

## Curves of Restricted Type in Euclidean Spaces

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ABSTRACT. Submanifolds of restricted type were introduced in [7]. In the present study we consider restricted type of curves in  $\mathbb{E}^m$ . We give some special examples. We also show that spherical curve in  $S^2(r) \subset \mathbb{E}^3$  is of restricted type if and only if either  $f(s)$  is constant or a linear function of  $s$  of the form  $f(s) = \pm s + b$  and every closed  $W$  – curve of rank  $k$  and of length  $2\pi r$  in  $\mathbb{E}^{2k}$  is of restricted type.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $M^n$  be an  $n$ –dimensional submanifold of a Euclidean space  $\mathbb{E}^m$ . Let  $x, H$  and  $\Delta$  respectively be the position vector field, the mean curvature vector field and the Laplace operator of the induced metric on  $M^n$ . Then, as is well known (see e.g. [2])

$$(1) \quad \Delta x = -nH,$$

which shows, in particular, that  $M^n$  is a minimal submanifold in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  if and only if its coordinate functions are harmonic (i.e. they are eigenfunctions of  $\Delta$  with eigenvalue 0).

As a generalization of T. Takahashi's condition and following an idea of O. Garay [13], some of the authors together with J. Pas [10] initiated the study of submanifolds  $M^n$  in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  such that

$$(2) \quad \Delta x = Ax + B$$

for some fixed vector  $B \in \mathbb{E}^m$  and a given matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ . This study was continued by the first author together with M. Petrovic [5] and independently by T. Hasanis and T. Vlachos [14].

During the study of submanifolds of  $\mathbb{R}^m$  satisfying (2), it was observed that all these matrices  $A_p$  are equal for all  $p \in M$ , or equivalently there exists a fixed matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  (determining, of course, a linear endomorphism of  $\mathbb{E}^m$ ) such that for all  $p \in M$  and for all  $X \in T_p M$ ,

$$(3) \quad A_H X = (AX)^T.$$

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As the relation (3) expresses a strong relationship between differential geometry and linear algebra, we do think it would be worthwhile to study submanifolds satisfying this condition; such submanifolds are said to be of *restricted type*.

Submanifolds of restricted type were introduced in [7] by the author B.Y. Chen, F. Dillen, L. Verstraelen and L. Vrancken. The class of submanifolds of restricted type is large which includes 1-type submanifolds, pseudo-umbilical submanifolds with constant mean curvature, submanifolds satisfying either Gray's condition or Dillen Pas Verstraelen's condition, all  $k$ -type curves lying fully in  $\mathbb{E}^{2k}$ , all null  $k$ -type curves lying fully in  $\mathbb{E}^{2k-1}$ , the products of submanifolds of restricted type, the diagonal immersions of restricted type submanifolds and equivariant isometric immersions of compact homogeneous spaces. In [7], it is shown that a hypersurface of restricted type is either minimal, or a part of the product of a sphere and a linear subspace, or a cylinder on a plane curve of restricted type, and all planar curves of restricted type are classified.

## 2. BASIC CONCEPTS

In the present section we recall definitions and results of [1]. Let  $x : M \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^m$  be an immersion from an  $n$ -dimensional connected Riemannian manifold  $M$  into an  $m$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbb{E}^m$ . We denote by  $g$  the metric tensor of  $\mathbb{E}^m$  as well as the induced metric on  $M$ . Let  $\tilde{\nabla}$  be the Levi-Civita connection of  $\mathbb{E}^m$  and  $\nabla$  the induced connection on  $M$ . Then the Gaussian and Weingarten formulas are given, respectively, by

$$(4) \quad \tilde{\nabla}_X Y = \nabla_X Y + h(X, Y),$$

$$(5) \quad \tilde{\nabla}_X \xi = -A_\xi X + D_X \xi,$$

where  $X, Y$  are vector fields tangent to  $M$  and  $\xi$  normal to  $M$ . Moreover,  $h$  is the second fundamental form,  $D$  is the linear connection induced in the normal bundle  $T^\perp M$ , called normal connection and  $A_\xi$  the shape operator in the direction of  $\xi$  that is related with  $h$  by

$$(6) \quad \langle h(X, Y), \xi \rangle = \langle A_\xi X, Y \rangle.$$

For an  $n$ -dimensional submanifold  $M$  in  $\mathbb{E}^m$ . The mean curvature vector  $\vec{H}$  is given by

$$\vec{H} = \frac{1}{n} \text{trace} h.$$

A submanifold  $M$  is said to be minimal (respectively, totally geodesic) if  $\vec{H} \equiv 0$  (respectively,  $h \equiv 0$ ).

Consider an  $n$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold  $M$  and denote by  $(g_{ij})$  the local components of its metric. Put  $G = \det(g_{ij})$  and  $(g^{ij}) = (g_{ij})^{-1}$ .

Then the Laplacian  $\Delta$  of the metric  $g$  can be locally defined by

$$(7) \quad \Delta u = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{G}} \sum_{i,j=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left( \sqrt{G} g^{ij} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_j} \right),$$

for any function  $u$  on  $M$ , where  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are local coordinates [11].

$M$  is said to be of finite type if each component of the position vector  $x$  has a finite spectral decomposition [2]

$$(8) \quad x = x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_k,$$

where  $x_0$  is a constant vector in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  and  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$  are non-constant maps which satisfy  $\Delta x_i = \lambda_i x_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \cdots < \lambda_k$ .

If all eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$  are mutually distinct, then the immersion  $x$  (or the submanifold  $M$ ) is said to be of  $k$ -type [2].

### 3. W-CURVES IN $\mathbb{E}^m$

Let  $\gamma = \gamma(t) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^m$  be a regular curve in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  (i.e.  $\|\gamma'\|$  is nowhere zero), where  $I$  is interval in  $\mathbb{R}$ .  $\gamma$  is called a *Frenet curve of rank  $r$*  ( $r \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ,  $r \leq m$ ) if  $\gamma'(t), \gamma''(t), \dots, \gamma^{(r)}(t)$  are linearly independent and  $\gamma'(t), \gamma''(t), \dots, \gamma^{(r+1)}(t)$  are no longer linearly independent for all  $t$  in  $I$ . In this case,  $Im(\gamma)$  lies in an  $r$ -dimensional Euclidean subspace of  $\mathbb{E}^m$ . To each Frenet curve of rank  $r$  there can be associated orthonormal  $r$ -frame  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_r\}$  along  $\gamma$ , the Frenet  $r$ -frame and  $r - 1$  functions  $\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \dots, \kappa_{r-1} : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the Frenet curvatures, such that

$$(9) \quad \begin{bmatrix} V_1' \\ V_2' \\ V_3' \\ \vdots \\ V_{r-1}' \\ V_r' \end{bmatrix} = v \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \kappa_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ -\kappa_1 & 0 & \kappa_2 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\kappa_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & \kappa_{r-1} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & -\kappa_{r-1} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \\ V_3 \\ \vdots \\ V_{r-1} \\ V_r \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $v$  is the speed of the curve.

In fact, to obtain  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_r$  it is sufficient to apply the Gram-Schmidt orthonormalization process to  $\gamma'(t), \gamma''(t), \dots, \gamma^{(r)}(t)$ . Moreover, the functions  $\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \dots, \kappa_{r-1}$  are easily obtained as by-product during this calculation. More precisely,  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_r$  and  $\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \dots, \kappa_{r-1}$  are determined by

the following formulas:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_1(t) &:= \gamma'(t); & V_1 &:= \frac{E_1(t)}{\|E_1(t)\|} \\
 E_k(t) &:= \gamma^{(k)}(t) - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left\langle \gamma^{(k)}(t), E_i(t) \right\rangle \frac{E_i(t)}{\|E_i(t)\|} \\
 \kappa_{k-1}(t) &:= \frac{E_k(t)}{\|E_{k-1}(t)E_1(t)\|} \\
 V_k &:= \frac{E_k(t)}{\|E_k(t)\|}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{10}$$

where  $k \in \{2, 3, \dots, r\}$ . It is natural and convenient to define Frenet curvatures  $\kappa_r = \kappa_{r+1} = \dots = \kappa_{m-1} = 0$ . It is clear that  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_r$  and  $\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \dots, \kappa_{r-1}$  can be defined for any regular curve (not necessary a Frenet curve) in the neighborhood of a point  $t_0$  for which  $\gamma'(t_0), \gamma''(t_0), \dots, \gamma^{(r)}(t_0)$  are linearly independent.

**Definition 1.** Frenet curve of rank  $r$  for which  $\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \dots, \kappa_{r-1}$  are constant is called (generalized) screw line or helix [6]. Since these curves are trajectories of the 1-parameter group of the Euclidean transformations, so, F. Klein and S. Lie [9] called them *W-curves*.

A unit speed *W-curve of rank  $2k$*  has the parametrization form

$$\gamma(s) = a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k (a_i \cos \mu_i s + b_i \sin \mu_i s),
 \tag{11}$$

and a unit speed *W-curve of rank  $(2k + 1)$*  has the parametrization form

$$\gamma(s) = a_0 + b_0 s + \sum_{i=1}^k (a_i \cos \mu_i s + b_i \sin \mu_i s),
 \tag{12}$$

where  $a_0, b_0, a_1, \dots, a_k, b_1, \dots, b_k$  are constant vectors in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  and  $\mu_1 < \mu_2 < \dots < \mu_k$  are positive real numbers.

So, a *W-curve* of rank 1 is a straight line, a *W-curve* of rank 2 is a circle and a *W-curve* of rank 3 is a right circular helix [6].

A *W-curve* is closed if and only if its rank is even and all  $\mu_i$  are rational multiples of a real number. Therefore, up to rigid motions of a Euclidean space, a closed *W-curve* of rank  $2k$  and of length  $2\pi r$  in  $\mathbb{E}^{2k}$  has an arc length parameterization of the form:

$$\gamma(s) = \frac{r}{\sqrt{k}} \left( \frac{1}{t_1} \cos \left( \frac{t_1 s}{r} \right), \frac{1}{t_1} \sin \left( \frac{t_1 s}{r} \right), \dots, \frac{1}{t_k} \cos \left( \frac{t_k s}{r} \right), \frac{1}{t_k} \sin \left( \frac{t_k s}{r} \right) \right)
 \tag{13}$$

where  $t_1 < \dots < t_k$  are positive integers [8].

## 4. CURVES OF RESTRICTED TYPE

**Definition 2.** A submanifold  $M^n$  in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  is said to be restricted type if the shape operator  $A_H$  is the restriction of a fixed endomorphism  $A$  of  $\mathbb{E}^m$  on the tangent space of  $M^n$  at every point of  $M^n$ , i.e.

$$(14) \quad A_H X = (AX)^T$$

for any vector  $X$ , tangent to  $M^n$ , where  $(AX)^T$  denotes the tangential component of  $AX$  [7].

**Remark 1.** Equation (14) is equivalent to  $\langle A_H X, Y \rangle = \langle AX, Y \rangle$  for all tangent vectors  $X, Y$  [7].

**Proposition 1.** Every submanifold  $M^n$  in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  whose position vector field satisfies  $\Delta x = \tilde{A}x + B$ , where  $\Delta$  is the Laplacian of  $M^n$ ,  $\tilde{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{E}^m$ , is of restricted type. The endomorphism  $A$  is given by  $\frac{1}{n}\tilde{A}$  in this case [7].

Let  $\gamma$  be a regular curve in  $\mathbb{E}^m$ . The Laplacian of  $\gamma$  can be expressed as

$$(15) \quad \Delta\gamma(t) = -\frac{d^2\gamma(t)}{dt^2} = -\gamma''(t).$$

By the using of (1) and (15),

$$(16) \quad H = -\Delta\gamma(t) = \gamma''(t)$$

where  $H$  is the mean curvature of  $\gamma$ .

**Proposition 2.** Let  $\gamma$  be a curve in  $\mathbb{E}^m$ . If  $\gamma$  has the equation

$$(17) \quad -\gamma''(t) = \Delta\gamma(t) = A\gamma(t) + B$$

such that  $B$  is a fixed vector in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  and  $A$  a symmetric matrix in  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ , then  $\gamma$  is of restricted type.

*Proof.* From Proposition 1 we have the equation

$$(18) \quad \Delta\gamma(t) = A\gamma(t) + B.$$

Thus using (16) and (18), we get (17).  $\square$

**Corollary 1.** Let  $\gamma$  be a curve in  $\mathbb{E}^m$ .  $\gamma$  is of restricted type if and only if

$$(19) \quad -\gamma'''(t) = A\gamma'(t),$$

where  $A$  is a symmetric matrix in  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ .

**Example 1.**  $S^1(a) \subset \mathbb{E}^2$  is of restricted type.

$S^1(a)$  is given by the parametrization  $\gamma(t) = (a \cos t, a \sin t)$ . From higher order derivatives of  $\gamma$  we get

$$(20) \quad \gamma'''(t) = -I_2\gamma'(t).$$

Thus  $S^1(a) \subset \mathbb{E}^2$  is of restricted type.

**Example 2.** A helix which is given by the parametrization

$$\gamma(t) = (r \cos(ct + d), r \sin(ct + d), at + b)$$

is of restricted type.

From higher order derivatives of  $\gamma$  we get  $\gamma'''(t) = -A\gamma'(t)$  where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} c^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus helix is of restricted type.

**Example 3.** Every  $k$ -type curve which lies fully in  $\mathbb{E}^{2k}$  is of restricted type [7].

**Example 4.** Every 2-type curve in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  is of restricted type [7].

**Example 5.** Although every 2-type curve in  $\mathbb{E}^m$  and every  $k$ -type curve which lies fully in  $\mathbb{E}^{2k}$  are curves of restricted type, not every curve of finite type (in the sense of [2,4]) is of restricted type. For instance the following 6-type curve in  $\mathbb{E}^3$  is not of restricted type [7]

$$\gamma(s) = \left( -\frac{2}{3} \cos \frac{12}{17}s + \frac{3}{4} \cos \frac{16}{17}s + \frac{3}{10} \cos \frac{20}{17}s + \frac{1}{8} \cos \frac{24}{17}s + \frac{1}{14} \cos \frac{28}{17}s, \right. \\ \left. -\frac{2}{3} \sin \frac{12}{17}s + \frac{3}{4} \sin \frac{16}{17}s + \frac{3}{10} \sin \frac{20}{17}s + \frac{1}{8} \sin \frac{24}{17}s + \frac{1}{14} \sin \frac{28}{17}s, \sin \frac{8}{17}s \right).$$

**Proposition 3.** Let  $\gamma$  be a spherical space curve given with

$$(21) \quad \gamma(s) = (r \cos s \sin(f(s)), r \sin s \sin(f(s)), r \cos(f(s)),$$

where  $f(s)$  is polynomial function. Then  $\gamma$  is of restricted type if and only if  $f(s)$  is either constant or a linear function of  $s$  of the form  $f(s) = \pm s + b$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\gamma$  is of restricted type, then by the use of (19) the equality

$$(22) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_1'''(s) \\ \gamma_2'''(s) \\ \gamma_3'''(s) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -c_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -c_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -c_{33} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_1'(s) \\ \gamma_2'(s) \\ \gamma_3'(s) \end{bmatrix}$$

holds. Here  $\gamma_i', \gamma_i'''(s)$  are the first and the third derivatives of  $i^{\text{th}}$  component of  $\gamma$  and  $c_{ii}$  is the entry of the matrix  $A$ .

From higher order derivatives of  $\gamma$  we get

$$(23) \quad \gamma'(s) = (-r \sin s \sin(f(s)) + r \cos s \cos(f(s))f'(s), r \cos s \sin(f(s)) \\ + r \sin s \cos(f(s))f'(s), -r \sin(f(s))f'(s))$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(24) \quad \gamma'''(s) = & (r \cos s \cos(f(s))(f'''(s) - (f'(s))^3 - 3f'(s)) \\
& + r \sin s \sin(f(s))(1 + 3(f'(s))^2) + r \cos s \sin(f(s))(-3f'(s)f''(s)) \\
& + r \sin s \cos(f(s))(-3f''(s)), r \cos s \cos(f(s))(3f''(s)) \\
& + r \sin s \sin(f(s))(-3f'(s)f''(s)) + r \cos s \sin(f(s))(-1 - 3(f'(s))^2) \\
& + r \sin s \cos(f(s))(f'''(s) - (f'(s))^3 - 3f'(s)), \\
& r \sin(f(s))(-f'''(s) + (f'(s))^3) + r \cos(f(s))(-3f'(s)f''(s))).
\end{aligned}$$

Using (22), (23) and (24) we have

$$(25) \quad f'''(s) - (f'(s))^3 - 3f'(s) + c_{11}f'(s) = 0,$$

$$(26) \quad 1 + 3(f'(s))^2 - c_{11} = 0,$$

$$(27) \quad -3f'(s)f''(s) = 0,$$

$$(28) \quad -3f''(s) = 0,$$

$$(29) \quad -1 - 3(f'(s))^2 + c_{22} = 0,$$

$$(30) \quad f'''(s) - (f'(s))^3 - 3f'(s) + c_{22}f'(s) = 0,$$

$$(31) \quad -f'''(s) + (f'(s))^3 - c_{33}f'(s) = 0.$$

From (27) and (28) it can be seen that either  $f(s)$  is constant or a linear function of  $s$  of the form  $f(s) = as+b$  where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ . If  $f(s)$  is constant, then  $f(s)$  is a circle which is of restricted type. If  $f(s)$  is a linear function of  $s$  of the form  $f(s) = as+b$ , then using (25) and (26) we get  $c_{11} = 1+3a^2 = a^2+3$ . Then  $a = \pm 1$  and  $c_{11} = 4$ . Similarly, from (29), (30) and (31) we get  $c_{22} = 4$  and  $c_{33} = 1$ . So we obtain

$$(32) \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Conversely, if  $f(s) = \text{const.}$  or  $f(s) = \pm s + b$  then it is easy to show that the curve given with the parametrization (21) is of restricted type.  $\square$

We also get the following result.

**Proposition 4.** *Let  $\gamma$  be closed  $W$ -curve of rank  $k$  and of length  $2\pi r$  in  $\mathbb{E}^{2k}$  given by the parametrization (13). Then  $\gamma$  is of restricted type.*

*Proof.* From higher order derivatives of  $\gamma$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma'(s) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \left( -\sin\left(\frac{t_1 s}{r}\right), \cos\left(\frac{t_1 s}{r}\right), \dots, \right. \\ &\quad \left. -\sin\left(\frac{t_k s}{r}\right), \cos\left(\frac{t_k s}{r}\right) \right) \\ \gamma''(s) &= \frac{-1}{\sqrt{k}} \left( \frac{t_1}{r} \cos\left(\frac{t_1 s}{r}\right), \frac{t_1}{r} \sin\left(\frac{t_1 s}{r}\right), \dots, \right. \\ &\quad \left. \frac{t_k}{r} \cos\left(\frac{t_k s}{r}\right), \frac{t_k}{r} \sin\left(\frac{t_k s}{r}\right) \right) \\ \gamma'''(s) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \left( \frac{t_1^2}{r^2} \sin\left(\frac{t_1 s}{r}\right), -\frac{t_1^2}{r^2} \cos\left(\frac{t_1 s}{r}\right), \dots, \right. \\ &\quad \left. \frac{t_k^2}{r^2} \sin\left(\frac{t_k s}{r}\right), -\frac{t_k^2}{r^2} \cos\left(\frac{t_k s}{r}\right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

So, we have  $\gamma'''(t) = -A\gamma'(t)$  where

$$(33) \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{t_1^2}{r^2} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{t_1^2}{r^2} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \frac{t_k^2}{r^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{t_k^2}{r^2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus  $W$ -curve is of restricted type. □

**Example 6.** A closed  $W$ -curve of rank 4 and of length  $2\pi$  given by the parametrization

$$\gamma(s) = (\cos ms, \sin ms, \cos ns, \sin ns)$$

is of restricted type, where  $m, n$  are positive integers. From higher order derivatives of  $\gamma$  we get  $\gamma'''(t) = -A\gamma'(t)$  where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} m^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & m^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & n^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & n^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus  $\gamma$  is of restricted type.

**Theorem 1** ([7]). *Up to rigid motions of  $\mathbb{E}^2$ , a curve in  $\mathbb{E}^2$  is of restricted type if and only if it is an open portion of one of the following plane curves:*

- (1) a circle,



- (2) a line,  
 (3) a curve with equation :  $\cos(cx) = e^{-cy}$ , where  $c \neq 0$ ,  
 (4) a curve with equation :  $a \sin^2(\sqrt{cx}) + b \sinh^2(\sqrt{cx}) = c$ , where  $a > b > 0$ ,  $c = a - b$ ,  
 (5) a curve with equation :  $a \sin^2(\sqrt{cx}) - b \cosh^2(\sqrt{cx}) = c$ , where  $a > 0 > b$ ,  $c = a - b$ .

**Proposition 5** ([7]). *Let  $\gamma$  be a planar curve.  $\gamma$  is of restricted type if and only if the curvature  $\kappa$  of  $\gamma$  satisfies the following differential equation*

$$(34) \quad \kappa\kappa''' - \kappa'\kappa'' + 4\kappa^3\kappa' = 0$$

where the derivatives are taken with respect to the arc length parameter.

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