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# Eigenvalues of Type r of the Basic Dirac Operator on Kähler Foliations

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we prove that on a Kähler spin foliatoin of codimension q = 2n, any eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of type r ( $r \in \{1, \dots, [\frac{n+1}{2}]\}$ ) of the basic Dirac operator  $D_b$  satisfies the inequality  $\lambda^2 \geq \frac{r}{4r-2} \inf_M \sigma^{\nabla}$ , where  $\sigma^{\nabla}$  is the transversal scalar curvature of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

### 1. Introduction

On a Kähler spin foliation  $(M, \mathcal{F})$  of codimension q = 2n, any eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of the basic Dirac operator  $D_b$  satisfies

(1.1) 
$$\lambda^{2} \geq \begin{cases} \frac{n+1}{4n} \inf_{M} K^{\sigma} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd } [6,7], \\ \frac{n}{4(n-1)} \inf_{M} K^{\sigma} & \text{if } n \text{ is even } [4], \end{cases}$$

where  $K^{\sigma} = \sigma^{\nabla} + |\kappa|^2$  with the transversal scalar curvature  $\sigma^{\nabla}$  and the mean curvature form  $\kappa$  of  $\mathcal{F}$ . In the limiting cases,  $\mathcal{F}$  is minimal. For the point foliation, see [9,10]. Since the limiting cases of (1.1) are minimal, the inequalities (1.1) yield the following:

(1.2) 
$$\lambda^{2} \geq \begin{cases} \frac{n+1}{4n} \inf_{M} \sigma^{\nabla} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \\ \frac{n}{4(n-1)} \inf_{M} \sigma^{\nabla} & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

In this paper, we give an estimate of the eigenvalues  $\lambda$  of type r of the basic Dirac operator  $D_b$  on a Kähler spin foliation. Recently, G. Habib and K. Richardson [5] proved that the spectrum of the basic Dirac operator does not change with respect to a change of bundle-like metric. And the existence of a bundle-like metric such that  $\delta_B \kappa_B = 0$  is assured by A. Mason [11]. Hence we have the following.

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**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $(M, g_M, \mathcal{F})$  be a compact Riemannian manifold with a Kähler spin foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  of codimension q = 2n and a bundle-like metric  $g_M$ . Assume that the transversal scalar curvature is non-negative. Then any eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of type  $r(r \in \{1, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor\})$  of the basic Dirac operator satisfies

(1.3) 
$$\lambda^2 \ge \frac{r}{4r-2} \inf_M \sigma^{\nabla}.$$

From (1.3), if n is odd (i.e.,  $r = \frac{n+1}{2}$ ) or n is even (i.e.,  $r = \frac{n}{2}$ ), then the inequalities (1.2) are induced.

#### 2. The basic Dirac Operator on a Kähler Spin Foliation

In this section, we summarize some facts on Kähler spin foliations which are studied in [6,7,12]. Let  $(M, g_M, \mathcal{F}, S(\mathcal{F}))$  be a Riemannian manifold with a Kähler spin foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  of codimension q = 2n, a bundle-like metric  $g_M$  with respect to  $\mathcal{F}$ and a foliated spinor bundle  $S(\mathcal{F})$  with a hermitian metric  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ . We recall the exact sequence

$$(2.1) 0 \to L \to TM \xrightarrow{\pi} Q \to 0$$

determined by the tangent bundle L and the normal bundle Q of  $\mathcal{F}$ . The metric  $g_M$  determines an orthogonal decomposition  $TM = L \oplus L^{\perp}$ , identifying Q with  $L^{\perp}$  and inducing a metric  $g_Q$  on Q. Let  $\nabla$  be the transversal Levi-Civita connection on Q = TM/L, which is torsion-free and metric with respect to  $g_Q$  [8,14]. Let  $R^{\nabla}, \rho^{\nabla}$  and  $\sigma^{\nabla}$  be the transversal curvature tensor, transversal Ricci tensor and transversal scalar curvature with respect to  $\nabla$ , respectively. The foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  is said to be minimal if the mean curvature form  $\kappa$  vanishes. Let  $\Omega_B^*(\mathcal{F})$  be the space of all basic forms  $\phi$ , which are defined by  $i(X)\phi = 0 = i(X)d\phi$  for  $X \in \Gamma L$ . Then  $L^2(\Omega^*(M))$  is decomposed as [1]

(2.2) 
$$L^{2}(\Omega(M)) = L^{2}(\Omega_{B}(\mathfrak{F})) \oplus L^{2}(\Omega_{B}(\mathfrak{F}))^{\perp}.$$

Let  $P: L^2(\Omega^*(M)) \to L^2(\Omega^*_B(\mathcal{F}))$  be the orthogonal projection onto basic forms [13], which preserves smoothness in the case of Riemannian foliations. For any *r*-form  $\omega$ , we put the basic part of  $\omega$  as  $\omega_B := P\omega$ . Then it is well-known [1] that  $\kappa_B := P\kappa$  is closed. Let  $\Delta_B = d_B\delta_B + \delta_B d_B$  be the *basic Laplacian*, where  $\delta_B$  is the formal adjoint operator of  $d_B = d|_{\Omega^*_B(\mathcal{F})}$ .

Let  $J: Q \to Q$  be an almost complex structure on Q. Then the basic Kähler form  $\Omega \in \Omega^2_B(\mathfrak{F})$  is defined by

(2.3) 
$$\Omega(X,Y) = g_Q(X,JY), \quad \forall X,Y \in \Gamma Q.$$

By the Clifford multiplication in the fibers of  $S(\mathfrak{F})$  for any vector field X in Q and any transversal spinor field  $\Psi$ , the Clifford product  $X \cdot \Psi$ , which is also a transversal spinor field, is defined. This product has the following properties: for all  $X, Y \in \Gamma Q$ and  $\Phi, \Psi \in \Gamma S(\mathcal{F})$ ,

(2.4) 
$$(X \cdot Y + Y \cdot X)\Psi = -2g_Q(X,Y)\Psi,$$

- (2.5)  $\langle X \cdot \Psi, \Phi \rangle + \langle \Psi, X \cdot \Phi \rangle = 0,$
- (2.6)  $\nabla_Y^S(X \cdot \Psi) = (\nabla_Y X) \cdot \Psi + X \cdot (\nabla_Y^S \Psi),$

where  $\nabla^S$  is a metric covariant derivation on  $S(\mathcal{F})$ , i.e., for all  $X \in \Gamma Q$ , and all  $\Psi, \Phi \in \Gamma S(\mathcal{F})$ , it holds

(2.7) 
$$X\langle\Psi,\Phi\rangle = \langle\nabla_X^S\Psi,\Phi\rangle + \langle\Psi,\nabla_X^S\Phi\rangle.$$

If we have no confusion, we use the same notation  $\nabla$ . Moreover, if we define the Clifford product  $\xi \cdot \Psi$  of a 1-form  $\xi \in Q^*$  and a transversal spinor field  $\Psi$  as  $\xi \cdot \Psi \equiv \xi^{\sharp} \cdot \Psi$ , where  $\xi^{\sharp}$  is a  $g_Q$ -dual vector of  $\xi$ , then any basic *r*-form can be considered as an endomorphism of  $S(\mathcal{F})$ . So  $\Omega$  is locally expressed as

(2.8) 
$$\Omega = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{a=1}^{2n} E_a \cdot J E_a = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a=1}^{2n} J E_a \cdot E_a,$$

where  $\{E_a\}_{a=1,\dots,2n}$  is a local orthonormal basic frame in Q. From (2.4), (2.5) and (2.8),  $\Omega$  is skew-symmetric and, for any  $X \in \Gamma Q$ ,

(2.9) 
$$X \cdot \Omega - \Omega \cdot X = 2JX.$$

Note that, by the action of the Kähler form, the foliated spinor bundle  $S(\mathfrak{F})$  splits into the orthogonal direct sum

(2.10) 
$$S(\mathfrak{F}) = S_0 \oplus S_1 \oplus \dots \oplus S_n$$

where the fiber  $(S_r)_x$  of the subbundle  $S_r$  is just defined as the eigenspace corresponding to the eigenvalue  $i\mu_r$ ,  $\mu_r = n - 2r(r = 0, \dots, n)$  of  $\Omega_x$  [7,9]. Let  $p_r: S(\mathcal{F}) \to S_r$  be the projection. Then, for any  $X \in \Gamma Q$ ,

(2.11) 
$$Xp_s = p_{s-1}Xp_s + p_{s+1}Xp_s,$$

(2.12) 
$$J(X)p_{s} = -ip_{s-1}Xp_{s} + ip_{s+1}Xp_{s} \quad (s \in \mathbb{N}),$$

where  $p_s = 0$  for  $s \notin \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ . Moreover, the foliated spinor bundle of a Kähler spin foliation carries an anti-linear map j satisfying the relations [7]:

(2.13) 
$$\nabla j = 0, \ [X, j] = 0, \ [\Omega, j] = 0, \ j^2 = (-1)^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}}$$

(2.14) 
$$\langle j\Psi, j\Phi \rangle = \langle \Phi, \Psi \rangle, \quad jp_r = p_{n-r}j.$$

The transversal Dirac operator  $D_{tr}$  acting on sections of the foliated spinor bundle  $S(\mathcal{F})$  is locally given by [2,3]

(2.15) 
$$D_{tr}\Psi = \sum_{a} E_{a} \cdot \nabla_{E_{a}}\Psi - \frac{1}{2}\kappa_{B}^{\sharp} \cdot \Psi.$$

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At any point  $x \in M$ , we choose normal coordinates at this point so that  $(\nabla E_a)(x) = 0$ , for all a. From now on, all the computations in this paper will be made in such charts. Associated with J, there is a transversally elliptic self-adjoint operator  $\tilde{D}_{tr}$  locally defined by [6,7]

(2.16) 
$$\tilde{D}_{tr}\Psi = \sum_{a} JE_{a} \cdot \nabla_{E_{a}}\Psi - \frac{1}{2}J\kappa_{B}^{\sharp} \cdot \Psi.$$

Then we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1([7]).** Let  $(M, g_M, \mathfrak{F})$  be a Riemannian manifold with a Kähler spin foliation  $\mathfrak{F}$  and a bundle-like metric  $g_M$  such that  $\delta_B \kappa_B = 0$ . Suppose the basic part of  $\kappa$  is transversally holomorphic, i.e.,  $\nabla_{JX} \kappa_B^{\sharp} = J \nabla_X \kappa_B^{\sharp}$  for all  $X \in \Gamma Q$ . Then, for any  $\Psi \in S(\mathfrak{F})$ ,

(2.17) 
$$D_{tr}^2 \Psi = \tilde{D}_{tr}^2 \Psi = \nabla_{tr}^* \nabla_{tr} \Psi + \frac{1}{4} K^{\sigma} \Psi,$$

$$(2.18) D_{tr}D_{tr} + D_{tr}D_{tr} = 0$$

where  $K^{\sigma} = |\kappa_B|^2 + \sigma^{\nabla}$  and  $\nabla^*_{tr} \nabla_{tr} \Psi = -\sum_a \nabla_{E_a} \nabla_{E_a} \Psi + \nabla_{\kappa_B^{\sharp}} \Psi$ .

Also, we can easily check the following relations [7]:

(2.19) 
$$[D_{tr}, \Omega] = 2\tilde{D}_{tr}, \ [\tilde{D}_{tr}, \Omega] = -2D_{tr}, \ [D_{tr}, j] = 0, \ [\tilde{D}_{tr}, j] = 0.$$

Now, we define the subspace  $\Gamma_B S(\mathcal{F})$  of *basic* or *holonomy invariant* sections of  $S(\mathcal{F})$  by

$$\Gamma_B S(\mathfrak{F}) = \{ \Psi \in \Gamma S(\mathfrak{F}) | \nabla_X \Psi = 0 \text{ for any } X \in \Gamma L \}.$$

Let  $D_b = D_{tr}|_{\Gamma_B S(\mathcal{F})} : \Gamma_B S(\mathcal{F}) \to \Gamma_B S(\mathcal{F})$ . This operator  $D_b$  is called the *basic Dirac operator* on (smooth) basic sections. It is well-known [2] that  $D_b$  has a discrete spectrum. Hence we have the following.

**Theorem 2.2([6]).** If  $\lambda \neq 0$  is an eigenvalue of the basic Dirac operator  $D_b$  on a Kähler spin foliation  $\mathfrak{F}$  of codimension q = 2n, then the corresponding eigenspace  $E^{\lambda}(D_b)$  splits into the orthogonal direct sum

(2.20) 
$$E^{\lambda}(D_b) = \bigoplus_{r=1}^n E_r^{\lambda}(D_b),$$

where each eigenspinor  $\Psi \in E_r^{\lambda}(D_b)$  has a decomposition  $\Psi = \Psi_{r-1} + \Psi_r$  with  $\Psi_i \in \Gamma_B S_i = S_i \cap \Gamma_B S(\mathfrak{F})(i = r - 1, r)$  such that the equations

(2.21) 
$$D_b \Psi_{r-1} = \lambda \Psi_r, \quad D_b \Psi_r = \lambda \Psi_{r-1}, \quad \|\Psi_{r-1}\| = \|\Psi_r\|$$

are satisfied, where  $\ll \Psi, \Phi \gg = \int_M \langle \Psi, \Phi \rangle$ .

From the second equation in (2.14), we have the relation

(2.22) 
$$E_{n-r+1}^{\lambda}(D_b) = jE_r^{\lambda}(D_b).$$

Hence the decomposition (2.20) in Theorem 2.2 can be written as

(2.23) 
$$E^{\lambda}(D_b) = \bigoplus_{r=1}^{[(n+1)/2]} \{ E_r^{\lambda}(D_b) + j E_r^{\lambda}(D_b) \}.$$

**Definition 2.3.** An eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of the basic Dirac operator is called of *type*  $r \ (r \in \{1, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor\})$  if  $E_r^{\lambda}(D_b) \neq \{0\}$ .

**Proposition 2.4([6]).** Let  $\mathfrak{F}$  be a Kähler spin foliation. For any  $\Psi = \Psi_{r-1} + \Psi_r \in E_r^{\lambda}(D_b)$ , we have

$$\tilde{D}_b \Psi_{r-1} = i D_b \Psi_{r-1} = i \lambda \Psi_r, \quad \tilde{D}_b \Psi_r = -i D_b \Psi_r = -i \lambda \Psi_{r-1}.$$

Lemma 2.5(6). Let  $\Psi \in E_r^{\lambda}(D_b)$  or  $\Gamma_B S_r$ . For any vector field  $X \in \Gamma Q$ , we have  $\langle JX \cdot \Psi, \tilde{D}_b \Psi \rangle = \langle X \cdot \Psi, D_b \Psi \rangle.$ 

## 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

First, we define  $F: \Gamma_B S(\mathcal{F}) \to \mathbb{R}$  by

(3.1) 
$$F(\Psi) = \int_M \{\alpha(\Psi) + \beta(\Psi)\},$$

where

(3.2) 
$$\alpha(\Psi) = \operatorname{Re}\langle \kappa_B^{\sharp} \cdot \Psi, D_b \Psi \rangle \text{ and } \beta(\Psi) = \operatorname{Re}\langle J \kappa_B^{\sharp} \cdot \Psi, \tilde{D}_b \Psi \rangle.$$

Trivially, if  $\mathcal{F}$  is minimal, then  $F(\Psi) = 0$  for all spinor fields  $\Psi \in \Gamma_B S(\mathcal{F})$ . From Lemma 2.5, we have the following.

**Proposition 3.1([6]).** For any spinor field  $\Psi \in \Gamma_B S(\mathfrak{F})$ , we have

$$F(\Psi) = 2\sum_{r=0}^{n} \int_{M} \alpha(\Psi_{r}) = 2\sum_{r=0}^{n} \int_{M} \beta(\Psi_{r}) = \sum_{r} F(\Psi_{r}),$$

where  $\Psi_r = p_r \Psi$ . In particular, for any spinor field  $\Psi \in E_r^{\lambda}(D_b)$ ,  $F(\Psi_{r-1}) = -F(\Psi_r) = -F(j\Psi_r)$  and so  $F(\Psi) = 0$ .

By the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality, we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $(M, g_M, \mathfrak{F})$  be a compact Riemannian manifold with a Kähler spin foliation  $\mathfrak{F}$  and a bundle-like metric  $g_M$ . Then, for any spinor field  $\Psi \in \Gamma_B S_r$ , we have

(3.3) 
$$|F(\Psi)| \le 2 \sup_{M} |\kappa_B| \Big( \int_M |\Psi|^2 \Big)^{1/2} \Big( \int_M |D_b \Psi|^2 \Big)^{1/2}.$$

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The equality holds if and only if  $\kappa_B$  vanishes.

Proof. From Lemma 2.5 and the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |F(\Psi)| &= 2 |\int_M \operatorname{Re}\langle \kappa_B^{\sharp} \cdot \Psi, D_b \Psi \rangle| \\ &\leq 2 \Big(\int_M |\kappa_B^{\sharp} \cdot \Psi|^2 \Big)^{1/2} \Big(\int_M |D_b \Psi|^2 \Big)^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

which proves (3.3).

For any  $r = 1, \dots, n$  and vector field X, the transversal Kählerian twistor operator  $P_{tr}^r$  of type r is given [6] by

(3.4) 
$$P_X^r \Psi = \nabla_X \Psi + \frac{1}{4r} \{ \pi(X) \cdot D_b \Psi + J\pi(X) \cdot \tilde{D}_b \Psi \}.$$

By a straightforward calculation, we have that, for any spinor field  $\Psi \in \Gamma_B S(\mathfrak{F})$ 

$$|P_{tr}^{r}\Psi|^{2} = |\nabla_{tr}\Psi|^{2} + \frac{n-4r}{8r^{2}}(|D_{b}\Psi|^{2} + |\tilde{D}_{b}\Psi|^{2}) - \frac{1}{4r}\{\alpha(\Psi) + \beta(\Psi)\}$$

$$(3.5) \qquad \qquad + \frac{1}{8r^{2}}\{\langle D_{b}\Psi, \Omega\tilde{D}_{b}\Psi\rangle + \langle \Omega\tilde{D}_{b}\Psi, D_{b}\Psi\rangle\}.$$

For any spinor field  $\Psi \in \Gamma_B S(\mathfrak{F})$  on a Kähler spin foliation, we have

(3.6) 
$$G(\Psi) := \int_{M} \langle D_b \Psi, \Omega \tilde{D}_b \Psi \rangle = \int_{M} \langle \Omega \tilde{D}_b \Psi, D_b \Psi \rangle,$$

i.e.,  $G(\Psi)$  is real [6].

**Lemma 3.3([6]).** For any spinor field  $\Psi = \Psi_{r-1} + \Psi_r \in E_r^{\lambda}(D_b)$ , we have

(3.7) 
$$G(\Psi) = \lambda^2 \int_M |\Psi|^2 = \int_M |D_b\Psi|^2,$$

(3.8) 
$$G(\Psi_{r-1}) = -\lambda^2 \mu_r \int_M |\Psi_r|^2 = -\lambda^2 \mu_r \int_M |\Psi_{r-1}|^2,$$

(3.9) 
$$G(j\Psi_r) = \lambda^2 \mu_{r-1} \int_M |\Psi_{r-1}|^2 = \lambda^2 \mu_{r-1} \int_M |j\Psi_r|^2.$$

From (3.5) and (3.6), we have the following proposition.

Proposition 3.4([6]). On a Kähler spin foliation, we have

$$4r^2 \int_M |P_{tr}^r \Psi|^2 = \int_M \{f(r)|D_b \Psi|^2 - r^2 K^\sigma |\Psi|^2\} + G(\Psi) - rF(\Psi),$$

where  $f(r) = 4r^2 - 2r + \mu_r$ .

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On the other hand, if there exists a spinor field  $\Psi \in \operatorname{Ker} P_{\operatorname{tr}}^r \cap (\operatorname{Ker} D_b)^{\perp}$ , then  $\Psi \in \Gamma_B S_{r-1}$  or  $\Gamma_B S_{n-r+1}$  [6]. Hence, from Lemma 3.2, Lemma 3.3 and Proposition 3.4, for any eigenspinor  $\Psi = \Psi_{r-1} + \Psi_r \in E_r^{\lambda}(D_b)$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $D_b$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} 4r \int_{M} |P_{tr}^{r} \Psi_{r-1}|^{2} \\ &= (4r-2) \int_{M} (\lambda^{2} - \frac{r}{4r-2} K^{\sigma}) |\Psi_{r-1}|^{2} - F(\Psi_{r-1}) \\ &\leq (4r-2) \int_{M} \left( \lambda^{2} + \frac{\sup_{M} |\kappa_{B}|}{2r-1} |\lambda| - \frac{r}{4r-2} \inf_{M} K^{\sigma} \right) |\Psi_{r}|^{2} \\ &= (4r-2) \int_{M} \left( (|\lambda| + \frac{\sup_{M} |\kappa_{B}|}{4r-2})^{2} - (\frac{\sup_{M} |\kappa_{B}|}{4r-2})^{2} - \frac{r}{4r-2} \inf_{M} K^{\sigma} \right) |\Psi_{r}|^{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have

(3.10) 
$$(|\lambda| + \frac{\sup_M |\kappa_B|}{4r - 2})^2 \ge \frac{r}{4r - 2} \inf_M K^{\sigma} + (\frac{\sup_M |\kappa_B|}{4r - 2})^2.$$

If we put  $A = \frac{\sup_M |\kappa_B|}{4r-2} \ge 0$ , then we have

(3.11) 
$$\lambda^2 \ge \frac{r}{4r-2} \inf_M K^\sigma + 2C,$$

where  $C = A(A - \sqrt{\frac{r}{4r-2} \inf_M K^{\sigma} + A^2}) \leq 0$ . If the equality of (3,10) holds, then from the equation above,  $P_{tr}^r \Psi_{r-1} = 0$ . Hence  $\kappa_B$  vanishes [6, Theorem 5.1]. So, C = 0. Hence any eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of type  $r(r \in \{1, \dots, \frac{[n+1]}{2}\})$  of the basic Dirac operator  $D_b$  satisfies

(3.12) 
$$\lambda^2 \ge \frac{r}{4r-2} \inf_M \sigma^{\nabla}.$$

Hence the proof is completed.

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