



Half-Dimensional Immersions into the Para-Complex Projective Space and Ruh–Vilms Type Theorems

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Abstract. In this paper we study isometric immersions $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ of an n -dimensional pseudo-Riemannian manifold M^n into the n -dimensional para-complex projective space $\mathbb{C}P^n$. We study the immersion f by means of a lift \tilde{f} of f into a quadric hypersurface in S_{n+1}^{2n+1} . We find the frame equations and compatibility conditions. We specialize these results to dimension $n = 2$ and a definite metric on M^2 in isothermal coordinates and consider the special cases of Lagrangian surface immersions and minimal surface immersions. We characterize surface immersions with special properties in terms of primitive harmonicity of the Gauss maps.

Mathematics Subject Classification. 53C42, 53C15, 53C50.

Keywords. Para-complex projective space, half-dimensional immersions, Lagrangian immersions, minimal immersions, Ruh–Vilms type theorems.

1. Introduction

In this paper we study isometric immersions $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ of an n -dimensional pseudo-Riemannian manifold M^n into the para-complex projective space $\mathbb{C}P^n$, more precisely into the open dense subset of non-orthogonal pairs in the product $\mathbb{R}P^n \times \mathbb{R}P_n$, where $\mathbb{R}P^n$, $\mathbb{R}P_n$ is the real projective space and its dual, respectively. This target space is a para-Kähler space form which has been

S. Kobayashi partially supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Numbers JP18K03265 and JP22K03304.

listed in the classification [1] of para-Kähler symmetric spaces¹, and the para-Kähler structure on $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ has been studied in [2, 24].

We consider only immersions, whose tangent spaces are transversal to both eigen-distributions Σ^\pm of the para-complex structure J' of $\mathbb{C}'P^n$. We shall call such immersions *non-degenerate*. It has been shown in [3, Section 4] that every non-degenerate immersion defines a dual pair of projectively flat torsion-free affine connections ∇, ∇^* on M^n , and, vice versa, every such pair of connections on M^n defines locally a non-degenerate immersion into $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ which is unique up to the action of the automorphism group of $\mathbb{C}'P^n$.

Let us explain the results of this paper, section after section. In Sect. 2 we consider for a given immersion f the relevant geometric objects on M^n , namely a dual pair of torsion-free projectively flat connections ∇, ∇^* , a non-symmetric Codazzi tensor h of type $(0, 2)$, whose symmetric part equals the metric g and whose skew-symmetric part ω measures the deviation of the immersion from a Lagrangian one, and a cubic form $C_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \nabla_\gamma h_{\alpha\beta}$ which is symmetric in the last two indices. We express these structures in terms of a lift \tilde{f} of f into a quadric hypersurface S_{n+1}^{2n+1} in the product $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1}$ of the real vector space with its dual. We will finally derive the *Maurer-Cartan* equation for an immersion f as Theorem 2.9, which will be effectively used in Sects. 4 and 5 in case of surfaces. In Sect. 3 we compute the second fundamental form of the immersion f in terms of the cubic form C , see Theorem 3.1. This allows us to specify our results for the case of minimal immersions.

In Sects. 2 and 3 we consider the case of general dimension n and arbitrary signature of the metric on M^n , while in Sects. 4 and 5 we specialize to dimension $n = 2$ and a definite metric on M^2 . For simplicity we assume all immersions to be smooth. In Sect. 4 we study definite immersions from a surface M^2 into $\mathbb{C}'P^2$. Using this immersion we introduce isothermal coordinates on M^2 and compute the objects ∇, h, C as well as the frame equations and compatibility conditions in these coordinates. As a result we obtain the *fundamental theorem* of definite surfaces in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$ in Theorem 4.4.

Minimal Lagrangian surfaces in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$ have been considered in many papers, e.g., [4–8, 22, 25]. In particular in [9], minimal Lagrangian or minimal surfaces have been characterized by various Gauss maps, the so-called *Ruh–Vilms type theorems* have been obtained. In Sect. 5, we will characterize surfaces in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$ with special properties in terms of *primitive harmonic maps*, which are special harmonic maps into k -symmetric space ($k \geq 2$), see Theorem 5.3. In Sect. 6 we will define various Gauss maps for surfaces in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$ by using various bundles over S_3^5 and finally derive Ruh–Vilms type theorems, Theorem 6.3.

¹The para-complex projective space $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ appears in the example on pp. 92–93 of [1] with parameters $F = \mathbb{R}$ and $(p, q) = (1, n)$. In that work this space has been represented as the cotangent bundle of the real projective space $\mathbb{R}P^n$, but we shall work with the representation as the mentioned subset of the product $\mathbb{R}P^n \times \mathbb{R}P_n$, because the latter emphasizes the primal-dual symmetry of the space.

In Appendix A, basic results about $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ and S_{n+1}^{2n+1} will be discussed. In Appendix B, k -symmetric spaces and primitive harmonic maps will be introduced, and finally in Appendix C various bundles will be explained.²

2. Half-Dimensional Immersions into the Para-Complex Projective Space form $\mathbb{C}'P^n$

In this section we derive the frame equations for non-degenerate n -dimensional immersions f of a manifold M^n into the para-complex projective space $\mathbb{C}'P^n$. The entries of the corresponding Maurer-Cartan forms are expressed by the components of a projectively flat affine connection ∇ and a non-degenerate non-symmetric tensor h which satisfies a Codazzi equation and is an explicit function of the Ricci tensor of ∇ (Theorem 2.9, Remark 2.1). The components of h and ∇ will in turn be expressed in terms of a lift \mathfrak{f} of f , which exists at least on simply connected charts, into a quadric hypersurface S_{n+1}^{2n+1} of a real vector space (Lemma 2.5 and 2.6). In this and the next section we work with arbitrary coordinates on M^n .

2.1. Para-Complex Projective Space

Consider the para-complex projective space

$$\mathbb{C}'P^n = \{([x], [\chi]) \in \mathbb{R}P^n \times \mathbb{R}P_n \mid \langle x, \chi \rangle > 0\}, \tag{2.1}$$

where $\mathbb{R}P^n$ is the n -dimensional real projective space, $\mathbb{R}P_n$ is its dual, and some representatives $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ and $\chi \in \mathbb{R}_{n+1}$ of $[x]$ and $[\chi]$, respectively, are positive with respect to the natural pairing $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ between \mathbb{R}^{n+1} and \mathbb{R}_{n+1} . Consider $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ as a fibration over $\mathbb{R}P_n$. We have that $\mathbb{R}P_n$ is connected, and that the fiber over a fixed point of $\mathbb{R}P_n$ is exactly an affine chart in $\mathbb{R}P^n$, which is contractible. Hence we even have that the fundamental group of $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ equals that of $\mathbb{R}P_n$, and $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ is isomorphic to one of the reduced para-complex projective spaces in [10, Theorem 3.1]. In any affine chart on $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ the para-Kähler structure is generated by the para-Kähler potential $\log |1 + \sum_i [x]^i [\chi]^i|$ [3, Section 4]. Let us denote the metric on $\mathbb{C}'P^n$, the symplectic form, and the para-complex structure by g, ω , and J' , respectively. Note that J' acts for $X = (\mathfrak{X}, \mathcal{X}) \in T_{([x],[\chi])}\mathbb{R}P^n \times T_{([x],[\chi])}\mathbb{R}P_n = T_{([x],[\chi])}\mathbb{C}'P^n$ by

$$J' : (\mathfrak{X}, \mathcal{X}) \mapsto (\mathfrak{X}, -\mathcal{X})$$

and we have the relations

$$g(X, Y) = \omega(J'X, Y), \quad \omega(X, Y) = g(J'X, Y).$$

The integrable eigen-distributions of J' on $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ are denoted by Σ^\pm , respectively. For a survey on para-Kähler spaces see, e.g., [11], for a detailed study

²The authors feel that the name given to the objects considered may not fit to what algebraic geometers use. We have chosen nevertheless to use the notation used in several papers preceding ours.

of the para-Kähler space form $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ see [2]. In Appendix A, we shall discuss the para-Kähler structure and the basic geometry of $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ in detail.

We shall consider immersions $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^n$ which are transversal to both distributions Σ^\pm . We shall call such immersions *non-degenerate*. The Levi-Civita connection $\widehat{\nabla}$ of the metric g can be decomposed into a component ∇ tangent to f and a component in the distribution Σ^- , defining a torsion-free affine connection ∇ on M^n . In the same way, a torsion-free affine connection ∇^* can be defined on M^n by decomposing $\widehat{\nabla}$ into a component tangent to f and a component in Σ^+ . Both connections ∇, ∇^* are projectively flat [3, Lemma 4.2]. The pullback of the non-symmetric tensor $g + \omega$ defines a non-degenerate non-symmetric tensor h (the para-hermitian form) of type $(0, 2)$ on M^n [3, Lemma 2.3], i.e.,

$$h(X, Y) = (g + \omega)(f_*X, f_*Y),$$

for tangent vectors X, Y on M^n . This tensor satisfies respectively the Codazzi equations and the duality relation [3, Theorem 2.1]

$$(\nabla_X h)(Y, Z) = (\nabla_Z h)(Y, X), \quad (\nabla_X^* h)(Y, Z) = (\nabla_Z^* h)(X, Z), \quad (2.2)$$

$$Xh(Y, Z) = h(\nabla_X Y, Z) + h(Y, \nabla_X^* Z), \quad (2.3)$$

for all tangent vectors X, Y, Z on M^n . From (2.3), it is easy to see that $\widehat{\nabla} = (\nabla + \nabla^*)/2$. From these equations it follows that the *difference tensor* of type $(1, 2)$

$$K = \nabla^* - \nabla = 2(\widehat{\nabla} - \nabla)$$

satisfies the relation

$$(\nabla_X h)(Z, Y) = h(Z, K(X, Y)), \quad (2.4)$$

where $K(X, Y) = \nabla_X^* Y - \nabla_X Y$. It is convenient to introduce a tensor of type $(0, 3)$, the *cubic form* C by

$$C = \nabla h,$$

and from the Codazzi equation (2.2), $C(X, Y, Z) = \nabla_Z h(X, Y)$ is symmetric in the last two indices.

Remark 2.1. The tensor h can be obtained from the Ricci tensor Ric of the connection ∇ by [3, Lemma 4.3]

$$h(X, Y) = \frac{1}{n^2 - 1} \{n \text{Ric}(X, Y) + \text{Ric}(Y, X)\}. \quad (2.5)$$

On the other hand, if a manifold M^n is equipped with a projectively flat connection ∇ with tensor h given by (2.5), then locally there exists an immersion $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^n$ such that Σ^- is transversal to f , the tensor h is the pull-back of $g + \omega$ on M^n , and ∇ is the affine connection generated by the transversal distribution Σ^- as above [3, Theorem 4.3].

2.2. A Natural Fibration and Horizontal Lifts

We shall denote the local coordinates on M^n by $y = (y^1, \dots, y^n)$. The coordinates on \mathbb{R}^{n+1} shall be denoted by $x = (x^1, \dots, x^{n+1})$, the coordinates on the dual space \mathbb{R}_{n+1} by $\chi = (\chi^1, \dots, \chi^{n+1})$. The dual pairing on these vector spaces will be denoted by $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$.

As in similar investigations, an immersion $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ will be discussed via a lift into the total space S_{n+1}^{2n+1} of a fibration over $\mathbb{C}P^n$. In this paper we will consider as total space the quadric

$$S_{n+1}^{2n+1} = \{(x, \chi) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1} \mid \langle x, \chi \rangle = 1\}, \tag{2.6}$$

and will use the projection map

$$\pi_{\mathcal{H}} : S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n, \quad (x, \chi) \mapsto ([x], [\chi]). \tag{2.7}$$

Clearly, the tangent space $T_{(x,\chi)}S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ to S_{n+1}^{2n+1} can be realized by pairs of vectors, $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1}$ satisfying $\langle \hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \chi \rangle + \langle x, \hat{\mathfrak{X}} \rangle = 0$. In order to describe tangent vectors to $\mathbb{C}P^n$, one needs to introduce an equivalence relation for the pair $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}})$, since $\hat{\mathfrak{X}}$ and $\hat{\mathfrak{X}}$ are not uniquely defined by the equation just stated. More naturally, one can introduce the uniquely defined horizontal distribution $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ and the vertical distribution $\hat{\mathcal{V}}$ defined by

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x,\chi)} = \left\{ (\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}) \mid \langle \hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \chi \rangle = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \langle x, \hat{\mathfrak{X}} \rangle = 0 \right\}, \tag{2.8}$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{V}}_{(x,\chi)} = \mathbb{R}(x, -\chi). \tag{2.9}$$

The horizontal distribution has the following properties. For $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}) \in T_{(x,\chi)}S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ we have $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}) \in \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x,\chi)}$ if and only if $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, -\hat{\mathfrak{X}}) \in \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x,\chi)}$. Moreover, for $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}) \in \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x,\chi)}$ we have $d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, -\hat{\mathfrak{X}}) = J'd\pi_{\mathcal{H}}(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}})$. This has the following consequence.

Proposition 2.2. (1) *The projection $\pi_{\mathcal{H}} : S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n, (x, \chi) \mapsto ([x], [\chi])$ is a pseudo-Riemannian submersion, the differential of which has as kernel the distribution $\hat{\mathcal{V}}$ and is for all $(x, \chi) \in S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ an isomorphism from $\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x,\chi)}$ to $T_{([x],[\chi])}\mathbb{C}P^n$.*

(2) *Let $X, Y \in T_{([x],[\chi])}\mathbb{C}P^n$ be arbitrary tangent vectors, and let $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}), (\hat{\mathfrak{Y}}, \hat{\mathfrak{Y}}) \in \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x,\chi)}$ be their pre-images under the map $d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ at (x, χ) . Then*

$$(g + \omega)(X, Y) = \langle \hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{Y}} \rangle.$$

The proof will be given in Appendix A.3.2.

Let $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ be an immersion and assume that f has a lift $\mathfrak{f} : M^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$. Here \mathfrak{f} is defined by the property that $(x, \chi) = \mathfrak{f}(y)$ projects to $([x], [\chi]) = f(y)$. It is easy to see that a lift is unique up to “scalings” of the form

$$(x, \chi) \mapsto (\alpha x, \alpha^{-1} \chi) \tag{2.10}$$

for never vanishing scalar functions α . In general, a given $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ can not be lifted, see Proposition A.13.

For later purposes we decompose the tangent map of a lift in more detail: Let \mathfrak{f} be a lift of some immersion $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ and write $\mathfrak{f}(y) = (x(y), \chi(y))$. Then the differential of \mathfrak{f} can be decomposed in $T_{(x,\chi)}S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ in the form

$$d_y \mathfrak{f}(Z) = (\xi(Z), \eta(Z)) + (\langle d_y x(Z), \chi \rangle x, \langle x, d_y \chi(Z) \rangle \chi), \tag{2.11}$$

where the first term is the horizontal component and the second term is the vertical component of $d_y \mathfrak{f}(Z)$. Moreover, we have

$$\xi(Z) = d_y x(Z) - \langle d_y x(Z), \chi \rangle x, \quad \text{and} \quad \eta(Z) = d_y \chi(Z) - \langle x, d_y \chi(Z) \rangle \chi. \tag{2.12}$$

For convenience we also introduce the 1-form

$$\psi(Z) = \langle d_y x(Z), \chi \rangle = -\langle x, d_y \chi(Z) \rangle. \tag{2.13}$$

It is clear that using ψ one can write the vertical component of $d\mathfrak{f}(Z)$ as

$$\psi(Z)(x, -\chi).$$

If $\mathfrak{f}_\alpha(y) = (\alpha x, \alpha^{-1} \chi)$ is another lift of f , then we obtain

$$(\xi_\alpha(Z), \eta_\alpha(Z)) = (\alpha \xi(Z), \alpha^{-1} \eta(Z)) \tag{2.14}$$

for its horizontal component, and for its vertical component we derive

$$\begin{aligned} & (\langle d_y(\alpha x)(Z), \alpha^{-1} \chi \rangle \alpha x, \langle \alpha x, d_y(\alpha^{-1} \chi)(Z) \rangle \alpha^{-1} \chi) \\ &= (\psi(Z) + d_y \log |\alpha|)(\alpha x, -\alpha^{-1} \chi). \end{aligned} \tag{2.15}$$

Hence under a scaling (2.10) the form ψ transforms as $\psi \mapsto \psi + d \log |\alpha|$. We may thus add arbitrary differentials to ψ by changing the lift \mathfrak{f} .

As mentioned above, as a next step and as in similar geometric situations, one wants to choose not only some lift, but preferably some “horizontal lift” for a given immersion $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$.

Definition 2.3. Let $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ be an immersion and $\mathfrak{f} : M^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ be a lift of f . Then \mathfrak{f} is called a “horizontal lift” iff the tangent map takes values in the horizontal distribution $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}$. In other words, a lift is horizontal, iff the vertical component of its differential vanishes identically, i.e., $\psi = 0$.

Proposition 2.4. Assume $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is liftable with lift $\mathfrak{f} : M^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$, $\mathfrak{f}(y) = (x, \chi)$. Then there exists a never vanishing scalar function α such that \mathfrak{f}_α is a horizontal lift of $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ if and only if the equation

$$\alpha^{-1} d\alpha = -\psi \tag{2.16}$$

has a global solution on M^n .

Proof. It is easy to verify that in view of Eq. (2.15) the condition on the lift of being horizontal is equivalent to (2.16). □

2.3. Non-symmetric Codazzi Tensor, Connection, Frame Equations

We shall now pass to the main goal of this section and compute the non-symmetric tensor h on M^n in terms of the forms ξ, η .

Lemma 2.5. *Let the non-degenerate immersion $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ be given by means of a lift $\mathfrak{f} : M^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ into the quadric (2.6). Define the \mathbb{R}^{n+1} - and \mathbb{R}_{n+1} -valued 1-forms ξ, η on M^n by (2.12). Then the pull-back h of the tensor $g + \omega$ from $\mathbb{C}P^n$ to M^n is given by*

$$h(X, Y) = \langle \xi(X), \eta(Y) \rangle \tag{2.17}$$

for all tangent vectors X, Y on M^n .

Proof. The lemma is an immediate consequence of Proposition 2.2. □

Proposition 2.6. *Retain the assumptions of Lemma 2.5, and define the 1-form ψ by (2.13). Then for all tangent vectors X and Y we have*

$$\begin{cases} \xi(\nabla_X Y) = X(\xi(Y)) - \psi(X)\xi(Y) + \langle \xi(Y), \eta(X) \rangle x, \\ \eta(\nabla_X^* Y) = X(\eta(Y)) + \psi(X)\eta(Y) + \langle \xi(X), \eta(Y) \rangle \chi. \end{cases} \tag{2.18}$$

Proof. First note that we can rephrase the left-hand side and the first term in the right-hand side in (2.18) together as

$$(\nabla_X \xi)(Y) = X(\xi(Y)) - \xi(\nabla_X Y), \quad (\nabla_X^* \eta)(Y) = X(\eta(Y)) - \eta(\nabla_X^* Y).$$

Then using decompositions of the horizontal part and the vertical part of $\nabla \xi$ and $\nabla^* \eta$, we can set

$$(\nabla_X \xi)(Y) = a(X)\xi(Y) + b(X, Y)x, \quad (\nabla_X^* \eta)(Y) = c(X)\eta(Y) + d(X, Y)\chi, \tag{2.19}$$

where a and c are 1-forms and b and d are bi-linear maps. Taking the inner product of χ in the first formula and x in the second formula, we have

$$b(X, Y) = -\langle \xi(Y), \eta(X) \rangle, \quad d(X, Y) = -\langle \xi(X), \eta(Y) \rangle.$$

Here we use the relations $\langle X\xi(Y), \chi \rangle = -\langle \xi(Y), \eta(X) \rangle$ and $\langle X\eta(Y), x \rangle = -\langle \eta(Y), \xi(X) \rangle$, respectively, since ξ and η are horizontal vectors. We now compute a . Interchanging X and Y in the first equation of (2.19), and subtracting it from the original equation we have

$$X\xi(Y) - Y\xi(X) - \xi(\nabla_X Y - \nabla_Y X) = a(X)\xi(Y) - a(Y)\xi(X) + v(X, Y)x,$$

where we set $v(X, Y) = -\langle \xi(Y), \eta(X) \rangle + \langle \xi(X), \eta(Y) \rangle$. The left-hand side of the above equation can be simplified by using the torsion-freeness of ∇ and the definition of ψ as

$$\begin{aligned} X\xi(Y) - Y\xi(X) - \xi(\nabla_X Y - \nabla_Y X) &= Xd_y x(Y) - X(\psi(Y)x) - Yd_y x(X) + Y(\psi(X)x) - \xi([X, Y]) \\ &= -\psi(Y)\xi(X) + \psi(X)\xi(Y) + p(X, Y)x, \end{aligned}$$

where $p(X, Y)x$ denotes the vertical part. Taking the inner product with χ , $p(X, Y) = v(X, Y)$ follows. Therefore we conclude

$$(a(Y) - \psi(Y))\xi(X) + (\psi(X) - a(X))\xi(Y) = 0.$$

Since the above equation holds for any vector fields X and Y , we have $a = \psi$. We can compute c similarly. This completes the proof. \square

We now rewrite the above relation in (2.18) by local expression. We first abbreviate the partial derivative by

$$\partial_\alpha = \frac{\partial}{\partial y^\alpha}, \tag{2.20}$$

where y^1, \dots, y^n are local coordinates on M .

We now use the local expression of the tensor h , i.e., $h_{\alpha\beta} = h(\partial_\alpha, \partial_\beta)$. Denote by $h^{\alpha\beta}$ the inverse tensor, i.e., such that $h^{\alpha\beta}h_{\beta\gamma} = h_{\gamma\beta}h^{\beta\alpha} = \delta_\gamma^\alpha$. Here we use the Einstein summation convention. Moreover, we will use the notation

$$(\xi_\alpha, \eta_\alpha) = (\xi(\partial_\alpha), \eta(\partial_\alpha)) \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_\alpha = \psi(\partial_\alpha),$$

where $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n$ are vector fields defined in (2.20) and ξ is the horizontal component of a lift $f(y) = (x(y), \chi(y))$ defined in (2.12).

As a consequence of (2.17) we obtain by virtue of (2.8) that

$$\langle \partial_\alpha x, \eta_\beta \rangle = \langle \xi_\alpha + \langle \partial_\alpha x, \chi \rangle x, \eta_\beta \rangle = h_{\alpha\beta}, \tag{2.21}$$

$$\langle \partial_\alpha \xi_\beta, \chi \rangle = -\langle \xi_\beta, \partial_\alpha \chi \rangle = -\langle \xi_\beta, \eta_\alpha + \langle x, \partial_\alpha \chi \rangle \chi \rangle = -h_{\beta\alpha}. \tag{2.22}$$

Corollary 2.7. *Retain the assumptions in Proposition 2.6. Then the affine connection ∇ defined on M^n by the transversal distribution Σ^- and the dual affine connection ∇^* defined on M^n by the transversal distribution Σ^+ are given by*

$$\nabla_{\beta\gamma}^\alpha = -\psi_\gamma \delta_\beta^\alpha + h^{\delta\alpha} \langle \partial_\gamma \xi_\beta, \eta_\delta \rangle, \tag{2.23}$$

$$\nabla_{\beta\gamma}^{*\alpha} = \psi_\gamma \delta_\beta^\alpha + h^{\alpha\delta} \langle \xi_\delta, \partial_\gamma \eta_\beta \rangle. \tag{2.24}$$

For the difference tensor we obtain

$$K_{\beta\gamma}^\alpha = 2\psi_\gamma \delta_\beta^\alpha + h^{\alpha\delta} \langle \xi_\delta, \partial_\gamma \eta_\beta \rangle - h^{\delta\alpha} \langle \partial_\gamma \xi_\beta, \eta_\delta \rangle. \tag{2.25}$$

Proof. From (2.11) we obtain

$$\partial_\mu x = \xi_\mu + \psi_\mu x, \quad \partial_\mu \chi = \eta_\mu - \psi_\mu \chi. \tag{2.26}$$

The first relation in (2.18) can be written as

$$\xi_\mu \nabla_{\beta\gamma}^\mu = \partial_\gamma \xi_\beta - \psi_\gamma \xi_\beta + \langle \xi_\beta, \eta_\gamma \rangle x.$$

Combining, we obtain

$$(\partial_\mu x - \psi_\mu x) \nabla_{\beta\gamma}^\mu = \partial_\gamma \xi_\beta - \psi_\gamma (\partial_\beta x - \psi_\beta x) + \langle \xi_\beta, \eta_\gamma \rangle x,$$

which yields

$$\nabla_{\beta\gamma}^\mu \partial_\mu x = -\psi_\gamma \partial_\beta x + \partial_\gamma \xi_\beta + (\nabla_{\beta\gamma}^\mu \psi_\mu + \psi_\gamma \psi_\beta + \langle \xi_\beta, \eta_\gamma \rangle) x.$$

Taking the scalar product with η_δ we obtain by virtue of (2.21) that

$$\nabla_{\beta\gamma}^\mu h_{\mu\delta} = -\psi_\gamma h_{\beta\delta} + \langle \partial_\gamma \xi_\beta, \eta_\delta \rangle.$$

Multiplying by $h^{\delta\alpha}$ we get relation (2.23).

Relation (2.24) is obtained similarly. The expression for the difference tensor readily follows. \square

Corollary 2.8. *The cubic form is given by*

$$C_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \partial_\gamma h_{\alpha\beta} + 2\psi_\gamma h_{\alpha\beta} - \langle \partial_\gamma \xi_\alpha, \eta_\beta \rangle - \langle \partial_\gamma \xi_\beta, \eta_\alpha \rangle.$$

Proof. The proof is straightforward by using (2.23). \square

We now go on to deduce the frame equations. We shall define the primal and dual frames as

$$F = (x, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_n) \quad \text{and} \quad F^* = (\chi, \eta_1, \dots, \eta_m),$$

respectively. Note that under a scaling $(x, \chi) \mapsto (\alpha x, \alpha^{-1} \chi)$ of the lift \mathfrak{f} the frames transform as $F \mapsto \alpha F$, $F^* \mapsto \alpha^{-1} F^*$. Therefore the trace-less parts of the Maurer–Cartan forms are invariant under changes of the lift. We have $(F^*)^T F = \text{diag}(1, h^T)$ and therefore $F^{-1} = \text{diag}(1, h^{-T}) (F^*)^T$. This yields

$$U_\alpha := F^{-1} \partial_\alpha F = \text{diag}(1, h^{-T}) \begin{pmatrix} \chi^T \\ \eta^T \end{pmatrix} (\partial_\alpha x \ \partial_\alpha \xi)$$

for the Maurer–Cartan form, where $\xi = (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$, $\eta = (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_m)$. Using (2.23), (2.24) and (2.21), (2.22), (2.26) we obtain explicit expressions for the components of U . In a similar way we obtain the components of the dual Maurer–Cartan form $U_\alpha^* := (F^*)^{-1} \partial_\alpha F^*$. Let us list these expressions in the following theorem.

Theorem 2.9. *Let the non-degenerate immersion $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ be given by means of a lift $\mathfrak{f} : M^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ into the quadric (2.6). Define the \mathbb{R}^{n+1} - and \mathbb{R}_{n+1} -valued 1-forms ξ, η on M by (2.12), and the 1-form ψ by (2.13). Let the affine connection ∇ on M^n be defined by the transversal distribution Σ^- , and the dual affine connection ∇^* by the transversal distribution Σ^+ . Define the frames $F = (x, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$ and $F^* = (\chi, \eta_1, \dots, \eta_n)$. Then the Maurer–Cartan forms*

$$\begin{cases} U_\alpha = F^{-1} \partial_\alpha F \\ U_\alpha^* = (F^*)^{-1} \partial_\alpha F^* \end{cases}$$

are given by

$$\begin{cases} (U_\alpha)_{00} = \psi_\alpha, & (U_\alpha)_{0\gamma} = -h_{\gamma\alpha}, & (U_\alpha)_{\beta 0} = \delta_\alpha^\beta, & (U_\alpha)_{\beta\gamma} = \nabla_{\alpha\gamma}^\beta + \psi_\alpha \delta_\gamma^\beta, \\ (U_\alpha^*)_{00} = -\psi_\alpha, & (U_\alpha^*)_{0\gamma} = -h_{\alpha\gamma}, & (U_\alpha^*)_{\beta 0} = \delta_\alpha^\beta, & (U_\alpha^*)_{\beta\gamma} = \nabla_{\alpha\gamma}^{*\beta} - \psi_\alpha \delta_\gamma^\beta. \end{cases}$$

Let now M^n be a manifold equipped with an affine connection ∇ and a non-degenerate $(0, 2)$ -tensor h . By the results of [3, Section 4] the frame equations are locally integrable for some appropriate 1-form ψ if and only if

∇ is projectively flat and h is obtained from the Ricci tensor of ∇ by formula (2.5). Let us verify this by direct calculation.

The integrability conditions for the frame F are given by

$$\partial_\delta U_\alpha - \partial_\alpha U_\delta + [U_\delta, U_\alpha] = \mathbf{0}.$$

The upper left corner of this identity yields $-h_{\alpha\delta} + \partial_\delta \psi_\alpha = -h_{\delta\alpha} + \partial_\alpha \psi_\delta$. The lower left block is not informative, while the upper right block yields $h_{\beta\delta} \nabla_{\alpha\gamma}^\beta + \partial_\delta h_{\gamma\alpha} = h_{\beta\alpha} \nabla_{\delta\gamma}^\beta + \partial_\alpha h_{\gamma\delta}$. Finally, the lower right block yields

$$-\delta_\delta^\beta h_{\gamma\alpha} + \nabla_{\delta\epsilon}^\beta \nabla_{\alpha\gamma}^\epsilon + \partial_\delta \nabla_{\alpha\gamma}^\beta + (\partial_\delta \psi_\alpha) \delta_\gamma^\beta = -\delta_\alpha^\beta h_{\gamma\delta} + \nabla_{\alpha\epsilon}^\beta \nabla_{\delta\gamma}^\epsilon + \partial_\alpha \nabla_{\delta\gamma}^\beta + (\partial_\alpha \psi_\delta) \delta_\gamma^\beta.$$

Denoting the Riemann curvature tensor of ∇ by

$$R_{\gamma\delta\alpha}^\beta = \partial_\delta \nabla_{\alpha\gamma}^\beta - \partial_\alpha \nabla_{\delta\gamma}^\beta + \nabla_{\delta\epsilon}^\beta \nabla_{\alpha\gamma}^\epsilon - \nabla_{\alpha\epsilon}^\beta \nabla_{\delta\gamma}^\epsilon$$

and the Ricci tensor by $R_{\gamma\alpha} = R_{\gamma\delta\alpha}^\delta$, we obtain the compatibility conditions

$$\begin{cases} \partial_\delta \psi_\alpha - \partial_\alpha \psi_\delta = h_{\alpha\delta} - h_{\delta\alpha}, \\ \nabla_\delta h_{\gamma\alpha} - \nabla_\alpha h_{\gamma\delta} = 0, \\ R_{\gamma\delta\alpha}^\beta = \delta_\delta^\beta h_{\gamma\alpha} - \delta_\alpha^\beta h_{\gamma\delta} + \delta_\gamma^\beta (h_{\delta\alpha} - h_{\alpha\delta}). \end{cases} \tag{2.27}$$

From the last condition it follows by contraction that $R_{\gamma\alpha} = nh_{\gamma\alpha} - h_{\alpha\gamma}$, which is indeed equivalent to (2.5). The last condition can then be rewritten as

$$R_{\gamma\delta\alpha}^\beta + \frac{1}{n^2 - 1} \left\{ \delta_\alpha^\beta (nR_{\gamma\delta} + R_{\delta\gamma}) - \delta_\delta^\beta (nR_{\gamma\alpha} + R_{\alpha\gamma}) + (n - 1) \delta_\gamma^\beta (R_{\alpha\delta} - R_{\delta\alpha}) \right\} = 0.$$

On the left-hand side we recognize the *Weyl projective curvature* tensor $W_{\gamma\delta\alpha}^\beta$ [12, eq. (7p)] of the connection ∇ . The second condition in (2.27) is the symmetry of the cubic form $C_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \nabla_\gamma h_{\alpha\beta}$ in the last two indices. It implies the closed-ness of the form $\omega_{\alpha\delta} = \frac{1}{2}(h_{\alpha\delta} - h_{\delta\alpha})$. The first condition in (2.27) can be written as $d\psi = -2\omega$. If the second condition holds the first condition can locally be satisfied by an appropriate choice of the potential ψ .

Thus the integrability conditions on ∇ and h amount to relation (2.5), the vanishing of $W_{\gamma\delta\alpha}^\beta$, and the symmetry $C_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = C_{\alpha\gamma\beta}$. These are indeed the necessary and sufficient conditions for projective flatness of ∇ [12, p. 104]. Moreover, $W_{\gamma\delta\alpha}^\beta$ vanishes identically for $n = 2$, and the condition $W_{\gamma\delta\alpha}^\beta = 0$ implies the symmetry of C for $n \geq 3$ [12, p. 105].

3. Second Fundamental Form and Difference Tensor

In this section we compute the second fundamental form II of a non-degenerate immersion f of a manifold M^n into $\mathbb{C}P^n$. We show that the immersion is totally geodesic if and only if the cubic form C vanishes, and it is minimal if and only if C is trace-less with respect to the last two indices. The results of this section are valid not only for immersions into the para-Kähler space form

$\mathbb{C}'P^n$, but for non-degenerate immersions into general para-Kähler manifolds \mathbb{M}_n^{2n} .

Theorem 3.1. *Let $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n^{2n}$ be an isometric immersion of a pseudo-Riemannian manifold into a para-Kähler manifold such that the eigen-distributions Σ^\pm of the para-complex structure J' are transversal to f . Let ∇, ∇^* be the affine connections defined on M^n by the transversal distributions Σ^-, Σ^+ , respectively, and let $K = \nabla^* - \nabla$ be the difference tensor. Let $\Pi_\pm = \frac{1}{2}(\text{id} \pm J')$ be the projections onto Σ^\pm , respectively, and let Π_N be the orthogonal projection onto the normal subspace to f . Then the second fundamental form of f is given by*

$$II(X, Y) = \Pi_N \Pi_- f_* K(X, Y)$$

for all vector fields X, Y on M^n .

Proof. Let $\widehat{\nabla}$ be the Levi-Civita connection of the metric g on \mathbb{M}_n^{2n} . Then by definition $II(X, Y) = \Pi_N \widehat{\nabla}_{f_* X} f_* Y$. Also by definition of ∇, ∇^* we have $\Pi_+(\widehat{\nabla}_{f_* X} f_* Y - f_* \nabla_X Y) = 0$ and $\Pi_-(\widehat{\nabla}_{f_* X} f_* Y - f_* \nabla_X^* Y) = 0$, because $\Sigma^- = \ker \Pi_+, \Sigma^+ = \ker \Pi_-$. Using $\Pi_+ + \Pi_- = \text{id}$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_- f_* K(X, Y) &= \Pi_- f_* \nabla_X^* Y - (\text{id} - \Pi_+) f_* \nabla_X Y \\ &= \Pi_- \widehat{\nabla}_{f_* X} f_* Y - f_* \nabla_X Y + \Pi_+ \widehat{\nabla}_{f_* X} f_* Y \\ &= \widehat{\nabla}_{f_* X} f_* Y - f_* \nabla_X Y. \end{aligned}$$

Applying the projection Π_N to both sides we obtain the desired identity. \square

The cubic form is defined as in Section 2 by the relation $C = \nabla h$, where h is the pull-back of the sum $g + \omega$ to M^n and ω is the symplectic form of \mathbb{M}_n^{2n} .

Corollary 3.2. *Assume the conditions of Theorem 3.1 and let g be the pseudo-metric on M^n . Then the immersion f is minimal if and only if $\text{Tr}_g K = 0$, and it is totally geodesic if and only if $K = 0$. Equivalently, the immersion f is minimal if and only if $\text{Tr}_g C = 0$, and it is totally geodesic if and only if $C = 0$, where C is the cubic form.*

Proof. Since the immersion f is non-degenerate, the subspaces Σ^\pm are transversal to both the tangent and the normal subspaces. Therefore the product $\Pi_N \Pi_- f_*$ maps the tangent bundle TM^n bijectively onto the normal bundle. Then by Theorem 3.1 the mean curvature of f is zero if and only if the contraction of the difference tensor with the metric vanishes. Likewise, the second fundamental form vanishes if and only if the difference tensor vanishes. The second part of the assertion follows from (2.4) and the non-degeneracy of h , which in turn follows from the non-degeneracy of the immersion f . \square

4. Definite Surface Immersions

In this section we specialize to immersions defined on surfaces M^2 with definite metric. We allow both a positive definite and a negative definite metric. For simplicity we assume that the surface is simply connected. We deduce the frame equations and the compatibility conditions in the uniformizing coordinate on the surface M^2 . We then consider the special cases of Lagrangian immersions and minimal immersions.

4.1. The Maurer–Cartan Form

Whatever the sign of the metric, we may introduce a uniformizing complex coordinate $z = y^1 + iy^2$ on the surface M^2 in which the metric takes the form

$$g = 2He^u |dz|^2,$$

where $u : M^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a function of z and \bar{z} , i.e., $u = u(z, \bar{z})$ and $H = 1$ (the elliptic case) or -1 (the hyperbolic case). In the corresponding real coordinates y^1, y^2 the tensor h takes the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ -b & a \end{pmatrix}$$

with $a = 2He^u$. We first establish relations between the projectively flat connection ∇ , the cubic form C , and the expressions $\langle \partial_\alpha \xi, \eta \rangle$ and similar scalar products in this coordinate system. This will serve to express the Maurer–Cartan form in terms of the two independent entries a, b of h and their derivatives, the two entries of ψ , and the 6 independent entries of the cubic form C .

We now convert the real coordinates to complex coordinates, see [23]. The complex canonical basis vectors take the form

$$\partial_z = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_1 - i\partial_2), \quad \partial_{\bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_1 + i\partial_2).$$

For convenience we introduce the complex functions

$$c = 1 + i\frac{b}{a} \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_z = \langle \partial_z x, \chi \rangle = \frac{1}{2}(\psi_1 - i\psi_2). \tag{4.1}$$

We also introduce the *para-Kähler angle function* θ by

$$\theta = \arctan\left(\frac{b}{a}\right) + \frac{\pi}{2} \in (0, \pi). \tag{4.2}$$

It is straightforward to see that $\arg c = \theta - \frac{\pi}{2} \in (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$.

Remark 4.1. The complex function c is nowhere zero on a surface M^2 since we assume that the immersion $f : M^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^2$ is definite.³

³There is no “complex point” compared to the $\mathbb{C}P^2$ case.

Using the vector-valued 1-forms ξ, η , define vector-valued complex functions

$$\xi_z = \frac{1}{2}(\xi_1 - i\xi_2), \quad \eta_z = \frac{1}{2}(\eta_1 - i\eta_2), \quad \xi_{\bar{z}} = \bar{\xi}_z, \quad \eta_{\bar{z}} = \bar{\eta}_z.$$

By abuse of notation, we denote ξ_z, η_z and ρ_z by ξ, η and ρ respectively. From (2.8) we then obtain

$$\langle \xi, \chi \rangle = \langle x, \eta \rangle = 0. \tag{4.3}$$

In complex coordinates we then have

$$h_{zz} = h_{\bar{z}\bar{z}} = 0, \quad h_{z\bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2}(a + ib) = He^u c, \quad h_{\bar{z}z} = \frac{1}{2}(a - ib) = He^u \bar{c}. \tag{4.4}$$

By Lemma 2.5 we obtain

$$\langle \xi, \eta \rangle = \langle \bar{\xi}, \bar{\eta} \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \xi, \bar{\eta} \rangle = He^u c, \quad \langle \bar{\xi}, \eta \rangle = He^u \bar{c}. \tag{4.5}$$

Differentiating these relations, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \xi, \partial_z \eta \rangle &= -\langle \partial_z \xi, \eta \rangle, & \langle \xi, \partial_z \bar{\eta} \rangle &= -\langle \partial_z \xi, \bar{\eta} \rangle + \partial_z(He^u c), \\ \langle \xi, \partial_{\bar{z}} \eta \rangle &= -\langle \partial_{\bar{z}} \xi, \eta \rangle, & \langle \xi, \partial_{\bar{z}} \bar{\eta} \rangle &= -\langle \partial_{\bar{z}} \xi, \bar{\eta} \rangle + \partial_{\bar{z}}(He^u c). \end{aligned}$$

Relations (2.21) yield

$$\langle \partial_z x, \eta \rangle = \langle \partial_{\bar{z}} x, \bar{\eta} \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \partial_z x, \bar{\eta} \rangle = He^u c, \quad \langle \partial_{\bar{z}} x, \eta \rangle = He^u \bar{c}, \tag{4.6}$$

while relations (2.22) become

$$\begin{aligned} -\langle \xi, \partial_z \chi \rangle &= \langle \partial_z \xi, \chi \rangle = \langle \partial_{\bar{z}} \bar{\xi}, \chi \rangle = 0, & \langle \partial_{\bar{z}} \xi, \chi \rangle &= -He^u c, \\ \langle \partial_z \bar{\xi}, \chi \rangle &= -He^u \bar{c}. \end{aligned} \tag{4.7}$$

Note also that since the operators $\partial_z, \partial_{\bar{z}}$ commute, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \partial_z \bar{\xi} - \partial_{\bar{z}} \xi, \eta \rangle &= \langle \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} x - \langle \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} x, \chi \rangle x - \langle \partial_{\bar{z}} x, \partial_z \chi \rangle x - \langle \partial_{\bar{z}} x, \chi \rangle \partial_z x, \eta \rangle \\ &\quad - \langle \partial_{\bar{z}} \partial_z x - \langle \partial_{\bar{z}} \partial_z x, \chi \rangle x - \langle \partial_z x, \partial_{\bar{z}} \chi \rangle x - \langle \partial_z x, \chi \rangle \partial_{\bar{z}} x, \eta \rangle \\ &= \langle -\bar{\rho} \partial_z x + \rho \partial_{\bar{z}} x, \eta \rangle = \rho \bar{c} He^u. \end{aligned} \tag{4.8}$$

We now introduce respectively functions ϕ and Q by

$$\phi := He^{-u} \langle \partial_{\bar{z}} \xi, \eta \rangle, \tag{4.9}$$

$$Q := \langle \partial_z \xi, \eta \rangle. \tag{4.10}$$

Note that ϕdz and $Q dz^3$ are well-defined as a 1-form and a 3-form on M^2 , respectively.

Remark 4.2. (1) We now observe that if we change a lift $\mathfrak{f} = (x, \chi)$ to $(\alpha x, \alpha^{-1} \chi)$ by a real-valued function α , then the real-vectors ξ_1, ξ_2, η_1 and η_2 change accordingly to $\alpha \xi_1, \alpha \xi_2, \alpha^{-1} \eta_1$, and $\alpha^{-1} \eta_2$, respectively. Therefore the functions u, c , and by virtue of (4.5) also ϕ and Q , are independent of choice of a lift \mathfrak{f} , i.e., they are functions depending on f not \mathfrak{f} .

(2) The *Tchebycheff form* is defined by $T_\alpha = \frac{1}{2}C_{\alpha\beta\gamma}g^{\beta\gamma}$. From Corollary 2.8 we get $C_{zzz} = -2\langle\partial_z\xi, \eta\rangle$, $C_{zz\bar{z}} = C_{z\bar{z}z} = -2\langle\partial_{\bar{z}}\xi, \eta\rangle$, and hence

$$Q = -\frac{1}{2}C_{zzz}.$$

Therefore the cubic form Qdz^3 is nothing but the complex component of the cubic form $C = \nabla h$. Further in complex coordinates we have $g^{-1} = \frac{2}{a} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and hence $T_z = \frac{1}{a}(C_{zz\bar{z}} + C_{z\bar{z}z}) = -\frac{4}{a}\langle\partial_z\xi, \eta\rangle = -2He^{-u}\langle\partial_z\xi, \eta\rangle$,

$$\phi = -\frac{1}{2}T_z.$$

The form ϕdz is sometimes called the *mean curvature 1-form*.

We are now in a position to formulate the moving frame equations. Instead of the real moving frames F, F^* introduced in Sect. 2 we shall consider the complex moving frames

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}} = (\xi, \bar{\xi}, x), \quad \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^* = (\bar{\eta}, \eta, \chi).$$

By (4.3) and (4.5) the product $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}^T \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^*$ equals

$$\tilde{D} = \begin{pmatrix} Hce^u & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & H\bar{c}e^u & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}^* = \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^{-T} \tilde{D}$. The Maurer–Cartan forms $\tilde{U}_z := \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^{-1} \partial_z \tilde{\mathcal{F}}$ and $\tilde{U}_{\bar{z}} := \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^{-1} \partial_{\bar{z}} \tilde{\mathcal{F}}$ are given by

$$\tilde{U}_z = \tilde{D}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \langle\partial_z\xi, \bar{\eta}\rangle & \langle\partial_z\bar{\xi}, \bar{\eta}\rangle & \langle\partial_zx, \bar{\eta}\rangle \\ \langle\partial_z\xi, \eta\rangle & \langle\partial_z\bar{\xi}, \eta\rangle & \langle\partial_zx, \eta\rangle \\ \langle\partial_z\xi, \chi\rangle & \langle\partial_z\bar{\xi}, \chi\rangle & \langle\partial_zx, \chi\rangle \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{U}_{\bar{z}} = \tilde{D}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \langle\partial_{\bar{z}}\xi, \bar{\eta}\rangle & \langle\partial_{\bar{z}}\bar{\xi}, \bar{\eta}\rangle & \langle\partial_{\bar{z}}x, \bar{\eta}\rangle \\ \langle\partial_{\bar{z}}\xi, \eta\rangle & \langle\partial_{\bar{z}}\bar{\xi}, \eta\rangle & \langle\partial_{\bar{z}}x, \eta\rangle \\ \langle\partial_{\bar{z}}\xi, \chi\rangle & \langle\partial_{\bar{z}}\bar{\xi}, \chi\rangle & \langle\partial_{\bar{z}}x, \chi\rangle \end{pmatrix}.$$

We now compute \tilde{U}_z and $\tilde{U}_{\bar{z}}$ as follows: Set

$$\partial_z\xi = p\xi + q\bar{\xi} + rx,$$

where p, q and r are unknown complex functions to be determined. Taking pairing with respect to χ , it is easy to see that $r = 0$. Moreover, taking pairing with respect to η we have $\langle\partial_z\xi, \eta\rangle = q\langle\bar{\xi}, \eta\rangle$, and by (4.5) and (4.10), $q = H\bar{c}^{-1}e^{-u}Q$ follows. Finally taking pairing with respect to $\bar{\eta}$, we have

$$\langle\partial_z\xi, \bar{\eta}\rangle = p\langle\xi, \bar{\eta}\rangle.$$

Let us compute the left-hand side by taking the derivative of $\langle\xi, \bar{\eta}\rangle = He^uc$ with respect to z , that is,

$$\langle\partial_z\xi, \bar{\eta}\rangle = -\langle\xi, \partial_z\bar{\eta}\rangle + He^uc \partial_z(\log c + u).$$

Since $\partial_z\bar{\eta} = \partial_z\partial_{\bar{z}}\chi - \partial_z(\bar{\rho}\chi)$ and by virtue of (4.7) $\langle\xi, \partial_z\chi\rangle = 0$, we get

$$\langle\xi, \partial_z\bar{\eta}\rangle = \langle\xi, \partial_{\bar{z}}\partial_z\chi\rangle = -\langle\partial_{\bar{z}}\xi, \partial_z\chi\rangle.$$

Moreover, $\partial_z \chi = \eta - \rho \chi$ and thus $\langle \partial_z \xi, \partial_z \chi \rangle = He^u \phi + \rho He^u c$ holds. Therefore $p = \frac{\phi}{c} + \rho + \partial_z(\log c + u)$ follows. Similarly, set

$$\partial_z \bar{\xi} = p \xi + q \bar{\xi} + rx,$$

where p, q and r are unknown complex functions to be determined. Taking pairing with respect to χ , it is easy to see that $r = -He^u \bar{c}$ by (4.7). Next taking pairing with respect to η we have $\langle \partial_z \bar{\xi}, \eta \rangle = q \langle \bar{\xi}, \eta \rangle = q He^u \bar{c}$, and by (4.8), $q = \rho + \bar{c}^{-1} \phi$ follows. Finally taking pairing with respect to $\bar{\eta}$, we have $\langle \partial_z \bar{\xi}, \bar{\eta} \rangle = p \langle \xi, \bar{\eta} \rangle$, and by (4.9) and (4.7), $p = c^{-1} \bar{\phi}$ follows. By (2.26) we have

$$\partial_z x = \xi + \rho x = 1 \cdot \xi + 0 \cdot \bar{\xi} + \rho \cdot x.$$

One can compute \tilde{U}_z similarly.

Thus the Maurer-Cartan form can be computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{U}_z &= \begin{pmatrix} \rho + c^{-1} \phi + \partial_z(u + \log c) & c^{-1} \bar{\phi} & 1 \\ H \bar{c}^{-1} e^{-u} Q & \rho + \bar{c}^{-1} \phi & 0 \\ 0 & -H \bar{c} e^u & \rho \end{pmatrix}, \\ \tilde{U}_{\bar{z}} &= \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\rho} + c^{-1} \bar{\phi} & H c^{-1} e^{-u} \bar{Q} & 0 \\ \bar{c}^{-1} \phi & \bar{\rho} + \bar{c}^{-1} \bar{\phi} + \partial_{\bar{z}}(u + \log \bar{c}) & 1 \\ -H c e^u & 0 & \bar{\rho} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

The compatibility conditions

$$[\tilde{U}_z, \tilde{U}_{\bar{z}}] + \partial_z \tilde{U}_{\bar{z}} - \partial_{\bar{z}} \tilde{U}_z = 0$$

amount to the real equation $\partial_z \rho - \partial_z \bar{\rho} = He^u(c - \bar{c})$, which can be written as

$$\text{Im}(\partial_z \rho) = He^u \text{Im } c \tag{4.11}$$

and is equivalent to the first equation in (2.27), and the two compatibility conditions

$$\begin{aligned} &|c|^{-2} |\phi|^2 - |c|^{-2} e^{-2u} |Q|^2 + H(\bar{c} - 2c)e^u - \partial_z(c^{-1} \bar{\phi}) + \partial_{\bar{z}}(c^{-1} \phi) \\ &\quad - \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}}(\log c + u) = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{4.12}$$

$$(\bar{c}^{-1} - c^{-1})(e^u \bar{\phi}^2 - \bar{Q} \phi) - e^u \bar{\phi} \partial_{\bar{z}} \log |c|^2 + e^u (\partial_{\bar{z}} \bar{\phi} - \bar{\phi} \partial_{\bar{z}} u) + \partial_{\bar{z}} Q = 0. \tag{4.13}$$

As pointed out in (1) in Remark 4.2, the functions u, c, ϕ and Q are independent of the choice of a lift f . On the other hand, the function ρ depends on the choice of a lift.

Proposition 4.3. *By choosing a lift f properly, the function ρ can be made to satisfy the condition*

$$\partial_{\bar{z}} \rho = H c e^u. \tag{4.14}$$

In this case, we denote it by ρ_0 instead of ρ .

Proof. Let ρ_0 as in (4.14). Then the compatibility condition (4.11) is equivalent to

$$(\rho_0 - \rho)_{\bar{z}} - \overline{(\rho_0 - \rho)_z} = 0.$$

Therefore, the 1-form

$$\Omega = \left\{ (\rho_0 - \rho)dz + \overline{(\rho_0 - \rho)_z}d\bar{z} \right\}$$

is a real-closed 1-form. Let $\delta : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ denote a solution to $d\delta = \Omega$. Now the new lift $\tilde{f} = e^{\delta}f$ satisfies $\tilde{\rho} = \rho_0$. \square

We now gauge the frames $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}^*$ to:

$$\mathcal{F} = \tilde{\mathcal{F}}D, \quad \mathcal{F}^* = \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^*D, \tag{4.15}$$

with

$$D = \tilde{D}^{-1/2} \operatorname{diag}(1, 1, i) = \begin{pmatrix} (Hc)^{-1/2}e^{-u/2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (H\bar{c})^{-1/2}e^{-u/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & i \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then a straightforward computation shows that the Maurer–Cartan form of \mathcal{F} can be computed as

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}d\mathcal{F} := U_z dz + U_{\bar{z}} d\bar{z},$$

with

$$\begin{cases} U_z = \begin{pmatrix} \rho + \frac{1}{2}\partial_z u + \frac{1}{2}\partial_z \log c + c^{-1}\bar{\phi} & |c|^{-1}\bar{\phi} & i(Hc)^{1/2}e^{u/2} \\ |c|^{-1}e^{-u}HQ & \rho - \frac{1}{2}\partial_z u - \frac{1}{2}\partial_z \log \bar{c} + \bar{c}^{-1}\phi & 0 \\ 0 & i(H\bar{c})^{1/2}e^{u/2} & \rho \end{pmatrix}, \\ U_{\bar{z}} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\rho} - \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} u - \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} \log c + c^{-1}\bar{\phi} & |c|^{-1}e^{-u}H\bar{Q} & 0 \\ |c|^{-1}\phi & \bar{\rho} + \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} u + \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} \log \bar{c} + \bar{c}^{-1}\bar{\phi} & i(H\bar{c})^{1/2}e^{u/2} \\ i(Hc)^{1/2}e^{u/2} & 0 & \bar{\rho} \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases} \tag{4.16}$$

We now summarize the above discussion as the following theorem.

Theorem 4.4 (Fundamental Theorem of definite surfaces in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$). *Let $f : M^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^2$ be a liftable immersion and $\mathfrak{f} : M^2 \rightarrow S^5_3$ a lift. Let $g = 2He^u dzd\bar{z}$, ($H \in \{-1, 1\}$) denote the induced metric, $\theta : M^2 \rightarrow (0, \pi)$ the para-Kähler angle, Qdz^3 the cubic form, ϕdz the mean curvature form. Set c by $c = 1 + i \tan(\theta - \pi/2)$ and ρ by (4.1). Then (4.11), (4.12), and (4.13) are satisfied.*

Conversely let $g = 2He^u dzd\bar{z}$, ($H \in \{-1, 1\}$) be a positive or negative definite metric on a simply connected Riemann surface \mathbb{D} . Let $\theta : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow (0, \pi)$ be a real valued function and ϕdz and Qdz^3 be a 1-form and a 3-form, respectively. Set c by $c = 1 + i \tan(\theta - \pi/2)$ and ρ by (4.11). If these data satisfy (4.12) and (4.13), then there exists an immersion $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^2$ which has invariants stated as above and is unique up to isometries of $\mathbb{C}'P^2$.

4.2. Lagrangian Surface Immersions

In this section we specify our results to the case of Lagrangian surface immersions into $\mathbb{C}'P^2$. If the immersion f is Lagrangian, then $\omega = 0$, $h = g$, and $C = \nabla g$ is totally symmetric. The converse implication also holds.

Lemma 4.5. *Let $f : M^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^2$ be a non-degenerate surface immersion with totally symmetric cubic form. Then f is Lagrangian.*

Proof. The condition that C is totally symmetric is equivalent to the condition $\nabla\omega = 0$. Suppose for the sake of contradiction that ω does not vanish on some neighbourhood $U \subset M$. Then ∇ preserves a non-trivial volume form on U and is equi-affine. This implies that its Ricci tensor is symmetric [13, Proposition I.3.1]. But then (2.5) implies $\omega = 0$, leading to a contradiction. \square

The Lagrangian condition $\omega = 0$, or equivalently $b = 0$, has the implication

$$c = 1.$$

The compatibility condition (4.11) becomes $\text{Im } \partial_{\bar{z}}\rho = 0$. It is equivalent to the form ψ to be closed. Since M is simply connected, there exists a real potential v such that $\psi = dv$, or $\rho = \partial_z v$. By an appropriate scaling of the lift \mathfrak{f} of f into S_3^5 we may choose v equal to any desired smooth real function. In particular, we may achieve

$$\rho = 0$$

by an appropriate choice of the lift. Such a lift is *horizontal* in the sense of Definition 2.3. In this case the lift \mathfrak{f} defines a dual pair of centro-affine immersions x, χ into \mathbb{R}^3 and \mathbb{R}_3 , respectively, whose metric coincides with g and whose centro-affine connection coincides with ∇ [2, Theorem 4.1].

Conditions (4.12) and (4.13) simplify to

$$\begin{cases} \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} u - |\phi|^2 + e^{-2u} |Q|^2 + H e^u = \partial_{\bar{z}} \phi - \partial_z \bar{\phi}, \\ e^u (\partial_{\bar{z}} \bar{\phi} - \bar{\phi} \partial_{\bar{z}} u) + \partial_{\bar{z}} Q = 0. \end{cases}$$

The left-hand side in the first equation is real, while the right-hand side is imaginary. Hence both sides must equal zero, and we have

$$\begin{cases} -\partial_z \bar{\phi} + \partial_{\bar{z}} \phi = 0, \\ \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} u - |\phi|^2 + e^{-2u} |Q|^2 + H e^u = 0, \\ e^u (\partial_{\bar{z}} \bar{\phi} - \bar{\phi} \partial_{\bar{z}} u) + \partial_{\bar{z}} Q = 0. \end{cases} \tag{4.17}$$

The Maurer–Cartan forms (4.16) simplify to

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{U}_z &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}\partial_z u + \phi & \bar{\phi} & iH^{1/2}e^{u/2} \\ e^{-u}HQ & -\frac{1}{2}\partial_z u + \phi & 0 \\ 0 & iH^{1/2}e^{u/2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\
 \mathcal{U}_{\bar{z}} &= \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} u + \bar{\phi} & e^{-u}H\bar{Q} & 0 \\ \phi & \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} u + \bar{\phi} & iH^{1/2}e^{u/2} \\ iH^{1/2}e^{u/2} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{4.18}
 \end{aligned}$$

Remark 4.6. From $-\partial_z \bar{\phi} + \partial_{\bar{z}} \phi = 0$ the 1-form $\phi dz + \bar{\phi} d\bar{z}$ is closed, or equivalently the Tchebycheff form T is closed for a Lagrangian immersion f .

4.3. Minimal Surface Immersions

In this section we specify our results to minimal surface immersions into $\mathbb{C}P^2$.

By Corollary 3.2 the immersion f is minimal if and only if the Tchebycheff form T vanishes if and only if the function ϕ vanishes. Setting $\phi = 0$ in the compatibility condition (4.13) gives $\partial_{\bar{z}}Q = 0$, and Q is a holomorphic function. Setting $\phi = 0$ in (4.12) gives

$$-|c|^{-2}e^{-2u}|Q|^2 - \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} u = \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}}(\log c) - H(\bar{c} - 2c)e^u.$$

The left-hand side of the equation is real, and so must be the right-hand side. Therefore we have an additional equation for the para-Kähler angle θ in (4.2),

$$\partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} \theta = 3He^u \cot \theta.$$

The Maurer–Cartan form can be simplified to

$$\begin{cases}
 \mathcal{U}_z = \begin{pmatrix} \rho + \frac{1}{2}\partial_z u + \frac{1}{2}\partial_z \log c & 0 & i(Hc)^{1/2}e^{u/2} \\ |c|^{-1}e^{-u}HQ & \rho - \frac{1}{2}\partial_z u - \frac{1}{2}\partial_z \log \bar{c} & 0 \\ 0 & i(H\bar{c})^{1/2}e^{u/2} & \rho \end{pmatrix}, \\
 \mathcal{U}_{\bar{z}} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\rho} - \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} u - \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} \log c & |c|^{-1}e^{-u}H\bar{Q} & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{\rho} + \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} u + \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}} \log \bar{c} & i(H\bar{c})^{1/2}e^{u/2} \\ i(Hc)^{1/2}e^{u/2} & 0 & \bar{\rho} \end{pmatrix}.
 \end{cases} \tag{4.19}$$

4.4. Minimal Lagrangian Surface Immersions

Combining Sect. 4.2 and Sect. 4.3, we obtain the following equations for a definite minimal Lagrangian surface immersion in $\mathbb{C}P^2$:

$$\begin{cases}
 \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} u + e^{-2u}|Q|^2 + He^u = 0, \\
 \partial_{\bar{z}} Q = 0.
 \end{cases} \tag{4.20}$$

Moreover, the Maurer–Cartan form can be simplified to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{U}_z &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}\partial_z u & 0 & iH^{1/2}e^{u/2} \\ e^{-u}HQ & -\frac{1}{2}\partial_z u & 0 \\ 0 & iH^{1/2}e^{u/2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathcal{U}_{\bar{z}} &= \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}}u & e^{-u}H\bar{Q} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\bar{z}}u & iH^{1/2}e^{u/2} \\ iH^{1/2}e^{u/2} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{4.21}$$

The first equation in (4.20) is known as the *Tzitzéica equation* and the Maurer–Cartan form is identical to that of [14, Section 4.4 with the spectral parameter $\lambda = \pm 1$]. Therefore it is easy to see that

Theorem 4.7. *A definite minimal Lagrangian immersion in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$ defines a definite proper affine sphere in \mathbb{R}^3 and vice versa.*

5. Primitive Maps and Immersions with Special Properties

In this section we characterize surface immersions in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$ with special properties (minimal, Lagrangian or minimal Lagrangian surfaces) in terms of *primitive harmonic maps*. Since the results in this section are an adaptation the results of [9] to the case of surface immersions into $\mathbb{C}'P^2$, we will omit detailed proofs, and refer to Appendix B.

5.1. The Real Form τ

It is easy to see that the determinant of the moving frame \mathcal{F} in (4.15) can be computed as

$$\det \mathcal{F} = iH^{-1}|c|^{-1}e^{-u} \det \tilde{\mathcal{F}} = 2H^{-1}|c|^{-1}e^{-u} \det(\xi_1, \xi_2, x),$$

where ξ_1 and ξ_2 are real-valued vectors as in (2.12). Therefore $\det \mathcal{F}$ takes values in $i\mathbb{R}^\times$. Let us denote $\det \mathcal{F}$ by δ with a non-vanishing real function δ . Then, it is also easy to see that $\det \mathcal{F}^* = \delta^{-1}$.

As discussed in Remark 4.2, if we change a lift (x, χ) to $(\delta^{1/3}x, \delta^{-1/3}\chi)$, then the real-vectors ξ_1, ξ_2, η_1 , and η_2 change accordingly to $\delta^{1/3}\xi_1, \delta^{1/3}\xi_2, \delta^{-1/3}\eta_1$, and $\delta^{-1/3}\eta_2$, respectively. Then $\det \mathcal{F} = \det \mathcal{F}^* = 1$ in this particular lift. Therefore we have the following.

Lemma 5.1. *Choosing the initial condition of \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{F}^* properly, the gauged moving frames*

$$\text{Ad}(R_H)(\mathcal{F}) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Ad}(R_H^{-T})(\mathcal{F}^*), \quad \text{with} \quad R_H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{-H} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{5.1}$$

take values in $SL_3\mathbb{R}$.

Remark 5.2. The function ρ in (4.1) of the lift \mathfrak{f} such that $\det \mathcal{F} = 1$ cannot satisfy (4.14) in general. In the following, we normalize a lift \mathfrak{f} such that the frame \mathcal{F} satisfies $\det \mathcal{F} = 1$, and we do not assume (4.14).

We define a real Lie group

$$\{A \mid \text{Ad}(R_H)(A) \in \text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}, \text{ where } R_H \text{ is defined in (5.1)}\}, \tag{5.2}$$

which is isomorphic to the standard $\text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}$, and we denote it by $\text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$. More explicitly, the Lie group $\text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ in (5.2) can be represented by

$$\text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H = \left\{ A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & \sqrt{-H}c \\ \bar{b} & \bar{a} & \sqrt{-H}\bar{c} \\ \sqrt{-H}d & \sqrt{-H}\bar{d} & e \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d, e \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and } \det A = 1 \right\}. \tag{5.3}$$

The Lie algebra of the above $\text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$, which is isomorphic to the standard Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{R}$, can be represented by

$$\mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{R}^H = \left\{ A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & \sqrt{-H}c \\ \bar{b} & \bar{a} & \sqrt{-H}\bar{c} \\ \sqrt{-H}d & \sqrt{-H}\bar{d} & e \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d, e \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and } \text{tr } A = 0 \right\}.$$

Therefore without loss of generality the moving frame \mathcal{F} (and \mathcal{F}^*) of an immersion $f : M^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^2$ takes values in $\text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$. In the following consideration, we always assume this. Moreover, one can think $\mathfrak{g}^{\mathbb{R}} = \mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ as the real form of $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{C}$ given by the anti-linear involution

$$\tau(X) = \text{Ad}(P_H)\bar{X}, \quad X \in \mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{C}, \quad P_H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -H \end{pmatrix}. \tag{5.4}$$

Note that P_H is given by

$$R_H^T R_H = P_H.$$

We consider the anti-linear involution τ^G on the group level $G = \text{SL}_3\mathbb{C}$ as

$$\tau^G(g) = \text{Ad}(P_H)(\bar{g}), \quad g \in \text{SL}_3\mathbb{C}. \tag{5.5}$$

By abuse of notation we will also write τ^G by τ .

5.2. Primitive Maps and Immersions with Special Properties

We now consider the order 6 outer automorphism σ on $\mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{C}$ is given by

$$\sigma_H(X) = -P_H^\epsilon X^T P_H^\epsilon, \quad \text{where } P_H^\epsilon = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \epsilon^2 & 0 \\ \epsilon^4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -H \end{pmatrix} \tag{5.6}$$

with $\epsilon = e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}}$. Note that

$$P_H^\epsilon = \text{diag}(\epsilon^2, \epsilon^4, 1)P_H,$$

and σ_H with $H = -1$ has been used in [9, 14, 15]. It is easy to see that σ_H commutes with τ and thus σ_H defines a k -symmetric space with $k = 6$, see Definition B.1. Moreover, instead of σ_H , one can use σ_H^2 and σ_H^3 , which are the order 3 and 2 automorphisms on $\mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{C}$, and there are corresponding k -symmetric spaces with $k = 3$ and 2, respectively. Then one can introduce the primitive harmonic into a k -symmetric space relative to σ_H , σ_H^2 and σ_H^3 , respectively, see Definition B.2. The following characterizations of surface immersions with special properties in terms of primitive harmonic maps are verbatim to the case of those of $\mathbb{C}P^2$, [9, Theorem 2.4], thus we will omit the proof.

Theorem 5.3. *Let $G = \mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{C}$ and $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{C}$ its Lie algebra. Let τ denote the real form involution of G singling out $G^{\mathbb{R}} = \mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ in G and let $\sigma_H = \sigma_H^G$ be the automorphism of order 6 of G given by $\sigma_H(g) = P_H^\epsilon(g^T)^{-1}P_H^\epsilon$ in (5.6). Assume moreover, that \mathfrak{f} is the lift of a liftable immersion f into $\mathbb{C}'P^2$ and with frame \mathcal{F} in $G^{\mathbb{R}}$. Then the following statements hold:*

- (1) \mathcal{F} is primitive harmonic relative to σ_H if and only if f is minimal Lagrangian in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$.
- (2) \mathcal{F} is primitive harmonic relative to σ_H^2 if and only if f is minimal in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$.
- (3) \mathcal{F} is primitive harmonic relative to σ_H^3 if and only if either f is minimal Lagrangian or f is flat homogeneous in $\mathbb{C}'P^2$.

6. Ruh–Vilms Type Theorems

In the following sections, we use the para-hermitian inner product of the 3-dimensional para-complex vector space \mathbb{C}'^3 with a para-Hermitian form

$$\langle u, v \rangle_h = u^{*T} P_H v, \tag{6.1}$$

where $*$ denotes the para-complex conjugate of a paracomplex vector in \mathbb{C}'^3 , and P_H is defined in (5.4), see also Appendix A.1.1.

Remark 6.1. The para-Hermitian form (6.1) is invariant under the Lie group $\mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ defined in (5.3). It is different from the standard para-Hermitian inner product in (A.5), but they are isomorphic. The para-Hermitian form in (6.1) is suitable for Ruh–Vilms type theorems.

The 3-dimensional para-complex vector space \mathbb{C}'^3 is a symplectic vector space with the symplectic form $\omega = -\Im \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_h$.

In [9, Section 3], three 6-symmetric spaces of dimension 7 which are bundles over S^5 were defined, which were FL_1 , FL_2 and FL_3 . We will analogously define bundles over S_3^5 , which will be denoted by FL_1^H , FL_2^H and FL_3^H , respectively. A detailed construction can be found in Appendix C.

6.1. Projections from Various Bundles

A family of (real) oriented Lagrangian subspaces of \mathbb{C}'^3 forms a submanifold of the manifold of real Grassmannian 3-spaces of \mathbb{C}'^3 , which will be called the *Grassmannian manifold* of oriented Lagrangian subspaces and will be denoted by $L_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$. It is easy to see that $L_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ can be represented as the homogeneous space $GL_3\mathbb{R}^H/O_3^H$. In particular the orbit of $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ through the point $e \in SO_3^H$ will be called the *special Lagrangian Grassmannian* and it will be denoted by $SL_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$. It is also easy to see that it can be represented as a homogeneous space

$$SL_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3) = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/SO_3^H,$$

see Proposition C.1. We now define two bundles over S_3^5 :

$$FL_1^H = \{(v, V) \mid v \in S_3^5, v \in V, V \in SL_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)\},$$

$$FL_2^H = \left\{ (w, \mathcal{W}) \mid \begin{array}{l} w \in S_3^5, \mathcal{W} \text{ is a special regular para-complex} \\ \text{flag over } w \text{ in } \mathbb{C}'^3 \text{ satisfying } W_1 = \mathbb{C}'w \end{array} \right\}.$$

Moreover, we define

$$FL_3^H = \left\{ UP_H^\epsilon U^T \mid U \in SL_3\mathbb{R}^H \text{ and } P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \epsilon^2 & 0 \\ \epsilon^4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -H \end{pmatrix} \right\},$$

where $\epsilon = e^{\pi i/3}$. Then $FL_j^H (j = 1, 2, 3)$ are mutually equivariantly diffeomorphic 6-symmetric spaces relative to σ_H , and they are 7-dimensional.

$$FL_1^H \cong FL_2^H \cong FL_3^H = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/SO_2,$$

see Theorem C.3. There are natural projections from $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$:

$$\pi_j : SL_3\mathbb{R}^H \rightarrow FL_j^H, \quad (j = 1, 2, 3).$$

We now further define three spaces:

$$Fl_2^H = \{\mathcal{W} \mid \mathcal{W} \text{ is a regular para-complex flag in } \mathbb{C}'^3\},$$

and

$$\widetilde{Fl}_2^H = \{U(P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T)U^{-1} \mid U \in SL_3\mathbb{R}^H\},$$

$$\widetilde{SL}_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3) = \{U(P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T P_H^\epsilon)U^T \mid U \in SL_3\mathbb{R}^H\}.$$

It is easy to see that

$$SL_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}') = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/SO_3^H, \quad \widetilde{SL}_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3) = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/SO_3^H,$$

and thus the spaces $SL_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ and $\widetilde{SL}_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ are naturally equivariantly diffeomorphic, that is, there exists a diffeomorphism $\phi : SL_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3) \rightarrow \widetilde{SL}_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ such that $\phi(g.x) = g.\phi(p)$ for $g \in SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ and $p \in SL_{\text{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}')$. symmetric spaces relative to σ_H^3 , and they are 5-dimensional, see Appendix C.

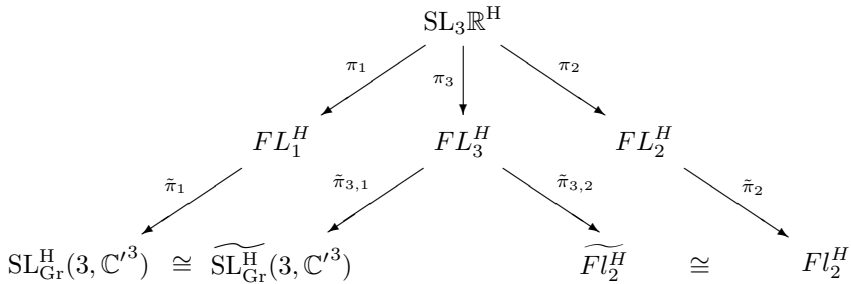
It is also easy to see that

$$Fl_2^H = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/D_3, \quad \widetilde{Fl}_2^H = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/D_3,$$

and the spaces Fl_2^H and \widetilde{Fl}_2^H are naturally equivariantly diffeomorphic 3-symmetric spaces relative to σ_H^2 , and they are 6-dimensional, see again Appendix C. There are further natural projections:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\pi}_1 : FL_1^H &\rightarrow SL_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3), & \tilde{\pi}_{3,1} : FL_2^H &\rightarrow \widetilde{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3), \\ \tilde{\pi}_2 : FL_2^H &\rightarrow Fl_2^H, & \tilde{\pi}_{3,2} : FL_3^H &\rightarrow \widetilde{Fl}_2^H. \end{aligned}$$

Schematically, we have the following diagram:



(6.2)

6.2. Ruh–Vilms Type Theorems Associated with the Gauss Maps

We will define three Gauss maps taking values in the various bundles given in the previous subsection for any liftable immersion $f : M^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^2$ with M^2 a Riemann surface.

We assume from now on $M^2 = \mathbb{D}$, and that f is a special lift of f . Then we define the frame $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow GL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ as in Lemma 5.1 such that $\det \mathcal{F} = 1$, that is,

$$\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow SL_3\mathbb{R}^H. \tag{6.3}$$

The frame \mathcal{F} will be called the *normalized frame*. Note that the function ρ has been chosen now as in Remark 5.2 and will generally not coincide with ρ_0 as in Proposition 4.3.

Definition 6.2. Let $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ be the normalized frame and $\pi_i (i = 1, 2, 3)$, $\tilde{\pi}_i, \tilde{\pi}_{3,i} (i = 1, 2)$ be the projections given in (6.2). Then the maps

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{G}_j = \pi_j \circ \mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow FL_j^H & (j = 1, 2, 3), \\ \mathcal{H}_1 = \tilde{\pi}_1 \circ \pi_1 \circ \mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}_{\mathrm{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3), \\ \mathcal{H}_2 = \tilde{\pi}_2 \circ \pi_2 \circ \mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow Fl_2^H, \\ \mathcal{H}_{3,1} = \tilde{\pi}_{3,1} \circ \pi_3 \circ \mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_{\mathrm{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3), \\ \mathcal{H}_{3,2} = \tilde{\pi}_{3,2} \circ \pi_3 \circ \mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \widetilde{Fl}_2^H, \end{cases} \tag{6.4}$$

will be called the *Gauss maps* of f .

We finally arrive at Ruh–Vilms type theorems, which is an exact analogue to Theorem 3.6 in [9].

Theorem 6.3 (Ruh–Vilms theorems for σ_H, σ_H^2 and σ_H^3). *With the notation used above we consider any liftable immersion into $\mathbb{C}'P^2$ and the Gauss maps defined in (6.4). Then the following statements hold:*

- (1) $\mathcal{G}_j (j = 1, 2, 3)$ is primitive harmonic map into FL_j^H if and only if \mathcal{F} is primitive harmonic relative to σ_H if and only if the corresponding surface is a minimal Lagrangian immersion into $\mathbb{C}'P^2$.
- (2) \mathcal{H}_2 or $\mathcal{H}_{3,2}$ is primitive harmonic in Fl_2^H or \widetilde{Fl}_2^H if and only if \mathcal{F} is primitive harmonic relative to σ_H^2 if and only if the corresponding surface is a minimal immersion into $\mathbb{C}'P^2$.
- (3) \mathcal{H}_1 or $\mathcal{H}_{3,1}$ is primitive harmonic map into $\mathrm{SL}_{\mathrm{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ or $\widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_{\mathrm{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ if and only if \mathcal{F} is primitive harmonic relative to σ_H^3 if and only if the corresponding surface is either a minimal Lagrangian immersion or a flat homogeneous immersion into $\mathbb{C}'P^2$.

Proof. The first equivalence in (1) is a consequence of the definition of primitive harmonicity into a k -symmetric space, and the second equivalence in (1) has been stated in Theorem 5.3. The proofs for (2) and (3) are similar. □

Funding This work supported by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science London grant number (JP22K03304) and Professor Shimpei Kobayashi.

Data Availability Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors state that there is no Conflict of interest.

7 Appendix

A. Basic Results for $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ and S_{n+1}^{2n+1}

A.1. The Manifold S_{n+1}^{2n+1}

A.1.1. Para-Complex Vector Space. Let us briefly recall the n -dimensional *para-complex vector space* $(\mathbb{C}')^n$, see [16, 17]: First define a commutative and associative multiplication “ \cdot ” on \mathbb{R}^2 by

$$(x, y) \cdot (\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) = (x\tilde{x} + y\tilde{y}, x\tilde{y} + y\tilde{x}), \quad (\text{A.1})$$

for $(x, y), (\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Then $(1, 0) =: 1$ is the unit element. Choosing $i' = (0, 1)$, $(i')^2 = 1$ follows, and it is called the *para-imaginary unit*. Then the *para-complex numbers* \mathbb{C}' are defined by

$$\mathbb{C}' = \mathbb{R} + i'\mathbb{R} = \{x + i'y \mid x, y \in \mathbb{R}\}, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

and the multiplication on \mathbb{C}' is given by

$$zw = x\tilde{x} + y\tilde{y} + i'(x\tilde{y} + y\tilde{x}), \quad z = x + i'y, \quad w = \tilde{x} + i'\tilde{y}. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Note that i' corresponds to the *para-complex structure* J' on \mathbb{R}^2 given by

$$J' : (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto (y, x) \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Then the *para-complex conjugation* z^* of $z = x + i'y \in \mathbb{C}'$ is defined by $z^* = x - i'y \in \mathbb{C}'$, the real and imaginary parts of z are defined by x and y , respectively. Note that $(zw)^* = z^*w^*$. The *natural scalar product* of \mathbb{C}' is defined by

$$\langle z, w \rangle_h = z^*w. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

This is a *para-Hermitian form*, that is, it is \mathbb{C}' -antilinear in the first component and \mathbb{C}' -linear in the second component, respectively, and $\langle w, z \rangle_h = \langle z, w \rangle_h^*$ holds. Note that $\langle z, z \rangle_h$ takes values in \mathbb{R} and $\langle z, z \rangle_h = 0$ if and only if $z = a \pm i'a$ for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$. The set of invertible elements will be denoted by $(\mathbb{C}')^\times$ and any element $z \in \mathbb{C}'$ such that $\langle z, z \rangle_h \neq 0$ is obviously invertible, and we have $z^{-1} = z^*/\langle z, z \rangle_h$.

The n -dimensional para-complex vector space $(\mathbb{C}')^n$ is the n -fold direct product of \mathbb{C}' . The para-Hermitian form of $(\mathbb{C}')^n$ is defined by

$$\langle u, v \rangle_h = u^{*T}v, \quad u, v \in (\mathbb{C}')^n. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

It is invariant under the transformation

$$(\mathbb{C}')^n \ni u \mapsto \left(\frac{1+i'}{2}A + \frac{1-i'}{2}A^{-T} \right) u \in (\mathbb{C}')^n, \quad A \in \text{GL}_n\mathbb{R}.$$

It induces the pseudo-Riemannian metric g with signature (n, n) and the para-Hermitian form ω on $(\mathbb{C}')^n$ as

$$g(u, v) = \Re \langle u, v \rangle_h \quad \text{and} \quad \omega(u, v) = -\Im \langle u, v \rangle_h, \quad (\text{A.6})$$

respectively. The (extension of the) para-complex structure J' (to $(\mathbb{C}')^n$) is clearly parallel with respect to the Levi-Civita connection (relative to g), and

it is also clear that $g(i'u, v) = \omega(u, v)$ and $g(i'u, i'v) = -g(u, v)$ hold. Thus $(\mathbb{C}')^n$ is a para-Hermitian manifold. Moreover, ω is closed and thus it is a symplectic form and $(\mathbb{C}')^n$ is a para-Kähler manifold. For more details on para-complex manifolds see [17].

A.1.2. The Geometry of S_{n+1}^{2n+1} . From Sect. 2.2 we recall the definition of S_{n+1}^{2n+1} ,

$$S_{n+1}^{2n+1} = \{ (x, \chi) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1} \mid \langle x, \chi \rangle = 1 \},$$

where \mathbb{R}^{n+1} denotes the usual $n+1$ -dimensional Euclidean space, \mathbb{R}_{n+1} its dual vector space and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ the natural pairing. Since the function $h(x, \chi) = \langle x, \chi \rangle - 1$ has only regular values, we obtain that S_{n+1}^{2n+1} is an embedded submanifold of $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1}$.

It is straightforward to verify that the tangent space $T_{(x, \chi)} S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ of S_{n+1}^{2n+1} can be realized by pairs of vectors $(\hat{\mathcal{X}}, \hat{\mathcal{X}}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1}$ satisfying

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{X}}, \chi \rangle + \langle x, \hat{\mathcal{X}} \rangle = 0. \tag{A.7}$$

To rephrase S_{n+1}^{2n+1} by the para complex number (z) , we now introduce the natural standard inner product on \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , i.e. $\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} x_i y_i$ for $x = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} x_i e_i, y = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} y_i e_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, and using it we identify \mathbb{R}^{n+1} with \mathbb{R}_{n+1} . This identification then also induces the standard inner product on \mathbb{R}_{n+1} . As a consequence of this we will replace “ \mathbb{R}_{n+1} ” by \mathbb{R}^{n+1} from here on. But to indicate to which space a vector belongs we will continue to use latin letters x, y, \dots for the first component and Greek letters for the second component.

Then the real coordinates (x, χ) and the para-complex coordinates (z) can be identified by

$$(x, \chi) \iff z = \frac{x + \chi}{2} + i' \frac{x - \chi}{2} = \frac{1 + i'}{2} x + \frac{1 - i'}{2} \chi. \tag{A.8}$$

It is easy to see that $\langle x, \chi \rangle = \langle z, z \rangle_h$ under the above identification. More generally, the para-Hermitian form (A.5) for the vectors $z = \frac{1}{2}(x + \chi + i'(x - \chi))$ and $w = \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{x} + \tilde{\chi} + i'(\tilde{x} - \tilde{\chi}))$ can be computed as

$$\langle z, w \rangle_h = \frac{1}{2} \{ \langle x, \tilde{\chi} \rangle + \langle \tilde{x}, \chi \rangle + i' (-\langle x, \tilde{\chi} \rangle + \langle \tilde{x}, \chi \rangle) \}.$$

Using the para-complex numbers \mathbb{C}' for the description of S_{n+1}^{2n+1} we obtain

$$S_{n+1}^{2n+1} = \{ z \in (\mathbb{C}')^{n+1} \mid \langle z, z \rangle_h = 1 \}$$

and the tangent space $T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ to S_{n+1}^{2n+1} at the point $z \in (\mathbb{C}')^{n+1}$ can be realized by the vectors $\hat{w} \in (\mathbb{C}')^{n+1}$ satisfying

$$\Re \langle \hat{w}, z \rangle_h = 0. \tag{A.9}$$

Proposition A.1. *Retaining the notation introduced above we have the following:*

- (1) *The set S_{n+1}^{2n+1} is an embedded $2n+1$ -dimensional submanifold of $(\mathbb{C}')^{n+1} = \mathbb{R}^{2n+2}$.*
- (2) *The manifold S_{n+1}^{2n+1} is a contact manifold defined by the contact 1-form on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} :*

$$\zeta(z) = \Im \langle z, \cdot \rangle_h. \tag{A.10}$$

- (3) *The Reeb vector field \mathcal{R} for the contact manifold S_{n+1}^{2n+1} with contact 1-form ζ is given by*

$$\mathcal{R}(z) = i'z.$$

We also have the following properties on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} .

Lemma A.2. *Let \hat{g} be the pseudo-Riemannian metric on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} induced from g defined by (A.6) on $(\mathbb{C}')^{n+1}$. Then the following statements hold:*

- (1) *For two tangent vectors $\hat{v}, \hat{w} \in T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$, we have*

$$\hat{g}(\hat{v}, \hat{w}) = \Re \langle \hat{v}, \hat{w} \rangle_h. \tag{A.11}$$

In real coordinates (x, χ) , for tangent vectors $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}), (\hat{\mathfrak{Y}}, \hat{\mathfrak{Y}}) \in T_{(x, \chi)} S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$

$$\hat{g}((\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}), (\hat{\mathfrak{Y}}, \hat{\mathfrak{Y}})) = \frac{1}{2}(\langle \hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{Y}} \rangle + \langle \hat{\mathfrak{Y}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}} \rangle). \tag{A.12}$$

- (2) *For an arbitrary vector $\hat{w} \in T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$, the para-complex structure \hat{J}' of $(\mathbb{C}')^{n+1}$ naturally acts on \hat{w} as*

$$\hat{J}'\hat{w} = i'\hat{w}. \tag{A.13}$$

For a real tangent vector $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}) \in T_{(x, \chi)} S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$, \hat{J}' acts as

$$\hat{J}'(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}) = (\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, -\hat{\mathfrak{X}}). \tag{A.14}$$

A.2. The Space $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ and the Fibration $\pi_{\mathcal{H}} : S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^n$

A.2.1. The Basic Fibration. We recall the para-Kähler complex projective space

$$\mathbb{C}'P^n = \{([x], [\chi]) \in \mathbb{R}P^n \times \mathbb{R}P_n \mid \langle x, \chi \rangle > 0\},$$

defined in (2.1),⁴ where $\mathbb{R}P^n$ is the n -dimensional real projective space, $\mathbb{R}P_n$ is the projective space of the dual space \mathbb{R}_{n+1} of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , sometimes also called the “dual real projective space”. Note that the equivalence class of an element in $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ can be defined as follows: Set

$$(\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1})^+ = \{(x, \chi) \mid \langle x, \chi \rangle > 0\}.$$

⁴The original definition is $[x] \not\sim [\chi]$.

Then the quotient is defined as follows: $(\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1})^+ \ni (x, \chi) \sim (\tilde{x}, \tilde{\chi}) \in (\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1})^+$ iff there exists a pair $(p, q) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+$ or $(p, q) \in \mathbb{R}_- \times \mathbb{R}_-$ such that $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\chi}) = (px, q\chi)$. Thus

$$\mathbb{C}'P^n = (\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1})^+ / \sim .$$

By using the correspondence between real and para-complex coordinates as stated in (A.8), we can write $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ in the form

$$\mathbb{C}'P^n = \{ [z] \mid z \in (\mathbb{C}')^{n+1}, \langle z, z \rangle_h > 0 \}, \tag{A.15}$$

where $[z]$ denotes an equivalence class defined as follows. Two elements $w, z \in (\mathbb{C}')^{n+1}$ satisfying $\langle z, z \rangle_h > 0, \langle w, w \rangle_h > 0$ are equivalent, $z \sim w$, if and only if there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}'$ such that $z = \lambda w$. Note that then automatically $\langle \lambda, \lambda \rangle_h > 0$. It is easy to verify that the elements $[z] \in \mathbb{C}'P^n$ in (A.15) and $([x], [\chi]) \in \mathbb{C}'P^n$ in the original definition in (2.1), respectively, are bijectively related by the equivalence:

$$([x], [\chi]) \iff [z] = \left[\frac{x + \chi}{2} + i' \frac{x - \chi}{2} \right].$$

In fact, if $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\chi}) = (px, q\chi) \in (\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1})^+$ for some $(p, q) \in \mathbb{R}^\pm \times \mathbb{R}^\pm$, then $\tilde{z} = \lambda z$ by choosing

$$\lambda = \frac{p + q}{2} + i' \frac{p - q}{2} = \frac{1 + i'}{2} p + \frac{1 - i'}{2} q. \tag{A.16}$$

Vice versa, decomposing $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}'$ satisfying $\langle \lambda, \lambda \rangle_h > 0$ as in (A.16), we get $(p, q) \in \mathbb{R}^\pm \times \mathbb{R}^\pm$, and $\tilde{z} = \lambda z$ implies $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\chi}) = (px, q\chi)$. Finally, from Sect. 2.2 we recall the projection map $\pi_{\mathcal{H}} : S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^n, (x, \chi) \mapsto ([x], [\chi])$. By using the para-complex coordinates (z) and the correspondence in (A.8), we easily see that

$$\pi_{\mathcal{H}} : S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^n, \quad z \mapsto [z] \tag{A.17}$$

holds.

A.2.2. The Horizontal and Vertical Distributions. Recall that the tangent space of S_{n+1}^{2n+1} at z is given by $T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1} = \{ \hat{w} \in (\mathbb{C}')^{n+1} \mid \Re \langle \hat{w}, z \rangle_h = 0 \}$. Since the fiber at $[z] \in \mathbb{C}'P^n$ of the fibration $\pi_{\mathcal{H}} : S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^n$ is

$$\{ e^{i't} z \in S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \},$$

where $e^{i't} = \cosh t + i' \sinh t$ and $\langle e^{i't}, e^{i't} \rangle_h = 1$, the kernel of $d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ is the direction of the Reeb vector field $\mathcal{R}(z)$, that is $i'z$. Therefore it is natural to decompose a tangent vector $\hat{w} \in T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ as

$$\hat{w} = (\hat{w} - \langle \hat{w}, z \rangle_h z) + \langle \hat{w}, z \rangle_h z, \tag{A.18}$$

where $\langle \hat{w}, z \rangle_h$ takes imaginary values since $\Re \langle \hat{w}, z \rangle_h = 0$, and $\langle \hat{w} - \langle \hat{w}, z \rangle_h z, z \rangle_h = 0$. We define the *horizontal distribution* by

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_z = \{ \hat{w} \in (\mathbb{C}')^{n+1} \mid \langle \hat{w}, z \rangle_h = 0 \},$$

and on the other hand the vertical distribution by

$$\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z = \mathbb{R}(i'z). \tag{A.19}$$

Thus we have $\widehat{w} \in T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1} = \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z$.

In particular, the vertical distribution is integrable (since it is 1-dimensional), while the horizontal distribution is not integrable. In real coordinates (x, χ) the horizontal and the vertical distribution in the tangent space $T_{(x, \chi)} S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ can be given by

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x, \chi)} &= \{(\widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \widehat{\mathcal{X}}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \mathbb{R}_{n+1} \mid \langle \widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \chi \rangle = 0 \text{ and } \langle x, \widehat{\mathcal{X}} \rangle = 0\}, \\ \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_{(x, \chi)} &= \mathbb{R}(x, -\chi), \end{aligned}$$

which are the same equations as in Sect. 2.2.

Finally we consider a finer decomposition of the tangent space of S_{n+1}^{2n+1} : In view of (A.9) one verifies easily that the horizontal distribution can be decomposed in the form

$$\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z = \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^+ \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^-,$$

where $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^\pm = \{\widehat{w} \pm i'\widehat{w} \mid \widehat{w} \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z\}$. In fact, for every $\widehat{w} \in T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$, that is $\Re\langle z, \widehat{w} \rangle_h = 0$, we have the decomposition

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{w} &= (\widehat{w} - \langle \widehat{w}, z \rangle_h z) + \langle \widehat{w}, z \rangle_h z \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z \\ &= (\widehat{w} - \langle \widehat{w}, z \rangle_h z)_+ + \langle \widehat{w}, z \rangle_h z + (\widehat{w} - \langle \widehat{w}, z \rangle_h z)_- \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^+ \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^-, \end{aligned} \tag{A.20}$$

where $(\widehat{w} - \langle \widehat{w}, z \rangle_h z)_\pm = \frac{1 \pm i'}{2}(\widehat{w} - \langle \widehat{w}, z \rangle_h z)$.

In real coordinates (x, χ) , any tangent vector $(\widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \widehat{\mathcal{X}}) \in T_{(x, \chi)} S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$, that is, $\langle x, \widehat{\mathcal{X}} \rangle = -\langle \widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \chi \rangle$, can be decomposed as

$$\begin{aligned} (\widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \widehat{\mathcal{X}}) &= (\widehat{\mathcal{X}} - \langle \widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \chi \rangle x, \widehat{\mathcal{X}} - \langle x, \widehat{\mathcal{X}} \rangle \chi) + \langle \widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \chi \rangle (x, -\chi) \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x, \chi)} \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_{(x, \chi)}, \\ &= (\widehat{\mathcal{X}} - \langle \widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \chi \rangle x, 0) + \langle \widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \chi \rangle (x, -\chi) + (0, \widehat{\mathcal{X}} \\ &\quad - \langle x, \widehat{\mathcal{X}} \rangle \chi) \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x, \chi)}^+ \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_{(x, \chi)} \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x, \chi)}^-. \end{aligned} \tag{A.21}$$

Let us summarize the above discussion as the following proposition.

Proposition A.3. *Retaining the notation introduced above we obtain:*

- (1) *The projection map $\pi_{\mathcal{H}} : S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$, $(x, \chi) \mapsto ([x], [\chi])$ is a pseudo-Riemannian submersion with vertical distribution $\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z = \mathbb{R}(i'z)$ and horizontal distribution $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z$, $z \in (\mathbb{C}')^{n+1}$. Moreover, the horizontal distribution has the following property:*

For $\widehat{w} \in T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ we have $\widehat{w} \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z$ if and only if $\widehat{J}'\widehat{w} \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z$.

(2) *There are natural decompositions for $T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$*

$$T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1} = \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z = \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^+ \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^-. \tag{A.22}$$

The distributions $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}^\pm$ are n -dimensional distributions in TS_{n+1}^{2n+1} . The subspaces $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^\pm$ are eigenspaces of \hat{J} with eigenvalues 1 and -1 , respectively. Moreover, $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^\pm$ are isotropic and orthogonal to the vertical subspace $\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z$ with respect to the symmetric bilinear form \hat{g} . The restriction of \hat{g} to $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z = \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^+ \oplus \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^-$ is non-degenerate with signature (n, n) .

(3) *The distributions $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^+$, $\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z$, and $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^-$ are integrable.*

Proof. (1): We need to introduce a pseudo-Riemannian metric on $\mathbb{C}P^n$. The manifold S_{n+1}^{2n+1} has a pseudo-Riemannian metric with signature $(n, n+1)$ induced from a natural para-Hermitian form on $(\mathbb{C}')^{n+1}$ of constant curvature. Then it is straightforward to introduce a pseudo-Riemannian metric on $\mathbb{C}P^n$ through the fibration $\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$. Namely, it is induced from the horizontal part $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z$ of $T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$. In fact, the pseudo-Riemannian metric on $\mathbb{C}P^n$ is an indefinite version of the Fubini-Study metric of the projective space $\mathbb{C}P^n$.

Let $z, \tilde{z} \in S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ be such that $\tilde{z} = \lambda z$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}'$, and let $\hat{w} \in T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$. Then $d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ maps $\lambda \hat{w} \in T_{\tilde{z}} S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ to the same vector in $T\mathbb{C}P^n$ as \hat{w} . Moreover, for arbitrary $\hat{v}, \hat{w} \in T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ we have $\hat{g}_z(\hat{v}, \hat{w}) = \hat{g}_{\tilde{z}}(\lambda \hat{v}, \lambda \hat{w})$, because $\langle \lambda, \lambda \rangle_h = 1$. The orthogonal complement $(\ker d\pi_{\mathcal{H}})^\perp$ is exactly the horizontal distribution $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}$, since for $\hat{v} = i'z \in \ker d\pi_{\mathcal{H}} = \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z$ and $\hat{w} \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z$,

$$\hat{g}_z(\hat{v}, \hat{w}) = \Re \langle \hat{v}, \hat{w} \rangle_h = -\Im \langle z, \hat{w} \rangle_h = 0.$$

Therefore $d\pi_{\mathcal{H}} : (\ker d\pi_{\mathcal{H}})^\perp \rightarrow T\mathbb{C}P^n$ is an isometry and $\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ is a pseudo-Riemannian submersion. The second statement is a straightforward computation.

(2): The second statement (2) follows from (A.20) and from the orthogonality relation deduced above.

(3): For $\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z$ this is clear, since the distribution is 1-dimensional. For $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z^\pm$ we obtain as integral manifolds \mathcal{I}_z^\pm through z the sets

$$\mathcal{I}_z^\pm = \{p \in S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \mid z \mp i'z = p \mp i'p\}. \tag{A.23}$$

In real coordinates (x, χ) ,

$$\mathcal{I}_{(x, \chi)}^+ = \{(y, \pi) \in S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \mid \pi = \chi\}, \quad \mathcal{I}_{(x, \chi)}^- = \{(y, \pi) \in S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \mid y = x\}. \tag{A.24}$$

This completes the proof. □

On the other hand, the contact structure on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} induces a natural symplectic structure on the horizontal distribution $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}$.

Proposition A.4. (1) *The differential of the contact form ζ in (A.10) defines a symplectic 2-form on the horizontal distribution $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}$:*

$$\hat{\omega}_z(\hat{v}, \hat{w}) = d\zeta(\hat{v}, \hat{w}) = -\mathfrak{S}\langle \hat{v}, \hat{w} \rangle_h, \quad \hat{v}, \hat{w} \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z$$

For real horizontal vectors $(\widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \widehat{\mathcal{X}}), (\widehat{\mathcal{Y}}, \widehat{\mathcal{Y}}) \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x,\chi)}$,

$$\hat{\omega}_{(x,\chi)}((\widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \widehat{\mathcal{X}}), (\widehat{\mathcal{Y}}, \widehat{\mathcal{Y}})) = \frac{1}{2} (\langle \widehat{\mathcal{X}}, \widehat{\mathcal{Y}} \rangle - \langle \widehat{\mathcal{Y}}, \widehat{\mathcal{X}} \rangle). \quad (\text{A.25})$$

- The form $\hat{\omega}$ is closed and its kernel is given by the vertical subspace $\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_z$.*
 (2) *The covariant derivative with respect to the Levi-Civita connection of \hat{g} of the tensor \hat{J}' , and hence also the form $\hat{\omega}$, in the direction of the vertical subspace vanishes. The same holds for the vector field $i'z$ generating the vertical subspace.*

Proof. The proposition is proven by direct calculation. □

A.3. Homogeneous Structures of S_{n+1}^{2n+1} and $\mathbb{C}P^n$

A.3.1. The Action of $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} . It is clear that the group $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ acts naturally by matrix multiplication on \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . Then the contragredient representation of $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ is given by $g \in SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}, \chi \in \mathbb{R}_{n+1}, u \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$:

$$(g^*\chi)(u) = \chi(g^{-1}u). \quad (\text{A.26})$$

Using these definitions we obtain the following.

Proposition A.5. *Denoting by e_1, \dots, e_{n+1} the natural basis of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} and by δ_j , given by $\delta_j(e_k) = \delta_{jk}$, its dual basis, we have the following:*

- (1) *The manifold S_{n+1}^{2n+1} is a connected homogeneous space under the action of $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ given by*

$$g(u, \chi) = (gu, g^*\chi), \quad (\text{A.27})$$

where u, χ, g are as above.

- (2) *The isotropy group at (e_1, δ_1) of the action just stated is isomorphic to $SL_n\mathbb{R} \cong \{1\} \times SL_n\mathbb{R}$ and thus S_{n+1}^{2n+1} can be written as the homogeneous space*

$$S_{n+1}^{2n+1} = SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}/SL_n\mathbb{R}. \quad (\text{A.28})$$

- (3) *The group $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ acts on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} by isometries and leaves the horizontal distributions $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}^\pm$ and the vertical distribution invariant.*

Proof. (1): First we note that (A.26) implies that $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ leaves S_{n+1}^{2n+1} invariant. Let $(u, \chi) \in S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$, then one can take an element $g \in SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ such that $gu = e_1$. Then one can take another g such that $ge_1 = e_1$ and $g^*\chi = \delta_1$. Thus the action is transitive.

- (2): By the action, the pair (e_1, δ_1) is stabilized exactly by $\text{diag}(1, S)$ with $S \in SL_n\mathbb{R}$. Therefore the stabilizer is $SL_n\mathbb{R} \cong \{1\} \times SL_n\mathbb{R}$.

(3): Since the action of $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ is linear, it acts on the tangent vectors by the same formulas as on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} . Thus the claim follows. \square

Recall that the actions of $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} , on $(\mathbb{C}')^{n+1}$ and all other geometric objects investigated in this paper, are induced naturally from the basic matrix action on \mathbb{R}^{n+1} and the “diagonal action” (g, g^*) , where g^* denotes the contragredient action, see (A.26). Moreover, all natural isomorphisms/diffeomorphisms/isometries occurring in this paper are trivially equivariant relative to the corresponding actions of $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$. Further, wherever applicable, all these actions of $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ commute.

Remark A.6. The center C_{n+1} of $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ is $\pm I$, if n is even and it is I , if n is odd. Moreover, C_{n+1} acts freely and properly on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} .

To discuss the geometry of $\mathbb{C}'P^n$, we will use what was already discussed for S_{n+1}^{2n+1} in the previous sections. As an application of these remarks we show:

Proposition A.7. *Retaining the notation introduced so far, the following statements hold:*

- (1) *The projection map $\pi_{\mathcal{H}} : S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'P^n$, $(x, \chi) \mapsto ([x], [\chi])$, is equivariant relative to the natural action of $SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}$ on S_{n+1}^{2n+1} and the natural action of $PSL_{n+1}\mathbb{R} \cong SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R}/C_{n+1}$ on $\mathbb{C}'P^n$.*
- (2) *Similar to equation (A.28) one can represent $\mathbb{C}'P^n$ in the form*

$$\mathbb{C}'P^n \cong SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R} / \bigcup_{a \in \mathbb{R}^\times} (\{a\} \times (a^*)^{-1}SL_n\mathbb{R}) \tag{A.29}$$

- (2) *The following diagram commutes:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \{1\} \times SL_n\mathbb{R} & \xhookrightarrow{\text{incl}} & \bigcup_{a \in \mathbb{R}^\times} (\{a\} \times (a^*)^{-1}SL_n\mathbb{R}) & & \\ \downarrow \text{incl} & & \downarrow \text{incl} & & \\ SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R} & \xrightarrow{id} & SL_{n+1}\mathbb{R} & \xrightarrow{\text{proj}} & PSL_{n+1}\mathbb{R} \\ \downarrow \text{proj} & & \downarrow \text{proj} & & \downarrow \text{proj} \\ S_{n+1}^{2n+1} & \xrightarrow{\pi_{\mathcal{H}}} & \mathbb{C}'P^n & \xrightarrow{id} & \mathbb{C}'P^n \end{array}$$

Moreover, the fiber of $([x], [\chi])$ under $\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ is $(\pi_{\mathcal{H}})^{-1}([x], [\chi]) = \{(ax, a^{-1}\xi) \mid a \in \mathbb{R}^\times\}$.

A.3.2. The Induced Geometry on $\mathbb{C}P^n$. The discussion about the geometry of S_{n+1}^{2n+1} induces quite directly the basic objects of the geometry of $\mathbb{C}P^n$. We collect these results in the following theorem.

Theorem A.8. *We retain the assumptions and the notation of the previous subsections. Then we obtain:*

- (1) *The differential $d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ induces an isomorphism from the distributions $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}^+$ and $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}^-$ to the image distributions \mathcal{H}^+ and \mathcal{H}^- , where*

$$\mathcal{H}_z^\pm = \{d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}(\hat{w} \pm i' \hat{w}) \mid \hat{w} \in T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}\}.$$

The distributions \mathcal{H}^+ and \mathcal{H}^- are integrable.

- (2) *The projection $\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ induces naturally a non-degenerate pseudo-Riemannian metric g on $\mathbb{C}P^n$ with signature (n, n) such that for all $v, w \in T_{[z]}\mathbb{C}P^n$ with $\hat{v}, \hat{w} \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z \subset T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ and $(d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}(\hat{v}), d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}(\hat{w})) = (v, w)$:*

$$g(v, w) = \hat{g}(\hat{v}, \hat{w}).$$

- (3) *There exists a para-complex structure J' on $\mathbb{C}P^n$ satisfying*

$$d\pi_{\mathcal{H}} \circ \hat{J}' = J' \circ d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}.$$

It has the spaces \mathcal{H}^+ and \mathcal{H}^- as eigenspaces with eigenvalues $+1$ and -1 respectively.

- (4) *The projection $\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ induces naturally a (non-degenerate, closed) symplectic form ω on $\mathbb{C}P^n$ such that for all $v, w \in T_{[z]}\mathbb{C}P^n$ with $\hat{v}, \hat{w} \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_z \subset T_z S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ and $(d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}(\hat{v}), d\pi_{\mathcal{H}}(\hat{w})) = (v, w)$:*

$$\omega(v, w) = \hat{\omega}(\hat{v}, \hat{w}).$$

In particular, we have for all $v, w \in T_{[z]}\mathbb{C}P^n$

$$\omega(v, w) = g(J'v, w) \quad \text{and} \quad g(v, w) = \omega(J'v, w).$$

- (5) *The tensor J' , and hence also ω , are parallel with respect to the Levi-Civita connection of g , and thus $\mathbb{C}P^n$ is a para-Kähler manifold of dimension $2n$.*

Proof of Proposition 2.2. The first statement is just (1) in Proposition A.3. For the second statement, note that the preimages of the tangent vectors $X, Y \in T_{([x], [\chi])}\mathbb{C}P^n$ are $(\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}), (\hat{\mathfrak{Y}}, \hat{\mathfrak{Y}}) \in \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_{(x, \chi)}$, respectively. Then from (4) in Theorem A.8, (A.12), and (A.25) we get

$$\begin{aligned} (g + \omega)(X, Y) &= \hat{g}((\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}), (\hat{\mathfrak{Y}}, \hat{\mathfrak{Y}})) + \hat{\omega}((\hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{X}}), (\hat{\mathfrak{Y}}, \hat{\mathfrak{Y}})) \\ &= \langle \hat{\mathfrak{X}}, \hat{\mathfrak{Y}} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. □

A.4. Immersions into $\mathbb{C}P^n$ and Lifts to S_{n+1}^{2n+1}

A.4.1. Immersions and Lifts. In this paper we investigate immersions $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ via immersions $f : M^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$. To make this precise we need

Definition A.9. Let $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ be any immersion. Then

- (1) A smooth map $f : M^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ is called a lift of f iff $f = \pi_{\mathcal{H}} \circ \mathfrak{f}$.
- (2) If $U \subset M^n$ is an open subset of M^n , then a lift of $f|_U$ is called a “local lift” (of f with respect to U).

It is easy to see that a lift is unique up to “scalings” of the form $(x, \chi) \mapsto (cx, c^{-1}\chi)$ for never vanishing scalar functions c .

Theorem A.10. *If M^n is a connected, simply connected manifold and $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is an immersion, then there exists a lift $\mathfrak{f} : M^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$, i.e. satisfying $f = \pi_{\mathcal{H}} \circ \mathfrak{f}$.*

Proof. We shall show that the projection $\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ can be restricted to a double covering of $\mathbb{C}P^n$. Introduce arbitrary Euclidean norms in the spaces \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , \mathbb{R}_{n+1} . Consider the set

$$S_{2n} = \{(x, \chi) \in S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \mid \langle x, x \rangle = \langle \chi, \chi \rangle\}. \tag{A.30}$$

Clearly S_{2n} is a smooth manifold. For every point $([x], [\chi]) \in \mathbb{C}P^n$ there exist exactly two representatives $(x, \chi) \in S_{2n}$, related by a sign change in both components. Thus the restriction of $\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ to S_{2n} is a double covering of $\mathbb{C}P^n$.

Now M^n is simply connected, path connected, and locally path connected. By the unique homotopy lifting property there exists a smooth lift (in fact, exactly two of them) of f to S_{2n} , and hence to S_{n+1}^{2n+1} . \square

Before going on we formalize the obtained results about S_{2n} .

Proposition A.11. *For the subset S_{2n} defined in (A.30) the following statements hold:*

1. *The set S_{2n} is an embedded submanifold of S_{n+1}^{2n+1} .*
2. *S_{2n} is a double cover of $\mathbb{C}P^n$ under the restriction of $\pi_{\mathcal{H}}$ to S_{2n} .*

Corollary A.12. *With the notation above we have:*

- (1) *If $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is an immersion and U any simply connected subset of M^n , then $f|_U : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ has a global lift. In other words, each immersion $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ has local lifts around each point of M^n .*
- (2) *Let $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ be an immersion, $(U_\beta)_{\beta \in \mathcal{J}}$ an open covering of M^n by simply connected charts, and $\mathfrak{f}_\beta : U_\beta \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ a local lift of f on U_β . Then on the intersection $U_\beta \cap U_\gamma$ of two such charts the lifts \mathfrak{f}_β and \mathfrak{f}_γ are transformed into each other by a scaling by a uniquely determined never vanishing function $c_{\beta\gamma} : U_\beta \cap U_\gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$. These functions form a cocycle with values in $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, i.e. they satisfy $c_{\alpha\beta}c_{\beta\gamma} = c_{\alpha\gamma}$. Moreover, the triviality of this cocycle is equivalent to the existence of a global lift of f .*

(3) If $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is an immersion, then there exists a two-fold cover \hat{M}^n of M^n such that the natural lift \hat{f} of f has a global lift $\hat{f} : \hat{M}^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$.

Proof. (1) and (2) follow from Theorem A.10. Let us prove (3). Recall from Proposition A.11 that $S_{2n} \subset S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ is a two-fold cover of $\mathbb{C}P^n$. Pulling back this covering p along f we obtain the commuting diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \hat{M}^n & \xrightarrow{\hat{f}} & S_{2n} \subset S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \\
 \downarrow \hat{p} & & \downarrow p \\
 M^n & \xrightarrow{f} & \mathbb{C}P^n.
 \end{array}$$

Thus $f \circ \hat{p} : \hat{M}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ has a global lift into S_{n+1}^{2n+1} . □

In general, a given $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ cannot be lifted:

Proposition A.13. *Let $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ be the injective immersion from $M^n = \mathbb{R}P^n$ to $\mathbb{C}P^n$, given by $f([x]) = ([x], [x])$. Then f does not have any lift $\mathfrak{f} : M^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$.*

Proof. Assume there exists a lift $\mathfrak{f} : \mathbb{R}P^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ of f . Since f is injective, it is easy to verify that \mathfrak{f} is injective. Therefore, since $\mathbb{R}P^n$ is compact, \mathfrak{f} actually is an embedding. Let π_1 denote the natural projection $\pi_1 : S_{n+1}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. It is easy to show that the map $\pi_1 \circ \mathfrak{f} : \mathbb{R}P^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ also is an embedding. Thus f would define a compact non-orientable submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . But this is a contradiction, since there does not exist any closed non-orientable submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} by see, e.g. [18]. This contradiction proves the claim. □

As a consequence of the last result we restrict our consideration in this paper to liftable immersions $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$.

A.4.2. Horizontal Lifts. In other cases, like minimal Lagrangian surfaces in $\mathbb{C}P^2$, one can show that certain finite coverings for a given minimal Lagrangian immersion into $\mathbb{C}P^2$ have a global horizontal lift. Below we consider similar questions for the situation considered in this paper.

The notion of “horizontal lift” has been defined in Definition 2.3. Whether f is locally horizontally liftable can be decided by virtue of the following result.

Lemma A.14. *Let $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ be an immersion. Then locally around every point $y \in M^n$ there exists a horizontal lift $\mathfrak{f} : U \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ of f from a neighbourhood $U \subset M^n$ of y if and only if the immersion f is Lagrangian with respect to the symplectic form ω on $\mathbb{C}P^n$.*

Proof. Let $y \in M^n$ be arbitrary, let $U \subset M^n$ be a simply connected neighbourhood of y , and let $f : U \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ be a lift of f . By Proposition 2.4 the lift f can be scaled to a horizontal lift $f_c : U \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$ if and only if the form $\psi = \langle d_y x, \chi \rangle$ is exact on U . Since U is simply connected, this is equivalent to the vanishing of the exterior derivative of ψ . We have $\psi = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \chi^i d_y x^i$, and hence $d\psi = -\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} dx^i \wedge d\chi^i$.

Let now $Z, Z' \in T_y M^n$ be arbitrary tangent vectors, and $d_y(Z) = (U, \mathcal{U})$, $d_y(Z') = (V, \mathcal{V})$ their images in the tangent space to S_{n+1}^{2n+1} at $f(y) = (x, \chi)$. By the above we have $d\psi(Z, Z') = -\langle U, \mathcal{V} \rangle + \langle V, \mathcal{U} \rangle = -2\hat{\omega}_{(x, \chi)}((U, \mathcal{U}), (V, \mathcal{V}))$. It follows that $d\psi$ vanishes if and only if the degenerate form $\hat{\omega}$ vanishes on the image of df . However, this condition is equivalent to the vanishing of the symplectic form ω on the image of df , or to the condition that f is Lagrangian. \square

Combining the lemma just above with Corollary A.12 we obtain

Proposition A.15. *If $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is a Lagrangian immersion, then there exists a two-fold cover $\pi : \hat{M}^n \rightarrow M^n$ such that the natural lift $\hat{f} = f \circ \pi$ of f to \hat{M} has a global horizontal lift $\hat{f} : \hat{M}^n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$.*

Proof. It suffices to apply the construction in the proof of Lemma A.14 to the lift \hat{f} in (3) of Corollary A.12. \square

It would be interesting to understand, what manifolds M^n have horizontal lifts for all immersions into $\mathbb{C}P^n$. At least locally it is the Lagrangian immersions. The lift is horizontal if and only if $\langle d_y x, \chi \rangle \equiv 0$. A horizontal lift of a immersion has a close relation to centro-affine immersions, that is, the position vector of an immersion transverses to the tangent plane.

Proposition A.16. *Assume $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ has a horizontal lift $f : M_n \rightarrow S_{n+1}^{2n+1}$, $f : y \mapsto (x, \chi)$. Then the following holds:*

- (1) x is a centro-affine immersion of M into \mathbb{R}^{n+1} such that χ is its co-normal map.
- (2) χ is a centro-affine immersion of M into \mathbb{R}_{n+1} such that x is its co-normal map.
- (3) $f : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is Lagrangian, i.e., for every two vector fields X, Y on M_n we have $\omega(f_*X, f_*Y) = 0$.

Proof. By (2.11) f is horizontal if and only if $\langle d_y x(Z), \chi \rangle = \langle x, d_y \chi(Z) \rangle = 0$ for all Z . Hence the tangent space of the immersion $x : M^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ is orthogonal to χ . But $\langle x, \chi \rangle \equiv 1$, and the first assertion follows. The second assertion is proven similarly.

Let us prove the third assertion. Consider the 2-form $h(Z, W) = \langle d_y x(Z), d_y \chi(W) \rangle$ on M^n . By [13, Proposition II.5.1] this form is proportional to the affine fundamental form induced by the centro-affine immersion x , and hence symmetric. Therefore its skew-symmetric part vanishes. In particular, if $df(Z) = (\hat{\mathcal{X}}, \hat{\mathcal{X}})$, $df(W) = (\hat{\mathcal{Y}}, \hat{\mathcal{Y}})$ are tangent vector fields to the lift f , then the

form $\hat{\omega}(Z, W) = \frac{1}{2}(\langle \hat{\mathcal{X}}, \hat{\mathcal{Y}} \rangle - \langle \hat{\mathcal{Y}}, \hat{\mathcal{X}} \rangle)$ vanishes. But $\hat{\omega}(Z, W) = \omega(f_*Z, f_*W)$, and hence f is Lagrangian. \square

Remark A.17. Centro-affine immersions in affine space \mathbb{R}^{n+1} are important in affine differential geometry, see [13] for example.

B. k -Symmetric Spaces and Primitive Harmonic Maps

In [9, 14], k -symmetric spaces and primitive harmonic maps have been considered. We will recall basic results for our case.

B.1. The Automorphism σ_H and k -Symmetric Spaces

Let us consider the order 6 automorphism σ_H on $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{C}$ given in (5.6), and also consider the order 6 automorphism σ_H^G on the connected Lie group $G = \text{SL}_3\mathbb{C}$ defined by

$$\sigma_H^G(g) = P_H^\epsilon (g^T)^{-1} P_H^\epsilon. \tag{B.1}$$

By abuse of notation we will also denote σ_H^G by σ_H . We then associate the order 3 and 2 automorphisms σ_H^2 and σ_H^3 as

$$\sigma_H^2(X) = P_2 X P_2^{-1}, \quad \text{with } P_2 = \text{diag}(\epsilon^4, \epsilon^2, 1), \tag{B.2}$$

$$\sigma_H^3(X) = -P_3 X^T P_3, \quad \text{with } P_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -H \end{pmatrix}. \tag{B.3}$$

Note that σ_H^2 is an inner automorphism and σ_H^3 is an outer automorphism, respectively. A straightforward computation shows that the eigen-spaces of σ_H can be computed as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{g}_0 &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & & \\ & -a & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid a \in \mathbb{C} \right\}, & \mathfrak{g}_1 &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a \\ -Ha & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{C} \right\}, \\ \mathfrak{g}_2 &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & a \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & Ha & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid a \in \mathbb{C} \right\}, & \mathfrak{g}_3 &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & & \\ & a & \\ & & -2a \end{pmatrix} \mid a \in \mathbb{C} \right\}, \\ \mathfrak{g}_4 &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a \\ Ha & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid a \in \mathbb{C} \right\}, & \mathfrak{g}_5 &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -Ha \\ b & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{C} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

The eigen-spaces of σ_H^2 are given by $\mathfrak{g}_1 + \mathfrak{g}_4$ for the eigenvalue ϵ^2 , $\mathfrak{g}_2 + \mathfrak{g}_5$ for the eigenvalue ϵ^4 and $\mathfrak{g}_3 + \mathfrak{g}_0$ for the eigenvalue 1. Similarly the eigen-spaces for σ_H^3 are $\mathfrak{g}_4 + \mathfrak{g}_2 + \mathfrak{g}_0$ for the eigenvalue 1 and $\mathfrak{g}_1 + \mathfrak{g}_3 + \mathfrak{g}_5$ for the eigenvalue $\epsilon^3 = -1$. It is important that the real form involution τ in (5.4) and the order 6 automorphism σ_H in (5.6) commute, i.e., $\tau \circ \sigma_H = \sigma_H \circ \tau$ holds. Therefore τ and the eigen-spaces of σ_H obey the relation

$$\tau(\mathfrak{g}_j) = \mathfrak{g}_{-j}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, 5. \tag{B.4}$$

In particular, \mathfrak{g}_0 and $\mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_3$ are subalgebras of $\mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ with the obvious complexifications.

Since σ_H and τ commute, we can give a definition of k -symmetric spaces as follows.

Definition B.1. Let $G^{\mathbb{R}}/G_0^{\mathbb{R}}$ be a real homogeneous space such that $G^{\mathbb{R}}$ is a real form of a complex Lie group G given by a real form involution τ , that is, $G^{\mathbb{R}} = \text{Fix}(G, \tau)$. Moreover, let σ be an order k ($k \geq 2$) automorphism of G , leaving $G^{\mathbb{R}}$ invariant and commuting with τ . Then $G^{\mathbb{R}}/G_0^{\mathbb{R}}$ is called a k -symmetric space if the following condition is satisfied

$$\text{Fix}(G^{\mathbb{R}}, \sigma)^\circ \subset G_0^{\mathbb{R}} \subset \text{Fix}(G^{\mathbb{R}}, \sigma), \tag{B.5}$$

where $\text{Fix}(G^{\mathbb{R}}, \sigma)^\circ$ denotes the identity component of $\text{Fix}(G^{\mathbb{R}}, \sigma)$.

B.2. Primitive Maps and the Extended Frames

We now consider a complex Lie group as before and let τ denote an anti-holomorphic involution of G , and set

$$G^{\mathbb{R}} = \text{Fix}(G, \tau) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Lie } G^{\mathbb{R}} = \mathfrak{g}^{\mathbb{R}}.$$

Definition B.2. Let κ be any automorphism of \mathfrak{g} of finite order $k > 2$. Let \mathfrak{g}_m denote the eigen-spaces of κ , where we choose $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ and actually work with $m \pmod k$. Let $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow G$ be a smooth map. Then \mathcal{F} will be called *primitive relative to κ* if

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}d\mathcal{F} = \alpha_{-1}dz + \alpha'_0dz + \alpha''_0d\bar{z} + \alpha_1d\bar{z} \in \mathfrak{g}_{-1} + \mathfrak{g}_0 + \mathfrak{g}_1,$$

where α_m, α'_0 and α''_0 take values in an eigen-space \mathfrak{g}_m of κ .

By abuse of notation we will also write $\alpha_0 = \alpha'_0dz + \alpha''_0d\bar{z}$.

Lemma B.3. *Let \mathcal{F} be primitive relative to κ and let us write $\mathcal{F}^{-1}d\mathcal{F} = \alpha_{-1}dz + \alpha_0 + \alpha_1d\bar{z}$. Then $\lambda^{-1}\alpha_{-1}dz + \alpha_0 + \lambda\alpha_1d\bar{z}$ is integrable for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$.*

Proof. Together with a straightforward computation one needs to use that because of $k > 2$ the sum $\mathfrak{g}_{-1} + \mathfrak{g}_0 + \mathfrak{g}_1$ of eigen-spaces is direct. □

The importance of this observation has been elaborated on and explained in [19, Section 3.2] and [20].

Theorem B.4 [19,20]. *Let G be a complex Lie group, σ_H an automorphism of G of finite order $k \geq 2$ and τ an anti-holomorphic involution of G which commutes with σ_H . Let $G_0^{\mathbb{R}}$ be any Lie subgroup of $G^{\mathbb{R}}$ satisfying $\text{Fix}(G^{\mathbb{R}}, \sigma_H)^\circ \subset G_0^{\mathbb{R}} \subset \text{Fix}(G^{\mathbb{R}}, \sigma_H)$. Then we consider the k -symmetric space $G^{\mathbb{R}}/G_0^{\mathbb{R}}$ together with the (pseudo-)Riemannian structure induced by some bi-invariant (pseudo-)Riemannian structure on $G^{\mathbb{R}}$. Let $h : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow G^{\mathbb{R}}/G_0^{\mathbb{R}}$ be a smooth map and $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow G^{\mathbb{R}}$ a frame for h , i.e., $h = \pi \circ \mathcal{F}$, where $\pi : G^{\mathbb{R}} \rightarrow G^{\mathbb{R}}/G_0^{\mathbb{R}}$ denotes the canonical projection.*

Then the following statements hold:

- (1) If $k = 2$, then h is harmonic if and only if $\lambda^{-1}\alpha_{-1}dz + \alpha_0 + \lambda\alpha_1d\bar{z}$ is integrable for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$.
- (2) If $k > 2$, then h is harmonic if \mathcal{F} is primitive relative to σ_H .

From the above theorem, we have the following definition.

Definition B.5. Retain the notation in Theorem B.4.

- (1) The frame \mathcal{F} is called *primitive harmonic*, if $\mathcal{F}^{-1}d\mathcal{F} = \alpha_{-1}dz + \alpha_0 + \lambda\alpha_1d\bar{z}$ such that $\lambda^{-1}\alpha_{-1}dz + \alpha_0 + \lambda\alpha_1d\bar{z}$ is integrable for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$.
- (2) The map h is called *primitive harmonic map*, if the frame \mathcal{F} is primitive harmonic.

This admits a direct application of the *loop group method*, see [21]. Since τ maps \mathfrak{g}_m to \mathfrak{g}_{-m} , we can assume that \mathcal{F}_λ is contained in $G^{\mathbb{R}}$ for all $\lambda \in S^1$. We will usually also assume $\mathcal{F}(z_0, \lambda) = I$ for a once and for all fixed base point z_0 .

Then it follows from the above that also $h_\lambda = \mathcal{F}_\lambda \pmod{G_0^{\mathbb{R}}}$ is a primitive harmonic map with frame \mathcal{F}_λ . Usually \mathcal{F}_λ is called *an extended frame* for h .

C. Various Bundles

This section is an adaption of Section 3 in [9] to our case, see also [25]. In [9, Section 3], three 6-symmetric spaces of dimension 7 which are bundles over S^5 were defined. We analogously define three 6-symmetric spaces of dimension 7 which are bundles over S_3^5 , FL_1^H , FL_2^H , and FL_3^H .

Recall the para-hermitian inner product of \mathbb{C}'^3 with a para-Hermitian form

$$\langle u, v \rangle_h = u^{*T} P_H v, \quad P_H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -H \end{pmatrix}, \tag{C.1}$$

where $H = 1$ (resp. $H = -1$) for the elliptic (resp. hyperbolic) case and $*$ denotes the para-complex conjugate of a paracomplex vector in \mathbb{C}'^3 . It is invariant under the transformation

$$(\mathbb{C}')^3 \ni u \mapsto \left(\frac{1+i'}{2}A + \frac{1-i'}{2}A^{-T} \right) u \in (\mathbb{C}')^3, \quad A \in GL_3\mathbb{R}^H. \tag{C.2}$$

We first choose a natural basis of \mathbb{C}'^3 :

$$e_1 = (1, 0, 0)^T, \quad e_2 = (0, 1, 0)^T, \quad e_3 = (0, 0, 1)^T.$$

(1) FL_1^H : For the real 6-dimensional symplectic vector space \mathbb{C}'^3 given by the symplectic form $\omega = -\Im \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_h$, the family of (real) oriented Lagrangian subspaces of \mathbb{C}'^3 forms a submanifold of the manifold of real Grassmannian 3-spaces of \mathbb{C}'^3 . They are the *Grassmannian manifold* $L_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ of oriented Lagrangian subspaces. It is easy to see that $L_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ can be represented as

the homogeneous space $GL_3\mathbb{R}^H/O_3^H$. The special orthogonal matrix group SO_3^H as the connected subgroup of $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ corresponding to the sub-Lie-algebra of $\mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ given by

$$\mathfrak{so}_3^H = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{ccc} ia & 0 & \sqrt{-H}b \\ 0 & -ia & \sqrt{-H}b \\ -\sqrt{-H}^{-1}\bar{b} & -\sqrt{-H}^{-1}b & 0 \end{array} \right) \mid a \in \mathbb{R}, b \in \mathbb{C} \right\} \subset \mathfrak{sl}_3\mathbb{R}^H,$$

where $H = 1$ (resp. $H = -1$) for the elliptic (resp. hyperbolic) case, which is isomorphic to the standard \mathfrak{so}_3 by the automorphism $X \mapsto \text{Ad}(R_H)(X)$ with

$$R_H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{-H} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The orbit of $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ in $L_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}^3)$ through the point $e \in SO_3^H$ will be called the *special Lagrangian Grassmannian* and it will be denoted by $SL_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}^3)$. The elements in this orbit will be called *oriented special Lagrangian subspaces* of \mathbb{C}^3 . Thus we have the following:

Proposition C.1. $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ acts transitively on $SL_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}^3)$, and we obtain

$$SL_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}^3) = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/SO_3^H.$$

The base point $e \in SO_3^H$ corresponds to the real Lagrangian subspace of \mathbb{C}^3 given by $R_H^{-1}\mathbb{R}^3$.

We now define a bundle

$$FL_1^H = \{(v, V) \mid v \in S_3^5, v \in V, V \in SL_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}^3)\}.$$

It is easy to verify that $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ acts (diagonally) on FL_1^H . Note that the natural projection from FL_1^H to $\mathbb{C}P^n$ is a pseudo-Riemannian submersion which is equivariant under the natural group actions. Since $S_3^5 = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/SO_2^H$, where $SL_2\mathbb{R}^H$ means $SL_2\mathbb{R}^H \times \{1\}$, the stabilizer at

$$(e_3, \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}) \in FL_1^H$$

is clearly given by $SL_2\mathbb{R}^H \cap SO_3^H$, that is

$$SO_2 = \{(a, a^{-1}, 1) \mid a \in S^1\}.$$

Therefore

$$FL_1^H = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/SO_2.$$

(2) FL_2 : To define FL_2^H , we consider certain *special regular para-complex flags* in \mathbb{C}^3 . A regular para-complex flag \mathcal{Q} is a sequence of four para-complex

subspaces, $Q_0 = \{0\} \subset Q_1 \subset Q_2 \subset Q_3 = \mathbb{C}'^3$ of \mathbb{C}'^3 , where Q_j has para-complex dimension j . We then define the notion of a *special regular para-complex flag* in \mathbb{C}'^3 over $q \in S_3^5$ by requiring that we have a regular complex flag in \mathbb{C}'^3 , where the space Q_1 satisfies $Q_1 = \mathbb{C}'q$. Thus we define

$$FL_2^H = \left\{ (w, \mathcal{W}) \mid \begin{array}{l} w \in S_3^5, \mathcal{W} \text{ is a special regular para-complex} \\ \text{flag over } w \text{ in } \mathbb{C}'^3 \text{ satisfying } W_1 = \mathbb{C}'w \end{array} \right\}.$$

The definition of a special flag means that for a given vector $q \neq 0$ in \mathbb{C}'^3 one can find three pairwise orthogonal vectors $q_1, q_2, q_3 \in \mathbb{C}'^3$ with $q_3 = \frac{q}{|q|}$ such that the vectors q_1, q_2 and q_3 represent the same orientation as e_1, e_2, e_3 . By an argument similar to the previous case we conclude that $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ acts transitively on the family of special flags. Moreover, the stabilizer of the action at the point $(e_3, 0 \subset \mathbb{C}'e_3 \subset \mathbb{C}'e_3 \oplus \mathbb{C}'e_2 \subset \mathbb{C}'e_3 \oplus \mathbb{C}'e_2 \oplus \mathbb{C}'e_1)$ is again given by $SO_3^H \cap \text{diag}$, where diag denotes the set of all diagonal matrices in $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$. Thus it is again SO_2 and we have altogether shown

Proposition C.2. $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ acts transitively on FL_2^H , and FL_2^H can be represented as

$$FL_2^H = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/SO_2.$$

Note that the natural projection from FL_2^H to $\mathbb{C}'P^2$ is a pseudo-Riemannian submersion which is equivariant under the natural group actions.

(3) FL_3^H : Finally, using the isometry group $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$ of S_3^5 , we can directly define a homogeneous space FL_3^H as

$$FL_3^H = \left\{ UP_H^\epsilon U^T \mid U \in SL_3\mathbb{R}^H \text{ and } P_H^\epsilon = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \epsilon^2 & 0 \\ \epsilon^4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -H \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \quad (\text{C.3})$$

where $\epsilon = e^{\pi i/3}$ and $H = \pm 1$.

Theorem C.3. We retain the assumptions and the notion above. Then the following statements hold:

- (1) The spaces FL_j^H ($j = 1, 2, 3$) are homogeneous under the natural action of $SL_3\mathbb{R}^H$.
- (2) The homogeneous space FL_j^H ($j = 1, 2, 3$) can be represented as

$$FL_j^H = SL_3\mathbb{R}^H/SO_2, \quad \text{where } SO_2 = \{\text{diag}(a, a^{-1}, 1) \mid a \in S^1\}.$$

In particular they are all 7-dimensional.

Proof. The statements clearly follow from Proposition C.1, Proposition C.2 and the definition of FL_3^H in (C.3), where the stabilizer at P_H^ϵ is easily computed as SO_2 . □

Corollary C.4. *The homogeneous spaces FL_j^H ($j = 1, 2, 3$) are 6-symmetric spaces. Furthermore, they are naturally equivariantly diffeomorphic.*

Proof. First we note that the group $G^{\mathbb{R}} = \mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ has the complexification $G = \mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{C}$ and is the fixed point set group of the real form involution τ given in (5.5).

We show that FL_3 is a 6-symmetric space. First note that the stabilizer

$$\mathrm{Stab}_P = \{X \in \mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H \mid XPX^T = P\} \tag{C.4}$$

at the point P of FL_3 is SO_2 . We already know that the order 6-automorphism σ_H of $\mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ given in (B.1) and the real form involution τ commute. Moreover, a direct computation shows that the fixed point set of σ_H in $\mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ is SO_2 . Thus Stab_P satisfies the condition in Definition B.1. Hence FL_3^H is 6-symmetric space in the sense of Definition B.1. Furthermore, since all the spaces FL_j^H are $\mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ -orbits with the same stabilizer, the identity homomorphism of $\mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ descends for any pair of homogeneous spaces FL_j^H and FL_m^H to a diffeomorphism

$$\phi_{jm} : FL_m^H \rightarrow FL_j^H$$

such that for any $g \in \mathrm{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ and $p \in FL_m^H$ we have

$$\phi_{jm}(g \cdot p) = g \cdot \phi_{jm}(p).$$

As a consequence, also FL_1^H and FL_2^H are 6-symmetric spaces. □

We have seen that the homogeneous spaces FL_j^H ($j = 1, 2, 3$) are 7-dimensional 6-symmetric spaces. In this section we define natural projections from FL_j^H to several homogeneous spaces.

First from FL_1^H , we have a projection to $\mathrm{SL}_{\mathrm{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}^3)$ given by

$$FL_1^H \ni (v, V) \longmapsto V \in \mathrm{SL}_{\mathrm{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}^3).$$

It is easy to see that $\mathrm{SL}_{\mathrm{Gr}}^H(3, \mathbb{C}^3)$ is a symmetric space with the involution σ_H^3 defined in (B.3).

Next from FL_2^H , we have a projection to a full flag manifold:

$$FL_2^H \ni (w, W) \longmapsto W \in Fl_2^H,$$

where Fl_2^H is defined as

$$Fl_2^H = \{\mathcal{W} \mid \mathcal{W} \text{ is a regular para-complex flag in } \mathbb{C}^3\}.$$

It is easy to see that Fl_2^H is a 3-symmetric space with the involution σ_H^2 stated in (B.2).

Finally from FL_3^H , we have two projections. We first let $k \in \text{Stab}_{P_H^\epsilon}$ as in (C.4) with

$$P_H^\epsilon = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \epsilon^2 & 0 \\ \epsilon^4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \epsilon = e^{\pi i/3},$$

then a straightforward computation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} kP_H^\epsilon(P_H^\epsilon)^T k^{-1} &= kP_H^\epsilon k^T (P_H^\epsilon)^T = P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T, \\ kP_H^\epsilon(P_H^\epsilon)^T P_H^\epsilon k^T &= P_H^\epsilon (k^T)^{-1} (P_H^\epsilon)^T k^{-1} P_H^\epsilon = P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T P_H^\epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we have two projections

$$\begin{aligned} FL_3^H \ni UP_H^\epsilon U^T &\longmapsto U(P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T)U^{-1} \in \widetilde{Fl}_2^H, \\ FL_3^H \ni UP_H^\epsilon U^T &\longmapsto U(P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T P_H^\epsilon)U^T \in \widetilde{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3), \end{aligned}$$

where \widetilde{Fl}_2^H and $\widetilde{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{Fl}_2^H &= \{U(P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T)U^{-1} \mid U \in \text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H\}, \\ \widetilde{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3) &= \{U(P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T P_H^\epsilon)U^T \mid U \in \text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H\}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that it is easy to compute

$$P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon^2 & v0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T P_H^\epsilon = P_H \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -H \end{pmatrix},$$

and the stabilizer in $\text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ at $P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T$ of \widetilde{Fl}_2^H and the stabilizer in $\text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H$ at $P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T P_H^\epsilon$ of $\widetilde{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ are

$$\text{Stab}_{P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T} = D_3, \quad \text{Stab}_{P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T P_H^\epsilon} = \text{SO}_3^H,$$

where

$$D_3 = \{\text{diag}(a_1, a_2, a_3) \in \text{SL}_3\mathbb{R}^H\},$$

and where $\text{Stab}_{P_H^\epsilon (P_H^\epsilon)^T P_H^\epsilon}$ is exactly the same group as the stabilizer of $\text{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$. Thus $\text{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ and $\widetilde{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ are naturally equivariantly diffeomorphic. An analogous argument applies to Fl_2^H and \widetilde{Fl}_2^H . Now the stabilizer of \widetilde{Fl}_2^H is determined by the matrix characterizing σ_H^2 , whence \widetilde{Fl}_2^H (and thus Fl_2^H) is the 3-symmetric space associated with σ_H^2 . Similarly, $\text{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}'^3)$ (and thus $\widetilde{SL}_{Gr}^H(3, \mathbb{C}')$) is the symmetric space associated with σ_H^3 .

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Received: January 29, 2024.

Accepted: August 18, 2024.

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