

# Finiteness of non-parabolic ends on submanifolds in spheres

Peng Zhu · Shouwen Fang

Received: 10 December 2013 / Accepted: 26 February 2014 / Published online: 18 March 2014  
© Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2014

**Abstract** We study a complete noncompact submanifold  $M^n$  in a sphere  $S^{n+p}$ . We prove that the dimension of the space of  $L^2$  harmonic 1-forms on  $M$  is finite and there are finitely many non-parabolic ends on  $M$  if the total curvature of  $M$  is finite and  $n \geq 3$ . This result is an improvement of Fu–Xu theorem on submanifolds in spheres and a generalized version of Cavalcante, Mirandola and Vitorio’s result on submanifolds in Hadamard manifolds.

**Keywords** Non-parabolic ends, Total curvature,  $L^2$  harmonic forms

**Mathematics Subject Classification (2000)** 53C20 · 53C40

## 1 Introduction

Suppose that  $x : M^n \rightarrow N^{n+p}$  is an isometric immersion of an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$  in an  $(n + p)$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold  $N$ . Let  $A$  denote the second fundamental form and  $H$  the mean curvature vector of the immersion  $x$ . Let

$$\Phi(X, Y) = A(X, Y) - H\langle X, Y \rangle,$$

for all vector fields  $X$  and  $Y$ , where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is the induced metric of  $M$ . We say the immersion  $x$  has finite total curvature if

$$\|\Phi\|_{L^n(M)} < +\infty.$$

---

P. Zhu (✉)  
School of Mathematics and physics, Jiangsu University of Technology,  
Changzhou 213001, Jiangsu, People’s Republic of China  
e-mail: zhupeng2004@126.com

S. Fang  
School of Mathematical Sciences, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225002,  
Jiangsu, People’s Republic of China

If  $M^n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) is a complete minimal hypersurface in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  with finite index, Li and Wang [9] proved that  $M$  has finitely many ends. More generally, Zhu [12] showed that: suppose that  $N^{n+1}$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) is a complete simply connected manifold with non-positive sectional curvature and  $M^n$  is a complete minimal hypersurface in  $N$  with finite index. If the bi-Ricci curvature satisfies

$$b - \overline{\text{Ric}}(X, Y) + \frac{1}{n}|A|^2 \geq 0,$$

for all orthonormal tangent vectors  $X, Y$  in  $T_pN$  for  $p \in M$ , then  $M$  must have finitely many ends. Cavalcante et al. [1] considered a complete noncompact submanifold  $M^n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) isometrically immersed in a Hadamard manifold  $N^{n+p}$  with sectional curvature satisfying  $-k^2 \leq K_N \leq 0$  for some constant  $k$  and obtained that if the total curvature is finite and the first eigenvalue of the Laplacian operator of  $M$  is bounded from below by a suitable constant, then the dimension of the space of the  $L^2$  harmonic 1-forms on  $M$  is finite and  $M$  has finitely many non-parabolic ends. Fu and Xu [3] considered a complete submanifold  $M^n$  in a sphere  $\mathbb{S}^{n+p}$  with finite total curvature and bounded mean curvature and showed that the dimension of  $H^1(L^2(M))$  is finite and there are finitely many non-parabolic ends on  $M$ .

In this paper, we discuss a complete noncompact submanifold  $M^n$  in a sphere  $\mathbb{S}^{n+p}$  with finite total curvature and no restriction of mean curvature. We recall some relevant definitions. The Hodge operator  $*$ :  $\wedge^k(M) \rightarrow \wedge^{n-k}(M)$  is defined by

$$*e^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge e^{i_p} = \text{sgn}\sigma(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)e^{i_{p+1}} \wedge \dots \wedge e^{i_n},$$

where  $\sigma(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)$  denotes a permutation of the set  $(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)$  and  $\text{sgn}\sigma$  is the sign of  $\sigma$ . The operator  $d^*$ :  $\wedge^k(M) \rightarrow \wedge^{k-1}(M)$  is given by

$$d^*\omega = (-1)^{(nk+k+1)} * d * \omega.$$

The Laplacian operator is defined by

$$\Delta\omega = -dd^*\omega - d^*d\omega.$$

A  $k$ -form  $\omega$  is called  $L^2$ -harmonic if  $\Delta\omega = 0$  and

$$\int_M \omega \wedge *\omega < +\infty.$$

We denote  $H^1(L^2(M))$  by the space of all  $L^2$  harmonic 1-forms on  $M$ . We obtain finiteness of non-parabolic ends for the submanifold in a sphere with finite total curvature:

**Theorem 1.1** *Let  $M^n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) be an  $n$ -dimensional complete noncompact oriented manifold isometrically immersed in an  $(n + p)$ -dimensional sphere  $\mathbb{S}^{n+p}$ . If the total curvature is finite, then the dimension of  $H^1(L^2(M))$  is finite and there are finitely many non-parabolic ends on  $M$ .*

*Remark 1.2* Theorem 1.1 generalizes Theorem 1.4 in [3] without the restriction of the mean curvature vector and is also an extension of finiteness of non-parabolic ends on submanifolds in Hadamard manifolds in [1].

## 2 Proof of main results

We initially introduce several results which will be used to prove Theorem 1.1.

**Proposition 2.1** [8,9] *If  $M$  is a complete Riemannian manifold, then the number of non-parabolic ends of  $M$  is bounded from above by  $\dim H^1(L^2(M)) + 1$ .*

**Proposition 2.2** [4,13] *Let  $M^n$  be a complete noncompact oriented manifold isometrically immersed in a sphere  $\mathbb{S}^{n+p}$ . Then*

$$\left( \int_M |f|^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \leq C_0 \left( \int_M |\nabla f|^2 + n^2 \int_M (|H|^2 + 1) f^2 \right)$$

for each  $f \in C_0^1(M)$ , where  $C_0$  depends only on  $n$  and  $H$  is the mean curvature vector of  $M$  in  $\mathbb{S}^{n+p}$ .

*Proof of Theorem 1.1* Suppose that  $\omega \in H^1(L^2(M))$ . Then we have

$$\Delta|\omega|^2 = 2|\nabla|\omega||^2 + 2|\omega|\Delta|\omega|. \tag{2.1}$$

Note that the following Bochner’s formula holds [6]:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta|\omega|^2 &= 2\langle \Delta\omega, \omega \rangle + 2|\nabla\omega|^2 + 2\text{Ric}(\omega^\sharp, \omega^\sharp) \\ &= 2|\nabla\omega|^2 + 2\text{Ric}(\omega^\sharp, \omega^\sharp). \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

Equalities (2.1) and (2.2) imply that

$$|\omega|\Delta|\omega| = |\nabla\omega|^2 - |\nabla|\omega|| + \text{Ric}(\omega^\sharp, \omega^\sharp). \tag{2.3}$$

There exists the Kato inequality [2, 11]:

$$|\nabla|\omega||^2 \leq \frac{n-1}{n} |\nabla\omega|^2. \tag{2.4}$$

Combining (2.3) and (2.4), we get that

$$|\omega|\Delta|\omega| \geq \frac{1}{n-1} |\nabla|\omega||^2 + \text{Ric}(\omega^\sharp, \omega^\sharp). \tag{2.5}$$

Take  $h = |\omega|$ . There is an estimate for the Ricci curvature of the submanifold  $M$  in [5, 10]:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ric}(\omega^\sharp, \omega^\sharp) &\geq (n-1)(|H|^2 + 1)h^2 \\ &\quad - \frac{n-1}{n} |\Phi|^2 h^2 - \frac{(n-2)\sqrt{n(n-1)}}{n} |H| |\Phi| h^2. \end{aligned}$$

By (2.5), we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} h\Delta h &\geq \frac{1}{n-1} |\nabla h|^2 + (n-1)(|H|^2 + 1)h^2 \\ &\quad - \frac{n-1}{n} |\Phi|^2 h^2 - \frac{(n-2)\sqrt{n(n-1)}}{n} |H| |\Phi| h^2. \end{aligned} \tag{2.6}$$

Suppose that  $\eta$  is a compactly supported piecewise smooth function on  $M$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{div}(\eta^2 h \nabla h) &= \eta^2 h \Delta h + \langle \nabla(\eta^2 h), \nabla h \rangle \\ &= \eta^2 h \Delta h + \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + 2\eta h \langle \nabla \eta, \nabla h \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Integrating by parts on  $M$ , we obtain that

$$\int_M \eta^2 h \Delta h + \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + 2 \int_M \eta h \langle \nabla \eta, \nabla h \rangle = 0.$$

By (2.6), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{n-1} \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 - (n-1) \int_M \eta^2 (|H|^2 + 1)h^2 + \frac{n-1}{n} \int_M \eta^2 |\Phi|^2 h^2 \\ & + \frac{(n-2)\sqrt{n(n-1)}}{n} \int_M |H||\Phi|h^2 \eta^2 - \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 - 2 \int_M \eta h \langle \nabla \eta, \nabla h \rangle \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

That is,

$$\begin{aligned} & -2 \int_M \eta h \langle \nabla \eta, \nabla h \rangle - \frac{n}{n-1} \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 - (n-1) \int_M \eta^2 (|H|^2 + 1)h^2 \\ & + \frac{n-1}{n} \int_M \eta^2 |\Phi|^2 h^2 + \frac{(n-2)\sqrt{n(n-1)}}{n} \int_M |H||\Phi|h^2 \eta^2 \geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M |H||\Phi|h^2 \eta^2 &= \int_M (|H|\eta h) \cdot (|\Phi|\eta h) \\ &\leq \frac{a}{2} \int_M |H|^2 \eta^2 h^2 + \frac{1}{2a} \int_M |\Phi|^2 \eta^2 h^2, \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

for any positive real number  $a$ . By (2.7) and (2.8), we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} & -2 \int_M \eta h \langle \nabla \eta, \nabla h \rangle - \frac{n}{n-1} \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 \\ & - (n-1) \int_M \eta^2 (|H|^2 + 1)h^2 + \frac{n-1}{n} \int_M \eta^2 |\Phi|^2 h^2 \\ & + \frac{(n-2)\sqrt{n(n-1)}}{n} \left[ \frac{a}{2} \int_M |H|^2 \eta^2 h^2 + \frac{1}{2a} \int_M |\Phi|^2 \eta^2 h^2 \right] \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

That is,

$$\begin{aligned} & -2 \int_M \eta h \langle \nabla \eta, \nabla h \rangle - \frac{n}{n-1} \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + B(n, a) \int_M |\Phi|^2 \eta^2 h^2 \\ & + \int_M [-(n-1) + A(n, a)|H|^2] \eta^2 h^2 \geq 0, \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

where

$$A(n, a) := -(n-1) + \frac{a(n-2)\sqrt{n(n-1)}}{2n}$$

and

$$B(n, a) := \frac{n - 1}{n} + \frac{(n - 2)\sqrt{n(n - 1)}}{2an}.$$

Now we estimate the term  $\int_M |\Phi|^2 \eta^2 h^2$ : take  $\phi(\eta) = \left(\int_{\text{Supp}\eta} |\Phi|^n\right)^{\frac{1}{n}}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M |\Phi|^2 \eta^2 h^2 &\leq \left(\int_{\text{Supp}\eta} (|\Phi|^2)^{\frac{n}{2}}\right)^{\frac{2}{n}} \cdot \left(\int_M (\eta^2 h^2)^{\frac{n}{n-2}}\right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \\ &= \phi(\eta)^2 \cdot \left(\int_M (\eta h)^{\frac{2n}{n-2}}\right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \\ &\leq \phi(\eta)^2 \cdot C_0 \left(\int_M |\nabla(\eta h)|^2 + n^2 \int_M (|H|^2 + 1)(\eta h)^2\right) \\ &\leq \phi(\eta)^2 \cdot C_0 \left(\int_M \left(1 + \frac{1}{b}\right)h^2 |\nabla\eta|^2 + (1 + b)\eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + n^2 \int_M (|H|^2 + 1)(\eta h)^2\right), \end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

for any positive real number  $b$ , where the second inequality holds because of Proposition 2.2. Note that

$$-2 \int_M \eta h \langle \nabla\eta, \nabla h \rangle \leq c \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + \frac{1}{c} \int_M h^2 |\nabla\eta|^2, \tag{2.11}$$

for any positive real number  $c$ . By (2.9)–(2.11), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &c \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + \frac{1}{c} \int_M h^2 |\nabla\eta|^2 - \frac{n}{n - 1} \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 \\ &+ \int_M [-(n - 1) + A(n, a)|H|^2] \eta^2 h^2 + C_0 B(n, a) \phi(\eta)^2 \\ &\times \left(\int_M \left(1 + \frac{1}{b}\right)h^2 |\nabla\eta|^2 + (1 + b)\eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + n^2 \int_M (|H|^2 + 1)(\eta h)^2\right) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

That is,

$$C \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + D \int_M |H|^2 \eta^2 h^2 + E \int_M \eta^2 h^2 \leq F \int_M h^2 |\nabla\eta|^2, \tag{2.12}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C &:= -c + \frac{n}{n - 1} - C_0 B(n, a) \phi(\eta)^2 (1 + b), \\ D &:= -A(n, a) - n^2 C_0 B(n, a) \phi(\eta)^2, \\ E &:= n - 1 - n^2 C_0 B(n, a) \phi(\eta)^2 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$F := \frac{1}{c} + \left(1 + \frac{1}{b}\right) C_0 B(n, a) \phi(\eta)^2.$$

Next, we prove there exists a positive constant  $\delta$  such that if  $\|\Phi\|_{L^n(M)} < \delta$  then  $C, D, E$  and  $F$  are positive. Obviously,  $\phi(\eta) \leq \|\Phi\|_{L^n(M)} < \delta$ . Choose  $d \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$  and let  $a = a(d)$ ,  $\delta = \delta(d)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} d + \frac{(n-1)d(1+d)}{n^2} &< \frac{n}{n-1}, \\ \frac{a(n-2)\sqrt{n(n-1)}}{2n} &< (n-1)d, \\ n^2 C_0 B(n, a) \delta^2 &< (n-1)d. \end{aligned}$$

Choosing  $0 < c < d$  and  $0 < b < d$ , we obtain that

$$C > \frac{n}{n-1} - d - \frac{(n-1)d(1+d)}{n^2} > 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned} D &= (n-1) - \frac{a(n-2)\sqrt{n(n-1)}}{2n} - n^2 C_0 B(n, a) \phi(\eta)^2 \\ &> (n-1) - 2(n-1)d > 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$E = n - 1 - n^2 C_0 B(n, a) \phi(\eta)^2 > 0$$

and

$$F > 0.$$

Since the total curvature  $\|\Phi\|_{L^n(M)}$  is finite, we can choose a fixed  $r_0$  such that

$$\|\Phi\|_{L^n(M-B_{r_0})} < \delta.$$

Set

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{C} &:= -c + \frac{n}{n-1} - C_0 B(n, a) \delta^2 (1+b), \\ \tilde{D} &:= -A(n, a) - n^2 C_0 B(n, a) \delta^2, \\ \tilde{E} &:= n - 1 + \tilde{D} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\tilde{F} := \frac{1}{c} + \left(1 + \frac{1}{b}\right) C_0 B(n, a) \delta^2.$$

Thus,

$$\tilde{C} \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + \tilde{D} \int_M |H|^2 \eta^2 h^2 + \tilde{E} \int_M \eta^2 h^2 \leq \tilde{F} \int_M h^2 |\nabla \eta|^2, \tag{2.13}$$

for any  $\eta \in C_0^\infty(M - B_{r_0})$ , where  $\tilde{C}$ ,  $\tilde{D}$ ,  $\tilde{E}$  and  $\tilde{F}$  are positive. Proposition 2.2 implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{C_0} \left( \int_M |\eta h|^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} &\leq \int_M |\nabla(\eta h)|^2 + n^2 \int_M (|H|^2 + 1)(\eta h)^2 \\ &\leq (1+s) \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 + (1 + \frac{1}{s}) \int_M h^2 |\nabla \eta|^2 + n^2 \int_M (|H|^2 + 1)\eta^2 h^2, \end{aligned} \tag{2.14}$$

for any  $\eta \in C_0^\infty(M - B_{r_0})$  and any positive real number  $s$ . Inequality (2.13) implies that

$$\begin{aligned} (1+s) \int_M \eta^2 |\nabla h|^2 &\leq \frac{(1+s)\tilde{F}}{\tilde{C}} \int_M h^2 |\nabla \eta|^2 \\ &\quad - \frac{(1+s)\tilde{D}}{\tilde{C}} \int_M |H|^2 \eta^2 h^2 - \frac{(1+s)\tilde{E}}{\tilde{C}} \int_M \eta^2 h^2. \end{aligned}$$

Combining with (2.14), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{C_0} \left( \int_M |\eta h|^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} &\leq \left( 1 + \frac{1}{s} + \frac{\tilde{F}(1+s)}{\tilde{C}} \right) \int_M h^2 |\nabla \eta|^2 \\ &\quad + (n^2 - \frac{(1+s)\tilde{D}}{\tilde{C}}) \int_M |H|^2 \eta^2 h^2 + (n^2 - \frac{(1+s)\tilde{E}}{\tilde{C}}) \int_M \eta^2 h^2, \end{aligned} \tag{2.15}$$

for any  $\eta \in C_0^\infty(M - B_{r_0})$ . Choose a sufficiently large  $s$  such that  $n^2 - \frac{(1+s)\tilde{D}}{\tilde{C}} < 0$  and  $n^2 - \frac{(1+s)\tilde{E}}{\tilde{C}} < 0$ . Then (2.15) implies that

$$\left( \int_M (\eta h)^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \leq \tilde{A} \int_M h^2 |\nabla \eta|^2, \tag{2.16}$$

for any  $\eta \in C_0^\infty(M - B_{r_0})$ , where  $\tilde{A}$  is a positive constant depending only on  $n$ . From now on, the proof follows standard techniques [for instance, see [1] after inequality (33)] and uses a Moser iteration argument and lemma 11 in [7]. We only include a concise proof here for the sake of completeness. Choose  $r > r_0 + 1$  and  $\eta \in C_0^\infty(M - B_{r_0})$  such that

$$\begin{cases} \eta = 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0} \cup (M - B_{2r}), \\ \eta = 1 & \text{on } B_r - B_{r_0+1}, \\ |\nabla \eta| < c_1 & \text{on } B_{r_0+1} - B_{r_0}, \\ |\nabla \eta| \leq c_1 r^{-1} & \text{on } B_{2r} - B_r, \end{cases}$$

for some positive constant  $c_1$ . Then (2.16) becomes that

$$\left( \int_{B_r - B_{r_0+1}} h^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \leq \tilde{A} \int_{B_{r_0+1} - B_{r_0}} h^2 + \frac{\tilde{A}}{r^2} \int_{B_{2r} - B_r} h^2.$$

Letting  $r \rightarrow \infty$  and noting that  $|\omega| \in H^1(L^2(M))$ , we obtain that

$$\left( \int_{M-B_{r_0+1}} h^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \leq \tilde{A} \int_{B_{r_0+1}-B_{r_0}} h^2. \tag{2.17}$$

Combining with Hölder inequality, we have that

$$\int_{B_{r_0+2}} h^2 \leq (1 + \tilde{A} Vol(B_{r_0+2})^{\frac{2}{n}}) \int_{B_{r_0+1}} h^2. \tag{2.18}$$

Let

$$\Psi = |(n-1)(|H|^2 + 1) - \frac{n-1}{n}|\Phi|^2 - \frac{(n-2)\sqrt{n(n-1)}}{n}|H||\Phi|.$$

Fix  $x \in M$  and take  $\tau \in C_0^1(B_1(x))$ . (2.6) implies that

$$\begin{aligned} -2 \int_{B_1(x)} \tau h^{p-1} \langle \nabla \tau, \nabla h \rangle &\geq (p-1 + \frac{1}{n-1}) \int_{B_1(x)} \tau^2 h^{p-2} |\nabla h|^2 \\ &- \int_{B_1(x)} \tau^2 \Psi h^p. \end{aligned} \tag{2.19}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} -2\tau h^{p-1} \langle \nabla \tau, \nabla h \rangle &= 2\tau \langle -h^{\frac{p}{2}} \nabla \tau, h^{\frac{p}{2}-1} \nabla h \rangle \\ &\leq (n-1)h^p |\nabla \tau|^2 + \frac{1}{n-1} h^{p-2} \tau^2 |\nabla h|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Combining with (2.19), we obtain that

$$(p-1) \int_{B_1(x)} \tau^2 h^{p-2} |\nabla h|^2 \leq \int_{B_1(x)} \Psi \tau^2 h^p + (n-1) \int_{B_1(x)} |\nabla \tau|^2 h^p. \tag{2.20}$$

By Cauchy–Schwarz inequality and (2.20), we have

$$\int_{B_1(x)} |\nabla(\tau h^{\frac{p}{2}})|^2 \leq \int_{B_1(x)} \mathcal{A} \Psi \tau^2 h^p + \mathcal{B} |\nabla \tau|^2 h^p, \tag{2.21}$$

where  $\mathcal{A} = \frac{p(p+1)}{4(p-1)} \leq p < 2n^2 p$  and  $\mathcal{B} = p + 1 + (n-1)\mathcal{A} \leq 1 + np < 2n^2 p$ . Choosing  $f = \tau h^{\frac{p}{2}}$  in Proposition 2.2 and combining with (2.21), we have

$$\left( \int_{B_1(x)} (\tau h^{\frac{p}{2}})^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \leq 2C_0 p n^2 \int_{B_1(x)} (C\tau^2 + |\nabla \tau|^2) h^p, \tag{2.22}$$



where  $C = |H|^2 + 1 + \Psi$ . Let  $p_k = \frac{2n^k}{(n-2)^k}$  and  $\rho_k = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . Take a function  $\tau_k \in C_0^\infty(B_{\rho_k(x)})$  satisfying:

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq \tau_k \leq 1, \\ \tau_k = 1 \text{ on } B_{\rho_{k+1}}(x), \\ |\nabla \tau_k| \leq 2^{k+3}. \end{cases}$$

Choosing  $p = p_k$  and  $\tau = \tau_k$  in (2.22), we have

$$\left( \int_{B_{\rho_{k+1}}(x)} h^{p_{k+1}} \right)^{\frac{1}{p_{k+1}}} \leq \left( p_k 4^{k+k_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{p_k}} \left( \int_{B_{\rho_k}(x)} h^{p_k} \right)^{\frac{1}{p_k}}, \tag{2.23}$$

where  $k_0$  is a positive integer such that  $2C_0 n^2 (4^3 + \sup_{B_1(x)} C) \leq 4^{k_0}$ . By recurrence, we have

$$\|h\|_{L^{p_{k+1}}(B_{\frac{1}{2}}(x))} \leq \prod_{i=0}^k p_i^{\frac{1}{p_i}} 4^{\frac{i}{p_i}} 4^{\frac{k_0}{p_i}} \|h\|_{L^2(B_1(x))} \leq \mathcal{D} \|h\|_{L^2(B_1(x))}, \tag{2.24}$$

where  $\mathcal{D}$  is a positive constant depending only on  $n$  and  $\sup_{B_1(x)} \Psi$ . Letting  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , we get

$$\|h\|_{L^\infty(B_{\frac{1}{2}}(x))} \leq \mathcal{D} \|h\|_{L^2(B_1(x))}. \tag{2.25}$$

Now, choose  $y \in \overline{B}_{r_0+1}$  so that  $\sup_{B_{r_0+1}} h^2 = h(y)^2$ . Note that  $B_1(y) \subset B_{r_0+2}$ . (2.25) implies that

$$\sup_{B_{r_0+1}} h^2 \leq \mathcal{D} \|h\|_{L^2(B_1(y))}^2 \leq \mathcal{D} \|h\|_{L^2(B_{r_0+2})}^2. \tag{2.26}$$

By (2.18), we have

$$\sup_{B_{r_0+1}} h^2 \leq \mathcal{F} \|h\|_{L^2(B_{r_0+2})}^2, \tag{2.27}$$

where  $\mathcal{F}$  depends only on  $n$ ,  $Vol(B_{r_0+2})$  and  $\sup_{B_{r_0+2}} \Psi$ . In order to show the finiteness of the dimension of  $H^1(L^2(M))$ , it suffices to prove that the dimension of any finite dimensional subspaces of  $H^1(L^2(M))$  is bounded above by a fixed constant. By (2.27) and Lemma 11 in [7], we get  $\dim H^1(L^2(M)) < +\infty$ . By Proposition 2.1, we obtain that the number of non-parabolic ends of  $M$  is finite.

**Acknowledgments** Both authors would like to thank professors Hongyu Wang and Detang Zhou for useful suggestions. P. Zhu was partially supported by NSFC Grants 11101352, 11371309, Fund of Jiangsu University of Technology Grants KYY13005, KYY 13031 and Qing Lan Project. S. Fang was partially supported by the University Science Research Project of Jiangsu Province 13KJB110029 and the Fund of Yangzhou University 2013CXJ001.

**References**

1. Cavalcante, M.P., Mirandola, H., Vitório, F.:  $L^2$ -harmonic 1-forms on submanifolds with finite total curvature. *J. Geom. Anal.* **24**, 205–222 (2014)
2. Cibotaru, D., Zhu, P.: Refined Kato inequalities for harmonic fields on Kähler manifolds. *Pac. J. Math.* **256**, 51–66 (2012)

3. Fu, H.P., Xu, H.W.: Total curvature and  $L^2$  harmonic 1-forms on complete submanifolds in space forms. *Geom. Dedic.* **144**, 129–140 (2010)
4. Hoffman, D., Spruck, J.: Sobolev and isoperimetric inequalities for Riemannian submanifolds. *Comm. Pure Appl. Math.* **27**, 715–727 (1974)
5. Leung, P.F.: An estimate on the Ricci curvature of a submanifold and some applications. *Proc. Am. Math. Soc.* **114**, 1051–1061 (1992)
6. Li, P.: *Lecture Notes on Geometric Analysis*. Lecture Notes Series 6 Research Institute of Mathematics and Global Analysis Research Center. Seoul National University, Seoul (1993)
7. Li, P.: On the Sobolev constant and the  $p$ -spectrum of a compact Riemannian manifold. *Ann. Sci. Éc. Norm. Super.* **13**, 451–468 (1980)
8. Li, P., Tam, L.F.: Harmonic functions and the structure of complete manifolds. *J. Diff. Geom.* **35**, 359–383 (1992)
9. Li, P., Wang, J.P.: Minimal hypersurfaces with finite index. *Math. Res. Lett.* **9**, 95–103 (2002)
10. Shiohama, K., Xu, H.W.: The topological sphere theorem for complete submanifolds. *Compos. Math.* **107**, 221–232 (1997)
11. Wang, X.D.: On the  $L^2$ -cohomology of a convex cocompact hyperbolic manifold. *Duke Math. J.* **115**, 311–327 (2002)
12. Zhu, P.:  $L^2$ -harmonic forms and finiteness of ends. *An. Acad. Bras. Ciênc.* **85**, 457–471 (2013)
13. Zhu, P., Fang, S.W.: A gap theorem on submanifolds with finite total curvature in spheres. *J. Math. Anal. Appl.* **413**, 195–201 (2014)