

A note on degenerate pseudo-Riemannian manifolds

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1. Introduction. In this paper we shall determine the first structure tensor of pseudo-Riemannian structure with degenerate metric and prove the necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of torsion-free $O(f)$ -connection.

The deformation tensor for torsion-free $O(f)$ -connection is given. Let M be a real Hausdorff paracompact smooth manifold, $\dim(M) = n$ and denote by g a positive semi-definite covariant symmetric tensor field of degree 2 on M .

DEFINITION 1.1. The Riemannian manifold (M, g) is called an r -time degenerate if $\text{rank}(g) = n - r$, where $1 \leq r \leq n - 1$.

DEFINITION 1.2. If there is an atlas of local maps in which the tensor field g has the form

$$g = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} g & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \quad \text{and } \det(g) \neq 0, \quad \text{where } g = (g_{ab}) \quad a, b = 1, \dots, n-r$$

then (M, g) is called *reducible*.

DEFINITION 1.3. If there is an atlas of local maps in which (M, g) is reducible and $\partial_A g = 0$ for $A = n - r + 1, \dots, n$ then (M, g) is called *absolutely reducible*.

THEOREM 1.1. (O. Vogel). *Let (M, g) be an r -time degenerate Riemannian manifold. (M, g) admits a metric torsionless linear connection if and only if it is absolutely reducible.*

We shall prove an equivalent version of Vogel's theorem in the G -structure language and discuss the variety of the connection in questions. For proof of Theorem 1.1. see [1].

2. The degenerate pseudo-Riemannian structure and flatness problem. Let f be an r -time degenerate symmetric bilinear form on $V \times V$, where we denote by V the real vector space, $\dim(V) = n$, the signature of f is defined by $(+, \dots, +, -, \dots, -, \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{r\text{-times}})$.

The degenerate pseudo-orthogonal group of f is

$$O(f) := \{a \in GL(V) \mid \forall x, y \in V f(ax, ay) = f(x, y)\}.$$

The Lie algebra of $O(f)$ is

$$o(f) := \{A \in gl(V) \mid \forall x, y \in V f(Ax, y) = -f(x, Ay)\}.$$

Let $L(M, p, GL(n, R))$ be the principal bundle of linear frames over M . We denote the reduced bundle of $L(M, p, GL(n, R))$ to the Lie subgroup $O(f)$ by $O(M, p, O(f))$ where $p := p|_O$ is the canonical projection.

DEFINITION 2.1. The $O(M, p, O(f))$ -structure is called a *degenerate pseudo-Riemannian structure*.

Let g be a Lie subalgebra of $gl(V)$.

DEFINITION 2.2. The *first prolongation* $g^{(1)}$ of g is defined by

$$g^{(1)} := g \otimes V^* \cap V \otimes S^2(V^*),$$

where $S^2(V^*)$ denotes the spaces of the symmetric tensor of degree 2 over V . In general

$$g^{(k)} := g \otimes \underbrace{V^* \otimes V^* \otimes \dots \otimes V^*}_{k\text{-times}} \cap V \otimes S^{k+1}(V^*).$$

We say that g is of *finite type* if $g^{(k)} = 0$ for some k . If $g^{(k)} \neq 0$ for all k then g is said to be of *infinite type*.

LEMMA 2.1. Let $\ker(f) := \{x \in V \mid \forall y \in V f(x, y) = 0\}$ and V be a complement to $\ker(f)$ in V . Then

- (1) $o(f) = o(f) \oplus \ker(f) \otimes V^*$, where $f := f|_V$,
- (2) $o(f)^{(1)} = \ker(f) \otimes S^2(V^*)$ and the Lie algebra $o(f)$ is of infinite type.

Proof. ad(1). Corresponding to the direct sum decomposition $V = V \oplus \ker(f)$, there is decomposition of $V \otimes V^*$:

$$V \otimes V^* = V \otimes V^* \oplus V \otimes \ker(f)^* \oplus \ker(f) \otimes V^* \oplus \ker(f) \otimes \ker(f)^*$$

but for all $A \in o(f)$, $x \in V$, $k \in \ker(f)$ since

$$f(Ak, x) = -f(k, Ax) = 0 \text{ it follows that } A(\ker(f)) \subset \ker(f).$$

Hence in the corresponding decomposition of any $A \in o(f)$ the $V \otimes \ker(f)^*$ component is zero. Let A denote the restriction of A to V and A_1 its $V \otimes V^*$ component, then for all $x = x+k$, $y = y+l \in V \oplus \ker(f) = V$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(Ax, y) + f(x, Ay) &= f(Ax, y) + f(x, Ay) = 0 \\ &= f(A_1x, y) + f(x, A_1y) \end{aligned}$$

hence $A_1 \in o(f)$ and $o(f) \subset o(f) \oplus \ker(f) \otimes V^*$.

On the other hand, let $a \in \ker(f) \otimes V^*$ and $A \in o(f)$ then

$$(a+A)x = ax + Ax$$

and

$$f((a+A)x, y) + f(x, (a+A)y) = f(ax, y) + f(x, ay) + f(Ax, y) + f(x, Ay) = 0$$

but $ax, ay \in \ker(f)$ it is immediate that $o(f) \oplus \ker(f) \otimes V^* \subset o(f)$

and(2).

For all $t \in o(f)^{(1)}$, $x, y \in V$

$$\begin{aligned} f(t_x y, z) &= f(t_y x, z) = -f(x, t_y z) = -f(x, t_z y) = f(t_z x, y) = f(t_x z, y) \\ &= -f(z, t_x y) = -f(t_x y, z) \end{aligned}$$

thus $f(t_x y, z) = 0$ for arbitrary $x, y \in V$ and $z \in V$. Hence $t_x y \in \ker(f)$. Also

$$o(f)^{(1)} \subset \ker(f) \otimes S^2(V^*).$$

Because we have $o(f) \oplus \ker(f) \otimes V^* = o(f)$ hence

$$o(f)^{(1)} = (o(f) \oplus \ker(f) \otimes V^*) \otimes V^* \cap V \otimes S^2(V^*)$$

and $\ker(f) \otimes S^2(V^*) \subset o(f)^{(1)}$. Thus $o(f)^{(1)} = \ker(f) \otimes S^2(V^*)$.

It is evident that $\ker(f) \otimes S^2(V^*)$ is of infinite type, hence it appears that $o(f)$ is of infinite type.

Given a graded linear Lie algebra $\bigoplus_p g_p$, we define the cohomology group as follows (see, [2]):

$$C^{p,q} := g_{p-1} \otimes \Lambda^q(V^*).$$

We define the coboundary operator

$$\partial^{p,q}: C^{p,q} \rightarrow C^{p-1,q+1}$$

by

$$(\partial)^{p,q}(x_1, \dots, x_{q+1}) := \sum_{i=1}^{q+1} (-1)^{i+1} [x_i, t(x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_{q+1})]$$

then $\partial^{p,q} \circ \partial^{p+1,q-1} = 0$.

We shall denote *Spencer's cohomology groups* by

$$H^{p,q} := \frac{\ker \partial^{p,q}}{\text{im } \partial^{p+1,q-1}}$$

We denote by ∂ the coboundary operator $\partial^{1,1}$.

Let θ be the *canonical form* of $O(M, p, O(f))$ -structure, let V_l be the subspace of vectors tangent to the fibre through l . Then V_l is isomorphic with the Lie algebra $o(f)$. A complement to V_l in $T_l O$ is called a *horizontal space at l* . Let H_l be a horizontal space at frame l . We define

$$C_H(l)(\theta(X), \theta(Y)) := d\theta(X, Y),$$

where

$$C_H: l \in \mathcal{O} \rightarrow C^{0,2}.$$

The equivalence class $C(l)$ of $C_H(l)$ modulo im is independent of horizontal distribution H and defines a function

$$C: l \in \mathcal{O} \rightarrow H^{0,2}$$

called the *first structure function*.

The first structure function commutes with an $O(f)$ -automorphism q in the sense that $C \circ q = C$. It vanishes for the standard flat $O(f)$ -structure. Thus a necessary condition for local flatness is $C = 0$. Such a $O(f)$ -structure is called a first order flat.

THEOREM 2.1. (see, [3]). *Flatness of the first order is a necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of a torsionfree connection on the G -structure.*

3. Main result. Let $i(M)$ be a Lie algebra of infinitesimal $O(f)$ -automorphisms. We define the r -dimensional distribution

$$\ker(g): x \in M \rightarrow \ker(g)_x \subset T_x M,$$

where

$$g(X, Y)_x := f(l^{-1}X, l^{-1}Y) \quad \text{for all } X, Y \in T_x M, x = p(x)$$

and

$$\ker(g)_x := \{X \in T_x M \mid \forall Y \in T_x M \ g(X, Y)_x = 0\}$$

THEOREM 3.1. *$O(M, p, O(f))$ -structures admit a torsionfree connection if and only if for all $x \in M$ $\ker(g)_x \subset i(M)$*

4. Proof of Theorem 3.1.

LEMMA 4.1. *Let V be a real n -dimensional vector space. If $W \leq V$ (subspace), $T \in V \otimes \otimes \Lambda^2(V^*)$ such that $T(W, W) \subset W$ then exist $S \in V \otimes V^* \otimes V^*$ such that for all $x \in V$*

- a) $S_x W \subset W$,
- b) $\partial S = T$.

Proof. Since every element T leaves W invariant this induces a linear transformation of $\frac{V}{W}$. We set

$$g_W := \{t \in V \otimes V^* \mid tW \subset W\}$$

and

$$\tau := \{T \in V \otimes \Lambda^2(V^*) \mid T(W, W) \subset W\}.$$

For

$$S \in g_W \otimes V^*, \quad x, y \in W \quad (\partial S)(x, y) = (S_x y - S_y x) \in W$$

and

$$\tau \supset \partial(g_W \otimes V^*).$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \dim(\text{im } \partial) &= \dim(g_W \otimes V^*) - \dim(\ker \partial) \\ &= \dim(g_W \otimes V^*) - \dim g_W^{(1)} \end{aligned}$$

we obtain the following, if $k = \dim(W)$ then

$$\dim(g_W) = n^2 - n(n-k), \quad \dim(\text{gl}(V)) = \frac{1}{2}n^2(n+1)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \dim(\partial(g_W \otimes V^*)) &= n[n^2 - n(n-k)] + \frac{1}{2}k(k+1)(n-k) - \frac{1}{2}n^2(n+1) \\ &= \dim \tau \end{aligned}$$

it follows that

$$\tau = \partial(g_W \otimes V^*)$$

LEMMA 4.2. (see, [2]). Let h be a non-degenerate symmetric bilinear form on $V \times V$, then we have $\partial(o(h) \otimes V^*) = V \otimes \Lambda^2(V^*)$.

Proof. Assuming that we have element $A \in \ker \partial$ it follows that for all $x, y \in V$ $A_x y = A_y x$ and $o(h) \ni A_x$ thus

$$h(A_x y, z) = -h(y, A_x z) = -h(y, A_z y) = h(A_z y, x) = h(A_y z, x) = -h(z, A_y x).$$

Thus $h(A_x y, z) = 0$. Since z is arbitrary and h is non-degenerate, for all $x, y \in V$ $A_x y = 0$. Hence $A_x = 0$ for all $x \in V$. This implies $A = 0$. Furthermore

$$\dim(o(h) \otimes V^*) = \dim(V \otimes \Lambda^2(V^*))$$

but $\ker \partial = 0$, hence is an isomorphism.

LEMMA 4.3. Let f be an r -time degenerate symmetric bilinear form on $V \times V$. If $T \in V \otimes \Lambda^2(V^*)$ then the following conditions are mutually equivalent:

- (1) exist $t \in o(f) \times V$ such that $T = \partial t$
- (2) for all $k \in \ker(f)$, $x, y \in V$ $f(T(k, x), y) = -f(x, T(k, y))$.

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2)

$T = \partial t$ and $t \in o(f) \otimes V^*$ hence for all $x, y \in V$, $k \in \ker(f)$

$$f(T(k, x), y) + f(x, T(k, y)) = f(t_k x, y) + f(x, t_k y) - f(t_x k, y) - f(x, t_y k) = 0$$

since $t_k \in o(f)$ and $t_x(\ker(f)) \subset \ker(f)$, $t_y(\ker(f)) \subset \ker(f)$.

(2) \Rightarrow (1). Observe first that if $l \in \ker(f)$, $f(T(k, l), x) = 0$ for all $x \in V$. Thus $T(\ker(f), \ker(f)) \subset \ker(f)$, apply Lemma 4.1 it then follows that exist $S \in V \otimes V^* \otimes V^*$ such that for all $x \in V$

$S_x \ker(f) \subset \ker(f)$ and $T = \partial S$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} S &= A + B + C \in \ker(f) \otimes V^* \otimes V^* \oplus V \otimes V^* \otimes V^* \\ &= \ker(f) \otimes V^* \otimes V^* \oplus V \otimes V^* \otimes \ker(f)^* \oplus V \otimes V^* \otimes V^* \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\partial S = \partial A(x, y) + B_p y - B_q x + \partial C(x, y),$$

where $x = x + p$, $y = y + q \in V$. Next observe that

$$\begin{aligned} f(T(k, x), y) + f(x, T(k, y)) \\ = f(B_k x, y) + f(x, B_k y) = f(B_k x, y) + f(x, B_k y) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

it follows that $B_k \in o(f)$.

Since $\partial C \in V \otimes \Lambda^2(V^*)$ and f is non-degenerate, using Lemma 4.2. exist $C' \in o(f) \otimes V^*$ such that $\partial C' = \partial C$.

Then for $S' = A + B + C'$ we have (apply Lemma 2.1.)

$$\begin{aligned} S' &\in \ker(f) \otimes V^* \otimes V^* \oplus o(f) \otimes \ker(f)^* \oplus o(f) \otimes V^* \\ &= \ker(f) \otimes V^* \otimes V^* \oplus o(f) \otimes V^* = o(f) \otimes V^* \end{aligned}$$

hence $\partial S' = \partial S$ and $T \in \partial(o(f) \otimes V^*)$.

Lie algebras of vector fields on the neighbourhoods $U_l \subset O(M)$ and $U_{p(l)} \subset M$ will be denoted by $\mathcal{X}(U_l)$ and $\mathcal{X}(U_{p(l)})$ where $p: O(M) \rightarrow M$ canonical projection.

LEMMA 4.4. *Let O be a canonical form on $O(M, p, O(f))$. If $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}(U_{p(l)})$, $Z \in \mathcal{X}(U_{p(l)}) \cap \ker(g)$, $X, Y, Z \in \mathcal{X}(U_l)$ such that $dp(X) = Y$, $dp(Y) = Y$, $dp(Z) = Z$ then*

$$2\{f(d\theta(Z, X)_l, \theta(Y)_l) + f(\theta(X)_l, d\theta(Z, Y)_l)\} = (L_Z g)(X, Y)_{p(l)}.$$

Proof. Define the function $F: U_l \rightarrow R$ by $F(l) := f(\theta(X)_l, \theta(Y)_l)$ and the function $G: U_{p(l)} \rightarrow R$ by $G(p(l)) := g(X, Y)_{p(l)}$.

These functions have the properties:

- a) $(ZG)_{p(l)} = ((dpZ)G)_{p(l)} = (Z(Gp))_l = (ZF)_l$,
- b) $(ZF)_l = (Z(f(\theta(X), \theta(Y))))_l = f((Z\theta)(X)_l, \theta(Y)_l) + f(\theta(X)_l, (Z\theta)(Y)_l)$,
- c) $(ZG)_{p(l)} = (Z)(g(X, Y))_{p(l)} = (L_Z g)(X, Y)_{p(l)} + g([Z, X], Y)_{p(l)} + g(X, [Z, Y])_{p(l)}$.

(for the Lie derivative see e.g. [4]).

Hence

$$g([Z, X], Y)_{p(l)} f(l^{-1} \circ dpZ, X_l, l^{-1} \circ dpY_l) = f(\theta([Z, X])_l, \theta(Y)_l).$$

Similarly

$$g(X, [Z, Y])_{p(l)} = f(\theta(X)_l, \theta([Z, Y])_l).$$

Thus

$$(L_Z g)(X, Y)_{p(l)} = Z(g(X, Y))_{p(l)} - g([Z, X], Y)_{p(l)} - g(X, [Z, Y])_{p(l)} = \dots$$

from the properties b) and c) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \dots &= f((Z\theta)X)_l, \theta(Y)_l + f(\theta(X)_l, (Z\theta)(Y)_l) - \\ &\quad - f(\theta(X)_l, \theta([Z, Y])_l) - f(\theta([Z, X])_l, \theta(Y)_l) = \dots \end{aligned}$$

Since $2d\theta(X, Y) = X\theta(Y) - Y\theta(X) - \theta([X, Y])$ see [4], hence

$$\begin{aligned} \dots &= f(2d\theta(Z, X)_l, \theta(Y)_l) + f(X\theta(Z), O(Y)_l) + \\ &\quad + f(\theta(X)_l, 2d\theta(Z, Y)_l) + f(\theta(X)_l, Y\theta(Z)_l). \end{aligned}$$

By the definition of θ we have:

$$\theta(Z)_l = l^{-1}(dpZ) = l^{-1}(Z)$$

thus for $Z \in \ker(g) \cap \mathcal{X}(U_{p(l)})$ this implies $\theta(Z) \in \ker(f)$. Hence for $Z \in \ker(g) \cap \mathcal{X}(U_{p(l)})$ we have:

$$f(\theta(Z), \theta(Y)) = 0$$

and by property c)

$$\begin{aligned} (XF)_l &= (Xf(\theta(Z)_l, \theta(Y)_l)) = f(X\theta(Z)_l, \theta(Y)_l) + f(\theta(Z)_l, (X\theta(Y))_l) \\ &= f(X\theta(Z)_l, \theta(Y)_l) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Similary

$$(YF)_l = f(\theta(X)_l, (Y\theta(Z))_l) = 0.$$

Consequently for all $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}(U_{p(l)})$, $Z \in \mathcal{X}(U_{p(l)}) \cap \ker(g)$ we obtain

$$(L_Z g)(X, Y) = 2\{f(d\theta(Z, X)_l, \theta(Y)_l) + f(\theta(X)_l, dO(Z, Y)_l)\}.$$

Let H_l be a horizontal space at l . For $X, Y \in H_l$ the first structure function is $C_H(l)(\theta(X)_l, \theta(Y)_l) := d\theta(X, Y)_l$.

From Lemma 4.4. we obtain:

$$(L_Z g)(X, Y)_{p(l)} = 2\{f(C_H(l)(\theta(Z)_l, \theta(X)_l), \theta(Y)_l) + f(\theta(X)_l, C_H(l)(\theta(Z)_l, \theta(Y)_l))\}$$

and by Lemma 4.3.

$$(L_Z g)(X, Y)_{p(l)} = 0 \quad \text{iff } C_H(l) \in \partial(\mathcal{O}(f) \otimes V^*) \quad \text{iff } C(l) = 0.$$

Finally we have by Lemma 2.1. a proof of Theorem 3.1.

Remark (see e.g. [4]). A vector field X on M is an infinitesimal automorphism of $\mathcal{O}(M, p, \mathcal{O}(f))$ -structure iff $L_X g = 0$.

5. Equivalence of the theorems 1.1 and 3.1.

Proof. Let K_x be a complement to $\ker(g)_x$ in $T_x M$. (M, g) is absolutely reducible if and only if there is an atlas of local maps in which: for all $x \in M$

$$\begin{aligned} g_x|K_x^* \otimes K_x^* &= g_x & g_x|K_x \otimes \ker(g)_x &= 0 \\ g_x|\ker(g)_x^* \otimes \ker(g)_x^* &= 0 & g_x|\ker(g)_x^* \otimes K_x^* &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

But $\dim(\ker(g)_x) = r$, $\dim(K_x) = n-r$, $\dim(M) = n$, hence for all $X \in \ker(g)_x$ we have $X = (0, \dots, X^{n-r+1}, \dots, X^n)$.

If $(U_x: x^1, \dots, x^n)$ be a local map such that definitions 1.2 and 1.3. are satisfied then

$$(5.1) \quad (L_X g)_{hk} = X^i \partial_i g_{hk} + g_{hi} \partial_k X^i + g_{ik} \partial_h X^i.$$

Since (M, g) is absolutely reducible hence $L_X g = 0$.

On the other hand the $O(M, p, O(f))$ -structure has a torsionfree connection and by (5.1) we have absolutely reducible (M, g) .

6. The variety of $O(f)$ -connections.

THEOREM 6.1. *The arbitrary $O(f)$ -torsionfree connection is uniquely determined up to the arbitrary $\ker(f)$ -valued tensor field on M .*

Proof. Let $\{U_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in A}$ be an open covering of M with a family of cross-sections $\{s_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in A}$. For each λ , $s_\lambda: U_\lambda \rightarrow O(M)$. Let Ω be the family of $O(f)$ -torsionfree connection forms. For each $U_\lambda \cap U_\mu \neq \emptyset$ define $o(f)$ -valued 1-form on U_λ by $\omega := s_\lambda^* \omega$ where $\omega \in \Omega$. If

$\omega = (\omega_j^i)$ then by Lemma 2.1. we have:

$$\omega_\lambda = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} \omega_b^a & 0 \\ \lambda & \\ \hline \omega_b^A & \omega_B^A \\ \lambda & \lambda \end{array} \right],$$

where $a, b = 1, \dots, r$; $i, j = 1, \dots, n$; $A, B = n-r+1, \dots, n$.

The part (ω_b^a) of ω is uniquely determined by restriction g where $g_x := g_x|K_x^* \otimes K_x^*$ for all $x \in M$ (see, § 5). The remaining parts (ω_b^A) and (ω_B^A) may be chosen arbitrarily.

We denote by $D := \omega' - \omega$ the deformation tensor for ω', ω . Hence

$$D_x = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & 0 \\ \hline \omega_b'^A - \omega_b^A & \omega_B'^A - \omega_B^A \\ \lambda & \lambda \end{array} \right]$$

and D_x is a $\ker(f)$ -valued tensor.

In the local coordinates $(U: x^1, \dots, x^n)$ $\omega_j^i = \Gamma_{jk}^i dx^k$ and the metric tensor field g determined uniquely only the components Γ_{bc}^a and Γ_{Ai}^d (see the paper of Jakubowicz [5]). Hence the remaining components may be chosen arbitrarily and this condition is equivalent to the $\ker(f)$ -valuation of the deformation tensor D .

References

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