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# Nonlinear connections for conformal gauge theories on path-spaces and duality

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Abstract. Weyl structures and compatible nonlinear connections are introduced in the geometry of semisprays as a natural generalization of similar notions from Riemannian geometry. The existence and formula for the set of all compatible nonlinear connections are derived by using the Obata tensors naturally associated to a fixed metric in the given conformal class; this formula is also expressed in terms of dual nonlinear connections which generalize the Norden's notion of dual linear connections. A geometric meaning for pairs (Weyl structure, compatible nonlinear connection) is provided in terms of gauge conformal invariance.

## 1. Introduction

Soon after the creation of general theory of relativity, HERMANN WEYL attempted in [11] an unification of gravitation and electromagnetism in a model of space-time geometry combining conformal and projective structures.

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a conformal structure on the smooth manifold M i.e. an equivalence class of Riemannian metrics:  $g \sim \overline{g}$  if there exists a smooth function  $f \in C^{\infty}(M)$ such that  $\overline{g} = e^{2f}g$ . Denoting by  $\Omega^1(M)$  the  $C^{\infty}(M)$ -module of 1-forms on Ma (Riemannian) Weyl structure is a map  $W : \mathcal{G} \to \Omega^1(M)$  such that  $W(\overline{g}) = W(g) + 2df$ . In [5] it is proved that for a Weyl manifold  $(M, \mathcal{G}, W)$  there exists an unique torsion-free linear connection  $\nabla$  on M such that for every  $g \in \mathcal{G}$ :

$$\nabla g = W(g) \otimes g. \tag{(*)}$$

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The parallel transport induced by  $\nabla$  preserves the given conformal class  $\mathcal{G}$ . For other physical meanings of Weyl structures see [6] and an interesting generalization to statistical geometry appears in [9].

The aim of present paper is to extend the Weyl structures and compatible connections (\*) in the framework of systems of second order differential equations on M. More precisely, given such a system S, on short *semispray*, we can derive a type of differential  $\nabla$  if S is considered as a vector field on the tangent bundle TM. A necessary tool in the definition of  $\nabla$  is given by a splitting of the iterated tangent bundle T(TM) provided by a distribution N on TM. Such an object Nis called *nonlinear connection*. A remarkable result is that every S yields such a nonlinear connection,  $\stackrel{c}{N}$ , indexed by us with c from *canonical* and on this way we recover the above Riemannian case (\*). Let us point out that two previous generalizations of Weyl structures in the tangent bundle geometry are: i) for Finsler metrics, in [1]–[2], [7]–[8], ii) for (generalized) Lagrange geometry in [4].

#### 2. Nonlinear connections and semisprays on tangent bundles

Let M be a smooth, n-dimensional manifold for which we denote:  $C^{\infty}(M)$ the algebra of smooth real functions on M,  $\mathcal{X}(M)$ -the Lie algebra of vector fields on M,  $T_s^r(M)$ -the  $C^{\infty}(M)$ -module of tensor fields of (r, s)-type on M.

A local chart  $x = (x^i) = (x^1, \ldots, x^n)$  on M lifts to a local chart on the tangent bundle TM given by:  $(x, y) = (x^i, y^i)$ . If  $\pi : TM \to M$  is the canonical projection then the kernel of the differential of  $\pi$  is an integrable distribution V(TM) with local basis  $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}\right)$ . An important element of V(TM) is the *Liouville vector field*  $\mathbb{C} = y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}$ . V(TM) is called the vertical distribution and its elements are vertical vector fields.

The tensor field  $J \in T_1^1(TM)$  given by  $J = \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i} \otimes dx^i$  is called the tangent structure. Two of its properties are: the nilpotence  $J^2 = 0$  and im  $J(= \ker J) = V(TM)$ .

A well-known notion in the tangent bundles geometry is:

Definition 2.1 ([3, p. 336]). A supplementary distribution N to the vertical distribution V(TM):

$$T(TM) = N \oplus V(TM) \tag{2.1}$$

is called *horizontal distribution* or *nonlinear connection*. A vector field belonging to N is called *horizontal*.

A nonlinear connection has a local basis:

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta x^i} := \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} - N_i^j \frac{\partial}{\partial y^j} \tag{2.2}$$

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and the functions  $(N_j^i(x, y))$  are called *the coefficients* of N. So, a basis of  $\mathcal{X}(TM)$  adapted to the decomposition (2.1) is  $(\frac{\delta}{\delta x^i}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i})$  called *Berwald basis*. The dual of the Berwald basis is:  $(dx^i, \delta y^i = dy^i + N_j^i dx^j)$ .

A second remarkable structure on TM is provided by:

Definition 2.2 ([3, p. 336]).  $S \in \mathcal{X}(TM)$  is called *semispray* if:

$$I(S) = \mathbb{C}.\tag{2.3}$$

In canonical coordinates:

$$S = y^{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i}} - 2G^{i}(x, y) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{i}}$$
(2.4)

and the functions  $(G^i(x, y))$  are the coefficients of S. The flow of S is a system of second order differential equations:  $\frac{d^2x^i}{dt^2} = 2G^i(x, \frac{dx}{dt})$  and then the pair (M, S) will be called *path-space*.

An important result is that a nonlinear connection  $N = (N_j^i)$  yields an unique horizontal semispray denoted S(N) with:

$$G^i = \frac{1}{2} N^i_j y^j \tag{2.5}$$

In other words:

$$S(N) = y^i \frac{\delta}{\delta x^i}.$$
 (2.6)

The converse of this result is that a semispray S yields a nonlinear connection  $\stackrel{c}{N}$  given by:

$$\overset{c}{N}_{j}^{i} = \frac{\partial G^{i}}{\partial y^{j}}.$$
(2.7)

Definition 2.3. A semispray S for which the coefficients  $(G^i)$  are homogeneous of degree 2 with respect to the variables  $(y^i)$  will be called *spray*.

Locally this means, via Euler theorem:

$$2G^i = y^j \frac{\partial G^i}{\partial y^j} \tag{2.8}$$

and then  $\stackrel{c}{N}$  is 1-homogeneous:

$$\overset{c}{N}_{j}^{i} = y^{a} \frac{\partial \overset{c}{N}_{j}^{i}}{\partial y^{a}}$$
(2.9)

which yields that S is horizontal with respect to  $\stackrel{c}{N}$  i.e. S has the expression (2.7).

## 3. Weyl structures and conformal path-gauge invariance

Let us fix a semispray  $S = (G^i)$  and a nonlinear connection  $N = (N_j^i)$ . Following [3, p. 337] let us consider:

Definition 3.1. The dynamical derivative associated to the pair (S, N) is the map  $\stackrel{SN}{\nabla}: V(TM) \to V(TM)$  given by:

$$\stackrel{SN}{\nabla} X = \stackrel{SN}{\nabla} \left( X^i \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i} \right) := \left( S(X^i) + N^i_j X^j \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}.$$
(3.1)

Properties:

I)  $\stackrel{SN}{\nabla} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y^{i}}\right) = N_{i}^{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{j}},$ II)  $\stackrel{SN}{\nabla} (X+Y) = \stackrel{SN}{\nabla} X + \stackrel{SN}{\nabla} Y,$ III)  $\stackrel{SN}{\nabla} (fX) = S(f)X + f \stackrel{SN}{\nabla} X.$ 

It is straightforward to extend the action of  $\stackrel{SN}{\nabla}$  to general vertical tensor fields by requiring to preserves the tensor product and the Leibniz rule. Moreover, we will extend  $\stackrel{SN}{\nabla}$  to a special class of tensor fields:

Definition 3.2. A *d*-tensor field (*d* from distinguished) on *TM* is a tensor field whose change of components, under a change of canonical coordinates  $(x, y) \rightarrow (\tilde{x}, \tilde{y})$  on *TM*, involves only factors of type  $\frac{\partial \tilde{x}}{\partial x}$  and (or)  $\frac{\partial x}{\partial \tilde{x}}$ .

*Example 3.3.* i)  $\left(\frac{\delta}{\delta x^i}\right)$  and  $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}\right)$  are components of *d*-tensor fields of (1, 0)-type.

- ii)  $(dx^i)$  and  $(\delta y^i)$  are components of *d*-tensor fields of (0, 1)-type.
- iii)  $(G^i)$  are not components of a *d*-tensor field since a change of coordinates implies:

$$2\widetilde{G}^{i} = 2\frac{\partial \widetilde{x}^{i}}{\partial x^{j}}G^{j} - \frac{\partial \widetilde{y}^{i}}{\partial x^{j}}y^{j}$$

but it results that given two semisprays  $\overset{1}{S}$  and  $\overset{2}{S}$  their difference  $X = \overset{2}{S} - \overset{1}{S}$  is a vertical (and then d-) vector field.

iv)  $(N_j^i)$  are not components of a *d*-tensor field since a change of coordinates implies:

$$\frac{\partial \widetilde{x}^j}{\partial x^k} N_i^k = \widetilde{N}_k^j \frac{\partial \widetilde{x}^k}{\partial x^i} + \frac{\partial \widetilde{y}^j}{\partial x^i}$$

It follows that given two nonlinear connections  $\stackrel{1}{N}$  and  $\stackrel{2}{N}$  their difference  $F = \stackrel{2}{N} - \stackrel{1}{N} = \left(F_j^i = \stackrel{2^i}{N_j} - \stackrel{1^i}{N_j}\right)$  is a *d*-tensor field of (1, 1)-type.

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Definition 3.4. A metric g on TM is a d-tensor field of (0, 2)-type which is symmetric and non-degenerated.

It results for the components  $g_{ij} = g(\frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y^j})$  the following properties:

- 1) (symmetry)  $g_{ij} = g_{ji}$ ,
- 2) (non-degeneration) det $(g_{ij}) \neq 0$ ; then there exists the *d*-tensor field of (2,0)-type  $g^{-1} = (g^{ij})$ .

The name is justified from the fact that  $g_{ij}dx^i \otimes dx^j + g_{ij}\delta y^i \otimes \delta y^j$  is a Riemannian metric on TM for which N and V(TM) are orthogonal distributions.

Using the Leibniz rule we arrive at:

Definition 3.5. The dynamical derivative of metric g with respect to the pair (S, N) is  $\stackrel{SN}{\nabla} g: V(TM) \times V(TM) \to C^{\infty}(TM)$  given by:

$$\stackrel{SN}{\nabla} g(X,Y) = S(g(X,Y)) - g\left(\stackrel{SN}{\nabla} X,Y\right) - g\left(X,\stackrel{SN}{\nabla} Y\right). \tag{3.2}$$

One of the main notions of this section is:

Definition 3.6. Two metrics  $g, \overline{g}$  are called *conformal equivalent* if there exists  $f \in C^{\infty}(TM)$  such that  $\overline{g} = e^{2f}g$ .

In the following let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a conformal structure i.e. an equivalence class of conformal equivalent metrics. Our generalization of classical Weyl structures is:

Definition 3.7. A Weyl structure on the path-space (M, S) is a map  $W : \mathcal{G} \to C^{\infty}(TM)$  such that for every  $g, \overline{g} \in \mathcal{G}$ :

$$W(\overline{g}) = W(g) + 2df(S). \tag{3.3}$$

The data  $(M, S, \mathcal{G}, W)$  will be called *path-Weyl manifold*.

Another main notion is:

Definition 3.8. Let  $(M, S, \mathcal{G}, W)$  be a path-Weyl manifold. The nonlinear connection N is called *compatible with*  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  if:

$$\nabla^{SN} g = W(g)g. \tag{3.4}$$

An important result is:

**Proposition 3.9.** If N is compatible with  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  then N is compatible with the whole class  $\mathcal{G}$ .

**PROOF.** From the Leibniz rule and (3.4) we get:

$$\stackrel{SN}{\nabla} \overline{g} = S(e^{2f})g + e^{2f} \stackrel{SN}{\nabla} g = 2df(S)\overline{g} + e^{2f}W(g)g = (W(g) + 2df(S))\overline{g} = W(\overline{g})\overline{g}$$

which means the conclusion.

Let us end this section with a geometrical interpretation for pairs (Weyl structure, compatible nonlinear connection). In addition to the pair (S, N) let us consider a pair (metric  $g, F \in C^{\infty}(TM)$ ) and define, inspired by [9, p. 109], the map:  $\mathcal{C}_{SN}(g, F) : V(TM) \times V(TM) \to C^{\infty}(TM)$ :

$$\mathcal{C}_{SN}(g,F) = \stackrel{SN}{\nabla} g - Fg. \tag{3.5}$$

Then,  $C_{SN}(g, F)$  is, in fact, a *d*-tensor field of (0, 2)-type and a pair (Weyl structure, compatible nonlinear connection) is characterized by the vanishing of  $C_{SN}(g, W(g))$ .

Definition 3.10. A function  $f \in C^{\infty}(TM)$  induces the conformal path-gauge transformation:

$$(g,F) \to (g',F') := (e^{2f}g,F + 2df(S)).$$
 (3.6)

**Proposition 3.11.** The *d*-tensor field  $C_{SN}(g, F)$  is not conformal path-gauge invariant but a pair (Weyl structure, compatible nonlinear connection) is a conformal path-gauge invariant notion.

PROOF. A calculus similar to that of the previous Proof above gives:

$$\mathcal{C}_{SN}(g',F') = e^{2f} \mathcal{C}_{SN}(g,F) \tag{3.7}$$

which get the all conclusions.

#### 4. The general expression of a compatible nonlinear connection

The aim of this section is to find all nonlinear connections which are compatible with a given Weyl structure. In order to answer at this question, a look at example 3.3 iv) gives necessary a study of two operators, called *Obata* in the following, acting on the space of *d*-tensor fields of (1, 1)-type:

$$O_{kl}^{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (\delta_k^i \delta_l^j - g^{ij} g_{kl}), \quad O_{kl}^{*ij} = \frac{1}{2} (\delta_k^i \delta_l^j + g^{ij} g_{kl}).$$
(4.1)

The Obata operators are supplementary projectors on the space of tensor fields of (1, 1)-type:

$$O_{bj}^{ia} \overset{*bk}{O}_{la} = \overset{*a}{O}_{bj}^{ia} O_{la}^{bk} = 0, \qquad O_{bj}^{ia} O_{la}^{bk} = O_{lj}^{ik}, \qquad \overset{*a}{O}_{bj}^{ia} \overset{*bk}{O}_{la} = \overset{*ia}{O}_{lj}^{ik}$$
(4.2)

and the tensorial equations involving these operators has solutions as follows:

**Proposition 4.1.** The system of equations:

$$\overset{*^{ia}}{O}_{bj}^{*^{ia}}(X_a^b) = A_j^i, \qquad (O_{bj}^{ia}(X_a^b) = A_j^i)$$
(4.3)

with X as unknown has solutions if and only if:

$$O_{bj}^{ia}(A_a^b) = 0, \qquad \left(\begin{array}{c} *^{ia} O_{bj}(A_a^b) = 0\right)$$
(4.4)

and then, the general solution is:

$$X_{j}^{i} = A_{j}^{i} + O_{bj}^{ia}(Y_{a}^{b}), \qquad \left(X_{j}^{i} = A_{j}^{i} + \overset{*^{ia}}{O_{bj}}(Y_{a}^{b})\right)$$
(4.5)

with Y an arbitrary d-tensor field of (1, 1)-type.

We are ready for the main results of paper:

**Theorem 4.2.** Let  $(M, S, \mathcal{G}, W)$  be a path-Weyl manifold. The family  $\mathcal{N}(S, \mathcal{G}, W)$  of all compatible nonlinear connections is infinite. More precisely,  $\mathcal{N}(S, \mathcal{G}, W)$  is a  $C^{\infty}(TM)$ -affine module over the  $C^{\infty}(TM)$ -module of d-tensor fields of (1, 1)-type.

PROOF. Fix  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  and search  $(N_j^i)$  of the form:

$$N_{j}^{i} = \overset{c}{N_{j}^{i}} + F_{j}^{i} \tag{4.6}$$

with  $(F_j^i)$  a *d*-tensor field of (1, 1)-type to be determined. The local expression of equation (3.4) is:

$$S(g_{uv}) - g_{um}N_v^m - g_{mv}N_u^m = W(g)g_{uv}$$
(4.7)

and inserting (4.6) in (4.7) gives:

$$S(g_{uv}) - g_{um} \overset{c}{N}_{v}^{m} - g_{mv} \overset{c}{N}_{u}^{m} = g_{um} F_{v}^{m} + g_{mv} F_{u}^{m} + W(g) g_{uv}.$$

Multiplying the last relation with  $g^{ku}$  we get:

$$g^{ku}S(g_{uv}) - \overset{c}{N}^{k}_{v} - g^{ku}g_{mv}\overset{c}{N}^{m}_{u} - W(g)\delta^{k}_{v} = F^{k}_{v} + g^{ku}g_{mv}F^{m}_{u}$$
$$= 2 \overset{*}{O}^{kb}_{av}(F^{a}_{b}).$$
(4.8)

Let us search for the condition (4.4):

$$O_{av}^{kb}(g^{am}S(g_{mb}) - \overset{c}{\overset{n}{N}_{b}} - g^{am}g_{bl}\overset{c}{\overset{l}{N}_{m}} - W(g)\delta_{b}^{a}) = g^{km}S(g_{mv}) - \overset{c}{\overset{k}{N}_{v}} - g^{km}g_{vl}\overset{c}{\overset{l}{N}_{m}} - g^{km}S(g_{mv}) + g^{km}g_{vl}\overset{c}{\overset{l}{N}_{m}} + \overset{c}{\overset{k}{N}_{v}} = 0.$$

It follows:

$$F_j^i = \frac{1}{2}g^{im}S(g_{mj}) - \frac{1}{2}N_j^{c\,i} - \frac{1}{2}g^{ia}g_{jb}N_a^c - \frac{W(g)}{2}\delta_j^i + O_{aj}^{ib}(X_b^a)$$

and returning to (4.6) we have the conclusion:

$$N_{j}^{i} = \frac{1}{2} N_{j}^{c\,i} - \frac{1}{2} g^{ia} g_{jb} N_{a}^{c\,b} + \frac{1}{2} g^{ia} S(g_{aj}) - \frac{W(g)}{2} \delta_{j}^{i} + O_{bj}^{ia}(X_{a}^{b})$$
(4.9)

with  $X = (X_a^b)$  an arbitrary *d*-tensor field of (1, 1)-type.

In the spray case the equation (4.9) admits a simplification:

**Proposition 4.3.** If S is a spray then the set  $\mathcal{N}(S, \mathcal{G}, W)$  is:

$$N_{j}^{i} = \frac{1}{2} N_{j}^{c\,i} - \frac{1}{2} g^{ia} g_{jb} N_{a}^{c\,b} + \frac{1}{2} g^{ia} y^{m} \frac{\delta g_{aj}}{\delta x^{m}} - \frac{W(g)}{2} \delta_{j}^{i} + O_{bj}^{ia}(X_{a}^{b}).$$
(4.10)

## Example 4.4 Classical Weyl structures

Let us consider g = g(x) a Riemannian metric on M and let S be its corresponding spray i.e. S gives the geodesics of g. Recall also that a symmetric linear connection on M with coefficients  $(\Gamma_{jk}^i(x))$  yields the nonlinear connection with the coefficients:

$$N_j^i = \Gamma_{ja}^i y^a. \tag{4.11}$$

and then the associated semispray S(N) is a spray:

$$G^i = \frac{1}{2} \Gamma^i_{jk} y^j y^k. \tag{4.12}$$

In order to work on M we consider, from 1-homogeneity reasons, W(g) to be the function  $W(g)(x, y) = W(g)_a(x)y^a$ .

It is well known that the solution of (\*) is the unique *Weyl connection* [5, p. 147]:

$$\Gamma_{jk}^{i} = \Gamma_{ij}^{c\,i} + \frac{1}{2} (W(g)^{i} g_{jk} - \delta_{j}^{i} W(g)_{k} - \delta_{k}^{i} W(g)_{j}) \tag{*W}$$

where  $\overset{c}{\Gamma}$  is the Levi-Civita connection of g and  $W(g)^i = g^{ia}W(g)_a$  is the gcontravariant version of the basic 1-form  $W_M(g) = W(g)_a dx^a$  which is exactly
the 1-form of (\*). We recover this last formula from (4.9) with:

$$X_j^i = -W(g)_j y^i \tag{4.13}$$

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which is a *d*-tensor field of (1, 1)-type since:  $\tilde{y}^a = \frac{\partial \tilde{x}^a}{\partial x^b} y^b$  while  $W_M(g)$  is a tensor field on the base manifold M. In fact, X is the tensor product  $X = -W_M(g) \otimes \mathbb{C}$ ; also the basic 1-form  $W_M(g)$  admits the lift  $W_{TM}(g) = W(g)_a dy^a$  to TM and then:

$$W(g) = W_{TM}(g)(\mathbb{C}). \tag{4.14}$$

## 5. Dual nonlinear connections in metric path-spaces

A natural question about the general formula (4.9) is to find a geometric meaning for some remarkable choices of X. The aim of this section is to provide an answer to the case X = 0:

$${\stackrel{0}{N}}_{j}^{i} = \frac{1}{2} \, {\stackrel{c}{N}}_{j}^{i} - \frac{1}{2} g^{ia} g_{jb} \, {\stackrel{c}{N}}_{a}^{b} + \frac{1}{2} g^{ia} S(g_{aj}) - \frac{W(g)}{2} \delta_{j}^{i}.$$
(5.1)

In order to explain more geometrically this relation let us recall the notion of dual connections introduced by A. P. Norden:

Definition 5.1 ([10, p. 913]). Two linear connections  $\nabla$ ,  $\nabla^*$  on the Riemannian manifold (M, g) are called *dual* (or *g*-conjugated) if, for all vector fields X, Y, Z:

$$X(g(Y,Z)) = g(\nabla_X Y, Z) + g(Y, \nabla_X^* Z).$$
(5.2)

We generalize this notion to:

Definition 5.2. Let (M, S, g) be a metric path-space and N a nonlinear connection on M. The nonlinear connection  $\stackrel{Sg}{N}$  is called *dual* or (S, g)-conjugated to N if:

$$S(g(X,Y)) = g\left(\begin{array}{c} {}^{SN}_{\nabla}X,Y\right) + g\left(X, \begin{array}{c} {}^{SN}_{N}Y\right)$$
(5.3)

for all vector fields X, Y on TM.

Let us remark that  $\stackrel{Sg}{N}$  exists since g is non-degenerated. In local coefficients, the last formula becomes:

$$S(g_{uv}) = N_u^a g_{av} + {\binom{Sg}{N}}_v^a g_{ua}$$
(5.4)

and then:

$$\binom{Sg}{N}_b^a = g^{au}S(g_{ub}) - g^{au}g_{bv}N_u^v.$$
(5.5)

A straightforward computation gives that the dual of  $\stackrel{Sg}{N}$  is exactly N, a result well-known for dual linear connections, [10, p. 913].

Denoting with I the Kronecker tensor we derive a global formula for compatible nonlinear connections and comparing (5.1) and (5.5) we get:

**Theorem 5.3.** Let  $(M, S, \mathcal{G}, W)$  be a path-Weyl structure. The family  $\mathcal{N}(S, \mathcal{G}, W)$  of all compatible nonlinear connections is given by:

$$N = \frac{1}{2} \left( \stackrel{c}{N} + \stackrel{Sg,c}{N} \right) - \frac{W(g)}{2} I + O(X).$$
 (5.6)

In the particular case of W(g) = 0 we obtain a global expression for the Theorem 2.4. of [3, p. 339]: the family of all *metric* nonlinear connections on (M, S, g) is given by:

$$N = \frac{1}{2} \left( \stackrel{c}{N} + \stackrel{Sg.c}{N} \right) + O(X) \tag{5.7}$$

and, on this way, we generalize the fact that for a pair  $(\nabla, \nabla^*)$  of g-conjugate linear connections, the mean linear connection  $\frac{1}{2}(\nabla + \nabla^*)$  is a metric connection, [10, p. 913].

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