

NOTES ON TANGENT SPHERE BUNDLES OF CONSTANT RADII

JEONGHYEONG PARK AND KOUEI SEKIGAWA

ABSTRACT. We show that the Riemannian geometry of a tangent sphere bundle of a Riemannian manifold (M, g) of constant radius r reduces essentially to the one of unit tangent sphere bundle of a Riemannian manifold equipped with the respective induced Sasaki metrics. Further, we provide some applications of this theorem on the η -Einstein tangent sphere bundles and certain related topics to the tangent sphere bundles.

1. Introduction

In the geometry of tangent bundles TM of Riemannian manifolds $M = (M, g)$, the Sasaki (lifted) metric is one of the most natural metrics (denoted it by \tilde{g} on TM) and the Riemannian geometry on (TM, \tilde{g}) has been studied by many authors [1, 3, 10, 11]. It is also well-known that the Sasaki metric \tilde{g} is compatible with the almost complex structure defined by taking account of the Levi-Civita connection with respect to the metric g and further, (J, \tilde{g}) gives rise to an almost Kähler structure on TM . Besides the Sasaki metric \tilde{g} , there is another well-known Riemannian metric on TM (denoted by \hat{g}) defined by Cheeger and Gromoll [5]. In the sequel, we shall call it the Cheeger-Gromoll metric on TM . The explicit expression of the metric \hat{g} was given by Musso and Tricerri [10]. The tangent sphere bundle $T_r(M, g)$ of (M, g) of constant radius r is regarded as a hypersurface of (TM, \tilde{g}) and in particular, $T_1(M, g)$ is called the unit tangent sphere bundle of (M, g) . It is interesting and useful to study the relation between the geometric properties of (M, g) and $T_r(M, g)$. We denote the induced Sasaki metric on $T_r(M, g)$ by g'_r , $T_1(M, g)$ by g'_1 and the rescaling metric $(4r^2)^{-1}g'_r$ by \bar{g}_r . By making use of the almost Kähler structure (J, \tilde{g}) , we can define the so-called standard contact metric structure $(\bar{g}_r, \phi, \xi, \eta)$. In our previous paper [4], we discussed the problem, “when is $T_1(M, g)$ equipped with the standard contact metric structure η -Einstein?”, and also raised the

Received April 17, 2008.

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 53C25, 53D10, 53B20.

Key words and phrases. tangent sphere bundle, contact metric structure, Sasaki metric, η -Einstein manifold.

This work was supported by the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation(KOSEF) grant funded by the Korea Government(MEST) (R01-2008-000-20370-0).

define the tangential lift of a vector X to $(p, u) \in T_r(M, g)$ by

$$(2.2) \quad X^t_{(p,u)} = X^v - \frac{1}{r^2}g(X, u)u^v.$$

Clearly, the tangent space $T_{(p,u)}(T_r(M, g))$ is spanned by the vectors of the forms X^h and X^v for $X \in T_p(M)(p \in M)$. With the induced Sasaki metric g'_r on $T_r(M, g)$, taking account of (2.2), we have

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{aligned} g'_r(X^t, Y^t) &= g(X, Y) - \frac{1}{r^2}g(X, u)g(Y, u), \\ g'_r(X^t, Y^h) &= 0, \\ g'_r(X^h, Y^h) &= g(X, Y) \end{aligned}$$

for all vector fields X, Y on M . We denote by ∇' the Levi-Civita connection of g'_r on $T_r(M, g)$. Then ∇' is given by

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \nabla'_{X^t}Y^t &= -\frac{1}{r^2}g(Y, u)X^t, \\ \nabla'_{X^t}Y^h &= \frac{1}{2}(R(u, X)Y)^h, \\ \nabla'_{X^h}Y^t &= (\nabla_X Y)^t + \frac{1}{2}(R(u, Y)X)^h, \\ \nabla'_{X^h}Y^h &= (\nabla_X Y)^h - \frac{1}{2}(R(X, Y)u)^t \end{aligned}$$

for all vector fields X, Y on M . Further, the curvature tensor R' of $(T_r(M, g), g'_r)$ is given by

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} R'(X^t, Y^t)Z^t &= -\frac{1}{r^2} \left(g(X, Z) - \frac{1}{r^2}g(X, u)g(Z, u) \right) Y^t \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{r^2} \left(g(Y, Z) - \frac{1}{r^2}g(Y, u)g(Z, u) \right) X^t, \\ R'(X^t, Y^t)Z^h &= \left\{ R \left(X - \frac{1}{r^2}g(X, u)u, Y - \frac{1}{r^2}g(Y, u)u \right) Z \right\}^h \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4}\{[R(u, X), R(u, Y)]Z\}^h, \\ R'(X^h, Y^t)Z^t &= -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ R \left(Y - \frac{1}{r^2}g(Y, u)u, Z - \frac{1}{r^2}g(Z, u)u \right) X \right\}^h \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4}\{R(u, Y)R(u, Z)X\}^h, \\ R'(X^h, Y^t)Z^h &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ R(X, Z) \left(Y - \frac{1}{r^2}g(Y, u)u \right) \right\}^t - \frac{1}{4}\{R(X, R(u, Y)Z)u\}^t \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}\{(\nabla_X R)(u, Y)Z\}^h, \end{aligned}$$

smooth functions. Based upon the theorems that α and β are constant on the η -Einstein tangent sphere bundles with constant radii [4, 7] and Theorem 1, we may have the following:

Theorem 4. *$(T_r(M, g), \bar{g}_r, \phi, \xi, \eta)$ is isomorphic with $(T_1(M, r^{-2}g), \overline{(r^{-2}g)}_1, \phi, \xi, \eta)$ as a contact metric manifold under the identity map, and hence, in particular, $(T_r(M, g), \bar{g}_r, \phi, \xi, \eta)$ is η -Einstein if and only if $(T_1(M, r^{-2}g), \overline{(r^{-2}g)}_1, \phi, \xi, \eta)$ is η -Einstein.*

In [4], we prove that the unit tangent sphere bundle $(T_1M, \bar{g}_1, \phi, \xi, \eta)$ of a 2-dimensional Riemannian manifold $M = (M, g)$ is η -Einstein if and only if M is of constant Gaussian curvature $\kappa = 0$ or 1 . Thus, taking account of Theorem 4, we see that $(T_rM, \bar{g}_r, \phi, \xi, \eta)$ is η -Einstein if and only if M is of constant Gaussian curvature $\kappa = 0$ or $\frac{1}{r^2}$ [7].

(III) Application 3.

The Cheeger-Gromoll metric (denoted it by \hat{g}) on the tangent bundle TM of a Riemannian manifold (M, g) is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{g}(X^v, Y^v) &= \frac{1}{1+r^2} (g(X, Y) + g(X, u)g(Y, u)), \\ \hat{g}(X^v, Y^h) &= 0, \\ \hat{g}(X^h, Y^h) &= g(X, Y), \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

at each point $(p, u) \in TM$ for all tangent vectors X, Y at $p \in M$. Here $r = |u|$ ([10, 11]).

Further, we denote by \hat{g}'_r the induced Cheeger-Gromoll metric on $T_r(M, g)$. Then, from (2.2) and (3.5), we may easily check that the metric \hat{g}'_r is given explicitly by

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{g}'_r(X^t, Y^t) &= \frac{1}{1+r^2} \left(g(X, Y) - \frac{1}{r^2} g(X, u)g(Y, u) \right), \\ \hat{g}'_r(X^t, Y^h) &= 0, \\ \hat{g}'_r(X^h, Y^h) &= g(X, Y), \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

at each point $(p, u) \in T_r(M, g)$ for all tangent vectors X, Y on M . Now, we define the diffeomorphism $f : T_r(M, g) \rightarrow T_{\frac{r}{\sqrt{1+r^2}}}(M, g)$ defined by

$$f : (p, u) \longmapsto \left(p, \frac{u}{\sqrt{1+r^2}} \right). \tag{3.7}$$

From (3.5), since $\hat{g}_{(p,u)}(u^v, u^v) = r^2(r = |u|)$ for any $u \in T_pM$, we may observe that the tangential lift of a vector X of M to $(p, u) \in T_r(M, g)$ with respect to the Cheeger-Gromoll metric \hat{g} takes the same form as (2.2). By the definition

lift of a tangent vector X at a point $p \in M$ to the point $u \in T_1(M, g^*)$ by X^{t*} and X^{h*} with respect to $(T(M, g^*), \tilde{g}^*)$ respectively. Then, we have

$$(4.1) \quad \begin{aligned} X^{t*} &= X^t, \\ X^{h*} &= X^h + \left(\frac{Xr}{r}\right)u^v + \left(\frac{ur}{r}\right)X^v - g(X, u)\left(\frac{\nabla r}{r}\right)^v \end{aligned}$$

at any point $(p, u) \in T_1(M, g^*)$, where X^h denotes the horizontal lift of X with respect to $(T(M, g), \tilde{g})$, and ∇r denotes the gradient vector of r . From (4.1), (2.2), (2.3), and (2.9), by direct calculations, we have the following:

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{aligned} (\overline{g^*})_1(X^t, Y^t) &= (\overline{g^*})_1(X^{t*}, Y^{t*}) = \frac{1}{4r^2} \left(g(X, Y) - \frac{1}{r^2}g(X, u)g(Y, u) \right) \\ &= \overline{g}_r(X^t, Y^t), \\ (\overline{g^*})_1(X^{t*}, Y^{h*}) &= 0, \\ \overline{g}_r(X^{t*}, Y^{h*}) &= \frac{1}{4r^2}g' \left(X^v - \frac{1}{r^2}g(X, u)u^v, Y^h + \frac{Yr}{r}u^v \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{ur}{r}Y^v - \frac{g(Y, u)}{r}(\nabla r)^v \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4r^2} \left(\frac{ur}{r}g(X, Y) - \frac{g(Y, u)}{r}Xr \right), \\ (\overline{g^*})_1(X^{h*}, Y^{h*}) &= \frac{1}{4r^2}g(X, Y), \\ \overline{g}_r(X^{h*}, Y^{h*}) &= \frac{1}{4r^2}g(X, Y) + \frac{1}{4r^2} \left\{ (Xr)(Yr) + \frac{(ur)^2}{r^2}g(X, Y) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{g(X, u)g(Y, u)}{r^2}|\nabla r|^2 - \frac{ur}{r^2}g(Y, u)Xr - \frac{ur}{r^2}g(X, u)Yr \right\} \end{aligned}$$

for any tangent vectors X, Y and $u \in T_r(M, g)$.

From (4.2), we immediately have the following:

Theorem 6. *Let r be a positive valued smooth function on M . Then, $(T_r(M, g), \overline{g}_r)$ is isometric to $(T_1(M, g^*), (\overline{g^*})_1)$ under the identity map if and only if r is a constant valued function on M , where $g^* = r^{-2}g$.*

We may define an almost contact metric structure $(\overline{g}_r, \phi, \xi, \eta)$ on $T_r(M, g)$ in a similar way as in the case of the constant radius which is called the standard contact metric structure. We denote by $(\overline{g^*}, \phi^*, \xi^*, \eta^*)$ the standard contact metric structure on $T_1(M, g^*)$. Let N and N^* be the unit vectors to $T_r(M, g)(= T_1(M, g^*))$ with respect to the Riemannian metric \tilde{g} and \tilde{g}^* on TM , respectively. Then, taking account of (4.1), we see that N and N^* are give by

$$(4.3) \quad N = \frac{1}{r\sqrt{1 + |\nabla r|^2}}(u^v - r(\nabla r)^h), \quad N^* = u^v.$$

We see also that the vectors X^t and $X^{h'} \equiv X^h + \frac{Xr}{r}u^v$ are tangent to $T_r(M, g)$. Thus, from (4.1) and (4.3), by direct computation, we have the following equalities:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \xi &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{1 + |\nabla r|^2}}(u^h + r(\nabla r)^v), \\
 \xi^* &= 2u^h + \frac{4ur}{r}u^v - 2r(\nabla r)^v, \\
 \phi X^t &= -X^h + \frac{1}{r^2}g(X, u)u^h \\
 &\quad + \frac{r^2Xr - g(X, u)ur}{r^2(1 + |\nabla r|^2)}(\nabla r)^h - \frac{r^2Xr - g(X, u)ur}{r^3(1 + |\nabla r|^2)}u^v \\
 \phi^* X^t &= -X^h + \frac{1}{r^2}g(X, u)u^h - \frac{Xr}{r}u^v - \frac{ur}{r}X^v + \frac{2ur}{r^3}g(X, u)u^v, \\
 \phi X^{h*} &= X^v - \frac{Xr}{r}u^h - \frac{ur}{r}X^h - \frac{2(Xr)ur + (1 - |\nabla r|^2)g(X, u)}{r^2(1 + |\nabla r|^2)}u^v \\
 &\quad + \frac{2(g(X, u) + (Xr)ur)}{1 + |\nabla r|^2} \left(\frac{\nabla r}{r} \right)^h, \\
 \phi^* X^{h*} &= X^t.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.4}$$

Thus, from (4.4) and Theorem 6, we have immediately the following:

Theorem 7. *Let r be a smooth positive function on M . Then, the almost contact structure (ϕ, ξ, η) and the contact structure (ϕ^*, ξ^*, η^*) on $T_r(M, g)$ coincide if and only if r is constant on M . If r is constant on M , then the contact metric structures $(\bar{g}_r, \phi, \xi, \eta)$ and $((g^*)_1, \phi^*, \xi^*, \eta^*)$ ($g^* = r^{-2}g$) coincide.*

Relating to the Theorems 4, 6, and 7, the following question naturally arises.

Question. Does there exist a non-constant positive valued smooth function r on M such that the almost contact structure (ϕ, ξ, η) (resp. the almost contact metric structure $(\bar{g}_r, \phi, \xi, \eta)$) is a contact structure (resp. a contact metric structure) on $T_r(M, g)$?

Further, it is also worthwhile to discuss the relation between the standard almost contact metric structure $(\bar{g}_r, \phi, \xi, \eta)$ and the standard contact metric structure $((g^*)_1, \phi^*, \xi^*, \eta^*)$ on $T_r(M, g)$.

References

- [1] M. T. K. Abbassi and O. Kowalski, *On g -natural metrics with constant scalar curvature on unit tangent sphere bundles*, Topics in almost Hermitian geometry and related fields, 1–29, World Sci. Publ., Hackensack, NJ, 2005.
- [2] E. Boeckx, *When are the tangent sphere bundles of a Riemannian manifold reducible?*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **355** (2003), no. 7, 2885–2903.
- [3] E. Boeckx and L. Vanhecke, *Unit tangent sphere bundles with constant scalar curvature*, Czechoslovak Math. J. **51(126)** (2001), no. 3, 523–544.

- [4] Y. D. Chai, S. H. Chun, J. H. Park, and K. Sekigawa, *Remarks on η -Einstein unit tangent bundles*, *Monatsh. Math.* **155** (2008), no. 1, 31–42.
- [5] J. Cheeger and D. Gromoll, *On the structure of complete manifolds of nonnegative curvature*, *Ann. of Math. (2)* **96** (1972), 413–443.
- [6] J. T. Cho and J.-I. Inoguchi, *Pseudo-symmetric contact 3-manifolds. II. When is the tangent sphere bundle over a surface pseudo-symmetric?*, *Note Mat.* **27** (2007), no. 1, 119–129.
- [7] S. H. Chun, J. H. Park, and K. Sekigawa, *Remarks on η -Einstein tangent sphere bundles of radius r* , preprint.
- [8] O. Kowalski and M. Sekizawa, *On tangent sphere bundles with small or large constant radius*, Special issue in memory of Alfred Gray (1939–1998). *Ann. Global Anal. Geom.* **18** (2000), no. 3-4, 207–219.
- [9] ———, *On the scalar curvature of tangent sphere bundles with arbitrary constant radius*, *Bull. Greek Math. Soc.* **44** (2000), 17–30.
- [10] E. Musso and F. Tricerri, *Riemannian metrics on tangent bundles*, *Ann. Mat. Pura Appl. (4)* **150** (1988), 1–19.
- [11] M. Sekizawa, *Curvatures of tangent bundles with Cheeger-Gromoll metric*, *Tokyo J. Math.* **14** (1991), no. 2, 407–417.

JEONGHYEONG PARK
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
SUNGKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY
SUWON 440-746, KOREA
E-mail address: parkj@skku.edu

KOUEI SEKIGAWA
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
FACULTY OF SCIENCE
NIIGATA UNIVERSITY
NIIGATA, 950-2181, JAPAN
E-mail address: sekigawa@math.sc.niigata-u.ac.jp