Exponentially Subelliptic Harmonic Maps

Yuan Jen Chiang  
University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA, USA  
ychiang@umw.edu

Sorin Dragomir  
Università degli Studi della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy  
sorin.dragomir@unibas.it

Exponentially harmonic maps were first introduced by Eells and Lemaire [5] in 1990. Exponential wave maps are exponentially harmonic maps on Minkowski spaces, which were first studied by Chiang and Yang [1, 4] since 2007. Firstly, we deal with the critical points of maps $\phi : H_n \rightarrow S^m$ from the Heisenberg group into a sphere with energy $E_1(\phi) = \int_{\Omega} \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\|\nabla^H \phi\|_b^2\right) \theta \wedge (d\theta)^n$ for domains $\Omega \subset H_n$ and a contact structure $\theta$ on $H_n$. They are solutions to the 2nd order quasi-linear subelliptic PDE system

$$-\Delta_b \phi^j + 2e_b(\phi)\phi^j + G_{\theta}(\nabla^H e_b(\phi), \nabla^H \phi^j) = 0, 1 \leq j \leq m + 1,$$

and arise through Fefferman’s construction, i.e. as base maps $\phi : H_n \rightarrow S^m$ associated to $S^1$ invariant exponential wave maps $\Phi : C(H_n) \rightarrow S^m$ from the total space of the canonical circle bundle $S^1 \rightarrow C(H_n) \rightarrow S^m$ endowed with the Fefferman’s metric $F_\theta$. We establish Caccioppoli type estimates

$$\int_{B_r(x)} \exp\left(\frac{Q}{2}\|\nabla^H \phi\|_b^{2}\right) \|\nabla^H u\|_b^{Q} \theta \wedge (d\theta)^n \leq C r^\beta \ (0 < \beta < 1)$$

with $Q = 2n + 2$ (the homogeneous dimension of $H_n$), and show that any weak solution $\phi \in \bigcap_{p \geq Q} W^1_p(\Omega, S^m)$ of finite p-energy $E_p(\phi) < \infty$ for some $p \geq 2Q$ is locally Hölder continuous, i.e. $\phi^j \in S^0,\alpha(\Omega)$ (Hölder like spaces) for $0 < \alpha \leq 1$, built in terms of the Carnot-Carathéodory metric $\rho_\theta$. The main theorems and results are based on [2]. Secondly, we study exponentially subelliptic harmonic (e.s.h.) maps from a compact pseudo hermitian manifold $(M, \theta)$ into a Riemannian manifold $(N, h)$, i.e. $C^2$ solutions of $\phi : M \rightarrow N$ to nonlinear PDE system $\tau_b(\phi) + \phi^* \nabla^H e_b(\phi) = 0$ which are the Euler-Lagrange equation of $\delta E_b(\phi) = 0$ with $E_b(\phi) = \int_M \exp(e_b(\phi)) \theta \wedge (d\theta)^n$, where e.s.h. maps arise in a similar way as the first setting. We study the second variation formula and stability of exponentially subelliptic harmonic maps based on [3].

References:


