

CLOSED HYPERSURFACES OF  $S^n$  WITH CONSTANT MEAN CURVATURE AND CONSTANT SCALAR CURVATURE

S. C. Almeida and F. G. B. Brito, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

§ 0 Introduction

S. S. Chern proposed the following problem (see [C, D, K] and [Y,]):

"Let  $\Sigma$  be the set of closed minimal immersed hypersurfaces of  $S^{n+1}$  with constant scalar curvature. Let  $\kappa: \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be the function given by:  $\kappa(M) = \text{scalar curvature of } M$ .

Question: Is  $\kappa(\Sigma)$  a discrete set of real numbers?"

Probably the main motivation for this conjecture is Simon's formula ([S]) according to which, if  $M \in \Sigma$  and  $\kappa(M) < 1$  then  $\kappa(M) \leq 1 - \frac{1}{n-1}$ . It comes immediately from the definitions of minimality and scalar curvature that  $\kappa(M) \leq 1$  for  $M \in \Sigma$ . It is clear that if  $M \in \Sigma$  and  $\kappa(M) = 1$  then  $M$  is a great round hypersphere of  $S^{n+1}$ . Chern, Do Carmo and Kobayashi ([C, D, K]) proved that if  $M \in \Sigma$  and  $\kappa(M) = 1 - \frac{1}{n-1}$  then  $M$  is the riemannian product of two round spheres.

Peng and Terng ([P, T]) made a breakthrough on this problem proving that if  $M \in \Sigma$  and  $\kappa(M) < 1 - \frac{1}{n-1}$  then  $\kappa(M) \leq 1 - \frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{12n^2(n-1)}$ . Unfortunately, we don't know examples realizing this last value for the scalar curvature of  $M$ . However, for the special case where  $n = 3$ , the same authors got a stronger and sharp result that reads:

If  $\dim M = 3$ ,  $M \in \Sigma$  and  $\kappa(M) < \frac{1}{2}$  then  $\kappa(M) \leq 0$ .

Notice that  $\kappa(M) = 0$  is realized by Cartan's minimal isoparametric hypersurface of  $S^3$  (see [C] and also [N]).

In this paper, we extend Peng and Terng's result for

hypersurfaces of  $S^n$  having constant mean curvature. Moreover we prove uniqueness of Cartan's isoparametric hypersurfaces of  $S^n$  in the sense that they are the only closed hypersurfaces of  $S^n$  having constant mean curvature and vanishing scalar curvature. Precisely, we prove:

Theorem:

"Let  $M^3 \subset W^4$  be a 3-dimensional closed immersed hypersurface in a 4-dimensional space of constant curvature  $W$ . If  $M^3$  has constant mean curvature and constant non negative scalar curvature then  $M$  is isoparametric."

Corollary 1:

"If  $M^3 \subset S^n$  is a closed 3-dimensional immersed hypersurface of  $S^n$  with constant mean curvature  $H$  and constant non negative scalar curvature  $\kappa$ , then  $M^3$  is isoparametric and consequently one of the following three possibilities holds:

- 1)  $M^3$  is a round sphere
- 2)  $M^3$  is a Clifford torus  $S^1(r) \times S^1(t)$  where  $S^1(r)$  and  $S^1(t)$  are a sphere and a circle of radius  $r$  and  $t$  respectively.
- 3)  $M^3$  is the unique isoparametric hypersurface of  $S^n$  with vanishing scalar curvature and given mean curvature  $H$ ."

Corollary 2:

"The only closed hypersurfaces of  $S^n$  with constant mean curvature and every where vanishing scalar curvature are Cartan's isoparametric hypersurfaces of  $S^n$ ."

Constancy of both  $\kappa$  and  $H$  is crucial for the characterization theorem stated above. Indeed, Hsiang ([Hs<sub>1</sub>], [Hs<sub>2</sub>]) gave many (embedded!) examples of non isoparametric hyperspheres of  $S^{n+1}$  (of  $S^n$ , in particular) having constant mean curvature. We should

mention that hypersurfaces of  $S^{n+1}$  with constant mean curvature and restrictions on the sectional curvatures or on the Ricci curvature had already been treated by Yau [Y<sub>1</sub>] and Nomizu and Smyth [N, S].

The specific case of closed hypersurfaces of  $S^{n+1}$  with constant mean curvature and constant scalar curvature was studied by Okumura [O]. It was proved that  $\kappa > 1 - \frac{2}{n(n-1)} \cdot \frac{n(n-2)}{(n-1)^2} H^2$  implies the hypersurface is a round sphere. Our Corollary 1 provides a complete and sharp answer for this pinching problem in the case  $n = 3$  and  $\kappa > 0$ . We should finally remark that the existence of closed hypersurfaces of  $S^{n+1}$  with negative scalar curvature is, as far as we know, an open problem.

### 5.1 Proof of the theorem

It is clearly sufficient to prove the theorem for oriented  $M^3$  and the proof will be divided into two parts:

1st part: Suppose  $M^3$  has three distinct principal curvatures at each point. Let  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$  be a local orthonormal frame belonging to the orientation of  $M^3$  and diagonalizing the second fundamental form of the isometric immersion  $i: M^3 \rightarrow W$ . Let  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3\}$  be the associated local coframe. We are, locally, in the following situation:

- a)  $Ae_i = \lambda_i e_i$   $1 \leq i \leq 3$  on  $U$ ,  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \lambda_3$  on  $M$ .
- b)  $\omega_i(e_j) = \delta_{ij}$ ,  $\omega_i \in \Lambda^1(U, \mathbb{R})$

where  $A$  denotes the matrix of the second fundamental form of the immersion,  $\lambda_i$  is a principal curvature,  $U$  is an open set of  $M$  and  $\delta_{ij}$  is the classical Kronecker symbol.

Define the 2-form  $\varphi \in \Lambda^2(U, \mathbb{R})$  by

$$\Psi = \omega_{11} \wedge \omega_{12} \wedge \omega_{21} \wedge \omega_{22}, \quad (1)$$

$\omega_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$  being local Cartan connection forms associated to the given local orthonormal frame in such a way that

$$d\omega_i = - \sum_{j=1}^3 \omega_{ij} \wedge \omega_j, \quad \omega_{ij}(u) = \langle \nabla e_j, e_i \rangle.$$

Fact 1:  $\Psi$  is globally definable:

To see this let us consider another local frame  $\{\bar{e}_1, \bar{e}_2, \bar{e}_3\}$  defined on an open set  $V \subset M$ . Suppose  $\{\bar{e}_1, \bar{e}_2, \bar{e}_3\}$  satisfies a) and b). If, moreover,  $\{\bar{e}_1, \bar{e}_2, \bar{e}_3\}$  belongs to the orientation of  $M$  then one of the four possibilities holds in  $U \cap V$ .

- i)  $\bar{e}_i = e_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ ;
- ii)  $\bar{e}_1 = \bar{e}_1$ ,  $\bar{e}_2 = -\bar{e}_2$ ,  $\bar{e}_3 = -\bar{e}_3$ ;
- iii)  $\bar{e}_1 = -\bar{e}_1$ ,  $\bar{e}_2 = e_2$ ,  $\bar{e}_3 = -e_3$ ;
- iv)  $\bar{e}_1 = -e_1$ ,  $\bar{e}_2 = -e_2$ ,  $\bar{e}_3 = e_3$ .

Now, defining  $\bar{\Psi}$  in the same way as  $\Psi$  one can easily check that

$$\Psi_{UV} = \bar{\Psi}_{UV} \quad \square$$

$$\text{Fact 2: } d\Psi = \left| \frac{|\nabla f|^2}{9(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)^2(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)^2} + 3\kappa \right| v$$

where:

$$f = \lambda_1^3 + \lambda_2^3 + \lambda_3^3 = \text{trace } A^3 = \text{trace } (A \circ A \circ A)$$

$\kappa$  is the scalar curvature function of  $M$

and  $v$  is the volume element of  $M$

Proof:

Using Cartan structure equations,

$$d\omega_{ij} = - \sum_{k=1}^3 \omega_{ik} \wedge \omega_{kj} + \Omega_{ij}, \quad d\omega_1 = - \sum_{j=1}^3 \omega_{ij} \wedge \omega_j; \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq 3$$

and (1) yields:

$$\begin{aligned} d\Psi = & - \omega_{11} \wedge \omega_{12} \wedge \omega_{21} \wedge \omega_{22} \wedge \omega_{11} + \omega_{12} \wedge \omega_{21} \wedge \omega_{22} + \\ & + \Omega_{12} \wedge \omega_3 - \Omega_{13} \wedge \omega_2 + \omega_1 \wedge \Omega_{23} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Notice that  $\Omega_{ij} = R_{ij} w_i \wedge w_j$ ,  $R_{ij} = c + \lambda_i \lambda_j$  being the sectional curvature of  $M$  in the direction of the plane generated by  $e_i$  and  $e_j$  and  $c$  being the sectional curvature of the constantly curved ambient space  $W$ .

Let us write

$$\omega_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^3 \Gamma_{ij}^k w_k \quad \text{and use Codazzi equations to get:}$$

$$\Gamma_{ij}^i = -\Gamma_{ji}^i = (\lambda_j - \lambda_i) d\lambda_i (e_j) \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma_{12}^1}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1} = \frac{\Gamma_{13}^2}{\lambda_3 - \lambda_1} = \frac{\Gamma_{23}^1}{\lambda_3 - \lambda_2} \quad (4)$$

Let us now denote

$$\lambda_{ij} = d\lambda_i (e_j).$$

Using (2), (3) and (4) one gets:

$$d\psi = \left[ 3\kappa - \left( \frac{\lambda_{12} \lambda_{23}}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)} + \frac{\lambda_{21} \lambda_{31}}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)} + \frac{\lambda_{12} \lambda_{13}}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)} \right) \right] v$$

$$\text{where } \kappa = c + \frac{1}{3} (\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + \lambda_1 \lambda_3 + \lambda_2 \lambda_3) = \frac{1}{3} (R_{12} + R_{13} + R_{23})$$

The relation between  $\kappa$  and  $H$  is given by

$$\kappa = \frac{1}{6} (9H^2 - S) + c$$

where:

$$H = \frac{1}{3} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3) \text{ is the mean curvature of } M$$

$S = \lambda_1^2 + \lambda_2^2 + \lambda_3^2$  is the square of the norm of the second fundamental form of  $M$ .

So, if  $K$  and  $H$  are constant so is  $S$ . Deriving  $S$  and  $H$  gives

$$dS (e_k) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i \lambda_{ik} = 0, \quad 1 \leq k \leq 3 \quad (5)$$

$$dH (e_k) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_{ik} = 0, \quad 1 \leq k \leq 3 \quad (6)$$

Now, using (5) and (6), we may write

$$d\tau = \left| \kappa + \frac{\lambda_{11}^2}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2} + \frac{\lambda_{22}^2}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2} + \frac{\lambda_{33}^2}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2} \right| v \quad (7)$$

A straightforward computation using (5) and (6) gives:

$$\begin{aligned} df(e_1) &= f_1 = 3(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \lambda_{11}, \\ df(e_2) &= f_2 = 3(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \lambda_{22}, \\ df(e_3) &= f_3 = 3(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) \lambda_{33}, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Observe that  $\nabla f = f_1 e_1 + f_2 e_2 + f_3 e_3$ ,

and this ends the proof of fact 2.  $\square$

Applying Stokes theorem yields the desired result for hypersurfaces having three distinct principal curvatures at each point.

2nd part: General case, i.e., there are points  $x \in M$  such that  $\lambda_i(x) = \lambda_j(x)$ ,  $i \neq j$ :

We proceed by steps and general strategy is:  $M$  non isoparametric implies  $\kappa < 0$

Step 1) If there is a point  $x \in M$  such that  $\lambda_1(x) = \lambda_2(x) = \lambda_3(x)$ : then  $M$  is isoparametric.

Proof:

Suppose  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda_3$  on a point  $x$ . So  $S = 3H^2$  on  $x$  and because  $S$  and  $H$  are constant,  $S = 3H^2$  all over  $M$ .

Now,  $3H^2 = \frac{1}{3} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3)^2 = \lambda_1^2 + \lambda_2^2 + \lambda_3^2 = S$  all over  $M$  and so  $0 = \frac{1}{3} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3)^2 - \lambda_1^2 - \lambda_2^2 - \lambda_3^2 = -\frac{1}{3} [(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 + (\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)^2 + (\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)^2]$  all over  $M$ .

Therefore  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda_3 = H$  are constant on  $M$   $\square$

Let us now suppose that there are no points  $x \in M$  such that  $\lambda_1(x) = \lambda_2(x) = \lambda_3(x)$  and that  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \lambda_3$  on  $M$

Step 2: Maximum and minimum of  $f$ :

Proposition

$f = \lambda_1^3 + \lambda_2^3 + \lambda_3^3$  attains its maximum when  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$  and its minimum when  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_3$ , whenever points of this type exist.

Proof: It is sufficient to study the function

$g: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by

$g(x, y, z) = x^3 + y^3 + z^3$  subject to the restrictions

$x + y + z = H$  and  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = S$  using Lagrange's multipliers method.  $\square$

Step 3: Analyticity of  $f$ :

Let us now observe that  $M$  is a real analytic submanifold of  $W$  and  $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a real analytic function on  $M$ . This is a consequence of a well known theorem stating that hypersurfaces of constant mean curvature on spaces of constant curvature are real analytic submanifolds (see, for example [M]). In particular  $f$  has a finite number of critical values because  $M$  is closed.

Proposition 2:

If  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$  on  $M$  or  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_3$  on  $M$  then  $M$  is isoparametric.

Proof:

Just solve the system on the unknowns  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ :

$$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = H$$

$$\lambda_1^2 + \lambda_2^2 + \lambda_3^2 = S$$

$$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 \quad (\text{resp } \lambda_2 = \lambda_3)$$

and write  $\lambda_i$  in terms of  $H$  and  $S$ .  $\square$

Suppose now  $p \in M$  satisfies  $\lambda_1(p) = \lambda_2(p)$  and take  $c_1 \in \mathbb{R}$  to be a regular value of  $f$  close to  $\max f = f(p)$ . Suppose  $c_1 \neq f(p)$  (this is possible otherwise, by proposition 2,  $M$  is isoparametric). Denote

$L_{c_1} = f^{-1}(c_1)$  the closed level surface of  $f$  in  $M$  determined by  $c_1$ .

Analogously, take  $q \in M$  such that  $\lambda_1(q) = \lambda_2(q)$  in such a way that  $\min f = f(q)$  and  $c_2 \neq f(q)$ ;  $c_2$  being a regular value of  $f$  close to  $f(q)$ . Let  $f^{-1}(c_2) = L_{c_2}$  be the corresponding level surface.

Setting

$N_{c_1}^{c_2} = f^{-1}([c_1, c_2])$  gives a hypersurface of  $W^*$  with boundary  $L_{c_1} \cup L_{c_2}$ .

We convention that  $L_{c_1} = \emptyset$  if there are no points  $q$  on  $M$  such that  $\lambda_1(q) = \lambda_2(q)$ . In the same way,  $L_{c_2} = \emptyset$  if there are no points  $p$  on  $M$  such that  $\lambda_1(p) = \lambda_2(p)$ .

Step 4: Applying Stokes to  $N_{c_1}^{c_2}$  and  $\psi$ :

In our case, Stokes theorem with boundary reads:

$$\int_{N_{c_1}^{c_2}} dv = \int_{L_{c_2}} i_1^* \psi + \int_{L_{c_1}} i_2^* \psi$$

Here,  $i_1: L_{c_1} \rightarrow N_{c_1}^{c_2}$  and  $i_2: L_{c_2} \rightarrow N_{c_1}^{c_2}$  are natural inclusions and the boundary is "outward" oriented, i.e., the normal vector to  $L_{c_1}$  has the same sense as  $\nabla f$  and the normal vector to  $L_{c_2}$  has the opposite sense of  $\nabla f$ .

Step 5: Applying a theorem due to Robert M. Hardt (see [Ha]).

Theorem (R.M. Hardt)

Let  $f$  be a real analytic function of a compact sub analytic subset of a real analytic manifold  $M$ . Let  $k$  be a positive integer. Then,

$\sup \{ \mathcal{H}^k (f^{-1}(\{y\})) \text{ such that } \dim f^{-1}(\{y\}) \leq k \} < \infty$

where  $\mathcal{H}^k$  represents the  $k$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure.

Applying this theorem to the situation described in this paper we get the following:

Proposition 3:

There is a real number  $T$  such that

$\text{area}(L_c = f^{-1}(\{c\})) < T$ , for all regular values  $c$  of  $f$ .  $\square$

Step 6: Computing  $i_1 \nabla$  and  $i_2 \nabla$ :

$$i_1 \nabla = \frac{1}{|\nabla f|} \left| \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2} f_1^2 + \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2} f_2^2 + \right. \\ \left. + \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2} f_3^2 \right|_{V_1} \quad (9)$$

$$i_2 \nabla = \frac{1}{|\nabla f|} \left| \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2} f_1^2 + \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2} f_2^2 + \right. \\ \left. + \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2} f_3^2 \right|_{V_2} \quad (10)$$

$V_1$  and  $V_2$  standing for volume elements of  $L_{c_1}$  and  $L_{c_2}$  respectively.

Proof:

Notice that

$$\Psi = \Gamma_{12}^1 \omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 + \Gamma_{12}^2 \omega_2 \wedge \omega_1 - \Gamma_{13}^1 \omega_1 \wedge \omega_3 - \Gamma_{13}^2 \omega_3 \wedge \omega_1 - \Gamma_{23}^1 \omega_2 \wedge \omega_3 - \Gamma_{23}^2 \omega_3 \wedge \omega_2$$

Now, using formulas (3) and (8) yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi &= \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)^2} f_1 \omega_2 \wedge \omega_3 + \frac{(\lambda_2 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)^2} f_2 \omega_3 \wedge \omega_1 + \\ &+ \frac{(\lambda_3 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)^2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)^2} f_3 \omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 \end{aligned}$$

Now, observe that

$i_1^* (\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2) = \langle e_1, n_1 \rangle v_1$ ,  $n_1$  being the "outward" normal vector to  $L_{C_1}$  on  $M$ . Also,

$$i_1^* (\omega_1 \wedge \omega_3) = \langle e_1, n_1 \rangle v_1,$$

$i_1^* (\omega_2 \wedge \omega_3) = \langle e_2, n_1 \rangle v_1$  and similar formulas hold for  $i_2$  and  $n_2$  (the "outward" normal vector to  $L_{C_2}$  on  $M$ ).

It is important to observe that:

a)  $n_1$  has the opposite sense and the same direction of  $\nabla f$

because of the orientation and the fact that  $L_{C_1}$  is a level surface of  $f$ . So,  $n_1 = - \frac{\nabla f}{|\nabla f|}$

b) By the same reasons,  $n_2$  has the same sense and direction of  $\nabla f$  and  $n_2 = \frac{\nabla f}{|\nabla f|}$

c)  $\nabla f \neq 0$  on  $L_{c_1}$  and on  $L_{c_2}$  because  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are regular values of  $f$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 i_1^* \nabla &= \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_1)^2} f_1^* i^* (\omega_2 \wedge \omega_1) + \frac{(\lambda_2 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2} f_2^* i^* (\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2) \\
 &+ \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_1)^2} f_1^* i^* (\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2) = \\
 &= - \frac{1}{|\nabla f|} \left| \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_1)^2} f_1^* + \frac{(\lambda_2 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2} f_2^* \right| \\
 &\cdot \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_1)^2} f_2^* \Big|_{V_1}
 \end{aligned}$$

and the same computation is applicable to  $i_2^* \nabla$ .  $\square$

Step 7: Controlling integral in the boundary:

Given  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\exists c_1, c_2$  sufficiently close to  $f(q)$  and  $f(p)$  respectively, such that

$$\left| \int_{L_{c_1}} \frac{(\lambda_1 - H)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_1)^2 |\nabla f|} \cdot f_1^* \right| < \frac{\epsilon}{2} \quad \text{and}$$

$$\left| \int_{c_1} \frac{(H - \lambda_1)}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_1)^2 |\nabla f|} \cdot f_1^* \right| < \frac{\epsilon}{2} .$$

Proof: Clearly,  $\frac{f_1^i}{|\nabla f|} \leq |\nabla f|$  and  $\frac{f_2^i}{|\nabla f|} \leq |\nabla f|$

Also,  $|\nabla f| = 0$  as  $c_1 = q$  or  $c_1 = p$ .

Moreover,  $(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)^2 > L_1 > 0$  or  $M$  for some constant  $L_1$ . This is so because  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3$ .  $M$  is closed and, by assumption, there are no points where  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda_3$ .

In the same way,  $(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)^2 > L_2 > 0$  on  $M$  for some constant  $L_2$ . Now, apply step 5 and get step 7.

Step 8: Conclusion:

First suppose  $L_{c_1} \neq \emptyset$  and  $L_{c_2} \neq \emptyset$ .

Notice that  $\lambda_1 - H < 0$  and  $\lambda_2 - H > 0$  because  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3$  and  $H = \frac{1}{3} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3)$ .

Moreover, for a point  $q_1$  close to  $q$  and a point  $p_1$  close to  $p$  we have

$$\lambda_1(p_1) - H < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_2(q_1) - H > 0$$

Therefore, by step 7,

$$\int_{L_{c_1}} i_1^i \psi = \int_{L_{c_2}} i_2^i \psi < c \text{ for } c_1 \text{ close to } f(q) \text{ and } c_2 \text{ close to } f(p).$$

So, by step 4,

$$\int_{N_{c_1}^{c_2}} d \psi < c$$

Now, taking  $\bar{c}_1, \bar{c}_1$  such that  $c_1 < \bar{c}_1 < f(q), f(p) > \bar{c}_1 > c_1$  we get  
 $N_{\bar{c}_1} \supset N_{c_1}^{c_1}$  and

$$\int_{N_{\bar{c}_1}} \frac{d\tau}{\bar{c}_1} < \frac{\epsilon}{n} \text{ for a suitable choice of } \bar{c}_1 \text{ and } \bar{c}_1 \text{ for a given } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Suppose by contradiction that  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Using formula (7) yields

$$\int_{N_{c_1}^{c_1}} \frac{\lambda_{11}^2}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2} + \frac{\lambda_{22}^2}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2} + \frac{\lambda_{33}^2}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2} < \int_{N_{\bar{c}_1}} \frac{\lambda_{11}^2}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2} +$$

$$+ \frac{\lambda_{22}^2}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2} + \frac{\lambda_{33}^2}{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2} < \frac{\epsilon}{n} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \bar{c}_1, c_1 \text{ conveniently chosen.}$$

Consequently  $\lambda_{ii} \geq 0 \quad 1 \leq i \leq 3 \text{ on } N_{c_1}^{c_1}$

The choice of  $c_1, c_2$  being arbitrary implies:

$$\lambda_{ii} \geq 0 \text{ in } M - (f^{-1}(p) \cup f^{-1}(q))$$

Then  $\lambda_{ii} \geq 0$  in one non empty open set of  $M$  and so, because of formulae (8),  $\nabla f \geq 0$  on this open set. Analyticity of  $f$  implies  $f$  is constant on  $M$ . Therefore  $M$  is isoparametric (contradiction).

Finally, if  $L_{c_1} = L_{c_2} = \emptyset$ , the proof was given in part 1.

If  $L_{c_1} \neq \emptyset$  and  $L_{c_2} = \emptyset$ , then

$$\int_M d\tau = \int_{L_{c_1}} \frac{d\tau}{c_1}$$

If  $L_{C_1} \neq \emptyset$  and  $L_{C_1} = \emptyset$  then

$\int_{X \setminus L_{C_1}} d\pi = \int_{L_{C_1}} i_{*}\pi$ . In both cases proofs are obvious reductions of the general one.  $\square$

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Sebastião Carneiro de Almeida  
Instituto de Matemática  
Universidade Federal do Ceará  
Campus do Pici  
60.000 - Fortaleza  
BRAZIL

Fabiano Gustavo Braga Brito  
Departamento de Matemática  
Pontifícia Universidade Católica  
do Rio de Janeiro  
22.453 - Rio de Janeiro  
BRAZIL