

HOLOMORPHIC HELICES IN A COMPLEX SPACE FORM

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ABSTRACT. In a complex space form M we shall investigate a smooth curve γ which is generated by a holomorphic Killing vector field X on M .

INTRODUCTION

In Riemannian Geometry it is interesting to investigate “simple curves” in a certain sense. From this point of view some geometers studied Submanifold Theory (for example, see [1], [2]). In this paper, we consider “simple curves” in a complex space form.

Let M be an n -dimensional Kähler manifold with complex structure J and Riemannian metric $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. For a helix γ on M of order d ($\leq 2n$) with the associated Frenet frame $\{V_1, \dots, V_d\}$, we define its *complex torsions* by $\tau_{ij}(t) = \langle V_i(t), JV_j(t) \rangle$ for $1 \leq i < j \leq d$. In the study of helices in a Kähler manifold their complex torsions play an important role. We shall call γ a *holomorphic helix* if all the complex torsions are constant. Ohnita and the first-named author proved in [3] that a smooth curve γ on a complex space form is a holomorphic helix if and only if it is generated by a holomorphic Killing vector field X . This is the complex version of the well-known fact that a smooth curve on a real space form is a helix if and only if it is generated by a Killing vector field. Study of holomorphic helices is one of the most interesting objects in differential geometry in a complex space form.

The main purpose of this paper is to study the moduli of holomorphic helices of order 3 in complex space forms. A helix of order 1 is nothing but a geodesic, and a helix of order 2 is called a *circle*. They are necessarily holomorphic helices. But in the class of helices of order d (≥ 3) we can find many helices which are not holomorphic helices.

We show that the moduli of all holomorphic helices of order 3 on an n -dimensional complex space form is parametrized by three real numbers or two real numbers according as $n \geq 3$ or $n = 2$ (see Theorem 5). Moreover, we investigate the moduli of all holomorphic helices in a 2-dimensional complex space form (see Theorems 4, 5).

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1. COMPLEX TORSIONS OF HOLOMORPHIC HELICES

We shall start by recalling the definition of helices. A smooth curve $\gamma = \gamma(t)$ parametrized by its arc length t is called a *helix of proper order d* if there exist an orthonormal frame $\{V_1 = \dot{\gamma}, \dots, V_d\}$ along γ and positive constants k_1, \dots, k_{d-1} which satisfy the system of ordinary differential equations

$$(1.1) \quad \nabla_t V_j(t) = -k_{j-1}V_{j-1}(t) + k_jV_{j+1}(t), \quad j = 1, \dots, d,$$

where $V_0 = V_{d+1} = 0$ and ∇_t denotes the covariant differentiation along γ . The constants k_j ($1 \leq j \leq d-1$) and the orthonormal frame $\{V_1, \dots, V_d\}$ are called the *curvatures* and the *Frenet frame* of γ , respectively. A curve is called a *helix of order d* if it is a helix of proper order r ($\leq d$). For a helix of order d which is of proper order r ($\leq d$), we use the convention in (1.1) that $k_j = 0$ ($r \leq j \leq d-1$) and $V_j = 0$ ($r+1 \leq j \leq d$). Note that every helix is a real analytic curve on a Kähler manifold M .

As a matter of course complex torsions of helices satisfy $|\tau_{ij}(t)| \leq 1$ by their definitions. We first show that complex torsions and curvatures of holomorphic helices have relations. Differentiating all the complex torsions, we find by use of the equation (1.1) that

$$\frac{d}{dt}\tau_{ij}(t) = -k_{i-1}\tau_{i-1,j}(t) + k_i\tau_{i+1,j}(t) - k_{j-1}\tau_{i,j-1}(t) + k_j\tau_{i,j+1}(t),$$

where $\tau_{kl} = 0$ when $k = l$ or $k = 0$ or l is greater than the proper order. We hence get the following.

Proposition 1. *The complex torsions of a holomorphic helix of odd proper order d on a Kähler manifold satisfy the following relations:*

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{i,i+2k} &= 0 \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, d-2k, \text{ where } k = 1, 2, \dots, (d-1)/2, \\ k_1\tau_{2d} &= k_{d-1}\tau_{1,d-1}, \\ k_1\tau_{2j} + k_j\tau_{1,j+1} &= k_{j-1}\tau_{1,j-1} \text{ for } j = 3, 5, \dots, d-2, \\ k_{i-1}\tau_{i-1,d} + k_{d-1}\tau_{i,d-1} &= k_i\tau_{i+1,d} \text{ for } i = 3, 5, \dots, d-2, \\ k_{i-1}\tau_{i-1,j} + k_{j-1}\tau_{i,j-1} &= k_i\tau_{i+1,j} + k_j\tau_{i,j+1} \\ &\text{for } i = 2, 3, \dots, d-3, \quad j = i+2, i+4, \dots, d-1. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 2. *The complex torsions of a holomorphic helix of even proper order d on a Kähler manifold satisfy the following relations:*

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{i,i+2k} &= 0 \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, d-2k, \text{ where } k = 1, 2, \dots, (d-2)/2, \\ k_1\tau_{2d} &= k_{d-1}\tau_{1,d-1}, \\ k_1\tau_{2j} + k_j\tau_{1,j+1} &= k_{j-1}\tau_{1,j-1} \text{ for } j = 3, 5, \dots, d-1, \\ k_{i-1}\tau_{i-1,d} + k_{d-1}\tau_{i,d-1} &= k_i\tau_{i+1,d} \text{ for } i = 2, 4, \dots, d-2, \\ k_{i-1}\tau_{i-1,j} + k_{j-1}\tau_{i,j-1} &= k_i\tau_{i+1,j} + k_j\tau_{i,j+1} \\ &\text{for } i = 2, 3, \dots, d-3, \quad j = i+2, i+4, \dots, d-1. \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, if the Frenet frame of a helix γ in a Kähler manifold satisfies the above relations at a point, then all n th derivatives of its complex torsions vanish at this point. Since γ is real analytic, we find that it is a holomorphic helix. We therefore have

Proposition 3. For orthonormal vectors v_1, \dots, v_d at a point p of a Kähler manifold M , we set $\tau_{ij} = \langle v_i, Jv_j \rangle$ ($1 \leq i < j \leq d$). If positive constants k_1, \dots, k_{d-1} and the vectors v_1, \dots, v_d satisfy the relations in Proposition 1 or 2, there exists a unique holomorphic helix with curvatures k_1, \dots, k_{d-1} satisfying that the initial value of its Frenet frame is (v_1, \dots, v_d) .

The following is easily verified.

Proposition 4. The complex torsions τ_{ij} of a holomorphic helix of proper order d on a Kähler manifold M satisfy $\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \tau_{ji}^2 + \sum_{j=i+1}^d \tau_{ij}^2 \leq 1$ for every i .

Proof. Since $\tau_{i,i+2k} = 0$, we find that $\{V_{2l-1}, JV_{2l-1} | l = 1, 2, \dots, \}$ and $\{V_{2l}, JV_{2l} | l = 1, 2, \dots, \}$ form orthonormal frames. When i is even, the left-hand-side of the inequality is the norm of the projection of $V_i(0)$ onto the complex linear subspace spanned by $\{V_{2l-1}(0), JV_{2l-1}(0) | l = 1, 2, \dots, \}$. We hence get the inequality. For odd i we have a similar argument. \square

Here we treat holomorphic helices of order 3. We need to choose orthonormal vectors $v_1, v_2, v_3 \in T_pM$ which satisfy

$$k_1 \langle v_2, Jv_3 \rangle = k_2 \langle v_1, Jv_2 \rangle, \langle v_1, Jv_3 \rangle = 0.$$

Identifying T_pM with C^n , we set v_1, v_2 and v_3 as

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= (1, 0, \dots, 0), \\ v_2 &= (-i\tau, \sqrt{1 - \tau^2}, 0, \dots, 0), \\ v_3 &= (0, -i\rho/\sqrt{1 - \tau^2}, \sqrt{1 - \tau^2 - \rho^2}/\sqrt{1 - \tau^2}, 0, \dots, 0) \end{aligned}$$

for positive constants τ and ρ with $\tau^2 + \rho^2 \leq 1$. Then they are orthonormal and satisfy $\langle v_1, Jv_2 \rangle = \tau$, $\langle v_2, Jv_3 \rangle = \rho$, $\langle v_1, Jv_3 \rangle = 0$. We therefore have

Theorem 1. Let M be a Kähler manifold of dimension greater than 2. Then the following hold:

(1) Every holomorphic helix of order 3 satisfies

$$k_1\tau_{23} = k_2\tau_{12}, \tau_{13} = 0, |\tau_{12}| \leq k_1/\sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2}.$$

(2) Conversely, if nonnegative constants k_1, k_2 and a constant τ satisfy $|\tau| \leq k_1/\sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2}$, then there exists a holomorphic helix of order 3 on M with the first curvature k_1 and the second curvature k_2 , and with the first complex torsion $\tau_{12} = \tau$.

(3) If $|\tau| > k_1/\sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2}$, we have no such a holomorphic helix of order 3 on M .

Theorem 2. Let M be a 2-dimensional Kähler manifold. Then the following hold:

(1) The complex torsions of each holomorphic helix of proper order 3 in M are

$$(1.2) \quad \tau_{12} = k_1/\sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2}, \tau_{13} = 0, \tau_{23} = k_2/\sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2}$$

or

$$(1.3) \quad \tau_{12} = -k_1/\sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2}, \tau_{13} = 0, \tau_{23} = -k_2/\sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2},$$

where its curvatures are k_1 and k_2 .

(2) Conversely for given positive constants k_1 and k_2 , there exists a holomorphic helix of proper order 3 with curvatures k_1 and k_2 , and with complex torsions defined by (1.2) or (1.3).

Such a description as above for holomorphic helices of order 4 is much more complicated. We restrict ourselves here to holomorphic helices on a 2-dimensional Kähler manifold M . For given constants τ and ρ with $\tau^2 + \rho^2 = 1$, we choose vectors

$$v_1 = (1, 0), v_2 = (-i\tau, \rho), v_3 = (0, -i), v_4 = \mp(i\rho, \tau)$$

in $T_pM \simeq C^2$. Then they are orthonormal and satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v_1, Jv_2 \rangle &= \tau, \quad \langle v_2, Jv_3 \rangle = \rho, \quad \langle v_1, Jv_4 \rangle = \pm\rho \\ \langle v_1, Jv_3 \rangle &= \langle v_2, Jv_4 \rangle = 0, \quad \langle v_3, Jv_4 \rangle = \pm\tau. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, Proposition 2 shows that a helix is a holomorphic helix if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{13}(0) = \tau_{24}(0) = 0, \quad k_1\tau_{23}(0) + k_3\tau_{14} = k_2\tau_{12}(0), \\ k_1\tau_{14}(0) + k_3\tau_{23}(0) = k_2\tau_{34}(0). \end{aligned}$$

We therefore have

Theorem 3. *Let M be a 2-dimensional Kähler manifold. Then the following hold:*

(1) *The complex torsions of each holomorphic helix of proper order 4 with curvatures k_1, k_2 and k_3 on M satisfy one of the following:*

$$(1.4) \quad \tau_{12} = \tau_{34} = \tau, \quad \tau_{23} = \tau_{14} = k_2\tau/(k_1 + k_3), \quad \tau_{13} = \tau_{24} = 0,$$

where $\tau = \pm(k_1 + k_3)/\sqrt{k_2^2 + (k_1 + k_3)^2}$,

$$(1.5) \quad \tau_{12} = -\tau_{34} = \tau, \quad \tau_{23} = -\tau_{14} = k_2\tau/(k_1 - k_3), \quad \tau_{13} = \tau_{24} = 0,$$

when $k_1 \neq k_3$, where $\tau = \pm(k_1 - k_3)/\sqrt{k_2^2 + (k_1 - k_3)^2}$, or

$$(1.5') \quad \tau_{12} = \tau_{34} = \tau_{13} = \tau_{24} = 0, \quad \tau_{23} = -\tau_{14} = \pm 1,$$

when $k_1 = k_3$.

(2) *Conversely, for given positive constants k_1, k_2 and k_3 , there exist holomorphic helices of proper order 4 in M with curvatures k_1, k_2 and k_3 , and with complex torsions defined by (1.4), (1.5) or (1.4), (1.5').*

2. MODULI OF HOLOMORPHIC HELICES ON A COMPLEX SPACE FORM

Let $M_n(c)$ be an n -dimensional complete simply connected complex space form of constant holomorphic sectional curvature c . It is well-known that an arbitrary complex space form is locally complex analytically isometric to a complex projective space, a complex hyperbolic space or a complex Euclidean space according as the holomorphic sectional curvature c is positive, negative or zero. We have the following holomorphic congruence theorem for helices in $M_n(c)$.

Proposition 5 ([3]). *Let γ and σ be two helices of orders p and q in a complex space form $M_n(c)$, respectively. Let $\{k_1, \dots, k_{p-1}\}$ (resp. $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{q-1}\}$) be the curvatures of γ (resp. σ), and let $\tau_{ij}^\gamma(t)$ (resp. $\tau_{kl}^\sigma(t)$) be the complex torsions of γ (resp. σ). Then there exists a holomorphic isometry φ of $M_n(c)$ satisfying $\gamma = \varphi \circ \sigma$ if and only if $p = q$, $k_i = \lambda_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq p - 1$) and $\tau_{ij}^\gamma(0) = \tau_{ij}^\sigma(0)$ ($1 \leq i < j \leq p$).*

In this section we denote by $Hh^d(M_n(c))$ the set of the equivalence classes of all holomorphic helices of order d ($\leq 2n$) in $M_n(c)$ with respect to holomorphic isometries of $M_n(c)$. By Proposition 5 the set $Hh^d(M_n(c))$ is naturally regarded as a subset of $[0, \infty)^{d-1} \times [-1, 1]^{d(d-1)/2} \subset R^{(d+2)(d-1)/2}$. Needless to say, every

helix which lies on a totally real totally geodesic submanifold $M^n(c/4)$ of $M_n(c)$ is a holomorphic helix (whose complex torsions are zero in $M_n(c)$), so that the set of the equivalence classes of all holomorphic helices of proper order $d (\leq n)$ with respect to holomorphic isometries of $M_n(c)$, which is a subset of $Hh^d(M_n(c))$, is not empty.

Theorem 4. *For given positive constants k_1, k_2 and k_3 , there exist four equivalence classes of holomorphic helices of proper order 4 with curvatures k_1, k_2 and k_3 with respect to holomorphic isometries of $M_2(c)$. In addition, these four equivalence classes are given by (1.4), (1.5) or (1.4), (1.5').*

We give some examples here of holomorphic helices of proper order 4 in a 2-dimensional complex projective space $CP_2(c)$. Let $\pi: S^{2n+1}(1) \subset C^{n+1} \rightarrow CP^n(4)$ denote the Hopf fibration.

Example 1. For any k satisfying $0 < k < \sqrt{2}$, we put

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \sqrt{(4 - k^2 - \sqrt{(2 - k^2)(8 - k^2)}) / (2(8 - k^2))}, \\ B &= 2 / \sqrt{8 - k^2}, \\ C &= \sqrt{(4 - k^2 + \sqrt{(2 - k^2)(8 - k^2)}) / (2(8 - k^2))}, \\ \alpha &= (\sqrt{2 - k^2} + \sqrt{8 - k^2}) / \sqrt{2}, \\ \beta &= \sqrt{2 - k^2} / \sqrt{2}, \\ \delta &= (\sqrt{2 - k^2} - \sqrt{8 - k^2}) / \sqrt{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\tilde{\gamma}$ be a curve in C^3 defined by $\tilde{\gamma}(t) = (Ae^{i\alpha t}, Be^{i\beta t}, Ce^{i\delta t})$. Then $\tilde{\gamma}$ is a horizontal curve on $S^5(1)$ parametrized by arc length t . Moreover $\pi(\tilde{\gamma})$ is a holomorphic helix of order 4 in $CP_2(4)$ with curvatures $k_1 = k, k_2 = \sqrt{(18 - 9k^2)/2}$ and $k_3 = k$, and with complex torsions $\tau_{12} = \tau_{13} = \tau_{24} = \tau_{34} = 0, \tau_{14} = 1$ and $\tau_{23} = -1$. The curve $\pi(\tilde{\gamma})$ satisfies (1.5').

Example 2. Let $\tilde{\gamma}$ be a curve in C^3 defined by

$$\tilde{\gamma}(t) = \left((1/\sqrt{3}) e^{it}, (1/\sqrt{14}) e^{2it}, (5/\sqrt{42}) e^{-4it/5} \right).$$

Then $\pi(\tilde{\gamma})$ is a holomorphic helix of order 4 in $CP_2(4)$ with curvatures $k_1 = 3\sqrt{2}/5, k_2 = 11\sqrt{2}/10$ and $k_3 = 1/\sqrt{2}$, and with complex torsions $\tau_{12} = \tau_{14} = \tau_{23} = \tau_{34} = -1/\sqrt{2}$ and $\tau_{13} = \tau_{24} = 0$. The curve $\pi(\tilde{\gamma})$ satisfies (1.4).

Finally we shall investigate the moduli spaces $Hh^d(M_n(c))$ ($d = 1, 2, 3$). The moduli space $Hh^1(M_n(c))$ clearly consists of one point. As an immediate consequence of Theorem 1, Theorem 2 and Proposition 5 we can establish the following.

Theorem 5. (1) *The moduli space $Hh^2(M_n(c))$ is homeomorphic to a cone in R^2 or a half line according as $n \geq 2$ or $n = 1$. More precisely, $Hh^2(M_n(c))$ is $[0, \infty) \times [-1, 1] / \sim$ or $[0, \infty)$ according as $n \geq 2$ or $n = 1$, where the equivalence relation \sim means that $(0, \tau) \sim (0, \rho)$ if $\tau, \rho \in [-1, 1]$.*

(2) The moduli space $Hh^3(M_n(c))$ is connected and

$$Hh^3(M_n(c)) = \begin{cases} \{(k_1, k_2, \tau) \in [0, \infty) \times [0, \infty) \times [-1, 1] \mid \tau^2 \leq k_1^2 / (k_1^2 + k_2^2)\} / \sim, & n \geq 3, \\ ([0, \infty) \times \{0\} \times [-1, 1] \cup \{(k_1, k_2, \pm k_1 / \sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2}) \mid k_1 > 0, k_2 > 0\}) / \sim, & n = 2, \end{cases}$$

where the equivalence relation \sim means that $(0, k, \tau) \sim (0, l, \rho)$ if $k, l \in [0, \infty)$ and $\tau, \rho \in [-1, 1]$.

Remark. Let γ be a holomorphic helix of proper order 3 with curvatures k_1 and k_2 , and with the first complex torsion $\tau_{12} = \tau$ in a complex space form $M_n(c)$. Then γ lies on a totally real totally geodesic submanifold $M^3(c/4)$ of $M_n(c)$ if and only if $\tau = 0$, and γ lies on a holomorphic totally geodesic submanifold $M_2(c)$ of $M_n(c)$ if and only if $\tau = \pm k_1 / \sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2}$.

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