

## NON-ORIENTABLE LAGRANGIAN SURFACES WITH CONTROLLED AREA

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ABSTRACT. We show that any closed curve in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  bounds a Lagrangian Möbius band with quadratic area (i.e. area bounded by length square). And we generalize this result to flat chains mod 2 to conclude that in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  any one-dimensional integral flat chain mod 2 without boundary bounds a two-dimensional Lagrangian integral flat chain mod 2 with quadratic area. Moreover we prove that in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  the set of Lagrangian integral flat chains mod 2 is dense under the flat norm in the space of all two-dimensional integral flat chains mod 2.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $\omega = dx_1 \wedge dy_1 + dx_2 \wedge dy_2$  be the standard symplectic form in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . Let  $\eta = (x_1 dy_1 + x_2 dy_2 - y_1 dx_1 - y_2 dx_2)/2$  be a primitive of  $\omega$ . For a closed curve  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$ , define the *symplectic area of  $\gamma$*  to be  $\int_\gamma \eta$ . A two-dimensional plane  $T$  is called Lagrangian if  $\omega|_T = 0$ . And a surface is called *Lagrangian* if the tangent plane at each point is a Lagrangian plane. Stokes' Theorem tells us that if  $\gamma$  bounds any Lagrangian disk, it must have zero symplectic area. Conversely D.Allcock [Al] and Gromov [Gr] proved that if a closed curve has zero symplectic area, then it indeed bounds a Lagrangian disk. Moreover the Lagrangian disk has area controlled by  $L^2$ , where  $L$  is the length of  $\gamma$ .

In the present paper, the above result is modified to the case where the curve does not have zero symplectic area. In this case, it no longer bounds any orientable Lagrangian surface (by Stokes' theorem), but it turns out that if we allow non-orientable surfaces, the similar isoperimetric result is still true. In fact we show in Corollary 2 that any closed curve bounds a Lagrangian Möbius band with area controlled by  $L^2$ . In section 5, using the decomposition theorem of one-dimensional flat chain mod 2, we extend this result and conclude that in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  any one-dimensional integral flat chain mod 2 without boundary bounds a two-dimensional Lagrangian integral flat chain mod 2 with quadratic area.

One natural question in the study of Lagrangian surfaces is whether the space of Lagrangian surfaces is compact, i.e. whether the limit (in some suitable sense) of a sequence of Lagrangian surfaces is still Lagrangian. If the surfaces are orientable, this is known to be true (see R.Schoen and J. Wolfson [S-W]). But unfortunately, this is not true if we allow non-orientable surfaces. In fact in

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section 5 we prove that the set of all non-oriented Lagrangian surfaces is dense in the space of all non-oriented surfaces in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .

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Through out this paper,  $c, c', c_1, c_2, \dots$ , will be used to denote absolute constants.

## 2. Main Results

The followings are the main results of this paper:

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\omega = dx_1 \wedge dy_1 + dx_2 \wedge dy_2$  be the standard symplectic form in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . Let  $\eta = (x_1 dy_1 + x_2 dy_2 - y_1 dx_1 - y_2 dx_2)/2$  be a primitive of  $\omega$ . If  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are two piecewise smooth closed curves in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  such that*

$$\int_{\gamma_1} \eta + \int_{\gamma_2} \eta = 0$$

*then there exists a piecewise smooth oriented Lagrangian surface  $H$  whose oriented boundary is  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ , and which has the area bound:*

$$\text{Area}(H) \leq c(L^2(\gamma_1) + L^2(\gamma_2) + \text{dist}^2(\gamma_1, \gamma_2))$$

*where  $L(\gamma_i)$  is the length of  $\gamma_i$ ,  $\text{dist}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2)$  is the distance between the two curves, and  $c$  is an absolute constant.*

We will prove this theorem in section 4.

A immediate consequence of Theorem 1 is the following:

**Corollary 2** (Isoperimetric Inequality). *Let  $\gamma$  be any piecewise smooth closed curve in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . Then  $\gamma$  bounds a non-oriented piecewise smooth Lagrangian surface  $M$  (and it may be chosen to be a singular Möbius band) such that*

$$\text{Area}(M) \leq cL^2(\gamma)$$

*where  $L(\gamma)$  is the length of  $\gamma$  and  $c$  is an absolute constant.*

*Proof.* Let  $\gamma$  be parametrized by  $\gamma(s) = (x_1(s), y_1(s), x_2(s), y_2(s)), 0 \leq s \leq 1$ . By translation, we can assume  $\gamma(0) = 0 = \gamma(1)$ . Choose one point  $P = (a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2)$ , whose distance from the origin is  $4L(\gamma)$ . Define a new loop  $\tilde{\gamma}$  by

$$\tilde{x}_i(s) = \begin{cases} (x_i(2s) - a_i)/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } 0 \leq s \leq 1/2; \\ (x_i(2s - 1) - a_i)/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } 1/2 \leq s \leq 1; \end{cases}$$

$$\tilde{y}_i(s) = \begin{cases} (y_i(2s) - b_i)/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } 0 \leq s \leq 1/2; \\ (y_i(2s - 1) - b_i)/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } 1/2 \leq s \leq 1; \end{cases}$$

for  $i = 1, 2$ . Then it is easy to check that  $\tilde{\gamma}$  is a closed curve winding around twice with  $\int_{\tilde{\gamma}} \eta = \int_{\gamma} \eta$ . Apply Theorem 1, we get an oriented Lagrangian surface  $M$  with oriented boundary  $\gamma$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}^{-1}$ . Note that the distance between  $\gamma$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}$  is less than  $4L(\gamma)$ . Moreover  $L(\tilde{\gamma}) \leq 2L(\gamma)$ . Thus  $Area(M) \leq c_1 L^2(\gamma)$ . But since  $\tilde{\gamma}$  winds around twice, we see that as non-oriented surface, the boundary of  $M$  is  $\gamma$ . And in fact it is a Möbius band bounded by  $\gamma$ .  $\square$

### 3. A Sequence of Lemmas

In this section, we give a sequence of lemmas which will lead to the proof of Theorem 1.

The following Lemma 1 and Lemma 2 were proven by D.Allcock in [Al]. For completeness, we include the proofs here.

**Lemma 1** (Allcock). *Let  $\alpha, \beta$  be two piecewise smooth closed curves in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . If their images lie in  $x_1y_1$ -plane and  $x_2y_2$ -plane respectively, and if they are parametrized such that*

$$\omega(\alpha(s), \alpha'(s)) = \omega(\beta(s), \beta'(s)), s \in [0, 1],$$

*then there exists a Lagrangian homotopy<sup>1</sup> between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  with area less than  $c(A + B)(L(\alpha) + L(\beta))$ , where  $A = \max(\|\alpha(s)\| : 0 \leq s \leq 1)$ ,  $B = \max(\|\beta(s)\| : 0 \leq s \leq 1)$ , and  $c$  is an absolute constant.*

*Proof.* Define  $H : [0, 1] \times [0, \pi/2] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$  as

$$H(s, t) = \alpha(s) \cos t + \beta(s) \sin t.$$

Clearly  $H$  is a homotopy between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . To show it is Lagrangian, notice that

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} H_* \frac{\partial}{\partial s}(s, t) &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial s}(s, t) = \alpha'(s) \cos t + \beta'(s) \sin t, \\ H_* \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(s, t) &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial t}(s, t) = -\alpha(s) \sin t + \beta(s) \cos t. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, using the fact that  $\alpha, \beta$  lie in two symplectically orthogonal planes, together with the fact that  $\omega(\alpha(s), \alpha'(s)) = \omega(\beta(s), \beta'(s))$ , we conclude that  $\omega(\partial H/\partial s, \partial H/\partial t) = 0$ . Thus  $H$  is Lagrangian.

To get the area bound, consider the general formula

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} &Area(H) \\ &= \iint_{[0,1] \times [0,\pi/2]} \sqrt{\|\partial H/\partial s\|^2 \|\partial H/\partial t\|^2 - ((\partial H/\partial s) \cdot (\partial H/\partial t))^2} ds dt. \end{aligned}$$

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<sup>1</sup>A homotopy  $H(s, t)$  from  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  to  $\mathbb{R}^4$  is said to be Lagrangian if  $\omega(H_*\partial/\partial s, H_*\partial/\partial t) = 0$ . Therefore the image of  $H$  is a Lagrangian surface.

Apply this to (1), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Area}(H) \\
 \leq & \iint_{[0,1] \times [0,\pi/2]} \|\partial H/\partial s\| \|\partial H/\partial t\| ds dt \\
 \leq & \iint_{[0,1] \times [0,\pi/2]} (\|\alpha(s)\| + \|\beta(s)\|)(\|\alpha'(s)\| + \|\beta'(s)\|) ds dt \\
 \leq & (\pi/2)(A + B)(L(\alpha) + L(\beta))
 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Lemma 2** (Allcock). *Let  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$  be a piecewise smooth closed curve passing through the origin, with  $\gamma(s) = \gamma_1(s) + \gamma_2(s)$ , where  $\gamma_i$  is the orthogonal projection of  $\gamma$  on to the  $x_i y_i$ -plane. Then there is a piecewise smooth Lagrangian homotopy between  $\gamma$  and the loop obtained by first traversing  $\gamma_1$  and then  $\gamma_2$ . Moreover, the area of the homotopy is less than  $cL^2(\gamma)$ .*

*Proof.* By extending its domain, we may assume that  $\gamma$  is a piecewise smooth map from  $\mathbb{R}^1$  to  $\mathbb{R}^4$  which vanishes outside  $[0, 1]$ . Define  $H(s, t) = \gamma_1(s + t) + \gamma_2(s)$ , where  $t \in [0, 1]$  and  $s \in [-1, 1]$ . Then it is easy to check  $H$  is a Lagrangian homotopy between  $\gamma$  and the loop obtained by first traversing  $\gamma_1$  and then  $\gamma_2$  (it is in fact parametrized by  $\gamma_1(s + 1) + \gamma_2(s)$ ). The area bound is also straightforward using (2). □

The next lemma tells us that we can translate curves Lagrangianly in certain directions.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$  be a piecewise smooth closed curve such that  $\gamma(s) - \gamma(0) \in x_2 y_2$ -plane,  $\forall s \in [0, 1]$ . Then  $\gamma$  is Lagrangianly homotopic to a closed curve entirely lying in  $x_2 y_2$ -plane, and the area of the homotopy is less than*

$$4(L^2(\gamma) + \text{dist}^2(0, \gamma)).$$

*Proof.* Assume  $\gamma(0) = (a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2)$ . Let

$$H(s, t) = \gamma(s) - t(a_1, b_1, 0, 0), \quad (s, t) \in [0, 1] \times [0, 1].$$

It is easy to check  $H(s, 1)$  lies in  $x_2 y_2$ -plane. Since  $\gamma(s) = (a_1, b_1, x(s), y(s))$ ,  $\gamma'(s) = (0, 0, x'(s), y'(s))$ . Also note that

$$\partial H/\partial s = \gamma'(s), \quad \partial H/\partial t = (a_1, b_1, 0, 0).$$

Then  $\omega(\partial H/\partial s, \partial H/\partial t) = 0$ . So  $H$  is Lagrangian. Moreover, by (2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area}(H) &\leq \iint_{[0,1] \times [0,1]} \|\partial H/\partial s\| \|\partial H/\partial t\| ds dt \\ &\leq \iint_{[0,1] \times [0,1]} \sqrt{a_1^2 + b_1^2} \|\gamma'(s)\| ds dt \\ &= \sqrt{a_1^2 + b_1^2} L(\gamma) \\ &\leq \|\gamma(0)\| L(\gamma) \\ &\leq 4(L^2(\gamma) + \text{dist}^2(0, \gamma)) \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality follows from the fact that  $\|\gamma(0)\| \leq L(\gamma) + \text{dist}(0, \gamma)$ . □

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$  be a piecewise smooth closed curve lying entirely in  $x_2y_2$ -plane. Then there exists a piecewise smooth closed curve  $\tilde{\gamma}$ , which lies entirely in  $x_1y_1$ -plane, which passes through the origin, and which is Lagrangianly homotopic to  $\gamma$  with homotopy area less than  $c(L^2(\gamma) + \text{dist}^2(0, \gamma))$ , where  $c$  is an absolute constant.*

*Proof.* By means of Lemma 1, we want to find a curve  $\tilde{\gamma} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$ , parametrized by  $\tilde{\gamma}(s) = (\tilde{x}(s), \tilde{y}(s), 0, 0)$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned} (3) \quad &\tilde{\gamma}(0) = \tilde{\gamma}(1) = 0, \\ &\omega(\gamma(s), \gamma'(s)) = \omega(\tilde{\gamma}(s), \tilde{\gamma}'(s)) \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\gamma(s) = (0, 0, x(s), y(s))$ , then (3) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} (4) \quad &\tilde{x}'(s)\tilde{y}(s) - \tilde{x}(s)\tilde{y}'(s) = x'(s)y(s) - x(s)y'(s) \\ &\tilde{x}(0) = \tilde{x}(1) = 0 \\ &\tilde{y}(0) = \tilde{y}(1) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

It is not difficult to solve this boundary value ordinary differential equation. Let

$$(5) \quad \tilde{y}_0(s) = \begin{cases} \sqrt[4]{s}, & \text{if } 0 \leq s \leq 1/2, \\ \sqrt[4]{1-s}, & \text{if } 1/2 \leq s \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

Let  $k = \sqrt{L^2(\gamma) + \text{dist}^2(0, \gamma)}$ . Define  $\tilde{y}(s) = k\tilde{y}_0(s)$ . Then define

$$(6) \quad \tilde{x}(s) = \tilde{y}(s) \int_0^s \frac{f(t)}{\tilde{y}^2(t)} dt$$

where  $f(t) = x'(t)y(t) - x(t)y'(t)$ . It is easy to check that  $\tilde{x}(s)$  is well-defined and that  $\tilde{x}(s), \tilde{y}(s)$  satisfy (4). Therefore, by Lemma 1, there exists a Lagrangian homotopy  $H$  between  $\gamma$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}$  with area less than  $c_1(A + B)(L(\gamma) + L(\tilde{\gamma}))$ , where  $A = \max(\|\gamma(s)\| : 0 \leq s \leq 1)$ ,  $B = \max(\|\tilde{\gamma}(s)\| : 0 \leq s \leq 1)$ , and  $c_1$  is an absolute constant.

Now we need to get an estimate on the area of  $H$ . First note that by a reparametrization of  $\gamma$ , we may assume that  $\|\gamma'(s)\| = L(\gamma)$  ( $s$  ranges from 0

to 1). Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |f(t)| &= |x'(t)y(t) - x(t)y'(t)| \\
 &\leq \sqrt{x^2(t) + y^2(t)}\sqrt{(x'(t))^2 + (y'(t))^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{x^2(t) + y^2(t)}\|\gamma'(s)\| \\
 &\leq (\text{dist}(0, \gamma) + L(\gamma))L(\gamma) \\
 &\leq 4k^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then combining (6) we have  $B = \max(\|\tilde{\gamma}(s)\| : 0 \leq s \leq 1) \leq c_2k$ , where  $c_2$  is an absolute constant.

Similarly we can control  $L(\tilde{\gamma})$ . In fact,

$$\begin{aligned}
 L(\tilde{\gamma}) &= \int_0^1 \sqrt{(\tilde{x}'(s))^2 + (\tilde{y}'(s))^2} ds \\
 &= \int_0^1 \sqrt{[\tilde{y}'(s) \int_0^s \frac{f(t)}{\tilde{y}^2(t)} dt + \frac{f(s)}{\tilde{y}(s)}]^2 + (\tilde{y}'(s))^2} ds \\
 &\leq c_3k \int_0^1 \sqrt{[|\tilde{y}'_0(s)| \int_0^s \frac{1}{\tilde{y}_0^2(s)} dt + \frac{1}{\tilde{y}_0(s)}]^2 + (\tilde{y}'_0(s))^2} ds \\
 &\leq c_4k
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_3$  and  $c_4 = \int_0^1 \sqrt{[|\tilde{y}'_0(s)| \int_0^s \frac{1}{\tilde{y}_0^2(s)} dt + \frac{1}{\tilde{y}_0(s)}]^2 + (\tilde{y}'_0(s))^2} ds$  are absolute constants(the finiteness of the integral is easy to check using (5)). Therefore we get  $L(\tilde{\gamma}) \leq c_4k$ .

Now combine the estimates for  $B$  and  $L(\tilde{\gamma})$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Area}(H) &\leq c_1(A + B)(L(\gamma) + L(\tilde{\gamma})) \\
 &\leq c_5k \\
 &\leq c_6(L^2(\gamma) + \text{dist}^2(0, \gamma))
 \end{aligned}$$

□

#### 4. The Proof of Theorem 1

Now we are in the position to prove Theorem 1. It is a modification of the approach used by D.Allcock in [Al]. Without loss of generality, we assume that  $\gamma_1(0) = (0, 0, 0, 0)$  and  $|\gamma_2(0) - \gamma_1(0)| = \text{dist}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2)$ . By lemma 2, we might assume that  $\gamma_1$  lies entirely in  $x_1y_1$ -plane and  $\gamma_2 - \gamma_2(0)$  lies entirely in  $x_2y_2$ -plane. Apply Lemma 3 to  $\gamma_2$ , we get a closed curve  $\beta_1$  entirely lying in  $x_2y_2$ -plane, which is Lagrangianly homotopic to  $\gamma_2$  with quadratic homotopy area. Then apply Lemma 4, there is a closed curve  $\beta_2$  entirely lying in  $x_1y_1$ -plane and passing through the origin, which is Lagrangianly homotopic to  $\beta_1$ . Since all the homotopies are Lagrangian, by Stokes' Theorem, we get  $\int_{\gamma_2} \eta = \int_{\beta_1} \eta = \int_{\beta_2} \eta$ . Now let  $\rho$  be the curve obtained by joining  $\gamma_1$  and  $\beta_2$ . Then  $\rho$  lies entirely on

$x_1y_1$ -plane with zero symplectic area. Let  $\rho$  be parametrized as  $(x(s), y(s), 0, 0)$ , for  $0 \leq s \leq 1$ . Define a new curve  $\sigma$  in  $x_2y_2$ -plane by

$$\sigma(s) = (0, 0, L(\rho), \frac{\int_0^s [x(t)y'(t) - y(t)x'(t)]dt}{L(\rho)}), \quad s \in [0, 1].$$

It is easy to check that  $\omega(\rho(s), \rho'(s)) = \omega(\sigma(s), \sigma'(s))$  and  $L(\sigma) \leq 4L(\rho)$ . Moreover since  $\int_{\rho} \eta = 0$ , we get  $\int_0^1 [x(t)y'(t) - y(t)x'(t)]dt = 0$ . Thus,  $\sigma$  is a closed curve. By lemma 1, there exists a Lagrangian homotopy between  $\sigma$  and  $\rho$  with area less than  $cL(\rho)^2$ .

Finally since the image of  $\sigma$  is actually on a straight line segment, we can easily use a linear homotopy(which is obviously Lagrangian and which has zero area) to deform it to a point in  $x_2y_2$ -plane.

Now combine all the Lagrangian homotopies constructed above, we get an oriented Lagrangian surface with boundary  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ . The area bound of the total homotopy is easily obtained by keeping track of the area of each individual step.

### 5. Lagrangian Flat Chains mod2

In this section we extend our result about non-orientable Lagrangian surfaces to flat chains mod2. Let  $\mathcal{F}_k^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$  denote the set of  $k$ -dimensional flat chains mod2 ( See Federer [Fe] section 4.2.26 and Fleming [Fl] for a detailed discussion on flat chains mod2 ). We will use  $M(\tau)$  to denote the mass of  $\tau$  in  $\mathcal{F}_k^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ . Then the *flat norm* of  $\tau$  in  $\mathcal{F}_k^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$  is defined to be

$$(7) \quad W(\tau) = \inf\{M(\rho) + M(\pi) : \tau = \rho + \partial\pi, \rho \in \mathcal{F}_k^2(\mathbb{R}^4), \pi \in \mathcal{F}_{k+1}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)\}$$

And the *flat distance*  $W(\tau_1, \tau_2)$  between  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  is define to be  $W(\tau_1 - \tau_2)$ .

A flat chain mod2 is said to be *rectifiable* if it could be approximated under  $M$ -norm by Lipschitz chains( the image of polyhedral chains under Lipschitz maps). A flat chain mod2 is said to be *integral* if both itself and its boundary are rectifiable. We will use  $I_k^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$  to denote the set of all  $k$ -dimensional integral flat chains mod2.

To any integral flat chain mod2  $\tau$  we can associate a varifold  $V(\tau)$ (see Federer [Fe] section 4.2.26 for definition).  $\tau \in I_2^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$  is said to be *Lagrangian* if the approximate tangent plane of  $V(\tau)$  is Lagrangian  $\mu_\tau$ -a.e, where  $\mu_\tau$  is the underlying measure of  $\tau$ .

Flat chains mod2 are generalization of non-oriented surfaces. For example, any Möbius band in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  is a 2-dimensional integral flat chain mod2 in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ (See F.Morgan [Mo], Chapter 11).

We have the following generalization of Corollary 2.

**Corollary 3** (Isoperimetric Inequality). *Let  $\rho \in I_1^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$  be any one-dimensional integral flat chain mod 2 in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  such that  $\partial\rho = 0$  and  $M(\rho) < \infty$ . Then there exists a two-dimensional Lagrangian integral flat chain mod2  $\tau$  such that  $\partial\tau = \rho$  and  $M(\tau) \leq cM(\rho)^2$ , where  $c$  is an absolute constant.*

*Proof.* By the decomposition theorem of one-dimensional boundaryless integral flat chains mod2 (see Federer [Fe] section 4.2.25 and section 4.2.26)  $\rho$  may be written as  $\rho = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \iota_i$ , where  $\iota_i$  are closed Lipschitz curves, viewed as flat chains mod2. Moreover, the mass adds up, i.e.,  $M(\rho) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} M(\iota_i)$ . By Corollary 2, we can fill in each  $\iota_i$  with a Lagrangian flat chain mod2  $\tau_i$  with  $M(\tau_i) \leq cM(\iota_i)^2$ . Let  $\tau = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \tau_i$ . Then we see that  $\partial\tau = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \partial\tau_i = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \iota_i = \rho$ . Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (8) \quad M(\tau) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} M(\tau_i) \\
 &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} cM(\iota_i)^2 \\
 &\leq c\left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} M(\iota_i)\right)^2 \\
 &= cM(\rho)^2
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Let  $I_{2,L}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$  denote the set of all integral Lagrangian flat chains mod2. In the study of the regularity of minimal Lagrangian currents, we would like to know whether or not  $I_{2,L}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$  is closed under the flat norm. Unfortunately, the answer is no.

**Theorem 4.** *The set of all integral Lagrangian flat chains mod2 in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ , denoted as  $I_{2,L}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ , is dense under the flat norm in the space  $I_2^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$  of all integral flat chains mod2 in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .*

*Proof.* Since the set of two-dimensional polyhedral chains is dense under flat norm in  $I_2^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$  (see Fleming [Fl]), it suffices to prove that any polyhedral cell  $P$  can be approximated by elements in  $I_{2,L}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ . Furthermore, by approximating polyhedral cell with squares, we might without loss of generality assume  $P$  is a unit square in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . Divide  $P$  evenly into  $N^2$  small square  $P_1, \dots, P_{N^2}$ , each with width  $1/N$ . By Corollary 3, for each  $P_i$ , there exists a Lagrangian flat chains mod2  $\tau_i$  such that  $\partial\tau_i = \partial P_i$ , and  $M(\tau_i) \leq c_1 M(\partial P_i)^2 = c_1(4/N)^2$ . Let  $\tau = \sum_{i=1}^{N^2} \tau_i$ . Notice that the interior boundaries of  $P_i$  cancel when they are added together, hence we get  $\partial P = \sum_{i=1}^{N^2} \partial P_i$ . Therefore,  $\partial\tau = \partial P$ . Moreover  $M(\tau) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{N^2} M(\tau_i) \leq N^2 c_1(4/N^2) = c_2$ . On the other hand, since  $\partial(\tau_i - P_i) = 0$ , the standard isoperimetric inequality (See Fleming [Fl]) says that there exists a three dimensional integral flat chain mod2  $\phi_i$  such that  $\partial\phi_i = P_i - \tau_i$  and  $M(\phi_i) \leq c_3(M(P_i - \tau_i))^{3/2}$ . Since  $M(P_i - \tau_i) \leq M(P_i) + M(\tau_i) \leq c_4/N^2$ , we have  $M(\phi_i) \leq c_5/N^3$ . Let  $\phi = \sum_{i=1}^{N^2} \phi_i$ . It follows that  $\partial\phi = P - \tau$  and  $M(\phi) \leq c_5 N^2/N^3 \leq c_5/N$ . By the definition of flat norm,  $W(P, \tau) \leq M(\phi) \leq c_5/N$ . Let  $N$  go to infinity we get the W-approximation of  $P$ . □



Finally we make a remark that these results can be generalized to isotropic surfaces in  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$ . If we replace  $\mathbb{R}^4$  by  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$  and replace Lagrangian by isotropic, then Theorem 1, Corollary 2, Corollary 3 and Theorem 4 still hold, the proofs of which are exactly the same.

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