

SUBMANIFOLDS WITH A REGULAR PRINCIPAL NORMAL VECTOR FIELD IN A SPHERE

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Introduction

In [10], the author defined a principal normal vector for a submanifold M in a Riemannian manifold \bar{M} . This concept is a generalization of the principal normal vector for a curve and the principal curvature for a hypersurface. In fact, if M is a hypersurface, let $\Phi(X, Y)$ be the value of the 2nd fundamental form for any tangent vector fields X and Y of M . Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(X, Y)e &= -\langle \bar{\nabla}_X e, Y \rangle e \\ &= \text{normal part of } \bar{\nabla}_X Y \equiv T_X Y ,\end{aligned}$$

where e is the normal unit vector field and $\bar{\nabla}$ is the covariant differentiation of \bar{M} . If λ is a principal curvature at a point x of M and X is a principal tangent vector at x corresponding to λ , then we have

$$T_X Y = \langle X, Y \rangle \lambda e \quad \text{at } x .$$

If we consider λe as the principal normal vector at x of M , then the above concepts for curves and hypersurfaces are in the same category.

In [10], the author investigated the properties of the integral submanifolds in M for the distribution corresponding to a regular principal normal vector field of M in an \bar{M} of constant curvature. In the present paper, the properties of M will be investigated for admitting a regular principal normal vector field, and then the results will be applied to the case in which \bar{M} is a sphere and M is minimal and has two principal normal vector fields such that the corresponding principal tangent spaces span the tangent space of M . Theorem 4 in this paper is a generalization of Theorems 3 and 4 in [9].

1. Preliminaries

We will use the notation in [10]. Let $\bar{M} = \bar{M}^{n+p}$ be an $(n+p)$ -dimensional C^∞ Riemannian manifold of constant curvature \bar{c} , and $M = M^n$ an n -dimensional C^∞ submanifold immersed in \bar{M} by an immersion $\phi: M \rightarrow \bar{M}$ which has

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the naturally induced Riemannian metric by ϕ . Let $P: \phi^*T(\bar{M}) \rightarrow T(M)$ be the projection defined by the orthogonal decomposition:

$$T_{\phi(x)}(\bar{M}) = \phi_*T_x(M) + N_x, \quad x \in M,$$

and put $P^\perp = 1 - P$. Let $N(M, \bar{M})$ denote the normal vector bundle of M in \bar{M} by the immersion ϕ . Then we have

$$\phi^*T(\bar{M}) = T(M) \oplus N(M, \bar{M}).$$

In the following, we denote the sets of C^∞ cross sections of $T(M)$ and $N(M, \bar{M})$ by $\mathfrak{X}(M)$ and $\mathfrak{X}^\perp(M)$, and the covariant differentiations for \bar{M} and M by $\bar{\nabla}$ and ∇ , respectively. For the vector bundle $N(M, \bar{M})$, we have the naturally induced metric connection from \bar{M} and denote the corresponding covariant differentiation by ∇^\perp . Then for any $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$, we have

$$(1.1) \quad \bar{\nabla}_X = \nabla_X + T_X \quad \text{on } \mathfrak{X}(M)$$

with $\nabla_X = P\bar{\nabla}_X$ and $T_X = P^\perp\bar{\nabla}_X$, and

$$(1.2) \quad \bar{\nabla}_X = T_X + \nabla_X^\perp \quad \text{on } \mathfrak{X}^\perp(M)$$

with $T_X = P\bar{\nabla}_X$ and $\nabla_X^\perp = P^\perp\bar{\nabla}_X$.

Now, for a fixed point $x \in M$, a normal vector $v \in N_x$ is called a *principal normal vector* of M at x if there exists a nonzero vector $u \in M_x = T_x(M)$ such that

$$(1.3) \quad T_u z = \langle u, z \rangle v \quad \text{for any } z \in M_x,$$

and the vector u is called a *principal tangent vector* for v . The set of all principal tangent vectors for v and the zero vector form a linear subspace of M_x , which is called the *principal tangent vector space* for v and is denoted by $E(x, v)$.

A normal vector field $V \in \mathfrak{X}^\perp(M)$ is called a *regular principal normal vector field* of M , if $V(x)$ is a principal normal vector and $\dim E(x, V(x))$, $x \in M$, is constant.

In the following, we suppose that V is a regular principal normal vector field of M . By Lemma 2 in [10], $E(x, V(x))$, $x \in M$, form a C^∞ distribution of M , which we denote by $E(M, V)$. By Theorem 1 in [10], $E(M, V)$ is completely integrable. Now, we decompose M_x in the following orthogonal sum:

$$M_x = E(x, V(x)) + N(x, V(x)),$$

and denote the distribution of $N(x, V(x))$, $x \in M$, by $N(M, V)$. Then

$$T(M) = E(M, V) \oplus N(M, V).$$

Let $Q: T(M) \rightarrow E(M, V)$ and $Q^\perp: T(M) \rightarrow N(M, V)$ be the natural projections by this decomposition. $E(M, V)$ and $N(M, V)$ have the naturally defined metric connections induced from the one of M as vector bundles over M .

By means of Theorem 2 in [10], if the dimension m of the distribution $E(M, V)$ is greater than 1 and $V \neq 0$ everywhere, then there exists a uniquely determined cross section U of $N(M, V)$ such that for any integral submanifold M^m of $E(M, V)$, $U|_{M^m}$ is a principal normal vector field of M^m in M^n , and M^m is totally umbilic in M^n .

2. The integrability condition of $N(M, V)$

In this section, we consider the case stated in the last paragraph in the 1st section. For any $y \in E(x, V(x))$, we define a linear mapping $\Phi_y: N(x, V(x)) \rightarrow N(x, V(x))$ by

$$(2.1) \quad \Phi_y(z) = Q^\perp(\nabla_z Y),$$

where Y is a C^∞ local cross section of $E(M, V)$ at x with $Y(x) = y$.

Lemma 1. Φ_y is well defined.

Proof. Let B_1 be the set of frames $b = (x, e_1, \dots, e_n, e_{n+1}, \dots, e_{n+p})$ such that $e_1, \dots, e_m \in E(x, V(x))$ and

$$(2.2) \quad V(x) = \lambda(x)e_{n+1}, \quad \lambda(x) > 0.$$

Then, we have¹

$$(2.3) \quad \omega_{ar} = \rho_r \omega_a + \sum_{t=m+1}^n \Gamma_{art} \omega_t, \quad a = 1, \dots, m, r = m + 1, \dots, n;$$

$$(2.4) \quad U = \sum_{r=m+1}^n \rho_r e_r.$$

Now, we put $Y = \sum_{a=1}^m f_a e_a$ about x and $z = \sum_{r=m+1}^n z_r e_r$ at x . Then by (2.3)

$$\begin{aligned} Q^\perp(\nabla_z Y) &= Q^\perp\left(\sum_r z_r \nabla_{e_r} \left(\sum_a f_a e_a\right)\right) \\ &= \sum_{a=1}^m \sum_{r,t=m+1}^n z_r f_a \omega_{at}(e_r) e_t = \sum_{a,r,t} f_a z_r \Gamma_{atr} e_t. \end{aligned}$$

The right hand side of the above equation does not depend on the choice of frame $b \in B_1$ at x and the extension Y of y , since Γ_{atr} are the components of a cross section of $E^*(M, V) \otimes N(M, V) \otimes N^*(M, V)$ where $E^*(M, V)$ and $N^*(M, V)$ are the dual vector bundles over M of $E(M, V)$ and $N(M, V)$ respectively.

As in [10], we denote the set of all C^∞ cross sections for any vector bundle

¹ see the proof of Theorem 2 in [10].

$E \rightarrow M$ by $\Gamma(E, M)$. Then, by Lemma 1, for any $Y \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$, we can define a mapping $\Phi_Y: \Gamma(N(M, V)) \rightarrow \Gamma(N(M, V))$ in a natural way.

Theorem 1. *Let M be an immersed submanifold of a Riemannian manifold \bar{M} of constant curvature, and V a nonzero regular principal normal vector field of M in \bar{M} such that the dimension of the distribution $E(M, V) > 1$. Then the distribution $N(M, V)$ is completely integrable if and only if Φ_Y for any $Y \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$ is self-adjoint on $\Gamma(N(M, V))$.*

Proof. The completely integrability of the distribution $N(M, V)$ is equivalent to the following condition:

$$d\omega_a \equiv 0 \pmod{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_m}, \quad \text{on } B_1, \quad a = 1, \dots, m.$$

From the structure equations and (2.3), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} d\omega_a &= \sum_b \omega_b \wedge \omega_{ba} - \sum_r \omega_r \wedge \left(\rho_r \omega_a + \sum_t \Gamma_{art} \omega_t \right) \\ &\equiv - \sum_{r,t} \Gamma_{art} \omega_r \wedge \omega_t \pmod{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_m}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $N(M, V)$ is completely integrable if and only if $\Gamma_{art} = \Gamma_{atr}$, which is clearly equivalent to that for any $Y \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$, and $Z, W \in \Gamma(N(M, V))$, we have

$$\langle \Phi_Y(Z), W \rangle = \langle \Phi_Y(W), Z \rangle.$$

3. Properties of Φ_X and F

On B_1 , we have

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \omega_{an+1} &= \lambda \omega_a, & \omega_{a\beta} &= 0, \\ a &= 1, \dots, m, & \beta &= n+2, \dots, n+p. \end{aligned}$$

From (2.3), (3.1) and the structure equations it follows that²

$$\begin{aligned} d\omega_{ar} &= \sum_{B=1}^{n+p} \omega_{aB} \wedge \omega_{Br} - \bar{c} \omega_a \wedge \omega_r \\ &= \rho_r \sum_b \omega_{ab} \wedge \omega_b + \sum_{b,s} \Gamma_{brs} \omega_{ab} \wedge \omega_s + \sum_s \rho_s \omega_a \wedge \omega_{sr} \\ &\quad + \sum_{s,t} \Gamma_{ast} \omega_t \wedge \omega_{sr} - \lambda \sum_s A_{n+1,rs} \omega_a \wedge \omega_s - \bar{c} \omega_a \wedge \omega_r, \end{aligned}$$

² In the following, the ranges of indices are:

$$\begin{aligned} a, b, c, \dots &= 1, \dots, m; r, s, t, \dots = m+1, \dots, n; \\ i, j, k, \dots &= 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
d\left(\rho_r \omega_a + \sum_s \Gamma_{ars} \omega_s\right) &= d\rho_r \wedge \omega_a + \rho_r \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i \wedge \omega_{ia} \\
&\quad + \sum_s d\Gamma_{ars} \wedge \omega_s + \sum_s \Gamma_{ars} \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i \wedge \omega_{is} \\
&= d\rho_r \wedge \omega_a + \rho_r \sum_b \omega_b \wedge \omega_{ba} + \rho_r \sum_s \rho_s \omega_a \wedge \omega_s \\
&\quad + \rho_r \sum_{s,t} \Gamma_{ast} \omega_t \wedge \omega_s + \sum_s d\Gamma_{ars} \wedge \omega_s \\
&\quad + \sum_{t,s,b} \Gamma_{art} \Gamma_{bts} \omega_b \wedge \omega_s + \sum_{t,s} \Gamma_{art} \omega_{ts} \wedge \omega_s,
\end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left(d\rho_r + \sum_s \rho_s \omega_{sr} - \rho_r \sum_s \rho_s \omega_s\right) \wedge \omega_a \\
&\quad + \sum_s \left(d\Gamma_{ars} + \sum_b \Gamma_{brs} \omega_{ba} + \sum_t \Gamma_{ats} \omega_{tr} + \sum_t \Gamma_{art} \omega_{ts}\right. \\
&\quad \left.+ \sum_{t,b} \Gamma_{art} \Gamma_{bts} \omega_b + \rho_r \sum_t \Gamma_{ast} \omega_t + \tilde{c} \delta_{rs} \omega_a + \lambda \mathcal{A}_{n+1,rs} \omega_a\right) \wedge \omega_s = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Since $m > 1$, from the above equations we have

$$(3.2) \quad d\rho_r + \sum_s \rho_s \omega_{sr} - \rho_r \sum_s \rho_s \omega_s = \sum_t F_{rt} \omega_t,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&d\Gamma_{ars} + \sum_b \Gamma_{brs} \omega_{ba} + \sum_t \Gamma_{ats} \omega_{tr} + \sum_t \Gamma_{art} \omega_{ts} \\
(3.3) \quad &\quad + \sum_{t,b} \Gamma_{art} \Gamma_{bts} \omega_b + \rho_r \sum_t \Gamma_{ast} \omega_t + (\tilde{c} \delta_{rs} + \lambda \mathcal{A}_{n+1,rs}) \omega_a \\
&= F_{rs} \omega_a + \sum_t B_{arst} \omega_t,
\end{aligned}$$

where F_{rt} and B_{arst} are functions on B_1 , and components of a tensor of type $(1, 1)$ of $N(M, V)$ and a tensor of type $(0, 1) \otimes (1, 2)$ of $E(M, V) \otimes N(M, V)$ respectively, and

$$(3.4) \quad B_{arst} = B_{arts}.$$

Now, let F and B_{XW} , for $X \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$ and $W \in \Gamma(N(M, V))$, be the endomorphisms on $N(M, V)$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
F(e_i) &= \sum_r F_{rt} e_r, \\
B_{XW}(e_i) &= \sum_{a,r,s} B_{arts} X_a W_s e_r,
\end{aligned}$$

where $X = \sum_a X_a e_a$ and $W = \sum_r W_r e_r$. We denote the covariant differentiation of the tensor product bundles of $E(M, V)$ and $N(M, V)$ by D . Then, (3.2) and (3.3) can be written as

$$(3.5) \quad D_Z U = \langle Z, U \rangle U + F(Q^\perp(Z)) ,$$

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{aligned} D_Z(\Phi_X(W)) - \Phi_{D_Z X}(W) - \Phi_X(D_Z W) + \Phi_X(\Phi_{Q(Z)}(W)) \\ + \langle \Phi_X(Q^\perp(Z)), W \rangle U + \langle Z, X \rangle \{ \bar{c}W - T_W(V) \} \\ = \langle Z, X \rangle F(W) + B_{XW}(Q^\perp(Z)) , \end{aligned}$$

where $Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$, $X \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$, $W \in \Gamma(N(M, V))$, and the 2nd term on the right hand side of (3.6) is expressed, by means of (3.4), as

$$(3.7) \quad B_{XW}(Y) = B_{XY}(W) , \quad Y \in \Gamma(N(M, V)) .$$

From (3.5) follows easily

Lemma 2. *Under the conditions of Theorem 1, $U \in \Gamma(N(M, V))$ is parallel along any integral submanifold of the distribution $E(M, V)$.*

Proof. For any $X \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$, we have

$$(3.5') \quad D_X U = 0 .$$

Lemma 3. *Under the conditions of Theorem 1, F can be defined by the equation*

$$(3.5'') \quad F(W) \equiv D_W U - \langle W, U \rangle U .$$

It is clear that (3.5) is equivalent to (3.5') and (3.5''). Substituting (3.5'') into (3.6), we get

$$\begin{aligned} B_{XW}(Q^\perp(Z)) = D_Z(\Phi_X(W)) - \Phi_{D_Z X}(W) - \Phi_X(D_Z(W)) + \Phi_X(\Phi_{Q(Z)}(W)) \\ + \{ \langle \Phi_X(Q^\perp(Z)), W \rangle + \langle X, Z \rangle \langle W, U \rangle \} U \\ + \langle X, Z \rangle \{ \bar{c}W - T_W(V) - D_W U \} . \end{aligned}$$

In particular, for $Z = Y \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$,

$$(3.6') \quad \begin{aligned} D_Y(\Phi_X(W)) - \Phi_{D_Y X}(W) - \Phi_X(D_Y(W)) + \Phi_X(\Phi_Y(W)) \\ + \langle X, Y \rangle \{ \langle W, U \rangle U + \bar{c}W - T_W(V) - D_W U \} = 0 , \end{aligned}$$

and, for $Z \in \Gamma(N(M, V))$,

$$(3.6'') \quad \begin{aligned} B_{XW}(Z) = D_Z(\Phi_X(W)) - \Phi_{D_Z X}(W) \\ - \Phi_X(D_Z W) + \langle \Phi_X(Z), W \rangle U , \end{aligned}$$

which may be considered as the formula of definition of B_{XW} .

Now, for any $X, Y \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$, we have

$$D_X Y - D_Y X = Q(\nabla_X Y - \nabla_Y X) = Q([X, Y]) = [X, Y] ,$$

since $E(M, V)$ is completely integrable. Therefore, from (3.6') follows

$$(3.8) \quad D_Y \cdot \Phi_X - D_X \cdot \Phi_Y + \Phi_{[X,Y]} - \Phi_X \cdot D_Y + \Phi_Y \cdot D_X + [\Phi_X, \Phi_Y] = 0 .$$

Lemma 4. For any $X, Y \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$, by defining $\theta_X: \Gamma(N(M, V)) \rightarrow \Gamma(N(M, V))$ by

$$(3.9) \quad \theta_X = D_X - \Phi_X ,$$

we have

$$\theta_X \cdot \theta_Y - \theta_Y \cdot \theta_X = \theta_{[X,Y]} + R_{XY}^\perp ,$$

where R^\perp denotes the curvature tensor of $N(M, V)$.

Proof. By means of (3.8), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_X \cdot \theta_Y - \theta_Y \cdot \theta_X &= (D_X - \Phi_X)(D_Y - \Phi_Y) - (D_Y - \Phi_Y)(D_X - \Phi_X) \\ &= D_X D_Y - D_Y D_X + [\Phi_X, \Phi_Y] - D_X \Phi_Y \\ &\quad - \Phi_X D_Y + D_Y \Phi_X + \Phi_Y D_X \\ &= R_{XY}^\perp + D_{[X,Y]} - \Phi_{[X,Y]} \\ &= R_{XY}^\perp + \theta_{[X,Y]} . \end{aligned}$$

From Lemma 4 follows easily

Theorem 2. Under the conditions of Theorem 1, if $N(M, V)$ is flat along any integral submanifold of the distribution $E(M, V)$, then θ is a representation of the Lie algebra $\Gamma(E(M, V))$ on the space of endomorphisms of $N(M, V)$.

Formula (3.6)' implies immediately

Lemma 5. For any $X \in \Gamma(E(M, V))$, with $\|X\| = 1$, and $W \in \Gamma(N(M, V))$,

$$\begin{aligned} D_X(\Phi_X(W)) - \Phi_X(D_X(W)) - \Phi_{D_X X}(W) + \Phi_X^2(W) \\ = D_W U + T_W(V) - \langle W, U \rangle U - \bar{c}W . \end{aligned}$$

4. Case $\bar{M}^{n+p} = S^{n+p}$

In this section, we suppose furthermore that \bar{M}^{n+p} is an $(n+p)$ -dimensional unit sphere S^{n+p} in Euclidean space R^{n+p+1} . We may consider the frame $b = (x, e_1, \dots, e_{n+p})$ of \bar{M} to be Euclidean in R^{n+p+1} and define a vector field on M by

$$(4.1) \quad \xi = U + V - e_{n+p+1} = \sum_r \rho_r e_r + \lambda e_{n+1} - e_{n+p+1} ,$$

where $e_{n+p+1} = x \in M$. ξ is clearly orthogonal to $E(x, V(x))$. Then, by (2.3),

(3.1) and $\omega_{i, n+p+1} = -\omega_i$, we have

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{aligned} de_a &= \sum_{B=1}^{n+p} \omega_{aB} e_B + \omega_{a, n+p+1} e_{n+p+1} \\ &= \sum_b \omega_{ab} e_b + \omega_a \xi + \sum_{r,s} \Gamma_{ars} \omega_s e_r . \end{aligned}$$

Next, we also have

$$\begin{aligned}
d\xi &= \sum_r d\rho_r e_r + d\lambda e_{n+1} + \sum_r \rho_r \left(\sum_{B=1}^{n+p} \omega_r e_B - \omega_r e_{n+p+1} \right) \\
&\quad + \lambda \sum_{B=1}^{n+p} \omega_{n+1, B} e_B - \sum_t \omega_t e_t \\
&\equiv \sum_r \left(d\rho_r + \sum_t \rho_t \omega_{tr} - \lambda \sum_t A_{n+1, rt} \omega_t - \omega_r \right) e_r \\
&\quad + \left(d\lambda + \sum_{t, r} A_{n+1, tr} \rho_t \omega_r \right) e_{n+1} \\
&\quad + \sum_{\beta > n+1} \left(\lambda \omega_{n+1, \beta} + \sum_{t, r} A_{\beta tr} \rho_t \omega_r \right) e_\beta \\
&\quad - \sum_r \rho_r \omega_r e_{n+p+1} \pmod{e_1, \dots, e_m},
\end{aligned}$$

where $\omega_{i\alpha} = \sum_i A_{\alpha i j} \omega_j$. On the other hand, using (3.3) and (3.4) in [10]:

$$(4.3) \quad d\lambda = \sum_r B_{n+1, r} \omega_r, \quad \lambda \omega_{n+1, \beta} = \sum_r B_{\beta r} \omega_r,$$

exterior differentiation of (3.1) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_t \omega_{at} (A_{n+1, tr} - \lambda \delta_{tr}) + B_{n+1, r} \omega_a &\equiv 0, \\
\sum_t \omega_{at} A_{\beta tr} + B_{\beta r} \omega_a &\equiv 0, \pmod{\omega_{m+1}, \dots, \omega_n}.
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting (2.3) into the above equations, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
(4.4) \quad B_{n+1, r} + \sum_t \rho_t A_{n+1, tr} &= \lambda \rho_r, \\
B_{\beta r} + \sum_t \rho_t A_{\beta tr} &= 0, \quad \beta > n+1.
\end{aligned}$$

Making use of (4.3) and (4.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(4.5) \quad d\xi &\equiv \sum_r \left(d\rho_r + \sum_t \rho_t \omega_{tr} - \lambda \sum_t A_{n+1, rt} \omega_t - \omega_r \right) e_r \\
&\quad + \lambda \sum_r \rho_r \omega_r e_{n+1} - \sum_r \rho_r \omega_r e_{n+p+1}, \pmod{e_1, \dots, e_m}.
\end{aligned}$$

Now, we consider the following Euclidean $(m+1)$ -vector in R^{n+p+1} ,

$$(4.6) \quad \pi = e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_m \wedge \xi.$$

By means of (4.2) and (4.5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 d\pi &= \sum_{r=m+1}^n \rho_r \omega_r \pi \\
 &+ \sum_{a=1}^m e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{a-1} \wedge \sum_{r,s} \Gamma_{ars} \omega_s e_r \wedge e_{a+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_m \wedge \xi \\
 (4.7) \quad &+ \sum_{r=m+1}^n \left(d\rho_r + \sum_t \rho_t \omega_{tr} - \lambda \sum_t A_{n+1,rt} \omega_t - \omega_r \right) e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_m \wedge e_r \\
 &- \sum_r \rho_r \omega_r e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_m \wedge \sum_t \rho_t e_t,
 \end{aligned}$$

which is equivalent to the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 d_Z \pi &= \langle U, Z \rangle \pi + e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_m \wedge (D_Z U - \langle U, Z \rangle U + T_Z(V) - Z) \\
 (4.8) \quad &+ \sum_{a=1}^m e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{a-1} \wedge \Phi_{e_a}(Q^\perp(Z)) \wedge e_{a+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_m \wedge \xi,
 \end{aligned}$$

for $Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$. In particular, we have

$$(4.9) \quad d_X \pi = 0, \quad \text{for } X \in \Gamma(E(M, V)).$$

Hence, we can easily reach

Theorem 3. *Let V be a nonzero regular principal normal vector field of M in $S^{n+p} \subset R^{n+p+1}$ such that the dimension m of the distribution $E(M, V) > 1$. Then for any maximal integral submanifold of $E(M, V)$ there exists an $(m + 1)$ -dimensional linear subspace E^{m+1} such that it is contained in the m -dimensional sphere $E^{m+1} \cap S^{n+p}$. Furthermore, the condition for all the E^{m+1} to be parallel to a fixed one is*

$$(4.10) \quad D_Z U - \langle U, Z \rangle U + T_Z(V) - Z = 0 \quad \text{for any } Z \in \Gamma(N(M, V))$$

and

$$(4.11) \quad \Phi_X = 0 \quad \text{for any } X \in \Gamma(E(M, V)).$$

Remark. If M is a minimal hypersurface in S^{n+1} and $m = n - 1$, then we have (see [10, § 3])

$$\omega_{an} = (\log \lambda^{1/n})' \omega_a,$$

where $\lambda = \|V\|$ (principal curvature of multiplicity $n - 1$), and λ is a function of arc length v of an orthogonal trajectory of the family of the integral submanifolds. Thus $\Gamma_{ann} = 0$ and $U = (\log \lambda^{1/n})' e_n$. Hence (4.11) is trivially true and (4.10) becomes

$$(\log \lambda^{1/n})'' - \{(\log \lambda^{1/n})'\}^2 + ((n - 1)\lambda^2 - 1) = 0.$$

Theorem 4. *Let $M^n (n \geq 3)$ be a minimal submanifold in $S^{n+p} \subset R^{n+p+1}$*

with two regular principal normal vector fields V and W such that

$$E(M, V) \oplus E(M, W) = T(M) .$$

Then there exists a linear subspace E^{n+2} through the origin of R^{n+p+1} such that $M^n \subset E^{n+2} \cap S^{n+p}$.

Proof. We may suppose the dimension m of the distribution $E(M, V) > 1$. Since $V \neq W$ at each point, $E(M, V)$ and $E(M, W)$ are orthogonal by Lemma 1 in [10]. We use frames $b = (x, e_1, \dots, e_{n+p})$ such that $e_1, \dots, e_m \in E(M, V)$ and $e_{m+1}, \dots, e_n \in E(M, W) = N(M, V)$. By putting $V = \sum_{\alpha > n} \lambda_\alpha e_\alpha$ and $W = \sum_{\alpha > n} \mu_\alpha e_\alpha$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\alpha a j} &= \lambda_\alpha \delta_{a j} , & A_{\alpha r j} &= \mu_\alpha \delta_{r j} , \\ \alpha &= n + 1, \dots, n + p ; & a &= 1, \dots, m ; \\ r &= m + 1, \dots, n ; & j &= 1, \dots, n . \end{aligned}$$

Since M^n is minimal, it follows that

$$0 = \sum_i A_{\alpha i i} = m \lambda_\alpha + (n - m) \mu_\alpha = 0 ,$$

that is,

$$mV + (n - m)W = 0 .$$

Since $V \neq W$, we see that $V \neq 0$ and $W \neq 0$. Therefore we may put $V = \lambda e_{n+1}$ ($\lambda > 0$), $W = \mu e_{n+1}$, and then have

$$\omega_{\alpha n+1} = \lambda \omega_\alpha , \quad \omega_{r n+1} = \mu \omega_r , \quad \omega_{i \beta} = 0 \quad (\beta = n + 2, \dots, n + p) .$$

Hence M -index of M^n in S^{n+p} is 1 everywhere. By Theorem 1 in [9], there exists an $(n + 1)$ -dimensional totally geodesic submanifold of S^{n+p} containing M^n as a minimal hypersurface, which is the intersection of a linear subspace E^{n+2} through the origin of R^{n+p+1} and S^{n+p} .

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