

Graded structures of classical field theory

XIX Young Researchers Workshop in Geometry Dynamics and Field Theory

Rubén Izquierdo-López, joint work with M. de León

20-22 January, 2025

ICMAT-UNIR

Structure of the talk

Poisson and Dirac structures in Classical Mechanics

Graded Poisson and Dirac structures

Foliations

Poisson and Dirac structures in Classical Mechanics

Definition

A **Poisson structure** on a smooth manifold M is a bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ defined on $C^\infty(M)$ that satisfies:

- Skew-symmetry, $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$
- Leibniz identity, $\{fh, g\} = f\{h, g\} + h\{f, g\}$
- Jacobi identity, $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} = 0$.

Definition

A **Poisson structure** on a smooth manifold M is a bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ defined on $C^\infty(M)$ that satisfies:

- Skew-symmetry, $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$
- Leibniz identity, $\{fh, g\} = f\{h, g\} + h\{f, g\}$
- Jacobi identity, $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} = 0$.

Equivalently, a Poisson structure can be given by

- A bivector field $\Lambda \in \mathfrak{X}^2(M)$ such that $[\Lambda, \Lambda] = 0$.
($\{f, g\} = \Lambda(df, dg)$),

Poisson structures

Definition

A **Poisson structure** on a smooth manifold M is a bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ defined on $C^\infty(M)$ that satisfies:

- Skew-symmetry, $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$
- Leibniz identity, $\{fh, g\} = f\{h, g\} + h\{f, g\}$
- Jacobi identity, $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} = 0$.

Equivalently, a Poisson structure can be given by

- A bivector field $\Lambda \in \mathfrak{X}^2(M)$ such that $[\Lambda, \Lambda] = 0$.
($\{f, g\} = \Lambda(df, dg)$),
- A skew-symmetric map $\sharp : T^*M \rightarrow TM$ satisfying some integrability conditions,

Poisson structures

Definition

A **Poisson structure** on a smooth manifold M is a bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ defined on $C^\infty(M)$ that satisfies:

- Skew-symmetry, $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$
- Leibniz identity, $\{fh, g\} = f\{h, g\} + h\{f, g\}$
- Jacobi identity, $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} = 0$.

Equivalently, a Poisson structure can be given by

- A bivector field $\Lambda \in \mathfrak{X}^2(M)$ such that $[\Lambda, \Lambda] = 0$.
($\{f, g\} = \Lambda(df, dg)$),
- A skew-symmetric map $\sharp : T^*M \rightarrow TM$ satisfying some integrability conditions,
- A foliation of M by symplectic leaves.

Going degenerate: Dirac structures

Definition

A **Dirac structure** on a smooth manifold M is a bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ defined on

$$C^\infty(U)_K = \{f \in C^\infty(U) : X(f) = 0, \forall X \in K\},$$

for every U open subset, where K is a smooth integrable distribution on M (maybe not of constant rank) that satisfies

- Skew-symmetry, $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$
- Leibniz identity, $\{fh, g\} = f\{h, g\} + h\{f, g\}$
- Jacobi identity, $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} = 0$.

Going degenerate: Dirac structures

Definition

A **Dirac structure** on a smooth manifold M is a bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ defined on

$$C^\infty(U)_K = \{f \in C^\infty(U) : X(f) = 0, \forall X \in K\},$$

for every U open subset, where K is a smooth integrable distribution on M (maybe not of constant rank) that satisfies

- Skew-symmetry, $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$
- Leibniz identity, $\{fh, g\} = f\{h, g\} + h\{f, g\}$
- Jacobi identity, $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} = 0$.

Equivalently, a Dirac structure can be given by

- An involutive and Lagrangian subbundle $L \subseteq TM \oplus_M T^*M$.

Going degenerate: Dirac structures

Definition

A **Dirac structure** on a smooth manifold M is a bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ defined on

$$C^\infty(U)_K = \{f \in C^\infty(U) : X(f) = 0, \forall X \in K\},$$

for every U open subset, where K is a smooth integrable distribution on M (maybe not of constant rank) that satisfies

- Skew-symmetry, $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$
- Leibniz identity, $\{fh, g\} = f\{h, g\} + h\{f, g\}$
- Jacobi identity, $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} = 0$.

Equivalently, a Dirac structure can be given by

- An involutive and Lagrangian subbundle $L \subseteq TM \oplus_M T^*M$.
- A integrable and skew-symmetric map $\sharp : S \rightarrow TM/K$, where $S \subseteq T^*M$ is a subbundle and $K = S^\circ$ is an integrable distribution,

Going degenerate: Dirac structures

Definition

A **Dirac structure** on a smooth manifold M is a bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ defined on

$$C^\infty(U)_K = \{f \in C^\infty(U) : X(f) = 0, \forall X \in K\},$$

for every U open subset, where K is a smooth integrable distribution on M (maybe not of constant rank) that satisfies

- Skew-symmetry, $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$
- Leibniz identity, $\{fh, g\} = f\{h, g\} + h\{f, g\}$
- Jacobi identity, $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} = 0$.

Equivalently, a Dirac structure can be given by

- An involutive and Lagrangian subbundle $L \subseteq TM \oplus_M T^*M$.
- A **integrable and skew-symmetric map** $\sharp : S \rightarrow TM/K$, where $S \subseteq T^*M$ is a subbundle and $K = S^\circ$ is an integrable distribution,
- A foliation of M by pre-symplectic leaves.

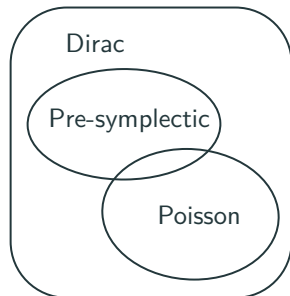
Objective

Translate this picture to classical field theories.

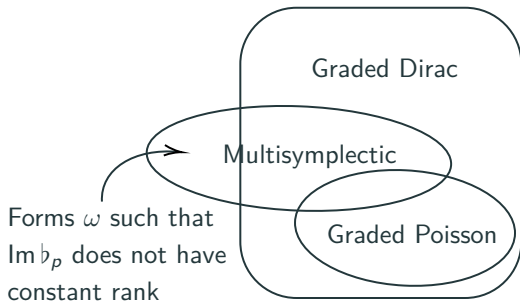
More particularly,

Find an equivalence between brackets and some tensorial object.

Classical mechanics



Classical field theories



Forms ω such that $\text{Im } b_p$ does not have constant rank

Graded Poisson and Dirac structures

Multisymplectic manifolds

In order to work with any of the formalisms (Lagrangian, extended Hamiltonian, reduced Hamiltonian), we will work abstractly with a **multisymplectic manifold**, (M, ω) , a manifold M together with a closed $(n + 1)$ -form.

Multisymplectic manifolds

In order to work with any of the formalisms (Lagrangian, extended Hamiltonian, reduced Hamiltonian), we will work abstractly with a **multisymplectic manifold**, (M, ω) , a manifold M together with a closed $(n + 1)$ -form.

We have already a lot of examples:

- $(J^1\pi, \Omega_{\mathcal{L}})$, where \mathcal{L} is a Lagrangian;
- $(\bigwedge_2^n Y, \Omega)$;
- (Z^*, Ω_h) , where $h : Z^* \rightarrow \bigwedge_2^n Y$ is a Hamiltonian section;
- (M, ω) , where M is an orientable manifold and ω is a volume form.

Hamiltonian multivector fields and Hamiltonian forms

On every multisymplectic manifold, we have the corresponding generalization of Hamiltonian vector fields:

Hamiltonian multivector fields and Hamiltonian forms

On every multisymplectic manifold, we have the corresponding generalization of Hamiltonian vector fields:

Definition

A multivector field $U \in \mathfrak{X}^q(M)$ is called **Hamiltonian** if

$$\iota_U \Omega = d\alpha,$$

where $\alpha \in \Omega^{n-q}(M)$ is called the corresponding **Hamiltonian form**.

Hamiltonian multivector fields and Hamiltonian forms

On every multisymplectic manifold, we have the corresponding generalization of Hamiltonian vector fields:

Definition

A multivector field $U \in \mathfrak{X}^q(M)$ is called **Hamiltonian** if

$$\iota_U \Omega = d\alpha,$$

where $\alpha \in \Omega^{n-q}(M)$ is called the corresponding **Hamiltonian form**.

We have the following:

Proposition

If U, V are Hamiltonian multivector fields of degree p, q . Then $[U, V]$ is a Hamiltonian multivector field of order $p + q - 1$. The corresponding Hamiltonian form is

$$(-1)^q \iota_{U \wedge V} \Omega.$$

Graded Poisson brackets

The previous proposition induces the following:

Definition

Let α, β be Hamiltonian forms of order $k - p, k - q$, respectively. Define their **Poisson bracket**

$$\{\alpha, \beta\} := (-1)^q \iota_{U \wedge V} \Omega,$$

where U, V are their respective Hamiltonian multivector fields.

Graded Poisson brackets

The previous proposition induces the following:

Definition

Let α, β be Hamiltonian forms of order $k - p, k - q$, respectively. Define their **Poisson bracket**

$$\{\alpha, \beta\} := (-1)^q \iota_{U \wedge V} \Omega,$$

where U, V are their respective Hamiltonian multivector fields.

Then, we have

Theorem

*Modulo exact forms, the previous brackets defines a **graded Lie algebra** on the space of Hamiltonian forms*

Question: Does this recover the multisymplectic form?

Properties of graded Poisson brackets

If we set $\deg \beta := k$ – order of β , then the Poisson bracket satisfies:

- It is *graded*:

$$\deg\{\alpha, \beta\} = \deg \alpha + \deg \beta;$$

- It is *graded-skew-symmetric*:

$$\{\alpha, \beta\} = -(-1)^{\deg \alpha \deg \beta} \{\beta, \alpha\};$$

- It is *local*: If $d\alpha|_x = 0$, $\{\alpha, \beta\}|_x = 0$
- It satisfies *graded Jacobi identity* (up to an exact term):

$$(-1)^{\deg \alpha \deg \gamma} \{\{\alpha, \beta\}, \gamma\} + \text{cyclic terms} = \text{exact form.}$$

Properties of graded Poisson brackets

If we set $\deg \beta := k$ – order of β , then the Poisson bracket satisfies:

- It is *graded*:

$$\deg\{\alpha, \beta\} = \deg \alpha + \deg \beta;$$

- It is *graded-skew-symmetric*:

$$\{\alpha, \beta\} = -(-1)^{\deg \alpha \deg \beta} \{\beta, \alpha\};$$

- It is *local*: If $d\alpha|_x = 0$, $\{\alpha, \beta\}|_x = 0$
- It satisfies *graded Jacobi identity* (up to an exact term):

$$(-1)^{\deg \alpha \deg \gamma} \{\{\alpha, \beta\}, \gamma\} + \text{cyclic terms} = \text{exact form.}$$

- It satisfies *Leibniz identity*: For $a = k$, if $\beta \wedge d\gamma \in \Omega_H^{b+c-1}(M)$, then

$$\{\beta \wedge d\gamma, \alpha\} = \{\beta, \alpha\} \wedge d\gamma + (-1)^{k-\deg \beta} d\beta \wedge \{\gamma, \alpha\};$$

- It is *invariant by symmetries*: If $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ and $\mathcal{L}_X \alpha = 0$, then $\iota_X \alpha \in \Omega_H^{a-2}(M)$ and

$$\{\iota_X \alpha, \beta\} = (-1)^{\deg \beta} \iota_X \{\alpha, \beta\};$$

Onto the definitions...

First, we look at the **linearized** version:

Definition

Let M be a manifold. A graded Dirac structure of order n is a tuple (S^a, K_p, \sharp_a) , where $S^a \subseteq \wedge^a M$ is a **vector subbundle** of forms, $K_p \subseteq \bigvee_p M (= \wedge^p TM)$ is a **subbundle of multivectors**, and

$$\sharp_a : S^a \rightarrow \bigvee_{n+1-a} M / K_{n+1-a}$$

are linear bundle maps satisfying:

Onto the definitions...

First, we look at the **linearized** version:

Definition

Let M be a manifold. A graded Dirac structure of order n is a tuple (S^a, K_p, \sharp_a) , where $S^a \subseteq \bigwedge^a M$ is a **vector subbundle** of forms, $K_p \subseteq \bigvee_p M (= \bigwedge^p TM)$ is a **subbundle of multivectors**, and

$$\sharp_a : S^a \rightarrow \bigvee_{n+1-a} M/K_{n+1-a}$$

are linear bundle maps satisfying:

- $K_p = (S^a)^{\circ, p}$, for $p \leq a$.
- The maps \sharp_a are *skew-symmetric*, that is,

$$\iota_{\sharp_a(\alpha)}\beta = (-1)^{(n+1-a)(n+1-b)}\iota_{\sharp_b(\beta)}\alpha,$$

for all $\alpha \in S^a, \beta \in S^b$.

And it is **integrable**:

- It is *integrable*: For $\alpha : M \rightarrow S^a$, $\beta : M \rightarrow S^b$ sections such that $a + b \leq 2n + 1$, and U, V multivectors of order $p = n + 1 - a$, $q = n + 1 - b$, respectively such that

$$\sharp_a(\alpha) = U + K_p, \quad \sharp_b(\beta) = V + K_q,$$

we have that the $(a + b - k)$ -form

$$\theta := (-1)^{(p-1)q} \mathcal{L}_U \beta + (-1)^q \mathcal{L}_V \alpha - \frac{(-1)^q}{2} d(\iota_V \alpha + (-1)^{pq} \iota_U \beta)$$

takes values in S_{a+b-k} , and

$$\sharp_{a+b-k}(\theta) = [U, V] + K_{p+q-1}.$$

Field theories as an example

Let (M, ω) be a multisymplectic manifold of order n , that is, the form ω must satisfy $\iota_v \omega = 0$ if and only if $v = 0$. Then, the (linear) correspondence between Hamiltonian multivector fields and forms defines a graded Dirac structure of order n :

Field theories as an example

Let (M, ω) be a multisymplectic manifold of order n , that is, the form ω must satisfy $\iota_v \omega = 0$ if and only if $v = 0$. Then, the (linear) correspondence between Hamiltonian multivector fields and forms defines a graded Dirac structure of order n :

▪

$$S^a = \{ \iota_U \omega : U \in \bigvee_{n+1-a} M \};$$

▪

$$K_p = \ker_p \omega;$$

▪ $\sharp_a : S^a \rightarrow \bigvee_{n+1-a} / K_{n+1-a}$ is given by

$$\sharp_a(\alpha) = U + K_{n+1-a} \text{ if and only if } \iota_U \omega = \alpha.$$

In this case, \sharp_a are the inverse of the b_p (contraction) maps induced by ω .

Relationship with graded Poisson brackets

Given a graded Dirac structure on M , (S^a, \sharp_a, K_p) , we can define a **Hamiltonian form** as an $(a - 1)$ -form, α such that $d\alpha \in S^a$.

Definition

The Poisson bracket of Hamiltonian forms is given by

$$\{\alpha, \beta\} := (-1)^{\deg \beta} \iota_{\sharp_b(d\beta)} d\alpha$$

It satisfies all previous properties and, furthermore,

Relationship with graded Poisson brackets

Given a graded Dirac structure on M , (S^a, \sharp_a, K_p) , we can define a **Hamiltonian form** as an $(a - 1)$ -form, α such that $d\alpha \in S^a$.

Definition

The Poisson bracket of Hamiltonian forms is given by

$$\{\alpha, \beta\} := (-1)^{\deg \beta} \iota_{\sharp_b(d\beta)} d\alpha$$

It satisfies all previous properties and, furthermore,

Theorem

Under some integrability conditions on the sequence of subspaces S^a , any graded Dirac structure on this family is completely characterized by the graded Poisson bracket it induces. That is, we get a 1-1 correspondence

$$\{\text{Graded Poisson structures}\} \cong \{\text{Graded Poisson brackets}\}.$$

But why?

But why?

- The quest of finding a bracket formulation of field theories.

But why?

- The quest of finding a bracket formulation of field theories.
- Tools.

	Symplectic	Poisson	Dirac
Easily restricted?	Yes	No	Yes
Easily Quotiented?	No	Yes	Yes

	Multisymplectic	Graded Poisson	Graded Dirac
Easily restricted?	Yes	No	Yes
Easily Quotiented?	No	Yes	Yes

What are the integrability conditions on the sequence S^a ?

Integrability conditions

What are the integrability conditions on the sequence S^a ?

- Locally, there exists Hamiltonian forms $\gamma_{ij} \in \Omega_H^{b-2}(U)$, and functions f_i^j such that

$$S^b = \langle df_i^j \wedge d\gamma_{ij}, i \rangle;$$

What are the integrability conditions on the sequence S^a ?

- Locally, there exists Hamiltonian forms $\gamma_{ij} \in \Omega_H^{b-2}(U)$, and functions f_i^j such that

$$S^b = \langle df_i^j \wedge d\gamma_{ij}, i \rangle;$$

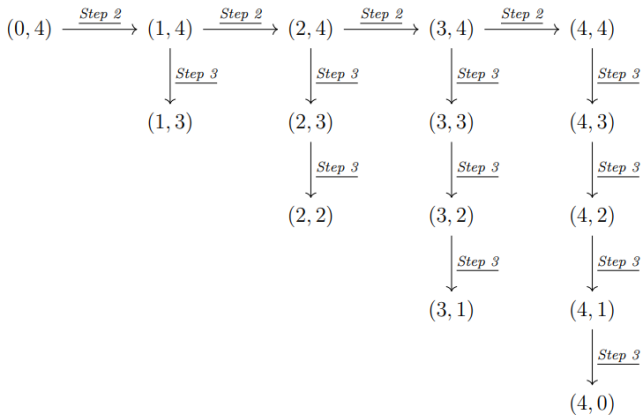
- For each $1 \leq a \leq k$, locally, there exists a family of Hamiltonian forms γ^j , and a family of vector fields X^j such that

$$S^a = \langle d\gamma^j \rangle \mathcal{L}_{X^j} \gamma^j = 0,$$

and

$$S^{a-1} = \langle d\iota_{X^j} \gamma^j \rangle.$$

Idea of the Proof



Foliations

Are there non-trivial examples?

Are there non-trivial examples?

- Dirac structures \cong Pre-symplectic foliations.

Are there non-trivial examples?

- Dirac structures \cong Pre-symplectic foliations.
- Graded Dirac structures \implies Multisymplectic (possibly degenerate) foliations.

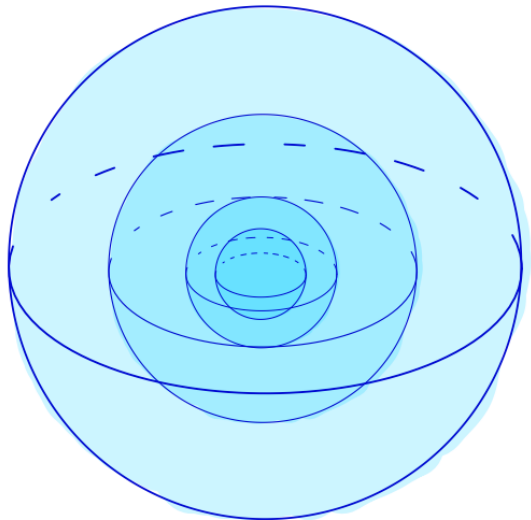
Are there non-trivial examples?

- Dirac structures \cong Pre-symplectic foliations.
- Graded Dirac structures \implies Multisymplectic (possibly degenerate) foliations.
- Multisymplectic foliations (with some technical conditions) \implies Graded Dirac structures.

Are there non-trivial examples?

- Dirac structures \cong Pre-symplectic foliations.
- Graded Dirac structures \implies Multisymplectic (possibly degenerate) foliations.
- Multisymplectic foliations (with some technical conditions) \implies Graded Dirac structures.
- The correspondences are not inverse of the other!

Are there non-trivial examples? Yes!



Final remarks and future research

- We developed the theory of Poisson bracket and tensors in classical field theories;
- Can we find an analogue to Lie-Poisson structures in this setting?;
- How are these bracket and structures related to reduction?

References

- [1] H. Bursztyn, N. Martinez-Alba, and R. Rubio. “**On Higher Dirac Structures**”. In: *International Mathematics Research Notices* 2019.5 (Mar. 2019), pp. 1503–1542. ISSN: 1073-7928. DOI: 10.1093/imrn/rnx163.
- [2] Manuel de León and Rubén Izquierdo-López. ***Graded Poisson and Graded Dirac structures***. 2024. arXiv: 2410.06034 [math-ph].
- [3] J. Vankerschaver, H. Yoshimura, and M. Leok. “**On the geometry of multi-Dirac structures and Gerstenhaber algebras**”. en. In: *Journal of Geometry and Physics* 61.8 (Aug. 2011), pp. 1415–1425. ISSN: 03930440. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomphys.2011.03.005.
- [4] J. Vankerschaver, H. Yoshimura, and M. Leok. “**The Hamilton-Pontryagin principle and multi-Dirac structures for classical field theories**”. In: *Journal of Mathematical Physics* 53.7 (July 2012). ISSN: 1089-7658. DOI: 10.1063/1.4731481.
- [5] M. Zambon. “ **L_∞ -algebras and higher analogues of Dirac structures and Courant algebroids**”. In: *Journal of Symplectic Geometry* 10.4 (Dec. 2012), pp. 563–599. ISSN: 1527-5256, 1540-2347.

Thank you for your attention!