

Introduction to Symplectic Geometry : Lecture 17

October 13, 2021

Recall : Symplectic Quotients

- Theorem (Marsden-Weinstein-Meyer) : Let (M, ω, G, μ) be a Hamiltonian G -space. Suppose G is compact and acts freely on $\mu^{-1}(0)$. Then
 - ▶ $\overline{M} := \mu^{-1}(0)/G$ is a manifold, and $\pi : \mu^{-1}(0) \rightarrow \overline{M}$ is a principal G -bundle.
 - ▶ There is a symplectic form $\overline{\omega}$ on \overline{M} satisfying

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- Noether's theorem implies that one can study the dynamics of v_H on the symplectic quotient $\mu^{-1}(c)/G$.

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- In general, ‘reduction in stages’ can be performed starting with a normal subgroup $H \subset G$.

Example of a product group action

- Last time we saw that the moment map for the $(S^1)^n$ -action on \mathbb{C}^n

$$(z_1, \dots, z_n) \xrightarrow{(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n)} (e^{i\theta_1} z_1, \dots, e^{i\theta_n} z_n)$$

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- Remark : Viewing $(S^1)^n$ as a product of the first factor $G_1 := S^1$ and the rest $G_2 := (S^1)^{n-1}$, the quotient by G_1 at the level $|z_1|^2 = 1$ is $point \times \mathbb{C}^{n-1}$, which has a G_2 -action.

Actions via group homomorphisms

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- Claim : The moment map of the action is $\mu_G := \phi^* \circ \mu_T$. Here ϕ induces a map $\phi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{t}$, whose dual is $\phi^* : \mathfrak{t}^\vee \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^\vee$.

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$$H = S^1 \simeq \{(\theta, \dots, \theta) \in (S^1)^n\},$$

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- The $(S^1)^{n-1}$ -action on \mathbb{P}^{n-1} is $(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_{n-1}) \cdot [z_0 : z_1 : \dots : z_{n-1}] = [z_0 : e^{i\theta_1} z_1 : \dots : e^{i\theta_{n-1}} z_{n-1}]$.
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A moment map for a non-Abelian group

- Result : The standard action of $U(n)$ on $(\mathbb{C}^n, \omega_{std})$ is

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- Consider the subset of diagonal matrices

$$T = \{A \in U(n) : A \text{ is diagonal}\}$$

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$$\mu : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathfrak{u}(n)^\vee, \quad z \mapsto \frac{i}{2}z z^*.$$

- $\mathfrak{u}(n) = \{A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : A + A^* = 0\}$.
- Identify $\mathfrak{u}(n)^\vee$ to $\mathfrak{u}(n)$ via the Ad-invariant inner product $(A, B) = \text{trace}(A^*B)$.
- Consider the subset of diagonal matrices

$$T = \{A \in U(n) : A \text{ is diagonal}\}$$

- Claim : μ is a moment map for the T -action.

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iff $d\mu_{\text{Ad}_{g^{-1}}\xi} = i_{dL_g^{-1}(\xi_M)}\omega$
iff the moment equation holds for $\text{Ad}_{g^{-1}}\xi$.
- The result follows because the Ad -orbit of any $\xi \in \mathfrak{u}(n)$ intersects \mathfrak{t} .

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- $\mu^{-1}(0) = \{A \in \mathbb{C}^{k \times n} : AA^* = \text{Id}\}$, and the quotient

$$\{A \in \mathbb{C}^{k \times n} : AA^* = \text{Id}\}/U(k)$$

is the Grassmanian $\text{Gr}(k, n)$ of k -planes in \mathbb{C}^n .