LIGHTLIKE SURFACES WITH PLANAR NORMAL SECTIONS IN MINKOWSKI 3-SPACE

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Dedicated to memory of Proffessor Franki Dillen

ABSTRACT. In this paper we study lightlike surfaces of Minkowski 3− space such that they have degenerate or non-degenerate planar normal sections. We first show that every lightlike surface of Minkowski 3− space has degenerate planar normal sections. Then we study lightlike surfaces with non-degenerate planar normal sections and obtain a characterization for such lightlike surfaces

1. INTRODUCTION

Surfaces with planar normal sections in Euclidean spaces were first studied by Bang-Yen Chen [2]. Later such surfaces or submanifolds have been studied by many authors [2], [6], [7], [9],[8]. In [7], Y. H. Kim initiated the study of semi-Riemannian setting of such surfaces. But as far as we know, lightlike surfaces with planar normal sections have not been studied so far. Therefore, in this paper we study lightlike surfaces with planar normal sections of $\mathbb{R}^3_1$.

We first define the notion of surfaces with planar normal sections as follows. Let M be a lightlike surface of $\mathbb{R}^3_1$. For a point p in M and a lightlike vector ξ which spans the radical distribution of a lightlike surface, the vector ξ and transversal space $tr(TM)$ to M at p determine a 2- dimensional subspace $E(p,\xi)$ in $\mathbb{R}^3_1$ through p. The intersection of M and $E(p,\xi)$ gives a lightlike curve γ in a neighborhood of p, which is called the normal section of M at the point p in the direction of ξ.

For non-degenerate planar normal sections, we present the following notion. Let w be a spacelike vector tangent to M at p which spans the chosen screen distribution of M. Then the vector w and transversal space $tr(TM)$ to M at p determine a 2-dimensional subspace $E(p,w)$ in $\mathbb{R}^3_1$ through p. The intersection of M and $E(p,w)$ gives a spacelike curve γ in a neighborhood of p which is called the normal section of M at p in the direction of w. According to both identifications above, M is said to have degenerate pointwise and spacelike pointwise planar normal sections,

respectively if each normal section γ at p satisfies $\gamma' \wedge \gamma'' \wedge \gamma''' = 0$ at for each p in M.

For a lightlike surface with degenerate planar normal sections, in fact, we show that every lightlike surface of Minkowski $3-$ space has degenerate planar normal sections. Then for a lightlike surface with non-degenerate planar normal sections, we obtain two characterizations.

We first show that a lightlike surface M in $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ is a lightlike surface with non-degenerate planar sections if and only if M is either screen conformal and totally umbilical or M is totally geodesic. We also obtain a characterization for non-umbilical screen conformal lightlike surface with non-degenerate planar normal sections.

2. Preliminaries

Let $(\bar{M}, \bar{g})$ be an $(m + 2)$-dimensional semi-Riemannian manifold with the indefinite metric $\bar{g}$ of index $q \in \{1, ..., m + 1\}$ and M be a hypersurface of $\bar{M}$. We denote the tangent space at $x \in M$ by $T_x M$. Then

$$T_x M^\perp = \{V_x \in T_x \bar{M} | \bar{g}_x(V_x, W_x) = 0, \forall W_x \in T_x M\}$$

and

$$RadT_x M = T_x M \cap T_x M^\perp.$$

Then, M is called a lightlike hypersurface of $\bar{M}$ if $RadT_x M \neq \{0\}$ for any $x \in M$. Thus $TM^\perp = \bigcap_{x \in M} T_x M^\perp$ becomes a one- dimensional distribution $RadTM$ on M. Then there exists a vector field $\xi \neq 0$ on M such that

$$g(\xi, X) = 0, \quad \forall X \in \Gamma(TM),$$

where g is the induced degenerate metric tensor on M. We denote $F(M)$ the algebra of differential functions on M and by $\Gamma(E)$ the $F(M)$- module of differentiable sections of a vector bundle E over M.

A complementary vector bundle $S(TM)$ of $TM^\perp = RadTM$ in TM i,e.,

$$(2.1) \qquad TM = RadTM \oplus_{orth} S(TM)$$

is called a screen distribution on M. It follows from the equation above that $S(TM)$ is a non-degenerate distribution. Moreover, since we assume that M is paracompact, there always exists a screen $S(TM)$. Thus, along M we have the decomposition

$$(2.2) \qquad T\bar{M}_{|M} = S(TM) \oplus_{orth} S(TM)^\perp, \quad S(TM) \cap S(TM)^\perp \neq \{0\},$$

that is, $S(TM)^\perp$ is the orthogonal complement to $S(TM)$ in $T\bar{M} \mid_M$. Note that $S(TM)^\perp$ is also a non-degenerate vector bundle of rank 2. However, it includes $TM^\perp = RadTM$ as its sub-bundle.

Let $(M, g, S(TM))$ be a lightlike hypersurface of a semi-Riemannian manifold $(\bar{M}, \bar{g})$. Then there exists a unique vector bundle $tr(TM)$ of rank 1 over M, such that for any non-zero section ξ of $TM^\perp$ on a coordinate neighborhood $U \subset M$, there exists a unique section N of $tr(TM)$ on U satisfying: $TM^\perp$ in $S(TM)^\perp$ and

take $V \in \Gamma\left(F\mid_U\right), V \neq 0$. Then $\bar{g}\left(\xi, V\right) \neq 0$ on U, otherwise $S(TM)^{\perp}$ would be degenerate at a point of U [5]. Define a vector field

$$N = \frac{1}{\bar{g}\left(V, \xi\right)}\left\{V - \frac{\bar{g}\left(V, V\right)}{2\bar{g}\left(V, \xi\right)}\xi\right\}$$

on U where $V \in \Gamma\left(F\mid_U\right)$ such that $\bar{g}\left(\xi, V\right) \neq 0$. Then we have

$$(2.3) \qquad \bar{g}\left(N, \xi\right) = 1, \ \bar{g}\left(N, N\right) = 0, \ \bar{g}\left(N, W\right) = 0, \ \forall W \in \Gamma\left(S(TM)\mid_U\right)$$

Moreover, from (2.1) and (2.2) we have the following decompositions:

$$(2.4) \qquad T\bar{M}\mid_M = S(TM) \oplus_{orth}\left(TM^{\perp} \oplus tr\left(TM\right)\right) = TM \oplus tr\left(TM\right)$$

Locally, suppose $\{\xi, N\}$ is a pair of sections on $U \subset M$ satisfying (2.3). Define a symmetric $\Im\left(U\right)$-bilinear from B and a 1-form τ on U . Hence on U, for $X, Y \in \Gamma\left(TM\mid_U\right)$

$$(2.5) \qquad \bar{\nabla}_X Y \quad = \quad \nabla_X Y + B\left(X, Y\right) N$$
$$(2.6) \qquad \bar{\nabla}_X N \quad = \quad -A_N X + \tau\left(X\right) N,$$

equations (2.5) and (2.6) are local Gauss and Weingarten formulae. Since $\bar{\nabla}$ is a metric connection on $\bar{M}$, it is easy to see that

$$(2.7) \qquad B\left(X, \xi\right) = 0, \forall X \in \Gamma\left(TM\mid_U\right).$$

Consequently, the second fundamental form of M is degenerate [5]. Define a local 1-from η by

$$(2.8) \qquad \eta\left(X\right) = \bar{g}\left(X, N\right), \forall \in \Gamma(TM\mid_U).$$

Let P denote the projection morphism of $\Gamma\left(TM\right)$ on $\Gamma\left(S(TM)\right)$ with respect to the decomposition (2.1). We obtain

$$(2.9) \qquad \nabla_X PY \quad = \quad \nabla_X^* PY + C\left(X, PY\right)\xi$$
$$\nabla_X \xi \quad = \quad -A_\xi^* X + \varepsilon\left(X\right)\xi$$
$$(2.10) \qquad \qquad = \quad -A_\xi^* X - \tau\left(X\right)\xi$$

where $\nabla_X^* Y$ and $A_\xi^* X$ belong to $\Gamma\left(S\left(TM\right)\right), \nabla$ and ∇^{*t} are linear connections on $\Gamma\left(S\left(TM\right)\right)$ and $TM^{\perp}$ respectively, $h^*$is a $\Gamma\left(TM^{\perp}\right)$-valued $\Im\left(M\right)$-bilinear form on $\Gamma\left(TM\right) \times \Gamma\left(S(TM)\right)$ and A_ξ^* is $\Gamma\left(S(TM)\right)$-valued $\Im\left(M\right)$-linear operator on $\Gamma\left(TM\right)$. We called them the screen fundamental form and screen shape operator of $S\left(TM\right)$, respectively. Define

$$(2.11) \qquad C\left(X, PY\right) \quad = \quad \bar{g}\left(h^*\left(X, PY\right), N\right)$$
$$(2.12) \qquad \varepsilon\left(X\right) \quad = \quad \bar{g}\left(\nabla_X^{*t}\xi, N\right), \forall X, Y \in \Gamma\left(TM\right),$$

one can show that $\varepsilon\left(X\right) = -\tau\left(X\right)$. Here $C\left(X, PY\right)$ is called the local screen fundamental form of $S(TM)$. Precisely, the two local second fundamental forms of M and $S(TM)$ are related to their shape operators by

$$(2.13) \qquad B\left(X, Y\right) \quad = \quad \bar{g}\left(Y, A_\xi^* X\right),$$
$$(2.14) \qquad A_\xi^* \xi \quad = \quad 0 \, ,$$
$$(2.15) \qquad \bar{g}\left(A_\xi^* PY, N\right) \quad = \quad 0 \, ,$$
$$(2.16) \qquad C\left(X, PY\right) \quad = \quad \bar{g}\left(PY, A_N X\right),$$
$$(2.17) \qquad \bar{g}\left(N, A_N X\right) \quad = \quad 0.$$

A lightlike hypersurface $(M, g, S(TM))$ of a semi-Riemannian manifold is called totally umbilical[5] if there is a smooth function ϱ, such that

$$(2.18) \qquad B(X, Y) = \varrho g(X, Y), \forall X, Y \in \Gamma(TM)$$

where ϱ is non-vanishing smooth function on a neighborhood U in M.

A lightlike hypersurface $(M, g, S(TM))$ of a semi-Riemannian manifold is called screen locally conformal if the shape operators A_N and A_ξ^* of M and $S(TM)$, respectively, are related by

$$(2.19) \qquad A_N = \varphi A_\xi^*$$

where φ is non-vanishing smooth function on a neighborhood U in M. Therefore, it follows that $\forall X, Y \in \Gamma(S(TM))$, $\xi \in RadTM$

$$(2.20) \qquad C(X, \xi) = 0,$$

For details about screen conformal lightlike hypersurfaces, see: [1] and [5] .

3. Planar normal sections of lightlike surfaces in $\mathbb{R}_1^3$

Let M be a lightlike surface of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$. Now we investigate lightlike surfaces with degenerate planar normal sections. If γ is a null curve, for a point p in M, we have

$$(3.1) \qquad \gamma'(s) \quad = \quad \xi$$
$$(3.2) \qquad \gamma''(s) \quad = \quad \bar{\nabla}_\xi \xi = -\tau(\xi) \xi$$
$$(3.3) \qquad \gamma'''(s) \quad = - \quad \left[\xi(\tau(\xi)) + \tau^2(\xi)\right] \xi$$

Then, $\gamma'''(0)$ is a linear combination of $\gamma'(0)$ and $\gamma''(0)$. Thus (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3) give $\gamma'''(0) \wedge \gamma''(0) \wedge \gamma'(0) = 0$. Thus lightlike surfaces always have planar normal sections.

Corollary 3.1. *Every lightlike surface of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ has degenerate planar normal sections.*

In fact Corollary 3.1 tells us that the above situation is not interesting. Now, we will check lightlike surfaces with non-degenerate planar normal sections. Let M be a lightlike hypersurface of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$. For a point p in M and a spacelike vector $w \in S(TM)$ tangent to M at p , the vector w and transversal space $tr(TM)$ to M at p determine a 2-dimensional subspace $E(p, w)$ in $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ through p. The intersection of M and $E(p, w)$ give a spacelike curve γ in a neighborhood of p, which is called the normal section of M at p in the direction of w. Now, we research the conditions for a lightlike surface of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ to have non-degenerate planar normal sections.

Let $(M, g, S(TM))$ be a screen conformal lightlike surface of $(\bar{g}, \mathbb{R}_1^3)$. In this case $S(TM)$ is integrable[1]. We denote integral submanifold of $S(TM)$ by M'. Then, using (2.6), (2.10) and (2.19) we obtain

$$(3.4) \quad \gamma'(s) \quad = \quad w$$
$$(3.5) \quad \gamma''(s) \quad = \quad \bar{\nabla}_w w = \nabla_w^* w + C(w, w) \xi + B(w, w) N$$
$$(3.6) \quad \gamma'''(s) \quad = \quad \nabla_w^* \nabla_w^* w + C(w, \nabla_w^* w) \xi + w(C(w, w)) \xi - C(w, w) A_\xi^* w$$
$$\qquad \qquad \qquad + w(B(w, w)) N - B(w, w) A_N w + B(w, \nabla_w^* w) N$$

Where ∇^* and ∇ are linear connections on $S(TM)$ and $\Gamma(TM)$, respectively and $\gamma'(s) = w$. From the definition of planar normal section and that $S(TM) = Sp\{w\}$, we have

$$(3.7) \qquad\qquad w \wedge \nabla_w^* w = 0$$

and

$$(3.8) \qquad\qquad w \wedge \nabla_w^* \nabla_w^* w = 0.$$

Then, from (3.5), (3.6) and (3.7), (3.8) we obtain $\gamma'''(s) \wedge \gamma''(s) \wedge \gamma'(s) = 0$. Thus, M has planar non-degenerate normal sections.

If M is totally geodesic lightlike surface of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$. Then, we have $B = 0$, $A_\xi^* = 0$. Hence (3.4)-(3.6) become

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma'(s) &= w \\ \gamma''(s) &= \nabla_w^* w + C(w,w)\xi \\ \gamma'''(s) &= \nabla_w^* \nabla_w^* w + tC(w,w)\xi + w(C(w,w))\xi \end{aligned}$$

where $\nabla_w^* w = tw, t \in \mathbb{R}$. Since $A_N w \in \Gamma(TM)$, we have $\gamma'''(s) \wedge \gamma''(s) \wedge \gamma'(s) = 0$.

Conversely, we assume that M has planar non-degenerate normal sections. Then, from (3.4), (3.5), (3.6) and (3.7), (3.8) we obtain

$$(C(w,w)\xi + B(w,w)N) \wedge \left(C(w,w)A_\xi^* w + B(w,w)A_N w\right) = 0,$$

thus $\left(C(w,w)A_\xi^* w + B(w,w)A_N w\right) = 0$ or $C(w,w)\xi + B(w,w)N = 0$. If $C(w,w)A_\xi^* w + B(w,w)A_N w = 0$, then, from

$$A_\xi^* w = -\frac{B(w,w)}{C(w,w)}A_N w$$

at $p \in M$, M is a screen conformal lightlike surface with $C(w,w) \neq 0$. If $C(w,w)\xi + B(w,w)N = 0$, then $RadTM$ is parallel and M is totally geodesic.

Consequently, we have the following,

Theorem 3.1. *Let M be a lightlike surface of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$. Then M has non-degenerate planar normal sections if and only if either M is screen conformal or M is totally geodesic.*

Theorem 3.2. *Let $(M, g, S(TM))$ be a screen conformal non-umbilical lightlike surface of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$. Then, for $T(w,w) = C(w,w)\xi + B(w,w)N$ the following statements are equivalent*

1. *$\left(\bar{\nabla}_w T\right)(w,w) = 0$, every spacelike vector $w \in S(TM)$*
2. *$\bar{\nabla}T = 0$*
3. *M has non-degenerate planar normal sections and each normal section at p has one of its vertices at p*

By the vertex of curve $\gamma(s)$ we mean a point p on γ such that its curvature κ satisfies $\frac{d\kappa^2(p)}{ds} = 0$, $\kappa^2 = \langle \gamma''(s), \gamma''(s) \rangle$.

Proof. From (3.4), (3.5) and that a screen conformal M, we have

$$\left(\bar{\nabla}_w T\right)(w, w) = \bar{\nabla}_w T(w, w)$$

which shows $(a) \Leftrightarrow (b)$. $(b) \Rightarrow (c)$ Assume that $\bar{\nabla} T = 0$. If $\bar{\nabla} T = 0$ then M is totally geodesic and Theorem 3.1 implies that M has (pointwise) planar normal sections. Let the $\gamma(s)$ be a normal section of M at p in a given direction $w \in S(TM)$. Then (3.4) shows that the curvature $\kappa(s)$ of $\gamma(s)$ satisfies

$$
\begin{aligned}
\kappa^2(s) &= \langle \gamma''(s), \gamma''(s) \rangle \\
&= 2C(w, w)B(w, w) \\
(3.9) \qquad &= \langle T(w, w), T(w, w) \rangle
\end{aligned}
$$

where $w = \gamma'(s)$. Therefore we find

$$(3.10) \qquad \frac{d\kappa^2(p)}{ds} = \langle \bar{\nabla}_w T(w, w), T(w, w) \rangle = \langle \left(\bar{\nabla}_w T\right)(w, w), T(w, w) \rangle$$

Since $\bar{\nabla}_w T(w, w) = 0$, this implies

$$\frac{d\kappa^2(0)}{ds} = 0$$

at $p = \gamma(0)$. Thus p is a vertex of the normal section $\gamma(s)$. $(c) \Rightarrow (a)$: If M has planar normal sections, then Theorem 3.1 gives

$$(3.11) \qquad T(w, w) \wedge \left(\bar{\nabla}_w T\right)(w, w) = 0.$$

If p is a vertex of $\gamma(s)$, then we have

$$\frac{d\kappa^2(0)}{ds} = 0.$$

Thus, since M has planar normal sections using (3.10) we find

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma'(s) \wedge \gamma''(s) \wedge \gamma'''(s) &= w \wedge \left(\nabla_w^* w + T(w, w)\right) \\
&\quad \wedge \left(\nabla_w^* \nabla_w^* w + tT(w, w) + \left(\bar{\nabla}_w T\right)(w, w)\right) = 0 \\
\gamma'(s) \wedge \gamma''(s) \wedge \gamma'''(s) &= T(w, w) \wedge \left(\bar{\nabla}_w T\right)(w, w) = 0
\end{aligned}
$$

and

$$(3.12) \qquad \langle \left(\bar{\nabla}_w T\right)(w, w), T(w, w) \rangle = 0.$$

Combining (3.11) and (3.12) we obtain $\left(\bar{\nabla}_w T\right)(w, w) = 0$ or $T(w, w) = 0$. Let us define $U = \{w \in S(TM) \mid T(w, w) = 0\}$. If $int(U) \neq \emptyset$, we obtain $\left(\bar{\nabla}_w T\right)(w, w) = 0$ on $int(U)$. Thus, by continuity we have $\bar{\nabla} T = 0$. $\qquad \square$

Example 3.1. *Consider the null cone of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ given by*

$$\wedge = \left\{ (x_1, x_2, x_3) \mid -x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 = 0, x_1, x_2, x_3 \in IR \right\}.$$

The radical bundle of null cone is

$$\xi = x_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + x_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}$$

and screen distribution is spanned by

$$Z_1 = x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + x_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2}$$

Then the lightlike transversal vector bundle is given by

$$Itr(TM) = Span\{N = \frac{1}{2(-x_1^2 + x_2^2)} \left(x_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} - x_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}\right)\}.$$

It follows that the corresponding screen distribution $S(TM)$ is spanned by Z_1. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_\xi \xi &= x_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + x_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} \\ \bar{\nabla}_\xi \nabla_\xi \xi &= x_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + x_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, we obtain

$$\gamma'''(s) \wedge \gamma''(s) \wedge \gamma'(s) = 0$$

which shows that null cone has degenerate planar normal sections.

Example 3.2. *Let $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ be the space $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ endowed with the semi Euclidean metric*

$$\bar{g}(x, y) = -x_1 y_1 + x_2 y_2 + x_3 y_3, (x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)).$$

The lightlike cone $\wedge_0^2$ is given by the equation $-(x_1)^2 + (x_2)^2 + (x_3)^2 = 0$, $x \neq 0$. It is known that $\wedge_0^2$ is a lightlike surface of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ and the radical distribution is spanned by a global vector field

$$(3.13) \qquad \xi = x_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + x_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}$$

on $\wedge_0^2$. The unique section N is given by

$$(3.14) \qquad N = \frac{1}{2(x_1)^2} \left(-x_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + x_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}\right)$$

and is also defined. As ξ is the position vector field we get

$$(3.15) \qquad \bar{\nabla}_X \xi = \nabla_X \xi = X, \quad \forall X \in \Gamma(TM).$$

Then, $A_\xi^* X + \tau(X)\xi + X = 0$. As A_ξ^* is $\Gamma(S(TM))$-valued we obtain

$$(3.16) \qquad A_\xi^* X = -PX, \quad \forall X \in \Gamma(TM)$$

Next, any $X \in \Gamma\left(S(T\wedge_0^2)\right)$ is expressed by $X = X_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + X_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}$ where (X_2, X_3) satisfy

$$(3.17) \qquad x_2 X_2 + x_3 X_3 = 0$$

and then

$$(3.18) \qquad \nabla_\xi X = \bar{\nabla}_\xi X = \sum_{A=1}^{3} \sum_{a=2}^{3} x_A \frac{\partial X_a}{\partial x_A} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_a},$$

$$(3.19) \qquad \bar{g}(\nabla_\xi X, \xi) = \sum_{A=1}^{3} \sum_{a=2}^{3} x_a x_A \frac{\partial X^a}{\partial x_A} = -(x_2 X_2 + x_3 X_3) = 0$$

where (3.17) is derived with respect to x_1, x_2, x_3. It is known that $\wedge_0^2$ is a screen conformal lightlike surface with conformal function $\varphi = \frac{1}{2(x_1)^2}$. We also know that $A_N \xi = 0$. By direct compute we find

$$A_N X = \frac{1}{2(x_1)^2} A_\xi^* X.$$

Now we evaluate γ', γ'' and γ'''

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma' &= X = (0, -x_3, x_2) \\
\gamma'' &= \nabla_X X + B(X, X) N \\
&= \frac{1}{2} x_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} - \frac{3}{2} x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + x_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} \\
\gamma''' &= \bar{\nabla}_X \nabla_X X + X(B(X, X)) N + B(X, X) \bar{\nabla}_X N \\
&= \nabla_X \nabla_X X + B(X, \nabla_X X) N + X(B(X, X)) N - B(X, X) A_N X
\end{aligned}
$$

using $A_N X$ in γ''' we get

$$
\gamma''' = \frac{1}{2} x_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} - \frac{1}{2} x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}.
$$

Therefore γ''' and γ' are linear dependence at $\forall p \in \wedge_0^2$ and we have

$$
\gamma' \wedge \gamma'' \wedge \gamma''' = 0.
$$

Namely, $\wedge_0^2$ has non-degenerate planar normal sections.

Example 3.3. *Consider the lightlike surface M of $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ given by*

$$
(x_1 + 1) = \sqrt{x_2^2 + x_3^2}, x_2 \neq x_3 \neq 0.
$$

Then its radical distributions spanned by

$$
\xi = (x_1 + 1)\partial x_1 + x_2 \partial x_2 + x_3 \partial x_3
$$

and the lightlike transversal vector bundle is spanned by

$$
N = -\frac{1}{2(x_1 + 1)^2} \left((x_1 + 1)\partial x_1 - x_2 \partial x_2 - x_3 \partial x_3 \right).
$$

It follow that the corresponding screen distribution $S(TM)$ is spanned by

$$
w = -x_3 \partial x_2 + x_2 \partial x_3.
$$

By direct computations, we obtain

$$
\bar{\nabla}_\xi w = \nabla_\xi w = \bar{\nabla}_\xi w = \nabla_\xi w = w,
$$

and

$$
B(w, w) = -\bar{g}(w, w) = -(x_1 + 1)^2.
$$

Hence M is totally umbilical lightlike surface and direct computations, we obtain

$$
\bar{\nabla}_w w = \frac{1}{2}(x_1 + 1) - \frac{3}{2} x_2 \partial x_2 - \frac{3}{2} x_3 \partial x_3,
$$

$$
C(w, w) = -\frac{1}{2}
$$

and

$$
A_N w = \frac{1}{2(x_1 + 1)^2} A_\xi^* w.
$$

Hence M is screen conformal lightlike surface. On the other hand, we have

$$
\bar{\nabla}_\xi \nabla_\xi \xi = \bar{\nabla}_\xi \xi = (x_1 + 1)\partial x_1 + x_2 \partial x_2 + x_3 \partial x_3,
$$

$$
w(B(w, w)) = B(w, \nabla_w w) = 0,
$$

$$
A_N w = \frac{1}{2(x_1 + 1)^2} (x_3 \partial x_2 - x_2 \partial x_3),
$$

$$\bar{\nabla}_w \bar{\nabla}_w w = -\frac{2(x_1 + 1)^2 - 1}{2(x_1 + 1)^2} w.$$

Now, for a point p in M and a spacelike vector w tangent to M at p ($w \in S(TM)$), the vector w and transversal space $tr(TM)$ to M at p determine an 2- dimensional subspace $E(p, w)$ in $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ through p. The intersection of M and $E(p, w)$ gives a spacelike curve γ in a neighborhood of p. Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\gamma'(s) &= w = -x_3 \partial x_2 + x_2 \partial x_3, \\
\gamma''(s) &= \bar{\nabla}_w w = \frac{1}{2}(x_1 + 1) - \frac{3}{2} x_2 \partial x_2 - \frac{3}{2} x_3 \partial x_3, \\
\gamma'''(s) &= -\frac{2(x_1 + 1)^2 - 1}{2(x_1 + 1)^2} (-x_3 \partial x_2 + x_2 \partial x_3).
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore γ''' and γ' are linear dependence at $\forall p \in M$ and we have

$$\gamma' \wedge \gamma'' \wedge \gamma''' = 0.$$

Namely, M has non-degenerate planar normal sections. Now, for a point p in M and a lightlike vector ξ tangent to M at p ($\xi \in Rad(TM)$), the vector ξ and transversal space $tr(TM)$ to M at p determine an 2- dimensional subspace $E(p, \xi)$ in $\mathbb{R}_1^3$ through p. The intersection of M and $E(p, \xi)$ gives a null curve γ in a neighborhood of p. Then, we have

$$\gamma'(s) = \gamma''(s) = \gamma'''(s) = \xi.$$

Therefore γ''', γ'' and γ' are linear dependence at $\forall p \in M$. Namely, M has degenerate planar normal sections.

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