

# ON CURVATURE PINCHING FOR MINIMAL AND KAEHLER SUBMANIFOLDS WITH ISOTROPIC SECOND FUNDAMENTAL FORM\*\*

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## Abstract.

An isometrically immersed submanifold is said to have isotropic second fundamental form if the length of the second fundamental form related to any normal vector is the same one. In this note, some curvature pinching theorems for compact minimal (resp. Kaehler) submanifolds in  $S^{n+p}(c)$  (resp.  $CP^{n+p}(c)$ ) with isotropic second fundamental form are given.

## Introduction

Let  $M$  be an  $n$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold isometrically immersed in an  $(n+p)$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold  $\bar{M}$ . We denote by  $\langle, \rangle$  the metric of  $\bar{M}$  as well as that induced on  $M$ . If  $\sigma$  is the second fundamental form of the immersion and  $A_\xi$  the Weingarten endomorphism associated to a normal vector  $\xi$ , we define  $T: T_p^\perp M \times T_p^\perp M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by the expression  $T(\xi, \eta) = \text{trace } A_\xi A_\eta$ , where  $T_p^\perp M$  is the normal space to  $M$  at  $p \in M$  and  $\xi, \eta \in T_p^\perp M$ . In [7, 9] it was proposed to study a special class of submanifolds for which  $T = k\langle, \rangle$ . By taking the trace we have  $k = \|\sigma\|^2/p$ . If  $\sigma_\xi = \langle \sigma, \xi \rangle \xi$  is the second fundamental form with respect to a normal vector  $\xi$ , then  $T = k\langle, \rangle$  if and only if  $\|\sigma_\xi\|^2 = \|\sigma\|^2/p$ , which is independent of  $\xi$ . So, we give the following

**Definition.** A submanifold  $M$  is said to have isotropic second fundamental form if  $T = \|\sigma\|^2 \langle, \rangle / p$ , i. e., the length of the second fundamental form with respect to any normal vector is the same one.

Obviously, hypersurfaces (codimension=1) are trivial. In a Euclidean sphere  $S^{n+p}(c)$  of constant curvature  $c$ , a remarkable class of submanifolds with isotropic second fundamental form is of order  $\{u_1, u_2\}$  for some natural numbers  $u_1, u_2 \geq 1$ , in which case submanifolds are Einstein (cf. [7]). In particular, compact homogeneous irreducible spaces and strongly harmonic manifolds all are submanifolds with

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isotropic second fundamental form<sup>[7]</sup>. In the complex projective space  $CP^{n+p}(c)$  of constant holomorphic sectional curvature  $c$ , a Kaehler submanifold of order  $\{k_1, k_2\}$  for some natural numbers  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  is one of this type submanifolds (cf. [9]). Particularly, seven compact Kaehler submanifolds with parallel second fundamental form in  $CP^{n+p}(c)$  are remarkable, which were exposed by H. Nakagawa-R. Takagi ([4]), M. Takeuchi ([12]) and A. Ros ([8]), respectively.

In this paper, by using the idea introduced by A. Ros, etc. in [3, 9], some curvature pinching theorems for compact minimal (resp. Kaehler) submanifolds in  $S^{n+p}(c)$  (resp.  $CP^{n+p}(c)$ ) with isotropic second fundamental form are given. In the case of real minimal submanifolds of  $S^{n+p}(c)$  our pinching condition characterizes the compact symmetric spaces of rank one (Theorem 1), of which the immersions are planar geodesic ([10]). In the case of Kaehler submanifolds of  $CP^{n+p}(c)$  a characterization of seven compact Kaehler submanifolds by Ricci curvature pinching is shown (Theorem 2), which was studied already by A. Ros in [8, 9].

Unless otherwise stated, manifolds are assumed to be connected and of real dimension  $\geq 2$ .

## § 1. Preliminaries

We begin with some notations and formulas following closely the expressions in [3]. Let  $M$  be an  $n$ -dimensional compact Riemannian manifold. We denote by  $UM$  the unit tangent bundle over  $M$  and by  $UM_p$  its fiber at  $p \in M$ . For any continuous function  $f: UM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , we have

$$\int_{UM} f dv = \int_M \left\{ \int_{UM_p} f dv_p \right\} dp,$$

where  $dp$ ,  $dv_p$  and  $dv$  stand for, the canonical measures on  $M$ ,  $UM_p$  and  $UM$  respectively.

Suppose now that  $M$  is minimally immersed in an  $(n+p)$ -dimensional Euclidean sphere  $S^{n+p}(c)$  of constant curvature  $c$ . Let  $\sigma$  be the second fundamental form of the minimal immersion and  $A_\xi$  the Weingarten endomorphism for a normal vector  $\xi$ . If  $T_p M$  and  $T_p^\perp M$  denote the tangent and normal spaces to  $M$  at  $p$ , one can define

$$L: T_p M \rightarrow T_p M \text{ and } T: T_p^\perp M \times T_p^\perp M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

by the expressions

$$Lv = \sum_{i=1}^n A_{\sigma(v, e_i)} e_i \text{ and } T(\xi, \eta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle A_\xi e_i, A_\eta e_i \rangle, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\{e_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $T_p M$ . By a modified version of Simons' formula given in [3], we have

$$0 = \frac{n-4}{3} \int_{UM} |(\nabla \sigma)(v, v, v)|^2 dv + (n+4) \int_{UM} |A_{\sigma(v,v)} v|^2 dv - 4 \int_{UM} \langle Lv, A_{\sigma(v,v)} v \rangle dv \\ - 2 \int_{UM} T(\sigma(v, v), \sigma(v, v)) dv + 2c \int_{UM} (\langle Lv, v \rangle - |\sigma(v, v)|^2) dv. \quad (1.2)$$

Let  $S$  and  $\rho$  be the Ricci tensor and the scalar curvature of  $M$ . It follows from the Gauss equation that

$$S(u, v) = (n-1)c \langle u, v \rangle - \langle Lu, v \rangle \quad (1.3)$$

and

$$\rho = n(n-1)c - \|\sigma\|^2, \quad (1.4)$$

where  $\|\sigma\|^2$  is the length square of  $\sigma$ .

Some useful formulas given in [3] are as follows ([3], Lemma 1):

$$\int_{UM_p} \langle Lv, A_{\sigma(v,v)} v \rangle dv_p = \frac{2}{n+2} \int_{UM_p} |Lv|^2 dv_p, \quad (1.5)$$

$$\int_{UM_p} \langle Lv, v \rangle dv_p = \frac{1}{n} \int_{UM_p} \|\sigma\|^2 dv_p, \quad (1.6)$$

$$\int_{UM_p} |\sigma(v, v)|^2 dv_p = \frac{2}{n(n+2)} \int_{UM_p} \|\sigma\|^2 dv_p. \quad (1.7)$$

Now, at any point  $p \in M$ , let  $f(v) = A_{\sigma(v,v)} v$  for  $v \in UM_p$ . By considering  $UM_p$  as a unit  $(n-1)$ -sphere, we have (cf. [3], p. 543)

$$-\int_{UM_p} \langle \Delta_v f, f \rangle dv_p \geq (n-1) \int_{UM_p} |f|^2 dv_p$$

and

$$(\Delta_v f)(v) = -3(n+1)f(v) + 4Lv,$$

where  $\Delta_v$  stands for the Laplacian of  $UM_p$ . Hence, it follows that

$$\int_{UM_p} |A_{\sigma(v,v)} v|^2 dv_p \geq \frac{2}{n+2} \int_{UM_p} \langle Tv, A_{\sigma(v,v)} v \rangle dv_p, \quad (1.8)$$

where the equality holds if and only if  $f$  is the first eigenfunction of  $\Delta_v$ , i. e.,

$$A_{\sigma(v,v)} v = \frac{2}{n+2} Lv.$$

For details for the geometry of Kaehler submanifolds see [5].

## §2. Minimal Submanifolds in a Sphere

In this section, we prove the following

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $M$  be an  $n$ -dimensional compact minimal submanifold immersed in  $S^{n+p}(c)$  with isotropic second fundamental form. If the Ricci curvature  $\text{Ric}(M)$  of  $M$  satisfies*

$$\text{Ric}(M) \geq \left\{ n-1 - \frac{p(n+2)}{2(n+p+2)} \right\} c, \quad (1.2)$$

*then  $M$  is either totally geodesic or a compact symmetric space of rank one.*

*Proof* Let  $Q$  be the function which assigns to each point of  $M$  the infimum of

the Ricci curvature of  $M$  at that point. Then, from (1.3) it follows that

$$0 \leq \langle Lv, v \rangle \leq (n-1)c - Q \quad (2.2)$$

for all  $v \in UM$ . If  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  is an orthonormal basis of  $T_p M$ ,  $p \in M$ , such that  $Le_i = \lambda_i e_i$ , we have  $\lambda_i = \langle Le_i, e_i \rangle \geq 0$  and

$$|Lv|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^2 \langle v, e_i \rangle^2 \leq [(n-1)c - Q] \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \langle v, e_i \rangle^2 = [(n-1)c - Q] \langle Lv, v \rangle, \quad (2.3)$$

where the equality implies that  $\lambda_i = (n-1)c - Q$  for all  $i=1, \dots, n$ , i. e., the Ricci curvature of  $M$  is equal to  $Q$  at  $p$ .

By (1.5), (1.6), (1.8) and (2.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (n+4) \int_{UM} |A_{\sigma(v,v)} v|^2 dv - 4 \int_{UM} \langle Lv, A_{\sigma(v,v)} v \rangle dv \\ & \geq - \frac{2n}{n+2} \int_{UM} \langle Lv, A_{\sigma(v,v)} v \rangle dv = - \frac{4n}{(n+2)^2} \int_{UM} |Lv|^2 dv \\ & \geq \frac{4}{(n+2)^2} \int_{UM} [Q - (n-1)c] \|\sigma\|^2 dv, \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

where the equality implies that the Ricci curvature of  $M$  is isotropic almost everywhere, so that  $M$  is Einsteinian because of the connectedness and compactness of  $M$ .

Since  $M$  has isotropic second fundamental form, one can see easily that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{UM} T(\sigma(v, v), \sigma(v, v)) dv &= \int_M \frac{\|\sigma\|^2}{p} \left\{ \int_{UM_p} |\sigma(v, v)|^2 dv_p \right\} dp \\ &= \frac{2}{np(n+2)} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^4 dv \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

according to (1.7).

Now, introducing (2.4) and (2.5) to (1.2) and using (1.6) and (1.7), we can get

$$\begin{aligned} 0 & \geq \frac{n+4}{3} \int_{UM} |(\nabla \sigma)(v, v, v)|^2 dv + \frac{2}{(n+2)^2} \int_{UM} [2Q - (n-4)c] \|\sigma\|^2 dv \\ & \quad - \frac{4}{np(n+2)} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^4 dv \\ & = \frac{n+4}{3} \int_{UM} |(\nabla \sigma)(v, v, v)|^2 dv + \frac{2}{n+2} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 \left\{ \frac{2Q - (n-4)c}{n+2} - \frac{2}{pn} \|\sigma\|^2 \right\} dv. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

On the other hand, from (1.4) we have

$$\|\sigma\|^2 = n(n-1)c - \rho \leq n(n-1)c - nQ, \quad (2.7)$$

which together with (2.6) yields

$$\begin{aligned} 0 & \geq \frac{n+4}{3} \int_{UM} |(\nabla \sigma)(v, v, v)|^2 dv \\ & \quad + \frac{4(n+p+2)}{p(n+2)^2} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 \left\{ Q - \left( n-1 - \frac{p(n+2)}{2(n+p+2)} \right) c \right\} dv. \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

Thus, under the hypothesis (2.1), (2.8) must be an equality, which implies that

(2.6) and (2.4) are equalities. Hence,  $M$  is Einsteinian and the equality in (2.7) holds, from which and (2.8) it follows that either  $\|\sigma\|^2=0$ , i. e.,  $M$  is totally geodesic, or

$$\|\sigma\|^2 = \frac{np(n+2)}{2(n+p+2)} \sigma. \quad (2.9)$$

Since  $M$  is Einsteinian, from (1.3) and (1.4) it follows that

$$Lv = \|\sigma\|^2 v / n \text{ for all } v \in UM. \quad (2.10)$$

Substituting (2.5) and (2.10) into (1.2) and using (1.6) and (1.7), we find

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = & \frac{n+4}{3} \int_{UM} |(\nabla\sigma)(v, v, v)|^2 dv + (n+4) \int_{UM} |A_{\sigma(v,v)}v|^2 dv - \frac{4(2p+n)}{n^2p(n+2)} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^4 dv \\ & + \frac{2c}{n+2} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 dv. \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

Now, fixed any point  $p \in M$ , let  $\alpha_v$  be the 1-form on  $UM_p (\cong S^{n-1})$  given by

$$\alpha_v(e) = |\sigma(v, v)|^2 \langle \sigma(v, v), \sigma(v, e) \rangle$$

with  $v \in UM_p$  and  $e \in T_v(UM_p)$ . If  $e_1, \dots, e_{n-1}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $T_v(UM_p)$ , then by a straightforward calculation one can easily see that the codifferential  $\delta\alpha_v$  of  $\alpha_v$  is

$$\delta\alpha_v = - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \tilde{\nabla}_{e_i} \alpha_v(e_i) = (n+6) |\sigma(v, v)|^4 - 4 |A_{\sigma(v,v)}v|^2 - 2 |\sigma(v, v)|^2 \cdot \|\sigma\|^2 / n,$$

where  $\tilde{\nabla}$  stands for the canonical connection on  $S^{n-1}$  and  $e_1, \dots, e_{n-1}, e_n = v$  is an orthonormal basis of  $T_p M$ . Integrating over  $UM_p$  and using

$$\int_{UM_p} \delta\alpha_v dv_p = 0,$$

we have

$$(n+6) \int_{UM_p} |\sigma(v, v)|^4 dv_p = 4 \int_{UM_p} |A_{\sigma(v,v)}v|^2 dv_p + \frac{4}{n^2(n+2)} \int_{UM_p} \|\sigma\|^4 dv_p. \quad (2.12)$$

By the Schwarz inequality we have

$$|\sigma(v, v)|^4 = \langle A_{\sigma(v,v)}v, v \rangle^2 \leq |A_{\sigma(v,v)}v|^2,$$

where the equality holds if and only if  $A_{\sigma(v,v)}v = \lambda v$ , i. e.,  $M$  is isotropic at  $p$  (cf. [6]). Thus, (2.12) can be rewritten as

$$\int_{UM_p} |A_{\sigma(v,v)}v|^2 dv_p \geq \frac{4}{n^2(n+2)^2} \int_{UM_p} \|\sigma\|^4 dv_p. \quad (2.13)$$

Introducing (2.13) into (2.11), we obtain finally

$$0 \geq \frac{n+4}{3} \int_{UM} |(\nabla\sigma)(v, v, v)|^2 dv + \frac{2}{n+2} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 \left\{ \sigma - \frac{2(n+p+2)}{np(n+2)} \|\sigma\|^2 \right\} dv. \quad (2.14)$$

In the case of (2.9) it is obvious that (2.14) becomes an equality, which implies that  $M$  is isotropic and  $\nabla\sigma=0$ , i. e.,  $M$  has parallel second fundamental form. Using [10] we conclude that  $M$  is a compact symmetric space of rank one. Thus, Theorem 1 is proved completely.

**Remark 1.** If  $M$  is Einsteinian, the condition (2.1) is equivalent to

$$\|\sigma\|^2 \leq \frac{np(n+2)}{2(n+p+2)} c,$$

which was shown in [3]. So, Theorem 1 may be regarded as a generalization of Lemma 5 in [3].

**Remark 2.** For  $p \geq 2(1+2/n)$  the pinching constant of (2.1) is not larger than  $(n-2)c$  obtained by N. Ejiri in [2]. Of course, we have imposed an additional condition that  $M$  has isotropic second fundamental form.

**Remark 3.** As is well known, the only compact symmetric 2-spaces of rank one are 2-spheres of constant Gauss curvature. Then, Theorem 1 together with the result of J. L. M. Barbosa in [1] yields the following

**Corollary 1.1** *Let  $M^2$  be a compact minimal surface in  $S^{2+p}(c)$  with isotropic second fundamental form. If the Gauss curvature of  $M^2$  is not less than  $(4-p)c/(4+p)$ , then  $M^2$  is either totally geodesic or an  $S^2(K)$  in  $S^{2m}(c)$  with  $K=2c/m(m+1)$  for some natural number  $m > 1$ .*

### §3. Kaehler Submanifolds in a Complex Projective Space

Let  $CP^{n+p}(c)$  be a complex projective space, of complex dimension  $n+p$ , with the Fubini-Study metric of constant holomorphic sectional curvature  $c$ . Suppose that  $M^n$  is a compact Kaehler submanifold, of complex dimension  $n$ , immersed in  $CP^{n+p}(c)$ . We denote by  $J$  the complex structure of  $CP^{n+p}(c)$  as well as that induced on  $M^n$ . Choose a local field of orthonormal frames  $e_1, \dots, e_{n+p}, e_{1*}, \dots, e_{(n+p)*} = Je_1, \dots, Je_{n+p}$  in  $CP^{n+p}(c)$  such that, restricted to  $M^n$ ,  $e_1, \dots, e_n, e_{1*}, \dots, e_{n*}$  are tangent to  $M^n$ . Throughout this section we use the following convention on the range of indices

$$\alpha, \beta = n+1, \dots, n+p; \lambda, \mu = n+1, \dots, n+p, (n+1)^*, \dots, (n+p)^*.$$

If we write  $A_\lambda$  for the Weingarten endomorphism  $A_e \lambda$  and  $S$  for the Ricci tensor of  $M^n$ , then (cf. [5])

$$S(u, v) = \frac{1}{2}(n+1)c \langle u, v \rangle - 2 \sum_{\alpha} \langle A_{\alpha}^2 v, u \rangle \quad (3.1)$$

for  $u, v \in UM$ . It follows that the scalar curvature  $\rho$  of  $M$  is

$$\rho = n(n+1)c - \|\sigma\|^2, \quad (3.2)$$

where

$$\|\sigma\|^2 = \sum_{\lambda} \text{tr} A_{\lambda}^2 = 2 \sum_{\alpha} \text{tr} A_{\alpha}^2. \quad (3.3)$$

We now prove the following

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $M^n$  be a compact Kaehler submanifold in  $CP^{n+p}(1)$  with*

isotropic second fundamental form. If the Ricci curvature  $\text{Ric}(M)$  of  $M^n$  satisfies

$$\text{Ric}(M) \geq n(n+p+1)/2(2p+n), \quad (3.4)$$

then  $M^n$  is either totally geodesic or an imbedded submanifold congruent to the standard imbedding of one of the following submanifolds:

Submanifolds	$n$	$p$	$\text{Ric}(M)$
$M_1 = CP^n(1/2)$	$n$	$n(n+1)/2$	$(n+1)/4$
$M_2 = Q^n$	$n$	1	$n/2$
$M_3 = CP^s(1) \times CP^s(1)$	$2s$	$s$	$(s+1)/2$
$M_4 = U(s+2)/U(s) \times U(2), s \geq 3$	$2s$	$s(s-1)/2$	$(s+2)/2$
$M_5 = SO(10)/U(5)$	10	5	4
$M_6 = E_6/\text{Spin}(10) \times T$	16	10	6

where  $n$  is the complex dimension,  $p$  the full complex codimension and  $\text{Ric}(M)$  the Ricci curvature of  $M^n$ .

*Proof* Let  $\Delta$  be the Laplacian on  $M^n$ . In [5] a formula of Simons' type for Kaehler submanifolds of  $CP^{n+2}(1)$  says that

$$\frac{1}{2} \Delta \|\sigma\|^2 = \|\nabla \sigma\|^2 - 8 \text{tr} \left( \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2 \right)^2 - \sum_{\lambda, \mu} (\text{tr } A_{\lambda} A_{\mu})^2 + \frac{1}{2} (n+2) \|\sigma\|^2. \quad (3.5)$$

Since  $M^n$  has isotropic second fundamental form, we have

$$\sum_{\lambda, \mu} (\text{tr } A_{\lambda} A_{\mu})^2 = \sum_{\lambda, \mu} \|T(e_{\lambda}, e_{\mu})\|^2 = \|\sigma\|^4 / 2p,$$

from which (3.5) may be reduced to

$$\frac{1}{2} \Delta \|\sigma\|^2 = \|\nabla \sigma\|^2 - 8 \text{tr} \left( \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2 \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2p} \|\sigma\|^4 + \frac{n+2}{2} \|\sigma\|^2. \quad (3.6)$$

On putting

$$c_R = n(n+p+1)/2(2p+n), \quad (3.7)$$

one can see from (3.1) and (3.4) that

$$\frac{1}{2} (n+1) \langle u, v \rangle - 2 \left\langle \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2 u, v \right\rangle \geq c_R \langle u, v \rangle. \quad (3.8)$$

Thus,  $\frac{1}{2} (n+1)I - 2 \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2$  is positively definite, where  $I$  stands for the identity.

Moreover, since  $A_{\alpha}$ 's are symmetric linear transformations,  $\sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2$  is positively semi-definite. So,  $\sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2$  and  $\frac{1}{2} (n+1)I - 2 \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2$  can be transformed simultaneously

by an orthogonal matrix into diagonal forms at each point of  $M^n$ . Hence, (3.8) implies that

$$\text{tr} \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{2} (n+1)I - 2 \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2 \right) \left( \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2 \right) \right\} \geq c_R \cdot (\text{tr} \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2),$$

i. e., by (3.3),

$$\left( \frac{n+1}{2} - c_R \right) \|\sigma\|^2 \geq 4 \text{tr} \left( \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^2 \right)^2, \quad (3.9)$$

where the equality holds if and only if the Ricci curvatures of  $M^n$  is equal to  $c_R$  at that point.

Substituting (3.7) and (3.9) into (3.6), we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \Delta \|\sigma\|^2 \geq \|\nabla \sigma\|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\sigma\|^2 \left\{ \frac{2n(n+p+1)}{2p+n} - n - \frac{1}{p} \|\sigma\|^2 \right\},$$

which together with the compactness of  $M^n$  yields

$$0 \geq \int_M \|\nabla \sigma\|^2 dp + \frac{1}{2} \int_M \left\{ \frac{n(n+2)}{2p+n} - \frac{1}{p} \|\sigma\|^2 \right\} dp. \quad (3.10)$$

From (3.2) and (3.4) one sees easily that

$$-\|\sigma\|^2 = \rho - n(n+1) \geq 2nc_R - n(n+1) = -\frac{pn(n+2)}{2p+n}, \quad (3.11)$$

which implies that the right-hand side of (3.10) is nonnegative. Hence, it follows from (3.10) and (3.11) that  $\nabla \sigma = 0$  and  $M^n$  is either totally geodesic or an Einstein-Kähler submanifold with Ricci curvature  $c_R$ . Now, the conclusion of Theorem 2 follows directly from the classification of Kähler submanifolds in  $OP^{n+p}(1)$  with parallel second fundamental form given in [4] (see also Table 1 in [9]). Theorem 2 is proved.

**Remark 4.** If  $M^n$  is Einstein-Kähler, the condition (3.4) is equivalent to  $\|\sigma\|^2 \leq np(n+2)/(2p+n)$ , which was shown in [9, Lemma 4.3].

**Remark 5.** Obviously, the pinching constant of (3.4) is not larger than  $n/2$ , which was given by K. Ogiue in [5] without the additional hypothesis that  $M^n$  has isotropic second fundamental form.

## § 4. On Sectional Curvature and Scalar Curvature

We return to the case of minimal submanifolds in  $S^{n+p}(c)$ .

By the equation (1.4) of the minimal immersion, usually, one transforms the study of the scalar curvature to that of the length square of second fundamental form, for which we have

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $M$  be an  $n$ -dimensional compact minimal submanifold immersed in  $S^{n+p}(c)$  with isotropic second fundamental form. If*

$$\|\sigma\|^2 \leq np(n+2)c/2(np+n+2) \quad (4.1)$$

*everywhere, then  $M$  is totally geodesic.*

*Proof* As has been done in the proof of Theorem 1, let  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  be an orthonormal basis of  $T_p M$  for a point  $p \in M$  such that  $Le_i = \lambda_i e_i$ . Since  $\lambda_i \geq 0$ , by using (1.3) and (1.4) we have

$$|Lv|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^2 \langle v, e_i \rangle^2 \leq \left( \sum_k \lambda_k \right) \left( \sum_i \lambda_i \langle v, e_i \rangle^2 \right) = \|\sigma\|^2 \langle Lv, v \rangle, \quad (4.2)$$



where the equality holds if and only if all  $\lambda_i = 0$  because of  $n \geq 2$ .

From (1.5), (1.6), (1.8) and (4.2) it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} (n+4) \int_{UM} |A_{\sigma(v,v)}|^2 dv - 4 \int_{UM} \langle Lv, A_{\sigma(v,v)} v \rangle dv &\geq - \frac{4n}{(n+2)^2} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 \langle Lv, v \rangle dv \\ &= - \frac{4n}{n(n+2)^2} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^4 dv. \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

Now, introducing (4.3) and (2.5) into (1.2) and using (1.6) and (1.7), we have

$$0 \geq \frac{n+4}{3} \int_{UM} |(\nabla \sigma)(v, v, v)|^2 dv + \frac{2}{n+2} \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 \left\{ c - \frac{2(np+n+2)}{np(n+2)} \|\sigma\|^2 \right\} dv, \quad (4.4)$$

where the equality implies that (4.2) becomes an equality, which yields  $\|\sigma\|^2 = 0$ , i. e.,  $M$  is totally geodesic. This proves Theorem 3.

**Remark 6.** When  $p \geq 3(n+2)/4$ , the pinching constant of (4.1) is not less than the well-known Simons' constant  $n/(2-1/p)$ .

Furthermore, employing (4.4), we prove the following

**Theorem 4.** Let  $M$  be an  $n$ -dimensional compact minimal submanifold immersed in  $S^{n+p}(c)$  with isotropic second fundamental form. If the sectional curvature of  $M$  is not less than

$$(2np+n+2)c/4(np+n+2) \quad (4.5)$$

everywhere, then  $M$  must be totally geodesic.

*Proof* Let  $K_M$  be the function which assigns to each point of  $M$  the infimum of the sectional curvature of  $M$  at that point. Then, the Yau's integral formula (10.1) in [12] says that

$$0 \geq \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 \{2nK_M + \|\sigma\|^2 - npc\} dv. \quad (4.6)$$

From (4.4) it follows that

$$0 \geq \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 \left\{ \frac{np(n+2)}{2(np+n+2)} c - \|\sigma\|^2 \right\} dv, \quad (4.7)$$

which together with (4.6) yields

$$0 \geq \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 \left\{ K_M - \frac{2np+n+2}{4(np+n+2)} c \right\} dv, \quad (4.8)$$

where the equality implies that either  $\|\sigma\|^2 = 0$  or  $K_M = (2np+n+2)c/4(np+n+2)$ . In latter case, (4.6) becomes

$$0 \geq \int_{UM} \|\sigma\|^2 \left\{ \|\sigma\|^2 - \frac{np(n+2)}{2(np+n+2)} c \right\} dv,$$

which makes (4.7) an equality as well as (4.4). This proves Theorem 4.

**Remark 7.** When  $p \geq 3(n+2)/4$ , our pinching constant (4.5) is not larger than the Yau's constant  $(p-1)/(2p-1)$ . [12].

For Kaehler submanifolds in  $CP^{n+p}(c)$  there are analogous results, which we

omit here.

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