The Ricci tensor of an almost homogeneous Kähler manifold

Andrea Spiro

(Communicated by G. Gentili)

Abstract. We determine an explicit expression for the Ricci tensor of a K-manifold, that is of a compact Kähler manifold $M$ with vanishing first Betti number, on which a semisimple group $G$ of biholomorphic isometries acts with an orbit of codimension one. We also prove that, up to few exceptions, the Kähler form $\omega$ and the Ricci form $\rho$ of a K-manifold $M$ are uniquely determined by two special curves with values in $g = \text{Lie}(G)$, say $Z_\omega, Z_\rho : \mathbb{R} \to g$, and we show how $Z_\rho$ is determined by $Z_\omega$.

These results are used in another work with F. Podestà, where new examples of non-homogeneous compact Kähler–Einstein manifolds with positive first Chern class are constructed.

Key words. Kähler–Einstein metrics, cohomogeneity one actions.

2002 Mathematics Subject Classification. 53C55, 53C25, 57S15

1 Introduction

The objects of our study are the so-called K-manifolds, that is Kähler manifolds $(M, J, g)$ with $b_1(M) = 0$ and which are acted on by a group $G$ of biholomorphic isometries, with regular orbits of codimension one. Note that since $M$ is compact and $G$ has orbits of codimension one, the complexified group $G^\mathbb{C}$ acts naturally on $M$ as a group of biholomorphic transformations, with an open and dense orbit. According to a terminology introduced by A. Huckleberry and D. Snow in [15], $M$ is almost-homogeneous with respect to the $G^\mathbb{C}$-action. By the results in [15] and [1], the subset $S \subset M$ of singular points for the $G^\mathbb{C}$-action is either connected or has exactly two connected components. If the first case occurs, we will say that $M$ is a non-standard K-manifold; we will call it a standard K-manifold in the other case.

The aim of this paper is to furnish an explicit expression for the Ricci curvature tensor of a K-manifold, to be used for constructing (and possibly classifying) new families of examples of non-homogeneous K-manifolds with special curvature conditions. A successful application of our results is given in [21], where several new examples of non-homogeneous compact Kähler–Einstein manifolds with positive first Chern class are found.

Note that explicit expressions for the Ricci tensor of standard K-manifolds can be found also in [22], [16], [20] and [11]. However our results can be applied to a wider
class of K-manifolds and they turn out to be particularly useful for the non-standard cases (at this regard, see also [14], [13]). They can be summarized in three facts.

Before stating them, we need to consider the following concept. We recall that, by the results in [1] and [15], any K-manifold $M$, acted on by a compact semisimple Lie group $G$, admits a canonical $G$-equivariant blow-up $\pi: \tilde{M} \to M$ along the complex singular $G$-orbits, which has a holomorphic fibration $\pi: \tilde{M} \to G^e/P$ over a flag manifold $G^e/P$; here $P \subset G^e$ is the smallest parabolic subgroup which contains the isotropy $(G^e)_x$ at some regular point for the action of $G^e$. The semisimple group $G$ acts transitively on the flag manifold $G^e/P$ and the compact subgroup $K = G \cap P$ acts on the standard fiber $F = \pi^{-1}(eP) \subset \tilde{M}$ in one of the following two ways: either $K$ acts on $F$ with an isolated fixed point and, in this case, the $K$-regular orbits are $K$-equivariantly diffeomorphic to the sphere $S^{2r-1} \subset \mathbb{C}P^r$, or $F$ is $K$-equivariantly diffeomorphic to a compactification of the tangent space $TN$ of some compact rank one symmetric space $N = K/K'$ and the regular $K$-orbits are sphere bundles $S(N) \subset TN$. We will say that $M$ is a K-manifold admitting a sphere-like fibering if it is non-standard and if the blow up $\tilde{M}$ admits a fibration $\pi: \tilde{M} \to G^e/P = G/K$ over a flag manifold so that the action of $K$ on $F = \pi^{-1}(eP)$ has an isolated fixed point; in case there exists a fibration $\pi: \tilde{M} \to G^e/P = G/K$ over a flag manifold so that the action of $K$ on $F = \pi^{-1}(eP)$ has no fixed point, we will say that $M$ admits a non-sphere-like fibering. A characterization of K-manifolds with sphere-like fibering can be extracted from the proof of Theorem 5 in [1] (see also Theorem 14 in [13]). Observe also that if the regular $G$-orbits of a K-manifold $M$ are Levi non-degenerate, then $M$ has a non-sphere-like fibering (see [21]).

In all of this paper, we limit our attention to K-manifolds with non-sphere-like fibering, leaving the discussion of the remaining cases to a forthcoming paper.

Now, let $\mathfrak{g}$ be the Lie algebra of the compact group $G$ acting on a K-manifold $(M, J, g)$ with at least one orbit of codimension one. By a result of [21], we may always assume that $G$ is semisimple. Let also $\mathcal{B}$ be the Cartan–Killing form of $\mathfrak{g}$. Then for any $x \in M_{\text{reg}}$, one can consider the following $\mathcal{B}$-orthogonal decomposition of $\mathfrak{g}$:

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{l} + i \mathbb{R} \mathfrak{Z} + \mathfrak{m},$$  \hspace{1cm} (1.1)

where $\mathfrak{l} = \mathfrak{g}_x$ is the isotropy subalgebra, $i \mathbb{R} \mathfrak{Z} + \mathfrak{m}$ is naturally identified with the tangent space $T_x(G/L) \simeq T_x(G \cdot x)$ of the $G$-orbit $G/L = G \cdot x$, and $\mathfrak{m}$ is naturally identified with the holomorphic subspace $\mathfrak{m} \simeq \mathcal{D}_x$.

$$\mathcal{D}_x = \{ v \in T_x(G \cdot x) : Jv \in T_x(G \cdot x) \}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (1.2)

Notice that for any point $x \in M_{\text{reg}}$ the $\mathcal{B}$-orthogonal decomposition (1.1) is uniquely given; on the other hand, two distinct points $x, x' \in M_{\text{reg}}$ may determine two distinct decompositions of type (1.1).

Now, our first result consists in proving that any K-manifold with non-sphere-like fibering admits a family $\mathcal{C}$ of smooth curves $\eta: \mathbb{R} \to M$ of the form
\[ \eta_t = \exp(itZ) \cdot x_0, \]

where \( Z \in \mathfrak{g}, \ x_o \in M \) is a regular point for the \( G^\mathbb{C} \)-action and the following properties are satisfied:

1. \( \eta_t \) intersects any regular \( G \)-orbit;
2. for any point \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \), the tangent vector \( \eta'_t \) is transversal to the regular orbit \( G \cdot \eta_t \);
3. any element \( g \in G \) which belongs to a stabilizer \( G_{\eta_t} \), with \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \), fixes point-wise the whole curve \( \eta_t \); in particular, all regular orbits \( G \cdot \eta_t \) are equivalent to the same homogeneous space \( G/L \);
4. the decompositions (1.1) associated with the points \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \) do not depend on \( t \);
5. there exists a basis \( \{ f_1, \ldots, f_n \} \) for \( \mathfrak{m} \) such that for any \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \) the complex structure \( J_t : \mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \mathfrak{m} \), induced by the complex structure of \( T_{\eta_t}M \), is of the following form:

\[
J_{t}f_{2j} = \lambda_j(t)f_{2j+1}, \quad J_{t}f_{2j+1} = -\frac{1}{\lambda_j(t)}f_{2j}, \tag{1.3}
\]

where the function \( \lambda_j(t) \) is either \(-\tanh(\ell_j t)\) or \(-\coth(\ell_j t)\), and \( \ell_j \) can be 1, 2, 3, or it is identically equal to 1.

We call any such curve an optimal transversal curve; the basis for \( \mathbb{R}Z + \mathfrak{m} \subset \mathfrak{g} \) given by \( (Z, f_1, \ldots, f_{2n-1}) \), where the \( f_i \)'s satisfy (1.3), is called optimal basis associated with \( \eta \). An explicit description of the optimal basis for any given semisimple Lie group \( G \) is given in Section 3.

Notice that the family \( \mathcal{C} \) of optimal transversal curves depends only on the action of the Lie group \( G \). In particular it is totally independent of the choice of the \( G \)-invariant Kähler metric \( g \). At the same time, the Killing fields, associated with the elements of an optimal basis, determine a 1-parameter family of holomorphic frames at the points \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \), which are orthogonal with respect to at least one \( G \)-invariant Kähler metric \( g \). It is also proved that, for all K-manifolds \( M \) which do not belong to a special class of non-standard K-manifolds, those holomorphic frames are orthogonal with respect to any \( G \)-invariant Kähler metric \( g \) on \( M \) (see Corollary 4.2 for details). From these remarks and the fact that \( \eta'_t = JZ\eta_t \), where \( Z \) is the first element of any optimal basis, it may be inferred that any curve \( \eta \in \mathcal{C} \) is a reparameterization of a normal geodesic of some (in most cases, any) \( G \)-invariant Kähler metric on \( M \).

Our second main result is the following. Let \( \eta \) be an optimal transversal curve of a K-manifold with non-sphere-like fibering, let also \( \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathbb{R}Z + \mathfrak{m} \) be the decomposition (1.1) associated with the regular points \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \) and let \( \omega \) and \( \rho \) be the Kähler form and the Ricci form, respectively, associated with a given \( G \)-invariant Kähler metric \( g \) on \( (M, J) \).

By a slight modification of arguments used in [20], we show that there exist two smooth curves
satisfying the following properties (here \(3(l)\) denotes the center of \(l\) and \(C_g(l)\) denotes the centralizer of \(l\) in \(g\)): for any \(\eta_t \in M_{reg}\) and any two element \(X, Y \in g\), with associated Killing fields \(X\) and \(Y\),

\[
\omega_{\eta_t}(\dot{X}, \dot{Y}) = \mathcal{B}(Z_{\omega}(t), [X, Y]), \quad \rho_{\eta_t}(\dot{X}, \dot{Y}) = \mathcal{B}(Z_{\rho}(t), [X, Y]).
\]  

(1.5)

We call such curves \(Z_{\omega}(t)\) and \(Z_{\rho}(t)\) the algebraic representatives of \(\omega\) and \(\rho\) along \(\eta\). It is clear that the algebraic representatives determine uniquely the restrictions of \(\omega\) and \(\rho\) to the tangent spaces of the regular orbits. But the following proposition establishes a result which is somewhat stronger.

Before stating the proposition, we recall that in [20] the following fact was established: if \(g = l + IRZ + m\) is a decomposition of the form (1.1), then the subalgebra \(a = C_g(l) \cap (IRZ + m)\) is either 1-dimensional or 3-dimensional and isomorphic with \(su_2\). By virtue of this dichotomy, the two cases considered in the following proposition are all possible cases.

**Proposition 1.1.** Let \(\eta_t\) be an optimal transversal curve of a \(K\)-manifold \((M, J, g)\) acted on by the compact semisimple Lie group \(G\) and with non-sphere-like fibering. Let also \(g = l + IRZ + m\) be the decomposition of the form (1.1) determined by the points \(\eta_t \in M_{reg}\) and \(Z: IR \rightarrow C_g(l) = 3(l) + a\) the algebraic representative of the \(\text{Kähler form } \omega\) or of the \(\text{Ricci form } \rho\). Then we have:

1. If \(a\) is 1-dimensional, then it is of the form \(a = IRZ_{\varphi}\) and there exists an element \(I \in 3(l)\) and a smooth function \(f: IR \rightarrow IR\) so that

\[
Z(t) = f(t)Z_{\varphi} + I.
\]  

(1.6)

2. If \(a\) is 3-dimensional, then it is of the form \(a = su_2 = IRZ_{\varphi} + IRX + IRY\), with \([Z_{\varphi}, X] = Y\) and \([X, Y] = Z_{\varphi}\) and there exists an element \(I \in 3(l)\), a real number \(C\) and a smooth function \(f: IR \rightarrow IR\) so that

\[
Z(t) = f(t)Z_{\varphi} + \frac{C}{\cosh(t)}X + I.
\]  

(1.7)

Conversely, if \(Z: IR \rightarrow C_g(l)\) is a curve in \(C_g(l)\) of the form (1.6) or (1.7), then there exists a unique closed \(J\)-invariant, \(G\)-invariant 2-form \(\varphi\) on the set of regular points \(M_{reg}\), having \(Z(t)\) as algebraic representative.

In particular, the \(\text{Kähler form } \omega\) and the \(\text{Ricci form } \rho\) are uniquely determined by their algebraic representatives.

Using (1.5), Proposition 1.1 and some basic properties of the decomposition \(g = l + IRZ + m\) (see Section 5), it can be shown that the algebraic representatives
\[ Z_\omega(t) \text{ and } Z_\rho(t) \text{ are uniquely determined by the values } \omega_{\eta_t}(\hat{X}, J\hat{X}) = B(Z_\omega(t), [X, J_t X]) \text{ and } \rho_{\eta_t}(\hat{X}, J\hat{X}) = B(Z_\rho(t), [X, J_t X]), \text{ where } X \in \mathfrak{m} \text{ and } J_t \text{ is the complex structure on } \mathfrak{m} \text{ induced by the complex structure of the tangent space } T_{\eta_t}M. \]

Here comes our third main result. It consists in Theorem 5.1 and Proposition 5.2, where we give the explicit expression for the value \( r_{\eta_t}(X, X) = \rho_{\eta_t}(\hat{X}, J\hat{X}) \) for any \( X \in \mathfrak{m} \), only in terms of the algebraic representative \( Z_\omega(t) \) and of the Lie brackets between \( X \) and the elements of the optimal basis in \( \mathfrak{g} \). By the previous discussion, this result furnishes a way to write down explicitly the Ricci tensor of the Kähler metric associated with \( Z_\omega(t) \).

**Acknowledgement.** Many crucial ideas for this paper are the natural fruit of the uncountable discussions that Fabio Podesta and the author had since they began working on cohomogeneity one Kähler–Einstein manifolds. It is fair to say that most of the credits should be shared with Fabio. We also are indebted to D. Guan for checking and pointing out to us some serious mistakes in a previous version of this paper.

**Notation.** Throughout the paper, if \( G \) is a Lie group acting isometrically on a Riemannian manifold \( M \) and if \( X \in \mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G) \), we will adopt the symbol \( \hat{X} \) to denote the Killing vector field on \( M \) corresponding to \( X \).

The Lie algebra of a Lie group will be always denoted by the corresponding Gothic letter. For a group \( G \) and a Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{g} \), \( Z(G) \) and \( z(\mathfrak{g}) \) denote the center of \( G \) and of \( \mathfrak{g} \), respectively. For any subset \( A \) of a group \( G \) or of a Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{g} \), \( C_G(A) \) and \( C_\mathfrak{g}(A) \) are the centralizer of \( A \) in \( G \) and \( \mathfrak{g} \), respectively.

Finally, for any subspace \( \mathfrak{n} \subset \mathfrak{g} \) of a semisimple Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{g} \), the symbol \( \mathfrak{n}^\perp \) denotes the orthogonal complement of \( \mathfrak{n} \) in \( \mathfrak{g} \) with respect to the Cartan–Killing form \( B \).

### 2 Fundamentals of K-manifolds

**2.1 K-manifolds, KO-manifolds and KE-manifolds.** A **K-manifold** is a pair formed by a compact Kähler manifold \((M, J, g)\) and a compact semisimple Lie group \( G \) acting almost effectively and isometrically (hence biholomorphically) on \( M \), such that:

i) \( b_1(M) = 0 \);

ii) \( M \) has cohomogeneity one with respect to the action of \( G \), i.e. the regular \( G \)-orbits are of codimension one in \( M \).

In this paper, \((M, J, g)\) will always denote a K-manifold of dimension \( 2n \), acted on by the compact semisimple Lie group \( G \). We will denote by \( \omega(\cdot, \cdot) = g(\cdot, J\cdot) \) the Kähler fundamental form and by \( \rho = r(\cdot, J\cdot) \) the Ricci form of \( M \).

For the general properties of cohomogeneity one manifolds and of K-manifolds, see e.g. [2], [3], [10], [15], [20]. Here we only recall some properties, which will be used in the paper.
If \( p \in M \) is a regular point, let us denote by \( L = G_p \) the corresponding isotropy subgroup. Since \( M \) is orientable, every regular orbit \( G \cdot p \) is orientable. Hence we may consider a unit normal vector field \( \xi \), defined on the subset of regular points \( M_{\text{reg}} \), which is orthogonal to any regular orbit. It is known (see [3]) that any integral curve of \( \xi \) is a geodesic. Any such geodesic is usually called a normal geodesic.

A normal geodesic \( \gamma \) through a point \( p \) satisfies the following properties: it intersects any \( G \)-orbit orthogonally; the isotropy subalgebra \( G_{\gamma} \) at a regular point \( \gamma \) is always \( G_p = L \) (see e.g. [2], [3]). We formalize these two facts in the following definition.

We call nice transversal curve through a point \( p \in M_{\text{reg}} \) any curve \( h : \mathbb{R} \to M \) with \( p = h(0) \) and such that:

i) it intersects any regular orbit;

ii) for any \( h_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \)

\[
\eta'_t \notin T_{\eta_t}(G \cdot \eta_t);
\] (2.1)

iii) for any \( h_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \), \( G_{\eta_t} = L = G_p \).

The following property of K-manifolds has been proved in [20].

**Proposition 2.1.** Let \((M, J, g)\) be a K-manifold acted on by the compact semisimple Lie group \( G \). Let also \( p \in M_{\text{reg}} \) and \( L = G_p \) be the isotropy subgroup at \( p \). Then we have:

1. There exists an element \( Z \) (determined up to scaling) so that

\[
\mathbb{R}Z \in C_g(1) \cap 1^\perp, \quad C_g(1 + \mathbb{R}Z) = 3(1) + \mathbb{R}Z.
\] (2.2)

In particular, the connected subgroup \( K \subset G \) with subalgebra \( \mathfrak{k} = 1 + \mathbb{R}Z \) is the isotropy subgroup of a flag manifold \( F = G/K \).

2. The dimension of \( \mathfrak{a} = C_g(1) \cap 1^\perp \) is either 1 or 3; if \( \dim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathfrak{a} = 3 \), then \( \mathfrak{a} \) is a subalgebra isomorphic to \( \mathfrak{su}_2 \) and there exists a Cartan subalgebra \( \mathfrak{t}^F = \mathfrak{t}^C + \mathfrak{a}^C \subset \mathfrak{g}^C \) so that \( \mathfrak{a}^C = \mathbb{C}H_\alpha + \mathbb{C}E_x + \mathbb{C}E_{-x} \) for some root \( \alpha \) of the root system of \((\mathfrak{g}^C, \mathfrak{t}^C)\).

Note that if for some regular point \( p \) we have that \( \dim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathfrak{a} = 1 \) (resp. \( \dim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathfrak{a} = 3 \)), then the same occurs at any other regular point. Therefore we may consider the following definition.

**Definition 2.2.** Let \((M, J, g)\) be a K-manifold and \( L = G_p \) the isotropy subgroup of a regular point \( p \). We say that \( M \) is a K-manifold with ordinary action (or shortly, KO-manifold) if \( \dim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathfrak{a} = \dim_{\mathbb{R}}(C_g(1) \cap 1^\perp) = 1 \).

In all other cases, we say that \( M \) is with extra-ordinary action (or, shortly, KE-manifold).
Another useful property of K-manifolds is the following. It can be proved that any K-manifold admits exactly two singular orbits, at least one of which is complex (see [21]). By the results in [15], it also follows that if $M$ is a K-manifold whose singular orbits are both complex, then $M$ admits a $G$-equivariant blow-up $\tilde{M}$ along the complex singular orbits, which is still a K-manifold and admits a holomorphic fibration over a flag manifold $G/K = G^\mathbb{C}/P$, with standard fiber equal to $\mathbb{C}P^1$.

Several other important facts are related to the existence (or non-existence) of two singular complex orbits (see [21] for a review of these properties). For this reason, it is convenient to introduce the following definition.

**Definition 2.3.** We say that a K-manifold $M$, acted on by a compact semisimple group $G$ with cohomogeneity one, is *standard* if the action of $G$ has two singular complex orbits. We call it *non-standard* in all other cases.

### 2.2 The CR structure of the regular orbits of a K-manifold.

A CR structure of codimension $r$ on a manifold $N$ is a pair $(\mathcal{D}, J)$ formed by a distribution $\mathcal{D} \subset TN$ of codimension $r$ and a smooth family $J$ of complex structures $J_x : \mathcal{D}_x \to \mathcal{D}_x$ on the spaces of the distribution.

A CR structure $(\mathcal{D}, J)$ is called **integrable** if the distribution $\mathcal{D}^{10} \subset T^\mathbb{C}N$, given by the $J$-eigenspaces $\mathcal{D}^{10}_x \subset \mathcal{D}^x$ corresponding to the eigenvalue $+i$, satisfies
\[
[\mathcal{D}^{10}, \mathcal{D}^{10}] \subset \mathcal{D}^{10}.
\]

Note that a complex structure $J$ on a manifold $N$ may be always considered as an integrable CR structure of codimension zero.

A smooth map $\phi : N \to N'$ between two CR manifolds $(N, \mathcal{D}, J)$ and $(N', \mathcal{D}', J')$ is called **CR map** (or holomorphic map) if:

a) $\phi_* (\mathcal{D}) \subset \mathcal{D}'$;

b) for any $x \in N$, $\phi_\ast J_x = J'_{\phi(x)} \circ \phi_\ast|_{\mathcal{D}_x}$.

A CR transformation of $(N, \mathcal{D}, J)$ is a diffeomorphism $\phi : N \to N$ which is also a CR map.

Any codimension one submanifold $N \subset M$ of a complex manifold $(M, J)$ is naturally endowed with an integrable CR structure of codimension one $(\mathcal{D}, J)$, which is called the **induced CR structure**; it is defined by
\[
\mathcal{D}_x = \{ v \in T_xN : Jv \in T_xN \} \quad J_x = J|_{\mathcal{D}_x}.
\]

It is clear that any regular orbit $G/L = G \cdot x \in M$ of a K-manifold $(M, J, g)$ has an induced CR structure $(\mathcal{D}, J)$, which is invariant under the transitive action of $G$. For this reason, several facts on the global structure of the regular orbits of a K-manifolds can be detected using what is known on compact homogeneous CR manifolds (see e.g. [7] and [6]).
Here, we recall some of those facts, which will turn out to be crucial in the next sections.

Let \( (G/L, \mathcal{D}, J) \) be a homogeneous CR manifold of a compact semisimple Lie group \( G \), with an integrable CR structure \( (\mathcal{D}, J) \) of codimension one. If we consider the \( \mathcal{B} \)-orthogonal decomposition \( \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathfrak{n} \), where \( \mathfrak{l} = \text{Lie}(L) \), then the orthogonal complement \( \mathfrak{n} \) is naturally identifiable with the tangent space \( T_o(G/L) \), \( o = eL \), by means of the map

\[
\phi : \mathfrak{n} \to T_o(G/L), \quad \phi(X) = X|_o.
\]

If we denote by \( \mathfrak{m} \) the subspace

\[
\mathfrak{m} = \phi^{-1}(\mathcal{D}_o) \subset \mathfrak{n},
\]

we get the following orthogonal decomposition of \( \mathfrak{g} \):

\[
\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathfrak{n} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathbb{RZ}_\mathcal{D} + \mathfrak{m}.
\]  

(2.3)

where \( Z_\mathcal{D} \in (I + \mathfrak{m})^\perp \). Since the decomposition is \( \text{ad}_I \)-invariant, it follows that \( Z_\mathcal{D} \in C_\mathfrak{g}(I) \).

Using again the identification map \( \phi : \mathfrak{n} \to T_o(G/L) \), we may consider the complex structure

\[
J : \mathfrak{m} \to \mathfrak{m}, \quad J \overset{\text{def}}{=} \phi^*(J_o).
\]  

(2.4)

Note that \( J \) is uniquely determined by the direct sum decomposition

\[
\mathfrak{m}^C = \mathfrak{m}^{10} + \mathfrak{m}^{01}, \quad \mathfrak{m}^{01} = \overline{\mathfrak{m}^{10}},
\]

(2.5)

where \( \mathfrak{m}^{10} \) and \( \mathfrak{m}^{01} \) are the \( J \)-eigenspaces with eigenvalues \(+i\) and \(-i\), respectively.

In the following, (2.3) will be called the structural decomposition of \( \mathfrak{g} \) associated with \( \mathcal{D} \); the subspace \( \mathfrak{m}^{10} \subset \mathfrak{m}^C \) (respectively, \( \mathfrak{m}^{01} = \overline{\mathfrak{m}^{10}} \)) given (2.5) will be called the holomorphic (resp. anti-holomorphic) subspace associated with \( (\mathcal{D}, J) \).

We recall that a \( G \)-invariant CR structure \( (\mathcal{D}, J) \) on \( G/L \) is integrable if and only if the associated holomorphic subspace \( \mathfrak{m}^{10} \subset \mathfrak{m}^C \) is so that

\[
I^C + \mathfrak{m}^{10} \text{ is a subalgebra of } \mathfrak{g}^C.
\]  

(2.6)

We now need to introduce a few concepts which are quite helpful in describing the structure of a generic compact homogeneous CR manifold.
Definition 2.4. Let \( N = G/L \) be a homogeneous manifold of a compact semisimple Lie group \( G \) and \( (\mathcal{D}, J) \) a \( G \)-invariant, integrable CR structure of codimension one on \( N \).

We say that a CR manifold \( (N = G/L, \mathcal{D}, J) \) is a Morimoto–Nagano space if either 

\( G/L = S^{2n-1}, n > 1 \), endowed with the standard CR structure of \( S^{2n-1} \subset \mathbb{C}P^n \), or there exists a subgroup \( H \subset G \) so that:

a) \( G/H \) is a compact rank one symmetric space (i.e. \( \mathbb{R}P^n = SO_{n+1}/SO_n \cdot \mathbb{Z}_2, S^n = SO_{n+1}/SO_n, \text{SU}_n = SU_{n+1}/SU_n, \mathbb{H}P^n = Sp_{n+1}/Sp_n \) or \( \Phi P^2 = F_4/Spin_9 \));

b) \( G/L \) is a sphere bundle \( S(G/H) \subset T(G/H) \) in the tangent space of \( G/H \);

c) \( (\mathcal{D}, J) \) is the CR structure induced on \( G/L = S(G/H) \) by the \( G \)-invariant complex structure of \( T(G/H) \simeq G^\mathbb{C}/H^\mathbb{C} \).

If a Morimoto–Nagano space is \( G \)-equivalent to a sphere \( S^{2n-1} \) we call it trivial; we call it non-trivial in all other cases.

A \( G \)-equivariant holomorphic fibering

\[ \pi : N = G/L \to \mathcal{F} = G/Q \]

of \( (N, \mathcal{D}, J) \) onto a non-trivial flag manifold \( (\mathcal{F} = G/Q, J_\mathcal{F}) \) with invariant complex structure \( J_\mathcal{F} \) is called CRF fibration. A CRF fibration \( \pi : G/L \to G/Q \) is called nice if the standard fiber is a non-trivial Morimoto–Nagano space; it is called very nice if it is nice and there exists no other nice CRF fibration \( \pi' : G/L \to G/Q \) with standard fibers of smaller dimension.

The following proposition gives necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of a CRF fibration. The proof can be found in [6].

Proposition 2.5. Let \( G/L \) be a homogeneous CR manifold of a compact semisimple Lie group \( G \), with an integrable, codimension one \( G \)-invariant CR structure \( (\mathcal{D}, J) \). Let also \( \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathbb{R}\mathcal{D} + \mathfrak{m} \) be the structural decomposition of \( \mathfrak{g} \) and \( \mathfrak{m}^{10} \) the holomorphic subspace, associated with \( (\mathcal{D}, J) \).

Then \( G/L \) admits a non-trivial CRF fibration if and only if there exists a proper parabolic subalgebra \( \mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{r} + \mathfrak{n} \not\subset \mathfrak{g}^\mathbb{C} \) (here \( \mathfrak{r} \) is a reductive part and \( \mathfrak{n} \) the nilradical of \( \mathfrak{p} \)) such that:

\[ \text{a)} \ \mathfrak{r} = (\mathfrak{p} \cap \mathfrak{g})^\mathbb{C}; \quad \text{b)} \ \mathfrak{l}^\mathbb{C} + \mathfrak{m}^{01} \subset \mathfrak{p}; \quad \text{c)} \ \mathfrak{l}^\mathbb{C} \not\subset \mathfrak{r}. \]

In this case, \( G/L \) admits a CRF fibration with basis \( G/Q = G^\mathbb{C}/P \), where \( Q \) is the connected subgroup generated by \( \mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{r} \cap \mathfrak{g} \) and \( P \) is the parabolic subgroup of \( G^\mathbb{C} \) with Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{p} \).

Let us go back to the regular orbits of a K-manifold \( (M, J, g) \) acted on by the
compact semisimple group $G$. First of all, we recall that by Theorem 4.3 in [15], any non-standard K-manifold $M$ admits a canonical $G$-equivariant blow-up $\tilde{M}$, along the singular complex $G$-orbit. Moreover, $\tilde{M}$ is a K-manifold acted on by $G$ and it has the following important property: there exists a $G$-equivariant holomorphic fibration $\pi: \tilde{M} \rightarrow G^e/P$, where $G^e/P$ is a flag manifold and the standard fiber $F = \pi^{-1}(eP)$ is biholomorphic to $\mathbb{C}P^n$, $\mathbb{C}P^n = \{[z] \in \mathbb{C}P^{n+1}: z'z = 0\}$, the Grassmanian manifold $G_{2,2n}(\mathbb{C})$ or $E_{III} = E_6/\text{Spin}_{10} \times SO_2$.

On the other hand, we already pointed out that each regular orbit $(G/L = G \cdot x, \mathcal{D}, J)$ in $M$, endowed with the induced CR structure $(\mathcal{D}, J)$, is a compact homogeneous CR manifold. Moreover, $G$ is a maximal compact subgroup of $G^e$ and hence it acts transitively on $G^e/P$. Now, since each regular $G$-orbit of $M$ is $G$-equivalent to a regular orbit of $\tilde{M}$, the holomorphic fibration $\pi: \tilde{M} \rightarrow G^e/P = G/K$, $K = G \cap P$, induces a CRF fibration $\pi: G/L = G \cdot x \rightarrow G/K$ on any regular $G$-orbit, whose standard fiber $K/L$ is a regular $K$-orbit in $F = \pi^{-1}(eP) \subset \tilde{M}$. By the proof of Theorem 4.3 in [15] (see also [1]), the standard fiber of $\pi: G/L = G \cdot x \rightarrow G/K$ is always CR equivalent to a Morimoto–Nagano space and it is CR equivalent to the standard sphere $S^{2r-1}$ if and only if $K$ acts on $F$ with an isolated fixed point (in this case, $F = \mathbb{C}P^r$).

We are interested mainly in the cases in which $M$ is either standard or non-standard with fiber of the CRF fibration $\pi: G/L = G \cdot x \rightarrow G/K$ that is a non-trivial Morimoto–Nagano space. For this reason, we consider the following definition.

**Definition 2.6.** Let $(M, J, g)$ be a K-manifold acted on by the compact semisimple Lie group $G$ and let $\pi: \tilde{M} \rightarrow G^e/P = G/K$ be a holomorphic fibration as described above, with typical fiber $F = \pi^{-1}(eP)$. We say that $\pi$ is a sphere-like fibering if $M$ is non-standard and $K$ acts on $F$ with an isolated fixed point. We say $\pi$ is a non-sphere-like fibering in all other cases.

In the statement of the following theorem we collect some basic results on the regular orbits of K-manifolds. It is a direct consequence of Theorem 3.1 in [21] (see also [15], [1] and [20] Theorem 2.4).

**Theorem 2.7.** Let $(M, J, g)$ be a K-manifold acted on by the compact semisimple Lie group $G$.

1. If $M$ is standard, then there exists a flag manifold $(G/K, J_o)$ with a $G$-invariant complex structure $J_o$, such that any regular orbit $(G \cdot x = G/L, \mathcal{D}, J)$ of $M$ admits a CRF-fibration $\pi: (G/L, \mathcal{D}, J) \rightarrow (G/K, J_o)$ onto $(G/K, J_o)$ with typical fiber $S^1$.

2. If $M$ is non-standard and admitting a non-sphere-like fibering, then there exists a flag manifold $(G/K, J_o)$ with a $G$-invariant complex structure $J_o$ such that any regular orbit $(G/L = G \cdot x, \mathcal{D}, J)$ admits a nice CRF fibration $\pi: (G/L, \mathcal{D}, J) \rightarrow (G/K, J_o)$ where the typical fiber $K/L$ is a non-trivial Morimoto–Nagano space of dimension $\dim K/L \geq 3$. 
Furthermore, if the last case occurs, then the fiber $K/L$ of the CRF fibration $\pi : (G/L, \mathcal{D}, J) \to (G/K, J_0)$ has dimension 3 only if $K/L$ is either $S(\mathbb{R}P^2) \subset T(\mathbb{R}P^2) = \mathbb{C}P^2 \setminus \{z : z \cdot z = 0\}$ or $S(\mathbb{C}P^1) \subset T(\mathbb{C}P^1) = \mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1 \setminus \{[z] = [w]\}$.

3 The optimal transversal curves of a K-manifold

3.1 Notation and preliminary facts. If $G$ is a compact semisimple Lie group and $t^c \subset g^c$ is a given Cartan subalgebra, we will use the following notation:

- $\mathcal{B}$ is the Cartan–Killing form of $g$ and for any subspace $A \subset g$, $A^\perp$ is the $\mathcal{B}$-orthogonal complement to $A$;
- $R$ is the root system of $(g^c, t^c)$;
- $H_x \in t^c$ is the $\mathcal{B}$-dual element to the root $x$;
- for any $\alpha, \beta \in R$, the scalar product $(\alpha, \beta)$ is set to be equal to $(\alpha, \beta) = \mathcal{B}(H_x, H_{\beta})$;
- $E_\beta$ is the root vector with root $\beta$ in the Chevalley normalization; in particular $\mathcal{B}(E_\beta, E_{-\beta}) = \delta_{\beta\beta}$, $[E_\beta, E_{-\beta}] = H_x$, $[H_x, E_\beta] = (\beta, \alpha) E_\beta$ and $[H_x, E_{-\beta}] = -(\beta, \alpha) E_{-\beta}$;
- for any root $\alpha$, $F_\alpha = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(E_\alpha - E_{-\alpha})$ and $G_\alpha = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(E_\alpha + E_{-\alpha})$; note that for $\alpha, \beta \in R$

$$\mathcal{B}(F_\alpha, F_\beta) = -\delta_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{B}(G_\alpha, G_\beta), \quad \mathcal{B}(F_\alpha, G_\beta) = \mathcal{B}(F_\alpha, H_\beta) = \mathcal{B}(G_\alpha, H_\beta) = 0;$$

- the notation for the roots of a simple Lie algebra is the same of [12] and [6].

Recall that for any two roots $\alpha, \beta$, with $\beta \neq -\alpha$, if $[E_\alpha, E_\beta]$ is non-trivial then $[E_\alpha, E_\beta] = N_{\alpha, \beta} E_{\alpha + \beta}$ where the coefficients $N_{\alpha, \beta}$ satisfy the following conditions:

$$N_{\alpha, \beta} = -N_{\beta, \alpha}, \quad N_{\alpha, \beta} = -N_{-\alpha, -\beta}. \quad (3.1)$$

From (3.1) and the properties of root vectors in the Chevalley normalization, the following well known properties can be derived:

1. for any $\alpha, \beta \in R$ with $\alpha \neq \beta$

$$[F_\alpha, F_\beta], [G_\alpha, G_\beta] \in \text{span}\{F_\gamma, \gamma \in R\}, \quad [F_\alpha, G_\beta] \in \text{span}\{G_\gamma, \gamma \in R\}; \quad (3.2)$$

2. for any $H \in t^c$ and any $\alpha, \beta \in R$, $\mathcal{B}(H, [F_\alpha, F_\beta]) = \mathcal{B}(H, [G_\alpha, G_\beta]) = 0$ and

$$\mathcal{B}(H, [F_\alpha, G_\beta]) = i\delta_{\alpha\beta} \mathcal{B}(H, H_\alpha) = \delta_{\alpha\beta}(iH); \quad (3.3)$$

Finally, concerning the Lie algebra of flag manifolds and of CR manifolds, we adopt the following notation.
Assume that $G/K$ is a flag manifold with invariant complex structure $J$ (for definitions and basic facts, we refer to [4], [5], [9], [19]) and let $\pi : G/L \to G/K$ be a $G$-equivariant $S^1$-bundle over $G/K$. In particular, let us assume that $I$ is a codimension one subalgebra of $\mathfrak{f}$. Recall that $\mathfrak{f} = \mathfrak{f}^{ss} + \mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{f})$, with $\mathfrak{f}^{ss}$ the semisimple part of $\mathfrak{f}$. Hence the semisimple part $\mathfrak{f}^{ss}$ of $I$ is equal to $\mathfrak{f}^{ss}$ and $\mathfrak{f} = I + \mathbb{R}Z = (\mathfrak{f}^{ss} + \mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{f}) \cap I) + \mathbb{R}Z$ for some $Z \in \mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{f})$.

Let $\mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}} \subset \mathfrak{f}^{\mathbb{C}}$ be a Cartan subalgebra for $\mathfrak{g}^{\mathbb{C}}$ contained in $\mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}}$ and $R$ the root system of $(\mathfrak{g}^{\mathbb{C}}, \mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}})$. Then we will use the following notation:

- $R_o = \{ \alpha \in R, E_\alpha \in \mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}} \}$;
- $R_m = \{ \alpha \in R, E_\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}^{\mathbb{C}} \}$;
- for any $\alpha \in R$, we let $\mathfrak{g}(\alpha)^{\mathbb{C}} = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} \{E_{\pm \alpha}, H_\alpha\}$ and $\mathfrak{g}(\alpha) = \mathfrak{g}(\alpha)^{\mathbb{C}} \cap \mathfrak{g}$;
- $m(\alpha)$ denotes the irreducible $\mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}}$-submodule of $\mathfrak{m}^{\mathbb{C}}$, with highest weight $\alpha \in R_m$;
- if $m(\alpha)$ and $m(\beta)$ are equivalent as $\mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}}$-modules, we denote by $m(\alpha) + \lambda m(\beta)$ the irreducible $\mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}}$-module with highest weight vector $E_\alpha + \lambda E_\beta$, $\alpha, \beta \in R_m$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$.

### 3.2 The structural decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathbb{R}Z_{\mathfrak{g}} + \mathfrak{m}$ determined by the CR structure of a regular orbit.

The main results of this subsection are given by the following two theorems on the structural decomposition of the regular orbits of a $K$-manifolds. The first one is a straightforward consequence of definitions, Theorem 2.7 and the results in [20].

**Theorem 3.1.** Let $(M, J, g)$ be a standard $K$-manifold acted on by the compact semisimple group $G$ and let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathbb{R}Z_{\mathfrak{g}} + \mathfrak{m}$ and $\mathfrak{m}^{10}$ be the structural decomposition and the holomorphic subspace, respectively, associated with the CR structure $(\mathfrak{d}, J)$ of a regular orbit $G/L = G \cdot p$. Let also $J : \mathfrak{m} \to \mathfrak{m}$ be the unique complex structure on $\mathfrak{m}$, which determines the decomposition $\mathfrak{m}^{\mathbb{C}} = \mathfrak{m}^{10} + \overline{\mathfrak{m}}^{10}$.

Then, $\mathfrak{f} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathbb{R}Z_{\mathfrak{g}}$ is the isotropy subalgebra of a flag manifold $K$, and the complex structure $J : \mathfrak{m} \to \mathfrak{m}$ is $\text{ad}_\mathfrak{l}$-invariant and corresponds to a $G$-invariant complex structure $J$ on $G/K$.

In particular, there exists a Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}} \subset \mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}}$ and an ordering of the associated root system $R$, so that $\mathfrak{m}^{10}$ is generated by the corresponding positive root vectors in $\mathfrak{m}^{\mathbb{C}} = (\mathfrak{t}^{+})^{\mathbb{C}}$.

The following theorem describes the structural decomposition and the holomorphic subspace of a regular orbit of a non-standard $K$-manifold with non-sphere-like fibering. Also this theorem can be considered as a consequence of Theorem 2.7, but the proof is a little bit more involved.

**Theorem 3.2.** Let $(M, J, g)$ be a non-standard $K$-manifold acted on by the compact semisimple group $G$ and with non-sphere-like fibering. Let also $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathbb{R}Z_{\mathfrak{g}} + \mathfrak{m}$ and $\mathfrak{m}^{10}$ be the structural decomposition and the holomorphic subspace, respectively, asso-
ciated with the CR structure $(\mathcal{D}, J)$ of a regular orbit $G/L = G \cdot p$. Then there exists a simple subalgebra $\mathfrak{g}_F \subset \mathfrak{g}$ with the following properties:

a) Let $I_F = I \cap \mathfrak{g}_F$, $l_0 = I \cap \mathfrak{g}_F^\perp$, $m_F = m \cap \mathfrak{g}_F$ and $m' = m \cap \mathfrak{g}_F^\perp$; then the pair $(\mathfrak{g}_F, I_F)$ is one of those listed in Table 1 and $\mathfrak{g}$ and $\mathfrak{g}_F$ admit the following $\mathfrak{B}$-orthogonal decompositions:

$$\mathfrak{g} = l_0 + (I_F + \mathbb{R}Z_\mathfrak{g}) + (m_F + m'), \quad \mathfrak{g}_F = I_F + \mathbb{R}Z_\mathfrak{g} + m_F;$$

furthermore $[I_0, \mathfrak{g}_F] = \{0\}$ and the connected subgroup $K \subset G$ with Lie algebra $\mathfrak{k} = l_0 + \mathfrak{g}_F$ is the isotropy subalgebra of a flag manifold $G/K$.

b) Let $m_F^{10} = m_F^{\mathbb{C}} \cap m^{10}$; then there exists a Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{t}_F^{\mathbb{C}} \subset \mathfrak{t}_F^{\mathbb{C}} + \mathbb{C}Z_\mathfrak{g}$ and a complex number $\lambda$ with $0 < |\lambda| < 1$ so that the element $Z_\mathfrak{g}$, determined up to scaling, and the subspace $m_F^{10}$, determined up to an element of the Weyl group and up to complex conjugation, are as listed in Table 1 (see Section 3.1 for notation—in case $\mathfrak{g}_F = \mathfrak{su}_2 + \mathfrak{su}_2$ let $c = \mathfrak{B}(H_{1+2,1+2}, H_{1+2,1+2})$, where $\mathfrak{B}$ is the Cartan–Killing form of $\mathfrak{g} \supset \mathfrak{g}_F$):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$\mathfrak{g}_F$</th>
<th>$I_F$</th>
<th>$Z_\mathfrak{g}$</th>
<th>$m_F^{10}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\mathfrak{su}_2$</td>
<td>${0}$</td>
<td>$-\frac{1}{2} H_{e_1 - e_2}$</td>
<td>$\mathbb{C}(E_{e_1 - e_2} + \lambda E_{-e_1 + e_2})$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mathfrak{su}_{n+1}$</td>
<td>$\mathfrak{su}_{n-2} \oplus \mathbb{R}$</td>
<td>$-i H_{e_1 - e_2}$</td>
<td>$\mathbb{C}(E_{e_1 - e_2} + \lambda^2 E_{-e_1 + e_2})$ (\oplus) (m(e_1 - e_2) + \lambda m(e_2 - e_3)) (\oplus) (m(e_1 - e_2) + \lambda m(e_3 - e_1))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mathfrak{su}_2 + \mathfrak{su}_2$</td>
<td>$\mathbb{R}$</td>
<td>$-\frac{i}{1 + \epsilon} (H_{e_1 - e_2} + c H_{e_1 - e_2}' + c H_{e_2 - e_2}')$</td>
<td>$\mathbb{C}(E_{e_1 - e_2} + \lambda E_{e_1 - e_2}' + \lambda E_{e_2 - e_2}')$ (\oplus) (\mathbb{C}(E_{e_1 - e_2}' + \lambda E_{-e_1 + e_2}))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mathfrak{so}_7$</td>
<td>$\mathfrak{su}_3$</td>
<td>$-\frac{2}{3} (H_{e_1 + e_2} + H_{e_3})$</td>
<td>(m(e_1 + e_2) + \lambda m(-e_3)) (\oplus) (m(-e_3) + \lambda m(e_1 + e_2))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$I_4$</td>
<td>$\mathfrak{so}_7$</td>
<td>$-i 2 H_{e_1}$</td>
<td>(m(e_1 + e_2) + \lambda^2 m(-e_1 + e_2)) (\oplus) (m(1/2(e_1 + e_2 + e_3 + e_4)) + \lambda m(1/2(-e_1 + e_2 + e_3 + e_4)))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mathfrak{g}_2$</td>
<td>$\mathfrak{su}_2$</td>
<td>$-i 3 H_{e_1}$</td>
<td>$\mathbb{C}(E_{e_1} + \lambda^2 E_{-e_1})$ (\oplus) (\mathbb{C}(E_{e_1} + \lambda E_{-e_1})) (\oplus) (\mathbb{C}(E_{e_1} + \lambda E_{e_1})) (\oplus) (\mathbb{C}(E_{e_1} + \lambda^3 E_{-e_1})) (\oplus) (\mathbb{C}(E_{e_1} + \lambda^3 E_{e_1}))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mathfrak{so}_{2n+1}$</td>
<td>$\mathfrak{so}_{2n-1}$</td>
<td>$-i H_{e_1}$</td>
<td>$m(e_1 + e_2) + \lambda m(-e_1 + e_2)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mathfrak{so}_{2n}$</td>
<td>$\mathfrak{so}_{2n-2}$</td>
<td>$-i H_{e_1}$</td>
<td>$m(e_1 + e_2) + \lambda m(-e_1 + e_2)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mathfrak{sp}_n$</td>
<td>$\mathfrak{sp}<em>1 + \mathfrak{sp}</em>{n-2}$</td>
<td>$-i H_{e_1 + e_2}$</td>
<td>$(m(2e_1) + \lambda^2 m(-2e_2))$ (\oplus) (m(e_1 + e_3) + \lambda m(-e_2 + e_3))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
c) The holomorphic subspace \( m^{10} \) admits the following orthogonal decomposition

\[
m^{10} = m^{10}_F + m^{10}_r,
\]

where \( m^{10} = m^\mathcal{C} \cap m^{10} \).

d) The complex structure \( J' : m' \rightarrow m' \) associated with the eigenspace decomposition \( m^\mathcal{C} = m^{10} + m^{01} \), where \( m^{01} = \overline{m^{10}} \) is \( \text{Ad}_K \)-invariant and determines a \( G \)-invariant complex structure on the flag manifold \( G/K \); in particular the \( J' \)-eigenspaces are \( \text{ad}_{\mathcal{R}Z_g} \)-invariant:

\[
[\mathcal{R}Z_g, m^{10}] \subset m^{10}, \quad [\mathcal{R}Z_g, m^{01}] \subset m^{01}.
\]

The proof of Theorem 3.2 needs the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.3.** Let \( G/L = G \cdot p \) be a regular orbit of a non-standard \( K \)-manifold \( (M, J, g) \). Let also \( \pi : (G/L, \mathcal{D}, J) \rightarrow (G/K, J_0) \) be the CRF fibration given in Theorem 2.7 and \( (\mathcal{D}^K, J^K) \) the CR structure of the typical fiber \( K/L \). Then we have:

i) The isotropy subalgebra \( h = \text{Lie}((G^\mathcal{C})_p) \) is equal to \( h = f^\mathcal{C} + m^{01} \), where \( m^{01} = \overline{m^{10}} \) is the anti-holomorphic subspace associated with the CR structure of \( G/L = G \cdot p \).

ii) Let \( g = f + m' \) be the \( \mathcal{D} \)-orthogonal decomposition of \( g \) associated with the flag manifold \( G/K \) and let \( m^\mathcal{C} = m^{10} + m^{01} \) be the decomposition into \((+i)\)- and \((-i)\)-eigenspaces determined by the complex structure \( J_0 : m' \rightarrow m' \) given by the complex structure of \( G/K \); then the isotropy subalgebra \( p = \text{Lie}((G^\mathcal{C})_eK) \) at \( eK \in G/K = G^\mathcal{C}/P \) is \( p = f^\mathcal{C} + m^{01} \); moreover, if \( M \) has non-sphere-like fibering then \( m^{01} \subset m^{01} \).

If we assume that \( M \) has non-sphere-like fibering, then the following are also true:

iii) The holomorphic subspace \( m^{10} \) of \( (G/L, \mathcal{D}, J) \) admits the \( \mathcal{D} \)-orthogonal decomposition \( m^{10} = m^{10}_K + m^{10}_r \) where \( m^{10} = m^{10} \cap m^\mathcal{C} \) and \( m^{10}_K \) is the holomorphic subspace of \( (K/L, \mathcal{D}^K, J^K) \).

iv) Denote by \( L_0 \) the kernel of effectiveness of the action of \( K \) on \( K/L \). Then the 1-dimensional subspaces \( \mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}^K} \) and \( \mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} \) of the structural decompositions of \( f \) and \( g \) at the point \( p \) are both in \( f \cap C_1(1) \cap 1_0^+ \), moreover, in case \( f \cap (1_0)^+ \) is simple, \( \mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}^K} \) and \( \mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} \) are the same and we have that \( f = 1 + \mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} + m_K \) and \( g = 1 + \mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} + m = 1 + \mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} + (m_K + m') \).

v) \( [\mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}}, m^{10}] \subset m^{10} \) and \( [\mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}}, m^{01}] \subset m^{01} \).

**Proof.** First of all, let \( f = 1 + \mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}^K} + m_K \) and \( g = 1 + \mathcal{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} + m \) be the structural decompositions of \( f \) and \( g \) at the point \( p \), associated with the CR structures \( (\mathcal{D}^K, J^K) \)
and $(\mathcal{D}, J)$, respectively. Denote also by $J^K$ and $J$ the induced complex structures on $\mathfrak{m}_K$ and $\mathfrak{m}$.

To prove (i), consider an element $V = X + iY \in \mathfrak{g}^\mathcal{F}$, with $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$. Then $V$ belongs to $\mathfrak{h}$ if and only if $X + iY|_p = \dot{X}_p + J\dot{Y}_p = 0$. This means that $J\dot{X}_p = -\dot{Y}_p$ is tangent to the orbit $G \cdot p$. In particular, $X, Y \in \mathfrak{l} + \mathfrak{m}$ and $V = X + iJX \in \mathfrak{f}^\mathcal{F} + \mathfrak{m}^{01}$.

Following the same argument, one gets also the identity $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{f}^\mathcal{F} + \mathfrak{m}^{01}$. Moreover, from standard facts on flag manifolds (see e.g. [5], [9]) it can be checked that $\mathfrak{m}^{01}$ coincides with the nilradical of $\mathfrak{p}$. Now, by (i) and the proof of Theorem 5 in [1], we have that if $\pi$ is non-sphere-like then $\mathfrak{m}^{01} \subset \mathfrak{h} = \mathfrak{f}^\mathcal{F} + \mathfrak{m}^{01}$. Since $\mathfrak{m}^{01}$ is orthogonal to $\mathfrak{f}^\mathcal{F} \supset \mathfrak{f}^\mathcal{F}$, we conclude that $\mathfrak{m}^{01} \subset \mathfrak{m}^{01}$ and (ii) is proved.

To check (iii), consider the subspace $\mathfrak{m}_K = \{X \in \mathfrak{m} : \pi_\ast(\dot{X}_\mathcal{L}) = 0\} = \mathfrak{m} \cap \mathfrak{f}$. Note that $\mathfrak{m}_K$ is $J$- and $\text{Ad}_{\mathfrak{l}}$-invariant. Furthermore, if it contains no trivial $\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{l}}$-module, it is orthogonal to $\mathfrak{l}$ with respect to any $\mathfrak{l}$-invariant inner product, and hence with respect to the Cartan–Killing form of $\mathfrak{f}$. The cases in which $\mathfrak{m}_K$ contains a trivial $\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{l}}$-module may occur only when the subalgebra $\mathfrak{g}_F = \mathfrak{f} \cap (\mathfrak{l}_o)^\perp$ is simple (here we denote by $\mathfrak{l}_o$ the Lie algebra of the kernel of effectivity on $K/L$); to check this, look at Table 1 and the proof of Theorem 3.2 below. On the other hand we have that $\mathfrak{m}_K \subset \mathfrak{g}_F$ and hence also in this case $\mathfrak{m}_K$ is not only $\mathcal{B}$-orthogonal to $\mathfrak{l}$, but also orthogonal to $\mathfrak{l}$ with respect to the Cartan–Killing form of $\mathfrak{g}_F$ (and hence of $\mathfrak{f}$). So, $\mathfrak{m}_K$ is always the $J^K$-invariant subspace which occurs in the structural decomposition of $\mathfrak{f}$ given by $(\mathcal{D}, J^K)$, namely $\mathfrak{l} = \mathfrak{l} + \mathbb{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} + \mathfrak{m}_K$.

Now, since $\mathfrak{m}^{01} \subset \mathfrak{m}^{01}$ and $\mathfrak{m}^{10} = \overline{\mathfrak{m}^{01}} \subset \overline{\mathfrak{m}^{01}} = \mathfrak{m}^{10}$, we may conclude that $\mathfrak{m}' \subset \mathfrak{m}$ and that $\mathfrak{J}_o|_{\mathfrak{m}'} = \mathfrak{J}|_{\mathfrak{m}'}$. In particular, $\mathfrak{m}'$ is $J$-invariant. So, we have the following $\mathcal{B}$-orthogonal and $J$-invariant decomposition

$$
\mathfrak{m} = \mathfrak{m}' + ((\mathfrak{m}')^\perp \cap \mathfrak{m}) = \mathfrak{m}' + (\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{m}) = \mathfrak{m}' + \mathfrak{m}_K.
$$

It follows also that $\mathfrak{m}^{10} = \mathfrak{m}^{10} + \mathfrak{m}_K^{10}$ and that $\mathfrak{m}^{10} = \mathfrak{m}^{10} \cap \mathfrak{f}^\mathcal{F}$ as we needed to prove.

From the $\mathcal{B}$-orthogonal decomposition $\mathfrak{m} = \mathfrak{m}' + \mathfrak{m}_K$ we get also that $\mathbb{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} = (1 + \mathfrak{m})^\perp = (1 + \mathfrak{m}_K + \mathfrak{m}^{01})^\perp = (1 + \mathfrak{m}_K)^\perp \cap \mathfrak{f}$. It follows that, if $\mathfrak{l}_o \subset \mathfrak{l}$ denotes the Lie algebra of the kernel of effectivity of $K$ on $K/L$, then $\mathbb{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} \subset \mathfrak{l}_o^\perp \cap \mathfrak{f}$ and it is also in $C_\mathfrak{r}(\mathfrak{l})$, since $(1 + \mathfrak{m}_K)^\perp \cap \mathfrak{f}$ is $\text{Ad}_{\mathfrak{l}}$-invariant and 1-dimensional. By definition, also $\mathbb{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}} \subset \mathfrak{l}_o^\perp \cap C_\mathfrak{r}(\mathfrak{l}) \cap \mathfrak{f}$ and this proves the first claim of (iv). For the second claim, recall that the restriction of $\mathcal{B}$ to each simple ideal of $\mathfrak{f}$ coincides, up to a multiple, with the restriction to that ideal of the Cartan–Killing form of $\mathfrak{f}$. Therefore, in case $\mathfrak{f} \cap \mathfrak{l}_o^\perp$ is simple, we get that $\mathbb{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}}$ (i.e. the $\mathcal{B}$-orthogonal complement in $\mathfrak{f} \cap \mathfrak{l}_o^\perp$ to the subspace $(1 + \mathfrak{m}_K) \cap (\mathfrak{l}_o^\perp)$) coincides with $\mathbb{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}}$, which is the orthogonal complement in $\mathfrak{f} \cap \mathfrak{l}_o^\perp$ to $(1 + \mathfrak{m}_K) \cap (\mathfrak{l}_o^\perp)$ by means of the Cartan–Killing form of $\mathfrak{f}$.

To prove (v), recall that $\mathfrak{m}^{01}$ is the nilradical of $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{f}^\mathcal{F} + \mathfrak{m}^{01}$ and that $Z_{\mathcal{D}} \subset \mathfrak{f}$. It follows that $[\mathbb{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}}, \mathfrak{m}^{01}] \subset [\mathfrak{f}, \mathfrak{m}^{01}] \subset \mathfrak{m}^{01}$ and $[\mathbb{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}}, \mathfrak{m}^{10}] = [\mathbb{R}Z_{\mathcal{D}}, \mathfrak{m}^{01}] \subset \overline{\mathfrak{m}^{01}} = \mathfrak{m}^{10}$.

Proof of Theorem 3.2. Let $K \subset G$ be a subgroup so that any regular orbit $G/L$ admits a very nice CRF fibration $\pi : (G/L, \mathcal{D}, J) \rightarrow (G/K, J_o)$ as prescribed by Theorem
2.7. Then, for any regular point \( p \), the \( K \)-orbit \( K/L = K \cdot p \subset G/L = G \cdot p \) (which is the fiber of the CRF fibration \( \pi \)) is a non-trivial Morimoto–Nagano space. In particular, \( K/L \) is Levi non-degenerate, it is simply connected and the CR structure is non-standard (for the definition of non-standard CR structures and the properties of the CR structures of the Morimoto–Nagano spaces, see [6]).

Let \( L_o \subset L \) be the normal subgroup of the elements which act trivially on \( K/L \). Let also \( G_F = K/L_o \) and \( l_o = \text{Lie}(L_o) \), \( g_F = f \cap (l_o)^\perp \cong \text{Lie}(G_F) \).

Note that Theorem 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 of [6] apply immediately to the homogeneous CR manifold \( G_F/L_F \), with \( L_F = L \mod L_o \). In particular, since the CRF fibration \( \pi : G/L \to G/K \) is nice and \( K/L = G_F/L_F \) is a non-trivial Morimoto–Nagano space, it follows that \( g_F \) is \( \mathfrak{so}_n, \mathfrak{su}_n + \mathfrak{su}_2, \mathfrak{so}_7, \mathfrak{f}_4, \mathfrak{g}_2, \mathfrak{so}_n \) \((n \geq 5)\) or \( \mathfrak{sp}_n \) \((n \geq 2)\).

From Theorem 1.4, Proposition 6.3 and Proposition 6.4 in [6] and from Lemma 3.3 iv)–v), it follows that the subalgebras \( g_F, l_F \) and the holomorphic subspace \( m_F^{10} \), associated with the CR structure of the fiber \( K/L = G_F/L_F \), satisfy a), b), c) and d).

Concerning the subspace \( \mathbb{R}Z_\mathcal{O} \), for all cases in which \( g_F \) is simple, it is equal to the corresponding subspace \( \mathbb{R}Z_\mathcal{O} \) described in [6], because of the second claim of Lemma 3.3 iv); for the case \( g_F = \mathfrak{so}_n + \mathfrak{su}_2 \), it is enough to observe that, according to the notation and the results in [6], \( l_F = \mathfrak{C}(H_{e_1-e_2} - H_{e_1'-e_2'} - H_{e_1'-e_2'}) \) and \( C_{g_F}(l_F) = \mathfrak{C}H_{e_1-e_2} + \mathfrak{C}H_{e_1'-e_2'} \); hence \( \mathbb{R}Z_\mathcal{O} \) coincides with the 1-dimensional orthogonal complement to \( l_F \) in \( C_{g_F}(l_F) \) with respect to the Cartan–Killing form \( \mathcal{B} \) of \( g \supset g_F \).

In the following, we will call the subalgebra \( g_F \) the Morimoto–Nagano subalgebra of the \( K \)-manifold \( M \). We will soon prove that the Morimoto–Nagano subalgebra is independent (up to conjugation) from the choice of the regular orbit \( G \cdot p = G/L \).

We will also call \((g_F,l_F)\) and the subspace \( m_F^{10} \) the Morimoto–Nagano pair and the Morimoto–Nagano holomorphic subspace, respectively, of the regular orbit \( G/L = G \cdot p \).

### 3.3 Optimal transversal curves.
We prove now the existence of a special family of nice transversal curves called optimal transversal curves (see Section 1). We first show the existence of such curves for a non-standard \( K \)-manifold with non-sphere-like fibering.

**Theorem 3.4.** Let \((M,J,g)\) be a non-standard \( K \)-manifold acted on by the compact semisimple group \( G \) and with non-sphere-like fibering. Then there exists a point \( p_o \) in the non-complex singular orbit and an element \( Z \in g \) such that the curve

\[
\eta : \mathbb{R} \to M, \quad \eta_t = \exp(t \mathbf{i} Z) \cdot p_o
\]

satisfies the following properties:

1. \( \eta \) is a nice transversal curve; in particular the isotropy subalgebra \( g_{\eta} \), for any \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \) is a fixed subalgebra \( l \).

2. There exists a subspace \( m \) such that, for any \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \), the structural decompo-
situation $g = 1 + \mathbb{R}Z(t) + m(t)$ of the orbit $G/L = G \cdot \eta_t$ is given by $m(t) = m$ and $\mathbb{R}Z(t) = \mathbb{R}Z$.

(3) The Morimoto–Nagano pairs $(g_F(t), l_F(t))$ of the regular orbits $G \cdot \eta_t$ do not depend on $t$.

(4) For any $\eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}}$, the holomorphic subspace $m^{10}(t)$ admits the orthogonal decomposition

$$m^{10}(t) = m_F^{10}(t) + m'^{10}(t),$$

where $m'^{10}(t) = m^{10} \subset m^C$ is independent of $t$ and $m_F^{10}(t)$ is a Morimoto–Nagano holomorphic subspace which is listed in Table 1, determined by the parameter $\lambda$ equal to $\lambda = \lambda(t) = e^{2t}$.

Moreover, if $\eta_t = \exp(tZ) \cdot p_0$ is any of such curves and if $(g_F, l_F)$ is (up to conjugation) the Morimoto–Nagano pair of a regular orbit $G/L = G \cdot \eta_t$, then (up to conjugation) $Z$ is the element in the column “$Z_D$” of Table 1, associated with the Lie algebra $g_F$.

For the proof of Theorem 3.4, we first need two lemmas.

**Lemma 3.5.** Let $(M, J, g)$ be a K-manifold acted on by the compact semisimple Lie group $G$. Let also $p$ be a regular point and $G/L = G \cdot p$ and $G^C/H = G^C \cdot p$ the $G$- and the $G^C$-orbit of $p$, respectively. Then we have:

(1) For any $g \in G^C$, the isotropy subalgebra $l' = g_{\text{pr}}$ at $p' = g \cdot p$ is equal to

$$l' = \text{Ad}_g(l^C + m^{01}) \cap g.$$

(2) Let $g \in G^C$ and suppose that $p' = g \cdot p$ is a regular point. If we denote by $g = l' + \mathbb{R}Z' + m'$ and by $m'^{10}$ the structural decomposition and the holomorphic subspace, respectively, given by the CR structure of $G \cdot p' = G/L'$, then

$$m'^{10} = \overline{\text{Ad}_g(l^C + m^{10})},$$

$$m' = (\text{Ad}_g(l^C + m^{10}) + \overline{\text{Ad}_g(l^C + m^{10})}) \cap g \cap l'^\perp.$$

**Proof.** (1) Clearly, $L' = G \cap G'^C = G \cap (gHg^{-1})$ and $l' = g \cap \text{Ad}_g(h)$. The claim is then an immediate consequence of Lemma 3.3 (i).

(2) From Lemma 3.3 (i), it follows that

$$m'^{10} = \overline{m'^{01}} = b' \cap (l^{10})' = \overline{\text{Ad}_g(l^C + m^{01})} \cap (l^C)' \cap l'^\perp.$$

From this, the conclusion follows.
Lemma 3.6. Let \((M, J, g)\) be a \(K\)-manifold acted on by the compact semisimple Lie group \(G\). Let also \(p\) be a regular point and \(g = l + \mathbb{R}Z_G + m\) the structural decomposition associated with the CR structure of \(G/L = G \cdot p\). Then we have:

1. For any \(g \in \exp(\mathfrak{C}^*Z_G)\), the isotropy subalgebra \(g_{p'}\) at the point \(p' = g \cdot p\) is orthogonal to \(\mathbb{R}Z_G\); moreover, \(l \subseteq g_{p'}\) and, if \(p'\) is regular, \(l = g_{p'}\).

2. The curve

\[ \eta : \mathbb{R} \to M, \quad \eta_t = \exp(itZ_G) \cdot p \]

is a nice transversal curve through \(p\).

Proof. (1) From Lemma 3.5 (1), for any point \(p' = \exp(\lambda Z_G) \cdot p\), with \(\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*\),

\[ \mathcal{B}(g_{p'}, \mathbb{R}Z_G) = \mathcal{B}(\text{Ad}_{\exp(\lambda Z_G)}(I^\mathbb{C} + m^{01}) \cap g, \mathbb{R}Z_G) \]

\[ = \mathcal{B}((I^\mathbb{C} + m^{01}) \cap g, \text{Ad}_{\exp(-\lambda Z_G)}(\mathbb{R}Z_G)) \]

\[ = \mathcal{B}((I^\mathbb{C} + m^{01}) \cap g, \mathbb{R}Z_G) = 0. \]

Moreover, since \(Z_G \in C_g \in (I^\mathbb{C})\), we get that

\[ g_{p'} = (\text{Ad}_{\exp(\lambda Z_G)}(I^\mathbb{C} + m^{01})) \cap g = 1 + \text{Ad}_{\exp(\lambda Z_G)}(m^{01}) \cap g \supseteq 1. \]

This implies that \(l = g_{p'}\) if \(p'\) is regular.

(2) From (1), we have that condition (2.1) and the equality \(G \cdot \eta_t = G \cdot p = G/L\)
are satisfied for any point \(\eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}}\). It remains to show that \(\eta\) intersects any regular orbit.

Let \(\Omega = M \setminus G\) be the orbit space and \(\pi : M \to \Omega = M \setminus G\) the natural projection map. It is known (see e.g. [10]) that \(\Omega\) is homeomorphic to \(\Omega = [0, 1]\), with \(M_{\text{reg}} = \pi^{-1}([0, 1])\). Hence \(\eta\) intersects any regular orbit if and only if \((\pi \circ \eta)(\mathbb{R}) \supseteq [0, 1]\).

Let \(x_1 = \inf(\pi \circ \eta)(\mathbb{R})\) and let \(\{t_n\} \subset [0, 1]\) be a sequence such that \((\pi \circ \eta)_{t_n}\)
tends to \(x_1\). If we assume that \(x_1 > 0\), we may select a subsequence \(t_{n_k}\) so that \(\lim_{n_k \to \infty} \eta_{t_{n_k}}\)
exists and it is equal to a regular point \(p_o\). From (1) and a continuity argument, we could
conclude that \(l = \exp(\lambda Z_G)|_{p_o}\) is not tangent to the orbit \(G \cdot p_o\).
In particular, it would follow that the curve \(\exp(i\mathbb{R}Z_G) \cdot p_o\) has non-empty intersection
with \(\eta(\mathbb{R}) = \exp(i\mathbb{R}Z_G) \cdot p\) and that \(p_o \in \eta(\mathbb{R})\); moreover we would have that \(\eta\) is transversal to the
orbit \(G \cdot p_o\). And if \(x_1 = \pi(p_o)\) is an inner point of \(\pi \circ \eta(\mathbb{R})\), which is a contradiction.

A similar contradiction arises if we assume that \(x_2 = \sup \pi \circ \eta(\mathbb{R}) < 1\).

Proof of Theorem 3.4. Pick a regular point \(p\). Let \(g = l + \mathbb{R}Z_G + m\) be the structural
decomposition of the orbit \(G \cdot p\) and let \(\eta_t = \exp(itZ_G) \cdot p\). From Lemmas 3.5 and
3.6 and Theorem 3.2, the structural decompositions \(g = l + \mathbb{R}Z_G(t) + m(t)\) of all
regular orbits \(G \cdot \eta_t\) are independent of \(t\). Moreover, from Lemma 3.5 and Theorem
3.2, it follows that the Morimoto–Nagano pair \((g_F, l_F)\) is the same for all regular orbits \(G \cdot \eta_t\) and the holomorphic subspace \(m_t^{10}\) of the orbit \(G \cdot \eta_t\) is of the form

\[
m_t^{10} = \Ad_{\exp(itZ_\varphi)}(m_0^{10}) = \Ad_{\exp(-itZ_\varphi)}(m_F^{10}(0)) + \Ad_{\exp(-itZ_\varphi)}(m'^{10}(0)) \tag{3.4}
\]

where \(m_0^{10} = m_F^{10}(0) + m'^{10}(0)\) is the decomposition of the holomorphic subspace of \(G \cdot \eta_0\) given in Theorem 3.2 c). Since \(Z_\varphi \in g_F\), from (3.4) and Theorem 3.2 d), it follows that

\[
m_t^{10} = \Ad_{\exp(-itZ_\varphi)}(m_F^{10}(0)) + m'^{10}(0).
\]

This proves that the Morimoto–Nagano holomorphic subspace \(m_F^{10}(t)\) of the orbit \(G \cdot \eta_t\) is

\[
m_F^{10}(t) = \Ad_{\exp(-itZ_\varphi)}(m_F^{10}(0)) \tag{3.5}
\]

and that the \(\mathcal{B}\)-orthogonal complement \(m'^{10} = m'^{10}(0)\) is independent of \(t\) and \(\text{ad}Z_\varphi\)-invariant.

A simple computation shows that if \(g_F\) and \(m_F^{10}(t) = \Ad_{\exp(-itZ_\varphi)}(m_F^{10}(0))\) appear in a row of Table 1 and if \(Z_\varphi\) is equal to \(Z_\varphi = AZ_\varphi\), where \(Z_\varphi\) is the corresponding element listed in the column “\(\varphi\)”, then \(m_F^{10}(t)\) is determined by a complex parameter \(\lambda = \lambda(t)\), which satisfies the differential equation

\[
\frac{d\lambda}{dt} = 2A\lambda(t).
\]

In particular, if we assume \(A = 1\), then \(\lambda(t) = e^{2itB_p}\) where \(B_p\) is a complex number which depends only on the regular point \(p\).

Let us replace \(\varphi\) with the point \(p_0 = \exp(-i\frac{B_p}{2}Z) \cdot p\): it is immediate to realize that the new function \(\lambda(t)\) is equal to

\[
\lambda(t) = e^{2itB_p-B_p} = e^{2t}.
\]

This proves that the curve \(\eta_t = e^{itZ_\varphi} \cdot p_0\) satisfies (1), (2), (3) and (4).

It remains to prove that for any choice of the regular point \(p\), the point \(p_o = \exp\left(-i\frac{B_p}{2}Z\right) \cdot p\) is a point of the non-complex singular orbit of \(M\).

Observe that, since \(\eta(\mathbb{R})\) is the orbit of a real 1-parameter subgroup of \(G^c\), the complex isotropy subalgebra \(h_t \subset g^c\) is (up to conjugation) independent of the point \(\eta_t\). Indeed, if \(\eta_{t_o}\) is a regular point with complex isotropy subalgebra \(h_{t_o} = l^c + m_F^{01} + m'^{01}\), then for any other point \(\eta_t\), we have that

\[
h_t = \Ad_{\exp(i(t-t_o)Z_\varphi)}(l^c + m_F^{01} + m'^{01}).
\]

On the other hand, the real isotropy subalgebra \(g_{\eta_t} \subset g\) is equal to
\[ g_{\eta_t} = \mathfrak{h}_t \cap \mathfrak{g} = \text{Ad}_{\exp(i(t-t_o)Z_o)}(\mathfrak{t}^c + \mathfrak{m}_{F}^{01} + \mathfrak{m}_{01}) \cap \mathfrak{g}. \] (3.6)

From (3.6), Table 1 and (4), one can check that in all cases

\[ g_{\eta_0} \supseteq I + \mathbb{R}Z_0 \]

and hence that \( \eta_0 = p_o \) is a singular point for the \( G \)-action. On the other hand \( p_o \) cannot be in the complex singular \( G \)-orbit, because otherwise this orbit would coincide with \( G^c \cdot p_o = G^c \cdot p \) and it would contradict the assumption that \( p \) is a regular point for the \( G \)-action.

The following is the analogous result for standard K-manifolds.

**Theorem 3.7.** Let \((M, J, g)\) be a standard K-manifold acted on by the compact semi-simple group \( \tilde{G} \) and let \( p_o \) be any regular point for the \( G \)-action. Let also \( g = I + \mathbb{R}Z + \mathfrak{m} \) and \( \mathfrak{m}_{10} \) be the structural decomposition and the holomorphic subspace associated with the CR structure of the orbit \( G/L = G \cdot p_o \). Then the curve

\[ \eta : \mathbb{R} \to M, \quad \eta_t = \exp(tZ) \cdot p_o \]

satisfies the following properties:

1. It is a nice transversal curve; in particular the stabilizer in \( g \) of any regular point \( \eta_t \) is equal to the isotropy subalgebra \( I = g_{p_o} \).

2. For any regular point \( \eta_t \), the structural decomposition \( g = I + \mathbb{R}Z_0(t) + \mathfrak{m}(t) \) and the holomorphic subspace \( \mathfrak{m}_{10}(t) \) of the CR structure of \( G/L = G \cdot \eta_t \) is given by the subspaces \( \mathfrak{m}(t) = \mathfrak{m}, \mathbb{R}Z_0(t) = \mathbb{R}Z \) and \( \mathfrak{m}_{10}(t) = \mathfrak{m}_{10} \).

**Proof.** (1) is immediate from Lemma 3.6.

(2) It is sufficient to prove that \([Z, \mathfrak{m}_{10}] \subseteq \mathfrak{m}_{10}\). In fact, from this the claim follows as an immediate corollary of Lemmas 3.5 and 3.6.

Let \((G/K, J_F)\) be the flag manifold with invariant complex structure \( J_F \), given by Theorem 2.7, so that any regular orbit \( G \cdot x \) admits a CRF fibration onto \( G/K \), with fiber \( S^1 \). Let also \( P \) be the parabolic subalgebra of \( G^c \) such that \( G/K \) is biholomorphic to \( G^c/P \).

From Proposition 2.5, if we denote by \( p = \mathfrak{t}^c + \mathfrak{n} \) the decomposition of the parabolic subalgebra \( p \subseteq \mathfrak{g}^c \) into nilradical \( \mathfrak{n} \) plus reductive part \( \mathfrak{t}^c \), we have that

\[ \mathfrak{f} = \mathfrak{p} \cap \mathfrak{g}, \quad \mathfrak{t}^c \subseteq \mathfrak{t}^c, \quad \mathfrak{t}^c + \mathfrak{m}_{10} \subseteq \mathfrak{t}^c + \mathfrak{n}. \] (3.7)

Since the CRF fibration has fiber \( S^1 \), it follows that \( \mathfrak{f} = I + \mathbb{R}Z' \) for some \( Z' \in \mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{f}) \subseteq a = C_{\mathfrak{g}}(I) \cap I^\perp \).

In case \( \dim a = 1 \), we have that \( a = \mathbb{R}Z = \mathbb{R}Z' \) and hence \( \mathfrak{m}_{10} \subseteq (\mathfrak{t}^c + \mathfrak{C}Z)^\perp = (\mathfrak{t}^c)^\perp \). From (3.7) we get that \( \mathfrak{m}_{10} = \mathfrak{n} \) and that \([Z, \mathfrak{m}_{10}] \subseteq [\mathfrak{t}^c, \mathfrak{n}] \subseteq \mathfrak{n} = \mathfrak{m}_{10} \).
In case $a$ is 3-dimensional, let us denote by $a^\perp = a \cap m = a \cap (\mathbb{R}Z)^\perp$ and by $a^{10} = a^\mathbb{C} \cap m^{10}$, $a^{01} = a^\mathbb{C} \cap m^{01} = \overline{a^{10}}$ so that $(a^\perp)^\mathbb{C} = a^{10} + a^{01}$. Consider also the orthogonal decompositions
\[ g = I + \mathbb{R}Z + m = I + \mathbb{R}Z + a^\perp + m', \quad m^{10} = a^{10} + m'^{10}, \]
where $m'^{10} = m^{10} \cap m'^\mathbb{C}$. Let $I^{ss}$ be the semisimple part of $I$ and note that $I^{ss} = \mathfrak{t}^{ss}$. By classical properties of flag manifolds (see e.g. [4], [5], [19]) the ad
\[
\frac{1}{2}
\]
that $m^{10} = \mathfrak{t}^{ss} = \mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}}$. From this, it follows that in order to prove that $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}} + \mathfrak{t}^{\mathbb{C}}$, one has only to show that $[Z, a^{10}] \subset \mathfrak{a}^{10} \subset \mathfrak{m}^{10}$.

By dimension counting, $a^{10} = \mathbb{C}E$ for some element $E \in a^\mathbb{C} \simeq \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$. In case $E$ is a nilpotent element for the Lie algebra $a^\mathbb{C} \simeq \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$, we may choose a Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{C}H_2$ for $\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R})$, so that $E \in \mathfrak{C}E_2$. In this case, we have that
\[ Z \in (a^{10} + a^{01})^\perp = (\mathbb{C}E_x + \mathbb{C}E_{-2})^\perp = \mathfrak{C}H_2 \]
and hence $[Z, a^{10}] \subset [\mathfrak{C}H_2, \mathfrak{C}E_2] = \mathfrak{C}E_2 = a^{10}$ and we are done.

In case $E$ is a regular element for $a^\mathbb{C}$, with no loss of generality, we may consider a Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{C}H_2$ for $a^\mathbb{C}$ so that $\mathfrak{C} = \mathbb{C}(E_x + tE_{-2})$ for some $t \neq 0$. In this case, $a^{01} = a^{10} = \mathbb{C}(E_{-2} + tE_{-2}) = \mathbb{C} \left( E_x + i \frac{1}{2} E_{-2} \right)$ and, since $a^{10} \cap a^{01} = \{ 0 \}$, it follows that $t \neq 1/\mathbf{i}$. In particular, we get that $\mathfrak{C}Z = (a^{10} + a^{01})^\perp = \mathfrak{C}H_2$. Now, by Lemma 3.5 (1), for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$, the isotropy subalgebra $I_{g_\lambda \cdot p_o}$, with $g_\lambda = \exp(\lambda Z)$, is equal to
\[ I_{g_\lambda \cdot p_o} = \text{Ad}_{\exp(\lambda Z)}(I^\mathbb{C} + a^{01} + m^{01}) \cap g = I^\mathbb{C} + m^{01} + \mathbb{C}(E_x + te^{-2\lambda Z}E_{-2}) \cap g. \]
Therefore, if $\lambda$ is such that $te^{-2\lambda Z} = -I$, we have that $I_{g_\lambda \cdot p_o} = I + \mathbb{R}(E_x - E_{-2}) \subset I$ and hence that $p = g_\lambda \cdot p_o$ is a singular point for the $G$-action. On the other hand, $p$ is in the $G^\mathbb{C}$-orbit of $p_o$ and hence the singular orbit $G \cdot p$ is not a complex orbit. But this is in contradiction with the hypothesis that $M$ is standard and hence that it has two singular $G$-orbits, which are both complex.

Any curve $\eta_t = \exp(itZ) \cdot p_o$, which satisfies the claim of Theorems 3.4 or 3.7, will be called an optimal transversal curve.

### 3.4 The optimal bases along the optimal transversal curves
In the following, $\eta$ is an optimal transversal curve. In case $M$ is a non-standard K-manifold with non-sphere-like fibering, we denote by $g = I + \mathbb{R}Z \oplus m$, $(g_F, I_F)$, $m^{10}(t)$ and $m^{10} = m^{10}(t) + m'^{10}$ the structural decomposition, the Morimoto–Nagano pair, the Morimoto–Nagano subspace and the holomorphic subspace, respectively, at the
regular points \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \). The same notation will be adopted in case \( M \) is a standard K-manifold, with the convention that, in this case, the Morimoto–Nagano pair \((g_F, I_F)\) is the trivial pair \((\{0\}, \{0\})\) and that the Morimoto–Nagano holomorphic subspace is \( m_{10}^F = \{0\} \).

We will also assume that \( I = I_o + I_F \), where \( I_o = I \cap I_F^\perp \). By \( t_F^c = t_o^c + t_F^c \subset t_F^c \subset g^c \), with \( t_o \subset I_o \) and \( t_F \subset I_F \), we denote a Cartan subalgebra of \( g^c \) with the property that the expressions of \( m_{10}^F(t) \) and \( Z_{\langle t \rangle} \) in terms of the root vectors of \((g_F^c, t_F^c)\) are exactly as those listed in Table 1, corresponding to the parameter \( \lambda_t = e^{2ti} \).

Let \( R \) be the root system of \((g^c, t^c)\). Then \( R \) is union of the following disjoint subsets of roots:

\[
R = R_o^c \cup R' = (R_o^c \cup R_F^c) \cup (R_F^c \cup R_+^c \cup R_-^c),
\]

where

\[
R_o^c = \{ x, E_x \in I_o^c \}, \quad R_F^c = \{ x, E_x \in I_F^c \}, \quad R_F' = \{ x, E_x \in m_F^c \}, \quad R_+ = \{ x, E_x \in m^{10} \}, \quad R_- = \{ x, E_x \in m^{01} \}.
\]

Note that

\[
-R_o^c = R_o^c, \quad -R_F^c = R_F^c, \quad -R_F' = R_F', \quad -R_+ = R_-. \]

Moreover, \( R_o^c \) is orthogonal to \( R_F^c \) and \( R_o^c \), \( R_F^c \) and \( R_F^c \cup R_F' \) are closed subsystems.

Clearly, in case \( M \) is standard, we will assume that \( R_F^c = R_F' = \emptyset \).

We claim that for any \( x \in R_F' \) there exists exactly one root \( \alpha \in I_F \) and two integers \( \epsilon_x = \pm 1 \) and \( \ell_x = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3 \) such that, for any \( t \in \mathbb{R} \),

\[
E_x + e^{2t\ell_x} \epsilon_x E_{-\alpha} \in m_{10}^F(t).
\] (3.8)

The proof of this claim is the following. By direct inspection of Table 1, the reader can check that any maximal \( I_F^c \)-isotopic subspace of \( m_{10}^F(t) \) (i.e. any maximal subspace which is sum of equivalent irreducible \( I_F^c \)-modules) is a direct sum of exactly two irreducible \( I_F^c \)-modules (see also [6]). Let us denote by \((\alpha_i, -\alpha_i)\) \((i = 1, 2, \ldots)\) all pairs of roots in \( R_F \) with the property that the associated root vectors \( E_{\alpha_i} \) and \( E_{-\alpha_i} \) are maximal weight vectors of equivalent \( I_F^c \)-modules in \( m_{10}^F(t) \). Using Table 1, one can check that in all cases \( m_{10}^F(t) \) decomposes into non-equivalent irreducible \( I_F^c \)-modules, with maximal weight vectors of the form

\[
E_{\alpha_i} + \lambda_{1}^{(i)} E_{-\alpha_i},
\]

where \( \lambda_{1}^{(i)} = (\lambda(t)\ell_i) e^{2t\ell_i} \ell_i \), where \( \ell_i \) is an integer which is either \( \pm 1, \pm 2 \) or \( \pm 3 \).

Hence \( m_{10}^F(t) \) is spanned by the vectors \( E_{\alpha_i} + \lambda_{1}^{(i)} E_{-\alpha_i} \) and by vectors of the form

\[
[E_{\beta}, E_{\alpha_i} + \lambda_{1}^{(i)} E_{-\alpha_i}] = N_{\beta, \alpha_i} E_{\alpha_i + \beta} + \lambda_{1}^{(i)} N_{\beta, -\alpha_i} E_{-\alpha_i + \beta},
\] (3.9)

for some \( E_\beta \in I_F^c \). Since the \( I_F^c \)-modules containing \( E_{\alpha_i} \) and \( E_{-\alpha_i} \) are equivalent, the
lengths of the sequences of roots \( z_i + r\beta \) and \(-z_i^d + r\beta\) are both equal to some given integer, say \( p\). This implies that for any root \( \beta \in R_F^0 \)

\[
N_{\beta,z_i}^2 = (p + 1)^2 = N_{\beta,-z_i^d}^2
\]

and hence that \( N_{\beta,z_i}/N_{\beta,-z_i^d} = \pm 1\). From this remark and (3.9), we conclude that \( m_{F}^{10}(t) \) is generated by elements of the form

\[
E_\alpha + \epsilon_\beta e^{t\alpha} E_{z_i}^{\alpha d},
\]

where \( \beta \in R_F^0, \alpha = z_i + \beta, z = z_i + \beta, z^d = z_i^d + \beta \) and \( \epsilon_\alpha = N_{\beta,z_i}/N_{\beta,-z_i^d} \). This concludes the proof of the claim.

For any root \( \alpha \in R_F \), we call CR-dual root of \( \alpha \) the root \( z^d \) so that \( E_\alpha + \epsilon_\beta e^{t\alpha} E_{z_i}^{\alpha d} \in m_{R}^{10}(t) \).

We fix a positive root subsystem \( R^+ \subset R \) so that \( R'_{F} = R^+ \cap (R^0 \cup R_F^0 \cup R_F^1) \).

Moreover, we decompose the set of roots \( R_F' \) into

\[
R_F' = R_F^{(+)} \cup R_F^{(-)}
\]

where

\[
R_F^{(+)} = \{ \alpha \in R_F' : E_\alpha + \epsilon_\beta e^{t\alpha} E_{z_i}^{\alpha d} \in m_{F}^{10}, \text{ with } \ell_\alpha = +1, +2, +3 \}
\]

\[
R_F^{(-)} = \{ \alpha \in R_F' : E_\alpha + \epsilon_\beta e^{t\alpha} E_{z_i}^{\alpha d} \in m_{F}^{10}, \text{ with } \ell_\alpha = -1, -2, -3 \}
\]

Using Table 1, one can check that in all cases

\[
m_{F}^{10} = \text{span}_C \{ E_\alpha + \epsilon_\beta e^{t\alpha} E_{z_i}^{\alpha d} : \alpha \in R_F^{(+)} \}
\]

and that if \( \alpha \in R_F^{(+)} \), then also the CR dual root \( z^d \in R_F^{(+)} \). We will denote by \( \{z_1, z_1^d, z_2, z_2^d, \ldots, z_r, z_r^d\} \) the set of roots in \( R_F^{(+)} \) and by \( \{\beta_1, \ldots, \beta_s\} \) the roots in \( R_F' = R^+ \cap R' \).

Observe that the number of roots in \( R_F^{(+)} \) is equal to \( \frac{1}{2}(\dim_G G_F/L_F - 1) \), where \( G_F/L_F \) is the Morimoto–Nagano space associated with the pair \((g_F, l_F)\).

Finally, we consider the following basis for \( \mathbb{R}Z_{\varphi} + m = T_{\eta_1} G \cdot \eta_1 \). We set

\[
F_0 = Z_{\varphi},
\]

and, for any \( 1 \leq i \leq r \), we define the vectors \( F_i^+, F_i^-, G_i^+ \) and \( G_i^- \), as follows: in case \( \{z_i, z_i^d\} \in R_F^{(+)} \) is a pair of CR dual roots with \( z_i \neq z_i^d \), we set

\[
F_i^+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(F_{z_i} + \epsilon_\beta F_{z_i}^{d}), \quad F_i^- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(F_{z_i} - \epsilon_\beta F_{z_i}^{d}),
\]

\[
G_i^+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(G_{z_i} + \epsilon_\beta G_{z_i}^{d}), \quad G_i^- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(G_{z_i} - \epsilon_\beta G_{z_i}^{d}), \quad (3.10)
\]
where \( \epsilon_{x_i} = \pm 1 \) is the integer defined in (3.8); in case \( \{z_i, z_i^d\} \in R_F^{(+)} \) is a pair of CR dual roots with \( z_i = z_i^d \), we set
\[
F_i^+ = F_{z_i} = \frac{E_{a_i} - E_{-a_i}}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad G_i^+ = G_{a_i} = \frac{E_{a_i} - E_{-a_i}}{\sqrt{2}} \tag{3.10'}
\]
and we do not define the corresponding vectors \( F_i^- \) or \( G_i^- \). Finally, for any \( 1 \leq i \leq s = n - 1 - 2r \), we set
\[
F_i' = F_{\beta_i}, \quad G_i' = G_{\beta_i}. \tag{3.11}
\]
Note that in case \( r \) is odd, there is only one root \( z_i \in R_F^{(+)} \) such that \( z_i = z_i^d \). When \( g_F = su_2 \), this root is also the unique root in \( R_F^{(+)} \).

In case \( g_F = \{0\} \), we set \( F_0 = Z_\emptyset \) and \( F_i' = F_{\beta_i}, G_i' = G_{\beta_i} \) and we do not define the vector \( F_i^{(\pm)} \) or \( G_i^{(\pm)} \).

The basis \( \{F_0, F_i^\pm, G_i^\pm, G_i\} \) for \( \mathbb{R}Z_\emptyset + m \), which we just defined, will be called an optimal basis associated with the optimal transversal curve \( \eta \). Notice that this basis is \( \beta \)-orthonormal.

For simplicity of notation, we will often use the symbol \( F_k \) (resp. \( G_k \)) to denote any vector in the set \( \{F_0, F_i^\pm, F_i'^\pm\} \) (resp. in \( \{G_i^\pm, G_i'\} \)). We will also denote by \( N_F \) the number of elements of the form \( F_i^\pm \). Note that \( N_F \) is equal to half the real dimension of the holomorphic distribution of the Morimoto–Nagano space \( G_F/L_F \).

For any odd integer \( 1 \leq 2k - 1 \leq N_F \), we will assume that \( F_{2k-1} = F_k^+ \); for any even integer \( 2 \leq 2k \leq N_F \), we will assume \( F_{2k} = F_k^- \). If \( N_F \) is odd, we denote by \( F_{N_F} \) the unique vector defined by (3.10'). We will also assume that \( F_j = F_j'_{-N_F} \) for any \( N_F + 1 \leq j \leq n - 1 \).

In case \( M \) is a standard K-manifold, we assume that \( N_F = 0 \).

In the following lemma, we describe the action of the complex structure \( J \) in terms of an optimal basis.

**Lemma 3.8.** Assume that \( \eta_t \) is an optimal transversal curve and let
\[
(F_0, F_i^\pm, F_i'^\pm, G_i^\pm, G_i')
\]
be an associated optimal basis of \( \mathbb{R}Z_\emptyset + m \). Let also \( J_t \) be the complex structure of \( m \) corresponding to the CR structure of a regular orbit \( G \cdot \eta_t \).

Then \( J_t F_i' = G_i' \) for any \( 1 \leq i \leq s = n - 1 - N_F \). Furthermore, if \( M \) is non-standard (i.e. \( N_F > 0 \)) then the following holds:

1. If \( 1 \leq i \leq N_F \) and \( \{z_i, z_i^d\} \) is a pair of CR-dual roots in \( R_F^{(+)} \) with \( z_i \neq z_i^d \) then
\[
J_t F_i^+ = -\coth(\ell_i t)G_i^+, \quad J_t F_i^- = -\tanh(\ell_i t)G_i^- \tag{3.12}
\]
where \( \ell_i \) is equal to 2 if \( F_i^\pm \in [m_F, m_F'] \cap m_F^\emptyset \) and is equal to 1 otherwise.
(2) If $1 \leq i \leq N_F$ and $\{ \xi_i, \xi_i^d \}$ is a pair of CR-dual roots in $R_F^{(\pm)}$ with $\xi_i = \xi_i^d$, so that $F_i^+ = F_i^-$, then

$$J_i F_i^+ = -\coth(\ell_i t) G_i^+,$$

(3.13)

where $\ell_i$ is equal to 2 or 3 if $F_i^\pm \in \{m_F, m_F\} \cap m_F^\pm$ and is equal to 1 otherwise. Note that the cases $\ell_i = 2, 3$ may occur only if $\mathfrak{g}_F = \mathfrak{f}_4, \mathfrak{g}_2$ or $\mathfrak{sp}_n$—see Table 1.

**Proof.** The first claim is an immediate consequence of Theorem 3.2 d) and the property of invariant complex structures on flag manifolds.

In order to prove (3.12), let us consider a pair $\{ \xi_i, \xi_i^d \}$ of CR dual roots in $R_F^+$ with $\xi_i \neq \xi_i^d$; by the previous remarks, there exist two integers $\ell_i, \ell_i^d$, which are either +1, +2 or +3, and two integers $\epsilon_{\xi_i}, \epsilon_{\xi_i^d} = \pm 1$, so that

$$E_{\xi_i} + \epsilon_{\xi_i} e^{2 \ell_i t} E_{-\xi_i}, \quad E_{\xi_i^d} + \epsilon_{\xi_i^d} e^{2 \ell_i^d t} E_{-\xi_i^d} \in m_{F}^{(1)}(t)$$

for any $t \neq 0$.

By direct inspection of Table 1, one can check that the integers $\ell_i, \ell_i^d$ are always equal. We claim that also $\epsilon_i = \epsilon_i^d$ for any CR dual pair $\{ \xi_i, \xi_i^d \} \subset R_F^{(\pm)}$.

In fact, by conjugation, it follows that the following two vectors are in $m_{F}^{(1)}(t)$ for any $t \neq 0$:

$$E_{\xi_i} + \frac{1}{\epsilon_{\xi_i^d} e^{2 \ell_i t}} E_{-\xi_i}, \quad E_{\xi_i^d} + \frac{1}{\epsilon_{\xi_i^d} e^{2 \ell_i^d t}} E_{-\xi_i^d} \in m_{F}^{(1)}(t).$$

(3.14)

At this point, we recall that $\eta_0$ is a singular point for the $G$-action and that, by the structure theorems in [15] (see also [6]), the isotropy subalgebra $\mathfrak{g}_{\eta_0}$ contains the isotropy subalgebra $(\mathfrak{g}_F)_{\eta_0}$ of the non-complex singular $G_F$-orbit in $M$, which is a c.r.o.s.s. In particular, one can check that $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} (\mathfrak{g}_F)_{\eta_0} = \dim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathfrak{I}_F + \epsilon m_{F}^{(1)}$.

On the other hand, by Lemma 3.5 (1), we have that $(\mathfrak{g}_F)_{\eta_0} = \mathfrak{I}_F + \mathfrak{g} \cap m_{F}^{(1)}(0)$ and hence that

$$\dim_{\mathbb{R}} (\mathfrak{g} \cap m_{F}^{(1)}(0)) = \dim_{\mathbb{R}} m_{F}^{(1)}(0).$$

(3.15)

Here, by $m_F^{(1)}(0)$ we denote the subspace which is obtained from Table 1, by setting the value of the parameter $\lambda$ equal to $\lambda(0) = e^0 = 1$. Note that this subspace is not a Morimoto–Nagano subspace.

From (3.14), one can check that (3.15) occurs if and only if

$$\epsilon_{\xi_i^d} = \epsilon_{\xi_i}$$

(3.16)

for any pair of CR dual roots $\xi_i, \xi_i^d$. This proves the claim.

In the following, we will use the notation $\epsilon_i = \epsilon_{\xi_i} = \epsilon_{\xi_i^d}$.

By some straightforward computations, it follows that, for any $t \neq 0$, the elements
$F_{a_1}, F_{a_1'}, G_{a_1}$ and $G_{a_1'}$ are equal to the following linear combinations of holomorphic and anti-holomorphic elements:

$$F_{a_1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(1 - e^{4/\ell_i})}} \left\{ \left( E_{a_1} + e_i e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1'} \right) + e_i e^{2/\ell_i} \left( E_{a_1'} + e_i e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1} \right) \right\},$$

$$F_{a_1'} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(1 - e^{4/\ell_i})}} \left\{ \left( e_i e^{2/\ell_i} (E_{a_1} + e_i e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1'}) + (E_{a_1'} + e_i e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1}) \right) \right\},$$

$$G_{a_1} = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2(1 - e^{4/\ell_i})}} \left\{ \left( E_{a_1} + e_i e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1'} \right) - e_i e^{2/\ell_i} \left( E_{a_1'} + e_i e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1} \right) \right\},$$

$$G_{a_1'} = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2(1 - e^{4/\ell_i})}} \left\{ \left( -e_i e^{2/\ell_i} (E_{a_1} + e_i e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1'}) + (E_{a_1'} + e_i e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1}) \right) \right\}.$$

We then obtain that

$$J_i F_{a_1} = \frac{1 + e_i e^{4/\ell_i}}{1 - e^{4/\ell_i}} G_{a_1} + \frac{2 e_i e^{2/\ell_i}}{1 - e^{4/\ell_i}} G_{a_1'},$$

$$J_i F_{a_1'} = \frac{2 e_i e^{2/\ell_i}}{1 - e^{4/\ell_i}} G_{a_1} + \frac{1 + e_i e^{4/\ell_i}}{1 - e^{4/\ell_i}} G_{a_1'}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.17)

So, using the fact that $e_i^2 = 1$, we get $J_i F_{a_1}^+ = \frac{1 + e_i e^{4/\ell_i}}{1 - e^{2/\ell_i}} G_{a_1}^+ = -\coth(\ell_i) G_{a_1}^+$ and $J_i F_{a_1'}^- = \frac{1 - e_i e^{2/\ell_i}}{1 + e^{2/\ell_i}} G_{a_1}^- = -\tanh(\ell_i) G_{a_1}^-$. The proof of (3.13) is similar. It suffices to observe that for any $t \neq 0$

$$F_{a_1}^+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(1 - e^{4/\ell_i})}} \left\{ \left( 1 + e^{2/\ell_i} \right) (E_{a_1} + e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1'}) \right\},$$

$$G_{a_1}^+ = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2(1 - e^{4/\ell_i})}} \left\{ \left( 1 - e^{2/\ell_i} \right) (E_{a_1} + e^{2/\ell_i} E_{-a_1'}) \right\},$$

and hence that $J_i F_{a_1}^+ = \frac{1 + e^{2/\ell_i}}{1 - e^{2/\ell_i}} G_{a_1}^+ = -\coth(\ell_i) G_{a_1}^+$. 

Andrea Spiro
In this section we give a rigorous definition of the algebraic representatives of the Kähler form $\omega$ and the Ricci form $\rho$ of a K-manifold. We will also prove Proposition 1.1.

Indeed, we will give the concept of ‘algebraic representative’ for any bounded, closed 2-form $\omega$, which is defined on $M_{\text{reg}}$ and which is $G$-invariant and $J$-invariant. Clearly, $\omega|_{M_{\text{reg}}}$ and $\rho|_{M_{\text{reg}}}$ belong to this class of 2-forms.

Let $\eta : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M$ be an optimal transversal curve. Since $\mathfrak{g}$ is semisimple, for any $G$-invariant 2-form $\omega$ on $M_{\text{reg}}$ there exists a unique $\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}}$-invariant element $F_{\omega,t} \in \text{Hom}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g})$ such that:

$$\mathcal{B}(F_{\omega,t}(X), Y) = \omega_{\eta_t}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}), \quad X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}, t \neq 0.$$ (4.1)

If $\omega$ is also closed, we have that for any $X, Y, W \in \mathfrak{g}$

$$0 = 3d\omega(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}, \hat{W}) = \omega(\hat{X}, [\hat{Y}, \hat{W}]) + \omega([\hat{Y}, \hat{W}], \hat{X})$$

This implies that

$$F_{\omega,t}([X, Y]) = [F_{\omega,t}(X), Y] + [X, F_{\omega,t}(Y)]$$

i.e. $F_{\omega,t}$ is a derivation of $\mathfrak{g}$. Therefore, $F_{\omega,t}$ is of the form

$$F_{\omega,t} = \text{ad}(Z_{\omega}(t))$$ (4.2)

for some $Z_{\omega}(t) \in \mathfrak{g}$ and $\omega_{\eta_t}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) = \mathcal{B}([Z_{\omega}(t), X], Y) = \mathcal{B}(Z_{\omega}(t), [X, Y])$. Note that since $F_{\omega,t}$ is $\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}}$-invariant, $Z_{\omega}(t) \in C_{\mathfrak{g}}(I) = \mathfrak{z}(I) + \mathfrak{a}$, where $\mathfrak{a} = C_{\mathfrak{g}}(I) \cap I^\perp$.

We call the curve

$$Z_{\omega} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow C_{\mathfrak{g}}(I) = \mathfrak{z}(I) + \mathfrak{a},$$ (4.3)

the algebraic representative of the 2-form $\omega$ along the optimal transversal curve $\eta$.

By definition, if the algebraic representative $Z_{\omega}(t)$ is given, it is possible to reconstruct the values of $\omega$ on any pair of vectors which are tangent to the regular orbits $G \cdot \eta_t$. Actually, since for any point $\eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}}$ we have that $J(T_{\eta_t}G) = T_{\eta_t}M$, it follows that one can evaluate $\omega$ on any pair of vectors in $T_{\eta_t}M$ if the value $\omega_{\eta_t}(Z_{\omega}, J\hat{Z}_{\omega})$ is also given. However, in case $\omega$ is a closed form, the following proposition shows that this last value can be recovered from the first derivative of the function $Z_{\omega}(t)$.

**Proposition 4.1.** Let $(M, J, \mathfrak{g})$ be a K-manifold acted on by the compact semisimple Lie group $G$ and assume that, if it is non-standard, it has a non-sphere-like fibering. Let also $\eta_t = \exp(tZ_{\omega}) \cdot p_\omega$ be an optimal transversal curve and $Z_{\omega} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathfrak{z}(I) + \mathfrak{a}$ the algebraic representative of a bounded, $G$-invariant, $J$-invariant closed 2-form $\omega$ along $\eta$. Then we have:
(1) If \( M \) is a standard K-manifold or a non-standard KO-manifold (i.e. if either \( \alpha = \mathbb{R} \mathcal{Z}_\alpha \) or \( \alpha = \mathfrak{su}_2 \) and \( M \) is standard), then there exists an element \( I_\varpi \in \mathfrak{z}(l) \) and a smooth function \( f_\varpi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) so that

\[
Z_\varpi(t) = f_\varpi(t)Z_\alpha + I_\varpi.
\]  

(4.4)

(2) If \( M \) is non-standard KE-manifold, then there exists a Cartan subalgebra \( \mathfrak{t}^\mathbb{C} \subset \mathfrak{t}^\mathbb{C} + \alpha^\mathbb{C} \) and a root \( \alpha \) of the corresponding root system, such that \( Z_\alpha \in \mathbb{R}(iH_\alpha) \) and \( \alpha = \mathbb{R}Z_\alpha + \mathbb{R}F_\alpha + \mathbb{R}G_\alpha \); furthermore there exists an element \( I_\varpi \in \mathfrak{z}(l) \), a real number \( C_\varpi \) and a smooth function \( f_\varpi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) so that

\[
Z_\varpi(t) = f_\varpi(t)Z_\alpha + \frac{C_\varpi}{\cosh(t)} G_\alpha + I_\varpi.
\]  

(4.4’)

Conversely, if \( Z_\varpi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow C_\mathbb{R}(l) \) is a curve in \( C_\mathbb{R}(l) \) of the form (4.4) or (4.4’), then there exists a unique closed \( J \)-invariant, \( G \)-invariant 2-form \( \varpi \) on \( M_{reg} \), having \( Z_\varpi(t) \) as algebraic representative. Such a 2-form is the unique \( J \)- and \( G \)-invariant form which satisfies

\[
\varpi_{\eta_j}(\hat{V}, \hat{W}) = \mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi(t), [V, W]), \quad \varpi_{\eta_j}(J\hat{Z}_\alpha, \hat{Z}_\alpha) = -f'_\varpi(t)\mathcal{B}(Z_\alpha, Z_\alpha).
\]  

(4.5)

for any \( V, W \in \mathfrak{m} \) and any \( \eta \in M_{reg} \).

Proof. Let \( \varpi \) be a closed 2-form which is \( G \)-invariant and \( J \)-invariant and let \( Z_\varpi(t) \) be the associated algebraic representative along \( \eta \). Recall that \( Z_\varpi(t) \in \mathfrak{z}(l) + \alpha \). So, if the action is ordinary (i.e. \( \alpha = \mathbb{R}Z_\alpha \)), \( Z_\varpi(t) \) is of the form

\[
Z_\varpi(t) = f_\varpi(t)Z_\alpha + I_\varpi(t),
\]  

(4.6)

where the vector \( I_\varpi(t) \in \mathfrak{z}(l) \) may depend on \( t \).

In case the action of \( G \) is extraordinary (that is \( \alpha = \mathfrak{su}_2 \)), by Lemma 2.2 in [20] there exists a Cartan subalgebra \( \mathfrak{t}^\mathbb{C} \subset \mathfrak{t}^\mathbb{C} + \alpha^\mathbb{C} \) such that \( \alpha^\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}H_\alpha + \mathbb{C}E_\alpha + \mathbb{C}E_{-\alpha} \) for some root \( \alpha \) of the corresponding root system. By the arguments in the proof of Theorem 3.7, this Cartan subalgebra can be always chosen in such a way that \( Z_\alpha \in \mathbb{R}(iH_\alpha) \) and hence that \( \alpha = \mathbb{R}Z_\alpha + \mathbb{R}F_\alpha + \mathbb{R}G_\alpha \).

Then the function \( Z_\varpi(t) \) can be written as

\[
Z_\varpi(t) = f_\varpi(t)Z_\alpha + g_\varpi(t)F_\alpha + h_\varpi(t)G_\alpha + I_\varpi(t)
\]  

(4.6’)

for some smooth real valued functions \( f_\varpi, g_\varpi \) and \( h_\varpi \) and some element \( I_\varpi(t) \in \mathfrak{z}(l) \).

We now want to show that, in case \( M \) is a non-standard KE-manifold, then \( g_\varpi(t) \equiv 0 \) and that \( h_\varpi(t) = \frac{C_\varpi}{\cosh(t)} \) for some constant \( C_\varpi \).

In fact, observe that if \( Z_\varpi(t) \) is of the form (4.6’) and if \( Z_\alpha \) is as listed in Table 1 for \( \mathfrak{g}_2 = \mathfrak{su}_2 \), then
Consider now the facts that \( \varpi \) is closed, \( \hat{G}_a \) and \( \hat{Z}_a \) are holomorphic vector fields and \( J\hat{Z}_a|_{\eta_i} = \eta_i^t \). It follows that \( g_\varpi \) satisfies the following ordinary differential equation

\[
\frac{dg_\varpi}{dt} \bigg|_{\eta_i} = -\frac{d}{dt} \varpi(\hat{Z}_a, \hat{G}_a)|_{\eta_i} = -J\hat{Z}_a(\varpi(\hat{Z}_a, \hat{G}_a)|_{\eta_i})
\]

\[
= \hat{G}_a(\varpi(\hat{J}\hat{Z}_a, \hat{Z}_a)|_{\eta_i}) + \hat{Z}_a(\varpi(\hat{G}_a, \hat{J}\hat{Z}_a)|_{\eta_i}) - \varpi_{\eta_i}(\hat{Z}_a, \hat{G}_a)
\]

\[
= \varpi_{\eta_i}(\hat{G}_a, \hat{J}\hat{Z}_a) - \varpi_{\eta_i}(\hat{Z}_a, \hat{G}_a)
\]

\[
= -\varpi_{\eta_i}(\hat{Z}_a, J\hat{F}_a) = \coth(t)\varpi_{\eta_i}(\hat{Z}_a, \hat{G}_a) = -\coth(t)g_\varpi(t). \quad (4.7)
\]

We claim that this implies

\[
g_\varpi(t) \equiv 0. \quad (4.8)
\]

In fact, if we assume that \( g_\varpi(t) \) does not vanish identically, integrating the above equation, we have that \( g_\varpi(t) = \frac{C}{\sinh(t)} \) for some \( C \neq 0 \) and hence with a singularity at \( t = 0 \). But this contradicts the fact that \( \varpi \) is a bounded 2-form.

With a similar argument, we have that \( h_\varpi(t) \) satisfies the differential equation

\[
\frac{dh_\varpi}{dt} \bigg|_{\eta_i} = -\tanh(t)h_\varpi(t);
\]

by integration this gives

\[
h_\varpi(t) = \frac{C_\varpi}{\cosh(t)} \quad (4.9)
\]

for some constant \( C_\varpi \).

We show now that, in case \( M \) is a standard KE-manifold, then \( Z_\varpi(t) \) is of the form (4.4). In fact, even if a priori \( Z_\varpi(t) \) is of the form (4.6'), from Lemma 3.8 and the same arguments for proving (4.7), we obtain that

\[
\frac{dg_\varpi}{dt} \bigg|_{\eta_i} = -\varpi_{\eta_i}(\hat{Z}_a, J\hat{F}_a) = -\varpi_{\eta_i}(\hat{Z}_a, \hat{G}_a) = g_\varpi(t). \quad (4.10)
\]

This implies that \( g_\varpi(t) = Ae^t \) for some constant \( A \). On the other hand, if \( A \neq 0 \), it would follow that \( \lim_{t \to \infty} |\varpi_{\eta_i}(\hat{Z}_a, \hat{G}_a)| = \lim_{t \to \infty} |g_\varpi(t)| = +\infty \), which is impossible since \( \varpi_{\eta_i}(\hat{Z}_a, \hat{G}_a) \) is bounded. Hence \( g_\varpi(t) \equiv 0 \).
A similar argument proves that $h_\varpi(t) \equiv 0$.

In order to conclude the proof, it remains to show that in all cases the element $I_\varpi(t)$ is independent of $t$ and that $\varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, Z_\varpi) = -f'_\varpi(t)\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, Z_\varpi)$ for any $t$. We will prove these two facts only for the case $\varpi \simeq \mathfrak{su}_2$ and $M$ non-standard, since the proof in all other cases is similar.

Consider two elements $V, W \in \mathfrak{g}$. Since $\varpi$ is closed we have that

$$0 = 3d\varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{V}, \hat{W})$$

$$= J\tilde{Z}_\varpi(\varpi_\eta(\hat{V}, \hat{W})) - \hat{V}(\varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{W})) + \hat{W}(\varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{V}))$$

$$- \varpi_\eta([J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{V}], \hat{W}) + \varpi_\eta([J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{W}], \hat{V}) - \varpi_\eta([\hat{V}, \hat{W}], J\tilde{Z}_\varpi)$$

$$= JZ_\varpi|_{\eta}(\varpi(\hat{V}, \hat{W})) - \varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, [\hat{V}, \hat{W}])$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt}(\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, [V, W]))|_t + \varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, [\hat{V}, \hat{W}]).$$

(4.11)

On the other hand, we have the following orthogonal decomposition of the element $[V, W]$:

$$[V, W] = \frac{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, [V, W])}{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, Z_\varpi)} Z_\varpi - \mathcal{B}(F_x, [V, W])F_x - \mathcal{B}(G_x, [V, W])G_x$$

$$+ [V, W]_{(1+a)^+} + [V, W]_1,$$

where $[V, W]_1$ and $[V, W]_{(1+a)^+}$ are the orthogonal projections of $[V, W]$ into $I$ and $(1+\alpha)^+$, respectively. Then

$$\varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, [\hat{V}, \hat{W}]) = \frac{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, [V, W])}{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, Z_\varpi)} \varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{Z}_\varpi) - \mathcal{B}(F_x, [V, W])\varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{F}_x)$$

$$- \mathcal{B}(G_x, [V, W])\varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{G}_x) + \varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, [\hat{V}, \hat{W}]_{(1+a)^+})$$

$$= \frac{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, [V, W])}{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, Z_\varpi)} \varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{Z}_\varpi) + \mathcal{B}(F_x, [V, W])\varpi_\eta(\tilde{Z}_\varpi, J\hat{F}_x)$$

$$+ \mathcal{B}(G_x, [V, W])\varpi_\eta(\tilde{Z}_\varpi, J\hat{G}_x) - \varpi_\eta(\tilde{Z}_\varpi, J[\hat{V}, \hat{W}]_{(1+a)^+})$$

$$= \frac{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, [V, W])}{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, Z_\varpi)} \varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{Z}_\varpi) + \mathcal{B}(G_x, [V, W]) \frac{C_\varpi \tanh(t)}{\cosh(t)}$$

$$- \mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi(t), [Z_\varpi, J\eta([V, W]_{(1+a)^+})])$$

$$= \mathcal{B}\left(\left\{ \varpi_\eta(J\tilde{Z}_\varpi, \hat{Z}_\varpi) \frac{Z_\varpi}{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varpi, Z_\varpi)} - h'_\varpi(t)G_x \right\}, [V, W] \right).$$
Therefore (4.11) becomes

\[
B \left( \left\{ f'_\omega(t) + \frac{\omega'}{\bar{\omega}}(J\bar{Z}_\omega, \bar{Z}_\omega) \right\} Z_\omega + \frac{d\omega}{dt}, [V, W] \right) = 0.
\]

Since \( V, W \) are arbitrary and \( \frac{d\omega}{dt} \in z(l) \subseteq (Z_\omega)^\perp \), it implies \( f'_\omega(t) = -\frac{\omega(J\bar{Z}_\omega, \bar{Z}_\omega)}{\bar{\omega}(Z_\omega, Z_\omega)} \) and \( \frac{d\omega}{dt} \equiv 0 \), as we needed to prove.

We conclude this section with the following corollary which gives a geometric interpretation of the optimal bases (see also Section 1).

**Corollary 4.2.** Let \((M, J, g)\) be a K-manifold, which is standard or non-standard with non-sphere-like fibering, and let \((F_i, G_i)\) be an optimal basis along an optimal transversal curve \( \eta_t = \exp(itiZ_p) \cdot p_0 \). For any \( \eta_t \in M_{\text{reg}} \), denote by \( T_{\eta_t}^E M \):

\[
e_0 = F_0|_{\eta_t} - iJ\bar{F}_0|_{\eta_t} = \bar{Z}|_{\eta_t} - iJ\bar{Z}|_{\eta_t}, \quad e_i = F_i|_{\eta_t} - iJ\bar{F}_i|_{\eta_t}, \quad i \geq 1.
\]

Then we have:

1. **If** \( M \) is a KO-manifold or a standard KE-manifold, then the holomorphic frames \( F_t \) are orthogonal with respect to any \( G \)-invariant Kähler metric \( g \) on \( M \).

2. **If** \( M \) is a non-standard KE-manifold, then the holomorphic frames \( F_t \) are orthogonal with respect to any \( G \)-invariant Kähler metric \( g \) on \( M \), whose associated algebraic representative \( Z_{o\omega}(t) \) has vanishing coefficient \( C_{0\omega} = 0 \) (see Proposition 4.1 for the definition of \( C_{0\omega} \)).

**Proof.** It is a direct consequence of definitions and Proposition 4.1.

## 5 The Ricci tensor of a K-manifold

From the results of Section 4, the Ricci form \( \rho \) can be completely recovered from the algebraic representative \( Z_\rho(t) \) along an optimal transversal curve \( \eta_t \). On the other hand, using a few known properties of flag manifolds, the reader can check that the curve \( Z_\rho(t) \in z(l) + a \) is uniquely determined by the 1-parameter family of quadratic forms \( Q^\rho \) on \( m \) given by

\[
Q^\rho_t : m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad Q^\rho_t(E) = r_{\eta_t}(\hat{E}, \hat{E}) = -\rho_{\eta_t}(\hat{E}, \hat{E}) = -B(Z_\rho(t), [E, J_t E]).
\]

Since \( m \) corresponds to the subspace \( D_{\eta_t} \subseteq T_{\eta_t}G \cdot \eta_t \), this means that for any Kähler metric \( \omega \), the corresponding the Ricci tensor \( r \) is uniquely determined by its restrictions \( r|_{D_{\eta_t} \times D_{\eta_t}} \) to the holomorphic tangent spaces \( D_t \) of the regular orbits \( G \cdot \eta_t \).

The expression for the restrictions \( r|_{D_{\eta_t} \times D_{\eta_t}} \) in terms of the algebraic representative \( Z_{\omega}(t) \) of the Kähler form \( \omega \) is given in the following theorem.
Theorem 5.1. Let \((M, J, g)\) be a K-manifold, which is standard or non-standard with non-sphere-like fibering, and let \(\eta_i = \exp(iZ_{\eta}) \cdot p_o\) be an optimal transversal curve. Using the same notation of Section 3, let also \((F_i, G_i) = (F_0, F_k^\pm, G_k^\pm, F'_j, G'_j)\) be an optimal basis for \(\mathbb{R}Z_{\eta} + m\). Finally, for any \(1 \leq j \leq N_F\) let \(\ell_j\) be the integer which appears in (3.12) for the expression of \(J_t F_i\), and for any \(N_F + 1 \leq k \leq n - 1\) let \(\beta_k\) be the root so that \(F_k = F_k_0\).

Then, for any \(\eta_i \in M_{reg}\) and for any element \(E \in m\)

\[
\rho_{\eta_i}(\tilde{E}, J\tilde{E}) = A_E(t) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} h'(t) - \sum_{i=1}^{N_F} \tanh^{(-1)^{i+1}}(\ell_i t) \ell_i + \sum_{j=N_F+1}^{n-1} \beta_j (iZ_{\eta}) \right\} + B_E(t) \tag{5.1}
\]

where

\[
h(t) = \log(\omega^n(\tilde{F}_0, J\tilde{F}_0, \tilde{F}_1, J\tilde{F}_1, \ldots, JF_{n-1})|_{\eta_i}), \tag{5.2}
\]

\[
A_E(t) = \frac{\mathcal{B}(\eta_i[\tilde{E}, J\tilde{E}], Z_{\eta})}{\mathcal{B}(Z_{\eta}, Z_{\eta})}, \tag{5.3}
\]

\[
B_E(t) = -\sum_{i=1}^{N_F} \tanh^{(-1)^{i+1}}(\ell_i t) \mathcal{B}(\eta_i[\tilde{E}, J\tilde{E}], [F_i, G_i])
+ \sum_{j=N_F+1}^{n-1} \mathcal{B}(iH_{\beta_j}, [\tilde{E}, J\tilde{E}])_{\eta_i} \tag{5.4}
\]

and where, for any \(X \in \mathfrak{g}\), we denote by \(X_{1+m}\) (resp. \(X_{3(I)}\)) the projection parallel to \((1 + m)^\perp = \mathbb{R}Z_{\eta}\) (resp. to \(3(1)^\perp\)) of \(X\) into \(1 + m\) (resp. into \(3(I)\)).

Proof. Let \(J_t\) be the complex structure on \(m\) induced by the complex structure \(J\) of \(M\). For any \(E \in m\) and any point \(\eta_i\), we may clearly write that \(\rho_{\eta_i}(\tilde{E}, J\tilde{E}) = \rho_{\eta_i}(\tilde{E}, J_t\tilde{E})\) and hence, by Koszul’s formula (see [17], [8]),

\[
\rho_{\eta_i}(\tilde{E}, J\tilde{E}) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\mathcal{L}_{J\tilde{E}}(\rho_{\eta_i})}{\mathcal{L}_{\tilde{E}}(\rho_{\eta_i})} \frac{\omega^n(\tilde{F}_0, J\tilde{F}_0, \tilde{F}_1, J\tilde{F}_1, \ldots, J\tilde{F}_{n-1})}{\omega^n(\tilde{F}_0, J\tilde{F}_0, \tilde{F}_1, J\tilde{F}_1, \ldots, J\tilde{F}_{n-1})} \tag{5.5}
\]

(note that the definition we adopt here for the Ricci form \(\rho\) is opposite in sign to the definition used in [8]).

Recall that for any \(Y \in \mathfrak{g}\), we may write

\[
\tilde{Y}|_{\eta_i} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \lambda_i \tilde{F}_i|_{\eta_i} + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu_i J\tilde{F}_i|_{\eta_i},
\]

where \(\lambda_i = \frac{\mathcal{B}(Y, F_i)}{\mathcal{B}(F_i, F_i)}\) and \(\mu_i = \frac{\mathcal{B}(Y, JF_i)}{\mathcal{B}(JF_i, JF_i)}\). Hence, for any \(i\)
\[ [J[E, J_i E], \hat{F}_i]_{\eta_i} = -J[[E, J_i E], F_i]_{\eta_i} \]
\[ = -\sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{\mathcal{B}([E, J_i E], [F_i, F_j])}{\mathcal{B}(F_j, F_j)} J\hat{F}_j|_{\eta_j(t)} + \sum_{j \geq 1} \frac{\mathcal{B}([E, J_i E], [J_1 J_f])}{\mathcal{B}(J_f J_f, J_f J_f)} \hat{F}_j|_{\eta_j(t)} \]
\[ = -\sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{\mathcal{B}([E, J_i E], [F_i, F_j])}{\mathcal{B}(F_j, F_j)} J\hat{F}_j|_{\eta_j(t)} \]
\[ + \sum_{j \geq 1} \frac{\mathcal{B}([E, J_i E], [F_i, J_f])}{\mathcal{B}(J_f J_f, J_f J_f)} J\hat{F}_j|_{\eta_j(t)}, \] (5.6)

\[ [J[E, J_i E], J\hat{F}_i]_{\eta_i} = [[E, J_i E], F_i]_{\eta_i} \]
\[ = \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{\mathcal{B}([E, J_i E], [F_i, F_j])}{\mathcal{B}(F_j, F_j)} J\hat{F}_j|_{\eta_j(t)} \]
\[ + \sum_{j \geq 1} \frac{\mathcal{B}([E, J_i E], [F_i, J_f])}{\mathcal{B}(J_f J_f, J_f J_f)} J\hat{F}_j|_{\eta_j(t)} \] (5.7)

Therefore, if we denote \( h(t) = \log(\omega^n(\hat{F}_0, J\hat{F}_0, \hat{F}_1, J\hat{F}_1, \ldots, J\hat{F}_{n-1})|_{\eta_i}) \), then, after some straightforward computations, (5.5) becomes

\[ p_{\eta_i}(E, J_i E) = \frac{1}{2} J[E, J_i E]|_{\eta_i} - \sum_{j \geq 1} \frac{\mathcal{B}([E, J_i E], [J_1 J_f])}{\mathcal{B}(J_f J_f, J_f J_f)} \] (5.8)

We claim that

\[ J[E, J_i E]|_{\eta_i} = A_E(t) h_i'. \] (5.9)

In fact, for any \( X \in \mathfrak{g} \)

\[ \dot{X}(\omega(\hat{F}_0, J\hat{F}_0, \ldots, J\hat{F}_{n-1})|_{\eta_i}) \]
\[ = -\omega_{\eta_i}([\hat{X}, F_0], J\hat{F}_0, \ldots, J\hat{F}_{n-1}) - \omega(F_0, J[\hat{X}, F_0], \ldots, J\hat{F}_{n-1}) - \cdots = 0. \] (5.10)

On the other hand,

\[ J[E, J_i E]|_{\eta_i} = \frac{\mathcal{B}([E, J_i E], X_{\mathcal{G}})}{\mathcal{B}(X_{\mathcal{G}}, X_{\mathcal{G}})} J\dot{X}_{\mathcal{G}}|_{\eta_i} + J\dot{X}_{\eta_i} = A_E(t) J\dot{X}_{\mathcal{G}}|_{\eta_i} + J\dot{X}_{\eta_i} \] (5.11)

for some \( X \in \mathfrak{m} \). From (5.11) and (5.10) and the fact that \( J\dot{Z}_{\mathcal{G}}|_{\eta_i} = \eta_i' \), we immediately obtain (5.9).

Let us now prove that
\[ \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{B([E, J_i E], [F_i, J_i F_i])}{B(J_i F_i, J_i F_i)} = A_E \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{N_F} \tanh^{-1}([\ell_i t]/\ell_i) \ell_i - \sum_{j=N_F+1}^{n-1} \beta_j (i\mathcal{Z}_\theta) \right\} - B_E \] (5.12)

First of all, observe that from definitions, for any \(1 \leq k \leq N_F\) we have that, for any case of Table 1, when \(x_k \neq x_k^d\),

\[ B(Z_\theta, [F_k, G_k]) = \frac{1}{2} B(Z_\theta, [F_{2k}, (-1)^{k+1} \epsilon_k F_{2k}, G_{2k} + (-1)^{k+1} \epsilon_k G_{2k^d}]) \]

\[ = \frac{i}{2} B(Z_\theta, H_{2k} + H_{2k^d}) = \ell_k, \] (5.13)

and, when \(x_k = x_k^d\),

\[ B(Z_\theta, [F_k, G_k]) = B(Z_\theta, [F_{2k}, G_{2k}]) = B(Z_\theta, iH_{2k}) = \ell_k. \] (5.13')

Similarly, for any \(N_F + 1 \leq j \leq n - 1\)

\[ B(Z_\theta, [F_j, G_j]) = B(Z_\theta, iH_{\beta_j}) = \beta_j (i\mathcal{Z}_\theta). \] (5.14)

So, using (5.13), (5.13'), (5.14) and the fact that \(B(F_i, F_i) = B(G_i, G_i) = -1\) for any \(1 \leq i \leq n - 1\), we obtain that for \(1 \leq k \leq N_F\),

\[ \frac{B([E, J_i E], [F_k, J_i F_k])}{B(J_i F_k, J_i F_k)} = \tanh^{-1}([\ell_k t]) \left( \frac{B(Z_\theta, [F_k, G_k])}{B(Z_\theta, Z_\theta)} \frac{B([E, J_i E], Z_\theta)}{B([E, J_i E], Z_\theta)} \right. \]

\[ + \left. B([E, J_i E], [F_k, G_k]) \right) \] (5.15)

and for any \(N_F + 1 \leq j \leq N\)

\[ \frac{B([E, J_i E], [F_j, J_i F_j])}{B(J_i F_j, J_i F_j)} = - \frac{B([E, J_i E], Z_\theta)}{B(Z_\theta, Z_\theta)} B(Z_\theta, [F_j, G_j]) \]

\[ - B([E, J_i E], [F_j, G_j]) \]

\[ = -A_E \beta_j (i\mathcal{Z}_\theta) - B(iH_{\beta_j}, [E, J_i E]_{i[1]}). \] (5.16)

From (5.15) and (5.16), we immediately obtain (5.12) and from (5.8) this concludes the proof.

The expressions for the functions \(A_E(t)\) and \(B_E(t)\) simplify considerably if one assumes that \(E\) is an element of the optimal basis. Such expressions are given in the following conclusive proposition.
Proposition 5.2. Let \((F_i , G_i )\) be an optimal basis along an optimal transversal curve \(\eta_t\) of a \(K\)-manifold \(M\), which is standard or non-standard with non-sphere-like fibering. For any \(1 \leq i \leq N_F\), let \(\eta_i\) be as in Theorem 5.1 and denote by \(\{\alpha_i, \alpha_i^d\} \in R_F^{(+)}\) the pair of CR-dual roots, such that \(F_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (F_{\alpha_i} \pm \epsilon F_{\alpha_i^d})\) or \(F_i = F_{\alpha_i}\), in case \(\alpha_i = \alpha_i^d\); also, for any \(N_F + 1 \leq j \leq n - 1\), denote by \(\beta_j \in R'_+\) the root such that \(F_j = F_{\beta_j}\). Finally, let \(A_E(t)\) and \(B_E(t)\) be as defined in Theorem 5.1 and let us write

\[Z^c = \sum_{k=N_F+1}^{n-1} iH_{\beta_k}.\] (5.17)

1. If \(E = F_i\) for some \(1 \leq i \leq N_F\), then

\[A_F(t) = - \frac{\eta_i \tanh (-1)^i (\eta_i t)}{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varphi, Z_\varphi)} \quad \text{and} \quad B_F(t) = \frac{\eta_i \tanh (-1)^i (\eta_i t)}{\mathcal{B}(Z_\varphi, Z_\varphi)} \mathcal{B}(Z^c, Z_\varphi) + \tanh (-1)^i (\eta_i t) \left( \sum_{j=1}^{N_F} \tanh (-1)^{i+j} (\eta_j t) \mathcal{B}(F_i, G_j)_{1+m}, [F_j, G_j]_{1+m \text{}}} \right). \] (5.19)

2. If \(E = F_i\) for some \(N_F + 1 \leq i \leq n - 1\), then

\[A_F(t) = \mathcal{B}(Z_\varphi, iH_{\beta_i}) \quad \text{and} \quad B_F(t) = \mathcal{B}(Z^c, iH_{\beta_i}).\] (5.20)

**Proof.** Formulae (5.18) and (5.19) are immediate consequences of definitions and of (5.13), (5.13') and (5.14). Formula (5.20) can be checked using the fact that \([F_{\beta_i}, JF_{\beta_i}] = [F_{\beta_i}, G_{\beta_i}] = iH_{\beta_i}\) for any \(N_F + 1 \leq i \leq n - 1\), from properties of the Lie brackets \([F_i, G_j]\), with \(1 \leq i \leq N_F\), which can be derived from Table 1, and from the fact that \(\mathbb{R} Z_\varphi \leq [m', m']^{\perp}\).

**References**


Received 17 May, 2001

A. Spiro, Mathematics and Physics Department, Via Madonna delle Carceri, I-62032 Camerino (Macerata), Italy
Email: andrea.spiro@unicam.it