Gravitational Instantons,

Weyl Curvature, &

Conformally Kähler Geometry

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Definition. A gravitational instanton is a

Definition. A gravitational instanton is a complete,

Definition. A gravitational instanton is a complete, non-compact,

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Key examples:

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Data: ℓ points in \mathbb{R}^3 and a constant $\kappa^2 \geq 0$.



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Data: ℓ points in \mathbb{R}^3 and κ^2



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$$F = \star dV \text{ closed 2-form, } [\frac{1}{2\pi}F] \in H^2(\mathbb{R}^3 - \{p_j\}, \mathbb{Z}).$$



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$$F = \star dV \text{ curvature } \theta \text{ on } P \to \mathbb{R}^3 - \{\text{pts}\}.$$



$$g = Vh + V^{-1}\theta^2$$

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Configuration dual to Dynkin diagram A_k :



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Diffeotype:



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Plumb together k copies of T^*S^2 according to diagram.

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 $M \to \mathbb{R}^3$ hyper-Kähler moment map of S^1 action.

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Gibbons and Hawking were unaware of all this!

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cf. Cheeger-Gromoll splitting theorem!

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cf. Bishop-Gromov inequality!

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But when $\kappa \neq 0$, they are instead ALF:

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This last property distinguishes the ALF spaces from other classes of gravitational instantons:

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ALG, ALH, ALG*, ALH*, \ldots
```

Example.

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$$dr \mapsto \frac{2r}{1+r}\sigma_3, \quad \sigma_1 \mapsto \sigma_2$$

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This J determines opposite orientation from the hyper-Kähler complex structures.

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for left-invariant coframe $\{\sigma_j\}$ on $S^3 = \mathbf{SU}(2)$. Taub-NUT becomes Hermitian metric on \mathbb{C}^2 . Non-Kähler, but conformally Kähler! Hawking also explored non-hyper-Kähler examples...

Example.

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Andrzej Derdziński '83: Bach-flat Kähler metrics are extremal!

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Hawking: set $t = 4m\theta$ and $\varrho = 2m + \frac{r^2}{8m}$.

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Hawking: set $t = 4m\theta$ and $\varrho = 2m + \frac{r^2}{8m}$. This makes g into a Ricci-flat metric on $\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^2$. Makes h into extremal Kähler metric on $\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{CP}_1$.


 $\mathbb{R}\times S^2\subset \mathbb{R}^2\times S^2$

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Hitchin, Kronheimer, Cherkis-Hitchin, Minerbe, Hein, Chen-Chen, Hein-Sun-Viaclovsky-Zhang...

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This might lend some credence to the aphorism...

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But now my French collaborators Biquard and Gauduchon have fortunately done us all the favor of reminding us that the hyper-Kähler gravitons are only one small part of the story! **Theorem** (Biquard-Gauduchon '23). Let (M^4, g) be a smooth, complete, non-flat,

Theorem (Biquard-Gauduchon '23). Let (M^4, g) be a smooth, complete, non-flat, Ricci-flat

 \mathbb{T}^2 acts effectively and isometrically

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 $\eta(T) = 1$, $\mathscr{L}_T \eta = 0$, and

 $T\Sigma/T$ equipped with curvature +1 metric γ .

$$g = d\varrho^2 + \varrho^2 \gamma + \eta^2 + \mho$$

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$$\mho = O(\varrho^{-1}), \quad \nabla \mho = O(\varrho^{-2}), \quad \dots \quad \nabla^3 \mho = O(\varrho^{-4})$$

$$\implies \operatorname{Vol}(B_{\rho}) \sim \operatorname{const} \cdot \rho^3$$

Theorem (Biquard-Gauduchon '23). Let (M^4, g) be a smooth, complete, non-flat, Ricci-flat 4-manifold that is toric, ALF, and Hermitian with respect to some integrable complex structure J. **Theorem** (Biquard-Gauduchon '23). Let (M^4, g) be a smooth, complete, non-flat, Ricci-flat 4-manifold that is toric, ALF, and Hermitian with respect to some integrable complex structure J.

$$g(J\cdot,J\cdot)=g$$

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Diffeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^4

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Y. Chen & E. Teo, 2011

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The proof is actually constructive!

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Derdziński: the conformally related Kähler metric is also automatically extremal in the sense of Calabi!

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Ricci-flat case — not merely Einstein!

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Chen-Teo

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Only depends on the conformal class

$$[g] := \{ u^2 g \mid u : M \to \mathbb{R}^+ \}.$$

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Reversing orientation interchanges $\Lambda^+ \nleftrightarrow \Lambda^-$.

Riemann curvature of g $\mathcal{R}:\Lambda^2\to\Lambda^2$

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splits into 4 irreducible pieces:

$$\mathcal{R} = \begin{pmatrix} W_+ + \frac{s}{12} & \mathring{r} \\ \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & W_- + \frac{s}{12} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Notational warning:

Here, g and h interchanged relative to our e-print!

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for $fW^+ \in \operatorname{End}(\Lambda^+)$.

Application to Wu's criterion:

Let $\alpha \ge \beta \ge \gamma$ be eigenvalues of W^+ :

$$W^{+} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \\ \gamma \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 0$$

 $\alpha > 0, \quad \gamma < 0, \quad \text{if } W^+ \neq 0$

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So $\alpha = \alpha_g : M \to \mathbb{R}^+$ a smooth function. Set

$$f = \alpha_g^{-1/3}, \qquad h = f^{-2}g = \alpha_g^{2/3}g.$$

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Then

$$0 \ge |\nabla \omega|^2 + 3 \left\langle \omega, (d+d^*)^2 \omega \right\rangle$$

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Then

$$3 d[\omega \wedge \star d\omega] \ge \star \left(\frac{1}{2} |\nabla \omega|^2 + 3 |d\omega|^2\right).$$

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$$3 d[\omega \wedge \star d\omega] \ge \star \left(\frac{1}{2}|\nabla \omega|^2 + 3 |d\omega|^2\right).$$

at every point of M, with respect to the conformally rescaled metric h. Moreover,

 $2\sqrt{6}|W^+|_h + |s_h| \ge |\omega \wedge \star d\omega|^2$ everywhere on (M, h).

Proposition.

Proposition. Let (M, g) be an oriented, simplyconnected Riemannian 4-manifold **Proposition.** Let (M, g) be an oriented, simplyconnected Riemannian 4-manifold that satisfies $\delta W^+ = 0$ and det $(W^+) > 0$ everywhere.

 $U_1 \subset U_2 \subset \cdots \subset U_j \subset \cdots$

with smooth boundary

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Proof.

$$3d[\omega \wedge \star d\omega] \ge \star \left(\frac{1}{2}|\nabla \omega|^2 + 3|d\omega|^2\right).$$

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Suppose that M is expressed as a nested union $M = \bigcup_{j} U_{j}$ of compact domains $U_{1} \subset U_{2} \subset \cdots \subset U_{j} \subset \cdots$ with smooth ∂ s.t. $Vol^{(3)}(\partial U_{j}, h) < C$ and $\lim_{j \to \infty} \int_{\partial U_{j}} |W^{+}{}_{h}| d\check{\mu}_{h} = \lim_{j \to \infty} \int_{\partial U_{j}} |s_{h}| d\check{\mu}_{h} = 0.$ Then (M, h) is an extremal Kähler manifold with non-constant, positive scalar curvature.

Theorem A (BGL '24).

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Theorem A (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons **Theorem A** (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons appearing in the Biquard-Gauduchon classification. **Theorem A** (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons appearing in the Biquard-Gauduchon classification. Then any other Ricci-flat Riemannian metric g on M **Theorem A** (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons appearing in the Biquard-Gauduchon classification. Then any other Ricci-flat Riemannian metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g **Theorem A** (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons appearing in the Biquard-Gauduchon classification. Then any other Ricci-flat Riemannian metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g

 $\|g - g_0\|_{C_1^3} < \varepsilon$

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Theorem A (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons appearing in the Biquard-Gauduchon classification. Then any other Ricci-flat Riemannian metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g

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$$\|\mathbf{U}\|_{C^3_1} := \sup_M \sum_{j=0}^3 (1 + \operatorname{dist})^{j+1} |\nabla^j \mathbf{U}|_{g_0}$$

 $|\mho|_{g_0} = O(\varrho^{-1}), \quad |\nabla \mho|_{g_0} = O(\varrho^{-2}), \quad \dots$

Theorem A (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons appearing in the Biquard-Gauduchon classification. Then any other Ricci-flat Riemannian metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g **Theorem A** (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons appearing in the Biquard-Gauduchon classification. Then any other Ricci-flat Riemannian metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g is conformal to some strictly extremal Kähler metric h, **Theorem A** (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons appearing in the Biquard-Gauduchon classification. Then any other Ricci-flat Riemannian metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g is conformal to some strictly extremal Kähler metric h, and so is, in particular, Hermitian. **Theorem A** (BGL '24). Let (M, g_0) be any of the ALF toric Hermitian gravitational instantons appearing in the Biquard-Gauduchon classification. Then any other Ricci-flat Riemannian metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g is conformal to some strictly extremal Kähler metric h, and so is, in particular, Hermitian. Moreover, every such g carries at least one Killing field.

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Corollary. Let (M, g_0) be a toric Hermitian ALF gravitational instanton for which the corresponding vector field T on Σ is not periodic. Then any Ricci-flat metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g_0 must be one of the toric gravitational instantons classified by Biquard-Gauduchon.

Combining this with results of Mingyang Li

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on the periodic case then yields a definitive result.

Theorem B. Let (M, g_0) be any toric Hermitian ALF gravitational instanton. **Theorem B.** Let (M, g_0) be any toric Hermitian ALF gravitational instanton. Then any Ricciflat metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g_0 **Theorem B.** Let (M, g_0) be any toric Hermitian ALF gravitational instanton. Then any Ricciflat metric g on M which is sufficiently C_1^3 close to g_0 must be another one of the gravitational instantons classified by Biquard-Gauduchon.

Thanks for the invitation!

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It's a pleasure to be here!

