

Problems of Extrinsic Geometry of Foliations

Vladimir Rovenski

Department of Mathematics, University of Haifa

XXVI-th International Conference on Geometry, Integrability and Quantization

June 4–11, 2026 Varna, Bulgaria



Lecture 2. Weak Metric Structures

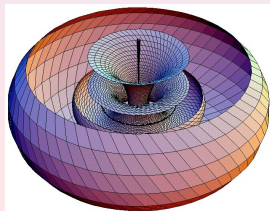
Almost Hermitian Structure.

A Riemannian manifold (M, g) with an **almost complex structure** J (a skew-symmetric $(1,1)$ -tensor such that $J^2 = -I$) is called an **almost Hermitian manifold**; and a **Kähler manifold** if $\nabla J = 0$.

For an oriented (M^{2n}, g) its **twistor space** $J(M)$ (R. Penrose and M. MacCallum in 1960s; E. Calabi in 1967) can be understood as the **space of all almost complex structures** on TM .

The twistor space is useful in constructing harmonic maps.

A smooth mapping $\phi : (M, g) \rightarrow (M', g')$ is called **harmonic** if it yields extrema for the energy $E(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \int_M \|d\phi\|^2 d\text{vol}_g$.



An f -structure

An **f -structure** (K.Yano, 1963) on a smooth manifold M^{2n+s} generalizes almost complex structure ($s = 0$) and almost contact structure ($s = 1$). It is defined by a $(1,1)$ -tensor f of rank $2n$ such that $f^3 + f = 0$. The tangent bundle splits: $TM = f(TM) \oplus \ker f$. The restriction of f to $f(TM)$ is an **almost complex structure**.

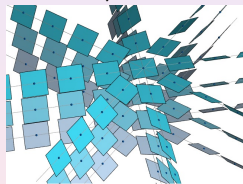
A **framed f -structure** occurs if $\ker f$ is **parallelizable**: there exist vector fields $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_s$ that span $\ker f$, and dual 1-forms η^i such that

$$f^2 = -I + \sum_{i=1}^s \eta^i \otimes \xi_i, \quad \eta^i(\xi_j) = \delta_j^i.$$

If there is a Riemannian metric g such that

$$g(fX, fY) = g(X, Y) - \sum_{i=1}^s \eta^i(X) \eta^i(Y),$$

then we get a **metric f -structure**.



Example. Orientable hypersurfaces of almost Hermitian manifolds have an **almost contact metric (a.c.m.) structure** ($\xi = J(N)$):

$$g(fX, fY) = g(X, Y) - \eta(X) \eta(Y). \quad (1)$$

Contact metric structure: $d\eta(X, Y) = g(X, fY)$, $\eta \wedge (d\eta)^n \neq 0$.

Topology of an almost $\mathcal{S}$ -structure

Interest in metric f -structures is due to their applications in CR-integrability, symplectization, topology and dynamics of contact foliations as well as in mathematical physics.

An **almost $\mathcal{S}$ -structure** on M^{2n+s} is a metric f -structure (f, ξ_i, η^i, g) satisfying $g(X, fY) = d\eta^1(X, Y) = \dots = d\eta^s(X, Y)$.

An involutive distribution is **regular** if every point of the manifold has a neighborhood such that any integral submanifold passing through the neighborhood passes through only once.

The “generalized Boothby-Wang theorem” shows a similarity between almost $\mathcal{S}$ - and contact manifolds: “A compact manifold M^{2n+s} with a regular almost $\mathcal{S}$ -structure is a principal torus bundle over an almost Hermitian manifold of dimension $2n$ ”.

A contact metric structure is called a **K-contact structure**, if ξ is a Killing vector field, i.e., ξ generates infinitesimal isometries.

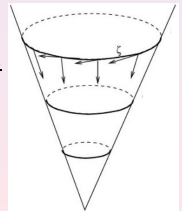
Two subclasses:

Sasakian and **cosymplectic** manifolds are defined by (1) and

$$(\nabla_X \varphi)Y = \begin{cases} \langle X, Y \rangle \xi - \eta(Y)X, & \text{Sasakian,} \\ 0, & \text{cosymplectic.} \end{cases}$$

- Every **cosymplectic** manifold is locally the metric product of a Kähler manifold and a real line $\mathbb{R}$.

- A Riemannian manifold (M^{2n+1}, g) with a contact 1-form η (i.e., $\eta \wedge (d\eta)^n \neq 0$) is **Sasakian**, if its Riemannian cone $\tilde{M} = M \times \mathbb{R}^{>0}$ with the cone metric $\tilde{g} = t^2 g + dt^2$ is a Kähler manifold, see Fig.:



Example:

Hopf fibration $S^{2n+1} \xrightarrow{S^1} P\mathbb{C}^n$ gives a Sasakian structure on S^{2n+1} .

Definition 1

A Riemannian manifold (M^{2n}, g) equipped with a skew-symmetric $(1,1)$ -tensor J of rank $2n$ (other than the complex structure) is called a **weak almost Hermitian manifold**. This manifold is called **weak Kähler** if $\nabla^g J = 0$, where ∇^g is the Levi-Civita connection of g .

Example. Take two or more almost Hermitian (or, Kähler) manifolds (M_j, J_j, g_j) , where $J_j^2 = -I_j$. The weighted product

$$\prod_j (M_j, \sqrt{\lambda_j} J_j, g_j),$$

where $\lambda_j \neq 1$ are different positive constants, is a **weak almost Hermitian** (or **weak Kähler**) **manifold** with $J^2 = -\bigoplus_j \lambda_j I_j$.

Definition 2

A **weak framed f -structure** on a differentiable manifold M^{2n+s} is a set (f, Q, ξ_i, η^i) , where f is a $(1,1)$ -tensor of rank $2n$, $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_s$ are vector fields such that $\ker f = \text{Span}(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_s)$, $\eta^1, \dots, \eta^s$ are dual 1-forms such that $\bigcap_i \ker \eta^i$ is f -invariant, and

$$Q = -f^2 + \sum_{i=1}^s \eta^i \otimes \xi_i, \quad \eta^i(\xi_j) = \delta_j^i.$$

We get a **weak metric f -structure**, if there exists a (pseudo-)Riemannian metric g satisfying

$$g(fX, fY) = g(X, QY) - \sum_{i=1}^s \eta^i(X) \eta^i(Y) \quad (X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}_M).$$

$f^3 + fQ = 0$, $[Q, f] = 0$, $Q\xi_i = \xi_i$, $f\xi_i = 0$, $\eta^i \circ f = 0$ hold.

A weak metric f -structure is a special case of an almost product structure, defined by two complementary orthogonal distributions of a Riemannian manifold, with Naveira's 36 distinguished classes.

How rich are weak structures compared to the classical ones?

The **Nijenhuis torsion** of f and derivatives $d\eta^i$ and dF are

$$[f, f](X, Y) = f^2[X, Y] + [fX, fY] - f[fX, Y] - f[X, fY],$$

$$d\eta^i(X, Y) = \frac{1}{2} \{X(\eta^i(Y)) - Y(\eta^i(X)) - \eta^i([X, Y])\},$$

$$dF(X, Y, Z) = \frac{1}{3} \{X F(Y, Z) + Y F(Z, X) + Z F(X, Y) \\ - F([X, Y], Z) - F([Z, X], Y) - F([Y, Z], X)\}.$$

Since $dF(X, Y, Z) = -F([X, Y], Z)$ ($X, Y \in \ker f$), for a weak framed f -structure, $\ker f$ **is involutive if and only if** $dF = 0$.

The normality condition

Example. Given a weak framed f -manifold $M^{2n+s}(f, Q, \xi_i, \eta^i)$, consider the **product** $\bar{M} = M^{2n+s} \times \mathbb{R}^s$. Define the tensor J on $\bar{M}$:

$$J(X, \sum_i a^i \partial_i) = (fX - \sum_i a^i \xi_i, \sum_j \eta^j(X) \partial_j),$$

where $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_s$ is an orthonormal basis of $\mathbb{R}^s$.

The **integrability condition** $[J, J] = 0$ is used to express the **normality condition** $N^{(1)} = 0$, where $N^{(1)} = [f, f] + 2 \sum_i d\eta^i \otimes \xi_i$.

Proposition 1

The normality condition for a weak metric f -structure implies

$$\mathcal{L}_{\xi_i} f = 0, \quad d\eta^j(\xi_i, \cdot) = 0 \quad (1 \leq i, j \leq s),$$

Moreover, $\ker f$ is a totally geodesic distribution.

Some classes of weak f -manifolds

A weak metric f -manifold (f, Q, ξ_i, η^i, g) is called

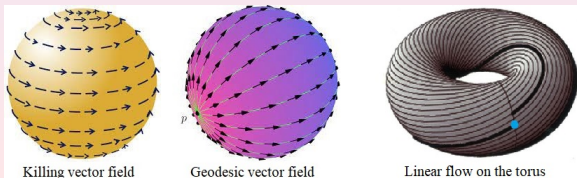
- (i) a **weak almost $\mathcal{K}$ -structure** if $dF = 0$. Two subclasses:
- (ii) a **weak almost $\mathcal{C}$ -structure** if $dF = 0$ and $d\eta^i = 0$ for any i ;
- (iii) a **weak almost $\mathcal{S}$ -structure** if $d\eta^i = F$ for any i .

If in addition, $N^{(1)} = 0$, then we have, respectively,

- (i) **weak $\mathcal{K}$ -structure**; (ii) **weak $\mathcal{C}$ -structure**; (iii) **(weak) $\mathcal{S}$ -structure**.

Theorem 3

On a weak $\mathcal{K}$ -manifold, $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_s$ are Killing vector fields and $\ker f$ is tangent to a foliation with flat totally geodesic leaves.



Proposition 2

For a weak almost $\mathcal{S}$ -structure, we get

$$2g((\nabla_X f)Y, Z) = g(N^{(1)}(Y, Z), fX) + 2g(fX, fY)\bar{\eta}(Z) \\ - 2g(fX, fZ)\bar{\eta}(Y) + N^{(5)}(X, Y, Z),$$

where $\bar{\eta} = \sum_i \eta^i$ and the **new tensor** $N^{(5)}(X, Y, Z)$ is defined by

$$N^{(5)}(X, Y, Z) = fZ(g(X, \tilde{Q}Y)) - fY(g(X, \tilde{Q}Z)) \\ + g([X, fZ], \tilde{Q}Y) - g([X, fY], \tilde{Q}Z) - X(g(\tilde{Q}Y, fZ)) \\ + g([Y, fZ] - [Z, fY] - f[Y, Z], \tilde{Q}X).$$

In particular, $2g((\nabla_{\xi_i} f)Y, Z) = N^{(5)}(\xi_i, Y, Z)$ ($1 \leq i \leq s$).

Thus, $\nabla_{\xi_i} \xi_j = 0$ ($1 \leq i, j \leq s$), and $\ker f$ is tangent to a **totally geodesic foliation** with zero sectional curvature: $K(\xi_i, \xi_j) = 0$.

The particular values: $N^{(5)}(\xi_i, \xi_j, Z) = N^{(5)}(\xi_i, Y, \xi_j) = 0$ and

$$N^{(5)}(X, \xi_i, Z) = -N^{(5)}(X, Z, \xi_i) = g((\mathcal{L}_{\xi_i} f)(Z), \tilde{Q}X),$$

$$N^{(5)}(\xi_i, Y, Z) = g([\xi_i, fZ], \tilde{Q}Y) - g([\xi_i, fY], \tilde{Q}Z) - \xi_i(g(\tilde{Q}Y, fZ)).$$

Theorem 4 (Rigidity of an $\mathcal{S}$ -structure)

A weak metric f -structure is a weak $\mathcal{S}$ -structure if and only if it is an $\mathcal{S}$ -structure (i.e., $Q = I$).

Recall that “a $\mathcal{K}$ -structure is a $\mathcal{C}$ -structure $\Leftrightarrow \nabla f = 0$ ”.

Theorem 5 (Characterization of a weak $\mathcal{C}$ -structure)

A weak metric f -structure with conditions $\nabla f = 0$ and $[\xi_i, \xi_j]^\perp = 0$ for $1 \leq i, j, k \leq s$, is a weak $\mathcal{C}$ -structure with $N^{(5)} = 0$.

Example. Consider (M^{2n}, g) and a skew-symmetric endomorphism $J : TM \rightarrow TM$ of rank $2n$ with $\nabla J = 0$. To construct a weak $\mathcal{C}$ -structure on the product $M \times \mathbb{R}^s$, take any point $(x, t_1, \dots, t_s)$ of the space and set $\xi_i = (0, d/dt_i)$, $\eta^i = (0, dt_i)$ and

$$f(X, Y) = (JX, 0), \quad Q(X, Y) = (-J^2X, Y) \quad (X \in T_x M, Y \in \mathbb{R}_t^s).$$

Then $\nabla f = 0$ holds and Theorem 5 can be applied.

Definition 6 (Generalization of a weak $\mathcal{K}$ -structure)

A **weak f -K-contact structure** is a weak almost $\mathcal{S}$ -structure ($F=d\eta^1=\dots=d\eta^s$) such that all vector fields ξ_i are Killing.

Theorem 7

A weak almost $\mathcal{S}$ -manifold is weak f -K-contact if and only if

$$\nabla \xi_i = -f \quad (1 \leq i \leq s).$$

The mapping $R_{\xi_i} : X \mapsto R_{X, \xi_i} \xi_i$ ($X \in \mathcal{D}$) is called **Jacobi operator** in the ξ_i -direction. For a $\mathcal{K}$ -manifold: $R_{\xi_i} = I$.

Theorem 8

A Riemannian manifold (M^{2n+s}, g) with orthonormal Killing vector fields ξ_i ($1 \leq i \leq s$) such that $d\eta^1 = \dots = d\eta^s$ (where η^i is the 1-form dual to ξ_i) and positive definite Jacobi operators, $R_{\xi_i} > 0$ along $\mathcal{D} = \bigcap_i \ker \eta^i$, is a **weak f-K-contact manifold** with

$$f := -\nabla \xi_i, \quad QX := R_{\xi_i}(X) \quad (X \in \mathcal{D}, \quad i = 1, \dots, s).$$

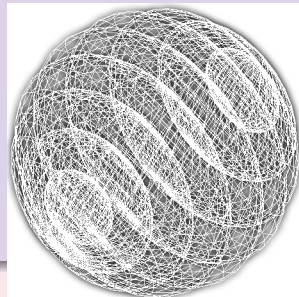
Example of a weak f -K-contact manifold ($s = 1$)

For $0 < a = \text{const} \neq 1$, consider an ellipsoid of $\mathbb{R}^{2n+2}$:

$$M^{2n+1} = \left\{ (u_1, \dots, u_{2n+2}) : \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} u_i^2 + a \sum_{i=n+2}^{2n+1} u_i^2 = 1 \right\}.$$

$$\xi = (-u_2, u_1, \dots, -u_{n+1}, u_n, -\sqrt{a} u_{n+3}, \sqrt{a} u_{n+2}, \dots, \\ -\sqrt{a} u_{2n+2}, \sqrt{a} u_{2n+1})$$

is a Killing vector field on $\mathbb{R}^{2n+2}$, its restriction to M^{2n+1} has unit length. Sectional curvature of M^{2n+1} is > 0 . Since M^{2n+1} is ξ -invariant, ξ is a unit Killing vector field on (M, g) .



Projection of 3-ellipsoid into 3D space and covered with surface grid

Weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -manifolds

Weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -manifolds are defined by condition that the symmetric part of ∇f vanishes:

$$(\nabla_X f)Y + (\nabla_Y f)X = 0.$$

The product of a weak nearly Kähler manifold and $\mathbb{R}^s$ is a weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -manifold. The following condition is trivial when $Q = \text{Id}$:

$$((\nabla_X Q)Y)^\top = 0, \quad (\nabla_Y Q)Y = 0 \quad (X \in TM, Y \in \mathcal{D}). \quad (2)$$

Weak almost $\mathcal{C}$ -manifolds satisfy the following conditions:

$$[\xi_i, \xi_j] = 0 \quad (1 \leq i, j \leq s), \quad (3)$$

$$g(\nabla_X \xi_i, \xi_j) = 0 \quad (X \in \mathfrak{X}_M, 1 \leq i, j \leq s). \quad (4)$$

For a weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -manifold:

- (3) and (4) $\Rightarrow$ $\ker f$ defines a flat totally geodesic foliation;
- (2) and (4) $\Rightarrow$ ξ_i are Killing vector fields.

Geometry of weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -manifolds

For a nearly cosymplectic manifold, $g(R_{\xi,Z}fX, fY) = 0$, thus $\ker \eta$ is a **curvature invariant** distribution. Assume a weaker condition

$$R_{\tilde{Q}X,Y}Z \in \mathcal{D} \quad (X, Y, Z \in \mathcal{D}). \quad (5)$$

Define the tensor fields $h_1, \dots, h_s$,

$$h_i = \nabla \xi_i \quad (1 \leq i \leq s).$$

So, $\eta^j \circ h_i = 0$, $h_i \xi_j = 0$, h_i skew-symmetric (totally geodesic $\mathcal{D}$):

$$g(h_i X, X) = g(\nabla_X \xi_i, X) = \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{L}_{\xi_i} g)(X, X) = 0 \quad (1 \leq i \leq s).$$

Proposition 3

For a weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -manifold with conditions (2), (3), (4) and (5), the operators h_i and h_j commute and each $h_i h_j$ is self-adjoint.

Moreover, the eigenvalues and their multiplicities of h_i^2 are constant, and h_i^2 share the same eigen-frame.

The spectrum of the self-adjoint operator h_i^2 has the form

$$\text{Spec } h_i^2 = \{0, -\lambda_{i,1}^2, \dots, -\lambda_{i,r_i}^2\} \quad (1 \leq i \leq s).$$

Two theorems on weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -manifolds

Theorem 9 (Splitting when $n > 2$)

Let $(M^{2n+s}, f, Q, \xi, \vec{\eta}, g)$, $n > 2$, be a weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -manifold with conditions (2), (3), (4) and (5). If the coframe $\vec{\eta}$ has a common exterior derivative, $d\eta^i = d\eta^j$ ($1 \leq i, j \leq s$), then M is locally isometric to one of the Riemannian products

$$(i) \mathbb{R}^s \times \bar{M}^{2n}, \quad (ii) B^{4+s} \times \bar{M}^{2n-4},$$

where the induced structure $(\bar{f}, \bar{g})$ on $\bar{M}$ is weak nearly Kähler satisfying $\bar{\nabla}(\bar{f}^2) = 0$, and the induced structure on B is a weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -structure satisfying (2) and (5).

Theorem 10 (Characterization of $n = 2$)

Let a weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ -manifold $(M^{2n+s}, f, Q, \xi, \vec{\eta}, g)$ satisfy (2)–(5), $d\eta^i = d\eta^j$ ($i \neq j$), and $\text{rank } h_i = 2n$ ($1 \leq i \leq s$). Then $n = 2$ and M admits an f -K-contact structure $(\hat{f}, \hat{\xi}, \vec{\eta}, \hat{g})$ with $\hat{f} = -\nabla \xi_i$; that is, ξ_i are Killing vector fields and $g(X, \hat{f}Y) = d\eta^i(X, Y)$.

Remark. When $s = 1$, (3) and (4) are satisfied automatically.

Proposition 4

For a weak f -K-contact manifold, the following equalities hold:

$$\begin{aligned}R_{\xi_i, X} &= \nabla_X f, \\ \text{Ric}(\xi_i, \xi_j) &= \text{Tr } Q > 0.\end{aligned}$$

The next theorem generalizes a well-known result (with $Q = I$).

Theorem 11

A weak f -K-contact manifold $M^{2n+s}(f, Q, \xi_i, \eta^i, g)$ satisfying

$$(\nabla \text{Ric})(\xi_i, \cdot) = 0 \quad (1 \leq i \leq s), \quad \text{Tr } Q = \text{const},$$

is an Einstein manifold and $s = 1$.

The partial Ricci flow

The self-adjoint **partial Ricci curvature tensor** is given by

$$\operatorname{Ric}^\top(X) = \sum_{i=1}^s (R_{X^\top, \xi_i} \xi_i)^\top \quad (\text{hence } S_{\text{mix}} = \operatorname{Tr} \operatorname{Ric}^\top).$$

For weak f -K-contact manifolds, $\operatorname{Ric}^\top > 0$ holds (see Theorem 8).

The **partial Ricci flow** of metrics on $(M, g, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}^\perp)$ is defined as

$$\partial_t g_t = -2 \operatorname{Ric}^\top(g_t) + 2s g_t^\top, \quad (6)$$

where $g^\top(X, Y) := g(X^\top, Y^\top)$. When the flow (6) is applied to weak f -K-contact manifolds, (6) reduces to ODEs, and we get

$$\partial_t \operatorname{Ric}^\top = 4 \operatorname{Ric}^\top(\operatorname{Ric}^\top - s I^\top). \quad (7)$$

The f -K-contact structure is a fixed point of (7): $\operatorname{Ric}^\top = s I^\top$.

We also have along $\mathcal{D}$:

$$\partial_t T_{\xi_i}^\sharp = 2(\text{Ric}^\top - s I^\top) T_{\xi_i}^\sharp,$$

where $(1,1)$ -tensors $T_{\xi_i}^\sharp$ are given by $g(T_{\xi_i}^\sharp X, Y) = \frac{1}{2} g([X, Y], \xi_i)$.

Theorem 12

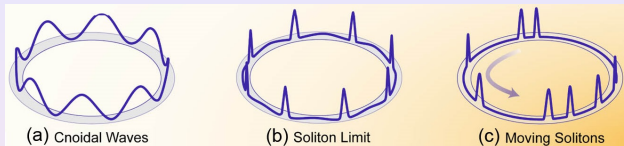
Let $M^{2n+s}(f_0, Q_0, \xi_i, \eta^i, g_0)$ be a weak f -K-contact manifold. Then there exists a flow of metrics g_t ($t \in \mathbb{R}$) such that each $(f_t, Q_t, \xi_i, \eta^i, g_t)$ is a weak f -K-contact structure on M with

$$Q_t|_{\mathcal{D}} = (1/s) \text{Ric}_t^\top, \quad f_t|_{\mathcal{D}} = T_{\xi_i}^\sharp(t).$$

Moreover, g_t converges exponentially fast, as $t \rightarrow -\infty$, to a limit metric $\hat{g}$ that provides an f -K-contact structure on M .

Generalized Ricci Solitons

Solutions of some non-linear PDEs decompose at large time into solitary waves (called **solitons**) that retain their shape and speed.



Ricci solitons (**RS**) $\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}_V g + \text{Ric} = \lambda g$ (where V is a vector field, $\mathcal{L}$ is the Lie derivative and $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$), are self-similar solutions $g_t = \sigma(t)\psi_t^*(g_0)$ of the Ricci flow $\partial g / \partial t = -2 \text{Ric}_g$. When V is a Killing field ($\mathcal{L}_V = 0$), **RS** are Einstein metrics $\text{Ric} = \lambda g$ (e.g., of constant curvature).

Since some compact manifolds don't admit Einstein metrics, **Einstein-type metrics** and **generalized RS** are studied.

For example:

$$\eta\text{-RS: } \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}_V g + \text{Ric} = \lambda g + \mu \eta \otimes \eta, \quad \eta \text{ is a 1-form, } \mu \in C^\infty(M),$$

$$*\text{-RS: } \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}_V g + \text{Ric}^* = \lambda g, \quad \text{Ric}^*(X, Y) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}\{Z \rightarrow R_{X, JY} JZ\}.$$

How generalized RS interact with weak metric structures?

Recall the following property of f -K-contact manifolds:

$$\text{Ric}(Y, \xi) = 0 \quad (Y \in \mathcal{D}, \xi \in \mathcal{D}^\perp). \quad (8)$$

Theorem 13

Let a weak f -K-contact manifold with the properties $\text{Tr } Q = \text{const}$ and (8) satisfy the following **generalized gradient RS equation** with $c_1(\lambda + c_2 \text{Tr } Q) \neq -1$:

$$\text{Hess}_\sigma - c_2 \text{Ric} = \lambda g - c_1 d\sigma \otimes d\sigma$$

for some $\sigma \in C^\infty(M)$ and $c_1, c_2, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. Then $\sigma = \text{const}$, and if $c_2 \neq 0$, then our manifold is an **Einstein manifold** and $s = 1$.

How η -**RS** and η -Einstein metrics interact?

Some compact manifolds have no Einstein metrics, $\text{Ric} = \lambda g$.

Definition 14

A weak metric f -manifold $M^{2n+s}(f, Q, \xi_i, \eta^i, g)$ is said to be **η -Einstein**, if for some $a, b \in C^\infty(M)$,

$$\text{Ric} = a g + b \sum_i \eta^i \otimes \eta^i + (a + b) \sum_{i \neq j} \eta^i \otimes \eta^j. \quad (9)$$

An η -**RS** is a weak metric f -manifold satisfying

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}_V g + \text{Ric} = \lambda g + \mu \sum_i \eta^i \otimes \eta^i + (\lambda + \mu) \sum_{i \neq j} \eta^i \otimes \eta^j \quad (10)$$

for some smooth vector field V and functions λ, μ on M .

For a Killing vector field V , i.e., $\mathcal{L}_V g = 0$, (10) reduces to (9).

For $s = 1$:

(9) gives $\text{Ric} = a g + b \eta \otimes \eta$; (10) gives $\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}_V g + \text{Ric} = \lambda g + \mu \eta \otimes \eta$.

When a metric f -manifold equipped with a Ricci-type soliton, carries an Einstein-type metric?

Lemma 15 (IF by Pohozaev-Schoen)

Let (M^n, g) be a compact Riemannian manifold without boundary, E a divergence free symmetric $(0,2)$ -tensor on M . Then

$$\int_M V(\operatorname{Tr}_g E) \, d\operatorname{vol} = \frac{n}{2} \int_M g(E^0, \mathcal{L}_V g) \, d\operatorname{vol}, \quad (11)$$

where $E^0 = E - \frac{1}{n}(\operatorname{Tr}_g E)g$, and V a vector field on M .

Theorem 16

Let a compact weak f -K-contact manifold $M^{2n+s}(f, \xi_i, \eta^i, Q, g)$ satisfy $r = \operatorname{const}$ and $\operatorname{Tr} Q = \operatorname{const}$. If (g, V, λ, ν) represents an η -RS, then M is an η -Einstein manifold.

Proof. We take the trace of (9): $r = (2n + s)\alpha + s\beta$. Using $\text{Ric}(\xi_i, \xi_j) = \text{Tr } Q$ in (9) yields $\alpha + \beta = \text{Tr } Q$. By the above:
 $\alpha = \frac{r-s\text{Tr } Q}{2n}$, $\beta = \frac{(2n+s)\text{Tr } Q - r}{2n}$. Define a traceless tensor

$$E = \text{Ric} - \frac{r-s\text{Tr } Q}{2n}g + \frac{r-(2n+s)\text{Tr } Q}{2n} \sum_i \eta^i \otimes \eta^i - \text{Tr } Q \sum_{i \neq j} \eta^i \otimes \eta^j.$$

We get the equality $\text{div}_g E = 0$.

Since E is traceless, we get $E^0 = E$ and $V(\text{Tr}_g E) = 0$.

Then, using **integral formula** (11), we find $\int_M g(E, E) \, d\text{vol} = 0$.

From this we find $E = 0$ – our manifold is η -**Einstein**. $\square$

Weak β - f -Kenmotsu-manifolds (β - f -KM)

Definition 17

A normal (i.e., $N^{(1)} = 0$) weak metric f -manifold M is called a **weak β - f -Kenmotsu manifold (KM)** with a smooth function $\beta \neq 0$ on M (a **weak f -KM** when $\beta \equiv 1$) if

$$(\nabla_X f)Y = \beta\{g(fX, Y)\bar{\xi} - \bar{\eta}(Y)fX\} \quad (X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}_M), \quad (12)$$

where $\bar{\xi} = \sum_i \xi_i$ and $\bar{\eta} = \sum_i \eta^i$.

Proposition 5

A weak metric f -manifold with condition (12) is a weak β - f -KM if and only if the following formula holds:

$$\nabla_X \xi_i = \beta\{X - \sum_j \eta^j(X) \xi_j\} \quad (1 \leq i \leq s, \quad X \in \mathfrak{X}_M). \quad (13)$$

By (13), $\nabla_{\xi_i} \xi_j = 0$, thus, $\ker f$ defines a totally geodesic g -foliation with an abelian Lie algebra.

By (13), every vector field ξ_i is not a Killing vector field.

Theorem 18

A normal weak metric f -manifold is a weak β -f-KM if and only if $d\eta^i = 0$ ($1 \leq i \leq s$) and

$$dF = 2\beta \bar{\eta} \wedge F, \quad N^{(5)}(X, Y, Z) = 2\beta \bar{\eta}(X)g(fY, \tilde{Q}Z).$$

Theorem 19

A weak β -f-KM is locally a twisted product $\mathbb{R}^s \times_{\sigma} \bar{M}$ (a warped product when $X(\beta) = 0$ for $X \in \mathcal{D}$), where $\bar{M}(\bar{g}, J)$ is a weak Kähler manifold.

A weak Hermitian manifold is called **weak Kähler** if $\tilde{\nabla} J = 0$, where $\tilde{\nabla}$ is the Levi-Civita connection of $\tilde{g}$.

Theorem 20

Let $M^{2n+s}(f, Q, \xi_i, \eta^i, g)$ be a weak β -f-KM satisfying $\beta = \text{const}$. If $\nabla_{\xi_i} \text{Ric}^{\sharp} = 0$, then (M, g) is an η -Einstein manifold (9) of scalar curvature $r = -2s n(2n+1)\beta^2$.

A vector field V on $M^{2n+s}(f, Q, \xi_i, \eta^i, g)$ is called a **contact vector field**, if there exists $\rho \in C^\infty(M)$ such that $\mathcal{L}_X \eta^i = \rho \eta^i$; and if $\rho = 0$, then V is called a *strict contact vector field*.

Do weak β -f-KM admit η -RS?

Theorem 21

Let $M^{2n+s}(f, Q, \xi_i, \eta^i, g)$ be a weak β -f-KM with $\beta = \text{const}$ and $\dim M > 3$. If g represents an η -RS (10) with any of conditions:

- (i) with a contact potential vector field V ,
- (ii) with $V = \delta \bar{\xi}$ for a smooth function $\delta \neq 0$ on M ,

then M is η -Einstein (9) with $a = -2s n \beta^2$, $b = 2(s-1)n\beta^2$ of constant scalar curvature $r = -2s n(2n+1)\beta^2$.

*-Ricci Tensor

S. Tashibana (1959) defined the *-Ricci tensor on almost Hermitian manifolds. T. Hamada (2002) applied this to real hypersurfaces in non-flat complex space forms. G. Kaimakamis and K. Panagiotidou (2014) introduced *-**RS** by $(1/2) \mathcal{L}_V g + \text{Ric}^* = \lambda g$.

We extend the notion of *-**Ricci tensor** to weak almost Hermitian and weak metric f -manifolds:

$$\text{Ric}^*(X, Y) = (1/2) \text{Tr}\{Z \rightarrow f R_{X, fY} Z\} \quad (X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}_M).$$

Note that Ric^* is not symmetric.

Proposition 6

For a weak β -KM, Ric^* and $\text{Scal}^* = \text{Tr}_g \text{Ric}^*$ are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ric}^*(X, Y) &= \text{Ric}(X, QY) + \beta^2 \{s(2n-1)g(QX, Y) \\ &\quad + 2n\bar{\eta}(X)\bar{\eta}(Y) - s(2n-1) \sum_j \eta^j(X)\eta^j(Y)\}, \\ \text{Scal}^* &= \text{Tr}(Q \text{Ric}^\sharp) + 4n^2 + (2n-1) \text{Tr} \tilde{Q}. \end{aligned}$$

A weak metric f -manifold $M(f, Q, \xi_i, \eta^i, g)$ represents an $*\eta$ -**RS** if

$$(1/2)\mathcal{L}_V g + \text{Ric}^* = \lambda \left\{ g - \sum_i \eta^i \otimes \eta^i \right\} + (\lambda + \mu) \bar{\eta} \otimes \bar{\eta}. \quad (14)$$

where V is a smooth vector field and λ, μ are real constants. In this case, Ric^* is symmetric and $[Q, \text{Ric}^\sharp] = 0$, where $\text{Ric}^\sharp$ is a $(1,1)$ -tensor adjoint to Ric . For $\mu = 0$, (14) defines a $*\eta$ -**RS**.

Proposition 7

Let a weak β -KM with $\beta = \text{const}$ be a η -**RS**, then $\lambda + \mu = 0$.*

Theorem 22

Let a weak β -KM ($\beta = \text{const}$) be a η -**RS** with any of conditions:*

- (i) the potential vector field V is contact,*
- (ii) $V = \sum_i \delta^i \xi_i \neq 0$ for smooth functions δ^i on M .*

*Then M is an η -**Einstein manifold** of $\text{Scal} = -2s n(2n + 1)\beta^2$.*

Reference: Weak Metric Structures

- [1] Rovenski, V.; Wolak, R. New metric structures on g -foliations, *Indagationes Mathematicae*, 33 (2022), 518–532.
- [2] Rovenski, V. Generalized Ricci solitons and Einstein metrics on weak K -contact manifolds. *Communications in Analysis and Mechanics*, 2023, Volume 15, Issue 2: 177–188. doi: 10.3934/cam.2023010
- [3] Rovenski, V. On the splitting tensor of the weak f -contact structure. *Symmetry* 2023, 15(6), 1215. doi.org/10.3390/sym15061215
- [4] Rovenski V.; Patra, D.S. On the rigidity of the Sasakian structure and characterization of cosymplectic manifolds. *Differential Geometry and its Applications*, 90 (2023) 102043.
- [5] Rovenski, V. Metric structures that admit totally geodesic foliations. *J. Geom.* 114, (2023), article number 32.
- [6] Rovenski, V. Geometry of a weak para- f -structure. *U.P.B. Scientific Bulletin, Series A: Applied Mathematics and Physics*, 2023, 85(4), 11–20.
- [7] Rovenski, V. Weak nearly Sasakian and weak nearly cosymplectic manifolds. *Mathematics*, 2023, 11(20), 4377.
- [8] Rovenski V.; Patra, D.S. Weak β -Kenmotsu manifolds and η -Ricci solitons. pp. 53–72. In: Rovenski, V., et al. (eds) *Differential Geometric Structures and Applications*,

References: Weak Metric Structures

- [9] Rovenski, V. Einstein-type metrics and Ricci-type solitons on weak f -K-contact manifolds. pp. 29–51. In: Rovenski, et al. (eds) Differential Geometric Structures and Applications, 2024. Springer Proceedings in Mathematics and Statistics, vol. 440. Springer, Cham.
- [10] Rovenski, V. On the splitting of weak nearly cosymplectic manifolds, Differential Geometry and its Applications, 94 (2024) 102142
- [11] Rovenski, V. Foliated structure of weak nearly Sasakian manifolds, Ann. Mat. Pura Appl. 203 (2024), 2641–2652.
- [12] Rovenski, V. Characterization of Sasakian manifolds, Asian-European J. of Mathematics (2024) 2450030 (15 pages)
- [13] Rovenski, V. Weak quasi contact metric manifolds and new characteristics of K-contact and Sasakian manifolds. Mathematics 2024, 12(20), 3230
- [14] Rovenski, V. Weak almost contact structures: a survey. Facta Universitatis (Niš) Ser. Math. Inform. Vol. 39, No 5 (2024), 821–841.
- [15] Rovenski, V. Geometry of weak metric f -manifolds: a survey. Mathematics 2025, 13(4), 556.
- [16] Rovenski, V. η -Ricci solitons on weak β -Kenmotsu f -manifolds. Mathematics 2025, 13(11), 1734

- [17] Rovenski, V. Weak nearly $\mathcal{S}$ - and weak nearly $\mathcal{C}$ - manifolds. Mathematics 2025, 13, 3169. Doi: 10.3390/math13193169
- [18] Rovenski, V., Nayak, S. and Patra, D.S. Weak Nearly Kenmotsu Manifolds and Gradient Ricci Solitons. Mediterr. J. Math. (2025) 22:106
- [19] Rovenski, V. $\ast$ - η -Ricci solitons on weak metric f -manifolds. Ricerche di Matematica (2025), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11587-025-01025-0>
- [20] V. Rovenski, M.Lj. Zlatanović, Weak metric structures on generalized Riemannian manifolds. Journal of Geometry and Physics, 221 (2026) 105741
- [21] V. Rovenski, M.Lj. Zlatanović, Applications of Weak Metric Structures to Non-Symmetrical Gravitational Theory. Filomat 40:4 (2026), 1253-1269
- [22] Rovenski, V. $\ast$ - η -Ricci solitons and Einstein metrics on a weak β -Kenmotsu manifold. Results in Mathematics, Vol. 81, article number 41 (2026)