

## ON GRADIENT $\eta$ -EINSTEIN SOLITONS

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ABSTRACT. If the potential vector field of an  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton is of gradient type, using Bochner formula, we derive from the soliton equation a nonlinear second order PDE. Under certain conditions, the existence of an  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton forces the manifold to be of constant scalar curvature.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the same way like the Ricci solitons generate self-similar solutions to Ricci flow

$$(1.1) \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} g = -2S,$$

the notion of *Einstein solitons*, which generate self-similar solutions to Einstein flow

$$(1.2) \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} g = -2 \left( S - \frac{\text{scal}}{2} g \right),$$

was introduced by G. Catino and L. Mazziere [4]. The interest in studying this equation from different points of view arises from concrete physical problems. On the other hand, gradient vector fields play a central role in Morse-Smale theory [16], aspects of gradient  $\eta$ -Ricci solitons being discussed in [3].

In what follows, after characterizing the manifold of constant scalar curvature via the existence of  $\eta$ -Einstein solitons, we focus on the case when the potential vector field  $\xi$  is of gradient type (i.e.,  $\xi = \text{grad}(f)$ , for  $f$  a nonconstant smooth function on  $M$ ) and give the Laplacian equation satisfied by  $f$ . Under certain assumptions, the existence of an  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton implies that the manifold is quasi-Einstein. Remark that quasi-Einstein manifolds arose during the study of exact solutions of Einstein field equations.

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2.  $\eta$ -EINSTEIN SOLITON EQUATION

In the study of the  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton equation we will consider certain assumptions, one essential condition being  $\nabla\xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$  which naturally arises in different geometries: Kenmotsu [10], Lorentzian-Kenmotsu [1], para-Kenmotsu [12] etc. Immediate properties of this structure, which will be used later, are given in the next proposition.

**Proposition 2.1.** [3] *Let  $(M, g)$  be an  $m$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold and  $\eta$  be the  $g$ -dual 1-form of the nonzero vector field  $\xi$ . If  $\xi$  satisfies  $\nabla\xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$ , where  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection associated to  $g$ , then:*

- (a)  $\mathcal{L}_\xi g = 2(g - \eta \otimes \eta)$ ;
- (b)  $R(X, Y)\xi = \eta(X)Y - \eta(Y)X$ , for any  $X, Y \in \chi(M)$ ;
- (c)  $S(\xi, \xi) = (1 - m)|\xi|^2$ .

Consider the equation

$$(2.1) \quad \mathcal{L}_\xi g + 2S + (2\lambda - \text{scal})g + 2\mu\eta \otimes \eta = 0,$$

where  $\mathcal{L}_\xi$  is the Lie derivative operator along the vector field  $\xi$ ,  $S$  is the Ricci curvature tensor field,  $\text{scal}$  is the scalar curvature of the Riemannian metric  $g$ , and  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are real constants. For  $\mu \neq 0$ , the data  $(g, \xi, \lambda, \mu)$  will be called  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton. Remark that if the scalar curvature  $\text{scal}$  of the manifold is constant, then the  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton  $(g, \xi, \lambda, \mu)$  reduces to an  $\eta$ -Ricci soliton  $(g, \xi, \lambda - \frac{\text{scal}}{2}, \mu)$  and, moreover, if  $\mu = 0$ , to a Ricci soliton  $(g, \xi, \lambda - \frac{\text{scal}}{2})$ . Therefore, the two concepts of  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton and  $\eta$ -Ricci soliton are distinct on manifolds of nonconstant scalar curvature.

Writing now  $\mathcal{L}_\xi g$  in terms of the Levi-Civita connection  $\nabla$ , we obtain

$$(2.2) \quad 2S(X, Y) = -g(\nabla_X \xi, Y) - g(X, \nabla_Y \xi) - (2\lambda - \text{scal})g(X, Y) - 2\mu\eta(X)\eta(Y),$$

for any  $X, Y \in \chi(M)$ .

An important geometrical object in studying Ricci solitons is a symmetric  $(0, 2)$ -tensor field which is parallel with respect to the Levi-Civita connection [2], [7]. The existence of such tensors on smooth manifolds carrying different structures such as contact [14],  $K$ -contact [15],  $P$ -Sasakian [11],  $\alpha$ -Sasakian [8] etc. was investigated by many authors. The starting point was the Eisenhart problem of finding symmetric and (skew symmetric) parallel tensors on various spaces. He proved in [9] that if a positive definite Riemannian manifold admits a second order parallel symmetric covariant tensor field other than a constant multiple of the metric, then it is reducible. In our case, we show that if we ask to be satisfied the condition  $\nabla\xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$ , then any symmetric  $\nabla$ -parallel  $(0, 2)$ -tensor field must be a constant multiple of the metric. If we take  $\alpha := \mathcal{L}_\xi g + 2S + 2\mu\eta \otimes \eta$ , the above mentioned result leads us to characterize the existence of the soliton  $(g, \xi, \lambda, \mu)$  in terms of a scalar curvature property. Following the ideas of Călin and Crasmăreanu [5] we shall study the equation (2.1), applying similar techniques.

Let  $\alpha$  be such a symmetric  $(0, 2)$ -tensor field which is parallel with respect to the Levi-Civita connection ( $\nabla\alpha = 0$ ). From the Ricci identity  $\nabla^2\alpha(X, Y; Z, W) - \nabla^2\alpha(X, Y; W, Z) = 0$ , one obtains for any  $X, Y, Z, W \in \chi(M)$  [13]

$$(2.3) \quad \alpha(R(X, Y)Z, W) + \alpha(Z, R(X, Y)W) = 0.$$

In particular, for  $Z = W := \xi$  from the symmetry of  $\alpha$  follows  $\alpha(R(X, Y)\xi, \xi) = 0$ , for any  $X, Y \in \chi(M)$ .

If  $\nabla\xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$ , from Proposition 2.1 we have  $R(X, Y)\xi = \eta(X)Y - \eta(Y)X$  and replacing this expression in  $\alpha$  we get

$$(2.4) \quad \alpha(Y, \xi) - \eta(Y)\alpha(\xi, \xi) = 0,$$

for any  $Y \in \chi(M)$ , equivalent to

$$(2.5) \quad \alpha(Y, \xi) - \alpha(\xi, \xi)g(Y, \xi) = 0,$$

for any  $Y \in \chi(M)$ . Differentiating the equation (2.5) covariantly with respect to the vector field  $X \in \chi(M)$  we obtain

$$\alpha(\nabla_X Y, \xi) + \alpha(Y, \nabla_X \xi) = \alpha(\xi, \xi)[g(\nabla_X Y, \xi) + g(Y, \nabla_X \xi)],$$

and substituting the expression of  $\nabla_X \xi = X - \eta(X)\xi$  we get

$$(2.6) \quad \alpha(Y, X) = \alpha(\xi, \xi)g(Y, X),$$

for any  $X, Y \in \chi(M)$ . As  $\alpha$  is  $\nabla$ -parallel, follows  $\alpha(\xi, \xi)$  is constant and we conclude the following.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Under the hypotheses above, any parallel symmetric  $(0, 2)$ -tensor field is a constant multiple of the metric.*

Applying these results, we conclude the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\eta$  be the  $g$ -dual 1-form of the unitary vector field  $\xi$  on the Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  such that  $\xi$  satisfies  $\nabla\xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$ , where  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection associated to  $g$ . Assume that the symmetric  $(0, 2)$ -tensor field  $\alpha := \mathcal{L}_\xi g + 2S + 2\mu\eta \otimes \eta$  is parallel with respect to  $\nabla$ . Then  $(g, \xi, \lambda := -\frac{1}{2}[\alpha(\xi, \xi) - \text{scal}], \mu)$  satisfies equation (2.1) if and only if  $M$  is of constant scalar curvature.*

*Proof.* Compute  $\alpha(\xi, \xi)$  and from (2.1) we get

$$\alpha(\xi, \xi) = (\mathcal{L}_\xi g)(\xi, \xi) + 2S(\xi, \xi) + 2\mu\eta(\xi)\eta(\xi) = -2\lambda + \text{scal},$$

and taking into account that  $\nabla\alpha = 0$ , we deduce that  $\text{scal} = c$  (a real constant), so  $\lambda = -\frac{1}{2}[\alpha(\xi, \xi) - c]$ .

Conversely, if  $\text{scal} = c$  (a real constant), from (2.6) and  $\nabla\alpha = 0$  we get  $\alpha(X, Y) = \alpha(\xi, \xi)g(X, Y) = -(2\lambda - c)g(X, Y)$ , for any  $X, Y \in \chi(M)$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{L}_\xi g + 2S + 2\mu\eta \otimes \eta = -(2\lambda - c)g$ , i.e.  $(g, \xi, \lambda, \mu)$  satisfies equation (2.1).  $\square$

The above condition we asked to be satisfied by the potential vector field  $\xi$ , namely  $\nabla_X \xi = X - \eta(X)\xi$ , naturally arises if  $(M, \varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$  is for example, Kenmotsu manifold [10].

*Example 2.1.* Let  $M = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3, z > 0\}$ , where  $(x, y, z)$  are the standard coordinates in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Set

$$\varphi := -\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \otimes dx + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \otimes dy, \quad \xi := -z \frac{\partial}{\partial z}, \quad \eta := -\frac{1}{z} dz,$$

$$g := \frac{1}{z^2} (dx \otimes dx + dy \otimes dy + dz \otimes dz).$$

Then  $(\varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$  is a Kenmotsu structure on  $M$ .

Consider the linearly independent system of vector fields:

$$E_1 := z \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \quad E_2 := z \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \quad E_3 := -z \frac{\partial}{\partial z}.$$

Follows

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi E_1 &= -E_2, & \varphi E_2 &= E_1, & \varphi E_3 &= 0, \\ \eta(E_1) &= 0, & \eta(E_2) &= 0, & \eta(E_3) &= 1, \\ [E_1, E_2] &= 0, & [E_2, E_3] &= E_2, & [E_3, E_1] &= -E_1, \end{aligned}$$

and the Levi-Civita connection  $\nabla$  is deduced from Koszul's formula

$$\begin{aligned} 2g(\nabla_X Y, Z) &= X(g(Y, Z)) + Y(g(Z, X)) - Z(g(X, Y)) \\ &\quad - g(X, [Y, Z]) + g(Y, [Z, X]) + g(Z, [X, Y]), \end{aligned}$$

precisely

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{E_1} E_1 &= -E_3, & \nabla_{E_1} E_2 &= 0, & \nabla_{E_1} E_3 &= E_1, \\ \nabla_{E_2} E_1 &= 0, & \nabla_{E_2} E_2 &= -E_3, & \nabla_{E_2} E_3 &= E_2, \\ \nabla_{E_3} E_1 &= 0, & \nabla_{E_3} E_2 &= 0, & \nabla_{E_3} E_3 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then the Riemann and the Ricci curvature tensor fields are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} R(E_1, E_2)E_2 &= -E_1, & R(E_1, E_3)E_3 &= -E_1, & R(E_2, E_1)E_1 &= -E_2, \\ R(E_2, E_3)E_3 &= -E_2, & R(E_3, E_1)E_1 &= -E_3, & R(E_3, E_2)E_2 &= -E_3, \\ S(E_1, E_1) &= S(E_2, E_2) = S(E_3, E_3) &= -2, \end{aligned}$$

and the scalar curvature  $\text{scal} = -6$ .

From (2.1) computed in  $(E_i, E_i)$  follows

$$2[g(E_i, E_i) - \eta(E_i)\eta(E_i)] + 2S(E_i, E_i) + (2\lambda - \text{scal})g(E_i, E_i) + 2\mu\eta(E_i)\eta(E_i) = 0,$$

for all  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ , and we have

$$2(1 - \delta_{i3}) - 4 + 2\lambda + 6 + 2\mu\delta_{i3} = 0 \quad \iff \quad 2\lambda + 4 + 2(\mu - 1)\delta_{i3} = 0,$$

for all  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Therefore,  $\mu = 1$  and  $\lambda = -2$  define an  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton on  $(M, \varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$ .

The condition  $\nabla_X \xi = X - \eta(X)\xi$  implies  $\mathcal{L}_\xi g = 2(g - \eta \otimes \eta)$  and the equation (2.2) becomes

$$(2.7) \quad S(X, Y) = - \left( \lambda + 1 - \frac{\text{scal}}{2} \right) g(X, Y) - (\mu - 1)\eta(X)\eta(Y).$$

Recall that the manifold is called *quasi-Einstein* if the Ricci curvature tensor field  $S$  is a linear combination (with real scalars  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  respectively, with  $\mu \neq 0$ ) of  $g$  and the tensor product of a nonzero 1-form  $\eta$  satisfying  $\eta(X) = g(X, \xi)$ , for  $\xi$  a unit vector field [6] and respectively, *Einstein* if  $S$  is collinear with  $g$ . Sufficient conditions for  $(M, g)$  to be quasi-Einstein or Einstein are given in the next two propositions.

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $\eta$  be the  $g$ -dual 1-form of the nonzero vector field  $\xi$  on the Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  such that  $\xi$  satisfies  $\nabla \xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$ , where  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection associated to  $g$ . If  $(g, \xi, \lambda, \mu)$  satisfy the equation (2.1), then  $(M, g)$  is quasi-Einstein.*

*Proof.* It follows from (2.7). □

If we ask for certain curvature conditions, namely,  $R(\xi, X) \cdot S = 0$  and  $S(\xi, X) \cdot R = 0$ , we deduce that  $M$  is either Einstein or get its scalar curvature depending on the constants  $(\lambda, \mu)$  that define the  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton on  $M$  respectively, where by  $\cdot$  we denote the derivation of the tensor algebra at each point of the tangent space:

- $(R(\xi, X) \cdot S)(Y, Z) := ((\xi \wedge_R X) \cdot S)(Y, Z) := S((\xi \wedge_R X)Y, Z) + S(Y, (\xi \wedge_R X)Z)$ , for  $(X \wedge_R Y)Z := R(X, Y)Z$ ;
- $S((\xi, X) \cdot R)(Y, Z)W := ((\xi \wedge_S X) \cdot R)(Y, Z)W := (\xi \wedge_S X)R(Y, Z)W + R((\xi \wedge_S X)Y, Z)W + R(Y, (\xi \wedge_S X)Z)W + R(Y, Z)(\xi \wedge_S X)W$ , for  $(X \wedge_S Y)Z := S(Y, Z)X - S(X, Z)Y$ .

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $\eta$  be the  $g$ -dual 1-form of the nonzero and nonunitary vector field  $\xi$  on the Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  such that  $\xi$  satisfies  $\nabla \xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$ , where  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection associated to  $g$ . If  $(g, \xi, \lambda, \mu)$  satisfy the equation (2.1) and  $R(\xi, X) \cdot S = 0$ , then  $(M, g)$  is Einstein manifold.*

*Proof.* The condition that must be satisfied by  $S$  is:

$$(2.8) \quad S(R(\xi, X)Y, Z) + S(Y, R(\xi, X)Z) = 0,$$

for any  $X, Y, Z \in \chi(M)$ .

Replacing the expression of  $S$  from (2.7) and from the symmetries of  $R$  we get

$$(2.9) \quad (\mu - 1)[\eta(Y)g(X, Z) + \eta(Z)g(X, Y) - 2\eta(X)\eta(Y)\eta(Z)] = 0,$$

for any  $X, Y, Z \in \chi(M)$ .

For  $X = Y = Z := \xi$  we have

$$(2.10) \quad (\mu - 1)[\eta(\xi)]^2[\eta(\xi) - 1] = 0,$$

which implies  $\mu = 1$ . □

*Remark 2.1.* Under the hypotheses of Proposition 2.4, there is no Ricci soliton with the potential vector field  $\xi$ .

**Proposition 2.5.** *Let  $\eta$  be the  $g$ -dual 1-form of the nonzero and nonunitary vector field  $\xi$  on the Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  such that  $\xi$  satisfies  $\nabla\xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$ , where  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection associated to  $g$ . If  $(g, \xi, \lambda, \mu)$  satisfy the equation (2.1) and  $S(\xi, X) \cdot R = 0$ , then  $(\lambda, \mu)$  satisfy  $2(\lambda + 1) + |\xi|^2(\mu - 1) = \text{scal}$ .*

*Proof.* The condition that must be satisfied by  $S$  is:

$$(2.11) \quad \begin{aligned} & S(X, R(Y, Z)W)\xi - S(\xi, R(Y, Z)W)X + S(X, Y)R(\xi, Z)W \\ & - S(\xi, Y)R(X, Z)W + S(X, Z)R(Y, \xi)W - S(\xi, Z)R(Y, X)W \\ & + S(X, W)R(Y, Z)\xi - S(\xi, W)R(Y, Z)X = 0, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $X, Y, Z, W \in \chi(M)$ .

Taking the inner product with  $\xi$ , the relation (2.11) becomes

$$(2.12) \quad \begin{aligned} & S(X, R(Y, Z)W)|\xi|^2 - S(\xi, R(Y, Z)W)\eta(X) + S(X, Y)\eta(R(\xi, Z)W) \\ & - S(\xi, Y)\eta(R(X, Z)W) + S(X, Z)\eta(R(Y, \xi)W) - S(\xi, Z)\eta(R(Y, X)W) \\ & + S(X, W)\eta(R(Y, Z)\xi) - S(\xi, W)\eta(R(Y, Z)X) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $X, Y, Z, W \in \chi(M)$ .

For  $W := \xi$  and from the symmetries of  $R$  we get

$$(2.13) \quad S(X, R(Y, Z)\xi)|\xi|^2 - S(\xi, R(Y, Z)\xi)\eta(X) + S(\xi, \xi)g(R(Y, Z)\xi, X) = 0,$$

for any  $X, Y, Z \in \chi(M)$ .

Replacing the expression of  $S$  from (2.7), we get

$$(2.14) \quad |\xi|^2[2\lambda + 2 - \text{scal} + (\mu - 1)|\xi|^2][\eta(Y)g(X, Z) - \eta(Z)g(X, Y)] = 0,$$

for any  $X, Y, Z \in \chi(M)$ .

For  $Z := \xi$  we have

$$(2.15) \quad |\xi|^2[2\lambda + 2 - \text{scal} + (\mu - 1)|\xi|^2][\eta(X)\eta(Y) - |\xi|^2g(X, Y)] = 0,$$

for any  $X, Y \in \chi(M)$  and we obtain

$$(2.16) \quad 2\lambda + 2 - \text{scal} + (\mu - 1)|\xi|^2 = 0,$$

which is stated. □

**Corollary 2.1.** *Let  $\eta$  be the  $g$ -dual 1-form of the nonzero and nonunitary vector field  $\xi$  on the Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  such that  $\xi$  satisfies  $\nabla\xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$ , where  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection associated to  $g$ . If  $(g, \xi, \lambda, 0)$  satisfy the equation (2.1) and  $S(\xi, X) \cdot R = 0$ , then  $\lambda = \frac{|\xi|^2 + \text{scal}}{2} - 1$ .*

3. GRADIENT  $\eta$ -EINSTEIN SOLITONS

We are interested in gradient  $\eta$ -Einstein solitons, as solutions of the equation

$$(3.1) \quad \mathcal{L}_\xi g + 2S + (2\lambda - \text{scal})g + 2\mu\eta \otimes \eta = 0,$$

where  $g$  is a Riemannian metric,  $S$  is the Ricci curvature,  $\text{scal}$  is the scalar curvature,  $\eta$  is a 1-form whose  $g$ -dual vector field  $\xi$  is of gradient type,  $\xi := \text{grad}(f)$ , for  $f$  a smooth function on  $M$ , and  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are real constants ( $\mu \neq 0$ ). The data  $(g, \xi, \lambda, \mu)$  which satisfy the equation (3.1) is said to be a *gradient  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton* on  $M$ .

Taking the trace of the relation (3.1), applying then  $\nabla_\xi$  and observing that if  $\xi = \sum_{i=1}^m \xi^i E_i$ , for  $\{E_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq m}$  a local orthonormal frame field with  $\nabla_{E_i} E_j = 0$  in a point,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{trace}(\eta \otimes \eta) &= \sum_{i=1}^m [df(E_i)]^2 = \sum_{1 \leq i, j, k \leq m} \xi^j \xi^k g(E_i, E_j) g(E_i, E_k) = \sum_{i=1}^m (\xi^i)^2 = \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq m} \xi^i \xi^j g(E_i, E_j) = |\xi|^2, \end{aligned}$$

we get

$$(3.2) \quad \xi(\text{div}(\xi)) + \left(1 - \frac{m}{2}\right) \nabla_\xi(\text{scal}) + \mu\xi(|\xi|^2) = 0,$$

and because  $\mathcal{L}_\xi g = 2 \text{Hess}(f)$ , taking the divergence of the same relation and computing it in  $\xi$  we obtain

$$(3.3) \quad (\text{div}(\mathcal{L}_\xi g))(\xi) + 2(\text{div}(S))(\xi) - \text{trace}(d(\text{scal}) \otimes d(\text{scal})) + 2\mu(\text{div}(df \otimes df))(\xi) = 0.$$

From (3.1) we deduce

$$(3.4) \quad S(\xi, \xi) = -\frac{1}{2}\xi(|\xi|^2) - \lambda|\xi|^2 + \frac{\text{scal}}{2}|\xi|^2 - \mu|\xi|^4.$$

Multiplying (3.3) by  $1 - \frac{m}{2}$ , subtracting (3.2), using the fact that  $\nabla(\text{scal}) = 2 \text{div}(S)$ , we get

$$(3.5) \quad (\text{div}(\mathcal{L}_\xi g))(\xi) = \Delta(|\xi|^2) - 2|\nabla\xi|^2,$$

$$(3.6) \quad \Delta(|\xi|^2) - 2|\nabla\xi|^2 = 2S(\xi, \xi) + 2\xi(\text{div}(\xi)),$$

$$(3.7) \quad (\text{div}(df \otimes df))(\xi) = \frac{1}{2} \text{trace}(df \otimes d(|\xi|^2)) + |\xi|^2 \text{div}(\xi),$$

and with (3.4), we get

$$(3.8) \quad \begin{aligned} &\left(\frac{1-m}{2}\right) \Delta(|\xi|^2) \\ &= (1-m)|\nabla\xi|^2 + \frac{1}{2}\xi(|\xi|^2) + \lambda|\xi|^2 - \frac{\text{scal}}{2}|\xi|^2 + \left(1 - \frac{m}{2}\right) \cdot \text{trace}(d(\text{scal}) \otimes d(\text{scal})) \\ &\quad + \mu \left\{ |\xi|^4 - \left(1 - \frac{m}{2}\right) \cdot \text{trace}(df \otimes d(|\xi|^2)) - 2 \left(1 - \frac{m}{2}\right) |\xi|^2 \text{div}(\xi) + \xi(|\xi|^2) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be an  $m$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold ( $m > 2$ ) and  $\eta$  be the  $g$ -dual 1-form of the gradient vector field  $\xi := \text{grad}(f)$ . Assume that (3.1) defines an  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton on  $M$  and  $\xi$  satisfies  $\nabla\xi = I_{\chi(M)} - \eta \otimes \xi$ , where  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection associated to  $g$ . If  $\mu = 1$ , then  $M$  is of constant scalar curvature; if  $\mu \neq 1$ , then  $M$  is of constant scalar curvature if and only if  $\xi$  is of constant length, and in this case, the Laplacian equation becomes*

$$(3.9) \quad \Delta(f) = \frac{m-1}{\mu}.$$

*Proof.* We have

$$(3.10) \quad \xi(|\xi|^2) = 2(|\xi|^2 - |\xi|^4),$$

and

$$(3.11) \quad \xi(|\xi|^4) = 4(|\xi|^4 - |\xi|^6),$$

and from (2.7) we get

$$(3.12) \quad S(\xi, \xi) = -\left(\lambda + 1 - \frac{\text{scal}}{2}\right)|\xi|^2 - (\mu - 1)|\xi|^4.$$

Also from Proposition 2.1:

$$(3.13) \quad S(\xi, \xi) = |\xi|^2 - m|\xi|^2,$$

therefore

$$(3.14) \quad |\xi|^2 = \left(m - 1 - \lambda + \frac{\text{scal}}{2}\right)|\xi|^2 - (\mu - 1)|\xi|^4.$$

We obtain

$$(3.15) \quad |\xi|^2(\mu - 1) = m - 2 - \lambda + \frac{\text{scal}}{2}.$$

If  $\mu = 1$ , then from (3.15) we obtain  $\text{scal} = 2(\lambda + 2 - m)$ , i.e.  $M$  is of constant scalar curvature.

Let  $\mu \neq 1$ . If the scalar curvature is constant, then  $|\xi|$  is constant. Conversely, if  $\xi$  is of constant length, from (3.10) follows  $|\xi| = 1$  and from (3.15) we obtain  $\text{scal} = 2(\lambda + \mu + 1 - m)$ , i.e.  $M$  is of constant scalar curvature.

We also have

$$(3.16) \quad |\nabla\xi|^2 := \sum_{i=1}^m g(\nabla_{E_i}\xi, \nabla_{E_i}\xi) = \sum_{i=1}^m \{1 + (|\xi|^2 - 2)[\eta(E_i)]^2\} = m + |\xi|^2(|\xi|^2 - 2),$$

for  $\{E_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq m}$  a local orthonormal frame field with  $\nabla_{E_i}E_j = 0$  in a point.

Now using the relations above, (3.8) becomes (3.9).  $\square$

Remark that in this case, the soliton (3.1) is completely determined by  $f$ ,  $m$  and  $\text{scal}$ .

*Example 3.1.* The soliton considered in Example 2.1 is a gradient  $\eta$ -Einstein soliton, as the potential vector field  $\xi$  is of gradient type,  $\xi = \text{grad}(f)$ , where  $f(x, y, z) := -\ln z$ .



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