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# Space-like submanifolds in the de Sitter spaces

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## Abstract

In this paper, by using Cheng–Yau’s self-adjoint operator  $\square$ , we study the space-like submanifolds in the de Sitter spaces and obtain some general rigidity results. © 2002 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $M_p^{n+p}(c)$  be an  $(n + p)$ -dimensional connected semi-Riemannian manifold of constant curvature  $c$  whose index is  $p$ . It is called an indefinite space form of index  $p$  and simply a space form when  $p = 0$ . If  $c > 0$ , we call it as a de Sitter space of index  $p$ , denote it by  $S_p^{n+p}(c)$ . The study of space-like hypersurfaces in de Sitter space has been recently of substantial interest from both physics and mathematical point of view. Akutagawa [2] and Ramanathan [15] investigated space-like hypersurfaces in a de Sitter space and proved independently that a complete space-like hypersurface in a de Sitter space with constant mean curvature is totally umbilical if the mean curvature  $H$  satisfies  $H^2 \leq c$  when  $n = 2$  and  $n^2 H^2 < 4(n - 1)c$  when  $n \geq 3$ . Later, Cheng [5] generalized this result to general submanifolds in a de Sitter space.

On the other hand, Cheng and Ishikawa [6] have recently shown that the totally umbilical round spheres are the only compact space-like hypersurfaces in  $S_1^{n+1}(1)$  with constant scalar curvature  $S < n(n - 1)$ . Some other authors, such as Ximin [11] and Zheng [16,17], have also obtained interesting results related to the characterization of the totally umbilical round

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spheres as the only compact space-like hypersurfaces in the de Sitter space with constant scalar curvature.

In [10], Li studied the Cheng–Yau’s self-adjoint operator  $\square$  for a given codazzi tensor field  $\phi = \sum_{i,j} \phi_{ij} \omega_i \otimes \omega_j$  on an  $n$ -dimensional compact Riemannian manifold and obtain a general rigidity theorem which generalized Cheng–Yau’s work [8]. By using this result he studied the space-like hypersurfaces in Lorentzian space form and obtained some rigidity theorems which naturally generalize the existing results of Akutagawa [2], Cheng and Yau [7], Ramanathan [15] and Montiel [12] about Goddard’s conjecture [9].

In the present paper, we would like to use Cheng–Yau’s self-adjoint operator  $\square$  to study the space-like submanifolds in de Sitter space and obtain some general rigidity results.

### 2. Cheng–Yau’s self-adjoint operator $\square$

In this section, we review the fundamental results about the Cheng–Yau’s self-adjoint operator  $\square$ , for details see [10].

Let  $M^n$  be an  $n$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold,  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  a local orthonormal frame field on  $M^n$ , and let  $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$  be its dual coframe field. Then, the structure equations of  $M^n$  are given by

$$d\omega_i = \sum_j \omega_{ij} \wedge \omega_j, \quad \omega_{ij} + \omega_{ji} = 0, \tag{1}$$

$$d\omega_{ij} = \sum_k \omega_{ik} \wedge \omega_{kj} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k,l} R_{ijkl} \omega_k \wedge \omega_l, \tag{2}$$

where  $\omega_{ij}$  is the Levi-Civita connection form and  $R_{ijkl}$  are the components of the curvature tensor of  $M^n$ .

For any  $C^2$ -function  $f$  defined on  $M^n$ , we defined its gradient and Hessian by the following formulas:

$$df = \sum_i f_i \omega_i, \tag{3}$$

$$\sum_j f_{ij} \omega_j = df_i + \sum_j f_j \omega_{ji}. \tag{4}$$

Let  $\phi = \sum_{ij} \phi_{ij} \omega_i \otimes \omega_j$  be a symmetric tensor defined on  $M^n$ . The covariant derivative of  $\phi_{ij}$  is defined by

$$\sum_k \phi_{ijk} \omega_k = d\phi_{ij} + \sum_k \phi_{kj} \omega_{ki} + \sum_k \phi_{ik} \omega_{kj}. \tag{5}$$

We call the symmetric tensor  $\phi = \sum_{i,j} \phi_{ij} \omega_i \otimes \omega_j$  a Codazzi tensor if  $\phi_{ijk} = \phi_{ikj}$ .

The second covariant derivative of  $\phi_{ij}$  is defined by

$$\sum_l \phi_{ijkl} \omega_l = d\phi_{ijk} + \sum_m \phi_{mjk} \omega_{mi} + \sum_m \phi_{imk} \omega_{mj} + \sum_m \phi_{ijm} \omega_{mk}. \tag{6}$$

Then, we have the following Ricci identities:

$$\phi_{ijkl} - \phi_{ijlk} = \sum_m \phi_{mj} R_{mikl} + \sum_m \phi_{im} R_{mjkl}. \tag{7}$$

The definition of the following self-adjoint operator  $\square$  was first introduced by Cheng–Yau in [8].

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\phi = \sum_{i,j} \omega_i \otimes \omega_j$  be a Codazzi tensor field on a Riemannian manifold  $M^n$ . We define the operator  $\square$  associated to  $\phi$  by

$$\square f = \sum_{i,j} \left( \left( \sum_k \phi_{kk} \right) \delta_{ij} - \phi_{ij} \right) f_{ij} \tag{8}$$

for any  $C^2$ -function  $f$  defined on  $M^n$ .

The Laplacian  $\Delta\phi_{ij}$  of the tensor  $\phi_{ij}$  is defined to be  $\sum_k \phi_{ijkk}$ , and we have [10]:

$$\Delta\phi_{ij} = \left( \sum_k \phi_{kk} \right)_{ij} + \sum_{m,k} \phi_{mk} R_{mijk} + \sum_{m,k} \phi_{im} R_{mkjk} \tag{9}$$

Let  $|\phi|^2 = \sum_{i,j} \phi_{ij}^2$ ,  $|\nabla\phi|^2 = \sum_{i,j,k} \phi_{ijk}^2$  and  $\text{tr } \phi = \sum_k \phi_{kk}$ . Then, from (9) we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \Delta|\phi|^2 = |\nabla\phi|^2 + \sum_{i,j} \phi_{ij} (\text{tr } \phi)_{ij} + \sum_{i,j,m,k} \phi_{ij} \phi_{mk} R_{mijk} + \sum_{i,j,m,k} \phi_{ij} \phi_{im} R_{mkjk}. \tag{10}$$

Near a given point  $p \in M^n$ , we choose a local orthonormal frame field  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  and its dual frame field  $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n\}$  such that  $\phi = \sum_{i,j} \phi_{ij} \omega_i \otimes \omega_j$ ,  $\phi_{ij} = \lambda_i \delta_{ij}$  at  $p$ . Then (10) is simplified to

$$\frac{1}{2} \Delta|\phi|^2 = |\nabla\phi|^2 + \sum_i \lambda_i (\text{tr } \phi)_{ii} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} R_{ijij} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2. \tag{11}$$

Denoting the second symmetric function of  $\phi_{ij}$  by  $m$ , we have

$$m = \sum_{i \neq j} \lambda_i \lambda_j = (\text{tr } \phi)^2 - |\phi|^2. \tag{12}$$

From (11) and (12), we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \Delta(\text{tr } \phi)^2 = \frac{1}{2} \Delta m + |\nabla\phi|^2 + \sum_i \lambda_i (\text{tr } \phi)_{ii} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} R_{ijij} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2. \tag{13}$$

From (13) and (8), we have

$$\square(\text{tr } \phi) = \frac{1}{2} \Delta m + |\nabla\phi|^2 - |\nabla(\text{tr } \phi)|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} R_{ijij} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2. \tag{14}$$

Since  $\square$  is self-adjoint and  $M^n$  is compact, we obtain by integration of (14)

$$\int_{M^n} [|\nabla\phi|^2 - |\nabla(\text{tr}\phi)|^2] + \int_{M^n} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} R_{ijij}(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 = 0. \tag{15}$$

So we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1** (Li [10]). *Let  $\phi = \sum_{i,j} \omega_i \otimes \omega_j$  be a Codazzi tensor field on a Riemannian manifold  $M^n$ . We assume the following condition:*

$$|\nabla\phi|^2 \geq |\nabla(\text{tr}\phi)|^2. \tag{16}$$

1. *If  $M^n$  has positive sectional curvature, then all the eigenvalues of  $\phi_{ij}$  are the same on  $M^n$ .*
2. *If  $M^n$  has non-negative sectional curvature, then we have  $|\nabla\phi|^2 = |\nabla(\text{tr}\phi)|^2$  and  $R_{ijij} = 0$ , when  $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$  on  $M^n$ .*

Okumuru [14] established the following lemma (see also [3]).

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $\mu_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ , be real numbers such that  $\sum_i \mu_i = 0$  and  $\sum_i \mu_i^2 = \beta^2$ , where  $\beta = \text{constant} \geq 0$ . Then*

$$-\frac{n-2}{\sqrt{n(n-1)}}\beta^3 \leq \sum_i \mu_i^3 \leq \frac{n-2}{\sqrt{n(n-1)}}\beta^3, \tag{17}$$

and the equality holds in (17) if and only if at least  $(n - 1)$  of the  $\mu_i$  are equal.

### 3. Space-like submanifolds in de Sitter space

Let  $M^n$  be an  $n$ -dimensional space-like submanifold in  $S_p^{n+p}(c)$ . We choose a local field of semi-Riemannian orthonormal frames  $e_1, \dots, e_{n+p}$  in  $S_p^{n+p}(c)$  such that at each point of  $M^n$ ,  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  span the tangent space of  $M^n$  and form an orthonormal frame there. We use the following convention on the range of indices:

$$1 \leq A, B, C, \dots \leq n + p, \quad 1 \leq i, j, k, \dots \leq n, \quad n + 1 \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma \leq n + p.$$

Let  $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_{n+p}$  be its dual frame field so that the semi-Riemannian metric of  $S_p^{n+p}(c)$  is given by  $d\bar{s}^2 = \sum_i \omega_i^2 - \sum_\alpha \omega_\alpha^2 = \sum_A \epsilon_A \omega_A^2$ , where  $\epsilon_i = 1$  and  $\epsilon_\alpha = -1$ . Then, the structure equations of  $S_p^{n+p}(c)$  are given by

$$d\omega_A = \sum_B \epsilon_B \omega_{AB} \wedge \omega_B, \quad \omega_{AB} + \omega_{BA} = 0, \tag{18}$$

$$d\omega_{AB} = \sum_C \epsilon_C \omega_{AC} \wedge \omega_{CB} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{C,D} K_{ABCD} \omega_C \wedge \omega_D, \tag{19}$$

$$K_{ABCD} = c\epsilon_A\epsilon_B(\delta_{AC}\delta_{BD} - \delta_{AD}\delta_{BC}). \tag{20}$$

Restricting these forms to  $M^n$ , we have

$$\omega_\alpha = 0, \quad n + 1 \leq \alpha \leq n + p. \tag{21}$$

From Cartan’s lemma, we can write

$$\omega_{\alpha i} = \sum_j h_{ij}^\alpha \omega_j, \quad h_{ij}^\alpha = h_{ji}^\alpha. \tag{22}$$

From these formulas, we obtain the structure equations of  $M^n$ :

$$d\omega_i = \sum_j \omega_{ij} \wedge \omega_j, \quad \omega_{ij} + \omega_{ji} = 0, \tag{23}$$

$$d\omega_{ij} = \sum_k \omega_{ik} \wedge \omega_{kj} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k,l} R_{ijkl} \omega_k \wedge \omega_l, \tag{24}$$

$$R_{ijkl} = c(\delta_{ik}\delta_{jl} - \delta_{il}\delta_{jk}) - \sum_\alpha (h_{ik}^\alpha h_{jl}^\alpha - h_{il}^\alpha h_{jk}^\alpha), \tag{25}$$

where  $R_{ijkl}$  are the components of the curvature tensor of  $M^n$  and

$$h = \sum_\alpha h_\alpha e_\alpha = \sum_{i,j,\alpha} h_{ij}^\alpha \omega_i \otimes \omega_j \otimes e_\alpha \tag{26}$$

is the second fundamental form of  $M^n$ .

For indefinite Riemannian manifolds in detail, refer to O’Neill [13].

Denote  $L_\alpha = (h_{ij}^\alpha)_{n \times n}$  and  $H_\alpha = (1/n) \sum_i h_{ii}^\alpha$  for  $\alpha = n + 1, \dots, n + p$ . Then, the mean curvature vector field  $\xi$ , the mean curvature  $H$  and the square of the length of the second fundamental form  $S$  are expressed as

$$\xi = \sum_\alpha H_\alpha e_\alpha, \quad H = |\xi|, \quad S = \sum_{\alpha,i,j} (h_{ij}^\alpha)^2, \tag{27}$$

respectively. Moreover, the normal curvature tensor  $\{R_{\alpha\beta kl}\}$  and the normalized scalar curvature  $R$  are expressed as

$$R_{\alpha\beta kl} = \sum_m (h_{km}^\alpha h_{ml}^\beta - h_{lm}^\alpha h_{mk}^\beta), \quad R = c + \frac{1}{n(n-1)} (S - n^2 H^2). \tag{28}$$

If  $R_{\alpha\beta kl} = 0$  at point  $x$  of  $M^n$ , we say that the normal connection of  $M^n$  is flat at  $x$  and it is well known [4] that  $R_{\alpha\beta kl} = 0$  at  $x$  if and only if  $h_\alpha$  are simultaneously diagonalizable at  $x$ .

Suppose  $H > 0$  on  $M^n$  and choose  $e_{n+1} = \xi/H$ . Then, it follows that

$$H_{n+1} = H, \quad H_\alpha = 0, \quad \alpha > n + 1. \tag{29}$$

Suppose that the normal bundle of  $M^n$  is flat, then we can choose  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  such that

$$h_{ij}^\alpha = \lambda_i^\alpha \delta_{ij}, \quad \alpha = n + 1, \dots, n + p. \tag{30}$$

Let  $\phi_{ij} = h_{ij}^\alpha$ . From (15) we have

$$\int_{M^n} [|\nabla h|^2 - n^2|\nabla H|^2] + \int_{M^n} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j,\alpha} R_{ijij}(\lambda_i^\alpha - \lambda_j^\alpha)^2 = 0. \tag{31}$$

By using the Gauss equation, we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} R_{ijij}(\lambda_i^{n+1} - \lambda_j^{n+1})^2 = ncS_{n+1} - n^2H^2c + S_{n+1}^2 - nH \sum_i (\lambda_i^{n+1})^3, \tag{32}$$

where  $S_{n+1} = \sum_{i,j} (h_{ij}^{n+1})^2$ .

Let  $\mu_i^{n+1} = \lambda_i^{n+1} - H$  and  $|Z|^2 = \sum_i (\mu_i^{n+1})^2$ . We have

$$\sum_i \mu_i^{n+1} = 0, \quad |Z|^2 = S_{n+1} - nH^2, \tag{33}$$

$$\sum_i (\lambda_i^{n+1})^3 = \sum_i (\mu_i^{n+1})^3 + 3H|Z|^2 - nH^3, \tag{34}$$

Putting (33) and (34) into (32), we get

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} R_{ijij}(\lambda_i^{n+1} - \lambda_j^{n+1})^2 = |Z|^2(nc - nH^2 + |Z|^2) - nH \sum_i (\mu_i^{n+1})^3. \tag{35}$$

By using Lemma 2.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} R_{ijij}(\lambda_i^\alpha - \lambda_j^\alpha)^2 \\ & \geq (S_{n+1} - nH^2) \left( nc - 2nH^2 + S_{n+1} - \frac{n(n-2)}{\sqrt{n(n-1)}} H \sqrt{S_{n+1} - nH^2} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

Putting (36) into (31), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{M^n} \left[ (|\nabla h|^2 - n^2|\nabla H|^2) + (S_{n+1} - nH^2) \right. \\ & \left. \times \left( nc - 2nH^2 + S_{n+1} - \frac{n(n-2)}{\sqrt{n(n-1)}} H \sqrt{S_{n+1} - nH^2} \right) \right] \leq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} & nc - 2nH^2 + S_{n+1} - \frac{n(n-2)}{\sqrt{n(n-1)}} H \sqrt{S_{n+1} - nH^2} \\ & = \left( \sqrt{S_{n+1} - nH^2} + \frac{1}{2}(n-2)H \sqrt{\frac{n}{n-1}} \right)^2 + n \left( c - \frac{n^2}{4(n-1)} H^2 \right). \end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

From (37) and (38), we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $M^n$  be an  $n$ -dimensional compact space-like submanifold in an  $(n + p)$ -dimensional de Sitter space  $S_p^{n+p}(c)$ . Suppose that  $M^n$  has flat normal bundle, if

$$|\nabla h|^2 \geq n^2 |\nabla H|^2 \tag{39}$$

and

$$H^2 < 4 \frac{(n - 1)c}{n^2}, \tag{40}$$

then  $S_{n+1} \equiv nH^2$  and  $M^n$  is a pseudo-umbilical submanifold.

**Corollary 3.1.** Let  $M^n$  be an  $n$ -dimensional compact space-like submanifold with constant scalar curvature  $R$  in an  $(n + p)$ -dimensional de Sitter space  $S_p^{n+p}(c)$ . Suppose that  $M^n$  has flat normal bundle, if  $R - c \leq 0$  and

$$H^2 < 4 \frac{(n - 1)c}{n^2}, \tag{41}$$

then  $S_{n+1} \equiv nH^2$  and  $M^n$  is a pseudo-umbilical submanifold.

**Proof.** From (28), we have  $n^2 H^2 - S = n(n - 1)(c - R) \geq 0$ . Taking the covariant derivative on both sides of this equality, we get

$$n^2 H H_k = \sum_{i,j,\alpha} h_{ij}^\alpha h_{ijk}^\alpha, \quad k = 1, \dots, n.$$

For every  $k$ , it follows from Cauchy–Schwarz’s inequality that

$$n^4 H^2 H_k^2 = \left( \sum_{i,j,\alpha} h_{ij}^\alpha h_{ijk}^\alpha \right)^2 \leq S \sum_{i,j,\alpha} (h_{ijk}^\alpha)^2. \tag{42}$$

Taking sum on both sides of (42) with respect to  $k$ , we have

$$n^4 H^2 |\nabla H|^2 = n^4 H^2 \sum_k H_k^2 \leq S \sum_{(i,j,k,\alpha)} (h_{ijk}^\alpha)^2 \leq n^2 H^2 \sum_{(i,j,k,\alpha)} (h_{ijk}^\alpha)^2, \tag{43}$$

i.e.  $|\nabla h|^2 \geq n^2 |\nabla H|^2$ , then Corollary 3.1 follows from Theorem 3.1. □

Now consider the quadratic form  $Q(u, t) = u^2 - ((n - 2)/\sqrt{n - 1})ut - t^2$ . By the orthogonal transformation

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{u} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2n}} \{ (1 + \sqrt{n - 1})u + (1 - \sqrt{n - 1})t \}, \\ \bar{t} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2n}} \{ (\sqrt{n - 1} - 1)u + (\sqrt{n - 1} + 1)t \}. \end{aligned}$$

$Q(u, t)$  turns into  $Q(u, t) = (n/2\sqrt{n - 1})(\bar{u}^2 - \bar{t}^2)$ , where  $\bar{u}^2 + \bar{t}^2 = u^2 + t^2$ .

Take  $u = \sqrt{\bar{S}_{n+1}}$ ,  $t = \sqrt{n}H$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} nc - nH^2 - n(n-2)H\sqrt{\frac{\bar{S}_{n+1}}{n(n-1)}} + \bar{S}_{n+1} &= nc + Q(u, t) \\ &= nc + \frac{n(\bar{u}^2 - \bar{t}^2)}{2\sqrt{n-1}} = nc + \frac{n(-\bar{u}^2 - \bar{t}^2)}{2\sqrt{n-1}} + \frac{n\bar{u}^2}{\sqrt{n-1}} \geq nc - \frac{n\bar{S}_{n+1}}{2\sqrt{n-1}}. \end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

From (44) and (37) we have

$$0 \geq \int_{M^n} (|\nabla h|^2 - n^2|\nabla H|^2) + (S_{n+1} - nH^2) \left[ nc - \frac{n(S_{n+1} - nH^2)}{2\sqrt{n-1}} \right]. \tag{45}$$

Therefore, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $M^n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) be a compact space-like submanifold in the de Sitter space  $S_p^{n+p}(c)$ . Suppose that  $|\nabla h|^2 \geq n^2|\nabla H|^2$ . If  $M^n$  has flat normal bundle and*

$$S_{n+1} < nH^2 + 2\sqrt{n-1}c, \tag{46}$$

*then  $S_{n+1} = nH^2$  and  $M^n$  is a pseudo-umbilical submanifold.*

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $M^n$  be an  $n$ -dimensional compact space-like submanifold with constant scalar curvature and with non-negative sectional curvature in  $S_p^{n+p}(c)$ . Suppose that  $M^n$  has flat normal bundle, if the normalized mean curvature vector is parallel and  $R$  satisfies  $R < c$ , then  $M^n$  is totally umbilical.*

**Proof.** We have from (28),

$$n^2H^2 - \|h\|^2 = n(n-1)(c - R), \tag{47}$$

where  $R$  is the normalized scalar curvature of  $M^n$ . Taking the covariant derivative of (47) and using the fact that  $R = \text{constant}$ , we obtain

$$n^2HH_k = \sum_{i,j,\alpha} h_{ij}^\alpha \cdot h_{ijk}^\alpha,$$

and hence by Cauchy–Schwarz inequality, we have

$$\sum_k n^4 H^2 (H_k)^2 = \sum_k \left( \sum_{i,j,\alpha} h_{ij}^\alpha \cdot h_{ijk}^\alpha \right)^2 \leq \sum_{i,j,\alpha} (h_{ij}^\alpha)^2 \cdot \sum_{i,j,k,\alpha} (h_{ijk}^\alpha)^2,$$

that is

$$n^4 H^2 \|\nabla H\|^2 \leq \|h\|^2 \cdot \|\nabla h\|^2. \tag{48}$$

From (31) and (48), we have

$$0 \geq \int_{M^n} \left\{ \|h\|^{-2} n^3 (n-1)(c - R) \|\nabla H\|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j,\alpha} R_{ijij} (\lambda_i^\alpha - \lambda_j^\alpha)^2 \right\}. \tag{49}$$



Thus, by hypothesis,  $\|\nabla H\|^2 = 0$ , so  $H$  is constant on  $M^n$ . Therefore, Theorem 3.3 follows from a result of Aiyama [1] and this completes the proof of Theorem 3.3.  $\square$

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