

A QUICK SURVEY OF HODGE THEORY

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1. LINEAR ALGEBRA

Definition 1.1. Let V be a finite dimensional \mathbb{R} -vector space. An *almost complex structure* on V is a linear map $J : V \rightarrow V$ satisfying $J^2 = \text{id}_V$. An *almost complex vector space* is tuple (V, J) , where V is a finite dimensional \mathbb{R} -vector space equipped with an almost complex structure J .

The data of an almost complex structure J is equivalent to giving V the structure of a complex vector space, where we define $(a + bi) \cdot v = av + bJv$. Because of this, we may call J a *complex structure*. We use the name *almost* complex structure to emphasize the differences between the analogous constructions in the nonlinear world of manifolds. Note that since an almost complex structure is equivalent to a complex structure, this immediately implies that V is even dimensional.

One way to think about an almost complex structure is through the geometric interpretation of complex multiplication. If we regard \mathbb{C} as a 2-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{R} , multiplication by i corresponds to a rotation by $\pi/2$ in the counterclockwise direction, and multiplication by $-i$ corresponds to a rotation by $\pi/2$ in the clockwise direction. From this we see that a choice of a square root of -1 comes with a choice of clockwise or counterclockwise. This implies that every complex vector space is canonically oriented as a real vector space. Given a \mathbb{C} -vector space V with \mathbb{C} -basis $\{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$, we have that the ordered basis $(z_1, iz_1, \dots, z_n, iz_n)$ defines a positively oriented basis for V over \mathbb{R} .

Definition 1.2. Let V be any \mathbb{R} -vector space. The *complexification* of V is the complex vector space $V_{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} V$. The complexification $V_{\mathbb{C}}$ is naturally a complex vector space, where for $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, the action of λ on a homogeneous element $\mu \otimes v$ is given by

$$\lambda \cdot (\mu \otimes v) = \lambda\mu \otimes v$$

The complexification is a different way of obtaining a complex vector space from a real one. The complexification $V_{\mathbb{C}}$ is a vector space of twice the dimension of V as a vector space over \mathbb{R} . In addition, there is a natural inclusion $V \hookrightarrow V_{\mathbb{C}}$ given by $v \mapsto 1 \otimes v$. Complexification is an instance of *extension of scalars* – every element of $V_{\mathbb{C}}$ is of the form $av + biw$

where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, and $v, w \in V$. Therefore, we will denote the element $(a + bi) \otimes v \in V_{\mathbb{C}}$ by $av + biv$, and we have a direct sum decomposition $V_{\mathbb{C}} = V \oplus iV$. Given a linear map $T : V \rightarrow W$ of \mathbb{R} -vector spaces, we can extend T to a complexified map $T_{\mathbb{C}} : V_{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow W_{\mathbb{C}}$, where $T_{\mathbb{C}}(av + biw) = aTv + biTw$. In other words, $T_{\mathbb{C}} = \text{id}_{\mathbb{C}} \otimes T$. In this way, we see that complexification defines a covariant functor $\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{R}} \rightarrow \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}$ from the category of \mathbb{R} -vector spaces to the category of \mathbb{C} -vector spaces.

A natural question to ask is how an almost complex structure interacts with the process of complexification. Let (V, J) be an almost complex vector space. Then the complexified map $J_{\mathbb{C}} : V_{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow V_{\mathbb{C}}$ squares to -1 , and admits eigenvalues $\pm i$. For example, consider $V = \mathbb{C}$. We then can then make the natural identification of \mathbb{C} with the almost complex vector space (\mathbb{R}^2, J) , where J is given by the matrix

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

using the ordered \mathbb{R} basis $(1, i)$. Then $V_{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}^2$, and $J_{\mathbb{C}}$ is given by the matrix

$$J_{\mathbb{C}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

in the ordered \mathbb{R} basis $(1, i, 1, i)$, where the first pair elements are elements of one copy of \mathbb{C}^2 , and the second pair of elements are elements of a separate copy of \mathbb{C}^2 , giving an \mathbb{R} basis for $\mathbb{C} \cong \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C}$. The matrix $J_{\mathbb{C}}$ clearly has eigenvalues $\pm i$, with the i -eigenspace being spanned by the vectors

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \frac{i}{2} \\ 0 \\ -\frac{i}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the $-i$ eigenspace being the span of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{i}{2} \\ 0 \\ -\frac{i}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

The case for general V is similar, and amounts to fixing an \mathbb{R} basis of the form $\{v_1, Jv_1, \dots, v_n, Jv_n\}$ for (V, J) . The decomposition of $V_{\mathbb{C}}$ into the $\pm i$ -eigenspaces of $J_{\mathbb{C}}$ gives a direct sum decomposition

$$V_{\mathbb{C}} = V^{1,0} \oplus V^{0,1}$$

where $V^{1,0}$ denotes the i -eigenspace, and $V^{0,1}$ denotes the $-i$ -eigenspace. Note that in the bases we chose above for \mathbb{C}^2 , complex conjugation is given by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and determines an isomorphism of complex vector spaces $V^{1,0} \cong \overline{V^{0,1}}$ and vice versa. In addition, complex conjugation picks out a distinguished subspace of $V_{\mathbb{C}}$ isomorphic to V – the 1-eigenspace. Elements of this eigenspace are called *real* (much like how the \mathbb{R}^n is left invariant under complex conjugation in \mathbb{C}^n).

An almost complex structure J on V induces a dual map $J^* : V^* \rightarrow V^*$. By functoriality of taking dual spaces, $(J^*)^2 = -\text{id}_{V^*}$, giving V^* the structure of an almost complex vector space via J^* . Explicitly, given a linear functional $\alpha \in V^*$, we have that the action of J^* on α is given by

$$(J^*\alpha)(v) = \alpha(Jv)$$

for every $v \in V$. We then get an analogous decomposition of the complexified dual space $V_{\mathbb{C}}^* = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C})$ as

$$V_{\mathbb{C}}^* = (V^*)^{1,0} \oplus (V^*)^{0,1}$$

into the $\pm i$ eigenspaces of J^* , and have very natural interpretations in terms of V . The subspace $(V^*)^{1,0}$ consists of the α such that $\alpha(Jv) = i\alpha(v)$. We have a natural pairing $(V^*)^{1,0} \otimes V^{1,0} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ given by

$$\langle \alpha, v \rangle = \alpha(v)$$

which is nondegenerate, establishing the two vector spaces as dual to each other (as complex vector spaces). A similar statement holds for $V^{0,1}$ and $(V^*)^{0,1}$, putting them in duality as well. Another perspective to take is that the condition that $\alpha(Jv) = i\alpha(v)$ is equivalent to α being *complex linear* with respect to the complex structure J on V and i on \mathbb{C} , giving us an isomorphism $(V^*)^{1,0} \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V, \mathbb{C})$. Similarly, we have that $(V^*)^{0,1} \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V, \overline{\mathbb{C}})$.

We then consider the effects of complexification on another linear algebraic construction – the exterior algebra. Given a finite dimensional \mathbb{R} -vector space V , we have that the exterior algebra $\Lambda^{\bullet}V$ has a natural \mathbb{Z} -grading

$$\Lambda^{\bullet}V = \bigoplus_{k=0}^n \Lambda^k V$$

Upon complexification, we have a canonical isomorphism $(\Lambda^{\bullet}V)_{\mathbb{C}} \cong \Lambda^{\bullet}V_{\mathbb{C}}$, where the right hand side is the exterior algebra of $V_{\mathbb{C}}$ as a *complex* vector space (i.e. $\Lambda^0 V_{\mathbb{C}} \cong \mathbb{C}$, not \mathbb{R}), and $\Lambda^{\bullet}V$ is canonically embedded in $\Lambda^{\bullet}V_{\mathbb{C}}$ as the subspace invariant under complex conjugation. Further assume that we have an almost complex structure $J : V \rightarrow V$. This gives a direct sum decomposition $V_{\mathbb{C}} = V^{1,0} \oplus V^{0,1}$, which then induces a decomposition

$$\Lambda^k V_{\mathbb{C}} \cong \bigoplus_{p+q=k} \Lambda^p V^{1,0} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \Lambda^q V^{0,1}$$

giving the complexified exterior algebra a bigrading via the subspaces

$$\Lambda^{p,q}V := \Lambda^p V^{1,0} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \Lambda^q V^{0,1}$$

elements of $\Lambda^{p,q}$ are said to have **bidegree** (p, q) . We now make several simple observations regarding the bigrading of $\Lambda^\bullet V_{\mathbb{C}}$, which stem from our observations regarding the decomposition $V_{\mathbb{C}} = V^{1,0} \oplus V^{0,1}$.

- (1) From the fact that $\overline{V^{1,0}} = V^{0,1}$, we get that $\overline{\Lambda^{p,q}V} = \Lambda^{q,p}V$.
- (2) Given $\omega \in \Lambda^{p,q}V$ and $\eta \in \Lambda^{s,t}V$, we have that $\omega \wedge \eta \in \Lambda^{p+s,q+t}V$.

2. COMPLEX MANIFOLDS

We now transfer our linear algebraic knowledge to complex manifolds. Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be an open subset, and $z = x + iy$ the usual coordinate function on U . Considered as a subset of \mathbb{R}^2 , for any point $p \in U$, the tangent space $T_p U$ is spanned by the coordinate vectors $\partial_x|_p$ and $\partial_y|_p$. If we then complexify, the $\partial_x|_p$ and $\partial_y|_p$ also form a basis for $(T_p U)_{\mathbb{C}}$ as a *complex* vector space. Consequently, we can also form a basis for $(T_p U)_{\mathbb{C}}$ with the vectors

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \Big|_p &:= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \Big|_p &:= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \end{aligned}$$

which we abbreviate as $\partial_z|_p$ and $\partial_{\bar{z}}|_p$ respectively. Doing this for all p , we obtain vector fields ∂_z and $\partial_{\bar{z}}$ on all of U , where a function $f \in C^\infty(U, \mathbb{C})$ is holomorphic if and only if $\partial_{\bar{z}}f = 0$. Functions f annihilated by ∂_z are **antiholomorphic**, i.e. \bar{f} is holomorphic. These vector fields give a framing for the complexified tangent bundle $TU_{\mathbb{C}}$, i.e. an isomorphism $TU_{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow U \times \mathbb{C}^2$.

We get a similar description of the complexified cotangent bundle $T^*U_{\mathbb{C}}$, which is framed by the covector fields

$$\begin{aligned} dz &= \frac{1}{2} (dx + idy) \\ d\bar{z} &= \frac{1}{2} (dx - idy) \end{aligned}$$

which are easily verified to be the duals of ∂_z and $\partial_{\bar{z}}$ respectively. For an open subset $U \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ with complex coordinates $z^i = x^i + iy^i$, we have analogous vector fields $\partial/\partial z^i$ and $\partial/\partial \bar{z}^i$ and covector fields dz^i and $d\bar{z}^i$.

Definition 2.1. An **almost complex manifold** is the data of a smooth manifold X and a smooth section $J \in \Gamma_X(\text{End}(TX))$ such that $J^2 = -\text{id}_{TX}$.

Definition 2.2. A **complex manifold** is a smooth manifold X such that there is an open cover $\{(U_\alpha, \varphi_\alpha)\}$ of X by charts U_α and diffeomorphisms $\varphi : U_\alpha \rightarrow V_\alpha$ to open sets $V_\alpha \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n} \cong \mathbb{C}^n$ such that the transition maps $\varphi_\alpha \circ \varphi_\beta^{-1}$ are holomorphic.

Definition 2.3. Let X be a complex manifold. A complex valued function $f \in C^\infty(X, \mathbb{C})$ is *holomorphic* if for any holomorphic chart (φ, U) , we have that $f \circ \varphi^{-1}$ is holomorphic. The ring of holomorphic functions over X is denoted \mathcal{O}_X .

Unlike the linear case, the notion of an almost complex manifold and a complex manifold are *not* equivalent. Let (X, J) be an almost complex manifold. For a point $x \in X$, we have that J_x is an almost complex structure on the tangent space $T_x X$, which gives a decomposition of the complexified tangent space

$$T_x X_{\mathbb{C}} = T_x^{1,0} X \oplus T_x^{0,1} X$$

into the $\pm i$ -eigenspaces of complexified J_x . Doing this over all points x , we get a decomposition of the complexified tangent bundle

$$TX_{\mathbb{C}} = T^{1,0} X \oplus T^{0,1} X$$

into the $\pm i$ -eigenbundles of J .

Suppose X is a complex manifold. Then every tangent space $T_x X$ inherits an almost complex structure coming from multiplication by i in \mathbb{C}^n , giving an almost complex structure J on X . To show this explicitly, let $z^i = x^i + iy^i$ be local holomorphic coordinates for X . Then the coordinate functions $(x^1, y^1, \dots, x^n, y^n)$ form a coordinate system for X as a *real* manifold, and the action of J in these coordinates is simply given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} &\mapsto \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i} &\mapsto -\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \end{aligned}$$

and the subbundle $T^{1,0} X \subset TX_{\mathbb{C}}$ is spanned by the $\partial/\partial z^i$, and $T^{0,1} X$ is spanned by the $\partial/\partial \bar{z}^i$. The composition

$$TX \hookrightarrow TX_{\mathbb{C}} \longrightarrow T^{1,0} X$$

consisting of the inclusion followed by projecting then defines an isomorphism of the real tangent bundle with $T^{1,0} X$, which is called the *holomorphic tangent bundle*. Explicitly, this map is given in local coordinates by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z^i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}^i} \mapsto \frac{\partial}{\partial z^i} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i} &= i \frac{\partial}{\partial z^i} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}^i} \mapsto i \frac{\partial}{\partial z^i} \end{aligned}$$

and the $\partial/\partial z^i$ along with the $i\partial/\partial z^i$ form a local frame for the holomorphic tangent bundle $T^{1,0} X$.

Given an almost complex manifold (X, J) , a natural question to ask is whether or not X admits the structure of a complex manifold where J is multiplication by i . The answer to this question is a celebrated theorem of Newlander and Nirenberg

Theorem 2.4 (Newlander-Nirenberg). *An almost complex manifold (X, J) is a complex manifold (where J is multiplication by i) if and only if the subbundle $T^{1,0}X \subset TX_{\mathbb{C}}$ is integrable in the sense of Frobenius, i.e.*

$$[T^{1,0}X, T^{1,0}X] \subset T^{1,0}X$$

via complex conjugation, this is equivalent to $T^{0,1}X$ being integrable.

Intuitively, the existence of local *holomorphic* coordinates amounts to finding an integral submanifold for $T^{1,0}X$, since if X was complex, $T^{1,0}X$ would arise as the holomorphic tangent bundle of X .

3. COHOMOLOGY OF COMPLEX MANIFOLDS.

Let X be a complex manifold, and let J denote the canonical almost complex structure on X . Applying our linear algebraic knowledge pointwise, we get a decomposition of the complexified cotangent bundle

$$T^*X_{\mathbb{C}} = (T^*X)^{1,0} \oplus (T^*X)^{0,1}$$

which then gives a decomposition of the space $\Omega_X^k(\mathbb{C})$ of complex valued differential k -forms as

$$\Omega_X^k(\mathbb{C}) = \bigoplus_{p+q=k} \Omega_X^{p,q}(\mathbb{C})$$

where $\Omega_X^{p,q}(\mathbb{C})$ denotes the space of (p, q) -forms, i.e. sections of $\Lambda^{p,q}T^*X$, and the direct sum is taken as modules over $C^\infty(X, \mathbb{C})$. Let d denote the de Rham differential $\Omega_X^k \rightarrow \Omega_X^{k+1}$ after complexifying it to obtain a map $\Omega_X^k(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \Omega_X^{k+1}(\mathbb{C})$. In local holomorphic coordinates $\{z^i\}$, we have that the dz^i form a basis for the space of smooth $(1, 0)$ -forms over the ring $C^\infty(M, \mathbb{C})$, and the $d\bar{z}^i$ form a basis for the space of smooth $(0, 1)$ -forms. Therefore, given $f \in C^\infty(X, \mathbb{C})$, we can uniquely write $df \in \Omega_X^1(\mathbb{C})$ as

$$df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z^i} dz^i + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}^i} d\bar{z}^i$$

where we use Einstein summation notation. Given an arbitrary (p, q) form α , it has the local coordinate expression

$$\alpha = \sum_{p,q} \alpha_{p,q} dz^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dz^{i_p} \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_q}$$

for smooth $\alpha_{p,q} \in C^\infty(X, \mathbb{C})$. Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} d\alpha &= \left(\sum_{p,q} \frac{\partial \alpha_{p,q}}{\partial z^i} dz^i \wedge dz^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dz^{i_p} \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_q} \right) \\ &\quad + \left(\sum_{p,q} \frac{\partial \alpha_{p,q}}{\partial \bar{z}^i} d\bar{z}^i \wedge dz^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dz^{i_p} \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_q} \right) \end{aligned}$$

which shows that $d\alpha$ is a $(p+1, q+1)$ form, i.e. d is of bidegree $(1, 1)$. This expression for $d\alpha$ allows us to decompose d as a sum $d = \partial + \bar{\partial}$, where

$$\begin{aligned}\partial\alpha &= \sum_{p,q} \frac{\partial\alpha_{p,q}}{\partial z^i} dz^i \wedge dz^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dz^{i_p} \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_1} \dots \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_q} \\ \bar{\partial}\alpha &= \sum_{p,q} \frac{\partial\alpha_{p,q}}{\partial \bar{z}^i} d\bar{z}^i \wedge dz^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dz^{i_p} \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_1} \dots \wedge d\bar{z}^{i_q}\end{aligned}$$

from the definition, it is clear that ∂ is of bidegree $(1, 0)$ and $\bar{\partial}$ is of bidegree $(0, 1)$.

Proposition 3.1.

- (1) $\partial^2 = 0$
- (2) $\bar{\partial}^2 = 0$
- (3) $\partial\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}\partial = 0$

Proof. We know that $d = \partial + \bar{\partial}$ satisfies $d^2 = 0$. Therefore, we have that

$$d^2 = (\partial + \bar{\partial})^2 = \partial^2 + \partial\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}\partial + \bar{\partial}^2$$

we then note that the bidegrees of all the components. We have:

- (1) ∂^2 has bidegree $(2, 0)$.
- (2) $\partial\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}\partial$ has bidegree $(1, 1)$
- (3) $\bar{\partial}^2$ has bidegree $(0, 2)$

in order for d^2 to vanish, all the terms of different bidegrees must vanish, proving all three parts of the proposition. ■

The operators ∂ and $\bar{\partial}$ satisfy many of the same identities as d . Another helpful identity to note is that

$$\partial\alpha = \overline{\bar{\partial}\alpha}$$

Definition 3.2. Let X be a complex manifold. A *holomorphic vector bundle* over X is a complex vector bundle $\pi : E \rightarrow X$ such that the total space E is a complex manifold and the projection π is a holomorphic map.

Note again that a holomorphic vector bundle is *not* a complex vector bundle (for example, a complex vector bundle can be odd dimensional if the base space is odd dimensional). Instead, it is a complex bundle with extra structure. Let $\sigma : X \rightarrow E$ be a *smooth* section. In a local holomorphic trivialization of E , we can write σ as

$$\sigma = (\sigma^1, \dots, \sigma^k)$$

for smooth complex-valued functions σ^i , where k is the rank of E as a complex vector bundle. In this trivialization, we can apply the operator $\bar{\partial}$ component-wise to get

$$\bar{\partial}\sigma = (\bar{\partial}\sigma^1, \dots, \bar{\partial}\sigma^k)$$

and this local definition glues together to give a well defined operator $\bar{\partial}_E : \Omega_X^{0,0}(E) \rightarrow \Omega_X^{0,1}(E)$, where $\Omega_X^{p,q}(E)$ denotes the space of sections $\Gamma_X(T^{p,q}X \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} E)$. We then note that the holomorphic sections $X \rightarrow E$ are exactly those annihilated by $\bar{\partial}_E$. Since $\bar{\partial}_E$ is defined

locally in terms of $\bar{\partial}$, we immediately see that $\bar{\partial}_E^2 = 0$, giving us the *Dolbeault complex* of E .

$$\Omega_X^{0,0}(E) \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_E} \Omega_X^{0,1}(E) \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_E} \cdots \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_E} \Omega_X^{0,n}(E) \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_E} 0$$

The *Dolbeault cohomology groups* of E are the cohomology groups of the Dolbeault complex, and are denoted $H^p(X, E)$.

4. KÄHLER MANIFOLDS

Kähler manifolds will form a special class of manifolds where Hodge theory will prove especially useful. Before diving into the world of Kähler manifolds, we do some prerequisite linear algebra, which is closely tied to Hermitian geometry.

Definition 4.1. Let V be a complex vector space. A *Hermitian form* on V is a bilinear map $h : \bar{V} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ satisfying $h(v, w) = \overline{h(w, v)}$.

Another way to define a Hermitian form is as a *sesquilinear* form $h : V \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, i.e. conjugate linear in the first term, and linear in the second term, along with the Hermitian symmetry condition $h(v, w) = \overline{h(w, v)}$. In a basis for V , a Hermitian form is given by a Hermitian matrix H , i.e. $H^\dagger = H$.

Given a Hermitian form h on a complex vector space V , we can decompose h into its real and imaginary parts. Let $g = \Re(h)$ and $\omega = \Im(h)$, so we have $h = g + i\omega$.

Proposition 4.2. Let $h = g + i\omega$ be a hermitian form. Then we have

- (1) g is symmetric
- (2) ω is skew-symmetric

Proof.

- (1) Since h is Hermitian, we have that $h(v, w) = \overline{h(w, v)}$, which have the same real part. Therefore, $g(v, w) = g(w, v)$, so g is symmetric
- (2) We again use the fact that $h(v, w) = \overline{h(w, v)}$. Since conjugation reverses the sign on the imaginary component, we immediately get that $\omega(v, w) = -\omega(w, v)$. ■

Remark. The decomposition of h into its real and imaginary components is one way of seeing the useful identity

$$U_n = O_{2n} \cap Sp_{2n} \cap GL_n \mathbb{C}$$

where we regard all of the groups as subgroups of $GL_{2n} \mathbb{R}$. Any matrix preserving the standard Hermitian form on \mathbb{C}^n must necessarily preserve both the real and imaginary components, so it must preserve the standard Euclidean inner product on $\mathbb{R}^{2n} \cong \mathbb{C}^n$ and the standard symplectic form on $\mathbb{R}^{2n} \cong \mathbb{C}$.

Given a complex vector space V equipped with a hermitian metric h , let J denote the natural almost complex structure induced by multiplication by i . Writing $h = g + i\omega$, we see that ω and g are intimately related, i.e.

- (1) $g(v, Iw) = \omega(v, w)$
- (2) $\omega(v, Iw) = g(v, w)$

both of which come from the fact that h is compatible with J in the sense that $h(Jv, Jw) = h(v, w)$. Finally, we note that ω can be naturally identified with a real element of $(V^*)^{1,1}$.

Definition 4.3. Let h be a Hermitian form, and $\omega = \Im(h)$. Then ω is called the *Kähler form* of h .

We now move back to the world of manifolds. Let (X, J) be an almost complex manifold. The almost complex structure gives each tangent space $T_x X$ the structure of a complex vector space, so it makes sense to discuss a Hermitian form h_x on $T_x X$.

Definition 4.4. A *Kähler manifold* is an almost complex manifold (X, J) with a smoothly varying Hermitian metric (i.e. a positive definite Hermitian form) h where J is integrable and the Kähler form ω obtained from h is closed.

From the decomposition $h = g + i\omega$, we see that a Kähler manifold is a melting pot of several compatible structures, namely the Riemannian metric g , the almost complex structure J , and the symplectic form ω .

From the basic definition, we can already make some surprisingly deep statements about Kähler manifolds.

Lemma 4.5. Let X be a Kähler manifold with Hermitian form $h = g + i\omega$. Then the volume form of X with respect to the Riemannian metric g is $\omega^n / n!$, where $n = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} X$.

Proposition 4.6. Let X be a Kähler manifold. Then all the even degree de Rham cohomology groups $H_{dR}^{2n}(X, \mathbb{R})$ are nontrivial.