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ON THE LOCAL VERSION OF PU'S PROBLEM

By Takashi Sakai

1. Introduction. Let $\mathfrak{M} = \{(P^n, g)\}$ be the space of riemannian structures on the *n*-dimensional real projective space P^n . Let $\operatorname{vol}(P^n, g)$ denote the volume of P^n with respect to the canonical measure ν_g derived from g, and $L_g(c)$ denote the length of a closed curve c relative to g. Now we define

quot₁(P^n , g) \equiv vol (P^n , g)/[Inf { $L_g(c) | c$; homologically non-trivial piecewise smooth closed curve on P^n }]ⁿ.

Thus $quot_1(P^n, g)$ may be considered as a function over \mathfrak{M} .

Now Pu's problem states that " $quot_1(P^n, g) \ge quot_1(P^n, g_0)$ holds where g_0 denotes the canonical structure of constant curvature, and the equality holds if and only if (P^n, g) is of constant curvature". That is, the function $quot_1(P^n, g)$ on \mathfrak{M} takes the minimum value exactly at the riemannian structure of constant curvature. For n=2 the problem is solved affirmatively (Pu [6]). But for n>2 the problem is completely open. Some authors have tried to solve the problem for some classes of riemannian structures on P^n (i.e. for some subsets of \mathfrak{M}) (See I. Chavel [2], [3], [4], P.M. Pu [6], T. Sakai [7]).

 $\operatorname{Quot}_1(P^n, g)$ is not a differentiable function on \mathfrak{M} . That is, even if g(t) is a differentiable one parameter family of riemannian structures on P^n , generally $\operatorname{quot}_1(P^n, g)$ doesn't depend differentiably on t. In the present note we shall consider the following function f on \mathfrak{M} instead of quot_1 .

Let $G=SO(n+1)/SO(n-1)\times SO(2)$ be the Grassmann manifold of all real projective lines (i.e. closed geodesics of length π with respect to the metric g_0 of constant curvature 1) of $P^n=SO(n+1)/SO(n)\times (\pm I_{n+1})$. G is assumed to carry the bi-invariant riemannian structure which is derived from the Killing form of the Lie algebra of O(n+1).

Now we define for (P^n, g)

$$f(P^n, g) \equiv \operatorname{vol}(P^n, g) / \{c(P^n, g)\}^n, \quad \text{where}$$
$$c(P^n, g) \equiv (1/(\operatorname{vol} G)) \int_G \left(\int_0^\pi \sqrt{g(\dot{c}(s), \dot{c}(s))} ds\right) \nu_G$$

In the above definition, vol G denote the volume of G with respect to the biinvariant metric defined above, and c(s) is a closed geodesic in (P^n, g_0) of length

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 π which is parametrized by arc length. This function f has been considered in M. Berger ([1]) in a more general setting.

In the first part of the present note we shall consider this function. It is known that f is a differentiable function on \mathfrak{M} and that g_0 of constant curvature is a critical point of f; i. e. $d/dt(f(g_t))_{t=0}=0$ holds for any differentiable one parameter family g(t) with $g(0)=g_0$ in \mathfrak{M} (See Berger [1]). We shall show that conversely any riemannian structure on P^n which is a critical point of f must be a metric of constant curvature.

Thus we have a following characterization of the riemannian structure of constant curvature on P^n .

THEOREM A. (P^n, g) is a critical point of f on \mathfrak{M} if and only if (P^n, g) is of constant curvature.

Remark. We have $f(g_0) = quot_1(P^n, g_0)$ and $f(g) \leq quot_1(P^n, g)$ for any $(P^n, g) \in \mathfrak{M}$.

In the second part of the present note we shall treat the generalized Pu's problem which has been proposed by Berger ([1]). Let $K_1=R$, $K_2=C$, $K_4=H$, $K_8=Ca$ be the fields of real numbers, complex numbers, quaternions, and Cayley numbers respectively. Let P_i^a be an $a \cdot (K_i)$ dimensional projective space (i=1, 2, 4, 8) and $\mathfrak{M}=\mathfrak{M}_i^a=\{(P_i^a, g)\}$ be the space of riemannain structures on P_i^a . We set for $1 \leq b \leq a-1$

 $\operatorname{carc}_{b}(P_{i}^{a}, g) = \operatorname{Inf} \{\operatorname{vol}(Y, g|_{Y})|_{\ell} : Y \subset P_{i}^{a} \text{ is a } (bi)\text{-dimensional compact}$ orientable submanifold of P_{i}^{a} and the image of a generator of $H_{bi}(Y)$ by ι_{*} is a non-zero element of $H_{bi}(P_{i}^{a})\}$

 $\operatorname{carc}_{b}^{\prime}(P_{i}^{a},g) = \operatorname{Inf} \left\{ \operatorname{vol}(Y,g|_{Y}) | Y(\iota \subset P_{i}^{a}) \text{ is diffeomorphic to } P_{b}^{i} \text{ and } \iota_{*} \right.$ maps a generator of $H_{bi}(Y)$ onto a generator of $H_{bi}(P_{i}^{a})$

$$\operatorname{quot}_b(P_i^a, g) = (\operatorname{vol}(P_i^a, g))^b / (\operatorname{carc}_b(P_i^a, g))^a$$

 $quot'_b(P^a_i, g) = (vol(P^a_i, g))^b / (carc'_b(P^a_i, g))^a$.

Now Berger's problems state as follows;

 $I(a, b; i): \operatorname{quot}_b(P_i^a, g) \ge \operatorname{quot}_b(P_i^a, g_0) \quad \text{for } \forall g \in \mathfrak{M},$

 $I'(a, b; i): \operatorname{quot}_b'(P_i^a, g) \ge \operatorname{quot}_b'(P_i^a, g_0) \quad \text{for } \forall g \in \mathfrak{M},$

IC(a, b; i): "I(a, b; i)" and the equality holds if and only if $g=g_0$,

IC'(a, b; i): "I'(a, b; i)" and the equality holds if and only if $g=g_0$,

where g_0 denotes the canonical riemannain structure of symmetric space of rank one on P_i^a .

In this general case, we shall consider the following function $f=f_i^{a,b}$ in stead of $quot_b(P_i^a, g)$. Let $G=G_i^{a,b}$ be a Grassmann manifold of *b*-dimensional projective subspaces of P_i^a . G carries a riemannian structure of symmetric space. Now we define following Berger ([1]),

$$c(P_i^a, g) \equiv (\operatorname{vol} G)^{-1} \int_{Y \in G} \operatorname{vol} (Y, g|_Y) \nu_G$$
$$f(P_i^a, g) \equiv (\operatorname{vol} (P_i^a, g))^b / (c(P_i^a, g))^a.$$

Then f is a "differentiable function" on \mathfrak{M} , and we have $f(P_i^a, g_0) = \operatorname{quot}_b(P_i^a, g_0)$ and $f(P_i^a, g) \leq \operatorname{quot}_b(P_i^a, g) \leq \operatorname{quot}_b(P_i^a, g)$. It is known that g_0 (the canonical riemannian structure of symmetric space of rank one) is a critical point of f; i.e. $d/dt(f(g(t)))|_{t=0}=0$ for and differentiable one parameter family g(t) of riemannain structures on P_i^a with $g(0)=g_0$.

In the present note we shall calculate the second variation $d^2/dt^2(f(g(t)))|_{t=0}$ at g_0 and consider the problem; "For what g(t), $d^2/dt^2(f(g(t)))_{t=0} > 0$ holds?". This implies the following result concerned with Berger's problem.

THEOREM B. Let $(P_i^a, g(t))$ be a differentiable one parameter family of riemannain structures on P_i^a such that $g(0)=g_0$ is the canonical metric on P_i^a and $g'(0)=\lambda g_0$ holds, where λ is a not constant function on P_i^a . Then there exists a positive number ε such that

$$\operatorname{quot}_{b}(P_{i}^{a}, g(t)) \geq \operatorname{quot}_{b}(P_{i}^{a}, g(t)) > \operatorname{quot}_{b}(P_{i}^{a}, g_{0})$$

holds for any $0 < |t| < \varepsilon$.

Remark. For b=i=1, Chavel ([3]) has proved that for any g(t) such that $g(0)=g_0$ and g'(0) is not a constant multiple of g_0 , there exists a positive number ε such that $quot_1(P^n, g(t)) > quot_1(P^n, g_0)$ holds for $0 < |t| < \varepsilon$. But his proof depends on a theorem of Michel ([5]) which is valid only for real projective space. So Chavel's method seems to be not valid for this general case.

Remark. If (P_i^a, g) is conformally related to the canonical structure, then it is known that $quot_b(P_i^a, g) \ge quot_b(P_i^a, g_0)$, where the equality holds if and only if $g=g_0$ up to the homothety. Since the condition " $g'(0)=\lambda g_0$ " means that g(t)is conformally related to g_0 up to the first order, the theorem may be considered as the local version of the above result. Of course there are many g(t) which satisfy $g'(0)=\lambda g_0$ but are not conformally related to g_0 .

2. Proof of Theorem A. First we shall sum up the formulas which are used in the sequel.

LEMMA 1. Let M be a compact C^{∞} -manifold and g(t) be a differentiable one parameter family of riemannian structures on M. Then we have,

(2.1)
$$\{ \operatorname{vol}(M, g(t)) \}' = 1/2 \int_{M} \operatorname{trace}_{g(t)} g'(t) \nu_{g(t)},$$

where $\operatorname{trace}_{g(t)}g'(t)$ means the trace of the symmetric covariant 2-tensor g'(t) with respect to g(t), i.e. $\operatorname{trace}_{g(t)}g'(t)=g^{ij}(t)g'_{ij}(t)$.

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Proof of Lemma 1). This is well known. In fact we have

$$\{\nu_{g(t)}\}' = 1/2 \operatorname{trace}_{g(t)} g'(t)$$
 (See Berger [1]).

LEMMA 2. Let (M, g) be a compact riemannain manifold of dimension n, and $p: UM \rightarrow M$ be the unit tangent bundle. Then for any symmetric covariant 2-tensor h on M we have

(2.2)
$$\int_{M} \operatorname{trace}_{g} h \nu_{g} = \frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}} \int_{m \in M} \left\{ \int_{m} h(x, x) \nu_{p-1(m)} \right\} \nu_{g},$$

where ω_{n-1} denotes the volume of the unit sphere and $\nu_{p-1(m)}$ denotes the measure of the $U_m M$ derived from g.

Proof of Lemma 2). This is also standard. For every $m \in M$, choose an orthonormal frame with respect to which h takes the form

 $h(x, x) = \lambda_1 x_1^2 + \lambda_2 x_2^2 + \cdots + \lambda_n x_n^2$.

$$\int_{p^{-1}(m)} h(x, x) \nu_{p^{-1}(m)} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i \int_{x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2 = 1} x_i^2 dS^{n-1} = \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{n} \operatorname{trace}_g h.$$

Let (P^n, g_0) denotes the *n*-dimensional real projective space with the canonical riemannian structure of constant curvature 1. Then the unit tangent bundle UP^n has the natural induced riemannian structure h_0 derived from g_0 (See the proof of Lemma 3). On the other hand let G be the Grassmann manifold of real projective lines (i. e. closed geodesic of length π in (P^n, g_0)) of P^n . We endow with G the canonical riemannian structure k_0 of symmetric space. To every unit tangent vector $x \in UP^n$, we assign $q(x) \in G$ which is the closed geodesic of (P^n, g_0) with the initial direction x. Then we have the bundle structure $q: UP \rightarrow G$. In the above notation we have

LEMMA 3. $p:(UP^n, h_0) \rightarrow (P^n, g_0)$ and $q:(UP^n, h_0) \rightarrow (G, k_0)$ are riemannian submersions. The fiber $p^{-1}(m)$, $m \in M$ is an (n-1)-dimensional sphere of constant curvature 1 and the fiber $q^{-1}(c)$, $c \in G$ is a closed geodesic of length π in (UP^n, h_0) , where $q^{-1}(c)$ may be identified with real projective line c.

Proof of Lemma 3). This follows from the following representations of (P^n, g_0) , (UP^n, h_0) , (G, h_0) as the riemannain homogeneous spaces:

$$\begin{split} & (P^{n}, g_{0}) = SO(n+1)/SO(n) \times \{\pm I_{n+1}\} \\ & (UP^{n}, h_{0}) = SO(n+1)/SO(n-1) \times \{\pm I_{n+1}\} \\ & (G, k_{0}) = SO(n+1)/SO(n-1) \times SO(2) , \end{split}$$

where these homogeneous spaces are assumed to carry the bi-invariant normal homogeneous riemannian structures which are derived from the Killing form of the Lie algebra of O(n+1). Then p, q are riemannian submersions and we have $p^{-1}(m) \cong SO(n)/SO(n-1)$ and $q^{-1}(c) \cong SO(2)/\{\pm I\}$.

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LEMMA 4. Let a_1, \dots, a_n be positive real numbers. We put

$$A_{i} = \int_{x_{1}^{2} + \dots + x_{n}^{2} = 1} \frac{a_{i} x_{i}^{2}}{\sqrt{a_{1} x_{1}^{2} + \dots + a_{n} x_{n}^{2}}} dS^{n-1} \text{ (not summed with respect to i).}$$

If $A_1 = \cdots = A_n$ holds, we have $a_1 = \cdots = a_n$.

Proof of Lemma 4). By an elementary calculus we get

$$A_1 - A_2 = (a_1 - a_2) \int_{S^{n-1}} (\text{positive function on} S^{n-1}) dS^{n-1}.$$

Now we shall return to the proof of Theorem A. We put g(0)=g, g'(0)=h and assume that g is a critical point of f. Then for any digerentiable one parameter family g(t) in \mathfrak{M} with g(0)=g, we have by (2.1)

(2.3)
$$d/dt(f(g(t)))|_{t=0} = (1/(2 \operatorname{vol} G))\{c(g)\}^{-n-1} \left[\int_{G} \left\{ \int_{0}^{\pi} \|\dot{c}(s)\|_{g} ds \right\} \nu_{G} \right. \\ \left. \int_{P^{n}} \operatorname{trace}_{g} h \nu_{g} - n \operatorname{vol} (P^{n}, g) \int_{G} \left\{ \int_{0}^{\pi} \frac{h(\dot{c}(s), \dot{c}(s))}{\|\dot{c}(s)\|_{g}} ds \right\} \nu_{G} \right] = 0 .$$

Let $S^2(M)$ denote the space of symmetric covariant 2-tensor fields on M. So g is a critical point of f if and only if

$$\frac{\int_{G} \left\{ \int_{0}^{\pi} \frac{h(\dot{c}(s), \dot{c}(s))}{\|\dot{c}(s)\|_{g}} ds \right\} \nu_{G}}{\int_{p^{n}} \operatorname{trace}_{g} h \nu_{g}} = \operatorname{constant}$$

for any $h \in S^2(P^n)$. On the other hand by (2.2) and Lemma 3, using the integration along the fiber of riemannian submersion the left hand side of (2.4) takes the form

$$-\frac{\omega_{n-1}\int_{P^n}\left\{\int_{U_m^{(g_0)}P^n}\frac{h(x,x)}{\|x\|_g}\nu_{p^{-1}(m)}\right\}\nu_{g_0}}{n\int_{P^n}\left\{\int_{U_m^{(g)}P^n}h(x,x)\nu_{p^{-1}(m)}\right\}\nu_g},$$

where $U_m^{(g)}P^n$ denote the space of unit tangent vectors at m with respect to the metric g. Note that $\nu_g(m) = \sqrt{\det(g_{ij}(m))/\det((g_0)_{ij}(m))}\nu_{g_0}(m)$ holds. So if g is a critical point of f, then there exists a C^{∞} -function k(m) on P^n such that

(2.5)
$$\int_{Pn} \left\{ \int_{U_m^{(g_0)} P^n} \frac{h(x, x)}{\|x\|_g} \nu_{p^{-1}(m)} - k(m) \int_{U_m^{(g)} P^n} h(x, x) \nu_{p^{-1}(m)} \right\} \nu_{g_0} = 0$$

holds for any $h \in S^2(P^n)$. Then at every point $m \in P^n$, we have

(2.6)
$$\alpha_h(m) \equiv \int_{x \in U_m^{(g_0)} P^n} \frac{h_m(x, x)}{\|x\|_{g(m)}} \nu_{p^{-1}(m)} - k(m) \int_{U_m^{(g)} P^n} h_m(x, x) \nu_{p^{-1}(m)} = 0$$

for any $h \in S^2(P^n)$. In fact, assume that (2.6) is not satisfied for some $m \in P^n$ and $h \in S^2(M)$. Then we may assume that $m \to \alpha_h(m)$ is positive on some neigh-

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borhood U of m. Choose a C^{∞} -function φ ($\varphi \ge 0$) on P^n such that $\varphi=1$ on some $V(\subset U)$ and $\varphi=0$ outside of U. Then $\int_{P^n} \varphi \alpha_n \nu_{g_0} = \int_{P^n} \alpha_{\varphi h} \nu_{g_0} > 0$. This contradicts (2.5). Now take an orthonormal frame relative to g_0 in $T_m P^n$ so that g takes the form

$$g(x, x) = a_1 x_1^2 + \dots + a_n x_n^2$$
 $(a_1, \dots, a_n > 0)$

where x_i 's are the components of x with respect to this orthonormal basis. In (2.6) take especially $h(x, x) = x_i^2$. So we have

$$\int_{x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2 = 1} \frac{x_i^2}{\sqrt{a_1 x_1^2 + \dots + a_n x_n^2}} \, dS^{n-1} = k(m) \int_{y_1^2 + \dots + y_n^2 = 1} \frac{y_i^2}{a_i} \, dS^{n-1}$$

where we have put $y_i^2 = a_i x_i^2$ (not summed). That is,

$$A_{i} = \int_{x_{1}^{2} + \dots + x_{n}^{2} = 1} \frac{a_{i} x_{i}^{2}}{\sqrt{a_{1} x_{1}^{2} + \dots + a_{n} x_{n}^{2}}} dS^{n-1} = k(m) \omega_{n-1}/n \quad (=\text{constant}).$$

So by Lemma 4 we have $a_1 = \cdots = a_n$, that is, $g(=ag_0)$ is conformally related to the canonical riemannian structure on P^n . Finally we show that this positive C^{∞} -function a on P^n must reduce to a constant. Let $h = \varphi g_0$ where φ is any C^{∞} -function, then from (2.4) we have

$$\int_{P^n} \left\{ \left(\int_{P^n} a^n \nu_{g_0} \right) \frac{1}{a} - a^{n-2} \left(\int_{P^n} a \nu_{g_0} \right) \right\} \varphi \nu_{g_0} = 0$$

and consequently a must be a constant.

q. e. d.

3. Proof of Theorem B. Let $g=g_0$ be the riemannian structure of symmetric space of rank one on P_i^a . Let g(t) be any differentiable one parameter family of riemannian structures on P_i^a with $g(0)=g_0$. Then it is known that $d/dt(f(g(t)))|_{t=0}=0$. But g_0 is never a minimum value of f. In fact, φ_t be a one parameter family of diffeomorphism of P_i^a and set $g(t) = \varphi_i^* g_0$. Then we have $f(g(t)) \ge f(g_0)$. Now we shall calculate the second variation of f at g, i.e. $d^2/dt^2(f(g(t)))|_{t=0}$. The usefull tool is the integration along the fiber of the following two riemannian submersions. Let $V_i^{a,b}$ be the set of K_i -subspaces of real dimension bi (tangent spaces to the b-dimensional projective subspaces of P_i^a and $p: V_i^{a,b} \to P_i^a$ be the map which associate to $V \in V_i^{a,b}$ the point $m \in P_i^a$ such that $V \subset T_m P_i^a$. Let $q: V_i^{a,b} \to G$ be the map which associate to $V \in V_i^{a,b}$ the K_i -projective subspace $Y(\in G)$ tangent to V at p(V). Then there are natural riemannian structures h_0 , k_0 on $V_i^{a,b}$ and G respectively such that $p: (V_i^{a,b}, h_0)$ $\rightarrow (P_i^a, g_0), q: (V_i^{a,b}, h_0) \rightarrow (G, k_0)$ are riemannian submersions (For the proof see Berger [1] pp. 26-31). In the following we put g'(0) = h, g''(0) = k, $\operatorname{vol} P = \operatorname{vol}(P_i^a, g_0)$, and vol $P' = vol(P_{i}^{b}, g_{0})$. Then by Lemma 1 (See the proof of Lemma 1) we get

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(3.1)
$$\{ \operatorname{vol}(Y, g(t)_{|Y}) \}'' |_{t=0} = -1/2 \langle h, h \rangle_{P_{i}^{a}} + 1/2 \int_{P_{i}^{a}} \operatorname{trace}_{g} h \nu_{g} + 1/4 \int_{P_{i}^{a}} (\operatorname{trace}_{g} h)^{2} \nu_{g} ,$$

where $\left<\,,\right>_{p^a_*}$ denotes the global inner product by the integration.

(3.2)
$$\operatorname{vol} G\{c(g(t))\}^{\prime\prime}|_{t=0} = -1/2 \int_{Y \in G} \langle h_{|Y}, h_{|Y} \rangle_{Y} \nu_{G}$$
$$+ 1/2 \frac{b}{a} \frac{\operatorname{vol} P' \cdot \operatorname{vol} G}{\operatorname{vol} P} \int_{P_{i}^{a}} \operatorname{trace}_{g} k \nu_{g} + \frac{1}{4} \int_{G} \left\{ \int_{Y} (\operatorname{trace}_{g|Y} k_{|Y})^{2} \nu_{g|Y} \right\} \nu_{G}.$$

From (3.1) and (3.2) we have

$$(3.3) \quad (\operatorname{vol} P)^{-b+2} (\operatorname{vol} P')^{a+2} d^2/dt^2 (f(g(t)))|_{t=0} \\ = -\{b(a-b)/4a\} (\operatorname{vol} P')^2 \{\int_{P_i^a} \operatorname{trace}_g h\nu_g\}^2 + (b \operatorname{vol} P(\operatorname{vol} P')^2/4) \\ \times \int_{P_i^a} (\operatorname{trace}_g h)^2 \nu_g - b \operatorname{vol} P(\operatorname{vol} P')^2/2 \cdot \langle h, h \rangle_{P_i^a} \\ + a(\operatorname{vol} P)^2 \operatorname{vol} P'/(2 \operatorname{vol} G) \int_{Y \in G} \langle h_{|Y}, h_{|Y} \rangle_Y \nu_G \\ - a(\operatorname{vol} P)^2 \operatorname{vol} P'/(4 \operatorname{vol} G) \int_{Y \in G} \nu_G \int_Y (\operatorname{trace}_{g|Y} h_{|Y})^2 \nu_{g|Y} \, . \end{cases}$$

There are many h=g'(0) which makes (3.3) negative. But such an h doesn't give a counter example to Berger's problem because $f(g) \ge \operatorname{quot}_b(P_i^a, g)$ holds. On the other hand it seems interesting to find the class of g'(0) which make (3.3) positive, because f(g(t)) takes the strictly minimal value at t=0 for such g'(0).

Next we shall give an example of such g'(0). We assume that $h=g'(0)=\lambda g_0$ holds, where λ is any C^{∞} -function over P_i^a . In this case (3.3) takes the form

(3.4)
$$(\operatorname{vol} P)^{-b+2}(\operatorname{vol} P)^{a+2} d^2/dt^2(f(g(t)))|_{t=0}$$

$$= -\{ab(a-b)t^2\}/4a \cdot (\operatorname{vol} P')^2 \left(\int_{P_i^a} \lambda \nu_g\right)^2 + (a^2bt^2)/4 \cdot \operatorname{vol} P$$

$$\times (\operatorname{vol} P')^2 \left(\int_{P_i^a} \lambda \nu_g\right) - abt/2 \cdot \operatorname{vol} P(\operatorname{vol} P')^2 \left(\int_{P_i^a} \lambda^2 \nu_g\right)$$

$$+ abt/2 \cdot \operatorname{vol} P(\operatorname{vol} P')^2 \left(\int_{P_i^a} \lambda^2 \nu_g\right) - (ab^2t^2)/4 \cdot \operatorname{vol} P(\operatorname{vol} P')^2 \left(\int_{P_i^a} \lambda^2 \nu_g\right)$$

$$= \{ab(a-b)t^2\}/4 (\operatorname{vol} P')^2 \left\{\operatorname{vol} P \int_{P_i^a} \lambda^2 \nu_g - \left(\int_{P_i^a} \lambda \nu_g\right)^2\right\} \ge 0,$$

by virtue of Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, and equality holds if and only if λ is a constant function. This completes the proof of Theorem B.

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