Non-properly embedded $H$-planes in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$

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Abstract For any $H \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$, we construct complete, non-proper, stable, simply-connected surfaces embedded in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ with constant mean curvature $H$.

1 Introduction

In their ground breaking work [2], Colding and Minicozzi proved that complete minimal surfaces embedded in $\mathbb{R}^3$ with finite topology are proper. Based on the techniques in [2], Meeks and Rosenberg [5] then proved that complete minimal surfaces with positive injectivity embedded in $\mathbb{R}^3$ are proper. More recently, Meeks and Tinaglia [7]...
proved that complete constant mean curvature surfaces embedded in $\mathbb{R}^3$ are proper if they have finite topology or have positive injectivity radius.

In contrast to the above results, in this paper we prove the following existence theorem for non-proper, complete, simply-connected surfaces embedded in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ with constant mean curvature $H \in (0, 1/2)$. The convention used here is that the mean curvature function of an oriented surface $M$ in an oriented Riemannian three-manifold $N$ is the pointwise average of its principal curvatures.

The catenoids in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ mentioned in the next theorem are defined at the beginning of Sect. 2.1.

**Theorem 1.1** For any $H \in (0, 1/2)$ there exists a complete, stable, simply-connected surface $\Sigma_H$ embedded in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ with constant mean curvature $H$ satisfying the following properties:

1. The closure of $\Sigma_H$ is a lamination with three leaves, $\Sigma_H$, $C_1$ and $C_2$, where $C_1$ and $C_2$ are stable catenoids of constant mean curvature $H$ in $\mathbb{H}^3$ with the same axis of revolution $L$. In particular, $\Sigma_H$ is not properly embedded in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$.
2. Let $K_L$ denote the Killing field generated by rotations around $L$. Every integral curve of $K_L$ that lies in the region between $C_1$ and $C_2$ intersects $\Sigma_H$ transversely in a single point. In particular, the closed region between $C_1$ and $C_2$ is foliated by surfaces of constant mean curvature $H$, where the leaves are $C_1$ and $C_2$ and the rotated images $\Sigma_H(\theta)$ of $\Sigma$ around $L$ by angle $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$.

When $H = 0$, Rodriguez and Tinaglia [10] constructed non-proper, complete minimal planes embedded in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$. However, their construction does not generalize to produce complete, non-proper planes embedded in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ with non-zero constant mean curvature. Instead, the construction presented in this paper is related to the techniques developed by the authors in [3] to obtain examples of non-proper, stable, complete planes embedded in $\mathbb{H}^3$ with constant mean curvature $H$, for any $H \in [0, 1)$.

There is a general conjecture related to Theorem 1.1 and the previously stated positive properness results. Given $X$ a Riemannian three-manifold, let $Ch(X) := \inf_{S \in S} \frac{\text{Area}(\partial S)}{\text{Volume}(S)}$, where $S$ is the set of all smooth compact domains in $X$. Note that when the volume of $X$ is infinite, $Ch(X)$ is the Cheeger constant.

**Conjecture 1.2** Let $X$ be a simply-connected, homogeneous three-manifold. Then for any $H \geq \frac{1}{2} Ch(X)$, every complete, connected $H$-surface embedded in $X$ with positive injectivity radius or finite topology is proper. On the other hand, if $Ch(X) > 0$, then there exist non-proper complete $H$-planes in $X$ for every $H \in [0, \frac{1}{2} Ch(X))$.

By the work in [2], Conjecture 1.2 holds for $X = \mathbb{R}^3$ and it holds in $\mathbb{H}^3$ by work in progress in [6]. Since the Cheeger constant of $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ is 1, Conjecture 1.2 would imply that Theorem 1.1 (together with the existence of complete non-proper minimal planes embedded in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ found in [10]) is a sharp result.

### 2 Preliminaries

In this section, we will review the basic properties of $H$-surfaces, a concept that we next define. We will call a smooth oriented surface $\Sigma_H$ in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ an $H$-surface if
Non-properly embedded \( H \)-planes in \( \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \)

it is embedded and its mean curvature is constant equal to \( H \); we will assume that \( \Sigma_H \) is appropriately oriented so that \( H \) is non-negative. We will use the cylinder model of \( \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \) with coordinates \((\rho, \theta, t)\); here \( \rho \) is the hyperbolic distance from the origin (a chosen base point) in \( \mathbb{H}^2_0 \), where \( \mathbb{H}_t \) denotes \( \mathbb{H}^2 \times \{t\} \). We next describe the \( H \)-catenoids mentioned in the Introduction.

The following \( H \)-catenoids family will play a particularly important role in our construction.

2.1 Rotationally invariant vertical \( H \)-catenoids \( C^H_d \)

We begin this section by recalling several results in [8,9]. Given \( H \in (0, \frac{1}{2}) \) and \( d \in [-2H, \infty) \), let

\[
\eta_d = \cosh^{-1} \left( \frac{2dH + \sqrt{1 - 4H^2 + d^2}}{1 - 4H^2} \right)
\]

and let \( \lambda_d : [\eta_d, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty) \) be the function defined as follows.

\[
\lambda_d(\rho) = \int_{\eta_d}^{\rho} \frac{d + 2H \cosh r}{\sqrt{\sinh^2 r - (d + 2H \cosh r)^2}} dr.
\]  

(1)

Note that \( \lambda_d(\rho) \) is a strictly increasing function with \( \lim_{\rho \to \infty} \lambda_d(\rho) = \infty \) and derivative \( \lambda'_d(\eta_d) = \infty \) when \( d \in (-2H, \infty) \).

In [8] Nelli, Sa Earp, Santos and Toubiana proved that there exists a 1-parameter family of embedded \( H \)-catenoids \( \{C^H_d | d \in (-2H, \infty)\} \) obtained by rotating a generating curve \( \lambda_d(\rho) \) about the \( t \)-axis. The generating curve \( \hat{\lambda}_d \) is obtained by doubling the curve \((\rho, 0, \lambda_d(\rho)), \rho \in [\eta_d, \infty) \), with its reflection \((\rho, 0, -\lambda_d(\rho)), \rho \in [\eta_d, \infty) \). Note that \( \hat{\lambda}_d \) is a smooth curve and that the necksize, \( \eta_d \), is a strictly increasing function in \( d \) satisfying the properties that \( \eta_{-2H} = 0 \) and \( \lim_{d \to \infty} \eta_d = \infty \).

If \( d = -2H \), then by rotating the curve \((\rho, 0, \lambda_d(\rho)) \) around the \( t \)-axis one obtains a simply-connected \( H \)-surface \( E_H \) that is an entire graph over \( \mathbb{H}^2_0 \). We denote by \(-E_H\) the reflection of \( E_H \) across \( \mathbb{H}^2_0 \).

We next recall the definition of the mean curvature vector.

**Definition 2.1** Let \( M \) be an oriented surface in an oriented Riemannian three-manifold and suppose that \( M \) has non-zero mean curvature \( H(p) \) at \( p \). The **mean curvature vector at** \( p \) is \( \mathbf{H}(p) := H(p)N(p) \), where \( N(p) \) is its unit normal vector at \( p \). The mean curvature vector \( \mathbf{H}(p) \) is independent of the orientation on \( M \).

Note that the mean curvature vector \( \mathbf{H} \) of \( C^H_d \) points into the connected component of \( \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} - C^H_d \) that contains the \( t \)-axis. The mean curvature vector of \( E_H \) points upward while the mean curvature vector of \(-E_H\) points downward.

In order to construct the examples described in Theorem 1.1, we first obtain certain geometric properties satisfied by \( H \)-catenoids. For example, in the following lemma, we show that for certain values of \( d_1 \) and \( d_2 \), the catenoids \( C^H_{d_1} \) and \( C^H_{d_2} \) are disjoint.
Given \( d \in (-2H, \infty) \), let \( b_d(t) := \lambda_d^{-1}(t) \) for \( t \geq 0 \); note that \( b_d(0) = \eta_d \). Abusing the notation let \( b_d(t) := b_d(-t) \) for \( t \leq 0 \).

**Lemma 2.1 (Disjoint H-catenoids)** Given \( d_1 > 2 \), there exist \( d_0 > d_1 \) and \( \delta_0 > 0 \) such that for any \( d_2 \in [d_0, \infty) \), then

\[
\inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (b_{d_2}(t) - b_{d_1}(t)) \geq \delta_0.
\]

In particular, the corresponding \( H \)-catenoids are disjoint, i.e. \( C_{d_1}^H \cap C_{d_2}^H = \emptyset \).

Moreover, \( b_{d_2}(t) - b_{d_1}(t) \) is decreasing for \( t > 0 \) and increasing for \( t < 0 \). In particular,

\[
\sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (b_{d_2}(t) - b_{d_1}(t)) = b_{d_2}(0) - b_{d_1}(0) = \eta_{d_2} - \eta_{d_1}.
\]

The proof of the above lemma requires a rather lengthy computation that is given in the Appendix.

We next recall the well-known mean curvature comparison principle.

**Proposition 2.2 (Mean curvature comparison principle)** Let \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \) be two complete, connected embedded surfaces in a three-dimensional Riemannian manifold. Suppose that \( p \in M_1 \cap M_2 \) satisfies that a neighborhood of \( p \) in \( M_1 \) locally lies on the side of a neighborhood of \( p \) in \( M_2 \) into which \( H_2(p) \) is pointing. Then \( |H_1|(p) \geq |H_2|(p) \). Furthermore, if \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \) are constant mean curvature surfaces with \( |H_1| = |H_2| \), then \( M_1 = M_2 \).

### 3 The examples

For a fixed \( H \in (0, 1/2) \), the outline of construction is as follows. First, we will take two disjoint \( H \)-catenoids \( C_1 \) and \( C_2 \) whose existence is given in Lemma 2.1.

These catenoids \( C_1, C_2 \) bound a region \( \Omega \) in \( \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \) with fundamental group \( \mathbb{Z} \).

In the universal cover \( \tilde{\Omega} \) of \( \Omega \), we define a piecewise smooth compact exhaustion \( \Delta_1 \subset \Delta_2 \subset \cdots \subset \Delta_n \subset \cdots \) of \( \tilde{\Omega} \). Then, by solving the \( H \)-Plateau problem for special curves \( \Gamma_n \subset \partial \Delta_n \), we obtain minimizing \( H \)-surfaces \( \Sigma_n \) in \( \Delta_n \) with \( \partial \Sigma_n = \Gamma_n \).

In the limit set of these surfaces, we find an \( H \)-plane \( \Sigma_H \subset \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \).

#### 3.1 Construction of \( \tilde{\Omega} \)

Fix \( H \in (0, 1/2) \) and \( d_1, d_2 \in (2, \infty) \), \( d_1 < d_2 \), such that by Lemma 2.1, the related \( H \)-catenoids \( C_{d_1}^H \) and \( C_{d_2}^H \) are disjoint; note that in this case, \( C_{d_1}^H \) lies in the interior of the simply-connected component of \( \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} - C_{d_2}^H \). We will use the notation \( C_i := C_{d_i}^H \). Recall that both catenoids have the same rotational axis, namely the \( t \)-axis, and recall that the mean curvature vector \( H_i \) of \( C_i \) points into the connected component of
Non-properly embedded $H$-planes in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$

$\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} - C_i$ that contains the $t$-axis. We emphasize here that $H$ is fixed and so we will omit describing it in future notations.

Let $\Omega$ be the closed region in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ between $C_1$ and $C_2$, i.e., $\partial \Omega = C_1 \cup C_2$ (Fig. 1-left). Notice that the set of boundary points at infinity $\partial_{\infty} \Omega$ is equal to $S^1_{\infty} \times \{-\infty\} \cup S^1_{\infty} \times \{\infty\}$, i.e., the corner circles in $\partial_{\infty} \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ in the product compactification, where we view $\mathbb{H}^2$ to be the open unit disk $\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 | x^2 + y^2 < 1\}$ with base point the origin $\vec{0}$.

By construction, $\Omega$ is topologically a solid torus. Let $\tilde{\Omega}$ be the universal cover of $\Omega$. Then, $\partial \tilde{\Omega} = \tilde{C}_1 \cup \tilde{C}_2$ (Fig. 1-right), where $\tilde{C}_1, \tilde{C}_2$ are the respective lifts to $\tilde{\Omega}$ of $C_1, C_2$. Notice that $\tilde{C}_1$ and $\tilde{C}_2$ are both $H$-planes, and the mean curvature vector $H$ points outside of $\tilde{\Omega}$ along $\tilde{C}_1$ while $H$ points inside of $\tilde{\Omega}$ along $\tilde{C}_2$. We will use the induced coordinates $(\rho, \tilde{\theta}, t)$ on $\tilde{\Omega}$ where $\tilde{\theta} \in (-\infty, \infty)$. In particular, if

$$\Pi: \tilde{\Omega} \to \Omega$$

is the covering map, then $\Pi(\rho_o, \tilde{\theta}_o, t_o) = (\rho_o, \theta_o, t_o)$ where $\theta_o \equiv \tilde{\theta}_o \mod 2\pi$.

Recalling the definition of $b_i(t), i = 1, 2$, note that a point $(\rho, \theta, t)$ belongs to $\Omega$ if and only if $\rho \in [b_1(t), b_2(t)]$ and we can write

$$\tilde{\Omega} = \{(\rho, \tilde{\theta}, t) | \rho \in [b_1(t), b_2(t)], \tilde{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}, t \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

### 3.2 Infinite bumps in $\tilde{\Omega}$

Let $\gamma$ be the geodesic through the origin in $\mathbb{H}^2_0$ obtained by intersecting $\mathbb{H}^2_0$ with the vertical plane $\{\theta = 0\} \cup \{\theta = \pi\}$. For $s \in [0, \infty)$, let $\varphi_s$ be the orientation preserving hyperbolic isometry of $\mathbb{H}^2_0$ that is the hyperbolic translation along the geodesic $\gamma$ with $\varphi_s(0, 0) = (s, 0)$. Let

$$\hat{\varphi}_s: \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}, \quad \hat{\varphi}_s(\rho, \theta, t) = (\varphi_s(\rho, \theta), t)$$

be the related extended isometry of $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$.  

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Let $C_d$ be an embedded $H$-catenoid as defined in Sect. 2.1. Notice that the rotation axis of the $H$-catenoid $\hat{\varphi}_{s_0}(C_d)$ is the vertical line $\{(s_0, 0, t) \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}$.

Let $\delta \ := \ \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (b_2(t) - b_1(t))$, which gives an upper bound estimate for the asymptotic distance between the catenoids; recall that by our choices of $C_1, C_2$ given in Lemma 2.1, we have $\delta > 0$. Let $\delta_1 = \frac{1}{2} \min\{\delta, \eta_1\}$ and let $\delta_2 = \delta - \frac{\delta_1}{2}$. Let $\hat{C}_1 := \hat{\varphi}_{\delta_1}(C_1)$ and $\hat{C}_2 := \hat{\varphi}_{-\delta_2}(C_2)$. Note that $\delta_1 + \delta_2 > \delta$.

**Claim 3.1** The intersection $\Omega \cap \hat{C}_i$, $i = 1, 2$, is an infinite strip.

**Proof** Given $t \in \mathbb{R}$, let $\mathbb{H}^2$ denote $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \{t\}$. Let $\tau_i^1 := C_i \cap \mathbb{H}^2$ and $\hat{\tau}_i^1 := \hat{C}_i \cap \mathbb{H}^2$. Note that for $i = 1, 2$, $\tau_i^1$ is a circle in $\mathbb{H}^2$ of radius $b_i(t)$ centered at $(0, 0, t)$ while $\hat{\tau}_i^1$ is a circle in $\mathbb{H}^2$ of radius $b_1(t)$ centered at $p_{1,i} := (\delta_1, 0, t)$ and $\hat{\tau}_i^2$ is a circle in $\mathbb{H}^2$ of radius $b_2(t)$ centered at $p_{2,i} := (-\delta_2, 0, t)$. We claim that for any $t \in \mathbb{R}$, the intersection $\hat{\tau}_i^1 \cap \Omega$ is an arc with end points in $\tau_i^1$, $i = 1, 2$. This result would give that $\Omega \cap \hat{C}_i$ is an infinite strip. We next prove this claim.

Consider the case $i = 1$ first. Since $\delta_1 < \eta_1 \leq b_1(t)$, the center $p_{1,i}$ is inside the disk in $\mathbb{H}^2$ bounded by $\tau_i^1$. Since the radii of $\tau_i^1$ and $\hat{\tau}_i^1$ are both equal to $b_1(t)$, then the intersection $\tau_i^1 \cap \hat{\tau}_i^1$ is nonempty. It remains to show that $\hat{\tau}_i^1 \cap \tau_i^2 = \emptyset$, namely that $b_1(t) + \delta_1 < b_2(t)$. This follows because

$$\delta_1 < \delta = \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (b_2(t) - b_1(t)).$$

This argument shows that $\Omega \cap \hat{C}_1$ is an infinite strip.

Consider now the case $i = 2$. Since $\delta_2 < \delta < b_2(t)$, the center $p_{2,i}$ is inside the disk in $\mathbb{H}^2$ bounded by $\tau_i^2$. Since the radii of $\tau_i^2$ and $\hat{\tau}_i^2$ are both equal to $b_2(t)$, then the intersection $\tau_i^2 \cap \hat{\tau}_i^2$ is nonempty. It remains to show that $\tau_i^1 \cap \tau_i^2 = \emptyset$, namely that $b_2(t) - \delta_2 > b_1(t)$. This follows because

$$b_2(t) - b_1(t) \geq \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (b_2(t) - b_1(t)) = \delta > \delta_2$$

This completes the proof that $\Omega \cap \hat{C}_2$ is an infinite strip and finishes the proof of the claim. \[\square\]

Now, let $Y^+ := \Omega \cap \hat{C}_2$ and let $Y^- := \Omega \cap \hat{C}_1$. In light of Claim 3.1 and its proof, we know that $Y^+ \cap C_1 = \emptyset$ and $Y^- \cap C_2 = \emptyset$.

**Fig. 2** The position of the bumps $B^\pm$ in $\hat{\Omega}$ is shown in the picture. The small arrows show the mean curvature vector direction. The $H$-surfaces $\Sigma_n$ are disjoint from the infinite strips $B^\pm$ by construction.
Remark 3.2 Note that by construction, any rotational surface contained in $\Omega$ must intersect $\tilde{C}_1 \cup \tilde{C}_2$. In particular, $Y^+ \cup Y^-$ intersects all $H$-catenoids $C_d$ for $d \in (d_1, d_2)$ as the circles $C_d \cap \mathbb{H}^2_0$ intersect either the circle $\tilde{\tau}^2_1$ or the circle $\tilde{\tau}^2_1$ for some $t > 0$ since $\delta_1 + \delta_2 > \epsilon$.

In $\tilde{\Omega}$, let $B^+$ be the lift of $Y^+$ in $\tilde{\Omega}$ which intersects the slice $\{\tilde{\theta} = -10\pi\}$. Similarly, let $B^-$ be the lift of $Y^-$ in $\tilde{\Omega}$ which intersects the slice $\{\tilde{\theta} = 10\pi\}$. Note that each lift of $Y^+$ or $Y^-$ is contained in a region where the $\tilde{\theta}$ values of their points lie in ranges of the form $(\theta_0 - \pi, \theta_0 + \pi)$ and so $B^+ \cap B^- = \emptyset$. See Fig. 2.

The $H$-surfaces $B^\pm$ near the top and bottom of $\tilde{\Omega}$ will act as barriers (infinite bumps) in the next section, ensuring that the limit $H$-plane of a certain sequence of compact $H$-surfaces does not collapse to an $H$-lamination of $\tilde{\Omega}$ all of whose leaves are invariant under translations in the $\tilde{\theta}$-direction.

Next we modify $\tilde{\Omega}$ as follows. Consider the component of $\tilde{\Omega} - (B^+ \cup B^-)$ containing the slice $\{\tilde{\theta} = 0\}$. From now on we will call the closure of this region $\tilde{\Omega}^*$.

3.3 The compact exhaustion of $\tilde{\Omega}^*$

Consider the rotationally invariant $H$-planes $E_H, -E_H$ described in Sect. 2. Recall that $E_H$ is a graph over the horizontal slice $\mathbb{R}^2_0$ and it is also tangent to $\mathbb{H}^2_0$ at the origin. Given $t \in \mathbb{R}$, let $E_H^t = -E_H + (0, 0, t)$ and $-E_H^t = E_H - (0, 0, t)$. Both families $\{E_H^t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ and $\{-E_H^t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ foliate $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$. Moreover, there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for any $n > n_0$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the following holds. The highest (lowest) component of the intersection $S^+_n := E_H^n \cap \Omega$ ($S^-_n := -E_H^n \cap \Omega$) is a rotationally invariant annulus with boundary components contained in $C_1$ and $C_2$. The annulus $S^+_n$ lies “above” $S^-_n$ and their intersection is empty. The region $U_n$ in $\Omega$ between $S^+_n$ and $S^-_n$ is a solid torus, see Fig. 3-left, and the mean curvature vectors of $S^+_n$ and $S^-_n$ point into $U_n$.

Let $\tilde{U}_n \subset \tilde{\Omega}$ be the universal cover of $U_n$, see Fig. 3-right. Then, $\partial \tilde{U}_n - \partial \Omega = \tilde{S}^+_n \cup \tilde{S}^-_n$ where can view $\tilde{S}^+_n$ as a lift to $\tilde{U}_n$ of the universal cover of the annulus $S^+_n$. Hence,

\[ \tilde{U}_n = \Omega \cap \tilde{U}_n \text{ and } \tilde{U}_n \text{ denotes its universal cover. Note that } \partial \tilde{U}_n \subset \tilde{C}_1 \cup \tilde{C}_2 \cup \tilde{S}^+_n \cup \tilde{S}^-_n \]
\[ \tilde{S}_n^\pm \text{ is an infinite } H\text{-strip in } \tilde{\Omega}, \text{ and the mean curvature vectors of the surfaces } \tilde{S}_n^+, \tilde{S}_n^- \text{ point into } \tilde{U}_n \text{ along } \tilde{S}_n^\pm. \text{ Note that each } \tilde{U}_n \text{ has bounded } t\text{-coordinate. Furthermore, we can view } \tilde{U}_n \text{ as } (U_n \cap \mathcal{P}_0) \times \mathbb{R}, \text{ where } \mathcal{P}_0 \text{ is the half-plane } \{ \theta = 0 \} \text{ and the second coordinate is } \tilde{\theta}. \text{ Abusing the notation, we redefine } \tilde{U}_n \text{ to be } \tilde{U}_n \cap \tilde{\Omega}^*, \text{ that is we have removed the infinite bumps } B^\pm \text{ from } \tilde{U}_n. \]

Now, we will perform a sequence of modifications of \( \tilde{U}_n \) so that for each of these modifications, the \( \tilde{\theta} \)-coordinate in \( \tilde{U}_n \) is bounded and so that we obtain a compact exhaustion of \( \tilde{\Omega}^* \). In order to do this, we will use arguments that are similar to those in Claim 3.1. Recall that the necksize of \( C_2 \) is \( \eta_2 = b_2(0) \). Let \( \tilde{C}_3 = \tilde{\varphi}_{\eta_2}(C_2) \), see equation (3) for the definition of \( \tilde{\varphi}_{\eta_2} \). Then, \( \tilde{C}_3 \) is a rotationally invariant catenoid whose rotational axis is the line \((\eta_2, 0) \times \mathbb{R}\) (Fig. 4-left).

**Lemma 3.3** *The intersection \( \tilde{C}_3 \cap \Omega \) is a pair of infinite strips.*

**Proof** It suffices to show that \( \tilde{C}_3 \cap C_1 \) and \( \tilde{C}_3 \cap C_2 \) each consists of a pair of infinite lines. Now, consider the horizontal circles \( \tau_1^t, \tau_2^t, \) and \( \tau_3^t \) in the intersection of \( \mathbb{H}_t^2 \) and \( C_1, C_2, \) and \( \tilde{C}_3 \) respectively, where \( \mathbb{H}_t^2 = \mathbb{H}_t^2 \times \{t\} \). For any \( t \in \mathbb{R} \), \( \tau_1^t \) is a circle of radius \( b_1(t) \) in \( \mathbb{H}_t^2 \) with center \((0, 0, t)\). Similarly, \( \tau_3^t \) is a circle of radius \( b_2(t) \) in \( \mathbb{H}_t^2 \) with center \((\eta_2, 0, t)\), see Fig. 4-right. Hence, it suffices to show that for any \( t \in \mathbb{R} \) each of the intersection \( \tau_1^t \cap \tilde{\tau}_1^t \) and \( \tau_2^t \cap \tilde{\tau}_2^t \) consists of two points.

By construction, it is easy to see \( \tau_2^t \cap \tilde{\tau}_2^t \) consists of two points. This is because \( \tau_1^t \) and \( \tilde{\tau}_1^t \) have the same radius, \( b_2(t) \) and \( \eta_2 + b_2(t) > b_2(t) \) and \( \eta_2 - b_2(t) > -b_2(t) \). Therefore, it remains to show that \( \tau_1^t \cap \tilde{\tau}_3^t \) consists of two points. By construction, this would be the case if \( \eta_2 - b_2(t) < b_1(t) \) and \( \eta_2 - b_2(t) > -b_1(t) \). The first inequality follows because \( \eta_2 = \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} b_2(t) \). The second inequality follows from Lemma 2.1 because

\[
\eta_2 > \eta_2 - \eta_1 = \sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (b_2(t) - b_1(t)).
\]

\[ \square \]
Now, let $\tilde{C}_3 \cap \Omega = T^+ \cup T^-$, where $T^+$ is the infinite strip with $\theta \in (0, \pi)$, and $T^-$ is the infinite strip with $\theta \in (-\pi, 0)$. Note that $T^\pm$ is a $\theta$-graph over the infinite strip $\tilde{P}_0 = \Omega \cap P_0$ where $P_0$ is the half plane $\{ \theta = 0 \}$. Let $\mathcal{V}$ be the component of $\Omega - \tilde{C}_3$ containing $\tilde{P}_0$. Notice that the mean curvature vector $\mathbf{H}$ of $\partial \mathcal{V}$ points into $\mathcal{V}$ on both $T^+$ and $T^-$. 

Consider the lifts of $T^+$ and $T^-$ in $\tilde{\Omega}$. For $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, let $\tilde{T}^+_n$ be the lift of $T^+$ which belongs to the region $\tilde{\theta} \in (2n\pi, (2n+1)\pi)$. Similarly, let $\tilde{T}^-_n$ be the lift of $T^-$ which belongs to the region $\tilde{\theta} \in ((2n-1)\pi, 2n\pi)$. Let $\mathcal{V}_n$ be the closed region in $\tilde{\Omega}$ between the infinite strips $\tilde{T}^-_n$ and $\tilde{T}^+_n$. Notice that for $n$ sufficiently large, $B^\pm \subset \mathcal{V}_n$.

Next we define the compact exhaustion $\Delta_n$ of $\tilde{\Omega}$ as follows: $\Delta_n := \tilde{U}_n \cap \mathcal{V}_n$. Furthermore, the absolute value of the mean curvature of $\partial \Delta_n$ is equal to $H$ and the mean curvature vector $\mathbf{H}$ of $\partial \Delta_n$ points into $\Delta_n$ on $\partial \Delta_n - [(\partial \Delta_n \cap \tilde{C}_1) \cup B^-]$.

### 3.4 The sequence of $H$-surfaces

We next define a sequence of compact $H$-surfaces $\{\Sigma_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ where $\Sigma_n \subset \Delta_n$. For each $n$ sufficiently large, we define a simple closed curve $\Gamma_n$ in $\partial \Delta_n$, and then we solve the $H$-Plateau problem for $\Gamma_n$ in $\Delta_n$. This will provide an embedded $H$-surface $\Sigma_n$ in $\Delta_n$ with $\partial \Sigma_n = \Gamma_n$ for each $n$.

**The Construction of $\Gamma_n$ in $\partial \Delta_n$**: 

First, consider the annulus $\mathcal{A}_n = \partial \Delta_n - (\tilde{C}_1 \cup \tilde{C}_2 \cup B^+ \cup B^-)$ in $\partial \Delta_n$. Let $\tilde{l}^+_n = \tilde{C}_1 \cap \tilde{T}^+_n$, and $\tilde{l}^-_n = \tilde{C}_2 \cap \tilde{T}^-_n$ be the pair of infinite lines in $\tilde{\Omega}$. Let $l^+_n = \tilde{l}^+_n \cap \mathcal{A}_n$. Let $\mu^+_n$ be an arc in $\tilde{S}^+_n \cap \mathcal{A}_n$, whose $\tilde{\theta}$ and $\rho$ coordinates are strictly increasing as a function of the parameter and whose endpoints are $l^+_n \cap \tilde{S}^+_n$ and $l^-_n \cap \tilde{S}^+_n$ (Fig. 5-left).

Similarly, define $\mu^-_n$ to be a monotone arc in $\tilde{S}^-_n \cap \mathcal{A}_n$ whose endpoints are $l^+_n \cap \tilde{S}^-_n$ and $l^-_n \cap \tilde{S}^-_n$. Note that these arcs $\mu^+_n$ and $\mu^-_n$ are by construction disjoint from the infinite bumps $B^\pm$. Then, $\Gamma_n = \mu^+_n \cup l^+_n \cup \mu^-_n \cup l^-_n$ is a simple closed curve in $\mathcal{A}_n \subset \partial \Delta_n$ (Fig. 5-right).

Next, consider the following variational problem ($H$-Plateau problem): Given the simple closed curve $\Gamma_n$ in $\mathcal{A}_n$, let $M$ be a smooth compact embedded surface in $\Delta_n$ with $\partial M = \Gamma_n$. Since $\Delta_n$ is simply-connected, $M$ separates $\Delta_n$ into two regions. Let $Q$ be the region in $\Delta_n - \Sigma$ with $Q \cap \tilde{C}_2 \neq \emptyset$, the “upper” region. Then define the functional $\mathcal{I}_H = \text{Area}(M) + 2H \text{ Volume}(Q)$.

![Fig. 5](image-url) In the left, $\mu^+_n$ is pictured in $\tilde{S}^+_n$. On the right, the curve $\Gamma_n$ is described in $\partial \Delta_n$.
By working with integral currents, it is known that there exists a smooth (except at the 4 corners of $\Gamma_n$), compact, embedded $H$-surface $\Sigma_n \subset \Delta_n$ with $\text{Int}(\Sigma_n) \subset \text{Int}(\Delta_n)$ and $\partial \Sigma_n = \Gamma_n$. Note that in our setting, $\Delta_n$ is not $H$-mean convex along $\Delta_n \cap \tilde{C}_1$. However, the mean curvature vector along $\Sigma_n$ points outside $Q$ because of the construction of the variational problem. Therefore $\Delta_n \cap \tilde{C}_1$ is still a good barrier for solving the $H$-Plateau problem. In fact, $\Sigma_n$ can be chosen to be, and we will assume it is, a minimizer for this variational problem, i.e., $I(\Sigma_n) \leq I(M)$ for any $M \subset \Delta_n$ with $\partial M = \Gamma_n$; see for instance [12, Theorem 2.1] and [1, Theorem 1]. In particular, the fact that $\text{Int}(\Sigma_n) \subset \text{Int}(\Delta_n)$ is proven in Lemma 3 of [4]. Moreover, $\Sigma_n$ separates $\Delta_n$ into two regions.

Similarly to Lemma 4.1 in [3], in the following lemma we show that for any such $\Gamma_n$, the minimizer surface $\Sigma_n$ is a $\tilde{\theta}$-graph.

**Lemma 3.4** Let $E_n := \mathcal{A}_n \cap \tilde{T}_n^+$. The minimizer surface $\Sigma_n$ is a $\tilde{\theta}$-graph over the compact disk $E_n$. In particular, the related Jacobi function $J_n$ on $\Sigma_n$ induced by the inner product of the unit normal field to $\Sigma_n$ with the Killing field $\partial_{\bar{\theta}}$ is positive in the interior of $\Sigma_n$.

**Proof** The proof is almost identical to the proof of Lemma 4.1 in [3], and for the sake of completeness, we give it here. Let $T_\alpha$ be the isometry of $\tilde{\Omega}$ which is a translation by $\alpha$ in the $\tilde{\theta}$ direction, i.e.,

$$T_\alpha(\rho, \tilde{\theta}, t) = (\rho, \tilde{\theta} + \alpha, t).$$

(4)

Let $T_\alpha(\Sigma_n) = \Sigma'_n$ and $T_\alpha(\Gamma_n) = \Gamma'_n$. We claim that $\Sigma'_n \cap \Sigma_n = \emptyset$ for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ which implies that $\Sigma_n$ is a $\tilde{\theta}$-graph; we will use that $\Gamma'_n$ is disjoint from $\Sigma_n$ for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$.

Arguing by contradiction, suppose that $\Sigma'_n \cap \Sigma_n \neq \emptyset$ for a certain $\alpha \neq 0$. By compactness of $\Sigma_n$, there exists a largest positive number $\alpha'$ such that $\Sigma'_{n'} \cap \Sigma_n \neq \emptyset$. Let $p \in \Sigma'_{n'} \cap \Sigma_n$. Since $\partial \Sigma'_{n'} \cap \partial \Sigma_n = \emptyset$ and the interior of $\Sigma_n$, respectively $\Sigma'_{n'}$, lie in the interior of $\Delta_n$, respectively $T_{\alpha'}(\Delta_n)$, then $p \in \text{Int}(\Sigma'_{n'}) \cap \text{Int}(\Sigma_n)$. Since the surfaces $\text{Int}(\Sigma'_{n'})$, $\text{Int}(\Sigma_n)$ lie on one side of each other and intersect tangentially at the point $p$ with the same mean curvature vector, then we obtain a contradiction to the mean curvature comparison principle for constant mean curvature surfaces, see Proposition 2.2. This proves that $\Sigma_n$ is graphical over its $\tilde{\theta}$-projection to $E_n$.

Since by construction every integral curve, $(\bar{\rho}, s, \bar{t})$ with $\bar{\rho}, \bar{t}$ fixed and $(\bar{\rho}, s_0, \bar{t}) \in E_n$ for a certain $s_0$, of the Killing field $\partial_{\bar{\theta}}$ has non-zero intersection number with any compact surface bounded by $\Gamma_n$, we conclude that every such integral curve intersects both the disk $E_n$ and $\Sigma_n$ in single points. This means that $\Sigma_n$ is a $\tilde{\theta}$-graph over $E_n$ and thus the related Jacobi function $J_n$ on $\Sigma_n$ induced by the inner product of the unit normal field to $\Sigma_n$ with the Killing field $\partial_{\bar{\theta}}$ is non-negative in the interior of $\Sigma_n$. Since $J_n$ is a non-negative Jacobi function, then either $J_n \equiv 0$ or $J_n > 0$. Since by construction $J_n$ is positive somewhere in the interior, then $J_n$ is positive everywhere in the interior. This finishes the proof of the lemma. \(\square\)
4 The proof of Theorem 1.1

With $\Gamma_n$ as previously described, we have so far constructed a sequence of compact stable $H$-disks $\Sigma_n$ with $\partial \Sigma_n = \Gamma_n \subset \partial \Delta_n$. Let $J_n$ be the related non-negative Jacobi function described in Lemma 3.4.

By the curvature estimates for stable $H$-surfaces given in [11], the norms of the second fundamental forms of the $\Sigma_n$ are uniformly bounded from above at points which are at intrinsic distance at least one from their boundaries. Since the boundaries of the $\Sigma_n$ leave every compact subset of $\tilde{\Omega}^*$, for each compact set of $\tilde{\Omega}^*$, the norms of the second fundamental forms of the $\Sigma_n$ are uniformly bounded for values $n$ sufficiently large and such a bound does not depend on the chosen compact set. Standard compactness arguments give that, after passing to a subsequence, $\Sigma_n$ converges to a (weak) $H$-lamination $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ of $\tilde{\Omega}^*$ and the leaves of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ are complete and have uniformly bounded norm of their second fundamental forms, see for instance [5].

Let $\beta$ be a compact embedded arc contained in $\tilde{\Omega}^*$ such that its end points $p_+$ and $p_-$ are contained respectively in $B^+$ and $B^-$, and such that these are the only points in the intersection $[B^+ \cup B^-] \cap \beta$. Then, for $n$-sufficiently large, the linking number between $\Gamma_n$ and $\beta$ is one, which gives that, for $n$ sufficiently large, $\Sigma_n$ intersects $\beta$ in an odd number of points. In particular $\Sigma_n \cap \beta \neq \emptyset$ which implies that the lamination $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ is not empty.

**Remark 4.1** By Remark 3.2, a leaf of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ that is invariant with respect to $\tilde{\theta}$-translations cannot be contained in $\tilde{\Omega}^*$. Therefore none of the leaves of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ are invariant with respect to $\tilde{\theta}$-translations.

Let $\tilde{L}$ be a leaf of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ and let $J_{\tilde{L}}$ be the Jacobi function induced by taking the inner product of $\partial \tilde{\theta}$ with the unit normal of $\tilde{L}$. Then, by the nature of the convergence, $J_{\tilde{L}}(0) \geq 0$ and therefore since it is a Jacobi field, it is either positive or identically zero. In the latter case, $\tilde{L}$ would be invariant with respect to $\theta$-translations, contradicting Remark 4.1. Thus, by Remark 4.1, we have that $J_{\tilde{L}}$ is positive and therefore $\tilde{L}$ is a Killing graph with respect to $\partial \tilde{\theta}$.

**Claim 4.2** Each leaf $\tilde{L}$ of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ is properly embedded in $\tilde{\Omega}^*$.

**Proof** Arguing by contradiction, suppose there exists a leaf $\tilde{L}$ of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ that is NOT proper in $\tilde{\Omega}^*$. Then, since the leaf $\tilde{L}$ has uniformly bounded norm of its second fundamental form, the closure of $\tilde{L}$ in $\tilde{\Omega}^*$ is a lamination of $\tilde{\Omega}^*$ with a limit leaf $\Lambda$, namely $\Lambda \subset \tilde{L} - \tilde{L}$. Let $J_\Lambda$ be the Jacobi function induced by taking the inner product of $\partial \tilde{\theta}$ with the unit normal of $\Lambda$.

Just like in the previous discussion, by the nature of the convergence, $J_\Lambda(0) \geq 0$ and therefore, since it is a Jacobi field, it is either positive or identically zero. In the latter case, $\Lambda$ would be invariant with respect to $\tilde{\theta}$-translations and thus, by Remark 4.1, $\Lambda$ cannot be contained in $\tilde{\Omega}^*$. However, since $\Lambda$ is contained in the closure of $\tilde{L}$, this would imply that $\tilde{L}$ is not contained in $\tilde{\Omega}^*$, giving a contradiction. Thus, $J_\Lambda$ must be positive and therefore, $\Lambda$ is a Killing graph with respect to $\partial \tilde{\theta}$. However, this implies that $\tilde{L}$ cannot be a Killing graph with respect to $\partial \tilde{\theta}$. This follows because if we fix a point $p$ in $\Lambda$ and let $U_p \subset \Lambda$ be neighborhood of such point, then by the nature of
the convergence, \( U_p \) is the limit of a sequence of disjoint domains \( U_{p_n} \) in \( \tilde{\mathcal{L}} \) where \( p_n \in \tilde{L} \) is a sequence of points converging to \( p \) and \( U_{p_n} \subset \tilde{\mathcal{L}} \) is a neighborhood of \( p_n \). While each domain \( U_{p_n} \) is a Killing graph with respect to \( \partial \tilde{\mathcal{G}} \), the convergence to \( U_p \) implies that their union is not. This gives a contradiction and proves that \( \Lambda \) cannot be a Killing graph with respect to \( \partial \tilde{\mathcal{G}} \). Since we have already shown that \( \Lambda \) must be a Killing graph with respect to \( \partial \tilde{\mathcal{G}} \), this gives a contradiction. Thus \( \Lambda \) cannot exist and each leaf \( \tilde{L} \) of \( \tilde{\mathcal{L}} \) is properly embedded in \( \tilde{\Omega}^* \). \( \square \)

Arguing similarly to the proof of the previous claim, it follows that a small perturbation of \( \beta \), which we still denote by \( \beta \) intersects \( \tilde{\Sigma}_n \) and \( \tilde{\mathcal{L}} \) transversally in a finite number of points. Note that \( \tilde{\mathcal{L}} \) is obtained as the limit of \( \Sigma_n \). Indeed, since \( \Sigma_n \) separates \( \mathcal{B}^+ \) and \( \mathcal{B}^- \) in \( \tilde{\Omega}^* \), the algebraic intersection number of \( \beta \) and \( \Sigma_n \) must be one, which implies that \( \beta \) intersects \( \Sigma_n \) in an odd number of points. Then \( \beta \) intersects \( \tilde{\mathcal{L}} \) in an odd number of points and the claim below follows.

**Claim 4.3** The curve \( \beta \) intersects \( \tilde{\mathcal{L}} \) in an odd number of points.

In particular \( \beta \) intersects only a finite collection of leaves in \( \tilde{\mathcal{L}} \) and we let \( \mathcal{F} \) denote the non-empty finite collection of leaves that intersect \( \beta \).

**Definition 4.1** Let \( (\rho_1, \tilde{\theta}_0, t_0) \) be a fixed point in \( \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1 \) and let \( \rho_2(\tilde{\theta}_0, t_0) > \rho_1 \) such that \( (\rho_2(\tilde{\theta}_0, t_0), \tilde{\theta}_0, t_0) \) is in \( \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2 \). Then we call the arc in \( \tilde{\Omega} \) given by

\[
(\rho_1 + s(\rho_2 - \rho_1), \tilde{\theta}_0, t_0), \quad s \in [0, 1].
\]

the vertical line segment based at \( (\rho_1, \tilde{\theta}_0, t_0) \).

**Claim 4.4** There exists at least one leaf \( \tilde{L}_\beta \) in \( \mathcal{F} \) that intersects \( \beta \) in an odd number of points and the leaf \( \tilde{L}_\beta \) must intersect each vertical line segment at least once.

**Proof** The existence of \( \tilde{L}_\beta \) follows because otherwise, if all the leaves in \( \mathcal{F} \) intersected \( \beta \) in an even number of points, then the number of points in the intersection \( \beta \cap \mathcal{F} \) would be even. Given \( \tilde{L}_\beta \) a leaf in \( \mathcal{F} \) that intersects \( \beta \) in an odd number of points, suppose there exists a vertical line segment which does not intersect \( \tilde{L}_\beta \). Then since by Claim 4.2 \( \tilde{L}_\beta \) is properly embedded, using elementary separation arguments would give that the number of points of intersection in \( \beta \cap \tilde{L}_\beta \) must be zero mod 2, that is even, contradicting the previous statement. \( \square \)

Let \( \Pi \) be the covering map defined in equation (2) and let \( \mathcal{P}_H := \Pi(\tilde{L}_\beta) \). The previous discussion and the fact that \( \Pi \) is a local diffeomorphism, implies that \( \mathcal{P}_H \) is a stable complete \( H \)-surface embedded in \( \Omega \). Indeed, \( \mathcal{P}_H \) is a graph over its \( \theta \)-projection to \( \text{Int}(\Omega) \cap \{(\rho, 0, t) \mid \rho > 0, \ t \in \mathbb{R}\} \), which we denote by \( \theta(\mathcal{P}_H) \). Abusing the notation, let \( J_{\mathcal{P}_H} \) be the Jacobi function induced by taking the inner product of \( \partial_\theta \) with the unit normal of \( \mathcal{P}_H \), then \( J_{\mathcal{P}_H} \) is positive. Finally, since the norm of the second fundamental form of \( \mathcal{P}_H \) is uniformly bounded, standard compactness arguments imply that its closure \( \overline{\mathcal{P}_H} \) is an \( H \)-lamination \( \mathcal{L} \) of \( \Omega \), see for instance [5].

**Claim 4.5** The closure of \( \mathcal{P}_H \) is an \( H \)-lamination of \( \Omega \) consisting of itself and two \( H \)-catenoids \( L_1, L_2 \subset \Omega \) that form the limit set of \( \mathcal{P}_H \).
Remark 4.6 Note that these two $H$-catenoids are not necessarily the ones which determine $\partial \Omega$.

Proof. Given $(\rho_1, \tilde{\theta}_0, t_0) \in \tilde{\Omega}_1$, let $\tilde{\gamma}$ be the fixed vertical line segment in $\tilde{\Omega}$ based at $(\rho_1, \tilde{\theta}_0, t_0)$, let $\tilde{p}_0$ be a point in the intersection $\tilde{L}_\beta \cap \tilde{\gamma}$ (recall that by Claim 4.4 such intersection is not empty) and let $p_0 = \Pi(\tilde{p}_0) \in \Pi(\tilde{\gamma}) \cap \mathcal{P}_H$. Then, by Claim 4.4, for any $i \in \mathbb{N}$, the vertical line segment $T_{2\pi i}(\tilde{\gamma})$ intersects $\tilde{L}_\beta$ in at least a point $\tilde{p}_i$, and $\tilde{p}_{i+1}$ is above $\tilde{p}_i$, where $T$ is the translation defined in equation (4). Namely, $\tilde{p}_0 = (r_0, \tilde{\theta}_0, t_0)$, $\tilde{p}_i = (r_i, \tilde{\theta}_0 + 2\pi i, t_0)$ and $r_i < r_{i+1} < \rho_2(\tilde{\theta}_0, t_0)$. The point $\tilde{p}_i \in \tilde{L}_\beta$ corresponds to the point $p_i = \Pi(\tilde{p}_i) = (r_i, \tilde{\theta}_0 \mod 2\pi, t_0) \in \mathcal{P}_H$. Let $r(2) := \lim_{i \to \infty} r_i$ then $r(2) \leq \rho_2(\tilde{\theta}_0, t_0)$ and note that since $\lim_{i \to \infty} (r_{i+1} - r_i) = 0$, then the value of the Jacobi function $J_{\mathcal{P}_H}$ at $p_i$ must be going to zero as $i$ goes to infinity. Clearly, the point $Q := (r(2), \tilde{\theta}_0 \mod 2\pi, t_0) \in \Omega$ is in the closure of $\mathcal{P}_H$, that is $L$. Let $L_2$ be the leaf of $L$ containing $Q$. By the previous discussion $J_{\mathcal{P}_H}(Q) = 0$. Since by the nature of the convergence, either $J_{L_2}$ is positive or $L_2$ is rotational, then $L_2$ is rotational, namely an $H$-catenoid.

Arguing similarly but considering the intersection of $\tilde{L}_\beta$ with the vertical line segments $T_{-2\pi i}(\tilde{\gamma})$, $i \in \mathbb{N}$, one obtains another $H$-catenoid $L_1$, different from $L_2$, in the lamination $L$. This shows that the closure of $\mathcal{P}_H$ contains the two $H$-catenoids $L_1$ and $L_2$.

Let $\Omega_g$ be the rotationally invariant, connected region of $\Omega - [L_1 \cup L_2]$ whose boundary contains $L_1 \cup L_2$. Note that since $\mathcal{P}_H$ is connected and $L_1 \cup L_2$ is contained in its closure, then $\mathcal{P}_H \subset \Omega_g$. It remains to show that $L = \mathcal{P}_H \cup [L_1 \cup L_2]$, i.e. $\overline{\mathcal{P}_H} - \mathcal{P}_H = L_1 \cup L_2$. If $\overline{\mathcal{P}_H} - \mathcal{P}_H \neq L_1 \cup L_2$ then there would be another leaf $L_3 \in L \cap \Omega_g$ and by previous argument, $L_3$ would be an $H$-catenoid. Thus $L_3$ would separate $\Omega_g$ into two regions, contradicting that fact that $\mathcal{P}_H$ is connected and $L_1 \cup L_2$ are contained in its closure. This finishes the proof of the claim.

Note that by the previous claim, $\mathcal{P}_H$ is properly embedded in $\Omega_g$.

Claim 4.7 The $H$-surface $\mathcal{P}_H$ is simply-connected and every integral curve of $\partial_0$ that lies in $\Omega_g$ intersects $\mathcal{P}_H$ in exactly one point.

Proof. Let $D_g := \text{Int}(\Omega_g) \cap \{(\rho, 0, t) \mid \rho > 0, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$, then $\mathcal{P}_H$ is a graph over its $\theta$-projection to $D_g$, that is $\theta(\mathcal{P}_H)$. Since $\theta : \Omega_g \to D_g$ is a proper submersion and $\mathcal{P}_H$ is properly embedded in $\Omega_g$, then $\theta(\mathcal{P}_H) = D_g$, which implies that every integral curve of $\partial_0$ that lies in $\Omega_g$ intersects $\mathcal{P}_H$ in exactly one point. Moreover, since $D_g$ is simply-connected, this gives that $\mathcal{P}_H$ is also simply-connected. This finishes the proof of the claim.

From this claim, it clearly follows that $\Omega_g$ is foliated by $H$-surfaces, where the leaves of this foliation are $L_1$, $L_2$ and the rotated images $\mathcal{P}_H(\theta)$ of $\mathcal{P}_H$ around the $t$-axis by angles $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$. The existence of the examples $\Sigma_H$ in the statement of Theorem 1.1 can easily be proven by using $\mathcal{P}_H$. We set $\Sigma_H = \mathcal{P}_H$, and $C_i = L_i$ for $i = 1, 2$. This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.1.
Appendix: Disjoint $H$-catenoids

In this section, we will show the existence of disjoint $H$-catenoids in $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$. In particular, we will prove Lemma 2.1. Given $H \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ and $d \in [-2H, \infty)$, recall that $\eta_d = \cosh^{-1}(\frac{2dH+\sqrt{1-4H^2+d^2}}{1-4H^2})$ and that $\lambda_d : [\eta_d, \infty) \to [0, \infty)$ is the function defined as follows.

\[
\lambda_d(\rho) = \int_{\eta_d}^{\rho} \frac{d + 2H \cosh r}{\sqrt{\sinh^2 r - (d + 2H \cosh r)^2}} \, dr. \tag{6}
\]

Recall that $\lambda_d(\rho)$ is a monotone increasing function with $\lim_{\rho \to \infty} \lambda_d(\rho) = \infty$ and that $\lambda'_d(\eta_d) = \infty$ when $d \in (-2H, \infty)$. The $H$-catenoid $C^H_d$, $d \in (-2H, \infty)$, is obtained by rotating a generating curve $\hat{\lambda}_d(\rho)$ about the $t$-axis. The generating curve $\hat{\lambda}_d(\rho)$ is obtained by doubling the curve $\lambda(\rho) = \rho$, $\rho \in [\eta_d, \infty)$, with its reflection $\rho \to -\lambda_d(\rho)$, $\rho \in [\eta_d, \infty)$.

Finally, recall that $b_d(t) := \lambda_d^{-1}(t)$ for $t \geq 0$, hence $b_d(0) = \eta_d$, and that abusing the notation $b_d(t) := b_d(-t)$ for $t \leq 0$.

**Lemma 2.1 (Disjoint $H$-catenoids)** Given $d_1 > 2$ there exist $d_0 > d_1$ and $\delta_0 > 0$ such that for any $d_2 \in [d_0, \infty)$ and $t > 0$ then

\[
\inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (b_{d_2}(t) - b_{d_1}(t)) \geq \delta_0.
\]

In particular, the corresponding $H$-catenoids are disjoint, i.e., $C^H_{d_1} \cap C^H_{d_2} = \emptyset$.

Moreover, $b_{d_2}(t) - b_{d_1}(t)$ is decreasing for $t > 0$ and increasing for $t < 0$. In particular,

\[
\sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (b_{d_2}(t) - b_{d_1}(t)) = b_{d_2}(0) - b_{d_1}(0) = \eta_{d_2} - \eta_{d_1}.
\]

**Proof** We begin by introducing the following notations that will be used for the computations in the proof of this lemma,

\[
c := \cosh r = \frac{e^r + e^{-r}}{2}, \quad s := \sinh r = \frac{e^r - e^{-r}}{2}.
\]

Recall that $c^2 - s^2 = 1$ and $c - s = e^{-r}$. Using these notations,

\[
\lambda_d(\rho) = \int_{\eta_d}^{\rho} \frac{d + 2H \cosh r}{\sqrt{\sinh^2 r - (d + 2H \cosh r)^2}} \, dr. \tag{7}
\]

can be rewritten as

\[
\lambda_d(\rho) = \int_{\eta_d}^{\rho} \frac{d + 2H(s + e^{-r})}{\sqrt{s^2 - (d + 2Hc)^2}} \, dr = f_d(\rho) + J_d(\rho), \tag{8}
\]
where

\[ f_d(\rho) = \int_{\rho_0}^{\rho} \frac{2Hs}{\sqrt{s^2 - (d + 2Hc)^2}} \, dr \quad \text{and} \quad J_d(\rho) = \int_{\rho_0}^{\rho} \frac{d + 2He^{-r}}{\sqrt{s^2 - (d + 2Hc)^2}} \, dr \]

First, by using a series of substitutions, we will get an explicit description of \( f_d(\rho) \). Then, we will show that for \( d > 2 \), \( J_d(\rho) \) is bounded independently of \( \rho \) and \( d \).

Claim 4.8

\[ f_d(\rho) = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \cosh^{-1} \left( \frac{(1 - 4H^2) \cosh \rho - 2dH}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}} \right). \quad (9) \]

Remark 4.9 After finding \( f_d(\rho) \), we used Wolfram Alpha to compute the derivative of \( f_d(\rho) \) and verify our claim. For the sake of completeness, we give a proof.

Proof of Claim 4.8 The proof is a computation with requires several integrations by substitution. Consider

\[ \int \frac{2Hs}{\sqrt{s^2 - (d + 2Hc)^2}} \, dr \]

By using the fact that \( s^2 = c^2 - 1 \) and applying the substitution \( \{u = c, \, du = \frac{dc}{dr} \, dr = sdr\} \) we obtain that

\[ \int \frac{2Hs}{\sqrt{s^2 - (d + 2Hc)^2}} \, dr = \int \frac{2H}{\sqrt{u^2 - 1 - (d + 2Hu)^2}} \, du. \]

Note that

\[
\begin{align*}
& u^2 - 1 - (d + 2Hu)^2 = u^2 - 1 - (d^2 + 4dHu + 4H^2u^2) \\
& = (1 - 4H^2)u^2 - 4dHu - d^2 - 1 \\
& = (1 - 4H^2) \left[ \left( u - \frac{2dH}{1 - 4H^2} \right)^2 - \frac{4d^2H^2}{(1 - 4H^2)^2} + \frac{d^2 + 1}{1 - 4H^2} \right] \\
& = (1 - 4H^2) \left[ \left( u - \frac{2dH}{(1 - 4H^2)} \right)^2 - \frac{4d^2H^2 + (1 - 4H^2)(d^2 + 1)}{(1 - 4H^2)^2} \right] \\
& = (1 - 4H^2) \left[ \left( u - \frac{2dH}{(1 - 4H^2)} \right)^2 - \frac{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}{(1 - 4H^2)^2} \right].
\end{align*}
\]
Therefore, by applying a second substitution, \( w = u - \frac{2dH}{(1-4H^2)}, dw = du \), and letting \( a^2 = \left( \frac{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}{(1-4H^2)^2} \right) \) we get that

\[
\int \frac{2H}{\sqrt{u^2 - 1 - (d + 2Hu)^2}} \, du = \int \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \, dw
\]

By using the fact that \( \sec^2 x - 1 = \tan^2 x \) and applying a third substitution, \( w = a \sec t, dw = a \sec t \tan t \, dt \), we obtain that

\[
\int \frac{2Ha \sec t \tan t}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2} \sqrt{a^2 \sec^2 t - a^2}} \, dt = \int \frac{2H \sec t}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \, dt = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \ln |\sec t + \tan t|
\]

Therefore

\[
\int \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2} \sqrt{w^2 - a^2}} \, dw = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \ln \left| \frac{w}{a} + \sqrt{\frac{w^2}{a^2} - 1} \right| = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \cosh^{-1} \left( \frac{w}{a} \right)
\]

Since \( w = u - \frac{2dH}{(1-4H^2)} \), then

\[
\int \frac{2H}{\sqrt{u^2 - 1 - (d + 2Hu)^2}} \, du = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \cosh^{-1} \left( \frac{u - 2dH}{(1-4H^2)} \right)
\]

Finally, since \( u = \cosh r \)

\[
\int_{\eta_0}^{\rho} \frac{2Hs}{\sqrt{s^2 - (d + 2Hc)^2}} \, ds = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \cosh^{-1} \left( \frac{1 - 4H^2 \cosh r - 2dH}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}} \right) \bigg|_{\eta_0}^{\rho}
\]

\[
= \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \left( \cosh^{-1} \left( \frac{1 - 4H^2 \cosh \rho - 2dH}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}} \right) - \cosh^{-1} \left( \frac{1 - 4H^2 \cosh \eta_0 - 2dH}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}} \right) \right)
\]
Recall that $\eta_d = \cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{2dH + \sqrt{1 - 4H^2 + d^2}}{1 - 4H^2}\right)$ and thus

$$
\frac{(1 - 4H^2) \cosh \eta_d - 2dH}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}} = \frac{(1 - 4H^2)(\frac{2dH + \sqrt{1 - 4H^2 + d^2}}{1 - 4H^2}) - 2dH}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}} = 1.
$$

This implies that

$$f_d(\rho) = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{(1 - 4H^2) \cosh \rho - 2dH}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}}\right).$$

By Claim 4.8 we have that

$$f_d(\rho) = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \left(\cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{(1 - 4H^2) \cosh \rho - 2dH}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}}\right)\right) = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \left(\rho + \ln \frac{1 - 4H^2}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}}\right) + g_d(\rho),$$

where $\lim_{\rho \to \infty} g_d(\rho) = 0$.

Recall that $\lambda_d(\rho) = f_d(\rho) + J_d(\rho)$ where

$$J_d(\rho) = \int_{\eta_d}^{\rho} \frac{d + 2He^{-r}}{\sqrt{s^2 - (d + 2Hc)^2}} \, dr = \int_{\eta_d}^{\rho} \frac{d + 2He^{-r}}{\sqrt{c^2 - 1 - (d + 2Hc)^2}} \, dr.$$

**Claim 4.10**

$$\sup_{d \in (2, \infty), \rho \in (\eta_d, \infty)} J_d(\rho) \leq \pi \sqrt{1 - 2H}.$$

**Proof of Claim 4.10** Let

$$\alpha = \frac{2dH + \sqrt{1 - 4H^2 + d^2}}{1 - 4H^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = \frac{2dH - \sqrt{1 - 4H^2 + d^2}}{1 - 4H^2}$$

be the roots of $c^2 - 1 - (d + 2Hc)^2$, i.e.

$$c^2 - 1 - (d + 2Hc)^2 = (1 - 4H^2) \left(\frac{c^2}{1 - 4H^2} - \frac{4dH}{1 - 4H^2}c - \frac{1 + d^2}{1 - 4H^2}\right) = (1 - 4H^2)(c - \alpha)(c - \beta).$$
Note that \( \alpha = \cosh \eta_d \) and that as \( H \in (0, \frac{1}{2}) \), \( \beta < 0 < \alpha \). Furthermore, \( 2He^{-r} < 2H < 1 < d \). Thus we have,

\[
J_d(\rho) = \int_{\eta_d}^{\rho} \frac{d + 2He^{-r}}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}\sqrt{(c - \alpha)(c - \beta)}}
\]

\[
< \frac{2d}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \int_{\eta_d}^{\infty} \frac{dr}{\sqrt{(c - \alpha)(c - \beta)}}
\]

\[
< \frac{2d}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}\sqrt{\alpha - \beta}} \int_{\eta_d}^{\infty} \frac{dr}{\sqrt{c - \alpha}}
\]

where the last inequality holds because for \( r > \eta_d \), \( \cosh r > \alpha \) and thus \( \sqrt{\alpha - \beta} < \sqrt{c - \alpha} \). Notice that \( \alpha - \beta = 2\sqrt{1 - 4H^2 + d^2} > 2\frac{d}{1 - 4H^2} \). Therefore

\[
\frac{2d}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}\sqrt{\alpha - \beta}} < \frac{2d}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \frac{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}}{\sqrt{2d}} = \sqrt{2d}
\]

and

\[
J_d(\rho) < \sqrt{2d} \int_{\eta_d}^{\infty} \frac{dr}{\sqrt{c - \alpha}}.
\]

Applying the substitution \( \{ u = c - \alpha, du = sdr = \sqrt{(u + \alpha)^2 - 1} dr \} \), we obtain that

\[
\int_{\eta_d}^{\infty} \frac{dr}{\sqrt{c - \alpha}} = \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{du}{\sqrt{u}\sqrt{(u + \alpha)^2 - 1}} = (10)
\]

Let \( \omega = \alpha - 1 \). Note that since \( d \geq 1 \) then \( \alpha > 1 \) and we have that \( (u + \alpha)^2 - 1 > (u + \omega)^2 \) as \( u > 0 \). This gives that

\[
\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{du}{\sqrt{u}\sqrt{(u + \alpha)^2 - 1}} < \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{du}{\sqrt{u}(u + \omega)}
\]

Applying the substitution \( \{ v = \sqrt{u}, dv = \frac{du}{2\sqrt{u}} \} \) we get

\[
\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{du}{\sqrt{u}(u + \omega)} = \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{2dv}{v^2 + \omega} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\omega}} \arctan \frac{w}{\sqrt{\omega}} \bigg|_{0}^{\infty} < \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{\omega}}
\]

and thus

\[
J_d(\rho) < \sqrt{\frac{2d}{\omega}} \pi.
\]
Note that

\[
\omega = \alpha - 1 = \frac{2dH + \sqrt{1 - 4H^2} + d^2}{1 - 4H^2} - 1
\]

\[
> \frac{(1 + 2H)d}{1 - 4H^2} - 1 = \frac{d}{1 - 2H} - 1.
\]

Since \(d > 2\), we have \(2\omega > \frac{d}{1 - 2H}\) and \(\frac{d}{\omega} < 2(1 - 2H)\). Then \(\sqrt{\frac{2d}{\omega}} < 2\sqrt{1 - 2H}\).

Finally, this gives that

\[
J_d(\rho) < 2\pi \sqrt{1 - 2H}
\]

independently on \(d > 2\) and \(\rho > \eta_d\). This finishes the proof of the claim. \(\square\)

Using Claims 4.8 and 4.10, we can now prove the next claim.

**Claim 4.11** Given \(d_2 > d_1 > 2\) there exists \(T \in \mathbb{R}\) such for any \(t > T\), we have that

\[
\frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} (\lambda_{d_2}^{-1}(t) - \lambda_{d_1}^{-1}(t))
\]

\[
> \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{d_2^2 + 1 - 4H^2}{d_1^2 + 1 - 4H^2}\right) - 2\pi \sqrt{1 - 2H}.
\]

**Proof of Claim 4.11** Recall that \(\lambda_d(\rho) = f_d(\rho) + J_d(\rho)\) and that by Claims 4.8 and 4.10 we have that

\[
f_d(\rho) = \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \left(\rho + \ln \frac{1 - 4H^2}{\sqrt{d^2 + 1 - 4H^2}}\right) + g_d(\rho),
\]

where \(\lim_{\rho \to \infty} g_d(\rho) = 0\), and that

\[
\sup_{d \in (2, \infty), \rho \in (\eta_d, \infty)} J_d(\rho) \leq 2\pi \sqrt{1 - 2H}.
\]

Let \(\rho_i(t) := \lambda_{d_i}^{-1}(t), i = 1, 2\). Using this notation, since \(t = \lambda_1(\rho_1(t)) = \lambda_2(\rho_2(t))\) we obtain that

\[
0 = \lambda_2(\rho_2(t)) - \lambda_1(\rho_1(t))
\]

\[
= f_{d_2}(\rho_2(t)) + J_{d_2}(\rho_2(t)) - f_{d_1}(\rho_1(t)) - J_{d_1}(\rho_1(t))
\]

\[
= \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \left(\rho_2(t) + \ln \frac{1 - 4H^2}{\sqrt{d_2^2 + 1 - 4H^2}}\right) + g_{d_2}(\rho_2(t)) + J_{d_2}(\rho_2(t))
\]

\[
- \frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}} \left(\rho_1(t) - \ln \frac{1 - 4H^2}{\sqrt{d_1^2 + 1 - 4H^2}}\right) - g_{d_1}(\rho_1(t)) - J_{d_1}(\rho_1(t))
\]
Recall that \( \lim_{t \to \infty} \rho_i(t) = \infty, i = 1, 2 \), therefore given \( \varepsilon > 0 \) there exists \( T_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R} \) such that for any \( t > T_\varepsilon \), \( |g_{d_i}(\rho_i(t))| \leq \varepsilon \). Taking
\[
4\varepsilon < \ln \frac{d_2^2 + 1 - 4H^2}{d_1^2 + 1 - 4H^2}
\]
for \( t > T_\varepsilon \) we get that
\[
\frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}}(\rho_2(t) - \rho_1(t)) > \ln \frac{d_2^2 + 1 - 4H^2}{d_1^2 + 1 - 4H^2} + J_{d_1}(\rho_1(t)) - J_{d_2}(\rho_2(t)) - 2\varepsilon
\]
\[
> \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{d_2^2 + 1 - 4H^2}{d_1^2 + 1 - 4H^2} + J_{d_1}(\rho_1(t)) - J_{d_2}(\rho_2(t)).
\]
Notice that \( J_{d_1}(\rho_1(t)) > 0 \) and that Claim 4.10 gives that
\[
\sup_{\rho \in (\eta d_2, \infty)} J_{d_2}(\rho) \leq 2\pi \sqrt{1 - 2H}.
\]
Therefore
\[
\frac{2H}{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}}(\rho_2(t) - \rho_1(t)) > \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{d_2^2 + 1 - 4H^2}{d_1^2 + 1 - 4H^2} - 2\pi \sqrt{1 - 2H}.
\]
This finishes the proof of the claim.

We can now use Claim 4.11 to finish the proof of the lemma. Given \( d_1 > 2 \) fix \( d_0 > d_1 \) such that
\[
\frac{\sqrt{1 - 4H^2}}{4H} \left( \ln \frac{d_0^2 + 1 - 4H^2}{d_1^2 + 1 - 4H^2} - 4\pi \sqrt{1 - 2H} \right) = 1.
\]
Then, by Claim 4.11, given \( d_2 \geq d_0 \) there exists \( T > 0 \) such that \( \lambda_{d_2}^{-1}(t) - \lambda_{d_1}^{-1}(t) > 1 \) for any \( t > T \). Notice that since for any \( \rho \in (\eta_2, \infty), \lambda'_{d_2}(\rho) > \lambda'_{d_1}(\rho) \), then there exists at most one \( t_0 > 0 \) such that \( \lambda_{d_2}^{-1}(t_0) - \lambda_{d_1}^{-1}(t_0) = 0 \). Therefore, since there exists \( T > 0 \) such that \( \lambda_{d_2}^{-1}(t) - \lambda_{d_2}^{-1}(t) > 1 \) for any \( t > T \) and \( \lambda_{d_2}^{-1}(0) - \lambda_{d_1}^{-1}(0) = \eta_{d_2} - \eta_{d_1} > 0 \), this implies that there exists a constant \( \delta(d_2) > 0 \) such that for any \( t > 0 \),
\[
\lambda_{d_2}^{-1}(t) - \lambda_{d_1}^{-1}(t) > \delta(d_2).
\]
A priori it could happen that \( \lim_{d_2 \to \infty} \delta(d_2) = 0 \). The fact that \( \lim_{d_2 \to \infty} \delta(d_2) > 0 \) follows easy by noticing that by applying Claim 4.11 and using the same arguments as in the previous paragraph there exists \( d_3 > d_0 \) such that for any \( d \geq d_3 \) and \( t > 0 \),

\[
\lambda_d^{-1}(t) - \lambda_{d_0}^{-1}(t) > 0.
\]

Therefore, for any \( d \geq d_3 \) and \( t > 0 \),

\[
\lambda_d^{-1}(t) - \lambda_{d_1}^{-1}(t) > \lambda_{d_0}^{-1}(t) - \lambda_{d_1}^{-1}(t) > \delta(d_0)
\]

which implies that

\[
\lim_{d_2 \to \infty} \delta(d_2) \geq \delta(d_0) > 0.
\]

Setting \( \delta_0 = \inf_{d \in [d_0, \infty)} \delta(d_2) > 0 \) gives that

\[
\inf_{t \in \mathbb{R} \geq 0} (\lambda_{d_2}^{-1}(t) - \lambda_{d_1}^{-1}(t)) \geq \delta_0.
\]

By definition of \( b_d(t) \) then

\[
\inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (b_{d_2}(t) - b_{d_1}(t)) = \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R} \geq 0} (\lambda_{d_2}^{-1}(t) - \lambda_{d_1}^{-1}(t)) \geq \delta_0.
\]

It remains to prove that \( b_2(t) - b_1(t) \) is decreasing for \( t > 0 \) and increasing for \( t < 0 \). By definition of \( b_d(t) \), it suffices to show that \( b_2(t) - b_1(t) \) is decreasing for \( t > 0 \). We are going to show \( \frac{d}{dt}(b_2(t) - b_1(t)) < 0 \) when \( t > 0 \).

By definition of \( b_1 \), for \( t > 0 \) we have that \( \lambda_1(b_1(t)) = t \) and thus \( b_1'(t) = \frac{1}{\lambda_1'(b_1(t))} \).

By definition of \( \lambda_d(t) \) for \( t > 0 \) the following holds,

\[
b_1'(t) = \frac{1}{\lambda_1'(b_1(t))} > \frac{1}{\lambda_1'(b_2(t))} > \frac{1}{\lambda_2'(b_2(t))} = b_2'(t).
\]

The first inequality is due to the convexity of the function \( \lambda_1(t) \) and the second inequality is due to the fact that \( \lambda_1'(\rho) < \lambda_2'(\rho) \) for any \( \rho > \eta_2 \). This proves that \( \frac{d}{dt}(b_2(t) - b_1(t)) = b_2'(t) - b_1'(t) < 0 \) for \( t > 0 \) and finishes the proof of the claim.

\[ \square \]

Note that if \( d \) is sufficiently close to \(-2H\) then \( C^H_d \) must be unstable. This follows because as \( d \) approaches \(-2H\), the norm of the second fundamental form of \( C^H_d \) becomes arbitrarily large at points that approach the “origin” of \( \mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \) and a simple rescaling argument gives that a sequence of subdomains of \( C^H_d \) converge to a catenoid, which is an unstable minimal surface. This observation, together with our previous lemma suggests the following conjecture.

**Conjecture:** Given \( H \in (0, \frac{1}{2}) \) there exists \( d_H > -2H \) such that the following holds. For any \( d > d' > d_H \), \( C^H_d \cap C^H_{d'} = \emptyset \), and the family \( \{C^H_d \mid d \in [d_H, \infty)\} \) gives a
foliation of the closure of the non-simply-connected component of $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R} - C^H_{d_H}$. The $H$-catenoid $C^H_{d_H}$ is unstable if $d \in (-2H, d_H)$ and stable if $d \in (d_H, \infty)$. The $H$-catenoid $C^H_{d_H}$ is a stable-unstable catenoid.

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References