ARCHIVUM MATHEMATICUM (BRNO)
Tomus 48 (2012), 15–26

SUBMANIFOLDS WITH HARMONIC MEAN CURVATURE IN PSEUDO-HERMITIAN GEOMETRY

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Abstract. We classify Hopf cylinders with proper mean curvature vector field in Sasakian 3-manifolds with respect to the Tanaka-Webster connection.

Introduction

The harmonicity equation $\Delta\mathbb{H} = 0$ for the mean curvature vector field $\mathbb{H}$ of an immersed submanifold $x\colon M^m \to \mathbb{E}^n$ in Euclidean n-space is equivalent to the biharmonicity of the immersion: $\Delta\Delta x = 0$, since $\Delta x = -m\mathbb{H}$.

A submanifold $x\colon M \to \mathbb{E}^n$ is said to be a *biharmonic submanifold* if $\Delta\mathbb{H} = 0$. In 1985, B. Y. Chen proved the nonexistence of proper biharmonic surfaces in Euclidean 3-space. Chen conjectured that biharmonic submanifolds in Euclidean space are harmonic, i.e., minimal. Some partial and positive answers have been obtained by several authors [7]–[9], [11]–[12].

The biharmonicity equation is regarded as a special case of the following condition:

$$\Delta\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}\,, \qquad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\,.$$

Namely the mean curvature vector field is an eigenvector field of the Laplacian. Submanifolds satisfying the condition $\Delta\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ are called *submanifolds with proper mean curvature vector field*.

The study of Euclidean submanifolds with proper mean curvature vector field was initiated by Chen in 1988 (see [4]). It is known that submanifolds in $\mathbb{E}^n$ satisfying $\Delta\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ are either biharmonic ($\lambda = 0$), of 1-type or null 2-type. In particular all surfaces in $\mathbb{E}^3$ with $\Delta\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ are of constant mean curvature. Moreover a surface in $\mathbb{E}^3$ satisfies $\Delta\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ if and only if it is minimal, an open portion of a totally umbilical sphere or an open portion of a circular cylinder. I. Dimitrić [9] obtained some nonexistence theorem for biharmonic submanifolds in Euclidean space. Th. Hasanis and Th. Vlachos [12] obtained the nonexistence of proper biharmonic hypersurfaces in $\mathbb{E}^4$. F. Defever [7] gave an alternative proof to Hasanis–Vlachos' result.

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification*: primary 58E20.

Key words and phrases: pseudo-hermitian mean curvature vector fields, proper mean curvature, biharmonic submanifolds, biminimal immersions.

Received January 14, 2011, revised August 2011. Editor J. Slovák.

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.5817/AM2012-1-15

Defever [6] showed that hypersurfaces satisfying $\Delta\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ are of constant mean curvature. Note that Chen [2] studied submanifolds with $\Delta\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ in hyperbolic space. On the other hand, M. Barros and O. J. Garay [1] showed that Hopf cylinders in the unit 3-sphere S^3 with $\Delta\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ are Hopf cylinders over circles in the 2-sphere S^2. Thus the only Hopf cylinders with proper mean curvature vector field are Hopf tori of constant mean curvature. In particular, the only Hopf cylinders in S^3 with harmonic mean curvature vector field are Clifford tori.

A. Ferrández, P. Lucas and M. A. Meroño [10] studied Hopf cylinders with proper mean curvature in anti de Sitter 3-space H^3_1 with respect to the fibration $H^3_1 \to H^2(-4)$.

Here we would like to point out that the 3-sphere and anti de Sitter 3-space are typical examples of homogeneous contact semi-Riemannian manifolds. In particular both spaces are 3-dimensional semi-Riemannian Sasakian space forms.

A contact semi-Riemannian 3-manifold M is said to be regular if its characteristic vector field is complete and its flow acts simple transitively and isometrically on M. Then there exits a Riemannian fibration $\pi\colon M \to M/\xi$. By using this fibration, one can extend the notion of Hopf cylinder in S^3 and H^3_1 to that in regular contact semi-Riemannian 3-manifolds.

In [13], the first named author investigated curves and surfaces with proper mean curvature vector field in 3-dimensional Sasakian space forms with respect to the Levi-Civita connection. More precisely, Legendre curves and Hopf cylinders with proper mean curvature vector field in 3-dimensional Sasakian space forms.

On the other hand, contact Riemannian 3-manifolds admit strongly pseudo-convex pseudo-Hermitian structure associated to the contact Riemannian structure. From the viewpoint of pseudo-Hermitian structure, it is natural to use the Tanaka-Webster connection instead of Levi-Civita connection.

In [17], the second named author studied Legendre curves in contact Riemannian 3-manifolds whose mean curvature vector filed is proper with respect to the Tanaka-Webster connection.

As a continuation to the previous work [17], in the present paper, we classify Hopf cylinders with proper mean curvature vector field in regular Sasakian 3-manifolds with respect to the Tanaka-Webster connection.

1. Pseudo-Hermitian geometry

1.1. **Contact Riemannian manifolds.** A smooth 3-manifold M is called a *contact manifold*, if it admits a global 1-form η such that $\eta \wedge \mathrm{d}\eta \neq 0$ everywhere on M. This 1-form η is called a *contact form* on M.

On a contact 3-manifold $M = (M, \eta)$ equipped with a contact form η, there exists a unique vector field ξ satisfying $\eta(\xi) = 1$ and $\mathrm{d}\eta(\xi, X) = 0$ for any vector field X. This vector field ξ is called the *characteristic vector field* of (M, η). Moreover there exits an endomorphism field φ and a Riemannian metric g on M satisfying

$$\eta(X) = g(X, \xi), \quad \mathrm{d}\eta(X, Y) = g(X, \varphi Y)\,, \quad \varphi^2 X = -X + \eta(X)\xi\,, \tag{1.1}$$

for all $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$. Here $\mathfrak{X}(M)$ is the Lie algebra of all smooth vector fields on M. From (1.1), it follows that

$$\varphi\xi = 0, \quad \eta \circ \varphi = 0\,, \quad g(\varphi X, \varphi Y) = g(X,Y) - \eta(X)\eta(Y)\,.$$

A Riemannian 3-manifold (M, g) equipped with the structure tensors (η, ξ, φ) satisfying (1.1) is said to be a *contact Riemannian 3-manifold*. We denote it by $M = (M, \eta; \xi, \varphi, g)$.

Let us define an endomorphism field h on a contact Riemannian 3-manifold M by $h = \frac{1}{2}\pounds_\xi \varphi$, where $\pounds_\xi$ denotes Lie differentiation in the characteristic direction ξ.

Then we observe that h is self-adjoint with respect to g and satisfies

$$h\xi = 0, \quad h\varphi = -\varphi h\,,$$

$$\nabla_X \xi = -\varphi(h + I)X\,, \tag{1.2}$$

where ∇ is the Levi-Civita connection of (M, g) and I is the identity transformation.

Next, on a contact Riemannian 3-manifold M, one can define an almost complex structure J on the product manifold $M \times \mathbb{R}$ by

$$J\Big(X, f\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big) = \Big(\varphi X - f\xi, \eta(X)\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big)\,, \qquad X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)\,,$$

where t is the coordinate of $\mathbb{R}$ and f a function on $M \times \mathbb{R}$. If the almost complex structure J is integrable, then the contact Riemannian 3-manifold M is said to be a *Sasakian 3-manifold*.

Proposition 1.1. *Let $(M, \eta; \xi, \varphi, g)$ be a contact Riemannian 3-manifold. Then the following three conditions are mutually equivalent*:

(1) *The characteristic vector field ξ is a Killing vector field,*

(2) $h = 0$,

(3) *M is Sasakian.*

On a Sasakian 3-manifold, the covariant derivative $\nabla\varphi$ is given by

$$(\nabla_X \varphi)Y = g(X,Y)\xi - \eta(Y)X\,, \qquad X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)\,. \tag{1.3}$$

Take a tangent vector X in the tangent space T_pM of a Sasakian 3-manifold M which is orthogonal to ξ_p. Then the plane section $X \wedge \varphi X$ is called a *holomorphic section*. The sectional curvature $K(X \wedge \varphi X)$ is called a *holomorphic sectional curvature*. Sasakian 3-manifolds of constant holomorphic sectional curvature are called 3-dimensional *Sasakian space forms*.

1.2. **Pseudo-Hermitian structure and Tanaka-Webster connection.** On a contact Riemannian 3-manifold $(M, \eta; \xi, \varphi, g)$, the tangent space T_pM of M at a point $p \in M$ can be decomposed

$$T_pM = D_p \oplus \mathbb{R}\xi_p\,, \quad D_p = \{v \in T_pM \mid \eta(v) = 0\}$$

as a direct sum of linear subspaces. Then $D\colon p \longmapsto D_p$ defines a 2-dimensional distribution orthogonal to ξ, which is called the *contact distribution*. We see that

the restriction $J = \varphi|_D$ of φ to D defines an almost complex structure on D. Define a complex vector subbundle $\mathcal{H}$ of the complexified tangent bundle $T^{\mathbb{C}}M$ by

$$\mathcal{H} = \{X - iJX \mid X \in D\}\,.$$

Then we see that each fiber $\mathcal{H}_p$ is of complex dimension 1, $\mathcal{H} \cap \overline{\mathcal{H}} = \{0\}$, and $D \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} = \mathcal{H} \oplus \overline{\mathcal{H}}$. This subbundle is called the *almost CR-structure* on M associated to the contact Riemannian structure (φ, ξ, η, g).

Furthermore, since $\dim M = 3$, the associated almost CR-structure is always *integrable*, that is the space $\Gamma(\mathcal{H})$ of all smooth sections of $\mathcal{H}$ satisfies the *integrability condition*:

$$[\Gamma(\mathcal{H}), \Gamma(\mathcal{H})] \subset \Gamma(\mathcal{H})\,.$$

The *Levi form* L is defined by

$$L\colon \Gamma(D) \times \Gamma(D) \to \mathfrak{F}(M)\,, \quad L(X,Y) = -\mathrm{d}\eta(X, JY)\,,$$

where $\mathfrak{F}(M)$ denotes the algebra of smooth functions on M. Then we see that the Levi form is Hermitian and positive definite. We call the pair (η, L) a *strongly pseudo-convex pseudo-Hermitian structure* on M.

Now, we recall the *Tanaka-Webster connection* on a strongly pseudo-convex pseudo-Hermitian manifold $M = (M, \eta, L)$ with the associated contact Riemannian structure (η, ξ, φ, g) (see [21], [23]). The Tanaka-Webster connection $\hat{\nabla}$ is defined by

$$\hat{\nabla}_X Y = \nabla_X Y + \eta(X)\varphi Y + (\nabla_X \eta)(Y)\xi - \eta(Y)\nabla_X \xi$$

for all vector fields X, Y on M. Together with (1.2), $\hat{\nabla}$ may be rewritten as

$$\hat{\nabla}_X Y = \nabla_X Y + A(X)Y, \tag{1.4}$$

where we have put

$$A(X)Y = \eta(X)\varphi Y + \eta(Y)\varphi(I + h)X - g(\varphi(I + h)X, Y)\xi\,. \tag{1.5}$$

We see that the Tanaka-Webster connection $\hat{\nabla}$ has the torsion

$$\hat{T}(X,Y) = 2g(X, \varphi Y)\xi + \eta(Y)\varphi h X - \eta(X)\varphi h Y\,.$$

In particular, for Sasakian manifolds, (1.5) and the above equation are reduced to:

$$A(X)Y = \eta(X)\varphi Y + \eta(Y)\varphi X - g(\varphi X, Y)\xi,$$
$$\hat{T}(X,Y) = 2g(X, \varphi Y)\xi\,.$$

Furthermore, it was proved in [22] that

Proposition 1.2. *The Tanaka-Webster connection $\hat{\nabla}$ on a 3-dimensional contact Riemannian manifold $M = (M; \eta, \varphi, \xi, g)$ is the unique linear connection satisfying the following conditions*:

(1) $\hat{\nabla}\eta = 0$, $\hat{\nabla}\xi = 0$, $\hat{\nabla}g = 0$, $\hat{\nabla}\varphi = 0$,

(2) $\hat{T}(X,Y) = -\eta([X,Y])\xi$, $X,\ Y \in \Gamma(D)$,

(3) $\hat{T}(\xi, \varphi Y) = -\varphi\hat{T}(\xi, Y)$, $Y \in \Gamma(D)$.

2. Submanifolds in pseudo-Hermitian geometry

2.1. **Curves in pseudo-Hermitian geometry.** Let $\gamma(s)\colon I \to (M, g, \hat{\nabla})$ be a unit speed curve in a contact Riemannian 3-manifold M equipped with Tanaka-Webster connection.

Since $\hat{\nabla}$ is a metrical connection, *i.e.*, $\hat{\nabla} g = 0$, there exits an orthonormal frame field $\hat{F} = (\hat{T}, \hat{N}, \hat{B})$ along γ such that $\hat{T} = \gamma'$ and satisfies the following Frenet-Serret equation:

$$\begin{cases} \hat{\nabla}_{\hat{T}}\hat{T} = & \hat{\kappa}\hat{N} \\ \hat{\nabla}_{\hat{T}}\hat{N} = -\hat{\kappa}\hat{T} & + \hat{\tau}\hat{B} \\ \hat{\nabla}_{\hat{T}}\hat{B} = & -\hat{\tau}\hat{N}\,. \end{cases} \tag{2.1}$$

Here $\hat{\kappa} = |\hat{\nabla}_T T|$ and $\hat{\tau}$ are called the *pseudo-Hermitian curvature* and *pseudo-Hermitian torsion* of γ, respectively. A *pseudo-Hermitian helix* is a curve both of whose pseudo-Hermitian curvature and pseudo-Hermitian torsion are constants. In particular, curves with constant non-zero pseudo-Hermitian curvature and zero pseudo-Hermitian torsion are called *pseudo-Hermitian circles*. Geodesics with respect to $\hat{\nabla}$ are called *pseudo-Hermitian geodesics*. Pseudo-Hermitian geodesics are characterized as unit speed curves with zero pseudo-Hermitian curvature.

The *contact angle* $\theta(s)$ of a unit speed curve $\gamma(s)$ is defined by $\cos\theta(s) = \eta(\gamma'(s))$. A unit speed curve $\gamma(s)$ is said to be a *slant curve* if its contact angle is constant. Slant curves of contact angle $\pi/2$ are traditionally called *Legendre curves*. The characteristic flow (flow of ξ) is a slant curve of contact angle 0.

Let us consider the mean curvature vector field $\hat{\mathbb{H}}$ of a unit speed curve γ in a contact Riemannian 3-manifold with respect to $\hat{\nabla}$:

$$\hat{\mathbb{H}} = \hat{\nabla}_{\gamma'}\gamma' = \hat{\kappa}\hat{N}\,.$$

This vector field $\hat{\mathbb{H}}$ is called the *pseudo-Hermitian mean curvature vector field* of γ, [5]. Next, we denote by $\hat{\Delta}$ the *Laplace-Beltrami operator*

$$\hat{\Delta} = -\hat{\nabla}_{\gamma'}\hat{\nabla}_{\gamma'}$$

acting the space $\Gamma(\gamma^* TM)$ of the all smooth sections of the vector bundle $\gamma^* TM$ induced by γ.

2.2. **Legendre curves in pseudo-Hermitian geometry.** In this subsection we consider Legendre curves in a Sasakian 3-manifold equipped with Tanaka-Webster connection.

For a unit speed curve curve $\gamma(s)$ in a Sasakian 3-manifold M, from (1.4) and (1.6) we get

$$\hat{\nabla}_{\dot{\gamma}}\dot{\gamma} = \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}}\dot{\gamma} + 2\eta(\dot{\gamma})\varphi\dot{\gamma} \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}}\dot{\gamma} + 2\cos\theta(s)\varphi\gamma'\,. \tag{2.2}$$

The formula (2.2) implies that every Legendre curve $\gamma(s)$ in a Sasakian 3-manifold satisfies $\hat{\nabla}_{\gamma'}\gamma' = \nabla_{\gamma'}\gamma'$. Thus every Legendre curve has zero pseudo-Hermitian torsion. In particular we have

Proposition 2.1. *Let γ be a Legendre curve in a Sasakian 3-manifold M, then γ is $\hat{\nabla}$-geodesic if and only if it is a geodesic.*

Here we compare pseudo-Hermitian invariants and Riemannian invariants of Legendre curves.

Let $\gamma(s)$ be a *Legendre curve* in a Sasakian 3-manifold M. Then we have Frenet frame field $F = (T, N, B)$ along γ. Here the tangent vector field T is defined by $T(s) = \gamma'(s)$. The curvature $\kappa(s)$ of $\gamma(s)$ is given by $\nabla_T T = \kappa N$. The unit vector field $N(s)$ is called the *principal normal vector field* of γ. One can see that the mean curvature vector field $\mathbb{H} = \nabla_{\gamma'}\gamma'$ coincides with the pseudo-Hermitian mean curvature vector field. Thus we have

$$\hat{N} = N = \varphi T\,, \quad \hat{\kappa} = \kappa\,.$$

Now, we study Legendre curves satisfying $\hat{\Delta}\mathbb{H} = \lambda\hat{\mathbb{H}}$ in Sasakian 3-manifolds.

Direct computations using (2.1) and (2.2) show that

$$\hat{\Delta}\hat{\mathbb{H}} = -3\hat{\kappa}\hat{\kappa}'\hat{T} + (\hat{\kappa}'' - \hat{\kappa}^3)\hat{N}\,.$$

Theorem 2.1 ([17])**.** *Let γ be a Legendre curve in a Sasakian 3-manifold. Then $\hat{\Delta}\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ if and only if γ is a $\hat{\nabla}$-geodesic ($\lambda = 0$) or a pseudo-Hermitian circle ($\lambda \neq 0$) satisfying $\hat{\kappa}^2 = \lambda$ for non-zero constant $\hat{\kappa}$.*

Next, let $T^\perp\gamma$ be the normal bundle of a Legendre curve γ in a Sasakian 3-manifold M. We denote by $\hat{\nabla}^\perp$ the connection on $T^\perp\gamma$ induced from the Tanaka-Webster connection of M. With respect to the Laplace-Beltrami operator $\hat{\Delta}^\perp = -\hat{\nabla}^\perp_{\gamma'}\hat{\nabla}^\perp_{\gamma'}$ of the normal bundle, we get the following result (*cf.* [17]).

Theorem 2.2. *Let γ be a Legendre curve in a Sasakian 3-manifold and suppose that λ is a non-zero constant. Then $\hat{\Delta}^\perp\hat{\mathbb{H}} = \lambda\hat{\mathbb{H}}$ if and only if γ has the pseudo-Hermitian curvature*

(1) $\hat{\kappa}(s) = as + b,\ a, b \in \mathbb{R},\ \lambda = 0,$

(2) $\hat{\kappa}(s) = a\cos(\sqrt{\lambda}s) + b\sin(\sqrt{\lambda}s),\ \lambda > 0,$ *or*

(3) $\hat{\kappa}(s) = a\exp(\sqrt{-\lambda}s) + b\exp(-\sqrt{-\lambda}s),\ \lambda < 0.$

Proof. With respect to the connection $\hat{\nabla}^\perp$, we have $\hat{\Delta}^\perp\hat{\mathbb{H}} = -\hat{\kappa}''\hat{N}$. Thus the result follows. □

3. Hopf cylinders in regular Sasakian 3-manifolds

3.1. **Boothby-Wang fibration.** Let M be a contact Riemannian 3-manifold. Then M is said to be *regular* if its characteristic vector field ξ is complete and its flow acts freely and isometrically on M. The fibration $\pi\colon M \to \overline{M}$ is called the *Boothby-Wang fibration* of M.

The contact Riemannian structure $(\eta; \xi, \varphi, g)$ on M induces an almost Hermitian structure $(\overline{g}, J)$ on the orbit space $\overline{M}$. Since $\overline{M}$ is 2-dimensional, the induced almost complex structure J is integrable. Hence the resulting almost Hermitian 2-manifold $(\overline{M}, \bar{g}, J)$ is a real 2-dimensional Kähler manifold.

The regularity of ξ implies that ξ is a Killing vector field. Hence regular contact Riemannian 3-manifolds are automatically Sasakian. Moreover, the natural projection $\pi\colon (M,g)\to(\overline{M},\bar{g})$ is a Riemannian submersion [20].

Let $\overline{X}_{\overline{p}}$ be a tangent vector of the orbit space $\overline{M}$ at $\overline{p}=\pi(p)$. Then there exists a tangent vector $\overline{X}^*_p$ of M at p which is orthogonal to ξ such that $\pi_{*p}\overline{X}^*_p=\overline{X}_{\overline{p}}$. The tangent vector $\overline{X}^*_p$ is called the *horizontal lift* of $\overline{X}_{\overline{p}}$ to M at p. The horizontal lift operation $*\colon \overline{X}_{\overline{p}}\mapsto\overline{X}^*_p$ is naturally extended to vector fields.

The complex structure J on the orbit space $\overline{M}$ is related to φ by

$$J\overline{X}=\pi_*(\varphi\overline{X}^*),\ \overline{X}\in\mathfrak{X}(\overline{M})\,. \tag{3.1}$$

Let us denote by $\overline{\nabla}$ the Levi-Civita connection of $\overline{M}$. Then, by using the fundamental equations for Riemannian submersions due to B. O'Neill [20], we have the following formula.

Lemma 3.1 ([19])**.** *Let M be a regular contact Riemannian 3-manifold. Then for any $\overline{X},\overline{Y}\in\mathfrak{X}(\overline{M})$:*

$$\nabla_{\overline{X}^*}\overline{Y}^*=(\overline{\nabla}_{\overline{X}}\overline{Y})^*-g(\overline{X}^*,\varphi\overline{Y}^*)\xi\,. \tag{3.2}$$

Now let us denote by $M^3(c)$ a complete and simply connected 3-dimensional Sasakian space form of constant holomorphic sectional curvature c. Then $M^3(c)$ is regular and the orbit space M/ξ is of constant curvature $c+3$ (see [19], [20]).

3.2. **Hopf cylinders.** Let $\pi: M\to\overline{M}$ be a Boothby-Wang fibration of a regular Sasakian 3-manifold discussed before. Let $\overline{\gamma}(s)$ be a unit speed curve in $\overline{M}$ with signed curvature $\overline{\kappa}(s)$. We take the inverse image $\Sigma=\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}:=\pi^{-1}\{\overline{\gamma}\}$ of $\overline{\gamma}$ in M and call it the *Hopf cylinder* over $\overline{\gamma}$.

Let us denote by $\overline{F}=(\overline{\boldsymbol{t}},\overline{\boldsymbol{n}})$ the Frenet frame field of $\overline{\gamma}$ in $(\overline{M},\bar{g})$. By using the complex structure J of $\overline{M}$, $\overline{\boldsymbol{n}}$ is given by $\overline{\boldsymbol{n}}=J\overline{\boldsymbol{t}}$. Then the Frenet-Serret formula of $\overline{\gamma}$ is given by

$$\overline{\nabla}_{\overline{\gamma}'}\overline{F}=\overline{F}\begin{bmatrix}0&-\overline{\kappa}\\ \overline{\kappa}&0\end{bmatrix}.$$

Let $\boldsymbol{t}:=\overline{\boldsymbol{t}}^*$ be the horizontal lift of $\overline{\boldsymbol{t}}$ with respect to the Boothby-Wang fibration. Then $\{\boldsymbol{t},\xi\}$ gives an orthonormal frame field of Σ. The horizontal lift $\boldsymbol{n}:=(\overline{\boldsymbol{n}})^*$ is a unit normal vector field of Σ in M. Since $\overline{\boldsymbol{n}}=J\overline{\boldsymbol{t}}$, we have $\boldsymbol{n}=\varphi\boldsymbol{t}$. In fact,

$$(\overline{\boldsymbol{n}})^*=(J\overline{\boldsymbol{t}})^*=\varphi(\overline{\boldsymbol{t}})^*=\varphi\boldsymbol{t}\,.$$

Let us denote by ∇^Σ the Levi-Civita connection of Σ. Then the *second fundamental form* α of Σ derived from $\boldsymbol{n}$ is defined by the *Gauss formula*:

$$\nabla_XY=\nabla^\Sigma_XY+\alpha(X,Y)\boldsymbol{n},\ X,Y\in\mathfrak{X}(\Sigma)\,. \tag{3.3}$$

By using (3.2)

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{t}}\boldsymbol{t}=(\overline{\nabla}_{\overline{\boldsymbol{t}}}\,\overline{\boldsymbol{t}})^*-g(\boldsymbol{t},\varphi\boldsymbol{t})\xi=(\overline{\kappa}\circ\pi)\boldsymbol{n}\,.$$

Hence $\nabla^\Sigma_{\boldsymbol{t}}\boldsymbol{t}=0$. Since ξ is Killing, we have $\nabla^\Sigma_{\boldsymbol{t}}\xi=\nabla^\Sigma_\xi\xi=0$. Thus $\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}$ is flat. The second fundamental form α is described as

$$\alpha(\boldsymbol{t},\boldsymbol{t})=\overline{\kappa}\circ\pi\,,\quad \alpha(\boldsymbol{t},\xi)=-1\,,\quad \alpha(\xi,\xi)=0\,.$$

The mean curvature function is $H = (\overline{\kappa} \circ \pi)/2$ and the mean curvature vector field $\mathbb{H}$ is $\mathbb{H} = H\boldsymbol{n}$.

3.3. Let us denote by ι the inclusion map of a Hopf cylinder $\Sigma \subset M$ in a regular Sasakian 3-manifold M. The inclusion map ι induces a vector bundle ι^*TM over Σ. Moreover the Levi-Civita connection ∇ of M induces a connection ∇^ι on ι^*TM. Then $(\iota^*TM, \iota^*g, \nabla^\iota)$ is a Riemannian vector bundle over Σ. The *rough Laplacian* Δ acting on the space $\Gamma(\iota^*TM)$ of all smooth sections of ι^*TM is given by

$$\Delta = -\nabla^\iota_{\boldsymbol{t}}\nabla^\iota_{\boldsymbol{t}} - \nabla^\iota_\xi\nabla^\iota_\xi\,,$$

since (Σ, ι^*g) is flat.

Next, let $T^\perp\Sigma$ be the normal bundle of Σ in M. Denote by $g^\perp$ the restriction of g to $T^\perp\Sigma$. With respect to the normal connection $\nabla^\perp$ of Σ, $(T^\perp\Sigma, g^\perp, \nabla^\perp)$ is a Riemannian vector bundle. The rough Laplacian $\nabla^\perp$ of $T^\perp\Sigma$ acting on the space $\Gamma(T^\perp M)$ of all smooth sections of the normal bundle is given by

$$\Delta^\perp = -\nabla^\perp_{\boldsymbol{t}}\nabla^\perp_{\boldsymbol{t}} - \nabla^\perp_\xi\nabla^\perp_\xi\,.$$

The first named author classified submanifolds with proper mean curvature vector field in regular Sasakian 3-manifolds with respect to the Levi-Civita connection ∇ as follows:

Theorem 3.1 ([13])**.** *A Hopf cylinder $\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}$ in a regular Sasakian 3-manifold satisfies $\Delta\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ if and only if $\overline{\gamma}$ is a geodesic ($\lambda = 0$) or a Riemannian circle ($\lambda \neq 0$). In case that $\lambda \neq 0$, the eigenvalue λ is $\lambda = 4H^2 + 2 > 2$.*

Theorem 3.2 ([13])**.** *A Hopf cylinder $\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}$ satisfies $\Delta^\perp\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ if and only if $\overline{\gamma}$ is defined by one of the following natural equations*:

(1) $\overline{\kappa}(s) = as + b,\ a, b \in \mathbb{R},\ \lambda = 0,$

(2) $\overline{\kappa}(s) = a\cos(\sqrt{\lambda}s) + b\sin(\sqrt{\lambda}s),\ \lambda > 0$ *or*

(3) $\overline{\kappa}(s) = a\exp(\sqrt{-\lambda}s) + b\exp(-\sqrt{-\lambda}s),\ \lambda < 0.$

Corollary 3.1 ([13])**.** *A Hopf cylinder $\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}$ satisfies $\Delta^\perp\mathbb{H} = 0$ if and only if $\overline{\gamma}$ is one of the following*:

(1) *a geodesic,*

(2) *a Riemannian circle or*

(3) *a Riemannian clothoid* (*Cornu spiral*).

3.4. We study Hopf cylinders with proper *pseudo-Hermitian mean curvature vector field*. Let Σ be a Hopf cylinder in a regular Sasakian 3-manifold M and $\iota : \Sigma \subset M$ the inclusion map as before. Then the Tanaka-Webster connection $\hat{\nabla}$ of M induces a connection $\hat{\nabla}^\iota$ on ι^*M and $\hat{\nabla}^\perp$ on the normal bundle $T^\perp\Sigma$, respectively. Denote by $\hat{\Delta}^\Sigma$ and $\hat{\Delta}^\perp$ the rough Laplacian on the Riemannian vector bundles $(\iota^*M, \hat{\nabla}^\iota, \iota^*g)$ and $(T^\perp\Sigma, \hat{\nabla}^\perp, g^\perp)$, respectively. Then, since (Σ, ∇^Σ) is flat, these rough Laplacians are given by

$$\hat{\Delta} = -\hat{\nabla}_{\boldsymbol{t}}\hat{\nabla}_{\boldsymbol{t}} - \hat{\nabla}_\xi\hat{\nabla}_\xi\,, \quad \hat{\Delta}^\perp = -\hat{\nabla}^\perp_{\boldsymbol{t}}\hat{\nabla}^\perp_{\boldsymbol{t}} - \hat{\nabla}^\perp_\xi\hat{\nabla}^\perp_\xi\,.$$

Remark 1 ([5])**.** Let $\overline{\gamma}(s)$ be a unit speed curve in $\overline{M}$ and denote by $\overline{\gamma}^*(s)$ the horizontal lift of $\overline{\gamma}(s)$ with respect to the Boothby-Wang fibration. Then the Frenet frame field of $\overline{\gamma}^*(s)$ with respect to the Levi-Civita connection is given by $(\boldsymbol{t}, \boldsymbol{n}, \boldsymbol{b}) = (\overline{\boldsymbol{t}}^*, \overline{\boldsymbol{n}}^*, \pm\xi)$. Hence the horizontal lift is a Legendre curve with curvature $\kappa = \overline{\kappa} \circ \pi$ and torsion ± 1.

With respect to the Tanaka-Webster connection, the Hopf cylinder Σ satisfies [5]

$$\hat{\nabla}_{\boldsymbol{t}}\boldsymbol{t} = 2H\boldsymbol{n}\,, \quad \hat{\nabla}_{\boldsymbol{t}}\xi = \hat{\nabla}_{\xi}\boldsymbol{t} = 0\,, \quad \hat{\nabla}_{\xi}\xi = 0\,. \tag{3.4}$$

The pseudo-Hermitian mean curvature vector field $\hat{\mathbb{H}}$ with respect to $\hat{\nabla}$ coincides with $\mathbb{H}$. Hence $\hat{\mathbb{H}} = \mathbb{H} = H\boldsymbol{n} = \kappa\boldsymbol{n}/2$ with $\kappa = \overline{\kappa} \circ \pi$.

Proposition 3.1 ([5])**.** *Let Σ be a Hopf cylinder in a regular Sasakian 3-manifold equipped with the Tanaka-Webster connection, then the mean curvature vector field $\mathbb{H}$ satifies*

$$\hat{\nabla}_{\boldsymbol{t}}\mathbb{H} = -\frac{1}{2}\kappa^2\boldsymbol{t} + \frac{1}{2}\kappa'\boldsymbol{n}\,, \tag{3.5}$$

$$\hat{\nabla}_{\xi}\mathbb{H} = 0\,, \tag{3.6}$$

$$\hat{\Delta}\mathbb{H} = \frac{3}{2}\kappa\kappa'\boldsymbol{t} - \frac{1}{2}(\kappa'' - \kappa^3)\boldsymbol{n}\,. \tag{3.7}$$

By using (3.6), we get the following result.

Proposition 3.2. *If Σ is a Hopf cylinder with mean curvature vector field $\mathbb{H}$ in a regular Sasakian 3-manifold M equipped with the Tanaka-Webster connection, then*

$$\hat{\nabla}^{\perp}_{\boldsymbol{t}}\mathbb{H} = \frac{1}{2}\kappa'\boldsymbol{n}\,, \quad \hat{\nabla}^{\perp}_{\xi}\mathbb{H} = 0\,, \quad \hat{\Delta}^{\perp}\mathbb{H} = -\frac{1}{2}\kappa''\boldsymbol{n}\,. \tag{3.8}$$

From these results, we obtain

Theorem 3.3. *A Hopf cylinder $\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}$ in a regular Sasakian 3-manifold equipped with the Tanaka-Webster connection satisfies $\hat{\Delta}\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ if and only if the base curve $\overline{\gamma}$ is a geodesic ($\lambda = 0$) or a Riemannian circle ($\lambda > 0$). In case that $\lambda > 0$, the eigenvalue λ is $\lambda = \bar{\kappa}^2 > 0$.*

Proof. The Hopf cylinder $\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}$ satisfies $\hat{\Delta}\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ if and only if $\overline{\gamma}$ satisfies $\bar{\kappa} = 0$ or $\bar{\kappa}^2 - \lambda = 0$. Thus the result follows. □

Remark 2. Hopf cylinders in 3-dimensional Sasakian space forms satisfying $\hat{\Delta}\mathbb{H} = 0$ are minimal (with respect to ∇). This fact was already obtained in our previous paper [5].

Next, we have

$$\hat{\Delta}^{\perp}\hat{\mathbb{H}} = -\frac{1}{2}\kappa''\boldsymbol{n}\,.$$

Thus we have the following result.

Theorem 3.4. *Let M be a regular Sasakian 3-manifold equipped with Tanaka-Webster connection and $\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}$ a Hopf cylinder. Then $\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}$ satisfies $\hat{\Delta}^{\perp}\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ if and only if $\Sigma_{\overline{\gamma}}$ satisfies $\Delta^{\perp}\mathbb{H} = \lambda\mathbb{H}$ with respect to the Levi-Civita connection.*

3.5. E. Loubeau and S. Montaldo introduced the notion of biminimal immersion [18]. Let (N^n, h) and (M^m, g) be Riemannian manifolds and $\phi : N \to M$ isometric immersion. The *bienergy* $E_2(\phi)$ of ϕ is defined by

$$E_2(\phi) = \frac{n^2}{2} \int |\mathbb{H}|^2 \, \mathrm{d}v_h \,,$$

where $\mathbb{H}$ is the mean curvature vector field of ϕ.

An isometric immersion ϕ is said to be *biminimal* if it is a critical point of the bienergy with respect to all normal variations with compact support. The Euler-Lagrange equation of the biminimality is

$$\big(\Delta^{\phi}\mathbb{H} - \operatorname{tr} R(\mathbb{H}, \mathrm{d}\phi)\mathrm{d}\phi\big)^{\perp} = 0 \,.$$

Here the superscript $\perp$ means the normal component, Δ^{ϕ} is the rough Laplacian acting on $\Gamma(\phi^* TM)$ and R is the Riemannian curvature of (M, g).

More generally, an isometric immersion $\phi : (N, h) \to (M, g)$ is said to be λ-*biminimal* if

$$\big(\Delta^{\phi}\mathbb{H} - \operatorname{tr} R(\mathbb{H}, \mathrm{d}\phi)\mathrm{d}\phi\big)^{\perp} = -\lambda\mathbb{H}$$

for some constant λ. In particular, 0-biminimal immersions are biminimal immersions.

In our previous paper [14], we have shown that a Hopf cylinder in a Sasakian space form $M^3(c)$ of constant holomorphic sectional curvature c is biminimal if and only if its base curve is $(c+3)$-biminimal. Note that the S^3-case was proved in [18].

In addition, in [5] we showed that a Hopf cylinder in $M^3(c)$ is λ-biminimal with respect to *Tanaka-Webster connection* $\hat{\nabla}$, i.e.,

$$\big(\hat{\Delta}^{\perp}\hat{\mathbb{H}} - \operatorname{tr} \hat{R}(\hat{\mathbb{H}}, \mathrm{d}\iota)\mathrm{d}\iota\big)^{\perp} = -\lambda\hat{\mathbb{H}}$$

if and only if the base curve is λ-biminimal with respect to Levi-Civita connection.

Motivated by Loubeau-Montaldo's paper, we study Hopf cylinders satisfying $(\hat{\Delta}\hat{\mathbb{H}})^{\perp} = \lambda\hat{\mathbb{H}}$.

From (3.6) the condition $(\hat{\Delta}\hat{\mathbb{H}})^{\perp} = \lambda\hat{\mathbb{H}}$ gives the following natural equation

$$\bar{\kappa}'' - \bar{\kappa}^3 + \lambda\bar{\kappa} = 0 \tag{3.9}$$

of the base curve $\bar{\gamma}$. Multiplying $2\bar{\kappa}'$ to (3.9), we get

$$(\bar{\kappa}')^2 - \frac{1}{2}\bar{\kappa}^4 + \lambda\bar{\kappa}^2 = c$$

for some constant c. The above equation implies

$$\int \frac{\mathrm{d}\bar{\kappa}}{\sqrt{\bar{\kappa}^4 - 2\lambda\bar{\kappa}^2 + 2c}} = \pm \int \frac{\mathrm{d}s}{\sqrt{2}} = \pm\frac{s - s_0}{\sqrt{2}} \,. \tag{3.10}$$

The left hand side is an elliptic integral of the first kind. Thus the signed curvature of the base curve is given explicitly by Jacobi's elliptic functions.

Theorem 3.5. *A Hopf cylinder $\Sigma_{\bar{\gamma}}$ in a regular Sasakian 3-manifold M satisfies $(\hat{\Delta}\hat{\mathbb{H}})^{\perp} = \lambda\hat{\mathbb{H}}$ if and only if its base curve has the signed curvature $\kappa(s)$ which is a solution to* (3.10).

In our previous papers [15]–[16], we gave explicit formulas for the ordinary differential equation (3.10) in terms of Jacobi's elliptic functions.

Acknowledgement. This works was started when the first named author visited Chonnam National University on the occasion of the workshop "Geometric Structures and Submanifolds, Gwangju 2009". He would like to express his sincere thanks to the organizers of the workshop, especially professor Jong Taek Cho, and Chonnam National University for their hospitality and financial support.

The second named author was supported by National Research Foundation of Korea Grant funded by the Korean Government (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology) NRF – 2011-355-C00013.

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