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Totally Null Surfaces in Neutral K¨ahler 4-Manifolds

Nikos Georgiou
Department of Mathematics Waterford Institute of Technology Waterford, Co. Waterford, Ireland.

Brendan Guilfoyle
School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Institute of Technology, Tralee, Clash Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland., brendan.guilfoyle@mtu.ie

Wilhelm Klingenberg
Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Durham, Durham DH1 3LE, United Kingdom.

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Totally null surfaces in neutral Kähler 4-manifolds

N. Georgiou, B. Guilfoyle, W. Klingenberg

Abstract. We study the totally null surfaces of the neutral Kähler metric on certain 4-manifolds. The tangent spaces of totally null surfaces are either self-dual (α-planes) or anti-self-dual (β-planes) and so we consider α-surfaces and β-surfaces. The metric of the examples we study, which include the spaces of oriented geodesics of 3-manifolds of constant curvature, are anti-self-dual, and so it is well-known that the α-planes are integrable and α-surfaces exist. These are holomorphic Lagrangian surfaces, which for the geodesic spaces correspond to totally umbilic foliations of the underlying 3-manifold. The β-surfaces are less known and our interest is mainly in their description. In particular, we classify the β-surfaces of the neutral Kähler metric on TN, the tangent bundle to a Riemannian 2-manifold N. These include the spaces of oriented geodesics in Euclidean and Lorentz 3-space, for which we show that the β-surfaces are affine tangent bundles to curves of constant geodesic curvature on S^2 and H^2, respectively. In addition, we construct the β-surfaces of the space of oriented geodesics of hyperbolic 3-space.

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1 Introduction

Neutral Kähler 4-manifolds exhibit remarkably different behavior than their positive-definite counterparts. The failure of the complex structure J to tame the symplectic structure Ω means that 2-planes in the tangent space of a point can be both holomorphic and Lagrangian. Under favorable conditions (namely the vanishing of the self-dual conformal curvature) such planes are integrable and there exist holomorphic Lagrangian surfaces.

In the space $L(M)$ of oriented geodesics of a 3-manifold of constant curvature M (on which a natural neutral Kähler structure exists) such surfaces play a distinctive role: they correspond to totally umbilic foliations of M (see [2, 4, 5]).

Holomorphic Lagrangian planes are totally null, that is, the induced metric identically vanishes on the plane. Moreover, with respect to the Hodge star operator of

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the neutral metric, the self-dual 2-forms vanish on these planes. There exists however another class of totally null planes, upon which the anti-self-dual forms vanish. The former planes are referred to as α-planes, while the latter are β-planes.

In this note we consider the β-surfaces in certain neutral Kähler 4-manifolds, which include spaces $L(M)$ of oriented geodesics of 3-manifolds M of constant curvature. In the cases of $M = E^3, E^3_1, H^3$ we compute the β-surfaces explicitly and show that they include $L(E^2), L(H^2)$. In particular, we prove:

Main Theorem. *A β-surface in $L(E^3)$ is an affine tangent bundle over a curve of constant geodesic curvature in (S^2, g_{rnd}).*

A β-surface in $L(E^3_1)$ is an affine tangent bundle over a curve of constant geodesic curvature in $(H^2 g_{hyp})$.

A β-surface in $L(H^3)$ is a piece of a torus which, up to isometry, is either

1. *$L(H^2)$, where $H^2 \subset H^3$, or*
2. *$\mathcal{C}_1 \times \mathcal{C}_2 \subset \ S^2 \times S^2 - \bar{\Delta}$, where $\mathcal{C}_1$ is a circle given by the intersection of the 2-sphere and a plane containing the north pole, and $\mathcal{C}_2$ is the image of $\mathcal{C}_1$ under reflection in the horizontal plane through the origin.*

In the next section we discuss self-duality for planes in neutral Kähler 4-manifolds and their properties. We then turn to the neutral metric on TN and the special case $L(E^3)$ and $L(E^3_1)$. In the final section we characterize the β-surfaces in $L(H^3)$.

2 Neutral metrics on 4-manifolds

2.1 Self-dual and anti-self-dual 2-forms

Consider the neutral metric G on $\mathbb{R}^4$ given in standard coordinates (x^1, x^2, x^3, x^4) by

$$ds^2 = (dx^1)^2 + (dx^2)^2 - (dx^3)^2 - (dx^4)^2.$$

Throughout, we denote $\mathbb{R}^4$ endowed with this metric by $\mathbb{R}^{2,2}$.

The space of 2-forms on $\mathbb{R}^{2,2}$ is a 6-dimensional linear space that splits naturally with respect to the Hodge star operator $*$ of G into two 3-dimensional spaces: $\Lambda^2 = \Lambda^2_+ \oplus \Lambda^2_-$, the space of self-dual and anti-self-dual 2-forms. Thus, if $\omega \in \Lambda^2$, then $\omega = \omega_+ + \omega_-$, where $*\omega_+ = \omega_+$ and $*\omega_- = -\omega_-$.

We can easily find a basis for Λ^2_+ and Λ^2_-. First, define the *double null* basis of 1-forms:

$$\Theta^1 = dx^1 + dx^3, \qquad \Theta^2 = dx^2 - dx^4, \qquad \Theta^3 = -dx^2 - dx^4, \qquad \Theta^4 = dx^1 - dx^3,$$

so that the metric is

$$ds^2 = \Theta^1 \otimes \Theta^4 - \Theta^2 \otimes \Theta^3.$$

Proposition 2.1. *If $\omega \in \Lambda^2 = \Lambda^2_+ \oplus \Lambda^2_-$, with $\omega = \omega_+ + \omega_-$, then*

$$\omega_+ = a_1\Theta^1 \wedge \Theta^2 + b_1\Theta^3 \wedge \Theta^4 + c_1(\Theta^1 \wedge \Theta^4 - \Theta^2 \wedge \Theta^3),$$

$$\omega_- = a_2\Theta^1 \wedge \Theta^3 + b_2\Theta^2 \wedge \Theta^4 + c_2(\Theta^1 \wedge \Theta^4 + \Theta^2 \wedge \Theta^3),$$

for $a_1, b_1, c_1, a_2, b_2, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.

Proof. This follows from computing the Hodge star operator acting on 2-forms:

$$*(\Theta^1\wedge\Theta^4) = -\Theta^2\wedge\Theta^3, \qquad *(\Theta^2\wedge\Theta^4) = -\Theta^2\wedge\Theta^4, \qquad *(\Theta^1\wedge\Theta^3) = -\Theta^1\wedge\Theta^3,$$

$$*(\Theta^3\wedge\Theta^4) = \Theta^3\wedge\Theta^4, \qquad *(\Theta^1\wedge\Theta^2) = \Theta^1\wedge\Theta^2,$$

which completes the proof. □

2.2 Totally null planes

Definition 2.1. A plane $P \subset \mathbb{R}^{2,2}$ is *totally null* if every vector in P is null with respect to G, and the inner product of any two vectors in P is zero.

A plane P is *self-dual* if $\omega_+(P) = 0$ for all $\omega_+ \in \Lambda^2_+$, and *anti-self-dual* if $\omega_-(P) = 0$ for all $\omega_- \in \Lambda^2_-$. Self-dual planes are also called *α-planes*, while anti-self-dual planes are called *β-planes*.

Proposition 2.2. *A plane P is totally null iff P is either self-dual or anti-self-dual.*

Proof. Suppose all self-dual forms vanish on P and let $\{V, W\}$ be a basis for P. Let (e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4) be the vector basis of $\mathbb{R}^{2,2}$ that is dual to $(\Theta^1, \Theta^2, \Theta^3, \Theta^4)$ and $V = V^j e_j$, $W = W^j e_j$. Since all of the self-dual 2-forms vanish on P, we have from the expression of ω_+ in Proposition 2.1 that

$$V^1W^2 = W^1V^2, \qquad V^3W^4 = W^3V^4, \tag{2.1}$$

$$V^1W^4 - V^2W^3 = W^1V^4 - W^2V^3. \tag{2.2}$$

We can assume without loss of generality that V and W are orthogonal: $G(V, W) = 0$, which in frame components says that

$$V^1W^4 + W^1V^4 = V^2W^3 + W^2V^3.$$

Combining this with equation (2.2) we have that

$$V^1W^4 = V^2W^3, \qquad W^1V^4 = W^2V^3. \tag{2.3}$$

Multiplying the first equation of (2.3) by W^1 we have $V^1W^4W^1 = V^2W^3W^1$, which, by virtue of the first equation of (2.1), is $V^1W^4W^1 = W^2W^3V^1$. Thus

$$G(W, W)V^1 = 2(W^1W^4 - W^2W^3)V^1 = 0.$$

Similarly, multiplying the first equation of (2.3) by W^2, and the second equation by W^3 and W^4, applying equations (2.1), we find that

$$G(W, W)V^2 = G(W, W)V^3 = G(W, W)V^4 = 0.$$

Thus, either $G(W, W) = 0$ or $V = 0$. Since the latter is not true, we conclude that W is a null vector.

On the other hand, multiplying the second equation of (2.3) by V^1 and V^2, and the first by V^3 and V^4, utilizing equations (2.1), we have

$$G(V,V)W^1 = G(V,V)W^2 = G(V,V)W^3 = G(V,V)W^4 = 0.$$

Thus V is also a null vector, and the plane spanned by V and W is totally null, as claimed. An analogous argument establishes that a plane on which all anti-self-dual 2-forms vanish is totally null.

Conversely, suppose that a plane P is totally null. That is, in terms of a vector basis V and W as before

$$V^1V^4 = V^2V^3, \qquad W^1W^4 = W^2W^3, \tag{2.4}$$
$$V^1W^4 + V^4W^1 - V^2W^3 - V^3W^2 = 0. \tag{2.5}$$

Multiplying equation (2.5) by V^1,V^3, W^1 and W^3, yields, with the aid of equations (2.4):

$$V^2(V^3W^1 - V^1W^3) = V^1(V^3W^2 - V^1W^4), \tag{2.6}$$
$$V^4(V^3W^1 - V^1W^3) = V^3(V^3W^2 - V^1W^4), \tag{2.7}$$
$$W^2(V^1W^3 - V^3W^1) = W^1(V^2W^3 - V^4W^1), \tag{2.8}$$
$$W^4(V^1W^3 - V^3W^1) = W^3(V^2W^3 - V^4W^1). \tag{2.9}$$

Now, adding V^1 times equation (2.8), W^1 times equation (2.6), V^3 times equation (2.9) and W^3 times equation (2.7) and using equation (2.5), we obtain

$$(V^1W^2 - V^2W^1 + V^3W^4 - V^4W^3)(V^1W^3 - V^3W^1) = 0. \tag{2.10}$$

By a similar manipulation we find that

$$(V^1W^2 - V^2W^1 + V^3W^4 - V^4W^3)(V^2W^4 - V^4W^2) = 0. \tag{2.11}$$

Now suppose that P, in addition to being totally null, is Lagrangian. If $J(V)$ is not in P, then, since $G(W, J(V)) = \Omega(W, V) = 0$, the metric would be identically zero on the 3-space spanned by $\{V, W, J(V)\}$. For a non-degenerate metric G on $\mathbb{R}^{2,2}$ this is not possible. Thus $J(V) \in P$ and so P is a complex plane. It follows easily that P is self-dual.

On the other hand, suppose that the totally null plane P is not Lagrangian. Then $\Omega(V,W) \neq 0$ or

$$V^1W^2 - V^2W^1 + V^3W^4 - V^4W^3 \neq 0.$$

By equations (2.10) and (2.11), we have $V^1W^3 - V^3W^1 = V^2W^4 - V^4W^2 = 0$. Moreover, substituting these in (2.6) to (2.9) we conclude that $V^1W^4 - V^4W^1 + V^2W^3 - V^3W^2 = 0$. Then, by Proposition 2.1 we must have $\omega_-(V,W) = 0$, which completes the result. $\square$

2.3 Kähler structures on $\mathbb{R}^{2,2}$

Up to an overall sign, there are two complex structures on $\mathbb{R}^{2,2}$ that are compatible with the metric G:

$$\begin{cases} J(X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4) = (-X^2, X^1, -X^4, X^3), \\ J'(X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4) = (-X^2, X^1, X^4, -X^3). \end{cases}$$

By compatibility we mean that $G(J\cdot, J\cdot) = G(\cdot, \cdot)$, and similarly for J'.

We can utilize these and define two symplectic forms by $\Omega = G(\cdot, J\cdot)$ and $\Omega' = G(\cdot, J'\cdot)$. That is

$$\Omega = dx^1 \wedge dx^2 - dx^3 \wedge dx^4, \qquad \Omega' = dx^1 \wedge dx^2 + dx^3 \wedge dx^4.$$

Thus, the symplectic 2-form Ω is self-dual while Ω' is anti-self-dual. Moreover, we have the following result:

Proposition 2.3. *An α-plane is holomorphic and Lagrangian with respect to (J, Ω), while a β-plane is holomorphic and Lagrangian with respect to (J', Ω').*

Proof. The proof follows from arguments similar to those of Proposition 2.2. □

Given a null vector V in $\mathbb{R}^{2,2}$, the planes spanned by $\{V, J(V)\}$ and $\{V, J'(V)\}$ are easily seen to be totally null. More explicitly, the set of totally null planes is, in fact, the disjoint union $S^1 \coprod S^1$, which can be parameterized as follows. For $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, $\phi \in [0, 2\pi)$ and $\epsilon = \pm 1$, consider the vector in $\mathbb{R}^{2,2}$ given by

$$V_\phi^\epsilon(a, b) = (a\cos\phi + b\sin\phi, a\sin\phi - b\cos\phi, a, -\epsilon b)\,.$$

Let P_ϕ^ϵ be the plane containing $V_\phi^\epsilon(a, b)$ as a and b vary over $\mathbb{R}$. Then a quick check shows that P_ϕ^+ is self-dual, while P_ϕ^- is anti-self-dual.

An alternative way of visualising the null planes is as follows.

Definition 2.2. The neutral *null cone* is the set of null vectors in $\mathbb{R}^{2,2}$:

$$\mathcal{C} = \{X \in \mathbb{R}^{2,2} \mid G(X, X) = 0\}.$$

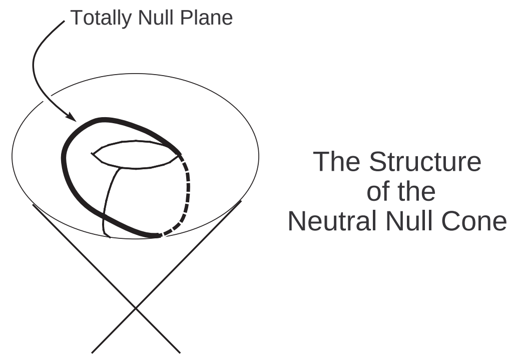
The null cone is a cone over a torus, in distinction to the lorentz $\mathbb{R}^{3,1}$ case where the null cone is a cone over a 2-sphere. To see the torus, simply note that the map $f : \mathbb{R} \times S^1 \times S^1 \to \mathcal{C}$

$$f(a, \theta_1, \theta_2) = (a\cos\theta_1, a\sin\theta_1, a\cos\theta_2, a\sin\theta_2)$$

parameterizes the null vectors as a cone.

Since every vector that lies in a totally null plane is null, we can picture a null plane as a cone over a circle in $\mathcal{C}$. A straight-forward calculation shows that:

Proposition 2.4. *A totally null plane is a cone over either a (1,1)-curve or a (1,-1)-curve on the torus, the former for an α-plane, the latter for a β-plane.*



By rotating around the meridian we see that the set of totally null planes is $S^1 \coprod S^1$.

2.4 Neutral Kähler surfaces

Let (M, G, J, Ω) be a smooth neutral Kähler 4-manifold. Thus M is a smooth 4-manifold, G is a neutral metric, while J is a complex structure that is compatible with G and $\Omega(\cdot,\cdot) = G(J\cdot,\cdot)$ is a closed non-degenerate (symplectic) 2-form.

The existence of a unitary frame at a point of M implies that it is possible to apply the algebra of the last section pointwise on M, and we therefore have $S^1 \cup S^1$ worth of totally null planes at each point. On a compact 4-manifold, the existence of an oriented 2-dimensional distribution implies topological restrictions on M [6], and so not every compact 4-manifold admits a neutral Kähler structure. However, the examples we consider are non-compact and the neutral Kähler structure will be given explicitly.

On any (pseudo)-Riemannian 4-manifold (M, G) the Riemann curvature tensor can be considered as an endomorphism of $\Lambda^2(M)$. The splitting $\Lambda^2(M) = \Lambda^2_+(M) \oplus \Lambda^2_-(M)$ with respect to the Hodge star operator $*$ yields a block decomposition of the Riemann curvature tensor

$$\mathrm{Riem} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathrm{Weyl}^+ + \frac{1}{12}\mathrm{R} & \mathrm{Ric} \\ \mathrm{Ric} & \mathrm{Weyl}^- + \frac{1}{12}\mathrm{R} \end{pmatrix},$$

where Ric is the Ricci tensor, R is the scalar curvature and $\mathrm{Weyl}^\pm$ are the self- and anti-self-dual Weyl curvature tensors [1].

Definition 2.3. A (pseudo)-Riemannian 4-manifold (M, G) is *anti-self-dual* if the self-dual part of the Weyl conformal curvature tensor vanishes: $\mathrm{Weyl}^+ = 0$.

A well-known result of Penrose states:

Theorem 2.5. *[8] The α-surfaces of a neutral Kähler 4-manifold (M, G) are integrable iff (M, G) is anti-self-dual.*

3 Neutral Kähler metrics on TN

Let (N,g) be a Riemannian 2-manifold and consider the total space TN of the tangent bundle to N. Choose conformal coordinates ξ on N so that $ds^2 = e^{2u}d\xi d\bar{\xi}$ for some function $u = u(\xi,\bar{\xi})$, and the corresponding complex coordinates (ξ,η) on TN obtained by identifying

$$(\xi,\eta) \leftrightarrow \eta\frac{\partial}{\partial\xi} + \bar{\eta}\frac{\partial}{\partial\bar{\xi}} \in T_\xi N.$$

The coordinates (ξ,η) define a natural complex structure on TN by

$$J\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\xi}\right) = i\frac{\partial}{\partial\xi} \qquad\qquad J\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\eta}\right) = i\frac{\partial}{\partial\eta}.$$

In [4] a neutral Kähler structure was introduced on TN. In the above coordinate system, the symplectic 2-form is

$$\Omega = 2e^{2u}\mathbb{R}\mathrm{e}\left(d\eta\wedge d\bar{\xi} + 2\eta\partial_\xi u\, d\xi\wedge d\bar{\xi}\right), \tag{3.1}$$

while the neutral metric $\mathbb{G}$ is

$$\mathbb{G} = 2e^{2u}\mathbb{I}\mathrm{m}\left(d\bar{\eta}d\xi - 2\eta\partial_\xi u\, d\xi d\bar{\xi}\right). \tag{3.2}$$

Here we have introduced the notation ∂_ξ for differentiation with respect to ξ.
note:

When $u = 0$, we retrieve the neutral Kähler metric on $\mathbb{R}^4 = \mathrm{T}\mathbb{R}^2$, where

$$\xi = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[x^1 + x^3 + i(x^2+x^4)\right], \qquad \eta = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[x^2 - x^4 + i(-x^1+x^3)\right],$$

or

$$x^1 = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[\xi+\bar{\xi}+i(\eta-\bar{\eta})\right], \qquad x^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[-i(\xi-\bar{\xi})+\eta+\bar{\eta}\right],$$
$$x^3 = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[\xi+\bar{\xi}-i(\eta-\bar{\eta})\right], \qquad x^4 = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[-i(\xi-\bar{\xi})-\eta-\bar{\eta}\right].$$

Proposition 3.1. *The double null basis for (TN, G) is*

$$\Theta^1 = 2\mathbb{R}e(d\xi), \qquad \Theta^2 = 2e^{2u}\mathbb{R}e\left(d\eta + 2\eta\partial_\xi u\, d\xi\right),$$
$$\Theta^3 = 2\mathbb{I}m(d\xi), \qquad \Theta^4 = 2e^{2u}\mathbb{I}m\left(d\eta + 2\eta\partial_\xi u\, d\xi\right).$$

Proof. A straight-forward check shows that

$$ds^2 = \Theta^1\otimes\Theta^4 - \Theta^2\otimes\Theta^3,$$

as claimed. □

The coordinate expressions for self-dual and anti-self-dual 2-forms on TN are

Proposition 3.2. *If $\omega \in \Lambda^2(TN) = \Lambda^2_+(TN)\oplus\Lambda^2_-(TN)$, with $\omega = \omega_+ + \omega_-$, then*

$$\omega_+ = a_1(d\xi\wedge d\eta + d\bar{\xi}\wedge d\bar{\eta}) + b_1[d\xi\wedge d\bar{\eta} + d\bar{\xi}\wedge d\eta + 2(\bar{\eta}\partial_{\bar{\xi}}u - \eta\partial_\xi u)d\xi\wedge d\bar{\xi}]$$
$$+ ic_1(d\xi\wedge d\eta - d\bar{\xi}\wedge d\bar{\eta}),$$

$$\omega_- = ia_2 d\xi\wedge d\bar{\xi} + ib_2[d\xi\wedge d\bar{\eta} - d\bar{\xi}\wedge d\eta + 2(\bar{\eta}\partial_{\bar{\xi}}u + \eta\partial_\xi u)d\xi\wedge d\bar{\xi}]$$
$$+ ic_2(d\eta\wedge d\bar{\eta} + 2\eta\partial_\xi u d\xi\wedge d\bar{\eta} + 2\bar{\eta}\partial_{\bar{\xi}}u d\bar{\xi}\wedge d\eta + 4\eta\bar{\eta}\partial_\xi u\partial_{\bar{\xi}}u d\xi\wedge d\bar{\xi}),$$

for $a_1, b_1, c_1, a_2, b_2, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.

3.1 α-surfaces in TN

We first note that

Proposition 3.3. *The neutral Kähler metric G on TN is anti-self-dual.*

Proof. A calculation using the coordinate expression (3.2) of the metric shows that the only non-vanishing component of the conformal curvature tensor is

$$W_{\xi\bar{\xi}}{}^{\eta\bar{\eta}} = i(\eta\partial_\xi\kappa - \bar{\eta}\partial_{\bar{\xi}}\kappa),$$

where κ is the Gauss curvature of (N, g). Thus, from Proposition 3.2, for any $\omega_+ \in \Lambda^2_+(TN)$, $W(\omega_+) = 0$. That is, the metric is anti-self-dual. □

By applying Theorem 2.5 we have:

Corollary 3.4. *There exists α-surfaces, i.e. holomorphic Lagrangian surfaces, in (TN, J, Ω).*

3.2 β-surfaces in TN

Proposition 3.5. *An immersed surface $\Sigma \subset TN$ is a β-surface iff locally it is given by $(s, t) \to (\xi(s, t), \eta(s, t))$ where*

$$\xi = se^{iC_0} + \xi_0, \qquad \eta = (te^{iC_0} + \eta_0)e^{-2u},$$

for $C_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\xi_0, \eta_0 \in C$.

Proof. By Proposition 3.2 surface $f : \Sigma \to TN$ is a β-*surface* iff

$$f^*(d\xi \wedge d\bar{\xi}) = 0, \qquad f^*(d(\eta e^{2u}) \wedge d(\bar{\eta}e^{2u})) = 0, \tag{3.3}$$

and

$$f^*(d\xi \wedge d(\bar{\eta}e^{2u}) - d\bar{\xi} \wedge d(\eta e^{2u})) = 0. \tag{3.4}$$

The first equation of (3.3) implies that the map $(s, t) \to \xi(s, t)$ is not of maximal rank, and as it cannot be of rank zero (as this would mean that Σ is a fibre of $\pi : TN \to N$, and is therefore an α-surface) it must be of rank 1. By the implicit function theorem either

$$\xi(s, t) = \xi(s, t(s)) \qquad \text{or} \qquad \xi(s, t) = \xi(s(t), t).$$

Without loss of generality, we will assume the former: $\xi = \xi(s)$.

Similarly, the second equation of (3.3) implies that either

$$\eta e^{2u} = \psi(s, t) = \psi(s, t(s)) \qquad \text{or} \qquad \eta e^{2u} = \psi(s, t) = \psi(s(t), t).$$

Here, we must have the latter $\eta e^{2u} = \psi(t)$, or else the surface Σ would be singular. Turning now to equation of (3.4), we have

$$\frac{d\xi}{ds}\frac{d\bar{\psi}}{dt} = \frac{d\bar{\xi}}{ds}\frac{d\psi}{dt}.$$

By separation of variables we see that

$$\frac{d\xi}{ds} = e^{2iC_0}\frac{d\bar{\xi}}{ds}, \qquad \frac{d\psi}{ds} = e^{2iC_0}\frac{d\bar{\psi}}{ds},$$

for some real constant C_0. These can be integrated to

$$\xi = h_1(s)e^{iC_0} + \xi_0, \qquad \eta = (h_2(t)e^{iC_0} + \eta_0)e^{-2u},$$

for complex constants ξ_0 and η_0 and real functions h_1 and h_2 of s and t, respectively. Finally, we can reparameterize s and t so that $h_1 = s$ and $h_2 = t$, as claimed. □

3.3 The oriented geodesic spaces TS^2 and TH^2

In the cases where $N = S^2$ or $N = H^2$ endowed with a metric of constant Gauss curvature ($e^{2u} = 4(1 \pm \xi\bar{\xi})^{-2}$), the above construction yields the neutral Kähler metric on the space $L(E^3)$ of oriented affine lines or on the space $L(E^3_1)$ of future-pointing time-like lines, in E^3 or E^3_1 (respectively) [5].

In what follows we consider only the Euclidean case, although analogous results hold for the Lorentz case. We define the map Φ which sends $L(E^3) \times \mathbb{R}$ to E^3 as follows: Φ takes an oriented line γ and a real number r to that point in E^3 which lies on γ and is an affine parameter distance r from the point on γ closest to the origin.

Proposition 3.6. *[4] The map can be written as $\Phi((\xi,\eta),r) = (z,t) \in C \oplus \mathbb{R} = E^3$ where the local coordinate expressions are:*

$$\begin{cases} z = \frac{2(\eta - \bar{\eta}\xi^2) + 2\xi(1+\xi\bar{\xi})r}{(1+\xi\bar{\xi})^2}, \quad t = \frac{-2(\eta\bar{\xi} + \bar{\eta}\xi) + (1-\xi^2\bar{\xi}^2)r}{(1+\xi\bar{\xi})^2}, \\ eta = \frac{1}{2}(z - 2t\xi - \bar{z}\xi^2), \quad r = \frac{\bar{\xi}z + \xi\bar{z} + (1-\xi\bar{\xi})t}{1+\xi\bar{\xi}}. \end{cases}$$

For α-surfaces, we have

Proposition 3.7. *A holomorphic Lagrangian surface in TS^2 corresponds to the oriented normals to totally umbilic surfaces in E^3 i.e. round spheres or planes.*

On the other hand:

Proposition 3.8. *A β-surface in TS^2 is an affine tangent bundle over a curve of constant geodesic curvature in (S^2, g_{rnd}).*

Proof. By Proposition 3.5, the β-surfaces are given by

$$\xi = se^{iC_0} + \xi_0, \qquad \eta = (1 + \xi\bar{\xi})^2(te^{iC_0} + \eta_0).$$

Clearly this is a real line bundle over a curve on S^2. By a rotation this can be simplified to

$$\xi = s + \xi_0 e^{-iC_0}, \qquad \eta = (1 + \xi\bar{\xi})^2(t + \eta_0 e^{-iC_0}),$$

and after an affine reparameterization of s and t we can set

$$\xi = s + iC_1, \qquad \eta = (1 + \xi\bar{\xi})^2(t + iC_2).$$

Projecting onto S^2 we get the curve $\xi = s + iC_1$ with unit tangent $\vec{T}$ and normal vector $\vec{N}$ (with respect to the round metric)

$$\vec{T} = \frac{(1+\xi\bar{\xi})}{2\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\xi} + \frac{\partial}{\partial\bar{\xi}}\right), \qquad \vec{N} = \frac{i(1+\xi\bar{\xi})}{2\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\xi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial\bar{\xi}}\right).$$

Considered as a set of vectors on S^2, the β-surface is

$$\begin{aligned}\eta\frac{\partial}{\partial\xi} + \bar{\eta}\frac{\partial}{\partial\bar{\xi}} &= (1+\xi\bar{\xi})^2(t+iC_2)\frac{\partial}{\partial\xi} + (1+\xi\bar{\xi})^2(t-iC_2)\frac{\partial}{\partial\bar{\xi}} \\ &= 2\sqrt{2}(1+\xi\bar{\xi})(t\vec{T} + C_2\vec{N}).\end{aligned}$$

These form a real line bundle over the base curve - which do not pass through the origin in the fibre of TS^2 for $C_2 \neq 0$. For $C_2 = 0$, this is exactly the tangent bundle to the curve. The geodesic curvature of this curve is

$$\begin{aligned} g(\vec{N}, \nabla_{\vec{T}}\vec{T}) &= N_k T^j(\partial_j T^k + \Gamma^k_{jl}T^l) \\ &= N_k T^j \partial_j T^k + N^k T^j T^l(2\partial_j g_{lk} - \partial_k g_{jl}) = \sqrt{2}C_1, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. □

A similar calculation establishes:

Proposition 3.9. *A β-surface in TH^2 is an affine tangent bundle over a curve of constant geodesic curvature in (H^2, g_{hyp}).*

We also have the following:

Corollary 3.10. *Given an affine plane P in E^3, the set $L(E^2)$ of oriented lines contained in P is a β-surface in TS^2.*

Proof. By Proposition 3.5, the β-surfaces are given by

$$\xi = se^{iC_0} + \xi_0, \qquad \eta = (1+\xi\bar{\xi})^2(te^{iC_0} + \eta_0).$$

Isometries of E^3 induce isometries on TS^2 and hence preserve β-surfaces. Thus we can translate and rotate P so that it is vertical and contains the t-axis. Thus we can consider the β-surface Σ with $\xi_0 = \eta_0 = 0$, and then using the map Φ we find the two parameter family of oriented lines in E^3 to be

$$z = \frac{2[(1-s^4)t + sr]}{1+s^2}e^{iC_0}, \qquad t = \frac{-4s(1+s^2)t + (1-s^2)r}{1+s^2}.$$

This is a vertical plane containing the t-axis, and Σ consists of all the oriented lines in this plane. □

4 Oriented geodesics in hyperbolic 3-space

We briefly recall the basic construction of the canonical neutral Kähler metric on the space $L(H^3)$ of oriented geodesics of H^3 - further details can be found in [2].

Consider the 4-manifold $P^1 \times P^1$ endowed with the canonical complex structure $J = j \oplus j$ and complex coordinates μ_1 and μ_2. If we let $\overline{\Delta} = \{(\mu_1, \mu_2) : \mu_1\bar{\mu}_2 = -1\}$ then $L(H^3) = P^1 \times P^1 - \overline{\Delta}$. We introduce the neutral Kähler metric and symplectic form on $L(H^3)$ by

$$G = -i\left[\frac{1}{(1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2)^2}d\mu_1 \otimes d\bar{\mu}_2 - \frac{1}{(1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2)^2}d\bar{\mu}_1 \otimes d\mu_2\right], \tag{4.1}$$

and

$$\Omega = -\left[\frac{1}{(1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2)^2}d\mu_1 \wedge d\bar{\mu}_2 + \frac{1}{(1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2)^2}d\bar{\mu}_1 \wedge d\mu_2\right]. \tag{4.2}$$

Proposition 4.1. *A double null basis for* $(L(H^3),\, G)$ *is*

$$\Theta^1 = Re\left(\frac{d\mu_1}{1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2} - \frac{d\mu_2}{1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2}\right), \qquad \Theta^2 = Re\left(\frac{d\mu_1}{1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2} + \frac{d\mu_2}{1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2}\right),$$

$$\Theta^3 = -Im\left(\frac{d\mu_1}{1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2} - \frac{d\mu_2}{1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2}\right), \qquad \Theta^4 = -Im\left(\frac{d\mu_1}{1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2} + \frac{d\mu_2}{1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2}\right).$$

Proof. A straight-forward computation shows that

$$ds^2 = \Theta^1 \otimes \Theta^4 - \Theta^2 \otimes \Theta^3,$$

as claimed □

The coordinate expressions for self-dual and anti-self-dual 2 forms on $L(H^3)$ are easily found to be:

Proposition 4.2. *If* $\omega \in \Lambda^2(L(H^3)) = \Lambda^2_+(L(H^3)) \oplus \Lambda^2_-(L(H^3))$, *with* $\omega = \omega_+ + \omega_-$, *then*

$$\omega_+ = (a_1+ic_1)\frac{d\mu_1 \wedge d\mu_2}{|1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2|^2} + (a_1-ic_1)\frac{d\bar{\mu}_1 \wedge d\bar{\mu}_2}{|1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2|^2} + b_1\left[\frac{d\mu_1 \wedge d\bar{\mu}_2}{(1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2)^2} + \frac{d\bar{\mu}_1 \wedge d\mu_2}{(1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2)^2}\right],$$

$$\omega_- = -i(a_2+c_2)\frac{d\mu_1 \wedge d\bar{\mu}_1}{|1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2|^2} - i(a_2-c_2)\frac{d\mu_2 \wedge d\bar{\mu}_2}{|1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2|^2} + ib_2\left[\frac{d\mu_1 \wedge d\bar{\mu}_2}{(1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2)^2} - \frac{d\bar{\mu}_1 \wedge d\mu_2}{(1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2)^2}\right].$$

4.1 α-surfaces in $L(H^3)$

Once again, the neutral metric on $L(H^3)$ is anti-self-dual, indeed, it is conformally flat, and so there exists α-surfaces in $L(H^3)$. These are found to be the normal congruence to the totally umbilic surfaces in H^3:

Proposition 4.3. *[3] A smooth surface* Σ *in* $L(H^3)$ *is totally null iff* Σ *is the oriented normal congruence of*

1. *a geodesic sphere, or*
2. *a horosphere, or*
3. *a totally geodesic surface*

in H^3.

4.2 β-surfaces in $L(H^3)$

Proposition 4.4. *Let Σ be a β-surface in $L(H^3)$. Then Σ is a piece of a torus which, up to isometry, is either*

1. *$L(H^2)$, where $H^2 \subset H^3$, or*
2. *$\mathcal{C}_1 \times \mathcal{C}_2 \subset S^2 \times S^2 - \bar{\Delta}$, where the $\mathcal{C}_1$ is a circle given by the intersection of the 2-sphere and a plane containing the north pole, and $\mathcal{C}_2$ is the image of $\mathcal{C}_1$ under reflection in the horizontal plane through the origin.*

Proof. Let $f : \Sigma \to L(H^3)$ be an immersed β-surface. Then for every anti-self-dual 2-form ω_- we have $f^*\omega_- = 0$. Then we obtain the following equations

$$f^*(d\mu_1 \wedge d\bar{\mu}_1) = 0, \qquad f^*(d\mu_2 \wedge d\bar{\mu}_2) = 0, \tag{4.3}$$

$$f^*\left(\frac{d\mu_1 \wedge d\bar{\mu}_2}{(1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2)^2} - \frac{d\bar{\mu}_1 \wedge d\mu_2}{(1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2)^2}\right) = 0. \tag{4.4}$$

The first equation of (4.3) implies that the map $(u, v) \mapsto \mu_1(u, v)$ is not of maximal rank and since it cannot be of rank zero (otherwise Σ would be an α-surface) it must be of rank 1. By the implicit function theorem either

$$\mu_1(u, v) = \mu_1(u, v(u)) \qquad \textit{or} \qquad \mu_1(u, v) = \mu_1(u(v), v).$$

Without loss of generality, we will assume the former: $\mu_1 = \mu_1(u)$.

Similarly, the second equation of (4.3) implies that

$$\mu_2(u, v) = \mu_2(u, v(u)) \qquad \textit{or} \qquad \mu_2(u, v) = \mu_2(u(v), v).$$

Here, we must have $\mu_2 = \mu_2(v)$, or else the surface Σ would be singular.

The equation (4.4) yields

$$\ln \mu_2 - \ln \bar{\mu}_2 + \ln(1 + \bar{\mu}_1\mu_2) - \ln(1 + \mu_1\bar{\mu}_2) = h_1(u) + h_2(v), \tag{4.5}$$

$$\ln \bar{\mu}_1 - \ln \mu_1 + \ln(1 + \bar{\mu}_1\mu_2) - \ln(1 + \mu_1\bar{\mu}_2) = w_1(u) + w_2(v), \tag{4.6}$$

for some complex functions h_1, h_2, w_1, w_2.

If $h_i = a_i e^{i\phi_i}$ for $i = 1, 2$, where $a_1 = a_1(u)$, $\phi_1 = \phi_1(u)$ and $a_2 = a_2(v)$, $\phi_2 = \phi_2(v)$ are real functions, we obtain

$$h_1(u) = ia_1 \qquad\qquad h_2(v) = ia_2.$$

By a similar argument, there are real functions $b_1 = b_1(u)$ and $b_2 = b_2(v)$ such that (4.5) and (4.6) become

$$\ln \mu_2 - \ln \bar{\mu}_2 + \ln(1 + \bar{\mu}_1\mu_2) - \ln(1 + \mu_1\bar{\mu}_2) = i(a_1(u) + a_2(v)), \tag{4.7}$$

$$\ln \bar{\mu}_1 - \ln \mu_1 + \ln(1 + \bar{\mu}_1\mu_2) - \ln(1 + \mu_1\bar{\mu}_2) = i(b_1(u) + b_2(v)). \tag{4.8}$$

Finally from combining equations (4.7) and (4.8) we have

$$\ln\left(\frac{1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2}{1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2}\right)=-2i(f(u)+g(v)).$$

We are thus led to consider the curves $\mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2$ on S^2 given locally by non-constant functions $\mu_1 : \mathbb{R} \to S^2 : u \mapsto \mu_1(u)$ and $\mu_2 : \mathbb{R} \to S^2 : v \mapsto \mu_2(v)$ which satisfy

$$1+\mu_1\bar{\mu}_2=(1+\bar{\mu}_1\mu_2)e^{2i(f+g)},$$

for $f = f(u)$ and $g = g(v)$.

If we switch to polar coordinates $\mu_1 = \lambda_1(u)e^{i\theta_1(u)}$ and $\mu_2 = \lambda_2(v)e^{i\theta_2(v)}$, this reduces to

$$\sin[f(u)+g(v)]=\lambda_1(u)\lambda_2(v)\sin[\theta_1(u)-f(u)-\theta_2(v)-g(v)]. \tag{4.9}$$

By a rotation we can set μ_2 to zero for some $v = v_0$, that is, $\lambda_2(v_0) = 0$. We find from equation (4.9) that

$$\sin[f(u)+g(v_0)]=0,$$

and so letting $g_0 = g(v_0)$, we conclude that $f = -g_0$. Putting this back into (4.9) we have

$$\sin[g(v)-g_0]=\lambda_1(u)\lambda_2(v)\sin[\theta_1(u)-\theta_2(v)-g(v)+g_0]. \tag{4.10}$$

Thus for a fixed $u = u_0$ we have

$$\lambda_1(u_0)\lambda_2(v)\sin[\theta_1(u_0)-\theta_2(v)-g(v)+g_0]=\lambda_1(u)\lambda_2(v)\sin[\theta_1(u)-\theta_2(v)-g(v)+g_0],$$

or, for $v \neq v_0$

$$\lambda_1(u_0)\sin[\theta_1(u_0)-\theta_2(v)-g(v)+g_0]=\lambda_1(u)\sin[\theta_1(u)-\theta_2(v)-g(v)+g_0]. \tag{4.11}$$

Differentiating this relationship with respect to v yields

$$\begin{aligned}&\lambda_1(u_0)\cos[\theta_1(u_0)-\theta_2(v)-g(v)+g_0]\,\partial_v(\theta_2+g)\\&\qquad=\lambda_1(u)\cos[\theta_1(u)-\theta_2(v)-g(v)+g_0]\,\partial_v(\theta_2+g).\end{aligned} \tag{4.12}$$

If $\partial_v(\theta_2+g) \neq 0$, then we can cancel this factor and square both sides of equations (4.11) and (4.12) to find that $\lambda_1 = \lambda_1(u_0)$. However, from the functional relation in equation (4.10), this means that θ_1 is also constant. Thus μ_1 would be constant, which is not true.

We conclude that $\partial_v(\theta_2+g) = 0$, or equivalently, $g(v) = -\theta_2(v)+g_1$. Substituting this back into equation (4.10) we have

$$\sin[\theta_2(v)+C_0]=\lambda_1(u)\lambda_2(v)\sin[\theta_1(u)+C_0],$$

where $C_0 = g_0 - g_1$.

One solution of this equation is $\theta_1 = \theta_2 = -C_0$, which is the case $\Sigma = L(H^2)$, where $H^2 \subset H^3$. Otherwise, we can separate variables

$$\frac{\sin[\theta_2(v)+C_0)]}{\lambda_2(v)}=\lambda_1(u)\sin[\theta_1(u)+C_0]=C_1\neq 0.$$

This yields

$$\mu_1 = \frac{C_1 e^{i\theta_1(u)}}{\sin[\theta_1(u) + C_0]}, \qquad \mu_2 = \frac{\sin[\theta_2(v) + C_0] e^{i\theta_2(v)}}{C_1}.$$

By a rotation of S^2 we can set C_0 to zero, and with a natural choice of parameterization of the curves, the final form is

$$\mu_1 = \frac{C_1 e^{iu}}{\sin u}, \qquad \mu_2 = \frac{\sin v\, e^{iv}}{C_1},$$

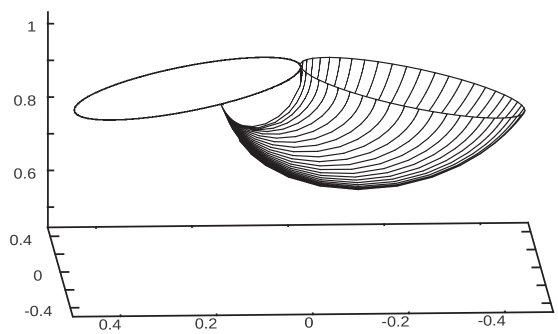
for $u, v \in [0, 2\pi)$.

These are the tori of part (2) in the statement. To see that they are circles note that if we view S^2 in $\mathbb{R}^3$ given by

$$x = \frac{\mu + \bar{\mu}}{1 + \mu\bar{\mu}}, \qquad y = \frac{-i(\mu - \bar{\mu})}{1 + \mu\bar{\mu}}, \qquad z = \frac{1 - \mu\bar{\mu}}{1 + \mu\bar{\mu}},$$

then the first curve parameterizes the intersection of S^2 with the plane $y + C_1(z-1) = 0$, while the second is the intersection with the plane $y - C_1(z+1) = 0$. □

In the ball model of H^3 these 2-parameter families of geodesics can be visualized as the set of geodesics that begin on a circle on the boundary and end on another circle of the same radius on the boundary, the two circles having a single point of intersection, as illustrated below.



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Authors' addresses:

Nikos Georgiou
Department of Mathematics
Waterford Institute of Technology
Waterford, Co. Waterford, Ireland.
E-mail: ngeorgiou@wit.ie

Brendan Guilfoyle
School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Institute of Technology, Tralee, Clash Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland.
E-mail: brendan.guilfoyle@ittralee.ie

Wilhelm Klingenberg
Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Durham,
Durham DH1 3LE, United Kingdom.
E-mail: wilhelm.klingenberg@durham.ac.uk