

On Infinitesimal and Local Rigidity of Harmonic Maps between Spheres Defined by Spherical Harmonics (*).

G. D'AMBRA (Cagliari) - G. TÓTH (Columbus) (**)

Sunto. - *Si studia la deformabilità infinitesimale e locale di mappe armoniche in sfere dimostrando che le immersioni minime standard $f: S^2 \rightarrow S^n$ (in particolare, la superficie di Veronese) sono localmente rigide. Si dà un esempio in cui la rigidità locale non implica la rigidità infinitesimale.*

1. - Introduction and preliminaries.

To any harmonic map $f: M \rightarrow S^n$ [4] of a compact oriented Riemannian manifold M of dimension m into the Euclidean n -sphere S^n there is associated a finite dimensional vector space $K(f)$ [12] consisting of all Jacobi fields along f whose generalized divergence vanishes, i.e. a vector field v along f belongs to $K(f)$ if and only if

$$(i) \quad \nabla^2 v = \text{trace} \langle f_*, v \rangle f_* - 2e(f)v,$$

$$(ii) \quad \text{div}_g v = \text{trace} \langle f_*, \nabla v \rangle = 0$$

are satisfied, where ∇ and \langle, \rangle denote the canonical connection and metric of the Riemannian-connected bundle $F \otimes A^*(T^*(M))$, $F = f^*(T(S^n))$, resp., f_* is the differential of f considered as a section of the bundle $F \otimes T^*(M)$ and $e(f)$ stands for the energy density of f . Identifying the Lie algebra of Killing vector fields on S^n with $so(n+1)$ we have $so(n+1) \circ f \subset PK(f)$ [11], where $PK(f) \subset K(f)$ denotes the linear subspace of all projectable vector fields along f . The harmonic map $f: M \rightarrow S^n$ is said to be infinitesimally rigid if $so(n+1) \circ f = PK(f)$ [11].

The variation space $V(f)$ of $f: M \rightarrow S^n$ defined by

$$V(f) = \{v \in K(f) \mid \|v\| = \text{const}\}$$

can be geometrically interpreted as the set of vector fields v along f for which $t \rightarrow f_t = \exp \circ (tv)$, $t \in \mathbf{R}$, is a variation of f through harmonic maps (i.e. $f_t: M \rightarrow S^n$

(*) Entrata in Redazione il 18 agosto 1982.

(**) During the preparation of this paper the second-named author was supported by the C.N.R. and enjoyed the hospitality of the Università di Cagliari, Istituto Matematico

is harmonic for all $t \in \mathbf{R}$ [10]. Equivalently, $v \in V(f)$ if and only if v is a Jacobi field along f such that $e(f_t) = e(f)$, $f_t = \exp \circ (tv)$, $t \in \mathbf{R}$, holds [10]. The harmonic map $f: M \rightarrow S^n$ is said to be locally rigid if for every $v \in V(f) \cap PK(f)$ there exists a one-parameter subgroup $(\varphi_t) \subset SO(n+1)$ of isometries of S^n such that $f_t = \exp \circ (tv) = \varphi_t \circ f$, $t \in \mathbf{R}$, is valid.

The aim of this note is to continue the earlier studies ([9], [10], [11], [12] and [13]) describing infinitesimal and local behaviour of harmonic maps from the point of view of rigidity. In Sec. 2, using Calabi's rigidity theorem [2] we prove that any full homothetic minimal immersion $f: S^2 \rightarrow S^n$ has zero variation space, in particular, is locally rigid. (This can also be considered as an extension of an earlier result, settled by elementary computation, for the Veronese surface $f: S^2 \rightarrow S^4$ [7].) Finally, in Sec. 3 we prove that the harmonic map $f: S^3 \rightarrow S^4$ arising from the Hopf-Whitehead construction, [14] or [8], p. 20, applied to the real tensor product $\mu: \mathbf{R}^2 \times \mathbf{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^4$ is locally rigid but non infinitesimally rigid showing that local rigidity cannot be considered as a local version of infinitesimal rigidity introduced above.

Throughout this note all manifolds, maps, etc. will be smooth and adopting the sign conventions of [6], we use the Report [4] and [5] as general references and background for the theory of harmonic maps.

We wish to thank A. Lee for giving a matrix theoretical approach for the last step in proving Theorem 2.

2. - Rigidity of homothetic minimal immersions $f: S^2 \rightarrow S^n$.

A subset $H \subset S^n$ is said to be full if $H \in \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ is not contained in any proper linear subspace of \mathbf{R}^{n+1} . A map $f: M \rightarrow S^n$ is full if f has a full image in S^n . The aim of this section is to prove the following:

THEOREM 1. - Any full homothetic minimal immersion $f: S^2 \rightarrow S^n$ has zero variation space, in particular, is locally rigid.

REMARK - There is a large supply of full homothetic minimal immersions $f: S^m \rightarrow S^n$ provided (partly) by the standard minimal immersions. Namely, if $\mathcal{H}_{\lambda(s)}$, $s = 2, 3, \dots$, denotes the Euclidean vector space of spherical harmonics of order s on S^m , i.e. the eigenspace of the Laplacian Δ^{S^m} corresponding to the eigenvalue $\lambda(s) = s(s+m-1)$ [1], with

$$\dim \mathcal{H}_{\lambda(s)} = n(s) + 1, \quad n(s) = (2s + m - 1) \frac{(s + m - 2)!}{s!(m-1)!}$$

then fixing an orthonormal base $\{f^1, \dots, f^{n(s)+1}\} \subset \mathcal{H}_{\lambda(s)}$ we have $\sum_{i=1}^{n(s)+1} (f^i)^2 = \text{const}$ [3] and hence, by a normalizing factor $N > 0$, the standard minimal immersion

$f: S^m \rightarrow S^{n(s)}$ is defined by $f(x) = (Nf^1(x), \dots, Nf^{n(s)+1}(x))$, $x \in S^m$. Then [1] f is a full homothetic minimal immersion and different choices of the base give rise to maps that differ by performing isometries of the codomain $S^{n(s)}$. In contrast to Theorem 1 we proved in [13] that for $m \geq 3$ odd the standard minimal immersion $f: S^m \rightarrow S^{m(s)}$ is non locally rigid for all $s \geq 2$. Combining this with the rigidity theorem of M. DO CARMO - N. WALLACH [3] to the effect that, for $s \leq 3$, full homothetic minimal immersions $f: S^m \rightarrow S^{n(s)}$ are standard we obtain, in case $s \leq 3$, the existence of a harmonic variation $v \in V(f)$ such that the deformed harmonic maps $f_t = \exp \circ (tv)$ will not be in general homothetic. Further, according to a result in [13], in case $s = 2$, the standard minimal immersion $f: S^m \rightarrow S^{n(2)}$ is infinitesimally rigid if and only if $m = 2$ and, moreover, local rigidity of the Veronese surface $f: S^2 \rightarrow S^4$ (i.e. case $n = n(2) = 4$ of Theorem 1) was proved in [7] by matrix computation.

The proof of Theorem 1 is preceded by the following:

LEMMA 1. - Let $H \subset S^n$ be a full subset and $\varphi: (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow SO(n+1)$, $\varepsilon > 0$, a curve with $\varphi_0 = I_{n+1}$ (= identity) such that for $y \in H$ the curve $t \rightarrow \varphi_t(y) \in S^n$, $|t| < \varepsilon$, is a geodesic segment parametrized by the arc-length. Then $X = d\varphi_t/dt|_{t=0} \in so(n+1)$ is a complex structure on \mathbf{R}^{n+1} , in particular, n is odd. Moreover, φ is a local one-parameter subgroup of $SO(n+1)$ and can then be extended to a (global) one-parameter subgroup all of whose trajectories are closed geodesics on S^n .

PROOF. - Identifying X , as usual, with the corresponding Killing vector field on S^n , for $y \in H$, we have

$$\varphi_t \cdot y = \varphi_t(y) = \exp(tX_y) = \cos t \cdot y + \sin t \cdot Xy, \quad |t| < \varepsilon,$$

where the matrices φ_t and X are considered to act on the vector $y \in \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ by the usual multiplication. As $H \subset S^n$ is full we get

$$(1) \quad \varphi_t = \cos t \cdot I_{n+1} + \sin t \cdot X, \quad |t| < \varepsilon,$$

in particular, the orthogonality relation $\varphi_t \cdot \varphi_t^T = I_{n+1}$, with skew-symmetry of X , implies

$$(\cos t I_{n+1} + \sin t X)(\cos t I_{n+1} - \sin t X) = I_{n+1}.$$

Differentiating twice at $t = 0$ we obtain $X^2 = -I_{n+1}$, i.e. X is a complex structure on \mathbf{R}^{n+1} . Further, for $s, t \in \mathbf{R}$ with $|s|, |t|, |s+t| < \varepsilon$, by (1), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_s \cdot \varphi_t &= (\cos s I_{n+1} + \sin s X)(\cos t I_{n+1} + \sin t X) = \\ &= \cos(s+t) I_{n+1} + \sin(s+t) X = \varphi_{s+t}, \end{aligned}$$

i.e. φ is a local one-parameter subgroup of $SO(n+1)$. Denoting by $\varphi: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow SO(n+1)$ the canonical extension, the Killing vector field X is clearly induced by φ and $(\nabla_X X)|_H = 0$ holds. The connected components of $\text{Zero}(\nabla_X X)$, being the intersections of the eigenspaces in \mathbf{R}^{n+1} of the matrix X^2 with S^n (cf. proof of Th. 2 in [12]), are totally geodesic submanifolds and so fullness of H implies that $\nabla_X X = 0$ on S^n , i.e. all the integral curves of φ are closed geodesics of S^n and the lemma follows.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1. – Suppose, on the contrary, that there exists a nonzero element $v \in V(f)$ and consider the deformed harmonic maps $f_t: S^2 \rightarrow S^n$, $t \in \mathbf{R}$. As there is no holomorphic quadratic differential on S^2 [5] the map f_t is conformal for all $t \in \mathbf{R}$, i.e. there exists a scalar $\mu_t: S^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ with $\|(f_t)_* X\|^2 = \mu_t \|X\|^2$, $X \in \mathfrak{X}(S^2)$. Conservation of the energy density along a harmonic variation, mentioned in Sec. 1, yields

$$\mu_t = \frac{1}{2} \text{trace} \|(f_t)_* X\|^2 = e(f_t) = e(f) = \mu_0, \quad t \in \mathbf{R},$$

and we obtain that the deformed harmonic maps $f_t: S^2 \rightarrow S^n$, $t \in \mathbf{R}$, are homothetic (and hence minimal [4]) immersions with the same homothety constant μ_0 . Further, fullness of f being expressed by open relations, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$f_t: S^2 \rightarrow S^n \quad \text{is full for } |t| < \varepsilon.$$

Then [2] CALABI's rigidity theorem applies to the full homothetic minimal immersions f and f_t , $|t| < \varepsilon$, yielding the existence of an isometry $\varphi_t \in O(n+1)$ such that

$$(2) \quad f_t = \varphi_t \circ f, \quad |t| < \varepsilon,$$

holds. As a linear transformation, $\varphi_t: \mathbf{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ is determined by its values on a base of \mathbf{R}^{n+1} , in particular, φ_t occurring in (2) is uniquely determined. We claim that the curve $\varphi: (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow O(n+1)$ is smooth. Indeed, again by fullness of f , there exist $x_1, \dots, x_{n+1} \in S^2$ such that $\{f(x_1), \dots, f(x_{n+1})\} \subset \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ is a base and, for $i = 1, \dots, \dots, n+1$, the curve $t \rightarrow \varphi_t(f(x_i)) = f_t(x_i)$, $|t| < \varepsilon$, being smooth, the matrix function $t \rightarrow \varphi_t \in O(n+1)$, $|t| < \varepsilon$, is also smooth. Now the preceding lemma applies (with $H = \text{im } f$) yielding that n is odd. On the other hand, according to CALABI's rigidity theorem [2] any full homothetic minimal immersion $f: S^2 \rightarrow S^n$ has even dimensional codomain which is a contradiction.

Thus the theorem is proved.

3. – An example of a locally rigid but non infinitesimally rigid harmonic map $f: S^3 \rightarrow S^4$.

The Hopf-Whitehead construction [8] applied to the real tensor product $\mu: \mathbf{R}^2 \times \mathbf{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^4$ gives rise to a (full) harmonic polynomial map $f: S^3 \rightarrow S^4$ defined com-

ponentwise by spherical harmonics of order 2 as

$$(3) \quad f = (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 - \varphi_3 - \varphi_4, 2\varphi_{13}, 2\varphi_{14}, 2\varphi_{23}, 2\varphi_{24}),$$

where $\varphi_k(x) = x_k^2$, $\varphi_{ij}(x) = x_i x_j$, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_4) \in \mathbf{R}^4$, $k = 1, \dots, 4$, $1 \leq i < j \leq 4$. In this section we prove the following:

THEOREM 2. – For the harmonic map $f: S^3 \rightarrow S^4$ we have

$$\dim PK(f) = 11 \quad \text{and} \quad V(f) \cap PK(f) = \{0\},$$

in particular, as $\dim so(5) = 10$, f is non infinitesimally rigid but locally rigid.

The proof of Theorem 2 is broken up into two steps.

I. *Infinitesimal behaviour.* – Translating the vectors tangent to $S^4 \subset \mathbf{R}^5$ to the origin of \mathbf{R}^5 any vector field $v: S^3 \rightarrow T(S^4)$ along f gives rise to a vector-valued function $\hat{v}: S^3 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^5$ with $\langle f, \hat{v} \rangle = 0$, where f is considered to take its values in \mathbf{R}^5 . Then, by [7], $v \in K(f)$ if and only if

$$\Delta \hat{v} = 2e(f)\hat{v}$$

is satisfied, i.e. as $e(f) = 4$, the components \hat{v}^r , $r = 0, \dots, 4$, are spherical harmonics of order 2 on S^3 . Hence [1]

$$\hat{v}^r = \sum_{k=1}^4 a_k^r \varphi_k + \sum_{i < j} b_{ij}^r \varphi_{ij}, \quad r = 0, \dots, 4,$$

holds for some $a_k^r, b_{ij}^r \in \mathbf{R}$, $k = 1, \dots, 4$, $1 \leq i < j \leq 4$, such that $\sum_{k=1}^4 a_k^r = 0$.

As the projectable elements of $K(f)$ are to be determined we state the following:

LEMMA 2. – A scalar $\mu: S^3 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ of the form

$$\mu = \sum_{k=1}^4 a_k \varphi_k + \sum_{i < j} b_{ij} \varphi_{ij}, \quad \sum_{k=1}^4 a_k = 0,$$

with $a_k, b_{ij} \in \mathbf{R}$, $k = 1, \dots, 4$, $1 \leq i < j \leq 4$, is projectable along f (i.e. $f(x) = f(x')$, $x, x' \in S^3$, implies $\mu(x) = \mu(x')$) if and only if

$$(4) \quad a_1 = a_2 = -a_3 = -a_4 \quad \text{and} \quad b_{12} = b_{34} = 0$$

are valid.

PROOF. — The first coordinate function $\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 - \varphi_3 - \varphi_4$ of f suggests to use É. CARTAN's isoparametric coordinates of degree 2, i.e. we write

$$x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (\cos t \cos \varphi, \cos t \sin \varphi, \sin t \cos \psi, \sin t \sin \psi) \in S^3,$$

where $0 \leq t, \varphi, \psi < 2\pi$. Then we have

$$f(x) = (\cos(2t), \sin(2t) \cos \varphi \cos \psi, \sin(2t) \cos \varphi \sin \psi, \sin(2t) \sin \varphi \cos \psi, \sin(2t) \sin \varphi \sin \psi),$$

in particular, the focal varieties of S^3 parametrized by $(0, \varphi, 0)$ and $(\pi/2, 0, \psi)$, $0 \leq \varphi, \psi < 2\pi$, are mapped by f to $(1, 0, 0, 0, 0)$ and $(-1, 0, 0, 0, 0)$, respectively. Assuming that μ is projectable we obtain

$$\mu(\cos \varphi, \sin \varphi, 0, 0) = \text{const} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu(0, 0, \cos \psi, \sin \psi) = \text{const}.$$

Expanding these equations into Fourier polynomials the relations (4) are easily obtained. The converse being obvious the statement follows.

By Lemma 2 a vector field v along f belongs to $PK(f)$ if and only if there exist $a^r, b_{ij}^r \in \mathbf{R}$, $1 \leq i < j \leq 4$, $r = 0, \dots, 4$, such that

$$(5) \quad \hat{v}^r = a^r(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 - \varphi_3 - \varphi_4) + b_{13}^r \varphi_{13} + b_{14}^r \varphi_{14} + b_{23}^r \varphi_{23} + b_{24}^r \varphi_{24}, \quad r = 0, \dots, 4,$$

holds or equivalently

$$(6) \quad \hat{v} = \frac{1}{2} A \cdot f,$$

where the r -th row of A is $(2a^r, b_{13}^r, b_{14}^r, b_{23}^r, b_{24}^r)$, $r = 0, \dots, 4$, and in (6) the matrix A acts on the vector f (given in (3)) by the usual multiplication. Hence, to compute $\dim PK(f)$, we have to determine the vector space of functions $\hat{v}: S^3 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^5$ of the form (6) satisfying the equation $\langle f, \hat{v} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle f, A \cdot f \rangle = 0$. The scalar $\langle f, A \cdot f \rangle$ is a fourth-order homogeneous polynomial whose coefficients have to vanish.

Computing these coefficients we obtain that $\langle f, A \cdot f \rangle = 0$ holds if and only if A , with new variables, has the form

$$(7) \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \alpha_3 & \alpha_4 \\ -\alpha_1 & 0 & \beta_1 & \beta_2 & \gamma_1 \\ -\alpha_2 & -\beta_1 & 0 & \gamma_2 & \beta_3 \\ -\alpha_3 & -\beta_2 & -\gamma_3 & 0 & \beta_4 \\ -\alpha_4 & -\gamma_4 & -\beta_3 & -\beta_4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

with

$$(8) \quad \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 = \gamma_3 + \gamma_4.$$

(The only relation to be taken into account among the spherical harmonics involved is $\varphi_{24}\varphi_{13} = \varphi_{23}\varphi_{14}$ which results (8), apart from this A is skew-symmetric.) In particular, $\dim PK(f) = 11$ which completes the proof of the first step.

II. *Local behaviour.* - Assuming $v \in V(f) \cap PK(f)$, with $\|v\| = 1$, the function $\hat{\varphi}$ has the form (6)-(7) such that

$$\sum_{r=0}^4 (\hat{\varphi}^r)^2 = \langle \frac{1}{2} A \cdot f, \frac{1}{2} A \cdot f \rangle = 1$$

is valid on S^3 . All the functions $\hat{\varphi}^r$, $r = 0, \dots, 4$, can also be considered as second-order homogeneous (harmonic) polynomials on \mathbf{R}^4 , i.e. the last equation translates into

$$(9) \quad \langle A \cdot f, A \cdot f \rangle = \langle A^T A \cdot f, f \rangle = 4(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3 + \varphi_4)^2$$

which is valid on \mathbf{R}^4 . Denoting by

$$(10) \quad H(c) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & -c & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -c & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & c & 0 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad c \in \mathbf{R},$$

and taking into account (3) it follows that (9) is equivalent to the relation $A^T A = H(c)$ for some $c \in \mathbf{R}$. To accomplish the proof of Theorem 2 we need to show the following:

LEMMA 3. - There are no constants $\alpha_i, \beta_i, \gamma_i \in \mathbf{R}$ with $\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 = \gamma_3 + \gamma_4$ such that the matrix A in (8) satisfies

$$(11) \quad A^T A = H(c)$$

for some $c \in \mathbf{R}$.

REMARK. - Writing out (11) componentwise we obtain an overdetermined system of 14 quadratic equations for the variables $\alpha_i, \beta_i, \gamma_i \in \mathbf{R}$, $i = 1, \dots, 4$. Using elementary computation a tedious discussion shows that this system has no solution proving Lemma 3. Nevertheless, to reduce the amount of computations involved we first use a matrix theoretical approach due to A. LEE.

PROOF. – Denote by $M(p, q)$, $p, q \in \mathbf{N}$, the vector space of $(p \times q)$ matrices and $I_p \in M(p, p)$ the identity. We write, with obvious notations,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} B & U \\ -V^T & C \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad H(c) = \begin{bmatrix} 4I_3 & c[-e_3 e_2] \\ c[-e_3^T e_2^T] & 4I_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

where $B \in so(3)$, $C \in so(2)$ and $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\} \subset \mathbf{R}^3$ is the canonical base. In terms of these decompositions (11) is equivalent to the system

$$(12) \quad B^T B + VV^T = 4I_3,$$

$$(13) \quad B^T U - VC = c[-e_3 e_2],$$

$$(14) \quad U^T U + C^T C = 4I_2.$$

As $B \in so(3)$ the matrices B and $B^T B$ are singular and have a joint eigenvector $0 \neq X \in \mathbf{R}^3$ corresponding to the zero eigenvalue. Thus, $B^T B X = B X = 0$ and so, by (12), we obtain $VV^T X = 4X$, i.e. X is an eigenvector of the matrix $VV^T \in M(3, 3)$ with eigenvalue 4. Further, V being of size (3×2) , $\text{rank}(VV^T) = \text{rank} V \leq 2$ and hence there exists $0 \neq Y \in \mathbf{R}^3$ such that $VV^T Y (= V^T Y) = 0$ and $\langle X, Y \rangle = 0$. Again by (12) we get $B^T B Y = 4Y$, i.e. Y is an eigenvector of $B^T B$ with eigenvalue 4. As B is skew, this eigenvalue must have multiplicity 2 which implies the existence of a vector $0 \neq Z \in \mathbf{R}^3$ with $\langle X, Z \rangle = 0$ such that $\{X, Y, Z\} \subset \mathbf{R}^3$ is a base and $\text{Span}\{Y, Z\} \subset \mathbf{R}^3$ is the eigenspace of $B^T B$ corresponding to the eigenvalue 4. Applying (12) to Z we get $B^T B Z + VV^T Z = 4Z + VV^T Z = 4Z$, i.e. $\text{Span}\{Y, Z\} \subset \mathbf{R}^3$ is the nullspace of VV^T .

In particular, $\text{rank}(VV^T) = \text{rank} V = 1$, i.e. the columns of V are linearly dependent. We may suppose that the first column $(\alpha_3, \beta_2, \gamma_3)$ of V is nonzero since the other case can be treated similarly. Then there exists $p \in \mathbf{R}$ such that

$$(15) \quad \alpha_4 = p\alpha_3, \quad \gamma_4 = p\beta_2, \quad \beta_3 = p\gamma_3$$

hold. On the other hand, the vector $(-\beta_1, \alpha_2, -\alpha_1)$ is in the nullspace of B and nonzero since $B \neq 0$. So, we may choose X as

$$X = (-\beta_1, \alpha_2, -\alpha_1).$$

Then, by (12), we get

$$VV^T X = (1 + p^2)(-\alpha_3\beta_1 + \alpha_2\beta_2 - \alpha_1\gamma_3)(\alpha_3, \beta_2, \gamma_3) = 4(-\beta_1, \alpha_2, -\alpha_1) = 4X,$$

i.e. putting $q = \frac{1}{4}(1 + p^2)(-\alpha_3\beta_1 + \alpha_2\beta_2 - \alpha_1\gamma_3) (\neq 0)$ we obtain

$$(16) \quad \beta_1 = -q\alpha_3, \quad \alpha_2 = q\beta_2, \quad \alpha_1 = -q\gamma_3$$

and hence

$$(1 + p^2)(\alpha_3^2 + \beta_2^2 + \gamma_3^2) = 4.$$

Further, a direct computation shows that (13) is equivalent to the system

$$(17) \quad (1 + p^2)c(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = 4q\beta_4(p, -1).$$

Moreover, from (11) it follows that

$$\alpha_1\alpha_4 + \alpha_2\alpha_3 + (\beta_1 - \beta_4)(\beta_2 - \beta_3) = 0$$

and multiplying this with c and using (15)-(16)-(17) we get

$$(18) \quad \beta_4^2(p^2 - 1) = 0.$$

Again, by making use of (15)-(16), we can write (11) componentwise in terms of the variables $\alpha_3, \beta_2, \beta_4, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3, p, q \in \mathbf{R}$ and, by (18), an easy discussion of the possible cases leads to contradiction.

REFERENCES

- [1] M. BERGER - P. GAUDUCHON - E. MAZET, *Le spectre d'une variété Riemannienne*, Lecture Notes in Math., Springer-Verlag, **194** (1971).
- [2] E. CALABI, *Minimal immersions of surfaces in euclidean spheres*, J. Differential Geometry, **1** (1967), pp. 111-125.
- [3] M. DO CARMO - N. WALLACH, *Minimal immersions of spheres into spheres*, Ann. of Math., **93** (1971), pp. 43-62.
- [4] J. EELLS - L. LEMAIRE, *A report on harmonic maps*, Bull. London Math. Soc., **10** (1978), pp. 1-68.
- [5] J. EELLS - L. LEMAIRE, *Selected topics on harmonic maps*, CBMS Reg. Conf. Ser. 50, 1983.
- [6] S. KOBAYASHI - K. NOMIZU, *Foundations of differential geometry*, Vol. I, Interscience, 1963.
- [7] A. LEE - G. TÓTH, *On variation spaces of harmonic maps into spheres*, Acta Sci. Math. Hungar. (to appear).
- [8] R. T. SMITH, *Harmonic mappings of spheres*, Thesis, Warwick University, 1972.
- [9] G. TÓTH, *On variations of harmonic maps into spaces of constant curvature*, Ann. Mat. Pura Appl., (IV), Vol. CXXVIII (1981), pp. 389-399.
- [10] G. TÓTH, *On harmonic maps into locally symmetric Riemannian manifolds*, in Symposia Math., vol. XXVI, Academic Press (1982), pp. 69-94.
- [11] G. TÓTH, *Construction des applications harmoniques d'un tore dans la sphère*, Annals of Global Analysis and Geometry, vol. **1**, no. 2 (1983), pp. 105-118.
- [12] G. TÓTH, *On rigidity of harmonic maps into spheres*, J. London Math. Soc., (2), **26** (1982), pp. 475-486.
- [13] G. TÓTH, *Flexible harmonic maps into spheres*, in Symposium on Global Riemannian Geometry, E. Horwood, John Wiley & Sons (to appear).
- [14] R. WOOD, *Polynomial maps from spheres to spheres*, Inventiones math., **5** (1968), pp. 163-168.