

# SPLIT COURANT ALGEBROIDS AS $L_\infty$ -STRUCTURES

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ABSTRACT: We show that split Courant algebroids, i.e., those defined on a Whitney sum  $A \oplus A^*$ , are in a one-to-one correspondence with multiplicative curved  $L_\infty$ -algebras. This one-to-one correspondence extends to Nijenhuis morphisms and behaves well under the operation of twisting by a bivector.

KEYWORDS: Courant algebroid,  $L_\infty$ -algebra, Nijenhuis morphism.

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## 1. Introduction

Courant algebroids were introduced by Liu, Weinstein and Xu [16] to interpret the bracket defined by Courant to study constraints on Dirac manifolds. In short, a Courant algebroid is a vector bundle  $E \rightarrow M$  equipped with a symmetric nondegenerate bilinear form, together with a morphism of vector bundles  $\rho : E \rightarrow TM$  and such that the space of sections  $\Gamma(E)$  has the structure of a Leibniz algebra. All these data satisfy some compatibility conditions that we recall in Section 2. This is not the original definition introduced in [16], but an equivalent non-skew-symmetric version that uses the so-called Dorfman bracket instead of the Courant bracket.

There is an alternative way to define Courant algebroids, introduced by Roytenberg [18], which is the one that we consider in this paper. Courant algebroids can be described as degree 2 symplectic graded manifolds together with a degree 3 function  $\Theta$  satisfying  $\{\Theta, \Theta\} = 0$ , where  $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$  is the graded Poisson bracket corresponding to the graded symplectic structure. To the graded Poisson bracket we call *big bracket* [12]. The morphism  $\rho$  and the Dorfman bracket are recovered as derived brackets (see [18]).

When the Courant structure is defined on the Whitney sum  $A \oplus A^*$  of a vector bundle  $A$  and its dual, we have what we call a *split* Courant algebroid. The Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$  can be the double of a Lie bialgebroid structure on  $(A, A^*)$ , the double of a quasi-Lie bialgebroid structure on  $(A, A^*)$  or, more generally, the double of a proto-Lie bialgebroid structure on  $(A, A^*)$ [19].

Besides Courant algebroids, the other relevant structures in this paper are  $L_\infty$ -algebras, also known as strongly homotopy Lie algebras. They were introduced by Lada and Stasheff [14] and consist of collections of  $n$ -ary brackets satisfying higher Jacobi identities. In the original definition of [14], the  $n$ -ary brackets are skew-symmetric, but in this paper we consider the equivalent definition where the brackets are graded symmetric. Roytenberg and Weinstein [20] showed that to each Courant algebroid one can associate a Lie 2-algebra and, recently, Lang, Sheng and Xu [15] proved a converse of this result.

In this paper we show that split Courant algebroids  $A \oplus A^*$  are in a one-to-one correspondence with multiplicative curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra structures on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ . This extends other previous results. In 2002, Roytenberg [19] mentions that each split Courant algebroid which is the double of a quasi-Lie bialgebroid has an associated  $L_\infty$ -algebra defined on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$  and that the converse holds. No proof is given. In 2015, Frégier and Zambon [8] proved that each split Courant algebroid which is the double of a proto-Lie bialgebroid determines a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra structure on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A^*)[2]$ . The proof uses the higher derived brackets construction of Voronov [24]. We give an alternative and simpler proof that only uses the properties of the graded Poisson bracket, and we also prove the converse (Theorems 4.1 and 4.3).

Having established a one-to-one correspondence between split Courant algebroids and multiplicative curved  $L_\infty$ -algebras, it seemed interesting to discuss the behavior of Nijenhuis operators under this correspondence. Nijenhuis morphisms on Courant algebroids were initially considered in [6] and then revisited in [10], under the graded manifold approach to Courant algebroids. Regarding Nijenhuis forms on  $L_\infty$ -algebras, they were introduced in [4]. This notion also appears in [17], although with a simpler definition which turns out to be a particular case of the one in [4]. In this paper we consider the definition of [4]. Using the Lie 2-algebra associated to each Courant algebroid according to [20], some relations between Nijenhuis morphisms on Courant algebroids and Nijenhuis forms on Lie 2-algebras were already established in [4]. In the current paper the approach is different since split Courant algebroids  $A \oplus A^*$  are seen as graded manifolds, which is not the case in [4], and the curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra structure is defined on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ .

One of the advantages of viewing split Courant algebroids as graded manifolds, besides simpler and more efficient computations, is the relation with Lie algebroid structures on  $A$ . Indeed, we have that  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta = \mu)$  is a

Courant algebroid if and only if  $(A, \mu)$  is a Lie algebroid. Having this in mind, we characterize some known structures on Lie algebroids as Nijenhuis forms on  $L_\infty$ -algebra structures on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)$ [2].

Another type of operation that behaves well under the one-to-one correspondence that we established, is the twisting on Courant algebroids and on  $L_\infty$ -algebras. The twisting of a split Courant algebroid by a bivector was defined in [19], and the same operation can be done on  $L_\infty$ -algebras. In [9] it is shown that the twisting of a  $L_\infty$ -algebra by a degree zero element  $\pi$  is an  $L_\infty$ -algebra provided that  $\pi$  is a Maurer-Cartan element. In the case of a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra, we show that  $\pi$  no longer needs to be a Maurer-Cartan element.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 contains a brief review of the main notions concerning (pre-)Courant algebroids as well as Nijenhuis morphisms on (pre-)Courant algebroids. In Section 3 we recall the definition of curved  $L_\infty$ -algebras and of Nijenhuis forms on curved  $L_\infty$ -algebras. Section 4 contains the main theorem, that establishes a one-to-one correspondence between split Courant algebroids and curved  $L_\infty$ -algebras. In Section 5 we show that the one-to-one correspondence preserves deformations by Nijenhuis operators. In particular, some Nijenhuis morphisms on Courant algebroids are characterized as Nijenhuis forms on curved  $L_\infty$ -algebras. Some well known structures on Lie algebroids are viewed as Nijenhuis forms on  $L_\infty$ -algebras. In Section 6 we discuss the twisting of a split Courant algebroid and of a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra by  $\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A)$  and we show that the one-to-one correspondence preserves these twisting operations. In Section 7 we combine the one-to-one correspondence with the operations of twisting by  $\pi$  and deformation by a skew-symmetric vector-valued form on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)$ [2]. The commutative diagrams included along Sections 4 to 7 can be combined to form a commutative cubic diagram, presented at the end of the paper.

## 2. Preliminaries on Courant algebroids and their Nijenhuis morphisms

In this section we recall the definition of Courant algebroid and how it can be seen as a  $Q$ -manifold, following the approach of [23, 18]. The notion of Nijenhuis morphism on a (pre-)Courant algebroid is also recalled.

Let  $E \rightarrow M$  be a vector bundle equipped with a fibrewise non-degenerate symmetric bilinear form  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ .

**Definition 2.1.** [3] A *pre-Courant* structure on  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  is a pair  $(\rho, [\cdot, \cdot])$ , where  $\rho : E \rightarrow TM$  is a morphism of vector bundles called the *anchor*, and  $[\cdot, \cdot] : \Gamma(E) \times \Gamma(E) \rightarrow \Gamma(E)$  is a  $\mathbb{R}$ -bilinear bracket, called the *Dorfman bracket*, satisfying the relations

$$\rho(u) \cdot \langle v, w \rangle = \langle [u, v], w \rangle + \langle v, [u, w] \rangle$$

and

$$\rho(u) \cdot \langle v, w \rangle = \langle u, [v, w] + [w, v] \rangle,$$

for all  $u, v, w \in \Gamma(E)$ . The quadruple  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, \rho, [\cdot, \cdot])$  is a *pre-Courant algebroid*.

If a pre-Courant structure  $(\rho, [\cdot, \cdot])$  satisfies the Jacobi identity,

$$[u, [v, w]] = [[u, v], w] + [v, [u, w]],$$

for all  $u, v, w \in \Gamma(E)$ , then the pair  $(\rho, [\cdot, \cdot])$  is called a *Courant* structure on  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  and  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, \rho, [\cdot, \cdot])$  is a *Courant algebroid*.

Next, we recall the notion of Nijenhuis morphism on a (pre-)Courant algebroid  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, \rho, [\cdot, \cdot])$ . Given an endomorphism  $\mathcal{F} : E \rightarrow E$ , the transpose morphism  $\mathcal{F}^* : E^* \simeq E \rightarrow E^* \simeq E$  is defined by  $\langle \mathcal{F}^*u, v \rangle = \langle u, \mathcal{F}v \rangle$  for all  $u, v \in E$ . If  $\mathcal{F} = -\mathcal{F}^*$ , the morphism  $\mathcal{F}$  is said to be *skew-symmetric*. For a skew-symmetric endomorphism  $\mathcal{F} : E \rightarrow E$ , we define a *deformed* pre-Courant algebroid structure  $(\rho_{\mathcal{F}}, [\cdot, \cdot]_{\mathcal{F}})$  on  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  by setting

$$\begin{cases} \rho_{\mathcal{F}} = \rho \circ \mathcal{F} \\ [u, v]_{\mathcal{F}} = [\mathcal{F}u, \mathcal{F}v] + [u, \mathcal{F}v] - \mathcal{F}[u, v], \quad \forall u, v \in \Gamma(E). \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

A skew-symmetric endomorphism  $\mathcal{F} : E \rightarrow E$  on a pre-Courant algebroid  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, \rho, [\cdot, \cdot])$  is a *Nijenhuis morphism* if its Nijenhuis torsion  $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{F}$  vanishes, where

$$\mathcal{T}\mathcal{F}(u, v) = \frac{1}{2} ([\mathcal{F}u, \mathcal{F}v] - \mathcal{F}([u, v]_{\mathcal{F}})),$$

for all  $u, v \in \Gamma(E)$ . If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a Nijenhuis morphism, then  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, \rho_{\mathcal{F}}, [\cdot, \cdot]_{\mathcal{F}})$  is a Courant algebroid.

When the underlying vector bundle  $E \rightarrow M$  of a (pre-)Courant algebroid is the Whitney sum  $E = A \oplus A^*$  of a vector bundle  $A \rightarrow M$  and its dual  $A^* \rightarrow M$  we have a *split* (pre-)Courant algebroid. The graded manifold approach of split (pre-)Courant algebroids will be extensively used in this paper, and so we briefly recall it.

Given a vector bundle  $A \rightarrow M$ , we denote by  $A[m]$  the graded manifold obtained by shifting the fibre degree by  $m$ . The graded manifold  $T^*[2]A[1]$  is equipped with a canonical symplectic structure which induces a graded Poisson bracket on its algebra of functions  $\mathcal{F} := C^\infty(T^*[2]A[1])$ . This graded Poisson bracket is sometimes called the *big bracket*. (see [12]).

Let us describe locally this Poisson algebra (see [1] for more details). Fix local coordinates  $x_i, p^i, \xi_a, \theta^a$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, a \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ , in  $T^*[2]A[1]$ , where  $x_i, \xi_a$  are local coordinates on  $A[1]$  and  $p^i, \theta^a$  are their associated moment coordinates. In these local coordinates, the Poisson bracket is given by

$$\{p^i, x_i\} = \{\theta^a, \xi_a\} = 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \quad a = 1, \dots, d,$$

while all the remaining brackets vanish.

The Poisson algebra  $(\mathcal{F}, \{\cdot, \cdot\})$  is endowed with an  $(\mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0)$ -valued bidegree. We define this bidegree (locally but it is well defined globally, see [23, 18]) as follows: the coordinates on the base manifold  $M$ ,  $x_i$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , have bidegree  $(0, 0)$ , while the coordinates on the fibres,  $\xi_a$ ,  $a \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ , have bidegree  $(0, 1)$  and their associated moment coordinates,  $p^i$  and  $\theta^a$ , have bidegree  $(1, 1)$  and  $(1, 0)$ , respectively. We denote by  $\mathcal{F}^{k,l}$  the space of functions of bidegree  $(k, l)$  and by  $\mathcal{F}^t$  the space of functions of (total) degree  $t$ ,

$$\mathcal{F}^t = \bigoplus_{k+l=t} \mathcal{F}^{k,l}.$$

Notice that  $\mathcal{F}^0 = C^\infty(M)$ ,  $\mathcal{F}^{0,1} = \Gamma(A)$  and  $\mathcal{F}^{1,0} = \Gamma(A^*)$ . The big bracket has bidegree  $(-1, -1)$ , i.e.,  $\{\mathcal{F}^{k_1, l_1}, \mathcal{F}^{k_2, l_2}\} \subset \mathcal{F}^{k_1+k_2-1, l_1+l_2-1}$  and, for all  $f, g \in \mathcal{F}^0 = C^\infty(M)$  and  $X + \alpha, Y + \beta \in \mathcal{F}^1 = \Gamma(A \oplus A^*)$ , we have

$$\{f, g\} = 0, \quad \{f, X + \alpha\} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \{X + \alpha, Y + \beta\} = \langle X + \alpha, Y + \beta \rangle,$$

where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  stands for the usual pairing between  $A$  and  $A^*$ ,

$$\langle X + \alpha, Y + \beta \rangle := \alpha(Y) + \beta(X).$$

There is a one-to-one correspondence between pre-Courant structures  $(\rho, [\cdot, \cdot])$  on  $(A \oplus A^*, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  and functions  $\Theta \in \mathcal{F}^3$ . In other words, a pre-Courant structure on  $(A \oplus A^*, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  corresponds to a hamiltonian vector field  $X_\Theta = \{\Theta, \cdot\}$  on the graded manifold  $T^*[2]A[1]$ . The anchor and Dorfman bracket associated to a given  $\Theta \in \mathcal{F}^3$  are defined, for all  $X + \alpha, Y + \beta \in$

$\Gamma(A \oplus A^*)$  and  $f \in C^\infty(M)$ , by the derived bracket expressions

$$\rho(X+\alpha) \cdot f = \{\{X+\alpha, \Theta\}, f\} \quad \text{and} \quad [X+\alpha, Y+\beta] = \{\{X+\alpha, \Theta\}, Y+\beta\}. \quad (2)$$

In [18, 23] it is proved that there is a one-to-one correspondence between Courant structures on  $(A \oplus A^*, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  and functions  $\Theta \in \mathcal{F}^3$  such that the hamiltonian vector field  $X_\Theta$  on  $T^*[2]A[1]$  is a homological vector field, i.e.,  $\{\Theta, \Theta\} = 0$ . Thus, a Courant algebroid  $(A \oplus A^*, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, \Theta)$  corresponds to a  $Q$ -manifold  $(T^*[2]A[1], X_\Theta)$ .

In what follows, a split (pre-)Courant algebroid will be denoted simply by  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$ .

A (pre-)Courant structure  $\Theta \in \mathcal{F}^3$  can be decomposed using the bidegrees, as follows:

$$\Theta = \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi, \quad (3)$$

with  $\psi \in \mathcal{F}^{3,0} = \Gamma(\wedge^3 A)$ ,  $\gamma \in \mathcal{F}^{2,1}$ ,  $\mu \in \mathcal{F}^{1,2}$  and  $\phi \in \mathcal{F}^{0,3} = \Gamma(\wedge^3 A^*)$ . We recall from [19] that, when  $\psi = \gamma = \phi = 0$ ,  $\Theta$  is a Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$  *if and only if*  $(A, \mu)$  is a Lie algebroid. When  $\psi = \phi = 0$ ,  $\Theta$  is a Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$  *if and only if*  $((A, A^*), \mu, \gamma)$  is a Lie bialgebroid and when  $\phi = 0$  (resp.  $\psi = 0$ ),  $\Theta$  is a Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$  *if and only if*  $((A, A^*), \mu, \gamma, \psi)$  (resp.  $((A^*, A), \gamma, \mu, \phi)$ ) is a quasi-Lie bialgebroid. In the more general case,  $\Theta = \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi$  is a Courant structure *if and only if*  $((A, A^*), \mu, \gamma, \psi, \phi)$  is a proto-Lie bialgebroid. In this general case,

$$\{\Theta, \Theta\} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \{\gamma, \psi\} = 0 \\ \{\gamma, \gamma\} + 2\{\mu, \psi\} = 0 \\ \{\mu, \gamma\} + \{\psi, \phi\} = 0 \\ \{\mu, \mu\} + 2\{\gamma, \phi\} = 0 \\ \{\mu, \phi\} = 0. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Now, we shall see what is the function on  $\mathcal{F}^3$  corresponding to the deformed (pre-)Courant structure (1) on  $A \oplus A^*$ . A skew-symmetric endomorphism on  $A \oplus A^*$ ,  $J : A \oplus A^* \rightarrow A \oplus A^*$ , is of the type

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} N & \pi^\sharp \\ \omega^\flat & -N^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad (5)$$

with  $N : A \rightarrow A$ ,  $\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A)$ ,  $\omega \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A^*)$  and where  $N^* : A^* \rightarrow A^*$ ,  $\pi^\sharp : A^* \rightarrow A$ ,  $\omega^\flat : A \rightarrow A^*$  are defined by

$$\begin{cases} \langle N^* \alpha, X \rangle = \langle \alpha, NX \rangle \\ \langle \pi^\sharp(\alpha), \beta \rangle = \pi(\alpha, \beta) \\ \langle \omega^\flat(X), Y \rangle = \omega(X, Y), \end{cases}$$

for all  $X, Y \in \Gamma(A)$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma(A^*)$ .\*

We have

$$J(X + \alpha) = \{X + \alpha, \pi + N + \omega\},$$

so the morphism  $J$  corresponds to the function  $\pi + N + \omega \in \Gamma(\wedge^2(A \oplus A^*)) \subset C^\infty(T^*[2]A[1])$ , that we also denote by  $J$ .

The deformation of the (pre-)Courant structure  $\Theta$  by  $J$  is the function  $\Theta_J = \Theta_{\pi+N+\omega} := \{\pi + N + \omega, \Theta\} \in \mathcal{F}^3$ , that corresponds to  $(\rho_J, [\cdot, \cdot]_J)$  (via (2)).

When  $J$  satisfies  $J^2 = \lambda \text{id}_{A \oplus A^*}$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , the Nijenhuis torsion of  $J$  is given by [10, 1]

$$\mathcal{T}_\Theta J = \frac{1}{2}((\Theta_J)_J - \lambda \Theta), \quad (6)$$

where  $(\Theta_J)_J$  denotes the deformation of  $\Theta_J$  by  $J$ .

### 3. Review on $L_\infty$ -algebras and Nijenhuis forms

In this section we recall the definitions of curved (pre-) $L_\infty$ -algebra and Nijenhuis form on an  $L_\infty$ -algebra, following [4]. For the definition of an  $L_\infty$ -algebra we consider graded symmetric brackets, which is not the case in the original definition introduced in [14]. Both definitions are equivalent, and the equivalence is given by the so-called *décalage isomorphism* (see [24, 4] for more details).

In what follows, we consider graded vector spaces with all components of finite dimension.

**Definition 3.1.** A *curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra*  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$  is a graded vector space  $\mathcal{L} = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{L}_i$  together with a family of symmetric vector-valued forms (brackets)  $\ell_i : \otimes^i \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ ,  $i \geq 0$ , of degree 1. For  $i = 0$ ,  $\ell_0 \in \mathcal{L}_1$ . The term  $\ell_0$  is called the *curvature*. We write  $\ell = \sum_{i \geq 0} \ell_i$ .

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\*We use the same notation for the maps induced on the space of sections  $\Gamma(A)$  and  $\Gamma(A^*)$ .

The pair  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$  is called a *curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra* if the generalized Jacobi identity is satisfied:

$$\sum_{i+j=n+1} \sum_{\sigma \in Sh(i, j-i)} \epsilon(\sigma) \ell_j(\ell_i(X_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, X_{\sigma(i)}), \dots, X_{\sigma(n)}) = 0 \quad (7)$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , where  $Sh(i, j-i)$  stands for the set of  $(i, j-i)$ -unshuffles and  $\epsilon(\sigma)$  is the (graded commutative) Koszul sign defined by

$$X_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes X_{\sigma(n)} = \epsilon(\sigma) X_1 \otimes \dots \otimes X_n,$$

for all  $X_1, \dots, X_n \in \mathcal{L}$ . When the curvature vanishes, i.e.  $\ell_0 = 0$ ,  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$  is simply called an  *$L_\infty$ -algebra*.

For  $k \geq 0$ , we denote by  $S^k(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}$  the space of symmetric vector-valued  $k$ -forms on the graded vector space  $\mathcal{L}$ , i.e., graded symmetric  $k$ -linear maps on  $\mathcal{L}$ , and we set

$$S^\bullet(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L} = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} S^k(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}.$$

For  $k = 0$ ,  $S^0(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{L}$ .

The insertion operator of a symmetric vector-valued  $k$ -form  $K$  is an operator

$$\iota_K : S^\bullet(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L} \rightarrow S^\bullet(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}$$

defined by

$$\iota_K H(X_1, \dots, X_{k+h-1}) = \sum_{\sigma \in Sh(k, h-1)} \epsilon(\sigma) H(K(X_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, X_{\sigma(k)}), \dots, X_{\sigma(k+h-1)}),$$

for all  $H \in S^h(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}$  and  $X_1, \dots, X_{k+h-1} \in \mathcal{L}$ . If  $H \in S^0(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L} \simeq \mathcal{L}$ ,  $\iota_K H = 0$ .

Given a symmetric vector-valued  $k$ -form  $K \in S^k(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}$  and a symmetric vector-valued  $h$ -form  $H \in S^h(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}$ , the *Richardson-Nijenhuis bracket* of  $K$  and  $H$  is the symmetric vector-valued  $(k+h-1)$ -form  $[K, H]$  on  $\mathcal{L}$ , given by

$$[K, H] = \iota_K H - (-1)^{\bar{K}\bar{H}} \iota_H K, \quad (8)$$

where  $\bar{K}$  is the degree of  $K$  as a graded map, that is  $K(X_1, \dots, X_k) \in \mathcal{L}_{x_1 + \dots + x_k + \bar{K}}$ , for all  $X_i \in \mathcal{L}_{x_i}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . The pair  $(S^\bullet(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}, [\cdot, \cdot])$  is a graded skew-symmetric Lie algebra.

Curved  $L_\infty$ -algebras can be characterized using the Richardson-Nijenhuis bracket.



**Proposition 3.2.** [4] *A curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$  is a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra if and only if  $[\ell, \ell] = 0$ .*

Assume that there exists an associative graded commutative algebra structure of degree zero on  $\mathcal{L}$ , denoted by  $\wedge$ . A vector-valued  $k$ -form  $K \in S^k(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}$  is said to be a *multiderivation symmetric vector-valued  $k$ -form* if

$$K(X_1, \dots, X_{k-1}, Y \wedge Z) = K(X_1, \dots, X_{k-1}, Y) \wedge Z \\ + (-1)^{yz} K(X_1, \dots, X_{k-1}, Z) \wedge Y,$$

for all  $X_1, \dots, X_{k-1} \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $Y \in \mathcal{L}_y$  and  $Z \in \mathcal{L}_z$ .

The space of all multiderivation symmetric vector-valued forms on  $\mathcal{L}$  is a graded Lie subalgebra of  $(S^\bullet(\mathcal{L}^*) \otimes \mathcal{L}, [\cdot, \cdot])$ .

A curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$  is called *multiplicative* if all the brackets are multiderivations. Multiplicative (curved)  $L_\infty$ -algebras are also called (curved)  $P_\infty$ -algebras [7]. They can be viewed as a symmetric version of  $G_\infty$ -algebras.

Given a curved  $L_\infty$ -structure  $\ell$  and a symmetric vector-valued form of degree zero,  $\mathfrak{n}$ , on a graded vector space, we call  $[\mathfrak{n}, \ell]$  the *deformation of  $\ell$  by  $\mathfrak{n}$*  and denote the deformed structure by  $\ell_{\mathfrak{n}} := [\mathfrak{n}, \ell]$ .

Next we recall the definition of Nijenhuis vector-valued form on an  $L_\infty$ -algebra, introduced in [4].

**Definition 3.3.** Let  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$  be a curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra. A symmetric vector-valued form on  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $\mathfrak{n}$ , of degree zero, is called a *Nijenhuis form* on  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$  if there exists a vector-valued form  $\mathfrak{k}$  of degree zero, such that

$$[\mathfrak{n}, [\mathfrak{n}, \ell]] = [\mathfrak{k}, \ell] \quad \text{and} \quad [\mathfrak{n}, \mathfrak{k}] = 0.$$

Such a vector-valued form  $\mathfrak{k}$  is called a *square* of  $\mathfrak{n}$ .

In the forthcoming sections we will often use the so-called *Euler map*. Given a graded vector space  $\mathcal{L} = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{L}_i$ , the Euler map  $\mathcal{E} : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$  is a linear map of degree zero defined by

$$\mathcal{E}(P) = pP, \tag{9}$$

for all homogeneous elements  $P \in \mathcal{L}_p$ .

## 4. From Courant algebroids to $L_\infty$ -algebras and back

In this section we prove a theorem that generalizes a result initially established by Roytenberg [19] in the case of a split Courant algebroid which is the double of a quasi-Lie bialgebroid, and then extended by Frégier and Zambon [8] to the case where the Courant structure is the double of a proto-bialgebroid. A result similar to the one in [8] was obtained by Gualtieri, Matviichuk and Scott [11]. In all cases, given a split Courant algebroid structure, a (curved)  $L_\infty$ -algebra is constructed. Our theorem includes the converse and the proof uses a technique different from the one in [8].

Let  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  be a pre-Courant algebroid where  $\Theta \in \mathcal{F}^3$  can be decomposed using the bidegrees as in (3):

$$\Theta = \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi.$$

Set  $L = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ . Thus  $L = \sum_{i=-2}^{\infty} L_i$  is a graded vector space where  $L_{-2} = C^\infty(M)$ ,  $L_{-1} = \Gamma(A)$  and  $L_i = \Gamma(\wedge^{i+2} A)$ ,  $i \geq 0$ .

Let us consider the map

$$\mathcal{M} : \quad \mathcal{F}^3 \longrightarrow S^\bullet(L^*) \otimes L$$

$$\Theta = \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi \longmapsto l = l_0 + l_1 + l_2 + l_3$$

where

- $\mathcal{M}(\psi) = l_0 \in L_1 = \Gamma(\wedge^3 A)$  is defined by

$$l_0 = \psi; \tag{10}$$

- $\mathcal{M}(\gamma) = l_1 \in S^1(L^*) \otimes L$  is defined by

$$l_1(P) = \{\gamma, P\}; \tag{11}$$

- $\mathcal{M}(\mu) = l_2 \in S^2(L^*) \otimes L$  is defined by

$$l_2(P, Q) = \{\{\mu, P\}, Q\}; \tag{12}$$

- $\mathcal{M}(\phi) = l_3 \in S^3(L^*) \otimes L$  is defined by

$$l_3(P, Q, R) = \{\{\{\phi, P\}, Q\}, R\}, \tag{13}$$

for all  $P, Q, R \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *The map  $\mathcal{M}$ , defined by Equations (10)-(13), establishes a one-to-one correspondence between pre-Courant structures on  $A \oplus A^*$  and multiplicative curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra structures  $l = l_0 + l_1 + l_2 + l_3$  on  $L = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ .*

Before proving Theorem 4.1, let us recall Lemma 3.1.6 from [1].

**Lemma 4.2.** *Consider  $F \in \mathcal{F}^{r,s}$ , with  $s > 0$ . If  $F$  satisfies  $\{F, X\} = 0$ , for all  $X \in \Gamma(A)$ , then  $F = 0$ .*

Now let us prove Theorem 4.1

*Proof of Theorem 4.1:* Let  $\Theta = \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi$  be a pre-Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$ . First, let us prove that  $l = \mathcal{M}(\Theta)$ , defined by Equations (10)-(13), is a multiplicative curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra structure. The fact that  $l$  is multiplicative is a direct consequence of the definition of  $l$  and the Leibniz rule for the big bracket  $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ . The remaining part of the statement claims that  $l = \sum_{i=0}^3 l_i$  is a graded symmetric linear map of degree 1. This is immediate due to the definition of  $l = \mathcal{M}(\Theta)$  and to the properties of the big bracket in  $C^\infty(T^*[2]A[1])$ . For example, let us check explicitly that  $l_2$  is a graded symmetric map  $S^2(L) \rightarrow L$  of degree 1.

For all  $P \in L_p = \Gamma(\wedge^{p+2}A)$  and  $Q \in L_q = \Gamma(\wedge^{q+2}A)$ , using the Jacobi identity of the big bracket, we have

$$\begin{aligned} l_2(Q, P) &= \{\{\mu, Q\}, P\} = \{\mu, \{Q, P\}\} + (-1)^{(p+2)(q+2)} \{\{\mu, P\}, Q\} = \\ &= (-1)^{pq} \{\{\mu, P\}, Q\} = (-1)^{pq} l_2(P, Q), \end{aligned}$$

which proves that  $l_2$  is a graded symmetric map. Furthermore, in  $C^\infty(T^*[2]A[1])$ , the big bracket is a map of bidegree  $(-1, -1)$  and the elements  $\mu, P$  and  $Q$  have bidegrees  $(1, 2)$ ,  $(p+2, 0)$  and  $(q+2, 0)$ , respectively. Thus,  $\{\{\mu, P\}, Q\}$  has bidegree

$$((1, 2) + (p+2, 0) + (-1, -1)) + (q+2, 0) + (-1, -1) = (p+q+3, 0),$$

which means that

$$l_2(P, Q) = \{\{\mu, P\}, Q\} \in \Gamma(\wedge^{p+q+3}A) = L_{p+q+1}.$$

Then  $l_2$  is a map of degree 1.

Conversely, given a multiplicative curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra structure  $l = l_0 + l_1 + l_2 + l_3$  on  $L = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ , let us prove that there is an unique  $\Theta_n \in \mathcal{F}^{3-n,n}$  such that  $\mathcal{M}(\Theta_n) = l_n$ , for each  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$ .

- For  $n = 0$ , we have  $\Theta_0 = l_0 \in \Gamma(\wedge^3 A) = \mathcal{F}^{3,0}$ .

- For  $n = 1$ , we need to define  $\Theta_1 \in \mathcal{F}^{2,1}$ , such that  $\mathcal{M}(\Theta_1) = l_1$ , i.e., such that,

$$\{\Theta_1, P\} = l_1(P), \quad \forall P \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A). \quad (14)$$

We claim that Equation (14) defines explicitly an unique  $\Theta_1 \in \mathcal{F}^{2,1}$ . Indeed, locally, on coordinates  $(x_i, p^i, \xi_a, \theta^a)$ , such an element is written as  $\Theta_1 = A_{ia}(x)p^i\theta^a + B_{ab}^c(x)\theta^a\theta^b\xi_c$  and, using Equation (14), its coefficients are determined (apart from signs that depend on conventions) by  $l_1$ , as follows:

$$\begin{cases} A_{ia} = \pm \{ \{ \Theta_1, x_i \}, \xi_a \} = \pm \langle l_1(x_i), \xi_a \rangle \\ B_{ab}^c = \pm \frac{1}{2} \{ \{ \{ \Theta_1, \theta^c \}, \xi_a \}, \xi_b \} = \pm \frac{1}{2} \langle l_1(\theta^c), \xi_a \wedge \xi_b \rangle. \end{cases}$$

Thus, the existence of  $\Theta_1$  satisfying Equation (14) is guaranteed. Furthermore, we can not have two elements  $\Theta_1$  and  $\Theta'_1$  satisfying Equation (14) because Lemma 4.2 would imply that  $\Theta_1 - \Theta'_1 = 0$ .

- Analogously, for  $n = 2$ , we need to define  $\Theta_2 \in \mathcal{F}^{1,2}$ , such that  $\mathcal{M}(\Theta_2) = l_2$ , i.e., such that

$$\{ \{ \Theta_2, P \}, Q \} = l_2(P, Q), \quad \forall P, Q \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A). \quad (15)$$

Locally,  $\Theta_2 = C_i^a(x)p^i\xi_a + D_c^{ab}(x)\xi_a\xi_b\theta^c$  and, using Equation (15), the coefficients are determined by  $l_2$  as follows:

$$\begin{cases} C_i^a = \pm \{ \{ \Theta_2, x_i \}, \theta^a \} = \pm l_2(x_i, \theta^a) \\ D_c^{ab} = \pm \frac{1}{2} \{ \{ \{ \Theta_2, \theta^a \}, \theta^b \}, \xi_c \} = \pm \frac{1}{2} \langle l_2(\theta^a, \theta^b), \xi_c \rangle. \end{cases}$$

- Finally, for  $n = 3$ ,  $\Theta_3 \in \mathcal{F}^{0,3} = \Gamma(\wedge^3 A^*)$  is a 3-form and condition  $\mathcal{M}(\Theta_3) = l_3$  implies that

$$\{ \{ \{ \Theta_3, X \}, Y \}, Z \} = l_3(X, Y, Z),$$

for all  $X, Y, Z \in \Gamma(A)$ , and this defines uniquely  $\Theta_3$ . ■

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $\Theta \in \mathcal{F}^3$  be a pre-Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$  and  $l = \mathcal{M}(\Theta)$  its corresponding multiplicative curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra structure on  $L = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ . Then, the following assertions are equivalent:*

- i)  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  is a Courant algebroid;
- ii)  $(L, l)$  is a multiplicative curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra.

*Proof:* The generalized Jacobi identity (7) satisfied by  $l$  corresponds exactly to the different conditions we obtained in (4), after splitting the condition  $\{\Theta, \Theta\} = 0$  using bidegree. Indeed, for  $n = 0$ , we have

$$l_1(l_0) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \{\gamma, \psi\} = 0 \quad (16)$$

while for  $n = 1$  and for all  $P \in L$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} l_2(l_0, P) + l_1(l_1(P)) &= 0 \Leftrightarrow \{\{\mu, \psi\}, P\} + \{\gamma, \{\gamma, P\}\} = 0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow \left\{ \{\mu, \psi\} + \frac{1}{2} \{\gamma, \gamma\}, P \right\} = 0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow \{\mu, \psi\} + \frac{1}{2} \{\gamma, \gamma\} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where the last equivalence follows from Lemma 4.2. For  $n = 2$  we have, for all  $P \in L_p$  and  $Q \in L_q$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &l_3(l_0, P, Q) + l_2(l_1(P), Q) + (-1)^{pq} l_2(l_1(Q), P) + l_1(l_2(P, Q)) = 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow &\{\{\{\phi, \psi\}, P\}, Q\} + \{\{\mu, \{\gamma, P\}\}, Q\} + (-1)^{pq} \{\{\mu, \{\gamma, Q\}\}, P\} \\ &+ \{\gamma, \{\{\mu, P\}, Q\}\} = 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow &\{\{\{\phi, \psi\} + \{\mu, \gamma\}, P\}, Q\} = 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow &\{\phi, \psi\} + \{\mu, \gamma\} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Equations (16), (17) and (18) are precisely the first, second and third equations on the right side of (4).

For  $n = 3, 4$  and  $5$ , since more terms are involved, computations are rather cumbersome but straightforward and only use the properties of the big bracket (essentially Jacobi identity). Computations for  $n = 3$  and  $4$  lead to the last two equations on the right side of (4). For  $n = 5$ , we prove that for all  $P, Q, R, S, T \in L$ ,

$$\circlearrowleft l_3(l_3(P, Q, R), S, T) = \frac{1}{2} \{\{\{\{\{\{\phi, \phi\}, P\}, Q\}, R\}, S\}, T\},$$

where  $\circlearrowleft$  stands for the sum of the ten terms corresponding to the graded  $(3, 2)$ -unshuffled permutations of the set  $\{P, Q, R, S, T\}$ . This condition is trivially satisfied because  $\{\phi, \phi\} = 0$ , for bidegree reasons, for any  $\phi \in \Gamma(\wedge^3 A^*)$ .  $\blacksquare$

Notice that the roles of the vector bundle  $A$  and its dual  $A^*$  can be reversed everywhere in this section, since  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  is a Courant algebroid if and only if  $(A^* \oplus A, \Theta)$  is a Courant algebroid [19]. As a consequence, in Theorem

4.3, instead of considering the graded vector space  $L = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ , we can take  $\mathfrak{L} := \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A^*)[2]$  and define the following graded symmetric brackets of degree 1:

$$\begin{cases} \lambda_0 = \phi \\ \lambda_1(\alpha) = \{\mu, \alpha\} \\ \lambda_2(\alpha, \beta) = \{\{\gamma, \alpha\}, \beta\} \\ \lambda_3(\alpha, \beta, \eta) = \{\{\{\psi, \alpha\}, \beta\}, \eta\} \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

for all  $\alpha, \beta, \eta \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A^*)$ . Set  $\lambda = \sum_{i=0}^3 \lambda_i$ .

Next corollary summarizes what we have proved so far.

**Corollary 4.4.** *The following assertions are equivalent:*

- i)  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  is a Courant algebroid;
- ii)  $(A^* \oplus A, \Theta)$  is a Courant algebroid;
- iii)  $(L, l)$  is a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra;
- iv)  $(\mathfrak{L}, \lambda)$  is a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra.

*Remark 4.5.* In [8] it is proved that (i) (or (ii)) implies (iv). The technique used to obtain the curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra structure is the Voronov's higher derived brackets [24]. See also [11] for the case of exact Courant algebroids.

Having established Corollary 4.4, we can proceed over the next sections either with the curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(L = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2], l)$  or with the curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\mathfrak{L} = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A^*)[2], \lambda)$ . We will continue with  $(L, l)$ , but one should have in mind that all the forthcoming results have their *dual version* if we would consider  $(\mathfrak{L}, \lambda)$  instead of  $(L, l)$ .

## 5. Nijenhuis on Courant algebroids and on $L_\infty$ -algebras

In this section, to each skew-symmetric endomorphism on  $A \oplus A^*$  we associate a vector-valued form of degree zero on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$  and we analyse how the induced deformations on pre-Courant algebroids and curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebras are related under the map  $\mathcal{M}$ . This leads to a relationship between Nijenhuis operators and also enable us to see some structures on Lie algebroids as Nijenhuis forms on  $L_\infty$ -algebras.

Consider a skew-symmetric endomorphism  $J : A \oplus A^* \rightarrow A \oplus A^*$  given as in (5):

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} N & \pi^\sharp \\ \omega^\flat & -N^* \end{pmatrix}.$$

Recall that  $J$  is identified with  $\pi + N + \omega \in \Gamma(\wedge^2(A \oplus A^*))$  and that  $J(X + \alpha) = \{X + \alpha, \pi + N + \omega\}$ .

Let us define the *extensions*  $\underline{N}$  and  $\underline{\omega}$  of the tensors  $N$  and  $\omega$ , respectively, by setting, for all functions  $f \in C^\infty(M)$  and homogeneous elements  $P = P_1 \wedge \dots \wedge P_p \in \Gamma(\wedge^p A)$  and  $Q = Q_1 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_q \in \Gamma(\wedge^q A)$ ,

$$\begin{cases} \underline{N}(f) = 0 \\ \underline{N}(P) = \sum_{i=1}^p (-1)^{i-1} N(P_i) \wedge \widehat{P}_i, \end{cases}$$

and

$$\begin{cases} \underline{\omega}(P, f) = \underline{\omega}(f, P) = 0 \\ \underline{\omega}(P, Q) = \sum_{i=1}^p \sum_{j=1}^q (-1)^{p+i+j-1} \omega(P_i, Q_j) \widehat{P}_i \wedge \widehat{Q}_j, \end{cases}$$

where  $\widehat{P}_i = P_1 \wedge \dots \wedge P_{i-1} \wedge P_{i+1} \wedge \dots \wedge P_p$  and  $\widehat{Q}_j = Q_1 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{j-1} \wedge Q_{j+1} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_q$ .

**Lemma 5.1.** *The extensions  $\underline{N}$  and  $\underline{\omega}$  are multiderivation symmetric vector-valued 1-form and 2-form, respectively, i.e.,*

- i)  $\underline{N}(P \wedge Q) = \underline{N}(P) \wedge Q + (-1)^{pq} \underline{N}(Q) \wedge P$ ,
- ii)  $\underline{\omega}(P, Q) = (-1)^{pq} \underline{\omega}(Q, P)$ ,
- iii)  $\underline{\omega}(P, Q \wedge R) = \underline{\omega}(P, Q) \wedge R + (-1)^{qr} \underline{\omega}(P, R) \wedge Q$ ,

for all  $P \in \Gamma(\wedge^p A)$ ,  $Q \in \Gamma(\wedge^q A)$  and  $R \in \Gamma(\wedge^r A)$ .

*Proof:* Let us consider homogeneous elements  $P = P_1 \wedge \dots \wedge P_p \in \Gamma(\wedge^p A)$ ,  $Q = Q_1 \wedge \dots \wedge Q_q \in \Gamma(\wedge^q A)$  and  $R = R_1 \wedge \dots \wedge R_r \in \Gamma(\wedge^r A)$ . Then,

i)

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{N}(P \wedge Q) &= \sum_{i=1}^p (-1)^{i-1} N(P_i) \wedge \widehat{P}_i \wedge Q + \sum_{j=1}^q (-1)^{p+j-1} N(Q_j) \wedge P \wedge \widehat{Q}_j \\ &= \underline{N}(P) \wedge Q + \left( \sum_{j=1}^q (-1)^{pq+j-1} N(Q_j) \wedge \widehat{Q}_j \right) \wedge P \\ &= \underline{N}(P) \wedge Q + (-1)^{pq} \underline{N}(Q) \wedge P. \end{aligned}$$

ii)

$$\begin{aligned}
\underline{\omega}(P, Q) &= \sum_{i=1}^p \sum_{j=1}^q (-1)^{p+i+j-1} \omega(P_i, Q_j) \widehat{P}_i \wedge \widehat{Q}_j \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^p \sum_{j=1}^q (-1)^{p+i+j+(p-1)(q-1)} \omega(Q_j, P_i) \widehat{Q}_j \wedge \widehat{P}_i \\
&= (-1)^{pq} \sum_{i=1}^p \sum_{j=1}^q (-1)^{q+i+j-1} \omega(Q_j, P_i) \widehat{Q}_j \wedge \widehat{P}_i \\
&= (-1)^{pq} \underline{\omega}(Q, P).
\end{aligned}$$

iii)

$$\begin{aligned}
\underline{\omega}(P, Q \wedge R) &= \sum_{i=1}^p \left( \sum_{j=1}^q (-1)^{p+i+j-1} \omega(P_i, Q_j) \widehat{P}_i \wedge \widehat{Q}_j \wedge R \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{k=1}^r (-1)^{p+i+q+k-1} \omega(P_i, R_k) \widehat{P}_i \wedge Q \wedge \widehat{R}_k \right) \\
&= \left( \sum_{i=1}^p \sum_{j=1}^q (-1)^{p+i+j-1} \omega(P_i, Q_j) \widehat{P}_i \wedge \widehat{Q}_j \right) \wedge R \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=1}^p \sum_{k=1}^r (-1)^{p+i+q+k-1+q(r-1)} \omega(P_i, R_k) \widehat{P}_i \wedge \widehat{R}_k \wedge Q \\
&= \underline{\omega}(P, Q) \wedge R + (-1)^{qr} \underline{\omega}(P, R) \wedge Q.
\end{aligned}$$

■

If one uses the graded Poisson bracket (big bracket) on the graded symplectic manifold  $T^*[2]A[1]$ , the evaluation of  $\underline{N}$  and  $\underline{\omega}$  on sections of  $\wedge^\bullet A$  is much simpler to handle, as it is shown in the next lemma.

**Lemma 5.2.** *For all  $P, Q \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)$ , we have:*

- i)  $\underline{N}(P) = \{-N, P\}$ ;
- ii)  $\underline{\omega}(P, Q) = \{\{-\omega, P\}, Q\}$ .

*Proof:* All the operators are derivations on each entry, so we only have to check the identities for sections of  $\Gamma(A)$ . But in this case the identities are



obvious because the extensions  $\underline{N}$  and  $\underline{\omega}$  coincide with the original tensors  $N$  and  $\omega$ .  $\blacksquare$

*Remark 5.3.* In general, a tensor  $\mathcal{V} \in \Gamma(\wedge^k A^* \otimes \wedge^l A)$  can be extended as a graded symmetric multiderivation  $\underline{\mathcal{V}} \in S^\bullet L^* \otimes L$  of degree  $k + l - 2$ , by setting

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\mathcal{V}}(P^1, \dots, P^k) &= (-1)^{\frac{k(k+1)}{2} + k(n_1 + \dots + n_k) - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} j n_j} \\ &\quad \sum_{a_1=1}^{n_1} \dots \sum_{a_k=1}^{n_k} (-1)^{a_1 + \dots + a_k} \mathcal{V}(P_{a_1}^1, P_{a_2}^2, \dots, P_{a_k}^k) \wedge \widehat{P}_{a_1}^1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{P}_{a_k}^k, \end{aligned}$$

for all homogeneous elements  $P^i = P_1^i \wedge \dots \wedge P_{n_i}^i \in \Gamma(\wedge^{n_i} A)$  and where we used the notation  $\widehat{P}_{a_i}^i = P_1^i \wedge \dots \wedge P_{a_i-1}^i \wedge P_{a_i+1}^i \wedge \dots \wedge P_{n_i}^i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . Using derived brackets, the extension  $\underline{\mathcal{V}}$  is simply defined by

$$\underline{\mathcal{V}}(P^1, \dots, P^k) = (-1)^{kl - \frac{k(k-1)}{2}} \{ \dots \{ \{ \mathcal{V}, P^1 \}, P^2 \}, \dots, P^k \}. \quad (20)$$

Let us now consider the map

$$\Upsilon : \Gamma(\wedge^2(A \oplus A^*)) \longrightarrow S^\bullet(L^*) \otimes L$$

$$J = \pi + N + \omega \longmapsto \dot{\mathcal{J}} = \dot{\mathcal{J}}_0 + \dot{\mathcal{J}}_1 + \dot{\mathcal{J}}_2$$

where

- $\Upsilon(\pi) = \dot{\mathcal{J}}_0 \in L_0 \subset S^0(L^*) \otimes L$  is defined by

$$\dot{\mathcal{J}}_0 = -\pi; \quad (21)$$

- $\Upsilon(N) = \dot{\mathcal{J}}_1 \in S^1(L^*) \otimes L$  is defined by

$$\dot{\mathcal{J}}_1(P) = \underline{N}(P); \quad (22)$$

- $\Upsilon(\omega) = \dot{\mathcal{J}}_2 \in S^2(L^*) \otimes L$  is defined by

$$\dot{\mathcal{J}}_2(P, Q) = \underline{\omega}(P, Q), \quad (23)$$

for all  $P, Q \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)$ .

By Lemma 5.2, we can rewrite the expressions defining the map  $\Upsilon$  using the big bracket as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{J}_0 = -\pi \\ \mathcal{J}_1(P) = \{-N, P\} \\ \mathcal{J}_2(P, Q) = \{\{-\omega, P\}, Q\}. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 5.4.** *The map  $\Upsilon(J) = \mathcal{J} : S^\bullet(L) \rightarrow L$  is a graded symmetric linear map of degree zero.*

*Proof:* The map  $\mathcal{J}$  is of degree zero because  $\mathcal{J}_0 \in L_0$  and  $\mathcal{J}_1$  and  $\mathcal{J}_2$  are both maps of degree zero. To check this we use the same procedure as in the proof of Theorem 4.1. For example, in the case of  $\mathcal{J}_2$ , if  $P \in L_p$  and  $Q \in L_q$ , then  $\mathcal{J}_2(P, Q) = \{\{-\omega, P\}, Q\}$  has bidegree

$$((0, 2) + (p + 2, 0) + (-1, -1)) + (q + 2, 0) + (-1, -1) = (p + q + 2, 0),$$

which means that  $\mathcal{J}_2(P, Q) \in L_{p+q}$  and so  $\mathcal{J}_2$  is a map of degree zero.  $\blacksquare$

Having shown in Theorem 4.1 that the map  $\mathcal{M}$  is invertible, it seems natural to ask if  $\Upsilon$  also admits an inverse. The answer is yes. Indeed, given three maps  $\mathcal{J}_i : S^i(L) \rightarrow L$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , of degree zero and such that  $\iota_f \mathcal{J}_i = 0$ , for all  $f \in L_{-2} = C^\infty(M)$ , we can define  $J \in \Gamma(\wedge^2(A \oplus A^*))$  such that  $\Upsilon(J) = \mathcal{J}_0 + \mathcal{J}_1 + \mathcal{J}_2$ . The proof is analogous to the proof of converse part of Theorem 4.1.

Recall that  $\Theta \in \mathcal{F}^3$  can be deformed by a skew-symmetric endomorphism  $J$  of  $A \oplus A^*$ , yielding  $\Theta_J$  (see Section 2). Also, a curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra can be deformed by a degree zero symmetric vector-valued form  $n$  yielding the curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra  $\ell_n = [n, \ell]$  (see Section 3).

A way to confirm that the maps  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\Upsilon$  are a natural way to embed skew-symmetric endomorphisms of split pre-Courant algebroids into vector-valued forms on curved pre- $L_\infty$ -structures is by checking that the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Theta & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{M}} & l = \mathcal{M}(\Theta) \\ \text{deformation} & & \downarrow \text{deformation} \\ \text{by } J & \searrow \text{ } & \text{by } \Upsilon(J) = \mathcal{J} \\ \Theta_J & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{M}} & l_J \end{array} \quad (24)$$

This is the purpose of the next theorem.

**Theorem 5.5.** *Let  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  be a pre-Courant algebroid and  $J : A \oplus A^* \rightarrow A \oplus A^*$  a skew-symmetric endomorphism. The diagram (24) is commutative, which means that*

$$\mathcal{M}(\Theta_J) = (\mathcal{M}(\Theta))_{\Upsilon(J)},$$

where  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\Upsilon$  are defined by Equations (10)-(13) and (21)-(23), respectively.

*Proof:* Let us take  $\Theta = \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi$  and  $J = \pi + N + \omega$  (see equations (3) and (5)). Then,

$$\Theta_J = \{J, \Theta\} = \{\pi + N + \omega, \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi\}$$

can be decomposed as follows:

$$\begin{cases} (\Theta_J)_{(3,0)} = \{\pi, \gamma\} + \{N, \psi\} \\ (\Theta_J)_{(2,1)} = \{\pi, \mu\} + \{N, \gamma\} + \{\omega, \psi\} \\ (\Theta_J)_{(1,2)} = \{\pi, \phi\} + \{N, \mu\} + \{\omega, \gamma\} \\ (\Theta_J)_{(0,3)} = \{N, \phi\} + \{\omega, \mu\}. \end{cases}$$

Now, Equations (10)-(13) define explicitly the brackets forming  $\mathcal{M}(\Theta_J)$ :

$$\begin{cases} (\mathcal{M}(\Theta_J))_0 = \{\pi, \gamma\} + \{N, \psi\} \\ (\mathcal{M}(\Theta_J))_1(P) = \{\{\pi, \mu\} + \{N, \gamma\} + \{\omega, \psi\}, P\} \\ (\mathcal{M}(\Theta_J))_2(P, Q) = \{\{\{\pi, \phi\} + \{N, \mu\} + \{\omega, \gamma\}, P\}, Q\} \\ (\mathcal{M}(\Theta_J))_3(P, Q, R) = \{\{\{\{N, \phi\} + \{\omega, \mu\}, P\}, Q\}, R\} \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

for all  $P, Q, R \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)$ .

On the other hand,  $\mathcal{M}(\Theta) = l = l_0 + l_1 + l_2 + l_3$  is defined by Equations (10)-(13) while  $\Upsilon(J) = \mathcal{J} = \mathcal{J}_0 + \mathcal{J}_1 + \mathcal{J}_2$  is defined by Equations (21)-(23). Thus, the curved pre- $L_\infty$ -structure

$$(\mathcal{M}(\Theta))_{\Upsilon(J)} = [\mathcal{J}, l] = [\mathcal{J}_0 + \mathcal{J}_1 + \mathcal{J}_2, l_0 + l_1 + l_2 + l_3]$$

can be decomposed in four terms  $[\mathcal{J}, l]_i \in S^i(L^*) \otimes L, i = 0, 1, 2, 3$ , as follows:

$$\begin{cases} [\mathcal{J}, l]_0 = [\mathcal{J}_0, l_1] + [\mathcal{J}_1, l_0] \\ [\mathcal{J}, l]_1 = [\mathcal{J}_0, l_2] + [\mathcal{J}_1, l_1] + [\mathcal{J}_2, l_0] \\ [\mathcal{J}, l]_2 = [\mathcal{J}_0, l_3] + [\mathcal{J}_1, l_2] + [\mathcal{J}_2, l_1] \\ [\mathcal{J}, l]_3 = [\mathcal{J}_1, l_3] + [\mathcal{J}_2, l_2]. \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

We need to prove that the curved pre- $L_\infty$ -structures defined by Equations (25) and (26) coincide. For the 0-brackets, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathcal{J}_0, l_1] + [\mathcal{J}_1, l_0] &= l_1(\mathcal{J}_0) - \mathcal{J}_1(l_0) \\ &= \{\gamma, -\pi\} - \{-N, \psi\} \\ &= \{\pi, \gamma\} + \{N, \psi\}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used Equations (8), (10), (11), (21) and (22). The 1-brackets require more computations, but still straightforward. Besides the equations used for the 0-brackets we also use Equations (12) and (23) to carry out the computations, for any  $P \in L$ :

$$\begin{aligned} ([\mathcal{J}_0, l_2] + [\mathcal{J}_1, l_1] + [\mathcal{J}_2, l_0])(P) &= l_2(\mathcal{J}_0, P) + l_1(\mathcal{J}_1(P)) - \mathcal{J}_1(l_1(P)) \\ &\quad - \mathcal{J}_2(l_0, P) \\ &= l_2(-\pi, P) + l_1(\{-N, P\}) - \mathcal{J}_1(\{\gamma, P\}) \\ &\quad - \mathcal{J}_2(\psi, P) \\ &= \{\{\mu, -\pi\}, P\} + \{\gamma, \{-N, P\}\} \\ &\quad - \{-N, \{\gamma, P\}\} - \{\{-\omega, \psi\}, P\} \\ &= \{\{\pi, \mu\}, P\} - \{\{\gamma, N\}, P\} + \{\{\omega, \psi\}, P\} \\ &= \{\{\pi, \mu\} + \{N, \gamma\} + \{\omega, \psi\}, P\}. \end{aligned}$$

For 2-brackets and 3-brackets, computations are more laborious (because they implicate more terms) but are similar.  $\blacksquare$

In the next theorem we shall use Theorem 5.5 in order to relate some classes of Nijenhuis endomorphisms on  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  with Nijenhuis vector-valued forms on  $(L, l)$ .

**Theorem 5.6.** *Let  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  be a pre-Courant algebroid and  $J$  be a skew-symmetric endomorphism of  $A \oplus A^*$  such that  $J^2 = \lambda \text{id}_{A \oplus A^*}$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*Then,  $J$  is a Nijenhuis morphism on  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  iff  $\mathcal{J} = \Upsilon(J)$  is a Nijenhuis vector-valued form on the curved pre- $L_\infty$ -structure  $l = \mathcal{M}(\Theta)$  with square  $\mathcal{K} = -\lambda \mathcal{E}$ , where  $\mathcal{E}$  is the Euler map defined by (9).*

Let us prove a calculatory lemma before proving Theorem 5.6

**Lemma 5.7.** *Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be the vector-valued form on  $L$ , of degree zero, given by  $\mathcal{K} = -\lambda \mathcal{E}$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

i) If  $l_i, i = 0, 1, 2, 3$ , are graded symmetric brackets of degree 1 on  $L$ , then

$$[\mathcal{K}, l_i] = \lambda l_i, \quad i = 0, 1, 2, 3.$$

ii) If  $\mathcal{J}_i, i = 0, 1, 2$ , are graded symmetric vector-valued forms of degree zero on  $L$ , then

$$[\mathcal{J}_i, \mathcal{K}] = 0, \quad i = 0, 1, 2.$$

*Proof:* i) The proof is done directly. We present here, as an example, the computations for  $i = 2$ . For all  $P \in L_p$  and  $Q \in L_q$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathcal{K}, l_2](P, Q) &= (\iota_{\mathcal{K}} l_2 - \iota_{l_2} \mathcal{K})(P, Q) \\ &= l_2(\mathcal{K}(P), Q) + (-1)^{pq} l_2(\mathcal{K}(Q), P) - \mathcal{K}(l_2(P, Q)) \\ &= -\lambda p l_2(P, Q) - \lambda q (-1)^{pq} l_2(Q, P) + \lambda(p + q + 1) l_2(P, Q) \\ &= \lambda l_2(P, Q). \end{aligned}$$

ii) Analogous to i). ■

Let us now prove Theorem 5.6

*Proof of Theorem 5.6:* The statement of Lemma 5.7 ii) ensures that  $\mathcal{J}$  is a Nijenhuis vector-valued form on  $l = \mathcal{M}(\Theta)$  with square  $\mathcal{K}$  if and only if

$$[\mathcal{J}, [\mathcal{J}, l]] = [\mathcal{K}, l]. \quad (27)$$

Using Theorem 5.5 twice, for the l.h.s. of Equation (27), we have :

$$[\mathcal{J}, [\mathcal{J}, l]] = (l_{\mathcal{J}})_{\mathcal{J}} = \mathcal{M}((\Theta_J)_J).$$

Furthermore, by Lemma 5.7 i) we know that

$$[\mathcal{K}, l] = \lambda l = \lambda \mathcal{M}(\Theta) = \mathcal{M}(\lambda \Theta).$$

Thus, Equation (27) is equivalent to

$$\mathcal{M}((\Theta_J)_J) = \mathcal{M}(\lambda \Theta),$$

which is equivalent to  $(\Theta_J)_J = \lambda \Theta$ , because the map  $\mathcal{M}$  is injective (this is part of the proof of Theorem 4.1). But, using Equation (6), this is equivalent to  $J$  being a Nijenhuis endomorphism on  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$ . ■

*Remark 5.8.* In Theorem 5.6, if  $\Theta$  is a Courant algebroid structure then  $\Theta_J$  is also a Courant algebroid structure and both  $l$  and  $l_{\mathcal{J}}$  are curved  $L_\infty$ -structures.

As it was mentioned in Section 2,  $(A \oplus A^*, \mu)$  is a Courant algebroid if and only if  $(A, \mu)$  is a Lie algebroid. Moreover, if  $\Theta = \mu + \phi$ , from (4) we have that  $(A \oplus A^*, \mu + \phi)$  is a Courant algebroid if and only if  $(A, \mu)$  is a Lie algebroid and  $\{\mu, \phi\} = 0$ . The condition  $\{\mu, \phi\} = 0$  means that  $\phi$  is a closed 3-form on the Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$ , and we write  $d\phi = 0$ .

Poisson quasi-Nijenhuis structures with background were introduced in [1] as quadruples  $(\pi, N, \varphi, H)$  formed by a bivector  $\pi$ , a  $(1, 1)$ -tensor  $N$  and two closed 3-forms  $\varphi$  and  $H$  on a Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$ , satisfying some conditions. In the case where  $\varphi$  is exact,  $\varphi = d\omega$ , we have an exact Poisson quasi-Nijenhuis structure with background [2]. Denoting by  $C(\pi, N)$  the Magri-Morosi concomitant of  $\pi$  and  $N$  and by  $\overline{\mathcal{C}}N$  the Nijenhuis torsion of  $N$  on  $(A, \mu)$ , the definition goes as follows:

**Definition 5.9.** [2] An *exact Poisson quasi-Nijenhuis structure with background* on a Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$  is a quadruple  $(\pi, N, \omega, H)$ , where  $\pi$  is a bivector,  $\omega$  is a 2-form,  $N$  is a  $(1, 1)$ -tensor and  $H$  is a closed 3-form such that  $N \circ \pi^\# = \pi^\# \circ N^*$ ,  $\omega^\flat \circ N = N^* \circ \omega^\flat$  and

- (i)  $\pi$  is Poisson,
- (ii)  $C(\pi, N)(\alpha, \beta) = 2H(\pi^\#(\alpha), \pi^\#(\beta), \cdot)$ , for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma(A^*)$ ,
- (iii)  $\overline{\mathcal{C}}N(X, Y) = \pi^\#(H(NX, Y, \cdot) + H(X, NY, \cdot) + d\omega(X, Y, \cdot))$ , for all  $X, Y \in \Gamma(A)$ ,
- (iv)  $i_N d\omega - d\omega_N - \mathcal{H} + \lambda H = 0$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

with  $\omega_N(X, Y) := \omega(NX, Y)$  and  $\mathcal{H}(X, Y, Z) := \circlearrowleft_{X, Y, Z} H(NX, NY, Z)$ , for all  $X, Y, Z \in \Gamma(A)$ , where  $\circlearrowleft_{X, Y, Z}$  means sum after circular permutation on  $X, Y$  and  $Z$ .

In [2] we proved that, given a closed 3-form  $H \in \Gamma(\wedge^3 A^*)$  on a Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$  and a skew-symmetric endomorphism  $J$  of  $A \oplus A^*$ ,

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} N & \pi^\# \\ \omega^\flat & -N^* \end{pmatrix},$$

such that  $J^2 = \lambda \text{id}_{A \oplus A^*}$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $J$  is a Nijenhuis morphism on the Courant algebroid  $(A \oplus A^*, \mu + H)$  if and only if the quadruple  $(\pi, N, \omega, H)$  is an exact Poisson quasi-Nijenhuis structure with background on  $(A, \mu)$ .

From Theorem 5.6, we get that each exact Poisson quasi-Nijenhuis structure with background on a Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$  can be seen as a Nijenhuis vector-valued form with respect to a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra structure on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ . More precisely, we have:

**Corollary 5.10.** *Let  $(A, \mu)$  be a Lie algebroid,  $\pi$  a bivector,  $\omega$  a 2-form,  $N$  a  $(1, 1)$ -tensor and  $\phi$  a closed 3-form on  $(A, \mu)$ . Assume that  $N \circ \pi^\# = \pi^\# \circ N^*$ ,  $\omega^\flat \circ N = N^* \circ \omega^\flat$  and  $N^2 = \lambda \text{id}_A$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then, the quadruple  $(\pi, N, \omega, \phi)$  is an exact Poisson quasi-Nijenhuis structure with background on  $(A, \mu)$  if and only if  $\mathcal{J} = -\pi + \underline{N} + \underline{\omega}$  is a Nijenhuis vector-valued form on the  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2], l_2 + l_3)$ , with square  $\mathcal{K} = -\lambda \mathcal{E}$ .*

In [5] a one-to-one correspondence between an exact Poisson quasi-Nijenhuis structure with background and a co-boundary Nijenhuis<sup>†</sup> vector-valued form is established. Indeed, Theorem 4.4 in [5] establishes that  $(\pi, N, -\omega, \phi)$  is an exact Poisson quasi-Nijenhuis structure with background on a Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$  if and only if  $\mathcal{N} = \pi + \underline{N} + \underline{\omega}$  is a co-boundary Nijenhuis vector-valued form on the  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2], l_2 + \underline{\phi} = l_2 - l_3)$ <sup>‡</sup>, with square  $\underline{N}^2 + [\underline{\omega}, \pi]$ .

The approach in [5] is different from the one considered in the current paper since, contrary to what happens in Corollary 5.10,  $\Upsilon(\pi + N - \omega) = \pi + \underline{N} - \underline{\omega} \neq \mathcal{N}$ .

When, in Definition 5.9,  $\omega = 0$  and  $H = 0$ , the pair  $(\pi, N)$  is a Poisson-Nijenhuis structure on the Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$ . In the case where  $N^2 = \lambda \text{id}_A$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , Theorem 5.6 gives the following characterization of these Poisson-Nijenhuis structures in the setting of  $L_\infty$ -algebras (see [2]).

**Corollary 5.11.** *Let  $(A, \mu)$  be a Lie algebroid,  $\pi$  a bivector and  $N$  a  $(1, 1)$ -tensor such that  $N \circ \pi^\# = \pi^\# \circ N^*$  and  $N^2 = \lambda \text{id}_A$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then, the pair  $(\pi, N)$  is a Poisson-Nijenhuis structure on  $(A, \mu)$  if and only if  $\mathcal{J} = -\pi + \underline{N}$  is a Nijenhuis vector-valued form with respect to the  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2], l_2)$ , with square  $\mathcal{K} = -\lambda \mathcal{E}$ .*

Recall that an  $\Omega N$  structure on a Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$  is a pair  $(\omega, N)$ , where  $N$  is a Nijenhuis tensor,  $\omega$  is a closed 2-form such that  $\omega^\flat \circ N = N^* \circ \omega^\flat$  and the 2-form  $\omega_N(\cdot, \cdot) = \omega(N\cdot, \cdot)$  is closed.

In [2] we proved that, given a closed 2-form  $\omega$  on a Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$  and a skew-symmetric endomorphism  $J_{\omega, N}$  of  $A \oplus A^*$ ,

$$J_{\omega, N} = \begin{pmatrix} N & 0 \\ \omega^\flat & -N^* \end{pmatrix},$$

<sup>†</sup>If we remove condition  $[\mathfrak{n}, \mathcal{K}] = 0$  in Definition 3.3,  $\mathfrak{n}$  is called a co-boundary Nijenhuis form.

<sup>‡</sup>The extension  $\underline{\phi}$  of the 3-form  $\phi$  is given by (20). More precisely, for all  $P, Q, R \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)$ ,  $\underline{\phi}(P, Q, R) = \{ \{ \{-\phi, P\}, Q \}, R \} = -l_3(P, Q, R)$  and Lemma 4.2 yields  $\underline{\phi} = -l_3$ .

such that  $J_{\omega, N}^2 = \lambda \text{id}_{A \oplus A^*}$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $J_{\omega, N}$  is a Nijenhuis morphism on the Courant algebroid  $(A \oplus A^*, \mu)$  if and only if  $(\omega, N)$  is an  $\Omega N$  structure on  $(A, \mu)$ . So, from Theorem 5.6, we get the following characterization of these  $\Omega N$  structures in the setting of  $L_\infty$ -algebras.

**Corollary 5.12.** *Let  $(A, \mu)$  be a Lie algebroid,  $\omega$  a 2-form and  $N$  a  $(1, 1)$ -tensor such that  $\omega^\flat \circ N = N^* \circ \omega^\flat$  and  $N^2 = \lambda \text{id}_A$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then, the pair  $(\omega, N)$  is an  $\Omega N$  structure on  $(A, \mu)$  if and only if  $\mathcal{J} = \underline{N} + \underline{\omega}$  is a Nijenhuis vector-valued form with respect to the  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2], l_2)$ , with square  $\mathcal{K} = -\lambda \mathcal{E}$ .*

A  $P\Omega$  structure on a Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$  is a pair  $(\pi, \omega)$ , where  $\pi$  is a Poisson bivector and the 2-forms  $\omega$  and  $\omega_N$  are closed, with  $N = \pi^\sharp \circ \omega^\flat$ .

Using Theorem 5.6, we may establish a relation between a class of  $P\Omega$  structures and  $L_\infty$ -algebras. For that purpose we need to recall the next two lemmas.

**Lemma 5.13.** [1] *If  $(\pi, \omega)$  is a  $P\Omega$  structure on  $(A, \mu)$ , then  $N = \pi^\sharp \circ \omega^\flat$  is a Nijenhuis tensor on  $(A, \mu)$ .*

**Lemma 5.14.** [13] *Let  $N$  be a  $(1, 1)$ -tensor on a Lie algebroid  $(A, \mu)$  such that  $N^2 = \lambda \text{id}_A$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $N$  is a Nijenhuis tensor on  $(A, \mu)$  if and only if  $J_N : A \oplus A^* \rightarrow A \oplus A^*$  given by  $J_N = \begin{pmatrix} N & 0 \\ 0 & -N^* \end{pmatrix}$  is a Nijenhuis morphism on the Courant algebroid  $(A \oplus A^*, \mu)$ .*

**Corollary 5.15.** *Let  $(A, \mu)$  be a Lie algebroid,  $\pi$  a Poisson bivector and  $\omega$  a closed 2-form such that  $N := \pi^\sharp \circ \omega^\flat$  satisfies  $N^2 = \lambda \text{id}_A$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . If the pair  $(\pi, \omega)$  is a  $P\Omega$  structure on  $(A, \mu)$  then  $\mathcal{J} = \underline{N}$  is a Nijenhuis vector-valued form with respect to the  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2], l_2)$ , with square  $\mathcal{K} = -\lambda \mathcal{E}$ .*

*Proof:* It is a direct consequence of Theorem 5.6, by application of Lemmas 5.13 and 5.14. ■



## 6. Twisting by a bivector

The purpose of this section is to discuss the twisting of a Courant algebroid and of a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra by a bivector.

Given a pre-Courant structure  $\Theta$  on  $A \oplus A^*$ , the notion of *twisting*  $\Theta$  by a bivector  $\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A)$  was introduced in [19] as the canonical transformation given by the flow of the Hamiltonian vector field  $X_\pi := \{\pi, \cdot\}$  associated to  $\pi$ :

$$e^\pi := 1 + \{\pi, \cdot\} + \frac{1}{2!}\{\pi, \{\pi, \cdot\}\} + \frac{1}{3!}\{\pi, \{\pi, \{\pi, \cdot\}\}\} + \dots$$

When applied to  $\Theta = \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} e^\pi \Theta = & \psi + \{\pi, \gamma\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \mu\}\} + \frac{1}{6}\{\pi, \{\pi, \{\pi, \phi\}\}\} \\ & + \gamma + \{\pi, \mu\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \phi\}\} + \mu + \{\pi, \phi\} + \phi. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $X_\pi := \{\pi, \cdot\}$  is of degree zero,  $e^\pi \Theta$  has degree 3, that is to say  $e^\pi \Theta \in \mathcal{F}^3$  is a pre-Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$ . Moreover, we have the following:

**Proposition 6.1.** [19] *If  $\Theta$  is a Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$  so is  $e^\pi \Theta$ .*

Replacing  $\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A)$  by  $\omega \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A^*)$  one has the twisting of  $\Theta$  by  $\omega$ ,  $e^\omega \Theta$  [19]. Proposition 6.1 also holds for  $e^\omega \Theta$ .

*Remark 6.2.* The next Definition 6.3 and Propositions 6.4 and 6.5 also hold, without any change, for curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebras but, for the sake of better reading, we shall not address them in the more general setting.

Recall that a Maurer-Cartan element of a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\mathcal{L}, \sum_{i=0}^3 \ell_i)$  is a degree zero element  $\pi \in \mathcal{L}_0$  such that

$$\ell_0 - \ell_1(\pi) + \frac{1}{2}\ell_2(\pi, \pi) - \frac{1}{6}\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \pi) = 0. \quad (28)$$

Let  $(\mathcal{L}, \sum_{i \geq 0} \ell_i)$  be a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra and  $\pi \in \mathcal{L}_0$ , a degree zero element of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Let us define the operator

$$\varepsilon^\pi := 1 - [\pi, \cdot] + \frac{(-1)^2}{2!}[\pi, [\pi, \cdot]] + \frac{(-1)^3}{3!}[\pi, [\pi, [\pi, \cdot]]] + \dots$$

that, applied to  $\ell := \sum_{i=0}^3 \ell_i$ , yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon^\pi \ell = & \underbrace{\ell_0 - \ell_1(\pi) + \frac{1}{2}\ell_2(\pi, \pi) - \frac{1}{6}\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \pi)}_{(\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_0} \\ & + \underbrace{\ell_1 - \ell_2(\pi, \cdot) + \frac{1}{2}\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \cdot)}_{(\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1} + \underbrace{\ell_2 - \ell_3(\pi, \cdot)}_{(\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2} + \underbrace{\ell_3}_{(\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_3}. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

**Definition 6.3.** The pair  $(\mathcal{L}, \varepsilon^\pi \ell)$  is called the *twisting* by  $\pi$  of the curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$ .

When the curvature vanishes ( $\ell_0 = 0$ ) and so  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$  is an  $L_\infty$ -algebra, in general, the term  $(\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_0 \in \mathcal{L}_0$  need not to vanish. The vanishing of  $(\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_0$ , which is equivalent to

$$\ell_1(\pi) - \frac{1}{2}\ell_2(\pi, \pi) + \frac{1}{6}\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \pi) = 0,$$

means that  $\pi$  is a Maurer-Cartan element of the  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\mathcal{L}, \sum_{i=1}^3 \ell_i)$  (see (28)). So, we recover a result from [9]:

**Proposition 6.4.** *The twisting by  $\pi$  of the  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$  is an  $L_\infty$ -algebra provided that  $\pi$  is a Maurer-Cartan element of  $(\mathcal{L}, \ell)$ .*

Let us see that when dealing with curved  $L_\infty$ -algebras, the condition of  $\pi$  being a Maurer-Cartan element can be removed. Next proposition holds for any curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra, but we only consider the case where  $\ell_i = 0$ , for  $i \geq 4$ , which is the one we are interested in.

**Proposition 6.5.** *Let  $(\mathcal{L}, \sum_{i=0}^3 \ell_i)$  be a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra and  $\pi$  a degree zero element of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Then,  $(\mathcal{L}, \varepsilon^\pi \ell)$  is a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra.*

*Proof:* We have to prove that, for all homogeneous  $X, X_1, \dots, X_5 \in \mathcal{L}$ , and using the notation of (29):

$$\begin{aligned} i) & (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_0) = 0; \\ ii) & (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_0, X) + (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1(X)) = 0; \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& iii) (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_3((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_0, X_1, X_2) + (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2(X_1, X_2)) \\
& \quad + (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1(X_1), X_2) + (-1)^{x_1 x_2} (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1(X_2), X_1) = 0; \\
& iv) \sum_{\sigma \in Sh(1,2)} \epsilon(\sigma) (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_3((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1(X_{\sigma(1)}, X_{\sigma(2)}, X_{\sigma(3)}) \\
& \quad + \sum_{\sigma \in Sh(2,1)} \epsilon(\sigma) (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2(X_{\sigma(1)}, X_{\sigma(2)}, X_{\sigma(3)})) \\
& \quad + (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_3(X_1, X_2, X_3)) = 0; \\
& v) \sum_{\sigma \in Sh(3,1)} \epsilon(\sigma) (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_3(X_{\sigma(1)}, X_{\sigma(2)}, X_{\sigma(3)}), X_{\sigma(4)}) \\
& \quad + \sum_{\sigma \in Sh(2,2)} \epsilon(\sigma) (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_3((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2(X_{\sigma(1)}, X_{\sigma(2)}), X_{\sigma(3)}, X_{\sigma(4)}) = 0; \\
& vi) \sum_{\sigma \in Sh(3,2)} \epsilon(\sigma) (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_3((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_3(X_{\sigma(1)}, X_{\sigma(2)}, X_{\sigma(3)}), X_{\sigma(4)}, X_{\sigma(5)}) = 0,
\end{aligned}$$

where  $x_i$  stands for the degree of  $X_i$ . For  $i$ ), we compute

$$\begin{aligned}
(\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_0) &= (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1(\ell_0 - \ell_1(\pi) + \frac{1}{2}\ell_2(\pi, \pi) - \frac{1}{6}\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \pi)) \\
&= [\ell_1(\ell_0)] - [\ell_1(\ell_1(\pi)) + \ell_2(\pi, \ell_0)] \\
&+ \left[ \frac{1}{2}\ell_1(\ell_2(\pi, \pi)) + \ell_2(\pi, \ell_1(\pi)) + \frac{1}{2}\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \ell_0) \right] \\
&- \left[ \frac{1}{6}\ell_1(\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \pi)) + \frac{1}{2}\ell_2(\pi, \ell_2(\pi, \pi)) + \frac{1}{2}\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \ell_1(\pi)) \right] \\
&+ \left[ \frac{1}{6}\ell_2(\pi, \ell_3(\pi, \pi, \pi)) + \frac{1}{4}\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \ell_2(\pi, \pi)) \right] \\
&- \left[ \frac{1}{12}\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \ell_3(\pi, \pi, \pi)) \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $(\mathcal{L}, \sum_{i=0}^3 \ell_i)$  is a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra, each expression inside the brackets  $[\dots]$  is zero as a consequence of the generalized Jacobi identity (7) for  $n = 0, 1, \dots, 5$ , with  $X_i = \pi$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, 5$ . Thus,  $i$ ) is proved.

For *ii*), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_2((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_0, X) + (\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1((\varepsilon^\pi \ell)_1(X)) &= \left[ \ell_2(\ell_0, X) + \ell_1(\ell_1(X)) \right] \\
&- \left[ \ell_2(\ell_1(\pi), X) + \ell_3(\pi, \ell_0, X) + \ell_1(\ell_2(\pi, X)) + \ell_2(\ell_1(X), \pi) \right] \\
&+ \left[ \frac{1}{2} \ell_2(\ell_2(\pi, \pi), X) + \ell_3(\ell_1(\pi), \pi, X) + \frac{1}{2} \ell_1(\ell_3(\pi, \pi, X)) + \ell_2(\ell_2(\pi, X), \pi) \right. \\
&+ \left. \frac{1}{2} \ell_3(\ell_1(X), \pi, \pi) \right] - \left[ \frac{1}{6} \ell_2(\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \pi), X) + \frac{1}{2} \ell_3(\ell_2(\pi, \pi), \pi, X) \right. \\
&+ \left. \frac{1}{2} \ell_2(\ell_3(\pi, \pi, X), \pi) + \frac{1}{2} \ell_3(\ell_2(\pi, X), \pi, \pi) \right] \\
&+ \left[ \frac{1}{6} \ell_3(\ell_3(\pi, \pi, \pi), \pi, X) + \frac{1}{4} \ell_3(\ell_3(\pi, \pi, X), \pi, \pi) \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Again, using (7) we get that each expression inside the brackets  $[\dots]$  is zero, and *ii*) is proved. The proofs of *iii*), *iv*), *v*) and *vi*) are similar.  $\blacksquare$

Next we shall see that the map  $\mathcal{M}$ , given by Equations (10)-(13), commutes with the operations of twisting by  $\pi$ .

Let  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta = \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi)$  be a pre-Courant algebroid and  $(L = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2], l = \mathcal{M}(\Theta))$  the corresponding curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra constructed in Section 4. Let  $\pi$  be a degree zero element of  $L$ , i.e.,  $\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A) = L_0$ . Since  $\Theta$  is a pre-Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$ , so it is  $e^\pi \Theta$  and, according to Theorem 4.1,  $\mathcal{M}(e^\pi \Theta)$  is a curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra.

**Proposition 6.6.** *We have,*

$$\mathcal{M}(e^\pi \Theta) = \varepsilon^\pi(\mathcal{M}(\Theta)) = \varepsilon^\pi l.$$

*Equivalently, the next diagram is commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\Theta & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{M}} & l \\
e^\pi \downarrow & \circlearrowright & \downarrow \varepsilon^\pi \\
e^\pi \Theta & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{M}} & \varepsilon^\pi l
\end{array}$$

*Proof:* Applying  $\mathcal{M}$  to

$$\begin{aligned}
 e^\pi \Theta = & \underbrace{\psi + \{\pi, \gamma\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \mu\}\} + \frac{1}{6}\{\pi, \{\pi, \{\pi, \phi\}\}\}}_{\text{bidegree (3,0)}} \\
 & + \underbrace{\gamma + \{\pi, \mu\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \phi\}\}}_{\text{bidegree (2,1)}} + \underbrace{\mu + \{\pi, \phi\}}_{\text{bidegree (1,2)}} + \underbrace{\phi}_{\text{bidegree (0,3)}}
 \end{aligned}$$

and using (10)-(13), yields  $\mathcal{M}(e^\pi \Theta) = \sum_{i=0}^3 (\mathcal{M}(e^\pi \Theta))_i$  with

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l}
 (\mathcal{M}(e^\pi \Theta))_0 = \psi + \{\pi, \gamma\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \mu\}\} + \frac{1}{6}\{\pi, \{\pi, \{\pi, \phi\}\}\} \\
 (\mathcal{M}(e^\pi \Theta))_1(P) = \{\gamma, P\} + \{\{\pi, \mu\}, P\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\{\pi, \{\pi, \phi\}\}, P\} \\
 (\mathcal{M}(e^\pi \Theta))_2(P, Q) = \{\{\mu, P\}, Q\} + \{\{\{\pi, \phi\}, P\}, Q\} \\
 (\mathcal{M}(e^\pi \Theta))_3(P, Q, R) = \{\{\{\phi, P\}, Q\}, R\},
 \end{array} \right.$$

for all  $P, Q, R \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ . Now, the twisting of  $l = \mathcal{M}(\Theta)$  by  $\pi$  is, according to (29) and (10)-(13), given by  $\varepsilon^\pi(\mathcal{M}(\Theta)) = \varepsilon^\pi l = \sum_{i=0}^3 (\varepsilon^\pi l)_i$  with

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l}
 (\varepsilon^\pi l)_0 = \psi - \{\gamma, \pi\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\{\mu, \pi\}, \pi\} - \frac{1}{6}\{\{\{\phi, \pi\}, \pi\}, \pi\} \\
 (\varepsilon^\pi l)_1(P) = \{\gamma, P\} - \{\{\mu, \pi\}, P\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\{\{\phi, \pi\}, \pi\}, P\} \\
 (\varepsilon^\pi l)_2(P, Q) = \{\{\mu, P\}, Q\} - \{\{\{\phi, \pi\}, P\}, Q\} \\
 (\varepsilon^\pi l)_3(P, Q, R) = \{\{\{\phi, P\}, Q\}, R\},
 \end{array} \right.$$

for all  $P, Q, R \in \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ . Thus,

$$(\varepsilon^\pi l)_i = (\mathcal{M}(e^\pi \Theta))_i,$$

for  $i = 0, \dots, 3$ , which concludes the proof.  $\blacksquare$

The next corollary is a consequence of the previous results.

**Corollary 6.7.** *The following assertions are equivalent:*

- i)  $(A \oplus A^*, e^\pi \Theta)$  is a Courant algebroid;
- ii)  $(L, \varepsilon^\pi l)$  is a multiplicative curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra.

Next, we show that the  $L_\infty$ -algebra attached to a bivector introduced in [21, 22] can be deduced from Corollary 4.4 as a particular case. This way, one can avoid the long direct proof presented in [21].

Let  $(A, \mu)$  be a Lie algebroid over  $M$  and take a bivector  $\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A)$ . Next lemma appears in [19] for the case  $A = TM$ .

**Lemma 6.8.**  *$(A, \mu)$  is a Lie algebroid if and only if  $(A \oplus A^*, e^\pi \mu)$  is a Courant algebroid.*

*Proof:* Note that  $(A, \mu)$  is a Lie algebroid if and only if  $(A \oplus A^*, \mu)$  is a Courant algebroid. Applying Proposition 6.1 with  $\Theta = \mu$ , we have that if  $(A, \mu)$  is a Lie algebroid then  $(A \oplus A^*, e^\pi \mu)$  is a Courant algebroid. Conversely, the twisting of  $\mu$  by  $\pi$  is

$$e^\pi \mu = \mu + \{\pi, \mu\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \mu\}\}$$

and, by bidegree reasons, we have that

$$\{e^\pi \mu, e^\pi \mu\} = 0 \Rightarrow \{\mu, \mu\} = 0.$$

So, if  $(A \oplus A^*, e^\pi \mu)$  is a Courant algebroid, then  $(A, \mu)$  is a Lie algebroid. ■

The twisting of  $\mu$  by  $\pi$  can be written as

$$e^\pi \mu = \mu + \{\pi, \mu\} - \frac{1}{2}[\pi, \pi]_{SN},$$

where  $[\cdot, \cdot]_{SN}$  is the Schouten-Nijenhuis bracket on the space  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)$  of multivectors of  $A$ . The bivector  $\pi$  defines a *twisted-Poisson* structure on the Lie algebroid  $A$  and  $(\mu, \{\pi, \mu\}, -\frac{1}{2}[\pi, \pi]_{SN})$  is a quasi-Lie bialgebroid structure on  $(A^*, A)$  [19].

The (curved)  $L_\infty$ -algebra on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A^*)$ [2] that corresponds to the Courant algebroid  $(A^* \oplus A, \mu + \{\pi, \mu\} - \frac{1}{2}[\pi, \pi]_{SN})$  is given by (19), with  $\phi = 0$ ,  $\gamma = \{\pi, \mu\}$  and  $\psi = -\frac{1}{2}[\pi, \pi]_{SN}$ . More precisely, and denoting by  $[\cdot, \cdot]_\pi$  the bracket on the space  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A^*)$  of forms on  $A$ , that is usually called the Koszul bracket, (19) gives:

$$\begin{cases} \lambda_1(\alpha) = \{\mu, \alpha\} \\ \lambda_2(\alpha, \beta) = \{\{\{\pi, \mu\}, \alpha\}, \beta\} = (-1)^{|\alpha|}[\alpha, \beta]_\pi \\ \lambda_3(\alpha, \beta, \eta) = \left\{ \left\{ \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}[\pi, \pi]_{SN}, \alpha \right\}, \beta \right\}, \eta \right\}, \end{cases}$$

where  $|\alpha|$  denotes the degree of  $\alpha$  on the Gerstenhaber algebra  $(\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A^*)[1], \wedge, [\cdot, \cdot]_\pi)$ . For  $A = TM$ , this is the  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\Omega(M)[2], \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3)$  introduced in [21].

## 7. Twisting and deformation

In this section we combine the operations of twisting and deformation on both (pre-)Courant algebroids and curved (pre-) $L_\infty$ -algebras.

Let  $\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A)$  be a bivector. Take  $N \in \Gamma(A \otimes A^*)$  such that  $N \circ \pi^\# = \pi^\# \circ N^*$  and consider the bivector  $\pi_N \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A)$  defined, for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma(A^*)$ , by  $\pi_N(\alpha, \beta) = \pi(N^* \alpha, \beta)$  or, using the big bracket, by  $\pi_N = \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, N\}$ . Miming the twisting of a pre-Courant structure by  $\pi$ , we may define the twisting of  $N$  by  $\pi$ , and set  $e^\pi N := N + \{\pi, N\}$ . We denote by  $J_N$  and  $J_{\pi_N}$  the skew-symmetric endomorphisms of  $A \oplus A^*$  given, respectively, by

$$J_N = \begin{pmatrix} N & 0 \\ 0 & -N^* \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and by} \quad J_{\pi_N} = \begin{pmatrix} N & 2\pi_N^\# \\ 0 & -N^* \end{pmatrix}.$$

$J_N$  and  $J_{\pi_N}$  are identified with  $N$  and  $e^\pi N$ , respectively, since

$$J_N(X + \alpha) = \{X + \alpha, N\} \quad \text{and} \quad J_{\pi_N}(X + \alpha) = \{X + \alpha, e^\pi N\}.$$

The deformation by  $J_N$  of the (pre-)Courant structure  $\Theta = \psi + \gamma + \mu + \phi$  is the pre-Courant structure  $\Theta_N = \{N, \Theta\}$ , while the deformation by  $J_{\pi_N}$  of the (pre-)Courant structure  $e^\pi \Theta$  is the pre-Courant<sup>§</sup> structure  $(e^\pi \Theta)_{e^\pi N} = \{e^\pi N, e^\pi \Theta\}$ . On the other hand, the twisting of  $\Theta_N$  by  $\pi$  is the pre-Courant structure  $e^\pi(\Theta_N)$ . The relation between these functions on  $\mathcal{F}^3$  is given in the next proposition.

**Proposition 7.1.** *We have,*

$$e^\pi(\Theta_N) = (e^\pi \Theta)_{e^\pi N}.$$

*Equivalently, the next diagram is commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Theta & \xrightarrow{e^\pi} & e^\pi \Theta \\ \downarrow N & \curvearrowright & \downarrow e^\pi N \\ \Theta_N & \xrightarrow{e^\pi} & (e^\pi \Theta)_{e^\pi N} \end{array}$$

*Proof:* We compute,

<sup>§</sup>Note that in general  $\{N, \Theta\}$  is a pre-Courant structure, even if  $\Theta$  is Courant. When  $\Theta$  is Courant,  $\{N, \Theta\}$  is Courant if and only if  $N$  is a weak-Nijenhuis morphism [10].

$$\begin{aligned}
e^\pi(\Theta_N) &= e^\pi\{N, \Theta\} = \{N, \mu\} + \{\pi, \{N, \phi\}\} \\
&+ \{N, \gamma\} + \{\pi, \{N, \mu\}\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \{N, \phi\}\}\} + \{N, \phi\} \\
&+ \{N, \psi\} + \{\pi, \{N, \gamma\}\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \{N, \mu\}\}\} + \frac{1}{6}\{\pi, \{\pi, \{\pi, \{N, \phi\}\}\}\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Applying the Jacobi identity of the big bracket, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
e^\pi\{N, \Theta\} &= \{N, e^\pi\Theta\} + \{\{\pi, N\}, \mu + \{\pi, \mu\}\} + \{\{\pi, N\}, \gamma\} \\
&+ \{\{\pi, N\}, \phi + \{\pi, \phi\} + \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \phi\}\}\}.
\end{aligned}$$

By bidegree reasons,

$$\{\{\pi, N\}, \frac{1}{2}\{\pi, \{\pi, \mu\}\}\} = 0, \quad \{\{\pi, N\}, \{\pi, \gamma\}\} = 0, \quad \{\pi, \{\pi, \gamma\}\} = 0$$

and

$$\{\{\pi, N\}, \{\pi, \{\pi, \{\pi, \phi\}\}\}\} = 0,$$

and so we may write

$$\begin{aligned}
e^\pi\{N, \Theta\} &= \{N, e^\pi\Theta\} + \{\{\pi, N\}, e^\pi\Theta\} \\
&= (e^\pi\Theta)_{e^\pi N}.
\end{aligned}$$

■

**Corollary 7.2.** *If  $J_N$  is a Nijenhuis morphism on the Courant algebroid  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$ , then  $e^\pi(\Theta_N) = (e^\pi\Theta)_{e^\pi N}$  is a Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$ .*

*Proof:* If  $J_N$  is a Nijenhuis morphism on the Courant algebroid  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$ , then  $\Theta_N$  is a Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$  [1]. By Proposition 6.1,  $e^\pi(\Theta_N)$  is a Courant structure on  $A \oplus A^*$ . ■

Next we shall see how Proposition 7.1 and Corollary 7.2 translate into curved (pre-) $L_\infty$ -algebras.

**Proposition 7.3.** *Let  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  be a pre-Courant algebroid,  $(L, l = \mathcal{M}(\Theta))$  the curved pre- $L_\infty$ -algebra determined by  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $(\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2], \varepsilon^\pi l)$  its twisting by  $\pi \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A)$ . Consider  $\mathcal{J}' = \mathcal{J}_1 + \underline{N}(\mathcal{J}_0)$ , with  $\mathcal{J}_0$  and  $\mathcal{J}_1$  given by (21) and (22). Then,*

$$\varepsilon^\pi(l_{\mathcal{J}_1}) = (\varepsilon^\pi l)_{\mathcal{J}'}. \tag{30}$$

*Equivalently, the next diagram is commutative:*



$$\begin{array}{ccc}
l & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon^\pi} & \varepsilon^\pi l \\
\mathcal{J}_1 \downarrow & \circlearrowleft & \downarrow \mathcal{J}' \\
l_{\mathcal{J}_1} = [\mathcal{J}_1, l] & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon^\pi} & [\mathcal{J}', \varepsilon^\pi l] = (\varepsilon^\pi l)_{\mathcal{J}'}
\end{array}$$

*Proof:* We start by applying Proposition 7.1 to the pre-Courant structure  $\Theta_{J_N}$ , to get

$$\mathcal{M}(e^\pi(\Theta_N)) = \mathcal{M}((e^\pi\Theta)_{e^\pi N}). \quad (31)$$

Then, applying Theorem 5.5 on the right-hand side of (31), for the pre-Courant structure  $e^\pi\Theta$  and the endomorphism  $J_{\pi N}$ , gives

$$\mathcal{M}((e^\pi\Theta)_{e^\pi N}) = (\mathcal{M}(e^\pi\Theta))_{\Upsilon(e^\pi N)} = (\mathcal{M}(e^\pi\Theta))_{\mathcal{J}'},$$

since by (21) and (22),

$$\Upsilon(e^\pi N) = \Upsilon(\{\pi, N\} + N) = -\{\pi, N\} + \mathcal{J}_1 = \underline{N}(\mathcal{J}_0) + \mathcal{J}_1.$$

Using Proposition 6.6, we have

$$(\mathcal{M}(e^\pi\Theta))_{\mathcal{J}'} = (\varepsilon^\pi l)_{\mathcal{J}'}$$

Now, we take the left-hand side of (31) and apply Proposition 6.6 to it, to get

$$\mathcal{M}(e^\pi\Theta_N) = \varepsilon^\pi \mathcal{M}(\Theta_N).$$

Then, Theorem 5.5 for  $\Theta$  and the endomorphism  $J_N$ , gives

$$\varepsilon^\pi \mathcal{M}(\Theta_N) = \varepsilon^\pi (l_{\Upsilon(N)}) = \varepsilon^\pi (l_{\mathcal{J}_1}),$$

which completes the proof. ■

*Remark 7.4.* If  $(A \oplus A^*, \Theta)$  is a Courant algebroid, then  $\varepsilon^\pi l_{\mathcal{J}_1} = (\varepsilon^\pi l)_{\mathcal{J}'}$  is a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra structure on  $(\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2])$ .

**Corollary 7.5.** *If  $\mathcal{J}_1 = \Upsilon(N)$  is a Nijenhuis form on the curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra  $(\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2], l)$ , then  $l_{\mathcal{J}_1}$  and  $\varepsilon^\pi(l_{\mathcal{J}_1}) = (\varepsilon^\pi l)_{\mathcal{J}'}$  are curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra structures on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ .*

*Proof:* If  $\mathcal{J}_1 = \Upsilon(N)$  is Nijenhuis for  $l$ , then  $l_{\mathcal{J}_1} = [\mathcal{J}_1, l] = [\underline{N}, l]$  is a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra structure on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$  [4]. By Proposition 6.5,  $\varepsilon^\pi(l_{\mathcal{J}_1})$  is a curved  $L_\infty$ -algebra on  $\Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)[2]$ . ■

The results of Theorem 5.5 and Propositions 6.6, 7.1 and 7.3 can be combined to form the following commutative cubic diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \varepsilon^\pi l & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{J}'} & (\varepsilon^\pi l)_{\mathcal{J}'} \\
 & \nearrow \varepsilon^\pi & \uparrow \mathcal{J}_1 & & \nearrow \varepsilon^\pi \\
 l & \xrightarrow{\quad} & l_{\mathcal{J}_1} & & \\
 \uparrow \mathcal{M} & & \downarrow \mathcal{M} & & \uparrow \mathcal{M} \\
 & & e^\pi \Theta & \xrightarrow{e^\pi N} & (e^\pi \Theta)_{e^\pi N} \\
 & \nearrow e^\pi & \uparrow \mathcal{M} & & \nearrow e^\pi \\
 \Theta & \xrightarrow{N} & \Theta_N & & 
 \end{array}$$

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