Nondegeneracy of constant mean curvature surfaces

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Constant mean curvature surfaces with finite topology have a definite asymptotic structure, which allows one to assign asymptotic data to each such surface. How well does this asymptotic data determine the surface? To answer this question one must understand the linearization of the mean curvature operator. I will discuss joint work with Nick Korevaar and Rob Kusner which finds explicit bounds for the dimension of the $L^2$ kernel of this operator for many constant mean curvature surfaces.

For more information about this seminar, visit the DG/PDE Seminar Web page (from the Math Department home page, www.math.washington.edu, follow the link Seminars, Colloquia, and Conferences).

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