THE SYMPLECTIC GEOMETRY OF POLYGONS IN THE 3-SPHERE

THOMAS TRELOAR†

ABSTRACT. We study the symplectic geometry of the moduli spaces \( M_r = M_r(\mathbb{S}^3) \) of closed \( n \)-gons with fixed side-lengths in the 3-sphere. We prove that these moduli spaces have symplectic structures obtained by reduction of the fusion product of \( n \) conjugacy classes in \( SU(2) \), denoted \( C_n^r \), by the diagonal conjugation action of \( SU(2) \). Here \( C_n^r \) is a quasi-Hamiltonian \( SU(2) \)-space. An integrable Hamiltonian system is constructed on \( M_r \) in which the Hamiltonian flows are given by bending polygons along a maximal collection of nonintersecting diagonals. Finally, we show the symplectic structure on \( M_r \) relates to the symplectic structure obtained from gauge-theoretic description of \( M_r \). The results of this paper are analogues for the 3-sphere of results obtained for \( M_r(\mathbb{R}^3) \), the moduli space of \( n \)-gons with fixed side-lengths in hyperbolic 3-space \([\text{KMT}]\), and for \( M_r(\mathbb{E}^3) \), the moduli space of \( n \)-gons with fixed side-lengths in \( \mathbb{E}^3 \) \([\text{KM1}]\).

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we study the symplectic geometry of the space of polygons in \( \mathbb{S}^3 \) with fixed side-lengths modulo the group of isometries. We denote this moduli space by \( M_r = M_r(\mathbb{S}^3) \). This paper is continuation of \([\text{KM1}]\) and \([\text{KMT}]\), which studied the polygonal linkages in Euclidean 3-space and hyperbolic 3-space, respectively.

An (open) \( n \)-gon \( P \) in \( \mathbb{S}^3 \) is an ordered \((n+1)\)-tuple \((x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1})\) of points in \( \mathbb{S}^3 \subset \mathbb{C}^2 \) called the vertices. We join the vertex \( x_i \) to the vertex \( x_{i+1} \) by the unique geodesic segment \( e_i \), called the \( i \)-th edge (here we must make the restriction \( x_i \) and \( x_{i+1} \) are not antipodal points). We let \( \text{Pol}_n \) denote the space of \( n \)-gons in \( \mathbb{S}^3 \). An \( n \)-gon is said to be closed if \( x_{n+1} = x_1 \). We let \( \text{CPol}_n \) denote the space of closed \( n \)-gons. The group \( G = SU(2) \times SU(2) \) acting on \( \mathbb{S}^3 \) by \( g \cdot x = g_1 x g_2^{-1}, x \in \mathbb{S}^3 \), \( g = (g_1, g_2) \in G \), is the group of isometries of \( \mathbb{S}^3 \). Two \( n \)-gons \( P = (x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \) and \( P' = (x_1', \ldots, x_{n+1}') \) are equivalent if there exists \( g \in G \) such that \( g \cdot P = P' \), that is \( g \cdot x_i = x_i' \), for all \( 1 \leq i \leq n + 1 \).

Let \( r = (r_1, \ldots, r_n) \in \mathbb{R}_+^n \) be an \( n \)-tuple of positive numbers with \( r_i < \pi \) for \( 1 \leq i \leq n \). We denote by \( \tilde{N}_r \) the space of open \( n \)-gons in which the side \( e_i \) a has fixed length \( d(x_i, x_{i+1}) = r_i \). We then let \( \tilde{M}_r = \tilde{N}_r \cap \text{CPol}_n, N_r = \tilde{N}_r / G \), and \( M_r = \tilde{M}_r / G \). This paper examines the symplectic geometry of the space \( M_r \).

We have \( G = SU(2) \times SU(2), K \) is the diagonal subgroup in \( G \), and \( P = G/K \) which we identify with \( SU(2) \). We equip \( G, K, P \) with the quasi-Poisson structures associated to the standard Manin pair \((\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k})\), where \( \mathfrak{g} = \{ (x, y) \in \text{su}(2) \oplus \text{su}(2) \} \) and \( \mathfrak{k} = \{ (x, x) \in \mathfrak{g} : x \in \text{su}(2) \} \).

The main theorem of this paper is:

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Theorem 1.1. The space $M_r$ is a symplectic manifold with the symplectic structure obtained from reduction of the fusion product of $n$ conjugacy classes in $SU(2)$, $C_{r_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus C_{r_n}$, by the diagonal dressing action (conjugation) of the quasi-Poisson Lie group $K$.

We are also interested in finding an integrable system on $M_r$. We denote by $d_{ij}$ a geodesic connecting the vertices $x_i$ and $x_j$ (we always assume $i < j$), which we call a diagonal. Let $\ell_{ij}$ be the length of the diagonal $d_{ij}$. Then $\ell_{ij}$ is a continuous function on $M_r$, but it is not smooth when either $\ell_{ij} = 0$ or $\ell_{ij} = \pi$. If $d_{ij}$ and $d_{km}$ are nonintersecting diagonals, then

$$\{\ell_{ij}, \ell_{km}\} = 0.$$ 

By considering a maximal collection of nonintersecting diagonals, we obtain $1/2 \dim(M_r)$ Poisson commuting Hamiltonians.

The Hamiltonian flow $\psi_{ij}^t$ associated to a $\ell_{ij}$ has the following nice description. Separate the polygon into two pieces via the diagonal $d_{ij}$; the Hamiltonian flow is given by leaving one piece fixed while rotating the other piece about the diagonal at constant angular velocity 1. The flow $\psi_{ij}^t$ is called the “bending flow” along the diagonal $d_{ij}$.

The paper is organized as follows:

In section 2, we give background material for Manin pairs and quasi-Poisson Lie groups.

In section 3, we define a symplectic structure on $M_r$ by quasi-Hamiltonian reduction on the fusion product of conjugacy classes.

In section 4, we study the Hamiltonians $\ell_{ij}$ and their associated Hamiltonian flows.

In section 5, we study the action of the pure braid group on $M_r$ given by the time 1 Hamiltonian flows of a certain family of functions.

In section 6, we relate the symplectic form on $M_r$ to symplectic form given on the relative character varieties on $n$-punctured 2-spheres.

We note that the moduli spaces of polygons in the spaces of constant curvature give examples of completely integrable systems obtained from the theory of Manin pairs associated to a compact simple Lie group [AMM2]. The Manin pairs corresponding to the various moduli spaces are:

- $(\mathfrak{su}(2) \ltimes \mathfrak{su}(2)^*, \mathfrak{su}(2))$ for polygons in the zero curvature space (Lie-Poisson theory);
- $(\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C}) = \mathfrak{su}(2)^\mathbb{C}, \mathfrak{su}(2))$ for polygons in negative curvature space (Poisson-Lie theory);
- $(\mathfrak{su}(2) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2), \mathfrak{su}(2))$ for polygons in positive curvature space (quasi-Poisson Lie theory).

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2. Manin Pairs and Quasi-Poisson Lie Groups

2.1. quasi-Poisson Structures. In this section, we let $K$ be any compact simple Lie group with Lie algebra denoted by $\mathfrak{t}$. Let $G = K \times K$ be the double of $K$ with Lie algebra
\( \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{t} \). The Killing form on \( \mathfrak{k} \), which we denote by \((,\)\), defines a nondegenerate bilinear form \( B(,\)\) on \( \mathfrak{g} \) given by

\[
B((X_1, X_2), (Y_1, Y_2)) = (X_1, Y_1) - (X_2, Y_2), \quad \text{for } (X_1, X_2), (Y_1, Y_2) \in \mathfrak{g}.
\]

If we now let \( K \) denote the diagonal subgroup of \( G \) then its Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{k} \) is a maximal isotropic subalgebra of \( \mathfrak{g} \). The pair \((\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k})\) is a Manin pair. We will construct a quasi-Poisson Lie group structure on \( G \) associated to the Manin pair \((\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k})\) which restricts to a (trivial) quasi-Poisson Lie group structure on \( K \). For background on quasi-Poisson Lie groups, quasi-Poisson structures, Manin pairs, etc. we refer the reader to [AKS], [Le], [KS1], [KS2].

Let \( \mathfrak{p} = \{(\frac{1}{2}X, -\frac{1}{2}X) \in \mathfrak{g}\} \) be the anti-diagonal in \( \mathfrak{g} \). Then \( \mathfrak{p} \) is an isotropic complement of \( \mathfrak{k} \). Note that \( \mathfrak{p} \) is not a Lie subalgebra of \( \mathfrak{g} \) \(([\mathfrak{p}, \mathfrak{p}] \subset \mathfrak{k})\), so the triple \((\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{p})\) is a Manin quasi-triple, rather than a Manin triple which arises in the theory of Poisson Lie groups. We call this triple \((\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{p})\) the standard Manin quasi-triple.

A Manin quasi-triple gives rise to a Lie quasi-bialgebra \((\mathfrak{t}, F, \varphi)\). We can identify \( \mathfrak{p} \) with \( \mathfrak{t}^* \) via the bilinear form of \( \mathfrak{g} \). The cobracket on \( \mathfrak{t} \) is a map \( F : \mathfrak{t} \to \mathfrak{t} \wedge \mathfrak{t} \) which is the transpose of the map from \( \mathfrak{p} \wedge \mathfrak{p} \to \mathfrak{p} \), also denoted by \( F \), defined by

\[
F(\xi, \eta) = \rho_\mathfrak{p}[\xi, \eta], \quad \xi, \eta \in \mathfrak{p}.
\]

We can also define the element \( \varphi \in \wedge^3 \mathfrak{t} \) by the map \( \mathfrak{p} \wedge \mathfrak{p} \to \mathfrak{t} \) given by

\[
\varphi(\xi, \eta) = \rho_\mathfrak{p}[\xi, \eta], \quad \xi, \eta \in \mathfrak{p}.
\]

For the Manin quasi triple \((\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{p})\) given above, we have \( F = 0 \) and \( \varphi = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i,j,k} f^i_{jk} e_i \wedge e_j \wedge e_k \), where \([e_i, e_k] = \sum_i f^i_{jk} e_i \). We can also identify \( \mathfrak{g} \) with \( \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{t}^* \) via the bilinear form \( B(,\)\). The canonical \( r \)-matrix on \( \mathfrak{g} \) associated to the Manin quasi-triple \((\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{p})\) is an element \( r_\mathfrak{g} \in \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} \) defined by the map \( r_\mathfrak{g} : \mathfrak{g}^* \to \mathfrak{g} \) given by \( r_\mathfrak{g}(\xi, X) = (0, \xi) \) where \( X \in \mathfrak{g} \) and \( \xi \in \mathfrak{g}^* \). Let \( \{e_i\} \) be an orthonormal basis of \( \mathfrak{k} \) and \( \{e^i\} \) be the dual basis in \( \mathfrak{t}^* \), then

\[
r_\mathfrak{g} = \sum_i e_i \otimes e^i.
\]

The multiplicative 2-tensor \( w_\mathfrak{g} = dL_{g^\mathfrak{g}} - dR_{g^\mathfrak{g}} \) actually defines a bivector on \( G \), since the symmetric part of \( r_\mathfrak{g} \) is a multiple of the bilinear form \( B(,\)\) on \( \mathfrak{g} \). \( w_\mathfrak{g} \) gives us a quasi-Poisson Lie group structure on \( G \). \( w_\mathfrak{g} \) naturally restricts to the trivial bivector on the subgroup \( K \subset G \). There is also a natural projection of \( w_\mathfrak{g} \) to \( G/K = P \), which can identified with \( K \), via the map \( p : G \to P \) defined by \( p(g_1, g_2) = g_1 g_2^{-1} \). The bivector \( w_\mathfrak{p} \) is given by

\[
w_\mathfrak{p} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i e_i^\lambda \wedge e_i^\rho.
\]

Here \( e_i^\lambda \) (\( e_i^\rho \)) denotes the left-invariant (resp. right-invariant) vector field on \( P \) with value \( e_i \) at the identity. We will use this notation for vector fields on \( P \) throughout the rest of the paper. Note that \( w_\mathfrak{p} \) is not multiplicative, so \( P \) is not a quasi-Poisson Lie group. We will see that in the next section that \( P \) is the target space of a generalized moment map.
2.2. Moment map and reduction. The action of \( G \) on itself is by left multiplication induces an action of \( K \) on \( P \), the dressing action, which is given by conjugation.

We denote by \( x_M \) the vector field, more generally the multivector field, on \( M \) induced by the action of \( K \) on \( M \) and \( x \in \mathfrak{k} \) satisfying
\[
(x_M f)(m) = \frac{d}{dt} \big|_{t=0} f(\exp(-tx) \cdot m)
\]
where \( f \in C^\infty(M) \) and \( m \in M \). This is a Lie algebra homomorphism, i.e. \([x_M, y_M] = [x, y]_M \) for \( x, y \in \mathfrak{k} \).

We have the following definition of a quasi-Poisson action.

**Definition 2.1.** Let \((K, w_K, \varphi)\) be a connected quasi-Poisson Lie group acting on a manifold \( M \) with bivector \( w_M \). The action of \( K \) on \( M \) is said to be a quasi-Poisson action if and only if
\begin{enumerate}[(i)]
  \item \( \frac{1}{2}[w_M, w_M] = \varphi_M \)
  \item \( \mathcal{L}_{x_M} w_M = -(F(x)_M) \)
\end{enumerate}
for all \( x \in \mathfrak{k} \).

The dressing action of \( K \) on \( P \) is a quasi-Poisson action. There is also a notion of a generalized moment map associated to a quasi-Poisson action.

**Definition 2.2.** A map \( \mu : M \to P \), equivariant with respect to the action of \( K \) on \( M \) and the dressing action of \( K \) on \( P \), is called a moment map for the action of \( K \) on \((M, w_M)\) if, on any open subset of \( M \),
\[
\omega^\sharp(\mu^* \alpha_x) = x_M.
\]
Here \( \alpha_x \in \Omega^1(P) \) is defined by \( <\alpha_x, \xi_P> = -(x, \xi) \) for \( x \in \mathfrak{k} \) and \( \xi \in \mathfrak{p} \).

**Definition 2.3.** The action of \( K \) on \( M \) is called quasi-Hamiltonian if it admits a moment map. A quasi-Hamiltonian space is a manifold with bivector on which a quasi-Poisson Lie group acts by a quasi-Hamiltonian action.

The following lemma will be useful in this paper for the proofs of Proposition 2.8 and Theorem 2.7.

**Lemma 2.4.** Let \((M, w_M)\) be a manifold with bivector on which the compact simple Lie group \( K \) act in a quasi-Poisson manner. Then \((M, w_M)\) is a quasi-Hamiltonian space if and only if there exists a map \( \mu : M \to P \) which is equivariant with respect to action of \( K \) on \( M \) and the action of \( K \) on \( P \) by conjugation which satisfies
\[
\omega^\sharp(\mu^*(x, \theta)) = \frac{1}{2}((1 + \text{Ad}_\mu)x)_M
\]
for all \( x \in \mathfrak{k} \). Here \( \omega^! : T^* M \to T_M \) is given by \( \omega^!(\alpha) = w(\alpha, \cdot) \) for \( \alpha \in T^* M \), and \( \theta : T_K \to \mathfrak{k} \) is the left-invariant Maurer-Cartan on \( K \). For \( K \) a matrix group \( \theta = k^{-1}dk \).

**Proof:** See [AKS, Proposition 5.33]. \( \square \)

**Example 2.5.** The basic example of a quasi-Hamiltonian space is the space \( P \). The action of \( K \) on \( P \) is the dressing action and the associated moment map is the identity map. The bivector on \( P \) is given by \( w_P = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i e_i^\lambda \wedge e_0^\lambda \).
In general, any $K$-invariant embedded submanifold of $P$ is also a quasi-Hamiltonian space with moment map given inclusion.

**Example 2.6.** Let $(g, k, p)$ be the standard Manin quasi-triple. Let $C \subset P$ be a conjugacy class in $P$. The action of $K$ on $C$ given by conjugation is a quasi-Poisson action. The momentum map associated to this action of is the inclusion map (i.e. $\mu : C \to P$ given by $\mu(g) = g$). Since the bivector $w_P$ is $K$-invariant, the bivector on $C$ is given by the restriction $w_P|_C$

Even though a quasi-Hamiltonian space $(M, \mu, w_M)$ is not in general a Poisson manifold, $\frac{1}{2}[w_M, w_M] = \varphi_M$, there is still a notion of reduction to a symplectic manifold.

**Lemma 2.7.** Let $(M, w_M, \mu)$ be a quasi-Hamiltonian space such that the bivector $w_M$ is everywhere nondegenerate. Assume $M/G$ is a smooth manifold in a neighborhood $U$ of $p(x_0)$, where $p : M \to M/G$ and $x_0 \in M$. Let $x \in M$ be such that $p(x) \in U$ and $s = \mu(x) \in D/G$ is a regular value of the moment map $\mu$. Then the symplectic leaf through $p(x)$ in the Poisson manifold $U$ is the connected component of the intersection with $U$ on the projection of the manifold $\mu^{-1}(s)$.

**Proof:** See [AKS, Theorem 5.5.5]

2.3. **Fusion product of quasi-Poisson manifolds.** Given quasi-Hamiltonian spaces $M_1$ and $M_2$ each acted on by $K$ with associated moment maps $\mu_1 : M_1 \to P$ and $\mu_2 : M_2 \to P$, it is not true that $M_1 \times M_2$ with the product bivector structure is a quasi-Hamiltonian $K$-space with the action being the diagonal action of $K$ on $M_1 \times M_2$. We can define a new bivector on $M_1 \times M_2$ such that diagonal action is a quasi-Poisson action with respect to this new bivector. $M_1 \times M_2$ with this bivector is called the fusion product and is due to [AKSM].

As defined in the previous section, the subscript $M$ denotes the vector field, or multivector field, induced by the action of $K$ on $M$.

**Proposition 2.8.** Let $(M_1, w_1, \mu_1)$ and $(M_2, w_2, \mu_2)$ be quasi-Hamiltonian $K$-spaces in the sense of [AKS]. Then $M = M_1 \times M_2$ with the action of $K$ on $M$ given by the diagonal action, bivector on $M$ given by

$$w_M = w_1 + w_2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_j (e_j)_{M_1} \land (e_j)_{M_2}$$

and moment map $\mu = \mu_1 \mu_2$ is a quasi-Hamiltonian $K$-space. Recall $\{e_i\}$ is an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{k}$. $M$ with this structure is called the fusion product of $M_1$ and $M_2$ and is denoted by $M = M_1 \oplus M_2$.

**Proof:** We begin by showing the diagonal action of $K$ on $(M, w_M)$ is a quasi-Poisson action. For this we need to show,

(i) $\frac{1}{2}[w_M, w_M] = \varphi_M$

(ii) $\mathcal{L}_{x_M} w_M = 0$.

We will then show that $\mu : M_1 \times M_2 \to P$ given above is the moment map associated to the diagonal action.

It is a straightforward calculation to show (i):
\[
\frac{1}{2} [w_M, w_M] = \frac{1}{2} [w_1 + w_2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_j (e_j)_{M_1} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2}, w_1 + w_2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_k (e_k)_{M_1} \wedge (e_k)_{M_2}]
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{2} [w_1, w_1] + \frac{1}{2} [w_2, w_2] + [w_1 + w_2, \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n (e_j)_{M_1} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2}]
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \sum_j (e_j)_{M_1} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2}, \frac{1}{2} \sum_k (e_k)_{M_1} \wedge (e_k)_{M_2} \right]
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{2} [w_1, w_1] + \frac{1}{2} [w_2, w_2] + [w_1 + w_2, \sum_j (e_j)_{M_1} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2}]
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{8} \sum_{j,k} \left( (e_j)_{M_1}, (e_k)_{M_1} \right) \wedge (e_j)_{M_2} \wedge (e_k)_{M_2} + \left( (e_j)_{M_2}, (e_k)_{M_2} \right) \wedge (e_j)_{M_1} \wedge (e_k)_{M_1}
\]

But \( \frac{1}{2} [w_i, w_i] = \varphi_{M_i} \) for \( i = 1, 2 \) since the \( K \)-actions on \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \) are quasi-Poisson actions. Also, we have \([ (e_k)_{M_i}, w_i ] = \mathcal{L}_{(e_k)_{M_i}} w_i = -(F(e_k))_{M_i} \) where \( F : \mathfrak{k} \rightarrow \wedge^2 \mathfrak{k} \) is the cobracket. But \( F \equiv 0 \) for the standard quasi-Poisson Lie group \( K \) we have, thus \([ (e_k)_{M_i}, w_i ] = 0 \). Let \( f_{jk}^i \) denote the structure constants on \( \mathfrak{k} \). The above equations then become

\[
= \varphi_{M_1} + \varphi_{M_2} + 0 + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{j,k} \left[ e_j, e_k \right]_{M_1} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2} \wedge (e_k)_{M_2}
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{8} \sum_{j,k} \left[ e_j, e_k \right]_{M_2} \wedge (e_j)_{M_1} \wedge (e_k)_{M_1}
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{24} \sum_{ijk} f_{jk}^i (e_i)_{M_1} \wedge (e_j)_{M_1} \wedge (e_k)_{M_1} + \frac{1}{24} \sum_{ijk} f_{jk}^i (e_i)_{M_2} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2} \wedge (e_k)_{M_2}
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{8} \sum_{ijk} f_{jk}^i (e_i)_{M_1} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2} \wedge (e_k)_{M_2} + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{ijk} f_{jk}^i (e_i)_{M_2} \wedge (e_j)_{M_1} \wedge (e_k)_{M_1}
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{24} \sum_{ijk} f_{jk}^i \left( (e_i)_{M_1} + (e_i)_{M_2} \right) \wedge \left( (e_j)_{M_1} + (e_j)_{M_2} \right) \wedge \left( (e_k)_{M_1} + (e_k)_{M_2} \right)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{24} \sum_{ijk} f_{jk}^i (e_i)_{M} \wedge (e_j)_{M} \wedge (e_k)_{M}
\]

\[
= \varphi_M
\]

To show (ii), we again use \( \mathcal{L}_{(e_k)_{M_1}} w_1 = 0 \).
\( \mathcal{L}_{(e_k)_M} w_M = \mathcal{L}_{(e_k)_{M_1} + (e_k)_{M_2}} (w_1 + w_2 + \sum (e_j)_{M_1} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2}) \\
= \mathcal{L}_{(e_k)_{M_1} + (e_k)_{M_2}} \left( \sum (e_j)_{M_2} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2} \right) \\
= \sum \left( [(e_k)_{M_1}, (e_j)_{M_1}] \wedge (e_j)_{M_2} - \sum [(e_k)_{M_2}, (e_j)_{M_2}] \wedge (e_j)_{M_1} \right) \\
= \sum_{i,j} C^i_{kj} (e_i)_{M_1} \wedge (e_j)_{M_2} - \sum_{i,j} C^i_{kj} (e_i)_{M_2} \wedge (e_j)_{M_1} \\
= 0 \\

We next use Lemma 2.4 to show that \( \mu = \mu_1 \mu_2 : M_1 \times M_2 \to P \) is indeed the moment map associated to the diagonal action.

\[
\begin{align*}
\omega^* \left( \mu^* (x, \theta) \right) &= \omega^* \left( (\mu_1 \mu_2)^* (x, \theta) \right) \\
&= \omega^* \left( (x, \mu_2^* \theta + \text{Ad}_{\mu_2^*} (\mu_1^* \theta)) \right) \\
&= \omega^* \left( \mu_2^* (x, \theta) + \mu_1^* (\text{Ad}_{\mu_2} x, \theta) \right) \\
&= \omega^* \left( \mu_2^* (\text{Ad}_{\mu_2} x, \theta) \right) + w_2 \left( \mu_2^* (x, \theta) \right) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_j \left( (\mu_1^* (\text{Ad}_{\mu_2} x, \theta)) (e_j)_{M_1} \right) (e_j)_{M_2} \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{2} \sum_j \left( (\mu_2^* (x, \theta)) (e_j)_{M_2} \right) (e_j)_{M_1}
\end{align*}
\]

\((M_i, w_i)\) is a quasi-Hamiltonian space with moment map \( \mu_i : M_i \to P_i \), so we have by Lemma 2.4

\[
\omega^* \left( \mu_i^* (x, \theta) \right) = \frac{1}{2} ((1 + \text{Ad}_{\mu_i} x)_{M_i}.
\]

We can also see that

\[
\sum_i \left( (\mu_i^* (x, \theta)) (e_i)_{M_i} \right) (e_i)_{M_i} = \sum_i \left( x, \text{Ad}_{\mu_i} e_i - e_i \right) (e_i)_{M_i} \\
= \sum_i \left( \text{Ad}_{\mu_i} x - x, e_i \right) (e_i)_{M_i} \\
= \left( \text{Ad}_{\mu_i} x - x \right)_{M_i}
\]

So the above becomes
\[ w^i(\mu^*(X, \theta)) = \frac{1}{2}(Ad_{\mu_2} + Ad_{\mu_1 \mu_2}X)_{M_1} + \frac{1}{2}(1 + Ad_{\mu_2}X)_{M_2} + \frac{1}{2}(Ad_{\mu_1 \mu_2}X - Ad_{\mu_2}X)_{M_2} - \frac{1}{2}(Ad_{\mu_2}X - X)_{M_1} = \frac{1}{2}(1 + Ad_{\mu_1 \mu_2}X)_{M_1} + \frac{1}{2}((1 + Ad_{\mu_1 \mu_2})X)_{M_2} = \frac{1}{2}(1 + Ad_{\mu_1 \mu_2}X)_M \]

**Remark 2.9.** It is a quick calculation to show the fusion product is associative, that is \( M_1 \oplus (M_2 \oplus M_3) \simeq (M_1 \oplus M_2) \oplus M_3 \). The bivector is given by

\[ w = w_1 + w_2 + w_3 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (e_i)_{M_1} \wedge (e_i)_{M_2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (e_i)_{M_1} \wedge (e_i)_{M_3} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (e_i)_{M_2} \wedge (e_i)_{M_3}. \]

The quasi-Hamiltonian space we are most interested in for this fusion product is the fusion product of \( n \) conjugacy classes in \( P \). Recall from Example 2.6 that \( C_{r_i} \subset P \) is a quasi-Hamiltonian space with action given by conjugation and the associated moment map given by inclusion. The fusion product of \( n \) conjugacy classes \( C^n_r = C_{r_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus C_{r_n} \), \( r = (r_1, \ldots, r_n) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \) is also a quasi-Hamiltonian space with action given by the diagonal conjugation and moment map \( \tilde{\mu} : M \to P \) given by multiplication, \( \tilde{\mu}(g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_n) = g_1 g_2 \cdots g_n \). The bivector on this space is given by

\[ \tilde{w} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_k \left(e^\lambda_k \wedge e^\rho_k\right)_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i<j} \sum_k \left(e^\lambda_k - e^\rho_k\right)_i \wedge \left(e^\lambda_k - e^\rho_k\right)_j \]

where the subscripts \( i, j \) denote the vector field on \( C_{r_1}, C_{r_2} \subset C^n_r \).

### 2.4 Poisson bracket on \( C^\infty(P^n)^K \)

For a general quasi-Hamiltonian space \( (M, w_M) \), the bracket on \( C^\infty(M) \) defined by the bivector \( w_M \) is not a Poisson bracket. This is easy to see since the Shouten bracket \( [w_M, w_M] = \varphi_M \) is an invariant trivector field. The bracket does however define a Poisson bracket when we restrict to the space \( C^\infty(M)^K \) of smooth \( K \)-invariant functions on \( M \).

**Lemma 2.10.** Let \( K \) be a connected quasi-Poisson Lie group acting on a manifold \( (M, w_M) \) in a quasi-Poisson manner. Then the bivector \( w_M \) defines a Poisson bracket on the space \( C^\infty(M)^K \) of the smooth \( K \)-invariant functions in \( M \).

**Proof.** See [AKS, Theorem 4.2.2]
Here $(,)$ is the Killing form extended to $\mathfrak{p}^n$ by $(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i, y_i)$ for $x, y \in \mathfrak{p}^n$.

**Remark 2.11.** It is easy to see that

$$Ad_g D_i \psi(g) = D_i \psi(g)$$

We also define

$$\Psi_j(g) = \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} [D_i \psi(g) - D_i' \psi(g)] + D_j \psi(g)$$

We now define the Poisson bracket on $C^\infty(P^n)^K$.

**Proposition 2.12.** Let $\phi, \psi \in C^\infty(P^n)^K$ then

$$\{\phi, \psi\}(g) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( D_j' \phi(g) - D_j \phi(g), \Psi_j(g) \right)$$

**Proof:**

Let us first note that for $x, y \in \mathfrak{p}$ $\sum_{i} (x, e_i)(y, e_i) = (x, y)$. Now,

\[
\{\phi, \psi\}(g) = w(d\phi, d\psi)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{k} \left( \epsilon_i^k \wedge \epsilon_i^k \right) (d\phi, d\psi) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} \sum_{j < k} \left( (\epsilon_i^k \wedge \epsilon_i^k)_i \wedge (\epsilon_i^k \wedge \epsilon_i^k)_j \right) (d\phi, d\psi)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{k} d_i \phi(\epsilon_i^k) d_i \psi(\epsilon_i^k) - d_i \phi(\epsilon_i^k) d_i \psi(\epsilon_i^k)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} \sum_{j < k} d_i \phi(\epsilon_i^k - \epsilon_i^k) d_j \psi(\epsilon_i^k - \epsilon_i^k) - d_j \phi(\epsilon_i^k - \epsilon_i^k) d_i \psi(\epsilon_i^k - \epsilon_i^k)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{k} \left( D_i' \phi, \epsilon_i^k \right) (D_i \psi, \epsilon_i^k) - \left( D_i \phi, \epsilon_i^k \right) (D_i' \psi, \epsilon_i^k)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} \sum_{j < k} \left( D_i' \phi - D_i \phi, \epsilon_i^k \right) \left( D_j' \psi - D_j \psi, \epsilon_i^k \right) - \left( D_j' \phi - D_j \phi, \epsilon_i^k \right) \left( D_i' \psi - D_i \psi, \epsilon_i^k \right)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( D_i' \phi, D_i \psi \right) - \left( D_i \phi, D_i' \psi \right)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} \left( D_i' \phi - D_i \phi, D_j' \psi - D_j \psi \right) - \left( D_j' \phi - D_j \phi, D_i' \psi - D_i \psi \right)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( D_i' \phi, D_i \psi \right) - \left( D_i \phi, D_i' \psi \right)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} \left( D_i' \phi - D_i \phi, D_j' \psi - D_j \psi \right) - \sum_{i > j} \left( D_i' \phi - D_i \phi, D_j' \psi - D_j \psi \right)
\]

But since $\psi \in C^\infty(P^n)^K$ is $K$-invariant, a quick calculation shows...
\[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} [D_i \psi - D'_i \psi] = 0 \]

Using this fact and also that \((D'_i \phi, D'_j \psi) = (D_i \phi, D_i \psi)\) for all \(i\), we can rewrite the above as,

\[
\{ \phi, \psi \} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( D'_i \phi - D_i \phi, D_i \psi + D'_i \psi \right) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \geq j} \left( D'_i \phi - D_i \phi, D'_j \psi - D_j \psi \right) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \geq j} \left( D'_i \phi - D_i \phi, D'_j \psi - D_j \psi \right)
\]

\[ = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( D'_i \varphi - D_i \varphi, \Psi_i \right) \]

From the above Proposition we can also define the Hamiltonian vector field \(X_\psi\) associated to \(\psi \in C^\infty(P^n)^K\) by \(X_\psi = \omega^\flat(\psi)\).

**Corollary 2.13.** The Hamiltonian vector field \(X_\psi(g) = ((X_1(g), \ldots, X_n(g))\) associated to the \(K\)-invariant function \(\psi \in C^\infty(P^n)^K\) is given by

\[ X_j(g) = dL_{g_j} \Psi_j - dR_{g_j} \Psi_j, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n. \]

and \(g = (g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_n)\).

**Proof.** We use the convention \(\{ \phi, \psi \} = d\phi(X_\psi) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} d_j \varphi((X_j(g)))\). Proposition 2.12 gives us

\[
d\phi(X_\psi(g)) = \{ \phi, \psi \}
\]

\[ = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( D'_j \phi - D_j \phi, \Psi_j \right)
\]

\[ = \sum_{j=1}^{n} d_j \phi(dL_{g_j} \Psi_j) - d_j \phi(dR_{g_j} \Psi_j)
\]

\[ = \sum_{j=1}^{n} d_j \phi(dL_{g_j} \Psi_j) - dR_{g_j} \Psi_j)
\]

3. **The symplectic structure on \(M_r(S^3)\)**

Throughout the rest of the paper, we let \(G = SU(2) \times SU(2), K = SU(2),\) and \(P \simeq SU(2)\). In this section, we will define a symplectic structure on \(M_r\) obtained from the reduction of the fusion product of conjugacy classes to a symplectic manifold.
Recall, we defined $Pol_n(*)$, the open $n$-gons in $\mathbb{S}^3$ with side-length less than $\pi$, so that we can choose an unique geodesic between vertices. The map $\Phi : P^n \to Pol_n(*) \subset (\mathbb{S}^3)^n$ defined by

$$\Phi(g) = (*, g_1*, g_1g_2*, ..., g_1g_2\cdots g_n*)$$

is a diffeomorphism.

**Proposition 3.1.** The map $\Phi$ is a $K$-equivariant diffeomorphism where $K$ acts on $P^n$ by the dressing action (diagonal conjugation) and on $Pol_n(*)$ by the diagonal action on $(\mathbb{S}^3)^n$.

**Proof:** $* \in P$ is an element in $P$ which is fixed by the $K$-action, that is $Ad_k(*) = *$ for all $k \in K$. For $k \in K$ and $g \in P^n$, $k \cdot g = (Ad_k g_1, ..., Ad_k g_n)$, so

$$\Phi(k \cdot g) = (*, Ad_k(g_1)*, ..., Ad_k(g_1\cdots g_n*))$$

$$= (Ad_k*, Ad_k(g_1*, \cdots, Ad_k(g_1\cdots g_n*)))$$

$$= k \cdot (*, g_1*, ..., g_1\cdots g_n*).$$

\[
\square
\]

**Remark 3.2.** The map $\Phi$ induces a diffeomorphism from $\{g \in P^n : g_1 \cdots g_n = 1\}$ to $CPol(*)$.

We have seen that the $K$-orbits in a quasi-Hamiltonian space are quasi-Hamiltonian spaces. In particular, a conjugacy class $C \subset P$ is a quasi-Hamiltonian space. Let $r \in \mathbb{R}^n$, with $r = (r_1, ..., r_n)$. Let $C_{r_i} \subset P$ denote the conjugacy class in $P$ such that $r_i = d(*, g_i*) = \cos^{-1} \left( -\frac{1}{2} \text{trace}(g_i) \right)$ in $\mathbb{R}$ for all $g_i \in C_{r_i}$.

**Lemma 3.3.** The map $\Phi$ induces a $K$-equivariant diffeomorphism from $C_{r_1} \times \cdots \times C_{r_n}$ to $\tilde{N}_r$, the space of open $n$-gons with fixed side-lengths based at $*$, where $r_i = d(g_1, g_i*, g_1, g_{i-1}*), for all 1 \leq i \leq n$.

**Proof:** Follows from the fact that $k$ fixes side-lengths.

\[
\square
\]

**Corollary 3.4.** $\Phi$ induces a diffeomorphism from the space $\{g \in C^n_r : g_1 \cdots g_n = 1\}/K$ to $M_r$ the moduli space of closed $n$-gons in $\mathbb{S}^3$.

In §2.3 we saw that the fusion product of $n$ conjugacy classes in $P$, $(C^n_r, \tilde{\mu}, \tilde{w})$, is a quasi-Hamiltonian space with the moment map $\tilde{\mu}$ given by multiplication. So, $\tilde{\mu}^{-1}(1)/K = \{g \in C^n_r : g_1 \cdots g_n = 1\}/K$. We must determine when this restriction and quotient gives rise to symplectic manifold. Lemma 2.7 tells us that $\tilde{\mu}^{-1}(1)/K$ is a symplectic manifold when

- $\tilde{w}$ is everywhere nondegenerate on $C^n_r$
- $1$ is a regular value of $\tilde{\mu}$.

We use the following remark from [AKS, Example 5.5.4] to give the nondegeneracy condition.

**Remark 3.5.** Let $K$ be a quasi-Poisson Lie group arising from the standard quasi-triple and $(M, \mu, w)$ is a quasi-Hamiltonian space. Then $(M, \mu, w)$ is nondegenerate if and only if, for each $m \in M$,

$$\ker(w^n_m) = \{\mu^*(x, \theta) : x \in \ker(1 + Ad_{\mu(m)})\}.$$

Here $x \in \mathfrak{t}$.
It follows that the fusion product of conjugacy classes is nondegenerate.

**Lemma 3.6.** 1 is a regular value of \( \bar{\mu} \) if and only if \( f_g = \{ x \in \mathfrak{t} : x_c = 0 \} = 0 \) for all \( g \in \mu^{-1}(1) \).

**Proof:** We refer to Lemma 2.4. Let \( x \in \mathfrak{t} \). Then \( x \in (Im(d\bar{\mu}_g))^\perp \iff (x, \bar{\mu}^* \theta) = 0 \iff 0 = \bar{w}^i((x, \bar{\mu}^* \theta)) = ((1 + Ad_{\bar{\mu}_g})x)_{c^2} = (2x)_{c^2} \). \( \square \)

A polygon is said to be degenerate if it can be contained in a geodesic in \( S^3 \). It follows from the above lemma that if there does not exist \( g \in \mu^{-1}(1) \subset C_n^r \) such that \( \Phi(g) \) is a degenerate polygon, then 1 is a regular value of \( \bar{\mu} \).

**Theorem 3.7.** The moduli space \( M_r \) containing no degenerate polygons has a symplectic structure which is the transport structure from the moduli space \( \mu^{-1}(1)/K \).

In \( \S 6 \), we need a formula for the symplectic form on \( M_r \) in \( \S 6 \).

**Remark 3.8.** The symplectic form is given by

\[
\omega = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{i-1}} \tilde{\theta}_i \wedge_b Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} \tilde{\theta}_j).
\]

where \( \omega_i \) is the quasi-Hamiltonian 2-form on the conjugacy class \( C_i \subset SU(2) \), see [AMM1], and \( \tilde{\theta}_i \) is the right-invariant Maurer-Cartan form on \( C_i \subset SU(2) \). We denote by \( \wedge_b \) the wedge product together with the killing form on \( G \).

4. **Bending Hamiltonians**

4.1. **Hamiltonian vector fields.** Recall, \( K = SU(2) \) and \( C_n^r = C_{r_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus C_{r_n} \), where \( C_{r_i} \subset P \) is a conjugacy class in \( P \simeq SU(2) \). Let \( (x, y) = -\frac{1}{2} Tr(xy) \). In this section we will compute the Hamiltonian vector fields \( X_{f_j} \) associated to the functions \( f_i \in C^\infty(C_r^n)^K \) given by

\[ f_j(g) = tr(g_1 \cdots g_j), \ 1 \leq j \leq n. \]

See \( \S 2.4 \) for the definition of the Poisson bracket on \( C^\infty(C_r^n)^K \). We leave it to the reader to verify the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.1.**

\[
D_{i+1}f_j(g) = D_{i}^lf_j(g), \ 1 \leq i \leq j - 1
\]

\[
D_1f_j(g) = D_{j}^lf_j(g)
\]

for all \( 1 \leq j \leq n \).

We define \( F_j : P \to \mathfrak{t} \) by

\[
F_j(g) = \left((g_1 \cdots g_j) - (g_1 \cdots g_j)^{-1}\right).
\]

We then have the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.2.** \( F_j(g) = D_1f_j(g) \)
\textbf{Proof:} For $g \in C^n_r$ and $X \in \mathfrak{t}$

\[
(D_{f_j}(g), X) = \frac{d}{dt} \bigg|_{t=0} tr(e^{tX} g_1 g_2 \cdots g_j) = tr(X g_1 g_2 \cdots g_j) = tr(g_1 g_2 \cdots g_j X)
\]

but since

\[
tr((g_1 g_2 \cdots g_j)^{-1} X) = tr((g_1 \cdots g_j)^* X) = tr(X^* g_1 \cdots g_j) = -tr(g_1 \cdots g_j X)
\]

it follows that

\[
tr(g_1 g_2 \cdots g_j X) = \frac{1}{2} tr \left( ((g_1 g_2 \cdots g_j) - (g_1 \cdots g_j)^{-1}) X \right) = -((g_1 \cdots g_j) - (g_1 \cdots g_j)^{-1}, X).
\]

Since $-((g_1 \cdots g_j) - (g_1 \cdots g_j)^{-1}) \in \mathfrak{t}$ and $(,)$ is a nondegenerate bilinear form, we have

\[
D_{f_j}(g) = -(g_1 \cdots g_j) - (g_1 \cdots g_j)^{-1} = -F_j(g).
\]

We have the following formula of the Hamiltonian vector fields $X_{f_i}$.

\textbf{Theorem 4.3.} The Hamiltonian vector field $X_{f_i}$ has an $i$-th component given by

\[
(X_{f_i}(g))_i = dR_{g_i} F_j(g) - dL_{g_i} F_j(g), \ 1 \leq i \leq j,
\]

\[
(X_{f_i}(g))_i = 0, \ j < i \leq n
\]

\textbf{Proof:} Recall from Corollary 2.13 that for $\psi \in C^\infty(C^n_r)^K, X_{\psi}(g)$ is given by

\[
(X_{\psi}(g))_i = dL_{g_i} \Psi_i(g) - dR_{g_i} \Psi_i(g)
\]

where $\Psi_i(g) = D_1 \psi(g) - D_1^* \psi(g) + D_2 \psi(g) - \cdots - D_{i-1} \psi(g) + D_i \psi(g)$. This together with Lemma 4.1 gives us

\[
(X_{f_j}(g))_i = dL_{g_i} D_1 f_j(g) - dR_{g_i} D_1 f_j(g), \ 1 \leq i \leq j
\]

and

\[
(X_{f_j}(g))_i = 0, \ j < i \leq n.
\]

But from Lemma 4.2, $-F_j(g) = D_1 f_j(g)$, completing the proof.

\textbf{4.2. Commuting flows.} In this section we will show the family of Hamiltonians $\{f_j\}_{j=1}^n$ Poisson commute for $1 \leq j \leq n$.

\textbf{Proposition 4.4.} $\{f_i, f_j\} \equiv 0$ for all $i, j$. 

Proof: Without loss of generality we may assume $i < j$, then by Proposition 2.12

$$\{f_i, f_j\}(g) = \sum_{k=1}^{j} \left( D_k' f_i(g) - D_k f_i(g), F_j(g) \right)$$

$$= - \left( \sum_{k=1}^{j} (D_k' f_i(g) - D_k f_i(g), F_j(g)) \right)$$

$$= \left( 0, F_j(g) \right)$$

$$= 0$$

Here we used $\sum_{k=1}^{i} (D_k f_i - D_k' f_i) = 0$. \hfill \Box

4.3. Hamiltonian flow. In this section we will calculate the Hamiltonian flow, $\Phi^t_j$, associated to $f_j$. Recall that the Hamiltonian flow is the solution to the ODE

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dg_i}{dt} = dR_{g_i} F_j(g) - dL_{g_i} F_j(g), & 1 \leq i \leq j \\ \frac{dg_i}{dt} = 0, & i > j \end{cases} \quad (*)$$

**Lemma 4.5.** $F_j(g)$ is invariant along solution curves of $(*)$.

**Proof:** To prove the lemma, it suffices to show that $\psi_j(g) = g_1 \cdots g_j$ is invariant along solution curves of $(*)$.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \psi_j(g(t)) = \frac{d}{dt} (g_1(g)g_2(t) \cdots g_j(t))$$

$$= \frac{dg_1}{dt}(g_2(t) \cdots g_j(t)) + \frac{dg_2}{dt}(t) \cdots g_j(t) + \cdots + g_1(t) \frac{dg_j}{dt}(t)$$

$$= [F_j(g(t))g_1(t) - g_1(t)F_j(g(t))]g_2(t) \cdots g_j(t) + g_1(t)[F_j(g(t))g_2(t) - g_2(t)F_j(g(t))] \cdots g_j(t)$$

$$= g_1(t)g_2(t) \cdots [F_j(g(t))g_j(t) - g_j(t)F_j(g(t))]$$

$$= F_j(g(t))g_1(t) \cdots g_j(t) = 0$$

\hfill \Box

**Lemma 4.6.** The curve $\exp \left( tF_j(g) \right)$ is periodic with period $2\pi / \sqrt{4 - f_j^2}$.

**Proof:** Left to reader. \hfill \Box

We are now able to find the Hamiltonian flow $\Phi^t_j$.

**Theorem 4.7.** The Hamiltonian flow, $\Phi^t_j$, associated to the Hamiltonian $f_j$ given by $\Phi^t_j(g) = (g_1(t), \ldots, g_n(t))$ where

$$\bar{g}_i(t) = \begin{cases} Ad(\exp(tF_j(g)))g_i, & 1 \leq i \leq j \\ g_i, & j < i \leq n. \end{cases}$$

The flow is periodic with period $2\pi / \sqrt{4 - f_j^2}$.
The flows \( \{ \Phi_j^t \} \) do not give rise to a torus action on \( M_r \) since they do not have constant period. We now look at the length functions \( \ell_j(g) = \cos^{-1}(-\frac{1}{2}f_j(g)) \). Then

\[
d\ell_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4 - f_j^2}} df_j
\]

and

\[
X_{\ell_j} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4 - f_j^2}} X_{f_j}.
\]

It is not difficult to see that the family of functions \( \{ \ell_j \}_{j=2}^{n-1} \) also Poisson commute, but their Hamiltonian flows are not everywhere defined. If we restrict to the space \( M'_r \) such \( \ell_j \neq 0 \) or \( \ell_j \neq \pi \) for all diagonals in \( M_r \). The Hamiltonian flows \( \{ \Psi_j^t \} \) on \( M'_r \) associated to \( \{ \ell_j \} \) are periodic with constant period \( 2\pi \) and constant angular velocity 1. These flows define a Hamiltonian \( (n-3) \)-torus action on the space \( M'_r \).

5. Braid action on \( M_r \)

There exists an action of the pure braid group \( P_n \) on the manifold \( M_r \) which preserves the symplectic structure. In this section, we show that the generators of the pure braid group arise as the time 1 Hamiltonian flows of the family of functions \( h_{ij}, 1 \leq i < j \leq n-1 \) where \( h_{ij} \in C^\infty(M_r)^K \) is defined by,

\[
h_{ij}(g) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \cos^{-1}(-\frac{1}{2}f_{ij}(g)) \right)^2.
\]

Let \( C_{12} \) denote \( C_1 \oplus C_2 \), where \( C_i \subset P \) is a conjugacy class. Let \( w_{12} \) denote the quasi-Poisson bivector on \( C_{12} \). We have the following proposition.

**Proposition 5.1.** The diffeomorphism \( R : C_1 \oplus C_2 \to C_2 \oplus C_1 \) given by \( R(g_1, g_2) = (Ad_{g_2}g_2, g_1) \) is a bivector map taking \( w_{12} \) to \( w_{21} \).

**Remark 5.2.** The diffeomorphism \( R' : C_1 \oplus C_2 \to C_2 \oplus C_1 \) given by \( R'(g_1, g_2) = (g_2, Ad_{g_1}^{-1}g_1) \) is also a bivector map taking \( w_{12} \) to \( w_{21} \).

**Remark 5.3.** \( R \circ R' = Id_{C_1 \oplus C_2} = R' \circ R \)

We now define \( R_i : C_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus (C_i \oplus C_{i+1}) \oplus \cdots \oplus C_n \to C_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus (C_{i+1} \oplus C_i) \oplus \cdots \oplus C_n \) to be the map given by

\[
R_i(g_1, \ldots, g_i, g_{i+1}, \ldots g_n) = (g_1, \ldots, Ad_{g_i}g_{i+1}, g_i, \ldots g_n)
\]

that is, \( R \) applied to the \( i \)th and \( (i+1) \)th term of \( M_r \). \( R_i \) can be defined in a similar way.

**Lemma 5.4.** The full braid group \( B_n \) has a faithful representation as a group of automorphisms of the closed \( n \)-gons in \( \mathbb{S}^3 \) in which side-lengths are fixed but the order of the sides is not fixed. The generators of \( B_n \) are given by \( R_i, 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \).

We now restrict \( B_n \) to \( P_n \) to get an action of the pure braid group on \( C^n_r \). This action induces a symplectomorphism on the moduli space \( M_r \).

**Corollary 5.5.** Let \( A_{ij} = R_{j-1} \circ \cdots \circ R_{i+1} \circ R_i^2 \circ R_{i+1}^2 \circ \cdots \circ R_{j-1}^2, 1 \leq i < j \leq n \). \( A_{ij} \) induces a symplectomorphism from \( M_r \) to itself. \( A_{ij}, 1 \leq i < j \leq n \) are the generators of \( P_n \) which has a faithful representation as a group of automorphisms of \( M_r \).
We will now show that the braid group actions \( A_{ij} \) can be realized as the time one Hamiltonian flows of the Hamiltonians \( h_{ij} \) given at the start of the section. We begin by studying the Hamiltonian flows associated to the functions \( f_{ij} \in C^\infty(C^n) \) given by \( f_{ij}(g) = \text{tr}(gg_j) \). Define \( F_{ij} : C^n \to \mathfrak{g} \) by \( F_{ij}(g) = \left( (gg_j) - (gg_j)^{-1} \right) \).

The Hamiltonian flow associated to \( f_{ij} \) is given by \( \Phi_t^{f_{ij}}(g) = (\hat{g}_1(t), ..., \hat{g}_n(t)) \) where

\[
\hat{g}_k(t) = \begin{cases} 
  g_k, & 0 < k < i \text{ and } j < k < n + 1 \\
  \text{Ad} \left( \exp \left( tF_{ij}(g) \right) \right) g_k, & k = i, j \\
  \text{Ad} \left( \exp \left( tF_{ij}(g) \right) g_j \exp \left( -tF_{ij}(g) \right) g_j^{-1} \right) g_k, & i < k < j.
\end{cases}
\]

The following formula is used to relate \( \Phi_t^{f_{ij}} \) to \( A_{ij} \).

**Lemma 5.6.**

\[
\exp \left( \frac{\cos^{-1}(-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(g))}{\sqrt{4 - \text{tr}^2(g)}} (g - g^{-1}) \right) = g
\]

We now notice that for time \( t = \frac{\cos^{-1}(-\frac{1}{2} f_{ij}(g))}{\sqrt{4 - f_{ij}^2(g)}} \),

\[
\Phi_t^{f_{ij}} = A_{ij}
\]

The time for which the \( \Phi_t^{f_{ij}} \) flows depends on the point in \( M_r \) at which flow begins. We would like time to be independent on the starting point. We can achieve this by taking the Hamiltonian flows of the functions \( h_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \cos^{-1}(-\frac{1}{2} f_{ij}) \right)^2 \). The Hamiltonian flow \( \Phi_t^{h_{ij}} \) associated to \( h_{ij} \) is the renormalization of the flow \( \Phi_t^{f_{ij}} \) so that

\[
\Phi_t^{h_{ij}} = A_{ij}
\]
on \( M_r \). We can see the pure braid group as the integer points in the Hamiltonian flows \( \Phi_t^{h_{ij}}, 1 \leq i < j \leq n \).

**6. Connection with symplectic forms on relative character varieties of \( n \)-punctured 2-spheres**

In this section, we relate the symplectic form on \( M_r(S^3) \) given in Remark 3.8 to the symplectic form of Goldman type obtained from the description of \( M_r(S^3) \) as the moduli space of flat connections on an \( n \)-punctured 2-sphere. We follow the arguments of Kapovich and Millson [KM1, §5] which considers the analogous question for \( M_r(\mathbb{P}^3) \). We begin with the general case in which \( G \) is any Lie group with Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{g} \) which admits a nondegenerate, \( G \)-invariant, symmetric, bilinear form.

**6.1. Relative characteristic varieties and parabolic cohomology.** Let \( \Sigma = S^2 - \{ p_1, ..., p_n \} \) denote the \( n \)-punctured 2-sphere and \( U_1, ..., U_n \) be disjoint disc neighborhoods of \( p_1, ..., p_n \), respectively. Further, \( \Gamma \) is the fundamental group of \( \Sigma \) with generators \( \gamma_i \), \( \Gamma = \left\{ \Gamma_1, ..., \Gamma_n \right\} \) is the collection of subgroups of \( \Gamma \) with \( \Gamma_i \) the cyclic subgroup generated by \( \gamma_i \), and \( U = U_1 \cup \cdots \cup U_n \).

Fix \( \rho_0 \in \text{Hom}(\Gamma, G) \) a representation. In [KM2] the relative representation variety \( \text{Hom}(\Gamma, T; G) \) is defined as the representations \( \rho : \Gamma \to G \) such that \( \rho|_{\Gamma_i} \) is contained in the closure of the conjugacy class of \( \rho_0|_{\Gamma_i} \).
Remark 6.1. If $G = SU(2)$, there exists a $\rho_0$ such that the relative character variety $\Hom(\Gamma, T; G)/G$ is isomorphic to $M_r(S^3)$. We will make this isomorphism explicit later on.

Let $\rho \in \Hom(\Gamma, T; G)$. Then $\rho$ induces a flat principal $G$-bundle over $\Sigma$. The associated flat Lie algebra bundle will be denoted by $ad \rho$.

We define the parabolic cohomology, $H^1_{par}(\Sigma, ad \rho)$ to be the subspace of the de Rham cohomology classes in $H^1_{dR}(\Sigma, ad \rho)$ whose restrictions to each $U_i$ are trivial.

6.2. Gauge theoretic description of the symplectic form. Let $b$ be the nondegenerate, $G$-invariant, symmetric, bilinear form on $\mathfrak{g}$. A skew symmetric bilinear form

$$B : H^1_{par}(\Sigma, ad \rho) \times H^1_{par}(\Sigma, ad \rho) \rightarrow H^2(\Sigma, U; \mathbb{R})$$

is defined by taking the wedge product together with the bilinear form $b$. Evaluating on the relative fundamental class of $\Sigma$ gives the skew symmetric form,

$$A : H^1_{par}(\Sigma, ad \rho) \times H^1_{par}(\Sigma, ad \rho) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

Poincare duality gives us nondegeneracy of $A$, so $A$ is a symplectic form on $\Hom(\Gamma, T; G)$. We will show $A$ corresponds to the symplectic form $\omega$ given in Remark 3.8.

We first pass through the group cohomology description of $H^1_{par}(\Sigma, ad \rho)$ to make this correspondence explicit.

We identify the universal cover of $\Sigma$, denoted $\tilde{\Sigma}$, with the hyperbolic plane, $\mathbb{H}^2$. Let $p : \tilde{\Sigma} \rightarrow \Sigma$ by the covering projection. We define the $\mathcal{A}^*(\tilde{\Sigma}, p^* Ad \rho)$ by parallel translation from a point $x_0$. Given $[\eta] \in H^1(\Sigma, ad \rho)$ choose a representing closed 1-form $\eta \in \mathcal{A}^1(\Sigma, ad \rho)$. Let $\tilde{\eta} = p^* \eta$. Then there is a unique function $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ satisfying:

- $f(x_0) = 0$
- $df = \tilde{\eta}$

A 1-cochain $h(\eta) \in C^1(\Gamma, \mathfrak{g})$ is defined by

$$h(\eta)(\gamma) = f(\gamma) - Ad_\rho(\gamma)f(\gamma^{-1}x).$$

This induces an isomorphism from $H^1_{par}(\Sigma, ad \rho)$ to $H^1(\Gamma, \mathfrak{g})$. It can be seen that $[\eta] \in H^1_{par}(\Sigma, ad \rho)$ if and only if $h(\eta)$ restricted to $\Gamma$ is exact for all $i$. That is, there exists an $x_i \in \mathfrak{g}$ such that $h(\eta)(\gamma^k_i) = x_i - Ad_\rho(\gamma^k_i)x_i$ for each $\gamma_i$ a generator of $\Gamma$.

We construct the fundamental domain $\mathcal{D}$ for $\Gamma$ operating on $\mathbb{H}^2$ as in [KM1]. Choose $x_0$ on $\Sigma$ and make cuts along geodesics from $x_0$ to the cusps. The resulting fundamental domain $\mathcal{D}$ is a geodesic 2$n$-gon with vertices $v_1, ..., v_n$ and cusps $v_1^\infty, ..., v_n^\infty$ ordered so that as we proceed clockwise around $\partial \mathcal{D}$ we see $v_1, v_1^\infty, ..., v_n, v_n^\infty$. The generator $\gamma_i$ fixes $v_i^\infty$ and satisfies $\gamma_iv_{i+1} = v_i$. Let $e_i$ be the oriented edge joining $v_i$ to $v_i^\infty$ and $\tilde{e}_i$ be the oriented edge joining $v_i^\infty$ to $v_{i+1}$. Then $\gamma^2_i e_i = -e_i$.

Let $\rho \in Hom(\Gamma, T; G)$ and $c, c' \in T\rho(\Hom(\Gamma, T; G)/G) \approx H^1_{par}(\Gamma, \mathfrak{g})$ be tangent vectors at $\rho$. The corresponding elements in $H^1_{par}(\Sigma, ad \rho)$ are denoted $\alpha$ and $\alpha'$. So $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ which satisfies $df = \alpha$ and $f_\rho(x_0) = 0$. Let $f(v_i^\infty) = x_i$. Then

$$c(\gamma_i) = f(\gamma_i) - Ad_\rho(\gamma_i)f(\gamma_i^{-1}x)$$

$$= f(v_i^\infty) - Ad_\rho(\gamma_i)f(v_i^\infty)$$

$$= f(v_i^\infty) - Ad_\rho(\gamma_i)f(v_i^\infty)$$

$$= x_i - Ad_\rho(\gamma_i)x_i.$$
There is an equivalent formulas for \( \ell', \alpha' \), and \( f' \) with \( f'(v_i^\infty) = x'_i \).

Let \( B_\bullet(\Gamma) \) be the bar resolution of \( \Gamma \). Thus \( B_k(\Gamma) \) is the free \( \mathbb{Z}[\Gamma] \)-module on the symbols \( [\gamma_1 \gamma_2 \cdots | \gamma_k] \) with

\[
\partial[\gamma_1 \gamma_2 \cdots | \gamma_k] = \gamma_1 [\gamma_2 \cdots | \gamma_k] + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (-1)^i [\gamma_1 \cdots | \gamma_i \gamma_{i+1} \cdots | \gamma_k] + (-1)^k [\gamma_1 \cdots | \gamma_{k-1}].
\]

Let \( C_k(\Gamma) = B_k(\Gamma) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]} \mathbb{Z} \) with \( \mathbb{Z}[\Gamma] \) acting on \( \mathbb{Z} \) by the homomorphism \( \epsilon \) defined by

\[
\epsilon(\sum_{i=1}^{m} a_i \gamma_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} a_i.
\]

Then \( C_k(\gamma) \) is the free abelian group on the symbols \( (\gamma_1 | \cdots | \gamma_k) = [\gamma_1 | \gamma_2 | \cdots | \gamma_k] \otimes 1 \) with

\[
\partial(\gamma_1 | \gamma_2 | \cdots | \gamma_k) = (\gamma_2 | \cdots | \gamma_k) + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (-1)^i (\gamma_1 | \cdots | \gamma_i \gamma_{i+1} \cdots | \gamma_k) + (-1)^k (\gamma_1 | \cdots | \gamma_{k-1}).
\]

A relative fundamental class \( F \in C_2(\Gamma) \) is defined by the property

\[
\partial F = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\gamma_i).
\]

Let \( [\Gamma, \partial\Gamma] = \sum_{i=2}^{n} (\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{i-1} | \gamma_i) \in C_2(\Gamma) \), then

**Lemma 6.2.** \([\Gamma, \partial\Gamma] \) is a relative fundamental class.

**Proof:** The proof is left to the reader.

We will now give the symplectic form \( A \) in terms of group cohomology. We denote by \( \cup_b \) the cup product of Eilenberg-MacLane cochains using the form \( b \) on the coefficients.

**Proposition 6.3.**

\[
A(\alpha, \alpha') = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle c \cup_b x'_i, (\gamma_i) \rangle - \langle c \cup_b \partial', [\Gamma, \partial\Gamma] \rangle.
\]

We will use the next Lemmas to prove Proposition 6.3.

**Lemma 6.4.**

\[
\int_{e_i} B(f, \alpha') + \int_{\bar{e}_i} B(f, \alpha') = b(c(\gamma_i), f'(v_i^\infty)) - b(c(\gamma_i), f'(v_i)).
\]
Proof: Recall $\gamma \widehat{e}_i = -e_i$, so that $\widehat{e}_i = -\gamma_i^{-1}e_i$. We then have

$$
\int_{\epsilon_i} B(f, \bar{v}') + \int_{\bar{e}_i} B(f, \bar{v}') = \int_{\epsilon_i} B(f, \bar{v}') + \int_{\bar{e}_i} B(f, \bar{v}')
$$

$$
= \int_{\epsilon_i} B(f, \bar{v}') + \int_{\bar{e}_i} B(f, \bar{v}')
$$

$$
= \int_{\epsilon_i} B(f, \bar{v}') + \int_{\bar{e}_i} (\gamma_i^{-1})^*B(f, \bar{v}')
$$

$$
= \int_{\epsilon_i} B(f, \bar{v}') + \int_{\bar{e}_i} B((\gamma_i^{-1})^*f, (\gamma_i^{-1})^*\bar{v}')
$$

$$
= \int_{\epsilon_i} B(f, \bar{v}') + \int_{\bar{e}_i} B(Ad_{\rho(\gamma_i)}(\gamma_i^{-1})^*f, Ad_{\rho(\gamma_i)}(\gamma_i^{-1})^*\bar{v}')
$$

$$
= \int_{\epsilon_i} B(f - Ad_{\rho(\gamma_i)}(\gamma_i^{-1})^*f, \bar{v}')
$$

$$
= \int_{\epsilon_i} B(f, \bar{v}') - b(c(\gamma_i), f'(v'_i)) - b(c(\gamma_i), f'(v_i))
$$
\[
\sum_{i=1}^{n} b \left( c(\gamma), f^\prime(v_i) \right) = - \sum_{i=1}^{n} b \left( c(\gamma), Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{i-1})} c'(\gamma_{1} \cdots \gamma_{i-1}) \right) \\
= - \sum_{i=1}^{n} b \left( Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{i-1})} c(\gamma_i), c'(\gamma_{1}) + Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1)} c'(\gamma_{2}) + \cdots + Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{i-2})} c'(\gamma_{i-1}) \right) \\
= - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} b \left( Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-1})} c(\gamma_i), Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-2})} c'(\gamma_{j}) \right) \\
= - \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=j+1}^{n} b \left( Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-1})} c(\gamma_i), Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-1})} c'(\gamma_{j}) \right) \\
= \sum_{j=1}^{n} b \left( c(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j}), Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-1})} c'(\gamma_{j}) \right) \\
= \sum_{j=1}^{n} b \left( c(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-1}) + Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-1})} c(\gamma_{j}), Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-1})} c'(\gamma_{j}) \right) \\
= \sum_{j=1}^{n} b \left( c(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-1}), Ad_{\rho(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{j-1})} c'(\gamma_{j}) \right) + \sum_{j=1}^{n} b \left( c(\gamma_{j}), c'(\gamma_{j}) \right) \\
= \langle c \cup_b c', [\Gamma, \partial \Gamma] \rangle + \sum_{j=1}^{n} b \left( c(\gamma_{j}), f'(v_j^\infty) - Ad_{\rho(\gamma_{j})} f'(v_j^\infty) \right) \\
= \langle c \cup_b c', [\Gamma, \partial \Gamma] \rangle + \sum_{j=1}^{n} b \left( c(\gamma_{j}), f'(v_j^\infty) \right) - \sum_{j=1}^{n} \langle B(c, y_j), (\gamma_{j}) \rangle \\
\]

Proof of Proposition 6.3:

\[
A(\alpha, \alpha') = \int_{\Sigma} B(\alpha, \alpha') \\
= \int_{D} B(\alpha, \alpha') \\
= \int_{\partial D} B(\alpha, f') \\
= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( \int_{\epsilon_i} B(\alpha, f') + \int_{\epsilon_i} B(\alpha, f') \right) \\
= \sum_{j=1}^{n} \langle c \cup_b x_j', (\gamma_{j}) \rangle - \langle c \cup_b c', [\Gamma, \partial \Gamma] \rangle 
\]
6.3. **Correspondence between** $M_r(S^3)$ **and** $\text{Hom}(\Gamma; T; SU(2)) / SU(2)$. **We now restrict to the case** $G = SU(2)$. **We define the isomorphism**

$$\Upsilon : \text{Hom}(\Gamma; T; SU(2)) \to \tilde{M}_r,$$

where $\tilde{M}_r$ is the closed polygonal linkages in $S^3$ based at a point, by

$$\Upsilon(\rho) = (\rho(\gamma_1), \ldots, \rho(\gamma_n)).$$

This induces an isomorphism, which we also denote by $\Upsilon$,

$$\Upsilon : \text{Hom}(\Gamma; T; SU(2))/SU(2) \to M_r.$$ 

The differential $d\Upsilon_{\rho} : T_{\rho}(\text{Hom}(\Gamma; T; SU(2))/SU(2)) \to T_{\Upsilon(\rho)}M_r$ is then defined by

$$d\Upsilon_{\rho}(c) = (dR_{\rho(\gamma_1)}c(\gamma_1), \ldots, dR_{\rho(\gamma_n)}c(\gamma_n)).$$

Here $T_{\rho}(\text{Hom}(\Gamma; T; SU(2))/SU(2))$ is identified with an element of $Z_{par}^1(\Gamma, g)$. We have

$$d\Upsilon_{\rho}(c) = (dR_{g_1}x_1 - dL_{g_1}x_1, \ldots, dR_{g_n}x_n - dL_{g_n}x_n),$$

and

$$d\Upsilon_{\rho}(c') = (dR_{g_1}x'_1 - dL_{g_1}x'_1, \ldots, dR_{g_n}x'_n - dL_{g_n}x'_n).$$

Recall, the symplectic form on $M_r$ is given by

$$\bar{\omega} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} (\text{Ad}_{g_1 \cdots g_{i-1}} \bar{\theta}_i \wedge \text{Ad}_{g_{i+1} \cdots g_{j-1}} \bar{\theta}_j).$$

We can now prove the main result of this section

**Theorem 6.6.** $\Upsilon^* \bar{\omega} = A$

**Proof:**

First we note that

$$\Upsilon^* \bar{\theta}_i(c) = c(\gamma_i)$$

and

$$(\Upsilon^* \omega_i)(c, c') = \omega_i (dR_{g_i}c(\gamma_i), dR_{g_i}c'(\gamma_i))$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \left( \text{Ad}_{g_i}c(\gamma_i) + c(\gamma_i), c'(x'_i) \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \left( \text{Ad}_{g_i}c(x'_i + x'_i) \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \left( c(\gamma_i), \text{Ad}_{g_i}x'_i \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \left( (\gamma_i), \text{Ad}_{g_i}x'_i \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} (\text{Ad}_{g_1 \cdots g_{i-1}}c(\gamma_i), \text{Ad}_{g_1 \cdots g_{i-1}}c'(\gamma_i)) + (c \cup x'_i, (\gamma_i))$$

It follows that
\[(\bar{\nabla}^i \omega)(c, c') = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\bar{\nabla}^i \omega_i)(c, c') + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} \bar{\nabla}^i (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{i-1}} \delta_i \wedge Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} \delta_j) (c, c') \]
\[
= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle c \cup_b x'_i, \gamma_i \rangle - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2} (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{i-1}} c(\gamma_i), Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{i-1}} c' (\gamma_i)) \\
+ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c(\gamma_i), Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c' (\gamma_j)) \\
- \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c' (\gamma_i), Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c(\gamma_j)) \\
= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle c \cup_b x'_i, \gamma_i \rangle - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2} (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c(\gamma_i), Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c' (\gamma_i)) \\
+ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{i} (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c(\gamma_i), Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c' (\gamma_j)) \\
+ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{i} (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c' (\gamma_i), Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c(\gamma_j)) \\
= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle c \cup_b x'_i, \gamma_i \rangle + \sum_{j=2}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{i-1}} c(\gamma_i), Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{i-1}} c' (\gamma_j)) \\
= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle c \cup_b x'_i, \gamma_i \rangle + \sum_{j=2}^{n} (Ad_{g_1 \cdots g_{j-1}} c' (\gamma_i), c(\gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{i-1})) \\
= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle c \cup_b x'_i, \gamma_i \rangle - \langle c \cup_b c', [\Gamma, \partial \Gamma] \rangle \\
= A(\alpha, \alpha') \]

It is easily seen that the functions \(\ell_i\) from \S 4.2 corresponds to the following Goldman functions. Let \(\varphi: G \to \mathbb{R}\) be defined by \(\varphi(g) = \cos^{-1} \left( -\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr} (g) \right) \). We then defined the function \(\varphi_\gamma: \text{Hom}(\Gamma, T; SU(2))/SU(2) \to \mathbb{R}\) by \(\varphi_\gamma(a) = \varphi(\rho(a))\). We see that
\[\bar{\nabla}^i \ell_i = \varphi_\gamma \gamma_i \]
Then choosing an maximal collection of nonintersecting diagonal on \(M_r\) corresponds to a pair of pants decomposition on \(\Sigma\).

References


THE SYMPLECTIC GEOMETRY OF POLYGONS IN THE 3-SPHERE


DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK, MD 20742, USA
E-mail address: txt@math.umd.edu