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| Item Type | article |
| Authors | Chen, WM |
| Download date | 2026-05-11 00:40:57 |
| Link to Item | https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14394/34251 |

ON THE ORDERS OF PERIODIC DIFFEOMORPHISMS OF 4-MANIFOLDS

WEIMIN CHEN

ABSTRACT. This paper initiated an investigation on the following question: Suppose a smooth 4-manifold does not admit any smooth circle actions. Does there exist a constant $C > 0$ such that the manifold support no smooth \mathbb{Z}_p -actions of prime order for $p > C$? We gave affirmative results to this question for the case of holomorphic and symplectic actions, with an interesting finding that the constant C in the holomorphic case is topological in nature while in the symplectic case it involves also the smooth structure of the manifold.

1. INTRODUCTION

A classical theorem of Hurwitz says that, for a complex curve Σ of genus $g \geq 2$, the order of its automorphism group $\text{Aut}(\Sigma)$ satisfies the following topological bound:

$$|\text{Aut}(\Sigma)| \leq 84(g-1) = 42 \deg K_\Sigma.$$

Various attempts have been made to generalize this result to higher-dimensional projective varieties. For a minimal smooth projective surface X of general type, Xiao obtained the optimal result in [36, 37] that $|\text{Aut}(X)| \leq 42^2 c_1(K_X)^2$, after a series of earlier work by Andreotti [1], Howard and Sommesse [22], Corti [12], Huckleberry and Sauer [23] and Xiao [35]. For dimensions greater than 2, see recent work of D.-Q. Zhang [39] and the references therein.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate generalizations of Hurwitz's theorem to finite automorphism groups of smooth 4-manifolds. Our central theme may be summarized in the following

Main Question: Suppose X is a smooth 4-manifold which does not admit any smooth circle actions. Does there exist a constant $C > 0$ such that there are no nontrivial smooth \mathbb{Z}_p -actions of prime order on X provided that $p > C$? Moreover, assuming there is such a constant, what structures (e.g., homology, homotopy, smooth structures, etc.) of X does it depend on?

We remark that for locally linear topological actions the analogous question is already known to have a negative answer. Indeed, on the one hand, Edmonds in [14] showed that for any simply connected 4-manifold X and prime number $p > 3$, there exists a homologically trivial, locally linear, pseudofree topological \mathbb{Z}_p -action on X , and on the other hand, by work of Fintushel [17, 18], a simply connected 4-manifold

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 57S15, 57R57, Secondary 57R17.

Key words and phrases. Bound of automorphisms; smooth four-manifold; symplectic geometry.

The author was supported in part by NSF grant DMS-0603932.

with non-zero signature and even intersection form does not admit any locally linear topological circle actions.

In this paper, we establish the existence of such a constant C for the more restricted classes of actions, i.e., holomorphic and symplectic \mathbb{Z}_p -actions, hoping to shed some light to the problem in general. An interesting phenomenon we discovered is that the constants for these two classes of actions are of different nature; in the holomorphic case the constant C depends only on the integral homology of the manifold, while in the symplectic case, it depends also on the smooth structure.

Before we state the theorems, it is helpful to recall the relevant results regarding the existence of smooth circle actions on 4-manifolds. First, with the resolution of the 3-dimensional Poincaré conjecture by Perelman, a theorem of Fintushel in [18] may be strengthened to the following: a simply connected 4-manifold admitting a smooth circle action must be a connected sum of copies of \mathbb{S}^4 , $\pm\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$, and $\mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2$. For the non-simply connected case, one has the following useful criterion due to Baldrige [3]: Let X be a 4-manifold admitting a smooth circle action with nonempty fixed point set. Then X has vanishing Seiberg-Witten invariant when $b_2^+ > 1$, and when $b_2^+ = 1$ and X is symplectic, X is diffeomorphic to a rational or ruled surface. For fixed-point free smooth circle actions, formulas relating the Seiberg-Witten invariants of the 4-manifold and the quotient 3-orbifold were given in Baldrige [4, 5]. Note that if a 4-manifold admits a fixed-point free circle action, the Euler characteristic and the signature of the manifold must vanish.

With the preceding understood, we first state the result for the case of holomorphic actions on complex surfaces — these are the primary examples of smooth actions on 4-manifolds. The proof of this theorem is based on the aforementioned Xiao's generalization [36, 37] of Hurwitz's theorem and the homological rigidity of holomorphic actions on elliptic surfaces as in Ueno [33] and Peters [31].

Theorem 1.1. *Let X be a compact complex surface with Kodaira dimension $\kappa(X) \geq 0$. Suppose X does not admit any holomorphic circle actions. Then there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that there are no nontrivial holomorphic \mathbb{Z}_p -actions of prime order on X provided that $p > C$. Moreover, the constant C depends linearly on the Betti numbers of X and the order of the torsion subgroup of $H_2(X)$, i.e., there exists a universal constant $c > 0$ such that*

$$C = c(1 + b_1 + b_2 + |\text{Tor } H_2|).$$

Remark 1.2. (1) According to the Enriques-Kodaira classification of complex surfaces (cf. [6]), a complex surface of negative Kodaira dimension falls into two disjoint groups, the rational or ruled surfaces and the surfaces of type VII (which are non-Kähler). The exclusion of the former is natural as each rational or ruled surface admits a smooth circle action, while the exclusion of the latter is due to lack of understanding.

(2) The assumption of no holomorphic circle actions is potentially weaker than that of no smooth circle actions. On the other hand, for a non-Kähler complex surface, there is no easy criterion which excludes the existence of smooth circle actions.

(3) The constant C in Theorem 1.1 is sharp in the following sense. There are complex surfaces with holomorphic \mathbb{Z}_p -actions whose Betti numbers or the order of the torsion subgroup of H_2 grow linearly with p . For example, let Σ be a complex

curve of genus $g = p + 1$ which admits a free \mathbb{Z}_p -action, and let Σ' be a complex curve of genus 2. Then the complex surface $\Sigma \times \Sigma'$, which is a surface of general type and does not support any holomorphic circle actions, admits a holomorphic \mathbb{Z}_p -action. The Betti numbers of $\Sigma \times \Sigma'$ grow linearly with p .

For an example which shows the necessity of inclusion of $|Tor H_2|$ in the constant C , we consider the rational elliptic surface X_0 defined by the Weierstrass equation

$$y^2 z = x^3 + v^5 z^3.$$

For any prime number $p \geq 5$, one can define an order- p automorphism g of X_0 as follows (cf. [38]):

$$g : (x, y, z; v) \mapsto (\mu_p^{-5} x, y, \mu_p^{-15} z; \mu_p^6 v), \quad \mu_p \equiv \exp(2\pi i/p).$$

Note that g preserves the elliptic fibration and leaves exactly the two singular fibers (at $v = 0$ and $v = \infty$) invariant. For any $m > 1$, let $X_{m,p}$ be the elliptic surface obtained from g -equivariantly performing log transforms to X_0 with multiplicity m on a g -invariant set of regular fibers. Then $X_{m,p}$ has Kodaira dimension 1 and does not admit any holomorphic circle actions. Moreover, $X_{m,p}$ naturally inherits a holomorphic \mathbb{Z}_p -action from X_0 . With this understood, note that

$$Tor H_2(X_{m,p}) = (\mathbb{Z}_m)^{p-1}.$$

In the above construction, if we replace the log transforms by the Fintushel-Stern knot surgery [19], we arrive at examples which show that in the symplectic case, Betti numbers and the order of torsion subgroup of H_2 alone are no longer sufficient. The point is that knot surgery does not change the integral homology of the manifold; in particular, it does not create torsion subgroups. Rather, it actually preserves the simply connectedness of the manifold. We spell out the details in the following

Example 1.3. (Knot surgery on parallel copies of a regular fiber of X_0)

Let X be a simply connected elliptic surface with a section (e.g. X_0), and let T be a regular fiber in X . Then T is c-embedded in the sense of Fintushel-Stern [19], i.e., T is contained in a neighborhood of a cusp fiber. To see this, by a theorem of Moishezon (cf. Friedmann-Morgan [20], Theorem 4.8 in §1.4 and Theorem 3.6 in §2.3), X may be slightly perturbed through elliptic surfaces to an elliptic surface X' of only nodal singular fibers (i.e., of type I_1), and moreover, the monodromy representation of X' can be put into a standard form. From this one can easily create a cusp fiber in X by combining an appropriately chosen pair of nodal singular fibers in X' . This proves that T is c-embedded. Moreover, $\pi_1(X \setminus T)$ is trivial because X has a section so that the meridian of T bounds a disc in $X \setminus T$.

These two conditions, i.e., T is c-embedded and $\pi_1(X \setminus T)$ is trivial, are the assumptions made in Fintushel-Stern [19] for the knot surgery, in particular, to ensure that the resulting 4-manifold continues to be simply connected. The discussion in the previous paragraph shows that one can perform knot surgery to X along a regular fiber. However, if one performs repeated knot surgery along parallel copies of a regular fiber, it is not clear that the resulting 4-manifold is still simply connected (because the triviality of $\pi_1(X \setminus T)$ might not be preserved). But we should point out that

regardless of the assumptions, it is easily seen from a Mayer-Vietoris argument that knot surgery always preserves the integral homology of the manifold.

The following observation was kindly pointed out to the author by an anonymous referee: *Performing repeated knot surgery along parallel copies is equivalent to performing a single knot surgery using the connected sum of the knots.* This observation can be easily seen from the following identification:

$$Y_K \cup_\phi (\mathbb{S}^1 \times [0, 1] \times [0, 1]) \cup_\psi Y_{K'} = Y_{K\#K'},$$

where Y_K stands for \mathbb{S}^3 with a regular neighborhood of a knot K removed, and the maps ϕ identifies $\mathbb{S}^1 \times [0, 1] \times \{0\}$ to part of ∂Y_K and ψ identifies $\mathbb{S}^1 \times [0, 1] \times \{1\}$ to part of $\partial Y_{K'}$, sending \mathbb{S}^1 to the meridian of the knots. In conclusion, one can perform repeated knot surgery to X along parallel copies of a regular fiber. In particular, the resulting 4-manifold continues to be homeomorphic to X .

With the preceding understood, let X_p be the symplectic 4-manifold obtained by performing repeated knot surgery to the rational elliptic surface X_0 using the trefoil knot on p copies of regular fibers of the elliptic fibration which are invariant under the order- p automorphism g :

$$g : (x, y, z; v) \mapsto (\mu_p^{-5}x, y, \mu_p^{-15}z; \mu_p^6v), \quad \mu_p \equiv \exp(2\pi i/p).$$

We require that the knot surgeries are done equivariantly with respect to g , so that there is an induced symplectomorphism of order p on X_p . By our previous discussion, X_p is homeomorphic to X_0 .

To see that X_p does not admit any smooth circle actions, we note that the canonical class of X_p is given by the formula

$$c_1(K_{X_p}) = (2p - 1) \cdot [T],$$

where $[T]$ is the fiber class of the elliptic fibration (cf. [19]). Let ω be the symplectic structure on X_p , which pairs positively with $[T]$. Then (X_p, ω) satisfies $c_1(K_{X_p}) \cdot [\omega] > 0$ and $c_1(K_{X_p})^2 = 0$. This implies that X_p is neither rational nor ruled, cf. [25]. By Baldridge's theorem [3] or the strengthened version of the theorem of Fintushel in [18], X_p does not admit any smooth circle actions.

We thus obtained, for any prime number $p \geq 5$, a symplectic 4-manifold X_p homeomorphic to the rational elliptic surface, which admits no smooth circle actions but has a periodic symplectomorphism of order p . This shows that Betti numbers and $|Tor H_2|$ alone are not sufficient in the case of symplectic \mathbb{Z}_p -actions.

In the above example, note that the canonical class $c_1(K_{X_p})$ is a multiple class whose multiplicity, $2p - 1$, grows linearly with p . To better exploit this fact, let's assume the symplectic structure ω on X_p is integral, i.e., $[\omega] \in H^2(X_p; \mathbb{Z})$. (This can be arranged.) In particular, $[\omega] \cdot [T] \geq 1$. This gives rise to the following bound

$$p \leq \frac{1}{2}(c_1(K_{X_p}) \cdot [\omega] + 1).$$

Now we state the Main Theorem which established the constant C for symplectic \mathbb{Z}_p -actions. Let (X, ω) be a symplectic 4-manifold such that $[\omega] \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Q})$. Denote

by N_ω the smallest positive integer such that $[N_\omega\omega]$ is an integral class. We set

$$C_\omega \equiv N_\omega c_1(K) \cdot [\omega],$$

where K is the canonical bundle of (X, ω) .

Theorem 1.4. (*Main Theorem*) *Let (X, ω) be a symplectic 4-manifold with $b_2^+ > 1$ and $[\omega] \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Q})$, which does not satisfy the following condition: X is minimal with vanishing Euler characteristic and signature. Then there exists a constant $C > 0$:*

$$C = c(1 + b_1^2 + b_2^2)C_\omega^2$$

where $c > 0$ is a universal constant, such that there are no nontrivial symplectic \mathbb{Z}_p -actions of prime order on (X, ω) provided that $p > C$.

A few remarks are in order. First, since $c_1(K)$ is a Seiberg-Witten basic class of X , the constant C in Theorem 1.4 depends on the smooth structure of X through the inclusion of C_ω . Secondly, the assumption that X is not of vanishing Euler characteristic and signature is potentially stronger than the assumption that X admits no smooth circle actions. By Baldridge's theorem [3], X admits at most fixed-point free smooth circle actions. However, there is no easy criterion excluding this other than the assumption that X is not of vanishing Euler characteristic and signature.

Question 1.5. (1) How essential is the assumption $[\omega] \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Q})$? (Notice that the constant C_ω depends on $[\omega]$ in a rather unstable fashion because of the factor N_ω , therefore one can not remove the assumption that $[\omega]$ is rational by simply perturbing ω into one which is of rational class.)

(2) (Symplectic Hurwitz-Xiao, cf. [36, 37]) Let (X, ω) be a minimal symplectic 4-manifold of Kodaira dimension 2 (i.e., $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] > 0$ and $c_1(K)^2 > 0$, cf. [25]). Does there exist a universal constant $c > 0$, such that

$$|G| \leq c \cdot c_1(K)^2$$

for any finite group G of symplectomorphisms of (X, ω) ? (Note that the manifolds X_p in Example 1.3 are minimal (cf. Gompf [21] and Usher [34]) with $c_1(K_{X_p})^2 = 0$, so they are not of Kodaira dimension 2 and do not give counterexamples.)

(3) For the general case of smooth \mathbb{Z}_p -actions, is the constant C in the Main Question “describable” in terms of invariants of the manifold? Will the homotopy groups of the manifold play a role in the constant? What invariants of the smooth structure (e.g. SW basic classes, SW invariants, etc.) will enter the constant and how do they enter the constant? (Note that Example 1.3 indicates the necessity of including information about the smooth structure in the constant. In the case of symplectic \mathbb{Z}_p -actions, the pairing $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega]$ is used.)

(4) Let X be a simply connected smoothable 4-manifold with even intersection form and non-zero signature. Does there exist a constant $C > 0$ depending only on the topological type of X , such that for any prime number $p > C$, there are no \mathbb{Z}_p -actions on X which are smooth with respect to some smooth structure? (Note that the existence of smooth circle actions depends on the smooth structure of the manifold, as shown by Example 1.3. By Atiyah and Hirzebruch [2], a spin 4-manifold with non-zero signature does not admit smooth circle actions for any given smooth structure.)

We remark that Question 1.5(4) is particularly interesting in the case of $K3$ surfaces. It is a long-standing problem as whether the $K3$ surface (with the standard smooth structure) admits any smooth finite group actions which are homologically trivial. It is well-known that there are no such holomorphic actions (cf. [6]), and recently it was shown that there are no such symplectic finite group actions as well, cf. [9]. Since for $p > 23$, any \mathbb{Z}_p -action of prime order on a homotopy $K3$ surface is homologically trivial, we see that Question 1.5(4) is related to the above homological rigidity problem of smooth actions on the $K3$ surface (or more generally, on a homotopy $K3$ surface).

Next we discuss the main ideas and ingredients in the proof of the Main Theorem. The proof begins with a two-step reduction. First, based on an algebraic result concerning integral \mathbb{Z}_p -representations we showed that for sufficiently large p , say $p > 2 + b_1 + b_2$, any continuous \mathbb{Z}_p -action on X must be homologically trivial over \mathbb{Q} (see Lemma 2.1 for details). Secondly, we showed that one can always equivariantly blow down X if it is not minimal. (This is trivial in the holomorphic case; for symplectic actions the proof is more involved and the claim is not true in the rational or ruled case, see Lemmas 2.2, 2.3.) After the two-step reduction, we may assume for simplicity that X is minimal and the \mathbb{Z}_p -action is homologically trivial over \mathbb{Q} .

The main technical ingredient is Taubes' work [32] on the Seiberg-Witten and Gromov invariants of symplectic 4-manifolds. Let (M, ω) be a symplectic 4-manifold and G be a finite group acting on M smoothly and effectively which preserves the symplectic form ω . Denote by $b_G^{2,+}$ the dimension of the maximal subspace of $H^2(M; \mathbb{R})$ over which the cup-product is positive and the induced action of G is trivial. Then an equivariant version of Taubes' theorem $SW \Rightarrow Gr$ (cf. [32]) may be applied to (M, ω) provided that $b_G^{2,+} \geq 2$. More precisely, when $b_G^{2,+} \geq 2$, the G -equivariant Seiberg-Witten invariant is well-defined and is non-zero for the G -equivariant canonical bundle K_ω . This implies that, for any $r > 0$, the r -version of Taubes' perturbed Seiberg-Witten equations has a solution $((\alpha, \beta), a)$ which is fixed under the action of G . Letting $r \rightarrow \infty$ as usual, the zero set $\alpha^{-1}(0)$ converges to a finite set of J -holomorphic curves $\{C_i\}$, such that $c_1(K_\omega) = \sum_i n_i C_i$ for some integers $n_i > 0$. Here J is any fixed choice of G -equivariant, ω -compatible almost complex structure.

Since α is fixed under G , it follows easily that the set $\cup_i C_i$ is G -invariant, and furthermore, $\cup_i C_i$ contains all the fixed points of G except for those isolated ones at which the representation of G on the complex tangent space has determinant 1. This in principle allows one to analyze the action of G near its fixed point set, and sometimes even the induced representation of G on the second cohomology — the two crucial pieces of informations about the action of G on M — by looking at the restriction of the G -action in a neighborhood of $\cup_i C_i$. The main difficulty lies in the fact that in general not much can be said about the structure of the set $\cup_i C_i$. Unlike the non-equivariant case where $\{C_i\}$ can be made disjoint and embedded for a generic choice of J , in the presence of group actions the set $\cup_i C_i$ could be very complicated in general even with a choice of generic equivariant J , cf. [7]. The only exceptional case is when (M, ω) is minimal and $c_1(K_\omega)^2 = 0$. This was explored in [9] in investigating the homological rigidity of symplectic finite group actions. For further applications concerning group actions and exotic smooth structures, see [10, 11].

With the preceding understood, the proof of the Main Theorem relies in a crucial way on the following technical lemma. Recall from [32], Section 5(e), that for any point $x \in \cup_i C_i$, and for any embedded J -holomorphic disk D such that $D \cap (\cup_i C_i) = \{x\}$, a local intersection number $\text{int}_D(x)$ is defined. (Note that it was shown in [32] that such embedded J -holomorphic disks D exist in abundance.)

Lemma 1.6. *Let $1 \neq g \in G$ and $x \in \cup_i C_i$ such that $g \cdot x = x$. Suppose the action of g near x is given by*

$$g \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (\lambda^{m_1} z_1, \lambda^{m_2} z_2)$$

in an ω -compatible local complex coordinate system (z_1, z_2) centered at x , where $\lambda = \exp(2\pi i/m)$ with $m \equiv \text{order}(g)$, and $0 \leq m_1, m_2 < m$. Suppose further that $x \in \alpha^{-1}(0)$ for all $r > 0$. Then there exist non-negative integers a_1, a_2 with $a_1 + a_2 > 0$ satisfying the congruence relation

$$(a_1 + 1)m_1 + (a_2 + 1)m_2 = 0 \pmod{m},$$

such that

$$\text{int}_D(x) \geq a_1 + a_2$$

for any embedded J -holomorphic disk D .

Remark 1.7. When the representation of g on the complex tangent space of x has determinant $\neq 1$, i.e., when $m_1 + m_2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{m}$, the assumption that $x \in \alpha^{-1}(0)$ for all $r > 0$ is automatically satisfied. This is because when $m_1 + m_2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{m}$, the representation of g on the fiber of the G -equivariant canonical bundle K_ω at x is non-trivial, so that $\alpha(x) = 0$ has to be true since α is fixed by g .

The following recipe will be used frequently in determining the local intersection number $\text{int}_D(x)$: suppose a branch of $\cup_i C_i$ near x is parametrized by a holomorphic map over a neighborhood of $0 \in \mathbb{C}$ which is given in local coordinates by

$$z_1 = z^l, \quad z_2 = cz^{l'} + \dots \text{ (higher order terms),}$$

where $l' > l$ unless $l = 1$ and $c = 0$, and suppose the multiplicity of the branch is n , then the contribution of the branch to $\text{int}_D(x)$ is equal to nl provided that the J -holomorphic disk D is not tangent to $z_2 = 0$ at x (i.e., the tangent space of the branch at x). See Theorem 7.1 in Micallef and White [30].

We end with a few remarks about the case of $b_2^+ = 1$ (for simplicity we assume the manifold is simply connected or is at least of $b_1 = 0$). Note that, in particular, a simply connected, symplectic 4-manifold with $b_2^+ = 1$ is homeomorphic to a rational surface, and when the manifold does not admit a smooth circle action, the smooth structure must be an exotic one which is characterized by $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] > 0$ and $c_1(K)^2 \geq 0$ assuming the minimality of the manifold (cf. [25]).

Our proof of the Main Theorem broke down in the case of $b_2^+ = 1$, even though the main line of arguments continues to work in this case. The missing ingredient is the equivariant version of Taubes' theorem, i.e., for any $r > 0$, the r -version of Taubes' perturbed Seiberg-Witten equations associated to the equivariant canonical bundle has a solution which is fixed under the group action. Notice that with the

condition $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] > 0$, one can argue using the wall-crossing formula that the (non-equivariant) r -version of Taubes' perturbed Seiberg-Witten equations associated to the square of the canonical bundle has a solution for sufficiently large $r > 0$ provided that the dimension of the corresponding Seiberg-Witten moduli space is non-negative (which is equivalent to $c_1(K)^2 \geq 0$). One could argue similarly using wall-crossing to get an equivariant version of this result which would be a good substitute of Taubes' theorem for our purpose, but unfortunately the non-negativity of the dimension of the corresponding moduli space of equivariant Seiberg-Witten equations is much harder to come by; the calculation of the dimension requires knowledge about the group action near the fixed point set, which is not known a priori in general except for the case of a homology $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ due to the work of Edmonds and Ewing [16].

Theorem 1.8. *Let X be a smooth 4-manifold which is a homology $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$. Then for any symplectic structure ω with $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] > 0$, there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that there are no nontrivial symplectic \mathbb{Z}_p -actions of prime order on X for $p > C$.*

Remark 1.9. (1) Theorem 1.8 holds true more generally when X is only a \mathbb{Q} -homology $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ provided that the \mathbb{Z}_p -actions are pseudofree, i.e., having only isolated fixed points. The primary examples of a symplectic \mathbb{Q} -homology $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ with $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] > 0$ are complex surfaces of general type with $p_g = 0$ and $c_1^2 = 9$, known as fake projective planes. Many of them have nontrivial automorphism groups which always give pseudofree actions, cf. [24].

(2) Since $b_2 = b_2^+ = 1$ in this case, one can always rescale ω so that $[\omega]$ is a generator of $H^2(X)$. With this choice of ω , $N_\omega = 1$ and $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] = 3$, so that the constant C in Theorem 1.8 is in fact independent of ω . It is an interesting problem to find out the optimal value of C in Theorem 1.8.

An earlier version of this paper, under a slightly different title “On the orders of periodic symplectomorphisms of 4-manifolds”, has appeared as MPIM-Leipzig Preprint no. 30/2009.

The organization of this paper is as follows. Section 2 consists of a set of preliminary lemmas preparing for the proof of the Main Theorem. In particular, it contains the proof of Lemma 1.6. Section 3 is devoted to the proof of the Main Theorem. The proof of Theorem 1.8 is given in Section 4, and the proof of Theorem 1.1 is given in Section 5.

2. PRELIMINARY LEMMAS

Lemma 2.1. *Let M be a compact n -manifold with a continuous \mathbb{Z}_p -action. For any $0 \leq k \leq n$, the induced action on $H_k(M; \mathbb{Q})$ must be trivial if $p > 1 + b_k$, where b_k is the k -th Betti number of M .*

Proof. The \mathbb{Z}_p -action induces an integral \mathbb{Z}_p -representation on the free part of $H_k(M)$, i.e., $H_k(M)/\text{Tor}H_k(M)$. Then $H_k(M)/\text{Tor}H_k(M)$ as an integral \mathbb{Z}_p -representation is isomorphic to a direct sum

$$\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}_p]^r \oplus \mathbb{Z}^t \oplus \mathbb{Z}[\mu_p]^s \oplus J^e$$

for some integers $r, t, s, e \geq 0$, where the group ring $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}_p]$ is the regular representation of \mathbb{Z} -rank p , \mathbb{Z} is the trivial representation of \mathbb{Z} -rank 1, $\mathbb{Z}[\mu_p]$ is the representation of cyclotomic type of \mathbb{Z} -rank $p-1$, which is the kernel of the augmentation homomorphism $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}_p] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ (here $\mu_p \equiv \exp(2\pi i/p)$), and J is some non-zero ideal of $\mathbb{Z}[\mu_p]$ which is also of \mathbb{Z} -rank $p-1$. See Curtis-Reiner [13], Theorem (74.3) in p. 508. This gives

$$b_k = rp + t + (s + e)(p - 1).$$

Now if $p > 1 + b_k$, the only solution to the above equation is $r = s = e = 0$ and $t = b_k$, which means that the induced action of \mathbb{Z}_p on $H_k(M)/\text{Tor}H_k(M)$ is trivial. \square

Lemma 2.2. *Let G be a finite group acting on a symplectic 4-manifold (M, ω) , preserving the form ω and inducing a trivial action on $H_2(M; \mathbb{Q})$. Then there exists a symplectic 4-manifold (M', ω') , which is a symplectic blowdown of (M, ω) , with an induced G -action preserving the form ω' and inducing a trivial action on $H_2(M'; \mathbb{Q})$, such that for any G -equivariant, ω' -compatible almost complex structure J , M' contains no embedded J -holomorphic 2-spheres with self-intersection -1 . Furthermore, if $[\omega]$ is rational, so is $[\omega']$, and one has $C_{\omega'} \leq C_\omega$.*

Proof. Suppose there exists a G -equivariant, ω -compatible almost complex structure J on M such that M contains an embedded J -holomorphic 2-sphere C with $C^2 = -1$. Since G acts trivially on $H_2(M; \mathbb{Q})$, the class of $g \cdot C$ equals the class of C for any $g \in G$. This implies $g \cdot C = C$, i.e., C is invariant under G , because otherwise $(g \cdot C) \cdot C \geq 0$ by the positivity of intersections of J -holomorphic curves, which then contradicts the identity $(g \cdot C) \cdot C = C^2 = -1$.

We G -equivariantly blow down (M, ω) along C and obtain a symplectic 4-manifold (M', ω') , which inherits a symplectic G -action from (M, ω) . Clearly the induced action of G on $H_2(M'; \mathbb{Q})$ is also trivial.

We shall prove that if $[\omega]$ is a rational class, so is $[\omega']$, and one has $C_{\omega'} \leq C_\omega$. To see this, let $x \in M'$ be the image of C under the blowing down. Then there exist small neighborhoods U of C in M and U' of x in M' , such that $(M \setminus U, \omega)$ and $(M' \setminus U', \omega')$ are symplectomorphic, cf. [28]. It follows easily that $[N_\omega \omega']$ is an integral class. (Here recall that N_ω is the smallest positive integer such that $[N_\omega \omega]$ is an integral class.) This implies $N_{\omega'} \leq N_\omega$, and since $c_1(K_{M'}) \cdot [\omega'] < c_1(K_M) \cdot [\omega]$, one clearly has $C_{\omega'} \leq C_\omega$.

This process will terminate because $b_2(M') = b_2(M) - 1$. At the end we obtain a symplectic 4-manifold, still denoted by (M', ω') , such that for any G -equivariant, ω' -compatible almost complex structure J , M' contains no embedded J -holomorphic 2-spheres with self-intersection -1 . \square

A natural question is whether the manifold (M', ω') is minimal. Recall that a symplectic 4-manifold is said to be minimal if there exist no embedded symplectic 2-spheres with self-intersection -1 . The next lemma gives an answer to this question.

Lemma 2.3. *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic 4-manifold which is not rational nor ruled. If there exists a ω -compatible almost complex structure J_0 such that M contains no embedded J_0 -holomorphic 2-spheres with self-intersection -1 , then (M, ω) is minimal.*

Proof. Suppose to the contrary that (M, ω) is not minimal, and let Σ be an embedded symplectic 2-sphere with self-intersection -1 in M . Then there exists a ω -compatible

almost complex structure J' on M such that Σ is J' -holomorphic. On the other hand, by Corollary 3.3.4 in McDuff-Salamon [29], for any J an embedded J -holomorphic 2-sphere with self-intersection -1 is always a regular point in the corresponding moduli space of J -holomorphic curves, which is also the only point in the moduli space because of positivity of intersections of J -holomorphic curves. This implies that the Gromov invariant counting J -holomorphic 2-spheres in the class of Σ equals ± 1 . In particular, there exists a finite set of J_0 -holomorphic curves $\{\Gamma_j\}$ such that

$$[\Sigma] = \sum_j l_j \Gamma_j \text{ for some integers } l_j > 0.$$

Consider first the case where $b_2^+ > 1$. By Taubes [32] the Gromov invariant $Gr(K_M) \neq 0$, so that there exists a finite set of J_0 -holomorphic curves $\{C_i\}$ such that

$$c_1(K_M) = \sum_i n_i C_i \text{ for some integers } n_i > 0.$$

Since $c_1(K_M) \cdot [\Sigma] = -1 < 0$, there exists a j such that $c_1(K_M) \cdot \Gamma_j < 0$. Because of positivity of intersections of pseudo-holomorphic curves, there must be an i such that $\Gamma_j = C_i$. Now $c_1(K_M) \cdot C_i < 0$ implies that $C_i^2 \leq \frac{1}{n_i} c_1(K_M) \cdot C_i < 0$, and by the adjunction inequality one has

$$0 \leq \text{genus}(C_i) \leq C_i^2 + c_1(K_M) \cdot C_i + 2 \leq (-1) + (-1) + 2 = 0,$$

which implies that C_i is an embedded 2-sphere with self-intersection -1 , contradicting the assumption on J_0 . Hence (M, ω) must be minimal in this case.

The case of $b_2^+ = 1$ is slightly more involved. First, we symplectically blow down (M, ω) to get a minimal symplectic 4-manifold (M', ω') . Since (M, ω) is not rational nor ruled, either $Gr(K_{M'}) \neq 0$ or $Gr(2K_{M'}) \neq 0$ (cf. Prop 5.2 in [27] and Prop. 4.1 in [25]). On the other hand, by the blowup formula of Gromov invariant [26], if we denote by $E_1, \dots, E_n \in H^2(M)$ the exceptional divisors of the symplectic blowdown $\pi : M \rightarrow M'$ (i.e., the Poincaré duals of the symplectic (-1) -spheres in M), then in the former case

$$Gr(K_M) = Gr(\pi^*(K_{M'}) - \sum_{s=1}^n E_s) = Gr(K_{M'}) \neq 0,$$

which implies that (M, ω) is minimal as we argued for $b_2^+ > 1$. In the latter case, we have

$$Gr(2K_M + \sum_{s=1}^n E_s) = Gr(\pi^*(2K_{M'}) - \sum_{s=1}^n E_s) = Gr(2K_{M'}) \neq 0,$$

which implies that there exists a finite set of J_0 -holomorphic curves $\{\hat{C}_k\}$ such that

$$c_1(2K_M + \sum_{s=1}^n E_s) = \sum_k \hat{n}_k \hat{C}_k \text{ for some integers } \hat{n}_k > 0.$$

Now observe that the Gromov invariant $Gr(-E_s) \neq 0$ for each s . (Note that we have proved this fact for the Poincaré dual of Σ .) Hence for each s , there exists a finite set

of J_0 -holomorphic curves $\{\Gamma_{js}\}$ such that

$$c_1(-E_s) = \sum_j l_{js} \Gamma_{js} \text{ for some integers } l_{js} > 0.$$

Putting these together, one has

$$c_1(2K_M) = \sum_k \hat{n}_k \hat{C}_k + \sum_{j,s} l_{js} \Gamma_{js} = \sum_i n_i C_i$$

for a finite set of J_0 -holomorphic curves $\{C_i\}$ and integers $n_i > 0$. Again, since $c_1(2K_M) \cdot [\Sigma] = -2 < 0$, there exists a j such that $c_1(2K_M) \cdot \Gamma_j < 0$. Then there must be an i such that $\Gamma_j = C_i$, and as we argued earlier, $c_1(K_M) \cdot C_i < 0$ implies that C_i is an embedded 2-sphere with self-intersection -1 , contradicting the assumption on J_0 . This proves that (M, ω) is also minimal in the case of $b_2^+ = 1$. \square

We remark that Lemma 2.3 is false if one drops the assumption that (M, ω) is not rational nor ruled as shown by the following example: the Hirzebruch surface F_3 contains no (-1) -holomorphic curves but it is not minimal as a symplectic 4-manifold. (Thanks to Tian-Jun Li for pointing out an error in the original version of the paper and communicating this example to me.)

Let $G \equiv \mathbb{Z}_p$. With the preceding understood (i.e., Lemma 2.1, Lemma 2.2 and Lemma 2.3), it suffices, for the proof of the Main Theorem, to consider the following simplified version: (X, ω) is minimal and the \mathbb{Z}_p -action is homologically trivial over \mathbb{Q} . Moreover, it suffices to show that there is a universal constant $c > 0$ such that p must be bounded from above by

$$C \equiv c(1 + c_1(K)^2)^2 C_\omega^2.$$

Indeed, given any (X, ω) , we assume $p > 5(1 + b_1(X) + b_2(X))$ (note that, particularly, $p > 5$). Then by Lemma 2.1, the \mathbb{Z}_p -action is trivial on $H_k(X; \mathbb{Q})$ for any $0 \leq k \leq 4$. Furthermore, by Lemma 2.2 and Lemma 2.3, one can G -equivariantly blow down X until becoming minimal. Call the resulting symplectic 4-manifold (X', ω') . Then

$$c_1(K_{X'})^2 \leq c_1(K_X)^2 + b_2(X).$$

Our claim follows from the fact that $c_1(K_X)^2 \leq 10(1 + b_1(X) + b_2(X))$ and that $C_{\omega'} \leq C_\omega$ (cf. Lemma 2.2).

Now since $b_G^{2,+} = b_2^+ > 1$, the equivariant version of Taubes' theorem in [32] applies here, and as we have explained earlier in Section 1, after fixing a generic choice of G -equivariant, ω -compatible almost complex structure J , there is a finite set of J -holomorphic curves $\{C_i\}$, such that $c_1(K) = \sum_i n_i C_i$ for some integers $n_i > 0$. Furthermore, the set $\cup_i C_i$ is G -invariant, and $\cup_i C_i$ contains all the fixed points of G except for those isolated ones at which the representation of G on the complex tangent space has determinant 1. Notice that since (X, ω) is minimal, $c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq 0$ and $c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq C_i^2$ for any i . (We remark that by the equivariant symplectic neighborhood theorem, J may be taken to be integrable in a neighborhood of the fixed point set, even though J has to be chosen to be generic in order to rule out certain possibilities.)

In the next four lemmas (i.e., Lemmas 2.4-2.7), we assume that the G -action is pseudofree. This means that none of the J -holomorphic curves C_i is fixed under the action. (In fact the non-pseudofree case can be easily eliminated, cf. Lemma 3.2.)

Lemma 2.4. (1) *If there exists a C_i with $\text{genus}(C_i) \geq 2$, then $p \leq 82c_1(K)^2$.*

(2) *If there exists a C_i with $\text{genus}(C_i) = 1$ and $c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq 1$, then $p \leq c_1(K)^2$.*

Proof. (1) First consider the case where C_i is invariant under G . By the assumption that the G -action is pseudofree, the induced G -action on C_i is nontrivial. By Hurwitz's theorem, $p \leq 82(\text{genus}(C_i) - 1)$. On the other hand, by the adjunction inequality,

$$\text{genus}(C_i) - 1 \leq \frac{1}{2}(C_i^2 + c_1(K) \cdot C_i) \leq c_1(K) \cdot C_i \leq c_1(K)^2.$$

Hence $p \leq 82c_1(K)^2$ as claimed.

Now suppose C_i is not invariant under G . Then $g \cdot C_i \neq C_i$ for all $1 \neq g \in G$. This implies that

$$c_1(K)^2 \geq c_1(K) \cdot \left(\sum_{g \in G} g \cdot C_i \right) = p \cdot c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq p,$$

because $c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq \frac{1}{2}(C_i^2 + c_1(K) \cdot C_i) \geq \text{genus}(C_i) - 1 \geq 1$. The lemma follows.

(2) First consider the case where C_i is invariant under G . Again by the pseudofree assumption, the induced G -action on C_i is nontrivial. Since we assume $p > 5$, and by assumption $\text{genus}(C_i) = 1$, we see immediately that C_i contains no fixed points of G . With this understood, the dimension of the moduli space of the corresponding G -invariant J -holomorphic curves at C_i , which is given by

$$2\left(-\frac{1}{p}c_1(K) \cdot C_i + 2(1 - \text{genus}(C_i/G))\right) = -\frac{2}{p}c_1(K) \cdot C_i,$$

is negative because of the assumption $c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq 1$. Note that here since the G -action on C_i is free, $\text{genus}(C_i/G) = 1$. By choosing a generic G -equivariant J , this case can be ruled out. (Here and throughout the rest of the paper, moduli spaces of G -invariant pseudo-holomorphic curves in X are canonically identified with the corresponding moduli spaces of pseudo-holomorphic curves in the orbifold X/G .)

Suppose C_i is not invariant under G . Then

$$c_1(K)^2 \geq c_1(K) \cdot \left(\sum_{g \in G} g \cdot C_i \right) = p \cdot c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq p$$

as claimed. This finishes the proof of the lemma. \square

Lemma 2.5. *For any i , if $\text{genus}(C_i) = 1$ and $c_1(K) \cdot C_i = 0$, then C_i is an embedded torus of self-intersection 0, which is disjoint from the rest of the set of J -holomorphic curves $\{C_i\}$.*

Proof. Since $0 = c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq C_i^2$, we have, by the adjunction inequality, that

$$0 \geq C_i^2 + c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq \text{genus}(C_i) - 1 = 0,$$

which implies that $C_i^2 = c_1(K) \cdot C_i = 0$, and C_i is embedded. If C_i is not disjoint from the rest of the set of J -holomorphic curves $\{C_i\}$, we would have $c_1(K) \cdot C_i > C_i^2 = 0$, which is a contradiction. Hence the lemma. \square

Since we assume $p > 5$, the curves C_i as described in Lemma 2.5 will not contain any fixed points of G . Furthermore, they will not make any contributions to the calculation of either $c_1(K) \cdot C_i$ for any i , or $c_1(K)^2$. So this kind of J -holomorphic curves will play no role in our argument, and henceforth for simplicity we simply assume they do not exist.

Lemma 2.6. *If there exists a C_i with $\text{genus}(C_i) = 0$ which is not invariant under G , then $p \leq c_1(K)^2$.*

Proof. Since C_i is not invariant under G , $g \cdot C_i \neq C_i$ for any $1 \neq g \in G$. On the other hand, G acts trivially on $H_2(X; \mathbb{Q})$, so that $C_i^2 = (g \cdot C_i) \cdot C_i \geq 0$.

If $c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq 1$, we have as before that

$$c_1(K)^2 \geq c_1(K) \cdot \left(\sum_{g \in G} g \cdot C_i \right) = p \cdot c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq p.$$

If $c_1(K) \cdot C_i = 0$, then $C_i^2 = 0$ as well, which implies that $(g \cdot C_i) \cdot C_i = 0$ for all $g \in G$. In particular $g \cdot C_i$ and C_i are disjoint for any $1 \neq g \in G$, so that C_i contains no fixed points of G . The dimension of the moduli space of the corresponding J -holomorphic curves at C_i is given by

$$d = 2(-c_1(K) \cdot C_i + 2(1 - \text{genus}(C_i)) - 3) = -2,$$

so that by choosing a generic G -equivariant J , such a C_i does not exist. \square

Lemma 2.7. *Suppose there exist i, j , $i \neq j$, such that (i) $\text{genus}(C_i) = \text{genus}(C_j) = 0$, (ii) C_i and C_j intersect at a point which is not fixed under G . Then $p \leq 2 + 2c_1(K)^2$.*

Proof. Suppose both of C_i, C_j are invariant under G ; otherwise the lemma follows from the previous lemma. Without loss of generality, we assume $n_i \geq n_j$. Set $\delta = c_1(K) \cdot C_j$. Then

$$\delta \geq (n_i C_i + n_j C_j) \cdot C_j \geq n_j (C_i \cdot C_j + C_j^2) \geq n_j (p + C_j^2).$$

Here we used $C_i \cdot C_j \geq p$, which follows from the fact that the set $C_i \cup C_j$ is G -invariant and C_i, C_j intersect at a point not fixed under G . This gives $\delta \geq \frac{1}{n_j} \delta \geq p + C_j^2$.

Now by the adjunction inequality, we obtain

$$(\delta - p) + \delta + 2 \geq C_j^2 + c_1(K) \cdot C_j + 2 \geq 0,$$

which gives rise to $p \leq 2 + 2\delta \leq 2 + 2c_1(K)^2$, as we claimed. \square

We end this section with the

Proof of Lemma 1.6

The local intersection number $\text{int}_D(x)$ is defined to be the limit

$$\text{int}_D(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_D \frac{i}{2\pi} F_{a_n}$$

for a sequence of solutions $((\alpha_n, \beta_n), a_n)$ to the r_n -version of the Taubes' perturbed Seiberg-Witten equations, where $r_n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, cf. Proposition 5.6 in [32]. In

Lemma 5.8 of [32], Taubes gave a lower bound for $\text{int}_D(x)$ which takes the form

$$\int_D \frac{i}{2\pi} F_{a_n} \geq m_0 + z_3(4^{-n} + \rho^2),$$

where $\rho > 0$ can be taken arbitrarily small, and m_0 is a positive integer (see (5.19) and (5.20) in [32]). Here z_3 is an independent constant. Clearly,

$$\text{int}_D(x) \geq m_0.$$

To explain m_0 , recall that by our assumption, $x \in \alpha_n^{-1}(0)$ for all n . Fix a Gaussian coordinate system at x and pull back the solutions $((\alpha_n, \beta_n), a_n)$ to the Gaussian system. After rescaling by a factor $\sqrt{r_n}$, the solutions converge in C^∞ -topology over compact subsets to a solution $((\alpha_0, 0), a_0)$ to the $r = 1$ version of the Taubes' perturbed Seiberg-Witten equations on \mathbb{C}^2 . Moreover, the $U(1)$ -connection a_0 defines a holomorphic structure on the trivial complex line bundle over \mathbb{C}^2 of which α_0 is a holomorphic section. Finally, $\alpha_0^{-1}(0)$ is the zero set of a polynomial on \mathbb{C}^2 . With the preceding understood, the number m_0 is the local contribution at $0 \in \mathbb{C}^2$ to the intersection number of a generic complex line in \mathbb{C}^2 with $\alpha_0^{-1}(0)$.

Note that there is an induced complex linear action of g on \mathbb{C}^2 as well as a corresponding action on the associated Seiberg-Witten equations on \mathbb{C}^2 . If we write (z_1, z_2) for the complex coordinates on \mathbb{C}^2 , then

$$g \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (\lambda^{m_1} z_1, \lambda^{m_2} z_2)$$

where $\lambda = \exp(2\pi i/m)$ with $m \equiv \text{order}(g)$ and m_1, m_2 are the weights of g at x .

Now write $\alpha_0 = f(z_1, z_2) \cdot s$, where s is a non-zero holomorphic section, and

$$f(z_1, z_2) = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i z_1^{a_{1,i}} z_2^{a_{2,i}} + \cdots \text{(higher order terms)}.$$

Here $a \equiv a_{1,i} + a_{2,i} > 0$ which is independent of $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$. Then the above interpretation of m_0 shows that $m_0 \geq a$. On the other hand, the representation of g on the fiber of the G -equivariant canonical bundle is given by multiplication by $\lambda^{-(m_1+m_2)}$, where $\lambda = \exp(2\pi i/m)$, and $m \equiv \text{order}(g)$. Apparently $g \cdot s = \lambda^{-(m_1+m_2)} s$ and $g \cdot \alpha_0 = \alpha_0$, which implies that

$$f(g \cdot (z_1, z_2)) = \lambda^{-(m_1+m_2)} \cdot f(z_1, z_2).$$

The above equation gives the congruence relation

$$a_{1,i} m_1 + a_{2,i} m_2 = -(m_1 + m_2) \pmod{m}, \quad \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, N.$$

The lemma follows easily by taking (a_1, a_2) to be any of the $(a_{1,i}, a_{2,i})$'s. □

3. PROOF OF THE MAIN THEOREM

Before we start, it is useful to make observation of the following fact.

Lemma 3.1. $\sum_i n_i \leq C_\omega$, where $c_1(K) = \sum_i n_i C_i$. In particular, $n_i \leq C_\omega$ for each i .

Proof. $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] = \sum_i n_i \omega(C_i) \geq \sum_i n_i \cdot \frac{1}{N_\omega}$, from which the lemma follows. □

The following lemma eliminates the case of non-pseudofree actions.

Lemma 3.2. *If there exists a C_i which is fixed under G . Then $p \leq 1 + C_\omega$.*

Proof. Let n_i be the multiplicity of C_i . We pick a point $x \in C_i$ such that x does not lie in any other $C_j \neq C_i$. Let D be a J -holomorphic disk intersecting C_i transversely and $D \cap (\cup_j C_j) = \{x\}$. Then the local intersection number

$$\text{int}_D(x) = n_i,$$

cf. [32], Section 5. Let $g \in G$ be the element whose action near x is given $g \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (z_1, \mu_p z_2)$, where $\mu_p \equiv \exp(2\pi i/p)$. Then by Lemma 1.6, there exist non-negative integers a_1, a_2 satisfying $(a_1 + 1) \cdot 0 + (a_2 + 1) \cdot 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ (here $m_1 = 0, m_2 = 1$), such that $\text{int}_D(x) \geq a_1 + a_2$. It follows that $n_i = \text{int}_D(x) \geq a_2 \geq p - 1$. This gives

$$p \leq 1 + n_i \leq 1 + C_\omega.$$

□

We shall assume, in what follows, that the \mathbb{Z}_p -action is pseudofree. With the preliminary lemmas proved in the previous section (i.e., Lemmas 2.4-2.7), we may assume without loss of generality that the curves in the set $\{C_i\}$ satisfy:

- (1) each C_i is a 2-sphere, which may be singular or immersed;
- (2) each C_i is G -invariant, containing ≤ 2 fixed points;
- (3) two distinct C_i, C_j intersect only at fixed points of G ;
- (4) each C_i is embedded away from the fixed points of G on C_i .

Here for the last condition, (4), if there is a C_i which is not embedded away from the fixed points of G , we obtain a bound for p by the adjunction inequality: let $y_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, p$, be a subset of singular points of C_i which is invariant under G and denote by δ_{y_k} the contribution of y_k to the adjunction inequality, then $\delta_{y_k} \geq 2$ and

$$c_1(K)^2 + 1 \geq c_1(K) \cdot C_i + 1 \geq \frac{1}{2}(C_i^2 + c_1(K) \cdot C_i) + 1 \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^p \delta_{y_k} \geq p.$$

Case (a): $c_1(K)^2 = 0$. First of all, notice that the \mathbb{Z}_p -action must have a fixed point. This is because if the original symplectic 4-manifold is not minimal, then after blowing down the induced action must have a fixed point, which is the image of the exceptional divisor under the blowing down. If the original manifold is minimal, then by the assumption we made in the Main Theorem, the Euler characteristic of the manifold must be non-zero. In any event, the \mathbb{Z}_p -action has a fixed point.

With this understood, according to Corollary B of [9], the \mathbb{Z}_p -action must be trivial unless $p = 1 \pmod{4}$ or $p = 1 \pmod{6}$. Moreover, from the proof of Corollary B, the following are also true: (i) when $p = 1 \pmod{4}$, there must be C_i, C_j , both embedded, with $n_i = n_j$, such that $C_i^2 = C_j^2 = -2$ and C_i, C_j intersect at a fixed point x with tangency of order 2; (ii) when $p = 1 \pmod{6}$, then either there is a C_i which is a 2-sphere with a cusp singularity x fixed by G , or there are 3 distinct embedded (-2) -spheres C_i, C_j, C_k intersecting transversely at a fixed point x of G . Furthermore, there are no fixed points where the representation of G on the complex tangent space has

determinant 1. By Remark 1.7, Lemma 1.6 applies here to all the fixed points of G . We fix a J -holomorphic disk D whose tangent plane at x is different from that of any of the J -holomorphic curves in $\{C_i\}$. In this case, $\text{int}_D(x)$ can be easily determined using Theorem 7.1 of Micallef and White [30].

In case (i), Lemma 1.6 gives us

$$C_\omega \geq n_i + n_j = \text{int}_D(x) \geq a_1 + a_2,$$

where a_1, a_2 satisfy $(a_1 + 1) \cdot 1 + (a_2 + 1) \cdot 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. This implies that

$$p \leq 2(a_1 + a_2) + 3 \leq 2C_\omega + 3.$$

As for case (ii), in the former case of a cusp sphere, Lemma 1.6 gives us

$$2C_\omega \geq 2n_i = \text{int}_D(x) \geq a_1 + a_2,$$

where a_1, a_2 satisfy $(a_1 + 1) \cdot 2 + (a_2 + 1) \cdot 3 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. This implies that

$$p \leq 3(a_1 + a_2) + 5 \leq 6C_\omega + 5.$$

In the latter case of (ii), Lemma 1.6 gives us

$$C_\omega \geq n_i + n_j + n_k = \text{int}_D(x) \geq a_1 + a_2,$$

where a_1, a_2 satisfy $(a_1 + 1) \cdot 1 + (a_2 + 1) \cdot 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. This implies that

$$p \leq (a_1 + a_2) + 2 \leq C_\omega + 2.$$

The proof of the Main Theorem for the case where $c_1(K)^2 = 0$ follows.

Case (b): $c_1(K)^2 > 0$. We start with the following lemma.

Lemma 3.3. *By choosing a generic G -equivariant almost complex structure J , the set $\cup_i C_i$ contains no fixed points of G where the representation of G on the complex tangent space has determinant 1.*

Proof. Suppose x is such a fixed point, and $x \in C_0 \in \{C_i\}$. Let $f : \mathbb{S}^2 \rightarrow X$ be a J -holomorphic map parametrizing C_0 , and let $t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{S}^2$ be the two points mapped to fixed points under f such that $f(t_1) = x$. Note that t_1, t_2 are fixed under the induced action of G on \mathbb{S}^2 . Let $g_1, g_2 \in G$ be the elements which act by a rotation of angle $2\pi/p$ near t_1, t_2 respectively. Moreover, suppose the actions of g_1, g_2 near the fixed points in X are given respectively by

$$g_i \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (\mu_p^{m_{i,1}} z_1, \mu_p^{m_{i,2}} z_2), \quad i = 1, 2,$$

where $\mu_p = \exp(2\pi i/p)$, $0 < m_{i,1}, m_{i,2} < p$. Then the dimension of the moduli space of the corresponding G -invariant J -holomorphic curves at C_0 is

$$\begin{aligned} d &= 2\left(-\frac{1}{p}c_1(K) \cdot C_0 + 2 - \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{m_{i,1} + m_{i,2}}{p} - 1\right) \\ &= -2\left(\frac{1}{p}c_1(K) \cdot C_0 + \frac{m_{2,1} + m_{2,2}}{p}\right), \end{aligned}$$

see [7], p. 19. Here we used the fact that the representation of G on the complex tangent space of x has determinant 1, so that $m_{1,1} + m_{1,2} = p$. By choosing a generic

G -equivariant J (cf. [7], Lemma 1.10), $d \geq 0$ if C_0 exists. But this is impossible because $c_1(K) \cdot C_0 \geq 0$. \square

With the preceding lemma, Lemma 1.6 applies to any fixed point contained in $\cup_i C_i$ (cf. Remark 1.7).

Lemma 3.4. *If there exists a C_i which is not embedded, then*

$$p \leq 4C_\omega^2(3 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2.$$

Proof. We first note that all C_i are embedded away from the fixed points of G . Fix any curve C_0 in the set $\{C_i\}$. Let $x \in C_0$ be a fixed point of G . We parametrize C_0 by a J -holomorphic map $f_0 : \mathbb{S}^2 \rightarrow X$, and suppose $0 \in \mathbb{S}^2$ is mapped to x under f_0 . In a local complex coordinate system (z_1, z_2) centered at x , suppose f_0 is represented by a holomorphic map with z as a local coordinate centered at $0 \in \mathbb{S}^2$:

$$z_1 = z^{l_0}, z_2 = c_0 z^{l'_0} + \cdots \text{(higher order terms)},$$

where $l_0 < l'_0$ unless $c_0 = 0$ and $l_0 = 1$.

We first show that if $l_0 \geq 2$, then

$$p \leq \max(16C_\omega^2, (5 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2, 4C_\omega^2(3 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2) = 4C_\omega^2(3 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2.$$

Let $f_j : z \mapsto (z^{l_j}, c_j z^{l'_j} + \cdots)$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, N$, be the holomorphic maps which parametrize all the branches of $\cup_i C_i$ near x other than the one parametrized by f_0 in a neighborhood of $0 \in \mathbb{S}^2$. Here for each j , $l_j < l'_j$ unless $c_j = 0$ and $l_j = 1$. If we fix a generator $g \in G$ and suppose the action of g near x is given by $g \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (\mu_p^m z_1, \mu_p^{m'} z_2)$, where $\mu_p = \exp(2\pi i/p)$ and $0 < m, m' < p$, then it follows easily that $l_j = k_j m, l'_j = k_j m' \pmod{p}$ for some k_j for all $0 \leq j \leq N$.

We assume $p \geq 16C_\omega^2$. There are two possibilities:

Case (i): $l_j \leq (2C_\omega)^{-1} \cdot \sqrt{p}$ for all $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N$. Denote by n'_j the multiplicity of the branch parametrized by the map f_j , $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N$. Then by Lemma 3.1 we have $\sum_{j=0}^N n'_j \leq 2C_\omega$. (Note that at most 2 branches lie in the same C_i .) We obtain

$$\sqrt{p} = 2C_\omega \cdot ((2C_\omega)^{-1} \cdot \sqrt{p}) \geq \left(\sum_{j=0}^N n'_j \right) \cdot ((2C_\omega)^{-1} \cdot \sqrt{p}) \geq \sum_{j=0}^N n'_j l_j.$$

Now if we pick a J -holomorphic disk D whose tangent plane at x is different from that of any of the branches parametrized by f_j , $0 \leq j \leq N$, then by Theorem 7.1 in Micallef and White [30], $\text{int}_D(x) = \sum_{j=0}^N n'_j l_j$. By Lemma 1.6, we obtain

$$\sqrt{p} \geq \text{int}_D(x) \geq a_1 + a_2,$$

where a_1, a_2 satisfy $(a_1 + 1)l_j + (a_2 + 1)l'_j \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, $0 \leq j \leq N$, because of the congruence relations $l_j = k_j m, l'_j = k_j m' \pmod{p}$ for some k_j for all $0 \leq j \leq N$. Particularly, we have

$$(\sqrt{p} + 2)l'_0 \geq (a_1 + a_2 + 2)l'_0 \geq (a_1 + 1)l_0 + (a_2 + 1)l'_0 \geq p,$$

which implies $l'_0 \geq (\sqrt{p} + 2)^{-1}p \geq \sqrt{p} - 2$. On the other hand, by Theorem 7.3 in Micallef and White [30], the point $x \in C_0$ makes a local contribution of $\delta_x \geq (l_0 - 1)(l'_0 - 1)$ to the adjunction inequality for C_0 , which gives

$$2c_1(K)^2 \geq C_0^2 + c_1(K) \cdot C_0 \geq -2 + (l_0 - 1)(l'_0 - 1) \geq -2 + (\sqrt{p} - 3).$$

Note that here we used $l_0 \geq 2$. This implies that $p \leq (5 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2$.

Case (ii): there exists a $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N$ such that $l_j \geq (2C_\omega)^{-1} \cdot \sqrt{p}$. Then $l_j \geq 2$ since $p \geq 16C_\omega^2$, and $l'_j > l_j \geq (2C_\omega)^{-1} \cdot \sqrt{p}$ for that j . Let C_i be the J -holomorphic curve which contains the branch parametrized by f_j near x . Then $x \in C_i$ makes a local contribution of $\delta_x \geq (l_j - 1)(l'_j - 1)$ to the adjunction inequality for C_i , which gives

$$2c_1(K)^2 \geq C_i^2 + c_1(K) \cdot C_i \geq -2 + (l_j - 1)(l'_j - 1) \geq -2 + ((2C_\omega)^{-1}\sqrt{p} - 1).$$

This implies that $p \leq 4C_\omega^2(3 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2$. Hence if $l_0 \geq 2$, one has

$$p \leq \max(16C_\omega^2, (5 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2, 4C_\omega^2(3 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2) = 4C_\omega^2(3 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2.$$

To finish the proof of the lemma, it remains to rule out the possibility that there is a $w \in \mathbb{S}^2$, $w \neq 0 \in \mathbb{S}^2$, such that $f_0(w) = f_0(0) = x$. Note that by the arguments in the previous paragraphs, we may assume that f_0 is embedded near both 0 and w . Consider first the case where the tangent planes $(f_0)_*(T_0\mathbb{S}^2)$ and $(f_0)_*(T_w\mathbb{S}^2)$ intersect transversely at x . Suppose $g \in G$ is the element which acts near $0 \in \mathbb{S}^2$ as rotation by an angle of $2\pi/p$. Then g^{-1} acts near $w \in \mathbb{S}^2$ as rotation by an angle of $2\pi/p$. It follows that the action of g near x is given in local coordinates by $g \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (\mu_p z_1, \mu_p^{-1} z_2)$, where $\mu_p = \exp(2\pi i/p)$. But this has been ruled out by Lemma 3.3. Now if $(f_0)_*(T_0\mathbb{S}^2) = (f_0)_*(T_w\mathbb{S}^2)$, then $g = g^{-1}$ on $(f_0)_*(T_0\mathbb{S}^2) = (f_0)_*(T_w\mathbb{S}^2)$, which implies that $p = 2$. But we have assumed that $p > 5$.

This shows that if C_0 is not embedded near x , one has to have

$$p \leq 4C_\omega^2(3 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2.$$

□

For the rest of this section we assume $p > 4C_\omega^2(3 + 2c_1(K)^2)^2$, so that all C_i are embedded.

Lemma 3.5. *For any fixed point x of G , if there exist two distinct J -holomorphic curves C_i, C_j from the set $\{C_i\}$ such that C_i, C_j intersect at x non-transversely, then*

$$p \leq (3 + C_\omega)^2(c_1(K)^2 + 2).$$

Proof. First of all, we shall prove that for any $1 \neq g \in G$, if the action of g near x is given in local coordinates by $g \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (\mu_p^{m_1} z_1, \mu_p^{m_2} z_2)$, where $\mu_p = \exp(2\pi i/p)$ and $0 < m_1, m_2 < p$, then

$$\max(m_1, m_2) \geq (3 + C_\omega)^{-1}p.$$

To see this, if both m_1, m_2 are less than $(3 + C_\omega)^{-1}p$, then by Lemma 3.1, Lemma 1.6,

$$\begin{aligned} (C_\omega + 2) \cdot (3 + C_\omega)^{-1}p &\geq \left(\sum_i n_i + 2\right) \cdot (3 + C_\omega)^{-1}p \\ &\geq (\text{int}_D(x) + 2) \cdot (3 + C_\omega)^{-1}p \\ &\geq (a_1 + 1)m_1 + (a_2 + 1)m_2 \\ &\geq p, \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction. Here D is chosen such that it is not tangent to any of the curves in $\{C_i\}$ which contains x , and consequently, $\text{int}_D(x) \leq \sum_i n_i$ by Theorem 7.1 in Micallef and White [30] (notice that we have assumed that each C_i is embedded).

With the preceding understood, since C_i, C_j intersect at x non-transversely, there exist local coordinates z_1, z_2 centered at x , such that locally C_i is given by $z_2 = 0$, and C_j is given by the graph of $z_2 = z_1^m + \dots$ (higher order terms). Let $g \in G$ be the element which acts on C_i by a rotation of angle $2\pi/p$ near x . Then the action of g near x is given by $g \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (\mu_p z_1, \mu_p^m z_2)$. We have just shown that

$$m = \max(1, m) \geq (3 + C_\omega)^{-1}p,$$

which implies that $C_i \cdot C_j \geq m \geq (3 + C_\omega)^{-1}p$.

Now we write $c_1(K) \cdot C_i = \sum_{k \neq i} n_k C_k \cdot C_i + n_i C_i^2$, and with the adjunction inequality, we have

$$\sum_{k \neq i} n_k C_k \cdot C_i + (n_i + 1)C_i^2 + 2 \geq 0.$$

This gives rise to

$$C_i^2 \geq -\frac{1}{n_i + 1} \left(2 + \sum_{k \neq i} n_k C_k \cdot C_i\right).$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(K) \cdot C_i &= \sum_{k \neq i} n_k C_k \cdot C_i + n_i C_i^2 \\ &\geq \sum_{k \neq i} n_k C_k \cdot C_i - \frac{n_i}{n_i + 1} \left(2 + \sum_{k \neq i} n_k C_k \cdot C_i\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n_i + 1} \left(\sum_{k \neq i} n_k C_k \cdot C_i\right) - \frac{2n_i}{n_i + 1} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{n_i + 1} \cdot C_j \cdot C_i - \frac{2n_i}{n_i + 1} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{C_\omega + 1} \cdot \frac{p}{3 + C_\omega} - 2. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that $p \leq (3 + C_\omega)^2(c_1(K) \cdot C_i + 2) \leq (3 + C_\omega)^2(c_1(K)^2 + 2)$. \square

Corollary 3.6. *Suppose $p > (3 + C_\omega)^2(c_1(K)^2 + 2)$. Then for any fixed point x , there exist at most two distinct C_i, C_j containing x . Moreover, C_i, C_j intersect transversely at x .*

Proof. Since $p > 3 + C_\omega$, we have $\max(m_1, m_2) \geq (3 + C_\omega)^{-1}p > 1$ for any $1 \neq g \in G$ whose action is given in local coordinates by $g \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (\mu_p^{m_1} z_1, \mu_p^{m_2} z_2)$. It follows that the action of G at x has two distinct eigenvalues. If x is contained in more than two distinct J -holomorphic curves from the set $\{C_i\}$, there must be two distinct C_i, C_j intersecting non-transversely at x , which contradicts $p > (3 + C_\omega)^2(c_1(K)^2 + 2)$. \square

With the preceding understood, we assume $p > (3 + C_\omega)^2(c_1(K)^2 + 2)$. Then for any C_i , there are 4 possibilities:

- (1) C_i does not intersect with any other curves in $\{C_i\}$;
- (2) C_i intersects with exactly one C_j at exactly one fixed point;
- (3) C_i intersects with exactly one C_j at two fixed points;
- (4) C_i intersects with two distinct C_j, C_k at two fixed points.

Note that since C_i is embedded, one has $c_1(K) \cdot C_i + C_i^2 + 2 = 0$.

Case (1): $n_i C_i^2 + C_i^2 + 2 = c_1(K) \cdot C_i + C_i^2 + 2 = 0$, which implies $n_i = 1$ and $C_i^2 = -1$. This contradicts the minimality of (X, ω) .

Case (2): $n_i C_i^2 + n_j + C_i^2 + 2 = c_1(K) \cdot C_i + C_i^2 + 2 = 0$, which implies $C_i^2 = -1$ if $n_j < n_i$. Hence in this case, one must have $n_j \geq n_i$ by the minimality of (X, ω) .

Case (3): $n_i C_i^2 + 2n_j + C_i^2 + 2 = c_1(K) \cdot C_i + C_i^2 + 2 = 0$, which implies $C_i^2 = -1$ if $n_j < n_i$. By the symmetry between i and j , we see that $n_i = n_j$, and $C_i^2 = C_j^2 = -2$. Moreover, $c_1(K) \cdot C_i = c_1(K) \cdot C_j = 0$.

Case (4): We assume that $n_i \geq n_j, n_k$. Then in this case,

$$n_i C_i^2 + n_j + n_k + C_i^2 + 2 = c_1(K) \cdot C_i + C_i^2 + 2 = 0,$$

which implies that $n_i = n_j = n_k$ and $C_i^2 = -2$. Moreover, $c_1(K) \cdot C_i = 0$.

From the preceding analysis, it is easily seen that Case (2) can not occur, and that for any C_i , $c_1(K) \cdot C_i = 0$. It follows that $c_1(K)^2 = \sum_i n_i c_1(K) \cdot C_i = 0$, which is a contradiction.

This completes the proof of the Main Theorem.

4. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.8

Lemma 4.1. *Let (X, ω) be a symplectic homology $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ with $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] > 0$. Then any symplectic \mathbb{Z}_p -action of prime order on X must be pseudofree and p must be odd.*

Proof. First of all, we show that a smooth involution on a homology $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ must have a 2-dimensional component in the fixed point set (cf. [15]). Suppose g is a smooth involution which has only isolated fixed points. Let Σ be a smoothly embedded surface in X which represents a generator of $H_2(X)$. By slightly perturbing Σ we may assume that Σ does not contain any fixed points of g , and furthermore, $g \cdot \Sigma$ and Σ intersect transversely. It is clear that the intersection points of $g \cdot \Sigma$ and Σ come in pairs, so that the intersection number $(g \cdot \Sigma) \cdot \Sigma = 0 \pmod{2}$. However, since Σ represents a generator of $H_2(X)$ for a homology $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$, $(g \cdot \Sigma) \cdot \Sigma = 1 \pmod{2}$, which is a contradiction.

Secondly, we show that any symplectic \mathbb{Z}_p -action on X must be pseudofree. Suppose Y is a 2-dimensional component in the fixed point set. Then since the action is naturally homologically trivial, Y must be an embedded 2-sphere (cf. [16]), which is also naturally symplectic. From $Y \cdot [\omega] > 0$ and the assumption that $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] > 0$,

we see that $c_1(K) \cdot Y > 0$ also. But this violates the adjunction inequality for Y since we also have $Y^2 > 0$. Hence the lemma. \square

With the preceding lemma, the following theorem of Edmonds and Ewing will play a crucial role in the proof of Theorem 1.8.

Theorem 4.2. (*Edmonds and Ewing, [16]*) *The fixed point set structure of a locally linear, pseudofree, topological \mathbb{Z}_p -action of odd order on a homology $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ is the same as that of a linear action on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$.*

More concretely, a locally linear, pseudofree, topological \mathbb{Z}_p -action of odd order has three fixed points $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in X$. Fix a generator g of the group. Then at each x_i , there is a pair of integers (a_i, b_i) (unordered) satisfying $0 < a_i, b_i < p$, such that the induced representation of g on the tangent space at x_i is given by

$$(z_1, z_2) \mapsto (\mu_p^{a_i} z_1, \mu_p^{b_i} z_2), \text{ where } \mu_p = \exp(2\pi i/p),$$

for some complex structure on the tangent space which is compatible with the orientation. Note that (a_i, b_i) is unique up to a change of sign, i.e., a change to $(p - a_i, p - b_i)$. (However, if requiring that the complex structure on the tangent space is ω -compatible, then (a_i, b_i) is uniquely determined.) With this understood, Theorem 4.2 says that $\{(a_i, b_i)\}$ is given by

$$(a, b), (p - a, b - a), (p - b, p + a - b)$$

for some $0 < a < b < p$.

With the preceding understood, Theorem 1.8 follows from the following proposition as we explained at the end of Section 1.

Proposition 4.3. *For sufficiently large $r > 0$, the r -version of Taubes' perturbed Seiberg-Witten equations associated to the square of the equivariant canonical bundle has a solution $((\alpha, \beta), a)$ which is fixed under the group action.*

Assume the proposition momentarily. Letting $r \rightarrow \infty$, the zero set $\alpha^{-1}(0)$ converges to a finite set of J -holomorphic curves $\{C_i\}$, such that $2c_1(K) = \sum_i n_i C_i$ for some integers $n_i > 0$. Moreover, $\cup_i C_i$ is invariant under the group action and contains all the fixed points except those x_i such that $2(a_i + b_i) = 0 \pmod{p}$. (Since p is odd, this is equivalent to $a_i + b_i = 0 \pmod{p}$.) With this understood, and with the congruence relation in Lemma 1.6 replaced by the following one

$$(a_1 + 2)m_1 + (a_2 + 2)m_2 = 0 \pmod{m},$$

the same arguments for the proof of the Main Theorem, when applied to the set $\{C_i\}$ above, will yield a proof for Theorem 1.8. (Regarding Remark 1.7, the new ‘‘applicability’’ condition which ensures the hypothesis ‘ $x \in \alpha^{-1}(0)$ ’ in Lemma 1.6 is $2(m_1 + m_2) \neq 0 \pmod{m}$, but again, since $p = m$ is odd, this is equivalent to the original condition $m_1 + m_2 \neq 0 \pmod{m}$.)

The proof of Proposition 4.3 goes as follows. Since $b_G^{2,+} = 1$ in this case, the equivariant Seiberg-Witten invariant (which is simply the Seiberg-Witten invariant of the orbifold X/G) is well-defined only after specifying a choice of chambers. Let E be an equivariant complex line bundle over X . We denote by $SW^G(E)$ the equivariant

Seiberg-Witten invariant defined using the associated r -version of Taubes' perturbed Seiberg-Witten equations with $r > 0$ sufficiently large. Then the wall-crossing formula gives

$$|SW^G(E) \pm SW^G(K - E)| = 1$$

provided that the formal dimension $d(E)$ of the equivariant Seiberg-Witten moduli space is non-negative. (Thanks to Tian-Jun Li for explaining this to me.)

We consider the case where $E = 2K$. Notice that $SW^G(K - E)$ must be zero, because otherwise by Taubes' $SW \Rightarrow Gr$ theorem in [32], $c_1(K - E) = c_1(-K)$ is represented by J -holomorphic curves which contradicts the assumption $c_1(K) \cdot [\omega] > 0$. It follows that $SW^G(2K) = \pm 1$ if $d(2K) \geq 0$.

A formula for $d(E)$ may be found in Appendix A of [8] (see also Lemma 3.3 in [7]). In the present case, we have

$$d(2K) = \frac{1}{p}(c_1(2K))^2 - c_1(2K) \cdot c_1(K) + \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \frac{2(\mu_p^{-2(a_i+b_i)x} - 1)}{(1 - \mu_p^{-a_i x})(1 - \mu_p^{-b_i x})},$$

where $\mu_p = \exp(2\pi i/p)$.

Proposition 4.3 follows by showing that $d(2K) \geq 0$. In the calculation of $d(2K)$, the fact that $\{(a_i, b_i)\}$ is given by

$$(a, b), (p - a, b - a), (p - b, p + a - b)$$

for some $0 < a < b < p$ plays a crucial role.

Lemma 4.4. *Let c, d be satisfying $0 \leq c \leq p$, $0 < d < p$, and let $\delta(c, d)$ be the unique solution to $c - d\delta = 0 \pmod{p}$ for $0 \leq \delta < p$. Then*

$$\sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \frac{2\mu_p^{cx}}{1 - \mu_p^{-dx}} = p - 1 - 2\delta(c, d).$$

Proof. Set $\phi_{c,d}(t) \equiv \sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \mu_p^{cx} (1 - \mu_p^{-dx} t)^{-1}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{c,d}(t) &= \sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \mu_p^{cx} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (\mu_p^{-dx} t)^l \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} t^l \left(\sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \mu_p^{(c-dl)x} \right) \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} t^l (-1) + \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} t^{\delta(c,d)+pl} \cdot p \\ &= \frac{1}{t-1} + \frac{pt^{\delta(c,d)}}{1-t^p} \\ &= \frac{t^{p-1} + \dots + 1 - pt^{\delta(c,d)}}{t^p - 1}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \frac{2\mu_p^{cx}}{1 - \mu_p^{-dx}} &= 2\phi_{c,d}(1) \\
&= 2 \cdot \frac{(t^{p-1} + \dots + 1 - pt^{\delta(c,d)})'|_{t=1}}{(t^p - 1)'|_{t=1}} \\
&= 2 \cdot \frac{(p-1) + \dots + 1 - p\delta(c,d)}{p} \\
&= p-1 - 2\delta(c,d).
\end{aligned}$$

□

With the preceding lemma, we compute

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \frac{2(\mu_p^{-2(a_i+b_i)x} - 1)}{(1 - \mu_p^{-a_ix})(1 - \mu_p^{-b_ix})} &= \sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \frac{2(\mu_p^{(a_i+b_i)x} - 1)}{(1 - \mu_p^{-a_ix})(1 - \mu_p^{-b_ix})} \\
&= \sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \frac{2\mu_p^{(a_i+b_i)x}}{1 - \mu_p^{-b_ix}} + \sum_{x=1}^{p-1} \frac{2\mu_p^{b_ix}}{1 - \mu_p^{-a_ix}} \\
&= p-1 - 2\delta(a_i + b_i, b_i) + p-1 - 2\delta(b_i, a_i).
\end{aligned}$$

Now without loss of generality, we assume

$$(a_1, b_1) = (a, b), (a_2, b_2) = (p-a, b-a), (a_3, b_3) = (p-b, p+a-b).$$

Then one can check directly that

$$(\delta(a_1 + b_1, b_1) + \delta(b_3, a_3))b = 2b \pmod{p},$$

which implies that

$$\delta(a_1 + b_1, b_1) + \delta(b_3, a_3) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } a + b = p \\ p + 2 & \text{if } a + b \neq p. \end{cases}$$

Similarly,

$$(\delta(a_2 + b_2, b_2) + \delta(a_3 + b_3, b_3))(b-a) = 3(b-a) \pmod{p},$$

which implies that

$$\delta(a_2 + b_2, b_2) + \delta(a_3 + b_3, b_3) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } b = 2a \text{ and } p + a = 2b \\ 3 & \text{if } b = 2a \text{ or } p + a = 2b \\ p + 3 & \text{if } b \neq 2a \text{ and } p + a \neq 2b, \end{cases}$$

and

$$(\delta(b_1, a_1) + \delta(b_2, a_2))a = a \pmod{p},$$

which implies that $\delta(b_1, a_1) + \delta(b_2, a_2) = p + 1$.

Finally, we note that $c_1(K)^2 = 9$, hence

$$\begin{aligned} d(2K) &= \frac{1}{p}(18 + 6(p-1) - 2 \sum_{i=1}^3 (\delta(a_i + b_i, b_i) + \delta(b_i, a_i))) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{p}(18 + 6(p-1) - 2(3p+6)) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.8.

5. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

Let X be a complex surface with Kodaira dimension $\kappa(X) \geq 0$, and let X be given a holomorphic \mathbb{Z}_p -action of prime order. Without loss of generality, we assume that X is minimal and the \mathbb{Z}_p -action is homologically trivial over \mathbb{Q} .

According to the Enriques-Kodaira classification [6], X is either a surface of general type, a $K3$ surface, or an elliptic surface (we used $\kappa(X) \geq 0$ here). Theorem 1.1 follows easily if X is a surface of general type or a $K3$ surface, for in the former case, Xiao's theorem provides the bound $p \leq 42^2 c_1(K_X)^2$, and in the latter case, the \mathbb{Z}_p -action must be trivial (cf. [6], Chapter VIII, Prop. 11.3). In what follows, we will focus on the remaining case where X is elliptic.

The basic idea goes as follows. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \Sigma$ be an elliptic fibration, and let $g : X \rightarrow X$ be an automorphism of X which is homologically trivial over \mathbb{Q} . If F is a fiber of π , then $g \cdot F$ must also be a fiber because $(g \cdot F) \cdot F = F \cdot F = 0$. This shows that g must be preserving the elliptic fibration $\pi : X \rightarrow \Sigma$. By analyzing g with respect to the fibration, Ueno [33] and Peters [31] were able to show triviality of g in many circumstances. We take the same approach here, however, since we only need to show triviality of g when g has sufficiently large order, the argument can be made much simpler. On the other hand, because the non-Kähler case was missing in Peters [31], we decided to give an independent, self-contained proof here.

Case (i) $c_2(X) = 12d > 0$. Let $\bar{g} : \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma$ be the automorphism induced by g . The first step is to show that $\bar{g} = 1$.

Lemma 5.1. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \Sigma$ be an elliptic fibration. Then $\pi^* : H^1(\Sigma; \mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow H^1(X; \mathbb{Q})$ is injective.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in H^1(\Sigma; \mathbb{Z})$ be any non-zero element, and let γ be an embedded closed curve in Σ such that $\alpha \cdot \gamma \neq 0$. (We may assume γ misses all the singular values of π .) Take any lifting γ' of γ in X , i.e., $\pi(\gamma') = \gamma$. Then $\pi^* \alpha \cdot \gamma' = \alpha \cdot \gamma \neq 0$, which implies that $\pi^* \alpha \neq 0$. \square

Since g is homologically trivial, we deduce from Lemma 5.1 that \bar{g} is also homologically trivial. This implies that $\bar{g} = 1$ when $\text{genus}(\Sigma) > 1$, and that \bar{g} is a translation when $\text{genus}(\Sigma) = 1$. Furthermore for the latter case, note that since $c_2(X) > 0$, there must be a singular fiber with non-zero Euler characteristic. If $\bar{g} \neq 1$, then \bar{g} is free of fixed points, so that each of such fibers will generate p disjoint copies, which is impossible when $p > c_2(X)$.

Consider the remaining case where $\text{genus}(\Sigma) = 0$. Suppose $\bar{g} \neq 1$, and let $w_1, w_2 \in \Sigma$ be the two fixed points of \bar{g} . Let $z \in \Sigma$, $z \neq w_1, w_2$, be any point. By the same argument as above, the fiber $\pi^{-1}(z)$ must have zero Euler characteristic when $p > c_2(X)$. In the next lemma, we eliminate the possibility that $\pi^{-1}(z)$ is a multiple fiber with smooth reduction provided that $p > |\text{Tor}H_2(X)|$.

Lemma 5.2. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \Sigma$ be an elliptic fibration and g be an order- p automorphism of X preserving the fibration, where $p > 5$ when $c_2(X) = 0$. Suppose $z_1, \dots, z_p \in \Sigma$ is a free orbit of the induced automorphism $\bar{g} : \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma$. If each $\pi^{-1}(z_i)$ is a multiple fiber, then $|\text{Tor}H_2(X)| \geq p$.*

Proof. First, in order to compute the fundamental group of X , it is convenient to give Σ an orbifold structure as follows. For any $z \in \Sigma$, if the fiber over z is a multiple fiber of multiplicity m , then z is an orbifold point of multiplicity m . With this understood, we let t_j , $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, be the set of orbifold points of Σ , and let m_j be the multiplicity at t_j . Note that each z_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$, is an orbifold point of Σ and the multiplicity at each z_i is the same; we denote it by m .

With the preceding understood, we divide our discussions into two cases. Suppose $c_2(X) > 0$. Then $\pi_* : \pi_1(X) \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{orb}}(\Sigma)$ is an isomorphism (cf. Theorem 2.3 in page 158 of [20]). Taking the abelianization, we see that the torsion subgroup of $H_1(X)$ is the quotient of $\bigoplus_{j=1}^n \mathbb{Z}_{m_j}$ by the cyclic subgroup generated by $(1, 1, \dots, 1)$ (cf. Corollary 2.4 in page 158 of [20]). By the universal coefficient theorem, $|\text{Tor}H_2(X)| \geq m(p-1) \geq p$.

Suppose $c_2(X) = 0$. Then since $p > 5$, it follows that $\pi_1^{\text{orb}}(\Sigma)$ is infinite, and hence there is an exact sequence (cf. Lemma 7.3 in page 198 of [20])

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_1(X) \xrightarrow{\pi_*} \pi_1^{\text{orb}}(\Sigma) \rightarrow \{1\}.$$

By a similar argument, we obtain in this case $|\text{Tor}H_2(X)| \geq m(p-3) \geq p$. \square

We have thus showed that assuming $p > \max(c_2(X), |\text{Tor}H_2(X)|)$, $\pi^{-1}(w_1), \pi^{-1}(w_2)$ must be the only two singular fibers. We claim that the monodromy around each of them must be of infinite order, i.e., it must be conjugate to

$$\pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ where } b \neq 0.$$

The argument goes as follows. If the monodromy around a fiber is of finite order, then the Euler characteristic of the fiber is less than 12. Thus if the monodromy around $\pi^{-1}(w_1)$ or $\pi^{-1}(w_2)$ were of finite order, $c_2(X) = 12d = 12$ must be true. In this case, $\kappa(X) \geq 0$ implies that both $\pi^{-1}(w_1), \pi^{-1}(w_2)$ must be multiple fibers. On the other hand, it is known that the monodromy around a multiple fiber whose reduction is singular must be of infinite order, hence the claim, cf. [6].

With this understood, the following lemma shows that $\bar{g} = 1$ is also true in the case of $\text{genus}(\Sigma) = 0$.

Lemma 5.3. *For any $d > 0$, there exist no $b > 0$, $A \in SL(2; \mathbb{Z})$, such that*

$$\pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -(12d - b) \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} A.$$

Proof. Suppose that b, A exist which satisfy the above equation. Write $A = \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}$,

where $xw - yz = 1$. Then $A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} w & -y \\ -z & x \end{pmatrix}$. Now

$$A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} A = \begin{pmatrix} w & -y \\ -z & x \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + wzb & w^2b \\ -z^2b & 1 + wzb \end{pmatrix},$$

which gives $z = 0$, $w = \pm 1$, i.e., $A = \pm I$. But this is easily seen to contradict $d > 0$. \square

Now with $\bar{g} = 1$, we see that g leaves each fiber of the elliptic fibration invariant. Moreover, assuming $p > 6$, g must induce a translation along each regular fiber. Finally, since g is homologically trivial over \mathbb{Q} , it follows easily that each irreducible component of a fiber must be invariant.

A \mathbb{Z}_p -action on \mathbb{S}^2 has two fixed points. Simple inspection shows that a singular fiber whose reduction is singular but not of type I_b , $b > 0$, must contain a point x such that (1) π is of maximal rank at x , (2) x is a fixed point of g . Moreover, one can argue as in [9], §3, that for large enough p , both weights of the action of g at x are non-zero, which clearly contradicts the fact that $\bar{g} = 1$. On the other hand, an invariant fiber whose reduction is of type I_b , $b > 0$, either contains only isolated fixed points of weights $(1, p-1)$, or has an irreducible component fixed under g (cf. Proposition 3.7(3) in [9]). But the latter also contradicts the fact that $\bar{g} = 1$.

Summing up our discussion, we see that g acts on X with a nonempty set of isolated fixed points, all of weights $(1, p-1)$. As we argued in [9], the G -signature theorem implies that $g = 1$.

Case (ii) $c_2(X) = 0$. In this case, the only singular fibers are multiple fibers with smooth reduction.

We consider first the case where X is the original complex surface, i.e., it is already minimal and need not to be further blown down. With this understood, we divide our discussions into two cases.

(1) Suppose X contains no multiple fibers. In this case, $\pi : X \rightarrow \Sigma$ is called an elliptic fiber bundle. Note that since $\kappa(X) \geq 0$, we must have $\text{genus}(\Sigma) > 0$.

Let E be the typical fiber of X which is an elliptic curve. Then the structure group of X as an elliptic fiber bundle is contained in the group $A(E)$ of biholomorphisms of E . By fixing an origin $0 \in E$, E itself may be regarded as a normal subgroup of $A(E)$ (acting as translations on E), and the quotient group $A(E)/E$ is a cyclic group of order n , where

$$\begin{aligned} n &= 4 && \text{if } E = \mathbb{C}/(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}i) \\ n &= 6 && \text{if } E = \mathbb{C}/(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\omega), \quad \omega = \exp(\pi i/3) \\ n &= 2 && \text{in all other cases.} \end{aligned}$$

The bundle $\pi : X \rightarrow \Sigma$ is called a principal bundle if its structure group can be reduced to $E \subset A(E)$.

Clearly, if X is a principal bundle, it admits a holomorphic circle action which acts as translations on each fiber. Assume X is not a principal bundle. Then there exist

a principal elliptic fiber bundle $\pi' : X' \rightarrow \Sigma'$ and unramified coverings $\tau : X' \rightarrow X'$, $\sigma : \Sigma' \rightarrow \Sigma'$, such that $X = X'/\tau$ and $\Sigma = \Sigma'/\sigma$. Moreover, since X is not principal, the induced action of τ on E defines a non-trivial element in $A(E)/E$. See [6], Chapter V, §5 for more details.

With this understood, suppose $\text{genus}(\Sigma) > 1$. Let g be an order- p automorphism on X which is homologically trivial. Then by Lemma 5.1, g must leave each fiber invariant. Moreover, when $p > 6$, the induced action of g on the fiber E must be a translation which commutes with the induced action of τ on E . It is clear that the order p of such a translation is universally bounded.

Suppose $\text{genus}(\Sigma) = 1$. Then X is called bi-elliptic (see p. 119 of [6] for a complete list). A bi-elliptic surface admits holomorphic circle actions which induce (non-trivial) translations on the base Σ . This finishes the proof for the case where X contains no multiple fibers.

(2) Suppose X contains at least one multiple fiber. First, we remark that the condition $\kappa(X) \geq 0$ implies that, in the case of $\text{genus}(\Sigma) = 0$, X contains at least three multiple fibers (cf. [20]). With Lemmas 5.1, 5.2, we see that there is a universal constant $c > 0$ such that if $p > c(1 + |\text{Tor}H_2(X)|)$, a homologically trivial order- p automorphism of X must act trivially on the base Σ and as a translation along each fiber. With this understood, we will reduce the proof for this case to the previous case using the following observation: *the log transforms on a regular fiber may be done equivariantly with respect to translations along the fiber.*

Indeed, let $\pi' : Y' \rightarrow \Delta(t)$ be an elliptic fibration, where $\Delta(t)$ is a disc with coordinate t centered at the origin, and $Y' = \mathbb{C} \times \Delta(t)/(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\omega(t))$. Here $\omega(t)$ is a holomorphic function on $\Delta(t)$ with $\text{Im } \omega(t) \neq 0$. For any $m > 1$ and $k > 0$ such that m, k are relatively prime, a log transform with multiplicity m is done as follows. Consider

$$\mathbb{C} \times \Delta(s)/(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\omega(s^m))$$

with the cyclic group action of order m generated by

$$(z, s) \mapsto (z + k/m, \exp(2\pi i/m)s).$$

Let Y be the quotient, which carries a natural elliptic fibration $\pi : Y \rightarrow \Delta(t)$ given by $(z, s) \mapsto t = s^m$. Note that the fiber of π at $t = 0$ is a multiple fiber. With this understood, the log transform is the operation which replaces the fiber $(\pi')^{-1}(0)$ in Y' by the fiber $\pi^{-1}(0)$ in Y (which is a multiple fiber), via the fiber-preserving biholomorphism $f : Y \setminus \pi^{-1}(0) \rightarrow Y' \setminus (\pi')^{-1}(0)$, where f is induced by $\hat{f} : \mathbb{C} \times (\Delta(s) \setminus \{0\})/(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\omega(s^m)) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \times (\Delta(t) \setminus \{0\})/(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\omega(t))$ (cf. [6], p. 216):

$$\hat{f} : (z, s) \mapsto (z - (k/2\pi i) \ln s, s^m).$$

Now suppose an automorphism g of $\pi : Y \rightarrow \Delta(t)$ is given by a translation along the fiber. Then on the ramified cover $\mathbb{C} \times \Delta(s)/(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\omega(s^m))$, it can be written as

$$g : (z, s) \mapsto (z + u(s^m), s)$$

for some holomorphic function $u(t)$ over $\Delta(t)$. Let $g' : (z, t) \mapsto (z + u(t), t)$ be the automorphism of $\mathbb{C} \times (\Delta(t) \setminus \{0\})/(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\omega(t))$. Then one has $g' \circ \hat{f} = \hat{f} \circ g$. Hence after

an inverse log transform performed to $\pi : Y \rightarrow \Delta(t)$, there is an induced automorphism g' of $\pi' : Y' \rightarrow \Delta(t)$, which is given by the translation

$$(z, t) \mapsto (z + u(t), t).$$

With the preceding understood, suppose g is an order- p automorphism of X which acts as a translation on each fiber. We perform an inverse log transform to X at each multiple fiber, and let $\pi' : X' \rightarrow \Sigma$ be the resulting elliptic surface. Then $\pi' : X' \rightarrow \Sigma$ is an elliptic fiber bundle, and by our previous discussion, X' inherits an order- p automorphism g' which acts as a translation on each fiber. Now observe that there are two possibilities: (i) X' is a principle bundle and there is a holomorphic circle action acting as translations along each fiber, or (ii) there is a universal constant $c > 0$ such that the order of g' is bounded by c , i.e., $p \leq c$. In the former case, it follows that X admits a holomorphic circle action, and in the latter case, we see that the order of g is universally bounded. This finishes the proof for the case where X contains at least one multiple fiber.

Finally, we consider the case where the original complex surface is not minimal. In this case, the key observation is that after blowing down, the induced \mathbb{Z}_p -action always has a fixed point which is isolated. (The fixed point is the image of an exceptional divisor under the blowing down.) On the other hand, from our discussions above, we in fact proved more: *if the order of a homologically trivial automorphism g of a minimal elliptic surface of $c_2 = 0$ and $\kappa \geq 0$ is greater than $c(1 + |\text{Tor } H_2|)$ for some universal constant $c > 0$, then g must come from a fixed-point free holomorphic circle action on the surface. Moreover, the set of exceptional orbits of the circle action is either empty or a union of embedded tori.*

This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

Acknowledgments: The author has benefited tremendously from collaborations with Slawomir Kwasik [9, 10, 11], whom he wishes to thank warmly. The author is also very grateful to Tian-Jun Li for his interests in this work and for several helpful communications, and particularly, for pointing out an error in the original version of this paper. Part of this work was carried out during the author's visit to the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Leipzig. The author wishes to thank the institute for its hospitality and financial support during the visit. Finally, special thanks go to an anonymous referee for his/her kind communication regarding the repeated knot surgery discussed in Example 1.3.

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