



Induced almost para-Kähler Einstein metrics on cotangent bundles

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ABSTRACT. In earlier work we have shown that for certain geometric structures on a smooth manifold M of dimension n , one obtains an almost para-Kähler–Einstein metric on a manifold A of dimension $2n$ associated to the structure on M . The geometry also associates a diffeomorphism between A and T^*M to any torsion-free connection compatible with the geometric structure. Hence we can use this construction to associate to each compatible connection an almost para-Kähler–Einstein metric on T^*M . In this short article, we discuss the relation of these metrics to Patterson–Walker metrics and derive explicit formulae for them in the cases of projective, conformal and Grassmannian structures.

1. Introduction

An *almost para-Kähler structure* on a $2n$ -manifold N consists of a pseudo-Riemannian metric h of split-signature (n, n) and a symplectic form Ω such that the endomorphism $I : TN \rightarrow TN$ defined by $\Omega = h(\cdot, I\cdot)$ satisfies $I^2 = \text{Id}_{TN}$. The point-wise eigenspaces of I fit together to define smooth rank n subbundles of TN which are isotropic for h and Lagrangian for Ω . Therefore, almost para-Kähler structures are sometimes also called *almost bi-Lagrangian structures*, see for instance [3, 12, 13]. A torsion-free affine connection ∇ on a smooth n -manifold M canonically determines a split-signature metric on the total space of the cotangent bundle T^*M of M , called the *Patterson–Walker metric* [17]. For this metric, the vertical and horizontal subbundle of TT^*M are isotropic.

Several modified versions of the Patterson–Walker metric have been constructed, often motivated by compatibility conditions with projective equivalence of connections. For example, in [15], the authors use a Fefferman-type construction to obtain a modification such that projectively equivalent connections lead to conformally related metrics. Based on tools from projective differential geometry, a different kind of modification has been obtained in [11]. The advantage of the latter modification is that it always produces an Einstein metric on T^*M , while Einstein metrics almost never occur in the construction of [15].

Our general approach recovers these results from [11]. For a torsion-free linear connection ∇ on TM , we denote by $\mathbf{P}^p$ the (projective) Schouten tensor, see Section 4.1 for the precise definition. Denoting by $\nu : T^*M \rightarrow M$

the bundle projection and by $\tau \in \Omega^1(T^*M)$ the tautological one-form, we prove:

Proposition 1.1. *Let h_0 be the Patterson–Walker metric of ∇ . Then*

$$h_0 - \nu^*(\text{Sym } \mathbf{P}^p) - \tau \otimes \tau$$

is an Einstein metric on T^*M , which together with $\Omega = -d\tau + \nu^*(\text{Alt } \mathbf{P}^p)$ defines an almost para-Kähler structure. Projectively equivalent connections lead to isometric metrics.

Moreover, we construct different Einstein modifications of the Patterson Walker metric for connections that are compatible with certain geometric structures, the best known example of which are conformal structures. So suppose that g is a pseudo-Riemannian metric on M and let ∇ be a Weyl connection for g so that $\nabla g = \beta \otimes g$ for some $\beta \in \Omega^1(M)$. Then we let $\mathbf{P}^c$ be the conformal Schouten tensor of ∇ , see Section 4.2 for the precise definition. The inverse metric $g^\#$ to g defines a smooth function $|\cdot|_{g^\#}^2$ on T^*M and we prove:

Proposition 1.2. *Let h_0 be the Patterson–Walker metric of a Weyl connection ∇ for g . Then*

$$h_0 - \nu^*(\text{Sym } \mathbf{P}^c) - \tau \otimes \tau + \frac{1}{2}|\cdot|_{g^\#}^2 \nu^* g$$

is an Einstein metric on T^*M , which together with $\Omega = -d\tau + \nu^*(\text{Alt } \mathbf{P}^c)$ defines an almost para-Kähler structure. Different Weyl connections for g lead to isometric metrics.

There is also a version for torsion-free connections compatible with a Grassmannian structure, see Section 4.3, which requires a more subtle modification of the tautological one-form τ .

Conformal and (almost) Grassmannian structures are examples of a family of very specific G-structures, for which the structure group G_0 is obtained from a so-called |1|-grading of a simple Lie algebra. A fundamental result on these structures is that they admit an equivalent description via Cartan geometries whose homogeneous model is a generalized flag manifold. On the level of Cartan geometries, projective structures fit into this framework as well. In this case, the underlying G_0 -structure is the full frame bundle and the extension to a Cartan geometry is equivalent to the choice of a projective equivalence class of connections.

In [6], we showed how to canonically associate to a torsion-free geometry of the above types on an n -manifold M an almost para-Kähler-Einstein structure (h_A, Ω_A) on the total space of a natural affine bundle $\mu : A \rightarrow M$ such that $\dim(A) = 2n$. The modelling vector bundle for A is the cotangent bundle $\nu : T^*M \rightarrow M$ and sections of $\mu : A \rightarrow M$ can be interpreted as the *Weyl structures* of the parabolic geometry. Any Weyl structure comes with a *Weyl connection*, a principal connection on the G_0 -structure, which is uniquely determined by the induced linear connection ∇ on TM . For projective structures, the Weyl connections are exactly the connections in the projective class; in the other cases they are exactly the torsion-free

connections compatible with the G_0 -structure. In particular, in the conformal case Weyl connections agree with the usual notion of a Weyl connection as mentioned above. A Weyl connection also determines a *Rho-tensor* $\mathbf{P}$, a $\binom{0}{2}$ -tensor field on M , which is an analogue of the Ricci curvature, and specializes to the Schouten tensors for projective and conformal structures. In [6] it is also shown that the choice of a Weyl structure induces a diffeomorphism $\varphi : T^*M \rightarrow A$ satisfying

$$(1) \quad \varphi^* \Omega_A = -d\tau + \nu^*(\text{Alt } \mathbf{P}),$$

where τ as before denotes the tautological 1-form of T^*M .

The purpose of this note is to relate the metric φ^*h_A to the Patterson–Walker metric of the Weyl connection ∇ . In particular, we show – see Theorem 3.3 below – that φ^*h_A can be written in a uniform way as

$$(2) \quad \varphi^*h_A = h_0 - \nu^*(\text{Sym } \mathbf{P}) + \mathbf{q},$$

where h_0 is the Patterson–Walker metric for ∇ . Further, $\mathbf{q}$ is a symmetric covariant 2-tensor field on T^*M which only depends on the underlying geometric structure and which is semibasic for the projection $\nu : T^*M \rightarrow M$. Moreover, $\mathbf{q}$ is homogeneous of degree 2 in the fibres of T^*M , that is, satisfies $(S_t)^*\mathbf{q} = t^2\mathbf{q}$ where $S_t : T^*M \rightarrow T^*M$ denotes scaling of a cotangent vector by the factor $t \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$. Hence for any Weyl connection ∇ , (2) defines an Einstein metric on T^*M and (1) makes this into a para-Kähler structure.

From this general result, Proposition 1.1, Proposition 1.2 and their analogue for Grassmannian structures follow from explicitly describing the ingredients in (2) for the structures in question. This is done in Section 4.

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2. Preliminaries

We start by collecting some basic facts about soldering forms, Patterson–Walker metrics, $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometries, Weyl structures and the Rho tensor. Throughout this article all manifolds and mappings are assumed to be smooth, that is, C^∞ .

2.1. Soldering forms

Let M be an n -manifold and V a real n -dimensional vector space. We consider a right principal G_0 -bundle $\pi_0 : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow M$ for some Lie group G_0 and a representation $\rho : G_0 \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$ of G_0 on the vector space V . Suppose

that we have a 1-form $\omega \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, V)$ on $\mathcal{G}_0$ with values in V which is semibasic and ρ -equivariant. The former condition means that ω vanishes on all vectors of $T\mathcal{G}_0$ that are tangent to the fibres of π_0 and the latter condition means that ω satisfies $R_a^*\omega = \rho(a^{-1})(\omega)$ for all $a \in G_0$, where $R_a : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_0$ denotes the right action by a . Recall that such a form defines a 1-form $\omega \in \Omega^1(M, E)$ on M with values in the vector bundle $\nu : \mathcal{G}_0 \times_\rho V =: E \rightarrow M$ associated to ρ . Indeed, for all $v \in TM$ the element $\omega(v) \in E$ is represented by $(u, \omega(\tilde{v})) \in \mathcal{G}_0 \times V$ for any choice of $u \in \mathcal{G}_0$ having the same basepoint as v and any $\tilde{v} \in T_u\mathcal{G}_0$ such that $(\pi_0)'_u(\tilde{v}) = v$, where $(\pi_0)'_u : T_u\mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow T_{\pi(u)}M$ denotes the derivative of π_0 at u . The 1-form $\omega \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, V)$ is called a *soldering form* if ω – thought of as a map $TM \rightarrow E$ – is a vector bundle isomorphism. Recall that on the one hand this is equivalent to the fact that ω is *strictly horizontal* in the sense that its kernel in any point of $\mathcal{G}_0$ is the vertical subbundle. On the other hand, ω induces a homomorphism from $\mathcal{G}_0$ to the linear frame bundle of M , whence this bundle defines a (first order) G_0 -structure on M .

2.2. The Patterson–Walker metric

We review the construction of the Patterson–Walker metric, adapted to our setting. To this end suppose, as above, that $\pi : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow M$ is a right principal G_0 -bundle equipped with a soldering form $\omega \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, V)$ which is equivariant with respect to a representation $\rho : G_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(V)$. Assume in addition that ρ is infinitesimally effective, that is, the induced Lie algebra representation $\varrho : \mathfrak{g}_0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V)$ is injective. Using ω , the tangent bundle of M can be identified with the bundle associated to ρ , that is, $TM \simeq \mathcal{G}_0 \times_\rho V$.

Now let $\vartheta \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, \mathfrak{g}_0)$ be a principal G_0 -connection on $\mathcal{G}_0$. Let us denote by V^* the dual space to V and by $\varrho^* : \mathfrak{g}_0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V^*)$ the dual representation to ϱ . Then on the product $\mathcal{G}_0 \times V^*$ we consider the V^* -valued 1-form

$$\zeta_\vartheta = d\xi + (\varrho^* \circ \vartheta)(\xi),$$

where $\xi : \mathcal{G}_0 \times V^* \rightarrow V^*$ denotes the projection onto the second factor. By construction, the V^* -valued 1-form is equivariant with respect to the dual representation $\rho^* : G_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(V^*)$ and it is easy to check that it is semibasic for the projection $\mathcal{G}_0 \times V^* \rightarrow T^*M \simeq \mathcal{G}_0 \times_{\rho^*} V^*$. Consequently, it represents a 1-form $\zeta_\vartheta \in \Omega^1(T^*M, \nu^*T^*M)$ on T^*M with values in the pullback of the cotangent bundle $\nu : T^*M \rightarrow M$ of M . The pullback bundle ν^*T^*M is naturally a subbundle of $T^*(T^*M)$ and hence we may interpret ζ_ϑ as a 1-form on T^*M with values in $T^*(T^*M)$, or equivalently, as a section of $T^*(T^*M) \otimes T^*(T^*M)$. The symmetric part $h_\vartheta = \mathrm{Sym} \zeta_\vartheta$ is a pseudo-Riemannian metric of split-signature (n, n) known as the *Patterson–Walker metric* associated to the connection ϑ , see [17] for the original construction and [14, 15] for recent applications.

2.3. Parabolic geometries

Recall that a Cartan geometry of type (G, P) for some Lie group G and closed subgroup $P \subset G$ is a pair $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$ consisting of a right principal

P -bundle $\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M$ together with a *Cartan connection* θ taking values in the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ of G . We let $R : \mathcal{G} \times P \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ denote the right action of P and we write $R_g = R(\cdot, g)$ for all $g \in P$ and $\iota_u = R(u, \cdot)$ for all $u \in \mathcal{G}$. The 1-form $\theta \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}, \mathfrak{g})$ being a *Cartan connection* means that for all $u \in \mathcal{G}$ the linear map $\theta_u : T_u \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ is an isomorphism and moreover

$$(3) \quad (R^* \theta)_{(u,g)} = (\iota_u^* \theta)_g + (R_g^* \theta)_u = (\Upsilon_P)_g + \text{Ad}(g^{-1}) \circ \theta_u,$$

for all $(u, g) \in \mathcal{G} \times P$, where Υ_P denotes the Maurer–Cartan form of P and $\text{Ad} : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathfrak{g})$ the adjoint action of G . In addition, the curvature 2-form $\Theta = d\theta + \frac{1}{2}[\theta, \theta]$ of θ satisfies a further condition called *normality*. The details of these conditions are not important for our purposes; however some consequences will be discussed below. We will always assume that the Cartan geometry is *torsion-free*, that is, Θ has values in $\mathfrak{p} \subset \mathfrak{g}$, the Lie algebra of P .

Here we consider the special case of $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometries. This means that G is assumed to be semisimple and that its Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ is endowed with a so-called $|1|$ -grading. This is a decomposition

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_{-1} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1$$

into a direct sum of linear subspaces $\mathfrak{g}_i$ for $i = -1, 0, 1$ such that $[\mathfrak{g}_i, \mathfrak{g}_j] \subset \mathfrak{g}_{i+j}$ with the convention that $\mathfrak{g}_\ell = \{0\}$ for $\ell = \pm 2$. Furthermore, no simple ideal of $\mathfrak{g}$ is allowed to be contained in $\mathfrak{g}_0$ and the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{p}$ of P satisfies $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1$. In particular, this implies that $P \subset G$ is a parabolic subgroup in the sense of representation theory.

These properties have some nice consequences. First, the exponential map of $\mathfrak{g}$ – restricted to $\mathfrak{g}_1$ – is a diffeomorphism from $\mathfrak{g}_1$ onto a closed normal subgroup $P_+ \subset P$. Second, defining $G_0 \subset P$ to consist of those elements g so that the adjoint action $\text{Ad}(g) \in \text{GL}(\mathfrak{g})$ preserves the grading of $\mathfrak{g}$, one can show that the Lie algebra of G_0 is $\mathfrak{g}_0$ and that G_0 is isomorphic to the quotient P/P_+ . Third, every element g of P can be written as $g = g_0 \exp(Z)$ for unique elements $g_0 \in G_0$ and $Z \in \mathfrak{g}_1$.

Since $P_+ \subset P$ is a normal subgroup, we obtain a principal $P/P_+ \simeq G_0$ -bundle $\mathcal{G}/P_+ \rightarrow M$ whose total space we denote by $\mathcal{G}_0$ and whose basepoint projection we denote by π_0 . We can project the values of the Cartan connection θ to $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{p} \cong \mathfrak{g}_{-1}$. Equivariance of θ then easily implies that the result descends to a 1-form $\omega \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, \mathfrak{g}_{-1})$. Equivariance of θ also implies that ω is equivariant with respect to the G_0 -representation $\rho : G_0 \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathfrak{g}_{-1})$ obtained by restricting the adjoint representation to $\mathfrak{g}_{-1}$;

$$(4) \quad \rho = \text{Ad}(\cdot)|_{\mathfrak{g}_{-1}} : G_0 \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathfrak{g}_{-1}), \quad g_0 \mapsto \text{Ad}(g_0)|_{\mathfrak{g}_{-1}}.$$

This representation is infinitesimally effective. The construction then easily implies that ω is a soldering form in the sense of Section 2.1. Hence we obtain a G_0 -structure on the manifold M and it turns out that, apart from the case of projective structures, the normality condition on Θ ensures that the Cartan geometry $(\mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$ is an equivalent encoding of this G_0 -structure.

2.4. Weyl structures

In order to work explicitly with a parabolic geometry it is often advantageous to fix a Weyl structure for the parabolic geometry. This gives a description of the Cartan geometry $(\mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$ in terms of the underlying G_0 -structure $(\mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow M, \omega)$ defined above. Here we briefly review the key facts and refer the reader to [6, 7, 8] for details and additional context.

Following [7], we define a Weyl structure for $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$ to be a G_0 -equivariant section $\sigma : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ of the projection $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_0$. Writing the Cartan connection θ as $\theta = (\theta_{-1}, \theta_0, \theta_1)$ with θ_i taking values in $\mathfrak{g}_i$, a choice of Weyl structure σ gives three 1-forms on $\mathcal{G}_0$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega &= \sigma^* \theta_{-1} \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, \mathfrak{g}_{-1}), \\ \vartheta_\sigma &= \sigma^* \theta_0 \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, \mathfrak{g}_0), \\ \mathbf{P}^\sigma &= -\psi_B \circ (\sigma^* \theta_1) \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, \mathfrak{g}_{-1}^*). \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Here ω is just the soldering form from Section 2.3 above. The form ϑ_σ is a principal G_0 -connection on $\pi_0 : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow M$ referred to as the *Weyl connection* determined by σ . For the last component, we let B denote a suitable constant multiple of the Killing form of $\mathfrak{g}$ and $\psi_B : \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_{-1}^*$ the linear map defined by the rule

$$\psi_B(Z)(X) = B(Z, X)$$

for all $Z \in \mathfrak{g}_1$ and all $X \in \mathfrak{g}_{-1}$. It is well-known that ψ_B is an isomorphism. In the literature on parabolic geometries, ψ_B is usually suppressed from the notation and $\mathfrak{g}_1$ is simply identified with $(\mathfrak{g}_{-1})^*$.

The multiple B of the Killing form is chosen so that the form $\mathbf{P}^\sigma$ represents the so-called *Rho tensor* $\mathbf{P}^\sigma$ of the Weyl structure σ , thought of as a 1-form on M with values in T^*M . Notice that here our convention for the Rho tensor agrees with the classical definitions for conformal and projective structures and hence differs by a sign from [6, 7, 8].

2.5. On the Rho tensor

Here we briefly explain how the normalization condition on the curvature of a $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometry leads to a way to explicitly determine the Rho tensor associated to a Weyl structure. We start by introducing a canonical object on M , which will also be useful for other purposes. Observe that we have a G_0 -invariant multilinear map

$$\mathfrak{g}_{-1} \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \times \mathfrak{g}_{-1} \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad (Z_1, W_1, Z_2, W_2) \mapsto B([Z_1, W_1], Z_2, W_2)$$

which induces a $\binom{2}{2}$ -tensor field $\mathbf{T}$ on M . We will interpret this below as associating to a vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ and a one-form $\alpha \in \Omega^1(M)$ a $\binom{1}{1}$ -tensor field $\{X, \alpha\} = \mathbf{T}(X, \alpha, \cdot, \cdot)$ which in particular can be viewed as a section of $\text{End}(TM)$ or of $\text{End}(T^*M)$. The explicit meaning of $\{X, \alpha\}$ depends on the structure in question. For the three examples we treat, explicit formulae for $\{X, \alpha\} \in \text{End}(TM)$ are in (16), (19), and (22) below.

Now given two vector fields $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ and a T^*M -valued one-form $\mathbf{P}$, we define a $\binom{1}{3}$ -tensor field $\partial\mathbf{P}$ by

$$(6) \quad \partial\mathbf{P}(X, Y) := \{X, \mathbf{P}(Y)\} - \{Y, \mathbf{P}(X)\}.$$

By construction, this is skew symmetric in X and Y and thus defines a two-form with values in $\text{End}(TM)$, so this looks like the curvature of a linear connection on TM . Now for a Weyl structure σ , we consider the induced Weyl connection θ_σ . The curvature of this Weyl connection is equivalently encoded by a two-form $\mathbf{R}^\sigma$ with values in $\text{End}(TM)$. Now it turns out that the normalization condition on the Cartan connection implies that the Rho tensor $\mathbf{P}^\sigma$ is uniquely characterized by the fact that $\mathbf{R}^\sigma - \partial\mathbf{P}^\sigma$ has vanishing Ricci type contraction, see [4] or [7, Section 5.2.3]. Throughout the article we follow the convention of defining the Ricci curvature $\text{Ric}(\nabla)$ of a torsion-free connection ∇ as

$$(X, Y) \mapsto \text{Ric}(\nabla)(X, Y) = \text{tr} \left(Z \mapsto R^\nabla(Z, X)(Y) \right)$$

where the curvature operator R^∇ is defined as usual by

$$R^\nabla(X, Y)(Z) = \nabla_X \nabla_Y Z - \nabla_Y \nabla_X Z - \nabla_{[X, Y]} Z.$$

Notice that this convention, while common in projective differential geometry, differs (by a swap of the arguments) from the standard convention in Riemannian geometry.

3. The almost para-Kähler structure of a Weyl structure

3.1. Construction of the almost para-Kähler structure

We briefly review the construction of the almost para-Kähler structure associated to a torsion-free $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometry given in [6]. Notice that we may think of a torsion-free $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometry $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$ of type (G, P) on M as a Cartan geometry $(\Pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow A, \theta)$ of type (G, G_0) on the quotient $A := \mathcal{G}/G_0$. In doing so, the tangent bundle of A becomes $TA = \mathcal{G} \times_{G_0} (\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{g}_0)$, where G_0 acts via the adjoint action on $\mathfrak{g}$ and hence on $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{g}_0$. The G_0 -module $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{g}_0$ is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{g}_{-1} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1$, where again G_0 acts on both summands via the adjoint representation. Consequently, the tangent bundle of A decomposes into a direct sum of rank n vector bundles $TA = L^+ \oplus L^-$, where $L^\pm = \mathcal{G} \times_{G_0} \mathfrak{g}_{\pm 1}$. We consider the 1-form $\eta = \psi_B \circ \theta_1 \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}, \mathfrak{g}_{-1}^*)$. Explicitly, we have

$$\eta(v)(X) = B(\theta_1(v), X)$$

for all $v \in T\mathcal{G}$ and all $X \in \mathfrak{g}_{-1}$. It follows from the properties of the Cartan connection and the invariance of B under the adjoint representation that the 1-form η is G_0 -equivariant and semibasic for the projection $\Pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow A$. Consequently, η represents a 1-form $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ on A with values in $(L^-)^* \subset T^*A$. Hence we may view $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ as a section of $T^*A \otimes T^*A$. The symmetric part $h = \text{Sym } \boldsymbol{\eta}$ is then a pseudo-Riemannian metric of split-signature on A . This uses that $\psi_B : \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_{-1}^*$ is an isomorphism. The alternating part $\Omega = \text{Alt } \boldsymbol{\eta}$ turns out to be a symplectic form by torsion-freeness (see [6, Theorem 3.1]),

and the pair (h, Ω) is an almost para-Kähler structure. Furthermore, the sections of $A \rightarrow M$ are in bijective correspondence with the Weyl structures for $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$. Remarkably, by [6, Theorem 3.5], the normalization conditions for $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometries imply that the metric h always is Einstein and hence (h, Ω) is an almost para-Kähler Einstein structure. We refer to [6] for further details and to [2] for recent results about the geometry of 4-dimensional para-Kähler Einstein structures.

3.2. The choice of a Weyl structure

In this section we shall prove the main structural identity (2). We start by identifying $\mathcal{G}$ with the product $\mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1$ equipped with a suitable right action. An element of $\mathcal{G}_0$ will be denoted by $[u]$, where $u \in \mathcal{G}$. On $\mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1$ a right P -action $\hat{R}$ is defined by the rule

$$([u], Z) \cdot g = ([u \cdot g_0], \text{Ad}(g_0^{-1})(Z) + W)$$

for all $([u], Z) \in \mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1$ and all $g = g_0 \exp(W) \in P$ and as the basepoint projection we take the map

$$\hat{\pi} : \mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow M, \quad ([u], Z) \mapsto \pi_0([u]).$$

With these definitions, $\hat{\pi} : \mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow M$ is indeed a right principal P -bundle and moreover, the choice of a Weyl structure identifies this bundle with $\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M$:

Proposition 3.1. *Let $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$ be a $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometry of type (G, P) . Then every Weyl structure $\sigma : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ induces an isomorphism of principal P -bundles*

$$\Phi_\sigma : \mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}, \quad ([u], Z) \mapsto \sigma([u]) \cdot \exp(Z)$$

satisfying

$$(\Phi_\sigma)^* \theta = d\mathcal{Z} + \sigma^* \theta + [\sigma^* \theta, \mathcal{Z}] + \frac{1}{2} [[\sigma^* \theta, \mathcal{Z}], \mathcal{Z}],$$

where $\mathcal{Z} : \mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_1$ denotes the projection onto the second factor, the brackets are in $\mathfrak{g}$, and we omit writing the pullbacks from the first factor.

For the proof we need the following elementary lemma on the Maurer-Cartan form $\Upsilon_P \in \Omega^1(P, \mathfrak{p})$:

Lemma 3.2. *The exponential map $\exp : \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow P$ satisfies $\exp^* \Upsilon_P = d \text{Id}_{\mathfrak{g}_1}$, where $\text{Id}_{\mathfrak{g}_1}$ denotes the identity map on $\mathfrak{g}_1$.*

Proof. For $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}_1$, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} (\exp^* \Upsilon_P)_X(Y) &= (\Upsilon_P)_{\exp(X)}(\exp'_X(Y)) = (L_{\exp(X)^{-1}})'_{\exp(X)}(\exp'_X(Y)) \\ &= (L_{\exp(X)^{-1}} \circ \exp)'_X(Y) \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \exp(-X) \exp(X + tY) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \exp(tY) = Y, \end{aligned}$$

where we use that $[X, X + tY] = 0$ since $[\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1] = \{0\}$. $\square$

Proof of Proposition 3.1. First observe that since $[\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1] = \{0\}$, we have

$$\exp(Z)\exp(W) = \exp(Z + W)$$

for all $Z, W \in \mathfrak{g}_1$. As a consequence, the standard identity

$$g \exp(X) g^{-1} = \exp(\text{Ad}(g)(X)), \quad g \in G, X \in \mathfrak{g}$$

implies that for all $g_0 \exp(W) \in P$ and $h_0 \exp(Z) \in P$, we have

$$(7) \quad g_0 \exp(Z) h_0 \exp(W) = g_0 h_0 \exp(\text{Ad}(h_0^{-1})(Z) + W),$$

where we use that $\text{Ad}(h_0^{-1})$ preserves $\mathfrak{g}_1$.

Since $\exp : \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow P_+$ is a diffeomorphism and $\sigma : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ is equivariant, it easily follows that Φ_σ is a diffeomorphism. In order to verify the equivariance of Φ_σ , we compute for all $([u], Z) \in \mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1$ and for all $g = g_0 \exp(W) \in P$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_\sigma([u], Z) \cdot g &= \Phi_\sigma([u \cdot g_0], \text{Ad}(g_0^{-1})(Z) + W) \\ &= \sigma([u \cdot g_0]) \cdot \exp(\text{Ad}(g_0^{-1})(Z) + W) \\ &= \sigma([u]) \cdot g_0 \exp(\text{Ad}(g_0^{-1})(Z) + W) \\ &= \sigma([u]) \cdot \exp(Z) g_0 \exp(W) \\ &= \sigma([u]) \cdot \exp(Z) g = \Phi_\sigma([u], Z) \cdot g, \end{aligned}$$

where we used the definitions of the various mappings as well as (7) and the equivariance of σ . It follows that Φ_σ is a principal P -bundle isomorphism.

For the second part of the lemma we denote by Ad^{-1} the composition of Ad with the inversion in P and compute

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} (\Phi_\sigma)^* \theta &= (\sigma, \exp)^*(R^* \theta) = (\sigma, \exp)^* (\Upsilon_P + \text{Ad}^{-1} \circ \theta) \\ &= \exp^* \Upsilon_P + \sigma^* (\text{Ad}^{-1} \circ \theta) \end{aligned}$$

where we used (3) and think of $(\sigma, \exp)$ as a map $\mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \times P$. Now for $Z, W \in \mathfrak{g}$ we have the standard identity

$$\text{Ad}(\exp(Z))(W) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\text{ad}(Z)^k}{k!}(W) = W + [Z, W] + \frac{1}{2}[Z, [Z, W]] + \dots$$

As a consequence, we obtain for all $Z \in \mathfrak{g}_1$

$$(9) \quad (R_{\exp(Z)})^* \theta = \text{Ad}(\exp(-Z)) \circ \theta = \theta + [\theta, Z] + \frac{1}{2}[[\theta, Z], Z],$$

where we use that the sum terminates after three summands, since $[\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1] = 0$. Combining (8), (9) and Lemma 3.2, we obtain

$$(10) \quad (\Phi_\sigma)^* \theta = d\mathcal{Z} + \sigma^* \theta + [\sigma^* \theta, \mathcal{Z}] + \frac{1}{2}[[\sigma^* \theta, \mathcal{Z}], \mathcal{Z}],$$

as claimed. $\square$

Recall from Section 2.4 that for every choice of Weyl structure $\sigma : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$, $\omega = \sigma^* \theta_{-1} \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, \mathfrak{g}_{-1})$ is the soldering form of the G_0 -structure $\pi_0 : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow M$. Moreover, $\vartheta_\sigma = \sigma^* \theta_0 \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0, \mathfrak{g}_0)$ is a principal connection on $\pi_0 : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow M$. Using (5) and (10) we thus obtain

$$(\Phi_\sigma)^* \theta_1 = d\mathcal{Z} + \sigma^* \theta_1 + [\vartheta_\sigma, \mathcal{Z}] + \frac{1}{2}[[\omega, \mathcal{Z}], \mathcal{Z}]$$

and hence, using (5) again, we have

$$(11) \quad (\Phi_\sigma)^*(\psi_B \circ \theta_1) = \psi_B \circ (d\mathcal{Z} + [\vartheta_\sigma, \mathcal{Z}]) - \mathbf{P}^\sigma + \frac{1}{2}\psi_B \circ ([[\omega, \mathcal{Z}], \mathcal{Z}]).$$

In order to relate this to the Patterson–Walker metric associated to ϑ_σ , we first observe that via ψ_B , the map $\mathcal{Z}$ corresponds to the second projection $\mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_{-1}^* \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_{-1}^*$. Moreover, in the notation of Section 2.2, the expression $[\vartheta_\sigma, \mathcal{Z}]$ can be written as $(\text{ad} \circ \vartheta_\sigma)(\mathcal{Z})$. Invariance of the bilinear form B implies that for $X \in \mathfrak{g}_{-1}$, $Y \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ and $Z \in \mathfrak{g}_1$, we get

$$B(\text{ad}(Y)(X), Z) = -B(X, \text{ad}(Y)(Z)).$$

This exactly says that, via ψ_B , the adjoint action on $\mathfrak{g}_1$ corresponds to the dual of the adjoint action on $\mathfrak{g}_{-1}$, which was denoted by ϱ^* in Section 2.2. Together, this shows that the term $\psi_B \circ (d\mathcal{Z} + [\vartheta_\sigma, \mathcal{Z}])$ exactly gives the $\mathfrak{g}_{-1}^*$ -valued 1-form ζ_{ϑ_σ} defined there.

Combining this with (11), we obtain

$$(12) \quad (\Phi_\sigma)^*(\psi_B \circ \theta_1) = \zeta_{\vartheta_\sigma} - \mathbf{P}^\sigma + q$$

where $q \in \Omega^1(\mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_{-1}^*, \mathfrak{g}_{-1}^*)$ is given by

$$(13) \quad q = \frac{1}{2}\psi_B \circ ([[\omega, \psi_B^{-1} \circ \xi], \psi_B^{-1} \circ \xi]).$$

By construction, q represents a 1-form $\mathbf{q}$ on T^*M with values in the pullback of the cotangent bundle of M , which is evidently closely related to the operation on M introduced in Section 2.5. More precisely, for $\alpha \in T^*M$ with $\nu(\alpha) = x$ and a tangent vector $X \in T_\alpha T^*M$, we get

$$(14) \quad \mathbf{q}(\alpha)(X) = \frac{1}{2}\{\nu'_\alpha(X), \alpha\}(\alpha) \in T_x^*M = (\nu^*T^*M)_\alpha.$$

In particular, this shows that $\mathbf{q}$ is semibasic for the projection $\nu : T^*M \rightarrow M$ and satisfies $(S_t)^*\mathbf{q} = t^2\mathbf{q}$, where $S_t : T^*M \rightarrow T^*M$ denotes scaling of a cotangent vector by the factor $t \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$.

Finally, notice that using ψ_B to identify $\mathfrak{g}_1$ with $\mathfrak{g}_{-1}^*$, we get $T^*M \simeq \mathcal{G}_0 \times_{G_0} \mathfrak{g}_1$. But then the G_0 -equivariant diffeomorphism $\Phi_\sigma : \mathcal{G}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ induces a diffeomorphism $\varphi_\sigma : T^*M \rightarrow \mathcal{G}/G_0 = A$ and we have

$$(\varphi_\sigma)^*\boldsymbol{\eta} = \zeta_{\vartheta_\sigma} - \nu^*\mathbf{P}^\sigma + \mathbf{q}.$$

Recall that $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ is the $(L^-)^*$ -valued 1-form on A whose symmetric and alternating part give the almost para-Kähler structure (h, Ω) of the parabolic geometry $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$. Recall also that the symmetric part of the form ζ_{ϑ_σ} is the Patterson–Walker metric h_{ϑ_σ} of the Weyl connection ϑ_σ determined by σ . Finally, viewed as a bilinear form on $T_\alpha T^*M$, $\mathbf{q}(\alpha)$ turns out to be symmetric. By construction, $\mathbf{q}(\alpha)$ is the pullback of a bilinear form on $T_x M$ with $x = \nu(\alpha)$. The latter is induced by the bilinear form on $\mathfrak{g}_{-1}$ that, for some fixed $Z \in \mathfrak{g}_1$, maps (X_1, X_2) to

$$\frac{1}{2}B([X_1, Z], Z, X_2) = -\frac{1}{2}B([X_1, Z], [Z, X_2]) = \frac{1}{2}B([X_1, Z], [X_2, Z]),$$

so this is obviously symmetric. In summary, we have thus shown:

Theorem 3.3. *Let $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$ be a torsion-free $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometry with associated almost para-Kähler structure (h, Ω) on A and $\sigma : \mathcal{G}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ a choice of Weyl structure. Then we have*

$$(\varphi_\sigma)^* h = h_{\vartheta_\sigma} - \nu^*(\text{Sym } \mathbf{P}^\sigma) + \mathbf{q},$$

where $\mathbf{q}$ is given by formula (14).

Of course, $(\varphi_\sigma)^* h$ is always an Einstein metric. Moreover, it is shown in [6] that

$$(\varphi_\sigma)^* \Omega = -d\tau + \nu^*(\text{Alt } \mathbf{P}^\sigma).$$

Hence Theorem 3.3 provides an analogue of Proposition 1.1 and Proposition 1.2 for Weyl connections compatible with a torsion-free $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometry. We will show in Section 4 below how to specialize this to conformal and projective structures.

Remark 3.4 (Local coordinate expression). In terms of a choice of local coordinates $(x^i) : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ on some open subset $U \subset M$, the metric $(\varphi_\sigma)^* h$ takes the following explicit form. Let $(x^i, \xi_i) : \nu^{-1}(U) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ denote the canonical coordinates induced on $\nu^{-1}(U) \subset T^*M$. The Weyl connection ϑ_σ induces a torsion-free connection ∇ on TM whose Christoffel symbols with respect to the coordinates (x^i) we denote by Γ_{jk}^i . The Patterson–Walker metric of ϑ_σ can then be expressed as

$$(d\xi_i - \Gamma_{ij}^k \xi_k dx^j) \odot dx^i,$$

where $\odot$ denotes the symmetric tensor product. On $\nu^{-1}(U)$ we thus obtain

$$(\varphi_\sigma)^* h = \left(d\xi_i - \Gamma_{ij}^k \xi_k dx^j - \mathbf{P}_{(ij)} + q_{ij} \right) \odot dx^i,$$

where we write $\mathbf{q} = q_{ij} dx^i \otimes dx^j$ for unique real-valued functions $q_{ij} = q_{ji} : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{P}^\sigma = P_{ij} dx^i \otimes dx^j$ for unique real-valued functions $P_{ij} : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Here and henceforth, we employ the summation convention and $\mathbf{P}_{(ij)}$ denotes symmetrization in the indices i, j .

4. Examples

4.1. Projective geometry

Consider an n -dimensional manifold M endowed with a projective structure $[\nabla]$, a class of torsion-free connections that have the same geodesics up to parametrization. This determines a $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometry $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$, where $G = \text{SL}_\pm(n+1, \mathbb{R})$ is the subgroup of $\text{GL}(n+1, \mathbb{R})$ consisting of matrices whose determinant is ± 1 . The grading of its Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(n+1, \mathbb{R}) = \{B \in \mathfrak{gl}(n+1, \mathbb{R}) \mid \text{tr } B = 0\}$ is given by

$$\mathfrak{g}_{-1} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ x & 0 \end{pmatrix} \middle| x \in \mathbb{R}^n \right\}, \quad \mathfrak{g}_1 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & y \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \middle| y \in \mathbb{R}^{n*} \right\}$$

and

$$\mathfrak{g}_0 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -\text{tr } A & 0 \\ 0 & A \end{pmatrix} \middle| A \in \mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{R}) \right\}.$$

Here B is normalised so that

$$B \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ x & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & y \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) = yx = y(x).$$

Next, one computes that for $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $y, z \in \mathbb{R}^{n*}$ we get

$$(15) \quad \left[\left[\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ x & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & y \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right], \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right] = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -(yx)z - (zx)y \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This shows that for $\xi \in T_x M$ and $\alpha \in T_x^* M$ we get $\{\xi, \alpha\}(\alpha) = -2\alpha(\xi)\alpha$. Together with formula (14) and the definition of the tautological form τ on T^*M , this shows that

$$\mathbf{q} = -\tau \otimes \tau,$$

in agreement with [11].

The Weyl connection $\vartheta_\sigma = \sigma^* \theta_0$ determines a torsion-free connection ∇ on TM which is a representative connection of the projective structure. To compute the associated Rho tensor a similar computation as for formula (15) shows that for $X, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ and $\alpha \in \Omega^1(M)$, we get

$$(16) \quad \{X, \alpha\}(Z) = \alpha(X)Z + \alpha(Z)X.$$

Using this and formula (6) from Section 2.5 we conclude that for $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$, we obtain

$$\partial \mathbf{P}^\sigma(X, Y)(Z) = \mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y, X)Z - \mathbf{P}^\sigma(X, Y)Z + \mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y, Z)X - \mathbf{P}^\sigma(X, Z)Y.$$

This easily implies that the Ricci type contraction of $\partial \mathbf{P}^\sigma$ maps X, Y to $n\mathbf{P}^\sigma(X, Y) - \mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y, X)$. Now let $\text{Ric}(\nabla)$ be the Ricci type contraction of the curvature of ϑ_σ . Then the discussion in Section 2.5 shows that we must have

$$\text{Ric}(\nabla)(X, Y) = n\mathbf{P}^\sigma(X, Y) - \mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y, X).$$

Symmetrizing and alternating, we deduce that $\text{Sym Ric}(\nabla) = (n-1) \text{Sym } \mathbf{P}^\sigma$ and $\text{Alt Ric}(\nabla) = (n+1) \text{Alt } \mathbf{P}^\sigma$, and hence

$$\mathbf{P}^\sigma = \frac{1}{(n-1)} \text{Sym Ric}(\nabla) + \frac{1}{(n+1)} \text{Alt Ric}(\nabla).$$

Hence we see that for projective structures our main Theorem 3.3 implies the Proposition 1.1.

Remark 4.1 (Dancing metric). Starting from the standard projective structure on $\mathbb{RP}^2$, the resulting para-Kähler–Einstein structure is defined on $A = \text{SL}(3, \mathbb{R})/\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{R})$. In this case the Einstein metric is referred to as the *dancing metric* [1, 9] because of its significance in the “rolling” of the projective planes $\mathbb{RP}^2$ and $\mathbb{RP}^{2*}$. This para-Kähler–Einstein structure was first constructed in [16] (in any dimension).

Remark 4.2 (para-c-projective compactification). In the projective case, the almost para-Kähler structure on A admits a so-called para-c-projective compactification, see [10], an analogue of a c-projective compactification, see [5].

4.2. Conformal geometry

A conformal manifold $(M, [g])$ of dimension $n \geq 3$ gives rise to a $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometry $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$ where G is defined as follows: Consider the matrix

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & I_n & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

of size $n + 2$ and let $G = O(n + 1, 1)$ denote the subgroup of $GL(n + 2, \mathbb{R})$ consisting of matrices a satisfying $a^t J a = J$. The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{o}(n + 1, 1)$ of G consists of matrices of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} s & z & 0 \\ x & A & z^t \\ 0 & x^t & -s \end{pmatrix}$$

where $s \in \mathbb{R}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $z \in \mathbb{R}^{n*}$ and $A \in \mathfrak{o}(n)$ is a skew-symmetric matrix of size n . The grading of $\mathfrak{g}$ is given by

$$\mathfrak{g}_{-1} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x^t & 0 \end{pmatrix} \middle| x \in \mathbb{R}^n \right\}, \quad \mathfrak{g}_1 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & z^t \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \middle| z \in \mathbb{R}^{n*} \right\}$$

and

$$\mathfrak{g}_0 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} s & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -s \end{pmatrix} \middle| s \in \mathbb{R}, A \in \mathfrak{o}(n) \right\}.$$

We normalise B such that

$$B \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x^t & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & z^t \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) = z(x) = zx.$$

Computing triple brackets as for formula (15) one verifies that (with obvious notation) we get for $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $z, w \in \mathbb{R}^{n*}$ the expressions

$$(17) \quad [[x, z], w] = -z(x)w - w(x)z + (w^t \cdot z^t)x^t$$

$$(18) \quad [[x, z], y] = z(x)y + z(y)x - (x \cdot y)z^t$$

Now formula (17) shows that for $\xi \in T_x M$ and $\alpha \in T_x^* M$ we get

$$\{\xi, \alpha\}(\alpha) = 2\alpha(\xi)\alpha + g_x^\#(\alpha, \alpha)g_x(\xi, \cdot).$$

Here g is some metric from the conformal class and $g^\#$ is its dual metric, which immediately implies that the operation is conformally invariant. Together with formula (14) and the definition of the tautological form τ on T^*M , this shows that

$$q = -\tau \otimes \tau + \frac{1}{2} |\cdot|_{g^\#}^2 \nu^* g.$$

Here $|\cdot|_{g^\#}^2$ is interpreted as a real-valued smooth function on T^*M and the pullback $\nu^* g$ is interpreted as a one-form on T^*M with values in $\nu^* T^* M$.

The Weyl connection $\vartheta_\sigma = \sigma^*\theta_0$ determines a torsion-free connection ∇ on TM which preserves $[g]$ in the sense that for some (any hence any) representative metric $g \in [g]$ there exists a 1-form β such that

$$\nabla g = \beta \otimes g.$$

To compute the Rho-tensor, we first conclude from formula (18) that for vector fields $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ and a one-form $\alpha \in \Omega^1(M)$, we get

$$(19) \quad \{X, \alpha\}(Y) = \alpha(X)Y + \alpha(Y)X - g(X, Y)g^\#(\alpha, \cdot).$$

Using this and formula (6) from Section 2.5 we conclude that for $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$, we can write $\partial \mathbf{P}^\sigma(X, Y)(Z)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y, X)Z + \mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y, Z)X - g(X, Z)g^\#(\mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y), \cdot) \\ & - \mathbf{P}^\sigma(X, Y)Z - \mathbf{P}^\sigma(X, Z)Y + g(Y, Z)g^\#(\mathbf{P}^\sigma(X), \cdot). \end{aligned}$$

To form the Ricci-type contraction of this, we have to take a local orthonormal frame, insert each element for X and then take the inner product with the same element and sum the results. This sends (Y, Z) to

$$(n-1)\mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y, Z) - \mathbf{P}^\sigma(Z, Y) + g(Y, Z)\mathrm{tr}_{g^\#}(\mathbf{P}^\sigma).$$

Observe that in the literature on conformal geometry usually only the case of Levi-Civita connections of metrics in the conformal class is discussed, for which $\mathbf{P}^\sigma$ is automatically symmetric. Anyway, the discussion in Section 2.5 shows that the above expression has to coincide with $\mathrm{Ric}(\nabla)$. To conclude the discussion as in Section 4.1 above, we now have to compute the alternation, and the trace-free part and the trace part of the symmetrization, which gives

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Sym}_0 \mathrm{Ric}(\nabla) &= (n-2) \mathrm{Sym}_0 \mathbf{P}^\sigma \\ \mathrm{Alt} \mathrm{Ric}(\nabla) &= n \mathrm{Alt} \mathbf{P}^\sigma \\ g \mathrm{tr}_{g^\#}(\mathrm{Ric}(\nabla)) &= (2n-2)g \mathrm{tr}_{g^\#}(\mathbf{P}^\sigma). \end{aligned}$$

Observe that for a Levi-Civita connection $\mathrm{tr}_{g^\#}(\mathrm{Ric}(\nabla))$ is the scalar curvature of the metric g . In any case, we immediately get the general formula

$$\mathbf{P}^\sigma = \frac{1}{(n-2)} \mathrm{Sym}_0 \mathrm{Ric}(\nabla) + \frac{1}{n} \mathrm{Alt} \mathrm{Ric}(\nabla) + \frac{1}{n(n-2)} g \mathrm{tr}_{g^\#}(\mathrm{Ric}(\nabla)).$$

This completes the proof of Proposition 1.2 in the Riemannian case. For the pseudo-Riemannian case, the proof is completely analogous.

4.3. Grassmannian geometry

An *almost Grassmannian structure of type (m, n)* on a manifold M consists of two real vector bundles E and F on M , of rank m and n and vector bundle isomorphisms $TM \simeq E^* \otimes F \simeq \mathrm{Hom}(E, F)$ and $\wedge^m E^* \cong \wedge^n F$. Here E^* denotes the dual of E and the isomorphism between the top exterior powers will not be relevant for us. An almost Grassmannian structure on M gives rise to a $|1|$ -graded parabolic geometry $(\pi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow M, \theta)$ where $G = \mathrm{SL}(n+m, \mathbb{R})$.

The structure is called *Grassmannian* if it admits a compatible torsion-free connection on TM , which is equivalent to torsion-freeness of the parabolic geometry. The grading of the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(n+m, \mathbb{R})$ of G is given by

$$\mathfrak{g}_{-1} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ x & 0 \end{pmatrix} \middle| x \in M(n \times m, \mathbb{R}) \right\}, \quad \mathfrak{g}_1 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \middle| z \in M(m \times n, \mathbb{R}) \right\}$$

and

$$\mathfrak{g}_0 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} B & 0 \\ 0 & A \end{pmatrix} \middle| A \in \mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{R}), B \in \mathfrak{gl}(m, \mathbb{R}), \text{tr}(A) + \text{tr}(B) = 0 \right\},$$

where $M(n \times m, \mathbb{R})$ denotes the vector space of $(n \times m)$ -matrices with real entries. The main case of interest for our purpose is $m = 2$, $n \geq 2$, for which there are examples of such geometries that are torsion-free but not locally isomorphic to G/P . For $m = n = 2$ such a structure is equivalent to a conformal structure of neutral signature. For $m, n > 2$, any torsion-free structure is locally isomorphic to G/P , but our results still are of interest, since there is the freedom in the choice of Weyl structure.

As the invariant form B we use the trace form, which leads to

$$B \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ x & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) = \text{tr}(zx) = \text{tr}(xz).$$

Formally, the setup looks very similar to projective structures (which correspond to the case $m = 1$). This is also reflected in the structure of the triple brackets, which formally look very similar to (15): For $x, y \in M(n \times m, \mathbb{R})$ and $z, w \in M(m \times n, \mathbb{R})$ we get (in obvious notation)

$$(20) \quad [[x, z], w] = -zxw - wxz \quad [[x, z], y] = xzy + yzx.$$

However, here we have matrix multiplications so for example xz is a 2×2 -matrix and zxw is not simply a multiple of w .

The easiest way to encode our operations geometrically is to define one additional operation on a manifold M endowed with an almost Grassmannian structure. Since $TM \cong E^* \otimes F$, we get $T^*M \cong E \otimes F^* \cong \text{Hom}(F, E)$ and thus composition of linear maps induces a bilinear bundle map $T^*M \times TM \rightarrow \text{End}(E)$, which we denote by $(\alpha, X) \mapsto \alpha \circ X$ both on elements and on sections. This can be viewed as an “refinement” of the dual pairing, since by definition we get $\alpha(X) = \text{tr}(\alpha \circ X)$, where tr denotes the point-wise trace. There clearly are analogous composition operations $TM \times \text{End}(E) \rightarrow TM$ and $\text{End}(E) \times T^*M \rightarrow T^*M$ (and others that we don’t need here). In this language, the first formula in (20) readily shows that for $\alpha \in T_x^*M$ and $\xi \in T_xM$, we get $\{\xi, \alpha\}(\alpha) = -2(\alpha \circ \xi) \circ \alpha$.

Next, we get a corresponding refinement $\tau^G \in \Omega^1(T^*M, \text{End}(\nu^*E))$ of the tautological one-form τ on T^*M . By definition, for $\alpha \in T^*M$ with $\nu(\alpha) = x \in M$, the fibre of $\text{End}(\nu^*E)$ over α equals $\text{End}(E_x)$, so for $\xi \in T_\alpha T^*M$, we can define

$$\tau^G(\alpha)(\xi) := \alpha \circ \nu'_\alpha(\xi).$$

By definition, the tautological form τ is then recovered as $\tau = \text{tr}(\tau^G)$, where again tr denotes a point-wise trace in the values of the form. Using formula

(14) we readily conclude that for $\alpha \in T^*M$ and $\xi, \eta \in T_\alpha T^*M$ we get

$$(21) \quad \mathbf{q}(\alpha)(\xi, \eta) = -\operatorname{tr}((\alpha \circ \nu'_\alpha(\xi)) \circ (\alpha \circ \nu'_\alpha(\eta))),$$

which is evidently symmetric in ξ and η . To connect more closely to the other cases, we can write this as $\mathbf{q} = -\operatorname{tr}(\tau^G \otimes \tau^G)$, where we agree that the tensor product of one-forms with values in $\operatorname{End}(\nu^*E)$ includes a composition of the values, i.e. $(A \otimes B)(\xi, \eta) = A(\xi) \circ B(\eta)$.

The description of the Rho tensor is also similar to the projective case, with some complications caused by the matrix multiplications. The Weyl connection $\vartheta_\sigma = \sigma^* \theta_0$ determines a torsion-free connection ∇ on TM which is induced by connections on E and F that are compatible with the isomorphism of the top exterior powers. Now the second equation in (20) readily shows that for $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ and $\alpha \in \Omega^1(M)$ we get

$$(22) \quad \{X, \alpha\}(Y) = -X \circ (\alpha \circ Y) - Y \circ (\alpha \circ X).$$

Using this and formula (6) from Section 2.5 we conclude that for $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$, $\partial \mathbf{P}^\sigma(X, Y)(Z)$ is given by

$$X \circ (\mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y) \circ Z) + Z \circ (\mathbf{P}^\sigma(Y) \circ X) - Y \circ (\mathbf{P}^\sigma(X) \circ Z) - Z \circ (\mathbf{P}^\sigma(X) \circ Y).$$

To compute the action of the Ricci type contraction on Y and Z , we have to insert the elements of a basis for X and contract (i.e. take the trace of the composition) with the dual basis element and sum up over the basis. To write up the result, we need additional notation. We have to view $\mathbf{P}^\sigma(x)$ as an element in $\otimes^2 T_x^* M$ and identifying $T_x^* M$ with $\operatorname{Hom}(F_x, E_x)$ such an element defines a linear map $F_x \otimes F_x \rightarrow E_x \otimes E_x$. But for such a map, we can separately swap the input or the output and hence independently symmetrize or alternate in the input and the output. Writing t_E for the twist map on $E \otimes E$ and t_F for the twist map on $F \otimes F$, one verifies that the Ricci type contraction of $\partial \mathbf{P}^\sigma$ can be written as

$$(mn + 1)\mathbf{P}^\sigma - t_E \circ \mathbf{P}^\sigma - \mathbf{P}^\sigma \circ t_F.$$

Observe that this is consistent with the result in the projective case, since for $m = 1$, we have $t_E = \operatorname{id}$. By the discussion in Section 2.5, this again has to coincide with the Ricci type contraction $\operatorname{Ric}(\nabla)$ of the curvature of ∇ . Now we can compose this equation on both sides with either a symmetrization or an alternation to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Sym} \circ \operatorname{Ric}(\nabla) \circ \operatorname{Sym} &= (mn - 1) \operatorname{Sym} \circ \mathbf{P}^\sigma \circ \operatorname{Sym} \\ \operatorname{Alt} \circ \operatorname{Ric}(\nabla) \circ \operatorname{Alt} &= (mn + 3) \operatorname{Alt} \circ \mathbf{P}^\sigma \circ \operatorname{Alt} \\ \operatorname{Sym} \circ \operatorname{Ric}(\nabla) \circ \operatorname{Alt} &= (mn + 1) \operatorname{Sym} \circ \mathbf{P}^\sigma \circ \operatorname{Alt} \\ \operatorname{Alt} \circ \operatorname{Ric}(\nabla) \circ \operatorname{Sym} &= (mn + 1) \operatorname{Alt} \circ \mathbf{P}^\sigma \circ \operatorname{Sym}. \end{aligned}$$

From this, one deduces an explicit formula for $\mathbf{P}^\sigma$ as before and together with formula (21) this provides the explicit specialization of Theorem 3.3 to Weyl connections for a Grassmannian structure.

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