

Generalized geometry with skew-symmetric pairing

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Introduction

Studying **geometry** of a smooth manifold M via its **tangent bundle** T .

$$\omega \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 T^*), \quad \text{(2-form)}$$

$$\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 T), \quad \text{(bivector field)}$$

$$\Delta \leq T, \quad \text{(distribution)}$$

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$$\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 T), \quad [\pi, \pi]_{\text{Schouten}} = 0, \quad (\text{Poisson})$$

$$\Delta \leq T, \quad [\Gamma(\Delta), \Gamma(\Delta)]_{\text{Lie}} \subseteq \Gamma(\Delta). \quad (\text{foliation})$$

All of these **geometrical** conditions may be expressed using **solely**:

$$X \cdot f := Xf, \quad [X, Y]_{\text{Lie}} := X \circ Y - Y \circ X.$$

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Generalized geometry proposes to change the perspective: $T \rightsquigarrow T \oplus T^*$.

$$\text{gr}(\omega) \leq T \oplus T^*, \quad (\text{2-form})$$

$$\text{gr}(\pi) \leq T \oplus T^*, \quad (\text{bivector field})$$

$$\Delta \oplus \text{Ann } \Delta \leq T \oplus T^*, \quad (\text{distribution})$$

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$$\text{gr}(\omega) \leq T \oplus T^*, \quad (\text{pre-symplectic})$$

$$\text{gr}(\pi) \leq T \oplus T^*, \quad [\Gamma(L), \Gamma(L)]_D \subseteq \Gamma(L). \quad (\text{Poisson})$$

$$\Delta \oplus \text{Ann } \Delta \leq T \oplus T^*, \quad (\text{foliation})$$

We still have the **action** on $C^\infty(M)$ and the **bracket** (Dorfman bracket):

$$(X + \alpha) \cdot f := Xf, \quad [X + \alpha, Y + \beta]_D := [X, Y]_{\text{Lie}} + \mathcal{L}_X \beta - \iota_Y d\alpha.$$

Natural pairings on $T \oplus T^*$

There is the natural **symmetric non-degenerate** pairing on $T \oplus T^*$:

$$\langle X + \alpha, Y + \beta \rangle_+ := \frac{1}{2}(\alpha(Y) + \beta(X)).$$

All of the subbundles $\text{gr}(\omega)$, $\text{gr}(\pi)$, $\Delta \oplus \text{Ann } \Delta$ are **maximally isotropic**.

A common **generalization** for pre-symplectic, Poisson, and foliation:

Definition (T. Courant, 1990)

$L \leq T \oplus T^*$ is called a **Dirac structure** if it is max. isotropic w.r.t. $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_+$ and

$$[\Gamma(L), \Gamma(L)]_D \subseteq \Gamma(L).$$

There is also the natural **skew-symmetric non-degenerate** pairing on $T \oplus T^*$:

$$\langle X + \alpha, Y + \beta \rangle_- := \frac{1}{2}(\alpha(Y) - \beta(X)).$$

Natural question:

Can we do generalized geometry with $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_-$?

Q: Is the Dorfman bracket not suitable?

1. Every subbundle of $T \oplus T^*$, which is **Lagrangian** w.r.t. $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_-$ and **involutive** w.r.t. $[\cdot, \cdot]_D$, is of the form

$$\Delta \oplus \text{Ann } \Delta, \quad [\Gamma(\Delta), \Gamma(\Delta)]_{\text{Lie}} \subseteq \Gamma(\Delta).$$

2. The **group of vector bundle automorphisms** preserving $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_-$ and $[\cdot, \cdot]_D$ is isomorphic to $\text{Diff}(M)$.

A: **No**. And rightly so:

The pairing $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_+$ induces the natural **Clifford algebra** action $\mathcal{Cl}(T \oplus T^*) \curvearrowright \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet T^*)$:

$$(X + \alpha) \cdot \varphi := \iota_X \varphi + \alpha \wedge \varphi.$$

\Rightarrow

$$[[(X + \alpha) \cdot, d]_{\mathfrak{g}}, (Y + \beta) \cdot]_{\mathfrak{g}} \varphi = [X + \alpha, Y + \beta]_D \cdot \varphi.$$

We need a new bracket!

Compare with: $[[\iota_X, d]_{\mathfrak{g}}, \iota_Y]_{\mathfrak{g}} = \iota_{[X, Y]_{\text{Lie}}}$.

New bracket

The pairing $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_-$ induces the natural **Weyl algebra** action $\mathcal{W}(T \oplus T^*) \curvearrowright \Gamma(\odot^\bullet T^*)$:

$$(X + \alpha) \cdot \sigma := \iota_X \sigma + \alpha \odot \sigma.$$

It means

$$(X + \alpha) \cdot (Y + \beta) \cdot \sigma - (Y + \beta) \cdot (X + \alpha) \cdot \sigma + 2\langle X + \alpha, Y + \beta \rangle_- \sigma = 0.$$

Inspired by the Dorfman bracket:

$$[[(X + \alpha) \cdot \cdot, ?]_{\mathfrak{g}}, (Y + \beta) \cdot]_{\mathfrak{g}} \sigma.$$

New bracket

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Inspired by the Dorfman bracket:

$$[[(X + \alpha) \cdot, \nabla^s], (Y + \beta) \cdot] \sigma.$$

Definition

For any affine connection ∇ , we introduce the **symmetric derivative**:

$$\nabla^s : \Gamma(\odot^\bullet T^*) \rightarrow \Gamma(\odot^\bullet T^*), \quad \nabla^s \sigma := (|\sigma| + 1) \text{Sym}(\nabla \sigma).$$

Now it works!

$$[[(X + \alpha) \cdot, \nabla^s], (Y + \beta) \cdot] = [[\iota_X, \nabla^s], \iota_Y] + ([\iota_X, \nabla^s] \beta) \odot + (\iota_Y \nabla^s \alpha) \odot$$

Cartan calculus on the space of symmetric forms?

Compare with: $d\varphi := (|\varphi| + 1) \text{Skew}(\nabla \varphi)$.

Symmetric Cartan calculus – symmetric derivatives

Proposition

For every $X \in \Gamma(T)$, we have $\iota_X \in \text{Der}_{-1}(\Gamma(\odot^\bullet T^*))$.

⇒ On the space $\Gamma(\odot^\bullet T^*)$, **derivations** are more natural than **graded derivations**!

Proposition

The assignment $\nabla \mapsto \nabla^s$ gives the **one-to-one** correspondence:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{torsion-free} \\ \text{affine connections} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} D \in \text{Der}_1(\Gamma(\odot^\bullet T^*)) \text{ s.t.} \\ (Df)(X) = Xf \end{array} \right\}.$$

Proposition

If $\dim M > 0$, there is **no** $D \in \text{Der}_1(\Gamma(\odot^\bullet T^*))$ s.t. $(Df)(X) = Xf$ and $D \circ D = 0$.

⇒ A **symmetric derivative** ∇^s is the only natural replacement for **d**.

⇒ The theory depends on the **choice** of a **torsion-free** affine connection.

Symmetric Cartan calculus – symmetric Lie derivatives

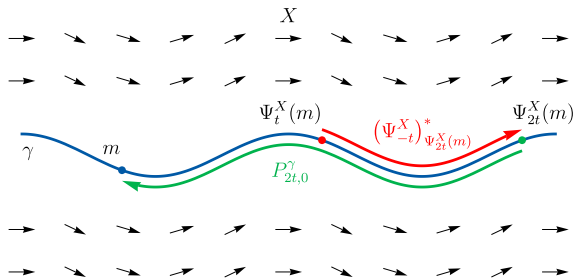
Definition

We introduce the **symmetric Lie derivative** w.r.t. $X \in \Gamma(T)$:

$$\mathcal{L}_X^{\nabla^s} := [\iota_X, \nabla^s].$$

Proposition

$$(\mathcal{L}_X^{\nabla^s} \sigma)_m = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} \left(P_{2t,0}^\gamma \left(\Psi_{-t}^X \right)^*_{\Psi_{2t}^X(m)} \sigma_{\Psi_t^X(m)} - \sigma_m \right).$$



Symmetric Cartan calculus – symmetric brackets

Definition

We introduce the **symmetric bracket**

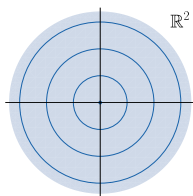
$$\langle \cdot : \cdot \rangle_{\nabla^s} : \times^2 \Gamma(T) \rightarrow \Gamma(T), \quad \iota_{\langle X : Y \rangle_{\nabla^s}} := [[\iota_X, \nabla^s], \iota_Y].$$

Proposition

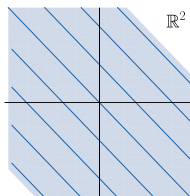
$$\langle X : Y \rangle_{\nabla^s} = \mathcal{L}_X^{\nabla^s} Y = \nabla_X Y + \nabla_Y X.$$

A distribution $\Delta \subseteq T$ is called **geodesically inv.** if every geodesic $\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ satisfies:

$$\exists t_0 \in I \text{ s.t. } \dot{\gamma}(t_0) \in \Delta_{\gamma(t_0)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \dot{\gamma}(t) \in \Delta_{\gamma(t)} \text{ for all } t \in I.$$



a non geodesically inv. distribution



a geodesically inv. distribution

By [Lewis, 1998], a distribution $\Delta \subseteq T$ is **geodesically inv.** iff $\langle \Gamma(\Delta) : \Gamma(\Delta) \rangle_{\nabla^s} \subseteq \Gamma(\Delta)$.

Symmetric multivector fields

The **Schouten bracket** is the unique \mathbb{R} -bilinear map

$$[\cdot, \cdot]_{\text{Sch}} : \times^2 \Gamma(\odot^\bullet T) \rightarrow \Gamma(\odot^\bullet T)$$

s.t.

$$\text{(Sch1)} \quad [\mathcal{X}, \cdot]_{\text{Sch}} \in \text{Der}_{|\mathcal{X}|-1}(\Gamma(\odot^\bullet T)),$$

$$\text{(Sch2)} \quad [X, \cdot]_{\text{Sch}} = \mathcal{L}_X,$$

$$\text{(Sch3)} \quad [\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}]_{\text{Sch}} = -[\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{X}]_{\text{Sch}}.$$

For every $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ there is the **one-to-one** correspondence:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{degree-}k \text{ symmetric} \\ \text{multivector fields} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{degree-}k \text{ polynomials} \\ \text{in momenta} \end{array} \right\} \subseteq C^\infty(T^*M).$$

This correspondence $\mathcal{X} \mapsto \xi_{\mathcal{X}}$ is a **Poisson algebra morphism**, namely

$$\xi_{\mathcal{X}+\mathcal{Y}} = \xi_{\mathcal{X}} + \xi_{\mathcal{Y}}, \quad \xi_{\mathcal{X} \odot \mathcal{Y}} = \xi_{\mathcal{X}} \xi_{\mathcal{Y}}, \quad \xi_{[\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}]_{\text{Sch}}} = -\{\xi_{\mathcal{X}}, \xi_{\mathcal{Y}}\}_{\text{can}} = \omega_{\text{can}}(\text{Ham } \xi_{\mathcal{X}}, \text{Ham } \xi_{\mathcal{Y}}).$$

Symmetric multivector fields

The ∇^s -Schouten bracket is the unique \mathbb{R} -bilinear map

$$[,]_{\nabla^s\text{-Sch}} : \times^2 \Gamma(\odot^\bullet T) \rightarrow \Gamma(\odot^\bullet T)$$

s.t.

$$(\nabla^s\text{-Sch1}) \quad [\mathcal{X},]_{\nabla^s\text{-Sch}} \in \text{Der}_{|\mathcal{X}|-1}(\Gamma(\odot^\bullet T)),$$

$$(\nabla^s\text{-Sch2}) \quad [X,]_{\nabla^s\text{-Sch}} = \mathcal{L}_X^{\nabla^s},$$

$$(\nabla^s\text{-Sch3}) \quad [\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}]_{\nabla^s\text{-Sch}} = +[\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{X}]_{\nabla^s\text{-Sch}}.$$

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We have a new Lie derivative \Rightarrow a new Schouten bracket.

Can we say anything about $\xi_{[\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}]_{\nabla^s\text{-Sch}}}$?

Patterson-Walker metric

A torsion-free affine connection induces the dual **connection on T^*M** , hence

$$T(T^*M) = H_{\nabla} \oplus V \cong_{\nabla} \text{pr}^*(TM \oplus T^*M).$$

⇒ Equivalent definition of the **canonical 2-form**:

$$\omega_{\text{can}} = 2(\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{-})_{\nabla}.$$

Definition (Patterson-Walker, 1952)

The **Patterson-Walker metric** is $G_{\nabla} \in \Gamma(\odot^2 T^*(T^*M))$ given by

$$G_{\nabla} := 2(\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{+})_{\nabla}.$$

Proposition

- G_{∇} is a **split signature** metric on T^*M , and H_{∇}, V are **maximally isotropic**.
- $G_{\nabla}|_{T^*U} = dp_j \odot dx^j - p_i \Gamma^l_{ij} dx^i \odot dx^j$.
- $\xi_{[\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}]_{\nabla}^{\text{s-Sch}}} = G_{\nabla}(\text{grad}_{\nabla} \xi_{\mathcal{X}}, \text{grad}_{\nabla} \xi_{\mathcal{Y}})$.

$$\text{grad}_{\nabla} := G_{\nabla}^{-1} \circ d : C^{\infty}(T^*M) \rightarrow \Gamma(T(T^*M)).$$

Patterson-Walker metric

Proposition

The Patterson-Walker metric G_{∇} is related to the canonical 1-form:

$$G_{\nabla} = \nabla^s \alpha_{\text{can}}.$$

Remark: Dorfman bracket $\overset{\nabla}{\rightsquigarrow}$ bracket on $T(T^*M)$.

If ∇ is flat, we get a non-transitive Courant algebroid on $T(T^*M) \rightarrow T^*M$.

Can we do dynamics with G_{∇} instead of ω_{can} ?

The Hamiltonian h is conserved along the trajectories iff $\text{grad}_{\nabla} h$ is isotropic.

Proposition

$$\text{pr}_{H_{\nabla}} \text{grad}_{\nabla} h = -\text{pr}_{H_{\nabla}} \text{Ham } h, \quad \text{and} \quad \text{pr}_{V_{\nabla}} \text{grad}_{\nabla} h = \text{pr}_{V_{\nabla}} \text{Ham } h.$$

If $\text{grad}_{\nabla} h$ is vertical or horizontal, the trajectories coincide with the classical ones.

Compare with: $\omega_{\text{can}} = d\alpha_{\text{can}}$.

Patterson-Walker dynamics

The **trajectories** are locally governed by the system of ODEs:

$$\dot{x}^j = \frac{\partial h}{\partial p_j}, \quad \dot{p}_j = \frac{\partial h}{\partial x^j} + 2p_l \Gamma^l_{ij} \frac{\partial h}{\partial p_i}.$$

EOM of a **mechanical system** for $\beta : I \rightarrow T^*M$ covering $\gamma : I \rightarrow M$:

$${}^g\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma} = -\text{grad}_g f, \quad \beta = \frac{1}{2}g(\dot{\gamma})$$

is obtained by considering $h(m, \alpha) := \frac{1}{2}g_m^{-1}(\alpha, \alpha) - f(m)$ and $\nabla := {}^g\nabla$.

Example: Hamiltonian quadratic in momenta

Let $\vartheta \in \Gamma(\odot^2 TM)$ be **possibly degenerate** and $h(m, \alpha) := \frac{1}{2}\vartheta_m(\alpha, \alpha)$.

$$\text{(emerging EOM)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma} = \frac{1}{2} \iota_{\beta} \iota_{\beta} [\vartheta, \vartheta]_{\nabla^s \text{-Sch}}.$$

\Rightarrow The tensor $[\vartheta, \vartheta]_{\nabla^s \text{-Sch}} \in \Gamma(\odot^3 TM)$ is the obstruction for γ to be a **geodesic!**

Compare with the Hamiltonian equations: $\dot{x}^j = \frac{\partial h}{\partial p_j}, \quad \dot{p}_j = -\frac{\partial h}{\partial x^j}.$

Symmetric Poisson structures

Definition

A pair (∇, ϑ) is called a **symmetric Poisson structure (sPs)** if $[\vartheta, \vartheta]_{\nabla^s \text{-Sch}} = 0$.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{symmetric} \\ \text{bivector fields} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{symmetric maps } \{ , \} : \times^2 C^\infty(M) \rightarrow C^\infty(M) \text{ s.t.} \\ \{f_1, f_2 f_3\} = f_2 \{f_1, f_3\} + \{f_1, f_2\} f_3 \end{array} \right\}.$$

$\text{grad} := \vartheta \circ d : C^\infty(M) \rightarrow \Gamma(T)$ or in terms of the bracket $\text{grad } f = \{f, \}$.

Proposition

$$\begin{aligned} (\nabla, \vartheta) \text{ is a sPs} &\Leftrightarrow \text{Jac}_{\{ , \}}(f_1, f_2, f_3) = df_1(\langle \text{grad } f_2 : \text{grad } f_3 \rangle_{\nabla^s}) + \text{cyc}(1, 2, 3), \\ &\Leftrightarrow \nabla^s \vartheta^{-1} = 0, \text{ i.e. } \vartheta^{-1} \text{ is a Killing 2-tensor.} \\ &\quad \text{non-deg.} \end{aligned}$$

Definition

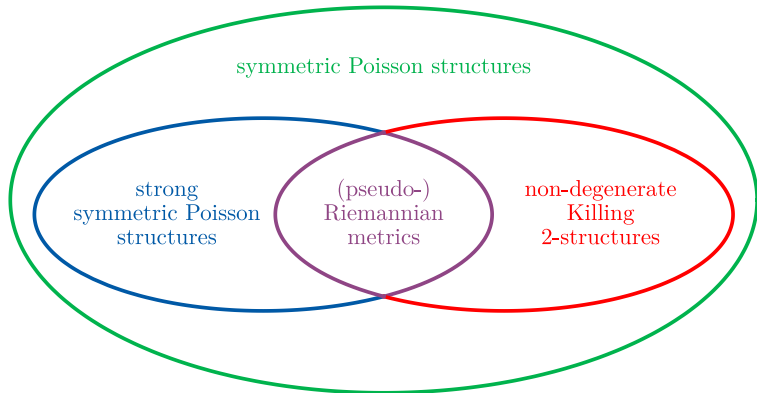
A pair (∇, ϑ) is called a **strong sPs** if $\text{grad}\{f_1, f_2\} = \langle \text{grad } f_1 : \text{grad } f_2 \rangle_{\nabla^s}$.

Proposition

$$(\nabla, \vartheta) \text{ is a strong sPs} \Leftrightarrow \nabla_{\text{grad } f} \vartheta = 0 \Leftrightarrow \nabla \text{ is Levi-Civita w.r.t. } \vartheta^{-1}.$$

non-deg.

Diagram of symmetric Poisson structures



Back to generalized geometry!

The point where we stopped...

$$[[(X + \alpha) \cdot, \nabla^s], (Y + \beta) \cdot] = [[\iota_X, \nabla^s], \iota_Y] + ([\iota_X, \nabla^s] \beta) \odot + (\iota_Y \nabla^s \alpha) \odot$$

Definition

We introduce the ∇^s -Dorfman bracket:

$$[X + \alpha, Y + \beta]_{\nabla^s} := \langle X : Y \rangle_{\nabla^s} + \mathcal{L}_X^{\nabla^s} \beta + \iota_Y \nabla^s \alpha$$

Theorem

The group of automorphisms preserving $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_-$ and $[\cdot, \cdot]_{\nabla^s}$ is isomorphic to

$$\text{Aff}(M, \nabla) \ltimes \text{Kill}_{\nabla}^2(M).$$

Compare with the result of standard generalized geometry:

The group of automorphisms preserving $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_+$ and $[\cdot, \cdot]_D$ is isomorphic to

$$\text{Diff}(M) \ltimes \Gamma_{\text{closed}}(\wedge^2 T^*).$$

Compare with the Dorfman bracket: $[X + \alpha, Y + \beta]_D := [X, Y]_{\text{Lie}} + \mathcal{L}_X \beta - \iota_Y d\alpha$.

Lagrangian subbundles

Definition

$L \leq T \oplus T^*$ is called a ∇^s -Dirac structure if it is Lagrangian w.r.t. $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_-$ and

$$[\Gamma(L), \Gamma(L)]_{\nabla^s} \subseteq \Gamma(L).$$

Example: Killing 2-tensors

Let $K \in \Gamma(\odot^2 T^*)$, $\text{gr}(K)$ is a ∇^s -Dirac iff K is a Killing 2-tensor.

Example: symmetric Poisson structures

Let $\vartheta \in \Gamma(\odot^2 T)$, $\text{gr}(\vartheta)$ is a ∇^s -Dirac iff (∇, ϑ) is a symmetric Poisson structure.

Example: geodesically invariant distributions

Let $\Delta \leq T$, $\Delta \oplus \text{Ann } \Delta$ is a ∇^s -Dirac iff Δ is a geodesically invariant distribution.

Standard generalized geometry	Skew-symmetric generalized geometry
$\frac{1}{2}(\alpha(Y) + \beta(X))$ $Cl(T \oplus T^*) \circlearrowleft \Gamma(\wedge \bullet T^*)$ $[X, Y]_{\text{Lie}} + \mathcal{L}_X \beta - \iota_Y d\alpha$ $\text{Diff}(M) \ltimes \Gamma_{\text{closed}}(\wedge^2 T^*)$ $[a, b]_D + [b, a]_D = 2d\langle a, b \rangle_+$ $\text{pr}_T(a)\langle b, c \rangle_+ = \langle [a, b]_D, c \rangle_+ + \langle b, [a, c]_D \rangle_+$ $[a, [b, c]_D]_D = [[a, b]_D, c]_D + [b, [a, c]_D]_D$	$\frac{1}{2}(\alpha(Y) - \beta(X))$ $\mathcal{W}(T \oplus T^*) \circlearrowleft \Gamma(\odot \bullet T^*)$ $\langle X : Y \rangle_{\nabla^s} + \mathcal{L}_X^{\nabla^s} \beta + \iota_Y \nabla^s \alpha$ $\text{Aff}(M, \nabla) \ltimes \text{Kill}_{\nabla}^2(M)$ $[a, b]_{\nabla^s} - [b, a]_{\nabla^s} = 2d\langle a, b \rangle_-$ $\text{pr}_T(a)\langle b, c \rangle_- = \langle [a, b]_{\nabla^s}, c \rangle_- + \langle b, [a, c]_{\nabla^s} \rangle_-$ $-$
Dirac structures	∇^s -Dirac structures
pre-symplectic structures	Killing 2-tensors
Poisson structures	symmetric Poisson structures
foliations	geodesically invariant distributions

Thank you for your attention!