

CONFORMALLY HOMEOMORPHIC LORENTZ SURFACES NEED NOT BE CONFORMALLY DIFFEOMORPHIC

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ABSTRACT. A Lorentz surface \mathcal{L} is an ordered pair $(S, [h])$ where S is an oriented C^∞ 2-manifold and $[h]$ the set of all C^∞ metrics conformally equivalent to a fixed C^∞ Lorentzian metric h on S . (Thus Lorentz surfaces are the indefinite metric analogs of Riemann surfaces.) This paper describes subsets of the Minkowski 2-plane which are conformally homeomorphic, but not even C^1 conformally diffeomorphic. It also describes subsets of the Minkowski 2-plane which are C^j but not C^{j+1} conformally diffeomorphic for any fixed $j = 1, 2, \dots$. Finally, the paper describes a Lorentz surface conformally homeomorphic to a subset of the Minkowski 2-plane, but not C^1 conformally diffeomorphic to any subset of the Minkowski 2-plane.

1. INTRODUCTION

A Lorentz surface is the indefinite metric analog of a Riemann surface. In a landmark paper [1], Kulkarni defined the conformal boundary of any simply connected surface with Lorentzian metric. The results in [1] made clear that Lorentz surfaces deserve a name of their own, reflecting the amazing similarities and contrasts of their properties with those of Riemann surfaces. To provide a proper context for the result announced in the title of this paper, some background is required. For a more thorough treatment of this material, see [3].

A Lorentz surface \mathcal{L} is an ordered pair $(S, [h])$ where S is an oriented C^∞ surface and $[h]$ the set of all metrics on S conformally equivalent to a fixed indefinite C^∞ metric h on S . Conformal equivalence $h \sim \hat{h}$ of two C^∞ metrics h and \hat{h} on S is taken in the strict sense that $\hat{h} = \lambda h$ for some positive C^∞ function λ on S . Thus, indefinite C^∞ metrics are conformally equivalent iff they identify the same sets of spacelike, timelike and null vectors in each tangent space S_p .

Any indefinite C^∞ metric h on S determines a pair of C^∞ null direction fields X, Y naturally ordered by requiring that arbitrarily small rotations in the positive sense of the direction X_p (resp. Y_p) assigned by X (resp. Y) at any point p on S take X_p (resp. Y_p) to a spacelike (resp. timelike) position in

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S_p . Conformally equivalent indefinite C^∞ metrics determine the same ordered pair of null direction fields. Thus any Lorentz surface $\mathcal{L} = (S, [h])$ possesses a naturally ordered pair X, Y of C^∞ null direction fields.

Available anywhere on S for an indefinite C^∞ metric h are local C^∞ null coordinates x, y in terms of which $h = 2Fdx dy$ for some C^∞ function $F \neq 0$. We assume that all null coordinates x, y are chosen so as to respect not only the orientation on S , but the ordering of the null direction fields X, Y for h as well, so that $\partial/\partial x$ lies along X and $\partial/\partial y$ along Y . (This amounts to assuming that $F > 0$ above.) Since null coordinates x, y for h are also null for any $\hat{h} \sim h$, null coordinates are locally available anywhere on a Lorentz surface $\mathcal{L} = (S, [h])$.

We call Lorentz surfaces $\mathcal{L} = (S, [h])$ and $\hat{\mathcal{L}} = (\hat{S}, [\hat{h}])$ conformally diffeomorphic (or C^∞ conformally diffeomorphic) and write $\mathcal{L} \sim \hat{\mathcal{L}}$ iff there is an orientation-preserving C^∞ diffeomorphism F from S onto \hat{S} with $F^*\hat{h} \sim h$. The condition $F^*\hat{h} \sim h$ can be replaced by the requirement that dF take the ordered pair of null direction fields X, Y on \mathcal{L} to the ordered pair of null direction fields \hat{X}, \hat{Y} on $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$, or (equivalently) that F take the family \mathcal{X} (resp. \mathcal{Y}) of maximal C^∞ integral curves of X (resp. Y) onto the family $\hat{\mathcal{X}}$ (resp. $\hat{\mathcal{Y}}$) of maximal C^∞ integral curves of \hat{X} (resp. \hat{Y}). One can also replace the condition $F^*\hat{h} \sim h$ by the requirement that F be locally expressible in terms of null coordinates x, y for h and \hat{x}, \hat{y} for \hat{h} by C^∞ functions $\hat{x} = f(x)$ and $\hat{y} = g(y)$ with $f'(x)g'(y) > 0$. However one frames the definition, F is called a conformal diffeomorphism (or a C^∞ conformal diffeomorphism) from \mathcal{L} onto $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$.

We call Lorentz surfaces $\mathcal{L} = (S, [h])$ and $\hat{\mathcal{L}} = (\hat{S}, [\hat{h}])$ C^j conformally diffeomorphic for $j = 1, 2, \dots$ (resp. conformally homeomorphic) and write $\mathcal{L} \sim_j \hat{\mathcal{L}}$ (resp. $\mathcal{L} \sim_0 \hat{\mathcal{L}}$) iff there is an orientation-preserving C^j diffeomorphism (resp. an orientation-preserving homeomorphism) F from S onto \hat{S} which takes each \mathcal{X} curve to an $\hat{\mathcal{X}}$ curve and each \mathcal{Y} curve to a $\hat{\mathcal{Y}}$ curve. Equivalently, one can require that F be locally expressible in terms of null coordinates x, y for h and \hat{x}, \hat{y} for \hat{h} by C^j (resp. C^0) functions $\hat{x} = f(x)$ and $\hat{y} = g(y)$ so that $f'(x)g'(y) > 0$ (resp. so that f and g are both strictly increasing or both strictly decreasing). However one frames the definition, F is called a C^j conformal diffeomorphism (resp. a conformal homeomorphism) from \mathcal{L} onto $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$.

To establish the claim in the title, we describe simply connected subsets of the Minkowski 2-plane E_1^2 which are conformally homeomorphic but not even C^1 conformally diffeomorphic. In addition, we describe for any $j = 1, 2, \dots$ simply connected subsets of E_1^2 which are C^j but not C^{j+1} conformally diffeomorphic. Finally, we define a Lorentz surface which is conformally homeomorphic to a subset of E_1^2 , but not even C^1 diffeomorphic to any subset of E_1^2 .

2. MORE BACKGROUND

Following [1], we work with a conformal model of E_1^2 defined by using the metric $dx dy$ on the (x, y) -plane. We make no symbolic distinction between E_1^2 and the Lorentz surface $((x, y)$ -plane, $[dx dy])$ which it determines.

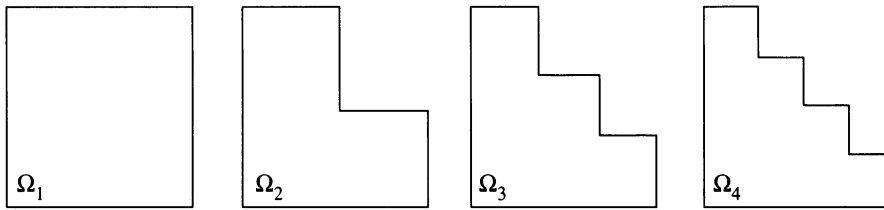


FIGURE 1

Suppose a Lorentz surface $\mathcal{L} = (S, [h])$ is simply connected (which means that S is simply connected). Then S is C^∞ diffeomorphic to the 2-plane, and each curve in \mathcal{X} or \mathcal{Y} is a C^∞ proper imbedding of the real line in S . Moreover, no two distinct curves in \mathcal{X} (or in \mathcal{Y}) intersect, while an \mathcal{X} curve intersects a \mathcal{Y} curve in at most one point.

Any point on an arbitrary Lorentz surface \mathcal{L} lies on exactly one curve from \mathcal{X} and one from \mathcal{Y} (modulo C^∞ reparametrization). The span $\text{sp}(\gamma)$ of a curve γ in \mathcal{X} (resp. \mathcal{Y}) is the set of all points on all curves in \mathcal{Y} (resp. \mathcal{X}) which intersect γ . Note that γ always lies in $\text{sp}(\gamma)$. Though the span $\text{sp}(\gamma)$ for a curve in \mathcal{X} or \mathcal{Y} on a simply connected Lorentz surface must be conformally homeomorphic to a subset of E_1^2 (see [3]), we show in Theorem 3 that such a span $\text{sp}(\gamma)$ need not be C^1 conformally diffeomorphic to a subset of E_1^2 .

As foundation for the results to follow, we describe in Lemma 1 a sequence of examples which confirm the observation in [1] that there are infinitely many simply connected Lorentz surfaces, no two of which are conformally homeomorphic. This contrasts sharply with the existence of exactly three conformally distinct simply connected Riemann surfaces.

Consider the regions Ω_k in the (x, y) -plane suggested by Figure 1. We think of Ω_k as a flight of k steps for each $k = 0, 1, \dots$. Let $\mathcal{L}_k = (\Omega_k, [dxdy])$ so that curves in \mathcal{X} (resp. \mathcal{Y}) are maximal horizontal (resp. vertical) line segments in Ω_k . We have the following elementary fact.

Lemma 1. $\mathcal{L}_k \sim_0 \mathcal{L}_j$ iff $k = j$.

Proof. The number of distinct sets $\text{sp}(\gamma)$ on S for all curves γ in \mathcal{X} on any one Lorentz surface $\mathcal{L} = (S, [h])$ is invariant under conformal homeomorphism. Since \mathcal{L}_k has exactly k distinct sets $\text{sp}(\gamma)$ for all curves γ in \mathcal{X} , the lemma follows. \square

One further example deserves mention. Let $\mathcal{L}_\infty = (S_\infty, [h])$ where S_∞ is the universal cover of the (x, y) -plane punctured at the origin and h is the lift of the metric $dxdy$ to S_∞ . As shown in [1], \mathcal{L}_∞ is not conformally homeomorphic to any subset of E_1^2 .

3. RESULTS

Let $\mathcal{L} = (R, [dxdy])$ where R is the open region in the (x, y) -plane bounded by $x \equiv 1$, $y \equiv 0$ and the graph of a strictly increasing continuous function $y = f(x)$ on $[0, 1]$ with $f(0) = 0$ and $f(1) = 1$. Let $\hat{\mathcal{L}} = (\hat{R}, [d\hat{x}d\hat{y}])$ where \hat{R} is the open triangular region in the (\hat{x}, \hat{y}) -plane bounded by $\hat{x} \equiv 1$, $\hat{y} \equiv 0$ and $\hat{y} = \hat{x}$. Lemma 2 expands a result from [2]. It can be thought of as a C^k "flattening lemma" for $k = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$.

Lemma 2. $\mathcal{L} \sim_0 \hat{\mathcal{L}}$, and if $y = f(x)$ is also C^j with $f'(x) > 0$ on $(0, 1)$ for $j = 1, 2, \dots, \infty$, then $\mathcal{L} \sim_j \hat{\mathcal{L}}$.

Proof. The map which takes any point (x, y) in R to the point (\hat{x}, \hat{y}) in \hat{R} with $\hat{x} = f(x)$ and $\hat{y} = y$ establishes the result. \square

Keeping the same notation, we have the following result.

Theorem 1. If $y = f(x)$ is not C^k with $f'(x) > 0$ on $(0, 1)$ for some $k = 1, 2, \dots$, then $\mathcal{L} \sim_k \hat{\mathcal{L}}$ fails.

Proof. Assume that $y = f(x)$ is not C^k with $f'(x) > 0$ on $(0, 1)$, but that F is a C^k conformal diffeomorphism from \mathcal{L} onto $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$. Then F takes any horizontal (resp. vertical) line segment γ in R onto a horizontal (resp. vertical) line segment $F(\gamma)$ in \hat{R} , so that rectangles in R with sides parallel to the coordinate axes are taken by F to the same sort of rectangles in \hat{R} . Thus, if a horizontal line segment γ_1 in R and a vertical line segment γ_2 in R share an endpoint on the graph of $y = f(x)$ for $0 < x < 1$, then $F(\gamma_1)$ and $F(\gamma_2)$ must share an endpoint on $\hat{y} = \hat{x}$ for $0 < \hat{x} < 1$.

It follows that F has a unique extension to a one-one continuous map \bar{F} from the closure of R which takes each endpoint of a maximal horizontal or vertical line segment γ in R to the corresponding endpoint of $F(\gamma)$, so that $(0, 0)$ goes to $(0, 0)$, $(1, 0)$ to $(1, 0)$ and $(1, 1)$ to $(1, 1)$. For any point $p = (x_0, 0)$ with $0 < x_0 < 1$, let $\bar{F}(p) = (\alpha(x_0), 0)$. For any point $p = (1, y_0)$ with $0 < y_0 < 1$, let $\bar{F}(p) = (1, \beta(y_0))$. We conclude that the C^k conformal diffeomorphism F takes any point (x, y) in R to the point (\hat{x}, \hat{y}) in \hat{R} with $\hat{x} = \alpha(x)$ and $\hat{y} = \beta(y)$, which means that α and β are both C^k with positive first derivative on $(0, 1)$. In fact, F is the restriction to R of a C^k conformal diffeomorphism from $(0, 1) \times (0, 1)$ onto $(0, 1) \times (0, 1)$ which takes (x, y) to $(\alpha(x), \beta(y))$.

But since F takes the graph of $y = f(x)$ for $0 < x < 1$ onto the portion of $\hat{y} = \hat{x}$ with $0 < \hat{x} < 1$, we have

$$(1) \quad \beta(y) = \alpha(f^{-1}(y))$$

so that $f^{-1}(y) = \alpha^{-1}(\beta(y))$ for $0 < y < 1$. As the composition of two C^k functions with positive first derivatives, f^{-1} must be C^k with positive first derivative on $(0, 1)$, a contradiction. \square

Together, Lemma 2 and Theorem 1 establish the claim in the title of the paper, and provide Lorentz surfaces \mathcal{L} and $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ which are C^j but not C^{j+1} conformally diffeomorphic for each $j = 1, 2, \dots$. Formula (1) and the argument proving Theorem 1 show that any conformal homeomorphism F from $\mathcal{L} = (R, [dx dy])$ onto $\hat{\mathcal{L}} = (\hat{R}, [d\hat{x} d\hat{y}])$ is completely determined by the values of \bar{F} on the line segment $y \equiv 0, 0 < x < 1$.

Generally, any conformal homeomorphism $F : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{L}}$ between simply connected Lorentz surfaces \mathcal{L} and $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ extends uniquely to a homeomorphism \bar{F} from $\mathcal{L} \cup \partial\mathcal{L}$ onto $\hat{\mathcal{L}} \cup \partial\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ where $\partial\mathcal{L}$ and $\partial\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ are the conformal boundaries of \mathcal{L} and $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$, respectively, defined by Kulkarni in [1]. Typically, F is completely determined by the values of \bar{F} on just a portion of $\partial\mathcal{L}$. The next example we study further illustrates this phenomenon.

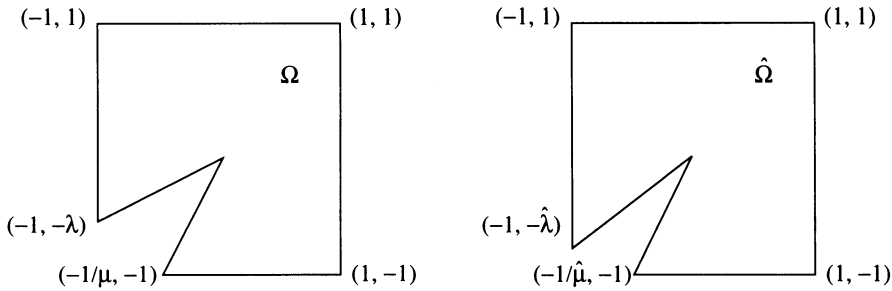


FIGURE 2

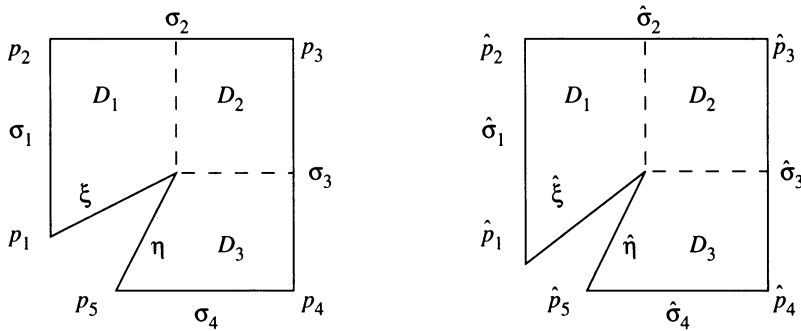


FIGURE 3

Let $\mathcal{L} = (\Omega, [dxdy])$ and $\hat{\mathcal{L}} = (\hat{\Omega}, [d\hat{x}d\hat{y}])$ where Ω and $\hat{\Omega}$ are the subsets of the (x, y) -plane and the (\hat{x}, \hat{y}) -plane, respectively, shown in Figure 2, with $0 < \lambda < 1 < \mu$ and $0 < \hat{\lambda} < 1 < \hat{\mu}$. We have the following observation.

Lemma 3. $\mathcal{L} \sim_0 \hat{\mathcal{L}}$.

Proof. Let $\hat{y} = g(y)$ be continuous on $[-\lambda, 1]$ and C^∞ on $(-\lambda, 1)$ with $g'(y) > 0$ on $(-\lambda, 1)$, $g(y) = (\hat{\lambda}/\lambda)y$ on $[-\lambda, 0]$ and $g(1) = 1$. Let $\hat{x} = \varphi(x)$ be continuous on $[-1/\mu, 1]$ and C^∞ on $(-1/\mu, 1)$ with $\varphi'(x) > 0$ on $(-1/\mu, 1)$, $\varphi(x) = (\mu/\hat{\mu})x$ on $[-1/\mu, 0]$ and $\varphi(1) = 1$. Let $f(x)$ be continuous on $[-1, 1]$ and C^∞ on $(-1, 1)$ with $f'(x) > 0$ on $(-1, 1)$, $f(x) = x$ on $[-1, 0]$ and $f(x) = \varphi(x)$ on $[0, 1]$. Use the intersection of Ω with the positive x -axis to divide Ω into two relatively closed sets R_1 and R_2 , with $y \leq 0$ throughout R_2 . Define the homeomorphism F from Ω onto $\hat{\Omega}$ by taking $\hat{x} = f(x)$, $\hat{y} = g(y)$ in R_1 and $\hat{x} = \varphi(x)$, $\hat{y} = y$ in R_2 . Note that F is a C^∞ diffeomorphism except along the positive x and y axes. \square

Now use Figure 3 to define the open line segments $\xi, \eta, \hat{\xi}, \hat{\eta}, \sigma_i$ and $\hat{\sigma}_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, 4$, the points p_i and \hat{p}_i for $i = 1, \dots, 5$ and the closed sets D_1, D_2 and D_3 (resp. \hat{D}_1, \hat{D}_2 and \hat{D}_3) whose union is the closure of Ω (resp. $\hat{\Omega}$). Any conformal homeomorphism F from \mathcal{L} onto $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ takes horizontal (resp. vertical) line segments in Ω onto horizontal (resp. vertical) line segments in $\hat{\Omega}$. Thus such an F takes the maximal line segment $y \equiv \varepsilon > 0$ in Ω (which approaches the two maximal line segments with $y \equiv 0$ in Ω as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$) to a maximal line segment $\hat{y} \equiv \hat{\varepsilon} > 0$ in $\hat{\Omega}$ (which approaches the two

maximal line segments with $\hat{y} \equiv 0$ in $\hat{\Omega}$ as $\hat{\varepsilon} \rightarrow 0$). It follows that F takes $\Omega \cap \{y > 0\}$ onto $\hat{\Omega} \cap \{\hat{y} > 0\}$ and similarly that F takes $\Omega \cap \{x > 0\}$ onto $\hat{\Omega} \cap \{\hat{x} > 0\}$.

Given a conformal homeomorphism F from \mathcal{L} onto $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$, we conclude that F extends to a homeomorphism \bar{F} on the closure of Ω which takes each endpoint of any maximal horizontal or vertical line segment γ in Ω to the corresponding endpoint of $F(\gamma)$, so that \bar{F} takes $(0, 0)$ to $(0, 0)$, p_i to \hat{p}_i for $i = 1, \dots, 5$, σ_i to $\hat{\sigma}_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, 4$, D_i to \hat{D}_i for $i = 1, \dots, 3$, ξ to $\hat{\xi}$ and η to $\hat{\eta}$. This yields the following results.

Lemma 4. *The values of \bar{F} on the closure of Ω are determined by its values on σ_1 and σ_4 .*

Proof. Let \bar{F} take (x, y) to (\hat{x}, \hat{y}) . Suppose $\hat{y} = g(y)$ on σ_1 , $\hat{x} = f(x)$ on σ_2 , $\hat{y} = \gamma(y)$ on σ_3 and $\hat{x} = \varphi(x)$ on σ_4 . Since \bar{F} takes horizontal intervals in Ω to horizontal intervals in $\hat{\Omega}$, $\hat{y} = g(y)$ throughout $D_1 \cup D_2$. Since F takes vertical intervals in Ω to vertical intervals in $\hat{\Omega}$, $\hat{x} = \varphi(x)$ throughout $D_2 \cup D_3$. Thus $f(x) = \varphi(x)$ for $x \geq 0$ and $\gamma(y) = g(y)$ for $y \geq 0$. We need only show that $g(y)$ determines $f(x)$ for $x < 0$ and that $\varphi(x)$ determines $\gamma(y)$ for $y < 0$. But since $\hat{y} = \hat{\lambda}\hat{x}$ must hold on ξ where $y = \lambda x$, \bar{F} on ξ must take (x, y) to $(\hat{x}, g(y))$ with $g(y) = \hat{\lambda}\hat{x}$, so that $\hat{x} = g(\lambda x)/\hat{\lambda}$ for all $x < 0$ and by continuity, for all $x \leq 0$ in D_1 . Similarly, since $\hat{y} = \hat{\mu}\hat{x}$ on η where $y = \mu x$, \bar{F} on η takes (x, y) to $(\varphi(x), \hat{y})$ with $\hat{y} = \hat{\mu}\varphi(x)$ so that $\hat{y} = \hat{\mu}\varphi(y/\mu)$ for all $y \leq 0$ in D_3 . \square

Theorem 2. $\mathcal{L} \sim_1 \hat{\mathcal{L}}$ (and $\mathcal{L} \sim \hat{\mathcal{L}}$) iff $\lambda\hat{\mu} = \hat{\lambda}\mu$.

Proof. Suppose F is a C^1 conformal diffeomorphism from \mathcal{L} onto $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$. Let \bar{F} be the extension of F to a homeomorphism from the closure of Ω onto the closure of $\hat{\Omega}$. Using the notation in the proof of Lemma 4, $f(x)$ must be C^1 on $(-1, 1)$, $\varphi(x)$ must be C^1 on $(-1/\mu, 1)$, $g(y)$ must be C^1 on $(-\lambda, 1)$ and $\gamma(y)$ must be C^1 on $(-1, 1)$. These claims hold since $\hat{x} = f(x)$ and $\hat{y} = g(y)$ in the interior of $D_1 \cup D_2$ where $F = \bar{F}$ is C^1 and every x value in $(-1, 1)$ and y value in $(-\lambda, 1)$ is represented, while $\hat{x} = \varphi(x)$ and $\hat{y} = \gamma(y)$ in the interior of $D_2 \cup D_3$ where $F = \bar{F}$ is C^1 and every y value in $(-1, 1)$ and x value in $(-1/\mu, 1)$ is represented.

As shown in the proof of Lemma 4, $\hat{x} = g(\lambda x)/\hat{\lambda}$ and $\hat{x} = f(x)$ in D_1 while $\hat{y} = \hat{\mu}\varphi(y/\mu)$ and $y = \gamma(y)$ in D_3 . Thus

$$(2) \quad f(x) = g(\lambda x)/\hat{\lambda}$$

for $x \leq 0$ while

$$(3) \quad \gamma(y) = \hat{\mu}\varphi(y/\mu)$$

for $y \leq 0$. Since $f(x) = \varphi(x)$ for $x \geq 0$ and $g(y) = \gamma(y)$ for $y \geq 0$, the chain rule applied to (2) and (3) gives

$$(4) \quad g'(0) = \gamma'(0) = (\hat{\mu}/\mu)\varphi'(0) = (\hat{\mu}/\mu)f'(0) = (\hat{\mu}\lambda/\mu\hat{\lambda})g'(0).$$

Since F is a C^1 diffeomorphism, $g'(0) \neq 0$ in (4), so $\lambda\hat{\mu} = \hat{\lambda}\mu$ as claimed. In case F is C^∞ , $f(x)$, $g(y)$, $\varphi(x)$ and $\gamma(y)$ are all C^∞ . Taking higher derivatives, one gets $g^{(n)}(0) = \varphi^{(n)}(0) = 0$ for $n = 2, \dots$, since $\lambda \neq \mu$.

Conversely, suppose Ω and $\hat{\Omega}$ in Figure 2 have $\lambda\hat{\mu} = \hat{\lambda}\mu$. Construct an orientation-preserving homeomorphism \bar{F} from the closure of Ω onto the closure of $\hat{\Omega}$ which restricts to a C^∞ diffeomorphism F on Ω taking horizontal (resp. vertical) line segments to horizontal (resp. vertical) line segments as follows. Take a continuous $g(y)$ on $[-\lambda, 1]$ with $g(-\lambda) = -\hat{\lambda}$, $g(0) = 0$ and $g(1) = 1$ which is C^∞ with $g'(y) > 0$ on $(-\lambda, 1)$ while $g^{(n)}(0) = 0$ for $n = 2, \dots$, and take a continuous $\varphi(x)$ on $[-1/\mu, 1]$ with $\varphi(-1/\mu) = -1/\hat{\mu}$, $\varphi(0) = 0$ and $\varphi(1) = 1$ which is C^∞ with $\varphi'(x) > 0$ on $(-1/\mu, 1)$ with $\varphi'(0) = \mu g'(0)/\hat{\mu} = \lambda g'(0)/\hat{\lambda}$ and $\varphi^{(n)}(0) = 0$ for $n = 2, \dots$. Set $f(x) = g(\lambda x)/\hat{\lambda}$ for $x \leq 0$, $\gamma(y) = \hat{\mu}\varphi(y/\mu)$ for $y \leq 0$, $f(x) = \varphi(x)$ for $x \geq 0$ and $\gamma(y) = g(y)$ for $y \geq 0$. Define \bar{F} on $\hat{\Omega}$ by taking $\hat{x} = f(x)$, $\hat{y} = g(x)$ on $D_1 \cup D_2$ and $\hat{x} = \varphi(x)$, $\hat{y} = \gamma(y)$ on $D_2 \cup D_3$. Since $\lambda\hat{\mu} = \hat{\lambda}\mu$, (4) holds. By construction, the restriction F of \bar{F} to Ω yields a conformal diffeomorphism from $\mathcal{L} = (\Omega, [dxdy])$ onto $\hat{\mathcal{L}} = (\hat{\Omega}, [d\hat{x}d\hat{y}])$. \square

One can easily find values λ , μ , $\hat{\lambda}$ and $\hat{\mu}$ with $0 < \lambda < 1 < \mu$, $0 < \hat{\lambda} < 1 < \hat{\mu}$ and $\lambda\hat{\mu} \neq \hat{\lambda}\mu$. By Lemma 3 and Theorem 2, small variations in $\hat{\lambda}$ with $\hat{\mu}$ held fixed yield uncountably many conformally homeomorphic Lorentz surfaces, no two of which are C^1 conformally diffeomorphic.

Our final result involves the set D in the (x, y) -plane obtained by removing all points on $y \equiv 0$ with $x \geq 0$ from the region $(-1, 1) \times (-1, 1)$. Denote by S the set D with its usual C^∞ structure. Denote by \hat{S} the set D with the C^∞ structure determined by the chart $x_1 = x^3$, $y_1 = y$ on $U_1 = D \cap \{y > 0\}$ and the chart $x_2 = x$, $y_2 = y$ on $U_2 = D \cap (\{y < 0\} \cup \{x < 0\})$. Let $\mathcal{L} = (S, [dxdy])$ and $\hat{\mathcal{L}} = (\hat{S}, [h])$ where $h = \varphi_1 dx_1 dy_1 + \varphi_2 dx_2 dy_2$ for a C^∞ partition of unity φ_1, φ_2 subordinate to the covering of \hat{S} by U_1 and U_2 . The identity map from S onto \hat{S} establishes that $\mathcal{L} \sim_0 \hat{\mathcal{L}}$. Still, we have the following result.

Theorem 3. $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ is not C^1 conformally diffeomorphic to any subset of E_1^2 .

Proof. Let F be a C^1 conformal diffeomorphism of $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ into $E_1^2 = ((u, v)$ -plane, $[dudv])$. With no loss of generality, assume that $v > 0$ at $F(p)$ for any p in U_1 and that F takes the portion of $y \equiv 0$ in $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ to a line segment along $v \equiv 0$ with its right endpoint at the origin. Let γ^+ and γ^- be the portions of the lines $y \equiv 1/2$ and $y \equiv -1/2$, respectively, in $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$. Then F must take the rectangular region $\{x < 0\}$ in $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ onto a region $(a, 0) \times (c, d)$ in E_1^2 where $-\infty \leq a < 0$, $-\infty \leq c < 0$ and $\infty \geq d > 0$. Use the u values on $F(\gamma^+)$ and $F(\gamma^-)$ to provide C^1 regular parametrizations of γ^+ and γ^- over intervals (a, b^+) and (a, b^-) , respectively, with $\infty \geq b^+ > 0$ and $\infty \geq b^- > 0$. Assume that $b^+ \geq b^-$. (A similar argument applies if $b^- > b^+$.) Then the mapping of $F(\gamma^-)$ into $F(\gamma^+)$ by matching u values is a C^∞ diffeomorphism. Since F^{-1} takes vertical line segments to vertical line segments, this means that the mapping of γ^- into γ^+ by matching u parameter values must be a C^1 diffeomorphism taking any point on γ^- with $x < 0$ to the point on γ^+ with the same x value. But then, for some b in $(0, 1]$ the identity map on $(-1, 0]$ can be extended to a C^1 diffeomorphism from the interval $(-1, 1)$ with the usual differentiable structure onto an interval $(-1, b)$

with the differentiable structure determined by the chart coordinate $x_1 = x^3$. This is a contradiction. \square

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