J. Appl. Math. & Informatics Vol. 40(2022), No. 5 - 6, pp. 831 - 842 https://doi.org/10.14317/jami.2022.831

ON TRANSLATION SURFACES WITH ZERO GAUSSIAN CURVATURE IN LORENTZIAN SOL₃ SPACE

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ABSTRACT. In this work we classified translation invariant surfaces with zero Gaussian curvature in the 3–dimensional Sol Lie group endowed with Lorentzian metric.

AMS Mathematics Subject Classification : 49Q20, 53C22. *Key words and phrases* : Flat Surfaces, homogeneous space, Lorentzian metric.

1. Introduction

During the recent years, there has been a rapidly growing interest in the geometry of surfaces in the homogeneous space Sol_3 focusing on minimal and constant mean curvature and totally umbilic surfaces. This was initiated by R.Souam and E.Toubiana [24, 25], and by R.Lopez and M.I.Munteanu [14, 15]. More general many works are devoted to studying the geometry of surfaces in 3-homogeneous space Sol_3 . See for example [16],[13],[18],[10],[19].

The Sol_3 geometry is eight models geometry of Thurston, see [27] .It is a Lie group endowed with a left-invariant metric, it is a homogeneous simply connected 3-manifold with a 3-dimensional isometry group, see [8].It is isometric to \mathbb{R}^3 equipped with the Lorentzian metric

$$ds^2 = e^{2z} dx^2 - e^{-2z} dy^2 + dz^2.$$

where (x, y, z) the usual coordinates of \mathbb{R}^3 . The group structure of Sol_3 is given by

$$(x', y', z') \star (x, y, z) = (e^{-z'}x + x', e^{z'}y + y', z + z').$$

The isometries are

$$(x, y, z) \mapsto (\pm e^{-c}x + a, \pm e^{c}y + b, z + c)$$

Received April 15, 2021. Revised March 5, 2022 . Accepted March 6, 2022. $\ ^* {\rm Corresponding}$ author.

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where a, b end c are any real numbers.

A left-invariant orthonormal frame $\{E_1, E_2, E_3\}$ in the Lorentzian Sol_3 Lie group is given by

$$E_1 = e^{-z} \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \ E_2 = e^z \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \ E_3 = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}.$$
 (1)

The Levi-Civita connection ∇ of the Lorentzian Sol_3 Lie group with respect to this frame is

$$\begin{cases} \nabla_{E_1} E_1 = -E_3, \nabla_{E_1} E_2 = 0, \nabla_{E_1} E_3 = E_1 \\ \nabla_{E_2} E_1 = 0, \nabla_{E_2} E_2 = -E_3, \nabla_{E_2} E_3 = -E_2 \\ \nabla_{E_3} E_1 = 0, \nabla_{E_3} E_2 = 0, \nabla_{E_3} E_3 = 0. \end{cases}$$
(2)

The non-vanishing curvature tensor R components are computed as

$$\begin{cases}
R(E_1, E_2)E_1 = -E_2, R(E_1, E_2)E_2 = -E_1 \\
R(E_1, E_3)E_1 = E_3, R(E_1, E_3)E_3 = -E_1 \\
R(E_2, E_3)E_2 = -E_3, R(E_2, E_3)E_3 = -E_2.
\end{cases}$$
(3)

The Ricci curvature components $\{Ric_{ij}\}\$ are computed as

$$Ric_{11} = Ric_{12} = Ric_{13} = Ric_{23} = Ric_{22} = 0, \ Ric_{33} = -2.$$
(4)

The scalar curvature τ of the Lorentzian Sol_3 Lie group is constant and we have

$$\tau = trRic = \sum_{i=1}^{3} g(E_i, E_i)Ric(E_i, E_i) = -2.$$
 (5)

2. Flat Translation Surfaces in Lorentzian Sol₃ space

2.1. In this section we classified complete flat translation surfaces (Σ) in Lorentzian Sol_3 space which are invariant under the one parameter group of isometries $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x, y + c, z)$. Clearly, such a surface is generated by a curve γ in the totally geodesic plane $\{y = 0\}$. Discarding the trivial case of a vertical plane $\{x = x_0\}$, we can assume that γ is locally is a graph over the x-axis. Thus γ is given by $\gamma(x) = (x, 0, z(x))$. Therefore the generated surface is parameterized by

$$X(x,y) = (x, y, z(x)), \ (x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

We have an orthogonal pair of vector fields on (Σ) , namely,

$$e_1 := X_x = (1, 0, z') = e^z E_1 + z' E_3.$$

and

$$e_2 := X_y = (0, 1, 0) = e^{-z} E_2.$$

The coefficients of the first fundamental form are:

$$E = \langle e_1, e_1 \rangle = z'^2 + e^{2z}, \ F = \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle = 0, \ G = \langle e_2, e \rangle = -e^{-2z}.$$

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As a unit normal field we can take

$$N = \frac{-z'e^{-z}}{\sqrt{1+z'^2e^{-2z}}}E_1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+z'^2e^{-2z}}}E_3$$

The covariant derivatives are

$$\begin{split} \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1} e_1 &= 2z' e^z E_1 + (z'' - e^{2z}) E_3 \\ \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1} e_2 &= -z' e^{-z} E_2 \\ \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_2} e_2 &= -e^{-2z} E_3. \end{split}$$

The coefficients of the second fundamental form are

$$\begin{split} l = &< \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1} e_1, N > = \frac{-2z'^2 + z'' - e^{2z}}{\sqrt{1 + z'^2 e^{-2z}}} \\ m = &< \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1} e_2, N > = 0 \\ n = &< \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_2} e_2, N > = \frac{-e^{-2z}}{\sqrt{1 + z'^2 e^{-2z}}}. \end{split}$$

Let K_{ext} be the extrinsic Gauss curvature of (Σ) ,

$$K_{ext} = \frac{ln - m^2}{EG - F^2} = -\frac{-2z'^2 e^{-2z} + z'' e^{-2z} - 1}{(1 + z'^2 e^{-2z})^2}.$$
 (6)

In order to obtain the intrinsic Gauss curvature K_{int} , recall that $K_{int} = K_{ext} + K(e_1 \wedge e_2)$, where $K(e_1 \wedge e_2)$ is the sectional curvature of each tangent plane spanned by e_1 and e_2 , and

$$K(e_1 \wedge e_2) = \frac{\langle R(e_1, e_2)e_2, e_1 \rangle}{\langle e_1, e_1 \rangle \langle e_2, e_2 \rangle - \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle^2}$$

where

$$R(e_1, e_2)e_2 = \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1}\widetilde{\nabla}_{e_2}e_2 - \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_2}\widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1}e_2 - \widetilde{\nabla}_{[e_1, e_2]}e_2$$

Now we easily compute

$$\widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1}\widetilde{\nabla}_{e_2}e_2 = -e^{-z}E_1 + 2z'e^{-2z}E_3$$
$$\widetilde{\nabla}_{e_2}\widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1}e_2 = z'e^{-2z}E_3$$
$$\widetilde{\nabla}_{[e_1,e_2]}e_2 = 0.$$

Thus we have

$$K(e_1 \wedge e_2) = -\frac{1 - z'^2 e^{-2z}}{1 + z'^2 e^{-2z}}$$

Consequently, the intrinsic Gauss curvature is

$$K_{int} = -\frac{e^{-2z}[z'' - 2z'^2 - z'^4 e^{-2z}]}{(1 + z'^2 e^{-2z})^2}.$$
(7)

So that (Σ) is a flat surface in Lorentzian Sol_3 if and only if

$$K_{int} = 0,$$

that is, if and only if

$$z'' - 2z'^2 - z'^4 e^{-2z} = 0 \tag{8}$$

to classify flat surfaces must solve the equation (8)We note that for z equal to a constant $(z = z_0)$ is a solution of the equation (8). If z is not constant $(z' \neq 0)$, suppose that z' = p, and

$$z'' = \frac{dp}{dx} = \frac{dp}{dz}\frac{dz}{dx} = p.p'(z)$$

equation (8) becomes

$$p.p' = 2p^2 + p^4 e^{-2z}$$

or

$$p^{-3}.p' = 2p^{-2} + e^{-2z}.$$
(9)

and suppose that $p^{-2} = h$, equation (9) becomes

$$\frac{-1}{2}h' = 2h + e^{-2z}.$$
 (10)

homogeneous solutions of equation (10) is

$$h(z) = K.e^{-4z}.$$

and general solutions of the equation (10) is

$$h(z) = e^{-4z}(a - e^{2z}),$$

where $a \in \mathbb{R}^{*,+}$ and $z \in]-\infty, \ln(\sqrt{a})[$. Therefore

$$p(z) = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{h(z)}} = \pm \frac{e^{2z}}{\sqrt{a - e^{2z}}}.$$

and we have

$$z' = \pm \frac{e^{2z}}{\sqrt{a - e^{2z}}}.$$

or

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = \pm \frac{e^{2z}}{\sqrt{a - e^{2z}}}$$

so separating variables, we obtain

$$\int dx = \int \pm \frac{\sqrt{a - e^{2z}}}{e^{2z}} dz$$

i.e

$$x = \pm \int \frac{\sqrt{a - e^{2z}}}{e^{2z}} dz + \alpha,$$

where $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. we substitute $\tanh(t) = \frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}$, $dz = -\tanh(t)dt$, and $e^{2z} = \frac{a}{\cosh^2(t)}$, therefore

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{a - e^{2z}}}{e^{2z}} dz = -\frac{-1}{\sqrt{a}} \int \sinh^2(t) dt = -\frac{1}{8\sqrt{a}} [e^{2t} - e^{-2t}] + \frac{t}{2\sqrt{a}},$$

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and as
$$t = \operatorname{arc} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \ln\left(\frac{1+\frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}}{1-\frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}}\right)$$
, thus

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{e^{2z}} dz = -\frac{1}{8\sqrt{a}} \left[\left(\frac{\sqrt{a}+\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}-\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}\right) - \left(\frac{\sqrt{a}-\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}+\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}\right) \right] + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{a}} \operatorname{arc} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}\right)$$

and is calculated by the following

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{a - e^{2z}}}{e^{2z}} dz = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{a}} \operatorname{arc} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{a - e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}\right) - \frac{\sqrt{a - e^{2z}}}{2e^{2z}}.$$

Therefore

$$x(z) = \pm \left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{a}} \operatorname{arc} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}\right) - \frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{2e^{2z}}\right) + \alpha$$

As conclusion, we have

Theorem 2.1. • The only non extendable flat translation surfaces in Lorentzian Sol_3 space which are invariant under the one parameter group of isometries $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x, y + c, z)$, are the surfaces whose parametrization is X(x, y) = (x, y, z(x)) where x and z satisfy

$$x = \pm \left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{a}}arc \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}\right) - \frac{\sqrt{a-e^{2z}}}{2e^{2z}}\right) + \alpha.$$

where $a \in \mathbb{R}^{*,+}$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $z \in]-\infty, \ln(\sqrt{a})[$.

•In particular the only complete flat translation surfaces in Lorentzian Sol₃ space which are invariant under the one parameter group of isometries $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x, y + c, z)$, are the planes $z = z_0$.

Theorem 2.2. • The only complete extrinsically flat translation surfaces in Lorentzian Sol₃ space which are invariant under the one parameter group of isometries $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x, y + c, z)$, are parameterized by

$$X(x,y) = \left(x, y, \ln\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{-x^2 + 2\lambda x + \mu}}\right)\right),$$

where $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\lambda^2 + 2\mu > 0 \ \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x \in]\lambda - \sqrt{\lambda^2 + 2\mu}, \lambda + \sqrt{\lambda^2 + 2\mu}[$.

Proof. We know that Σ is extrinsically surface if and only if $K_{ext} = 0$, and we have $K_{ext} = 0$ equivalent to

$$2z'^2e^{-2z} - z''e^{-2z} = -1.$$



we remark that $2z'^2 e^{-2z} - z'' e^{-2z} = (-z'e^{-2z})'$, thus $-z'e^{-2z} = -x + \lambda$,

where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, and we integrate the equation 11

$$z(x) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{-x^2 + 2\lambda + 2\mu}}\right),$$

where $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\lambda^2 + 2\mu > 0 \ \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x \in [\lambda - \sqrt{\lambda^2 + 2\mu}, \lambda + \sqrt{\lambda^2 + 2\mu}[$.

(11)

2.2. In this section we classified complete flat translation surfaces (Σ) in Lorentzian Sol_3 space which are invariant under the one parameter group of isometries $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x + c, y, z)$. Clearly, such a surface is generated by a curve β in the totally geodesic plane $\{x = 0\}$. Discarding the trivial case of a vertical plane $\{y = y_0\}$, we can assume that β is locally is a graph over the y-axis. Thus β is given by $\beta(y) = (0, y, z(y))$. Therefore the generated surface is parameterized by

$$X(x,y) = (x, y, z(y)), \ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

We have an orthogonal pair of vector fields on (Σ) , namely,

$$e_1 := X_x = (1, 0, 0) = e^z E_1.$$

and

$$e_2 := X_y = (0, 1, z') = e^{-z}E_2 + z'E_3$$

The coefficients of the first fundamental form are:

$$E = \langle e_1, e_1 \rangle = e^{2z}, \ F = \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle = 0, \ G = \langle e_2, e_2 \rangle = z'^2 - e^{-2z}.$$

As a unit normal field we can take

$$N = \frac{z'e^z}{\sqrt{|-1+z'^2e^{2z}|}}E_2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{|-1+z'^2e^{2z}|}}E_3$$

The covariant derivatives are

$$\nabla_{e_1} e_1 = -e^{2z} E_3,$$

$$\widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1} e_2 = z' e^z E_1,$$

$$\widetilde{\nabla}_{e_2} e_2 = -2z' e^{-z} E_2 + (z'' - e^{-2z}) E_3.$$

The coefficients of the second fundamental form are

$$\begin{split} l = &< \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1} e_1, N > = \frac{-e^{2z}}{\sqrt{|-1+z'^2 e^{2z}|}} \\ m = &< \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_1} e_2, N > = 0 \\ n = &< \widetilde{\nabla}_{e_2} e_2, N > = \frac{2z'^2 + z'' - e^{-2z}}{\sqrt{|-1+z'^2 e^{2z}|}}. \end{split}$$

Let K_{ext} be the extrinsic Gauss curvature of (Σ) ,

$$K_{ext} = \frac{ln - m^2}{EG - F^2} = \frac{2z'^2 e^{2z} + z'' e^{2z} - 1}{(-1 + z'^2 e^{2z})^2}.$$
 (12)

In order to obtain the intrinsic Gauss curvature K_{int} , recall that $K_{int} = K_{ext} + K(e_1 \wedge e_2)$, where $K(e_1 \wedge e_2)$ is the sectional curvature of each tangent plane spanned by e_1 and e_2 , and

$$K(e_1 \wedge e_2) = \frac{\langle R(e_1, e_2)e_2, e_1 \rangle}{\langle e_1, e_1 \rangle \langle e_2, e_2 \rangle - \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle^2}$$
$$= \frac{R_{1212} + z'^2 R_{1313}}{-1 + z'^2 e^{2z}}$$

$$= \frac{-1 - z'^2 e^{2z}}{-1 + z'^2 e^{2z}}.$$

Consequently, the intrinsic Gauss curvature is

$$K_{int} = \frac{e^{2z} [z'' + 2z'^2 - z'^4 e^{2z}]}{(-1 + z'^2 e^{2z})^2}.$$
(13)

So that (Σ) is a flat surface in Lorentzian Sol_3 if and only if

$$K_{int} = 0,$$

that is, if and only if

$$z'' + 2z'^2 - z'^4 e^{2z} = 0 (14)$$

to classify flat surfaces must solve the equation (14) We note that for z equal to a constant $(z = z_0 \in \mathbb{R})$ is a solution of the equation (14).

If z is not constant $(z' \neq 0)$, suppose that z' = q, and

$$z'' = \frac{dq}{dx} = \frac{dq}{dz}\frac{dz}{dx} = q.q'(z)$$

equation (14) becomes

$$q.q' = -2q^2 + q^4 e^{2z}.$$

 or

$$q^{-3}.q' = -2q^{-2} + e^{2z}.$$
(15)

and suppose that $q^{-2} = g$, equation (15) becomes

$$\frac{-1}{2}g' = -2g + e^{2z}.$$
 (16)

homogeneous solutions of equation (16) is

$$g(z) = K.e^{4z}.$$

and general solutions of the equation (16) is

$$g(z) = e^{4z}(a + e^{-2z}),$$

$$\infty \ln(-\frac{1}{2})[$$
 Therefore

where $a \in \mathbb{R}^{*,-}$ and $z \in]-\infty, \ln(\frac{1}{\sqrt{-a}})[$. Therefore

$$q(z) = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{g(z)}} = \pm \frac{e^{-2z}}{\sqrt{a + e^{-2z}}}$$

and we have

$$z' = \pm \frac{e^{-2z}}{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}.$$

or

$$\frac{dz}{dy} = \pm \frac{e^{-2z}}{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}$$

so separating variables, we obtain

$$\int dy = \int \pm \frac{\sqrt{a + e^{-2z}}}{e^{-2z}} dz$$

i.e

$$y = \int \pm \frac{\sqrt{a + e^{-2z}}}{e^{-2z}} dz + \delta,$$

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where $\delta \in \mathbb{R}$. we substitute $\tanh(t) = \frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}$, $dz = \tanh(t)dt$, and $e^{-2z} = \frac{a}{\cosh^2(t)} = a(1 - \tanh^2(t))$, therefore

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{e^{-2z}} dz = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} \int \sinh^2(t) dt = -\frac{1}{8\sqrt{a}} [e^{2t} - e^{-2t}] + \frac{t}{2\sqrt{a}}$$

and as $t = \operatorname{arc} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \ln\left(\frac{1+\frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}}{1-\frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}}\right)$, thus

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{e^{-2z}} dz = -\frac{1}{8\sqrt{a}} \left[\left(\frac{\sqrt{a}+\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{a}-\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}} \right) - \left(\frac{\sqrt{a}-\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{a}+\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}} \right) \right] + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{a}} \operatorname{arc} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{a}} \right)$$

and is calculated by the following

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{e^{-2z}} dz = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{a}} \operatorname{arc} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}\right) + \frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{2e^{-2z}}.$$

As conclusion, we have

Theorem 2.3. • The only non extendable flat translation surfaces in Lorentzian Sol_3 which are invariant under the one parameter group of isometries $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x+c, y, z)$, are the surfaces whose parametrization is X(x, y) = (x, y, z(y)) where y and z satisfy

$$y = \pm \left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{a}} \operatorname{arc} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{a}}\right) + \frac{\sqrt{a+e^{-2z}}}{2e^{-2z}}\right) + \delta,$$

where $a \in \mathbb{R}^{*,-}$, $\delta \in \mathbb{R}$ and $z \in]-\infty, \ln(\frac{1}{\sqrt{-a}})[$.

•In particular the only complete flat translation surfaces in Lorentzian Sol₃ which are invariant under the one parameter group of isometries $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x + c, y, z)$, are the planes $z = z_0$.

Theorem 2.4. • The only complete extrinsically flat translation surfaces in Lorentzian Sol₃ which are invariant under the one parameter group of isometries $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x + c, y, z)$, are parameterized by

$$X(x,y) = \left(x, y, \ln\left(\sqrt{y^2 + 2\lambda y + \mu}\right)\right),$$

where $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\lambda^2 - 2\mu > 0 \ \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $y \in]-\infty, \lambda - \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 2\mu}[\cup]\lambda + \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 2\mu}, +\infty[.$

Proof. We know that Σ is extrinsically flat surface if and only if $K_{ext} = 0$, and we have $K_{ext} = 0$ equivalent to

$$2z'^2e^{2z} + z''e^{2z} = 1.$$

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FIGURE 2. Non extendable flat surface in Lorentzian Sol_3 : $y(z) = \pm \left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{0.2}} arc \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{0.2 - e^{-2z}}}{\sqrt{0.2}}\right) - \frac{\sqrt{0.2 - e^{-2z}}}{2e^{-2z}}\right) + 2, a = 0.2, z = -0.5..6, x = -4..8$.

we remark that $2z'^2e^{2z} + z''e^{2z} = (z'e^{2z})'$, thus

$$z'e^{2z} = y + \lambda, \tag{17}$$

where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, and we integrate the equation 17

$$z(y) = \ln\left(\sqrt{y^2 + 2\lambda y + 2\mu}\right)$$

where $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\lambda^2 - 2\mu > 0$ $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $y \in] -\infty, \lambda - \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 2\mu}[\cup]\lambda + \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 2\mu}, +\infty[.$

Acknowledgements : The authors would like to thank the Referees for all helpful comments and suggestions that have improved the quality of our initial manuscript. The authors were supported by The National Agency Scientific Research (DGRSDT).

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