# COMPACT MINIMAL GENERIC SUBMANIFOLDS WITH PARALLEL NORMAL SECTION IN A COMPLEX PROJECTIVE SPACE

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#### Introduction

Generic submanifold have been investigated by many authors (e.g. [5], [7], [8], [9], [21]). Here a submanifold M in a Kaehlerian manifold is called *generic* if each normal space of M is mapped into the tangent space of M by the complex structure of the ambient space (cf. [2], [4], [22]). Any real hypersurface in a Kaehlerian manifold is a typical example of the generic submanifold.

In particular, the model space of the so called  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ , B, C, D and E-type are typical examples of a real hypersurface in a complex projective space  $P(\mathbb{C})$ . Recently, the third named author, B. H. Kim and I.-B. Kim [19] proved that those model spaces exhaust all intrinsic homogeneous real hypersurfaces in  $P(\mathbb{C})$ .

On the other hand, the model spaces of the type  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  was frist introduced by Lawson [13], and he gave a characterization of them. Moreover, Choe and Okumura [5] gave a generalization of Lawson's theorem in [13] from a viewpoint of the CR-submanifold (see §1 for the definition).

The purpose of the present paper is to give another generalization (Theorem A) of Lawson's theorem, from a viewpoint of the generic submanifold, and to give new examples of a generic submanifold in  $P(\mathbb{C})$ .

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# 1. Preliminaries

Let  $\widetilde{M}$  be a Kaehlerian manifold of real dimension n+r equipped with an almost complex structure J and a Hermitian metric tensor G. Then for any vector fields X and Y on M, we have

$$J^2X = -X$$
,  $G(JX, JY) = G(X, Y)$ ,  $\widetilde{\nabla} J = 0$ ,

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where  $\widetilde{\nabla}$  denotes the Riemannian connection of  $\widetilde{M}$ .

Let M be an n-dimensional Riemannian manifold covered by a system of coordinate neighborhoods  $\{U; x^h\}$  and isometrically immersed in  $\widetilde{M}$  by the immersion  $i: M \to \widetilde{M}$ . When the argument is local, M need not distinguished from i(M) itself. Throughout this paper the indices  $i, j, k, \cdots$  run from 1 to n. We represent the immersion i locally by

$$y^A = y^A(x^h), \quad (A = 1, \dots, n, \dots, n+r)$$

and put  $B_j^A = \partial_j y^A$ ,  $(\partial_j = \partial/\partial x^j)$  then  $B_j = (B_j^A)$  are *n*-linearly independent local tangent vectors of M. We choose r-mutually orthogonal unit normals  $C_x = (C_x^A)$  to M. Hereafter the indices  $u, v, w, x, \cdots$  run from n+1 to n+r and the summation convention will be used. The immersion being isometric, the induced Riemannian metric tensor g with components  $g_{ji}$  and the metric tensor g with components  $g_{ji}$  and  $g_{ji}$  an

$$g_{ji} = G(B_j, B_i), \ \delta_{yx} = G(C_y, C_x).$$

By denoting  $\nabla_j$  the operator of van der Waerden-Bortolotti covariant differentiation with respect to g and G, the equations of Gauss and Weingarten for the submanifold M are respectively given by

$$\nabla_i B_i = A_{ii}{}^x C_x, \quad \nabla_i C_x = -A_i{}^h{}_x B_h,$$

where  $A_{ji}^{x}$  are components of the second fundamental tensor and the shape operator  $A^{x}$  in the direction  $C_{x}$  are related by

$$A^{x} = (A_{j}^{hx}) = (A_{jiy} \ g^{ih} \ \delta^{yx}), \ (g^{ji}) = (g_{ji})^{-1}.$$

For  $x \in M$  we denotes by  $T_x(M)$  and  $N_x(M)$  the tangent space and the normal space of M, respectively.

A submanifold M of a Kaehlerian manifold  $\widetilde{M}$  is called CR submanifold of  $\widetilde{M}$  if there exists a differentiable distribution  $D: x \to D_x \subset T_x(M)$  on M satisfying the following conditons (see [2], [4], [22]):

- (1) D is invariant with respect to J, and
- (2) the complementary orthogonal distribution  $D^{\perp}: x \to D^{\perp}_{x} \subset T_{x}(M)$  is totally real with respect to J.

In particular if dim  $D^{\perp} = \operatorname{codim} M$ , then M is a generic submanifold of  $\widetilde{M}(\operatorname{see} [8], [20])$ . If M is a CR submanifold, then the maximal J-invariant subspace  $JT_x(M) \cap T_x(M)$  of  $T_x(M)$  has constant dimension for  $x \in M$  and this constant is called CR dimension.

If we assume that M is CR submanifold of CR dimension n-1, that is,

$$\dim(JT_x(M)\cap T_x(M))=n-1.$$

This implies that there exists a unit vector field  $C_*$  normal to M such that  $JT(M) \subset T(M) \oplus \text{span } \{C_*\}$ . Then, we have the following theorem by the first named author and Okumura [5].

**Theorem A.** Let M be an n-dimensional compact, minimal CR submanifold of CR dimension n-1 of  $P^{(n+r)/2}(\mathbb{C})$ . If the normal vector field  $C_*$  is parallel with respect to the normal connection and scalar curvature  $\geq (n+2)(n-1)$ , then M is an  $M_{p,q}^C$  for some p, q satisfying 2(p+q)=n-1.

The model space  $M_{p,q}^C$  in the above theorem is described in the following. Let  $M_{p,q}$  be the hypersurface in  $S^{n+2}$  which is defined by

$$\sum_{j=0}^{p} |z_j|^2 = \cos^2 \theta, \quad \sum_{j=p+1}^{p+q+1} |z_j|^2 = \sin^2 \theta, \quad 0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

 $M_{p,q}$  is a standard product  $S^{2p+1} \times S^{2q+1}$ , 2(p+q) = n-1. The Hopf fibration  $\pi: S^{n+2} \to P^{(n+1)/2}(\mathbb{C})$  submerses  $M_{p,q}$  onto a real hypersurface of  $P^{(n+1)/2}(\mathbb{C})$  which we denote by  $M_{p,q}^C$ . Cecil-Ryan [3] proved that  $M_{p,q}^C$  is a tube of radius  $\theta$  over a totally geodesic  $P^p(\mathbb{C})$ , namely,  $M_{p,q}^C$  is a homogeneous type  $A_1$  or  $A_2$  [18].

In the following, we assume that M is a generic submanifold of a Kaehlerian manifold. Then our hypothesis implies that the transformations of  $B_i$  and  $C_x$  by J are respectively represented in each coordinate neighborhood as follows:

(1.2) 
$$JB_{j} = f_{j}^{h}B_{h} - J_{j}^{x}C_{x}, \quad JC_{x} = J_{x}^{h}B_{h},$$

where we have put  $f_{ji} = G(JB_j, B_i)$ ,  $J_{jx} = -G(JB_j, C_x)$ ,  $J_{xj} = G(JC_x, B_j)$ ,  $f_j^h = f_{ji}g^{ih}$  and  $J_j^x = J_{jy}\delta^{yx}$ . From these definitions, it follows from (1.2) that

(1.3) 
$$f_j^t f_t^h = -\delta_j^h + J_j^x J_x^h, \quad f_{jt} J_x^t = 0,$$

$$(1.4) J_{r}^{t}J_{t}^{z}=\delta_{r}^{z}.$$

By differentiating (1.2) covariantly along M, using  $\widetilde{\nabla} J$ =0, and by comparing the tangential and normal parts, we obtain

(1.5) 
$$\nabla_{j} f_{i}^{h} = A_{ji}^{x} J_{x}^{h} - A_{j}^{hx} J_{ix},$$

$$\nabla_j J_{ix} = A_{jtx} f_i^{t},$$

$$A_{jty}J^{tx} = A_{jt}{}^{x}J_{y}{}^{t}.$$

If the ambient space  $\widetilde{M}$  is a Kaehlerian manifold of constant holomorphic sectional curvature 4, the equations of Gauss, Codazzi and Ricci of M are respectively given by

$$(1.8) \quad R_{kjih} = g_{kh}g_{ji} - g_{jh}g_{ki} + f_{kh}f_{ji} - f_{jh}f_{ki} - 2f_{kj}f_{ih} + A_{kh}^{x}A_{jix} - A_{jh}^{x}A_{kix},$$

$$\nabla_k A_{jix} - \nabla_j A_{kix} = J_{jx} f_{ki} - J_{kx} f_{ji} + 2J_{ix} f_{kj},$$

(1.10) 
$$R_{jiyx} = J_{jx}J_{iy} - J_{ix}J_{jy} + A_{jtx}A_{i}^{t}_{y} - A_{itx}A_{j}^{t}_{y},$$

where  $R_{kjih}$  and  $R_{jiyx}$  are components of the Riemannian curvature tensor and those with respect to the connection induced in the normal bundle respectively.

From (1.8) the Ricci tensor S of M is verified that

$$S_{ji} = (n+2)g_{ji} - 3J_i^x J_{ix} + h^x A_{jix} - A_{jt}^x A_i^t_x$$

because of (1.3), where  $h^x$ =trace  $A^x$ . Thus the scalar curvature  $\rho$  of M is given by

(1.11) 
$$\rho = n(n+2) - 3J_{ix}J^{ix} + h_xh^x - A_{jix}A^{jix}$$

since we have (1.4).

In what follows, to write our formula in convention forms n+1 denoted by the symbol \* and we put  $h_{(2)} = A_{ji} * A_*^{ji}$ ,  $(A_{ji} *)^2 = A_{jr} * A_i^{r*}$  and  $P_{xyz} = A_{jix} J_y^{\ j} J_z^{\ i}$ . Then  $P_{xyz}$  is symmetric for all indices because of (1.7).

### 2. Parallel normal section

Here we consider the case of a complex projective space  $\widetilde{M} = P^{(n+r)/2}(\mathbb{C})$  of constant holomorphic sectional curvature 4. A normal vector field  $\xi = (\xi^x)$  is called a *parallel section* in the normal bundle if it satisfies  $\nabla_j \xi^x = 0$ .

From now on we suppose that M is an n-dimensional compact generic submanifold of  $P^{(n+r)/2}(\mathbb{C})$  with parallel unit normal vector field  $C_*$  with respect to the normal connection, that is,  $\nabla_j^{\perp} C_* = 0$ . Then (1.10) shows that  $R_{ji*x}$  vanishes identically for any index x and hence

(2.1) 
$$A_{jtx}A_{i}^{t} + A_{itx}A_{j}^{t} = J_{j*}J_{ix} - J_{i*}J_{jx},$$

which together with (1.4) and (1.7) implies that

(2.2) 
$$(J^{j*}A_j^{t*})(J^{ix}A_{itx}) = (A_j^{tx}J_*^{j})(A_{itx}J^{i*}) + 1 - r.$$

From (1.5) and (1.6) we have

(2.3) 
$$\nabla_k \nabla_j J_i^* = (\nabla_k A_{jt}^*) f_i^t + A_{jt}^* (A_{ki}^x J_x^t - A_k^{tx} J_{ix}),$$

or, using (1.3), (1.4) and (2.2)

$$J^{i*}\Delta J_{i*} = (A_i^{tx} J_{t*})(A^{ji}_{x} J_{i*}) - h_{(2)},$$

where  $\Delta = g^{ji} \nabla_j \nabla_i$ .

We also have from (2.3)

$$J^{j*}(\nabla_i \nabla_j J^{i*}) = h^x P_{x**} - (A_i^{tx} J_{t*})(A^{ji}_x J_{i*}) + n - 1,$$

where we have used (1.3), (1.4) and (1.9). From the last two equations, we obtain

$$(2.4) J^{i*} \Delta J_{i*} + J^{j*} (\nabla_i \nabla_i J^{i*}) = -h_{(2)} + h^x P_{x**} + n - 1.$$

Let us put  $U_j = J^{i*}\nabla_j J_i^* + J^{i*}\nabla_i J_j^*$ . Then we have

$$\operatorname{div} U = (\nabla_{j} J_{i*})(\nabla^{i} J^{j*}) + (\nabla_{j} J^{i*})(\nabla^{j} J_{i*}) + J^{i*} \Delta J_{i*} + J^{j*} \nabla^{i} \nabla_{j} J_{i*},$$

which together with (1.6) and (2.4) yields

(2.5) 
$$\operatorname{div} U = \frac{1}{2} |A^*f - fA^*|^2 - h_{(2)} + h^x P_{x**} + n - 1.$$

On the other hand, we have from (1.4)

(2.6) 
$$J_{j*}J^{j*} = 1, \quad J_{jx}J^{jx} = r$$

because r is the codimension of M and consequently we obtain

$$(2.7) J_{j(x)}J^{j(x)} = r - 1, (x) \ge n + 2.$$

Thus, (1.11) turns out to be

(2.8) 
$$\rho = (n+3)(n-1) - 3J_{j(x)}J^{j(x)} + h_x h^x - h_{(2)} + A_{ji(x)}A^{ji(x)}.$$

**Lemma 1.** Let M be an n-dimensional generic, minimal submanifold of  $P^{(n+r)/2}(\mathbb{C})$  with parallel unit normal  $C_*$ . Then we have

(2.9) 
$$\operatorname{div} U = \frac{1}{2} |A^*f - fA^*|^2 + \rho - (n+2)(n-1) + 3J_{j(x)}J^{j(x)} + A_{ji(x)}A^{ji(x)}.$$

Proof. Since M is minimal, it follows, using (2.5), (2.6) and (2.8), that required equation is obtained. This completes the proof.

Further, suppose that M is compact and the scalar curvature  $\rho$  of M satisfies  $\rho \ge (n+2)(n-1)$  in Lemma 1, Then we have

$$A^* f = f A^*,$$
  
 $A_{ji}^{(x)} = 0, \quad J_{j(x)} = 0 \text{ for all } (x) \ge n + 2$ 

and  $\rho = (n+2)(n-1)$ . Thus (2.7) means r = 1, that is, M is a real hypersurface of  $P^{(n+1)/2}(\mathbb{C})$ .

Thus we have

**Lemma 2.** Let M be an n-dimensional compact generic, minimal submanifold in  $P^{(n+r)/2}(\mathbb{C})$ . Suppose that M admits a parallel unit normal vector field  $C_*$  and the scalar curvature  $\rho \geq (n+2)(n-1)$  on M. Then M is a real hypersurface in  $P^{(n+1)/2}(\mathbb{C})$  satisfying  $A^* f = f A^*$  and  $\rho = (n+2)(n-1)$ .

From Lemma 2 and Theorem 4.4 in [15] due to Okumura, we have

**Theorem 3.** Let M be an n-dimensional compact generic, minimal submanifold in  $P^{(n+r)/2}(\mathbb{C})$ . Suppose that M admits a parallel unit normal vector field and the scalar curvature  $\geq (n+2)(n-1)$ . Then r=1 and M is an  $M_{p,q}^{C}$  for some p,q satisfying 2(p+q)=n-1.

# 3. Examples of generic submanifolds in $P^n(\mathbb{C})$

In this section we shall give two examples of a compact homogeneous generic submanifold in  $P^n(\mathbb{C})$ , and another example of a compact homogeneous minimal generic submanifold in  $P^n(\mathbb{C})$  admitting a parallel normal vector field.

Let p, q ( $p \le q$ ) be positive integers. We denote by  $M_{p,q}(\mathbb{C})$  the space of  $p \times q$  matrices over  $\mathbb{C}$ , which can be considered as a complex Euclidean space  $\mathbb{C}^{pq}$  with the standard Hermitian inner product. Let U(p) denote the unitary group of degree p. Then the Lie group  $G := S(U(p) \times U(q))$  acts on  $\mathbb{C}^{pq} \equiv M_{p,q}(\mathbb{C})$  as follows:

$$(\sigma,\tau)X=\sigma X\tau^{-1},\quad (\sigma,\tau)\in G,\ X\in\mathbb{C}^{pq}.$$

Thus we can consider G as a unitary subgroup of U(pq). Remark that this action is nothing but the linear isotropic representation of the compact Hermitian symmetric space  $SU(p+q)/S(U(p)\times U(q))$  of type AIII.

Let  $\pi$  be the canonical projection of  $\mathbb{C}^{pq} - \{0\}$  onto  $P^{pq-1}(\mathbb{C})$ , and  $S^{2pq-1}(r)$  the hypersphere in  $\mathbb{C}^{pq}$  of radius r centered at the origin. Then, for any element A of  $\mathbb{C}^{pq} - \{0\}$ , the orbit G(A) of A under G is a compact homogeneous submanifold in  $S^{2pq-1}(|A|)$ , and the space  $\pi(G(A))$  is a compact homogeneous submanifolds in  $P^{pq-1}(\mathbb{C})$  (see e.g. [19]). Moreover, for any normal vector N of G(A) in  $S^{2pq-1}(|A|)$ , the mean curvature of G(A) in the direction N is equal to the one of  $\pi(G(A))$  in the direction  $\pi_*N$  in  $P^{pq-1}(\mathbb{C})$ . (see e.g. [16]). In particular, G(A) is minimal in  $S^{2pq-1}(|A|)$  if and only if  $\pi(G(A))$  is minimal in  $P^{pq-1}(\mathbb{C})$ .

Here, for  $i = 1, \dots, p$  we put

and denote by a the vector space spanned by  $e_1, \dots, e_p$  over  $\mathbb{R}$ . In the sequel we shall show

- (3.1) If  $A = a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_pe_p$  satisfies  $a_i \neq 0$ ,  $a_i^2 \neq a_j^2$  for  $1 \leq i < j \leq p$ , then  $\pi(G(A))$  is a (2pq p 1)-dimensional generic submanifold in  $P^{pq-1}(\mathbb{C})$ .
- (3.2) If  $A = e_1 + e_2 + a_3 e_3 + \dots + a_p e_p$  satisfies  $a_i^2 \neq 0$ , 1 and  $a_i^2 \neq a_j^2$  for  $3 \leq i < j \leq p$ , then  $\pi(G(A))$  is a (2pq p 3)-dimensional generic submanifold in  $P^{pq-1}(\mathbb{C})$ .
- (3.3) Let  $p = 3 \le q$ . Then there exists a vector A in  $a \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $\pi(G(A))$  is a (6q 4) dimensional minimal generic submanifold in  $P^{3q-1}(\mathbb{C})$  admitting a parallel normal vector field.

To show these, we need some preparations. Let  $\Delta$  denote the positive restricted root system associated with the symmetric space  $SU(p+q)/S(U(p) \times U(q))$  and  $\mathfrak{a}(cf. [6])$ . Let  $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_p\}$  be the dual basis of  $e_1, \dots, e_p$ . Then  $\Delta$  is given by

(3.4) 
$$\Delta = \{\omega_i, 2\omega_i, \omega_i \pm \omega_j; 1 \le i < j \le p\}$$

with multiplicities 2(q-p), 1, 2, respectively (cf. Helgason [6, 349p] or Araki [1, table]). An element  $A = a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_pe_p$  is called regular if  $\omega(A) \neq 0$  for any  $\omega \in \Delta$ , or equivalently  $a_i \neq 0$ ,  $a_i^2 \neq a_j^2$  for  $1 \leq i < j \leq p$ .

Thus a vector A in (3.2) is regular, and one in (3.2) is not regular. As seen later, a vector in (3.3) is also regular. In the following, A always denotes an element of  $\mathfrak{a} \setminus \{0\}$ .

By the difinition, the tangent space  $T_A(G(A))$  of the orbit of A under G is generated by the vectors

$$XA$$
 and  $AY$ .

where X (resp. Y) ranges over all skew-Hermitian matrices of degree p (resp. q). In particular, if A is regular, the normal space of G(A) in  $\mathbb{C}^{2pq}$  is just  $\mathfrak{a}$ , and the normal space of G(A) in  $S^{2pq-1}(|A|)$  consits of all vectors  $x_1e_1 + \cdots + x_pe_p$  satisfying  $a_1x_1 + \cdots + a_pe_p$  satisfying  $a_1x_1$ 

$$\cdots + a_p x_p = 0.$$

It is proved in [19] that if A is regular, for a unit normal vector N of G(A) in  $S^{2pq-1}(|A|)$ , the mean curvature of G(A) in the direction N is given by

$$\frac{-1}{\dim G(A)} \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \frac{\lambda(N)}{\lambda(A)},$$

where the summation is taken according to the multiplicities of  $\lambda$ . In particular, if A is regular, the orbit G(A) and space  $\pi(G(A))$  are minimal in  $S^{2pq-1}(|A|)$  if and only if

(3.5) 
$$\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \frac{\lambda(N)}{\lambda(A)} = 0 \quad \text{for } N = a_i e_1 - a_1 e_i \ (i = 2, \dots, p).$$

Now, by a theorem of Kitagawa and Ohnita [11] we see that the mean curvature vector field  $\eta(A)$  of the orbit G(A) in  $\mathbb{C}^{pq}$  is parallel with respect to the normal connection. We denote by by  $\eta_s(A)$  the  $S^{2pq-1}(|A|)$ -component of  $\eta(A)$ . Then we easily see that  $\eta_s(A)$  is the mean curvature vector field of G(A) in  $S^{2pq-1}(|A|)$  and parallel in  $S^{2pq-1}(|A|)$ . Moreover, by a theorem of Shimizu [17], the mean curvature vector field of the submanifold  $\pi(G(A))$  is given by  $\pi_*\eta_s(A)$  and parallel in  $P^{pq-1}(\mathbb{C})$ .

Now we are in a position to show  $(3.1)\sim(3.3)$ .

Proof of (3.1). This is a special case of the results in [17]. Remark that the word *generic* is not used there.

Proof of (3.2). By a simple calculation we find that the normal space of  $T_A(G(A))$  in  $\mathbb{C}^{pq}$  is generated by  $\mathfrak{a}$  and the following two vectors:

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & \\ 1 & 0 & O & \\ \hline O & O & O \end{bmatrix}, \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{-1} & & & \\ -\sqrt{-1} & 0 & & & \\ \hline O & & O & & O \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus the space  $\sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{a}$  and two vectors  $\sqrt{-1}B$  and  $\sqrt{-1}C$  are tangent to G(A) at A, which implies that the space  $\pi(G(A))$  is generic in  $P^{pq-1}(\mathbb{C})$ .

REMARK. Since this A is not regular, the space is not treated in [17].

Proof of (3.3). Put  $A = e_1 + ae_2 + be_3$ , where 0 < b < a < 1. Then A is regular. Thus as a basis for the normal space of G(A) at A in  $S^{3q-1}(|A|)$  we can take

$$\{ae_1 - e_2, be_1 - e_3\}.$$

It follows from (3.4) and (3.5) that the space  $\pi(G(A))$  is minimal in  $P^{3q-1}(\mathbb{C})$  if and

only if

(3.6) 
$$\begin{cases} \left(q - \frac{5}{2}\right)\left(a - \frac{1}{a}\right) + \frac{a-1}{1+a} + \frac{a}{1+b} - \frac{1}{a+b} + \frac{a+1}{1-a} + \frac{a}{1-b} - \frac{1}{a-b} = 0, \\ \left(q - \frac{5}{2}\right)\left(b - \frac{1}{b}\right) + \frac{b-1}{1+b} + \frac{b}{1+a} - \frac{1}{b+a} + \frac{b+1}{1-b} + \frac{b}{1-a} - \frac{1}{b-a} = 0. \end{cases}$$

For simplicity we put

$$m := (2q - 5)/4, \quad x := a^2, y := b^2,$$

$$X(x, y) := m\left(\frac{1}{x} - 1\right) - \frac{2}{1 - x} - \frac{1}{1 - y} + \frac{1}{x - y},$$

$$U := \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 < y < x < 1\}.$$

Then (3.6) can be rewritten as

$$(3.7) X(x, y) = 0, X(y, x) = 0, (x, y) \in U.$$

Now we define a differential mapping f of U into  $\mathbb{R}^2$  by

$$f(x, y) = (X(x, y), X(y, x)), (x, y) \in U.$$

It is sufficient to show that f(U) contains 0. We can easily check the following.

- (3.8) The Jacobian matrix of f is non-singular everywhere. Hence f is locally diffeomorphic everywhere.
- (3.9) For every sequence  $\{p_n\}$  in U converging to a point of the boundary  $\partial U$  of U,

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} |f(p_n)| = \infty.$$

Assume that  $W := \mathbb{R}^2 - f(U) \neq \phi$ . Then, choose any point r in  $\partial W$ . Let  $\{p_n\}$  be a sequence in U such that  $f(p_n) \to r$  as  $n \to \infty$ . Then there exists a subsequence  $\{p_{n_i}\}$  of  $\{p_n\}$  such that  $\{p_{n_i}\}$  converges to some point of  $\overline{U}$ , say  $p_0$ . If  $p_0 \in U$ , then it contradicts (3.8). If  $p_0 \in \partial U$ , then it contradicts (3.9). Thus we have shown that there are a point  $(a_0, b_0)$  in U and a neighbourhood V of  $(a_0, b_0)$  in U such that the space  $\pi(G(A))$  where  $A = e_1 + a_0e_2 + b_0e_3$  is minimal but for any  $(a, b) \in V - \{(a_0, b_0)\}$  the space  $\pi(G(A))$  where  $A = e_1 + ae_2 + be_3$  is not minimal. For an element (a, b) in V, we denote by M(a, b) the space  $\pi(G(A))$  where  $A = e_1 + ae_2 + be_3$ , and by  $\eta(a, b)$  the mean curvature vector field of M(a, b).

Finally we shall show that  $M(a_0, b_0)$  admits a parallel normal vector field. Since every M(a, b) is an equivariant homogeneous submanifold in  $P^{3q-1}(\mathbb{C})$ , the length of its mean curvature vector field is constant. Thus for every (a, b) in  $V - \{(a_0, b_0)\}$  we

obtain a parallel unit vector field  $\xi(a,b) := \eta(a,b)/|\eta(a,b)|$  on M(a,b). Since this  $\xi$  is a differentiable vector field on the open subset

$$\{p \in M(a,b) \mid (a,b) \in V - \{(a_0,b_0)\}\}$$

of  $P^{3q-1}(\mathbb{C})$ , we obtain a unit vector field on  $M(a_0, b_0)$  as a limit of  $\xi$ , say  $\xi_0$ . Since the normal connection M(a, b) differentiably depends on (a, b) in V, the vector field  $\xi_0$  on  $M(a_0, b_0)$  is also parallel.

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