

K3 surfaces: moduli spaces and Hilbert schemes

LAURA COSTA*

Departament d'Àlgebra i Geometria, Facultat de Matemàtiques, Universitat de Barcelona

08007 Barcelona, Spain

E-mail: costa@cerber.mat.ub.es

Dedicated to the memory of Ferran Serrano

ABSTRACT

Let X be an algebraic K3 surface. Fix an ample divisor H on X , $L \in \text{Pic}(X)$ and $c_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$. Let $M_H(r; L, c_2)$ be the moduli space of rank r , H -stable vector bundles E over X with $\det(E) = L$ and $c_2(E) = c_2$. The goal of this paper is to determine invariants $(r; c_1, c_2)$ for which $M_H(r; L, c_2)$ is birational to some Hilbert scheme $\text{Hilb}^l(X)$.

1. Introduction

Let X be an algebraic K3 surface defined over the complex number field; i.e, X is an algebraic surface with the trivial canonical line bundle $K_X \simeq O_X$ and the vanishing irregularity $q(X) = 0$.

Fix an ample divisor H on X . For a line bundle L on X and an integer $c_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$, let $M_H(r; L, c_2)$ be the moduli space of rank r , H -stable (in the sense of Mumford-Takemoto) vector bundles E over X with $\det(E) = L$ and $c_2(E) = c_2$. It is well known that for c_2 sufficiently large $M_H(r; L, c_2)$ is non-empty and irreducible. Moreover, $M_H(r; L, c_2)$ is smooth and has the expected dimension equal to $-\chi(\text{End}_0(E)) = 2rc_2 - (r-1)L^2 - (r^2-1)\chi(O_X) = 2rc_2 - (r-1)L^2 - 2(r^2-1)$.

In 1984, Mukai ([5]) proved that the moduli spaces of simple sheaves over X has a symplectic structure. On the other hand, it is well known that the Hilbert schemes

* Partially supported by DGICYT PB94-0850 and DGICYT PB93-0034.

$Hilb^l(X)$ of 0-dimensional subschemes of X with length l have also a symplectic structure and it seems natural to look for a closer relation between Hilbert schemes $Hilb^l(X)$ and the moduli spaces $M_H(r; L, c_2)$. In [7], T. Nakashima proposes the following:

Problem. To determine for arbitrary K3 surfaces X , all invariants $(r; L, c_2)$ for which $M_H(r; L, c_2)$ are birational to some $Hilb^l(X)$.

For the rank 2 case, the first contribution to this problem is due to K. Zuo. He proved:

Theorem ([12; Theorem 1])

Suppose X is an algebraic K3 surface and H is an ample line bundle on X . Let $M_H(2; 0, k(n))$ be the moduli space of H -stable rank 2 vector bundles E over X with $\det(E) = 0$, $c_2(E) = k(n) := n^2 H^2 + 3$, $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ and let $Hilb^{2k(n)-3}(X)$ be the Hilbert scheme of 0-dimensional subschemes of X of length $2k(n) - 3$. Then there is a birational map

$$\phi : M_H(2; 0, k(n)) \simeq Hilb^{2k(n)-3}(X).$$

Later on T. Nakashima generalized Zuo's Theorem to the triples $(r; L, c_2) = (2; L, k(n))$ where $k(n) := (n^2 + n + \frac{1}{2})L^2 + 3$ and L is an arbitrary ample line bundle ([6]). In the arbitrary rank case almost nothing is known. Very recently, T. Nakashima has proved:

Theorem ([7; Theorem 0.2]; see also [10])

Let S be a K3 surface with (D, H) of degree one. If $c = \frac{D^2}{2} + r + 1$ and $c \geq h^0(D) + 1$ then $M_H(r; D, c)$ is birational to the Hilbert scheme $Hilb^c(S)$ of zero dimensional cycles of length c .

We would like to stress that the hypothesis (D, H) being of degree one is very "restrictive". The goal of this paper is to prove the following:

Theorem A

Let X be an algebraic K3 surface and H an ample line bundle on X . Let $M_H(r; c_1, k(n))$ be the moduli space of H -stable rank r vector bundles E over X with $\det(E) = c_1$, $c_2(E) = k(n) := \frac{c_1^2}{2} + \frac{r}{2}n^2 H^2 + nc_1 H + (r + 1)$ and let $Hilb^{l(n)}(X)$ be the Hilbert scheme of 0-dimensional subschemes of X of length $l(n)$. For $n \gg 0$ there is a birational map:

$$\phi : M_H(r; c_1, k(n)) \longrightarrow Hilb^{l(n)}(X)$$

where $l(n) := k(n) + \frac{r(r-1)}{2}n^2 H^2 + (r-1)nc_1 H$.

Notice that when $r = 2$ we recover the results of K. Zuo and T. Nakashima.

2. Generalities

In this section we collect some basic facts needed in the sequel.

Let X be a smooth algebraic surface, $Z \subset X$ a 0-dimensional subscheme of length l and $D \in Pic(X)$. Any $r - 1$ linearly independent elements $e_1, \dots, e_{r-1} \in Ext^1(I_Z(D), O_X)$ define an exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow O_X^{r-1} \longrightarrow E \longrightarrow I_Z(D) \longrightarrow 0$$

where E is a rank r torsion free sheaf on X with Chern classes $c_1(E) = D$ and $c_2(E) = l$.

DEFINITION 2.1. Let H be an ample divisor on a smooth algebraic surface X . For a torsion free sheaf F on X one sets

$$\mu_H(F) := \frac{c_1(F)H}{rk(F)}, \quad P_F(m) := \frac{\chi(F \otimes O_X(mH))}{rk(F)}.$$

The sheaf F is H -semistable (resp. G -semistable with respect to H) if

$$\mu_H(E) \leq \mu_H(F) \quad (P_E(m) \leq P_F(m) \quad \text{for } m \gg 0)$$

for all non-zero subsheaves $E \subset F$ with $rk(E) < rk(F)$; if strict inequality holds then F is H -stable (resp. G -stable with respect to H).

One easily checks the implications:

$$H - stable \Rightarrow G - stable \Rightarrow G - semistable \Rightarrow H - semistable.$$

Let us recall the formulas for the Chern classes and the Euler-Poincaré characteristic for vector bundles on non-singular projective surfaces with canonical line bundle $K = K_X$.

2.2. Let E be a rank r vector bundle on a non-singular projective variety of dimension n and let L be a line bundle on X . Then,

$$c_k(E \otimes L) = \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{r-i}{k-i} c_i(E) c_1(L)^{k-i}.$$

2.3. Let E be a rank r vector bundle on a non-singular projective surface. Let c_1 and c_2 be the Chern classes of E . Then,

$$\chi(E) = \sum_{i=0}^2 (-1)^i \dim H^i(X, E) = r(1 + p_a(X)) + c_1(-K/2) + (c_1^2 - 2c_2)/2.$$

Given a line bundle L on X , an integer c_2 and an ample line bundle H on X , we will denote by $\overline{M}_H(r; L; c_2)$ the moduli space of rank r , torsion free sheaves F on X , G -semistable with respect to H with $c_1(F) = L$ and $c_2(F) = c_2$; and by $M_H(r; L; c_2) \subset \overline{M}_H(r; L; c_2)$ the open subset parameterizing rank r , H -stable vector bundles F over X with $c_1(F) = L$ and $c_2(F) = c_2$.

We will end this section reviewing a well known result on moduli spaces of rank r torsion free sheaves on smooth algebraic surfaces that we will use later on.

Theorem 2.4

Let X be a smooth algebraic surface, L an ample divisor on X and $c_1 \in \text{Pic}(X)$. For all $c_2 \gg 0$, the moduli space $\overline{M}_L(r; c_1, c_2)$ of G -semistable with respect to L , rank r torsion free sheaves on X (resp. $M_L(r; c_1, c_2)$ of L -stable, rank r vector bundles on X), is a generically smooth, irreducible projective (resp. quasi-projective) variety of the expected dimension $2rc_2 - (r - 1)c_1^2 - (r^2 - 1)\chi(O_X)$.

Proof. See [2], [8] and [9]. \square

3. Main Construction

From now on, X is assumed to be an algebraic $K3$ -surface defined over the complex number field; i.e., X is an algebraic surface with the trivial canonical line bundle $K_X \simeq O_X$ and the vanishing irregularity $q(X) = 0$.

Let us fix a line bundle c_1 and an ample divisor H on X . Let n_0 be an integer such that for all $n \geq n_0$, $c_1 + rnH$ is ample. Set:

$$k(n) := \frac{c_1^2}{2} + \frac{r}{2}n^2H^2 + nc_1H + (r + 1);$$

$$l(n) := k(n) + \frac{r(r - 1)}{2}n^2H^2 + (r - 1)nc_1H.$$

Construction. Let \mathcal{F} be the irreducible family of rank r torsion free sheaves F on X , G -semistable with respect to H with Chern classes $(c_1, k(n))$ given by a non-trivial extension

$$0 \longrightarrow O_X^{r-1} \longrightarrow F(nH) \longrightarrow I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow 0$$

where Z is a 0-dimensional subscheme of X of length $|Z| = c_2(F(nH)) = c_2(F) + (r - 1)nc_1(F)H + \frac{r(r-1)}{2}n^2H^2 = k(n) + (r - 1)nc_1H + \frac{r(r-1)}{2}n^2H^2 = l(n)$ such that $h^0(I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) = 0$.

Claim: For $n \gg 0$, \mathcal{F} is non-empty.

Proof of the claim. We fix $c'_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $M_H(r; c_1, c'_2) \neq \emptyset$ ([11]). It is well known that there exists an integer $n_{c'_2} \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that for all $n \geq n_{c'_2}$ and for any $E \in M_H(r; c_1, c'_2)$, $E(nH)$ is generated by its global sections and $\chi(E(nH)) \geq r - 1$. We choose $(r - 1)$ generic sections of $E(nH)$ and we get an exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow O_X^{r-1} \longrightarrow E(nH) \longrightarrow I_{\tilde{Z}}(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow 0$$

where \tilde{Z} is a 0-dimensional subscheme of X of length $|\tilde{Z}| = c_2(E(nH)) = c'_2 + \frac{r(r-1)}{2}n^2H^2 + (r-1)nc_1H$.

Moreover, there exists an integer $l_{c'_2} \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that for all $l \geq l_{c'_2}$, if we choose appropriately l generic points p_1, \dots, p_l and a surjective map:

$$\alpha : E \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{j=1}^l \mathbb{C}_{p_j},$$

then F , the kernel of α , is a rank r , torsion free sheaf, G -semistable with respect to H sitting into an exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow O_X^{r-1} \longrightarrow F(nH) \longrightarrow I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow 0$$

where $Z = \tilde{Z} \cup \{p_1, \dots, p_l\}$. (See [9] for more details).

For $n \gg 0$ we can assume $k(n) - c'_2 \geq l_{c'_2}$, and $n \geq \max\{n_{c'_2}, n_0\}$. Define $l := k(n) - c'_2 \geq l_{c'_2}$. As we have seen, there exists an exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow O_X^{r-1} \longrightarrow F(nH) \longrightarrow I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow 0$$

where Z is a 0 dimensional subscheme of X of length

$$\begin{aligned} |Z| &= |\tilde{Z}| + l = \left(c'_2 + \frac{r(r-1)}{2}n^2H^2 + (r-1)nc_1H \right) + l \\ &= k(n) + \frac{r(r-1)}{2}n^2H^2 + (r-1)nc_1H \end{aligned}$$

and F is a rank r , torsion free sheaf, G -semistable with respect to H with Chern classes $c_1(F) = c_1$ and $c_2(F) = k(n)$.

Since $c_1 + rnH$ is ample, by Kodaira's vanishing Theorem $h^i(O_X(c_1 + rnH)) = 0$ for $i > 0$; and applying Riemann-Roch's Theorem we get:

$$h^0(O_X(c_1 + rnH)) = \chi(O_X(c_1 + rnH)) = \frac{c_1^2}{2} + \frac{r^2}{2}n^2H^2 + rnc_1H + 2.$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} |Z| &= k(n) + \frac{r(r-1)}{2}n^2H^2 + (r-1)nc_1H \\ &= \frac{c_1^2}{2} + \frac{r^2}{2}n^2H^2 + rnc_1H + (r+1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, since $0 < r - 1$,

$$(1) \quad h^0(O_X(c_1 + rnH)) - |Z| = -(r-1) < 0$$

and hence for $l \gg 0$ and l generic points,

$$h^0(I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) = 0.$$

Putting altogether we get $F \in \mathcal{F}$, which proves our claim.

Lemma 3.1

With the above notation

$$\dim \mathcal{F} = 2l(n)$$

Proof. By definition,

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \mathcal{F} &= 2|Z| + \dim Gr(r-1, Ext^1(I_Z(c_1 + rnH), O_X)) \\ &\quad - \dim Gr(r-1, H^0(F(nH))) \end{aligned}$$

where $Gr(s, V)$ is the Grassmanian variety of s -dimensional subspaces of V and $\dim Gr(s, V) = s \cdot \dim V - s^2$.

Consider the exact cohomology sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow H^0 O_X^{r-1} \longrightarrow H^0 F(nH) \longrightarrow H^0 I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow \dots$$

associated to the exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow O_X^{r-1} \longrightarrow F(nH) \longrightarrow I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow 0.$$

Since $h^0 I_Z(c_1 + rnH) = 0$, we obtain:

$$h^0 F(nH) = h^0 O_X^{r-1} = r - 1.$$

On the other hand, the exact cohomology sequence:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \longrightarrow H^0 I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow H^0 O_X(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow H^0 O_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow \\ \longrightarrow H^1 I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow H^1 O_X(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

associated to the exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow O_X(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow O_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow 0,$$

together with the fact that $c_1 + rnH$ is ample and hence $h^i O_X(c_1 + rnH) = 0$ for $i > 0$, gives us:

$$\dim Ext^1(I_Z(c_1 + rnH), O_X) = h^1 I_Z(c_1 + rnH) = |Z| - h^0 O_X(c_1 + rnH) = r - 1$$

where the last equality follows from (1). Putting altogether we conclude:

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \mathcal{F} = 2l(n) + (r - 1) \dim Ext^1(I_Z(c_1 + rnH), O_X) - (r - 1)^2 \\ - ((r - 1)h^0(F(nH)) - (r - 1)^2) = 2l(n) \end{aligned}$$

which proves the lemma. \square

Remark 3.2. It follows from the definition of $l(n)$, $k(n)$ and Lemma 3.1 that for $n \gg 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \mathcal{F} = \dim Hilb^{l(n)}(X) = 2l(n) = 2rk(n) - (r - 1)c_1^2 - 2(r^2 - 1) \\ = \dim \overline{M}_H(r; c_1, k(n)). \end{aligned}$$

4. The birational correspondence to the Hilbert Scheme

The goal of this section is to prove **Theorem A**. We keep the notation introduced in section 3.

Theorem 4.1

Any torsion free sheaf $F \in \mathcal{F}$ is simple.

Proof. Applying the functor $\text{Hom}(F(nH), \cdot)$ to the exact sequence:

$$(2) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X^{r-1} \longrightarrow F(nH) \longrightarrow I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow 0$$

we get the exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(F(nH), \mathcal{O}_X^{r-1}) &\longrightarrow \text{Hom}(F(nH), F(nH)) \\ &\longrightarrow \text{Hom}(F(nH), I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) \longrightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

Since $n \gg 0$, by Serre's duality we have:

$$\dim \text{Hom}(F(nH), \mathcal{O}_X^{r-1}) = (r-1)h^2 F(nH) = 0.$$

Therefore, it is sufficient to see that $\dim \text{Hom}(F(nH), I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) = 1$. To this end, we consider the exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(I_Z(c_1 + rnH), I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) &\longrightarrow \text{Hom}(F(nH), I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) \\ &\longrightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathcal{O}_X^{r-1}, I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) \longrightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

obtained applying the functor $\text{Hom}(\cdot, I_Z(c_1 + rnH))$ to the exact sequence (2). Since $F \in \mathcal{F}$, $h^0 I_Z(c_1 + rnH) = 0$ and we get:

$$\dim \text{Hom}(F(nH), I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) = \dim \text{Hom}(I_Z(c_1 + rnH), I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) = 1$$

which proves the Lemma. \square

For $n \gg 0$, we have two natural rational morphisms:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi : \mathcal{F} &\longrightarrow \text{Hilb}^{l(n)}(X); \\ e : \mathcal{F} &\longrightarrow \overline{M}_H(r; c_1, k(n)). \end{aligned}$$

The fiber $\pi^{-1}(Z)$ over $Z \in \text{Hilb}^{l(n)}(X)$ is identified with a non-empty open subset of the Grassmanian variety

$$\text{Gr}(r-1, \text{Ext}^1(I_Z(c_1 + rnH), \mathcal{O}_X))$$

and the fiber $e^{-1}(F)$ over $F \in \overline{M}_H(r; c_1, k(n))$ is canonically isomorphic to a non empty Zariski open subset of

$$\text{Gr}(r-1, H^0(F(nH))).$$

Notice that for the dimension computations of section 3, we have:

$$\dim(\pi^{-1}(Z)) = \dim(e^{-1}(F)) = 0$$

for all generic $Z \in \text{Hilb}^{l(n)}(X)$ and for all generic $F \in \overline{M}_H(r; c_1, k(n))$ respectively.

Let us see that e is an injection. Assume that there are two non trivial extensions:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\longrightarrow O_X^{r-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} F(nH) \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} I_Z(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow 0; \\ 0 &\longrightarrow O_X^{r-1} \xrightarrow{\beta_1} F(nH) \xrightarrow{\beta_2} I_{Z'}(c_1 + rnH) \longrightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

where Z and Z' are 0-dimensional subschemes of X of length $l(n)$.

From the fact that $h^0 I_Z(c_1 + rnH) = h^0 I_{Z'}(c_1 + rnH) = 0$ we get:

$$\dim \text{Hom}(O_X^{r-1}, I_Z(c_1 + rnH)) = \dim \text{Hom}(O_X^{r-1}, I_{Z'}(c_1 + rnH)) = 0.$$

Thus, $\beta_2 \circ \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 \circ \beta_1 = 0$. So, there exists $\gamma \in \text{Aut}(F(nH)) \simeq \mathbb{C}$ (Lemma 4.1) such that $\beta_2 = \gamma \circ \alpha_2$. Therefore, $Z \simeq Z'$ and hence, e is an injection.

Since $h^0 F(nH) = r - 1$, π is also an injection and by Remark 3.2

$$\dim \mathcal{F} = \dim \text{Hilb}^{l(n)}(X) = \dim \overline{M}_H(r; c_1, k(n)).$$

Hence, e and π are birational maps. Composing, we get a birational map:

$$e\pi^{-1} = \psi : \overline{M}_H(r; c_1, k(n)) \longrightarrow \text{Hilb}^{l(n)}(X).$$

Moreover, since $M_H(r; c_1, k(n))$ is an open dense subset of $\overline{M}_H(r; c_1, k(n))$, restricting ψ to $M_H(r; c_1, k(n))$ we obtain the birational morphism claimed in the Theorem A.

Remark 4.2. The pullback of the symplectic structure on $\text{Hilb}^{l(n)}(X)$ via the birational map ϕ of Theorem A, gives a symplectic structure on $M_H(r; c_1, k(n))$. This symplectic structure coincides with the symplectic structure given by Mukai ([5]).

Remark 4.3. In ([4]) we describe explicitly the birational map $\phi: M_H(r; c_1, k(n)) \longrightarrow \text{Hilb}^{l(n)}(X)$ and, as application, we check that the Hodge numbers of the moduli space $\overline{M}_H(r; c_1, k(n))$ and the Hilbert scheme $\text{Hilb}^{l(n)}(X)$ coincide. Furthermore, since the Hodge numbers of $\text{Hilb}^{l(n)}(X)$ can be expressed in terms of the Hodge numbers $h^{p,q}(X)$ of X (see [3]; [1]), we deduce that the Hodge numbers of $\overline{M}_H(r; c_1, k(n))$ can be computed in terms of $h^{p,q}(X)$.

Acknowledgment. I would like to express heartily thanks to Rosa Maria Miró-Roig for her encouragement, valuable suggestions and several helpful discussions.

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