

# Some result about $G_2$ -manifolds and its application in soliton equation

M mahdi kamandar<sup>1</sup> , Mohammad Mansori<sup>2</sup>

1. Faculty member of Khatam-al-anbia air defense university
2. Faculty member of Khatam-al-anbia air defense university

**ABSTRACT:** we are going to show that on a compact 7-dimensional manifold which admits a  $G_2$ - structure soliton solutions to the Laplacian flow of R. Bryant can only be shrinking or steady. We also show that the space of symmetries (vector fields that annihilate via the Lie derivative) of a torsion-free  $G_2$ -structure on a compact 7-manifold is canonically isomorphic to  $H^1(M, \mathbb{R})$ . Some comparisons with Ricci solitons are also discussed, along with some future directions of exploration.

**Keywords:**  $G_2$ -manifolds, soliton, symmetry

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Let  $M$  be a 7-dimensional manifold that admits a  $G_2$ -structure given by a non-degenerate 3-form  $\varphi$ . A natural geometric flow when  $M$  is compact is the Laplacian flow first suggested by R. Bryant in:

$$\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} = -\Delta_{\varphi} \varphi$$

for a family  $\varphi = \varphi(t)$  of  $G_2$ -structure, where  $\Delta_{\varphi}$  denotes the Hodge Laplacian with respect to the metric induced by  $\varphi(t)$ . The original intention of the equation (1) is to flow  $\varphi$  to a torsion-free  $G_2$ -structure, since  $\varphi$  being torsion-free is equivalent to being harmonic with respect to the metric  $g_{\varphi}$  it induces.

**Definition 1.1.** let  $\varphi$  be a  $G_2$ -structure and  $X$  a vector field on  $M$ . We say that  $(\varphi, X)$  is a Laplacian soliton if equation  $\rho\varphi + L_X\varphi = -\Delta\varphi$  is satisfied for some constant  $\rho$

**Definition 1.2.** Consider the differential 3-form

$$\varphi_0 = dx_{123} + dx_{145} + dx_{167} + dx_{246} - dx_{257} - dx_{347} - dx_{356}$$

in  $\mathbb{R}^7$  where  $dx_{ijk} = dx_i \wedge dx_j \wedge dx_k$ . The group  $G_2$  can be defined as the subgroup in  $GL(7, \mathbb{R})$  that preserves  $\varphi_0$ . From a principal bundle point of view, a  $G_2$ -structure on a 7-dimensional manifold  $M$  is just a sub-bundle with structure group  $G_2$ , of the  $GL(7, \mathbb{R})$  frame bundle over  $M$ .

**Definition 1.3.** We say that a  $G_2$ -structure is torsion-free if  $\varphi$  solves the nonlinear system of partial differential equations  $\Delta_{\varphi} = 0$  where  $\nabla$  is the covariant derivative induced by  $g_{\varphi}$ . It was shown that a  $G_2$ -structure is torsion free if and only if it is closed and co-closed. (with respect to the hodge star induced by  $g_{\varphi}$ ).

**Definition 1.4.** A 7-manifold  $M$  that admits a torsion-free  $G_2$ -structure has its Riemannian holonomy (with respect to  $g_{\varphi}$ ) a subgroup of  $G_2$ , and such manifolds are simply known as  $G_2$ -manifolds.

**Proposition 1.5.** Let  $M$  be a compact 7-manifold. For any  $G_2$ -structure  $\varphi$  on  $M$ , vector field  $X$ , and  $f \in C^{\infty}(M)$ , we

have: 
$$\int_M LX\varphi \wedge *f\varphi = -3 \int_M df \wedge *ix\varphi$$

**proof:** We have  $LX\varphi = iX d\varphi + d iX \varphi$ . From the decomposition of  $d\varphi$  we see that

$$ix d\varphi \wedge *f\varphi = \tau_0 f(ix^* \varphi) \wedge * \varphi + 3f(ix(\tau_1 \wedge \varphi)) \wedge * \varphi$$

$$= 3f(ix(\tau_1 \wedge \varphi)) \wedge * \varphi + f(ix^* \tau_3) \wedge * \varphi$$

$$= -3f(\tau_1 \wedge \varphi) \wedge (ix^* \varphi) - f^* \tau_3 \wedge ix^* \varphi$$

$$= -3f \tau_1 \wedge \varphi \wedge (ix^* \varphi)$$

$$= -3f \tau_1 \wedge (-4^* ix \varphi)$$

$$= 12f \tau_1 \wedge ix \varphi \quad (1)$$

Where we have used the identity  $\varphi \wedge (ix^* \varphi) = -4^* ix \Delta$  in the fifth equality and also the point-wise orthogonality of the  $G_2$ -decomposition of differential forms in the second and fourth equalities above. On the other hand, from the decomposition of  $d^* \varphi$  we have

$$\int_M d(ix \varphi) \wedge f \varphi = \int_M ix \varphi \wedge * \delta f \varphi$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= - \int_M ix \varphi \wedge d * f \varphi \\
 &= - \int_M ix \varphi \wedge (df \wedge * \varphi + fd * \varphi) \\
 &= - \int_M ix \varphi \wedge df \wedge * \varphi + \int_M f(ix \varphi) \wedge (4\tau_1 \wedge * \varphi + * \tau_2) \\
 &= - \int_M df \wedge * \varphi \wedge (ix\varphi) - 4 \int_M f(ix \varphi) \wedge \tau_1 \wedge * \varphi \\
 &= - \int_M df \wedge * \varphi \wedge (ix\varphi) - 4 \int_M f \tau_1 \wedge * \varphi \wedge (ix \varphi) \\
 &= -4 \int_M df \wedge 3 * ix\varphi - 4 \int_M f \tau_1 \wedge 3 * ix \varphi \\
 &= -3 \int_M df \wedge 3 * ix\varphi - 12 \int_M f \tau_1 \wedge * ix \varphi
 \end{aligned}$$

(2) where we have also used the identity  $*\varphi \wedge (ix\varphi) = 3 *ix \varphi$  Integrating (1) and adding to (2), the lemma now follows.

Lemma 1.6. let  $\varphi$  be a closed  $G_2$ -structure. Then  $\varphi$  is an eigen-form if and only if  $\Delta_\varphi \in \Omega_1^3$

proof: The only if part is trivial. For the other direction, note that if  $\Delta\varphi = f\varphi$  then since  $\varphi = 0$  we must have  $d(f\varphi) = 0$  as well. In other words,  $df \wedge \varphi = 0$  Recall that the equation above, along with the special form that  $\varphi$  takes with respect to a local orthonormal frame, shows in a straight-forward way that  $f$  must be constant. Thus ' $\varphi$ ' must be an eigenform.

Theorem 1.7. If  $M^7$  is compact, then there are no expanding or steady soliton solutions of  $-\Delta_d \psi + L_X \psi = d(ix \psi)$  other than the trivial case of a torsion-free  $G_2$ -structure in the steady case.

Proof. We take the wedge product of both sides of  $\Delta_d \psi + L_X \psi = d(ix \psi)$  with  $\psi = d(ix \psi)$   $\varphi = *\varphi$  and integrate over  $M$  to obtain  $\int_M \langle \Delta_d \psi, \psi \rangle vol + \lambda \int_M |\psi|^2 vol + \int_M \langle d(ix \psi), \psi \rangle vol = 0$

Since  $M$  is compact, we have  $\int_M \langle d(ix \psi), \psi \rangle vol = \int_M \langle ix \psi, d * \psi \rangle vol$  But the  $G_2$ -structure

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is coclosed, so  $\tau_1 = 0$  and henced  $*\psi = *d * \psi = *d\varphi = *(\tau_0\varphi + *\tau_3) = \tau_0 + \tau_3$  Therefore  $d * \psi$  lies in the space  $\Lambda_1^4 \oplus \Lambda_{27}^4$ , while  $ix \psi$  lies in  $\Lambda_{27}^4$  Since this decomposition of  $\Lambda^4$  is pointwise orthogonal with respect to the metric  $g_\varphi$  we see that the last term in:  $\int_M \langle \Delta_d \psi, \psi \rangle vol + \lambda \int_M |\psi|^2 vol + \int_M \langle d(ix \psi), \psi \rangle vol = 0$  vanishes. Since  $\langle \langle \Delta_d \psi, \psi \rangle \rangle + 7\lambda \int_M vol = ||d * \psi||^2 + 7\lambda vol(M) = 0$  again using the fact that  $d\psi = 0$ . Thus we cannot have  $\lambda > 0$ , and if  $\lambda = 0$  then the  $G_2$ -structure must be torsion-free. In the latter case  $X$  must be a vector field generating a  $G_2$ -symmetry:  $L_X \psi = 0$  Since  $M$  is compact, there will be no such nonzero  $X$  unless  $M$  has reducible holonomy.

## 2 MAIN RESULT

the space of symmetries of ' $\varphi$ ' is isomorphic to  $H^1(M, \mathbb{R})$ .

Proof. To prove the if part, we will employ the general relation below for the Levi - Civita connection:

$L_X \varphi(Y_1, Y_2, Y_3) = \nabla_X \varphi(Y_1, Y_2, Y_3) + \varphi(\nabla_{Y_1} X, Y_2, Y_3) + \varphi(Y_1, \nabla_{Y_2} X, Y_3) + \varphi(Y_1, Y_2, \nabla_{Y_3} X)$  for any vector fields  $X, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3$ . The torsion-free condition is defined by  $\nabla_\varphi = 0$ . more, since any  $G_2$ -manifold must have zero Ricci curvature everywhere, by the Bochner's Theorem we know that any harmonic 1-form must be parallel. Then we must have  $\nabla_X = 0$ . Combining these facts into above equation we get the desired result.

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