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CONTACT CALABI-YAU MANIFOLDS AND SPECIAL LEGENDRIAN SUBMANIFOLDS

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Abstract

We consider a generalization of Calabi-Yau structures in the context of Sasakian manifolds. We study deformations of a special class of Legendrian submanifolds and classify invariant contact Calabi-Yau structures on 5-dimensional nilmanifolds. Finally we generalize to codimension r.

1. Introduction

In their celebrated paper [9] Harvey and Lawson introduced the concept of calibration and calibrated geometry. Namely, a *calibration* on an *n*-dimensional oriented Riemannian manifold (M, g) is a closed *r*-form ϕ such that for any $x \in M$

$$\phi_{x|V} \leq \operatorname{Vol}(V),$$

where V is an arbitrary oriented r-plane in $T_x M$. An oriented submanifold $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ is said to be *calibrated* by ϕ if $p^*(\phi) = Vol(L)$. Compact calibrated submanifolds have the important property of minimizing volume in their homology class. As a typical example, the real part of holomorphic volume form of a Calabi-Yau manifold is a calibration; the corresponding calibrated submanifolds are said to be *special Lagrangian*. In [13] McLean studied special Lagrangian submanifolds (and other special calibrated geometries) showing that the Moduli space of deformations of special Lagrangian manifolds of a fixed compact one L is a smooth manifold of dimension equal to the first Betti number of L.

In this paper we consider a generalization of Calabi-Yau structures in the context of Sasakian manifolds. Recall that a *Sasakian structure* on a 2n + 1-dimensional manifold M is a pair (α, J) , where α is a contact form on M and J is an integrable complex structure on $\xi = \ker \alpha$ calibrated by $\kappa = (1/2) d\alpha$. This is equivalent to require the following data: a quadruple (α, g, R, J) , where α is a 1-form, g is a Riemannian

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metric, R is a unitary Killing vector field, $J \in \text{End}(TM)$ satisfying

$$J^2 = -I + \alpha \otimes R$$
, $g(J \cdot, J \cdot) = g(\cdot, \cdot) - \alpha \otimes \alpha$, $\alpha(R) = 1$

and such that the metric cone $(M \times \mathbb{R}^+, r^2g + dr \otimes dr)$ endowed with the almost complex structure $\tilde{J} = J - r\alpha \otimes \partial_r + (1/r)dr \otimes R$ is Kähler, where we extend J by $J(\partial_r) = 0$ (see e.g. [1], [2], [12]). These manifolds have been studied by many authors (see e.g. [1], [3], [8], [11], [12] and the references included).

We consider contact Calabi-Yau manifolds which are a special class of Sasakian manifolds: namely a *contact Calabi-Yau manifold* is a 2n + 1-dimensional Sasakian manifold (M, α, J) endowed with a closed basic complex volume form ϵ . It turns out that these manifolds are a special class of null-Sasakian α -Einstein manifolds. As a direct consequence of the above definition, in a contact Calabi-Yau manifold (M, α, J, ϵ) the real part of ϵ is a calibration. Furthermore, we have that an *n*-dimensional submanifold $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ of a contact Calabi-Yau manifold admits an orientation making it a calibrated submanifold by $\Re \epsilon \epsilon$ if and only if

$$p^*(\alpha) = 0, \quad p^*(\mathfrak{Im} \epsilon) = 0.$$

In such a case L is said to be a special Legendrian submanifold. We prove that:

The moduli space of deformations of special Legendrian submanifolds near a fixed compact one L is a smooth 1-dimensional manifold.

Moreover we get the following extension theorem:

Let $(M, \alpha_t, J_t, \epsilon_t)$ be a smooth family of contact Calabi-Yau manifolds and let $p: L \hookrightarrow (M, \alpha_0, J_0, \epsilon_0)$ be a compact special Legendrian submanifold. Then there exists a smooth family of special Legendrian submanifolds $p_t: L \hookrightarrow (M, \alpha_t, J_t, \epsilon_t)$ that extends $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ if and only if the cohomology class $[p^*(\Im \epsilon)]$ vanishes.

This can be considered a contact version of a theorem of Lu Peng (see [10]) in Calabi-Yau manifolds (see also [14]).

In Section 2 we fix some notation on contact and Sasakian geometry. In Section 3 we define contact Calabi-Yau manifolds and we obtain some simple topological obstructions to the existence of contact Calabi-Yau structures on odd-dimensional manifolds. As a corollary, we get that there are no contact Calabi-Yau structures on odd-dimensional spheres. In Section 4 we study the moduli space of special Legendrian submanifolds, proving the theorems stated above. In Section 5 we classify the 5-dimensional nilmanifolds carrying an invariant contact Calabi-Yau structure. The proof is based on Theorems 21 and 23 of [5]. In the last section we generalize the previous definition to the case of codimension r proving an extension theorem. Some examples

of contact Calabi-Yau manifolds and special Legendrian submanifolds are carefully described.

2. Preliminaries

Let *M* be a manifold of dimension 2n + 1. A *contact structure* on *M* is a distribution $\xi \subset TM$ of dimension 2n, such that the defining 1-form α satisfies

(1)
$$\alpha \wedge (d\alpha)^n \neq 0.$$

A 1-form α satisfying (1) is said to be a *contact form* on M. Let α be a contact form on M; then there exists a unique vector field R_{α} on M such that

$$\alpha(R_{\alpha})=1, \quad \iota_{R_{\alpha}}d\alpha=0,$$

where $\iota_{R_{\alpha}} d\alpha$ denotes the contraction of $d\alpha$ along R_{α} . By definition R_{α} is called the *Reeb vector field* of the contact form α . A *contact manifold* is a pair (M, ξ) where M is a 2n + 1-dimensional manifold and ξ is a contact structure. Let (M, ξ) be a contact manifold and fix a defining (contact) form α . Then the 2-form $\kappa = (1/2) d\alpha$ defines a symplectic form on the contact structure ξ ; therefore the pair (ξ, κ) is a symplectic vector bundle over M. A *complex structure* on ξ is the datum of $J \in \text{End}(\xi)$ such that $J^2 = -I_{\xi}$.

DEFINITION 2.1. Let α be a contact form on M, with $\xi = \ker \alpha$ and let $\kappa = (1/2) d\alpha$. A complex structure J on ξ is said to be κ -calibrated if

$$g_J[x](\cdot, \cdot) \coloneqq \kappa[x](\cdot, J_x \cdot)$$

is a J_x -Hermitian inner product on ξ_x for any $x \in M$.

The set of κ -calibrated complex structures on ξ will be denoted by $\mathfrak{C}_{\alpha}(M)$. If J is a complex structure on $\xi = \ker \alpha$, then we extend it to an endomorphism of TM by setting

$$J(R_{\alpha})=0.$$

Note that such a J satisfies

$$J^2 = -I + \alpha \otimes R_\alpha.$$

If J is κ -calibrated, then it induces a Riemannian metric g on M given by

(2)
$$g := g_J + \alpha \otimes \alpha.$$

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Furthermore the Nijenhuis tensor of J is defined by

$$N_J(X, Y) = [JX, JY] - J[X, JY] - J[Y, JX] + J^2[X, Y]$$

for any $X, Y \in TM$. We recall the following

DEFINITION 2.2. A Sasakian structure on a 2n + 1-dimensional manifold M is a pair (α, J) , where

- α is a contact form;
- $J \in \mathfrak{C}_{\alpha}(M)$ satisfies $N_J = -d\alpha \otimes R_{\alpha}$.

The triple (M, α, J) is said to be a Sasakian manifold.

For other characterizations of Sasakian structure see e.g. [1] and [2].

We recall now the definition of basic r-forms.

DEFINITION 2.3. Let (M, ξ) be a contact manifold. A differential *r*-form γ on *M* is said to be *basic* if

$$\iota_{R_{\alpha}}\gamma=0,\quad \mathcal{L}_{R_{\alpha}}\gamma=0,$$

where \mathcal{L} denotes the Lie derivative and R_{α} is the Reeb vector field of an arbitrary contact form defining ξ .

We will denote by $\Lambda_B^r(M)$ the set of basic *r*-forms on (M, ξ) . Note that

$$d\Lambda_B^r(M) \subset \Lambda_B^{r+1}(M).$$

The cohomology $H_B^{\bullet}(M)$ of this complex is called the *basic cohomology* of (M, ξ) .

If (M, α, J) is a Sasakian manifold, then

$$J(\Lambda_B^r(M)) = \Lambda_B^r(M),$$

where, as usual, the action of J on r-forms is defined by

$$J\phi(X_1,\ldots,X_r)=\phi(JX_1,\ldots,JX_r).$$

Consequently $\Lambda^r_B(M) \otimes \mathbb{C}$ splits as

$$\Lambda^r_B(M)\otimes \mathbb{C}=\bigoplus_{p+q=r}\Lambda^{p,q}_J(\xi)$$

and, according with this gradation, it is possible to define the cohomology groups $H_B^{p,q}(M)$. The *r*-forms belonging to $\Lambda_J^{p,q}(\xi)$ are said to be of type (p,q) with respect

to J. Note that $\kappa = (1/2) d\alpha \in \Lambda_J^{1,1}(\xi)$ and it determines a non-vanishing cohomology class in $H_B^{1,1}(M)$. The Sasakian structure (α, J) also induces a natural connection ∇^{ξ} on ξ given by

$$\nabla_X^{\xi} Y = \begin{cases} (\nabla_X Y)^{\xi} & \text{if } X \in \xi \\ [R_{\alpha}, Y] & \text{if } X = R_{\alpha} \end{cases}$$

where the subscript ξ denotes the projection onto ξ . One easily gets

$$\nabla^{\xi}_X J = 0, \quad \nabla^{\xi}_X g_J = 0, \quad \nabla^{\xi}_X d\alpha = 0, \quad \nabla^{\xi}_X Y - \nabla^{\xi}_Y X = [X, Y]^{\xi},$$

for any $X, Y \in TM$. Consequently we have

$$\operatorname{Hol}(\nabla^{\xi}) \subseteq \operatorname{U}(n).$$

Moreover the *transverse Ricci tensor* Ric^{T} is defined as

$$\operatorname{Ric}^{T}(X, Y) = \sum_{i=1}^{2n} g \big(\nabla_{X}^{\xi} \nabla_{e_{i}}^{\xi} e_{i} - \nabla_{e_{i}}^{\xi} \nabla_{X}^{\xi} e_{i} - \nabla_{[X,e_{i}]}^{\xi} e_{i}, Y \big),$$

for any $X, Y \in \xi$, where $\{e_1, \ldots, e_{2n}\}$ is an arbitrary orthonormal frame of ξ . It is known that Ric^T satisfies

$$\operatorname{Ric}^{T}(X, Y) = \operatorname{Ric}(X, Y) + 2g(X, Y),$$

for any $X, Y \in \xi$, where Ric denotes the Ricci tensor of the Riemannian metric $g = g_J + \alpha \otimes \alpha$. Let us denote by ρ^T the Ricci form of Ric^T, i.e.

$$\rho^{T}(X, Y) = \operatorname{Ric}^{T}(JX, Y) = \operatorname{Ric}(JX, Y) + 2\kappa(X, Y),$$

for any $X, Y \in \xi$. We recall that ρ^T is a closed form such that $(1/(2\pi))\rho$ represents the first Chern class of (ξ, J) (see e.g. [7]); this form is called the *transverse Ricci* form of (α, J) .

DEFINITION 2.4. The basic cohomology class

$$c_1^B(M) = \frac{1}{2\pi} [\rho^T] \in H_B^{1,1}(M)$$

is called the *first basic Chern class* of (M, α, J) and, if it vanishes, then (M, α, J) is said to be *null-Sasakian*.

Furthermore we recall that a Sasakian manifold is called α -*Einstein* if there exist $\lambda, \nu \in C^{\infty}(M, \mathbb{R})$ such that

$$\operatorname{Ric} = \lambda g + \nu \alpha \otimes \alpha.$$

For general references on these topics see e.g. [4] and [3].

Finally, recall that a submanifold $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ of a 2n+1-dimensional contact manifold (M, ξ) is said to be *Legendrian* if:

1) $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} L = n$,

2) $p_*(TL) \subset \xi$.

Observe that, if α is a defining form of the contact structure ξ , then condition 2) is equivalent to say that $p^*(\alpha) = 0$. Hence Legendrian submanifolds are the analogue of Lagrangian submanifolds in contact geometry.

3. Contact Calabi-Yau manifolds

In this section we study contact Calabi-Yau manifolds. As already explained in the introduction, these manifolds are a natural generalization of the Calabi-Yau ones in the context of contact geometry. Roughly speaking a contact Calabi-Yau manifold is a Sasakian manifold endowed with a basic closed complex volume form. We can give now the following

DEFINITION 3.1. A contact Calabi-Yau manifold is a quadruple (M, α, J, ϵ) , where

- (M, α, J) is a 2n + 1-dimensional Sasakian manifold;
- $\epsilon \in \Lambda_J^{n,0}(\xi)$ is a nowhere vanishing basic form on $\xi = \ker \alpha$ such that

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon \wedge \bar{\epsilon} = c_n \kappa^n \\ d\epsilon = 0, \end{cases}$$

where $c_n = (-1)^{n(n+1)/2} (2i)^n$ and $\kappa = (1/2) d\alpha$.

Now we will describe a couple of examples.

EXAMPLE 3.2. Consider \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} endowed with the standard Euclidean coordinates $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n, y_1, \ldots, y_n, t\}$. Let

$$\alpha_0 = 2 dt - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_i dx_i$$

be the standard contact form on \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} and let $\xi_0 = \ker \alpha_0$. Then ξ_0 is spanned by

$$\{y_1\partial_t + \partial_{x_1}, \ldots, y_n\partial_t + \partial_{x_n}, \partial_{y_1}, \ldots, \partial_{y_n}\}.$$

For simplicity, set $V_i = y_i \partial_t + \partial_{x_i}$, $W_j = \partial_{y_j}$, i, j = 1, ..., n and

$$\begin{cases} J_0(V_r) = W_r \\ J_0(W_r) = -V_r \end{cases} \quad r = 1, \ldots, n.$$

Then J_0 defines a complex structure in $\mathfrak{C}_{\alpha}(M)$. Since the space of transverse 1-forms is spanned by $\{dx_1, \ldots, dx_n, dy_1, \ldots, dy_n\}$, then the complex valued form

$$\epsilon_0 := (dx_1 + i \, dy_1) \wedge \dots \wedge (dx_n + i \, dy_n)$$

is of type (n, 0) with respect to J_0 and it satisfies

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon_0 \wedge \bar{\epsilon}_0 = c_n \kappa_0^n \\ d\epsilon_0 = 0, \end{cases}$$

where $\kappa_0 = (1/2) d\alpha_0$. Therefore $(\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, \alpha_0, J_0, \epsilon_0)$ is a contact Calabi-Yau manifold.

The following will describe a compact contact Calabi-Yau manifold.

EXAMPLE 3.3. Let

$$H(3) := \left\{ A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x & y \\ 0 & 1 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \middle| x, y, z \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

be the 3-dimensional Heisenberg group and let $M = H(3)/\Gamma$, where Γ denotes the subgroup of H(3) given by the matrices with integral entries. The 1-forms $\alpha_1 = dx$, $\alpha_2 = dy$, $\alpha_3 = x \, dy - dz$ are H(3)-invariant and therefore they define a global coframe on M. Then $\alpha = 2\alpha_3$ is a contact form whose contact distribution ξ is spanned by $V = \partial_x$, $W = \partial_y + x \partial_z$. Again

$$\begin{cases} J(V) = W\\ J(W) = -V \end{cases}$$

defines a κ -calibrated complex structure on ξ and $\epsilon = \alpha_1 + i\alpha_2$ is a (1, 0)-form on ξ such that (M, α, J, ϵ) is a contact Calabi-Yau manifold.

The last example gives an invariant contact Calabi-Yau structure on a nilmanifold. It can be generalized to the dimension 2n + 1 in this way: let \mathfrak{g} be the Lie algebra spanned by $\{X_1, \ldots, X_{2n+1}\}$ with

$$[X_{2k-1}, X_{2k}] = -X_{2n+1}$$

for k = 1, ..., n and the other brackets are zero. Then g is a 2n + 1-dimensional nilpotent Lie algebra with rational constant structures and, by Malcev theorem, it follows that if G is the simply connected Lie group with Lie algebra g, then G has a compact

quotient. Let $\{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{2n+1}\}$ be the dual basis of $\{X_1, \ldots, X_{2n+1}\}$. Then we immediately get

$$d\alpha_1=0,\ldots, d\alpha_{2n}=0, \quad d\alpha_{2n+1}=\sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_{2k-1}\wedge \alpha_{2k}.$$

Hence

$$\alpha=2\alpha_{2n+1},$$

the endomorphism J of $\xi = \ker \alpha$ defined by

$$\begin{cases} J(X_{2k-1}) = X_{2k} \\ J(X_{2k}) = -X_{2k-1} \end{cases}$$

for k = 1, ..., n and the complex form

$$\epsilon = (\alpha_1 + i\alpha_2) \wedge \cdots \wedge (\alpha_{2n-1} + i\alpha_{2n})$$

define a contact Calabi-Yau structure on any compact nilmanifold associated with g.

The following proposition gives simple topological obstructions in order that a compact 2n + 1-dimensional manifold M carries a contact Calabi-Yau structure.

Proposition 3.4. Let M be a 2n + 1-dimensional compact manifold. Assume that M admits a contact Calabi-Yau structure; then the following hold

1. *if* n *is* even, then $b_{n+1}(M) > 0$;

2. if n is odd, then

$$\begin{cases} b_n(M) \ge 2\\ b_{n+1}(M) \ge 2 \end{cases}$$

where $b_i(M)$ denotes the j^{th} Betti number of M.

Proof. Let (α, J, ϵ) be a contact Calabi-Yau structure on M and let $\xi = \ker \alpha$. Set $\Omega = \Re \epsilon \epsilon$; then, since $\epsilon \in \Lambda_J^{n,0}(\xi)$, we have $\epsilon = \Omega + iJ\Omega$. In view of the assumption $d\epsilon = 0$, we obtain $d\Omega = dJ\Omega = 0$ and since $d\alpha \in \Lambda_J^{1,1}(\xi)$ it follows that

$$\Omega \wedge d\alpha = J\Omega \wedge d\alpha = 0.$$

Hence

$$d(\Omega \wedge \alpha) = d(J\Omega \wedge \alpha) = 0.$$

Furthermore we have

$$\epsilon \wedge \overline{\epsilon} = \Omega \wedge \Omega + J\Omega \wedge J\Omega \quad \text{if } n \text{ is even;} \\ \epsilon \wedge \overline{\epsilon} = -2i\Omega \wedge J\Omega \qquad \text{if } n \text{ is odd.}$$

1. If n is even, then $\alpha \wedge (\Omega \wedge \Omega + J\Omega \wedge J\Omega)$ is a volume form on M. Assume that the cohomology classes $[\Omega \wedge \alpha]$, $[J\Omega \wedge \alpha]$ vanish; then there exist $\beta, \gamma \in \Lambda^n(M)$ such that

$$\alpha \wedge \Omega = d\beta, \quad \alpha \wedge J\Omega = d\gamma.$$

By Stokes theorem we have

$$\begin{split} 0 \neq \int_{M} \alpha \wedge \Omega \wedge \Omega + \alpha \wedge J\Omega \wedge J\Omega &= \int_{M} d\beta \wedge \Omega + d\gamma \wedge J\Omega \\ &= \int_{M} d(\beta \wedge \Omega) + d(\gamma \wedge J\Omega) = 0, \end{split}$$

which is absurd. Therefore one of $[\Omega \wedge \alpha]$, $[J\Omega \wedge \alpha]$ does not vanish. Consequently $b_{n+1}(M) > 0.$

We prove that the cohomology classes $[\Omega]$ and $[J\Omega]$ are 2. Let n be odd. \mathbb{R} -independent. Assume that there exist $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $a[\Omega] + b[J\Omega] = 0$, $(a, b) \neq b$ (0, 0). Then there exists $\beta \in \Lambda^{n-1}(M)$ such that

$$a\Omega + bJ\Omega = d\beta$$

We may assume that a = 1, so that $\Omega = d\beta - bJ\Omega$. Stokes theorem implies

$$0 \neq \int_{M} \alpha \wedge \Omega \wedge J\Omega = \int_{M} \alpha \wedge d\beta \wedge J\Omega = -\int_{M} d(\alpha \wedge \beta \wedge J\Omega) = 0$$

which is a contradiction. Hence $b_n(M) \ge 2$. With the same argument, it is possible to prove that $b_{n+1}(M) \ge 2$ by showing that $[\Omega \land \alpha]$ and $[J\Omega \land \alpha]$ are \mathbb{R} -independent in $H^{n+1}(M, \mathbb{R}).$

The following is an immediate consequence of Proposition 3.4.

Corollary 3.5. A 3-dimensional compact manifold M admitting contact Calabi-Yau structure has $b_1(M) \ge 2$. In particular, there are no compact 3-dimensional simply connected contact Calabi-Yau manifolds. Moreover, the 2n + 1-dimensional sphere has no contact Calabi-Yau structures.

The following proposition implies that the transverse Ricci tensor of a contact Calabi-Yau manifold vanishes

Proposition 3.6. Let (M, α, J) be a 2n + 1-dimensional Sasakian manifold and $\xi = \ker \alpha$. The following facts are equivalent: 1. $\operatorname{Hol}^0(\nabla^{\xi}) \subseteq \operatorname{SU}(n)$

Proof. The connection ∇^{ξ} induces a connection ∇^{K} on $\Lambda_{J}^{n,0}(\xi)$ which has $\operatorname{Hol}(\nabla^{K}) \subseteq \operatorname{U}(1)$. Since $\operatorname{Hol}^{0}(\nabla^{K})$ and $\operatorname{Hol}^{0}(\nabla^{\xi})$ are related by

$$\operatorname{Hol}^{0}(\nabla^{K}) = \operatorname{det}(\operatorname{Hol}^{0}(\nabla^{\xi})),$$

where det is the map induced by the determinant $U(n) \rightarrow U(1)$, then it follows that $\operatorname{Hol}^0(\nabla^{\xi}) \subseteq \operatorname{SU}(n)$ if and only if $\operatorname{Hol}^0(\nabla^K) = \{1\}$ and in this case ∇^K is flat. As in the Kähler case it can be showed using transverse holomorphic coordinates (see e.g. [7], [8]) that the curvature form of ∇^K coincides with the transverse Ricci form of (α, J) . Hence $\operatorname{Hol}^0(\nabla^{\xi}) \subseteq \operatorname{SU}(n)$ if and only if $\operatorname{Ric}^T = 0$.

As a consequence of the last proposition we have the following

Corollary 3.7. Let (M, α, J, ϵ) be a contact Calabi-Yau manifold. Then (M, α, J) is null-Sasakian and the metric g induced by (α, J) is α -Einstein with $\lambda = -2$ and $\nu = 2n + 2$. In particular the scalar curvature of the metric g associated to (α, J) is equal to -2n.

4. Deformations of special Legendrian submanifolds

In this section we are going to study the geometry of Legendrian submanifolds in a contact Calabi-Yau ambient. We will prove a contact version of McLean and Lu Peng theorems (see [13] and [10]).

Let (M, α, J, ϵ) be a contact Calabi-Yau manifold of dimension 2n + 1. It easy to see that for any oriented *n*-plane $V \subset T_x M$

$$\mathfrak{Re} \ \epsilon_{|V} \leq \mathrm{Vol}(V),$$

where Vol(V) is computed with respect to the metric g induced by (α, J) on M. Hence $\Re \epsilon \epsilon$ is a calibration on (M, g) (see [9]). We have the following

Proposition 4.1. Let $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ be an n-dimensional submanifold. The following facts are equivalent

1. the submanifold satisfies

$$\begin{cases} p^*(\alpha) = 0\\ p^*(\mathfrak{Im} \,\epsilon) = 0, \end{cases}$$

2. there exists an orientation on L making it calibrated by $\Re \epsilon$.

We can give the following

DEFINITION 4.2. An *n*-dimensional submanifold $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ is said to be *special* Legendrian if

$$\begin{cases} p^*(\alpha) = 0\\ p^*(\mathfrak{Im} \epsilon) = 0 \end{cases}$$

It follows that compact special Legendrian submanifolds minimize volume in their homology class and that there are no compact special Legendrian submanifolds in $(\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, \alpha_0, J_0, \epsilon_0)$.

EXAMPLE 4.3. Let $(M = H(3)/\Gamma, \alpha, J, \epsilon)$ be the contact Calabi-Yau manifold considered in the Example 3.3. Then the submanifold

$$L := \left\{ [A] \in M \middle| A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \simeq S^1$$

is a compact special Legendrian submanifold.

Now we define the moduli space of special Legendrian submanifolds.

DEFINITION 4.4. Let (M, α, J, ϵ) be a contact Calabi-Yau manifold and let $p_0: L \hookrightarrow M$, $p_1: L \hookrightarrow M$ be two special Legendrian submanifolds. Then $p_1: L \hookrightarrow M$ is said to be a *deformation* of $p_0: L \hookrightarrow M$ if there exists a smooth map $F: L \times [0, 1] \to M$ such that

- $F(\cdot, t): L \times \{t\} \to M$ is a special Legendrian embedding for any $t \in [0, 1]$;
- $F(\cdot, 0) = p_0, F(\cdot, 1) = p_1.$

Let (M, α, J, ϵ) be a contact Calabi-Yau manifold and let $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ be a fixed compact special Legendrian submanifold. Set

 $\mathfrak{M}(L) := \{ \text{special Legendrian submanifolds of } (M, \alpha, J, \epsilon)$ which are deformations of $p: L \hookrightarrow M \} / \sim$,

where two embeddings are considered equivalent if they differ by a diffeomorphism of L; then by definition $\mathfrak{M}(L)$ is the *moduli space of special Legendrian submanifolds* which are deformations of $p: L \hookrightarrow M$. We have the following

Theorem 4.5. Let (M, α, J, ϵ) be a contact Calabi-Yau manifold and let $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ be a compact special Legendrian submanifold. Then the moduli space $\mathfrak{M}(L)$ is a 1-dimensional manifold.

The next lemma will be useful in the proof of Theorem 4.5:

Lemma 4.6 ([13], [6]). Let (V, κ) be a symplectic vector space and let $i: W \hookrightarrow V$ be a Lagrangian subspace. Then

1. $\tau: V/W \to W^*$ defined as $\tau([v]) = i^*(\iota_v \kappa)$ is an isomorphism;

2. let J be a κ -calibrated complex structure on V and let $\epsilon \in \Lambda_I^{n,0}(V^*)$ satisfy

$$i^*(\mathfrak{Im}\,\epsilon) = 0, \quad \epsilon \wedge \bar{\epsilon} = c_n \frac{\kappa^n}{n!}$$

Then $\theta: V/W \to \Lambda^{n-1}(W^*)$ defined as $\theta([v]) := i^*(\iota_v \Im \mathfrak{m} \epsilon)$ is an isomorphism. Moreover for any $v \in V$, we have

$$\theta([v]) = - * \tau([v]),$$

where * is computed with respect to $i^*(g_J(\cdot, \cdot)) := i^*(\kappa(\cdot, J \cdot))$ and the volume form $Vol(W) := i^*(\Re \epsilon)$.

For the proof of Lemma 4.6 we refer to [13] and [6].

Proof of Theorem 4.5. Let $\mathcal{N}(L)$ be the normal bundle to L. Then

$$\mathcal{N}(L) = \langle R_{\alpha} \rangle \oplus J(p_*(TL)),$$

where R_{α} is the Reeb vector field of α . Let Z be a vector field normal to L and let $\exp_Z \colon L \to M$ be defined as

$$\exp_Z(x) := \exp_x(Z(x)).$$

Let U be a neighborhood of 0 in $C^{2,\alpha}(\langle R_{\alpha} \rangle) \oplus C^{1,\alpha}(J(p_*(TL)))$ and let

$$F: U \to C^{1,\alpha}(\Lambda^1(L)) \oplus C^{0,\alpha}(\Lambda^n(L)),$$

be defined as

$$F(Z) = (\exp_Z^*(\alpha), 2 \exp_Z^*(\mathfrak{Im} \epsilon)).$$

We obviously have

$$Z \in F^{-1}((0, 0)) \cap C^{\infty}(\mathcal{N}(L)) \iff \exp_Z(L)$$
 is a special Legendrian submanifold

Note that since \exp_Z and p are homotopic via \exp_{tZ} , we have

$$[\exp_Z^*(\mathfrak{Im}\,\epsilon)] = [p^*(\mathfrak{Im}\,\epsilon)] = 0.$$

Therefore

$$F: U \to C^{1,\alpha}(\Lambda^1(L)) \oplus dC^{1,\alpha}(\Lambda^{n-1}(L)).$$

Let us compute the differential of the map F.

$$F_*[0](Z) = \frac{d}{dt} (\exp_{tZ}^*(\alpha), 2 \exp_{tZ}^*(\mathfrak{Im} \epsilon))_{|t=0} = (p^*(\mathcal{L}_Z \alpha), 2p^*(\mathcal{L}_Z \mathfrak{Im} \epsilon)),$$

where \mathcal{L} denotes the Lie derivative. We may write $Z = JX + fR_{\alpha}$; then applying Cartan formula we obtain

$$F_*[0](Z) = (p^*(\mathcal{L}_Z\alpha), 2p^*(\mathcal{L}_Z \operatorname{\mathfrak{Im}} \epsilon))$$

= $(p^*(d\iota_Z\alpha + \iota_Z d\alpha), 2p^*(d\iota_Z \operatorname{\mathfrak{Im}} \epsilon))$
= $(p^*(d\iota_{JX+fR_\alpha}\alpha + \iota_{JX+fR_\alpha} d\alpha), 2p^*(d\iota_{JX+fR_\alpha} \operatorname{\mathfrak{Im}} \epsilon))$
= $(p^*(d\iota_{fR_\alpha}\alpha + \iota_{JX} d\alpha), 2p^*(d\iota_{JX} \operatorname{\mathfrak{Im}} \epsilon))$
= $(p^*(df + \iota_{JX} d\alpha), 2dp^*(\iota_{JX} \operatorname{\mathfrak{Im}} \epsilon)).$

By applying Lemma 4.6 we get

(3)
$$F_*[0](Z) = (d(f \circ p) + p^*(\iota_{JX} d\alpha), -d * p^*(\iota_{JX} d\alpha)),$$

where * is the Hodge star operator with respect to the metric $p^*(g_J)$ and the volume form $p^*(\Re \epsilon \epsilon)$. Now we show that $F_*[0]$ is surjective. Let $(\eta, d\gamma) \in C^{1,\alpha}(\Lambda^{1}(L)) \oplus dC^{1,\alpha}(\Lambda^{n-1}(L))$. By the Hodge decomposition theorem we may assume

$$d\gamma = -d * du$$
 with $u \in C^{3,\alpha}(L)$

and we have

$$\eta = dv + d^*\beta + h(\eta)$$

where $v \in C^{2,\alpha}(L)$, $\beta \in C^{2,\alpha}(\Lambda^2(L))$ and $h(\eta)$ denotes the harmonic component of η . Then we get

$$(\eta, d\gamma) = (du - du + dv + d^*\beta + h(\eta), -d * du) = (dv - du + du + d^*\beta + h(\eta), -d * (du + d^*\beta + h(\eta)).$$

We can find $f \in C^{2,\alpha}(p(L))$ and $X \in C^{1,\alpha}(p_*(TL))$ such that

$$f \circ p = v - u$$
$$p^*(\iota_{JX}d\alpha) = du + d^*\beta + h(\eta).$$

Hence

$$(\eta, d\gamma) = (d(f \circ p) + p^*(\iota_{JX} d\alpha), -d * p^*(\iota_{JX} d\alpha))$$

and $F_*[0]$ is surjective. Therefore (0, 0) is a regular value of F. Now we compute ker $F_*[0]$. Formula (3) implies that $Z \in \ker F_*[0]$ if and only if

(4)
$$d(f \circ p) + p^*(\iota_{JX} d\alpha) = 0$$

(5)
$$d^*p^*(\iota_{JX}\,d\alpha)=0.$$

By applying d^* to both sides of (4) and taking into account (5) we get

$$0 = d^*d(f \circ p) + d^*p^*(\iota_{JX} d\alpha) = d^*d(f \circ p),$$

i.e.

$$\Delta(f \circ p) = 0.$$

Since L is compact f is constant. Hence (4) reduces to

$$(6) p^*(\iota_{JX} d\alpha) = 0.$$

The map

$$\Theta: p_*(TL) \to \Lambda^1(L)$$

defined by

$$\Theta(X) = p^*(\iota_{JX} \, d\alpha)$$

is an isomorphism; hence equation (6) implies X = 0. Therefore $Z = W + f R_{\alpha}$ belongs to ker $F_*[0]$ if and only if

$$\begin{cases} W = 0\\ f = \text{constant.} \end{cases}$$

It follows that ker $F_*[0] = \operatorname{Span}_{\mathbb{R}}(R_{\alpha}) \subset C^{\infty}(\mathcal{N}(L))$. The implicit function theorem between Banach spaces implies that the moduli space $\mathfrak{M}(L)$ is a 1-dimensional smooth manifold.

REMARK 4.7. Note that the dimension of $\mathfrak{M}(L)$ does not depend on that of L. This is quite different from the Calabi-Yau case, where the dimension of the moduli space of deformations of special Lagrangian submanifolds near a fixed compact L is equal to the first Betti number of L. This difference can be explained in the following way: the deformations parameterized by curves tangent to the contact structure are trivial, while those one along the Reeb vector field R_{α} parameterize the moduli space.

Now we study the following

Extension problem. Let $(M, \alpha_t, J_t, \epsilon_t)$, $t \in (-\delta, \delta)$, be a smooth family of contact Calabi-Yau manifolds. Given a compact special Legendrian submanifold $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ of $(M, \alpha_0, J_0, \epsilon_0)$ does it exist a family $p_t: L \hookrightarrow M$ of special Legendrian submanifolds of $(M, \alpha_t, J_t, \epsilon_t)$ such that $p_0: L \hookrightarrow M$ coincides with p?

This is a contact version of the extension problem in the Calabi-Yau case (see [10] and [14]). We can state the following

Theorem 4.8. Let $(M, \alpha_t, J_t, \epsilon_t)_{t \in (-\delta, \delta)}$ be a smooth family of contact Calabi-Yau manifolds. Let $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ be a compact special Legendrian submanifold of $(M, \alpha_0, J_0, \epsilon_0)$. Then there exists, for small t, a family of compact special Legendrian submanifolds $p_t: L \hookrightarrow (M, \alpha_t, J_t, \epsilon_t)$ such that $p_0 = p$ if and only if the condition

(7)
$$[p^*(\mathfrak{Im}\,\epsilon_t)] = 0$$

holds for t small enough.

Proof. The condition (7) is necessary. Indeed if we can extend L, then $\Im \mathfrak{m} \epsilon_t$ is a closed form such that $p_t^*(\Im \mathfrak{m} \epsilon_t) = 0$. Since p_t is homotopic to p_0 we have

$$[p_0^*(\mathfrak{Im}\,\epsilon_t)] = [p_t^*(\mathfrak{Im}\,\epsilon_t)] = 0.$$

In order to prove that condition (7) is sufficient, we can consider the map

$$G: (-\sigma, \sigma) \times C^{1,\alpha}(J(p_*TL)) \to C^{0,\alpha}(\Lambda^2(L)) \oplus C^{0,\alpha}(\Lambda^n(L))$$

defined as

$$G(t, Z) = (\exp_{Z}^{*}(d\alpha_{t}), 2 \exp_{Z}^{*}(\mathfrak{Im} \epsilon_{t})).$$

By our assumption it follows that

$$\operatorname{Im}(G) \subset dC^{1,\alpha}(\Lambda^{1}(L)) \oplus dC^{(1,\alpha)}(\Lambda^{n-1}(L)).$$

Let $X \in C^{1,\alpha}(p_*(TL))$; a direct computation and Lemma 4.6 give

$$G_*[(0, 0)](0, JX) = (dp^*(\iota_{JX} \, d\alpha_0), 2dp^*(\iota_{JX} \, \mathfrak{Im} \, \epsilon))$$
$$= (dp^*(\iota_{JX} \, d\alpha_0), -d * p^*(\iota_{JX} \, d\alpha_0)),$$

where * is the Hodge operator of the metric $p^*(g_J)$ with respect to the volume form $p^*(\mathfrak{Re} \epsilon)$. It follows that $G_*[(0, 0)](0, \cdot)$ is surjective and that

$$\ker G_*[(0, 0)]_{\{0\} \times C^{1,\alpha}(p_*(J(TL)))} \equiv \mathcal{H}^1(L),$$

where $\mathcal{H}^1(L)$ denotes the space of harmonic 1-forms on L. Let

$$A = \{X \in C^{1,\alpha}(p_*(TL)) \mid p^*(\iota_{JX}d\alpha) \in dC^{1,\alpha}(L) \oplus d^*C^{1,\alpha}(\Lambda^2(L))\}$$

and

$$\hat{G} = G_{|(-\delta,\delta) \times A}.$$

Then by the Hodge decomposition of $\Lambda(L)$ it follows that

$$G_*[(0,0)]_{\{0\}\times A} \colon A \to dC^{1,\alpha}(L) \oplus d^*C^{1,\alpha}(\Lambda^2(L))$$

is an isomorphism. Again by the implicit function theorem and the elliptic regularity there exists a local smooth solution of the equation

$$\hat{G}(t, \psi(t)) = 0.$$

The extension of $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ is obtained by considering

$$p_t := \exp_{\psi(t)} .$$

5. The 5-dimensional nilpotent case

In this section we study invariant contact Calabi-Yau structures on 5-dimensional nilmanifolds. We will prove that a compact 5-dimensional nilmanifold carrying an invariant Calabi-Yau structure is covered by a Lie group whose Lie algebra is isomorphic to

$$\mathfrak{g} = (0, 0, 0, 0, 12 + 34),$$

just described in Section 2. Notation g = (0, 0, 0, 0, 12 + 34) means that there exists a basis $\{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_5\}$ of the dual space of the Lie algebra g such that

$$d\alpha_1 = d\alpha_2 = d\alpha_3 = d\alpha_4 = 0, \quad d\alpha_5 = \alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 \wedge \alpha_4.$$

First of all we note that 5-dimensional contact Calabi-Yau manifolds are in particular hypo. Recall that an *hypo structure* on a 5-dimensional manifold is the datum of $(\alpha, \omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3)$, where $\alpha \in \Lambda^1(M)$ and $\omega_i \in \Lambda^2(M)$ and

1. $\omega_i \wedge \omega_j = \delta_{ij} v$, for some $v \in \Lambda^4(M)$ satisfying $v \wedge \alpha \neq 0$;

2. $\iota_X \omega_1 = \iota_Y \omega_2 \iff \omega_3(X, Y) \ge 0$:

3. $d\omega_1 = 0$, $d(\omega_2 \wedge \alpha) = 0$, $d(\omega_3 \wedge \alpha) = 0$.

These structures have been introduced and studied by D. Conti and S. Salamon in [5]. Let (M, α, J, ϵ) be a contact Calabi-Yau manifold of dimension 5. Then

$$\alpha, \quad \omega_1 = \frac{1}{2} d\alpha, \quad \omega_2 = \Re \epsilon \epsilon, \quad \omega_3 = \Im \mathfrak{m} \epsilon,$$

define an hypo structure on M.

The following lemma, whose proof is immediate, will be useful in the sequel

Lemma 5.1. Let $M = G/\Gamma$ be a nilmanifold of dimension 5. If M admits an invariant contact form, then the Lie algebra of G is isomorphic to one of the following

- (0, 0, 12, 13, 14 + 23);
- (0, 0, 0, 12, 13 + 24);
- (0, 0, 0, 0, 12 + 34).

Let \mathfrak{g} be a non-trivial 5-dimensional nilpotent Lie algebra and denote by $V = \mathfrak{g}^*$ the dual vector space of \mathfrak{g} . There exists a filtration of V

$$V^1 \subset V^2 \subset V^3 \subset V^4 \subset V^5 = V,$$

with $dV^i \subset \Lambda^2 V^{i-1}$ and $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} V^i = i$. We may choose the filtration V in such a way that $V^2 \subset \ker d \subset V^4$.

Let $(M = G/\Gamma, \alpha, \omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3)$ be a nilmanifold endowed with an invariant hypo structure $(\alpha, \omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3)$

1. Assume that $\alpha \in V^4$. Then we have the following (see [5])

Theorem 5.2. If $\alpha \in V^4$, then g is either (0, 0, 0, 0, 12), (0, 0, 0, 12, 13), or (0, 0, 12, 13, 14).

In particular if (M, α, J, ϵ) is contact Calabi-Yau, then $\alpha \in V^4$. 2. Assume that $\alpha \notin V^4$. We have (see again [5])

Lemma 5.3. If $\alpha \notin V^4$ and all ω_i are closed, then α is orthogonal to V^4 .

Theorem 5.4. If α is orthogonal to V^4 , then g is one of

(0, 0, 0, 0, 12), (0, 0, 0, 0, 12 + 34).

Let (M, α, J, ϵ) be a contact Calabi-Yau manifold of dimension 5 endowed with an invariant contact Calabi-Yau structure; then by 1. α does not belong to V^4 . By Lemma 5.3 α is orthogonal to V^4 and by Theorem 5.4 $\mathfrak{g} = (0, 0, 0, 0, 12 + 34)$. Hence we have proved the following

Theorem 5.5. Let $M = G/\Gamma$ be a nilmanifold of dimension 5 admitting an invariant contact Calabi-Yau structure. Then g is isomorphic to

$$(0, 0, 0, 0, 12 + 34)$$

6. Calabi-Yau manifolds of codimension r

In this section we extend the definition of contact Calabi-Yau manifold to codimension r showing the analogous of Theorem 4.8.

Let us consider the following

DEFINITION 6.1. Let *M* be a 2n + r-dimensional manifold. An *r*-contact structure on *M* is the datum $\mathcal{D} = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r\}$, where $\alpha_i \in \Lambda^1(M)$, such that

•
$$d\alpha_1 = d\alpha_2 = \cdots = d\alpha_r;$$

• $\alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_r \wedge (d\alpha_1)^n \neq 0.$

Note that if $\mathcal{D} = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r\}$ is an *r*-contact structure and $\xi := \bigcap \ker \alpha_i$, then $(\xi, d\alpha_1)$ is a symplectic vector bundle on *M* and there exists a unique set of vector fields $\{R_1, \ldots, R_r\}$ satisfying

$$\alpha_i(R_j) = \delta_{ij}, \quad \iota_{R_i} d\alpha_i = 0 \quad \text{for any} \quad i, j = 1, \ldots, r.$$

Let us denote by $\mathfrak{C}_{\kappa}(\xi)$ the set of complex structures on ξ calibrated by the symplectic form $\kappa = (1/2) d\alpha_1$ and by $\Lambda_0^r(M)$ the set of *r*-forms γ on *M* satisfying

$$\iota_{R_i} \gamma = 0$$
 for any $i = 1, \ldots, r$.

If $J \in \mathfrak{C}_{\kappa}(\xi)$, then we extend it to TM by defining

$$J(R_i) = 0.$$

Note that such a J satisfies

$$J^2 = -I + \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i \otimes R_i.$$

Consequently, for any $J \in \mathfrak{C}_{\kappa}(\xi)$, we have $J(\Lambda_0^r(M)) \subset \Lambda_0^r M$ and a natural splitting of $\Lambda_0^r(M) \otimes \mathbb{C}$ in

$$\Lambda_0^r(M)\otimes \mathbb{C}=\bigoplus_{p+q=r}\Lambda_J^{p,q}(\xi).$$

We can give the following

DEFINITION 6.2. An *r*-contact Calabi-Yau manifold is the datum of $(M, \mathcal{D}, J, \epsilon)$, where

- *M* is a 2n + r-dimensional manifold;
- $\mathcal{D} = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r\}$ is an *r*-contact structure;

- J ∈ C_κ(ξ)
 ϵ ∈ Λ^{n,0}_J(ξ) satisfies

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon \wedge \bar{\epsilon} = c_n \kappa^n \\ d\epsilon = 0. \end{cases}$$

EXAMPLE 6.3. Let $M = H(3)/\Gamma \times S^1$ be the Kodaira-Thurston manifold, where H(3) is the 3-dimensional Heisenberg group and Γ is the lattice of H(3) of matrices with integers entries. Let

$$\alpha_1 = -2 dz + 2x dy,$$

$$\alpha_2 = -2 dz + 2x dy + 2 dt.$$

One easily gets

$$d\alpha_1 = d\alpha_2 = 2 dx \wedge dy$$

and that $\mathcal{D} = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2\}$ is a 2-contact structure on *M*. Note that $\xi = \ker \alpha_1 \cap \ker \alpha_2$ is spanned by $\{X_1 = \partial_x, X_2 = \partial_y + x \partial_z\}$. Moreover the Reeb fields of \mathcal{D} are

$$R_1 = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_z - \frac{1}{2}\partial_t,$$
$$R_2 = \frac{1}{2}\partial_t.$$

Therefore $\Lambda_0^1(M)$ is generated by $\{dx, dy\}$. Let $J \in \text{End}(\xi)$ be the complex structure given by

$$J(X_1) = X_2, \quad J(X_2) = -X_1$$

and let $\epsilon \in \Lambda_I^{1,0}(\xi)$ be the form

$$\epsilon = dx + i dy.$$

Then $(M, \mathcal{D}, J, \epsilon)$ is a 2-contact Calabi-Yau structure.

As in the contact Calabi-Yau case if $(M, \mathcal{D}, J, \epsilon)$ is an *r*-contact Calabi-Yau manifold, then the *n*-form $\Omega = \Re \epsilon \epsilon$ is a calibration on *M*. Moreover an *n*-dimensional submanifold $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ admits an orientation making it calibrated by Ω if and only if

$$p^*(\alpha_i) = 0$$
 for any $\alpha_i \in \mathcal{D}$,
 $p^*(\mathfrak{Im} \epsilon) = 0.$

A submanifold satisfying these equations will be called special Legendrian.

EXAMPLE 6.4. Let $(M, \mathcal{D}, J, \epsilon)$ be the 2-contact Calabi-Yau structure described in Example 6.3. Then

$$L := \left\{ [A] \in H(3)/\Gamma \; \middle| \; A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \; x \in \mathbb{R} \right\} \times \{q\} \simeq S^1$$

is a compact special Legendrian submanifold for any $q \in S^1$.

The proof of the next theorem is very similar to that of Theorem 4.8 and it is omitted.

Theorem 6.5. Let $(M, \mathcal{D}_t, J_t, \epsilon_t)_{t \in (-\delta, \delta)}$ be a smooth family of *r*-contact Calabi-Yau manifolds. Let $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ be a compact special Legendrian submanifold of $(M, \mathcal{D}_0, J_0, \epsilon_0)$. Then there exists, for small *t*, a family of compact special Legendrian submanifolds $p_t: L \hookrightarrow (M, \mathcal{D}_t, J_t, \epsilon_t)$ extending $p: L \hookrightarrow M$ if and only if the condition

$$[p^*(\mathfrak{Im}\,\epsilon_t)]=0$$

holds for t small enough.

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