

ABSTRACT

Singular Poisson-Kähler geometry of stratified Kähler spaces

9 Mai, 2011, Université Galatasaray

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The appearance of singularities in classical phase spaces is the rule rather than the exception. Within canonical quantization the implementation of singularities is far from being clear. To explore the possible impact of classical phase space singularities on quantum problems, I have developed the notions of stratified Kähler space and that of costratified Hilbert space.

A *stratified Kähler space* is a stratified symplectic space together with a complex analytic structure which is compatible with the stratified symplectic structure; in particular each stratum is a Kähler manifold in an obvious fashion. The notion of stratified Kähler space establishes an intimate relationship between nilpotent orbits, singular reduction, invariant theory, reductive dual pairs, Jordan triple systems, symmetric domains, and pre-homogeneous spaces. The purpose of the talk is to illustrate the geometry of stratified Kähler spaces.

Examples of stratified Kähler spaces abound. The closure of a holomorphic nilpotent orbit carries a normal Kähler structure. Symplectic reduction carries a Kähler manifold to a normal stratified Kähler space in such a way that the sheaf of germs of polarized functions coincides with the ordinary sheaf of germs of holomorphic functions. Projectivization of holomorphic nilpotent orbits yields exotic stratified Kähler structures on complex projective spaces and on certain complex projective varieties including complex projective quadrics. Other examples come from certain moduli spaces of holomorphic vector bundles on a Riemann surface and variants thereof; in physics language, these are spaces of conformal blocks. Still other physical examples are reduced spaces arising from angular momentum.

In the world of singular Poisson-Kähler geometry, reduction after quantization coincides with quantization after reduction: For a stratified symplectic space, the concept of stratified polarization, which is defined in terms of an appropriate Lie-Rinehart algebra, encapsulates polarizations on the strata and, moreover, the behaviour of the polarizations across the strata. Exploiting the notion of stratified Kähler space, one can prove that, given a Kähler manifold, reduction after quantization coincides with quantization after reduction in the sense that not only the reduced and unreduced quantum phase spaces correspond but the invariant unreduced and reduced quantum observables as well.

Holomorphic quantization on a stratified Kähler space leads to a costratified Hilbert space. The latter structure is, perhaps, the quantum structure which has the classical singularities as its shadow. In collaboration with G. Rudolph and M. Schmidt, within this approach, on a single spatial plaquette, I constructed a quantum lattice gauge theory relative to a compact structure group that incorporates the classical singularities. For the special case where the structure group is the group $SU(2)$, we discovered among other things non-trivial tunneling probabilities among strata.