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# Laplacian coflow of $G_2$ -structures on 7-manifolds

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- 1 **G<sub>2</sub>-structures**
- 2 **Laplacian coflow of G<sub>2</sub>-structures**
  - General properties
  - Self-similar solutions
- 3 **Laplacian coflow on contact Calabi-Yau manifold**
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# G<sub>2</sub>-structures

## Definite 3-form

Let  $M$  be a Spin and orientable manifold. We define

$$\Lambda_+^3 M := \bigsqcup_{x \in M} \Lambda_+^3(M)_x, \text{ with}$$

$$\Lambda_+^3(M)_x := \{\varphi_x \in \Lambda^3 T_x^* M : \exists u \in \text{Hom}(T_x M, \mathbb{R}^7), u^* \phi = \varphi_x\}.$$

$$\phi = e^{123} + e^{145} + e^{167} + e^{246} - e^{257} - e^{347} - e^{356},$$

## G<sub>2</sub>-structures

$$\varphi \in \Omega_+^3(M) := \Gamma(\Lambda_+^3 M).$$

## Associated metric

$$\forall \varphi \in \Omega_+^3(M), \exists ! g_\varphi \text{ such that } 6g_\varphi(X, Y)\text{vol}_\varphi := (X \lrcorner \varphi) \wedge (Y \lrcorner \varphi) \wedge \varphi.$$

## Dual 4-form

$$\psi = *\varphi$$

## Decomposition of differential forms

- For 2-forms  $\Omega^2(M) = \Omega_7^2(M) \oplus \Omega_{14}^2(M)$ .

$$\Omega_7^2(M) := \{X \lrcorner \varphi : X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)\}$$

$$\Omega_{14}^2(M) := \{\omega \in \Omega^2(M) : \psi \wedge \omega = 0\}$$

- For 3-forms  $\Omega^3(M) = \Omega_1^3(M) \oplus \Omega_7^3(M) \oplus \Omega_{27}^3(M)$ ,

$$\Omega_1^3(M) = \{f\varphi : f \in C^\infty(M)\}$$

$$\Omega_7^3(M) = \{*\varphi(\alpha \wedge \varphi) : \alpha \in \Omega^1(M)\}$$

$$\Omega_{27}^3(M) = \{\alpha \in \Omega^3(M) : \alpha \wedge \varphi = 0 \text{ and } \alpha \wedge *\varphi = 0\} = i_\varphi(S_0^2(M)).$$

$$i_\varphi : S^2(T^*M) \rightarrow \Lambda^3(T^*M) \text{ such that } i_\varphi(h) = \frac{1}{2} h_i^l \varphi_{ljk} dx^i \wedge dx^j \wedge dx^k$$

## Torsion forms

$$d\varphi = \tau_0\psi + 3\tau_1 \wedge \varphi + *\tau_3,$$

$$d\psi = 4\tau_1 \wedge \psi + \tau_2 \wedge \varphi.$$

where  $\tau_0 \in \Omega^0(M)$ ,  $\tau_1 \in \Omega^1(M)$ ,  $\tau_2 \in \Omega_{14}^2(M)$  and  $\tau_3 \in \Omega_{27}^3(M)$

## Torsion classes of G<sub>2</sub>-structures

- Torsion free:  $\nabla^{g_\varphi} \varphi = 0 \Leftrightarrow d\varphi = 0, d*\varphi = 0.$
- Closed or calibrated:  $d\varphi = 0;$
- Coclosed or cocalibrated:  $d\psi = 0;$
- Nearly parallel:  $d\varphi = c*\varphi$  for a constant  $c.$

## Full torsion tensor

2-tensor  $T_{lm}$  satisfying  $\nabla_l \varphi_{abc} = T_{lm} g^{mn} \psi_{nabc}$ .

$$T = \frac{\tau_0}{4} g_\varphi - *(\tau_1 \wedge \psi) - \frac{1}{2} \tau_2 - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{J}(\tau_3), \quad (1)$$

## Identities of the full torsion tensor

$\varphi \in \Omega_+^3(M)$  coclosed:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div} T &= d(\operatorname{tr} T), & \operatorname{Curl} T &= (\operatorname{Curl} T)^t, \\ \operatorname{Ric} &= -\operatorname{Curl} T - T^2 + \operatorname{tr}(T)T, & R &= (\operatorname{tr} T)^2 - |T|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

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# Laplacian coflow of G<sub>2</sub>-structures

## Laplacian coflow

Fixing an orientation given by  $\varphi_0$  and  $t \in [a, b)$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi_t = \Delta_t \psi_t = dd^{*t} \psi_t + d^{*t} d \psi_t.$$

If  $d\psi_0 = 0$ , then this property is preserved along the flow.

## Volume functional

If  $M^7$  is a compact manifold

$$V(\varphi) = \frac{1}{7} \int_M \varphi \wedge * \varphi$$

Laplacian coflow is the gradient flow of the volume functional. Then  $\psi$  defines a torsion-free G<sub>2</sub>-structure if and only if it is a critical point of the functional  $V$  restricted to the cohomology class  $[\psi] \in H^4(M, \mathbb{R})$ .

## Proposition-Grigorian

Under the flow (3), the evolution is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial g}{\partial t} &= 2\text{Curl}T + T \circ T + 2T^2 = -2\text{Ric} + T \circ T + 2(\text{tr } T)T, \\ \frac{\partial \text{vol}}{\partial t} &= \frac{1}{2}(|T|^2 + (\text{tr } T)^2)\text{vol}, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t}T &= \Delta T - 2\nabla(\text{div}T) + Rm \otimes T + (\nabla T) \otimes T + T \otimes T \otimes T,\end{aligned}$$

## Modified Laplacian coflow

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \Delta_{\psi} \psi + 2d((A - \text{tr } T)\varphi), \quad (3)$$

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## Laplacian soliton for coclosed G<sub>2</sub>-structure

$(\psi, X, \lambda)$  satisfying

$$\Delta_{\psi}\psi = \mathcal{L}_X\psi + \lambda\psi = d(X \lrcorner \psi) + \lambda\psi, \quad (4)$$

where  $d\psi = 0$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $X$  is a vector field on  $M$

It is natural to call a Laplacian soliton  $(\psi, X, \lambda)$  expanding if  $\lambda > 0$ ; steady if  $\lambda = 0$  and shrinking if  $\lambda < 0$ .

### Proposition

If  $M^7$  is compact, then there are no shrinking or steady soliton solutions, other than the trivial steady case of a torsion-free G<sub>2</sub>-structure.

## Theorem

Let  $\varphi$  be a coclosed G<sub>2</sub>-structure on a compact manifold  $M$  and  $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ . Then,

$$\mathcal{L}_X \psi = \frac{4}{7}(\operatorname{div} X)\psi \oplus \left(-\frac{1}{2}\operatorname{Curl} X + X \lrcorner T\right)^b \wedge \varphi \oplus *i_\varphi \left(\frac{1}{7}(\operatorname{div} X)g - \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{L}_X g)\right) \quad (5)$$

where  $i_\varphi : S^2 T^* M \rightarrow \Omega_1^3(M) \oplus \Omega_{27}^3(M)$  is the injective map.

## Laplacian decomposition of coclosed G<sub>2</sub>-structures

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_\psi \psi &= \frac{2}{7}((\operatorname{tr} T)^2 + |T|^2)\psi \oplus (d \operatorname{tr} T) \wedge \varphi \\ &\quad \oplus *_\varphi i_\varphi \left( \operatorname{Ric} - \frac{1}{2}T \circ T - (\operatorname{tr} T)T + \frac{1}{14}((\operatorname{tr} T)^2 + |T|^2)g \right) \end{aligned}$$

## Proposition

Let  $\varphi$  be a coclosed G<sub>2</sub>-structure. If  $(\psi, X, \lambda)$  is a soliton of the Laplacian coflow then

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div} T &= -\frac{1}{2}(\operatorname{Curl} X)^{\flat} + X \lrcorner T, \\ -\operatorname{Ric} + \frac{1}{2}T \circ T + (\operatorname{tr} T)T &= \frac{\lambda}{4}g + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}_X g. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

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# Sasakian manifolds

## Contact form

A 1-form on  $\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$  that satisfies

$$\eta \wedge (d\eta)^n \neq 0.$$

## Contact manifold

A  $2n + 1$ -dimensional manifold is a *contact manifold* if there exists a 1-form  $\eta$ , called a *contact 1-form*, on  $M$  such that

$$\eta \wedge (d\eta)^n \neq 0$$

everywhere on  $M$ .

## Almost contact structure $(M^{2n+1}, \eta, \xi, \Phi)$

It is a quadruple  $(M, \eta, \xi, \Phi)$  where  $\Phi$  is a tensor field of type  $(1, 1)$  (i.e, an endomorphism of  $TM$ ),  $\xi$  is a vector field, and  $\eta$  is a 1-form which satisfies

$$\eta(\xi) = 1, \quad \Phi\xi = 0, \quad \eta \circ \Phi = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$\Phi \circ \Phi = -\text{id} + \xi \otimes \eta. \quad (8)$$

A Riemannian metric on  $M$  is said to be *compatible* with the almost contact structure if for any fields  $X, Y$  on  $M$  we have

$$g(\Phi(X), \Phi(Y)) = g(X, Y) - \eta(X)\eta(Y). \quad (9)$$

A contact metric structure  $(M, \eta, \xi, \Phi, g)$  satisfies

$$\omega(X, Y) = g(\Phi(X), Y) = \frac{1}{2}d\eta(X, Y), \quad X, Y \in \mathcal{X}(M) \quad (10)$$

For a contact metric manifold  $(M, \eta, \xi, \Phi, g)$  we take

$$\text{vol}_g = \frac{\eta \wedge \omega^n}{n!} = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \eta \wedge (d\eta)^n \quad (11)$$

as the Riemannian volume form.

### **K-contact**

A contact metric structure  $(M, \eta, \xi, \Phi, g)$  such that  $\xi$  is a killing vector field of  $g$  and we have

$$(\nabla_X \eta)(Y) = \frac{1}{2} d\eta(X, Y) \quad (12)$$

$$r(X, \xi) = (2n)\eta(X),$$

$$g(R(X, \xi)Y, \xi) = g(X, Y) - \eta(X)\eta(Y), \quad (13)$$

where  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ ,  $\nabla$  is the covariant differentiation with respect  $g$ ,  $r$  and  $R$  are the Ricci curvature tensor and Riemannian curvature tensor respectively.

A contact metric structure  $(\xi, \eta, \Phi, g)$  is  $K$ -contact if and only if  $\nabla \xi = -\Phi$ .

## Sasakian manifolds

The metric cone  $(C(M), dr^2 + r^2g, d(r^2\eta))$  is Kahler and it satisfies

$$(\nabla_X \Phi)Y = g(Y, \xi)X - g(X, Y)\xi, \quad (14)$$

$$R(X, \xi)Y = g(Y, \xi)X - g(X, Y)\xi \quad (15)$$

where  $Y, Z \in \mathcal{X}(M)$ .

A Sasakian manifold is necessarily a  $K$ -contact Riemannian.

## Contact Calabi-Yau manifolds (cCY)

$(M, \eta, \Phi, \Upsilon)$  such that

- $(M^{2n+1}, \eta, \Phi)$  is a Sasakian manifold.

$$g = \eta \otimes \eta + g_{\mathcal{D}} = \eta \otimes \eta + d\eta(\cdot, J\cdot) = \eta \otimes \eta + d\eta(\cdot, \Phi|_{\mathcal{D}}\cdot)$$

- $\Upsilon$  is a nowhere vanishing transversal  $(n, 0)$ -form on  $\mathcal{D} = \ker \eta$ :

$$\Upsilon \wedge \bar{\Upsilon} = c_n \omega^n, \quad d\Upsilon = 0,$$

where  $c_n = (-1)^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}} i^n$  and  $\omega = d\eta$ .

## Proposition

$(M^{2n+1}, \eta, \Phi, \Upsilon)$  be a cCY manifold. Then  $(M, \eta, \xi, \Phi, g)$  is null-Sasakian and the metric  $g$  induced by  $(\eta, \Phi)$  is a  $\eta$ -Einstein with  $\lambda = 2$  and  $\nu = 2n + 2$  and scalar curvature is equal to  $2n - 1$ .

## Proposition

Let  $(M, \eta, \Phi)$  be a compact simply-connected null-Sasakian  $\eta$ -Einstein manifold. Then  $\text{Hol}(\nabla) \subset \text{SU}(n)$ .

## Proposition

A cCY manifold  $(M^7, \eta, \Phi, \Upsilon)$  carries a cocalibrated G<sub>2</sub>-structure

$$\varphi := \eta \wedge \omega + \text{Re } \Upsilon,$$

with  $\omega = d\eta$  and  $d\varphi = \omega \wedge \omega$ .

Its corresponding dual 4-form is given by

$$\psi = *\varphi = \frac{1}{2}\omega \wedge \omega - \eta \wedge \text{Im } \Upsilon.$$

We want to consider the Laplacian coflow starting at the natural coclosed G<sub>2</sub>-structure on a cCY

$$\varphi_0 = \varepsilon \eta_0 \wedge \omega_0 + \operatorname{Re} \Upsilon_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_0 = \frac{1}{2} \omega_0^2 - \varepsilon \eta_0 \wedge \operatorname{Im} \Upsilon_0. \quad (16)$$

To this end, we consider the family of G<sub>2</sub>-structures given by

$$\varphi_t = f_t h_t^2 \eta_0 \wedge \omega_0 + h_t^3 \operatorname{Re} \Upsilon_0, \quad (17)$$

for functions  $f_t, h_t$  depending only on time, with

$$f_0 = \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad h_0 = 1. \quad (18)$$

# New solution

## Theorem

Let  $(M^7, \eta_0, \Phi_0, \Upsilon_0)$  be a cCY manifold. The family of coclosed G<sub>2</sub>-structures  $\varphi_t$  on  $M^7$  given by

$$\varphi_t = \varepsilon p(t)^{-1} \eta_0 \wedge \omega_0 + p(t)^3 \operatorname{Re} \Upsilon_0; \quad (19)$$

$$\psi_t = \frac{1}{2} p(t)^4 \omega_0^2 - \varepsilon \eta_0 \wedge \operatorname{Im} \Upsilon_0; \quad (20)$$

where  $p(t) = 10t + 1$  and  $t \in (-1/10, \infty)$ , solves the Laplacian coflow with initial data determined by  $\varphi_0 = \eta_0 \wedge \omega_0 + \operatorname{Re} \Upsilon_0$ .



## Associated metric and volume

In the setup, the Laplacian coflow on  $M^7$ , with initial data determined by  $\varphi_0$ , is solved by the following family of coclosed G<sub>2</sub>-structures  $\varphi_t$ , with associated metric  $g_t$ , volume form  $\text{vol}_t$  and dual 4-form  $\psi_t$ :

$$g_t = \varepsilon^2 p(t)^{-6} \eta_0^2 + p(t)^2 g_{\mathcal{D}_0};$$

$$\text{vol}_t = \varepsilon p(t)^3 \eta_0 \wedge \text{vol}_{\mathcal{D}_0},$$

where  $p(t) = (1 + 10\varepsilon^2 t)^{1/10}$  and  $t \in (-\frac{1}{10\varepsilon^2}, \infty)$ . Hence, the solution of the Laplacian coflow is immortal, with a finite time singularity (backwards in time) at  $t = -\frac{1}{10\varepsilon^2}$ .

## Proposition

Let  $\{\varphi_t\}$  be the Ansatz solution to the Laplacian coflow. Then

- Riemannian curvature is given by

$$|Rm_t|_{g_t}^2 = (1 + 10\varepsilon^2 t)^{-2/5} |Rm_0^{\mathcal{D}_0}|_{g_0}^2 + c_0 \varepsilon^4 (1 + 10\varepsilon^2 t)^{-2}$$

for some constant  $c_0 > 0$ .

- if  $M$  is compact, then its volume is indeed strictly increasing in time, tending to infinity:

$$\text{Vol}(M, g_t) \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

- Then the associated metric  $g_t$  is uniformly continuous (in  $t$ ) on any compact interval contained in  $(-\frac{1}{10\varepsilon^2}, \infty)$ , but it is not uniformly continuous on  $(-\frac{1}{10\varepsilon^2}, T)$  or  $(T, \infty)$  for any  $T$ .

## Full torsion tensor

$$T_t = -\frac{3}{2}\varepsilon^3(1 + 10\varepsilon^2t)^{-11/10}\eta_0^2 + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon(1 + 10\varepsilon^2t)^{-3/10}g_{\mathcal{D}_0}.$$

## Proposition

Let  $\{\varphi_t\}$  be the Ansatz solution. Then

$$\begin{aligned} |T_t|_{g_t}^2 &= \frac{15}{4}\varepsilon^2(1 + 10\varepsilon^2t)^{-1}, \\ |\nabla_t T_t|_{g_t}^2 &= c_0\varepsilon^4(1 + 10\varepsilon^2t)^{-2}, \\ \operatorname{div}_t T_t &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_0 > 0$  is a constant,  $\nabla_t$  is the Levi-Civita connection of  $g_t$  and  $\operatorname{div}_t$  is the divergence with respect to the metric  $g_t$ .

## Chen's dilation for Ricci-Like flow

$$\Lambda(x, t) := \sup_M (|Rm(y, t)|_{g_t}^2 + |T(y, t)|_{g_t}^4 + |\nabla T(y, t)|_{g_t}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

### Proposition

suppose moreover  $M^7$  is compact, and let  $K := \sup_M |Rm_0^{\mathcal{D}_0}|_{g_0}$ . Then there is a constant  $c_0 > 0$ , independent of  $\varepsilon$ , such that the quantity  $\Lambda(t)$ , along the Laplacian coflow solution is given by

$$\Lambda(t) = (K^2(1 + 10\varepsilon^2 t)^{-2/5} + c_0 \varepsilon^4 (1 + 10\varepsilon^2 t)^{-2})^{1/2}.$$

Hence, the Laplacian coflow has a Type IIb infinite time singularity, unless  $g_{\mathcal{D}_0}$  is flat, in which case it has a Type III infinite time singularity.

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# Almost abelian

Let  $G$  be a Lie group, it is called *almost Abelian* if its Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  admits an Abelian ideal  $\mathfrak{h}$  of codimension 1.

we can consider that  $e_7 \perp \mathfrak{h}$  and G<sub>2</sub>-structure can be written as

$$\varphi = \omega \wedge e^7 + \rho^+ = e^{127} + e^{347} + e^{567} + e^{135} - e^{146} - e^{245} - e^{236}, \quad (21)$$

where  $\omega = e^{12} + e^{34} + e^{56}$  and  $\rho_+ = e^{135} - e^{146} - e^{245} - e^{236}$  are the canonical SU(3)-structure of  $\mathfrak{h} \cong \mathbb{R}^6$

$$\psi := * \varphi = \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 + \rho_- \wedge e^7 = e^{1234} + e^{1256} + e^{3456} - e^{2467} + e^{2357} + e^{1457} + e^{1367}, \quad (22)$$

where  $\rho_- = J^* \rho_+$  and  $J$  is the canonical complex structure on  $\mathbb{R}^6$  defined by  $\omega := \langle J \cdot, \cdot \rangle$

The transitive action of  $GL(\mathfrak{g})$  on the space of  $G_2$ -structures, defined by  $h \cdot \varphi := (h^{-1})^* \varphi$  (for  $h \in GL(\mathfrak{g})$ ), yields an infinitesimal representation of the alternating 3-form

$$\Lambda^3(\mathfrak{g})^* = \theta(\mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g}))\varphi \quad (23)$$

$\theta : \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \text{End}(\Lambda^3 \mathfrak{g}^*)$  is defined by

$$\theta(B)\varphi := \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} e^{tB} \cdot \varphi = -\varphi(B\cdot, \cdot, \cdot) - \varphi(\cdot, B\cdot, \cdot) - \varphi(\cdot, \cdot, B\cdot). \quad (24)$$

Coclosed  $G_2$ -structures on almost Abelian Lie algebras are equivalent with the Lie bracket constrain  $A \in \mathfrak{sp}(6, \mathbb{R})$  [?], where

$$\mathfrak{sp}(\mathbb{R}^6) = \{A \in \mathfrak{gl}(\mathbb{R}^6) : AJ + JA^t = 0 \Leftrightarrow \theta(A)\omega = 0\}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{L} \simeq \mathfrak{gl}(\mathbb{R}^6)$  be the family of 7-dimensional almost Abelian Lie algebras. The subfamily  $\mathcal{L}_{coclosed} \simeq \mathfrak{sp}(\mathbb{R}^6) \subset \mathcal{L}$  of coclosed G<sub>2</sub>-structures is invariant under the bracket flow, which becomes equivalent to the following ODE for a one-parameter family of matrices  $A = A(t) \in \mathfrak{sp}(\mathbb{R}^6)$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt}A = - \left( \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(S_A)^2 + \frac{1}{4} (\operatorname{tr} JA)^2 \right) A + \frac{1}{2} [A, [A, A^t]] + \frac{1}{2} [A, S_A \circ_6 S_A] \quad (25)$$



Consider the family of matrix

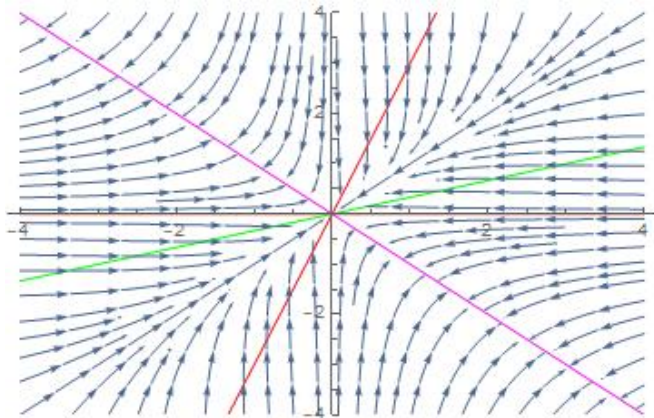
$$A = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} B & 0 \\ \hline 0 & -B^t \end{array} \right] \quad \text{with} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & x & 0 \\ y & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

evolving under the bracket flow thus we obtain the nonlinear system given by






$$\dot{x} = -2x(3x - y)(x + y) \quad \text{and} \quad \dot{y} = 2y(x - 3y)(x + y). \quad (26)$$






The resulting ODE is separable and the trajectories are level curves of




$$H(x(t), y(t)) = \frac{(y(t) - x(t))^2}{y(t)^3 x(t)^3} \quad (27)$$





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