

Willmore Energy and Bifurcation

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Abstract

MSC-2020 classification: 49Q10; 53A05; 53A31

1 Introduction

2 Notation

Andy: Andy is speaking.

Peter: Peter is speaking.

Henrik: Henrik is speaking.

FiXme Note:
Would be a
good idea to
give a
preliminary
sketch of
what we
want to
achieve
here...

symbol	meaning
\mathbb{R}^3	$\bar{\mathbb{R}}^3 := \mathbb{R}^3 \cup \{\infty\}$
C	$C := \{f \in C^2(M; \mathbb{R}^3)\}$
\bar{C}	$\bar{C} := \{f \in C^2(M; \bar{\mathbb{R}}^3)\}$
Möb(3)	group of conformal transformations on $\bar{\mathbb{R}}^3$
vol_f	Riemannian volume density induced by $f \in C$ on M
$\mathcal{A}: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	area functional $\mathcal{A}(f) := \int_M \text{vol}_f$.
ω	$\omega \in \Omega^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$, $\omega _x := \frac{1}{3} \int_M \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} x_i dx_j \wedge dx_k$, where ϵ_{ijk} denotes the Levi-Civita symbol. Observe that $d\omega = \text{vol}_{\mathbb{R}^3} := dx_1 \wedge dx_2 \wedge dx_3$.
$\mathcal{V}: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	enclosed volume functional $\mathcal{V}(f) := \frac{1}{3} \int_M f^\# \omega$

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3 Group action

Let M be a closed, 2-dimensional, oriented manifold and denote the space of embeddings of M into \mathbb{R}^3 by C . Note that by restricting the regularity of surfaces to some Banach space, say $C \subset C^2(M; \mathbb{R}^3)$ for the moment, C can be interpreted as an open set in a Banach space. The tangent space of C at a given point $f \in C$ is the space of \mathbb{R}^3 -valued vector fields (not necessarily tangent to f):

$$T_f C = C = C^2(M; \mathbb{R}^3).$$

The Lie group $G = \text{Möb}(3)$ acts on C , i.e., each $g \in G$ induces a diffeomorphism

$$L_g: C \rightarrow C, \quad L_g(f) = g \circ f.$$

We can evaluate the fundamental vector fields of the group action of G on C at a given point $f \in C$: Each element $\xi \in \text{Lie}(G) = T_1 G$ has a fundamental vector field K_ξ defined by

$$(K_\xi|_f)(x) := \left. \frac{d}{dt} L_{\exp(t\xi)}(f) \right|_{t=0} \quad \text{for each } x \in M.$$

By the chain rule, we have

$$(K_\xi|_f)(x) = K_\xi^{\mathbb{R}^3}|_{f(x)}. \tag{1}$$

For example, if $\xi \in \text{Lie}(\text{SO}(3)) \subset \text{Lie}(G)$ (it's nothing else but an antisymmetric 3×3 matrix), then

$$(K_\xi|_f)(x) = \xi \cdot f(x),$$

where \cdot denotes the matrix-vector product. If $v \in \mathbb{R}^3 \cong \text{Lie}(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset \text{Lie}(G)$ is a generator of a translation, then

$$(K_v|_f)(x) = v.$$

For an infinitesimal dilation $\lambda \in \mathbb{R} = \text{Lie}(\mathbb{R}_{>0}) \subset \text{Lie}(G)$, the fundamental vector field looks like this:

$$(K_\lambda|_f)(x) = \lambda f(x).$$

4 Questions

4.1 Andy: I do not have any intuition about preservation ‘up to first order’.

Henrik: Through a somewhat intransparent process (in the sense that I did not present their derivation in the *Mathematica* notebook), I was able to determine the fundamental vector fields

$K^{\mathbb{R}^3}$ for the three “infinitesimal boosts” $u, v, w \in \text{Lie}(G)$, i.e. for three further generators that complement $\text{Lie}(\text{SO}(3)) \oplus \text{Lie}(\mathbb{R}^3) \oplus \text{Lie}(\mathbb{R}_{>0}) \subset \text{Lie}(G)$, so that we obtain a full basis of $\text{Lie}(G)$. In the notebook, I denoted these three fundamental vector fields by U, V, W , i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} U(x) &:= K_u^{\mathbb{R}^3}|_x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^2 - x_2^2 - x_3^2 \\ 2x_1x_2 \\ 2x_1x_3 \end{pmatrix}, \\ V(x) &:= K_v^{\mathbb{R}^3}|_x = \begin{pmatrix} 2x_2x_1 \\ x_2^2 - x_3^2 - x_1^2 \\ 2x_2x_3 \end{pmatrix}, \\ W(x) &:= K_w^{\mathbb{R}^3}|_x = \begin{pmatrix} 2x_3x_1 \\ 2x_3x_2 \\ x_3^2 - x_1^2 - x_2^2 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus by (1), we have

$$K_u|_f = U \circ f, \quad K_v|_f = V \circ f, \quad \text{and} \quad K_w|_f = W \circ f.$$

We can now study area $\mathcal{A}: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and enclosed volume $\mathcal{V}: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ along an orbit $\mathcal{O} := (Gf)$ of G . By the chain rule we have for each differentiable curve $g:]-\epsilon, \epsilon[\rightarrow G$ with $g(0) = 1$ and $g'(0) \in \text{Lie}(G)$ that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{A}(L_{g(t)}(f)) \Big|_{t=0} = D\mathcal{A}(f)(K_\xi|_f)$$

and analogously

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{V}(L_{g(t)}(f)) \Big|_{t=0} = D\mathcal{V}(f)(K_\xi|_f).$$

And what I did in the notebook is just checking for each torus f of revolution with circular contour (TRCC for short) that

$$D\mathcal{A}(f)(K_u|_f) = 0, \tag{2}$$

$$D\mathcal{A}(f)(K_v|_f) = 0, \tag{3}$$

$$D\mathcal{A}(f)(K_w|_f) = 0, \tag{4}$$

$$D\mathcal{V}(f)(K_u|_f) = 0, \tag{5}$$

$$D\mathcal{V}(f)(K_v|_f) = 0, \tag{6}$$

$$D\mathcal{V}(f)(K_w|_f) = 0. \tag{7}$$

I did so by parameterizing the torus by

$$f(\varphi, \vartheta) \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\varphi)(r \cos(\vartheta) + R) \\ \sin(\varphi)(r \cos(\vartheta) + R) \\ r \sin(\vartheta) \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with some } R > 0 \text{ and some } r > 0.$$

We know that

$$D \mathcal{A}(f) X = \int_M \langle H_f, X \rangle \text{vol}_f \quad \text{and} \quad D \mathcal{V}(f) X = \int_M \langle \nu_f, X \rangle \text{vol}_f,$$

where H_f and ν_f are mean curvature vector and outward pointing normal of f . Observe that

$$\text{vol}_f = r \sqrt{(R + r \cos(\vartheta))^2}, \quad \nu_f = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} f(\varphi, \theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\vartheta) \cos(\varphi) \\ \cos(\vartheta) \sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\vartheta) \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad H_f(\varphi, \vartheta) = h(\vartheta) \nu_f,$$

where $h(\vartheta)$ denotes the magnitude of the mean curvature vector which – by rotation symmetry – does not depend on the angle φ . Thus, we can write down the (2)–(7) explicitly. Then we just have to exploit symmetry properties of the trigonometric functions \sin and \cos .

Of course, this does not necessarily imply that \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{V} are constant on the whole orbit $\mathcal{O} = (Gf)$, not even on an arbitrarily small neighborhood of f . While the boost $\exp(t w)$ “in z -direction” (along the axis of revolution) sends a TRCC to a TRCC (the contour has to be circular again and boosting along the axis of revolution preserves rotation symmetry; the parameterization might change considerably, but we are not interested in the parameterization, right?), the boosts $\exp(t u)$ and $\exp(t v)$ along the x and y direction should deform TRCC into Dupin cyclides. And so I do not expect that $\exp(t u)$, $\exp(t v)$ preserve both area and volume. But I could be wrong.

4.2 Andy: With your symbolic setup in *Mathematica* Henrik, is it easy to look at the 2nd order change? Maybe we will even see what makes the Clifford torus isoperimetric ratio so special?

Henrik: Could be worth a try. Computing the Hessian at a critical point is typically not that difficult because it actually does not depend on the employed Riemannian metric and its connection:

Denote the orbit of f under G by $\mathcal{O} = L_G(f)$. The fundamental vector fields K span the tangent space $T_f \mathcal{O}$. If $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is twice differentiable, then for any Riemannian metric h on \mathcal{O} we have

$$\text{Hess}^h(\mathcal{F})(K_\xi, K_\eta) = (K_\xi K_\eta \mathcal{F})|_f - d\mathcal{F}(f) \nabla_{K_\xi}^h K_\eta, \quad \text{for all } \xi, \eta \in \text{Lie}(G),$$

where ∇^h is the Levi-Civita connection of h . So in general, the result depends on the choice of a metric! But if $d\mathcal{F}|_f = 0$ (like in the cases $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{A}|_{\mathcal{O}}$ and $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{V}|_{\mathcal{O}}$ for example), then the metric-dependent term just vanishes and we get

$$\text{Hess}^h(\mathcal{F})(f)(K_\xi, K_\eta) = (K_\xi K_\eta \mathcal{F})|_f.$$

And we (or rather *Mathematica*) should be able to compute the latter, once we have figured out how the exponentials for the infinitesimal boost u , v , w actually look like ...

Caution: If I am not mistaken, this does *not* imply

$$(K_\xi K_\eta \mathcal{A})|_f = D^2 \mathcal{A}(f)(K_\xi, K_\eta),$$

where D^2 denotes the second derivative on the surrounding Banach space! This has to do with the fact that the orbit is a curved submanifold of C and that $D \mathcal{A}(f) \neq 0$. (We only know that $D \mathcal{A}(f)$ vanishes when multiplied against fundamental vector fields $K_u|_f, K_v|_f, K_w|_f$ (and against any fundamental vector fields of the group of Euclidean motions, of course).

5 Questions

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Of course, this does not necessarily imply that \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{V} are constant on the whole orbit $O = (Gf)$, not even on an arbitrarily small neighborhood of f . While the boost $\exp(tu)$ “in z -direction” (along the axis of revolution) sends a TRCC to a TRCC (the contour has to be circular again and boosting along the axis of revolution preserves rotation symmetry; the parameterization might change considerably, but we are not interested in the parameterization, right?), the boosts $\exp(tu)$ and $\exp(tv)$ along the x and y direction should deform TRCC into Dupin cyclides. And so I do not expect that $\exp(tu)$, $\exp(tv)$ preserve both area and volume. But I could be wrong.

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$$\text{Hess}^h(\mathcal{F})(K_\xi, K_\eta) = (K_\xi K_\eta \mathcal{F})|_f - d\mathcal{F}(f) \nabla_{K_\xi}^h K_\eta, \quad \text{for all } \xi, \eta \in G,$$

where ∇^h is the Levi-Civita connection of h . So in general, the result depends on the choice of a metric! But if $d\mathcal{F}|_f = 0$ (like in the cases $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{A}|_O$ and $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{V}|_O$ for example), then the metric-dependent term just vanishes and we get

$$\text{Hess}^h(\mathcal{F})(K_\xi, K_\eta) = (K_\xi K_\eta \mathcal{F})|_f. \bullet$$

And we (or rather *Mathematica*) should be able to compute the latter, once we have figured out how the exponentials for the infinitesimal boost u, v, w actually look like ...

6 Integrals

$$A(a) := \int_{\partial\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \, dS(x)$$

$$V(a) := \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^3 \, dx$$

We would like to show that

$$\frac{d}{da} \frac{V(a)^2}{A(a)^3} > 0.$$

This is equivalent to

$$2 A(a) V'(a) - 3 A'(a) V(a) > 0.$$

$$A'(a) = \int_{\partial\Omega} 2 \lambda(x, a) \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \, dS(x)$$

$$V'(a) = \int_{\Omega} 3 \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \, dx$$

$$3 A'(a) V(a) = 6 \int_{\partial\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a) \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \lambda(y, a)^3 \, dy \, dS(x)$$

$$2 A(a) V'(a) = 6 \int_{\Omega} \int_{\partial\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \lambda(y, a)^2 \, dS(y) \, dx$$

$$= 6 \int_{\partial\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(y, a) \lambda(y, a)^2 \, dy \, dS(x)$$

Observe that

$$\partial(\Omega \times \Omega) = \partial\Omega \times \Omega \cup \Omega \times \partial\Omega.$$

So maybe we can find a nice 5-form on Ω such that

$$3 A'(a) V(a) - 2 A(a) V'(a) = \int_{\Omega \times \Omega} d\omega.$$

and for which we can tell that the $\int_{\Omega \times \Omega} d\omega$ must be positive.

$$3 A'(a) V(a) - 2 A(a) V'(a)$$

$$= 6 \int_M \int_M (\varphi(y, a) - \varphi(x, a)) \varphi(x, a) \varphi(y, a)^2 \partial_a \varphi(x, a) \, d\mu(y) \, d\mu(x)$$

$$= 3 \int_M \int_M (\varphi(y, a) - \varphi(x, a)) \varphi(x, a) \varphi(y, a)^2 \partial_a \varphi(x, a) \, d\mu(y) \, d\mu(x) +$$

$$3 \int_M \int_M (\varphi(x, a) - \varphi(y, a)) \varphi(y, a) \varphi(x, a)^2 \partial_a \varphi(y, a) \, d\mu(y) \, d\mu(x)$$

$$\lambda(x) := \frac{1}{1 + 2 a x_1 + a^2 |x|^2}$$

$$\text{grad } \lambda^2(x) = \frac{-4}{(1 + 2 a x_1 + a^2 |x|^2)^3} (a e_1 + a^2 x) = -4 (a e_1 + a^2 x) \lambda^3.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\partial\Omega} \lambda^2 \, dS(x) &= \int_{\partial\Omega} \langle N, \lambda^2 X \rangle \, dS(x) \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \text{div}(\lambda^2 X) \, dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \langle \text{grad } \lambda^2, X \rangle \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \lambda^2 \, \text{div}(X) \, dx, \end{aligned}$$

where $X = r \frac{\partial}{\partial r}$. Note that

$$\langle \text{grad } \lambda^2(x), X \rangle = -\lambda^3 \left(a r \cos(\varphi) \cos(\theta) + r(r + \sqrt{2} \cos(\theta)) \right)$$

Orthonormal basis

$$e_1 := \frac{\partial}{\partial r}, \quad e_2 := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} + r \cos(\theta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi}, \quad e_3 := \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}.$$

$$\text{div}(X) = \left\langle e_1, \frac{\partial}{\partial r} X \right\rangle + \left\langle e_2, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} + r \cos(\theta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} X \right\rangle + \left\langle e_3, \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} X \right\rangle = 2 + \frac{r \cos(\theta)}{\sqrt{2} + r \cos(\theta)}$$

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} \lambda(y, a)^2 \, dS(y) = \int_{\Omega} \langle \text{grad } \lambda^2(y, a), X(y) \rangle \, dy + \int_{\Omega} \lambda^2(y, a) \, \text{div}(X)(y) \, dy,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} A'(a) V(a) &= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\partial\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^3 \lambda(y, a) \partial_a \lambda(y, a) \, dS(y) \, dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^3 \lambda(y, a) \langle \partial_a \text{grad } \lambda^2(y, a), X(y) \rangle \, dy \, dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^3 \lambda(y, a) \partial_a \lambda(y, a) \, \text{div}(X)(y) \, dy \, dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{3} A(a) V'(a) &= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\partial\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \lambda(y, a)^2 \, dS(y) \, dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \langle \text{grad } \lambda^2(y, a), X(y) \rangle \, dy \, dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \lambda(y, a)^2 \, \text{div}(X)(y) \, dy \, dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\partial_a \text{grad } \lambda^2 = \text{grad}(\partial_a \lambda^2) = 2 \, \text{grad}(\lambda \partial_a \lambda) = 2 \, \lambda \, \text{grad}(\partial_a \lambda) + 2 \, \partial_a \lambda \, \text{grad } \lambda$$

$$\lambda(x, a)^3 \lambda(y, a) \langle \partial_a \text{grad } \lambda^2(y, a), X(y) \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} A'(a) V(a) - \frac{1}{3} A(a) V'(a) \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \left(\lambda(x, a)^3 \lambda(y, a) \partial_a \lambda(y, a) - \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \right) \langle \text{grad } \lambda^2(y, a), X(y) \rangle \, dy \, dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \left(\lambda(x, a)^3 \lambda(y, a) \partial_a \lambda(y, a) - \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \lambda(y, a)^2 \right) \text{div}(X)(y) \, dy \, dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \left(\lambda(x, a) \lambda(y, a) \partial_a \lambda(y, a) - \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \right) \lambda(x, a)^2 \langle \text{grad } \lambda^2(y, a), X(y) \rangle \, dy \, dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \left(\lambda(x, a) \partial_a \lambda(y, a) - \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \lambda(y, a) \right) \lambda(y, a) \lambda(x, a)^2 \text{div}(X)(y) \, dy \, dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
3 \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} A'(a) V(a) \, da &= 6 \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \int_{\partial\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a) \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \lambda(y, a)^3 \, dy \, dS(x) \, da \\
&= 3 \left[\int_{\partial\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \lambda(y, a)^3 \, dy \, dS(x) \right]_{a=\alpha}^{a=\beta} \\
&\quad - 9 \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \int_{\partial\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(y, a) \lambda(y, a)^2 \, dy \, dS(x) \, da \\
&= 3 \left[\int_{\partial\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \lambda(y, a)^3 \, dy \, dS(x) \right]_{a=\alpha}^{a=\beta} - 3 \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} A(a) V'(a) \, da
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
2 A(a) V'(a) &= 6 \int_{\Omega} \int_{\partial\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(x, a) \lambda(y, a)^2 \, dS(y) \, dx \\
&= 6 \int_{\partial\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x, a)^2 \partial_a \lambda(y, a) \lambda(y, a)^2 \, dy \, dS(x)
\end{aligned}$$

7 Another take on the integrals

Denote the Willmoretorus by $\Sigma(0) \subset \mathbb{R}^3$.

$$\Sigma(x) := \iota(\iota(\Sigma(0) + (a, 0, 0))$$

$$U_a(x) := \frac{d}{da} \iota(\iota(x) + (a, 0, 0)).$$

$$A(a) = \int_{\Sigma(a)} d\mathcal{H}^2(x)$$

$$A'(a) = -2 \int_{\Sigma(a)} H(x) \langle N(x), U_a(x) \rangle d\mathcal{H}^2(x)$$

$$V(a) = \frac{1}{3} \int_{\Sigma(a)} \langle N(x), x \rangle d\mathcal{H}^2(x)$$

$$V'(a) = \int_{\Sigma(a)} \langle N(x), U_a(x) \rangle d\mathcal{H}^2(x)$$

$$2 A(a) V'(a) = 2 \int_{\Sigma(a)} \int_{\Sigma(a)} \langle N(y), U_a(y) \rangle d\mathcal{H}^2(y) d\mathcal{H}^2(x)$$

$$3 A'(a) V(a) = -2 \int_{\Sigma(a)} \int_{\Sigma(a)} H(x) \langle N(x), U_a(x) \rangle \langle N(y), y \rangle d\mathcal{H}^2(y) d\mathcal{H}^2(x)$$

$$2 A(a) V'(a) - 3 A'(a) V(a)$$

$$= 2 \int_{\Sigma(a)} (1 + 3 V(a) H(y)) \langle N(y), U_a(y) \rangle d\mathcal{H}^2(y)$$