

## ON 3 DIMENSIONAL ISOTROPIC SUBMANIFOLDS OF A SPACE FORM

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### Abstract

We study 3-dimensional isotropic submanifolds of a space form with low-dimensional first normal space

### 1. Introduction

B. O'Neill [3] introduced first the notion of isotropic submanifold of a Riemannian manifold. Many differential-geometers have studied isotropic submanifolds of spheres. In particular, L. Vrancken [10] proved recently the following results.

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional constant isotropic submanifold in an  $n$ -dimensional unit sphere  $S^n(1)$ . If the dimension of the first normal space of  $M$  is  $\leq 3$  at every point, then one of the following holds.*

- (1)  $M$  is totally geodesic in  $S^n(1)$ .
- (2) There exists a totally geodesic  $S^4(1)$  in  $S^n(1)$  such that the image of  $M$  is (a part of) a small hypersphere of  $S^4(1)$ .
- (3) There exists a totally geodesic  $S^7(1)$  in  $S^n(1)$  such that the image of  $M$  is congruent to (a part of)  $R \times S^2(\frac{3}{2})$  in  $S^7(1)$ .

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**Proposition 2.** *A 3-dimensional minimal isotropic submanifold in  $S^n$  is of constant curvature.*

In the present paper, we will study a 3-dimensional isotropic submanifolds in an  $n$ -dimensional space form  $\tilde{M}^n(c)$  of constant curvature  $c$  and at first prove the following.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional isotropic submanifold in an  $n$ -dimensional space form  $\tilde{M}(c)$ . If the dimension of the first normal space of  $M$  is  $\leq 3$  at every point, then  $M$  is constant isotropic.*

By Theorem 1, we have the following result which can be considered as a hyperbolic version of Proposition 1.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional isotropic submanifold in an  $n$ -dimensional hyperbolic space  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . If the dimension of the first normal space of  $M$  is  $\leq 3$  at every point, then one of the following holds.*

- (1)  $M$  is totally geodesic in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ ,
- (2) There exists a totally geodesic  $\mathbf{H}^4$  in  $\mathbf{H}^n$  such that  $M$  is a geodesic sphere, a horosphere or a hypersphere in  $\mathbf{H}^4$ .

Moreover, we have the following generalization of Proposition 2.

**Theorem 3.** *A 3-dimensional minimal isotropic submanifold in a space form is of constant curvature.*

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $\tilde{M}(c)$  be an  $n$ -dimensional space form of constant curvature  $c$ , that is, an  $n$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold of constant curvature  $c$ . Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional submanifold in  $\tilde{M}(c)$ . We denote by  $g$  (resp.  $\tilde{g}$ ) the Riemannian metric of  $M$  (resp.  $\tilde{M}^n(c)$ ). Let  $T_p(M)$  be the tangent space of  $M$  at  $p \in M$  and  $\nu_p(M)$  be the normal space to  $M$  at  $p \in M$ . We denote by  $\nabla$  (resp.  $\tilde{\nabla}$ ) the covariant differentiation on  $M$  (resp.  $\tilde{M}^n(c)$ ) and  $\nabla^\perp$  the covariant differentiation on the normal bundle  $\nu(M)$ . Then, for vector field  $X, Y$  tangent to  $M$  and a vector field  $\xi$  normal to  $M$ , the formulas of Gauss and Weingarten are

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{\nabla}_X Y = \nabla_X Y + \sigma(X, Y), \\ \tilde{\nabla}_X \xi = -A_\xi X + \nabla_X^\perp \xi, \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the *second fundamental form* and  $A$  is the *shape operator* which are related by  $\sigma(X, Y) = g(AX, Y)$ . We define the covariant derivative  $\nabla\sigma$  of  $\sigma$  by

$$(\nabla_X \sigma)(Y, Z) = \nabla_X^\perp(\sigma(Y, Z)) - \sigma(\nabla_X Y, Z) - \sigma(Y, \nabla_X Z).$$

Since the ambient space is of constant curvature  $c$ , the equations of Gauss, Codazzi and Ricci are given respectively by

$$R(X, Y)Z = c\{g(Y, Z)X - g(X, Z)Y\} + A_{\sigma(Y, Z)}X - A_{\sigma(X, Z)}Y, \quad (2.2)$$

$$(\nabla_X \sigma)(Y, Z) = (\nabla_Y \sigma)(X, Z), \quad (2.3)$$

$$\tilde{g}(R^\perp(X, Y)\xi, \eta) = g([A_\xi, A_\eta]X, Y), \quad (2.4)$$

for tangent (resp. normal) vector fields  $X, Y$  and  $Z$  (resp.  $\xi$  and  $\eta$ ), where  $R$  (resp.  $R^\perp$ ) denotes the Riemannian (resp. normal) curvature tensor of  $M$ .

We choose a local field of orthonormal frames  $e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, \dots, e_n$  in  $\tilde{M}(c)$  in such a way that, restricted to  $M$ ,  $e_1, e_2, e_3$  are tangent to  $M$  and consequently, the remaining vectors are normal to  $M$ . Let  $\tilde{\omega}^1, \tilde{\omega}^2, \tilde{\omega}^3, \tilde{\omega}^4, \dots, \tilde{\omega}^n$  be the field of dual frames. We use the following convention on the range of indices unless otherwise stated:  $A, B, C, \dots = 1, 2, \dots, n; i, j, k, \dots = 1, 2, 3; \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots = 4, 5, \dots, n$ . We agree that repeated indices under a summation sign without indication are summed over the respective range. Then the structure equations of  $\tilde{M}(c)$  are given by

$$\begin{cases} d\tilde{\omega}^A = -\sum \tilde{\omega}_B^A \wedge \tilde{\omega}^B, & \tilde{\omega}_B^A + \tilde{\omega}_A^B = 0, \\ d\tilde{\omega}_B^A = -\sum \tilde{\omega}_C^A \wedge \tilde{\omega}_B^C + c\tilde{\omega}^A \wedge \tilde{\omega}^B. \end{cases} \quad (2.5)$$

Restricting these forms to  $M$ , we have the structure equations of  $M$ :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \omega^\alpha = 0, \omega_i^\alpha = \sum h_{ij}^\alpha \omega^j, h_{ij}^\alpha = h_{ji}^\alpha, \\ d\omega^i = -\sum \omega_j^i \wedge \omega^j, \omega_j^i + \omega_i^j = 0, \\ d\omega_j^i = -\sum \omega_k^i \wedge \omega_j^k + \Omega_j^i, \Omega_j^i = \frac{1}{2} \sum R_{jkl}^i \omega^k \wedge \omega^l, \\ R_{jkl}^i = c(\delta_k^i \delta_{jl} - \delta_l^i \delta_{jk}) + \sum (h_{ik}^\alpha h_{jl}^\alpha - h_{il}^\alpha h_{jk}^\alpha). \end{array} \right. \quad (2.6)$$

The last equation of (2.6) is nothing but the Gauss equation (2.2).

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} d\omega_\beta^\alpha = -\sum \omega_\gamma^\alpha \wedge \omega_\beta^\gamma + \Omega_\beta^\alpha, \Omega_\beta^\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \sum R_{\beta ij}^\alpha \omega^i \wedge \omega^j, \\ R_{\beta ij}^\alpha = \sum (h_{ik}^\alpha h_{kj}^\beta - h_{jk}^\alpha h_{ki}^\beta). \end{array} \right. \quad (2.7)$$

Then the second fundamental form  $\sigma$  may be expressed by

$$\sigma(X, Y) = \sum h_{ij}^\alpha \omega^i(X) \omega^j(Y) e_\alpha,$$

and the last equation of (2.7) is nothing but the Ricci equation (2.4). Define  $h_{ijk}^\alpha(i, j, k = 1, 2, 3)$  by

$$\sum h_{ijk}^\alpha \omega^k = dh_{ij}^\alpha - \sum h_{kj}^\alpha \omega_i^k - \sum h_{ik}^\alpha \omega_j^k + \sum h_{ij}^\beta \omega_\alpha^\beta.$$

Then we have  $(\nabla_X \sigma)(Y, Z) = \sum h_{ijk}^\alpha \omega^i(Y) \omega^j(Z) \omega^k(X)$  and  $h_{ijk}^\alpha = h_{ikj}^\alpha, i, j, k = 1, 2, 3$ , which is nothing but the Codazzi equation (2.3).

At a point  $p \in M$ , let  $\nu_p^1$  be the space spanned by all vectors  $\sigma(u, v), u, v \in T_p(M)$ , which is called the *first normal space* of  $M$  at  $p$ .

The vector  $\sigma(X, X)$  is called the *normal curvature vector* in the direction of  $X \in T_p(M)$ .  $M$  is said to be *isotropic* at  $p \in M$  if  $\|\sigma(X, X)\| / \|X\|^2$  is independent of the choice of  $X \in T_p(M)$  and, in particular,  $\lambda$ -*isotropic* at  $p \in M$  if  $\|\sigma(X, X)\| / \|X\|^2 = \lambda$  for all  $X \in T_p(M)$ .  $M$  is said to be *isotropic* if  $M$  is isotropic at every point. In such a case,  $\lambda$  is considered as a differentiable function on  $M$  and  $M$  is said to be *constant isotropic* if  $\lambda$  is constant on  $M$ . In particular,  $M$  is 0-isotropic if and only if it is totally geodesic.

If  $M$  is  $\lambda$ -isotropic, then we have the following equations ([9]):

$$\tilde{g}(\sigma(X, X), \sigma(X, Y)) = 0, \quad (2.9)$$

$$\lambda^2 - \tilde{g}(\sigma(X, X), \sigma(Y, Y)) - 2\tilde{g}(\sigma(X, Y), \sigma(X, Y)) = 0, \tag{2.10}$$

$$\tilde{g}(\sigma(X, X), \sigma(Y, Z)) + 2\tilde{g}(\sigma(X, Y), \sigma(X, Z)) = 0, \tag{2.11}$$

$$\tilde{g}(\sigma(X, Y), \sigma(Z, W)) + \tilde{g}(\sigma(X, Z), \sigma(W, Y)) + \tilde{g}(\sigma(X, W), \sigma(Y, Z)) = 0, \tag{2.12}$$

for orthonormal  $X, Y, Z, W$ .

**3. Proof of Theorems.**

Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional  $\lambda$ -isotropic submanifold in a space form  $\tilde{M}^n(c)$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *If  $\dim \nu_p^1 \leq 3$  at a point  $p \in M$ , then there exists an orthonormal basis  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$  of  $T_p(M)$  with respect to which one of the following holds:*

$$\begin{cases} \sigma(e_1, e_1) = \sigma(e_2, e_2) = \sigma(e_3, e_3) = 0, \\ \sigma(e_1, e_2) = \sigma(e_1, e_3) = \sigma(e_2, e_3) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{3.1}$$

$$\begin{cases} \sigma(e_1, e_1) = \sigma(e_2, e_2) = \sigma(e_3, e_3) = \lambda e_4, \\ \sigma(e_1, e_2) = \sigma(e_1, e_3) = \sigma(e_2, e_3) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{3.2}$$

$$\begin{cases} \sigma(e_1, e_1) = -\sigma(e_2, e_2) = \sigma(e_3, e_3) = \lambda e_4, \\ \sigma(e_1, e_2) = \lambda e_5, \\ \sigma(e_1, e_3) = 0, \\ \sigma(e_2, e_3) = \lambda e_6, \end{cases} \tag{3.3}$$

where  $e_4, e_5, e_6$  are orthonormal normal vectors at  $p$  and  $\lambda \neq 0$ .

**Proof.** In the case  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 0$   $M$  is geodesic at  $p$ , hence (3.1) holds for an arbitrary  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$ .

We next consider the case where  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 1$ . Since  $p$  is not a geodesic point,  $\lambda(p) \neq 0$ . For an arbitrary orthonormal basis  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$  of  $T_p(M)$ , (2.9) implies that  $\sigma(e_1, e_2)$  is orthogonal to  $\sigma(e_1, e_1)$  so that it follows from  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 1$  and  $\lambda(p) \neq 0$  that  $\sigma(e_1, e_2) = 0$ . We similarly have  $\sigma(e_1, e_3) = \sigma(e_2, e_3) = 0$ . Then from (2.10) we have

$\lambda^2 = \tilde{g}(\sigma(e_1, e_1), \sigma(e_2, e_2))$ , which, together with the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, implies  $\sigma(e_1, e_1) = \sigma(e_2, e_2)$ . By the same way, we have  $\sigma(e_1, e_1) = \sigma(e_3, e_3)$ . Then we have (3.2).

Let  $S_p = \{(u, v) | u, v \in T_p(M), g(u, v) = 0, \|u\| = \|v\| = 1\}$  and consider a function  $f$  on  $S_p$  defined by

$$f(u, v) = \|\sigma(u, v)\|^2.$$

Since  $S$  is compact, we can choose  $(e_1, e_2) \in S_p$  at which  $f$  takes its maximum. We choose furthermore  $e_3 \in T_p(M)$  in such a way that  $e_1, e_2, e_3$  are orthonormal. Since  $f$  takes its maximum at  $(e_1, e_2)$ , we have

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} f(e_1, \cos \theta e_2 + \sin \theta e_3) = \frac{d}{d\theta} f(\cos \theta e_1 + \sin \theta e_3, e_2) = 0$$

at  $\theta = 0$  so that we get

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{g}(\sigma(e_1, e_2), \sigma(e_1, e_3)) = 0 \\ \tilde{g}(\sigma(e_1, e_2), \sigma(e_2, e_3)) = 0. \end{cases} \tag{3.4}$$

We consider the case where  $\dim v_p^1 = 2$ . If  $f = 0$  holds identically, then we easily see that (3.2) holds so that  $\dim v_p^1 \leq 1$ . This contradicts the assumption that  $\dim v_p^1 = 2$ . Therefore  $f$  is not identically zero so that  $\|\sigma(e_1, e_2)\| \neq 0$ . Then  $\sigma(e_1, e_1)$  and  $\sigma(e_1, e_2)$  span  $v_p^1$ . On the other hand, it follows from (2.9), (2.11) and (3.4) that  $\sigma(e_1, e_3)$  and  $\sigma(e_2, e_3)$  are orthogonal to  $\sigma(e_1, e_1)$ . Since  $\dim v_p^1 = 2$ , we get  $\sigma(e_1, e_3) = \sigma(e_2, e_3) = 0$ . This, together with (2.10) and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, implies  $\sigma(e_1, e_1) = \sigma(e_2, e_2) = \sigma(e_3, e_3)$ . Thus, using (2.10), we get  $\|\sigma(e_1, e_2)\| = 0$ . This is a contradiction so that this case does not occur.

Finally, we consider the case where  $\dim v_p^1 = 3$ . It is clear that  $f$  is not identically zero so that  $\|\sigma(e_1, e_2)\| \neq 0$ . It follows from (2.11) and (3.4) that

$$\tilde{g}(\sigma(e_1, e_3), \sigma(e_2, e_2)) = -2\tilde{g}(\sigma(e_1, e_2), \sigma(e_2, e_3)) = 0,$$

which, together with (2.9), (2.11) and (3.4), implies that  $\sigma(e_1, e_3)$  and  $\sigma(e_2, e_3)$  are orthogonal to  $\sigma(e_1, e_1)$ ,  $\sigma(e_2, e_2)$  and  $\sigma(e_1, e_2)$ . Suppose that  $\sigma(e_1, e_1)$ ,  $\sigma(e_2, e_2)$  and

$\sigma(e_1, e_2)$  span  $\nu_p^1$ . Then  $\sigma(e_1, e_3) = \sigma(e_2, e_3) = 0$ . Using (2.10) and the Cuchy-Schwarz inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda^2 &= \tilde{g}(\sigma(e_i, e_i), \sigma(e_3, e_3)) + 2\tilde{g}(\sigma(e_i, e_3), \sigma(e_i, e_3)) \\ &= \tilde{g}(\sigma(e_i, e_i), \sigma(e_3, e_3)) \leq \lambda^2, \quad (i = 1, 2), \end{aligned}$$

so that  $\sigma(e_1, e_1), \sigma(e_2, e_2)$  and  $\sigma(e_3, e_3)$  are proportional. This contradicts the assumption that  $\sigma(e_1, e_1), \sigma(e_2, e_2)$  and  $\sigma(e_1, e_2)$  span 3-dimensional space  $\nu_p^1$ . Therefore  $\sigma(e_1, e_1), \sigma(e_2, e_2)$  and  $\sigma(e_1, e_2)$  must be linearly dependent. Since  $\sigma(e_1, e_2)$  is orthogonal to  $\sigma(e_1, e_1)$  and  $\sigma(e_2, e_2)$ , it follows from (2.9) and (2.10) that  $\sigma(e_1, e_1) = -\sigma(e_2, e_2)$  and  $\|\sigma(e_1, e_2)\| = \lambda$ . Moreover, since  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 3$ , it follows from (3.4) that there exist orthonormal normal vectors  $\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(e_1, e_1) &= \lambda\xi_1, & \sigma(e_2, e_2) &= -\lambda\xi_1, & \sigma(e_1, e_2) &= \lambda\xi_2, \\ \sigma(e_1, e_1) &= \mu\xi_3, & \sigma(e_2, e_3) &= \mu\xi_3, & \sigma(e_3, e_3) &= \alpha\xi_1 + \beta\xi_2, \end{aligned}$$

for constants  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \alpha$  and  $\beta$ . It follows from (2.9) ~ (2.11) that

$$\beta\lambda + 2\mu_1\mu_2 = 0, \quad 2\mu_1^2 = \lambda^2 - \alpha\lambda, \quad 2\mu_2^2 = \lambda^2 + \alpha\lambda.$$

From the last two equations, we have  $\mu_1^2 + \mu_2^2 = \lambda^2$ . We may put  $\mu_1 = \lambda \sin \theta$  and  $\mu_2 = \lambda \cos \theta$  so that we have  $\alpha = \lambda \cos 2\theta$  and  $\beta = -\lambda \sin 2\theta$ . Put  $\tilde{e}_1 = (\cos \theta)e_1 - (\sin \theta)e_2$ ,  $\tilde{e}_2 = (\sin \theta)e_1 + (\cos \theta)e_2$ ,  $e_4 = (\cos 2\theta)\xi_1 - (\sin 2\theta)\xi_2$ ,  $e_5 = (\sin 2\theta)\xi_1 + (\cos 2\theta)\xi_2$ ,  $e_6 = \xi_3$ . Then  $\tilde{e}_1, \tilde{e}_2, \tilde{e}_3, \tilde{e}_4, \tilde{e}_5$  and  $\tilde{e}_6$  satisfy (3.3).  $\square$

We see in the proof of Lemma 3.1 that if  $\dim \nu_p^1 \leq 3$ , then  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 0, 1$  or  $3$ . Let  $K$  denote the sectional curvature of  $M$ . Then we have

- Lemma 3.2.** (1) If  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 0$ , then  $K \equiv c$ .  
 (2) If  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 1$ , then  $K \equiv c + \lambda^2$ .  
 (3) If  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 3$ , then  $c - 2\lambda^2 \leq K \leq c + \lambda^2$ .

**Proof.** (1) is clear.

If  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 1$ , then it follows from the equation of Gauss and (3.2) that

$$g(R(X, Y)Y, X) = c + \lambda^2$$

for an arbitrary orthonormal  $X$  and  $Y$  in  $T_p(M)$ .

If  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 3$ , then it follows from the equation of Gauss and (3.3) that, for an arbitrary orthonormal  $X = \sum_i^3 x_i e_i$  and  $Y = \sum_i^3 y_i e_i$ ,

$$g(R(X, Y)Y, X) = c - 2\lambda^2 + 3\lambda^2(x_1y_3 - x_3y_1)^2.$$

Since  $0 \leq (x_1y_3 - x_3y_1)^2 \leq 1$ , we have

$$c - 2\lambda^2 \leq g(R(X, Y)Y, X) \leq c + \lambda^2.$$

**Proof of Theorem 1.** Let  $M_k = \{p \in M \mid \dim \nu_p^1 = k\}$ . Then Lemma 3.1 implies that  $k = 0, 1$  or  $3$ . It is clear that  $M_3$  is an open subset of  $M$ .

We first consider the case  $M_3 \neq \emptyset$ . There exists a neighborhood  $U$  of a point  $p \in M_3$  such that  $U \subset M_3$  and we can take a local field of orthonormal frames  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, \dots, e_n\}$  on  $U$  satisfying (3.3) in Lemma 3.1. With respect to such a frame field, we have

$$\begin{cases} h_{11}^4 = -h_{22}^4 = h_{33}^4 = \lambda, & h_{ij}^4 = 0 \ (i \neq j), \\ h_{12}^5 = \lambda, & h_{ij}^5 = 0 \ (\{i, j\} \neq \{1, 2\}), \\ h_{23}^6 = \lambda, & h_{ij}^6 = 0 \ (\{i, j\} \neq \{2, 3\}), \\ h_{ij}^\alpha = 0 & (\alpha \geq 7; i, j = 1, 2, 3) \end{cases} \quad (3.5)$$

or equivalently

$$\begin{cases} \omega_1^4 = \lambda\omega^1, & \omega_2^4 = -\lambda\omega^2, & \omega_3^4 = \lambda\omega^3, \\ \omega_1^5 = \lambda\omega^2, & \omega_2^5 = \lambda\omega^1, & \omega_3^5 = 0, \\ \omega_1^6 = 0, & \omega_2^6 = \lambda\omega^3, & \omega_3^6 = \lambda\omega^2, \\ \omega_1^\alpha = \omega_2^\alpha = \omega_3^\alpha = 0 & (\alpha \geq 7). \end{cases} \quad (3.5)'$$

It follows from (2.8) and (3.5)' that



$$\omega_5^4 = \omega_2^1, \omega_6^4 = -\omega_3^2, \omega_6^5 = \omega_3^1. \tag{3.6}$$

It follows from (3.5)' that, for  $\alpha \geq 7$ ,

$$\begin{cases} 0 &= d\omega_1^\alpha = -\lambda(\omega_4^\alpha \wedge \omega^1 + \omega_5^\alpha \wedge \omega^2) \\ 0 &= \alpha\omega_2^\alpha = \lambda(\omega_4^\alpha \wedge \omega^2 - \omega_5^\alpha \wedge \omega^1 - \omega_6^\alpha \wedge \omega^3) \\ 0 &= d\omega_3^\alpha = -\lambda(\omega_4^\alpha \wedge \omega^3 + \omega_6^\alpha \wedge \omega^2), \end{cases}$$

which implies,

$$\omega_4^\alpha = f_\alpha\omega^2, \omega_5^\alpha = f_\alpha\omega^1, \omega_6^\alpha = f_\alpha\omega^3, \tag{3.7}$$

$f_\alpha (\alpha = 7, 8, \dots, n)$  are differentiable functions on  $U$ .

Using (2.6), (2.7), (3.5), (3.6) and (3.7), we have

$$\begin{cases} \sum f_\alpha^2 = c \\ \sum f_\alpha^2 + c - 4\lambda^2 = 0. \end{cases} \tag{3.8}$$

Therefore we have

$$2\lambda^2 = c, \tag{3.9}$$

which implies that  $\lambda = \sqrt{c/2}$  on  $U$ . Since  $M$  is connected,  $\lambda = \sqrt{c/2}$  on  $M$  and  $M_3 = M$ . We have proved that if  $M_3 \neq \phi$ , then  $\dim \nu_p^1 = 3$  every where on  $M$  and  $M$  is constant isotropic.

We must now remark the following.

**Remark.** *The case  $M_3 \neq \phi$  does not occur when  $c < 0$  by (3.9).*

We next consider the case where  $M_3 = \phi$  and  $M_1 \neq \phi$ . Since  $M_2 = \phi$ ,  $M_1$  is open in  $M$ . (3.2) of Lemma 3.1 implies that  $M$  is umbilic on  $M_1$  so that  $M_1 = M$  by the connectedness of  $M$ , that is,  $M$  is a totally umbilic submanifold of  $\tilde{M}^n(c)$ , and hence  $M$  is constant isotropic.

We finally consider the case where  $M_1 = M_3 = \phi$  and  $M_0 \neq \phi$ , that is,  $M_0 = M$ . If this is the case,  $M$  is totally geodesic in  $M^n(c)$  so that  $M$  is clearly constant isotropic.

Thus we have proved Theorem 1. □

Now we review a hyperbolic space  $\mathbf{H}^n$  and totally umbilic hypersurfaces of  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . An  $n$ -dimensional hyperbolic space  $\mathbf{H}^n$  is an  $n$ -dimensional complete, connected and simply connected Riemannian manifold of constant curvature  $-1$ . A model space of  $\mathbf{H}^n$  is the half-space of an  $R^n$  given by  $\mathbf{H}^n = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \in R^n | x_n > 0\}$  with metric  $\tilde{g} = \sum_{i=1}^n dx_i^2/x_n^2$ .

Let  $(R^n, \bar{g})$  be an  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space with the Euclidean metric  $\bar{g}$  and its Riemannian connection  $\bar{\nabla}$ . A hypersurface  $M$  in  $(R^n, \bar{g})$  is said to be *umbilic* if, at each point  $p \in M$ ,

$$\bar{g}(\bar{\nabla}_X \xi, Y) = \kappa \bar{g}(X, Y)$$

holds for all  $X, Y \in T_p(M)$  and a unit normal vector field  $\xi$  where  $\kappa$  is a constant on  $M$ .

Consider a conformal change  $\tilde{g} = \mu \bar{g}$  of metric and denote the Riemannian connection of  $\tilde{g}$  by  $\tilde{\nabla}$ . Then we have

$$\tilde{\nabla}_{\bar{X}} \bar{Y} = \bar{\nabla}_{\bar{X}} \bar{Y} + S(\bar{X}, \bar{Y}) \tag{3.10}$$

for all  $\bar{X}$  and  $\bar{Y}$ , where  $S(\bar{X}, \bar{Y}) = \frac{1}{2\mu} \{(\bar{X}\mu)\bar{Y} + (\bar{Y}\mu)\bar{X} - \bar{g}(\bar{X}, \bar{Y}) \text{ grad } \mu\}$  and  $\text{grad } \mu$  is calculated with respect to the metric  $\bar{g}$ , that is,  $\bar{X}(\mu) = \bar{g}(\bar{X}, \text{grad } \mu)$ . If  $M$  is umbilic in  $(R^n, \bar{g})$ , that is,  $\bar{g}(\bar{\nabla}_X \xi, Y) = \kappa \bar{g}(X, Y)$ , using (3.10), then at each point  $p \in M$  we have

$$\tilde{g}(\tilde{\nabla}_X (\frac{\xi}{\sqrt{\mu}}), Y) = \frac{2\kappa\mu + \xi(\mu)}{2\mu\sqrt{\mu}} \tilde{g}(X, Y), \text{ for all } X, Y \in T_p(M),$$

which implies that  $M$  is also umbilic in  $(R^n, \tilde{g})$ .

The hyperbolic space  $\mathbf{H}^n$  is considered an open submanifold of  $R^n$  with the metric  $\tilde{g}$  of  $R^n$ .

Since umbilic hypersurface in  $(R^n, \tilde{g})$  are  $(n-1)$ -planes or  $(n-1)$ -spheres, umbilic hypersurfaces of  $\mathbf{H}^n$  are therefore the intersections with  $\mathbf{H}^n$  of  $(n-1)$ -planes or  $(n-1)$ -

spheres of  $R^n$ , and so *totally umbilic hypersurfaces of  $\mathbf{H}^n$  are the geodesic spheres, the horospheres and the hyperspheres.*

**Proof of Theorem 2.** Since  $\mathbf{H}^n$  is of negative curvature -1, as stated in Remark above,  $M_3 = \phi$  so that the dimension of the first normal space of  $M$  is everywhere 0 or 1. Since  $M$  is constant isotropic by Theorem 1,  $M_0 = M$  or  $M_1 = M$ .

If  $M_0 = M$  is the case, then  $M$  is totally geodesic in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ .

We consider next the case  $M_1 = M$ , as stated in the proof of Theorem 1,  $M$  is totally umbilic in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ , and hence  $M$  is a totally umbilic hypersurface in a 4-dimensional hyperbolic space  $\mathbf{H}^4$ , which is totally geodesic in  $\mathbf{H}^n$ . Therefore, as stated above,  $M$  is a geodesic sphere, a horosphere or a hypersphere of  $\mathbf{H}^4$ .

**Proof of Theorem 3.** We may assume that  $M$  has no geodesic points. It follows from Lemma 3.1 and the minimality of  $M$  that the dimension of the first normal space of  $M$  is 4 or 5.

Let  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$  be an orthonormal basis of  $T_p(M)$  which satisfies (3.4). Since  $\sigma(e_1, e_3)$  is orthogonal to  $\sigma(e_1, e_1)$  and  $\sigma(e_3, e_3)$  from (2.9),  $\sigma(e_1, e_3)$  is also orthogonal to  $\sigma(e_2, e_2)$  by the minimality of  $M$ . By (3.4), furthermore,  $\sigma(e_1, e_3)$  is orthogonal to  $\sigma(e_1, e_2)$ , too. By the same reason as above,  $\sigma(e_2, e_3)$  is orthogonal to  $\sigma(e_1, e_1)$ ,  $\sigma(e_2, e_1)$ ,  $\sigma(e_1, e_2)$  and  $\sigma(e_3, e_3)$ . It follows from (2.9), (2.11) and the minimality that

$$\begin{aligned} 2\tilde{g}(\sigma(e_1, e_3), \sigma(e_2, e_3)) &= -\tilde{g}(\sigma(e_1, e_2), \sigma(e_3, e_3)) \\ &= \tilde{g}(\sigma(e_1, e_2), \sigma(e_1, e_1) + \sigma(e_2, e_2)) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we see from (2.10) and the minimality of  $M$  that  $\sigma(e_1, e_3) \neq 0$  and  $\sigma(e_2, e_3) \neq 0$ .

Therefore we have orthonormal normal vector fields  $e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7, e_8$  satisfying

$$\begin{cases} \sigma(e_1, e_1) = \lambda e_4, \\ \sigma(e_1, e_2) = \mu_1 e_5, \\ \sigma(e_1, e_3) = \mu_2 e_6, \\ \sigma(e_2, e_3) = \mu_3 e_7, \\ \sigma(e_2, e_2) = \mu_4 e_4 + \mu_5 e_8, \end{cases} \quad (3.11)$$

Then we have

$$\mu_4^2 + \mu_5^2 = \lambda^2. \quad (3.12)$$

Moreover it follows from the minimality that  $\sigma(e_3, e_3) = -(\lambda + \mu_4)e_4 - \mu_5 e_8$  which implies

$$2\lambda\mu_4 + \mu_4^2 + \mu_5^2 = 0. \quad (3.13)$$

On the other hand, we see from (2.10) and (3.11) that

$$\lambda^2 - \lambda\mu_4 - 2\mu_1^2 = 0, \quad (3.14)$$

$$2\lambda^2 + \lambda\mu_4 - 2\mu_2^2 = 0, \quad (3.15)$$

$$\lambda^2 + \lambda\mu_4 + \mu_4^2 + \mu_5^2 - 2\mu_3^2 = 0. \quad (3.16)$$

It follows from (3.12), (3.13), (3.14), (3.15) and (3.16) that

$$\mu_4 = -\frac{\lambda}{2} \quad (3.17)$$

and

$$\mu_1^2 = \mu_2^2 = \mu_3^2 = \mu_5^2 = \frac{3}{4}\lambda^2.$$

We may assume without loss of generality that

$$\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3 = \mu_5 = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\lambda. \quad (3.18)$$

Using (2.2), (3.11), (3.17) and (3.18), we have

$$g(R(e_1, e_2)e_2, e_1) = g(R(e_1, e_3)e_3, e_1) = g(R(e_2, e_3)e_3, e_2) = c - \frac{5}{4}\lambda^2,$$

which implies that  $M$  is of constant curvature.

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