

## A CONGRUENCE THEOREM FOR CLOSED HYPERSURFACES IN RIEMANN SPACES

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### Introduction

We consider two closed oriented surfaces  $F$  and  $\bar{F}$  in Euclidean 3-space  $E^3$  and a differentiable map  $\Phi: F \rightarrow \bar{F}$  preserving the orientation. The word differentiable always means differentiable of class  $C^\infty$ . Furthermore, we assume that the set of points on  $F$  where the lines  $(p, \bar{p})$ ,  $\bar{p} = \Phi(p)$ , are tangent to  $\bar{F}$  does not have inner points. Then the following theorems are known:

A) If all the lines  $(p, \bar{p})$  are parallel and  $H(p) = \bar{H}(\bar{p})$  ( $H$  and  $\bar{H}$  are the mean curvatures of  $F$  and  $\bar{F}$  respectively), then the surface  $\bar{F}$  is obtained from  $F$  by a single translation, i.e., the distances  $p\bar{p}$  are the same for all points  $p$  on  $F$  (H. Hopf and K. Voss [8]).

B) If all the lines  $(p, \bar{p})$  go through a fixed point 0 (which does or does not lie on  $F$  or  $\bar{F}$ ) and if  $rH(p) = \bar{r}\bar{H}(\bar{p})$  ( $r$  and  $\bar{r}$  are the distances of  $p$  and  $\bar{p}$  from 0), then  $\bar{F}$  is obtained from  $F$  by a homothety, in other words the ratio  $\bar{r}/r$  is constant (A. Aeppli [1]).

In order to generalize these two theorems we consider the following case: Let  $R^{n+1}$  be an  $(n + 1)$ -dimensional Riemann space, and  $\Phi(p, s)$  be a one-parameter group of transformations of  $R^{n+1}$  into itself. Furthermore, let  $F^n$  and  $\bar{F}^n$  be two  $n$ -dimensional hypersurfaces of  $R^{n+1}$  such that the points of  $\bar{F}^n$  are given by the formula:

$$\bar{p} = \Phi(p, f(p)), \quad p \in F^n,$$

where  $f(p)$  is a differentiable function of  $F^n$ . To generalize the condition for the mean curvatures, we have to introduce an additional family of hypersurfaces, one for every point of  $F^n$ , given by the formula:

$$\tilde{F}_p^n = \Phi(F^n, f(p)).$$

Then the point  $\bar{p} = \Phi(p, f(p))$  lies on the hypersurfaces  $\bar{F}^n$  and  $\tilde{F}_p^n$  and we define:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{H}(\bar{p}) &= \text{mean curvature of } \bar{F}^n \text{ at } \bar{p}, \\ \tilde{H}(\bar{p}) &= \text{mean curvature of } \tilde{F}_p^n \text{ at } \bar{p}. \end{aligned}$$

We denote by  $S$  the set of points of  $\bar{F}^n$  where the vector tangent to the orbit of  $\Phi(p, s)$  through  $\bar{p}$  lies in the tangent space of  $\bar{F}^n$ . For this general case, the following two theorems are known.

I) If  $\bar{H}(\bar{p}) = \tilde{H}(\bar{p})$  for all  $\bar{p} \in \bar{F}^n$ ,  $\Phi(p, s)$  is a group of homothetic transformations, and the set  $S$  of the exceptional points is nowhere dense in  $\bar{F}^n$ , then  $F^n$  and  $\bar{F}^n$  are congruent mod  $\Phi$ ; in other words,  $f(p) = \text{const.}$  (Y. Katsurada [9]).

II) If  $\bar{H}(\bar{p}) = \tilde{H}(\bar{p})$  for all  $\bar{p} \in \bar{F}^n$ , and the set  $S$  is empty, then  $F^n$  and  $\bar{F}^n$  are congruent mod  $\Phi$  (H. Hopf and Y. Katsurada [7]).

Theorem II is not a generalization of Theorem A, since in this case we always have exceptional points. However it suggests that Theorem I is true without the additional assumption of homotheticity.

Theorem I has been proved by Y. Katsurada by using the method of differential forms. For the proof of Theorem II the authors use the strong maximum principle of E. Hopf [5]. In [10], K. Voss gave a proof of Theorem A, using a generalized maximum principle. However, his proof worked only in the case where  $F$  and  $\bar{F}$  are real analytic surfaces. Later, P. Hartman [3] gave a proof without using the assumption of analyticity, by generalizing the strong maximum principle for elliptic differential equations. In this paper we give a proof of the following theorem, which is a generalization of Theorem II since we may have exceptional points, but which is not a generalization of Theorem I since the assumption on the exceptional points is stronger than that in Theorem I.

**Theorem.** *Let  $F^n, \bar{F}^n, \tilde{F}_p^n$  be closed oriented hypersurfaces in  $R^{n+1}$  as explained above, and assume all maps to be orientation-preserving. Furthermore let  $\varphi(\bar{p}) = (w, \bar{n})$ , where  $w$  is the vector tangent to the curve  $\Phi(\bar{p}, s)$ ,  $-\varepsilon < s < +\varepsilon$ , at  $\bar{p}$ , and  $\bar{n}$  is the normal vector of  $\bar{F}^n$  at  $p$ . If  $\text{grad } \varphi \neq 0$  whenever  $\varphi = 0$  on  $\bar{F}^n$ , and  $\bar{H}(\bar{p}) = \tilde{H}(\bar{p})$  for all  $\bar{p} \in \bar{F}^n$ , then the hypersurfaces  $F^n$  and  $\bar{F}^n$  are congruent mod  $\Phi$ .*

### 1. Variation of the mean curvature

Let  $F^n$  be a hypersurface in an  $(n+1)$ -dimensional Riemann space  $R^{n+1}$  given locally by the equations

$$x^i = x^i(u^\alpha), \quad i = 1, \dots, n+1; \quad \alpha = 1, \dots, n.$$

Then the tangent space to the surface is spanned by the  $n$  linearly independent vectors  $t_\alpha = (\partial x^i / \partial u^\alpha) \partial / \partial x^i$ . For the covariant derivative of the vector-field  $t_\alpha$  in the direction of  $t_\beta$  in  $R^{n+1}$  we get

$$D_\beta t_\alpha = \nabla_{t_\beta} t_\alpha = \left( \frac{\partial^2 x^i}{\partial u^\alpha \partial u^\beta} + \Gamma_{jk}^i \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial x^k}{\partial u^\beta} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i},$$

and for the second fundamental form

$$l_{\alpha\beta} = (D_\alpha t_\beta, n) = g_{iu} \left( \frac{\partial^2 x^i}{\partial u^\alpha \partial u^\beta} + \Gamma^i_{jk} \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial x^k}{\partial u^\beta} \right) n^i,$$

where  $n = n^i \partial / \partial x^i$  is the normal to the hypersurface, and  $g_{ij}$  is the metric tensor of the space  $R^{n+1}$ . The formula for the mean curvature of the hypersurface is

$$H = g^{\alpha\beta} l_{\alpha\beta} / n = l_\alpha^\alpha / n,$$

where  $g^{\alpha\beta}$  is the inverse of  $g_{\alpha\beta} = g_{ij}(\partial x^i / \partial u^\alpha) \partial x^j / \partial u^\beta$ .

Now let  $\Phi(p, s)$  be a one-parameter group of transformations of  $R^{n+1}$ , and  $F^n$  and  $\bar{F}^n$  be two hypersurfaces such that

$$\bar{F}^n = \{\Phi(p, f(p)), p \in F^n\}$$

as in the introduction. We introduce an additional family of hypersurfaces, depending on a point  $p \in F^n$  and a parameter  $t, 0 \leq t \leq 1$ , given by the equation

$$F^n(p, t) = \{\Phi(q, tf(q) + (1 - t)f(p)) \mid q \in F^n\}.$$

Since  $\Phi(p, tf(p) + (1 - t)f(p)) = \Phi(p, f(p)) = \bar{p}$ , the point  $\bar{p}$  lies on all the hypersurfaces  $F^n(p, t), p$  fixed and  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ . Furthermore we have, for  $t = 1$ ,

$$F^n(p, 1) = \{\Phi(q, f(q)) \mid q \in F^n\} = \bar{F}^n,$$

and, for  $t = 0$ ,

$$F(p, 0) = \{\Phi(q, f(p)) \mid q \in F^n\} = \tilde{F}_p^n.$$

From these relations we get

$$\bar{H}(\bar{p}) - \tilde{H}(\bar{p}) = \int_0^1 \frac{dH(p, t)}{dt} dt,$$

where  $H(p, t)$  is the mean curvature of  $F^n(p, t)$  at the point  $\bar{p}$ .

The variation of the mean curvature gives

$$dH(p, t) / dt = l_{\alpha\beta} dg^{\alpha\beta} / dt + g^{\alpha\beta} dl_{\alpha\beta} / dt,$$

and by differentiating the relation  $g^{\alpha\beta} g_{\gamma\beta} = \delta_\gamma^\alpha$  we get

$$dg^{\alpha\beta} / dt = -g^{\alpha\delta} g^{\beta\gamma} dg_{\gamma\delta} / dt = -g^{\alpha\delta} g^{\beta\gamma} \{(dt_\gamma / dt, t_\delta) + (t_\gamma, dt_\delta / dt)\}.$$

Furthermore, by taking the covariant derivative of the relations  $(n, n) = 1$  and  $(n, t_\alpha) = 0$ , we obtain  $(n, D_\alpha n) = 0$  and  $(D_\alpha n, t_\beta) + (n, D_\alpha t_\beta) = 0$  or  $D_\alpha n = \lambda_\alpha^\beta t_\beta$  with  $\lambda_\alpha^\beta = -(n, D_\alpha t_\gamma) g^{\beta\gamma}$ . Hence

$$D_\alpha n = -(n, D_\alpha t_\gamma) g^{\beta\gamma} t_\beta,$$

$$\frac{dg^{\alpha\beta}}{dt} l_{\alpha\beta} = -g^{\alpha\beta} g^{\beta\gamma} \left\{ \left( \frac{dt_\gamma}{dt}, t_\beta \right) + \left( t_\gamma, \frac{dt_\beta}{dt} \right) \right\} \quad (D_\alpha t_\beta, n) = 2g^{\alpha\beta} (D_\alpha n, t_\beta) .$$

In order to compute the second term in the above expression for  $dH(p, t)/dt$ , differentiating the relations  $(n, n) = 1$  and  $(n, t_\alpha) = 0$  with respect to  $t$  we get  $(dn/dt, n) = 0$  and  $(dn/dt, t_\alpha) + (n, dt_\alpha/dt) = 0$ , or  $dn/dt = \lambda^\alpha t_\alpha$  with  $\lambda^\alpha = -(dt_\beta/dt, n)g^{\alpha\beta}$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} dn/dt &= -(dt_\beta/dt, n)g^{\alpha\beta} t_\alpha , \\ g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{dl_{\alpha\beta}}{dt} &= g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{d}{dt} (D_\alpha t_\beta, n) = g^{\alpha\beta} \left( \frac{d}{dt} D_\alpha t_\beta, n \right) - g^{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\delta \left( \frac{dt_\delta}{dt}, n \right) , \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\delta = (D_\alpha t_\beta, t_\gamma)g^{\gamma\delta}$ . Finally we get the following formula for the variation of the mean curvature:

$$\frac{dH}{dt} = g^{\alpha\beta} \left( \frac{d}{dt} D_\alpha t_\beta, n \right) + 2g^{\alpha\beta} \left( D_\alpha n, \frac{dt_\beta}{dt} \right) - g^{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\delta \left( \frac{dt_\delta}{dt}, n \right) .$$

Now using the definition of the hypersurfaces  $F^n(p, t)$ :

$$F^n(p, t) = \{ \Phi(q, tf(q) + (1-t)f(p)) \mid q \in F^n \} ,$$

or in local coordinates

$$x_p^i(u^\alpha, t) = \Phi^i(u^\alpha, tf(u^\alpha) + (1-t)f(p)) ,$$

where  $f(p)$  is independent of the  $u^\alpha$ , we get

$$x_\alpha^i = \partial x_p^i / \partial u^\alpha = \partial \Phi^i / \partial u^\alpha + t(\partial \Phi^i / \partial s) \partial f / \partial u^\alpha ,$$

so that for the tangent vectors  $t_\alpha$  of the hypersurface  $F^n(p, t)$  at the point  $\bar{p}$  we have

$$t_\alpha = (\partial \Phi^i / \partial u^\alpha|_{\bar{p}} + w^i t \partial f / \partial u^\alpha) \partial / \partial x^i ,$$

where  $w^i = \partial \Phi(\bar{p}, s) / \partial s|_{s=0}$ , and by differentiating with respect to  $t$

$$dt_\alpha / dt = w \partial f / \partial u^\alpha , \quad w = w^i \partial / \partial x^i .$$

Furthermore

$$D_\alpha t_\beta = (\partial x_\alpha^i / \partial u^\beta + \Gamma_{jk}^i x_\alpha^j x_\beta^k) \partial / \partial x^i ,$$

so

$$\frac{d}{dt} D_\alpha t_\beta = \left( \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial x_\alpha^i}{\partial u^\beta} + \Gamma_{jk}^i \frac{\partial x_\alpha^j}{\partial t} x_\beta^k + \Gamma_{jk}^i x_\alpha^j \frac{\partial x_\beta^k}{\partial t} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} .$$

For the derivative of  $x_\alpha^i$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial x_\alpha^i}{\partial u^\beta} &= \frac{\partial^2 \Phi^i}{\partial u^\alpha \partial u^\beta} + t \frac{\partial^2 \Phi^i}{\partial u^\alpha \partial s} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} + t \frac{\partial^2 \Phi^i}{\partial u^\beta \partial s} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\alpha} \\ &+ t^2 \frac{\partial^2 \Phi^i}{\partial s^2} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} + t \frac{\partial \Phi^i}{\partial s} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial u^\alpha \partial u^\beta} . \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\partial^2 \Phi^i / \partial u^\alpha \partial u^\beta$ ,  $\partial^2 \Phi^i / \partial u^\alpha \partial s$ ,  $\partial^2 \Phi^i / \partial s^2$ ,  $\partial \Phi^i / \partial s$  do not depend on  $t$  when considered only at the point  $\bar{p}$  on the hypersurfaces  $F^n(p, t)$ , we get for the derivative of the above expression with respect to  $t$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial x_\alpha^i}{\partial u^\beta} = \frac{\partial w^i}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} + \frac{\partial w^i}{\partial u^\beta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\alpha} + 2t \frac{\partial w^i}{\partial s} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} + w^i \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial u^\alpha \partial u^\beta} ,$$

so

$$\frac{d}{dt} D_\alpha t_\beta = w \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial u^\alpha \partial u^\beta} + D_\beta w \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\alpha} + D_\alpha w \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} + 2t \frac{\partial w}{\partial s} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} .$$

Therefore the formula for the variation of the mean curvature in our case is the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dH}{dt} &= (w, n) g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial u^\alpha \partial u^\beta} + 2g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial(w, n)}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} + 2t \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial s}, n \right) g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} \\ &- g^{\alpha\delta} \Gamma^\beta_{\alpha\delta}(w, n) \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} . \end{aligned}$$

### 2. A lemma on partial differential equations

For the proof of our main theorem we need a generalization of the strong maximum principle for elliptic partial differential equations. We consider a linear differential expression of the form

$$L(f) = \sum_{\alpha, \beta=1}^n A_{\alpha\beta}(x) \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^\alpha \partial x^\beta} + \sum_{\alpha=1}^n B_\alpha(x) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^\alpha} ,$$

where  $A_{\alpha\beta}(x)$  and  $B_\alpha(x)$  are differentiable functions, together with a differentiable function  $\varphi(x)$  in a normal domain  $G$  of the  $n$ -dimensional number space  $R^n$ . We assume that  $\varphi(x)$  and  $L(f)$  have the following properties:

- a)  $\text{grad } \varphi(x) \neq 0$  whenever  $\varphi(x) = 0$ ,
- b)  $\sum_{\alpha, \beta=1}^n A_{\alpha\beta}(x) \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta$  is positive definite for every  $x$  with  $\varphi(x) > 0$ , negative definite for every  $x$  with  $\varphi(x) < 0$ , and identically 0 for every  $x$  with  $\varphi(x) = 0$ .

Then we prove the following

**Lemma.** *Let  $f(x)$  be a solution of  $L(f) = 0$ , and  $x_0$  be a point in  $G$  such*

that  $f(x) \leq f(x_0)$  for all  $x$  in  $G$ . If either  $\varphi(x_0) \neq 0$  or  $\varphi(x_0) = 0$  and  $\sum_{\alpha=1}^n B_\alpha(x_0)(\partial\varphi/\partial x^\alpha)(x_0) > 0$ , then  $f(x) \equiv f(x_0)$  in a neighborhood of  $x_0$ .

This lemma is a special case of a theorem proved in the paper [4] by Hartman and Sacksteder. However, since we use only a simple case, we give a sketch of the proof.

*Proof.* The case  $\varphi(x_0) \neq 0$  follows directly from the strong maximum principle of E. Hopf [5]. Therefore we may assume  $\varphi(x_0) = 0$ , and  $\sum_{\alpha=1}^n B_\alpha(x_0)(\partial\varphi/\partial x^\alpha)(x_0) > 0$ . The proof for this case is a modification of the proof of E. Hopf's second lemma [6]. Since by assumption  $\text{grad } \varphi \neq 0$  whenever  $\varphi = 0$ , the set of points where  $\varphi(x) = 0$  is a differentiable curve through  $x_0$ . Therefore there exists an open ball  $K_1$  in  $G$  such that its boundary has exactly the point  $x_0$  in common with the curve  $\varphi(x) = 0$  and that  $\varphi(x) > 0$  in  $\bar{K}_1 - x_0$ . We choose its center as the origin of the coordinate system, and set  $r = |x|$ ,  $r_0 = |x_0|$ . We may assume  $f(x_0) = 0$  and  $f(x) \geq 0$  in  $K_1$ . By the strong maximum principle this implies either  $f(x) > 0$  in  $\bar{K}_1 - x_0$  and  $f(x_0) = 0$  or  $f(x) \equiv 0$  in  $\bar{K}_1$ . We show that  $f(x) > 0$  in  $\bar{K}_1 - x_0$  leads to a contradiction. We consider the auxiliary function  $h(x) = e^{-r^2} - e^{r_0^2}$ , which has the properties:  $h(x) > 0$  for  $|x| < r_0$ ,  $h(x) = 0$  for  $|x| = r_0$ , and

$$L(h)(x_0) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^n B_\alpha \frac{\partial h}{\partial x^\alpha}(x_0) = -2e^{-r_0^2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^n B_\alpha x_0^\alpha = c \sum_{\alpha=1}^n B_\alpha \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x^\alpha}(x_0), \quad c > 0,$$

since the vector  $x_0 = (x_0^1, \dots, x_0^n)$  is a negative multiple of  $\text{grad } \varphi$ . Therefore  $L(h)(x_0) > 0$ , and hence  $L(h) > 0$  in the closure of a ball  $K_2$  with center  $x_0$ . Now we consider the function  $g(x) = f(x) - \varepsilon h(x)$  in the domain  $K = K_1 \cap K_2$ . Then  $g \geq 0$  on  $S_1 \cap \bar{K}_2$ , where  $S_1 = \text{boundary of } K_1$ , and  $g(x_0) = 0$ . Furthermore, by choosing  $\varepsilon > 0$  sufficiently small, we also have  $g \geq 0$  on  $S_2 \cap \bar{K}_1$ , since  $f > 0$  there.

Since  $L(f) = 0$ , and  $L(h) > 0$  in  $K$ , we have  $L(g) < 0$  in  $K$ , and therefore  $g \geq 0$  in  $K$  by the strong maximum principle. Hence  $(dg/dn)(x_0) \leq 0$ , where  $dg/dn$  is the derivative in the direction of the outer normal of  $K$ . But then

$$\frac{df}{dn}(x_0) = \frac{dg}{dn}(x_0) + \varepsilon \frac{dh}{dn}(x_0) < 0,$$

since  $(dh/dn)(x_0) < 0$ . This contradicts the fact that  $\text{grad } f(x_0) = 0$ .

*Proof of the Theorem.* By using the formula for the variation of the mean curvature and the relation

$$\bar{H}(\bar{p}) - \tilde{H}(\bar{p}) = \int_0^1 \frac{dH(p, t)}{dt} dt = 0,$$

we get the following differential equation for the function  $f$ :

$$\sum_{\alpha, \beta=1}^n A_{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial u^\alpha \partial u^\beta} + \sum_{\beta=1}^n B_\beta \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\beta} = 0,$$

where

$$A_{\alpha\beta} = \int_0^1 (w, n(t)) g^{\alpha\beta}(t) dt,$$

$$B_\beta = \int_0^1 \left\{ 2g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial(w, n)}{\partial u^\alpha} + 2t \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial s}, n \right) g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^\alpha} - g^{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\delta}^\beta (w, n) \right\} dt.$$

From the relation

$$(w, n(t)) dA(t) = (w, \bar{n}) d\bar{A}$$

(proved in [2]), where  $dA(t)$  is the volume element of the hypersurface  $F^n(p, t)$  at  $p$ , it follows that if  $(w, \bar{n}) \neq 0$ , then  $(w, n(t)) \neq 0$  for all  $t, 0 \leq t \leq 1$ , and that if  $(w, \bar{n}) = 0$ , then  $(w, n(t)) = 0$  for all  $t$ . Therefore by setting  $\varphi(\bar{p}) = (w, \bar{n})$ ,  $\sum_{\alpha, \beta=1}^n A_{\alpha\beta} \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta$  is positive definite if  $\varphi > 0$ , negative definite if  $\varphi < 0$ , and identically 0 if  $\varphi = 0$ , since  $g^{\alpha\beta}(t)$  is positive definite for every  $t$ .

Now let  $\bar{p}_0$  be a maximum point of  $f$ , so that  $f(\bar{p}) \leq f(\bar{p}_0)$  for all  $\bar{p}$  in  $\bar{F}^n$ . Such a point exists, since  $\bar{F}^n$  is supposed to be compact. Then either  $\varphi(\bar{p}_0) \neq 0$ , or  $\varphi(\bar{p}_0) = 0$ ; the latter implies that  $(w, n(t)) = 0$  for all  $t$ , and

$$B_\beta = 2 \int_0^1 \left( g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial(w, n)}{\partial u^\alpha} \right) dt.$$

Since  $(w, n(t)) \neq 0$ , if  $(w, \bar{n}) \neq 0$ , then the set of points  $\bar{p}$  on  $\bar{F}^n$  where  $(w, n(t)) = 0$  is the same as the set where  $(w, \bar{n}) = 0$ . Furthermore, if  $(w, \bar{n}) > 0$ , then  $(w, n(t)) > 0$ , and

$$\text{grad}(w, n(t)) = c(t) \text{grad}(w, \bar{n}),$$

with  $c(t) \geq 0$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\beta=1}^n \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial u^\beta} (\bar{p}_0) &= 2 \int_0^1 g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial(w, n(t))}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial(w, \bar{n})}{\partial u^\beta} dt \\ &= 2 \int_0^1 c(t) g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial(w, \bar{n})}{\partial u^\alpha} \frac{\partial(w, \bar{n})}{\partial u^\beta} dt > 0, \end{aligned}$$

since  $g^{\alpha\beta}$  is positive definite and  $c(t) \geq 0, c(1) = 1$ . Therefore by our lemma,  $f(\bar{p}) = f(\bar{p}_0)$  in a neighborhood of  $\bar{p}_0$ ; in other words, the set  $U_1 = \{\bar{p} \in \bar{F}^n | f(\bar{p}) = f(\bar{p}_0)\}$  is open in  $\bar{F}^n$ . This implies that  $\bar{F}^n = U_1 \cup U_2$ , where  $U_2 = \{\bar{p} \in \bar{F}^n | f(\bar{p}) < f(\bar{p}_0)\}$ , so that  $\bar{F}^n$  is the disjoint union of two open sets. Since  $\bar{F}^n$  is connected, it follows that  $U_1 = \bar{F}^n$ , i.e.,  $f(\bar{p}) = \text{const.}$  on  $\bar{F}^n$ . Hence the theorem is proved.

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