

# Duality for Lie-Rinehart algebras and Batalin-Vilkovisky algebras

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## Abstract

We will unveil the structure of a special kind of Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra in terms of Lie-Rinehart algebras: For any Lie-Rinehart algebra  $(A, L)$ , Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra structures  $\partial$  on the exterior  $A$ -algebra  $\Lambda_A L$  correspond bijectively to right  $(A, L)$ -module structures on  $A$ ; likewise, generators for the Gerstenhaber algebra  $\Lambda_A L$  correspond bijectively to right  $(A, L)$ -connections on  $A$ . When  $L$  is projective as an  $A$ -module, given a Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra structure  $\partial$  on  $\Lambda_A L$ , the Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra  $(\Lambda_A L, \partial)$  coincides with the standard complex computing the homology of  $L$  with coefficients in  $A$  with reference to the right  $(A, L)$ -module structure determined by  $\partial$ . When  $L$  is also of finite rank  $n$ , via duality, there are bijective correspondences between  $(A, L)$ -connections on  $\Lambda_A^n L$  and right  $(A, L)$ -connections on  $A$  and between left  $(A, L)$ -module structures on  $\Lambda_A^n L$  and right  $(A, L)$ -module structures on  $A$ . Hence there are bijective correspondences between  $(A, L)$ -connections on  $\Lambda_A^n L$  and generators for the Gerstenhaber bracket on  $\Lambda_A L$  and between  $(A, L)$ -module structures on  $\Lambda_A^n L$  and Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra structures on  $\Lambda_A L$ . The homology of such a Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra  $(\Lambda_A L, \partial)$  coincides with the cohomology of  $L$  with coefficients in  $\Lambda_A^n L$ , with reference to the left  $(A, L)$ -module structure determined by  $\partial$ . These observations have various applications to Poisson structures and to differential geometry.

The generalization of the mutual structure of interaction to the differential graded context leads to twilled Lie-Rinehart algebras. These generalize, in the Lie-Rinehart context, complex structures on smooth manifolds. An almost complex manifold determines an “almost twilled pre-Lie-Rinehart algebra”, which is a true twilled Lie-Rinehart algebra if and only if the almost complex structure is integrable. The Gerstenhaber algebra arising from an almost complex structure is a differential Gerstenhaber algebra if and only if the almost complex structure is integrable. This kind of Gerstenhaber algebra, endowed with a generator turning it into a Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra, arises from a Calabi-Yau manifold and explains in particular the relationship between holomorphic

volume forms and exact generators for the corresponding differential Gerstenhaber algebra. This observation yields in particular a conceptual proof of the Tian-Todorov lemma. The notion of generator admits thus an interpretation in terms of homological duality for differential graded Lie-Rinehart algebras.

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# 1 Lie-Rinehart algebras

## 1.1 The definition

$R$  commutative ring with 1

$A$  commutative  $R$ -algebra

$(R, A)$ -Lie algebra [Rinehart]

Lie algebra  $L$  over  $R$

$L \otimes A \rightarrow A$  left action by derivations

$A \otimes L \rightarrow L$  left  $A$ -module structure

compatibility conditions

generalize Lie algebra vector fields on manifold

as a module over its ring of functions

$$\begin{aligned} [\alpha, a\beta] &= \alpha(a)\beta + a[\alpha, \beta] \\ (a\alpha)(b) &= a(\alpha(b)) \end{aligned}$$

for  $a, b \in A$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in L$

when emphasis on pair  $(A, L)$

with mutual structure of interaction

pair  $(A, L)$  : *Lie-Rinehart* algebra

## 1.2 Modules and connections

$A$ -module  $M$

association

$$L \otimes_R M \rightarrow M, (\alpha, x) \mapsto \alpha(x)$$

not necessarily a left  $L$ -module structure, an  $(A, L)$ -*connection*:

$$\alpha(ax) = \alpha(a)x + a\alpha(x) \quad (1.1)$$

$$(a\alpha)(x) = a(\alpha(x)) \quad (1.2)$$

for  $a \in A$ ,  $x \in M$ ,  $\alpha \in L$

*left*  $(A, L)$ -*module structure* on  $M$

connection on  $M$  that is also a left  $L$ -module structure

a left  $(A, L)$ -module structure:

a *flat*  $(A, L)$ -*connection*.

$N$  an  $A$ -module  
 an association

$$N \otimes_R L \rightarrow N, (x, \alpha) \mapsto x \circ \alpha$$

not necessarily right  $L$ -module

somewhat simpler, written as  $(x, \alpha) \mapsto x\alpha$

rather than  $(x, \alpha) \mapsto x \circ \alpha$

a *right*  $(A, L)$ -connection:

$$(ax)\alpha = a(x\alpha) - (\alpha(a))x \quad (1.3)$$

$$x(a\alpha) = a(x\alpha) - (\alpha(a))x \quad (1.4)$$

for  $a \in A, x \in N, \alpha \in L$

a right  $(A, L)$ -connection:

a *right*  $(A, L)$ -module structure:

pairing a right  $L$ -module structure

a right  $(A, L)$ -module structure:

*flat right*  $(A, L)$ -connection

(1.4) not replica of (1.2):

associativity: one consistent way to interpret

$x(a\alpha) = (xa)\alpha$  whence

$$x(a\alpha) = (xa)\alpha = (ax)\alpha = a(x\alpha) - (\alpha(a))x$$

### 1.3 Examples of Lie-Rinehart algebras

- (i)  $M$  manifold,  $(A, L) = (C^\infty(M), \text{Vect}(M))$
- (ii)  $A$  algebra,  $(A, L) = (A, \text{Der}(A))$
- (iii)  $\vartheta: E \rightarrow B$  Lie algebroid:  $(A, L) = (C^\infty(B), \Gamma(\vartheta))$
- (iv)  $(A, \{\cdot, \cdot\})$  Poisson algebra

$A$ -module  $D_A$  of formal differentials on  $A$

$$[\cdot, \cdot]: D_A \otimes D_A \rightarrow D_A, [du, dv] = d\{u, v\},$$

$$D_A \otimes A \rightarrow A, du(a) = \{u, a\}$$

$(A, D_A)$  with structure just explained a Lie-Rinehart algebra

(v) *twilled Lie-Rinehart algebra*

$(A, L)$  Lie-Rinehart

$L = L' \oplus L''$  decomposition of  $A$ -modules,

$(A, L')$  and  $(A, L'')$  both Lie-Rinehart

Example:  $M$  smooth manifold

$$(A, L) = (C^\infty(M, \mathbb{C}), \text{Vect}(M, \mathbb{C}))$$

$J: TM \rightarrow TM$  almost complex, induces

$L = L' \oplus L''$ , decomposition of  $A$ -modules

decomposition being twilled signifies that the almost complex structure is integrable



## 1.4 Salient features of Lie-Rinehart algebras

$(R, A)$ -Lie algebra  $L$ ,

*universal algebra*  $(U(A, L), \iota_L, \iota_A)$

$R$ -algebra  $U(A, L)$  together with

$\iota_A: A \longrightarrow U(A, L)$  morphism of  $R$ -algebras

$\iota_L: L \longrightarrow U(A, L)$  morphism  $R$ -Lie algebras

such that

$$\iota_A(a)\iota_L(\alpha) = \iota_L(a\alpha)$$

$$\iota_L(\alpha)\iota_A(a) - \iota_A(a)\iota_L(\alpha) = \iota_A(\alpha(a))$$

$(U(A, L), \iota_L, \iota_A)$  *universal* among

triples  $(B, \phi_L, \phi_A)$  having these properties

$M$  manifold,  $(A, L) = (C^\infty(M), \text{Vect}(M))$

$U(A, L)$  *algebra of (globally defined)*

*differential operators on  $M$*

## 1.5 Rinehart complex

$\Lambda_A(sL)$  exterior  $A$ -Hopf alg. on susp.  $sL$   
CE operator  $d$  on  $U(A, L) \otimes_A \Lambda_A(sL)$

$$K(A, L) = (U(A, L) \otimes_A \Lambda_A(sL), d)$$

$\text{Hom}_{U(A, L)}(K(A, L), A) = \text{Alt}_A(L, A)$   
 $R$ -chain cx  $A$ -valued  $A$ -multilin. fn's on  $L$   
 $L$  projective as left  $A$ -module:

$K(A, L)$  projective resolution of  $A$  over  $U(A, L)$   
 $(\text{Alt}_A(L, A), d)$  computes  $\text{Ext}_{U(A, L)}^*(A, A)$

$N$  manifold,  $(A, L) = (C^\infty(M), \text{Vect}(M))$   
 $(\text{Alt}_A(L, A), d) (= \text{Hom}_{U(A, L)}(K(A, L), A))$   
ordinary *de Rham complex* of  $N$

de Rham cohomology of  $N$ :

$\text{Ext}_{U(A, L)}^*(A, A)$  over algebra  $U(A, L)$   
of differential operators on  $N$

$L$  ordinary Lie algebra over  $R$

$K(R, L)$  the ordinary Koszul complex

$L$  projective as an  $R$ -module:

$K(R, L)$  Koszul resolution of ground ring  $R$

*Coho Lie-Rinehart algebras comprises de Rham- as well as Lie algebra coho*

## 1.6 Maurer-Cartan algebra

$(A, L)$  Lie-Rinehart:  $(\text{Alt}_A(L, A), d)$ :

*Maurer-Cartan algebra associated with  $(A, L)$*

Converse:

$(A, L)$ ,  $L$  finitely generated projective  $A$ -module

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $d$  be an  $R$ -linear operator on  $\text{Alt}_A(L, A)$  such that  $\text{Alt}_A(L, A)$  differential graded  $R$ -algebra. Then  $(\text{Alt}_A(L, A), d)$  is the Maurer-Cartan algebra of a uniquely determined Lie-Rinehart structure on  $(A, L)$ .*

## 1.7 Generalization

structures make sense in other categories

$(A, L', L'')$  almost twilled:

$\mathcal{A}'' = (\text{Alt}_A(L'', A), d'')$  dg algebra

$\mathcal{L}' = (\text{Alt}_A(L'', L'), d'')$  dg Lie algebra

$(\mathcal{A}'', \mathcal{L}')$  graded Lie-Rinehart

**Theorem 1.2.**  *$(A, L', L'')$  twilled if and only if  $(\mathcal{A}'', \mathcal{L}'; d'')$  a differential graded Lie-Rinehart algebra.*

almost complex case: integrability condition

## 2 Gerstenhaber and Batalin-Vilkovisky algebras

### 2.1 Gerstenhaber algebra

graded commutative algebra  $\mathcal{A}$

degree  $-1$  Lie bracket

$$[\cdot, \cdot]: \mathcal{A} \otimes_R \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

ordinary graded Lie bracket when degrees of elements of  $\mathcal{A}$  are lowered by 1

$a \in \mathcal{A}$  homogeneous:  $[a, \cdot]: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$

derivation of degree  $|a| - 1$

## 2.2 Example of Gerstenhaber algebra

$(A, L)$  Lie-Rinehart

graded exterior  $A$ -algebra  $\Lambda_A L$  over  $L$

$L$  is taken concentrated in degree 1

typical elements of  $\Lambda_A L$  in the form

$$\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_n, \quad \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n \in L$$

bracket  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  on  $L$  induces Gerstenhaber bracket

$$[\cdot, \cdot]: \Lambda_A L \otimes_R \Lambda_A L \longrightarrow \Lambda_A L$$

on  $\Lambda_A L$

explicit formula:  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in L$

$$u = \alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_\ell \in \Lambda_A^\ell L$$

$$v = \alpha_{\ell+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_n \in \Lambda_A^{n-\ell} L$$

value  $[u, v]$  given by  $(-1)^{|u|}$  times

$$\sum_{j \leq \ell < k} (-1)^{(j+k)} [\alpha_j, \alpha_k] \wedge \alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \widehat{\alpha_j} \cdots \widehat{\alpha_k} \cdots \wedge \alpha_n$$

$A$  ring of functions on manifold

$L$  the Lie algebra of vector fields

$\Lambda_A L$  is the algebra of multivector fields

SCHOUTEN bracket

### 2.3 Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra

Gerstenhaber algebra  $\mathcal{A}$

$R$ -linear operator  $D$  on  $\mathcal{A}$  of degree  $-1$

*generates* the Gerstenhaber bracket:

for every homogeneous  $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$

$$[a, b] = (-1)^{|a|} \left( D(ab) - (Da)b - (-1)^{|a|} a(Db) \right)$$

$D$  referred to as a *generator*

special case considered by Koszul:

$M$  smooth mfold

$$A = C^\infty(M), L = \text{Vect}(M), \mathcal{A} = \Lambda_A L,$$

generator  $D$  of Gerstenhaber algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  *exact*:

$$D^2 = 0$$

write exact generator as  $\partial$

Gerstenhaber algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  with exact gen.  $\partial$

*Batalin-Vilkovisky* algebra  $(\mathcal{A}, \partial)$

since  $\partial^2 = 0$ , homology  $H(\mathcal{A}, \partial)$  is defined

signification of  $H(\mathcal{A}, \partial)$ ?

### 3 Relationship among these notions

Gerstenhaber algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ :

$A_j$  degree  $j$  constituent

**Theorem 3.1.** (i) *Assignment to Gerstenhaber algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $(A_0, A_1)$  yields functor*

$$\text{Gerstenhaber} \longrightarrow \text{Lie} - \text{Rinehart}$$

(ii) *This functor has*

$$(A, L) \mapsto \Lambda_A L$$

*as left-adjoint.*

Gerstenhaber algebra  $\mathcal{A}$

canonical morphism of Gerstenhaber algebras

$$\Lambda_{A_0} A_1 \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

**Theorem 3.2.** *Given the commutative algebra  $A$  and the  $A$ -module  $L$ :*

*bijjective correspondence between*

*$(R, A)$ -Lie algebra structures on  $L$*

*and*

*Gerstenhaber algebra structures on  $\Lambda_A L$ .*

**Theorem 3.3.** *Bijective correspondence  
right  $(A, L)$ -connections on  $A$   
and  
generators of Gerstenhaber bracket on  $\Lambda_A L$   
right  $(A, L)$ -module structures on  $A$   
correspond to  
generators of square zero.*

More precisely: Given generator  $D$  of the  
Gerstenhaber bracket on  $\Lambda_A L$  formula

$$a \circ \alpha = a(D\alpha) - \alpha(a), \quad a \in A, \alpha \in L,$$

defines right  $(A, L)$ -connection on  $A$ .

Conversely,

given the right  $(A, L)$ -connection  $\circ$  on  $A$ ,  
the operator  $D$  on  $\Lambda_A L$  defined by means of

$$\begin{aligned} D(\alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_n) = & \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{(i-1)} (1 \circ \alpha_i) (\alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \widehat{\alpha}_i \cdots \wedge \alpha_n) \quad + \\ & \sum_{j < k} (-1)^{(j+k)} [\alpha_j, \alpha_k] \wedge \alpha_1 \cdots \widehat{\alpha}_j \cdots \widehat{\alpha}_k \cdots \alpha_n \end{aligned}$$

generator of Gerstenhaber bracket on  $\Lambda_A L$ .



**Theorem 3.4.** *Given an exact generator  $\partial$  for the Gerstenhaber algebra  $\Lambda_A L$ , the Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra  $(\Lambda_A L, \partial)$  coincides as a chain complex with  $(A_\partial \otimes_{U(A,L)} K(A, L), d)$ . In particular, when  $L$  is projective as an  $A$ -module, the Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra  $(\Lambda_A L, \partial)$  computes*

$$H_*(L, A_\partial) \left( = \operatorname{Tor}_*^{U(A,L)}(A_\partial, A) \right),$$

*the homology of  $L$  with coefficients in  $A_\partial$*

### 3.1 Illustration

—  $(A, L) = (C^\infty(M), \Gamma(\zeta))$ ,  $\zeta: E \rightarrow M$  Lie algebroid

—  $L = \text{Vect}(M)$ ,

right  $(A, L)$ -module structure on  $A$ :

$(\Lambda_A L, \partial)$  “de Rham currents”

notion of “de Rham homology”

—  $(A, \{ \cdot, \cdot \})$  Poisson algebra

write  $D_A$  with associated  $(R, A)$ -Lie algebra structure as  $D_{\{ \cdot, \cdot \}}$

right  $(A, D_{\{ \cdot, \cdot \}})$ -module structure on  $A$ :

$$a(bdu) = \{ab, u\}$$

$\partial_{\{ \cdot, \cdot \}}$  associated exact generator of Gerstenhaber bracket on  $\Lambda_A D_{\{ \cdot, \cdot \}}$

$$\left( \Lambda_A D_{\{ \cdot, \cdot \}}, \partial_{\{ \cdot, \cdot \}} \right) = A \otimes_{U(A, D_{\{ \cdot, \cdot \}})} K(A, D_{\{ \cdot, \cdot \}})$$

the complex defining Poisson homology

## 4 Duality

$(A, L)$  Lie-Rinehart, general assumption:  
as  $A$ -module,  $L$  projective of finite rank  $n$   
 $\Lambda_A^n L$  highest exterior power of  $L$  over  $A$   
fact:  $A$  and  $U(A, L)$  satisfy duality and  
inverse duality in dimension  $n$ , with  
dualizing module  $C_L = H^n(L, U(A, L))$   
with induced right  $(A, L)$ -module structure:  
natural isomorphisms

$$\Phi: H^k(L, M) \rightarrow H_{n-k}(L, C_L \otimes_A M)$$

$$\Psi: H_k(L, N) \rightarrow H^{n-k}(L, \text{Hom}_A(C_L, N))$$

**Theorem 4.1.** *Bijjective correspondence*

$(A, L)$ -connections on  $\Lambda_A^n L$

and

right  $(A, L)$ -connections on  $A$

Under this correspondence,

left  $(A, L)$ -module structures on  $\Lambda_A^n L$

(i. e. flat connections)

correspond to right

$(A, L)$ -module structures on  $A$ .

More precisely:

Given  $(A, L)$ -connection  $\nabla$  on  $\Lambda_A^n L$ ,  
the negative of the (generalized) Lie-derivative  
on  $A \cong \text{Hom}_A(\Lambda_A^n L, M)$   
with reference to connection  $\nabla$  on  $M = \Lambda_A^n L$ ,  
that is, the formula

$$(\phi\alpha)x = \phi(\alpha x) - \nabla_\alpha(\phi(x))$$

$x \in \Lambda_A^n L, \alpha \in L, \phi \in \text{Hom}_A(\Lambda_A^n L, \Lambda_A^n L) \cong A$   
yields right  $(A, L)$ -connection on  $A$

Conversely,

given right  $(A, L)$ -connection on  $A$

(written as  $(a, \alpha) \mapsto a\alpha$ ),

on  $\Lambda_A^n L \cong \text{Hom}_A(C_L, A)$ ,

the formula

$$(\nabla_\alpha\psi)x = \psi(x\alpha) - (\psi x)\alpha$$

for  $x \in C_L, \alpha \in L, \psi \in \text{Hom}_A(C_L, A)$ ,

yields an  $(A, L)$ -connection  $\nabla$

$$L \otimes_R \Lambda_A^n L \rightarrow \Lambda_A^n L, \quad (\alpha, \psi) \mapsto \nabla_\alpha\psi$$

**Corollary 4.2.** *Bijective correspondence*

*$(A, L)$ -connections on  $\Lambda_A^n L$*

*and*

*generators of Gerstenhaber bracket on  $\Lambda_A L$*

*flat connections  $\nabla$  on  $\Lambda_A^n L$  correspond to*

*differentials  $\partial$  on  $\Lambda_A L$*

**Theorem 4.3.** *Pair  $(\partial, \nabla)$  from bijective correspondence in (4.2) entails isomorphism*

$$(\Lambda_A L, \partial) \rightarrow (\text{Alt}_A(L, \Lambda_A^n L), d_\nabla) \quad (4.1)$$

*whence  $H(\Lambda_A L, \partial)$  naturally isomorphic to*

$$H^*(L, \Lambda_A^n L_\nabla) \quad \left( = \text{Ext}_{U(A,L)}^*(A, \Lambda_A^n L_\nabla) \right)$$

*special case:  $\Lambda_A^n L_\nabla$  free  $A$ -module*

$$\omega: \Lambda_A^n L_\nabla \longrightarrow A$$

*iso  $(A, L)$ -modules, “volume form”*

*iso (4.1) becomes iso*

$$(\Lambda_A L, \partial) \rightarrow (\text{Alt}_A(L, A), d) \quad (4.2)$$

## 5 The differential graded case

Theory extends to differential graded case  
cf. earlier remark about other categories

Illustration:

complex manifold  $M$  of complex dimension  $n$

$$(A, L) = (C^\infty(M, \mathbb{C}), \text{Vect}(M, \mathbb{C}))$$

$J: TM \rightarrow TM$  associated almost complex

$L = L' \oplus L''$ , decomposition of  $A$ -modules

$(A, L', L'')$  associated twilled Lie-Rinehart

associated differential graded Lie-Rinehart

$$(\mathcal{A}'', \mathcal{L}') = ((\text{Alt}_A(L'', A), d''), (\text{Alt}_A(L'', L'), d''))$$

earlier Gerstenhaber algebra  $\Lambda_A L$  gets replaced

with differential graded Gerstenhaber algebra

$$\Lambda_{\mathcal{A}''} \mathcal{L}' = (\text{Alt}_A(L'', \Lambda_A L'), d'')$$

iso (4.1) becomes iso

$$(\Lambda_{\mathcal{A}''} \mathcal{L}', \partial) \rightarrow (\text{Alt}_A(L'', (\text{Alt}_A(L', \Lambda_A^n L'), d''), d_{\nabla'})$$

holomorphic volume form  $\Omega: \Lambda_A^n L' \rightarrow A$

iso (4.2) becomes iso

$$(\Gamma(\Lambda^* \bar{\tau}_M^* \otimes \Lambda^* \tau_M), \bar{\partial}, \partial_\Omega) \rightarrow (\Gamma(\Lambda^* \bar{\tau}_M^* \otimes \Lambda^* \tau_M^*), \bar{\partial}, \partial)$$

This is the statement of the Tian-Todorov lemma.

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