

# Killing equations on Riemannian spaces of constant curvature

Petr Zima  
(joint with P. Somberg)



FACULTY  
OF MATHEMATICS  
AND PHYSICS  
Charles University

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**Introduction**

**Prolongation procedure**

**Integrability conditions**

**Homogeneous spaces**

**Cone construction**

**Killing equations**

**Constant curvature spaces**

# Introduction

**Killing equations** are certain natural systems of partial differential equations defined on a (pseudo-)Riemannian or Spin manifold.

## Different types

- ▶ Killing vectors are infinitesimal generators of isometries.
- ▶ Symmetric Killing tensors and Killing forms are direct generalizations.
- ▶ Killing spinors arise on Spin manifolds of constant scalar curvature.
- ▶ Killing spinor-valued forms are a combination of K. spinors and forms.

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- ▶ Killing spinor-valued forms are a combination of K. spinors and forms.

## Properties and applications

- ▶ Overdetermined systems of PDEs
- ▶ Intrinsic relationship to the *curvature*
- ▶ Related to some special additional geometric structures:  
Sasakian, nearly Kähler, nearly parallel  $G_2$ -manifolds
- ▶ Integrals of motion for the geodesic equation
- ▶ In physics: general relativity, super-gravity, super-symmetry, regarded as “*hidden symmetries*”

## Prolongation procedure

**Prolongation procedure** transforms a wide class of overdetermined systems of PDEs into the equation for a *parallel section*.

It works roughly in the following steps:

1. Introduce new indeterminates so that the first derivative of all indeterminates is completely determined by algebraic terms.
2. Absorb the algebraic terms into a covariant derivative.

Typically it produces *tractor bundles* with a modified tractor connection.

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## Elementary approach

In simple cases the prolongation can be deduced ad hoc by repeated differentiations and projections on suitable components.

- ▶ The *curvature* appears from skew-symmetrizing a second derivative.

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## General construction

There is a systematic construction based on the Lie algebra cohomology.

- ▶ Main assumption is that the highest weight component of the derivative (the “*Twistor operator*”) is prescribed to vanish.
- ▶ The basic construction can be further refined in order to gain desired invariance properties.

(Branson, Čap, Eastwood and Gover 2006)

# Integrability conditions

Let  $M$  be a connected smooth manifold,

- ▶  $E \rightarrow M$  a finite-dimensional smooth vector bundle over  $M$ ,
- ▶ and  $\nabla$  an *arbitrary* linear connection in  $E$ .

We consider the equation for a **parallel section**  $\Phi \in \Gamma(E)$ ,

$$\nabla_X \Phi = 0, \quad \forall X \in \mathcal{T}(M). \quad (\text{E})$$



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The *integrability conditions* of (E) say simply that  $\Phi$  has to be annihilated by the **curvature**  $\mathcal{R}$  of  $\nabla$  and its derivatives:

$$\mathcal{R}_{X,Y} \Phi = 0, \quad (\text{I}_0)$$

$$(\nabla_{Z_k} (\dots (\nabla_{Z_1} (\mathcal{R}_{X,Y})) \dots)) \Phi = 0, \quad \forall X, Y, Z_1, \dots, Z_k \in \mathcal{X}(M). \quad (\text{I}_k)$$

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The conditions are tensorial in  $\Phi$  so we can evaluate them just pointwise and define subspaces consisting of admissible values in the fibers  $E_x$ ,

$$S_x = \{\phi \text{ such that } (\text{I}_0) \text{ and } (\text{I}_k) \text{ hold at } x\} \subseteq E_x. \quad (\text{S})$$

Note that  $\dim S_x$  is not generally constant but only upper semi-continuous.

## Existence results

Under a simple regularity assumption on  $S_x$  the integrability conditions are in fact sufficient for the existence of at least a local solution.

### Theorem

*If  $\dim S_x$  is constant on some neighborhood of  $x_0 \in M$  then for each  $\phi \in S_{x_0}$  exists a unique local solution  $\Phi$  of (E) such that  $\Phi(x_0) = \phi$ .*

In detail, the hypothesis ensures that  $S_x$  form a smooth vector subbundle  $S \subseteq E$  and  $\nabla$  consequently restricts to a *flat connection* in  $S$ .

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### Proposition

*If  $(M, E, \nabla)$  are real-analytic then  $\dim S_x$  is constant on  $M$ .*

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### Proposition

*If  $(M, E, \nabla)$  are real-analytic then  $\dim S_x$  is constant on  $M$ .*

In general, there is no upper bound on the order  $k$  of differentiation in  $(I_k)$  which needs to be considered, even in the real-analytic case. Let us define

$$S_x^l = \{ \phi \text{ such that } (I_0) \text{ and } (I_k) \text{ hold at } x \text{ for } k \leq l \} \subseteq E_x. \quad (S^l)$$

With assumption on  $S_x^l$  we can determine  $S_x$  in a finite number of steps.

### Proposition

*If  $\dim S_x^l$  is constant on some neighborhood of  $x_0 \in M$  and  $S_{x_0}^l = S_{x_0}^{l-1}$  then  $S_x = S_x^l = S_x^{l-1}$  on a (possibly smaller) neighborhood of  $x_0$ .*

# Homogeneous spaces

Suppose that  $M = G/H$  is a simply connected homogeneous space,

- ▶  $E \rightarrow M$  a finite-dimensional *homogeneous* vector bundle over  $M$ ,
- ▶ and  $\nabla$  an *invariant* linear connection in  $E$ .

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We compare  $\nabla$  with the **fundamental derivative**  $D$  given by the canonical flat Cartan connection on  $G/H$ ,

$$\nabla_{\Pi(\xi)} \Phi = D_{\xi} \Phi + C_{\xi} \Phi, \quad \forall \xi \in \mathcal{A}(M), \Phi \in \Gamma(E), \quad (C)$$

where  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\mathfrak{h}$  are the Lie algebras corresponding to  $G$  and  $H$  respectively,

- ▶  $\mathcal{A}(M) = G \times_H \mathfrak{g}$  is the adjoint tractor bundle over  $G/H$ ,
- ▶  $\Pi: \mathcal{A}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)$  is the canonical projection,
- ▶  $D: \mathcal{A}(M) \otimes \Gamma(E) \rightarrow E$  is the fundamental derivative,
- ▶ and  $C: \mathcal{A}(M) \otimes E \rightarrow E$  is a tensorial mapping.

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- ▶ and  $C: \mathcal{A}(M) \otimes E \rightarrow E$  is a tensorial mapping.

Invariance of  $\nabla$  implies that  $C$  must be  $G$ -equivariant and hence, by abuse of notation, we can identify it with

- ▶ an  $H$ -equivariant linear mapping  $C: \mathfrak{g} \otimes E_o \rightarrow E_o$ ,

where  $E_o$  is the fiber of  $E$  at the origin  $o \in M$ .



## Homogeneous spaces

Using the Ricci identity we can write the integrability conditions in form

$$[C_\xi, C_\nu] \phi = C_{\{\xi, \nu\}} \phi, \quad (\text{CI}_0)$$

$$[C_\xi, C_\nu] C_{\zeta_k} \cdots C_{\zeta_1} \phi = C_{\{\xi, \nu\}} C_{\zeta_k} \cdots C_{\zeta_1} \phi, \quad (\text{CI}_k)$$

$$\forall \xi, \nu, \zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_k \in \mathfrak{g},$$

where  $[,]$  denotes the commutator in  $\mathcal{L}(E_o, E_o)$  and  $\{, \}$  the Lie bracket in  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

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- ▶  $S_o \subseteq E_o$  is the maximal subspace on which the linear mapping  $C$  restricts to a **representation of  $\mathfrak{g}$** .

The subbundle  $S \subseteq E$  becomes a (flat) **tractor bundle** over  $G/H$  via  $\exp C$  and the parallel sections are explicitly given by the formula

$$\Phi(go) = L_g((\exp C)(g^{-1}) \phi), \quad \forall g \in G, \phi \in S_o, \quad (\text{F})$$

where  $L_g$  denotes the left action of  $G$  on  $E$ .

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The regularity of  $S_x^l$  is satisfied thanks to homogeneity, so the sequence  $S_o^0 \supseteq \cdots \supseteq S_o^l \supseteq \cdots \supseteq S_o$  definitely stabilizes once it does not decrease.

Finding  $S_o$  is therefore *completely algorithmic*. We have implemented this algorithm in CAS for Killing forms, spinors and spinor-valued forms.

## Cone construction

The  $\varepsilon$ -metric cone over a pseudo-Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  is

- ▶ the warped product  $\bar{M} = M \times \mathbb{R}_+$  with metric  $\bar{g} = r^2 g + \varepsilon dr^2$ , where  $r$  is the coordinate function on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  and  $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ .

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We associate to a vector field  $X$  on  $M$  a vector field  $\bar{X}$  on  $\bar{M}$  by

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{r} p_1^*(X), \tag{MC1}$$

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The corresponding Levi-Civita connections on  $M$  and  $\bar{M}$  are related by

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\nabla}_{\bar{X}}^g \bar{Y} &= \frac{1}{r} (\bar{\nabla}_X^g Y - \varepsilon g(X, Y) \partial_r), & \bar{\nabla}_{\partial_r}^g \bar{X} &= 0, \\ \bar{\nabla}_X^g \partial_r &= \frac{1}{r} \bar{X}, & \bar{\nabla}_{\partial_r}^g \partial_r &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{MC2}$$

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The so called cone constructions establish a correspondence between

- ▶ solutions of natural systems of PDEs like the Killing equations on  $M$
- ▶ and parallel sections of suitable vector bundles over  $\bar{M}$ .

In fact we can view the natural bundles over  $\bar{M}$  as **tractor bundles** over  $M$ .

# Killing forms

From now on let  $(M, g)$  be a pseudo-Riemannian manifold,  $\nabla^g$  the Levi-Civita connection and  $\mathcal{R}^g$  its curvature.

## Definition

A  $p$ -form  $\alpha$  on  $M$  is a **Killing form** if there exists a  $(p+1)$ -form  $\beta$ , such that

$$\nabla_X^g \alpha = X \lrcorner \beta. \tag{KF1}$$



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## Prolongation

$$\nabla_X^g \beta = \frac{1}{p} \mathcal{R}_X^g \wedge \alpha, \quad (\text{KF2})$$

$$\mathcal{R}_X^g \wedge \alpha = \sum_{i=1}^n e^i \wedge (\mathcal{R}_{X, e^i}^g \alpha).$$

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## 1<sup>st</sup> curvature condition

$$\mathcal{R}_{X, Y}^g \alpha + \frac{1}{p} \left( X \lrcorner (\mathcal{R}_Y^g \wedge \alpha) - Y \lrcorner (\mathcal{R}_X^g \wedge \alpha) \right) = 0. \quad (\text{KF3})$$

- ▶ The condition is *void* for 1-forms.

# Killing forms

## Definition

A Killing  $p$ -form  $\alpha$  on  $M$  is **special** if additionally holds

$$\nabla_X^g \beta = -cX^* \wedge \alpha, \tag{KF4}$$

for some constant  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  and where  $X^*$  is the metric dual of  $X$ .

The equation (KF4) considered alone (with exchanged roles of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ) is just a Hodge star dualization of (KF1) called **\*-Killing equation**.

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## Cone construction

We associate to a  $p$ -form  $\alpha$  on  $M$  a  $p$ -form  $\bar{\alpha}$  on  $\bar{M}$  by

$$\bar{\alpha} = r^p p_1^*(\alpha). \tag{MC3}$$

## Proposition

Let  $\alpha$  be a  $p$ -form and  $\beta$  a  $(p+1)$ -form on  $M$ . The  $(p+1)$ -form  $\Theta$  on  $\bar{M}$ ,

$$\Theta = dr \wedge \bar{\alpha} + \bar{\beta}, \tag{KF5}$$

is **parallel** if and only if  $\alpha$  together with  $\beta$  is **special Killing** with  $c = \varepsilon$ .

(Simmelmann 2003)

# Killing spinors

Further suppose that  $(M, g)$  is a Spin manifold and denote by  $\nabla^g$  and  $\mathcal{R}^g$  also the corresponding spin connection and its curvature respectively.

## Definition

A spinor field  $\Psi$  on  $M$  is a **Killing spinor** if

$$\nabla_X^g \Psi = aX \cdot \Psi, \tag{KS1}$$

for some constant  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  called the **Killing number** and where  $\cdot$  denotes the Clifford multiplication.

- ▶ The prolongation is trivial since (KS1) is already closed.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> curvature condition

$$\mathcal{R}_{X,Y}^g \Psi + a^2(X \cdot Y - Y \cdot X) \cdot \Psi, = 0. \tag{KS2}$$

- ▶ Implies that  $(M, g)$  must be *Einstein*. (Friedrich 1980)

# Killing spinors

## Cone construction

The cone  $\overline{M}$  is clearly homotopy equivalent to  $M$ , hence any spin structure on  $M$  determines a unique spin structure on  $\overline{M}$ . We denote

- ▶ by  $\Sigma$  and  $\overline{\Sigma}$  the associated spinor bundles on  $M$  and  $\overline{M}$  respectively.

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The pullback bundle  $p_1^*(\Sigma)$  is naturally a subbundle of  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and we associate to a spinor field  $\Psi$  on  $M$  spinor fields  $\bar{\Psi}_\pm$  on  $\bar{M}$  by

$$\bar{\Psi}_\pm = (1 \mp \sqrt{\varepsilon} \partial_r) \cdot p_1^*(\Psi). \quad (\text{MC4})$$

The two choices of sign of the square root yield inequivalent though analogous results and we consider both of them.



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The two choices of sign of the square root yield inequivalent though analogous results and we consider both of them.

## Proposition

Let  $\Psi$  be a spinor field on  $M$ . The associated spinor field  $\overline{\Psi}_\pm$  on  $\overline{M}$  is **parallel** if and only if  $\Psi$  is **Killing** with  $a = \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\varepsilon}$ . (Bär 1993; Bohle 2003)

# Killing spinor-valued forms

## Definition

A spinor-valued  $p$ -form  $\Phi$  on  $M$  is a **Killing spinor-valued form** if there exists a spinor-valued  $(p + 1)$ -form  $\Xi$ , such that

$$\nabla_X^g \Phi = aX \cdot \Phi + X \lrcorner \Xi, \tag{KSF1}$$

for some constant  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  called the **Killing number**.

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## Prolongation

We absorb the Clifford multiplication term into covariant derivative  $\nabla^a$ ,

$$\nabla_X^a \Psi = \nabla_X^g \Psi - aX \cdot \Psi, \quad \forall \Psi \in \Gamma(\Sigma), \quad (\text{KSF2})$$

and extend it to spinor-valued forms by the Levi-Civita connection.

# Killing spinor-valued forms

## Definition

A spinor-valued  $p$ -form  $\Phi$  on  $M$  is a **Killing spinor-valued form** if there exists a spinor-valued  $(p + 1)$ -form  $\Xi$ , such that

$$\nabla_X^g \Phi = aX \cdot \Phi + X \lrcorner \Xi, \quad (\text{KSF1})$$

for some constant  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  called the **Killing number**.

## Prolongation

We absorb the Clifford multiplication term into covariant derivative  $\nabla^a$ ,

$$\nabla_X^a \Psi = \nabla_X^g \Psi - aX \cdot \Psi, \quad \forall \Psi \in \Gamma(\Sigma), \quad (\text{KSF2})$$

and extend it to spinor-valued forms by the Levi-Civita connection.

$$\nabla_X^g \Xi = aX \cdot \Xi + \frac{1}{p} \left( \mathcal{R}_X^a \wedge \Phi - \frac{1}{2(p+1)} X \lrcorner (\mathcal{R}^a \wedge \Phi) \right), \quad (\text{KSF3})$$

$$\mathcal{R}_X^a \wedge \Phi = \sum_{i=1}^n e^i \wedge (\mathcal{R}_{X, e_i}^a \wedge \Phi), \quad \mathcal{R}^a \wedge \Phi = \sum_{i=1}^n e^i \wedge (\mathcal{R}_{e_i}^a \wedge \Phi),$$

where  $\mathcal{R}^a$  denotes the curvature of  $\nabla^a$ .

# Killing spinor-valued forms

## 1<sup>st</sup> curvature condition

$$\mathcal{R}_{X,Y}^a \Phi + \frac{1}{p} \left( X \lrcorner (\mathcal{R}_Y^a \wedge \Phi) - Y \lrcorner (\mathcal{R}_X^a \wedge \Phi) - \frac{1}{p+1} X \lrcorner Y \lrcorner (\mathcal{R}^a \wedge \Phi) \right) = 0. \quad (\text{KSF4})$$

- ▶ The condition is again *void* for spinor-valued 1-forms.

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## Definition

A Killing spinor-valued  $p$ -form  $\Phi$  on  $M$  is **special** if additionally holds

$$\nabla_X^g \Xi = aX \cdot \Xi - cX^* \wedge \Phi, \quad (\text{KSF5})$$

for some constant  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ .

As in the case of ordinary forms, the equation (KSF5) considered alone (with exchanged roles of  $\Phi$  and  $\Xi$ ) is just a Hodge star dualization of (KSF1) called **\*-Killing equation**.

# Killing spinor-valued forms

## Cone construction

We associate to a spinor-valued  $p$ -form  $\Phi$  on  $M$  spinor-valued  $p$ -forms  $\bar{\Phi}_\pm$  on the  $\varepsilon$ -metric cone  $\bar{M}$  by

$$\bar{\Phi}_\pm = r^p (1 \mp \sqrt{\varepsilon} \partial_r) \cdot p_1^*(\Phi). \quad (\text{MC5})$$

## Proposition

Let  $\Phi$  be a spinor-valued  $p$ -form and  $\Xi$  a spinor-valued  $(p+1)$ -form on  $M$ . The spinor-valued  $(p+1)$ -form  $\Theta_\pm$  on  $\bar{M}$ ,

$$\Theta_\pm = dr \wedge \bar{\Phi}_\pm + \bar{\Xi}_\pm, \quad (\text{KSF6})$$

is **parallel** if and only if  $\Phi$  together with  $\Xi$  is **special Killing** with

$$a = \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\varepsilon} \text{ and } c = \varepsilon.$$

(Somberg, Zima 2016)

## Constant curvature spaces

Let  $\overline{M} = \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$  with the standard inner product  $\overline{g}$  of signature  $(\overline{p}, \overline{q})$ , and  $(M, g)$  be the pseudo-Riemannian submanifold

$$M = \{x \in \overline{M} \mid \overline{g}(x, x) = \varepsilon\}, \quad (\text{CC1})$$

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- ▶  $M$  has **constant curvature**  $\varepsilon$ .
- ▶  $M$  can be viewed as the **homogeneous space**  $O(\overline{p}, \overline{q}) / O(p, q)$ .
- ▶  $\overline{M}$  is the  **$\varepsilon$ -metric cone** over  $M$ .
- ▶ The pullbacks of natural bundles over  $\overline{M}$  along the embedding  $i: M \hookrightarrow \overline{M}$  are trivial and can be viewed as **tractor bundles** over  $M$ .

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The Levi-Civita connection on  $\overline{M}$  is just the usual *partial derivative*  $\partial$ .

- ▶ Restriction of  $\partial$  to  $M$  is the canonical (flat) **tractor connection**.

The Levi-Civita connection on  $M$  and its curvature are given by

$$\nabla_X^g = \partial_X + \varepsilon(x \wedge X), \quad \mathcal{R}_{X,Y}^g = \varepsilon(X \wedge Y), \quad (\text{CC2})$$

where  $x \wedge X$  and  $X \wedge Y$  are respective elementary matrices in  $\mathfrak{so}(\overline{p}, \overline{q})$ .

# Constant curvature spaces

## Killing forms

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \alpha(x) &= x \lrcorner \Theta \\ \beta(x) &= \pi(\Theta) \end{aligned} \right\} \Leftrightarrow \Theta = \varepsilon x^* \wedge \alpha(x) + \beta(x) \quad (\text{CC3})$$

## Killing spinors

$$\Psi(x) = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_{\pm} \cdot \Theta \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \Theta = \varphi_{\mp} \cdot \Psi(x) \quad (\text{CC4})$$

## Killing spinor-valued forms

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Phi(x) &= \frac{1}{2} \varphi_{\pm} \cdot (x \lrcorner \Theta) \\ \Xi(x) &= \frac{1}{2} \varphi_{\pm} \cdot \pi(\Theta) \end{aligned} \right\} \Leftrightarrow \Theta = \varphi_{\mp} \cdot (\varepsilon x^* \wedge \Phi(x) + \Xi(x)) \quad (\text{CC5})$$

where we denote

$$\pi(\Theta) = \Theta - \varepsilon x^* \wedge (x \lrcorner \Theta), \quad \varphi_{\pm} = 1 \pm \sqrt{\varepsilon} x.$$

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- ▶ All the solutions are *special* and the *Killing number* is  $a = \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\varepsilon}$ .
- ▶ The *1<sup>st</sup> curvature conditions* rule out other solutions except for spinor-valued forms in degree  $p = 1$ .

# New solutions

## Algebraic decomposition

We can decompose the space of spinor-valued forms using the technique of *Howe dual pairs*. The degree raising and lowering algebraic operators,

$$\gamma \cdot \wedge \Phi = \sum_{i=1}^n e^i \wedge (e_i \cdot \Phi), \quad \gamma^* \lrcorner \Phi = \sum_{i,j=1}^n g^{ij} e_i \lrcorner (e_j \cdot \Phi), \quad (\text{G1})$$

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- ▶ A spinor-valued  $p$ -form  $\Phi$  is called **primitive** if  $\gamma^* \lrcorner \Phi = 0$ .
- ▶ Projection on the primitive component in degree  $p = 1$  is given by

$$\pi_{\text{Tw}}(\Phi) = \Phi + \frac{1}{n} \gamma \cdot \wedge (\gamma^* \lrcorner \Phi). \quad (\text{G2})$$

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## Higher curvature conditions

The higher curvature conditions for Killing spinor-valued forms in degree  $p = 1$  allow only one other possibility on  $M$  besides  $a = \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\varepsilon}$ ,

$$a = \pm \frac{3}{2} \sqrt{\varepsilon}, \quad \Xi = \mp \sqrt{\varepsilon} (\gamma \cdot \wedge \Phi). \quad (\text{CC6})$$

## New solutions

The new solutions in degree  $p = 1$  hence satisfy a stronger equation,

$$\nabla_X^g \Phi = \pm \sqrt{\varepsilon} \left( \frac{3}{2} X \cdot \Phi - X \lrcorner (\gamma \cdot \wedge \Phi) \right). \quad (\text{KSF7})$$

### Cone construction

They correspond to constant **primitive spinor-valued 1-forms** on  $\overline{M}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(x) &= \frac{1}{2} (\varphi_{\pm} \cdot \pi(\Theta) \pm \sqrt{\varepsilon} \gamma \cdot \wedge (\varphi_{\pm} \cdot (x \lrcorner \Theta))) && \Leftrightarrow \\ \Leftrightarrow \quad \Theta &= \overline{\pi_{\text{Tw}}}(\varphi_{\mp} \cdot \Phi(x)). && (\text{CC7}) \end{aligned}$$



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- ▶ Do not attain the maximal dimension from the prolongation (KSF3).
- ▶ Not special in the sense of (KSF5).
- ▶ *Not spanned by tensor products*  $\alpha \otimes \Psi$  of  $\mathbb{K}$ . spinors and forms.
- ▶  $\Phi(x)$  cannot take values solely in the primitive component.

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Comparing (CC7) with (CC5) we get that the new solutions  $\Phi$  are just a transformation of **special Killing forms**  $(\Phi', \Xi')$  in order  $p = 0$ ,

$$\Phi = \Xi' \pm \sqrt{\varepsilon} \gamma \cdot \wedge \Phi'. \quad (\text{KSF8})$$

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**