the non vanishing of S given by (21) (see Corollary 1.9).

Lemma 4.3. *Let $f(u_1)$ and $g(u_2)$ be solutions of (91) and (79) respectively. Assume that $\rho g + f$ does not vanish, then*

i) *If $1 - 2ac < 0$ then*

$$f = c_1 r(u_1) e^{i\alpha u_1} + c_2 s(u_1) e^{-i\alpha u_1}, \quad (92)$$

$$g = A \cosh(\sqrt{2ac - 1} u_2), \quad (93)$$

where $A \neq 0$ and α are real numbers, $\alpha \neq kH$, $k \in \mathbf{Z} \setminus \{0\}$, $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbf{C}$ and $r(u_1), s(u_1)$ are complex valued periodic functions of period π/H or $2\pi/H$.

ii) *If $1 - 2ac > 0$ then*

$$f = c_1 r(u_1) e^{\delta u_1} + c_2 s(u_1) e^{-\delta u_1}, \quad (94)$$

$$g = A \sin(\sqrt{1 - 2ac} u_2), \quad (95)$$

where $A \neq 0$, $c_1, c_2, \delta \neq 0$ are real numbers, $r(u_1), s(u_1)$ are real valued periodic functions of period π/H such that for all u_1 , $c_1 r(u_1) c_2 s(u_1) > 0$.

Proof: We start observing that f is a solution of (91), which is of type $f'' - \Lambda_1 f' - \Lambda_2 f = 0$, where Λ_1 and Λ_2 are real periodic functions of u_1 , with period π/H and Λ_1 is an odd function. Therefore, it follows from Floquet's theory [Le] that, given any real initial conditions, the only solution of this equation is real and it is of the form (92), (94) or of type

$$f = c_1 a(u_1) + c_2 (u_1 a(u_1) + b(u_1)), \quad (96)$$

where c_1, c_2 are complex numbers and $r(u_1), s(u_1)$ are complex valued periodic functions of period π/H or $2\pi/H$. If f is of type (96), then there exists (u_1^0, u_2^0) which annihilates the function $\rho g + f$, which is a contradiction. It follows that $c_2 = 0$ and hence f is of type (92) or (94).

Since f and g satisfy (82) in R^2 , it follows from the expression of ℓ given by (80) that f satisfies the equation

$$(1 + h_1^2)(f')^2 + 2h_1(h_2 - c)ff' + [(h_2 - c)^2 - c(c - 2H)]f^2 + A^2(1 - 2ac) = 0, \quad (97)$$

where

$$h_1 = \frac{\rho'}{\rho(c + \lambda^2)} \quad \text{and} \quad h_2 - c = \frac{-c(c - 2H)}{c + \lambda^2}.$$

By considering (97) as a quadratic equation for f' , its discriminant is given by

$$\Delta = 4(1 - 2ac) \left[\frac{c(c - 2H)f^2}{\rho^2(c + \lambda^2)^2} - (1 + h_1^2)A^2 \right] \geq 0. \quad (98)$$

Now if $1 - 2ac < 0$, it follows from (98) that $f^2 \leq A^2(\rho^2 + \frac{1-2ac}{c(c-2H)})$. Since the right hand side of this inequality is a bounded function, we conclude that f is bounded, hence it is of the form (92). Moreover, we can show that g is given by (93).

If $1 - 2ac > 0$, then f is of type (94). In fact, otherwise, f is of the form (92) and it follows from Floquet's theory that there exists u_1^0 such that $f(u_1^0) = 0$. Since $g(0) = 0$, it follows that the pair $(u_1^0, 0)$ annihilates the function $\rho g + f$, which contradicts the hypothesis. Therefore, f is of type (94) and for any integer n ,

$$f(u_1^0 + n\frac{\pi}{H}) = c_1 r(u_1^0) e^{\lambda u_1^0} e^{\lambda n \frac{\pi}{H}} + c_2 s(u_1^0) e^{-\lambda u_1^0} e^{-\lambda n \frac{\pi}{H}}. \quad (99)$$

We claim that $\forall u_1 \in R$, we have $c_1 r(u_1) c_2 s(u_1) > 0$. Otherwise, suppose there exists u_1^0 such that $r(u_1^0) s(u_1^0) = 0$, then it follows from (99) that $f(u_1^0 + n\pi/H)$ tends to zero when n tends to $\pm\infty$. This is a contradiction because (98) implies that $f^2 \geq A^2(\rho^2 + \frac{1-2ac}{c(c-2H)})$. Similarly, we get a contradiction if $c_1 r(u_1^0) c_2 s(u_1^0) < 0$, since in this case, it follows from (94) that $f(R) = R$. \square

Proposition 4.4. *Any surface of the family \tilde{X} given in Proposition 4.2 is a complete H -cmc surface. Moreover, if $1 - 2ac > 0$ and $\sqrt{1 - 2ac}$ is an irreducible rational number, then \tilde{X} is an immersion of a cylinder into R^3 , otherwise it is a immersion of R^2 into R^3 .*

Proof: The first fundamental form of any surface of the family \tilde{X} is given by (see Remark 1.11) $ds^2 = \psi_1^2 du_1^2 + \psi_2^2 du_2^2$ where

$$\psi_i = \frac{a(\rho g + f)a_i}{a\rho g + \rho^2(\ell - Hf)} \quad a_1 = 1, \quad \text{and} \quad a_2 = \rho$$

Moreover, the functions f and ℓ determined by (91) and (89) satisfy the following relation identically

$$(1 - 2ac)A^2 + (f')^2 + 2cf(Hf - \ell) + \ell^2 = 0.$$

i) If $1 - 2ac > 0$, then f and g are given by (94) (95). It follows from the above equation that f and $Hf - \ell$ do not vanish for any $u_1 \in R$ and there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $|\ell/f - H| \geq \varepsilon$ for all $u_1 \in R$. Using the arguments of the proof of Lemma 4.3, by considering equation (97) as a quadratic equation for f'/f , we get that f'/f is a bounded function and hence ℓ/f is also a bounded function. Hence,

$$\lim_{|u_1| \rightarrow \infty} \left(\psi_i - \frac{aa_i f}{\rho^2(\ell - Hf)} \right) = 0$$

uniformly in the variable u_2 . Now, with arguments similar to those used in the proof of Proposition 2.5, we get $m > 0$ such that $|\psi_i| \geq m$ for all $(u_1, u_2) \in R^2$ and hence we conclude that \tilde{X} is complete.

ii) If $1 - 2ac < 0$, then f and g are given by (92) (93). Hence $\lim_{|u_2| \rightarrow \infty} |\psi_i - a_i| = 0$ uniformly in u_1 . Therefore, there exists m_0 and L positive real numbers such that $|\psi_i| \geq m_0$

for all (u_1, u_2) such that $|u_2| > L$. One can show that for any α , there exist $m_i > 0$ such that $|\psi_i(u_1, u_2)| \geq m_i > 0$ for all $(u_1, u_2) \in R \times [-L, L]$. We conclude that \tilde{X} is complete. \square

We conclude this section by observing that with the same arguments of the proof of Propositions 2.6 and 2.7, one can show that any H-cmc surface given in Proposition 4.2 satisfies the following symmetries:

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{X}(u_1, u_2 + \theta) &= R_\theta \tilde{X}(u_1, u_2) \quad \text{where } \theta = 2\pi/\sqrt{1-2ac}, \\ \tilde{X}(u_1, u_2 + \beta_k) &= S_{\beta_k} \tilde{X}(u_1, -u_2 + \beta_k) \quad \text{where } \beta_k = \frac{(2k+1)\pi}{2\sqrt{1-2ac}}, \quad k \in Z,\end{aligned}$$

whenever $1 - 2ac > 0$ and

$$\tilde{X}(u_1, u_2) = S_0 \tilde{X}(u_1, -u_2)$$

whenever $1 - 2ac < 0$.

One can also show that the complete H-cmc surfaces of the family \tilde{X} given by Proposition 4.1, whenever $1 - 2ac < 0$, are asymptotically close to the Delaunay surface. In fact, $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ there exists $L > 0$ such that

$$|\tilde{X}(u_1, u_2) - X(u_1, u_2 \pm \theta)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall (u_1, u_2) \in R^2 \text{ with } \pm u_2 \geq L,$$

where θ is such that $\cos \theta = 1 - 1/(ac)$ and $\sin \theta = -\sqrt{2ac - 1}/(ac)$.

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