### Riemannian foliations of symmetric spaces

Tommy Murphy

June 27, 2012

• A foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\overline{M}$  is said to be *Riemannian* if a geodesic is orthogonal to all or none of the leaves L of  $\mathcal{F}$  that it meets.

- A foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\overline{M}$  is said to be *Riemannian* if a geodesic is orthogonal to all or none of the leaves L of  $\mathcal{F}$  that it meets.
- **Meta-question 1** classify the Riemannian foliations whose leaves satisfy a "natural" geometric property.

•  $\overline{M}$  a symmetric space :  $\overline{\nabla}$   $\overline{R} = 0$ .

- $\overline{M}$  a symmetric space :  $\overline{\nabla}$   $\overline{R} = 0$ .
- In any category, classify sub-objects

- $\overline{M}$  a symmetric space :  $\overline{\nabla}$   $\overline{R} = 0$ .
- In any category, classify sub-objects
- Let  $\xi$  denote a unit normal vector field to a submanifold  $M \subset \overline{M}$ . The eigenvalues of the shape operator  $A_{\xi}X := -(\overline{\nabla}_X \xi)^T$  are the *principal curvatures*  $\lambda_i$ .

- $\overline{M}$  a symmetric space :  $\overline{\nabla}$   $\overline{R} = 0$ .
- In any category, classify sub-objects
- Let  $\xi$  denote a unit normal vector field to a submanifold  $M \subset \overline{M}$ . The eigenvalues of the shape operator  $A_{\xi}X := -(\overline{\nabla}_X \xi)^T$  are the *principal curvatures*  $\lambda_i$ .
- Meta-question 2 Classify submanifolds whose principal curvatures satisfy some "natural" condition

- $\overline{M}$  a symmetric space :  $\overline{\nabla}$   $\overline{R} = 0$ .
- In any category, classify sub-objects
- Let  $\xi$  denote a unit normal vector field to a submanifold  $M \subset \overline{M}$ . The eigenvalues of the shape operator  $A_{\xi}X := -(\overline{\nabla}_X \xi)^T$  are the *principal curvatures*  $\lambda_i$ .
- Meta-question 2 Classify submanifolds whose principal curvatures satisfy some "natural" condition
- $\lambda_i = 0$  is totally geodesic.

- $\overline{M}$  a symmetric space :  $\overline{\nabla}$   $\overline{R} = 0$ .
- In any category, classify sub-objects
- Let  $\xi$  denote a unit normal vector field to a submanifold  $M \subset \overline{M}$ . The eigenvalues of the shape operator  $A_{\xi}X := -(\overline{\nabla}_X \xi)^T$  are the *principal curvatures*  $\lambda_i$ .
- Meta-question 2 Classify submanifolds whose principal curvatures satisfy some "natural" condition
- $\lambda_i = 0$  is totally geodesic.
- $\bullet \ \ \, \text{Cartan: totally geodesic} \, \leftrightarrow \, \text{Lie triple system}.$

- $\overline{M}$  a symmetric space :  $\overline{\nabla}$   $\overline{R} = 0$ .
- In any category, classify sub-objects
- Let  $\xi$  denote a unit normal vector field to a submanifold  $M \subset \overline{M}$ . The eigenvalues of the shape operator  $A_{\xi}X := -(\overline{\nabla}_X \xi)^T$  are the *principal curvatures*  $\lambda_i$ .
- Meta-question 2 Classify submanifolds whose principal curvatures satisfy some "natural" condition
- $\lambda_i = 0$  is totally geodesic.
- Explicit classification if  $rank(M) \le 2$ .

### Hypersurfaces of Symmetric spaces

#### Theorem

(Levi-Civita, Somigiliana, Segre) A hypersurface  $M \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  has constant principal curvatures if and only if it is locally isometric to either a hypersphere, a cylinder, or a plane.

### Hypersurfaces of Symmetric spaces

### Theorem

(Levi-Civita, Somigiliana, Segre) A hypersurface  $M \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  has constant principal curvatures if and only if it is locally isometric to either a hypersphere, a cylinder, or a plane.

• M is said to be homogeneous if a subgroup of  $Isom(\overline{M})$  acts transitively on M.

### Hypersurfaces of Symmetric spaces

#### Theorem

(Levi-Civita, Somigiliana, Segre) A hypersurface  $M \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  has constant principal curvatures if and only if it is locally isometric to either a hypersphere, a cylinder, or a plane.

- M is said to be homogeneous if a subgroup of  $Isom(\overline{M})$  acts transitively on M.
- Inhomogeneous examples?

• Cartan tried and failed to classify hypersurfaces with constant principal curvatures in spheres.

- Cartan tried and failed to classify hypersurfaces with constant principal curvatures in spheres.
- motivated by trying to classify isoparametric hypersurfaces:

- Cartan tried and failed to classify hypersurfaces with constant principal curvatures in spheres.
- motivated by trying to classify isoparametric hypersurfaces:

A function  $f: \overline{M} \to \mathbb{R}$  is isoparametric if  $||df||^2 = a \circ f$ , and  $\Delta(f) = b \circ f$  for smooth functions a, b. The level sets of f are isoparametric hypersurfaces

- Cartan tried and failed to classify hypersurfaces with constant principal curvatures in spheres.
- motivated by trying to classify isoparametric hypersurfaces:

A function  $f: \overline{M} \to \mathbb{R}$  is isoparametric if  $||df||^2 = a \circ f$ , and  $\Delta(f) = b \circ f$  for smooth functions a, b. The level sets of f are isoparametric hypersurfaces

• Arose in the study of waves moving through a medium.

- Cartan tried and failed to classify hypersurfaces with constant principal curvatures in spheres.
- motivated by trying to classify isoparametric hypersurfaces:

A function  $f: \overline{M} \to \mathbb{R}$  is isoparametric if  $||df||^2 = a \circ f$ , and  $\Delta(f) = b \circ f$  for smooth functions a, b. The level sets of f are isoparametric hypersurfaces

• Arose in the study of waves moving through a medium.

#### $\mathsf{Theorem}$

(Cartan) A hypersurface of a space form is isoparametric if and only if it has constant principal curvatures.

- Cartan tried and failed to classify hypersurfaces with constant principal curvatures in spheres.
- motivated by trying to classify isoparametric hypersurfaces:

A function  $f: \overline{M} \to \mathbb{R}$  is isoparametric if  $||df||^2 = a \circ f$ , and  $\Delta(f) = b \circ f$  for smooth functions a, b. The level sets of f are isoparametric hypersurfaces

• Arose in the study of waves moving through a medium.

#### $\mathsf{Theorem}$

(Cartan) A hypersurface of a space form is isoparametric if and only if it has constant principal curvatures.

• Cartan: *M* is isoparametric ⇔ all parallel hypersurfaces have constant mean curvatures.



• Cartan achieved their classification when  $g = \|\sigma_{A_\xi}\| \leq 3$ .

• Cartan achieved their classification when  $g = \|\sigma_{A_{\xi}}\| \leq 3$ .

#### Theorem

(Münzner) For an isoparametric hypersurface  $M \subset S^n$ ,  $g \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$ .

• Cartan achieved their classification when  $g = \|\sigma_{A_{\xi}}\| \leq 3$ .

#### **Theorem**

(Münzner) For an isoparametric hypersurface  $M \subset S^n$ ,  $g \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$ .

• For g=4 inhomogeneous examples of FKM type arising from Clifford systems.

• Cartan achieved their classification when  $g = \|\sigma_{A_{\xi}}\| \leq 3$ .

#### **Theorem**

(Münzner) For an isoparametric hypersurface  $M \subset S^n$ ,  $g \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$ .

- For g=4 inhomogeneous examples of FKM type arising from Clifford systems.
- Wang: Under the Hopf fibration inhomogeneous isoparametric hypersurfaces project to isoparametric hypersurfaces with nonconstant principal curvatures.

•  $K_{\xi} = \overline{R}(\cdot, \xi)\xi$  denotes the normal Jacobi operator.

- $K_{\xi} = \overline{R}(\cdot, \xi)\xi$  denotes the normal Jacobi operator.
- ullet  $M\subset\overline{M}$  is said to be curvature-adapted if

- $K_{\xi} = \overline{R}(\cdot, \xi)\xi$  denotes the normal Jacobi operator.
- $M \subset \overline{M}$  is said to be curvature-adapted if

- $K_{\xi} = \overline{R}(\cdot, \xi)\xi$  denotes the normal Jacobi operator.
- $M \subset \overline{M}$  is said to be curvature-adapted if

- $K_{\xi} = \overline{R}(\cdot, \xi)\xi$  denotes the normal Jacobi operator.
- $M \subset \overline{M}$  is said to be curvature-adapted if

  - Every submanifold of a space form.

- $K_{\xi} = \overline{R}(\cdot, \xi)\xi$  denotes the normal Jacobi operator.
- $M \subset \overline{M}$  is said to be curvature-adapted if

  - Every submanifold of a space form.
  - **②** Complex submanifolds of  $\mathbb{C}P^n$  and  $\mathbb{C}H^n$ .

- $K_{\xi} = \overline{R}(\cdot, \xi)\xi$  denotes the normal Jacobi operator.
- $M \subset \overline{M}$  is said to be curvature-adapted if

  - Every submanifold of a space form.
  - **2** Complex submanifolds of  $\mathbb{C}P^n$  and  $\mathbb{C}H^n$ .
  - Every Hermann action of a symmetric space.

- $K_{\xi} = \overline{R}(\cdot, \xi)\xi$  denotes the normal Jacobi operator.
- $M \subset \overline{M}$  is said to be curvature-adapted if

  - Every submanifold of a space form.
  - **2** Complex submanifolds of  $\mathbb{C}P^n$  and  $\mathbb{C}H^n$ .
  - **③** Every Hermann action of a symmetric space.
- Every tube around a curvature-adapted submanifold is curvature-adapted.



(M.) Let M be a curvature-adapted hypersurface of a compact symmetric space. Then M is isoparametric if, and only if, M has constant principal curvatures and the eigenvalues of  $K_{\xi}(E)$  are constant.

(M.) Let M be a curvature-adapted hypersurface of a compact symmetric space. Then M is isoparametric if, and only if, M has constant principal curvatures and the eigenvalues of  $K_{\xi}(E)$  are constant.

For spheres we recover Cartan's theorem.

(M.) Let M be a curvature-adapted hypersurface of a compact symmetric space. Then M is isoparametric if, and only if, M has constant principal curvatures and the eigenvalues of  $K_{\xi}(E)$  are constant.

- For spheres we recover Cartan's theorem.
- Proof uses Jacobi field theory and Laurent series for the principal curvature functions.

(M.) Let M be a curvature-adapted hypersurface of a compact symmetric space. Then M is isoparametric if, and only if, M has constant principal curvatures and the eigenvalues of  $K_{\xi}(E)$  are constant.

- For spheres we recover Cartan's theorem.
- Proof uses Jacobi field theory and Laurent series for the principal curvature functions.

(M.) Let M be a curvature-adapted hypersurface of a compact symmetric space. Then M is isoparametric if, and only if, M has constant principal curvatures and the eigenvalues of  $K_{\xi}(E)$  are constant.

- For spheres we recover Cartan's theorem.
- Proof uses Jacobi field theory and Laurent series for the principal curvature functions.

#### $\mathsf{Theorem}$

(M.) Let  $M \subset \mathbb{O}P^2$  be a complete curvature-adapted hypersurface. Then it is isoparametric if, and only if it is homogeneous.

$$(A_{\xi})'(r)=A_{\xi}^2+K_{\xi}$$

$$(A_{\xi})'(r)=A_{\xi}^2+K_{\xi}$$

 Curvature-adapted implies this matrix-valued differential equation simplifies to a family of ODE's

$$(\lambda_i') = \lambda_i^2 + \kappa_i$$

$$(A_{\xi})'(r) = A_{\xi}^2 + K_{\xi}$$

 Curvature-adapted implies this matrix-valued differential equation simplifies to a family of ODE's

$$(\lambda_i') = \lambda_i^2 + \kappa_i$$

 Can calculate the principal curvatures of tubes around M by using Jacobi field theory

$$(A_{\xi})'(r) = A_{\xi}^2 + K_{\xi}$$

 Curvature-adapted implies this matrix-valued differential equation simplifies to a family of ODE's

$$(\lambda_i') = \lambda_i^2 + \kappa_i$$

- Can calculate the principal curvatures of tubes around M by using Jacobi field theory
- Focal point: principal curvatures developing singularities.

### Theorem

(Gray) 
$$Vol(T_M(r)) = \frac{1}{n!} \int_M \gamma \wedge (\pi r^2 + F)^n$$

#### Theorem

(Gray) 
$$Vol(T_M(r)) = \frac{1}{n!} \int_M \gamma \wedge (\pi r^2 + F)^n$$

• For  $M_d \subset \mathbb{C}P^n$ ,  $Vol(T_{M_d}(r)) = \frac{(\pi)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \left(1 - (1 - d.Sin^2(2r))^{n+1}\right)$ .

### Theorem (

(Gray) 
$$Vol(T_M(r)) = \frac{1}{n!} \int_M \gamma \wedge (\pi r^2 + F)^n$$

- For  $M_d \subset \mathbb{C}P^n$ ,  $Vol(T_{M_d}(r)) = \frac{(\pi)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \left(1 - (1 - d.Sin^2(2r))^{n+1}\right)$ .
- Motivated by this work, Gray established the formula

$$minfoc_{\mathbb{C}P^n}(M_d^{n-1}) = r_0 \leq ArcSin(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}).$$



#### $\mathsf{Theorem}$

(M.) A complex submanifold M arises as an exceptional leaf of any Riemannian foliation  $\mathcal{F}^{2n-1}$  on  $\mathbb{C}P^n$  if, and only if, M is isometric to

- **1** a totally geodesic  $\mathbb{P}^k \subset \mathbb{P}^n$  for some  $k \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$ ,
- ② the complex quadric  $Q^{n-1} = \{ [z] \in \mathbb{P}^n : z_0^2 + \dots + z_n^2 = 0 \} \subset \mathbb{P}^n,$
- **3** the Segre embedding of  $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^k$  into  $\mathbb{P}^{2k+1}$ ,
- **1** the Plücker embedding of the complex Grassmann manifold  $G_2(\mathbb{C}^5)$  into  $\mathbb{P}^9$ , or
- **5** the half spin embedding of SO(10)/U(5) in  $\mathbb{P}^{15}$ .

In other words,  $\mathcal{F}$  is induced by a cohomogeneity one action.



• Good examples of Riemannian foliations: leaves of  $\pi: M \to B$ .

- Good examples of Riemannian foliations: leaves of  $\pi: M \to B$ .
- Letting M be Kähler, when are the leaves of  $\pi$  complex submanifolds?

- Good examples of Riemannian foliations: leaves of  $\pi: M \to B$ .
- Letting M be Kähler, when are the leaves of  $\pi$  complex submanifolds?
- Twistor fibration:  $\pi: \mathbb{C}P^{2n+1} \to \mathbb{H}P^n$  gives an example.

- Good examples of Riemannian foliations: leaves of  $\pi: M \to B$ .
- Letting M be Kähler, when are the leaves of  $\pi$  complex submanifolds?
- Twistor fibration:  $\pi: \mathbb{C}P^{2n+1} \to \mathbb{H}P^n$  gives an example.
- Others?

(M.) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a singular Riemannian foliation of an irreducible closed Kähler manifold. If it is complex, it is totally geodesic.

(M.) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a singular Riemannian foliation of an irreducible closed Kähler manifold. If it is complex, it is totally geodesic.

• Idea of the proof: use infinitesimal Riemannian foliation  $T_x \mathcal{F}$ .

(M.) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a singular Riemannian foliation of an irreducible closed Kähler manifold. If it is complex, it is totally geodesic.

- Idea of the proof: use infinitesimal Riemannian foliation  $T_x \mathcal{F}$ .
- At a singular point  $T_x \mathcal{F} = T_x \mathcal{F}^{triv} \oplus T_x \mathcal{F}^{ess}$

(M.) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a singular Riemannian foliation of an irreducible closed Kähler manifold. If it is complex, it is totally geodesic.

- Idea of the proof: use infinitesimal Riemannian foliation  $T_x \mathcal{F}$ .
- At a singular point  $T_x \mathcal{F} = T_x \mathcal{F}^{triv} \oplus T_x \mathcal{F}^{ess}$
- $T_x \mathcal{F}^{ess}$  is an isoparametric foliation of Euclidean space  $\rightarrow$  homogeneous.

(M.-Nagy) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a Riemannian foliation of an open subset  $\mathcal{O} \subset \mathbb{C}P^n$ . If it is complex, it is  $\mathcal{F}_{Tw}|_{\mathcal{O}}$ .

(M.-Nagy) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a Riemannian foliation of an open subset  $\mathcal{O} \subset \mathbb{C}P^n$ . If it is complex, it is  $\mathcal{F}_{Tw}|_{\mathcal{O}}$ .

• We conjecture that the twistor fibration is the unique complex Riemannian foliation of a Hermitian symmetric space

#### $\mathsf{Theorem}$

(M.-Nagy) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a Riemannian foliation of an open subset  $\mathcal{O} \subset \mathbb{C}P^n$ . If it is complex, it is  $\mathcal{F}_{Tw}|_{\mathcal{O}}$ .

 We conjecture that the twistor fibration is the unique complex Riemannian foliation of a Hermitian symmetric space

### Theorem

(M.-Nagy) Let  $\mathcal F$  be a complex Riemannian foliation of a closed irreducible Hermitian symmetric space  $\overline{M}$ . Then  $\operatorname{rank}(M) \leq 3$ , and the leaves of  $\mathcal F$  are totally geodesic  $\mathbb CP^1 \subset \overline{M}$ .

## References

Hypersurfaces in complex and quaternionic hyperbolic spaces, to appear, Adv. Geom., arXiv:1011.6582.

Curvature-adapted submanifolds of symmetric spaces, to appear, Indiana U. Math. J., arXiv:1102.4756.

Riemannian foliations of projective space admitting complex leaves, submitted, arXiv:1202.5989.

**Complex Riemannian foliations of Kähler manifolds**, with P.A. Nagy, in preparation.