

# **Ergodic complex structures**

Misha Verbitsky

**Conference: Hitchin 70 (Aarhus)**

A celebration of Nigel Hitchin's 70th birthday  
in honour of his contributions to mathematics  
QGM, Aarhus University

September 5, 2016

## Ergodic complex structures

**DEFINITION:** Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold. A **complex structure** on  $M$  is an endomorphism  $I \in \text{End } TM$ ,  $I^2 = -\text{Id}_{TM}$ , such that the eigenspace bundles of  $I$  are **involutive**, that is, satisfy  $[T^{1,0}M, T^{1,0}M] \subset T^{1,0}M$ .

Let  $\text{Comp}$  be the space of such tensors equipped with a topology of convergence of all derivatives.

**DEFINITION:** The diffeomorphism group  $\text{Diff}$  is a Fréchet Lie group acting on  $\text{Comp}$  in a natural way. A complex structure is called **ergodic** if its  $\text{Diff}$ -orbit is dense in  $\text{Comp}$ .

**REMARK:** The “moduli space” of complex structures (if it exists) is identified with  $\text{Comp} / \text{Diff}$ ; **existence of ergodic complex structures guarantees that the quotient**  $\text{Comp} / \text{Diff}$  **has no Hausdorff open subsets**, because all open sets of the quotient intersect.

**THEOREM:** Let  $M$  be a compact torus,  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} M \geq 2$ , or a maximal holonomy hyperkähler manifold (to be explained later). A **complex structure on  $M$  is ergodic if and only if  $\text{Pic}(M)$  is not of maximal rank**.

## Teichmüller spaces

**Definition:** Let  $M$  be a compact complex manifold, and  $\text{Diff}_0(M)$  a connected component of its diffeomorphism group (**the group of isotopies**). Denote by  $\text{Comp}$  the space of complex structures on  $M$ , and let  $\text{Teich} := \text{Comp} / \text{Diff}_0(M)$ . We call it **the Teichmüller space**.

**REMARK:** In all known cases  $\text{Teich}$  is **a finite-dimensional complex space** (Kodaira-Spencer-Kuranishi-Douady), but often **non-Hausdorff**.

**DEFINITION:** A **Calabi-Yau manifold** is a compact, Kähler manifold  $M$  with  $c_1(M) = 0$ .

**THEOREM: (Bogomolov-Tian-Todorov)**  $\text{Teich}$  **is a complex manifold when  $M$  is Calabi-Yau.**

**Definition:** Let  $\text{Diff}(M)$  be the group of diffeomorphisms of  $M$ . We call  $\Gamma := \text{Diff}(M)/\text{Diff}_0(M)$  **the mapping class group**. The quotient  $\text{Teich}/\Gamma$  **is identified with the set of equivalence classes of complex structures.**

**REMARK:** This terminology is **standard for curves**.

## Holomorphically symplectic manifolds

**DEFINITION:** A **holomorphic symplectic form** is a non-degenerate, closed, holomorphic 2-form.

**DEFINITION:** A **hyperkähler structure** on a manifold  $M$  is a Riemannian structure  $g$  and a triple of complex structures  $I, J, K$ , satisfying quaternionic relations  $I \circ J = -J \circ I = K$ , such that  $g$  is Kähler for  $I, J, K$ .

**REMARK:** This produces a triple of symplectic forms on  $M$ :  $\omega_I(\cdot, \cdot) = g(\cdot, I\cdot)$ ,  $\omega_J(\cdot, \cdot) = g(\cdot, J\cdot)$ ,  $\omega_K(\cdot, \cdot) = g(\cdot, K\cdot)$ .

**CLAIM: A hyperkähler manifold is holomorphically symplectic:**  $\omega_J + \sqrt{-1}\omega_K$  is a holomorphic symplectic form on  $(M, I)$ .

**Proof:** It's closed and has Hodge type  $(2,0)$ , hence holomorphic. It is non-degenerate because  $\omega_J$  and  $\omega_K$  are non-degenerate. ■

**REMARK: Converse is also true:** any holomorphic symplectic compact Kähler manifold is hyperkähler.

## Calabi-Yau theorem

**THEOREM:** (Calabi-Yau) A compact, Kähler, holomorphically symplectic manifold **admits a unique hyperkähler metric in any Kähler class.**

**DEFINITION:** For the rest of this talk, **a hyperkähler manifold is a compact, Kähler, holomorphically symplectic manifold.**

**DEFINITION:** A compact hyperkähler manifold  $M$  is called **simple**, or **IHS**, or **maximal holonomy**, if  $\pi_1(M) = 0$ ,  $H^{2,0}(M) = \mathbb{C}$ .

**Bogomolov's decomposition:** Any hyperkähler manifold admits a finite covering which is a product of a torus and several simple hyperkähler manifolds.

**Further on, all hyperkähler manifolds are assumed to be compact and of maximal holonomy.**

## Hilbert schemes

**THEOREM: (a special case of Enriques-Kodaira classification)**

Let  $M$  be a compact complex surface which is hyperkähler. **Then  $M$  is either a torus or a K3 surface.**

**DEFINITION:** A **Hilbert scheme**  $M^{[n]}$  of a complex surface  $M$  is a classifying space of all ideal sheaves  $I \subset \mathcal{O}_M$  for which the quotient  $\mathcal{O}_M/I$  has dimension  $n$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**REMARK:** A Hilbert scheme **is obtained as a resolution of singularities** of the symmetric power  $\text{Sym}^n M$ .

**THEOREM:** (Beauville) **A Hilbert scheme of a hyperkähler surface is hyperkähler.**

## EXAMPLES.

**EXAMPLE: A Hilbert scheme of K3** is of maximal holonomy and hyperkähler.

**EXAMPLE:** Let  $T$  be a torus. Then it acts on its Hilbert scheme freely and properly by translations. For  $n = 2$ , the quotient  $T^{[n]}/T$  is a Kummer K3-surface. For  $n > 2$ , a universal covering of  $T^{[n]}/T$  is called **a generalized Kummer variety**.

**REMARK:** There are 2 more “sporadic” examples of compact hyperkähler manifolds, constructed by K. O’Grady. **All known maximal holonomy hyperkaehler manifolds are these 2 and two series:** Hilbert schemes of K3, and generalized Kummer.

**REMARK:** For hyperkähler manifolds, it is convenient to take for Teich **the space of all complex structures of hyperkähler type**, that is, **holomorphically symplectic and Kähler**. It is open in the usual Teichmüller space. We shall use this notation further on.

## Computation of the mapping class group

**THEOREM:** (Fujiki). Let  $\eta \in H^2(M)$ , and  $\dim M = 2n$ , where  $M$  is hyperkähler. Then  $\int_M \eta^{2n} = cq(\eta, \eta)^n$ , for some primitive integer quadratic form  $q$  on  $H^2(M, \mathbb{Z})$ , and  $c > 0$  a rational number.

**DEFINITION:** The form  $q$  is called **Bogomolov-Beauvreille-Fujiki form**. It has signature  $(3, b_2 - 3)$ , positive on  $\langle \omega_I, \omega_J, \omega_K \rangle$ , and negative on the primitive  $(1,1)$ -classes.

**THEOREM:** (Sullivan) Let  $M$  be a compact, simply connected Kähler manifold,  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} M \geq 3$ . Denote by  $\Gamma_0$  the group of automorphisms of an algebra  $H^*(M, \mathbb{Z})$  preserving the Pontryagin classes  $p_i(M)$ . Then **the natural map  $\Gamma := \text{Diff}(M)/\text{Diff}_0 \rightarrow \Gamma_0$  has finite kernel, and its image has finite index in  $\Gamma_0$** .

**THEOREM:** Let  $M$  be a simple hyperkähler manifold, and  $\Gamma$  its mapping class group. Then

- (i)  $\Gamma|_{H^2(M, \mathbb{Z})}$  **is a finite index subgroup of  $O(H^2(M, \mathbb{Z}), q)$ .**
- (ii) The map  $\Gamma \rightarrow O(H^2(M, \mathbb{Z}), q)$  **has finite kernel.**

**REMARK:** Sullivan's theorem implies that the mapping class group for  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} M \geq 3$ ,  $\pi_1(M) = 0$ , **is an arithmetic lattice**. Very much unlike the Teichmüller group!

## The period map

**Remark:** For any  $J \in \text{Teich}$ ,  $(M, J)$  is also a simple hyperkähler manifold, hence  $H^{2,0}(M, J)$  is one-dimensional.

**Definition:** Let  $\text{Per} : \text{Teich} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}H^2(M, \mathbb{C})$  map  $J$  to a line  $H^{2,0}(M, J) \in \mathbb{P}H^2(M, \mathbb{C})$ . The map  $\text{Per} : \text{Teich} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}H^2(M, \mathbb{C})$  is called **the period map**.

**REMARK:**  $\text{Per}$  maps  $\text{Teich}$  into an open subset of a quadric, defined by

$$\mathbb{P}\text{er} := \{l \in \mathbb{P}H^2(M, \mathbb{C}) \mid q(l, l) = 0, q(l, \bar{l}) > 0\}.$$

It is called **the period space** of  $M$ .

**REMARK:**  $\mathbb{P}\text{er} = SO(b_2 - 3, 3)/SO(2) \times SO(b_2 - 3, 1) = \text{Gr}_{++}(H^2(M, \mathbb{R}))$  (Grassmannian of positive 2-dimensional oriented planes). Indeed, the group  $SO(H^2(M, \mathbb{R}), q) = SO(b_2 - 3, 3)$  acts transitively on  $\mathbb{P}\text{er}$ , and  $SO(2) \times SO(b_2 - 3, 1)$  is a stabilizer of a point.

**THEOREM: (Bogomolov)** For any hyperkähler manifold, **period map is locally a diffeomorphism**.

## Period space as a Grassmannian of positive 2-planes

**PROPOSITION:** The period space

$$\mathbb{P}er := \{l \in \mathbb{P}H^2(M, \mathbb{C}) \mid q(l, l) = 0, q(l, \bar{l}) > 0\}.$$

**is identified with  $SO(b_2-3, 3)/SO(2) \times SO(b_2-3, 1)$ ,** which is a Grassmannian of positive oriented 2-planes in  $H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$ .

**Proof. Step 1:** Given  $l \in \mathbb{P}H^2(M, \mathbb{C})$ , **the space generated by  $\text{Im } l, \text{Re } l$  is 2-dimensional**, because  $q(l, l) = 0, q(l, \bar{l})$  implies that  $l \cap H^2(M, \mathbb{R}) = 0$ .

**Step 2: This 2-dimensional plane is positive**, because  $q(\text{Re } l, \text{Re } l) = q(l + \bar{l}, l + \bar{l}) = 2q(l, \bar{l}) > 0$ .

**Step 3:** Conversely, for any 2-dimensional positive plane  $V \in H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$ , **the quadric  $\{l \in V \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} \mid q(l, l) = 0\}$  consists of two lines;** a choice of a line is determined by orientation. ■

**REMARK:** Let  $W \subset H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$  be a 2-plane associated with a manifold  $(M, I)$ . Then  $W^\perp = H_I^{1,1}(M, \mathbb{R})$ . Since  $\text{Per}$  is locally a diffeomorphism,  $H_I^{1,1}(M) \cap H^2(M, \mathbb{Z})$  **is generally empty**.

**COROLLARY:** A general deformation of a given hyperkähler manifold **has no complex curves and no divisors**.

**Proof:** The corresponding cohomology group is 0. ■

## Birational Teichmüller moduli space

**DEFINITION:** Let  $M$  be a topological space. We say that  $x, y \in M$  are **non-separable** (denoted by  $x \sim y$ ) if for any open sets  $V \ni x, U \ni y$ ,  $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$ .

**THEOREM:** (Huybrechts) Two points  $I, I' \in \text{Teich}$  are **non-separable** if and only if there exists a **bimeromorphism**  $(M, I) \rightarrow (M, I')$  which is **non-singular in codimension 2** and acts as **identity on  $H^2(M)$** .

**REMARK:** This is possible only if  $(M, I)$  and  $(M, I')$  contain a rational curve. **General hyperkähler manifold has no curves;** ones which have curves belong to a countable union of divisors in  $\text{Teich}$ .

**DEFINITION:** The space  $\text{Teich}_b := \text{Teich} / \sim$  is called **the birational Teichmüller space** of  $M$ .

**THEOREM: (Torelli theorem for hyperkähler manifolds)**

The period map  $\text{Teich}_b \xrightarrow{\text{Per}} \mathbb{P}\text{er}$  is a **diffeomorphism**, for each connected component of  $\text{Teich}_b$ .

## Ergodic complex structures

**DEFINITION:** Let  $(M, \mu)$  be a space with measure, and  $G$  a group acting on  $M$  preserving measure. This action is **ergodic** if all  $G$ -invariant measurable subsets  $M' \subset M$  satisfy  $\mu(M') = 0$  or  $\mu(M \setminus M') = 0$ .

**CLAIM:** Let  $M$  be a manifold,  $\mu$  a Lebesgue measure, and  $G$  a group acting on  $M$  ergodically. **Then the set of non-dense orbits has measure 0.**

**Proof. Step 1:** Consider a non-empty open subset  $U \subset M$ . Then  $\mu(U) > 0$ , hence  $M' := G \cdot U$  satisfies  $\mu(M \setminus M') = 0$ . For any orbit  $G \cdot x$  not intersecting  $U$ ,  $x \in M \setminus M'$ . Therefore, the set  $Z_U$  of such orbits has measure 0.

**Step 2:** Choose a countable base  $\{U_i\}$  of topology on  $M$ . Then the set of points in dense orbits is  $M \setminus \bigcup_i Z_{U_i}$ . ■

**DEFINITION:** Let  $M$  be a complex manifold,  $\text{Teich}$  its Teichmüller space, and  $\Gamma$  the mapping group acting on  $\text{Teich}$ . **An ergodic complex structure** is a complex structure with dense  $\Gamma$ -orbit.

**CLAIM:** Let  $(M, I)$  be a manifold with ergodic complex structure, and  $I'$  another complex structure. **Then there exists a sequence of diffeomorphisms  $\nu_i$  such that  $\nu_i^*(I)$  converges to  $I'$ .**

## Ergodicity of the mapping class group action

**DEFINITION:** A **lattice** in a Lie group is a discrete subgroup  $\Gamma \subset G$  such that  $G/\Gamma$  has finite volume with respect to Haar measure.

**THEOREM:** (Calvin C. Moore, 1966) Let  $\Gamma$  be a lattice in a non-compact simple Lie group  $G$  with finite center, and  $H \subset G$  a non-compact subgroup.

**Then the left action of  $\Gamma$  on  $G/H$  is ergodic.**

**THEOREM:** Let  $\mathbb{P}\text{er}$  be a component of a birational Teichmüller space, and  $\Gamma$  its monodromy group. Let  $\mathbb{P}\text{er}_e$  be a set of all points  $L \subset \mathbb{P}\text{er}$  such that the orbit  $\Gamma \cdot L$  is dense (such points are called **ergodic**). **Then  $Z := \mathbb{P}\text{er} \setminus \mathbb{P}\text{er}_e$  has measure 0.**

**Proof. Step 1:** Let  $G = SO(b_2 - 3, 3)$ ,  $H = SO(2) \times SO(b_2 - 3, 1)$ . **Then  $\Gamma$ -action on  $G/H$  is ergodic**, by Moore's theorem.

**Step 2:** Ergodic orbits are dense, because the union of non-ergodic orbits has measure 0. ■

**REMARK:** Generic deformation of  $M$  has no rational curves, and no non-trivial birational models. Therefore, **outside of a measure zero subset**,  $\text{Teich} = \text{Teich}_b$ . This implies that **almost all complex structures on  $M$  are ergodic**.

## Ratner's theorem

**DEFINITION:** Let  $G$  be a connected Lie group equipped with a Haar measure. A **lattice**  $\Gamma \subset G$  is a discrete subgroup of finite covolume (that is,  $G/\Gamma$  has finite volume).

**DEFINITION:** A **unipotent element** in a Lie group is an exponent of a nilpotent element of its Lie algebra.

### THEOREM: (Ratner's theorem)

Let  $H \subset G$  be a Lie subgroup generated by unipotents, and  $\Gamma \subset G$  an arithmetic lattice. Then **the closure  $\overline{\Gamma \cdot x}$  of any  $\Gamma$ -orbit in  $G/H$  is an orbit of a Lie subgroup  $S \subset G$  containing  $xHx^{-1}$  such that  $xSx^{-1} \cap \Gamma \subset G$  is a lattice.**

**EXAMPLE:** Let  $V$  be a real vector space with a non-degenerate bilinear symmetric form of signature  $(3, k)$ ,  $k > 0$ ,  $G := SO^+(V)$  a connected component of the isometry group,  $H \subset G$  a subgroup fixing a given positive 2-dimensional plane,  $H \cong SO^+(1, k) \times SO(2)$ , and  $\Gamma \subset G$  an arithmetic lattice. Consider the quotient  $\mathbb{P}er := G/H$ . **Then a closure of  $\Gamma \cdot J$  in  $G/H$  is an orbit of a closed connected Lie group  $S \supset H$ .**

## Characterization of ergodic complex structures

**CLAIM:** Let  $G = SO^+(3, k)$ , and  $H \cong SO^+(1, k) \times SO(2) \subset G$ . Then **any closed connected Lie subgroup  $S \subset G$  containing  $H$  coincides with  $G$  or with  $H$ .**

**COROLLARY:** Let  $J \in \mathbb{P}\text{er} = G/H$ . Then **either  $J$  is ergodic, or its  $\Gamma$ -orbit is closed in  $\mathbb{P}\text{er}$ .**

**REMARK:** By Ratner's theorem, in the latter case the  $H$ -orbit of  $J$  has finite volume in  $G/\Gamma$ . Therefore, **its intersection with  $\Gamma$  is a lattice in  $H$ .** This brings

**COROLLARY:** Let  $J \in \mathbb{P}\text{er}$  be such that its  $\Gamma$ -orbit is closed in  $\mathbb{P}\text{er}$ . Consider its stabilizer  $\text{St}(J) \cong H \subset G$ . **Then  $\text{St}(J) \cap \Gamma$  is a lattice in  $\text{St}(J)$ .**

**COROLLARY:** Let  $J$  be a non-ergodic complex structure on a hyperkähler manifold, and  $W \subset H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$  be a plane generated by  $\text{Re } \Omega, \text{Im } \Omega$ . **Then  $W$  is rational.**

**REMARK:** This can be used to show that **any hyperkähler manifold is Kobayashi non-hyperbolic.**

## Varieties of maximal Picard rank

**REMARK:** Since  $H^{1,1}(M, I) \cap H^2(M, \mathbb{Z}) = \text{Pic}(M, I)$  and  $H^{1,1}(M, I) \cap H^2(M, \mathbb{Z}) = W^\perp$ ,  **$W$  is rational if and only if  $\text{Pic}(M, I)$  has maximal possible rank.**

**REMARK:** Same is true for a complex torus (same argument).

**THEOREM:** Let  $(M, I)$  be a complex manifold or a compact torus of dimension  $> 1$ . **Then  $I$  ergodic if and only if  $\text{rk } \text{Pic}(M, I)$  is not maximal.**

## Kobayashi pseudometric

**REMARK:** The results further on are from a joint work by Ljudmila Kamenova, Steven Lu, Misha Verbitsky

**DEFINITION:** A **pseudometric** on a space  $M$  is a function  $\text{Sym}^2(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{>0}$  satisfying the triangle inequality (almost like a metric, but can vanish anywhere).

**DEFINITION:** The **Kobayashi pseudometric** on a complex manifold  $M$  is the supremum of all pseudometric on  $M$  such that any holomorphic map from the Poincaré disk to  $M$  is distance-nonincreasing.

**THEOREM:** Let  $\pi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow X$  be a smooth holomorphic family, which is trivialized as a smooth manifold:  $\mathcal{M} = M \times X$ , and  $d_x$  the Kobayashi metric on  $\pi^{-1}(x)$ . **Then  $d_x(m, m')$  is upper continuous on  $x$ .** ■

**COROLLARY:** Denote the diameter of the Kobayashi pseudometric by  $\text{diam}(d_x) := \sup_{m, m'} d_x(m, m')$ . **Then  $\text{diam} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{>0}$  is upper continuous.**

## Vanishing of Kobayashi pseudometric

**THEOREM:** Let  $(M, I)$  be a complex manifold with vanishing Kobayashi pseudometric. Then **the Kobayashi pseudometric vanishes for all ergodic complex structures in the same deformation class.**

**Proof:** Let  $\text{diam} : \text{Comp} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$  map a complex structure  $J$  to the diameter of the Kobayashi pseudometric on  $(M, J)$ . Let  $J$  be an ergodic complex structure. The set of points  $J' = \nu(J) \in \text{Comp}$ ,  $\nu \in \text{Diff}$ , is dense, because  $J$  is ergodic. By upper semi-continuity,  $0 = \text{diam}(I) \geq \inf_{J'=\nu(J)} \text{diam}(J') = \text{diam}(J)$ .

■

**EXAMPLE:** Let  $M$  be a projective K3 surface. Then the Kobayashi metric on  $M$  vanishes. **Since all non-projective K3 are ergodic**, the Kobayashi metric vanishes on non-projective K3 surfaces as well.

**THEOREM:** Let  $M$  be a compact simple hyperkähler manifold. Assume that a deformation of  $M$  admits a holomorphic Lagrangian fibration and the Picard rank of  $M$  is not maximal. **Then the Kobayashi pseudometric on  $M$  vanishes.**

**THEOREM:** Let  $M$  be a Hilbert scheme of K3. **Then the Kobayashi pseudometric on  $M$  vanishes.**