Iranian Journal of Science & Technology, Transaction A, Vol. 29, No. A3
Printed in The Islamic Republic of Iran, 2005

HYPERRULED SURFACES IN MINKOWSKI 4-SPACE*

R. ASLANER**

Department of Mathematics, Inönü University, 44280 Malatya, Turkey
E-mail: raslaner@inonu.edu.tr

Abstract – In this paper, the time-like hyperruled surfaces in the Minkowski 4-space and their algebraic invariants are worked. Also some characteristic results are found about these algebraic invariants.

Keywords – Ruled surfaces, rulings, main curvature, scalar curvature, time-like vector

1. INTRODUCTION

The Minkowski space is the space R^4 with the Lorentzian inner product

$$g_0 = -dt^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2$$

which is denoted by R_1^4. The representation of g_0 in the matrix form with respect to the standard basis of R_1^4 is $\eta = diag(-1,1,1,1)$. Suppose that R_1^4 is a 4-dimensional vector space over the field of real numbers. A symmetric bilinear form $\beta : R_1^4 \times R_1^4 \to R$ is called

i) positive (resp. negative), definite if and only if $\vec{\omega} \neq \vec{0}$ implies $\beta\left(\vec{\omega},\vec{\omega}\right) > 0$ (resp. $\beta\left(\vec{\omega},\vec{\omega}\right) < 0$) for all $\vec{\omega}$ in R_1^4,

ii) non-degenerate if and only if $\beta\left(\vec{\omega},\vec{z}\right) = 0$ for all $\vec{z}$ in R_1^4, implying that $\vec{\omega} = \vec{0}$, and

iii) indefinite if and only if there exists $\vec{\omega}$ and $\vec{z}$ in R_1^4 such that $\beta\left(\vec{\omega},\vec{\omega}\right) > 0$ and $\beta\left(\vec{z},\vec{z}\right) < 0$, [1].

A non-degenerate, symmetric bilinear form β is called a *scalar product*. A scalar product may be positive definite, negative definite or indefinite.
For an indefinite scalar product β in R_1^4, a nonzero vector $\vec{\omega}$ is said to be

i) space-like if and only if $\beta\left(\vec{\omega},\vec{\omega}\right) > 0$,

ii) time-like if and only if $\beta\left(\vec{\omega},\vec{\omega}\right) < 0$,

iii) null if and only if $\beta\left(\vec{\omega},\vec{\omega}\right) = 0$.

The vector $\vec{0}$ is taken to be *space-like*. The label space-like, time-like or null is called the *causal character* of a vector. A curve is called *time-like* (or *space-like*) *curve* if the tangent vector at every point of the curve is a time-like (or space-like) vector. A surface is called *time-like surface* if each

*Received by the editor April 27, 2004 and in final revised form June 7, 2005
**Corresponding author

tangential bundle of the surface is a time-like subspace of R_1^4, [1]. A ruled surface is a surface swept out by a straight line ℓ moving along a curve α. Such a surface has a parametrization in the ruled form

$$\varphi(t,v)=\alpha(t)+ve_1(t),$$

where α is the *base curve* and e_1 is the *director vector* of ℓ. The various positions of the generating line ℓ are called the *rulings* of the surface. If the tangent plane is constant along a fixed ruling, then the ruled surface is called a *developable* or *cylindrical* surface. All other ruled surfaces are called *skew* surfaces [2].

2. TIME-LIKE RULED SURFACES

Let

$$\begin{aligned} &\alpha : I \to R_1^4 \\ &\quad t \to \alpha(t)=(\alpha_1(t),\alpha_2(t),\alpha_3(t),\alpha_4(t)) \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

be a differentiable time-like curve in the Minkowski space, where $0 \in I$.
A space-like straight line,

$$\begin{aligned} &\ell : R \to R_1^4 \\ &\quad v \to \ell(v)=\alpha(t)+ve_1(t); \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where $e_1(t)$ is the director vector of ℓ at the point $\alpha(t)$ such that $e_1(t)$ and the tangent vector of α are linearly independent at every point of the curve α. Since ℓ is a space-like straight line $< e_1, e_1 >= 1$, and $\dot{e}_1$ denotes the derivative of the vector field e_1 along the curve α, we have $< \dot{e}_1, e_1 >= 0$.

When ℓ moves along α, it generates a ruled surface given by the chart $(I\times R,\varphi)$, where

$$\begin{aligned} &\varphi : I\times R \to R_1^4 \\ &\quad (t,v) \to \varphi(t,v)=\alpha(t)+ve_1(t). \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

This ruled surface will be denoted by *M*. Taking the derivatives of φ with respect to *t* and *v*, we have

$$\varphi_t=\dot{\alpha}(t)+v\dot{e}_1(t) \text{ and } \varphi_v=e_1(t).$$

Note that $rank[\varphi_t,\varphi_v]=rank[\dot{\alpha}+v\dot{e}_1,e_1]=2$
So *M* is 2-manifold in the Minkowski space R_1^4.

3. TIME-LIKE HYPERRULED SURFACES IN THE MINKOWSKI SPACE R_1^4

Throughout this section we assume that

$$1\le i,j\le 2 \text{ and } 0\le m,n\le 2.$$

Let *M* be a time-like ruled surface in R_1^4, with a base curve α and the generating line ℓ. If we take the space-like plane $E_2(t)$ with spanning by the vectors $e_i(t)$, instead of the generating line ℓ, then M is a 3-manifold in R_1^4. In this case M is called a *hyperruled surface* and can be (locally) represented by the chart (U,φ), where $U = I \times R^2$ and

$$\begin{aligned} &\varphi : I \times R^2 \to R_1^4 \\ &\quad (t,v) \to \varphi(t,v) = \alpha(t) + v^i e_i(t), \qquad v = (v^1, v^2). \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Suppose that the base curve α is an orthogonal trajectory of the generating plane $E_2(t)$. If

$$rank[e_0, e_1, e_2, \dot{e}_1, \dot{e}_2] = 4 - k \tag{5}$$

Then

i) if $k = 0$ in (5), then M is called non-developable,

ii) if $k = 1$ in (5), then M is called developable,

where e_0 is the unit tangent vector field of the base curve α, which is a time-like curve, and $\dot{e}_i$ is the derivative of the vector fields e_i along α.

We begin with some properties of a general pseudo-Riemann manifold M. Suppose that $\overline{D}$ is the Levi-Civita connection on R_1^4, while D is the Levi-Civita connection of M. Then, for any vector fields X, Y on M, we have the Gauss equation:

$$\overline{D}_X Y = D_X Y + V(X,Y) \tag{6}$$

where V is the second fundamental form of M.

If the ξ is the unit normal vector field on M, we have the Weingarten equation giving the tangential and normal components of $\overline{D}_X \xi$;

$$\overline{D}_X \xi = -A_\xi(X) + D_X^\perp \xi, \tag{7}$$

where A_ξ is determined at each point of a self-adjoint linear map on $\chi(M)$, and $D^\perp$ is a metric connection in the normal bundle of M [3].

Let $X, Y \in \chi(M)$ and $\xi \in \chi(M^\perp)$. Then, by combining (6), (7) and the Minkowski inner product on R_1^4, denoted by $< .,. >$, yield that

$$< V(X,Y), \xi > = < Y, A_\xi(X) > . \tag{8}$$

Assume that $\{e_0, e_1, e_2\}$ is an orthonormal base field of the tangential bundle of M and ξ is the unit normal vector field of M. Then we have the following Weingarten equation

$$\overline{D}_{e_m} \xi = a_m^n e_n + b_m \xi, \tag{9}$$

where the Einstein summation is used. a_m^n's are coefficients of the matrix A_ξ, and

$$a_m^n = < \overline{D}_{e_m} \xi, e_n > = - < \xi, \overline{D}_{e_m} e_n > .$$

Since the generating space $E_2(t)$ of M is a space-like subspace in R_1^4, we have that $< e_i, e_j > = \delta_{ij}$ and $\overline{D}_{e_i} e_j = 0$, which imply that $a_i^j = 0$ and

$$a_0^n = < \overline{D}_{e_0} \xi, e_n > = - < \xi, \overline{D}_{e_0} e_n > = - < \xi, \dot{e}_n > = -a_n ,$$

so we may write the matrix A_ξ as

$$A_\xi = \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & -a_1 & -a_2 \\ a_1 & 0 & 0 \\ a_2 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Lemma 3. 1. Consider the orthonormal base fields e_0, e_1, e_2 of *M*. Then the Riemannian curvature $\kappa_\sigma(e_i, e_0)$ in the two-dimensional direction σ of $\chi(M)$, spanned by the vector fields e_i and e_0, is given by

$$\kappa_\sigma(e_i, e_0) = -< \overline{D}_{e_i} e_0, \overline{D}_{e_i} e_0 > . \tag{10}$$

Proof: Suppose that R is the curvature tensor of *M*, then

$$\kappa_\sigma(e_i, e_0) =< e_i, R(e_i, e_0)e_0 >.$$

But we see from the Gauss equation that

$$< e_i, R(e_i, e_0)e_0 >=< V(e_i, e_i), V(e_0, e_0) > - < V(e_i, e_0), V(e_i, e_0) >$$

and we know that $V(e_i, e_i) = 0.$ Moreover, we have

$$< \overline{D}_{e_i} e_0, e_j >=< e_0, \overline{D}_{e_i} e_j >= 0 \Rightarrow \overline{D}_{e_i} e_0 \perp e_j$$

and

$$< \overline{D}_{e_i} e_0, e_0 >=< e_0, \overline{D}_{e_i} e_0 >= 0 \Rightarrow \overline{D}_{e_i} e_0 \perp e_0.$$

This means that $\overline{D}_{e_i} e_0$ is a normal vector field or

$$\overline{D}_{e_i} e_0 = V(e_i, e_0) \tag{11}$$

which completes the proof.

4. THE ALGEBRAIC INVARIANTS OF THE HYPERRULED SURFACES IN THE SPACE R_1^4

Let *M* be a time-like hyperruled surface in the Minkowski 4-space R_1^4. Then the space of tangent vector fields of *M* denoted by $\chi(M)$, is a time-like vector subspace of R_1^4 over the field of real numbers. Let *A* be linear operator on $\chi(M)$. A characteristic value of *A* is a scalar λ in R such that there exists a non-zero vector field X in $\chi(M)$, with $A(X) = \lambda X$, where X is called the *characteristic vector* of A corresponding to λ. The set of all X's is called the *characteristic space* of A.

The function $f(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda \in)$ is called the characteristic polynomial of *A*, where $\in = diag(-1,1,1)$ is the matrix of the induced metric on $\chi(M)$. In order to find the roots of the characteristic polynomial we must solve the characteristic equation $\det(A - \lambda \in) = 0$

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_0 + \lambda & -a_1 & -a_2 \\ a_1 & -\lambda & 0 \\ a_2 & 0 & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = (a_0 + \lambda)\lambda^2 - a_1^2\lambda - a_2^2\lambda = 0$$

or

$$\lambda\left(\lambda^2 + a_0\lambda - a_1^2 - a_2^2\right) = 0.$$

This implies that
$\lambda = 0$ and $\lambda^2 + a_0\lambda - \left(a_1^2 + a_2^2\right) = 0$
Since $\Delta = a_0^2 + 4\left(a_1^2 + a_2^2\right) > 0,$ the solution of the characteristic equation are

$$\lambda_1 = 0,\ \lambda_2 = -\frac{1}{2}\left(a_0 + \sqrt{\Delta}\right) \text{ and } \lambda_3 = \frac{1}{2}\left(-a_0 + \sqrt{\Delta}\right).$$

Thus we may give the following result:

Result 4. 1. Let *M* be a time-like hyperruled surface in R_1^4. If $\lambda_2 = \lambda_3,$ then *M* is minimal and developable.

Proof: Let $\lambda_2 = \lambda_3,$ then $\Delta = 0$, which implies that $a_0 = a_1 = a_2 = 0.$
Thus $a_0 = 0$ implies that $trA_\xi = 0$, and so *M* is minimal.
By lemma 1, $a_i = 0$ implies that $\kappa\left(e_i, e_0\right) = 0$ and so *M* is developable.

Let us find the characteristic vector corresponding to characteristic values $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ of the matrix *A*. The vector field X_1 corresponding to λ_1 is obtained by the solution of the equation

$$AX_1 = 0 \Leftrightarrow X_1(t) = \left(0, t, -\frac{a_1}{a_2}t\right).$$

Similarly, the vector fields X_2 and X_3, corresponding to λ_2 and λ_3, are obtained by the solutions of the equations

$$AX_2 = \lambda_2 X_2 \Leftrightarrow X_2(t) = \left(t, -\frac{a_1}{\lambda_2}t, -\frac{a_2}{\lambda_2}t\right)$$

and

$$AX_3 = \lambda_3 X_3 \Leftrightarrow X_3(t) = \left(t, -\frac{a_1}{\lambda_3}t, -\frac{a_2}{\lambda_3}t\right).$$

Since the vector fields $X_k(t),\ k = 1,2,3$ have one arbitrary parameter, the dimension of the characteristic space is equal to 1. Therefore, we can choose an orthonormal base field $\phi = \left\{\overline{X}_1, \overline{X}_2, \overline{X}_3\right\}$ of $\chi(M)$ corresponding to characteristic values $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$.
If we denote the matrix of the linear map *A* with respect to the orthogonal base ϕ by S, then we observe that

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

S is called as the *Weingarten* (or *Shape*) *operator* of *M* with respect to the base ϕ.
Thus we can state the following results:

Result 4. 2. Let *M* be a time-like hyperruled surface in R_1^4, and S be the shape operator of *M*. Then
i) The main curvature of *M* is $\|H\| = -\frac{a_0}{3}$.
ii) The Gauss curvature of *M* is $\kappa = 0$.

Definition 4. 1. Let *M* be a time-like hyperruled surface with curvature tensor R in R_1^4. If $\{e_0, e_1, e_2\}$ is an orthonormal base field of $\chi(M)$, then the *Ricci curvature tensor* S is defined by

$$S : \chi(M) \times \chi(M) \to R$$
$$(X, Y) \to S(X, Y) = \sum_m \varepsilon_m < R(e_m, X)Y, e_m >$$

where

$$\varepsilon_m = \begin{cases} -1, & m = 0 \\ 1, & m = 1,2 \end{cases}.$$

The *scalar curvature* of *M* is defined by

$$r = \sum_m S(e_m, e_m),$$

and the *scalar normal curvature* of *M* is defined by

$$r_n = \sum_{\sigma,\nu} M\left(A\xi_\sigma A\xi_\nu - A\xi_\nu A\xi_\sigma\right); \ \sigma, \nu \in \{1,2\}, \text{[4]}.$$

Thus we can find the following results for the time-like hyperruled surfaces in the Minkowski 4-space R_1^4 :

Result 4. 3. Let *M* be a time-like hyperruled surface with a base curve α and the generating space $E_2(t)$ spanning by the vectors $e_i(t)$ in the Minkowski 4-space R_1^4. Then the scalar curvature of *M* is

$$r = -2\sum_i a_i^2,$$

where $a_i =< \xi, \dot{e}_i >$ and $\xi \in \chi(M^\perp)$.

Proof: Let $\{e_0, e_1, e_2\}$ be an orthonormal base field of *M*. Then

$$r = \sum_m S(e_m, e_m) = S(e_0, e_0) + \sum_i S(e_i, e_i)$$

$$S(e_0, e_0) = \sum_m < R(e_m, e_0)e_0, e_m >$$

$$= \sum_i < R(e_i, e_0)e_0, e_i >$$

$$= \sum_i \kappa(e_i, e_0) = -\sum_i a_i^2$$

$$S(e_i, e_i) = \sum_m < R(e_m, e_i)e_i, e_m > = \kappa_\sigma(e_i, e_0) = -a_i^2$$

which implies that $S(e_0, e_0) = -\sum_i S(e_i, e_i)$.

So we have $r = -2\sum_i S(e_i, e_i) = -2\sum_i a_i^2$.

Thus we derive the following results for a time-like hyperruled surface in R_1^4 :

i) i) $r = 0$ if *M* is developable,

ii) ii) $r = 0$ and *M* is minimal if *M* is hyperplane,

iii) The scalar normal curvature of *M* is always zero.

Acknowledgements- The author would like to express his pleasure to Prof. Dr. Feyzi Başar for his valuable help during the revision of this paper. The author also wishes to thank Prof. Dr. Sadık Keleş, for suggesting this problem.

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