

2 Minimal real Kähler hypersurfaces

Locally, any real Kähler hypersurface in \mathbf{R}^{2n+1} which is nowhere flat can be described through its *Gauss parametrization* $\psi : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^{2n+1}$, given by

$$\psi(z, w) = (h \cdot g + \nabla^V h)(z) + w, \quad (1)$$

where Λ is the normal bundle along a pseudoholomorphic isometric immersion $g : V^2 \rightarrow S^{2n}$ from a surface V into the $2n$ -sphere, $h : V \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ some support function on V , and $\nabla^V h$ its gradient in V (see [D-G₁], formula (2.4) and Theorem 2.5). The reason that we can find such a parametrization is that for every such hypersurface which is nowhere flat, the index of relative nullity must be constant and equal to $2n - 2$ (as we mentioned on page 6), or – which is the same – that its Gauss map must have constant rank 2. In fact, V is nothing but the “Gauss image” of our hypersurface. If the hypersurface is to be *minimal*, we must require that, in addition, h is an eigenfunction of the Laplacian of V for the eigenvalue -2 ([D-G₁], Corollary 2.6):

$$\psi \text{ minimal} \iff \Delta^V h + 2h = 0 \text{ in } V.$$

Of course, it is neither very easy to find pseudoholomorphic surfaces in S^{2n} – which were first studied by Calabi [C] – nor to determine the eigenfunctions of the Laplacian of V . So the question arose if one could use techniques analogous to those in [D-G₂] to find examples of minimal real Kähler hypersurfaces via the Weierstrass representation, similar to the classical case of minimal surfaces in \mathbf{R}^3 . In fact, this is easily possible by only slightly modifying the methods in [D-G₂], as we will now show.

Let $f : M^{2n} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^{2n+1}$ be a minimal isometric immersion of a Kähler manifold M into \mathbf{R}^{2n+1} , which is also assumed to be nowhere flat. As mentioned above, the relative nullity bundle Δ of f must have rank $2n - 2$ everywhere. Since this bundle is the kernel of the Jacobian of the (for us) holomorphic complex Gauss map of f (see page 9), it is in fact a holomorphic subbundle of the tangent bundle TM of M (compare [D-G₂], page 240). As mentioned on page 6, each leaf of Δ in M is totally geodesic, and furthermore, f maps any such leaf into an affine subspace of \mathbf{R}^{2n+1} .

Now, let $F : M \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^{2n+1}$ be a holomorphic representative of f as in formula (3) in Chapter 1 (so we either assume M to be simply connected, or we restrict ourselves to local considerations). The fact that f maps leaves of Δ into affine subspaces of \mathbf{R}^{2n+1} means that F will map these leaves into

complex $(n - 1)$ -dimensional subspaces of \mathbf{C}^{2n+1} and will, thus, be *holomorphically ruled*. This implies that locally we can find complex coordinates (z, w_1, \dots, w_{n-1}) on some open subset $U \times W \subset \mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{C}^{n-1}$ such that

$$\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial w_j \partial w_k} = 0, \quad 1 \leq j, k \leq n - 1$$

(recall that, by (4), $\frac{\partial F}{\partial z_j} = \sqrt{2} \frac{\partial f}{\partial z_j}$ for each complex coordinate system (z_1, \dots, z_n) on M). Furthermore, we know from Theorem 1.1 that the Jacobian of F spans an isotropic subspace in \mathbf{C}^{2n+1} , i.e.

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial z_j} \cdot \frac{\partial F}{\partial z_k} = 0, \quad 1 \leq j, k \leq n,$$

for each complex coordinate system on M . As in [D-G₂], we see that this means that the Jacobian of F must be a $(2n + 1) \times n$ matrix of rank n that has the form

$$F_* = \left(\beta(z) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} w_j \gamma'_j(z), \gamma_1(z), \dots, \gamma_{n-1}(z) \right), \quad (2)$$

where $\gamma'(z) = \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial z}$, and where $\beta, \gamma_j : U \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^{2n+1}$ are holomorphic in z and satisfy the additional constraint that

$$\text{span} \{ \beta, \gamma_1, \gamma'_1, \dots, \gamma_{n-1}, \gamma'_{n-1} \} \text{ is isotropic.} \quad (3)$$

Now, as noted on page 10, the largest possible dimension of an isotropic subspace in \mathbf{C}^{2n+1} is n , and by (2) and (3) the holomorphic subbundle

$$E := \text{span} \{ \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{n-1} \} \subset U \times \mathbf{C}^{2n+1}$$

is isotropic and already has rank $n - 1$. This means that its osculating bundle $E' := \text{span} \{ \gamma_j, \gamma'_j \mid 1 \leq j \leq n - 1 \}$, which by (3) is also isotropic, can only have rank $\leq n$. But then Lemma 1 in [D-G₂] (page 239) tells us that either E contains a parallel subbundle (which means that f is reducible), or that there is a unique holomorphic line bundle $L \subset E$ such that $L^{(n-2)}$, the $(n - 2)^{\text{nd}}$ osculating bundle of L , equals E . More explicitly, if in the latter case $\gamma : U \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^{2n+1}$ is a nowhere zero section in L , then

$$E = L^{(n-2)} = \text{span} \{ \gamma(z), \gamma'(z), \dots, \gamma^{(n-2)}(z) \}. \quad (4)$$

From now on we will assume that f is *irreducible*, so in particular we have (4). Note that, in this case, we can conclude further that $\text{rank } E' = n$, and we have

$$E' = L^{(n-1)} = \text{span}\{\gamma(z), \gamma'(z), \dots, \gamma^{(n-1)}\}.$$

Thus, (3) gives us that we always have $\beta \in E'$; i.e. we can always find holomorphic functions $b_0, \dots, b_{n-1} : U \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ such that

$$\beta(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} b_j(z) \gamma^{(j)}(z), \quad (5)$$

where b_{n-1} is never 0. (Note: By [D-G₂] (9), this shows that an irreducible f can never be *completely* ruled, so in particular that *an irreducible, nowhere flat minimal real Kähler hypersurface can never be complete*. In fact, this is also true for *non-minimal* Kähler hypersurfaces, and was first proved by Abe [A]; see also Corollary 2.7 in [D-G₁]). With this β , (2) now becomes

$$F_* = \left(\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} b_j(z) \gamma^{(j)}(z) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} w_j \gamma^{(j)}(z), \gamma(z), \gamma'(z), \dots, \gamma^{(n-2)}(z) \right),$$

and we have that

$$F(z, w_1, \dots, w_{n-1}) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \left(\int b_j(z) \gamma^{(j)}(z) dz \right) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} w_j \gamma^{(j-1)}(z), \quad (6)$$

and $f(z, w_1, \dots, w_{n-1}) = \sqrt{2} \text{Re}(F)$. Writing $w_j = u_j + i v_j$, we thus obtain

$$\left. \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} f(z, u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}) \\ & = \text{Re} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \int b_j(z) \gamma^{(j)}(z) dz \right) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \left(u_j \text{Re } \gamma^{(j-1)}(z) - v_j \text{Im } \gamma^{(j-1)}(z) \right). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (7)$$

This is a (local) **Weierstrass representation** of the minimal real Kähler hypersurface f .

Comparing this parametrization of f with the Gauss parametrization in (1), we see that, in these coordinates, the first term in (7) corresponds to $(h \cdot g + \nabla h)(z)$, and the second term to a normal vector to g in S^{2n} . Thus, if we have a convenient way to find such Weierstrass representations – i.e. maps γ as in (4) – we can also easily find (local) examples for

pseudoholomorphic maps $g : U \rightarrow S^{2n}$: they are simply the normal vectors to $\text{span}\{\text{Re } \gamma^{(j)}(z), \text{Im } \gamma^{(j)}(z) \mid 0 \leq j \leq n-1\}$ in \mathbf{R}^{2n+1} , viewed as a function of $z = x + iy \cong (x, y)$, which represent *isothermal* coordinates on U (compare page 1).

Now it is in fact rather easy to find such a γ . We only have to mimic the construction on page 237 in [D-G₂]. Thus, let U be any simply connected domain in \mathbf{C} . Start with any *non-zero* holomorphic function¹ $\alpha_0 : U \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$, and let $\phi_0 := \int \alpha_0(z) dz$ (or just start with any non-constant holomorphic ϕ_0). Assuming that the maps $\alpha_r, \phi_r : U \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^{2r+1}$ have been defined for some $0 \leq r \leq n-1$, choose any *nowhere zero* function $\mu_{r+1} : U \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$, and set

$$\alpha_{r+1} := \mu_{r+1} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1 - \phi_r^2}{2} \\ i \frac{1 + \phi_r^2}{2} \\ \phi_r \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } \phi_{r+1} := \int \alpha_{r+1}(z) dz, \quad (8)$$

where $\phi_r^2 = \phi_r \cdot \phi_r$ with respect to the standard symmetric inner product in \mathbf{C}^{2r+1} . Then,

$$\gamma := \alpha_n$$

is the section of L for which we are looking; i.e. if we use it in (7) above, then the so defined f will be a minimal isometric immersion from the Kähler manifold $M := (U \times W, f^* \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ into \mathbf{R}^{2n+1} , where W is some open subset of the origin in \mathbf{C}^{n-1} and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the standard Euclidean metric in \mathbf{R}^{2n+1} .

The proof that this method works is *exactly* the same as for the case of codimension 2 described in [D-G₂]. In fact, it is not hard to show that *every* minimal real Kähler hypersurface *must locally* be of this form (up to renumbering the coordinates in \mathbf{R}^{2n+1}).

Note that the first step in (8) is *exactly* the classical way to find minimal surfaces in \mathbf{R}^3 via their Weierstrass representation (compare page 2). Thus, if we simply “continue this construction to higher dimensions” (as given in (8)), what we obtain are exactly minimal real Kähler hypersurfaces.

¹The only difference to the procedure in [D-G₂] is that there, α_0 is a function with values in \mathbf{C}^2 . Also, note that if $\alpha_0 \equiv 0$, we could choose all integration constants in (8) to be zero, and the hypersurface would be part of $\mathbf{R}^{2n} \times \{0\}$, and thus flat (and reducible).

Let us now consider two examples, both in the simplest possible case of a minimal real Kähler hypersurface in \mathbf{R}^5 , so that $n = 2$.

Example 2.1: Start with $\alpha_0 := 1$, and thus $\phi_0 = z$, if we set the integration constant equal to zero. Now choose $\mu_1 := 6$, and obtain

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{\mu_1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \phi_0^2 \\ i(1 + \phi_0^2) \\ 2\phi_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 - 3z^2 \\ 3i(1 + z^2) \\ 6z \end{pmatrix},$$

and by integrating (and setting all integration constants equal to zero),

$$\phi_1 = \int \alpha_1(z) dz = \begin{pmatrix} 3z - z^3 \\ i(3z + z^3) \\ 3z^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

For the next step, we need to calculate

$$\phi_1^2 = (3z - z^3)^2 + i^2(3z + z^3)^2 + (3z^2)^2 = -3z^4.$$

Setting $\mu_2 := 2$, we obtain (since here $n = 2$)

$$\gamma = \alpha_2 = \frac{\mu_2}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \phi_1^2 \\ i(1 + \phi_1^2) \\ 2\phi_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + 3z^4 \\ i(1 - 3z^4) \\ 6z - 2z^3 \\ i(6z + 2z^3) \\ 6z^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If in (6) and (7) we now choose $b_0 := 0$ and $b_1 := 1$, we see that

$$f(z, w_1) = \sqrt{2} \operatorname{Re} \left(\int 1 \cdot \gamma'(z) dz + w_1 \cdot \gamma(z) \right) = \sqrt{2} \operatorname{Re}((1 + w_1) \cdot \gamma(z)) \quad (9)$$

(setting yet another integration constant equal to zero), and if we write $z = x + iy$ and $w_1 = w = u + iv$, we finally obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y, u, v) &= \sqrt{2}(1 + u) \operatorname{Re} \gamma(x + iy) - \sqrt{2}v \operatorname{Im} \gamma(x + iy) \\ &= \sqrt{2}(1 + u) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 + 3x^4 - 18x^2y^2 + 3y^4 \\ 12x^3y - 12xy^3 \\ 6x - 2x^3 + 6xy^2 \\ -6y - 6x^2y + 2y^3 \\ 6x^2 - 6y^2 \end{pmatrix} - \sqrt{2}v \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 12x^3y - 12xy^3 \\ 1 - 3x^4 + 18x^2y^2 - 3y^4 \\ 6y - 6x^2y + 2y^3 \\ 6x + 2x^3 - 6xy^2 \\ 12xy \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

is a minimal real Kähler hypersurface in \mathbf{R}^5 , defined for all (x, y, u, v) in some neighborhood $U \times W$ of the origin in \mathbf{R}^4 (U, W open in \mathbf{R}^2).

We can also use this example for f to obtain an example for a pseudoholomorphic surface $g : U \rightarrow S^4$ in the 4-sphere.² Note that since here

$$f_*T_{(z,0)}U = \text{span}\{\text{Re}\gamma(z), \text{Im}\gamma(z), \text{Re}\gamma'(z), \text{Im}\gamma'(z)\},$$

we only need to calculate $\gamma'(z)$ and then determine a normal vector to f at $(z, 0)$. We have

$$\gamma'(z) = 6 \begin{pmatrix} 2z^3 \\ -2iz^3 \\ 1-z^2 \\ i(1+z^2) \\ 2z \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and thus}$$

$$\frac{1}{6} \text{Re } \gamma'(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} 2x^3 - 6xy^2 \\ 6x^2y - 2y^3 \\ 1 - x^2 + y^2 \\ -2xy \\ 2x \end{pmatrix}, \quad \frac{1}{6} \text{Im } \gamma'(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} 6x^2y - 2y^3 \\ -2x^3 + 6xy^2 \\ -2xy \\ 1 + x^2 - y^2 \\ 2y \end{pmatrix}.$$

To find the required normal vector, one probably wants to use a computer algebra system (or otherwise plenty of time and patience). In any case, one finally arrives at the result

$$g(x, y) = \frac{1}{a^3 + 9a^2 + a + 1} \begin{pmatrix} 2(x^2 - y^2)(a + 3) \\ 4xy(a + 3) \\ 2x(3a^2 - 1) \\ 2y(3a^2 - 1) \\ a^3 - 9a^2 - a + 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $a := x^2 + y^2 = \|(x, y)\|^2$.

²Actually, for a minimal surface in the 4-sphere, being pseudoholomorphic is equivalent to being *superminimal*. See [Loo], page 8, or [D-G₁], page 18.

Remark: Once that we have a candidate for a pseudoholomorphic map $g : U \rightarrow S^{2n}$, it is not too difficult to check if it is indeed pseudoholomorphic. If $\partial = \frac{1}{2}(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - i\frac{\partial}{\partial y})$, where (x, y) are isothermal coordinates on U , then according to Calabi [C] – or better: [Loo], page 7 – we only need to check that $\partial^j g \cdot \partial^j g = 0$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$. The author did, in fact, use a computer algebra system to successfully double-check our g above for pseudoholomorphicity.

Example 2.2: Here, we start with $\alpha_0 := \frac{1}{2}e^{\frac{z}{2}}$, and thus $\phi_0 = e^{\frac{z}{2}}$ and $\phi_0^2 = e^z$ (setting this and all following integration constants equal to zero again). Choosing $\mu_1 := 2$, we find

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{\mu_1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \phi_0^2 \\ i(1 + \phi_0^2) \\ 2\phi_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - e^z \\ i(1 + e^z) \\ 2e^{\frac{z}{2}} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Integrate to obtain

$$\phi_1 = \int \alpha_1(z) dz = \begin{pmatrix} z - e^z \\ i(z + e^z) \\ 4e^{\frac{z}{2}} \end{pmatrix},$$

so that $\phi_1^2 = (z - e^z)^2 + i^2(z + e^z)^2 + (4e^{\frac{z}{2}})^2 = 16e^z - 4ze^z$. Setting $\mu_2 := 2$ gives

$$\gamma = \alpha_2 = \frac{\mu_2}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \phi_1^2 \\ i(1 + \phi_1^2) \\ 2\phi_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - 16e^z + 4ze^z \\ i(1 + 16e^z - 4ze^z) \\ 2z - 2e^z \\ i(2z + 2e^z) \\ 8e^{\frac{z}{2}} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Again, we choose $b_0 := 0$ and $b_1 := 1$, and have the same general form of f as in (9). Finally, we obtain another example for a minimal real Kähler manifold in \mathbf{R}^5 , namely

$$\begin{aligned}
f(x, y, u, v) &= \sqrt{2} (1 + u) \operatorname{Re} \gamma(x + iy) - \sqrt{2} v \operatorname{Im} \gamma(x + iy) \\
&= \sqrt{2} (1 + u) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 + e^x \cos y (4x - 16) - 4y e^x \sin y \\ 4y e^x \cos y + e^x \sin y (4x - 16) \\ 2x - 2e^x \cos y \\ -2y - 2e^x \sin y \\ 8e^{\frac{x}{2}} \cos\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix} \\
&\quad - \sqrt{2} v \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4y e^x \cos y + e^x \sin y (4x - 16) \\ 1 - e^x \cos y (4x - 16) + 4y e^x \sin y \\ 2y - 2e^x \sin y \\ 2x + 2e^x \cos y \\ 8e^{\frac{x}{2}} \sin\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

As in Example 2.1, this f gives rise to another example of a pseudoholomorphic surface $g : U \rightarrow S^4$ in the 4-sphere. We have

$$\gamma'(z) = \begin{pmatrix} -12e^z + 4ze^z \\ i(12e^z - 4ze^z) \\ 2 - 2e^z \\ i(2 + 2e^z) \\ 4e^{\frac{z}{2}} \end{pmatrix},$$

and thus

$$\operatorname{Re} \gamma'(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} e^x \cos y (4x - 12) - 4y e^x \sin y \\ 4y e^x \cos y + e^x \sin y (4x - 12) \\ 2 - 2e^x \cos y \\ -2e^x \sin y \\ 4e^{\frac{x}{2}} \cos\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\operatorname{Im} \gamma'(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} 4y e^x \cos y + e^x \sin y (4x - 12) \\ -e^x \cos y (4x - 12) + 4y e^x \sin y \\ -2e^x \sin y \\ 2 + 2e^x \cos y \\ 4e^{\frac{x}{2}} \sin\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix}.$$

It appears somewhat daunting to try to find the normal vector to the space $\operatorname{span}\{\operatorname{Re}\gamma(z), \operatorname{Im}\gamma(z), \operatorname{Re}\gamma'(z), \operatorname{Im}\gamma'(z)\}$, but one can make this task slightly easier (even for a computer algebra system) by doing some linear algebra on this basis, thereby finding the following new basis vectors:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 - 4e^x \cos y \\ -4e^x \sin y \\ 2x - 2 \\ -2y \\ 4e^{\frac{x}{2}} \cos\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -4e^x \sin y \\ 1 + 4e^x \cos y \\ 2y \\ 2x - 2 \\ 4e^{\frac{x}{2}} \sin\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2x - 6 \\ 2y \\ -1 + e^{-x} \cos y \\ e^{-x} \sin y \\ 2e^{-\frac{x}{2}} \cos\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2y \\ -2x + 6 \\ -e^{-x} \sin y \\ 1 + e^{-x} \cos y \\ -2e^{-\frac{x}{2}} \sin\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Again, we employ a computer algebra system to calculate the normal vector, and find

$$g(x, y) = \frac{2e^{\frac{x}{2}}}{4e^{2x} + e^x b(x, y) + 1} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \cos\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) (e^x + x - 2) - 2y \sin\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \\ 2y \cos\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) + 2 \sin\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) (e^x + x - 2) \\ \cos\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) (4x e^x - 8e^x - 1) + 4y e^x \sin\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \\ -4y e^x \cos\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) (4x e^x - 8e^x - 1) \\ \frac{1}{2} e^{-\frac{x}{2}} (4e^{2x} - e^x b(x, y) + 1) \end{pmatrix},$$

where $b(x, y) := 4x^2 + 4y^2 - 16x + 17$. As in Example 2.1, the author double-checked that $\partial^j g \cdot \partial^j g = 0$ for $j = 1, 2$. Actually, it took a fairly fast computer system several minutes to complete this task.