Kähler structure on coadjoint orbits of SU(2)

Shing Tak Lam

July 12, 2023

First, notice as every element in $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ can be diagonalised by an element of SU(2), each coadjoint orbit \mathcal{O} contains precisely one element of the form

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} i\xi \\ -i\xi \end{pmatrix}$$

with $\xi \geq 0$. We will use the following basis of $\mathfrak{su}(2)$:

$$\mathbf{i} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{j} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ -i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{k} = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}$$

Note that we have $[\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}] = 2\mathbf{k}$ and cyclic permutations of this. Fix $\xi > 0$, and consider the coadjoint orbit

$$\mathcal{O} = \{a\mathbf{i} + b\mathbf{j} + c\mathbf{k} \mid a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = \xi^2\}$$

Fix $B \in \mathcal{O}$, say $B = a\mathbf{i} + b\mathbf{j} + c\mathbf{k}$. Let

$$u = [B, \mathbf{i}] = 2c\mathbf{j} - 2b\mathbf{k}$$

$$v = [B, \mathbf{j}] = -2c\mathbf{i} + 2a\mathbf{k}$$

$$w = [B, \mathbf{k}] = 2b\mathbf{i} - 2a\mathbf{j}$$

Note that u, v, w span $T_B\mathcal{O}$, and au + bv + cw = 0. Assume without loss of generality that $c \neq 0$. Then u, v form a basis of $T_B\mathcal{O}$. The KKS symplectic form is

$$\omega_B([B, X], [B, Y]) = -\langle B, [X, Y] \rangle = \operatorname{tr}(B[X, Y])$$

In particular, this gives us that

$$\omega_B(u, u) = \omega_B(v, v) = 0$$
 and $\omega_B(u, v) = 2 \operatorname{tr}(B\mathbf{k}) = -4c$

Hence ω is represented by the matrix

$$\omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -4c \\ 4c & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

with respect to the basis u, v.

Now suppose $B = \gamma A \gamma^{\dagger}$, where $\gamma = p\mathbf{1} + q\mathbf{i} + r\mathbf{j} + s\mathbf{k} \in SU(2)$. Computing, we find that

$$a = 2\xi(pr + qs)$$

$$b = 2\xi(rs - pq)$$

$$c = \xi(p^2 - q^2 - r^2 + s^2)$$

In this specific example, we have that the Hermitian metric is

$$h(u, u) = 4\xi(\gamma i \gamma^{\dagger})_{21} \overline{(\gamma i \gamma^{\dagger})_{21}}$$

and so on. This is independent of the choice of γ , since any other choice would be $\lambda \gamma$, where $\lambda \in S^1 \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, and

$$(\lambda \gamma) \xi (\lambda \gamma)^{\dagger} = \lambda \overline{\lambda} \gamma \xi \gamma^{\dagger} = \gamma \xi \gamma^{\dagger}$$

Computing, we have that

$$h(u, u) = 4\xi \left(\frac{b^2 + c^2}{\xi^2} + 16pqrs \right)$$

$$h(v, v) = 4\xi \left(\frac{a^2 + c^2}{\xi^2} - 16pqrs \right)$$

$$h(u, v) = 4\xi \left(\frac{ab}{\xi^2} + 8(p^2 - s^2)qr + i(\cdots) \right)$$

where we use the fact that the Riemannian metric g is the real part of h, and so we omit the imaginary part of h(u, v). Moreover, using the fact that

$$SU(2) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -\overline{\beta} \\ \beta & \overline{\alpha} \end{pmatrix} ||\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1 \right\}$$

it is easy to see that for an appropriate choice of $\lambda=e^{i\theta}$, we can set β pure imaginary, and so q=0. With this, we get that the Riemannian metric is

$$g = \frac{4}{\xi} \begin{pmatrix} b^2 + c^2 & ab \\ ab & a^2 + c^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

We can see that $det(g) = 16c^2 > 0$ by assumption that $c \neq 0$. Finally, we wish to compute the almost complex structure. We have that

$$J = \tilde{q}^{-1} \tilde{\omega}$$

where \tilde{q} , $\tilde{\omega}$: $T_B\mathcal{O} \to T_B^*\mathcal{O}$ are the left maps, i.e.

$$\tilde{g}(u)(v) = g(u, v)$$
 $\tilde{\omega}(u)(v) = \omega(u, v)$

If u^* , v^* is the dual basis of u, v, then we have that

$$[\tilde{q}] = [q]^{\mathsf{T}} = [q] \quad [\tilde{\omega}] = [\omega]^{\mathsf{T}} = -[\omega]$$

Therefore, we have that

$$J = \frac{1}{4\xi c} \begin{pmatrix} a^2 + c^2 & -ab \\ -ab & b^2 + c^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4c \\ -4c & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{c\xi} \begin{pmatrix} ab & a^2 + c^2 \\ -(b^2 + c^2) & -ab \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$J^{2} = \frac{1}{\xi^{2}c^{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -c^{2}(a^{2} + b^{2} + c^{2}) & 0\\ 0 & -c^{2}(a^{2} + b^{2} + c^{2}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0\\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$