

Willmore submanifolds in the unit sphere

ZHEN GUO

Department of Mathematics, Yunnan Normal University, Kunming 650092, P.R. China

E-mail: gzh2001y@yahoo.com.cn

Received January 11, 2004

ABSTRACT

In this paper we generalize the self-adjoint differential operator (used by Cheng-Yau) on hypersurfaces of a constant curvature manifold to general submanifolds. The generalized operator is no longer self-adjoint. However we present its adjoint operator. By using this operator we get the pinching theorem on Willmore submanifolds which is analogous to the pinching theorem on minimal submanifold of a sphere given by Simon and Chern-Do Carmo-Kobayashi.

§0. Introduction

Let M be an n -dimensional manifold isometrically immersed in sphere S^{n+p} of dimension $n+p$. Let h be the second fundamental form of this submanifold. We denote by S the square of the length of h , by \vec{H} the mean curvature vector, by $|\vec{H}|$ the length of \vec{H} respectively. We define a nonnegative function ρ^2 by

$$\rho^2 = S - n|\vec{H}|^2 \quad (0.1)$$

The Willmore functional W is defined by

$$W(M) = \int_M \rho^n dM \quad (0.2)$$

which is a conformal invariant under Möbius (or conformal) transformations of S^{n+p} (see [2], [9], [10]). Recently, Changping Wang got the Euler-Lagrange equations in [9], and Zhen Guo, Haizhong Li and Changping Wang got the second variation formula in the framework of Möbius geometry [6]. At the same time, in [6], the authors gave

Keywords: Willmore submanifolds, Moebius minimal, Willmore tori.

MSC2000: Primary 53A30; Secondary 53B25

The author is supported by the project of NSFC, the project of SFYP.

Euler-Lagrange equations with Euclidean quantities as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
 &-\rho^{n-2}[SH^\alpha + H^\beta h_{ij}^\beta h_{ij}^\alpha - h_{ij}^\alpha h_{ik}^\beta h_{kj}^\beta - n|\vec{H}|^2 H^\alpha] \\
 &+ (n-1)\Delta(\rho^{n-2}H^\alpha) - (\rho^{n-2})_{,ij}(nH^\alpha \delta_{ij} - h_{ij}^\alpha) = 0,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{0.3}$$

where h_{ij}^α are the components of h with respect to a local orthonormal frame

$$\{e_i, e_\alpha; 1 \leq i \leq n, n+1 \leq n+p\}$$

(e_i is tangent to M and e_α is normal to M) and $H^\alpha = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i h_{ii}^\alpha$. In particular, when $p = 1$ and $n = 2$, equation (0.3) reduces to the well-known form

$$\Delta H + 2H(H^2 - K) = 0, \tag{0.4}$$

where H and K are mean curvature and Gauss curvature. A Submanifold is called *Willmore submanifold* if it satisfied equation (0.3). It is easy to see from (0.4) that all minimal surfaces are Willmore surfaces. The nonminimal Willmore surfaces exist in large quantities (see [1], [5] and [7]). However, in case $n \geq 3$, there are minimal submanifolds which are not Willmore submanifolds. For instance, Clifford minimal hypersurfaces $M_k = S^k(\sqrt{\frac{k}{n}}) \times S^{n-k}(\sqrt{\frac{n-k}{n}})$ are not Willmore hypersurfaces if $2k \neq n$ (cf. [6]). In [6], we proved that tori

$$W_k^n = S^k \left(\sqrt{\frac{n-k}{n}} \right) \times S^{n-k} \left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{n}} \right) \tag{0.5}$$

are Willmore hypersurfaces and are stable. We call W_k^n *Willmore tori*. It should be shown that Veronese surface and Willmore tori satisfy $\rho^2 = n/(2 - 1/p)$.

In this paper we characterize the tow Willmore submanifolds by using Euclidean invariant ρ^2 . Our main result is stated as follows:

Main Theorem. *Let M be an n -dimensional compact oriented Willmore submanifold in an $(n + p)$ -dimensional unit sphere, without umbilical point. Then*

$$\int_M \left(\left(2 - \frac{1}{p} \right) \rho^2 - n \right) \rho^n dM \geq 0. \tag{0.6}$$

In particular, if $\rho^2 \leq n/(2 - 1/p)$, then $\rho^2 = n/(2 - 1/p)$, and M is isometric to either

- (i) *Willmore tori W_k^n in S^{n+1} . or*
- (ii) *Verones surface in S^4 .*

We organize this paper as follows. For the purpose to prove main Theorem, we define the operator \square and the operator \square^* in §1, and prove they are adjoint with respect to suitable inner product. *It is very interesting that this operator appears naturally in the equation satisfied by Willmore submanifolds.* In §2 we present key lemmas and formulas. In §3 we prove main Theorem.

§1. The operator \square and its adjoint operator

Let M be an n -dimensional submanifold isometrically immersed in space form $N^{n+p}(c)$ with constant sectional curvature c . For each point $P \in M$, we choose a local orthonormal frame field $e_1, \dots, e_n, e_{n+1}, \dots, e_{n+p}$ around P , such that e_1, \dots, e_n are tangent

to M . The corresponding dual frame field is denoted by $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n, \omega_{n+1}, \dots, \omega_{n+p}\}$. When restricted on M , $\omega_\alpha = 0$. We make the following convention on the range of indices:

$$1 \leq i, j, k, \dots \leq n; n + 1 \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma \dots \leq n + p,$$

and shall agree that repeated indices are summed over the respective ranges. Let $h = h_{ij}^\alpha \omega_i \otimes \omega_j e_\alpha$ denote the second fundamental form and $\vec{H} = \sum_\alpha \frac{1}{n} (\sum_i h_{ii}^\alpha) e_\alpha$ the mean curvature vector of M to N . Then we have Gauss equation

$$R_{ijkl} = c(\delta_{ik}\delta_{jl} - \delta_{il}\delta_{jk}) + \sum_\alpha (h_{ik}^\alpha h_{jl}^\alpha - h_{il}^\alpha h_{jk}^\alpha), \tag{1.1}$$

Codazzi equation

$$h_{ij,k}^\alpha - h_{ik,j}^\alpha = 0, \tag{1.2}$$

and Ricci equation

$$h_{ij,kl}^\alpha - h_{ij,lk}^\alpha = h_{im}^\alpha R_{mjkl} + h_{mj}^\alpha R_{mikl} + h_{ij}^\beta R_{\beta\alpha kl}, \tag{1.3}$$

where

$$R_{\alpha\beta ij} = h_{ik}^\alpha h_{kj}^\beta - h_{ik}^\beta h_{kj}^\alpha. \tag{1.4}$$

For a section $\xi^\alpha e_\alpha$ of the normal bundle $T^\perp(M)$ we define the covariant derivative $\xi_{,i}^\alpha$ of ξ^α by

$$\xi_{,i}^\alpha \omega_i = d\xi^\alpha + \xi^\beta \omega_{\beta\alpha}, \tag{1.5}$$

and the covariant derivative $\xi_{,ij}^\alpha$ of $\xi_{,i}^\alpha$ by

$$\xi_{,ij}^\alpha \omega_j = d\xi_{,i}^\alpha + \xi_{,j}^\alpha \omega_{ji} + \xi_{,i}^\beta \omega_{\beta\alpha}, \tag{1.6}$$

where ω_{ij} and $\omega_{\alpha\beta}$ denote the connection forms on M and $T^\perp(M)$, respectively.

For a section $\phi = \phi_{ij}^\alpha \omega_i \omega_j e_\alpha$ of the vector bundle $T^\perp(M) \otimes T^*(M) \otimes T^*(M)$ we can define its covariant derivative $\phi_{,ijk}^\alpha$ by

$$\phi_{,ij,k}^\alpha \omega_k = d\phi_{,ij}^\alpha + \phi_{,ik}^\alpha \omega_{kj} + \phi_{,kj}^\alpha \omega_{ki} + \phi_{,ij}^\beta \omega_{\beta\alpha}. \tag{1.7}$$

We denote the set of the smooth sections of normal bundle $T^\perp(M)$ by $C^\infty(T^\perp(M))$ and the set of the smooth functions of M by $C^\infty(M)$, and for each ϕ , define the operator

$$\square_\phi^* : C^\infty(T^\perp(M)) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$$

by

$$\square_\phi^* \xi = \sum_{\alpha, i, j} \phi_{ij}^\alpha \xi_{,ij}^\alpha, \tag{1.8}$$

where $\xi = \xi^\alpha e_\alpha$ is a section of $T^\perp(M)$. Since $\sum_{\alpha, i, j} \phi_{ij}^\alpha \xi_{,ij}^\alpha$ can be viewed as the inner product $\langle \phi, \nabla^2 \xi \rangle$ of tow tensors ϕ and $\nabla^2 \xi = \xi_{,ij}^\alpha \omega_i \omega_j e_\alpha$ in $C^\infty(T^\perp M \otimes T^* M \otimes T^* M)$, the quantity is independence of the choice of the local orthonormal $\{e_i, e_\alpha\}$.

We can also define another operator

$$\square_\phi : C^\infty(M) \rightarrow C^\infty(T^\perp M)$$

by

$$\square_\phi f = \sum_{\alpha, i, j} \phi_{ij}^\alpha f_{,ij} e_\alpha. \tag{1.9}$$

For any point $q \in M$, let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_q$ denote the inner product on $T_q^\perp M$ (the fiber of $T^\perp M$) deduced by the metric of N . Then for any $\xi, \eta \in C^\infty(T^\perp M)$, since $\xi_q, \eta_q \in T_q^\perp M$, we can define a function $\langle \xi, \eta \rangle \in C^\infty(M)$ by $\langle \xi, \eta \rangle (q) = \langle \xi_q, \eta_q \rangle_q$, and so can define the global inner product (\cdot, \cdot) on $C^\infty(T^\perp M)$ by

$$(\xi, \eta) = \int_M \langle \xi, \eta \rangle dM. \tag{1.10}$$

Let the same symbol (\cdot, \cdot) denote the L^2 -inner product. Then we have.

Theorem 1.1

Let M be a compact oriented submanifold. If ϕ satisfies the conditions

$$(i) \ \phi_{ij}^\alpha = \phi_{ji}^\alpha, \quad (ii) \ \sum_j \phi_{ij,j}^\alpha = 0,$$

then \square_ϕ and \square_ϕ^* are adjoint, which means

$$(\square_\phi^* \xi, f) = (\xi, \square_\phi f). \tag{1.11}$$

Proof. By a direct computation we have

$$\begin{aligned} f \square_\phi^* \xi &= \sum_{\alpha,i,j} f \phi_{ij}^\alpha \xi_{ij}^\alpha = \sum_j \left(f \sum_{\alpha,i} \phi_{ij}^\alpha \xi_i^\alpha \right)_{,j} - \sum_i \left(\sum_{\alpha,j} f_{,j} \phi_{ij}^\alpha \xi^\alpha \right)_{,i} \\ &\quad + \sum_{\alpha,i,j} f_{,ij} \phi_{ij}^\alpha \xi^\alpha + \sum_{\alpha,i,j} f_{,j} \phi_{ij,i}^\alpha \xi^\alpha - \sum_{\alpha,i,j} f \phi_{ij,j}^\alpha \xi_{,i}^\alpha. \end{aligned} \tag{1.12}$$

Substituting the conditions (i) and (ii) into (1.12) and making use of Green's Theorem, we get

$$\int_M f \square_\phi^* \xi dM = \int_M \langle \square_\phi f, \xi \rangle dM.$$

This completes the proof of (1.11).

Now we take

$$\phi_{ij}^\alpha = m H^\alpha \delta_{ij} - h_{ij}^\alpha, \tag{1.13}$$

then this ϕ satisfies the conditions in Theorem 1.1 by Codazzi equation (1.2). Let \square and \square^* denote the operators corresponding to ϕ defined by (1.8) and (1.9). Then

$$(\square^* \xi, f) = (\xi, \square f) \tag{1.14}$$

and

$$\int_M \square^* \xi = 0 \tag{1.15}$$

holds. \square

Remark. In case $p = 1$, the operator \square is essentially the operator given by Cheng and Yau in [3]. The only difference is: the operator acts on $C^\infty(M)$, not on the set of the sections of $T^\perp M$. However, in this case, we have a bijective mapping $C^\infty(T^\perp M) \ni \xi = f e_{n+1} \leftrightarrow f \in C^\infty(M)$. By substituting f for $f e_{n+1}$, we see that \square is exactly the operator defined by Cheng-Yau.

§2. The formulas and the lemmas

Let $\vec{H} = \sum_{\alpha} H^{\alpha} e_{\alpha}$, where $H^{\alpha} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i h_{ii}^{\alpha}$. Then we have

$$\sum_k h_{kk,i}^{\alpha} = nH_{,i}^{\alpha}, \tag{2.1}$$

and

$$\sum_k h_{kk,ij}^{\alpha} = nH_{,ij}^{\alpha}. \tag{2.2}$$

It is easy to check that

$$h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{kk,ij}^{\alpha} = -n\Box^* \vec{H} + n^2 H^{\alpha} \Delta H^{\alpha}, \tag{2.3}$$

where Δ denotes the Laplacian operator, which means that for a function f , $\Delta f = \sum_i f_{,ii}$; for a normal vector field $\xi^{\alpha} e_{\alpha}$, $\Delta \xi^{\alpha} = \sum_i \xi_{,ii}^{\alpha}$; and for tensor $h_{ij}^{\alpha} \omega_i \omega_j e_{\alpha}$, $\Delta h_{ij}^{\alpha} = \sum_k h_{ij,kk}^{\alpha}$.

On the other hand, we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \Delta |\vec{H}|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \sum_{\alpha} (H^{\alpha})^2 = H^{\alpha} \Delta H^{\alpha} + |\nabla \vec{H}|^2, \tag{2.4}$$

where we denote the gradient operator by ∇ and define the normal $|\nabla \vec{H}|$ of $\nabla \vec{H} = H_{,i}^{\alpha} \omega_i e_{\alpha}$ by

$$|\nabla \vec{H}|^2 = \sum_{i,\alpha} (H_{,i}^{\alpha})^2. \tag{2.5}$$

Remark. It should be noted that, in general, $|\nabla \vec{H}|^2 \neq |\nabla |\vec{H}||^2$.

From (2.3) and (1.3), we have

$$h_{ij}^{\alpha} \Delta h_{ij}^{\alpha} = -n\Box^* \vec{H} + n^2 H^{\alpha} \Delta H^{\alpha} + h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{km}^{\alpha} R_{mijk} + h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{mi}^{\alpha} R_{mkjk} + h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{ki}^{\beta} R_{\beta\alpha jk}. \tag{2.6}$$

From (2.4) and (2.6) We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \Delta \rho^2 &= -n\Box^* \vec{H} + |\nabla h|^2 - n|\nabla \vec{H}|^2 + n(n-1)H^{\alpha} \Delta H^{\alpha} \\ &+ h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{km}^{\alpha} R_{mijk} + h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{mi}^{\alpha} R_{mkjk} + h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{ki}^{\beta} R_{\beta\alpha jk}, \end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

where $\rho^2 = S - n|\vec{H}|^2$. Noting that Δ is self-adjoint and \Box^* and \Box are adjoint, with respect to inner - product defined in Theorem 1.1, we get the following key formula

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} (\rho^{n-2}, \Delta \rho^2) &= -n(\vec{H}, \Box \rho^{n-2}) + n(n-1)(\vec{H}, \Delta(\rho^{n-2} \vec{H})) \\ &+ (\rho^{n-2}, |\nabla h|^2 - n|\nabla \vec{H}|^2 + h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{km}^{\alpha} R_{mijk} + h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{mi}^{\alpha} R_{mkjk} + h_{ij}^{\alpha} h_{ki}^{\beta} R_{\beta\alpha jk}). \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

Remark. It is very interesting that the quantity

$$(\vec{H}, \Box \rho^{n-2}) - (n-1)(\vec{H}, \Delta(\rho^{n-2} \vec{H}))$$

appears naturally in the equation satisfied by Willmore submanifolds.

Lemma 2.1

$$|\nabla h|^2 - n|\nabla \vec{H}|^2 \geq 0, \tag{2.9}$$

and the equality holds if and only if $\nabla h = 0$.

Proof. Set a tensor F by

$$F_{ijk}^\alpha = h_{ijk}^\alpha - \frac{n}{n+2} \{H_{,i}^\alpha \delta_{jk} + H_{,j}^\alpha \delta_{ik} + H_{,k}^\alpha \delta_{ij}\}. \tag{2.10}$$

It is to check that

$$|F|^2 = \sum_{\alpha ijk} (F_{ijk}^\alpha)^2 = |\nabla h|^2 - \frac{3n^2}{n+2} |\nabla \vec{H}|^2. \tag{2.11}$$

Thus, we have

$$|\nabla h|^2 - n|\nabla \vec{H}|^2 = |F|^2 + \frac{2(n-1)}{n+2} |\nabla \vec{H}|^2 \geq \frac{2(n-1)}{n+2} |\nabla \vec{H}|^2 \geq 0. \tag{2.12}$$

From (2.2) one can see that $|\nabla h|^2 - n|\nabla \vec{H}|^2 = 0$ implies $\nabla h = 0$. \square

§3. Willmore submanifolds in unit sphere S^{n+p}

Let M^n be a submanifold of an $n+p$ -dimensional unit sphere S^{n+p} . Willmore function $W(M)$ is defined by (0.2). Then M is a Willmore submanifold (it is a critical submanifold of the Willmore function $W(M)$) if and only if, for any α with $n+1 \leq \alpha \leq n+p$,

$$\begin{aligned} & -\rho^{n-2} [SH^\alpha + H^\beta h_{ij}^\beta h_{ij}^\alpha - h_{ij}^\alpha h_{ik}^\beta h_{kj}^\beta - n|\vec{H}|^2 H^\alpha] \\ & + (n-1)\Delta(\rho^{n-2} H^\alpha) - (\rho^{n-2})_{,ij} (nH^\alpha \delta_{ij} - h_{ij}^\alpha) = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Multiplying this equation by H^α and taking the sum for all α 's, and then taking its integration we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (n-1)(\Delta(\rho^{n-2} \vec{H}), \vec{H}) - (\square \rho^{n-2}, \vec{H}) \\ & = (\rho^{n-2}, [S - n|\vec{H}|^2] |\vec{H}|^2 + H^\beta h_{ij}^\beta h_{ij}^\alpha H^\alpha - H^\alpha h_{ij}^\alpha h_{ik}^\beta h_{kj}^\beta). \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

Substituting (3.2) into (2.8) and using Lemma 2.1, we get the following theorem.

Theorem 3.1

Suppose M^n is a compact oriented Willmore submanifold in S^{n+p} . Then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \geq & \int_M \rho^{n-2} \{ n\rho^2 |\vec{H}|^2 + nH^\beta h_{ij}^\beta h_{ij}^\alpha H^\alpha - nH^\alpha h_{ij}^\alpha h_{ik}^\beta h_{kj}^\beta \\ & + h_{ij}^\alpha h_{km}^\alpha R_{mijk} + h_{ij}^\alpha h_{mi}^\alpha R_{mkjk} + h_{ij}^\alpha h_{ki}^\beta R_{\beta\alpha jk} \} dM. \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

Set

$$Q = n\rho^2|\vec{H}|^2 + nH^\beta h_{ij}^\beta h_{ij}^\alpha H^\alpha - nH^\alpha h_{ij}^\alpha h_{ik}^\beta h_{kj}^\beta + h_{ij}^\alpha h_{km}^\alpha R_{mijk} + h_{ij}^\alpha h_{mi}^\alpha R_{mkjk} + h_{ij}^\alpha h_{ki}^\beta R_{\beta\alpha jk}. \tag{3.4}$$

Let A_α denotes the matrix $(h_{ij}^\alpha)_{n \times n}$. From the Gauss equation, we have

$$Q = n\rho^2|\vec{H}|^2 + n\rho^2 + \sum_{\alpha,\beta} H^\alpha H^\beta \text{tr}(A_\alpha A_\beta) - \sum_{\alpha,\beta} \text{tr}[(A_\alpha A_\beta - A_\beta A_\alpha)(A_\beta A_\alpha - A_\alpha A_\beta)] - \sum_{\alpha,\beta} (\text{tr}(A_\alpha A_\beta))^2. \tag{3.5}$$

Let

$$B_\alpha = A_\alpha - H^\alpha I,$$

where I is the unit matrix. Thus we can rewrite Q as follow

$$Q = n\rho^2|\vec{H}|^2 - nH^\alpha H^\beta \text{tr}(B_\alpha B_\beta) + n\rho^2 - \text{tr}[(B_\alpha B_\beta - B_\beta B_\alpha)(B_\beta B_\alpha - B_\alpha B_\beta)] - \sum_{\alpha,\beta} [\text{tr}(B_\alpha B_\beta)]^2. \tag{3.6}$$

Set

$$L_{\alpha\beta} = \text{tr}(B_\alpha B_\beta). \tag{3.7}$$

Then the $p \times p$ matrix $(L_{\alpha\beta})$ is symmetric and can be assumed to be diagonal for a suitable choice of e_{n+1}, \dots, e_{n+p} . We set

$$L_\alpha = L_{\alpha\alpha}, \tag{3.8}$$

then

$$\rho^2 = \sum_{\alpha} L_\alpha. \tag{3.9}$$

So we have

$$\begin{aligned} n\rho^2|\vec{H}|^2 - nH^\alpha H^\beta \text{tr}(B_\alpha B_\beta) &= \sum (H^\alpha)^2 (\rho^2 - L_\alpha) \\ &= \sum_{\alpha} (H^\alpha)^2 \left(\sum_{\beta \neq \alpha} L_\beta \right) \geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3.10}$$

And the equality implies $H^\alpha L_\beta = 0, \alpha \neq \beta$.

Lemma 3.1 (see [4], [8])

$$\text{tr}[(B_\alpha B_\beta - B_\beta B_\alpha)(B_\beta B_\alpha - B_\alpha B_\beta)] + \sum_{\alpha,\beta} [\text{tr}(B_\alpha B_\beta)]^2 \leq (2 - 1/p)\rho^4. \tag{3.11}$$

and equality implies one of the following (i) and (ii).

- (i) $p = 1$,
- (ii) If $p \geq 2$, then p must be 2. After a suitable renumbering of the e_{n+1}, e_{n+2} , we have $B_{n+1} = \lambda \tilde{A}, B_{n+2} = \mu \tilde{B}, \lambda \mu \neq 0$,

where

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3.12)$$

From (3.10) and (3.11) we get

$$Q \geq \rho^2 \left(n - \left(2 - \frac{1}{p} \right) \rho^2 \right). \quad (3.13)$$

Lemma 3.2

Let M be an n -dimensional compact oriented Willmore submanifold in an $(n + p)$ -dimensional unit sphere. Then

$$\int_M \left(\left(2 - \frac{1}{p} \right) \rho^2 - n \right) \rho^n dM \geq 0, \quad (3.14)$$

and equality implies $\nabla h = 0$ and one of the following (a) and (b):

- (a) $p = 1,$
- (b) $p \geq 2, \vec{H} = 0.$

Proof. Since the equality of (3.14) holds implies that equalities of (3.3), (3.10) and (3.11) hold, we see that $\nabla h = 0$ comes from Theorem 3.1, $\vec{H} = 0$ comes from (3.10) and (ii) of Lemma 3.1. This completes the proof of Lemma 3.2. \square

Proof of the Main Theorem. If $p = 1,$ then from Lemma 3.2, M is a hypersurface with parallel second fundamental form, and it is known that M is either total geodesic or $M = S^k(a) \times S^{n-k}(b), a^2 + b^2 = 1.$ Since M satisfies Willmore condition (3.1), by using Theorem 3.1 in our paper [6] we have $a = \sqrt{\frac{n-k}{n}}$ and $b = \sqrt{\frac{k}{n}}.$

If $p \geq 2,$ then from Lemma 3.2, we know M is minimal with $S = \rho^2 = n/(2 - 1/p).$ Following Chern, Do Carmo and Kobayashi’ the result in [4], we know M is Veronese surface. This completes the proof of the main Theorem. \square

References

1. I. Castro and F. Urbano, Willmore surfaces of \mathbb{R}^4 and Whitney sphere, *Ann. Global Anal. Geom.* **19** (2001), 153–157.
2. B.Y. Chen, Some conformal invariants of submanifolds and their applications, *Boll. Un. Mat. Ital.* **10** (1974), 380–385.
3. S.Y. Cheng and S.T. Yau, Hypersurfaces with constant scalar curvature. *Math. Ann.* **225** (1977), 195–204.
4. S.S. Chern, M. Do Carmo, and S. Kobayashi, *Minimal submanifolds of a sphere with second fundamental form of constant length,* In: Functional Analysis and Related Fields, 59–75, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1970.
5. N. Ejiri, A counterexample for Weiner’s open question, *Indiana Univ. Math. J.* **31** (1982), 209–211.
6. Z. Guo, H. Li, and C. Wang, The second variational formula for Willmore submanifolds in $S^n,$ *Results Math.* **40** (2001), 205–225.

7. U. Pincall, Hopf tori in S^3 , *Invent. Math.* **81** (1985), 379–386.
8. J. Simon, Minimal varieties in Riemannian geometry, *Ann. of Math.* **88** (1968), 62–105.
9. C. Wang, Moebius geometry of submanifolds in S^n , *Manuscripta Math.* **96** (1998), 517–534.
10. T.J. Willmore, *Total Curvature in Riemannian Geometry*, Ellis Horwood Limited, 1982.