ZEROS OF ONE-FORMS AND HOMOLOGICALLY TRIVIAL FIBRATIONS

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ABSTRACT. We show that a conjecture of Kotschick about one-forms without zeros on compact Kähler manifolds follows in the case of simple Albanese torus from a conjecture of Bobadilla and Kollár about homologically trivial fibrations. As an application, we prove Kotschick's conjecture for compact Kähler manifolds X with $b_1(X) \ge 2 \dim X - 2$, whose Albanese torus is simple.

1. INTRODUCTION

In [7], Kotschick made the following

Conjecture 1.1. For a compact Kähler manifold X, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (A) X admits a holomorphic one-form without zeros;
- (B) X admits a real closed one-form without zeros; or by Tischler's theorem [13] equivalently, the underlying differential manifold of X is a \mathcal{C}^{∞} -fiber bundle over the circle.

We propose the following stronger conjecture, which implies Conjecture 1.1 when we apply it to the Albanese morphism $X \to Alb(X)$.

Conjecture 1.2. Let X be a compact Kähler manifold and let $f : X \to A$ be a morphism to a complex torus A. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

(A) X admits a holomorphic one-form w without zeros such that

$$[w] \in f^*H^0(A, \Omega^1_A).$$

(B) X admits a real closed one-form α without zeros such that $[\alpha] \in f^*H^1(A, \mathbb{R})$; or, by Tischler's argument [13] equivalently, the underlying differential manifold of X is a \mathcal{C}^{∞} -fiber bundle $g: X \to S^1$ over the circle with

$$g^*H^1(S^1,\mathbb{R}) \subseteq f^*H^1(A,\mathbb{R}).$$

In both conjectures, it is easy to see that Condition (A) implies Condition (B). The converse direction is the non-trivial part. These conjectures are known for surfaces [7, 12] and for projective threefolds [6]. (In *loc. cit.*, Conjecture 1.1 is considered, but the arguments prove in fact the slightly stronger assertion from Conjecture 1.2, cf. [6, Theorem 1.4].)

The observation of this paper is that we can relate Conjecture 1.2 to the following conjecture of Bobadilla and Kollár [3, Conjecture 3]. For a commutative ring R, a proper morphism $f : X \to Y$ between complex analytic spaces is called an R-homology fiber bundle if Y has an open cover $Y = \bigcup_i U_i$ such that for every i and every $y \in U_i$, the map induced by inclusion

$$H_*(f^{-1}(y), R) \to H_*(f^{-1}(U_i), R)$$
 is an isomorphism.

Conjecture 1.3. Let $f : X \to Y$ be a proper morphism between complex analytic spaces, where X and Y are both smooth. If f is a \mathbb{Z} -homology fiber bundle, then f is smooth.

Our main result is

Theorem A. Let X be a compact Kähler manifold and let $f : X \to A$ be a morphism to a simple complex torus A. Assume that Conjecture 1.3 holds for the morphism f, then Conjecture 1.2 holds for f.

To prove the theorem above, we show that if $f: X \to A$ is a morphism to a simple complex torus A such that there is a closed real 1-form α on X without zeros and such that $[\alpha] \in f^*H^1(A, \mathbb{R})$, then f is a \mathbb{Z} -homology fiber bundle, see Proposition 3.1 and Corollary 3.4. This generalizes a recent result of Dutta-Hao-Liu [2, Corollary 1.6], who proved that f is a \mathbb{C} -homology fiber bundle (under the assumption that X is projective). In order to obtain the integral statement, one essentially has to prove that f is a \mathbb{K} -homology fiber bundle for any infinite field \mathbb{K} . To this end we use a different method than in [2]: instead of the Kashiwara estimate for \mathbb{C} -perverse sheaves, we use the generic vanishing theorem for \mathbb{K} -perverse sheaves by Bhatt-Schnell-Scholze and a result of Krämer and Weissauer on classification of \mathbb{K} -perverse sheaves with vanishing Euler characteristics.

In the case of non-simple tori, Conjectures 1.2 does not directly follow from 1.3. Indeed, there are smooth complex projective threefolds X such that for any morphism $f: X \to A$ to a positive-dimensional complex torus A, f is not even a Q-homology fiber bundle (e.g. this happens for the blow-up of $E_1 \times E_2 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ along the union of $E_1 \times 0 \times 0$ and $0 \times E_2 \times \infty$, where E_1, E_2 denote non-isogeneous elliptic curves).

The assumption that A is simple is automatic in the case where A is an elliptic curve and so the above theorem gives good evidence that Conjecture 1.1 may hold in the case where $b_1(X) = 2$; an interesting wide open special case.

It is straightforward to see that Conjecture 1.3 holds for any proper morphism of relative dimension ≤ 0 . By [3, Proposition 10], Conjecture 1.3 also holds for proper morphisms of relative dimension 1. Therefore we have

Corollary B. Let X be a compact Kähler manifold and let $f : X \to A$ be a morphism to a simple complex torus A. Assume that dim $A \ge \dim X - 1$. Then Conjecture 1.2 holds for f.

Corollary C. Let X be a compact Kähler manifold such that Alb(X) is simple and $b_1(X) \ge 2 \dim X - 2$. Then Conjecture 1.1 holds for X.

By a result of Popa and Schnell [11], smooth projective varieties of general type do not admit nowhere vanishing holomorphic one-forms. If the Albanese variety is simple, this had earlier been proven in [5, Theorem 1.4]. Therefore we have

Corollary D. Let X be a smooth projective variety of general type such that Alb(X) is simple and $b_1(X) \ge 2 \dim X - 2$. Then the underlying differential manifold of X cannot be a C^{∞} -fiber bundle over the circle.

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2. Perverse sheaves on Abelian varieties

In this section, let us review some results of Bhatt-Schnell-Scholze [1] and Krämer-Weissauer [8] about perverse sheaves on abelian varieties.

Let A be a compact complex torus and let \mathbb{K} be any field.

Theorem 2.1. [1, Theorem 1.1] Let \mathcal{P} be a \mathbb{K} -perverse sheaf on A. Then for a generic rank one \mathbb{K} -local system L on A, we have

$$H^i(A, \mathcal{P} \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} L) = 0, \quad for \ all \ i \neq 0.$$

Definition 2.2. For any \mathbb{K} -perverse sheaf \mathcal{P} on A, the *Euler characteristic* of \mathcal{P} is defined by

$$\chi(\mathcal{P}) := \sum_{i} (-1)^{i} \dim_{\mathbb{K}} H^{i}(A, \mathcal{P}).$$

Under the additional assumption that A is simple, we have the following important result.

Theorem 2.3 (Krämer-Weissauer). Let \mathcal{P} be a simple \mathbb{K} -perverse sheaf on A. Suppose that $\chi(\mathcal{P}) = 0$ and A is simple, then \mathcal{P} is a shift of a local system.

If A is a simple abelian variety, the above theorem follows from [8, Proposition 10.1], cf. [9, Proposition 5.11] (for more details see Corollary 5.15 in the first arXiv version of [9]). The argument extends to the case of complex tori and we include some details in the appendix of this paper, see Proposition A.4 below.

Corollary 2.4. Let \mathcal{P} be a \mathbb{K} -perverse sheaf on A. Suppose that $\chi(\mathcal{P}) = 0$ and A is simple, then \mathcal{P} is a shift of a local system.

Proof. First, Theorem 2.1 implies that the Euler characteristic of any perverse sheaf \mathcal{P} is non-negative: let L be a generic rank one local system, then

$$\chi(\mathcal{P}) = \chi(\mathcal{P} \otimes L) = \dim H^0(A, \mathcal{P} \otimes L) \ge 0.$$

The first equality comes from the invariance of Euler characteristic under twisting by a rank one local system and the second equality uses Theorem 2.1. Now suppose $\chi(\mathcal{P}) = 0$. We can write \mathcal{P} as a successive extension of simple perverse sheaves \mathcal{P}_{α} . Since the Euler characteristic is additive in short exact sequences and Euler characteristic for any perverse sheaf \mathcal{P}_{α} is always non-negative, we see that $\chi(\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}) = 0$. By Theorem 2.3, we know that \mathcal{P}_{α} is a shift of a local system by the same constant dim X. Therefore we conclude that \mathcal{P} is a shift of a local system.

3. The proof

In this section, we prove Theorem A and deduce its corollaries.

First, let us study the topological implication of the existence of a nowhere vanishing real one-form. It exploits the interplay of two structures: a \mathcal{C}^{∞} -fiber bundle structure over S^1 and a morphism to a compact torus.

Proposition 3.1. Let $f: X \to A$ be a morphism from a compact Kähler manifold X to a simple complex torus A. Suppose that the condition (B) of Conjecture 1.2 holds, i.e. there is a closed real 1-form α with $[\alpha] \in f^*H^1(A, \mathbb{R})$ on X without zeros. Then we have

$$\chi({}^{p}R^{j}f_{*}\mathbb{K}_{X})=0,$$

for any $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ and any infinite field \mathbb{K} .

Proof. Up to perturbing α slightly, we may assume that $[\alpha] \in f^*H^1(A, \mathbb{Q})$. Multiplying by a suitbale integer, we thus reduce to the case where $[\alpha] \in f^*H^1(A, \mathbb{Z})$. Integration over α then yields as in [13] a submersive \mathcal{C}^{∞} -map $g: X \to S^1$ to the circle with $g^* d\theta = \alpha$, where θ denotes the angular coordinate on S^1 . In particular, q is a \mathcal{C}^{∞} -fiber bundle with $g^*H^1(S^1, \mathbb{R}) \subseteq f^*H^1(A, \mathbb{R}).$

Let \mathbb{K} be any infinite field. We first mimic the proof of [6, Theorem A.1] to produce a K-local system on X with no cohomology. Let L_{λ} be a generic K-local system on S^1 with monodromy given by $\lambda \in \mathbb{K}$. Set

$$L = g^* L_{\lambda}.$$

Consider the Leray spectral sequence with E_2 -term

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(S^1, R^q g_* g^* L_\lambda) = H^p(S^1, L_\lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} R^q g_* \mathbb{K}_X) \Longrightarrow H^{p+q}(X, L).$$

Since g is a \mathcal{C}^{∞} -fiber bundle, the sheaf $R^{q}g_{*}\mathbb{K}_{X}$ is a local system on S^{1} with the stalk V^q being a finite dimensional K-vector space. Since K is infinite and so we can choose an element $\lambda \in \mathbb{K}$ such that λ^{-1} is different from any of the eigenvalues of the natural monodromy operator on V^q for all q. Therefore we conclude that

$$H^0(S^1, L_\lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} R^q g_* \mathbb{K}_X) = 0, \text{ for all } q_*$$

Since the Euler characteristic of any local system of finite rank on S^1 is zero, we also know that

$$H^1(S^1, L_\lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} R^q g_* \mathbb{K}_X) = 0, \text{ for all } q$$

Therefore, $E_2^{p,q} = 0$ for all p, q and we obtain $H^k(X, L) = 0$ for all k. Since $g^*H^1(S^1, \mathbb{R}) \subseteq f^*H^1(A, \mathbb{R})$, the local system L above is isomorphic to the pullback of some \mathbb{K} -local system on A. By the semicontinuity of cohomology in families, we deduce that a generic K-local system L_A of rank 1 on A satisfies:

(1)
$$H^{i}(X, f^{*}L_{A}) = 0 \quad \text{for all } i.$$

We now set $L_X := f^*L_A$ and consider the perverse Leray spectral sequence with E_2 term

$$E_2^{j,\ell} = H^j(\mathrm{Alb}(X), {}^pR^\ell f_*L_X) = H^j(\mathrm{Alb}(X), {}^pR^\ell f_*(f^*L_A))$$
$$= H^j(\mathrm{Alb}(X), {}^pR^\ell f_*\mathbb{K}_X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} L_A) \Longrightarrow H^{j+\ell}(X, L_X).$$

Theorem 2.1 implies that $E_2^{j,\ell} = 0$ for j > 0, and so the spectral sequence degenerates at E_2 -page. On the other hand, $H^{j+\ell}(X, L_X) = 0$ for all j, ℓ by (1) and so

 $E_2^{j,\ell} = H^j(\mathrm{Alb}(X), {}^pR^\ell f_*\mathbb{K}_X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} L_A) = 0$

for all j, ℓ . Hence,

$$\chi(\mathrm{Alb}(X), {}^{p}R^{\ell}f_{*}\mathbb{K}_{X} \otimes L_{A}) = 0, \quad \text{for all } \ell.$$

Using the invariance of Euler characteristic under twisting by a rank one local system, we conclude that

$$\chi(\mathrm{Alb}(X), {}^{p}R^{j}f_{*}\mathbb{K}_{X}) = \chi(\mathrm{Alb}(X), {}^{p}R^{j}f_{*}\mathbb{K}_{X} \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} L_{A}) = 0,$$

for all j and any infinite field \mathbb{K} .

Before deriving a consequence of Proposition 3.1, we recall

Definition 3.2. [9, Definition 4.1] Let R be any commutative ring. An R-constructible complex \mathcal{F} is *locally constant* if the cohomology sheaves $\mathcal{H}^{j}(\mathcal{F})$ are local systems for all j.

The following lemma is a version of [9, Lemma 5.9].

Lemma 3.3. Let \mathcal{F} be a \mathbb{Z} -constructible complex on a complex manifold. If $\mathcal{F} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}}^{L} \mathbb{K}$ is locally constant for any infinite field \mathbb{K} , then \mathcal{F} is locally constant.

Proof. The proof of [9, Lemma 5.9] is reduced to [9, Lemma 5.8]. But to show a morphism of bounded complexes of free \mathbb{Z} -modules being quasi-isomorphic, we just need to check it still holds after tensoring with any infinite field (in fact one field per characteristic is enough).

Corollary 3.4. With the same assumption as in Proposition 3.1, assume in addition that A is simple. Then $f: X \to A$ is a \mathbb{Z} -homology fiber bundle.

Proof. Note first that f is a \mathbb{Z} -homology fiber bundle if and only if

$$\mathcal{H}^j(Rf_*\mathbb{Z}_X) = R^j f_*\mathbb{Z}_X$$

are local systems for all j, i.e. the \mathbb{Z} -constructible complex $Rf_*\mathbb{Z}_X$ is locally constant. By Lemma 3.3, it suffices to show that for any infinite field \mathbb{K} , the \mathbb{K} -constructible sheaf

$$Rf_*\mathbb{Z}_X\otimes^L_\mathbb{Z}\mathbb{K}=Rf_*\mathbb{K}_X$$

is locally constant. Then [9, Proposition 4.3] says that we only need to check that the perverse cohomology sheaf

 ${}^{p}R^{j}f_{*}\mathbb{K}_{X}$ is a shift of a local system for each j and any infinite \mathbb{K} .

Since A is simple, by Corollary 2.4, it suffices to show that

 $\chi({}^{p}R^{j}f_{*}\mathbb{K}_{X}) = 0$, for each j and any infinite \mathbb{K} ,

which follows from Proposition 3.1. Therefore we conclude that $f : X \to A$ is a \mathbb{Z} -homology fiber bundle. \Box

Proof of Theorem A. It suffices to prove (B) \implies (A). Starting from (B), using Corollary 3.4 and the Bobadilla-Kollár conjecture 1.3 for the morphism $f: X \to A$, we deduce that $f: X \to A$ is smooth. Therefore any pullback of holomorphic 1-form has no zeros on X and thus (B) \implies (A).

Proof of Corollary B. Let $f : X \to A$ be a proper map, where A is a simple complex torus with dim $A \ge \dim X - 1$. Assume that condition (B) in Conjecture 1.2 holds. By Corollary 3.4, f is a Z-homology fibration and in particular surjective. The Bobadilla– Kollár conjecture is clearly true for proper maps of relative dimension zero and it holds for proper maps of relative dimension one by [3, Proposition 10]. This concludes the argument because dim $A \ge \dim X - 1$.

Proof of Corollary C. This is a direct consequence of Corollary B.

APPENDIX A. DEGENERATE PERVERSE SHEAVES ON COMPLEX TORI

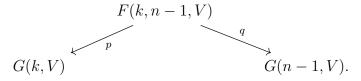
In this appendix, we provide a proof of Theorem 2.3.

First, we adapt [4, §2] to the analytic setting, where one studys the generic degree of a meromorphic map to a Grassmannian (e.g. the Gauss map). Let M be a connected k-dimensional complex manifold. Let V be an n-dimensional complex vector space, and let

$$f: M \dashrightarrow G(k, V)$$

be a meromorphic map to the Grassmannian of k-dimensional linear subspaces of V. Up to replacing M by a dense Zariski open subset, we can assume that f is regular. Consider

the flag variety F(k, n-1, V) and its projections



Consider the fiber product diagram

$$\tilde{M} := M \times_{G(k,V)} F(k, n-1, V) \longrightarrow F(k, n-1, V)$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow^{p}$$

$$M \xrightarrow{f} G(k, V)$$

Since p is a smooth map with (n - k - 1)-dimensional fibers, \tilde{M} is a connected (n - 1)-dimensional complex manifold. Set-theoretically, we have

 $\tilde{M} = \{ (x, V_0, W) \in M \times F(k, n-1, V) \mid f(x) = V_0, V_0 \subseteq W \}.$

The map q induces a holomorphic map between complex manifolds of the same dimension

$$q': \tilde{M} \to F(k, n-1, V) \xrightarrow{q} G(n-1, V),$$
$$(x, V_0, W) \mapsto (V_0, W) \mapsto W.$$

Note that we have $f(x) \in G(k, W)$.

Definition A.1. We define deg f to be the degree of the map q'.

With the set-up above, it is direct to deduce the following

Proposition A.2. If $W \subseteq V$ is a generic hyperplane, then deg f is equal to the number of $x \in M$ such that $f(x) \in G(k, W) \subseteq G(k, V)$. If deg f > 0, then for any such x, the map f is locally an embedding near x and the intersection $f(M) \cap G(k, W)$ is transversal at x.

Now we apply the discussion above to the Gauss map associated to a complex torus. We find it is easier to work in a more general setting. Let G be a complex Lie group, let \mathfrak{g} be its Lie algebra. If $Z \subseteq G$ is an irreducible k-dimensional closed analytic subset, we have the meromorphic map (called Gauss map)

$$\Gamma_Z: Z \dashrightarrow G(k, \mathfrak{g})$$

defined as follows. For $x \in G$, let

$$\ell_x: G \to G, \quad \ell_x(y) = xy$$

be the left multiplication by x. Then, for a smooth point $z \in Z$, we have $\Gamma_Z(z) = z^{-1}(T_z Z)$, which is the image of the differential map $\ell_{z^{-1}}$

$$d_z \ell_{z^{-1}} : T_z Z \to T_e G = \mathfrak{g}.$$

Let $\Lambda_Z \subseteq T^*G$ denote the conic Lagrangian variety associated to Z, which is the closure in T^*G of the conormal bundle in G to the smooth locus of Z. For $\gamma \in \mathfrak{g}^*$, let $\Omega_{\gamma} \subseteq T^*G$ be the graph of the left invariant 1-form ω_{γ} on G associated to γ .

Proposition A.3. Let $\gamma \in \mathfrak{g}^*$ be a generic linear functional. Then $\Lambda_Z \cap \Omega_\gamma$ consists of finitely many points that are smooth on Λ_Z and in which the intersection is transverse. Moreover,

$$\deg \Gamma_Z = \# |\Lambda_Z \cap \Omega_\gamma|.$$

Proof. Apply Proposition A.2 where $M = Z, V = \mathfrak{g}, f = \Gamma_Z$. We can view $\gamma \in \mathfrak{g}^*$ as a generic hyperplane in \mathfrak{g} and $\Gamma_Z(z) \subseteq \gamma \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$ if and only if $(z, \omega_\gamma(z)) \in \Lambda_Z \cap \Omega_\gamma$.

Finally, we can prove Theorem 2.3.

Proposition A.4. Let A be a complex torus, which is simple as a torus. Let \mathbb{K} be any field and let \mathcal{P} be a simple \mathbb{K} -perverse sheaf on A. If the Euler characteristic of \mathcal{P} vanishes, i.e.

$$\chi(\mathcal{P}) = \sum_{i} (-1)^{i} \dim_{\mathbb{K}} H^{i}(A, \mathcal{P}) = 0$$

then \mathcal{P} is a shift of a local system.

Proof. We adapt the proof of [8, Proposition 10.1]. For $Z \subseteq A$ closed and irreducible, let $\Lambda_Z \subseteq T^*A$ denote the closure in T^*A of the conormal bundle in A to the smooth locus of Z. By [10, Definition 3.34], the characteristic cycle associated to the K-perverse sheaf \mathcal{P} on the complex manifold A is a finite formal sum

$$CC(\mathcal{P}) = \sum_{Z \subseteq A} n_Z \cdot \Lambda_Z, \quad \text{with } n_Z \in \mathbb{Z},$$

where Z runs through all closed irreducible subsets of A,

$$n_Z := (-1)^{\dim Z} \cdot \chi(\text{NMD}(\mathcal{P}, Z))$$

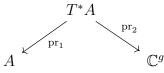
and NMD(\mathcal{P}, Z) is the sheaf-theoretic counterpart of the normal Morse data defined in [10, §3.1, (26)]. By [10, Example 3.26], we have $n_Z \geq 0$ for K-perverse sheaves. The Dubson-Kashiwara's microlocal index formula still holds in this setting: apply [10, Theorem 3.38] when f is a constant function. Therefore we have

$$\chi(\mathcal{P}) = \sum_{Z \subseteq A} n_Z \cdot d_Z,$$

where

$$d_Z = \langle [\Lambda_A] \cdot [\Lambda_Z] \rangle_{T^*A} \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Therefore, d_Z can be computed as the intersection number of Λ_Z with Ω_γ inside T^*A , where Ω_γ is the graph of a generic differential one-form γ on A. Since A is a torus, the cotangent bundle $T^*A = A \times \mathbb{C}^g$ is trivial of rank $g = \dim A$, with two projection maps



Projecting from $\Lambda_Z \subseteq T^*A$ onto the second factor \mathbb{C}^g induces a map

$$p: \Lambda_Z \to \mathbb{C}^g.$$

It is easy to see that degree of p is equal to the degree of the Gauss map associated to Zand A as discussed above. By Proposition A.3, the intersection number $d_Z = \#|\Lambda_Z \cap \Omega_\gamma|$ is the generic degree of the Gauss map, which is equal to the generic degree of p.

Since n_Z, d_Z are both nonnegative, the assumption $\chi(P) = 0$ implies that $d_Z = 0$. Therefore p is not surjective and dim $p(\Lambda_Z) < g$. Then for some cotangential vector $\omega \in p(\Lambda_Z)$, the fiber $p^{-1}(\omega)$ is positive-dimensional. If $Z \neq A$, we can assume $\omega \neq 0$. Let $Y \subseteq A$ be the image of $p^{-1}(\omega) \subseteq T^*A$ under the map $T^*A \to A$. Then dim Y > 0, and up to a translation we can assume $0 \in Y$. By construction, ω is normal to Y in every smooth point of Y, so the preimage of Y under the universal covering $\mathbb{C}^g \to A = \mathbb{C}^g/\Lambda$ lies in the hyperplane of \mathbb{C}^g orthogonal to ω . Thus the subtorus of A generated by Y is strictly contained in A but non-zero, contradicting the assumption that A is simple. Therefore the characteristic cycle $CC(\mathcal{P})$ only contains the zero section of T^*A and hence \mathcal{P} is a shift of a local system, see e.g. Lemma 5.14 in the first arXiv version of [9]. \Box

Remark A.5. The proof of Proposition A.4 works verbatim for arbitrary possibly nonsimple perverse sheaves. We presented an alternative argument to reduce to the nonsimple case in Corollary 2.4 above for the convenience of the reader.

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