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## ASYMPTOTIC BEHAVIOR AND AREA GROWTH OF MINIMAL SURFACES IN $\mathbf{H}^n$

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Let  $\mathbf{H}^n$  be the hyperbolic  $n$ -space of constant curvature  $-1$ . We identify  $\mathbf{H}^n$  with the unit ball in the Euclidean  $n$ -space  $\mathbf{R}^n$  via the Poincare model, i.e.,  $\mathbf{H}^n = (B^n(1), \frac{4ds^2}{(1-r^2)^2})$ , where  $ds^2$  is the Euclidean metric and  $r$  is the Euclidean distance from the origin. The sphere  $\partial B^n(1)$  is called the sphere at infinity and denoted by  $S^{n-1}(\infty)$ . It represents the asymptotic classes of geodesics in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . Let  $M$  be an immersed complete minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . The intersection of the closure of  $M$  in the Euclidean topology with  $S^{n-1}(\infty)$  can be seen as the asymptotic boundary of  $M$ . In [1], M.T. Anderson established the general existence theorem of complete area-minimizing current with prescribed asymptotic boundary, which enclosed the following result as a special case:

*Let  $C$  be a smooth closed curve (or more generally, closed 1-current) in  $S^{n-1}(\infty)$ , then there is a complete area-minimizing smooth surface  $M$  with asymptotic boundary  $C$ .*

This paper is concerned with the asymptotic behaviour of complete minimal surfaces in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . This is partially suggested by the "good" behaviour at infinity of complete minimal surfaces in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  with finite total Gaussian curvature, namely, the tangent cone at infinity of a such minimal surface is uniquely a collection of 2-plane with multiplicities (see [2],[3],[5]). But the situation is different in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . One of the differences is the above mentioned result of Anderson; another is that the total Gaussian curvature of complete minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  is infinite ( this can be seen by the Gauss equation). We will study a class of minimal surfaces in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  with minimal area growth ( see §1 of the definition ). We present some geometric descriptions of such surfaces, and find that the "length" of their asymptotic boundary in  $S^{n-1}(\infty)$  are finite ( see Theorem 3.2 ). A corollary of our theorems is (Corollary 3.3)

*Let  $M$  be a properly immersed complete and oriented minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  with Gaussian curvature  $K$ . Suppose  $M$  has finite topological type and*

$$-\int_M (1 + K) < +\infty,$$

then the asymptotic boundary of  $M$  is a rectifiable 1-varifold with finite mass.

This paper is organized as follows. In section 1, we introduce some basic properties of minimal surfaces in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . In section 2 we present Theorem 2.1 which establishes a relation between the area growth of a minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  and some weighted  $L^2$ -norm of its second fundamental form. The corresponding result of minimal surfaces in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  was obtained in a previous paper [2]. In section 3, we discuss the Euclidean area and boundary structure of a minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . Since the asymptotic boundary of a minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  is not a smooth curve in general, some concepts from geometric measure theory should be employed in the proof of the theorem. We refer to [8] for a reference of definitions and terminology of geometric measure theory.

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## 1. Preliminaries

Throughout this paper  $\mathbf{H}^n$  denotes the hyperbolic  $n$ -space of constant curvature  $-1$ , and  $M$  an oriented and properly immersed complete minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . We first recall some well-known facts.

**Proposition 1.1.** (*Monotonicity formula, Theorem 1 of [1]*) *Let  $B(t)$  be the geodesic ball of  $\mathbf{H}^n$  centered at a fixed point and radius  $t$ , and set  $M(t) = M \cap B(t)$  and  $v(t) = \text{Area}M(t)$ . Then the function*

$$\frac{v(t)}{\cosh t - 1}$$

is monotone non-decreasing in  $t$ , particularly,

$$v'(t) \cosh t - v(t) \sinh t \geq v'(t).$$

**DEFINITION 1.2.**  *$M$  is said to have minimal area growth if*

$$\sup \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t - 1} < +\infty.$$

The following proposition is a direct consequence of the definitions of the Hessian and the second fundamental form, for the proof see [6].

**Proposition 1.3.** *Let  $A$  be the second fundamental form of  $M$ ,  $\rho$  the distance function of  $H^n$  from a fixed point and  $\nabla$  the covariant derivative of  $M$ , then*

$$(\nabla^2 \rho)(e, e) = \coth \rho(1 - \langle e, \nabla \rho \rangle^2) + \langle A(e, e), \nabla^\perp \rho \rangle,$$

for any unit tangent vector  $e$  of  $M$ , where  $\nabla^\perp \rho$  is the normal projection of  $\text{Grad}_{H^n} \rho$  to  $M$ .

The restriction of distance  $\rho$  on  $M$  is smooth. By Sard's theorem, for almost all  $t > 0$ ,  $\overline{M(t)}$  is a compact surface with boundary  $\partial M(t)$  being an immersed closed curve. Denote the geodesic curvature of  $\partial M(t)$  by  $k_g^t$ . Then the Gauss-Bonnet formula is

$$(1.1) \quad \int_{\partial M(t)} k_g^t + \int_{M(t)} K = 2\pi\chi(M(t)),$$

where  $K$  is the Gaussian curvature of  $M$ , and  $\chi(M(t))$  is the Euler characteristic of  $M(t)$ . Substituting the Gauss equation  $K = -1 - \frac{1}{2}|A|^2$  into (1.1), and putting  $R(t) = \int_{M(t)} |A|^2$ , then

$$(1.2) \quad v(t) + \frac{1}{2}R(t) + 2\pi\chi(M(t)) = \int_{\partial M(t)} k_g^t.$$

Suppose  $e$  is tangent to  $\partial M(t)$ . Then,  $\frac{\nabla \rho}{|\nabla \rho|}$  being normal to  $\partial M(t)$  in  $M$ , the expression of  $k_g^t$  is

$$(1.3) \quad \begin{aligned} k_g^t &= -\langle \nabla_e e, \frac{\nabla \rho}{|\nabla \rho|} \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{|\nabla \rho|} (\nabla^2 \rho)(e, e) \\ &= \frac{1}{|\nabla \rho|} (\coth \rho + \langle A(e, e), \nabla^\perp \rho \rangle), \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality is followed by Proposition 1.2.

By the co-area formula (see [8]),  $v'(t) = \int_{\partial M(t)} \frac{1}{|\nabla \rho|}$ . Substituting (1.3) into (1.2), we obtain

**Proposition 1.4.** *For almost all  $t > 0$ ,*

$$v(t) + \frac{1}{2}R(t) + 2\pi\chi(M(t)) = v'(t) \coth t - \int_{\partial M(t)} \langle A(\frac{\nabla \rho}{|\nabla \rho|}, \frac{\nabla \rho}{|\nabla \rho|}), \frac{\nabla^\perp \rho}{|\nabla \rho|} \rangle.$$

**2. Area growth estimate**

In this section we prove the following theorem, which is analogous to Theorem 1 of [2].

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $M$  be a properly immersed complete minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . Suppose  $M$  is of finite topological type. Then  $M$  has minimal area growth if and only if*

$$\int_M e^{-\rho(x)} |A|^2(x) dx < +\infty,$$

where  $A$  is the second fundamental form of  $M$  and  $\rho$  is the distance function of  $\mathbf{H}^n$  to a fixed point.

**Lemma 2.2.** *For  $t > s > t_0 \geq 0$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\int_{M(t)-M(t_0)} \cosh \rho}{\cosh^2 t} - \frac{\int_{M(s)-M(t_0)} \cosh \rho}{\cosh^2 s} = \\ & \int_{M(t)-M(s)} \frac{1 + |\nabla^\perp \rho|^2 \sinh^2 \rho}{\cosh^3 \rho} + \int_s^t \frac{\sinh t_0 \sinh u}{\cosh^3 u} \int_{\partial M(t_0)} |\nabla \rho|. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. By the minimality of  $M$  and Proposition 1.3, we observe that

$$\Delta \rho = (2 - |\nabla \rho|^2) \coth \rho,$$

where  $\Delta$  is the Laplacian of  $M$ . It yields

$$(2.1) \quad \Delta \cosh \rho = 2 \cosh \rho.$$

Integrating (2.1) over  $M(t) - M(t_0)$  and by using Green’s formula, we have

$$(2.2) \quad 2 \int_{M(t)-M(t_0)} \cosh \rho = \int_{\partial M(t)} |\nabla \rho| \sinh \rho - \int_{\partial M(t_0)} |\nabla \rho| \sinh \rho.$$

The co-area formula ([8]) leads

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\int_{M(t)-M(t_0)} \cosh \rho}{\cosh^2 t} \right) \\ (2.3) \quad &= \frac{1}{\cosh^3 t} \left( \cosh t \int_{\partial M(t)} \frac{\cosh \rho}{|\nabla \rho|} - 2 \sinh t \int_{M(t)-M(t_0)} \cosh \rho \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\cosh^3 t} \left( \int_{\partial M(t)} \left( \frac{\cosh^2 t}{|\nabla \rho|} - |\nabla \rho| \sinh^2 t \right) + \sinh t_0 \sinh t \int_{\partial M(t_0)} |\nabla \rho| \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\cosh^3 t} \left( \int_{\partial M(t)} \frac{1}{|\nabla \rho|} (1 + |\nabla^\perp \rho|^2 \sinh^2 t) + \sinh t_0 \sinh t \int_{\partial M(t_0)} |\nabla \rho| \right). \end{aligned}$$

The lemma is then proved by integrating (2.3) from  $s$  to  $t$  and the co-area formula.

Proof of Theorem 2.1. By the co-area formula,

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{M(t)} e^{-\rho} |A|^2 &= \int_0^t e^{-s} R'(s) ds \\ &= e^{-t} R(t) + \int_0^t e^{-s} R(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

We rewrite Proposition 1.4 as

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{v'(t) \cosh t - v(t) \sinh t}{\sinh t} &= \frac{1}{2} R(t) + 2\pi\chi(M(t)) \\ &+ \int_{\partial M(t)} \langle A \left( \frac{\nabla \rho}{|\nabla \rho|}, \frac{\nabla \rho}{|\nabla \rho|}, \frac{\nabla^\perp \rho}{|\nabla \rho|} \right) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

From now on,  $C_i (i = 1, 2, \dots)$  will be denoted as constants independent of  $t$ .

If  $\int_M e^{-\rho(x)} |A|^2(x) dx < +\infty$ , by (2.5) we have

$$(2.6) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} \leq \frac{\sinh t}{\cosh^2 t} \left( \frac{1}{2} R(t) + 2\pi\chi(M(t)) \right) + \int_{\partial M(t)} \frac{|A| |\nabla^\perp \rho| \sinh t}{|\nabla \rho| \cosh^2 t}.$$

Integrating (2.6) from 0 to  $t$  and by the co-area formula,

$$(2.7) \quad \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} \leq 2 \int_0^t \left( \frac{1}{2} R(s) + 2\pi\chi(M(s)) \right) e^{-s} ds + \int_{M(t)} |A| \frac{|\nabla^\perp \rho| \sinh \rho}{\cosh^2 \rho}$$

Since  $\chi(M(t)) \leq 1$ , by using the Schwarz inequality, (2.7) and the hypothesis, we have

$$(2.8) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} &\leq C_1 + \left( \int_{M(t)} \frac{|A|^2}{\cosh \rho} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{M(t)} \frac{|\nabla^\perp \rho|^2 \sinh^2 \rho}{\cosh^3 \rho} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq C_1 + C_2 \left( \frac{\int_{M(t)} \cosh \rho}{\cosh^2 t} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (\text{by Lemma 2.2}) \\ &\leq C_1 + C_2 \left( \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus by the monotonicity of  $\frac{v(t)}{\cosh t}$  we see either  $\sup \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} \leq C_1^2$  or, when  $t$  is large enough,  $C_1^2 < \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t}$ , so

$$\frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} \leq \left( \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + C_2 \left( \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

It follows

$$\sup \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} \leq \max\{C_1^2, (1 + C_2)^2\},$$

this proves that  $M$  has minimal area growth.

Conversely, when  $\sup \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} < \infty$ , it suffices to show  $\int_0^\infty e^{-t}R(t)dt < +\infty$ . Indeed, this implies that there is a sequence  $\{t_i\}$  tending to infinity such that  $e^{-t_i}R(t_i) \rightarrow 0$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , taking  $t = t_i$  in (2.4) then letting  $i$  tending to infinity, the theorem follows.

we derive from (2.5) that

$$(2.9) \quad \frac{1}{2}R(t)e^{-t} \leq -2\pi\chi(M)e^{-t} + \frac{e^{-t} \cosh^2 t}{\sinh t} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{v(t)}{\cosh t} \right) + \int_{\partial M(t)} \frac{e^{-t}|A||\nabla^\perp \rho|}{|\nabla \rho|},$$

and we integrate above inequality from 0 to  $t$ . Then, since the integrals of the first two terms in the right hand side of (2.9) is bounded above, we have

$$(2.10) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t e^{-s}R(s)ds &\leq C_3 + \int_{M(t)} e^{-\rho}|A||\nabla^\perp \rho| \\ &\leq C_3 + \sqrt{\int_{M(t)} e^{-\rho}|A|^2 \int_{M(t)} e^{-\rho}|\nabla^\perp \rho|^2} \\ &\leq C_3 + C_4 \sqrt{\int_{M(t)} e^{-\rho}|A|^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality is followed by Lemma 2.2. For the convenience we set

$$f(t) = \int_0^t e^{-s}R(s)ds.$$

Combining (2.10) with (2.4) we obtain

$$(2.11) \quad \frac{1}{2}f(t) \leq C_3 + C_4\sqrt{f(t) + f'(t)}.$$

We claim that either of the following holds:

- (a):  $\int_0^\infty e^{-t}R(t)dt = \sup f(t) \leq 2C_3$ ,
- (b): there is a sequence  $\{t_i\}$  tending to infinity such that  $f'(t_i) < f(t_i)$ , otherwise, there is a  $t_0$  sufficient large such that  $f(t) < f'(t)$  and  $f(t) > 2C_3$  when  $t \geq t_0$ , then by (2.11)

$$\frac{8C_4^2 f'(t)}{(f(t) - 2C_3)^2} \geq 1,$$

integrating this from  $t_0$  to  $t$ , we get

$$8C_4^2 \left( \frac{1}{f(t_0) - 2C_3} - \frac{1}{f(t) - 2C_3} \right) \geq t - t_0,$$

which contradicts with the fact that  $t$  is unbounded.

It remains to prove the theorem when (b) holds. Taking  $t = t_i$  in (2.11), one has

$$(2.12) \quad \frac{1}{2}f(t_i) \leq C_3 + C_4\sqrt{2f(t_i)}.$$

If  $f(t_i) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , then dividing (2.12) by  $f(t_i)$  and letting  $i \rightarrow \infty$  would lead to an obvious contradiction. Hence  $\sup f(t) = \sup f(t_i) < \infty$  and the theorem follows.

### 3. Boundary behaviour of minimal surfaces

We regard  $\mathbf{H}^n$  as the Poincaré model, that is  $\mathbf{H}^n = (B^n(1), ds_H^2)$ , where  $B^n(1)$  is the unit ball of  $\mathbf{R}^n$  and  $ds_H^2 = \frac{4}{(1-r^2)^2} ds_E^2$  with  $r$  being the Euclidean distance function from the origin. Here and after, the subscripts  $H$  and  $E$  indicate, respectively, the notations with respect to the hyperbolic metric and the Euclidean metric.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Suppose  $M \mapsto (B^n(1), ds_H)$  is a properly immersed complete minimal surface. If  $\sup \frac{v_H(t)}{\cosh t} < \infty$  then  $\text{Area}_E(M) < \infty$ .*

Proof. For  $p \in M$ , the orthonormal basis  $e_1, e_2$  (or  $\tilde{e}_1, \tilde{e}_2$ ) of  $T_pM$  with respect to the Euclidean metric (or the hyperbolic metric) is related by

$$\tilde{e}_i = \frac{1 - r^2(p)}{2} e_i, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Since  $r = \tanh \frac{\rho}{2}$ , we have

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \nabla_E r(p) &= \sum_{i=1}^2 e_i(r) e_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{4}{(1-r^2)^2} \tilde{e}_i(r) \tilde{e}_i \\ &= (1 + \cosh \rho)^2 \sum_{i=1}^2 \tilde{e}_i \left( \tanh \frac{\rho}{2} \right) \tilde{e}_i \\ &= (1 + \cosh \rho) \nabla_H \rho(p). \end{aligned}$$



It follows  $|\nabla_{E^r}|_E = |\nabla_H \rho|_H$ . Then the co-area formula yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.2) \quad v'_H(t) &= \int_{\partial(M \cap B_H(t))} \frac{1}{|\nabla_H \rho|_H} ds_H \\
 &= \int_{\partial(M \cap B_E(\tanh \frac{t}{2}))} \frac{1}{|\nabla_{E^r}|_E} \frac{2}{1 - \tanh^2 \frac{t}{2}} ds_E \\
 &= (\cosh t + 1)v'_E(\tanh \frac{t}{2}),
 \end{aligned}$$

hence, by Proposition 1.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.3) \quad +\infty &> \int_0^\infty \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{v_H(t)}{\cosh t} \right) dt \\
 &\geq \int_0^\infty \frac{v'_H(t)}{\cosh^2 t} dt \\
 &= \int_0^\infty \frac{(1 + \cosh t)^2}{\cosh^2 t} v'_E(\tanh \frac{t}{2}) d(\tanh \frac{t}{2}) \\
 &\geq \int_0^\infty v'_E(\tanh \frac{t}{2}) d(\tanh \frac{t}{2}) \\
 &= \text{Area}_E(M).
 \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

Next we discuss the boundary behaviour of minimal surfaces. Following Anderson [1], the asymptotic boundary  $\partial M$  of a complete minimal surface  $M$  in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  is defined by

$$\partial M = \text{closure}(M) \cap S^{n-1}(\infty),$$

where the closure is taken in the Euclidean topology. When  $M$  is properly immersed, then  $\partial M$  is just the boundary of  $M$  in the Euclidean space  $R^n$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $M$  be an immersed complete minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  with minimal area growth and finite topological type. Then the asymptotic boundary  $\partial M$  of  $M$  is a rectifiable 1-varifold with finite mass when  $\partial M$  is considered as a subset of  $S^{n-1}(\infty) \subset R^n$ .*

*Proof.* We claim that  $M$  is properly immersed, which can be proved in the same way as the proof of Lemma 3 in [2]. Hence the boundary  $\partial M(t)$  of  $M(t) = M \cap B_H(t)$  is a smooth closed curve, for almost all  $t > 0$ . Since

$$\text{length}_E(\partial M(t)) = \int_{\partial M(t)} ds_E = \frac{1}{1 + \cosh t} \text{length}_H(\partial M(t)).$$

By the minimal growth of the area, there is a sequence  $\{t_i\}$  tending to infinity such that

$$\sup \text{length}_E(\partial M(t_i)) = \sup \frac{\text{length}_H(\partial M(t_i))}{\cosh t_i + 1} < \infty.$$

By the compactness theorem of current (Theorem 27.3 of [8]), there is a subsequence of  $\{\partial M(t_i)\}$ , denoted again by  $\{\partial M(t_i)\}$ , converges to an integer multiplicity 1-current as currents in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . If we regard  $\partial M(t_i)$  as a rectifiable 1-varifold in  $B^n(1) \subset R^n$ , then  $\{\partial M(t_i)\}$  also converges to a rectifiable 1-varifold  $\mathcal{V}$  with integer multiplicity.

Suppose  $\mathcal{V} = \underline{v}(\Sigma, \theta)$ , where  $\Sigma = \text{support}(\mathcal{V})$  and  $\theta$  is the multiplicity function of  $\mathcal{V}$ . It is obvious that  $\Sigma \subset \partial M$ . In the following we show actually  $\mathcal{V} = \underline{v}(\partial M, \theta)$ , then the theorem follows.

Denote  $\mathcal{H}^1$  the 1-dimensional Hausdorff measure of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , and  $\mu_v$  the weight measure of  $\mathcal{V}$ . By the convergence,

$$\mathcal{H}^1|_{\partial M(t_i)} \rightarrow \mu_v \quad (i \rightarrow \infty)$$

as the Radon measures. Suppose  $p \in \partial M - \Sigma \neq \phi$ , there is a neighbourhood  $O$  of  $p$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  such that  $\Sigma \cap O = \phi$ . We can choose  $O$  to be a ball in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  such that  $\partial O \cap B^n(1)$  is a hyperplane of  $H^n$ . Then

$$(3.4) \quad \text{length}_E(O \cap \partial M(t_i)) = \mathcal{H}^1(O \cap \partial M(t_i)) \rightarrow \mu_v(B_E(p, \epsilon)) = 0.$$

Since  $M$  has finite topological type,  $p$  represents an end  $V$  of  $M$ , which is topologically an annulus. Let  $C_i = V \cap O \cap \partial M(t_i)$ . If  $C_i$  is not a closed curve, taking  $p_i \in C_i$  such that  $p_i \rightarrow p$ , then

$$\text{length}_E(C_i) \geq \text{dist}_E(p_i, \partial O) \geq \text{dist}_E(p, \partial O) - \text{dist}_E(p_i, p).$$

This implies by (3.4) that  $C_i$  is a closed curve when  $i$  is sufficiently large. By the convex hull property of minimal surface in  $H^n$  (Lemma 5 of [1]), when  $i \geq i_0$ ,

$$V(t_i) := V \cap (M(t_i) - M(t_{i_0})) \subset O.$$

Applying Lemma 2.2 to  $V(t_i)$ ,

$$\int_{V(t_i)} \cosh \rho ds_H^2 \geq \cosh^2 t_i \int_{V(t_i)} \frac{1 + |\nabla^\perp \rho|^2 \sinh^2 \rho}{\cosh^3 \rho} ds_H^2.$$

Now (2.2) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}^1(C_i) &= \frac{\text{length}_H(C_i)}{1 + \cosh t_i} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{\sinh t_i (1 + \cosh t_i)} \int_{V(t_i)} \cosh \rho ds_H^2 \\ &\geq \frac{\cosh^2 t_i}{\sinh t_i (1 + \cosh t_i)} \int_{V(t_i)} \frac{1 + |\nabla^\perp \rho|^2 \sinh^2 \rho}{\cosh^3 \rho} ds_H^2, \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts (3.4). This completes the proof of the theorem.

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $M$  be a properly immersed complete and oriented minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  with Gaussian curvature  $K$ . Suppose  $M$  has finite topological type and*

$$-\int_M (1 + K) < +\infty,$$

*then the asymptotic boundary of  $M$  is a rectifiable 1-varifold with finite mass.*

Proof. By the hypothesis and the Gauss equation,

$$\int_M |A|^2 < \infty.$$

Therefore the corollary is followed by Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 3.2.

REMARK 3.4. 1. Let  $M$  be a properly immersed complete minimal surface in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  with minimal area growth and finite topological type. By Theorem 3.1,  $M$  is a 2-current with finite mass when  $M$  is considered as a current in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . Then Theorem 3.2 implies readily that asymptotic boundary  $\partial M$  coincides with the boundary current of  $M$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , which generalizes Proposition 6 of [1].

2: It would be an interesting question whether the following equality holds for the properly immersed complete minimal surfaces in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  with minimal area growth:

$$\sup \frac{v_H(t)}{\cosh t - 1} = \int_{\partial M} \theta d\mathcal{H}^1 \text{ (mass of } \mathcal{V}\text{)}.$$

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