



Spin(9), Rosenfeld planes and canonical differential forms
in octonionic geometry

- 1 What you should expect in this talk
- 2 Spin(9)
- 3 After Spin(9): Rosenfeld projective planes
- 4 Applications
- 5 Conclusion

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MP, Paolo Piccinni.

$\text{Spin}(9)$ and almost complex structures on 16-dimensional manifolds.
Annals of Global Analysis and Geometry, 41 (2012), 321–345.



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Spheres with more than 7 vector fields: all the fault of $\text{Spin}(9)$.
Linear Algebra and its Applications, 438 (2013), 1113–1131.



Liviu Ornea, MP, Paolo Piccinni, Victor Vuletescu.

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Work in progress.



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Robert Bryant.

Remarks on Spinors in Low Dimensions.

<http://www.math.duke.edu/~bryant/Spinors.pdf> (1999).



Thomas Friedrich.

Weak Spin(9)-Structures on 16-dimensional Riemannian Manifolds.

Asian Journal of Mathematics, 5 (2001), 129–160.



Andrei Moroianu, Uwe Semmelmann.

Clifford structures on Riemannian manifolds.

Advances in Mathematics, 228 (2011), 940–967.

Main aim of the talk

Convince you that $\text{Spin}(9)$ is beautiful.

Method

- Introduce $\text{Spin}(9)$ little brother: $\text{Sp}(2) \cdot \text{Sp}(1)$
- Show you that $\text{Spin}(9)$ is involved in many curious phenomena

Relatives

Construction of relevant differential forms associated with the groups

$\text{Spin}(9)$, $\text{Spin}(10)$, $\text{Spin}(12)$, $\text{Spin}(16)$

appearing as structure and holonomy group in the exceptional symmetric spaces



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- Why and what
- Quaternionic analogy
- Curiosities about Spin(9)

3 After Spin(9): Rosenfeld projective planes

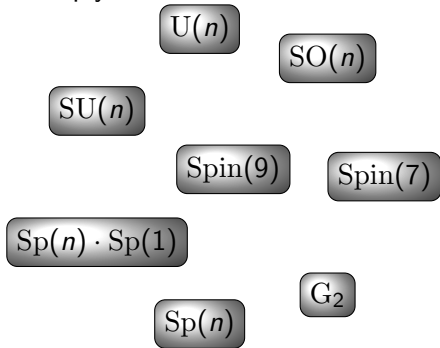
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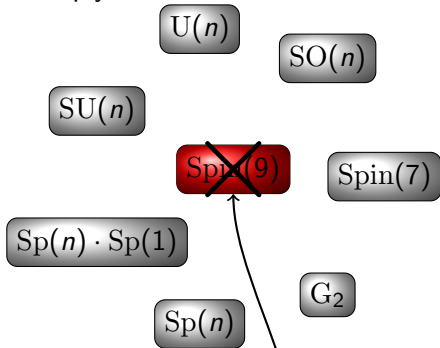
Berger's list and Spin(9) refutation

Holonomy of simply connected, irreducible, nonsymmetric?



Berger's list and Spin(9) refutation

Holonomy of simply connected, irreducible, nonsymmetric?



Simply connected, complete, holonomy Spin(9)

\Leftrightarrow

$$\mathbb{O}P^2 = \frac{F_4}{\text{Spin}(9)} (s > 0), \quad \mathbb{R}^{16}(\text{flat}), \quad \mathbb{O}H^2 = \frac{F_4(-20)}{\text{Spin}(9)} (s < 0)$$

[Aleksseevsky, Funct. Anal. Prilozhen 1968].

First Spin(9) definition

Definition

Spin(9) is the Lie group which has been excluded from a list.

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Spin(9) is the Lie group which has been excluded from a list.

USELESS

What is Spin(9)?

Definition

Spin(9) \subset SO(16) is the group of symmetries of the Hopf fibration

$$\mathbb{O}^2 \supset S^{15} \xrightarrow{S^7} S^8 \cong \mathbb{O}P^1$$

[Gluck-Warner-Ziller, L'Enseignement Math. 1986].

What is Spin(9)?

Definition

Spin(9) \subset SO(16) is the group of symmetries of the Hopf fibration

$$\mathbb{O}^2 \supset \mathcal{S}^{15} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}^7} \mathcal{S}^8 \cong \mathbb{O}P^1 \quad [\text{Gluck-Warner-Ziller, L'Enseignement Math. 1986}].$$

- $\Lambda^8(\mathbb{R}^{16}) \stackrel{\text{Spin}(9)}{=} \Lambda_1^8 + \dots$ [Friedrich, Asian Journ. Math 2001].
- Spin(9) is the stabilizer in SO(16) of any element of Λ_1^8

[Brown-Gray, Diff. Geom. in honor of K. Yano 1972].

Definition

Spin(9) is the stabilizer in SO(16) of the 8-form

$$\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)} = \int_{\mathbb{O}P^1} p_i^* \nu_i dl$$

► Details

► More details

[Berger, Ann. Éc. Norm. Sup. 1972].

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The closest relative: the quaternionic group $\mathrm{Sp}(2) \cdot \mathrm{Sp}(1)$

Analogy 1

$\mathrm{Spin}(9)$ and $\mathrm{Sp}(2) \cdot \mathrm{Sp}(1)$ are the symmetry groups of the Hopf fibrations:

$$S^{15} \longrightarrow \mathbb{O}P^1 \qquad S^7 \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}P^1$$

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Analogy 1

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Analogy 2

- $\mathrm{Spin}(9)$ is the stabilizer in $\mathrm{SO}(16)$ of the 8-form

$$\Phi_{\mathrm{Spin}(9)} = \int_{\mathbb{O}P^1} p_i^* \nu_i \, dl$$

- $\mathrm{Sp}(2) \cdot \mathrm{Sp}(1)$ is the stabilizer in $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ of the 4-form

$$\Omega = \int_{\mathbb{H}P^1} p_i^* \nu_i \, dl$$

Two alternative constructions for the quaternionic form Ω

Sum of squares: classical

$\Omega = \omega_I^2 + \omega_J^2 + \omega_K^2$, where $\omega_I, \omega_J, \omega_K$ are orthogonal local Kähler forms

Two alternative constructions for the quaternionic form Ω

Sum of squares: classical

$\Omega = \omega_I^2 + \omega_J^2 + \omega_K^2$, where $\omega_I, \omega_J, \omega_K$ are orthogonal local Kähler forms

Sum of squares: involutions

$$\Omega = \tau_2(\Theta), \quad \text{where}$$

- $\tau_2(\Theta) = \sum_{\alpha < \beta} \theta_{\alpha\beta}^2$
- $\Theta = (\theta_{\alpha\beta})$ matrix of Kähler forms of $J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta$
- $\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_5$ self-adjoint anti-commuting involutions in \mathbb{R}^8 :

$$\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_5 \in \text{SO}(8), \quad \mathcal{I}_\alpha^* = \mathcal{I}_\alpha, \quad \mathcal{I}_\alpha^2 = \text{Id}, \quad \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta = -\mathcal{I}_\beta \circ \mathcal{I}_\alpha$$

The five involutions of $\text{Sp}(2) \cdot \text{Sp}(1)$ as 8×8 matrices

$$\mathcal{I}_1 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \text{Id} \\ \hline \text{Id} & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_2 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_i^{\mathbb{H}} \\ \hline R_i^{\mathbb{H}} & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

◀ Go back

$$\mathcal{I}_5 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \text{Id} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & -\text{Id} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_3 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_j^{\mathbb{H}} \\ \hline R_j^{\mathbb{H}} & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_4 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_k^{\mathbb{H}} \\ \hline R_k^{\mathbb{H}} & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

Nine involutions for Spin(9)

Analogy 3

$$\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)} = \tau_4(\Theta), \quad \text{where}$$

- $t^9 + \tau_2(\Theta)t^7 + \tau_4(\Theta)t^5 + \tau_6(\Theta)t^3 + \tau_8(\Theta)t$ characteristic polynomial of Θ
- $\Theta = (\theta_{\alpha\beta})$ matrix of Kähler forms of $J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta$
- $\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9$ self-adjoint anti-commuting involutions in \mathbb{R}^{16} :

$$\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9 \in \text{SO}(16), \quad \mathcal{I}_\alpha^* = \mathcal{I}_\alpha, \quad \mathcal{I}_\alpha^2 = \text{Id}, \quad \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta = -\mathcal{I}_\beta \circ \mathcal{I}_\alpha$$

► Explicit \mathcal{I}_α

The nine involutions of Spin(9) as 16×16 matrices

$$\mathcal{I}_3 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_j \\ \hline R_j & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_2 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_i \\ \hline R_i & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_1 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \text{Id} \\ \hline \text{Id} & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_4 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_k \\ \hline R_k & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

◀ Go back

$$\mathcal{I}_9 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \text{Id} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & -\text{Id} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_5 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_e \\ \hline R_e & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_8 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_h \\ \hline R_h & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_6 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_f \\ \hline R_f & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_7 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -R_g \\ \hline R_g & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

Analogy 4

- A Spin(9)-structure on M^{16} is a rank 9 vector subbundle

$$\text{span}\{\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9\} \subset \text{End}(M)$$

- A Sp(2) · Sp(1)-structure on M^8 is a rank 5 vector subbundle

$$\text{span}\{\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_5\} \subset \text{End}(M)$$

Analogy 4


- A Spin(9)-structure on M^{16} is a rank 9 vector subbundle

$$\text{span}\{\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9\} \subset \text{End}(M)$$

- A $\text{Sp}(2) \cdot \text{Sp}(1)$ -structure on M^8 is a rank 5 vector subbundle

$$\text{span}\{\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_5\} \subset \text{End}(M)$$

Due to the dual role Sp-Spin of
 $\text{Sp}(1) = \text{Spin}(3)$ and $\text{Sp}(2) = \text{Spin}(5)$



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$\{J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}_{1 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$ generates $\mathfrak{spin}(9)$

- There are 36 Kähler forms $\theta_{\alpha\beta}$ for $1 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9$
- There are 84 Kähler forms $\theta_{\alpha\beta\gamma}$ for $1 \leq \alpha < \beta < \gamma \leq 9$

Remark

$$\mathfrak{so}(16) = \Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^{16}) = \Lambda_{36}^2 \oplus \Lambda_{84}^2 = \mathfrak{spin}(9) \oplus \Lambda_{84}^2$$

generated by $\theta_{\alpha\beta}$

generated by $\theta_{\alpha\beta\gamma}$

Nestedness

The family of complex structures $\{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{1\leq\alpha<\beta\leq 9}$ is compatible with the inclusion of Lie algebras

$$\mathfrak{spin}(7)_{\Delta} \subset \mathfrak{spin}(8) \subset \mathfrak{spin}(9)$$

in the sense that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{spin}(7)_{\Delta} &= \text{span}\{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{2\leq\alpha<\beta\leq 8} \\ &\subseteq \text{span}\{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{1\leq\alpha<\beta\leq 8} = \mathfrak{spin}(8) \\ &\subseteq \text{span}\{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{1\leq\alpha<\beta\leq 9} = \mathfrak{spin}(9)\end{aligned}$$

Spheres with more than 7 vector fields: Blame Spin(9)!

- Spheres $S^{m-1} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ admit 1, 3 or 7 linearly independent vector fields according to whether $p = 1, 2$ or 3 in

$$m = (2k + 1)2^p$$

- In the general case

$$m = (2k + 1)2^p 16^q \quad \text{with } q \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad p = 0, 1, 2, 3$$

the maximum number of vector fields is

$$\sigma(m) = \underbrace{2^p - 1}_{\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}, \mathbb{O} \text{ contribution}} + \underbrace{8q}_{\text{Spin}(9) \text{ contribution}}$$

No S^1 -subfibration

Similarly to the quaternionic Hopf fibration, one would expect several S^1 -subfibrations for the octonionic Hopf fibration on $S^{15} \subset \mathbb{O}^2$.

Theorem

Any global vector field on S^{15} which is tangent to the fibers of the octonionic Hopf fibration $S^{15} \rightarrow S^8$ has at least one zero.

[Ornea-MP-Piccinni-Vuletescu, Transformation Groups, 2013]

[Loo-Verjovsky, Topology, 1992]

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Rosenfeld projective planes

- What are the Rosenfeld projective planes?

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Cayley plane

$$\text{Cayley plane: } \mathbb{O}P^2 = \frac{F_4}{\text{Spin}(9)} = \text{FII}, \quad \dim \text{FII} = 16$$

Rosenfeld projective planes

- What are the Rosenfeld projective planes?

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$$\text{Cayley plane: } \mathbb{O}P^2 = \frac{F_4}{\text{Spin}(9)} = \text{FII}, \quad \dim \text{FII} = 16$$

$$\text{EIII}, \quad \dim \text{EIII} = 32$$

$$\text{EVI}, \quad \dim \text{EVI} = 64$$

$$\text{EVIII}, \quad \dim \text{EVIII} = 128$$

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$$\text{Cayley plane: } \mathbb{O}P^2 = \frac{F_4}{\text{Spin}(9)} = \text{FII}, \quad \dim \text{FII} = 16$$

$$(\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \frac{E_6}{\text{Spin}(10) \cdot U(1)} = \text{EIII}, \quad \dim \text{EIII} = 32$$

$$(\mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \frac{E_7}{\text{Spin}(12) \cdot \text{Sp}(1)} = \text{EVI}, \quad \dim \text{EVI} = 64$$

$$(\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \frac{E_8}{\text{Spin}(16)^+} = \text{EVIII}, \quad \dim \text{EVIII} = 128$$

- Focus on EIII

$$(\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \frac{E_6}{\text{Spin}(10) \cdot U(1)} = \text{EIII}, \quad \dim \text{EIII} = 32$$

What is $\text{Spin}(n)$?

Roughly...

- $\text{SO}(2)$: multiplication by a unitary complex number in $\mathbb{R}^2 = \mathbb{C}$
- $\text{SO}(3)$: conjugation by a unitary quaternion in $\mathbb{R}^3 = \text{Im } \mathbb{H}$
- $\text{SO}(4)$: conjugation by 2 unitary quaternions in $\mathbb{R}^4 = \mathbb{H}$

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... we can say that...

The action of the above Lie groups SO(n) on \mathbb{R}^n , for $n = 2, \dots, 4$, can be described in terms of multiplication in some algebra embedding \mathbb{R}^n as a subspace.

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The action of the above Lie groups $\text{SO}(n)$ on \mathbb{R}^n , for $n = 2, \dots, 4$, can be described in terms of multiplication in some algebra embedding \mathbb{R}^n as a subspace.

Motivation for Clifford algebras

$\text{Spin}(n)$ is the generalization of the above fact to every n . The algebra embedding the group $\text{Spin}(n)$ and the vector space \mathbb{R}^n is called the Clifford algebra.

▶ [Go to MFD of \$\text{Spin}\(n\)\$](#)

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A basis for $\mathfrak{spin}(10)$

- $\mathfrak{spin}(10) = \mathfrak{lie}\{\mathfrak{spin}(9), \mathfrak{u}(1)\} \subset \mathfrak{su}(16)$, where $\mathfrak{u}(1)$ is generated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} i\text{Id}_8 & 0 \\ 0 & -i\text{Id}_8 \end{pmatrix}$$

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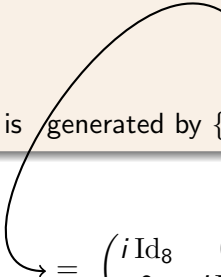
- $\mathfrak{spin}(9)$ is generated by $\{J_{19}, \dots, J_{89}\}$, because $J_{\alpha\beta} = [J_{\beta 9}, J_{\alpha 9}]/2$

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$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{I}_0$ $= \mathcal{I}_9$

\mathcal{I}_0 is a complex structure, not an involution. It acts on the first factor of $\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$ by complex multiplication.

Canonical Spin(10)-form

- Denote by J^N the basis $\{J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}_{0 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$ of $\mathfrak{spin}(10)$
- Denote by Θ^N its associated skew-symmetric 10×10 matrix of Kähler forms:

$$\Theta^N = (\theta_{\alpha\beta})_{0 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$$

Canonical Spin(10) form: 8-form in \mathbb{R}^{32}

The fourth coefficient $\tau_4(\Theta^N)$ of the characteristic polynomial of Θ^N is a canonical 8-form associated with the representation $\text{Spin}(10) \subset \text{SU}(16)$:

$$\Phi_{\text{Spin}(10)} = \sum_{0 \leq \alpha_1 < \alpha_2 < \alpha_3 < \alpha_4 \leq 9} (\theta_{\alpha_1\alpha_2} \wedge \theta_{\alpha_3\alpha_4} - \theta_{\alpha_1\alpha_3} \wedge \theta_{\alpha_2\alpha_4} + \theta_{\alpha_1\alpha_4} \wedge \theta_{\alpha_2\alpha_3})^2$$

$\Phi_{\text{Spin}(10)}$ generates $H^8(\text{EIII})$

Cohomology of EIII

$$H^*((\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2) = \frac{\mathbb{R}[d_2, d_8]}{(\text{suitable relations})} \quad d_2 \in H^2, d_8 \in H^8$$

Cohomology of EIII

$$H^*((\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2) = \frac{\mathbb{R}[d_2, d_8]}{(\text{suitable relations})} \quad d_2 \in H^2, d_8 \in H^8$$

I'm Hermitian symmetric

I'm the Kähler form

The d_8 -Lemma

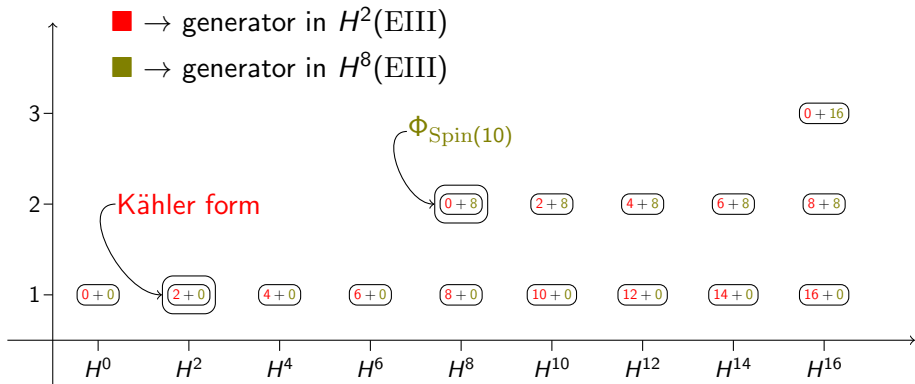
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I'm Hermitian symmetric

I'm the Kähler form

What am I?

$\Phi_{\text{Spin}(10)}$ generates $H^8(\text{EIII})$



How many minutes?

▶ Go on with *EVI*, *EVIII*

▶ Skip to applications

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EVI: cohomology ring

The cohomology of

$$\text{EVI} = (\mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \frac{E_7}{\text{Spin}(12) \cdot \text{Sp}(1)}$$

is given by

$$H^*((\mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2) = \frac{\mathbb{R}[d_4, d_8, d_{12}]}{(\text{suitable relations})} \quad d_4, d_8, d_{12} \in H^4, H^8, H^{12}$$

I'm quaternion-Kähler

I'm the quaternion-Kähler form

A basis for $\mathfrak{spin}(12) \subset \mathfrak{sp}(16)$

- Consider the matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \text{Id}_8 & 0 \\ 0 & -i \text{Id}_8 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} j \text{Id}_8 & 0 \\ 0 & -j \text{Id}_8 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} k \text{Id}_8 & 0 \\ 0 & -k \text{Id}_8 \end{pmatrix}$$

where i, j, k act as quaternionic multiplication on $\mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$

- Denote by $\mathcal{I}_0, \mathcal{I}_{-1}, \mathcal{I}_{-2}$ the i, j, k multiplication

Proposition

$$\mathfrak{spin}(12) = \text{span}\{J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}_{-2 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$$

Canonical $\text{Spin}(12)$ forms: 8 and 12-form in \mathbb{R}^{64}

If Θ^0 is the matrix of Kähler forms of $\{J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}$, then $\tau_4(\Theta^0)$ and $\tau_6(\Theta^0)$ are a canonical 8-form and a canonical 12-form on $\mathbb{R}^{64} = \mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$ associated to $\text{Spin}(12)$.

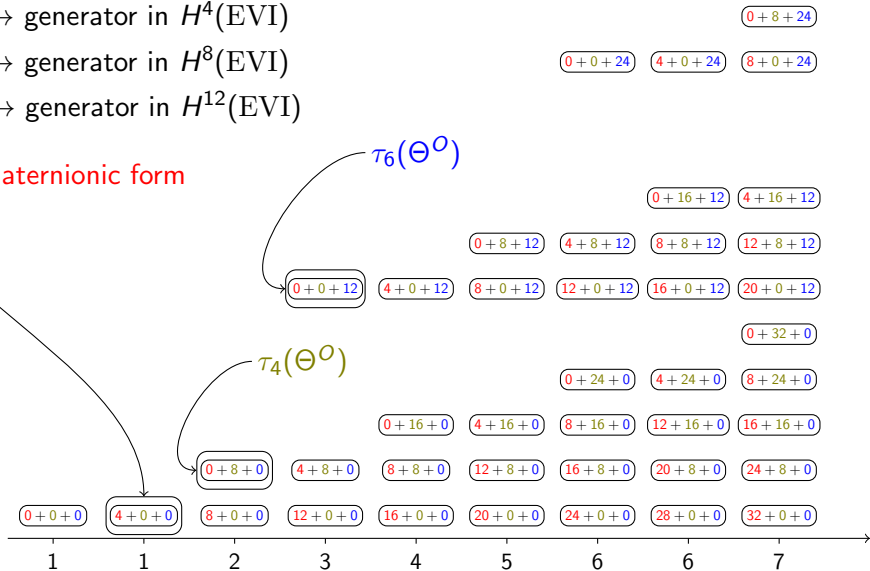
EVI: cohomology ring

■ → generator in $H^4(\text{EVI})$

■ → generator in $H^8(\text{EVI})$

■ → generator in $H^{12}(\text{EVI})$

Quaternionic form

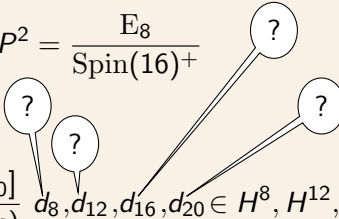


EVIII: cohomology ring

The cohomology of

$$\text{EVIII} = (\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \frac{E_8}{\text{Spin}(16)^+}$$

is given by

$$H^*((\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2) = \frac{\mathbb{R}[d_8, d_{12}, d_{16}, d_{20}]}{(\text{suitable relations})} \quad d_8, d_{12}, d_{16}, d_{20} \in H^8, H^{12}, H^{16}, H^{20}$$


A basis for $\mathfrak{spin}(16) \subset \mathfrak{so}(128)$

- Denote by $\mathcal{I}_0, \mathcal{I}_{-1}, \mathcal{I}_{-2}, \mathcal{I}_{-3}, \mathcal{I}_{-4}, \mathcal{I}_{-5}, \mathcal{I}_{-6}$ the i, j, k, e, f, g, h multiplication by the octonion units on the first factor of $\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$

Proposition

$$\mathfrak{spin}(16) = \text{span}\{J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}_{-6 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$$

Canonical $\text{Spin}(16)$ forms: 8, 12, 16 and 20-form in \mathbb{R}^{128}

If Θ^R is the matrix of Kähler forms of $\{J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}$, then $\tau_4(\Theta^R)$, $\tau_6(\Theta^R)$, $\tau_8(\Theta^R)$ and $\tau_{10}(\Theta^R)$ are canonical forms associated with the standard $\text{Spin}(16)$ structure on $\mathbb{R}^{128} = \mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$.

EVIII: cohomology ring

The cohomology of

$$\text{EVIII} = (\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \frac{E_8}{\text{Spin}(16)^+}$$

is given by

$$H^*((\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2) = \frac{\mathbb{R}[d_8, d_{12}, d_{16}, d_{20}]}{(\text{suitable relations})} \quad d_8, d_{12}, d_{16}, d_{20} \in H^8, H^{12}, H^{16}, H^{20}$$

$\text{l'm } \tau_4(\Theta^R)$

$\text{l'm } \tau_{10}(\Theta^R)$

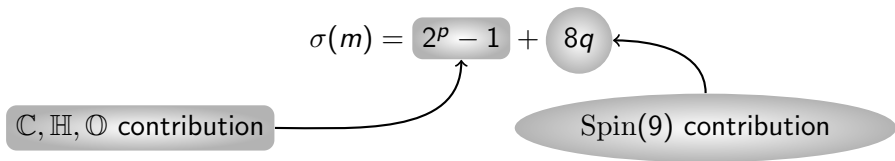
$\text{l'm } \tau_6(\Theta^R)$

$\text{l'm } \tau_8(\Theta^R)$

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More than 7 vector fields on spheres? Spin(9)'s fault. . .



Maximal system of $\sigma(m) = 8, 9, 11, 15$ vector fields on $S^{15}, S^{31}, S^{63}, S^{127}$

Sphere	$\sigma(m)$	Vector fields	Structures involved
S^{15} ($p = 0, q = 1$)	$0 + 8$	J_{19}, \dots, J_{89}	$\text{Spin}(9)$
S^{31} ($p = 1, q = 1$)	$1 + 8$	$i \cdot, J_{19}, \dots, J_{89}$	$\mathbb{C} + \text{Spin}(9)$
S^{63} ($p = 2, q = 1$)	$3 + 8$	$i \cdot, j \cdot, k \cdot, J_{19}, \dots, J_{89}$	$\mathbb{H} + \text{Spin}(9)$
S^{127} ($p = 3, q = 1$)	$7 + 8$	$i \cdot, j \cdot, k \cdot, e \cdot, f \cdot, g \cdot, h \cdot, J_{19}, \dots, J_{89}$	$\mathbb{O} + \text{Spin}(9)$

but Spin(10), Spin(12) and Spin(16) are co-conspirators

$$\sigma(m) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 + 8q \leftarrow \text{Spin}(9) \text{ contribution} \\ 1 + 8q \leftarrow \text{Spin}(10) \text{ contribution} \\ 3 + 8q \leftarrow \text{Spin}(12) \text{ contribution} \\ 7 + 8q \leftarrow \text{Spin}(16) \text{ contribution} \end{array} \right.$$

Maximal system of $\sigma(m) = 8, 9, 11, 15$ vector fields on $S^{15}, S^{31}, S^{63}, S^{127}$

Sphere	$\sigma(m)$	Vector fields	Structures involved
S^{15} ($p = 0, q = 1$)	$0 + 8$	J_{19}, \dots, J_{89}	Spin(9)
S^{31} ($p = 1, q = 1$)	$1 + 8$	$J_{09}, J_{19}, \dots, J_{89}$	Spin(10)
S^{63} ($p = 2, q = 1$)	$3 + 8$	$J_{(-2)9}, J_{(-1)9}, J_{09}, J_{19}, \dots, J_{89}$	Spin(12)
S^{127} ($p = 3, q = 1$)	$7 + 8$	$J_{(-6)9}, \dots, J_{(-1)9}, J_{09}, J_{19}, \dots, J_{89}$	Spin(16)

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The dolls...

- Recall that the Spin(9) family

$$J^I = \{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{1 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$$

contains the Spin(8) and Spin(7) $_{\Delta}$ subfamilies

$$J^P = \{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{1 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 8}, \quad J^S = \{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{2 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 8}$$

- Using the first factor multiplication in $\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$, $\mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$, $\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$ we obtain the larger families

$$J^N = \{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{0 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}, \quad J^O = \{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{-2 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}, \quad J^R = \{J_{\alpha\beta}\}_{-6 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$$

... and their Matryoshka

The Lie group inclusions

$$\text{Spin}(7)_\Delta \subset \text{Spin}(8) \subset \text{Spin}(9) \subset \text{Spin}(10) \subset \text{Spin}(12) \subset \text{Spin}(16)$$

are preserved by the spinor inclusions

$$J^S \subset J^P \subset J^I \subset J^N \subset J^O \subset J^R$$

... and their Matryoshka

The Lie group inclusions

$$\text{Spin}(7)_\Delta \subset \text{Spin}(8) \subset \text{Spin}(9) \subset \text{Spin}(10) \subset \text{Spin}(12) \subset \text{Spin}(16)$$

are preserved by the spinor inclusions

$$J^S \subset J^P \subset J^I \subset J^N \subset J^O \subset J^R = J^{\text{SPINOR}}$$

INOR details

$$\mathfrak{so}(16) = \Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^{16}) = \Lambda_{36}^2 \oplus \Lambda_{84}^2 = \mathfrak{spin}(9) \oplus \Lambda_{84}^2$$

generated by $J' = \{\mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}$



INOR details

$$\mathfrak{so}(16) = \Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^{16}) = \Lambda_{36}^2 \oplus \Lambda_{84}^2 = \mathfrak{spin}(9) \oplus \Lambda_{84}^2$$

generated by $J^I = \{\mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}$



Add \mathcal{I}_0 to obtain $J^N = \{\mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}_{0 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$ and

$$\text{span} J^N = \mathfrak{spin}(10) \subset \mathfrak{so}(32)$$

Add $\mathcal{I}_{-1}, \mathcal{I}_{-2}$ to obtain $J^O = \{\mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}_{-2 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$ and

$$\text{span} J^O = \mathfrak{spin}(12) \subset \mathfrak{so}(64)$$

Add $\mathcal{I}_{-6}, \dots, \mathcal{I}_{-3}$ to obtain $J^R = \{\mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta\}_{-6 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 9}$ and

$$\text{span} J^R = \mathfrak{spin}(16) \subset \mathfrak{so}(128)$$

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Even Clifford structures

A rank r even Clifford structure on a Riemannian manifold M^n is:

- a rank r oriented Euclidean vector bundle E over M
- an algebra bundle morphism $\phi : \text{Cl}_0(E) \rightarrow \text{End}(TM)$ such that $\phi(\Lambda^2 E) \subset \text{End}^-(TM)$

Classification

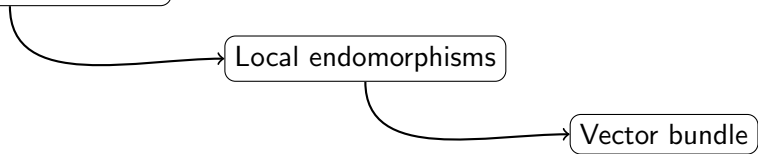
Rank of E	M^n	n
...
9	$\mathbb{O}P^2 = \text{FII} = \frac{\text{F}_4}{\text{Spin}(9)}$	16
10	$(\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \text{EIII} = \frac{\text{E}_6}{\text{Spin}(10) \cdot \text{U}(1)}$	32
12	$(\mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \text{EVI} = \frac{\text{E}_7}{\text{Spin}(12) \cdot \text{Sp}(1)}$	64
16	$(\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2 = \text{EVIII} = \frac{\text{E}_8}{\text{Spin}(16)^+}$	128

Explicit even Clifford structures on Rosenfeld planes

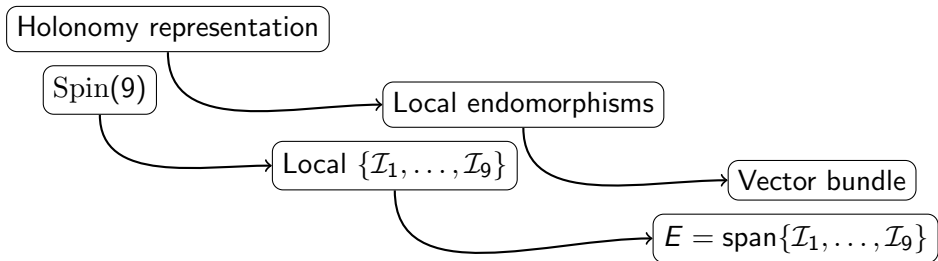
Holonomy representation

Local endomorphisms

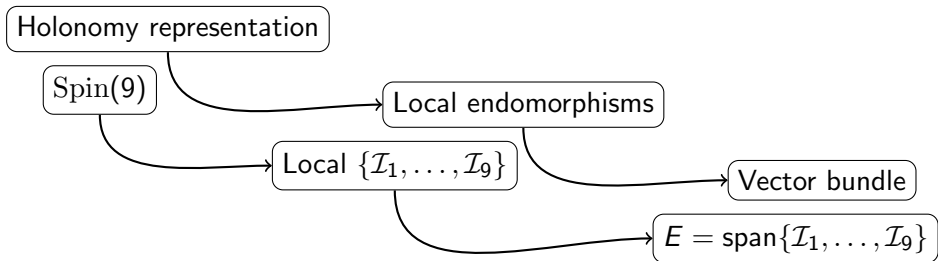
Vector bundle



Explicit even Clifford structures on Rosenfeld planes



Explicit even Clifford structures on Rosenfeld planes



Rank of E	E	ϕ	M^n	n
9	$\text{span}\{\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9\}$	$\mathcal{I}_\alpha \wedge \mathcal{I}_\beta \mapsto J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta$	$\mathbb{O}P^2$	16
10	$\text{span}\{\mathcal{I}_0, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9\}$	$\mathcal{I}_\alpha \wedge \mathcal{I}_\beta \mapsto J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta$	$(\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2$	32
12	$\text{span}\{\mathcal{I}_{-2}, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9\}$	$\mathcal{I}_\alpha \wedge \mathcal{I}_\beta \mapsto J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta$	$(\mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2$	64
16	$\text{span}\{\mathcal{I}_{-6}, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9\}$	$\mathcal{I}_\alpha \wedge \mathcal{I}_\beta \mapsto J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta$	$(\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O})P^2$	128

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Wrapping up

$\text{Spin}(9)$ is the octonionic version of the quaternionic group $\text{Sp}(2) \cdot \text{Sp}(1)$.

$\text{Spin}(9)$ is the reason why there are more than 7 vector fields on spheres.

The $\text{Spin}(9)$ form on $\mathbb{R}^{16} = \mathbb{O}^2$ can be extended to $\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$, $\mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$ and $\mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2$, to obtain explicit generators for the cohomology of particular symmetric spaces called Rosenfeld planes.

Between the $\text{Spin}(n)$ groups, $\text{Spin}(10)$, $\text{Spin}(12)$ and $\text{Spin}(16)$ are more equal than others to $\text{Spin}(9)$.



That's all Folks!

Homology interpretation

Interpretation in terms of the homology of the Rosenfeld planes of the canonical differential forms living in

$$H^2, H^8$$

$$H^4, H^8, H^{12}$$

$$H^8, H^{12}, H^{16}, H^{20}$$

EIII



EVI

EVIII

Extending

Following

$$\{\mathcal{I}_\alpha\}_{1 \leq \alpha \leq 9} \in \text{End}(\mathbb{O}^2) \rightarrow \{\mathcal{I}_\alpha\}_{0 \leq \alpha \leq 9} \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{O}^2) \rightarrow \dots$$

what happens extending the Pauli matrices

$$\mathcal{I}_1, \mathcal{I}_2, \mathcal{I}_3 \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^2) \rightarrow \{\mathcal{I}_0, \dots, \mathcal{I}_3\} \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2)$$

and the

$$\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_5 \in \text{End}(\mathbb{H}^2) \rightarrow \{\mathcal{I}_0, \dots, \mathcal{I}_5\} \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{H}^2) \rightarrow \dots$$

Subordinated structures

Can we write formulas as in

$$\Omega = \omega_I^2 + \omega_J^2 + \omega_K^2$$

for our $\text{Spin}(9), \dots, \text{Spin}(16)$ canonical 8-forms in terms of compatible quaternionic structures?

Minimal formal definition of $\text{Spin}(n)$

Definition

- $\text{Cl}(n)$ = Clifford algebra = algebra generated by vectors $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that

$$v \cdot v = -\|v\|^2 \cdot 1$$

- α = canonical involution of $\text{Cl}(n)$:

$$\alpha(v) = -v \quad \text{for vectors } v \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

- $\text{Cl}_0(n)$ = +1-eigenspace of α .
- $\|\cdot\|$ = norm of $\text{Cl}(n)$ = extension of $\|\cdot\|$ to $\text{Cl}(n)$.
-

$$\text{Spin}(n) = \{x \in \text{Cl}_0(n) \mid x\mathbb{R}^n x^{-1} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } \|x\| = 1\}$$

Details for $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)} = \int_{\mathbb{O}P^1} p_l^* \nu_l dl$

- $\nu_l =$ volume form on the octonionic lines $l \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{(x, mx)\}$ or $l \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{(0, y)\}$ in \mathbb{O}^2 .
- $p_l : \mathbb{O}^2 \rightarrow l =$ projection on l .
- $p_l^* \nu_l =$ 8-form in $\mathbb{O}^2 = \mathbb{R}^{16}$.
- The integral over $\mathbb{O}P^1$ can be computed over \mathbb{O} with polar coordinates.
- The formula arise from distinguished 8-planes in the Spin(9)-geometry \rightarrow (forthcoming) calibrations.

Curiosity

Berger appears to know about the fact that $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)}$ is a calibration on $\mathbb{O}P^2$ already in 1970 [Berger, L'Enseignement Math. 1970] and more explicitly in 1972

[Berger, Ann. Éc. Norm. Sup. 1972, Theorem 6.3], very early with respect to the forthcoming calibration theory.

ADATTARE E SPOSTARE

Do we have at least ... minutes left?

▶ Yes, go ahead as planned

▶ No, skip quaternionic analogy

Remark

Since $\text{Spin}(10) \subset \text{SU}(16)$, we would like to imitate $\text{Spin}(9) \subset \text{SO}(16)$, and look for $\mathcal{I}_0, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9$ self-adjoint, anti-commuting involutions in \mathbb{C}^{16} .

First attempt

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Since $\text{Spin}(10) \subset \text{SU}(16)$, we would like to imitate $\text{Spin}(9) \subset \text{SO}(16)$, and look for $\mathcal{I}_0, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9$ self-adjoint, anti-commuting involutions in \mathbb{C}^{16} .

Would-be proposition

$\text{Spin}(10) \subset \text{SU}(16)$ is generated by 10 self-adjoint, anti-commuting involutions $\mathcal{I}_0, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9$.

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[FALSE]

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[FALSE]

Proposition

\mathbb{C}^{16} with its standard Hermitian scalar product does not admit any family of 10 self-adjoint, anti-commuting involutions $\mathcal{I}_0, \dots, \mathcal{I}_9$.

