

## On Lightlike Submersions

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### Abstract

In this paper, we study lightlike submersions from a semi-Riemannian manifold onto a lightlike manifold having the dimension of radical distribution equal to one. Then we study O'Neill's tensors for such submersions and investigate their properties.

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### 1. Introduction

The differential geometry of Riemannian immersions is known since the beginning of Riemannian geometry. But its dual notion of Riemannian submersion was first expressed in 1966 (Gray [5], O'Neill [6]). O'Neill [6] defined Riemannian Submersions as:

Let  $M$  and  $B$  be Riemannian manifolds. A Riemannian submersion  $\pi : M \rightarrow B$  is a mapping of  $M$  onto  $B$  satisfying the following axioms *S.1* and *S.2*:

**S.1**  $\pi$  has maximal rank,

that is, each derivative map  $\pi_*$  of  $\pi$  is onto. Hence the implicit function theorem states that the fibre  $\pi^{-1}(b)$  over any  $b \in B$ , is a closed submanifold of  $M$  of dimension =  $\dim M - \dim B$ . A vector field on  $M$  is called vertical if it is always tangent to the fibers and horizontal if orthogonal to the fibers.

**S.2**  $\pi_*$  preserves the lengths of horizontal vectors.

A systematic exposition on Riemannian submersions can be found in Besse's book [1]. Semi-Riemannian submersions were introduced by O'Neill in [7] and are of interest in physics, owing to their applications in the Yang-Mills theory, Kaluza-Klein theory, supergravity and superstring theories. It is known that when  $M$  and

$B$  are Riemannian manifolds, then the fibers are always Riemannian manifolds but when the manifolds are semi-Riemannian manifolds, then the fibers may not be semi-Riemannian. Recently, Sahin [8] defined a lightlike submersion from a semi-Riemannian manifold  $M$  to a lightlike manifold  $B$ .

## 2. Lightlike Manifolds

We recall notations and fundamental equations for lightlike manifolds from [2].

Let  $(M, g)$  be a real  $m$ -dimensional paracompact and smooth manifold where  $g$  is a symmetric tensor field of type  $(0, 2)$ . Then, the radical or the null space of  $T_x(M)$  is a subspace of  $T_x(M)$ , denoted by  $RadT_x(M)$ , and defined by

$$RadT_x M = \{\xi_x \in RadT_x(M); g(\xi_x, X) = 0, X \in T_x M\}. \quad (1)$$

The dimension, say  $r$ , of  $RadT_x(M)$  is called nullity degree of  $g$ . If the mapping

$$RadTM : x \in M \longrightarrow RadT_x M, \quad (2)$$

defines a smooth distribution on  $M$  of rank  $r > 0$  then  $RadTM$  is called the radical distribution of rank  $r$  on  $M$ . Clearly,  $g$  is degenerate or non-degenerate on  $M$  if and only if  $r > 0$  or  $r = 0$ , respectively.  $(M, g)$  is called a lightlike manifold if  $0 < r \leq m$ . Since  $M$  is paracompact therefore there exists a complementary distribution  $S(TM)$  to  $RadTM$  in  $TM$  and called screen distribution on  $M$ . Clearly,  $S(TM)$  is semi-Riemannian therefore we have

$$TM = S(TM) \oplus RadTM. \quad (3)$$

The associated quadratic form  $h$  of type  $(p, q, r)$ , where  $p + q + r = m$ , of  $g$  is a mapping  $h : T_x(M) \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  given by  $h(X) = g(X, X)$  for any  $X \in T_x(M)$  and locally given by

$$h = - \sum_{a=1}^q (w^a)^2 + \sum_{A=q+1}^{q+p} (w^A)^2, \quad (4)$$

where  $(w^1, \dots, w^{p+q})$  are linearly independent local differential forms on  $M$ . With respect to local coordinate system  $(x^i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ , substitute  $w^a = w_i^a dx^i$  and  $w^A = w_i^A dx^i$  in (4), we get

$$h = g_{ij} dx^i dx^j, \quad \text{rank}|g_{ij}| = p + q < m, \quad (5)$$

$$g_{ij} = - \sum_{a=1}^q w_i^a w_j^a + \sum_{A=q+1}^{q+p} w_i^A w_j^A, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, m\}. \quad (6)$$

Let the  $r = 1$  then 1-dimensional radical distribution  $RadTM$  is always integrable and we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.** [3] Let  $(M, g)$  be an  $m$ -dimensional lightlike manifold, with  $RadTM$  of rank = 1. Then there exists a metric connection  $\nabla$  on  $M$  with respect to the degenerate metric tensor  $g$ .

### 3. Lightlike Submersions

For lightlike submersions, we follow [8]. Let  $(M_1, g_1)$  be a semi-Riemannian manifold and  $(M_2, g_2)$  an  $r$ -lightlike manifold. Consider a smooth submersion  $f : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$ , then  $f^{-1}(p)$  is a submanifold of  $M_1$  of dimension  $\dim M_1 - \dim M_2$ , for  $p \in M_2$ . The kernel of  $f_*$  at the point  $p$  is given by

$$Ker f_* = \{X \in T_p(M_1) : f_*(X) = 0\}, \tag{7}$$

and  $(Ker f_*)^\perp$  is given by

$$(Ker f_*)^\perp = \{Y \in T_p(M_1) : g_1(Y, X) = 0, \forall X \in Ker f_*\}. \tag{8}$$

Since  $T_p(M_1)$  is a semi-Riemannian vector space therefore  $(Ker f_*)^\perp$  may not be a complement to  $Ker f_*$  and assume  $\Delta = Ker f_* \cap (Ker f_*)^\perp \neq \{0\}$ . Thus we have the following four cases of submersions.

**Case 1.** When  $0 < \dim \Delta < \min\{\dim(Ker f_*), \dim(Ker f_*)^\perp\}$

Then  $\Delta$  is the radical subspace of  $T_p(M_1)$ . Since  $Ker f_*$  is a real lightlike vector space, there is a complementary non-degenerate subspace to  $\Delta$ . Let  $S(Ker f_*)$  be a complementary non-degenerate subspace to  $\Delta$  in  $Ker f_*$ , therefore we have

$$Ker f_* = \Delta \perp S(Ker f_*). \tag{9}$$

Similarly

$$(Ker f_*)^\perp = \Delta \perp S(Ker f_*)^\perp, \tag{10}$$

where  $S(Ker f_*)^\perp$  is a complementary subspace of  $\Delta$  in  $(Ker f_*)^\perp$ . Since  $S(Ker f_*)^\perp$  is non-degenerate in  $T_p(M_1)$ , therefore we have

$$T_p(M_1) = S(Ker f_*) \perp (S(Ker f_*)^\perp)^\perp, \tag{11}$$

where  $(S(Ker f_*)^\perp)^\perp$  is the complementary subspace of  $S(Ker f_*)$  in  $T_p(M_1)$ . Since  $S(Ker f_*)$  and  $(S(Ker f_*)^\perp)^\perp$  are non-degenerate therefore we have

$$(S(Ker f_*)^\perp)^\perp = S(Ker f_*)^\perp \perp (S(Ker f_*)^\perp)^\perp. \tag{12}$$

Then from [3], there exists a quasi-orthonormal basis of  $T_p(M_1)$  along  $Ker f_*$ , we have

$$g(\xi_i, \xi_j) = g(N_i, N_j) = 0; \quad g(\xi_i, N_j) = \delta_{ij}, \tag{13}$$

$$g(W_\alpha, \xi_j) = g(W_\alpha, N_j) = 0; \quad g(W_\alpha, W_\beta) = \epsilon_\alpha \delta_{\alpha\beta}, \tag{14}$$

for any  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, r\}$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \{1, \dots, t\}$ , where  $\{N_i\}$  are smooth lightlike vector fields of  $(S(Ker f_*)^\perp)^\perp$ ,  $\{\xi_i\}$  is basis of  $\Delta$  and  $W_\alpha$  is a basis of  $S(Ker f_*)^\perp$ . Denote the set of vector fields  $\{N_i\}$  by  $ltr(Ker f_*)$  and consider

$$tr(Ker f_*) = ltr(Ker f_*) \perp S(Ker f_*)^\perp. \quad (15)$$

Using (13), it is clear that  $ltr(Ker f_*)$  and  $Ker(f_*)$  are not orthogonal to each other. Denote  $\mathcal{V} = Ker f_*$ , the vertical space of  $T_p(M_1)$  and  $\mathcal{H} = tr(Ker f_*)$ , the horizontal space then we have

$$T_p(M_1) = \mathcal{V}_p \oplus \mathcal{H}_p. \quad (16)$$

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $(M_1, g_1)$  be a semi-Riemannian manifold and  $(M_2, g_2)$  an  $r$ -lightlike manifold. Let  $f : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  be a submersion such that

- (a)  $dim \Delta = dim\{(Ker f_*) \cap (Ker f_*)^\perp\} = r$ ,  
 $0 < r < \min\{dim(Ker f_*), dim(Ker f_*)^\perp\}$ .
- (b)  $f_*$  preserves the length of horizontal vectors, that is,  $g_1(X, Y) = g_2(f_*X, f_*Y)$  for  $X, Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{H})$ .

Then  $f$  is called an  $r$ -lightlike submersion.

**Case 2.** When  $dim \Delta = dim(Ker f_*) < dim(Ker f_*)^\perp$ .

Then  $\mathcal{V} = \Delta$  and  $\mathcal{H} = S(Ker f_*)^\perp \perp ltr(Ker f_*)$  and  $f$  is called an isotropic submersion.

**Case 3.** When  $dim \Delta = dim(Ker f_*)^\perp < dim(Ker f_*)$ .

Then  $\mathcal{V} = S(Ker f_*) \perp \Delta$  and  $\mathcal{H} = ltr(Ker f_*)$  and  $f$  is called a co-isotropic submersion.

**Case 4.** When  $dim \Delta = dim(Ker f_*) = dim(Ker f_*)^\perp$ .

Then  $\mathcal{V} = \Delta$  and  $\mathcal{H} = ltr(Ker f_*)$  and  $f$  is called a totally lightlike submersion.

A basic vector field on  $M_1$  is a horizontal vector field  $X$  which is  $f$ -related to a vector field  $\tilde{X}$  on  $M_2$ , that is,  $f_*(X_p) = \tilde{X}_{f(p)}$  for all  $p \in M_1$ . Every vector field  $\tilde{X}$  on  $M_2$  has a unique horizontal lift  $X$  to  $M_1$  and  $X$  is basic. Therefore  $X \leftrightarrow \tilde{X}$  is a one to one correspondence between basic vector fields on  $M_1$  and arbitrary vector field on  $M_2$ .

**Example.** Let  $\mathbb{R}_{0,1,3}^4$  and  $\mathbb{R}_{0,1,0}^2$  be  $\mathbb{R}^4$  and  $\mathbb{R}^2$  endowed with the Lorentzian metric  $g_1 = -(dx_1)^2 + (dx_2)^2 + (dx_3)^2 + (dx_4)^2$ , and degenerate metric  $g_2 = (dy_2)^2$ , where  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  and  $y_1, y_2$  are the canonical coordinates on  $\mathbb{R}^4$  and  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , respectively. Define a map

$$f : \mathbb{R}_{0,1,3}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{0,1,0}^2, \quad (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \rightarrow (x_1 + x_3, \frac{x_2 + x_4}{\sqrt{2}}).$$

Then the kernel of  $f_*$  is given by

$$Ker f_* = Span\{W_1 = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}, \quad W_2 = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_4}\},$$

and

$$(Ker f_*)^\perp = Span\{T_1 = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}, T_2 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_4}\}.$$

Clearly, we have  $W_1 = T_1$ , therefore

$$\Delta = ker f_* \cap (Ker f_*)^\perp = Span\{W_1\}.$$

Then  $lrt(Ker f_*) = Span\{N = \frac{1}{2}(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3})\}$ . Easily we can show that  $g_1(N, W_1) = 1$  and  $g_1(N, W_2) = 0$ . Thus the horizontal and vertical spaces are given by

$$\mathcal{V} = Span\{W_1, W_2\}, \quad \mathcal{H} = Span\{T_2, N\}.$$

Also  $f_*(T_2) = \sqrt{2}\frac{\partial}{\partial y_2}$ ,  $f_*(N) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y_1}$ . We also obtain that

$$g_1(N, N) = g_2(f_*N, f_*N) = 0.$$

$$g_1(T_2, T_2) = g_2(f_*T_2, f_*T_2) = 0.$$

Hence,  $f$  is a 1-lightlike submersion.

Let  $h : TM_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  and  $\nu : TM_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  denote the projections associated with the direct sum decomposition  $TM_1 = \mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{V}$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $(M_1, g_1)$  be a semi-Riemannian manifold and  $(M_2, g_2)$  be a 1-lightlike manifold. Let  $f : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  be a lightlike submersion and denote by  $\nabla$  and  $\tilde{\nabla}$  the Levi-Civita connections of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ , respectively. If  $X, Y$  are vector fields,  $f$ -related to  $\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}$  then

- (i)  $g_1(X, Y) = g_2(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y})of$ .
- (ii)  $h[X, Y]$  is the basic vector field,  $f$ -related to  $[\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}]$ .
- (iii)  $h(\nabla_X Y)$  is the basic vector field,  $f$ -related to  $\tilde{\nabla}_{\tilde{X}} \tilde{Y}$ .
- (iv) For any vertical vector field  $V$ ,  $[X, V]$  is vertical.

**Proof.** Property (i) immediately follows from the (b) of the definition 3.1. Property (ii) follows from  $f_*[X, Y] = [\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}]$ . Now from the Kozsul formula, we have

$$2g_1(\nabla_X Y, Z) = X(g_1(Y, Z)) + Y(g_1(Z, X)) - Z(g_1(X, Y)) - g_1(X, [Y, Z]) + g_1([Z, X], Y) + g_1(Z, [X, Y]), \quad (17)$$

for any  $X, Y, Z \in \Gamma(TM_1)$ . Considering  $X, Y, Z$  as the horizontal lifts of the vector fields  $\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}$ , respectively then we have  $X(g_1(Y, Z)) = \tilde{X}(g_2(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}))of$  and  $g_1([X, Y], Z) = g_2([\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}], \tilde{Z})of$ . Then (17) becomes

$$2g_1(\nabla_X Y, Z) = \tilde{X}(g_2(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}))of + \tilde{Y}(g_2(\tilde{Z}, \tilde{X}))of - \tilde{Z}(g_2(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}))of - g_2(\tilde{X}, [\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}])of + g_2([\tilde{Z}, \tilde{X}], \tilde{Y})of + g_2(\tilde{Z}, [\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}])of = 2g_2(\tilde{\nabla}_{\tilde{X}} \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z})of. \quad (18)$$

Thus from (18), the property (iii) follows, since  $f$  is surjective and  $\tilde{Z}$  is arbitrarily chosen. Now, let  $V \in \Gamma(\mathcal{V})$  then  $[X, V]$  is  $f$ -related to  $[\tilde{X}, 0]$ , hence (iv) follows.

#### 4. Fundamental Tensors or Invariants for Lightlike Submersions

In this section, we define O'Neill's [6] tensor for lightlike submersions. Let  $\nabla$  be the Levi-Civita connection of  $(M_1, g_1)$ , then define a tensor field  $T$  of type  $(1, 2)$  by

$$T_X Y = h\nabla_{\nu X} \nu Y + \nu\nabla_{\nu X} hY. \quad (19)$$

It is easy to prove that  $T$  satisfies the following properties.

- (i)  $T$  is a vertical tensor field, that is,  $T_X = T_{\nu X}, \forall X, Y \in \Gamma(TM_1)$ .
- (ii)  $T$  reverses the horizontal and vertical subspaces, that is,  $T_x(\mathcal{V}_p) \subseteq \mathcal{H}_p, T_x(\mathcal{H}_p) \subseteq \mathcal{V}_p, x \in T_p(M_1)$ .
- (iii) The integrability of the vertical distribution implies that  $T$  has symmetry property for vertical vector fields, that is,  $T_V W = T_W V, \forall V, W \in \Gamma(\mathcal{V})$ .

The other tensor is defined as

$$A_X Y = h\nabla_{hX} \nu Y + \nu\nabla_{hX} hY. \quad (20)$$

Again  $A$  is a  $(1, 2)$ -tensor and has following properties

- (i)  $A$  is a horizontal tensor field, that is,  $A_X = A_{hX}, \forall X, Y \in \Gamma(TM_1)$ .
- (ii)  $A$  also reverses the horizontal and vertical subspaces.

It should be noted that the tensor fields  $T$  and  $A$  are skew-symmetric in the Riemannian submersions but not in the case of lightlike submersions because the horizontal and vertical subspaces are not orthogonal. In fact we have

**Theorem 4.1.** Let  $(M_1, g_1)$  be a semi-Riemannian manifold and  $(M_2, g_2)$  be a 1-lightlike manifold. Let  $f : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  be a lightlike submersion then

- (i)  $g_1(T_V X, Y) + g_1(X, T_V Y) = 0,$
- (ii)  $g_1(A_Z X, Y) + g_1(X, A_Z Y) = 0,$

for any  $V \in \Gamma(\text{Ker } f_*)$ ,  $Z \in \Gamma(\text{tr}(\text{Ker } f_*))$  and  $X, Y \in \Gamma(\text{ltr}(\text{Ker } f_*))$  or  $X \in \Gamma(S(\text{Ker } f_*))$  and  $Y \in \Gamma(S(\text{Ker } f_*)^\perp)$  and vice-versa.

**Proof.** We prove (i) in two different cases.

**Case 1.** Let  $X, Y \in \Gamma(\text{ltr}(\text{Ker } f_*))$  and  $V \in \Gamma(\text{Ker } f_*)$ , then using (19) we get

$$T_V X = h\nabla_V \nu X + \nu\nabla_V hX = \nu\nabla_V X, \quad (21)$$

and

$$T_V Y = h\nabla_V \nu Y + \nu\nabla_V hY = \nu\nabla_V Y. \quad (22)$$

Since  $\nabla g_1 = 0$  therefore we get

$$Vg_1(X, Y) = g_1(\nabla_V X, Y) + g_1(X, \nabla_V Y), \quad (23)$$

then using (21)-(23), we obtain the result.

**Case 2.** Let  $X \in \Gamma(S(Ker f_*))$  and  $Y \in \Gamma(S(Ker f_*)^\perp)$  and  $V \in \Gamma(Ker f_*)$ , then using (19) we get

$$T_V X = h\nabla_V \nu X + \nu\nabla_V hX = h\nabla_V X. \quad (24)$$

and

$$T_V Y = h\nabla_V \nu Y + \nu\nabla_V hY = \nu\nabla_V Y, \quad (25)$$

then using (23)-(25), the result follows. Similarly, we can prove (i) when  $X \in \Gamma(S(Ker f_*)^\perp)$  and  $Y \in \Gamma(S(Ker f_*))$

The proof of (ii) is similar to that of (i).

**Theorem 4.2.** Let  $(M_1, g_1)$  be a semi-Riemannian manifold and  $(M_2, g_2)$  be a 1-lightlike manifold. Let  $f : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  be a lightlike submersion then

$$(i) \quad g_1(T_U V, X) + g_1(V, T_U X) = 0,$$

$$(ii) \quad g_1(A_X Y, V) + g_1(Y, A_X V) = 0,$$

for any  $X, Y \in \Gamma(S(Ker f_*)^\perp)$  and  $U, V \in \Gamma(S(Ker f_*))$ .

**Proof.** We only prove (i), the proof of (ii) being similar. Using (19) we get

$$T_U V = h\nabla_U \nu V + \nu\nabla_U hV = h\nabla_U V. \quad (26)$$

and

$$T_U X = h\nabla_U \nu X + \nu\nabla_U hX = \nu\nabla_U X. \quad (27)$$

Since  $\nabla g_1 = 0$  therefore we get

$$Ug_1(V, X) = g_1(\nabla_U V, X) + g_1(V, \nabla_U X), \quad (28)$$

then using (26)-(28), we obtain the result.

Form the above theorem, we may obtain  $T_U X$  from  $g_1$  and  $T_U V$  and  $A_X V$  from  $g_1$  and  $A_X Y$ , where  $X, Y \in \Gamma(S(Ker f_*)^\perp)$ .

From (19) and (20), we have the following.

**Lemma 4.3.** Let  $f : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  be a lightlike submersion then

$$(i) \quad \nabla_U V = T_U V + \nu\nabla_U V,$$

$$(ii) \nabla_V X = h\nabla_V X + T_V X,$$

$$(iii) \nabla_X V = A_X V + \nu\nabla_X V,$$

$$(iv) \nabla_X Y = h\nabla_X Y + A_X Y,$$

for any  $X, Y \in \Gamma(\text{tr}(\text{Ker } f_*))$  and  $U, V \in \Gamma(\text{Ker } f_*)$ .

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