SYMPLECTIC INSTANTON BUNDLES ON $\mathbb{P}^3$ AND 'T HOOFT INSTANTONS

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Abstract. We study the moduli space $I_{n,r}$ of rank-$2r$ symplectic instanton vector bundles on $\mathbb{P}^3$ with $r \geq 2$ and second Chern class $n \geq r+1,\ n-r \equiv 1(\mathrm{mod}2)$. We introduce the notion of tame symplectic instantons by excluding a kind of pathological monads and show that the locus $I^*_{n,r}$ of tame symplectic instantons is irreducible and has the expected dimension, equal to $4n(r+1)-r(2r+1)$. The proof is inherently based on a relation between the spaces $I^*_{n,r}$ and the moduli spaces of 't Hooft instantons.

1. Introduction

A *symplectic instanton vector bundle* of rank $2r$ and charge n on the projective 3-space $\mathbb{P}^3$ is an algebraic vector bundle $E = E_{2r}$ of rank $2r$ on $\mathbb{P}^3$ which is equipped with a symplectic structure $\phi:\ E \xrightarrow{\sim} E^\vee, \phi^\vee = -\phi$ and satisfies the vanishing conditions $h^0(E) = h^1(E \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-2)) = 0$. The Chern classes $c_1(E)$ and $c_3(E)$ vanish, and we also assume $c_2(E) = n \geq 1$. We shall denote by $I_{n,r}$ the moduli space of symplectic (n,r)-instantons.

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2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 14D20, 14J60.

Key words and phrases. Vector bundles, symplectic bundles, instantons, moduli space.

D. M. and A. T. were partially supported by Labex CEMPI (ANR-11-LABX-0007-01), and U. B. by PRIN "Geometria delle varietà algebriche" and INdAM-GNSAGA. U. B. is a member of the VBAC group. A. T. acknowledges the hospitality of the Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik in Bonn and SISSA in Trieste, where part of the work on this paper was made.

Rank r symplectic instantons on $\mathbb{P}^3$ relate in a natural manner with "physical" $\mathbf{Sp}(r)$ instantons on the four-sphere S^4, i.e., connections on principal $\mathbf{Sp}(r)$-bundles on S^4 with self-dual curvature [1]; the moduli spaces of the former are in a sense a complexification of the moduli spaces of the latter. This relation is expressed by the so-called Atiyah–Ward correspondence [3, 1], which relies on the fact that the projective space $\mathbb{P}^3$ is the twistor space of the four-sphere S^4. The present paper and its companion [7] are the first to study the geometry of the moduli spaces $I_{n,r}$. While [7] studied the case $n \equiv r \pmod 2$, with $n \geq r$, the present paper deals with the other case, $n \equiv r+1 \pmod 2$, with $n \geq r+1$. The main result of this paper is that a component $I^*_{n,r}$ of $I_{n,r}$ that is singled out by a certain open condition (which rules out some "badly behaved" monads) is irreducible.

We exploit as usual the monad method [8, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12], which allows one to study instantons by means of hyperwebs of quadrics. Namely, we realize $I_{n,r}$ as the quotient space of a principal $GL(H_n)/\{\pm \mathrm{id}\}$-bundle $\pi_{n,r} : MI_{n,r} \to I_{n,r}$, where $MI_{n,r}$ is a locally closed subset of the vector space $\mathbf{S}_n$ of hyperwebs of quadrics (precise definitions will be given later on). The tame locus $I^*_{n,r}$ being open in $I_{n,r}$, its irreducibility is equivalent to that of $MI^*_{n,r} = \pi^{-1}_{n,r}(I^*_{n,r})$. The key ingredient of our approach is the reduction of the last problem to that of certain sets Z_{n-r+1} (see section 3). The sets Z_i as locally closed subsets of some vector spaces related to $\mathbf{S}_n$ were first defined in [9]. It is shown in [9, Section 9] that the Z_i can be interpreted essentially as open subsets of certain affine bundles over the monad spaces M^{tH}_{2i-1} of 't Hooft rank-2 mathematical instantons of charge $2i-1$—see more details in section 3.2. Thus the irreducibility of Z_{n-r+1}, hence that of $I^*_{n,r}$, is reduced to the irreducibility of the moduli spaces of 't Hooft instantons of fixed charge, which is well known; see references in [9]. This nontrivial relation between the spaces $I^*_{n,r}$ and the moduli of 't Hooft instantons is crucial for the results in this paper. Note that this process of reduction from $I^*_{n,r}$ to the moduli of 't Hooft instantons somewhat resembles Barth's approach in [5] to the proof of the irreducibility of the moduli space I_4 of instantons of charge 4. In that paper, Barth reduces the problem to the irreducibility of the space Q_n of commuting pairs of (good in some sense) pencils of quadrics for $n = 4$. In our case the role of the spaces Q_n is played by the moduli spaces of 't Hooft instantons.

Acknowledgements. This paper was partly written while the first author was visiting Université Lille I. He thanks the Department of Mathematics of Université Lille I for hospitality and support. The second and the third authors acknowledge the hospitality of the Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik in Bonn, were they made a part of work on the paper. The third author thanks the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation for partial support.

Notation and conventions. Throughout this paper, we consider an algebraically closed base field $\Bbbk$ of characteristic 0. All schemes will be Noetherian. By a general point of an irreducible (but not necessarily reduced) scheme $\mathcal{X}$ we mean a closed point of a dense open subset of $\mathcal{X}$. An irreducible scheme is generically reduced if it is reduced at all general points. We follow the notation of [9]. So, we fix an integer $n \geq 1$, and denote by H_n and V fixed vector spaces over $\Bbbk$ of dimension n and 4, respectively, and set $\mathbb{P}^3 = P(V)$. Furthermore, $\mathbf{S}_n$ (the *space of hyperwebs of quadrics*) will denote the vector space $S^2H_n^\vee \otimes \wedge^2 V^\vee$. A hyperweb of quadrics $A \in \mathbf{S}_n$ is a skew-symmetric homomorphism $A : H_n \otimes V \to H_n^\vee \otimes V^\vee$, and we denote by W_A the vector space $H_n \otimes V / \ker A$ and by c_A the canonical epimorphism $H_n \otimes V \twoheadrightarrow W_A$. A choice of A induces a skew symmetric isomorphism $q_A : W_A \xrightarrow{\sim} W_A^\vee$, and A is the composition $H_n \otimes V \overset{c_A}{\twoheadrightarrow} W_A \underset{\sim}{\overset{q_A}{\to}} W_A^\vee \overset{c_A^\vee}{\rightarrowtail} H_n^\vee \otimes V^\vee$.

For any morphism of $\mathcal{O}_X$-sheaves $f : \mathcal{F} \to \mathcal{F}'$ we denote by the same letter f the induced morphism $id \otimes f : U \otimes \mathcal{F} \to U \otimes \mathcal{F}'$, and analogously, for any homomorphism $f : U \to U'$ of $\Bbbk$-vector spaces, the induced morphism $f \otimes id : U \otimes \mathcal{F} \to U' \otimes \mathcal{F}$. For $A \in \mathbf{S}_n$ we denote by a_A the composition $H_n^\vee \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \xrightarrow{u} H_n \otimes V \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} \xrightarrow{c_A} W_A \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}$, where u is the tautological subbundle morphism. By abuse of notation, we denote by the same symbol a $\Bbbk$-vector space, say U, and the associated affine space $\mathbf{V}(U^\vee) = \mathrm{Spec}(\mathrm{Sym}^* U^\vee)$.

2. Explicit construction of symplectic instantons

In this section we provide some examples and recall some facts about $MI_{n,r}$, in particular, its relation with the moduli space $I_{n,r}$ of symplectic instantons, see [7, Section 3]. Let us consider the *set of (n, r)-instanton hyperwebs of quadrics*

$$(1) \quad MI_{n,r} := \left\{ A \in \mathbf{S}_n \;\middle|\; \begin{array}{rl} \text{(i)} & \mathrm{rk}(A : H_n \otimes V \to H_n^\vee \otimes V^\vee) = 2n + 2r, \\ \text{(ii)} & \text{the morphism } a_A^\vee : W_A^\vee \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} \to H_n^\vee \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1) \text{ is} \\ & \text{surjective,} \\ \text{(iii)} & h^0(E_{2r}(A)) = 0, \text{ where } E_{2r}(A) := \ker(a_A^\vee \circ q_A)/\operatorname{Im} a_A. \end{array} \right\}$$

Theorem 2.1. *(i) For each $n \geq 1$, the space $MI_{n,r}$ of (n, r)-instanton nets of quadrics is a locally closed subscheme of the vector space $\mathbf{S}_n$, given locally at any point $A \in MI_{n,r}$ by*

$$(2) \qquad \binom{2n - 2r}{2} = 2n^2 - n(4r + 1) + r(2r + 1)$$

equations obtained as the rank condition (i) in (1).

(ii) The natural morphism

$$(3) \qquad \pi_{n,r} : MI_{n,r} \to I_{n,r}, \ A \mapsto [E_{2r}(A)],$$

is a principal $GL(H_n)/\{\pm \mathrm{id}\}$-bundle in the étale topology. Hence $I_{n,r}$ is a quotient stack $MI_{n,r}/(GL(H_n)/\{\pm \mathrm{id}\})$, and is therefore an algebraic space.

The fibre $F_{[E]} = \pi_n^{-1}([E])$ over a point $[E] \in I_{n,r}$ is a principal homogeneous space of $GL(H_n)/\{\pm \mathrm{id}\}$, so that the irreducibility of $(I_{n,r})_{red}$ amounts to the irreducibility of the scheme $(MI_{n,r})_{red}$. Besides, (2) yields

$$\dim_A MI_{n,r} \geq \dim \mathbf{S}_n - (2n^2 - n(4r+1) + r(2r+1)) = n^2 + 4n(r+1) - r(2r+1) \tag{4}$$

at all points $A \in MI_{n,r}$. Thus, $\dim_{[E]} I_{n,r} \geq 4n(r+1) - r(2r+1)$ at all points $[E] \in I_{n,r}$, as $MI_{n,r} \to I_{n,r}$ is an étale principal $GL(H_n)/\{\pm \mathrm{id}\}$-bundle.

2.1. **Symplectic $(n+1,n)$-instantons.** We give a construction of symplectic $(n+1,n)$-instantons and describe their relation to usual rank-2 instantons with second Chern class $c_2 = 2n$. This will be established at the level of spaces of hyperwebs of quadrics $MI_{n+1,n}$ and $MI_{2n,1}$, regarded as spaces of monads.

Denote by $\mathrm{Isom}_{n+1,n-1}$ the set of all isomorphisms

$$\zeta : H_{n+1} \oplus H_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{2n}. \tag{5}$$

This is the principal homogeneous space of the group $GL(2n)$. Moreover, for any $\zeta \in \mathrm{Isom}_{n+1,n-1}$, let $p_\zeta : \mathbf{S}_{2n} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{S}_{n+1}$ be the induced epimorphism, and, for any monomorphism $i : H_n \hookrightarrow H_{n+1}$, let $pr_{(i)} : \mathbf{S}_{n+1} \to \mathbf{S}_n$ be the induced epimorphism.

Note that $MI_{2n,1}$ is irreducible [10, Theorem 1.1], and one has the following result [10, Theorem 3.1].

Theorem 2.2. *There exists a dense open subset $MI^*_{2n,1}$ of $MI_{2n,1}$ such that, for any hyperweb $A \in MI^*_{2n,1}$ and a general $\zeta \in \mathrm{Isom}_{n+1,n-1}$ the rank of the homomorphism $B = p_\zeta(A) : H_{n+1} \otimes V \to H^\vee_{n+1} \otimes V^\vee$ coincides with the rank of $A : H_{2n} \otimes V \to H^\vee_{2n} \otimes V^\vee$:*

$$\mathrm{rk} B = \mathrm{rk} A = 4n+2. \tag{6}$$

Set $W_{4n+2} := H_{2n} \otimes V / \ker A$ and define the skew-symmetric isomorphism $q_A : W_{4n+2} \xrightarrow{\sim} W^\vee_{4n+2}$ and the morphism of sheaves $a_A : H_{2n} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \to W_{4n+2} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}$ with H_{2n} and W_{4n+2} taken instead of H_n and W_A, respectively. The morphism a_A and its transpose ${}^t a_A = a^\vee_A \circ q_A : W_{4n+2} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} \to H^\vee_{2n} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1)$ yield a monad

$$\mathcal{M}_A : \quad 0 \to H_{2n} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \xrightarrow{a_A} W_{4n+2} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} \xrightarrow{{}^t a_A} H^\vee_{2n} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1) \to 0$$

with cohomology sheaf $E(A)$, $[E(A)] \in I_{2n,1}$, see Theorem 2.1.

Let

$$i_\zeta : H_{n+1} \hookrightarrow H_{2n}$$

be the monomorphism defined by the isomorphism (5). The composition $a_B: H_{n+1}\otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \stackrel{i_\zeta}{\hookrightarrow} H_{2n}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \stackrel{a_A}{\to} W_{4n+2}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}$ and its transpose ${}^t a_B = a_B^\vee \circ q_A$ yield a monad

$$\mathcal{M}_B:\quad 0\to H_{n+1}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \stackrel{a_B}{\to} W_{4n+2}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} \stackrel{{}^t a_B}{\to} H_{n+1}^\vee\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1)\to 0$$

with the cohomology sheaf

$$E_{2n}(B) := \ker {}^t a_B/\mathrm{im} a_B,\quad c_2(E_{2n}(B)) = n+1.$$

The symplectic isomorphism $q_A:\ W_{4n+2} \stackrel{\sim}{\to} W_{4n+2}^\vee$ induces a symplectic structure on $E_{2n}(B)$,

$$\phi_B: E_{2n}(B) \stackrel{\sim}{\to} E_{2n}(B)^\vee. \tag{7}$$

Moreover, (6) implies an isomorphism $H_{n+1}\otimes V/\ker B \simeq W_{4n+2}$, hence a monomorphism of spaces of sections $h^0({}^t a_B): W_{4n+2}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} \stackrel{{}^t a_B}{\to} H_{n+1}^\vee V^\vee$ in the monad $\mathcal{M}_B$. Hence for this monad one has $h^0(E_{2n}(B)) = 0$. This together with (7) means that $E_{2n}(B)$ is a symplectic instanton:

$$[E_{2n}(B)] \in I_{n+1,n}.$$

Note that by construction the monads $\mathcal{M}_A$ and $\mathcal{M}_B$ fit into the commutative diagram (8)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
0 \to & H_{n+1}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) & \xrightarrow{a_B} & W_{4n+2}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} & \xrightarrow[\simeq]{q_A} & W_{4n+2}^\vee\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} & \xrightarrow{a_B^\vee} & H_n^\vee\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1) & \to 0 \\
 & \downarrow i_\zeta & & \cong \| & & w^\vee \| \cong & & \uparrow i_\zeta^\vee & \\
0 \to & H_{2n}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) & \xrightarrow{a_A} & W_{4n+2}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} & \xrightarrow[\simeq]{q_A} & W_{4n+2}^\vee\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} & \xrightarrow{a_A^\vee} & H_{2n}^\vee\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1) & \to 0,
\end{array}$$

In view of (7) and the canonical isomorphism $H_{2n}/i_\zeta(H_{n+1}) \simeq H_{n-1}$, this diagram yields the quotient monad

$$\mathcal{M}_{A,B}:\quad 0\to H_{n-1}\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \stackrel{a_{A,B}}{\to} E_{2n}(B) \underset{\simeq}{\stackrel{\phi_B}{\to}} E_{2n}(B)^\vee \stackrel{a_{A,B}^\vee}{\to} H_{n-1}^\vee\otimes\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1)\to 0$$

whose cohomology sheaf is

$$E_2(A) = \ker(a_{A,B}^\vee\circ\phi_B)/\mathrm{im}\ a_A.$$

2.2. **A special family of symplectic** $(2n-r+1,r)$**-instantons.** For any integer r, $2\le r\le n-1$, with $n\ge 3$, consider a monomorphism

$$\tau: H_{2n-r+1} \hookrightarrow H_{2n} \tag{9}$$

such that

$$\tau(H_{2n-r+1}) \supset i_\zeta(H_{n+1}). \tag{10}$$

The image of $A \in MI_{2n,1}$ under the projection $\mathbf{S}_{2n} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{S}_{2n-r+1}$ induced by τ produces a hyperweb of quadrics

$$A_\tau \in \mathbf{S}_{2n-r+1}.$$

This corresponds to a monad

$$\mathcal{M}_\tau : \quad 0 \to H_{2n-r+1} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \xrightarrow{a_\tau} W_{4n+2} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} \xrightarrow{a_\tau^\vee \circ q_A} H_{2n-r+1}^\vee \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1) \to 0,$$

whose cohomology is the rank $2r$ bundle

$$E_{2r}(A_\tau) = \ker(a_\tau^\vee \circ q_A)/\mathrm{im}\, a_\tau. \tag{11}$$

where $a_\tau := a_A \circ \tau$. The bundle $E_{2r}(A_\tau)$ has a natural symplectic structure

$$\phi_r : \ E_{2r}(A_\tau) \xrightarrow{\sim} E_{2r}(A_\tau)^\vee \tag{12}$$

induced by the antiselfduality of the monad $\mathcal{M}_\tau$. Moreover by (10) the monad $\mathcal{M}_\tau$ can be included into diagram (8) as a middle row, thus obtaining a three-row commutative, anti-self-dual diagram. Thus, in addition to the monad $\mathcal{M}_{A,B}$, we also have the monads

$$\mathcal{M}'_\tau : \quad 0 \to H_{n-r} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \xrightarrow{a'_\tau} E_{2n}(B) \underset{\simeq}{\xrightarrow{\phi}} E_{2n}(B)^\vee \xrightarrow{a'^\vee_\tau} H_{n-r}^\vee \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1) \to 0, \tag{13}$$

with cohomology

$$E_{2r}(A_\tau) = \ker({a'}_\tau^\vee \circ \phi)/\mathrm{im}\, a'_\tau,$$

and

$$\mathcal{M}''_\tau : \quad 0 \to H_{r-1} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \xrightarrow{a''_\tau} E_{2r}(A_\tau) \underset{\simeq}{\xrightarrow{\phi_\tau}} E_{2r}(A_\tau)^\vee \xrightarrow{a''^\vee_\tau} H_{r-1}^\vee \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1) \to 0, \tag{14}$$

with cohomology

$$E_2(A) = \ker({a''}_\tau^\vee \circ \phi_\tau)/\mathrm{im}\, a''_\tau.$$

Since $E_{2n}(B)$ is a symplectic instanton, $h^0(E_{2n}(B)) = h^i(E_{2n}(B)(-2)) = 0$, and the monad $\mathcal{M}'_\tau$ yields

$$h^0(E_{2r}(A_\tau)) = h^i(E_{2r}(A_\tau)(-2)) = 0, \ i \geq 0, \qquad c_2(E_{2r}(A_\tau)) = 2n - r + 1.$$

This, together with (12), means that

$$[E_{2r}(A_\tau)] \in I_{2n-r+1,r}. \tag{15}$$

Remark 2.3. The maps τ lie in the set

$$N_{n,r} := \{\tau \in \mathrm{Hom}(H_{2n-r+1}, H_{2n}) |\ \tau \text{ is injective and } \mathrm{im}\, \tau \supset \mathrm{im}\, i_\zeta\}$$

which, for fixed $A \in MI_{2n,1}(\zeta)$, parameterizes a family of hyperwebs A_τ from $MI_{2n-r+1,r}$. Now, $N_{n,r}$ is a principal $GL(H_{2n-r+1})$-bundle over an open subset of the Grassmannian $Gr(n-r, n-1)$, so it is irreducible. As a result, the family of the three-row extensions of the diagram (8) is parameterized by the irreducible variety $MI_{2n,1}(\zeta) \times N_{n,r}$. This in turn implies that the family $D_{n,r}$ of isomorphism classes of symplectic rank-$2r$ bundles obtained from these diagrams by (11) is an irreducible, locally closed subset of $I_{2n-r+1,r}$. It is not clear a priori if the closure of $D_{n,r}$ in $I_{2n-r+1,r}$ is an irreducible component of $I_{2n-r+1,r}$. $\triangle$

Let $2 \leq r \leq n-1$. For every monomorphism $i : H_n \hookrightarrow H_{2n-r+1}$, denote by $B(A,i)$ the image of $A \in MI_{2n-r+1,r}$ under the projection $\mathbf{S}_{2n-r+1} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{S}_n$ induced by i. It may be regarded as a homomorphism $B(A,i) : H_n \otimes V \to H_n^\vee \otimes V^\vee$.

Definition 2.4. *We say that $A \in MI_{2n-r+1,r}$ satisfies property (*) if there exists a monomorphism $i : H_n \hookrightarrow H_{2n-r+1}$ such that $B(A,i)$ is invertible.*

This is an open condition on A. By Theorem 2.1, $\pi_{2n-r+1,r} : MI_{2n-r+1,r} \to I_{2n-r+1,r}$ is a principal bundle, so that, if an element $A \in \pi^{-1}_{2n-r+1,r}([E_{2r}])$ satisfies (*), then any other point $A' \in \pi^{-1}_{2n-r+1,r}([E_{2r}])$ satisfies (*). A symplectic instanton E_{2r} from $I_{2n-r+1,r}$ is said to be *tame* if some (hence all) $A \in \pi^{-1}_{2n-r+1,r}([E_{2r}])$ satisfies property (*). This is an open condition on $[E_{2r}] \in I_{2n-r+1,r}$.

Remark 2.5. Using (10), we see that any $[E_{2r}] \in D_{n,r}$ is tame. We define

$$I^*_{2n-r+1,r} := I_{(1)} \cup \ldots \cup I_{(k)},$$

where $I_{(1)}, \ldots, I_{(k)}$ are the irreducible components of $I_{2n-r+1,r}$ whose general points are tame symplectic instantons. As $D_{n,r} \subset I^*_{2n-r+1,r}$ by definition, $I^*_{2n-r+1,r}$ is nonempty. If we define $MI^*_{2n-r+1,r} = \pi^{-1}_{2n-r+1,r}(I^*_{2n-r+1,r})$, then the map $\pi_{2n-r+1,r} : MI^*_{2n-r+1,r} \to I^*_{2n-r+1,r}$ is a principal $GL(H_{2n-r+1})/\{\pm 1\}$-bundle. $\triangle$

3. Irreducibility of $I^*_{2n-r+1,r}$

3.1. **A dense open subset of $MI^*_{2n-r+1,r}$.** We want to obtain the irreducibility of $I^*_{n,r}$ by reducing it to that of $X_{n,r}$, a dense open subset of $MI^*_{2n-r+1,r}$. The subset $X_{n,r}$ is a locally closed subset of the product of an affine space and an affine cone over a Grassmannian. Given an integer $n \geq 1$, we define the dense open subset of $\mathbf{S}_n$

$$\mathbf{S}^0_n := \{A \in \mathbf{S}_n \mid A : H_n \otimes V \to H_n^\vee \otimes V^\vee \text{ is an invertible map}\}.$$

We need some more notation. By definition, an element $B \in \mathbf{S}^0_n$ is an invertible anti-self-dual map $H_n \otimes V \to H_n^\vee \otimes V^\vee$. Its inverse $B^{-1} : H_n^\vee \otimes V^\vee \to H_n \otimes V$ is also anti-self-dual. Consider the vector space $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{n,r} := H^\vee_{n-r+1} \otimes H_n^\vee \otimes \wedge^2 V^\vee$. An element $C \in \mathbf{\Sigma}_{n,r}$ can be viewed as a linear map $C : H_{n-r+1} \otimes V \to H_n^\vee \otimes V^\vee$, and its dual $C^\vee : H_n \otimes V \to H^\vee_{n-r+1} \otimes V^\vee$.

As the composition $C^\vee \circ B^{-1} \circ C$ is anti-self-dual, we can consider it as an element of $\wedge^2(H_{n-r+1}^\vee \otimes V^\vee) \simeq \mathbf{S}_{n-r+1} \oplus \wedge^2 H_{n-r+1}^\vee \otimes S^2V^\vee$ Thus the condition

$$D - C^\vee \circ B^{-1} \circ C \in \mathbf{S}_{n-r+1}, \qquad D \in \wedge^2(H_{n-r+1}^\vee \otimes V^\vee)$$

makes sense.

Under an arbitrary direct sum decomposition

$$\xi : H_n \oplus H_{n-r+1} \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{2n-r+1} \tag{16}$$

we can represent the hyperweb $A \in \mathbf{S}_{2n-r+1}$, regarded as a homomorphism $A : H_n \otimes V \oplus H_{n-r+1} \otimes V \to H_n^\vee \otimes V^\vee \oplus H_{n-r+1}^\vee \otimes V^\vee$, as the $(8n-4r+4) \times (8n-4r+4)$-matrix of homomorphisms

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_1(\xi) & A_2(\xi) \\ -A_2(\xi)^\vee & A_3(\xi) \end{pmatrix}, \tag{17}$$

where

$$A_1(\xi) \in \mathbf{S}_n, \quad A_2(\xi) \in \mathbf{\Sigma}_{n,r} := \mathrm{Hom}(H_n, H_{n-r+1}^\vee) \otimes \wedge^2 V^\vee, \quad A_3(\xi) \in \mathbf{S}_{n-r+1}.$$

With this notation, the decomposition (16) induces an isomorphism

$$\tilde{\xi} : \ \mathbf{S}_{2n-r+1} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{S}_n \oplus \mathbf{\Sigma}_{n,r} \oplus \mathbf{S}_{n-r+1}, \quad A \mapsto (A_1(\xi), A_2(\xi), A_3(\xi)). \tag{18}$$

Let $\mathrm{Isom}_{n,r}$ be the set of all isomorphisms ξ in (16). According to Definition 2.4, there exists $\xi \in \mathrm{Isom}_{n,r}$ such that the set

$$MI^*_{2n-r+1,r}(\xi) := \{A \in MI_{2n-r+1,r} \mid A \text{ satisfies property } (*) \text{ for the monomorphism}$$
$$i_\xi : H_n \hookrightarrow \ H_{2n-r+1} \text{ determined by } \xi\}$$

is a dense open subset of $MI^*_{2n-r+1,r}$. Now take $A \in MI^*_{2n-r+1,r}(\xi)$ and consider A as a matrix of homomorphisms as in (17). By definition, the submatrix $A_1(\xi)$ is invertible. By a suitable elementary transformation we reduce the matrix A to an equivalent matrix $\tilde{A}$ of the form

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathrm{id}_{H_n \otimes V} & A_1(\xi)^{-1} \circ A_2(\xi) \\ 0 & A_2(\xi)^\vee \circ A_1(\xi)^{-1} \circ A_2(\xi) + A_3(\xi) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since $\mathrm{rk}\tilde{A} = \mathrm{rk}A = 2(2n-r+1) + 2r = 4n+2$, we obtain the following relation between the matrices $A_1(\xi)$, $A_2(\xi)$ and $A_3(\xi)$:

$$\mathrm{rk}(A_2(\xi)^\vee \circ A_1(\xi)^{-1} \circ A_2(\xi) + A_3(\xi)) = 2. \tag{19}$$

Consider the embedding of the Grassmannian

$$G := Gr(2, H_{n-r+1}^\vee \otimes V^\vee) \hookrightarrow P(\wedge^2(H_{n-r+1}^\vee \otimes V^\vee)),$$

and let $KG \subset \wedge^2(H_{n-r+1}^\vee \otimes V^\vee)$ be the affine cone over G. Set $KG^* := KG \setminus \{0\}$. We can now rewrite (19) as

$$A_2(\xi)^\vee \circ A_1(\xi)^{-1} \circ A_2(\xi) + A_3(\xi) \in KG^*, \tag{20}$$

where

$$A_2(\xi)^\vee \circ A_1(\xi)^{-1} \circ A_2(\xi) \in \wedge^2(H_{n-r+1}^\vee \otimes V^\vee), \quad A_3(\xi) \in \mathbf{S}_{n-r+1}. \tag{21}$$

Now consider the set

$$\widetilde{X}_{n,r} := \{(B, C, D) \in \mathbf{S}_n^0 \times \mathbf{\Sigma}_{n,r} \times KG^* \mid D - C^\vee \circ B^{-1} \circ C \in \mathbf{S}_{n-r+1}\}. \tag{22}$$

Since for an arbitrary point $y = (B, C, D) \in \tilde{X}_n$ the point $\tilde{\xi}^{-1}(B, C, D - C^\vee \circ B^{-1} \circ C)$ lies in $\mathbf{S}_{2n-r+1}$, it may be considered as a homomorphism $A_y : \ H_{2n-r+1} \otimes V \to H_{2n-r+1}^\vee \otimes V^\vee$ of rank $4n+2$, and we have a well-defined $(4n+2)$-dimensional vector space $W_{4n+2}(y) := H_{2n-r+1} \otimes V / \ker A_y$ together with a canonical epimorphism $c_y : \ H_{2n-r+1} \otimes V \twoheadrightarrow W_{4n+2}(y)$ and an induced skew-symmetric isomorphism $q_y : \ W_{4n+2}(y) \xrightarrow{\sim} W_{4n+2}(y)^\vee$ such that $A_y = c_y^\vee \circ q_y \circ c_y$. Now, similarly to the morphism $a_A : \ H_{2n-r+1} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \to W_{4n+2} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}$ (see subsection 2.1), a morphism of sheaves

$$a_y = c_y \circ u : \ H_{2n-r+1} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \to W_{4n+2}(y) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} \tag{23}$$

is defined, together with its transpose ${}^t a_y = a_y^\vee \circ q_y : \ W_{4n+2}^\vee(y) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3} \to H_{2n-r+1}^\vee \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1)$. We now introduce an open subset $X_{n,r}$ of the set $\widetilde{X}_{n,r}$,

$$X_{n,r} := \left\{ y \in \widetilde{X}_{n,r} \;\middle|\; \begin{array}{l} (i) \ {}^t a_y \text{ is epimorphic,} \\ (ii) \ [\ker {}^t a_y / \mathrm{im} a_y] \in I_{2n-r+1,r}^* \end{array} \right\}. \tag{24}$$

Since the conditions (i) and (ii) on a point $y \in \widetilde{X}_{n,r}$ in (24) are open, from (20) and (21) we obtain the following result.

Proposition 3.1. *There exist a decomposition $\xi \in \mathrm{Isom}_{n,r}$, a dense open subset $MI_{2n-r+1,r}^*(\xi)$ of $MI_{2n-r+1,r}^*$ and an isomorphism of reduced schemes*

$$f_{n,r} : MI_{2n-r+1,r}^*(\xi) \xrightarrow{\sim} X_{n,r}, \ A \mapsto (A_1(\xi), A_2(\xi), A_3(\xi)).$$

The inverse isomorphism is given by the formula

$$f_{n,r}^{-1} : \ X_{n,r} \xrightarrow{\sim} MI_{2n-r+1,r}^*(\xi) : \ (B, C, D) \mapsto \ \tilde{\xi}^{-1}(B, \ C, \ D - C^\vee \circ B^{-1} \circ C),$$

where $\widetilde{\xi}$ is defined in (18).

The following theorem will be proved in Subsection 3.2.

Theorem 3.2. *$X_{n,r}$ is irreducible of dimension* $(2n-r+1)^2+4(2n-r+1)(r+1)-r(2r+1)$.

Proposition 3.1 and Theorem 3.2 imply that $MI^*_{2n-r+1,r}$ is irreducible of dimension $(2n-r+1)^2+4(2n-r+1)(r+1)-r(2r+1)$ for any $n \leq 3$ and $2 \leq r \leq n-1$. Thus, for these values of n and r, the space $I^*_{2n-r+1,r}$ is irreducible and has dimension $4(2n-r+1)(r+1)-r(2r+1)$. Substituting $2n-r+1 \mapsto n$, we obtain the main result of this paper.

Theorem 3.3. *For any integer $r \geq 2$ and for any integer $n \geq r-1$ such that $n \equiv r-1(\mathrm{mod}2)$, the moduli space $I^*_{n,r}$ of tame symplectic instantons is an open subset of an irreducible component of $I_{n,r}$ of dimension $4n(r+1)-r(2r+1)$.*

3.2. **Proof of the irreducibility of $X_{n,r}$.** We prove now Theorem 3.2. Consider the set $\widetilde{X}_{n,r}$ defined in (22). Since $X_{n,r}$ is an open subset of $\widetilde{X}_{n,r}$, it is enough to prove the irreducibility of $\widetilde{X}_{n,r}$. In view of the isomorphism $\mathbf{S}^0_n \xrightarrow{\sim} (\mathbf{S}^\vee_n)^0 :\ B \mapsto B^{-1}$, we rewrite $\widetilde{X}_{n,r}$ as

$$\widetilde{X}_{n,r} = \{(B,C,D) \in (\mathbf{S}^\vee_n)^0 \times \mathbf{\Sigma}_{n,r} \times KG^* \mid D - C^\vee \circ B \circ C \in \mathbf{S}_{n-r+1}\}.$$

If a direct sum decomposition

$$H_n \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{n-r+1} \oplus H_{r-1}$$

has been fixed, any linear map

$$C \in \mathbf{\Sigma}_{n,r} = \mathrm{Hom}(H_{n-r+1}, H^\vee_n \otimes \wedge^2 V^\vee), \quad C : H_{n-r+1} \otimes V \to H^\vee_n \otimes V^\vee,$$

can be represented as a homomorphism

$$C :\ H_{n-r+1} \otimes V \to H^\vee_{n-r+1} \otimes V^\vee \ \oplus\ H^\vee_{r-1} \otimes V^\vee,$$

and also as a block matrix

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ \psi \end{pmatrix}, \tag{25}$$

with

$$\phi \in \mathrm{Hom}(H_{n-r+1}, H^\vee_{n-r+1}) \otimes \wedge^2 V^\vee = \mathbf{\Phi}_{n-r+1}, \quad \psi \in \mathbf{\Psi}_{n,r} := \mathrm{Hom}(H_{n-r+1}, H^\vee_{r-1}) \otimes \wedge^2 V^\vee.$$

In the same way, any $D \in (\mathbf{S}^\vee_n)^0 \subset \mathbf{S}^\vee_n = S^2 H_n \otimes \wedge^2 V \subset \mathrm{Hom}(H^\vee_n \otimes V^\vee, H_n \otimes V)$ can be represented as

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} B_1 & \lambda \\ -\lambda^\vee & \mu \end{pmatrix}, \tag{26}$$

with

$$B_1 \in \mathbf{S}^\vee_{n-r+1} \subset \mathrm{Hom}(H^\vee_{n-r+1} \otimes V^\vee, H_{n-r+1} \otimes V), \tag{27}$$

$$\lambda \in \mathbf{L}_{n,r} := \mathrm{Hom}(H^\vee_r, H_{n-r+1}) \otimes \wedge^2 V, \quad \mu \in \mathbf{M}_{r-1} := S^2 H_{r-1} \otimes \wedge^2 V.$$

By (25) and (26) the composition

$$C^\vee \circ B \circ C : H_{n-r+1} \otimes V \to H^\vee_{n-r+1} \otimes V^\vee \quad (C^\vee \circ B \circ C \in \wedge^2(H^\vee_{n-r+1} \otimes V^\vee))$$

can be written in the form

$$C^\vee \circ B \circ C = \phi^\vee \circ B_1 \circ \phi + \phi^\vee \circ \lambda \circ \psi - \psi^\vee \circ \lambda^\vee \circ \phi + \psi^\vee \circ \mu \circ \psi. \tag{28}$$

In view of (25)-(27) we have

$$\mathbf{S}^\vee_n \times \mathbf{\Sigma}_{n,r} = \mathbf{S}^\vee_{n-r+1} \times \mathbf{\Phi}_{n-r+1} \times \mathbf{\Psi}_{n,r} \times \mathbf{L}_{n,r} \times \mathbf{M}_{r-1},$$

and well-defined morphisms

$$\tilde{p} : \widetilde{X}_{n,r} \to \mathbf{L}_{n,r} \times \mathbf{M}_r \times KG, \ (B_1, \phi, \psi, \lambda, \mu, D) \mapsto (\lambda, \mu, D).$$

and

$$p := \tilde{p}|\overline{X}_{n,r} : \overline{X}_{n,r} \to \mathbf{L}_{n,r} \times \mathbf{M}_{r-1} \times KG.$$

Here $\overline{X}_{n,r}$ is the closure of $\widetilde{X}_{n,r}$ in $(\mathbf{S}^\vee_n)^0 \times \mathbf{\Sigma}_{n,r} \times KG$. Moreover, we have:

Proposition 3.4. *Let $n \geq 2$. For any $B \in (\mathbf{S}^\vee_n)^0$ and for a general choice of the decomposition $H_n \simeq H_{n-r+1} \oplus H_{r-1}$, the block B_1 of B in* (26) *is nondegenerate.*

Proof. By applying Proposition 7.3] in [9] r times, one obtains a decomposition $H_n \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{n-r+1} \oplus H_{r-1}$ such that $B_1 : H^\vee_{n-r+1} \otimes V^\vee \to H_{n-r+1} \otimes V$ in (26) is nondegenerate, that is, $B_1 \in (\mathbf{S}^\vee_{n-r+1})^0$. □

If $\mathcal{X}$ is any irreducible component of $X_{n,r}$, taken with its reduced structure, and $\overline{\mathcal{X}}$ is its closure in $\overline{X}_{n,r}$, we pick up a point $z = (B_1, \phi, \psi, \lambda, \mu, D) \in \mathcal{X}$ not lying in the components of $X_{n,r}$ different from $\mathcal{X}$, and such that the decomposition $H_n \simeq H_{n-r+1} \oplus H_{r-1}$ is general. Then, by Proposition 3.4, $B_1 \in (\mathbf{S}^\vee_{n-r+1})^0$. Consider the morphism

$$f : \ \mathbb{A}^1 \to \overline{\mathcal{X}}, \ t \mapsto (B_1, t^2\phi, t\psi, t\lambda, t^2\mu, t^4 D), \quad f(1) = z.$$

This is well defined as a consequence of (28). The point $f(0) = (B_1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$ lies in the fibre $p^{-1}(0, 0, 0)$, so that $p^{-1}(0, 0, 0) \cap \overline{\mathcal{X}} \neq \varnothing$. In different terms,

$$\rho^{-1}(0, 0, 0) \neq \varnothing, \quad \text{where} \quad \rho := p|\overline{\mathcal{X}}. \tag{29}$$

By (28) and the definition of $\widetilde{X}_{n,r}$, one has

$$\tilde{p}^{-1}(0, 0, 0) = \{(B_1, \phi, \psi) \in (\mathbf{S}^\vee_{n-r+1})^0 \times \mathbf{\Phi}_{n-r+1} \times \mathbf{\Psi}_{n,r} \mid \phi^\vee \circ B_1 \circ \phi \in \mathbf{S}_{n-r+1}\}. \tag{30}$$

Now for each $i \geq 1$ consider the set Z_i mentioned in the introduction. This set Z_i is defined in [9, Section 7] as

$$Z_i = \{(B, \phi) \in (\mathbf{S}^\vee_i)^0 \times \mathbf{\Phi}_i \mid \phi^\vee \circ B \circ \phi \in \mathbf{S}_i\}, \tag{31}$$

and has a natural structure of closed subscheme of $(\mathbf{S}_i^\vee)^0 \times \mathbf{\Phi}_i$ The key point in the sequel is the fact that Z_i is an integral scheme of dimension $4i(i+2)$—see [9, Theorem 7.2]. This statement is based on the following relation between Z_i for $i \geq 2$ and the moduli space of 't Hooft instantons of charge $2i-1$. Fix a monomorphism $j : H_{i-1} \hookrightarrow H_i$. For an arbitrary point $z = (B, \phi) \in Z_i$, let E_{2i} be a symplectic vector bundle of rank $2i$ defined as a cokernel of a morphism of sheaves $\tilde{B} : H_i \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \to H_i^\vee \otimes \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1)$ naturally induced by B. Let $s(z) : H_i \to H^0(E_{2i}(1))$ be the composition of ϕ understood as a homomorphism $H_i \to H_i^\vee \otimes \wedge^2 V^\vee$ and of the evaluation map $H_i^\vee \otimes \wedge^2 V^\vee \to H^0(E_{2i}(1))$, and let s_z be the composition $s_z : H_i \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \overset{s(z)}{\to} H^0(E_{2i}(1)) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \overset{ev}{\to} E_{2i}$, where ev is the evaluation morphism. Using the symplecticity of E_{2i}, one obtains an antiselfdual monad $M(z) : 0 \to H_{i-1} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \overset{s_z \circ j}{\to} E_{2i} \overset{{}^t(s_z \circ j)}{\to} H_{i-1}^\vee \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(1) \to 0$ with a rank-2 cohomology vector bundle $E_2(z)$ with $c_1 = 0$ and $c_2 = 2i-1$. A standard diagram chase yields a monomorphism $H_i/j(H_{i-1}) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-1) \to E_2(z)$ showing that $h^0(E_2(z)(1)) \neq 0$, i. e. that $E_2(z)$ is a 't Hooft instanton vector bundle. Thus the association $z \rightsquigarrow M(z)$ yields a morphism of Z_i to the space M_{2i-1}^{tH} of the 't Hooft monads, which is irreducible since the moduli space of 't Hooft instantons of charge $2i-1$ is known to be irreducible. It is shown in [9, Section 9] that this morphism $Z_i \to M_{2i-1}^{tH}$ is a composition of a dense open embedding and the structure map of an affine bundle over M_{2i-1}^{tH}. This implies the irreducibility of Z_i.

Now, comparing (31) for $i = n-r+1$ with (30), we obtain scheme-theoretic inclusions

$$\rho^{-1}(0,0,0) \subset p^{-1}(0,0,0) \subset \tilde{p}^{-1}(0,0,0) = Z_{n-r+1} \times \mathbf{\Psi}_{n,r}. \tag{32}$$

By the above, Z_{n-r+1} is an integral scheme of dimension $4(n-r+1)(n-r+3)$. This together with (32) implies that

$$\dim \rho^{-1}(0,0,0) \leq \dim p^{-1}(0,0,0) \leq \dim Z_{n-r+1} + \dim \mathbf{\Psi}_{n,r} = 4(n-r+1)(n-r+3) \tag{33}$$

$$+6(r-1)(n-r+1) = (n-r+1)(4n+2r+6).$$

Hence, in view of (29),

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \overline{\mathcal{X}} &\leq \dim \rho^{-1}(0,0,0) + \dim \mathbf{L}_{n,r} + \dim \mathbf{M}_{r-1} + \dim KG \\ &\leq (n-r+1)(4n+2r+6) + 6(r-1)(n-r+1) + 3(r-1)r + (8n-8r+5) \\ &= (2n-r+1)^2 + 4(2n-r+1)(r+1) - r(2r+1). \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

On the other hand, formula (4)—with n replaced by $2n-r+1$—and Proposition 3.1 show that, for any point $x \in \mathcal{X}$ such that $A := f_{n,r}^{-1}(x) \in MI_{2n-r+1,r}^*(\xi)$,

$$(2n-r+1)^2 + 4(2n-r+1)(r+1) - r(2r+1) \leq \dim_A MI_{2n-r+1,r}^*(\xi) = \dim \overline{\mathcal{X}}. \tag{35}$$

Comparing (34) with (35), we see that all the inequalities in (33)–(35) are equalities. In particular,

$$\dim \rho^{-1}(0,0) = \dim(Z_{n-r+1} \times \mathbf{\Psi}_{n,r}) = \dim \overline{\mathcal{X}} - \dim(\mathbf{L}_{n,r} \times \mathbf{M}_{r-1} \times KG). \tag{36}$$

Since, by Theorem [9, Theorem 7.2], the scheme Z_{n-r+1} is integral and so $Z_{n-r+1} \times \mathbf{\Psi}_{n,r}$ is integral as well, (32) and (36) yield the coincidence of the integral schemes

$$\rho^{-1}(0,0,0) = p^{-1}(0,0,0) = \tilde{p}^{-1}(0,0,0) = Z_{n-r+1} \times \mathbf{\Psi}_{n,r}. \tag{37}$$

We need now the following easy Lemma, which is a slight generalization of Lemma 7.4 from [9].

Lemma 3.5. *Let $f : X \to Y$ be a morphism of reduced schemes, with Y an integral scheme. Assume that there exists a closed point $y \in Y$ such that, for any irreducible component X' of X,*

(a) $\dim f^{-1}(y) = \dim X' - \dim Y$,

(b) the scheme-theoretic inclusion of fibres $(f|_{X'})^{-1}(y) \subset f^{-1}(y)$ is an isomorphism of integral schemes.

Then

(i) there exists an open subset U of Y containing y such that the morphism $f|_{f^{-1}(U)} : f^{-1}(U) \to U$ is flat, and

(ii) X is integral.

By applying this lemma to $X = X_{n,r},\ X' = \mathcal{X},\ Y = \mathbf{L}_{n,r} \times \mathbf{M}_{r-1} \times KG,\ y = (0,0), f = p$, also in view of (36) and (37), one obtains that $X_{n,r}$ is integral and is of dimension

$$(2n - r + 1)^2 + 4(2n - r + 1)(r + 1) - r(2r + 1).$$

Theorem 3.2 is thus proved.

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