

Lie Groupoid's point of view of linear direct  
connections and characteristic classes  
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**Linear direct connections in vector bundles and  
Teleman's theorem**

Nicola Teleman in the papers

N. Teleman, *Distance Function, Linear quasi-Connections and Chern Character*, June 2004, IHES/M/04/27

N. Teleman, *Direct Connections and Chern Character*, Proceedings of the International Conference in Honor of Jean-Paul Brasselet, Luminy, May 2005,

shows how the Chern character of the tangent bundle of a smooth manifold may be extracted from the geodesic distance function by means of cyclic homology.

The processing has the following steps:

1. Let  $M$  be a smooth Riemannian manifold and let

$$r : M \times M \rightarrow [0, \infty)$$

be the induced geodesic distance function.

The function  $r^2$  is smooth on a neighbourhood of the diagonal.

2. Let  $\chi$  be a cut-off smooth monotone decreasing real valued function, identically 1 on a neighbourhood of 0, having support on a sufficiently small interval, so that  $\chi \circ r^2$  be well defined and smooth. For  $x, y \in M$  a linear mapping

$$A(y, x) : T_x M \rightarrow T_y M$$

is given by the formula

$$A(y, x) \left( \sum_i \xi^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \right) = \sum_{i,j,k} \xi^i \frac{\partial^2 (\chi \circ r^2)(x, y)}{\partial x^i \partial y^j} g^{jk}(y) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^k}$$

( $A(y, x)$  is independent of the local coordinates).

For sufficiently close points  $x, y$ ,

- $A(y, x)$  is an isomorphism and
- $A(x, x)$  is the identity.

Therefore  $A$  is a linear direct connection (=linear quasi-connection), with respect to the definition below.

3. With the object  $A$  there is associated the function  $\Phi_k : U_{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , where  $U_{k+1}$  is a neighbourhood of the diagonal in  $M^{k+1}$

$$\Phi_k(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k) := \text{Trace } A(x_0, x_1) \circ A(x_1, x_2) \circ \dots \circ A(x_{k-1}, x_k) \circ A(x_k, x_0).$$

4. Next, N. Teleman studies the function  $\Phi_k$  in the context of cyclic homology:

- firstly, he notices that  $\Phi_k$ ,  $k$  =even, is a cyclic cycle over the algebra  $\mathcal{A} = C^\infty(M)$ ,
- secondly, he uses the Connes' isomorphism which associates with  $\Phi_k$  a closed differential form

$$\Omega(\Phi_k)(x) = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1^{i_1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2^{i_2}} \dots \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k^{i_k}} \Phi_k(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k)_{x_0=x_1=\dots=x_k=x} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k},$$

(we use the same local coordinate system on each factor).

- thirdly, he proves

**Theorem 1** *The top degree component of the cyclic homology class of  $\Phi_k$  is equal to*

$$[\Omega(\Phi_{2k})] = c \cdot Ch_k(M)$$

where  $c$  is a constant and  $Ch_k(M)$  is the  $k$ -component of the Chern character of the tangent bundle of  $M$ .

The object  $A$  is a particular case of the linear direct connection introduced by N.Teleman.

**Definition 2** Let  $E$  be a real or complex smooth vector bundle over the manifold  $M$ . A **linear direct connection**  $\tau$  in  $E$  consists of assigning to any two points  $x, y \in M$ , sufficiently close one to each other, an isomorphism

$$\tau(y, x) : E|_x \rightarrow E|_y,$$

such that

$$\tau(x, x) = id,$$

and  $\tau(y, x)$  depends smoothly on the pair  $x, y$ .

The parallel transport defined by a usual linear connection in  $E$  along the small geodesics of an affine connection in  $M$  induces a linear direct connection in  $E$  (see for example A.Connes and H.Moscovici, "Cyclic cohomology, the Novikov conjecture and hyperbolic groups", Topology 29, n 3 345-388, 1990).

-i) As for  $A$  with  $\tau$  there is associated the function  $\Phi_k$  by the formula

$$\Phi_k(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k) := Trace \tau(x_0, x_1) \circ \tau(x_1, x_2) \circ \dots \circ \tau(x_{k-1}, x_k) \circ \tau(x_k, x_0).$$

The function

$$\Phi_2(x_0, x_1, x_2) = Trace \tau(x_0, x_1) \circ \tau(x_1, x_2) \circ \tau(x_2, x_0)$$

plays a role of the *curvature* of  $\tau$  and the differential form  $\Omega(\Phi_2)$  - the *curvature form* of  $\tau$ .

-ii) Any two smooth linear direct connections in a smooth vector bundle are smoothly homotopic. The results above imply

**Theorem 3 (N.Teleman)** For any smooth linear direct connection  $\tau$  in the smooth vector bundle  $E$  over the manifold  $M$ ,

- i)  $\Phi_k$ ,  $k = \text{even}$ , is a cyclic cycle over the algebra  $C^\infty(M)$ ,
- ii) the cohomology class of  $\Omega(\Phi_{2k})$  is (up to a multiplicative constant) is the  $k$ -component of the Chern character of  $E$ .

# 1 Underlying linear connection $\nabla^\tau$ and a direct proof of this theorem

In the paper

J.Kubarski, N.Teleman, *Linear direct connections*, Banach Center Publications, 2007, in print,

we study the geometry of direct connections  $\tau$ :

- we construct the "infinitesimal part"  $\nabla^\tau$  and show that  $\nabla^\tau$  is a usual linear connection. We next determine the curvature tensor  $R$  of  $\nabla^\tau$  and show that the **equality of differential forms** holds

$$\Omega(\Phi_{2k}) = c \cdot Tr R^k.$$

We intend to extract from a direct connection its infinitesimal part along the diagonal.

**Definition 4** Let  $X$  be a smooth tangent field over  $M$  and  $\phi$  a smooth section in  $E$ . Let  $x_0$  be an arbitrary point in  $M$  and let  $\gamma : (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow M$  be an integral path of the field  $X$  with the initial condition  $\gamma(0) = x_0$ . We define

$$\nabla_{X(x_0)}^\tau(\phi) = \frac{d}{dt} \{ \tau(\gamma(0), \gamma(t)) (\phi(\gamma(t))) \}_{|_{t=0}} \in E|_{x_0}.$$

**Theorem 5** The right hand side of the above formula depends only on the value of  $X$  at  $x_0$ . The operator  $\nabla_{X(x_0)}^\tau(\phi)$  is a usual linear connection in  $E$ .

The linear connection  $\nabla^\tau$  will be called *associated, or underlying, linear connection to the direct connection  $\tau$* .

**Proposition 6** Let  $R = (\nabla^\tau)^2$  be the curvature tensor of the connection  $\nabla^\tau$ .  $R$  is given by

$$R = \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^\alpha \partial y^\beta} \tau_i^j(x|y)_{y=x} - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^\beta \partial y^\alpha} \tau_i^j(x|y)_{y=x} + \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\partial}{\partial y^\alpha} \tau_k^j(x|y)_{y=x} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial y^\beta} \tau_i^k(x|y)_{y=x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial y^\beta} \tau_k^j(x|y)_{y=x} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial y^\alpha} \tau_i^k(x|y)_{y=x} \right) dx^\alpha \wedge dx^\beta.$$

Although,  $\tau(x, y) = (\tau(y, x))^{-1}$  is not true in general, it is true, however, that it holds infinitesimally. In fact, we have the

**Proposition 7** For any direct connection  $\tau$ , its matrix components satisfy the identities

-i)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} \tau_i^j(x|y)_{y=x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y^\alpha} \tau_i^j(x|y)_{y=x} = 0.$$

-ii)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} \{\tau(x|y) \circ \tau(y|x)\}_{y=x} = 0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial y^\alpha} \{\tau(x|y) \circ \tau(y|x)\}_{y=x}.$$

As  $\tau(x|x) = Id.$ , we get that the directional derivative  $(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y^\alpha})$  of  $\tau$  along the diagonal **vanishes**. This proves -i). The second identity is a consequence of the first.

The above properties of any direct connection are fundamental for comparing the curvature tensor  $R$  to the differential form  $\Omega(\Phi_{2k}^\tau)$ .

We obtain an important explicit link between  $\Omega(\Phi_{2k}^\tau)$  and the classical Chern-Weil forms, at the level of **differential forms** rather than **cohomology classes**.

**Theorem 8** Let  $\tau$  be a direct connection and let  $\nabla^\tau$  be its underlying linear connection. Then

$$\Omega(\Phi_2^\tau) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot Tr R,$$

and more generally,

$$\Omega(\Phi_{2k}^\tau) = \frac{1}{(2k)!} \cdot \frac{1}{2^k} \cdot Tr R^k.$$

In consequence, the mentioned above Teleman's theorem follows from this directly.

## 2 Groupoids point of view and groupoids generalizations

N.Teleman in yours papers said:

"The arguments discussed here may be extended to the language of groupoids".

My further talk is the first step in this direction.

## 2.1 Direct connections and the Lie groupoid $GL(E)$

Let  $E$  be a real or complex smooth vector bundle over the manifold  $M$ . Consider the **transitive Lie groupoid**

$$\Phi = GL(E)$$

of all linear fibre isomorphisms  $h : E|_x \rightarrow E|_y$  of the vector bundle  $E$ , with the source  $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha(h) = x$ , and the target  $\beta$ ,  $\beta(h) = y$ , and the unit  $u_y = \text{id}_{E|_y}$ .

**Remark 9** *A linear direct connection in a vector bundle  $E$  is equivalently a smooth mapping*

$$\tau : U \rightarrow GL(E)$$

where  $U \subset M \times M$  is an open neighborhood of the diagonal  $\Delta = \{(x, x) ; x \in M\}$ , such that

$$\tau(x, y) : E|_y \rightarrow E|_x$$

*i.e.*

$$\alpha \circ \tau(x, y) = y, \quad \beta \circ \tau(y, x) = x,$$

and

$$\tau(x, x) = \text{id} : E|_x \rightarrow E|_x.$$

## 2.2 Lie Groupoids and point of view of linear direct connections and the using of the Lie algebroids

According to the Pradines definition, the **Lie algebroid** of an arbitrary transitive Lie groupoid  $\Phi$  is equal to the vector bundle

$$A(\Phi) = u^*(T^\alpha\Phi)$$

where  $u : M \rightarrow \Phi$ ,  $y \rightarrow u_y$ , and  $T^\alpha\Phi = \ker \alpha_*$ , equipped with the suitable structures: the bracket of cross-sections and the anchor.

Let  $\Phi = GL(E)$  be the Lie groupoid of all linear fibre isomorphisms of fibres of  $E$ .

For  $y \in M$  the submanifold  $\Phi_y = GL(E)_y \subset GL(E)$  of all elements  $u \in GL(E)$  for which  $\alpha(u) = y$ ,

$$GL(E)_y = \alpha^{-1}(y),$$

is a  $GL(E_y)$ -principal fibre bundle.

- Lie algebroid of the Lie groupoid is the infinitesimal object and play analogous role to that of Lie algebras for Lie groups.
- The space [Lie algebra] of global cross-sections  $Sec(A(\Phi))$ ,  $\Phi = GL(E)$  where  $E$  is a vector bundle, is naturally isomorphic to the Lie algebra of all Covariant Derivative Operators, i.e. to the space of differential operators of the rank  $\leq 1$

$$\mathfrak{L} : SecE \rightarrow SecE$$

such that  $\mathfrak{L}(f \cdot \xi) = f \cdot \mathfrak{L}(\xi) + X(f) \cdot \xi$ , for a vector field  $X$  called the anchor of  $\mathfrak{L}$ ,  $f \in C^\infty(M)$ ,  $\xi \in SecE$ .

Let  $\tau : (M \times M)|_U \rightarrow GL(E)$  (where  $U \subset M \times M$  is an open neighbourhood of the diagonal  $\Delta = \{(x, x) ; x \in M\}$ ) be a linear quasi-connection,

$$\tau_{(x,y)} : E|_y \rightarrow E|_x,$$

so  $\alpha(\tau_{(x,y)}) = y$  and  $\beta(\tau_{(x,y)}) = x$  and let  $\nabla^\tau$  be the **underlying linear connection of  $\tau$  in  $E$** .

Now, we fix  $y$  and take

$$\tau(\cdot, y) : M \rightarrow GL(E)_y, \quad x \longmapsto \tau(x, y).$$

It is a smooth mapping such that  $\beta \circ \tau(\cdot, y) = \text{id}$ . Therefore the composition of the differential

$$\tau(\cdot, y)_{*x} : T_x M \rightarrow T_{\tau(x,y)}(GL(E)_y)$$

with the differential of  $\beta|_{GL(E)_y} \rightarrow M$  is identity

$$\text{id} : T_x M \xrightarrow{\tau(\cdot, y)_{*x}} T_{\tau(x,y)}(GL(E)_y) \xrightarrow{\beta_*} T_x M.$$

Taking  $x = y$  and using the fact  $\tau(y, y) = u_y = \text{id}_{E_y}$  we see that

$$\tau(\cdot, y)_{*y} : T_y M \rightarrow T_{u_y}(GL(E)_y).$$

Therefore  $\tau$  determines a usual connection

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\nabla}^\tau & : TM \rightarrow u^*(T^\alpha \Phi) \\ \bar{\nabla}^\tau(v_y) & = \tau(\cdot, y)_{*y}(v_y). \end{aligned}$$

in the Lie algebroid  $u^*(T^\alpha\Phi)$  ( $\Phi = GL(E)$ ), i.e. a splitting of the Atiyah sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow A(\Phi) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\beta_*} \\ \xleftarrow{\nabla^\tau} \end{array} TM \rightarrow 0.$$

$\bar{\nabla}^\tau$  is the "usual covariant derivative" since the anchor of the Covariant Derivative Operator  $\bar{\nabla}^\tau(X) : SecE \rightarrow SecE$  is just equal to  $X$ , therefore noticing  $\bar{\nabla}^\tau(X)(\xi)$  in the form

$$\bar{\nabla}_X^\tau(\xi)$$

the usual axioms for covariant derivative are fulfilled.

**Theorem 10**  $\bar{\nabla}^\tau = \nabla^\tau$ , i.e. the connection  $\bar{\nabla}^\tau$  is equal to the **underlying linear connection of  $\tau$  in  $E$** .

**Proof.** (a sketch) Since we need to prove it at any point  $y \in M$  so we can prove it locally for  $E = M \times \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $M = \mathbb{R}^m$ . Then  $GL(E) = M \times GL(\mathbb{R}^n) \times M$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}(y) = GL(E)_y = M \times GL(\mathbb{R}^n) \times \{y\}$ . Let  $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^n$  be a trivial local basis of  $E$ , then the induced linear connection  $\nabla^\tau$  is determined by

$$\nabla_{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^k}|_y}^\tau e_i = \frac{\partial \tau_i^j}{\partial x^{m+k}}(y, y) \cdot e_j.$$

We can obtain the same results for  $\bar{\nabla}^\tau$ . ■

### 2.3 Groupoids generalization

The above consideration has "groupoids sense" so we can it generalize to any transitive Lie groupoids.

Let  $\Phi$  be an arbitrary transitive Lie groupoid with the anchor  $\alpha$  and the target  $\beta$ . We denote by  $u_y$  the unit of  $\Phi$  at  $y$ .

**Definition 11** *By a linear direct connection in  $\Phi$  we mean a mapping*

$$\tau : (M \times M)|_U \rightarrow \Phi,$$

such that  $\alpha \circ \tau(x, y) = y$ ,  $\beta \circ \tau(x, y) = x$ , and  $\tau(x, x) = u_x$ .



For  $y$  the submanifold  $\Phi_y \subset \Phi$  of all elements  $h \in \Phi$  for which  $\alpha(h) = y$ . Now, we fix  $y$  and take

$$\tau(\cdot, y) : M \rightarrow \Phi_y, \quad x \longmapsto \tau(x, y).$$

It is a smooth mapping such that  $\beta \circ \tau(\cdot, y) = \text{id}$ . Taking the differential

$$\tau(\cdot, y)_{*x} : T_x M \rightarrow T_{\tau(x, y)}(\Phi_y).$$

$\tau$  determines a splitting of the Atiyah sequence of  $\Phi$ , i.e. a usual connection in the Lie algebroid  $A(\Phi) = u^*(T^\alpha \Phi)$ ,

$$\nabla^\tau : TM \rightarrow u^*(T^\alpha \Phi) = A(\Phi)$$

$$\nabla^\tau(v_y) = \tau(\cdot, y)_{*y}(v_y)$$

The connection  $\nabla^\tau$  will be called the **underlying linear connection of the linear direct connection  $\tau$** .

Now we can ask on a very important question:

- How can we reconstruct the curvature tensor of  $\nabla$  from the linear direct connection in the Lie groupoid  $\Phi$ ? And next how can we reconstruct the Chern-Weil homomorphism of Lie groupoids  $\Phi$  (i.e. equivalently of the principal bundle  $\Phi_y$ ) from arbitrary taken linear direct connection  $\tau$ ?

## 2.4 Curvature tensor of the linear direct connection in transitive Lie groupoids

Take any transitive Lie groupoid  $\Phi$  and its Lie algebroid  $A(\Phi)$  with the Atiyah sequence. For a linear direct connection  $\tau$  in  $\Phi$  denote by  $\nabla^\tau : TM \rightarrow A(\Phi)$  the underlying linear connection in the Lie algebroid  $A(\Phi)$  induced by  $\tau$ . Consider the curvature tensor  $\Omega^\tau \in \Omega^2(M; \mathfrak{g})$  of  $\nabla^\tau$

$$\Omega^\tau(X, Y) = \llbracket \nabla_X^\tau, \nabla_Y^\tau \rrbracket - \nabla_{[X, Y]}^\tau.$$

The linear direct connection  $\tau$  determines the mapping

$$\Psi_k^\tau : \left( \underbrace{M \times \dots \times M}_{k+1} \right)_{|U} \rightarrow \Phi,$$

$$\Psi_k^\tau(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k) = \tau(x_0, x_1) \cdot \tau(x_1, x_2) \cdot \dots \cdot \tau(x_{k-1}, x_k) \cdot \tau(x_k, x_0)$$

having the values in the associated **Lie group bundle**,

$$\Psi_k^\tau(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \Phi_{x_0}^{x_0}.$$

For example, for  $k = 2$ , the function

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_2^\tau &: (M \times M \times M)_{|U} \rightarrow \Phi, \\ \Psi_2^\tau(x_0, x_1, x_2) &= \tau(x_0, x_1) \cdot \tau(x_1, x_2) \cdot \tau(x_2, x_0) \end{aligned}$$

is called the *curvature* of  $\tau$ . Analogously to the previous cases we can associate some **differential form** to the function  $\Psi_k$ . Namely, fixing a point  $x_0$  we define

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_k^\tau(x_0) &: \left( \underbrace{M \times \dots \times M}_k \right)_{|U} \rightarrow \Phi_{x_0}^{x_0}, \\ (x_1, \dots, x_k) &\longmapsto \Psi_k^\tau(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \Phi_{x_0}^{x_0}. \end{aligned}$$

Next, we take a coordinate system  $(x^1, \dots, x^m)$  ( $\dim M = m$ ) on an open neighborhood  $\mathcal{V}$  of the point  $x_0$ . Using the same local coordinate system on each factors of the direct product  $M \times \dots \times M$  we take for  $(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathcal{V} \times \dots \times \mathcal{V}$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k^j} \Psi_k^\tau(x_0) \in T_{\Psi_k(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k)} \Phi_{x_0}^{x_0}.$$

This vector we can translate via **right** translation to the unit, therefore we can write

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k^j} \Psi_k^\tau(x_0) \in T_{u_{x_0}}(\Phi_{x_0}^{x_0}) = \mathfrak{g}_{|x_0}.$$

The function obtained

$$(x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, x_k) \longmapsto \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k^j} \Psi_k^\tau(x_0) \in \mathfrak{g}_{|x_0}$$

can be differentiated usually as a vector valued function.

$$(x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, x_k) \longmapsto \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1^{i_1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2^{i_2}} \dots \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{k-1}^{i_{k-1}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k^{i_k}} \Psi_k^\tau(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathfrak{g}_{|x_0}.$$

We put

$$\Omega(\Psi_k^\tau)(x) = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1^{i_1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2^{i_2}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k^{i_k}} \Psi_k^\tau(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k)_{x_0=x_1=\dots=x_k=x} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}.$$

It is a  $k$ -form on  $M$  with values in the vector bundle  $\mathfrak{g}$

$$\Omega(\Psi_k^\tau) \in \Omega^k(M; \mathfrak{g})$$

Considering  $k = 2$  we obtain a 2-form with values in  $\mathfrak{g}$ ,

$$\Omega(\Psi_2^\tau) \in \Omega^2(M; \mathfrak{g}),$$

called the **curvature form** of  $\tau$ .

The fundamental role is playing by the following

**Theorem 12** *For an arbitrary linear direct connection  $\tau : (M \times M)|_U \rightarrow \Phi$  in the Lie groupoid  $\Phi$  the curvature form of  $\tau$  and the curvature form of the underlying connection in  $A(\Phi)$  are differs on a constant*

$$\Omega(\Psi_2^\tau) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \Omega^\tau.$$

## 2.5 Characteristic classes

The last theorem gives that we can extract the Chern-Weil homomorphism of  $\Phi$  via any local direct connection  $\tau$  on the level of differential forms. The Chern-Weil homomorphism of  $\Phi$  is really the Chern-Weil homomorphism of the Lie algebroid  $A(\Phi)$  of  $\Phi$ .

We recall the construction of the Chern-Weil homomorphism for Lie algebroids

- Jan Kubarski, *The Chern-Weil homomorphism of regular Lie algebroids*, UNIVERSITE CLAUDE BERNARD – LYON 1, Publications du Département de Mathématiques, nouvelle série, 1991, 1-70.

Consider a transitive Lie algebroid  $A$  with the Atiyah sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow A \rightarrow TM \rightarrow 0$$

with the adjoint bundle of Lie algebras  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

The Chern-Weil homomorphism for transitive Lie algebroid  $A$  is defined as follows:

$$h_A : \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \left( \text{Sec} \bigvee_{I^0}^k \mathfrak{g}^* \right) \longrightarrow \mathbf{H}_{dR}(M)$$

$$\Gamma \longmapsto \left[ \frac{1}{k!} \langle \Gamma, \Omega \vee \dots \vee \Omega \rangle \right]$$

where  $\Omega \in \Omega_E^2(M; \mathfrak{g})$  is the curvature tensor of any connection in  $A$ , whereas  $\left(\text{Sec } \bigvee^k \mathfrak{g}^*\right)_{I^0}$  is the space of invariant cross-sections of  $\bigvee^k \mathfrak{g}^*$  with respect to the adjoint representation of  $A$ .

We explain also that  $\Omega \vee \dots \vee \Omega$  is the usual skew multiplication of differential forms with values multiplying symmetrically.

Take a local direct connection  $\tau$  in  $\Phi$  and consider once again the curvature form  $\Omega(\Psi_2^\tau) \in \Omega^2(M; \mathfrak{g})$ . We know that  $\tau$  induces a usual connection  $\nabla^\tau$  in  $A(\Phi)$  and that the curvature of it is a constant time the form  $\Omega(\Psi_2^\tau)$ ,

$$\Omega^\tau = 4 \cdot \Omega(\Psi_2^\tau).$$

In conclusion, the Chern-Weil homomorphism of  $\Phi$  (i.e. of the  $A(\Phi)$ ) can be extracted via  $\tau$  on the **level of differential forms** by

$$\langle \Gamma, \Omega \vee \dots \vee \Omega \rangle = 4^k \langle \Gamma, \Omega(\Psi_2^\tau) \vee \dots \vee \Omega(\Psi_2^\tau) \rangle.$$

**Problem 13** *How can we express the form*

$$\Omega(\Psi_2^\tau) \vee \dots \vee \Omega(\Psi_2^\tau) \in \Omega^{2k}\left(M; \bigvee \mathfrak{g}\right)$$

*with the help of  $\Omega(\Psi_{2k}^\tau)$ ?*

**Example 14** *Let  $\Phi = GL(E)$  be a Lie groupoid of all linear fibre isomorphisms.*

*The equality holds*

$$\Omega(\Psi_{2k}^\tau) = c \cdot \Omega(\Psi_2^\tau) \circ \dots \circ \Omega(\Psi_2^\tau) \quad (k \text{ times})$$

*or equivalently*

$$\Omega(\Psi_{2k}^\tau) = c_1 \cdot \Omega^\tau \circ \dots \circ \Omega^\tau \quad (k \text{ times}).$$

**Example 15 Pontryagin classes.** Take the *invariant* cross section  $C_k \in \Gamma \left( \text{Sec } \bigvee^k \text{End}(E)^* \right)$  by

$$C_{k|x} = \text{tr} (\varphi_1 \square \dots \square \varphi_k)$$

where for  $\varphi_i \in \text{End}(E|_x)$  the linear mapping  $\varphi_1 \square \dots \square \varphi_k : \bigwedge^k E|_x \rightarrow \bigwedge^k E|_x$  is defined [Greub-Halperin-Vanstone] by

$$\varphi_1 \square \dots \square \varphi_k (v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k) = \sum_{\sigma \in \Sigma^k} \text{sgn} \sigma \cdot \varphi_1 (v_{\sigma_1}) \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi_k (v_{\sigma_k}).$$

Then the Pontryagin class is equal to

$$p_k(E) = p_k(\Phi) = h(C_{2k}) = \frac{1}{(2k)!} \left[ \langle C_{2k}, \underbrace{\Omega \vee \dots \vee \Omega}_{2k \text{ times}} \rangle \right]_{dR}.$$

The class  $p_k(E)$  is represented by the differential form

$$c \cdot \text{tr} (\Omega \square \dots \square \Omega).$$

According to the notation of Greub-Halperin-Vanstone, the forms  $\Omega \vee \dots \vee \Omega$  and  $\Omega \square \dots \square \Omega$  are the usual skew multiplication of differential forms for which the values are multiplied by the suitable mappings

$$\begin{aligned} \vee & : \text{End}(E) \times \dots \times \text{End}(E) \rightarrow \bigvee^{2k} \text{End}(E). \\ \square & : \text{End}(E) \times \dots \times \text{End}(E) \rightarrow \text{End} \left( \bigwedge^{2k} E \right). \end{aligned}$$

**Trace classes.** Take the *invariant* cross section  $Tr_k \in \Gamma \left( \text{Sec } \bigvee^k \text{End}(E)^* \right)$  by

$$Tr_k(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_k) = \sum_{\sigma \in \Sigma^k} \text{tr} (\varphi_{\sigma_1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{\sigma_k}).$$

Then the trace class is equal to

$$tr_k(E) = tr_k(\Phi) = h(Tr_{2k}) = \frac{1}{(2k)!} \left[ \langle Tr_{2k}, \underbrace{\Omega \vee \dots \vee \Omega}_{2k \text{ times}} \rangle \right]_{dR}.$$

The class  $tr_k(E)$  is represented by the differential form

$$c \cdot \text{tr} (\Omega \circ \dots \circ \Omega)$$

(the values of the skew multiplication of  $\Omega \circ \dots \circ \Omega$  are multiplied by the composing of the linear mapping.

**Pfaffian class for oriented  $2k$ -dimensional vector bundle  $E$ .** Take the **invariant** cross-section  $pf \in \Gamma(\text{Sec } \bigvee^k Sk(E)^*)$

$$pf^F(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_k) = \langle e, \beta^{-1}(\varphi_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \beta^{-1}(\varphi_k) \rangle$$

where  $\beta : \bigwedge^2(F) \xrightarrow{\cong} Sk_F$ ,  $\beta(x \wedge y)(z) = \langle x, z \rangle y - \langle y, z \rangle x$  and  $e \in \bigwedge^k F$  determine the orientation and  $|\langle e, e \rangle| = 1$ . Then the Atiyah sequence of  $A(IsoE)$  is

$$0 \rightarrow Sk(E) \rightarrow A(IsoE) \rightarrow TM \rightarrow 0.$$

and the Pfaffian class is equal to  $i^k \cdot h(pf)$  and it is represented by

$$c \cdot \langle \Delta, (\beta^{-1}\Omega) \wedge \dots \wedge (\beta^{-1}\Omega) \rangle.$$