

HARMONICITY ON COSYMPLECTIC MANIFOLDS

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ABSTRACT. We prove that a (φ, J) -holomorphic map from a compact cosymplectic manifold to a Kähler manifold is not only a harmonic map but also an energy minimizer in its homotopy class. We also prove a converse result.

1. Introduction. Combining both global and local aspects and borrowing both from Riemannian geometry and from analysis, the theory of harmonic maps between Riemannian manifolds has developed in many diverse branches. In particular, there is now a whole battery of deep and interesting results about harmonic maps to or from complex manifolds and Kähler spaces.

Within almost contact geometry, there are several classes of manifolds that can be considered as odd-dimensional analogs of Kähler spaces, the most important ones being Sasakian and cosymplectic spaces.

The theory of harmonic maps on smooth manifolds endowed with some special structures has its origin in the paper of Lichnerowicz [6], in which he considered holomorphic maps between Kähler manifolds.

In general the construction of energy minimizing maps is much more difficult than finding harmonic ones. The main purpose of this paper is to show that structure-preserving maps on cosymplectic manifolds minimize the energy of maps. We prove that a (φ, J) -holomorphic map from a compact cosymplectic manifold to a Kähler manifold is not only harmonic but also a minimizer for its energy.

We also prove a converse of the previous result, that is, a smooth energy minimizer map from a cosymplectic manifold to a Kähler manifold, which is homotopic with a (φ, J) -holomorphic one is also (φ, J) -holomorphic.

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2. Cosymplectic manifolds. In the formal sense the odd-dimensional counterpart of Kähler manifolds are cosymplectic manifolds. Let M be a smooth manifold of dimension $2n + 1$. We recall that an *almost contact structure* on M is a triple (ξ, η, φ) , where ξ is a vector field, η is a one-form and φ is a tensor field of type $(1, 1)$ which satisfy (see [1]):

$$(1) \quad \varphi^2 = -\text{Id} + \eta \otimes \xi \quad \text{and} \quad \eta(\xi) = 1$$

where Id is the identity endomorphism on TM . Then we have $\varphi(\xi) = 0$ and $\eta \circ \varphi = 0$. Furthermore, if g is an associated Riemannian metric on M , that is, a metric which satisfies for any $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}(M)$,

$$(2) \quad g(\varphi(X), \varphi(Y)) = g(X, Y) - \eta(X)\eta(Y),$$

then we say that (ξ, η, φ, g) is an *almost contact metric structure*. A manifold equipped with such a structure is an *almost contact metric manifold*. The existence of an almost contact structure on M is equivalent to the existence of a reduction of the structural group to $U(n) \times 1$.

The *fundamental 2-form* Φ of M is defined by

$$(3) \quad \Phi(X, Y) = g(X, \varphi Y),$$

for $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}(M)$. The almost contact metric structure (ξ, η, φ, g) is said to be *normal* if the Nijenhuis tensor N_φ of φ satisfies the condition (see [1]):

$$(4) \quad N_\varphi + 2d\eta \otimes \xi = 0.$$

An almost contact metric manifold $M(\xi, \eta, \varphi, g)$ is called *cosymplectic* if it is normal and $d\eta = 0$, $d\Phi = 0$.

The canonical example of compact cosymplectic manifold is given by the product $B^{2n} \times S^1$ of a compact Kähler manifold $B^{2n}(J, h)$ with the circle S^1 (see [2]). Nontrivial examples are obtained by using the suspensions technique. We explain in short this construction. Let N be a $2n$ -dimensional compact Kähler manifold with the Hermitian structure (J, h) . Consider an Hermitian isometry $f : N \rightarrow N$, that is, f is a diffeomorphism and

$$f_* \circ J = J \circ f_*, \quad f^*h = h.$$

We define the action A of \mathbf{Z} on the product manifold $N \times \mathbf{R}$ by

$$A(n, (x, z)) = (f^n(z), z - n),$$

for all $n \in \mathbf{Z}$ and $(x, z) \in N \times \mathbf{R}$. This action is free and properly discontinuous. Thus, the orbit space $(N \times \mathbf{R})/A$ of the \mathbf{Z} -action is a $(2n + 1)$ -dimensional compact manifold and the canonical projection $p' : N \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow M$ is a covering map. Moreover, we can define a fibration τ of M on $S^1 = \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z}$ by $\tau([(x, z)]) = [z]$ for all $(x, z) \in N \times \mathbf{R}$. It is clear that the fibers of τ are diffeomorphic to N .

Denote by $\rho : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \text{Diff}(N)$ the representation of \mathbf{Z} on the group of the diffeomorphisms of N , $\text{Diff}(N)$, given by $\rho(k) = f^k$, for all $k \in \mathbf{Z}$. Then the manifold M is called the *suspension with fibre N of the representation ρ* .

Next we shall obtain a cosymplectic structure on M . We consider on $N \times \mathbf{R}$ to be the cosymplectic structure $(\bar{\varphi}, \bar{\eta}, \bar{\xi}, \bar{g})$ given by

$$\bar{\varphi} = J \circ (pr_1)_*, \quad \bar{\xi} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}, \quad \bar{\eta} = pr_2^*(dt), \quad \bar{g} = pr_1^*(h) + pr_2^*(dt^2),$$

where $pr_1 : N \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow N$ and $pr_2 : N \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ are the canonical projections onto the first and the second factor, respectively, and t is the usual coordinate on \mathbf{R} . Since f is an Hermitian isometry, we deduce that the cosymplectic structure $(\bar{\varphi}, \bar{\eta}, \bar{\xi}, \bar{g})$ is invariant under the action A of \mathbf{Z} on $N \times \mathbf{R}$. Therefore, it induces a cosymplectic structure (ξ, η, φ, g) on M . For more details, see [7]. For a generalization of this construction see [5].

3. Lichnerowicz type invariant on almost contact metric manifolds. Let $M(\varphi, \eta, \xi, g)$ be an almost contact metric manifold. TM^c denotes the complexification of the tangent bundle TM of M . The complex-linear extension of φ on TM^c has eigenvalues $\pm\sqrt{-1}$ and 0, with corresponding eigenspaces

$$T^\pm M = \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}\varphi^2 X \mp \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{-1}\varphi X, X \in TM \right\},$$

$$T^0 M = \{X + \varphi^2 X, X \in TM\}.$$

The complexification TM^c splits into eigenbundles: $TM^c = T^+ M \oplus T^0 M \oplus T^- M$, in which the decomposition is orthogonal with respect

to the Hermitian metric $\langle X, Y \rangle = g_0(X, \overline{Y})$, (where g_0 denotes the C -bilinear extension on TM^c of the given metric on M). Now let $N(J, h)$ be an almost Hermitian manifold, and let $f : M \rightarrow N$ be a smooth map from M to N . Then the decompositions of TM^c and TN^c induce the corresponding splitting of the differential of f , and hence we can define the following three maps

$$\begin{aligned} d^+ f &: T^+ M \longrightarrow T^+ N \\ d^- f &: T^- M \longrightarrow T^+ N \\ d_0^+ f &: T^0 M \longrightarrow T^+ N. \end{aligned}$$

The energy density $e(f)$ of f is defined by $e(f)(p) = \|df_p\|^2/2$ for $p \in M$, where $\|df_p\|^2$ is the norm of the differential $df_p \in T_p^* M \otimes T_{f(p)} N$ at $p \in M$. We set

$$e^+(f) = \|d^+ f\|^2, e^-(f) = \|d^- f\|^2, e_0^+(f) = \|d_0^+ f\|^2,$$

which are called the partial energy densities of f . These partial energy densities are useful to give us precise information about how the differential df of f acts on each eigenspace.

Lemma 1. *Let M be an almost contact metric manifold, and let N be an almost Hermitian manifold. Let f be a smooth map from M to N . Then we have the following decomposition for the energy density $e(f)$ of f :*

$$e(f) = e^+(f) + e^-(f) + e_0^+(f).$$

Proof. Let $\{e_k, \varphi e_k, \xi\}_{k=1, \dots, n}$ be an orthonormal basis (with respect to g) on TM . Then $Z_k = 1/\sqrt{2}(e_k - \sqrt{-1}\varphi e_k)$ is an orthonormal basis on TM^+ (with respect to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$).

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} e^+(f) &= \sum_{k=1}^n h_0(d^+ f(Z_k), \overline{d^+ f(Z_k)}). \\ e^-(f) &= \sum_{k=1}^n h_0(d^- f(Z_k), \overline{d^- f(Z_k)}). \end{aligned}$$

and

$$e_0^+(f) = h_0(d_0^+ f(\xi), \overline{d_0^+ f(\xi)}).$$

If we make the notations $X_k = df(e_k)$, $Y_k = df(\varphi e_k)$ and $Z = df(\xi)$, a direct computation gives:

$$(5) \quad e^+(f) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^n \{h(X_k, X_k) + h(Y_k, Y_k)\} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n h(JX_k, Y_k),$$

$$(6) \quad e^-(f) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^n \{h(X_k, X_k) + h(Y_k, Y_k)\} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n h(JX_k, Y_k),$$

and

$$(7) \quad e_0^+(f) = \frac{1}{2} h(Z, Z).$$

Finally we add the above three relations to obtain the decomposition in Lemma 1. \square

Now let Ω and ω be the fundamental 2-forms of the almost contact metric manifold M and almost Hermitian manifold N , respectively. That is, $\Omega(X, Y) = g(X, \varphi Y)$, $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}(M)$ and $\omega(V, W) = h(V, JW)$, $V, W \in \mathcal{X}(N)$. We have the following lemma.

Lemma 2. *Let M be an almost contact metric manifold, let N be an almost Hermitian manifold, and let f be a smooth map from M to N . Then it holds that*

$$e^+(f) - e^-(f) = (f^* \omega, \Omega),$$

where the right side above means the inner product of 2-forms on M induced by g .

Proof. From relations (5) and (6) we obtain

$$e^+(f) - e^-(f) = \sum_{k=1}^n h(Jdf(e_k), df(\varphi e_k)).$$

On the other hand,

$$(f^*\omega, \Omega) = \sum_{p < q} f^*\omega(V_p, V_q)\Omega(V_p, V_q),$$

for any orthonormal frame $\{V_p\}_{p=1}^{2n+1}$ on M . If we choose the frame $\{e_k, \varphi e_k, \xi\}$ for $k = \overline{1, n}$, we obtain the formula. \square

We recall here the homotopy lemma given in [3]:

Lemma 3. *Let $f_t : M \rightarrow N$ be a smooth family of maps between smooth manifolds M and N parametrized by the real number t , ω a closed two-form on N and $\delta f_t / \delta t$ the variation field of f_t . Then*

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(f_t^*\omega) = d\left(f_t^*i\left(\frac{\delta f_t}{\delta t}\right)\omega\right),$$

where $i(X)$ is the interior product with respect to a vector field X on N .

In the complex case, Lichnerowicz defined a smooth homotopy invariant associated with a smooth map [6]. Let ϑ_g denote the volume measure on M associated to the metric g . Assuming M is compact, we can define a similar one for the case when the source manifold is endowed with an almost contact metric structure:

$$K(f) = E^+(f) - E^-(f),$$

where $E^+(f)$ denotes the partial energy of f defined by integrating $e^+(f)$ on M for ϑ_g . Likewise, $E^-(f)$ and $E_0^+(f)$ are also defined:

$$E^\pm(f) = \int_M e^\pm(f)\vartheta_g, \quad E_0^+(f) = \int_M e_0^+(f)\vartheta_g.$$

See also [8] for the case when the source manifold is almost Hermitian.

By Lemma 2 we have

$$K(f) = \int_M (f^*\omega, \Omega) \vartheta_g.$$

Now let f_t be a smooth variation of f . Then, if we suppose that ω is closed and Ω is coclosed, it follows from Lemma 3 that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}K(f_t) &= \int_M \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(f_t^*\omega), \Omega \right) \vartheta_g \\ &= \int_M \left(d \left(f_t^*i \left(\frac{\delta f_t}{\delta t} \right) \omega \right), \Omega \right) \vartheta_g \\ &= \int_M \left(f_t^*i \left(\frac{\delta f_t}{\delta t} \right) \omega, \delta\Omega \right) \vartheta_g = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have just obtained the following theorem:

Theorem 1. *Let $f : (M, \varphi, g) \rightarrow (N, J, h)$ be a smooth map between an almost contact metric manifold and an almost Hermitian manifold. Suppose that M is compact, ω closed and Ω coclosed. Then $K(f)$ is a smooth homotopy invariant.*

4. Harmonic maps on cosymplectic manifolds. Let M and N be Riemannian manifolds with Riemannian metrics g and h , respectively. Suppose that M is compact. A smooth map $f : M \rightarrow N$ is said to be harmonic if it is a critical point of the energy functional

$$E(f) = \int_M e(f) \vartheta_g.$$

The Euler-Lagrange equation of this variational problem is $Tr_g \nabla' df = 0$ where ∇' is the connection on $T^*M \otimes f^{-1}TN$ induced by the Levi-Civita connection ∇^M of M and the f -pullback $\tilde{\nabla}$ of ∇^N . We denote the left side of the last equation by $\tau(f)$. This is the section of $f^{-1}TN$ called the tension field of f . For more information concerning harmonic maps see [3].

Let $M(\eta, \xi, \varphi, g)$ be an almost contact metric manifold, and let $N(J, h)$ be an almost Hermitian manifold. A smooth map $f : M \rightarrow N$

is called (φ, J) -holomorphic if its differential intertwines the structures: $df \circ \varphi = J \circ df$. We know (see [4]) that the tension field $\tau(f)$ of an (φ, J) -holomorphic map f satisfies the equation

$$J(\tau(f)) = df(\operatorname{div} \varphi) - \operatorname{Tr}_g \beta,$$

where $\beta(X, Y) = (\tilde{\nabla}_X J) df Y$ for $X, Y \in \Gamma(TM)$. If M is a cosymplectic manifold, then $\operatorname{div} \varphi = 0$, and N being Kählerian implies $\beta = 0$. Hence any (φ, J) -holomorphic map from a cosymplectic manifold to a Kähler manifold is harmonic. A natural question to ask is whether such a map is also an absolute minimum of its energy functional or not. With the invariant $K(f)$ on hand we are able to answer the question as follows:

Theorem 2. *Let (M, φ, g) be a compact cosymplectic manifold and (N, J, h) a Kähler manifold. Then any (φ, J) -holomorphic map f from M to N attains an absolute minimum of the energy functional in its homotopy class.*

Proof. First we have to remark that, as N is a Kähler manifold, the fundamental 2-form ω is closed and, because M is cosymplectic, Ω is coclosed. Then, if $\tilde{f} : M \rightarrow N$ is a smooth map homotopic to f , by Theorem 1, $K(f) = K(\tilde{f})$. Since f is (φ, J) -holomorphic, it is easy to see that $df(T^\pm(M)) \subset T^\pm N$ (see [8]) and that $df(\xi) = 0$, and thus the partial energies $E^-(f)$ and $E_0^+(f)$ of f vanish. So Lemma 1 implies:

$$\begin{aligned} E(f) &= E^+(f) + E^-(f) + E_0^+(f) \\ &= E^+(f) \\ &= E^+(f) - E^-(f) \\ &= E^+(\tilde{f}) - E^-(\tilde{f}) \\ &\leq E^+(\tilde{f}) + E^-(\tilde{f}) + E_0^+(\tilde{f}) \\ &\leq E(\tilde{f}), \end{aligned}$$

proving that f attains an absolute minimum of E in its homotopy class. \square

Example 1. It is clear that, if B is a compact Kähler manifold and S^1 is the unit circle, then the projection on the first factor of the

cosymplectic manifold $B \times S^1$ (see Section 1) is (φ, J) holomorphic and thus is a harmonic map which is also a minimizer of the functional energy.

After the conclusion of Theorem 2, a good question to ask is if the converse is true, that is, when a harmonic map from a cosymplectic manifold into a Kähler manifold is (φ, J) -holomorphic. We can prove the following.

Theorem 3. *Let $(M, \varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$ be a compact cosymplectic manifold, (N, J, h) Kählerian and $f_0 : M \rightarrow N$ a harmonic map minimizing the energy functional E in its homotopy class. If f_0 is homotopic to a (φ, J) -holomorphic map, then it is also (φ, J) -holomorphic.*

Proof. Let f_1 be a (φ, J) -holomorphic map homotopic with map f_0 . By Theorem 2 we have $E(f_1) \leq E(f_0)$. On the other hand, f_0 attains the minimum of the energy functional in its homotopy class, and thus $E(f_0) = E(f_1)$. Now by Theorem 1, as f_0 and f_1 are homotopic we have $K(f_0) = K(f_1)$, and thus $E^+(f_0) - E^-(f_0) = E^+(f_1) - E^-(f_1)$.

As we have seen, because f_1 is (φ, J) -holomorphic we have $E^-(f_1) = E_0^+(f_1) = 0$. We have just obtained the following two relations:

$$E^+(f_0) - E^-(f_0) = E^+(f_1)$$

and

$$E^+(f_0) + E^-(f_0) + E_0^+(f_0) = E^+(f_1).$$

Thus we have:

$$2E^-(f_0) + E_0^+(f_0) = 0,$$

which implies

$$E^-(f_0) = E_0^-(f_0) = 0.$$

Now, from the definition of the partial energy $E^-(f_0)$ of f_0 , as $e^-(f_0)$ is continuous we obtain $e^-(f_0) = 0$. On the other hand, using relation (6) we have

$$e^-(f_0) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^n h(Jdf e_k - df(\varphi e_k), Jdf e_k - df(\varphi e_k)) \geq 0.$$

Thus, $e^-(f_0) = 0$ if and only if $df_0(\varphi e_k) = Jdf_0(e_k)$ for any $k = \overline{1, n}$. It is easy to see that we also have $df_0(\varphi(\varphi e_k)) = Jdf_0(\varphi e_k)$ for any $k = \overline{1, n}$.

Similarly, $e_0^+(f_0)$ is a positive continuous function as

$$e_0^+(f) = \frac{1}{2}h(df_0\xi, df_0\xi).$$

But $e_0^+(f_0) = 0$, and thus $df_0(\xi) = 0 = df_0(\varphi\xi) = Jdf_0(\xi)$. So we have just obtained that $df_0(\varphi X) = Jdf_0(X)$ for any X in an orthonormal basis of M , so f_0 is (φ, J) -holomorphic. \square

A nice geometric interpretation of the homotopy invariant $K(f)$ is given by the following proposition:

Proposition 1. *Let $f : M \rightarrow N$ be a smooth map from a compact cosymplectic manifold M of dimension $2n + 1$ into a Kähler manifold N . If there exists a real constant $c \in \mathbf{R}$ such that $[f^*\omega] = c[\Omega]$, then*

$$K(f) = n \cdot c \cdot \text{vol}(M).$$

Proof. We know that

$$K(f) = \int_M (f^*\omega, \Omega) \vartheta_g.$$

As $[f^*\omega] = c[\Omega]$, there exists a 1-form $\theta \in \Omega^1(M)$ such that $f^*\omega - c\Omega = d\theta$, so

$$\begin{aligned} K(f) &= \int_M (c\Omega + d\theta, \Omega) \vartheta_g \\ &= c \int_M (\Omega, \Omega) \vartheta_g + \int_M (d\theta, \Omega) \vartheta_g \\ &= c \cdot n \cdot \text{vol}(M) + \int_M (\theta, \delta\Omega) \vartheta_g \\ &= c \cdot n \cdot \text{vol}(M). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

From Proposition 1 we can obtain the following corollary.

Corollary 1. *For a map as in Proposition 1 which is also (φ, J) -holomorphic and, if $[f^*\omega] = 0$, then $K(f) = 0$ and f is constant.*

Proof. From Proposition 1 we have $K(f) = n \cdot c \cdot \text{vol}(M)$, and thus $E^+(f) - E^-(f) = 0$. On the other hand, as f is (φ, J) -holomorphic, we have $E^-(f) = E_0^+(f) = 0$, and so we also have $E^+(f) = 0$. But in this case the total energy $E(f)$ vanishes, and thus the map f is constant. \square

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