

# Transitive Courant algebroids

by

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**ABSTRACT.** We express any Courant algebroid bracket by means of a metric connection, and construct a Courant algebroid structure on any orthogonal, Whitney sum  $E \oplus C$  where  $E$  is a given Courant algebroid and  $C$  is a flat, pseudo-Euclidean vector bundle. Then, we establish the general expression of the bracket of a transitive Courant algebroid, i.e., a Courant algebroid with a surjective anchor, and describe a class of transitive Courant algebroids which are Whitney sums of a Courant subalgebroid with neutral metric and Courant-like bracket and a pseudo-Euclidean vector bundle with a flat, metric connection. In particular, this class contains all the transitive Courant algebroids of minimal rank; for these, the flat term mentioned above is zero. The results extend to regular Courant algebroids, i.e., Courant algebroids with a constant rank anchor. The paper ends with miscellaneous remarks and an appendix on Dirac linear spaces.

## 1 The basics of Courant algebroids

The framework of this note is the  $C^\infty$ -category. In the literature, there are two notions of a *Courant algebroid*, which include a skew-symmetric and a non-skew-symmetric bracket, respectively. These notions are the result of an effort to unify the *Courant bracket* and the *Manin bracket* [4].

We start with the definition of a non-skew-symmetric Courant algebroid [6, 7], with the simplifications indicated in [8].

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**Definition 1.1** A *Courant algebroid* is a pseudo-Euclidean vector bundle  $(E \rightarrow M, g)$  ( $g$  is a symmetric, non degenerate inner product on  $E$ ) with an *anchor morphism*  $\rho : E \rightarrow TM$  and a general,  $\mathbb{R}$ -bilinear product  $\star : \Gamma E \times \Gamma E \rightarrow \Gamma E$  ( $\Gamma$  denotes spaces of global cross sections) such that  $\forall e, e_1, e_2, e_3 \in \Gamma E$  one has:

- 1)  $(\rho e)(g(e_1, e_2)) = g(e \star e_1, e_2) + g(e_1, e \star e_2),$
- 2)  $e \star e = \partial(g(e, e)),$
- 3)  $e_1 \star (e_2 \star e_3) = (e_1 \star e_2) \star e_3 + e_2 \star (e_1 \star e_3),$

where  $\partial = (1/2)\sharp_g \circ^t \rho : T^*M \rightarrow \Gamma E$  and

$$(1.1) \quad \partial f = \partial(df) = \frac{1}{2}\sharp_g^t \rho(df), \quad \forall f \in C^\infty(M)/$$

Here,  $t$  denotes transposition and  $\sharp$  is the musical isomorphism defined like in Riemannian geometry.

By polarization, property 2) is equivalent with the prescription of the symmetric part of the product

$$(1.2) \quad (e_1, e_2)_* = \frac{1}{2}(e_1 \star e_2 + e_2 \star e_1) = \partial(g(e_1, e_2)).$$

On the other hand, the definition of the operator  $\partial$  is equivalent with

$$(1.3) \quad g(\partial f, e) = \frac{1}{2}(\rho e)f, \quad \forall f \in C^\infty(M), \forall e \in \Gamma E.$$

Hence, property 2) is also equivalent with

$$(1.4) \quad g(e, (e_1, e_2)_*) = \frac{1}{2}(\rho e)(g(e_1, e_2)).$$

Thus, modulo property 1) we may replace 2) by a condition that does not contain  $\partial$  namely,

$$(1.5) \quad 2g(e, (e_1, e_2)_*) = g(e \star e_1, e_2) + g(e_1, e \star e_2).$$

Let us also consider the skew-symmetric part of the product:

$$(1.6) \quad [e_1, e_2] = [e_1, e_2]_* = \frac{1}{2}(e_1 \star e_2 - e_2 \star e_1).$$

With (1.2) and (1.6) we get

$$(1.7) \quad e_1 \star e_2 = [e_1, e_2] + \partial g(e_1, e_2).$$

From the properties postulated by Definition 1.1 one can deduce

**Proposition 1.1** [8] *Let  $(E \rightarrow M, g, \rho, \star)$  be a Courant algebroid. Then,  $\forall e, e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma E, \forall f \in C^\infty(M)$ , the following properties hold:*

- a)  $e_1 \star (fe_2) = f(e_1 \star e_2) + ((\rho e_1)f)e_2,$
- b)  $(fe_1) \star e_2 = f(e_1 \star e_2) - ((\rho e_2)f)e_1 + 2g(e_1, e_2)\partial f,$
- c)  $(\partial f) \star e = 0, \quad e \star (\partial f) = \partial((\rho e)f),$
- d)  $\rho(e_1 \star e_2) = [\rho e_1, \rho e_2]_{TM},$
- e)  $\rho(\partial f) = 0.$

**Proof.** Property a) follows from the comparison of the results of expressing  $(\rho e)(g(fe_1, e_2))$  in two ways, first by applying property 1) of Definition 1.1 straightforwardly, second by using the Leibniz rule for the vector field  $\rho e$  applied to the product  $fg(e_1, e_2)$  and then property 1) for  $g(e_1, e_2)$ .

Property b) follows from a) by using (1.2) and the fact that, on functions,  $\partial$  satisfies the Leibniz rule.

Notice that properties a) and b) show that a Courant algebroid product is an operator of the local type (i.e.,  $(e_1 \star e_2)(x)$  depends only on the restrictions of  $e_1, e_2$  to a neighborhood of the point  $x \in M$ ).

Now, let us denote

$$(1.8) \quad \mathcal{L}(e_1, e_2, e_3) = e_1 \star (e_2 \star e_3) - (e_1 \star e_2) \star e_3 - e_2 \star (e_1 \star e_3).$$

From (1.2), it follows that

$$(1.9) \quad \mathcal{L}(e_1, e_2, e) + \mathcal{L}(e_2, e_1, e) = -2[\partial(g(e_1, e_2)) \star e].$$

Since any function  $f \in C^\infty(M)$  may locally be written as

$$f = g(e_1, \frac{f}{g(e_1, e_1)}e_1),$$

where  $e_1$  is not  $g$ -isotropic, equation (1.9) and property 3) of Definition 1.1 imply the first part of c). The second part of c) follows from the first part and the relation (1.2).

In order to get property d) (where the right hand side is a Lie bracket of vector fields on  $M$ ) we start with (1.3), written as

$$(\rho e_2)f = 2g(\partial f, e_2),$$

and apply  $\rho e_1$ , while using 1) of Definition 1.1 and (1.3) again. The result is

$$(1.10) \quad (\rho e_1)(\rho e_2)f = 2g(e_1 \star (\partial f), e_2) + \rho(e_1 \star e_2)f.$$

In view of the second part of c), this relation becomes

$$(\rho e_1)(\rho e_2)f = \rho(e_1 \star e_2)f + (\rho e_2)(\rho e_1)f.$$

Since  $f$  is an arbitrary function, we got precisely d).

Finally, from b) we get

$$\rho((f e_1) \star e_2) = f\rho(e_1 \star e_2) - ((\rho e_2)f)\rho e_1 + 2g(e_1, e_2)\rho(\partial f),$$

and, if we use d) in the two sides of the previous relation while assuming  $g(e_1, e_2) \neq 0$ , we deduce the property e). Q.e.d.

**Remark 1.1** Property c) implies that the skew-symmetric part of a Courant algebroid product satisfies the property

$$(1.11) \quad [e, \partial f] = \frac{1}{2}\partial((\rho e)f).$$

Property e) is equivalent with  $g(\partial f, \partial g) = 0, \forall f, g \in C^\infty(M)$  i.e., with the fact that  $im \partial_x$  is a  $g$ -isotropic subspace of the fiber  $E_x, \forall x \in M$ . We also note that property e) is implied by b) and d). Finally, the computation used in the proof of d) is reversible in the sense that d) and formula (1.10) imply property c) as well as its consequence (1.11).

**Remark 1.2** If  $\rho = 0$  we have  $\partial = 0$  and the Courant algebroid is just a bundle of Lie algebras with a pseudo-Euclidean metric  $g$  that is invariant for the Lie algebra structure of each fiber.

From Definition 1.1 and Proposition 1.1 it follows that the skew-symmetric part (1.6) of a product  $\star$  has the properties indicated by the following proposition.

**Proposition 1.2** [6] *For any Courant algebroid and  $\forall e, e_1, e_2, e_3 \in \Gamma E, \forall f \in C^\infty(M)$  one has:*

- i)  $\rho[e_1, e_2] = [\rho e_1, \rho e_2],$
- ii)  $im(\sharp_g \circ \flat) \subseteq ker \rho$
- iii)  $\sum_{Cycl} [[e_1, e_2], e_3] = \frac{1}{3}\partial[\sum_{Cycl} g([e_1, e_2], e_3)],$
- iv)  $[e_1, f e_2] = f[e_1, e_2] + ((\rho e_1)f)e_2 - g(e_1, e_2)\partial f,$
- v)  $(\rho e)[g(e_1, e_2)] = g([e, e_1] + \partial g(e, e_1), e_2) + g(e_1, [e, e_2] + \partial g(e, e_2)).$

**Proof.** Except for iii), these properties are immediate consequences of Definition 1.1 and Proposition 1.1. For iii), let us denote

$$(1.12) \quad \mathcal{J}(e_1, e_2, e_3) = [[e_1, e_2], e_3] + [[e_2, e_3], e_1] + [[e_3, e_1], e_2].$$

Using (1.7) we get

$$(1.13) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(e_1, e_2, e_3) &= \sum_{Cycl(1,2,-3)} \partial(g(e_1, [e_2, e_3])) \\ &+ \sum_{Cycl(1,-2,3)} [e_1, \partial(g(e_2, e_3))] - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{Cycl(-1,2,3)} \partial((\rho e_1)(g(e_2, e_3))) - \mathcal{J}(e_1, e_2, e_3), \end{aligned}$$

where, in the sums of the right hand side, the indices  $(1, 2, 3)$  move cyclically while the signs of the terms are as indicated in the summation index.

Now, taking the sum of (1.13) over cyclic permutations of  $(1, 2, 3)$  and using (1.9), we get

$$(1.14) \quad \begin{aligned} 6\mathcal{J}(e_1, e_2, e_3) &= \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} \{ \mathcal{L}(e_1, e_2, e_3) - \mathcal{L}(e_2, e_1, e_3) \\ &+ 2\partial(g(e_1, [e_2, e_3])) \}. \end{aligned}$$

Formula (1.14) shows that property 3) of Definition 1.1 implies the present property iii). Q.e.d.

Following [4], one has

**Definition 1.2** A *skew-symmetric Courant algebroid* is a pseudo-Euclidean vector bundle  $(E \rightarrow M, g)$  with an anchor morphism  $\rho : E \rightarrow TM$ , and a skew-symmetric bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  on  $\Gamma E$  such that properties i)-v) of Proposition 1.2 hold.

**Remark 1.3** [8] With the same proofs as for Proposition 1.1, we can see that property v) of Proposition 1.2 implies iv) and properties i), iv) imply ii). Therefore, conditions i), iii), v) suffice in the definition of a skew-symmetric Courant algebroid.

**Remark 1.4** Just like in the case of a Lie algebroid, for a skew-symmetric Courant algebroid  $\mathcal{D} = im \rho$  is a generalized foliation on  $M$ . Indeed, from property i), Proposition 1.2, it follows that  $\mathcal{D} = span\{\rho e / \forall e \in \Gamma E\}$  is

spanned by a Lie algebra, and, for any vector field  $X = \rho e$ ,  $\forall x \in M$ ,  $\dim \mathcal{D}_{(\exp(tX))(x)} = \text{rank } \rho|_{(\exp(tX))(x)} = \text{const.}$  (For the latter assertion, look at a *Lie derivative* of  $\rho$  defined as for a tensor field and notice that this Lie derivative vanishes.) Then the result follows from the Sussmann-Stefan-Frobenius theorem (e.g., [10], Theorem 2.9").

For simplicity, in what follows we will use the language provided by the next definitions

**Definition 1.3** A *Courant anchor* is a vector bundle morphism  $\rho : E \rightarrow TM$ , where  $(E, g)$  is a pseudo-Euclidean vector bundle over the manifold  $M$ , which is such that  $\text{im } \rho$  is a (generalized) foliation and the corresponding morphism  $\partial : T^*M \rightarrow E$  defined by (1.1) has a  $g$ -isotropic image. A triple  $(E, g, \rho)$  where  $\rho$  is a Courant anchor will be called a *Courant vector bundle*. A Courant vector bundle endowed with a skew-symmetric bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  on  $\Gamma E$ , which satisfies properties v) and i) (therefore, also, iv) and ii) of a skew-symmetric Courant algebroid will be called a *pre-Courant algebroid*.

Notice that, since,  $\forall x \in M$ , both  $\text{im } \rho$  and  $\text{im } \partial$  have the dimension equal to  $\text{rank } \rho$ , a Courant vector bundle must satisfy the condition  $\text{rank } \rho \leq b \leq (1/2)\text{rank } E$ , where  $b$  is the smallest between the positive-negative inertia indices of  $g$ . Furthermore, in view of Remark 1.1, formula (1.11) holds for any pre-Courant algebroid. Using (1.11) it is easy to check that any pre-Courant algebroid satisfies property iii) of Proposition 1.2 if at least one of the arguments  $e_a \in \text{im } \partial$  ( $a = 1, 2, 3$ ) (the cross sections of the subbundle  $\text{im } \partial$  are locally spanned over  $C^\infty(M)$  by cross sections of the form  $\partial f$ , ( $f \in C^\infty(M)$ )).

By Proposition 1.2, the skew-symmetric part of a Courant algebroid product yields a skew-symmetric Courant algebroid bracket. The converse is also true:

**Proposition 1.3** (E.g., [6]). *If the bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  satisfies the properties of a skew-symmetric Courant algebroid, the product  $\star$  defined by (1.7) satisfies the properties of a Courant algebroid.*

**Proof.** Obviously, 1) and 2) of Definition 1.1 hold. Moreover, as explained in Remark 1.1, property c) of Proposition 1.1 holds independently of formula (1.9). Accordingly, now, (1.9) proves that

$$\mathcal{L}(e_1, e_2, e_3) + \mathcal{L}(e_2, e_1, e_3) = 0.$$

On the other hand, if iii) of Proposition 1.2 holds, formula (1.14) implies

$$\mathcal{L}(e_1, e_2, e_3) - \mathcal{L}(e_2, e_1, e_3) = 0.$$

Hence, we are done. Q.e.d.

The following proposition shows the possible changes of the bracket of a pre-Courant algebroid.

**Proposition 1.4** *Let  $(E, g, \rho, [ , ])$  be a pre-Courant algebroid. Then, the formula*

$$(1.15) \quad [e_1, e_2]' = [e_1, e_2] + \lambda(e_1, e_2), \quad e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma E,$$

where  $\lambda \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 E^* \otimes E)$ ,  $\rho \circ \lambda = 0$  and

$$(1.16) \quad \Lambda(e_1, e_2, e_3) = g(\lambda(e_1, e_2), e_3)$$

is totally skew-symmetric (i.e.,  $\Lambda \in \Gamma \wedge^3 E^*$ ), yields all the pre-Courant algebroid structures on  $(E, g, \rho)$ . Furthermore, the bracket (1.15) is that of a Courant algebroid iff

$$(1.17) \quad (\partial_{[\ ]}\Lambda)(e_1, e_2, e_3) = \mathcal{J}(e_1, e_2, e_3) - \frac{1}{3}\partial\left[\sum_{Cycl} g([e_1, e_2], e_3)\right],$$

where

$$(1.18) \quad (\partial_{[\ ]}\Lambda)(e_1, e_2, e_3) = \partial(\Lambda(e_1, e_2, e_3)) - \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} \{\lambda(\lambda(e_1, e_2), e_3) \\ + \lambda([e_1, e_2], e_3) + [\lambda(e_1, e_2), e_3]\} \in \Gamma(\wedge^3 E^* \otimes E).$$

**Proof.** The difference of two brackets of pre-Courant algebroid structures is a form  $\lambda \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 E^* \otimes E)$  because of property iv), Proposition 1.2. The indicated conditions for  $\lambda$  are equivalent with properties i) and v) of the same Proposition, respectively. Notice that  $\rho \circ \lambda = 0$  is equivalent with

$$(1.19) \quad \Lambda(e_1, e_2, \partial f) = 0, \quad \forall f \in C^\infty(M),$$

therefore, in view of the skew-symmetry of  $\Lambda$ , also equivalent with

$$(1.20) \quad \lambda(e, \partial f) = 0, \quad \forall e \in \Gamma E, \forall f \in C^\infty(M).$$

Finally, a technical computation shows that property iii) is equivalent with (1.17), (1.18). Q.e.d.

**Remark 1.5** [1, 4] Any  $g$ -isotropic subalgebroid (i.e., a vector subbundle that is closed by brackets) of a skew-symmetric Courant algebroid is a Lie algebroid.

## 2 Courant brackets and metric connections

We will get further insight into the structure of the bracket of a Courant algebroid by using a metric connection  $\nabla$  on the pseudo-Euclidean bundle  $(E, g)$ , which means that

$$(2.1) \quad X(g(e_1, e_2)) = g(\nabla_X e_1, e_2) + g(e_1, \nabla_X e_2) \quad (X \in \Gamma TM).$$

If we also have the morphism  $\rho : E \rightarrow TM$ , we define the  $\rho$ -torsion  $T_{(\nabla, \rho)} \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 E^* \otimes TM)$  by the formula

$$(2.2) \quad T_{(\nabla, \rho)}(e_1, e_2) = \rho(\nabla_{\rho e_1} e_2 - \nabla_{\rho e_2} e_1) - [\rho e_1, \rho e_2].$$

Now, we can prove

**Proposition 2.1** 1) *The formula*

$$(2.3) \quad [e_1, e_2]_0 = \nabla_{\rho e_1} e_2 - \nabla_{\rho e_2} e_1 - \gamma(e_1, e_2),$$

where  $\gamma$  is defined by the equality

$$(2.4) \quad g(\gamma(e_1, e_2), e) = \frac{1}{2}[g(e_1, \nabla_{\rho e} e_2) - g(e_2, \nabla_{\rho e} e_1)], \quad \forall e \in \Gamma E,$$

defines a skew-symmetric bracket on  $\Gamma E$  that satisfies property v) of Proposition 1.2.

2) *The most general bracket that satisfies v) is given by*

$$(2.5) \quad [e_1, e_2] = [e_1, e_2]_0 - \beta(e_1, e_2),$$

where  $\beta \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 E^* \otimes E)$  and

$$(2.6) \quad B(e_1, e_2, e_3) = g(\beta(e_1, e_2), e_3)$$

is totally skew-symmetric, i.e.,  $B \in \Gamma \wedge^3 E^*$ .

3) *The bracket (2.5) also satisfies property i) of Proposition 1.2 iff the following two equalities hold*

$$(2.7) \quad \rho \circ \partial = 0,$$

$$(2.8) \quad \rho(\beta(e_1, e_2)) = T_{(\nabla, \rho)}(e_1, e_2), \quad \forall e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma E,$$

where  $T_{(\nabla, \rho)}$  is the  $\rho$ -torsion of  $\nabla$ . In particular, if  $(E, g, \rho)$  has a metric connection  $\nabla$  with zero  $\rho$ -torsion, the bracket (2.3) satisfies property i).

**Proof.** First, let us notice that formula (2.4) actually defines  $\gamma$  because if this formula holds for  $e \in \Gamma E$  it also holds for  $fe, \forall f \in C^\infty(M)$ , and since  $g$  is non degenerate. Then, a technical calculation, which takes into account the metric property (2.1) shows that the bracket (2.3) satisfies property v).

Now, the difference  $\beta$  between two brackets that satisfy v) is such that the corresponding  $B$  given by (2.6) is totally skew-symmetric, and  $\beta \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 E^* \otimes E)$ , respectively  $B \in \wedge^3 E^*$ , because v) implies property iv) of Proposition 1.2. These remarks justify the general formula (2.5).

Finally, from (2.5), we get

$$(2.9) \quad \rho[e_1, e_2] = [\rho e_1, \rho e_2] + T_{\nabla, \rho}(e_1, e_2) - \rho(\gamma(e_1, e_2)) - \rho(\beta(e_1, e_2)).$$

We know that, if properties i), v) of Proposition 1.2 hold so does iv) and then ii), and ii) is equivalent with (2.7). Then, by using (2.4) for  $e = \partial f$ ,  $f \in C^\infty(M)$ , we get  $\rho \circ \gamma = 0$ , and (2.9) implies (2.8). The converse also is clear from (2.9). The last assertion follows since, if  $T_{(\nabla, \rho)} = 0$ , we may chose  $\beta = 0$ . Q.e.d.

**Remark 2.1** By applying the vector fields of formula (2.8) to an arbitrary function  $f$ , it follows that (2.8) is equivalent with

$$(2.10) \quad B(e_1, e_2, \partial f) = \frac{1}{2}(T_{(\nabla, \rho)}(e_1, e_2))f, \quad e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma E, f \in C^\infty(M).$$

Formula (2.5), where  $B$  defined by (2.6) is skew-symmetric and (2.7), (2.8) hold, defines all the pre-Courant algebroid brackets on a given Courant vector bundle. Among them, the Courant algebroid brackets are obtained if condition iii) of Proposition 1.2 also holds. In order to express the latter, let us denote

$$(2.11) \quad \mathcal{C}(e_1, e_2, e_3) = \mathcal{J}(e_1, e_2, e_3) - \frac{1}{3} \partial \left[ \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} g([e_1, e_2], e_3) \right],$$

where  $\mathcal{J}$  is defined by (1.12), and denote by an index 0 the same expression for the bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]_0$ . Assuming that property i) holds, it follows that

$$(2.12) \quad \mathcal{C}_0(e_1, e_2, e_3) = \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} \{ (\nabla_{\rho e_3} \gamma)(e_1, e_2) + \gamma(\gamma(e_1, e_2), e_3) \\ - R_{\nabla}(\rho e_1, \rho e_2)e_3 \},$$

$$(2.13) \quad \mathcal{C}(e_1, e_2, e_3) = \mathcal{C}_0(e_1, e_2, e_3) + \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} \{\beta(\beta(e_1, e_2), e_3) - \beta([e_1, e_2]_0, e_3) - [\beta(e_1, e_2), e_3]_0\},$$

where  $R_\nabla$  is the curvature of the connection  $\nabla$  and  $\nabla\gamma$  is defined as if  $\gamma$  would be a tensor. These formulas express the condition for the bracket (2.5) to satisfy property iii),  $\mathcal{C} = 0$ , by means of the metric connection  $\nabla$ . In particular, if there exists a metric connection of zero  $\rho$ -torsion, the corresponding bracket (2.3), which satisfies i), also satisfies iii) iff  $\mathcal{C}_0 = 0$ , and this condition reminds us the Bianchi identity for a linear connection with torsion on a differentiable manifold  $M$ .

As an application of the results given in this section we have

**Proposition 2.2** *Let  $(E, g, \rho, [ , ])$  be a pre-Courant algebroid. Then, for any pseudo-Euclidean vector bundle  $(C, g_0)$  over  $M$  and any metric connection  $\nabla$  on  $C$ , the brackets*

$$(2.14) \quad [e_1, e_2], [e, c] = -[c, e] = \nabla_{\rho e} c, [c_1, c_2] = -\gamma_0(c_1, c_2),$$

where  $e, e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma E$ ,  $c, c_1, c_2 \in \Gamma C$  and  $\gamma_0(c_1, c_2) \in \Gamma E$  is defined by

$$(2.15) \quad g(\gamma_0(c_1, c_2), e) = \frac{1}{2}[g_0(c_1, \nabla_{\rho e} c_2) - g_0(c_2, \nabla_{\rho e} c_1)],$$

define a pre-Courant algebroid structure on  $(E \oplus C, g \oplus g_0, \rho \oplus 0)$ . If the original algebroid is a Courant algebroid, (2.14) yields a Courant algebroid structure iff the connection  $\nabla$  is flat.

**Proof.** Straightforward checks show that the brackets (2.14) satisfy property v) of a pre-Courant algebroid. For a full justification of property i) we must also notice that  $\rho(\gamma_0(c_1, c_2)) = 0$ . This follows since (2.15) implies  $g(\gamma_0(c_1, c_2), \partial f) = 0, \forall f \in C^\infty(M)$ . For the last assertion of the proposition we refer to property iii) of a Courant algebroid. For arguments  $e_1, e_2, e_3$ , iii) holds if  $E$  is a Courant algebroid and for arguments  $c_1, c_2, c_3$  iii) follows from  $\rho(\gamma_0(c_1, c_2)) = 0$ . For arguments  $e_1, e_2, c$ , iii) is just  $R_\nabla(\rho e_1, \rho e_2)c = 0$ , where  $R_\nabla$  is the curvature of  $\nabla$ . Finally, for arguments  $e, c_1, c_2$ , iii) means

$$(2.16) \quad [e, \gamma_0(c_1, c_2)] - \gamma_0(\nabla_{\rho e} c_1, c_2) - \gamma_0(c_1, \nabla_{\rho e} c_2)$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}\partial\{g_0(\nabla_{\rho e}c_1, c_2) - g_0(c_1, \nabla_{\rho e}c_2)\} = 0.$$

Since for a pre-Courant algebroid property iv) holds, the left hand side of the previous equality is  $C^\infty(M)$ -linear and it suffices to check it for a local basis of  $C$ . If connection  $\nabla$  is flat,  $C$  has local  $\nabla$ -parallel bases and (2.16) obviously holds. Q.e.d.

### 3 Transitive and regular Courant algebroids

In this section we determine the structure of the *transitive Courant algebroids*, i.e., Courant algebroids with a surjective anchor. The results may then be extended to *regular Courant algebroids*, i.e., Courant algebroids with a constant rank anchor. When this paper was ready, I was informed that the transitive Courant algebroids were also determined by P. Ševera in unpublished correspondence with A. Weinstein, without metric connections (see Remark 3.2 later on).

Let  $(E, g, \rho)$  be a Courant vector bundle with a surjective anchor  $\rho$ . Then,  $K = \ker \rho$  is a (regular) subbundle of  $E$  of rank  $k = r - n$ , where  $r = \text{rank } E$  and  $n = \text{dim } M$ , and, if  $K^{\perp g}$  is the  $g$ -orthogonal subbundle of  $K$ ,  $\text{dim}(K \cap K^{\perp g}) = r - s$ , where  $s = \text{dim}(K + K^{\perp g})$ . In view of the properties of a Courant anchor  $\text{dim}(im \partial) = n$  and  $im \partial \subseteq (K \cap K^{\perp g})$  whence, it follows easily that  $s = k$ . Accordingly,  $K$  is a  $g$ -coisotropic subbundle of  $E$  and  $K^{\perp g} = im \partial \subseteq K$ .

In this situation, it is known that there exists an isotropic, complementary subbundle  $Q$  of  $K$  in  $E$  and a complementary subbundle  $C$  of  $im \partial$  in  $K$  such that

$$(3.1) \quad E = P \oplus C \quad (P = im \partial \oplus Q)$$

is a  $g$ -orthogonal decomposition, the restriction of  $g$  to  $C$  is non-degenerate, and the restriction of  $g$  to  $P$  is non-degenerate and *neutral* (i.e., of signature zero). We will say that  $P$  is a *neutral completion of  $im \partial$* . (The reader may see [9] for similar results in the symplectic case and the proofs are the same in the pseudo-Euclidean case.) For what follows, we fix a decomposition (3.1), which means that we also have  $E = K \oplus Q$ , and  $\rho|_Q$  is an isomorphism with the inverse  $\sigma : TM \rightarrow Q$ . We will denote by  $p_K, p_Q, p_P, p_{im \partial}, p_C$  the projections of  $E$  onto the corresponding subspaces, respectively.

Furthermore, we construct a metric connection  $\nabla$  of  $E$  as follows.  $\nabla$  will be the sum of metric connections of the components  $P, C$ . Furthermore, the component  $\nabla^P$  will be a sum  $\nabla^{im\partial} \oplus \nabla^Q$  where  $\nabla^Q$  is arbitrary and  $\nabla^{im\partial}$  is defined by the condition

$$X(g(q, \partial f)) = g(q, \nabla_X^{im\partial}(\partial f)) + g(\nabla_X^Q q, \partial f) \quad (q \in \Gamma Q, X \in \Gamma TM, f \in C^\infty(M)).$$

This condition defines well  $\nabla^{im\partial}$  because  $g|_P$  is neutral. A metric connection on  $(E, g)$  which is obtained by the process described above is said to be *suitable*, and we fix one such suitable connection.

The component  $\nabla^Q$  of a suitable connection may be identified with a linear connection  $D$  on  $M$  by means of the formula

$$(3.2) \quad D_X Y = \rho(\nabla_X(\sigma Y)) \quad (X, Y \in \Gamma TM).$$

The following formula defines a 3-form  $B_1 \in \Gamma \wedge^3 E^*$ :

$$(3.3) \quad B_1(e_1, e_2, e_3) = \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} g(\sigma(T_{(\nabla, \rho)}(e_1, e_2)), p_{im\partial}(e_3)).$$

From the fact that the  $\nabla$ -parallel translations preserve the subbundle  $im\partial$ , and formula (2.2), it follows that  $B_1$  satisfies condition (2.10). Hence, formula (2.5) with  $\beta = \beta_1$  defined by  $B_1$  yields a structure of a pre-Courant algebroid on  $(E, g, \rho)$ , with a bracket that we denote by  $[\cdot, \cdot]_1$ .

Like for any pre-Courant algebroid, in the transitive case too the brackets  $[e, \partial f]$  are always given by formula (1.11). Furthermore, we get

**Proposition 3.1** *The bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]_1$  is defined by the formulas*

$$(3.4) \quad p_Q[e_1, e_2]_1 = p_Q \nabla_{\rho e_1} e_2 - p_Q \nabla_{\rho e_2} e_1 - \sigma(T_{(\nabla, \rho)}(e_1, e_2)), \quad \forall e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma E,$$

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} g(p_K[e_1, e_2]_1, e) &= g(\nabla_{\rho e_1} e_2, e) - g(\nabla_{\rho e_2} e_1, e) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2}g(\nabla_{\rho e} e_2, e_1) + \frac{1}{2}g(\nabla_{\rho e} e_1, e_2) \\ &\quad - g(p_Q \nabla_{\rho e_1} e_2, e) + g(p_Q \nabla_{\rho e_2} e_1, e) \\ &\quad + g(\sigma(T_{(\nabla, \rho)}(e_1, e), e_2) - g(\sigma(T_{(\nabla, \rho)}(e_2, e), e_1), \end{aligned}$$

where  $e \in \Gamma E$  and we use an arbitrary decomposition (3.1) and an arbitrary suitable connection  $\nabla$ .

**Proof.** The first formula follows by applying  $\sigma$  to (2.2), since  $\sigma \circ \rho$  is the projection  $p_Q$  and the bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  satisfies property i).

Furthermore, if we expand the expression of the bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]_1$ , take the scalar  $g$ -product by an arbitrary  $e \in \Gamma E$ , and use formula (3.4), we see that (3.5) also holds.

Formulas (3.4) and (3.5) define the projections of the bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]_1$  on  $Q$  and  $K$ , hence, completely define the bracket. Q.e.d.

In the following proposition we give a more transparent expression of the bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]_1$ .

**Proposition 3.2** *Let  $(E, g, \rho)$  be a Courant vector bundle with a surjective anchor, for which a choice of a spitting (3.1) and of a suitable connection  $\nabla$  is made. Then,  $(E, g, \rho)$  has a structure of pre-Courant algebroid with the bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]_1$  given by the formulas*

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{aligned} [q_1 + \partial f_1, q_2 + \partial f_2]_1 &= \sigma[\rho q_1, \rho q_2] + \frac{1}{2}[\partial((\rho q_1)f_2) - \partial((\rho q_2)f_1)], \\ [c_1, c_2]_1 &= -\gamma(c_1, c_2), \quad [c, q + \partial f]_1 = -\nabla_{\rho q} c, \end{aligned}$$

where  $f, f_1, f_2 \in C^\infty(M)$ ;  $q, q_1, q_2 \in \Gamma Q$ ;  $c, c_1, c_2 \in \Gamma C$  and  $\gamma$  is defined by (2.4). Furthermore,  $[\cdot, \cdot]_1$  is a Courant algebroid bracket iff the connection  $\nabla$  is flat.

**Proof.** In view of the properties of decomposition (3.1),  $k \in K$  is completely defined by the scalar products  $g(k, q) \forall q \in Q$ . But, if  $e, e_1, e_2$  of (3.5) are in  $Q$ , using the definition of a suitable connection we get  $p_K[q_1, q_2]_1 = 0$ .

Accordingly, with (3.4) and (2.2) we get  $[q_1, q_2]_1 = \sigma[\rho q_1, \rho q_2]$  and the first formula (3.6) follows if we also take into account (1.11).

By similar considerations based on the properties of decomposition (3.1) and of a suitable connection, (3.4), (3.5) and (1.11) yield the remaining formulas (3.6).

Of course, brackets  $[\cdot, \cdot]_1$  with general factors  $\sum_i h_i \partial f_i \in im \partial$  will be deduced from (3.6) by means of property iv), Proposition 1.2. (Alternatively, we may use again (3.4) and (3.5).) Notice also that (2.4) implies  $\gamma(e_1, e_2) \in K^{\perp_g} = im \partial$ ,  $\forall e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma E$ .

From the first formula (3.6), we see that  $(P, g|_P, \rho|_P)$  ( $P = Q \oplus im \partial$ ) is a pre-Courant algebroid with the induced bracket. Moreover, it is easy to check that property iii) of Proposition 1.2 also holds on  $P$ , therefore, we actually have a Courant algebroid  $P$ , and (3.6) is the structure defined on

$P \oplus Q$  by Proposition 2.14. Accordingly, the last assertion of the present Proposition follows from the last assertion of Proposition 2.14. Q.e.d.

As shown by Proposition 1.4, all the other pre-Courant brackets of the Courant bundle with surjective anchor  $(E, g, \rho)$  will be obtained from (3.6) by the addition of a form  $\lambda$  that satisfies the corresponding hypotheses, whence,  $\lambda \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 E^* \otimes K)$  and (1.20) holds. The corresponding formulas are

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{aligned} [q_1 + \partial f_1, q_2 + \partial f_2] &= \sigma[\rho q_1, \rho q_2] + \lambda(q_1, q_2) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}[\partial((\rho q_1)f_2) - \partial((\rho q_2)f_1)], \\ [c_1, c_2] &= -\gamma(c_1, c_2) + \lambda(c_1, c_2), \quad [c, q + \partial f] = -\nabla_{\rho q} c + \lambda(c, q). \end{aligned}$$

In order to get Courant algebroid brackets we must ask  $\lambda$  to satisfy condition (1.17). If expressed on arguments  $q \in \Gamma Q, c \in \Gamma C$ , (1.17) decomposes into the following four components

$$(3.8) \quad (\partial_{[\ ]}\Lambda)(q_1, q_2, q_3) = 0,$$

$$(3.9) \quad (\partial_{[\ ]}\Lambda)(q_1, q_2, c) = -R_{\nabla}(\rho q_1, \rho q_2)c,$$

$$(3.10) \quad \begin{aligned} (\partial_{[\ ]}\Lambda)(q, c_1, c_2) &= \partial[g(q, \gamma(c_1, c_2))]_1 + [q, \gamma(c_1, c_2)]_1 \\ &\quad - \gamma(\nabla_{\rho q} c_1, c_2) - \gamma(c_1, \nabla_{\rho q} c_2), \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.11) \quad (\partial_{[\ ]}\Lambda)(c_1, c_2, c_3) = \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} [c_1, \gamma(c_2, c_3)]_1.$$

In principle, formulas (3.7) and (3.8)-(3.11) yield all the transitive Courant algebroids.

We get a more transparent result if we restrict ourselves to the subclass of transitive Courant algebroids that admit a bracket-closed neutral extension of the subbundle  $im \partial$ . We shall call them *transitive, restricted, Courant algebroids*.

The general bracket (3.7) is restricted iff it is defined by a form  $\lambda$  such that,  $\forall q_1, q_2 \in \Gamma Q, \lambda(q_1, q_2) \in im \partial$ . This condition is equivalent with

$\Lambda(q_1, q_2, c) = 0$ , which, because of the skew-symmetry, is equivalent with  $\lambda(c, q) \in \Gamma C$ . Then, we may change the  $C$ -component of the connection  $\nabla$  by  $\nabla_X C \mapsto \nabla_X C + \lambda(c, \sigma(X))$  and get for the same bracket a simplified expression (3.7) that looks as if we have used an additional form  $\lambda$  such that  $\lambda(c, q) = 0$  and, accordingly,  $\lambda(c_1, c_2) \in \Gamma C$ . Then, conditions (3.8)-(3.11) become simpler and we obtain

**Proposition 3.3** *The bracket (3.7) defines a transitive, restricted, Courant algebroid iff the  $C$ -component of the connection  $\nabla$  is flat and, in addition to the conditions for a pre-Courant algebroid, the form  $\lambda$  also satisfies the conditions*

$$(3.12) \quad \lambda(c, q) = 0, \quad \lambda(q_1, q_2) \in \Gamma(im \partial), \quad \lambda(c_1, c_2) \in \Gamma C,$$

$$(3.13) \quad \partial(\Lambda(q_1, q_2, q_3)) = \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} \{\lambda(\sigma[\rho q_1, \rho q_2], q_3) - [q_3, \lambda(q_1, q_2)]\},$$

$$(3.14) \quad \partial(\Lambda(c_1, c_2, c_3)) = - \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} \gamma(\lambda(c_1, c_2), c_3),$$

$$(3.15) \quad (\nabla_{\rho q} \lambda)(c_1, c_2) = 0.$$

**Proof.** Conditions (3.12) transform (3.9) into the flatness of  $\nabla$ , (3.8) into (3.13), (3.11) into (3.14) and (3.10) into (3.15). Q.e.d.

**Corollary 3.1** *A Courant vector bundle with surjective anchor has a restricted Courant algebroid structure iff it is a Whitney sum (3.1) of a Courant subalgebroid with neutral metric and a flat pseudo-Euclidean bundle.*

**Proof.** For a Courant algebroid, the conditions stated by the corollary were proven in Proposition 3.3. The bracket of the subalgebroid is defined by the first formula (3.7). Conversely, if the conditions hold, a corresponding Courant algebroid bracket is defined by (3.7) with  $\lambda = 0$ . Q.e.d.

**Remark 3.1** The minimal possible rank of a transitive Courant algebroid over an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$  is  $2n$ . Proposition 3.3 yields all the transitive Courant algebroids of minimal rank. Namely, they have no  $C$ -component and the bracket is defined by the first formula (3.7) where  $\lambda(q_1, q_2) \in im \partial$  satisfies the condition (3.13).

**Remark 3.2** With the notation used above, let  $E$  be a transitive Courant algebroid. Then  $E/im\partial$  gets an induced structure of a transitive Lie algebroid and we have the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow im\partial \xrightarrow{\subset} E \xrightarrow{\pi} E/im\partial \rightarrow 0.$$

Hence  $E$  may be seen as a central extension of a transitive Lie algebroid. In the restricted case, the splitting  $\sigma$  induces a splitting  $TM \xrightarrow{\sigma} E/im\partial$  which is a morphism of Lie algebroids. P. Ševera expressed the bracket of the Courant algebroid  $E$  by means of the bracket of the Lie algebroid  $E/im\partial$ .

The results obtained so far in this section straightforwardly extend to regular Courant algebroids. Indeed, such an algebroid  $(E, g, \rho)$  is a transitive Courant algebroid over the base manifold  $M$  of  $E$  seen as the sum of the leaves of the foliation  $\mathcal{F} = im\rho$ . Therefore, we get formulas (3.7) again. In order to ensure that we obtain brackets that are differentiable with respect to the original differentiable structure of  $M$  it suffices to use metric connections and forms  $\lambda, \Lambda$  that enjoy this kind of differentiability. Such connections are just Lie algebroid connections for the tangent Lie algebroid of  $\mathcal{F}$  (called  $\mathcal{F}$ -partial connections or connections along the leaves of  $\mathcal{F}$  in foliation theory). Thus, Propositions 3.2, 3.3 and Corollary 3.1, where we ask the anchor to be surjective over a regular foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  of  $M$  and the connection to be along the leaves of  $\mathcal{F}$ , describe all the regular (restricted) Courant algebroids.

## 4 Miscellanies

*a)* The basic example of a skew-symmetric Courant algebroid appeared in [1]. It was the vector bundle  $E = TM \oplus T^*M$ , endowed with the neutral pseudo-Euclidean metric

$$(4.1) \quad g(X \oplus \alpha, Y \oplus \beta) = \frac{1}{2}(i(X)\beta + i(Y)\alpha),$$

the non-degenerate cross section  $\omega \in \wedge^2 E^*$ ,

$$(4.2) \quad \omega(X \oplus \alpha, Y \oplus \beta) = \frac{1}{2}(i(X)\beta - i(Y)\alpha),$$

the *Courant bracket*

$$(4.3) \quad [X \oplus \alpha, Y \oplus \beta] = [X, Y] \oplus [L_X\beta - L_Y\alpha - d(\omega(X \oplus \alpha, Y \oplus \beta))],$$

and the projection  $\rho(X \oplus \alpha) = X$ , where  $X, Y \in \Gamma(TM)$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma(T^*M)$  and, for clarity, we denoted an element  $(X, \alpha) = X + \alpha \in TM \oplus T^*M$  by  $X \oplus \alpha$ .

Straightforward computations show that the bracket (4.3), together with  $g, \rho$ , satisfy the conditions of Definition 1.2, and  $TM \oplus T^*M$  is a skew-symmetric Courant algebroid.

For the same data, the formula

$$(4.4) \quad (X \oplus \alpha) \star (Y \oplus \beta) = [X, Y] \oplus (L_X\beta - i(Y)d\alpha)$$

defines a structure of a non-skew-symmetric Courant algebroid and the Courant bracket (4.3) is the skew-symmetric part of the bracket (4.4).

The Courant bracket was extended by Ševera and Weinstein [7] by the addition of a term of the form  $i(X \wedge Y)\Phi$  to the  $T^*M$ -component of the right hand side of (4.3),  $\Phi$  being a closed 3-form on  $M$ .

The Courant algebroid structures described above are transitive hence, particular cases of the general formulas (3.6), (3.7). Indeed, in the present case,  $\partial f = 0 \oplus df$  ( $f \in C^\infty(M)$ ),  $im \partial = T^*M$ ,  $C = \{0\}$ , we may take  $Q = TM$ , and a suitable connection is provided by any linear connection on  $M$ . Then, the first formula (3.6) becomes (4.3). Indeed, this is trivial for  $\alpha = df_1, \beta = df_2$  ( $f_1, f_2 \in C^\infty(M)$ ), and it is true for any  $\alpha, \beta$  because the two formulas (3.6) and (4.3) behave in the same way when arguments are multiplied by a function. The addition of a form  $\lambda$  leads to the Ševera-Weinstein Courant bracket with  $\Phi = -2\lambda|_Q$ . Since  $C = \{0\}$ , we necessarily are in the restricted case,  $\lambda, \Lambda$  satisfy (1.16), and the conditions (3.13)-(3.15) reduce to  $d\Phi = 0$ . Therefore, the Courant and Ševera-Weinstein brackets define all the Courant algebroid structures on  $TM \oplus T^*M$  endowed with the metric (4.1) and the anchor  $\rho(X \oplus \alpha) = X$ .

However,  $TM \oplus T^*M$  may have more Courant algebroid structures if, for instance, we change the anchor, as we will see below.

In [4], the Courant bracket was extended to vector bundles  $A \oplus A^*$ , where  $(A, A^*)$  is a Lie bialgebroid with anchors  $\alpha, \alpha^*$ , respectively, such that the extended bracket, the metric  $g$  defined like in (4.1) and the anchor  $\rho = \alpha + \alpha^*$  define a structure of skew-symmetric Courant algebroid. The extended

bracket is

$$(4.5) \quad \begin{aligned} [[a \oplus a^*, b \oplus b^*]] = & \{[a, b]_A + L_{a^*}^* b - L_{b^*}^* a + d^*(\omega(a \oplus a^*, b \oplus b^*))\} \\ & \oplus \{[a^*, b^*]_{A^*} + L_a b^* - L_b a^* - d(\omega(a \oplus a^*, b \oplus b^*))\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $d, L$ , respectively  $d^*, L^*$ , are the exterior differential and Lie derivative associated with the Lie algebroid structure of  $A$ , respectively  $A^*$ , and  $\omega$  is defined like in (4.2).

One can check that the bracket (4.5) is the skew-symmetric part of the product

$$(4.6) \quad \begin{aligned} (a \oplus a^*) \star (b \oplus b^*) = & \{[a, b]_A + L_{a^*}^* b + i(b^*)d^* a\} \\ & \oplus \{[a^*, b^*]_{A^*} + L_a b^* - i(b)da^*\}. \end{aligned}$$

It is possible to connect the bracket (4.5) with a metric connection as indicated in Proposition 2.1, but this doesn't seem to give interesting formulas. On the other hand, we may use the bracket (4.5) and Propositions 1.4, 2.2 in order to derive new Courant algebroid structures on the vector bundles  $A \oplus A^*$  and  $A \oplus A^* \oplus C$  for any flat pseudo-Euclidean bundle  $C$ .

The Courant bracket (4.3) on  $TM \oplus TM^*$  is the particular case of the bracket (4.5) where  $A = TM$  with the Lie bracket and  $A^* = T^*M$  with the zero bracket and zero anchor. But, if we assume that  $P$  is a Poisson bivector field on  $M$  and use the cotangent algebroid structure defined by  $P$  on  $T^*M$ , we get a new Courant algebroid structure on  $TM \oplus TM^*$  with the same metric (4.1), with the anchor  $Id_{TM} \oplus \sharp_P$ , and with the bracket (4.5). Again, we are in the transitive, restricted case, and it will be possible to express the bracket under the form (3.6). Indeed, the kernel of the anchor is

$$K = \{X \oplus \alpha / X + \sharp_P \alpha = 0\} \approx T^*M,$$

and we may use the complementary subbundle  $Q = \{X \oplus 0\} \approx TM$  such that a cross section of  $TM \oplus TM^*$  decomposes as follows

$$X \oplus \alpha = ((X + \sharp_P \alpha) \oplus 0) + ((-\sharp_P \alpha) \oplus \alpha).$$

It is easy to see that

$$\partial f = (-X_f^P) \oplus df, \quad f \in C^\infty(M),$$

where  $X_f^P$  is the Hamiltonian vector field of  $f$  with respect to  $P$ . Then, by technical calculations, one checks that the brackets defined by the first formula (3.6) and by (4.5) coincide; the checks are to be made in each of the cases: two arguments in  $Q$ , one in  $Q$  and one in  $im \partial$  and two arguments in  $im \partial$ .

The original Courant bracket also leads to an example of a non-restrictive, transitive pre-Courant algebroid. Assume that the manifold  $M$  is endowed with a Riemannian metric  $G$  and consider the vector bundle  $E = TM \oplus T^*M \oplus TM$  with the anchor defined as the projection on the first term and the metric  $g \oplus G$ , where  $g$  is given by (4.1). Then,  $\partial f = 0 \oplus df \oplus 0$  and  $E$  is a Courant vector bundle with surjective anchor, with the natural decomposition  $E = (Q \oplus im \partial) \oplus C$  where  $Q = TM$  and  $C = (T^*M, G)$ , and the suitable connection defined by the Levi-Civita connection  $\nabla$  of  $G$ , which satisfies  $T_{\nabla, \rho} = 0$ .

Accordingly, we get a pre-Courant algebroid bracket on  $TM \oplus T^*M \oplus TM$  if we use the corresponding formulas (3.6). The first formula (3.6) again yields the original Courant bracket and the remaining brackets (3.6) are determined by the Levi-Civita connection  $\nabla$  of  $G$  and the value of  $\gamma$  as defined by (2.4), which yields

$$(4.7) \quad \gamma(X_1 \oplus \alpha_1 \oplus Y_1, X_2 \oplus \alpha_2 \oplus Y_2) = 0 \oplus \xi(Y_1, Y_2) \oplus 0,$$

where

$$\xi(Y_1, Y_2) = G(Y_1, \nabla Y_2) - G(\nabla Y_1, Y_2)$$

and  $X_a, Y_a \in \Gamma TM$ ,  $\alpha_a \in \Gamma T^*M$  ( $a = 1, 2$ ).

Now, let  $\Phi$  be a differential 3-form on  $M$  and define

$$(4.8) \quad \begin{aligned} & \lambda(X_1 \oplus \alpha_1 \oplus Y_1, X_2 \oplus \alpha_2 \oplus Y_2) \\ &= 0 \oplus 2[i(X_1 \wedge Y_2 - X_2 \wedge Y_1)\Phi] \oplus \sharp_G[i(X_1 \wedge X_2)\Phi]. \end{aligned}$$

This form vanishes if one of the arguments belongs to  $im \partial$  and

$$(4.9) \quad \begin{aligned} & \Lambda(X_1 \oplus \alpha_1 \oplus Y_1, X_2 \oplus \alpha_2 \oplus Y_2, X_3 \oplus \alpha_3 \oplus Y_3) \\ &= \Phi(X_1, X_2, Y_3) + \Phi(X_1, Y_2, X_3) + \Phi(Y_1, X_2, X_3) \end{aligned}$$

is skew symmetric. Therefore  $\lambda$  of (4.8) may serve as an additional term that leads to a new pre-Courant algebroid bracket (3.7) on  $TM \oplus T^*M \oplus TM$ ,

which is not restricted. It will be a Courant algebroid bracket iff the conditions (3.8)-(3.11) hold. The significance of these conditions is unclear.

b) The Courant bracket (4.3) may be defined for every Lie algebroid  $A$  and it is the particular case of (4.5) where the dual bundle  $A^*$  is endowed with the zero anchor and the zero bracket. In what follows, we use this remark in order to define a Courant algebroid structure on the tangent bundle of a *para-Hermitian manifold*  $M$ . We recall the definition [2]: a *para-Hermitian structure* on  $M$  consists of a neutral metric  $g$  on  $TM$  and a  $(1, 1)$ -tensor field  $F$  that satisfies the conditions

$$(4.10) \quad F^2 = I = Id., \quad g(FX, FY) = -g(X, Y), \quad \forall X, Y \in \Gamma TM,$$

$$(4.11) \quad N_F(X, Y) = [FX, FY] - F[FX, Y] - F[X, FY] + F^2[X, Y] = 0.$$

Condition (4.11), which is the vanishing of the *Nijenhuis tensor* of  $F$ , is the integrability condition of the structure.

It follows that  $M$  also has a non degenerate 2-form

$$(4.12) \quad \omega(X, Y) = g(FX, Y),$$

which satisfies the condition

$$(4.13) \quad \omega(FX, FY) = -\omega(X, Y),$$

and that  $TM = W_+ \oplus W_-$ , where the terms are the  $\pm 1$ -eigendistributions of  $F$  and are integrable because of (4.11). We will denote by

$$(4.14) \quad F_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(I \pm F)$$

the projectors on  $W_{\pm}$ , respectively. From (4.10) and (4.13) it follows that  $W_{\pm}$  are maximal isotropic subbundles with respect to  $g$  and Lagrangian subbundles with respect to  $\omega$ . Accordingly, the musical isomorphism  $\flat_g$  sends  $W_{\pm}$  onto the dual space  $W_{\mp}^*$  and defines an isomorphism  $TM \approx W_+ \oplus W_+^*$ .

Because of integrability,  $W_+$ , with the Lie bracket, is a Lie algebroid and, if we use (4.3) in this case, we get a bracket on the tangent bundle  $TM$  defined by

$$(4.15) \quad [X, Y]_{F_+} = [X_+, Y_+] + \sharp_g \{L_{X_+} \flat_g Y_- - L_{Y_+} \flat_g X_- - \frac{1}{2}d[\omega(X, Y)]\},$$

where  $X_{\pm} = F_{\pm}X$ ,  $Y_{\pm} = F_{\pm}Y$ . The conclusion is that  $(TM, g, F_+, [, ]_{F_+})$  is a regular, skew-symmetric Courant algebroid.

**Remark 4.1** In an obvious way, we may speak of *para-Hermitian vector bundles* and, for any differentiable manifold  $M$ , the bundle  $TM \oplus T^*M$  is para-Hermitian with the metric (4.1) and with  $F$  defined by

$$(4.16) \quad F(X \oplus \alpha) = X \oplus (-\alpha).$$

Then, formulas (4.3) and (4.15) are similar.

c) In what follows we give some indications about the use of Proposition 2.1 for possible Courant algebroid structures on the tangent bundle of an arbitrary differentiable manifold  $M$ .

A Courant algebroid structure on  $TM$  requires a pseudo-Riemannian metric  $g$  on  $M$ , and a field  $\phi$  of endomorphisms of  $TM$ , which will be the anchor. Notice that  $\partial f = (1/2)\sharp_g(df \circ \phi)$  and that  $\text{span}\{df \circ \phi\} = \text{ann ker } \phi$ . Hence,  $\phi$  is a Courant anchor iff  $\text{im } \phi$  is a generalized, completely integrable distribution and  $\sharp_g(\text{ann ker } \phi)$  is an isotropic distribution. In particular, we must have  $\text{rank } \phi \leq (1/2)\dim M$ . Furthermore, one must have a bracket  $[[X, Y]]$  ( $X, Y, [[X, Y]] \in \Gamma TM$ ) that satisfies properties i),iii), v) of Proposition 1.2. In Section 4b) we had an example of such a situation.

Generally, on  $TM$  we have the Levi-Civita connection  $\nabla$  of  $g$ , which is metric, and we may use it to express the bracket. The connection  $\nabla$  has no torsion but it has a  $\phi$ -torsion

$$(4.17) \quad \begin{aligned} T_{(\nabla, \phi)}(X, Y) &= \phi(\nabla_{\phi X}Y - \nabla_{\phi Y}X) - [\phi X, \phi Y] \\ &= (\nabla_{\phi Y}\phi)(X) - (\nabla_{\phi X}\phi)(Y). \end{aligned}$$

A technical calculation shows that the  $\phi$ -torsion is related with the Nijenhuis tensor  $N_{\phi}$  (see (4.11). Namely,

$$(4.18) \quad T_{(\nabla, \phi)}(X, Y) = (\phi \circ \nabla_Y \phi)(X) - (\phi \circ \nabla_X \phi)(Y) - N_{\phi}(X, Y).$$

The operator  $\gamma$  of (2.4) will now be defined by

$$(4.19) \quad g(\gamma(X, Y), Z) = \frac{1}{2}[g(X, \nabla_{\phi Z}Y) - g(\nabla_{\phi Z}X, Y)],$$

and the Courant algebroid bracket will be

$$(4.20) \quad [[X, Y]] = \nabla_{\phi X}Y - \nabla_{\phi Y}X - \gamma(X, Y) - \beta(X, Y).$$

where  $\beta$  is a tensor field of type (1,2) on  $M$  such that  $\phi(\beta(X, Y)) = T_{(\nabla, \phi)}(X, Y)$  and  $B(X, Y, Z) = g(\beta(X, Y), Z)$  is a 3-form on  $M$ .

Thus, essentially, a Courant algebroid structure on  $(TM, g, \phi)$  is a special type of a 3-form. What we must still ask is the fulfillment of condition  $\mathcal{C} = 0$  for  $\mathcal{C}$  defined by (2.13). Unfortunately, this condition is too complicated and does not provide a practical way to find new Courant algebroids. This is true even if stronger conditions are added. For instance, if we ask  $\phi$  to be  $\nabla$ -parallel along paths in the leaves of  $im \phi$ , (4.17) shows that  $T_{(\nabla, \phi)} = 0$  and we may try the solution  $\beta = 0$ . The resulting bracket (4.20) defines a Courant algebroid structure iff (see (2.12))

$$\sum_{Cycl(X, Y, Z)} \{R_{\nabla}(\phi X, \phi Y)Z - (\nabla_{\phi Z} \gamma)(X, Y) - \gamma(\gamma(X, Y), Z)\} = 0.$$

d) Now, in a different direction, we refer to the case of what should be called *foliated, regular Courant algebroids*, and show another way of describing their brackets.

Let  $M$  be a manifold endowed with a regular foliation  $\mathcal{F}$ . Let  $E$  be a foliated, vector bundle over  $M$  endowed with a foliated, pseudo-Euclidean metric  $g$ . This means that  $E$  has a given, maximal system of local trivializations with transition functions that are constant along the leaves of  $\mathcal{F}$  (foliated functions), and,  $\forall e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma_{pr} E$ , where  $\Gamma_{pr}$  denotes the space of projectable cross sections of  $E$  (i.e., constant along the leaves), the function  $g(e_1, e_2)$  is constant along the leaves. (E.g., see [5] for the theory of foliations.) Then, we have

**Proposition 4.1** *On a foliated pair  $(E, g)$  there exist metric connections  $\nabla$  that satisfy the condition  $\nabla_X e = 0$ ,  $\forall X \in \Gamma T\mathcal{F}$  and  $\forall e \in \Gamma_{pr} E$ .*

**Proof.** Take an arbitrary normal bundle  $N\mathcal{F}$  (i.e.,  $TM = T\mathcal{F} \oplus N\mathcal{F}$ ) and an arbitrary metric connection  $\tilde{\nabla}$  of  $(E, g)$ . Then define

$$(4.21) \quad \nabla_X e = \begin{cases} \tilde{\nabla}_X e & \forall X \in \Gamma N\mathcal{F}, \forall e \in \Gamma E \\ 0 & \forall X \in \Gamma T\mathcal{F}, \forall e \in \Gamma_{pr} E. \end{cases}$$

It is easy to check that this produces a connection as required. Indeed, we must still define  $\nabla_X e$  for  $X \in \Gamma T\mathcal{F}$  and a non projectable  $e \in \Gamma E$ . For this purpose, we take local projectable bases  $e_\alpha$  of  $E$  and, for

$$e = \sum_{\alpha} f_{\alpha} e_{\alpha}, \quad e_{\alpha} \in \Gamma_{pr} E, f_{\alpha} \in C^{\infty}(M),$$

we put

$$\nabla_X e = \sum_{\alpha} (X f_{\alpha}) e_{\alpha}.$$

Q.e.d.

A connection that satisfies the properties stated by Proposition 4.1 will be called an *adapted connection* of  $(E, g)$ .

Let  $(E, g)$  be foliated and let us assume that there exists a surjective morphism  $\rho : E \rightarrow T\mathcal{F}$ , which is a Courant anchor of  $(E, g)$ . Then, for any adapted connection  $\nabla$ , one has a non-zero  $\rho$ -torsion given by

$$(4.22) \quad T_{(\nabla, \rho)}(e_1, e_2) = -[\rho e_1, \rho e_2], \quad e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma_{pr} E.$$

Formula (2.4) yields the operator

$$(4.23) \quad \gamma(e_1, e_2) = 0, \quad e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma_{pr} E,$$

and (2.3) gives a bracket such that

$$(4.24) \quad [e_1, e_2]_0 = 0, \quad e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma_{pr} E.$$

The values of this bracket for arbitrary cross sections  $f_1 e_1, f_2 e_2$ ,  $e_1, e_2 \in \Gamma_{pr} E$ ,  $f_1, f_2 \in C^\infty(M)$  follows from property iv), Proposition 1.2. Furthermore, the operator  $\gamma$  satisfies the condition  $\mathcal{C}_0 = 0$ , where  $\mathcal{C}_0$  is defined by (2.12); this is obvious for projectable arguments and is true for arbitrary arguments because  $\mathcal{C}_0$  is a tensor. Hence, we get

**Proposition 4.2** *For a triple  $(E, g, \rho)$  as described above, a Courant algebroid bracket is a bracket of the form (2.5), where  $\beta \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 E^* \otimes E)$  is associated with a 3-form  $B \in \Gamma(\wedge^3 E^*)$  and satisfies the conditions*

$$(4.25) \quad \rho(\beta(e_1, e_2)) = -[\rho e_1, \rho e_2]$$

$$(4.26) \quad \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} \beta(\beta(e_1, e_2), e_3) = \sum_{Cycl(1,2,3)} [\beta(e_1, e_2), e_3]_0,$$

$\forall e_1, e_2, e_3 \in \Gamma_{pr} E.$

## 5 Appendix: Dirac linear spaces

The Courant algebroids resulted from the process of studying *Dirac structures*, which are a significant generalization of the Poisson structures [1]. Although this is not a subject of the present paper, we have added this appendix, which shows that the known linear algebra of Dirac structures is a part of para-Hermitian linear algebra.

A para-Hermitian vector space is a  $2n$ -dimensional vector space  $W$  that has the structure indicated for the fibers of the tangent bundle of a para-Hermitian manifold in the previous section. On  $W$  we have the ingredients  $g, \omega, F, W_{\pm}, F_{\pm}$ , with the algebraic properties stated in Section 4b), and  $W = W_+ \oplus W_-$ ,  $\flat_g : W_{\pm} \approx W_{\mp}^*$ .

The space  $W$  has *adapted bases*  $(b_i, c_j)$  ( $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ ), where  $(b_1, \dots, b_n)$  is a basis of  $W_+$ , therefore,  $\flat_g b_1, \dots, \flat_g b_n$  is a basis of  $W_-^*$ , and  $(c_1, \dots, c_n)$  is the corresponding dual basis of  $W_-$ , i.e.,  $g(b_i, c_j) = \delta_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ ).

**Definition 5.1** 1) [1] A maximal,  $g$ -isotropic subspace  $L$  of the para-Hermitian vector space  $W$  is called a *Dirac subspace* of  $W$ . 2) [3] A pair  $(L, L')$  of complementary Dirac subspaces of  $W$  ( $W = L \oplus L'$ ) is a *reflector* in  $W$ .

**Proposition 5.1** *For any Dirac subspace  $L \subseteq W$ , there exists a family  $\mathcal{T}(L)$  of Dirac subspaces that are complementary to  $L$  in  $W$ , and  $\mathcal{T}(L)$  is an affine space modelled over the linear space of the skew-symmetric matrices of order  $n$ .*

**Proof.** The results are analogous to known results for Lagrangian subspaces of a symplectic vector space, and we prove them as in the latter case, e.g., [9]. For any subspace  $S \subseteq W$  such that  $W = L \oplus S$  and any basis  $(l_1, \dots, l_n)$  of  $L$ , there exists a unique *conjugated basis*  $(s_1, \dots, s_n)$  of  $S$ , such that  $g(l_i, s_j) = \delta_{ij}$ . Using the conjugated basis, we can obtain vectors

$$u_i = s_i + \tau_i^k l_k$$

(the Einstein summation convention holds) such that  $g(u_i, u_j) = 0$ , and these vectors span a Dirac subspace  $L'$  that satisfies  $L \oplus L' = W$ . Furthermore, if  $L''$  is another Dirac subspace such that  $L \oplus L'' = W$  and if  $(u_i)$  is the conjugated basis of  $(l_i)$  in  $L'$  and  $(v_i)$  is the conjugated basis of  $(l_i)$  in  $L''$ , there exists a unique skew-symmetric matrix  $(\theta_i^j)$  such that  $v_i = u_i + \theta_i^j l_j$ . Q.e.d.

Using adapted bases of  $W$ , it follows that the set of the reflectors of  $W$  is the  $n(n-1)$ -dimensional homogeneous space  $\mathcal{R} = O(W, g)/pH(W) \approx O(n, n)/Gl(n)$ , where  $O(W, g)$  is the  $g$ -preserving subgroup of the general linear group  $Gl(W)$ , which acts transitively on  $\mathcal{R}$ ,  $pH(W)$  is the *para-Hermitian subgroup*, which commutes with  $F$  and is the isotropy subgroup of the pair  $(W_+, W_-) \in \mathcal{R}$ ,  $O(n, n) \approx O(W, g)$  is the subgroup of  $Gl(2n)$  which preserves the canonical neutral metric, and  $Gl(n) \approx pH(W)$  by the embedding

$$(5.1) \quad A \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & {}^t A^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (A \in Gl(n))$$

[3, 11].

Proposition 5.1 shows that the set  $\mathcal{D}$  of Dirac subspaces of  $W$  is the quotient space of  $\mathcal{R}$  by the equivalence relation with equivalence classes  $\mathcal{T}(L)$ , hence,  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $[n(n-1)/2]$ -dimensional space namely, the homogeneous space  $O(W, g)/O_{W_+}(W, g)$ , where the isotropy group of  $W_+ \in \mathcal{D}$  at the denominator is that of the elements  $\phi \in O(W, g)$  which satisfy the condition  $F_- \circ \phi \circ F_+ = 0$ .

We also notice that  $L \subseteq W$  is a Dirac subspace iff  $F(L)$  is the  $\omega$ -orthogonal subspace of  $L$ . Therefore, if  $L$  is a Dirac subspace,  $\ker(\omega|_L) = L \cap F(L)$ . On the other hand, it follows easily that for a Dirac subspace  $L$  one has

$$\ker(\omega|_L) = (W_+ \cap L) \oplus (W_- \cap L).$$

The following proposition shows that the integers  $k = \dim(W_- \cap L)$  and  $r = \text{rank}(\omega|_L)$  are the only invariants of a Dirac subspace with respect to the action of the para-Hermitian subgroup  $pH(W)$ .

**Proposition 5.2** *The group  $pH(W)$  acts transitively on the set of Dirac subspaces  $L$  with given values  $k, r$ .*

**Proof.** Denote  $p_{\pm} = F_{\pm}|_L$ . Obviously,  $\ker p_{\pm} = W_{\mp} \cap L$ , and we get two linear spaces

$$L_{\pm} = \text{im } p_{\pm} \subseteq W_{\pm} \approx L/W_{\mp} \cap L$$

of dimension  $n - \dim(W_{\mp} \cap L)$ . Since  $W_{\mp} \cap L \subseteq \ker(\omega|_L)$ , we see that the subspaces  $L_{\pm}$  have induced, skew-symmetric, bilinear forms  $\omega_{\pm}^L$ .

Moreover, because of the structure of  $\ker(\omega|_L)$  as described above, we see that  $\text{rank } \omega_{\pm}^L = \text{rank } \omega|_L$  and  $\ker \omega_{\pm}^L = p_{\pm}(W_{\pm} \cap L)$ . (Clearly,  $p_{\pm}|_{W_{\pm} \cap L}$  have kernel zero and are isomorphisms onto the corresponding images.)

As shown in [1], it is possible to reconstruct  $L$  from each of the pairs  $(L_{\pm}, \omega_{\pm}^L)$  namely,

$$L = \{w \in W / F_+(w) \in L_+, g(F_-(w), u) = \omega_+^L(F_+(w), u), \forall u \in L_+\},$$

$$L = \{w \in W / F_-(w) \in L_-, g(F_+(w), u) = \omega_-^L(F_-(w), u), \forall u \in L_-\}.$$

The two formulas have similar justifications, and we refer to the first only. A straightforward check shows that, for any choice of a pair  $(L_+, \omega_+)$ , which consists of an arbitrary subspace of  $W$  and an arbitrary 2-form on that subspace,  $L$  defined by the first formula is an isotropic subspace of  $W$ , that  $F_+(L) = L_+$ , and that  $\omega_+$  is induced by  $\omega$ . Furthermore, the formula implies

$$\ker F_+|_L = L \cap W_- = \{w \in W_- / g(w, u) = 0, \forall u \in L_+\},$$

and, since  $g|_{W_- \times W_+}$  is a non degenerate pairing,  $k = n - \dim(L_+)$ . Accordingly,  $\dim L = \dim(\ker F_+|_L) + \dim(\text{im } F_+|_L) = n$  and  $L$  is the required Dirac subspace.

Now, if  $L, L'$  are Dirac subspaces of  $W$  with the same invariants  $k, r$ , there exists a transformation  $\psi \in Gl(W_+)$  which sends the pair  $(L_+, \omega_+^L)$  onto  $(L'_+, \omega_+^{L'})$ . Obviously, the image of  $\psi$  in  $pH(W)$  via the embedding (5.1) sends  $L$  onto  $L'$ . Q.e.d.

Of course, instead of the invariant  $k = \dim(W_- \cap L)$  we may consider  $h = \dim(W_+ \cap L)$ . These two numbers are related by  $k + h = n - r$ .

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