

NON-ASSOCIATIVE OPERATIONS ON VARIATIONS OF HODGE STRUCTURE

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Abstract: Let $\pi : D \rightarrow S$ be the projection of a period domain $D = G/V$ onto a Riemannian symmetric space $S = G/K$ of non-compact type with $K \supseteq V$. The totally geodesic variations of Hodge structure $U \subset D$ are exactly the equivariantly embedded Hermitian symmetric subspaces U of D , which map diffeomorphically onto totally geodesic subspaces $\pi(U) \subset S$. The article shows that a variation of Hodge structure $U \subset D$ is totally geodesic exactly when $\pi(U)$ is a left quasi-subgroup of a left quasi-group with right neutral element (S, \oplus_σ, K) , induced by a real analytic section $\sigma : S \rightarrow G$ of $\pi_K : G \rightarrow G/K = S$. It establishes that $U \subset D$ is totally geodesic exactly when $(\pi(U), \cdot)$ is a Loos-symmetric subspace of the Loos-symmetric space (S, \cdot) . We introduce the notion of a Loos-Hermitian symmetric space of non-compact type and prove that $U \subset D$ is a totally geodesic variation of Hodge structure if and only if there is a Loos-Hermitian symmetric structure $(\pi(U), *)$ of non-compact type, whose square $(\pi(U), *^2)$ is a Loos-symmetric subspace of (S, \cdot) .

Key words: Totally geodesic submanifold, variation of Hodge structure, left quasi-group, Loos-symmetric space, Loos-Hermitian symmetric space.

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The study of the totally geodesic variations of Hodge structure is motivated by the presence of families of Calabi-Yau manifolds, whose Teichmüller spaces have totally geodesic images under the period map (cf.[¹]). On the other hand, [²] shows that any irreducible Hermitian symmetric space of non-compact type is realized as a totally geodesic variation of Hodge structure of Calabi-Yau type.

If G is a real linear algebraic group and $H < G$ is a compact subgroup then $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$ admits a non-degenerate Ad_H -invariant bilinear form $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathfrak{M} := \text{Lie}(H)^\perp \subset \mathfrak{g}$ is called a canonical lift of $T_\delta^{\mathbb{R}}(G/H) = \mathfrak{g}/\text{Lie}(H)$ to \mathfrak{g} . In particular, if H is a maximal compact

subgroup of G then the canonical lift of $T_o^{\mathbb{R}}(G/H)$ to \mathfrak{g} with respect to the Killing form of \mathfrak{g} is denoted by \mathfrak{p} .

Recall that a subspace $\mathfrak{s} \subset \mathfrak{g}$ is a Lie triple system if $[[\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{s}], \mathfrak{s}] \subseteq \mathfrak{s}$.

Proposition 1. *Let $\pi : D \rightarrow S$ be the projection of a period domain onto a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type, $U \subset D$ be a totally geodesic variation of Hodge structure and $\mathfrak{s} \subset \mathfrak{p}$ be canonical lifts of $T_o^{\mathbb{R}}\pi(U) \subset T_o^{\mathbb{R}}S$ to $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$. Then there is a Lie subgroup $G(U)$ of G with $\text{Lie}(G(U)) = \mathfrak{s} \oplus [\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{s}]$, such that $U = G(U)V/V \subset D$ is an equivariantly embedded Hermitian symmetric space of non-compact type, $\pi(U) \subset S$ is totally geodesic and $\pi : U \rightarrow \pi(U)$ is a global diffeomorphism.*

Conversely, if $U \subset D$ is a variation of Hodge structure with totally geodesic $\pi(U) \subset S$, then $U \subset D$ is totally geodesic.

Proof. For an arbitrary variation of Hodge structure $U \subset D$, for every $o \in U$ and for $\check{o} = \pi(o)$, the differential $(d\pi)_o : T_o^{\mathbb{R}}U \rightarrow T_o^{\mathbb{R}}\pi(U)$ is an \mathbb{R} -linear isomorphism and there is a canonical lift $T_o^{\mathbb{R}}U = T_o^{\mathbb{R}}\pi(U) = \mathfrak{s}$. Moreover, $\mathfrak{A} := T_o^{1,0}U$ is an abelian Lie subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$, so that $\mathfrak{s} = (\mathfrak{A} \oplus \overline{\mathfrak{A}}) \cap \mathfrak{g}$ satisfies $[\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{s}] \subseteq [\mathfrak{A}, \overline{\mathfrak{A}}] \cap \mathfrak{g} \subseteq \text{Lie}(V)$.

If $U \subset D$ is totally geodesic then $\pi(U) \subset S$ is totally geodesic because π maps the D -geodesics onto the S -geodesics. By [3], \mathfrak{s} is a Lie triple system, there is a Lie subgroup $G(U) \leq G$ with $\text{Lie}(G(U)) = \mathfrak{s} \oplus [\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{s}]$ and an equivariantly embedded totally geodesic $U(\mathfrak{s}) := G(U)V/V \subset D$ with $T_o^{\mathbb{R}}U(\mathfrak{s}) = \mathfrak{s} = T_o^{\mathbb{R}}U$. Since D is complete and $U, U(\mathfrak{s})$ are geodesic at o , the coincidence $T_o^{\mathbb{R}}U(\mathfrak{s}) = T_o^{\mathbb{R}}U$ suffices for $U(\mathfrak{s}) = U$. Similarly, [3] reveals that $W = G(U)K/K \subset S$ is an equivariantly embedded, totally geodesic Riemannian symmetric subspace of non-compact type. By $\text{Lie}(G(U) \cap K) = \text{Lie}(G(U)) \cap \text{Lie}(K) = [\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{s}] = \text{Lie}(G(U) \cap V)$ it follows $G(U) \cap K = G(U) \cap V$ and $\pi : U \rightarrow W$ turns to be a global diffeomorphism. As a result, U is a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type and the holomorphy of the geodesic isometry $s_o : U \rightarrow U$ at $o \in U$ implies that U is Hermitian symmetric.

If $W := \pi(U) \subset S$ is totally geodesic then $T_o^{\mathbb{R}}U = T_o^{\mathbb{R}}W = \mathfrak{s}$ is a Lie triple system of \mathfrak{g} , there is a Lie subgroup $G(W) \leq G$ with $\text{Lie}(G(W)) = \mathfrak{s} \oplus [\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{s}]$ and $U = G(W)V/V \subset D$ is an equivariantly embedded, totally geodesic submanifold. \square

From now on, for a binary operation $Q \times Q \rightarrow Q$ and $a, b \in Q$, let us denote by $x_o(a, b), y_o(a, b) \in Q$ the solutions of the equations $ax = b$, respectively, $ya = b$, if they exist. In 1935 Moufang defines a quasi-group Q as a set with a binary operation $Q \times Q \rightarrow Q$, with respect to which there exist unique $x_o(a, b), y_o(a, b) \in Q$ for all $a, b \in Q$.

Definition 2. *The pair (\mathcal{L}, \oplus) with $\oplus : \mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ is a left quasi-group if for any $a, b \in \mathcal{L}$ there exists unique $x_o(a, b) \in \mathcal{L}$. An element $e_r \in \mathcal{L}$ is right neutral with respect to \oplus if $a \oplus e_r = a$ for all $a \in \mathcal{L}$.*

Let G be a group, $H \leq G$ be a subgroup and let $\pi : G \rightarrow G/H$ be the canonical homomorphism defined by $\pi(a) = aH$, $a \in G$. A map $\sigma : G/H \rightarrow G$ is a section if $\pi\sigma = \text{Id}_{G/H}$. Any σ induces a left quasi-group $\oplus_\sigma : G/H \times G/H \rightarrow G/H$, $aH \oplus_\sigma bH := \pi(\sigma(aH)\sigma(bH)) = \sigma(aH)bH$ for all $aH, bH \in G/H$ with right neutral element H . Let $(\mathcal{L}, \oplus, e_r)$ be a left quasi-group with right neutral element and $L : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \text{Sym}(\mathcal{L})$, $L_a(x) := a \oplus x$ for all $x \in \mathcal{L}$. Rephrasing [4], note that L is injective and the subgroup $G_\mathcal{L} := \langle L(\mathcal{L}) \rangle \leq \text{Sym}(\mathcal{L})$ is isomorphic to $L(\mathcal{L}) \times H_\mathcal{L}$ with $H_\mathcal{L} := \text{Stan}_{G_\mathcal{L}}(e_r)$ as a set. Thus, $\sigma_\mathcal{L} : G_\mathcal{L}/H_\mathcal{L} \rightarrow G_\mathcal{L}$, $\sigma_\mathcal{L}(L_a H_\mathcal{L}) = L_a$ is a section of $\pi : G_\mathcal{L} \rightarrow G_\mathcal{L}/H_\mathcal{L}$ and $\pi L : (\mathcal{L}, \oplus, e_r) \rightarrow (G_\mathcal{L}/H_\mathcal{L}, \oplus_{\sigma_\mathcal{L}}, H_\mathcal{L})$ is an isomorphism of left quasi-groups with right neutral elements. For a group G and a subgroup $H \leq G$ let $\Lambda : G \rightarrow \text{Sym}(G/H)$ be the group homomorphism, associated with the G -action $G \times G/H \rightarrow G/H$, $(a, bH) \mapsto abH$. For any section $\sigma : \mathfrak{L} := G/H \rightarrow G$ of $\pi : G \rightarrow G/H$, the subgroup $\widetilde{G}_\mathfrak{L} := \langle \sigma(G/H) \rangle \leq G$ acts transitively on \mathfrak{L} and $G_\mathfrak{L} = \Lambda(\widetilde{G}_\mathfrak{L})$, due to $L_{aH} = \Lambda(\sigma(aH))$, $L_{aH}\Lambda(\sigma(aH)^{-1}) = \text{Id}_{G/H}$. Moreover, $H_\mathfrak{L} = G_\mathfrak{L} \cap \Lambda(H) = \Lambda(\widetilde{G}_\mathfrak{L} \cap H)$ by $\ker \Lambda = \cap_{b \in G} (bHb^{-1})$.

Definition 3. *If (\mathcal{L}, \oplus) is a left quasi-group, then $\mathcal{L}_1 \subset \mathcal{L}$ is a left quasi-subgroup if the inclusions $a \oplus b, x_o(a, b) \in \mathcal{L}_1$ hold for all $a, b \in \mathcal{L}_1$.*

Theorem 4. *Let $o \in U \subset D$ be a variation of Hodge structure with a closed image $W := \pi(U)$ under $\pi : D = G/V \rightarrow G/K = S$. Then $U \subset D$ is totally geodesic if and only if there is a real analytic section $\sigma : S \rightarrow G$ of $\pi_K : G \rightarrow S$ with $\sigma(o) = e \in G$, such that (W, \oplus_σ) is a left quasi-subgroup of (S, \oplus_σ, K) .*

Proof. Let $\mathfrak{t} \oplus \mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$ be the Cartan decomposition and $\exp : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow G$. Then $\exp_o : \mathfrak{p} \rightarrow S$ is a global diffeomorphism and $\sigma := \exp \exp_o^{-1} : S \rightarrow G$ is a real analytic section of π_K . If $U \subset D$ and $W \subset S$ are totally geodesic then $W = G(W)K/K$ for $G(W) \leq G$ and $\exp_o(\alpha) \oplus_\sigma \exp_o(\beta) = \exp(\alpha) \exp_o(\beta) \in W$, $x_o(\exp_o(\alpha), \exp_o(\beta)) = \exp(\alpha)^{-1} \exp_o(\beta) \in W$ for all $\alpha, \beta \in T_o^\mathbb{R}W$. Thus, (W, \oplus_σ, K) is a left quasi-subgroup of (S, \oplus_σ, K) .

Conversely, suppose that (W, \oplus_σ, K) is a left quasi-subgroup of (S, \oplus_σ, K) . Then $W = \widetilde{G}_o K/K$ for the subgroup $\widetilde{G}_o := \langle \sigma(W) \rangle \leq G$. Since $\sigma(W) \subset G$ is closed and $\widetilde{G}_o \cap K \leq G$ is a compact subgroup,

$$\sigma(W)(\widetilde{G}_o \cap K) := \{\sigma(p)k \mid p \in W, k \in \widetilde{G}_o \cap K\}$$

is a closed submanifold of G . Clearly, $\sigma(W)(\widetilde{G}_o \cap K) \subseteq \widetilde{G}_o$. Any $a \in \widetilde{G}_o$ has $\pi_K(a) = aK = \sigma(aK)K \in \widetilde{G}_o K/K = W$, so that $a = \sigma(aK)k_o$ for some $k_o \in \widetilde{G}_o \cap K$ and $\widetilde{G}_o \subseteq \sigma(W)(\widetilde{G}_o \cap K)$. The coincidence of manifolds $\widetilde{G}_o = \sigma(W)(\widetilde{G}_o \cap K)$ implies that \widetilde{G}_o is a closed and, therefore, a Lie subgroup of G . The diffeomorphism $\sigma : W \rightarrow \sigma(W)$ induces $(d\sigma)_o = \text{Id} : T_o^{\mathbb{R}}W \rightarrow T_e^{\mathbb{R}}\sigma(W)$ for $T_o^{\mathbb{R}}W \subset \mathfrak{p}$. If $v \in T_o^{\mathbb{R}}W$ then the S -geodesic $\gamma_o^v(t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S$ with $\gamma_o^v(0) = \check{o}$, $\left. \frac{d\gamma_o^v(t)}{dt} \right|_{t=0} = v$ has factorization $\gamma_o^v(t) = \pi_K \exp(tv)$ and takes values in $\pi_K \widetilde{G}_o = W$. Thus, $W \subset S$ is geodesic at $\check{o} \in W$ and, therefore, totally geodesic. \square

Definition 5. *A complete manifold S with a smooth binary operation $S \times S \rightarrow S$, $(x, y) \mapsto x \cdot y$ is a Loos-symmetric space if it satisfies the axioms:*

- (A1) $x \cdot x = x$ for all $x \in S$;
- (A2) $x \cdot (x \cdot y) = y$ for all $x, y \in S$;
- (A3) $x \cdot (y \cdot z) = (x \cdot y) \cdot (x \cdot z)$ for all $x, y, z \in S$;
- (A4) *Every $x \in S$ has an open neighborhood $\mathcal{U}_x \subset S$ such that $x \cdot y = y$ for $y \in \mathcal{U}_x$ implies $y = x$.*

Theorem 6. (Loos [5], cf. also [6]) *Any Riemannian symmetric space $S = G/K$ is a Loos symmetric space (S, \cdot) with respect to $x \cdot y := s_x(y)$ for the involutive isometry $s_x : S \rightarrow S$ with isolated fixed point $x \in S$. Any Loos-symmetric space (S, \cdot) is supported by a Riemannian symmetric space S .*

Any Loos-symmetric space (S, \cdot) is a left quasi-group with $x_o(a, b) = a \cdot b$ for all $a, b \in S$ by (A2) from Definition 5.

Definition 7. *A Loos-symmetric space (S, \cdot) is of non-compact type if for any $y \in S$ with $x \cdot y = y$ it follows $x = y$.*

Proposition 8. *The following conditions are equivalent for a Loos-symmetric space (S, \cdot) :*

- (i) S is a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type;
- (ii) (S, \cdot) is a Loos-symmetric space of non-compact type;
- (iii) (S, \cdot) is a quasi-group.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii). Since $\exp_x : T_x^{\mathbb{R}}S \rightarrow S$ is a global diffeomorphism, $x \cdot y = s_x \exp_x \exp_x^{-1}(y) = \exp_x(-\exp_x^{-1}(y)) = \exp_x(\exp_x(y)) = y$ is equivalent to $\exp_x^{-1}(y) = 0$ and holds only for $x = y$.

(ii) \Rightarrow (i). If the Riemannian symmetric space S is of compact type, there is a periodic geodesic $\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S$ through $\gamma(0) = \check{o}$ with minimal

period $t_o \in \mathbb{R}^{>0}$. Then $s_{\delta} \left(\gamma \left(\frac{t_o}{2} \right) \right) = \gamma \left(-\frac{t_o}{2} \right)$ implies $\gamma \left(\frac{t_o}{2} \right) = \delta$, whereas $\gamma \left(t + \frac{t_o}{2} \right) = \gamma(t)$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, which is an absurd.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii). By assumption, $y \cdot a = a$ forces $y = a$. If $a \neq b$ and $\gamma_{y,a} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S$ is the unique geodesic with $\gamma_{y,a}(0) = y$, $\gamma_{y,a}(1) = a$ then $b = \gamma_{y,a}(-1)$ and the unique solution $y_o(a,b) \in S$ of $y \cdot a = b$ is the middle point of the geodesic segment from a to b .

(iii) \Rightarrow (ii). If $y \cdot a = a = a \cdot a$ has unique solution in S then $y = a$. \square

Definition 9. A submanifold S_1 of a Loos-symmetric space (S, \cdot) of non-compact type is a Loos-symmetric subspace if for all $a, b \in S$ it holds $a \cdot b, x_o(a, b), y_o(a, b) \in S_1$.

Definition 10. A complete manifold S with a smooth binary operation $S \times S \rightarrow S$, $(x, y) \mapsto x * y$ is a Loos-Hermitian symmetric space of non-compact type if it satisfies the following axioms:

- (a1) $x * x = x$ for all $x \in S$;
- (a2) $x * \{x * [x * (x * y)]\} = y$ for all $x, y \in S$;
- (a3) $x * (y * z) = (x * y) * (x * z)$ for all $x, y, z \in S$;
- (a4) if $x * (x * y) = y$ for some $x, y \in S$ then $x = y$.

Theorem 11. A complete manifold S admits a Loos-Hermitian symmetric structure $(S, *)$ of non-compact type if and only if it is a Hermitian symmetric space of non-compact type. If so, then $(S, *^2)$ with $x *^2 y := x * (x * y)$ is the Loos-symmetric space of non-compact type, supported by S .

Proof. The axioms (a1)-(a4) for $(S, *)$ imply that $(S, *^2)$ is a Loos-symmetric space of non-compact type. The integrable almost complex structures

$$J_x : T_x^{\mathbb{R}} S \rightarrow T_x^{\mathbb{R}} S, \quad J_x(u) := \exp_x^{-1}(x * \exp_x(u))$$

turn the Riemannian symmetric space S of non-compact type into a Hermitian symmetric space of non-compact type.

Let $S = G/K$ be a Hermitian symmetric space of non-compact type and $J_x : T_x^{\mathbb{R}} S \rightarrow T_x^{\mathbb{R}} S$ be the almost complex structure at $x \in S$. Then it is clear that $x * y = j_x(y) := \exp_x J_x \exp_x^{-1}(y)$ is subject to (a1), (a2), (a4) from Definition 10 and $(S, *^2)$ satisfies Definition 7. Towards (a3), note that $S = \cup_{v \in T_y^{\mathbb{R}} S} \gamma_y^v(\mathbb{R})$ is covered by the images of the geodesics

$\gamma_y^v : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S$ with $\gamma_y^v(0) = y$, $\left. \frac{d\gamma_y^v(t)}{dt} \right|_{t=0} = v$. Further,

$$j_y \gamma_y^v(t) = j_y \exp_y(tv) = \exp_y(tJ_y(v)) = \gamma_y^{J_y(v)}(t)$$

and $j_x \gamma_y^v(t) = \gamma_{j_x(y)}^{(dj_x)_y v}(t)$ imply that $j_x j_y \gamma_y^v(t) = \gamma_{j_x(y)}^{(dj_x)_y J_y(v)}(t)$. The differentials of the holomorphic isometries $j_x : S \rightarrow S$ are subject to $(dj_x)_y J_y = J_{j_x(y)}(dj_x)_y$. As a result,

$$j_x j_y \gamma_y^v(t) = \gamma_{j_x(y)}^{J_{j_x(y)}(dj_x)_y(v)}(t) = j_{j_x(y)} \gamma_{j_x(y)}^{(dj_x)_y(v)}(t) = j_{j_x(y)} j_x \gamma_y^v(t),$$

whereas $j_x j_y = j_{j_x(y)} j_x$ and (a3). \square

Corollary 12. *The following conditions are equivalent for a variation of Hodge structure $U \subset D$ and the projection $\pi : D \rightarrow S$ onto a Riemannian symmetric space S of non-compact type:*

- (i) $U \subset D$ is totally geodesic;
- (ii) $(\pi(U), \cdot)$ is a Loos-symmetric subspace of (S, \cdot) ;
- (iii) there is such a Loos-Hermitian symmetric structure $(\pi(U), *)$ of non-compact type that $(\pi(U), *^2)$ with $x *^2 y := x * (x * y)$ is a Loos-symmetric subspace of (S, \cdot) .

Proof. For a Riemannian symmetric space R of non-compact type and $x \in R$, let $s_x^R : R \rightarrow R$ be the geodesic isometry with unique fixed point x .

(i) \Rightarrow (ii). Any totally geodesic subspace $W \subset S$ is Riemannian symmetric and, therefore, Loos-symmetric with

$$x \cdot y = s_x^W(y) = \exp_x^W(-(\exp_x^W)^{-1}(y)) = \exp_x^S(-(\exp_x^S)^{-1}(y)) = s_x^S(y)$$

for all $x, y \in W$.

(ii) \Rightarrow (i). By Proposition 8, $W = G(W)/K(W) \subset S$ is an equivariantly embedded Riemannian symmetric subspace of non-compact type, as far as $G(W) = \langle s_x^W = s_x^S|_W \mid x \in W \rangle$ is a subgroup of G .

(i) \Rightarrow (iii). follows from the Hermitian symmetry of the totally geodesic $U \subset D$ and (iii) \Rightarrow (ii) is obvious. \square

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