HAMILTONIAN STATIONARY NORMAL BUNDLES OF SURFACES IN $\mathbf{R}^3$

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Dedicated to Professor Shukichi Tanno on his 60th birthday

ABSTRACT. A surface in $\mathbf{R}^3$ has Hamiltonian stationary normal bundle if and only if it is either minimal, a part of a round sphere, or a part of a cone with vertex angle $\pi/2$.

0. INTRODUCTION

Let N be an n -dimensional Kähler manifold with the Kähler form Ω . A Lagrangian submanifold M in N is an n -dimensional submanifold in N such that $\Omega|_M = 0$. A Lagrangian submanifold in a Kähler manifold is called Hamiltonian stationary if it is a critical point of the volume functional for all Hamiltonian deformations (cf. [2]). Of course, any minimal Lagrangian submanifold is Hamiltonian stationary. In fact, a Lagrangian submanifold with parallel mean curvature is Hamiltonian stationary (cf. Section 1).

On the other hand, let M be a submanifold in $\mathbf{R}^n$. The normal bundle $T^\perp M$ of M may be naturally immersed in $\mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n$ by the immersion $\psi: T^\perp M \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n$ defined by $\psi(\nu_x) = (x, \nu_x)$. We consider the complex structure J on $C^n = \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n$ defined by $J(X, Y) = (-Y, X)$. Then it is known that $\psi(T^\perp M)$ is a Lagrangian submanifold in $C^n = \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n$ (cf. [1, III.3.C]).

So it is natural to ask which submanifolds in $\mathbf{R}^n$ have Hamiltonian stationary normal bundles. In this paper we discuss the case of surfaces in $\mathbf{R}^3$.

Theorem. *Let S be a surface in $\mathbf{R}^3$. Then $\psi(T^\perp S)$ is Hamiltonian stationary if and only if S is either minimal, a part of a round sphere, or a part of a cone with vertex angle $\pi/2$.*

In the proof of the theorem, we can find that the normal bundles of a round sphere and a cone with vertex angle $\pi/2$ in $\mathbf{R}^3$ have non-parallel mean curvature.

Remark. Harvey and Lawson determined submanifolds in $\mathbf{R}^n$ with minimal normal bundles (see [1, III. Th. 3.11, Prop. 2.17]). In particular, they showed that a surface S in $\mathbf{R}^n$ has minimal normal bundle if and only if S is minimal.

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1. PRELIMINARIES

Let N be an n -dimensional Kähler manifold with the complex structure J and the Kähler metric g . The Kähler form Ω of N is defined by $\Omega(X, Y) = g(JX, Y)$ for $X, Y \in T_x N$. Let M be a Lagrangian submanifold in N , that is, an n -dimensional submanifold in N such that $\Omega|_M = 0$. Then J becomes a bijection between $T_x M$ and $T_x^\perp M$ for $x \in M$.

A normal vector field V along M is called a Hamiltonian variation if $V = J(\text{grad}(f))$ for some compactly supported function f on M . Let $i: M \rightarrow N$ be the inclusion map. A compactly supported deformation $\phi_t: M \rightarrow N$ ($-\varepsilon < t < \varepsilon$, $\phi_0 = i$) of M is called a Hamiltonian deformation if its variation vector field is a Hamiltonian variation. We say that M is Hamiltonian stationary if it satisfies

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \text{vol}(\phi_t(M)) = 0$$

for all Hamiltonian deformations ϕ_t . The Euler-Lagrange equation is given as follows:

Proposition (cf. [2]). *Let N be a Kähler manifold with the complex structure J . A Lagrangian submanifold M in N is Hamiltonian stationary if and only if its mean curvature vector H satisfies $\text{div}(JH) = 0$ on M .*

From this proposition, we can see that a Lagrangian submanifold with parallel mean curvature in a Kähler manifold is Hamiltonian stationary.

2. PROOF OF THE THEOREM

Let $x = x(t_1, t_2)$, $(t_1, t_2) \in D$, be a local parametrization of S , where D is an open domain on $\mathbf{R}^2$. Let

$$I = E(dt_1)^2 + 2Fdt_1 dt_2 + G(dt_2)^2$$

and

$$II = L(dt_1)^2 + 2Mdt_1 dt_2 + N(dt_2)^2$$

be the first and second fundamental forms of S , respectively. As our argument is local in nature, we may assume that either S has no umbilic points or S is totally umbilic. In the case where S has no umbilic points, we may choose the local parametrization so that the parameter curves are lines of curvature, and $F = M = 0$. It is possible to choose the local parametrization such that $F = M = 0$ also in the case where S is totally umbilic. So we assume that $F = M = 0$ in the following.

The principal curvatures a and b of S are given by $a = L/E$ and $b = N/G$. By the Codazzi equation, we have

$$(1) \quad \frac{\partial a}{\partial t_2} = \frac{b-a}{2E} \frac{\partial E}{\partial t_2}, \quad \frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} = \frac{a-b}{2G} \frac{\partial G}{\partial t_1}.$$

Let ν denote the unit normal vector along S . Let $f: D \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3$ be defined by

$$f(t_1, t_2, t_3) = (x(t_1, t_2), t_3 \nu(t_1, t_2)),$$

which is the parametrization of the immersion $\psi: T^\perp S \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3$ in the introduction.

Set

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} e_1 &= (E(1 + t_3^2 a^2))^{-1/2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t_1}, \\ e_2 &= (G(1 + t_3^2 b^2))^{-1/2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t_2}, \quad e_3 = \frac{\partial}{\partial t_3}. \end{aligned}$$

Then we have

$$(3) \quad \begin{aligned} f_* e_1 &= (E(1 + t_3^2 a^2))^{-1/2} \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial t_1}, -t_3 a \frac{\partial x}{\partial t_1} \right), \\ f_* e_2 &= (G(1 + t_3^2 b^2))^{-1/2} \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial t_2}, -t_3 b \frac{\partial x}{\partial t_2} \right), \quad f_* e_3 = (0, \nu), \end{aligned}$$

which are orthonormal. So $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$ is an orthonormal frame on $D \times R$ with respect to the metric induced by f .

Let J be the complex structure on $C^3 = \mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3$ defined by $J(X, Y) = (-Y, X)$. Set

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} e_4 &= J(f_* e_1) = (E(1 + t_3^2 a^2))^{-1/2} \left(t_3 a \frac{\partial x}{\partial t_1}, \frac{\partial x}{\partial t_1} \right), \\ e_5 &= J(f_* e_2) = (G(1 + t_3^2 b^2))^{-1/2} \left(t_3 b \frac{\partial x}{\partial t_2}, \frac{\partial x}{\partial t_2} \right), \\ e_6 &= J(f_* e_3) = (-\nu, 0). \end{aligned}$$

Then $\{e_4, e_5, e_6\}$ is a normal orthonormal frame.

The second fundamental form h_{ij}^α of f is defined by $h_{ij}^\alpha = \langle e_i(f_* e_j), e_\alpha \rangle$ for $1 \leq i, j \leq 3, 4 \leq \alpha \leq 6$. Using (2), (3), (4) and (1), we get

$$\begin{aligned} h_{11}^4 &= -t_3 E^{-1/2} (1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-3/2} \frac{\partial a}{\partial t_1}, \\ h_{22}^4 &= -t_3 E^{-1/2} (1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-1/2} (1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-1} \left(\frac{a - b}{2G} \frac{\partial G}{\partial t_1} \right) \\ &= -t_3 E^{-1/2} (1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-1/2} (1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-1} \frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1}, \\ h_{11}^5 &= -t_3 G^{-1/2} (1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-1} (1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-1/2} \left(\frac{b - a}{2E} \frac{\partial E}{\partial t_2} \right) \\ &= -t_3 G^{-1/2} (1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-1} (1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-1/2} \frac{\partial a}{\partial t_2}, \\ h_{22}^5 &= -t_3 G^{-1/2} (1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-3/2} \frac{\partial b}{\partial t_2}, \\ h_{11}^6 &= -a(1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-1}, \quad h_{22}^6 = -b(1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-1}, \\ h_{33}^4 &= h_{33}^5 = h_{33}^6 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Set

$$\begin{aligned}
 P &= E^{-1/2}(1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-3/2} \frac{\partial a}{\partial t_1} \\
 &\quad + E^{-1/2}(1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-1/2}(1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-1} \frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1}, \\
 (5) \quad Q &= G^{-1/2}(1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-1}(1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-1/2} \frac{\partial a}{\partial t_2} \\
 &\quad + G^{-1/2}(1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-3/2} \frac{\partial b}{\partial t_2}, \\
 R &= a(1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-1} + b(1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then the mean curvature vector H of f is given by

$$(6) \quad H = -(t_3 P e_4 + t_3 Q e_5 + R e_6).$$

By (6) and (4),

$$JH = t_3 P(f_* e_1) + t_3 Q(f_* e_2) + R(f_* e_3),$$

and we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \operatorname{div}(JH) &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \langle (e_i(JH))^T, f_* e_i \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^3 \langle e_i(JH), f_* e_i \rangle \\
 (7) \quad &= t_3 \langle e_1 P, f_* e_1 \rangle + t_3 Q \langle e_1(f_* e_2), f_* e_1 \rangle + R \langle e_1(f_* e_3), f_* e_1 \rangle \\
 &\quad + t_3 P \langle e_2(f_* e_1), f_* e_2 \rangle + t_3 \langle e_2 Q, f_* e_2 \rangle + R \langle e_2(f_* e_3), f_* e_2 \rangle \\
 &\quad + t_3 P \langle e_3(f_* e_1), f_* e_3 \rangle + t_3 Q \langle e_3(f_* e_2), f_* e_3 \rangle + e_3 R.
 \end{aligned}$$

Here $(e_i(JH))^T$ denotes the tangential part of $e_i(JH)$, and the seventh and eighth terms of the right hand side are zero.

(i) If S is minimal, then $a + b = 0$. By (5) and (6) we have $H = 0$, and $\operatorname{div}(JH) = 0$.

(ii) If S is a part of a round sphere, then $a = b$ which is constant. By (5), $P = Q = 0$ and $R = 2a(1 + t_3^2 a^2)^{-1}$. Using (7), (2) and (3), we can see that $\operatorname{div}(JH) = 0$.

(iii) In what follows, we assume that S is neither minimal nor a part of a round sphere. Then we may assume that $a^2 \neq b^2$.

(iii)₁ We assume further that S is non-flat. Then we may assume that $a \neq 0$ and $b \neq 0$. Using (7), (5), (2) and (3), we can find that

$$\begin{aligned}
 &(1 + t_3^2 a^2)^3 (1 + t_3^2 b^2)^3 \operatorname{div}(JH) \\
 (8) \quad &= t_3 \left\{ (1 + t_3^2 a^2) A_1 - \frac{3a}{E} \left(\frac{\partial a}{\partial t_1} \right)^2 t_3^2 (1 + t_3^2 b^2)^3 \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (9) \quad &= t_3 \left\{ (1 + t_3^2 b^2) B_1 - \frac{3b}{G} \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_2} \right)^2 t_3^2 (1 + t_3^2 a^2)^3 \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

for some functions A_1, B_1 on $D \times R$, which are polynomial with respect to t_3 .

If $\operatorname{div}(JH) = 0$, then (8) and (9) are identically zero, which are true also as polynomials for $t_3 \in C$. So by letting $t_3 = \sqrt{-1}/a$ and $\sqrt{-1}/b$ in (8) and (9)

respectively, we get

$$(10) \quad \frac{\partial a}{\partial t_1} = \frac{\partial b}{\partial t_2} = 0.$$

By (5) and (10),

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} P &= E^{-1/2}(1+t_3^2a^2)^{-1/2}(1+t_3^2b^2)^{-1}\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1}, \\ Q &= G^{-1/2}(1+t_3^2a^2)^{-1}(1+t_3^2b^2)^{-1/2}\frac{\partial a}{\partial t_2}. \end{aligned}$$

Again by using (7), (11), (5), (2), (3) and (1), we have

$$(12) \quad \begin{aligned} &(1+t_3^2a^2)^2(1+t_3^2b^2)^2 \operatorname{div}(JH) \\ &= t_3(1+t_3^2a^2)A_2 + t_3(1+t_3^2b^2) \left\{ \frac{1+a(2a-b)t_3^2}{(b-a)G} \left(\frac{\partial a}{\partial t_2} \right)^2 - a^3(1+t_3^2b^2) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$(13) \quad \begin{aligned} &= t_3(1+t_3^2b^2)B_2 + t_3(1+t_3^2a^2) \left\{ \frac{1+b(2b-a)t_3^2}{(a-b)E} \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} \right)^2 - b^3(1+t_3^2a^2) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

for some functions A_2 and B_2 on $D \times R$, which are polynomials with respect to t_3 . As we assume that $\operatorname{div}(JH) = 0$, (12) and (13) are identically zero, also as polynomials for $t_3 \in C$. So by letting $t_3 = \sqrt{-1}/a$ and $\sqrt{-1}/b$ in (12) and (13) respectively, we get

$$(14) \quad G = \frac{1}{a^2(a^2-b^2)} \left(\frac{\partial a}{\partial t_2} \right)^2 \neq 0,$$

$$(15) \quad E = \frac{1}{b^2(b^2-a^2)} \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} \right)^2 \neq 0.$$

Inserting (14) into (1), and noting (10), (15), we have a contradiction.

Thus in this case (iii)₁, $\operatorname{div}(JH)$ cannot be identically zero.

(iii)₂ We assume that S is flat. Then we may assume that $a = 0$ and $b \neq 0$ on S . By (5),

$$(16) \quad \begin{aligned} P &= E^{-1/2}(1+t_3^2b^2)^{-1}\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1}, \\ Q &= G^{-1/2}(1+t_3^2b^2)^{-3/2}\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_2}, \quad R = b(1+t_3^2b^2)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Using (7), (16), (2) and (3), we have

$$(17) \quad (1+t_3^2b^2)^3 \operatorname{div}(JH) = t_3 \left\{ (1+t_3^2b^2)B_3 - \frac{3b}{G} \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_2} \right)^2 t_3^2 \right\}$$

for some function B_3 on $D \times R$, which is a polynomial with respect to t_3 .

If $\operatorname{div}(JH) = 0$, then the right side of (17) is identically zero, also as a polynomial for $t_3 \in C$. Thus we have $\partial b / \partial t_2 = 0$. So $Q = 0$ by (16). Again by using (7), (16), (2), (3) and (1), we get

$$(18) \quad \begin{aligned} \operatorname{div}(JH) = t_3 E^{-1} & \left[b^{-1} (1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-2} \left\{ \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} \right)^2 - E b^4 \right\} \right. \\ & \left. + (1 + t_3^2 b^2)^{-1} \left\{ \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial t_1^2} - \frac{2}{b} \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2E} \frac{\partial E}{\partial t_1} \frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} \right\} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

As we assume that $\operatorname{div}(JH) = 0$, by (18), we have

$$(19) \quad E = \frac{1}{b^4} \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} \right)^2 \neq 0,$$

$$(20) \quad \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial t_1^2} - \frac{2}{b} \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2E} \frac{\partial E}{\partial t_1} \frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} = 0,$$

where we note that (19) implies (20) automatically. By (1) and that b depends only on t_1 ,

$$G = \frac{c}{b^2}, \quad N = \frac{c}{b}$$

for some positive function c depending only on t_2 . Thus we have

$$I = \frac{1}{b^4} \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial t_1} \right)^2 (dt_1)^2 + \frac{c}{b^2} (dt_2)^2, \quad II = \frac{c}{b} (dt_2)^2.$$

Noting that $c > 0$ and $\partial b / \partial t_1 \neq 0$, we change the parameters as follows:

$$\tilde{t}_1 = \frac{1}{b}, \quad \tilde{t}_2 = \int \sqrt{c} dt_2.$$

Then we have

$$(21) \quad I = (d\tilde{t}_1)^2 + \tilde{t}_1^2 (d\tilde{t}_2)^2, \quad II = \tilde{t}_1 (d\tilde{t}_2)^2.$$

The cone parametrized by

$$(22) \quad x(t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (t_1 \cos(\sqrt{2}t_2), t_1 \sin(\sqrt{2}t_2), t_1)$$

has the first and second fundamental forms (21) without tilde, with respect to the suitable unit normal vector field. So by the fundamental theorem, up to congruence, S must be a part of the cone with vertex angle $\pi/2$.

Conversely, let S be a part of a cone with vertex angle $\pi/2$. Then we may assume that S is parametrized by (22), and (21) without tilde is valid. With respect to this parametrization, (18) may be applied, where $E = 1$ and $b = 1/t_1$. By (18) we can see that S has Hamiltonian stationary normal bundle.

Thus the proof is complete.

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