

DESINGULARIZING b^m -SYMPLECTIC STRUCTURES

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ABSTRACT. A $2n$ -dimensional Poisson manifold (M, Π) is said to be b^m -symplectic if it is symplectic on the complement of a hypersurface Z and has a simple Darboux canonical form at points of Z which we will describe below. In this paper we will discuss a desingularization procedure which, for m even, converts Π into a family of symplectic forms ω_ϵ having the property that ω_ϵ is equal to the b^m -symplectic form dual to Π outside an ϵ -neighborhood of Z and, in addition, converges to this form as ϵ tends to zero in a sense that will be made precise in the theorem below. We will then use this construction to show that a number of somewhat mysterious properties of b^m -manifolds can be more clearly understood by viewing them as limits of analogous properties of the ω_ϵ 's. We will also prove versions of these results for m odd; however, in the odd case the family ω_ϵ has to be replaced by a family of “folded” symplectic forms.

1. INTRODUCTION

A b -symplectic manifold is an oriented Poisson manifold (M, Π) which has the property that the map $\Pi^n : M \rightarrow \Lambda^{2n}(TM)$ intersects the zero section of $\Lambda^{2n}(TM)$ transversally in a codimension one submanifold $Z \subset M$. For such a Poisson manifold the dual to the bivector field Π is a generalized De Rham form of b -type and defines a “ b -symplectic” structure on M . The b in “ b -symplectic” comes from *boundary* as these structures were initially considered by Nest and Tsygan [NT] in connection to deformation quantization of manifolds with boundary. The theory of calculus on manifolds with boundary, or b -calculus, as developed by Melrose [M]¹ is used in this study. Notwithstanding, in this article the considered manifolds are manifolds without boundary and the critical set Z is an hypersurface of the manifold.

b -Symplectic structures and their applications have been the topic of a number of recent articles (see [GMP],[GMP2], [GL], [MO1], [FMM], [Ca], [MO2], [GMPS], [GLPR] [KMS], [GMPS2]) and generalizations of these structures in which one no longer requires the transversality assumption above have also been considered. In this paper we will be concerned with one such generalization, due to Geoffrey Scott [S] in which the transversality assumption is replaced by the assumption that away from Z , M is symplectic while at Z the Poisson structure has a simple local expression.

For b^m -symplectic structures a Darboux normal form can be obtained as in the classical Darboux theorem for symplectic structures but replacing one of the smooth coordinates by a b^m -function. So locally we can write

$$\frac{dx_1}{x_1^m} \wedge dy_1 + \sum_2^n dx_i \wedge dy_i.$$

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¹for his proof of the Atiyah-Patodi index theorem.

These structures known as b^m structures and their “dual” folded-symplectic structures show up modeling problems in Celestial Mechanics as the three-body problem or their restricted versions whenever ad-hoc coordinates transformations such as McGehee coordinates or Kustaanheimo-Stiefel regularizations are considered [KMS, DKM].

Our goal in this paper is to prove that such a duality exhibited in examples holds globally on the manifold. In other words, in this paper we describe a “desingularization” of these structures: Where m is even, we will construct a family of symplectic forms on M , depending on a parameter ϵ , and having the property that as ϵ tends to zero these forms tend in the limit to the b^m form that is the dual object to the b^m Poisson bivector field Π . Where m is odd, we prove an analogous result, but with the family of symplectic forms replaced by a family of folded symplectic forms. More explicitly we prove (Theorems 3.1 and 5.1):

Theorem. *Let ω be a b^m -symplectic structure on a compact manifold M and let Z be its critical hypersurface.*

- *If m is even, there exists a family of symplectic forms ω_ϵ which coincide with the b^m -symplectic form ω outside an ϵ -neighborhood of Z and for which the family of bivector fields $(\omega_\epsilon)^{-1}$ converges in the C^{2k-1} -topology to the Poisson structure ω^{-1} as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.*
- *If m is odd, there exists a family of folded symplectic forms ω_ϵ which coincide with the b^m -symplectic form ω outside an ϵ -neighborhood of Z .*

One of the main concerns in Symplectic Geometry is to determine the topological constraints for a manifold to admit a symplectic structure. In this spirit, the theorems that we prove in this paper imply that any manifold admitting a b^{2k} -symplectic structure also admits a honest symplectic structure and therefore all the topological constraints for a manifold to be symplectic also apply for a manifold to admit a b^{2k} -symplectic manifold.

The same reasoning applies for b^{2k+1} -symplectic structures and folded symplectic structures though not every folded symplectic manifold admits a b^{2k+1} -symplectic structure since the subclass of desingularized folded symplectic structures is strict. In particular Cannas da Silva proved that every 4-manifold admits a folded symplectic manifold but as proved in [GMP, MO1] not every 4-manifold admits a b -symplectic structure as some topological constraints apply². In particular S^4 does not admit a b -symplectic structure but it admits a folded symplectic structure.

Our goal in introducing these families is that in attempting to define b^m -analogs of a number of basic invariants of symplectic and folded symplectic manifolds such as symplectic volume and, for Hamiltonian G manifolds, moment polytopes and Duistermaat-Heckman measures, one encounters a number of frustrating “infinities” that are hard to interpret or eliminate as it was already seen for instance in [GMPS, GMPS2]. However, we believe (and will verify below in a couple of important cases) that desingularization is an effective tool for getting around this problem.

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2. PRELIMINARIES

Let M be a compact manifold and let $Z \subset M$ a hypersurface in M . In [GMP] a b -symplectic form was defined as a 2-form in the complex of b -forms. In order to define this complex we first considered the b -tangent bundle $bT(M)$ (whose sections are defined as vector fields tangent to the

²The same applies for b^{2k+1} -symplectic manifolds since the arguments in [MO1] can be adapted to the b^{2k+1} -case

critical hypersurface Z) and its dual ${}^bT^*(M)$. The complex of b -forms was introduced à la De Rham as sections of the bundles $\Lambda^k({}^bT^*(M))$.

In [S] a similar description was obtained for b^m -symplectic forms. Let M be a compact oriented manifold and let $Z \subset M$ be a hypersurface in M , along with a choice of function $x \in C^\infty(M)$ such that 0 is a regular value of x and $x^{-1}(0) = Z$. Given such a triple (M, Z, x) , the fibers of the b^m -(co)tangent bundle are given by

$${}^bT_p M \cong \begin{cases} T_p Z + \langle x^m \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \rangle & \text{if } p \in Z \\ T_p M & \text{if } p \notin Z \end{cases}$$

$${}^bT_p^* M \cong \begin{cases} T_p^* Z + \langle \frac{dx}{x^m} \rangle & \text{if } p \in Z \\ T_p^* M & \text{if } p \notin Z \end{cases}$$

As in the case of b -manifolds, these fibres combine to form a bundle; a b^m -manifold is a triple (M, Z, x) , along with these bundles.³

We then define

Definition 2.1. A **symplectic b^m -manifold** is a b^m -manifold (M, Z) with a closed b^m -two form ω which has maximal rank at every $p \in M$.

To describe the properties of such forms we will need the following definitions and propositions (see Section 4 in [S]).

Definition 2.2. A **Laurent Series** of a closed b^m -form ω is a decomposition of ω in a tubular neighborhood U of Z of the form

$$(1) \quad \omega = \frac{dx}{x^m} \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \pi^*(\hat{\alpha}_i) x^i \right) + \beta$$

where $\pi : U \rightarrow Z$ is the projection, where each $\hat{\alpha}_i$ is a closed smooth De Rham form on Z , and β is a De Rham form on U .

Proposition 3.3 and Remark 3.4 in [S] yield,

Proposition 2.3 (Scott). *In a tubular neighborhood of Z , every closed b^m -form ω can be written in a Laurent form of type (1) and the restriction of $\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \pi^*(\hat{\alpha}_i) x^i$ and β to Z are well-defined closed 1 and 2-forms respectively.*

2.1. Symplectic foliations and normal forms for b^m -symplectic manifolds. We begin by studying the symplectic foliation of the Poisson structure induced by a b^m -symplectic form on the critical hypersurface Z .

Proposition 2.4. *Given a b^m -symplectic manifold with b^m symplectic form ω , the closed one-form $\hat{\alpha}_0$ in the Laurent decomposition*

$$\omega = \frac{dx}{x^m} \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \pi^*(\hat{\alpha}_i) x^i \right) + \beta$$

defines the codimension-one symplectic foliation \mathcal{F} of the regular Poisson structure induced on the critical hypersurface Z . The symplectic form on each leaf is given by the restriction of the 2-form β . In addition one can find a Poisson vector field v on Z transverse to this foliation.

³By abuse of notation, we denote a b^m -manifold by (M, Z) , suppressing the function x . Note that Scott [S]'s definition of a b^m -manifold differs from ours by allowing *local* defining functions for Z .

See section 4.1 in [GMP2] for the proof of this in the $m = 1$ case. For $m > 1$ the proof is essentially the same and it only requires the identification of the symplectic foliation associated to the dual Poisson structure.

Remark 2.5. The vector field v is the unique vector field satisfying the equations

$$\begin{cases} \iota_v \hat{\alpha}_0 &= 1 \\ \iota_v \beta &= 0 \end{cases}$$

where $\hat{\alpha}_0$ is the defining one-form for the foliation \mathcal{F} and β a closed 2-form on Z that restricts to the symplectic form on every leaf of \mathcal{F} .

Remark 2.6. As in [GMP] the pair of forms $(\hat{\alpha}_0, \beta)$ defines a cosymplectic structure on Z .

By Theorem 13 in [GMP] one gets,

Theorem 2.7. *If \mathcal{F} contains a compact leaf L , then every leaf of \mathcal{F} is diffeomorphic to L , and Z is the total space of a fibration $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$ with fiber L , and \mathcal{F} is the fiber foliation $\{f^{-1}(\theta) | \theta \in \mathbb{S}^1\}$.*

As it was proved in Corollary 4 in [GMP] if the manifold Z is compact then it is the mapping torus of the map $\phi : L \rightarrow L$ given by the holonomy map of the fibration over \mathbb{S}^1 , $\frac{L \times [0,1]}{(x,0) \sim (\phi(x),1)}$ with ϕ is the first return map of $\exp tv$ and v the vector field above.

2.2. b^m -versions of the Moser and Darboux theorems. For $m = 1$ the statement and proof of these results can be found in [GMP2]. The proof in [GMP2] is based on the Moser path method for b -symplectic structures; however, the Moser path method also works for b^m -symplectic structures (see Theorems 5.2 and 5.3 in [S]), so the results apply to b^m -symplectic manifolds as well. The first of these theorems asserts

Theorem 2.8. *If ω_0, ω_1 are symplectic b^m -forms on (M, Z) with Z compact and $\omega_0|_Z = \omega_1|_Z$, then there are neighborhoods U_0, U_1 of Z and a b^m -symplectomorphism $\varphi : (U_0, Z, \omega_0) \rightarrow (U_1, Z, \omega_1)$ such that $\varphi|_Z = Id$.*

(For the proof see [GMP2], Theorem 6.5). Consider now the decomposition of a b^m form

$$(2) \quad \omega = \alpha \wedge \frac{dx}{x^m} + \beta, \text{ with } \alpha \in \Omega^1(M) \text{ and } \beta \in \Omega^2(M).$$

Remark 2.9. Observe that this theorem being of semilocal flavor holds in a neighborhood of a compact submanifold, independently of the compactness of the ambient manifold. Also the Moser theorem in [S] is global and the semilocal applications of it (cf. Theorem 5.2 in [S]) contain unnecessary hypotheses on the cohomology classes of the b^m -symplectic form (compare with Theorem 34 in [GMP]).

To prove the b^m -version of the Darboux theorem we will need,

Proposition 2.10. *(See Proposition 10 in [GMP]) Let $\tilde{\alpha} = i^* \alpha$ and $\tilde{\beta} = i^* \beta$, where $i : Z \hookrightarrow M$ denotes the inclusion. Then the forms $\tilde{\alpha}$ and $\tilde{\beta}$ are closed. Furthermore,*

- a) *The form $\tilde{\alpha}$ is nowhere vanishing and intrinsically defined in the sense that it does not depend on the splitting (2). In particular, the codimension-one foliation of Z defined by $\tilde{\alpha}$ is intrinsically defined.*
- b) *For each leaf $L \xrightarrow{i|_L} Z$ of this foliation, the form $i_L^* \tilde{\beta}$ is intrinsically defined, and is a symplectic form on L .*

c) In (2) we can assume without loss of generality that:

- The forms α and β are closed.
- The form $\alpha \wedge \beta^{n-1} \wedge dx$ is nowhere vanishing.
- And, in particular, the form $i^*(\alpha \wedge \beta^{n-1})$ is nowhere vanishing.

The same proof can be adapted for $m > 1$ since $\tilde{\alpha} = \tilde{\alpha}_0$. We will now show

Theorem 2.11 (b^m -Darboux theorem). *Let ω be a b^m -symplectic form on (M, Z) and $p \in Z$. Then we can find a coordinate chart $(U, x_1, y_1, \dots, x_n, y_n)$ centered at p such that on U the hypersurface Z is locally defined by $x_1 = 0$ and*

$$\omega = \frac{dx_1}{x_1^m} \wedge dy_1 + \sum_{i=2}^n dx_i \wedge dy_i.$$

Proof. Write $\omega = \alpha \wedge \frac{dx_1}{x_1^m} + \beta$, and $\tilde{\alpha} = i^*\alpha$ and $\tilde{\beta} = i^*\beta$, with $i : Z \hookrightarrow M$ the inclusion. From Proposition 2.10, for all $p \in Z$, we have $\tilde{\alpha}_p$ non-vanishing. Thus $\tilde{\alpha}_p \wedge \tilde{\beta}_p \neq 0$ and $\tilde{\beta}_p \in \Lambda^2(T_p^*Z)$ has rank $n - 1$. Thus we can assume

$$\omega|_Z = \left(\frac{dx_1}{x_1^m} \wedge dy_1 + \sum_{i=2}^n dx_i \wedge dy_i \right)|_Z.$$

and the assertion above follows from Theorem 2.8. \square

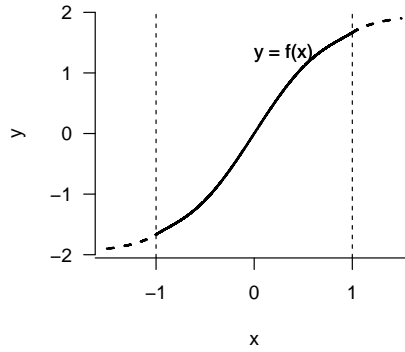
3. DESINGULARIZING b^{2k} -SYMPLECTIC STRUCTURES

Consider a manifold M equipped with a b^{2k} -symplectic structure given by a b^{2k} -symplectic form ω . In view of the Laurent decomposition given in Proposition 2.3, we have in a tubular neighborhood U of Z

$$(3) \quad \omega = \frac{dx}{x^{2k}} \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} \alpha_i x^i \right) + \beta$$

where $\alpha_i = \pi^*(\hat{\alpha}_i)$ with $\hat{\alpha}_i$ closed one-forms on Z and $\pi : U \rightarrow Z$ denoting the projection.

Let $f \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ be an odd smooth function satisfying $f'(x) > 0$ for all $x \in [-1, 1]$ as shown below,



and satisfying

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{-1}{(2k-1)x^{2k-1}} - 2 & \text{for } x < -1 \\ \frac{-1}{(2k-1)x^{2k-1}} + 2 & \text{for } x > 1 \end{cases}$$

outside the interval $[-1, 1]$.

Now we scale the function f to construct a new function

$$(4) \quad f_\epsilon(x) := \frac{1}{\epsilon^{2k-1}} f\left(\frac{x}{\epsilon}\right).$$

Thus outside the interval $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$,

$$f_\epsilon(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{-1}{(2k-1)x^{2k-1}} - \frac{2}{\epsilon^{2k-1}} & \text{for } x < -\epsilon \\ \frac{-1}{(2k-1)x^{2k-1}} + \frac{2}{\epsilon^{2k-1}} & \text{for } x > \epsilon \end{cases}$$

We replace $\frac{dx}{x^{2k}}$ by df_ϵ in the expansion (3) an ϵ -neighborhood and obtain a differential form

$$\omega_\epsilon = df_\epsilon \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} \alpha_i x^i \right) + \beta$$

Since ω_ϵ agrees with ω outside an ϵ neighborhood of Z , it extends to a differential form on all of M . We denote this extension (by abuse of notation) by ω_ϵ , the f_ϵ -**desingularization**⁴ of the b^{2k} -symplectic structure ω .

Theorem 3.1. *The f_ϵ -desingularization ω_ϵ is symplectic. The family ω_ϵ coincides with the b^{2k} -symplectic form ω outside an ϵ -neighborhood. The family of bivector fields ω_ϵ^{-1} converges to the Poisson structure ω^{-1} in the C^{2k-1} -topology as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.*

As a consequence of this theorem we obtain,

Theorem 3.2. *A manifold admitting a b^{2k} -symplectic structure also admits a symplectic structure.*

In particular the topological constraints that apply for symplectic structures also apply for b^{2k} -symplectic structures.

This point of view in the study of b^m -symplectic forms yields several consequences. In this paper we concentrate on a couple of them concerning volume forms and Hamiltonian actions.

We now prove Theorem 3.1.

Proof. Clearly for all ϵ , the form $\omega_\epsilon = df_\epsilon \wedge (\sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} \alpha_i x^i) + \beta$ is closed since all the one forms α_i and the 2-form β are closed.

Let us check that it is symplectic. Outside U , ω_ϵ coincides with ω . In U but away from Z ,

$$\omega_\epsilon^n = \frac{df_\epsilon}{dx} x^{2k} \omega^n$$

⁴which we can also refer to as **deblogging** since it eliminates the b/\log -singularity

which is nowhere vanishing. To check that ω_ϵ is symplectic at Z , observe that

$$\omega_\epsilon = df_\epsilon \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} x^i \alpha_i \right) + \beta = \epsilon^{-2k} f' \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) dx \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} x^i \alpha_i \right) + \beta$$

which on the interval $|x| < \epsilon$ is equal to $\epsilon^{-2k} (f'(\frac{x}{\epsilon}) dx \wedge \alpha_0 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)) + \beta$ and hence

$$\omega_\epsilon^n = \epsilon^{-2k} (f' \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) dx \wedge \alpha_0 \wedge \beta^{n-1} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon))$$

which is non-vanishing for ϵ sufficiently small. because $dx \wedge \alpha_0 \wedge \beta^{n-1} \neq 0$ by Proposition 2.10 and $f' \neq 0$ by definition of f . So we conclude that ω_ϵ is symplectic.

Let us now prove that the family of bivector fields ω_ϵ^{-1} converges to ω^{-1} when $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ in the C^{2k-1} -topology.

Consider the form ω and the family ω_ϵ . Then in b^{2k} -Darboux coordinates (Theorem 2.11),

$$\omega_\epsilon = \epsilon^{-2k} f' \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) dx \wedge dy + dx_2 \wedge dy_2 + \cdots + dx_n \wedge dy_n$$

and

$$\omega = \frac{1}{x^{2k}} dx \wedge dy + dx_2 \wedge dy_2 + \cdots + dx_n \wedge dy_n$$

We wish to verify that the family ω_ϵ^{-1} of bivector fields given by

$$(5) \quad \omega_\epsilon^{-1} = \epsilon^{2k} g \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y_2} + \cdots + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y_n}$$

where $g(x) = \frac{1}{f'(x)}$, converges to

$$(6) \quad \omega^{-1} = x^{2k} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y_2} + \cdots + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y_n}$$

as ϵ tends to zero.

The bivector field ω_ϵ^{-1} converges to the bivector field ω^{-1} in the C^{2k-1} topology if $\epsilon^{2k} g \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right)$ converges to x^{2k} in the C^{2k-1} topology. Since $\epsilon^{2k} g \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right)$ is identically equal to x^{2k} for $|x| > \epsilon$, it suffices to check that on the interval $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$, the $(2k-1)^{th}$ derivative of $\epsilon^{2k} g \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right)$ converges to $(2k)!x$ in the uniform norm.

On $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$ the function $(2k)!x$ is bounded by a constant multiple of ϵ . On the other hand,

$$\left(\epsilon^{2k} g \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \right)^{(2k-1)} = \epsilon g^{(2k-1)} \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right)$$

with $g^{(2k-1)}(t)$ a smooth function on $-1 < t < 1$. Since both $(2k)!x$ and $\left(\epsilon^{2k} g \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \right)^{(2k-1)}$ are bounded by constant multiples of ϵ on $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$, so is their difference, which gives us the desired convergence. \square

4. DESINGULARIZATION AND VOLUME FORMULAE

4.1. Volume formulae for b^{2k} -symplectic manifolds. We recall from section 5.1 in [S] the following construction which relates the volume with the Laurent decomposition of a b^m -symplectic structure.

On a tubular neighborhood $\mathcal{U} = Z \times (-1, 1)$, $\omega = \frac{dx}{x^{2k}} \wedge (\sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} x^i \alpha_i) + \beta$. Hence for $\mathcal{U}_\epsilon = Z \times (-\epsilon, \epsilon)$, the symplectic volume of $M \setminus \mathcal{U}_\epsilon$ is, up to a bounded term pertaining to the volume of $M \setminus \mathcal{U}$, given by

$$(7) \quad \sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} \int_{\mathcal{U} - \mathcal{U}_\epsilon} \frac{dx}{x^{2k-i}} \wedge \alpha_i \wedge \beta^{n-1}$$

Furthermore,

$$(8) \quad \beta = dx \wedge \gamma + \sum_{j=0}^{2k-1} x^j \pi^*(\beta_j) + \mathcal{O}(x^{2k})$$

where β_j are 2-forms on Z . For the sake of simplicity, from now on we will denote $\pi^*(\beta_j)$ as β_j . Plugging equation (8) into equation (7) we get,

$$(9) \quad \sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} \int_{I_\epsilon} \left(\frac{dx}{x^{2k-i}} \int_Z \alpha_i \wedge \left(\sum_{j=0}^{2k-1} x^j \beta_j \right)^{n-1} \right) + \mathcal{O}(1)$$

where $I_\epsilon = (-1, -\epsilon) \cup (\epsilon, 1)$. Thus,

$$(10) \quad \int_{M \setminus \mathcal{U}_\epsilon} \omega^n = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i \epsilon^{-(2i-1)} + \mathcal{O}(1)$$

where the c_i are linear combinations of the integrals

$$\int_Z \alpha_{j_1} \wedge \beta_{j_2} \wedge \cdots \wedge \beta_{j_n}$$

4.2. The desingularized version. Let us compute the symplectic volume of M with respect to the symplectic form

$$(11) \quad \omega_\epsilon = df_\epsilon \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} x^i \alpha_i \right) + \beta$$

Outside the tubular neighborhood, \mathcal{U}_ϵ , ω_ϵ coincides with ω , so we get, for the integral of

ω_ϵ^n over the complement of this tube neighborhood, the result described above. What about the integral on the tube neighborhood?

Recall that

$$f_\epsilon(x) = \epsilon^{-(2k-1)} f\left(\frac{x}{\epsilon}\right)$$

where f is the function defined in (4) and thus the integral of ω_ϵ^n over \mathcal{U}_ϵ is given by

$$(12) \quad \int_{\mathcal{U}_\epsilon} df_\epsilon \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} x^i \alpha_i \right) \wedge \beta^{n-1},$$

which by equation (8) can be rewritten as

$$(13) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{2k-1} b_i \int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} \frac{df_\epsilon}{dx} x^i dx$$

plus a bounded error term where the coefficients b_i like the c_i are linear combinations of the integrals

$$\int_Z \alpha_{j_1} \wedge \beta_{j_2} \wedge \cdots \wedge \beta_{j_n}.$$

To evaluate the integrals

$$\int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} \frac{df_{\epsilon}}{dx} x^i dx$$

we make the change of coordinates $x = \epsilon y$ which converts the integral above into

$$(14) \quad \epsilon^{-(2k-1)+i} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{df}{dy}(y) y^i dy.$$

Therefore since $f(-y) = -f(y)$ this quantity is zero for i odd and equal to a positive constant multiple of $\epsilon^{-(2k-1)+i}$ for i even. Thus,

$$(15) \quad \int_{\mathcal{U}_{\epsilon}} \omega_{\epsilon}^n = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \epsilon^{-(2i-1)}$$

where the a_i 's like the b_i 's and c_i 's are linear combinations of integrals of type

$$\int_Z \alpha_{j_1} \wedge \beta_{j_2} \wedge \cdots \wedge \beta_{j_n}.$$

Finally combining equations (15) and equation (10) this proves

Theorem 4.1. *The volume determined by the desingularized symplectic form ω_{ϵ} is given by*

$$\int_M \omega_{\epsilon}^n = \sum_{i=1}^k (a_i + c_i) \epsilon^{-(2i-1)} + \mathcal{O}(1)$$

where the coefficients a_i 's and c_i 's are linear combinations of integrals of type $\int_Z \alpha_{j_1} \wedge \beta_{j_2} \wedge \cdots \wedge \beta_{j_n}$.

4.3. Leading terms. The results in this section tell us how the symplectic volume grows asymptotically when $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$. The leading term in the asymptotic expansion given by formula (10) is

$$(16) \quad \frac{2}{2k-1} \epsilon^{-(2k-1)} \int_Z \alpha_0 \wedge \beta_0^{n-1}$$

and the leading term in the asymptotic expansion inside \mathcal{U}_{ϵ} is

$$(17) \quad 4\epsilon^{-(2k-1)} \int_Z \alpha_0 \wedge \beta_0^{n-1}$$

so adding equations (16) and (17) we obtain the following asymptotic result for the symplectic volume of M with respect to ω_{ϵ} :

Theorem 4.2 (Asymptotics for the symplectic volume). *For (M, ω) a $2n$ -dimensional b^{2k} -symplectic manifold, the asymptotics of the symplectic volume of the family (M, ω_{ϵ}) as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ are:*

$$\int \omega_{\epsilon}^n \sim 2\left(2 + \frac{1}{2k-1}\right) \epsilon^{-(2k-1)} \int_Z \alpha_0 \wedge \beta_0^{n-1}$$

5. DESINGULARIZING b^{2k+1} -SYMPLECTIC STRUCTURES

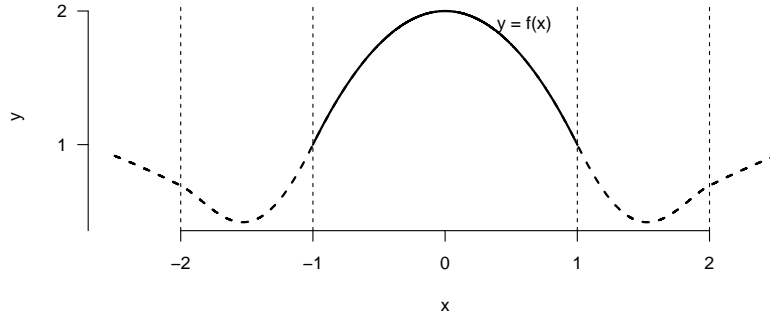
Let M be a b^{2k+1} -symplectic manifold. In view of the Laurent decomposition given in Proposition 2.3 in an ϵ -neighborhood of Z the b -symplectic form has the decomposition, in local coordinates

$$\omega = \frac{dx}{x^{2k+1}} \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k} \pi^*(\alpha_i) x^i \right) + \beta$$

Let $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ satisfy

- $f > 0$.
- $f(x) = f(-x)$.
- $f'(x) > 0$ if $x < 0$.
- $f(x) = -x^2 + 2$ if $x \in [-1, 1]$.
- $f(x) = \log(|x|)$ if $k = 0$, $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus [-2, 2]$.
- $f(x) = \frac{-1}{(2k+2)x^{2k+2}}$ if $k > 0$, $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus [-2, 2]$.

as depicted here:



Now define

$$(18) \quad f_\epsilon(x) := \frac{1}{\epsilon^{2k}} f\left(\frac{x}{\epsilon}\right)$$

and, as in the even case, let

$$(19) \quad \omega_\epsilon = df_\epsilon \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k} \pi^*(\alpha_i) x^i \right) + \beta$$

We can prove the following

Theorem 5.1. *The 2-form ω_ϵ is a folded symplectic form which coincides with ω outside an ϵ -neighborhood of Z .*

Proof. By definition of the function f_ϵ , ω_ϵ coincides with ω outside an ϵ -neighborhood of the critical hypersurface Z . As in the proof of Theorem 3.1, it is easy to see that ω_ϵ is symplectic away from Z . In order to check that ω_ϵ is a folded symplectic structure, we need to check that ω_ϵ^n is transverse to

the zero section of the bundle $\Lambda^n(T^*M)$ and also that $(i^*\omega_\epsilon)^{n-1}$ is non-vanishing where $i : Z \hookrightarrow M$ denotes the inclusion.

Let us denote by $\alpha_i = \pi^*(\hat{\alpha}_i)$ with $\hat{\alpha}_i$ one-forms on Z . Since

$$\omega_\epsilon = df_\epsilon \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k} x^i \alpha_i \right) + \beta = \epsilon^{-(2k+1)} f' \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) dx \wedge \left(\sum_{i=0}^{2k} x^i \alpha_i \right) + \beta,$$

which on the interval $|x| < \epsilon$ is equal to $\epsilon^{-(2k+1)}(f'(\frac{x}{\epsilon}) dx \wedge \alpha_0 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)) + \beta$ and hence

$$\omega_\epsilon^n = \epsilon^{-(2k+1)} \left(f' \left(\frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) dx \wedge \alpha_0 \wedge \beta^{n-1} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \right)$$

Now observe that for ϵ sufficiently small ω_ϵ^n is transverse to the zero section of $\Lambda^n(T^*M)$ because on one hand $dx \wedge \alpha_0 \wedge \beta^{n-1} \neq 0$ (by Proposition 2.10) and on the other, by definition of f , $f(x) = -x^2 + 2$ so $f'(x) = -2x$ vanishes linearly at $x = 0$. Observe too that $(i^*\omega_\epsilon)^{n-1}$ is non-vanishing because β induces a symplectic structure on each of the symplectic leaves of the original b^{2k+1} -symplectic structure ω , and therefore $\beta^{n-1} \neq 0$. Thus ω_ϵ is a folded symplectic structure. \square

As a consequence of this fact we obtain the following theorem which generalizes some of the results contained in Section 3 in [FMM] for b -symplectic manifolds⁵:

Theorem 5.2. *A manifold admitting a b^{2k+1} -symplectic structure also admits a folded symplectic structure.*

6. GROUP ACTIONS AND DESINGULARIZATION

We conclude by briefly mentioning some applications of desingularization which we propose to explore in detail in a sequel to this paper.

In the papers [GMPS] and [GMPS2] it was shown that two classical theorems in equivariant symplectic geometry, the Delzant theorem and the Atiyah-Guillemin-Sternberg convexity theorem, have analogs for b -symplectic manifolds. We will show that these theorems also have analogs for b^m -manifolds (except for the assertion in Delzant's theorem that "the moment image of M determines M up to symplectomorphism").

In addition we will use the desingularization procedure to prove b^m -versions of the Kirwan convexity theorem and of the Duistermaat-Heckman theorem (concerning the latter the main ingredient in our proof will be the observation that in the vicinity of the critical hypersurface Z , the desingularized Duistermaat-Heckman measure can be easily computed and its behavior as ϵ tends to zero easily described using Theorems 3.1 and 5.1.)

Finally we note that the complexities that are required to keep track of the "infinities" occurring in the b^m -versions of the theorems above can largely be avoided by viewing these infinities as coming from the desingularization process as ϵ tends to zero.

⁵ In [FMM] it was already noticed that b -symplectic manifolds share many properties with folded symplectic manifolds in particular in Theorem A in [FMM] it was proved that an orientable open manifold M is b -symplectic if and only if $M \times \mathbb{C}$ is almost-complex. On the other hand observe that the existence of an almost-complex structure on $M \times \mathbb{C}$ is equivalent to the existence of a folded symplectic form as proved in [C].

6.1. A convexity result for b^m -symplectic manifolds. In what follows we will assume for simplicity that the hypersurface Z is connected; this assumption can readily be removed. As done in [GMPS] for b -symplectic manifolds, we can define Hamiltonian actions in the b^m -setting.

Definition 6.1. An action of a torus $G = \mathbb{T}^n$ on the b^m -symplectic manifold (M, ω) is called **Hamiltonian** if it preserves ω and $\iota_X \# \omega$ is b^m -exact for any $X \in \mathfrak{g}$.

Given such a Hamiltonian action on a b^m -manifold M , this action is also Hamiltonian with respect to the desingularized forms. Hence if m is even, we obtain a family of symplectic forms and a family of Hamiltonian actions on the pairs (M, ω_ϵ) . Observe in this case the desingularized forms are symplectic and we can invoke the Atiyah-Guillemin-Sternberg convexity theorem for the moment map ([At], [GS]).

Let us denote by F_ϵ the associated family of moment maps. Then the images of these moment maps are convex polytopes. To describe those polytopes, there are two cases to consider⁶:

Case 1. *The image of the moment map coincides with the image of the moment map induced in the symplectic foliation in the critical set*⁷. In this case the moment polytope for M coincides with the image of the moment map on one of the symplectic leaves in Z .

Case 2. *The function f_ϵ is one of the components of the moment map*⁸. These polytopes are as depicted in the picture on the left below where we use the explicit expression of f_ϵ :

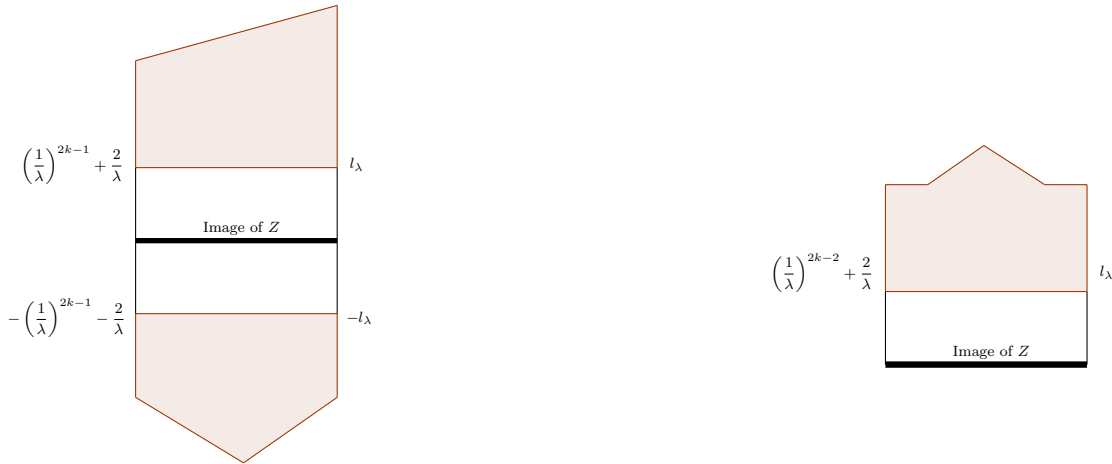


FIGURE 1. On the left moment map image of desingularization, even case. In the figure the region above l_λ and the region below $-l_\lambda$ are independent of ϵ for $\epsilon < \lambda$. On the right moment map image of desingularization, odd case.

⁶By analogs of the results in [GMPS], these are the only two cases that occur, even when the number of connected components of Z is greater than 1.

⁷In this case all the connected components for the initial action have zero modular weight. Cf. Section 6 in [GMPS].

⁸In this case, all the connected components for the initial action have non-zero modular weight. Cf. Section 6 in [GMPS].

Finally for b^{2k+1} -symplectic manifolds the desingularization gives us folded symplectic manifolds and for these the moment polytopes are the folded versions of the polytopes above, as depicted in the figure above on the right.

We will give a more detailed and rigorous account of these results in a future paper. Similarly we will prove analogues of the Duistermaat-Heckman theorems and the Delzant theorem using these methods.

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