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Legendre curves in the unit spherical bundle and evolutes

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Dedicated to Professor Maria del Carmen Romero Fuster
on the occasion of her 60th birthday

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Abstract

In order to consider singular curves in the unit sphere, we consider Legendre curves in the unit spherical bundle. By using a moving frame, we define the curvature of Legendre curves in the unit spherical bundle. As applications, we give a relationship among Legendre curves in the unit spherical bundle, Legendre curves in the unit tangent bundle and framed curves in the Euclidean space, respectively. Moreover, we define not only an evolute of a front, but also an evolute of a frontal in the unit sphere under certain conditions. Since the evolute of a front is also a front, we can take evolute again. On the other hand, the evolute of a frontal if exists, is also a frontal. We give an existence and uniqueness conditions of the evolute of a frontal.

1 Introduction

For regular curves in the unit sphere, the Frenet Serret formula and the geodesic curvature are important to investigate geometric properties of the regular curves. On the other hand, for singular curves in the unit sphere, we can not construct the Frenet Serret formula and the geodesic curvature at singular points of the curve. For singular curves, V. I. Arnold established the spherical geometry by using Legendre singularity theory [2]. It studied fronts in the unit sphere and gave properties of fronts. Some results in this paper have already considered in [2, 15, 16, 19, 20]. However, we clarify the notations and calculations by using the curvature of Legendre curves in the unit spherical bundle. By using the curvature of the Legendre curves, we give existence and uniqueness theorems of Legendre curves in the unit spherical bundle in §2. We also give relationships among Legendre curves in the unit spherical bundle, Legendre curves in the unit tangent bundle and framed curves in the Euclidean space, respectively in §3. Moreover, we define not only an evolute of a front in §4, but also an evolute of a frontal in the unit sphere under certain conditions in §5. Since the evolute of a front is also a front,

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we can take evolute again. We give k -th evolute of the front and its curvature inductively. On the other hand, the evolute of a frontal if exists, is also a frontal. We give an existence and uniqueness conditions of the evolute of a frontal. It is a quit different property between the evolute of a frontal in the sphere and in the Euclidean plane (cf. [8]). We also give examples of evolutes of a front and a frontal in §6.

All maps and manifolds considered here are differential of class C^∞ .

2 Legendre curves in the unit spherical bundle

Let \mathbb{R}^3 be the 3-dimensional Euclidean space. The inner product on \mathbb{R}^3 is given by $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$ and the vector product of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} on \mathbb{R}^3 is given by

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 & \mathbf{e}_2 & \mathbf{e}_3 \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix},$$

where $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3$ is the canonical basis on \mathbb{R}^3 , $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$ and $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, b_3)$. We denote the unit sphere $S^2 = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 | \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x} = 1\}$.

Let $\gamma : I \rightarrow S^2$ be a regular curve. We define the unit tangent vector $\mathbf{t}(t) = \dot{\gamma}(t)/|\dot{\gamma}(t)|$ and the unit normal vector $\mathbf{n}(t) = \gamma(t) \times \dot{\gamma}(t)/|\dot{\gamma}(t)|$, where $|\dot{\gamma}(t)| = \sqrt{\dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \dot{\gamma}(t)}$ and $\dot{\gamma}(t) = (d\gamma/dt)(t)$. Then $\{\gamma(t), \mathbf{t}(t), \mathbf{n}(t)\}$ is a moving frame along $\gamma(t)$ and the Frenet Serret formula is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{\gamma}(t) \\ \dot{\mathbf{t}}(t) \\ \dot{\mathbf{n}}(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & |\dot{\gamma}(t)| & 0 \\ -|\dot{\gamma}(t)| & 0 & |\dot{\gamma}(t)|\kappa_g(t) \\ 0 & -|\dot{\gamma}(t)|\kappa_g(t) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma(t) \\ \mathbf{t}(t) \\ \mathbf{n}(t) \end{pmatrix},$$

where the geodesic curvature is

$$\kappa_g(t) = \frac{\dot{\mathbf{t}}(t) \cdot \mathbf{n}(t)}{|\dot{\gamma}(t)|} = \frac{\det(\gamma(t), \dot{\gamma}(t), \ddot{\gamma}(t))}{|\dot{\gamma}(t)|^3}.$$

The evolute $Ev(\gamma) : I \rightarrow S^2$ of a regular curve $\gamma : I \rightarrow S^2$ is given by

$$Ev(\gamma)(t) = \pm \frac{\kappa_g(t)}{\sqrt{\kappa_g^2(t) + 1}} \gamma(t) \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{\kappa_g^2(t) + 1}} \mathbf{n}(t). \quad (1)$$

By definition, we can not construct the Frenet Serret formula at singular points of $\gamma : I \rightarrow S^2$. In this paper, we would like to consider singular curves in the unit sphere.

We denote a 3-dimensional manifold $\Delta = \{(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \in S^2 \times S^2 | \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0\}$.

Definition 2.1 We say that $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a *Legendre curve* (or, *spherical Legendre curve*) if $\dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \nu(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$. We call γ a *frontal* and ν a *dual* of γ . Moreover, if (γ, ν) is a Legendre immersion, we call γ a *front*.

We consider the canonical contact structure on the unit spherical bundle $T_1S^2 = S^2 \times S^2$ over S^2 . If (γ, ν) is a Legendre curve, then (γ, ν) is an integral curve with respect to the contact structure (cf. [2]).

We define $\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \gamma(t) \times \nu(t)$. Then $\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \in S^2$, $\gamma(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = 0$ and $\nu(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = 0$. It follows that $\{\gamma(t), \nu(t), \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)\}$ is a moving frame along the frontal $\gamma(t)$. By the standard arguments, we have the Frenet Serret type formula as follows:

Proposition 2.2 *Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta$ be a Legendre curve. Then we have*

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{\gamma}(t) \\ \dot{\nu}(t) \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & m(t) \\ 0 & 0 & n(t) \\ -m(t) & -n(t) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma(t) \\ \nu(t) \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \end{pmatrix},$$

where $m(t) = \dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$ and $n(t) = \dot{\nu}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$.

We say that the pair of the functions (m, n) is the *curvature* of the Legendre curve $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$.

Note that t_0 is a singular point of γ (respectively, ν) if and only if $m(t_0) = 0$ (respectively, $n(t_0) = 0$).

Remark 2.3 If $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a Legendre curve with the curvature (m, n) , then $(\gamma, -\nu)$ is a Legendre curve with the curvature $(-m, n)$. Also $(-\gamma, \nu)$ is a Legendre curve with the curvature $(m, -n)$. Moreover (ν, γ) is a Legendre curve with the curvature $(-n, -m)$.

Definition 2.4 Let $(\gamma, \nu), (\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be Legendre curves. We say that (γ, ν) and $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu})$ are *congruent as Legendre curves* if there exists a special orthogonal matrix $A \in SO(3)$ such that

$$\tilde{\gamma}(t) = A(\gamma(t)), \quad \tilde{\nu}(t) = A(\nu(t)),$$

for all $t \in I$.

Then we have the following existence and uniqueness theorems in terms of the curvature of the Legendre curve.

Theorem 2.5 (The Existence Theorem) *Let $(m, n) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ be a smooth mapping. There exists a Legendre curve $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ whose associated curvature is (m, n) .*

Theorem 2.6 (The Uniqueness Theorem) *Let (γ, ν) and $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be Legendre curves whose curvatures (m, n) and (\tilde{m}, \tilde{n}) coincide. Then (γ, ν) and $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu})$ are congruent as Legendre curves.*

By using the theorems of the existence and uniqueness of the solution of a system of linear ordinary differential equations, these proofs are similar to the cases of regular space curves ([10]), Legendre curves in the unit tangent bundle ([6]) and framed curves ([11]), we omit it.

Example 2.7 Let $\gamma : I \rightarrow S^2$ be a regular curve. We consider a Legendre immersion $(\gamma, \mathbf{n}) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$. Then the relationship between the geodesic curvature κ_g of γ and the curvature (m, n) of (γ, \mathbf{n}) is given by $\kappa_g(t) = n(t)/|m(t)|$.

Example 2.8 Let n, m and k be natural numbers with $m = k + n$. We give a mapping $(\gamma, \nu) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ by

$$\gamma(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + t^{2n} + t^{2m}}}(1, t^n, t^m), \quad \nu(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2 + m^2 t^{2k} + k^2 t^{2m}}}(kt^m, -mt^k, n).$$

Then (γ, ν) is a Legendre curve. Since

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1+t^{2n}+t^{2m})(n^2+m^2t^{2k}+k^2t^{2m})}}(nt^n + mt^{m+k}, -n + kt^{2m}, -mt^k - kt^{m+n}),$$

the curvature is given by

$$m(t) = \frac{-t^{n-1}\sqrt{n^2+m^2t^{2k}+k^2t^{2m}}}{1+t^{2n}+t^{2m}}, \quad n(t) = \frac{knmt^{k-1}\sqrt{1+t^{2n}+t^{2m}}}{n^2+m^2t^{2k}+k^2t^{2m}}.$$

Let $\gamma : (I, t_0) \rightarrow S^2$ be a smooth curve germ and denote $\gamma(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$. It can be shown that, if γ is not infinitely flat, namely, if either $x(t), y(t)$ or $z(t)$ does not belong to \mathfrak{m}_1^∞ (the ideal of infinitely flat function germs), then γ is a frontal.

Without loss of generality, we suppose that $x(t)$ does not belong to \mathfrak{m}_1^∞ such that

$$\text{order } x(t) \leq \text{order } y(t) \leq \text{order } z(t).$$

Assume that $x(t_0) > 0$. By the assumptions and $\gamma(t) \in S^2$, there exist smooth function germs $a(t), b(t), c(t)$ around t_0 such that $y(t) = a(t)x(t)$, $z(t) = b(t)x(t)$ and $\dot{b}(t) = c(t)\dot{a}(t)$. It follows that γ is given by

$$\gamma(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+a^2(t)+b^2(t)}}(1, a(t), b(t)).$$

If we take

$$\nu(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(a(t)c(t) - b(t))^2 + c^2(t) + 1}}(a(t)c(t) - b(t), -c(t), 1),$$

then (γ, ν) is a Legendre curve.

On the other hand, constant maps in S^2 are also frontal, which do not satisfy the above sufficient condition. In particular an analytic curve germ is always frontal, because if it is infinitely flat, then it is constant.

Let I and \tilde{I} be intervals. A smooth function $u : \tilde{I} \rightarrow I$ is a (*positive*) *change of parameter* when u is surjective and has a positive derivative at every point. It follows that u is a diffeomorphism.

Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta$ and $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : \tilde{I} \rightarrow \Delta$ be Legendre curves whose curvatures are (m, n) and (\tilde{m}, \tilde{n}) respectively. Suppose that (γ, ν) and $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu})$ are parametrically equivalent via the change of parameter $t : \tilde{I} \rightarrow I$, that is, $(\tilde{\gamma}(u), \tilde{\nu}(u)) = (\gamma(t(u)), \nu(t(u)))$ for all $u \in \tilde{I}$. By differentiation, we have

$$\tilde{m}(u) = m(t(u))\dot{t}(u), \quad \tilde{n}(u) = n(t(u))\dot{t}(u). \quad (2)$$

Hence the curvature is dependent of the parametrization.

Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre curve with the curvature (m, n) . We define a parallel curve $\gamma_\theta : I \rightarrow S^2$ by

$$\gamma_\theta(t) = \cos \theta \gamma(t) + \sin \theta \nu(t),$$

where $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$. Then γ_θ is a frontal. More precisely, we have the following. We denote $\nu_\theta : I \rightarrow S^2$ by $\nu_\theta(t) = -\sin \theta \gamma(t) + \cos \theta \nu(t)$.

Proposition 2.9 *Under the above notations, $(\gamma_\theta, \nu_\theta) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a Legendre curve with the curvature*

$$(m(t) \cos \theta + n(t) \sin \theta, -m(t) \sin \theta + n(t) \cos \theta). \quad (3)$$

Proof. By definition, $\gamma_\theta(t) \cdot \nu_\theta(t) = 0$. Since $\dot{\gamma}_\theta(t) = (m(t) \cos \theta + n(t) \sin \theta)\boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$, then $\dot{\gamma}_\theta(t) \cdot \nu_\theta(t) = 0$. It follows that $(\gamma_\theta, \nu_\theta)$ is a Legendre curve. Moreover, we have $\boldsymbol{\mu}_\theta(t) = \gamma_\theta(t) \times \nu_\theta(t) = \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$ and $\dot{\nu}_\theta(t) = (-m(t) \sin \theta + n(t) \cos \theta)\boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$. The curvature of the Legendre curve is given by $(m(t) \cos \theta + n(t) \sin \theta, -m(t) \sin \theta + n(t) \cos \theta)$. \square

We say that $(\gamma_\theta, \nu_\theta)$ is a *parallel Legendre curve* of the Legendre curve (γ, ν) . Note that if (γ, ν) is a Legendre immersion, then $(\gamma_\theta, \nu_\theta)$ is also a Legendre immersion.

3 Relationships among spherical Legendre curves, Legendre curves and framed curves

First, we give a relationship between spherical Legendre curves and Legendre curves in the unit tangent bundle over \mathbb{R}^2 .

We review on the Legendre curves in the unit tangent bundle over \mathbb{R}^2 , for more detail see [6]. We say that $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ is a *Legendre curve* if $(\gamma(t), \nu(t))^* \theta = 0$ for all $t \in I$, where θ is a canonical contact 1-form on the unit tangent bundle $T_1\mathbb{R}^2 = \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ (cf. [1, 2]). This condition is equivalent to $\dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \nu(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$. We say that $\gamma : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is a *frontal* if there exists a smooth mapping $\nu : I \rightarrow S^1$ such that (γ, ν) is a Legendre curve.

Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ be a Legendre curve. Then we have the Frenet formula of the frontal γ as follows. We put $\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = J(\nu(t))$, where J is the anti-clockwise rotation by $\pi/2$ on \mathbb{R}^2 . We call the pair $\{\nu(t), \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)\}$ a *moving frame along the frontal* $\gamma(t)$ in \mathbb{R}^2 and the Frenet formula of the frontal (or, the Legendre curve) which is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{\nu}(t) \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \ell(t) \\ -\ell(t) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu(t) \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\ell(t) = \dot{\nu}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$. Moreover, there exists a smooth function $\beta(t)$ such that

$$\dot{\gamma}(t) = \beta(t)\boldsymbol{\mu}(t).$$

We say that the pair of functions (ℓ, β) is *the curvature of the Legendre curve* $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$.

Now we consider the central and the canonical projections to give relationships between Legendre curves in T_1S^2 and $T_1\mathbb{R}^2$. We denote a hemisphere $S^+ = \{(x, y, z) \in S^2 | z > 0\}$.

We consider the central projection $\Phi : S^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ by

$$\Phi(x, y, z) = \left(\frac{x}{z}, \frac{y}{z} \right).$$

The central projection is useful to analyze the pedal curves (cf. [13, 14]).

Proposition 3.1 Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a spherical Legendre curve with the curvature (m, n) and $\gamma(I) \subset S^+$. We denote $\gamma(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$ and $\nu(t) = (a(t), b(t), c(t))$. Then $\tilde{\gamma} = \Phi \circ \gamma$ is a frontal in \mathbb{R}^2 . More preciously, $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ is a Legendre curve, where

$$\tilde{\gamma}(t) = \left(\frac{x(t)}{z(t)}, \frac{y(t)}{z(t)} \right), \quad \tilde{\nu}(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}}(a(t), b(t))$$

with the curvature

$$\ell(t) = \frac{n(t)z(t)}{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}, \quad \beta(t) = \frac{m(t)z^2(t) + (x(t)b(t) - y(t)a(t))\dot{z}(t)}{z^2(t)\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}}.$$

Proof. Since (γ, ν) is a spherical Legendre curve, we have

$$x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t) + z(t)c(t) = 0, \quad \dot{x}(t)a(t) + \dot{y}(t)b(t) + \dot{z}(t)c(t) = 0.$$

It follows that $x(t)\dot{a}(t) + y(t)\dot{b}(t) + z(t)\dot{c}(t) = 0$. By definition,

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \gamma(t) \times \nu(t) = (y(t)c(t) - z(t)b(t), z(t)a(t) - x(t)c(t), x(t)b(t) - y(t)a(t)).$$

By a direct calculation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} m(t) &= \dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \frac{-\dot{x}(t)b(t) + \dot{y}(t)a(t)}{z(t)}, \\ n(t) &= \dot{\nu}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \frac{-\dot{a}(t)b(t) + a(t)\dot{b}(t)}{z(t)}. \end{aligned}$$

By the assumption $\gamma(t) \in S^+$, we have $c(t) \neq \pm 1$ and hence $a^2(t) + b^2(t) \neq 0$. It follows that $\tilde{\nu} : I \rightarrow S^1, \tilde{\nu}(t) = (a(t), b(t))/\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}$ is a smooth mapping. Moreover, we have

$$\dot{\tilde{\gamma}}(t) = \left(\frac{\dot{x}(t)z(t) - x(t)\dot{z}(t)}{z^2(t)}, \frac{\dot{y}(t)z(t) - y(t)\dot{z}(t)}{z^2(t)} \right)$$

and $\dot{\tilde{\gamma}}(t) \cdot \tilde{\nu}(t) = 0$. Therefore $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ is a Legendre curve.

Since $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) = J(\tilde{\nu}(t)) = (-b(t), a(t))/\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}$, we have the curvature

$$\begin{aligned} \ell(t) &= \dot{\tilde{\nu}}(t) \cdot \tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) = \frac{a(t)\dot{b}(t) - \dot{a}(t)b(t)}{a^2(t) + b^2(t)} = \frac{n(t)z(t)}{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}, \\ \beta(t) &= \dot{\tilde{\gamma}}(t) \cdot \tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) = \frac{(-\dot{x}(t)b(t) + \dot{y}(t)a(t))z(t) + (x(t)b(t) - y(t)a(t))\dot{z}(t)}{z^2(t)\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}} \\ &= \frac{m(t)z^2(t) + (x(t)b(t) - y(t)a(t))\dot{z}(t)}{z^2(t)\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Also, we consider the canonical projection $\pi : S^+ \rightarrow D^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ by $\pi(x, y, z) = (x, y)$, where $D^2 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 | x^2 + y^2 < 1\}$.

Proposition 3.2 Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a spherical Legendre curve with the curvature (m, n) and $\gamma(I) \subset S^+$. We denote $\gamma(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$ and $\nu(t) = (a(t), b(t), c(t))$. Then $\tilde{\gamma} = \pi \circ \gamma$ is a frontal in $D^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$. More preciously, $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow D^2 \times S^1$ is a Legendre curve, where

$$\tilde{\gamma}(t) = (x(t), y(t)), \quad \tilde{\nu}(t) = \frac{(z(t)a(t) - x(t)c(t), z(t)b(t) - y(t)c(t))}{\sqrt{(z(t)a(t) - x(t)c(t))^2 + (z(t)b(t) - y(t)c(t))^2}}$$

with the curvature

$$\begin{aligned} \ell(t) &= \frac{n(t)z(t) + x(t)\dot{y}(t) - \dot{x}(t)y(t)}{(z(t)a(t) - x(t)c(t))^2 + (z(t)b(t) - y(t)c(t))^2}, \\ \beta(t) &= \frac{m(t) - (x(t)b(t) - y(t)a(t))\dot{z}(t)}{\sqrt{(z(t)a(t) - x(t)c(t))^2 + (z(t)b(t) - y(t)c(t))^2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. If $z(t)a(t) - x(t)c(t) = 0$ and $z(t)b(t) - y(t)c(t) = 0$, then $a(t) = x(t)c(t)/z(t)$ and $b(t) = y(t)c(t)/z(t)$. Since $\nu(t) \in S^2$, we have $c^2(t) = z^2(t)$ and hence $c(t) = \pm z(t)$. It follows that $a(t) = \pm x(t)$ and $b(t) = \pm y(t)$. It is contradict the fact that $\gamma(t) \cdot \nu(t) = 0$. Hence $\tilde{\nu}$ is a smooth mapping. By $\dot{x}(t)a(t) + \dot{y}(t)b(t) + \dot{z}(t)c(t) = 0$ and $\dot{x}(t)x(t) + \dot{y}(t)y(t) + \dot{z}(t)z(t) = 0$, we have $\tilde{\gamma}(t) \cdot \tilde{\nu}(t) = 0$. Therefore $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow D^2 \times S^1$ is a Legendre curve. By a similar calculation as in Proposition 3.1, we have the curvature (ℓ, β) of the Legendre curve $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu})$. \square

Remark 3.3 As a projection from the sphere to the plane, how about the stereographic projection. The properties of the stereographic projection see [10, 17, 18], for example. Does it hold the similar results of Propositions 3.1 and 3.2 or not?

Conversely, for a Legendre curve in the unit tangent bundle, we have a spherical Legendre curve as follows.

Proposition 3.4 Let $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ be a Legendre curve with the curvature (ℓ, β) . We denote $\tilde{\gamma}(t) = (x(t), y(t))$ and $\tilde{\nu}(t) = (a(t), b(t))$. Then $\gamma = \Phi^{-1} \circ \tilde{\gamma}$ is a frontal in S^+ . More preciously, $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^+ \times S^2$ is a spherical Legendre curve, where

$$\gamma(t) = \frac{(x(t), y(t), 1)}{\sqrt{1 + x^2(t) + y^2(t)}}, \quad \nu(t) = \frac{(a(t), b(t), -(x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t)))}{\sqrt{1 + (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}}$$

with the curvature

$$m(t) = \frac{\beta(t) + (x(t)\dot{y}(t) - \dot{x}(t)y(t))(x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))}{(1 + x^2(t) + y^2(t))\sqrt{1 + (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}}, \quad n(t) = \frac{\ell(t)\sqrt{1 + x^2(t) + y^2(t)}}{1 + (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}.$$

Proof. Since $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ is a Legendre curve, we have $\dot{x}(t)a(t) + \dot{y}(t)b(t) = 0$. By definition, $\tilde{\mu}(t) = J(\tilde{\nu}(t)) = (-b(t), a(t))$. It follows that

$$\ell(t) = -\dot{a}(t)b(t) + a(t)\dot{b}(t), \quad \beta(t) = -\dot{x}(t)b(t) + \dot{y}(t)a(t).$$

By a direct calculation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\gamma}(t) &= \frac{1}{1 + x^2(t) + y^2(t)} \left((1 + y^2(t))\dot{x}(t) - x(t)y(t)\dot{y}(t), \right. \\ &\quad \left. (1 + x^2(t))\dot{y}(t) - x(t)\dot{x}(t)y(t), -(x(t)\dot{x}(t) + y(t)\dot{y}(t)) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Then $\gamma(t) \cdot \nu(t) = 0$ and $\dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \nu(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$. Therefore $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^+ \times S^2$ is a spherical Legendre curve. Since

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) &= \gamma(t) \times \nu(t) \\ &= \frac{(-x(t)y(t)a(t) - (1 + y^2(t))b(t), (1 + x^2(t))a(t) + x(t)y(t)b(t), x(t)b(t) - y(t)a(t))}{\sqrt{(1 + x^2(t) + y^2(t))(1 + (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2)}}, \end{aligned}$$

we have the curvature

$$\begin{aligned} m(t) &= \dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \frac{(x(t)\dot{y}(t) - \dot{x}(t)y(t))(x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t)) - \dot{x}(t)b(t) + \dot{y}(t)a(t)}{(1 + x^2(t) + y^2(t))\sqrt{1 + (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}} \\ &= \frac{\beta(t) + (x(t)\dot{y}(t) - \dot{x}(t)y(t))(x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))}{(1 + x^2(t) + y^2(t))\sqrt{1 + (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}}, \\ n(t) &= \dot{\nu}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \frac{(a(t)\dot{b}(t) - \dot{a}(t)b(t))\sqrt{1 + x^2(t) + y^2(t)}}{1 + (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2} \\ &= \frac{\ell(t)\sqrt{1 + x^2(t) + y^2(t)}}{1 + (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Proposition 3.5 *Let $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow D^2 \times S^1$ be a Legendre curve with the curvature (ℓ, β) . We denote $\tilde{\gamma}(t) = (x(t), y(t))$ and $\tilde{\nu}(t) = (a(t), b(t))$. Then $\gamma = \pi^{-1} \circ \tilde{\gamma}$ is a frontal in S^+ . More precisely, $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^+ \times S^2$ is a spherical Legendre curve, where*

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(t) &= (x(t), y(t), z(t)), \\ \nu(t) &= \frac{(a(t) - x(t)(x(t)a(t) - y(t)b(t)), b(t) - y(t)(x(t)a(t) - y(t)b(t)), -z(t)(x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t)))}{\sqrt{1 - (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}} \end{aligned}$$

with the curvature

$$\begin{aligned} m(t) &= \frac{\beta(t) + (\dot{x}(t)y(t) - x(t)\dot{y}(t))(x(t)a(t) - y(t)b(t))}{z(t)\sqrt{1 - (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}}, \\ n(t) &= \frac{\ell(t)z^2(t) - \beta(t)(x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t)) + (x(t)\dot{y}(t) - \dot{x}(t)y(t))(x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}{z(t)(1 - (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2)}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we put $z(t) = \sqrt{1 - x^2(t) - y^2(t)}$.

Proof. Since $\tilde{\gamma}(t) \cdot \tilde{\gamma}(t) < 1$ and $\tilde{\nu}(t) \cdot \tilde{\nu}(t) = 1$, we have $x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t) < 1$ for all $t \in I$. Therefore $\nu : I \rightarrow S^2$ is a smooth mapping. By the same argument as in Proposition 3.4, we have

$$\ell(t) = -\dot{a}(t)b(t) + a(t)\dot{b}(t), \quad \beta(t) = -\dot{x}(t)b(t) + \dot{y}(t)a(t).$$

Since

$$\dot{\gamma}(t) = \left(\dot{x}(t), \dot{y}(t), -\frac{x(t)\dot{x}(t) - y(t)\dot{y}(t)}{z(t)} \right)$$

and $x^2(t) + y^2(t) + z^2(t) = 1$, we have $\gamma(t) \cdot \nu(t) = 0$ and $\dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \nu(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$. Therefore $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^+ \times S^2$ is a spherical Legendre curve. Since

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - (x(t)a(t) + y(t)b(t))^2}}(-z(t)b(t), z(t)a(t), x(t)b(t) - y(t)a(t))$$

and a direct calculation, we have the curvature (m, n) of the spherical Legendre curve (γ, ν) .
 \square

Second, we discuss relationships between framed curves in the Euclidean space and spherical Legendre curves.

We review on the framed curves in the unit tangent bundle, for more detail see [11]. We say that $(\gamma, \nu_1, \nu_2) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \times S^2 \times S^2$ is a *framed curve* if

$$\dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \nu_1(t) = 0, \quad \dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \nu_2(t) = 0, \quad \nu_1(t) \cdot \nu_2(t) = 0$$

for all $t \in I$. Then $(\nu_1, \nu_2) \in \Delta$.

Let $(\gamma, \nu_1, \nu_2) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \times \Delta$ be a framed curve and denote $\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \nu_1(t) \times \nu_2(t)$. The Frenet Serret type formula is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{\nu}_1(t) \\ \dot{\nu}_2(t) \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \ell(t) & m(t) \\ -\ell(t) & 0 & n(t) \\ -m(t) & -n(t) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1(t) \\ \nu_2(t) \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\ell(t) = \dot{\nu}_1(t) \cdot \nu_2(t)$, $m(t) = \dot{\nu}_1(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$ and $n(t) = \dot{\nu}_2(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$. Moreover, there exists a smooth mapping $\alpha : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\dot{\gamma}(t) = \alpha(t)\boldsymbol{\mu}(t).$$

We say that the pair of the functions (ℓ, m, n, α) is the curvature of the framed curve $(\gamma, \nu_1, \nu_2) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \times \Delta$.

Let $(\gamma, \nu_1, \nu_2) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \times \Delta$ be a framed curve with the curvature of the framed curve (ℓ, m, n, α) . For the normal plane of $\gamma(t)$, spanned by $\nu_1(t)$ and $\nu_2(t)$, there is some ambient of framed curves similarly to the case of the Bishop frame of a regular space curve (cf. [4]). We define $(\bar{\nu}_1(t), \bar{\nu}_2(t)) \in \Delta$ by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \bar{\nu}_1(t) \\ \bar{\nu}_2(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta(t) & -\sin \theta(t) \\ \sin \theta(t) & \cos \theta(t) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1(t) \\ \nu_2(t) \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\theta(t)$ is a smooth function. Then $(\gamma, \bar{\nu}_1, \bar{\nu}_2) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \times \Delta$ is also a framed curve and

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) &= \bar{\nu}_1(t) \times \bar{\nu}_2(t) \\ &= (\cos \theta(t)\nu_1(t) - \sin \theta(t)\nu_2(t)) \times (\sin \theta(t)\nu_1(t) + \cos \theta(t)\nu_2(t)) \\ &= \nu_1(t) \times \nu_2(t) = \boldsymbol{\mu}(t). \end{aligned}$$

By a direct calculation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\bar{\nu}}_1(t) &= (\ell(t) - \dot{\theta}(t)) \sin \theta(t)\nu_1(t) + (\ell(t) - \dot{\theta}(t)) \cos \theta(t)\nu_2(t) \\ &\quad + (m(t) \cos \theta(t) - n(t) \sin \theta(t))\boldsymbol{\mu}(t), \\ \dot{\bar{\nu}}_2(t) &= -(\ell(t) - \dot{\theta}(t)) \cos \theta(t)\nu_1(t) + (\ell(t) - \dot{\theta}(t)) \sin \theta(t)\nu_2(t) \\ &\quad + (m(t) \sin \theta(t) + n(t) \cos \theta(t))\boldsymbol{\mu}(t). \end{aligned}$$

If we take a smooth function $\theta : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which satisfies $\dot{\theta}(t) = \ell(t)$, then we call the frame $\{\bar{\nu}_1(t), \bar{\nu}_2(t), \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)\}$ an *adapted frame* along the framed base curve $\gamma(t)$. It follows that the Frenet Serret type formula is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{\bar{\nu}}_1(t) \\ \dot{\bar{\nu}}_2(t) \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \bar{m}(t) \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{n}(t) \\ -\bar{m}(t) & -\bar{n}(t) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\nu}_1(t) \\ \bar{\nu}_2(t) \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\bar{m}(t)$ and $\bar{n}(t)$ are given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \bar{m}(t) \\ \bar{n}(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta(t) & -\sin \theta(t) \\ \sin \theta(t) & \cos \theta(t) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} m(t) \\ n(t) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Proposition 3.6 *Let $(\gamma, \nu_1, \nu_2) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \times \Delta$ be a framed curve with the curvature (ℓ, m, n, α) .*

(1) *Suppose that $\{\bar{\nu}_1(t), \bar{\nu}_2(t), \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)\}$ is an adapted frame of $\gamma(t)$. Then $(\bar{\nu}_1, \bar{\nu}_2) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a spherical Legendre curve with the curvature $(\bar{m}(t), \bar{n}(t))$.*

(2) *Let $\gamma(t)$ be non-zero. We denote $\tilde{\gamma}(t) = \gamma(t)/|\gamma(t)|$ and $\tilde{\gamma}(t) = a(t)\nu_1(t) + b(t)\nu_2(t) + c(t)\boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$ with $a^2(t) + b^2(t) + c^2(t) = 1$. Suppose that $a^2(t) + b^2(t) \neq 0$. Then $\tilde{\gamma}(t)$ is a frontal in S^2 . More preciously, $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a spherical Legendre curve, where*

$$\tilde{\nu}(t) = \frac{\tilde{\gamma}(t) \times \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)}{|\tilde{\gamma}(t) \times \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)|},$$

with the curvature

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{m}(t) &= -\frac{a(t)m(t) + b(t)n(t) + \dot{c}(t)}{\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}}, \\ \tilde{n}(t) &= \frac{(a^2(t) + b^2(t))(a(t)n(t) - b(t)m(t) + c(t)\ell(t)) + (a(t)\dot{b}(t) - \dot{a}(t)b(t))c(t)}{\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. (1) By definition, $(\bar{\nu}_1, \bar{\nu}_2)$ is a spherical Legendre curve with the curvature $(\bar{m}(t), \bar{n}(t))$.

(2) Since $\tilde{\nu}(t) = (b(t)\nu_1(t) - a(t)\nu_2(t))/\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}$, we have

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}}(a(t)c(t)\nu_1(t) + b(t)c(t)\nu_2(t) - (a^2(t) + b^2(t))\boldsymbol{\mu}(t)).$$

By using the Frenet Serret type formula, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\tilde{\gamma}}(t) &= (\dot{a}(t) - b(t)\ell(t) - c(t)m(t))\nu_1(t) + (\dot{b}(t) + a(t)\ell(t) - c(t)n(t))\nu_2(t) \\ &\quad + (\dot{c}(t) + a(t)m(t) + b(t)n(t))\boldsymbol{\mu}(t), \\ \dot{\tilde{\nu}}(t) &= \frac{1}{(a^2(t) + b^2(t))^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left((\dot{b}(t)a^2(t) + a(t)(a^2(t) + b^2(t))\ell(t) - \dot{a}(t)a(t)b(t))\nu_1(t) \right. \\ &\quad + (-\dot{a}(t)b^2(t) + b(t)(a^2(t) + b^2(t))\ell(t) + \dot{b}(t)a(t)b(t))\nu_2(t) \\ &\quad \left. + (a^2(t) + b^2(t))(-a(t)n(t) + b(t)m(t))\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \right). \end{aligned}$$

By a direct calculation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{m}(t) &= \dot{\tilde{\gamma}}(t) \cdot \tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) = -\frac{a(t)m(t) + b(t)n(t) + \dot{c}(t)}{\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}}, \\ \tilde{n}(t) &= \dot{\tilde{\nu}}(t) \cdot \tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) \\ &= \frac{(a^2(t) + b^2(t))(a(t)n(t) - b(t)m(t) + c(t)\ell(t)) + (a(t)\dot{b}(t) - \dot{a}(t)b(t))c(t)}{\sqrt{a^2(t) + b^2(t)}}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Conversely, for a spherical Legendre curve, we have a framed curve as follows.

Proposition 3.7 Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a spherical Legendre curve with the curvature (m, n) . Then $(\gamma, \gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow S^2 \times \Delta \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \times \Delta$ is a framed curve with the curvature $(\ell, m, n, \alpha) = (0, m, n, m)$.

Proof. Since $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a spherical Legendre curve, $(\gamma, \gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow S^2 \times \Delta \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \times \Delta$ is a framed curve with the curvature $(0, m, n, m)$. \square

4 Evolutes of fronts in the sphere

In this section, we assume that $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a Legendre immersion, that is, $(m(t), n(t)) \neq (0, 0)$ for all $t \in I$. We define an evolute of the front and give properties of the evolute in the sphere. The evolute of curves in the Euclidean plane see [5, 7, 8, 9].

Definition 4.1 We define an evolute $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma) : I \rightarrow S^2$ of the front γ by

$$\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t) = \pm \frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \gamma(t) \mp \frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \nu(t) \quad (4)$$

Remark 4.2 If (γ, ν) is a Legendre immersion with the curvature (m, n) , then $(\gamma, -\nu)$ (respectively, $(-\gamma, \nu)$) is a Legendre immersion with the curvature $(-m, n)$ (respectively, $(m, -n)$) by Remark 2.3. It is easy to see that the evolute $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)$ does not change. For the case (ν, γ) , see below Corollary 4.6.

Proposition 4.3 Let $\gamma : I \rightarrow S^2$ be a regular curve with the geodesic curvature κ_g . Then the evolute of the regular curve and the evolute of the front are coincide.

Proof. We consider a Legendre immersion $(\gamma, \mathbf{n}) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ with the curvature (m, n) , see Example 2.7. Since $\mathbf{n}(t) = \nu(t)$ and $\mathbf{t}(t) = -\boldsymbol{\mu}(t)$, we have $m(t) < 0$. By $\kappa_g(t) = n(t)/|m(t)| = -n(t)/m(t)$ and the definition of the evolute of the regular curve (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t) &= \pm \frac{\kappa_g(t)}{\sqrt{\kappa_g^2(t) + 1}} \gamma(t) \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{\kappa_g^2(t) + 1}} \mathbf{n}(t) \\ &= \pm \frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \gamma(t) \mp \frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \nu(t) = \mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t). \end{aligned}$$

\square

Proposition 4.4 Suppose that $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ and $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\nu}) : \tilde{I} \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ are parametrically equivalent via the change of parameter $t : \tilde{I} \rightarrow I$. Then $\mathcal{E}v(\tilde{\gamma})(u) = \mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t(u))$.

Proof. We denote $(m(t), n(t))$ and $(\tilde{m}(u), \tilde{n}(u))$ the curvature of $(\gamma(t), \nu(t))$ and $(\tilde{\gamma}(u), \tilde{\nu}(u))$ respectively. By the assumption, we have $(\tilde{\gamma}(u), \tilde{\nu}(u)) = (\gamma(t(u)), \nu(t(u)))$. By using the relationship between the curvature (2), we have $\mathcal{E}v(\tilde{\gamma})(u) = \mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t(u))$. \square

Proposition 4.5 Let $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ and $(\gamma_\theta, \nu_\theta) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a parallel Legendre immersion of (γ, ν) . Then the evolute of the parallel curve and the evolute of the front are coincide.

Proof. By Proposition 2.9, $(m_\theta(t), n_\theta(t)) = (m(t) \cos \theta + n(t) \sin \theta, -m(t) \cos \theta + n(t) \sin \theta)$ is the curvature of $(\gamma_\theta, \nu_\theta)$. Then we have $m_\theta^2(t) + n_\theta^2(t) = m^2(t) + n^2(t)$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{E}v(\gamma_\theta)(t) &= \pm \frac{n_\theta(t)}{\sqrt{m_\theta^2(t) + n_\theta^2(t)}} \gamma_\theta(t) \mp \frac{m_\theta(t)}{\sqrt{m_\theta^2(t) + n_\theta^2(t)}} \nu_\theta(t) \\
&= \pm \frac{(-m(t) \sin \theta + n(t) \cos \theta)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} (\cos \theta \gamma(t) + \sin \theta \nu(t)) \\
&\quad \mp \frac{(m(t) \cos \theta + n(t) \sin \theta)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} (-\sin \theta \gamma(t) + \cos \theta \nu(t)) \\
&= \pm \frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \gamma(t) \mp \frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \nu(t) = \mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t).
\end{aligned}$$

□

If we take $\theta = \pi/2$, then $(\gamma_\theta, \nu_\theta) = (\nu, -\gamma)$. By Proposition 4.5 and Remark 4.2, we have the following Corollary.

Corollary 4.6 *For a Legendre immersion $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$, (ν, γ) is also a Legendre immersion. Then the evolute of the front and the evolute of the dual curve are coincide, that is, $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t) = \mathcal{E}v(\nu)(t)$.*

We define a family of functions $H : I \times S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$H(t, \mathbf{v}) = \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \cdot \mathbf{v}.$$

Proposition 4.7 *Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre immersion with the curvature (m, n) . We have the following.*

- (1) $H(t, \mathbf{v}) = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{v} = a\gamma(t) + b\nu(t)$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ with $a^2 + b^2 = 1$.
- (2) $H(t, \mathbf{v}) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial t}(t, \mathbf{v}) = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{v} = \pm \frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \gamma(t) \mp \frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \nu(t)$.

Proof. (1) Since $\{\gamma(t), \nu(t), \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)\}$ is an orthogonal base on \mathbb{R}^3 , we have $\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$ if and only if there exist real numbers $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mathbf{v} = a\gamma(t) + b\nu(t) \in S^2$.

(2) Since $(d/dt)H(t, \mathbf{v}) = (-m(t)\gamma(t) - n(t)\nu(t)) \cdot \mathbf{v}$, we have $a^2 + b^2 = 1$ and $am(t) + bn(t) = 0$. It follows that

$$a = \pm \frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}}, \quad b = \mp \frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}}.$$

By a direct calculation, the converse holds. □

We can show that H is a *Morse family*, in the sense of Legendrian singularity theory (cf. [1, 3, 12, 21]), namely, $(H, \partial H/\partial t) : I \times S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ is a submersion at $(t, \mathbf{v}) \in D(H)$, where

$$D(H) = \{(t, \mathbf{v}) \mid H(t, \mathbf{v}) = (\partial H/\partial t)(t, \mathbf{v}) = 0\}.$$

It follows that the evolute of the front $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)$ is a (wave) front of a Legendre immersion and is given by the envelope of the parallel of the front. In fact, we have the following.

Proposition 4.8 Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre immersion with the curvature (m, n) . Then $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)$ is a front. More precisely, $(\mathcal{E}v(\gamma), \boldsymbol{\mu}) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a Legendre immersion with the curvature

$$m_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \frac{\dot{m}(t)n(t) - m(t)\dot{n}(t)}{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}, \quad n_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \pm \sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}.$$

Proof. Here we denote $(\gamma_{\mathcal{E}v}, \nu_{\mathcal{E}v}) = (\mathcal{E}v(\gamma), \boldsymbol{\mu})$. By definition of the evolute of the front $\mathcal{E}v(t)$, $\gamma_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) \cdot \nu_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$. Moreover, since

$$\dot{\gamma}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \pm \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \right) \gamma(t) \mp \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \right) \nu(t),$$

we have $\dot{\gamma}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) \cdot \nu_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$. Hence $(\gamma_{\mathcal{E}v}, \nu_{\mathcal{E}v}) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a Legendre curve. By a direct calculation, we have $\dot{\nu}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \dot{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) = -m(t)\gamma(t) - n(t)\nu(t)$ and

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \gamma_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) \times \nu_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \mp \frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \gamma(t) \mp \frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \nu(t).$$

Then the curvature is given by

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) &= \dot{\gamma}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) \\ &= -\frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \right) + \frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \right) \\ &= \frac{\dot{m}(t)n(t) - m(t)\dot{n}(t)}{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}, \\ n_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) &= \dot{\nu}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) \\ &= \pm \frac{m^2(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \pm \frac{n^2(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} = \pm \sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from $n_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) \neq 0$ for all $t \in I$ that $(\gamma_{\mathcal{E}v}, \nu_{\mathcal{E}v})$ is a Legendre immersion. \square

Remark 4.9 The evolute of γ and of ν are coincide by Corollary 4.6. It follows that the evolute of $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ is given by the second evolute of γ , see Theorem 4.11 below, that is, $\mathcal{E}v(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \mathcal{E}v(\mathcal{E}v(\gamma))$ by Proposition 4.8

We denote a plane by $P(\mathbf{v}, a) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v} = a\}$, where $\mathbf{v} \in S^2$ is a constant vector and $a \in \mathbb{R}$ is a constant.

Proposition 4.10 Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre immersion with the curvature (m, n) . Then $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t)$ is a constant if and only if there exist a vector $\mathbf{v} \in S^2$ and $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ with $a^2 + b^2 = 1$ such that $\gamma(t) \subset P(\mathbf{v}, a) \cap S^2$ and $\nu(t) \subset P(\mathbf{v}, b) \cap S^2$.

Proof. By Proposition 4.8 and $\dot{\mathcal{E}v}(\gamma)(t) = 0$, we have $\dot{m}(t)n(t) - m(t)\dot{n}(t) = 0$ and $m^2(t) + n^2(t) \neq 0$ for all $t \in I$. Then m and n are linearly dependent, that is, there exist $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ with $a^2 + b^2 = 1$ such that $am(t) + bn(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$. By the Frenet Serret formula, we have $a\dot{\gamma}(t) + b\dot{\nu}(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$. There exists a constant vector $\mathbf{v} \in S^2$ such that $a\gamma(t) + b\nu(t) = \mathbf{v}$. Therefore, we have $\gamma(t) \subset P(\mathbf{v}, a) \cap S^2$ and $\nu(t) \subset P(\mathbf{v}, b) \cap S^2$.

Conversely, if $\gamma(t) \cdot \mathbf{v} = a$ and $\nu(t) \cdot \mathbf{v} = b$, then $m(t)\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$ and $n(t)\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$. It follows that $\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$. Since $\{\gamma(t), \nu(t), \boldsymbol{\mu}(t)\}$ is an orthogonal basis on \mathbb{R}^3 , we can denote $\mathbf{v} = a\gamma(t) + b\nu(t)$. By differentiate, we have $am(t) + bn(t) = 0$ and $a\dot{m}(t) + b\dot{n}(t) = 0$. Since $a^2 + b^2 = 1$, we have $\dot{m}(t)n(t) - m(t)\dot{n}(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$. It follows that $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)$ is a constant. \square

Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre immersion with the curvature (m, n) . We give the form of the k -th evolute of the front, where k is a natural number. We denote

$$\mathcal{E}v^0(\gamma)(t) = \gamma(t), \quad \nu_0(t) = \nu(t), \quad \boldsymbol{\mu}_0(t) = \boldsymbol{\mu}(t), \quad m_0 = m(t), \quad n_0 = n(t),$$

for convenience. We define

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) &= \mathcal{E}v(\mathcal{E}v^{k-1}(\gamma))(t), \quad \nu_k(t) = \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k-1}(t), \quad \boldsymbol{\mu}_k(t) = \mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) \times \nu_k(t), \\ m_k(t) &= \frac{\dot{m}_{k-1}(t)n_{k-1}(t) - m_{k-1}(t)\dot{n}_{k-1}(t)}{m_{k-1}^2(t) + n_{k-1}^2(t)}, \quad n_k(t) = \pm \sqrt{m_{k-1}^2(t) + n_{k-1}^2(t)}, \end{aligned}$$

inductively. Then we have the following theorem.

Theorem 4.11 *Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre immersion with the curvature (m, n) . Then $\mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)$ is a front. More precisely, $(\mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma), \nu_k) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a Legendre immersion with the curvature (m_k, n_k) , where*

$$\mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) = \pm \frac{n_{k-1}(t)}{\sqrt{m_{k-1}^2(t) + n_{k-1}^2(t)}} \mathcal{E}v^{k-1}(\gamma)(t) \mp \frac{m_{k-1}(t)}{\sqrt{m_{k-1}^2(t) + n_{k-1}^2(t)}} \nu_{k-1}(t).$$

Proof. By Proposition 4.8, the case of $k = 1$ holds.

Suppose that the case of k holds. We consider $\mathcal{E}v(\mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma))(t)$. By the assumption, $(\mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma), \nu_k)$ is a Legendre immersion with the curvature (m_k, n_k) . By Proposition 4.8, the $(k+1)$ -th evolute of the front is given by

$$\mathcal{E}v^{k+1}(\gamma)(t) = \pm \frac{n_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) \mp \frac{m_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \nu_k(t).$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}v^{k+1}(\gamma)(t) &= \pm \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{n_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \right) \mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) \pm \frac{n_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} m_k(t) \boldsymbol{\mu}_k(t) \\ &\mp \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{m_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \right) \nu_k(t) \mp \frac{m_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} n_k(t) \boldsymbol{\mu}_k(t) \\ &= \pm \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{n_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \right) \mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) \mp \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{m_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \right) \nu_k(t), \end{aligned}$$

and $\nu_{k+1}(t) = \boldsymbol{\mu}_k(t) = \mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) \times \nu_k(t)$, we have $\mathcal{E}v^{k+1}(\gamma)(t) \cdot \nu_{k+1}(t) = 0$ and $\dot{\mathcal{E}}v^{k+1}(\gamma)(t) \cdot \nu_{k+1}(t) = 0$. It follows that $(\mathcal{E}v^{k+1}(\gamma), \nu_{k+1}) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a Legendre curve. Since

$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{k+1}(t) = \mathcal{E}v^{k+1}(\gamma)(t) \times \nu_{k+1}(t)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
m_{k+1}(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}v^{k+1}(\gamma)(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k+1}(t) \\
&= -\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{n_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \right) \frac{m_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) \cdot (\nu_k(t) \times \boldsymbol{\mu}_k(t)) \\
&\quad - \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{m_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \right) \frac{n_k(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \nu_k(t) \cdot (\mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) \times \boldsymbol{\mu}_k(t)) \\
&= \frac{\dot{m}_k(t)n_k(t) - m_k(t)\dot{n}_k(t)}{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, since $\dot{\nu}_{k+1}(t) = \dot{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_k(t) = -m_k(t)\mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) - n_k(t)\nu_k(t)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
n_{k+1}(t) &= \dot{\nu}_{k+1}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k+1}(t) \\
&= \pm \frac{m_k^2(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) \cdot (\nu_k(t) \times \boldsymbol{\mu}_k(t)) \\
&\quad \mp \frac{n_k^2(t)}{\sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}} \nu_k(t) \cdot (\mathcal{E}v^k(\gamma)(t) \times \boldsymbol{\mu}_k(t)) \\
&= \pm \sqrt{m_k^2(t) + n_k^2(t)}.
\end{aligned}$$

It follows from $n_{k+1}(t) \neq 0$ for all $t \in I$ that $(\mathcal{E}v^{k+1}(\gamma), \nu_{k+1})$ is also a Legendre immersion with the curvature (m_{k+1}, n_{k+1}) . This completes the proof of Theorem. \square

5 Evolutes of frontals in the sphere

Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre curve with the curvature (m, n) . We define an evolute of the frontal as follows.

Definition 5.1 The *evolute* $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma) : I \rightarrow S^2$ of the frontal γ is given by

$$\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t) = \pm p(t)\gamma(t) \pm q(t)\nu(t),$$

if there exists a smooth mapping $(p, q) : I \rightarrow S^1$ such that

$$m(t)p(t) + n(t)q(t) = 0 \tag{5}$$

for all $t \in I$. In this case, we say that *the evolute* $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)$ exists.

Remark 5.2 If $m(t) = n(t) = 0$ for all $t \in I$, that is, $\gamma(t)$ and $\nu(t)$ are constant vectors in S^2 , then for any smooth mapping $(p, q) : I \rightarrow S^1$ satisfies the condition $m(t)p(t) + n(t)q(t) = 0$. Then the evolute exists but does not unique.

The uniqueness condition is well-known as a topological condition.

Lemma 5.3 *Suppose that there exists a continuous mapping $(p, q) : I \rightarrow S^1$ such that $p(t) = n(t)/\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}$ and $q(t) = -m(t)/\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}$ on $X = \{t \in I \mid m^2(t) + n^2(t) \neq 0\}$. Then the mapping (p, q) is a unique if and only if X is a dense subset of I , namely, $\overline{X} = I$.*

Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre curve with the curvature (m, n) . In this section, we assume that $X = \{t \in I \mid m^2(t) + n^2(t) \neq 0\}$ is a dense subset of I , that is, the set of regular points of the Legendre curve (γ, ν) is a dense subset of I . This condition follows that if such a smooth mapping $(p, q) : I \rightarrow S^2$ exists, then the uniqueness condition is satisfied by Lemma 5.3. Note that if the singular points (γ, ν) are isolated, then the condition that X is a dense subset of I is satisfied.

The existence condition of the evolute of a frontal is as follows. It is a quit different property between the evolute of a frontal in the sphere and in the Euclidean plane (cf. [8]).

Proposition 5.4 *Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre curve with the curvature (m, n) . If $m(t)$ or $n(t)$ does not belong to \mathfrak{m}_1^∞ around t_0 , then the evolute of the frontal $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)$ exists around t_0 .*

Proof. Suppose that $m(t) \notin \mathfrak{m}_1^\infty$ around t_0 . There exists a smooth function $\lambda : (I, t_0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $n(t) = \lambda(t)m(t)$ around t_0 . We put

$$p(t) = \frac{\lambda(t)}{\sqrt{\lambda(t)^2 + 1}}, \quad q(t) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda(t)^2 + 1}}.$$

Then the condition $m(t)p(t) + n(t)q(t) = 0$ holds around t_0 . Therefore the evolute of the frontal $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)$ exists around t_0 . By the similar arguments, we can prove the case of $n(t) \notin \mathfrak{m}_1^\infty$ around t_0 . \square

Proposition 5.5 *Let $(\gamma, \nu) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be a Legendre curve with the curvature (m, n) . If the evolute $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)$ of the frontal exists with $(p, q) : I \rightarrow S^1$ satisfies (5), then the evolute $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)$ is also a frontal. More precisely, $(\mathcal{E}v(\gamma), \boldsymbol{\mu}) : I \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a Legendre curve with the curvature*

$$m_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \dot{p}(t)q(t) - p(t)\dot{q}(t), \quad n_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \mp m(t)q(t) \pm n(t)p(t).$$

Proof. By the Frenet Serret type formula (Proposition 2.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathcal{E}v}(\gamma)(t) &= \pm \dot{p}(t)\gamma(t) \pm p(t)\dot{\gamma}(t) \pm \dot{q}(t)\nu(t) \pm q(t)\dot{\nu}(t) \\ &= \pm \dot{p}(t)\gamma(t) \pm \dot{q}(t)\nu(t) \pm (m(t)p(t) + n(t)q(t))\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) \\ &= \pm \dot{p}(t)\gamma(t) \pm \dot{q}(t)\nu(t). \end{aligned}$$

Since $\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \gamma(t) \times \nu(t)$, $(\mathcal{E}v(\gamma), \boldsymbol{\mu})$ is a Legendre curve. We denote $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t) \times \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \pm q(t)\gamma(t) \mp p(t)\nu(t)$. Thus, the curvature is given by

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) &= \dot{\mathcal{E}v}(\gamma)(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \dot{p}(t)q(t) - p(t)\dot{q}(t), \\ n_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) &= \dot{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = \mp m(t)q(t) \pm n(t)p(t). \end{aligned}$$

\square

Remark 5.6 By Proposition 5.5, if $n_{\mathcal{E}v}(t) = 0$, then we have $m(t) = n(t) = 0$. Hence if the set of regular points of the Legendre curve (γ, ν) is a dense subset of I , then the set of regular points of $(\mathcal{E}v(\gamma), \boldsymbol{\mu})$ is also a dense subset of I . By Proposition 5.4, if $m_{\mathcal{E}v}(t)$ or $n_{\mathcal{E}v}(t)$ dose not belong to \mathfrak{m}_1^∞ , then there exists unique the second evolute $\mathcal{E}v^2(\gamma)$ of the Legendre curve (γ, ν) at least locally.

6 Examples

We give examples of the evolutes of fronts and frontals.

Example 6.1 (Spherical nephroid) Let $(\gamma, \nu) : [0, 2\pi) \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ be

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(t) &= \left(\frac{3}{4} \cos t - \frac{1}{4} \cos 3t, \frac{3}{4} \sin t - \frac{1}{4} \sin 3t, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \cos t \right), \\ \nu(t) &= \left(\frac{3}{4} \sin t - \frac{1}{4} \sin 3t, -\frac{3}{4} \cos t - \frac{1}{4} \cos 3t, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin t \right).\end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\dot{\gamma}(t) = \left(-\frac{3}{4} \sin t + \frac{3}{4} \sin 3t, \frac{3}{4} \cos t - \frac{3}{4} \cos 3t, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin t \right),$$

we have $\gamma(t) \cdot \nu(t) = 0$ and $\dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \nu(t) = 0$. Hence $(\gamma, \nu) : [0, 2\pi) \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ is a Legendre curve. By

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \cos 2t, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin 2t, -\frac{1}{2} \right),$$

the curvature is given by $(m(t), n(t)) = (\sqrt{3} \sin t, \sqrt{3} \cos t)$. It follows that (γ, ν) is a Legendre immersion. The evolute of the front is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t) &= \pm \frac{n(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \gamma(t) \mp \frac{m(t)}{\sqrt{m^2(t) + n^2(t)}} \nu(t) \\ &= \pm \cos t \gamma(t) \mp \sin t \nu(t) \\ &= \pm \left(\frac{1}{2} \cos 2t, \frac{1}{2} \sin 2t, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right)\end{aligned}$$

and the curvature of $(\mathcal{E}v(\gamma), \boldsymbol{\mu})$ is $(m_{\mathcal{E}v}(t), n_{\mathcal{E}v}(t)) = (1, \pm\sqrt{3})$ by Proposition 4.8. Then the second evolute of the front is given by

$$\mathcal{E}v^2(\gamma)(t) = \pm \frac{n_{\mathcal{E}v}(t)}{\sqrt{m_{\mathcal{E}v}^2(t) + n_{\mathcal{E}v}^2(t)}} \mathcal{E}v(t) \mp \frac{m_{\mathcal{E}v}(t)}{\sqrt{m_{\mathcal{E}v}^2(t) + n_{\mathcal{E}v}^2(t)}} \boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \pm(0, 0, 1).$$

Example 6.2 Let n, m and k be natural numbers with $m = k + n$. Consider a Legendre curve $(\gamma, \nu) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \Delta \subset S^2 \times S^2$ by

$$\gamma(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + t^{2n} + t^{2m}}} (1, t^n, t^m), \quad \nu(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2 + m^2 t^{2k} + k^2 t^{2m}}} (kt^m, -mt^k, n),$$

see Example 2.8. Then the curvature is given by

$$m(t) = \frac{-t^{n-1} \sqrt{n^2 + m^2 t^{2k} + k^2 t^{2m}}}{1 + t^{2n} + t^{2m}}, \quad n(t) = \frac{knmt^{k-1} \sqrt{1 + t^{2n} + t^{2m}}}{n^2 + m^2 t^{2k} + k^2 t^{2m}}.$$

Note that (γ, ν) is a Legendre immersion when $k = 1$ or $n = 1$. We put $1 < n \leq k = n + r$ for some natural number r . Then the evolute of the frontal is given by $\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t) = \pm p(t) \gamma(t) \pm$

$q(t)\nu(t)$, where

$$p(t) = \frac{(1 + t^{2n} + t^{2m})^{\frac{3}{2}} knmt^r}{\sqrt{(1 + t^{2n} + t^{2m})^3 (knm)^2 t^{2r} + (n^2 + m^2 t^{2k} + k^2 t^{2m})^3}},$$

$$q(t) = \frac{(n^2 + m^2 t^{2k} + k^2 t^{2m})^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\sqrt{(1 + t^{2n} + t^{2m})^3 (knm)^2 t^{2r} + (n^2 + m^2 t^{2k} + k^2 t^{2m})^3}}.$$

For example, when $n = 2, m = 5, k = 3$ and $r = 1$, then we have

$$\gamma(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + t^4 + t^{10}}}(1, t^2, t^5), \quad \nu(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4 + 25t^6 + 9t^{10}}}(3t^5, -5t^3, 2)$$

and

$$p(t) = \frac{30t(1 + t^4 + t^{10})^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\sqrt{30^2 t^2 (1 + t^4 + t^{10})^3 + (4 + 25t^6 + 9t^{10})^3}},$$

$$q(t) = \frac{(4 + 25t^6 + 9t^{10})^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\sqrt{30^2 t^2 (1 + t^4 + t^{10})^3 + (4 + 25t^6 + 9t^{10})^3}}.$$

Then the evolute of the frontal is given by

$$\mathcal{E}v(\gamma)(t) = \pm \frac{30t(1 + t^4 + t^{10})(1, t^2, t^5) + (4 + 25t^6 + 9t^{10})(3t^5, -5t^3, 2)}{\sqrt{30^2 t^2 (1 + t^4 + t^{10})^3 + (4 + 25t^6 + 9t^{10})^3}}.$$

This is an example that γ is an ordinary rhamphoid cusp, but ν is not (cf. [15, 16]). It is easy to see that the assumption of Proposition 2 in [15] page 219 (also Proposition 18.2 in [16] page 304) dose not hold.

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