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# On space–time manifolds carrying a skew symmetric killing vector field

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## Abstract

We analyse the structural properties, from a geometrical point of view, of space–time manifolds carrying a skew symmetric Killing vector field. © 1999 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $(M, g)$  be a general space–time with usual differentiability conditions, and normed hyperbolic metric  $g$  (i.e.  $g$  is of index 1). We assume in this paper that  $M$  carries a non-null skew-symmetric Killing vector field  $C$  [1] (see also [2]) having as generative the timelike vector field  $e_4$  of an orthonormal vector basis

$$\mathcal{O} = \text{vect}\{e_A | A = 1, \dots, 4\}$$

on  $(M, g)$ . Since we also assume that the covariant differential operator  $\nabla$  is symmetric, then  $\nabla C$  is expressed by

$$\nabla C = C \wedge e_4, \tag{1}$$

where  $\wedge$  is the wedge product of vectorfields.

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It has been shown that the existence of  $C$  is determined by a closed differential system and that  $e_4$  is torse forming [3].

In the present paper we are mostly concerned with the case when  $e_4^b$  is invariant under  $C$ . This implies that  $\mathcal{D}_C = \{C, e_4\}$  defines an exterior concurrent 2-distribution [5] and any vector field  $Z_C \in \mathcal{D}_C$  satisfies

$$\mathcal{R}(Z, Z_C) = 3g(Z, Z_C), \quad Z \in \mathfrak{E}M,$$

where  $\mathcal{R}$  denotes the Ricci tensor field of  $\nabla$ .

In addition, the following properties are proved:

- (i)  $(M, g)$  is foliated by surfaces normal to  $\mathcal{D}_C$ ;
- (ii) the mixed curvature forms of  $M$  [15] define a vector valued 2-form  $\psi$  which is covariantly closed;
- (iii) the square of the lengths  $\|C\|^2$  is an isoparametric function.

It is well known that in special relativity, electromagnetism is described in the 4-vector formalism by the Maxwell tensor  $(F^{\mu\nu})$ , which incorporates both the electric and magnetic field [7]. Equivalently, in the language of forms, there thus exists a 2-form  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^4$

$$\mathcal{F} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^3 \mathcal{E}_\alpha du^\alpha \wedge du^4 + (\mathcal{B}_1 du^2 \wedge du^3 + \mathcal{B}_2 du^3 \wedge du^1 + \mathcal{B}_3 du^1 \wedge du^2),$$

where  $u^i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) are coordinates in Minkowski space [14].

Therefore, in general relativity on a space–time manifold  $M$ , electromagnetism is introduced by a 2-form on  $M$

$$\mathcal{F} = (\mathcal{E}_a \omega^a) \wedge \omega^4 + \sum_{\text{cycl}} \mathcal{B}_a \omega^b \wedge \omega^c,$$

where  $\{\omega^A | A = 1, \dots, 4\}$  is a local field of orthonormal coframes over  $M$ ;  $\mathcal{F}$  is called the Faraday 2-form.

If one assumes that  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  coincide with the spacelike components of the skew-symmetric Killing vector field  $C$ , one finds that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a conformal symplectic form having the timelike covector  $e_4^b = \omega^4$  as covector of Lee.

Finally, regarding the Lie algebra induced by  $C$  and  $e_4$ , the following properties are pointed out:

- (i)  $C^\flat$  is self-invariant, i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}_C C^\flat = 0;$$

- (ii)  $C$  is an affine Killing vector field;
- (iii) the vector valued 2-form  $\psi$  is invariant by  $C$ , i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}_C \psi = 0;$$

- (iv)  $\mathcal{L}_C \mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{e_4} \mathcal{F}$  are cohomologically closed, i.e.

$$d^{-2\omega^4}(\mathcal{L}_C \mathcal{F}) = 0, \quad d^{-2\omega^4}(\mathcal{L}_{e_4} \mathcal{F}) = 0.$$

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian or pseudo-Riemannian  $C^\infty$ -manifold and let  $\nabla$  be the covariant differential operator defined by the metric tensor  $g$  (we assume that  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection). Let  $\Gamma TM$  be the set of sections of the tangent bundle, and

$$TM \xrightarrow{b} T^*M \quad \text{and} \quad TM \xleftarrow{\sharp} T^*M$$

the classical isomorphism defined by  $g$  (i.e.  $b$  is the index lowering operator, and  $\sharp$  is the index raising operator).

We denote by

$$A^q(M, TM) = \Gamma \text{Hom}(\Lambda^q TM, TM),$$

the set of vector valued  $q$ -forms ( $q < \dim M$ ), and following [4], we write for the covariant derivative operator with respect to  $\nabla$

$$d^\nabla : A^q(M, TM) \rightarrow A^{q+1}(M, TM)$$

(it should be noticed that in general  $d^{\nabla^2} = d^\nabla \circ d^\nabla \neq 0$  unlike  $d^2 = d \circ d = 0$ ). If  $p \in M$  then the vector valued 1-form  $dp \in A^1(M, TM)$  is the identity vector valued 1-form and is also called the soldering form of  $M$  [9]. Since  $\nabla$  is symmetric, one has that  $d^\nabla(dp) = 0$ .

The cohomology operator [8] is defined by

$$d^\omega = d + e(\omega) \tag{2}$$

and is acting on  $\Lambda M$ ;  $e(\omega)$  is the exterior product by the closed 1-form  $\omega$ . One has  $d^\omega \circ d^\omega = 0$ , and a form  $u \in \Lambda M$  such that  $d^\omega u = 0$  is said to be  $d^\omega$ -closed (or cohomologically closed).

A vector field  $X \in \mathcal{E}M$  which satisfies

$$d^\nabla(\nabla X) = \nabla^2 X = \pi \wedge dp \in A^2(M, TM), \quad \pi \in \Lambda^1 M \tag{3}$$

is defined to be an exterior concurrent vector field [1] (see also [2,6]). In (3)  $\pi$  is called the concurrence form and is defined by

$$\pi = \lambda X^\flat, \quad \lambda \in \Lambda^0 M. \tag{4}$$

In this case, if  $\mathcal{R}$  is the Ricci tensor, one has

$$\mathcal{R}(X, Z) = \epsilon(n-1)\lambda g(X, Z), \tag{5}$$

( $\epsilon = \pm 1$ ,  $Z \in \mathcal{E}M$ ,  $n = \dim M$ ).

A function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is isoparametric if  $(df)^\sharp$  and  $\text{div}(df)^\sharp$  are functions of  $f$  [10] ( $(df)^\sharp = \text{grad } f$ ).

If  $\mathcal{T}$  is any conformal vector field, i.e. the conformal version of the Killing equation, that is  $\mathcal{L}_\mathcal{T} = \rho g$ ,  $\rho = (2/n)\text{div } \mathcal{T}$  then

$$\mathcal{L}_\mathcal{T} Z^\flat = \rho Z^\flat + [\mathcal{T}, Z]^\flat \tag{6}$$

is Oersted's lemma [11].

Let  $\mathcal{O} = \{e_A | A = 1, \dots, n\}$  be a local field of orthonormal frames over  $M$  and let  $\mathcal{O}^* = \text{covect}\{\omega^A\}$  be its associated coframe. Then Cartan's structure equations written in indexless manner are

$$\nabla e = \theta \otimes e, \tag{7}$$

$$d\omega = -\theta \wedge \omega, \tag{8}$$

$$d\theta = -\theta \wedge \theta + \Theta. \tag{9}$$

In the above equations  $\theta$  (resp.  $\Theta$ ) are the local connection forms in the tangent bundle  $TM$  (resp. the curvature forms on  $M$ ).

### 3. Skew-symmetric Killing vector fields

Let  $(M, g)$  be a space-time manifold with normal hyperbolic metric tensor  $g$  and let  $\mathcal{O} = \{e_A | A = 1, \dots, 4\}$  be a local field of orthonormal frames over  $M$  and  $\mathcal{O}^* = \text{covect}\{\omega^A\}$  its associated coframe. We assume that the indices  $a, b \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  correspond to the spacelike vectorfields  $e_A$ , whilst  $e_4$  corresponds to the timelike vectorfield. Then by reference to [12] (see also [2]), the soldering form  $dp$  is expressed by:

$$dp = \omega^4 \otimes e_4 - \sum \omega^a \otimes e_a, \tag{10}$$

and in consequence of (10) one has the following structure equations [12]:

$$\nabla e_a = \theta_a^4 \otimes e_4 - \theta_a^b \otimes e_b, \quad \nabla e_4 = -\theta_4^a \otimes e_a \tag{11}$$

$$d\omega^a = \omega^4 \wedge \theta_4^a - \omega^b \wedge \theta_b^a, \quad d\omega^4 = -\omega^a \wedge \theta_a^4 \tag{12}$$

and

$$d\theta_b^a = \Theta_b^a - \theta_b^c \wedge \theta_c^a + \theta_b^4 \wedge \theta_4^a, \quad d\theta_4^a = \Theta_4^a - \theta_4^b \wedge \theta_b^a. \tag{13}$$

Following [15], the curvature forms  $\Theta_4^a$  are called the mixed curvature forms of the space-time manifold  $M$ .

Let now

$$C = C^4 e_4 - \sum C^a e_a, \quad C^A \in \Lambda^0 M, \tag{14}$$

be a vector field on  $M$ . In order to simplify, we set

$$C^b = \alpha = C^4 \omega^4 - \sum_a C^a \omega^a. \tag{15}$$

Assume that  $C$  is a skew-symmetric conformal vector field [13] (see also [13]), having the timelike vector field  $e_4$  as generative, i.e.

$$\nabla C = 2\lambda dp + C \wedge e_4, \quad \lambda \in \Lambda^0 M. \tag{16}$$

As is known, one has  $\mathcal{L}_C g = 2\lambda g$ ,  $2\lambda = \text{div } C/2$ , and one may write (16) as

$$\nabla C = 2\lambda dp + \omega^4 \otimes C - \alpha \otimes e_4. \tag{17}$$

Making use of Eq. (11), one gets from (17)

$$\begin{aligned} dC^a &= C^b \theta_b^a - C^4 \theta_4^a + C^a \omega^4 + 2\lambda \omega^a, \\ dC^4 &= C^b \theta_b^4 + (2\lambda + C^4) \omega^4 - \alpha \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

and with the help of (12), one derives

$$d\alpha = 2\omega^4 \wedge \alpha. \quad (19)$$

But by definition,  $d\omega^4$  is not conformal to  $\alpha$  and so it follows at once from (19) that

$$d\omega^4 = 0. \quad (20)$$

Since  $\alpha$  is an exterior recurrent form having  $2\omega^4$  as recurrence form [17], we notice that (19) is the standard equation which is induced by skew-symmetric conformal or skew-symmetric Killing vector fields.

Without loss of generality, one may assume that the quadratic form  $\langle dp, \nabla e_4 \rangle$  is diagonal. Then one may set

$$\theta_a^4 = -f\omega^a = 0, \quad f \in \Lambda^0 M, \quad (21)$$

and this by (10) and the second equation of (11), implies

$$\nabla e_4 = f(dp - \omega^4 \otimes e_4), \quad (22)$$

which shows that the timelike vector field  $e_4$  is torse forming [3] (see also [2,18]).

Now, by (20) one quickly has

$$\mathcal{L}_C \omega^4 = dC^4 = (f - 1)\alpha + (2\lambda + (1 - f)C^4)\omega^4, \quad (23)$$

and by Oersted's lemma (6), one finds

$$\mathcal{L}_C \omega^4 = (f - 1)\alpha + (1 - f)C^4 \omega^4,$$

which implies that  $2\lambda = 0$ , i.e.  $C$  is a skew-symmetric Killing vectorfield.

Therefore we have the following proposition:

**Proposition 3.1.** *On a space-time manifold  $(M, g)$  a skew-symmetric conformal vector field  $C$  having as generative its timelike vectorfield  $e_4$  of the  $\mathcal{O}$ -basis on  $M$  is a skew-symmetric Killing vector field.*

#### 4. Exterior concurrent distribution

In consequence of Proposition 3.1, we will study the case when Eq. (16) reduces to

$$\nabla C = C \wedge e_4, \quad (24)$$

i.e.  $C$  is a skew-symmetric Killing vector field having the timelike vector field  $e_4$  as generative. In addition we assume that  $\omega^4 ((\omega^4)^\sharp = e_4)$  is invariant by  $C$ , i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}_C \omega^4 = 0 \iff C^4 = \text{const}. \quad (25)$$

In this case, it is seen by (23) that  $f = 1$ , (remember  $\lambda = 0$ ) and the converse is also true. In consequence of (25),  $e_4$  is a closed torse forming and, therefore,  $e_4$  is an exterior concurrent vector field [1]. Moreover, since (24) may be expressed as

$$\nabla C = \omega^4 \otimes C - \alpha \otimes e_4, \tag{26}$$

then operating on  $\nabla C$  by the operator  $d^\nabla$ , one derives

$$d^\nabla(\nabla C) = \nabla^2 C = \alpha \wedge dp, \tag{27}$$

which shows the fact that  $C$  is also an exterior concurrent vector field. One may prove that the converse is also true, that is:

The properties that the timelike covector  $\omega^4$  be invariant by  $C$  and that  $C$  be an exterior concurrent vector field are mutually equivalent.

It should be noticed that the existence of the skew-symmetric Killing vector field  $C$  is assumed by the closed differential system defined by (19) and (20). Since the operator  $\nabla$  acts inductively, one derives from (27) successively,

$$\nabla^3 C = 2\omega^4 \wedge \nabla^2 C, \quad \nabla^4 C = 0.$$

Hence, one may say that  $\nabla^3 C$  is covariant recurrent and that  $\nabla^4 C$  is a zero element of  $A^4(M, TM)$ . Moreover, since  $e_4$  and  $C$  are both exterior concurrent vector fields, and that this property is preserved by linearity, one may say that  $\mathcal{D}_C = \{C, e_4\}$  defines an exterior concurrent 2-distribution. Since clearly  $\mathcal{D}_C$  is an involutive distribution, it follows that  $M$  is foliated by surfaces  $M_C^\perp$  normal to  $\mathcal{D}_C$ .

Next, since in general

$$\nabla^2 X(Z, Z') = R(Z, Z')X, \quad \mathcal{R}(Z, X) = \sum \langle R(e_A, Z)X, e_A \rangle,$$

where  $R$  (resp.  $\mathcal{R}$ ) denotes the curvature tensor field (resp. the Ricci tensor field of  $\nabla$ ), one finds for any vector field  $X_C \in \mathcal{D}_C$

$$\mathcal{R}(Z, X_C) = 3g(Z, X_C), \quad Z \in \mathcal{E}M. \tag{28}$$

On the other hand, making use of the second structure equation (13), one derives by (21) and taking into account that  $f = 1$

$$\Theta_a^4 = \omega^a \wedge \omega^4. \tag{29}$$

This shows that the mixed curvature forms  $\Theta_a^4$  are monomial and one easily finds

$$\sum C^a \Theta_a^4 = \omega^4 \wedge \alpha$$

and

$$\psi = \sum \Theta_4^a \otimes e_a = \omega^4 \wedge dp. \tag{30}$$

We agree to call  $\psi$  the mixed curvature vector valued 2-form of the space–time  $M$  under consideration. Operating on  $\psi$  by the operator  $d^\nabla$  one finds on behalf of (20)

$$d^\nabla \psi = 0, \tag{31}$$

which shows that  $\psi$  is a closed vector valued 2-form. In another order of ideas, if we set

$$2l = \|C\|^2, \quad (32)$$

then since  $dC^4 = 0$ , one derives from (18)

$$dl = 2l\omega^4 - C^4\alpha, \quad (33)$$

which is coherent with (19). Hence one may write

$$(d2l)^\sharp = 4le_4 - C^4C \quad (34)$$

and we notice that  $(d2l)^\sharp$  is also an exterior concurrent vector field. Next, since in general  $\operatorname{div} Z = \operatorname{tr} \nabla Z$ ,  $Z \in \mathcal{EM}$ , then, taking into account the signature of  $g$ , one infers by (22)

$$\operatorname{div}(d2l)^\sharp = -4l - (C^4)^2. \quad (35)$$

Hence, since  $\|(d2l)^\sharp\|^2 = 16l^2 - 6(C^4)^2l$  and  $C^4 = \operatorname{const.}$ , it follows that  $\|(d2l)^\sharp\|^2$  and  $\operatorname{div}(d2l)^\sharp$  are functions of  $2l$ . So, following the well-known definition [10], we conclude that  $\|C\|^2$  is an isoparametric function. Moreover, setting in order to simplify

$$V = (d2l)^\sharp, \quad (36)$$

one finds by (22), (25) and (34)

$$\nabla V = 4ldp - 2C^4\omega^4 \otimes C + 2dl \otimes e_4, \quad (37)$$

and by a standard calculation it follows

$$[C, e_4] = 0, \quad (38)$$

$$[V, e_4] = -8le_4, \quad (39)$$

$$[V, C] = -\frac{1}{2}d\alpha(e_4, C)C. \quad (40)$$

This shows that  $C$  and  $e_4$  commute and  $V$  defines an infinitesimal conformal transformation of  $e_4$  and  $C$ . Finally, by reference to the Faraday 2-form  $\mathcal{F}$  on a Minkowski space, we agree to denominate

$$\mathcal{F} = (\mathcal{E}_a\omega^a) \wedge \omega^4 + \sum_{\text{cycl}} \mathcal{B}_a\omega^b \wedge \omega^c, \quad (41)$$

(where  $\sum_{\text{cycl}}$  is understood to be a cyclic permutation of the spacelike indices) the generalized Faraday 2-form (or the space–time Faraday form). The coefficients  $\mathcal{E}_a$  and  $\mathcal{B}_a$  represent the electric and magnetic fields, respectively, associated with  $\mathcal{F}$ . If we assume now that both vector fields  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  coincide with the spacelike components of  $C$  (i.e.  $C_a = \mathcal{E}_a = \mathcal{B}_a$ ), then on behalf of (15)  $\mathcal{F}$  is expressed by

$$\mathcal{F} = -\alpha \wedge \omega^4 + \phi, \quad (42)$$

where we have set

$$\phi = \sum_{\text{cycl}} C_a\omega^b \wedge \omega^c. \quad (43)$$

Next, with the help of (18), where  $\lambda = 0$ , and making use of the structure equations (12) and remembering that  $f = 1$ , one derives, after carrying out the calculations

$$d\phi = 3\omega^4 \wedge \phi. \tag{44}$$

Now, by (19) one quickly derives from (42) and (44)

$$d\mathcal{F} = 3\omega^4 \wedge \mathcal{F}, \tag{45}$$

which shows the fact that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a conformal symplectic form, having up to 3, the timelike covector  $\omega^4$  as covector of Lee.

Further, taking the codifferential  $\delta\mathcal{F}$  of  $\mathcal{F}$ , one finds, since  $\delta = *d*$  ( $*$ : star operator with respect to the orientation of  $M$ ), that

$$\delta\mathcal{F} = *d*\mathcal{F} = *d(-\phi + \alpha \wedge \omega^4) = -*d\mathcal{F},$$

and also

$$\delta\mathcal{F} = 3\alpha_s,$$

where  $\alpha_s$  is the spacelike component of the Killing covector  $C^b = \alpha$ . Therefore, according to the well-known definition (see also [19]),  $3\alpha_s$  may be considered as the source 1-form corresponding to  $\mathcal{F}$ .

Summarizing, we have the following theorem:

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a general space–time manifold carrying a skew-symmetric Killing vector field  $C$ , having the timelike vector field  $e_4$  of an  $\mathcal{O}$ -basis as generative. Such a vectorfield  $C$  is determined by a closed differential system and  $e_4$  is torse forming.*

*If  $(e_4)^b$  is invariant by  $C$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{L}_C(e_4)^b = 0$ , then the distribution  $\mathcal{D}_C = \{C, e_4\}$  is an exterior concurrent distribution and if  $\mathcal{R}$  denotes the Ricci tensor field, then any vector field  $Z_C \in \mathcal{D}_C$  satisfies*

$$\mathcal{R}(Z, Z_C) = 3g(Z, Z_C), \quad Z \in \mathfrak{X}M.$$

*In addition, one has the following properties*

- (i)  *$M$  is foliated by surfaces normal to  $\mathcal{D}_C$ ;*
- (ii) *the square of the lengths  $2l = \|C\|^2$  of  $C$  is an isoparametric function, and  $(d2l)^\sharp$  defines an infinitesimal conformal transformation of  $C$  and  $e_4$ ;*
- (iii) *the mixed curvature forms  $\Theta_a^4$  are monomial and they define a vector valued 2-form  $\psi$  which is covariant closed, i.e.  $d^\nabla\psi = 0$ .*

*Finally, define*

$$\mathcal{F} = (\mathcal{E}_a\omega^a) \wedge \omega^4 + \sum_{\text{cycl}} \mathcal{B}_a\omega^b \wedge \omega^c$$

*the generalized Faraday 2-form on the space–time  $(M, g)$  ( $\sum_{\text{cycl}}$  denotes the cyclic permutation of the spacelike indices, and  $\mathcal{E}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{B}$ ) represents the electric (resp. the magnetic) vector field associated with  $\mathcal{F}$ ). If  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  coincide with the spacelike components of  $C$ .*



then  $\mathcal{F}$  is a conformal symplectic form having up to 3 the timelike covector  $\omega^4 = (e_4)^b$  as covector of Lee and  $\delta F = 3(C_s^b)$  is the source 1-form corresponding to  $\mathcal{F}$  ( $C_s^b$ : spacelike component of  $C^b$ ).

## 5. Properties of the Lie algebra

In this section, we shall point out some properties of the Lie algebra induced by the vector fields  $C$ ,  $e_4$  and  $V$  ( $V = (d2l)^\sharp$ ). By (33) and (19) one derives after a short calculation

$$\mathcal{L}_C \alpha = 0 \quad (\alpha = C^b), \quad (46)$$

which shows that  $\alpha$  is a self-invariant form.

Next, with the help of (46) and (38), one infers, taking the Lie derivative of (26)

$$\mathcal{L}_C \nabla C = 0. \quad (47)$$

Hence the above equation proves the fact that the skew-symmetric Killing vector field  $C$  under consideration is an affine Killing vector field (see also [4]). On the other hand, denote by

$$\sigma = \omega^1 \wedge \omega^2 \wedge \omega^3 \wedge \omega^4,$$

the volume element of  $M$ . Then taking the star operator  $*\omega^4$  of  $\omega^4$  one has

$$*\omega^4 = -\omega^1 \wedge \omega^2 \wedge \omega^3 \quad (48)$$

and since  $\omega^4$  is closed, one readily finds

$$\mathcal{L}_{e_4} *\omega^4 = -3 *\omega^4.$$

Hence, one may say that  $\omega^4$  is star self-conformal. In the same order of ideas, it is easily seen that  $\delta\omega^4 = 0$ , ( $\delta$ : codifferential operator) and so one may write

$$(d\delta + \delta d)\omega^4 \iff \Delta\omega^4 = 0.$$

Thus the space–time covector  $\omega^4$  is a harmonic form. On the other hand, by (30) and (31), one gets at once

$$\mathcal{L}_C \psi = 0,$$

which shows that the vector valued 2-form  $\psi$  is invariant under  $C$ . Further, on behalf of (43) and (42) it is easily seen that one has

$$i_C \phi = 0, \quad (49)$$

and

$$i_C \mathcal{F} = -2l\omega^4 \quad (2l = \|C\|^2). \quad (50)$$

In consequence of (49) and (50), it follows from (44) and (45) that

$$\mathcal{L}_C \mathcal{F} = -C^4(2\mathcal{F} + \alpha \wedge \omega^4), \tag{51}$$

and, by exterior differentiation of (51), one may write by reference to (2)

$$d^{-2\omega^4}(\mathcal{L}_C \mathcal{F}) = 0. \tag{52}$$

Hence, it turns out that the Lie derivative  $\mathcal{L}_C \mathcal{F}$  is a  $d^{-2\omega^4}$ -closed form. Since  $i_{e_4} \mathcal{F} = \alpha$ , one similarly finds that  $\mathcal{L}_{e_4} \mathcal{F}$  is also a  $d^{-2\omega^4}$ -closed form.

Finally, let  $\mathbb{L} : u \rightarrow u \wedge \Omega$  be the operator of Weyl [16] ( $u \in \Lambda^1 M, \Omega \in \Lambda^2 M$ ), and by iteration  $u_q = \mathbb{L}^q u = u \wedge \Omega^q \in \Lambda^{2q+1} M$ . Since in the case under consideration  $\dim M = 4$ , we consider the 3-form

$$\mathbb{L}^1 \alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha \wedge \mathcal{F}.$$

Then, on behalf of (46) and (51), one has

$$\mathcal{L}_C \alpha_1 = (\mathcal{L}_C \alpha) \wedge \mathcal{F} + \alpha \wedge \mathcal{L}_C \mathcal{F} = 2C^4 \alpha_1.$$

Remembering that  $C^4 = \text{const.}$ , the above operation proves that  $C$  defines an infinitesimal homothety of the 3-form  $\alpha_1$ . If we denote,  $(\omega^4)_1 = \omega^4 \wedge \mathcal{F}$ , one finds analogously that

$$\mathcal{L}_{e_4} (\omega^4)_1 = 2(\omega^4)_1,$$

which means that  $e_4$  defines an infinitesimal homothety of the 3-form  $(\omega^4)_1$ .

**Theorem 5.1.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a space–time manifold carrying a skew-symmetric Killing vector field  $C$  having the timelike vector field  $e_4$  as generative. The following properties of the Lie algebra are induced by  $C$  and  $e_4$ :*

- (i)  $C^b$  is a self-invariant form, i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}_C C^b = 0;$$

- (ii)  $C$  is an affine Killing vector field, i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}_C \nabla C = 0;$$

- (iii) the timelike covector field  $\omega^4 = e_4^b$  is star self-conformal, i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}_{e_4} * e_4^b = -3 * e_4^b;$$

- (iv) the vector valued 2-form  $\psi \in A^2(M, TM)$  associated with the mixed curvature forms  $\Theta_a^4$  is invariant by  $C$ , i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}_C \psi = 0;$$

- (v) the Lie derivatives  $\mathcal{L}_C \mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{e_4} \mathcal{F}$  of the generalized Faraday 2-form are cohomologically closed, i.e.

$$d^{-2\omega^4}(\mathcal{L}_C \mathcal{F}) = 0, \quad d^{-2\omega^4}(\mathcal{L}_{e_4} \mathcal{F}) = 0,$$

and  $C$  and  $e_4$  define infinitesimal homotheties of Weyls operator  $\mathbb{L}$  associated with  $\mathcal{F}$ .

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