Dimensional reduction of
the perturbed Hermitian–Einstein equation

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Abstract

Given a Kählerian holomorphic fiber bundle $F \hookrightarrow M \rightarrow X$, whose fiber $F$ is a compact homogeneous Kähler manifold, we describe the perturbed Hermitian–Einstein equations relative to certain holomorphic vector bundles $E \rightarrow M$. With respect to special metrics on $E$, there is a dimensional reduction procedure which reduces this equation to a system of equations on $X$ known as the twisted coupled vortex equations.

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1 Introduction

Dimensional reduction techniques are applicable to studying special solutions to partial differential equations particularly in the presence of a group action where invariant solutions are of interest. The invariant solutions may be interpreted as solutions to an associated set of equations on a lower dimensional space of orbits of the group action. However, one may ask if there is no group action, is it still possible to dimensionally–reduce the original system? A positive answer points to the study of the Hermitian–Einstein (HE) equation with respect to special metrics on holomorphic bundles together with some extra data. The purpose of this paper is to outline a construction leading to dimensional reduction of a class of equations which we call the perturbed Hermitian–Einstein equations (briefly, the PHE equations) on a Hermitian holomorphic vector bundle $E \rightarrow M$ where $M$ is a compact Kähler manifold. We stress that the term perturbed has here a delicate interpretation as will be apparent from the text. In fact, the PHE equations are actually more general than the HE equations because they possess an extra perturbation term. This extra term arises from the fact that in this case, $M$ is the total space of a holomorphic fiber bundle...
$F \hookrightarrow M \longrightarrow X$, where $X$ is a compact Kähler manifold and the fiber $F$ is a compact Kählerian homogeneous space. Now $\mathcal{E}$ as a holomorphic vector bundle is obtained via a holomorphic extension of certain holomorphic vector bundles on $M$ and is equipped with an invariant hermitian metric. This metric together with the Kobayashi form of the extension and some natural conditions on $F$, imply that the PHE equation is equivalent to a system of equations on $X$, namely the twisted coupled vortex equations.

The overall construction, on which there are several variations, relies on results relating to the representation theory of complex semisimple Lie groups and the Bott–Borel–Weil theorem. In addition, the PHE equation can be obtained as a moment map equation. Here we will outline the general construction of [13] leading to the twisted coupled vortex equations (cf [10] [11] [16]). The existence theory of the solutions of such twisted coupled equations is discussed via the Hitchin–Kobayashi correspondence in [12]. References [1] [2] contain an independent study of several aspects of this theory and focus on other questions.

2 Some preliminaries

2.1 The Kähler manifold $M$

Let us commence by describing the compact homogeneous Kähler manifold $F$, that is, for connected complex Lie groups $G$ and $P$ with $G$ semisimple and $P \subseteq G$ parabolic, we set $F = G/P \cong U/K$ where

$$G = \text{Hol}(F)_{e}, \quad U = \text{Hol}_{\text{Iso}}(F)_{e}, \quad K = U \cap P.$$  \hfill (2.1.1)

Furthermore, $F$ is a simply connected algebraic manifold, the groups $U$ and $K$ are connected compact Lie groups, with $U$ semisimple and $K$ the centralizer of a torus (hence $K \subseteq U$ has maximal rank) and any $G$–invariant hermitian metric on $F$ is a Kähler (for further details see [4] [6] [21]). The equivariant holomorphic vector bundles on $G/P$ are homogeneous vector bundles [6] given by representations $(\rho, V_{\rho})$ of the parabolic subgroup $P$

$$\rho \mapsto V_{\rho} = G \times_{P} V_{\rho}.$$  \hfill (2.1.2)

Let $X$ be a compact Kähler manifold and $P_{G} \to X$ a holomorphic principal $G$–bundle. The homogeneous vector bundle $V_{\rho}$ extends to a holomorphic vector bundle on the associated holomorphic fiber bundle $M = P_{G} \times_{G} F = P_{G}/P$ by the formula

$\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\rho} \cong P_{G} \times_{P} V_{\rho} \to M = P_{G}/P.$  \hfill (2.1.3)

We call $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\rho}$ the canonical extension of $V_{\rho}$. With regards to the fundamental group $\Gamma = \pi_{1}(X)$, we suppose that $M$ has the structure of a generalized flat bundle [20]

$$F \hookrightarrow M = \tilde{X} \times_{\Gamma} F \xrightarrow{\pi} X,$$  \hfill (2.1.4)
with holonomy $\alpha : \Gamma \to U$. Letting $\omega_F$ and $\omega_X$ denote the Kähler forms of $F$ and $X$ respectively, the extension to $M$ of the (invariant) Kähler form $\omega_F$, is given by $\tilde{\omega}_F = \rho^* \omega_F / \alpha$, where $\rho : \tilde{X} \times F \to F$, is the natural projection. Then by [11] (Proposition 8.1), there exists a family of Kähler metrics on $M$ with corresponding weighted Kähler forms

$$\omega_\sigma = \pi^* \omega_X + \sigma \tilde{\omega}_F,$$

where $\sigma > 0$ is a constant parameter.

### 2.2 The bundle types of the extension on $M$

Let $V_{\rho_i} = U \times_K V_{\rho_i} \to F = U/K$ be homogeneous holomorphic vector bundles with canonical extensions $\tilde{V}_{\rho_i} \to M$ for $i = 1, 2$. Further, let $W_i \to X$ be holomorphic vector bundles and set $\tilde{E}_i = \pi^* W_i \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{V}_{\rho_i}$. We consider the class of holomorphic vector bundles $E \to M$ given by proper holomorphic extensions of the form

$$E : 0 \to \tilde{E}_1 \to E \to \tilde{E}_2 \to 0.$$  

(2.2.1)

Such extensions are classified by the Ext$^1$–functor (see e.g. [18]) which in our case is of the form

$$\text{Ext}^1_{\mathcal{O}_M}(\tilde{E}_2, \tilde{E}_1) \cong H^{0,1}(M, \mathcal{H}om_\mathbb{C}(E_2, E_1)) \cong H^{0,1}(M, \pi^* W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{V}_\rho),$$

(2.2.2)

where we set $\mathcal{W} = \mathcal{H}om_\mathbb{C}(W_2, W_1)$ and $\mathcal{V}_\rho = \mathcal{H}om_\mathbb{C}(V_{\rho_2}, V_{\rho_1})$. Note that in the latter case we have $\rho = \rho_1 \otimes \rho_2$.

For any holomorphic vector bundle $W \to X$ and any homogeneous vector bundle $Y \to F$, there is an exact sequence derived from the Borel–Leray spectral sequence [11] [19] :

$$0 \to H^{0,1}(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathcal{H}^0(F, Y)) \xrightarrow{\pi^*} H^{0,1}(M, \pi^* W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{V}) \xrightarrow{\Phi} H^0(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathcal{H}^{0,1}(F, Y)) \to$$

$$\xrightarrow{d_2} H^{0,2}(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathcal{H}^0(F, Y)) \xrightarrow{\pi^*} H^{0,2}(M, \pi^* W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{V}),$$

(2.2.3)

where $\pi^*$, $\Phi$ are the edge homomorphisms.

In the flat case we can say more about the edge map $\Phi$ [13]. Here we use the notation $\mathcal{H}^0(F, Y)$ to indicate the fact that the fiber cohomologies $\mathcal{H}^q(F, Y)$ are flat holomorphic bundles.

**Proposition 2.2.1.** Suppose that the fiber bundle $F \to M \to X$ is flat, with holonomy $\alpha : \Gamma \to U$. For any holomorphic vector bundle $W \to X$ and any equivariant vector bundle $Y \to F$, we have a short exact sequence

$$0 \to H^{0,1}(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathcal{H}^0(F, Y)) \xrightarrow{\pi^*} H^{0,1}(M, \pi^* W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{V})$$

$$\xrightarrow{\Phi} H^0(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathcal{H}^{0,1}(F, Y)) \to 0.$$  

(2.2.4)
This has the following consequence (cf [11] Proposition 7.1).

**Corollary 2.2.2.** Suppose that \( V \) satisfies the vanishing condition
\[
H^0(F,V) = 0
\]
Then the following hold:

1. The holomorphic extensions of the form (2.2.1) are classified by
\[
\text{Ext}^1_{O_M}(E_2,E_1) \cong H^0(M,\pi^*W \otimes_C \tilde{V}) \propto H^0(X,\mathcal{W} \otimes_C \mathcal{H}^{0,1}(F,V))
\]
and we have
\[
H^0(M,\pi^*W \otimes_C \tilde{V}) = 0
\]
for any holomorphic vector bundle \( \mathcal{W} \) on \( X \).

2. If \( \Gamma = \pi_1(X) \) acts trivially on \( H^0(F,V) \), then the bundle \( \mathcal{H}^{0,1}(F,V) \) of fiber cohomologies is holomorphically trivial and we have the Kunneth formula
\[
H^0(M,\pi^*W \otimes_C \tilde{V}) \propto H^0(X,\mathcal{W} \otimes_C H^{0,1}(F,V)).
\]

### 2.3 The Kobayashi form of the extension

In order to describe the representative of the extension class one needs to construct a right inverse to the edge homomorphism \( \Phi \) in Proposition 2.2.1. This is done in [13] and we summarize the necessary results in the proposition below. It will be useful to keep in mind the following diagram of holomorphic maps
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\tilde{X} \times F & \xrightarrow{\#} & \tilde{X} \\
\downarrow q & & \downarrow q_0 \\
M = \tilde{X} \times_F F & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & X
\end{array}
\]
and the relevant cohomology groups as determined by the diagram
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
H^0(\tilde{X} \times F, \tilde{q}^*\mathcal{W} \otimes_C p^*\mathcal{V}_\rho)^\Gamma & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & \text{Hom}_\Gamma(H^{0,1}(F,\mathcal{V}_\rho)^*, H^0(\tilde{X}, q_0^*\mathcal{W})) \\
\cong \uparrow q^* & & \cong \uparrow q_0^* \\
H^0(M, \pi^*\mathcal{W} \otimes_C \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_\rho) & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & H^0(X,\mathcal{W} \otimes_C H^{0,1}(F,\mathcal{V}_\rho)).
\end{array}
\]

**Proposition 2.3.1.** With regards to the edge homomorphism \( \Phi \) in (2.2.4), we have the following:

1. For a given \( \beta_0 \in H^0(X,\mathcal{W} \otimes_C H^{0,1}(F,\mathcal{V}_\rho)) \) there exists a canonical class \( [\bar{\beta}] \in H^{0,1}(M,\pi^*\mathcal{W} \otimes_C \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_\rho) \) such that \( \Phi([\bar{\beta}]) = \beta_0 \).
The Kobayashi form \( \beta \in H^{0,1}(M, \text{Hom}_\mathbb{C}(E_2, E_1)) \cong H^{0,1}(M, \pi^* W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{\nu}_2) \) of the holomorphic extension (2.2.1)

\[
E : 0 \to \pi^* W_1 \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{\nu}_{\rho_1} \to E \to \pi^* W_2 \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{\nu}_{\rho_2} \to 0,
\]

decomposes as

\[
[\beta] = \pi^* [\beta_X] + [\bar{\beta}],
\]

where \( [\beta_X] \in H^{0,1}(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathbb{H}^0(F, V_\rho)) \) and \( \bar{\beta} \) is the right inverse of \( \beta_0 \). Thus we have \( \Phi([\beta]) = \Phi([\bar{\beta}]) = \beta_0 \).

Our discussion of extension classes on \( M \) leads naturally to the following definitions of holomorphic objects on \( X \):

- A holomorphic quadruple \( Q = (W_1, W_2, [\beta_X], \beta_0) \) is given by two holomorphic vector bundles \( W_i \to X \), together with cohomology classes

\[
[\beta_X] \in H^{0,1}(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathbb{H}^0(F, V_\rho)), \quad \beta_0 \in H^0(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathbb{H}^{0,1}(F, V_\rho)).
\]

A holomorphic quadruple of the form \( Q = (W_1, W_2, 0, 0) \), that is \( [\beta_X] = 0, \beta_0 = 0 \) is called degenerate (see [13]).

- A twisted holomorphic triple \( T_0 = (W_1, W_2, \beta_0) \) is given by two holomorphic vector bundles \( W_i \to X \), together with a holomorphic homomorphism

\[
\beta_0 : \mathbb{H}^{0,1}(F, V_\rho)^* \to W = \text{Hom}_\mathbb{C}(W_2, W_1).
\]

If a basis \( \{ \eta_i \} \) of \( \mathbb{H}^{0,1}(F, V_\rho) \) is specified, we denote by \( T_0 \) also the \( k \)-triple \( T_0 = (W_1, W_2, \phi) \), where \( \phi = (\phi_j)_{j=1,...,k} \) are the coefficients in the expansion of \( \beta_0 \) (holomorphic triples are considered in [8] [12]).

- A twisted 1-cohomology triple \( T_1 = (W_1, W_2, [\beta_X]) \) is given by two holomorphic vector bundles \( W_i \to X \), together with a cohomology class

\[
[\beta_X] \in H^{0,1}(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathbb{H}^0(F, V_\rho)),
\]

classifying a holomorphic extension on \( X \) of the form

\[
\Psi : 0 \to W_1 \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathbb{H}^0(F, V_\rho) \to \tilde{\Psi} \to W_2 \to 0 \quad (2.3.3)
\]

(1-cohomology triples are considered in [9] [14]).

Each of the above classes plays a significant role in the dimensional reduction theory [13]. Here we will restrict attention mainly to holomorphic triples and proceed to state a result which makes use of Corollary 2.2.2 and provides the explicit form of the extension class \( \beta \).
Lemma 2.3.2. [13] Suppose that the homogeneous vector bundle $V_\rho$ satisfies the vanishing condition in Corollary 2.2.2.

1. Relative to a basis $\hat{\eta}_j = [\eta_j]$ of $H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho)$, the holomorphic triples $T_0 = (W_1, W_2, \beta_0)$ are of the form

$$q_0^* \beta_0 = \sum_{j=1}^k \hat{\varphi}_j \otimes \hat{\eta}_j,$$

where $\hat{\varphi} = (\hat{\varphi}_j)_{j=1,\ldots,k} \in H^0(\tilde{X}, q_0^* W)^k$ is a $k$–tuple of holomorphic sections.

2. There is a one–one–correspondence between $k$–tuples $\hat{\varphi} = (\hat{\varphi}_j)_{j=1,\ldots,k}$ of holomorphic sections and extension classes

$$[\beta] \in \text{Ext}_M (\mathcal{E}_2, \mathcal{E}_1) \cong H^{0,1}(M, \pi^* W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{V}) \cong H^0(X, W \otimes_\mathbb{C} H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho)),$$

given by

$$q^* \beta = \sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{\pi}^* \hat{\varphi}_j \otimes p^* \eta_j.$$

3 The perturbation terms associated to a holomorphic extension

So far we have described how extensions $E$ in (2.2.1) are classified by $[\beta] \in H^{0,1}(M, \pi^* W \otimes_\mathbb{C} \tilde{V}_\rho)$ and thanks to Lemma 2.3.2 we have an explicit form of $\beta$ which will be instrumental in the reduction procedure. Owing to the generality of our construction, certain technical features which did not arise in [10] [11] now become apparent and lead to the formulation of the PHE equation.

Henceforth we assume some familiarity with the differential geometry of operators on Kähler manifolds (references are [22] [26]). In particular, $\Lambda_\sigma$ will denote the operator of contraction with respect to the Kähler form $\omega_\sigma$ in (2.1.5).

3.1 Integration over the fiber

We define integration over the fiber in the flat fiber bundle $M \to X$,

$$\pi_* = \int_F \text{Tr} : A^0(M, \mathcal{E}nd_\mathbb{C}(\pi^* W) \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathcal{E}nd_\mathbb{C}(\tilde{V}_\rho)) \to \mathcal{E}nd_\mathbb{C}(X, W),$$

at the level of $\Gamma$–invariant sections

$$\pi_* = \int_F \text{Tr} : A^0(\tilde{X} \times F, \mathcal{E}nd_\mathbb{C}(\tilde{q}^* W) \otimes_\mathbb{C} \mathcal{E}nd_\mathbb{C}(p^* V_\rho))^\Gamma \to \mathcal{E}nd_\mathbb{C}(\tilde{X}, q_0^* W)^\Gamma.$$
by the formula

\[
\int_F \text{Tr} \tilde{\pi}^* \varphi \otimes \rho^* \psi = \frac{1}{\text{Vol}(F)} \tilde{\varphi} \int_F \text{Tr}(\psi) \, \text{dvol}_F = \frac{1}{\ell! \text{Vol}(F)} \tilde{\varphi} \int_F \text{Tr}(\psi) \, \omega^F_F .
\]

(3.1.2)

This is well-defined, since the volume form \(\text{dvol}_F = \omega^F_F\) is \(U\)-invariant. Here \(\text{Tr}\) is induced by the normalized trace on the fiber, that is the trace on the bundle \(\mathcal{E}nd_C(V_{\rho_i})\).

We remark that the flatness of the fiber bundle is not necessary in order to define integration over the fiber.

Observe that the ‘basic’ terms \(\beta_X\) and \(\beta_0\) both involve data on the fiber, holomorphic homomorphisms in the case of \(\beta_X\) and holomorphic extensions in the case of \(\beta_0\). There are particular curvature terms \(A_\sigma(\beta \wedge \beta^*)\) and \(A_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta)\) which depend on hermitian metrics \(h_i\) on \(W_i\) and the fixed invariant hermitian metrics \(k_i\) on the homogeneous bundles \(V_{\rho_i}\).

**Lemma 3.1.1.**

1. The endomorphisms \(-\iota \int_F \text{Tr} A_\sigma(\beta \wedge \beta^*) \in \text{End}_C(W_1)\) and \(\iota \int_F \text{Tr} A_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta) \in \text{End}_C(W_2)\) are non-negative hermitian endomorphisms of \(W_i\).

2. If \(\int_F \text{Tr} A_\sigma(\beta \wedge \beta^*) = 0\) or \(\int_F \text{Tr} A_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta) = 0\), then \(\beta = 0\).

3. For \(\beta = \pi^*\beta_X + \bar{\beta}\) as in Proposition 2.3.1, we have

\[
A_\sigma(\beta \wedge \beta^*) = A_\sigma(\pi^*\beta_X \wedge \pi^*\beta_X^*) + A_\sigma(\bar{\beta} \wedge \bar{\beta}^*) ,
\]

\[
A_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta) = A_\sigma(\pi^*\beta_X^* \wedge \pi^*\beta_X) + A_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta) .
\]

**Definition 3.1.2.** The perturbation terms \(\vartheta_i(\beta, \sigma)\) associated to \(\beta\) are defined by :

\[
\vartheta_1(\beta, \sigma) = A_\sigma(\beta \wedge \beta^*) - \pi^* \int_F A_\sigma(\beta \wedge \beta^*) \otimes \tilde{1}_1 ,
\]

\[
\vartheta_2(\beta, \sigma) = A_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta) - \pi^* \int_F A_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta) \otimes \tilde{1}_2 .
\]

The following properties are derived directly from the definition :

1. \(\int_F \text{Tr} \vartheta_i(\beta, \sigma) = 0\), that is the perturbation terms vanish under integration over the fiber.

2. For \(\beta = \pi^*\beta_X + \bar{\beta}\) as above, we have \(\vartheta_i(\beta, \sigma) = \vartheta_i(\pi^*\beta_X, \sigma) + \vartheta_i(\bar{\beta}, \sigma)\), \(i = 1, 2\).
3.2 The linear maps $\lambda_i$

Relative to an orthonormal basis \( \{\hat{\eta}_j\} \) of \( H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho) \), we define linear homomorphisms

\[
\lambda_i : \text{End}_C(H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho)) \to \text{End}_C(V_\rho),
\]

by the formulas

\[
\lambda_1(\eta_{ij}) = \frac{1}{\ell} \Lambda F(\eta_i \wedge \eta_j), \quad \lambda_2(\eta_{ij}) = \frac{1}{\ell} \Lambda F(\eta_j \wedge \eta_i),
\]

where \( \eta_{ij} \) is the standard basis of \( \text{End}_C(H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho)) \). Since \( \eta_{ij} = \eta_{ji} \) and \( \Lambda F(\eta_i \wedge \eta_j^*) = -\Lambda F(\eta_j \wedge \eta_i^*) \), we have \( \lambda_i(\xi) = \lambda_i(\xi^*) \).

There are induced maps on sections

\[
\lambda_{i*} : A^0(X, \text{End}_C(W_i) \otimes_C \text{End}_C(H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho))) \to A^0(X, \text{End}_C(W_i) \otimes_C \text{End}_C(V_\rho)),
\]

\[
\pi^* : A^0(X, \text{End}_C(W_i) \otimes_C \text{End}_C(V_\rho)) \to A^0(M, \text{End}_C(\pi^* W_i) \otimes_C \text{End}_C(V_\rho)).
\]

The main advantage of the maps \( \lambda_i \) consists in the fact that they allow us to express forms like \( \Lambda(\beta \wedge \beta^*) \) in terms of basic data.

**Lemma 3.2.1.** The forms \( \Lambda(\beta \wedge \beta^*) \) and \( \Lambda(\beta^* \wedge \beta) \) are determined by the formulas

\[
\Lambda(\beta \wedge \beta^*) = \frac{\ell}{\sigma} \pi^* \lambda_{1*}(\beta_0 \wedge \beta_0^*),
\]

\[
\Lambda(\beta^* \wedge \beta) = -\frac{\ell}{\sigma} \pi^* \lambda_{2*}(\beta_0^* \wedge \beta_0).
\]

For \( \beta = \pi^* \beta_X + \bar{\beta} \), \( \beta_0 = \Phi(\bar{\beta}) \) the perturbation terms \( d_i(\beta, \sigma) \) are now seen to be of the form

\[
d_i(\beta, \sigma) = \pi^* d_i(\beta_X) + \frac{1}{\sigma} \pi^* d_i(\beta_0).
\]

Observe in particular that the scaling parameter \( \sigma \) for the fiber metric appears as a parameter in the perturbation terms and this is the reason for the terminology.

4 The perturbed Hermitian–Einstein equation

Recalling the holomorphic vector bundle \( \mathcal{E} \to M \) in (2.2.1), our next step is to describe an integrable unitary (metric) connection on \( \mathcal{E} \) and compute its curvature. Then we will combine this with the background material so far established and proceed to our intended system of equations.

4.1 The connection on \( \mathcal{E} \to M \) and its curvature

The holomorphic vector bundle \( \mathcal{E} \) admits a smooth decomposition \( E = E_1 \oplus E_2 \).

Relative to this decomposition, we denote by \( h \) an invariant hermitian metric on \( \mathcal{E} \) of the form

\[
h = h_1 \oplus h_2,
\]

(4.1.1)
where \( h_i = h'_i \otimes \tilde{k}_i \) on \( E_i = \pi^*\mathcal{W}_i \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\rho_i} \) is given by invariant (basic) hermitian metrics \( h'_i \) on \( \pi^*\mathcal{W}_i \) and the extension \( \tilde{k}_i \) of \( U^- \)–invariant Hermitian–Einstein metrics \( k_i \) on \( \mathcal{V}_{\rho_i} \).

Relative to the smooth decomposition of \( E \) and the hermitian metric \( h \), the unitary integrable connection \( A \) on \( (E, h) \) is given by

\[
A = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & \beta \\ -\beta^* & A_2 \end{bmatrix},
\]

(4.1.2)

where \( A_i \) are the Chern connections of \( (E_i, h_i) \), and \( \beta \in A^{0,1}(M, \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(E_2, E_1)) \) is the representative of the extension class in \( \text{Ext}^1_{\mathcal{O}_M}(E_2, E_1) \) relative to (2.2.1). A routine calculation (cf e.g. [22]) shows that the curvature of \( A \) has the form

\[
F_h = F_A = \begin{bmatrix} F_{h_1} - \beta \wedge \beta^* & D' \beta \\ -D'' \beta^* & F_{h_2} - \beta^* \wedge \beta \end{bmatrix},
\]

(4.1.3)

where \( D : A^1(M, \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(E_1, E_2)) \rightarrow A^2(M, \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(E_1, E_2)) \),

(4.1.4)

is constructed from \( A_1 \) and \( A_2 \) in the standard way. Further, we let \( D' \) and \( D'' \) denote the \((1, 0)\) and \((0, 1)\) components of \( D \) respectively, so that \( D = D' \oplus D'' \).

Now for the integrable unitary connection \( A_i \) on \( (\mathcal{W}_i, h_i) \), and the Hermitian–Einstein metric connection \( \tilde{A}_i \) on \( (\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\rho_i}, \tilde{k}_i) \), we have

\[
A_i = \pi^* A_i \otimes \tilde{I}_i + I_i \otimes \tilde{A}_i,
\]

(4.1.5)

and the corresponding curvature form of type \((1, 1)\) can be expressed as

\[
F_{h_i} = F_{\pi^* h_i} \otimes \tilde{I}_i + I_i \otimes F_{\tilde{k}_i},
\]

(4.1.6)

where \( I_i = \pi^* I_{\mathcal{W}_i} \) and \( \tilde{I}_i = I_{\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\rho_i}} \).

Next, we define the slope of \( E \) relative to \( \omega_\sigma \) for \( \sigma > 0 \), by

\[
\lambda = \mu_E(\sigma) = \frac{\deg_\sigma(E)}{\text{rank}(E)}.
\]

(4.1.7)

We recall that for a compact Kähler manifold \( (M, \omega_M) \) and a holomorphic vector bundle \( E \rightarrow M \), the bundle \( E \) is stable (semistable) with respect to \( \omega_M \), if for any proper holomorphic subbundle \( E' \subset E \) for which \( 0 < \text{rank}(E') < \text{rank}(E) \), we have \( \mu_{E'} < \mu_E \) (respectively, \( \mu_{E'} \leq \mu_E \)). The bundle \( E \) is said to be polystable if \( E \) is a direct sum of stable bundles of equal slope (see e.g. [22]).
Definition 4.1.1. Relative to \((M, \omega_\sigma)\) and \(E \to M\) as above, the perturbed Hermitian–Einstein equation (the PHE equation) is defined to be
\[
\iota (\Lambda_\sigma F_h + \vartheta(\beta, \sigma)) = 2\pi \lambda I_\xi .
\] (4.1.8)
If \(\vartheta(\beta, \sigma) = 0\), then (4.1.8) reduces to the usual Hermitian–Einstein equation [22] :
\[
\iota (\Lambda_\sigma F_h) = 2\pi \lambda I_\xi .
\]

Remark 4.1.2. The term ‘perturbed’ signifies the inclusion of the perturbation term \(\vartheta(\beta, \sigma)\) in (4.1.8) which to some extent accounts for the fact that the usual Hermitian–Einstein equation does not in general admit a nice decomposition with respect to the holomorphic fiber bundle \(M \to X\), even in the product case. The PHE equation necessitates working with a corresponding restricted type of (poly)stability.

5 A dimensional reduction theorem

5.1 The calibration condition on the fiber \(F\)

We now fix the fiber data as follows. Recall that on \(F\) we are given homogeneous holomorphic bundles \(V_{\rho_i} \to F\) associated to complex representations \((\rho_i, V_{\rho_i}) \in R(\mathcal{K})\) as in (2.1.2). The degree \(\deg_F(V_{\rho_i})\) and hence the slope \(\mu_{\rho_i} = \mu_{V_{\rho_i}}\) may be computed in terms of the weights of the representations \((\rho_i, V_{\rho_i}) \in R(\mathcal{K})\) by the methods of [5]. Further, the representations \((\rho_i, V_{\rho_i}) \in R(\mathcal{K})\) are assumed to be sums of irreducible representations of equal slope. By [22] IV, Prop. 6.1, the \(\mathcal{K}\)-invariant hermitian metrics on the irreducible components of the representation spaces \(V_{\rho_i}\) are unique up to homothety and determine \(U\)-invariant Hermitian–Einstein structures on the corresponding homogeneous bundles. It follows that the homogeneous bundles \(V_{\rho_i} \to F\) have \(U\)-invariant Hermitian–Einstein structures and are therefore polystable. If the representations \((\rho_i, V_{\rho_i}) \in R(\mathcal{K})\) are irreducible, then the bundles \(V_{\rho_i}\) are stable (simple) by [22] IV, Prop. 6.4 (cf also [21] [25]). Conversely, if the bundles \(V_{\rho_i}\) are stable, the representations \((\rho_i, V_{\rho_i})\) must be irreducible. In this case, two homogeneous bundles \(V_{\rho_i}\) are isomorphic as holomorphic vector bundles, if and only if the representations \((\rho_i, V_{\rho_i})\) are equivalent [25].

As a consequence, the canonical extensions \(\tilde{V}_{\rho_i} \to M\) of the homogeneous bundles \(V_{\rho_i} \to F\) admit Hermitian–Einstein structures
\[
\iota (\Lambda_\sigma F_{\tilde{h}_i}) = 2\pi \tilde{\mu}_{\rho_i} \tilde{I}_i ,
\] (5.1.1)
with constant given by
\[
\tilde{\mu}_{\rho_i} = \mu_{V_{\rho_i}} = \frac{\mu_{\rho_i}}{\sigma} .
\] (5.1.2)

It follows that if \(V_{\rho_i} \to F\) is stable (simple), then \(\tilde{V}_{\rho_i} \to M\) is stable (simple).
It is reasonable to require certain calibration conditions for the homogeneous vector bundles $V_{\rho_i}$. In view of the Bott–Borel–Weil theorem [6], the representation theory suggests several possibilities. Here we will assume a slope condition of the form

$$\mu_\rho = \mu_{\rho_1} - \mu_{\rho_2} < 0.$$  

(5.1.3)

It follows that $H^0(F, V_{\rho}) = H^0(F, \text{Hom}_C(V_{\rho_2}, V_{\rho_1})) = 0$ and $V^K_{\rho} = \text{Hom}_K(V_{\rho_2}, V_{\rho_1}) = 0$. Therefore we are in the situation of Corollary 2.2.2. Since the cohomology of the irreducible components must now occur in positive degrees, the Bott–Borel–Weil theorem implies that the corresponding dominant weights must have Bott index $\geq 1$.

**Remark 5.1.1.** In fact, there are other possible calibration conditions which could be assumed for other choices of the Bott index and consequently a different system of equations on $X$ can be realized [13].

### 5.2 The reduction of the PHE equation to the twisted coupled vortex equations

**Theorem 5.2.1.** Let $F \hookrightarrow M = \tilde{X} \times \Gamma F \xrightarrow{\pi} X$ be a flat holomorphic fiber bundle of compact Kähler manifolds.

Suppose that the homogeneous holomorphic bundles $V_{\rho_i}$ on $F$ satisfy the calibration condition (5.1.3), that is $\mu_\rho = \mu_{\rho_1} - \mu_{\rho_2} < 0$, and therefore $H^0(F, V_{\rho}) = 0$.

Consider the proper holomorphic extension

$$E : 0 \rightarrow \pi^* \mathcal{W}_1 \otimes C \tilde{V}_{\rho_1} \xrightarrow{i} \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{p} \pi^* \mathcal{W}_2 \otimes C \tilde{V}_{\rho_2} \rightarrow 0$$

(5.2.1)

where $E$ corresponds to the holomorphic triple $T_0 = (W_1, W_2, \beta_0)$.

For $\sigma > 0$, let

$$\lambda = \mu_\mathcal{E}(\sigma) = \mu_\mathcal{E}(\sigma) = \frac{\deg_\sigma(\mathcal{E})}{\text{rank}(\mathcal{E})},$$

and define the vortex parameters $\tau_i$ by

$$\tau_i = \tau_i(\sigma) = \mu_\mathcal{E}(\sigma) - \frac{\mu_{\rho_i}}{\sigma}.$$

Then the following statements are equivalent:

1. There exist invariant hermitian metrics of the form $h$ on the extension bundle $E$ which satisfy the perturbed Hermitian–Einstein equation

$$\iota (\Lambda_\sigma F_h + \frac{1}{\sigma} \pi^* \omega(\beta_0)) = 2\pi \lambda \mathcal{I}_\mathcal{E},$$

(5.2.2)

relative to $(M, \omega_\sigma)$.
(2) There exist hermitian metrics $h_i$ on $W_i$ which satisfy the twisted coupled vortex equations

$$\iota \Lambda_X F_{h_1} + \frac{1}{\sigma} \int_F \text{Tr} \lambda_1^* (\beta_0 \wedge \beta_0^*) = 2\pi \tau_1 I_{W_1},$$

$$\iota \Lambda_X F_{h_2} - \frac{1}{\sigma} \int_F \text{Tr} \lambda_2^* (\beta_0^* \wedge \beta_0) = 2\pi \tau_2 I_{W_2}. \tag{5.2.3}$$

(3) There exist hermitian metrics $h_i$ on $W_i$ which satisfy the twisted coupled multi-vortex equations

$$\iota \Lambda_X F_{h_1} + \frac{1}{\sigma} \Phi_1 = 2\pi \tau_1 I_{W_1},$$

$$\iota \Lambda_X F_{h_2} - \frac{1}{\sigma} \Phi_2 = 2\pi \tau_2 I_{W_2}. \tag{5.2.4}$$

where $\Phi_i \in \text{End}_\mathbb{C}(W_i)$ are non-negative hermitian endomorphisms satisfying

$$q_0^i \Phi_1 = \sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{\phi}_j \circ \tilde{\phi}_j^*, \quad q_0^i \Phi_2 = \sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{\phi}_j^* \circ \tilde{\phi}_j.$$

Here $k = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H^{0,1}(F, \mathcal{V}_\rho)$, and the adjoints $\tilde{\phi}_j^*$ are taken with respect to the metrics $h_i$.

There is a one-to-one correspondence between solutions in (1) and (2), (3) given by the assignment $h_i \mapsto h'_i = \pi^* h_i$.

**Remark 5.2.2.** The data in the equations (5.2.3) and (5.2.4) depend only on the associated holomorphic triple $T_0 = (W_1, W_2, \beta_0)$.

**Corollary 5.2.3.** If the extension $E$ is holomorphically split, that is $[\beta] = 0$, the solutions of the PHE on $E$ relative to $(M, \omega_\rho)$, respectively the corresponding solutions $(h_1, h_2)$ of the twisted coupled vortex equations (5.2.4), degenerate to solutions of the uncoupled Hermitian–Einstein equations on each $W_i$.

### 5.3 Outline of the proof

The proof of the theorem follows from some technical lemmas which reflect in part upon the flat structure of (2.1.4). We will outline several of the steps involved following [13] extending the special cases of [11] [17].

First of all, we have :

(1) $\Lambda_{\sigma} F_{\pi^* h_i} = \pi^* \Lambda_X F_{h_i}$;

(2) $\Lambda_{\sigma} F_{h_i} = \frac{1}{\sigma} \Lambda_F F_{h_i}$.
Next, using (4.1.3), (4.1.6) and (5.1.1), the PHE equation is equivalent to the equation
\[
\tau \left[ \pi^* (\tau X F h_1 + 2\pi (\bar{\mu}_1 - \lambda) I_{W_1}) \otimes \bar{I}_{\rho_1} - \pi^* (\tau X F h_2 + 2\pi (\bar{\mu}_2 - \lambda) I_{W_2}) \otimes \bar{I}_{\rho_2} \right]
= \tau \left[ \Lambda_\sigma(\beta \wedge \beta^*) - \vartheta_1(\beta, \sigma) \quad 0 \quad \Lambda_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta) - \vartheta_2(\beta, \sigma) \right].
\]
(5.3.1)

By the definition of the perturbation terms, this last expression equals
\[
\tau \left[ \pi^* \int_F \tr \Lambda_\sigma(\beta \wedge \beta^*) \otimes \bar{I}_{\rho_1} \quad 0 \quad \pi^* \int_F \tr \Lambda_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta) \otimes \bar{I}_{\rho_2} \right].
\]

Hence we obtain the equivalent system of equations:
\[
\Lambda_\sigma D'\beta = 0 \quad , \quad \Lambda_\sigma D''\beta^* = 0 ,
\]
(5.3.2)
and
\[
\tau X F h_1 - 2\pi \tau_1(\sigma) I_{W_1} = \tau \int_F \tr \Lambda_\sigma(\beta \wedge \beta^*) ,
\tau X F h_2 - 2\pi \tau_2(\sigma) I_{W_2} = \tau \int_F \tr \Lambda_\sigma(\beta^* \wedge \beta) .
\]
(5.3.3)

The remainder of the proof deals with some analysis of \( \beta \) and showing that the off–diagonal terms in (5.3.1) are zero. It follows from Lemma 2.3.2 that we may choose the smooth decomposition of \( E \), such that \( q^*\beta \) is of the form
\[
q^*\beta = \sum_{j=1}^k \pi^* \bar{\phi}_j \otimes p^* \eta_j ,
\]
where \( \eta_j \in A^{0,1}(F, \nu_\rho) \) are \( \Delta_{\nu} \)-harmonic \((0,1)\)–forms representing an orthonormal basis of \( H^{0,1}(F, \nu_\rho) \). Combining this with the Hodge formulas
\[
\Lambda_\sigma D'\beta - D'\Lambda_\sigma \beta = \tau D^* \beta ,
\Lambda_\sigma \bar{\partial} \beta - \bar{\partial} \Lambda_\sigma \beta = -\tau D'' \beta .
\]
(5.3.4)
in [22], we obtain the following equivalent properties for the metrics \( h_i \) on \( W_i \) (cf [10]).

**Lemma 5.3.1.** Suppose that \( \Delta_{\nu} \eta_j = 0 \), that is the forms \( \eta_j \in A^{0,1}(F, \nu_\rho) \) are harmonic. Then we have
(1) \( \Lambda_\sigma D'\beta = 0 \);
(2) \( \Lambda_\sigma D''\beta^* = 0 \);
(3) \( \bar{\delta}^* \beta = 0 \);

(4) \( \Delta \bar{\delta} \beta = 0 \), that is the form \( \beta \in A^{0,1}(M, \pi^* W \otimes \mathbb{C} \tilde{V}_\rho) \) is harmonic.

\[ \frac{1}{i} \int_F \text{Tr} \ A_{\sigma}(\beta \wedge \beta^*) = \frac{1}{\sigma} \int_F \text{Tr} \ \lambda_{1*}(\beta_0 \wedge \beta_0^*) = \frac{1}{\sigma} \Phi_1 , \]

\[ \mu \int_F \text{Tr} \ A_{\sigma}(\beta^* \wedge \beta) = \frac{1}{\sigma} \int_F \text{Tr} \ \lambda_{2*}(\beta_0^* \wedge \beta_0) = \frac{1}{\sigma} \Phi_2 . \]

Using again the above expression from Lemma 2.3.2, the non–negative hermitian endomorphisms \( \Phi_i \) of \( W_i \) admit the expansion

\[ q_0^* \Phi_1 = \sum_{i,j} \tilde{\phi}_i \circ \tilde{\phi}_j^* \langle \eta_i, \eta_j \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{\phi}_j \circ \tilde{\phi}_j^* \]

\[ q_0^* \Phi_2 = \sum_{i,j} \tilde{\phi}_i^* \circ \tilde{\phi}_j \langle \eta_i^*, \eta_j^* \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{\phi}_j^* \circ \tilde{\phi}_j. \]

The Theorem now follows essentially from (5.3.3), (5.3.5) and (5.3.6).

### 5.4 The Reduction Theorem for invariant extensions

Here we assume the following stronger conditions on the data on the fiber.

(1) The representations \((\rho_i, V_{\rho_i}) \in R(K)\) are irreducible.

(2) \( \mu_\rho = \mu_{\rho_1} - \mu_{\rho_2} < 0 \).

(3) \( H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho)^G \neq 0 \).

It follows from the Bott–Borel–Weil theorem [6] and the multiplicity formulas in [24] that the multiplicity of the trivial representation in \( H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho) \) is at most 1, that is we have \( H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho)^G \cong H^1(p, t_\mathbb{C}; V_\rho) \cong \mathbb{C} \). Under the above assumptions, the terms \( \delta_*(\beta_0) \) vanish and Theorem 5.2.1 takes on a more familiar form. In fact, we are now essentially in the situation of [11, Theorem 8.9].

**Theorem 5.4.1.** Suppose that the extension \( E \) is invariant, that is the Kobayashi form \( [\beta] \) of \( E \) satisfies

\[ [\beta] \in \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{O}_X}(\mathcal{E}_2, \mathcal{E}_1)_1 \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{W}) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} H^{0,1}(F, V_\rho)^U. \]

Then the following statements are equivalent:
(1) The invariant metric $h$ satisfies the Hermitian–Einstein equation

$$\iota \Lambda F_h = 2\pi \lambda I_f .$$

(2) The metrics $h_1$ and $h_2$ satisfy the coupled vortex equations:

$$\iota \Lambda X F_{h_1} + \frac{1}{\sigma} \phi \circ \phi^* = 2\pi \tau_1 I_{W_1} ,$$

$$\iota \Lambda X F_{h_2} - \frac{1}{\sigma} \phi^* \circ \phi = 2\pi \tau_2 I_{W_2} .$$

(5.4.1)

5.5 Examples

Bott’s generalization of the Borel–Weil theorem [6] states that for an irreducible $P$–module $(\rho, V_{\rho})$, the induced cohomology $H^{0,*}(G/P, V_{\rho})$ is either equal to zero or it is an irreducible $G$–module. The theory underlying the Bott–Borel–Weil (BBW) theorem can be used to compute examples of irreducible $P$–modules $V_{\rho}$ which satisfy the calibration conditions for both of the reduction theorems as stated above. In principle it seems that a plentiful supply of such examples can be computed for many types of the Kähler homogeneous space $F = G/P$, in particular for the case of invariant extensions. The reference [4] (Chapters 1–5) outlines a technology for doing this by means of computational rules. It is based on enumerating the theory of affine actions of the Weyl group of $g$ and the Bott–Kostant induction (cf [13]).

The procedure starts by considering the Dynkin diagram for a given $g$ where one or more nodes $\bullet$ are replaced by a crossed node $\times$ when there is a non–parabolic simple root. In this way the Dynkin diagram for $F = G/P$ is obtained. For instance, a maximal parabolic $p$ subalgebra (as in the case of the compact irreducible Hermitian symmetric spaces) admits a single crossed node and a Borel subalgebra $b$ has crosses through every node as is the case for the full flag manifold $G/B$ over $\mathbb{C}^{r+1}$ . The weights of the representations are exhibited by such diagrams (see below) by placing (integer) coefficients over each node in accordance with certain rules. If the aim is to obtain a 1–dimensional irreducible $g$–module, we would select suitable node coefficients for the diagram such that on taking a single affine Weyl group reflection over the appropriate crossed node leads to zeros over each node in the diagram and hence this selection corresponds to the trivial $g$–module provided by the BBW theorem.

Example 5.5.1. Let $F = \mathbb{C}P^4$ and take $V_{\rho}$ to be the irreducible $P$–module $\Omega^1_F$ .

Starting from the corresponding Dynkin diagram $\frac{2}{1} \frac{1}{0} \frac{0}{0}$ and then taking a single affine reflection, the trivial module is obtained. Thus $H^1(F, V_{\rho}) \cong \mathbb{C}$ , and the cohomology in all other degrees is zero by the BBW Theorem.

The dual module $V_{\rho}^\ast \cong \mathcal{T}_F^{1,0}$ has the corresponding diagram $\frac{1}{0} \frac{0}{1}$ .

That for the canonical line bundle $K_F = \Omega^4_F$ is $\frac{5}{0} \frac{0}{0}$ from which $V_{\rho} \otimes K_F$ is represented by $\frac{7}{1} \frac{0}{0}$ . On taking four affine reflections on the latter
we obtain \( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \). Thus Serre–duality and the BBW theorem imply that the irreducible \( G \)-module

\[ H^0(F, V^\ast_\rho) \cong H^4(F, V_\rho \otimes K_F) \cong g : \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \]

and the cohomology in all other degrees is zero, so we have \( H^0(F, V^\ast_\rho)^U = H^1(F, V_\rho)^U = 0 \).

**Example 5.5.2.** Here we take \( F \) to be the 9–dimensional partial flag manifold over \( \mathbb{C}^5 \) whose compact representation is

\[ F \cong SU(5)/S(U(1) \times U(2) \times U(1) \times U(1)) \]

It is an example of a homogeneous Kähler manifold which is not a symmetric space. Consider the irreducible \( P \)-module \( V_\rho \) as represented by

\[ \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \]

A single affine reflection leads to \( H^1(F, V_\rho)^\ast \cong \mathbb{C} \) and zero cohomology in all other degrees. As for the dual module \( V^\ast_\rho \), the diagram is

\[ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \]

which can be seen to correspond to a singular weight and hence \( H^q(F, V^\ast_\rho) = 0 \), for all \( q \geq 0 \).

**Remark 5.5.3.** We remark that other types of examples can be formulated following e.g. [23] Theorem B.

### 6 The moment map and the PHE equation

Given a hermitian metric \( h \) on \( E \), the space \( \mathcal{C}(E) \) of integrable \( \bar{\partial} \)-operators, for which \( \bar{\partial}^2 = 0 \), corresponds bijectively to the space \( \mathcal{A}(E, h) \) of unitary integrable connections whose curvature satisfies \( F_{\bar{\partial}^2} = 0 \). Here \( E \) denotes the underlying smooth vector bundle of \( E \). Thus each element \( \bar{\partial}_E \in \mathcal{C}(E) \) defines a unique holomorphic structure \( E = (E, \bar{\partial}_E) \) on \( E \), for which it is the canonical \( \bar{\partial} \)-operator. The complex gauge group \( \text{Aut}(E) \) acts on \( \mathcal{C}(E) \) via the action

\[ g(\bar{\partial}) = g \circ \bar{\partial} \circ g^{-1} \]

for \( g \in \text{Aut}(E) \). For our purpose, we restrict attention to the unitary gauge (sub)group denoted by \( G \).

The quotient \( \mathcal{C}(E)/G \) is the space of equivalence classes of integrable holomorphic structures on \( E \) up to unitary equivalence. The Lie algebra of \( G \) is given by \( \text{Lie}(G) \cong \text{End}_h(E) \), where \( \text{End}_h(E) \) is the Lie algebra of global skew–hermitian endomorphisms of \( E \). Background references to this section are [3] [15] [22].

#### 6.1 The restricted gauge group and the moment map

Since \( M \) is Kähler, the inner product

\[ \langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{i(m-1)! \text{Vol}(M)} \int_M \text{Tr} \langle \alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \rangle \wedge \omega^{m-1} \]  

for \( \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in T_\beta \mathcal{C}(E) \cong A^{0,1}(M, \text{End}_h(E)) \), induces a Kähler structure on \( \mathcal{C}(E) \) where the Kähler form \( \omega \) is defined by \( \omega(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = \text{im} \langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \rangle \). The standard action of \( G \)
on \( C(E) \) preserves \( \omega \) and induces an associated equivariant moment map

\[
\nu = \nu(\mathcal{G}) : C(E) \longrightarrow \text{Lie}(\mathcal{G}) \subset \text{Lie}(\mathcal{G})^* \cong L^2(\text{Lie}(\mathcal{G}))
\]

\[
\tilde{\partial} \mapsto \Lambda_\sigma F_h ,
\]

where \( \tilde{\partial} \) corresponds to the unitary integrable connection \((A, h)\). This moment map is determined up to a constant in the center of the Lie algebra and may also be written as

\[
\nu(\tilde{\partial}) = \Lambda_\sigma F_h + 2\pi i \lambda I_E .
\]

Note that \( \nu^{-1}(0) \) is empty unless \( \lambda = \mu_E \), the slope of \( E \).

In this section we assume that the representations \((\rho_i, V_{\rho_i})\) are irreducible. We consider the subspace \( \mathcal{A}(\mathbb{E}, h) \subset \mathcal{A}(E, h) \) of unitary integrable connections \( \mathcal{A} \) of the form \((A_1, A_2, \beta)\), as in (4.1.2), where \( h \) is a (fixed) special metric \( h \) as in (4.1.1). Let \( C(\mathbb{E}) \subset C(E) \) be the subspace of holomorphic structures determined by \( \mathcal{A}(\mathbb{E}, h) \). The elements \( \tilde{\partial}_E \in C(\mathbb{E}) \) determine a holomorphic structure on the extension \( \mathbb{E} \) in (5.2.1), that is \( \tilde{\partial}_E \) is of the form

\[
\tilde{\partial}_E = \begin{bmatrix}
\partial^* W_1 \otimes \mathbf{I}_1 + \mathbf{I}_1 \otimes \partial_{V_1} & \beta \\
0 & \partial^* W_2 \otimes \mathbf{I}_2 + \mathbf{I}_2 \otimes \partial_{V_2}
\end{bmatrix} .
\]

We further consider the subspaces \( C_0(\mathbb{E}) \equiv A_0(\mathbb{E}, h) \), consisting of the elements in \( C(\mathbb{E}) \equiv A(\mathbb{E}, h) \) such that \( \beta \) is \( \Delta_{\tilde{\partial}} \)-harmonic, that is \( \tilde{\partial}^* \beta = 0 \). Then \( A_0(\mathbb{E}, h) \) admits a mapping

\[
\mathcal{H}^{0,1}_\mathbb{E}(M, \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{E}}(E_2, E_1)) \longrightarrow A_0(\mathbb{E}, h) \xrightarrow{\Pi} A(W_1, h_1) \times A(W_2, h_2) ,
\]

where the dimension \( \dim_{\mathbb{E}} \mathcal{H}^{0,1}_\mathbb{E}(M, \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{E}}(E_2, E_1)) \) is upper-semicontinuous as a function on the base.

We specify a subgroup \( \mathcal{G}_0 \subset \mathcal{G} \) which acts symplectically on \( C(E) \) and on \( C_0(\mathbb{E}) \) via restriction to the latter. For \( u_i \in \mathcal{G}_{W_i} \), the subgroup \( \mathcal{G}_0 \) is defined by

\[
\mathcal{G}_0 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix}
\pi^* u_1 \otimes \mathbf{I}_1 & 0 \\
0 & \pi^* u_2 \otimes \mathbf{I}_2
\end{bmatrix} \right\} \equiv \mathcal{G}_{W_1} \times \mathcal{G}_{W_2} \subset \mathcal{G} .
\]

The subgroup \( \mathcal{G}_0 \) leaves \( C_0(\mathbb{E}) \) invariant and fixes the holomorphic structures on the fiber. In fact, \( \mathcal{G}_0 \) is the maximal subgroup of \( \mathcal{G} \) with this property, since by the irreducibility of the \( V_{\rho_i} \) there are no non-trivial \( U \)-equivariant gauge transformations on the homogeneous bundles \( V_{\rho_i} \), that is \( \text{End}_U(V_{\rho_i}) \cong \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_{\rho_i})^K \cong \mathbb{C} \cdot \text{Id} \).

On smooth elements (relative to \( h = h_1 \oplus h_2 \) as above), we have a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Lie}(\mathcal{G}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Lie}(\mathcal{G})^* \cong L^2(\text{Lie}(\mathcal{G})) \\
\pi^* & \downarrow & \rho_0 \downarrow \\
\text{Lie}(\mathcal{G}_0) & \longrightarrow & \text{Lie}(\mathcal{G}_0)^* \cong L^2(\text{Lie}(\mathcal{G}_0))
\end{array}
\]
where $P_0$ denotes orthogonal projection and for $a \in \text{Lie}(G_0)$ the following relationship is satisfied:

\[
(P_0(\Lambda_\sigma F_h), a) = \frac{L}{n! \text{Vol}(X)} \int_X \text{Tr} \left( \left( P_0(\Lambda_\sigma F_h) \circ a^* \right) \omega_X^L \right).
\]  

(6.1.8)

Observing that the projection $P_0$ is essentially given by integration over the fiber, we obtain the main result concerning the moment map interpretation of the PHE equation.

**Theorem 6.1.1.** [13] With regards to the inclusion $j : C_0(E) \hookrightarrow C(E)$, consider the map

\[
\nu_0 : C_0(E) \longrightarrow \text{Lie}(G_0)^* ,
\]

as defined by $\nu_0 = P_0 \circ \nu \circ j$. Then the following hold:

(1) The map $\nu_0$ is a moment map for the action of $G_0$ on $C_0(E)$.

(2) The following diagram commutes with respect to the inclusion of smooth elements:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
C(E) & \xrightarrow{\nu} & \text{Lie}(G) \\
\uparrow j & & \uparrow \pi^* \\
C_0(E) & \xrightarrow{\nu_0} & \text{Lie}(G_0) \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
& & \xrightarrow{r_0} \\
\text{Lie}(G)^* \cong L^2(\text{Lie}(G)) & & \text{Lie}(G_0)^* \cong L^2(\text{Lie}(G_0))
\end{array}
\]

(3) The PHE equation

\[
\epsilon(\Lambda_\sigma F_h + \vartheta(\beta, \sigma)) = 2\pi \lambda I_E ,
\]

is equivalent to the $G_0$-moment map equation $\nu_0(\partial) = 0$.

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