

# Homotheties and topology of tangent sphere bundles

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## Abstract

We prove a Theorem on homotheties between two given tangent sphere bundles  $S_r M$  of a Riemannian manifold  $M, g$  of  $\dim \geq 3$ , assuming different variable radius functions  $r$  and weighted Sasaki metrics induced by the conformal class of  $g$ . New examples are shown of manifolds with constant positive or with constant negative scalar curvature which are not Einstein. Recalling results on the associated almost complex structure  $I^G$  and symplectic structure  $\omega^G$  on the manifold  $TM$ , generalizing the well-known structure of Sasaki by admitting weights and connections with torsion, we compute the Chern and the Stiefel-Whitney characteristic classes of the *manifolds*  $TM$  and  $S_r M$ .

**Key Words:** tangent sphere bundle, isometry, characteristic classes.

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## 1 Introduction

This article consists of a study of the main properties which identify the tangent sphere bundles  $S_r M = \{u \in TM : \|u\| = r\}$  of a Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  with variable radius  $r$  and induced weighted Sasaki metric  $g^{f_1, f_2} = f_1 \pi^* g \oplus f_2 \pi^* g$ , where  $f_1, f_2$  are  $\mathbb{R}^+$ -valued functions on  $M$  and  $\pi : TM \rightarrow M$  is the bundle map. Recall the well-known Sasaki metric on  $TM$  is just  $g^S = g^{1,1}$  induced by the Levi-Civita connection splitting of  $TTM$ . Our main results are as follows.

We consider a conformal change  $\lambda g$  by some function  $\lambda$  on  $M$ , then take both Levi-Civita connections of  $g$  and  $\lambda g$  and consider, accordingly, the lifts of these metrics to  $TM$ . We obtain very different weighted Sasaki metrics on  $TM$  and induced metrics on the sphere bundles, since the

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horizontal subspaces are very different when  $\lambda$  is non-constant. So one wishes to compare the  $S_r M$ , with radius functions  $r, s : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  and within the same conformal class of  $M$ , through the map  $u \xrightarrow{h} \frac{s}{r\sqrt{\lambda}}u$ . For  $M$  connected and of dimension  $\geq 3$  we prove:

$$(S_r M, g^{f_1, f_2}) \text{ is homothetic via } h \text{ to } (S_s M, (\lambda g)^{f_1, f_2}) \quad (1)$$

if and only if  $\frac{f_1'}{f_1} \lambda = \frac{s^2}{r^2} \frac{f_2'}{f_2}$ , the function  $\lambda$  is constant and one of the following conditions holds: (i)  $s/r$  is constant or (ii)  $rs$  is constant.

Equation (ii) is quite interesting, and reassuring if the reader suspects it is true. As a corollary it says that, for any positive function  $r$  on  $M$ ,  $(S_r M, g^S)$  is isometric to  $(S_{\frac{1}{r}} M, g^{1, r^4})$ .

We give some applications in the treatment of the  $S_s M_R$  of the space-form  $M_R$ , the locus of  $x_1^2 + \dots + x_m^2 \pm x_{m+1}^2 = R^2$ , which has constant sectional curvature  $\pm 1/R^2$ . Using [7], we prove in Theorem 2.3 that, for  $\dim M_R = m \geq 3$ , no matter the sign  $\pm$  or the constants  $R, f_1, f_2 > 0$ , we can always find a radius  $s > 0$  sufficiently small such that  $S_s M_R$  has constant positive scalar curvature or sufficiently large such that the same space has constant negative scalar curvature. These are examples of manifolds with constant Scal but which are not Einstein.

Proceeding with the weighted metric  $G = g^{f_1, f_2}$  on  $TM$ , we define a compatible almost Hermitian structure  $(G, I^G, \omega^G)$ , which is a generalization of the canonical or Sasaki almost Hermitian structure on  $TM$ . In our case we also allow  $\nabla$  to have torsion. Then the integrability equations of  $I^G$  and  $\omega^G$  reserve distinguished roles for the functions  $f_1/f_2$  and  $f_1 f_2$  respectively, both implying the torsion to be of certain so-called vectorial type. In principle having no relation, notice the similarity of these equations with the two cases (i) and (ii) above! Finally, the two functions only have to be both constant, the curvature of  $\nabla$  flat and the torsion zero if and only if we require the defined structure on  $TM$  to be Kähler.

We also determine the characteristic classes of the *manifold*  $TM$ . The Chern classes of  $(TM, I^G)$  are proved to agree with the Pontryagin classes of  $M$ . Moreover, they do not depend on the metric connection  $\nabla$ . The Stiefel-Whitney characteristic classes of  $S_r M$  are also found. In particular we conclude that any tangent sphere bundle of an oriented manifold is a spin manifold.

The motivation for the present article is the discovery of a natural  $G_2$ -structure on  $S_1 M$ , for any  $M$  oriented of dimension 4, which is having many developments and good expectations, cf. [4, 5]. However, here we just complete an independent study of the  $S_r M$  initiated in [6, 7].

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## 2 Riemannian geometry of the tangent bundle

### 2.1 The tangent bundle

Let  $M$  be an  $m$ -dimensional smooth manifold without boundary. Let  $\pi : TM \rightarrow M$  be the tangent bundle so that  $\pi(u) = x, \forall u \in T_x M, x \in M$ . Then  $V = \ker d\pi$  is known as the vertical bundle tangent to  $TM$ . There is a canonical identification  $V = \pi^* TM$  and an exact sequence over the manifold  $TM$ :

$$0 \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow TTM \xrightarrow{d\pi} \pi^* TM \longrightarrow 0. \quad (2)$$

The tangent bundle  $TM$  is endowed with a natural vertical vector field, denoted  $\xi$ , which is succinctly defined by  $\xi_u = u$ .

Let  $\nabla$  be a connection on  $M$ . Then there is a complement for  $V$

$$H = \{X \in TTM : \pi^*\nabla_X\xi = 0\}. \quad (3)$$

Indeed  $H$  is  $m$ -dimensional and  $\pi^*\nabla_X\xi$  is the vertical projection onto  $V$ . For any vector field  $X$  over  $TM$  we may always find the unique decomposition ( $\nabla^*$  denotes the pull-back connection)

$$X = X^h + X^v = X^h + \nabla_X^*\xi. \quad (4)$$

Now,  $d\pi$  induces a vector bundle isomorphism between  $H$  and  $\pi^*TM$ , by (2), and we have  $V = \pi^*TM$ . Hence we may define an endomorphism

$$B : TTM \longrightarrow TTM \quad (5)$$

sending  $X^h$  to the respective  $BX^h \in V$  and sending  $V$  to 0. We also define an endomorphism, denoted  $B^{\text{ad}}$ , which gives  $B^{\text{ad}}X^v \in H$  and which annihilates  $H$ . In particular  $B^{\text{ad}}BX^h = X^h$  and  $B^2 = 0$ . Sometimes we call  $BX^h$  the mirror image of  $X^h$  in  $V$ . The map  $B$  appears also in [4]. We endow  $TTM$  with the direct sum connection  $\nabla^* \oplus \nabla^*$ , which we sometimes denote by  $\nabla^*$ . We have in particular that  $\nabla^*B = \nabla^*B^{\text{ad}} = 0$ .

Notice the canonical section  $\xi$  can be mirrored by  $B^{\text{ad}}$  to give a horizontal canonical vector field  $B^{\text{ad}}\xi$ . In the torsion free case, the latter is known as the spray of the connection, cf. [9, 13], or the geodesic field, cf. [10]. It has the further property that  $d\pi_u(B^{\text{ad}}\xi) = u$ ,  $\forall u \in TM$ . Away from the zero section, we have a line bundle  $\mathbb{R}\xi \subset V$  and therefore a line sub-bundle too of  $H$ .

## 2.2 Natural metrics

Suppose the previous manifold  $M$  is furnished with a Riemannian metric  $g$  and a linear connection. We also use  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  in place of the symmetric tensor  $g$ ; this same remark on notation is valid for the pull-back metric on  $\pi^*TM$ . We recall from [9, 14] the now called Sasaki metric in  $TTM = H \oplus V$ : it is given by  $g^S = \pi^*g \oplus \pi^*g$  (originally, with the Levi-Civita connection). With  $g^S$ , the map  $B|_H : H \rightarrow V$  is an isometric morphism and  $B^{\text{ad}}$  corresponds with the adjoint of  $B$ . We stress that  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  on  $TTM$  always refers to the Sasaki metric.

Let  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$  be any given functions on  $M$  and let

$$G = g^{f_1, f_2} = f_1\pi^*g \oplus f_2\pi^*g \quad (6)$$

with

$$f_1 = e^{2\varphi_1}, \quad f_2 = e^{2\varphi_2}. \quad (7)$$

Obviously, we convention all these functions to be composed with  $\pi$  on the right hand side when used on the manifold  $TM$ .

**Remark.** With the canonical vector field  $\xi$  we may produce other symmetric bilinear forms over  $TM$ : first the 1-forms  $\eta = \xi^b$  and  $\theta = \xi^b \circ B = (B^{\text{ad}}\xi)^b$  and then the three symmetric products of these. Actually one may see that  $\theta$  does not depend on a chosen connection which is metric; cf. last remark in section 3.1. The classification of all  $g$ -induced natural metrics on  $TM$  may be found e.g. in [1, 2].

### 2.3 Metric connections

Let us assume from now on that the connection on  $M$  is metric, which implies  $\nabla^* g^S = 0$ . It is well-known that  $\nabla^{f_1} = \nabla + C_1$ , with

$$C_1(X, Y) = X(\varphi_1)Y + Y(\varphi_1)X - \langle X, Y \rangle \text{grad } \varphi_1, \quad (8)$$

is a metric connection for  $f_1 g$  on  $M$ , with the same torsion as  $\nabla$  since  $C$  is symmetric.

For any function  $\varphi$ , recall the usual identities  $X(\varphi) = d\varphi(X) = \langle \text{grad } \varphi, X \rangle$ , adopted throughout. On  $TM$  we shall use the functions  $\partial\varphi(u) = d\varphi_{\pi(u)}(u)$ ,  $\forall u$ . In other words,

$$\partial\varphi = \langle B\pi^* \text{grad } \varphi, \xi \rangle \quad (9)$$

where  $B$  is the mirror map (5). And we agree on lifting gradient vector fields only to  $H$ .

We have that  $\nabla^{*,f_1} = \nabla^* + \pi^* C_1$  makes  $f_1 \pi^* g$  parallel on  $H$ . On the vertical side,  $\nabla^{*,f_2}$ , defined by

$$\nabla_X^{*,f_2} Y = \nabla_X^* Y + B\pi^* C_2(X, B^{\text{ad}} Y) \quad (10)$$

$\forall X, Y$  vector fields on  $TM$ , makes  $f_2 \pi^* g$  parallel. Henceforth, the connection  $\nabla^{*,f_1} \oplus \nabla^{*,f_2}$  is metric for  $G = g^{f_1, f_2}$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *i) The torsion of  $\nabla^* \oplus \nabla^*$  is  $\pi^* T^\nabla + \mathcal{R}^\xi$ .*

*ii) The connection  $\nabla_X^{*,f_2'} Y = \nabla_X^* Y + X(\varphi_2)Y$  is metric on  $(V, f_2 \pi^* g)$ .*

The proof of this result is immediate. The vertical part in i) is defined via the curvature,  $\mathcal{R}^\xi(X, Y) = \pi^* R^\nabla(X, Y)\xi$ . We remark it is  $\nabla^{*,f_1}$  and the connection in ii) which enter in the Levi-Civita connection  $\nabla^G$  of  $G$ . Formulas for the curvature are well-known, cf. [2, 7, 9, 11].

### 2.4 Homotheties of $TM$

Suppose we have a conformal change of the metric  $g$  on the base  $M$ . With  $\lambda = e^{2\varphi}$  and  $\varphi \in C_M^\infty$  we pass to the metric

$$g' = \lambda g = \lambda \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle. \quad (11)$$

Let us distinguish by  $T'M$  the tangent manifold of  $M$  with the metric  $g'$ , when necessary. For the rest of the section we restrict to the Levi-Civita connection

$$\nabla = \nabla^g. \quad (12)$$

Notice  $TTM = H \oplus V = H' \oplus V$  and we conform to our previous remarks on notation.

Let also  $t : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$  be a smooth function. Then we may consider the isomorphism (letting  $\hat{h} = e^{-\varphi} t$ )

$$h : TM \longrightarrow T'M, \quad h(u) = e^{-\varphi} t u = \hat{h} u =: u'. \quad (13)$$

We treat all given scalar functions like  $\varphi$  or  $t$ , depending on the context, as functions composed with  $\pi$ . This implies, for example,

$$X(\varphi) = d\varphi(X) = X^h(\varphi). \quad (14)$$

Recall the 1-form  $\theta$  on  $TM$  given by  $\theta(X) = \langle BX, \xi \rangle$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $X$  be any vector field on  $TM$  and consider the differential map  $h_* : TTM \rightarrow h^*TTM$ . It satisfies the identities  $h_*(X^v) = \hat{h}X^v$  and, more generally,*

$$h_*X = X^{h'} + \hat{h}\left(\frac{X(t)}{t}\right)\xi + X^v + \partial\varphi.BX - \theta(X)B\text{grad}\varphi \quad (15)$$

where  $B$  refers to the decomposition  $H \oplus V$ .

*Proof.* We know that  $\nabla' = \nabla + C$  where  $C_XY = d\varphi(X)Y + d\varphi(Y)X - \langle X, Y \rangle \text{grad}\varphi$  (here  $X, Y$  denote vector fields on  $M$  or on  $TM$ ). Since  $\pi \circ h = \pi$ , then  $(h_*X)^{h'} = (d\pi)^{-1}(d\pi(X))$  and this is the same as  $X^{h'}$ , the  $H'$ -part of  $X$ . Writing  $\xi'$  for the very same canonical vector field  $\xi$  on  $T'M$ , so that  $h^*\xi' = \xi \circ h = \hat{h}\xi$ , and computing,

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^*\nabla'_{h_*(X)}\xi' &= h^*\pi^*(\nabla + C)_X h^*\xi' \\ &= \pi^*\nabla_X(\hat{h}\xi) + B\pi^*C(X, B^{\text{ad}}(\hat{h}\xi)) \\ &= d\hat{h}(X)\xi + \hat{h}\nabla_X^*\xi + \hat{h}B\pi^*C(X, B^{\text{ad}}\xi) \\ &= -X(\varphi)\hat{h}\xi + e^{-\varphi}X(t)\xi + \hat{h}X^v + \hat{h}X(\varphi)\xi + \\ &\quad + \hat{h}(B^{\text{ad}}\xi)(\varphi).BX - \hat{h}\langle BX, \xi \rangle B\text{grad}\varphi \\ &= \hat{h}\left(\frac{X(t)}{t}\right)\xi + X^v + \partial\varphi.BX - \theta(X)B\text{grad}\varphi \end{aligned}$$

we find the vertical part. ■

**Remark.** Notice any tangent vector  $X = X^h + X^v = X^{h'} + X^{v'}$  has two decompositions. We have, cf. figure 1,

$$\begin{aligned} X^{v'} &= \nabla_X^*\xi = \nabla_X\xi + B\pi^*C(X, B^{\text{ad}}\xi) \\ &= X^v + \partial\varphi.BX + X(\varphi)\xi - \theta(X)B\text{grad}\varphi, \\ X^{h'} &= X - X^{v'} = X^h - \partial\varphi.BX - X(\varphi)\xi + \theta(X)B\text{grad}\varphi. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Now we suppose  $TM$  is endowed with the metric  $G = g^{f_1, f_2}$  introduced in previous sections and we let  $T'M$  have the metric  $G' = (\lambda g)^{f'_1, f'_2}$  (the four weight functions are just smooth, positive and defined on  $M$ ).

**Theorem 2.1.** *The map  $h$  is a homothety (ie.  $h^*G' = \psi G$  for some function  $\psi$ ) if and only if  $t$  and  $\lambda$  are constants and satisfy  $\frac{f'_1}{f_1}\lambda = t^2\frac{f'_2}{f_2}$ . In this case, the latter is the value of  $\psi$ .*

*Proof.* We write  $h_*X = X^{h'} + \hat{h}E(X)$  defining  $E$  from (15). Then solving the equation above with vertical vector fields  $X_1, X_2$  we immediately find

$$h^*G'(X_1, X_2) = \psi G(X_1, X_2) \text{ if and only if } \lambda \hat{h}^2 f'_2 = \psi f_2 \text{ i.e. } t^2 f'_2 = \psi f_2.$$

In particular,  $\psi$  is only defined on  $M$ . Notice we may write

$$E_{au}(X^h) = aE_u(X^h), \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{R},$$

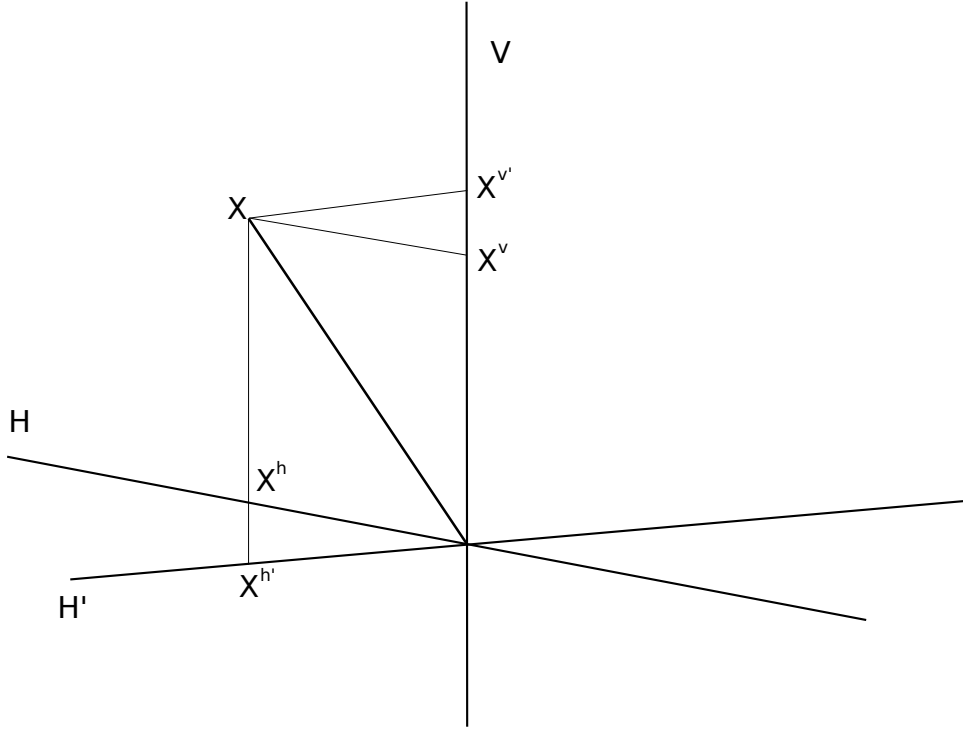


Figure 1: The connection induced projections

because  $\xi$  is also hidden linearly in  $\partial\varphi$  and  $\theta$ . Picking two horizontal lifts and having in mind that  $t$  and  $\psi$  are only defined on  $M$ , it is then easy to deduce that a necessary condition for  $h$  to be a homothety is that  $E(X^h) = 0$  for all  $H$ -horizontal  $X$ . Now

$$t\langle E(B^{\text{ad}}\xi), \xi \rangle = t\left\langle \frac{\partial t}{t}\xi + \partial\varphi.\xi - \|\xi\|^2 B\text{grad}\varphi, \xi \right\rangle = (\partial t + t\partial\varphi - t\partial\varphi)\|\xi\|^2$$

and hence  $\partial t = dt(B^{\text{ad}}\xi) = 0$ . Choosing any  $X$  horizontal and orthogonal to  $B^{\text{ad}}\xi$  (recall  $m > 1$ ), we find  $0 = \langle E(X), BX \rangle = \partial\varphi\|X\|^2 = 0 \Leftrightarrow \partial\varphi = 0$ , as we wished. In particular,  $\nabla = \nabla'$ . Finally, solving the equation above for horizontal vector fields  $X_1, X_2$  we get  $f'_1\lambda = \psi f_1$ . For generic vectors the result follows. ■

Generalizing the Theorem for the case of two conformal changes we have: the map  $h$  from  $(\lambda_1 g)^{f_1, f_2}$  to  $(\lambda_2 g)^{f'_1, f'_2}$  is a homothety if and only if

$$t, \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} \text{ are constants and } \frac{f'_1\lambda_2}{f_1\lambda_1} = t^2 \frac{f'_2}{f_2}. \quad (17)$$

## 2.5 Homotheties of $S_r M$

Let  $r, s \in C_M^\infty(\mathbb{R}^+)$  and recall the tangent sphere bundle of radius  $r$

$$S_r M = \{u \in TM : \|u\|_g^2 = r^2\} \quad (18)$$

submanifold of  $TM$ , for which we have

$$S_r M = S'_1 M \quad (19)$$

using the metric  $\lambda g$  to define  $S'_s M$  with  $\lambda = r^{-2} = e^{2\varphi}$ . Consider the smooth function  $N = r^{-2} \|\xi\|^2$  on  $TM$ , cf. formula (14). Then  $S_r M = N^{-1}(1) = \{u \in TM : G(\xi_u, \xi_u) = 1\}$  where  $G = g^{f_1, r^{-2}}$  with  $f_1$  any positive function. Using Proposition 2.1 to differentiate  $N = G(\xi, \xi)$ , it is easy to deduce

$$TS_r M = \{X \in TTM : \langle X, \xi \rangle = rX(r)\}. \quad (20)$$

We have to assume  $\varphi_2 = \varphi = -\log r$ . But of course one just applies  $\nabla^*$  to  $\|\xi\|^2 - r^2 = 0$  to easily find the same information. Notice  $X \in TS_r M \Leftrightarrow \langle X^v, \xi \rangle = rX^h(r)$ .

We shall consider a more general setting: with  $r$  and  $\varphi$  independent.

Let  $\lambda g$  be any conformal change of the given metric,  $\lambda = e^{2\varphi}$ . Let  $s$  be another positive function on  $M$  and consider the map  $h$  from Proposition 2.2 with an appropriate chosen  $t$ . It restricts to a *diffeomorphism*

$$h : S_r M \longrightarrow S'_s M, \quad h(u) = e^{-\varphi} \frac{s}{r} u = \hat{h}u. \quad (21)$$

When is  $h$  a homothety for the induced metrics? For a start, only the metrics  $G, G'$  constructed as in section 2.4 are relevant, i.e. those induced from  $\nabla = \nabla^g$  the Levi-Civita connection.

**Remark.** Recall the metric on the right hand side arises from  $H' \oplus V$ . Since  $h_* : T_u S_r M \rightarrow T_{\hat{h}u} S'_s M$ , it is true that we have

$$rX(r) = \langle X, \xi \rangle \Leftrightarrow s(h_* X)(s) = \langle h_* X, \hat{h}\xi \rangle'.$$

Indeed, we may write  $h_* X = X^{h'} + \hat{h}E(X)$  where  $E(X)$  is given in (15) as

$$EX = \frac{X(t)}{t} \xi + X^v + \partial\varphi \cdot BX - \theta(X) B \text{grad } \varphi. \quad (22)$$

but now with the function

$$t = \frac{s}{r}. \quad (23)$$

Also, on vertical vector fields the metrics agree up to the scale, so we find

$$\begin{aligned} \langle h_* X, \hat{h}\xi \rangle' &= \hat{h}^2 \langle EX, \xi \rangle' \\ &= e^{2\varphi} e^{-2\varphi} t \langle X(t)\xi + tX^v + t\partial\varphi \cdot BX - t\theta(X) B \text{grad } \varphi, \xi \rangle \\ &= t \left( \frac{X(s)r - sX(r)}{r^2} \|\xi\|^2 + t \langle X^v, \xi \rangle + t\partial\varphi \cdot \theta(X) - t\theta(X) \partial\varphi \right) \\ &= \frac{s}{r} (rX(s) - sX(r) + \frac{s}{r} rX(r)) \\ &= sX(s) = s(h_* X)(s) \end{aligned}$$

since on  $S_r M$  we have  $\|\xi\|^2 = r^2$ .

In the next Theorem we prove that each tangent sphere bundle  $S_r M$  with metric  $G$  induced from that of  $TM$  is quite unique, independently of any of the metric transformations above and up to the straightforward coincidences expressed in the corollaries. The reader may notice the impossibility of adapting the arguments used for Theorem 2.1. We also remark we were not able to prove the cases of  $\dim M = 1, 2$ .

We let  $\lambda = e^{2\varphi}$  and  $r, s, f_1, f_2, f'_1, f'_2$  be any positive functions on  $M$ .

Until the end of this section we assume  $M$  is connected and  $\dim M \geq 3$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $S_r M$  have the induced metric  $G = g^{f_1, f_2}$  and let  $S'_s M$  have the induced metric  $G' = (\lambda g)^{f'_1, f'_2}$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

1.  $h : S_r M \rightarrow S'_s M$  is a homothety, ie.  $h^* G' = \psi G$  for some function  $\psi$ .
2.  $\lambda$  is constant,  $\psi$  verifies simultaneously  $\psi = \frac{f'_1}{f_1} \lambda = \frac{s^2}{r^2} \frac{f'_2}{f_2}$  and one of the following hold:
  - (i)  $s/r$  is constant
  - (ii)  $rs$  is constant.

For the case of the identity ( $\hat{h} = 1$ ), we have that it is a homothety if and only if  $\lambda = s^2/r^2$  is a constant and  $\frac{f'_1}{f_1} = \frac{f'_2}{f_2}$ .

*Proof.* First we notice

$$\begin{aligned} G'(h_* X, h_* Y) &= f'_1 \langle X^{h'}, Y^{h'} \rangle' + \hat{h}^2 f'_2 \langle EX, EY \rangle' \\ &= f'_1 \lambda \langle X^h, Y^h \rangle + \hat{h}^2 \lambda f'_2 \langle EX, EY \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Now consider the equation  $h^* G'(X, Y) = \psi G(X, Y)$ . Choose one vector  $X = \xi^\perp$  vertical and orthogonal to  $\xi$ , and a vector  $Y = (\text{grad } r)^\perp$  horizontal and orthogonal to  $\text{grad } r$ . Then both  $X, Y \in TS_r M$ . Indeed,  $\langle X, \xi \rangle = 0 = rX(r)$  and  $\langle Y, \xi \rangle = 0 = r\langle Y, \text{grad } r \rangle = rY(r)$ . Then for two vertical vector fields, like  $X$ , we immediately get the necessary condition  $\hat{h}^2 \lambda f'_2 = \psi f_2 \Leftrightarrow \psi = \frac{s^2}{r^2} \frac{f'_2}{f_2}$ . For  $X, Y$  we have  $EX = X^v$  and  $EY = \frac{Y(t)}{t} \xi + \partial\varphi \cdot BY - \theta(Y) B \text{grad } \varphi$ , hence

$$0 = \psi G(X, Y) = G'(h_* X, h_* Y) = f'_2 \lambda \hat{h}^2 (\partial\varphi \langle X, BY \rangle - \theta(Y) \langle X, B \text{grad } \varphi \rangle).$$

Now we choose a point  $u \in S_r M$  orthogonal to  $\text{grad } r$ . Then we may take  $X = B \text{grad } r$  and  $Y = u \in H$ . We have  $\langle BY, X \rangle = 0$  and  $\theta(Y) = \langle u, u \rangle = r^2$ , so our equation yields  $\langle X, B \text{grad } \varphi \rangle = 0$ . Equivalently, we must have  $\text{grad } r \perp \text{grad } \varphi$ .

Now suppose  $\text{grad } r = 0$  on all points of  $M$ , ie.  $r$  is constant. Then  $H \subset TS_r M$ . Take any non-vanishing  $Z_0 \in H$ . Then we may further<sup>1</sup> let  $Z_0 \in H \cap \{\text{grad } s, \text{grad } \varphi\}^\perp$ . In fact, in dimension  $\geq 3$ , we may find a point  $u$  in each fibre of  $S_r M$  such that  $(\partial\varphi)_u = 0$  and a vector  $Z_0 \in H_u$  such that  $Z_0(s) = Z_0(\varphi) = 0$  and  $\theta(Z_0) = 0$ . Then on the chosen point  $u$  we get  $E(Z_0) = 0$  and so  $h_* Z_0 = Z_0^{h'}$ . Hence our main equation yields the necessary condition  $f'_1 \lambda = \psi f_1$ . Going back a little, we then consider any point  $u$  and any  $Z_0 \in H$  perpendicular to  $u$ , ie. such that  $\xi_u \perp BZ_0$ . Then we deduce

$$G'(h_* Z_0, h_* Z_0) = f'_1 \lambda \|Z_0\|^2 + f'_2 \lambda \hat{h}^2 \left( \frac{(Z_0(s))^2}{s^2} r^2 + (\partial\varphi)^2 \|Z_0\|^2 \right) = \psi f_1 \|Z_0\|^2$$

This immediately implies  $Z_0(s) = 0$ ,  $\partial\varphi = 0$ . Since  $Z_0$  and  $u$  may now be put in general position, we conclude  $s$  and  $\varphi$  are constant on  $M$ , a connected manifold by assumption, and the Theorem follows.

So now we admit  $\text{grad } r \neq 0$  at some point  $x \in M$ . Recall  $\text{grad } r \perp \text{grad } \varphi$  and let  $\epsilon = \|\text{grad } r\|$  and  $\delta = \|\text{grad } \varphi\|$ .

---

<sup>1</sup>This last assumption is not plausible in dimension 2 since we want  $Z_0 \neq 0$ , hence the hypothesis on the dimension; although here we may assume that  $\text{grad } \varphi$  together with  $\text{grad } s$  constitute a basis of  $H$  and then try to solve the system of two quadratic equations and 4 unknowns, in the components of  $u$  and  $Z_0$  in that basis, given by  $Z_0(t)\xi + t\partial\varphi \cdot BZ_0 - t\theta(Z_0)B \text{grad } \varphi = 0$ , for that is all we need - here, because ahead the dimension hypothesis is required again.



Hence  $u_1 = \frac{r}{\epsilon} \text{grad } r \in S_r M$ . Notice  $\partial\varphi_{u_1} = d\varphi(u_1) = 0$ . Consider the vector  $X_0 = \text{grad } r$  and  $X = X_0 + \epsilon BX_0$ . It is tangent to our sphere bundle at  $u_1$  since

$$\langle X, \xi \rangle = \epsilon \frac{r}{\epsilon} \epsilon^2 = r \langle X_0, X_0 \rangle = rX(r).$$

And we have that

$$\begin{aligned} h_* X &= X^{h'} + \hat{h} EX &= X^{h'} + \hat{h} \left( \frac{X(t)}{t} \xi_{u_1} + \epsilon BX - \theta(X) B \text{grad } \varphi \right) \\ &= X^{h'} + \hat{h} \left( \frac{X(t)}{t} \frac{r}{\epsilon} + \epsilon \right) BX_0 - \hat{h} r \epsilon B \text{grad } \varphi. \end{aligned}$$

Consider also the tangent vector at  $u_1$ ,  $Z = B \text{grad } \varphi$ . Then  $h_* Z = \hat{h} Z$ . And thus  $\psi G(X, Z) = \psi f_2 \epsilon \langle BX_0, Z \rangle = 0$ ; on the other hand

$$\begin{aligned} h^* G'(X, Z) &= f_2' \lambda \hat{h}^2 \left\langle \left( \frac{X(t)}{t} \frac{r}{\epsilon} + \epsilon \right) BX_0 - r \epsilon B \text{grad } \varphi, B \text{grad } \varphi \right\rangle \\ &= -f_2' \lambda \hat{h}^2 \epsilon r \delta^2. \end{aligned}$$

This implies  $\delta = 0$ , ie.  $\varphi$  and hence  $\lambda = e^{2\varphi}$  are constants.

Therefore the map  $h$  verifies  $h_* X = X^h + \hat{h} \left( \frac{X(t)}{t} \xi + X^v \right)$ , for any vector field  $X \in TS_r M$ . Now we consider any horizontal vector  $X \in \ker dr \cap \ker ds$ , in particular also tangent to  $S_r M$  and orthogonal to  $\text{grad } t$  (recall  $n \geq 2$ ). Then  $X(t) = 0$  and, just as we had the result  $\hat{h}^2 \lambda f_2' = \psi f_2$  using vertical vectors, we have the similar result with horizontal:  $\lambda f_1' = \psi f_1$ .

Next, we use two generic tangent vectors  $X, Y \in TS_r M$ . It is easy to see the conformality equation  $h^* G' = \psi G$  is finally equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \frac{X(t)}{t} \xi + X^v, \frac{Y(t)}{t} \xi + Y^v \right\rangle &= \langle X^v, Y^v \rangle, \\ \frac{X(t)Y(t)}{t^2} r^2 + \frac{X(t)rY(r)}{t} + \frac{Y(t)rX(r)}{t} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$X(t)Y(t)r + X(t)Y(r)t + X(r)Y(t)t = 0.$$

Notice this last equation only involves the horizontal part of the vectors, so we assume  $X, Y$  as such. Now if we take  $X$  orthogonal to  $\text{grad } t$ , ie. satisfying  $X(t) = 0$ , and take  $Y = \text{grad } t$ , then we find that  $X(r) = 0$  or that  $X$  is also orthogonal to  $\text{grad } r$ . Henceforth,  $\text{grad } t$  and  $\text{grad } r$  are proportional, ie. lie on the same line. In other terms,

$$dt = adr$$

for some function  $a$  on  $M$ . Clearly the equation above may be written as

$$r dt \otimes dt + t dt \otimes dr + t dt \otimes dr = 0.$$

Hence we have  $(ra^2 + 2ta)dr \otimes dr = 0$ . Recalling  $r$  is not constant, we either have  $t$  constant or  $ra + 2t = 0$ . We have both

$$dt = -\frac{2t}{r} dr = -\frac{2s}{r^2} dr \quad \text{and} \quad dt = \frac{r ds - s dr}{r^2}.$$

Hence  $-2s dr = r ds - s dr \Leftrightarrow r ds + s dr = 0$ , from which we find  $sr = \text{constant}$ .

Finally all conditions are fulfilled for  $h$  to be the expected homothety of ratio  $\psi$ . The identity map case is trivial. ■

Let  $g^S = g^{1,1}$  denote the induced Sasaki metric on the tangent sphere bundle and recall we are only considering  $\dim M \geq 3$ .

**Corollary 2.1.** *The Riemannian manifold  $(S_r M, g^S)$  is homothetic to  $(S'_s M, (\lambda g)^S)$  via  $h$  if and only if  $\psi = \lambda = \frac{s^2}{r^2}$  and this is a constant. In this case,  $h$  is the identity and  $s = \sqrt{\lambda}r$ ; in other words  $S_r M = S'_s M$ . In particular, two tangent sphere bundles both with the induced Sasaki metric are homothetic if and only if they have exactly the same radius function, ie., they coincide.*

**Corollary 2.2.** *Other particular cases are as follows: the Riemannian manifold  $(S_r M, g^{f_1, f_2})$  is isometric via  $h$  to  $(S'_r M, (\lambda g)^{1, f_2})$  if  $f_1 = \lambda$  is constant. And  $(S_r M, g^{f_1, f_2})$  is isometric to  $(S'_1 M, (\lambda g)^{1, r^2 f_2})$  if  $f_1 = \lambda$  and both  $r, f_1$  are constant. Moreover,  $(S_r M, g^S)$  is isometric to  $(S_1 M, g^{1, r^2})$  if  $r$  is constant.*

We have used the metric  $G = g^{f_1, r^{-2}}$  on  $S_r M$ . So we study this case separately.

**Corollary 2.3.** *Let  $S_r M$  be given the metric  $G = g^{1, \frac{1}{r^2}}$  and let  $S'_s M$  be with the metric  $G' = (\lambda g)^{f'_1, \frac{1}{s^2}}$ . Then the following three conditions are equivalent:*

1. *the map  $h : S_r M \rightarrow S'_s M$  is a homothety.*
2. *the functions verify:  $\psi = f'_1 \lambda = 1$ ,  $\lambda$  is a constant and  $s/r$  or  $sr$  is a constant.*
3. *the map  $h$  is an isometry.*

*In particular, for any  $s, r$  positive constants,  $(S_r M, g^{1, r^{-2}}) \simeq (S_s M, g^{1, s^{-2}}) \simeq (S_1 M, g^S)$ .*

*Proof.* Indeed we have  $\psi = f'_1 \lambda = \frac{s^2}{r^2} \frac{r^2}{s^2} = 1$ . ■

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $r$  be any function on  $M$ . Then  $(S_r M, g^S)$  is isometric to  $(S_{\frac{1}{r}} M, g^{1, r^4})$ .*

*Proof.* This is due to the second particular case found in the Theorem. We are taking  $\lambda = 1$  and  $s = \frac{1}{r}$  and indeed  $\psi = \frac{f'_1}{f_1} \lambda = 1 = \frac{r^4}{r^4} = \frac{s^2}{r^2} \frac{f'_2}{f_2}$ . Also notice we have  $sr$  constant. ■

## 2.6 Applications to space-forms

Formulas for the curvature of tangent sphere bundles of space-forms are finally studied here. Let  $R > 0$  and let

$$M_R = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{m+1} : x_1^2 + \cdots + x_m^2 \pm x_{m+1}^2 = R^2\} \quad (24)$$

be an  $m$ -dimensional space-form with the induced metric  $g$  from Euclidean space.  $M_R$  has constant sectional curvature  $\pm 1/R^2$ . If we conformally change the metric  $g \rightsquigarrow \lambda g$  by a constant, then clearly  $\pm \frac{1}{R^2} \rightsquigarrow \pm \frac{1}{\lambda R^2}$ .

Having another  $R_1 > 0$ , the map  $F : M_{R_1} \rightarrow M_R$  defined by  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{m+1} \mapsto F(x) = \frac{R}{R_1} x$  induces the following isometry through differentiation. Writing  $f_1 = f_2 = \frac{R^2}{R_1^2}$  and  $s = \frac{R_1 r}{R}$ , we have

$$F_* : (S_s M_{R_1}, g^{f_1, f_2}) \rightarrow (S_r M_R, g^S), \quad F_*(x, u) = \frac{R}{R_1}(x, u). \quad (25)$$

Indeed,  $(F_*)^* g^S = g^{f_1, f_2}$ . This isometry and corollaries 2.2, 2.3 give us the next quite interesting result.

**Proposition 2.3.** *We have the following isometries*

$$(S_1 M_R, g^S) \simeq (S_{\frac{1}{R}} M_1, g^{R^2, R^2}) \simeq (S'_{\frac{1}{R}} M_1, (R^2 g)^{1, R^2}) \simeq (S'_1 M_1, (R^2 g)^{1, 1}) = (S_1 M_1, (R^2 g)^S). \quad (26)$$

Now we apply a general formula from [7, Proposition 1.6] on the scalar curvature  $\text{Scal}$  of  $(S_s M, g^{f_1, f_2})$  for any given constants  $f_1, f_2$ :

$$\text{Scal}_{(S_s M, g^{f_1, f_2})} = \frac{1}{f_1} \text{Scal}_{(M, g)} - \frac{f_2}{4f_1^2} \sum_{i, j, k=1}^m (\mathcal{R}^\xi_{ijk})^2 + \frac{(n-1)n}{f_2 s^2}. \quad (27)$$

Since  $\sum_{i, j, k=1}^m (\mathcal{R}^\xi_{ijk})^2 = \frac{s^2}{R^4} 2n$ , where  $n = m - 1$ , we have

$$\text{Scal}_{(S_s M_R, g^{f_1, f_2})} = \pm \frac{n(n+1)}{f_1 R^2} - \frac{f_2}{4f_1^2} \frac{s^2}{R^4} 2n + \frac{(n-1)n}{f_2 s^2}. \quad (28)$$

In particular the scalar curvature of (26) is  $\pm \frac{n(n+1)}{R^2} - \frac{n}{2R^4} + (n-1)n$ . We may say it is rewarding to see the same value in (28) for any of the forms in (26). Notice we can also write the scalar curvature of  $(S_r M_R, g^S) \simeq (S_{\frac{1}{r}} M_R, g^{1, r^4})$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** *For any  $m \geq 3$  and both cases  $\pm$ , for any scalars  $R, f_1, f_2 > 0$ , we can always find a sufficiently small or large radius  $s$  in order to have  $(S_s M_R, g^{f_1, f_2})$  with, respectively, positive or negative scalar curvature.*

The proof is clear just by looking at  $s$  in (28); the result is partially corroborated by two Theorems in [11].

We further remark that the formulas in [7] show the Riemannian metrics we are considering are never Einstein, though  $\text{Scal}_{(S_s M_R, g^{f_1, f_2})}$  is constant.

### 3 Characteristic classes

We know not of any reference for the fundamental questions solved in this section. We extend our study to problems of topology of the tangent and tangent sphere bundles. The first stems from the Riemannian structure.

#### 3.1 Almost Hermitian structure on $TM$

The pair  $TM, g^S$  admits a compatible almost complex structure, also attributed to Sasaki. It was first studied in [9, 14] and gave origin in [15] to an almost contact structure on the unit tangent sphere bundle  $S_1 M$ . For  $M$  oriented and dimension 4 we discovered a natural  $G_2$ -structure always existing on  $S_1 M$  with the very same metric, cf. [4, 5].

We continue the study of  $TM$  with the metric  $G = g^{f_1, f_2}$  where  $f_1 = e^{2\varphi_1}$  and  $f_2 = e^{2\varphi_2}$ . We let  $\nabla$  denote a metric connection on  $M$  with torsion  $T^\nabla$ . The almost complex structure of Sasaki may be now written as the bundle endomorphism  $I^S = B^{\text{ad}} - B$ .

Let

$$\psi = \varphi_2 - \varphi_1, \quad \bar{\psi} = \varphi_2 + \varphi_1. \quad (29)$$

We then define

$$I^G = e^\psi B^{\text{ad}} - e^{-\psi} B. \quad (30)$$

It is easy to see the endomorphism  $I^G$  is an almost complex structure compatible with the metric  $G$ . We consider also the associated non-degenerate 2-form  $\omega^G$  defined by  $\omega^G(X, Y) = G(I^G X, Y)$ ,  $\forall X, Y \in TTM$ . Since  $f_1 e^\psi = f_2 e^{-\psi} = e^{\bar{\psi}}$ , it follows that  $\omega^G = e^{\bar{\psi}} \omega^S$  where  $\omega^S$  is the 2-form associated to the Sasaki structure  $g^S$  and  $I^S = B^{\text{ad}} - B$ .

The next Theorem is shown for completeness of exposition. For the Cartan classification of torsions of metric connections see [3]. Notice the presence *again* of the quotient and product of the weights  $f_1, f_2$ !

**Theorem 3.1** ([6]). *i) The almost complex structure  $I^G$  is integrable if and only if  $\nabla$  is flat and has the vectorial type torsion  $T^\nabla = d\psi \wedge 1$ . In particular, if  $\nabla$  is torsion free, then  $I^G$  is integrable if and only if  $M$  is Riemannian flat and  $f_2/f_1 = \text{constant}$ .*

*ii)  $(TM, \omega^G)$  is a symplectic manifold if and only if  $T^\nabla = d\bar{\psi} \wedge 1$ . In particular, with  $\nabla$  the Levi-Civita,  $d\omega^G = 0$  if and only if  $f_2 f_1 = \text{constant}$ .*

We observe that in the strict case of the Sasaki metric we have  $T^\nabla = 0$  as *necessary* condition for both integrability of  $I^S$  and  $d\omega^S = 0$ . In the general case, the two equations are distinguished, as they should, by  $\psi$  and  $\bar{\psi}$ . Clearly we may draw the following conclusion.

**Corollary 3.1** ([6]). *The almost Hermitian structure  $(TM, G, I^G, \omega^G)$  is Kähler if and only if  $M$  is a Riemannian flat manifold ( $T^\nabla = 0$ ,  $R^\nabla = 0$ ) and  $f_1, f_2$  are constants. In this case,  $TM$  is flat.*

The last assertion follows indirectly from Proposition 2.1.

**Remark.** Recall  $T^*M$  has a natural symplectic structure. It arises as  $d\lambda$  where  $\lambda$  is the Liouville 1-form ([10]): the unique 1-form  $\lambda$  on  $T^*M$  such that on a section  $\alpha$

$$\lambda_\alpha = \alpha \circ \pi_* \tag{31}$$

When we introduce the metric, the tangent and cotangent (sphere) bundles become isometric bundles. With a little computation we find that the 1-form  $\theta = \xi^b \circ B = (B^{\text{ad}} \xi)^b$  corresponds with the Liouville form, so it does not depend on the connection. Knowing the torsion of  $\nabla^* \oplus \nabla^*$  for any metric connection on  $M$ , it is easy to deduce, cf. [4], that for any radius function we have:

$$d\theta = \omega^S + \theta \circ T^\nabla. \tag{32}$$

The same is to say  $\omega^S$  corresponds with the pull-back of the Liouville symplectic 2-form if and only if  $T^\nabla = 0$ . Then a Hamiltonian theory of the geodesic flow is manageable. We also remark that the geodesic vector field in the sense e.g. of [10], i.e. the vector field  $B^{\text{ad}} \xi$  in our setting, is just the same as the geodesic spray in the sense e.g. of [9, 13].

### 3.2 Chern and Stiefel-Whitney classes of $TM$

Let us continue with the structures  $G, I^G$  on the tangent bundle, induced from any metric connection  $\nabla$ , and the same notation from above.

By a deformation retract on the fibres of  $\pi : TM \rightarrow M$ , there is an identification of cohomology spaces  $H^*(M) = H^*(TM)$ . This is valid for any coefficient ring. In particular  $H^i(TM) = 0$ ,  $\forall i > m$ . Let  $w_j$  denote the  $j$ -th Stiefel-Whitney class of  $M$  — which is a Stiefel-Whitney class of  $TM$  as a vector bundle. Let  $w = \sum w_j$  denote the total Stiefel-Whitney class.

**Theorem 3.2.** *For any manifold  $M$  of dimension  $m$ , the Euler class of the manifold  $TM$  vanishes and the total Stiefel-Whitney class is*

$$w(TTM) = w^2 = \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor m/2 \rfloor} w_j^2. \quad (33)$$

*Proof.* Being a top degree class, the Euler class must vanish. Since  $TTM = \pi^*TM \oplus \pi^*TM$ , the Whitney product Theorem and the naturality of the characteristic classes ([12]) immediately give  $w(TTM) = w(TM)w(TM) = w^2$ . Recall the coefficients are in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ , hence the second identity in (33). ■

**Theorem 3.3.** *The Chern classes of the manifold  $TM$  with almost complex structure  $I^G$  are the Chern classes of the complexified tangent bundle,  $TM \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} \rightarrow M$ .*

*Proof.* The complex structure  $I^G$  in  $TTM$  is equivalent to  $I^S$ . One complex isomorphism is given by  $f : X \mapsto X^h + e^\psi X^v$ . Indeed,  $\forall X \in TTM$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} I^S \circ f(X) &= (B^{\text{ad}} - B)(X^h + e^\psi X^v) = -BX^h + e^\psi B^{\text{ad}} X^v \\ &= e^\psi B^{\text{ad}} X^v - e^\psi e^{-\psi} BX^h = f \circ I^G(X). \end{aligned}$$

By the functorial properties, we just have to compute the Chern classes of  $I^S$ . (Another argument: the homotopy induced by  $t\psi$ ,  $t \in [0, 1]$ , preserves the Chern classes.) Now, the Chern classes of an almost complex manifold  $(N, J)$  are the Chern classes of the  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector bundle  $T^+N$ , the  $+i$ -eigenbundle of  $J$  where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ . In our case,

$$T^+TM = H^c = \pi^*TM^c$$

where  $c$  denotes complexification, because of the  $\mathbb{C}$ -isomorphism induced from  $X \in H \mapsto X + iBX \in T^+TM$ . Indeed  $I^S(X + iBX) = -BX + iB^{\text{ad}}BX = i(X + iBX)$ . Finally, by trivial reasons, we have  $c_j(T^+TM) = c_j(TM^c)$ . ■

We recall the Chern classes  $c_{2j}$  define the Pontryagin classes of  $M$ , cf. [12],

$$p_j(M) = (-1)^j c_{2j}(TM \otimes \mathbb{C}). \quad (34)$$

Moreover, the Chern classes of  $(TM, I^G)$  do not depend on the connection  $\nabla$ .

### 3.3 Stiefel-Whitney classes of $S_rM$

Now let  $m = n + 1$  and let  $r > 0$  be a scalar function on  $M$ . We continue to denote by  $w = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j$  the total Stiefel-Whitney class of  $M$ .

**Theorem 3.4.** *The total Stiefel-Whitney class of the manifold  $S_rM$  is*

$$w(S_rM) = \sum_{j=0}^n \pi^* w_j^2 \quad (35)$$

*and in particular its mod 2 Euler class vanishes.*

*Proof.* First suppose  $r$  is constant. Then the  $n$ -vector bundle  $\kappa := \xi^\perp \subset V$  sits in  $TS_rM = H \oplus \kappa$  where we assume e.g. the Sasaki metric. We have  $w(\pi^*TM) = w(H) = \pi^*w$ . Clearly  $w(\pi^*TM) = w(\kappa \oplus \mathbb{R}\xi) = w(\kappa)$ . Hence

$$w(TS_rM) = w(H \oplus \kappa) = w(\pi^*TM)^2 = \pi^*w^2.$$

Notice  $w_m(\kappa) = 0$  due to rank of  $\kappa$  being just  $n$ . Independently,  $0 = w_{2n+1}(S_rM) = e(S_rM) \pmod{2}$ . Using the homeomorphism  $h : S_1M \rightarrow S_rM$ ,  $h(u) = ru$ , we have the result for any function  $r$ . ■

**Remark.** 1. The results show that the odd degree Stiefel-Whitney classes of the manifolds  $TM$  and  $S_rM$  vanish.

2. We observe the independence of (35) from  $r$ . Moreover, always  $w_1(S_rM) = 0$ , as expected because  $TM$  is always oriented and  $\xi$  induces an orientation on the submanifold.

3. If  $M$  has a finite good cover, is oriented, and admits a non-vanishing vector field, then we deduce  $H^*(S_rM) = H^*(M) \otimes H^*(S^n)$  by the Theorem of Leray-Hirsch (cf. [8]). In particular  $\pi^*$  is an isomorphism  $H^i(S_rM) = H^i(M)$  of cohomology spaces up to degree  $i \leq n-1 = m-2$ . By contrast, we have proved  $\pi^*(w_m) = 0$ .

Since  $w_2(S_rM) = w_1^2$ , we have the following conclusion.

**Corollary 3.2.** *For any oriented Riemannian manifold  $M$ , the manifold  $S_rM$  is spin.*

Recall  $w_2$  is also the obstruction for a closed 7-manifold to admit a  $G_2$ -structure. We have explicitly constructed a natural  $G_2$ -structure on  $S_1M$ , for any oriented Riemannian 4-manifold  $M$ , cf. [4, 5] and the references therein.

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