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ON THREE DIMENSIONAL PSEUDO-UMBILICAL  
ISOTROPIC SUBMANIFOLDS1. Introduction

A submanifold  $M$  in a Riemannian manifold  $N$  is said to be isotropic (or  $\lambda$ -isotropic) if for each point  $p$  in  $M$  and each unit vector  $t$  tangent to  $M$  at  $p$ , the length  $\lambda$  of the normal curvature vector  $h(t,t)$  depends only on  $p$ , not on  $t$  at  $p$ . In particular, when  $\lambda$  is also independent of the point  $p$  in  $M$ , then  $M$  is said to be constant isotropic. It is known (see [2]) that  $M$  is isotropic at  $p$  if and only if the second fundamental form  $h$  satisfies

$$(1.1) \quad \langle h(x,x), h(x,y) \rangle = 0$$

for any orthonormal vectors  $x$  and  $y$  of the tangent space  $T_p(M)$ , where  $\langle, \rangle$  is the scalar product on  $N$ .

Let  $H$  be the mean curvature vector of  $M$  in  $N$ .  $M$  is said to be pseudo-umbilical if there exists a function  $\rho$  on  $M$  such that  $\langle h(x,y), H \rangle = \rho \langle x, y \rangle$  for all vectors  $x$  and  $y$  tangent to  $M$ . Recently, B. Y. Chen and P. Verheyen [1] proved that an isotropic surface in a Riemannian manifold must be pseudo-umbilical.

In this paper, we study 3-dimensional isotropic submanifolds. We shall prove the following theorems.

**T h e o r e m 1.** Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional  $\lambda$ -isotropic submanifold in a space form  $N$ . If  $M$  is pseudo-umbilical, then the mean curvature  $H$  of  $M$  satisfies  $\|H\| \leq \lambda$ , the equality holds if and only if  $M$  is totally umbilical.

**T h e o r e m 2.** Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional  $\lambda$ -isotropic submanifold in a space form  $N$ . If  $M$  is pseudo-umbilical, then  $M$  has constant mean curvature if and only if  $M$  is constant isotropic.

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## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $M$  be an  $n$ -dimensional submanifold in an  $m$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold  $N$ . We choose a local field of orthogonal frames  $(e_1, \dots, e_n; e_{n+1}, \dots, e_m)$  in  $N$  such that, restricted to  $M$ . We denote by  $(\theta^1, \dots, \theta^m)$  the field of dual frames. The structure equations of  $N$  are given by

$$(2.1) \quad d\theta^A = -\sum \theta_B^A \wedge \theta^B, \quad \theta_B^A + \theta_A^B = 0,$$

$$(2.2) \quad d\theta_B^A = -\sum \theta_C^A \wedge \theta_B^C + \Phi_B^A, \quad \Phi_B^A = \frac{1}{2} \sum K_{BCD}^A \theta^C \wedge \theta^D, \quad K_{BCD}^A + K_{BDC}^A = 0,$$

$A, B, C, D, \dots = 1, \dots, m$ . Restricting these forms on  $M$ , we have  $\theta^r = 0$ ,  $r, s, t, \dots = n+1, \dots, m$ . Since

$$(2.3) \quad 0 = d\theta^r = -\sum \theta_i^r \wedge \theta^i, \quad i, j, k, \dots = 1, \dots, n.$$

Cartan's lemma implies

$$(2.4) \quad \theta_1^r = \sum h_{1j}^r \theta^j, \quad h_{1j}^r = h_{j1}^r.$$

If we denote by  $\nabla$  and  $\tilde{\nabla}$  the covariant derivatives of  $M$  and  $N$ , respectively, then for any two vector fields  $x, y$  tangent to  $M$  and any vector field  $\xi$  normal to  $M$ , we have

$$(2.5) \quad \tilde{\nabla}_x y = \nabla_x y + h(x, y),$$

$$(2.6) \quad \tilde{\nabla}_x \xi = -A_\xi x + D_x \xi,$$

where  $-A_\xi x$  and  $D_x \xi$  denote the tangential and normal components of  $\tilde{\nabla}_x \xi$  respectively.  $A_\xi$  is called the Weingarten map in the direction of  $\xi$  and  $D$  gives a connection in the normal bundle. We have

$$(2.7) \quad \langle A_\xi x, y \rangle = \langle h(x, y), \xi \rangle.$$

We define the covariant derivative  $\bar{\nabla}h$  of  $h$  by

$$(2.8) \quad (\bar{\nabla}_x h)(y, z) = D_x h(y, z) - h(\nabla_x y, z) - h(y, \nabla_x z),$$

for any vector fields  $x, y, z$  tangent to  $M$ , then if  $N$  is a space form, the equation of Codazzi becomes

$$(\bar{\nabla}_x h)(y, z) = (\bar{\nabla}_y h)(x, z).$$

For later use, we recall the following lemma due to B. O'Neill [2].

**L e m m a A.** If a submanifold  $M$  in a Riemannian manifold  $N$  is  $\lambda$ -isotropic, then for any orthogonal vectors  $x, y, z$  in  $T_p(M)$ ,

$$(2.10) \quad (i) \quad \langle h(x, x), h(y, y) \rangle + 2\|h(x, y)\|^2 = \lambda^2,$$

$$(2.11) \quad (11) \quad \langle h(x,x), h(y,z) \rangle + 2 \langle h(x,y), h(x,z) \rangle = 0.$$

We define the discriminant  $\Delta$  of the second fundamental form  $h$ , a real-valued function on planes (through  $p$ ) in  $T_p(M)$ , such that if  $x$  and  $y$  span  $\pi$ , then

$$(2.12) \quad \Delta(\pi) = \Delta_{xy} = \left[ \langle h(x,x), h(y,y) \rangle - \|h(x,y)\|^2 \right] / \|x \wedge y\|^2.$$

### 3. Weingarten map

Let  $M$  be an  $n$ -dimensional  $\lambda$ -isotropic submanifold in an  $m$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold  $N$  and  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  be an orthogonal frame tangent to  $M$ . Then  $H = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h(e_i, e_i)$ . Since  $M$  is  $\lambda$ -isotropic, we may use (1.1) and Lemma A to compute  $A_H$  as follows.

$$(3.1) \quad \langle A_H e_j, e_j \rangle = \langle H, h(e_j, e_j) \rangle = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle h(e_i, e_i), h(e_j, e_j) \rangle = \\ = \lambda^2 - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j}}^n \|h(e_i, e_j)\|^2,$$

$$(3.2) \quad \langle A_H e_j, e_k \rangle = \langle H, h(e_j, e_k) \rangle = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle h(e_i, e_i), h(e_j, e_k) \rangle = \\ = -\frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle h(e_i, e_j), h(e_i, e_k) \rangle, \quad i, j, k = 1, \dots, n, \quad j \neq k.$$

The following lemma is similar to a lemma obtained by B. Y. Chen and P. Verheyen [1].

**L e m m a 1.** Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional  $\lambda$ -isotropic submanifold in an  $m$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold  $N$ . If  $M$  is pseudo-umbilical, then with respect to a suitable

orthonormal frame  $(e_1, e_2, e_3; e_4, \dots, e_m)$ , where  $e_1, e_2, e_3$  are tangent to  $M$  and  $e_4, \dots, e_m$  are normal to  $M$ , we have

$$(3.3) \quad A_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & b & 0 \\ b & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ b & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_6 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b \\ 0 & b & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_7 = \begin{bmatrix} c & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_8 = \begin{bmatrix} b & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_9 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$A_{10} = \dots = A_m = 0,$$

for some functions  $a, b, c$  on  $M$ , where  $A_r = A_{e_r}$ .

*P r o o f.* Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional  $\lambda$ -isotropic submanifold in an  $m$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold  $N$ . If  $M$  is pseudo-umbilical, then from (3.1) and (3.2), we have

$$(3.4) \quad \|h(e_i, e_j)\| = b, \quad \text{for any } i \neq j,$$

where  $b$  is a function on  $M$ , and

$$(3.5) \quad \langle h(e_i, e_i), h(e_j, e_k) \rangle = 0,$$

$$(3.6) \quad \langle h(e_i, e_j), h(e_i, e_k) \rangle = 0, \quad \text{for any } i \neq j \neq k \neq i.$$

Consider (3.4), if  $b \equiv 0$ , by (2.10), we have

$$(3.7) \quad h(e_1, e_1) = h(e_2, e_2) = h(e_3, e_3).$$

Thus we may choose  $e_7$  in the direction of  $h(e_1, e_1)$  and obtain (3.3) with  $b \equiv 0$  immediately. From now we assume that  $b \neq 0$ . Then by (3.4)-(3.6), we may choose  $e_4, e_5, e_6$  as follows.

$$(3.8) \quad h(e_1, e_2) = be_4, \quad h(e_1, e_3) = be_5, \quad h(e_2, e_3) = be_6.$$

Since  $h(e_1, e_1) + h(e_2, e_3)$  and  $h(e_1, e_1) - h(e_2, e_2)$  are perpendicular to each other and do not vanish, we may put, with the help of (3.5),

$$(3.9) \quad h(e_1, e_1) + h(e_2, e_2) = 2ce_7, \quad c > 0,$$

$$(3.10) \quad h(e_1, e_1) - h(e_2, e_2) = 2qe_8, \quad q > 0.$$

Then by (2.10) and (3.4), we have  $c^2 = \lambda^2 - b^2$  and  $q^2 = b^2$ , i.e.,  $c = \sqrt{a^2 - b^2}$  and  $q = b$ . Consequently, we have

$$(3.11) \quad h(e_1, e_1) = ce_7 + be_8,$$

$$(3.12) \quad h(e_2, e_2) = ce_7 - be_8.$$

Let  $a = \|H\|$  and  $M_1 = \{p \in M \mid a(p) = 0\}$ . On  $M_1$ , we have

$$(3.13) \quad \lambda^2 = \|h(e_3, e_3)\|^2 = \|-h(e_1, e_1) - h(e_2, e_2)\|^2 = 4c^2.$$

Then since  $c^2 = \lambda^2 - b^2$ , we have  $3\lambda^2 - 4b^2 = 0$  and

$$(3.14) \quad h(e_3, e_3) = -2ce_7 = \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} e_7.$$

Combining these with (3.8), (3.11) and (3.12), we obtain (3.3) with  $a^2 = (3\lambda^2 - 4b^2)/3 = 0$  on  $M_1$ .

On  $M \setminus M_1$ , we may still have (3.8), (3.11) and (3.12), but we claim that  $h(e_i, e_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , are linear independent. Suppose that it is not true and let

$$(3.15) \quad h(e_3, e_3) = fh(e_1, e_1) + gh(e_2, e_2),$$

for some functions  $f$  and  $g$  on  $M \setminus M_1$ .

Compute  $\langle h(e_3, e_3), h(e_i, e_i) \rangle$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , we would have, with the help of (2.10),

$$(3.16) \quad \lambda^2 f + (\lambda^2 - 2b^2)g = \lambda^2 - 2b^2,$$

$$(3.17) \quad (\lambda^2 - 2b^2)f + \lambda^2 g = \lambda^2 - 2b^2,$$

$$(3.18) \quad (\lambda^2 - 2b^2)(f + g) = \lambda^2.$$

Then from (3.16)-(3.18), we would have  $f = g = -1$  and  $3\lambda^2 - 4b^2 = 0$ . These contradict  $a^2 = (3\lambda^2 - 4b^2)/3 \neq 0$ . Now we may choose  $e_g$  in the following way

$$(3.19) \quad we_g = h(e_3, e_3) + k[h(e_1, e_1) + h(e_2, e_2)], \quad w > 0,$$

where  $k$  is an undetermined function. We shall choose a suitable value of  $k$  in order that  $e_g$  is really perpendicular to  $e_7$  and  $e_8$ . By (2.10), (3.11) and (3.12), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (3.20) \quad 0 &= \langle we_g, h(e_1, e_1) + h(e_2, e_2) \rangle = \\ &= \langle h(e_3, e_3), h(e_1, e_1) + h(e_2, e_2) \rangle + k \|h(e_1, e_1) + h(e_2, e_2)\|^2 = \\ &= 2(\lambda^2 - 2b^2) + 4k(\lambda^2 - b^2). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $k = -(\lambda^2 - 2b^2)/2(\lambda^2 - b^2) = -(c^2 - b^2)/2c^2$ . Substituting it into (3.19), we have  $w^2 = b^2(3\lambda^2 - 4b^2)/(\lambda^2 - b^2) = 3a^2b^2/c^2$  and

$$(3.21) \quad h(e_3, e_3) = \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} e_7 + \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} e_9,$$

since  $a^2 = (3\lambda^2 - 4b^2)/3 > 0$  and  $c^2 = \lambda^2 - b^2 > 0$ . Combining (3.21) with (3.8), (3.11) and (3.12), we obtain (3.3) on  $M \setminus M_1$ .

#### 4. Proofs of Theorems

Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional  $\lambda$ -isotropic submanifold in an  $m$ -dimensional space form  $N$ . If  $M$  is pseudo-umbilical, then by Lemma 1, we have (3.8), (3.11) and (3.21), from which we may compute  $(\bar{\nabla}_{e_1} h)(e_j, e_k)$ ,  $1, j, k = 1, 2, 3$ , on the subset of  $M$  on which  $c > 0$ . Since  $N$  is a space form, we may use the equation (2.9) of Codazzi and have the following three groups of equations, (4.1) - (4.10), (4.11)-(4.20) and (4.21)- (4.27).

$$(4.1) \quad c\theta_7^4(e_2) + b\theta_8^4(e_2) - 2b\theta_1^2(e_2) = e_1(b),$$

$$(4.2) \quad c\theta_7^5(e_3) + b\theta_8^5(e_3) - 2b\theta_1^3(e_3) = e_1(b),$$

$$(4.3) \quad e_1(c) - b\theta_8^7(e_1) = b\theta_4^7(e_2),$$

$$(4.4) \quad c\theta_7^8(e_1) - e_1(b) = b[\theta_8^4(e_2) + 2\theta_1^2(e_2)],$$

$$(4.5) \quad c\theta_7^9(e_1) - b\theta_8^9(e_1) = b\theta_4^9(e_2),$$

$$(4.6) \quad c\theta_7^5(e_3) - b\theta_8^5(e_3) = b[\theta_6^5(e_2) - \theta_2^1(e_2)],$$

$$(4.7) \quad e_1\left(\frac{c^2 - b^2}{c}\right) + \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} \theta_9^7(e_1) = b[\theta_5^7(e_3) + \frac{b}{c} \theta_1^3(e_3)],$$

$$(4.8) \quad \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} \theta_7^8(e_1) + \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} \theta_9^8(e_1) = b[\theta_5^8(e_3) - \theta_3^1(e_3)],$$

$$(4.9) \quad \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} \theta_7^4(e_2) + \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} \theta_9^4(e_2) = b[\theta_6^4(e_3) - \theta_3^1(e_3)],$$

$$(4.10) \quad b[\theta_4^6(e_3) - \theta_1^3(e_3)] = b[\theta_5^6(e_2) - \theta_1^2(e_2)] = e_1(b);$$



$$(4.11) \quad e_2(c) + b\theta_8^7(e_2) = b\theta_4^7(e_1) ,$$

$$(4.12) \quad c\theta_7^8(e_2) + e_2(b) = b[\theta_8^4(e_1) + 2\theta_1^2(e_1)] ,$$

$$(4.13) \quad c\theta_7^9(e_2) + b\theta_8^9(e_2) = b\theta_4^9(e_1) ,$$

$$(4.14) \quad c\theta_7^6(e_3) + b\theta_8^6(e_3) = b[\theta_5^6(e_1) - \theta_1^2(e_1)] ,$$

$$(4.15) \quad c\theta_7^4(e_1) - b\theta_8^4(e_1) - 2b\theta_2^1(e_1) = e_2(b) ,$$

$$(4.16) \quad c\theta_7^6(e_3) - b\theta_8^6(e_3) - 2b\theta_2^3(e_3) = e_2(b) ,$$

$$(4.17) \quad \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} \theta_7^4(e_1) + \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} \theta_9^4(e_1) = b[\theta_5^4(e_3) - \theta_3^2(e_3)] ,$$

$$(4.18) \quad e_2\left[\frac{c^2 - b^2}{c}\right] + \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} \theta_9^7(e_2) = b[\theta_6^7(e_3) + \frac{b}{c} \theta_2^3(e_3)] ,$$

$$(4.19) \quad \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} \theta_7^8(e_2) + \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} \theta_9^8(e_2) = b[\theta_6^8(e_3) + \theta_3^2(e_3)] ,$$

$$(4.20) \quad b[\theta_4^5(e_3) - \theta_2^3(e_3)] = e_2(b) = b[\theta_6^5(e_1) - \theta_2^1(e_1)] ;$$

$$(4.21) \quad e_3(c) + b\theta_8^7(e_3) = b[\theta_5^7(e_1) + \frac{b}{c} \theta_1^3(e_1)] ,$$

$$(4.22) \quad c\theta_7^8(e_3) + e_3(b) = b[\theta_5^8(e_1) - \theta_3^1(e_1)] ,$$

$$(4.23) \quad c\theta_7^5(e_1) - b\theta_8^5(e_1) = b[\theta_4^5(e_2) - \theta_2^3(e_2)] ,$$

$$(4.24) \quad e_3(c) - b\theta_8^7(e_3) = b[\theta_6^7(e_2) + \frac{b}{c} \theta_2^3(e_2)] ,$$

$$(4.25) \quad c\theta_7^8(e_3) - e_3(b) = b[\theta_6^8(e_2) + \theta_3^2(e_2)] ,$$

$$(4.26) \quad e_3(b) = b[\theta_5^4(e_2) - b\theta_3^2(e_2)] = b[\theta_6^4(e_1) - \theta_3^1(e_1)] ,$$

$$(4.27) \quad c\theta_7^6(e_2) + b\theta_8^6(e_2) = b[\theta_4^6(e_1) - \theta_1^3(e_1)],$$

where  $a = \|H\| = \sqrt{3\lambda^2 - 4b^2}/\sqrt{3}$  and  $c = \sqrt{\lambda^2 - b^2} (\neq 0)$ . Now we claim that  $(\lambda^2 - 3b^2)$  is constant on  $M$ . First observe the first group of the equations. Comparing (4.1) with (4.4), we have

$$(4.28) \quad \theta_7^8(e_1) = \theta_7^4(e_2),$$

and substituting (4.28) into (4.3), we get

$$(4.29) \quad e_1(c) = 2b\theta_4^7(e_2).$$

From (4.6) and (4.10), we have

$$(4.30) \quad e_1(b) = c\theta_5^7(e_3) - b\theta_5^8(e_3),$$

comparing it with (4.2), we get

$$(4.31) \quad c\theta_5^7(e_3) = -b\theta_1^3(e_3),$$

$$(4.32) \quad e_1(b) = -b[\theta_5^8(e_3) + \theta_1^3(e_3)].$$

Then substituting (4.28), (4.32) into (4.8); and (4.10) into (4.9), and then from comparing the results, we have

$$(4.33) \quad ab\theta_8^9(e_1) = ab\theta_4^9(e_2).$$

Substituting (4.33) into (4.5), we get

$$(4.34) \quad ac\theta_7^9(e_1) = 2ab\theta_4^9(e_2).$$

Using (4.29), (4.31) and (4.34), (4.7) becomes

$$\frac{1}{c}e_1(c^2 - b^2) - \frac{2b}{c} \left[ \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} \theta_4^7(e_2) + \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} \theta_4^9(e_2) \right] = 0,$$

then by (4.9) and (4.10), we obtain

$$(4.36) \quad e_1(\lambda^2 - 2b^2) - 2be_1(b) = 0 ,$$

$$\text{i.e., } e_1(\lambda^2 - 3b^2) = 0.$$

Similarly, from the second group of the equations, we have

$$(4.37) \quad \theta_7^8(e_2) = -\theta_7^4(e_1) ,$$

$$(4.38) \quad e_2(c) = 2b\theta_4^7(e_1) ,$$

$$(4.39) \quad c\theta_6^7(e_3) = -b\theta_2^3(e_3) ,$$

$$(4.40) \quad e_2(b) = c\theta_6^7(e_3) + b\theta_6^8(e_3) = b[\theta_6^8(e_3) - \theta_2^3(e_3)] ,$$

$$(4.41) \quad ab\theta_8^9(e_2) = -ab\theta_4^9(e_1) ,$$

$$(4.42) \quad ac\theta_7^9(e_2) = 2ab\theta_4^9(e_1) ,$$

$$(4.43) \quad \frac{1}{c} e_2(c^2 - b^2) - \frac{2b}{c} \left[ \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} \theta_4^7(e_1) + \frac{\sqrt{3}ab}{c} \theta_4^9(e_1) \right] = 0.$$

Then by (4.17) and (4.20), (4.43) becomes

$$(4.44) \quad e_2(\lambda^2 - 2b^2) - 2be_2(b) = 0 ,$$

$$\text{i.e., } e_2(\lambda^2 - 2b^2) = 0.$$

Finally, in the third group of the equations, multiplying (4.21) and (4.22) by  $c$  and  $-b$ , respectively, and then summing up the results, we have

$$(4.45) \quad ce_3(c) + 2bc\theta_8^7(e_3) - be_3(b) = b[c\theta_5^7(e_1) - b\theta_5^8(e_1)].$$

Then by (4.23) and (4.26), (4.45) becomes

$$(4.46) \quad ce_3(c) - 2be_3(b) = 2bc\theta_7^8(e_3).$$

On the other hand, from (4.21) and (4.24), we have

$$(4.47) \quad 2b\theta_8^7(e_3) = b\theta_5^7(e_1) + \frac{b^2}{c} \theta_1^3(e_1) - b\theta_6^7(e_2) - \frac{b^2}{c} \theta_2^3(e_2).$$

And from (4.22) and (4.45), we have

$$(4.48) \quad 2c\theta_7^8(e_3) = b\theta_5^8(e_1) - b\theta_3^1(e_1) + b\theta_6^8(e_2) + b\theta_3^2(e_2).$$

Combining (4.47) and (4.48), we get, with the help of (4.23), (4.26) and (4.27),

$$(4.49) \quad 4bc\theta_7^8(e_3) = [bc\theta_6^7(e_2) + b^2\theta_6^8(e_2)] - [bc\theta_5^7(e_1) - b^2\theta_5^8(e_1)] = \\ = e_3(b) - e_3(b) = 0.$$

Thus we obtain, from (4.46) and (4.49),

$$(4.50) \quad e_3(\lambda^2 - 3b^2) = 0.$$

The claim is proved by (4.36), (4.44) and (4.50). Next, we use this result to prove the following.

**L e m m a 2.** Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional isotropic submanifold in an  $m$ -dimensional space  $N$ . If  $M$  is pseudo-umbilical, then the discriminant  $\Delta$  of  $h$  on  $M$  is constant.

**P r o o f.** We have proved above that  $\lambda^2 - 3b^2$  is constant on  $M$ . Now we are going to prove  $\Delta = \lambda^2 - 3b^2$ . Let  $\pi$  be an arbitrary plane through  $p$  in  $T_p M$  determined by  $x = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i e_i$  and  $y = \sum_{i=1}^3 b_i e_i$  which are two arbitrary orthonormal

vectors tangent to  $M$  at  $p$ , where  $\sum_{i=1}^3 a_i^2 = 1$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^3 b_i^2 = 1$  and

$\sum_{i=1}^3 a_i b_i = 0$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.51) \quad \Delta(\pi) &= \Delta_{xy} = \langle h(x, x), h(y, y) \rangle - \|h(x, y)\|^2 = \\
 &= \langle h(\sum_{i=1}^3 a_i e_i, \sum_{j=1}^3 a_j e_j), h(\sum_{k=1}^3 b_k e_k, \sum_{u=1}^3 b_u e_u) \rangle + \\
 &\quad - \langle h(\sum_{i=1}^3 a_i e_i, \sum_{j=1}^3 b_j e_j), h(\sum_{k=1}^3 a_k e_k, \sum_{u=1}^3 b_u e_u) \rangle = \\
 &= \sum_{\substack{i, j, \\ k, u=1}}^3 (a_i a_j b_k b_u - a_i b_j a_k b_u) \langle h(e_i, e_j), h(e_k, e_u) \rangle = \\
 &= \sum_{\substack{i \neq u \\ j \neq k}} a_i b_u (a_j b_k - b_j a_k) \langle h(e_i, e_j), h(e_k, e_u) \rangle =
 \end{aligned}$$

(by (1.1) and (3.6))

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{i, k} a_i b_k (a_i b_k - b_i a_k) \langle h(e_i, e_i), h(e_k, e_k) \rangle + \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i, j} a_i b_j (a_j b_i - b_j a_i) \langle h(e_i, e_j), h(e_i, e_j) \rangle =
 \end{aligned}$$

(by (3.5))

$$= \sum_{i, j} a_i b_j (a_i b_j - b_i a_j) (\lambda^2 - 2b^2) + \sum_{i, j} a_i b_j (a_j b_i - b_j a_i) b^2 =$$

(by (3.8), (3.11), (3.12) and (3.21))

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{i, j} (a_i^2 b_j^2 - a_i b_i a_j b_j) (\lambda^2 - 3b^2) = \\
 &= \lambda^2 - 3b^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\pi$  is arbitrary, we obtain the Lemma.

**P r o o f o f T h e o r e m 1.** Since  $\|H\|^2 = a^2 = (3\lambda^2 - 4b^2)/3$ , we have  $0 \leq \|H\| \leq \lambda$ . If  $\|H\| = \lambda$ , then  $b = 0$ . Thus by (3.3),  $M$  is totally umbilical. The converse is also true.

**P r o o f o f T h e o r e m 2.** Since by Lemma 2, we have  $\Delta = \lambda^2 - 3b^2 = \text{const.}$  on  $M$ , it implies  $9\|H\|^2 - 5\lambda^2 = \text{const.}$  Thus,  $\|H\| = \text{const.}$  if and only if  $\lambda = \text{const.}$

### 5. Application

Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional pseudo-umbilical isotropic submanifold in a 9-dimensional space form  $N^9(C)$ , where  $C$  denotes the sectional curvature of  $N^9(C)$ . If  $M$  is constant isotropic, we may apply Theorem 2 to it and have both  $b$  and  $c$  constant. And then using the same method as in Section 4, we may find that if  $b \neq 0$ , then

$$(5.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \theta_4^5 &= \theta_2^3, & \theta_4^6 &= -\theta_5^8 = \theta_1^3, \\ \theta_5^6 &= -\frac{1}{2} \theta_4^8 = \theta_1^2, & \theta_4^7 &= \theta_4^9 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, from (3.3) and (2.4), we have

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \theta_1^5 &= \theta_2^6 = b\theta^3, & \theta_1^4 &= \theta_3^6 = b\theta^2, & \theta_2^7 &= c\theta^2, \\ \theta_3^7 &= \frac{c^2 - b^2}{c} \theta^3, & \theta_3^4 &= \theta_2^5 = \theta_3^8 = \theta_2^9 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Take the exterior differentiation of  $\theta_4 = \theta_2$ , then by using (5.1), (5.2), (2.2) and (2.4), we have

$$(5.3) \quad \lambda^2 - 4b^2 + C = 0,$$

which implies

$$(5.4) \quad 3\|H\|^2 - 2\lambda^2 + C = 0 .$$

This equation gives us some information on  $M$  and  $N^9(C)$ . Namely, with the help of the formula (5.4) and the assertions of Theorem 1 one can easily deduce the following:

Let  $M$  be a 3-dimensional pseudo-umbilical and constant  $\lambda$ -isotropic submanifold in a space form  $N^9(C)$ , then  $M$  must be totally geodesic, or totally umbilical, or

- i) when  $C = 0$ ,  $M$  is a submanifold in  $E^9$  with  $\|H\|^2 = \frac{2}{3} \lambda^2$ ;
- ii) when  $C > 0$ ,  $M$  is a submanifold in  $S^9$  with  $\lambda^2 \geq \frac{1}{2} C$ ,  
the equality holds if and only if  $M$  is minimal ;
- iii) when  $C < 0$ ,  $M$  is a submanifold in  $H^9(C)$  with  $\lambda^2 > -C$ .

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