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Research Article

On Biharmonic Legendre curves in S-space forms

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

Key words: S-space form, Legendre curve, biharmonic curve, Frenet curve

1. Introduction

Let (M, g) and (N, h) be 2 Riemannian manifolds and $f : (M, g) \to (N, h)$ 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 $\tau(f) = trace \nabla df$. The Euler-Lagrange equation of bienergy functional $E_2(f)$ gives the biharmonic map equation [16]

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

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 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 S-space forms. In Section 3, we give the main results of the study.

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2. S-space forms and their submanifolds

Let (M, g) be a (2m+s)-dimensional framed metric manifold [24] with a framed metric structure $(f, \xi_{\alpha}, \eta^{\alpha}, g)$, $\alpha \in \{1, ..., s\}$, that is, f is a (1, 1) tensor field defining an f-structure of rank 2m; $\xi_1, ..., \xi_s$ are vector fields; $\eta^1, ..., \eta^s$ are 1-forms; and g is a Riemannian metric on M such that for all $X, Y \in TM$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \{1, ..., s\}$,

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

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

$$d\eta^{\alpha}(X,Y) = g(X,fY) = -d\eta^{\alpha}(Y,X), \quad \eta^{\alpha}(X) = g(X,\xi).$$
 (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 $\alpha \in \{1, ..., s\}$, then $(f, \xi_{\alpha}, \eta^{\alpha}, g)$ is called S-structure [4].

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

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

$$\nabla \xi_{\alpha} = -f, \ \alpha \in \{1, ..., s\}.$$
 (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 $\xi_1, ..., \xi_s$ such that $\{X, fX\}$ span the section. The sectional curvature of an f-section is called an f-sectional curvature. In an S-manifold of constant f-sectional curvature, the curvature tensor R of M is of the form

$$R(X,Y)Z = \sum_{\substack{\alpha,\beta\\\alpha}} \left\{ \eta^{\alpha}(X)\eta^{\beta}(Z)f^{2}Y - \eta^{\alpha}(Y)\eta^{\beta}(Z)f^{2}X - g(fX,fZ)\eta^{\alpha}(Y)\xi_{\beta} + g(fY,fZ)\eta^{\alpha}(X)\xi_{\beta} \right\} + \frac{c+3s}{4} \left\{ -g(fY,fZ)f^{2}X + g(fX,fZ)f^{2}Y \right\}$$

$$\frac{c-s}{4} \left\{ g(X,fZ)fY - g(Y,fZ)fX + 2g(X,fY)fZ \right\},$$
(2.6)

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

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

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3. Biharmonic Legendre curves in S-space forms

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

$$E_{1} = \gamma' = T,$$

$$\nabla_{T}E_{1} = \kappa_{1}E_{2},$$

$$\nabla_{T}E_{2} = -\kappa_{1}E_{1} + \kappa_{2}E_{3},$$

$$\dots$$

$$\nabla_{T}E_{r} = -\kappa_{r-1}E_{r-1},$$
(3.7)

then γ is called a *Frenet curve of osculating order* r, where $\kappa_1, ..., \kappa_{r-1}$ 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 $r \ge 3$ is called a *helix of order* r if $\kappa_1, ..., \kappa_{r-1}$ 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 S-space form and $\gamma : I \to M$ a Legendre Frenet curve of osculating order r. Differentiating

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

and using (3.7), we find

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

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

$$\nabla_T \nabla_T T = -\kappa_1^2 E_1 + \kappa_1' E_2 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2 E_3,$$

$$\nabla_T \nabla_T \nabla_T T = -3\kappa_1 \kappa_1' E_1 + \left(\kappa_1'' - \kappa_1^3 - \kappa_1 \kappa_2^2\right) E_2 + \left(2\kappa_1' \kappa_2 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2'\right) E_3 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2 \kappa_3 E_4,$$

$$R(T, \nabla_T T)T = -\kappa_1 \frac{(c+3s)}{4} E_2 - 3\kappa_1 \frac{(c-s)}{4} g(fT, E_2) fT.$$

Thus, we have

$$\tau_{2}(\gamma) = \nabla_{T} \nabla_{T} \nabla_{T} T - R(T, \nabla_{T} T)T$$

$$= -3\kappa_{1}\kappa_{1}'E_{1}$$

$$+ \left(\kappa_{1}'' - \kappa_{1}^{3} - \kappa_{1}\kappa_{2}^{2} + \kappa_{1}\frac{(c+3s)}{4}\right)E_{2}$$

$$+ (2\kappa_{1}'\kappa_{2} + \kappa_{1}\kappa_{2}')E_{3} + \kappa_{1}\kappa_{2}\kappa_{3}E_{4}$$

$$+ 3\kappa_{1}\frac{(c-s)}{4}g(fT, E_{2})fT.$$
(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 $fT \in span \{E_2, ..., E_k\}$; 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 S-space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_{\alpha}, \eta^{\alpha}, g)$, $\alpha \in \{1, ..., s\}$, and $k = \min\{r, 4\}$. Then γ is proper biharmonic if and only if

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

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

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 S-space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_{\alpha}, \eta^{\alpha}, g), \alpha \in \{1, ..., s\}, c = s$, 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

$$\kappa_1 = \text{constant} > 0,$$

$$\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 = \frac{c+3s}{4},$$

$$\kappa_2 = \text{constant},$$

$$\kappa_2\kappa_3 = 0.$$

(3.11)

First, we give the following proposition:

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

$$E_1 = \gamma' = T,$$

$$\nabla_T E_1 = \kappa_1 E_2,$$

$$\nabla_T E_2 = -\kappa_1 E_1 + \kappa_2 E_3,$$

$$\nabla_T E_3 = -\kappa_2 E_2.$$

(3.12)

The system

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

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

$$\nabla_T fT = \sum_{\alpha=1}^s \xi_\alpha + \kappa_1 f E_2. \tag{3.13}$$

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

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

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

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

Now we can state the following Theorem:

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

(1) $m \ge 2$ and γ is a circle with $\kappa_1 = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{c+3s}$, where c > -3s and $\{T = E_1, E_2, fT, \nabla_T fT, \xi_1, ..., \xi_s\}$ 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

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

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

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

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

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 S-space form $(M^{2m+s}, f, \xi_{\alpha}, \eta^{\alpha}, g), \alpha \in \{1, ..., s\}, c \neq s$, 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 S-space form, $\alpha \in \{1, ..., s\}$, and $\gamma : I \to M$ a Legendre curve of osculating order r, where $4 \leq r \leq 2m + s$ and $m \geq 2$. If γ is biharmonic, then $fT \in span\{E_2, E_3, E_4\}$. 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

$$-\theta'(t)\sin\theta(t) = \nabla_T g(fT, E_2) = g(\nabla_T fT, E_2) + g(fT, \nabla_T E_2)$$

= $g(\sum_{\alpha=1}^s \xi_{\alpha} + \kappa_1 fE_2, E_2) + g(fT, -\kappa_1 T + \kappa_2 E_3)$
= $\kappa_2 g(fT, E_3).$ (3.16)

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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

$$\kappa_{1} = constant > 0, \kappa_{1}^{2} + \kappa_{2}^{2} = \frac{c+3s}{4} + \frac{3(c-s)}{4}\cos^{2}\theta, \kappa_{2}^{\prime} + \frac{3(c-s)}{4}\cos\theta g(fT, E_{3}) = 0, \kappa_{2}\kappa_{3} + \frac{3(c-s)}{4}\cos\theta g(fT, E_{4}) = 0$$

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 $\theta \in (0, 2\pi) \setminus \left\{\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right\}$. Now we can state the following Theorem:

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

$$\kappa_{i} = constant > 0, \ i \in \{1, 2, 3\},$$

$$\kappa_{1}^{2} + \kappa_{2}^{2} = \frac{1}{4} \left[c + 3s + 3(c - s)\cos^{2}\theta \right],$$

$$\kappa_{2}\kappa_{3} = \frac{3(s - c)\sin 2\theta}{8},$$

where c > -3s, $fT = \cos \theta E_2 + \sin \theta E_4$, $\theta \in (0, 2\pi) \setminus \left\{\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right\}$ 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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