

# Euclidean Jordan Algebras and Kepler Problem

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Think deeply of simple things — Arnold Ross

We have learned from the last lecture that there is a family of God-given classical dynamic models (indexed by a real parameter  $\mu$ ) with

- configuration space  $\mathbb{R}_*^3$ ,
- conserved angular momentum  $\mathbf{L}$ ,
- and an additional conserved vector  $\mathbf{A}$ .

Moreover, the orbits of these models are either linear or conic. These models are completely integrable in the sense that

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We also learned that the orbits of these models have very attractive descriptions on the future light cone

$$\Lambda_+ := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{1,3} \mid x^2 = 0, x_0 > 0\}$$

in the Minkowski space  $\mathbb{R}^{1,3} := (\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}^3, \text{Lorentz inner product})$  spanned by our ordinary three spatial dimensions and a new mysterious temporal dimension. Is this a coincidence? More precisely, one may ask this

Question: Can Kepler problem and its magnetized versions be naturally formulated on that future light cone  $\Lambda_+$ ?

Answer: Yes, provided that we can employ the more refined Jordan algebra structure behind the Lorentz structure on that Minkowski space  $\mathbb{R}^{1,3}$ . Since

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{R}_*^3 &\rightarrow \Lambda_+ \\ \mathbf{r} &\mapsto (r, \mathbf{r}) \end{aligned}$$

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## The Jordan algebra structure on $\mathbb{R}^{1,3}$

Write  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ , then  $x = (x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3)$ . Write  $X$  for  $x_0 I + \mathbf{x} \cdot \vec{\sigma}$ , i.e.

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x_0 + x_3 & x_1 - ix_2 \\ x_1 + ix_2 & x_0 - x_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$  is the set of all complex hermitian matrices of order two. Note that  $\det X = x^2$ .

- The map  $x \mapsto X$  is an isometry between  $\mathbb{R}^{1,3}$  and  $(H_2(\mathbb{C}), \det)$ .
- Under the symmetrized matrix multiplication:

$$X \circ Y := \frac{1}{2}(XY + YX),$$

$H_2(\mathbb{C})$  becomes a *real commutative algebra with unit*.

- This algebra is **formally real** in the following sense: for  $A, B$  in  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $A^2 + B^2 = 0 \implies A = B = 0$ .

Indeed, for any column vector  $\vec{x}$  in  $\mathbb{C}^2$ , let  $\vec{x}^\dagger$  be its hermitian conjugate. Then  $0 = \vec{x}^\dagger (A^2 + B^2) \vec{x} = \|A\vec{x}\|^2 + \|B\vec{x}\|^2$ , so  $A\vec{x} = B\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ , so  $A = B = 0$ .

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## Weak associativity

The symmetrized matrix multiplication is not associative. But it is **weakly associative** in the following sense: for  $X, Y$  in  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$ , we have

$$(X \circ Y) \circ X^2 = X \circ (Y \circ X^2).$$

Here  $X^2 = X \circ X = XX$ .

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} LHS &= \frac{1}{2}(XY + YX) \circ X^2 = \frac{1}{4}[(XY + YX)X^2 + X^2(XY + YX)] \\ &= \frac{1}{4}[XYX^2 + YXX^2 + X^2XY + X^2YX] \\ &= \frac{1}{4}[XYX^2 + YX^2X + XX^2Y + X^2YX] \\ &= \frac{1}{4}[(YX^2 + X^2Y)X + X(YX^2 + X^2Y)] = X \circ \frac{1}{2}(YX^2 + X^2Y) \\ &= RHS \end{aligned}$$



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## The euclidean structure on $H_2(\mathbb{C})$

For any  $u \in H_2(\mathbb{C})$ , we let  $L_u$  be the endomorphism on  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$  defined by  $v \mapsto u \circ v$ . Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: H_2(\mathbb{C}) \times H_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined as follows:

$$\langle u, v \rangle := \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(u \circ v) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(uv) = \frac{1}{4} \operatorname{tr} L_{u \circ v}.$$

- $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is an inner product on  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$  such that

$$\sigma_0 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_3 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

form an orthonormal basis. Note that  $\operatorname{tr} \sigma_0 = 2$  and  $\operatorname{tr} \sigma_j = 0$ .

- The multiplication law for the real commutative algebra  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$  with unit is given by

$$\sigma_i \circ \sigma_j = \delta_{ij} \sigma_0, \quad \sigma_0 \text{ is the unit } e.$$

- $L_u$  is self-adjoint with respect to  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ , i.e.,  $\langle v, u \circ w \rangle = \langle u \circ v, w \rangle$  for any  $v, w \in H_2(\mathbb{C})$ . Indeed,

$$LHS = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(v(uw + wu)) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(vuw + vwu) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}((uv + vu)w) = RHS$$

## Relevance to Kepler problem

- The future light cone  $\Lambda_+$  = the set of rank one, semi-positive elements in  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$ . Indeed, if the rank of  $X$  is less than two, then  $\det X = 0$ , also, if  $X \neq 0$  is semi-positive, then  $\text{tr } X > 0$ . So  $x^2 = 0$  and  $x_0 > 0$ .
- For the Kepler problem, the potential term is

$$-\frac{1}{\langle e, x \rangle}.$$

- The Kinetic term for the the Kepler problem (or rather the Riemannian metric on  $\Lambda_+$ ), angular momentum, and Lenz vector can all be naturally expressed in terms of Jordan algebra structure as well.

For details, we have to study Formally Real Jordan algebras.

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## Formally real Jordan algebras [J.Faraut and A.Koranyi, *Analysis on Symmetric Cones*]

Jordan algebras are the unfavored cousins of Lie algebras, and Formally real Jordan algebras are the unfavored cousins of compact real Lie algebras. Having  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$  in mind, we have

Definition (P. Jordan, 1933)

A finite dimensional **formally real Jordan algebra** is a finite dimensional real algebra  $V$  with unit  $e$  such that, for any elements  $a, b$  in  $V$ , we have

- 1)  $ab = ba$  (symmetry),
- 2)  $a(ba^2) = (ab)a^2$  (weakly associative),
- 3)  $a^2 + b^2 = 0 \implies a = b = 0$  (formally real).

The simplest example is  $\mathbb{R}$ , the other example is  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$ . We use  $L_a: V \rightarrow V$  to denote the multiplication by  $a$ . Then 2) says that  $[L_a, L_{a^2}] = 0$  (Jordan Identity) and 3) can be replaced by

3') The "Killing form"  $\langle a | b \rangle = \frac{1}{\dim V} \text{tr } L_{ab}$  is positive definite. Note that  $\langle b | ac \rangle = \langle ab | c \rangle$ . Formally real Jordan algebras are also called Euclidean Jordan algebras.

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# The classification theorem

## Theorem (Jordan, von Neumann and Wigner, 1934)

*Euclidean Jordan algebras are semi-simple, and the simple ones consist of four infinity families and **one exceptional**:*

$\mathbb{R}$ .

$\Gamma(n) := \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ .

$H_n(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $n \geq 3$ .

$H_n(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $n \geq 3$ .

$H_n(\mathbb{H})$ ,  $n \geq 3$ .

$H_3(\mathbb{O})$ .

### Remark.

- $\Gamma(0) \cong \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\Gamma(1) \cong \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\Gamma(2) \cong H_2(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $\Gamma(3) \cong H_2(\mathbb{C})$ ,  
 $\Gamma(5) \cong H_2(\mathbb{H})$ ,  $\Gamma(9) \cong H_2(\mathbb{O})$ .
- Each but the exceptional one is associated with an associative algebra.
- $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\Gamma(3)$ , and  $H_3(\mathbb{O})$  are somewhat special.

# The structure algebra

For  $a, b$  in  $V$ , we let

$$S_{ab} := [L_a, L_b] + L_{ab}, \quad \{abc\} := S_{ab}(c)$$

and  $\mathfrak{str}$  be the span of  $\{S_{ab} \mid a, b \in V\}$  over  $\mathbb{R}$ . Since

$$[S_{ab}, S_{cd}] = S_{\{abc\}d} - S_{c\{bad\}},$$

$\mathfrak{str}$  becomes a real Lie algebra — the **structure algebra** of  $V$ . For example, (1)  $\mathfrak{str} \cong \mathbb{R}$  for  $V = \mathbb{R}$ , (2)  $\mathfrak{str} \cong \mathfrak{so}(1, 3) \oplus \mathbb{R}$  for  $V = \Gamma(3)$ .

This Lie algebra is not simple, actually not even semi-simple, because it has a non-trivial central element:  $S_{ee}$ . Note that  $L_u = S_{ue}$ .

The good news is that this algebra can be extended to a simple real Lie algebra provided that  $V$  is a simple Euclidean Jordan algebra. From hereon  $V$  is assumed to be a simple Euclidean Jordan algebra.

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For  $a, b$  in  $V$ , we let

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# The conformal algebra

Write  $z \in V$  as  $X_z$  and  $\langle w | \rangle \in V^*$  as  $Y_w$ .

Definition (J. Tits, M. Koecher, I.L. Kantor, 1960's)

The **conformal algebra**  $\mathfrak{co}$  is a Lie algebra whose underlying real vector space is  $V \oplus \mathfrak{str} \oplus V^*$ , and the commutation relations are

$$\begin{aligned} [X_u, X_v] &= 0, & [Y_u, Y_v] &= 0, & [X_u, Y_v] &= -2S_{uv}, \\ [S_{uv}, X_z] &= X_{\{uvz\}}, & [S_{uv}, Y_z] &= -Y_{\{vuz\}}, \\ [S_{uv}, S_{zw}] &= S_{\{uvz\}w} - S_{z\{vuw\}} \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

for  $u, v, z, w$  in  $V$ .

When  $V = \Gamma(3)$ ,  $\mathfrak{str} = \mathfrak{so}(3, 1) \oplus \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathfrak{co} = \mathfrak{so}(4, 2)$ . When  $V = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathfrak{str} = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathfrak{co} = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$ . In general,  $\mathfrak{co}$  is the Lie algebra of the biholomorphic automorphism group of the complex domain  $V \oplus iV_+ \subset V \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$ .

After spending so much effort on the basic facts on Euclidean Jordan algebras, an impatient audience may ask this

Question: How could the Euclidean Jordan algebra  $H_2(\mathbb{C})$  (or  $\Gamma(3)$ ) be relevant to the Kepler problem?

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Well, the answer will become clear after we review the Lenz algebra for the Kepler problem.

## Lenz algebra for the Kepler problem

The phase space for the Kepler problem, i.e.,  $T^*\mathbb{R}_*^3$ , is a Poisson manifold. In terms of the standard canonical coordinates  $x^1, x^2, x^3, p_1, p_2, p_3$ , the Poisson structure can be described by the following basic Poisson bracket relations:

$$\{x^i, x^j\} = 0, \quad \{x^i, p_j\} = \delta_j^i, \quad \{p_i, p_j\} = 0.$$

Recall that the Hamiltonian, angular momentum, and Lenz vector are

$$H = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{p}^2 - \frac{1}{r}, \quad \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p}, \quad \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{L} \times \mathbf{p} + \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}$$

respectively. In terms of Poisson bracket, the fact that  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  are constants of motion can be restated as

$$\{\mathbf{L}, H\} = 0, \quad \{\mathbf{A}, H\} = 0.$$

To show that, we first note that  $L_i$  (the  $i$ -th component of  $\mathbf{L}$ ) is the infinitesimal generator of the rotation about the  $i$ -th axis. For example, since  $L_3 = x^1 p_2 - x^2 p_1$ , we have

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Similarly, we have

$$\{L_3, p_1\} = p_2, \quad \{L_3, p_2\} = -p_1, \quad \{L_3, p_3\} = 0.$$

Then, it is clear that  $\{\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{H}\} = 0$ ; moreover,

$$\begin{aligned}\{\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{H}\} &= \mathbf{L} \times \{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{H}\} + \left\{ \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}, \mathbf{H} \right\} \\ &= \mathbf{L} \times \left\{ \mathbf{p}, -\frac{1}{r} \right\} + \left\{ \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}, \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{p}^2 \right\} \\ &= \mathbf{L} \times \nabla \frac{1}{r} + \sum_i \left\{ \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}, p_i \right\} p_i \\ &= -\mathbf{L} \times \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^3} + \sum_i p_i \partial_{x_i} \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r} \\ &= -(\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p}) \times \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^3} + \frac{\mathbf{p}}{r} - \frac{\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{p}}{r^3} \mathbf{r} \\ &= \mathbf{0}.\end{aligned}$$



In fact, it is fairly routine to verify this

## Theorem

Let  $L_i$  (resp.  $A_i$ ) be the  $i$ -th component of  $\mathbf{L}$  (resp.  $\mathbf{A}$ ). Then

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Here  $\epsilon_{ijk} = 1$  (resp.  $-1$ ) if  $ijk$  is an even (resp. odd) permutation of 123, and equals to 0 otherwise. A summation over the repeated index  $k$  is assumed. So we have  $\{L_1, L_2\} = L_3$ ,  $\{L_2, A_3\} = A_1$ , and so on.

The real associated algebra with generators  $H, L_1, L_2, L_3, A_1, A_2, A_3$  and relations in Eq. (2) is called the **Lenz algebra**.

With this in mind, we are now ready to introduce the **Universal Kepler Problem**.

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# Universal Kepler problem

[Based on [G. Meng, "The Universal Kepler Problems", JGSP 36 (2014) 47-57]] Let  $\mathcal{TKK}$  be the complexified universal enveloping algebra for the conformal algebra, but with  $Y_e$  being formally inverted.

## Definition

The **universal angular momentum** is

$$\begin{aligned} L : V \times V &\rightarrow \mathcal{TKK} \\ (u, v) &\mapsto L_{u,v} := [L_u, L_v] \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The **universal Hamiltonian** is

$$H := \frac{1}{2} Y_e^{-1} X_e - (i Y_e)^{-1} \quad (4)$$

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Via the commutation relation for the conformal algebra, one can verify

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**Proof.** Since  $S_{uv} = L_{u,v} + L_{uv}$ , part of the commutation relations for the conformal algebra can be rewritten as

$$[L_{u,v}, X_z] = X_{L_{u,v}z}, \quad [L_{u,v}, Y_z] = Y_{L_{u,v}z},$$

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Also, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [L_{u,v}, A_z] &= iY_e^{-1} [L_{u,v}, [L_z, Y_e^2 H]] \\ &= iY_e^{-1} \left( [[L_{u,v}, L_z], Y_e^2 H] + [L_z, [L_{u,v}, Y_e^2 H]] \right) \\ &= iY_e^{-1} [L_{L_{u,v}z}, Y_e^2 H] \\ &= A_{L_{u,v}z}. \end{aligned}$$

The rest of the proof is skipped. □

A concrete realization of the conformal algebra



a concrete model of the Kepler type

To be more precise, we have

A suitable operator realization  $\implies$  a quantum model.

A suitable Poisson realization  $\implies$  a classical model.

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## Poisson realizations

In a Poisson realization of the TKK algebra,  $S_{uv}$ ,  $X_z$ ,  $Y_w$  are respectively represented as real functions  $\mathcal{S}_{uv}$ ,  $\mathcal{X}_z$ ,  $\mathcal{Y}_w$  on a Poisson manifold so that the commutation relations are represented by the Poisson bracket relations: for  $u, v, z, w$  in  $V$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \{\mathcal{X}_u, \mathcal{X}_v\} &= 0, & \{\mathcal{Y}_u, \mathcal{Y}_v\} &= 0, & \{\mathcal{X}_u, \mathcal{Y}_v\} &= -2\mathcal{S}_{uv}, \\ \{\mathcal{S}_{uv}, \mathcal{X}_z\} &= \mathcal{X}_{\{uvz\}}, & \{\mathcal{S}_{uv}, \mathcal{Y}_z\} &= -\mathcal{Y}_{\{vuz\}}, \\ \{\mathcal{S}_{uv}, \mathcal{S}_{zw}\} &= \mathcal{S}_{\{uvz\}w} - \mathcal{S}_z\{vuw\}. \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Then,  $H$ ,  $A_u$  and  $L_{u,v}$  can be realized as real functions

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{X}_e - 1}{\mathcal{Y}_e}, \quad \mathcal{A}_u := \frac{\{\mathcal{L}_u, \mathcal{Y}_e^2 \mathcal{H}\}}{\mathcal{Y}_e}, \quad \mathcal{L}_{u,v} := \{\mathcal{L}_u, \mathcal{L}_v\} \tag{8}$$

respectively. Note that

$$\mathcal{A}_u = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathcal{X}_u - \mathcal{Y}_u \frac{\mathcal{X}_e}{\mathcal{Y}_e} \right) + \frac{\mathcal{Y}_u}{\mathcal{Y}_e}. \tag{9}$$



## Poisson realizations

In a Poisson realization of the TKK algebra,  $S_{uv}$ ,  $X_z$ ,  $Y_w$  are respectively represented as real functions  $\mathcal{S}_{uv}$ ,  $\mathcal{X}_z$ ,  $\mathcal{Y}_w$  on a Poisson manifold so that the commutation relations are represented by the Poisson bracket relations: for  $u, v, z, w$  in  $V$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \{\mathcal{X}_u, \mathcal{X}_v\} &= 0, & \{\mathcal{Y}_u, \mathcal{Y}_v\} &= 0, & \{\mathcal{X}_u, \mathcal{Y}_v\} &= -2\mathcal{S}_{uv}, \\ \{\mathcal{S}_{uv}, \mathcal{X}_z\} &= \mathcal{X}_{\{uvz\}}, & \{\mathcal{S}_{uv}, \mathcal{Y}_z\} &= -\mathcal{Y}_{\{vuz\}}, \\ \{\mathcal{S}_{uv}, \mathcal{S}_{zw}\} &= \mathcal{S}_{\{uvz\}w} - \mathcal{S}_z\{vuw\}. \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Then,  $H$ ,  $A_u$  and  $L_{u,v}$  can be realized as real functions

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{X}_e - 1}{\mathcal{Y}_e}, \quad A_u := \frac{\{\mathcal{L}_u, \mathcal{Y}_e^2 \mathcal{H}\}}{\mathcal{Y}_e}, \quad \mathcal{L}_{u,v} := \{\mathcal{L}_u, \mathcal{L}_v\} \tag{8}$$

respectively. Note that

$$A_u = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathcal{X}_u - \mathcal{Y}_u \frac{\mathcal{X}_e}{\mathcal{Y}_e} \right) + \frac{\mathcal{Y}_u}{\mathcal{Y}_e}. \tag{9}$$

## Poisson Realization on $TV$

Via the canonical inner product on  $V$ ,  $TV \cong T^*V$ . So  $TV$  becomes a symplectic space. Denote an element of  $TV = V \times V$  by  $(x, \pi)$  and fix an orthonormal basis  $\{e_\alpha\}$  for  $V$  so that we can write  $x = x^\alpha e_\alpha$  and  $\pi = \pi^\alpha e_\alpha$ . Then the basic Poisson bracket relations on  $TV$  are

$$\{x^\alpha, \pi^\beta\} = \delta^{\alpha\beta}, \quad \{x^\alpha, x^\beta\} = 0, \quad \{\pi^\alpha, \pi^\beta\} = 0.$$

In coordinate free form, we have

$$\{\langle x | u \rangle, \langle \pi | v \rangle\} = \langle u | v \rangle, \quad \{\langle x | u \rangle, \langle x | v \rangle\} = \{\langle \pi | u \rangle, \langle \pi | v \rangle\} = 0.$$

One can check that real functions

$$\mathcal{S}_{UV} := \langle \mathcal{S}_{UV}(x) | \pi \rangle, \quad \mathcal{X}_U := \langle x | \{\pi U \pi\} \rangle, \quad \mathcal{Y}_V := \langle x | v \rangle \quad (10)$$

yield a Poisson realization on  $TV$  of  $\mathcal{S}_{UV}$ ,  $\mathcal{X}_Z$ ,  $\mathcal{Y}_W$  respectively.

**Proof.** It is clear that  $\{\mathcal{Y}_U, \mathcal{Y}_V\} = 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \{\mathcal{X}_U, \mathcal{Y}_V\} &= \{\langle x | \{\pi U \pi\} \rangle, \langle x | v \rangle\} \\ &= -2\langle x | \{v U \pi\} \rangle = -2\langle \mathcal{S}_{UV}(x) | \pi \rangle \\ &= -2\mathcal{S}_{UV}. \end{aligned}$$

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\end{aligned}$$

The rest of the proof is skipped. □

However, this is not a suitable Poisson realization because neither  $\mathcal{X}_e$  nor  $\mathcal{Y}_e$  is positive on  $TV$ .

To salvage this Poisson realization, we restrict the Poisson realization to certain sub-symplectic manifolds of  $TV$ , for example,  $TC_r$  where  $C_r$  is the set of rank  $r$  semi-positive elements of  $V$ , with  $r$  being a positive integer less than or equal to the rank of  $V$ . Indeed, restricting  $\mathcal{H}$  to  $TC_r$  yields an integrable model of Kepler type, which is the Kepler problem when  $V = \Gamma(3)$  and  $r = 1$ .

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