

Counter example: Harmonic map that does not satisfy stronger boundary condition

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Let $f : (\mathbb{H}^2 = \{(t, s) : t \geq 0\}, \text{Euclidean}) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{H}^2 = \{(x, y) : x \geq 0\}, \text{Poincare})$ be a harmonic map. The harmonic equation of f reads

$$\begin{cases} \Delta x + \frac{1}{x} \left[\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial s} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial s} \right)^2 \right] &= 0 \\ \Delta y - \frac{2}{x} \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial s} \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right) &= 0 \end{cases}$$

where $\Delta = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial s^2}$.

The quadratic differential w.r.t the Euclidean metric on the target space (the metric \bar{g}) is

$$\bar{q} := \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\rangle_E = \left[\left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial s} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial s} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)^2 \right] - 2i \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial s} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)$$

Choose $x := x(t)$ depending only on t and $y := y(s)$ depending only on s , the harmonic equations become $\begin{cases} x_{tt} + \frac{1}{x}(y_s^2 - x_t^2) &= 0 \\ y_{ss} &= 0 \end{cases}$ Choose $y := s$ then solve $x'' + \frac{1}{x}(1 - x'^2) = 0$ for x .

We also want $x(0) = 0$ and $x'(0) > 0$ so that $x \geq 0$ when $t \geq 0$. The function $x(t) := \sinh(t)$ satisfies all these conditions.

The quadratic differential is

$$\bar{q} = 1 - x'(t)^2 = -\sinh^2 t = -t^2 + O(t^4)$$

So the constant term and the first order term of \bar{q} both vanish, but the second order term does not. This means f only satisfies the intermediate boundary condition, and not the stronger boundary condition.