

# The Maslov index via semi-Riemannian submersions

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$$I(V, W) = \int_a^b (g(V', W') - g(R_{V\dot{\gamma}}W, \dot{\gamma})) ds$$

associated to the energy functional

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is always strongly indefinite, its index and coindex are infinite.

- ▶ There is no Morse Index Theorem in the classical sense, (index of the index form equals the number of conjugate points counted with multiplicity).

## Some interpretations and applications

It is possible to establish a semi-Riemannian Morse Index Theorem making a splitting of

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as  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 + \mathcal{H}_2$ . Then the index and coindex of these subspaces are finite and its difference gives the Maslov index.

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# The Maslov Index: abstract definition

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- ▶ Given a symplectic space  $(V, \omega)$ , a Lagrangian  $L_0$  and a path of Lagrangians in the Lagrangian Grassmannian  $\Lambda$   $t \rightarrow \Phi(t) \in \Lambda$ , the Maslov index  $\mu_{L_0}(\Phi)$  is an intersection number of  $\Phi$  with

$$\Lambda_{\geq 1}(L_0) = \{L \in \Lambda \text{ such that } L \cap L_0 \neq \{0\}\}$$

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- ▶ Let  $(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n, \omega)$  be the symplectic space given by

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- ▶ For every  $t \in [a, b]$ , the subspace

$$\Phi(t) = \{(J(t), J'(t)) : J \text{ is a Jacobi field such that } J(0) = 0\}$$

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- ▶ Finally, we fix the Lagrangian  $L_0 = \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^n$ . The Maslov Index of  $\gamma$  is  $\mu_{L_0}(\Phi)$



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- ▶ In the Riemannian case, the Maslov index coincides with the Morse Index
- ▶ In semi-Riemannian geometry conjugate instants can accumulate

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B. O'Neill introduces the **fundamental tensors**  $T$  and  $A$  on  $M$  defined as follows. We denote by  $\nabla$  and  $\nabla^*$  the Levi-Civita connections of  $M$  and  $B$ . Then for  $E$  and  $F$  of  $\mathfrak{X}(M)$ ,

$$T_E F = \mathcal{H}\nabla_{\mathcal{V}E}(\mathcal{V}F) + \mathcal{V}\nabla_{\mathcal{V}E}(\mathcal{H}F) \Rightarrow T = 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{fibers are tot. geo..}$$

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and the dual tensor  $A$ :

$$A_EF = \mathcal{V}\nabla_{\mathcal{H}E}\mathcal{H}F + \mathcal{H}\nabla_{\mathcal{H}E}\mathcal{V}F. \Rightarrow A = 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{Hor. distri. is integr..}$$

# O'Neill's papers

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The results in the first paper are easily extended to the semi-Riemannian case, but there are some difficulties for the second paper.



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## Proposition

Let  $\alpha$  be a curve in  $M$  with  $X = \mathcal{H}\alpha'$  and  $U = \mathcal{V}\alpha'$ . Then

$$\mathcal{H}(\alpha'') = \alpha''_* + 2A_X U + T_U U$$

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## Theorem

Let  $\pi : M \rightarrow B$  a semi-Riemannian submersion. If  $\gamma$  is a geodesic of  $M$  that is horizontal at some point, then it is always horizontal (hence  $\pi \circ \gamma$  is a geodesic of  $B$ ).

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If  $E = H + V$  is a vector field on a horizontal curve  $\gamma$  and  $X = \gamma'$ , then

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We can interpret  $D(E)$  as a measure of **how far from being horizontal** the variation is.

# Lifting variations

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Let  $\beta : [a, b] \rightarrow B$  be a curve in  $B$  and fix  $p \in \pi^{-1}(\beta(a))$ .



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- ▶ Then there exists a horizontal lift  $\gamma : [a, c] \rightarrow M$  ( $c \leq b$ ) that projects into  $\beta$  and it is the maximal horizontal lift through  $p = \gamma(a)$  projecting to  $\beta$ .

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- ▶ Furthermore, let  $\Psi : [a, b] \times (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow B$  be a variation of the curve  $\beta$  and  $\eta : (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow M$  such that  $\pi \circ \eta(s) = \Psi(a, s)$ , then there exists a variation  $\Gamma : [a, c] \times (-\delta, \delta) \rightarrow M$  with  $\Gamma(a, s) = \eta(s)$  and such that  $\Gamma(t, s)$  is the horizontal lift of  $\Psi(t, s)$  departing from  $\eta(s)$  for every  $s \in (-\delta, \delta)$ .

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$$\mathcal{V}(E'' - R_{EX}X) = \mathcal{V}(D') + T_D X$$

where  $D = D(E)$  is the derived vector field of  $E$ ,  $X = \gamma'$  and  $R$  and  $R^*$  are the curvature tensors of  $M$  and  $B$ .

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## Corollary

A field  $E$  on a horizontal geodesic in  $M$  with derived vector field  $D(E) = 0$  is **Jacobi** if and only if  $P = d\pi(E)$  is a Jacobi field of  $\pi \circ \gamma$  in  $B$ .

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- ▶ Furthermore, if  $t_0$  is a non-degenerate focal instant of  $\gamma$ , then so is of  $\pi \circ \gamma$  and the contribution to the Maslov index given by  $\gamma(t_0)$  coincides with the one of  $\pi \circ \gamma(t_0)$  as a conjugate instant.



# Scheme of the proof

## Lemma

Let  $\gamma$  be a horizontal geodesic in  $M$  and let  $\mathcal{F}(a)$  be the fibre passing through  $\gamma(a)$ .

Then a field  $E$  on  $\gamma$  is a  $\mathcal{F}(a)$ -Jacobi field iff  $E$  is Jacobi,  $D(E) = 0$  and  $E(a)$  is vertical.

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$\mathcal{F}(a)$ -Jacobi field means that it is the variational vector field of a variation by geodesics orthogonal to the fiber  $\mathcal{F}(a)$ . Then these geodesics are horizontal, so that  $D(E) = 0$  and  $E(a)$  is vertical.

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“ $\Leftarrow$ ”

$D(E)(a) = 0$  is just the condition to  $E$  be  $\mathcal{F}(a)$ -Jacobi.

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## Scheme of the proof

$$\mathcal{J} = \{\text{Jacobi fields along } \gamma\}$$

$$\mathcal{J}_*^0 = \{E \quad J \text{ Jacobi fields along } \pi \circ \gamma \text{ such that } J(a) = 0\}$$

$$\mathcal{J}_\delta^V = \{E \in \mathcal{J} : E(a) \text{ is vertical and } D(E) = 0\}$$

It is enough to show that  $\mathcal{J}_\delta^V[t_0]^\perp$  and  $\mathcal{J}_*^0[t_0]^\perp$  are isometric subspaces. In fact we will see that  $\mathcal{J}_\delta^V[t_0]$  is the lifting of  $\mathcal{J}_*^0[t_0]$  (so that contains the vertical subspace).

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- ▶ The variation  $\eta(t, s) = \exp_{\beta(s)}((t - t_0)\psi_t(t_0, s))$  is a lift of  $\psi(t, s)$  by horizontal geodesics. Then  $\eta_s(t, 0) \in \mathcal{J}_\delta^V$  and  $v + F[t_0] \in \mathcal{J}_\delta^V[t_0]$

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- ▶ It is just the geometric index of the projected geodesic in  $M$ .