# FORMALITY IN GENERELIZED KÄHLER GEOMETRY

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ABSTRACT. Using Gualtieri's  $\partial \overline{\partial}$ -lemma for generalized Kähler manifolds we prove that if one of the generalized complex structures forming a generalized Kähler pair has holomorphically trivial canonical bundle, then a certain differential graded algebra associated to it is formal. As an application we prove that no nilpotent Lie algebra has a generalized Kähler structure.

#### Introduction

The requirement that a compact manifold admits a Kähler structure has many topological implications, in particular the manifold is formal in the sense of Sullivan [9, 4]. We prove a formality result for their recently introduced relatives, generalized Kähler manifolds [5].

In order to state our result we recall some of the theory on generalized complex structures, as introduced by Hitchin [7] and developed by Gualtieri [5]. A generalized complex structure is an orthogonal complex structure  $\mathcal J$  on  $T\oplus T^*$ , the sum of tangent and cotangent bundles of a manifold, integrable with respect to the Courant bracket. The Courant bracket always restricts to a Lie bracket on L, the i-eigenspace of  $\mathcal J$ , endowing it with the structure of a Lie algebroid. As a consequence  $\Omega^{\bullet}(L^*)$ , the space of sections of  $\wedge^{\bullet}L^*$ , has a differential making it a differential graded algebra. This DGA is also related to a decomposition of forms on the manifold.

A generalized Kähler structure is a pair of commuting generalized complex structures which together determine a metric. Since each generalized complex structure is related to a Lie algebroid, we have associated to a generalized Kähler structure two differential graded algebras. These DGAs are also related to a bigrading of differential forms and cohomology on the manifold. Developing a Hodge theory for generalized Kähler manifolds and the bigrading of forms, Gualtieri proved the equality of a number of Laplacians on differential forms associated to a generalized Kähler structure [6]. As a consequence, he obtained  $\partial \bar{\partial}$ -lemma-like results for the associated operators.

Using Gualtieri's results and the relationship between the different differential complexes related to a generalized Kähler manifold we prove that if one of the generalized complex structures making up a generalized Kähler structure has holomorphically trivial canonical bundle, then the respective Lie algebroid is associated to a formal DGA in the sense of Sullivan. As an application of this result we prove that no generalized complex structure on a nilpotent Lie algebra can be completed to a generalized Kähler pair.

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#### 1. Differential graded algebras

In this section we give a lightening review formality for differential graded algebras and recover the well known fact that the DGA associated to a nontrivial nilpotent Lie algebra is not formal.

**Definition.** A differential graded algebra, or DGA for short, is an  $\mathbb{N}$  graded vector space  $\mathcal{A}^{\bullet}$ , endowed with a product and a differential d satisfying:

(1) The product maps  $A^i \times A^j$  to  $A^{i+j}$  and is graded commutative:

$$a \cdot b = (-1)^{ij} b \cdot a;$$

- (2) The differential has degree 1,  $d: \mathcal{A}^k \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}^{k+1}$ , and squares to zero;
- (3) The differential is a derivation: for  $a \in \mathcal{A}^i$  and  $b \in \mathcal{A}^j$

$$d(a \cdot b) = da \cdot b + (-1)^{i} a \cdot db.$$

The cohomology of a DGA is defined in the standard way and naturally inherits a grading and a product, making it into a DGA on its own with d=0. A morphism of differential graded algebras is a map preserving the structure above, i.e., degree, products and differentials. Any morphism of DGAs  $\varphi: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$  gives rise to a morphism of cohomology  $\varphi^*: H^{\bullet}(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow H^{\bullet}(\mathcal{B})$ . A morphism  $\varphi$  is a quasi-isomorphism if the induced map in cohomology is an isomorphism.

Given a DGA,  $\mathcal{A}$ , for which  $H^k(\mathcal{A})$  is finite dimensional for every k, one can construct another differential graded algebra that captures all the information about the differential and which is minimal in the following sense.

**Definition.** A DGA  $(\mathcal{M}, d)$  is *minimal* if it is free as a DGA (i.e. polynomial in even degree and skew symmetric in odd degree) and has generators  $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n, \ldots$  such that

- (1) The degree of the generators form a weakly increasing sequence of positive numbers;
- (2) There are finitely many generators in each degree;
- (3) The differential satisfies  $de_i \in \wedge \text{span}\{e_1, \dots, e_{i-1}\}$ .

A minimal model for a differential graded algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is a minimal DGA,  $\mathcal{M}$ , together with a quasi-isomorphism  $\psi: \mathcal{M} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$ .

Since the cohomology of a DGA is also a DGA we can also construct its minimal model. The minimal models for  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $H^{\bullet}(\mathcal{A})$  are not the same in general.

**Definition.** A DGA  $\mathcal{A}$  is *formal* if it has the same minimal model as its cohomology, or equivalently, there is a quasi-isomorphism  $\psi : \mathcal{M} \longrightarrow H^{\bullet}(\mathcal{A})$ , where  $\mathcal{M}$  is the minimal model of  $\mathcal{A}$ . A manifold M is *formal* if  $(\Omega^{\bullet}(M), d)$  is formal.

**Example 1.1.** (Nilpotent Lie algebras) A typical example of nonformal DGA can be obtained from a finite dimensional nilpotent Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  with nontrivial bracket. The Lie bracket induces a differential d on  $\wedge^{\bullet}\mathfrak{g}^*$  making it into a DGA. Furthermore,  $\mathfrak{g}^*$  is filtered by  $\mathfrak{g}_1^* = \ker d$  and

$$\mathfrak{g}_i^* = \{ v \in \mathfrak{g}^* : dv \in \wedge^2 \mathfrak{g}_{i-1}^* \}.$$

Nilpotency implies that  $\mathfrak{g}_s^* = \mathfrak{g}^*$  for some s. Let  $\{e^1, \dots, e^n\}$  be a basis for  $\mathfrak{g}^*$  compatible with this filtration. Then

$$de^i \in \wedge^2 \operatorname{span}\{e^1, \cdots, e^{i-1}\}.$$

showing that  $(\wedge^{\bullet}\mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  is minimal.

Since the bracket is nontrivial,  $de^n \neq 0$  and hence one can see that  $e^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e^{n-1}$  is exact and  $e^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e^n$  is a volume element and therefore represents a nontrivial cohomology class. If  $(\wedge \mathfrak{g}^*, d)$  was formal, there would be a map  $\psi : (\wedge^{\bullet} \mathfrak{g}^*, d) \longrightarrow H^{\bullet}(\mathfrak{g})$ , but

$$0 \neq \psi(e^1 \wedge \dots \wedge e^n) = \psi(e^1 \wedge \dots \wedge e^{n-1}) \cdot \psi(e^n) = 0 \cdot \psi(e^n) = 0.$$

So there is no such  $\psi$  and  $\wedge^{\bullet}\mathfrak{g}^*$  is not formal.

## 2. Generalized complex structures and Lie algebroids

In this section we recall the definition of generalized complex structures and their relation to Lie algebroids, following [5].

Given a closed 3-form H on a manifold M, we define the *Courant bracket* of sections of the sum  $T \oplus T^*$  of the tangent and cotangent bundles by

$$[X + \xi, Y + \eta] = [X, Y] + \mathcal{L}_X \eta - \mathcal{L}_Y \xi - \frac{1}{2} d(\eta(X) - \xi(Y)) + i_Y i_X H.$$

The bundle  $T \oplus T^*$  is also endowed with a natural symmetric pairing of signature (n,n):

$$\langle X + \xi, Y + \eta \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\eta(X) + \xi(Y)).$$

**Definition.** A generalized complex structure on a manifold with closed 3-form (M, H) is a complex structure on the bundle  $T \oplus T^*$  which preserves the natural pairing and whose *i*-eigenspace is closed under the Courant bracket.

A generalized complex structure can be fully described in terms of its *i*-eigenspace L, which is a maximal isotropic subspace of  $T_{\mathbb{C}} \oplus T_{\mathbb{C}}^*$  satisfying  $L \cap \overline{L} = \{0\}$ .

Two extreme examples of generalized complex structures, with H=0, are given by complex and symplectic structures: in a complex manifold we let  $L=T^{0,1}\oplus T^{*1,0}$  and in a symplectic manifold we let  $L=\{X-i\omega(X):X\in T_{\mathbb{C}}\}$ , where  $\omega$  is the symplectic form. What distinguishes these structures is their type which is the dimension of the kernel of  $\pi:L\longrightarrow T_{\mathbb{C}}$ . So, a complex structure on  $M^n$  has type n at all points and symplectic structures have type zero at all points.

The Courant bracket does not satisfy the Jacobi identity. Instead we have the relation for the Jacobiator

$$\operatorname{Jac}(A, B, C) := [\![A, B]\!], C + c.p. = \frac{1}{3}d(\langle A, B]\!], C + c.p.),$$

where c.p. stands for cyclic permutations. However, the identity above also shows that the Courant bracket induces a Lie bracket when restricted to sections of any involutive isotropic space L. This Lie bracket together with the projection  $\pi_T: L \longrightarrow TM$ , makes L into a Lie algebroid and allows us to define a differential  $d_L$  on  $\Omega^{\bullet}(L^*) = \mathbb{C}^{\infty}(\wedge^{\bullet}L^*)$  making it into a DGA. If L is the i-eigenspace of a generalized complex structure, then the natural pairing gives an isomorphism  $L^* \cong \overline{L}$  and with this identification  $(\Omega^{\bullet}(\overline{L}), d_L)$  is a DGA.

If a generalized complex structure has type zero over M, i.e., is of symplectic type, then  $\pi:L\stackrel{\cong}{\longrightarrow} T_{\mathbb{C}}$  is an isomorphism and the Courant bracket on  $C^{\infty}(L)$ 

is mapped to the Lie bracket on  $C^{\infty}(T_{\mathbb{C}})$ . Therefore, in this particular case,  $(\Omega^{\bullet}(\overline{L}), d_L)$  and  $(\Omega^{\bullet}_{\mathbb{C}}(M), d)$  are isomorphic DGAs.

2.1. Decomposition of forms. A generalized complex structure can also be described using differential forms. Recall that the exterior algebra  $\wedge^{\bullet}T^*$  carries a natural spin representation for the metric bundle  $T \oplus T^*$ ; the Clifford action of  $X + \xi \in T \oplus T^*$  on  $\rho \in \wedge^{\bullet} T^*$  is

$$(X + \xi) \cdot \rho = i_X \rho + \xi \wedge \rho.$$

The subspace  $L \subset T_{\mathbb{C}} \oplus T_{\mathbb{C}}^*$  annihilating a spinor  $\rho \in \wedge^{\bullet} T_{\mathbb{C}}^*$  is always isotropic. If Lis maximal isotropic, then  $\rho$  is called a *pure spinor* and it must have the following algebraic form at every point:

$$\rho = e^{B+i\omega} \wedge \Omega,$$

where B and  $\omega$  are real 2-forms and  $\Omega$  is a decomposable complex form. Pure spinors annihilating the same space must be equal up to rescaling, hence a maximal isotropic  $L \subset T_{\mathbb{C}} \oplus T_{\mathbb{C}}^*$  may be uniquely described by a line subbundle  $U \subset \wedge^{\bullet} T_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ . For a complex manifold  $U = \wedge^{n,0} T^*$  and for a symplectic manifold U is generated

by the globally defined closed form  $e^{i\omega}$ . In general we have the following definition.

**Definition.** Given a generalized complex structure  $\mathcal{J}$ , the line subbundle  $U \subset \wedge^{\bullet}T^*_{\mathbb{C}}$ annihilating its *i*-eigenspace is the canonical bundle of  $\mathcal{J}$ .

Note that the condition  $L \cap \overline{L} = \{0\}$  at the fiber of E over  $p \in M$  is equivalent to the requirement that

$$(2.2) \Omega \wedge \overline{\Omega} \wedge \omega^{n-k} \neq 0$$

for a generator  $\rho = e^{B+i\omega} \wedge \Omega$  of U at p, where  $k = \deg(\Omega)$  and  $2n = \dim(M)$ .

By letting  $\wedge^{\bullet}\overline{L} \subset \text{Cliff}(L \oplus \overline{L})$  act on the canonical line bundle we obtain a decomposition of the differential forms on  $M^{2n}$ :

$$\wedge^{\bullet} T^*_{\mathbb{C}}(M) = \bigoplus_{k=-n}^n U^k, \quad \text{where } U^k = \wedge^{n-k} \overline{L} \cdot \rho.$$

one can also describe the spaces  $U^k$  as the ik-eigenspaces of  $\mathcal{J}$  acting on forms.

Letting  $\mathcal{U}^k = C^{\infty}(U^k)$  and  $d_H = d + H \wedge$ , Courant integrability of the generalized complex structure is equivalent to

$$d_H: \mathcal{U}^k \longrightarrow \mathcal{U}^{k+1} \oplus \mathcal{U}^{k-1},$$

which allows us to define operators  $\partial:\mathcal{U}^k\longrightarrow\mathcal{U}^{k+1}$  and  $\overline{\partial}:\mathcal{U}^k\longrightarrow\mathcal{U}^{k-1}$  by composing  $d_H$  with the appropriate projections.

Given a local section  $\rho$  of the canonical bundle the operator  $\bar{\partial}$  is related to  $d_L$ by

$$\overline{\partial}(\alpha \cdot \rho) = (d_L \alpha) \cdot \rho + (-1)^{|\alpha|} d_H \rho,$$

where  $\alpha \in \Omega^{\bullet}(\overline{L})$  and  $|\alpha|$  is the degree of  $\alpha$ . In the particular case when  $(M, \mathcal{J})$ has holomorphically trivial canonical bundle, i.e., there is a nonvanishing  $d_H$ -closed global section  $\rho$  of the canonical bundle, the above becomes

$$(2.3) \overline{\partial}(\alpha \cdot \rho) = (d_L \alpha) \cdot \rho$$

and hence  $\rho$  furnishes an isomorphism of differential complexes.

# 3. Generalized Kähler manifolds

In this section we introduce generalized Kähler manifolds. For these manifolds both  $\Omega^{\bullet}_{\mathbb{C}}(M)$  and  $(\Omega^{\bullet}(\overline{L}), d_L)$  admit a bigrading and, in certain conditions, some differential operators  $\Omega^{\bullet}_{\mathbb{C}}(M)$  correspond to differential operators on  $\Omega^{\bullet}(\overline{L})$ . This correspondence was also used by Yi Li to study the moduli space of a generalized Kähler structure [8] and is the key ingredient for our formality theorem.

**Definition.** A generalized Kähler structure on a manifold  $M^{2n}$  is a pair of commuting generalized complex structures  $\mathcal{J}_1$ ,  $\mathcal{J}_2$  on M such that

$$\langle \mathcal{J}_1 \mathcal{J}_2 v, v \rangle > 0$$
 for  $v \in T \oplus T^* \setminus \{0\}$ .

Let  $L_i$  be the *i*-eingenspace of  $\mathcal{J}_i$ . Since  $\mathcal{J}_1$  and  $\mathcal{J}_2$  communte,  $\mathcal{J}_2$  furnishes a complex structure on  $L_1$  with *i*-eigenspace  $L_1 \cap L_2$ . Using the fact that the natural pairing has signature (n,n) and that  $\langle \mathcal{J}_1 \mathcal{J}_2 \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is positive definite one can show  $\dim(L_1) = 2\dim(L_1 \cap L_2)$ . Since  $L_2$  is closed under the Courant bracket, we see that  $L_1 \cap L_2$  is closed under the bracket in the Lie algebroid  $L_1$ , and hence  $\mathcal{J}_2|_{L_1}$  is an integrable complex structure on  $L_1$ . Using this complex structure we can decompose

$$\wedge^{\bullet} \overline{L_1} = \bigoplus_{p,q} \wedge^{p,q} \overline{L_1} \quad \text{and} \quad d_{L_1} = \partial_{L_1} + \overline{\partial}_{L_1},$$

As in a complex manifold, the operators  $\partial_{L_1}$  and  $\overline{\partial}_{L_1}$  are derivations, in the sense that they satisfy the Leibniz rule.

A generalized Kähler structure also gives a refinement of the deposition of forms into the spaces  $U^k$ . Since  $\mathcal{J}_1$  and  $\mathcal{J}_2$  commute one immediately obtains that the space of differential forms can be decomposed in terms of the eigenspaces of  $\mathcal{J}_1$  and  $\mathcal{J}_2$ :  $U^{p,q} = U^p_{\mathcal{J}_1} \cap U^q_{\mathcal{J}_2}$ . This allows us to decompose  $d_H$  further in 4 components

$$d_H: \mathcal{U}^{p,q} \longrightarrow \mathcal{U}^{p+1,q+1} + \mathcal{U}^{p+1,q-1} + \mathcal{U}^{p-1,q+1} + \mathcal{U}^{p-1,q-1}.$$

In this case, the operator  $\overline{\partial}$  for the generalized complex structure  $\mathcal{J}_1$  corresponds to the sum of the last two terms:

$$\overline{\partial}_1: \mathcal{U}^{p,q} \longrightarrow \mathcal{U}^{p-1,q+1} + \mathcal{U}^{p-1,q-1}$$

and we can define  $\delta_+$  and  $\delta_-$  as the projections of  $\bar{\partial}_1$  into each of the components

$$\delta_+: \mathcal{U}^{p,q} \longrightarrow \mathcal{U}^{p-1,q+1} \qquad \delta_-: \mathcal{U}^{p,q} \longrightarrow \mathcal{U}^{p-1,q-1}.$$

By studying the Hodge theory of a generalized Kähler manifold, Gualtieri proved the following  $\,$ 

**Theorem 3.1.** (Gualtieri [6])  $\delta_+\delta_-$ -lemma. In a compact generalized Kähler manifold

$$\operatorname{Im} \delta_{+} \cap \operatorname{Ker} \delta_{-} = \operatorname{Im} \delta_{-} \cap \operatorname{Ker} \delta_{+} = \operatorname{Im} (\delta_{+} \delta_{-})$$

If  $\mathcal{J}_1$  has holomorphically trivial canonical bundle, then the correspondence between  $\overline{\partial}_1$  and  $d_{L_1}$  given in equation (2.3) also furnishes a correspondence between the operators  $\partial_{L_1}$  and  $\overline{\partial}_{L_1}$  in  $\wedge^{\bullet}\overline{L}$  and the operators  $\delta_+$  and  $\delta_-$  in  $\wedge^{\bullet}T^*_{\mathbb{C}}$ . So, as a consequence of Theorem 3.1, the operators  $\partial_{L_1}$  and  $\overline{\partial}_{L_1}$  satisfy the  $\partial_{L_1}\overline{\partial}_{L_1}$ -lemma and since they are derivations the same argument from [4] gives:

**Theorem 3.2.** If  $(M, \mathcal{J}_1, \mathcal{J}_2)$  is a compact generalized Kähler manifold and  $\mathcal{J}_1$  has holomophically trivial canonical bundle, then the DGA  $(\Omega^{\bullet}(\overline{L_1}), d_{L_1})$  is formal.

In the case when  $\mathcal{J}_1$  is a symplectic structure, then not only does it have a holomorphically trivial canonical bundle, but  $(\Omega^{\bullet}(\overline{L_1}), d_{L_1})$  is isomorphic to  $(\Omega^{\bullet}_{\mathbb{C}}(M), d)$ . Therefore we have:

Corollary 1. If  $(M, \mathcal{J}_1, \mathcal{J}_2)$  is a compact generalized Kähler manifold and  $\mathcal{J}_1$  is a symplectic structure, then M is formal.

This corollary generalizes the original theorem of formality of Kähler manifolds [4].

## 4. Nilpotent Lie algebras

In this section we use Theorem 3.2 to prove that no nilpotent Lie algebra admits a generalized Kähler structure. Before we state the theorem we should stress that a generalized complex structure on a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  with closed 3-form  $H \in \wedge^3 \mathfrak{g}^*$  is just an integrable linear complex structure on  $(\mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^*, [\![ , ]\!])$ , orthogonal with respect to the natural pairing, where the Courant bracket is defined by

$$[X + \xi, Y + \eta] = [X, Y] + \mathcal{L}_X \eta - \mathcal{L}_Y \xi + i_Y i_X H,$$

and is a Lie bracket in this situation.

We also recall that a complex structure on a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is called *abelian* if its *i*-eigenspace,  $\mathfrak{g}^{1,0}$ , is an abelian subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}$  [1, 3]. By analogy, we say that a generalized complex structure on  $\mathfrak{g}$  is *abelian* if the corresponding complex structure on  $\mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^*$  is abelian. Before we state our theorem on generalized Kähler structures on nilpotent Lie algebras we need a little lemma:

**Lemma 4.1.** If a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak g$  admits an abelian generalized complex structure, then  $\mathfrak g$  is abelian.

*Proof.* Let L be the i-eigenspee of an abelian generalized complex structure on  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Since L is abelian, so is its projection over  $\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}$ . Further, if  $v \in \pi(L) \cap \pi(\overline{L})$  then v is a central element in  $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}$ . Indeed for such a v there is a  $\xi \in \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$  such that  $\mathcal{J}(v+\xi) \in \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$  so, for  $w \in \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}$ 

$$\begin{split} 4[v,w] &= 4\pi([\![v+\xi,w]\!]) \\ &= \pi([\![v+\xi+i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi)+v+\xi-i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi),w+i\mathcal{J}w+w-i\mathcal{J}w]\!]) \\ &= \pi([\![v+\xi+i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi),w+i\mathcal{J}w]\!] + [\![v+\xi+i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi),w-i\mathcal{J}w]\!] + \\ &+ [\![v+\xi-i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi),w+i\mathcal{J}w]\!] + [\![v+\xi-i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi),w-i\mathcal{J}w]\!]) \\ &= \pi([\![v+\xi+i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi),w-i\mathcal{J}w]\!] + [\![v+\xi-i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi),w+i\mathcal{J}w]\!]) \\ &= \pi([\![v+\xi-i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi),w-i\mathcal{J}w]\!] + [\![v+\xi+i\mathcal{J}(v+\xi),w+i\mathcal{J}w]\!]) = 0, \end{split}$$

where we have used that L and  $\overline{L}$  are abelian in the fourth and in the last equalities and in the fifth equality we used that  $\mathcal{J}(v+\xi) \in \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ , hence the change of signs does not affect the projection of the bracket onto  $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}$ .

If we let  $e^{B+i\omega} \wedge \Omega$ , with  $\Omega = \theta^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta^k$ , be a generator for the canonical bundle of  $\mathcal{J}$ , then  $\pi(\underline{L}) \cap \pi(\overline{L})$  is the annihilator of  $\Omega \wedge \overline{\Omega}$ . Since  $\theta^i \in L$  there are  $\overline{\partial_j} \in \overline{L}$  such that  $\langle \theta^i, \overline{\partial_j} \rangle = \delta^i_j$  and we can compute

$$\theta^i([\pi(\partial_i),\pi(\overline{\partial_k})]) = d\theta^i(\pi(\partial_i),\pi(\overline{\partial_k})) = \langle \llbracket \theta^i,\partial_i \rrbracket, \overline{\partial_k} \rangle = 0$$

since  $\theta^i, \partial_j \in L$ . Analogously we see that  $[\pi(\partial_j), \pi(\overline{\partial_k})]$  also annihilates  $\overline{\theta^i}$  and hence  $[\pi(\partial_j), \pi(\overline{\partial_k})] \in \pi(L) \cap \pi(\overline{L})$ , hence  $\mathfrak{g}$  is either abelian or 2-step nilpotent.

If  $\mathfrak{g}$  was 2-step nilpotent there would be an element  $\xi \in \mathfrak{g}^*$  with  $d\xi \neq 0$ . Since the only nonvanishing brackets are of the form  $[\pi(\partial_i), \pi(\overline{\partial}_j)]$  and  $\xi$  is real, we see that there is a  $\partial_i$  for which  $d\xi(\pi(\partial_i), \pi(\overline{\partial}_i)) = \xi([\pi(\partial_i), \pi(\overline{\partial}_i)]) \neq 0$ . Since all the  $\theta^i$  are closed, we can further assume that  $\xi = \mathcal{J}(v - B(v))$ , for some  $v \in \mathfrak{g}$ , therefore  $v - B(v) - i\xi \in L$  and

$$0 = \langle \llbracket v - B(v) - i\xi, \partial_i \rrbracket, \overline{\partial}_i \rangle = -id\xi(\pi(\partial_i), \pi(\overline{\partial}_i)) + (H + dB)(v, \pi(\partial_i), \pi(\overline{\partial}_i)).$$

Observe that the first term is real and nonzero while the second is purely imaginary, hence the equation above can never hold and  $\mathfrak{g}$  is abelian.

**Theorem 4.1.** If a nilpotent Lie algebra  $\mathfrak g$  admits a generalized Kähler structure, then  $\mathfrak g$  is abelian.

Proof. According to [2], Theorem 3.1, every generalized complex structure on a nilpotent Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  has holomorphically trivial canonical bundle. Further, for any closed  $H \in \wedge^3 \mathfrak{g}^*$ ,  $\mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^*$  with the Courant bracket is again a nilpotent Lie algebra, hence the *i*-eigenspace, L, of any generalized complex structures is a nilpotent Lie subalgebra of  $(\mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^*) \otimes \mathbb{C}$ . According to Lemma 4.1, if  $\mathfrak{g}$  has nontrivial bracket, then L has a nontrivial bracket. Then, Example 1.1 shows that  $(\wedge^{\bullet} \overline{L}, d_L)$  is not formal and hence, by Theorem 3.2, can not be part of a generalized Kähler pair.

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