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A. M. Grundland
Centre de Recherches Mathématiques, Université de Montréal,
C. P. 6128, Succ. Centre-ville, Montréal, Quebec H3C 3J7, Canada

W. J. Zakrzewski
Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Durham,
Durham DH1 3LE, United Kingdom

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A Weierstrass-type system of equations corresponding to the \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) harmonic maps is presented. The system constitutes a further generalization of our previous construction [J. Math. Phys. 44, 328 (2003)]. It consists of four first order equations for three complex functions which are shown to be equivalent to the \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) harmonic maps. When the harmonic maps are holomorphic or antiholomorphic, one of the functions vanishes and the system reduces to the previously given generalization of the Weierstrass problem. We also discuss a possible interpretation of our results and show that in our new case the induced metric is proportional to the total energy density of the map and not only to its holomorphic part, as was the case in the previous generalizations. © 2003 American Institute of Physics.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A few years ago Konopelchenko, together with his collaborators, introduced the subject of Weierstrass representations of surfaces immersed in multidimensional spaces. This has generated quite a lot of interest and has led to the connection with the \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) harmonic maps. Exploiting this connection, we have recently proposed a generalization of these ideas to the \( \mathbb{C}P^{2} \) case and, more recently, managed to generalize it further—to the \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) case.

These generalizations lead to the study of immersed surfaces, whose metric is then related to the properties of the corresponding harmonic maps. In the \( \mathbb{C}P^{1} \) case all harmonic maps (from \( S^{2} \)) are holomorphic (or antiholomorphic) and, as the induced metric is characterized by the holomorphic component of the energy, this characterization is complete. This is also the case for the holomorphic \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) maps.

In the \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) case (for \( N>2 \)) there are harmonic maps which are not holomorphic and for them the above mentioned construction is not complete, as in the general case we would expect the maps to be characterized by the total energy. Hence a further generalization is called for and such a generalization is provided in this article.

In the next section we briefly review the \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) harmonic maps (using the formalism as given in Ref. 7) and in the following sections relate these maps to the various versions of the Weierstrass problem.

II. \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) HARMONIC MAPS

A. Formulation

The \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) models are, in fact, a generalization of the, perhaps the simplest, sigma model, namely, the \( S^{2} \) model—also called the vector \( O(3) \) model. The \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \) models involve maps from \( R^{2} \), or \( S^{2} \) if a nontrivial topology is required, to \( \mathbb{C}P^{N-1} \), i.e.,
where the homogeneous coordinates $z = (z^1, \ldots, z^N)$ have the following property:

$$z \sim z' = \lambda z \quad \text{for} \quad \lambda \neq 0.$$  

Exploiting this projective invariance we can require that

$$z^\dagger \cdot z = 1$$  

holds, where $\dagger$ denotes Hermitian conjugation, and we are still left with the gauge symmetry

$$z \rightarrow z' = z e^{i\phi},$$

where $\phi$ is a real-valued function.

It is easiest to define the $\mathbb{C}P^{N-1}$ models in terms of the Lagrangian density

$$L = \frac{1}{4} (D_\mu z)^\dagger \cdot D_\mu z, \quad z^\dagger \cdot z = 1,$$  

where the covariant derivatives $D_\mu$ act on $z: S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^{N-1}$ according to the formula

$$D_\mu z = \partial_\mu z - (z^\dagger \cdot \partial_\mu z)z.$$  

Here the index $\mu = 1, 2$ denotes $\xi_1$ and $\xi_2$. Note that the covariant derivatives $D_\mu z$ transform under the gauge transformation (3)

$$D_\mu z \rightarrow D_\mu z' = (D_\mu z)e^{i\phi},$$

so that the dependence on the phase $\phi$ drops out of the Lagrangian density (4) and so the model is really based on $\mathbb{C}P^{N-1}$.

The total Lagrangian is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = \int L \, d\xi \, d\bar{\xi}$$

and, if the $\mathbb{C}P^{N-1}$ model is defined over $S^2$, we require that $\mathcal{L}$ is finite.

For the $\mathbb{C}P^{N-1}$ sigma model it is convenient to define

$$z = \frac{f}{|f|},$$

where $|f| = (f^\dagger \cdot f)^{1/2}$. In terms of $f$ the Lagrangian (7) becomes

$$\mathcal{L} = \int \left( \frac{|\bar{\partial} f|^2 + |\partial f|^2}{|f|^4} \right) d\xi \, d\bar{\xi},$$

where $|\partial f|^2 = (\partial f)^\dagger \cdot (\partial f)$ and $|\bar{\partial} f|^2 = (\bar{\partial} f)^\dagger \cdot (\bar{\partial} f)$. The Euler–Lagrange equations for $f$ take the form

$$\left( 1 - \frac{f \otimes f}{|f|^2} \right) \left[ \bar{\partial} f - \partial f \left( \frac{f^\dagger \cdot \partial f}{|f|^2} - \bar{\partial} f \left( \frac{f^\dagger \cdot \bar{\partial} f}{|f|^2} \right) \right] = 0,$$

where we have introduced the holomorphic and antiholomorphic derivatives.
and bar denotes complex conjugation.

### B. Integrability and first conservation laws

As is well known, Eqs. (10) can be written as a compatibility condition for a set of two linear spectral equations for an $N$-component auxiliary vector $\Psi$,

\[
\partial \Psi = \frac{2}{1+\lambda} [\partial P, P] \Psi, \\
\bar{\partial} \Psi = \frac{2}{1-\lambda} [\bar{\partial} P, P] \Psi,
\]

where $\lambda$ is a spectral parameter and the $N$ by $N$ matrix $P$ is the projector given by

\[
P = \frac{1}{|f|^2} f \otimes f^\dagger, \quad P^1 = P, \quad P^2 = P.
\]

The compatibility conditions for (12) are then

\[
[\partial \bar{\partial} P, P] = 0,
\]

which, as can be easily checked, are equivalent to Eqs. (10). Note that (14) can be written in the form of a conservation law

\[
\partial [\bar{\partial} P, P] + \bar{\partial} [\partial P, P] = 0
\]

or, equivalently, using the tracelessness of the matrix $K$, as

\[
\partial K - \bar{\partial} K^\dagger = 0,
\]

where the matrices $K$ and $K^\dagger$ are given by

\[
K = [\bar{\partial} P, P] = \frac{\bar{\partial} f \otimes f^\dagger - f \otimes \bar{\partial} f^\dagger}{|f|^2} + \frac{f \otimes f^\dagger}{|f|^4} [ (\bar{\partial} f^\dagger \cdot f) - (f^\dagger \cdot \bar{\partial} f )], \quad \text{Tr} K = 0,
\]

and consequently

\[
K^\dagger = - [\partial P, P] = - \frac{\partial f \otimes f^\dagger - f \otimes \partial f^\dagger}{|f|^2} + \frac{f \otimes f^\dagger}{|f|^4} [ (\partial f^\dagger \cdot f) - (f^\dagger \cdot \partial f )].
\]

Note that due to the invariance of the Lagrangian (4) under the gauge transformation (3) we can, without any loss of generality, set one of the components of the vector field $f$, say $f_1$, to 1. Then, in the $CP^1$ case, all quantities are expressible through one variable

\[
w = \frac{f_2}{f_1} = f_2
\]

and the Euler–Lagrange equations (10) take the form

\[
\partial = \frac{\partial}{\partial (\xi_1 + i \xi_2)} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}, \quad \bar{\partial} = \frac{\partial}{\partial (\xi_1 - i \xi_2)} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\xi}},
\]
\[
\partial \bar{\partial} w - \frac{2\bar{w}}{(1+|w|^2)} \partial w \bar{\partial} w = 0. \tag{19}
\]

C. Further conservation laws

Let us note that our matrix \( K \) in (17) is given by
\[
K = M + L, \tag{20}
\]
where
\[
M = (1 - P) \frac{\bar{\partial} f \otimes f}{|f|^2} \tag{21}
\]
and
\[
L = - \frac{f \otimes \bar{\partial} f}{|f|^2} (1 - P). \tag{22}
\]

Thus
\[
M^\dagger = \frac{f \otimes \bar{\partial} f}{|f|^2} (1 - P), \quad \text{and} \quad L^\dagger = - (1 - P) \frac{\bar{\partial} f \otimes f}{|f|^2}. \tag{23}
\]

Next we note that the matrices \( M \) and \( L \), separately, satisfy our conservations laws (16). To see this consider
\[
\partial M - \bar{\partial} M^\dagger = - \partial P \frac{\bar{\partial} f \otimes f}{|f|^2} + (1 - P) \frac{\partial \bar{\partial} f \otimes f}{|f|^2} + (1 - P) \frac{\bar{\partial} f \otimes \bar{\partial} f}{|f|^2} - (1 - P) \frac{\bar{\partial} f \otimes f}{|f|^2} \frac{\partial |f|^2}{2 |f|^2}
\]
\[
= - \frac{\bar{\partial} f \otimes \bar{\partial} f}{|f|^2} (1 - P) - \frac{f \otimes \bar{\partial} f}{|f|^2} (1 - P) + \frac{f \otimes \bar{\partial} f}{|f|^2} \partial P + \frac{f \otimes \bar{\partial} f}{|f|^2} (1 - P) \bar{\partial} |f|^2. \tag{24}
\]

But
\[
\partial P = \frac{\bar{\partial} f \otimes f}{|f|^2} + \frac{f \otimes \bar{\partial} f}{|f|^2} - \frac{P}{|f|^2} \partial |f|^2 \tag{25}
\]
and so we see that all the terms in (24) become
\[
(1 - P) \left[ \bar{\partial} f - f \frac{(f^\dagger \cdot \bar{\partial} f)}{|f|^2} - \frac{\bar{\partial} f \cdot f}{|f|^2} \right] \otimes f^\dagger + \bar{\partial} \bar{\partial} f^\dagger - f \left( \bar{\partial} f \otimes f \right) \frac{\bar{\partial} f^\dagger}{|f|^2} - \bar{\partial} f^\dagger \left( f^\dagger \cdot \bar{\partial} f \right) \frac{1}{|f|^2} (1 - P). \tag{26}
\]

However, due to (10), this is zero. Hence we have two separate conservation laws, namely,
\[
\partial M = \bar{\partial} M^\dagger \tag{27}
\]
and
\[
\partial L = \bar{\partial} L^\dagger. \tag{28}
\]
Next we consider the explicit form of the entries of the matrices $M$ and $L$. To do this we introduce

$$F_{ij} = f_i \partial f_j - f_j \partial f_i,$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(29)}

and

$$G_{ij} = f_i \partial f_j - f_j \partial f_i.$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(30)}

Then, using expressions (29) and (30), we can write the entries of the matrices $M$ and $L$, equivalently, in the form

$$M_{ij} = \bar{\Phi}_{i}^{2} f_{j},$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(31)}

and

$$L_{ij} = - f_i \bar{\Phi}_{j}^{2},$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(32)}

where we have introduced

$$\bar{\Phi}_{i}^{2} = \frac{1}{A^{2}} f_{k} F_{ki}, \hspace{1cm} A = \bar{f} f_{1}$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(33)}

and

$$\Phi_{i}^{2} = \frac{1}{A^{2}} f_{k} G_{ki},$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(34)}

and we have used the convention of implicit summation over repeated indices.

Note that from Eqs. (30), (33), and (34) we have two algebraic constraints, namely,

$$\bar{f}_{k} \varphi_{i}^{2} = 0, \hspace{1cm} f_{k} \Phi_{i}^{2} = 0,$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(35)}

which imply that only $(N-1)$ functions $\varphi_{i}^{2}$ and $(N-1)$ functions $\Phi_{i}^{2}$ are linearly independent. So in our further discussion we take as independent functions $\varphi_{2}^{2}, \ldots, \varphi_{N}^{2}$ and $\Phi_{2}^{2}, \ldots, \Phi_{N}^{2}$.

Making use of the symmetry (3) we can set, without any loss of generality, say, $f_{1} = 1$, and so we end up with the expressions [for (33), and (34)]

$$\varphi_{i}^{2} = \frac{1}{A^{2}} \left[ \left( 1 + f_{k} \bar{f}_{k} \right) \partial f_{i} - f_{i} \left( \bar{f}_{k} \partial f_{k} \right) \right],$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(36)}

$$\bar{\Phi}_{i}^{2} = \frac{1}{A^{2}} \left[ \left( 1 + f_{k} \bar{f}_{k} \right) \bar{\partial} f_{i} - f_{i} \left( \bar{f}_{k} \bar{\partial} f_{k} \right) \right], \hspace{1cm} i = 2, \ldots, N,$$

where

$$A = 1 + |f_{2}|^{2} + \cdots + |f_{N}|^{2}.$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(37)}

Note that now all the sums over repeated indices run over $k = 2, \ldots, N$.

Next we invert expressions (36) and so express all the derivatives $\partial f_{i}$ in terms of $\varphi_{i}^{2}$’s and $f_{i}$. This way we find that

$$\partial f_{i} = A \left[ \varphi_{i}^{2} + f_{i} \bar{f}_{k} \varphi_{k}^{2} \right].$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{(37)}

Thus, in particular, for the $CP^{1}$ case, Eqs. (37) become
and $f_2$ is often denoted by $w$ (see, e.g., Ref. 7), while in the $CP^2$ case we have

$$
\partial f_2 = A[(1 + |f_2|^2)\varphi_2^2 + f_2\overline{f}_3 \varphi_2^3],
$$

$$
\partial f_3 = A[(1 + |f_3|^2)\varphi_3^2 + f_3\overline{f}_2 \varphi_2^3],
$$

$$
A = 1 + |f_2|^2 + |f_3|^2.
$$

Note that in Refs. 5 and 6 the functions $f_2$ and $f_3$ are denoted by $w_1$ and $w_2$, respectively.

Similarly,

$$
\partial f_i = A [\Phi_i^2 + f_i\overline{f}_i \Phi_i^2].
$$

(39)

### III. THE WEIERSTRASS PROBLEM

In the Weierstrass problem we consider two complex functions $\psi = \psi(\xi, \overline{\xi})$ and $\phi = \phi(\xi, \overline{\xi})$, which satisfy

$$
\partial \psi = p \phi, \quad \partial \phi = -p \psi, \quad p = |\phi|^2 + |\psi|^2.
$$

(40)

Note that we have not specified $\partial \psi$, nor $\partial \phi$.

A natural question then arises. Is this problem related to the harmonic maps of the previous sections, presumably corresponding to the case of $CP^1$?

This is indeed the case as has been discussed in Ref. 4. To see this we put

$$
w = \frac{\psi}{\overline{\phi}}
$$

(41)

and note that

$$
\psi = w \frac{(\partial w)^{1/2}}{1 + |w|^2}, \quad \phi = \frac{(\partial w)^{1/2}}{1 + |w|^2}
$$

(42)

satisfy (40). In fact, one can show that (19) and (40) are equivalent.

Moreover, we can introduce three real quantities:

$$
X_1 = i \int_{\gamma} [(\overline{\psi}^2 + \phi^2)d\xi - (\psi^2 + \overline{\phi}^2)d\overline{\xi}],
$$

$$
X_2 = \int_{\gamma} [(\overline{\psi}^2 - \phi^2)d\xi + (\psi^2 - \overline{\phi}^2)d\overline{\xi}],
$$

(43)

$$
X_3 = -2 \int_{\gamma} \overline{\psi} \phi d\xi + \psi \overline{\phi} d\overline{\xi},
$$

where $\gamma$ is any curve from a fixed point to $\overline{\xi}$. Then, it is easy to show that if $\psi$ and $\phi$ satisfy (40), the functions $X_i$ do not depend on the contour of the curve $\gamma$ but only on its endpoints.

Furthermore, if we treat $X_i$ as components of a vector $\mathbf{r}=(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ and introduce the metric

$$
g_{\xi\xi} = (\partial r, \partial \overline{r}), \quad g_{\overline{\xi}\overline{\xi}} = (\overline{\partial r}, \overline{\partial \overline{r}}), \quad g_{\xi\overline{\xi}} = (\partial r, \overline{\partial \overline{r}}),
$$

(44)
we find that, for fields which solve (19) on \( S^2 \), only \( g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}} \) is nonzero and is given by

\[
g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}} = \frac{|\partial w|^2}{(1 + |w|^2)^2} = |Dz|^2,
\]

where \( D = 1/2(D_1-iD_2) \), with \( D_1 \) defined in (5); i.e., is a covariant derivative evaluated with respect to \( \zeta \). Note that (45) is a term in the general expression for the energy density of the \( CP^1 \) map. However, as all harmonic maps on \( S^2 \) satisfy \( w = w(\z), \) we noted that \( g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}} \) is the total energy density of this map. (We are assuming here that we are not dealing with antiholomorphic maps, as in this case we simply interchange the roles of \( \zeta \) and \( \bar{\zeta} \).)

**IV. A GENERALIZED WEIERSTRASS REPRESENTATION IN \( R^M \)**

Having observed that the Weierstrass problem is related to the equations of the \( CP^1 \) model, we have in Refs. 5 and 6 presented a \( CP^{N-1} \) generalization of the Weierstrass problem. Our generalization was based on the observation that for a generalized Weierstrass system in multi-dimensional spaces we need a set of \( \varphi_i \) and \( \psi_i \), which generalize the \( \varphi \) and \( \psi \) of the \( CP^1 \) case.

Then we noted that the quantities \( \varphi_i^2 \), \( i = 2, \ldots, N \), defined in (33), provide such a choice as (37) is a natural \( CP^{N-1} \) generalization of (42).

What should we take for the functions \( \psi_i \)? In Ref. 6 we argued that (41) suggested that we put

\[
\psi_i = f_i \bar{\varphi}_i
\]

with no summation over the indices \( i = 2, \ldots, N \). Then, to complete the generalization of the Weierstrass system in multi-dimensional spaces, we need relations which would be analogs of (40), i.e., we need to prescribe the first derivatives \( \partial \varphi_i \) and \( \partial \psi_i \) in terms of \( \varphi_i \) and \( \psi_i \).

Note that from (46) we have

\[
\partial \psi_i = \partial (f_i \bar{\varphi}_i) = \partial f_i \bar{\varphi}_i + f_i (\partial \bar{\varphi}_i).
\]

So, we are left to specify \( \partial \varphi_i \) in terms of \( \varphi_i, f_i \) and their derivatives. To do this, in Ref. 1, we noted that from (36) we had

\[
\partial \varphi_i^2 = 2 \frac{f_i \bar{f}_i}{A} (f_k \bar{\partial f}_k + f_k \bar{\partial f}_k) \\
+ \frac{1}{A^2} [(1 + |f|^2) \partial \bar{\partial} f_i - (f_i \bar{\partial} f_k) \partial f_k - (f_k \bar{\partial} f_i) \partial f_i - (f_k \bar{\partial} f_k) (f_i \bar{\partial} f_k) - f_i (\bar{\partial} f_k \bar{\partial} f_k) - f_i (\bar{\partial} f_k \bar{\partial} f_k)].
\]

However, Eq. (10) allowed us to eliminate the second derivatives \( \partial \bar{\partial} f_i \) from (48) and also we noted that all the terms involving first derivatives \( \partial \bar{\partial} \) and \( \bar{\partial} \) in (48) canceled. Thus we ended up with a simple expression

\[
\partial \varphi_i = -\frac{\varphi_i}{2A} (f_k \bar{\partial} f_k) - \frac{f_i}{2A} \bar{\partial} (\bar{\partial} f_k \bar{\partial} f_k) + \frac{f_i}{2A} \bar{\partial} (f_k \bar{\partial} f_k) (\bar{\partial} f_k).
\]

Next, taking the complex conjugate of (37),

\[
\bar{\partial} f_k = A \left[ \bar{\varphi}_k^2 + \bar{f}_k \bar{f}_k \right],
\]

and using (50) we have found
\begin{equation}
\ddbar \varphi_i = -\frac{1}{2} 
\left[ A \varphi_i(\bar{\varphi} \cdot \psi) + \frac{\psi_i}{\varphi_i \bar{\varphi}_i} \left[ (\bar{\varphi}^2 \cdot \varphi^2) + (\bar{\varphi} \cdot \psi)(\bar{\varphi} \cdot \varphi) \right] \right]
\end{equation}

(no summation over \(i\)). The second pair of equations for \(\psi_i\) then followed from (47), i.e.,

\begin{equation}
\partial \psi_i = A \bar{\varphi}_i \varphi_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} A \psi_i(\bar{\psi} \cdot \varphi) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{|\psi_i|^2}{|\varphi_i|^2} \left[ (\bar{\varphi}^2 \cdot \varphi^2) + (\bar{\varphi} \cdot \psi)(\bar{\varphi} \cdot \varphi) \right]
\end{equation}

(no summation over \(i\)).

Thus, in Ref. 6 we proposed the following form of the generalized Weierstrass system: The generalized Weierstrass system in multi-dimensional space is a set of \((2N-2)\) complex functions \(\varphi_i\) and \(\psi_i\), \(i=2, \ldots, N\), which obey the following system of equations (no summation over \(i\)): 

\begin{equation}
\ddbar \varphi_i = -\frac{1}{2} 
\left[ A \varphi_i(\bar{\varphi} \cdot \psi) + \frac{\psi_i}{\varphi_i \bar{\varphi}_i} \left[ (\bar{\varphi}^2 \cdot \varphi^2) + (\bar{\varphi} \cdot \psi)(\bar{\varphi} \cdot \varphi) \right] \right]
\end{equation}

and

\begin{equation}
\partial \psi_i = A \bar{\varphi}_i \varphi_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} A \psi_i(\bar{\psi} \cdot \varphi) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{|\psi_i|^2}{|\varphi_i|^2} \left[ (\bar{\varphi}^2 \cdot \varphi^2) + (\bar{\varphi} \cdot \psi)(\bar{\varphi} \cdot \varphi) \right],
\end{equation}

where 

\[ A = 1 + \sum_{k=2}^{N} \frac{|\psi_k|^2}{|\varphi_k|^2}. \]

From our construction it is clear that the above system of equations is equivalent to the equations of the \(\mathbb{C}P^{N-1}\) sigma model (10). Moreover, it is easy to check that the system of equations (53) reduces to Eq. (19) when \(N=2\).

\section{V. A MODIFIED GENERALIZED WEIERSTRASS REPRESENTATION}

The generalized Weierstrass representation given in the previous section leads to pairs of functions \(\varphi_i, \psi_i, i=2, \ldots, N\), and, as discussed in Ref. 6, to a geometric interpretation in terms of surfaces in \(\mathbb{R}^M\) for which their metric is given by \(|Dz|^2\) [as in the \(\mathbb{C}P^1\) case—see (45)]. This is the case for the holomorphic solutions but we know\(^7\) that \(\mathbb{C}P^{N-1}\) models have harmonic maps which are not holomorphic (even \(\mathbb{C}P^1\) has such maps; in this case, antiholomorphic maps, but these can be considered to be complex conjugates of holomorphic ones). But for \(\mathbb{C}P^{N-1}, N>2\), we have also maps which are neither holomorphic nor antiholomorphic. So can we generalize the Weierstrass problem differently to bring out this property?

In fact, our discussion of the \(\mathbb{C}P^{N-1}\) models does tell us what to do. We should use both \(\varphi_i\) and \(\Phi_i\). Thus we should consider a larger problem and use \(\Phi_i, \varphi_i, \) and \(f_i\).

Then taking (36) and repeating the steps as in (48) (and using \(\varphi^2\) and \(\Phi^2\)) we get

\begin{equation}
\ddbar \varphi_i = -A \varphi_i^2 (\varphi^{12} \cdot f) - f_i[(\varphi^{12} \cdot \varphi^2) + (f^1 \cdot \varphi^2)(\varphi^{23} \cdot f)],
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
\ddbar \Phi_i = -A \Phi_i^2 (f^1 \cdot \Phi^2) - f_i[(\Phi^{12} \cdot \Phi^2) + (f^1 \cdot \Phi^2)(\Phi^{12} \cdot f)].
\end{equation}

These equations should then be supplemented with the expressions for \(\partial f\) and \(\partial \bar{f}\). The latter are given by (37) and (39) and so take the form
\[ \partial f_i = A(\varphi_i^2 + f_i \bar{f}_k \varphi_k^2), \]
\[ \bar{\partial} f_i = A (\bar{\Phi}_i^2 + f_i \bar{f}_k \bar{\Phi}_k^2), \]

where, as usual, \( A = 1 + (f^\dagger \cdot f) \) and all indices, and summations, go over \((2, \ldots, N)\).

These four sets of equations (54)–(56), for three sets of complex functions, \( f_i, \varphi_j \) and \( \Phi_k \), constitute our **modified generalized Weierstrass problem**.

Let us make a few comments.

(i) The equations fall into two sets (those involving \( \partial f_i \) and \( \varphi_j \) and those involving \( \bar{\partial} f_i \) and \( \Phi_j \)). Both sets are equivalent to the same equations for \( f_i \), namely, (10).

(ii) Instead of taking \( f_i \) we could introduce, in analogy with (46), new functions \( \psi_i \) and \( \Psi_j \) by, say, \( \psi_i = f_i \bar{\varphi}_i \) and \( \Psi_j = f_j \bar{\Phi}_j \). Then our set of functions would effectively decouple.

(iii) One can consider what happens when \( f_i \) are holomorphic; i.e., \( \bar{f}_i = 0 \). Then, as is easy to check, \( f^\dagger \cdot \bar{\Phi} = 0 \), which in turn shows that \( |\Phi|^2 = 0 \), thus demonstrating that \( \Phi_i^2 = 0 \), and we are left with (54) and (56) for \( f_i, \varphi_j \), i.e., with the previous system (53).

**VI. GEOMETRICAL ASPECTS**

Next we consider some geometrical aspects of our procedure. This requires the introduction of a real vector \( X_i \in R^M \) which is a generalization of the vector (43) constructed for \( CP^1 \). In Ref. 6 we have introduced such a vector and showed that its properties generalize those of (43).

However, our approach here generalizes the discussion in Ref. 6 and elucidates some of the points made there. Namely, in our new construction we exploit the matrices \( M \) and \( L \). We introduce two matrices

\[ V = \int_{\gamma} M \, d\bar{\zeta} + \int_{\gamma} M^\dagger \, d\zeta \]  

and

\[ W = \int_{\gamma} L \, d\bar{\zeta} + \int_{\gamma} L^\dagger \, d\zeta, \]

and for the components of our vectors we take individual entries of each matrix. As \( \text{Tr} \, M = \text{Tr} \, L = 0 \) we see that \( V \) and \( W \) have, each, only \( N^2 - 1 \) independent entries so our construction gives us two vectors in \( R^{N^2 - 1} \).

Notice also that \( W \) and \( V \) do not depend on the contour of integration \( \gamma \). This follows from the fact that for an integral

\[ Z = \int_\Gamma F(\xi, \bar{\xi}) \, d\xi + \bar{F}(\eta, \bar{\eta}) \, d\bar{\eta} \]

to be independent of the integration contour \( \Gamma \) the condition is that \( F \) and \( \bar{F} \) must satisfy

\[ \bar{\partial} F = \partial \bar{F}, \]

which is the case for \( V \) and \( W \) due to, respectively, our conservation laws (27) and (28).

Of course we can reexpress our vectors \( V \) and \( W \) in terms of the Weierstrass functions \( \varphi_i, \Phi_j \) and \( f_k \) or in terms of \( \varphi_i, \psi_j, \Phi_k, \) and \( \Psi_j \).

Note that in the \( CP^1 \) case the matrix \( W \) is given by
and so, given (42), we see that the integrands of the first terms in $X_i$ of (43) have the form

$$X_1 = -i\left[\bar{L}_{21} - \bar{L}_{12}\right], \quad X_2 = -\left[\bar{L}_{21} + \bar{L}_{12}\right], \quad X_3 = -\bar{L}_{14} = \bar{L}_{22}. \quad (60)$$

So should we consider a new $2(N^2 - 1)$ vector, the first half of whose components are various entries of the matrix $W$, and the second half those of $V$? In the $CP^1$ case, as shown in Ref. 5, we can restrict ourselves to a vector with only three components. So we add both contributions and consider an $N^2 - 1$ component vector given by all the entries (except the top left hand corner one) of the matrix

$$X = \int_{\gamma} (M + L) \, d\bar{\zeta} + \int_{\gamma} (\bar{M} + \bar{L}) \, d\zeta. \quad (61)$$

Next we calculate the components of the induced metric

$$g_{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{\ell \xi} \frac{\partial X_{\alpha\ell}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial X_{\beta\xi}}{\partial y}, \quad (62)$$

where $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are $\zeta$ or $\bar{\zeta}$. But

$$\frac{\partial X}{\partial \zeta} = (M + L), \quad \frac{\partial X}{\partial \bar{\zeta}} = (\bar{M} + \bar{L}), \quad (63)$$

where we are still using the matrix formulation. Hence

$$g_{\zeta\zeta} = \text{Tr}(M + L)^2, \quad g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}} = \text{Tr}(\bar{M} + \bar{L})^2, \quad g_{\bar{\zeta}\bar{\zeta}} = \text{Tr}[(M + L)(\bar{M} + \bar{L})]. \quad (64)$$

However, given the form of $M$ in (21) and $L$ in (22), we see that

$$\text{Tr}M^2 = \text{Tr}L^2 = \text{Tr}(M^1)^2 = \text{Tr}(\bar{L}^1) = \text{Tr}L^1 M = \text{Tr}M^1 L = 0, \quad (65)$$

and so we are left with

$$g_{\zeta\zeta} = 2 \text{Tr}(ML), \quad g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}} = 2 \text{Tr}(M^1 L), \quad g_{\bar{\zeta}\bar{\zeta}} = \text{Tr}[MM^1 + LL^1]. \quad (66)$$

Next we observe that

$$\text{Tr}MM^1 = \text{Tr}(1 - P)\left[\frac{\partial f^1}{|f|} \otimes f^1 \cdot |f| \frac{\partial f^1}{|f|} - \frac{(\partial f^1 \cdot f^1)(f^1 \cdot \partial f^1)}{|f|^2} \right] = |Dz|^2, \quad (67)$$

where, as in (45), $D$ denotes the covariant derivative evaluated with respect to $\zeta$. Similarly,

$$\text{Tr}LL^1 = |D\bar{\zeta}|^2, \quad (68)$$

where $D$ is again the covariant derivative but this time evaluated with respect to $\bar{\zeta}$.

Note that, together, the two terms in $g_{\zeta\zeta}$ give the total energy density of the map (i.e., $|Dz|^2 + |D\bar{\zeta}|^2$).

What about $g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}}$ and $g_{\bar{\zeta}\bar{\zeta}}$? They are given by
and, at first sight, they appear to be nonvanishing. However, they do, in fact, vanish on the solutions of the $CP^{N-1}$ model, i.e., on the vectors $f$ which satisfy (10), at least those that are defined on $S^2$. To see this we note that

$$
g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}} = - \text{Tr} (1 - P) \frac{\bar{\partial} f \circ f^\dagger \cdot f \circ \bar{\partial} f^\dagger}{|f|^2} = - \text{Tr} (1 - P) \frac{\bar{\partial} f \circ \bar{\partial} f^\dagger}{|f|^2}, \quad (69)$$

$$
g_{\xi\bar{\xi}} = - \text{Tr} (1 - P) \frac{\bar{\partial} f \circ f^\dagger \cdot f \circ \bar{\partial} f^\dagger}{|f|^2} = - \text{Tr} (1 - P) \frac{\bar{\partial} f \circ \bar{\partial} f^\dagger}{|f|^2}, \quad (70)$$

and, at first sight, they appear to be nonvanishing. However, they do, in fact, vanish on the solutions of the $CP^{N-1}$ model, i.e., on the vectors $f$ which satisfy (10), at least those that are defined on $S^2$. To see this we note that

$$
g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}} = \frac{-|f|^2(\bar{\partial} f \circ f^\dagger + (\bar{\partial} f^\dagger \cdot f)(f^\dagger \circ \bar{\partial} f)}{|f|^2}, \quad (71)$$

and $g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}}$ is its complex conjugate.

However, all solutions of (10) defined on $S^2$ are of the type

$$f = P^k g,$$  \hspace{0.5cm} (72)

where $g$ is a holomorphic vector, i.e., $g \neq g(\bar{z})$, and $k$ is some integer taken from the set $\{0, 1, \ldots, N-1\}$, and $P^k g$ is defined by the successive, i.e., $P^k g = P^k(P^{k-1} g)$, repetition of the operation

$$P^k h = \partial h = h \frac{(h^\dagger \cdot \partial h)}{|h|^2}. \quad (73)$$

Then, as is known, $P^k g$ satisfy

$$(P^l g)^\dagger \cdot P^k g = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad k \neq l, \quad (74)$$

$$\partial P^k g = P^{k+1} g + P^k g \frac{(P^k g \circ \partial P^k g)}{|P^k g|^2}, \quad (75)$$

$$\bar{\partial} P^k g = -P^{k-1} g \frac{|P^k g|^2}{|P^{k-1} g|^2} \quad (76)$$

Thus $(\bar{\partial} f^\dagger \cdot \bar{\partial} f) = 0$ and $(f^\dagger \cdot \bar{\partial} f) = 0$ and so we see that $g_{\xi\bar{\xi}} = 0$ (and so also $g_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}} = 0$).

**VII. THE CP$^1$ CASE REVISITED**

In the CP$^1$ case it is convenient to calculate its energy momentum tensor

$$T_{\mu\nu} = (D_{\mu} z)^\dagger \cdot D_{\nu} ar{z} + (D_{\nu} z)^\dagger \cdot D_{\mu} z - \delta_{\mu\nu}|D_{\mu} z|^2. \quad (77)$$

Then, as is known

$$\bar{\partial}(T_{11} + iT_{12}) = 0 \quad (78)$$

and in the CP$^1$ case

$$J = T_{11} + iT_{12} = \frac{\partial w \bar{\partial} w}{1 + |w|^2}. \quad (79)$$
When the $CP^1$ model is defined on $S^2$ we find that $J=0$, which shows that all the harmonic $CP^1$ maps on $S^2$ are either holomorphic or antiholomorphic, but for the $CP^1$ model on $R^2$, or for $CP^{N-1}$, $N>2$, $J$ does not have to vanish.

In the $CP^1$ model case we have

$$W = -\frac{1}{(1+|w|^2)^2} \begin{pmatrix} w\bar{\partial}w & -\bar{\partial}w \\ w^2\bar{\partial}w & -w\bar{\partial}w \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$V = \frac{\bar{\partial}w}{(1+|w|^2)^2} \begin{pmatrix} -\bar{w} & -\bar{w}\bar{w} \\ 1 & \bar{w} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (80)$$

This allows us to express $\bar{\partial}w$ in terms of $\bar{\partial}\bar{w}$, $J$ and $p$ given by (40). We find

$$\bar{\partial}w = J(1+|w|^2)^2 \frac{\bar{\partial}w}{\partial w} = J \bar{\partial}\bar{w} \frac{(1+|w|^2)^2}{|\partial w|^2}. \quad (82)$$

However, using (42), we see that

$$p^2 = \frac{|\partial w|^2}{(1+|w|^2)^2} \quad (83)$$

and so we have

$$\bar{\partial}w = \bar{\partial}\bar{w} J \frac{1}{p^2}. \quad (84)$$

This allows us to combine the two vectors $V$ and $W$ into

$$V+W = \frac{\bar{\partial}\bar{w}}{(1+|w|^2)^2} \begin{pmatrix} -w-R\bar{w} & 1-R\bar{w}\bar{w} \\ R-w\bar{w} & w+R\bar{w} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (85)$$

where $R = J/p^2$.

This explains the origin of the expressions for the components of $X_i$ given in Ref. 4. However, it is clear that this possibility to gather both terms into one expression does not generalize to higher $CP^{N-1}$ models.

VIII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

The main aim of this article has been to derive a generalization of the Weierstrass system to the $CP^{N-1}$ case for which the metric of the induced surfaces is determined by the energy density of the corresponding harmonic map.

This has led us to introduce a set of $3N$ complex functions $\varphi_i$, $\Phi_i$ and $f_k$ which are required to satisfy a system of four classes of first order equations and which are equivalent to the full system of equations of the $CP^{N-1}$ model.

We have also introduced a set of $(N^2-1)$ real quantities $X_i$, which can be treated as coordinates of a surface immersed in $R^{N^2-1}$ and we have shown that the induced metric of our map is given by

$$ds^2 = (|Dz|^2 + |\bar{D}z|^2) \, d\zeta \, d\bar{\zeta}. \quad (86)$$
The study of the generalized Weierstrass representations for surfaces immersed in multi-dimensional spaces was initiated by Konopelchenko and Landolfi. Our work here, in which we have adopted an alternative approach based on the $CP^{N-1}$ sigma models, provides a generalization of their results.

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7 See, e.g., W. J. Zakrzewski, Low Dimensional Sigma Models (Hilger, Bristol, 1989).