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ON THE CONFORMAL RELATION BETWEEN
TWISTORS AND KILLING SPINORS

Thomas Friedrich

1. Introduction.

We consider a Riemannian spin manifold (M^n, g) of dimension $n \geq 3$ and denote by S the spinor bundle. The kernel of the Clifford multiplication $T \otimes S \rightarrow S$ is a subbundle of $T \otimes S$ and there exists a projection of $T \otimes S$ onto this bundle given by the formula

$$p(X \otimes \psi) = X \otimes \psi + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{\alpha=1}^n e_\alpha \otimes e_\alpha \cdot X \cdot \psi ,$$

where $X \cdot \psi$ denotes the Clifford multiplication of the vector X by ψ . The twistor operator \mathcal{D} is defined as the composition of the covariant derivative ∇ and the projection p

$$\mathcal{D} = p \circ \nabla : \Gamma(S) \xrightarrow{\nabla} \Gamma(T \otimes S) \xrightarrow{p} \Gamma(T \otimes S)$$

(see [1]). Let D be the Dirac operator acting on sections of the bundle S . Then we have the following formula for the operator \mathcal{D}

$$\mathcal{D}\psi = \sum_{\alpha=1}^n e_\alpha \otimes (\nabla_{e_\alpha} \psi + \frac{1}{n} e_\alpha \cdot D\psi).$$

The kernel of the twistor operator is given by the equation

$$\nabla_X \psi + \frac{1}{n} X \cdot D\psi = 0 \tag{1.1.}$$

for any vector $X \in T$. A more symmetric and equivalent form of this equation is

$$X \cdot \nabla_Y \psi + Y \cdot \nabla_X \psi = \frac{2}{n} g(X, Y) D\psi .$$

\mathcal{D} is a conformally invariant operator. In particular, if $\bar{g} = \lambda g$ is a conformal change of the metric and $\bar{\cdot} : S \rightarrow \bar{S}$

denotes the natural isomorphism of the spin bundles, then ψ belongs to the kernel of \mathcal{D} if

$\lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} \bar{\psi}$ belongs to the Kernel of $\bar{\mathcal{D}}$ (see [2], [15]). On the other hand, the equation for Killing spinors is given by

$$\nabla_X \psi + \frac{a}{n} X \cdot \psi = 0 \quad (1.2.)$$

where $a \neq 0$ is a complex number. It is well known (see [7]) that if a Riemannian manifold has a non-trivial Killing spinor, then it must be an Einstein space with scalar curvature $R = \frac{4(n-1)}{n} a^2$. If a is a real (imaginary) number, we call ψ a real (imaginary) Killing spinor. Any Killing spinor is a twistor spinor, i.e. it belongs to the kernel of the twistor operator. In small dimensions we know many spaces with real Killing spinors (see [6],[7],[8],[9],[10],[11],[12],[13]), and there is a classification of complete Riemannian manifolds with imaginary Killing spinors (see [3],[4],[5]).

On the space $\text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ of all twistor spinors we have an invariant of order two, namely

$$C_\psi := \text{Re} \langle D\psi, \psi \rangle$$

(see [14]). In this paper we observe that

$$Q_\psi := |\psi|^2 |D\psi|^2 - C_\psi^2 - \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (\text{Re} \langle D\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi \rangle)^2 \geq 0$$

is an invariant of order four on $\text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$, too. Using the first integral on $\text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ we show in particular that a Riemannian manifold (M^n, g) with a nowhere vanishing twistor spinor ψ is conformally equivalent to a space (M^n, \bar{g}) with non-negative scalar curvature

$$\bar{R} = \frac{4(n-1)}{n} (C_\psi^2 + Q_\psi).$$

Moreover, we study the set $N_\psi = \{m \in M^n : \psi(m) = 0\}$ of all zeros of a twistor. It turns out that N_ψ is a discrete subset of M^n . Finally we investigate the question under which conditions a twistor spinor can be conformally deformed into a Killing spinor. For example, $\psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ can be conformally

deformed into a real Killing spinor if and only if $Q_\psi = 0$ and $C\psi \neq 0$. Similar characterizations we obtain in the imaginary case, too.

I thank V. Soucek (Prague) for several discussions on the twistor equation in autumn 1987.

2. The first integral Q_ψ on $\text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$.

First we collect some formulas that are valid for any twistor spinor $\psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$. A general reference is the paper [14]. Any twistor spinor satisfies

$$D^2\psi = \frac{n-R}{4(n-1)} \psi \tag{2.1.}$$

and

$$\nabla_X(D\psi) = \frac{n}{2(n-2)} \left(\frac{R}{2(n-1)} X - \text{Ric}(X) \right) \cdot \psi, \tag{2.2.}$$

where $\text{Ric}: T \rightarrow T$ is the Ricci tensor of the space. Moreover, if $u = |\psi|^2$ denotes the square of the length of ψ , we have

$$\frac{n}{2} \Delta u = \frac{n-R}{4(n-1)} u - \langle D\psi, D\psi \rangle. \tag{2.3.}$$

We denote by S the $(1,1)$ -tensor

$$S(X) := \frac{1}{n-2} \left(\frac{R}{2(n-1)} X - \text{Ric}(X) \right)$$

and we consider the vector bundle $E = S \oplus S$ as well as the connection ∇^E in E defined by the formula

$$\nabla_X^E := \nabla_X + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & , & \frac{1}{n} X \\ -\frac{n}{2} S(X) & , & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The twistor equation (1.1.) and formula (2.2.) show that

$$\nabla_X^E \begin{pmatrix} \psi \\ D\psi \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

holds for any solution of the twistor equation.

Conversely, if

$$\nabla_X^E \begin{pmatrix} \psi \\ \varphi \end{pmatrix} = 0,$$

then $\varphi = D\psi$ and ψ is a twistor spinor.

Consequently, the twistor spinors $\psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ correspond to the

∇^E -parallel sections of the bundle E and we obtain in particular

Proposition 1: Let (M^n, g) be a connected Riemannian manifold of dimension $n \geq 3$. The kernel of the twistor operator \mathcal{D} is a finite-dimensional space,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D}) \leq 2 \binom{n}{2} + 1.$$

In particular, a twistor spinor ψ is defined by its values $\psi(m_0)$, $D\psi(m_0)$ at some point.

Remark: We understand the Weyl-tensor W of the Riemannian manifold in the usual way as a 2-form with values in the bundle $\text{End}(S)$:

$$W(X, Y) \cdot \psi = \sum_{i, j} g(W(X, Y)e_i, e_j)e_i \cdot e_j \cdot \psi.$$

An easy computation yields now the following formula for the curvature tensor R^E of the connection ∇^E .

$$R^E(X, Y) \begin{pmatrix} \psi \\ \varphi \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} W(X, Y) \cdot \psi \\ \frac{1}{4} W(X, Y) \cdot \varphi + \frac{n}{2} ((\nabla_Y S)(X) - (\nabla_X S)(Y)) \cdot \psi \end{pmatrix}.$$

Example 1: We consider a 3-dimensional Riemannian manifold (M^3, g) . The Weyl tensor vanishes, $W \equiv 0$, and consequently we obtain the integrability condition

$$(\nabla_X S)(Y) - (\nabla_Y S)(X) = 0,$$

i.e. the space is locally conformally flat (see [16]). Therefore, if a 3-dimensional Riemannian manifold (M^3, g) admits a non-trivial solution of the twistor equation, then (M^3, g) is locally conformally flat.

Example 2: Denote by Δ_n the usual $\text{Spin}(n)$ -module and consider a twistor spinor $\psi: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \Delta_n$ on the flat Euclidean space. According to equation (2.2.) we have $\nabla(D\psi) = 0$, i.e.

$D\psi = \psi_1$ is constant. Now we integrate the twistor equation

$$0 = \nabla_T \psi + \frac{1}{n} T \cdot D\psi = \nabla_T \psi + \frac{1}{n} T \cdot \psi_1$$

along the line $\{sx: 0 \leq s \leq 1\}$ and obtain

$$\psi(x) - \psi(0) = -\frac{1}{n} x \cdot \psi_1.$$

Consequently, the kernel of the twistor equation is given by the spinors $\psi: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \Delta_n$

$$\psi(x) = \psi_0 - \frac{1}{n} x \cdot \psi_1, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with $\psi_0, \psi_1 \in \Delta_n$. In particular we have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Ker}(\tilde{\omega}) = 2 \left[\frac{n}{2} \right] + 1.$$

Proposition 2: Let (M^n, g) be a connected Riemannian manifold and $\psi \neq 0$ a twistor spinor. Then $N_\psi = \{m \in M^n : \psi(m) = 0\}$ is a discrete subset of M^n .

Proof: Suppose $\psi(m) = 0$. Using formula (2.2.) we have

$$\nabla(D\psi)(m) = 0.$$

With respect to

$$\begin{aligned} (YXu)(m) &= 2(Y(\nabla_X \psi, \psi))(m) = -\frac{2}{n}(Y(X \cdot D\psi, \psi))(m) = \\ &= \frac{2}{n^2}(X \cdot D\psi, Y \cdot D\psi)(m) = \frac{2}{n^2}g(X, Y)|D\psi(m)|^2 \end{aligned}$$

we see that the Hessian of the function $u = |\psi|^2$ at the point $m \in M^n$ is given by

$$\text{Hess}_m u(X, Y) = \frac{2}{n^2}g(X, Y)|D\psi(m)|^2.$$

In case $D\psi(m) \neq 0$, m is a non-degenerate critical point of u and consequently an isolated zero point of ψ . In case $D\psi(m) = 0$, we obtain $\psi \equiv 0$ by proposition 1.

We consider now a geodesic $\gamma(t)$ in M^n and a twistor spinor ψ . Denote by $u(t), v(t)$ the functions $u(\gamma(t)), |D\psi|^2(\gamma(t))$.

Moreover, we introduce the functions

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(t) &= g(S(\dot{\gamma}(t)), \dot{\gamma}(t)) \\ f_2(t) &= \frac{n^2}{2} |S(\dot{\gamma}(t))|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Using the twistor equation as well as formula (2.2.) we obtain

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{d^2 u(t)}{dt^2} &= f_1(t)u(t) + \frac{2}{n^2} v(t) \\ \frac{d^2 v(t)}{dt^2} &= f_2(t)u(t) + \frac{n^2}{2} \frac{df_1(t)}{dt} \frac{du(t)}{dt} + f_1(t)v(t) \end{aligned} \right\} (2.4.)$$

Proposition 3: Let $\psi \neq 0$ be a twistor spinor and denote by $\dot{\gamma}: [0, T] \rightarrow M^n$ a geodesic joining of two zero points of ψ . Then

- a.) $\text{Ric}(\dot{\gamma})$ is parallel to $\dot{\gamma}$.
- b.) $\text{grad } u$ is parallel to $\dot{\gamma}$.
- c.) $\frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{n^2}{2} g(S(\dot{\gamma}), \dot{\gamma}) \frac{du}{dt}$.
- d.) $u \cdot v = \frac{n^2}{4} \left(\frac{du}{dt} \right)^2$.

Proof: Using the notation introduced before we have

$$u(0) = \frac{du}{dt}(0) = \frac{dv}{dt}(0) = 0, \quad v(0) > 0$$

$$u(T) = \frac{du}{dt}(T) = \frac{dv}{dt}(T) = 0, \quad v(T) > 0.$$

Since $u(t)$ and $v(t)$ satisfy the equations (2.4.), we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{dv}{dt} - \frac{n^2}{2} f_1 \frac{du}{dt} \right) = \left(f_2 - \frac{n^2}{2} f_1^2 \right) u.$$

If $f_2 - \frac{n^2}{2} f_1^2 \neq 0$ on the interval $[0, T]$, we have

$$0 = \frac{dv}{dt}(T) - \frac{n^2}{2} f_1(T) \frac{du}{dt}(T) = \int_0^T \left(f_2 - \frac{n^2}{2} f_1^2 \right) > 0$$

because $f_2 - \frac{n^2}{2} f_1^2 = \frac{n^2}{2} (|S(\dot{\gamma})|^2 - g(S(\dot{\gamma}), \dot{\gamma})^2) \geq 0$,

a contradiction. In case $f_2 - \frac{n^2}{2} f_1^2 \equiv 0$, $\text{Ric}(\dot{\gamma})$ is parallel to $\dot{\gamma}$ and $\frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{n^2}{2} g(S(\dot{\gamma}), \dot{\gamma}) \frac{du}{dt}$.

Moreover, we calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left(u \cdot v - \frac{n^2}{4} \left(\frac{du}{dt} \right)^2 \right) &= \frac{du}{dt} v + u \frac{dv}{dt} - \frac{n^2}{2} \frac{du}{dt} \frac{d^2 u}{dt^2} = \\ &= \frac{du}{dt} v + \frac{n^2}{2} f_1 u \frac{du}{dt} - \frac{n^2}{2} \frac{du}{dt} \left(f_1 u + \frac{2}{n^2} v \right) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $uv = \frac{n^2}{4} \left(\frac{du}{dt} \right)^2$. Since ψ is a twistor spinor vanishing at some point, we have

$$u D\psi = \frac{n}{2} \text{grad } u \cdot \psi .$$

This implies $u \cdot v = \frac{n^2}{4} |\text{grad } u|^2$ and consequently

$$|\text{grad } u|^2 = \left(\frac{du}{dt} \right)^2 ,$$

i.e. the gradient of u is parallel to $\dot{\gamma}$.

Proposition 4: Let (M^n, g) be a complete connected Riemannian manifold and suppose that the $(1,1)$ -tensor $S := \frac{1}{n-2} \left(\frac{R}{2(n-1)} - \text{Ric} \right)$ is non-negative. Then any twistor spinor $\psi \neq 0$ vanishes at most at one point.

Proof: Suppose $u(p_1) = 0 = u(p_2)$, $p_1 \neq p_2$ and consider a geodesic $\gamma : [0, T] \rightarrow M^n$ from p_1 to p_2 . Then

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} u(t) = f_1(t)u(t) + \frac{2}{n^2} v(t) \geq 0$$

since S is non-negative. With respect to $u(0) = u(T) = 0$ and $\frac{du}{dt}(0) = \frac{du}{dt}(T) = 0$ we conclude $u(t) \equiv 0$ on $[0, T]$, i.e.

ψ vanishes on the curve $\gamma(t)$, a contradiction to proposition 2.

Example 2: The condition $S \geq 0$ is satisfied in particular if (M^n, g) is an Einstein space with scalar curvature $R \leq 0$. On the Euclidean space R^n and on the hyperbolic space H^n there exist twistor spinors vanishing at some point (see example 2).

We denote by (ψ, φ) the real part $\text{Re} \langle \psi, \varphi \rangle$ of the Hermitian product of two spinors. Given an arbitrary spinor $\psi \in \Gamma(S)$ we define the function Q_ψ by the formula

$$Q_\psi = |\psi|^2 |D\psi|^2 - (D\psi, \psi)^2 - \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (D\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi)^2 .$$

Denote by V_ψ the real subspace of S given by

$$V_\psi = \{ X \cdot \psi : X \in T \} .$$

Then we have

$$Q_\psi = u \cdot \text{dist}^2(D\psi, \text{Lin}_R(\psi, V_\psi)) .$$

Proposition 5: If $\psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ is a twistor spinor, then Q_ψ is constant.

Proof: Since $(D\psi, \psi)$ is constant for $\psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ (see [14]), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_X(Q_\psi) &= 2(\nabla_X \psi, \psi) |D\psi|^2 + 2u \cdot (\nabla_X(D\psi), D\psi) \\ &\quad - 2 \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (D\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi) (\nabla_X(D\psi), e_\alpha \cdot \psi) \\ &\quad - 2 \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (D\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi) (D\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \nabla_X \psi). \end{aligned}$$

Using the twistor equation (1.1.) and formula (2.2.) we obtain, with respect to

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (e_\alpha \cdot \psi, D\psi) (e_\alpha \cdot X \cdot D\psi, D\psi) = -(X \cdot \psi, D\psi) |D\psi|^2$$

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^n (e_\alpha \cdot \psi, D\psi) (e_\alpha \cdot \psi, Z \cdot \psi) = (Z \cdot \psi, D\psi) |\psi|^2,$$

that $\nabla_X(Q_\psi) = 0$ immediately.

Remark: For any twistor spinor ψ let us introduce the vector field

$$T^\psi = 2 \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (\psi, e_\alpha \cdot D\psi) e_\alpha.$$

Then we have

$$T^\psi = -n \text{grad } u$$

(see [14]) and an elementary calculation provides the formula

$$|C_\psi \cdot \psi - u D\psi - \frac{1}{2} T^\psi \cdot \psi|^2 = u Q_\psi. \quad (2.5.)$$

In particular, if ψ is a twistor spinor such that $C_\psi = 0 = Q_\psi$, then

$$u D\psi = \frac{n}{2} \text{grad}(u) \cdot \psi \quad (2.6.)$$

holds.

Proposition 6: Let (M^n, g) be a Riemannian manifold with a twistor spinor ψ such that $C_\psi = 0 = Q_\psi$ and suppose that ψ does not vanish at any point. Then (M^n, g) is conformally equivalent to a Ricci-flat space (M^n, \bar{g}) with parallel spinor.

Proof: Consider the metric $\bar{g} = \frac{1}{u^2} g$, $u = |\psi|^2$. Using the identification $\bar{\cdot} : S \rightarrow \bar{S}$ of the spin bundles we have (see [2])

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\nabla}_t \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \bar{\psi} \right) &= u \overline{\nabla_t \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \psi \right)} + \frac{1}{2} \overline{t \cdot \text{grad}(u) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \psi} + \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} du(t) \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \bar{\psi} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \left\{ u \nabla_t \psi + \frac{1}{2} t \cdot \text{grad}(u) \cdot \psi \right\} . \end{aligned}$$

According to $C_\psi = 0 = Q_\psi$ we can apply equation (2.6.) and then, from the twistor equation

$$0 = \nabla_t \psi + \frac{1}{n} t \cdot D \psi = \nabla_t \psi + \frac{1}{2u} t \cdot \text{grad}(u) \cdot \psi ,$$

it results that $\bar{\nabla}_t \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \bar{\psi} \right) = 0$, i.e. $\frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \bar{\psi}$ is a parallel spinor with respect to the metric \bar{g} .

Corollary 1: Let (M^n, g) be a Riemannian manifold that is not conformally equivalent to a space (M^n, \bar{g}) with parallel spinor. Then a twistor spinor $\psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ vanishes at some point if and only if $C_\psi = 0 = Q_\psi$.

For any twistor spinor ψ we introduce the function

$$H_\psi = \text{dist}^2(i\psi, \nu_\psi)$$

defined on the set $\{m \in M^n : \psi(m) \neq 0\}$.

Proposition 7: Let ψ be a twistor spinor satisfying $C_\psi = 0 = Q_\psi$. Then

$$\frac{H_\psi}{u}$$

is constant.

Proof: The derivative of the function $f = \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (i\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi)^2$ is given by

$$df(X) = \frac{4}{n} \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (i\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi)(i\psi, e_\alpha \cdot X \cdot D \psi).$$

Since $C_\psi = 0 = Q_\psi$, we have $u D \psi = \frac{n}{2} \text{grad}(u) \cdot \psi$ and consequently

$$df = \frac{2}{u} f du.$$

Finally we obtain

$$d\left(\frac{H\psi}{u}\right) = d\left(1 - \frac{f}{u^2}\right) = 0.$$

Let $f: M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a complex valued function on M^n and consider the equation

$$\nabla_X \psi + \frac{f}{n} X \cdot \psi = 0.$$

A. Lichnerowicz (see [14]) proved that if $\psi \neq 0$ and $\operatorname{Re}(f) \neq 0$, then $\operatorname{Re}(f)$ is constant and ψ is a real Killing spinor. We consider now the case $f = ib$.

Proposition 8: If $\nabla_X \psi + \frac{ib}{n} X \cdot \psi = 0$ with a real function $b: M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^1$, then

- a.) $u \cdot H\psi$ is constant
 b.) $Q_\psi = b^2 u H\psi$.

Proof: Suppose $\nabla_X \psi + \frac{ib}{n} X \cdot \psi = 0$. Then $D\psi = ib\psi$ and we obtain $Q_\psi = b^2 u H\psi$ by definition of Q_ψ . Since

$$u H\psi = u^2 - \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (i\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi)^2 \text{ we calculate}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_X (u H\psi) &= 4u (\nabla_X \psi, \psi) - 2 \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (i\psi, e_\alpha \psi) (i \nabla_X \psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi) \\ &\quad - 2 \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (i\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi) (i\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \nabla_X \psi) = \\ &= -\frac{4b}{n} u \cdot (iX \cdot \psi, \psi) - \frac{2b}{n} \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (i\psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi) (X \cdot \psi, e_\alpha \cdot \psi) \\ &\quad + \frac{2b}{n} \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (i\psi, e_\alpha \psi) (i\psi, e_\alpha \cdot X \cdot i\psi) = \\ &= \frac{4b}{n} u (i\psi, X \cdot \psi) - \frac{2b}{n} (i\psi, X \cdot \psi) - \frac{2b}{n} (i\psi, X \cdot \psi) \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $|\psi|^2 H\psi$ is constant.

Corollary 2: If ψ is a solution of the equation

$\nabla_X \psi + \frac{ib}{n} X \cdot \psi = 0$ and $Q_\psi \neq 0$, then b is constant and ψ is an imaginary Killing spinor.

Corollary 3: If ψ is a non-trivial solution of the equation

$\nabla_X \psi + \frac{ib}{n} X \cdot \psi = 0$ and $Q_\psi = 0$, then $\frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \psi$ is a parallel

spinor with respect to the metric $\bar{g} = \frac{1}{u^2} g$.

Proposition 9: Let $\psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ be a twistor spinor and denote by u the square of the length of ψ , $u = |\psi|^2$. Then u is a solution of the following equation

$$\frac{nR}{4(n-1)} u^2 = C_\psi^2 + Q_\psi + \frac{n}{2} u^2 \Delta(\ln u) + \frac{n(n-2)}{4} u^2 |\text{grad}(\ln u)|^2.$$

Proof: We consider the vector field

$$T^\psi = 2 \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (\psi, e_\alpha \cdot D\psi) e_\alpha.$$

Then we have

$$Q_\psi = u |D\psi|^2 - C_\psi^2 - \frac{1}{4} |T^\psi|^2$$

$$\text{and } \text{grad } u = -\frac{1}{n} T^\psi$$

(see [14]). Consequently we obtain by equation (2.3.)

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(\ln u) &= \frac{1}{u^2} |\text{grad } u|^2 + \frac{1}{u} \Delta(u) = \\ &= \frac{1}{u^2 n^2} |T^\psi|^2 + \frac{R}{2(n-1)} - \frac{2}{n \cdot u} |D\psi|^2 \\ |\text{grad}(\ln u)|^2 &= \frac{1}{u^2 n^2} |T^\psi|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Finally we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{n}{2} u \Delta(\ln u) + \frac{n(n-2)}{4} u |\text{grad}(\ln u)|^2 &= \\ = \frac{1}{4u} |T^\psi|^2 + \frac{nR}{4(n-1)} u - |D\psi|^2 &= \\ = \frac{1}{4u} |T^\psi|^2 + \frac{nR}{4(n-1)} u - \frac{C_\psi^2 + Q_\psi}{u} - \frac{1}{4u} |T^\psi|^2 &= \\ = \frac{nR}{4(n-1)} u - \frac{C_\psi^2 + Q_\psi}{u} \end{aligned}$$

and this is the equation we claimed.

Theorem 1: Let (M^n, g) be a Riemannian spin manifold of dimension $n \geq 3$ with a nowhere vanishing twistor spinor ψ . The Riemannian metric

$$\bar{g} = \frac{1}{|\psi|^4} g$$

has constant and non-negative scalar curvature

$$\bar{R} = \frac{4(n-1)}{n} (c_{\psi}^2 + q_{\psi}).$$

Proof: Denote by $h := u^{-n/2+1}$. Then $h^{\frac{4}{n-2}} = \frac{1}{u^2}$ and the metrics

\bar{g} and g are related by

$$\bar{g} = h^{\frac{4}{n-2}} g.$$

Then the scalar curvatures are related by the formula

$$\bar{R} h^{\frac{4}{n-2}} = \frac{4(n-1)}{n-2} \frac{\Delta h}{h} + R.$$

The result follows now by a direct calculation using the formula of proposition 9.

3. The conformal deformation of twistor spinors into Killing spinors

Consider a Riemannian spin manifold (M^n, g) and a twistor spinor $\psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$. We say that ψ is conformally equivalent to a Killing spinor if there exists a conformal change of the metric

$\bar{g} = \lambda g$ such that $\lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} \bar{\psi}$ is a Killing spinor with respect to the metric \bar{g} . We introduce the function $f = \frac{1}{2} \lambda^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. Then the equation

$$\bar{\nabla}_X (\lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} \bar{\psi}) + \frac{a}{n} X \cdot (\lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} \bar{\psi}) = 0$$

becomes equivalent to

$$a\psi - 2fD\psi + n \text{grad}(f) \cdot \psi = 0. \tag{3.1.}$$

Indeed, with respect to $\nabla_X \psi + \frac{1}{n} X \cdot D\psi = 0$ we use only the well-known formulas describing the change of the covariant derivative (see [2]) in order to derive (3.1.). Consequently, ψ is conformally equivalent to a Killing spinor iff (3.1.) has a positive solution f for some constant $0 \neq a \in \mathbb{C}$.

Theorem 2: Let (M^n, g) be a Riemannian spin manifold and $0 \neq \psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ a twistor spinor. Then ψ is conformally

equivalent to a real Killing spinor if and only if $C_\psi \neq 0$ and $Q_\psi = 0$. In this situation there exists - up to a constant - precisely one metric

$$\bar{g} = \frac{1}{|C_\psi|^4} g$$

with respect to which ψ becomes a Killing spinor.

Proof: Let $0 \neq a$ be a real number and suppose f is a solution of (3.1.). Then

$$a|\psi|^2 - 2f C_\psi = 0$$

and, consequently, $C_\psi \neq 0$. Moreover, in this case we have $\text{dist}^2(D\psi, \text{Lin}_R(\psi, \nu_\psi)) = 0$, i.e. $Q_\psi = 0$. Conversely, suppose $C_\psi \neq 0$ and $Q_\psi = 0$. Again we consider the vector field T^ψ defined by

$$T^\psi = 2 \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (\psi, e_\alpha \cdot D\psi) e_\alpha.$$

With respect to (2.5.) we have

$$C_\psi \psi - u D\psi - \frac{1}{2} T^\psi \cdot \psi = 0,$$

and since ψ is a twistor spinor, we know

$$T^\psi = -\kappa \text{grad}(u).$$

Consequently

$$C_\psi \psi - u D\psi + \frac{\kappa}{2} \text{grad}(u) \cdot \psi = 0,$$

i.e. $f = \frac{u}{2}$ is a solution of (3.1.). Finally we remark that any solution f^* of (3.1.) is proportional to u in case $a \in \mathbb{R}^1$ since f^* must satisfy the relation $a \cdot u - 2f^* C_\psi = 0$.

For an arbitrary spinor field ψ we introduce the 1-form

$$\eta_\psi(X) = \frac{1}{i} \langle X \cdot \psi, \psi \rangle = \text{Im} \langle X \cdot \psi, \psi \rangle.$$

Theorem 3: Let (M^n, g) be a Riemannian spin manifold and $0 \neq \psi$ a twistor spinor with $Q_\psi = 0$. Then ψ is conformally equivalent to an imaginary Killing spinor if and only if
 a.) $C_\psi = 0, H_\psi \equiv 0$

b.) $\pm \frac{\eta_\psi}{|\psi|^4}$ is the differential of a positive function. In this situation, for any function $k > 0$ with $\pm \frac{\eta_\psi}{|\psi|^4} = dk$, the twistor spinor becomes a Killing spinor in the metric

$$\bar{g} = \frac{1}{|\psi|^4 k^2} g.$$

Proof: By equation (2.5.) $Q_\psi = 0$ implies

$$u D\psi = C_\psi \psi + \frac{n}{2} \text{grad}(u) \cdot \psi.$$

Suppose now that

$$\pm i\psi - 2f D\psi + n \text{grad}(f) \cdot \psi = 0$$

has a solution $f > 0$. Then $-2f(D\psi, \psi) = 0$, i.e. $C_\psi = 0$ and $u D\psi = \frac{n}{2} \text{grad}(u) \cdot \psi$. This implies $D\psi \in V_\psi$ and, finally, $i\psi \in V_\psi$. Thus we have the necessary condition $H_\psi \equiv 0$. Furthermore, we calculate η_ψ and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_\psi(X) &= -\langle i X \cdot \psi, \psi \rangle = \pm \langle 2fX \cdot D\psi - nX \cdot \text{grad}(f) \cdot \psi, \psi \rangle \\ &= \pm \{ -n2f(\nabla_X \psi, \psi) + n(\text{grad}(f) \cdot \psi, X \cdot \psi) \} \\ &= \pm n \{ -f du(X) + df(X) u \} \\ \frac{\eta_\psi}{u^2} &= \pm n d\left(f \cdot \frac{1}{u}\right), \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $\pm \frac{\eta_\psi}{u^2}$ is the differential of a positive function.

Conversely, suppose $Q_\psi = 0$, $C_\psi = 0$, $H_\psi \equiv 0$ and $\pm \frac{\eta_\psi}{u^2} = dk$.

Then $f = uk$ is a solution of equation (3.1.). Indeed, we have $u D\psi = \frac{n}{2} \text{grad}(u) \cdot \psi$ (since $C_\psi = 0 = Q_\psi$) and, consequently, we obtain with $f = uk$

$$\begin{aligned} -2f D\psi + n \text{grad}(f) \cdot \psi &= n \cdot u \text{grad}(k) \cdot \psi = \\ &= n \cdot u \cdot \sum_{\alpha=1}^n dk(e_\alpha) e_\alpha \cdot \psi = \\ &= \pm n \cdot \frac{1}{u} \cdot \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (ie_\alpha \psi, \psi) e_\alpha \psi = \\ &= \pm ni\psi. \end{aligned}$$

The latter equation follows from $H_\psi \equiv 0$, i.e. $i\psi \in V_\psi$.

Theorem 4: Let (M^n, g) be a Riemannian spin manifold and $0 \neq \psi$ a twistor spinor with $Q_\psi \neq 0$. Then ψ is conformally equivalent to an imaginary Killing spinor if and only if

$$C_\psi = 0 \text{ and } \text{dist}^2(D\psi, \text{Lin}_R(i\psi, V_\psi)) \equiv 0.$$

In this case there exists exactly one positive function k with $\pm \frac{\eta_\psi}{u^2} = dk$ such that ψ becomes a Killing spinor with respect to the metric

$$\bar{g} = \frac{1}{|\psi|^4 k^2} g.$$

Proof: Suppose $Q_\psi \neq 0$ and that equation (3.1.) has a positive solution f for some imaginary number a . Then

$$\text{dist}^2(D\psi, \text{Lin}_R(i\psi, V_\psi)) \equiv 0$$

and $C_\psi = 0$, and we obtain the necessary conditions mentioned above. On the other hand, if $Q_\psi \neq 0$, $C_\psi = 0$ and $\text{dist}(D\psi, \text{Lin}_R(i\psi, V_\psi)) \equiv 0$, then there exist a function A and a vector field ξ such that $D\psi = A i\psi + \xi \psi$. Using the twistor equation $\nabla_X \psi = -\frac{1}{n} X \cdot D\psi$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_X(D\psi) &= \{dA(X) + \frac{2}{n} A \langle \xi, X \rangle\} i\psi + \\ &+ \left\{ \frac{A^2}{n} X + \nabla_X \xi + \frac{2}{n} \langle \xi, X \rangle \xi - \frac{1}{n} |\xi|^2 X \right\} \psi. \end{aligned}$$

With respect to $Q_\psi \neq 0$ we know that $i\psi$ is linearly independent (over R^1) of V_ψ . The latter formula as well as formula (2.2.) yield now

$$dA(X) = -\frac{2}{n} A \langle \xi, X \rangle.$$

Consider the function $f := \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{|A|}$ (since $Q_\psi \neq 0$, A cannot vanish). Then we have

$$\text{grad}(f) = \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{|A|} \xi = \frac{1}{n} 2f \xi$$

and, consequently,

$$D\psi = A i\psi + \xi \cdot \psi = \text{sgn}(A) \frac{1}{2f} i\psi + \frac{n}{2f} \text{grad}(f) \cdot \psi,$$

i.e. f is a solution of equation (3.1.) and the corresponding conformally equivalent metric is given by

$$\bar{g} = A^2 g.$$

Furthermore, $D\psi = A i \psi + \xi \cdot \psi$ implies

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{n}{2} du &= A \eta_\psi + u \xi = \\ &= A \eta_\psi - \frac{n}{2} u \frac{dA}{A} \end{aligned}$$

and, finally,

$$-\frac{n}{2} d\left(\frac{1}{Au}\right) = \frac{\eta_\psi}{u^2}.$$

This means that A^2 is given by $A^2 = \frac{1}{u^2 k^2}$ for a unique function $k > 0$ satisfying $dk = \pm \frac{\eta_\psi}{u^2}$.

On a manifold of dimension $n = 3, 5$ we have $H_\psi \equiv 0$ for an arbitrary spinor field. Therefore Theorem 3 and Theorem 4 provide the following

Corollary 4: Let (M^n, g) be a Riemannian spin manifold of dimension $n=3, 5$ and let $\psi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{D})$ be a twistor spinor. Then ψ is conformally equivalent to an imaginary Killing spinor if and only if

- a.) $Q_\psi = 0, C_\psi = 0$
- b.) $\pm \frac{\eta_\psi}{u^2}$ is the differential of a positive function.

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