KÄHLER YAMABE MINIMIZERS ON MINIMAL RULED SURFACES

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Abstract

It is shown that if a minimal ruled surface $P(E) \rightarrow \Sigma$ admits a Kähler Yamabe minimizer, then this metric is generalized Kähler-Einstein and the holomorphic vector bundle *E* is quasi-stable.

1. Introduction

The *minimal ruled surfaces* form a special class of compact Kählerian surfaces and are by definition the total spaces of CP_1 bundles over compact Riemann surfaces Σ . Any ruled surface can be written [2] as

$$\mathsf{P}(E) \to \Sigma$$
,

i.e., as the projectivization of a holomorphic rank two vector bundle *E* over Σ , where *E* is unique up to tensoring with a holomorphic line bundle. Moreover any ruled surface is birationally equivalent to $\Sigma \times CP_1$. In particular, any ruled surface is algebraic. In fact, the minimal models of any complex surface which is birationally equivalent to $\Sigma \times CP_1$, are exactly the ruled surfaces [4], [22].

Suppose that $E \rightarrow \Sigma$ is *quasi-stable*, that is, *E* is semi-stable (in the sense of Mumford) and decomposes into a direct sum

$$E=E_1\oplus\cdots\oplus E_k$$

of stable sub-bundles (here k = 1 or 2) such that

$$\frac{\deg(E)}{\operatorname{rank}(E)} = \frac{\deg(E_i)}{\operatorname{rank}(E_i)}$$

for i = 1, ..., k. Narasimhan and Seshadri [17] have proved that quasistability is equivalent to the existence of a flat projective unitary connection on *E*. In other words, if *E* is quasi-stable, then $P(E) \rightarrow \Sigma$ is a flat CP_1 bundle, i.e., is defined by some representation

$$\rho: \pi_1(\Sigma) \to \mathsf{PSU}(2) = \mathsf{SO}(3).$$

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So, when *E* is quasi-stable, local products of constant scalar curvature Kähler metrics on Σ and CP_1 will exhaust the entire Kähler cone on the ruled surface with Kähler classes of constant scalar curvature Kähler metrics.

Burns and de Bartolomeis proved that quasi-stability is a necessary condition for the existence of scalar-flat Kähler metrics. More recently LeBrun proved a similar statement for negative constant scalar curvature. We summarize these results in the theorem below.

THEOREM 1.1 (Burns, de Bartolomeis [3] and LeBrun [12]). Let $P(E) \rightarrow \Sigma$ be a minimal ruled surface with a Kähler class $[\omega]$ such that $c_1 \cdot [\omega] \leq 0$. Then $[\omega]$ contains a Kähler metric of constant scalar curvature if and only if $E \rightarrow \Sigma$ is a quasi-stable vector bundle.

A key step in both proofs is the observation that the constant scalar curvature Kähler metric must be Kähler with respect to two non-equivalent complex structures on the ruled surface.

Whether the statement holds in the case $c_1 \cdot [\omega] > 0$ is still unknown. In this paper we assume that the Kähler metric is also a Yamabe minimizer in its conformal class and show that then quasi-stability holds.

2. Perturbed Seiberg-Witten Invariants

Let *M* be a compact, oriented four manifold such that $H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$ has dimension two and $b_+ = b_- = 1$. (In general, one could let b_- have arbitrary value.) Let *g* be a Riemannian metric on *M* and \star be the Hodge Star operator defined with respect to *g* and the orientation. Then the one dimensional subspace of $H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$

$$H^+(g) := \{ [v] \in H^2(M, \mathsf{R}) \mid \star v = v \}$$

is called a metric polarization [12]. Observe that

$$H^{-}(g) := \{ [v] \in H^{2}(M, \mathsf{R}) \mid \star v = -v \}$$

is the metric polarization with respect to the opposite orientation. If g is Kähler, then the Kähler class spans $H^+(g)$.

The open cone

$$\{[v] \in H^2(M, \mathsf{R}) \mid [v] \cdot [v] > 0\}$$

consists of two connected components, called *nappes* [13]. Given a nappe \mathscr{C}^+ and a Riemannian metric g, let ω be a g-harmonic, self-dual two form such that $[\omega] \in \mathscr{C}^+$. This form always exists and is unique up to multiplication with a positive constant. Indeed, $[\omega] \in H^+(g) \cap \mathscr{C}^+$. If M has a Kähler metric, then the canonical choice of nappe is the one containing the Kähler class. This way the corresponding g-harmonic, self-dual two-form to any metric on M is simply a generalization of the Kähler form.

Now assume that *M* has a Spin_c structure *c* of almost-complex type. Relative to any metric *g*, the *perturbed Seiberg-Witten invariant* $p_c(M, \mathcal{C}^+)$ is defined to be the number of solutions, modulo gauge and counted with orientations, of the perturbed Seiberg-Witten equations [10], [21]

(1)
$$D_A \Phi = 0$$

(2)
$$iF_A^+ + \sigma(\Phi) = \epsilon,$$

where ϵ is a generic (so that (g, ϵ) is excellent) self-dual two form with $\int_M \epsilon \wedge \omega > 2\pi c_1(c) \cdot [\omega]$. Note that all ϵ satisfying this inequality make (g, ϵ) a good pair and it is easy to see that they are all in the same chamber. The above invariant is therefore well-defined and metric independent. We refer to [11] for definitions of the words "excellent", "good" and "chamber".

Note that if $p_c(M, \mathcal{C}^+) \neq 0$ the the equations (1) and (2) have a solution $\Phi \neq 0$ for any $\epsilon = t\omega$ where $t \gg 0$. This is easily seen by the fact that $(g, t\omega)$ is a good pair (in the chamber determined by \mathcal{C}^+). If it had no solutions, it would automatically be excellent and therefore contradict the non-vanishing of $p_c(M, \mathcal{C})$. Therefore, $(g, t\omega)$ has a solution (not necessarily transverse) and by $(g, t\omega)$ being good this solution is irreducible $(\Phi \neq 0)$.

EXAMPLE 2.1 ([11]). If (M, J, g) is a Kähler surface, c the Spin_c structure induced by J and \mathscr{C}^+ the canonical choice of nappe then $p_c(M, \mathscr{C}^+) \neq 0$.

The perturbed Seiberg-Witten invariant is also defined for Spin_c structures on M who do not arise from an almost-complex structure [15].

If (M, g, J) is an almost-Kähler manifold, then the almost-Kähler form ω is a harmonic self-dual form. Hence, even though J may not be integrable, $[\omega]$ still determines a canonical choice of nappe. Since $|\omega| = \sqrt{2}$, the following result is a direct application of ([13], Theorems 1 and 2).

THEOREM 2.2 (LeBrun). Let (M, g, J) be an almost-Kähler surface with the canonical choice of nappe \mathcal{C}^+ . If c is a Spin_c structure such that $p_c(\mathcal{C}^+, M) \neq 0$, then

$$\int_M s \, d\mu \le 4\pi \, c_1(c) \cdot [\omega],$$

where s is the scalar curvature, $d\mu$ is the metric volume form and $c_1(c) = c_1(\det V^+)$. Moreover, equality is achieved if and only if (M, g, J) is Kähler and J is compatible with c.

For the proof we refer to LeBrun's paper [13]. However in ([13], Theorem 2) the compability statement was made without offering a proof. For the sake of

completeness we now prove this. When equality is achieved, we have that (M, g, J) is Kähler. Therefore

$$4\pi c_1(c) \cdot [\omega] = \int_M s \, d\mu = 4\pi c_1(K^{-1}) \cdot [\omega],$$

where K^{-1} is the anti-canonical line bundle of (M, J). The compability of J with c then follows from the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.3. Let M be a compact smooth manifold with $b_+ = 1$. Assume that M has a Kähler metric g with Kähler form ω and complex structure J. Let K denote the canonical line bundle of (M, J). Let C^+ be the canonical choice of nappe. Suppose c is any Spin_c structure on M with corresponding complex line bundle $L = \det V^+$ such that $p_c(M, C^+) \neq 0$. Then $E = (K \otimes L)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is either trivial or a holomorphic line bundle corresponding to an effective divisor. In particular, $c_1(L) \cdot [\omega] \ge c_1(K^{-1}) \cdot [\omega]$ with equality if and only if E is trivial and c is the Spin_c structure induced by J.

PROOF. The trick is to choose the perturbation to be $\epsilon = t\omega$, $t \gg 0$. Now we follow Witten's calculations for the unperturbed Seiberg-Witten equations on a Kähler manifold [21] (see also the proof of ([8], Proposition 2.1)). Since ϵ is of type (1, 1) with respect to the Kähler structure, we get by precisely the same argument as in [21] that for a solution (A, Φ) to both equation (1) and

(3)
$$iF_A^+ + \sigma(\Phi) = t\omega$$

the curvature F_A is of type (1, 1) and E has a holomorphic structure (induced by D_A). If we write $\Phi = (\alpha, \beta)$ where α is a section of E and β is a section of $\bigwedge^{0,2}(E)$, then α and $\overline{\beta}$ are holomorphic and one of them must vanish. Now (3) rewrites to

$$iF_A^+ = \frac{(-|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 + 4t)}{4}\alpha$$

implying that

$$2\pi c_1(L) \cdot [\omega] = \frac{(-|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 + 4t)}{4} [\omega]^2.$$

For t sufficiently large we must have that α is a non-vanishing holomorphic section of E. Thus, unless it is trivial, the line bundle E corresponds to an effective divisor. The inequality now follows from the fact that the "area" of any effective divisor on the Kähler manifold is non-zero.

If E is trivial, then $L = K^{-1}$, and since a Spin_c structure on an almostcomplex manifold is determined by the determinant line bundle $L = \det V^+$, we are done. The author would like to point out that Lemma 2.3 is a special case of Theorem 1.3 in [19] where Taubes proved a similar statement in the symplectic setting.

3. The Yamabe Constant

DEFINITION 3.1. Let g be a Riemannian metric on a four manifold M. The *Yamabe constant* of the corresponding conformal class [g] is defined to be

$$Y_{[g]} = \inf_{g \in [g]} \frac{\int_M s_g \, d\mu_g}{\left(\int_M d\mu_g\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

Note that the above infimum is in fact achieved by a metric in [g]. This was proved by Yamabe, Trudinger, Aubin and Schoen [1], [14], [18]. A metric which minimizes $(\int_M s_g d\mu_g)/(\int_M d\mu_g)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ on g is called a *Yamabe minimizer*. Any Yamabe minimizer must have constant scalar curvature. If $Y_{[g]} \leq 0$, then g is the unique (up to scalar multiplication) Yamabe minimizer of [g] if and only if g has constant scalar curvature. Unfortunately, for $Y_{[g]} > 0$, constant scalar curvature does not necessarily imply that a metric is a minimizer, and uniqueness of the minimizers does not always hold in this situation either. Observe that $Y_{[g]} > 0$ if and only if there exists a metric in [g] with strictly positive scalar curvature.

By applying Theorem 2.2, LeBrun found an estimate for $Y_{[g]}$.

THEOREM 3.2 (LeBrun [13]). Let (M, [g]) be an oriented conformal Riemannian four-manifold, and let ω be a closed 2-form which is self-dual with respect to [g] and not identically zero. Suppose that $b^+(M) = 1$ and that the perturbed Seiberg-Witten invariant $p_c(M, \mathcal{C}^+)$ is non-zero for some Spin_c structure c, where $\mathcal{C}^+ \subset H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$ is the nappe containing [ω]. Then the Yamabe constant of [g] satisfies

$$Y_{[g]} \leq \frac{4\pi c_1(c) \cdot [\omega]}{\sqrt{[\omega]^2/2}}.$$

Moreover, equality is achieved if and only if there is a Yamabe minimizer $g \in [g]$ which is Kähler, with Kähler form ω and complex structure compatible with c.

DEFINITION 3.3 ([16]). A Kähler metric is said to be generalized Kähler-Einstein if the Ricci form is parallel with respect to the Levi-Civita connection.

We can now prove the following theorem.

THEOREM 3.4. Let $M = P(E) \rightarrow \Sigma$ be a minimal ruled surface over a compact Riemann surface Σ . If M has a Kähler metric g with constant positive scalar curvature such that g is a Yamabe minimizer in [g], then g is generalized Kähler-Einstein and therefore locally a product. Consequently E is a quasi-stable holomorphic vector bundle.

If g has constant non-positive scalar curvature, then the above is true by Theorem 1.1.

PROOF. First assume that Σ is CP_1 . The only Hirzebruch surface with constant scalar curvature Kähler metric is the product $CP_1 \times CP_1$ [6]. On this surface any constant scalar curvature Kähler metric must be invariant under the SO(3) action on each CP_1 . This forces the metric to be a product of (multiple of) the Fubini-Study metric. We have used the fact that any extremal Kähler metric is invariant under the action of the maximal compact subgroup of (the identity component of) the group of holomorphic transformations[7].

Now assume that the genus **g** of Σ is at least one. Let *g* be a Kähler Yamabe minimizer with positive scalar curvature. The Yamabe constant of [*g*] is then given by

(4)
$$Y_{[g]} = \frac{4\pi c_1 \cdot [\omega]}{\sqrt{[\omega]^2/2}},$$

where ω is the Kähler form of g and $c_1 = c_1(K^{-1})$. Note that for a minimal ruled surface $b_+ = b_- = 1$. Let c be the Spin_c structure induced by the complex structure J on M and let \mathscr{C}^+ be the canonical choice of nappe. According to Example 2.1, $p_c(M, \mathscr{C}^+) \neq 0$ and we see that equation (4) is a special case of Theorem 3.2.

Now consider the fiber-wise anti-podal map $\psi : M \to M$ [12]. This is an orientation reversing diffeomorphism and we can define a Spin_c structure \overline{c} on \overline{M} by setting $\overline{c} := \psi^* c$. That is, \overline{c} is the canonical Spin_c structure associated to $\psi^* J$. Observe that ψ^* sends \mathscr{C}^+ to a nappe $\psi^* \mathscr{C}^+$ for \overline{M} and $\psi^* (H^+(g)) = H^-(g)$ [12]. Since $(\overline{M}, \overline{c}, \psi^* \mathscr{C}^+)$ and (M, c, \mathscr{C}^+) are isomorphic as oriented four-manifolds with nappes and Spin_c structures, we have that

$$p_{\overline{c}}(\overline{M}, \psi^* \mathscr{C}^+) = p_c(M, \mathscr{C}^+) \neq 0.$$

Theorem 3.2 applied to the original conformal class [g] and $(\overline{M}, \overline{c}, \psi^* \mathscr{C}^+)$ now implies that

(5)
$$Y_{[g]} \le \frac{4\pi\psi^* c_1 \cdot \psi^*[\omega]}{\sqrt{(\psi^*[\omega])^2/2}}$$

on *M*. But the Yamabe constant is independent of orientation and the right hand side of (5) is just the right hand side of (4). So we must have equality in (5) and thus there exists a Yamabe minimizer $\tilde{g} \in [g]$ such that \tilde{g} is Kähler

with respect to some complex structure \tilde{J} in \bar{c} , where the Kähler form $\tilde{\omega}$ is equal to the harmonic part of $\psi^* \omega$.

Now we want to show that $\tilde{g} = g$. We can assume that $\int d\mu = \int d\tilde{\mu} = 1$. If we write $\tilde{g} = u^2 g$ for some positive smooth function *u*, we have that

(6)
$$\int u^4 d\mu = 1$$

and

$$\tilde{\omega}|^2 = u^4 \tilde{|} \tilde{\omega} \tilde{|}^2 = 2u^4.$$

Since $\tilde{s} = Y_{[g]} = s$, we have that

(7)
$$\Delta u = \frac{s(u^3 - u)}{6}.$$

Since the Euler characteristic of M is given by $\chi = 4(1 - \mathbf{g})$ and the signature $\sigma = b_+ - b_-$ vanishes, the (strict) Hitchin-Thorpe inequality [9], [20], [5], $2\chi > 3|\sigma|$, is not satisfied when $\mathbf{g} > 0$. Therefore no Riemannian metric on M can be Einstein. In particular, the primitive part ρ_0 (resp. $\tilde{\rho}_0$) of the Ricci form ρ (resp. $\tilde{\rho}$) of g (resp. \tilde{g}) does not vanish. Moreover, $d\rho_0 = d\tilde{\rho}_0 = 0$, which follows from the fact that the scalar curvatures are constant. Since $b_+ = b_- = 1$, we must therefore have that $\tilde{\omega} = k\rho_0$ and $\omega = \tilde{k}\tilde{\rho}_0$, where k and \tilde{k} are non-zero constants. Now $\psi^*[\frac{\rho}{2\pi}] = \psi^*c_1 = c_1(\bar{c}) = [\frac{\tilde{\rho}}{2\pi}]$. In particular,

$$\psi^*[\rho_0] = [\tilde{\rho_0}],$$

thus

$$k^{-1}\psi^*[\tilde{\omega}] = \tilde{k}^{-1}[\omega].$$

Hence

$$k^{-1}\psi^*\psi^*[\omega] = k^{-1}[\omega] = \tilde{k}^{-1}[\omega]$$

and consequently $k = \tilde{k}$.

We can calculate *k* up to a sign as follows:

$$c_1^2 = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int \rho \wedge \rho = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left(\int \left(\frac{s}{4}\omega\right) \wedge \left(\frac{s}{4}\omega\right) + \int \rho_0 \wedge \rho_0 \right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left(\frac{s^2}{8} - \int |\rho_0|^2 d\mu\right) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left(\frac{s^2}{8} - k^{-2} \int |\tilde{\omega}|^2 d\mu\right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left(\frac{s^2}{8} - 2k^{-2} \int u^4 d\mu\right) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left(\frac{s^2}{8} - 2k^{-2}\right),$$

and therefore

(8)
$$k^{-2} = \frac{s^2}{16} - 2\pi^2 c_1^2 = \frac{s^2}{16} - 2\pi^2 (2\chi + 3\sigma) = \frac{s^2}{16} + 16\pi^2 (\mathbf{g} - 1).$$

The traceless part of the Ricci tensor of \tilde{g} can now be found as follows:

$$\begin{split} \tilde{r}_0(X,Y) &= \tilde{\rho}_0(X,\tilde{J}Y) = k^{-1}\omega(X,\tilde{J}Y) = k^{-1}g(JX,\tilde{J}Y) \\ &= k^{-1}u^{-2}\tilde{g}(JX,\tilde{J}Y) = -k^{-1}u^{-2}\tilde{\omega}(JX,Y) \\ &= -u^{-2}\rho_0(JX,Y) = u^{-2}r_0(X,Y). \end{split}$$

On the other hand, since $\tilde{g} = u^2 g$, we have from ([5], (1.161b)) that

$$\tilde{r}_0 = r_0 + 2u(\nabla d(u^{-1}) + \frac{\Delta(u^{-1})}{4}g),$$

and hence from the above calculation

$$u^{-2}r_0 = r_0 + 2u\left(\nabla d(u^{-1}) + \frac{\Delta(u^{-1})}{4}g\right).$$

Using equation (7) we find that

$$\Delta(u^{-1}) = -2u^{-3}|du|^2 - u^{-2}\Delta u = -2u^{-3}|du|^2 - \frac{s(u-u^{-1})}{6},$$

and therefore

$$\nabla d(u^{-1}) = \frac{(u^{-3} - u^{-1})}{2} r_0 + \left(\frac{u^{-3}|du|^2}{2} + \frac{s(u - u^{-1})}{24}\right) g.$$

In particular, at a maximum of u^{-1} the Hessian of u^{-1} is given by

(9)
$$\nabla d(u^{-1}) = \frac{(u-u^{-1})}{2} \left(\frac{s}{12}g - u^{-2}r_0\right).$$

Let $p \in M$ be any point on our manifold. Since r_0 is a traceless symmetric tensor of type (1, 1), we can find an orthonormal base $\{e_1, Je_1, e_2, Je_2\}$ of T_pM such that r_0 can be represented by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\lambda \end{pmatrix},$$

where λ is the positive constant given by

$$\lambda = \frac{|r_0|}{2} = \frac{|\rho_0|}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{|\tilde{\omega}|}{|k|\sqrt{2}} = \frac{u^2}{|k|}$$

The tensor $\left(\frac{s}{12}g - u^{-2}r_o\right)$ can now be represented by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{s}{12} - \frac{1}{|k|} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{s}{12} - \frac{1}{|k|} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{s}{12} + \frac{1}{|k|} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{s}{12} + \frac{1}{|k|} \end{pmatrix}$$

and since

$$\frac{s}{12} - \frac{1}{|k|} = \frac{s}{12} - \sqrt{\frac{s^2}{16} + 16\pi^2(\mathbf{g} - 1)} \le \frac{s}{12} - \sqrt{\frac{s^2}{16}} = -\frac{s}{6} < 0.$$

the tensor is never semi-definite. But at the maximum of u^{-1} the Hessian must be negative semi-definite, and hence from equation (9) we have that $u^{-1} = u = 1$ at the maximum of u^{-1} , and by equation (6) we conclude that u = 1 and hence $\tilde{g} = g$ everywhere.

Now the Ricci form satisfies

$$\nabla \rho = \frac{s}{4} \nabla \omega + \nabla \rho_0 = 0.$$

Thus g is generalized Kähler-Einstein. Since $\tilde{g} = g$ (or since g is generalized Kähler-Einstein with non-vanishing ρ_0), we have that g is Kähler with respect to two complex structures J and \tilde{J} inducing opposite orientations. Therefore the holomony [5] is a subgroup of $U(1) \times U(1)$ and the universal cover (\hat{M}, \hat{g}) of (M, g) must be a Riemannian product $(\hat{M}, \hat{g}) = (M_1, g_1) \times (M_2, g_2)$ of a pair of complete simply connected surfaces. Clearly the scalar curvature of each (M_i, g_i) must be constant and since s > 0 (but also for topological reasons [12]), we must have that at least one of the surfaces is a two sphere. Thus $(\hat{M}, \hat{g}) = S^2 \times (M_2, g_2)$. Since the genus of Σ is at least one, (M_2, g_2) must be either C or $\mathcal{C}H_1$ with their canonical metric. The rest of the proof follows along the same line of reasoning as in the proof of ([12], Theorem 4). In order to make this paper reasonably self-contained we repeat the arguments here. The holomony of (\hat{M}, \hat{g}) is $U(1) \times U(1)$ so the lift of J on M must coincide with the product complex structure, once the factors are correctly oriented. Since

the genus of Σ is at least one, we have that $\pi_1(M) = \pi_1(\Sigma)$ is non-trivial and acts on $S^2 \times (M_2, g_2)$ by holomorphic isometries sending any compact holomorphic curve $S^2 \times \{pt\}$ to another curve of this form. The induced action on M_2 is moreover free and proper, since S^2 is compact and every rotation of S^2 has a fixed point. Thus $M = (S^2 \times M_2)/\pi_1(\Sigma)$ is biholomorphic to $\tilde{\Sigma} \times_{\rho} \mathbb{C}P_1$ for some compact Riemann surface $\tilde{\Sigma}$ and some representation $\rho : \pi_1(\tilde{\Sigma}) \to \mathbb{P}\operatorname{SU}(2) = \operatorname{SO}(3)$. By uniqueness of ruling this biholomorphism must be a bundle biholomorphism inducing a biholomorphism between $\tilde{\Sigma}$ and Σ . Thus $M = \mathbb{P}(E) \to \Sigma$ is a flat $\mathbb{C}P_1$ bundle and E is therefore quasi-stable.

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