ON THE GAUSS MAP OF GENERALIZED SLANT CYLINDRICAL SURFACES

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ABSTRACT. In this article, we study the Gauss map of generalized slant cylindrical surfaces (GSCS's) in the 3-dimensional Euclidean space \mathbb{E}^3 . Surfaces of revolution, cylindrical surfaces and tubes along a plane curve are special cases of GSCS's. Our main results state that the only GSCS's with Gauss map G satisfying $\Delta G = AG$ for some 3×3 matrix A are the planes, the spheres and the circular cylinders.

1. Introduction and Preliminaries

The notion of finite type submanifolds in Euclidean or pseudo-Euclidean space, introduced by B.-Y. Chen during the late 1970's, has become a useful tool for investigating and characterizing many important submanifolds (cf. [3, 4]). In [2, 6] the notion of finite type was extended to differential maps, in particular, to Gauss map of submanifolds.

Let M be a surface of the Euclidean 3-space \mathbb{E}^3 . The map $G: M \to S^2 \subset \mathbb{E}^3$ which sends each point of M to the unit normal vector to M at the point is called the *Gauss map* of the surface M, where S^2 is the unit sphere in \mathbb{E}^3 centered at the origin.

For the matrix $g = (g_{ij})$ consisting of the components of the metric on M, we denote by $g^{-1} = (g^{ij})$ (resp. \mathcal{G}) the inverse matrix (resp. the determinant) of the matrix (g_{ij}) . The Laplacian Δ on M is, in turn, given by

(1.1)
$$\Delta = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{\mathcal{G}}} \sum_{i,j} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \left(\sqrt{\mathcal{G}} \ g^{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} \right).$$

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If a submanifold M of Euclidean or pseudo-Euclidean space has 1-type Gauss map G, then G satisfies

$$(1.2) \Delta G = \lambda (G+C)$$

for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and some constant vector C, where Δ is the Laplace operator corresponding to the induced metric on M. Generalizing (1.1), many authors studied various surfaces with Gauss map G satisfying

$$(1.3) \Delta G = f(G+C)$$

for some constant vector C and some smooth function f ([5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13]). Gauss map of a surface satisfying (1.2) is called a *pointwise 1-type Gauss map*.

On the other hand, Dillen et al. studied surfaces of revolution with Gauss map satisfying

$$(1.4) \Delta G = AG$$

for some 3×3 matrix A, which was inspired by a theorem of Ruh and Vilms on surfaces of constant mean curvature ([14]). As a result, they proved ([7]).

Proposition 1. Among the surfaces of revolution in \mathbb{E}^3 , the only ones whose Gauss map satisfies (1.4) are the planes, the spheres and the circular cylinders.

Baikoussis and Blair also studied ruled surfaces and proved ([1]).

Proposition 2. Among the ruled surfaces in \mathbb{E}^3 , the only ones whose Gauss map satisfies (1.4) are the planes and the circular cylinders.

In [12], the first author with Y.H. Kim introduced the family of *generalized slant cylinders* (GSCS's). Surfaces of revolution, cylindrical surfaces and tubes along a plane curve are special cases of GSCS's. See Section 2 for the definition and properties of GSCS's.

Here, we give examples of GSCS's with Gauss map satisfying (1.4).

Examples. (1) Plane: z = 0. In this case, G = (0, 0, 1) so $\Delta G = 0$ and the plane satisfies (1.4) with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} * & * & 0 \\ * & * & 0 \\ * & * & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(2) Cylinder: $(x-a)^2 + (y-b)^2 = r^2$. In this case, we have $G = \frac{1}{r}(x-a,y-b,0)$

so the cylinder satisfies (1.4) with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{r^2} & 0 & * \\ 0 & \frac{1}{r^2} & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \end{pmatrix}.$$

(2) Sphere: $(x-a)^2 + (y-b)^2 + (z-c)^2 = r^2$. In this case, we have $G = \frac{1}{r}(x-a,y-b,z-c)$ so the sphere satisfies (1.4) with $A = \frac{2}{r^2}I$, where I denotes the identity matrix.

In this paper, we study the GSCS's with Gauss map satisfying (1.4). As a result, we establish

Theorem 3.5. Let M denote a generalized slant cylindrical surface in the 3-dimensional Euclidean space \mathbb{E}^3 . Suppose that the Gauss map G of M satisfies $\Delta G = AG$ for some 3×3 matrix A. Then M is part of a plane, a sphere or a circular cylinder.

Hereafter, all objects are assumed to be connected and smooth, unless mentioned otherwise.

2. Generalized Slant Cylindrical Surfaces

For a fixed unit speed plane curve $\alpha(s) = (x(s), y(s), 0)$, let $T(s) = \alpha'(s)$ and N(s) = (-y'(s), x'(s), 0) denote the unit tangent and principal normal vector, respectively. The curvature $\kappa(s)$ of $\alpha(s)$ is defined by $T'(s) = \kappa(s)N(s)$ and we have $T(s) \times N(s) = V$, where V denotes the unit vector (0, 0, 1). For a constant θ , we let $\beta_s(t) = t(\cos\theta N(s) + \sin\theta V)$. Then the ruled surface M defined by

$$(2.1) X(s,t) = \alpha(s) + \beta_s(t)$$

is regular at (s,t) where $1-\cos\theta\kappa(s)t$ does not vanish. This ruled surface M is called a slant cylindrical surface (SCS) over $\alpha(s)$. The SCS with $\sin\theta=0$ or $\cos\theta=0$ is nothing but a parametrization of either a plane or a cylindrical surface.

In general, we consider another unit speed plane curve $\beta(t) = (z(t), w(t))$. If we let $\beta_s(t) = z(t)N(s) + w(t)V$, then the parametrized surface defined by

$$(2.2) X(s,t) = \alpha(s) + \beta_s(t)$$

is regular at (s,t) where $1 - \kappa(s)z(t)$ does not vanish. This parametrized surface M is called a *generalized slant cylindrical surface* (GSCS) over $\alpha(s)$.

If $\beta(t)$ is a straight line (resp., a circle), then the GSCS X(s,t) is nothing but an SCS (resp., a tube) along a plane curve α . If $\alpha(s)$ is a straight line, then the GSCS X(s,t) is a cylindrical surface over a plane curve. Furthermore, we have the following ([12]).

Proposition 2.1. If $\alpha(s)$ is a circle, then a GSCS M over $\alpha(s)$ is a surface of revolution.

Therefore we see that cylindrical surfaces, tubes along a plane curve and surfaces of revolution are special cases of GSCS's.

We also have the following characterizations ([10]):

Proposition 2.2. Let M denote a GSCS given by (2.2). Then we have the following.

- (1) If the mean curvature H is constant, then M is a surface of revolution.
- (2) If the Gaussian curvature K is constant, then M is either a surface of revolution or an SCS.

3. Gauss Map of GSCS's

Let $\alpha(s) = (x(s), y(s), 0)$ be a unit speed plane curve with the Frenet frame T(s) and N(s) which is defined on an interval I. We consider a GSCS M parametrized by

(3.1)
$$X(s,t) = \alpha(s) + \beta_s(t), \quad (s,t) \in I \times J,$$

where $\beta(t) = (z(t), w(t))$ is a unit speed plane curve, $\beta_s(t) = z(t)N(s) + w(t)V$, and V = (0, 0, 1). Without loss of generality, we may assume that $\beta(0) = 0$, hence we have $X(s, 0) = \alpha(s)$ for all $s \in I$.

Then X(s,t) is regular at (s,t) where $q(s,t) = 1 - \kappa(s)z(t)$ does not vanish and we get

(3.2)
$$X_{s} = q(s,t)T(s), \ X_{t} = z'(t)N(s) + w'(t)V,$$
$$G(s,t) = -w'(t)N(s) + z'(t)V.$$

The Laplacian Δ on M is given by for $f \in C^{\infty}(M)$

(3.3)
$$\Delta f = -q^{-3} \{ \kappa'(s) z(t) f_s + q f_{ss} - q^2 \kappa(s) z'(t) f_t + q^3 f_{tt} \}.$$

Hence it follows from (3.2) and (3.3) that

(3.4)
$$-q^{3}\Delta G = \kappa'(s)w'(t)T(s) + q\{\kappa(s)^{2}w'(t) + q\kappa(s)z'(t)w''(t) - q^{2}w'''(t)\}N(s) + q^{2}\{-\kappa(s)z'(t)z''(t) + qz'''(t)\}V.$$

First, we show that a slant cylindrical surface with Gauss map G satisfying (1.4) is an open part of either a plane or a circular cylinder. Since an SCS is a ruled surface, Proposition 3.1 can be deduced from the results in [1]. But, for conveniences, we give a proof.

Proposition 3.1. Let M be an SCS given by (3.1) with $z(t) = t \cos \theta$ and $w(t) = t \sin \theta$. Suppose that the Gauss map G of M satisfies $\Delta G = AG$ for some 3×3 matrix A. Then M is an open part of either a plane or a circular cylinder.

Proof. Since $z(t) = t \cos \theta$ and $w(t) = t \sin \theta$, it follows from (3.2) and (3.4) that

(3.5)
$$G(s,t) = -\sin\theta N(s) + \cos\theta V = (\sin\theta y'(s), -\sin\theta x'(s), \cos\theta)$$

and

$$(3.6) -q^3 \Delta G = \kappa'(s) \sin \theta T(s) + q\kappa(s)^2 \sin \theta N(s).$$

By the assumption, we obtain

$$(3.7) \sin\theta\{x'\kappa' - y'\kappa^2q\} = -q^3\{(a_{11}y' - a_{12}x')\sin\theta + a_{13}\cos\theta\},\$$

(3.8)
$$\sin \theta \{ y' \kappa' + x' \kappa^2 q \} = -q^3 \{ (a_{21} y' - a_{22} x') \sin \theta + a_{23} \cos \theta \}$$

and

$$(3.9) a_{31}\sin\theta y'(s) - a_{32}\sin\theta x'(s) + a_{33}\cos\theta = 0.$$

It follows from $x'(s) \times (3.7) + y'(s) \times (3.8)$ and $x'(s) \times (3.8) - y'(s) \times (3.7)$ that

(3.10)
$$\sin \theta \kappa'(s) = q^3 f(s) = (1 - t \cos \theta \kappa(s))^3 f(s), \\ \sin \theta \kappa(s)^2 = q^2 g(s) = (1 - t \cos \theta \kappa(s))^2 g(s),$$

where f(s) and g(s) are given by

(3.11)
$$f(s) = \sin \theta \{ a_{12}(x')^2 + (a_{22} - a_{11})x'y' - a_{21}(y')^2 \} - \cos \theta \{ a_{13}x' + a_{23}y' \},$$
$$g(s) = \sin \theta \{ a_{22}(x')^2 - (a_{12} + a_{21})x'y' + a_{11}(y')^2 \} - \cos \theta \{ a_{23}x' - a_{13}y' \}.$$

We divide by two cases as follows.

Case 1. $\cos \theta \neq 0$.

If $\sin \theta = 0$ or $\kappa(s)$ vanishes identically, then M is a part of a plane. Hence we may suppose that $\sin \theta \neq 0$ and $\kappa(s) \neq 0$ on an interval I_0 . Then, the second equation in (3.10) shows that t is a function of $s \in I_0$, which is a contradiction. Case 2. $\cos \theta = 0$.

In this case, M is a cylindrical surface over $\alpha(s)$. We may assume that $\sin \theta = 1$. Hence, from (3.10) and (3.11) we get

(3.12)
$$\kappa'(s) = a_{12}x'(s)^2 + (a_{22} - a_{11})x'(s)y'(s) - a_{21}y'(s)^2$$

and

(3.13)
$$\kappa(s)^2 = a_{22}x'(s)^2 - (a_{12} + a_{21})x'(s)y'(s) + a_{11}y'(s)^2.$$

By differentiating (3.13) and using y'y'' = -x'x'', we obtain

$$(3.14) 2\kappa'\kappa = 2(a_{22} - a_{11})x'x'' - (a_{12} + a_{21})\{x''y' + x'y''\}.$$

Since $\kappa(s)y'(s) = -x''(s)$, multiplying the both sides of (3.14) by y'(s) and then using (3.12), we get

$$(3.15) x''(s)\{4\kappa'(s) + (a_{21} - a_{12})\} = 0.$$

Suppose that $I_0 = \{s \in I | x''(s) \neq 0\}$ is nonempty. Then on I_0 , $\kappa'(s)$ is constant. Hence, by differentiating (3.12) and then multiplying y', on I_0 we obtain

$$(3.16) (a_{22} - a_{11}) \{ y'(s)^2 - x'(s)^2 \} + 2(a_{12} + a_{21})x'(s)y'(s) = 0.$$

Hence, it follows from (3.13) that on I_0

$$(3.17) 2\kappa(s)^2 = a_{11} + a_{22},$$

which is a nonzero constant because $\kappa(s)y'(s) = -x''(s) \neq 0$ on the interval I_0 .

If the complement I_0^c of I_0 has nonempty interior, then $\kappa(s) = 0$ there. Thus, by the continuity of $\kappa(s)$ we see that $\kappa(s)$ is constant on the whole domain I of α . Therefore, M is an open portion of either a plane or a circular cylinder.

Combining Cases 1 and 2 completes the proof of Proposition 3.1.

Now, suppose that the Gauss map G of a GSCS M defined by (3.1) satisfies (1.4) for some 3×3 matrix A. Then, from (3.2) and (3.4) we get

$$(3.18) x'\kappa'w' - pqy' = -q^3\{a_{11}y'w' - a_{12}x'w' + a_{13}z'\},$$

$$(3.19) y'\kappa'w' + pqx' = -q^3\{a_{21}y'w' - a_{22}x'w' + a_{23}z'\},$$

and

$$(3.20) -\kappa z'z'' + qz''' = -q\{(a_{31}y' - a_{32}x')w' + a_{33}z'\},\$$

where

(3.21)
$$p(s,t) = \kappa(s)^2 w'(t) + q\kappa(s)z'(t)w''(t) - q^2 w'''(t).$$

It follows from $x'(s) \times (3.18) + y'(s) \times (3.19)$ and $x'(s) \times (3.19) - y'(s) \times (3.18)$ that

(3.22)
$$\kappa' w' = -q^3 [\{(a_{11} - a_{22})x'y' - a_{12}(x')^2 - a_{21}(y')^2\}w' + (a_{13}x' + a_{23}y')z']$$

and

$$(3.23) p = q^{2} [\{(a_{11}(y')^{2} - (a_{12} + a_{21})x'y' + a_{22}(x')^{2}\}w' + (a_{13}y' - a_{23}x')z'].$$

First, we prove

Lemma 3.2. Let M be a GSCS given by (3.1). Suppose that the Gauss map G of M satisfies $\Delta G = AG$ for some 3×3 matrix A with $a_{13} = a_{23} = 0$. Then M is open part of either an SCS or a surface of revolution.

Proof. It follows from (3.22) that

(3.24)
$$w'(t)\{\kappa'(s) - q^3 f(s)\} = 0,$$

where f(s) is a function of s.

Let's denote by $J_0 = \{t \in J | w'(t) \neq 0\}$. If J_0 is empty, then M is part of a plane parallel to the xy-plane. Otherwise, we have $\kappa'(s) = q^3 f(s)$ for all $s \in I$. Recall that $q = 1 - \kappa(s)z(t)$.

Suppose that $I_0 = \{s \in I | \kappa'(s) \neq 0\}$ is nonempty. Then, it follows from (3.24) that on $I_0 \times J_0$ we obtain

(3.25)
$$\kappa(s)z(t) = 1 - \left(\frac{\kappa'(s)}{f(s)}\right)^{1/3},$$

which shows that z(t) is constant on J_0 . This shows that J_0 is the whole domain J of β and hence β is a straight line perpendicular to the xy-plane. Thus on $I_0 \times J$, M is a cylindrical surface over α . Due to Proposition 3.1, we see that on I_0 , α has constant curvature κ , which is a contradiction. Therefore $\kappa(s)$ is constant on the whole domain I.

The above discussion implies that when $w'(t) \neq 0$ for some t, α is either a straight line or a circle. If α is a straight line, then M is a cylindrical surface over a plane curve. That is, M is an SCS. If α is a circle, then M is a surface of revolution.

This completes the proof of Lemma 3.2.

Next, we show

Lemma 3.3. Let M be a GSCS given by (3.1). Suppose that the Gauss map G of M satisfies $\Delta G = AG$ for some 3×3 matrix A with $a_{31} = a_{32} = 0$. Then M is an open part of an SCS or a surface of revolution.

Proof. It follows from (3.20) that

$$(3.26) \kappa(s)\{z(t)(z'''(t) + a_{33}z'(t)) + z'(t)z''(t)\} = z'''(t) + a_{33}z'(t).$$

If $z'''(t) + a_{33}z'(t)$ is nonzero for some t, then $\kappa(s)$ is a nonzero constant. Hence M is a surface of revolution.

Otherwise, that is, $z'''(t) + a_{33}z'(t)$ vanishes identically, then (3.26) implies that

(3.27)
$$\kappa(s)z'(t)z''(t) = 0.$$

This shows that $\kappa(s) = 0$ or z'(t) is constant, that is, α or β is a straight line. Hence M is a slant cylindrical surface.

This completes the proof of Lemma 3.3.

Finally, we prove the following.

Lemma 3.4. Let M be a GSCS given by (3.1). Suppose that the Gauss map G of M satisfies $\Delta G = AG$ for some arbitrary 3×3 matrix A. Then M is an open part of either an SCS or a surface of revolution.

Proof. From (3.20), we get

(3.28)
$$\kappa(s)z'(t)z''(t) - qz'''(t) = q\{f(s)w'(t) + a_{33}z'(t)\},$$

where

$$(3.29) f(s) = a_{31}y'(s) - a_{32}x'(s).$$

Note that $\beta(0) = (z(0), w(0)) = 0$. We divide by two cases.

Case 1. Suppose that $w'(0) \neq 0$. In this case, since q(0) = 1, putting t = 0 in (3.28), we obtain

(3.30)
$$f(s)w'(0) = \kappa(s)z'(0)z''(0) - (z'''(0) + a_{33}z'(0)).$$

This shows that

$$(3.31) f(s) = a\kappa(s) + b$$

for some constants a and b given by

$$(3.32) a = z'(0)z''(0)/w'(0), b = -(z'''(0) + a_{33}z'(0))/w'(0).$$

If a = 0, then as in the proof of Lemma 3.3, we may prove that M is an open part of either an SCS or a surface of revolution. Hence we may assume that a is nonzero.

Since $q = 1 - \kappa(s)z(t)$, substituting f(s) in (3.31) into (3.28), we see that the curvature function $\kappa(s)$ of α satisfies the following quadratic polynomial:

$$(3.33) g(t)\kappa(s)^2 + h(t)\kappa(s) + k(t) = 0,$$

where

(3.34)
$$g(t) = az(t)w'(t), \quad k(t) = -z'''(t) - a_{33}z'(t), h(t) = bz(t)w'(t) + z'(t)z''(t) - aw'(t) - z(t)k(t).$$

Therefore, it follows from (3.33) that $\kappa(s)$ is constant, unless the coefficients g(t), h(t) and k(t) identically vanish. In this case, M is either a surface of revolution or a cylindrical surface.

If the coefficients g(t), h(t) and k(t) identically vanish, then it follows from (3.34) that z(t)z'(t)z''(t) vanishes identically. This shows that $\beta(t)$ is a straight line. Hence, we see that M is an SCS.

Case 2. Suppose that w'(0) = 0. In this case, we may assume that β is not a straight line because otherwise, M is an SCS. Then, for some t_0 , we have $w'(t_0) \neq 0$.

Putting $\bar{z}(t) = z(t) - c$ with $c = z(t_0)$, we consider the parametrization \bar{X} of M given by

(3.35)
$$\bar{X}(s,t) = \bar{\alpha}(s) + \bar{z}(t)N(s) + w(t)V,$$

where the base curve $\bar{\alpha}$ is a parallel curve of α defined by $\bar{\alpha}(s) = \alpha(s) + cN(s)$.

For an arc length parameter u of $\bar{\alpha}$, M has the reparametrization $\bar{X}(u,t) = \bar{\alpha}(u) + \bar{z}(t)N(u) + w(t)V$ of X(s,t) with $\bar{z}(t_0) = 0$ and $w'(t_0) \neq 0$. Hence, we can proceed as in the proof of Case 1 to show that M is an open part of either a surface of revolution or an SCS. This completes the proof of Case 2.

Combining Cases 1 and 2 completes the proof of Lemma 3.4.

Now, we combine Lemma 3.4, Proposition 3.1 and Proposition 1 in Section 1. Then, we get the following theorem.

Theorem 3.5. Let M denote a generalized slant cylindrical surface in the 3-dimensional Euclidean space \mathbb{E}^3 . Suppose that the Gauss map G of M satisfies $\Delta G = AG$ for some 3×3 matrix A. Then M is an open part of a plane, a sphere or a circular cylinder.

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