



Coisotropic reduction in multisymplectic geometry

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In this paper, we study coisotropic reduction in multisymplectic geometry. On the one hand, we give an interpretation of Hamiltonian multivector fields as Lagrangian submanifolds and prove that k -coisotropic submanifolds induce a Lie subalgebra in the algebra of Hamiltonian $(k - 1)$ -forms, similar to how coisotropic submanifolds in symplectic geometry induce a Lie subalgebra under the Poisson bracket. On the other hand, we extend the classical result of symplectic geometry of projection of Lagrangian submanifolds in coisotropic reduction to bundles of forms, which naturally carry a multisymplectic structure.

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1. Introduction

Multisymplectic geometry is the natural framework in which to formulate classical field theories, just as symplectic geometry plays that key role in Lagrangian and Hamiltonian mechanics [1, 2, 12]. Indeed, the bundles of exterior forms are naturally equipped with a multisymplectic form, in the same way that for the bundle of

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1-forms (i.e. the cotangent bundle of the manifold) the natural structure is a symplectic form. However, multisymplectic geometry exhibits a much higher degree of complexity, dealing with differential forms of higher degree. These differences make multisymplectic geometry richer but at the same time more complicated, and if the holy grail of classical field theories is to seek a full extension of the results in symplectic mechanics, this task is far from being fully achieved. This paper tries to cover some aspects that have already been partially dealt with in previous papers [6, 7], thus initiating an ambitious plan that we hope to complete in the coming years.

One of the key aspects of this new approach is not to consider any notion of regularity in the definition of a multisymplectic form, as is usually done in applications to classical field theories [7, 8, 16–18, 25, 28]. This allows us to work with greater flexibility, recovering regularity as a particular case. Our main objective in this paper is to study the submanifolds of a multisymplectic manifold, in particular the relations between Lagrangian and coisotropic submanifolds [7, 9, 31]. In doing so, we prove a coisotropic reduction theorem which generalizes the one already known for symplectic geometry. The interest of this reduction lies in the fact that the Lagrangian submanifolds are the geometric interpretation of the dynamics, and if one of them has a clean intersection with a coisotropic one, it can be reduced to the quotient of the latter while maintaining the Lagrangian character (and so, providing a reduced dynamics) [1, 36]. Very relevant by-products of these notions and results are the construction of graded brackets and the interpretation of a coisotropic submanifold in terms of these brackets, as well as the study of currents and conserved quantities [3, 6, 14] (see also [10, 29]). We would like to mention that the graded brackets that are used in this paper are related to the notion of higher-Poisson structures (see [4]), a generalization of the notion of a Poisson structure.

The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 introduces the fundamental concepts of both the multilinear version of symplectic geometry in the realm of vector spaces and the corresponding translation to the realm of differentiable manifolds. In this section, we introduce the main examples of multisymplectic vector spaces and multisymplectic manifolds. In the first case, we pay special attention to multisymplectic structures of forms arising from a vector space together with a “vertical” subspace. Similarly, in the second case we study bundles of forms over a manifold together with a regular “vertical” distribution. In Sec. 3, we develop the notion of Hamiltonian vector fields and Hamiltonian forms; it should be noticed that we do not ask for any regularity conditions from the multisymplectic forms, so we have to work with the respective kernels to avoid singularities. Thus we can interpret multivector fields as Lagrangian submanifolds of multisymplectic manifolds by naturally extending the results known in symplectic geometry. At the same time, we complete the results of previous work, which allow us to introduce a graded Lie algebra of brackets. We can also consider an abstract framework for the study of currents and conserved quantities. Finally, in Sec. 4, we obtain the extension of the coisotropic reduction theorem as well as the reduction of Lagrangian submanifolds via coisotropic reduction. To do that, we need to extend some theorems on

coisotropic manifolds due to Weinstein. The paper ends with some conclusions and a list of potential future work in Sec. 5.

2. Multisymplectic Geometry

The main concepts and results of multisymplectic vector spaces and manifolds are taken from [6, 7, 9]. As mentioned, we chose a more general approach which includes possibly degenerate forms. Most of the proofs are included for the sake of completeness.

2.1. Multisymplectic vector spaces

Definition 2.1 (Multisymplectic vector space). A *multisymplectic vector space* of order k is a pair (V, ω) , where ω is a $(k+1)$ -form on V , namely, $\omega \in \bigwedge^{k+1} V^*$. The multisymplectic vector space and the form will be called *nonsingular* or *regular* if the mapping given by contraction

$$V \xrightarrow{b_1} \bigwedge^k V; \quad v \mapsto \iota_v \omega,$$

defines a monomorphism, that is, $\iota_v \omega = 0$ only when $v = 0$.

Observation 2.1. This terminology is not standard. In the literature, an arbitrary form $\omega \in \bigwedge^k V^*$ is usually called *pre-multisymplectic*, but we choose this terminology for the sake of simplicity. We prefer this general approach because in Sec. 3, “singular” multisymplectic manifolds (what we simply call multisymplectic) appear naturally. Nevertheless, all the definitions given in the paper coincide with the usual definitions when ω is non-degenerate.

The $(k+1)$ -form ω induces the following mapping.

Definition 2.2. Let (V, ω) be a multisymplectic vector space of order k . Define the mapping induced by contraction

$$b_q : \bigwedge^q V \rightarrow \bigwedge^{k+1-q} V^*, \quad u \mapsto \iota_u \omega.$$

Remark 2.1. A multisymplectic vector space of order k , (V, ω) is regular if and only if $\ker b_1 = 0$.

Observation 2.2. For $k = 1$, all possible forms are classified up to linear isomorphism. Indeed, it is a well-known fact that $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in \bigwedge^2 V^*$ are in the same $GL(V)$ -orbit if and only if $\text{rank } \omega_1 = \text{rank } \omega_2$. In particular, when $\dim V$ is even, every pair of non-degenerate 2-forms are in the same $GL(V)$ -orbit. For general order $k > 2$, the classification is far from trivial. For example, 3-forms are not classified for arbitrary $\dim V$. For a complete table of the number of $GL(V)$ -orbits in $\bigwedge^k V^*$, we refer to [26].

The isomorphism of multisymplectic vector spaces is given by the following definition.

Definition 2.3 (Multisymplectomorphism). Let (V_1, ω_1) , (V_2, ω_2) be multisymplectic vector spaces. A *multisymplectomorphism* between (V_1, ω_1) and (V_2, ω_2) is a linear isomorphism

$$f : V_1 \rightarrow V_2,$$

satisfying

$$f^* \omega_2 = \omega_1.$$

Example 2.1. Let L be a vector space and take $V := L \oplus \bigwedge^{k+1} L$ with $k \leq \dim V$. Define the $(k+1)$ -form

$$\Omega_L((v_1, \alpha_1), \dots, (v_{k+1}, \alpha_{k+1})) := \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} \alpha_j(v_1, \dots, \hat{v}_j, \dots, v_{k+1}),$$

where \hat{v}_j means that the j th-vector is missing. Then, Ω_L is a regular multisymplectic form and, thus, (V, Ω_L) is a regular multisymplectic vector space.

Similar to the notion of orthogonal in symplectic vector spaces, we can define a (now indexed) version in multisymplectic vector spaces.

Definition 2.4 (Multisymplectic orthogonal). Let (V, ω) be a multisymplectic vector space of order k , $W \subseteq V$ be a subspace and $1 \leq j \leq k$. Define the j th-*orthogonal* to W as the subspace

$$W^{\perp, j} = \{v \in V : \iota_{v \wedge w_1 \wedge \dots \wedge w_j} \omega = 0, \forall w_1, \dots, w_j \in W\}.$$

It can be easily proved that the j th-orthogonal satisfies the following properties.

Proposition 2.1. *Let (V, ω) be a multisymplectic vector space of order k . Then*

- (i) $\{0\}^{\perp, j} = V$, for all $1 \leq j \leq k$;
- (ii) $V^{\perp, 1} = \ker b_1$;
- (iii) $(W_1 + W_2)^{\perp, j} \subseteq W_1^{\perp, j} \cap W_2^{\perp, j}$, for all $1 \leq j \leq k$, and for all subspaces $W_1, W_2 \subseteq V$;
- (iv) $W_1^{\perp, j} + W_2^{\perp, j} \subseteq (W_1 \cap W_2)^{\perp, j}$, for all $1 \leq j \leq k$, and for all subspaces $W_1, W_2 \subseteq V$;
- (v) $(W_1 + W_2)^{\perp, 1} \subseteq W_1^{\perp, 1} \cap W_2^{\perp, 1}$, for all subspaces $W_1, W_2 \subseteq V$.

The definitions of isotropic, coisotropic, Lagrangian and symplectic generalize as follows.

Definition 2.5 (j -isotropic, j -coisotropic, j -Lagrangian, multisymplectic).

Let (V, ω) be a multisymplectic vector space of order k . A subspace $W \subseteq V$ will be called

- (i) j -isotropic, if $W \subseteq W^{\perp, j}$;

- (ii) *j-coisotropic*, if $W^{\perp, j} \subseteq W + \ker \flat_1$;
- (iii) *j-Lagrangian*, if $W = W^{\perp, j} + \ker \flat_1$;
- (iv) *non-degenerate*, if $W \cap W^{\perp, 1} = 0$.

Observation 2.3. Note that when ω is regular, $\ker \flat_1 = 0$, and we recover the standard definitions of *j-isotropic*, *j-coisotropic* and *j-Lagrangian*.

Proposition 2.2. *Let (V, ω) be a multisymplectic vector space of order k . Then, a subspace $i : W \rightarrow V$ (i being the natural inclusion) is k -isotropic if and only if*

$$i^* \omega = 0.$$

Proof. W is k -isotropic if and only if

$$\omega(w_1, \dots, w_{k+1}) = 0,$$

for every $w_1, \dots, w_{k+1} \in W$ or, equivalently, $i^* \omega = 0$. \square

Example 2.2. Let L be a vector space and $\mathcal{E} \subseteq L$ be a proper vector subspace. For $r \geq 0$, $k \leq \dim L$, define

$$\bigwedge_r^k L^* := \left\{ \alpha \in \bigwedge^k L^* : \iota_{v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_r} \alpha = 0, \forall v_1, \dots, v_r \in \mathcal{E} \right\}.$$

Note that, if $r \leq \dim \mathcal{E}$, for the subspace $\bigwedge_r^k L^*$ to be nontrivial, we need to ask $k - r + 1 \leq \text{codim } \mathcal{E}$. Then, under these conditions and for $r \geq 2$

$$L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*,$$

is a non-degenerate subspace of $(L \oplus \bigwedge^k L^*, \Omega_L)$ from Example 2.1 and, consequently

$$\left(L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*, i^* \Omega_L \right),$$

is a regular multisymplectic vector space, where i is the natural inclusion.

From now on, we will denote Ω_L as the multisymplectic form in $L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*$, making abuse of notation.

Observation 2.4. Note that for $r > \dim \mathcal{E}$, or $\mathcal{E} = 0$, we recover the canonical multisymplectic vector space $L \oplus \bigwedge^k L$. For simplicity, we will refer to this case as $r = 0$. The only degenerate case is for $r = 1$ and we have

$$\ker \flat_1 = \mathcal{E}.$$

Remark 2.2. For the sake of clarity in the exposition, we will assume throughout the rest of this section the hypotheses that make $(L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*, \Omega_L)$ a regular multisymplectic vector space. More precisely, we will assume $k \leq \dim L$ and,

when $r \neq 0$

- $k - r + 1 \leq \text{codim } \mathcal{E}$;
- $1 < r \leq \dim \mathcal{E}$.

Any further hypotheses will be made explicit in the corresponding results.

Proposition 2.3 ([7]). *Identify both L and $W := \bigwedge_r^k L^*$ a vector subspace of $L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*$. Then, L is k -Lagrangian, and W is 1-Lagrangian in*

$$\left(L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*, \Omega_L \right).$$

Proof. It is clear that L is k -isotropic and that W is 1-isotropic. To see that L is k -coisotropic, let $(l, \alpha) \in L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*$ such that

$$\Omega_L((l, \alpha), (l_1, 0), \dots, (l_k, 0)) = 0,$$

for every $l_1, \dots, l_k \in L$, that is

$$\alpha(l_1, \dots, l_k) = 0,$$

for every $l_1, \dots, l_k \in L$. We conclude $\alpha = 0$, and thus^a

$$L^{\perp, k} = L = L + \ker \flat_1.$$

Now, to see that W is 1-Lagrangian, let $(l, \alpha) \in L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*$ such that

$$\Omega_L((l, \alpha), (0, \beta_1), (l_2, \beta_2), \dots, (l_k, \beta_k)) = 0,$$

for every $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k \in \bigwedge_r^k L^*$, and $l_2, \dots, l_k \in L$. Then

$$\beta_1(l, l_2, \dots, l_k) = 0,$$

for every $l_2, \dots, l_k \in L$. Now, we distinguish two cases:

- (i) **Case $r \neq 1$.** Then, necessarily $l = 0$, concluding

$$W^{\perp, 1} = W = W + \ker \flat_1,$$

because $\ker \flat_1 = 0$.

- (ii) **Case $r = 1$.** If

$$\beta_1(l, l_2, \dots, l_k) = 0,$$

for every $l_2, \dots, l_k \in L$, we have $l \in \mathcal{E}$ and, therefore

$$(l, \alpha) \in W + \ker \flat_1,$$

proving that W is 1-Lagrangian. □

^aIf $r \neq 1$, $\ker \flat_1 = 0$ and, if $r = 1$, $\ker \flat_1 = \mathcal{E}$. In any case, the equality $L = L + \ker \flat_1$ holds.

An important class of multisymplectic vector spaces are those that are multisymplectomorphic to those of Examples 2.1 and 2.2. First, observe the following.

Proposition 2.4. *A non-degenerate multisymplectic vector space (V, ω) is multisymplectomorphic to the one defined in Example 2.2 if and only if there exists $\mathcal{E}, L, W \subseteq V$ satisfying:*

- L is k -Lagrangian with $\mathcal{E} \subseteq L$;
- W is 1-Lagrangian and, if $e_1, \dots, e_r \in \mathcal{E}$, we have

$$\iota_{e_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \iota_{e_r} \omega = 0;$$

- $V = L \oplus W$ and

$$\dim W = \dim \bigwedge_r^k L^*,$$

where the vertical forms are taken with respect to \mathcal{E} .

Proof. It is clear the hypothesis imply that the following linear mapping:

$$\phi : W \rightarrow \bigwedge_r^k L^*; \quad \alpha \mapsto (\iota_\alpha \omega)|_L,$$

defines a linear isomorphism. Now, let Φ be the isomorphism given by

$$\Phi := \text{id}_L \oplus \phi : V = L \oplus W \rightarrow L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*.$$

We have $\Phi^* \Omega_L = \omega$. Indeed

$$\begin{aligned} (\Phi^* \Omega_L)(l_1 + \alpha_1, \dots, l_{k+1} + \alpha_{k+1}) &= \Omega_L((l_1, \phi(\alpha_1), \dots, (l_{k+1}, \phi(\alpha_{k+1}))) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{j+1} (\phi(\alpha_j))(l_1, \dots, \hat{l}_j, \dots, l_{k+1}) = \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{j+1} \omega(\alpha_j, l_1, \dots, \hat{l}_j, \dots, l_{k+1}) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} \omega(l_1, \dots, l_{j-1}, \alpha_j, l_{j+1}, \dots, l_{k+1}) = \omega(l_1 + \alpha_1, \dots, l_{k+1} + \alpha_{k+1}), \end{aligned}$$

proving the result. □

We can prove a weaker version of Proposition 2.4. Indeed, given \mathcal{E}, L, W satisfying the hypotheses, we can canonically identify \mathcal{E} as a subspace of V/W via the isomorphism

$$V/W \cong L.$$

It is easily verified that

$$\iota_{e_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \iota_{e_r} \omega = 0,$$

for all $e_1, \dots, e_r \in \mathcal{E}$ is equivalent to

$$\iota_{v_1 \dots \wedge v_r} \omega = 0,$$

for all $v_1, \dots, v_r \in V$ satisfying $\pi(v_i) \in \mathcal{E}$ (identifying \mathcal{E} as a subspace of V/W), for every $1 \leq i \leq r$. We have the following.

Theorem 2.1 ([9]). *A non-degenerate multisymplectic vector space (V, ω) is multisymplectomorphic to $(L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*, \Omega_L)$ if and only if there exists $W \subseteq V$ and $\mathcal{E} \subseteq V/W$ satisfying:*

- *W is 1-Lagrangian and, for all $v_1, \dots, v_r \in V$ with $\pi(v_i) \in \mathcal{E}$ (with $\pi : V \rightarrow V/W$ the canonical projection), we have*

$$\iota_{v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_r} \omega = 0.$$

- *There is an equality of dimensions*

$$\dim W = \dim \bigwedge_r^k V/W,$$

where the vertical forms are taken with respect to \mathcal{E} .

To prove it, we will need the following proposition, which will also be useful in the sequel.

Proposition 2.5. *Let (V, ω) be a multisymplectic vector space, and U, W be k -isotropic, and 1-isotropic subspaces, respectively, such that*

$$V = U \oplus W.$$

Then, U is k -Lagrangian, and W is 1-Lagrangian.

Proof. We need to prove that

$$U^{\perp, k} = U + \ker \flat_1.$$

Let $u + w \in U^{\perp, k}$, for $u \in U, w \in W$. Then, for all $u_1, \dots, u_k \in U$, we have

$$\omega(u + w, u_1, \dots, u_k) = \omega(w, u_1, \dots, u_k) = 0,$$

where we have used that U is k -isotropic. We claim that $w \in \ker \flat_1$. Indeed, given $v_i \in V$, for $i = 1, \dots, k$, we can write $v_i = u_i + w_i$, with $u_i \in U, w_i \in W$. Then

$$\omega(w, v_1, \dots, v_k) = \omega(w, u_1 + w_1, \dots, u_k + w_k) = \omega(w, u_1, \dots, u_k) = 0,$$

where in the last equality we used that W is 1-isotropic. Therefore, if $u + w \in U^{\perp, k}$, we have

$$u + w \in U + \ker \flat_1,$$

that is

$$U^{\perp, k} \subseteq U + \ker \flat_1,$$

proving that U is k -coisotropic and, therefore, k -Lagrangian.

To show that W is 1-Lagrangian, let $u + w \in W^{1,\perp}$, with $u \in U$, $w \in W$. Then, $u \in \ker \flat_1$. Let $v_i = u_i + w_i$, $u_i \in U$, $w_i \in W$, $1 \leq i \leq k$. Since W is 1-isotropic, for every $1 \leq i \leq k$

$$\iota_{u \wedge w_i} \omega = \iota_{(u+w) \wedge w_i} \omega = 0.$$

Now, using that U is k -isotropic, and W is 1-isotropic

$$\omega(u, u_1 + w_1, \dots, u_k + w_k) = \sum_{j=1}^k \omega(u, u_1, \dots, u_{j-1}, w_j, u_{j+1}, \dots, u_k) = 0.$$

Therefore, $u \in \ker \flat_1$ and $u + w \in W + \ker \flat_1$, showing that

$$W^{\perp,1} = W + \ker \flat_1,$$

ending the proof. \square

Proof of Theorem 2.1. The proof we give mimics the case $r = 0$ from [31]. It is enough to show the existence of a k -Lagrangian complement to W . By Proposition 2.5, we will conclude the proof once we show that there exists a k -isotropic complement.

First, observe that, since W is 1-Lagrangian, $\iota_\alpha \omega$ induces a form on V/W defining

$$\phi(\alpha)(\pi(v_1), \dots, \pi(v_k)) := \omega(\alpha, v_1, \dots, v_k),$$

for every $\alpha \in W$. This mapping defines a linear isomorphism

$$\phi : W \rightarrow \bigwedge_r^k (V/W)^*,$$

where the vertical forms are taken with respect to \mathcal{E} . Take L any complement to W in V and define the linear isomorphism

$$\Phi := \text{id}_L \oplus \phi : V = L \oplus W \rightarrow L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k (V/W)^*.$$

We will look for subspaces of the form $\Phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{A}(L)$, where $\mathbf{A} = \text{id}_L \oplus A$, with

$$A : L \rightarrow \bigwedge_r^k (V/W)^*.$$

For this subspace to be k -isotropic, it has to satisfy

$$\omega(\Phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{A}(l_1), \dots, \Phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{A}(l_{k+1})) = 0,$$

for all $l_1, \dots, l_{k+1} \in L$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \omega(\Phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{A}(l_1), \dots, \Phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{A}(l_{k+1})) \\ &= \omega(l_1 + \Phi^{-1} A(l_1), \dots, l_{k+1} + \Phi^{-1} A(l_{k+1})) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \omega(l_1, \dots, l_{k+1}) + \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{j+1} \omega(\Phi^{-1} A(l_j), l_1, \dots, \hat{l}_j, \dots, l_{k+1}) \\
&= \omega(l_1, \dots, l_{k+1}) + \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{j+1} (A(l_j))(\pi(l_1), \dots, \hat{l}_j, \dots, \pi(l_{k+1})).
\end{aligned}$$

Note that the projection π restricted to L defines an isomorphism

$$\pi|_L : L \rightarrow V/W.$$

Define A closing the following diagram^b:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
L & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \bigwedge_r^k L^* \\
& \searrow A & \uparrow \pi^* \\
& & \bigwedge_r^k (V/W)^*
\end{array},$$

where

$$\psi(l) := -\frac{\iota_l \omega}{k+1}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{j=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{j+1} (A(l_j))(\pi(l_1), \dots, \hat{l}_j, \dots, \pi(l_{k+1})) \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{j+1} (\pi^* A(l_j))(l_1, \dots, \hat{l}_j, \dots, l_{k+1}) \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} \frac{(-1)^j}{k+1} \omega(l_j, l_1, \dots, \hat{l}_j, \dots, l_{k+1}) = -\omega(l_1, \dots, l_{k+1}),
\end{aligned}$$

concluding

$$\omega(\Phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{A}(l_1), \dots, \Phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{A}(l_{k+1})) = 0,$$

and proving the result. □

This induces the following definition.

Definition 2.6 (Multisymplectic vector space of type (k, r)). A *multisymplectic vector space of type (k, r)* is a tuple $(V, \omega, W, \mathcal{E})$ satisfying the hypothesis of Theorem 2.1.

^bNote that these functions are well defined. Indeed, $\iota_l \omega \in \bigwedge_r^k L^*$ for any $l \in L$.

In later considerations, the next lemma will be very useful.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $(V, \omega, W, \mathcal{E})$ be a multisymplectic vector space of type (k, r) . Then, denoting by \flat_1 the induced mapping*

$$V \xrightarrow{\flat_1} \bigwedge^k V^*,$$

we have

$$\bigwedge_{1,r}^k V^* \subseteq \flat_1(V),$$

where

$$\bigwedge_{1,r}^k V^* = \bigwedge_1^k V^* \cap \bigwedge_r^k V^*,$$

and the vertical forms are taken with respect to W and \mathcal{E}^c respectively.

Proof. By Theorem 2.1, it is enough to prove it in the canonical case $V = L \oplus \bigwedge_r^k L^*$, $W = \bigwedge_r^k L^*$. Then, any k -form $\alpha \in \bigwedge_{1,r}^k V$ is the pull-back of a k -form $\tilde{\alpha} \in \bigwedge_r^k L^*$. An elementary calculation proves that

$$\iota_{\tilde{\alpha}} \Omega_L = \alpha.$$

□

2.2. Multisymplectic manifolds

For an introduction to the study of general (non-degenerate) multisymplectic manifolds motivating their study from classical field theory, see [7, 28]. Also, for an in-depth treatment of the multisymplectic formulation of classical field theory, see [2, 13].

Definition 2.7 (Multisymplectic manifold). A *multisymplectic manifold* of order k is a pair (M, ω) , where M is a manifold, and ω is a *multisymplectic form* of order k , that is, a closed $(k+1)$ -form. (M, ω) will be called *non-degenerate* if ω_x is non-degenerate for every $x \in M$.

The j th-orthogonal complement defined in Sec. 2.1 and the notion of j -isotropic, j -coisotropic, j -Lagrangian and regular subspaces generalizes to distributions Δ , and submanifolds N , defining it in each subspace Δ_x , or in each tangent space $T_x N$.

^cThis latter meaning that $\iota_{e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_r} \alpha = 0$, for every $e_1, \dots, e_r \in V$ with $\pi(e_i) \in \mathcal{E}$, where $\pi: V \rightarrow V/W$ is the canonical projection.

Example 2.3. We can generalize Example 2.1 to manifolds. Fix a manifold L and define

$$M := \bigwedge^k L,$$

the bundle of k -forms. We have the tautological k -form

$$\Theta_L^k|_{\alpha_x}(v_1, \dots, v_k) := \alpha_x(\pi_* v_1, \dots, \pi_* v_k),$$

where $\pi : \bigwedge^k L \rightarrow L$ is the natural projection. Define

$$\Omega_L^k := -d\Theta_L^k.$$

Then, $(\bigwedge^k L, \Omega_L^k)$ is a non-degenerate multisymplectic manifold of order k . It is easy to check (see Lemma 3.1) that Θ_L^k and Ω_L^k are the only forms on $\bigwedge^k L$ satisfying

$$\alpha^* \Theta_L^k = \alpha, \quad \alpha^* \Omega_L^k = -d\alpha,$$

for every k -form (interpreted as a section) $\alpha : L \rightarrow \bigwedge^k L$.

In canonical coordinates $(x^i, p_{i_1, \dots, i_k})$ on $\bigwedge^k L$, we have

$$\Theta_L^k = p_{i_1, \dots, i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k},$$

and

$$\Omega_L^k = -dp_{i_1, \dots, i_k} \wedge dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}.$$

This immediately shows that the vertical distribution W_L^k associated to the vector bundle $\bigwedge^k L \rightarrow L$ is 1-isotropic. Additionally, we have the following.

Proposition 2.6. W_L^k defines a 1-Lagrangian distribution. Furthermore, a form (interpreted as a section)

$$\alpha : L \rightarrow \bigwedge^k L,$$

defines a k -Lagrangian submanifold if and only if it is closed.

Proof. By Proposition 2.5, it is enough to show that α defining a k -isotropic submanifold is equivalent to α being closed (this would imply that $\alpha(L)$ is k -Lagrangian, and that W_L^k is 1-Lagrangian, since they are complementary). Indeed, by Proposition 2.2, $\alpha(L)$ is k -isotropic if and only if

$$0 = \alpha^* \Omega_L^k = -d\alpha,$$

that is, if and only if α is closed. □

There is another relevant type of multisymplectic manifolds that generalizes Example 2.2.

Example 2.4. Let L be a manifold and \mathcal{E} be a regular distribution, where $r, k, \mathcal{E}_x, T_x L$ are in the hypotheses of Remark 2.2 for every $x \in L$. Define

$$\bigwedge_r^k L := \left\{ \alpha_x \in \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L : \iota_{e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_r} \alpha_x = 0, \forall e_1, \dots, e_r \in \mathcal{E}_x \right\}.$$

It is easy to check that $\bigwedge_r^k L$ defines a nonsingular submanifold of $\bigwedge^k L$. Therefore

$$\left(\bigwedge_r^k L, \Omega_L \right),$$

is a multisymplectic manifold of order k .

Remark 2.3. Just like in Sec. 2.1, throughout the rest of the paper we will assume the conditions that make $\bigwedge_r^k L$ a regular multisymplectic manifold.

A natural question to ask is what are the necessary (and sufficient) conditions for a multisymplectic manifold (M, ω) to be locally multisymplectomorphic to either of the models presented in Example 2.3 or in Example 2.4. Of course, if it were the case, the multisymplectic vector space $(T_x M, \omega_x)$ would necessarily be of type (k, r) (for the corresponding values in the model).

Definition 2.8 (Multisymplectic manifold of type (k, r) [9]). A multisymplectic manifold of type (k, r) is a tuple $(M, \omega, W, \mathcal{E})$, where $(T_x M, \omega_x, W_x, \mathcal{E}_x)$ is a multisymplectic vector space of type (k, r) and W is a regular integrable distribution.

In [23], Martin gave the characterization for multisymplectic manifolds of type $(k, 0)$.

Theorem 2.2 (Darboux theorem for multisymplectic manifolds of type $(k, 0)$ [23]). *Let (M, ω, W) be a multisymplectic manifold of type $(k, 0)$. Then, around each point $x \in M$ there exists a neighborhood U of x in M , a manifold L , and a multisymplectomorphism*

$$\phi : (U, \omega) \rightarrow (V, \Omega_L),$$

where V is an open subset of $\bigwedge^k L$.

And, in [9], de León *et al.* generalized the result to multisymplectic manifolds of type (k, r) .

Theorem 2.3 (Darboux theorem for multisymplectic manifolds of type (k, r) [9]). *Let $(M, \omega, W, \mathcal{E})$ be a multisymplectic manifold of type (k, r) . Then, around each point $x \in M$ there exists a neighborhood U of x in M , a manifold L , and a multisymplectomorphism*

$$\phi : (U, \omega) \rightarrow (V, \Omega_L),$$

where V is an open subset of $\bigwedge_r^k L$.

For a recent review on “Darboux type Theorems” in geometric structures appearing in the geometric formulation of classical field theories, we refer to [20].

3. Hamiltonian Structures on Multisymplectic Manifolds

3.1. Hamiltonian multivector fields and forms. Brackets

Definition 3.1 (Hamiltonian multivector field, Hamiltonian form [6]). Let (M, ω) be a multisymplectic manifold of order k . A multivector field

$$U : M \rightarrow \bigvee_q M,$$

will be called a *Hamiltonian multivector field* if there exists a $(k - q)$ -form on M , α , such that

$$\iota_U \omega = d\alpha.$$

In this context, α is called the *Hamiltonian form* associated to U . Furthermore, U will be called a *locally Hamiltonian multivector field* if $\iota_U \omega$ is closed. Of course, if U is Hamiltonian, it is locally Hamiltonian.

We will denote by $\mathfrak{X}_H^q(M)$ the space of all Hamiltonian multivector fields of order q , and by $\Omega_H^l(M)$ the space of all Hamiltonian l -forms.

There is certain “correspondence” between Hamiltonian multivector fields and Hamiltonian forms. However, this correspondence is not well defined, a Hamiltonian multivector field U can be associated to different Hamiltonian forms, and vice versa. Nevertheless, if

$$\iota_U \omega = d\alpha = d\beta,$$

for some $\alpha, \beta \in \Omega_H^l(\Omega)$, we have that

$$d(\alpha - \beta) = 0.$$

Therefore, we obtain a well-defined epimorphism

$$\mathfrak{X}_H^q(M) \xrightarrow{\flat_q} \Omega_H^{k-q}(M)/Z^{k-q}(M) =: \widehat{\Omega}_H^{k-q}(M),$$

where $Z^{k-q}(M)$ is the space of all closed forms, mapping each Hamiltonian multivector field U to the class of Hamiltonian forms $[\alpha]$ satisfying

$$\iota_U \omega = d\alpha.$$

We would like this mapping to be injective, and we can achieve this by quotienting $\mathfrak{X}_H^q(M)$ by $\ker \flat_q$, which is the space of all multivector fields U satisfying

$$\iota_U \omega = 0.$$

Therefore, defining

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^q(M) := \mathfrak{X}_H^q(M)/\ker \flat_q,$$

we obtain isomorphisms between the spaces

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^1(M) & \cdots & \widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^q(M) & \cdots & \widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^k(M) & & \\
 \uparrow \scriptstyle \mathfrak{b}_1 & & \uparrow \scriptstyle \mathfrak{b}_q & & \uparrow \scriptstyle \mathfrak{b}_k & & \\
 \widehat{\Omega}_H^{k-1}(M) & \cdots & \widehat{\Omega}_H^{k-q}(M) & \cdots & \widehat{\Omega}_H^0(M) & &
 \end{array}$$

Of course, these isomorphisms induce an isomorphism between the corresponding graded vector spaces

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H(M) := \bigoplus_{q=1}^k \widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^q(M) \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{b}} \widehat{\Omega}_H(M) := \bigoplus_{q=1}^k \widehat{\Omega}_H^{k-q}(M).$$

We can try to endow these spaces with a graded Lie algebra structure. Given the isomorphism, it would be enough to define the bracket in one of the spaces and obtain the induced bracket in the other via the \mathfrak{b} mappings.

Proposition 3.1 ([6]). *Let (M, ω) be a multisymplectic manifold, and U, V be Hamiltonian multivector fields of degree p, q , respectively. Then, $[U, V]$ is a Hamiltonian multivector field of degree $p+q-1$, where $[\cdot, \cdot]$ denotes the Schouten–Nijenhuis bracket (see [33]).*

Proof. We have the equality (see [14]^d)

$$\iota_{[U, V]} \omega = (-1)^{p+q-1} d\iota_{U \wedge V} \omega,$$

which proves the proposition. \square

Given the equality

$$\iota_{[U, V]} \omega = (-1)^{p+q-1} d\iota_{U \wedge V} \omega,$$

from Proposition 3.1, we have that whenever $U \in \ker \mathfrak{b}_p$ (or $V \in \ker \mathfrak{b}_q$), then

$$[U, V] \in \ker \mathfrak{b}_{p+q-1}.$$

Therefore, we obtain a well-defined bracket

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^p(M) \times \widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^q(M) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^{p+q-1}(M); (\widehat{U}, \widehat{V}) \mapsto [\widehat{U}, \widehat{V}] := \widehat{[U, V]},$$

^dIt should be noted that the sign conventions in [14, 33] differ by a factor of $(-1)^{p-1}$, and we are using the conventions of the latter.

where \widehat{U} denotes the class of U modulo $\ker \flat_q$. By the previous considerations, we define the induced bracket in $\widehat{\Omega}_H(M)$ through the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{\Omega}_H^l(M) \times \widehat{\Omega}_H^m(M) & \xrightarrow{\{\cdot, \cdot\}} & \widehat{\Omega}_H^{1+l+m-k}(M) \\ \uparrow \flat_{k-l} \times \flat_{k-m} & & \uparrow \flat_{2k-l-m-1} \\ \widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^{k-l}(M) \times \widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^{k-m}(M) & \xrightarrow{[\cdot, \cdot]} & \widehat{\mathfrak{X}}_H^{2k-l-m-1}(M) \end{array}.$$

This bracket is given by

$$\{\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\beta}\} = (-1)^{p+q-1} \widehat{\iota_{U \wedge V} \omega},$$

where $\iota_U \omega = d\alpha$, $\iota_V \omega = d\beta$, and satisfies the following equalities (which follow easily from the equalities of Schouten–Nijenhuis bracket [33])

(i)

$$\{\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\beta}\} = (-1)^{l_1 l_2} \{\widehat{\beta}, \widehat{\alpha}\};$$

(ii)

$$(-1)^{l_1(l_3-1)} \{\widehat{\alpha}, \{\widehat{\beta}, \widehat{\gamma}\}\} + (-1)^{l_2(l_1-1)} \{\widehat{\beta}, \{\widehat{\gamma}, \widehat{\alpha}\}\} + (-1)^{l_3(l_2-1)} \{\widehat{\gamma}, \{\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\beta}\}\} = 0,$$

for $\widehat{\alpha} \in \widehat{\Omega}_H^{l_1}(M)$, $\widehat{\beta} \in \widehat{\Omega}_H^{l_2}(M)$, $\widehat{\gamma} \in \widehat{\Omega}_H^{l_3}(M)$. However, this bracket does not define a graded Lie algebra and we need to modify the definition slightly to get a bracket that does. First, recall that a graded Lie bracket needs to satisfy

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

for certain notion of degree. Now, since the subspace $\widehat{\Omega}_H^{k-1}(M)$ is closed under $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$, we are forced to set

$$\deg \widehat{\alpha} := 0,$$

for $\alpha \in \widehat{\Omega}_H^{k-1}(M)$. Therefore, one is tempted to define

$$\deg \widehat{\alpha} := k - 1 - (\text{order of } \alpha),$$

for $\widehat{\alpha} \in \widehat{\Omega}_H(M)$. And, indeed, for $\widehat{\alpha} \in \widehat{\Omega}_H^l(M)$, $\widehat{\beta} \in \widehat{\Omega}_H^m(M)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \deg \{\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\beta}\} &= k - 1 - (1 + l + m - k) \\ &= 2k - l - m - 2 = (k - 1 - l) + (k - 1 - m) = \deg \widehat{\alpha} + \deg \widehat{\beta}. \end{aligned}$$

We can now define

$$\{\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\beta}\}^\bullet := (-1)^{\deg \widehat{\alpha}} \{\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\beta}\},$$

and we have that

(i)

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

(ii)

$$(-1)^{\deg \hat{\alpha} \deg \hat{\gamma}} \{\hat{\alpha}, \{\hat{\beta}, \hat{\gamma}\}^\bullet\}^\bullet + \text{cycl.} = 0.$$

Summarizing, we have proved.

Theorem 3.1 ([6]). $(\hat{\Omega}_H(M), \{\cdot, \cdot\}^\bullet)$ is a graded Lie algebra.

Remark 3.1. Of course, restricting this structure to the forms of order $k-1$ we obtain the Lie algebra $(\hat{\Omega}_H^{k-1}(M), \{\cdot, \cdot\}^\bullet)$. This Lie algebra is of particular importance in the study of multisymplectic manifolds, since $(k-1)$ -forms represent the *conserved quantities* and *currents* of classical field theory and calculus of variations.

Remark 3.2. If $(M, \omega) = (\bigwedge_2^k L, \Omega_L)$, we can obtain a graded Lie bracket without quotienting by closed forms by restricting the bracket to the subspace of semi-basic forms. For further details, we refer to [22].

Similar to the characterization of coisotropic submanifold of a symplectic manifold in terms of the Poisson algebra, we can prove the following result.

Proposition 3.2. Let $i : N \hookrightarrow M$ be a k -coisotropic submanifold. Then

$$\hat{I}_N := \{\hat{\alpha} \in \hat{\Omega}_H^{k-1}(M) : i^* d\alpha = 0\},$$

the space of all Hamiltonian $(k-1)$ -forms that have a representative which is closed on N , defines a subalgebra of $(\hat{\Omega}_H^{k-1}(M), \{\cdot, \cdot\}^\bullet)$.

Proof. Let $\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta} \in \hat{I}_N$. Then, there are vector fields X_α, X_β satisfying

$$\iota_{X_\alpha} \omega = d\alpha, \quad \iota_{X_\beta} \omega = d\beta.$$

Since $i^* d\alpha, i^* d\beta = 0$, we conclude that X_α, X_β take values in $(TN)^{\perp, k} \subseteq TN + \ker b_1$. Without loss of generality, we can assume that X_α, X_β take values in TN . Now, since

$$\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}\}^\bullet = -\widehat{\iota_{X_\alpha \wedge X_\beta} \omega},$$

and X_α, X_β take values in $(TN)^{\perp, k}$ and TN , we have

$$i^* (\iota_{X_\alpha \wedge X_\beta} \omega) = 0,$$

concluding that

$$\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}\}^\bullet \in \hat{I}_N. \quad \square$$

Remark 3.3. When (M, ω) is non-degenerate, each Hamiltonian $(k-1)$ -form α defines an *unique* vector field X_α satisfying

$$\iota_{X_\alpha} \omega = d\alpha.$$

Therefore, the bracket

$$\{\alpha, \beta\} = \iota_{X_\alpha \wedge X_\beta} \omega,$$

is well defined. This, however, does not define a Lie algebra since the Jacobi identity holds up to an exact form. Nevertheless, it does defines an algebraic structure called

an L_∞ -algebra (see [24]). Proposition 3.2 is also true in this context, that is, to each coisotropic submanifold N , there is the corresponding L_∞ -algebra of forms that are closed on N .

Let us now briefly discuss conserved quantities. Consider a locally decomposable Hamiltonian multivector field of order q

$$\iota_{X_H}\omega = dH,$$

where $H \in \Omega^{k-q}(M)$ is the Hamiltonian. We will consider as a solution any immersion $\phi : \Sigma \rightarrow M$, where $\dim \Sigma = q$, satisfying

$$\phi_*U = X_H,$$

where U is some nowhere vanishing multivector field of order q on Σ . Then, a conserved quantity (for the solution ϕ) is a $(q-1)$ -form satisfying

$$d\phi^*\alpha = 0.$$

In terms of possibly non-decomposable (nor integrable) multivector fields, this notion extends as follows.

Definition 3.2 (Conserved quantity). A conserved quantity for a Hamiltonian multivector field $X_H \in \mathfrak{X}^q(M)$ is a $(q-1)$ -form α on M satisfying

$$\langle d\alpha, X_H \rangle = 0.$$

Then, for Hamiltonian forms, we have the following.

Proposition 3.3. *Let X_H be a Hamiltonian multivector field of order q , with Hamiltonian form $H \in \Omega^{k-q}(M)$ and α be a Hamiltonian form of order $q-1$. Then, α is a conserved quantity for X_H if and only if*

$$\{\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{H}\}^\bullet = 0.$$

For a treatment of conserved quantities and moment maps using the L_∞ -algebra structure of observables, we refer to [27, 29].

3.2. Hamiltonian multivector fields as Lagrangian submanifolds

Given a symplectic manifold (M, ω) , we can endow its tangent bundle with a symplectic structure using the bundle isomorphism

$$TM \xrightarrow{b} T^*M,$$

and the canonical symplectic form on T^*M . With this definition and interpreting a vector field $X : M \rightarrow TM$ as a submanifold, X is 1-Lagrangian if and only if it

is locally Hamiltonian. We would like to generalize this result to general multisymplectic manifolds and multivector fields of arbitrary order q

$$U : M \rightarrow \bigvee_q M.$$

In [6], the authors prove a generalization of the result to vector fields in multisymplectic manifolds

$$X : M \rightarrow TM,$$

endowing the tangent bundle TM with a multisymplectic structure via the complete lift of forms. We will explore how to generalize this method in Sec. 3.3. In the meantime, let us begin by defining a multisymplectic structure on $\bigvee_q M$.

Given a multisymplectic manifold (M, ω) of order k , we have the induced mapping by contraction

$$\bigvee_q M \xrightarrow{b_q} \bigwedge^{k+1-q} M; u \mapsto \iota_u \omega.$$

Using the canonical multisymplectic form Ω_M^{k+1-q} on $\bigwedge^{k+1-q} M$, we can define the closed form (in fact, exact)

$$\tilde{\Omega}_M^q := (b_q)^* \Omega_M^{k+1-q},$$

which endows $\bigvee_q M$ with a multisymplectic structure of order $(k+1-q)$. Note that, for $q=1$, the order of the multisymplectic structure on TM is the order of the multisymplectic structure on M .

Remark 3.4. Even if ω is non-degenerate, $\tilde{\Omega}_M^q$ could have nontrivial kernel. This motivates the study of “general” multisymplectic structures that we have adopted along this paper, which provides a way of interpreting multivector fields as Lagrangian submanifolds of (possibly degenerate) multisymplectic manifolds.

Denote by \tilde{W}_M^q the vertical distribution associated to the vector bundle

$$\bigvee_q M \rightarrow M.$$

Since b_q is a bundle map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bigvee_q M & \xrightarrow{b_q} & \bigwedge^{k+1-q} M \\ & \searrow & \swarrow \\ & M & \end{array},$$

we have that

$$(b_q)_* \tilde{W}_M^q \subseteq W_M^{k+1-q},$$

where W_M^{k+1-q} is the vertical distribution of the vector bundle

$$\bigwedge^{k+1-q} M \rightarrow M.$$

Now, recall that W_M^{k+1-q} defines a 1-Lagrangian distribution. Therefore, we have the following.

Proposition 3.4. \widetilde{W}_M^q defines a 1-isotropic distribution on $(\bigvee_q M, \widetilde{\Omega}_M^q)$.

Now, we can prove the main result of this section.

Theorem 3.2. Let (M, ω) be a multisymplectic manifold of order k . Then, a multivector field

$$U : M \rightarrow \bigvee_q M,$$

is locally Hamiltonian if and only if it defines a $(k+1-q)$ -Lagrangian submanifold in $(\bigvee_q M, \widetilde{\Omega}_M^q)$.

Proof. With Proposition 2.5 in mind, since \widetilde{W}_M^q is 1-isotropic by Proposition 3.4, and we have the decomposition

$$T\left(\bigvee_q M\right)\Big|_{U(M)} = U_*(TM) \oplus \widetilde{W}_M^q|_{U(M)},$$

we only need to check whether U defines a $(k+1-q)$ -isotropic submanifold or, equivalently, whether

$$U^*\widetilde{\Omega}_M^q = 0,$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bigvee_q M & \xrightarrow{\flat_q} & \bigwedge^{k+1-q} M \\ \uparrow U & \nearrow \flat_q(U) = \iota_U \omega & \\ M & & \end{array}.$$

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} U^*\widetilde{\Omega}_M^q &= U^*\flat_q^*\Omega_M^{k+1-q} = (\flat_q \circ U)^*\Omega_M^{k+1-q} \\ &= (\iota_U \omega)^*\Omega_M^{k+1-q} = -d\iota_U \omega, \end{aligned}$$

where in the last equality we have used that $\alpha^*\Omega_Q^k = -d\alpha$, for any form $\alpha : Q \rightarrow \bigwedge^k Q$. We conclude that U is k -Lagrangian if and only if

$$0 = U^*\widetilde{\Omega}_M^q = -d\iota_U \omega,$$

that is, if and only if U is locally Hamiltonian. \square

3.3. Complete lift of forms to multivector bundles

In [7], the authors prove that (TM, ω^c) is a non-degenerate multisymplectic manifold when ω is a non-degenerate multisymplectic form on M . Here ω^c denotes the complete lift of the form. We would like to generalize this procedure to arbitrary multivector bundles

$$\bigvee_q M.$$

Let us begin by recalling that ω^c is the unique $(k+1)$ -form on TM satisfying

$$X^* \omega^c = \mathcal{L}_X \omega,$$

for every vector field

$$X : M \rightarrow TM.$$

Recalling the Cartan formula

$$\mathcal{L}_X \omega = d\iota_X \omega + \iota_X d\omega,$$

we define the Lie derivative of a ω with respect to a multivector field

$$U : M \rightarrow \bigvee_q M,$$

as the $(k+2-q)$ -form (see [32])

$$\mathcal{L}_U \omega := \iota_U d\omega + (-1)^{q+1} d\iota_U \omega.$$

Theorem 3.3 (Definition of complete lift). *Given a manifold M , and $\omega \in \Omega^{k+1}(M)$, there exists a unique $(k+2-q)$ -form on $\bigvee_q M$, ω_q^c , such that*

$$U^* \omega_q^c = \mathcal{L}_U \omega,$$

for every multivector field

$$U : M \rightarrow \bigvee_q M.$$

To prove uniqueness, it suffices to study the linear problem.

Lemma 3.1. *Let X, Y be vector spaces and $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ be an epimorphism. Then, if $k+1 \leq \dim X$, a form $\omega \in \bigwedge^{k+1} Y^*$ is characterized by the pull-backs of all sections*

$$\phi : X \rightarrow Y.$$

That is, if there is another $(k+1)$ -form α on Y such that $\phi^ \alpha = \phi^* \omega$, for every section $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$ of π , then*

$$\alpha = \omega.$$

Proof. It is clear that ω is characterized by the induced linear mapping

$$\omega : \bigwedge^{k+1} Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

and that, if $\phi^* \alpha = \phi^* \omega$, for certain form $\alpha \in \bigwedge^{k+1} Y^*$, the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bigwedge^{k+1} Y & \xrightarrow{\omega} & \mathbb{R} \\ \phi_* \downarrow \nearrow \pi_* & & \nearrow \phi^* \alpha \\ \bigwedge^{k+1} X & & \end{array} .$$

Therefore, if we can prove that

$$\bigwedge^{k+1} Y = \left\langle \phi_* \left(\bigwedge^{k+1} X \right), \phi : X \rightarrow Y \text{ section} \right\rangle,$$

we would have $\omega = \alpha$, since they would coincide in a set of generators. Identify X as a subspace of Y . We have

$$\bigwedge^{k+1} Y = \bigwedge^{k+1} (X \oplus \ker \pi) = \bigoplus_{l=0}^{k+1} \left(\bigwedge^l X \wedge \bigwedge^{k+1-l} \ker \pi \right).$$

We will prove that

$$\bigwedge^l X \wedge \bigwedge^{k+1-l} \ker \pi \subseteq \left\langle \phi_* \left(\bigwedge^{k+1} X \right), \phi : X \rightarrow Y \text{ section} \right\rangle.$$

Let

$$x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_l \wedge y_{l+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge y_{k+1} \in \bigwedge^l X \wedge \bigwedge^{k+1-l} \ker \pi,$$

where $x_i \in X$, $y_j \in \ker \pi$ are linearly independent vectors. Extend x_1, \dots, x_{k+1-l} to $k+1$ linearly independent vectors on X (here we are using $\dim X \geq k+1$)

$$x_1, \dots, x_{k+1},$$

and take a section $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\phi(x_i) = x_i, i = 1, \dots, k, \quad \phi(x_{k+1}) = x_{k+1} + y_{k+1}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_k \wedge y_{k+1} &= \phi_*(x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{k+1}) - x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{k+1} \\ &\in \left\langle \phi_* \left(\bigwedge^{k+1} X \right), \phi : X \rightarrow Y \text{ section} \right\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

With a similar argument we can show that

$$x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{k-1} \wedge y_k \wedge x_{k+1} \in \left\langle \phi_* \left(\bigwedge^{k+1} X \right), \phi : X \rightarrow Y \text{ section} \right\rangle.$$

Now, defining another section (which we name the same making abuse of notation) ϕ satisfying

$$\phi(x_i) = x_i, i = 1, \dots, k-1, \quad \phi(x_k) = x_k + y_k, \quad \phi(x_{k+1}) = x_{k+1} + y_{k+1},$$

we have

$$\phi_*(x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{k+1}) = x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{k-1} \wedge (x_k + y_k) \wedge (x_{k+1} + y_{k+1}),$$

which, by the previous considerations implies

$$x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{k-1} \wedge y_k \wedge y_{k+1} \in \left\langle \phi_* \left(\bigwedge^{k+1} X \right), \phi : X \rightarrow Y \text{ section} \right\rangle.$$

Now, iterating this argument we conclude

$$x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_l \wedge y_{l+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge y_{k+1} \in \left\langle \phi_* \left(\bigwedge^{k+1} X \right), \phi : X \rightarrow Y \text{ section} \right\rangle,$$

proving the result. \square

Proof of Theorem 3.3. By Lemma 3.1, if we find a form ω_q^c on $\bigvee_q M$ satisfying

$$U^* \omega_q^c = \mathcal{L}_U \omega,$$

the result would follow. Consider the induced maps by ω and $d\omega$ on $\bigvee_q M$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \bigwedge^{k+2-q} M \\ & \nearrow \widetilde{b}_q := \iota_\bullet d\omega & \\ \bigvee_q M & \xrightarrow{b_q := \iota_\bullet \omega} & \bigwedge^{k+1-q} M \end{array},$$

and define a $(k+2-q)$ -form on $\bigvee_q M$ by

$$\omega_q^c := (\widetilde{b}_q)^* \Theta_M^{k+2-q} + (-1)^q (b_q)^* \Omega_M^{k+1-q}.$$

Then, by definition of Θ_M^{k+2-q} , and Ω_M^{k+1-q} we have that for all multivector fields $U : M \rightarrow \bigvee_q M$

$$U^* \omega_q^c = \iota_U d\omega + (-1)^{q+1} d\iota_U \omega = \mathcal{L}_U \omega,$$

finishing the proof. \square

Remark 3.5. Now that we have generalized the complete lift of forms to arbitrary multivector bundles, given a multisymplectic manifold (M, ω) we have two ways of inducing a multisymplectic structure on $\bigvee_q M$, the one constructed in Sec. 3.2, and

the complete lift from Theorem 3.3. However, because ω is closed, the mapping $\widetilde{\flat}_q$ of the proof of Theorem 3.3 is trivial and thus

$$\omega_q^c = (-1)^q (\flat_q)^* \Omega_M^{k+1-q} = (-1)^q \widetilde{\Omega}_M^q,$$

and we conclude that, up to sign, both multisymplectic structures are equal.

4. Coisotropic Submanifolds

4.1. Local form of coisotropic submanifolds

Weinstein gave the first normal form^e theorem for Lagrangian submanifolds in the context of symplectic geometry.

Theorem 4.1 (Weinstein's Lagrangian neighborhood theorem [36]). *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic manifold and $L \hookrightarrow M$ be a Lagrangian submanifold. Then, there are neighborhoods U, V of L in M , and in T^*L (identifying L with the zero section), respectively, and a symplectomorphism*

$$\phi : U \rightarrow V.$$

This result has been generalized to multisymplectic manifolds of type $(k, 0)$ by Martin [23], and extended to multisymplectic manifolds of type (k, r) by de León *et al.* [9].

Theorem 4.2 ([9]). *Let $(M, \omega, W, \mathcal{E})$ be a multisymplectic manifold of type (k, r) , and $L \hookrightarrow M$ be a k -Lagrangian submanifold complementary to W , that is, such that*

$$TL \oplus W|_L = TM|_L.$$

Then, there are neighborhoods U, V of L in M , and of L in $\bigwedge_r^k L$ (identifying L as the zero section), where the horizontal forms are taken with respect to \mathcal{E} under the identification

$$TL = TM/W,$$

and a multisymplectomorphism

$$\psi : U \rightarrow V,$$

which is the identity on L and satisfies

$$\psi_* W = W_L^k,$$

where W_L^k denotes the vertical distribution on $\bigwedge_r^k L^$.*

^eAlong this paper, we reserve the term *normal form* for a classification of a neighborhood of an entire submanifold (like in Theorems 4.1 and 4.2), and we use the term *local form* for a classification of a neighborhood around any point of a submanifold (like in Theorem 4.4).

Proof. Define the vector bundle isomorphism

$$\phi : W|_L \rightarrow \bigwedge_r^k L; \quad \phi(w_l) := (\iota_{w_l} \omega)|_L.$$

By the tubular neighborhood theorem, we may identify a neighborhood U of L in $W|_L$ with a neighborhood of L in M . Under the previous identification, let $V := \phi(U)$ and define

$$\tilde{\omega} := \phi_* \omega.$$

Following the same line of reasoning as in Proposition 2.4, we have $\tilde{\omega} = \Omega_L^k$ on L . Furthermore, since ϕ is a vector bundle isomorphism, ϕ preserves fibers and we have $\phi_* W|_U = (W_L^k)|_V$. This implies that W_L^k not only defines a 1-isotropic distribution for Ω_L^k , but also for $\tilde{\omega}$. To build the multisymplectomorphism ψ , we will make use of *Moser's trick* with the family of forms

$$\Omega_t := (1 - t)\Omega_L^k + t\tilde{\omega}.$$

More precisely, we will look for a time-dependent vector field X_t on V such that its flow ϕ_t satisfies

$$\phi_t^* \Omega_t = \Omega_L^k,$$

for every t . To achieve this, it will be sufficient to look for a time-dependent vector field X_t such that

$$0 = \frac{d}{dt}(\phi_t^* \Omega_t) = \mathcal{L}_{X_t} \Omega_t + \frac{d\Omega_t}{dt} = d\iota_{X_t} \Omega_t + \tilde{\omega} - \Omega_L^k.$$

Now, if we denote by π_t multiplication by t in $\bigwedge_r^k L$, by reducing neighborhoods if necessary, we get a well-defined mapping

$$\pi_t : V \rightarrow V,$$

for $0 \leq t \leq 1$. By the relative Poincaré lemma, we have

$$\tilde{\omega} = d \left(\int_0^1 \pi_t^* \iota_{\Delta} \tilde{\omega} dt \right),$$

where Δ is the dilation vector field. Therefore, if we define

$$\tilde{\theta} := - \int_0^1 \pi_t^* \iota_{\Delta} \tilde{\omega} dt,$$

it follows that $\tilde{\omega} = -d\tilde{\theta}$, where $\tilde{\theta} = 0$ on L (because $\Delta = 0$ on L). Since we need $\Omega_L^k - \tilde{\omega} = -d(\Theta_L^k - \tilde{\theta}) = d\iota_{X_t} \Omega_t$, it will be enough to look for X_t satisfying

$$\iota_{X_t} \Omega_t = \tilde{\theta} - \Theta_L^k.$$

Recall that $\tilde{\omega} = \Omega_L^k$ on L and, therefore $\Omega_t = \Omega_L^k$ on L . Since this form is non-degenerate, by reducing the neighborhoods further, we can assume that Ω_t is non-degenerate on V , for every $t \in [0, 1]$. Note that $\iota_Y(\tilde{\theta} - \Theta_L^k) = 0$, for any vector

field Y that takes values in W_L^k , and that

$$\iota_{E_1 \wedge \dots \wedge E_r} \tilde{\theta} = \iota_{E_1 \wedge \dots \wedge E_r} \Theta_L^k = 0,$$

for vector fields E_1, \dots, E_r such that $\pi(E_i)$ takes values in $\mathcal{E} \subset L$ (where $\pi : \bigwedge_r^k L \rightarrow L$ is the canonical projection). These last two properties, together with Lemma 2.1, imply that there exists a unique time-dependent vector field X_t with values in W_L^k satisfying

$$\iota_{X_t} \Omega_t = \tilde{\theta} - \Theta_L^k.$$

Furthermore, since $\tilde{\theta} = \Theta_L^k = 0$ on L , $X_t = 0$ on L , and its flow is globally defined on L . It follows that we can assume that ϕ_t (the flow of X_t) is defined on V for $0 \leq t \leq 1$ by reducing the neighborhoods further. Finally, for $t = 1$, this flow satisfies

$$\phi_1^* \tilde{\omega} = \Omega,$$

and preserves fibers, because X_t takes values in W_L^k . Defining

$$\psi := (\phi_1)^{-1} \circ \phi,$$

we get the desired multisymplectomorphism. \square

We can use Theorem 4.2 to give a local form for vertical k -coisotropic submanifolds $N \hookrightarrow M$ of a multisymplectic manifold of type (k, r) , where vertical means that

$$W|_N \subseteq TN.$$

Theorem 4.3 (Local form of k -coisotropic submanifolds relative to Lagrangian submanifolds). *Let $(M, \omega, W, \mathcal{E})$ be a multisymplectic manifold of type (k, r) , $i : N \hookrightarrow M$ be a k -coisotropic submanifold satisfying*

$$W|_N \subseteq TN,$$

and $L \hookrightarrow M$ be a k -Lagrangian submanifold complementary to W , that is, such that

$$W|_L \oplus TL = TM|_L.$$

Then, there exists a neighborhood U of L in M , a submanifold $Q \hookrightarrow L$, a neighborhood V of L in $\bigwedge_r^k L$, and a multisymplectomorphism

$$\phi : U \rightarrow V,$$

satisfying

- (i) ϕ is the identity on L , identified as the zero section in $\bigwedge_r^k L$;
- (ii) $\phi(N \cap U) = \bigwedge_r^k L|_Q \cap V$.

Proof. Let U , V and ϕ be the neighborhoods and multisymplectomorphism from Theorem 4.2 and define

$$Q := L \cap N.$$

We claim that, for U, V small enough

$$\phi(N \cap U) = \bigwedge_r^k L|_Q \cap V.$$

First, recall that we have

$$\phi_* W = W_L,$$

where W_L is the canonical 1-Lagrangian distribution on $\bigwedge_r^k L$. Let $x \in L \cap N$ and F_x be the leaf of W through x . It is clear that $F_x \subseteq N$, and that, reducing U and V if necessary

$$\phi(F_x \cap U) = \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L \cap V,$$

since diffeomorphisms that preserve distributions preserve their leaves (when the distributions are integrable). Again, reducing U and V further, we may also assume that for every point $y \in N \cap U$ there is a point $x \in L \cap N$ such that the leaf of W that contains x , F_x , also contains y , that is, we may assume that

$$N \cap U = \bigcup_{x \in L \cap N} F_x \cap U.$$

Therefore

$$\phi(N \cap U) = \bigcup_{x \in L \cap N} \phi(F_x \cap U) = \bigcup_{x \in Q} \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L \cap V = \bigwedge_r^k L|_Q \cap V,$$

proving the result. \square

Theorem 4.4. *Let $(M, \omega, W, \mathcal{E})$ be a multisymplectic manifold of type (k, r) , and $N \hookrightarrow M$ be a k -coisotropic submanifold satisfying*

$$W|_N \subseteq TN.$$

Then, given any point $x \in N$, there exists a neighborhood U of x in M , a manifold L , a submanifold $Q \hookrightarrow L$, a neighborhood V of L in $\bigwedge_r^k L$ and a multisymplectomorphism

$$\phi : U \rightarrow V,$$

such that

- (i) ϕ is the identity on L , identified as the zero section in $\bigwedge_r^k L$;
- (ii) $\phi(N \cap U) = \bigwedge_r^k L|_Q \cap V$.

Proof. Using Theorem 2.3, we can build a k -Lagrangian submanifold L through any given point $x \in N$. Now, the result follows using Theorem 4.3. \square

4.2. Coisotropic reduction

When $k = 1$, that is, when (M, ω) is a symplectic manifold, we have the classical result of coisotropic reduction due to Weinstein [37].

Theorem 4.5 (Coisotropic reduction in symplectic geometry). *Let (M, ω) be a symplectic manifold, $i : N \hookrightarrow M$ be a coisotropic submanifold, and $j : L \hookrightarrow M$ be a Lagrangian submanifold that has clean intersection with N . Then, TN^\perp is an integrable distribution and determines a foliation \mathcal{F} of maximal integral leaves. Suppose that the quotient space N/\mathcal{F} admits a smooth manifold structure such that the canonical projection*

$$\pi : N \rightarrow N/\mathcal{F},$$

defines a submersion. Then, there exists a unique symplectic form on N/\mathcal{F} , ω_N compatible with ω in the following sense:

$$\pi^* \omega_N = i^* \omega.$$

Furthermore, if $\pi(N \cap L)$ is a submanifold, it is Lagrangian in $(N/\mathcal{F}, \omega_N)$.

We would like to find an analogous result in multisymplectic manifolds. For the first part of Theorem 4.5, the classical argument works.

Proposition 4.1 ([7]). *Let (M, ω) be a multisymplectic manifold of order k and $i : N \hookrightarrow M$ be a k -coisotropic submanifold. Then, $(TN)^{\perp, k} \cap TN \subseteq TN$ defines an involutive distribution.*

Proof. Let $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(N)$ be vector fields on N with values in $(TN)^{\perp, k}$, and let $Z_1, \dots, Z_k \in \mathfrak{X}(N)$ be arbitrary vector fields on N . Denote

$$\omega_0 := i^* \omega.$$

Since ω is closed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= (d\omega_0)(X, Y, Z_1, \dots, Z_k) = X(\omega_0(Y, Z_1, \dots, Z_k)) - Y(\omega_0(X, Z_1, \dots, Z_k)) \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^j Z_i(\omega_0(X, Y, Z_1, \dots, \hat{Z}_i, \dots, Z_k)) - \omega_0([X, Y], Z_1, \dots, Z_k) \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{j+1} \omega_0([X, Z_i], Y, Z_1, \dots, \hat{Z}_i, \dots, Z_k) \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^j \omega_0([Y, Z_i], X, Z_1, \dots, \hat{Z}_i, \dots, Z_k) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i < j} (-1)^{i+j} \omega_0([Z_i, Z_j], X, Y, Z_1, \dots, \hat{Z}_i, \dots, \hat{Z}_j, \dots, Z_k). \end{aligned}$$

Now, since both X and Y take values in $(TN)^{\perp,k}$, all the summands but

$$\omega_0([X, Y], Z_1, \dots, Z_k),$$

are zero. Therefore, we conclude

$$\omega_0([X, Y], Z_1, \dots, Z_k) = 0,$$

for all $Z_1, \dots, Z_k \in \mathfrak{X}(N)$, that is, $[X, Y]$ takes values in $(TN)^{\perp,k}$, proving that the distribution is involutive. \square

If $(TN)^{\perp,k} \cap TN$ is regular, by Frobenius' theorem, it determines a foliation \mathcal{F} of maximal leaves. We have the following result.

Theorem 4.6 ([7]). *Let (M, ω) be a multisymplectic manifold of order k , and $i : N \hookrightarrow M$ be a k -coisotropic submanifold such that $(TN)^{\perp,k} \cap TN$ is regular. Suppose that N/\mathcal{F} admits a smooth manifold structure such that the canonical projection*

$$\pi : N \rightarrow N/\mathcal{F},$$

defines a submersion. Then, there exists a unique multisymplectic form of order k on N/\mathcal{F} , ω_N , that is compatible with ω , that is

$$\pi^* \omega_N = i^* \omega.$$

Proof. Let $x \in N$. Note that, since π defines a submersion, we have the identification

$$T_{[x]}N/\mathcal{F} = T_x N / \ker d_x \pi = T_x N / (T_x N)^{\perp,k} \cap T_x N.$$

Let $v_1, \dots, v_{k+1} \in T_x N$. The relation $\pi^* \omega_N = i^* \omega$ forces us to define

$$\omega_N|_{[x]}([v_1], \dots, [v_{k+1}]) := \omega|_x(v_1, \dots, v_{k+1}),$$

proving that ω_N is unique. It only remains to show that the previous definition does not depend on the choice of x and v_i . For the latter, first observe that if $[v] = 0$, that is, $v \in (T_x N)^{\perp,k}$ we have

$$\omega(v, v_1, \dots, v_k) = 0,$$

for all $v_1, \dots, v_k \in T_x N$. Therefore, if $[v_i] = [u_i]$, for $i = 1, \dots, k+1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_N|_{[x]}([v_1], \dots, [v_{k+1}]) &= \omega|_x(v_1, \dots, v_{k+1}) = \omega|_x(u_1, v_2, \dots, v_{k+1}) = \dots \\ &= \omega|_x(u_1, \dots, u_{k+1}) = \omega_N|_{[x]}([u_1], \dots, [u_{k+1}]). \end{aligned}$$

For the independence of the chosen point, given $x, y \in N$ in the same leaf, we can find a complete vector field X on N with values in $(TN)^{\perp,k}$ such that its flow satisfies

$$\phi_1^X(x) = y.$$

Now, denoting $\omega_0 := i^*\omega$, we have

$$\mathcal{L}_X \omega_0 = \iota_X d\omega_0 + d\iota_X \omega_0 = 0,$$

since ω_0 is closed and $\iota_X \omega_0 = 0$ (given that X takes values in $(TN)^{\perp, k}$). This implies $(\phi_1^X)^* \omega_0 = \omega_0$. In particular, given $v_1, \dots, v_{k+1} \in T_x N$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_N|_{[x]}([v_1], \dots, [v_{k+1}]) &= \omega_0|_x(v_1, \dots, v_{k+1}) = \omega_0|_y(d_x \phi_1^X \cdot v_1, \dots, d_x \phi_1^X \cdot v_{k+1}) \\ &= \omega_N|_{[y]}([d_x \phi_1^X \cdot v_1], \dots, [d_x \phi_1^X \cdot v_{k+1}]). \end{aligned}$$

Since X is tangent to \mathcal{F} , its flow ϕ_1^X leaves invariant the foliation, and $\pi \circ \phi = \pi$. In particular

$$[v_i] = d_x \pi \cdot v_i = d_y \pi \cdot d_x \phi \cdot v_i = [d_x \phi \cdot v_i].$$

Finally, if $v_1, \dots, v_{k+1} \in T_x N$, $u_1, \dots, u_{k+1} \in T_y N$ with $[v_i] = [u_i]$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_N|_{[x]}([v_1], \dots, [v_{k+1}]) &= \omega_0|_x(v_1, \dots, v_{k+1}) = \omega_0|_y(d_x \phi_1^X \cdot v_1, \dots, d_x \phi_1^X \cdot v_{k+1}) \\ &= \omega_N|_{[y]}([d_x \phi_1^X \cdot v_1], \dots, [d_x \phi_1^X \cdot v_{k+1}]) \\ &= \omega_N|_{[y]}([u_1], \dots, [u_{k+1}]), \end{aligned}$$

proving the result. \square

For the projection of Lagrangian submanifolds, the second part of Theorem 4.5, multisymplectic manifolds are *too general* and hard to study without asking for further structures. Indeed, we can easily find a counterexample.

Example 4.1 (A counterexample). Let $L = \langle l_1, l_2, l_3 \rangle$ be a three-dimensional vector space and define

$$V := L \oplus \bigwedge^2 V^*.$$

Let l^1, l^2, l^3 be the dual basis induced on L^* and denote

$$\alpha^{ij} := l^i \wedge l^j.$$

Then

$$V = \langle l_1, l_2, l_3, \alpha^{12}, \alpha^{13}, \alpha^{23} \rangle.$$

Let $l^1, l^2, l^3, \alpha_{12}, \alpha_{13}, \alpha_{23}$ be the dual basis. We have

$$\Omega_L = \alpha_{12} \wedge l^1 \wedge l^2 + \alpha_{13} \wedge l^1 \wedge l^3 + \alpha_{23} \wedge l^2 \wedge l^3.$$

Define

$$N := \langle l_1 + l_2, l_1 + \alpha^{23}, l_2 + \alpha^{13}, l_3, \alpha^{12} \rangle.$$

Then, N is a 2-coisotropic subspace. Indeed, a quick calculation shows $N^{\perp, 2} = 0$. This implies that the quotient space $N/N^{\perp, 2}$ is (isomorphic to) N . Now, taking as the 2-Lagrangian subspace $L = \langle l_1, l_2, l_3 \rangle$, we have

$$L \cap N = \langle l_1 + l_2, l_3 \rangle.$$

However, this does not define a 2-Lagrangian subspace of $(N, \Omega_L|_N)$, since $\alpha^{12} \in (N \cap L)^{\perp, 2}$, but $\alpha^{12} \notin (L \cap N)$.

Nevertheless, we will be able to find a generalization of the previous theorem restricting the study to a particular class, those that locally are bundles of forms, which are precisely the multisymplectic manifolds appearing in classical field theories [19]. More particularly, we will study coisotropic reduction of vertical coisotropic submanifolds in multisymplectic manifolds of type (k, r) .

The classical proof of the last part of Theorem 4.5 uses an elaborate comparison of dimensions argument (see [1]). This argument hardly translates to multisymplectic manifolds since, in general, the mapping

$$TM \xrightarrow{b_1} \bigwedge_r^k M,$$

does not define a bundle isomorphism. However, we can prove it using the local form proved in Sec. 4.1.

Given some manifold L , and a regular distribution on L , \mathcal{E} , define

$$M := \bigwedge_r^k L,$$

endowed with its canonical multisymplectic structure. Here, the horizontal forms, are taken with respect to \mathcal{E} . Let $i : Q \hookrightarrow L$ be a submanifold of dimension at least k (for $\bigwedge^k Q$ to be nonzero) and take

$$N := \bigwedge_r^k L|_Q,$$

the restricted bundle to Q . Then, $N \hookrightarrow M$ is a k -coisotropic submanifold. Indeed, under the (non-canonical) identification

$$T_{(x,\alpha)}N = T_x Q \oplus \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L,$$

for $(x, \alpha) \in N$, we have

$$(TN)^{\perp, k} = 0 \oplus \ker i^*,$$

where i^* is the induced mapping

$$i^* : \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L \subseteq \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L \rightarrow \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* Q.$$

We claim that the image of $\bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L$ under i^* is $\bigwedge_r^k T_x^* Q$, where the horizontal forms are taken with respect to the subspace

$$\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_x := \mathcal{E}_x \cap T_x Q.$$

Indeed, it is clear that

$$i^* \left(\bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L \right) \subseteq \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* Q,$$

since, if $e_1, \dots, e_r \in \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_x$ and $\alpha \in \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L$, we have

$$\iota_{e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_r} i^* \alpha = i^* (\iota_{e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_r} \alpha) = 0.$$

Now, to see the other inclusion, we take a projection

$$p : T_x L \rightarrow T_x Q,$$

that satisfies $p(\mathcal{E}_x) = \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_x$, that is, a projection that makes the following diagram commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{E}_x & \hookrightarrow & T_x L \\ \downarrow p|_{\mathcal{E}_x} & & \downarrow p \\ \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_x & \hookrightarrow & T_x Q \end{array} \quad .$$

Take $\beta \in \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* Q$ and define $\alpha \in \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L$ as

$$\alpha := p^* \beta.$$

It is clear that $i^* \alpha = \beta$. Furthermore, since p satisfies $p(\mathcal{E}_x) = \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_x$, we have

$$\alpha \in \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L,$$

proving that

$$i^* \left(\bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L \right) = \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* Q.$$

In particular, when $\mathcal{E} \cap TQ$ has constant rank, so does^f $(TN)^\perp$, and we have that the maximal integral leaf of this distribution that contains $(x, 0)$ is

$$\ker i^*|_{\{x\}} = \left\{ (x, \alpha) : \alpha \in \ker i^*, \alpha \in \bigwedge_r^k T_x^* L \right\}.$$

These leaves define a vector subbundle

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \ker i^* & \hookrightarrow & \bigwedge_r^k L|_Q \\ & \searrow & \swarrow \\ & Q & \end{array} \quad .$$

^fBecause $\text{rank}(TN)^\perp = \text{rank } \ker i^* = \text{rank } \bigwedge_r^k L - \text{rank } \bigwedge_r^k Q$.

By the previous considerations, these bundles fit in a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \ker i^* \hookrightarrow \bigwedge_r^k L \xrightarrow{i^*} \bigwedge_r^k Q \longrightarrow 0.$$

Therefore, we may identify

$$N/\mathcal{F} = \bigwedge_r^k Q,$$

where the horizontal forms are taken with respect to $\tilde{\mathcal{E}} = \mathcal{E} \cap TQ$ (which we are assuming to have constant rank). A routine check shows that the multisymplectic structure induced from Theorem 4.6 is none other than the canonical multisymplectic structure on $\bigwedge_r^k Q$.

Now, let us study the projection of Lagrangian submanifolds. An important class of k -Lagrangian submanifolds in $\bigwedge_r^k L$ are given by closed forms (Proposition 2.6)

$$\alpha : L \rightarrow \bigwedge_r^k L.$$

We have the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & \bigwedge_r^k L = M \\ \updownarrow & & \updownarrow \\ Q & \xrightarrow{\alpha|_Q} & \bigwedge_r^k L|_Q = N \\ & \searrow i^*\alpha & \downarrow i^* = \pi \\ & & \bigwedge_r^k Q = N/\mathcal{F} \end{array}.$$

It is clear that the projection of $\alpha(L) \cap N$ onto $N/\mathcal{F} = \bigwedge_r^k Q$ is exactly the image of

$$i^*\alpha : Q \rightarrow \bigwedge_r^k Q.$$

Since α is closed, so is $i^*\alpha$, proving that in this local form, k -Lagrangian submanifolds complementary to the vertical distribution \mathcal{W} reduce to k -Lagrangian submanifolds. Therefore, using Theorem 4.3, we have the main result of this section.

Theorem 4.7. *Let $(M, \omega, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{E})$ be a multisymplectic manifold of type (k, r) , $i : N \hookrightarrow M$ a k -coisotropic submanifold satisfying*

$$\mathcal{W}|_N \subseteq TN,$$

and $j : L \hookrightarrow M$ a k -Lagrangian submanifold complementary to \mathcal{W} . Suppose that N/\mathcal{F} admits a smooth manifold structure such that $\pi : N \rightarrow N/\mathcal{F}$ defines a submersion, where \mathcal{F} is the foliation associated to $(TN)^\perp$ (see Theorem 4.6), and that

$$\mathcal{E}|_N \cap (TN/\mathcal{W}|_N),$$

has constant rank. Then, if $\pi(L \cap N)$ is a submanifold, it is k -Lagrangian.

5. Conclusions and Further Work

In this paper, we have analyzed the role that Lagrangian and coisotropic submanifolds play in multisymplectic geometry, with the intention of extending as far as possible the well-known results in symplectic geometry. When dealing with forms of degree higher than 2, there are different complements to a submanifold, which enriches the geometry but at the same time makes it more complex. One of the first results obtained is the interpretation of Lagrangian submanifolds as possible dynamics, as well as the introduction of a graded bracket algebra. This makes it possible to deal with currents and conserved quantities. The main result of the paper is a coisotropic reduction theorem which we hope will be useful in applications to multisymplectic field theory.

In future work, we have proposed the following objectives:


- (i) Apply the results obtained in the current paper to multisymplectic field theories.
- (ii) Since some field theories are singular, we would like to develop a regularization method as in the case of singular Lagrangian dynamics (see [21]); previously, we have to prove a coisotropic embedding theorem à la Gotay [15, 30] in the context of multisymplectic geometry.
- (iii) Develop the covariant approach through a space–time decomposition, and interpret the coisotropic reduction in the corresponding infinite-dimensional setting.
- (iv) Following the notion of multi-Dirac (and higher Dirac) structures [5, 34, 35, 38], we would like to develop a more general extension using the graded Poisson brackets defined in the current paper.
- (v) Extend the results to the realm of multicontact geometry (see [11]).

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