

167. A Remark on the Sobolev Inequality for Riemannian Submanifolds

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Recently, D. Hoffman and J. Spruck proved a Sobolev inequality in [2] as follows:

Let $M \rightarrow \bar{M}$ be an isometric immersion of Riemannian manifolds of dimension m and n , respectively. Using the following quantities:

\bar{K}_π = sectional curvature for plane section π in \bar{M} ,

H = mean curvature vector field of the immersion,

$\bar{R}(M)$ = minimum distance for the cut locus in \bar{M} for all points in M ,

ω_m = volume of the unit ball in R^m

and

b = a positive real number

and assuming $\bar{K}_\pi < b^2$, then for any non-negative C^1 function h on M with compact support and $h|_{\partial M} \equiv 0$ we have

$$(1) \quad \left(\int_M h^{m/(m-1)} dV_M \right)^{(m-1)/m} \leq c(m) \int_M [|\nabla h| + h|H|] dV_M,$$

provided

$$(2) \quad b \left\{ \frac{1}{(1-\alpha)\omega_m} \text{Vol}(\text{supp } h) \right\}^{1/m} \leq 1$$

and

$$(3) \quad \rho_* := \frac{1}{b} \sin^{-1} \left[b \left\{ \frac{1}{(1-\alpha)\omega_m} \text{Vol}(\text{supp } h) \right\}^{1/m} \right] \leq \frac{1}{2} \bar{R}(M),$$

where α is a free parameter, $0 < \alpha < 1$, and

$$(4) \quad c(m) = c(m, \alpha) := \frac{\pi}{2} \cdot \frac{2^{m-2}}{\alpha} \cdot \frac{m}{m-1} \cdot \left\{ \frac{1}{(1-\alpha)\omega_m} \right\}^{1/m}.$$

This inequality is very important from the geometric point of view, since this type of inequalities will have a number of interesting applications in differential geometry. In this short paper, we will show that $c(m)$ in (1) must be revised by a more sharper constant, for example

$$(4') \quad \begin{aligned} c'(m) &= c'(m, \alpha, t) \\ &:= \frac{\pi}{2} \cdot \frac{(m-\alpha)t^{m-1} - (1-\alpha)}{(m-1)\alpha} \cdot \frac{m}{m-1} \cdot \left\{ \frac{1}{(1-\alpha)\omega_m} \right\}^{1/m}, \end{aligned}$$

provided (2) and

$$(3') \quad t\rho_* \leq \bar{R}(M),$$

where $0 < \alpha < 1$ and $2 \leq t$.