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S^1 -invariant symplectic hypersurfaces in dimension 6 and the Fano condition

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December 29, 2018

Abstract

We prove that any symplectic Fano 6-manifold M with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action is simply connected and satisfies $c_1c_2(M) = 24$. This is done by showing that the fixed submanifold $M_{\min} \subseteq M$ on which the Hamiltonian attains its minimum is diffeomorphic to either a del Pezzo surface, a 2-sphere or a point. In the case when $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$, we use the fact that symplectic Fano 4-manifolds are symplectomorphic to del Pezzo surfaces. The case when $\dim(M_{\min}) = 2$ involves a study of 6-dimensional Hamiltonian S^1 -manifolds with M_{\min} diffeomorphic to a surface of positive genus. By exploiting an analogy with the algebro-geometric situation we construct in each such 6-manifold an S^1 -invariant symplectic hypersurface $\mathcal{F}(M)$ playing the role of a smooth fibre of a hypothetical Mori fibration over M_{\min} . This relies upon applying Seiberg-Witten theory to the resolution of symplectic 4-orbifolds occurring as the reduced spaces of M .

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1 Introduction

In this article, we study compact symplectic manifolds (M, ω) for which $c_1(M) = [\omega]$ in $H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$. These are called *symplectic Fano manifolds* by analogy with complex projective Fano manifolds. An important question is to determine to what extent symplectic Fano manifolds differ from complex projective Fanos.

In dimension 4, a theorem of Ohta and Ono [35, Theorem 1.3] building on the works of Gromov [16], McDuff [29] and Taubes [40] states that every 4-dimensional symplectic Fano manifold is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface. It is known moreover that symplectic Fano 4-manifolds admit a compatible complex projective structure (see [38] and the references contained within). The corresponding question in dimension 6, 8 and 10 is open. As was noted in [8], starting from dimension 12, symplectic twistor spaces of hyperbolic manifolds studied by Reznikov in [37] give rise to infinitely many symplectic Fano manifolds which are non-Kähler.

In this article we focus on dimension 6, where the following questions are open.

Question 1.1. (a) Can one construct a symplectic Fano 6-manifold that doesn't admit a compatible Kähler structure?

(b) Can one find an almost complex 6-manifold (M, J) with $c_1^3(M, J) > 0$, that does not admit a symplectic form ω with $[\omega] = c_1(M, \omega) = c_1(M, J)$?

While some methods for constructing 6-dimensional non-Kähler examples were discussed in the literature (see, for example [39, Section 3]), no ideas exist at the present for treating Question 1.1(b). However, it was conjectured in [9] that an S^1 -equivariant version of Question 1.1(a) has a negative answer.

Conjecture 1.2. [9] *Let (M, ω) be a 6-dimensional symplectic Fano manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Then M is diffeomorphic to a complex projective Fano 3-fold.*

Our first result in this paper is a step towards the solution of this conjecture.

Theorem 1.3. *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Then M_{\min} is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface, a 2-sphere or a point. In particular, M is simply connected.*

This theorem has the following corollary, which we prove in Section 11 using the localisation formula for the Hirzebruch χ_y -genus.

Corollary 1.4. *Any symplectic Fano 6-manifold M with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action satisfies $c_1 c_2(M) = 24$.*

Apart from Theorem 1.3, there are several results in support of Conjecture 1.2. First is by McDuff [30] and Tolman [41], stating that there exist exactly four symplectic Fano 6-manifolds with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with $b_2 = 1$, and all of them are complex projective. Next, in [3] a classification of symplectic Fano 6-manifolds with a semi-free Hamiltonian S^1 -action is undertaken. It is proven there that for each such manifold there is a complex projective one with the same S^1 -fixed point data. In a different case, when the action has isolated fixed points and the weights of the action at each isolated point are coprime, it is proven in [12] that b_2 is bounded, namely $b_2 \leq 7$. Finally, Conjecture 1.2 is confirmed for the case of symplectic Fanos that are fat S^2 -bundles over 4-manifolds (for a precise formulation see [9, Theorem 1.3]).

Complex projective Fanos. Recall that complex projective Fano manifolds are, indeed, simply connected. There exist two paths to prove this statement. One is by Mori via characteristic p , proving that Fano manifolds are rationally connected; the other is via existence of metrics of positive Ricci curvature by Yau. Neither of these methods have direct analogues in symplectic geometry.

In the case of complex dimension 3, Fano manifolds were classified by Iskovskikh, Mori and Mukai and there are exactly 105 families. Note, however, that the classification of Fano 3-folds with \mathbb{C}^* -actions and Picard rank greater than 1 was not yet carried out. The case of Picard rank 1 was settled in [20, 36].

1.1 Symplectic fibre and the proof of Theorem 1.3

In this section we explain the key ideas of the article, state further results and give some ideas of proofs. All these results are needed for Theorem 1.3, and so we structure the discussion in terms of its proof.

In order to prove that M is simply connected, we study the fixed point set of the S^1 -action, which we denote by M^{S^1} . We denote by M_{\min} and M_{\max} the connected components of M^{S^1} on which the Hamiltonian of the S^1 -action attains its minimum and maximum respectively; we call these submanifolds of M *extremal submanifolds*. The extremal submanifolds are connected symplectic submanifolds, furthermore it is known by [21] that the fundamental group of M is isomorphic to that of M_{\min} and M_{\max} . Hence, in the case when M_{\min} is a point, M is simply connected.

In the case when M_{\min} has dimension 4 the proof of Theorem 1.3 is split into two subcases depending on the dimension of M_{\max} . The subcase when $\dim(M_{\max}) \geq 2$ is treated in Section 3. We prove there that the S^1 -action on M is semi-free and show that M_{\min} can be deformed symplectically to a symplectic Fano. It follows that M_{\min} is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface, in particular it is simply connected. Let us mention here a related result of Cho [3]. He shows that for a symplectic Fano manifold X with a semi-free Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that 0 is a regular value of the Hamiltonian, the reduced space X_0 is a symplectic Fano¹.

The subcase when M_{\max} is a point is postponed to the final Section 11 since it involves techniques developed in Sections 4-7. Here, the action is not necessarily semi-free, however in Proposition 3.6 the weights at M_{\max} are classified into two cases, both of which are exhibited by toric Fano 3-folds.

The hardest case of Theorem 1.3 to treat is when both submanifolds M_{\min} and M_{\max} are 2-dimensional. Thus, we are led naturally to study the class of Hamiltonian S^1 -manifolds of dimension 6 with M_{\min} and M_{\max} surfaces of positive genus. This study takes up a large portion of the article, culminating in the following theorem.

Theorem 1.5. *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min} is a surface of genus $g > 0$. Then M contains a 4-dimensional, S^1 -invariant, symplectic submanifold $\mathcal{F}(M)$ transversal to M^{S^1} and intersecting M_{\min} in a unique point. This submanifold is unique up to S^1 -invariant symplectomorphism.*

The proof of Theorem 1.3 relies on Theorem 1.5 and so we first elaborate on Theorem 1.5. The submanifold $\mathcal{F}(M) \subset M$ constructed in this theorem is called the *symplectic fibre*. Note, that if M were Kähler there would exist a holomorphic fibration $M \rightarrow M_{\min}$ and we could choose $\mathcal{F}(M)$ as a generic fibre of this fibration. For more motivation and the analogy between the Kähler and symplectic cases, the reader may consult the discussion in the beginning of Section 4.

Existence of symplectic fibre. Building the symplectic fibre will take us Sections 4-8. This construction amounts to producing a smooth (in an appropriate sense) path of symplectic orbi-spheres in the reduced spaces M_t for t varying from H_{\min} to H_{\max} . We deduce the existence of such a path from Theorem 1.6. A version of this result for the case of 4-dimensional symplectic manifolds can be found in [24, Corollary 2] and [26, Proposition 3.2].

Theorem 1.6. *Let (M^4, ω) be a 4-dimensional symplectic orbifold with cyclic stabilizers and with $\pi_1(M^4) \neq 0$. Suppose M^4 contains a smooth sub-orbifold sphere that is transversal to the orbifold locus of M^4 and satisfies the two properties: $F \cdot F = 0$ and $\int_F \omega > 0$. Then the following statements hold.*

1. M^4 contains a symplectic sub-orbifold sphere F' in the same homology class as F , that is transversal to the orbifold locus of M .

¹See Proposition 1.10 for a canonical choice of a Hamiltonian on a symplectic Fano S^1 -manifold.

2. Any two such symplectic sub-orbifold spheres can be isotoped to one another in the class of symplectic sub-orbifolds transversal to the orbifold locus.

The proof of Theorem 1.6 is given in Section 6, where it is split into Theorem 6.1 and Theorem 6.3. In order to produce symplectic orbi-spheres in M^4 we construct a desingularisation of its orbifold symplectic structure. This is done in three steps. First, in Theorem 5.3 we introduce a Kähler structure on a neighbourhood of the orbifold locus $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$ of M^4 . Next, using Theorem A.10, we smooth the orbifold Kähler metric along all divisors in $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$ to obtain in this way an orbifold \widetilde{M}^4 with isolated quotient singularities. Finally, we take a holomorphic resolution of singularities of \widetilde{M}^4 and obtain a smooth symplectic manifold \overline{M}^4 .

We are aware of two alternative methods to desingularise symplectic 4-orbifolds, the first by Niederkrüger and Pasquotto [34] using symplectic cutting, and the second, very recent one, by Chen [2]. The second approach is closer in spirit to the one that we've chosen, however our approach is designed specifically for proving results like Theorems 1.5 and 1.6. We believe our approach will find some further applications.

The smooth symplectic manifold \overline{M}^4 is an irrational ruled symplectic manifold due to the existence of a smooth orbi-sphere in M^4 and to [24, Corollary 2]. Once this is established, we are able to apply results of Weiyi Zhang [44] to \overline{M}^4 , in particular Theorem 2.33. This theorem states that for any tamed J on an irrational ruled surface, the surface is fibred by J -holomorphic spheres with a finite number of singular fibres. We choose \overline{J} on \overline{M}^4 by extending the holomorphic structure defined on \overline{M}^4 close to the preimage of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}M$. By projecting the obtained fibration back to M^4 , we get in M^4 the desired orbi-spheres. This proves the first half of Theorem 1.6. The second half relies on some standard facts on deformations of J -holomorphic curves.

Once Theorem 1.6 is proven, it is relatively straightforward to construct a “smooth path” of symplectic orbi-spheres in reduced spaces of M in order to cut the symplectic fibre out inside M . Indeed, for regular values of the Hamiltonian H the reduced spaces are orbifolds with cyclic isotropy groups. To help orbi-spheres pass smoothly through critical levels of H we introduce in Section 5 a Kähler metric on a neighbourhood of M^{S^1} . The proof of Theorem 1.5 is given in Section 8.

Back to the proof of Theorem 1.3. To settle Theorem 1.3 in the case when $\dim(M_{\min}) = \dim(M_{\max}) = 2$, we will work with the class of *relative symplectic Fano* manifolds².

Definition 1.7. Let (M, ω) be a compact symplectic manifold. M is called *relative symplectic Fano* if for any class $A \in H_2(M)$ that can be represented by a continuous mapping from S^2 one has $\langle c_1(M), A \rangle = \omega(A)$.

It is not hard to see that in the case $\dim(M_{\min}) = \dim(M_{\max}) = 2$, Theorem 1.3 follows from the next result.

²Such manifolds are usually called *weakly monotone*, but we would like to use the alternative terminology, to draw a parallel with algebraic geometry and to exclude non-compact manifolds.

Theorem 1.8. *Let (M, ω) be a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Then there exists a fixed surface Σ with $g(\Sigma) \geq g$ such that $\langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle \leq 2 - 2g$.*

We prove additionally in Corollary 9.13 that unless the non-zero weights of S^1 -action at M_{\max} and M_{\min} are ± 1 , fixed surfaces in M have genus either 0 or g . In such case, the theorem states that M contains a fixed surface of genus g whose normal bundle has non-positive c_1 .

The proof of Theorem 1.8 will take us Sections 9-10 and uses the existence of the symplectic fibre. However, in the case when the weights of the S^1 -action on M at all fixed surfaces are different from ± 1 this theorem can be proven in 10 lines. We have the following general statement, which doesn't rely on the symplectic Fano condition.

Lemma 1.9. *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Suppose that the weights of the S^1 -action at all fixed surfaces of positive genus are different from ± 1 . Then there exists a fixed surface Σ with $g(\Sigma) = g$ such that the normal bundle to Σ in M has $c_1 \leq 0$.*

Proof. Note first, that each fixed surface $\Sigma \subset M$ with $g(\Sigma) > 0$ is contained in two isotropy submanifolds of M of dimension 4 (since the weights at Σ are not ± 1). By Corollary 2.13 both isotropy submanifolds containing Σ contain a different fixed surface of genus $g(\Sigma)$. It follows that one can find in M a cycle $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2, \dots, \Sigma_n = \Sigma_1$ of fixed surfaces, with $\Sigma_1 = M_{\min}$ and $g(\Sigma_i) = g$ for all i , such that any two consecutive Σ_i, Σ_{i+1} are contained in a 4-dimensional isotropy submanifold N_i . Let $N(\Sigma_i)$ denote the normal bundle of Σ_i in M . Applying Lemma 2.17 to each N_i we deduce that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} c_1(N(\Sigma_i)) \leq 0.$$

Hence there exists a fixed surface of genus g in M with non-positive normal bundle. \square

Proving Theorem 1.8 in general. The simple proof of Lemma 1.9 breaks down if some of the weights of the S^1 -action at some fixed surface are equal to ± 1 . This is because some isotropy submanifolds from the cycle constructed in Lemma 1.9 are missing. However, we are able to resurrect them to some extent by finding constraints on M^{S^1} and investigating the behaviour of gradient spheres in M . An important tool in this analysis is the following *weight sum formula*. For symplectic Fano manifolds this proposition appeared previously in [5, Example 4.3] for semi-free S^1 -actions and in [3, Corollary 4.32] for general S^1 -actions.

Proposition 1.10. The weight sum formula. *Let (M, ω) be a relative symplectic Fano manifold and suppose there is a Hamiltonian S^1 -action on M . Then after adding a constant to the Hamiltonian H , for any fixed submanifold F , the following weight sum formula holds*

$$H(F) = -w_1 - \dots - w_n \tag{1}$$

where $\{w_i\}$ is the set of weights for the S^1 -action along F .

Proposition 1.10 and its converse Proposition 2.23 are proven in Section 2.4. From now on we assume that the Hamiltonian H on M is normalized according to Proposition 1.10, so that weight sum formula (1) holds. Proposition 2.23 tells us then that the symplectic fibre $\mathcal{F}(M)$ of M is a 4-dimensional symplectic Fano. So we can apply [19, Theorem 5.1] to deduce that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is symplectomorphic to a toric del Pezzo surface. In particular, since all fixed surfaces of positive genus intersect $\mathcal{F}(M)$, the number of such fixed surfaces in M is at most 6.

We split the proof of Theorem 1.8 in the following two cases.

The general case. In the case when $H(M) \not\subseteq [-3, 3]$, we are able to use the idea of Lemma 1.9 and find in M a genus g surface, whose normal bundle has $c_1 \leq 0$ (see Theorem 10.1). It turns out in this case, that all fixed surfaces in M with positive genus have genus exactly g and intersect $\mathcal{F}(M)$ in a unique point. Since $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is toric, its fixed points have a natural cyclic order, and so, fixed genus g surfaces in M inherit such an order as well. Since some of the weights at fixed genus g surfaces are ± 1 , the isotropy submanifolds connecting these surfaces don't form a complete cycle, some of the submanifolds are missing. Thus, we need to find a replacement for Lemma 2.17 for missing submanifolds. This is the content of Theorem 10.2 which relies on Seiberg-Witten theory.

To establish Theorem 10.2 we first prove restrictions on the fixed submanifolds contained in levels close to H_{\min} . This allows us to flow a fixed surface Σ with weights $\{-1, n\}$ down towards M_{\min} , eventually proving Theorem 10.2 by studying the Euler numbers of the associated orbi-bundles. As a result we obtain a proof of Theorem 1.8 along the lines of Lemma 1.9.

Small Hamiltonian case. The case when $H(M) \subseteq [-3, 3]$ is treated in Section 10.5. In this case some of fixed curves of positive genus in M can be of genus greater than g and intersect $\mathcal{F}(M)$ in two points. Hence, they don't necessarily form a cycle. For this reason, instead of pushing the idea of Lemma 1.9 we prove Theorem 1.8 using localisation of $c_1^{S^1}(M)$. This is done in Section 10.5.

Outline of the paper. We now briefly sum up the plan of the paper. Section 2 contains definitions and preliminary results used throughout the article. Section 3 gives a proof of Theorem 1.3 in the case when $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$, $\dim(M_{\max}) \geq 2$.

Starting from Section 4 we primarily study Hamiltonian S^1 -manifolds of dimension 6 with M_{\min} and M_{\max} surfaces of positive genus g . Sections 4-8 are devoted to the construction of the symplectic fibre.

In Section 9 we prove Theorem 9.10, which relates the fixed points of the symplectic fibre to the fixed surfaces of positive genus in M . Here, we establish the uniqueness of symplectic fibre up to equivariant symplectomorphism.

In Section 2.9 we collect some simple facts about S^1 -actions on toric del Pezzo surfaces. Section 10 is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.8.

In the final Section 11 we finish the proof of Theorem 1.3. All the cases of this theorem apart from the case when $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$, $\dim(M_{\max}) = 0$ are proven by now, so we settle the remaining case. Additionally to this we prove Corollary 1.4.

The appendix contains the majority of results related to Kähler metrics, such as

existence and smoothing.

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2 Preliminaries

In this section we set up notation, and state various results that are used throughout the article. None of these results are new, with the exception of Proposition 1.10 and Proposition 2.23.

2.1 Hamiltonian circle actions

Hamiltonian circle actions. Let (M, ω) be a symplectic manifold. A Hamiltonian S^1 -action on (M, ω) is an action of the group $S^1 = U(1)$ on M generated by a vector field X , with an associated smooth function $H : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $dH = \iota_X \omega$. The S^1 -action is always assumed to be non-trivial and effective, unless stated otherwise.

We often will refer to a manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action as a *Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold*. An S^1 -action is called semi-free if the stabiliser of each point is either S^1 or the identity.

Compatible almost complex structures. Recall that an almost complex structure J on (M, ω) is said to be compatible with ω , if $\omega(\cdot, J\cdot)$ defines a Riemannian metric on M . In this article we often assume that a compatible S^1 -invariant J is chosen on M and don't always say this explicitly.

Fixed submanifolds. Define $M^{S^1} \subset M$ to be the subset of points fixed by all elements of S^1 . Note that M^{S^1} is the subset where $X = 0$ and also the subset where $dH = 0$, i.e. the set of critical points for H . Let \mathbb{Z}_n be the subgroup of $S^1 = U(1)$ generated by $e^{\frac{2\pi i}{n}}$. Define $M^{\mathbb{Z}_n}$ as the subset of points in M that are fixed by \mathbb{Z}_n .

Lemma 2.1. [32, Lemma 5.53-5.54] *Let (M, ω) be a compact symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action generated by the Hamiltonian $H : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then the following holds.*

- *There exists an almost complex structure J compatible with ω and preserved by the S^1 -action.*
- *H is a Morse-Bott function.*
- *For any positive integer n , $M^{\mathbb{Z}_n}$ is a union of symplectic submanifolds (of possibly different dimensions).*

- M^{S^1} is a union of symplectic submanifolds (of possibly different dimensions).
- Let H_{\min}, H_{\max} be the minimum/maximum values for H . The corresponding level sets M_{\min} and M_{\max} are connected symplectic submanifolds in M .

Definition 2.2. By a *fixed surface* in M we always refer to a 2-dimensional component of M^{S^1} .

Weights of the action along a fixed submanifold. Fix an invariant and compatible almost complex structure J on M . Let F be a connected component of M^{S^1} , which is a symplectic submanifold by Lemma 2.1. For each $p \in F$, S^1 acts linearly on $T_p M$ and we can split $T_p M$ into irreducible representations of the form $V_k = \mathbb{C}$ ($k \in \mathbb{Z}$) where S^1 acts by $z.w = z^k w$. It is not hard to see that the type of splitting is independent of $p \in F$ and we call the numbers k the *weights* at F . In the case when F has positive dimension some of its weights are equal to zero and we will omit them from time to time.

The gradient flow and gradient spheres. Fix again an invariant J on M . Denote by g the Riemannian metric $\omega(\cdot, J\cdot)$. The integral curves of the gradient vector field $\nabla_g H$ are called *gradient flow lines*.

Definition 2.3. Let O be a non-trivial orbit of the S^1 -action, and let \tilde{O} be the union of all gradient flow lines intersecting O . Then the closure S of \tilde{O} is homeomorphic to a 2-sphere, and call S a *gradient sphere*. The *weight* of S is defined to be the order of the stabilizer of O . Denote by $S_{\min}, S_{\max} \in M$ the fixed points on S where $H|_S$ attains its minimum and maximum respectively.

A gradient sphere S may not be smooth at S_{\min} or S_{\max} . However, there always exists an S^1 -equivariant homeomorphism $\varphi : S^2 \rightarrow S$, such that φ is a diffeomorphism outside of the two fixed points and $\varphi^*(\omega)$ extends to a symplectic form on S^2 .

Isotropy submanifolds. An *isotropy submanifold* $N \subset M$ is a connected component of $M^{\mathbb{Z}^n}$ for some $n \geq 2$ that is not contained entirely in M^{S^1} .

- We define the *weight* of N to be the largest n such that $N \subseteq M^{\mathbb{Z}^n}$.
- Define N_{\min}, N_{\max} to be the subsets where $H|_N$ attains its minimum and maximum respectively.

Trace of S^1 -invariant submanifolds.

Definition 2.4. Let $N \subset M$ be an S^1 -invariant submanifold of M . For $c \in [H_{\min}, H_{\max}]$ define the *trace* N_c to be the image of $N \cap H^{-1}(c)$ under the quotient map $Q : H^{-1}(c) \rightarrow M_c = H^{-1}(c)/S^1$. We will say that N_c is *traced* by N in M_c .

Reduced spaces and the associated orbi- S^1 -bundle. Let c be a regular value of H , the quotient space

$$M_c = H^{-1}(c)/S^1$$

inherits a natural symplectic orbifold structure from M [32, Section 5.4]. Denote the symplectic orbifold form by ω_c . M_c is called the *reduced space* or *symplectic quotient* at c .

Following [1, Chapter 5, Section 2.4], let us recall how to define the Euler class

$$e(H^{-1}(c)) \in H^2(M_c, \mathbb{Z}).$$

Note first that all orbits in $H^{-1}(c)$ have finite cyclic stabilizer groups, and since $H^{-1}(c)$ is compact the order of such stabilizer groups is bounded. Choose $N > 0$ divisible by all the orders of such stabilizers. Then $H^{-1}(c)/\mathbb{Z}_N$ is a principal S^1 -bundle. Define

$$e(H^{-1}(c)) = \frac{1}{N}e(H^{-1}(c)/\mathbb{Z}_N)$$

where on the right hand side e denotes the usual Euler class of a principal S^1 -bundle.

The gradient map. Let (M, ω, g) be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold with a compatible S^1 -invariant metric g . Let c_1, c_2 be two values of H in (H_{\min}, H_{\max}) .

Definition 2.5. The partially defined *gradient map* $gr_{c_2}^{c_1} : M_{c_1} \dashrightarrow M_{c_2}$ is constructed as follows. For $x_1 \in M_{c_1}$ we set $gr_{c_2}^{c_1}(x_1) = x_2$ when there is a gradient flow line in M whose intersections with $H^{-1}(c_1)$ and $H^{-1}(c_2)$ projects to x_1 and x_2 respectively. Note that this is independent of the representatives of x_1 and x_2 in M (since the S^1 -action maps gradient flow lines to gradient flow lines).

Remark 2.6. Assume that $c_1 < c_2$. In the case when a critical value of H lies in the interval $[c_1, c_2]$, the map $gr_{c_2}^{c_1}$ is not defined on a closed subset of M_{c_1} of positive codimension. However, if no such critical values are contained in $[c_1, c_2]$, the map is a diffeomorphism of orbifolds. In the case when the only critical value in $[c_1, c_2]$ is c_2 , the partially defined gradient map can be extended to a continuous map $gr_{c_2}^{c_1} : M_{c_1} \rightarrow M_{c_2}$.

The Duistermaat-Heckman theorem. Suppose (a, b) is an interval of regular values for H . Fixing $c_0 \in (a, b)$, we consider the smooth family of symplectic forms $(gr_c^{c_0})^*(\omega_c)$ on M_{c_0} (which we refer to also as ω_c for brevity).

Lemma 2.7. *Duistermaat-Heckman Theorem.* *The cohomology class of the symplectic form $[\omega_c] \in H^2(M_{c_0}, \mathbb{R})$ varies linearly as a function of c and the derivative of this path is $-e(H^{-1}(c_0))$.*

Lemma 2.8. *Let M be 4-dimensional Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold such that M_{\min} is an isolated fixed point. Let $a, b > 0$ be the weights of the action at M_{\min} and let $m = H_{\min}$.*

1. for $\varepsilon > 0$ sufficiently small

$$\langle e(H^{-1}(m + \varepsilon)), [M_{m+\varepsilon}] \rangle = \frac{-1}{ab}.$$

2. Suppose furthermore that M is a compact manifold with isolated fixed points. For any $c > 0$, $\omega_c([M_{m+c}]) \leq \frac{c}{a \cdot b}$. Moreover the equality holds if and only if all values in $(m, m + c)$ are regular values for H .

Proof. For 1 see [1, Exercise 3.4.5].

To prove 2, first note that by [19, Theorem 5.1] (M, ω) is toric and the Hamiltonian is obtained by composing the toric moment map $\mu : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ with a linear map $L : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. By Lemma 2.7, for c sufficiently close to m , we have:

$$\frac{d\omega_c([M_{m+c}])}{dc} = \frac{1}{ab}.$$

By the convexity of the toric moment polytope of M [32, Theorem 5.47] this derivative is decreasing in terms of c , and changes whenever the corresponding level contains a vertex of the moment polytope. Hence 2 follows. \square

Duistermaat-Heckman function.

Definition 2.9. Let (M, ω) be a symplectic $2n$ -manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action and let H be the Hamiltonian. The function

$$DH(t) = \int_{M_t} \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \omega_t^{n-1}$$

is called the *Duistermaat-Heckmann function*.

The Duistermaat-Heckman function is piecewise polynomial, and it is polynomial of degree at most $n - 1$ on each interval in the complement to the set of critical values of H . The following formula due to Guillemin, Lerman, and Sternberg [13] describes the behaviour of DH near critical values of H , see as well [4, Theorem 3.2].

Theorem 2.10. [13] Assume that c is a critical value of H and F_1, \dots, F_k are connected components of M^{S^1} in the level set $H = c$. Then the jump of $DH(t)$ at c is given by

$$DH_+ - DH_- = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\text{vol}(F_i)}{(d_i - 1)! \prod_j \omega_j(F_i)} (t - c)^{d_i - 1} + O((t - c)^{d_i}), \quad (2)$$

where d_i is half the codimension of F_i in M , and $\omega_j(F_i)$ are the weights of the normal bundle to F_i .

Note that for zero-dimensional F_i (i.e., isolated fixed points) we have $\text{vol}(F_i) = 1$, and moreover the second term in the right hand side of (2) is missing, since $DH(t)$ is piecewise of degree $n - 1$. As a result we have the following corollary.

Corollary 2.11. Suppose that all fixed points in M that lie in the set $H > s$ are isolated, and denote by p_1, \dots, p_k these points. Then we have

$$\int_{M_s} \omega_s^{n-1} = - \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{(s - H(p_i))^{n-1}}{\prod_j \omega_j(p_i)}. \quad (3)$$

π_1 of Hamiltonian S^1 -manifolds. Here we collect some results that are important for studying the fundamental group of Hamiltonian S^1 -manifolds.

Theorem 2.12. [21] *Let (M, ω) be a compact symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action and Hamiltonian $H : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then the inclusion of M_{\min} and M_{\max} into M induces an isomorphism on π_1 . In addition, $\pi_1(M_x) \cong \pi_1(M)$ for all $x \in H(M)$.*

Corollary 2.13. *Suppose that (M, ω) is a symplectic 4-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. If M contains a fixed surface of genus $g > 0$, then both of the extremal fixed submanifolds of M are diffeomorphic to surfaces of genus g .*

Theorem 2.14. [22] *Let (M, ω) be a compact symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Then the quotient map $Q : M \rightarrow M/S^1$ induces an isomorphism on fundamental groups.*

Proof. Since M is compact, the Hamiltonian has some critical points. Hence M^{S^1} is non-empty, and $Q_* : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \pi_1(M/S^1)$ is an isomorphism by the main result of [22]. \square

2.2 Localisation results

The following lemmas follow from applying the Atiyah-Bott-Berline-Vergne localisation formula to certain equivariant Chern classes. All of these results are known, we collect them here for reference.

Lemma 2.15. *Suppose that S^1 acts on $S \cong \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ with the action $z[z_0 : z_1] = [z^k z_0 : z_1]$. Consider a rank n , S^1 -equivariant, complex vector bundle $E \rightarrow S$. Suppose that the weights of the action (on the fibres of E) at $[1 : 0]$, $[0 : 1]$ are $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$, $\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}$ respectively. Then*

$$c_1(E) = \frac{-a_1 - \dots - a_n + b_1 + \dots + b_n}{k}.$$

Proof. This formula follows by applying the Atiyah-Bott-Berline-Vergne localisation theorem to $c_1^{S^1}(E)$. \square

Lemma 2.16. [41, Remark 2.5] *Let S^1 act on 6-dimensional symplectic manifold (M, ω) by a Hamiltonian S^1 -action and suppose that the fixed submanifolds have dimension at most 2.*

For a fixed point p with weights w_1, w_2, w_3 , define

$$\alpha(p) = \frac{w_1 + w_2 + w_3}{w_1 w_2 w_3}.$$

For a fixed surface S with genus g and normal bundle $L_1 \oplus L_2$ let the weight of the action of L_i be denoted w_i and let $n_i = c_1(L_i)$ define

$$\beta(S) = \frac{2 - 2g}{w_1 w_2} - \frac{n_1}{w_1^2} - \frac{n_2}{w_2^2}.$$

Let p_1, \dots, p_{N_1} be the isolated fixed points for the action and S_1, \dots, S_{N_2} be the surface components of M^{S^1} . Then we have the following localisation formula.

$$0 = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq N_1} \alpha(p_i) + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq N_2} \beta(S_i). \quad (4)$$

Proof. This follows from applying Atiyah-Bott-Berline-Vergne to $c_1^{S^1}(M)$. The localisation of $c_1^{S^1}(M)$ to fixed points and surfaces is computed in [41, Remark 2.5]. \square

The following Lemma will be useful for studying isotropy 4-manifolds for S^1 -actions on 6-manifolds.

Lemma 2.17. [19, Lemma 2.15] *Suppose that (M, ω) is a symplectic 4-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. For each fixed surface Σ , let $n(\Sigma_i)$ denote the degree of the normal bundle of Σ_i , and \mathcal{S} be the set of all fixed surfaces. Let the weights at each fixed point p_i be denoted (a_i, b_i) , and let \mathcal{P} denote the set of isolated fixed points. Then*

$$\sum_{p_i \in \mathcal{P}} \frac{1}{a_i b_i} - \sum_{\Sigma_i \in \mathcal{S}} n_i(\Sigma_i) = 0.$$

In particular, if the extremal submanifolds are both surfaces and n_1, n_2 denote the degree of the normal bundle of M_{\min} and M_{\max} then $n_1 + n_2 \leq 0$.

Lastly, we state a localisation formula for the Hirzebruch χ_y polynomial (see [7] for a definition). When reduced to $y = 0$, this formula gives a particularly simple localisation result for the Todd genus (denoted Td).

Theorem 2.18. [7] *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Then*

$$\chi_y(M) = \sum_{F \subset M^{S^1}} (-y)^{d_F} \chi_y(F),$$

where d_F is the number of negative weights along a fixed component $F \subset M^{S^1}$.

Corollary 2.19. *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Then*

$$Td(M) = Td(M_{\min}).$$

Proof. Firstly, the constant term of the Hirzebruch χ_y polynomial is equal to the Todd genus [7]. Now the result follows from substituting $y = 0$, into the formula of Theorem 2.18. \square

2.3 Restrictions on weights in terms of the range of the Hamiltonian

In this section we prove some restrictions on the weights of a Hamiltonian S^1 -action along fixed submanifolds in terms of the range of the Hamiltonian.

Lemma 2.20. *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action, with Hamiltonian H . Let S be a gradient sphere in M . Then*

$$\langle [\omega], S \rangle = \frac{H(S_{\max}) - H(S_{\min})}{w(S)}.$$

Proof. If S is smooth at points S_{\max} and S_{\min} , then the claim is standard. Suppose the sphere is not smooth and let ε be a small positive number. Denote by C_ε the sub-cylinder of S consisting of points on distance at least ε to S_{\max} and S_{\min} (for some S^1 -invariant metric). Then we have

$$\int_{C_\varepsilon} \omega = \frac{1}{w(S)} (\max H|_{C_\varepsilon} - \min H|_{C_\varepsilon}),$$

since C_ε is a symplectic cylinder with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. It is now not hard to see that by taking limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ we get the desired equality. \square

Lemma 2.21. *Let (M, ω) be a compact symplectic manifold such that ω is an integral form, and there is a Hamiltonian S^1 -action on M . Suppose that $p \in M^{S^1}$ and $-w$ is a weight at p with $w > 0$, then $w \leq H(p) - H_{\min}$. If $w > 0$ is a weight at p , then $w \leq H_{\max} - H(p)$.*

Proof. There is a gradient sphere S with weight w such that $S_{\max} = p$. We apply Lemma 2.20 to S , obtaining that $H(S_{\min}) \leq H(p) - w$. The Lemma follows since $H_{\min} \leq H(S_{\min})$. For positive weights the argument is similar. \square

The following lemma is standard so we omit its proof.

Lemma 2.22. *Let (M, ω) be a compact symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action on M . Let S be a gradient sphere in M with weight w such that $S_{\min} \in M_{\min}$.*

1. *If $\text{codim}(M_{\min}) = 2$, then $w = 1$.*
2. *If $\text{codim}(M_{\min}) = 4$ and the weights at M_{\min} are $\{1, m\}$. Then w is equal to 1 or m .*

2.4 Proof of Proposition 1.10

In this section we prove the weight sum formula stated in Proposition 1.10. For symplectic Fano manifolds this formula was given by Cho and Kim [5, Example 4.3] in the case when S^1 -action is semi-free and in [3] for all actions.

Proof of Proposition 1.10. By adding a constant to the Hamiltonian, we may assume that Equality (1) holds for M_{\min} . We will deduce then that Equality (1) holds for all points in M^{S^1} . The main idea here is the following: any connected component of M^{S^1} can be connected to M_{\min} by a chain of gradient spheres. For this reason it is enough to prove that for each gradient sphere $S \subset M$ the difference of values of H at its two fixed points is equal to the difference of the sums of weights.

Let S be a gradient sphere in M . Denote by w_i the weights at S_{\max} and by w'_i the weights at S_{\min} . By finding an equivariant parametrisation $p : S^2 \rightarrow S$ and applying Lemma 2.15 to the pull-back bundle p^*TM on S^2 , we have that

$$\langle c_1(M), S \rangle = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w'_i - \sum_{i=1}^n w_i}{w(S)}.$$

On the other hand by Lemma 2.20 we have that

$$\langle [\omega], S \rangle = \frac{H(S_{\max}) - H(S_{\min})}{w(S)}.$$

Since S is represented by a sphere, the relative symplectic Fano condition gives that $\langle [\omega], S \rangle = \langle c_1(M), S \rangle$. Hence,

$$H(S_{\max}) - H(S_{\min}) = \sum_{i=1}^n w'_i - \sum_{i=1}^n w_i.$$

This finishes the proof. \square

2.4.1 The converse

Here we give a partial converse to Proposition 1.10.

Proposition 2.23. *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action and Hamiltonian H . Suppose that for any fixed submanifold F of index two or zero, $H(F) = -w_1 - \dots - w_n$ where $\{w_i\}$ is the set of weights for the action along F . Suppose moreover that restrictions of ω and $c_1(M)$ to M_{\min} coincide in cohomology. Then M is a symplectic Fano manifold.*

The proof relies on a standard lemma, whose proof we give for completeness.

Lemma 2.24. *Let (M, ω) be a compact Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold with a compatible S^1 -invariant metric. For any value $t \in [H_{\min}, H_{\max}]$ set $M_{\leq t} = H^{-1}[H_{\min}, t]$. Then the second homology group $H_2(M_{\leq t}, \mathbb{R})$ is generated by $H_2(M_{\min}, \mathbb{R})$ and the classes of all gradient spheres in M that are contained in $M_{\leq t}$.*

Proof of Lemma 2.24. The statement clearly holds for t close to H_{\min} . Suppose that it is proven for $t = c - \varepsilon$ where c is a critical value. Let us prove it for $t' = c + \varepsilon$. Let F_c be the fixed submanifold at the level $H = c$. Assume for simplicity that it is connected, and let $2k$ be its index. Consider the long exact sequence of the pair $(M_{\leq t'}, M_{\leq t})$:

$$\dots \rightarrow H_2(M_{\leq t}, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H_2(M_{\leq t'}, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H_2(M_{\leq t'}, M_{\leq t}, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \dots$$

By basic Morse theory the quotient space $M_{\leq t'}/M_{\leq t}$ is homotopy equivalent to the Thom space of the negative weight bundle of F_c (see, for example, [21, Lemma 0.4]). So, in the case $k > 1$ we have $H_2(M_{\leq t'}/M_{\leq t}, \mathbb{R}) = 0$ and we are done. In the case $k = 1$, by the Thom isomorphism we have $H_2(M_{\leq t'}/M_{\leq t}, \mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R}$, and the statement holds again, since the homology class of any gradient sphere in M with maximum at F_c doesn't belong to the image of $H_2(M_{\leq t}, \mathbb{R})$ in $H_2(M_{\leq t'}, \mathbb{R})$. \square

Proof of Proposition 2.23. To prove the proposition we will show that the cohomology classes of ω and $c_1(M)$ have the same restriction to $M_{\leq t}$ for all $t \in [H_{\min}, H_{\max}]$:

$$c_1(M)|_{M_{\leq t}} = [\omega]|_{M_{\leq t}} \in H^2(M_{\leq t}, \mathbb{R}). \quad (5)$$

We will do so by increasing t from H_{\min} to H_{\max} . Equality (5) holds for $t = H_{\min}$ by our assumptions. To prove it for a larger t , by Lemma 2.24 we need to show that for any gradient sphere S entirely contained in $M_{\leq t}$ we have $\langle c_1(M), S \rangle = \langle [\omega], S \rangle$. Clearly, we only need to show that (5) is preserved when t passes a critical value of H .

Let c be a critical value of H and let $\varepsilon > 0$ be such that all values in $[c - \varepsilon, c + \varepsilon]$ apart from c are regular. By induction, suppose that Equality (5) holds on $M_{\leq c-\varepsilon}$ and let us prove that it holds on $M_{\leq c+\varepsilon}$. By Lemma 2.24 we need to show that for any gradient sphere S emanating from a fixed point q on the level $H = c$ we have $\langle c_1(M), S \rangle = \langle [\omega], S \rangle$.

Observe first that the weight sum formula (1) holds on $M_{\leq c-\varepsilon}$. Indeed, Equality (5) holds on $M_{\leq c-\varepsilon}$, and by our assumption (1) holds at M_{\min} . So, to prove this claim we can repeat the argument from the proof of Proposition 1.10.

Consider now the case when $q = S_{\max}$ has index 2. By finding an equivariant parametrisation $p : S^2 \rightarrow S$ and applying Lemma 2.15 to p^*TM , we have that

$$\langle c_1(M), S \rangle = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w'_i - \sum_{i=1}^n w_i}{w(S)}.$$

By Lemma 2.20 we have that

$$\langle [\omega], S \rangle = \frac{H(S_{\max}) - H(S_{\min})}{w(S)}.$$

Since the point S_{\max} is of index 2 we have $H(S_{\max}) = -\sum_{i=1}^n w_i$. Since S_{\min} belongs to $M_{\leq c-\varepsilon}$ we have $H(S_{\min}) = -\sum_{i=1}^n w'_i$. Hence, we have $\langle [\omega], S \rangle = \langle c_1(M), S \rangle$ as required.

Suppose now that q has index greater than 2. In this case from standard Morse theory considerations it follows that S is homotopic to a two-sphere that lies entirely in $M_{\leq c-\varepsilon}$, and so $\langle c_1(M), S \rangle = \langle [\omega], S \rangle$ since (5) holds on $M_{\leq c-\varepsilon}$. \square

2.5 Symplectic spheres and irrational ruled surfaces

Here we collect results concerning symplectic spheres and irrational ruled surfaces.

Definition 2.25. Let (M^4, ω) be a symplectic manifold. A class $e \in H_2(M^4, \mathbb{Z})$ is called *exceptional* if it can be represented by a smooth 2-sphere and satisfies $e \cdot e = -1$, $K_{M^4} \cdot e = -1$ and $\int_e \omega > 0$. A smooth sphere representing e is called an *exceptional sphere*.

The following theorem is contained in [40] and [23].

Theorem 2.26. *Let (M^4, ω) be a symplectic manifold and $e \in H_2(M^4, \mathbb{Z})$ be an exceptional class. Then e can be represented as a symplectically embedded S^2 . Moreover, for any almost complex structure J tamed by ω there is an almost complex curve in M^4 realising e .*

The following lemma gives a source of exceptional classes in an iterated blow-up of a complex surface.

Lemma 2.27. *Let $\psi : S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ be an iterated blow-up of \mathbb{C}^2 at $(0, 0)$. Let $\{E_j\}$ denote the irreducible components of $\psi^{-1}(0, 0)$. Then for each E_i there is an exceptional class $\alpha = \sum n_j [E_j] \in H_2(S, \mathbb{Z})$ with $n_j \geq 0$ for each j and $n_i = 1$.*

Proof. The map ψ can be decomposed as a sequence of simple blow-ups $\psi = \psi_n \circ \dots \circ \psi_1$. After re-enumerating divisors E_j if necessary we may assume that E_1 is contracted by ψ_1 , E_2 by $\psi_2 \circ \psi_1$, and so on. Let us denote by E'_i the divisor $\psi_{i-1} \circ \dots \circ \psi_1(E_i)$; this is the exceptional divisor of the simple blow up ψ_i .

Let us isotope E'_i to a smooth sphere that avoids points of indeterminacy of the map $(\psi_{i-1} \circ \dots \circ \psi_1)^{-1}$. It is clear then that the homology class represented by the preimage of this sphere under $(\psi_{i-1} \circ \dots \circ \psi_1)^{-1}$ satisfies the required properties. \square

The next result follows from [27].

Theorem 2.28. *Suppose that e is an exceptional class in a symplectic 4-manifold. Let Σ be an embedded symplectic surface with positive genus, then $e \cdot \Sigma \geq 0$.*

Proof. Let E be a symplectic sphere representing e . By [27, Claim 3.8] we can find a compatible J so that both E and Σ are J -holomorphic. Since E and Σ are distinct, irreducible J -holomorphic curves they intersect non-negatively. \square

Definition 2.29. A symplectic manifold (M^4, ω) is called *rational* if it is a symplectic blow-up in a finite number of points of $\mathbb{C}P^2$ or of a symplectic S^2 -bundle over S^2 .

A symplectic manifold (M^4, ω) is called an *irrational ruled surface* if it is a symplectic blow-up in a finite number of points of a symplectic S^2 -bundle over a positive genus surface.

The following result, which follows from work of Dusa McDuff [29] and Tian-Jun Li [24, Corollary 2], gives a characterisation of rational surfaces and irrational ruled surfaces.

Theorem 2.30. *Let M be a symplectic 4-manifold. If M contains a smoothly embedded sphere S with non-negative self-intersection and of infinite order in $H^2(M, \mathbb{Z})$. Then M is rational or ruled, and M contains a symplectically embedded sphere with non-negative self-intersection.*

In particular, if $\pi_1(M) \neq 0$, M is irrational ruled and contains a symplectically embedded S^2 with self-intersection zero. On the other hand, if $S^2 > 0$, M is rational.

Definition 2.31. The *symplectic fibre* of an irrational ruled surface M^4 is any symplectic $S^2 \subset M^4$ that has zero self-intersection. The homology class of the symplectic fibre is denoted by \mathcal{F} . A *symplectic section* of M^4 is any symplectic surface $\Sigma \subset M^4$ such that $[\Sigma] \cdot \mathcal{F} = \pm 1$.

Remark 2.32. The symplectic fibre in M^4 is unique up to symplectic isotopy by [26, Proposition 3.2]. It follows further from Theorem 2.33 and in particular Corollary 2.34 that the homology class of the fibre satisfies $[\Sigma] \cdot \mathcal{F} = 1$ for any symplectic section Σ (since a section necessarily has positive genus).

The strongest result on irrational ruled surfaces that we need is the following theorem of Zhang [44].

Theorem 2.33. *Let M be an irrational ruled surface of base genus g . Then for any tamed J on M , the following holds.*

1. *There is a unique J -holomorphic subvariety in the symplectic fibre class \mathcal{F} passing through a given point.*
2. *The moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{F}}$ of subvarieties in class \mathcal{F} is homeomorphic to a genus g surface. The number of reducible subvarieties in class \mathcal{F} is at most $b_2(M) - 2$.*
3. *Every irreducible rational curve in M is an irreducible component of a subvariety in class \mathcal{F} .*
4. *The complement to the set of points in $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{F}}$ corresponding to reducible subvarieties has a structure of a smooth surface and the natural map $f : M \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{F}}$ is a continuous map, smooth over this complement.*
5. *Each irreducible component of a subvariety representing the fibre class \mathcal{F} is rational.*

Proof. The first three statements of this theorem is [44, Theorem 1.2], the only addition is the bound on the number of reducible fibres. This bound holds, since each reducible fibre contains a sphere with negative self-intersection.

The continuity of the map $M \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{F}}$ is [44, Corollary 3.9]. The smoothness of the moduli space of irreducible fibres and the smoothness of the map to this space is explained in discussions after the proof of [44, Corollary 3.9]. The last claim follows from applying [44, Lemma 3.2] and [28, Theorem 1.5]. \square

We will need three corollaries of this theorem, two immediate and one which is a bit more technical.

Corollary 2.34. *Any symplectic surface Σ of positive genus in an irrational ruled surface M intersects positively the fibre class of the surface.*

Proof. Choose a tamed J on M such that Σ is almost complex. Let $p \in \Sigma$ be a point and consider the almost complex subvariety V in class \mathcal{F} passing through p . Σ is not a connected component of V by Theorem 2.33 5). Hence $V \cdot \Sigma > 0$. \square

Corollary 2.35. *Let (M, ω) be an irrational ruled surface and let \mathcal{F} be the fibre class. If $\Sigma \subset M$ is a symplectic sphere with $[\Sigma] \neq \mathcal{F}$ then $\int_{\mathcal{F}} \omega > \int_{\Sigma} \omega$.*

Proof. Consider any tamed J on M for which Σ is almost complex. Then by Theorem 2.33 3) surface Σ is an irreducible component of an almost-complex subvariety representing the class \mathcal{F} . This proves the corollary since $[\Sigma] \neq \mathcal{F}$. \square

Corollary 2.36. *Suppose we are in the setting of Theorem 2.33 and let $f : M \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{F}}$ be the natural map to the moduli space of fibres. Let $\Sigma \subset M$ be a smooth almost complex surface with $g(\Sigma) > 0$. Then the induced map $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{F}}$ is a topological ramified cover of degree $d = \Sigma \cdot \mathcal{F}$. Moreover, the number of irreducible fibres tangent to Σ is at most $d(2 - 2g) - \chi(\Sigma)$.*

Proof. Since Σ is almost complex, it intersects all fibres (in particular reducible ones) in at most d points. Hence, by Theorem 2.33 4) on the complement to the finite set $Y \subset \Sigma$ of points where Σ intersects reducible fibres, the map $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{F}}$ is smooth. Note as well that f is orientation preserving at points where Σ is transversal to fibres. It follows from the proof of Lemma A.14 that close to points of $(\Sigma \setminus Y)$ where Σ is tangent to fibres the map f is a ramified cover. Hence, to prove the statement it is sufficient to establish the following Lemma 2.37. \square

Lemma 2.37. *Let Σ_1 and Σ_2 be two compact, smooth and oriented 2-dimensional surfaces and let $\{y_1, \dots, y_k\} = Y$ be a finite collection of points in Σ_1 . Suppose that $\varphi : \Sigma_1 \rightarrow \Sigma_2$ is a continuous map of degree $d > 0$, whose restriction to $\Sigma_1 \setminus Y$ is a smooth ramified cover. Then the map φ is a (topological) ramified cover and the number of branching points is at most $d \cdot \chi(\Sigma_2) - \chi(\Sigma_1)$.*

Proof. Let us show first that the number of branching points in $\Sigma_1 \setminus Y$ is finite and in fact at most $2d - \chi(\Sigma_1)$. Indeed, let $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_e\} \subset \Sigma_1 \setminus Y$ be a subset of the set of ramification points of φ . Perturbing slightly φ we can assure that the sets $\varphi(X)$ and $\varphi(Y)$ are disjoint. Let us choose a disk $D \subset \Sigma_2$ that contains $\varphi(X)$ and is disjoint from $\varphi(Y)$. Then φ induces a ramified cover from $\varphi^{-1}(D)$ to D and so by the Riemann-Hurwitz formula $\chi(\varphi^{-1}(D)) \leq d - e$. At the same time, since $\varphi^{-1}(D)$ is a subsurface of Σ_1 with at most d boundary components we have $\chi(\varphi^{-1}(D)) \geq \chi(\Sigma_1) - d$. This gives the desired bound on the number of branching points in $\Sigma \setminus Y$. Since this number is finite, it is not hard to see that φ is a topological ramified cover. Now, the bound on the total number of ramifications follows again from the Riemann-Hurwitz formula. \square

2.6 Orbifolds and reduced spaces of Hamiltonian S^1 -manifolds

Orbifolds play a crucial role in this article, we collect here some necessary definitions (omitting the most standard details) and then discuss reduced spaces.

For a point p in an orbifold M the *isotropy group* or *stabilizer* of p is denoted by Γ_p . The *orbifold locus* of an orbifold M is the union of all points of M with non-trivial stabilizers, it will be denoted by $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M)$. The orbifold locus $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M)$ has a

natural stratification, where a k -dimensional stratum consists of points p in M such that the action of Γ_p of $T_p M$ fixes a plane of co-dimension k . All the points of the zero-dimensional stratum of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M)$ will be called *maximal* points.

For each orbifold M one can speak about *sub-orbifolds*, i.e., subsets $N \subset M$ such that for each point $x \in N$ the preimage of N in a local orbi-chart of M is a submanifold. For each sub-orbifold N in an orbifold M the *orbifold normal vector bundle* to N in M is defined³.

We will be especially interested in symplectic 4-dimensional orbifolds with cyclic isotropy groups. In this case the complement to the zero-dimensional stratum in $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M)$ is the union of 2-dimensional surfaces. We will need the following definition later on.

Definition 2.38. Let M^4 be a smooth 4-dimensional orbifold and let M^2 be a 2-dimensional sub-orbifold. We will say that M^2 is *transversal to the orbifold locus* if in local orbi-charts M^2 is transversal to the set of points with non-trivial stabilizers and doesn't pass through maximal points in $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$.

It is well known that for a symplectic manifold (M, ω) with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action the reduced spaces corresponding to regular values of the Hamiltonian inherit a natural symplectic orbifold structure [42]. This statement has the following refinement when the dimension of M is at most 6.

Lemma 2.39. *In the case when the dimension of M is (at most) 6 the reduced spaces have the structure of topological orbifolds for all values of H .*

Proof. Indeed at critical values different from H_{\min} and H_{\max} the symplectic quotient can be locally identified with a GIT quotient of \mathbb{C}^3 by some linear \mathbb{C}^* -action, which is always a complex orbifold of dimension 2. \square

This lemma does not hold in dimension 8 and higher, as the example of linear Hamiltonian S^1 -action with weights $(1, 1, -1, -1)$ on \mathbb{C}^4 shows.

We now focus on the case when $\dim(M) = 6$. Note that since M_c is a topological orbifold for all $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$, that $H^2(M_c)$ has a well-defined intersection form.

Theorem 2.40. *Suppose M is a 6-dimensional closed symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action, such that $\dim(M_{\min}) = 2$. Then for any $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$*

$$b^+(M_c) = 1.$$

Proof. From the wall-crossing formulas for signature and Betti numbers given in [31], we see that $b^+(M_c)$ does not vary for different values of c . For c close enough to H_{\min} , M_c is homeomorphic to an S^2 -bundle over M_{\min} , hence satisfies $b^+(M_c) = 1$. \square

The next lemma is standard and follows from Chevalley-Shephard-Todd theorem.

³Here, slightly informally, an *orbifold vector bundle* of rank k over an n -dimensional orbifold is an orbifold that admits an open cover by orbifolds $(B^n \times \mathbb{R}^k)/\Gamma$ where Γ is a finite group that sends \mathbb{R}^k -fibres to \mathbb{R}^k -fibres and preserves the linear structure on them.

Lemma 2.41. *The underlying topological space of a 2-dimensional complex orbifold has a structure of a complex analytic surface with (isolated) quotient singularities.*

Pre-symplectic submanifolds and orbifolds. The following definition and theorem explain the relation between a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold and symplectic sub-orbifolds of its reduced spaces.

Definition 2.42. A pre-symplectic S^1 -manifold is a $2k + 1$ -dimensional smooth manifold with a fixed-point free S^1 -action and a 2-form ω that has constant rank k and is preserved by the S^1 -action.

Lemma 2.43. *Let (M^{2n}, ω) be a symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Let c be a regular value of H and let $\pi : H^{-1}(c) \rightarrow M_c$ be the projection. The preimage under π of any symplectic sub-orbifold of M_c is a pre-symplectic submanifold of $H^{-1}(c)$.*

Proof. This follows immediately from the slice theorem [1, Theorem 2.1.1]. \square

2.7 Kähler reduction

In this section we collect some facts about the complex structure on reduced spaces for S^1 -actions on Kähler manifolds.

Theorem 2.44. *Let (X, g) be a complex projective manifold with an isometric S^1 -action with Hamiltonian H . Then the following statements hold*

1. *For any regular value c of H the reduced space $X_c = H^{-1}(c)/S^1$ is a Kähler orbifold with respect to the quotient metric.*
2. *For a general $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$ let $U_c \subset X$ be the Zariski open subset of X consisting of points whose \mathbb{C}^* orbit closures intersect $H^{-1}(c)$. Then the space X_c can be equipped with a complex analytic structure by identifying it with the categorical quotient $U_c//\mathbb{C}^*$.*
3. *In the case where X has complex dimension 3, the reduced space X_c has a complex analytic structure of a complex surface with isolated quotient singularities for any $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$.*

These facts are quite well known, we will give a brief explanation.

Proof. Statement 1) is classical. Statement 2) can be found, for example, in [18] and [11], we will recall the main idea. Note, that there is a natural continuous map $\phi_c : U_c \rightarrow X_c$ which sends each \mathbb{C}^* -orbit in U_c to a point in X_c corresponding to the intersection of the closure of the orbit with $H^{-1}(c)$ (this intersection is either a circle or a point from X^{S^1}). The map ϕ_c identifies certain \mathbb{C}^* -orbits in U_c , namely the orbits whose closure contains the same point in $X^{S^1} \cup H^{-1}(c)$. On the topological level this is exactly the

identification that one has to do to get the categorical quotient $U_c//\mathbb{C}^*$ from the usual quotient U_c/\mathbb{C}^* . Hence, the map ϕ_c induces a homeomorphism from $U_c//\mathbb{C}^*$ to X_c .

As for statement 3), in case c is a regular value of H the reduced space X_c has a structure of complex 2-dimensional orbifold, and so we can use Lemma 2.41. In the case c is a critical value, X_c is a topological orbifold (see Lemma 2.39), and it is well known that such a complex analytic surface has a structure of a complex surface with isolated quotient singularities. \square

Theorem 2.45. *Let (X, g) be a complex projective manifold with an isometric S^1 -action with Hamiltonian H . Let $c_1 < c_2$ be two values of H in (H_{\min}, H_{\max}) and let $gr_{c_2}^{c_1} : X_{c_1} \dashrightarrow X_{c_2}$ be the partially defined gradient map. Then the following statements hold*

1. *The map $gr_{c_2}^{c_1}$ is a bi-meromorphic with respect to the analytic structures on X_{c_1} and X_{c_2} from Theorem 2.44. The map is an isomorphism of complex analytic spaces if the interval $[c_1, c_2]$ does not contain critical values of H .*
2. *Suppose that c_2 is the only critical value of H in $[c_1, c_2]$. Then the map $gr_{c_2}^{c_1}$ can be extended to a regular map from X_{c_1} to X_{c_2} . Moreover for any complex submanifold $Y \subset M^{S^1} \cap H^{-1}(c_2)$ with $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} Y = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} X - 2$ the map $gr_{c_2}^{c_1}$ is invertible on the pre-image of a neighbourhood of Y .*

Proof. 1) Consider the Zariski open subset $U_{c_1 c_2}$ of X , consisting of all \mathbb{C}^* -orbits that intersect both level sets $H = c_1$ and $H = c_2$. Then $U_{c_1 c_2}/\mathbb{C}^*$ is embedded as an open subset in both U_{c_1}/\mathbb{C}^* and U_{c_2}/\mathbb{C}^* and consequently, by Theorem 2.44, in X_{c_1} and X_{c_2} . This gives us an identification of two open subsets of X_{c_1} and X_{c_2} . Since the geodesics in X are \mathbb{R}^* -orbits, the partially defined map $gr_{c_2}^{c_1} : X_{c_1} \dashrightarrow X_{c_2}$ gives us the same identification.

2) According to Remark 2.6 the bi-meromorphic map $gr_{c_2}^{c_1} : X_{c_1} \dashrightarrow X_{c_2}$ can be extended to a continuous map, i.e., this map extends to a regular map. Since X_{c_2} is smooth along Y and the extended map is one-to one close to Y , its inverse exists in a neighbourhood of Y . \square

Lemma 2.46. *Let (M, ω) be a compact symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Suppose that N is a fixed submanifold of complex codimension 2, such that there is an invariant, compatible Kähler metric on a neighbourhood U of N , that restricts to a Kähler form on N . Consider the equivariant blow up*

$$\pi : Bl_N(M) \rightarrow M$$

constructed in Lemma A.13, with invariant symplectic form $\tilde{\omega} = \pi^(\omega) + \omega_E$ (which is Kähler on $\pi^{-1}(U)$). Let $S(\omega_E) \subseteq Bl_N(M)$ be the support of ω_E . Then the following statements hold.*

1. *The S^1 -action on $Bl_N(M)$ is Hamiltonian. The Hamiltonian $\tilde{H} : Bl_N(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ may be chosen so that $\tilde{H} = \pi^*H$ on $Bl_N(M) \setminus S(\omega_E)$.*

2. Let $c = H(N)$. Then the S^1 -action on $\tilde{H}^{-1}(c) \cap \pi^{-1}(U)$ is fixed point free. Set $M'_c = \tilde{H}^{-1}(c)/S^1$. Then π induces a map $\pi_c : M'_c \rightarrow M_c$, which is a biholomorphism over U_c .

Proof. 1. Let \tilde{X} be the vector field generating the S^1 -action on $Bl_N(M)$. Note that $\iota_{\tilde{X}}\tilde{\omega}$ is exact, indeed any 1-cycle α in $Bl_N(M)$ may be homotoped to $Bl_N(M) \setminus S(\omega_E)$, on which π is an equivariant symplectomorphism. Therefore

$$\int_{\alpha} \iota_{\tilde{X}}\tilde{\omega} = 0$$

and we conclude that $[\iota_{\tilde{X}}\tilde{\omega}] = 0$ in $H^1(Bl_N(M), \mathbb{R})$. Let \tilde{H} be a function on $Bl_N(M)$ such that $d\tilde{H} = \iota_{\tilde{X}}\tilde{\omega}$. Since π is an equivariant symplectomorphism on $Bl_N(M) \setminus S(\omega_E)$, $d\tilde{H} = d(\pi^*H)$ there. Hence, $(-\tilde{H} + \pi^*H)|_{Bl_N(M) \setminus S(\omega_E)}$ is constant, and we may remove this discrepancy by adding a constant to \tilde{H} .

2. Let E be the exceptional divisor of π and E_{\min}, E_{\max} the submanifolds where \tilde{H} acquires its min / max. Let us first show

$$\tilde{H}(E_{\min}) < c < \tilde{H}(E_{\max}),$$

which will imply that there are no fixed points in $\tilde{H}^{-1}(c) \cap \pi^{-1}(U)$. Indeed, before we blow up N , for each point p of N there are two gradient spheres S_1 and S_2 in N containing p . The preimage of $S_1 \cup S_2$ in the blow up is a union of three spheres two of which S'_1 and S'_2 project bijectively to S_1 and S_2 . The area of S'_i is less than the area of S_i , so applying Lemma 2.20 to these spheres together with claim 1. we obtain the inequality.

On $Bl_N(M) \setminus S(\omega_E)$, $\tilde{H} = \pi^*H$ so here π maps $\tilde{H}^{-1}(c)$ to $H^{-1}(c)$, inducing a map on reduced spaces which we denote π_c . Let us show next that π_c can be extended to all of M'_c , restricting to a biholomorphism over U_c .

Let $F : U \rightarrow U_c$ be the map that associates to each $p \in U$ the trace in U_c of the gradient sphere containing p . Note that F is holomorphic by construction.

Over U , π is holomorphic and S^1 -equivariant, so π maps gradient spheres in $Bl_N(M)$ to gradient spheres or fixed points in M . Hence, where it is defined, the composition $F \circ \pi$ descends to a map on M'_c which we set to be π_c . Since $F \circ \pi$ is holomorphic, the induced map on the reduced space is also holomorphic. The fact that π_c is a biholomorphism over U_c follows since it is a holomorphic bijection. \square

2.8 Equivariant Darboux-Weinstein theorem

Definition 2.47. A symplectic G -orbifold is a symplectic orbifold with a Hamiltonian action of a compact group G . We say that a symplectomorphism $\varphi : X \rightarrow Y$ of two symplectic G -orbifolds is a G -symplectomorphism if it commutes with the G -actions.

Theorem 2.48 (Darboux-Weinstein). *Let (M, ω) and (M', ω') be two symplectic G -orbifolds and let $N \subset M$ and $N' \subset M'$ be symplectic sub-orbifolds with normal orbifold bundles E and E' respectively.*

1. Let $D: E \rightarrow E'$ be a G -isomorphism of symplectic orbifold bundles covering a G -symplectomorphism $\phi_0: N \rightarrow N'$. Then there exist neighbourhoods W and W' of N and N' and a G -symplectomorphism $\phi: W \rightarrow W'$ extending ϕ_0 such that the differential of ϕ induces the map D from the normal bundle of N (i.e. E) to the normal bundle of N' (i.e. E').
2. Suppose in addition that there are points $p_1, \dots, p_m \in N^G$ and locally defined G -symplectomorphisms ψ_1, \dots, ψ_m with ψ_i defined near p_i , taking values in M' and with $\psi_i|_N = \phi_0$. Suppose, moreover, that on the normal bundle of N , we have $D = D\psi_j$. Then we can arrange that for each i , there is a neighbourhood of p_i (possibly smaller than the domain of ψ_i) on which $\phi = \psi_i$.

Proof. The proof (and the statement) of the standard equivariant Darboux-Weinstein theorem for symplectic manifolds can be found in [15, Theorem 22.1]. The extension of this proof to orbifolds and to the relative statement 2) is straightforward. \square

The following lemma is quite standard so we omit a proof.

Lemma 2.49. *Let M be a symplectic manifold, $x \in M$ be a point, and $U(x)$ a neighbourhood of x . Then for any symplectic map $\varphi: U(x) \rightarrow M$ with $\varphi(x) = x$ there exists a smaller neighbourhood $U'(x) \subset U(x)$ and a symplectic automorphism φ' of M that satisfies the following:*

- 1) $\varphi' = \varphi$ on $U'(x)$.
- 2) The restriction of φ' to $M \setminus U(x)$ is the identity map.

Remark 2.50. Note that Lemma 2.49 has a version for orbifolds in which one should assume that the linear automorphism induced on the tangent orbifold space to x by φ is isotopic to the identity map as a G_x -map, where G_x is the stabilizer of x .

2.9 Hamiltonian S^1 -actions on del Pezzo surfaces

Recall that a symplectic 4-manifold has a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with isolated fixed points if and only if it is symplectomorphic to a toric surface [19, Theorem 5.1].

In this subsection, we prove some basic facts about actions on the del Pezzo surfaces. There are 5 toric del Pezzo's: $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ blown up in up to 3 non-collinear points and $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$.

One of the useful results proven here is that if an S^1 -action on a del Pezzo contains a fixed point with weights equal to any of $\{1, 1\}$, $\{-1, -1\}$ or $\{1, -1\}$, then the Hamiltonian is bounded between -3 and 3 .

Let (X, ω) be a toric symplectic 4-manifold with moment map $\mu: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$. Suppose we have a Hamiltonian S^1 -action on X generated by $H: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then H is the composition of μ with a linear projection to \mathbb{R} [19, Theorem 5.1]. The choice of such a projection amounts to a choice of linear embedding $S^1 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{T}^2$.

Definition 2.51. A *boundary divisor* in X is the pre-image $\mu^{-1}(E)$ where E is an edge of the moment polygon.

Note that boundary divisors are gradient spheres. Recall that a fixed point p is called *extremal* if H attains its minimum or maximum at p .

Lemma 2.52. *Let (X, ω, μ) be a toric symplectic 4-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action generated by Hamiltonian $H = L \circ \mu$, where μ is the toric moment map and $L : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a linear projection. Suppose further that the S^1 -action has isolated fixed points.*

1. *A gradient sphere in X containing a non-extremal fixed point is a boundary divisor.*
2. *Isotropy spheres in X are boundary divisors.*

Proof. 1. There are precisely two gradient spheres containing a non-extremal fixed point p (by considering a local model for the action around p). These are the two boundary divisors containing p .

2. Let p be an extremal fixed point. Then since the S^1 -action is effective, any gradient sphere containing p with weight greater than 1 is a boundary divisor. Hence 2 follows from 1. \square

Next, we state a Proposition due to Karshon which will be useful for us.

Proposition 2.53. *[41, Proposition 5.2] Suppose that (N, ω) is symplectic 4-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with isolated fixed points. Let $p_{\min}, p_{\max} \in N$ be the fixed points where the Hamiltonian attains its minimum and maximum respectively.*

Then the multiplicity of the weight 1 at p_{\min} is equal to the number of fixed points of index 2 with a weight equal to -1 . Similarly, the multiplicity of the weight -1 at p_{\max} is equal to the number of fixed points of index 2 with a weight equal to 1.

Corollary 2.54. *Suppose that (N, ω) is symplectic 4-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with isolated fixed points and Hamiltonian $H : N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Suppose that there exists fixed points $p_1, p_2 \in N$, both with weights $\{-1, n\}$ ($n > 1$) and such that $H(p_1) = H(p_2)$. Then the only fixed point contained in $H^{-1}([H_{\min}, H(p_1)])$ is p_{\min} .*

Proof. By Proposition 2.53 the weights at p_{\min} are $\{1, 1\}$. Consider the two boundary divisors S_1 and S_2 containing p_{\min} . Then for each i , one of the weights at $(S_i)_{\max}$ is -1 . By Proposition 2.53 these fixed points must be $\{p_1, p_2\}$, the result follows. \square

Lemma 2.55. *Consider a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with isolated fixed points on a toric del Pezzo surface (X, ω) . Then any gradient sphere in X with weight 1 contains an extremal fixed point.*

Proof. Let S be a gradient sphere with weight 1. Suppose that neither of S_{\min}, S_{\max} is an extremal fixed point. Then the weights at S_{\max}, S_{\min} are $\{n, -1\}, \{1, -n'\}$ respectively where $n, n' > 0$. Hence, by the weight sum formula (1) we have that $H(S_{\min}) \geq 0 \geq H(S_{\max})$ which is a contradiction. \square

Remark 2.56. Note that amongst the boundary divisors there are at most 4 containing an extremal fixed point of X . Hence, by Lemma 2.55 there are at most 4 boundary divisors that can have weight 1.

Lemma 2.57. *Let (X, ω) be a toric del Pezzo surface and $S \subseteq X$ be a boundary divisor. Then*

$$\int_S \omega \leq 3.$$

Proof. Note that S is the strict transform of a boundary divisor in a minimal model for X or the exceptional curve of a blow-up. Exceptional curves have area 1 in the anti-canonical polarization. The minimal model for X is either $\mathbb{C}P^2$ or $\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1$, and boundary divisors in these surfaces have area 3 and 2 respectively. \square

Corollary 2.58. *Let (X, ω) be a toric del Pezzo surface with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with isolated fixed points. Let p_{\min} be the fixed point where H attains its minimum. Suppose that p is a fixed point with weights $\{-1, n\}$ where $n \geq 2$. Then*

1. $H(p) - H(p_{\min}) \leq 3$.
2. The weights at p_{\min} are $\{1, m\}$ where $m \geq (H(p) - H(p_{\min}))$.
3. There is no fixed point $p' \in X$ such that $H(p') \in (H(p_{\min}), H(p))$.

Proof. 1. Let S be the boundary divisor with $S_{\max} = p$. By Lemma 2.55 we have that $S_{\min} = p_{\min}$. Note also that S has weight 1. Hence, by Lemma 2.20 combined with Lemma 2.57 we have that $H(S_{\max}) - H(S_{\min}) = \int_S \omega \leq 3$.

2. Note that the weights at p_{\min} are $\{1, m\}$. By the weight sum formula (1)

$$H(p) = -n + 1, \quad H(p_{\min}) = -1 - m.$$

Therefore $H(p) - H(p_{\min}) = m + (-n + 2) \leq m$, since $n \geq 2$.

3. The weights at p_{\min} are $\{1, m\}$ for some $m \geq 1$. Consider the two boundary divisors with minimum equal to p_{\min} , say S_1 with weight 1 and S_2 with weight m . Since $(S_1)_{\max} = p$ we have $H((S_1)_{\max}) = H(p)$. Since S_2 has weight m , $H((S_2)_{\max}) \geq H(p_{\min}) + m$ by Lemma 2.20. Finally, $H(p_{\min}) + m \geq H(p)$ by 2. The lemma follows. \square

Lemma 2.59. *Let (X, ω) be a toric del Pezzo surface with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Suppose X has a fixed point with weights equal to any of $\{1, 1\}$, $\{-1, -1\}$ or $\{1, -1\}$. Then we have*

- 1) The weights of S^1 -action on all boundary divisors are 0, 1 or 2.
- 2) $H(X) \subseteq [-3, 3]$.

Proof. 1) Note that the S^1 -action on X extends to a holomorphic \mathbb{C}^* -action. We can blow up X in $4 - b_2(X)$ points fixed by \mathbb{C}^* , to get the toric del Pezzo surface X' isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}P^2$ blown up in 3 non-collinear points. The \mathbb{C}^* -action on X lifts to

a \mathbb{C}^* -action on X' . Since the weights of boundary divisors of X form a subset of the weights of boundary divisors of X' , it is sufficient to prove statement 1) of X' .

The surface X' has 6 boundary divisors and the weights on its opposite divisors coincide. Since X has a fixed point with weights $\{\pm 1, \pm 1\}$, it follows that the weights of the \mathbb{C}^* -action on 4 boundary divisors of X' are equal to 1. Clearly, two of such divisors share a point and so we see that X' has a fixed point with weights $(1, 1)$, $(-1, -1)$ or $(1, -1)$. By a direct inspection one can check that in the first two cases the weights of the remaining two out of six boundary divisors are equal to 2, while in the third case the remaining two weights are equal to 0.

2) Since by 1) the weights of the S^1 -action at X_{\min} and X_{\max} are coprime and are equal to 0, ± 1 or ± 2 , the statement follows from the weight sum formula 1.10 (1). \square

3 Proof of Theorem 1.3 in the case $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$ and $\dim(M_{\max}) \geq 2$

Throughout this section we assume that M is a 6-dimensional symplectic Fano manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Our aim is to prove Theorem 1.3 in the case when $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$ and $\dim(M_{\max}) \geq 2$. Namely, we prove in this case that M_{\min} is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface, this is done in Theorem 3.5.

To prove this result we study the reduced spaces (M_x, ω_x) , and show that as x approaches 0 from below, the cohomology class of ω_x approaches the first Chern class of M_x , in an appropriate sense. In the course of the proof we show that the S^1 -action on M should be semi-free.

Let us mention related results of Cho [3] and Futaki [10]. Cho shows that for a symplectic Fano manifold X with a semi-free Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that 0 is a regular value of the Hamiltonian, the reduced space X_0 is a symplectic Fano. Futaki has proven the analogous result in the Kähler category.

3.1 Maximal downward chains

In this subsection we introduce and study maximal downward chains. Recall that $w(S)$ denotes the weight of a gradient sphere S and S_{\min}, S_{\max} are the fixed points in S where the Hamiltonian attains its min / max.

Definition 3.1. Let X be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold. A *maximal downward chain* in X consists of a sequence of fixed points $p_1, \dots, p_k \in X$ ($k \geq 2$) along with a sequence of gradient spheres S_1, \dots, S_{k-1} , such that the following conditions hold.

1. $(S_i)_{\max} = p_i$ and $(S_i)_{\min} = p_{i+1}$ for each i .
2. $w(S_i) > 1$ for each i .
3. The weights at p_k are all greater than or equal to -1 .

Lemma 3.2. *Let X be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold and let F be a fixed submanifold in X with a weight w such that $|w| > 1$. Then there exists a maximal downward chain p_1, \dots, p_k such that $p_i \in F$ for some i and $|w| = w(S_j)$ for some j .*

Proof. Note first that if S is a gradient sphere with $w(S) > 1$, then S_{\max}, S_{\min} may be extended to form a maximal downward chain. Indeed, set $p_1 = S_{\max}$ and $p_2 = S_{\min}$. Inductively if p_k has a weight $v < -1$, then we can find a gradient sphere S_k of weight v with $(S_k)_{\max} = p_k$, and set $(S_k)_{\min} = p_{k+1}$ continuing the sequence. We may continue until all the weights at p_k are at least -1 , i.e. we have a maximal downward chain.

If F has a weight w , then any point of F is contained in a gradient sphere of weight $|w|$. So, if $|w| > 1$, then by the above there is a maximal downward chain such that $p_i \in F$ for $i = 1$ or $i = 2$. \square

Lemma 3.3. *Let M be a symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Suppose that $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$, then the following holds.*

1. *Any maximal downward chain p_1, \dots, p_k in M satisfies $k = 2$ and $w(S_1) = 2$. Furthermore, p_1 and p_2 are isolated fixed points, the weights at p_2 are $\{-1, -1, 2\}$ and $H(p_1) \geq 2$.*
2. *Suppose M contains a fixed submanifold F with a weight w such that $|w| > 1$. Then F is an isolated fixed point. Moreover, F coincides either with p_1 or with p_2 for some maximal downward chain as in 1.*
3. *The weights at each fixed submanifold in M have modulus at most 2.*

Proof. 1. Firstly, note that since the action is effective the weights at M_{\min} are $\{0, 0, 1\}$. Hence, $H(M_{\min}) = -1$ by the weight sum formula 1.10(1).

Let p_1, \dots, p_k be a maximal downward chain in M . First, we will prove that the weights at p_k are $\{-1, -1, 2\}$. Let $w_1 \leq w_2 \leq w_3$ be the weights at p_k . By the weight sum formula 1.10(1) we have that

$$-w_1 - w_2 - w_3 = H(p_k).$$

By condition 2) of Definition 3.1, p_k has a weight with modulus at least 2, hence $p_k \notin M_{\min}$. Therefore, p_k must have some negative weight, and so $w_1 < 0$. On the other hand, condition 3) of Definition 3.1 tells us that $w_1 \geq -1$, so $w_1 = -1$.

Since $p_k \notin M_{\min}$, $H(p_k) \geq H(M_{\min}) + 1 = 0$. By the above expression for $H(p_k)$,

$$-1 + w_2 + w_3 \leq 0.$$

Condition 2) of Definition 3.1 implies $w_3 \geq 2$. Together with the above inequality, this implies that $w_2 \leq -1$, but since also $w_2 \geq w_1 = -1$ we deduce that $w_1 = w_2 = -1$, $w_3 = 2$ and $H(p_k) = 0$. Let us now show that $k = 2$ and $H(p_1) \geq 2$.

Since $w_3 = 2$, one of the weights at p_{k-1} is -2 . Let $w'_1 \leq w'_2$ be the two other weights. From [41, Lemma 2.6] it follows that w'_1 and w'_2 are odd integers, so that p_{k-1} is an isolated fixed point with weights $\{-2, w'_1, w'_2\}$.

Now we assume for a contradiction that $k \geq 3$. Applying condition 2) of Definition 3.1 to S_{k-2} we deduce that $w'_2 \geq 3$. Applying the weight sum formula 1.10(1) to p_{k-1} we see that

$$-w'_1 = H(p_{k-1}) - 2 + w'_2 \geq H(p_{k-1}) + 1.$$

Consider finally the gradient sphere S with weight $|w'_1|$ and $S_{\max} = p_{k-1}$. From the above inequality, along with Lemma 2.20, we must have $S_{\min} \in M_{\min}$, which contradicts Lemma 2.22.

Hence, $k = 2$ and $p_1 = p_{k-1}$ is an isolated fixed point. By applying Lemma 2.20 to S_1 we see that $H(p_1) \geq H(p_2) + 2 = 2$.

2. Let F be a fixed submanifold with a weight w such that $|w| > 1$. By Lemma 3.2 we can form a maximal downward chain with $p_i \in F$ for some i , which must be of the required form by 1. In particular, F is an isolated fixed point.

3. Suppose for a contradiction that there was a fixed submanifold F with a weight w , such that $|w| > 2$, then by Lemma 3.2 we could form a maximal downward chain such that $w(S_j) > 2$ for some j , contradicting 1. \square

Corollary 3.4. *Let M be a symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Suppose that $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$ and $\dim(M_{\max}) \geq 2$. Then the S^1 -action on M is semi-free and any component of M^{S^1} in the level set $H^{-1}(0)$ is a surface with weights $\{-1, 1, 0\}$.*

Proof. By Lemma 3.3(2), the modulus of each weight at M_{\max} is at most 1. Hence, the weights at M_{\max} are $\{-1, -1, 0\}$ or $\{-1, 0, 0\}$ depending whether $\dim(M_{\max}) = 2$ or 4, and so $1 \leq H_{\max} \leq 2$ by the weight sum formula 1.10(1). Since by the same reasoning $H_{\min} = -1$, we deduce that $0 \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$.

Suppose for a contradiction that there exists a fixed submanifold F with a weight w such that $|w| \geq 2$. Then by Lemma 3.3(2) there is a pair of isolated fixed points $p_1, p_2 \in M$ with $H(p_1) \geq 2 \geq H_{\max}$, contradicting the assumption that $\dim(M_{\max}) \geq 2$. Hence all weights have modulus at most 1, i.e. the action is semi-free.

To see that the only fixed submanifolds in the level set $H^{-1}(0)$ are surfaces, note that any isolated fixed point p has weights $\{-1, 1, 1\}$ or $\{-1, -1, 1\}$, so satisfies $H(p) = \pm 1$ by the weight sum formula 1.10(1). Therefore, the only possible fixed submanifolds in the level set $H^{-1}(0)$ are fixed surfaces with weights $\{-1, 1, 0\}$ as claimed. \square

3.2 Theorem 3.5 and its proof

Theorem 3.5. *Let M be a symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Suppose that $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$ and $\dim(M_{\max}) \geq 2$. Then M_{\min} is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface.*

Proof. We will proceed by applying Lemma 2.7 to the reduced spaces M_x of M . By the symplectic Fano condition $[\omega] = c_1(M)$ we get

$$[\omega|_{M_{\min}}] = c_1(TM|_{M_{\min}}) = c_1(TM_{\min}) + c_1(N),$$

where N is the normal bundle of M_{\min} .

For $x \in (-1, 0)$ we have that $e(H^{-1}(x)) = c_1(N)$ since for small ε , $H^{-1}(-1 + \varepsilon)$ is isomorphic to the unit circle bundle of N and all values of H in $(-1, 0)$ are regular. Applying Lemma 2.7 for $x \in (-1, 0)$ we have

$$[\omega_x] = c_1(TM_{\min}) - xc_1(N).$$

Hence $[\omega_x]$ tends to $[c_1(TM_{\min})]$ as x tends to 0.

Since by Corollary 3.4 all fixed submanifolds on level 0 are fixed surfaces of weights $\{-1, 1, 0\}$, by [14, Theorem 10.1] we may construct a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{\omega}, \tilde{H})$ and find $\varepsilon > 0$ with the following properties:

1. There is a smooth map $\Psi : \tilde{M} \rightarrow H^{-1}(-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$, such that $\Psi^*H = \tilde{H}$.
2. $\Psi|_{\tilde{H}^{-1}(-\varepsilon, 0)}$ is an equivariant symplectomorphism onto $H^{-1}(-\varepsilon, 0)$.
3. The S^1 -action on \tilde{M} has no fixed points.
4. \tilde{M}_0 is homeomorphic to M_0 .

Applying Lemma 2.7 as above, we see that \tilde{M}_0 is a symplectic Fano 4-manifold, and so it is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface [35, Theorem 1.3]. Note that for any $x \in (-\varepsilon, 0)$, \tilde{M}_x is diffeomorphic to \tilde{M}_0 since \tilde{M} has no fixed points. By conditions 1. and 2. above \tilde{M}_x is diffeomorphic to M_x , and so M_x is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface. Lastly, note that the gradient map gr_{-1}^x provides a diffeomorphism between M_x and M_{\min} . \square

3.3 Restrictions on fixed point data

Finally, we give restrictions on the fixed point data, in the case when $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$ and $\dim(M_{\max}) = 0$. The results of this section are used only in Section 11.1.

Proposition 3.6. *Let M be a symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$ and M_{\max} is a point. Then the weights at M_{\max} are either $\{-1, -1, -1\}$ or $\{-1, -1, -2\}$. Furthermore, non-extremal isolated fixed points in M must have weights $\{1, -1, -2\}$, $\{2, -1, -1\}$ or $\{1, -1, -1\}$.*

Proof. Let p be an isolated fixed point in M such that there is a weight w at p with $|w| > 1$. We will show that the weights at p are either $\{-1, -1, 2\}$, or $\{-1, 1, 2\}$, or $\{-1, -1, -2\}$. From this statement it clearly follows that the weights at M_{\max} are either $\{-1, -1, -1\}$ or $\{-1, -1, -2\}$.

By Lemma 3.3(2), p is equal to one of the fixed points in a maximal downward chain p_1, p_2 of isolated fixed points such that the weights at p_2 are $\{-1, -1, 2\}$ and $H(p_1) \geq 2$. Hence we may assume that $p = p_1$. By [41, Lemma 2.6] the weights at p are $\{-2, w'_1, w'_2\}$ where w'_i are odd integers. Hence, by Lemma 3.3(3) $w'_i = \pm 1$ for each i . Consider now two cases.

Case one $p \neq M_{\max}$. The weights at p are $\{1, -2, w\}$, where $w = 1$ or -1 . By the weight sum formula $H(p) = 1 - w \geq 2$, so we must have $w = -1$.

Case two $p = M_{\max}$. In this case clearly the weights at p are $\{-1, -1, -2\}$.

Hence the weights at p fall into the three possibilities claimed.

To finish the proof it remains to show that non-extremal isolated fixed points with weights of modulus 1, must have weights $\{-1, -1, 1\}$. The only other possibility is a fixed point p with weights $\{-1, 1, 1\}$. In this case $H(p) = -1 = H_{\min}$ by the weight sum formula 1.10(1), which is a contradiction. \square

Definition 3.7. Let M be a symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$ and M_{\max} is a point. Fixed points in M with weights $\{1, -1, -2\}$, $\{2, -1, -1\}$ and $\{1, -1, -1\}$ are referred to as fixed points of types A , B and C respectively. We define n_A , n_B and n_C to be the number of fixed points in M of type A , B and C respectively.

Lemma 3.8. *Let M be a symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$ and M_{\max} is a point.*

1. *In the case when the weights at M_{\max} are $\{-1, -1, -1\}$, we have $n_A = n_B$.*
2. *In the case when the weights at M_{\max} are $\{-1, -1, -2\}$, we have $n_A + 1 = n_B$.*
3. *Any 2-dimensional component of M^{S^1} is contained in the level set $H^{-1}(0)$.*

Proof. Statements 1 and 2 follow from applying Lemma 3.3(1) to a maximal downward chain with p_1 equal to a fixed point with weights $\{-1, 1, -2\}$ or $\{-1, -1, -2\}$.

By Lemma 3.3(2) any fixed surface Σ has weights of modulus at most one. Hence the only possibility for the weights is $\{-1, 1, 0\}$, and Statement 3 follows from applying the weight sum formula 1.10(1). \square

4 Hamiltonian 6-manifolds with 2-dimensional extrema: topology

For the remainder of the article the main object of our consideration will be 6-dimensional Hamiltonian S^1 -manifolds such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of positive genus $g > 0$.

Here, we begin to lay foundations for the construction of a *symplectic fibre*, which is central to the proof of our main results. To be more specific, we will construct the symplectic analogue of an invariant Kähler hypersurface that always exists in the Kähler case, which we will now recall.

Kähler case. Assume that the S^1 -action on M preserves a Kähler metric g compatible with ω . In this case one can show that the following holds.

1. The S^1 -action on M extends to a holomorphic \mathbb{C}^* -action on M .

2. There is a holomorphic map $\phi : M \rightarrow M_{\min}$ sending any \mathbb{C}^* -orbit to a point in M_{\min} . A generic \mathbb{C}^* -orbit is sent by ϕ to the unique point of M_{\min} in its closure.
3. The map ϕ induces a holomorphic map ϕ_c from each reduced space M_c to M_{\min} . For a generic $x \in M_{\min}$ the fibre $\phi_c^{-1}(x)$ is a smooth rational curve. M_c is a 2-dimensional complex orbifold for regular c and $\phi_c^{-1}(x)$ is a sub-orbifold.
4. For a generic point $x \in M_{\min}$ the preimage $\phi^{-1}(x)$ in M is a smooth complex surface with a \mathbb{C}^* -action with isolated fixed points. Hence it is a toric surface.

Symplectic case. Our strategy will be to show that even in the case when a compatible S^1 -invariant Kähler metric does not exist on M , many of the above properties have topological and symplectic analogues⁴. All these analogues will be worked out in Sections 4-8, we briefly summarize this work below.

- In the present section we introduce a topological analogue of the above holomorphic map $\phi : M \rightarrow M_{\min}$. We give a cohomological characterization of the fibre of the induced map $\phi_c : M_c \rightarrow M_{\min}$ (see Theorem 4.6).
- Section 5 serves as a bridge between symplectic and complex situations. In particular, we introduce Kähler structures compatible with the symplectic one on an open neighbourhood of the set of isotropy spheres and fixed points in M .
- Section 6 deals with existence problems for symplectic orbi-spheres in symplectic orbifolds of dimension 4 with cyclic stabilizers. We prove there Theorem 1.6.
- In Section 7 we use results of Section 6 to prove Theorem 7.1, stating that for all regular values of c the reduced space M_c contains a symplectic orbi-sphere in the cohomology class of the fibre of the map $\phi_c : M_c \rightarrow M_{\min}$. An analogue of this statement for critical values is proven in Theorem 7.2.
- Finally, in Section 8 we establish the existence of symplectic fibre - a symplectic hypersurface in M that sits in the same homology class as the preimage of a generic point in M_{\min} under the map ϕ .

4.1 Retraction of M to M_{\min}

In this subsection we introduce an S^1 -invariant retraction ϕ from M to M_{\min} .

Lemma 4.1. *Let M be a compact Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold such that M_{\min} is a surface of genus $g > 0$. Then there exists an S^1 -invariant retraction $\phi : M \rightarrow M_{\min}$.*

⁴It would be interesting to learn if a compatible S^1 -invariant Kähler metric does exist, but we expect it is not always the case.

Proof. Recall that by Theorem 2.12 the homomorphism $i_* : \pi_1(M_{\min}) \rightarrow \pi_1(M)$ induced by the inclusion is an isomorphism. By Theorem 2.14 the quotient map $Q : M \rightarrow M/S^1$ induces an isomorphism $Q_* : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \pi_1(M/S^1)$.

Since M_{\min} is a $K(\pi, 1)$ space, any homomorphism $\varphi : \pi_1(M/S^1) \rightarrow \pi_1(M_{\min})$ can be induced by a continuous map $\pi : M/S^1 \rightarrow M_{\min}$. It follows that the isomorphism $i_*^{-1} \circ Q_*^{-1} : \pi_1(M/S^1) \rightarrow \pi_1(M_{\min})$ is induced by a continuous map π . By the homotopy extension property π can be homotoped to a retraction $\Phi : M/S^1 \rightarrow M_{\min}$. Finally, the S^1 -invariant retraction is given by $\phi = \Phi \circ Q$. \square

Corollary 4.2. *Let x be a value of H and let M_x be the reduced space. Let $\phi_x : M_x \rightarrow M_{\min}$, be the map induced by the S^1 -invariant retraction ϕ . Then ϕ_x induces an isomorphism on π_1 .*

Proof. This corollary follows from the proof [21, Theorem 0.1]. In [21] a natural isomorphism of fundamental groups of all reduced spaces M_x is given and this isomorphism commutes with the homomorphisms induced by maps ϕ_x . \square

We will need one more technical statement in the setting of Lemma 4.1.

Corollary 4.3. *Let $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$ be a critical value of H , and $d > c$ (or $d < c$) be such that the interval $[c, d]$ (or $[d, c]$) does not contain critical values of H apart from c . Consider the gradient map $gr_c^d : M_d \rightarrow M_c$. Then the maps $\phi_c \circ gr_c^d$ and ϕ_d from M_d to M_{\min} are homotopic.*

Proof. Consider the family of maps $\phi_t \circ gr_t^d : M_d \rightarrow M_{\min}$ parametrised by $t \in [c, d]$. This family of maps provides a homotopy between $\phi_c \circ gr_c^d$ and ϕ_d . \square

4.2 The fibre class

Definition 4.4. Let M be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6 with M_{\min} a surface of positive genus and let $A \in H^2(M_{\min})$ be the class with $\int_{M_{\min}} A = 1$. Let $\phi : M \rightarrow M_{\min}$ be an S^1 -invariant retraction and $\phi_c : M_c \rightarrow M_{\min}$ be the induced map. The class $\phi_c^*(A) \in H^2(M_c)$ and its Poincaré dual are called the *fibre classes* of M_c . We will denote $\phi_c^*(A)$ by \mathcal{F}_c^* and the Poincaré dual class by \mathcal{F}_c .

Recall from Theorem 2.40 the intersection form on $H^2(M_c)$ has signature $(1, n)$. The following lemma from linear algebra will be useful for studying cohomology classes in M_c .

Lemma 4.5. (*Light cone lemma*) *Let Q be a symmetric bilinear form on \mathbb{R}^{n+1} of signature $(1, n)$. Suppose that $v, w \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ are non-zero vectors such that $Q(w, w) > 0$ and $Q(v, v) = 0$. Then $Q(w, v) \neq 0$.*

Proof. Consider $\mathbb{R}^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ spanned by w and v . Since $Q(w, w) > 0$ the signature of Q restricted to \mathbb{R}^2 is $(1, 1)$. Now, since $Q(v, v) = 0$ we see that $v^\perp \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is spanned by v . Hence $Q(w, v) \neq 0$. \square

Theorem 4.6. For $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$ the fibre class $\phi_c^*(A) = \mathcal{F}_c^*$ satisfies the following properties

1. $\phi_c^*(A)^2 = 0$.
2. $\phi_c^*(A) \neq 0 \in H^2(M_c)$.
3. $\int_{M_c} \phi_c^*(A) \cdot \omega_c > 0$.

Proof. 1) The equality $\phi_c^*(A)^2 = 0$ is clear.

2) For small ε and $c_\varepsilon = H_{\min} + \varepsilon$, the space M_{c_ε} is an S^2 -bundle over M_{\min} . The class $\phi_{c_\varepsilon}^*(A)$ is Poincaré dual to the class of a symplectic S^2 -fibre of the fibration $M_{c_\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_{\min}$. In particular, $\phi_{c_\varepsilon}^*(A) \neq 0$. To show that $\phi_c^*(A) \neq 0 \in H^2(M_c)$ for all $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$, we will increase c and prove that $\phi_c^*(A)$ does not vanish when c passes a critical value of H .

Let c be a critical value of H and let ε be such that c is the only critical value of H in the interval $[c - \varepsilon, c + \varepsilon]$. It follows from Corollary 4.3 that

$$i) \phi_{c-\varepsilon}^*(A) = (gr_c^{c-\varepsilon})^*(\phi_c^*(A)), \quad ii) \phi_{c+\varepsilon}^*(A) = (gr_c^{c+\varepsilon})^*(\phi_c^*(A)).$$

Now, since by our assumptions $\phi_{c-\varepsilon}^*(A) \neq 0$ we deduce from *i)* that $\phi_c^*(A) \neq 0$. On the other hand the map $(gr_c^{c+\varepsilon})^*$ is an injection, and we deduce from *ii)* that $\phi_{c+\varepsilon}^*(A) \neq 0$.

3) Note that the function $\mu(c) = \int_{M_c} \phi_c^*(A) \wedge \omega_c$ is a continuous function of c . For $c_\varepsilon = H_{\min} + \varepsilon$ we have $\mu(c_\varepsilon) > 0$ since we integrate a symplectic form over a symplectic sphere. At the same time, $\omega_c \neq 0$ and by 2) $\phi_c^*(A) \neq 0$. So, applying Theorem 2.40 and Lemma 4.5 to the intersection form on $H^2(M_c)$ we see that $\mu(c)$ can not vanish for $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$. This finishes the proof of 3). \square

Corollary 4.7. Let M_c be the reduced space at regular level c and let $\phi_c : M_c \rightarrow M_{\min}$ be the projection. The fibre class $\mathcal{F}_c \in H_2(M_c)$ satisfies the following properties

1. $\int_{\mathcal{F}_c} \omega_c > 0$.
2. $\mathcal{F}_c^2 = 0$.
3. $\phi_{c*}(\mathcal{F}_c) = 0 \in H_2(M_{\min})$.

Moreover, \mathcal{F}_c is the unique such class in $H_2(M_c)$ up to multiplication by a positive constant.

Proof. Property 1) for \mathcal{F}_c corresponds to Property 3) in Theorem 4.6. Property 2) corresponds to Property 1) in Theorem 4.6. Property 3) is obvious.

Let us show now the uniqueness of \mathcal{F}_c up to a positive constant. Let \mathcal{G}_c be a class satisfying properties 1) – 3). According to 3) \mathcal{G}_c belongs to the kernel of $\phi_{c*} : H_2(M_c) \rightarrow H_2(M_{\min})$. Note at the same time that $\ker \phi_{c*} = (\phi_c^*A)^\perp$. Since the signature of the intersection form in $H_2(M_c)$ is $(1, n)$, there is a unique up to a multiplicative constant vector in $\ker \phi_{c*} = (\phi_c^*A)^\perp$ with zero square. We deduce that \mathcal{F}_c and \mathcal{G}_c are proportional, and Property 1) tells us that the constant of proportionality is positive. \square

We finish this section with the following lemma.

Lemma 4.8. *Suppose that $N \subset M$ is an isotropy 4-manifold such that $\dim(N_{\min}) = \dim(N_{\max}) = 2$. For any $c \in H(N)$ denote by $N_c \subset M_c$ the trace of N . Then the following holds*

- For $c \in H(N)$, $\langle \phi_c^*(A), N_c \rangle$ does not depend on c .
- In particular, $N_{\min} \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(N_{\min})} = N_{\max} \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(N_{\max})}$.

Proof. The restriction $\phi|_N$ is S^1 -invariant so it descends to a continuous map $\phi_{S^1} : N/S^1 \rightarrow M_{\min}$. The quotient space N/S^1 is homeomorphic to the product of N_{\min} with an interval parametrised by H . Clearly, the degree of ϕ_{S^1} restricted to $N_c = N_{\min} \times \{c\}$ does not depend on c . Since this degree is equal to $\langle \phi_c^*(A), N_c \rangle$, the result follows. \square

5 Local Kähler structures

We prove here three results that permit one to find a Kähler structure close to a specific collection of symplectic curves in a symplectic manifold or an orbifold. Theorem 5.1 and Proposition 5.6 deal with symplectic manifolds with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action, Theorem 5.3 deals with 4-dimensional symplectic orbifolds.

Theorem 5.1. *Let (M^{2n}, ω) be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold and let C_1, \dots, C_k be all isotropy spheres in M . Then there exists a collection of open neighbourhoods U_i of the spheres C_i , and an S^1 -invariant Kähler metric g on $U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_k$ compatible with ω , satisfying the following properties*

1. For each (U_i, g) there is an effective, isometric and Hamiltonian action of T^{n-1} commuting with the S^1 -action and fixing C_i point-wise. This T^{n-1} -action and the S^1 -action generate together an effective T^n -action on U_i .
2. Let $p \in M^{S^1}$ be a point of intersection of C_i and C_j . Then the T^n -actions on U_i and U_j preserve $U_i \cap U_j$ and induce on it the same action.

To formulate the next result we need to give a definition.

Definition 5.2. Let (S, g) be a Kähler orbifold with $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(S) = 2$ and cyclic stabilizers. Let D_1, \dots, D_n be the curves in the orbifold locus of S and let p_1, \dots, p_k be the maximal orbi-points. We say that the metric g is *semi-toric* at the orbifold locus of S if the following properties hold.

- 1) For each D_i there is an isometric S^1 -action on a neighbourhood of D_i that fixes D_i point-wise and preserves g .
- 2) For each maximal orbi-point p_m there is an effective isometric T^2 -action on a neighbourhood of p_m that fixes p_m and preserves g .
- 3) If p_m belongs to D_i then the action of $S^1(D_i)$ on a neighbourhood of p_m is induced by a subgroup of $T^2(p_m)$. In particular, whenever D_i and D_j intersect, the two S^1 -actions commute.

Theorem 5.3. *Let (M^4, ω) be a symplectic orbifold with cyclic stabilizers. Suppose we are given a symplectic T^2 -action in a neighbourhood U of the union of all maximal orbifold points in M^4 . Let g be a T^2 -invariant Kähler metric defined in U and compatible with ω . Then, after shrinking U , g can be extended to a Kähler semi-toric metric compatible with ω and defined in a neighbourhood of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$.*

The proofs of both theorems are similar and rely on equivariant Darboux-Weinstein Theorem 2.48 and the following gluing statement.

Proposition 5.4. *Let (U, ω) be a symplectic orbifold with a Hamiltonian action of a compact group G . Suppose (U, ω) admits a G -invariant Kähler metric, compatible with ω . Let $\bar{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\} \subset U^G$ be a finite G -fixed subset. Suppose that for some neighbourhood $U_{\bar{x}}$ of \bar{x} a G -invariant Kähler metric g_x compatible with ω is chosen. Then after shrinking $U_{\bar{x}}$ to a smaller neighbourhood $U'_{\bar{x}}$ of \bar{x} one can extend $g_{\bar{x}}$ from $U'_{\bar{x}}$ to a G -invariant Kähler metric on U , compatible with ω .*

Proof. In the partial case when U is a manifold, G is trivial and the set \bar{x} consists of a unique point x this proposition is Corollary A.5. Working G -equivariantly with orbifolds instead of manifolds and using Theorem 2.48 one can prove the full proposition without essential changes. \square

5.1 Auxiliary torus actions

To prove Theorem 5.1 we need to show in particular, that any isotropy sphere in a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold M^{2n} has a neighbourhood with a Kähler metric admitting a T^n -symmetry. We explain here how this is done.

Let $V = L_1 \oplus \dots \oplus L_{n-1}$ be a rank $n - 1$ holomorphic vector bundle over $\mathbb{C}P^1$ and let \mathcal{V} be the total space. \mathcal{V} has the structure of a toric variety where the $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ -action can be defined as follows. We write $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n = \mathbb{C}^* \times (\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1}$ and let the $(\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1}$ -factor act diagonally, i.e., fixing the base $\mathbb{C}P^1$ and preserving the splitting of V . To define the action of the first \mathbb{C}^* -factor consider the \mathbb{C}^* -action on \mathbb{C}^2 given by $t : (x, y) \rightarrow (tx, t^{-1}y)$ and identify $\mathbb{C}P^1$ with $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^2)$. This action can be lifted naturally to V and commutes there with the diagonal $(\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1}$ -action.

Let $T^n \subset (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ be the real torus acting on the total space \mathcal{V} of V . Let $U \subset \mathcal{V}$ be a T^n -invariant neighbourhood of the zero section of V and let g be a T^n -invariant Kähler metric on U . We say that (U, g) is a *toric Kähler neighbourhood*.

Proposition 5.5. *Let C be an isotropy sphere of a Hamiltonian S^1 -action on a symplectic manifold M^{2n} . Then there exists a holomorphic rank $n - 1$ bundle V over $\mathbb{C}P^1$, a toric Kähler neighbourhood (U, g) of its zero section, and a symplectic embedding $\varphi : (U, \omega_g) \rightarrow (M^{2n}, \omega)$ satisfying the following properties.*

1. φ sends $\mathbb{C}P^1$ to C .
2. For some subgroup S^1 of T^n the map φ is S^1 -equivariant.

Proof. First, we explain how to construct a triple $(\mathbb{C}P^1, V, g)$ consisting of a holomorphic bundle V over $\mathbb{C}P^1$ and a T^n -invariant metric g defined close to the zero section in the total space \mathcal{V} of V .

Introduce an S^1 -invariant holomorphic structure on C compatible with ω , making it biholomorphic to $\mathbb{C}P^1$, and let $I : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow C$ be the identification map. Let N_C be the normal bundle to C in M^{2n} , i.e. the subbundle of $TM^{2n}|_C$ ω -orthogonal to TC . Denote by V the pull-back $I^*(N_C)$ on $\mathbb{C}P^1$. This bundle has a natural S^1 -action. Moreover, V is symplectic and we denote the corresponding symplectic form by ω_V .

Let us split V into a sum of ω_V -orthogonal S^1 -invariant rank 2 symplectic subbundles, $V = L_1 \oplus \dots \oplus L_{n-1}$. Next, introduce an S^1 -invariant structure of holomorphic line bundle on each L_i and denote by \mathcal{V} the total space of $L_1 \oplus \dots \oplus L_{n-1}$.

By construction, we have a symplectic form on the restriction of $T\mathcal{V}$ to $\mathbb{C}P^1$, compatible with the holomorphic structure of \mathcal{V} . It is not hard to see, that this symplectic form is induced by a T^n -invariant Kähler metric g defined on a neighbourhood of $\mathbb{C}P^1$. Again, by construction the identification $I : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow C$ naturally extends to a symplectic linear isomorphism from the normal bundle V of $\mathbb{C}P^1$ to the normal bundle N_C of C . To finish the proof it remains to apply Theorem 2.48 1). This permits us to extend the above isomorphism of normal bundles to a symplectic S^1 -equivariant embedding from some T^n -invariant neighbourhood (U, ω_g) of $\mathbb{C}P^1$ to (M^{2n}, ω) . \square

The following proposition will be used later and we state it without proof, since it is very similar to Proposition 5.5.

Proposition 5.6. *Let (M^{2n}, ω) be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold and let Σ_h be a genus h fixed surface. Then there exists a complex curve C_h , a collection of line bundles L_1, \dots, L_{n-1} and a Kähler metric g on the projectivised bundle $\mathbb{P}(L_1 \oplus \dots \oplus L_{n-1} \oplus \mathcal{O})$, such that*

1. *The metric g is invariant under the diagonal T^{n-1} -action on the projectivised bundle.*
2. *Denote by $C_{h,n}$ the embedding of C_h in the projectivised bundle via n th summand. Then there is a subgroup $S^1 \subset T^{n-1}$ and an S^1 -equivariant symplectomorphism from a neighbourhood of $C_{h,n}$ to a neighbourhood of Σ_h .*

5.2 Proofs of Theorems 5.1 and 5.3

Let us first prove Theorem 5.1.

Proof. Let x_1, \dots, x_m be all the S^1 -fixed points in M^{2n} that belong to a least two isotropy spheres. By the equivariant Darboux theorem we can choose a small (possibly disconnected) neighbourhood $U_{\bar{x}}$ of the set $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$ on which the S^1 -action extends to an effective Hamiltonian T^n -action, and there exists a T^n -invariant Kähler metric g compatible with ω . We will show that such a metric g can be extended to a metric on neighbourhood of $C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_k$ that has all the desired properties.

For each isotropy sphere C_i we apply Proposition 5.5 to get a toric Kähler neighbourhood U_i of the zero section in a vector bundle over $\mathbb{C}P^1$. Neighbourhood U_i admits a symplectic S^1 -equivariant embedding $\varphi_i : U_i \rightarrow M$, sending U_i to a neighbourhood of C_i . Using Theorem 2.48 2), after possibly shrinking $U_{\bar{x}}$ and U_i we can assume that the embedding φ_i is T^n -equivariant in a small neighbourhoods of the two T^n -fixed points in U_i .

We have now a Kähler metric $\varphi_{i*}(g_i)$, compatible with ω defined on each $\varphi_i(U_i)$. Let p and q be the two T^n -invariant points in U_i and let $\varphi(p) = x_r$ and $\varphi(q) = x_s$. Both metrics $\varphi_{i*}(g_i)$ and g are compatible with ω and T^n -invariant in a small neighbourhood of x_r and x_s , but they need not be equal there. In order to cure this, we use Proposition 5.4. This proposition permits us to replace $\varphi_{i*}(g_i)$ defined on $\varphi_i(U_i)$ by a Kähler T^n -invariant metric g'_i , defined on $\varphi_i(U_i)$, compatible with ω , and equal to g close points x_r and x_s . To finish, we just need to shrink further the neighbourhoods $\varphi_i(U_i)$ to assure that whenever two such neighbourhoods $\varphi_i(U_i)$ and $\varphi_j(U_j)$ intersect, the metrics g'_i and g'_j are equal to g on $\varphi_i(U_i) \cap \varphi_j(U_j)$. \square

Remark 5.7. Let M be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6, such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces. Let C_1, \dots, C_k be all the isotropy spheres in M . Theorem 5.1 and Proposition 5.6 define for us a particular S^1 -invariant Kähler structure in a neighbourhood of $M^{S^1} \cup C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_k$, compatible with ω . We will call such a structure *adjusted*.

The proof of Theorem 5.3 is identical to the proof of Theorem 5.1, the only difference is that it uses Proposition A.11 instead of Proposition 5.5.

Proof of Theorem 5.3. Let x_1, \dots, x_m be all the maximal orbi-points of M^4 and $U = U_{\bar{x}}$ be a neighbourhood of $\bar{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$ with a T^2 -invariant Kähler metric compatible with ω . As in the proof of Theorem 5.1, using Proposition A.11, for each divisor D_j in the orbifold locus we can find an S^1 -invariant Kähler metric on its neighbourhood, compatible with ω . Moreover, using Theorem 2.48 2) we can assume that the metric is T^2 -invariant at each maximal orbi-point on D_j . Now again as in the proof of Theorem 5.1 we modify this metric using Proposition 5.4 so that it coincides with the preassigned metric close to all maximal orbi-points on D_j . \square

5.3 Regularization of symplectic 4-orbifolds

In this section we associate two symplectic spaces $(\widetilde{M}^4, \widetilde{\omega})$ and $(\overline{M}^4, \overline{\omega})$ to each symplectic orbifold (M^4, ω) with cyclic stabilizers. The space \widetilde{M}^4 is a smoothing of M^4 along $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$. \widetilde{M}^4 is a symplectic orbifold with isolated singularities and is homeomorphic to M^4 . The space \overline{M}^4 is a smooth symplectic manifold which can be seen as a resolution of isolated singularities of \widetilde{M}^4 . The construction of \widetilde{M}^4 and \overline{M}^4 relies on the semi-toric Kähler structure in a neighbourhood of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$ provided by Theorem 5.3 and on smoothing results from Appendix A.

Definition 5.8. To define $(\widetilde{M}^4, \widetilde{\omega})$, pick a Kähler semi-toric metric in a neighbourhood of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$ provided by Theorem 5.3. Note that the corresponding complex orbifold structure endows a neighbourhood of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$ with a structure of a complex surface with quotient singularities (Lemma 2.41). Hence, \widetilde{M}^4 is also a smooth 4-dimensional orbifold with isolated orbi-points. Clearly, \widetilde{M}^4 is diffeomorphic to M^4 on the complement to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$.

Next, Theorem A.10 allows us to smooth the singular Kähler structure on \widetilde{M}^4 along all the orbi-divisors of M^4 . As a result we get a Kähler metric $\widetilde{\omega}$ that has quotient singularities at the isolated orbi-points of \widetilde{M}^4 .

Definition 5.9. To define $(\overline{M}^4, \overline{\omega})$, consider a holomorphic resolution $\pi : \overline{M}^4 \rightarrow \widetilde{M}^4$ of isolated orbi-singularities of \widetilde{M}^4 and adjust the form $\pi^*\widetilde{\omega}$ in a small neighbourhood of the exceptional divisors, using Lemma A.12.

Remark 5.10. For the remainder of the article it will be important for us, that the spaces M^4 , \widetilde{M}^4 and \overline{M}^4 come with open subsets that we will call U_o , \widetilde{U}_o , and \overline{U}_o that all have a complex structure. With respect to this complex structure (U_o, ω) is a Kähler orbifold, $(\widetilde{U}_o, \widetilde{\omega})$ is a Kähler orbifold with isolated orbi-singularities and $(\overline{U}_o, \overline{\omega})$ is a smooth Kähler surface. We have a map $i : \widetilde{M} \rightarrow M$ that restricts to a biholomorphism on \widetilde{U}_o and a map $\pi : \overline{M}^4 \rightarrow \widetilde{M}^4$ that is a holomorphic contraction on \overline{U}_o .

6 Orbi-spheres in symplectic 4-orbifolds

In this section we will prove Theorem 1.6. For convenience this theorem will be split into two results, Theorem 6.1 and Theorem 6.3. The first theorem generalises Theorem 2.30 to orbifolds with cyclic stabilizers. The second theorem generalises a classical result on isotopy of symplectic spheres with zero self-intersection.

6.1 Existence of orbi-spheres in symplectic 4-orbifolds

Once we know how to get a smooth symplectic manifold \overline{M}^4 from a symplectic orbifold M^4 with cyclic stabilizers (see Definition 5.9), we can generalize Theorem 2.30, namely we have.

Theorem 6.1. *Let M^4 be a 4-dimensional symplectic orbifold with cyclic stabilizers and with $\pi_1(M^4) \neq 0$. Let F be a smooth sub-orbifold in M^4 transversal to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$ and satisfying the following:*

i) F is a two-sphere, ii) $F \cdot F = 0$, iii) $\int_F \omega > 0$.

Then the following statements hold.

- 1. The desingularisation \overline{M}^4 of M^4 is an irrational ruled manifold.*
- 2. M^4 contains a symplectic sub-orbifold sphere F' in the same homology class as F , that is transversal to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$.*

Proof. 1) Recall that there is an open neighbourhood U_o of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$ in M^4 with a holomorphic structure (see Remark 5.10). We can perturb F slightly in an even smaller neighbourhood of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$ to make it holomorphic and smooth there with respect to the holomorphic structure of U_o . Call the perturbed sphere \tilde{F} , it is clearly smooth in \tilde{M}^4 by construction of the smooth structure on \tilde{M}^4 . In addition, $\tilde{F} \cdot \tilde{F} = 0$ and by construction of $\tilde{\omega}$ (see Theorem A.10 3)) we have $\int_{\tilde{F}} \tilde{\omega} = \int_F \omega > 0$. Denote now by \bar{F} the preimage $\pi^{-1}(\tilde{F})$. We have again $\int_{\bar{F}} \bar{\omega} = \int_F \omega > 0$ by construction of $\bar{\omega}$, and again $\bar{F} \cdot \bar{F} = 0$. Applying Theorem 2.30, we see that \bar{M}^4 is rational or irrational ruled. At the same time $\pi_1(\bar{M}^4) \cong \pi_1(M^4) \neq 0$, since the singularities of M^4 are quotient singularities. We deduce that \bar{M}^4 is irrational ruled.

2) Choose an almost complex structure \bar{J} on \bar{M}^4 that is compatible with $\bar{\omega}$ and that coincides with the integrable complex structure defined on \bar{U}_o . By Zhang's Theorem 2.33 we have a singular fibration of almost complex curves on (\bar{M}^4, \bar{J}) such that each fibre is in the homology class $[\bar{F}]$ and only a finite number of fibres are reducible. All the irreducible fibres represent spheres symplectically embedded in \bar{M}^4 . Note that the intersection of any such fibre with \bar{U}_o is holomorphic. It follows that irreducible fibres do not intersect exceptional curves contracted by the map $\pi : \bar{U}_o \rightarrow \tilde{U}_o$.

From Corollary 2.36 it follows that all but a finite number of irreducible \bar{J} -holomorphic curves in class $[\bar{F}]$ are transversal to $(i \circ \pi)^{-1}(\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4))$. Take such a curve \bar{F}' and then the sub-orbifold F' in M^4 can be given by $i \circ \pi(\bar{F}')$. \square

We will need later a slightly stronger technical version of Theorem 6.1, that follows immediately from the proof of Theorem 6.1.

Corollary 6.2. *Let (M^4, ω) , F be as in Theorem 6.1. Suppose J is an almost complex orbi-structure integrable close to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$, tamed by ω , and such that (J, ω) defines a semi-toric Kähler metric close to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M^4)$. Then there is a finite collection of almost-complex spheres in M^4 such that any point of their complement is contained in a smooth almost complex orbi-sphere homologous to F .*

6.2 Isotopy of orbi-spheres in symplectic 4-orbifolds

The next result generalises to orbifolds the classical result on irrational ruled symplectic 4-manifolds, stating that any two symplectic spheres with zero self-intersection in such a manifold are symplectically isotopic.

Theorem 6.3. *Let M be a symplectic orbifold with cyclic stabilizers and with $\pi_1(M) \neq 0$. Suppose that M contains two symplectic sub-orbifold spheres F_0 and F_1 that are transversal to the orbifold locus and satisfy $F_0^2 = F_1^2 = 0$. Then there is a symplectic isotopy from F_0 to F_1 in the class of symplectic sub-orbifolds transversal to the orbifold locus.*

The proof of this theorem will use the same idea as in Theorem 6.1 and will rely additionally on the following two statements. The first result follows from *automatic transversality* (see [17] and [43, Theorem 4.5]).

Theorem 6.4. *Let (M, ω) be an irrational ruled surface and J_t be a smooth family of compatible almost complex structures, $t \in [0, 1]$. Suppose that for some $t_0 \in (0, 1)$, Σ_{t_0} is a smooth almost complex sphere in (M, ω, J_{t_0}) with $\Sigma_{t_0}^2 = 0$. Then there is a small open neighbourhood $U(\Sigma_{t_0}) \subset M \times (0, 1)$ and a diffeomorphism $\varphi : B^3 \times S^2 \rightarrow U(\Sigma_{t_0})$ such that for any $x \in B^3$ the image $\varphi(x, S^2)$ lies in some fibre $M \times t'$ and is $J_{t'}$ -holomorphic.*

Corollary 6.5. *Let (M, ω) be an irrational ruled surface, $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_n \subset M$ be a collection of symplectic surfaces and S_0, S_1 be two symplectic spheres in M , transversal to Σ_i and satisfying $S_0^2 = S_1^2 = 0$. Let J_t be a smooth family of ω -compatible almost complex structures, $t \in [0, 1]$ such that 1) Σ_i are J_t -holomorphic for all t , 2) S_0 is J_0 -holomorphic, 3) S_1 is J_1 -holomorphic.*

Then there is a smooth isotopy S_t , from S_0 to S_1 in M , such that S_t is a smooth J_t -holomorphic sphere transversal to all Σ_i for any $t \in [0, 1]$.

Proof. Let U be the subset of $M \times [0, 1]$ whose intersection with each fibre $M \times t$ is the union of all smooth J_t -holomorphic spheres in M that are in homology class \mathcal{F} and transversal to Σ_i . It follows directly from Theorem 6.4 that U is an open submanifold in $M \times [0, 1]$. U is connected, since by Theorem 2.33 4) and Corollary 2.36 for each t the intersection $U \cap (M, t)$ is a complement in M to a finite number of J_t -almost complex curves. It follows easily that there exists a smooth path $\psi : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ such that the path $(\psi(t), t)$ lies in U . Let now S_t be the unique J_t -holomorphic sphere in the class \mathcal{F} containing the point $\psi(t)$ in M . It follows from Theorem 6.4 that the family of spheres S_t provides a smooth symplectic isotopy between S_0 and S_1 . \square

We are now ready to prove Theorem 6.3.

Proof of Theorem 6.3. By perturbing slightly F_1 we may assure that the intersections $F_0 \cap \Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M)$ and $F_1 \cap \Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M)$ are disjoint. In such a case, we can introduce a semi-toric structure on a small neighbourhood U_o of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M)$ so that both F_0 and F_1 are holomorphic in U_o . Take now the regularisation $(\overline{M}, \overline{J})$ of (M, J) and extend the holomorphic structure \overline{J} from \overline{U} to the whole \overline{M} in the following two ways. We choose \overline{J}_0 and \overline{J}_1 compatible with $\overline{\omega}$ to be equal to \overline{J} on \overline{U}_o and such that \overline{F}_0 is \overline{J}_0 -almost complex in \overline{M} while \overline{F}_1 is \overline{J}_1 -almost complex in \overline{M} .

Let $\overline{J}_t, t \in [0, 1]$ be a smooth family of $\overline{\omega}$ -compatible almost complex structures that connects \overline{J}_0 with \overline{J}_1 restricting to \overline{J} on \overline{U}_o . By Corollary 6.5 there is a smooth family of spheres \overline{F}_t such that each \overline{F}_t is \overline{J}_t -holomorphic and transversal to the preimage of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M)$ in \overline{M} . Clearly, spheres \overline{F}_t are disjoint from the exceptional curves of the map $\pi : \overline{M} \rightarrow \widetilde{M}$. Hence, the family of orbi-spheres $F_t = i \circ \pi(\overline{F}_t)$ in M provides the desired isotopy from F_0 to F_1 . \square

7 Symplectic spheres in reduced spaces

In this section we work with Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6 such that M_{\min} is a surface of positive genus. Our goal is to prove Theorem 7.1 and its analogue for critical values of H , namely Theorem 7.2.

Theorem 7.1. *Let M be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6 such that M_{\min} is a surface of positive genus. Let c be a regular value of the Hamiltonian. Then in the reduced space M_c there is a symplectic sub-orbifold 2-sphere F transversal to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M_c)$ and satisfying $F \cdot F = 0$.*

7.1 Proof of Theorem 7.1

Proof. Firstly, we note that the statement holds for c close to H_{\min} . Indeed, by the equivariant symplectic neighbourhood theorem a neighbourhood of M_{\min} may be identified (by an S^1 -equivariant symplectomorphism) with a neighbourhood of the zero section in $N_{M_{\min}}$ (the normal bundle of M_{\min} in M). It follows that, for c close to M_{\min} , the reduced space M_c has the topological structure of the S^2 -bundle, where the fibres are symplectic orbi-spheres, symplectomorphic to $\mathbb{C}P^1(a, b)$ where a, b are the non-zero weights at M_{\min} .

The remainder of the proof can be split into the following two statements.

i) Let c_1 and c_2 be two regular values of H such that $c_1 < c_2$. Suppose that all values of H in $[c_1, c_2]$ are regular. If the statement of the theorem holds for M_{c_1} then it holds for M_{c_2} .

ii) If c is a critical value of H and the statement of the theorem holds for $M_{c-\varepsilon}$ then it holds for $M_{c+\varepsilon}$.

To see that **i)** holds, note that the gradient flow produces a diffeomorphism between smooth orbifolds M_{c_1} and M_{c_2} . Let F_{c_1} be a symplectic orbi-sphere in M_{c_1} with $[F_{c_1}] = \mathcal{F}_{c_1}$. F_{c_1} is sent by the gradient flow to a smooth orbi-sphere F_{c_2} in M_{c_2} with $[F_{c_2}] = \mathcal{F}_{c_2}$. By Corollary 4.7 1) we have $\int_{F_{c_2}} \omega_{c_2} > 0$. Hence we can apply Theorem 6.1 to produce a symplectic orbi-sphere in M_{c_2} in the fibre class.

Let us now establish **ii)**. We will make use of *adjusted* Kähler structure defined on an S^1 -invariant neighbourhood $U \subset M$ of the union of M^{S^1} with all the isotropy spheres, see Remark 5.7. It will be useful for us to assume that U has the following *cylindrical* property. There exists an $\varepsilon > 0$ such that a point p with $H(p) \in [c - \varepsilon, c + \varepsilon]$ belongs to U if and only if the gradient trajectory passing through p has a point of $U \cap H^{-1}(c)$ in its closure. Such a property can be always achieved by shrinking U if necessary; we also assume that c is the only critical value of H in the interval $[c - \varepsilon, c + \varepsilon]$.

Let $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_l$ be all the fixed surfaces in the level set $H^{-1}(c)$ and let x_1, \dots, x_m be all the isolated fixed points in this level set.

It follows from Theorem 2.44 that the Kähler structure on U induces a complex structure on the reduced neighbourhood $U_{c+\delta}$ for any $\delta \in [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]$. It follows from Theorem 2.45 that the map $gr_c^{c+\delta} : U_{c+\delta} \rightarrow U_c$ is a regular bi-meromorphic map, invertible close to $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_l \subset U_c$. Hence the preimage $\Sigma_{i,\delta}$ of Σ_i in $M_{c+\delta}$ under the map $gr_c^{c+\delta}$ is a smooth complex curve in $U_{c+\delta}$. Note as well, that the preimage of x_j in $U_{c+\delta}$ under the map $gr_c^{c+\delta} : U_{c+\delta} \rightarrow U_c$ is either a point or a $\mathbb{C}P^1$.

Let us now apply Corollary 6.2 to $M_{c-\varepsilon}$. For this, we should choose an appropriate almost complex structure $J_{-\varepsilon}$ on $M_{c-\varepsilon}$, semi-toric at the orbifold locus of $M_{c-\varepsilon}$. Note that the reduced Kähler metric on $U_{c-\varepsilon}$ is already semi-toric thanks to additional

symmetries coming from Remark 5.7. We only need to extend this Kähler metric to a neighbourhood of the whole orbifold locus of $M_{c-\varepsilon}$. To do this we keep the metric intact on all connected components of $U_{c-\varepsilon}$ containing surfaces $\Sigma_{i,-\varepsilon}$. As for components of $U_{c-\varepsilon}$ containing the preimages of points p_i , after shrinking them if necessary, we use Theorem 5.3 to extend this semi-toric Kähler structure to a neighbourhood of the whole orbi-locus of $M_{c-\varepsilon}$. Finally, we extend this (integrable) almost complex structure from a neighbourhood of the orbifold locus to an almost complex structure on whole $M_{c-\varepsilon}$. In exactly the same way we define an almost complex structure J_ε on $M_{c+\varepsilon}$.

We apply now Corollary 6.2 to $(M_{c-\varepsilon}, J_{-\varepsilon})$ to get a smooth $J_{-\varepsilon}$ -holomorphic orbisphere $F_{c-\varepsilon}$ in the fibre class of $M_{c-\varepsilon}$ that does not pass through maximal orbi-points in $M_{c-\varepsilon}$. Note that the map

$$(gr_c^{c+\varepsilon})^{-1} \circ gr_c^{c-\varepsilon} : M_{c-\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_{c+\varepsilon}$$

is bimeromorphic on $U_{c-\varepsilon}$ and regular along the union of $\Sigma_{i,-\varepsilon}$. Since $F_{c-\varepsilon}$ is disjoint from holomorphic exceptional curves in $M_{c-\varepsilon}$ contracted by the gradient map $gr_c^{c-\varepsilon}$, the above map is smooth along $F_{c-\varepsilon}$. We deduce that the image of $F_{c-\varepsilon}$ in $M_{c+\varepsilon}$ under this map is a smooth orbi-sphere. Hence we can again apply Theorem 6.1 to produce a symplectic orbi-sphere in $M_{c+\varepsilon}$ in the fibre class. \square

7.2 Symplectic fibres at critical levels

Our second task is to understand what should play the role of symplectic fibre in M_c for a critical value c of H , and prove an analogue of Theorem 7.1 for critical levels. We choose again an adjusted Kähler structure on M close to the union of M^{S^1} with all the isotropy spheres. As in the previous section, we denote by $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_l$ all the fixed surfaces in the level set $H^{-1}(c)$ and by x_1, \dots, x_m all the isolated fixed points in this level set. The reduced space M_c is a topological orbifold, though the quotient Kähler metric on M_c close to the image of $\cup_i x_i \cup_j \Sigma_j$ in M_c is not an orbifold metric. However, one can deduce from Theorem 2.44 3), that the neighbourhood of the image of $\cup_i x_i \cup_j \Sigma_j$ in M_c acquires the structure of a complex surface with quotient singularities.

Theorem 7.2. *Let M be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6 with M_{\min} and M_{\max} surfaces of positive genus. Let c be a critical value of H in the interval (H_{\min}, H_{\max}) . Then there is a sphere F in M_c with $F^2 = 0$, satisfying the following conditions.*

1. *F is a symplectic sub-orbifold transversal to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M_c)$ in the complement to the image of $\cup_i x_i \cup_j \Sigma_j$ in M_c .*
2. *F is holomorphic close to the images in M_c of $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_l$, and is transversal to these images.*
3. *Each Σ_j of positive genus intersects F .*

Proof. Using Lemma A.13, we can perform a small Kähler S^1 -equivariant blow-up of M at the union of points x_i and surfaces Σ_j to get a new Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold M' . By Lemma 2.46, c is a regular level of M' and there is a map $\varphi : M'_c \rightarrow M_c$ that is a biholomorphism over a neighbourhood of each Σ_j , holomorphic over a neighbourhood of each x_j and a symplectomorphism of orbifolds elsewhere.

Applying Theorem 7.1 to M'_c we get a symplectic orbi-sphere F' in M'_c transversal to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}(M'_c)$. Let us take its image $\varphi(F')$ in M_c . It is symplectic outside of U and holomorphic inside U . Hence it satisfies both Properties 1 and 2.

To prove that each Σ_j of positive genus intersects F , we apply Corollary 2.34 on the symplectic resolution \overline{M}'_c . \square

7.2.1 Constructing a holomorphic slice at critical levels

The main result of this section is Lemma 7.5, which can be summarised as follows. Let $F \subseteq M_c$ be the sphere constructed in Theorem 7.2, and let $Q : H^{-1}(c) \rightarrow M_c$ be the quotient map. Then on a Kähler neighbourhood (in M) of each fixed surface Σ_i , which we denote U_i , the union of gradient spheres that intersect $Q^{-1}(F) \cap U_i$ is a smooth complex surface in U_i , which we refer to as a holomorphic slice. These slices will be used in the proof of Lemma 8.8, to establish the existence of the symplectic fibre.

We start with the following self-evident lemma.

Lemma 7.3. *Let $L_1 \oplus L_2$ be a sum of two line bundles over a curve C . Suppose we have a \mathbb{C}^* -action on the total space of weight $p > 0$ on L_1 and of weight $-q < 0$ on L_2 . Then the natural (categorical) quotient map $\psi : L_1 \oplus L_2 \rightarrow L_1^q \otimes L_2^p$ sends \mathbb{C}^* -orbits to points.*

We would now like to apply Theorem 2.44 to a neighbourhood of the zero-section in $L_1 \oplus L_2$. In Proposition 5.6 we constructed the Kähler neighbourhood of the zero section in $L_1 \oplus L_2$, so that it admits an equivariant Kähler embedding into the projectivised bundle $\mathbb{P}(L_1 \oplus L_2 \oplus \mathcal{O})$.

Lemma 7.4. *Consider the compatible Kähler form ω on a neighbourhood of the zero section in $L_1 \oplus L_2$ constructed in Proposition 5.6, and let H be the corresponding Hamiltonian (normalised so that the zero-section is on level 0). Then $H^{-1}(0)/S^1$ may be identified biholomorphically with a neighbourhood of the zero section in $L_1^q \otimes L_2^p$.*

Proof. On a neighbourhood of the zero section, the closure of every \mathbb{C}^* -orbit intersects the level $H = 0$. Hence, by the second statement of Theorem 2.44, $H^{-1}(0)/S^1$ may be identified holomorphically with $(L_1 \oplus L_2)//\mathbb{C}^* \cong L_1^q \otimes L_2^p$. \square

Lemma 7.5. *Let C be a complex curve and L_1, L_2 be two line bundles on it. Consider a \mathbb{C}^* -action on the total space of $L_1 \oplus L_2$ such that the weight on L_1 is $p > 0$ and the weight on L_2 is $-q < 0$. Let ω be a Kähler form defined in an S^1 -invariant neighbourhood U of the zero section and H be the corresponding Hamiltonian. Let U_0 denote $(U \cap H^{-1}(0))/S^1$ which is naturally a complex manifold by Corollary 7.4. Let*

$D \subset U_0$ be a holomorphic disk transversal to $C \subset U_0$. Let finally $V \subset U$ be the union of the \mathbb{C}^* -orbits which have closure intersecting $H^{-1}(0)$ in a point that projects to $D \subset U_0$. Then V is a smooth holomorphic submanifold in U .

Proof. Consider the map $\psi : L_1 \oplus L_2 \rightarrow L_1^q \otimes L_2^p$ from Lemma 7.3. In a local trivialisation (x, z_1, z_2) we may write

$$\psi(x, z_1, z_2) = (x, z_1^p z_2^q).$$

Since D is transversal to the zero-section, in a local trivialisation (x, z) of $L_1^q \otimes L_2^p$ we may write $D = \{f = 0\}$, for some holomorphic $f : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \neq 0$. To prove the result note that $V = \{\psi^* f = 0\}$ and $\frac{\partial(\psi^* f)}{\partial x} \neq 0$, hence V is locally a smooth hypersurface. \square

8 The symplectic fibre

In this section we construct the *symplectic fibre*.

Definition 8.1. Let M be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6 with M_{\min} and M_{\max} surfaces of positive genus. A connected, S^1 -invariant, symplectic submanifold $\mathcal{F}(M) \subset M$ is called a *symplectic fibre* if it is 4-dimensional and intersects M^{S^1} transversally.

We prove here the existence part of the following theorem.

Theorem 8.2. *Let M be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6 with M_{\min} and M_{\max} surfaces of positive genus. Then the symplectic fibre $\mathcal{F}(M) \subset M$ exists. Moreover, any two symplectic fibres in M are S^1 -equivariantly symplectomorphic.*

Remark 8.3. Theorem 8.2 is a slightly weaker version of Theorem 1.5, but this is the result that we need to prove Theorem 1.8 and Theorem 1.3. Note however, that the case of Theorem 1.5 when $\dim(M_{\min}) = 2$ and $\dim(M_{\max}) = 4$ can be treated in an almost identical way. One needs to observe that in the case when M_{\min} is a genus g surface and M_{\max} has dimension 4, M_{\max} is an irrational ruled surface over a genus g surface. Then all the steps of the proof can be repeated. For this reason we don't present the full proof of Theorem 1.5 in this article.

8.1 Basic properties of symplectic fibres

Let us first establish some simple properties of the symplectic fibre.

Lemma 8.4. *Let M be as in Theorem 8.2. A symplectic fibre $\mathcal{F}(M) \subset M$ intersects both M_{\min} and M_{\max} in a unique point. For each $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$ the trace $\mathcal{F}(M)_c \subset M_c$ is a 2-sphere with $[\mathcal{F}(M)_c] = \mathcal{F}_c \in H_2(M_c)$.*

Proof. Let $x \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ be a point where H attains its minimum and let C be the connected component of M^{S^1} that contains x . Since $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is transversal to C at x and $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is 4-dimensional, we see that $C = M_{\min}$. Since all level sets of H on $\mathcal{F}(M)$ are connected, we see that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ intersects M_{\min} in a unique point.

It is clear now that for any $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$ the surface $\mathcal{F}(M)_c$ is a sphere in M_c whose cohomology class satisfies all the properties of Corollary 4.7. It follows that $[\mathcal{F}(M)_c] = \mathcal{F}_c$. \square

Proposition 8.5. *Let M be as in Theorem 8.2 and let $N \subset M$ be a smooth, 4-dimensional, S^1 -invariant submanifold. N is a symplectic fibre if and only if it satisfies the following properties.*

1. N intersects M^{S^1} transversally.
2. The set of critical points of the restriction $H|_N$ coincides with $N \cap M^{S^1}$.
3. In the complement $M \setminus M^{S^1}$ the intersection of N with each level set $H = c$ is pre-symplectic.

Proof. Only if. Suppose that N is a symplectic fibre. Then property 1) holds by definition. Since N is symplectic, each critical points of H on N is fixed by S^1 and so belongs to M^{S^1} . Property 3) holds since N is symplectic.

If. Let us assume that properties 1)-3) hold and deduce that N is a symplectic submanifold of M . Consider two cases.

i) Let $x \in N$ be a point in the complement $M \setminus M^{S^1}$ and let $H(x) = c$. Then the level set $H^{-1}(c)$ is a submanifold in a neighbourhood of x . Denote by $T_x H^{-1}(c)$ the (5-dimensional) tangent space to $H^{-1}(c)$ at x and let $v_x \in T_x H^{-1}(c)$ be a vector tangent to the S^1 -orbit through x . Note that $\omega^\perp(v_x) = T_x H^{-1}(c)$, and so for any non-zero vector $v' \in T_x M$ that doesn't lie in $T_x H^{-1}(c)$ we have $\omega(v_x, v') \neq 0$. In particular, since $H|_N$ is non-critical at x , it follows that $T_x N$ is transversal to $T_x H^{-1}(c)$, and we can choose a vector $v \in T_x N$, such that $\omega(v_x, v) \neq 0$.

Assume now by contradiction that ω is degenerate on $T_x N$. Then the restriction of ω to $T_x N$ has a 2-dimensional kernel, which we denote by K_ω . Since $N \cap H^{-1}(c)$ is pre-symplectic at x , the kernel of ω restricted to $T_x N \cap T_x H^{-1}(c)$ is generated by v_x . And so, the intersection of K_ω with $T_x H^{-1}(c)$ must contain v_x . But this is impossible since $\omega(v_x, v) \neq 0$.

ii) Let now $x \in N$ be a point that lies on a surface $\Sigma \subset M$ fixed by the S^1 -action. It follows from simple linear algebra that there is a unique 4-dimensional S^1 -invariant subspace in $T_x M$ transversal to $T_x \Sigma$, namely $\omega^\perp(T_x \Sigma)$. Hence, $T_x N$ coincides with this space and therefore is a symplectic subspace of $T_x M$. \square

The following statement is an immediate corollary of Proposition 8.5. We will use it to prove that the symplectic fibre exists.

Corollary 8.6. *Let N be an S^1 -invariant smooth 4-dimensional submanifold of M transversal to M^{S^1} . Suppose that for any $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$ the surface $N_c \subset M_c$ is a*

2-sphere in the fibre class and is a symplectic sub-orbifold at all points in $(M \setminus M^{S^1})_c$. Then N is a symplectic fibre in M .

Proof. We only need to show that property 3) of Proposition 8.5 holds. This follows from Lemma 2.43. \square

8.2 Proof of Theorem 8.2: Existence

We will construct the symplectic fibre by patching together a finite number of strips.

Definition 8.7. Let M be as in Theorem 8.2 and choose $a, b \in [M_{\min}, M_{\max}]$ with $a < b$. A symplectic S^1 -invariant submanifold $N_a^b \subset M$ with boundary $\partial N_a \cup \partial N_b$ is called an *ab-strip* if the following holds

- N is transversal to M^{S^1} .
- H is constant on ∂N_a and on ∂N_b and $H(\partial N_a) = a < b = H(\partial N_b)$.
- For any $c \in [a, b] \cap (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$ the trace $N_c \subset M_c$ is a sphere in homology class \mathcal{F}_c .

By a slight abuse of notations in this definition we allow $a = H_{\min}$ (or $b = H_{\max}$), in which case the strip has only one boundary component.

Lemma 8.8. *Let M be as in Theorem 8.2, then for any $c \in (H_{\min}, H_{\max})$ there exists an ab-strip in M with $a < c < b$.*

Proof. Suppose first that c is not a critical value of H . Take in M_c a sub-orbifold sphere F given by Theorem 6.1 and let N^3 be the pre-symplectic 3-dimensional manifold in $H^{-1}(c)$ that projects to F . Consider the union of all gradient lines in M that intersect N^3 . This space is an open 4-dimensional submanifold of M and whose intersection with some open neighbourhood of N^3 is a symplectic submanifold. It is easy to see that for ε small enough the intersection of this space with $H^{-1}([c - \varepsilon, c + \varepsilon])$ is a $(c - \varepsilon, c + \varepsilon)$ -strip.

Suppose now c is a critical value. If $c = H_{\min}$ (or $c = H_{\max}$) we can take as a strip a small 4-dimensional S^1 -invariant symplectic disk transversal to M_{\min} (respectively to M_{\max}).

If c is a non-extremal critical value, by Theorem 7.2 there exists a sphere $F \subseteq M_c$ and a Kähler neighbourhood U of the fixed set, such that F is a symplectic sub-orbifold on the complement of U and a holomorphic curve on U , which is transversal to the fixed set. Take now the union of all gradient spheres in M whose trace in M_c belongs to F . Call the intersection of this set with $H^{-1}(c - \varepsilon, c + \varepsilon)$ by N . Over $F \cap (M_c \setminus U)$, N satisfies all the required properties to be a strip by the arguments used in the case when c is regular. Over $F \cap U$ this follows from Lemma 7.5. \square

The next lemma permits one to glue two overlapping *ab*-strips.

Lemma 8.9. *Let N_a^c and N_b^d be two strips in M with $a < b < c < d$. Then there exists an *ad-strip* N_a^d in M .*

Proof. Let $e \in (b, c)$ be any regular value of H . By applying small symplectic isotopies supported in a neighbourhood of the level set $H = e$ to N_a^c and N_b^d , we may assure that intersections of N_a^c and N_b^d with $H^{-1}[e, e + \varepsilon]$ are tangent to ∇H .

Denote by N_0 and N_1 the intersections of the strips N_a^c and N_b^d with the level set $H = e$. Let Σ_0 and Σ_1 be the projections of N_0 and N_1 to M_e . These surfaces in M_e are orbifold spheres in the class \mathcal{F}_e and are transversal to the orbifold locus $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}}M_e$. Hence, we can apply Theorem 6.3 to get a smooth symplectic isotopy Σ_t in M_e between Σ_0 and Σ_1 , $t \in [0, 1]$. We may assume that $\Sigma_t = \Sigma_0$ for small t and that $\Sigma_t = \Sigma_1$ for t close to 1. Finally, let N_t be the corresponding isotopy of pre-symplectic manifolds in the level set $H = e$.

For any $e' \in [e, e + \varepsilon]$ let us denote by $gr_e^{e'}$ the map from the level set $H = e$ to $H = e'$ given by the normalized gradient flow. We will construct now the ad -strip N_a^d by gluing it from three strips. The first strip is the intersection of N_a^c with the subset $H \leq e$ of M . The third strip is the intersection of N_b^d with the subset $H \geq e + \varepsilon$ of M . To get the second strip that connects these two, consider the subset of M whose intersection with the level set $H = e + t\varepsilon$ is $gr_e^{e+et}(N_t)$. By decreasing ε if necessary we can insure that submanifolds $gr_e^{e+et}(N_t)$ are pre-symplectic for all $t \in [0, 1]$. It is clear that these three strips glue together to one ad -strip. \square

Now, the proof of existence part of Theorem 8.2 is clear.

Proof of Theorem 8.2, existence. Using Lemma 8.8 we can find a cover of the interval $[H_{\min}, H_{\max}]$ by open sub-intervals (a, b) for each of which there is an ab -strip. Choose a finite sub-cover and then, using Lemma 8.2, glue these strips consecutively to get a $H_{\min}H_{\max}$ -strip, i.e., a symplectic fibre. \square

The uniqueness part of Theorem 8.2 will be established in Section 9.3.

8.3 Symplectic fibres of relative symplectic Fano 6-manifolds

Proposition 8.10. *Let (M, ω) be a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Then the symplectic fibre $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is symplectomorphic to a toric del Pezzo surface.*

Proof. Recall that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is a symplectic 4-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with isolated fixed points. If Σ is a surface in M with weights $\{w_1, w_2, 0\}$ then $H(\Sigma) = -w_1 - w_2$. Hence for any fixed point $p \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ with weights $\{w_1, w_2\}$ we have $H(p) = -w_1 - w_2$. It follows from Proposition 2.23 that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is a symplectic Fano manifold and hence a toric del Pezzo by [19, Theorem 5.1]. \square

8.4 Symplectic fibre and restrictions on fixed spheres

In this section we give a first application of existence of the symplectic fibre $\mathcal{F}(M)$. We give an upper bound on the area of fixed spheres in 6-dimensional Hamiltonian S^1 -manifolds with M_{\min} a surface of positive genus and then apply it to relative symplectic Fanos in Corollary 8.12.

Proposition 8.11. *Let M be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6 with M_{\min} a surface of positive genus g . Suppose $\Sigma \subset M^{S^1}$ is a fixed sphere and let $H(\Sigma) = c$. Let \mathcal{F}_c be the fibre class in $H_2(M_c)$. Then we have*

1) $\omega_c(\mathcal{F}_c) \geq \omega(\Sigma)$. 2) Equality holds if and only if $[\Sigma] = \mathcal{F}_c$.

Proof. 1) Assume by contradiction $\omega_c(\mathcal{F}_c) < \omega(\Sigma)$. Then for ε small enough there is a symplectic orbi-sphere $\Sigma_\varepsilon \subset M_{c-\varepsilon}$ that is sent by the gradient flow to Σ . For small ε we still have $\omega_c(\mathcal{F}_{c-\varepsilon}) < \omega_{c-\varepsilon}(\Sigma_\varepsilon)$ and the reduced level set $M_{c-\varepsilon}$ is an orbifold. Hence we can take the symplectic resolution $\overline{M}_{c-\varepsilon}$ which is an irrational ruled surface. Since the resolution does not change the area of the fibre class and the area of Σ_ε , we get a contradiction with Corollary 2.35.

2) Assume now $\omega_c(\mathcal{F}_c) = \omega(\Sigma)$ and suppose by contradiction that Σ is not the fibre class in M_c . Observe then that $[\Sigma]^2 < 0$. Indeed, this can be deduced from the following three facts: i) $[\Sigma]$ and \mathcal{F}_c span a two-plane in $H_2(M_c)$, ii) $[\Sigma] \cdot \mathcal{F}_c = 0$, iii) $b_+(M_c) = 1$.

Consider a symplectic S^1 -invariant blow-up M_Σ of M in a small neighbourhood of Σ constructed in Lemma 2.46, and let $E \subset M_\Sigma$ be the exceptional divisor. We claim that the trace of E in the reduced space of M_Σ on level c is a sphere of area larger than $\omega(\Sigma)$. This claim leads us to a contradiction with Corollary 2.35 as in part 1).

To see why the claim holds, note that the equivariant blow-up of M_Σ can be interpreted as a symplectic cut, where we cut out from M a $\mathbb{C}P^2$ -bundle P over Σ . By the definition of symplectic cut, a symplectic copy of E sits in P as an S^1 -invariant symplectic divisor, while Σ is an S^1 -fixed surface in P . Note next, that each 4-dimensional reduced space of P is a ruled rational surface, and the trace of E in it is a section with self intersection equal to $-[\Sigma]^2 > 0$. Finally, in P_c surfaces E_c and Σ are two disjoint sections, and since $[E_c]^2 > 0 > [\Sigma]^2$, we have $\omega(E_c) > \omega(\Sigma)$. \square

Corollary 8.12. *Let (M, ω) be a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action. Suppose that M_{\min} is a surface of positive genus g . If $\Sigma \subset M$ is a fixed sphere then we have $H(\Sigma) \geq 0$.*

Proof. Let a, b be the weights of S^1 -action on M_{\min} so that $a, b \geq 1$. Suppose first that $a + b \geq 3$. By the weight sum formula 1.10 (1) $H_{\min} = -a - b$.

Let $\mathcal{F}(M)$ be the symplectic fibre of M . Applying Lemma 2.8 2) to $\mathcal{F}(M)$ at the level $H = -c$ (for any c such that $-c \in H(M)$) we get the following inequality:

$$\omega(\mathcal{F}_{-c}) \leq \frac{a + b - c}{a \cdot b}.$$

Let us assume by contradiction that there is a fixed sphere Σ in the level $H = -c$ for some $c > 0$. We know that $\int_\Sigma \omega$ is a positive integer and moreover from Proposition 8.11 1) we have $\int_\Sigma \omega \leq \frac{a+b-c}{a \cdot b}$. So, unless $a = 1$ or $b = 1$ and $\int_\Sigma \omega = 1 = c$ we get a contradiction.

Suppose first $a = 1, b > 1, c = 1$, and $\int_\Sigma \omega = 1$. This means that $H(\Sigma) = -1$ and we will denote by Σ as well the image of Σ in M_{-1} . We will show that Σ is not in the fibre class of M_{-1} . The contradiction then will follow from Proposition 8.11 2).

Denote by N the isotropy submanifold of weight b that contains M_{\min} . Since the maximum of H on N is at least $H_{\min} + b = -1$, the trace $N_{-1} \subset M_{-1}$ is a certain genus g surface Σ_b . Note now that N and Σ are disjoint in M , and so the image of Σ in the reduced space M_{-1} is disjoint from Σ_b . Clearly this means that $[\Sigma_b] \cdot \Sigma = 0$. Finally, the fibre class \mathcal{F}_{-1} of M_{-1} has intersection 1 with Σ_b . We see that $\mathcal{F}_{-1} \neq [\Sigma] \in H_2(M_{-1})$ and this gives us a contradiction.

Finally, we need to show that in case $a = b = 1$ there can be no fixed sphere Σ in M with $H(\Sigma) = -1$. Assume by contradiction that such a sphere exists. Since M_{-1} is an S^2 -bundle, Σ represents the fibre class in it. It follows that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ does not have fixed points at level -1 , since such a point would correspond to a fixed surface in M that intersects positively the fibre class. Since the weights at the minimum of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ are $\{1, 1\}$, there must be a fixed point in $\mathcal{F}(M)$ with weights $\{-1, n\}$ ($n > 0$) and since there are no fixed points on level -1 , by the weight sum Formula 1.10 (1), we must have $n = 1$. It follows that there is a fixed surface of positive genus in M on level 0, we denote it by Σ' .

Note now, that the weights at Σ must be $\{-1, 2\}$. Let N_2 be the isotropy 4-manifold with $(N_2)_{\min} = \Sigma$. Since the weight of N_2 is 2, we have $H((N_2)_{\max}) \geq H(\Sigma) + 2 = 1$ by Lemma 2.20. Hence, Σ' must intersect in M_0 the sphere traced by N_2 , since the latter one is in the fibre class. This is a contradiction, since Σ' is composed of fixed points. \square

9 Fixed surfaces of positive genus in Hamiltonian 6-manifolds

In this section we study Hamiltonian S^1 -actions on a symplectic 6-manifold (M, ω) such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces. Our main goal is to understand the fixed surfaces in M , both in terms of the genus and the level sets which contain them.

The main result of the section is Theorem 9.10, which relates the fixed points of the symplectic fibre $\mathcal{F}(M)$ to the fixed surfaces of positive genus in M . In particular, this provides strong restrictions on the possible genus of fixed surfaces. We will show that the graph of fixed points (defined in Definition 9.1) associated to any symplectic fibre is the same. In conjunction with Theorem 9.2 this will imply the uniqueness of the symplectic fibre.

9.1 The graph of fixed surfaces

We start by introducing the *graph of fixed surfaces*. This is an analogue of the graph of fixed points originally defined by Karshon [19] for symplectic 4-manifolds, which we recall.

Definition 9.1. [19, Section 2.1] Let X be a 4-dimensional symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with isolated fixed points. The graph of fixed points associated

to the action, which we denote by $\mathcal{Q} = (V, E)$, is defined as follows

- The vertices V are in bijection with the isolated fixed points. We denote the vertex associated to an isolated fixed point p by v_p .
- v_{p_1} and v_{p_2} are joined by an edge $e \in E$ if and only if there is an isotropy sphere containing both p_1 and p_2 .

Define a function $H : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by setting $H(v_p) = H(p)$. An edge corresponding to a gradient sphere S is labelled by the weight of S . We orient the edges so that H is strictly increasing with respect to this orientation. In symbols, we write $e = [S_{\min}, S_{\max}]$ when e corresponds to a gradient sphere S . In [19] it was shown that this graph determines (X, ω) up to equivariant symplectomorphism.

Theorem 9.2. [19, Theorem 4.1] *Let X_1, X_2 be symplectic 4-manifolds with Hamiltonian S^1 -actions with isolated fixed points. Then any isomorphism of the associated graphs (respecting the Hamiltonian and labelling of edges by weights) induces an equivariant symplectomorphism $\tau : X_1 \rightarrow X_2$.*

Let us now adapt Definition 9.1 to define a graph associated to a 6-dimensional symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action.

Definition 9.3. Let (M, ω) be a 6-dimensional symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that $\dim(M_{\min}) = \dim(M_{\max}) = 2$. We define a graph $G = (V, E)$ associated to M as follows:

- The vertices of \mathcal{G} are in bijection with the fixed surfaces in M . The vertex associated to a fixed surface Σ is denoted v_Σ .
- Two vertices v_{Σ_1} and v_{Σ_2} are joined by a unique edge $e \in E$ if and only if there exists an isotropy 4-manifold W such that $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2 \subseteq W$.
- Define $v_{\min}, v_{\max} \in V$ to be the vertices corresponding to M_{\min}, M_{\max} . These are called the *extremal vertices*.

Orientation and labelling associated to \mathcal{G} . Define a function $H : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by setting $H(v_\Sigma) = H(\Sigma)$. Note that \mathcal{G} is naturally a directed graph, indeed if Σ_1, Σ_2 are contained in an isotropy submanifold then $H(\Sigma_1) \neq H(\Sigma_2)$, we direct the edge to the vertex with the higher value of H . In symbols, we write $e = [v_{\Sigma_1}, v_{\Sigma_2}]$ when $H(\Sigma_2) > H(\Sigma_1)$.

We also define a label on an edge $e = [v_{\Sigma_1}, v_{\Sigma_2}]$ to be the weight of the isotropy 4-manifold W such that $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2 \subseteq W$. We refer to this label as the weight of the edge e or just $w(e)$. By definition we have $w(e) \geq 2$ for all $e \in E$.

If $e = [v_{\Sigma_1}, v_{\Sigma_2}]$ and $w(e) = n$ then one of the weights at Σ_1 must be n and one of the weights at Σ_2 must be $-n$.

Note that since at most two isotropy 4-manifolds can contain the same fixed surface, the number of edges incident to a vertex v is at most two. We denote this number $\deg(v)$.

Lemma 9.4. *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that $\dim(M_{\min}) = \dim(M_{\max}) = 2$. Let \mathcal{G} be the graph of fixed surfaces associated to M .*

1. *The genus of fixed surfaces is constant along connected components of \mathcal{G} .*
2. *Suppose that Σ is a fixed surface with genus $g > 0$ and weights $\{w_i\}$, then $\deg(v_\Sigma) = \#\{w_i : |w_i| > 1\}$. In particular, if $\deg(v_\Sigma) = 1$, then Σ must have a weight equal to 1 or -1 .*

Proof. 1. Suppose that $e = [v_{\Sigma_1}, v_{\Sigma_2}]$ is an edge in \mathcal{G} . Then there exists an isotropy 4-manifold W such that $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2 \subseteq W$. Hence, Σ_1 and Σ_2 have the same genus by Corollary 2.13.

2. Let $\{w_i\}$ denote the weights of the action along Σ . For each weight w_i such that $|w_i| > 1$ there is an isotropy 4-manifold containing Σ with weight w_i . By Corollary 2.13 these isotropy 4-manifolds contain two fixed surfaces of genus g so correspond to edges in \mathcal{G} . \square

Definition 9.5. 1. Denote by \mathcal{G}_+ the sub-graph of \mathcal{G} consisting of fixed surfaces of positive genus.

2. Denote by \mathcal{G}_g the sub-graph consisting of fixed surfaces of genus $g = g(M_{\min})$.

3. Denote by \mathcal{G}_0 the sub-graph consisting of fixed surfaces of genus 0.

9.2 The graph of fixed points of the symplectic fibre

Let (M, ω) be a 6-dimensional symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min}, M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Let $\mathcal{F}(M)$ be a symplectic fibre associated to M . Recall that $\mathcal{F}(M) \subset M$ is a 4-dimensional symplectic submanifold inheriting a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with isolated fixed points.

Here we show an explicit relation (in most cases an isomorphism) between the graph \mathcal{G}_+ defined in the previous section and \mathcal{Q} , the graph of fixed points of $\mathcal{F}(M)$. In particular, we will gain an understanding of the possible genus of fixed surfaces in M .

Definition 9.6. We will say that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is *reflective* if there is a symplectic involution $\tau : \mathcal{F}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(M)$ that commutes with the S^1 -action and induces a non-trivial permutation on $\mathcal{F}(M)^{S^1}$.

Lemma 9.7. *$\mathcal{F}(M)$ is reflective if and only if its graph of fixed points \mathcal{Q} has an order two endomorphism (preserving the weights and Hamiltonian).*

Proof. If such an endomorphism exists, then the corresponding S^1 -equivariant symplectic involution of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is given by Theorem 9.2. The other direction is obvious. \square

Corollary 9.8. *Suppose that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is reflexive. Then the weights at M_{\min} (resp. M_{\max}) are $\{1, 1, 0\}$ (resp. $\{-1, -1, 0\}$).*

Proof. The existence of an order 2 endomorphism of the graph of fixed points of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ implies the weights at M_{\min} must be $\{n, n, 0\}$ for some $n > 0$. By the effectiveness of the action we must have $n = 1$. \square

Lemma 9.9. *Let M be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6 with M_{\min} and M_{\max} surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Suppose there exists a fixed surface Σ in M such that $\Sigma \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(\Sigma)} = 2$. Then all non-extremal fixed surfaces of positive genus in M lie in the same connected component of \mathcal{G} . Furthermore, each such surface is of genus $g(\Sigma)$ and has intersection 2 with the symplectic fibre.*

Proof. Suppose that Σ' is a fixed surface such that Σ and Σ' are contained in an isotropy submanifold N and without loss of generality that $H(\Sigma') > H(\Sigma)$. By Lemma 4.8

$$\Sigma \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(\Sigma)} = \Sigma' \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(\Sigma')} = 2.$$

Suppose Σ has weights $\{w_1, w_2, 0\}$ and Σ' has weights $\{-w_1, w'_2, 0\}$. Then there are two fixed points $p_1, p_2 \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ on level $H(\Sigma)$ with weights $\{w_1, w_2\}$ and two fixed points $p'_1, p'_2 \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ on level $H(\Sigma')$ with weights $\{-w_1, w'_2\}$. On the other hand, there are boundary divisors $S_1, S_2 \subseteq \mathcal{F}(M)$ such that $p_1, p'_1 \in S_1$ and $p_2, p'_2 \in S_2$. Hence, there is no fixed point $q \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ with $H(q) \in (H(\Sigma), H(\Sigma'))$. This in turn implies that M has no fixed surfaces of positive genus in this range (by Theorem 7.2(3)).

Let the component of \mathcal{G} containing v_Σ be denoted by $A \subseteq \mathcal{G}$. Then by the above, all surfaces corresponding to vertices of A have intersection 2 with the symplectic fibre. We claim that all non-extremal surfaces of positive genus in M correspond to vertices of A .

Let Σ_+, Σ_- be the fixed surfaces corresponding to the vertices of A where H achieves its max/min respectively. By the above all fixed surfaces of positive genus in $H^{-1}([H(\Sigma_-), H(\Sigma_+)])$ correspond to vertices in A .

We have that $\deg(\phi|_{M_{\min}}) = 1$ since the (transversal) intersection point of M_{\min} with the symplectic fibre is the unique point $\mathcal{F}(M)_{\min}$. Hence $\Sigma_- \neq M_{\min}$, so the weights at Σ_- must be $\{-1, N, 0\}$ where $N > 0$. Hence, there must be two fixed points on level $H(\Sigma_-)$ in $\mathcal{F}(M)$, both having weights $\{-1, N, 0\}$. By Corollary 2.54 there is no fixed point $q \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ such that $H(q) \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma_-))$. Hence, there are no fixed surfaces of positive genus on these levels (by Theorem 7.2(3)). Applying the same argument to Σ_+ we see that all non-extremal fixed surfaces of positive genus correspond to vertices of A . The lemma follows. \square

Theorem 9.10. *Let M be a Hamiltonian S^1 -manifold of dimension 6 with M_{\min} and M_{\max} surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Let $\phi : M \rightarrow M_{\min}$ be the S^1 -equivariant retraction constructed in Lemma 4.1.*

Then a surface $\Sigma \subseteq M^{S^1}$ is a sphere if and only if the map $\phi|_\Sigma$ has degree 0. If the genus of Σ is positive, then $\phi|_\Sigma$ has degree 1 or 2. In addition, precisely one of the two following possibilities occur.

1. Suppose M contains a fixed surface Σ such that $\Sigma \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(\Sigma)} = 2$. Then M contains exactly $\frac{1}{2}\chi(\mathcal{F}(M)) - 1$ non-extremal fixed surfaces of positive genus and the restriction of ϕ to each such surface has degree 2. Furthermore, $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is reflexive.
2. Otherwise, M^{S^1} contains exactly $\chi(\mathcal{F}(M))$ fixed surfaces of positive genus. Any such surface Σ has genus g and the map $\phi : \Sigma \rightarrow M_{\min}$ has degree 1.

Proof. Throughout this proof we will use the fact that for any fixed surface Σ , its intersection with the symplectic fibre, $\Sigma \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(\Sigma)}$ is equal to the degree of $\phi|_{\Sigma}$. This follows from Lemma 8.4, where we proved for each c that \mathcal{F}_c is Poincaré dual to $\phi_c^*(A)$, A being the positive generator of $H^2(M_{\min}, \mathbb{Z})$ and $\phi_c : M_c \rightarrow M_{\min}$ is the map induced by ϕ .

If $\Sigma \subseteq M^{S^1}$ is a sphere then $\phi|_{\Sigma} : \Sigma \rightarrow M_{\min}$ has degree 0 since S^2 is simply connected.

Suppose that Σ is a fixed surface of positive genus, then $\deg(\phi|_{\Sigma}) > 0$. This follows from the third statement of Theorem 7.2. On the other hand, $\Sigma \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(\Sigma)} \leq 2$ since there are at most two fixed points in $H^{-1}(c) \cap \mathcal{F}(M)$ for each c . We conclude that for any fixed surface of positive genus we must have $1 \leq \deg(\phi|_{\Sigma}) \leq 2$. Finally, we will show that precisely one of the two conditions 1. and 2. is satisfied.

Suppose first that Σ is a fixed surface in M such that $\Sigma \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(\Sigma)} = 2$. By Lemma 9.9 each non-extremal fixed surfaces with positive genus has intersection 2 with the symplectic fibre and is of genus $g(\Sigma)$. It follows that there are exactly $\frac{1}{2}\chi(\mathcal{F}(M)) - 1$ such surfaces.

Furthermore it follows that on each non-extremal critical level of $\mathcal{F}(M)$, there are two fixed points with the same weights. Hence there is a pairing between non-extremal fixed points of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ preserving the Hamiltonian and the weights. This shows that the graph of fixed points of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has an endomorphism of order 2, preserving the Hamiltonian and the weights. By Lemma 9.7, we see that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is reflexive.

Otherwise the restriction of ϕ to each non-extremal fixed surface of positive genus is 1, implying that each such surface is of genus $g = g(M_{\min})$. This is condition 2. \square

Corollary 9.11. *Suppose $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is not reflexive. Then $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_g \cup \mathcal{G}_0$, i.e. fixed surfaces in M have genus 0 or g .*

Proof. If $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is not reflexive then we must be in case 2 of Theorem 9.10. \square

The following example shows that in the case 1 of Theorem 9.10, one cannot bound the genus of fixed surfaces in terms of the genus g of the base.

Example 9.12. Let C_g be a curve of genus g and let $C_{g'}$ be a curve that admits a (possibly ramified) double cover of C_g . Let σ be the involution on $C_{g'}$ such that $C_g \cong C_{g'}/\sigma$.

Consider $M = \mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1 \times C_{g'}$. Choose a \mathbb{C}^* -action on M that preserves all $\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1$ fibres and acts on them diagonally via,

$$((z_1 : w_1), (z_2 : w_2)) \rightarrow ((tz_1 : w_1), (tz_2 : w_2)).$$

Consider the involution on M given by the formula

$$\sigma_M := ((z_1 : w_1), (z_2 : w_2), x) \rightarrow ((z_2 : w_2), (z_1 : w_1), \sigma(x)).$$

Then M/σ_M is a complex projective orbifold. The orbifold locus comes from the diagonals in the $\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1$ - fibres over fixed points of the involution σ . Making a simple blow-up of this collection of curves we obtain a smooth projective 3-fold with a unique non-extremal fixed curve isomorphic to $C_{g'}$ whose projection to the base C_g has degree 2.

We now return to our general discussion. Let \mathcal{Q} be the graph of fixed points associated to the symplectic fibre $\mathcal{F}(M)$.

Corollary 9.13. *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$.*

1. *Suppose that $\Sigma \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(\Sigma)} = 1$ for all fixed surfaces of positive genus. Then there is an isomorphism $I : \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_g$, preserving the Hamiltonian and labelling of edges by weights.*
2. *Suppose M contains a fixed surface Σ such that $\Sigma \cdot \mathcal{F}_{H(\Sigma)} = 2$. Then there exists a map $I : \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_+$, preserving H and the labelling of edges. Furthermore, the sub-graph of \mathcal{Q} corresponding to non-extremal fixed points splits into two connected components \mathcal{C}_1 and \mathcal{C}_2 . On each \mathcal{C}_i , the restriction $I : \mathcal{C}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_+$ is an isomorphism onto the sub-graph of \mathcal{G}_+ consisting of non-extremal fixed surfaces.*

In both cases I has the property that if Σ is a surface of positive genus with weights $\{w_1, w_2, 0\}$, then $I(v_\Sigma)$ represents a fixed point in $\mathcal{F}(M)$ with weights $\{w_1, w_2\}$.

Proof. By Theorem 9.10, a fixed point $p \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ is equal to the intersection of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ with a fixed surface of positive genus Σ . We simply set $I(v_p) = v_\Sigma$. The required properties of I follow from Theorem 9.10. \square

9.3 Proof of Theorem 8.2: uniqueness

Using the results proven so far in this section, we will now show the uniqueness of the symplectic fibre up to an equivariant symplectomorphism.

Proof of Theorem 8.2: uniqueness. In both cases of Corollary 9.13, the graph of fixed points of any symplectic fibre is determined up to isomorphism by the graph of fixed surfaces of M (including the data of the Hamiltonian and the weights of edges). By Theorem 9.2 this uniquely determines $\mathcal{F}(M)$ up to S^1 -equivariant symplectomorphism. \square

9.4 The relative symplectic Fano case

Finally, using results of this section we deduce a useful restriction on the range of relative symplectic Fano manifolds with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action, which contain a fixed surface with weights $\{1, 1, 0\}, \{-1, -1, 0\}$ or $\{1, -1, 0\}$. This will be needed in the next section.

Lemma 9.14. *Let (M, ω) be a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Suppose that M contains a fixed surface of genus g with weights equal to $\{1, 1, 0\}, \{-1, -1, 0\}$ or $\{1, -1, 0\}$. Then $H(M) \subseteq [-3, 3]$.*

Proof. If $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is reflective then the weights at M_{\min} and M_{\max} are $\{1, 1\}$ and $\{-1, -1\}$ respectively so $H(M) = [-2, 2]$. Hence, we may assume that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is non-reflective. By Corollary 9.13, $\mathcal{G}_g \cong \mathcal{Q}$ where \mathcal{Q} is the graph of fixed points associated to $\mathcal{F}(M)$. By Proposition 8.10, $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is symplectomorphic to a toric del Pezzo surface. Applying Lemma 2.59, we see that $H(\mathcal{F}(M)) \subseteq [-3, 3]$ and since $\mathcal{G}_g \cong \mathcal{Q}$ the same holds for $H(M)$. \square

10 Proof of Theorem 1.8

In this section we prove Theorem 1.8. In the first three subsections we give the main component of the argument. As explained in the introduction, the main idea is to push through the proof of Lemma 1.9. In practice this amounts to proving the inequality of Theorem 10.2. We view this inequality as a substitute to Lemma 2.17, which applies to the normal bundles of fixed surface Σ with weights equal to $\{-1, n, 0\}$ ($n \geq 2$) and M_{\min} . This is what allows us to “complete” the cycle of isotropy 4-manifolds and conclude the argument.

We briefly describe the main steps towards proving Theorem 10.2. Firstly, we prove restrictions on fixed submanifolds on levels close to H_{\min} . This allows us to flow down Σ continuously between levels (see the beginning of Subsection 10.3), forming a continuous family of 2-cycles $S_c \subseteq M_c$. Then we show that the quantity $\langle e(H^{-1}(c)), S_c \rangle$ is decreasing in terms of c (see the preliminaries for the definition of $e(H^{-1}(c))$). We achieve this by proving that Σ has positive intersection with the exceptional divisors emanating from isolated fixed points. The argument concludes in Subsection 10.4 by showing that in the end Σ flows to a particular section of the S^2 -bundle M_c for c sufficiently close to H_{\min} .

In the final subsection, we conclude the proof by dealing with the remaining case where the range of the Hamiltonian is contained in the interval $[-3, 3]$.

Theorem 10.1. *Suppose (M, ω) is a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Suppose additionally that there is no fixed surface of genus g with weights $\{1, 1, 0\}, \{-1, -1, 0\}$ or $\{1, -1, 0\}$ in M . Then there exists a fixed surface $\Sigma \subseteq M$ of genus g such that $\langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle \leq 2 - 2g$.*

Firstly we give a proof of Theorem 10.1 assuming Theorem 10.2. This slight abuse of ordering is to give the reader a better global understanding of the proof and give motivation for statements that come later in the section.

Theorem 10.2. *Let (M, ω) be as in Theorem 10.1. Suppose that Σ is a fixed surface with weights $\{-1, n, 0\}$ $n \geq 2$. Then the weights at M_{\min} are $\{1, m, 0\}$ where $m > 1$. Let L_1 be a sub-bundle of the normal bundle $N(M_{\min})$ with weight 1 and let L_2 be a sub-bundle of the normal bundle $N(\Sigma)$ with weight -1 . Then*

$$c_1(L_1) + c_1(L_2) \leq 0.$$

Proof of Theorem 10.1 assuming Theorem 10.2. By assumption the weights at M_{\min} are not $\{1, 1, 0\}$, so in particular $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is not reflexive by Corollary 9.8. Hence we are in case 2 of Theorem 9.10 and so by Corollary 9.13 we have that $\mathcal{G}_g \cong \mathcal{Q}$ where \mathcal{Q} is the graph of fixed points corresponding to $\mathcal{F}(M)$. Also note that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is a toric del Pezzo surface by Proposition 8.10.

Let v_{\min}, v_{\max} denote the extremal vertices of \mathcal{G} , by our assumptions $\deg(v_{\min}) \geq 1$ and $\deg(v_{\max}) \geq 1$, hence the same holds true for the extremal vertices of \mathcal{Q} . By Lemma 2.55 the boundary divisors in $\mathcal{F}(M)$ with weight 1 must contain one of the two extremal vertices. Hence $\mathcal{F}(M)$ contains at most two boundary divisors with weight 1.

Consider the ordering on the vertices of \mathcal{Q} defined by traversing the edges of the moment polygon of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ cyclically. We label them p_1, \dots, p_n where $p_{n+1} = p_1$ etc. so that $p_i, p_{i+1} \in S_i$ for some boundary divisor S_i . This gives us an ordering of the fixed surfaces of genus g in M , say $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_n$ where $\Sigma_{n+1} = \Sigma_1$ etc.

Note that if $w(S_i) > 1$ then there is an isotropy 4-manifold N_i with weight $w(S_i)$ such that $\Sigma_i, \Sigma_{i+1} \subset N_i$. The normal bundle of Σ_i has a unique equivariant splitting as $L_{i,1} \oplus L_{i,2}$ so that $L_{i,1}$ is the normal bundle of Σ_i in N_{i-1} and $L_{i,2}$ is the normal bundle of Σ_i in N_i . Note that by assumption for each Σ_i , one of its weights has modulus greater than 1, hence either N_{i-1} or N_i exists, which permits us to distinguish $L_{i,1}$ and $L_{i,2}$. Define $n_{i,j} = c_1(L_{i,j})$.

Let us sum $\langle c_1(M), \Sigma_i \rangle$ over all Σ_i ,

$$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \langle c_1(M), \Sigma_i \rangle = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} ((2 - 2g) + n_{i,1} + n_{i,2}).$$

By applying Lemma 2.17 when $w(S_i) > 1$ and Theorem 10.2 (applied to the Hamiltonians H and $-H$) when $w(S_i) = 1$, we have that $n_{i,2} + n_{i+1,1} \leq 0$ for all i . These inequalities imply that

$$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \langle c_1(M), \Sigma_i \rangle \leq n(2 - 2g).$$

Hence, there exists a fixed surface Σ such that $\langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle \leq 2 - 2g$. By Corollary 9.11 we have that $g(\Sigma) = g$. \square

10.1 Fixed surface Σ of positive genus with weights $\{-1, n, 0\}$

We now begin to give the proof of Theorem 10.2. In this subsection (M, ω) is a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. We study the case when M contains a fixed surface Σ of positive genus with the weights $\{-1, n, 0\}$ with $n \geq 2$. Our goal here is to give restrictions on fixed submanifolds, on levels below $H(\Sigma)$.

Lemma 10.3. *Let $\Sigma \subseteq M$ be a fixed surface of positive genus with weights $\{-1, n, 0\}$ where $n \geq 2$. Then the following statements hold.*

1. $H(\Sigma) - H_{\min} \leq 3$.
2. The weights at M_{\min} are $\{1, m, 0\}$ where $m \geq (H(\Sigma) - H_{\min})$.
3. There is no fixed surface $\Sigma' \subseteq M$ with positive genus such that $H(\Sigma') \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$.

Proof. The result follows from applying Corollary 2.58 to $\mathcal{F}(M)$. \square

Next, we will show that all fixed submanifolds on levels $k \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$ are isolated points and establish restrictions on the weights at these fixed points. First we will need to make the following definition.

Definition 10.4. Suppose that $p \in M$ is an isolated fixed point with weights $\{a, b, -c\}$ with $a, b, c > 0$. Denote by $U(p) \subseteq M$ the union of all gradient spheres with minimum p . Denote by $E_{p,x}$ the trace of $U(p)$ in M_x . If the weights at p are $\{-a, -b, c\}$ with $a, b, c > 0$, we define $E_{p,x}$ to be the trace of $D(p)$, where $D(p)$ is defined to be the union of gradient spheres with maximum p .

Remark 10.5. For $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, $E_{p, H(p)+\alpha} \subseteq M_{H(p)+\alpha}$ is a smooth sub-orbifold, homeomorphic to S^2 . Let us note some properties of $E_{p, H(p)+\alpha}$.

1. By Lemma 2.8 (and recalling the definition of Euler class for orbi- S^1 -bundles given in Section 2.1):

$$\langle e(H^{-1}(H(p) + \alpha), [E_{p, H(p)+\alpha}]) \rangle = -\frac{1}{ab}.$$

2. Lemma 2.7 states that

$$\frac{d}{d\alpha}(\omega(E_{H(p)+\alpha})) = \langle -e(H^{-1}(H(p) + \alpha), [E_{p, H(p)+\alpha}]) \rangle.$$

Hence,

$$\omega(E_{H(p)+\alpha}) = \frac{\alpha}{ab}.$$

The following Lemma is well-known so we omit its proof.

Lemma 10.6. *Let $E_{p,x} \subseteq M_x$ be as in Definition 10.4 (with p an fixed point with either 1 or 2 negative weights). Then $E_{p,x} \cdot E_{p,x} < 0$.*

Now we give the main result of this subsection.

Lemma 10.7. *Let $\Sigma \subseteq M$ be a fixed surface of positive genus such that the weights at Σ are $\{-1, n, 0\}$ with $n \geq 2$. Then for each integer $k \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$, any fixed submanifold contained in $H^{-1}(k)$ must be an isolated fixed point with weights $\{-1, a, b\}$ for some $a, b > 0$.*

Proof. Statement 3 of Lemma 10.3 shows that there is no fixed surface of genus g in $H^{-1}(k)$. On the other hand, since $k < H(\Sigma) < 0$ there is no fixed sphere on level k by Corollary 8.12. Hence all fixed points on level $k \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$ are isolated.

We observe that for an isolated fixed p with $H(p) \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$ any negative weight at p must be equal to -1 . This can be deduced from Lemma 2.21 and Lemma 2.22.2) once one has that the weights at M_{\min} are $\{1, m, 0\}$ where $m > H(p) - H_{\min}$. This was shown in Lemma 10.3. Hence to prove the lemma it remains to exclude fixed points of the form $\{-1, -1, w\}$ where $w > 0$. We consider now two cases:

Suppose first that $H(p) = H_{\min} + 1$. The sphere $E_{p, H(p)-\varepsilon} \subseteq M_{H(p)-\varepsilon}$ constructed in Definition 10.4 has strictly negative self-intersection by Lemma 10.6. However, $M_{H(p)-\varepsilon}$ is an S^2 -bundle over M_{\min} hence contains no sphere with non-zero self intersection. This yields a contradiction.

Suppose now that $H(p) = H_{\min} + 2$, so that $H(\Sigma) - H_{\min} = 3$. Applying Definition 10.4, we get a smoothly embedded sphere $E_{p, H(p)-\varepsilon} \subseteq M_{H(p)-\varepsilon}$ for $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$. By Remark 10.5.2,

$$\omega(E_{p, H(p)-\varepsilon}) = \varepsilon.$$

Note that $E_{p, H(p)-\varepsilon}$ is disjoint from the trace of the isotropy 4-manifold N such that $N_{\min} = M_{\min}$. Also, if $\phi : M_{H(p)-\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_{\min}$ is the map induced by the retraction constructed in Lemma 4.1, then $\phi|_{E_{p, H(p)-\varepsilon}}$ has degree 0. Hence, as a class in $H_2(M_{H(p)-\varepsilon})$ we have

$$[E_{p, H(p)-\varepsilon}] = \sum n_i [E_{p_i, H(p)-\varepsilon}]$$

where $\{p_i\}$ is the set of isolated fixed points on level $H_{\min} + 1$. On the other hand note that for each p_i

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 1} \omega(E_{p_i, H(p)-\varepsilon}) = 0.$$

However, $\omega(S_\varepsilon)$ tends to 1 as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 1$ by Remark 10.5.2. This yields a contradiction. \square

10.2 The downward gradient flow close to M_{\min} and exceptional spheres

In this subsection, we again denote by (M, ω) a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min}, M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$, such that M contains no fixed surface of genus g with weights $\{1, 1\}, \{-1, -1\}$ or $\{1, -1\}$. As before, we suppose that M contains a fixed surface Σ of genus g with weights $\{-1, n, 0\}$ and $n \geq 2$.

First, we will define continuous maps between reduced spaces of M , which extends the usual partially defined gradient maps $gr_{c_2}^{c_1}$. Then we study the cycles that are contracted by these maps, namely $E_{p,x}$. In particular, we will show that these spheres lift to exceptional spheres in the resolutions of the reduced spaces which were constructed in Section 5.

Let $k \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$ be an integer and $\varepsilon > 0$ be small enough. From Definition 2.5 we have maps

$$gr_k^{k-\varepsilon} : M_{k-\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_k$$

and

$$gr_k^{k+\varepsilon} : M_{k+\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_k.$$

By Lemma 10.7 all fixed points with $k = H(p)$ are isolated with weights $\{-1, a, b\}$ where $a, b > 0$. This implies that $gr_k^{k-\varepsilon}$ is a homeomorphism. Hence

$$(gr_k^{k-\varepsilon})^{-1} \circ gr_k^{k+\varepsilon} : M_{k+\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_{k-\varepsilon}$$

is continuous and extends the usual partially defined gradient map.

Definition 10.8. Let $c_1, c_2 \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$ with $c_1 < c_2$. Denote by $gr_{c_1}^{c_2} : M_{c_2} \rightarrow M_{c_1}$ the map extending the partially defined gradient map as was explained above.

Remark 10.9. Let $k \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$ be an integer and let ε be a constant such that $0 < \varepsilon < 1$. Let p_1, \dots, p_n be the isolated fixed points in the level set $H^{-1}(k)$. Then $gr_{k-\varepsilon}^{k+\varepsilon}$ contracts each of the $E_{p_i, k+\varepsilon}$ (see Definition 10.4) and is a homeomorphism on their complement.

Let p be an isolated fixed point such that $H(p) \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$. In the following lemma we construct an exceptional sphere in the symplectic resolution $\overline{M}_{H(p)+\varepsilon}$ of $M_{H(p)+\varepsilon}$ (see Definition 5.9) for small $\varepsilon > 0$.

Lemma 10.10. *Let p be an isolated fixed point with $H(p) \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$. Let $\pi : \overline{M}_{H(p)+\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_{H(p)+\varepsilon}$ denote the resolution. Then for $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough there is a exceptional sphere $\tilde{E} \subseteq \overline{M}_{H(p)+\varepsilon}$ such that in homology $\pi_*([\tilde{E}]) = [E_{p, H(p)+\varepsilon}]$ (where $E_{p,x}$ is as in Definition 10.4).*

Proof. We may (equivariantly) identify a neighbourhood U of p with a neighbourhood of the origin in \mathbb{C}^3 so that the S^1 -action is linear. Denote by U_x the reduced space of U at level x .

For $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough, $U_{H(p)-\varepsilon}$ is biholomorphic to a neighbourhood of the origin in \mathbb{C}^2 , since the negative weight at p equals -1 . The complex analytic map

$$F = gr_{H(p)-\varepsilon}^{H(p)+\varepsilon} : U_{H(p)+\varepsilon} \rightarrow U_{H(p)-\varepsilon}$$

is a weighted blow-up map that contracts $E_{H(p)+\varepsilon}$ (see Definition 10.8).

Consider now a resolution of singularities $\pi : \overline{M}_{H(p)+\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_{H(p)+\varepsilon}$ that is holomorphic on U . Where the composition $F \circ \pi$ is defined, it is a surjective morphism of smooth complex surfaces, hence a composition of simple blow-ups. The result now follows from applying Lemma 2.27 to $F \circ \pi$. \square

Lemma 10.11. *Let p be an isolated fixed point such that $H(p) \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$. Assume the weights at p are $\{-1, a, b\}$ with $a, b > 0$ and $\gcd(a, b) = 1$. Let $c_1, c_2 \in (H(p), H(\Sigma))$ be such that $c_1 < c_2$ and $c_1 - H(p) < 1$. Then there is an exceptional sphere $\tilde{E} \subset \overline{M}_{c_2}$ such that in homology*

$$(gr_{c_1}^{c_2} \circ \pi)_*[\tilde{E}] = [E_{p, c_1}].$$

Proof. The weights at p are $\{-1, a, b\}$ where $a, b > 0$. We suppose that $a, b > 1$ otherwise the proof is easier. Let S_1, S_2 be the gradient spheres with minimum at p , with weights a and b respectively. Then there is an S^1 -invariant Kähler structure on a neighbourhood U of $S_1 \cup S_2$, by Theorem 5.1. We may construct a resolution π of reduced spaces, such that $\pi|_U : \overline{U}_z \rightarrow U_z$ is holomorphic for any $z \in (H(p), H(\Sigma))$. The biholomorphism

$$gr_{c_1}^{c_2} : U_{c_2} \rightarrow U_{c_1}$$

lifts to a diffeomorphism of the resolutions

$$\overline{gr}_{c_1}^{c_2} : \overline{U}_{c_2} \rightarrow \overline{U}_{c_1}.$$

Recall that all fixed points on levels contained in $(H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$ are isolated and have weights $\{-1, a', b'\}$ where $a', b' > 0$. The traces in M_{c_1} of gradient spheres with maximum at such isolated fixed points give us a finite collection of non-orbifold points $\{q_1, \dots, q_k\} \subseteq M_{c_1}$. Then $(gr_{c_1}^{c_2})^{-1}$ is well defined and a homeomorphism on $M_{c_1} \setminus \{q_1, \dots, q_k\}$. Since each q_i is a non-orbifold point, $\{q_1, \dots, q_k\}$ corresponds to a finite collection of points in the resolution \overline{M}_{c_1} .

By Lemma 10.10, there is an exceptional sphere in $\tilde{E} \subseteq \overline{M}_{c_1}$ such that $\pi_*[\tilde{E}] = [E_{p, c_1}]$. We may perturb \tilde{E} smoothly to be disjoint from the q_i 's. Hence using $(gr_{c_1}^{c_2})^{-1}$, we get an exceptional sphere in \overline{M}_{c_2} with the required properties. \square

10.3 The 2-cycles S_c and Euler numbers of their associated orbi-bundles

We will proceed to study the family of 2-cycles $S_c \subseteq M_c$, defined by mapping Σ via the gradient maps $gr_{c_1}^{c_2}$. We prove in Lemma 10.14 that the cycles S_c have intersection 1 with the symplectic fibre. Then, in Lemma 10.15 we show that they have non-negative intersection with the spheres $E_{p, x}$ contracted by the gradient maps. Eventually, we conclude the section by proving the inequality stated in Corollary 10.16, from which it is straightforward to deduce Theorem 10.2.

Definition 10.12. Let Σ be as in Theorem 10.2. Denote by $D(\Sigma) \subseteq M$ the union of all gradient spheres with maximum in Σ . For $c \in (H(\Sigma) - 1, H(\Sigma))$ let S_c denote the trace of $D(\Sigma)$ in M_c . More generally for $c \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$, define $S_c = gr_c^{c'}(S_{c'})$ where c' is any value in $(H(\Sigma) - 1, H(\Sigma))$. It is easy to check that the 2-cycle S_c is independent of the choice of c' .

Remark 10.13. For $c \in (H(\Sigma) - 1, H(\Sigma))$, S_c is a smooth surface diffeomorphic to Σ . For $c = H(\Sigma) - \varepsilon$, with $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough, S_c is a symplectic surface.

Lemma 10.14. *Let $c \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma)]$ and $\mathcal{F}_c \subseteq M_c$ be the symplectic fibre then*

$$\mathcal{F}_c \cdot S_c = 1.$$

Proof. Let $\phi : M \rightarrow M_{\min}$ be the equivariant retraction (see Lemma 4.1) and $\Phi : M/S^1 \rightarrow M_{\min}$ the map induced by ϕ . There exists a continuous map $S : \Sigma \times (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma)] \rightarrow M/S^1$, such that the restriction of this map to $\Sigma \times \{c\}$ represents the 2-cycle $S_c \subseteq M_c$.

The degree of $\Phi \circ S$ restricted to $\Sigma \times \{c\}$ is equal to $\deg(\phi|_{\Sigma})$ for all $c \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma)]$, since they are homotopic. By Theorem 9.10 $\deg(\phi|_{\Sigma}) = 1$. Now the result follows since

$$\deg((\Phi \circ S)|_{\Sigma \times \{c\}}) = \mathcal{F}_c \cdot S_c.$$

□

Lemma 10.15. *Let $p \in M$ be an isolated fixed point such that $H(p) \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$. Then for $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, we have that*

$$E_{p, H(p)+\alpha} \cdot S_{H(p)+\alpha} \geq 0.$$

Proof. If p is not contained in $S_{H(p)}$ then clearly $E_{p, H(p)+\alpha} \cdot S_{H(p)+\alpha} = 0$. So we will assume $p \in S_{H(p)}$.

By Lemma 10.7 the weights at p are $\{-1, a, b\}$ where $a, b > 0$. Since $p \in S_{H(p)}$, there is a gradient sphere S' of weight 1 with $S'_{\min} = p$ so $\gcd(a, b) = 1$.

Let $\pi : \overline{M}_{H(\Sigma)-\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_{H(\Sigma)-\varepsilon}$ be the resolution for $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$. Since $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, we can apply Lemma 10.11 for the values $c_2 = H(\Sigma) - \varepsilon$ and $c_1 = H(p) + \alpha$. We see that there is an exceptional sphere $\tilde{E} \subseteq \overline{M}_{c_2}$ such that

$$(gr_{c_1}^{c_2} \circ \pi)_*[\tilde{E}] = [E_{p, c_1}].$$

Let now $\varepsilon > 0$ be small enough so that $S_{H(\Sigma)-\varepsilon} \subseteq M_{H(\Sigma)-\varepsilon}$ is symplectic. Since $S_{H(\Sigma)-\varepsilon}$ does not intersect the orbifold locus of $M_{H(\Sigma)-\varepsilon}$, it lifts to a symplectic surface in $\tilde{S} \subseteq \overline{M}_{H(\Sigma)-\varepsilon}$. By Theorem 2.28

$$\tilde{E} \cdot \tilde{S} \geq 0.$$

Now the inequality follows since

$$(gr_{c_1}^{c_2} \circ \pi)_*[\tilde{E}] = [E_{p, H(p)+\alpha}] \quad \text{and} \quad (gr_{c_1}^{c_2} \circ \pi)_*[\tilde{S}] = [S_{H(p)+\alpha}].$$

□

Corollary 10.16. *Let $k \in (H_{\min}, H(\Sigma))$ be an integer and let $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$. Then*

$$\langle e(H^{-1}(k + \varepsilon)), S_{k+\varepsilon} \rangle \geq \langle e(H^{-1}(k - \varepsilon)), S_{k-\varepsilon} \rangle.$$

Proof. Let

$$F = gr_{k-\varepsilon}^{k+\varepsilon} : M_{k+\varepsilon} \rightarrow M_{k-\varepsilon},$$

be the downward flowing gradient map. Then, since F only contracts the spheres $E_{p,k+\varepsilon}$ and is a homeomorphism on their complement, we have

$$[S_{k+\varepsilon}] = F^*([S_{k-\varepsilon}]) + \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}_k} n_p [E_{p,k+\varepsilon}].$$

Here \mathcal{P}_k is the set of isolated fixed points such that $H(p) = k$.

For each $p \in \mathcal{P}_k$, Lemmas 10.15 and 10.6 tell us

$$E_{p,k+\varepsilon} \cdot S_{k+\varepsilon} \geq 0, \quad E_{p,k+\varepsilon} \cdot E_{p,k+\varepsilon} < 0.$$

Combining these two inequalities, we have that $n_p \leq 0$ for each $p \in \mathcal{P}_k$.

Note that since $S_{k-\varepsilon}$ can be perturbed to be disjoint from the images of $E_{p,k+\varepsilon}$ under $gr_{k-\varepsilon}^{k+\varepsilon}$, we have that

$$\langle e(H^{-1}(k - \varepsilon)), F^*([S_{k-\varepsilon}]) \rangle = \langle e(H^{-1}(k + \varepsilon)), [S_{k+\varepsilon}] \rangle.$$

Therefore it is sufficient to show that

$$\langle e(H^{-1}(k + \varepsilon)), E_{p,k+\varepsilon} \rangle < 0$$

for each $p \in \mathcal{P}_k$. To show this, recall that each $p \in \mathcal{P}_k$ has weights $\{-1, a, b\}$ where $a, b > 0$. Hence,

$$\langle e(H^{-1}(k + \varepsilon)), E_{p,k+\varepsilon} \rangle = \frac{-1}{ab} < 0$$

by Remark 10.5. \square

10.4 Proof of Theorem 10.2

Definition 10.17. Consider the sub-bundle L_1 of $N(M_{\min})$ with weight 1, where $N(M_{\min})$ denotes the normal bundle of M_{\min} in M . Define a subset $U(M_{\min}, L_1) \subseteq M$ to be the union of all gradient spheres that are tangent to L_1 at M_{\min} . For $x \in (H(\Sigma), H(\Sigma) + 1)$ define $T_x \subseteq M_x$ to be the trace of $U(M_{\min}, L_1)$.

Remark 10.18. Note that T_x is a section of the S^2 -bundle $M_x \rightarrow M_{\min}$. For $(x - H_{\min}) = \varepsilon$ small enough, it is a symplectic surface.

Lemma 10.19. *Let $x \in (H_{\min}, H_{\min} + 1)$ then as homology classes*

$$[T_x] = [S_x].$$

Proof. M_x is homeomorphic to an S^2 -bundle over M_{\min} . Note that T_x is a section of this bundle, and so is the trace N_x of the isotropy 4-manifold N containing M_{\min} . Note that the symplectic fibre $\mathcal{F}_x \subseteq M_x$ represents a fibre of this S^2 -bundle.

Note that $[S_x] \cdot [N_x] = 0$, since S_x and N_x are disjoint. On the other hand, by Lemma 10.14, $[S_x] \cdot \mathcal{F}_x = 1$. These two equalities uniquely characterise $[T_x] \in H_2(M_x)$. Hence, $[S_x] = [T_x]$. \square

Proof of Theorem 10.2. For $c_1 \in (H_{\min}, H_{\min} + 1)$ we have by Lemma 10.19 that

$$e(H^{-1}(c_1)), [S_{c_1}] = \langle e(H^{-1}(c_1)), [T_{c_1}] \rangle = c_1(L_1).$$

For $c_2 \in (H(\Sigma) - 1, H(\Sigma))$ we have that

$$e(H^{-1}(c_2)), [S_{c_2}] = -c_1(L_2),$$

since for $H(\Sigma) - c_2 = \varepsilon$ small enough, S_{c_2} is the unit circle bundle of L_2 (the minus sign coming from the fact that L_2 has weight -1). Hence, by Corollary 10.16 we conclude that $c_1(L_1) + c_1(L_2) \leq 0$. \square

10.5 Small Hamiltonian

In this subsection we will prove the following:

Theorem 10.20. *Let M be a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min}, M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Suppose that $H(M) \subseteq [-3, 3]$. Then there exists a fixed surface $\Sigma \subseteq M$ of genus $g(\Sigma) \geq g$ such that $\langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle \leq 2 - 2g$.*

The proof will proceed using the localisation formula for $c_1^{S^1}(M)$ given in Theorem 2.16. First, we prove some restrictions on contributions of fixed submanifolds to this formula.

For the remainder of the section, we denote by \mathcal{S}_+ the set of fixed surfaces of positive genus and we denote by \mathcal{S}_0 the set of fixed surfaces of genus 0. We denote the set of isolated fixed points in M by \mathcal{P} .

Lemma 10.21. *Let M be a symplectic 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action such that M_{\min}, M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Then*

$$\sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+} \langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle \leq - \sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+} \beta(\Sigma).$$

(with β is as in Definition 2.16).

Proof. By Lemma 9.4 the genus of fixed surfaces is constant along connected components of \mathcal{G} . Let Σ_i for $i = 1, \dots, n$ be a chain of fixed surfaces corresponding to such a component with $g(\Sigma_i) = g' > 0$ for each i . The calculation below proves the statement of the lemma for each such connected component. The case when the component is a cycle is easier so we just present the case when the component is an interval.

There is a sequence of isotropy 4-manifolds N_i for $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ such that $\Sigma_i, \Sigma_{i+1} \subset N_i$. Note that since v_{Σ_1} and v_{Σ_n} have degree 1 in \mathcal{G} , by Lemma 9.4 Σ_1, Σ_n both have a weight with modulus 1.

The normal bundle of Σ_i may be split equivariantly as $L_{i,1} \oplus L_{i,2}$, where $L_{i,1}$ is the normal bundle of Σ_i in N_{i-1} and $L_{i,2}$ is the normal bundle of Σ_i in N_i . Let

$n_{i,j} = c_1(L_{i,j})$ and $w_{i,j}$ be the weight associated to $L_{i,j}$. With this convention we have that $|w_{1,1}| = |w_{n,2}| = 1$.

Note that $w_{i,2} = -w_{i+1,1}$ and in particular $w_{i,2}^2 = w_{i+1,1}^2$. Applying this to the sum of $\beta(\Sigma_i)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \beta(\Sigma_i) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{2-2g'}{w_{i,1}w_{i,2}} - \frac{n_{i,1}}{w_{i,1}^2} - \frac{n_{i,2}}{w_{i,2}^2} \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{2-2g'}{w_{i,1}w_{i,2}} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{-1}{w_{i,2}^2} (n_{i,2} + n_{i+1,1}) - n_{1,1} - n_{n,2}. \end{aligned}$$

We sum $\langle c_1(M), \Sigma_i \rangle$ over $i = 1, \dots, n$.

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \langle c_1(M), \Sigma_i \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n (2-2g') + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (n_{i,2} + n_{i+1,1}) + n_{1,1} + n_{n,2}.$$

For each i , $(n_{i,2} + n_{i+1,1}) \leq 0$ by Lemma 2.17. Combining these inequalities with the above equations we deduce that the quantity

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (\beta(\Sigma_i) + \langle c_1(M), \Sigma_i \rangle) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{w_{i,1}w_{i,2}} \right) (2-2g') + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (n_{i,2} + n_{i+1,2}) \left(1 - \frac{1}{w_{i,2}^2} \right) \quad (6)$$

is non-positive. \square

Lemma 10.22. *Suppose that (M^6, ω) is a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Assume additionally that $H(M) \subseteq [-3, 3]$. Then if w is a weight at an isolated fixed point in M then $1 \leq |w| \leq 2$.*

Proof. Any isolated fixed point p with $H(p) = 2$ must have all positive weights equal to 1 by Lemma 2.21. Hence the weights at p are either $\{1, 1, -4\}$ or $\{1, -2, -1\}$ by the weight sum formula 1.10 (1). We claim that the combination $\{1, 1, -4\}$ is impossible. Indeed, this would imply the existence of a sphere in $M_{2+\varepsilon}$ with negative self-intersection (see Lemma 10.6), contradicting that $M_{2+\varepsilon}$ is homeomorphic to an S^2 -bundle over a surface of positive genus. Hence the weights at p must be $\{1, -2, -1\}$.

If p satisfies $|H(p)| \leq 1$ then by the above it cannot have a weight greater than 2, since this would imply the existence of a fixed point of level $H = 2$, by Lemma 2.20, which does not have weights $\{1, -2, -1\}$. Repeating the same argument for $-H$ proves the result. \square

Lemma 10.23. *Suppose that (M^6, ω) is a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Assume additionally that $H(M) \subseteq [-3, 3]$. Then for any isolated fixed point p with weights $\{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$, we have that*

$$\alpha(p) = \frac{w_1 + w_2 + w_3}{w_1 w_2 w_3} \leq 0.$$

Proof. Let p be an isolated fixed point with weights $\{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$, we have $1 \leq |w_i| \leq 2$ for each i by Lemma 10.22. These weights can not be of the same sign, so either two of them are positive and one negative, or otherwise. Consider the first case. Then the sum of the two positive w_i is at least 2, so we have $w_1 + w_2 + w_3 \geq 0$. It follows that $\frac{w_1 + w_2 + w_3}{w_1 w_2 w_3} \leq 0$. The second case is similar. \square

Lemma 10.24. *Suppose that (M^6, ω) is a relative symplectic Fano 6-manifold such that M_{\min} and M_{\max} are surfaces of genus $g > 0$. Assume additionally that $H(M) \subseteq [-3, 3]$. Then*

$$\sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+} \beta(\Sigma) \geq 0.$$

Proof. We start by calculating $\beta(\Sigma)$ for any $\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_0$. By Corollary 8.12, $H(\Sigma) = 0$. Hence, the weights at Σ are $\{-1, 1, 0\}$ by the weight sum formula 1.10 (1) and the fact that the S^1 -action is effective. Therefore

$$\beta(\Sigma) = -\langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle \leq 0,$$

by the relative symplectic Fano condition applied to the sphere Σ .

By Lemma 10.23, $\alpha(p) \leq 0$ for all $p \in \mathcal{P}$ (where \mathcal{P} is the set of isolated fixed points in M). Combining with the above we have that:

$$\sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_0} \beta(\Sigma) + \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}} \alpha(p) \leq 0.$$

Therefore by Equation (4) of Lemma 2.16 we have that

$$\sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+} \beta(\Sigma) \geq 0.$$

\square

Proof of Theorem 10.20. We will split the proof into two parts, depending on whether $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is reflective or not.

1. *The case when $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is not reflective.* If \mathcal{Q} is the graph of fixed points of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ then $\mathcal{Q} \cong \mathcal{G}_g$ by Corollary 9.13. On the other hand, all $\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+$ are of genus g .

By applying Lemma 2.17 to $\mathcal{F}(M)$ we have that

$$\sum_{\Sigma_i \in \mathcal{S}_+} \frac{2 - 2g}{w_{i,1} w_{i,2}} = 0.$$

Therefore substituting this into Equation (6) from the last line of the proof of Theorem 10.20, over each connected component $C_j \subset \mathcal{G}_g$ we obtain:

$$\sum_{\Sigma_i \in \mathcal{S}_+} (\beta(\Sigma_i) + \langle c_1(M), \Sigma_i \rangle) = n(2 - 2g) + \sum_{\Sigma_i \in C_j} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (n_{i,2} + n_{i+1,2}) \left(1 - \frac{1}{w_{i,2}^2} \right).$$

Hence,

$$\sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+} (\beta(\Sigma) + \langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle) \leq n(2 - 2g).$$

By Lemma 10.24 the sum of $\beta(\Sigma)$ is non-negative, so we obtain:

$$\sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+} \langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle \leq n(2 - 2g).$$

This tells us that there exists a fixed surface Σ' with $g(\Sigma') = g$ and such that $\langle c_1(M), \Sigma' \rangle \leq 2 - 2g$.

2. *The case when $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is reflective.* Applying Corollary 9.13.2 for the reflective case, the number of fixed surfaces is equal to $\frac{\chi(\mathcal{F}(M))}{2} + 1$. Since $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is a toric del Pezzo surface $\chi(\mathcal{F}(M)) = 4$ or 6 , and so \mathcal{S}_+ contains either 3 or 4 surfaces.

Let us now show how the theorem follows from the following claim.

Claim 10.25.

$$\sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+} \left(1 + \frac{1}{w_{i,1}w_{i,2}} \right) (2 - 2g(\Sigma)) \leq 4(2 - 2g).$$

To see that Theorem 10.20 follows from this claim, we substitute this inequality into Equation (6) from the proof of Lemma 10.21. This substitution shows that

$$\sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+} (\beta(\Sigma) + \langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle) \leq 4(2 - 2g).$$

On the other hand, Lemma 10.24 tells us that the sum of $\beta(\Sigma)$ is positive. Hence,

$$\sum_{\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}_+} \langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle \leq 4(2 - 2g).$$

Since there are most 4 fixed surfaces, there exists at least one fixed surface Σ with $g(\Sigma) \geq g$ such that $\langle c_1(M), \Sigma \rangle \leq 2 - 2g$.

Proof of Claim 10.25. Since $\mathcal{F}(M)$ is reflective, the weights at M_{\min}, M_{\max} are $\{1, 1, 0\}, \{-1, -1, 0\}$ respectively. By a direct computation, the contribution of the extremal fixed surfaces to the left hand side is $4(2 - 2g)$. Hence, it is sufficient to show that the contribution of non-extremal fixed surfaces must be non-positive. This also follows from direct computation, once one notes that the weights at any such surface must be equal to $\{1, -1, 0\}, \{-1, 2, 0\}$ or $\{-2, 1, 0\}$. \square

11 Proof of Theorem 1.3 and Corollary 1.4

In this section we finalise the proof of Theorem 1.3 and deduce Corollary 1.4 from it. The only remaining case of Theorem 1.3 to prove is the following one.

Theorem 11.1. *Let M be a symplectic Fano 6-manifold with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action and such that M_{\max} is a point and M_{\min} has dimension 4. Then $b_2(M_{\min}) \leq 9$, and moreover M_{\min} is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface.*

Let us explain why this result indeed finishes the proof of Theorem 1.3.

Proof of Theorem 1.3. The manifold M_{\min} can be of dimensions 0, 2, or 4 and so we consider separately these three cases.

- 1) $\dim(M_{\min}) = 0$. In this case M_{\min} is a point since it is connected.
- 2) $\dim(M_{\min}) = 2$. In this case three possibilities can occur. First, $\dim(M_{\max}) = 0$, in which case $\pi_1(M_{\min}) = \pi_1(M_{\max}) = 0$ by Theorem 2.12 and so M_{\min} is a 2-sphere. Second case is when $\dim(M_{\max}) = 2$. This case is covered by Theorem 1.8. The case when $\dim(M_{\max}) = 4$ follows from Theorem 3.5. Indeed, to apply the theorem invert the S^1 -action, which changes the sign of the Hamiltonian and swaps M_{\min} with M_{\max} .
- 3) $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$. In this case we consider two possibilities. First is when $\dim(M_{\max}) \geq 2$, this is treated in Theorem 3.5. Second case, when $\dim(M_{\max}) = 0$, is the content of Theorem 11.1. \square

11.1 Proof of Theorem 11.1

Recall briefly results of Section 3.3 which give restrictions on M^{S^1} in the case when $\dim(M_{\min}) = 4$ and $\dim(M_{\max}) = 0$. We established in Proposition 3.6 that the weights at M_{\max} can be either $\{-1, -1, -1\}$ or $\{-1, -1, -2\}$.

Additionally to this, we explained that isolated non-extremal fixed points in M can be of types A , B and C , that have the following weights respectively.

$$\{1, -1, -2\} : \text{type } A, \quad \{2, -1, -1\} : \text{type } B, \quad \{1, -1, -1\} : \text{type } C.$$

The number of fixed points of types A , B , and C are denoted n_A , n_B , and n_C respectively.

The proof of Theorem 11.1 uses the following lemma.

Lemma 11.2. *Let M be as in Theorem 11.1. Then $b_2(M_{\min})$ is equal to the number of isolated fixed points in M .*

Proof. Let us see how the topology of the reduced space M_c changes as c decreases from $H_{\max} - \varepsilon$ to H_{\min} . For $c = H_{\max} - \varepsilon$, and ε small enough, the orbifold M_c is a weighted projective plane and so $b_2(M_c) = 1$. According to Proposition 3.6 all non-extremal isolated fixed points on M have index 4. For this reason, when c passes a non-extremal critical level, the space M_c undergoes a weighted blow-up at all isolated fixed points at this level. At the same time, fixed surfaces in M don't affect the topology of M_c . This proves the lemma. \square

Proof of Theorem 11.1. We will first deal with the topology of M_{\min} and then will deal with its diffeomorphism type.

1) *Topology of M_{\min} .* According to Lemma 11.2, in order to prove that $b_2(M_{\min}) \leq 9$ we need to show that M has at most 8 non-extremal isolated fixed points. In notations of Proposition 3.6 we need to prove $n_A + n_B + n_C \leq 8$. To prove this bound we will evaluate the volume of M_0 using Corollary 2.11. Consider now two cases.

Suppose first M_{\max} has weights $\{-1, -1, -1\}$. By Lemma 3.8 3) fixed points in the range $H > 0$ are isolated. By Proposition 3.6 non-extremal fixed points in the range $H > 0$ are of type A or C . Hence, we can use Corollary 2.11 (3) to get

$$\text{Vol}(M_0) = \int_{M_0} \omega_0^2 = 9 - 2n_A - n_C.$$

Since the volume $\text{Vol}(M_0)$ is positive and $n_B = n_A$ by Lemma 3.8 1), the desired bound $n_A + n_B + n_C \leq 8$ follows from this equality.

Suppose next that M_{\max} has weights $\{-1, -1, -2\}$. Applying Equation (3) as above we get

$$\int_{M_0} \omega_0^2 = 8 - 2n_A - n_C.$$

By Lemma 3.8 2) $n_B = n_A + 1$ and so the desired bound $n_A + n_B + n_C \leq 8$ is proven.

2) *Diffeomorphism type.* Since $b_2(M_{\min}) \leq 9$, in order to prove that M_{\min} is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface, it is sufficient to show that it is a rational symplectic 4-manifold. Let us explain how to deduce this from Theorem 2.30.

According to Theorem 2.30 it is enough to produce in M_{\min} a smoothly embedded sphere with positive self-intersection.

Assume first that M_{\max} is a point with weights $\{-1, -1, -2\}$. In this case the reduced space $M_{4-\varepsilon}$ is symplectomorphic to a singular quadratic surface (a cone over a conic). Hence $M_{4-\varepsilon}$ contains a smooth sphere S with self-intersection 2.

Note now that the partially defined map $gr_{-1+\varepsilon}^{4-\varepsilon} : M_{4-\varepsilon} \dashrightarrow M_{-1+\varepsilon}$ can be extended to a diffeomorphism on a complement to a finite number (at most 7) of points in $M_{4-\varepsilon}$. This follows from the fact that non-extremal isolated fixed points in M have index 4, and this can be achieved using Theorem 2.45 2) as in the proof of Theorem 7.1. Let us now perturb the sphere S in $M_{4-\varepsilon}$ to disjoin it from the finite collection of indeterminacy points of $gr_{-1+\varepsilon}^{4-\varepsilon}$ and take in $M_{-1+\varepsilon}$ the smooth sphere $S' = gr_{-1+\varepsilon}^{4-\varepsilon}(S)$. Clearly, $(S')^2 = S^2 = 2$.

The case when M_{\max} is a point with weights $\{-1, -1, -1\}$ is even easier. Instead of a conic we can start with a complex line in $M_{3-\varepsilon} \cong \mathbb{C}P^2$. This will give us a smooth sphere with self-intersection 1 in $M_{-1+\varepsilon}$ in the same way as in the first case. \square

11.2 Proof of Corollary 1.4

Now we deduce Corollary 1.4 from Theorem 1.3, i.e. we show that $c_1 c_2(M) = 24$.

Proof of Corollary 1.4. The Todd genus of M may be expressed in terms of Chern numbers

$$Td(M) = \frac{1}{24} c_1 c_2(M).$$

By Corollary 2.19 the Todd genus of M is equal to the Todd genus of $M_{\min} \subset M$. Hence it is sufficient to show that the Todd genus of M_{\min} is 1. This is immediate since M_{\min} is diffeomorphic to a del Pezzo surface, a 2-sphere or a point by Theorem 1.3. \square

A Appendix. Smoothing Kähler orbifolds

The main goal of this appendix is to show how to smooth locally the metric on 2-dimensional Kähler orbifolds with a semi-toric structure at the orbifold locus (see Definition 5.2). The main result is Theorem A.10, it shows how to smooth an orbifold metric with singularities along a collection of divisors to a metric which has only isolated quotient singularities. The smoothing preserves the cohomology class of the metric and does not change it outside of a small neighbourhood of the orbifold locus. The main tool for proving Theorem A.10 is the technique for gluing Kähler metrics based on *regularised maximum*, which we recall first.

A.1 Regularised maximum

Using regularised maximum one can in certain circumstances glue together Kähler metrics defined on open sets, covering a complex manifold. After recalling the definition, we state Lemma A.2 which follows from [6, Lemma 5.18].

Let $\theta \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ be a non-negative function with support in $[-1, 1]$ such that $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \theta(h) dh = 1$ and $\int_{\mathbb{R}} h\theta(h) dh = 0$.

Definition A.1. For $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$, the *regularised maximum* M_η of functions t_1, \dots, t_p (given on any space) is defined as follows

$$M_\eta(t_1, \dots, t_p) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^p} \max\{t_1 + h_1, \dots, t_p + h_p\} \prod_{1 \leq j \leq p} \theta(h_j/\eta) dh_1 \dots dh_p$$

Lemma A.2. *Let U be an open complex manifold covered by two open submanifolds, $U = U_1 \cup U_2$ and let $\partial U_1, \partial U_2$ be the boundaries of the closures of U_1 and U_2 . Let ω' be a closed real $(1, 1)$ -form on U . Suppose that on each U_i there is a Kähler form ω_i and a continuous function φ_i extendible to ∂U_i , so that the following conditions hold.*

- 1) $\omega' + \sqrt{-1}\partial\bar{\partial}\varphi_i = \omega_i$ on U_i .
- 2) There is a constant $c > 0$ such that $\varphi_1 - c > \varphi_2$ on $U_1 \cap \partial U_2$ and $\varphi_2 - c > \varphi_1$ on $U_2 \cap \partial U_1$.

Then there is a Kähler metric ω on U , that coincides with ω_1 on $U_1 \setminus U_2$ and with ω_2 on $U_2 \setminus U_1$. Such ω can be expressed as

$$\omega = \omega' + \sqrt{-1}\partial\bar{\partial}M_\eta(\varphi_1, \varphi_2), \tag{7}$$

where M_η is the regularised maximum with η small enough.

Proof. This lemma follows directly from [6, Lemma 5.18]. \square

A.2 Modifying Kähler metrics in small neighbourhoods

In this section we show how a Kähler metric can be modified in a small neighbourhood of a point to match a different metric. The following lemma is classical but we provide a proof for a lack of reference.

Lemma A.3. *Let U be a complex manifold, $x \in U$ be a point and $U_x \subset U$ be a neighbourhood of x . Suppose that g is a Kähler metric on U and g_x is a Kähler metric on U_x . Then there exists a Kähler metric g' on U that is equal to g_x on a smaller neighbourhood $U'_x \subset U_x$ of x and equal to g on $U \setminus U_x$.*

Proof. Let $B \subseteq U_x$ be a standard coordinate ball, such that $x = 0$. We may find strictly plurisubharmonic functions u and v such that $\omega_g = i\partial\bar{\partial}u$ and $\omega_{g_x} = i\partial\bar{\partial}v$. Next, we fix a cut-off function χ that is equal to 1 near x , compactly supported on B and vanishes close to ∂B . We may choose $\delta > 0$ small enough so that the function

$$\tilde{u}(z) = u(z) + \delta\chi(z)\log(|z|),$$

is strictly plurisubharmonic on $B \setminus \{x\}$. Next, we choose C large enough so that $v - C < u$ in a neighbourhood of ∂B . The function $\varphi = M_\eta(\tilde{u}, v - C)$ is smooth and strictly plurisubharmonic on B . Since on a neighbourhood of ∂B , $u = \tilde{u}$ and $v - C < u$, the Kähler form associated to $g' = i\partial\bar{\partial}\varphi$, $\omega_{g'}$ is equal to ω_g there. Hence, we may define a Kähler metric on U , that is equal to $\omega_{g'}$ on B and equal to ω_g on $U \setminus B$. One may check that this metric satisfies the required properties. \square

Remark A.4. Let g and g' be Kähler metrics from Lemma A.3 and consider the family of Kähler metrics $g_t = (1-t)g + tg'$, $t \in [0, 1]$ on U . Let ω_t be the corresponding family of symplectic forms. Then symplectic manifolds (U, ω_t) are all symplectomorphic and moreover the symplectomorphism can be chosen to be equal to the identity on $U \setminus U_x$.

The symplectomorphism $(U, \omega) \rightarrow (U, \omega')$ we will be denoted Φ .

The following corollary is a symplectic variation of Lemma A.3.

Corollary A.5. *Let (U, ω) be a symplectic manifold, $x \in U$ be a point and $U_x \subset U$ be a neighbourhood of x . Suppose that g is a Kähler metric on U and g_x is a Kähler metric on U_x , both compatible with ω . Then there exists a neighbourhood $U'_x \subset U_x$ of x and a Kähler metric g' on U compatible with ω , such that $g = g_x$ on U'_x and $g' = g$ on $U \setminus U_x$.*

Proof. Using Lemma A.3, we can deform g to a Kähler metric g'' on U satisfying two properties. 1) g'' coincides with g outside of a small neighbourhood of x . 2) A small neighbourhood $U_\varepsilon(x) \subset U_x$ admits an isometric embedding $I : (U_\varepsilon(x), g'') \rightarrow (U_x, g_x)$. Using further the symplectomorphism $\Phi : (U, \omega) \rightarrow (U, \omega'')$ mentioned in Remark A.4 we obtain a Kähler metric $\Phi^*(g'')$ on U , compatible with ω .

The metric g' on U will be obtained from $\Phi^*(g'')$ by a symplectic automorphism of (U, ω) . By definition of g'' a small neighbourhood of x endowed with the metric $\Phi^*(g'')$

admits an isometric embedding I' into (U_x, g_x) sending x to x . Shrinking further this small neighbourhood and using Lemma 2.49 we can extend I' to a symplectic automorphism \bar{I}' of (U, ω) that is equal to the identity on $U \setminus U_x$. The metric g' we are looking for is then given by $g' = \bar{I}'(\Phi^*(g''))$. \square

Remark A.6. Note that Corollary A.5 holds as well for orbifolds, where instead for Lemma 2.49 one has to use its orbifold version, see Remark 2.50.

A.3 S^1 -invariant Kähler metrics on orbi-bundles

The main result of this section is Corollary A.9. It constructs a smoothing of an S^1 -invariant, orbifold Kähler metric which is defined on the total space of a line bundle, with the orbifold locus along the zero section of the bundle.

Let M be a Kähler manifold and (L, h) be a Hermitian line bundle on it. Denote by \mathcal{L} the total space of L , let M_0 be the zero section in \mathcal{L} and let $\pi : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow M_0$ be the projection. A point of \mathcal{L} will be denoted as (x, z) , where $x \in M_0$, and $z \in L_x$. By $|z|_h^2$ we denote the function equal to the square of the norm given by h . By $U_c \subset \mathcal{L}$ we denote the neighbourhood of M_0 consisting of points (x, z) with $|z|_h \leq c$.

For each integer $n > 1$ one can turn \mathcal{L} into a complex orbifold \mathcal{L}_n by declaring that all points of the zero section M_0 have stabilizer \mathbb{Z}_n . The next lemma and its corollary analyse Kähler and orbi-Kähler metrics on the neighbourhood U_1 of M_0 .

Lemma A.7. *Let ω be any S^1 -invariant Kähler metric on the neighbourhood $U_1 \subset \mathcal{L}$ of M_0 , and denote the restriction of ω to M_0 by ω_0 . Then the metric ω can be presented as*

$$\pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}f(x, z)|z|_h^2$$

where f is an S^1 -invariant function satisfying the inequality $0 < c_1 < f(x, z) < c_2$ on U_1 for some positive constants c_1 and c_2 .

Proof. Note that for every point $x \in M_0$ there is a unique S^1 -invariant function u_x defined on the unit disk $\mathbb{D}_1 \subset L_x$ such that $\omega|_{\mathbb{D}_1} = i\partial\bar{\partial}u_x$ and $u_x(0) = 0$. This clearly defines to us a smooth function u on whole U_1 . Let us first show that $\omega = \pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}u$.

Indeed, the form $\omega' = \omega - \pi^*(\omega_0) - i\partial\bar{\partial}u$ is S^1 -invariant, it vanishes on M_0 , and vanishes on all fibres of L in \mathcal{L} . It is clear, that to prove that such ω' is identically zero it would be enough to prove this when M_0 is a complex ball B and U_1 is $B \times \mathbb{D}_1$. Let us represent then ω' as $i\partial\bar{\partial}v$, where v vanishes on $B \times 0$ and S^1 -invariant. Since ω' vanishes on each \mathbb{D}_1 -fibre, v is constant on each such fibre and hence it is identically zero.

Finally, to see that $0 < c_1 < u(x, z)|z|_h^{-2} < c_2$ on U_1 for some $c_1, c_2 > 0$, note that such an inequality holds uniformly on each \mathbb{D}_1 -fibre, since $i\partial\bar{\partial}u(x, z)$ is Kähler on each such \mathbb{D}_1 -fibre, $u(x, 0) = 0$ and $u(x, z)$ is S^1 -invariant. \square

Corollary A.8. *Fix an integer $n > 1$ and introduce on \mathcal{L} the structure of orbifold \mathcal{L}_n . Let ω be any S^1 -invariant Kähler orbifold metric on the neighbourhood $U_1 \subset \mathcal{L}_n$ of M_0 . Then the metric ω can be presented as*

$$\pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}f(x, z)|z|_h^{\frac{2}{n}}$$

where f is an S^1 -invariant function that satisfies the inequality $0 < c_1 < f(x, z) < c_2$ on U_1 for some positive constants c_1 and c_2 .

Proof. The statement is local, and so it is enough to prove it when there exists a n -th root L' of L , $L \cong L'^{\otimes n}$. Consider the holomorphic map $\mu_n : \mathcal{L}' \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ that is a composition of the n -th tensor power map $L' \rightarrow L'^{\otimes n}$ and the isomorphism. Let h' be the unique Hermitian metric on L' such that norm 1 vectors in L' are sent to norm 1 vectors in L . Then $\mu_n^*(\omega)$ is a smooth Kähler form on U'_1 and by Lemma A.7 we have

$$\mu_n^*(\omega) = \pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}f'(x, z)|z|_{h'}^2.$$

Since $f'(x, z)$ is S^1 -invariant and satisfies $0 < c_1 < f'(x, z) < c_2$ we see that the function $f(x, z)$ induced from $f'(x, z)$ on the quotient $U_1 = U'_1/\mathbb{Z}_n$ satisfies $0 < c_1 < f(x, z) < c_2$. At the same time μ sends the function $|z|_{h'}^2$ to $|z|_h^{\frac{2}{n}}$. \square

Corollary A.9. *Fix an integer $n > 1$, introduce on \mathcal{L} the structure of orbifold \mathcal{L}_n and let $a \in (0, 1)$. Let ω_n be any S^1 -invariant Kähler orbifold metric on the neighbourhood $U_1 \subset \mathcal{L}_n$ of M_0 . The metric ω_n can be smoothed in U_1 to an S^1 -invariant Kähler metric ω so that the following holds*

1. *The smoothed metric ω can be presented as $\omega_n + i\partial\bar{\partial}\varphi$, where φ is a continuous function with support in U_a . In particular ω coincides with ω_n in $U_1 \setminus U_a$.*
2. *For any open subset $U \subset M_0$ the smoothed metric on $\pi^{-1}(U)$ only depends on restriction of ω_n on $\pi^{-1}(U)$.*
3. *Suppose that for some open $U \subset M_0$ the metric on $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is that of a direct product of ω_0 on U with an S^1 -invariant Kähler orbifold metric on a unit disk. Then the smoothing preserves the direct product structure.*

Proof. 1) According to Corollary A.8 we have $\omega_n = \pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}f(x, z)|z|_h^{\frac{2}{n}}$, where $0 < c_1 < f(x, z) < c_2$ on U_1 . Choose $b \in (0, a)$ such that the form $\omega_1 = \pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}|z|_h^2$ is Kähler in U_b . It is not hard to see that there exist constants d, e_1, e_2 satisfying $0 < d$ and $0 < e_1 < e_2 < b$, and such that

$$e_1^2 + d > c_2 e_1^{\frac{2}{n}}, \quad e_2^2 + d < c_1 e_2^{\frac{2}{n}}. \quad (8)$$

Now we can apply Lemma A.2 to $U_1 = U_{e_2} \cup (U_1 \setminus U_{e_1})$ and Kähler forms represented in the following form

$$\omega_1 = \pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}(|z|_h^2 + d), \quad \omega_n = \pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}f(x, z)|z|_h^{\frac{2}{n}}.$$

From Inequalities (8) and the bounds on $f(x, z)$ it follows that the conditions of Lemma A.2 on potentials $|z|_h^2 + d$ and $f(x, z)|z|_h^{\frac{2}{n}}$ are satisfied. So we can set

$$\varphi = M_\eta(|z|_h^2 + d, f(x, z)|z|_h^{\frac{2}{n}}),$$

to get a smooth Kähler metric $\omega = \pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}\varphi$ on U_1 . The metric ω coincides with ω_1 in U_{e_1} and with ω_n in $U_1 \setminus U_{e_2}$. Moreover, the function $f(x, z)|z|_h^{\frac{2}{n}} - \varphi$ is clearly continuous, and since $e_2 < a$, it is supported in U_a . Hence condition 1) is established.

The validity of condition 2) follows from the proof of Corollary A.8, indeed the values of the function $f(x, z)$ on $\pi^{-1}(U)$ only depend on the behaviour of the metric ω_n in $\pi^{-1}(U)$. Condition 3) holds, since in this case, the function $f(x, z)$ in U only depends on $|z|_h$ and not on x . \square

A.4 Smoothing of Kähler orb-metrics on surfaces

In this section we will use Corollary A.9 to deduce a result on smoothing of Kähler metrics on complex orbifolds of dimension 2. We will deal with the cases when the stabilizer of each point is cyclic. The underlying complex analytic surface of such an orbifold is a complex surface with quotient singularities of the type $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_n$. It will be useful to us to write down the action of the generator of \mathbb{Z}_n on \mathbb{C}^2 in the following form,

$$(x, z) \rightarrow (\mu_1^p \cdot x, \mu_2^q \cdot z), \quad \mu_1 = e^{2\pi i \cdot k_1/n}, \quad \mu_2 = e^{2\pi i \cdot k_2/n}, \quad (9)$$

where k_1 and k_2 are coprime with n , while p and q are coprime divisors of n .

Theorem A.10. *Let (S, g) be a Kähler orbifold of dimension 2 with cyclic stabilizers and let D_1, \dots, D_k be the 1-dimensional irreducible components of the orbifold locus of S . Suppose that g is semi-toric at D_1, \dots, D_k . Then for an arbitrary small neighbourhood U of the orbifold locus of S there is a smoothing ω' of ω such that*

- 1) $\omega' = \omega$ on $S \setminus U$.
- 2) ω' defines on U a structure of a Kähler orbifold with isolated orb-points.
- 3) $[\omega'] = [\omega] \in H^2(S)$.

Proof. To smooth the metric we will smooth it consecutively along all divisors, starting from D_1 . Suppose first that D_1 is disjoint from all other divisors and it does not contain singular points of S . In this case, all points of D_1 have the same stabilizer \mathbb{Z}_p . The complex S^1 -action in a neighbourhood U permits us to biholomorphically identify U with a unit disk sub-bundle U_1 of a complex line bundle L over D_1 . This puts us in the setting of Corollary A.9. Now the existence of a smoothing in arbitrary small neighbourhood of D_1 follows from this corollary.

Suppose now that a generic point of D_1 has stabilizer \mathbb{Z}_p while at a finite subset $\bar{x} \in D_1$ the stabilizers strictly contain \mathbb{Z}_p . Let us first use Lemma A.3 and deform slightly the

metric in an ε -neighbourhood $U_\varepsilon(\bar{x})$ of \bar{x} to make it flat there in the orbifold sense. Then we can smooth the metric along the regular part of D_1 that avoids $U_{\varepsilon/2}(\bar{x})$, applying Corollary A.9 as above. So we just need to explain how to extend this smoothing to $U_\varepsilon(\bar{x})$.

Let $x \in \bar{x}$ be a point with stabilizer \mathbb{Z}_n where $n > p$. The local orbi-action is given by Equation (9). Consider the presentation of $U_\varepsilon(x)$ as $B_\varepsilon/\mathbb{Z}_n$ where $B_\varepsilon \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ is a flat complex ball. It is not hard to see that the subgroup $\mathbb{Z}_p \subset \mathbb{Z}_n$ is acting on B_ε fixing the preimage of $D_1 \cap U_\varepsilon(x)$ in B_ε (which is a flat disk there). Hence $B_\varepsilon/\mathbb{Z}_p$ is a smooth complex disk, and it is an orbi-cover of $U_\varepsilon(x)$ with orbi-group $\mathbb{Z}_{n/p}$. The smoothing of the metric on the complement to $U_{\varepsilon/2}(x)$ in $U_\varepsilon(x)$ can be lifted to its preimage in $B_\varepsilon/\mathbb{Z}_p$ and then extended to the whole preimage by Corollary A.9 3). In this way we are able to extend the smoothing to the point x , making it an orbi-point with stabilizer $\mathbb{Z}_{n/p}$.

Repeating now the above smoothing construction for all the divisors we obtain a Kähler orbi-metric on S , that satisfies properties 1) and 2). To see that property 3) holds as well, note that whenever we use Corollary A.9 1) to smooth g along an orbi-curve, we add to ω_g an exact form $i\partial\bar{\partial}\varphi$. Hence we don't change the cohomology class of ω_g . \square

A.5 Orbi-Kähler metric along the orbifold locus

The goal of this section is to prove the following proposition.

Proposition A.11. *Let (M^4, ω) be a symplectic orbifold with cyclic stabilizers and let D be a 2-dimensional irreducible component of the orbifold locus. Then there is a neighbourhood U of D with a Kähler metric g on U compatible with ω and a Hamiltonian isometric S^1 -action on U , fixing D .*

The proof of this proposition is composed of four steps. In Step 1 we choose a flat Kähler metric on M^4 close maximal orbi-points on D . In Step 2 we show that the normal orbi-bundle N_D to D has a natural holomorphic structure. In Step 3 we choose a Kähler structure close to the zero section of N_D . In Step 4 we apply Darboux-Weinstein Theorem 2.48.

Proof. Step 1. Suppose that the stabilizer of a generic point of D is \mathbb{Z}_p . Let x_1, \dots, x_m be all the points on D with stabilizers \mathbb{Z}_{n_i} with $n_i > p$. For each x_i we take a Darboux neighbourhood U_i of x_i that is symplectomorphic to a neighbourhood of 0 in the quotient $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_{n_i}$. We assume that \mathbb{Z}_{n_i} acts on \mathbb{C}^2 by isometries and, following presentation (9), is given by

$$(x, z) \rightarrow (\mu_i^p \cdot x, \nu_i^{q_i} \cdot z).$$

Here μ_i and ν_i are primitive n_i -th roots of unity, and q_i and p are coprime divisors of n_i . Thus we have a flat Kähler metric compatible with ω on the union of U_i . This metric will be extended to a neighbourhood of D .

Step 2. We will now introduce a holomorphic structure on the orbifold line bundle N_D over D , isomorphic to the normal orbi-bundle to D . First, we can extend the complex structure on $\cup_i U_i$ to an almost complex structure J on a neighbourhood of D , compatible with ω . This gives us a complex structure on D and makes N_D a Hermitian orbi-bundle over D .

Notice, that for ε small enough the total space of the bundle N_D over an ε -neighbourhood $U(x_i, \varepsilon) \subset D$ of x_i can be identified with the quotient of the cylinder $\{|z| < \varepsilon\} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ by the above action of \mathbb{Z}_{n_i} . Hence we have a holomorphic structure on N_D , over the union of neighbourhoods $U(x_i, \varepsilon)$. On each punctured neighbourhood $U(x_i, \varepsilon) \setminus x_i$ we have a flat connection on N_D , induced from the flat metric on $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_{n_i}$. In order to get a holomorphic structure on the whole N_D it suffices to extend this flat connection from the union of punctured neighbourhoods U_i to some Hermitian connection on N_D over $D \setminus \cup_i U(x_i, \varepsilon)$. Such a connection will induce a holomorphic structure on the total space of N_D .

Step 3. Let us now construct a positive closed $(1, 1)$ -form on a neighbourhood of the zero section in the total space of N_D . We already have such a flat form on N_D over the union of $U_i(x_i, \varepsilon)$ and we have such a form ω_0 on D , $\omega_0 = \omega|_D$. Hence we can define a $(1, 1)$ -form close to D by the formula

$$\omega_n = \pi^*(\omega_0) + i\partial\bar{\partial}|z|_h^{\frac{2}{p}},$$

as in Corollary A.8. This form is positive in some neighbourhood of D and it is S^1 -invariant by construction.

Step 4. Finally, by Theorem 2.48 1) there is a symplectomorphism φ from a neighbourhood of the zero section of N_D to a neighbourhood of D in M^4 . This symplectomorphism induces the desired Kähler structure close to D . \square

A.6 Resolving isolated orbi-points and submanifolds

The following two statements are standard so we omit their proof.

Lemma A.12. *Consider \mathbb{C}^n with a flat Kähler metric ω and let $\Gamma \subset U(n)$ be a finite group acting on \mathbb{C}^n by isometries so that the action is free on $\mathbb{C}^n \setminus 0$. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n/\Gamma$ be a resolution of singularities of the quotient. Then there is a Kähler metric on X that coincides with $\pi^*(\omega)$ outside of a neighbourhood of the exceptional divisor E .*

Lemma A.13. *Let U be a possibly open manifold with a Kähler metric g and let $X \subset U$ be a smooth compact Kähler submanifold of complex codimension ≥ 2 . Consider the blow up of U in X , $\pi : U' \rightarrow U$. Then there exists a Kähler metric on U' that coincides with π^*g outside of a small neighbourhood of the exceptional divisor $E \subset U'$.*

Moreover, in the case when a compact group G is acting by Kähler isometries of (U, X) the Kähler blow up can be preformed G -equivariantly.

A.7 Smooth foliations in \mathbb{C}^2 with holomorphic leaves.

The goal of this subsection is to give a sketch proof of the following result.

Lemma A.14. *Consider \mathbb{C}^2 with an almost complex structure J . Let $B_1 \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ be the unit ball $B_1 := \{(w_1, w_2) \in \mathbb{C}^2 : |w_1|^2 + |w_2|^2 < 1\}$, and let \mathcal{H} be a smooth foliation on B_1 with J -holomorphic leaves. Then for any smooth J -holomorphic curve $C \subset B_1$ the points of tangency of C and \mathcal{H} form a discrete subset of C .*

Sketch proof. Let p be a point of tangency of C and \mathcal{H} . As in the proof of Lemma [33, Lemma 2.4.3] one can choose new coordinates (w_1, w_2) close to p so that $p = (0, 0)$, the leaf of \mathcal{H} passing through $(0, 0)$ is given by $w_2 = 0$, and J is equal to multiplication by i along the axis $w_2 = 0$.

Let $v : z \rightarrow (v_1(z), v_2(z))$ be a J -holomorphic parametrization of C . Then, as in the proof of Lemma [33, Lemma 2.4.3], we have the presentation

$$(v_1(z), v_2(z)) = (p(z) + O(|z^{n+1}|), az^n + O(|z^{n+1}|)),$$

where $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree at most n with $p'(0) \neq 0$ and $a \neq 0$.

Making a smooth parametrization in z and a change of coordinates in w_1, w_2 , we can assume that $v_1(z) = z$, $v_2(z) = z^n + O(|z^{n+1}|)$, and moreover the foliation \mathcal{H} is horizontal close to $(0, 0)$. It is now clear that $(0, 0)$ is an isolated tangency point of \mathcal{H} and C . Indeed, the map $z \rightarrow z^n + O(|z^{n+1}|)$ has non-degenerate differential if $z \neq 0$ and $|z|$ is small. \square

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