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**Research Article** 

# Point-wise slant submanifolds in almost contact geometry

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we introduce point-wise slant submanifolds of almost contact and almost contact 3-structure manifolds. We characterize them, give some examples, and obtain necessary and sufficient conditions for a point-wise slant submanifold of a 3-Sasakian manifold to be a slant submanifold. Moreover, we show that there exist no proper Sasakian point-wise 3-slant submanifolds.

Key words: Sasakian manifold, point-wise slant submanifold

# 1. Introduction

Chen [4] generalized the notion of totally real and holomorphic submanifolds in complex geometry by introducing slant submanifolds. In [11], Lotta studied slant submanifolds of contact manifolds that were the generalization of invariant and anti-invariant submanifolds. Since then, many authors have obtained important and interesting results about slant submanifolds of complex [13, 14, 16, 17] and almost contact [1, 3, 8, 12] manifolds.

On the other hand, Etayo [6] has extended this type of submanifold by defining quasi-slant submanifolds. In such submanifolds, at any given point, the slant angle is independent of the choice of any nonzero vector field of submanifold. Later, Chen and Garay [5] studied and characterized these submanifolds under the name pointwise slant submanifolds. Recently, Sahin showed [15] the existence of warped product point-wise semislant submanifolds of Kaehler manifolds, contrary to the semislant case. He and Lee [10] also investigated point-wise slant submersion from almost Hermitian manifolds.

The importance of slant submanifolds in almost contact geometry motivated us to define point-wise slant submanifolds of an almost contact and an almost contact 3-structure manifold. We characterized them and obtained necessary and sufficient conditions for a point-wise slant submanifold of a 3-Sasakian to have constant slant function.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we review some basic information about almost contact and 3-structure manifolds. In Section 3, we define and characterize point-wise slant submanifolds of almost contact and 3-structure manifolds. In Section 4, some properties of point-wise slant submanifolds of Sasakian and 3-Sasakian manifolds are studied. Moreover, it is shown that Sasakian point-wise 3-slant submanifolds are 3-slant.

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# 2. Almost contact metric 3-structure manifolds

Let  $\overline{M}$  be a (2m+1) dimensional manifold and  $\phi$ ,  $\xi$ , and  $\eta$  be a tensor field of type (1,1), a vector field, and a 1-form on  $\overline{M}$ , respectively. If  $\phi$ ,  $\xi$ , and  $\eta$  satisfy

$$\eta(\xi) = 1$$

$$\phi^2(X) = -X + \eta(X)\xi \tag{1}$$

for any vector field X on  $\overline{M}$ , then  $\overline{M}$  is said to have an almost contact structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta)$ . If g is a compatible Riemannian metric on  $\overline{M}$  such that

$$g(\phi X, \phi Y) = g(X, Y) - \eta(X)\eta(Y), \tag{2}$$

then  $(\overline{M}, \xi, \eta, \phi, g)$  is called an almost contact metric structure. Eqs. (1) and (2) imply  $\phi \xi = 0$  and  $\eta o \phi = 0$ [2].

A Sasakian manifold is an important type of this structure and is defined as follows. Let  $\overline{\nabla}$  be the Levi-Civita connection of  $\overline{M}$ . An almost contact metric manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi, \eta, \phi, g)$  is called a Sasakian manifold, if  $\forall X, Y \in T\overline{M}$ 

$$(\overline{\nabla}_X \phi)Y = g(X, Y)\xi - \eta(Y)X \text{ and } \overline{\nabla}_X \xi = -\phi X.$$
(3)

**Definition 1** [9] Let there exist three almost contact metric structures  $(\xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)$ , i = 1, 2, 3, on  $\overline{M}$  such that

$$\eta_i(\xi_j) = 0, \quad \phi_i \xi_j = -\phi_j \xi_i = \xi_k, \quad \eta_i o \phi_j = -\eta_j o \phi_i = \eta_k, \tag{4}$$

$$\phi_i o \phi_j - \eta_j \otimes \xi_i = -\phi_j o \phi_i + \eta_i \otimes \xi_j = \phi_k, \tag{5}$$

$$g(\phi_i X, \phi_i Y) = g(X, Y) - \eta_i(X)\eta_i(Y), \ \forall X, Y \in T\overline{M},$$
(6)

where (i, j, k) is a cyclic permutation of (1, 2, 3). Then  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)_{i \in \{1, 2, 3\}}$  is said to be an almost contact metric 3-structure manifold.

In such manifolds we have

$$g(\phi_i X, Y) = -g(X, \phi_i Y). \tag{7}$$

Moreover, if

$$(\overline{\nabla}_X \phi_i) Y = g(X, Y) \xi_i - \eta_i(Y) X, \ \forall X, Y \in T\overline{M} \text{ and } \overline{\nabla}_X \xi_i = -\phi_i X,$$
(8)

then  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$  is called a 3-Sasakian manifold. It is well known that 3-Sasakian manifolds are Einstein manifolds [7] and so are important manifolds in mathematical physics.

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Let M be an immersed submanifold of almost contact metric 3-structure manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$ . We denote its Levi-Civita connection and normal bundle by  $\nabla$  and  $(TM)^{\perp}$ , respectively. The Gauss and Weingarten formulas are given by

$$\overline{\nabla}_X Y = \nabla_X Y + B(X, Y) \text{ and } \overline{\nabla}_X V = D_X V - A_V X,$$
(9)

for  $X, Y \in TM$  and  $V \in (TM)^{\perp}$ , where D, B, and A are the connection in the normal bundle, the second fundamental form, and the shape operator, respectively.

Moreover, for any  $X \in TM$  and  $V \in (TM)^{\perp}$  we decompose the  $\phi_i X$  and  $\phi_i V$  as the following equations:

$$\phi_i X = T_i X + N_i X \text{ and } \phi_i V = t_i V + n_i V, \tag{10}$$

where  $T_i$  and  $t_i$  are tangential components of  $\phi_i$ , and  $N_i$  and  $n_i$  are normal components of  $\phi_i$ . If M is a submanifold of an almost contact metric manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi, \eta, \phi, g)$ , in such a way, the decomposition of  $\phi$  to tangential components T and t, and normal components N and n implies

$$\phi X = TX + NX \text{ and } \phi V = tV + nV.$$
(11)

# 3. Point-wise slant submanifolds of almost contact manifolds

Let M be a submanifold of an almost contact metric manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi, \eta, \phi, g)$ . Then M is said to be a slant submanifold if the angle between  $\phi X$  and  $T_p M$  is constant at any point  $p \in M$  and for any X linearly independent of  $\xi$  [3, 11].

The author and Malek introduced 3-slant submanifolds of an almost contact metric 3-structure manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$  [12]. On these submanifolds for all i = 1, 2, 3, at any point  $p \in M$  the angle between  $\phi_i X$  and  $T_p M$  is constant for each  $X \in T_p M$  linearly independent of  $\xi_i$ . In both previous definitions the angle is independent of the choice of p and X. Now we introduce the notion of point-wise slant submanifolds of almost contact manifolds by following the approach of [5] in almost Hermitian manifolds.

**Definition 2** Let M be a submanifold of an almost contact metric manifold  $\overline{M}$ . We say that M is a point-wise slant submanifold with slant angle  $\Theta_p(X)$  if at any point  $p \in M$  the Wirtinger angle between  $\phi X$  and  $T_pM$ is constant for each nonzero  $X \in T_pM$  linearly independent of  $\xi$ . It means that the function  $\Theta_p(X)$  does not depend on the choice of X.

**Definition 3** Let M be a submanifold of an almost contact metric 3-structure manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$ . M is a point-wise 3-slant submanifold if at any point  $p \in M$  and for each nonzero  $X \in T_p M$  linearly independent of  $\xi_i$ , the Wirtinger angle between  $\phi_i X$  and  $T_p M$  is constant for all  $i \in \{1,2,3\}$ . In fact, the angle  $\Theta_p(X)$  between  $\phi_i X$  and  $T_j X$  only depends on the choice of p and it is independent of the choice of X and i, j.

On these submanifolds  $\Theta(X)$  can be considered a function called a slant function. If at a point  $p \in M$ ,  $\Theta_p = 0$  or  $N_i = 0$  (resp.  $\Theta_p = \frac{\pi}{2}$  or  $T_i = 0$ ) then p is called invariant point (resp. anti-invariant point). M is an invariant submanifold if  $\Theta_p = 0$  and an anti-invariant submanifold if  $\Theta_p = \frac{\pi}{2}$  for any  $p \in M$ . Otherwise, M

is a proper point-wise 3-slant submanifold.

As trivial examples, the slant and 3-slant submanifolds are point-wise slant submanifolds and their slant angles are constant on all points of the submanifolds. In the next nontrivial examples we show the existence of point-wise slant and 3-slant submanifolds.

**Example 1** Consider the following cosymplectic structure on  $\overline{M} = \mathbb{R}^5$ :

$$\eta = dt, \xi = \partial t, g = \sum_{i=1}^{2} (dx_i \otimes dx_i + dy_i \otimes dy_i) + dt \otimes dt,$$
$$\phi(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2, t) = (-y_1, -y_2, x_1, x_2, 0).$$

Let  $M(u,v) = (u, u, v \cos f, v \sin f, t)$ , where f is a real value function on  $\overline{M}$ . Then M is a point-wise slant submanifold with slant function  $\Theta = \cos^{-1}(\frac{\cos f + \sin f}{\sqrt{2}})$ .

**Example 2** Let  $\overline{M} = \mathbb{R}^{11}$  and  $g = \sum_{i=1}^{11} dx_i \otimes dx_i$ . Let

$$\begin{split} \phi_1((x_i)_{i=\overline{1,11}}) &= (-x_3, x_4, x_1, -x_2, -x_7, x_8, x_5, -x_6, 0, -x_{11}, x_{10}), \\ \phi_2((x_i)_{i=\overline{1,11}}) &= (-x_4, -x_3, x_2, x_1, -x_8, -x_7, x_6, x_5, x_{11}, 0, -x_9), \\ \phi_3((x_i)_{i=\overline{1,11}}) &= (-x_2, x_1, -x_4, x_3, -x_6, x_5, -x_8, x_7, -x_{10}, x_9, 0), \\ \xi_1 &= \partial x_9, \xi_2 &= \partial x_{10}, \xi_3 &= \partial x_{11} \text{ and } \eta_1 = dx_9, \eta_2 = dx_{10}, \eta_3 = dx_{11}. \end{split}$$

It can be verified that  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$  is an almost contact metric 3-structure manifold. Now we consider a submanifold M of  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$  given by the following equations:

$$x_1 = v \sin f, \ x_2 = x_3 = x_4 = x_9 = x_{10} = x_{11} = 0,$$
  
 $x_5 = x_6 = x_7 = ku \sin f, \ x_8 = v \cos f,$ 

for  $k \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and  $f : \mathbb{R}^{11} \to \mathbb{R}$ . By some computations, one can see that M is a point-wise 3-slant submanifold of  $\overline{M}$  with slant function  $\Theta = \cos^{-1}(\frac{\cos f}{k\sqrt{3}})$ .

**Theorem 1** Let M be a submanifold of almost contact metric 3-structure  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)$  such that  $\xi_i$ 's are normal to M for i = 1, 2, 3. Then M is a point-wise 3-slant submanifold if and only if there exists a real function  $\Theta$  on M such that

$$T_i T_j X = -\cos^2 \Theta X, \ \forall X \in TM, \ \forall i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}.$$

$$(12)$$

**Proof** Let M be a point-wise 3-slant submanifold and  $\Theta$  be the angle between  $\phi_i X$  and  $T_p M$ . Then from (6) and (7) we have

$$\cos\Theta = \frac{g(\phi_i X, T_j X)}{|\phi_i X| |T_j X|} = -\frac{g(X, \phi_i T_j X)}{|X| |T_j X|} = -\frac{g(X, T_i T_j X)}{|X| |T_j X|}$$
(13)

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On the other hand,

$$\cos\Theta = \frac{|T_j X|}{|X|},\tag{14}$$

and so (13) and (14) imply

$$\cos^2\Theta = -\frac{g(X, T_i T_j X)}{|X|^2},\tag{15}$$

and it follows (12). Conversely, we suppose that  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the angles  $\phi_i \widehat{X, T_i} X$  and  $\phi_i \widehat{X, T_j} X$ , respectively, in the point  $p \in M$ . Thus,  $\cos \alpha = \frac{|T_i X|}{|X|}$  and  $\cos \beta = \frac{|T_j X|}{|X|}$ . Moreover,

$$\cos\alpha = \frac{g(\phi_i X, T_i X)}{|\phi_i X| |T_i X|} = -\frac{g(X, T_i T_i X)}{|X| |T_i X|} = -\frac{g(X, T_i T_i X)}{|X|^2 \cos\alpha},$$
(16)

$$\cos\beta = \frac{g(\phi_i X, T_j X)}{|\phi_i X||T_j X|} = -\frac{g(X, T_i T_j X)}{|X||T_j X|} = -\frac{g(X, T_i T_j X)}{|X|^2 \cos\beta}.$$
(17)

In the account of (12), (16) and (17) imply that the angles are equal and do not depend on the choice of X. This means that M is a point-wise 3-slant submanifold.

The proof of the following proposition is the same as Theorem 1.

**Proposition 1** Let M be a point-wise 3-slant submanifold of almost contact metric 3-structure  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)$ with slant function  $\Theta$ . Then for all  $X \in TM \setminus \langle \xi_i \rangle$ 

$$T_i T_j X = -\cos^2 \Theta X, \ \forall i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}.$$
 (18)

By using (7) and Proposition 1 immediately we have the following proposition.

**Proposition 2** Let M be a point-wise 3-slant submanifold of almost contact metric 3-structure  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)$ with slant function  $\Theta$ . Then  $\forall X, Y \in TM \setminus \langle \xi_i \rangle$  and  $\forall i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ 

$$g(T_iY, T_jX) = \cos^2\Theta g(Y, X), \tag{19}$$

$$g(N_iY, N_jX) = \sin^2\Theta g(Y, X).$$
<sup>(20)</sup>

Moreover, when the structure of  $\overline{M}$  is almost contact metric, Proposition 1 can be stated as follows.

**Proposition 3** Let M be a point-wise slant submanifold of almost contact metric manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi, \eta, \phi, g)$  with slant function  $\Theta$ . Then

$$T^{2}X = -\cos^{2}\Theta X, \ \forall X \in TM \setminus \langle \xi \rangle.$$

$$\tag{21}$$

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# 4. Point-wise slant submanifolds of 3-Sasakian manifolds

**Lemma 1** Let M be a point-wise 3-slant submanifold of  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$  with slant function  $\Theta$ . Then, for any unit vector field  $X \in TM \setminus \langle \xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3 \rangle$ , we have

$$T_i X = \cos \Theta Z, \tag{22}$$

where Z is a unit vector field in TM and orthogonal to X.

**Proof** For any unit vector field  $X \in TM \setminus \langle \xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3 \rangle$ , we have  $|T_iX| = \cos\Theta |\phi_iX| = \cos\Theta |X| = \cos\Theta$ . Now let  $Z = \frac{T_iX}{|T_iX|}$  be the unit vector field in the direction of  $T_iX$ . Then  $T_iX = \cos\Theta Z$ . Moreover, since  $g(\phi_iX, X) = 0$  and  $g(\phi_iX, X) = g(T_iX + N_iX, X) = g(T_iX, X)$ , we conclude that Z is orthogonal to X.  $\Box$ 

**Theorem 2** Let M be a point-wise 3-slant submanifold of a 3-Sasakian manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$ . Then, the slant function  $\Theta$  is constant if and only if  $A_{N_iX}T_iX = A_{N_iT_iX}X$ .

**Proof** Since  $\overline{M}$  is a 3-Sasakian manifold, from (8) and the Gauss formula, for any unit vector field  $X \in TM \setminus \langle \xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3 \rangle$  and  $Y \in TM$ , we have

$$g(X,Y)\xi_i = (\overline{\nabla}_Y \phi_i)X = \nabla_Y T_i X + B(T_i X, Y) + D_Y N_i X - A_{N_i X} Y - T_i \nabla_Y X - t_i B(X,Y) - N_i \nabla_Y X - n_i B(X,Y).$$

$$(23)$$

By taking the tangential part of (23), we get

$$g(X,Y)\xi_i = \nabla_Y T_i X - A_{N_i X} Y - T_i \nabla_Y X - t_i B(X,Y).$$
<sup>(24)</sup>

By using (22), Eq. (24) implies

$$g(X,Y)\xi_i = Y\cos\Theta Z + \cos\Theta\nabla_Y Z - A_{N_iX}Y - T_i\nabla_Y X - t_iB(X,Y) = -\sin\Theta Y(\Theta)Z + \cos\Theta\nabla_Y Z - A_{N_iX}Y - T_i\nabla_Y X - t_iB(X,Y).$$
(25)

We apply g(Z, .) to (25). Since

$$g(Z, \nabla_Y Z) = \frac{1}{2} \nabla_Y g(Z, Z) = 0,$$

and

$$g(Z, T_i \nabla_Y X) = -g(T_i Z, \nabla_Y X) = \cos^2 \Theta \frac{1}{2} \nabla_Y g(X, X) = 0,$$

we get

$$0 = -\sin\Theta Y(\Theta) - g(Z, A_{N_i X}Y) - g(Z, t_i B(X, Y)).$$
<sup>(26)</sup>

Thus,  $\Theta$  is constant if and only if

 $-g(Z, A_{N_iX}Y) - g(Z, t_iB(X, Y)) = 0,$ 

or

$$g(Y, A_{N_i X} Z) = g(N_i Z, B(X, Y)) = g(Y, A_{N_i Z} X).$$

Therefore, the slant function  $\Theta$  is constant if and only if  $A_{N_iX}Z = A_{N_iZ}X$ .

Using the approach of the proof of Theorem 2, for a point-wise slant submanifold of a Sasakian manifold, implies the following theorem.

**Theorem 3** Let M be a point-wise slant submanifold of a Sasakian manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)$ . Then the slant function  $\Theta$  is constant if and only if  $A_{NX}Z = A_{NZ}X$ .

As an analogue of a Kaehlerian slant submanifold of quaternion manifolds, Sasakian 3-slant submanifolds of 3-structure manifolds have been defined in [12]. Let M be a point-wise 3-slant submanifold of an almost contact metric 3-structure manifold  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)$  which the vector structures are in TM. The submanifold M is called a Sasakian point-wise 3-slant submanifold if

$$(\nabla_Y T_i)X = g(X, Y)\xi_i - \eta_i(X)Y, \ \forall X, Y \in TM.$$
(27)

Now we show that these submanifolds cannot be a proper point-wise slant submanifold.

# **Theorem 4** Any Sasakian point-wise 3-slant submanifolds are 3-slant submanifolds.

**Proof** Let M be a Sasakian point-wise 3-slant submanifold of  $(\overline{M}, \xi_i, \eta_i, \phi_i, g)$  and X be a unit vector field in  $TM \setminus \langle \xi_i \rangle$ . From (22) and (27) for any  $Y \in TM$ , we have

$$g(X,Y)\xi_{i} = (\nabla_{Y}T_{i})X = \nabla_{Y}T_{i}X - T_{i}(\nabla_{Y}X)$$

$$= \nabla_{Y}cos\Theta Z - T_{i}(\nabla_{Y}X)$$

$$= Y(cos\Theta)Z + cos\Theta\nabla_{Y}Z - T_{i}(\nabla_{Y}X)$$

$$= sin\Theta Y(\Theta)Z + cos\Theta\nabla_{Y}Z - T_{i}(\nabla_{Y}X).$$
(28)

Since Z is orthogonal to X and  $\xi_i$ , by applying g(Z, .) to (28), we obtain

$$0 = \sin\Theta Y(\Theta),\tag{29}$$

which means  $\Theta$  is constant.

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