

ON $(k + 1)$ -DIMENSIONAL SPACE-LIKE RULED SURFACE IN THE MINKOWSKI SPACE

MURAT TOSUN*, ISMAIL AYDEMIR** AND NURI KURUOĞLU**

ABSTRACT. In this paper, we introduce the $(k+1)$ -dimensional space-like ruled surfaces in Minkowski space R_1^n and obtain interesting results related to asymptotic and tangential bundle of these spaces. Further, we give derivatives equations of these space-like ruled surfaces.

1. INTRODUCTION

We shall assume throughout the paper that all manifolds, maps, vector fields, etc... are differentiable of class C^∞ . Let R^n be the n -dimensional vector space. The following symmetric, bilinear and non-degenerate metric tensor is called the Lorentz metric on R^n :

$$\langle X, Y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} x_i y_i - x_n y_n, \quad X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n), \quad Y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n).$$

R^n together with the Lorentz metric is called the n -dimensional Minkowski space, denoted by R_1^n . Let M be a surface on the n -dimensional Minkowski space R_1^n . If the induced metric on M is positive defined, then M is called the space-like surface. A curve α in R_1^n is space-like curve if $\langle \dot{\alpha}, \dot{\alpha} \rangle > 0$, where $\dot{\alpha}$ is the velocity vector of α . Further, the basic definitions and theorems related to the Minkowski space R_1^n have been found in [3]. The generalized ruled surface in n -dimensional Euclidean space has been studied by H. Frank and O. Giering [1], M. Juzza [2] and C. Thas [4], [5].

The aim of this paper is to define the $(k + 1)$ -dimensional generalized ruled surface in Minkowski space R_1^n and to obtain the derivatives equation of this space.

2. SPACE-LIKE RULED SURFACES

Let $\{e_1(t), e_2(t), \dots, e_k(t)\}$ be an orthonormal vector field, which is defined at each point $\alpha(t)$ of a space-like curve of a n -dimensional Minkowski

Received April 23, 1997; in revised form September 29, 1997.

1991 Mathematics subject classification. 53C42.

Key words and phrases. Minkowski space, generalized ruled surfaces.

space R_1^n . This system spans at the point $\alpha(t) \in R_1^n$ a k -dimensional subspace of a tangent space $T_{R_1^n}(\alpha(t))$. This subspace is denoted by $E_k(t)$ and is given by

$$E_k(t) = \{e_1(t), e_2(t), \dots, e_k(t)\}.$$

If the subspace $E_k(t)$ moves along the curve α we obtain a $(k + 1)$ -dimensional surface in R_1^n . This surface is called a $(k + 1)$ -dimensional generalized space-like ruled surface of the n -dimensional Minkowski space R_1^n and is denoted by M . The subspace $E_k(t)$ and the space-like curve α are called the generating space and the base curve respectively. For this ruled surface we can give the following parametrization:

$$(2.1) \quad \phi(t, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k) = \alpha(t) + \sum_{i=1}^k u_i e_i(t).$$

If we take the derivate of ϕ with respect to t and u_i , $1 \leq i \leq k$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_t &= \dot{\alpha}(t) + \sum_{i=1}^k u_i \dot{e}_i(t), \\ \phi_{u_i} &= e_i(t), \quad 1 \leq i \leq k. \end{aligned}$$

Throughout the paper we assume that the system

$$(2.2) \quad \left\{ \dot{\alpha}(t) + \sum_{i=1}^k u_i \dot{e}_i(t), e_1(t), e_2(t), \dots, e_k(t) \right\}$$

is linear independent and that the subspace $E_k(t)$ is a space-like subspace. The vector subspace

$$Sp\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, \dot{e}_1, \dot{e}_2, \dots, \dot{e}_k\}$$

is called the asymptotic bundle of M with respect to $E_k(t)$ and it is denoted by $A(t)$. We have

$$(2.3) \quad \dim(A(t)) = k + m, \quad 0 \leq m \leq k.$$

There exists an orthonormal basis of $A(t)$ which we denote as follows

$$\{e_1(t), e_2(t), \dots, e_k(t), a_{k+1}(t), a_{k+2}(t), \dots, a_{k+m}(t)\}.$$

Now there are two possibilities for the asymptotic bundle $A(t)$:

- (i) $A(t)$ is a space-like subspace of R_1^n
- (ii) $A(t)$ is a time-like subspace of R_1^n .

Consider a fixed point P of M . If P is given by $P = \phi(t, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k)$ then a bases of the tangent space in P is given by

$$\left\{ \dot{\alpha} + \sum_{i=1}^k u_i \dot{e}_i, e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k \right\}.$$

We can define any point P of $E_k(t)$ by changing u_i , $1 \leq i \leq k$ for a fixed value of t . The space

$$(2.4) \quad Sp\left\{ \dot{\alpha}, e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, \dot{e}_1, \dot{e}_2, \dots, \dot{e}_k \right\}$$

includes the union of all the tangent spaces of $E_k(t)$ at a point P . This space is denoted by $T(t)$ and called the tangential bundle of M in $E_k(t)$. It can be easily seen that

$$(2.5) \quad k + m \leq \dim T(t) \leq k + m + 1, \quad 0 \leq m \leq k.$$

In what follow we study separately the properties of the asymptotic bundle $A(t)$ and of the tangential bundle which depend on their dimension.

We assume that the asymptotic bundle is a space-like subspace. If $\dim(T(t)) = k + m$, then $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+m}\}$ is an orthonormal base of $A(t)$ as well as of $T(t)$. Consequently the tangential bundle is space-like subspace. If the dimension of $T(t)$ is equal to $k + m + 1$ we find that

$$\dot{\alpha} \notin Sp\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+m}\}.$$

In this case,

$$(2.6) \quad \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+m}, a_{k+m+1}\}$$

is an orthonormal bases of $T(t)$. Since α is a space-like curve we find again that $T(t)$ is a space-like subspace.

Therefore we can give the following result:

Lemma 2.1. *If the asymptotic bundle $A(t)$ of M is a space-like subspace, then the tangential bundle $T(t)$ is also a space-like subspace.*

Now we assume that the asymptotic bundle $A(t)$ is a time-like subspace. If the dimension of $T(t)$ is equal to $k+m$, we get $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+m}\}$ as the tangential bundle of $A(t)$ as well as of $T(t)$. That means that $T(t)$ is a time-like subspace.

If the dimension of $T(t)$ is equal to $k+m+1$, then we find an orthonormal base of $T(t)$ by

$$\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+m}, a_{k+m+1}\}.$$

And hence $T(t)$ is a time-like subspace and we can give the result below:

Lemma 2.2. *If the asymptotic bundle $A(t)$ of M is a time-like subspace, then always the tangential bundle $T(t)$ is a time-like subspace.*

Theorem 2.3. *Let M be a $(k+1)$ -dimensional space-like ruled surface in R_1^n and $E_k(t)$ the generating space of M . We can find an interval J , such that $t_0 \in J \subset I$ and that then exist a unique orthonormal bases $\{e_1(t_0), e_2(t_0), \dots, e_k(t_0)\}$ of $E_k(t)$ which satisfies:*

$$\langle \dot{\bar{e}}_j, \bar{e}_i \rangle = 0, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq k.$$

Proof. Because $E_k(t)$ is a space-like subspace of the Minkowski space R_1^n , we have for the base $\{e_i(t)\}$, $1 \leq i \leq k$,

$$\langle e_i, e_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq k.$$

Let a_{jh} , $1 \leq j, h \leq k$ be the functions which are defined as solutions of the system of differential equations

$$(2.7) \quad \dot{a}_{jh} + \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ji} \langle \dot{e}_i, e_h \rangle = 0$$

and

$$\bar{e}_j = \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ji} e_i.$$

In this case

$$\dot{\bar{e}}_j = \sum_{i=1}^k \dot{a}_{ji} e_i + \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ji} \dot{e}_i,$$

and therefore we get

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \dot{\bar{e}}_j, e_h \rangle &= \sum_{i=1}^k \dot{a}_{ji} \langle e_i, e_h \rangle + \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ji} \langle \dot{e}_i, e_h \rangle = \dot{a}_{jh} + \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ji} \langle \dot{e}_i, e_h \rangle = 0, \\ \langle \dot{\bar{e}}_j, \bar{e}_s \rangle &= \langle \dot{\bar{e}}_j, \sum_{h=1}^k a_{sh} e_h \rangle = \sum_{h=1}^k a_{sh} \langle \dot{\bar{e}}_j, e_h \rangle = 0.\end{aligned}$$

As conclusion we find

$$\langle \bar{e}_j, \bar{e}_i \rangle' = \langle \dot{\bar{e}}_j, \bar{e}_i \rangle + \langle \bar{e}_j, \dot{\bar{e}}_i \rangle = 0.$$

If we compute the values of the solutions of (2.7) for we get an orthonormal matrix $[a_{jh}(t_0)]$ and the base $\{\bar{e}_i(t_0)\}$, $1 \leq i \leq k$, is orthogonal too. Therefore, for each point t it will be orthogonal, that is the condition

$$\langle \bar{e}_j, \bar{e}_i \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ji} e_i, \sum_{t=1}^k a_{st} e_t \right\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ji} a_{st} = \delta_{js}$$

is satisfied. This yields an orthonormal base with

$$\langle \dot{\bar{e}}_j, \bar{e}_s \rangle = 0, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq k.$$

Theorem 2.4. *Let M be a $(k+1)$ -dimensional space-like ruled surface, $E_k(t)$ its generating space and $A(t)$ the asymptotic bundle of M . If $A(t)$ is a time-like subspace, then we can find an open interval J such that for the system $\{e_1(t), e_2(t), \dots, e_m(t)\}$ of an orthonormal bases of $E_k(t)$ the following relations hold:*

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_j(t) \rangle &= 0, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq m, \quad i \neq j, \\ \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_1(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_1(t) \rangle &> \dots > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{s-1}(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_{s-1}(t) \rangle > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{s+1}(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_{s+1}(t) \rangle \\ &> \dots > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_m(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_m(t) \rangle > 0, \\ \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_s(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_s(t) \rangle &< 0, \quad 1 \leq s \leq m,\end{aligned}$$

where $\overset{\circ}{e}_i(t)$ is defined by:

$$\overset{\circ}{e}_i(t) = \dot{e}_i(t) - \sum_{i=1}^m \langle \dot{e}_i(t), e_s(t) \rangle e_s(t).$$

Proof. Let

$$(2.8) \quad e(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \gamma_i(t) e_i(t), \quad \|e(t)\| = 1$$

be the constant unit vector and

$$(2.9) \quad \overset{\circ}{e}(t) = \dot{e}(t) - \sum_{s=1}^m \langle \dot{e}(t), e_s(t) \rangle e_s(t)$$

an arbitrary space-like vector. With (2.8) and (2.9) we find

$$(2.10) \quad \overset{\circ}{e}_i(t) = \dot{e}_i(t) - \sum_{s=1}^m \langle \dot{e}_i(t), e_s(t) \rangle e_s(t)$$

and

$$(2.11) \quad \overset{\circ}{e}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \gamma_i(t) \overset{\circ}{e}_i(t).$$

From this equations we also get

$$(2.12) \quad e^2(t) = \sum_{i,j=1}^m \gamma_i(t) \gamma_j(t) \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_j(t) \rangle, \quad t \in J.$$

Since the $A(t)$ is a time-like subspace we obtain from (2.10) a bases $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, \overset{\circ}{e}_1, \overset{\circ}{e}_2, \dots, \overset{\circ}{e}_m\}$ of the asymptotic bundle $A(t)$. Because $A(t)$ is a time-like subspace, one of the vectors $\overset{\circ}{e}_1, \overset{\circ}{e}_2, \dots, \overset{\circ}{e}_m$ is a time-like vector. Let $\overset{\circ}{e}_s$, $1 \leq s \leq m$ be these time-like vectors. Every generating space $E_k(t)$ determines in $S_1^{n-1} \subset R_1^n$ a $S^{k-1}(t)$ unit subsphere. Suppose that for all $t \in J$, the functions $\overset{\circ}{e}^2(t)$ has an extremum on $S^{k-1}(t)$. In this case $\langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i, \overset{\circ}{e}_i \rangle = \varepsilon_i$, $1 \leq i \leq m$, γ_i and $\varepsilon_i \lambda^2$ and with the help of the Lagrange product we get

$$(2.13) \quad F(t, \gamma_i) = \overset{\circ}{e}^2(t, \gamma_i) - \varepsilon_i \lambda^2 [e^2(t, \gamma_i) - 1].$$

If we replace (2.8) and (2.12) in this last equation and take the partial derivate of F according to γ_i , then we get

$$(2.14) \quad F_{\gamma_i}(t) = \sum_{j=1}^m \gamma_j \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i, \overset{\circ}{e}_j \rangle - \varepsilon_i \lambda^2 \gamma_i(t) = 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m.$$

For this homogenous linear system of equations, in $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_m$, we can find at least a value $\lambda^2 \in R$ such that its coefficient matrix is symmetric and singular. Therefore, there exists for all $t \in J$ a nontrivial solution $(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_m)$. Suppose now that for all $t_0 \in I_m \subset J$ the base vector $e_m(t_0)$ of the generating space $E_k(t)$ is a solution of $e(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \gamma_i(t)e_i(t)$ and that in this base vector, $\overset{\circ}{e}^2(t, \gamma_i)$ has an absolute minimum on $S^{k-1}(t_0)$. Hence

$$\gamma_1(t_0) = \dots = \gamma_{m-1}(t_0) = 0, \quad \gamma_m(t_0) = 1,$$

and we get

$$(2.15) \quad \begin{aligned} \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_1, \overset{\circ}{e}_m \rangle &= \dots = \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_s, \overset{\circ}{e}_m \rangle = \dots = \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{m-1}, \overset{\circ}{e}_m \rangle = 0, \\ \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_m, \overset{\circ}{e}_m \rangle &= \lambda_m^2(t_0) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

In a similar way we can do this for $e_{m-1}(t_0)$ and find

$$\gamma_1(t_0) = \dots = \gamma_m(t_0) = 0, \quad \gamma_{m-1}(t_0) = 1,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_1, \overset{\circ}{e}_{m-1} \rangle &= \dots = \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_s, \overset{\circ}{e}_{m-1} \rangle = \dots = \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_m, \overset{\circ}{e}_{m-1} \rangle = 0, \\ \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{m-1}, \overset{\circ}{e}_{m-1} \rangle &= \lambda_{m-1}^2(t_0) > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Because $\lambda_m^2(t_0)$ is the absolute minimum on $S^{k-1}(t)$ of $\overset{\circ}{e}^2(t, \gamma_i)$ in an interval $I_m \subset J$ of the covering of I , we get

$$\langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{m-1}, \overset{\circ}{e}_{m-1} \rangle > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_m, \overset{\circ}{e}_m \rangle > 0.$$

The above method can be applied to all space-like base vectors $e_i(t_0)$ such that on a covering of the interval $J \subset I$ we get

$$\langle \overset{\circ}{e}_1, \overset{\circ}{e}_1 \rangle > \dots > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{s-1}, \overset{\circ}{e}_{s-1} \rangle > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{s+1}, \overset{\circ}{e}_{s+1} \rangle > \dots > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_m, \overset{\circ}{e}_m \rangle > 0.$$

Now let $e_s(t_0)$ in $I_s \subset J \subset I$ a solution vector of $e(t)$ and in the base vector $e_s(t_0)$ the functions $\overset{\circ}{e}^2(t, \gamma_i)$ has an absolute minimum on $S^{k-1}(t)$. In this case we find $t_0 \in I_s$ such that

$$(2.16) \quad \begin{aligned} \gamma_1(t_0) &= \dots = \gamma_{s-1}(t_0) = \gamma_{s+1}(t_0) = \dots = \gamma_m(t_0) = 0, \\ \gamma_s(t_0) &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

This last equation and (2.12) yield

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \overset{\circ}{e}_1, \overset{\circ}{e}_s \rangle &= \cdots = \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{s-1}, \overset{\circ}{e}_s \rangle = \cdots = \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_m, \overset{\circ}{e}_s \rangle = 0, \\ \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_s, \overset{\circ}{e}_s \rangle &= -\lambda_s^2(t_0) = 0.\end{aligned}$$

Consequently, we have, in a covering of the interval $J \subset I$,

$$\langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i, \overset{\circ}{e}_j \rangle = 0, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq k, \quad i \neq j$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \overset{\circ}{e}_1, \overset{\circ}{e}_1 \rangle &> \cdots > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{s-1}, \overset{\circ}{e}_{s-1} \rangle > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_{s+1}, \overset{\circ}{e}_{s+1} \rangle > \cdots > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_m, \overset{\circ}{e}_m \rangle > 0, \\ \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_s, \overset{\circ}{e}_s \rangle &< 0.\end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

Theorem 2.5. *Let M be a $(k+1)$ -dimensional space-like ruled surface and $A(t)$ the asymptotic bundle of M . Let $A(t)$ be a space-like subspace and $\{e_1(t), e_2(t), \dots, e_k(t)\}$ an orthonormal bases of $E_k(t)$. We can find an open interval J such that for the system $\{e_1(t), e_2(t), \dots, e_m(t)\}$ the following relations hold:*

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_j(t) \rangle &= 0, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq m, \quad i \neq j, \\ \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_1(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_1(t) \rangle &> \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_2(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_2(t) \rangle > \cdots > \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_m(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_m(t) \rangle > 0,\end{aligned}$$

where $\overset{\circ}{e}_i(t)$ is given by

$$\overset{\circ}{e}_i(t) = \dot{e}_i(t) - \sum_{s=1}^m \langle \dot{e}(t), e_s(t) \rangle e_s(t).$$

Proof. Let

$$(2.17) \quad e(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \gamma_i(t) e_i(t), \quad \|e(t)\| = 1$$

be the constant unit vector and

$$(2.18) \quad \overset{\circ}{e}(t) = \dot{e}(t) - \sum_{s=1}^m \langle \dot{e}(t), e_s(t) \rangle e_s(t)$$

an arbitrary space-like vector. With (2.17) and (2.18) we find

$$(2.19) \quad \overset{\circ}{e}_i(t) = \dot{e}_i(t) - \sum_{s=1}^m \langle \dot{e}_i(t), e_s(t) \rangle e_s(t)$$

and

$$(2.20) \quad \overset{\circ}{e}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \gamma_i(t) \overset{\circ}{e}_i(t).$$

From this equations we also get

$$(2.21) \quad e^2(t) = \sum_{i,j=1}^m \gamma_i(t) \gamma_j(t) \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i(t), \overset{\circ}{e}_j(t) \rangle, \quad t \in J.$$

Since the $A(t)$ is a space-like subspace we obtain from (2.19) a bases $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, \overset{\circ}{e}_1, \overset{\circ}{e}_2, \dots, \overset{\circ}{e}_m\}$ of $A(t)$, the asymptotic bundle. Each generating space $E_k(t)$ determines a unit subsphere $S^{k-1}(t)$ on $S_1^{n-1} \subset R_1^n$. Let the functions $e^2(t)$ have an extremum on $S^{k-1}(t)$ for all $t \in J$. In this case, with γ_i , $1 \leq i \leq m$, and λ^2 and with help of the Lagrange product we obtain the following functions

$$(2.22) \quad F(t, \gamma_i) = \overset{\circ}{e}^2(t, \gamma_i) - \lambda^2 [e^2(t, \gamma_i) - 1].$$

If we use (2.17) and (2.21) and take the partial derivate of F according to γ_i , $1 \leq i \leq m$, we get

$$F_{\gamma_i}(t) = \sum_{j=1}^m \gamma_j \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i, \overset{\circ}{e}_j \rangle - \lambda^2 \gamma_i(t) = 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m.$$

Now, following the proof of Theorem 2.4 we can complete the proof.

Because of Theorem 2.5 and Theorem 2.6 we can give the following corollary:

Corolary 2.6. *For the asymptotic bundle*

$$A(t) = Sp\{\alpha, e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k\}$$

we can find an orthonormal bases in the following form:

$$(2.23) \quad \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, \mathring{e}_1, \mathring{e}_2, \dots, \mathring{e}_m\}, \quad 0 \leq m \leq k.$$

Theorem 2.7. *Let M be a $(k+1)$ -dimensional space-like ruled surface in R_1^n with generating space $E_k(t)$ and asymptotic bundle $A(t)$. We can choose an orthonormal bases $\{e_1(t), e_2(t), \dots, e_k(t)\}$ of $E_k(t)$ such that the following relations are held:*

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{e}_i &= \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_{ij} e_j + \kappa_i a_{k+1}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m, \\ \dot{e}_s &= \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_{sj} e_j, \quad m+1 \leq s \leq k, \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha_{ij} = -\alpha_{ji}$ and $\kappa_1 > \kappa_2 > \dots > \kappa_m > 0$.

Proof. Because of Corollary 2.6 we can find an orthonormal bases of $A(t)$ in the form:

$$\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, \mathring{e}_1, \mathring{e}_2, \dots, \mathring{e}_m\}, \quad 0 \leq m \leq k.$$

If we define

$$(2.24) \quad a_{k+1} = \frac{\mathring{e}_i}{\|\mathring{e}_i\|}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m,$$

we can find an orthonormal bases of the asymptotic bundle $A(t)$ in the following form:

$$\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+m}, a_{k+m+1}\}.$$

Moreover, we can write

$$(2.25) \quad \dot{e}_i = \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_{ij} e_j + \sum_{v=1}^m \sigma_{iv} a_{k+v}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m,$$

because $\dot{e}_i \in Sp\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+m}\}$. Since $\langle e_i, e_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$, $1 \leq i, j \leq k$, we get

$$(2.26) \quad \langle \dot{e}_i, e_j \rangle = -\langle e_i, \dot{e}_j \rangle.$$

Therefore we see that $\alpha_{ij} = -\alpha_{ji}$ using (2.25) and (2.26).

From the relations (2.25) we evaluate σ_{iv} . Two cases could be appeared:

(i) Let $A(t)$ be a time-like subspace. Then

$$\sigma_{iv} = \varepsilon_v \langle \dot{e}_i, a_{k+v} \rangle, \quad \varepsilon_v = \langle a_{k+v}, a_{k+v} \rangle = \pm 1.$$

If we replace $\dot{e}_i(t)$ by its vector value we get

$$\sigma_{iv} = \varepsilon_v \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i, a_{k+v} \rangle.$$

Using equation (2.24) in this last equation we obtain

$$\sigma_{iv} = \frac{\varepsilon_v}{\|\overset{\circ}{e}_v\|} \langle \overset{\circ}{e}_i, \overset{\circ}{e}_v \rangle.$$

Now we denote $\|\overset{\circ}{e}_v\|$ by κ_v . From Theorem 2.4 we get $\sigma_{ii} = \kappa_i$ and $\kappa_1 > \kappa_2 > \dots > \kappa_m > 0$.

Therefore, the equation (2.25) yields

$$\dot{e}_i = \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_{ij} e_j + \kappa_i a_{k+i}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m$$

(ii) Let $A(t)$ be a space-like subspace. In this case,

$$\sigma_{iv} = \varepsilon_v \langle \dot{e}_i, a_{k+v} \rangle.$$

Therefore, if we follow the method of (i) we obtain $\kappa_1 > \kappa_2 > \dots > \kappa_m > 0$ and

$$\dot{e}_i = \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_{ij} e_j + \kappa_i a_{k+1}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m.$$

This proves the first part of the theorem.

In both cases, if $A(t)$ is a time-like subspace or a space-like subspace, we get for $s \neq v$, that $\sigma_{sv} = 0$ if we write $m + 1 \leq s \leq k$ in the equation (2.25). But this is sufficient for

$$\dot{e}_s(t) = \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_{sj} e_j, \quad m + 1 \leq s \leq k.$$

REFERENCES

1. H. Frank und O. Giering, *Verallgemeinerte regelflachen*, Math. Zeit. **150** (1976), 261-271.
2. M. Juza, *Ligne de striction sur une généralisation à plusieurs dimensions d'une surface réglée*, Czechosl. Math. J. **12** (1962), 143-250.
3. B. O'Neill, *Semi-Riemannian Geometry*, Academic Press, New York-London, 1983.
4. C. Thas, *Minimal monosystems*, Yokohama Math. J. **26** (1978), 157-167.
5. C. Thas, *Een (lokale) studie van de $(m + 1)$ -dimensionale variëteiten van de n -dimensionale euclidische ruimte R^n ($n \geq 2m + 1$ en $m \geq 1$) beschreven door één-dimensionale familie van m -dimensionele lineaire suimten*, Med. Konink. Acad. Wetensch. Lett, Schone Kunst. Belgie, Jaargang, No. 4 (1974), 76-80.

* SAKARYA UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

54100, SAKARYA TURKEY

** ONDOKUZ MAYIS UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

SAMSUN TURKEY