# ON ASTHENO-KÄHLER METRICS 

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#### Abstract

A Hermitian metric on a complex manifold of complex dimension $n$ is called astheno-Kähler if its fundamental 2-form $F$ satisfies the condition $\partial \bar{\partial} F^{n-2}=0$. If $n=3$, then the metric is strong $K T$, i.e. $F$ is $\partial \bar{\partial}$-closed. By using blow-ups and the twist construction, we construct simply-connected astheno-Kähler manifolds of complex dimension $n>3$. Moreover, we construct a family of astheno-Kähler (non strong KT) 2-step nilmanifolds of complex dimension 4 and we study deformations of strong KT structures on nilmanifolds of complex dimension 3 .

Finally, we study the relation between astheno-Kähler condition and (locally) conformally balanced one and we provide examples of locally conformally balanced astheno-Kähler metrics on $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundles over (non-Kähler) homogeneous complex surfaces.


## 1. Introduction

Let $(M, J, g)$ be a Hermitian manifold of complex dimension $n$. By [17] there exists a one-parameter family of canonical Hermitian connections

$$
\nabla^{t}=t \nabla^{C}+(1-t) \nabla^{0}
$$

where $\nabla^{C}$ and $\nabla^{0}$ denote the Chern connection and the first canonical connection respectively. This family includes for $t=-1$ the Bismut connection $\nabla^{B}$ considered by J.M. Bismut in (4).

If the fundamental 2-form $F(\cdot, \cdot)=g(J \cdot, \cdot)$ is closed, then the metric $g$ is Kähler and any connection $\nabla^{t}$ in the above family coincides with the Levi-Civita connection. In the literature, weaker conditions on $F$ have been studied and they involve the closure with respect to the $\partial \bar{\partial}$-operator of the $(k, k)$-form $F^{k}=F \wedge \cdots \wedge F$. Some of these conditions are characterized by some properties of either the Chern or Bismut connection.

More precisely, if $\partial \bar{\partial} F=0$, then the Hermitian structure $(J, g)$ is said to be strong Kähler with torsion and $g$ is called strong $K T$ (see e.g. 15). In this case the Hermitian structure is characterized by the condition that the Bismut connection has skew-symmetric torsion. Strong KT metrics have been recently studied by many authors and they have also applications in type II string theory and in 2dimensional supersymmetric $\sigma$-models [15, 39, 23]. Moreover, they have also links with generalized Kähler structures (see for instance [15, 19, 22, 2, [11, 12]). New simply-connected strong KT examples have been recently constructed by A. Swann

[^0]in 40] via the twist construction, by reproducing the 6-dimensional examples found previously in 18 .

If $\partial \bar{\partial} F^{n-2}=0$, then in the terminology of J. Jost and S.-T. Yau $([26,30])$ the Hermitian metric $g$ on $M$ is said to be astheno-Kähler. Therefore, on a complex surface any Hermitian metric is automatically astheno-Kähler and in complex dimension $n=3$ the notion of astheno-Kähler metric coincides with that one of strong KT. For $n>3$, as far as we know, not many results and examples of astheno-Kähler manifolds are known.

Some rigidity theorems concerning compact astheno-Kähler manifolds have been showed in [26, Theorem 6] and in [30, where, in particular, a generalization to higher dimension of the Bogomolov's Theorem on $V I I_{0}$ surfaces is proved (see [30, Corollary 3]). Astheno-Kähler structures on Calabi-Eckmann manifolds have been constructed in 34 .

In [13] we proved that the blow-up of a complex manifold $M$ at a point or along a compact complex submanifold $Y$ is still strong KT, as in the Kähler case (see for example [5]). In Section 2 we will show that the results of [13] about resolutions of strong KT orbifolds can be extended to Hermitian orbifolds satisfying the conditions

$$
\begin{equation*}
\partial \bar{\partial} F=0, \quad \partial \bar{\partial} F^{2}=0 \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

We will show that these manifolds satisfy $\partial \bar{\partial} F^{k}=0$ for all $k>1$ and therefore they are a proper subset of the astheno-Kähler manifolds.

As an application, we will construct a simply-connected example of compact astheno-Kähler manifold satisfying previous conditions. Moreover, we will show that other 8 -dimensional examples may be obtained by applying the twist construction of (40] to astheno-Kähler manifolds with torus action.

In complex dimension 3 invariant astheno-Kähler structures on nilmanifolds, i.e. on compact quotients of nilpotent Lie groups by uniform discrete subgroups, were studied in [11] showing that the existence of such a structure depends only on the left-invariant complex structure on the Lie group. In Section 2 we will construct a family of astheno-Kähler 2-step nilmanifolds of complex dimension 4, showing that in general, for $n>3$, there is no relation between the astheno-Kähler and strong KT condition (Theorem 2.7) and that is not anymore true that if $(J, g)$ is astheno-Kähler, then any other $J$-Hermitian metric $\tilde{g}$ is astheno-Kähler.

By the classification obtained in [11] one of the strong KT nilmanifolds is the Iwasawa manifold. In contrast with the Kodaira-Spencer stability theorem [29] and the case of complex surfaces, in [13] we proved that on the Iwasawa manifold the condition strong KT is not stable under small deformations of the complex structure. Deformations of complex structures on nilmanifolds have been studied in $[38,47,32,8]$ and recently S . Rollenske proved in [36, 37] that, in the generic case, small deformations of invariant complex structures on nilmanifolds are again invariant. This result can be applied to the strong KT 6-dimensional nilmanifolds and then we have that any small deformation and deformation in large of an invariant strong KT complex structure $J_{0}$ on a 6 -dimensional nilmanifold is still invariant. By using the results of [27, 41] we will prove that the space of deformations of a strong KT complex structure $J_{0}$ on a 6-dimensional nilmanifold for which there exists a strong KT metric is parametrized generically by a real algebraic hypersurface of degree 4 in $\mathbb{C}^{4}$ through the origin (Theorem3.6). Furthermore, we show that the origin is non singular (respectively singular) according to the fact that $J_{0}$ is non abelian (respectively abelian).

If $F^{n-1}$ is $\partial \bar{\partial}$-closed or equivalently if its Lee form is co-closed, then the Hermitian metric $g$ is called standard or a Gauduchon metric [16. The Hermitian structure is said to be balanced if its Lee form vanishes and conformally balanced if its Lee form is exact. Astheno-Kähler and strong KT metrics on compact complex manifolds cannot be balanced for $n>2$ unless they are Kähler (see [33, 1]). Moreover, by [23, 35] a conformally balanced strong KT structure on a compact manifod of complex dimension $n$ whose Bismut connection has (restricted) holonomy contained in $S U(n)$ is necessarily Kähler.
We will prove a similar result for the astheno-Kähler metrics (Theorem 4.1) and we will show that any non-Kähler compact homogeneous complex surface admits a non-trivial compact $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundle $M$ carrying an astheno-Kähler metric whose Lee form is closed. In the case of the $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundle over the secondary Kodaira surface we will obtain a "locally conformal solution" of the Strominger's system considered in [39.
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## 2. Astheno-KÄhler manifolds

Let $(M, J)$ be a complex manifold of complex dimension $n$. Following Jost and Yau (see [26]), we recall the following

Definition 2.1. A Hermitian metric $g$ on $(M, J)$ is said to be astheno-Kähler if its fundamental 2-form form $F$ satisfies the condition

$$
\partial \bar{\partial} F^{n-2}=0
$$

Thus, by definition, any Hermitian metric on a complex surface is astheno-Kähler and in complex dimension 3, an astheno-Kähler structure means a strong KT metric.

Remark 2.2. The product of two strong KT manifolds is still strong KT. This property is not true anymore for astheno-Kähler metrics. Indeed, for instance the product metric on the product of the Hopf surface and the Kodaira-Thurston surface is strong KT but it is not astheno-Kähler.

If $n>3$, then the condition $\partial \bar{\partial} F^{n-2}=0$ is equivalent to

$$
d\left(c \wedge F^{n-3}\right)=0
$$

where $c=-J d F$ is the torsion 3-form of the Bismut connection.
Note that, in general, if a Hermitian manifold $(M, J, g)$ satisfies the conditions (11) then one has $\partial \bar{\partial} F^{k}=0$, for any $k \geq 1$ and in particular $g$ is astheno-Kähler, strong KT and standard. This follows by

$$
\partial \bar{\partial} F^{k}=k \partial\left(\bar{\partial} F \wedge F^{k-1}\right)=k(\partial \bar{\partial} F \wedge F-(k-1) \bar{\partial} F \wedge \partial F) \wedge F^{k-2}, \quad k>1
$$

Indeed, if (11) holds, then $\partial F \wedge \bar{\partial} F=0$ and therefore any $F^{k}$ is $\partial \bar{\partial}$-closed.
Following [16] we recall that a Hermitian metric $g$ on $(M, J)$ is said to be standard if $F^{n-1}$ is $\partial \bar{\partial}$-closed. Then, if $n=4$ a Hermitian metric which is at the same time strong KT and astheno-Kähler metric, it must be also standard.

A necessary condition for the existence of astheno-Kähler metrics on compact complex manifolds was found in [26, Lemma 6], proving that any holomorphic 1 -form must be $d$-closed.

We will provide a compact complex 3-dimensional manifold satisfying the previous condition on holomorphic 1-forms, with no astheno-Kähler metrics.

We start to note that, by using similar methods to those ones used in [10, Theorem 2.2] and in [41, Prop. 21] in the context of strong KT geometry, it is possible to show that if $M$ is a compact quotient $M=\Gamma \backslash G$ of a simply-connected Lie group $G$ by a uniform discrete subgroup $\Gamma$, endowed with an invariant complex structure $J$ and having no invariant astheno-Kähler $J$-Hermitian metrics, then $M$ does not admit any astheno-Kähler $J$-Hermitian metric at all.

Example 2.3. Let us consider the 6 -dimensional nilpotent real Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ with structure equations

$$
\left(0,0,0,0,0, e^{12}+e^{34}\right)
$$

where, with this notation, we mean that the dual space of $\mathfrak{g}$ is generated by $\left\{e^{1}, \ldots, e^{6}\right\}$ satisfying

$$
\left\{\begin{aligned}
d e^{i} & =0, \quad i=1, \ldots, 5 \\
d e^{6} & =e^{12}+e^{34}
\end{aligned}\right.
$$

where $e^{i j}$ stands for $e^{i} \wedge e^{j}$. Let $G$ be the simply-connected Lie group whose Lie algebra is $\mathfrak{g}$ and set

$$
\eta^{j}=e^{2 j-1}+i e^{2 j}, \quad j=1,2,3 .
$$

Then $\left\{\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}, \eta^{3}\right\}$ are complex (1, 0)-forms that define a left-invariant rational complex structure $J$ on the nilmanifold $M=\Gamma \backslash G$, where $\Gamma$ is a co-compact discrete subgroup of $G$ such that $J(\Gamma) \subset \Gamma$.
In view of [11, Theorem 3.2], there are no strong KT metrics on $(M, J)$. On the other hand, by [7, Theorem 2], it turns out that the Dolbeault cohomology group $H_{\frac{1}{\partial}}^{1,0}(M)$ is spanned by $\left\{\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}\right\}$. Therefore, any holomorphic 1 -form on $M$ is $d$ closed.
2.1. Examples by blow-ups and resolutions. The proof of the result by 13 about the blow-up of a strong KT manifold at a point or along a compact complex submanifold can be adapted to the class of Hermitian manifolds whose fundamental 2-form $F$ satisfies the conditions (1), since in both cases the new fundamental 2form on the blow-up is obtained by adding a $d$-closed form to a $\partial \bar{\partial}$-closed form. The Hermitian manifolds satisfying (11) are exactly equivalent to those which satisfy $\partial \bar{\partial} F^{k}=0$ for all $k \geq 1$ and therefore such manifolds are a proper subset of the astheno-Kähler manifolds.

Then one can prove the following
Proposition 2.4. Let $(M, J, g)$ be an astheno-Kähler manifold of complex dimension $n$ such that its fundamental 2 -form $F$ satisfies (1). Then both the blow-up $\tilde{M}_{p}$ of $M$ at a point $p \in M$ and the blow-up $\tilde{M}_{Y}$ of $M$ along a compact complex submanifold $Y$ admit an astheno-Kähler metric satisfying (1) too.

Thus by Proposition 2.4 it is possible to construct new examples of asthenoKähler manifolds by blowing-up a given astheno-Kähler manifold $M$ (satisfying (11)) at one or more points or along a compact complex submanifold.

Moreover, one may resolve singularities of a complex orbifold endowed with a special
astheno-Kähler metric (satisfying (11). We recall that orbifolds are a special class of singular manifolds and they have been used by Joyce in [25] to construct compact manifolds with special holonomy, in [6, 9] to obtain non-formal symplectic compact manifolds and in [13] to construct new examples of strong KT manifolds.

One may give the following
Definition 2.5. A Hermitian metric $g$ on an $n$-dimensional complex orbifold $(M, J)$ is said to be astheno-Kähler if the fundamental 2 -form $F$ of $g$ satisfies

$$
\partial \bar{\partial} F^{n-2}=0
$$

An astheno-Kähler resolution of an astheno-Kähler orbifold $(M, J, g)$ is the datum of a smooth complex manifold $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{J})$ endowed with a $\tilde{J}$-Hermitian astheno-Kähler metric $\tilde{g}$ and of a map $\pi: \tilde{M} \rightarrow M$, such that
i) $\pi: \tilde{M} \backslash E \rightarrow M \backslash S$ is a biholomorphism, where $S$ is the singular set of $M$ and $E=\pi^{-1}(S)$ is the exceptional set;
ii) $\tilde{g}=\pi^{*} g$ on the complement of a neighborhood of $E$.

As in [13, we can apply Hironaka Resolution of Singularities Theorem [21], for which the singularities can be resolved by a finite number of blow-ups and we may use the previous results about blow-ups to prove the following

Theorem 2.6. Let $(M, J)$ be a complex orbifold of complex dimension $n$ endowed with a J-Hermitian astheno-Kähler metric $g$ satisfying (1). Then there exists an astheno-Kähler resolution of $(M, J, g)$ satisfying also (1).

We may apply the previous theorem to the complex orbifold, quotient of the standard complex torus by an involution. Let $\mathbb{T}^{2 n}=\mathbb{R}^{2 n} / \mathbb{Z}^{2 n}$ be the standard torus and denote by $\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{2 n}\right)$ global coordinates on $\mathbb{R}^{2 n}$. Consider the complex structure $J$ on $\mathbb{T}^{2 n}$ defined by

$$
\left\{\begin{align*}
\eta^{1} & =d x_{1}+i\left(f\left(x_{n}, x_{2 n}\right) d x_{n}+d x_{n+1}\right)  \tag{2}\\
\eta^{j} & =d x_{j}+i d x_{n+j}, \quad j=2, \ldots, n
\end{align*}\right.
$$

where $f=f\left(x_{n}, x_{2 n}\right)$ is a $\mathcal{C}^{\infty}, \mathbb{Z}^{2 n}$-periodic and even function. Let $\sigma$ be the $J$-holomorphic involution $\sigma: \mathbb{T}^{2 n} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^{2 n}$ induced by

$$
\sigma\left(\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{2 n}\right)\right)=\left(-x_{1}, \ldots,-x_{2 n}\right)
$$

Thus, $\left(M=\mathbb{T}^{2 n} /\langle\sigma\rangle, J\right)$ is a complex orbifold with singular set

$$
S=\left\{x+\mathbb{Z}^{2 n} \left\lvert\, x \in \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{Z}^{2 n}\right.\right\}
$$

which consists of 256 points for $n=4$. Since $\sigma^{*}\left(\eta^{j}\right)=-\eta^{j}, j=1, \ldots, n$, the natural Hermitian metric and the corresponding fundamental 2-form on $\mathbb{T}^{2 n}$

$$
g=\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n}\left(\eta^{j} \otimes \bar{\eta}^{j}+\bar{\eta}^{j} \otimes \eta^{j}\right), \quad F=\frac{i}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \eta^{j} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{j}
$$

are both $\sigma$-invariant and by [13] $g$ is strong KT. For $n>3$, a direct computation gives $\partial \bar{\partial} F^{2}=-2 \bar{\partial} F \wedge \partial F=0$, i.e. the metric $g$ is also astheno-Kähler. According to Theorem[2.6, now we may resolve the singularities of $\mathbb{T}^{2 n} /\langle\sigma\rangle$ in order to obtain a simply-connected astheno-Kähler manifold $\tilde{M}$. More precisely, for any singular
point $p \in S$, we take the blow-up at $p$. As in [25] we deduce that the astheno-Kähler resolution $\tilde{M}$ of the orbifold $\mathbb{T}^{2 n} /\langle\sigma\rangle$ is simply-connected.
2.2. Examples by twist construction. We recall that in general, given a manifold $M$ with a torus action and a principal torus bundle $P$ with connection $\theta$, if the torus action lifts to $P$ commuting with the principal action, then one may construct the twist $W$ of the manifold, as the quotient of $P$ by the torus action (see [40]). Moreover, if the lifted torus action preserves the principal connection $\theta$, then tensors on $M$ can be transferred to tensors on $W$ if their pullbacks to $P$ coincide on $\mathcal{H}=\operatorname{Ker} \theta$. A differential form $\alpha$ on $M$ is $\mathcal{H}$-related to a differential form $\alpha_{W}$ on $W, \alpha \sim_{\mathcal{H}} \alpha_{W}$, if their pull-backs to $P$ coincide on $\mathcal{H}$.

By applying the twist construction of [40, Prop. 4.5] to 8 -dimensional asthenoKähler manifolds with torus action, one can get new simply-connected asthenoKähler examples.
Let $\left(N^{6}, J\right)$ be a 6-dimensional simply-connected compact complex manifold with a $J$-Hermitian structure $g$ which is strong KT and standard. Consider the product $M^{8}=N^{6} \times \mathbb{T}^{2}$, where $\mathbb{T}^{2}$ is a 2 -torus with an invariant Kähler structure. Then $M^{8}$ is astheno-Kähler and strong KT with torsion $c$ supported on $N^{6}$.
Assume that there are two linearly independent integral closed (1,1)-forms $\Omega_{i} \in$ $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Z}}^{1,1}\left(N^{6}\right), i=1,2$, with $\left[\Omega_{i}\right] \in H^{2}\left(N^{6}, \mathbb{Z}\right)$. If

$$
\sum_{i, j=1}^{2} \gamma_{i j} \Omega_{i} \wedge \Omega_{j}=0
$$

for some positive definite matrix $\left(\gamma_{i j}\right) \in M_{2}(\mathbb{R})$, then by [40, Prop. 4.5] there is a compact simply connected $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundle $\tilde{W}$ over $N^{6}$ whose total space is strong KT. The manifold $\tilde{W}$ is the universal covering of the twist $W$ of $N^{6} \times \mathbb{T}^{2}$, where the Kähler flat metric over $\mathbb{T}^{2}=\mathbb{C} / \mathbb{Z}^{2}$ is given by the matrix $\left(\gamma_{i j}\right)$ with respect to the standard generators with a compatible complex structure and topologically $W$ is a principal torus bundle over $N^{6}$ with Chern classes $\left[\Omega_{i}\right]$. Under the additional condition

$$
\begin{equation*}
c \wedge \Omega_{j}=0, \quad j=1,2 \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

we will prove that the total space is astheno-Kähler.
By [40, Prop. 4.2], $W$ has torsion 3 -form $c_{W}$ such that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& c_{W} \sim_{\mathcal{H}} c-a^{-1} \Omega \wedge \xi^{b} \\
& d c_{W} \sim_{\mathcal{H}} d c+\sum_{i, j=1}^{2} \gamma_{i j} \Omega_{i} \wedge \Omega_{j}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $a^{-1} \Omega=\left(\Omega_{1}, \Omega_{2}\right)$ and $\xi$ is the standard action of the torus on the $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-factor. Denote by $F=F_{N^{6}}+F_{\mathbb{T}^{2}}$ and $F_{W}$ respectively the fundamental 2-form associated to the Hermitian structure $(J, g)$ on $M^{8}$ and the induced Hermitian structure $\left(J_{W}, g_{W}\right)$ on $W$. Then, since $F_{W} \sim_{\mathcal{H}} F$ we have that also $F_{W}^{2} \sim_{\mathcal{H}} F^{2}$. Therefore, by 40, Prop. 4.2]

$$
c_{W} \wedge F_{W} \sim_{\mathcal{H}}\left(c-a^{-1} \Omega \wedge \xi^{b}\right) \wedge F .
$$

By using again 40, Cor. 3.6], it follows that

$$
d\left(c_{W} \wedge F_{W}\right) \sim_{\mathcal{H}} d\left(\left(c-a^{-1} \Omega \wedge \xi^{b}\right) \wedge F\right)-a^{-1} \Omega \wedge i_{\xi}\left(\left(c-a^{-1} \Omega \wedge \xi^{b}\right) \wedge F\right)
$$

where $i_{\xi}$ denotes the contraction by $\xi$.
Now, $i_{\xi} c=0$ and $i_{\xi} F=J \xi^{b}$ and thus

$$
\begin{align*}
d\left(c_{W} \wedge F_{W}\right) \quad \sim_{\mathcal{H}} & \left(d c+\sum_{i, j=1}^{2} \gamma_{i j} \Omega_{i} \wedge \Omega_{j}\right) \wedge F-\left(c-a^{-1} \Omega \wedge \xi^{b}\right) \wedge d F  \tag{4}\\
& +a^{-1} \Omega \wedge\left(c-a^{-1} \Omega \wedge \xi^{b}\right) \wedge i_{\xi} F .
\end{align*}
$$

Observe that

$$
\begin{equation*}
a^{-1} \Omega \wedge a^{-1} \Omega \wedge \xi^{b} \wedge i_{\xi} F=\sum_{i, j=1}^{2} \gamma_{i j} \Omega_{i} \wedge \Omega_{j}=0 \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

and that $d F_{N^{6}} \wedge a^{-1} \Omega=0$, since $a^{-1} \Omega$ is of type $(1,1)$. Therefore, by the assumption (3), by (5) and by the astheno-Kählerianity of the metric $g$ on $M^{8}=N^{6} \times \mathbb{T}^{2}$, it follows that the right hand side of (4) vanishes. Hence $\tilde{W}$ is strong KT and asthenoKähler.
2.3. 8-dimensional nilmanifolds. We will construct a family of astheno-Kähler (non strong KT) 2 -step nilmanifolds of real dimension 8, showing that in higher real dimension than 6 there is in general no relation between astheno-Kähler and strong KT structures. Let $\left\{\eta^{1}, \ldots, \eta^{4}\right\}$ be the set of complex forms of type $(1,0)$, such that

$$
\left\{\begin{align*}
d \eta^{j}= & 0, j=1,2,3,  \tag{6}\\
d \eta^{4}= & a_{1} \eta^{1} \wedge \eta^{2}+a_{2} \eta^{1} \wedge \eta^{3}+a_{3} \eta^{1} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{1}+a_{4} \eta^{1} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{2}+a_{5} \eta^{1} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{3} \\
& +a_{6} \eta^{2} \wedge \eta^{3}+a_{7} \eta^{2} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{1}+a_{8} \eta^{2} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{2}+a_{9} \eta^{2} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{3}+a_{10} \eta^{3} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{1} \\
& +a_{11} \eta^{3} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{2}+a_{12} \eta^{3} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{3},
\end{align*}\right.
$$

where $a_{j} \in \mathbb{C}, j=1, \ldots, 12$.
Then the complex forms $\left\{\eta^{1}, \ldots, \eta^{4}\right\}$ span the dual of a 2 -step nilpotent Lie algebra $\mathfrak{n}$, depending on the complex parameters $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{12}$ and define an integrable almost complex structure $J$ on $\mathfrak{n}$. Let $N$ be the simply connected Lie group with Lie algebra $\mathfrak{n}$. Then, for any $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{12} \in \mathbb{Q}[i]$, by the nilpotency of $N$, in view of Malcev's theorem [31], there exists a uniform discrete subgroup $\Gamma$ of $N$ such that $M=\Gamma \backslash N$ is a compact nilmanifold.

Theorem 2.7. Let $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{12} \in \mathbb{Q}[i]$ and $(M=\Gamma \backslash N, J)$ be the corresponding compact complex nilmanifold of real dimension 8. Then the Hermitian metric

$$
g=\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{4} \eta^{j} \otimes \bar{\eta}^{j}+\bar{\eta}^{j} \otimes \eta^{j}
$$

is astheno-Kähler if and only if

$$
\begin{gather*}
\left|a_{1}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{2}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{4}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{5}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{6}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{7}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{9}\right|^{2}+ \\
\left|a_{10}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{11}\right|^{2}=2 \Re \mathfrak{R e}\left(a_{3} \bar{a}_{8}+a_{3} \bar{a}_{12}+a_{8} \bar{a}_{12}\right) . \tag{7}
\end{gather*}
$$

If, in addition $a_{8}=0$ and $\left|a_{4}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{11}\right|^{2} \neq 0$, then the astheno-Kähler metric $g$ is not strong KT. Moreover, if $a_{8}=0$, the astheno-Kahler metric $g$ is strong KT if and only if $a_{1}=a_{4}=a_{6}=a_{7}=a_{9}=a_{11}=0$.

Proof. The fundamental 2-form of $(J, g)$ is given by

$$
F=\frac{i}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{4} \eta^{j} \wedge \bar{\eta}^{j}
$$

A straightforward computation yields

$$
\begin{aligned}
\partial \bar{\partial} F^{2}= & -\frac{1}{2} \partial \bar{\partial}\left(\sum_{i<j} \eta^{i \bar{i} j \bar{j}}\right) \\
& =\frac{1}{2}\left(\left|a_{1}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{2}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{4}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{5}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{6}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{7}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{9}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{10}\right|^{2}+\left|a_{11}\right|^{2}\right. \\
& \left.-2 \Re \mathfrak{e}\left(a_{3} \bar{a}_{8}+a_{3} \bar{a}_{12}+a_{8} \bar{a}_{12}\right)\right) \eta^{123 \overline{123}}
\end{aligned}
$$

where, for instance, $\eta^{i \bar{i} \bar{j}}$ denotes the wedge product $\eta^{i} \wedge \eta^{\bar{i}} \wedge \eta^{j} \wedge \eta^{\bar{j}}$.
Hence $\partial \bar{\partial} F^{2}=0$ if and only if (7) holds.
The last part of the Theorem can be easily showed by a direct computation.
As an application of the last result, we explicitly construct an astheno-Kähler metric which is not strong KT. Take

$$
a_{1}=a_{2}=a_{5}=a_{6}=a_{7}=a_{8}=a_{9}=a_{10}=0, a_{3}=a_{4}=a_{11}=a_{12}=4
$$

and set $\eta^{j}=e^{2 j-1}+i e^{2 j}, j=1, \ldots, 4$. Then $\mathfrak{n}$ has structure equations

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
d e^{i}=0, \quad i=1, \ldots, 6  \tag{8}\\
d e^{7}=4\left(e^{13}+e^{24}-e^{35}-e^{46}\right) \\
d e^{8}=4\left(e^{23}-e^{14}+e^{45}-e^{36}-2 e^{12}-2 e^{56}\right)
\end{array}\right.
$$

Let $M=\Gamma \backslash G$ be the associated compact nilmanifold. Then, the Hermitian metric $g=\sum_{i=1}^{8} e^{j} \otimes e^{j}$ is an astheno-Kähler metric on $M$, that is not strong KT, according to Theorem 2.7

If we take

$$
a_{1}=a_{2}=a_{4}=a_{6}=a_{7}=a_{8}=a_{9}=a_{11}=0, a_{3}=a_{5}=a_{10}=a_{12}=2
$$

and set $\eta^{j}=e^{2 j-1}+i e^{2 j}, j=1, \ldots, 4$, then we get a Hermitian metric satisfying conditions (1).

Remark 2.8. In real dimension six, by [11] the existence of a strong KT structure on a nilpotent Lie algebra depends only on the complex structure on the nilpotent Lie algebra. The same property is not anymore true for a astheno-Kähler structure on a nilpotent Lie algebra of real dimension eight. Indeed, for the nilpotent Lie algebra defined by (6) with the coefficients $a_{j}, j=1, \ldots, 12$, satisfying the condition (7), the $J$-Hermitian metric given by
$\frac{1}{2}\left[2\left(\eta^{1} \otimes \bar{\eta}^{1}+\bar{\eta}^{1} \otimes \eta^{1}\right)+3\left(\eta^{2} \otimes \bar{\eta}^{2}+\bar{\eta}^{2} \otimes \eta^{2}\right)+4\left(\eta^{3} \otimes \bar{\eta}^{3}+\bar{\eta}^{3} \otimes \eta^{3}\right)+5\left(\eta^{4} \otimes \bar{\eta}^{4}+\bar{\eta}^{1} \otimes \eta^{4}\right)\right]$ is not any more astheno-Kähler.

## 3. Deformations of strong KT complex structures on 6-dimensional NILMANIFOLDS

We will say that a complex structure $J$ on a nilmanifold $\Gamma \backslash G$ is invariant if it arises from a corresponding left-invariant complex structure on the Lie group $G$. We recall that a complex structure $J$ on a Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ is called abelian, if and only
if $[J X, J Y]=[X, Y]$, for any $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ (see [3]) and it is bi-invariant if $J$ commutes with the adjoint representation.

By using the result of [11 together with the results about "symmetrization" of non-invariant structures obtained in [10, 41, one has the following

Theorem 3.1. Let $M^{6}=\Gamma \backslash G$ be a 6 -dimensional nilmanifold with an invariant complex structure $J$. Then there exists a J-Hermitian strong $K T$ metric $g$ if and only if $J$ has a basis $\left(\omega^{1}, \omega^{2}, \omega^{3}\right)$ of $(1,0)$-forms such that

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
d \omega^{1}=0  \tag{9}\\
d \omega^{2}=0 \\
d \omega^{3}=A \omega^{\overline{1} 2}+B \omega^{\overline{2} 2}+C \omega^{1 \overline{1}}+D \omega^{1 \overline{2}}+E \omega^{12}
\end{array}\right.
$$

where $A, B, C, E, F$ are complex numbers such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
|A|^{2}+|D|^{2}+|E|^{2}+2 \mathfrak{R e}(\bar{B} C)=0 \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

and $\omega^{i \bar{j}}$ stands for $\omega^{i} \wedge \bar{\omega}^{j}$. Moreover, the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ of $G$ is isomorphic to one of the following:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathfrak{h}_{2}=\left(0,0,0,0, e^{12}, e^{34}\right), \\
& \mathfrak{h}_{4}=\left(0,0,0,0,0, e^{12}, e^{14}+e^{23}\right), \\
& \mathfrak{h}_{5}=\left(0,0,0,0, e^{13}+e^{42}, e^{14}+e^{23}\right), \\
& \mathfrak{h}_{8}=\left(0,0,0,0,0,0, e^{12}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Remark 3.2. By the previous theorem one has that $J_{0}$ is abelian, i.e. the differential of the $(1,0)$-forms are only of type $(1,1)$, if and only if $E=0$.

In the sequel, we will denote by $J_{0}$ the strong KT complex structure, i.e. $J_{0}$ is the complex structure which gives rise to a strong KT structure, associated to the basis $\left(\omega^{1}, \omega^{2}, \omega^{3}\right)$ satisfying the condition (10).

We will use as in [11] the notation

$$
\mathbf{Y}_{\omega}=A \omega^{\overline{1} 2}+B \omega^{\overline{2} 2}+C \omega^{1 \overline{1}}+D \omega^{1 \overline{2}}
$$

where

$$
\mathbf{Y}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
A & B \\
C & D
\end{array}\right)
$$

so that

$$
d \omega^{3}=\mathbf{Y}_{\omega}+E \omega^{12}
$$

Moreover, we will denote as in 11 by

$$
\operatorname{adj}(\mathbf{Y})=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
D & -B \\
-C & A
\end{array}\right)
$$

The 1-forms $\omega^{j}, j=1,2,3$, associated to the strong KT complex structure $J_{0}$, are left-invariant on $G$ and they define a basis $\left(e^{1}, \ldots, e^{6}\right)$ of real 1-forms by setting

$$
\omega^{1}=e^{1}+i e^{2}, \quad \omega^{2}=e^{3}+i e^{4}, \quad \omega^{3}=e^{5}+i e^{6} .
$$

These 1-forms are pull-backs of corresponding 1-forms on $M^{6}$, which we denote by the same symbols.

Since for the dual basis $\left(e_{1}, \ldots, e_{6}\right)$ we have

$$
\left[e_{j}, e_{k}\right] \subseteq \operatorname{span}<e_{5}, e_{6}>,
$$

for any $j, k=1, \ldots, 4$, the quotient $M^{6}$ is the total space of a principal $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundle over $\mathbb{T}^{4}$. The space of invariant 1-forms annihilating the fibres of $\pi: M \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^{4}$ is

$$
\mathbb{V}=\operatorname{span}<e^{1}, e^{2}, e^{3}, e^{4}>\subseteq \operatorname{ker}\left(d: \mathfrak{g}^{*} \rightarrow \Lambda^{2} \mathfrak{g}^{*}\right)
$$

with equality for the Lie algebras $\mathfrak{h}_{j}, j=2,4,5$.
As in [27] we can prove the following
Lemma 3.3. Let $J$ be any invariant complex structure on a strong KT nilmanifold $M^{6}=\Gamma \backslash G$. Then the projection $\pi$ induces a complex structure $\tilde{J}$ on $\mathbb{T}^{4}$ such that $\pi:\left(M^{6}, J\right) \rightarrow\left(\mathbb{T}^{4}, \tilde{J}\right)$ is holomorphic.

Proof. In order to prove the result is sufficient to show that $\mathbb{V}$ is $J$-invariant. By Theorem 3.1 the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{h}_{2}, \mathfrak{h}_{4}, \mathfrak{h}_{5}$ or $\mathfrak{h}_{8}$.
Any complex structure on $\mathfrak{h}_{8}$ is abelian, so the center given by span $<e_{5}, e_{6}>$ is preserved by the complex structure and therefore $\mathbb{V}$ is $J$-invariant. By [41, Lemma 11] for any invariant (non bi-invariant) complex structure on the Lie algebras $\mathfrak{h}_{2}$, $\mathfrak{h}_{4}$ and $\mathfrak{h}_{5}$ there is a basis $\left(\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}, \eta^{3}\right)$ of $(1,0)$-forms such that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& d \eta^{j}=0, \quad j=1,2 \\
& d \eta^{3}=\rho \eta^{12}+\eta^{1 \overline{1}}+G \eta^{1 \overline{2}}+H \eta^{2 \overline{2}}
\end{aligned}
$$

with $\rho=0,1$ and $G, H \in \mathbb{C}$. Then, since the real space associated to the complex space spanned by $\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}$ coincides with the kernel of $d: \mathfrak{g}^{*} \rightarrow \Lambda^{2} \mathfrak{g}^{*}$, we have that also in this case $\mathbb{V}$ is $J$-invariant.

If $J$ is bi-invariant, then the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ has to be isomorphic to $\mathfrak{h}_{5}$ and the result follows by 27 .

Let $\left(M^{6}=\Gamma \backslash G, J_{0}\right)$ be a 6 -dimensional nilmanifold with $J_{0}$ an invariant strong KT complex structure. By Theorem 3.1 we know that $\mathfrak{g}$ is 2 -step nilpotent with $\operatorname{dim} \mathfrak{g}^{1} \geq 2$ and with center of dimension 1 or 2 . Therefore, we may apply Theorem 4.1 and 4.3 by Rollenske in [37] and conclude that any small and large deformation of $J_{0}$ is still invariant. Consequently, we may consider invariant deformations and work on the space of complex structures of $\mathfrak{g}$

$$
\mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{g})=\left\{J \in \operatorname{End}(\mathfrak{g}) \mid J^{2}=-1, N_{J}=0\right\}
$$

where by $N_{J}$ we denote the Nijenhuis tensor.
We denote by $\mathcal{C}^{+}(\mathfrak{g})$ the space of complex structures of $\mathfrak{g}$ inducing the same orientation on $\mathbb{V}$ as $J_{0}$ and by $\mathcal{C}_{0}(\mathfrak{g})$ the open subset of $\mathcal{C}^{+}(\mathfrak{g})$ whose elements are such that there exists a basis $\left(\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}, \eta^{3}\right)$ for which $\eta^{123} \wedge \omega^{\overline{123}} \neq 0$.

We can prove the following
Theorem 3.4. Let $\left(M^{6}, J_{0}\right)$ be a 6-dimensional strong $K T$ nilmanifold with $J_{0}$ defined by the $(1,0)$-forms $\left(\omega_{1}, \omega_{2}, \omega_{3}\right)$. If $J \in \mathcal{C}_{0}(\mathfrak{g})$, then there exists a basis of $(1,0)$-forms $\left(\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}, \eta^{3}\right)$ such that

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\eta^{1}=\omega^{1}+a \omega^{\overline{1}}+b \omega^{\overline{2}}  \tag{11}\\
\eta^{2}=\omega^{2}+c \omega^{\overline{1}}+f \omega^{2} \\
\eta^{3}=\omega^{3}+x \omega^{\overline{1}}+y \omega^{\overline{2}}+u \omega^{\overline{3}},
\end{array}\right.
$$

with $a, b, c, f, x, y, u \in \mathbb{C}$ satisfying

$$
\begin{equation*}
-(\operatorname{det} \mathbf{X}) E+(\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{X} \overline{\mathbf{Y}})-\bar{E}) u+\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{X} \operatorname{adj}(\mathbf{Y}))=0 \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\mathbf{X}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
a & b  \tag{13}\\
c & f
\end{array}\right)
$$

Therefore, the generic complex structure on $M^{6}$ has a space of ( 1,0 )-forms generated by the previous forms $\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}$ and $\eta^{3}$.

Proof. In view of Lemma 3.3, we have that $\eta^{1}$ and $\eta^{2}$ can be chosen so that their real and imaginary components span $\mathbb{V}$. The condition

$$
\eta^{123} \wedge \omega^{\overline{123}} \neq 0
$$

implies that $\omega^{1}, \omega^{2}, \omega^{3}$ appear with non-zero coefficients.
The equation (12) follows from the integrability condition $d \eta^{3} \wedge \eta^{12}=0$ expressing the fact that $d \eta^{3}$ has no term involving $\eta^{\overline{12}}$.

By a direct computation one has that

$$
d \eta^{3} \wedge \eta^{12}=-(c E b-c B+c u \bar{B}-f E a+f A+f u \bar{D}-u \bar{E}-b C+b u \bar{C}+a D+a u \bar{A}) \omega^{12 \overline{12}}
$$

Therefore the complex structure is integrable if and only if the equation (12) is satisfied.

Consider the space $\Lambda=\left\langle\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}, \eta^{3}\right\rangle$ generated by the modified complex 1-forms (11). If $\Lambda$ is maximally complex, then it defines an invariant almost complex structure on $M^{6}$ that we will denote by $J_{\mathbf{X}, x, y}$, where $\mathbf{X}$ is given by (13).

By the previous theorem, the almost complex structure $J_{\mathbf{X}, x, y}$ is integrable if and only if the equation (12) holds.

Remark 3.5. In the case of Iwasawa manifold (with the bi-invariant complex structure $J_{0}$ which is therefore non strong KT) one has $E=1$ and $\mathbf{Y}=0$ and therefore the integrability condition reduces to the equation

$$
u=b c-a f=-\operatorname{det} \mathbf{X}
$$

already considered in [11].
We are ready to prove the following
Theorem 3.6. Let $\left(M^{6}=\Gamma \backslash G, J_{0}\right)$ be a 6-dimensional nilmanifold with an invariant strong $K T$ complex structure $J_{0}$. Then the space of deformations of $J_{0}$ for which there exists a strong KT metric is parametrized generically by a real algebraic hypersurface of degree 4 in $\mathbb{C}^{4}$ through the origin $O=(0,0,0,0)$. Furthermore, $O$ is non singular (respectively singular) according to the fact that $J_{0}$ is non abelian (respectively abelian).

Proof. By Theorem 3.4, the generic complex structure $J$ on $M^{6}$ is defined by the (1, 0)-forms $\left(\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}, \eta^{3}\right)$ given by (11). We have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\eta^{12} & =\omega^{12}+a \omega^{\overline{1} 2}+b \omega^{\overline{2} 2}+c \omega^{1 \overline{1}}+f \omega^{1 \overline{2}}+(a f-b c) \omega^{\overline{12}} \\
& =\omega^{12}+\mathbf{X}_{\omega}+(\operatorname{det} \mathbf{X}) \omega^{\overline{12}}
\end{aligned}
$$

We write the characteristic polynomial of $\mathbf{X} \overline{\mathbf{X}}$ as $p(x)=x^{2}-\gamma x+\delta$, so that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \gamma=\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{X} \overline{\mathbf{X}})=|a|^{2}+|f|^{2}+b \bar{c}+\bar{b} c \\
& \delta=\operatorname{det}(\mathbf{X} \overline{\mathbf{X}})=|a|^{2}|f|^{2}+|b|^{2}|c|^{2}-a f \bar{b} \bar{c}-b c \bar{a} \bar{f}
\end{aligned}
$$

The relations

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \eta^{1 \overline{1} 2 \overline{2}}=(1-\gamma+\delta) \omega^{1 \overline{1} 2 \overline{2}} \\
& \eta^{1 \overline{1} 2 \overline{2} 3 \overline{3}}=(1-\gamma+\delta)\left(1-|u|^{2}\right) \omega^{1 \overline{1} 2 \overline{2} 3 \overline{3}}
\end{aligned}
$$

express volume changes associated to a switch of basis from $\left(\omega^{i}\right)$ to ( $\eta^{i}$ ). As a consequence, $\Lambda \cap \bar{\Lambda}=\{0\}$ if and only if

$$
\begin{equation*}
|u| \neq 1 \quad \text { and } \quad p(1) \neq 0 \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

and these are the conditions that ensure that the complex structure $J_{\mathbf{X}, x, y}$ is well defined.

From now we suppose that the conditions (10), (12) and (14) hold.
For simplicity, we will also assume that $x=y=0$, and we will denote the complex structure $J_{\mathbf{X}, 0,0}$ by $J_{\mathbf{X}}$, since the strong KT condition is determined in terms of $d \eta^{3}$, which does not involve $x, y$.

As in the proof of Lemma 4.1 of [11] consider the two bases $\left(\omega^{1}, \omega^{2}, \bar{\omega}^{1}, \bar{\omega}^{2}\right)$ and $\left(\eta^{1}, \eta^{2}, \bar{\eta}^{1}, \bar{\eta}^{2}\right)$. The second is related to the first one by the block matrix

$$
\mathbf{M}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
I & \mathbf{X} \\
\overline{\mathbf{X}} & I
\end{array}\right)
$$

Set $\mathbf{Z}=(I-\mathbf{X} \overline{\mathbf{X}})^{-1}$ so that $p(1)=\operatorname{det}(\mathbf{Z})^{-1}$. Then the inverse of $\mathbf{M}$ is given by

$$
\mathbf{M}^{-1}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{Z} & -\mathbf{Z} \mathbf{X} \\
-\overline{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{Z} & \overline{\mathbf{Z}}
\end{array}\right)
$$

with

$$
\mathbf{Z}=\frac{1}{p(1)}\left(\begin{array}{cc}
1-\bar{b} c-|f|^{2} & a \bar{b}+b \bar{f}, \\
c \bar{a}+f \bar{c} & 1-\bar{c} b-|a|^{2}
\end{array}\right)
$$

and

$$
\mathbf{Z X}=\frac{1}{p(1)}\left(\begin{array}{cc}
a-a|f|^{2}+b c \bar{f} & b-|b|^{2} c+a f \bar{b} \\
c-|c|^{2} b+a f \bar{c} & f-|a|^{2} f+c b \bar{a}
\end{array}\right) .
$$

Therefore

$$
\begin{aligned}
p(1) \omega^{1} & =\left(1-\bar{b} c-|f|^{2}\right) \eta^{1}+ \\
& +(a \bar{b}+b \bar{f}) \eta^{2}+\left(-a+a|f|^{2}-b c \bar{f}\right) \bar{\eta}^{1}+\left(-b+|b|^{2} c-a f \bar{b}\right) \bar{\eta}^{2} \\
p(1) \omega^{2} & =(c \bar{a}+f \bar{c}) \eta^{1}+\left(1-\bar{c} b-|a|^{2}\right) \eta^{2}+ \\
& +\left(-c+|c|^{2} b-a f \bar{c}\right) \bar{\eta}^{1}+\left(-f+|a|^{2} f-c b \bar{a}\right) \bar{\eta}^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

By [41, Theorem 19] a complex structure $J_{0}$ on the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ of $G$ is strong KT if and only if the complex structure $J_{0}$ is equivalent to the one defined by

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
d \omega^{j}=0, \quad j=1,2  \tag{15}\\
d \omega^{3}=\rho \omega^{12}+\omega^{1 \overline{1}}+G \omega^{1 \overline{2}}+H \omega^{2 \overline{2}}
\end{array}\right.
$$

with $\rho=0,1, G, H \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\rho+|G|^{2}=2 \mathfrak{R e}(H)$. Therefore, comparing with the structure equations (9), the expression of the matrix $\mathbf{Y}$ in the new parameters $\rho, G, H$ is the matrix

$$
\mathbf{Y}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
0 & -H \\
\rho & G
\end{array}\right)
$$

We will examine separately the two cases: $\rho=1$ ( $J_{0}$ non abelian) and $\rho=0\left(J_{0}\right.$ abelian).

For $\rho=1$, the equation (12) reduces to

$$
-(\operatorname{det} \mathbf{X})+(\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{X} \overline{\mathbf{Y}})-1) u+\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{X} \operatorname{adj}(\mathbf{Y}))=0
$$

i.e. to

$$
(f a-c b-c H+b-a G)-(f \bar{G}-c \bar{H}+b-1) u=0
$$

If we denote by

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\gamma_{1}=-1+c+|f|^{2}-G \bar{f} c+|c|^{2} H, & \gamma_{2}=b+G a \bar{b}-|b|^{2}+H-H|a|^{2} \\
\gamma_{3}=G-f+\bar{b} f+\bar{a} c H-\bar{b} c G, & \gamma_{4}=-\bar{a}-\bar{b} f+\bar{a} f \bar{G}-\bar{a} c \bar{H} \\
\gamma_{5}=1-\bar{b}-G \bar{f}+\bar{c} H, & \gamma_{6}=a f-c b-c H-a G
\end{array}
$$

then we have that given the complex structure $J_{0}$ equivalent to (15) with the complex numbers $G, H$ satisfying the condition

$$
1-2 \mathfrak{R e} H+|G|^{2}=0
$$

the new complex structure $J_{\mathbf{X}}$ is integrable and strong KT if and only if the following equations hold

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\bar{\gamma}_{5} u+\gamma_{6}=0  \tag{16}\\
\left(1+|u|^{2}\right)\left(\left|\gamma_{3}\right|^{2}+\left|\gamma_{4}\right|^{2}+2 \mathfrak{R e}\left(\bar{\gamma}_{1} \gamma_{2}\right)\right)+\left|\gamma_{5}\right|^{2}\left(1-|u|^{2}\right)^{2}+ \\
+4 \mathfrak{R e}\left(u\left(\bar{\gamma}_{3} \gamma_{4}-\bar{\gamma}_{1} \bar{\gamma}_{2}\right)\right)=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

since in terms of the $\gamma_{j}, j=1, \ldots, 5$, we have that

$$
\begin{aligned}
p(1) d \eta^{3}= & \gamma_{5}\left(1-|u|^{2}\right) \eta^{12}+\left(-\gamma_{1}+u \bar{\gamma}_{1}\right) \eta^{1 \overline{1}}+\left(\gamma_{3}+u \gamma_{4}\right) \eta^{1 \overline{2}} \\
& +\left(\bar{\gamma}_{4}+u \bar{\gamma}_{3}\right) \eta^{\overline{1} 2}+\left(-\gamma_{2}+u \bar{\gamma}_{2}\right) \eta^{\overline{2} 2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Assuming that $\gamma_{5} \neq 0$ and by using the first equation of (16), we may eliminate the complex parameter $u$. Then, the second equation of (16) becomes

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left(\left|\gamma_{5}\right|^{2}+\left|\gamma_{6}\right|^{2}\right)\left(\left|\gamma_{3}\right|^{2}+\left|\gamma_{4}\right|^{2}+2 \mathfrak{R e}\left(\bar{\gamma}_{1} \gamma_{2}\right)\right)+\left(\left|\gamma_{5}\right|^{2}-\left|\gamma_{6}\right|^{2}\right)^{2}+ \\
& -4 \mathfrak{R e}\left(\gamma_{5} \gamma_{6}\left(\bar{\gamma}_{3} \gamma_{4}-\bar{\gamma}_{1} \bar{\gamma}_{2}\right)\right)=0
\end{aligned}
$$

which is a real equation in the complex variables $a, b, c$ and $f$ and thus defines a real hypersurface of degree 4 in $\mathbb{C}^{4}$, non singular at the point $O=(a=0, b=0, c=$ $0, f=0$ ). Therefore, we have that the complex structure $J_{\mathbf{X}}$ (deformation of $J_{0}$ ), defined by the ( 1,0 )-forms

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\eta^{1}=\omega^{1}+a \bar{\omega}^{1}+b \bar{\omega}^{2} \\
\eta^{2}=\omega^{2}+c \bar{\omega}^{1}+f \bar{\omega}^{2} \\
\eta^{3}=\omega^{3}-\frac{\gamma_{6}}{\bar{\gamma}_{5}} \bar{\omega}^{3}
\end{array}\right.
$$

has a compatible strong KT metric if and only if ( $a, b, c, f$ ) belongs to the previous hypersurface. This completes the case $\rho=1$.

For $\rho=0$, the equation (12) reduces to

$$
\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{X} \overline{\mathbf{Y}}) u+\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{X} \operatorname{adj}(\mathbf{Y}))=0
$$

or equivalently to

$$
-f u \bar{G}-c H+c u \bar{H}+b-b u-a G=0
$$

We set

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\delta_{1}=|b|^{2}-\bar{G} \bar{a} b-\bar{H}+\bar{H}|a|^{2}, & \delta_{2}=-1+|f|^{2}-\bar{G} f \bar{c}+\bar{H}|c|^{2}, \\
\delta_{3}=G+\bar{b} f-G \bar{b} c+c \bar{a} H, & \delta_{4}=-\bar{b} f+f \bar{a} \bar{G}-c \bar{a} \bar{H} \\
\delta_{5}=-\bar{f} G+\bar{c} H-\bar{b}, & \delta_{6}=-c H+b-a G .
\end{array}
$$

Then, we have that, given the complex structure $J_{0}$ equivalent to (15) with $\rho=0$ and $G, H$ such that $|G|^{2}=2 \mathfrak{R e}(H)$, the new almost complex structure $J_{\mathbf{X}}$ is integrable and strong KT if and only if the following equations hold

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\bar{\delta}_{5} u+\delta_{6}=0  \tag{17}\\
\left(1+|u|^{2}\right)\left(\left|\delta_{3}\right|^{2}+\left|\delta_{4}\right|^{2}-2 \mathfrak{R e}\left(\delta_{1} \bar{\delta}_{2}\right)\right)+\left|\delta_{5}\right|^{2}\left(1-|u|^{2}\right)^{2}+ \\
+4 \mathfrak{R e}\left(u\left(\delta_{1} \delta_{2}+\bar{\delta}_{3} \delta_{4}+\delta_{4} \bar{\delta}_{3}\right)\right)=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

since

$$
\begin{aligned}
p(1) d \eta^{3}= & \left(\delta_{1} u-\bar{\delta}_{1}\right) \eta^{2 \overline{2}}+\left(\delta_{2} u-\bar{\delta}_{2}\right) \eta^{1 \overline{1}}+\left(\delta_{4} u+\delta_{3}\right) \eta^{1 \overline{2}} \\
& +\left(-\bar{\delta}_{3} u-\bar{\delta}_{4}\right) \eta^{2 \overline{1}}+\left(\bar{\delta}_{6} u+\delta_{5}\right) \eta^{12}
\end{aligned}
$$

Assuming that $\delta_{5} \neq 0$ and by using the first equation of (17) we may eliminate the complex parameter $u$. Then, the second equation of (17) becomes the real equation in the complex variables $a, b, c, f$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left(\left|\delta_{5}\right|^{2}+\left|\delta_{6}\right|^{2}\right)\left(\left|\delta_{3}\right|^{2}+\left|\delta_{4}\right|^{2}-2 \mathfrak{R e}\left(\delta_{1} \bar{\delta}_{2}\right)\right)+\left(\left|\delta_{5}\right|^{2}-\left|\delta_{6}\right|^{2}\right)^{2}+ \\
& -4 \mathfrak{R e}\left(\delta_{5} \delta_{6}\left(\delta_{1} \delta_{2}+\bar{\delta}_{3} \delta_{4}+\delta_{4} \bar{\delta}_{3}\right)\right)=0
\end{aligned}
$$

which defines a real hypersurface of degree 4 in $\mathbb{C}^{4}$, singular at the point ( $a=0, b=$ $0, c=0, f=0$ ). In this way we prove that $J_{\mathbf{X}}$, deformation of $J_{0}$, defined by the ( 1,0 )-forms

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\eta^{1}=\omega^{1}+a \bar{\omega}^{1}+b \bar{\omega}^{2} \\
\eta^{2}=\omega^{2}+c \bar{\omega}^{1}+f \bar{\omega}^{2} \\
\eta^{3}=\omega^{3}-\frac{\delta_{6}}{\delta_{5}} \bar{\omega}^{3}
\end{array}\right.
$$

has a compatible strong KT metric if and only if $(a, b, c, f)$ belongs to the previous hypersurface. This completes the case $\rho=0$. Then the theorem is proved.

## 4. LOCALLY CONFORMALLY BALANCED STRUCTURES

In general, if a Hermitian manifold $(M, J, g)$ is compact, then by using its fundamental 2-form $F$, one has two natural linear operators acting on differential forms:

$$
L \varphi=F \wedge \varphi
$$

and the adjoint operator $L^{*}$ of $L$ with respect to the global scalar product defined by

$$
<\varphi, \psi>=p!\int_{M}(\varphi, \psi) \operatorname{vol}_{g}
$$

where $(\varphi, \psi)$ is the poinwise $g$-scalar product and $\operatorname{vol}_{g}$ is the volume form.
As in the strong KT case, the astheno-Kähler condition on a compact Hermitian manifold is complementary to the balanced one, since by [33, Theorem 1.1], for $n \geq 3$, one has

$$
\begin{equation*}
L^{* n-1}\left(2 i \partial \bar{\partial} F^{n-2}\right)=4^{n-1}(n-1)!(n-2)\left[2(n-2) d^{*} \theta+2\|\theta\|^{2}-\|T\|^{2}\right] \tag{18}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\theta=J d^{*} F$ is the Lee form, $d^{*} \theta$ its co-differential, $\|\theta\|$ its $g$-norm and $T$ is the torsion of the Chern connection $\nabla^{C}$ on $(M, g)$.
Therefore, if $(J, g)$ is balanced, then $\theta=0$ and, consequently, the astheno-Kähler condition implies that $T=0$, i.e. $g$ is Kähler.

By [23, 35], a conformally balanced strong KT structure on a compact manifod of complex dimension $n$ whose Bismut connection has (restricted) holonomy contained in $S U(n)$ is necessarily Kähler. We now prove a similar result for the astheno-Kähler metrics.

Theorem 4.1. A conformally balanced astheno-Kähler structure ( $J, g$ ) on a compact manifold of complex dimension $n \geq 3$ whose Bismut connection has (restricted) holonomy contained in $S U(n)$ is necessarily Kähler and therefore it is a Calabi-Yau structure.

Proof. Since the Hermitian structure is astheno-Kähler, then by (18), we have

$$
2(n-2) d^{*} \theta+2\|\theta\|^{2}-\|T\|^{2}=0 .
$$

Therefore,

$$
\begin{equation*}
d^{*} \theta=\frac{1}{2(n-2)}\left[\|T\|^{2}-2\|\theta\|^{2}\right] . \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

By [1, formula (2.11)], the trace $2 u$ of the Ricci form of the Chern connection is related to the trace $b$ of the Ricci form of the Bismut connection by the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
2 u=b+2(n-1) d^{*} \theta+2(n-1)^{2}\|\theta\|^{2} . \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

We recall that the condition that the Bismut connection has (restricted) holonomy contained in $S U(n)$ implies that the Ricci form of the Bismut connection vanishes and, if in addition $M$ is compact, then the first Chern class $c_{1}(M)$ vanishes.

Therefore, by using (19) and (20), we get

$$
\begin{equation*}
2 u=\frac{(n-1)}{(n-2)}\left[\|T\|^{2}-2\|\theta\|^{2}\right]+2(n-1)^{2}\|\theta\|^{2} \tag{21}
\end{equation*}
$$

and then, if $(J, g)$ is not Kähler, we must have $u>0$.
Since in addition $(J, g)$ is conformally balanced, then it was shown in 39, 35] that there exists a nowhere vanishing holomorphic $(n, 0)$-form $\tilde{\alpha}$.

Let be $f=-\frac{1}{2}\|\alpha\|^{2}$ and denote by $L^{\mathbb{C}}$ the complex Laplacian defined by

$$
L^{\mathbb{C}}(f)=\Delta f+(d f, \theta),
$$

where $\Delta$ is the standard Laplace operator and (,) is the scalar product on the forms induced by $g$. Then, since $\tilde{\alpha}$ is holomorphic, as in 35] (see also [24, formula (19)]) we have

$$
L(f)=2 u\|\tilde{\alpha}\|^{2}+\left\|\nabla^{C} \tilde{\alpha}\right\|^{2},
$$

where $\nabla^{C}$ is the Chern connection and $u$ is given by (21).
By the fact that $u>0$ and $\tilde{\alpha} \neq 0$, it follows that $L^{\mathbb{C}} f>0$. From the maximum principle, we have that $f$ is constant which implies that $u=0$.
The theorem is proved.
Remark 4.2. The previous theorem for $n=3$ was already proved in [23, 35.

## 5. $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-BUNDLES OVER COMPLEX SURFACES

By [20] a complex (non-Kähler) surface diffeomorphic to a 4-dimensional compact homogeneous manifold $X=\Theta \backslash L$, where $\Theta$ is a uniform discrete subgroup of $L$, and which does not admit any Kähler structure is one of the following:
a) Hopf surface;
b) Inoue surface of type $\mathcal{S}^{0}$;
c) Inoue surface of type $\mathcal{S}^{ \pm}$;
d) primary Kodaira surface;
e) secondary Kodaira surface;
f) properly elliptic surface with first odd Betti number.

A $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundle over the Inoue surface of type $\mathcal{S}^{0}$ was considered in [12] in order to construct a 6 -dimensional compact solvmanifold with a non-trivial generalized Kähler structure. A similar construction can be done for any of the non-Kähler complex homogeneous surfaces, by using the description of $L$ and $\Theta$ in 20. Indeed we can prove the following

Theorem 5.1. On any non-Kähler compact homogeneous complex surface $X=$ $\Theta \backslash L$ there exists a non-trivial compact $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundle $M$ carrying a locally conformally balanced strong KT metric.

Proof. For the Inoue surface of type $\mathcal{S}^{0}$, we already proved the result. For the surfaces a) , c), d) and e) we may consider respectively the 6 -dimensional Lie algebras:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathfrak{g}_{1}=\left(e^{23}, e^{31}, e^{12}, 0, \frac{\pi}{2} e^{64}, \frac{\pi}{2} e^{45}\right) \\
& \mathfrak{g}_{2}=\left(e^{12}, 0, e^{14}, e^{24}, \frac{\pi}{2} e^{26},-\frac{\pi}{2} e^{25}\right) \\
& \mathfrak{g}_{3}=\left(0,0, e^{12}, 0, \frac{\pi}{2} e^{46},-\frac{\pi}{2} e^{45}\right) \\
& \mathfrak{g}_{4}=\left(e^{24},-e^{14}, e^{12}, 0, \frac{\pi}{2} e^{46},-\frac{\pi}{2} e^{45}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

endowed with the complex structure $J$, defined by the ( 1,0 )-forms

$$
\eta^{1}=e^{1}+i e^{4}, \quad \eta^{2}=e^{2}+i e^{3}, \quad \eta^{3}=e^{5}+i e^{6}
$$

and the inner product $g$ defined by $g=\sum_{j=1}^{6} e^{j} \otimes e^{j}$. Thus $g$ is $J$-Hermitian and, denoting by $F$ the fundamental 2 -form associated with the Hermitian structure $(J, g)$, by a direct computation we have that $J d F$ is closed and that the Lee form is closed.

For the surface f) we may take the Lie algebra

$$
\mathfrak{g}_{5}=\left(2 e^{13},-2 e^{23},-e^{12}, 0, \frac{\pi}{2} e^{46},-\frac{\pi}{2} e^{45}\right)
$$

endowed with the complex structure

$$
\begin{array}{llrl}
J e_{1} & =\frac{1}{2}\left(e_{3}+e_{4}\right), & J e_{2} & =\frac{1}{2}\left(e_{3}-e_{4}\right), \\
J e_{4} & =-e_{1}+e_{2}, & J e_{5} & =e_{6},
\end{array}
$$

and the inner product

$$
g=e^{1} \otimes e^{1}+e^{2} \otimes e^{2}+2\left(e^{3} \otimes e^{3}+e^{4} \otimes e^{4}\right)+e^{5} \otimes e^{5}+e^{6} \otimes e^{6}
$$

The fundamental form

$$
F=-e^{13}-e^{14}-e^{23}+e^{24}+e^{56}
$$

is such that the 3 -form $J d F=2 e^{123}+2 e^{124}$ is closed. Moreover, the Lee form is closed.

For every Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}_{i}$ we have that the span of $\left\{e^{1}, e^{2}, e^{3}, e^{4}\right\}$ can be viewed as the dual of the Lie algebra of the Lie group $L$.

Let $\mathbb{H}_{3}$ be the real 3-dimensional Heisenberg Lie group and $H=\mathbb{R} \ltimes_{\varphi} \mathbb{R}^{2}$ be the semidirect product of the groups $\mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbb{R}^{2}$, where $\varphi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G L(2, \mathbb{R})$ is the homomorphism given by

$$
\varphi(t)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\cos \left(\frac{\pi}{2} t\right) & \sin \left(\frac{\pi}{2} t\right) \\
-\sin \left(\frac{\pi}{2} t\right) & \cos \left(\frac{\pi}{2} t\right)
\end{array}\right)
$$

We have

$$
G_{1}=S U(2) \times H, \quad G_{3}=\mathbb{H}_{3} \times H, \quad G_{5}=S \widetilde{S(2, \mathbb{R})} \times H
$$

and a uniform discrete subgroup of $H$ is of the form $\Gamma^{\prime}=\mathbb{Z} \ltimes_{\varphi} \mathbb{Z}^{2}$. Therefore the Lie groups $G_{i}, i=1,3,5$ admit a uniform discrete subgroup.

Let $\left(m_{j k}\right) \in S L(2, \mathbb{Z})$ with two real positive eigenvalues $a$ and $b$ and denote by $\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right)$ and $\left(b_{1}, b_{2}\right)$ the corresponding eigenvectors. The remaining Lie groups $G_{2}$ and $G_{4}$ are the semidirect products (see [20] for the description of the corresponding Lie group $L$ )

$$
G_{2}=\mathbb{R} \ltimes_{\nu}\left(\mathbb{H}_{3} \times \mathbb{C}\right), \quad G_{4}=\mathbb{R} \ltimes_{\tilde{\nu}}\left(\mathbb{H}_{3} \times \mathbb{C}\right)
$$

where the automorphisms $\nu(t)$ and $\tilde{\nu}(t)$ are given respectively by

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \nu(t):(x+i y, u, z) \mapsto\left(a^{t} x+i b^{t} y, u, e^{i \frac{\pi}{2} t} z\right) \\
& \tilde{\nu}(t):(x+i y, u, z) \mapsto\left(e^{i \frac{\pi}{2} t}(x+i y), u, e^{i \frac{\pi}{2} t} z\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

by identifying the matrix

$$
\left(\begin{array}{lll}
1 & x & u \\
0 & 1 & y \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right)
$$

in $\mathbb{H}_{3}$ with $(x+i y, u) \in \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R}$.
The Lie group $G_{2}$ admits a compact quotient by a uniform discrete subgroup of the form $\Gamma_{2}=\mathbb{Z} \ltimes_{\nu}\left(\tilde{\Gamma}_{n} \times \mathbb{Z}^{2}\right)$, where $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$ is the standard lattice of $\mathbb{C}$ and $\tilde{\Gamma}_{n}$ is the lattice of $\mathbb{H}_{3}$ generated by the elements

$$
g_{1}=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
1 & a_{1} & c_{1} \\
0 & 1 & b_{1} \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right), \quad g_{2}=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
1 & a_{2} & c_{2} \\
0 & 1 & b_{2} \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right), \quad g_{3}=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
1 & 0 & c_{3} \\
0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right), \quad c_{i} \in \mathbb{R}
$$

such that
i) $\left[g_{1}, g_{2}\right]=g_{3}^{n}$,
ii) $\nu(1)\left(g_{1}\right)=g_{1}^{m_{11}} g_{2}^{m_{12}} g_{3}^{k}, \quad \nu(1)\left(g_{2}\right)=g_{1}^{m_{21}} g_{2}^{m_{22}} g_{3}^{l}$, with $l, k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Let $\Theta_{n}$ be the discrete sugroup of $\mathbb{H}_{3}$ defined by

$$
\Theta_{n}=\left\{\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
1 & a & \frac{c}{n} \\
0 & 1 & b \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right), \quad a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}\right\}
$$

then $\mathbb{Z} \ltimes_{\tilde{\nu}}\left(\Gamma_{n} \times \mathbb{Z}^{2}\right)$ is a uniform discrete subgroup of the solvable Lie group $G_{4}$.
By construction any quotient $\Gamma_{i} \backslash G_{i}$ is a $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundle over the complex surface $\Theta \backslash L$.

If $X$ is either a Hopf surface or a primary Kodaira surface or a properly elliptic surface with odd first Betti number, then the $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundle $M$ is a product of two 3 -dimensional manifolds. Then the interesting cases are the remaining.

The $\mathbb{T}^{2}$-bundle $\Gamma_{4} \backslash G_{4}$ over the secondary Kodaira surface satisfies the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
0=2 i \partial \bar{\partial} F=\frac{\alpha^{\prime}}{4} \operatorname{tr}\left(R^{B} \wedge R^{B}\right) \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

where we denote by $R^{B}$ the curvature of the Bismut connection and by $F$ the fundamental 2 -form. This equation is of interest in the context of superstring theory, since it is a particular case of an equation in the Strominger's system considered in [39] for Hermitian manifolds of complex dimension three:

$$
\begin{equation*}
d H=2 i \partial \bar{\partial} F=\frac{\alpha^{\prime}}{4}\left[\operatorname{tr}(R \wedge R)-\operatorname{tr}\left(F_{A} \wedge F_{A}\right)\right] \tag{23}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $A$ is a Hermitian-Einstein connection on an auxiliary semi-stable bundle on $M, \nabla$ is a metric connection with skew-symmetric torsion $H$ on $M, F_{A}$ and $R$ denote respectively the curvature of the two connections $A$ and $\nabla$.
By [39, 35] the Hermitian manifold has to be conformally balanced with a holomorphic $(3,0)$-form.

The first solutions of the complete Strominger's system on non-Kähler manifolds were constructed by J. X. Fu and S. -T. Yau (see [14]).

The locally conformally balanced strong KT manifold $\Gamma_{4} \backslash G_{4}$ gives a solution in dimension 6 of the equation (23) with $F_{A}=0$. Indeed, for the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}_{4}$ we have that $J d F=-e^{123}$. Thus, the non-zero torsion 2 -forms and connections 1 -forms of the Bismut connection $\nabla^{B}$ are

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \tau^{1}=e^{23}, \quad \tau^{2}=-e^{13}, \quad \tau^{3}=e^{12} \\
& \omega_{2}^{1}=-e^{3}+e^{4}=-\omega_{1}^{2}, \quad \omega_{6}^{5}=-\frac{\pi}{2} e^{4}=-\omega_{5}^{6}
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore, we get that the only non-zero curvature forms for $\nabla^{B}$ are given by

$$
\Omega_{2}^{1}=-e^{12}=-\Omega_{1}^{2}
$$

and consequently

$$
\operatorname{tr}(\Omega \wedge \Omega)=\sum_{i, j} \Omega_{j}^{i} \wedge \Omega_{j}^{i}=0
$$

We will show now that $\Gamma_{4} \backslash G_{4}$ does not admit any non-vanishing holomorphic ( 3,0 )form. By a straightforward computation, we have that the non-vanishing curvature forms for the Chern connection $\nabla^{C}$ are

$$
\tilde{\Omega}_{2}^{1}=-\tilde{\Omega}_{4}^{3}=\frac{1}{2} e^{12}, \quad \tilde{\Omega}_{6}^{5}=-e^{12}
$$

Denote by $\tilde{R}_{j h k}^{i}$ the curvature components defined by

$$
\tilde{\Omega}_{j}^{i}=\sum_{h, k=1}^{6} \tilde{R}_{j h k}^{i} e^{h} \wedge e^{k},
$$

and consider the curvature operator $\tilde{R}(X, Y)$ of the Chern connection defined by

$$
\tilde{R}(X, Y) Z=\sum_{i, j, h, k=1}^{6} \tilde{R}_{j h k}^{i}\left(e^{h} \wedge e^{k}\right)(X, Y) e^{j}(Z) e_{i}
$$

By [28, Lemma 2, p. 151], if $\left(\Gamma_{4} \backslash G_{4}, J, g\right)$ admits a non-zero holomorphic (3,0)form, then the traces of the two operators $\tilde{R}(X, Y)$ and $J \circ \tilde{R}(X, Y)$ must vanish, but, by a direct computation, we have that the

$$
\operatorname{tr}(J \circ \tilde{R})\left(e_{1}, e_{2}\right)=-\pi
$$

Although in physics the most preferred connection for the anomaly cancellation condition is the non-Hermitian connection with skew-symmetric torsion equal to the opposite of the torsion of $\nabla^{B}$, also the case of a Hermitian connection may be interesting. Indeed, we obtain an example, which can be interpreted as a "locally conformal solution" of the Strominger's system, since locally there is a holomorphic (3, 0)-form and conformal change to a balanced metric, plus the anomaly cancellation.

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