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On Biharmonic Legendre curves in \mathcal{S} -space forms

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Abstract: We study biharmonic Legendre curves in \mathcal{S} -space forms. We find curvature characterizations of these special curves in 4 cases.

Key words: \mathcal{S} -space form, Legendre curve, biharmonic curve, Frenet curve

1. Introduction

Let (M, g) and (N, h) be 2 Riemannian manifolds and $f : (M, g) \rightarrow (N, h)$ a smooth map. The *energy functional* of f is defined by

$$E(f) = \frac{1}{2} \int_M |df|^2 v_g.$$

If f is a critical point of the energy functional $E(f)$, then it is called *harmonic* [10]. f is called a *biharmonic map* if it is a critical point of the bienergy functional

$$E_2(f) = \frac{1}{2} \int_M |\tau(f)|^2 v_g,$$

where $\tau(f)$ is the *first tension field* of f , which is defined by $\tau(f) = \text{trace} \nabla df$. The *Euler-Lagrange equation* of bienergy functional $E_2(f)$ gives the biharmonic map equation [16]

$$\tau_2(f) = -J^f(\tau(f)) = -\Delta \tau(f) - \text{trace} R^N(df, \tau(f))df = 0,$$

where J^f is the Jacobi operator of f . It is trivial that any harmonic map is biharmonic. If the map is a nonharmonic biharmonic map, then we call it *proper biharmonic*. Biharmonic submanifolds have been studied by many geometers. For example, see [2], [3], [7], [8], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [18], [20], [21], [22], and the references therein. In a different setting, in [9], Chen defined a biharmonic submanifold $M \subset \mathbb{E}^n$ of the Euclidean space as its mean curvature vector field H satisfies $\Delta H = 0$, where Δ is the Laplacian.

In [12] and [14], Fetcu and Oniciuc studied biharmonic Legendre curves in Sasakian space forms. As a generalization of their studies, in the present paper, we study biharmonic Legendre curves in \mathcal{S} -space forms. We obtain curvature characterizations of these kinds of curves.

The paper is organized as follows: In Section 2, we give a brief introduction about \mathcal{S} -space forms. In Section 3, we give the main results of the study.

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2. \mathcal{S} -space forms and their submanifolds

Let (M, g) be a $(2m + s)$ -dimensional *framed metric manifold* [24] with a *framed metric structure* $(f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$, $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, that is, f is a $(1, 1)$ tensor field defining an f -structure of rank $2m$; ξ_1, \dots, ξ_s are vector fields; η^1, \dots, η^s are 1-forms; and g is a Riemannian metric on M such that for all $X, Y \in TM$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \{1, \dots, s\}$,

$$f^2 = -I + \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \eta^\alpha \otimes \xi_\alpha, \quad \eta^\alpha(\xi_\beta) = \delta_{\beta}^\alpha, \quad f(\xi_\alpha) = 0, \quad \eta^\alpha \circ f = 0, \tag{2.1}$$

$$g(fX, fY) = g(X, Y) - \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \eta^\alpha(X)\eta^\alpha(Y), \tag{2.2}$$

$$d\eta^\alpha(X, Y) = g(X, fY) = -d\eta^\alpha(Y, X), \quad \eta^\alpha(X) = g(X, \xi). \tag{2.3}$$

$(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$ is also called a *framed f -manifold* [19] or *almost r -contact metric manifold* [23]. If the Nijenhuis tensor of f equals $-2d\eta^\alpha \otimes \xi_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, then $(f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$ is called \mathcal{S} -structure [4].

If $s = 1$, a framed metric structure is an almost contact metric structure and an \mathcal{S} -structure is a Sasakian structure. If a framed metric structure on M is an \mathcal{S} -structure, then the following equations hold [4]:

$$(\nabla_X f)Y = \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \{g(fX, fY)\xi_\alpha - \eta^\alpha(Y)f^2X\}, \tag{2.4}$$

$$\nabla \xi_\alpha = -f, \quad \alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}. \tag{2.5}$$

In the case of Sasakian structure ($s = 1$), (2.5) can be calculated using (2.4) .

A *plane section* in T_pM is an f -section if there exists a vector $X \in T_pM$ orthogonal to ξ_1, \dots, ξ_s such that $\{X, fX\}$ span the section. The sectional curvature of an f -section is called an f -sectional curvature. In an \mathcal{S} -manifold of constant f -sectional curvature, the *curvature tensor* R of M is of the form

$$\begin{aligned} R(X, Y)Z = & \sum_{\alpha, \beta} \{ \eta^\alpha(X)\eta^\beta(Z)f^2Y - \eta^\alpha(Y)\eta^\beta(Z)f^2X \\ & -g(fX, fZ)\eta^\alpha(Y)\xi_\beta + g(fY, fZ)\eta^\alpha(X)\xi_\beta \} \\ & + \frac{c+3s}{4} \{ -g(fY, fZ)f^2X + g(fX, fZ)f^2Y \} \\ & \frac{c-s}{4} \{ g(X, fZ)fY - g(Y, fZ)fX + 2g(X, fY)fZ \}, \end{aligned} \tag{2.6}$$

for all $X, Y, Z \in TM$ [6]. An \mathcal{S} -manifold of constant f -sectional curvature c is called an \mathcal{S} -space form, which is denoted by $M(c)$. When $s = 1$, an \mathcal{S} -space form becomes a Sasakian space form [5].

A submanifold of an \mathcal{S} -manifold is called an *integral submanifold* if $\eta^\alpha(X) = 0$, $\alpha = 1, \dots, s$, for every tangent vector X [17]. We call a 1-dimensional integral submanifold of an \mathcal{S} -space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$ a *Legendre curve* of M . In other words, a curve $\gamma : I \rightarrow M = (M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$ is called a Legendre curve if $\eta^\alpha(T) = 0$, for every $\alpha = 1, \dots, s$, where T is the tangent vector field of γ .

3. Biharmonic Legendre curves in \mathcal{S} -space forms

Let $\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ be a curve parametrized by arc length in an n -dimensional Riemannian manifold (M, g) . If there exists orthonormal vector fields E_1, E_2, \dots, E_r along γ such that

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= \gamma' = T, \\ \nabla_T E_1 &= \kappa_1 E_2, \\ \nabla_T E_2 &= -\kappa_1 E_1 + \kappa_2 E_3, \\ &\dots \\ \nabla_T E_r &= -\kappa_{r-1} E_{r-1}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

then γ is called a *Frenet curve of osculating order r* , where $\kappa_1, \dots, \kappa_{r-1}$ are positive functions on I and $1 \leq r \leq n$.

A Frenet curve of osculating order 1 is a *geodesic*; a Frenet curve of osculating order 2 is called a *circle* if κ_1 is a nonzero positive constant; a Frenet curve of osculating order $r \geq 3$ is called a *helix of order r* if $\kappa_1, \dots, \kappa_{r-1}$ are nonzero positive constants; a helix of order 3 is shortly called a *helix*.

Now let $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$ be an \mathcal{S} -space form and $\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ a Legendre Frenet curve of osculating order r . Differentiating

$$\eta^\alpha(T) = 0 \tag{3.8}$$

and using (3.7), we find

$$\eta^\alpha(E_2) = 0, \quad \alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}. \tag{3.9}$$

By the use of (2.1), (2.2), (2.3), (2.6), (3.7), and (3.9), it can be seen that

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_T \nabla_T T &= -\kappa_1^2 E_1 + \kappa_1' E_2 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2 E_3, \\ \nabla_T \nabla_T \nabla_T T &= -3\kappa_1 \kappa_1' E_1 + (\kappa_1'' - \kappa_1^3 - \kappa_1 \kappa_2^2) E_2 \\ &\quad + (2\kappa_1' \kappa_2 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2') E_3 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2 \kappa_3 E_4, \\ R(T, \nabla_T T)T &= -\kappa_1 \frac{(c+3s)}{4} E_2 - 3\kappa_1 \frac{(c-s)}{4} g(fT, E_2) fT. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_2(\gamma) &= \nabla_T \nabla_T \nabla_T T - R(T, \nabla_T T)T \\ &= -3\kappa_1 \kappa_1' E_1 \\ &\quad + \left(\kappa_1'' - \kappa_1^3 - \kappa_1 \kappa_2^2 + \kappa_1 \frac{(c+3s)}{4} \right) E_2 \\ &\quad + (2\kappa_1' \kappa_2 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2') E_3 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2 \kappa_3 E_4 \\ &\quad + 3\kappa_1 \frac{(c-s)}{4} g(fT, E_2) fT. \end{aligned} \tag{3.10}$$

Let $k = \min \{r, 4\}$. From (3.10), the curve γ is proper biharmonic if and only if $\kappa_1 > 0$ and

- (1) $c = s$ or $fT \perp E_2$ or $fT \in \text{span} \{E_2, \dots, E_k\}$; and
- (2) $g(\tau(\gamma), E_i) = 0$, for any $i = \overline{1, k}$.

We can therefore state the following theorem:

Theorem 3.1 Let γ be a Legendre Frenet curve of osculating order r in an \mathcal{S} -space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$, $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, and $k = \min\{r, 4\}$. Then γ is proper biharmonic if and only if

- (1) $c = s$ or $fT \perp E_2$ or $fT \in \text{span}\{E_2, \dots, E_k\}$; and
- (2) the first k of the following equations are satisfied (replacing $\kappa_k = 0$):

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_1 &= \text{constant} > 0, \\ \kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 &= \frac{c+3s}{4} + \frac{3(c-s)}{4} [g(fT, E_2)]^2, \\ \kappa_2' + \frac{3(c-s)}{4} g(fT, E_2)g(fT, E_3) &= 0, \\ \kappa_2\kappa_3 + \frac{3(c-s)}{4} g(fT, E_2)g(fT, E_4) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Now we give the interpretations of Theorem 3.1.

Case I. $c = s$.

In this case γ is proper biharmonic if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_1 &= \text{constant} > 0, \\ \kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 &= s, \\ \kappa_2 &= \text{constant}, \\ \kappa_2\kappa_3 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3.2 Let γ be a Legendre Frenet curve in an \mathcal{S} -space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$, $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, $c = s$, and $(2m + s) > 3$. Then γ is proper biharmonic if and only if either γ is a circle with $\kappa_1 = \sqrt{s}$ or a helix with $\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 = s$.

Remark 3.1 If $2m + s = 3$, then $m = s = 1$. So M is a 3-dimensional Sasakian space form. Since a Legendre curve in a Sasakian 3-manifold has torsion 1 (see [1]), we can write $\kappa_1 > 0$ and $\kappa_2 = 1$, which contradicts $\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 = s = 1$. Hence, γ cannot be proper biharmonic.

Case II. $c \neq s$, $fT \perp E_2$.

In this case, $g(fT, E_2) = 0$. From Theorem 3.1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_1 &= \text{constant} > 0, \\ \kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 &= \frac{c+3s}{4}, \\ \kappa_2 &= \text{constant}, \\ \kappa_2\kappa_3 &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

First, we give the following proposition:

Proposition 3.1 Let γ be a Legendre Frenet curve of osculating order 3 in an \mathcal{S} -space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$, $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, and $fT \perp E_2$. Then $\{T = E_1, E_2, E_3, fT, \nabla_T fT, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$ is linearly independent at any point of γ . Therefore, $m \geq 3$.

Proof Since γ is a Frenet curve of osculating order 3, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= \gamma' = T, \\ \nabla_T E_1 &= \kappa_1 E_2, \\ \nabla_T E_2 &= -\kappa_1 E_1 + \kappa_2 E_3, \\ \nabla_T E_3 &= -\kappa_2 E_2. \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

The system

$$S_1 = \{T = E_1, E_2, E_3, fT, \nabla_T fT, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$$

has only nonzero vectors. Using (2.1), (2.2), (2.3), and (2.4), we find

$$\nabla_T fT = \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \xi_\alpha + \kappa_1 fE_2. \tag{3.13}$$

So by the use of (3.8), (3.9), (3.12), and (3.13), we have

$$\begin{aligned} T &\perp E_2, T \perp E_3, T \perp E_4, T \perp fT, \\ T &\perp \nabla_T fT, T \perp \xi_\alpha \text{ for all } \alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, S_1 is linearly independent if and only if $S_2 = \{E_2, E_3, fT, \nabla_T fT, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$ is linearly independent. From the assumption we have $E_2 \perp fT$. From (3.9), $E_2 \perp \xi_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. Using (2.3), (3.12), and (3.13), we have $E_2 \perp E_3$ and $E_2 \perp \nabla_T fT$. So S_2 is linearly independent if and only if $S_3 = \{E_3, fT, \nabla_T fT, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$ is linearly independent. Differentiating $g(fT, E_2) = 0$ and using (3.12) and (3.13), we find $g(fT, E_3) = 0$. Hence, $fT \perp E_3$. Using (2.1) and (2.3), we find $g(fT, \xi_\alpha) = 0$, that is, $fT \perp \xi_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. Using (2.2) and (3.13), we obtain $g(fT, \nabla_T fT) = 0$. So S_3 is linearly independent if and only if $S_4 = \{E_3, \nabla_T fT, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$ is linearly independent. Differentiating $\eta^\alpha(E_2) = 0$, we have $\eta^\alpha(E_3) = 0$, $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. Thus $E_3 \perp \xi_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. If we differentiate $g(fT, E_3) = 0$, we get $g(\nabla_T fT, E_3) = 0$, that is, $E_3 \perp \nabla_T fT$. So S_4 is linearly independent if and only if $S_5 = \{\nabla_T fT, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$ is linearly independent. Since $\kappa_1 \neq 0$ and $fE_2 \perp \xi_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, equation (3.13) gives us $\nabla_T fT \notin span\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$. So S_5 is linearly independent.

Since $\{T = E_1, E_2, E_3, fT, \nabla_T fT, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$ is linearly independent, $\dim M = 2m + s \geq s + 5$. Hence, $m \geq 3$. □

Now we can state the following Theorem:

Theorem 3.3 *Let γ be a Legendre Frenet curve in an \mathcal{S} -space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$, $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, $c \neq s$, and $fT \perp E_2$. Then γ is proper biharmonic if and only if either*

- (1) $m \geq 2$ and γ is a circle with $\kappa_1 = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{c+3s}$, where $c > -3s$ and $\{T = E_1, E_2, fT, \nabla_T fT, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$ is linearly independent; or
 - (2) $m \geq 3$ and γ is a helix with $\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 = \frac{c+3s}{4}$, where $c > -3s$ and $\{T = E_1, E_2, E_3, fT, \nabla_T fT, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$ is linearly independent.
- If $c \leq -3s$, then γ is biharmonic if and only if it is a geodesic.

Case III. $c \neq s$, $fT \parallel E_2$.

In this case, $fT = \pm E_2, g(fT, E_2) = \pm 1, g(fT, E_3) = g(\pm E_2, E_3) = 0$, and $g(fT, E_4) = g(\pm E_2, E_4) = 0$. From Theorem 3.1, γ is biharmonic if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_1 &= \text{constant} > 0, \\ \kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 &= c, \\ \kappa_2 &= \text{constant}, \\ \kappa_2 \kappa_3 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

We can assume that $fT = E_2$. From equation (2.1), we get

$$fE_2 = f^2T = -T + \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \eta^\alpha(T)\xi_\alpha = -T. \tag{3.14}$$

From (3.13) and (3.14), we find

$$\nabla_T fT = \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \xi_\alpha - \kappa_1 T. \tag{3.15}$$

Using (3.7) and (3.15), we can write

$$\kappa_2 E_3 = \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \xi_\alpha,$$

which gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_2 &= \left\| \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \xi_\alpha \right\| = \sqrt{s}, \\ E_3 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{s}} \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \xi_\alpha, \\ \eta^\alpha(E_3) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{s}}, \quad \alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus by the use of Theorem 3.1, we have the following Theorem:

Theorem 3.4 *Let γ be a Legendre Frenet curve in an \mathcal{S} -space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$, $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, $c \neq s$, and $fT \parallel E_2$. Then*

$$\left\{ T, fT, \frac{1}{\sqrt{s}} \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \xi_\alpha \right\}$$

is the Frenet frame field of γ and γ is proper biharmonic if and only if it is a helix with $\kappa_1 = \sqrt{c-s}$ and $\kappa_2 = \sqrt{s}$, where $c > s$. If $c \leq s$, then γ is biharmonic if and only if it is a geodesic.

Case IV. $c \neq s$ and $g(fT, E_2)$ is not constant 0, 1, or -1 .

Now, let $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$ be an \mathcal{S} -space form, $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, and $\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ a Legendre curve of osculating order r , where $4 \leq r \leq 2m + s$ and $m \geq 2$. If γ is biharmonic, then $fT \in \text{span}\{E_2, E_3, E_4\}$. Let $\theta(t)$ denote the angle function between fT and E_2 , that is, $g(fT, E_2) = \cos \theta(t)$. Differentiating $g(fT, E_2)$ along γ and using (2.1), (2.3), (3.7), and (3.13), we find

$$\begin{aligned} -\theta'(t) \sin \theta(t) &= \nabla_T g(fT, E_2) = g(\nabla_T fT, E_2) + g(fT, \nabla_T E_2) \\ &= g\left(\sum_{\alpha=1}^s \xi_\alpha + \kappa_1 fE_2, E_2\right) + g(fT, -\kappa_1 T + \kappa_2 E_3) \\ &= \kappa_2 g(fT, E_3). \end{aligned} \tag{3.16}$$

If we write $fT = g(fT, E_2)E_2 + g(fT, E_3)E_3 + g(fT, E_4)E_4$, Theorem 3.1 gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_1 &= \text{constant} > 0, \\ \kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 &= \frac{c+3s}{4} + \frac{3(c-s)}{4} \cos^2 \theta, \\ \kappa_2' + \frac{3(c-s)}{4} \cos \theta g(fT, E_3) &= 0, \\ \kappa_2 \kappa_3 + \frac{3(c-s)}{4} \cos \theta g(fT, E_4) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

If we multiply the third equation of the above system with $2\kappa_2$, using (3.16), we obtain

$$2\kappa_2 \kappa_2' + \frac{3(c-s)}{4} (-2\theta' \cos \theta \sin \theta) = 0,$$

which is equivalent to

$$\kappa_2^2 = -\frac{3(c-s)}{4} \cos^2 \theta + \omega_0, \tag{3.17}$$

where ω_0 is a constant. If we write (3.17) in the second equation, we have

$$\kappa_1^2 = \frac{c+3s}{4} + \frac{3(c-s)}{2} \cos^2 \theta + \omega_0.$$

Thus, θ is a constant. From (3.16) and (3.17), we find $g(fT, E_3) = 0$ and $\kappa_2 = \text{constant} > 0$. Since $\|fT\| = 1$ and $fT = \cos \theta E_2 + g(fT, E_4)E_4$, we get $g(fT, E_4) = \sin \theta$. From the assumption $g(fT, E_2)$ is not constant 0, 1, or -1 , it is clear that $\theta \in (0, 2\pi) \setminus \{\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\}$. Now we can state the following Theorem:

Theorem 3.5 *Let $\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ be a Legendre curve of osculating order r in an \mathcal{S} -space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha, g)$, $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, where $r \geq 4$, $m \geq 2$, $c \neq s$, $g(fT, E_2)$ is not constant 0, 1, or -1 . Then γ is proper biharmonic if and only if*

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_i &= \text{constant} > 0, \quad i \in \{1, 2, 3\}, \\ \kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 &= \frac{1}{4} [c + 3s + 3(c-s) \cos^2 \theta], \\ \kappa_2 \kappa_3 &= \frac{3(s-c) \sin 2\theta}{8}, \end{aligned}$$

where $c > -3s$, $fT = \cos \theta E_2 + \sin \theta E_4$, $\theta \in (0, 2\pi) \setminus \{\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\}$ is a constant such that $c+3s+3(c-s) \cos^2 \theta > 0$, and $3(s-c) \sin 2\theta > 0$. If $c \leq -3s$, then γ is biharmonic if and only if it is a geodesic.

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