

# Spin(9), complex structures and vector fields on spheres

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*Manifolds with special holonomy and their calibrated submanifolds and connections*

Banff, Tuesday, 2012, May 1<sup>st</sup>



MP, Paolo Piccinni.

$\text{Spin}(9)$  and almost complex structures on 16-dimensional manifolds.  
*Ann. Global An. Geom.*, 41 (2012), 321-345.



MP, Paolo Piccinni.

Spheres with more than 7 vector fields: all the fault of  $\text{Spin}(9)$ .  
*arXiv: 1107.0462v2*.



MP, Paolo Piccinni, Victor Vuletescu.

16-dimensional manifolds with a locally conformal parallel  $\text{Spin}(9)$  metric.

*Work in progress.*

- 1  $S^{15}$  and  $\text{Spin}(9)$ 
  - $S^{15}$  is "more equal" than other spheres
  - $\text{Spin}(9)$  and Hopf fibrations
- 2 The  $\text{Spin}(9)$  fundamental form
  - Quaternionic analogy
  - $\text{Spin}(9)$  and Kähler forms on  $\mathbb{R}^{16}$
  - An explicit formula for  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)}$
- 3 Vector fields on spheres
  - Maximum number and examples
  - The general case
- 4 Locally conformal parallel  $\text{Spin}(9)$  manifolds
  - Definition and examples
  - Structure Theorem

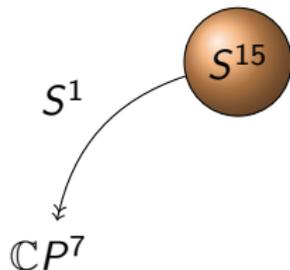
# First characterization: Hopf fibrations

$S^{15}$  is the only sphere involved in three different Hopf fibrations.



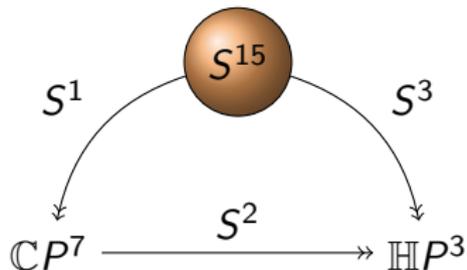
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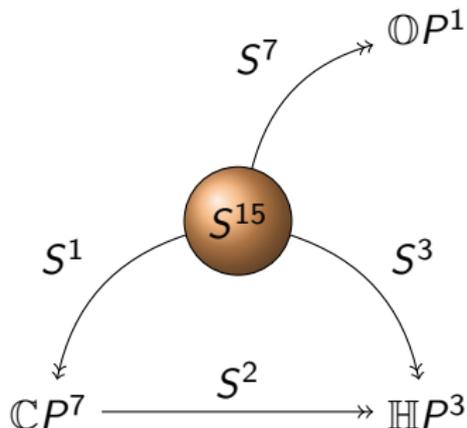
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## Remark

The complex and quaternionic Hopf fibrations are not subfibrations of the octonionic one [Loo-Verjovsky, Topology 1992].

## Second characterization: Einstein metrics

$S^{15}$  is the only sphere with three homogeneous Einstein metrics

[Ziller, Math. Ann. 1982].

- Round metric.
- Einstein metric on  $Sp(4)/Sp(3)$  [Jensen, J. Diff. Geom. 1973].
- Einstein metric on  $Spin(9)/Spin(7)$

[Bourguignon-Karcher, Ann. Sci. Ec. Norm. Sup. 1978].

## Third characterization: vector fields on spheres

$S^{15}$  is the lowest dimensional sphere admitting more than 7 vector fields

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- Number  $\sigma(m)$  of linearly independent vector fields on  $S^{m-1}$ ?
- If  $m = (2k + 1)2^p 16^q$ , with  $0 \leq p \leq 3$ , then

$$\sigma(m) = 8q + 2^p - 1$$

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Spin(9) contribution

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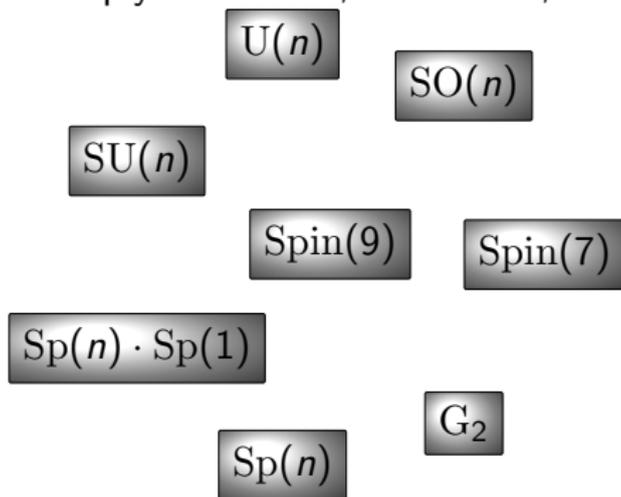
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# Berger's list and $\text{Spin}(9)$ refutation

Holonomy of simply connected, irreducible, nonsymmetric?

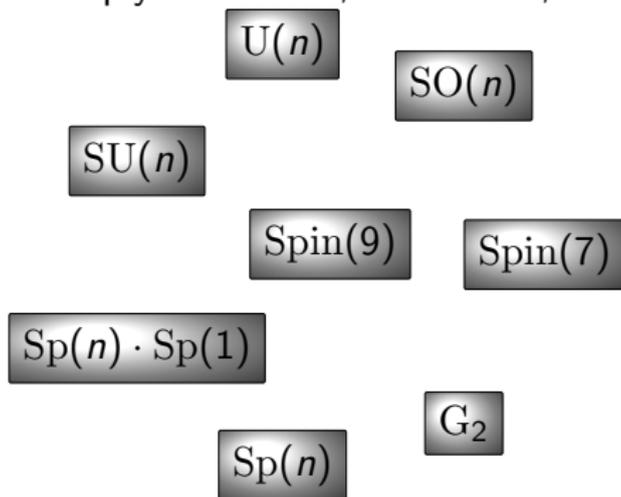
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Simply connected, complete, holonomy  $\text{Spin}(9)$

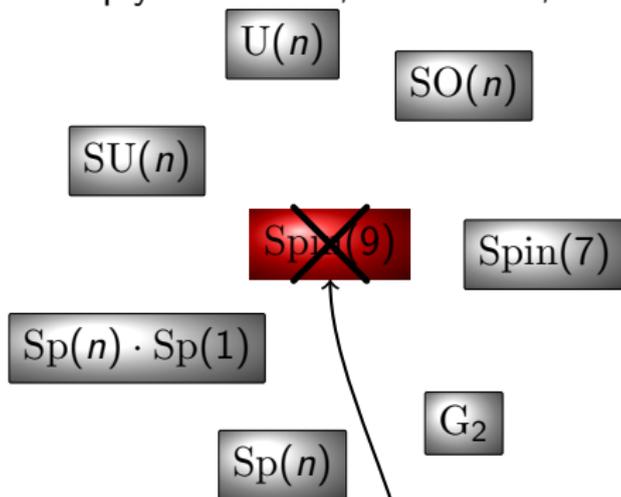
$\Leftrightarrow$

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

[Aleksievsky, *Funct. Anal. Prilozhen* 1968].

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# What is Spin(9)?

## Definition

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

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

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

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

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► Details

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Up to constants

# Time check

Are we left with 32 or more minutes?

▶ Yes, go ahead as planned

▶ No, skip quaternionic analogy

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# A close relative: the quaternionic case

- $\mathrm{Sp}(2) \cdot \mathrm{Sp}(1) \subset \mathrm{SO}(8)$  is the group of symmetries of the Hopf fibration  $\mathbb{H}^2 \supset S^7 \xrightarrow{S^3} S^4 \cong \mathbb{H}P^1$  [Gluck-Warner-Ziller, L'Enseignement Math. 1986].
- $\mathrm{Sp}(2) \cdot \mathrm{Sp}(1)$  is the stabilizer in  $\mathrm{SO}(8)$  of the 4-form  $\Phi_{\mathrm{Sp}(2) \cdot \mathrm{Sp}(1)}$  defined by

$$\Phi_{\mathrm{Sp}(2) \cdot \mathrm{Sp}(1)} = \int_{\mathbb{H}P^1} p_l^* \nu_l dl$$

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# Five involutions for Spin(5)

- Consider in  $\text{Sp}(2)$  the matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} r & R_{\bar{u}} \\ R_u & -r \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $(r, u) \in S^4 \subset \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{H}$  and  $\mathbb{H}^2 \cong \mathbb{R}^8$ .

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- The choice of  $(r, u) = (1, 0), (0, 1), (0, i), (0, j), (0, k)$  gives

$$\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_5 \in \text{SO}(8)$$

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- $\mathcal{I}_1, \dots, \mathcal{I}_5$  satisfy

$$\mathcal{I}_\alpha^2 = \text{Id}, \quad \mathcal{I}_\alpha^* = \mathcal{I}_\alpha, \quad \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta = -\mathcal{I}_\beta \circ \mathcal{I}_\alpha$$

# From involutions to Kähler forms

- Since  $\mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta = -\mathcal{I}_\beta \circ \mathcal{I}_\alpha$ , one gets 10 complex structures

$$J_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta \quad \text{for } \alpha < \beta$$

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## Remark

Denote by  $\tau_2(\theta)$  the second coefficient of the characteristic polynomial of  $\theta = (\theta_{\alpha\beta})$ . Then

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# Nine involutions for Spin(9)

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- Since  $\mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta = -\mathcal{I}_\beta \circ \mathcal{I}_\alpha$ , one gets 36 complex structures

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## From the Kähler forms to the Spin(9) form

Theorem [P-Piccinni, Ann. Gl. An. Geom. 2012]

Denote the characteristic polynomial of  $\theta$  by

$$t^9 + \tau_2(\theta)t^7 + \tau_4(\theta)t^5 + \tau_6(\theta)t^3 + \tau_8(\theta)t$$

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Then

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can be computed with the help of *Mathematica*.

[▶ Show all 702 terms](#)

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Previous work for  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)}$  in [Abe-Matsubara, Korea Japan Conf. Transf. Groups 1997],  
 [Friedrich, Asian J. Math. 2001], [C. Lopez-Gadea-Mykytyuk, int. J. Geom. Methods 2010].

# Questions to the audience



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$\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)} = \int_{\mathbb{O}P^1} p_l^* \nu_l dl$  and  $\Phi_{\text{Sp}(2) \cdot \text{Sp}(1)} = \int_{\mathbb{H}P^1} p_l^* \nu_l dl$  share the following general pattern:

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- $\Phi_{G_2} \in \Lambda^3(\mathbb{R}^7)$  is a calibration, with associative subspaces as calibrated submanifolds. The Grassmannian in this case is  $G_2/\text{SO}(4)$ : is it true that

$$\Phi_{G_2} = \int_{\frac{G_2}{\text{SO}(4)}} p_i^* \nu_i dl$$

- Same question for  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(7)} \in \Lambda^4(\mathbb{R}^8)$ : is it true that

$$\Phi_{\text{Spin}(7)} = \int_{\text{CAY}} p_i^* \nu_i dl$$



## QttA/2

The forms  $\Phi_{\text{Sp}(2)\cdot\text{Sp}(1)}$ ,  $\Phi_{G_2}$ ,  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(7)}$  and  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)}$  are finite sums of 14, 7, 14 and 702 terms respectively.

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- Why these numbers?
- Are these numbers related to finite subgroups of  $\text{Sp}(2) \cdot \text{Sp}(1)$ ,  $G_2$ ,  $\text{Spin}(7)$  and  $\text{Spin}(9)$  respectively?
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In the framework of Clifford structures [Moroiianu-Semmelmann, Adv. Math. 2011], one can associate to any rank  $r$  even Clifford structure a skew-symmetric  $r \times r$  matrix of Kähler forms.

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In the framework of Clifford structures [Moroiianu-Semmelmann, Adv. Math. 2011], one can associate to any rank  $r$  even Clifford structure a skew-symmetric  $r \times r$  matrix of Kähler forms.

- Do the coefficients of the characteristic polynomial have any particular geometrical meaning?

- 1  $S^{15}$  and  $\text{Spin}(9)$ 
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# How many vector fields on spheres?

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

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The lowest dimensional sphere with more than 7 vector field is  $S^{15}$

[Hurwitz, Math. Ann. 1922], [Radon, Abh. Math. Hamburg 1923], [Adams, Ann. of Math. 1962].

The lowest dimension:  $S^{15}$ 

- Coordinates on  $S^{15}$ :

$$N = (x, y) = (x_1, \dots, x_8, y_1, \dots, y_8) \quad \text{unit normal vector field}$$

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- Among the 36 complex structures  $\mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_\beta$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{16}$  associated to the Spin(9) structure, choose  $J_\alpha = \mathcal{I}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{I}_9$ , for  $\alpha = 1, \dots, 8$ .

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**Proposition**

A maximal system of 8 orthonormal vector fields on  $S^{15}$  is given by

$$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$$

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## Remark

The eight complex structures  $\{J_1, \dots, J_8\}$  play a role analogous to that of the units in  $\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}, \mathbb{O}$ .

Next spheres with  $\sigma(m) > 7$ :  $S^{2^p 16-1}$ ,  $p = 1, 2, 3$

Group coordinates in 16-ples  $s^\alpha$ , and split each  $s^\alpha$  as a pair  $(x^\alpha, y^\alpha)$  of 8-ples. Define a conjugation  $D$  by  $(x^\alpha, y^\alpha) \mapsto (x^\alpha, -y^\alpha)$ .

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## Proposition

The following table gives a maximal system of  $\sigma(m)$  orthonormal vector fields on  $S^{2^p 16^{-1}}$ , for  $p = 1, 2, 3$ :

Sphere	$\sigma(m)$	Vector fields	Notations	Involved structures
$p = 1$ : $S^{31}$	$8 + 1$	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(L_i N)$	$N = s^1 + is^2, L_i N = -s^2 + is^1$ $D : (x^\alpha, y^\alpha) \rightarrow (x^\alpha, -y^\alpha)$	$\text{Spin}(9) + \mathbb{C}$
$p = 2$ : $S^{63}$	$8 + 3$	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(L_i N), D(L_j N), D(L_k N)$	$N = s^1 + is^2 + js^3 + ks^4$ $L_i, L_j, L_k$ and $D$ as above	$\text{Spin}(9) + \mathbb{H}$
$p = 3$ : $S^{127}$	$8 + 7$	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(L_i N), \dots, D(L_h N)$	$N = s^1 + is^2 + js^3 + ks^4 + es^5 + fs^6 + gs^7 + hs^8$ $L_i, \dots, L_h$ and $D$ as above	$\text{Spin}(9) + \mathbb{O}$

$$S^{255}: \sigma(m) = 8 + 8$$

- Again, group coordinates in 16-ples  $s^\alpha$ , and split each  $s^\alpha$  as a pair  $(x^\alpha, y^\alpha)$  of 8-ples. Define  $D$  by  $(x^\alpha, y^\alpha) \mapsto (x^\alpha, -y^\alpha)$ .

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- Act on the (column) 16-ples of 16-ples  $(s^1, \dots, s^{16})^T$  by  $J_1, \dots, J_8$ , and call  $\text{block}(J_1), \dots, \text{block}(J_8)$  the resulting automorphisms.

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Sphere	$\sigma(m)$	Vector fields	Notations	Involved structures
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$p = 2: S^{63}$	$8 + 3$	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(L_i N), D(L_j N), D(L_k N)$	$N = s^1 + is^2 + js^3 + ks^4$ $L_i, L_j, L_k$ and $D$ as above	$\text{Spin}(9) + \mathbb{H}$
$p = 3: S^{127}$	$8 + 7$	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(L_i N), \dots, D(L_h N)$	$N = s^1 + is^2 + js^3 + ks^4 + es^5 + fs^6 + gs^7 + hs^8$ $L_i, \dots, L_h$ and $D$ as above	$\text{Spin}(9) + \mathbb{O}$
$S^{255}$	$8 + 8$	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(\text{block}(J_1)N), \dots, D(\text{block}(J_8)N)$	$N = (s^1, \dots, s^{16})$ $\text{block}(J_1), \dots, \text{block}(J_8)$ and $D$ as above	$\text{Spin}(9) + \text{Spin}(9)$

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The vector field  $D_2(L_i N)$  is orthogonal to  $\{J_\alpha N, D(\text{block}(J_\alpha)N)\}_{\alpha=1,\dots,8}$ .

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## Remark

Abuse of notation in previous slides:  $J_\alpha \in \text{Mat}_{16}$ , but for instance in this row  $J_\alpha \in \text{Mat}_{32}$ :

$p = 1: S^{31}$	$8 + 1$	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(L; N)$	$N = s^1 + is^2, L; N = -s^2 + is^1$ $D : (x^\alpha, y^\alpha) \rightarrow (x^\alpha, -y^\alpha)$	$\text{Spin}(9) + \mathbb{C}$
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- Orthonormality is reduced to matrices computation.

## Definition

Define  $\text{diag}_{m,n} : \text{Mat}_m \rightarrow \text{Mat}_{mn}$  by

$$\text{diag}_{m,n}(A) = \begin{pmatrix} A & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & A \end{pmatrix}$$

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## Example

$$\text{diag}_{16,2}(J_\alpha) = \begin{pmatrix} J_\alpha & 0 \\ 0 & J_\alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

formalizes  $J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$  in

$p = 1: S^{31}$	$8 + 1$	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(L_i N)$	$N = s^1 + is^2, L_i N = -s^2 + is^1$ $D : (x^\alpha, y^\alpha) \rightarrow (x^\alpha, -y^\alpha)$	$\text{Spin}(9) + \mathbb{C}$
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## Definition

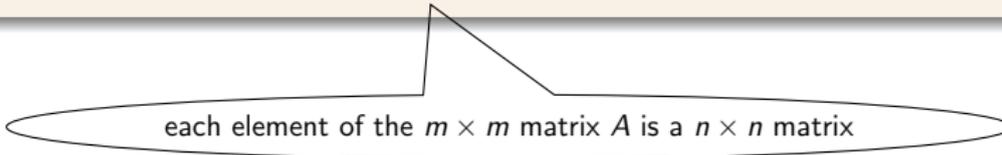
If  $A = (a_{\alpha\beta})_{\alpha,\beta=1,\dots,m}$ , define  $\text{block}_{m,n} : \text{Mat}_m \rightarrow \text{Mat}_{mn}$  by

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## Example

$$\text{block}_{2,16} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\text{Id}_{16} \\ \text{Id}_{16} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

formalizes  $L_i N$  in

$\rho = 1: S^{31}$	$8 + 1$	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(L_i N)$	$N = s^1 + is^2, L_i N = -s^2 + is^1$ $D : (x^\alpha, y^\alpha) \rightarrow (x^\alpha, -y^\alpha)$	$\text{Spin}(9) + \mathbb{C}$
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## Definition

The *basic conjugation* in  $\mathbb{R}^{16^s}$  is

$$D_s = \text{block}_{2, \frac{16^s}{2}} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right) \in \text{Mat}_{16^s}$$

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## Definition

Let  $t \geq 2$  and  $s = 1, \dots, t - 1$ . Then

$$D_{t,s} = \text{diag}_{16^s, 16^{t-s}}(D_s) \in \text{Mat}_{16^t}$$

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$D_{2,1}$  is the conjugation  $D$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{256}$  in the following row:

$S^{255}$	8 + 8	$J_1 N, \dots, J_8 N$ $D(\text{block}(J_1)N), \dots, D(\text{block}(J_8)N)$	$N = (s^1, \dots, s^{16})$ block( $J_1$ ), ..., block( $J_8$ ) and $D$ as above	Spin(9)+Spin(9)
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Main theorem for  $m = 16^q$ 

For any  $q \geq 1$ , the  $8q$  vector fields on  $S^{16^q-1}$  given by

$$\{B^q(t, J_\alpha) = \text{diag}_{16^t, 16^{q-t}} \left( \prod_{s=1}^{t-1} D_{t,s} \text{block}_{16, 16^{t-1}}(J_\alpha) \right)\}_{\substack{t=1, \dots, q \\ \alpha=1, \dots, 8}}$$

are a maximal orthonormal set.

## Definition

- $C_t = \prod_{s=1}^{t-1} D_{t,s}$ .
- $\mathcal{G}^0 = \emptyset$ .
- $\mathcal{G}^1 = \{L_i^{\mathbb{C}}\} \subset \text{Mat}_2$ .
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## Definition

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Theorem:  $\sigma(m) > 7$ ? All the fault of Spin(9)!

Let  $k \geq 0$ ,  $q \geq 1$  and  $p = 0, 1, 2$  or  $3$ . The  $8q + 2^p - 1$  vector fields on  $S^{(2k+1)2^p 16^q - 1}$  given by

$$\{B^{k,p,q}(t, J_\alpha) = \text{diag}_{16^t, (2k+1)2^p 16^{q-t}}(C_t \text{block}_{16, 16^{t-1}}(J_\alpha))\}_{\substack{t=1, \dots, q \\ \alpha=1, \dots, 8}}$$

$$\{L^{k,p,q}(G) = \text{diag}_{2^p 16^q, 2k+1}(\text{diag}_{16^q, 2^p}(C_q) \text{block}_{2^p, 16^q}(G))\}_{G \in \mathcal{G}^p}$$

are a maximal orthonormal set.

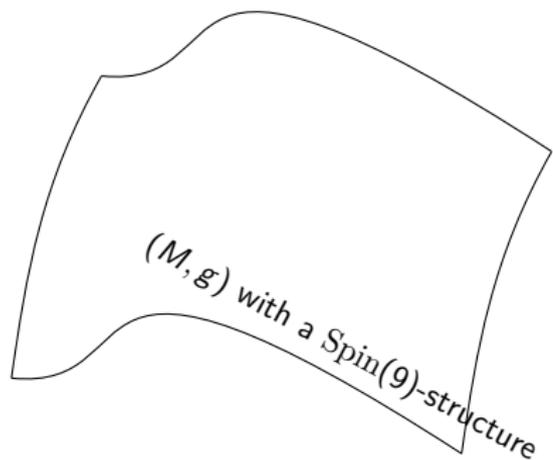
- 1  $S^{15}$  and Spin(9)
  - $S^{15}$  is “more equal” than other spheres
  - Spin(9) and Hopf fibrations
- 2 The Spin(9) fundamental form
  - Quaternionic analogy
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A locally conformal parallel Spin(9) manifold is a 16-dimensional Spin(9) manifold whose induced metric is locally conformal to metrics with holonomy contained in Spin(9).

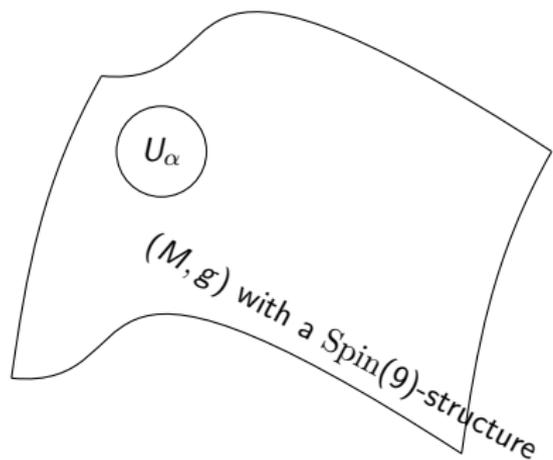
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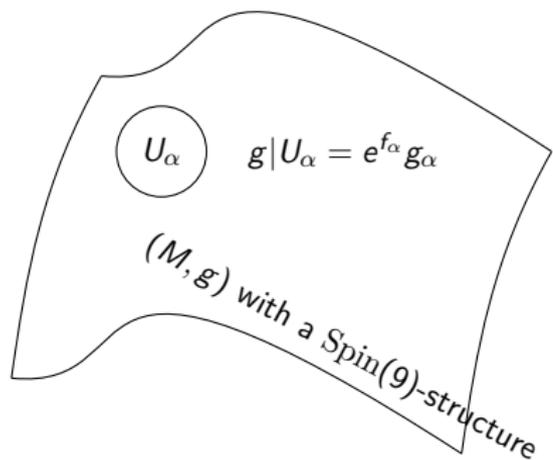
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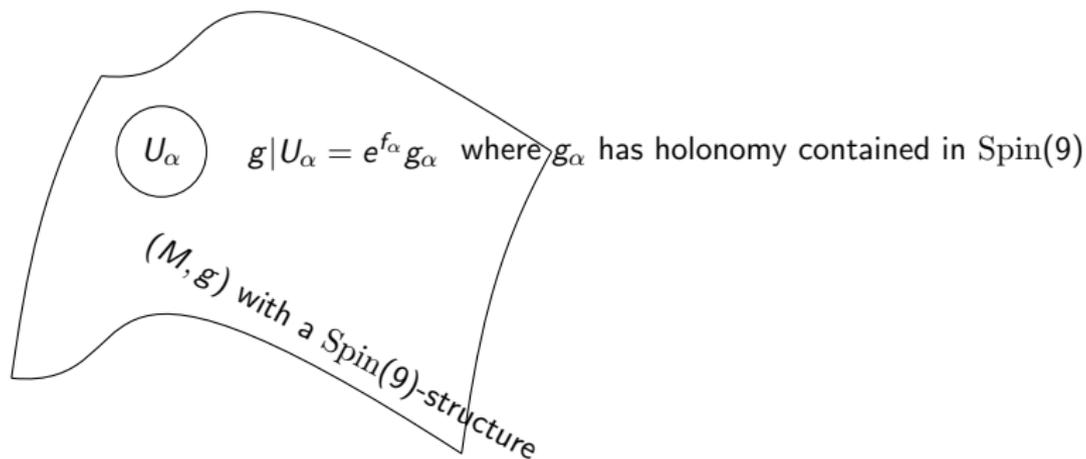
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# Structure of compact locally conformal parallel Spin(9) manifolds

## Theorem [P-Piccinni-Vuletescu]

Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact, locally conformal but not globally conformal parallel Spin(9) manifold. Then

$$M = C(N)/\mathbb{Z}$$

where  $C(N)$  is a flat cone over a compact 15-dimensional manifold  $N$  with finite fundamental group.

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- 5 Since the local metrics  $g_\alpha$  are Einstein,  $D$  is Einstein-Weyl.

# Proof, on the universal covering

- 6 Let  $g$  be the Gauduchon metric, so that  $\nabla\omega = 0$ . Then the universal covering  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  is reducible:  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g}) = (\mathbb{R}, ds) \times (\tilde{N}, g_N)$ , for a compact simply connected  $\tilde{N}$ .

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- 11 We obtain  $\pi_1(M) = I \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $M = C(\tilde{N}/I)/\mathbb{Z}$ .

End of talk. Thank you for your attention!

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

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

▶ Go back

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

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

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

▶ Go back

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

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

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

The nine involutions of  $\text{Spin}(9)$  as  $16 \times 16$  matrices

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

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

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▶ Go back

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

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

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

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

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

Explicit formula for  $\Phi_{G_2}$ 

Denote by  $x_1, \dots, x_7$  the coordinates in  $\mathbb{R}^7$ . Then  $G_2 = \text{stabilizer in } SO(7)$  of

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{G_2} = & dx_1 \wedge dx_2 \wedge dx_4 + dx_2 \wedge dx_3 \wedge dx_5 + dx_3 \wedge dx_4 \wedge dx_6 \\ & + dx_4 \wedge dx_5 \wedge dx_7 + dx_5 \wedge dx_6 \wedge dx_1 + dx_6 \wedge dx_7 \wedge dx_2 \\ & + dx_7 \wedge dx_1 \wedge dx_3 \end{aligned}$$

As a shortcut, we could write

$$\Phi_{G_2} = 124 + 235 + 346 + 457 + 561 + 672 + 713$$

▶ Go back



70 terms of  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)}$ 

12345678	-14	123456	1'2'	2	123456	3'4'	-2	123456	5'6'	-2	123456	7'8'	-2	
123457	1'3'	2	123457	2'4'	2	123457	5'7'	-2	123457	6'8'	2	123458	1'4'	2
123458	2'3'	-2	123458	5'8'	-2	123458	6'7'	-2	123467	1'4'	-2	123467	2'3'	2
123467	5'8'	-2	123467	6'7'	-2	123468	1'3'	2	123468	2'4'	2	123468	5'7'	2
123468	6'8'	-2	123478	1'2'	-2	123478	3'4'	2	123478	5'6'	-2	123478	7'8'	-2
1234	1'2'3'4'	-2	1234	5'6'7'8'	-2	123567	1'5'	-2	123567	2'6'	-2	123567	3'7'	-2
123567	4'8'	2	123568	1'6'	-2	123568	2'5'	2	123568	3'8'	-2	123568	4'7'	-2
123578	1'7'	-2	123578	2'8'	2	123578	3'5'	2	123578	4'6'	2	1235	1'2'3'5'	-1
1235	1'2'4'6'	-1	1235	1'3'4'7'	-1	1235	1'5'6'7'	-1	1235	2'3'4'8'	1	1235	2'5'6'8'	1
1235	3'5'7'8'	1	1235	4'6'7'8'	1	123678	1'8'	-2	123678	2'7'	-2	123678	3'6'	2
123678	4'5'	-2	1236	1'2'3'6'	-1	1236	1'2'4'5'	1	1236	1'3'4'8'	-1	1236	1'5'6'8'	-1
1236	2'3'4'7'	-1	1236	2'5'6'7'	-1	1236	3'6'7'8'	1	1236	4'5'7'8'	-1	1237	1'2'3'7'	-1
1237	1'2'4'8'	1	1237	1'3'4'5'	1	1237	1'5'7'8'	-1	1237	2'3'4'6'	1	1237	2'6'7'8'	-1
1237	3'5'6'7'	-1	1237	4'5'6'8'	1	1238	1'2'3'8'	-1	1238	1'2'4'7'	-1	1238	1'3'4'6'	1

- $\{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,1',2',3',4',5',6',7',8'\}$  are (indexes of) coordinates in  $\mathbb{R}^{16}$ .
- A table entry  $\|123578 \quad 1'7' \quad -2\|$  means that  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)} = \dots - 2dx_1 \wedge dx_2 \wedge dx_3 \wedge dx_5 \wedge dx_7 \wedge dx_8 \wedge dx'_1 \wedge dx'_7 + \dots$
- Table obtained from Berger's definition of  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)}$  with the help of *Mathematica*.
- The coefficients are normalized in such a way that they are all integers with  $\text{gcd} = 1$ .

Computational challenge for  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)}$ 

- Differential geometry in Mathematica? (1) Ricci; (2) EDC; (3) DIY;

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- The implementation of the wedge product can be reduced to a sorting problem:

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→ already solved

→ next slide

## Code to merge 2 sorted lists

[Adapted from the classical *mergesort* algorithm, thanks to Gianluca Amato and Francesca Scozzari]

(\*Take care of sign when swapping\*)

```
sign = 1;
```

(\*Induction base: what to do when one or both the arguments are empty\*)

```
formWedge[{}, {}] = {};
```

```
formWedge[{}, right_] := right;
```

```
formWedge[left_, {}] := left;
```

(\*Compare first terms, and recursively build the ordered list\*)

```
formWedge[left_, right_] :=
```

```
  Switch[Order[left[[1]], right[[1]]],
```

```
    1,
```

```
      Return[Prepend[formWedge[Drop[left, 1], right], left[[1]]],
```

```
    -1,
```

```
      sign = sign*(-1)^Length[left];
```

```
      Return[Prepend[formWedge[left, Drop[right, 1]], right[[1]]],
```

```
    0,
```

```
      Abort[]
```

```
]
```

From Pfaffians to  $\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)}$ 

$$\Phi_{\text{Spin}(9)} \stackrel{\text{utc}}{=} \sum_{1 \leq \alpha_1 < \alpha_2 < \alpha_3 < \alpha_4 \leq 9} (\psi_{\alpha_1 \alpha_2} \wedge \psi_{\alpha_3 \alpha_4} - \psi_{\alpha_1 \alpha_3} \wedge \psi_{\alpha_2 \alpha_4} + \psi_{\alpha_1 \alpha_4} \wedge \psi_{\alpha_2 \alpha_3})^2$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} \psi_{12} = (-12 + 34 + 56 - 78) - ( )' & \psi_{13} = (-13 - 24 + 57 + 68) - ( )' & \psi_{14} = (-14 + 23 + 58 - 67) - ( )' \\ \psi_{15} = (-15 - 26 - 37 - 48) - ( )' & \psi_{16} = (-16 + 25 - 38 + 47) - ( )' & \psi_{17} = (-17 + 28 + 35 - 46) - ( )' \\ \psi_{18} = (-18 - 27 + 36 + 45) - ( )' & \psi_{23} = (-14 + 23 - 58 + 67) + ( )' & \psi_{24} = (13 + 24 + 57 + 68) + ( )' \\ \psi_{25} = (-16 + 25 + 38 - 47) + ( )' & \psi_{26} = (15 + 26 - 37 - 48) + ( )' & \psi_{27} = (18 + 27 + 36 + 45) + ( )' \\ \psi_{28} = (-17 + 28 - 35 + 46) + ( )' & \psi_{34} = (-12 + 34 - 56 + 78) + ( )' & \psi_{35} = (-17 - 28 + 35 + 46) + ( )' \\ \psi_{36} = (-18 + 27 + 36 - 45) + ( )' & \psi_{37} = (+15 - 26 + 37 - 48) + ( )' & \psi_{38} = (16 + 25 + 38 + 47) + ( )' \\ \psi_{45} = (-18 + 27 - 36 + 45) + ( )' & \psi_{46} = (17 + 28 + 35 + 46) + ( )' & \psi_{47} = (-16 - 25 + 38 + 47) + ( )' \\ \psi_{48} = (15 - 26 - 37 + 48) + ( )' & \psi_{56} = (-12 - 34 + 56 + 78) + ( )' & \psi_{57} = (-13 + 24 + 57 - 68) + ( )' \\ \psi_{58} = (-14 - 23 + 58 + 67) + ( )' & \psi_{67} = (14 + 23 + 58 + 67) + ( )' & \psi_{68} = (-13 + 24 - 57 + 68) + ( )' \\ \psi_{78} = (12 + 34 + 56 + 78) + ( )' & & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \psi_{19} = -11' - 22' - 33' - 44' - 55' - 66' - 77' - 88' & \psi_{29} = -12' + 21' + 34' - 43' + 56' - 65' - 78' + 87' \\ \psi_{39} = -13' - 24' + 31' + 42' + 57' + 68' - 75' - 86' & \psi_{49} = -14' + 23' - 32' + 41' + 58' - 67' + 76' - 85' \\ \psi_{59} = -15' - 26' - 37' - 48' + 51' + 62' + 73' + 84' & \psi_{69} = -16' + 25' - 38' + 47' - 52' + 61' - 74' + 83' \\ \psi_{79} = -17' + 28' + 35' - 46' - 53' + 64' + 71' - 82' & \psi_{89} = -18' - 27' + 36' + 45' - 54' - 63' + 72' + 81' \end{array}$$

# Berger and calibrations

## Curiosity

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

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