

MINIMAL IMMERSION OF PSEUDO-RIEMANNIAN MANIFOLDS

By

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1. Preliminaires.

Let E_q^n be the n -dimensional Pseudo-Euclidean space with metric tensor given by

$$g = - \sum_{i=1}^q (dx_i)^2 + \sum_{j=q+1}^n (dx_j)^2$$

where (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) is a rectangular coordinate system of E_q^n . (E_q^n, g) is a flat Pseudo-Riemannian manifold of signature $(q, n-q)$.

Let c be a point in E_q^{n+1} (or E_{q+1}^{n+1}) and $r > 0$. We put

$$S_q^n(c, r) = \{x \in E_q^{n+1} : g(x-c, x-c) = r^2\}$$

$$H_q^n(c, r) = \{x \in E_{q+1}^{n+1} : g(x-c, x-c) = -r^2\}.$$

It is known that $S_q^n(c, r)$ and $H_q^n(c, r)$ are complete Pseudo-Riemannian manifolds of signature $(q, n-q)$ and respective constant sectional curvatures r^{-2} and $-r^{-2}$. $S_q^n(c, r)$ and $H_q^n(c, r)$ are called the Pseudo-Riemannian sphere and the Pseudo-hyperbolic space, respectively. The point c is called the center of $S_q^n(c, r)$ and $H_q^n(c, r)$. In the following, $S_q^n(0, r)$ and $H_q^n(0, r)$ are simply denoted by $S_q^n(r)$ and $H_q^n(r)$, respectively. N_p^n denotes the Pseudo-Riemannian manifold with metric tensor of signature $(p, n-p)$. The Pseudo-Riemannian manifold, the Pseudo-Euclidean space, the Pseudo-Riemannian sphere and the Pseudo-hyperbolic space are simply denoted by the $P-R$ manifold, the $P-E$ space, the $P-R$ sphere and the $P-h$ space. The $P-R$ manifold N_1^n is called the Lorentz manifold and the $P-E$ space E_1^n is called the Minkowski space.

Let $f: M_p^m \rightarrow N_q^n$ be an isometric immersion of a $P-R$ manifold M_p^m in another $P-R$ manifold N_q^n . That is $f^* \bar{g} = g$, where g and \bar{g} are the indefinite metric tensors of M_p^m and N_q^n , respectively. $T(M_p^m)$ and $T^\perp(M_p^m)$ denote the tangent bundle and the normal bundle of M_p^m . ∇ , $\bar{\nabla}$ and ∇^\perp denote the Riemannian connections and the normal connection on M_p^m , N_q^n and $T^\perp(M_p^m)$, respectively. Then for any vector fields $X, Y \in T(M_p^m)$, $v \in T^\perp(M_p^m)$, we have the Gauss formula

$$\bar{\nabla}_X Y = \nabla_X Y + B(X, Y),$$

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the Weingarten formula

$$\bar{\nabla}_X v = -A^v(X) + \nabla_X^{\perp} v,$$

where B is the second fundamental form of the immersion, A^v is the Weingarten map with respect to v , and

$$g(A^v(X), Y) = \bar{g}(B(X, Y), v).$$

Let N_q^n be a $P-R$ manifold with the metric tensor \bar{g} . A tangent vector x to N_q^n is said to be space-like, time-like or light-like (null) if $\bar{g}(x, x) > 0$ (or $x = 0$), $\bar{g}(x, x) < 0$ or $\bar{g}(x, x) = 0$ (and $x \neq 0$), respectively.

Let M_p^m be a submanifold of N_q^n . If the Pseudo-Riemannian metric tensor \bar{g} of N_q^n induces a Pseudo-Riemannian metric tensor, a Riemannian metric tensor or a degenerate metric tensor on M_p^m , then M_p^m is called a $P-R$ submanifold, a Riemannian submanifold or a degenerate submanifold, respectively. For the nondegenerate submanifold, we have the direct sum decomposition

$$T(N_q^n) = T(M_p^m) \oplus T^{\perp}(M_p^m)$$

and $T^{\perp}(M_p^m)$ (the normal bundle) is also nondegenerate. In the following, we assume that the submanifold is nondegenerate.

A normal vector field $v \in T^{\perp}(M_p^m)$ is said to be parallel if $\nabla_X^{\perp} v = 0$ for any vector $X \in T(M_p^m)$.

Let M_p^m be a nondegenerate submanifold in N_q^n and e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m be an orthonormal local basis on M_p^m . The mean curvature vector H of M_p^m in N_q^n is defined by

$$H = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \varepsilon_i B(e_i, e_i), \quad \varepsilon_i = g(e_i, e_i) = \pm 1.$$

The nondegenerate submanifold M_p^m of N_q^n is said to be minimal if the mean curvature vector H of M_p^m in N_q^n vanishes identically.

For any real function f on M_p^m , the Laplacian Δf of f is defined by

$$\Delta f = -g^{ji} \nabla_j \nabla_i f = - \sum_{i=1}^m \varepsilon_i (e_i e_i f - \nabla_{e_i} e_i f)$$

(cf. [2]).

LEMMA 1. ([3], [4]) *An isometric immersion x of a $P-R$ manifold M_p^m in a $P-E$ space E_q^n satisfies*

$$\Delta x = -mH$$

where H is the mean curvature vector of the immersion and Δ is the Laplacian of M_p^m .

LEMMA 2. ([3], [4]) *Let M_p^m be isometrically immersed in a $P-R$ sphere*

$S_q^{m+k-1}(c, r)$ or a P - h space $H_{q-1}^{m+k-1}(c, r)$ of the P - E space E_q^{m+k} . Then the mean curvature vector H of M_p^m in E_q^{m+k} and the mean curvature vector H_0 of M_p^m in S_q^{m+k-1} or H_{q-1}^{m+k-1} satisfy

$$H = H_0 - \varepsilon(x - c)/r^2.$$

Where x is the immersion of M_p^m (as the vector field in E_q^{m+k}) and $\varepsilon = \pm 1$, if $x : M_p^m \rightarrow S_q^{m+k-1}(c, r)$, then $\varepsilon = 1$, if $x : M_p^m \rightarrow H_{q-1}^{m+k-1}(c, r)$, then $\varepsilon = -1$.

2. The minimal immersion in $S_q^{m+k-1}(r)$ or $H_{q-1}^{m+k-1}(r)$.

LEMMA 3. Let M_p^m ($m \geq 2$) be a nondegenerate submanifold of a P - E space E_q^n and H be the mean curvature vector of M_p^m in E_q^n . x denotes the position vector field of M_p^m in E_q^n . If $x = aH$ for some $a \neq 0$ on M_p^m , then $\bar{g}(H, H) \neq 0$ on M_p^m , where \bar{g} is the metric tensor of E_q^n .

PROOF. Suppose $\bar{g}(H, H) = 0$ and $x = aH$ for some $a \neq 0$ on M_p^m . Then $\bar{g}(x, x) = a^2 \bar{g}(H, H) = 0$. Since $\Delta x = -mH$, so

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \Delta \bar{g}(x, x) = 2\bar{g}(\Delta x, x) - 2\bar{g}(\nabla x, \nabla x) \\ &= -2m\bar{g}(H, x) - 2\bar{g}(\nabla x, \nabla x) \\ &= -2\bar{g}(\nabla x, \nabla x), \end{aligned}$$

that is $\bar{g}(\nabla x, \nabla x) = 0$. It is impossible because M_p^m ($m \geq 2$) is nondegenerate.

Q. E. D.

THEOREM 1. If an isometric immersion $x : M_p^m \rightarrow E_q^{m+k}$ of a P - R manifold M_p^m ($m \geq 2$) in a P - E space E_q^{m+k} satisfies $\Delta x = bx$ for some constant $b \neq 0$

(1) when $b > 0$, then x realizes a minimal immersion in a P - R sphere $S_q^{m+k-1}(\sqrt{m/b})$ of the sectional curvature b/m in E_q^{m+k} ; conversely if x realizes a minimal immersion in a P - R sphere of the sectional curvature r^{-2} ($r > 0$) in E_q^{m+k} , then x satisfies $\Delta x = bx$ up to a parallel displacement in the P - E space E_q^{m+k} and $b = m/r^2$.

(2) when $b < 0$, then x realizes a minimal immersion in a P - h space $H_{q+1}^{m+k-1}(\sqrt{m/-b})$ of the sectional curvature b/m in E_q^{m+k} ; conversely if x realizes a minimal immersion in a P - h space of the sectional curvature $-r^2$ ($r > 0$) in E_q^{m+k} , then x satisfies $\Delta x = bx$ up to a parallel displacement in the P - E space E_q^{m+k} and $b = -m/r^2$.

PROOF. Let $\Delta x = bx$, $b \neq 0$, then we have $bx = -mH$ by Lemma 1. Since $X\bar{g}(x, x) = 2\bar{g}(X, x) = 0$, where \bar{g} is the metric of E_q^{m+k} , it yields that $\bar{g}(x, x) =$

constant $\neq 0$ by Lemma 3. So x realizes an immersion in $S_q^{m+k-1}(c, r)$ or $H_{q-1}^{m+k-1}(c, r)$. And by Lemma 2 and $bx = -mH$, we have $H_0 = 0$. Thus x realizes a minimal immersion in $S_q^{m+k-1}(c, r)$ or $H_{q-1}^{m+k-1}(c, r)$ in E_q^{m+k} and $r = \sqrt{m/\varepsilon b}$ ($\varepsilon = \pm 1$).

Conversely, if x realizes a minimal immersion in $S_q^{m+k-1}(c, r)$ or $H_{q-1}^{m+k-1}(c, r)$ in E_q^{m+k} , then by Lemma 2, we have

$$H = -\varepsilon(x-c)/r^2 \quad (\varepsilon = \pm 1)$$

and $\Delta x = -mH$. Thus, we obtain

$$\Delta(x-c) = -m(-\varepsilon(x-c)/r^2) = \varepsilon m(x-c)/r^2$$

$$b = \varepsilon m/r^2 \quad (\varepsilon = \pm 1).$$

Q. E. D.

COROLLARY 1. *An isometric immersion $x: M_p^m \rightarrow E_q^{m+k}$ of a $P-R$ manifold M_p^m in a $P-E$ space E_q^{m+k} is minimal if and only if $\Delta x = 0$.*

COROLLARY 2. *If an isometric immersion $x: M_p^m \rightarrow E_p^{m+k}$ of a $P-R$ manifold M_p^m in a $P-E$ space E_p^{m+k} satisfies $\Delta x = bx$ for some constant $b \neq 0$, then b is necessarily positive and x realizes a minimal immersion of a $P-R$ manifold M_p^m in a $P-R$ sphere $S_p^{m+k-1}(\sqrt{m/b})$ in the $P-E$ space E_p^{m+k} .*

PROOF. For any isometric immersion $x: M_p^m \rightarrow E_p^{m+k}$, the vectors of the normal space of M_p^m in E_p^{m+k} are space-like. Then by Lemma 2, $\varepsilon = +1$.

Q. E. D.

COROLLARY 3. *If an isometric immersion $x: M_p^m \rightarrow E_{p+k}^{m+k}$ of a $P-R$ manifold M_p^m in a $P-E$ space E_{p+k}^{m+k} satisfies $\Delta x = bx$ for some constant $b \neq 0$, then b is necessarily negative and x realizes a minimal immersion of a $P-R$ manifold M_p^m in a $P-h$ space $H_{p+k-1}^{m+k-1}(\sqrt{m/-b})$ in the $P-E$ space E_{p+k}^{m+k} .*

PROOF. By the condition, we know the vectors of the normal space of M_p^m in E_{p+k}^{m+k} are time-like. So in Lemma 2, $\varepsilon = -1$.

Q. E. D.

3. The spectrum of $S_p^m(r)$ and $H_{p-1}^m(r)$.

In this section we consider the Laplacians Δ of $S_p^m(r)$ and $H_{p-1}^m(r)$ acting on functions. We obtain the constant b that satisfies $\Delta f = bf$, $f \neq 0$, where Δ is the Laplacian of $S_p^m(r)$ or $H_{p-1}^m(r)$.

Let M_p^m be a $P-R$ manifold. The Laplacian of M_p^m has various expressions

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta f &= -g^{jt}\nabla_j\nabla_t f \\ &= -\text{trace}(\nabla df) \\ &= -\text{trace}(\text{Hess } f),\end{aligned}$$

where $\text{Hess } f$ denotes the Hessian of the function f . Let e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m be an orthonormal local basis on M_p^m , then

$$\Delta f = -\sum_{i=1}^m \varepsilon_i \text{Hess } f(e_i, e_i) \quad (\varepsilon_i = g(e_i, e_i) = \pm 1).$$

For each point $y \in M_p^m$, pick an orthonormal set of geodesics (v_i) parameterized by arc length and passing through $y \in M_p^m$ at $s=0$ and satisfying $v_i'(0) = e_i$. Then we have

$$\Delta f(y) = -\sum_{i=1}^m \varepsilon_i \frac{d^2}{ds^2}(f \circ v_i)(0)$$

(cf. [2] P. 33, P. 86).

For the $P-R$ sphere $S_p^m(1)$ and the $P-h$ space $H_{p-1}^m(1)$ in the $P-E$ space E_p^{m+1} , let $y \in S_p^m(1)$ or $H_{p-1}^m(1)$ be a point. Then y determines a unit vector e_1 in E_p^{m+1} . For $S_p^m(1)$ e_1 is a space-like vector and for $H_{p-1}^m(1)$ e_1 is a time-like vector. Let e_2, e_3, \dots, e_{m+1} be an orthonormal basis of $T_y(S_p^m(1))$ or $T_y(H_{p-1}^m(1))$. Then $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m, e_{m+1}$ form an orthonormal basis of $T_y(E_p^{m+1})$.

If $\bar{g}(e_1, e_1)\bar{g}(e_i, e_i) = 1$ ($i \geq 2$) on $S_p^m(1)$ or $H_{p-1}^m(1)$, the geodesic v_i ($i \geq 2$) through y with velocity vector e_i at y is given by

$$v_i(s) = (\cos s)e_1 + (\sin s)e_i \quad i=2, 3, \dots, (m+1)$$

where s is arc length parameter.

If $\bar{g}(e_1, e_1)\bar{g}(e_i, e_i) = -1$ ($i \geq 2$) on $S_p^m(1)$ or $H_{p-1}^m(1)$, the geodesic v_i ($i \geq 2$) through y with velocity vector e_i at y is given by

$$v_i(s) = (\cosh s)e_1 + (\sinh s)e_i \quad i=2, 3, \dots, (m+1).$$

Let f be a function on E_p^{m+1} and x^1, x^2, \dots, x^{m+1} be the Euclidean coordinates associated with e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{m+1} . Consider the functions $(f \circ v_i)(s) = f(v_i(s))$. By using the chain rule, we have

$$\frac{d(f \circ v_i)}{ds} = -(\sin s) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^1} + (\cos s) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i}$$

if $\bar{g}(e_1, e_1)\bar{g}(e_i, e_i) = 1$ ($i \geq 2$);

$$\frac{d(f \circ v_i)}{ds} = (\sinh s) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^1} + (\cosh s) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i}$$

if $\bar{g}(e_1, e_1)\bar{g}(e_i, e_i) = -1$ ($i \geq 2$).

Therefore, for $y=v_i(0)$, we have

$$\frac{d^2(f \circ v_i)}{ds^2}(0) = -\frac{\partial f}{\partial x^1}(y) + \frac{\partial^2 f}{(\partial x^i)^2}(y)$$

if $\bar{g}(e_1, e_1)\bar{g}(e_i, e_i)=1$ ($i \geq 2$);

$$\frac{d^2(f \circ v_i)}{ds^2}(0) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^1}(y) + \frac{\partial^2 f}{(\partial x^i)^2}(y)$$

if $\bar{g}(e_1, e_1)\bar{g}(e_i, e_i)=-1$ ($i \geq 2$).

Let $\varepsilon = -\bar{g}(e_1, e_1)\bar{g}(e_i, e_i)$ ($i \geq 2$). Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^{S_p^m(1)}(f/S_p^m(1))(y) &= -\sum_{i=2}^{m+1} \varepsilon_i \frac{d^2(f \circ v_i)}{ds^2}(0) \\ &= -\sum_{i=2}^{m+1} \varepsilon_i \left(\varepsilon \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^1}(y) + \frac{\partial^2 f}{(\partial x^i)^2}(y) \right) \\ &= -\sum_{i=2}^{m+1} \varepsilon_i \frac{\partial^2 f}{(\partial x^i)^2}(y) - \sum_{i=2}^{m+1} \varepsilon_i \varepsilon \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^1}(y) \\ &= -\sum_{i=2}^{m+1} \varepsilon_i \frac{\partial^2 f}{(\partial x^i)^2}(y) + m \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^1}(y), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^{H_{p-1}^m(1)}(f/H_{p-1}^m(1))(y) &= -\sum_{i=2}^{m+1} \varepsilon_i \frac{d^2(f \circ v_i)}{ds^2}(0) \\ &= -\sum_{i=2}^{m+1} \varepsilon_i \left(\varepsilon \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^1}(y) + \frac{\partial^2 f}{(\partial x^i)^2}(y) \right) \\ &= -\sum_{i=2}^{m+1} \varepsilon_i \frac{\partial^2 f}{(\partial x^i)^2}(y) - m \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^1}(y) \end{aligned}$$

But

$$(\Delta^{E_p^{m+1}} f)(y) = -\sum_{i=2}^{m+1} \varepsilon_i \frac{\partial^2 f}{(\partial x^i)^2}(y) - \varepsilon_1 \frac{\partial^2 f}{(\partial x^1)^2}(y).$$

If we denote by r the “distance” function from a point in E_p^{m+1} to the origin, then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (*) \quad (\Delta^{E_p^{m+1}} f)/S_p^m(1) &= \Delta^{S_p^m(1)}(f/S_p^m(1)) - \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial r^2} / S_p^m(1) - m \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} / S_p^m(1), \\ (\Delta^{E_p^{m+1}} f)/H_{p-1}^m(1) &= \Delta^{H_{p-1}^m(1)}(f/H_{p-1}^m(1)) + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial r^2} / H_{p-1}^m(1) + m \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} / H_{p-1}^m(1). \end{aligned}$$

Consider a homogeneous polynomial \bar{Q} of degree $k \geq 0$ on E_p^{m+1} . Let $Q = \bar{Q}/S_p^m(1)$ or $H_{p-1}^m(1)$. Then $\bar{Q} = r^k Q$. Thus we find

$$\frac{\partial \bar{Q}}{\partial r} = k r^{k-1} Q, \quad \frac{\partial^2 \bar{Q}}{\partial r^2} = k(k-1) r^{k-2} Q.$$

Therefore,

$$\left| \frac{\partial(y^1, y^2, \dots, y^{m+1})}{\partial(x^1, x^2, \dots, x^{m+1})} \right| = i^p \neq 0$$

where, $y^1 = ix^1, y^2 = ix^2, \dots, y^p = ix^p, y^{p+1} = x^{p+1}, \dots, y^{m+1} = x^{m+1}$. Thus we obtain $\dim \mathcal{A} = \dim \underline{\mathcal{A}}$. But $\dim \mathcal{A} = \binom{m+k}{k} - \binom{m+k-2}{k-2}$. So

$$\dim \underline{\mathcal{A}} = \binom{m+k}{k} - \binom{m+k-2}{k-2}.$$

THEOREM 2. *The spectrum of the Laplacians of the $P-R$ sphere $S_p^m(1)$ and the $P-h$ space $H_{p-1}^m(1)$ in the $P-E$ space E_{p+1}^m is given by*

$$b_k = k(m+k-1) \quad (k \geq 0)$$

and

$$b_k = -k(m+k-1) \quad (k \geq 0)$$

respectively. And the multiplicity $j(b_k)$ of b_k is given by

$$\begin{aligned} j(b_0) &= 1, \quad j(b_1) = m+1, \\ j(b_k) &= \binom{m+k}{k} - \binom{m+k-2}{k-2} \\ &= \frac{(m+k-2)(m+k-3)\cdots(m+1)m}{k!} (m+2k-1). \quad (k \geq 2). \end{aligned}$$

Since $S_p^m(r)$ with $S_p^m(1)$ and $H_{p-1}^m(r)$ with $H_{p-1}^m(1)$ are homothetic, we have

THEOREM 3. *The spectrum of the Laplacians of the $P-R$ sphere $S_p^m(r)$ and the $P-h$ space $H_{p-1}^m(r)$ in the $P-E$ space E_{p+1}^m is given by*

$$\begin{aligned} b_k &= r^{-2}k(m+k-1) \\ &= -r^{-2}k(m+k-1) \end{aligned} \quad (k \geq 0, r > 0),$$

and

respectively. And the multiplicity $j(b_k)$ of b_k is given by

$$\begin{aligned} j(b_0) &= 1, \quad j(b_1) = m+1, \\ j(b_k) &= \binom{m+k}{k} - \binom{m+k-2}{k-2} \quad (k \geq 2). \end{aligned}$$

4. The minimal immersions of the $P-R$ sphere and $P-h$ space.

THEOREM 4. *Let $M = S_p^m(r)$ or $H_{p-1}^m(r)$. M is isometrically minimally immersed in $S_q^n(1)$ or $H_{q-1}^n(1)$. Then for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, we have*

$$r^{-2} = \frac{m}{k(m+k-1)}, \quad n \leq (m+k-1) \frac{(m+k-2)!}{k!(m-1)!}.$$

PROOF. By Theorem 1, for the immersion f ,

$$\Delta f = bf, \quad b > 0; \quad f: M \longrightarrow S_q^n(\sqrt{m/b}) = S_q^n(1)$$

$$b < 0; \quad f: M \longrightarrow H_{q-1}^n(\sqrt{m/-b}) = H_{q-1}^n(1).$$

Then, $b=m$ or $b=-m$ for $S_q^n(1)$ or $H_{q-1}^n(1)$, respectively. With Theorem 3, we have

$$b_k = k(m+k-1)r^{-2} \quad \text{for } S_p^m(r)$$

$$b_k = -k(m+k-1)r^{-2} \quad \text{for } H_{p-1}^m(r).$$

So

$$m = b = k(m+k-1)r^{-2} \quad \text{or} \quad m = -b = -(-k)(m+k-1)r^{-2}.$$

Therefore

$$r^{-2} = \frac{m}{k(m+k-1)}, \quad n \leq (m+2k-1) \frac{(m+k-2)!}{k!(m-1)!}. \quad \text{Q. E. D.}$$

REMARK. By Theorem 1 and Theorem 3, we have

(1) $M_p^m(r)$ ($r < 0$ is a constant) can not be isometrically minimally immersed in $S_q^n(1)$.

(2) The Riemannian manifold $M^m(r)$ with the constant sectional curvature $r < 0$ can not be isometrically minimally immersed in the Riemannian sphere $S^n(1)$.

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