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by
Qun Chen, Jürgen Jost, Linlin Sun, and Miaomiao Zhu

# DIRAC-GEODESICS AND THEIR HEAT FLOWS 

QUN CHEN, JÜRGEN JOST, LINLIN SUN, AND MIAOMIAO ZHU


#### Abstract

Dirac-geodesics are Dirac-harmonic maps from one dimensional domains. In this paper, we introduce the heat flow for Dirac-geodesics and establish its long-time existence and an asymptotic property of the global solution. We classify Dirac-geodesics on the standard 2-sphere $S^{2}(1)$ and the hyperbolic plane $\mathbb{H}^{2}$, and derive existence results on topological spheres and hyperbolic surfaces. These solutions constitute new examples of coupled Dirac-harmonic maps (in the sense that the map part is not simply a harmonic map).


## 1. Introduction

Dirac-harmonic maps were introduced in ${ }^{[4 ; 5]}$ as a geometric analytic model corresponding to the supersymmetric nonlinear $\sigma$-model of quantum field theory ${ }^{[9 ; 12]}$.

Let us describe the geometric setting. Let $(M, g)$ be a spin manifold with a fixed spin structure, and $\Sigma M$ the spinor bundle over $M$, on which we chose a Hermitian metric $\langle\cdot, \cdot\rangle$. The Levi-Civita connection $\nabla$ on $\Sigma M$ is compatible with $\langle\cdot, \cdot\rangle$. Let $(N, h)$ be a Riemannian manifold, $\Phi$ a map from $M$ to $N$, and $\Phi^{-1} T N$ the pull-back bundle of $T N$ by $\Phi$. On the twisted bundle $\Sigma M \otimes \Phi^{-1} T N$ there is a metric (still denoted by $\langle\cdot, \cdot\rangle$ ) induced from the metrics on $\Sigma M$ and $\Phi^{-1} T N$. There is a connection, still denoted by $\nabla$, on $\Sigma M \otimes \Phi^{-1} T N$ naturally induced from those on $\Sigma M$ and $\Phi^{-1} T N$.

The Dirac operator along the map $\Phi$ is defined as

$$
\begin{aligned}
\not D \Psi & :=e_{i} \cdot \nabla_{e_{i}} \Psi \\
& =\Delta \psi^{\alpha} \otimes \theta_{\alpha}+e_{i} \cdot \psi^{\alpha} \otimes \nabla_{e_{i}} \theta_{\alpha}
\end{aligned}
$$

where we write a cross-section $\Psi$ of $\Sigma M \otimes \Phi^{-1} T N$ locally as $\Psi=\psi^{\alpha} \otimes \theta_{\alpha},\left\{\psi^{\alpha}\right\}$ are local cross-sections of $\Sigma M$, and $\left\{\theta_{\alpha}\right\}$ are local cross-sections of $\Phi^{-1} T N,\left\{e_{i}\right\}$ is a local orthonormal basis on $M, \rho:=e_{i} \cdot \nabla_{e_{i}}$ is the usual Dirac operator on $M$ and " $X$." stands for the Clifford multiplication by the vector field $X$ on $M$. Here and in the sequel, we use the usual summation convention.

Consider the functional

$$
L(\Phi, \Psi)=\frac{1}{2} \int_{M}\left(\|\mathrm{~d} \Phi\|^{2}+\langle\Psi, \not D \Psi\rangle\right) .
$$

The critical points $(\Phi, \Psi)$ have to satisfy in $M^{\circ}$ the following Euler-Lagrange equations for $L(\Phi, \Psi)\left(\right.$ c.f. $\left.{ }^{[4]}\right)$ :

$$
\left\{\begin{align*}
\tau(\Phi) & =\frac{1}{2}\left\langle\psi^{\alpha}, e_{i} \cdot \psi^{\beta}\right\rangle R^{N}\left(\theta_{\alpha}, \theta_{\beta}\right) \Phi_{*}\left(e_{i}\right) \equiv \mathcal{R}(\Phi, \Psi),  \tag{1.1}\\
\not D \Psi & =0
\end{align*}\right.
$$

where $R^{N}(X, Y):=\left[\nabla_{X}, \nabla_{Y}\right]-\nabla_{[X, Y]}$, for $X, Y \in \Gamma(T N)$, stands for the curvature operator of $N$, and $\tau(\Phi)$ is the tension field of $\Phi$. Solutions of (1.1) are called Dirac-harmonic maps from $M$ to $N$. When $M$ has nonempty boundary $\partial M$, then we need to impose appropriate boundary conditions for $(\Phi, \Psi)$, see e.g. ${ }^{[6 ; 7 ; 22]}$.

[^0]When the dimension of the domain manifold $M$ is one, Dirac-harmonic maps are called Dirac-geodesics. The corresponding functional is of the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
L(\gamma, \Psi)=\frac{1}{2}\left(\int_{M}\|\dot{\gamma}\|^{2}+\langle\Psi, \not D \Psi\rangle\right), \tag{1.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\dot{\gamma}$ denotes the spatial derivative $\mathrm{d} \gamma / \mathrm{d} s, M$ is an interval, say $[0,1]$ in $\mathbb{R}^{1}$.
In ${ }^{[11]}$, Isobe introduced a modified functional

$$
L_{F}(\gamma, \Psi)=\frac{1}{2}\left(\int_{S^{1}}\|\dot{\gamma}\|^{2}+\langle\Psi, \not D \Psi\rangle\right)-\int_{S^{1}} F(\gamma, \Psi),
$$

where $F$ is some suitable function. The critical points $(\gamma, \Psi)$ are called the nonlinear Dirac-geodesics. Existence results were obtained in ${ }^{[11]}$ via an approach from critical point theory, under some conditions on the function $F>0$ and assumptions on the metric of the target $N$.

Recently, Branding ${ }^{[2 ; 3]}$ introduced the following regularized functional:

$$
L_{\varepsilon}(\gamma, \Psi)=\frac{1}{2}\left(\int_{S^{1}}\|\dot{\gamma}\|^{2}+\langle\Psi, \not D \Psi\rangle+\varepsilon|D D \Psi|^{2}\right)
$$

where $\varepsilon>0$ is a parameter; critical points of it are called regularized Dirac-geodesics. He proved the global existence and convergence of the heat flow of closed regularized Dirac-geodesic when $\varepsilon$ is large. However, the final existence of Dirac-geodesics cannot be obtained by removing the regularization, i.e., by letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

It is thus a natural question to define a suitable heat flow for Dirac-geodesics and study its global existence and asymptotic behavior. This is the main purpose of the present paper.

Let $\sigma:[0,1] \longrightarrow N$ be a smooth curve. For $\gamma:[0,1] \times[0, T) \longrightarrow N$ and $X(\cdot, t), Y(\cdot, t)$ vector fields along the curve $\gamma(\cdot, t)$, consider the system

$$
\begin{cases}\gamma^{\prime}=\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}+R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma}, & \text { on }(0,1) \times(0, T),  \tag{1.3}\\ \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} X=0, & \text { on }(0,1] \times[0, T), \\ \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} Y=0, & \text { on }[0,1) \times[0, T),\end{cases}
$$

with initial-boundary value conditions

$$
\begin{cases}\gamma(s, 0)=\sigma(s), & s \in(0,1)  \tag{1.4}\\ \gamma(0, t)=x_{0}, \quad \gamma(1, t)=y_{0}, & t \in[0, T) \\ X(0, t)=X_{0}, & t \in[0, T), \\ Y(0, t)=Y_{0}, & t \in[0, T),\end{cases}
$$

where $x_{0}$, $y_{0}$ are two fixed points in $N, X_{0}, Y_{0} \in T_{x_{0}} N$ are two fixed tangent vectors, $\gamma^{\prime}$ denotes the time derivative $\gamma^{\prime}=\frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial t}$.

The system (1.3) constitutes the heat flow for the Euler-Lagrange equation of the functional (1.2), see Lemma 2.1 in section 2. In fact, (1.3) can be viewed as a parabolic system with extra constraining equations satisfied by the field $\Psi$, which can be reduced to equations for two parallel vector fields $X$ and $Y$ along the underlying curve $\gamma$ and hence can be easily solved. The fact that with this elliptic-parabolic system we get a better handle on the existence than other approaches seems to indicate that this is the right parabolic version of the Dirac-geodesic problem. Instead of trying to also turn the first-order Dirac equations for $X$ and $Y$ into parabolic equations, we rather treat them as first order constraints along the second order parabolic flow for $\gamma$. Thus, in particular, we can apply elliptic estimates for $X$ and $Y$ along the flow and thereby control the inhomogeneous term in the flow for $\gamma$.

The reason why we only consider the flow of Dirac-geodesics $(\gamma, \Psi)$ defined on an interval $[0,1]$ rather than on the circle $S^{1}$ is that, in general, one can not expect that the parallel vector fields $X, Y$ can be defined on the whole $S^{1}$. Nevertheless, $\gamma$ could be a closed curve. For the heat flow of Dirac-harmonic maps from higher dimensional
manifolds with boundary, see ${ }^{[6]}$. We will prove the following global existence result for the Dirac-geodesic heat flow:

Theorem 1.1. Let $N^{n}$ be a Riemannian manifold. Then there exists a unique solution of (1.3) and (1.4) for all $t \in[0,+\infty)$.

Recall that for the usual geodesic heat flow, Ottarsson ${ }^{[18]}$ proved the long-time existence and uniqueness of a solution for smooth initial data, which has been recently extended by Lin and Wang ${ }^{[17]}$ to $W^{1,2}$ initial data. However, the convergence of the geodesic flow is unexpectedly subtle. Although it is proved in ${ }^{[18]}$ that there is a sequence $\left\{t_{k}\right\}$ with $t_{k} \rightarrow+\infty(k \rightarrow+\infty)$, such that $\gamma\left(t_{k}\right) \rightarrow \gamma_{\infty}$, the convergence of $\gamma(t)$ need not to be true in general, see the example of Topping (c.f. ${ }^{[8 ; 23]}$ ). Choi and Parker ${ }^{[8]}$ proved the convergence of the geodesic heat flow for generic metrics, the so-called bumpy metrics on the target manifold $N$.

In ${ }^{[15]}$ Koh proved the global existence of the magnetic geodesic heat flow:

$$
\gamma^{\prime}=\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}+Z(\gamma)
$$

where $Z \in \operatorname{Hom}(T M, T M)$ is the so-called Lorenze force, namely, $\Omega:=h(\cdot, Z(\cdot))$ is a closed 2-form on the target $(N, h)$. Examples show that the convergence is also not true in general.

If $N$ is the round 2-sphere $S^{2}(1)$ and $x_{0}, y_{0} \in N$ with $d\left(x_{0}, y_{0}\right)=\pi$, then one can find initial-boundary data ( $\sigma, X_{0}, Y_{0}$ ) such that the Dirac-geodesic flow (1.3) and (1.4) cannot converge to a Dirac-geodesic connecting $x_{0}$ and $y_{0}$ (see Theorem 3.3 and Remark 3.1). This means that in general one cannot expect the convergence of the global solution of the Dirac-geodesic heat flow (1.3) and (1.4).

A natural problem is then to study the asymptotic behavior of the above global solution. Notice that if $N$ is a Riemann surface, then $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$ for some constant $c$ under the boundary conditions (see Remark 4.1), where $X^{b}$ denotes the 1-form dual to the vector field $X$ and $\omega$ is the volume form of $N$. This special property in the surface case is useful for estimating the kinetic energy, but it does not hold in general in higher dimensions. We will prove the following:

Theorem 1.2. Let $N^{2}$ be a surface with negative Gauss curvature к. If

$$
\begin{equation*}
|c|<\frac{2 \pi}{\sqrt{\kappa^{2}+4\|\nabla \sqrt{-\kappa}\|^{2}}-\kappa} \tag{1.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

then the kinetic energy density $k(\gamma)=\frac{1}{2}\left\|\gamma^{\prime}\right\|^{2}$ decays exponentially, i.e.,

$$
k(\gamma(s, t-1)) \leq C e^{\left(2 c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-k}\right\|^{2}+2 \pi|c k|-2 \pi^{2}\right) t} \int_{0}^{1} k(\sigma) \mathrm{d} s, \quad \forall t>1,
$$

where $C$ is a positive constant dependent only on the geometry of $N$.
Remark 1.1. We note that it follows from (1.5) that

$$
c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+\pi|c \kappa|-\pi^{2}<0 .
$$

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: in section 2 we derive the Euler-Lagrange equations of the function $L$; in section 3, we discuss Dirac-geodesics on surfaces and classify Dirac-geodesics on the standard 2-sphere $S^{2}(1)$ (Theorem 3.3) and the hyperbolic plane $\mathbb{H}^{2}$ (Theorem 3.5), and derive existence results on topological spheres (Theorem 3.4) and hyperbolic surfaces (Theorem 3.6). These solutions constitute new examples of nontrivially coupled Dirac-harmonic maps; see ${ }^{[14]}$ for an explicit example of coupled Dirac-harmonic map from surfaces and ${ }^{[1 ; 5]}$ for constructions and existence of uncoupled Dirac-harmonic maps (in the sense that the map part is an ordinary harmonic map) from surfaces and high dimensional manifolds; in section 4, we prove the global existence of the Dirac-geodesic flow (Theorem 1.1) and the asymptotic property of the solution (Theorem 1.2).

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## 2. Preliminaries

2.1. Spin bundle $\Sigma \mathbb{R}$. First, let us recall some basic notions from spin geometry. We refer to ${ }^{[10 ; 11 ; 13 ; 16]}$ for additional references. Consider the real line $\mathbb{R}$ with the standard metric and let $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d} r}$ be the unit tangent vector. The Clifford bundle $\mathrm{Cl}(\mathbb{R})$ is the quotient bundle

$$
\mathrm{Cl}(\mathbb{R})=\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \otimes^{k} \mathbb{R} / I(\mathbb{R})
$$

where $I(\mathbb{R})$ is the bundle of ideals, i.e., the bundle whose fibre at $r \in \mathbb{R}$ is the two-sided $I\left(T_{r} \mathbb{R}\right)$ in $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \otimes^{k} \mathbb{R}$ generated by elements $v \otimes v+\|v\|^{2}$ for $v \in T_{r} \mathbb{R}$. It is easy to check that $\mathbb{C l}(\mathbb{R})=\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{C}$, i.e., a trivial bundle with fibre the complex line. Obviously, the principal SO-bundle $P_{S O}(\mathbb{R})$ of $\mathbb{R}$ is just the real line $\mathbb{R}$, and the principal Spin-bundle of $\mathbb{R}$ becomes to $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{Z}_{2}$. By definition, a spin structure on $\mathbb{R}$ is a lift of $P_{\mathrm{SO}}(\mathbb{R})$ to $P_{\mathrm{Spin}}(\mathbb{R})$. Thus, there are two spin structures on $\mathbb{R}$, the trivial one and the non-trivial one. However, these two spin structures are equivalent to each other.

Notice that $\mathrm{Cl}_{1} \cong \mathrm{Cl}_{2}^{0}$ (the even parts of $\mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ) via the correspondence $\mathrm{Cl}_{1} \ni x=x^{0}+x^{1} \mapsto x^{0}+e_{2} \cdot x^{1} \in \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$, where $x^{0}$ and $x^{1}$ are the even parts and odd parts of $x$ respectively. Identify $\mathbb{R}$ as a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{2}$ via the canonical inclusion $\mathbb{R} \ni x \mapsto(x, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^{2}$. It is well known that $\mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ is isomorphic to the $2 \times 2$-matrix algebra over $\mathbb{C}$ via

$$
1 \mapsto\left(\begin{array}{cc}
1 & 0 \\
0 & 1
\end{array}\right), \quad e_{1} \mapsto\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\sqrt{-1} & 0 \\
0 & -\sqrt{-1}
\end{array}\right), \quad e_{2} \mapsto\left(\begin{array}{cc}
0 & \sqrt{-1} \\
\sqrt{-1} & 0
\end{array}\right), \quad e_{1} \cdot e_{2} \mapsto\left(\begin{array}{cc}
0 & -1 \\
1 & 0
\end{array}\right) .
$$

Introduce the spinor space $\Delta_{2}:=\mathbb{C}^{2}$ and the chiral operator $G:=\sqrt{-1} e_{1} \cdot e_{2}$, then $\mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ acts on the spinor space. Moreover, this chiral operator splits $\Delta_{2}$ into $\pm$-eigenspaces $\Delta_{2}^{ \pm}$. It is easy to see that $\Delta_{2}^{+}=\mathbb{C}\binom{1}{\sqrt{-1}} \cong \mathbb{C}$ and $\Delta_{2}^{-}=\mathbb{C}\binom{1}{-\sqrt{-1}} \cong \mathbb{C}$. Thus, we get two representation spaces of $\mathrm{Cl}_{1}$, i.e., $\Delta_{2}^{ \pm}$, and in particular, of $\operatorname{Spin}_{1}$. Moreover, as a representation of $\operatorname{Spin}_{1}, \Delta_{2}^{ \pm}$are equivalent to each other. This $\Delta_{2}^{+}$is the spinor space of $\operatorname{Spin}_{1}$ and we write $\mathcal{S}=\Delta_{2}^{+}$. The associated bundle of $P_{\text {Spin }}(\mathbb{R})$ via the representation of $\operatorname{Spin}_{1}$ is called the spinor bundle and is denoted by $\Sigma \mathbb{R} \cong \mathbb{R} \times \mathcal{S}$. By this convention, we know that the Clifford product on spinors is given through $\mathrm{Cl}(\mathbb{R}) \ni \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d} r} \mapsto\left(\begin{array}{ll}0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0\end{array}\right)$. Since $\Delta_{2}^{+} \cong \mathbb{C}$, this Clifford product is simply given by the complex multiplication by $\sqrt{-1}$.

The connection on the spinor bundle $\Sigma \mathbb{R}$ is the canonical lift of the Levi-Civita connection $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d} r}$ on $T \mathbb{R} \cong \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ to $\Sigma \mathbb{R} \cong \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{C}$. The Dirac operator then is $\not \partial=\sqrt{-1} \frac{\mathrm{~d}}{\mathrm{~d} r}$.
2.2. Dirac-geodesics on Riemannian manifolds. Let $N$ be a Riemannian manifold, and $\gamma:[0,1] \longrightarrow N$ be a curve and $\Psi \in \Gamma\left(\Sigma[0,1] \otimes \gamma^{-1} T N\right)$ be a spinor along the curve $\gamma$. We identify the spinor $\Psi$ as a complex vector field along the curve $\gamma$ and introduce $\Psi=X+\sqrt{-1} Y$ where $X, Y$ are two vector fields along the curve $\gamma$. By (1.1), the Dirac-harmonic map ( $\gamma, \Psi$ ) satisfies the following system

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\tau(\gamma)=\mathcal{R}(\gamma, \Psi)  \tag{2.1}\\
\not D \Psi=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

Lemma 2.1. (2.1) is equivalent to the following system

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}+R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma}=0,  \tag{2.2}\\
\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} X=0, \\
\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} Y=0,
\end{array}\right.
$$

where $\dot{\gamma}$ denotes the tangent vector field of $\gamma$.

Proof. Choose a local orthonormal frame fields $\left\{e_{i}\right\}$ of $N$ and denote the unit tangent vector field over [0,1] by $\partial_{t}$, then a direct computation implies that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tau(\gamma)-\mathcal{R}(\gamma, \Psi) & =\nabla_{\dot{j}} \dot{\gamma}-\frac{1}{2}\left\langle\Psi^{i}, \partial_{t} \cdot \Psi^{j}\right\rangle R\left(e_{i}, e_{j}\right) \dot{\gamma}=\nabla_{\dot{j}} \dot{\gamma}-\frac{1}{2}\left\langle\Psi^{i}, \sqrt{-1} \Psi^{j}\right\rangle R\left(e_{i}, e_{j}\right) \dot{\gamma} \\
& =\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}+\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2} \Psi^{i} \bar{\Psi}^{j} R\left(e_{i}, e_{j}\right) \dot{\gamma} \\
& =\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}+\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2}\left(X^{i}+\sqrt{-1} Y^{i}\right)\left(X^{j}-\sqrt{-1} Y^{j}\right) R\left(e_{i}, e_{j}\right) \dot{\gamma} \\
& =\nabla_{\dot{j}} \dot{\gamma}+\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2}\left(\left(X^{i} X^{j}+Y^{i} Y^{j}\right)+\sqrt{-1}\left(Y^{i} X^{j}-X^{i} Y^{j}\right)\right) R\left(e_{i}, e_{j}\right) \dot{\gamma} \\
& =\nabla_{\dot{j}} \dot{\gamma}+R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma},
\end{aligned}
$$

and

$$
\not D \Psi=\partial_{t} \cdot \nabla_{\partial t} \Psi=\sqrt{-1} \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}}(X+\sqrt{-1} Y)=\sqrt{-1} \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} X-\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} Y
$$

Definition 2.1. A Dirac-harmonic map $(\gamma, X, Y)$ as in (2.2) is called a Dirac-geodesic on $N$. We say that $(\gamma, X, Y)$ is closed if $\gamma$ is closed.

Remark 2.1. By a "closed" Dirac-geodesic, we mean that the curve is closed, but the spinor need not close up on $S^{1}$. On the other hand, it is also interesting to consider closed Dirac-geodesics defined on $S^{1}$, which can be equipped with two different spin structures.
Lemma 2.2. If $(\gamma, X, Y)$ is a Dirac-geodesic, then $\|\dot{\gamma}\|,\|X\|,\|Y\|,\langle X, Y\rangle$ are all constant along $\gamma$.
Proof. Since $X$ and $Y$ are parallel vector fields along the curve $\gamma$, it follows that $\|X\|,\|Y\|$ and $\langle X, Y\rangle$ are all constant. On the other hand,

$$
\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mathrm{~d}}{\mathrm{~d} t}\|\dot{\gamma}\|^{2}=\left\langle\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle=-\langle R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}\rangle=0
$$

which implies that $\|\dot{\gamma}\|$ is a constant.
Remark 2.2. Suppose $(\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{Y})$ is a Dirac-geodesic defined in $(0,1)$ with $\|\dot{\tilde{\gamma}}\|=\varepsilon^{-1}>0$. Define $\gamma(t)=\tilde{\gamma}(\varepsilon t)$ and $\Psi(t)=\theta \sqrt{\varepsilon} \tilde{\Psi}(\varepsilon t)$ where $\theta \in \mathbb{C}$ is a constant with $\|\theta\|=1$, then $(\gamma, X, Y)$ is a Dirac-geodesic with unit-speed defined in $[0, \varepsilon]$.

Suppose $\sigma:[0,1] \longrightarrow N$ is a $C^{1}$-curve so that $\sigma([0,1])$ is bounded in $N$, then there exists an open neighborhood $N^{\prime}$ of $\sigma([0,1])$ with compact closure so that $N^{\prime}$ can be (smoothly) isometrically embedded into some Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^{q}$. If necessary, by choosing a smaller neighborhood, we may assume that there is a bounded tubular neighborhood $\tilde{N}$ of $N^{\prime}$ in $\mathbb{R}^{q}$. Let $\pi: \tilde{N} \longrightarrow N^{\prime}$ be the nearest point projection denoted by $\pi=\left(\pi^{1}, \pi^{2}, \ldots, \pi^{q}\right)=\left(\pi^{A}\right)_{1 \leq A \leq q}$. By choosing an even smaller $N^{\prime}$, we may assume that $\pi$ can be extended smoothly to the whole $\mathbb{R}^{q}$ so that each $\pi^{A}$ is compactly supported. Hence, in particular, $\pi^{A}, \pi_{B}^{A}=\frac{\partial \pi^{A}}{\partial Z^{B}}, \pi_{B C}^{A}=\frac{\partial^{2} \pi^{A}}{\partial Z^{B} \partial Z^{C}}, \pi_{B C D}^{A}=\frac{\partial^{3} \pi^{4}}{\partial Z^{B} \partial Z^{C} \partial Z^{D}}$, etc. are bounded, where $Z=\left(Z^{A}\right)$ are standard coordinates of $\mathbb{R}^{q}$. Notice that $\mathrm{d} \pi_{N^{\prime}}$ is an orthogonal projection.

The functional $L$ can be written as

$$
L(\gamma, X, Y)=\frac{1}{2}\left(\int_{0}^{1}\left(\dot{\gamma}^{A}\right)^{2}+\dot{X}^{A} Y^{A}-X^{A} \dot{Y}^{A}\right)
$$

Next, we want to derive the Euler-Lagrange equations of $L$. For any smooth map $\eta:[0,1] \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{q}$ and any smooth real functions $\xi^{A}, \zeta^{A}$ on $(0,1)$, we consider the variation

$$
\gamma_{t}=\pi(\gamma+t \eta), \quad X_{t}^{A}=\pi_{N}^{A}\left(\gamma_{t}\right)\left(X^{B}+t \xi^{B}\right), \quad Y_{t}^{A}=\pi_{B}^{A}\left(\gamma_{t}\right)\left(Y^{B}+t \zeta^{B}\right) .
$$

It is easy to check that

$$
\begin{gathered}
\gamma_{0}=\gamma, \quad X_{0}=X, \quad Y_{0}=Y, \\
\left.\frac{\partial \gamma_{t}^{A}}{\partial t}\right|_{t=0}=\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \eta^{B},
\end{gathered}
$$

and

$$
\left.\frac{\partial X_{t}^{A}}{\partial t}\right|_{t=0}=\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \xi^{B}+\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{D}^{C}(\gamma) X^{B} \eta^{D},\left.\quad \frac{\partial Y_{t}^{A}}{\partial t}\right|_{t=0}=\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \zeta^{B}+\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{D}^{C}(\gamma) Y^{B} \eta^{D}
$$

Moreover, if $\gamma \subset N$ and $X, Y$ are two vector fields on $N$ along the curve $\gamma$, then

$$
v_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B}=0, \quad v_{B}^{A}(\gamma) X^{B}=0, \quad v_{B}^{A}(\gamma) Y^{B}=0,
$$

where $v_{B}^{A}:=\delta_{B}^{A}-\pi_{B}^{A}$. The following relationship will be used later:

$$
\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{C}^{B}(\gamma)=\pi_{C}^{A}(\gamma), \quad \pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma)=\pi_{C B}^{A}(\gamma), \quad \pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma)=\pi_{A}^{B}(\gamma), \quad \pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{C}=\pi_{A C}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C}
$$

Theorem 2.3. Using the above notations, the Euler-Lagrange equations for L become

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\ddot{\gamma}^{A}-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C}+\left(\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{E F}^{C} Y^{D} X^{E}-\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{E F}^{C} X^{D} Y^{E}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{F}=0 \\
\dot{X}^{A}-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} X^{C}=0 \\
\dot{Y}^{A}-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} Y^{C}=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

Remark 2.3. Denote

$$
\Omega_{B}^{A}:=\left(\pi_{C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{B D}^{C}(\gamma)-\pi_{C D}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{B}^{C}(\gamma)\right) \dot{\gamma}^{D}, \quad R_{G D E}^{A}:=\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{F}^{G} \pi_{E F}^{C}-\pi_{B}^{G} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{F}^{A} \pi_{E F}^{C},
$$

then the Euler-Lagrange equations for $L$ can be rewritten as

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\ddot{\gamma}^{A}+\Omega_{B}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B}-R_{B C D}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B} X^{C} Y^{D}=0 \\
\dot{X}^{A}+\Omega_{B}^{A} X^{B}=0 \\
\dot{Y}^{A}+\Omega_{B}^{A} Y^{B}=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

Moreover, $\Omega_{B}^{A}=-\Omega_{A}^{B}$.
Proof of Remark 2.3. First, we check that $\Omega_{B}^{A}=-\Omega_{A}^{B}$.

$$
\Omega_{B}^{A}=\left(\pi_{C}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C}-\pi_{C D}^{A} \pi_{B}^{C}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{D}=\pi_{A}^{C} \pi_{C D}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{D}-\pi_{A D}^{C} \dot{\gamma}^{D} \pi_{C}^{B}=-\left(\pi_{C}^{B} \pi_{A D}^{C}-\pi_{C D}^{B} \pi_{A}^{C}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{D}=:-\Omega_{A}^{B}
$$

Second,

$$
\Omega_{B}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B}=\left(\pi_{C}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C}-\pi_{C D}^{A} \pi_{B}^{C}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{B}=\pi_{C}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \dot{\gamma}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{B}-\pi_{C D}^{A} \pi_{B}^{C} \dot{\gamma}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{B}=-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C}
$$

Here we have used $\pi_{C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{B D}^{C}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{B}=0$. To see this identity, we begin with the identity $\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{C}^{B}(\gamma)=\pi_{C}^{A}(\gamma)$, then

$$
\pi_{B D}^{A} \pi_{C}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{D}+\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{C D}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{D}=\pi_{C D}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{D} .
$$

Hence, multiplying both sides by $\dot{\gamma}^{C}$, we get that

$$
\pi_{C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{B D}^{C}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{B}=0
$$

Third, notice that $\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) X^{B}=X^{A}$, we have

$$
\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{C} X^{B}+\pi_{B}^{A} \dot{X}^{B}=\dot{X}^{A}
$$

then multiplying both sides by $\pi_{A}^{D}(\gamma)$, we get that $\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{C D}^{B}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{C} X^{D}=0$. By a similar computation,

$$
\Omega_{B}^{A} X^{B}=-\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B} X^{C}, \quad \Omega_{B}^{A} Y^{B}=-\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B} Y^{C}
$$

Finally,

$$
\begin{aligned}
R_{G D E}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{G} X^{D} Y^{E} & =\left(\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{F}^{G} \pi_{E F}^{C}-\pi_{B}^{G} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{F}^{A} \pi_{E F}^{C}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{G} X^{D} Y^{E}=\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \dot{\gamma}^{F} \pi_{E F}^{C} X^{D} Y^{E}-\dot{\gamma}^{B} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{F}^{A} \pi_{E F}^{C} X^{D} Y^{E} \\
& =\left(\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{E F}^{C} X^{D} Y^{E}-\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{E F}^{C} Y^{D} X^{E}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{F}
\end{aligned}
$$

Proof of Theorem 2.3. Suppose $\eta, \xi, \zeta$ has compact support in $(0,1)$. Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\left.\frac{\mathrm{d} L\left(\gamma_{t}, X_{t}, Y_{t}\right)}{\mathrm{d} t}\right|_{t=0}= \int_{0}^{1} \dot{\gamma}^{\prime A} \dot{\gamma}^{A}+\frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{1}\left(\dot{X}^{\prime A} Y^{A}+\dot{X}^{A} Y^{\prime A}\right)-\frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{1}\left(X^{\prime A} \dot{Y}^{A}+X^{A} \dot{Y}^{\prime A}\right) \\
&= \int_{0}^{1} \frac{\partial\left(\pi_{B}^{A} \eta^{B}\right)}{\partial s} \dot{\gamma}^{A}+\int_{0}^{1} \frac{\partial\left(\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \xi^{B}+\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{D}^{C}(\gamma) X^{B} \eta^{D}\right)}{\partial s} Y^{A} \\
& \int_{0}^{1} \dot{X}^{A}\left(\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \zeta^{B}+\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{D}^{C}(\gamma) Y^{B} \eta^{D}\right)-\left.\frac{1}{2}\left(X^{\prime A} Y^{A}+X^{A} Y^{\prime A}\right)\right|_{0} ^{1} \\
&= \int_{0}^{1}\left(\pi_{B}^{A} \dot{\eta}^{B}+\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{C} \eta^{B}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{A}-\int_{0}^{1}\left(\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \xi^{B}+\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{D}^{C}(\gamma) X^{B} \eta^{D}\right) \dot{Y}^{A} \\
& \int_{0}^{1} \dot{X}^{A}\left(\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \zeta^{B}+\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{D}^{C}(\gamma) Y^{B} \eta^{D}\right) \\
&+\left.\frac{1}{2}\left(\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \xi^{B}+\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{D}^{C}(\gamma) X^{B} \eta^{D}\right) Y^{A}\right|_{0} ^{1} \\
&-\left.\frac{1}{2}\left(\pi_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \zeta^{B}+\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \pi_{D}^{C}(\gamma) Y^{B} \eta^{D}\right) X^{A}\right|_{0} ^{1} \\
&=-\int_{0}^{1}\left(\ddot{\gamma}^{A}-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C}+\left(\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{E F}^{C} Y^{D} X^{E}-\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{E F}^{C} X^{D} Y^{E}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{F}\right) \eta^{A} \\
&+\int_{0}^{1}\left(\pi_{B C}^{D} \pi_{A}^{C} Y^{B}\left(\dot{X}^{D}-\pi_{E F}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{E} X^{F}\right)-\pi_{B C}^{D} \pi_{A}^{C} X^{B}\left(\dot{Y}^{D}-\pi_{E F}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{E} Y^{F}\right)\right) \eta^{A} \\
&+\int_{0}^{1}\left(\dot{X}^{A}-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} X^{C}\right) \zeta^{A}-\int_{0}^{1}\left(\dot{Y}^{A}-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} Y^{C}\right) \xi^{A} \\
&+\left.\left(\dot{\gamma}^{A} \eta^{A}+\frac{1}{2} Y^{A} \xi^{A}-\frac{1}{2} X^{A} \zeta^{B}\right)\right|_{0} ^{1} \\
&=-\int_{0}^{1}\left(\ddot{\gamma}^{A}-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C}+\left(\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{E F}^{C} Y^{D} X^{E}-\pi_{B}^{A} \pi_{B D}^{C} \pi_{E F}^{C} X^{D} Y^{E}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{F}\right) \eta^{A} \\
&+\int_{0}^{1}\left(\pi_{B C}^{D} \pi_{A}^{C} Y^{B}\left(\dot{X}^{D}-\pi_{E F}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{E} X^{F}\right)-\pi_{B C}^{D} \pi_{A}^{C} X^{B}\left(\dot{Y}^{D}-\pi_{E F}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{E} Y^{F}\right)\right) \eta^{A} \\
&+\int_{0}^{1}\left(\dot{X}^{A}-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} X^{C}\right) \zeta^{A}-\int_{0}^{1}\left(\dot{Y}^{A}-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} Y^{C}\right) \xi^{A} . \\
&
\end{aligned}
$$

## 3. Dirac-geodesics on surfaces

Assume $\operatorname{dim} N=2$, i.e., $N$ is a surface. Put $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$, where $\omega$ is the volume form of $N$ and $c$ is a function of $t$ (see Lemma 2.2). Let $J_{x}$ be the rotation by $\pi / 2$ in $T_{x} N$ measured with the metric and the orientation chosen on $N$.

Lemma 3.1. $(\gamma, X, Y)$ is a Dirac-geodesic on a surface $N$ if and only if

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}=c \kappa(\gamma) J_{\gamma}(\dot{\gamma}) \\
\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} X=\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} Y=0,
\end{array}\right.
$$

where $c$ is a constant such that $X^{b} \wedge Y^{\natural}=c \omega_{\gamma}$ and $\kappa$ is the Gauss curvature of $N$.
Proof. The proof follows easily from the following identity:

$$
R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma}=R(X \wedge Y) \dot{\gamma}=R\left(c \omega_{\gamma}\right) \dot{\gamma}=-c \kappa(\gamma) J_{\gamma}(\dot{\gamma})
$$

Recall that a curve $\gamma$ satisfying $\nabla_{\dot{j}} \dot{\gamma}=c \kappa(\gamma) J_{\gamma}(\dot{\gamma})$ is called a ( $c \kappa$-) magnetic geodesic and models the motion of a charge in a magnetic field with magnetic form $с \kappa \omega$. Therefore, each Dirac-geodesic on a surface can be viewed as a $\epsilon \kappa$-magnetic geodesic coupled with two parallel tangent vector fields along the magnetic geodesic.

According to Remark 2.2, we can choose an orthonormal basis $e_{1}=\dot{\gamma}, e_{2}$ along the curve $\gamma$. Denote

$$
\begin{align*}
& X(t)=a\left(\cos (f(t)) e_{1}+\sin (f(t)) e_{2}\right)  \tag{3.1}\\
& Y(t)=b\left(\cos (f(t)+\theta) e_{1}+\sin (f(t)+\theta) e_{2}\right) \tag{3.2}
\end{align*}
$$

where $a, b>0$ and $\theta$ are three constants, and $f, g \in C^{1}[0, \varepsilon]$.
The following theorem gives a geometric description of Dirac-geodesics.
Theorem 3.2. Let $\gamma$ be a unit-speed curve with geodesic curvature $\kappa_{g}$ on a surface $M, a, b, \theta$ constants with $a, b \geq 0$. If $\kappa$ is the Gauss curvature of $M$, then $(\gamma, X, Y)$ is a Dirac-geodesic if and only if

$$
\kappa_{g}=\kappa a b \sin \theta, \quad \dot{f}=-\kappa a b \sin \theta,
$$

where $X, Y$ are given by the formulae (3.1) and (3.2).
Proof. Suppose ( $\gamma, X, Y$ ) is a Dirac-geodesic, by Lemma 2.2, $X, Y$ are of the form (3.1) and (3.2). By a direct computation, one gets that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}+R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma} & =\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}+a b R\left(\cos (f) e_{1}+\sin (f) e_{2}, \cos (f+\theta) e_{1}+\sin (f+\theta) e_{2}\right) e_{1} \\
& \left.=\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle e_{2}+a b(\cos (f) \sin (f+\theta)-\sin (f) \cos (f+\theta))\right) R\left(e_{1}, e_{2}\right) e_{1} \\
& =\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle e_{2}-a b \kappa \sin (\theta) e_{2} \\
& =\left(\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle-a b \kappa \sin \theta\right) e_{2} \\
\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} X & =-a \sin (f) \dot{f} e_{1}+a \cos (f) \nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}+a \cos (f) \dot{f} e_{2}+a \sin (f) \nabla_{e_{1}} e_{2} \\
& =-a \sin (f) \dot{f} e_{1}+a \cos (f)\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle e_{2}+a \cos (f) \dot{f} e_{2}+a \sin (f)\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{2}, e_{1}\right\rangle e_{1} \\
& =-a \sin (f) \dot{f} e_{1}+a \cos (f)\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle e_{2}+a \cos (f) \dot{f} e_{2}-a \sin (f)\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle e_{1} \\
& =\left(-a \sin (f) \dot{f}-a \sin (f)\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle\right) e_{1}+\left(a \cos (f) \dot{f}+a \cos (f)\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle\right) e_{2} \\
& =a\left(-\sin (f) e_{1}+\cos (f) e_{2}\right)\left(\dot{f}+\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

and

$$
\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} Y=b\left(-\sin (f+\theta) e_{1}+\cos (f+\theta) e_{2}\right)\left(\dot{f}+\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle\right) .
$$

Notice that $\left\langle\nabla_{e_{1}} e_{1}, e_{2}\right\rangle$ is just the geodesic curvature $\kappa_{g}$ of $\gamma$ in $M$, and we finish the proof of the necessity. The sufficiency is obvious.
3.1. Dirac-geodesics on spheres. First, we consider the unit sphere $S^{2}(1)$ with the standard metric and let $\omega$ be the volume form.

Theorem 3.3 (Dirac-geodesic on the round 2-sphere). Any Dirac-geodesic ( $\gamma, X, Y$ ) with non-constant $\gamma$ on the round sphere $S^{2}(1)$ locally can be defined by

$$
\begin{gathered}
\gamma(s)=\left(\sqrt{1-\rho^{2}} \cos \left(\frac{\lambda s}{\sqrt{1-\rho^{2}}}\right), \sqrt{1-\rho^{2}} \sin \left(\frac{\lambda s}{\sqrt{1-\rho^{2}}}\right), \rho\right), \\
X(s)=a \lambda\left(-\sin \left(\frac{\lambda s}{\sqrt{1-\rho^{2}}}-c s+c_{0}\right), \cos \left(\frac{\lambda s}{\sqrt{1-\rho^{2}}}-c s+c_{0}\right), 0\right),
\end{gathered}
$$

and

$$
Y(s)=b \lambda\left(-\sin \left(\frac{\lambda s}{\sqrt{1-\rho^{2}}}-c s+\theta+c_{0}\right), \cos \left(\frac{\lambda s}{\sqrt{1-\rho^{2}}}-c s+\theta+c_{0}\right), 0\right)
$$

where $c=a b \lambda^{2} \sin \theta$ and $a, b, \lambda, \theta, c_{0}$ are constants. Moreover, for $p, q \in S^{2}(1)$ and constants $c \in \mathbb{R}, \lambda>0$, there is a Dirac-geodesic $(\gamma, X, Y)$ such that $\gamma$ connects $p, q$ with speed $\lambda$ and the oriented area of $X+\sqrt{-1} Y$ is $c$ if and only if the following condition is satisfied:

$$
\begin{equation*}
|c| \leq \lambda \cot \left(\frac{\operatorname{dist}(p, q)}{2}\right) \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof. Equip the sphere $S^{2}(1)$ with the standard metric, i.e., the pull-back of the metric in $\mathbb{R}^{3}$. In this case, the Dirac-geodesic equation becomes

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\ddot{\gamma}+\lambda^{2} \gamma=c \gamma \times \dot{\gamma} \\
\dot{X}+\langle X, \dot{\gamma}\rangle \gamma=0 \\
\dot{Y}+\langle Y, \dot{\gamma}\rangle \gamma=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

where $\lambda=\|\dot{\gamma}\|$ is a constant. First, we claim that $\gamma$ is a planar curve and a circle with radius $\lambda / \sqrt{\lambda^{2}+c^{2}}$ and centered at $\frac{c}{\sqrt{\lambda^{2}+c^{2}}}(\gamma \times \dot{\gamma}+c \gamma)$. In fact,

$$
\gamma \times \ddot{\gamma}=c \gamma \times(\gamma \times \dot{\gamma})=c(\langle\gamma, \dot{\gamma}\rangle \gamma-\langle\gamma, \gamma\rangle \dot{\gamma})=-c \dot{\gamma}
$$

which means that $\gamma \times \dot{\gamma}+c \gamma$ is a constant since

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{~d} s}(\gamma \times \dot{\gamma}+c \gamma)=\gamma \times \ddot{\gamma}+c \dot{\gamma}=0
$$

Moreover, the length of this vector is

$$
\|\gamma \times \dot{\gamma}+c \gamma\|=\sqrt{\lambda^{2}+c^{2}}
$$

Suppose $\lambda \neq 0$, i.e., $\gamma$ is not a constant. Then

$$
\left\langle\gamma-\frac{c}{\lambda^{2}+c^{2}}(\gamma \times \dot{\gamma}+c \gamma), \gamma \times \dot{\gamma}+c \gamma\right\rangle=0 .
$$

Thus we have proved the claim.
Now by Lemma 2.2, we have that

$$
X=a(\dot{\gamma} \cos (f(s))+\gamma \times \dot{\gamma} \sin (f(s)))
$$

and

$$
Y=b(\dot{\gamma} \cos (f(s)+\theta)+\gamma \times \dot{\gamma} \sin (f(s)+\theta))
$$

where $a, b, \theta$ are constants such that $c=a b \lambda^{2} \sin \theta$. A direct computation implies that

$$
0=\dot{X}+\langle X, \dot{\gamma}\rangle \gamma=a(-\dot{\gamma} \sin (f)+\gamma \times \dot{\gamma} \cos (f))(\dot{f}+c)
$$

and

$$
0=\dot{Y}+\langle Y, \dot{\gamma}\rangle \gamma=a(-\dot{\gamma} \sin (f+\theta)+\gamma \times \dot{\gamma} \cos (f+\theta))(\dot{f}+c)
$$

which implies that $f=-c s+c_{0}$ for some constant $c_{0}$.
For every constant $c$ and two points $p, q \in S^{2}(1)$, one can check directly that there exists a Dirac-geodesic $(\gamma, X, Y)$ with $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$ such that $p, q \in \gamma$ if and only if

$$
\frac{|c|}{\sqrt{\lambda^{2}+c^{2}}} \leq \cos \left(\frac{\operatorname{dist}(p, q)}{2}\right)
$$

i.e.,

$$
|c| \leq \lambda \cot \left(\frac{\operatorname{dist}(p, q)}{2}\right)
$$

In fact, embedding $S^{2}$ into $\mathbb{R}^{3}$. Suppose $\gamma$ centered at $C$ and let $Q$ be the midpoint of $p$ and $q$ in $\mathbb{R}^{3}$, then

$$
|O C| \leq|O Q|
$$

This means

$$
\frac{|c|}{\sqrt{\lambda^{2}+c^{2}}}=|\rho| \leq \cos \left(\frac{\operatorname{dist}(p, q)}{2}\right)
$$

Remark 3.1. Notice that $\gamma$ is just the parametrization of a circle up to orientation-preserving isometries and $X, Y$ are two parallel vector fields along the curve $\gamma$.

The inequality (3.3) is exactly the fact the distance between $p$ and $q$ is less than the diameter of the the circle $\gamma$.
When the inequality (3.3) is strict, there exists only one shortest Dirac-geodesic ( $\gamma, X, Y$ ) connecting $p, q$ with speed $\lambda=\|\dot{\gamma}\|$ and $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$. In the case of equality. there exist exactly two shortest Dirac-geodesic $(\gamma, X, Y)$ with speed $\lambda$ and $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$ connecting $p, q$ unless $c=0$. Of course, there exist infinitely many shortest geodesics connecting the north pole and the south pole.

Hence, if $\operatorname{dist}(p, q)<\pi$, there always exist infinitely many constants $\lambda$ such that (3.3) holds. In other words, there exists an infinite number of Dirac-geodesics $(\gamma, X, Y)$ with $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$ such that $\gamma$ connects $p, q$. However, if $\operatorname{dist}(p, q)=\pi$, then $c$ must be zero and $\gamma$ must be a geodesic.

Next, for topological spheres $S^{2}$, Schneider (c.f. ${ }^{[20]}$ ), and Rosenberg-Schneider (c.f. ${ }^{[19]}$ ) proved the following existence theorems for closed magnetic geodesics (solutions of $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \gamma=h(\gamma) J_{\gamma}(\dot{\gamma})$ ) on $S^{2}$.

Theorem A (c.f. ${ }^{[20]}{ }^{[19]}$ )
(1) Let $h$ be a positive smooth function on $S^{2}$, and $c>0$ a constant. Suppose that one of the following three assumptions is satisfied: (i) $c\left(2 \pi+\left(\sup \kappa^{-}\right) \operatorname{Vol}\left(S^{2}\right)\right) \leq 4(\inf h)$ in $j_{S^{2}}$, (ii) $\kappa>0$ and $c \sqrt{\sup \kappa} \leq 2(\inf h)$, (iii) $\sup \kappa<4 \inf \kappa$. Then there exist at least two simple closed magnetic geodesics $\gamma$ such that $\|\dot{\gamma}\|=c$.
(2) Suppose that $S^{2}$ has positive Gauss curvature. There exists a constant $\varepsilon>0$ such that for all smooth functions $h: S^{2} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying $0<h \leq c \varepsilon$ for some constant $c$, there are two embedded distinct simple closed magnetic geodesics $\gamma$ with $\|\dot{\gamma}\|=c$.

We have the following
Theorem 3.4. Suppose the sphere $S^{2}$ has positive Gauss curvature к. Suppose one of the following four assumptions is satisfied: (1) $\pi \leq 2|c|(\inf \kappa) i n j_{S^{2}}$; (2) sup $\sqrt{\kappa} \leq 2|c| \inf \kappa$; (3) $\sup \kappa<4 \inf \kappa$; (4) $|c| \kappa \leq \varepsilon$, where $c$ is some constant and $\varepsilon>0$ is a suitable constant. Then there are at least two simple closed unit-speed Dirac-geodesics $(\gamma, X, Y)$ such that $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$ where $\omega$ is the volume form of $S^{2}$.

Proof of Theorem 3.4. It is a direct consequence of the theorem mentioned above and Lemma 3.1. In fact, in our case, $h=с \kappa$ and the speed is one. Hence, our conditions become
(1) $\pi \leq 2|c|(\inf \kappa) i n j_{S^{2}}$,
(2) $\sqrt{\sup \kappa} \leq 2|c| \inf \kappa$,
(3) $\sup \kappa<4 \inf \kappa$,
(4) for small $\varepsilon>0,|c| \kappa \leq \varepsilon$.

Hence there are at least two simple closed unit-speed curves $\gamma$ satisfying

$$
\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}=c k(\gamma) J_{\gamma}(\dot{\gamma})
$$

For such a $\gamma$, choose some point $x \in \gamma$. Choose two vectors $X_{0}, Y_{0} \in T_{x} S^{2}$ with

$$
X_{0} \wedge Y_{0}=c \omega_{x}
$$

Define $X, Y$ to be the parallel vector fields along $\gamma$ with $X(x)=X_{0}, Y(x)=Y_{0}$. Then according to our definition, $(\gamma, X, Y)$ is a Dirac-geodesic. Moreover, $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$.
3.2. Dirac-geodesics on the hyperbolic plane. Let $\mathbb{H}^{2}$ be the standard hyperbolic plane with constant curvature -1 , that is, the upper half plane

$$
\mathbb{H}^{2}=\left\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^{2}: y>0\right\},
$$

with the metric

$$
\mathrm{d} s^{2}=\frac{1}{y^{2}}\left(\mathrm{~d} x^{2}+\mathrm{d} y^{2}\right)
$$

Next we will derive the local representation of constant geodesic curvature curves in $\mathbb{H}^{2}$. Let

$$
\omega_{1}=\frac{\mathrm{d} x}{y}, \quad \omega_{2}=\frac{\mathrm{d} y}{y}, \quad e_{1}=y \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \quad e_{2}=y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}
$$

Then a direct computation implies that

$$
\omega_{12}=\frac{\mathrm{d} x}{y}
$$

Let $\gamma(s)=(x(s), y(s))$ be a curve in $\mathbb{H}^{2}$ with geodesic curvature $\kappa_{g}$, then

$$
\dot{\gamma}=\dot{x} \frac{\partial}{\partial x}+\dot{y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y}=: \xi^{1} e_{1}+\xi^{2} e_{2}
$$

In other words,

$$
\xi^{1}=\frac{\dot{x}}{y}, \quad \xi^{2}=\frac{\dot{y}}{y} .
$$

Now according to the definition of geodesic curvature, we get

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\dot{\xi}^{1}=\left(\xi^{1}-\kappa_{g} \sqrt{\left(\xi^{1}\right)^{2}+\left(\xi^{2}\right)^{2}}\right) \xi^{2} \\
\dot{\xi}^{2}=-\left(\xi^{1}-\kappa_{g} \sqrt{\left(\xi^{1}\right)^{2}+\left(\xi^{2}\right)^{2}}\right) \xi^{1}
\end{array}\right.
$$

Then $\left(\xi^{1}\right)^{2}+\left(\xi^{2}\right)^{2}$ is a constant. Without loss of generality, $\left(\xi^{1}\right)^{2}+\left(\xi^{2}\right)^{2}=1$. Then

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\dot{\xi}^{1}=\left(\xi^{1}-\kappa_{g}\right) \xi^{2} \\
\dot{\xi}^{2}=-\left(\xi^{1}-\kappa_{g}\right) \xi^{1}
\end{array}\right.
$$

Suppose now $\kappa_{g}$ is a constant, then
(1) If $\xi^{1}=\kappa_{g}$, then $\dot{\xi}^{2}=0$, i.e., either $y=y_{0}>0$ with $\kappa_{g}= \pm 1$ or $x=\frac{\kappa_{g}}{\sqrt{1-\kappa_{g}^{2}}} y+C$ with $\left|\kappa_{g}\right|<1$.
(2) If $\xi^{1} \neq \kappa_{g}$, then from

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d} \xi^{1}}{\xi^{1}-\kappa_{g}}=\xi^{2} \mathrm{~d} s=\frac{\mathrm{d} y}{y}
$$

we get that $\xi^{1}=\kappa_{g}+a y(a \neq 0)$. By the assumption $\left(\xi^{1}\right)^{2}+\left(\xi^{2}\right)^{2}=1$, we have

$$
\left(\kappa_{g}+a y\right)^{2}+\left(\frac{\dot{y}}{y}\right)^{2}=1
$$

Therefore

$$
\mathrm{d} s=\frac{\mathrm{d} y}{y \sqrt{1-\left(\kappa_{g}+a y\right)^{2}}} .
$$

Setting $\kappa_{g}+a y=\sin t$, we know that

$$
\mathrm{d} s=\frac{\mathrm{d} t}{\sin t-\kappa_{g}} .
$$

Hence

$$
\xi^{2}=\frac{\dot{y}}{y}=\frac{1}{y} \frac{\mathrm{~d} y}{\mathrm{~d} t} \frac{\mathrm{~d} t}{\mathrm{~d} s}=\cos t
$$

Hence $\xi^{1}=\sin t$. Then

$$
x=-\frac{1}{a} \cos t+x_{0}
$$

Thus,

$$
\left(x-x_{0}\right)^{2}+\left(y+\frac{\kappa_{g}}{a}\right)^{2}=\frac{1}{a^{2}} .
$$

As a consequence, we have
Theorem 3.5. In the hyperbolic plane $\mathbb{H}^{2}$, there exists a contractible closed Dirac-geodesic $(\gamma, X, Y)$ with speed one and $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$ for a constant $c$ if and only if $|c|>1$.

Now suppose $(M, g)$ is a hyperbolic surface with negative Gauss curvature $\kappa$. Let $B \subset \mathbb{R}^{2}$ denote the open ball of radius 1 centered at $0 \in \mathbb{R}^{2}$. An immersion $\gamma \in C^{1}(\partial B, M)$ will be called oriented Alexandrov embedded, if there exists an immersion $F \in C^{1}(\bar{B}, M)$, such that $\left.F\right|_{\partial B}=\gamma$ and $F$ is orientation preserving in the sense that for all $x \in \partial B$ there holds

$$
\left\langle D F_{x}(x), J_{\gamma(x)}(\dot{\gamma}(x))\right\rangle>0 .
$$

Matthias Schneider proved
Theorem B (c.f. ${ }^{[21]}$ ) Let $M$ be a closed oriented surface with negative Euler characteristic $\chi(M)$ and let $h$ be a positive function. Assume that there exists a constant $h_{0}>0$ such that

$$
h \geq \sqrt{h_{0}} \text { and } \kappa \geq-h_{0}
$$

Then for every positive constant $c \in(0,1)$, there exists an oriented Alexandrov embedded closed magnetic geodesic and the number of such closed magnetic geodesics is at least $-\chi(M)$ provided they are all non-degenerate and $\|\dot{\gamma}\|=c$.

As a direct consequence of Lemma 3.1 and the above theorem, one can get the following
Theorem 3.6. Let $(M, g)$ be a closed oriented surface with negative Euler characteristic $\chi(M)$ and negative Gauss curvature $\kappa$. For every constant $c \neq 0$ with

$$
h_{0} \geq|\kappa| \geq \frac{\sqrt{h_{0}}}{|c|}
$$

where $h_{0}>0$ is some constant, there exist at least $-\chi(M)$ non-degenerate and oriented Alexandrov embedded closed unit speed Dirac-geodesics $(\gamma, X, Y)$ with $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$.

Proof. Suppose $(\gamma, X, Y)$ is a Dirac-geodesic with unit speed and $X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}=c \omega_{\gamma}$. Then $(\tilde{\gamma}(s)=\gamma(\lambda s), \tilde{X}(s)+$ $\sqrt{-1} \tilde{Y}(s)=\sqrt{\lambda} X(\lambda s)+\sqrt{-1} \sqrt{\lambda} Y(\lambda s))$ is a Dirac-geodesic with speed $\lambda$ and $\tilde{X} \wedge \tilde{Y}=c \lambda \omega_{\tilde{\gamma}}$. Since

$$
h_{0} \geq|\kappa| \geq \frac{\sqrt{h_{0}}}{|c|}
$$

we have for $\lambda \in(0,1)$

$$
h_{0} \geq|\kappa| \geq \frac{\sqrt{h_{0}}}{|c| \lambda} .
$$

Then Theorem B tells us that there exist at least $-\chi(M)$ non-degenerated and oriented Alexandrov embedded closed magnetic curves with $h=c \kappa \lambda$. The rest of the proof is similar to Theorem 3.4.

## 4. The Dirac-geodesic heat flow on Riemannian Manifolds

In this section, we will consider the Dirac-geodesic flow on Riemannian manifolds.
For $\gamma:[0,1] \times[0, T) \longrightarrow N$ and $X(\cdot, t), Y(\cdot, t)$ vector fields along the curve $\gamma(\cdot, t)$, we consider the following system

$$
\begin{cases}\gamma^{\prime A}=\ddot{\gamma}^{A}+\Omega_{B}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B}-R_{B C D}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B} Y^{C} X^{D}, & \text { on }(0,1) \times(0, T),  \tag{4.1}\\ \dot{X}^{A}+\Omega_{B}^{A} X^{B}=0, & \text { on }(0,1] \times[0, T), \\ \dot{Y}^{A}+\Omega_{B}^{A} Y^{B}=0, & \text { on }(0,1] \times[0, T),\end{cases}
$$

satisfying the initial conditions

$$
\begin{cases}\gamma(s, 0)=\sigma(s), & s \in(0,1),  \tag{4.2}\\ \gamma(0, t)=x_{0}, \quad \gamma(1, t)=y_{0}, & t \in[0, T), \\ X(0, t)=X_{0}, & t \in[0, T), \\ Y(0, t)=Y_{0}, & t \in[0, T),\end{cases}
$$

where $x_{0}$ and $y_{0}$ are two fixed points, and $X_{0}, Y_{0}$ are two fixed vectors. We observe

Lemma 4.1. Suppose the image of $\gamma$ lies in $N^{\prime}$, then the Dirac-geodesic heat flow (1.3) is equivalent to the system (4.1).

Lemma 4.2. Let $(\gamma, X, Y)$ be a solution of the system (4.1) with the initial conditions (4.2) satisfying $\sigma \subset N^{\prime}$ and $x_{0}, y_{0} \in N^{\prime}$, and $X_{0} \in T_{x_{0}} N^{\prime}, Y_{0} \in T_{x_{0}} N^{\prime}$. If the image of $\gamma$ lies in $\tilde{N}$, then $\gamma \subset N^{\prime}$ and $X, Y$ are vector fields of $N^{\prime}$ along the curve $\gamma$ for every time $0 \leq t<T$.
Proof. Denote $\rho(\gamma)=\pi(\gamma)-\gamma$, then a direct computation implies that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}-\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial s^{2}}\right)\|\rho(\gamma)\|^{2} & =\left\langle\rho^{\prime}-\ddot{\rho}, \rho\right\rangle-\|\dot{\rho}\|^{2} \\
& =\left\langle v_{B}^{A}(\gamma)\left(-\Omega_{C}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C}+R_{C D E}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C} Y^{D} X^{E}\right)-\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C}, \rho^{A}(\gamma)\right\rangle-\left\|v_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B}\right\|^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Notice that if $\gamma \subset N^{\prime}$, then

$$
\left\langle v_{B}^{A}(\gamma)\left(-\Omega_{C}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C}+R_{C D E}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C} Y^{D} X^{E}\right)-\pi_{B C}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B} \dot{\gamma}^{C}, \rho^{A}(\gamma)\right\rangle
$$

Hence by using the mean value theorem, we get that

$$
\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}-\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial s^{2}}\right)\|\rho(\gamma)\|^{2} \leq C\|\rho(\gamma)\|^{2}
$$

Thus, if $\sigma \subset N^{\prime}$ and $x_{0}, y_{0} \in N^{\prime}$, then $\gamma$ must be in $N^{\prime}$ according to the maximum principle.
On the other hand, if $\gamma \in N^{\prime}$, then

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{~d} s}\left(v_{B}^{A}(\gamma) X^{B}\right) & =-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{C} X^{B}+v_{B}^{A} \dot{X}^{B}=-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} X^{C}+v_{B}^{A}\left(\pi_{D E}^{B} \pi_{C}^{D}-\pi_{D}^{B} \pi_{C E}^{D}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{E} X^{C} \\
& =-\pi_{B C}^{A} \dot{\gamma}^{B} X^{C}+\pi_{D E}^{A} \pi_{C}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{E} X^{C}=-\pi_{D}^{A} \pi_{B C}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{B} X^{C}
\end{aligned}
$$

Moreover,

$$
-\Omega_{B}^{A} v_{C}^{B} X^{C}=\left(\pi_{D E}^{A} \pi_{B}^{D}-\pi_{D}^{A} \pi_{B E}^{D}\right) \dot{\gamma}^{E} v_{F}^{B} X^{F}=-\pi_{D}^{A} \pi_{F E}^{D} \dot{\gamma}^{E} X^{F}
$$

Hence

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{~d} s}\left(v_{B}^{A}(\gamma) X^{B}\right)+\Omega_{B}^{A} v_{C}^{B} X^{C}=0
$$

Therefore, if $X_{0} \in T_{x_{0}} N^{\prime}$, then $v_{B}^{A}(\gamma(0)) X^{B}(0)=0$ for all $A$ and we get that $v_{B}^{A} X=0$ for all $A$. In other words, $X$ is a vector field along the curve $\gamma$. Similarly, $Y$ is a vector field of $N^{\prime}$ along the curve $\gamma$.

Now we can give the
Proof of Theorem 1.1. First, we shall use Lemma 4.1 and Lemma 4.2 to obtain short time existence.
Claim. A solution of the system (4.1) with the initial conditions (4.2) is equivalent to the following system of differential equations for a curve $\gamma:(0,1) \times[0, T) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{q}$ given by

$$
\gamma^{\prime A}=\ddot{\gamma}^{A}+\Omega_{B}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B}-R_{B C D}^{A}(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}^{B} Y^{C} X^{D}
$$

on $(0,1) \times(0, T)$, satisfying the initial condition

$$
\begin{cases}\gamma(s, 0)=\sigma(s), & s \in(0,1) \\ \gamma(0, t)=x_{0}, \quad \gamma(1, t)=y_{0}, & t \in[0, T)\end{cases}
$$

where $X$ and $Y$ are smooth vector-valued function of $\left(X_{0}, \gamma, \dot{\gamma}\right)$ and $\left(Y_{0}, \gamma, \dot{\gamma}\right)$ determined by

$$
\begin{cases}\dot{X}^{A}+\Omega_{B}^{A} X^{B}=0, & \text { on }(0,1] \times[0, T) \\ X(0, t)=X_{0}, & t \in[0, T)\end{cases}
$$

and

$$
\begin{cases}\dot{Y}^{A}+\Omega_{B}^{A} Y^{B}=0, & \text { on }(0,1] \times[0, T) \\ Y(0, t)=Y_{0}, & t \in[0, T)\end{cases}
$$

respectively.

Claim (Short time existence). A solution of the system (1.3) with the initial condition (1.4) exists at least on some short time interval $\left[0, t_{0}\right)$ for some $t_{0}>0$ according to Lemma 4.1 and Lemma 4.2. Moreover, the maximum time $t_{0}$ is characterized by the condition

$$
\sup _{t<t_{0}}\|\dot{\gamma}(s, t)\|=\infty .
$$

Second, we shall derive a differential equation for the energy density. As a consequence, the energy density grows at most exponentially, implying the long time existence.
Claim (long time existence). Define the energy density $e(\gamma)$ of $\gamma$ by

$$
e(\gamma)=\frac{1}{2}\|\dot{\gamma}\|^{2},
$$

then

$$
\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}-\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial s^{2}}\right) e(\gamma) \leq \frac{\left\|X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}\right\|^{2} \sup \|R\|^{2}}{2} e(\gamma)
$$

Thus, a solution of (1.3) and (1.4) exists for all time.
Proof.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}-\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial s^{2}}\right) e(\gamma) & =\left\langle\nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}} \dot{\gamma}-\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle-\left\|\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}\right\|^{2}=\left\langle\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}}\left(\gamma^{\prime}-\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}\right), \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle-\left\|\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}\right\|^{2} \\
& =\left\langle R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma}, \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle-\left\|\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}\right\|^{2} \leq \frac{\left\|X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}\right\|^{2} \sup \|R\|^{2}}{2} e(\gamma)
\end{aligned}
$$

Notice that at the boundary $\partial[0,1] \times[0, T)$,

$$
\frac{\partial e(\gamma)}{\partial s}=\left\langle\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle=\left\langle\gamma^{\prime}-R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle=\left\langle\gamma^{\prime}, \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle=0
$$

Hence,

$$
e(\gamma) \leq \exp \left(\frac{\left\|X^{b} \wedge Y^{b}\right\|^{2} \sup \|R\|^{2}}{2} t\right) \sup e(\sigma)
$$

Finally, the uniqueness of this flow is obvious.
To prove Theorem 1.2, we need some preliminary lemmas.
Lemma 4.3. Let $N^{n}$ be a Riemannian manifold, $(\gamma, X, Y)$ be a global solution of (1.3) and (1.4). Then the energy of $\gamma$ is a decreasing function of $t$, precisely,

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d} E(\gamma)}{\mathrm{d} t}=-\int_{0}^{1}\left\|\gamma^{\prime}\right\|^{2}
$$

Proof. Notice that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int_{0}^{1}\left\langle\gamma^{\prime}, R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle & =\int_{0}^{1}\left\langle R\left(\gamma^{\prime}, \dot{\gamma}\right) X, Y\right\rangle=\int_{0}^{1}\left\langle\nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}} \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} X-\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}} X, Y\right\rangle \\
& =-\int_{0}^{1}\left\langle\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}} X, Y\right\rangle=-\left.\left\langle\nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}} X, Y\right\rangle\right|_{0} ^{1}+\int_{0}^{1}\left\langle\nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}} X, \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} Y\right\rangle=0 .
\end{aligned}
$$

As a consequence,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\mathrm{d} E(\gamma)}{\mathrm{d} t} & =\int_{0}^{1}\left\langle\nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}} \dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle=\int_{0}^{1}\left\langle\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \gamma^{\prime}, \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle=-\int_{0}^{1}\left\langle\gamma^{\prime}, \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle+\left.\left\langle\gamma^{\prime}, \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle\right|_{0} ^{1} \\
& =-\int_{0}^{1}\left\|\gamma^{\prime}\right\|^{2}+\int_{0}^{1}\left\langle\gamma^{\prime}, R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma}\right\rangle=-\int_{0}^{1}\left\|\gamma^{\prime}\right\|^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Based on this lemma, we know that $\gamma$ is contained in some bounded subset of $N$. To see this, for every $s, s^{\prime} \in$ $(0,1)$, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{dist}\left(\gamma(s, t), \gamma\left(s^{\prime}, t\right)\right) & \leq\left|\int_{s}^{s^{\prime}}\|\dot{\gamma}\|\right| \leq\left|s-s^{\prime}\right|^{1 / 2}\left(\int_{s}^{s^{\prime}}\|\dot{\gamma}\|^{2}\right)^{1 / 2} \leq\left|s-s^{\prime}\right|^{1 / 2}(2 E(\gamma))^{1 / 2} \\
& \leq\left|s-s^{\prime}\right|^{1 / 2}(2 E(\sigma))^{1 / 2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence, there exists a sequence $\gamma\left(\cdot, t_{i}\right)$ such that $\gamma\left(\cdot, t_{i}\right)$ absolutely converges to a $C^{1 / 2}$ curve in $C^{\alpha}$ for $0<\alpha<1 / 2$ as $t_{i} \rightarrow \infty$.

The kinetic energy density of $\gamma$ is defined by

$$
k(\gamma)=\frac{1}{2}\left\|\gamma^{\prime}\right\|^{2}
$$

Remark 4.1. If $N$ is a surface, then there must be a constant $c$ such that

$$
R(X, Y) \dot{\gamma}=R(X \wedge Y) \dot{\gamma}=-c \kappa^{N} J_{\gamma}(\dot{\gamma})
$$

To see this, first we have $X \wedge Y=c(t) \omega^{N}(\gamma)$ since $X$ and $Y$ are parallel vector fields along the curve $\gamma$. Second, at the fixed point $x_{0}$, we know that $c(t)$ does not change the value since $X_{0}$ and $Y_{0}$ are given.

Now we claim the following inequality
Lemma 4.4. Assume that $N$ is a Riemann surface with negative Gauss curvature $\kappa$, then for any $\varepsilon \in(0,1)$,

$$
\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}-\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial s^{2}}\right) k(\gamma) \leq\left(2 c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+\frac{c^{2} \kappa^{2}}{2 \varepsilon}\right) k(\gamma)-2(1-\varepsilon)\|\nabla \sqrt{k(\gamma)}\|^{2}
$$

Proof.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}-\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial s^{2}}\right) k(\gamma) & =\left\langle\nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}} \gamma^{\prime}-\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \gamma^{\prime}, \gamma^{\prime}\right\rangle-\left\|\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}\right\|^{2} \\
& =\left\langle\nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}}\left(\gamma^{\prime}-\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma}\right), \gamma^{\prime}\right\rangle-\left\|\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}\right\|^{2}+R\left(\dot{\gamma}, \gamma^{\prime}, \dot{\gamma}, \gamma^{\prime}\right) \\
& =\left\langle\nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}}(R(X \wedge Y) \dot{\gamma}), \gamma^{\prime}\right\rangle-\left\|\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}\right\|^{2}+\kappa^{N}(\gamma)\left\|\dot{\gamma} \wedge \gamma^{\prime}\right\|^{2} \\
& =\left\langle\left(\nabla_{\gamma^{\prime}} R\right)(X \wedge Y) \dot{\gamma}+R(X \wedge Y) \dot{\gamma}^{\prime}, \gamma^{\prime}\right\rangle-\left\|\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}\right\|^{2}+\kappa^{N}(\gamma)\left\|\dot{\gamma} \wedge \gamma^{\prime}\right\|^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Suppose now $\kappa^{N}<0$, then

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}-\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial s^{2}}\right) k(\gamma) & \leq 2|c|\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|\left\|\gamma^{\prime}\right\| \sqrt{-\kappa}\left\|\dot{\gamma} \wedge \gamma^{\prime}\right\|-|c| \kappa\left\|\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}\right\|\left\|\gamma^{\prime}\right\|-\left\|\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}\right\|^{2}+\kappa\left\|\dot{\gamma} \wedge \gamma^{\prime}\right\|^{2} \\
& \leq\left(2 c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+\frac{c^{2} \kappa^{2}}{2 \varepsilon}\right) k(\gamma)-(1-\varepsilon)\left\|\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}\right\|^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Noting that

$$
\|\nabla k(\gamma)\|^{2}=\left\langle\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}, \gamma^{\prime}\right\rangle^{2} \leq 2\left\|\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}\right\|^{2} k(\gamma)
$$

namely,

$$
\|\nabla \sqrt{k(\gamma)}\|^{2} \leq \frac{1}{2}\left\|\dot{\gamma}^{\prime}\right\|^{2}
$$

and substituting this into the above inequality, we get the desired conclusion.
We recall the Poincaré's inequality

$$
\pi^{2} \int_{0}^{1}\|f\|^{2} \leq \int_{0}^{1}\|\dot{f}\|^{2}
$$

for smooth functions $f$ with $f(0)=f(1)=0$. Now we can give the

Proof of Theorem 1.2. Denote

$$
C=2 c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+\frac{c^{2} \kappa^{2}}{2 \varepsilon}
$$

then we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
0 & \geq \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{~d} t} \int_{0}^{1} e^{-C t} k(\gamma) \mathrm{d} s+2(1-\varepsilon) \int_{0}^{1}\left\|\nabla \sqrt{e^{-C t / 2} k(\gamma)}\right\|^{2} \mathrm{~d} s \\
& \geq \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{~d} t} \int_{0}^{1} e^{-C t} k(\gamma) \mathrm{d} s+2(1-\varepsilon) \pi^{2} \int_{0}^{1} e^{-C t} k(\gamma) \mathrm{d} s .
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence,

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{~d} t}\left(e^{\left(2(1-\varepsilon) \pi^{2}-C\right) t} \int_{0}^{1} k(\gamma) \mathrm{d} s\right) \leq 0
$$

Therefore, if

$$
2 c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+\frac{c^{2} \kappa^{2}}{2 \varepsilon}<2(1-\varepsilon) \pi^{2}
$$

for some $\varepsilon \in(0,1)$, then the kinetic energy of $\gamma$ decays exponentially. Obviously, $|c \kappa|<2 \pi$, hence we can choose

$$
\varepsilon=\frac{|c \kappa|}{2 \pi} \in(0,1) .
$$

That is, if we make the assumption

$$
c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+\pi|c \kappa|<\pi^{2}
$$

or equivalently the assumption (1.5), then

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{0}^{1} k(\gamma) \mathrm{d} s \leq e^{\left(2 c^{2}| | \nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa} \|^{2}+2 \pi|c k|-2 \pi^{2}\right) t} \int_{0}^{1} k(\sigma) \mathrm{d} s \tag{4.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let $h(x, y, t)$ be the Dirichlet heat kernel of [0,1]. Applying the differential inequality of $k(\gamma)$

$$
\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}-\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial s^{2}}\right) k(\gamma) \leq\left(2 c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+\pi|c \kappa|\right) k(\gamma)
$$

we get that

$$
\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}-\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial s^{2}}\right)\left(e^{-\left(2 c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+\pi|c \kappa|\right) t} k(\gamma)\right) \leq 0
$$

For every $\tau>1$, denote $F(s, t)=e^{-\left(2 c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+\pi|c k|\right) t} k(\gamma(s, t+\tau-1))$, then

$$
\begin{align*}
F(s, 1) & \leq \int_{0}^{1} h(s, x, 1) F(x, 0) \mathrm{d} x \\
& \leq \int_{0}^{1} h(s, x, 1) k(\gamma(x, \tau-1)) \mathrm{d} x \\
& \leq C \int_{0}^{1} k(\gamma(x, \tau-1)) \mathrm{d} x \tag{4.4}
\end{align*}
$$

With Lemma 4.3, and (4.3) and (4.4), we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
k(\gamma(s, \tau-1)) & \leq C e^{2 \pi^{2}-2 \pi|c \kappa|} e^{\left(2 c^{2}| | \nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa} \|^{2}+2 \pi|c \kappa|-2 \pi^{2}\right) \tau} \int_{0}^{1} k(\sigma) \mathrm{d} s \\
& \leq C e^{\left(2 c^{2}\left\|\nabla^{N} \sqrt{-\kappa}\right\|^{2}+2 \pi|c \kappa|-2 \pi^{2}\right) \tau} \int_{0}^{1} k(\sigma) \mathrm{d} s
\end{aligned}
$$

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School of Mathematics and Statistics, WuHan University, 430072 Hubei, China
E-mail address: qunchen@whu.edu.cn
Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Inselstrasse 22, 04103 Leipzig, Germany
E-mail address: jost@mis.mpg.de
School of Mathematics and Statistics, WuHan University, 430072 Hubei, China
Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Inselstrasse 22, 04103 Leipzig, Germany
E-mail address: sunl1101@whu.edu.cn
Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Inselstrasse 22, 04103 Leipzig, Germany
E-mail address: Miaomiao.Zhu@mis.mpg.de


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