

## Research Article

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# Formality and the Lefschetz property in symplectic and cosymplectic geometry

DOI 10.2478/coma-2015-0006

Received April 14, 2015; accepted July 11, 2015

**Abstract:** We review topological properties of Kähler and symplectic manifolds, and of their odd-dimensional counterparts, coKähler and cosymplectic manifolds. We focus on formality, Lefschetz property and parity of Betti numbers, also distinguishing the simply-connected case (in the Kähler/symplectic situation) and the  $b_1 = 1$  case (in the coKähler/cosymplectic situation).

**MSC:** 53C15, 55S30, 53D35, 55P62, 57R17.

## 1 Introduction

Symplectic geometry is the study of symplectic manifolds, that is, smooth manifolds endowed with a 2-form which is closed and non-degenerate. Important examples of symplectic manifolds are  $\mathbb{R}^{2n} = \mathbb{R}^n \times (\mathbb{R}^n)^*$  and, more generally, the cotangent bundle  $T^*M$  of any smooth manifold  $M$ , which is endowed with a canonical symplectic structure. Cotangent bundles are especially important in classical mechanics, where they arise as phase spaces of a classical physical system (see [5]). In case the physical system has symmetries, one can perform a reduction procedure on the phase space; this often produces compact examples of symplectic manifolds (see [74]). Therefore, the study of compact symplectic manifolds is also relevant. In the last decades, starting with the first questions on the global nature of symplectic manifolds and the foundational work of Gromov (see [48]), symplectic geometry has become a branch of geometry which is interesting *per se*. Standard references for symplectic geometry include [7, 24, 78]. For more advanced applications, including connections with Mirror Symmetry, we refer to [79, 88].

Kähler manifolds are special examples of symplectic manifolds. Recall that a Hermitian manifold is Kähler if its Kähler form is closed (see Section 2.1 for all the relevant definitions). In particular, symplectic geometry receives many inputs from algebraic geometry. Indeed, the complex projective space  $\mathbb{C}P^n$  is endowed with a Kähler structure, which is inherited by all projective varieties.

For a long time, the only known examples of symplectic manifolds came in fact from Kähler and algebraic geometry. It was only in 1976 that Thurston gave the first example of a symplectic manifold which carries no Kähler metric (see [90]). Since then, the quest for examples of symplectic manifolds which do not carry Kähler metrics has been a very active area of research in symplectic geometry, whose main contribution has been the introduction of new techniques for constructing symplectic manifolds (see [9, 31, 33, 44, 46, 48, 49, 77] as well as Section 3.5 for an account).

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Cosymplectic geometry was first studied by Libermann in [68]. Blair and the Japanese school tracking back to Sasaki have studied cosymplectic geometry in the setting of almost contact metric structures (see [21] and the references therein). To some extent, cosymplectic geometry can be viewed as the odd-dimensional counterpart of symplectic geometry. Indeed, cosymplectic manifolds are the right geometric framework for time-dependent Hamiltonian mechanics. The main example of a cosymplectic manifold is the product of a symplectic manifold with the real line, or a circle. There exist however cosymplectic manifolds which are not products (see Example 4.18). Very recently, cosymplectic manifolds have appeared in the study of a special type of Poisson structures, namely  $b$ -symplectic structures (see [52, 53]), as well as a special class of foliated manifolds (see [75]). We refer to [25] for a recent survey on cosymplectic geometry.

Examples of cosymplectic manifolds come from coKähler geometry. CoKähler structures are normal almost contact metric structures  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$  for which the tensor  $\phi$  is parallel with respect to the Levi-Civita connection (see Section 2.2 for the relevant definitions). The main example is provided by the product of a Kähler manifold and the real line (or the circle). We point out here as well that there exist compact coKähler manifolds which are not the product of a compact Kähler manifold and a circle (see [18]).

Compact Kähler and coKähler manifolds satisfy quite stringent topological properties, which we have collected in Theorems 3.1 and 4.1 below. One way to produce an example of a symplectic manifold which does not carry Kähler metrics (resp. of a cosymplectic manifold which does not carry coKähler metrics) consists in constructing a symplectic manifold (resp. a cosymplectic manifold) which violates some of these topological properties.

In this paper we study two of these topological properties, which manifest both in the Kähler and in the coKähler case, namely the Lefschetz property and the formality of the rational homotopy type. The interplay between them has been extensively investigated in the symplectic case, yet nothing has been said in the cosymplectic case.

In the symplectic framework, our starting point is the paper [58], in which the authors collected the known (at the time) examples of symplectic manifolds which are, for instance, formal, but do not satisfy the Lefschetz property. Some questions remained open in [58]. Recent contributions of many authors (among them we quote Bock [23] and Cavalcanti [26]) provided many examples, leaving just one gap, which we fill here (see Proposition 3.13). Therefore, we complete the picture started in [58].

Formality is a topological property and it makes perfectly sense to ask whether a cosymplectic manifold is formal. The Lefschetz property, however, turns out to be much more delicate to deal with in the odd-dimensional setting. For this, in section 4 we will restrict to the class of  $K$ -cosymplectic structures, i.e. almost coKähler structures for which the Reeb field is Killing (see Section 2.2 for definitions). It turns out that the product of a compact almost Kähler manifold and a circle is always  $K$ -cosymplectic. We prove new results on the relation between Lefschetz property and the parity of the first Betti number for any compact  $K$ -cosymplectic manifold (see Propositions 4.7 and 4.8). We will also study the relationship between formality and the Lefschetz property on compact  $K$ -cosymplectic manifolds which are products of an almost Kähler manifold and a circle (see Tables 3 and 4 of subsection 4.3 as well as the examples mentioned there).

## 2 Preliminaries

We collect in this section the basics in symplectic and cosymplectic geometry. We will also do a quick review of rational homotopy theory and formality. Finally, since many of the examples we provide are nilmanifolds and solvmanifolds, we shall discuss the main properties of these important classes of manifolds.

## 2.1 Symplectic geometry

A *symplectic manifold* is a pair  $(M, \omega)$  where  $M$  is a smooth manifold and  $\omega$  is a closed, non-degenerate 2-form. Examples of symplectic manifolds are the vector space  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$ , the cylinder, the complex projective space  $\mathbb{C}P^n$  and, more generally, coadjoint orbits of semisimple Lie groups.

Recall that an almost Hermitian structure  $(g, J)$  on an even-dimensional manifold  $M$  consists of a Riemannian metric  $g$  and an almost complex structure  $J$ . Such a structure is called *almost Kähler* if the Kähler form  $\omega \in \Omega^2(M)$ , defined by  $\omega(\cdot, \cdot) = g(\cdot, J\cdot)$ , is closed; it is called *Kähler* if, in addition, the almost complex structure  $J$  is integrable. Notice that, if  $(M, g, J)$  is an almost Kähler manifold, then  $M$ , together with the Kähler form  $\omega$ , is a symplectic manifold.

## 2.2 Cosymplectic geometry

A *cosymplectic manifold*, as defined by Libermann [68], is a triple  $(M^{2n+1}, \eta, \omega)$ , where  $\eta$  is a 1-form,  $\omega$  is a 2-form, both are closed, and  $\eta \wedge \omega^n \neq 0$ . Note that a cosymplectic manifold is necessarily orientable. The product of a compact symplectic manifold and a circle has a natural cosymplectic structure.

An *almost contact metric structure* on a manifold  $M$  is a 4-tuple  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$ , where

- $\eta$  is a 1-form and  $\xi$  is a vector field (called the Reeb field), such that  $\eta(\xi) = 1$ ;
- $\phi: TM \rightarrow TM$  is a tensor which satisfies  $\phi^2 = \text{Id} - \eta \otimes \xi$ ;
- $g$  is a Riemannian metric, which is compatible with  $\phi$ , namely,  $g(\phi\cdot, \phi\cdot) = g(\cdot, \cdot) - \eta(\cdot)\eta(\cdot)$ .

The Kähler form  $\omega$  of an almost contact metric structure  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$  is  $\omega \in \Omega^2(M)$ , defined by  $\omega(\cdot, \cdot) = g(\cdot, \phi\cdot)$ . The almost contact metric structure is

- *almost coKähler* if  $d\eta = 0 = d\omega$ ;
- *K-cosymplectic* if it is almost coKähler and the Reeb field is Killing;
- *coKähler* if it is almost coKähler and  $N_\phi = 0$ , where  $N_\phi$  is the Nijenhuis torsion of  $\phi$  (see [21]).

K-cosymplectic structures have been recently introduced by the first author and Goertsches in [15]. If  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$  is an almost coKähler structure on  $M$ , then  $M$  together with  $\eta$  and the Kähler form  $\omega$  is a cosymplectic manifold.

*Remark 2.1.* In the original works (see for instance [21, 28]), the term *cosymplectic* was used to denote what is called today coKähler. The terminology coKähler was introduced by Li in [66], and seems to have become standard since then.

## 2.3 Formality

The de Rham theorem asserts that the *real* cohomological information of a smooth manifold  $M$  can be recovered from the analysis of the smooth forms  $\Omega^*(M)$ . Apart from the additive structure,  $\Omega^*(M)$  is endowed with two other operators:

- the de Rham differential  $d: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$ ;
- the wedge product  $\wedge: \Omega^k(M) \otimes \Omega^\ell(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+\ell}(M)$ ;

these interact through the Leibniz rule, which says that  $d$  is a (graded) derivation with respect to the wedge product, i.e.  $d(\alpha \wedge \beta) = d\alpha \wedge \beta + (-1)^{\deg \alpha} \alpha \wedge d\beta$ .

In the seminal paper [89], and following previous work of Quillen, Sullivan showed that the infinitesimal nature of the wedge product could be used to extract a great deal of homotopical information of a space  $X$  from the analysis of *piecewise linear* differential forms  $\Omega_{\text{PL}}^*(X)$  on  $X$ . More precisely, from  $\Omega_{\text{PL}}^*(X)$  one can

recover not only the rational cohomology  $H^*(X; \mathbb{Q})$  of  $X$ , but also its rational homotopy groups  $\pi_k(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ . For this to work,  $X$  has to be a *nilpotent* space. This means that  $\pi_1(X)$  is a nilpotent group whose action on higher homotopy groups is nilpotent. Here and in the sequel, by *space* we mean a CW-complex of finite type. We refer to [35, 36, 47] for all the results we quote in rational homotopy theory.

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $\mathbf{k}$  be a field of zero characteristic. A *commutative differential graded algebra over  $\mathbf{k}$*  ( $\mathbf{k}$ -cdga for short) is a graded vector space  $A = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} A^n$  together with a product  $\cdot$  which is commutative in the graded sense, i.e.  $x \cdot y = (-1)^{|x||y|} y \cdot x$ , where  $|x|$  is the degree of a homogeneous element  $x$ , and a  $\mathbf{k}$ -linear map  $d: A^n \rightarrow A^{n+1}$  such that  $d^2 = 0$ , which is a graded derivation with respect to  $\cdot$ , i.e.

$$d(x \cdot y) = dx \cdot y + (-1)^{|x|} x \cdot dy. \tag{1}$$

Given two cdga's  $(A, d)$  and  $(A', d')$ , a *morphism* is a map  $\varphi: A \rightarrow A'$  which preserves the degree and such that  $d' \circ \varphi = \varphi \circ d$ . A morphism of cdga's which induces an isomorphism in cohomology is a *quasi isomorphism*.

**Example 2.3.** Here are a few examples of cdga's.

- (a) Given a cdga  $(A, d)$ , its cohomology is a cdga with trivial differential.
- (b) The de Rham algebra of a smooth manifold, endowed with the wedge product and the exterior differential, is an  $\mathbb{R}$ -cdga.
- (c) Piecewise linear differential forms  $(\Omega_{\text{PL}}^*(X), d)$  on a space  $X$  are a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -cdga.
- (d) Given a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  defined over  $\mathbf{k}$ , the Chevalley-Eilenberg complex  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  is a  $\mathbf{k}$ -cdga. Given a basis  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and its dual basis  $\{e^1, \dots, e^n\}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ , the differential of  $e^k \in \mathfrak{g}^*$  is defined by  $de^k(e_i, e_j) = -e^k([e_i, e_j])$ , then extended to  $\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*$  by imposing (1). That  $d$  squares to zero is equivalent to the Jacobi identity in  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

A very important class of examples of cdga's is provided by Sullivan minimal algebras:

**Definition 2.4.** A *Sullivan minimal algebra* is a cdga  $(A, d) = (\bigwedge V, d)$  where

- $\bigwedge V$  is the free commutative algebra generated by a graded vector space  $V = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} V^n$ ;
- there exists a basis  $\{x_\tau\}_{\tau \in I}$  of generators of  $V$ , for some well-ordered index set  $I$ , such that  $|x_\nu| \leq |x_\mu|$  for  $\nu < \mu$  and  $dx_\mu$  is expressed in term of the  $x_\nu$  with  $\nu < \mu$ . In particular,  $d$  has no linear part.

The reason why Sullivan minimal algebras are important is given by the following result:

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $(A, d)$  be a  $\mathbf{k}$ -cdga, where  $\text{char}(\mathbf{k}) = 0$ . Then there exist a Sullivan minimal algebra  $(\bigwedge V, d)$  and a quasi isomorphism  $\varphi: (\bigwedge V, d) \rightarrow (A, d)$  which induces an isomorphism on cohomology.  $(\bigwedge V, d)$ , which is unique up to automorphisms, is the minimal model of  $(A, d)$ .

**Definition 2.6.** Let  $X$  be a nilpotent space. The *minimal model* of  $X$  is the minimal model of the cdga  $(\Omega_{\text{PL}}^*(X), d)$ . It is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -cdga, usually denoted by  $(\bigwedge V_X, d)$ .

*Remark 2.7.* When  $M$  is a smooth manifold, its *real* minimal model is the minimal model of the de Rham algebra  $(\Omega^*(M), d)$ .

Recall that the rationalization of a space  $X$  is a rational space  $X_{\mathbb{Q}}$  (i.e. a space whose homotopy groups are rational vector spaces) together with a map  $f: X \rightarrow X_{\mathbb{Q}}$  inducing isomorphisms  $\pi_k(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \pi_k(X_{\mathbb{Q}})$ . Two spaces  $X$  and  $Y$  have the same rational homotopy type if their rationalizations  $X_{\mathbb{Q}}$  and  $Y_{\mathbb{Q}}$  have the same homotopy type. Sullivan constructed a 1-1 correspondence between nilpotent rational spaces and isomorphism

classes of Sullivan minimal algebras over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , given by

$$X \longleftrightarrow (\bigwedge V_X, d).$$

In this sense, one can study rational homotopy types algebraically.

**Definition 2.8.** Let  $(A, d)$  be a cdga and let  $(\bigwedge V, d)$  be its minimal model.  $(A, d)$  is *formal* if there exists a quasi isomorphism  $(\bigwedge V, d) \rightarrow (H^*(A), 0)$ . A space  $X$  is formal if its minimal model  $(\bigwedge V_X, d)$  is.

Since, by definition, the cohomology of  $(\bigwedge V_X, d)$  is precisely  $(H^*(X; \mathbb{Q}), 0)$ , a space  $X$  is formal if its minimal model (hence its rational homotopy type) is determined by its rational cohomology. There are many examples of formal spaces, among them Kähler and coKähler manifolds, symmetric spaces, H-spaces.

*Remark 2.9.* In [64], Kotschick called a manifold *geometrically formal* if it carries a Riemannian metric for which all wedge products of harmonic forms are harmonic. One sees easily that a geometrically formal manifold is formal. Indeed, consider the map  $(H^*(M), 0) \rightarrow (\Omega^*(M), d)$  which assigns to each cohomology class its unique harmonic representative (harmonic with respect to the metric which makes  $M$  geometrically formal). Such map is then a morphism of cdga's, and is clearly a quasi isomorphism. By general theory of minimal models (see for instance [84, Chapter 1]), one gets a quasi isomorphism  $(\bigwedge V_M, d) \rightarrow (H^*(M), 0)$ , hence  $M$  is formal. There are, however, examples of formal manifolds which are not geometrically formal (see [65]). Such examples are generalised symmetric spaces of compact simple Lie groups. It is unclear whether there exist examples of formal, not geometrically formal compact homogeneous non-symmetric spaces. Geometric formality influences the topology of the underlying manifold (see [85]).

Massey products are an obstruction to formality. We describe here triple Massey products and refer to [42, 84] for their higher order analogue. Let  $M$  be a manifold and let  $a_i \in H^{p_i}(M; \mathbb{R})$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , be three cohomology classes such that  $a_1 \cup a_2 = 0 = a_2 \cup a_3$ . Take forms  $\alpha_i$  on  $M$  with  $[\alpha_i] = a_i$  and write  $\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 = d\sigma$ ,  $\alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_3 = d\tau$ . The Massey product of these classes is

$$\langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle = [\alpha_1 \wedge \tau + (-1)^{p_1+1} \sigma \wedge \alpha_3] \in \frac{H^{p_1+p_2+p_3-1}(M; \mathbb{R})}{\alpha_1 \cup H^{p_2+p_3-1}(M; \mathbb{R}) + H^{p_1+p_2-1}(M; \mathbb{R}) \cup \alpha_3}.$$

It was proven in [32] that all Massey products vanish on a formal manifold.

In the present paper we will also deal with spaces which are not nilpotent, for instance solvmanifolds (see Section 2.5 below). When it comes to them, we shall also address the question of whether they are formal spaces or not. When we ask such a question, we simply mean to ask whether the minimal model is a formal cdga, in the sense of Definition 2.8.

## 2.4 s-formality

In [42], the second and third authors introduced the notion of *s-formality*, which is a suitable weakening of the notion of formality, and proved that for compact oriented manifolds the weaker notion implies the stronger one. First note the following result of [32] which gives a characterization of formality.

**Theorem 2.10.** *A minimal model  $(A, d)$  is formal if and only if we can write  $A = \bigwedge V$  and the space  $V$  decomposes as a direct sum  $V = C \oplus N$  with  $d(C) = 0$ ,  $d$  is injective on  $N$  and such that every closed element in the ideal  $I(N)$  generated by  $N$  in  $\bigwedge V$  is exact.*

In [42] we weaken the condition of formality as follows.

**Definition 2.11.** We say that a minimal model  $(A, d)$  is *s-formal* if we can write  $A = \bigwedge V$  such that for each  $i \leq s$  the space  $V^i$  of generators of degree  $i$  decomposes as a direct sum  $V^i = C^i \oplus N^i$ , where the spaces  $C^i$  and  $N^i$  satisfy the following three conditions:

1.  $d(C^i) = 0$ ,
2. the differential map  $d: N^i \rightarrow \bigwedge V$  is injective,
3. any closed element in the ideal  $I(\bigoplus_{i \leq s} N^i)$ , generated by  $\bigoplus_{i \leq s} N^i$  in  $\bigwedge(\bigoplus_{i \leq s} V^i)$ , is exact in  $\bigwedge V$ .

A connected manifold is  $s$ -formal if its minimal model is  $s$ -formal. The main result of [42] is:

**Theorem 2.12.** *Let  $M$  be a connected and orientable compact differentiable manifold of dimension  $2n$ , or  $(2n - 1)$ . Then  $M$  is formal if and only if it is  $(n - 1)$ -formal.*

## 2.5 Nilmanifolds and solvmanifolds

For us, nilmanifolds and solvmanifolds are compact homogeneous spaces of nilpotent and solvable Lie groups. General references are [8, 84].

**Definition 2.13.** A (compact) *nilmanifold* is the quotient of a simply connected nilpotent Lie group  $G$  by a lattice  $\Gamma$ .

**Definition 2.14.** A (compact) *solvmanifold* is the quotient of a simply connected solvable Lie group  $G$  by a lattice  $\Gamma$ .

Notice that every nilpotent group is solvable, hence every nilmanifold is a solvmanifold, but the converse is not true. A solvable group  $G$  is completely solvable if the adjoint representation on  $\mathfrak{g}$  has only real eigenvalues. Every nilpotent Lie group is completely solvable.

A connected, simply connected nilpotent Lie group is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for some  $n$ ; the diffeomorphism is given by the exponential map. Also, a simply connected solvable Lie group is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for some  $n$ . Hence a solvmanifold  $S = \Gamma \backslash G$  (in particular, a nilmanifold) is an aspherical space with  $\pi_1(S) = \Gamma$ .

According to a theorem of Mal'čev (see [73]), a simply connected nilpotent Lie group  $G$  admits a lattice  $\Gamma$  if and only if there exists a basis of  $\mathfrak{g}$  such that the structure constants are rational numbers. So far, a statement of this flavor is not known for simply connected solvable Lie groups. A necessary condition for a Lie group to admit a compact quotient is unimodularity. The construction of lattices in solvable Lie groups is an active area of research (see for instance [23, 30]).

From the cohomological point of view, completely solvable solvmanifolds are particularly simple:

**Theorem 2.15** (Nomizu, [83] and Hattori, [56]). *Let  $S = \Gamma \backslash G$  be a completely solvable solvmanifold and let  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  be the Chevalley-Eilenberg complex of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Then the inclusion  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d) \hookrightarrow (\Omega^*(S), d)$  is a quasi isomorphism.*

Nilmanifolds are particularly tractable with rational homotopy theoretical methods.

**Theorem 2.16** (Hasegawa, [54]). *Let  $N = \Gamma \backslash G$  be a nilmanifold. Then the Chevalley-Eilenberg complex  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is the minimal model of  $N$ .*

We point out that, since  $G$  admits a lattice by hypothesis,  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -cdga. Hasegawa also proved:

**Theorem 2.17** (Hasegawa, [54]). *A nilmanifold  $N$  is formal if and only if it is diffeomorphic to a torus.*

*Remark 2.18.* If  $S = \Gamma \backslash G$  is a completely solvable solvmanifold, the result of Hattori implies that  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  is a model for  $(\Omega^*(S), d)$ , meaning that the inclusion is a quasi isomorphism.

**Example 2.19.** We give an example of a non-toral nilmanifold. Consider the Heisenberg group

$$H = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & y & z \\ 0 & 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid x, y, z \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

and the lattice  $\Gamma = \{A \in H \mid x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . Then  $N = \Gamma \backslash H$  is a 3-dimensional nilmanifold. The Chevalley-Eilenberg complex of  $\mathfrak{h}$  is

$$(\bigwedge(e^1, e^2, e^3), de^3 = e^1 \wedge e^2).$$

Since  $b_1(N) = 2$ ,  $N$  is not diffeomorphic to a torus.

## 3 Formality and the Lefschetz property in symplectic geometry

### 3.1 Topology of compact Kähler manifolds

Suppose that  $M$  is a compact manifold. The question of whether and how the existence of a Kähler metric  $g$  on  $M$  constrains the topology of  $M$  has motivated a great deal of research in mathematics. Let us recall the main topological features of a compact Kähler manifold.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $(M^{2n}, J, g)$  be a compact Kähler manifold and let  $\omega$  be the Kähler form. Then*

- (i) *the odd Betti numbers  $b_{2k-1}(M)$  are even,  $1 \leq k \leq n$ ;*
- (ii) *the Lefschetz map  $L^{n-k}: H^k(M; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^{2n-k}(M; \mathbb{R})$ ,  $[\alpha] \mapsto [\omega]^{n-k} \wedge [\alpha]$  is an isomorphism,  $0 \leq k \leq n$ ;*
- (iii) *the rational homotopy type of  $M$  is formal.*

(i) and (ii) follow from Hodge-de Rham theory on a compact Kähler manifold. Notice that (ii) implies (i). This is clear since, for  $1 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ , the bilinear map

$$H^{2k-1}(M; \mathbb{R}) \times H^{2k-1}(M; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^{2n}(M; \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}, \quad ([\alpha], [\beta]) \mapsto [\alpha] \wedge [\beta] \wedge [\omega]^{n-2k+1}$$

is a symplectic form on  $H^{2k-1}(M; \mathbb{R})$ . Then one simply applies Poincaré duality. For a proof of these facts we refer to [57].

These properties have proven to be extremely useful in the task of constructing examples of compact symplectic manifolds with no Kähler metric (see for instance [14, 26, 44, 46, 77]). It is natural to ask whether these three properties are related on a compact symplectic manifold. Such a question was first tackled in [58]. The authors collected the examples, known at the time, of compact symplectic manifolds which violate some of the properties of Theorem 3.1. The kind of question we want to answer is

Is there a compact symplectic manifold  $M$  which satisfies (i) and (iii) above but not (ii)?

The fundamental group plays a crucial role in setting this question. Indeed, while it is relatively easy to come up with non-simply connected compact symplectic manifolds which are non-formal or do not satisfy the Lefschetz property, the same question is harder in the simply connected case. We shall therefore subdivide our examples into the simply connected and the non-simply connected case.

*Remark 3.2.* There is a fourth topological constraint on the topology of compact Kähler manifolds: their fundamental groups are not arbitrary (see [2]). On the other hand, Gompf showed in [46] that every finitely presented group is the fundamental group of a compact symplectic 4-manifold.

### 3.2 The Lefschetz property on compact symplectic manifolds

Let  $(M^{2n}, \omega)$  be a compact symplectic manifold and consider, for  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , the map

$$L^{n-k}: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{2n-k}(M), \quad \alpha \mapsto \omega^{n-k} \wedge \alpha. \quad (2)$$

Clearly (3) sends closed (resp. exact) forms to closed (resp. exact) forms, hence it descends to a well defined map

$$L^{n-k}: H^k(M; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^{2n-k}(M; \mathbb{R}). \quad (3)$$

**Definition 3.3.** We say that a symplectic manifold  $(M^{2n}, \omega)$  satisfies the *Lefschetz property* if the Lefschetz map (3) is an isomorphism for  $0 \leq k \leq n$ .  $(M, \omega)$  is of *Lefschetz type* if (3) is an isomorphism for  $k = 1$ .

The Lefschetz map is related to some other important objects which can be defined on a compact symplectic manifold. On the one hand, following work of Koszul [63], Brylinski (see [22]) and Libermann (see [69]) showed that, on a compact symplectic manifold  $(M, \omega)$ , one can define a *symplectic*  $*$ -operator,  $*$ :  $\Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{2n-k}(M)$ ; from this, one gets a symplectic codifferential  $\delta: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k-1}(M)$  defined by  $\delta := (-1)^k (*d*)$ . A form  $\alpha \in \Omega^k(M)$  is *symplectically harmonic* if

$$d\alpha = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \delta\alpha = 0.$$

Denote by  $\Omega^*(M, \omega)$  the space of symplectically harmonic forms on  $(M, \omega)$ . Clearly,

$$\mathcal{H}^k(M, \omega) := \frac{\Omega^k(M, \omega)}{\Omega^k(M, \omega) \cap \text{Im } d}$$

is a subspace of  $H^k(M; \mathbb{R})$ . We have the following result, proved independently by Mathieu and Yan (see [76, Corollary 2] and [92, Theorem 0.1]):

**Theorem 3.4.** *The inclusion  $\mathcal{H}^k(M, \omega) \hookrightarrow H^k(M; \mathbb{R})$  is an isomorphism if and only if  $(M, \omega)$  has the Lefschetz property.*

The Lefschetz property appears indirectly in another feature of the study of cohomological properties of symplectic manifolds. Given a symplectic manifold  $(M, \omega)$ , we consider the differential  $d$  and the symplectic codifferential  $\delta$ . The following property is known as  *$d\delta$ -lemma*:

$$\text{Im } d \cap \ker \delta = \text{Im } \delta \cap \ker d = \text{Im } d\delta. \quad (4)$$

Merkulov (see [80]) related the  $d\delta$ -lemma with the symplectically harmonic cohomology. More precisely, he proved:

**Theorem 3.5.** *A symplectic manifold  $(M, \omega)$  satisfies the  $d\delta$ -lemma if and only if the inclusion  $\mathcal{H}^k(M, \omega) \hookrightarrow H^k(M; \mathbb{R})$  is an isomorphism.*

We mention here that the Lefschetz property has been studied also in the context of almost Kähler manifolds. Let  $(M, g, J)$  be an almost Kähler manifold and let  $\omega$  be the Kähler form. Motivated by the Donaldson “tamed to compatible” conjecture (see [34]), Li and Zhang considered in [67] the following subspaces of  $H^2(M; \mathbb{R})$ :

- $H_J^+(M) := \{\alpha \in H^2(M; \mathbb{R}) \mid J\alpha = \alpha\}$ ;
- $H_J^-(M) := \{\alpha \in H^2(M; \mathbb{R}) \mid J\alpha = -\alpha\}$ .

One has  $H_J^+(M) + H_J^-(M) \subset H^2(M; \mathbb{R})$ , but the sum is in general neither direct nor equal to  $H^2(M; \mathbb{R})$ . The almost complex structure  $J$  is said to be

- $\mathbb{C}^\infty$ -pure if  $H_J^+(M) \cap H_J^-(M) = 0$ ;

- $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ -full if  $H_j^+(M) + H_j^-(M) = H^2(M; \mathbb{R})$ ;
- $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ -pure-and-full if  $H_j^+(M) \oplus H_j^-(M) = H^2(M; \mathbb{R})$ .

Angella, Tomassini and Zhang proved the following result (compare [4, Theorem 2.3]; see also [3, Chapter 4]):

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $(M^{2n}, g, J)$  be an almost Kähler manifold and assume that the Lefschetz map  $L^{n-2} : \Omega^2(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{2n-2}(M)$  takes harmonic forms to harmonic forms. Then, if  $J$  is  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ -full, it is also  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ -pure.*

To conclude this section, we quote a result of Benson and Gordon, see [19, Proof of Theorem A].

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $(N^{2n}, \omega)$  be a compact nilmanifold endowed with a symplectic structure. Assume that  $(N, \omega)$  is of Lefschetz type. Then  $N$  is diffeomorphic to a torus  $T^{2n}$ .*

Hence every symplectic non-toral nilmanifold violates condition (ii) in Theorem 3.1 and is therefore non Kähler. By Nomizu's theorem 2.15, a symplectic form on a nilmanifold is cohomologous to a left-invariant one. Symplectic structures on nilpotent Lie algebras have been studied in [51]. A complete classification of symplectic nilmanifolds up to dimension 6 is available in [17]. As we observed, nilmanifolds are never simply connected.

### 3.3 Formality of compact symplectic manifolds

As we already pointed out, formality is a property of the rational homotopy type of a space, or manifold. Since every compact Kähler manifold is formal according to Theorem 3.1 (see also [32]), it is reasonable to investigate whether formality also holds for arbitrary symplectic manifolds. In the context of nilmanifolds, a formal symplectic nilmanifold is diffeomorphic to a torus by Hasegawa's theorem 2.17. Hence, a symplectic non-toral nilmanifold violates condition (iii) in Theorem 3.1. Using nilmanifolds, we obtain many examples of non formal symplectic manifolds, albeit non simply connected.

In fact, the construction of a *simply connected* symplectic non formal manifold is a much harder problem. As very often happens in symplectic geometry, one of the main problems is that there are relatively few techniques to construct symplectic manifolds. Due to this lack of examples, Lupton and Oprea (see [70]) asked whether a *simply connected* compact symplectic manifold is formal (this is what they called the *formalising tendency* of a symplectic structure). Nowadays, however, we know many simply connected symplectic non formal manifolds:

**Theorem 3.8.** *For every  $n \geq 4$  there exists a compact, simply connected non formal symplectic manifold of dimension  $2n$ .*

Theorem 3.8 was proven by Babenko and Taïmanov (see [10, Main Theorem]) for  $n \geq 5$  and, later, by the second and third author for  $n = 4$  (see [44, Theorem 1.1]). The 8-manifold constructed in [44] does not have the Lefschetz property.

*Remark 3.9.* We point out that, due to a result of Miller (see [42, 81]), a simply connected manifold of dimension  $\leq 6$  is automatically formal. Hence Theorem 3.8 covers all possible cases in which such a phenomenon can occur.

### 3.4 Examples: the non-simply connected case

Thanks to recent contributions of many authors, we can fill up Table 1 of [58].

Let us describe the manifolds which appear in Table 1.

- $T^{2n}$  is the  $2n$ -dimensional torus, which carries a Kähler structure.

**Table 1:** Non simply connected symplectic manifolds

Formality	Lefschetz property	Evenness of $b_{2k-1}$	
yes	yes	yes	$T^{2n}, M^4$
yes	yes	no	impossible
yes	no	yes	$\Gamma \backslash BG, \Lambda \backslash G_{6.78} \times \Lambda \backslash G_{6.78}$
yes	no	no	$\Lambda \backslash G_{6.78}$
no	yes	yes	$C(12) \times T^2$
no	yes	no	impossible
no	no	yes	$E^4, KT \times KT$
no	no	no	$KT$

- $M^4$  is a 4-dimensional compact symplectic completely solvable solvmanifold. According to [40] (see also [84, Chapter 3, Theorem 3.2]) it does not admit a complex structure, hence it is not Kähler. This shows that there exist symplectic non-Kähler manifolds which *can not be detected* using Properties (i), (ii) or (iii) from Theorem 3.1. In dimension  $\geq 6$ , examples of compact symplectic manifolds which satisfy Properties (i), (ii) and (iii) of Theorem 3.1 but do not admit a Kähler metric due to their fundamental groups are given in [45].
- $\Gamma \backslash BG$  is an 8-dimensional solvmanifold, the quotient of a simply connected completely solvable Lie group  $BG$  by a lattice  $\Gamma$ . Benson and Gordon constructed in [19] a completely solvable non-exact symplectic 8-dimensional Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{bg}$  whose Lie algebra cohomology  $H^*(\mathfrak{bg}; \mathbb{R})$  does not satisfy the Lefschetz property. In [87, Theorem 1], Sawai and Yamada showed that  $BG$  admits a lattice  $\Gamma$ . Since  $BG$  is completely solvable, Hattori's Theorem [56] applies and we have  $H^*(\Gamma \backslash BG; \mathbb{R}) \cong H^*(\mathfrak{bg}; \mathbb{R})$ . In [37, Proposition 3.2] the second author, de León and Saralegui showed that the odd-degree Betti numbers of  $\mathfrak{bg}$  are even and that its minimal model is formal.
- $G_{6.78}$  is a simply connected completely solvable symplectic Lie group and  $\Lambda \subset G_{6.78}$  is a lattice; we refer to [23, Theorem 9.4] for a complete description of this example.
- $E^4$  is the compact nilmanifold defined by the equations  $de^1 = de^2 = 0$ ,  $de^3 = e^1 \wedge e^2$ ,  $de^4 = e^1 \wedge e^3$  considered in [38]. It was the first example of compact symplectic manifold of dimension 4 which does not admit complex structures. In fact,  $E^4$  is non-formal and does not satisfy the Lefschetz property, but its odd Betti numbers are even. Thus, by the Enriques-Kodaira classification [62],  $E^4$  does not have complex structures. Note that in dimension 6, Iwasawa manifold was the first example of compact symplectic and complex manifold whose odd Betti numbers are even, but not admitting Kähler metrics, as it is non-formal [39]. Non-Kähler compact symplectic manifolds in higher dimension are given for example in [31].
- $KT$  is the so-called Kodaira-Thurston manifold. As a symplectic manifold, it was first described by Thurston in [90]; there, he showed that  $b_1(KT) = 3$ , hence  $KT$  is not Kähler.  $KT$  also has the structure of a compact complex surface (a *primary Kodaira surface*, see [11, Page 197]) and was known to Kodaira. Abbena described  $KT$  as a nilmanifold in [1]. It is the product of the Heisenberg manifold (see Example 2.19) and a circle.
- $C(12)$  is a 12-dimensional simply connected symplectic manifold. We shall describe it in Section 3.5.

*Remark 3.10.* In [58], the authors distinguish between the simply connected and the *aspherical* case, rather than non simply connected. All the examples in Table 1 are aspherical, except for  $C(12) \times T^2$ . We should point

out here that a symplectic manifold  $(M, \omega)$  is called *symplectically aspherical* if

$$\int_{S^2} f^* \omega = 0$$

for every map  $f: S^2 \rightarrow M$ . An aspherical symplectic manifold is clearly symplectically aspherical. Symplectically aspherical manifolds play an important role in symplectic geometry, see [61] for a survey on this topic.

*Remark 3.11.* In [60], Kasuya studied in detail the relationship between Lefschetz property and formality in the case of aspherical manifolds. He constructed examples of formal symplectic solvmanifolds which satisfy the Lefschetz property but carry no Kähler metric. Kasuya’s examples are completely solvable solvmanifolds. For a study of the Lefschetz property on 6-dimensional solvmanifolds, see also [72]. By a recent result of Hasegawa [55], a compact solvmanifold admits a Kähler structure if and only if it is a finite quotient of a complex torus which has the structure of a complex torus bundle over a complex torus. In particular, a Kähler completely solvable solvmanifold is diffeomorphic to a torus.

### 3.5 Examples: the simply connected case

We collect and illustrate recent results which allow us to fill all the lines in Table 2 of [58].

**Table 2:** Simply connected symplectic manifolds

Formality	Lefschetz property	Evenness of $b_{2k-1}$	
yes	yes	yes	$\mathbb{C}P^n$
yes	yes	no	impossible
yes	no	yes	$M(6, 0, 0), N$
yes	no	no	$\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P}^7$
no	yes	yes	$C(12)$
no	yes	no	impossible
no	no	yes	$\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P}^5 \times \widetilde{\mathbb{C}P}^5$
no	no	no	$\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P}^5$

Before describing the content of Table 2, we would like to recall a construction of McDuff (see [77, 84]) which allow us to obtain new symplectic manifolds: the symplectic blow-up. Together with the fibre connected sum (see [46] and [78, Chapter 7]), symplectic fibrations (see [78, Chapter 6] and the references therein), approximately holomorphic techniques of Donaldson (see [9, 33, 82]) and symplectic resolutions (see [27, 44]), it is the most effective technique when it comes to constructing new symplectic manifolds.

Let  $(M^{2n}, \omega)$  be a symplectic manifold. Without loss of generality, we can perturb  $\omega$  and assume that it defines an integral cohomology class. By a result of Tischler [91] (see also [49]), there exists a symplectic embedding  $\iota: (M^{2n}, \omega) \hookrightarrow (\mathbb{C}P^{2n+1}, \omega_0)$ , i.e.  $\iota^* \omega_0 = \omega$ , where  $\omega_0$  is the Fubini-Study Kähler structure of the complex projective space.

Using ideas of Gromov, and generalizing a known construction in algebraic geometry, McDuff defined the notion of *symplectic blow-up* of a symplectic manifold  $(X, \sigma)$  along a symplectic submanifold  $(Y, \tau)$ . Since  $Y \subset X$  is a symplectic submanifold, the normal bundle  $NY$  of  $Y$  in  $X$  has the structure of a complex vector

bundle. The blow-up of  $X$  along  $Y$ , replaces a point  $y \in Y$  with the projectivization of  $N_y Y$ . This produces a new manifold  $\tilde{X} = \text{Bl}_Y X$  and a map  $p: \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ , with the following properties:

- [77, Proposition 2.4]  $\pi_1(X) = \pi_1(\tilde{X})$  and  $H^*(\tilde{X}; \mathbb{R})$  fits into a short exact sequence of  $\mathbb{R}$ -modules

$$0 \rightarrow H^*(X; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^*(\tilde{X}; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow A^* \rightarrow 0, \tag{5}$$

where  $A^*$  is a free module over  $H^*(Y; \mathbb{R})$  with one generator in each dimension  $2i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k - 1$ , where  $2k$  is the codimension of  $Y$  in  $X$ .

- [77, Proposition 3.7] If  $Y$  is compact,  $\tilde{X}$  carries a symplectic form  $\tilde{\sigma}$  which agrees with  $p^* \sigma$  outside a neighborhood of  $p^{-1}(Y)$ .

We also recall the following result of Gompf, which allows to construct compact symplectic manifolds which do not satisfy the Lefschetz property.

**Theorem 3.12** ([46], Theorem 7.1). *For any even dimension  $n \geq 6$ , finitely presented group  $G$  and integer  $b$  there exists a closed symplectic  $n$ -manifold  $M = M(n, G, b)$  with  $\pi_1(M) \cong G$  and  $b_i(M) \geq b$  for  $2 \leq i \leq n - 2$ , such that  $M$  does not satisfy the Lefschetz property. Furthermore, if  $b_1(G)$  is even, then all odd-degree Betti numbers of  $M$  are even.*

We begin now the description of the manifolds in Table 2.

- $\mathbb{C}P^n$  is the complex projective space, which is known to have a Kähler structure.
- $M(6, 0, 0)$  is the manifold constructed by taking  $n = 6$ ,  $G$  the trivial group and  $b = 0$  in Theorem 3.12. Since it is a simply connected 6-manifold, it is formal by the result of Miller, see Remark 3.9.
- $N$  is a 6-dimensional simply connected (hence formal) symplectic and complex manifold which does not satisfy the Lefschetz property. Such a manifold was constructed by the authors in [14].
- We shall construct  $\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}$  in Proposition 3.13 below.
- $C(12)$  is a simply connected, symplectic 12-manifold which satisfies the Lefschetz property but has a non-zero triple Massey product. Hence it is non-formal. Such example was constructed by Cavalcanti in [26, Example 4.4] using Donaldson’s techniques together with the symplectic blow-up.
- $\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^5}$  is the symplectic blow-up of  $\mathbb{C}P^5$  along a symplectic embedding of the Kodaira-Thurston manifold  $KT$ . Historically, this was the first example of a simply connected symplectic manifold with no Kähler structures. It was constructed by McDuff in [77].

We come now to the description of  $\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}$ . Let us consider the symplectic 6-manifold  $S = \Lambda \backslash G_{6,78}$  which appeared in Section 3.4. Recall that  $S$  is a formal symplectic manifold which does not satisfy the Lefschetz property and has  $b_1(S) = 1$ . According to Tischler’s result, we find a symplectic embedding of  $(S, \omega)$  in  $(\mathbb{C}P^7, \omega_0)$ . Now set  $\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7} := \text{Bl}_S \mathbb{C}P^7$ .

**Proposition 3.13.**  *$\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}$  is a simply connected, formal symplectic manifold which does not satisfy the Lefschetz property and has  $b_3(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}) = 1$ .*

*Proof.* That  $\pi_1(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}) = 0$  follows immediately from McDuff result we discussed above.  $b_3(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}) = 1$  follows from (5) and the fact that  $b_1(S) = 1$ . This immediately implies that  $\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}$  does not have the Lefschetz property.

By [41, Theorem 1.1],  $\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}$  is formal. However, let us see this explicitly by computing its minimal model. The 6-manifold  $S = \Lambda \backslash G_{6,78}$  is the quotient of the simply connected completely solvable symplectic Lie group  $G_{6,78}$  of [23, Theorem 9.4] by a lattice  $\Lambda \subset G_{6,78}$ . The cohomology of  $S$  is computed from the cdga  $(\wedge(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6), d)$ , with all  $\alpha_i$  of degree one, and

- $d\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_5 - \alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_6$ ;
- $d\alpha_2 = \alpha_4 \wedge \alpha_5$ ;
- $d\alpha_3 = \alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_4 + \alpha_3 \wedge \alpha_6 + \alpha_4 \wedge \alpha_6$ ;

- $d\alpha_4 = \alpha_4 \wedge \alpha_6$ ;
- $d\alpha_5 = -\alpha_5 \wedge \alpha_6$ ;
- $d\alpha_6 = 0$ .

The manifold  $S$  has a symplectic structure, defined by  $\omega = \alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_4 + \alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_6 + \alpha_3 \wedge \alpha_5$ . The cohomology of  $S$  is given by

- $H^0(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle 1 \rangle$ ;
- $H^1(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\eta] \rangle$ ;
- $H^2(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\omega] \rangle$ ;
- $H^3(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\omega \wedge \eta], [\psi] \rangle$ ;
- $H^4(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\omega^2] \rangle$ ;
- $H^5(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\omega \wedge \psi] \rangle$ ;
- $H^6(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\omega^3] \rangle$ ;

where  $\eta = \alpha_6$ ,  $\psi = \alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_4 - \alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_4 \wedge \alpha_6 - \alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_3 \wedge \alpha_5$ . Note that  $\omega^2 \wedge \eta = d\gamma$ , where  $\gamma = 2\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_4 \wedge \alpha_5$ .

Now consider  $(S, \omega) \subset (\mathbb{C}P^7, \omega_0)$  and the blow-up  $\pi: \widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7} = \text{Bl}_S \mathbb{C}P^7 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^7$ . Let  $\nu$  be a Thom form for the exceptional divisor  $E := \pi^{-1}(S)$ . This is supported on a tubular neighbourhood  $V$  of  $E$ . Consider the projections  $\pi': V \rightarrow E$ ,  $\pi'': \pi(V) \rightarrow S$  and the composition  $\varpi = \pi \circ \pi' = \pi'' \circ \pi: V \rightarrow S$ . Finally, let  $\omega'_0$  be a 2-form on  $\mathbb{C}P^7$  cohomologous to  $\omega_0$  but coinciding with  $\pi'^*\omega$  on  $\pi(V)$ . By (5), we have the cohomology of  $\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}$ .

- $H^0(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}; \mathbb{R}) = \langle 1 \rangle$ ;
- $H^1(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}; \mathbb{R}) = 0$ ;
- $H^2(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\pi^* \omega'_0], [\nu] \rangle$ ;
- $H^3(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\varpi^* \eta \wedge \nu] \rangle$ ;
- $H^4(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\pi^* \omega_0^2], [\pi^* \omega'_0 \wedge \nu], [\nu^2] \rangle$ ;
- $H^5(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\varpi^*(\omega \wedge \eta) \wedge \nu], [\varpi^* \psi \wedge \nu], [\varpi^* \eta \wedge \nu^2] \rangle$ ;
- $H^6(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\pi^* \omega_0^3], [\pi^* \omega_0^2 \wedge \nu], [\pi^* \omega'_0 \wedge \nu^2], [\nu^3] \rangle$ ;
- $H^7(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\varpi^*(\omega \wedge \psi) \wedge \nu], [\varpi^*(\omega \wedge \eta) \wedge \nu^2], [\varpi^* \psi \wedge \nu^2], [\varpi^* \eta \wedge \nu^3] \rangle$ .

As in [41], we compute the minimal model  $\varphi: (\wedge V, d) \rightarrow (\Omega^*(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}), d)$ . Up to degree 6, this is

- $V^1 = 0$ ;
- $V^2 = \mathbb{C}^2 = \langle x, y \rangle$ ,  $\varphi(x) = \pi^* \omega'_0$ ,  $\varphi(y) = \nu$ ;
- $V^3 = \mathbb{C}^3 = \langle w \rangle$ ,  $\varphi(w) = \varpi^* \eta \wedge \nu$ ;
- $V^4 = 0$ ;
- $V^5 = \mathbb{C}^5 = \langle z \rangle$ ,  $\varphi(z) = \varpi^* \psi \wedge \nu$ ;
- $V^6 = \mathbb{N}^6 = \langle u \rangle$ ,  $du = x^2 w$ ,  $\varphi(u) = \varpi^* \eta \wedge \nu$ .

We check that  $\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}$  is 6-formal (see Definition 2.10). Take an element  $\beta \in I(N^6)$  which is closed, and we have to check that  $[\varphi(\beta)] = 0$  in  $H^*(\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}; \mathbb{R})$ . As  $\beta$  can have degree at most 14, it has to be  $\beta = \beta' \cdot w \cdot u$ , with  $\beta' \in \wedge \langle x, y, z \rangle$ . But clearly  $[\varphi(w \cdot u)] = 0$  since  $[\eta \wedge \gamma] = 0 \in H^5(S; \mathbb{R})$ . By Theorem 2.12,  $\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P^7}$  is formal.  $\square$

*Remark 3.14.* It seems quite hard to find a compact simply connected symplectic manifold which is formal and satisfies the Lefschetz property but is not Kähler.

*Remark 3.15.* The manifold  $N$  which appears in Table 2, line 3, carries a symplectic structure and a complex structure but no Kähler metric. For a discussion on manifolds which are simultaneously complex and symplectic but not Kähler, we refer to [14, Section 1].

## 4 Formality and the Lefschetz property in cosymplectic geometry

A compact cosymplectic manifold  $(M^{2n+1}, \eta, \omega)$  is never simply connected. Indeed, consider the 1-form  $\eta$ ; being closed, it defines a cohomology class  $[\eta] \in H^1(M; \mathbb{R})$ . If  $\eta = df$ , with  $f \in C^\infty(M)$ , by compactness of  $M$  there exists  $p \in M$  so that  $\eta_p = 0$ . But this contradicts the condition  $\eta(\xi) \equiv 1$ . Alternatively, one can argue using the fact that  $\eta \wedge \omega^n$  is a volume form, hence, if  $\eta$  were exact, the same would be true for the volume form, which is absurd. In this way, one sees that  $b_1(M) \geq 1$  on a cosymplectic manifold. This argument allows actually to conclude that  $\eta \wedge \omega^k$  is a closed, non exact form, for  $0 \leq k \leq n$ . Hence,  $b_k(M) \geq 1$  for  $0 \leq k \leq 2n+1$  on a cosymplectic manifold.

CoKähler manifolds are the odd-dimensional counterpart of Kähler manifolds. It is not a big surprise, therefore, that they satisfy as well strong topological conditions.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $(M^{2n+1}, \phi, \eta, \xi, g)$  be a compact coKähler manifold and let  $\omega$  be the Kähler form. Then*

(i)  $b_1(M)$  is odd;

(ii) the Lefschetz map  $L^{n-k}: \mathcal{H}^k(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^{2n+1-k}(M)$ ,

$$\alpha \mapsto \omega^{n-k+1} \wedge \iota_\xi \alpha + \omega^{n-k} \wedge \eta \wedge \alpha \quad (6)$$

is an isomorphism,  $0 \leq k \leq n$ ;

(iii) the rational homotopy type of  $M$  is formal.

A proof of this result can be found in [28]; see also [16] for a different perspective on how such properties can be deduced from the corresponding properties of compact Kähler manifolds. Here  $\mathcal{H}^*(M)$  denotes harmonic forms on the Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$ ; clearly  $\mathcal{H}^*(M) \cong H^*(M; \mathbb{R})$ . The map (6) really sends harmonic forms to harmonic forms, as it is proved in [28]; recall that both  $\eta$  and  $\omega$  are parallel on a coKähler manifold, hence harmonic.

Here as well, we want to answer questions such as

Is there a compact cosymplectic manifold  $M$  which satisfies (i) and (iii) above but not (ii)?

Unfortunately, as we shall see in the next section, the Lefschetz map can not be defined, in general, on arbitrary cosymplectic manifolds. We will identify a certain property, morally equivalent to the *Lefschetz type* condition of Definition 3.3, and address the Lefschetz question in this setting.

### 4.1 The Lefschetz property in cosymplectic geometry

Let  $(M, \omega)$  be a symplectic manifold. As we remarked above, the Lefschetz map (2) sends closed forms to closed forms, hence descends to cohomology, giving (3). In particular, the Lefschetz map can be defined on *any* symplectic manifold. Of course, one needs then to use Kähler identities to prove that (3) is an isomorphism in the Kähler case and we have seen that there are symplectic manifolds for which (3) is not an isomorphism.

The cosymplectic case is much subtler. A first instance is that, different from what happens in the Kähler case, the Lefschetz map on coKähler manifolds is defined only on *harmonic* forms. On a cosymplectic manifold, however, there is no metric. Let  $(M, \eta, \omega)$  be a compact cosymplectic manifold; if one tries to define a map

$$L^{n-k}: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{2n+1-k}(M), \quad \alpha \mapsto \omega^{n-k+1} \wedge \iota_\xi \alpha + \omega^{n-k} \wedge \eta \wedge \alpha \quad (7)$$

one sees that it *does not send closed forms to closed forms!* Indeed, for  $\alpha$  a closed  $k$ -form,

$$d(\omega^{n-k+1} \wedge \iota_\xi \alpha + \omega^{n-k} \wedge \eta \wedge \alpha) = \omega^{n-k+1} \wedge d(\iota_\xi \alpha), \quad (8)$$

which is not zero in general.

**Example 4.2.** Consider the 5-dimensional Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  with non-trivial brackets

$$[e_1, e_2] = -e_4, \quad [e_1, e_5] = -e_3,$$

with respect to a basis  $\{e_1, \dots, e_5\}$ . The associated Chevalley-Eilenberg complex is then

$$(\bigwedge(e^1, \dots, e^5), de^3 = e^{15}, de^4 = e^{12}),$$

where  $e^{ij}$  is a short-hand for  $e^i \wedge e^j$ . Set  $\eta = e^5$  and  $\omega = e^{13} - e^{24}$ . Then  $(\mathfrak{g}, \eta, \omega)$  is a cosymplectic Lie algebra; the Reeb field is  $\xi = e_5$ . Let  $G$  denote the simply connected nilpotent Lie group with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Since  $\mathfrak{g}$  is defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $G$  contains a lattice  $\Gamma$ ; hence  $N := \Gamma \backslash G$  is a compact nilmanifold. The cosymplectic structure on  $\mathfrak{g}$  gives a left-invariant cosymplectic structure on  $G$ , which descends to  $N$ . Hence  $(N, \eta, \omega)$  is a cosymplectic nilmanifold. By Nomizu's theorem,  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d) \hookrightarrow (\Omega^*(N), d)$  is a quasi isomorphism. We study the Lefschetz map on  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$ , i.e.

$$L^{5-k}: \bigwedge^k \mathfrak{g}^* \longrightarrow \bigwedge^{5-k} \mathfrak{g}^*,$$

$0 \leq k \leq 2$ . A computation shows that  $L^4$  sends closed forms to closed forms. However, the closed 2-form  $\alpha = e^{35}$  is sent to  $\beta = -e^{234}$ , which is not closed, since  $d\beta = e^{1245}$ .

A way to bypass this difficulty would be to work with forms on  $M$  which are preserved by the flow of the Reeb field  $\xi$ , that is, to consider the differential subalgebra  $\Omega_\xi^*(M)$  of  $\Omega^*(M)$ , defined by

$$\Omega_\xi^k(M) = \{\alpha \in \Omega^k(M) \mid \mathcal{L}_\xi \alpha = 0\}.$$

**Lemma 4.3.** *The Lefschetz map (7) restricts to a map*

$$L^{n-k}: \Omega_\xi^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega_\xi^{2n+1-k}(M) \quad (9)$$

which sends closed forms to closed forms.

*Proof.* Assume that  $\alpha \in \Omega_\xi^k(M)$ ; hence  $\mathcal{L}_\xi \alpha = 0$  and  $d(\iota_\xi \alpha) = -\iota_\xi d\alpha$ . We need to prove that  $L^{n-k}(\alpha) \in \Omega_\xi^{2n+1-k}(M)$ . Recall that  $\mathcal{L}_\xi \omega = 0 = \mathcal{L}_\xi \eta$  on a cosymplectic manifold. We compute

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_\xi(L^{n-k}(\alpha)) &= \mathcal{L}_\xi(\omega^{n-k+1} \wedge \iota_\xi \alpha) + \mathcal{L}_\xi(\omega^{n-k} \wedge \eta \wedge \alpha) = \\ &= \omega^{n-k+1} \wedge \mathcal{L}_\xi(\iota_\xi \alpha) + \omega^{n-k} \wedge \eta \wedge \mathcal{L}_\xi \alpha = \\ &= \omega^{n-k+1} \wedge (d\iota_\xi + \iota_\xi d)(\iota_\xi \alpha) = \\ &= -\omega^{n-k+1} \wedge \iota_\xi d\alpha = \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Also, if  $\alpha \in \Omega_\xi^k(M)$  is closed, then (8) shows that  $d(L^{n-k}(\alpha)) = \omega^{n-k+1} \wedge d(\iota_\xi \alpha)$ . Since  $\mathcal{L}_\xi \alpha = 0$ , we can switch  $d$  and  $\iota_\xi$ , obtaining  $d(L^{n-k}(\alpha)) = 0$ .  $\square$

Everything works just fine, but there is of course a problem: the differential graded algebra  $(\Omega_\xi^*(M), d) \subset (\Omega^*(M), d)$  does not compute, in general, the de Rham cohomology of  $M$ . The question arises, whether there exists a class of almost coKähler structures for which the inclusion  $(\Omega_\xi^*(M), d) \hookrightarrow (\Omega^*(M), d)$  is a quasi isomorphism, i.e. for which  $H_\xi^*(M) := H^*(\Omega_\xi^*(M), d)$  satisfies

$$H_\xi^*(M) \cong H^*(M; \mathbb{R}).$$

Recall that an almost coKähler structure  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$  is K-cosymplectic if the Reeb field is Killing. K-cosymplectic structures have been extensively studied in [15]; this paper is inspired by the contact (metric) case, where one defines a K-contact structure as a contact metric structure whose Reeb field is Killing.

On a K-cosymplectic manifold  $M$ , the 1-dimensional distribution defined by  $\xi$  integrates to a Riemannian foliation  $\mathcal{F}_\xi$ , whose leaf through  $x \in M$  is the flowline of  $\xi$ .

**Definition 4.4.** The *basic cohomology* of  $\mathcal{F}_\xi$  is the cohomology of the differential subalgebra

$$\Omega^*(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) = \{\alpha \in \Omega^*(M) \mid \iota_\xi \alpha = 0 = \iota_\xi d\alpha\}.$$

We denote by  $H^*(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi)$  the basic cohomology. One can think of it as the cohomology of the space of leaves  $M/\mathcal{F}_\xi$ . We collect in the following Proposition the relevant features of K-cosymplectic structures (compare [15, Theorem 4.3]):

**Proposition 4.5.** *Let  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$  be a K-cosymplectic structure on a compact manifold  $M^{2n+1}$ . Then*

1. *the inclusion  $(\Omega_\xi^*(M), d) \hookrightarrow (\Omega^*(M), d)$  induces an isomorphism  $H_\xi^*(M) \cong \mathcal{H}^*(M)$ ; in particular the cdga  $(\Omega_\xi^*(M), d)$  computes the de Rham cohomology of  $M$ ;*
2. *there is a splitting*

$$H_\xi^k(M) = H^k(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) \oplus \langle \eta \rangle \wedge H^{k-1}(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi); \quad (10)$$

3.  *$H^{2n}(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) \cong \mathbb{R}$  and  $H^{2n+1}(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) = 0$ .*

Here we interpret  $\eta$  as a harmonic 1-form. As a consequence, the Lefschetz map (9) on a K-cosymplectic manifold  $(M^{2n+1}, \phi, \eta, \xi, g)$  descends to a map

$$L^{n-k} : H_\xi^k(M) \rightarrow H_\xi^{2n+1-k}(M), \quad \alpha \mapsto \omega^{n-k+1} \wedge \iota_\xi \alpha + \omega^{n-k} \wedge \eta \wedge \alpha \quad (11)$$

which can, or not, be an isomorphism.

From now on, we restrict to K-cosymplectic manifolds in order to study the Lefschetz map.

**Definition 4.6.** Let  $M^{2n+1}$  be a compact manifold endowed with a K-cosymplectic structure  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$ . We say that  $M$  has the *Lefschetz property* if (11) is an isomorphism for  $0 \leq k \leq n$ . We say that  $M$  is of *Lefschetz type* if (11) is an isomorphism for  $k = 1$ .

**Proposition 4.7.** *Let  $M^{2n+1}$  be a compact manifold endowed with a K-cosymplectic structure  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$ . Assume that  $M$  is of Lefschetz type. Then  $b_1(M)$  is odd.*

*Proof.* The splitting (10) tells us that  $H_\xi^1(M) = H^1(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) \oplus \langle \eta \rangle$  and that  $H_\xi^{2n}(M) = H^{2n}(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) \oplus \langle \eta \rangle \wedge H^{2n-1}(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi)$ . By assumption,  $L^{n-1} : H_\xi^1(M) \rightarrow H_\xi^{2n}(M)$  is an isomorphism. Its restriction to  $H^1(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi)$  sends  $\alpha$  to  $\omega^{n-1} \wedge \eta \wedge \alpha \in \eta \wedge H^{2n-1}(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi)$ . In particular,  $\omega^{n-1} \wedge \alpha \neq 0$ . Now consider the bilinear map

$$\Psi : H^1(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) \otimes H^1(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) \rightarrow H^{2n}(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) \cong \mathbb{R}, \quad (\alpha, \beta) \mapsto \omega^{n-1} \wedge \alpha \wedge \beta.$$

$\Psi$  is clearly skew-symmetric and non-degenerate. Hence  $\dim H^1(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi)$  is even. Since  $b_1(M) = \dim H^1(M; \mathcal{F}_\xi) + 1$ , the thesis follows.  $\square$

We have some kind of converse to this result:

**Proposition 4.8.** *Suppose  $M$  is a compact manifold endowed with a K-cosymplectic structure  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$ . If  $b_1(M) = 1$ , then  $M$  is of Lefschetz type.*

*Proof.* Since  $M$  is compact and  $b_1(M) = 1$ ,  $H_\xi^1(M) = \langle \eta \rangle$ . The Lefschetz map (11) sends  $\eta$  to  $\omega^n \in H_\xi^{2n}(M)$ , which is non-zero.  $\square$

*Remark 4.9.* It is known that  $b_1$  is odd for a compact manifold endowed with a coKähler structure; however, nothing can be said on the higher odd-degree Betti numbers, even up to middle dimension. Consider, for instance, the manifold  $M \times M \times S^1$ , where  $M$  is the K3 surface. This is clearly coKähler and has  $b_3 = 44$ . This is why, in Table 4 below, the column about Betti numbers has been removed.

We show next that K-cosymplectic manifolds abound. Indeed, the following holds (see [15, Proposition 2.12]):

**Proposition 4.10.** *Let  $(K, h, \omega)$  be a compact almost Kähler manifold and let  $\varphi: K \rightarrow K$  be a diffeomorphism such that  $\varphi^*h = h$  and  $\varphi^*\omega = \omega$ . Then the mapping torus<sup>1</sup>  $K_\varphi$  has a natural  $K$ -cosymplectic structure.*

In particular, the product  $K \times S^1$  of an almost Kähler manifold  $(K, h, \omega)$  and a circle has a natural  $K$ -cosymplectic structure, with the product metric  $g = h + d\theta^2$ . The cosymplectic structure is given by taking  $\xi$  to be the vector tangent to  $S^1$  and  $\eta$  to be the dual 1-form. For a product  $K$ -cosymplectic manifold,  $M = K \times S^1$ , the space of leaves of  $\mathcal{F}_\xi$  is simply  $K$ , hence (10) becomes

$$H_\xi^k(M) = H^k(K; \mathbb{R}) \oplus \eta \wedge H^{k-1}(K; \mathbb{R}). \tag{12}$$

Under this splitting,  $\alpha \in H_\xi^k(M)$  can be written as  $\alpha_0 + \eta \wedge \alpha_1$  with  $\alpha_0 \in H^k(K; \mathbb{R})$  and  $\alpha_1 \in H^{k-1}(K; \mathbb{R})$ . We have  $i_\xi \alpha_j = 0, j = 0, 1$ , and  $\eta \wedge \eta \wedge \alpha_1 = 0$ . As a consequence, the Lefschetz map (11) sends  $\alpha_0 \in H^k(K; \mathbb{R}) \subset H_\xi^k(M)$  to  $\omega^{n-k} \wedge \eta \wedge \alpha_0$  and  $\eta \wedge \alpha_1$  to  $\omega^{n-k+1} \wedge \alpha_1$ .

We easily obtain the following result:

**Proposition 4.11.** *Let  $(K, h, \omega)$  be a compact almost Kähler manifold. Then the compact  $K$ -cosymplectic manifold  $K \times S^1$  satisfies the Lefschetz property (6) if and only if  $(K, \omega)$  satisfies the Lefschetz property (3).*

We focus on a situation in which one could think of studying some analogue of the Lefschetz property on arbitrary cosymplectic manifolds. We make the following definition:

**Definition 4.12.** Let  $M$  be a compact connected manifold. We say that the cohomology of  $M$  can be computed from an algebraic model if there exist a commutative differential graded algebra  $(\wedge V_M, d)$ , defined over  $\mathbb{R}$ , where the elements of  $V_M$  have degree 1, and a morphism of cdga's  $\varphi: (\wedge V_M, d) \rightarrow (\Omega^*(M), d)$ , inducing an isomorphism in cohomology, i.e.  $H^*(\wedge V_M, d) \cong H^*(M; \mathbb{R})$ .

The usual terminology for a morphism of cdga's, inducing an isomorphism on cohomology, is quasi-isomorphism. It follows from this definition that if  $M$  is an  $n$ -dimensional manifold, then  $\dim(V_M) = n$ , because a generator of the top power of  $V_M$  must be sent to the volume form on  $M$ . Suppose  $\dim V_M = n$ ; then  $\wedge^n V_M$  is one-dimensional, hence a generator  $\text{vol} \in \wedge^n V_M$  is sent to the volume form on  $M$  by  $\varphi$ . By compactness, and using the fact that  $\varphi$  commutes with the differential, this implies that  $\text{vol}$  can not be exact and, as a consequence, that every element  $w$  in  $\wedge^{n-1} V_M$  must be closed; otherwise one would necessarily have  $dw = c\text{vol}$ , with  $c \in \mathbb{R}^*$ , making  $\text{vol}$  exact.

**Proposition 4.13.** *Let  $S = \Gamma \backslash G$  be a compact solvmanifold. Then the cohomology of  $M$  can be computed from an algebraic model.*

*Proof.* This follows from Nomizu Theorem [83] when  $S$  is a nilmanifold and from Hattori Theorem [56] when  $S$  is a completely solvable solvmanifold. In both cases, the algebraic model is the Chevalley-Eilenberg complex  $(\wedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  of  $G$ . For the non-completely solvable case, one uses a result of Guan ([50], see also [29]) to obtain a modification of the Lie group  $G, \tilde{G}$ , such that  $S = \Gamma \backslash \tilde{G}$  and the Lie algebra cohomology of  $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$  computes  $H^*(S; \mathbb{R})$ . □

Let  $(M^{2n+1}, \eta, \omega)$  be a cosymplectic manifold satisfying the hypotheses of Definition 4.12. Let  $(\wedge V_M, d)$  be the algebraic model and let  $\varphi: (\wedge V_M, d) \rightarrow (\Omega^*(M), d)$ . Since  $\varphi$  induces an isomorphism in cohomology, and both  $\eta$  and  $\omega$  are closed non-exact forms, one can choose cocycles  $v \in V_M$  and  $w \in \wedge^2 V_M$  such that  $[\varphi(v)] = [\eta]$  and  $[\varphi(w)] = [\omega]$ . Notice that  $v \wedge w^n$  is a generator of  $\wedge^{2n+1} V_M$ . Since  $M$  is connected,  $v$  is uniquely determined. If  $\bar{w} \in \wedge^2 V_M$  is such that  $[\bar{w}] = [w]$  in  $H^2(\wedge V_M)$ , then there exists  $u \in V_M$  such that  $\bar{w} = w + du$ . Then  $v \wedge \bar{w}^n = v \wedge w^n$ , since they differ by an exact form and there are no exact forms in  $\wedge^{2n+1} V_M$ . The

<sup>1</sup> Given a topological space  $X$  and a homeomorphism  $\varphi: X \rightarrow X$ , the mapping torus  $X_\varphi$  is the quotient space  $\frac{X \times [0, 1]}{(x, 0) \sim (\varphi(x), 1)}$ .

(algebraic) Reeb field  $\theta \in V_M^*$  is determined by the equation

$$\iota_\theta(v \wedge w^n) = w^n.$$

Take a closed form  $\gamma \in \Omega^1(M)$ . We find a cocycle  $z \in V_M$  such that  $[\varphi(z)] = [\gamma]$ . Define an algebraic Lefschetz map  $V_M \rightarrow \bigwedge^{2n} V_M$  by

$$z \mapsto y := w^{n-1} \wedge v \wedge z + w^n \wedge \iota_\theta z. \quad (13)$$

By what we said so far,  $y$  is a closed element in  $\bigwedge^{2n} V_M$ . Hence the algebraic Lefschetz map sends 1-cocycles to  $2n$ -cocycles. Therefore, it descends to cohomology and it is reasonable to ask whether it is an isomorphism there.

**Definition 4.14.** Let  $(M, \eta, \omega)$  be a compact cosymplectic manifold and assume that the cohomology of  $M$  can be computed from an algebraic model. We say that  $M$  is 1-Lefschetz if (13) is an isomorphism.

In the case of nilmanifolds, we have the following result, which can be seen as the cosymplectic analogue of the Benson-Gordon Theorem 3.7.

**Theorem 4.15.** Let  $N = \Gamma \backslash G$  be a compact nilmanifold of dimension  $2n + 1$  endowed with a cosymplectic structure  $(\eta, \omega)$ . Assume that  $N$  is 1-Lefschetz. Then  $N$  is diffeomorphic to a torus.

*Proof.* The Chevalley-Eilenberg complex  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is an algebraic model of the cohomology of  $N$ , as follows from Proposition 4.13; notice that  $\dim \mathfrak{g} = 2n + 1$ . Let  $\varphi: (\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d) \rightarrow (\Omega^*(N), d)$  be the quasi isomorphism. In particular, the cohomology of  $N$  can be computed from this algebraic model. In order to prove that  $N$  is diffeomorphic to a torus, it is enough to prove that  $d \equiv 0$  in  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  (see the argument in [84, Chapter 2, Theorem 2.2]). Arguing as above, we can assume that there are cocycles  $v \in \mathfrak{g}^*$  and  $w \in \bigwedge^2 \mathfrak{g}^*$  mapping to  $\eta$  and  $\omega$  respectively under  $\varphi$ . Assume that  $d$  is non-zero. Then we can choose a Mal'čev basis of  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ ,

$$\mathfrak{g}^* = \langle e^0, \dots, e^s, e^{s+1}, \dots, e^{2n} \rangle,$$

with  $v = e_0$ ,  $de^i = 0$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq s$ , and  $de^j$ , for  $s + 1 \leq j \leq 2n$ , is a non-zero linear combination of products  $e^{k\ell}$  with  $k, \ell < j$ , for some  $s < 2n$ . Then  $w$  can be written as

$$w = \sum_{0 \leq i < j \leq 2n} a_{ij} e^{ij} + z \cdot e^{2n}, \quad (14)$$

for some coefficients  $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}$ ; we have collected all the summands that contain  $e^{2n}$  into  $z \in \mathfrak{g}^*$ , where  $z$  does not contain  $e^{2n}$ . Also, notice that  $z$  must be a cocycle. Indeed, when one computes  $dw$ , which must be zero, the term  $dz \cdot e^{2n}$  pops up. But since we have chosen a Mal'čev basis for  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ , the generator  $e^{2n}$  can not appear in the differential of any other  $e^k$ , and this forces  $z$  to be a cocycle. We define a derivation  $\lambda$  of degree  $-1$  on  $\mathfrak{g}^*$  by the rule

$$\lambda(e^i) = 0, \quad 0 \leq i \leq 2n, \quad \lambda(e^{2n}) = 1,$$

and extend it to  $(\bigwedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  by forcing the Leibniz rule. Assume that the algebraic Lefschetz map (13) is an isomorphism; the cocycle  $z$  is sent to the cocycle  $w^{n-1} \wedge v \wedge z$ . For degree reasons we have  $y \wedge v \wedge w^n = 0$  for every 1-cocycle. Applying  $\lambda$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \lambda(y \wedge v \wedge w^n) = \lambda(y) \wedge v \wedge w^n - y \wedge \lambda(v) \wedge w^n + y \wedge v \wedge \lambda(w^n) = \\ &= n y \wedge v \wedge \lambda(w) \wedge w^{n-1} = n y \wedge v \wedge z \wedge w^{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

This must be true for every 1-cocycle  $y$ , and  $v \wedge z \wedge w^{n-1}$  is non-zero by the Lefschetz-type hypothesis. But this violates Poincaré duality. Thus we obtain a contradiction with the existence of a non-closed generator of  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ , since  $\lambda$  was defined as 0 on such generators. Hence  $d \equiv 0$ .  $\square$

*Remark 4.16.* Recall that a manifold  $M^{2n}$  is *cohomologically symplectic* if there is a class  $\omega \in H^2(M; \mathbb{R})$  such that  $\omega^n \neq 0$ . Every symplectic manifold is cohomologically symplectic, but the converse is not true. Indeed,  $\mathbb{C}P^2 \# \mathbb{C}P^2$  is cohomologically symplectic but admits no almost complex structures, as shown by Audin [6]. Hence, it can not be symplectic. The nice interplay between geometry and topology on cohomologically symplectic manifolds has been unveiled by Lupton and Oprea (see [71]). It was proven recently by Kasuya (see [59]) that cohomologically symplectic *solvmanifolds* are genuinely symplectic. Following these ideas, one can call a manifold  $M^{2n+1}$  *cohomologically cosymplectic* if there exist classes  $\eta \in H^1(M; \mathbb{R})$  and  $\omega \in H^2(M; \mathbb{R})$  such that  $\eta \wedge \omega^n \neq 0$ . By arguing as in [59], one can show that a cohomologically cosymplectic solvmanifold is cosymplectic.

Example 4.2 above shows that, even in the case of cosymplectic manifolds whose cohomology can be computed from an algebraic model, the Lefschetz map does not necessarily send cocycles of degree  $k \geq 2$  to cocycles.

### 4.2 Formality in cosymplectic geometry

As a consequence of formality of compact Kähler manifolds, it was proved in [28] that a compact coKähler manifold is formal. In [13], we constructed examples of non-formal cosymplectic manifolds with arbitrary Betti numbers. More precisely, we proved the following result:

**Theorem 4.17.** *For every pair  $(m = 2n + 1, b)$  with  $n, b \geq 1$  there exists a compact  $m$ -dimensional non-formal manifold  $M$ , endowed with a cosymplectic structure, with first Betti number equal to  $b$ , except for the pair  $(3, 1)$ .*

It is known that an orientable compact manifold of dimension  $\leq 4$  with first Betti number equal to 1 is formal, see [43]; in other words, the exception  $(3, 1)$  is not due to the fact that we require the manifold to have a cosymplectic structure.

**Table 3:** Product K-cosymplectic manifolds with arbitrary  $b_1$

Formality	Lefschetz property	$b_1$ odd	
yes	yes	yes	$T^{2n+1}, M^4 \times S^1$
yes	yes	no	impossible
yes	no	yes	$\Gamma \backslash BG \times S^1, \Lambda \backslash G_{6.78} \times \Lambda \backslash G_{6.78} \times S^1$
yes	no	no	$\Lambda \backslash G_{6.78} \times S^1$
no	yes	yes	$C(12) \times T^3$
no	yes	no	impossible
no	no	yes	$KT \times KT \times S^1, E^4 \times S^1$
no	no	no	$KT \times S^1$

### 4.3 Examples

We let now Sections 4.1 and 4.2 come together, and fill up two tables similar to those given in Section 3 in the symplectic case. We have already observed that a compact manifold endowed with a cosymplectic structure

always has  $b_1 \geq 1$ . Therefore, one can never have simply connected compact cosymplectic manifolds. We will therefore distinguish two cases:

- compact K-cosymplectic manifolds with arbitrary first Betti number;
- compact K-cosymplectic manifolds with first Betti number equal to 1.

Since the product of a compact symplectic manifold and a circle always admits a K-cosymplectic structure, it is enough to take products of the manifolds which appear in Tables 1 and 2 with a circle. The resulting manifolds are collected in Tables 3 and 4. For a description of the examples, we refer to the discussion in Sections 3.4 and 3.5

We end this section with two further examples: a compact cosymplectic non-formal 5-manifold with  $b_1 = 1$  which is not the product of a 4-manifold and a circle and a compact K-cosymplectic 7-manifold which is not coKähler and is not the product of a 6-manifold and a circle.

**Table 4:** Product K-cosymplectic manifolds with  $b_1 = 1$

Formality	Lefschetz property	
yes	yes	$\mathbb{C}P^n \times S^1$
yes	no	$M(6, 0, 0) \times S^1, N \times S^1$
no	yes	$C(12) \times S^1$
no	no	$\widetilde{\mathbb{C}P}^5 \times S^1$

**Example 4.18.** In [13], we constructed a cosymplectic, non-formal 5-dimensional solvmanifold  $S$  with  $b_1(S) = 1$ .  $S$  is the quotient of the completely solvable Lie group  $H$ , whose elements are matrices

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-x_5} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x_1 \\ 0 & e^{x_5} & 0 & 0 & 0 & x_2 \\ -x_5 e^{-x_5} & 0 & e^{-x_5} & 0 & 0 & x_3 \\ 0 & -x_5 e^{x_5} & 0 & e^{x_5} & 0 & x_4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & x_5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

with  $(x_1, \dots, x_5) \in \mathbb{R}^5$ , by a lattice  $\Gamma$ . A global system of coordinates on  $H$  is given by  $\{X_1, \dots, X_5\}$  with  $X_i(A) = x_i$ . A basis of left-invariant 1-forms on  $H$  (which we identify with  $\mathfrak{h}^*$ ) is given by

- $\alpha_1 = e^{x_5} dX_1$ ;
- $\alpha_2 = e^{-x_5} dX_2$ ;
- $\alpha_3 = X_5 e^{x_5} dX_1 + e^{x_5} dX_3$ ;
- $\alpha_4 = X_5 e^{-x_5} dX_2 + e^{-x_5} dX_4$ ;
- $\alpha_5 = dX_5$ .

A straightforward computation shows that

- $d\alpha_1 = -\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_5$ ;
- $d\alpha_2 = \alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_5$ ;
- $d\alpha_3 = -\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_5 - \alpha_3 \wedge \alpha_5$ ;

- $d\alpha_4 = -\alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_5 + \alpha_4 \wedge \alpha_5$ ;
- $d\alpha_5 = 0$ .

The manifold  $S$  has a cosymplectic structure, defined by taking

$$\eta = \alpha_5 \quad \text{and} \quad \omega = \alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_4 + \alpha_2 \wedge \alpha_3.$$

Thus  $(S, \eta, \omega)$  is a compact cosymplectic 5-dimensional non-formal solvmanifold. Since  $H$  is completely solvable, we can apply Hattori's theorem and conclude that  $H^*(S; \mathbb{R}) \cong H^*(\mathfrak{h}; \mathbb{R})$ . We compute

- $H^0(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle 1 \rangle$ ;
- $H^1(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\eta] \rangle$ ;
- $H^2(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2], [\omega] \rangle$ ;
- $H^3(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\alpha_3 \wedge \alpha_4 \wedge \eta], [\omega \wedge \eta] \rangle$ ;
- $H^4(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\omega^2] \rangle$ ;
- $H^5(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [\eta \wedge \omega^2] \rangle$ .

Notice that  $S$  is 1-Lefschetz, according to Definition 4.14. We prove that  $S$  is not the product of a 4-manifold and a circle. Assume this is the case and write  $S = P \times S^1$ . We use the product structure of  $H^*(S; \mathbb{R}) \cong H^*(P; \mathbb{R}) \otimes H^*(S^1; \mathbb{R})$ . The generator  $[\eta]$  of  $H^1(S^1; \mathbb{R})$  is a zero divisor, since  $[\eta] \wedge [\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2] = 0$  for  $[\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2] \in H^2(P; \mathbb{R})$ , and this is absurd.

**Example 4.19.** Finally, we give an example of a 7-dimensional K-cosymplectic solvmanifold without coKähler structures, which is not a product of a 6-dimensional manifold and a circle. This shows that, although we considered *product* K-cosymplectic manifolds, there are more. This example is inspired by the discussion in [84, Chapter 3, Section 3]. We start with the 6-dimensional nilpotent Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  with basis  $\{e_1, \dots, e_6\}$  and non-zero brackets

$$[e_1, e_2] = -e_4, \quad [e_1, e_3] = -e_5 \quad \text{and} \quad [e_2, e_3] = -e_6.$$

Notice that  $\mathfrak{h}$  is the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{h}_7$  in the notation of [86] and the Lie algebra  $L_{6,4}$  in that of [17]. The Chevalley-Eilenberg complex is  $(\wedge \mathfrak{h}^*, d)$  with non-zero differential given, in terms of the dual basis  $\{e^1, \dots, e^6\}$ , by

$$de^4 = e^{12}, \quad de^5 = e^{13} \quad \text{and} \quad de^6 = e^{23}.$$

We endow  $\mathfrak{h}$  with the following almost Kähler structure:

- the scalar product  $h$  which makes  $\{e_1, \dots, e_6\}$  orthonormal;
- the symplectic form  $\omega = -e^{16} + e^{25} + 2e^{34}$ .

Consider the derivation  $D: \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$  given, with respect to  $\{e_1, \dots, e_6\}$ , by the matrix

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $D$  is skew-symmetric, it is an infinitesimal isometry of  $(\mathfrak{h}, h)$ ; furthermore, one can check that  $D$  is an infinitesimal symplectic derivation of  $(\mathfrak{h}, \omega)$ , i.e.,  $D^t \omega + \omega D = 0$ . We denote by  $\mathfrak{g}$  the semi-direct product  $\mathfrak{h} \oplus_D \mathbb{R}$ , which is a 7-dimensional solvable (but not completely solvable) Lie algebra with brackets:

- $[e_i, e_j]_{\mathfrak{g}} = [e_i, e_j]_{\mathfrak{h}}$ , for  $1 \leq i < j \leq 6$ ;
- $[e_7, e_i]_{\mathfrak{g}} = D(e_i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 6$ ; here  $e_7$  generates the  $\mathbb{R}$ -factor.

We see that  $\mathfrak{g}$  sits in a short exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow 0$  of Lie algebras and that  $\mathfrak{h} \subset \mathfrak{g}$  is an ideal. Define  $\varphi_t := \exp(tD) \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{h})$ . Then  $\varphi_t^* \omega = \omega$  and  $\varphi_t^* h = h$ . Let  $H$  be the unique simply connected nilpotent Lie group with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  and consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H & \xrightarrow{\Phi_t} & H \\ \exp \uparrow & & \uparrow \exp \\ \mathfrak{h} & \xrightarrow{\varphi_t} & \mathfrak{h} \end{array}$$

where  $\Phi_t := \exp \circ \varphi_t \circ \exp^{-1}$  is a well-defined Lie group automorphism; indeed,  $H$  is nilpotent, hence  $\exp$  is a global diffeomorphism. We consider  $h$  and  $\omega$  as left-invariant objects on  $H$ . Then  $\Phi_t$  is, by construction, an isometry of  $(H, h)$  and a symplectomorphism of  $(H, \omega)$ .

Let  $\bar{\Lambda}$  be the lattice in  $\mathfrak{h}$  spanned over  $\mathbb{Z}$  by the basis  $\{e_1, \dots, e_6\}$  and set  $\Lambda := \exp(\bar{\Lambda})$ . Then  $\Lambda \subset H$  is a lattice and  $N := \Lambda \backslash H$  is a compact nilmanifold. Notice that  $\varphi_{\frac{\pi}{2}}$  preserves  $\bar{\Lambda}$ , hence  $\Phi = \Phi_{\frac{\pi}{2}}$  preserves  $\Lambda$  and descends to a diffeomorphism of  $N$ . Since  $h$  and  $\omega$  are left-invariant, they define a metric and a symplectic structure on  $N$ . Clearly,  $\Phi$  is both an isometry and a symplectomorphism of  $(N, h, \omega)$ . Now consider the solvable Lie group  $G = H \rtimes_{\Phi} \mathbb{R}$  and the lattice  $\Gamma = \Lambda \rtimes_{\Phi} \mathbb{Z}$ . Notice that  $\Gamma$  is a solvable group. We have two short exact sequences of groups, namely

$$0 \rightarrow \Lambda \rightarrow \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0$$

and

$$0 \rightarrow H \rightarrow G \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow 0.$$

Then  $S := \Gamma \backslash G$  is a solvmanifold which can be identified with the mapping torus of the diffeomorphism  $\Phi: N \rightarrow N$ . Indeed, the mapping torus bundle coincides with the Mostow bundle of  $S$ , which is  $N \rightarrow S \rightarrow S^1$ .

By Proposition 4.10,  $S$  has a natural K-cosymplectic structure. We can describe it as a left-invariant K-cosymplectic structure on  $G$ , i.e., a K-cosymplectic structure on  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Set  $\eta = e^7$ ,  $\xi = e_7$ ,  $\omega = -e^{16} + e^{25} + 2e^{34}$  and let  $g$  be the scalar product which makes  $\{e_1, \dots, e_7\}$  orthonormal. From this we recover  $\phi$ . Hence  $(\phi, \eta, \xi, g)$  is a K-cosymplectic structure on  $S$ . We show the following:

1.  $b_1(S) = 2$ , hence  $S$  is not coKähler;
2.  $S$  is not the product of a 6-dimensional manifold and a circle.

Notice that since  $G$  is not completely solvable, we can not use Hattori's theorem to compute the cohomology of  $S$ . We will instead regard  $S$  as the mapping torus  $N_{\Phi}$  and use the following result (see [13, Lemma 12] for a proof):

**Lemma 4.20.** *Let  $M$  be a smooth,  $n$ -dimensional manifold, let  $\varphi: M \rightarrow M$  be a diffeomorphism and let  $M_{\varphi}$  be the corresponding mapping torus. For every  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , set  $V^k = \ker(\varphi^* - \text{Id}: H^k(M; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^k(M; \mathbb{R}))$  and  $C^k = \text{coker}(\varphi^* - \text{Id}: H^k(M; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^k(M; \mathbb{R}))$ , where  $\varphi^*$  is the map induced by  $\varphi$  on  $H^k(M; \mathbb{R})$ . Then*

$$H^k(M_{\varphi}; \mathbb{R}) \cong V^k \oplus [\eta] \wedge C^{k-1}, \tag{15}$$

where  $\eta$  is the pullback of the generator of  $H^1(S^1; \mathbb{R})$  under the mapping torus projection  $M_{\varphi} \rightarrow S^1$ .

According to [84, Chapter 3, Theorem 3.8], the action of  $\Phi = \Phi_{\frac{\pi}{2}}$  on  $H^k(N; \mathbb{R})$  is obtained by taking the action of  $\varphi_{\frac{\pi}{2}}$  on  $\wedge^k \mathfrak{h}^*$  and considering the action induced on the cohomology  $H^k(\mathfrak{h}; \mathbb{R})$ . We are implicitly identifying

the cohomology of  $N$  with the cohomology of  $\mathfrak{h}$ . We can do this thanks to Nomizu's theorem. Applying (15) with  $k = 1$ , one computes that

$$H^1(S; \mathbb{R}) = \langle [e^3], [e^7] \rangle.$$

Hence  $b_1(S) = 2$ ; this proves (1) above. Using again (15), one computes the remaining Betti numbers of  $S$  to be  $b_2(S) = 3$  and  $b_3(S) = 7$ . Assume now that  $S$  is a product,  $S = P \times S^1$ . Notice that  $P$  is an aspherical manifold and that  $\pi_1(P)$  is solvable, being a subgroup of  $\Gamma = \pi_1(S)$ . Also, by applying the Künneth formula, we obtain that  $\chi(P) = -1$ . But this contradicts Proposition 4.21 below. This proves (2).

**Proposition 4.21.** *Let  $M$  be a compact aspherical manifold whose fundamental group is solvable. Then  $\chi(M) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Set  $\Gamma = \pi_1(M)$ . We notice that  $M$  is an Eilenberg-MacLane space  $K(\Gamma, 1)$ . By a result of Bieri (see [20, Theorem 9.23]),  $\Gamma$  is torsion-free and polycyclic. In [12, Theorem 1.2], Baues has constructed an infrasolvmanifold  $M_\Gamma$  with  $\pi_1(M_\Gamma) \cong \Gamma$ . In particular, it follows that  $M_\Gamma$  is an Eilenberg-MacLane space  $K(\Gamma, 1)$  and that  $\chi(M_\Gamma) = 0$ . Since  $M$  is also a  $K(\Gamma, 1)$ , one deduces that  $\chi(M) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Acknowledgement:** The authors would like to thank J. Oprea and S. Rollenske for useful conversations. Moreover, we are grateful to the referee for useful comments and improvements. G. Bazzoni is partially supported by SFB 701 - Spectral Structures and Topological Methods in Mathematics. M. Fernández is partially supported by (Spanish) MINECO grant MTM2011-28326-C02-02 and Project UPV/EHU ref. UFI11/52. V. Muñoz is partially supported by MINECO grant MTM2012-30719.

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