

TRANSVERSE FIELDS PRESERVING THE TRANSVERSE RICCI FIELD OF A FOLIATION

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1. Introduction

Let (M, g, \mathcal{F}) be a connected, orientable, closed, $p+q$ dimensional Riemannian manifold with a transversally orientable foliation \mathcal{F} of codimension q and a bundle-like metric g with respect to \mathcal{F} . Let Ric_D be the transverse Ricci field of \mathcal{F} with respect to the transverse Riemannian connection D , where D is a torsion-free and g_Q -metrical connection on the normal bundle Q of \mathcal{F} . We consider the transverse projective (or, conformal, Killing) fields of \mathcal{F} . It is trivial that a transverse Killing field s of \mathcal{F} preserves the transverse Ricci field of \mathcal{F} , that is, $\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D=0$. Here we denote by $\Theta(s)$ the transverse Lie differentiation with respect to s . The purpose of this note is to prove the following theorems:

THEOREM A. *Let (M, g, \mathcal{F}) be as above. Suppose that \mathcal{F} is harmonic and $q \geq 2$. If a transverse conformal field s of \mathcal{F} satisfies $\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D=0$, then s is a transverse Killing field of \mathcal{F} .*

THEOREM B. *Let (M, g, \mathcal{F}) be as above. Suppose that \mathcal{F} is harmonic and $q \geq 2$. If a transverse projective field s of \mathcal{F} satisfies $\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D=0$, then s is a transverse Killing field of \mathcal{F} .*

If we consider the case of foliation by points, then the above theorems imply the well-known results ([1]): Let (M, g) be a connected, orientable and closed Riemannian manifold, and let Ric be the Ricci tensor field of type $(0, 2)$ on M . If a conformal (or, projective) vector field Y on M satisfies $\theta(Y)\text{Ric}=0$, then Y is a Killing vector field on M , where $\theta(Y)$ denotes the Lie differentiation with respect to Y .

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We shall be in C^∞ -category and deal only with connected, orientable, and closed (=compact and without boundary) manifolds. We assume that foliations are transversally orientable. We use the following convention on the range of indices: $1 \leq i, j, \dots \leq p$, $p+1 \leq \alpha, \beta, \dots \leq p+q$. The Einstein summation convention will be used.

2. Preliminaries

Let (M, g, \mathcal{F}) be a $p+q$ dimensional foliated Riemannian manifold with a foliation \mathcal{F} of codimension q and a bundle-like metric g in the sense of Reinhart [8]. The foliation \mathcal{F} defines an integrable subbundle E of the tangent bundle TM over M . The quotient bundle $Q=TM/E$ is called the normal bundle of \mathcal{F} . Let $\pi : TM \longrightarrow Q$ be the natural projection. The metric g defines a map $\sigma : Q \longrightarrow TM$ with $\pi \circ \sigma =$ identity and induces a metric g_Q in Q ([2], [6]). The transverse Riemannian connection D is a connection in Q that is torsionfree and metrical with respect to g_Q ([2], [6], [9]).

In a flat chart $U(x^i, x^\alpha)$ with respect to \mathcal{F} ([8]), a local frame field $\{X_i, X_\alpha\} = \{\partial/\partial x^i, \partial/\partial x^\alpha - A^j_\alpha \partial/\partial x^j\}$ is called the basic adapted frame field of \mathcal{F} ([6], [8], [10]). Here A^j_α are functions on U with $g(X_i, X_\alpha) = 0$. It is trivial that $\{X_i\}$ (resp. $\{X_\alpha\}$) spans $\Gamma(E|_U)$ (resp. $\Gamma(E^\perp|_U)$), where $E^\perp = \sigma(Q)$ denotes the orthogonal complement bundle of E in TM . Hereafter, we omit the term " $|_U$ " for simplicity. We set that $g_{ij} = g(X_i, X_j)$, $g_{\alpha\beta} = g(X_\alpha, X_\beta)$, $(g^{ij}) = (g_{ij})^{-1}$, and $(g^{\alpha\beta}) = (g_{\alpha\beta})^{-1}$.

Then we have

LEMMA 1 ([10]). *It holds that $D_{X_i}\pi(X_\alpha) = 0$, $D_{X_i}D_{X_\alpha}\pi(X_\beta) = 0$, and $D_{X_\alpha}\pi(X_\beta) = D_{X_\beta}\pi(X_\alpha)$.*

LEMMA 2 ([10]). *It holds that $[X_\alpha, X_\beta] \in \Gamma(E)$.*

The curvature R_D of D is defined by $R_D(X, Y)t = D_X D_Y t - D_Y D_X t - D_{[X, Y]}t$ for any $X, Y \in \Gamma(TM)$ and $t \in \Gamma(Q)$. We notice that $i(X)R_D = 0$, where $i(X)$ denotes the interior product with respect to $X \in \Gamma(E)$. Thus, for any $u, v \in \Gamma(Q)$, the operator $R_D(u, v) : \Gamma(Q) \longrightarrow \Gamma(Q)$ is a well-defined endomorphism ([2]), that is, $R_D(u, v)t = D_{\sigma(u)} D_{\sigma(v)} t - D_{\sigma(v)} D_{\sigma(u)} t - D_{[\sigma(u), \sigma(v)]} t$. The Ricci operator ρ_D of \mathcal{F} is given by $\rho_D(t) = g^{\alpha\beta} R_D(t, \pi(X_\alpha)) \cdot \pi(X_\beta)$ ([2]), and the transverse Ricci field

Ric_D of \mathcal{F} is defined by

$$\text{Ric}_D(t, u) = g_Q(\rho_D(t), u)$$

for any $t, u \in \Gamma(Q)$.

We set $V(\mathcal{F}) = \{Y \in \Gamma(TM) \mid [Y, X] \in \Gamma(E) \text{ for any } X \in \Gamma(E)\}$. An element of $V(\mathcal{F})$ is called an infinitesimal automorphism of \mathcal{F} ([2]). We set $\bar{V}(\mathcal{F}) = \{s \in \Gamma(Q) \mid s = \pi(Y) \text{ and } Y \in V(\mathcal{F})\}$. The transverse Lie differentiation $\theta(s)$ with respect to $s = \pi(Y) \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$ is given by

$$\theta(s)t = \pi([Y, Y_t])$$

for any $t \in \Gamma(Q)$ with $\pi(Y_t) = t$ and $Y_t \in \Gamma(TM)$ ([2], [4]). The transverse divergence $\text{div}_D t$ of $t \in \Gamma(Q)$ with respect to D is given by $\text{div}_D t = g^{\alpha\beta} \cdot g_Q(D_{X_\alpha} t, \pi(X_\beta))$, and the transverse gradient $\text{grad}_D f$ of a function f is given by $\text{grad}_D f = g^{\alpha\beta} X_\alpha(f) \cdot \pi(X_\beta)$ ([3], [6]).

For any $s = \pi(Y) \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$, we have an operator $A_D(s) : \Gamma(Q) \longrightarrow \Gamma(Q)$ defined by $A_D(s) = \theta(s) - D_Y$ ([2]).

DEFINITION ([2], [4], [5]). If $s \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$ satisfies $\theta(s)g_Q = 2f_s \cdot g_Q$ where f_s is a function on M , then s is called a transverse conformal field (t. c. f.) of \mathcal{F} and f_s is called the characteristic function of s . If $s \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$ satisfies $\theta(s)g_Q = 0$, then s is called a transverse Killing field (t. K. f.) of \mathcal{F} . If $s \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$ satisfies $(\theta(s)D)_{Xt} = \varphi_s(X) \cdot t + \varphi_s(\sigma(t)) \cdot \pi(X)$ for any $X \in \Gamma(TM)$ and $t \in \Gamma(Q)$, where φ_s is a 1-form on M , then s is a transverse projective field (t. p. f.) of \mathcal{F} and φ_s is called the characteristic form of s . If $s \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$ satisfies $\theta(s)D = 0$, then s is called a transverse affine field (t. a. f.) of \mathcal{F} .

Then we have

LEMMA 3. $((\theta(s)D)_{[X_\gamma, X_\alpha]}\pi(X_\beta) = 0$ for any $s \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$).

PROPOSITION 1 ([6]). If s is a t. c. f. of \mathcal{F} with characteristic function f_s , then $\text{div}_D s$ is a foliated function on M (i. e., $\text{div}_D s$ has constant values on leaves) and $\text{div}_D s = q \cdot f_s$.

PROPOSITION 2 ([6]). If s is a t. p. f. of \mathcal{F} with characteristic form φ_s , then $\text{div}_D s$ is a foliated function on M , $d(\text{div}_D s) = (q+1)\varphi_s$, and $\varphi_s(X) = 0$ for any $X \in \Gamma(E)$.

PROPOSITION 3 ([6]). If s is a t. c. f. of \mathcal{F} with characteristic function

f_s , then it holds that

$$(\Theta(s)D)_{X_\alpha}\pi(X_\beta) = \{X_\alpha(f_s)\delta_\beta^s + X_\beta(f_s)\delta_\alpha^s - X_\gamma(f_s)g_{\alpha\beta}g^{\gamma\epsilon}\} \cdot \pi(X_\epsilon)$$

where δ_β^s denotes the Kronecker's delta.

Let ∇ be the Levi-Civita connection with respect to g . The foliation \mathcal{F} is harmonic if $g^{ij}\pi(\nabla_{X_i}X_j) = 0$, that is, $\tau = -g^{ij}(D_{X_i}\pi)(X_j) = 0$ ([2], [3]). We notice that $H = g^{ij}(\nabla_{X_i}X_j)_{E^\perp} = g^{ij} \cdot \{E^\perp\text{-component of } \nabla_{X_i}X_j\}$ is called the mean curvature vector field of each leaf of \mathcal{F} . Thus harmonic foliation \mathcal{F} means that all leaves of \mathcal{F} are minimal submanifolds M . Then we have

THEOREM 1 ([6], [11]). *Let (M, g, \mathcal{F}) be as above. If \mathcal{F} is harmonic, then it holds that*

$$\int_M \text{div}_{Dt} dM = 0$$

for any $t \in \Gamma(Q)$.

THEOREM 2 ([6]). *Let (M, g, \mathcal{F}) be as above. If \mathcal{F} is harmonic, then every t. a. f. of \mathcal{F} is a t. K. f. of \mathcal{F} .*

THEOREM 3 ([7], [9]). *Let (M, g, \mathcal{F}) be as above, and let Δ be the Laplace-Beltrami operator acting on functions on M . Then it holds the following decomposition of $\Delta : \Delta f = \square' f + \square'' f + H(f)$, for any function f on M .*

In Theorem 3, an operator \square' is defined by $\square' f = -g^{ij}X_i(X_j(f)) + g^{ij}(\nabla_{X_i}X_j)_E(f)$, where $(\)_E$ denotes the E -component of $(\)$. If f is a foliated function on M , then we have that $\Delta f = \square'' f + H(f)$, where $\square'' f = -g^{\alpha\beta}X_\alpha(X_\beta(f)) + g^{\alpha\beta}(\nabla_{X_\alpha}X_\beta)_{E^\perp}(f)$.

3. Proof of Theorem A

Let $s \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$ be a t. c. f. of \mathcal{F} with characteristic function f_s . For any $t, u \in \Gamma(Q)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D)(t, u) &= 2f_s \cdot g_Q(\rho_D(t), u) + g_Q((\Theta(s)\rho_D)(t), u) \\ (\Theta(s)\rho_D)(t) &= -2f_s \cdot \rho_D(t) + g^{\alpha\beta}(\Theta(s)R_D)(t, \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$(\#) (\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D)(t, u) = g^{\alpha\beta}g_Q((\Theta(s)R_D)(t, \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta), u).$$

We calculate $((\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta))$ using Lemmas and Propositions in the above section. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & ((\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta)) \\ &= -X_\alpha(X_\beta(f_s)) \cdot \pi(X_\gamma) + (\nabla_{X_\alpha} X_\beta)_{E^\perp}(f_s) \cdot \pi(X_\gamma) \\ &\quad - g_{\alpha\beta} \cdot D_{X_\gamma} \text{grad}_D f_s + g_{\gamma\beta} \cdot D_{X_\alpha} \text{grad}_D f_s + X_\gamma(X_\beta(f_s)) \cdot \pi(X_\alpha) \\ &\quad - (\nabla_{X_\gamma} X_\beta)_{E^\perp}(f_s) \cdot \pi(X_\alpha), \end{aligned}$$

and, since $g^{\alpha\beta} X_\gamma(X_\beta(f_s)) \cdot \pi(X_\alpha) - g^{\alpha\beta} (\nabla_{X_\gamma} X_\beta)_{E^\perp}(f_s) \cdot \pi(X_\alpha) = D_{X_\gamma} \text{grad}_D f_s$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & g^{\alpha\beta} (\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta) \\ &= \{-g^{\alpha\beta} X_\alpha(X_\beta(f_s)) + g^{\alpha\beta} (\nabla_{X_\alpha} X_\beta)_{E^\perp}(f_s)\} \cdot \pi(X_\gamma) \\ &\quad - (q-2) \cdot D_{X_\gamma} \text{grad}_D f_s \\ &= \square''_o f_s \cdot \pi(X_\gamma) - (q-2) \cdot D_{X_\gamma} \text{grad}_D f_s. \end{aligned}$$

By (#), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &= g_Q(g^{\alpha\beta} (\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta), \pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &= g_{\gamma\epsilon} \cdot \square''_o f_s - (q-2) \cdot g_Q(D_{X_\gamma} \text{grad}_D f_s, \pi(X_\epsilon)). \end{aligned}$$

Since $g^{\gamma\epsilon} g_Q(D_{X_\gamma} \text{grad}_D f_s, \pi(X_\epsilon)) = -\square''_o f_s$, we have

$$g^{\gamma\epsilon} (\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\epsilon)) = 2(q-1) \cdot \square''_o f_s.$$

By our assumption: $\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D=0$ and $q \geq 2$, we have that $\square''_o f_s=0$. Since \mathcal{F} is harmonic (i. e., $H=0$) and f_s is a foliated function on M , by Theorem 3, we have $\Delta f_s=0$ so that $f_s=\text{const.}$ on M . Proposition 1 and Theorem 1 imply that f_s vanishes identically. Thus s is a t. K. f. of \mathcal{F} .

4. Proof of Theorem B

For any $s=\pi(Y) \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &= Y(g_Q(\rho_D(\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_\epsilon))) - g_Q(\rho_D(\Theta(s)\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &\quad - g_Q(\rho_D(\pi(X_\gamma)), \Theta(s)\pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &= g_Q((D_Y \rho_D)(\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_\epsilon)) + g_Q(\rho_D(D_Y \pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &\quad + g_Q(\rho_D(\pi(X_\gamma)), D_Y \pi(X_\epsilon)) - g_Q(\rho_D(\Theta(s)\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &\quad - g_Q(\rho_D(\pi(X_\gamma)), \Theta(s)\pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &= g_Q((\Theta(s)\rho_D)(\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_\epsilon)) - g_Q((A_D(s)\rho_D)(\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &\quad - g_Q(\rho_D(A_D(s)\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_\epsilon)) - g_Q(\rho_D(\pi(X_\gamma)), A_D(s)\pi(X_\epsilon)). \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$(\Theta(s)\rho_D)(\pi(X_\gamma))$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= g^{\alpha\beta}(\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta) \\
&+ g^{\alpha\beta}R_D(\pi(X_\gamma), A_D(s)\pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta) \\
&+ g^{\alpha\beta}R_D(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))A_D(s)\pi(X_\beta),
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
&g^{r^e}g_Q((\Theta(s)\rho_D)(\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_e)) \\
&= g^{r^e}g^{\alpha\beta}g_Q((\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta), \pi(X_e)) \\
&\quad + g^{r^e}g_Q(\rho_D(A_D(s)\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_e)) \\
&\quad + g^{r^e}g_Q(\rho_D(\pi(X_\gamma)), A_D(s)\pi(X_e)).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&g^{r^e}(\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_e)) \\
&= g^{r^e}g^{\alpha\beta}g_Q((\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta), \pi(X_e)) \\
&\quad - g^{r^e}g_Q((A_D(s)\rho_D)(\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_e)).
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&g^{r^e}g_Q((A_D(s)\rho_D)(\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_e)) \\
&= g^{r^e}g_Q(A_D(s)(\rho_D(\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_e)) \\
&\quad - g^{r^e}g_Q(\rho_D(A_D(s)\pi(X_\gamma)), \pi(X_e)) \\
&= g^{r^e}g_Q(\rho_D(\pi(X_\gamma)), {}^tA_D(s)\pi(X_e)) \\
&\quad - g^{r^e}g_Q(A_D(s)\pi(X_\gamma), \rho_D(\pi(X_e))) \\
&= -g^{r^e}g_Q(\rho_D(\pi(X_\gamma)), (A_D(s) - {}^tA_D(s))\pi(X_e)) \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

because the operator ρ_D (resp. $A_D(s) - {}^tA_D(s)$) is symmetric (resp. skew-symmetric) with respect to g_Q .

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(\#\#) \quad &g^{r^e}(\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_e)) \\
&= g^{r^e}g^{\alpha\beta}g_Q((\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta), \pi(X_e)).
\end{aligned}$$

Let $s = \pi(Y) \in \bar{V}(\mathcal{F})$ be a t. p. f. of \mathcal{F} with the characteristic form φ_s .

Then, by Lemmas and Propositions in section 2, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&(\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\gamma), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta) \\
&= (\Theta(s)D)_{X_\gamma}(D_{X_\alpha}\pi(X_\beta)) + D_{X_\gamma}((\Theta(s)D)_{X_\alpha}\pi(X_\beta)) \\
&\quad - (\Theta(s)D)_{X_\alpha}(D_{X_\gamma}\pi(X_\beta)) - D_{X_\alpha}((\Theta(s)D)_{X_\gamma}\pi(X_\beta)) \\
&= \varphi_s(X_\gamma) \cdot (D_{X_\alpha}\pi(X_\beta)) + \varphi_s(\sigma(D_{X_\alpha}\pi(X_\beta))) \cdot \pi(X_\gamma) \\
&\quad + D_{X_\gamma}\{\varphi_s(X_\alpha) \cdot \pi(X_\beta) + \varphi_s(X_\beta) \cdot \pi(X_\alpha)\} \\
&\quad - \varphi_s(X_\alpha) \cdot (D_{X_\gamma}\pi(X_\beta)) - \varphi_s(\sigma(D_{X_\gamma}\pi(X_\beta))) \cdot \pi(X_\alpha) \\
&\quad - D_{X_\alpha}\{\varphi_s(X_\gamma) \cdot \pi(X_\beta) + \varphi_s(X_\beta) \cdot \pi(X_\gamma)\} \\
&= (D_{X_\gamma}\varphi_s)(X_\alpha) \cdot \pi(X_\beta) + (D_{X_\gamma}\varphi_s)(X_\beta) \cdot \pi(X_\alpha) \\
&\quad - (D_{X_\alpha}\varphi_s)(X_\gamma) \cdot \pi(X_\beta) - (D_{X_\alpha}\varphi_s)(X_\beta) \cdot \pi(X_\gamma).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} &g^{\tau\epsilon} g^{\alpha\beta} g_Q((\Theta(s)R_D)(\pi(X_\tau), \pi(X_\alpha))\pi(X_\beta), \pi(X_\epsilon)) \\ &= -(q-1)g^{\tau\epsilon}(D_{X_\tau}\varphi_s)(X_\epsilon) \\ &= (q-1)\{\delta\varphi_s - \varphi_s(H)\}, \end{aligned}$$

where δ denotes the adjoint operator of d .

By (##), we have

$$g^{\tau\epsilon}(\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D)(\pi(X_\tau), \pi(X_\epsilon)) = (q-1) \cdot \{\delta\varphi_s - \varphi_s(H)\}.$$

If \mathcal{F} is harmonic, $q \geq 2$, and $\Theta(s)\text{Ric}_D = 0$, then we have that $\delta\varphi_s = 0$. By Proposition 2, we have that $\delta d(\text{div}_D s) = 0$, which implies $\text{div}_D s = \text{constant}$. Again, by Proposition 2, we have that $\varphi_s = 0$. Thus s is a t. a. f. of \mathcal{F} . By Theorem 2, s is a t. K. f. of \mathcal{F} .

Addendum of the preceding paper [6] appeared in J. Korean Math. Soc. 25 (1988).

First of all, we have to correct Theorem 2.7 in [6, pp.88]: (iv) in Theorem 2.7 should be read that if s is a t. p. f. of \mathcal{F} then

$$(*) \quad \Delta_D s = D_{\sigma(\tau)} s + \rho_D(s) - \frac{2}{q+1} \text{grad}_D \text{div}_D s.$$

This is a printing mistake.

Next, we will give a proof of the following Theorem:

THEOREM C. *Let (M, g, \mathcal{F}) be as Theorem A, and s be a t. p. f. of \mathcal{F} . Suppose that \mathcal{F} is harmonic. If ρ_D is non-positive everywhere and negative for at least one point of M , then $s = 0$.*

Proof of Theorem C. Since we have that $\text{Tr}(A_D(s)A_D(s)) = \text{Tr}({}^t A_D(s)A_D(s)) + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \text{Tr}((A_D(s) - {}^t A_D(s))^2)$ and, by Theorem 4.1 in [6], $\int_M \{g_Q(\rho_D(s), s) + \text{Tr}(A_D(s)A_D(s)) - (\text{div}_D s)^2\} dM = 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \rho_D(s), s \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \int_M \text{Tr}((A_D(s) - {}^t A_D(s))^2) dM \\ &+ \int_M \text{Tr}({}^t A_D(s)A_D(s)) dM - \int_M (\text{div}_D s)^2 dM = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Here, $\langle u, v \rangle = \int_M g_Q(u, v) dM$ for any $u, v \in \Gamma(Q)$. By the fact that

$\int_M \text{Tr}({}^t A_D(s)A_D(s)) dM = \langle Ds, Ds \rangle$ and $\langle \Delta_D s, s \rangle = \langle Ds, Ds \rangle$ ([6]), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle\langle \rho_D(s), s \rangle\rangle + \frac{1}{2} \int_M \text{Tr}((A_D(s) - {}^t A_D(s))^2) dM \\ + \langle\langle \Delta_D s, s \rangle\rangle - \int_M (\text{div}_D s)^2 dM = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since s is a t. p. f. of \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{F} is harmonic, by the equalities:

$\langle\langle \text{grad}_D \text{div}_D s, s \rangle\rangle = - \int_M (\text{div}_D s)^2 dM$ ((3.3) in [6]) and (*), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle\langle \rho_D(s), s \rangle\rangle + \frac{1}{2} \int_M \text{Tr}((A_D(s) - {}^t A_D(s))^2) dM \\ &\quad + \langle\langle \Delta_D s, s \rangle\rangle - \int_M (\text{div}_D s)^2 dM \\ &= 2 \langle\langle \rho_D(s), s \rangle\rangle + \frac{1}{2} \int_M \text{Tr}((A_D(s) - {}^t A_D(s))^2) dM \\ &\quad - \frac{q-1}{q+1} \int_M (\text{div}_D s)^2 dM. \end{aligned}$$

By the assumption of ρ_D , we have that $\langle\langle \rho_D(s), s \rangle\rangle \leq 0$. Since $A_D(s) - {}^t A_D(s)$ is a skew-symmetric operator, we have that $\int_M \text{Tr}((A_D(s) - {}^t A_D(s))^2) dM \leq 0$. Thus we have that $\langle\langle \rho_D(s), s \rangle\rangle = 0$. Therefore, we have that $s = 0$.

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