TSUKUBA J. MATH.
Vol. 20 No. 1 (1996) 123-136

Sp(n)-EQUIVARIANT HARMONIC MAPS BETWEEN COMPLEX PROJECTIVE SPACES

Dedicated to Professor Hideki Ozeki on his sixtieth birthday

By

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Introduction

On existence of harmonic maps, Guest [2] constructed equivariant harmonic maps from a flag manifold to a complex Grassmannian manifold, and Ohnita [5] developed a method of studying equivariant maps from a compact homogeneous space to a complex projective space and investigated equivariant harmonic maps from a compact irreducible Hermitian symmetric space to a complex projective space, in detail. In particular, Ohnita classified equivariant harmonic maps relative to a unitary group between complex projective spaces.

In this paper, we study existence and harmonicity of $Sp(n)$-equivariant maps between complex projective spaces, by using the fact the symplectic group $Sp(n)$ acts a $(2n-1)$-dimensional complex projective space CP^{2n-1} transitively. In section 4 we determine all complex irreducible representations of $Sp(n)$, which define $Sp(n)$-equivariant maps from CP^{2n-1} to CP^{m} (Theorem 4.3), with the aid of the restriction rule of representations of $Sp(n)$, due to Koike and Terada [3, 4], Zhelobenko [6]. In section 5 we prove that the associated $Sp(n)$-equivariant maps are harmonic for any $Sp(n)$-invariant Riemannian metric on CP^{2n-1} (Theorem 5.2). In particular, we get $Sp(n)$-equivariant minimal immersions from CP^{2n-1} to CP^{m}, but not $SU(2n)$-equivariant.

The auther would like to express his gratitude to Professor Yusuke Sakane for valuable advice and kind encouragement. He would also like to thank to Professor Hideki Ozeki and Professor Masaru Takeuchi for useful suggestions and comments.

Received April 4, 1994. Revised September 26, 1994

§1. Complex line bundles and harmonic maps into a complex projective space.

In this section, we recall known facts due to Ohnita [5]. Let CP^m be an m-dimensional complex projective space with the Fubini-Study metric. We denote by $\langle , \rangle$ the standard Hermitian inner product on C^{m+1}. Let $\pi : C^{m+1} \setminus \{0\} \to CP^m$ be the canonical projection. Then $C^{m+1} \setminus \{0\}$ is a principal bundle over CP^m with the structure group $C^* = C - \{0\}$. Let $E = (C^{m+1} \setminus \{0\}) \times_{C^*} C$ be the universal bundle over CP^m. The fiber E_x over each $x \in CP^m$ is the complex 1-dimensional subspace of C^{m+1} determined by x. Thus E is a holomorphic subbundle of the trivial bundle $\underline{C}^{m+1} = CP^m \times C^{m+1}$ over CP^m. Let $E^\perp$ be the subbundle of $\underline{C}^{m+1}$ whose fiber at x is the orthogonal complement of E_x in C^{m+1}. The bundles E, E^* and $E^\perp$ have natural Hermitian connected structures. We give $E^* \otimes E^\perp$ the tensor product Hermitian connected structure. Then there exists a natural bundle isomorphism $h : T^{(1,0)}CP^m \to E^* \otimes E^\perp$ preserving connections.

Let $M = G/K$ be an n-dimensional compact homogeneous space with a compact connected Lie group G and $\varphi : M \to CP^m$ a smooth map. Consider the exact sequence of pull-back vector bundles over M:

$$0 \to \varphi^{-1}(E^* \otimes E) \xrightarrow{i} \varphi^{-1}(E^* \otimes \underline{C}^{m+1}) \xrightarrow{j} \varphi^{-1}(E^* \otimes E^\perp) \to 0,$$

where i is the natural inclusion and j is given by the orthogonal projection along E. Pulling back $h : T^{(1,0)}CP^m \to E^* \otimes E^\perp$ by φ, we get a connection-preserving bundle isomorphism $h : \varphi^{-1}(T^{(1,0)}CP^m) \to \varphi^{-1}(E^* \otimes E^\perp)$.

Let (σ, C) be a complex 1-dimensional representation of the structure group K and $L = P \times_\sigma C$ a complex line bundle over M associated with a principal bundle (P, π, M, K). Then the vector space $C^\infty(L)$ of all smooth sections of L can be identified with the vector space $C^\infty(P, C)_K$ of all C-valued smooth functions $\tilde{f}$ on P satisfying the condition $\tilde{f}(uk) = \sigma(k)^{-1}\tilde{f}(u)$ for each $u \in P$ and $k \in K$, by the correspondence $C^\infty(L) \ni f \mapsto \tilde{f} \in C^\infty(P, C)_K, \tilde{f}(u) = u^{-1}(f(\pi(u)))$ for each $u \in P$.

We consider a system $\{\varphi_0, \ldots, \varphi_m\}$ in $C^\infty(L)$ with no common zeros. Let $\{\tilde{\varphi}_0, \ldots, \tilde{\varphi}_m\}$ be the corresponding system in $C^\infty(P, C)_K$. We define a smooth map $\tilde{\varphi} : P \to C^{m+1} \setminus \{0\}$ by $\tilde{\varphi} : \{\tilde{\varphi}_0, \ldots, \tilde{\varphi}_m\}$. Since $\tilde{\varphi}$ satisfies $\tilde{\varphi}(uk) = \sigma(k)^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}(u)$ for each $u \in P$ and $k \in K$, the map $\tilde{\varphi} : P \to C^{m+1} \setminus \{0\}$ becomes a bundle homomorphism from (P, π, M, K) to $(C^{m+1} \setminus \{0\}, \pi, CP^m, C^*)$ with the homomorphism $\sigma^{-1} : K \to C^*$ of the structure groups. Therefore $\tilde{\varphi}$ induces a smooth map $\varphi : M \to CP^m$ and the diagram below is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\varphi}} & C^{m+1}\setminus\{0\} \\ \pi\downarrow & & \downarrow\pi \\ M & \xrightarrow[\varphi]{} & CP^m. \end{array}$$

Let $H = E^*$ be the hyperplane bundle over CP^m. Conversely, every smooth map $\varphi : M \to CP^m$ is obtained in this manner by considering the pull-back complex line bundle $\varphi^{-1}H$ over M and a system of $m+1$ sections of $\varphi^{-1}H$ given by homogeneous coordinates on CP^m.

We denote by ∇^M the Riemannian connection of M and endow the principal bundle P with a connection Γ. Then in the associated line bundle L, the covariant differentiation ∇^L is induced by Γ. For $X \in C^\infty(TM^C)$, we denote by $X^* \in C^\infty(TP^C)$ the horizontal life of X to P with respect to Γ.

We denote by $\tau^{(1,0)} \in C^\infty(\varphi^{-1}T^{(1,0)}CP^m)$ the $(1,0)$-component of the tension field τ for the map φ. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} h(\tau^{(1,0)})\tilde{\varphi} &= h(\sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla_{e_i}(d\varphi)^{(1,0)})(e_i))\tilde{\varphi} \\ &= j(\sum_{i=1}^n (e_i^* e_i^* \tilde{\varphi} - (\nabla^M_{e_i} e_i)^* \tilde{\varphi}) - 2\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\langle d\tilde{\varphi}(e_i^*), \tilde{\varphi}\rangle}{\langle \tilde{\varphi}, \tilde{\varphi}\rangle} d\tilde{\varphi}(e_i^*)) \\ &= j(-(\Delta^L\varphi)^{\sim} - 2\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\langle (\nabla^L_{e_i}\varphi)^{\sim}, \tilde{\varphi}\rangle}{\langle \tilde{\varphi}, \tilde{\varphi}\rangle} (\nabla^L_{e_i}\varphi)^{\sim}), \end{aligned}$$

where $\{e_i\}$ denotes a local orthonormal frame field on M and $\Delta^L = -\sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla^L_{e_i}\nabla^L_{e_i} - \nabla^L_{\nabla^M_{e_i}e_i})$.

PROPOSITION 1.1 (Ohnita [5]). *φ is a harmonic map if and only if the system* $\{\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_m\}$ satisfies

$$(\nabla^L_\varphi)^{\sim} + 2\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\langle (\nabla^L_{e_i}\varphi)^{\sim}, \tilde{\varphi}\rangle}{\langle \tilde{\varphi}, \tilde{\varphi}\rangle} (\nabla^L_{e_i}\varphi)^{\sim} = \mu\tilde{\varphi}$$

for some function μ on P.

§2. Construction and harmonicity of equivariant maps.

We are concerned with G-equivariant maps from an n-dimensional compact homogeneous manifold $M = G/K$ with a compact connected semisimple Lie group G to CP^m with the Fubini-Study metric.

Let $Aut(CP^m)$ be the group of all holomorphic isometries of CP^m. $Aut(CP^m)$ is identified with a projective unitary group $PU(m+1)$. A map $\varphi : M \to CP^m$ is called G-equivariant if there exists a Lie group homomorphism $\rho : G \to Aut(CP^m)$ satisfying $\rho(a) \circ \varphi = \varphi \circ \gamma_a$ for each $a \in G$, where γ_a denotes the natural action of G on M.

We endow M with a G-invariant metric g. Let (G, π, M, K) be the standard principal bundle on M and (σ, C) a complex 1-dimensional unitary representation of K. Then the associated complex line bundle $L = G \times_\sigma C$ becomes a G-homogeneous vector bundle with a Hermitian fiber metric $\langle , \rangle$.

Let V be a complex $(m+1)$-dimensional irreducible G-submodule of $C^\infty(L)$. Choose a unitary basis $\{\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_m\}$ of V with respect to the L^2-inner product. Let $\{\tilde{\varphi}_0, \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_m\}$ be the corresponding system in $C^\infty(G, C)_K$. By using this system, we obtain maps $\tilde{\varphi}_V = \{\tilde{\varphi}_0, \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_m\} : G \to C^{m+1} \setminus \{0\}$ and $\varphi_V = (\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_m) : M \to CP^m$.

We define a unitary representation $\rho_V : G \to U(m+1)$ by $L_a(\tilde{\varphi}_0, \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_m) = (\tilde{\varphi}_0, \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_m)\rho_V(a)$ for $a \in G$, where L_a is the left action of G on $C^\infty(G, C)_K$. Then the map φ_V is G-equivariant with respect to ρ_V. Hence we have

$$\tilde{\varphi}_V(a) = (\rho_V(a))v_0\,,\ \varphi_V(a \cdot o) = \pi((\rho_V(a))v_0) \text{ for each } a \in G,$$

where $o = eK \in M$ and $v_0 = \tilde{\varphi}_V(e) \in C^{m+1} \setminus \{0\}$.

On the other hand, let $\varphi : M \to CP^m$ be a G-equivariant map relative to a Lie group homomorphism $\rho : G \to Aut(CP^m)$. There exists a unitary representation $\tilde{\rho} : \tilde{G} \to SU(m+1)$ of the finite covering group $\tilde{G}$ of G such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{G} & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\rho}} & SU(m+1) \\ \pi\downarrow & & \downarrow \\ G & \xrightarrow{\rho} & PU(m+1) \end{array}$$

is commutative. Take $v_0 \in S^{2m+1}$ with $\varphi(o) = Cv_0$. Then we have $\varphi(a \cdot o) = \rho(a)\varphi(o) = \rho(a)\pi(v_0) = \pi(\tilde{\rho}(\tilde{a})v_0)$ for each $\tilde{a} \in \tilde{G}$ with $\pi(\tilde{a}) = a \in G$. In particular, we have $\tilde{\rho}(\tilde{K})Cv_0 \subset Cv_0$. Hence there is a real-valued linear form λ_0 on $\mathfrak{k}$ such that $\tilde{\rho}(X)v_0 = \sqrt{-1}\lambda_0(X)\,v_0$ for each $X \in \mathfrak{k}$, where $\mathfrak{k}$ is the Lie algebra of K. Put $W = Cv_0$. Then W is a complex 1-dimensional $\tilde{K}$-submodule of C^{m+1}. Consider the associated homogeneous line bundle $L = \tilde{G} \times_{\sigma^*} W^*$ over $M = \tilde{G}/\tilde{K}$, where (σ^*, W^*) is the dual $\tilde{K}$-module of W. We define a map $\tilde{\varphi} = (\tilde{\varphi}_0, \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_m) :\ \tilde{G} \to (W^*)^{m+1} \approx C^{m+1}$ by $(\tilde{\varphi}_i(a))(w) = \langle \tilde{\rho}(a)\,w, \varepsilon_i \rangle\ (i = 0, \dots, m)$ for each $a \in \tilde{G}$ and $w \in W$, where $\{\varepsilon_0, \dots, \varepsilon_m\}$ denotes the standard basis of C^{m+1}. Each $\tilde{\varphi}_i$ satisfies $\tilde{\varphi}_i(ak) = \sigma^*(k)^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}_i(a)$ for each $a \in \tilde{G}$ and $k \in \tilde{K}$, therefore we have that $\tilde{\varphi}_i \in C^\infty(\tilde{G}, W^*)_{\tilde{K}}$. Let $\{\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_m\}$ be the corresponding system of $\{\tilde{\varphi}_0, \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_m\}$ on $C^\infty(L)$ and V the $\tilde{G}$-submodule of $C^\infty(L)$ spanned by $\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_m$. If $\tilde{\rho}$

is irreducible, then V is an irreducible $\tilde{G}$-module and φ is equivalent to $\varphi_V = (\varphi_0, \ldots, \varphi_m)$.

Now we recall the following.

PROPOSITION 2.1 (Ohnita [5]). *Suppose that a homogeneous space $M = G/K$ with a G-invariant metric g satisfies the condition $[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}] = \mathfrak{m}$. Then a G-equivariant map $\varphi : M \to CP^m$ is a harmonic map if and only if $(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \tilde{\rho}(X_i)^2)v_0 \in \boldsymbol{R}v_0$, where $\{X_1, \ldots, X_n\}$ is an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{m}$ with respect to g.*

PROPOSITION 2.2 (Ohnita [5]). *Suppose that $M = G/K$ with the G-invariant Riemannian metric g_G induced by an Ad(G)-invariant inner product of $\mathfrak{g}$ satisfies the condition $[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}] = \mathfrak{m}$. Then a G-equivariant map $\varphi = \varphi_V : M \to CP^m$ is a harmonic map.*

§3. Representations of symplectic group.

We consider the case $G = Sp(n)$ $(n \geq 2)$. Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be the Lie algebra of G and $\mathfrak{t}$ a maximal abelian subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}$. We denote by $\mathfrak{g}^C$ and $\mathfrak{t}^C$ the complexification of $\mathfrak{g}$ and $\mathfrak{t}$, respectively. $\mathfrak{t}^C$ is a Cartan subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}^C$. Let (,) be an Ad(G)-invariant inner product on $\mathfrak{g}$ defined by -1 times the Killing form of $\mathfrak{g}$. Let $\Sigma(\subset\mathfrak{t})$ be the root system of $\mathfrak{g}^C$ relative to $\mathfrak{t}$. We have a root space decomposition of $\mathfrak{g}^C$:

$$\mathfrak{g}^C = \mathfrak{t}^C + \sum_{\alpha\in\Sigma} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha,$$

where $\mathfrak{g}_\alpha = \{X \in \mathfrak{g}^C; (adH)X = \sqrt{-1}(\alpha, H)X \text{ for } H \in \mathfrak{t}\}$. Let $\Pi = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n\}$ be a fundamental root system of Σ. Choose a lexicographic order $>$ on Σ such that the set of simple roots with respect to $>$ coincides with Π. Note that the Dynkin diagram corresponding to $\mathfrak{g}^C$ is given by the following:

$$\overset{\alpha_1}{\circ}-\overset{\alpha_2}{\circ}-\cdots-\overset{\alpha_{n-1}}{\circ}\Leftarrow\overset{\alpha_n}{\circ}.$$

Put $\Sigma^+ = \{\alpha \in \Sigma; \alpha > 0\}$. Let $\{\Lambda_i\}$ be the fundamental weights of $(\mathfrak{g}^C, \mathfrak{t}^C)$ corresponding to Π:

$$\frac{2(\Lambda_i, \alpha_j)}{(\alpha_j, \alpha_j)} = \begin{cases} 1 & (i = j) \\ 0 & (i \neq j). \end{cases}$$

Λ_i is given by

$$\Lambda_i = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \cdots + (i-1)\alpha_{i-1} + i(\alpha_i + \cdots + \alpha_{n-1} + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_n).$$

We put $\Pi_0 = \{\alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n\}$ and $\Sigma_0 = \Sigma \cap \{\Pi_0\}_Z$, where $\{\Pi_0\}_Z$ denotes the subgroup of $\mathfrak{t}$ generated by Π_0 over $\boldsymbol{Z}$.

We note that $G = Sp(n)$ acts $\boldsymbol{C}P^{2n-1}$ transitively. The isotropy subgroup K of G at $[1,0,\ldots,0] \in \boldsymbol{C}P^{2n-1}$ is given by

$$K = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta} & 0\cdots0 & 0 & 0\cdots0 \\ 0 & A & 0 & -\overline{B} \\ \vdots & 0\cdots0 & e^{-i\theta} & 0\cdots0 \\ 0 & B & 0 & \overline{A} \end{pmatrix} \in M_{2n}(\boldsymbol{C});\ \begin{matrix} \theta \in \boldsymbol{R}, \\ \begin{pmatrix} A & -\overline{B} \\ B & \overline{A} \end{pmatrix} \in SU(2n-2) \end{matrix} \right\}.$$

Let $\mathfrak{k}$ be the Lie algebra of K and $\mathfrak{m}$ the orthogonal complement of $\mathfrak{k}$ in $\mathfrak{g}$ with respect to (,). Then the complexifications $\mathfrak{k}^C$ and $\mathfrak{m}^C$ of $\mathfrak{t}$ and $\mathfrak{m}$ are given by

$$\mathfrak{k}^C = \mathfrak{t}^C + \sum_{\alpha\in\Sigma_0} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \quad \mathfrak{m}^C = \sum_{\alpha\in\Sigma-\Sigma_0} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha,$$

respectively. Set $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{m}}^+ = \Sigma^+ - \Sigma_0$ and $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{m}}^- = -\Sigma_{\mathfrak{m}}^+$. We define subspaces $\mathfrak{m}^\pm$ of $\mathfrak{g}^C$ by

$$\mathfrak{m}^\pm = \sum_{\alpha\in\Sigma_{\mathfrak{m}}^\pm} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha.$$

We choose $E_\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$ for $\alpha \in \Sigma$ with the following properties and fix them once and for all:

$$[E_\alpha, E_{-\alpha}] = \sqrt{-1}\alpha,\ (E_\alpha, E_{-\alpha}) = 1,\ \overline{E}_\alpha = E_{-\alpha} \ \text{ for } \alpha \in \Sigma,$$

where we denote by $X \mapsto \overline{X}$ the complex conjugation of $\mathfrak{g}^C$ with respect to the real form $\mathfrak{g}$. We see that $[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}] = \mathfrak{m}$. Put $Z_{\mathfrak{c}} = \{k\Lambda_1 ; k \in \boldsymbol{Z}\}$. For $k\Lambda_1 \in Z_{\mathfrak{c}}$, we can define a complex 1-dimensional unitary representation $\sigma_{k\Lambda_1}$ of K by $\sigma_{k\Lambda_1}(a) = \exp(\sqrt{-1}(k\Lambda_1, X))$ for each $a \in K$, where $a = \exp X$ and $X \in \mathfrak{k}$. Using this representation $(\sigma_{k\Lambda_1}, \boldsymbol{C})$ of K, we construct a homogeneous complex line $[E_\alpha, E_{-\alpha}] = \sqrt{-1}\alpha$, $(E_\alpha, E_{-\alpha}) = 1$, $\overline{E}_\alpha = E_{-\alpha}$ for $\alpha \in \Sigma$, bundle $L_k = Sp(n) \times_{\sigma_{k\Lambda_1}} \boldsymbol{C}$ over $\boldsymbol{C}P^{2n-1} = Sp(n)/K$. Conversely, for each homogeneous complex line bundle L over $\boldsymbol{C}P^{2n-1} = Sp(n)/K$, there exists an element $k\Lambda_1 \in Z_{\mathfrak{c}}$ such that $L = L_k$.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let $\rho : Sp(n) \to GL(V)$ be a complex irreducible representation of Sp(n) with $\xi \in \mathfrak{t}$ as its highest weight and $\langle , \rangle$ an Sp(n)-invariant Hermitian inner product of V. Choose a nonzero weight vector $v_\xi \in V$ for the highest weight ξ. Suppose that there exists a nonzero vector $w \in V$ and an element $\lambda \in \mathfrak{k}$ such that $\rho(X)w = \sqrt{-1}(\lambda, X)w$ for each $X \in \mathfrak{t}$. Then we have $\langle w, v_\xi \rangle \neq 0$.*

PROOF. We define a complex valued linear function F by $F(X) = \langle \rho(X)v_\xi, w \rangle$

for $X \in \mathfrak{g}^C$. For each $X \in \mathfrak{k}^C$, we have

$$F(X) = \langle \rho(X) v_\xi, w\rangle = -\langle v_\xi, \rho(X) w\rangle = \sqrt{-1}(\lambda, X)\langle w, v_\xi\rangle.$$

For each $Y \in \mathfrak{m}^+$, we have $F(Y) = 0$ because $\rho(Y) v_\xi = 0$.

For each $Z \in \mathfrak{m}^-$, we have

$$F(Z) = \langle \rho(Z) v_\xi, w\rangle = -\langle v_\xi, \rho(Z) w\rangle = 0$$

because $\rho(Z) w$ is a linear combination of non-highest weight vectors. Thus we have $F(\mathfrak{g}^C) \subset C\langle v_\xi, w\rangle$. If $\langle v_\xi, w\rangle = 0$, then we get $F \equiv 0$. But we have $V = \Sigma_{j=0}^N \rho(\mathfrak{g}^C)^j v_\xi$ for a sufficiently large integer N by the irreducibility of ρ, thus we obtain $w = 0$. Hence $\langle v_\xi, w\rangle \neq 0$. q.e.d.

LEMMA 3.2. *Let $\rho : Sp(n) \to GL(V)$ be a complex irreducible representation of $Sp(n)$. For every $\lambda \in \mathfrak{k}$, put*

$$W_\lambda = \{w \in V; \rho(X)w = \sqrt{-1}(\lambda, X)w \text{ for each } X \in \mathfrak{k}\}$$

Then we have $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} W_\lambda = 0$ *or* 1.

PROOF. As in Lemma 3.1, we denote by v_ξ a highest weight vector of ρ and by $\langle , \rangle$ an $Sp(n)$-invariant inner product of V. We define a linear map $f : W_\lambda \to C$ by $f(w) = \langle w, v_\xi\rangle$ for $w \in W_\lambda$. By Lemma 3.1, f is injective. Hence we have $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} W_\lambda = 0$ or 1. q.e.d.

For $k \in Z$, we set $W_k = (\sigma_{k\Lambda_1}, C)$. let $D(Sp(n))$ be the set of all dominant integral forms of $\mathfrak{t}$. By Lemma 3.2, we obtain $\dim Hom_k(V_\Lambda, W_k) = 0$ or 1 for each $\Lambda \in D(Sp(n))$, where V_Λ is a representation space of an irreducible representation of $Sp(n)$ with highest weight Λ. We put

$$D(Sp(n), K; k) = \{\Lambda \in D(Sp(n)); \dim Hom_K(V_\Lambda, W_k) = 1\}.$$

For each $\Lambda \in D(Sp(n), K; k)$, we obtain the $Sp(n)$-equivariant map corresponding to Λ. We shall determine the elements of $D(Sp(n), K; k)$ for $k \in Z$.

As is well-known, there is a bijective correspondence between the sets of equivalence classes of irreducible representations of a complex semisimple Lie group and its compact real form by using the unitarian trick of Weyl. So we identify the representations of $Sp(n, C)$ and $Sp(n)$.

§4. Construction of Sp(n)-equivariant maps.

We take a Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{t}^C$ of $\mathfrak{g}^C = \mathfrak{sp}(n,\boldsymbol{C})(n \geq 2)$ as follows:

$$\mathfrak{t}^C = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_1 & & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & & \\ & & \varepsilon_n & & & \\ & & & -\varepsilon_1 & & \\ & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & -\varepsilon_n \end{pmatrix} ; \varepsilon_i \in \boldsymbol{C} \right\}.$$

Then the root system Σ of $\mathfrak{g}^C$ is given by

$$\Sigma = \{\pm(\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j)\}_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \cup \{\pm 2\varepsilon_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}.$$

We take a simple root system Π of Σ as follows:

$$\Pi = \{\alpha_1 = \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2, \ldots, \alpha_{n-1} = \varepsilon_{n-1} - \varepsilon_n, \alpha_n = 2\varepsilon_n\}.$$

Then the weight lattice P and the set of dominant integral weights P_+ are given by

$$P = \boldsymbol{Z}\varepsilon_1 + \boldsymbol{Z}\varepsilon_2 + \cdots + \boldsymbol{Z}\varepsilon_n,$$

$$P_+ = \{f_1\varepsilon_1 + f_2\varepsilon_2 + \cdots + f_n\varepsilon_n \in P; f_1 \geq f_2 \geq \cdots \geq f_n \geq 0\}.$$

There is a one-to-one correspondence between the equivalence classes of the irreducible representation of a connected complex semisimple Lie group G and the elements of P_+. We identify each element of P_+ with the irreducible representation corresponding to it.

In general any sequence $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \ldots, \lambda_n, \ldots)(\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_n \geq \cdots)$ of nonnegative integers and containing only finitely many nonzero terms is called a *partition*. We consider each element of P_+ as a partition and identify each partition with the Young diagram corresponding to it. For a partition λ, the length of λ is defined to be the number of nonzero terms in λ and is denoted by $\ell(\lambda)$, the size of λ is defined to be the sum of all terms in λ and is denoted by $|\lambda|$, i.e., $|\lambda| = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \cdots + \lambda_n + \cdots$. If partitions $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \ldots, \lambda_n, \ldots)$ and $\mu = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \ldots, \mu_n, \ldots)$ satisfy the condition $\lambda_i \geq \mu_i$ for all $i \geq 1$, we say that the Young diagram λ contains the Young diagram μ and denote it by $\lambda \supset \mu$. If $\lambda \supset \mu$, put μ on λ with the same top-left corner and remove μ out of λ. Then the resulting diagram is called a *skew diagram* and is denoted by $\lambda - \mu$. A skew diagram each column of which consists of either zero or one square is called a *horizontal strip*.

We recall the following.

THEOREM 4.1 (Koike and Terada [4], Zhelobenko [6]). *Let λ be a partition of length at most n and $\lambda_{Sp(n,C)}$ the irreducible character of $Sp(n,C)$ corresponding to λ. Then we have*

$$\lambda_{Sp(n,C)} \downarrow^{Sp(n,C)}_{GL(1,C)\times Sp(n-1,C)} = \sum_{(\mu,\nu)} t_n^{-|\lambda-\mu|+|\mu-\nu|} \times \nu_{Sp(n-1,C)},$$

where $\downarrow^{Sp(n,C)}_{GL(1,C)\times Sp(n-1,C)}$ denotes the restriction of the representation of $Sp(n,C)$ to $GL(1,C)\times Sp(n-1,C)$ and the summation is taken over all pairs of partitions (μ,ν) satisfying the following conditions:

(1) $\lambda \supset \mu$ and $\lambda-\mu$ is a horizontal strip,

(2) $\mu \supset \nu$ and $\mu-\nu$ is a horizontal strip,

(3) $\ell(\nu)\leq n-1$.

$GL(1,C)\times Sp(n-1,C)$ is the Levi part of

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} t_n & & * \\ & Y & \\ 0 & & t_n^{-1} \end{pmatrix}; Y\in Sp(n-1,C), t_n \in C^* \right\}.$$

THEOREM 4.2.

$$D(Sp(n),K;k) = \{m_1\Lambda_1 + m_2\Lambda_2; m_i \in Z, m_1-|k|\geq 0 \text{ is even}, m_2\geq 0\}.$$

PROOF. Assume that $\Lambda=(m_1,\ldots,m_n)\in D(Sp(n),K;k)$. Let λ be the partition corresponding to Λ, i.e., $\lambda=(\lambda_1,\lambda_2,\ldots,\lambda_n)=(m_1+\ldots+m_n, m_2+\ldots+m_n,\ldots,m_n)$. We may identify λ with Λ. By virtue of Theorem 4.1, there exists a pair of partitions (μ,ν) such that $(a)\,\nu=(0,\ldots,0)$, $(b)\,(\mu,\nu)$ satisfies the conditions (1), (2), and (3) in Theorem 4.1, and $(c)\, k=-|\lambda-\mu|+|\mu-\nu|$. From (a) and (b), μ and $\lambda-\mu$ are horizontal strips, i.e., $\mu=(\mu_1,0,\ldots,0)(\lambda_1\geq\mu_1\geq\lambda_2)$, and $\lambda_i=0$ for all $i\geq 3$. Moreover, from (c), we have $k=-\lambda_1-\lambda_2+2\mu_1$. Thus we see the following:

$$m_1-|k| = \begin{cases} 2(\lambda_1-\mu_1) & (k\geq 0) \\ 2(\mu_1-\lambda_2) & (k<0), \end{cases}$$

i.e., $m_1 - |k| \geq 0$ is even.

Conversely, consider an irreducible representation of $Sp(n)$ with highest weight $\Lambda = m_1\Lambda_1 + m_2\Lambda_2 (m_1 - |k| \geq 0$ is even, $m_2 \geq 0)$. Put

$$m_1 - |k| = \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 - |k| = 2m \quad (m \geq 0),$$

and

$$\mu_1 = \begin{cases} \lambda_1 - m & (k \geq 0) \\ \lambda_2 + m & (k < 0). \end{cases}$$

We take partitions $\mu = (\mu_1, 0, \ldots, 0)$ and $\nu = (0, \ldots, 0)$. Then we see the pair (μ, ν) satisfies the conditions (1), (2), and (3) in Theorem 4.1 and $-|\lambda - \mu| + |\mu - \nu| = k$. Hence we conclude that $\Lambda \in D(Sp(n), K; k)$. q.e.d.

§5. Harmonicity and isometricity of Sp(n)-equivariant maps.

Let (,) be an Ad($Sp(n)$)-invariant inner product on $\mathfrak{sp}(n)$ defined by -1 times the Killing form of $\mathfrak{sp}(n)$. If we endow CP^{2n-1} with an $Sp(n)$-invariant Riemannian metric g_1 induced by (,), then an $Sp(n)$-equivariant map corresponding to an element of $D(Sp(n), K; k)$ is a harmonic map because of Proposition 2.2. However, CP^{2n-1} admits other $Sp(n)$-invariant Riemannian metrics.

We put

$$X_\alpha = \frac{E_\alpha + E_{-\alpha}}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad X_{-\alpha} = \frac{E_\alpha - E_{-\alpha}}{\sqrt{2}i}, \quad \text{for each } \alpha \in \Sigma_{\mathfrak{m}}^+ .$$

Let $\mathfrak{m}_1$ and $\mathfrak{m}_2$ be subspaces of $\mathfrak{m}$ spanned by $\{X_\alpha; \alpha \in \Sigma_{\mathfrak{m}}, \alpha \neq \pm(2\sum_{1 \leq k < n} \alpha_k + \alpha_n)\}$ and $\{X_\alpha; \alpha = \pm(2\sum_{1 \leq k < n} \alpha_k + \alpha_n)\}$, respectively. Then the subspaces $\mathfrak{m}_1$, $\mathfrak{m}_2$ are irreducible K-submodules and not equivalent each other. Thus every $Sp(n)$-invariant Riemannian metric on CP^{2n-1} can be described as $g_x = g_1|_{\mathfrak{m}_1} + x g_1|_{\mathfrak{m}_2}$ $(x > 0)$, up to a positive constant factor.

LEMMA 5.1. *Consider an irreducible representation of Sp(n). Let* v *be a nonzero weight vector of a weight* $k\Lambda_1$ *such that it gives an Sp(n)-equivariant map. Then the vector* $E_{\pm(2\sum_{1 \leq k < n} \alpha_k + \alpha_n)} v$ *is a weight vector of the weight* $(k \pm 2)\Lambda_1$ *such that it gives an Sp(n)-equivariant map or zerovector.*

PROOF. We put $\alpha_0 = 2\sum_{1 \leq k < n} \alpha_k + \alpha_n$ for convenience. From the condition, we have $E_{\pm\alpha} v = 0$ for each $\alpha \in \Sigma_0$. We assume that $E_{\pm\alpha_0} v \neq 0$. Since $[E_{\pm\alpha}, E_{\pm\alpha_0}] = 0 (\alpha \in \Sigma_0)$, we have $E_{\pm\alpha} E_{\pm\alpha_0} v = E_{\pm\alpha_0} E_{\pm\alpha} v = 0$ for each $\alpha \in \Sigma_0$. Hence we observe that $E_{\pm\alpha_0}v$ is a weight vector such that it gives an Sp(n)-equivariant map. q.e.d.

THEOREM 5.2. *For any Sp(n)-invariant Riemannian metric on CP^{2n-1}, the Sp(n)-equivariant map corresponding to an element of $D(Sp(n),K;k)$ is a harmonic map.*

PROOF. In case we endow CP^{2n-1} with a metric g_1, from Proposition 2.1 and 2.2, we obtain

$$(*) \qquad \left(\sum_{\alpha\in\Sigma_{\mathrm{III}}} \rho(X_\alpha)^2\right) v_0 = c_1 v_0 \quad \text{for some } c_1 \in \boldsymbol{R}.$$

While we give CP^{2n-1} a metric g_x, a necessary and sufficient condition for a map to be a harmonic map is

$$\Big(\sum_{\substack{\alpha\in\Sigma_{\mathrm{III}}\\ \alpha\neq\pm\alpha_0}} \rho(X_\alpha)^2 + \sum_{\alpha=\pm\alpha_0} \tfrac{1}{x}\rho(X_\alpha)^2\Big)v_0 = c_2 v_0 \quad \text{for some } c_2 \in \boldsymbol{R},$$

where $\alpha_0 = 2\sum_{1\leq k<n} \alpha_k + \alpha_n$. From $(*)$, we claim that the condition above is equivalent to

$$\left(\sum_{\alpha=\pm\alpha_0} \rho(X_\alpha)^2\right) v_0 = \left(\sum_{\alpha=\pm\alpha_0} \rho(E_\alpha E_{-\alpha})\right) v_0 = c_3 v_0 \quad \text{for some } c_3 \in \boldsymbol{R}.$$

But this holds by Lemma 5.1. q.e.d.

We shall study the isometricity of harmonic maps constructed in Theorem 5.2.

Lemma 5.3. *Consider that an irreducible representation of Sp(n) with highest weight $m_1\Lambda_1 + m_2\Lambda_2$. Let w be a weight vector of a weight $m_1\Lambda_1$ such that it determines an Sp(n)-equivariant map. Then we have*

(a) $E_{-\alpha_0}E_{\alpha_0}(E^j_{-\alpha_0}w) = -(m_1 - j + 1)jE^j_{-\alpha_0}w$ *for* $j = 0,\ldots,m_1, = 0$

(b) $E_{\alpha_0}E_{-\alpha_0}(E^j_{-\alpha_0}w) = -(m_1 - j)(j+1)E^j_{-\alpha_0}w$ *for* $j = 0,\ldots,m_1,$

where $\alpha_0 = 2\sum_{1\leq k<n} \alpha_k + \alpha_n$.

PROOF. (a) We shall use induction on j. For $j = 0$, the claim holds because of $E_{\alpha_0}w = 0$. Assume it is true for $j - 1$. For j,

$$\begin{aligned} E_{-\alpha_0}E_{\alpha_0}(E^j_{-\alpha_0}w) &= E_{-\alpha_0}(E_{-\alpha_0}E_{\alpha_0}+\sqrt{-1}\alpha_0)(E^{j-1}_{-\alpha_0}w)\\ &= E_{-\alpha_0}\{-(m_1-j+2)(j-1)-(m_1-2j+2)\}(E^{j-1}_{-\alpha_0}w)\\ &= -(m_1-j+1)j(E^{j-1}_{-\alpha_0}w). \end{aligned}$$

(b) From (a), we have

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\alpha_0}E_{-\alpha_0}(E^j_{-\alpha_0}w) &= (E_{-\alpha_0}E_{\alpha_0}+\sqrt{-1}\alpha_0)(E^j_{-\alpha_0}w)\\ &= \{-(m_1-j+1)j-(m_1-2j)\}(E^j_{-\alpha_0}w)\\ &= -(m_1-j)(j+1)(E^j_{-\alpha_0}w). \quad \text{q.e.d.} \end{aligned}$$

Using this lemma, we obtain the following.

PROPOSITION 5.4. *Consider an irreducible representation ρ of $Sp(n)$ with highest weight $\Lambda = m_1\Lambda_1 + m_2\Lambda_2$. Then the energy density $e(\varphi)$ of the $Sp(n)$-equivariant map $\varphi:(CP^{2n-1}, g_x)\to(CP^m, h)$ corresponding to a weight $(m_1-2j)\Lambda_1$ of ρ is given by*

$$e(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2}[m_2{}^2 + (m_1+2n-1)m_2 + (n-1)m_1 + \frac{1}{x}\{(2j+1)m_1 - 2j^2\}]|v_0|^2,$$

where h is the Fubini-Study metric of CP^m. If $\varphi^*h = rg_x$ for some constant $r>0$, then r is given by

$$r = \frac{e(\varphi)}{2n-1}.$$

PROOF. We have

$$\begin{aligned} 2e(\varphi) &= \sum_{\substack{\alpha\in\Sigma_{\mathrm{m}}\\ \alpha\neq\pm\alpha_0}} \varphi^*h(X_\alpha, X_\alpha) + \sum_{\alpha=\pm\alpha_0}\varphi^*h\left(\frac{X_\alpha}{\sqrt{x}}, \frac{X_\alpha}{\sqrt{x}}\right)\\ &= \sum_{\substack{\alpha\in\Sigma_{\mathrm{m}}\\ \alpha\neq\pm\alpha_0}} \langle\rho(X_\alpha)v_0, \rho(X_\alpha)v_0\rangle + \frac{1}{x}\sum_{\alpha=\pm\alpha_0}\langle\rho(X_\alpha)v_0, \rho(X_\alpha)v_0\rangle\\ &= -\sum_{\substack{\alpha\in\Sigma_{\mathrm{m}}\\ \alpha\neq\pm\alpha_0}} \langle\rho(X_\alpha)^2v_0, v_0\rangle + \left(1-\frac{1}{x}\right)\sum_{\alpha=\pm\alpha_0}\langle\rho(X_\alpha)^2v_0, v_0\rangle\\ &= -\langle\rho(\mathscr{C})v_0, v_0\rangle - (m_1-2j)^2(\Lambda_1,\Lambda_1)|v_0|^2 + \left(1-\frac{1}{x}\right)\sum_{\alpha=\pm\alpha_0}\langle\rho(X_\alpha)^2v_0, v_0\rangle\\ &= (\Lambda, \Lambda+2\delta)|v_0|^2 - \frac{(m_1-2j)^2}{2}|v_0|^2 - \left(1-\frac{1}{x}\right)((2j+1)m_1 - 2j^2)|v_0|^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$=\left\{m_2{}^2+(m_1+2n-1)m_2+(n-1)m_1+\frac{1}{x}((2j+1)m_1-2j^2)\right\}|v_0|^2,$$

where $\alpha_0=2\sum_{1\le k<n}\alpha_k+\alpha_n$, $\mathscr{C}$ is the Casimir operator of $Sp(n)$ with respect to an $\mathrm{Ad}(Sp(n))$-invariant inner product $(,)$ of $\mathfrak{g}$, and $\delta=\Lambda_1+\cdots+\Lambda_n$. We note that the eigenvalue of the Casimir operator $\rho(\mathscr{C})$ is $-(\Lambda,\Lambda+2\delta)$, by Freudenthal's formula. If $\varphi^*h=rg_x$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned}2e(\varphi)&=\sum_{\substack{\alpha\in\Sigma_{\mathrm{m}}\\ \alpha\neq\pm\alpha_0}}\varphi^*h(X_\alpha,X_\alpha)+\sum_{\alpha=\pm\alpha_0}\varphi^*h\left(\frac{X_\alpha}{\sqrt{x}},\frac{X_\alpha}{\sqrt{x}}\right)\\ &=2(2n-1)r.\qquad \text{q.e.d.}\end{aligned}$$

THEOREM 5.5. *Consider an irreducible representation of* $Sp(n)$ *with highest weight* $m_1\Lambda_1+m_2\Lambda_2$. *Let* $\varphi:(CP^{2n-1},g_x)\to(CP^m,h)$ *be the Sp(n)-equivariant map corresponding to a weight* $(m_1-2j)\Lambda_1$ $(m_1-2j\neq0)$. *Then* φ *is an isometric immersion if the following equation holds:*

$$(*)\quad \frac{2(n-1)}{x}\{(2j+1)m_1-2j^2\}=m_2{}^2+(m_1+2n-1)m_2+(n-1)m_1.$$

In case $x=2$, g_2 *is the Fubini-Study metric. Then the equation above becomes*

$$m_2{}^2+(m_1+2n-1)m_2-2(n-1)jm_1+2(n-1)j^2=0.$$

We may rewrite Theorem 5.5 as follows.

THEOREM 5.6. *Consider the Sp(n)-equivariant map* φ *corresponding to* $\Lambda=m_1\Lambda_1+m_2\Lambda_2\in D(Sp(n),K;k)$ $(k\neq0)$. *If the equation*

$$\frac{n-1}{x}(m_1{}^2+2m_1-k^2)=m_2{}^2+(m_1+2n-1)m_2+(n-1)m_1$$

holds, then φ *is an isometric immersion. In case of* $x=2$, *the equation above becomes*

$$m_2{}^2+(m_1+2n-1)m_2-\frac{n-1}{2}(m_1{}^2-k^2)=0.$$

PROOF OF THEOREM 5.5. Assume that $\varphi^*h=rg_x$ for some constant $r>0$, then by virtue of Lemma 5.3, we have

$$r=\varphi^*h\left(\frac{X_{\alpha_0}}{\sqrt{x}},\frac{X_{\alpha_0}}{\sqrt{x}}\right)=-\frac{1}{x}\langle\rho(X_{\alpha_0}X_{\alpha_0})v_0,v_0\rangle=\frac{1}{2x}\{(2j+1)m_1-2j^2\}|v_0|^2,$$

where $\alpha_0 = 2\sum_{1\le k<n} \alpha_k + \alpha_n$. From this equation and Proposition 5.4, we have

$$\frac{1}{2x}\{(2j+1)m_1 - 2j^2\}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2(2n-1)}[m_2{}^2 + (m_1 + 2n - 1)m_2 + (n-1)m_1 + \frac{1}{x}\{(2j+1)m_1 - 2j^2\}].$$

Hence we get the equation (*).

Conversely, if the equation (*) holds, then we set

$$r = \{(2j+1)m_1 - 2j^2\}|v_0|^2 / 2x$$

and get

$$\varphi^* h(X_{\alpha_0}/\sqrt{x}, X_{\alpha_0}/\sqrt{x}) = r g_x(X_{\alpha_0}/\sqrt{x}, X_{\alpha_0}/\sqrt{x}),$$

i.e., $\varphi^* h = r g_x$ q.e.d.

REMARK.

(1) By the condition $m_1 - 2j \neq 0(\,or\ k \neq 0)$, we see a map φ is an immersion.

(2) If the map corresponding to a weight $k\Lambda_1$ is an isometric immersion, so is the map corresponding to a weight $-k\Lambda_1$. Because the equations in Theorem 5.6 remains the same by replacing k with $-k$.

(3) In case of $n = 2$, $k = 4$, and $\Lambda = 6\Lambda_1 + \Lambda_2$, we have an $Sp(n)$-equivariant, but not $SU(2n)$-equivariant, minimal immersion from CP^3 to CP^{230}.

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