

Conformally Flat Riemann Spaces of Class One

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(Received Nov. 11, 1949)

When an $n (\geq 3)$ -dimensional Riemann space C_n with a metric defined by a positive-definite quadratic differential form is conformal to a flat space and is of class one, at least $(n-1)$ principal normal curvatures are equal. If all of them are equal, C_n is of constant curvature.

This theorem was proved by J. A. Schouten,⁽¹⁾ only when $(n+1)$ -dimensional flat E_{n+1} enclosing C_n is euclidean. But, even if E_{n+1} is not euclidean, we can prove it similarly as follows.

Since C_n is conformally flat, the curvature tensor is written in the form

$$(0.1) \quad R_{hijk} = g_{hj}l_{ik} + g_{ik}l_{hj} - g_{hk}l_{ij} - g_{ij}l_{hk};$$

where we put

$$(0.2) \quad l_{ij} = \frac{1}{n-2} \left(R_{ij} - \frac{R}{2(n-1)} g_{ij} \right).$$

If C_n is of class one, the Gauss equation

$$(0.3) \quad R_{hijk} = e(H_{hj}H_{ik} - H_{hk}H_{ij}) \quad (e = \pm 1)$$

is satisfied; where $e = +1$ if enclosing E_{n+1} is euclidean. Referring to the coordinate system (C) such that coordinate lines are lines of curvature, we have from (0.1) and (0.3),

$$(0.4) \quad l_{ii} + l_{jj} = eH_{ii}H_{jj} \quad (i \neq j).$$

Making use of (0.4), we can prove easily the above theorem.

In this paper we look for the condition that $C_n (n > 3)$ not of constant curvature be of class one. It is very difficult to express the resultant system⁽²⁾ explicitly as in the paper of T. Y. Thomas for general Riemann spaces of class one. C. B. Allendoerfer could avoid this difficulty for the Einstein spaces.⁽³⁾ We shall obtain an analogous result for conformally flat spaces as follows.

I. We have from (0.3)

$$(1.1) \quad H_{lm}R_{hljk} - H_{lk}R_{hijm} - H_{jh}R_{mkli} + H_{ji}R_{mklh} = 0. \quad (4)$$