ON GROUP AND LOOP SPHERES

WOLFGANG BERTRAM

ABSTRACT. We investigate the problem of *defining group or loop structures on spheres*, where by "sphere" we mean the level set $q(x) = c$ of a general $\mathbb{K}$-valued quadratic form q, for an invertible scalar c. When $\mathbb{K}$ is a field and q non-degenerate, then this corresponds to the classical theory of *composition algebras*; in particular, for $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ and positive definite forms, we obtain the sequence of the four real division algebras $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}$ (quaternions), $\mathbb{O}$ (octonions). Our theory is more general, allowing that $\mathbb{K}$ is merely a ring, and the form q possibly degenerate. To achieve this goal, we give a more geometric formulation, replacing the theory of binary composition algebras by *ternary algebraic structures*, thus defining categories of *group spherical* and of *Moufang spherical spaces*. In particular, we develop a theory of *ternary Moufang loops*, and show how it is related to the Albert-Cayley-Dickson construction and to generalized ternary octonion algebras. At the bottom, a starting point of the whole theory is the (elementary) result that *every 2-dimensional quadratic space carries a canonical structure of commutative group spherical space*.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Spheres and groups.

Some spheres "are" groups, some "are" loops, but most are not. Those that are bear a close relation to the *four real division algebras* $\mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{C}$, $\mathbb{H}$ (quaternions), and $\mathbb{O}$ (octonions). Namely, the following are

– *groups*: $S^0 = \mathrm{O}(1)$, $S^1 = \mathrm{SO}(2) = \mathrm{U}(1)$, $S^3 = \mathrm{SU}(2) = \mathrm{Sp}(1)$, or

– *(Moufang) loops*: case of the unit sphere S^7 of the octonions.

More generally, let us call *sphere* the level set $S = \{x \in V \mid q(x) = c\}$ of a quadratic form $q : V \to \mathbb{K}$, where $c \in \mathbb{K}^\times$. The problems I am going to study are:

- What is a "natural" group structure on a sphere ?
  Develop a theory of such "group spherical spaces"!
- What is a "natural" Moufang loop structure on a sphere?
  Develop a theory of such "Moufang spherical spaces"!

We do not assume that 2 is invertible in $\mathbb{K}$; so the important cases $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$ are allowed; and we will not assume that q is non-degenerate. In the case where the quadratic form q is *non-degenerate*, very much, if not all, is known, since such spheres correspond to *composition algebras*, on which there exists a huge literature. Without being exhaustive, let met just mention [CSl, CSm, Eb, McC, Fa, KMRT, SV]. However, as far as I see, none of these authors considered the question

for completely general forms, and did not aim at defining a suitable *category* of such spaces. To do this, we need a more geometric approach, which I will develop in the present work: the *ternary algebraic viewpoint.* Thus the present work contains both an overview over classical material, and a new look on it, with a broader scope, new examples, and perspectives for further research imbedding the classical theory into a "categorical" view on general geometric and algebraic structures. Indeed, my approach is guided by trying to understand the *interplay of Jordan and Lie structures* (see [Be00, Be14, BeKi10]), where the four real division algebras play a key rôle, both as "number systems" and for geometry and algebra: they are pervasive in the interaction of Lie- and Jordan-theory, in applications and examples, and the octonions are related to almost all "exceptional"' Lie- and Jordan structures. In the last section 9 we outline some of these further topics.

1.2. **Binary *versus* ternary algebra.** A sphere does not have any "canonical" base point, and every choice of "unit element in a sphere" would be ungeometric and artificial. Therefore no sphere will carry a natural *group* structure – rather, it could be a "group with unit forgotten". There is a very simple way to "forget the unit in a group": replace the *binary* product ab by the *ternary* product

$$(1.1) \qquad\qquad (a|b|c) := (abc) := ab^{-1}c.$$

This product has two characteristic properties defining a *torsor* (see Appendix A)

   (IP): *idempotency,* $(aab) = b = (baa)$,
   (PA): *para-associativity,* $(ab(cde)) = ((abc)de) = (a(dcb)e)$,

and from these the group laws can be recovered by $a \cdot c := (abc)$, where the middle element b becomes the new origin (Theorem A.1). Summing up, "torsors are for groups what affine spaces are for vector spaces". Our first question can now be reformulated: *What is a "natural torsor structure" on a sphere?* To fix ideas, let us illustrate it by the example of the unit circle S^1, or more generally, a *conic centered at 0*, the level set $\{x \in \mathbb{K}^2 \mid q(x) = c\}$ of a *binary quadratic form* $q : \mathbb{K}^2 \to \mathbb{K}$.

1.3. **All circles are torsors.** What is the "most natural", or "simplest", construction of the torsor law on the unit circle S^1? Let A, B, C be three points on S^1, and

FIGURE 1. Construction of the group law on the circle
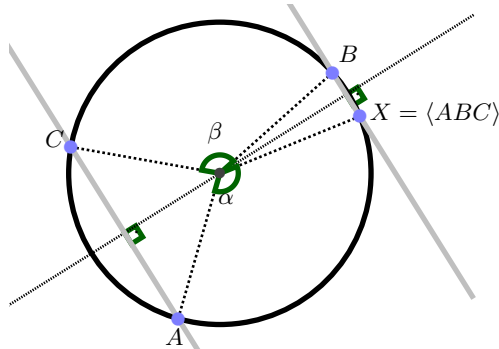
consider B as "origin" of S^1. The product $A \cdot C$ with respect to this origin is constructed as follows: assume first A, B, C are pairwise distinct. Let $X := \langle ABC \rangle$

be the second intersection point of the parallel to the line AC through B with the circle. By construction, X is the image of B under the orthogonal symmetry $S_{A,C}$ that exchanges A and C and fixes the center of the circle. But X is also the image of A under the rotation $R_{C,B}$ taking B to C (Figure 1.3: note the equality of angles $\alpha = \beta$), as well as the image of C under the rotation $L_{A,B}$ taking B to A. But this means exactly that $A \cdot C = \langle ABC \rangle = L_{A,B}(C)$ is the product of A with C in the group S^1 with origin (unit element) B! When $A = C$, then use the tangent line at A, and the same construction works; and when $A = B$ or $C = B$, then simply $\langle BBC \rangle = C$ and $\langle ABB \rangle = A$. Summing up, the ternary product $\langle ABC \rangle$ is in fact the torsor law (ABC) on the circle S^1:

$$(1.2) \qquad A \cdot_B C = \langle ABC \rangle = X = S_{A,C}(B) = L_{A,B}(C) = R_{C,B}(A).$$

Next, observe that this ternary map extends naturally to a $\mathbb{R}$-*trilinear product* on $V = \mathbb{R}^2$. Identifying $\mathbb{R}^2$ with the complex plane $\mathbb{C}$, this trilinear extension is given by

$$(1.3) \qquad \langle ABC \rangle = A \cdot \overline{B} \cdot C.$$

All of this generalizes: *all circles (level sets of a binary quadratic form) carry a canonical commutative torsor structure.* This observation might be considered to be folklore[1]; however, we have not been able to find it explicitly stated in the literature, and the fact that it holds in the completely general case (no assumption whatsoever on the binary quadratic form) seems to be new; therefore we state and prove it in this generality (Theorem 3.1).

1.4. **Group spherical spaces.** The preceding example motivates the following definition of a "natural" torsor structure on a sphere: it should be given by a $\mathbb{K}$-*trilinear product map* $V^3 \to V$, $(x, y, z) \mapsto \langle x|y|z \rangle$ (shorter: $\langle xyz \rangle$), satisfying

   (1) the "q-analog" of idempotency: $\langle xxy \rangle = q(x)y = \langle yxx \rangle$ (following McCrimmon, [McC], we call this also the *Kirmse identity*, (K)),
   (2) the para-associative law (PA) in the form given above,
   (3) the *ternary composition law* (TC) $q(\langle xyz \rangle) = q(x)q(y)q(z)$.

A *group spherical space* is a quadratic space (V, q) together with a trilinear map having these properties, and such that non-empty spheres exist: the set

$$(1.4) \qquad V^\times := \{x \in V \mid q(x) \in \mathbb{K}^\times\}$$

shall be non empty. The space is called *commutative* if moreover $\langle xyz \rangle = \langle zyx \rangle$. For instance, the complex plane with $T(x, y, z) = x\overline{y}z$ clearly satisfies these properties. Our general result (Theorem 3.1) states that *every binary quadratic form* $q : \mathbb{K}^2 \to \mathbb{K}$ *admits exactly one ternary product satisfying (K), and this product also satisfies (PA) and (TC)*. This settles the 2-dimensional case.

   The general theory of group spherical spaces is close to the one of torsors, since their ternary products have very similar properties. In both cases, the ternary concept is base point-free and geometric, and gives, in three ways, rise to binary compositions:

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[1]E.g., see [Bo15], p. 48–50, where this construction is given under some unnecessarily restrictive assumptions, or https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/3951052/groups-of-conics.

(A) We may take the "diagonal" $x = z$ and define a binary product $\mu(x,y) :=$ $\langle xyx \rangle$. For a (Lie) group G, this means to consider G as *symmetric space* with product $\mu(x,y) = xy^{-1}x$, see [Lo69]. In the same way, *any* sphere carries a canonical structure of "symmetric space over $\mathbb{K}$". If the sphere is of group type, then this structure is "underlying" to its group structure (Section 2).
(B) For any ternary product, *inner operators* $L_{x,y}$ and $R_{z,y}$ and $S_{x,z}$, are defined via $\langle xyz \rangle = S_{x,z}(y) = L_{x,y}(z) = R_{z,y}(x)$, see Equation (1.2). In a torsor, the left (resp. right) translations form a group isomorphic to the original one, and in a group spherical space, they form an algebra generalizing the algebra $\mathbb{C}$ of similarities of Euclidean plane (Subsection 4.2). In this case, the operators $L_{x,y}$ and $R_{x,y}$ are called *left (right) spirations* and $S_{x,z}$ *spiflections*.
(C) Fixing a base point also leads back to binary algebras: in a group spherical space, the "homotope" $x \cdot z := \langle xez \rangle$ is, for every base point $e \in V^\times$, a *(generalized) composition algebra*, and conversely, the whole structure can be recovered from the binary product (Theorem 4.13).

Via (C), the case of a *non-degenerate* form q corresponds to the case of a (usual, i.e., non-degenerate) composition algebra, and in this case much is known. In particular, non-degenerate group spherical spaces are
  – either commutative, 1 or 2-dimensional ("unarions", "binarions"),
  – or non-commutative, necessarily 4-dimensional (quaternion algebras).
For instance, the algebra $V = M(2,2;\mathbb{K})$ with quadratic form $q(x) = \det(x)$ and product $\langle XYZ \rangle = XY^\sharp Z$ (where $Y^\sharp$ is the adjugate matrix) is an example of a quaternion algebra (split case; the form is of signature $(2,2)$).

In the degenerate case, there are new examples: it is not true that the dimension must be either $1, 2$ or 4; there are degenerate group spherical spaces of any dimension (Section 5). They are constructed using ideas from Jordan theory [Lo75]: there is a notion of *(general) representation U of a group spherical space W*, and of a *split null extension $V = W \oplus U$* defined by such a representation. If U is *commutative* then V is again a group spherical space. Such spaces form an interesting class of spaces, a sort of degenerate analog of quaternion algebras in arbitrary dimension. For the time being we have no examples that are not either of this form, or non-degenerate.

Finally, in the theory of Jordan-, associative or alternative algebras, an important conceptual step consists in introducing the notion of (Jordan-, associative, resp. alternative) *pair*, see [Lo75]. Going from triple systems to pairs is the analog of considering pairs of vector spaces in duality, instead of considering spaces with bilinear form. We explain in Section 4.4 how this can be done in the category of group spherical spaces.

1.5. **Moufang spherical spaces.** The fourth real division algebra, after $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}$, is the *algebra of octonions* $\mathbb{O}$, which has been widely popularized by the paper [Baez], and is central for constructions of "exceptional objects" of all sorts, cf. [CSm, CSl]. It is not associative but *alternative*, and its unit sphere S^7 is a *Moufang loop*. This remains true for more general octonion algebras, and tor this reason it is desirable to extend our theory to the case of Moufang loops.

In a first step, we must define a *ternary* concept corresponding to the one of Moufang loop, in the same way as torsors correspond to groups. This is done in Appendix A (Theorem A.12), which may have some independent interest. On the one hand, it takes up Loos' concept of *alternative triple system* [Lo72b, Lo75], whose defining identities (AP1), (AP2) have been used in joint work with Michael Kinyon [BeKi14] to define a concept of *ternary Moufang loop*. In Appendix A, we stress that this concept has in fact two versions, a "left" and a "right" one, and we give new axioms characterizing them, inspired by the presentation given by Conway and Smith ([CSm], Section 7): they are *ternary inverse loops*, satisfying moreover a left (resp. right) version of the classical *Chasles relation* and of the *autotopy property*. These axioms feature the geometric properties of Moufang loops.

In a second step, we then define the notion of *Moufang spherical space* (Section 8): as above, it is defined by a trilinear map an a quadratic space (V, q) which again satisfies Kirmse (K) and ternary composition (TC), along with Loos' axioms of an alternative triple system; by the above discussion it is then clear that spheres in such spaces become (left, resp. right) ternary Moufang torsors. Every identity valid in a ternary Moufang torsor has a "q-analog" for the trilinear product, and the relation between loops and algebras becomes more transparent.

1.6. **The Albert-Cayley-Dickson (ACD) construction.** The non-degenerate composition algebras are all constructed, starting from the unarions $\mathbb{K}$, in several steps by the *Albert-Cayley-Dickson construction*, which generalizes the sequence $(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}, \mathbb{O})$. It is one of the aims of the present work to contribute to a better understanding of this construction, from a conceptual viewpoint:

First, the starting point rather is the "binarion" algebra and not the "unarions", since *every* binary quadratic form can be used to initialize the construction. (This makes a difference if 2 is not invertible in $\mathbb{K}$; cf. [Fa], p.53.)

Second, there is an abstract version of this construction, the "Moufang double of a group" (Appendix B), associating to every abstract group G a Moufang loop $D(G) = G \sqcup G$. The ACD-construction can be understood as being encoded by such an abstract Moufang double construction. More specifically, $D(G)$ satisfies relations similar to those of the *generalized dicyclic group* of G – which is a group if G is commutative, but a non-associative loop if G is non-commutative (cf. Def. B.3).

Third, there is a *ternary* and base point-free version of the ACD-construction ("ABCD-construction"). This version shows that, again, it is necessary and useful to distinguish two versions of the ACD-construction, "left" and "right" ones.[2]

Fourth, there is a close relation between quaternion and *Clifford algebras*: we discuss this in Subsections 6.3 and 6.4.

Finally, the construction of the split null extension can be seen as a "degenerate" case of the ABCD-construction. In particular, a split null extension of a non-commutative group spherical space is a non-associative Moufang spherical space. This gives new examples of such spaces, which are not given by classical octonion algebras, and not always of dimension 8. It should be interesting to develop a more complete structure theory, either proving that all new examples are such split null

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[2]McCrimmon [McC] uses the "left", and Faulkner [Fa] the "right" one.

extensions, or exhibiting new non-split extensions, and describing the structure of a general Moufang spherical space in terms of extensions of non-degenerate spaces.

1.7. Further topics. I have been working on preliminary versions of this text for several years, and they have all become too long, so for the present version I decided to exclude several sections that would have lead too far ahead. I will mention some of these topics in a last Section 9.

Acknowledgements. Many of the ideas and approaches presented in this work have their origin in Jordan algebra theory, and I owe gratitude to the pioneers of this domain, and in particular to Ottmar Loos for his advices and his criticism. I would like to dedicate this work to his memory.

Contents

Notation. By $\mathbb{K}$ we denote a commutative base ring $\mathbb{K}$ with unit 1. We do not assume that 2 be invertible in $\mathbb{K}$. For instance, $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Z}$ is admitted. The canonical symplectic form on $\mathbb{K}^2$ is denoted by $[x, y] = x_1 y_2 - x_2 y_1$.

2. All spheres are symmetric spaces

2.1. Spheres. A map $f : V \to W$ between $\mathbb{K}$-modules V, W is called *quadratic* if

(q1) it is *homogeneous of degree two*: $\forall \lambda \in \mathbb{K}, \forall v \in V : q(\lambda v) = \lambda^2 q(v)$,
(q2) the *polarized map* b_q is $\mathbb{K}$-bilinear:

$$(2.1) \qquad b_q : V^2 \to W, \quad (u, v) \mapsto b_q(u, v) := q(u + v) - q(u) - q(v).$$

A *quadratic space* is a $\mathbb{K}$-module V together with a quadratic form $q : V \to \mathbb{K}$. By *sphere*, or *quadric with center* 0, we mean the level set $q^{-1}(c) = \{x \in V \mid q(v) = c\}$ of a quadratic form q, where the scalar $c \in \mathbb{K}$ is assumed to be *invertible in* $\mathbb{K}$: $c \in \mathbb{K}^\times$. When $V = \mathbb{K}^2$, the form is called a *binary quadratic form*, and the spheres are also called *q-conics*, or *q-circles*. We will make no assumption on the quadratic form, except that it admits some non-empty sphere. In other words, we assume that the *set $V^\times$ of invertible elements* of the quadratic form q, defined by (1.4), is

non-empty. This set has a double fibration: the "horizontal" fibers are the spheres, and the "vertical" fibers are the *radii* $\mathbb{K}^\times v$, orbits of the action of $\mathbb{K}^\times$ on $V^\times$.

Remark 2.1. Note that $b_q(x,x) = 2q(x)$. For every quadratic form q, there exist possibly non-symmetric bilinear maps b such that $q(x) = b(x,x)$. If 2 is invertible in $\mathbb{K}$, then we may take $b = \frac{1}{2}b_q$, so in particular b can be chosen symmetric. In general, it may be impossible to choose b symmetric. For a *binary quadratic form* $q : \mathbb{K}^2 \to \mathbb{K}$, the choice of a such a form b can be done as follows: we write

$$(2.2) \qquad q(x) = \alpha x_1^2 + \beta x_1 x_2 + \gamma x_2^2,$$

and then we choose

$$(2.3) \qquad b(x,y) = \alpha x_1 y_1 + \beta x_1 y_2 + \gamma x_2 y_2.$$

Then b is in general not symmetric, and $q(x) = b(x,x)$, $b_q(x,y) = b(x,y) + b(y,x)$.

2.2. The Jordan structure.

Definition 2.1. *In any quadratic space (V,q) we define the* Jordan maps

$$Q : V \times V \to V, \quad Q_x(y) := Q_x y := b_q(x,y)x - q(x)y,$$
$$D : V^3 \to V, \qquad D_{x,z}y := Q_{x+z}y - Q_x y - Q_z y$$
$$= b_q(x,y)z + b_q(y,z)x - b_q(x,z)y.$$

Remark 2.2. Although we won't use this here, let us mention that (Q,D) defines a *(quadratic) Jordan triple system*, see [Lo75], which is sometimes called a *spin factor*. It is uniquely determined by the quadratic form q. We will see later that it satisfies also the so-called *fundamental formula* (which can be proved by direct but lengthy computation)

$$(2.4) \qquad Q_x \circ Q_y \circ Q_x = Q_{Q_x y}.$$

In general Jordan pair theory, an element is called *invertible* if the operator Q_x is invertible. The following lemma shows that this is the case iff $q(x) \in \mathbb{K}^\times$, i.e., iff $x \in V^\times$, and so our notation is in keeping with the Jordan theoretic one.

Lemma 2.2. *For any quadratic space (V,q) and $e \in V$, the operator Q_e satisfies:*

$$(Q_e)^2 = q(e)^2 \mathrm{id},$$
$$q(Q_e(x)) = q(e)^2 q(x).$$

It follows that, if $q(e)$ is invertible in $\mathbb{K}$, then $s_e : V \to V$,

$$s_e(x) := \frac{Q_e}{q(e)}(x) = \frac{b_q(e,x)}{q(e)}e - x$$

defines an isometry of order 2, fixing e.

Proof. The proof is standard in the theory of quadratic forms (cf. [Fa], p.127):

$$Q_e(Q_e(x)) = b_q\big(e, b_q(e, x)e - q(e)x\big)e - q(e)(b_q(e, x)e - q(e)x)$$
$$= \big(b_q(e, e)b_q(e, x) - 2q(e)b_q(e, x)\big)e + q(e)^2 x = q(e)^2 x,$$
$$q(Q_e(x)) = q(b_q(e, x)e - q(e)x)$$
$$= q(b_q(e, x)e) + q(q(e)x) - b_q(b_q(e, x)e, q(e)x)$$
$$= b_q(e, x)^2 q(e) + q(q(e)x) - b_q(e, x)^2 q(e) = q(e)^2 q(x).$$

Dividing by $q(e)$, the statements about s_e follow. (Note $Q_e(e) = q(e)e$.)   □

2.3. **Existence of q-compatible ternary products.**

Lemma 2.3. *On every quadratic space (V, q), there exists a q-compatible trilinear product $\langle xyz \rangle$, i.e., we have the Kirmse identity $\langle xxy \rangle = q(x)y = \langle yxx \rangle$. This product is in general not unique, but the "outer diagonal" $\langle xyx \rangle$ is, and it agrees with the Jordan map defined above:*

$$\forall x, y \in V : \qquad \langle x|y|x \rangle = b_q(x, y)x - q(x)y = Q_x y.$$

Proof. Choose any bilinear form b on V such that $q(x) = b(x, x)$, and let

(2.5) $$\langle x|y|z \rangle := b(x, y)z - b(x, z)y + b(y, z)x.$$

This clearly is trilinear, and for $x = y$ it gives $b(x, x)z - b(x, z)x + b(x, z)x = q(x)z$ and for $y = z$ we obtain $b(x, z)z - b(x, z,)z + b(z, z)x = q(z)x$, whence q-compatibility. Moreover, polarizing the condition $q(x)y = \langle x|x|y \rangle = q(x)y$, we get

(2.6) $$\langle x|z|y \rangle + \langle z|x|y \rangle = b_q(x, z)y.$$

Letting $z = y$, we get $q(z)x + \langle z|x|z \rangle = b_q(x, z)z$, whence the formula for the outer diagonal $\langle xyx \rangle$.   □

The trilinear product from the lemma is related to the Jordan map D via $\langle xyz \rangle + \langle zyx \rangle = D(x, z)y$. In general, the ternay product $\langle xyz \rangle$ will have a skew-part, which depends on the choice of the skew-part of b. The notation $\langle xyx \rangle$ is often more intuitive than $Q_x(y)$ since it becomes better visible that this expression is *quadratic in x and linear in y.*

2.4. **Reflection spaces and symmetric spaces.** Following Loos [Lo67, Lo69], we call *reflection space* a set M together with a "product map" $\sigma : M \times M \to M$, $(x, y) \mapsto \sigma(x, y) =: \sigma_x(y)$, satisfying the following identities:

  (S1) $\sigma_x(x) = x$
  (S2) $\sigma_x \circ \sigma_x = \mathrm{id}$
  (S3) $\sigma_x \circ \sigma_y \circ \sigma_x = \sigma_{\sigma_x(y)}$.

In other words, the "left translations" σ_x are maps of order two fixing x and are automorphisms of the whole structure. If, moreover, M carries a topology such that the fixed point x of σ_x is isolated, then we call M a *(topological) symmetric space.* Every *smooth and connected* symmetric space is a homogeneous space $M = G/H$ under a Lie group action ([Lo69]), but in general it is not true that the automorphism group of a reflection space M acts transitively on M. For instance,

$S^n = \mathrm{SO}(n+1)/\mathrm{SO}(n)$ is a compact homogeneous symmetric space, but the set $V^\times$ will in general be far from being homogeneous:

2.5. **Spheres as symmetric spaces.** *All* spheres carry a canonical structure of *symmetric space.* The set $V^\times$ carries even *three*, in general different, structures of reflection space. This is related to the "double fibration" of $V^\times$, mentioned above. To fix ideas, think of $\mathbb{C}^\times$ with three "inversions at $e = 1$", namely

$$s_e(z) = \overline{z}, \qquad j_e(z) = \frac{z}{|z|^2} = \frac{1}{\overline{z}}, \qquad \sigma_e(z) = \frac{1}{z},$$

the first two anti-holomorphic (fixed points are "real forms"), and the last one holomorphic (fixed points isolated).

Theorem 2.4. *Assume (V, q) is a quadratic space having invertible elements, i.e., $V^\times$ is non-empty. Then $M = V^\times$ carries three "product maps" which all satisfy the axioms* (S1), (S2), (S3)*:*

(1) ("inversion at diameters")

$$s : V^\times \times V^\times \to V^\times, \quad (x, y) \mapsto s_x(y) = \frac{Q_x}{q(x)}(y) = \frac{b_q(y, x)}{q(x)}x - y$$

(2) ("inversion at spheres")

$$j : V^\times \times V^\times \to V^\times, \quad (x, y) \mapsto j_x(y) := \frac{q(x)}{q(y)}y$$

(3) ("point inversive")

$$\sigma : V^\times \times V^\times \to V^\times, \quad (x, y) \mapsto \sigma_x(y) := \frac{Q_x(y)}{q(y)} = \frac{b_q(y, x)}{q(y)}x - \frac{q(x)}{q(y)}y.$$

All of these maps have well-defined restriction to spheres $S = \{x \in V \mid q(x) = r\}$ with $r \in \mathbb{K}^\times$, which thus become sub-reflection spaces of $V^\times$. For j, these restrictions to spheres are trivial, and for s and σ they coincide.

Proof. First of all, note homogenity and degrees:
$\quad Q_x y$: quadratic in x, linear in y,
$\quad s_x y$: 0 in x, linear in y,
$\quad j_x(y)$: quadratic in x, -1 in y,
$\quad \sigma_x(y)$: quadratic in x, -1 in y,
and the fixed point spaces:
$\quad s_x$ fixes pointwise the whole line $\mathbb{K}x$, since it is linear in y
$\quad j_x$ fixes pointwise the whole sphere $\{u \in V \mid q(u) = q(x)\}$,
$\quad \sigma_x = s_x j_x = j_x s_x$ fixes x, which appears to be an "isolated" fixed point.
Concerning s, properties (S1), (S2) are contained in Lemma 2.2, and (S3) follows from that lemma, observing that $g \circ s_y \circ g^{-1} = s_{g(y)}$ for every q-isometry g, and in particular for $g = s_x$. Note that, by rescaling with invertible scalars, this gives us the "fundamental formula" (2.4), for $x, y \in V^\times$.
$\quad$ Concerning j, properties (S1), (S2), (S3) follow by direct computation, only using that q is homogeneous of degree 2.

Concerning σ, by direct computation $j_x \circ s_x = \sigma_x = s_x \circ j_x$, whence (S1) and (S2). (S3) follows from (2.4), together with the homogenity observed above.

Finally, $q(x) = r = q(y)$ implies that $q(s_x y) = q(y) = r$, etc., so spheres are stable under the three binary products. Clearly, the restriction of j to a sphere is trivial: $j_x(y) = y$ if $q(x) = q(y) = r$. On the other hand, the set of multiples of an element $v \in V^\times$ is also stable under the product, and then s restricts to the trivial structure, and the restriction of j corresponds to the symmetric space structure $(r, s) \mapsto rs^{-1}r = r^2 s^{-1}$ on $\mathbb{K}^\times$. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

Remark 2.3. The three reflection space structures behave very much like those of a *symmetric bundle* in the sense of [BeD]. More precisely, the quotient of $V^\times$ by the equivalence relation $v \sim w$ iff $\exists \lambda \in \mathbb{K}^\times : w = \lambda v$, becomes a symmetric space, and $V^\times$ becomes a symmetric bundle over the quotient; the fibers are multiplicatively written, rather than additively as in [BeD].

2.6. **The set of root vectors.** The following remarks will not be used in the main text. For every quadratic space (V, q) over $\mathbb{K}$, we define it *set of root vectors*

$$(2.7) \quad V^\diamond := \{y \in V \mid q(y) \neq 0, \forall x \in V : \exists n = n_{x,y} \in \mathbb{K} : b_q(x, y) = n_{y,x} \cdot q(y)\}.$$

Clearly, $V^\times \subset V^\diamond$ (equality if $\mathbb{K}$ is a field), and for $y \in V^\times$, we then have

$$(2.8) \qquad\qquad\qquad n_{y,x} = \frac{b_q(x, y)}{q(y)} = 2\frac{b_q(x, y)}{b_q(y, y)},$$

which is uniquely determined, and then we have

$$(2.9) \qquad\qquad\qquad s_x(y) = n_{x,y}x - y.$$

More generally, $n_{x,y}$ is uniquely determined when the $\mathbb{K}$-module has no torsion. For instance, this holds if V is a free module over an integral domain, like $\mathbb{Z}$ – this is the most interesting case, where this definition takes up the usual ones from the theory of *root systems*. We will not use it in the sequel, but see Subsection 9.6. Let us just note here that, unlike $V^\times$, the set $V^\diamond$ does not depend on scaling of the form: one may replace q by λq for any invertible λ, and that the product s extends to a map

$$(2.10) \qquad\qquad V^\diamond \times V^\diamond \to V^\diamond, \quad (x, y) \mapsto s_x(y) = n_{x,y}x - y$$

that turns $V^\diamond$ again into a reflection space. The group generated by all s_x with $x \in V^\diamond$ could be called the *Weyl group of the quadratic form q*.

Example 2.1. Let $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Z}$, $V = \mathbb{Z}^2$, and $q(x) = \alpha x_1^2 + \beta x_1 x_2 + \gamma x_2^2$. Then e_1 is a root vector iff $\frac{\beta}{\alpha} \in \mathbb{Z}$ and e_2 is one iff $\frac{\beta}{\gamma} \in \mathbb{Z}$. If the form is positive definite, the root vectors form a root system in the usual sense. For instance, let $q(x) = x_1^2 - x_1 x_2 + x_2^2$. Then the unit sphere agrees with $V^\times$ and has 6 elements $\{\pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm(e_1 + e_2)\}$ (summits of regular hexagon), whereas $V^\diamond$ has 12 elements, namely the 12 root vectors of the root system G_2.

3. All circles are (commutative) torsors

3.1. **The $2D$-Theorem.** In general, existence of group structures on spheres is a very restrictive condition. Therefore it is remarkable that the following result holds for *any binary* quadratic form, even without assuming that $V^\times$ is non-empty.

However, if invertible elements exist, the proof is simpler and better intelligible, so in the proof we concentrate on that case.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $V = \mathbb{K}^2$ with quadratic form $q(x) = \alpha x_1^2 + \beta x_1 x_2 + \gamma x_2^2$.*

(1) There exists a unique trilinear map $V^3 \to V$, $(x, y, z) \mapsto \langle xyz \rangle$ satisfying the Kirmse identity $\langle xxy \rangle = q(x)y = \langle yxx \rangle$.

(2) This trilinear map is commutative, and para-associative.

(3) It satisfies the ternary composition rule $q(\langle xyz \rangle) = q(x)q(y)q(z)$.

Summing up, V is canonically a commutative group spherical space, and every circle $S = \{x \in V \mid q(x) = c\}$ (with c invertible in $\mathbb{K}$) carries a canonical torsor structure, which is commutative and given by

$$(x, y, z) \mapsto \frac{1}{c}\langle xyz \rangle.$$

Proof. 1. The existence statement holds for any quadratic space (Lemma 2.3). Let us prove uniqueness, in case of dimension 2. Denote the standard basis of $\mathbb{K}^2$ by (e_1, e_2). We have already noticed (Lemma 2.3) that the values $\langle xyx \rangle$ are uniquely determined by q. To compute $\langle e_i e_j e_k \rangle$, observe that always the values of two of the three indices i, j, k coincide, so from q-compatibility we obtain the values shown in Table 1. Uniqueness now follows: by trilinearity, the ternary product is given by

TABLE 1. Products of triples of basis vectors

i	j	k	$\langle e_i \mid e_j \mid e_k \rangle$
1	1	1	αe_1
2	2	2	γe_2
1	1	2	αe_2
1	2	1	$\beta e_1 - \alpha e_2$
2	1	1	αe_2
1	2	2	γe_1
2	1	2	$\beta e_2 - \gamma e_1$
2	2	1	γe_1

$$(3.1) \qquad \langle xyz \rangle = \sum_{(i,j,k)\in\{1,2\}^3} x_i y_j z_k \langle e_i e_j e_k \rangle.$$

We collect and add terms belonging to indices (i, j, k) such that $\langle e_i e_j e_k \rangle$ is a multiple of e_1 (first component), and then such that $\langle e_i e_j e_k \rangle$ is a multiple of e_2 (second component). Using table 1, the result is

$$(3.2) \qquad \langle xyz \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha x_1 y_1 z_1 + \beta x_1 y_2 z_1 + \gamma(x_1 y_2 z_2 + x_2 y_2 z_1 - x_2 y_1 z_2) \\ \gamma x_2 y_2 z_2 + \beta x_2 y_1 z_2 + \alpha(x_1 y_1 z_2 + x_2 y_1 z_1 - x_1 y_2 z_1) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus the ternary map is uniquely determined by q-compatibility.

Remark 3.1. It follows that the left hand side in (2.5) is independent of the choice of b such that $q(x) = b(x, x)$. In particular, for $q = 0$, b is alternating, so it is a multiple of det, we get an identity $[x, y]z + [y, z]x + [z, x]y = 0$ called "Dreier-Identität" in [KK].

2. Commutativity (symmetry in i and k) is clear from the table. Let us prove para-associativity. Assuming the theory of Clifford algebras, a short proof is indicated in Subsection 6.3. In the following, we will give an elementary and direct proof, independent of the theory of Clifford algebras.

Assume first that (V, q) admits invertible elements. Fix an invertible element e and take $e_1 := e$ as first basis vector, completed by a second vector e_2 to a basis of $V \cong \mathbb{K}^2$. Consider the bilinear product

$$(3.3) \qquad x \cdot y := \langle xey \rangle.$$

From the table above, we deduce the following binary "multiplication table"

$\cdot_e$	e_1	e_2
e_1	αe_1	αe_2
e_2	αe_2	$\beta e_2 - \gamma e_1$

Clearly, this product is commutative, and it is associative: note first that e_1 is a multiple of the unit, and hence we have $(e_i e_j)e_k = e_i(e_j e_k)$ when one of the indices i, j, k equals 1. And $e_2^2 e_2 = e_2 e_2^2$ by commutativity of the binary product, so the product is associative (i.e, every unital 2-dimensional commutative algebra is automatically associative.)

The reflection $\sharp = s_e$ defined in Lemma 2.2 is an isometry of order 2 fixing e. Since the trilinear product is determined by q, the map $\sharp$ is also an automorphism of this structure, and since it fixes e, it is an automorphism of the bilinear product. Now we define a trilinear product

$$A : V^3 \to V, \quad (x, y, z) \mapsto A(x, y, z) := \frac{1}{q(e)} xy^\sharp z.$$

Since the binary product is associative, and $\sharp$ an involution, this ternary product is para-associative: $((ab^\sharp c)d^\sharp e) = (a(dc^\sharp b)^\sharp e) = (ab^\sharp(cd^\sharp e))$. Let us show that $xx^\sharp = q(x)e_1$:

$$xx^\sharp = (x_1 e_1 + x_2 e_2)(x_1 e_1^\sharp + x_2 e_2^\sharp)$$
$$= (x_1 e_1 + x_2 e_2)(x_1 e_1 + x_2(\frac{\beta}{\alpha}e_1 - e_2))$$
$$= (x_1 e_1 + x_2 e_2)((x_1 + \frac{\beta}{\alpha})e_1 - x_2 e_2))$$
$$= (\alpha x_1^2 + \beta x_1 x_2 + \gamma x_2^2)e_1 + 0 e_2 = q(x)e_1$$

(using the "multiplication table"; all terms containing e_2 cancel out). From this, we get $A(x, x, y) = \frac{1}{\alpha} xx^\sharp y = q(x)\frac{e_1 y}{\alpha} = q(x)y = A(y, x, x)$, i.e., q-compatibility of the ternary product map A. By uniqueness, we thus have $A(x, y, z) = \langle xyz \rangle$. Since A is para-associative, so is $\langle -, -, - \rangle$. Similarly, using commutativity and associativity, we get the ternary composition law

$$q(\langle xyz \rangle) = q(xy^\sharp z) = (xy^\sharp z)(xy^\sharp z)^\sharp = xx^\sharp yy^\sharp zz^\sharp = q(x)q(y)q(z),$$

finishing the proof in case (V, q) admits invertible elements.

Now let us drop the assumption that (V, q) contains invertible elements, and indicate the proof in this more general case (without going into all of the details).

To prove associativity, by multilinearity, it is enough to show the associativity property for the base vectors, that is,

$$\langle\langle e_i e_j e_k\rangle e_\ell e_m\rangle = \langle e_i \langle e_j e_k e_\ell\rangle e_m\rangle = \langle e_i e_j \langle e_k e_\ell e_m\rangle\rangle$$

for all $(i, j, k, \ell, m) \in \{1, 2\}^5$. By commutativity, the 2^5 cases to be checked reduce effectively to the following 10 cases:

(1) (i, i, i, i, i) (the values of all 5 indices coincide, with $i = 1$ or 2),
(2) (the values of exactly 4 indices coincide): types $(jiiii)$, $(ijiii)$, $(iijii)$
(3) (the values of exactly 3 indices coincide): types $(jjiii)$, $(jijii)$, $(jiiji)$, $(jiiij)$, $(ijjii)$, $(ijiji)$

Using Table 1, the computation is straightforward, and indeed in each case we get the same result for all three ways of bracketing, which we denote by $\langle e_i e_j e_k e_\ell e_m\rangle$. For better readability we represent the cases given above by definite choices for i and j. The result is given in Table 2. Finally, the proof of the ternary composition

TABLE 2. Products of 5-tuples of basis vectors

i	j	k	ℓ	m	$\langle e_i e_j e_k e_\ell e_m\rangle$
1	1	1	1	1	γe_1
2	1	1	1	1	$\alpha^2 e_2$
1	2	1	1	1	$\alpha\beta e_1 - \alpha\gamma e_2$
1	1	2	1	1	$\alpha^2 e_2$
2	2	1	1	1	$\alpha\gamma e_1$
2	1	2	1	1	$\alpha\beta e_2 - \alpha\gamma e_1$
2	1	1	2	1	$\alpha\gamma e_1$
2	1	1	1	2	$\alpha\beta e_2 - \alpha\gamma e_1$
1	2	2	1	1	$\alpha\gamma e_1$
1	2	1	2	1	$(\beta^2 - \alpha\gamma)e_1 - \beta\alpha e_2$

law by "brute force computation" would be fairly long and involved. In the special case where a, b are linearly independent, the identity $q(\langle axb\rangle) = q(a)q(b)q(x)$ follows from the following Lemma 3.2:

Lemma 3.2. *Assume a, b are linearly independent in $\mathbb{K}^2$, and q is a binary quadratic form. Then the unique linear map $S = S_{a,b} : \mathbb{K}^2 \to \mathbb{K}^2$ such that $S_{a,b}(a) = q(a)b$ and $S_{a,b}(b) = q(b)a$ is a q-similarity with ratio $q(a)q(b)$, that is, for all $x \in \mathbb{K}^2$, we have*

$$q(S_{a,b}(x)) = q(a)q(b)q(x).$$

In particular, when $q(a)q(b) = 1$, then $S_{a,b}$ is an isometry.

Proof. Let $x = u_1 a + u_2 b$, so $q(x) = u_1^2 q(a) + u_1 u_2 b_q(a, b) + u_2^2 q(b)$, and

$$
\begin{aligned}
q\big(S_{a,b}x\big) &= q(u_1 q(a)b + u_2 q(b)a) \\
&= u_1^2 q(a)^2 q(b) + u_1 q(a) u_2 q(b) b_q(a, b) + u_2^2 q(b)^2 q(a) \\
&= q(a)q(b) \cdot \big(u_1^2 q(a) + u_1 u_2 b_q(a, b) + u_2^2 q(b)\big) = q(a)q(b)q(x),
\end{aligned}
$$

whence the claim. $\qquad\square$

Likewise, when $a = b$, the identity $q(\langle axa \rangle) = q(a)^2 q(x)$ follows from Lemma 2.2.

For a general proof of the ternary composition rule, one may inject $\mathbb{K}^2$ into its "concrete Clifford-quaternion algebra" $\mathbf{H}_q$, (see Subsections 6.3 and 6.4), which is a composition algebra *with* invertible elements (namely, it has a unit element); then we can apply the general arguments to be developed in the next section (Theorem 4.13, Item 4), and then restrict to $\mathbb{K}^2$ again.

The last statements of the theorem are consequences of the preceding results, see Theorem 4.3. □

3.2. **Examples, and matrix realization.**

Example 3.1. Assume the form q is hyperbolic. Without loss of generality, assume that $q(x) = x_1 x_2$. We claim that then the unique trilinear map is given by

$$(3.4) \qquad \langle axb \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 x_2 b_1 \\ a_2 x_1 b_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Indeed, it is q-compatible: for $x = a$, the right hand side gives $a_1 a_2 b = q(a)b$ and for $x = b$ it gives $b_1 b_2 a = q(b)a$, as it should, whence the claim. In this case, it follows directly from the explicit formula (3.4) that the ternary product $\langle axb \rangle$ is *associative* and *commutative*, without using the general result. For $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{C}$, since the set of hyperbolic forms is open in the space of all forms, this example could be used to deduce general results "by polynomial density".

Example 3.2. Generalizing the preceding example, let us assume that $q(x) = \phi(x)\psi(x)$ where ϕ and ψ are two linear forms. The bilinear form $b(x, y) = \phi(x)\psi(y)$ satisfies $q(x) = b(x, x)$, and from (2.5) we get

$$\langle x|y|z \rangle = \phi(x)\psi(y)z + \psi(z)\phi(y)x - \phi(x)\psi(z)y.$$

When ϕ and ψ are linearly independent in the dual of $\mathbb{K}^2$, then $(\mathbb{K}^2, q)$ is a *hyperbolic (Minkowski) plane*: by a change of coordinates, we are back in the preceding example. When $\phi = \psi$, then we obtain a *Laguerre plane*. We'll see (Theorem 5.3) that such formulae define a group spherical space on *any* $\mathbb{K}$-module, which than can be considered as *extended Minkowski (resp. Laguerre) planes*.

3.3. **Matrix realization: the dihedral algebra of q.** In the following, let $q(x) = \alpha x_1^2 + \beta x_1 x_2 + \gamma x_2^2$ be an arbitrary binary quadratic form on $V = \mathbb{K}^2$. We'll give explicit formulae, showing that the whole theory generalizes usual formulae known from the Euclidean case $\alpha = 1 = \gamma, \beta = 0$, describing relations valid for the linear operators, called *spirations* and *spiflections*, see Eqn. (1.2). These operators can be identified with 2×2-matrices, which we will give explicitly, by rewriting (3.2) as follows. From the second equality one can read off the matrix of $R_{x,y}$ and from the

third equality, the matrix of $S_{x,z}$ (recall notation $[x,y] = x_1y_2 - x_2y_1$),

$$
\langle x|y|z \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha x_1 y_1 z_1 + \beta x_1 y_2 z_1 + \gamma(x_1 y_2 z_2 + x_2 y_2 z_1 - x_2 y_1 z_2) \\ \gamma x_2 y_2 z_2 + \beta x_2 y_1 z_2 + \alpha(x_1 y_1 z_2 + x_2 y_1 z_1 - x_1 y_2 z_1) \end{pmatrix}
$$

$$
= \begin{pmatrix} \alpha x_1 y_1 + \beta x_1 y_2 + \gamma x_2 y_2 & \gamma[x,y] \\ \alpha[y,x] & \alpha x_1 y_1 + \gamma x_2 y_2 + \beta x_2 y_1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix}
$$

$$
= \begin{pmatrix} \alpha x_1 z_1 - \gamma x_2 z_2 & \beta x_1 z_1 + \gamma(x_1 z_2 + x_2 z_1) \\ \beta x_2 z_2 + \alpha(x_1 z_2 + x_2 z_1) & \gamma x_2 z_2 - \alpha x_1 z_1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}
$$

Definition 3.3. *The* (right) *spiration algebra* $\mathbf{C}_q^R$ *is the submodule of* $M(2,2;\mathbb{K})$ *generated by all* $R_{x,y}$, $x,y \in \mathbb{K}^2$, *and by* $\mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{K}^2}$. *The* spiflection algebra $\mathbf{C}_q^S$ *is the submodule of* $M(2,2,;\mathbb{K})$ *generated by all* $S_{x,z}$, $x,z \in \mathbb{K}^2$. *The* dihedral algebra of q *is the submodule* $\mathbf{D}_q := \mathbf{C}_q^R + \mathbf{C}_q^S$ *of* $M(2,2;\mathbb{K})$.

To describe these algebras by generators and relations, let us abbreviate

$$
(3.5) \qquad R_{ij} := R_{e_i,e_j}, \qquad S_{ij} := S_{e_i,e_j}, \qquad I := 2 \times 2 \text{ unit matrix.}
$$

From Table 1, or from the matrices given above, one can read off:

$$
(3.6) \qquad R_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta & \gamma \\ -\alpha & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R_{21} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\gamma \\ \alpha & \beta \end{pmatrix}, \quad R_{11} = \alpha I, \quad R_{22} = \gamma I,
$$

$$
(3.7) \qquad S_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \gamma \\ \alpha & 0 \end{pmatrix} = S_{21}, \quad S_{11} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & -\alpha \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_{22} = \begin{pmatrix} -\gamma & 0 \\ \beta & \gamma \end{pmatrix}.
$$

Theorem 3.4. *Assume* $(\mathbb{K}^2, q)$ *with* $q(x) = \alpha x_1^2 + \beta x_1 x_2 + \gamma x_2^2$ *is a binary quadratic space, und use notation introduced above. Then, for all* $a,b \in \mathbb{K}^2$,

$$
\mathrm{tr}(R_{a,b}) = b_q(a,b),
$$
$$
\det(R_{a,b}) = q(a)q(b),
$$
$$
\mathrm{tr}(S_{a,b}) = 0,
$$
$$
\det(S_{a,b}) = -q(a)q(b),
$$
$$
R_{a,b}^2 = b_q(a,b)R_{a,b} - q(a)q(b)\mathrm{id},
$$
$$
S_{a,b}^2 = q(a)q(b)\mathrm{id}.
$$

The adjugate matrix of $R_{a,b}$ *is* $(R_{a,b})^\sharp = R_{b,a}$, *and the one of* $S_{a,b}$ *is* $-S_{a,b}$. *In particular, the spiration algebra* $\mathbf{C}_q^R$ *is stable under its involution "adjugate", and on* $\mathbf{C}_q^S$ *the "adjugate" map agrees with* $-\mathrm{id}$.

Proof. Using para-associativity, we have

$$
R_{a,b}^2 = R_{\langle aba \rangle,b} = R_{b_q(a,b)a,b} - R_{q(a)b,b} = b_q(a,b)R_{a,b} - q(a)q(b)\mathrm{id}
$$
$$
S_{a,b}S_{b,a} = R_{a,\langle abb \rangle} = q(b)R_{a,a} = q(b)q(a)\mathrm{id}.
$$

To compute the trace of $R_{a,b}$, it suffices to do it for $(a,b) = (e_i, e_j)$, $i,j = 1,2$, i.e., for the 4 matrices (3.6). In all 4 cases, the trace is $b_q(a,b)$, whence $\mathrm{tr}R_{a,b} = b_q(a,b)$. Now, every endomorphism $X \in \mathrm{End}(\mathbb{K}^2)$ satisfies the characteristic equation

$$
X^2 - \mathrm{tr}(X)X + \det(X)\mathrm{id} = 0.
$$

Let $X = R_{a,b}$ and compare with the relation $R_{a,b}^2 = b_q(a,b)R_{a,b} - q(a)q(b)\mathrm{id}$: it follows that $\det R_{a,b} = q(a)q(b)$. Concerning spiflections, the relation $\mathrm{tr}(S_{a,b}) = 0$ is gotten from the four matrices (3.7). As above, this implies that $\det(S_{a,b}) = q(a)q(b)$. The adjugate matrix $\tilde{X}$ of $X \in M(2,2;\mathbb{K})$ is given by $\tilde{X} = \mathrm{tr}(X)I - X$, whence $\widetilde{R}_{a,b} = b_q(a,b)\mathrm{id} - R_{a,b} = R_{b,a}$ and $\widetilde{S}_{a,b} = -S_{a,b}$. $\qquad\square$

From (3.6) and (3.7), we get the following linear relations

$$(3.8) \qquad \begin{aligned} \gamma R_{11} = \alpha R_{22} = \alpha\gamma I, & \qquad R_{12} + R_{21} = \beta I, \\ \gamma S_{11} + \alpha S_{22} = \beta S_{12}, & \qquad S_{12} = S_{21}. \end{aligned}$$

("By density", the third of these relations should imply that, for all a,b,

$$(3.9) \qquad q(b)S_{a,a} + q(a)S_{b,b} = b_q(a,b)S_{a,b}.$$

A direct computation would be long, and the relation won't be needed in the sequel.) Next, we record product relations among the matrices: from $R_{12}^2 = \beta R_{12} - \alpha\gamma I$ we get the following two versions of the "multiplication table" of the spiration algebra $\mathbf{C}_q^R$:

$\circ$	R_{11}	R_{12}
R_{11}	αR_{11}	αR_{12}
R_{12}	αR_{12}	$\beta R_{12} - \gamma R_{11}$

$\circ$	I	R_{12}
I	I	R_{12}
R_{12}	R_{12}	$\beta R_{12} - \alpha\gamma I$

Proposition 3.5. *Assume that I and R_{12} are linearly independent (note : (3.6) shows that this is always the case if q has invertible elements). Then the spiration algebra $\mathbf{C}_q^R$ is isomorphic to the quotient algebra $\mathbb{K}[X]/(X^2 - \beta X + \alpha\gamma)$.*

Proof. By the table, R_{12} satisfies the same quadratic relation as $[X]$ in the quotient algebra. $\qquad\square$

Remark 3.2. Note that $\mathbf{C}_q^L$ and $\mathbb{K}[X]/(X^2 - \beta X + \alpha\gamma)$ are invariant under scaling of q by invertible scalars. In particular, they cannot distinguish between q and $-q$.

From para-associativity and commutativity we get $S_{a,a}S_{b,b} = R_{a,b}L_{a,b} = R_{a,b}^2$, and

$$(3.10) \qquad S_{a,a}S_{a,b}(x) = \langle a\langle axb\rangle a\rangle = \langle ab\langle xaa\rangle\rangle = q(a)R_{a,b}(x),$$

and likewise $S_{a,b} \circ S_{a,a} = q(a)R_{b,a}$, whence the following table:

$\circ$	S_{11}	S_{22}	S_{12}
S_{11}	$\alpha^2 I$	R_{12}^2	αR_{12}
S_{22}	R_{21}^2	$\gamma^2 I$	γR_{12}
S_{12}	αR_{21}	γR_{21}	$\alpha\gamma I$

Next, compositions between R- and S-operators: from para-associativity, we have $S_{11}R_{12}(x) = \langle e_1\langle e_1 e_2 x\rangle e_1\rangle = \langle e_1 e_1 \langle e_2 x e_1\rangle\rangle = \alpha S_{21}(x)$, etc., so:

	S_{11}	S_{22}	S_{12}
$R_{12} \circ S_{ij}$	$\beta S_{11} - \alpha S_{12}$	γS_{12}	γS_{11}
$S_{ij} \circ R_{12}$	αS_{12}	$\beta S_{22} - \gamma S_{12}$	αS_{22}

When computing the products of *three* R- or S-operators, we essentially get back the ternary composition on V:

Theorem 3.6. *Let $e \in V^\times$ and $S := s_e = \frac{1}{q(e)} S_{e,e}$. Then*

$$f : \mathbf{C}_q^R \to \mathbf{C}_q^S, \quad X \mapsto SX$$

is a bijection. Moreover, $SX \circ SY \circ SZ = SXY^\sharp Z$.

Proof. Since S is bijective and $S^2 = I$, by the general composition rules from Theorem 4.9, multiplication by S, induces a bijection f. By Theorem 4.10, $SXS = X^\sharp$, whence the last claim. $\square$

Example 3.3. Let $\beta = 0$, $\alpha = 1 = \gamma$ (elliptic plane, $q(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2$). Then $\mathbf{C}_q^R$ is given by the usual formulae of "complex numbers", and $\mathbf{C}_q^S$ by "complex conjugations". If 2 is invertible in $\mathbb{K}$, then $M(2, 2, \mathbb{K}) = \mathbf{C}_q^R \oplus \mathbf{C}_q^S$ (just as in the real case, $M(2, 2, \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{C} \oplus \overline{\mathbb{C}}$). But, e.g., when $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Z}$, then the sum remains direct, but the dihedral algebra is a proper subalgebra of $M(2, 2; \mathbb{K})$.

Example 3.4. Let $\beta = 1$, $\alpha = 0 = \beta$ (hyperbolic plane, $q(x) = x_1 x_2$). Let E_{ij} the usual elementary matrix. Then $R_{12} = E_{11}$, $R_{21} = E_{22}$, so $\mathbf{C}_q^R$ is the space of diagonal matrices, and $S_{12} = 0$, $S_{11} = E_{12}$, $S_{22} = E_{21}$, so $\mathbf{C}_q^S$ is the space of anti-diagonal matrices, and we have $M(2, 2, \mathbb{K}) = \mathbf{C}_q^R \oplus \mathbf{C}_q^S$.

Example 3.5. Let $q(x) = x_1^2$, so $\alpha = 1$, $\beta = 0 = \gamma$. Then $-R_{12} = E_{12} = S_{12}$ and $S_{11} = E_{11} - E_{22}$, $S_{22} = 0$. In this case $\mathbf{C}_q^R \cap \mathbf{C}_q^S = \mathbb{K} E_{12}$.

Example 3.6. Consider the "Eisenstein form" $\alpha = \gamma = 1 = -\beta$. We have the matrices $R_{11} = I$,

$$R_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \ R_{21} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \ S_{11} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \ S_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \ S_{22} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

which form a group isomorphic to $\mathfrak{S}_3$. If 3 is invertible in $\mathbb{K}$, then $(R_{12}, I, S_{11}, S_{12})$ forms a basis of $M(2, 2; \mathbb{K})$. But, again, for $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Z}$, the dihedral algebra is a proper subalgebra of $M(2, 2, \mathbb{K})$.

Remark 3.3. Here are some other remarkable formulae for the theory of $(\mathbb{K}^2, q)$. Using the bilinear form $b(x, y) = \alpha x_1 y_1 + \beta x_1 y_2 + \gamma x_2 y_2$ such that $b(x, x) = q(x)$, given by (2.3), the matrix $R_{x,y}$ given by the second sign of equality above can be written

$$R_{x,y} = \begin{pmatrix} b(x, y) & \gamma[x, y] \\ \alpha[y, x] & b(y, x) \end{pmatrix}.$$

According to Theorem 3.4, its determinant $b(x, y) b(y, x) + \alpha \gamma [x, y]^2$ equals $q(x) q(y)$. The preceding formula can also be written

$$R_{x,y} = b(x, y) \mathrm{id} - [x, y] R_{e_1, e_2}.$$

Yet another way of writing it is

$$[u, \langle xyv \rangle] = b(x, y) [u, v] + b(u, v) [y, x].$$

Indeed, by (2.5) and uniqueness, $\langle xyv \rangle = b(x, y) v - b(x, v) y + b(y, v) x$, whence

$$[u, \langle xyv \rangle] = b(x, y)[u, v] - b(x, v)[u, y] + b(y, v)[u, x]$$
$$= b(x, y)[u, v] + b([y, u]x + [u, x]y, v)$$
$$= b(x, y)[u, v] - b([x, y]u, v) = b(x, y)[u, v] - [x, y]b(u, v)$$

where we have used the 3-identity $[u, x]y + [x, y]u + [y, u]x = 0$.

4. GROUP SPHERICAL SPACES

4.1. **Basic definitions.** We turn to the general case. Recall from the introduction, subsection 1.4:

Definition 4.1. *Consider a* quadratic space (V, q) *such that $V^\times$ is not empty.*

(K) *We say that a $\mathbb{K}$-trilinear "product" map $V^3 \to V$, $(x, y, z) \mapsto \langle x|y|z \rangle$ (often written shorter: $\langle xyz \rangle$, if there is no danger of confusion) is q-compatible if it satisfies the following* left and right Kirmse identities*: $\forall x, y \in V$,*

$$\langle x|x|y \rangle = q(x)y = \langle y|x|x \rangle.$$

(PA) *We say that a trilinear map $V^3 \to V$, $(x, y, z) \mapsto \langle x|y|z \rangle$ is* para-associative *if it satisfies Condition (AT2) from Appendix A, i.e., $\forall a, b, c, d, e \in V$,*

$$\langle ab\langle cde \rangle \rangle = \langle a \langle dcb \rangle e \rangle = \langle \langle abc \rangle de \rangle,$$

(Com) *it is* commutative *if it is symmetric in the outer variables: $\forall x, y, z \in V$,*

$$\langle xyz \rangle = \langle zyx \rangle,$$

(TS) *and* totally symmetric *if it is invariant under all permutations from $\mathfrak{S}_3$, i.e., it is commutative and satisfies moreover, $\forall x, y, z \in V$,*

$$\langle xyz \rangle = \langle yxz \rangle.$$

(TC) *We say that a trilinear map $V^3 \to V$, $(x, y, z) \mapsto \langle x|y|z \rangle$ satisfies the* ternary composition law *if $\forall x, y, z \in V$,*

$$q(\langle xyz \rangle) = q(x)q(y)q(z).$$

A group spherical space *is a quadratic space together with a ternary product map satisfying (K), (PA) and (TC). It is called* commutative (totally symmetric) *if the ternary product map has the respective property. Non para-associative versions will be considered later (Definition 8.1).*

Definition 4.2. *A* morphism of group spherical spaces *is an isometry f such that $f(\langle xyz \rangle) = \langle f(x), f(y), f(z) \rangle$.*

It is clear that group spherical spaces with their morphisms form a category. Note that the two conditions defining a morphism are not independent of each other: if f is compatible with trilinear products, then

$$q(f(x))f(e) = \langle f(x), f(x), f(e) \rangle = f(\langle xxe \rangle) = q(x)f(e),$$

so if $f(e) \in V^\times$, it follows that f automatically an isometry. Conversely, it is not always true that an isometry is automatically compatible with trilinear products (but this is true if $\dim V = 2$ since then the quadratic form uniquely determines the trilinear map). Definitions are designed for the following to hold:

Theorem 4.3. *In every group spherical space (V, q), the set $V^\times$ of invertible elements with $(xyz) := \frac{\langle xyz \rangle}{q(y)}$ is a torsor. Every sphere $S(c) = q^1(c)$ with $c \in \mathbb{K}^\times$ is a subtorsor of $V^\times$, and so are, if $c \neq -c$, the sets*

$$D(c) := S(c) \sqcup S(-c).$$

Proof. By the ternary composition law,

$$(4.1) \qquad q((xyz)) = \frac{q(\langle xyz\rangle)}{q(y)^2} = q(x)q(y)^{-1}q(z).$$

Together with para-associativity of $\langle --- \rangle$, we get para-associativity of $(---)$:

$$(ab(cde)) = \frac{1}{q(b)q(d)}\langle ab\langle cde\rangle\rangle = \frac{1}{q((dcb))}\langle a\frac{\langle dcb\rangle}{q(c)}e\rangle = (a(dcb)e) = ((abc)de).$$

Finally, (K) implies idempotency: $(xxy) = \frac{\langle xxy\rangle}{q(x)} = y = (yxx)$. Because of (4.1), $q(x) = q(y) = q(z) = c$ implies that $q((xyz)) = c$, so all spheres $S(c)$ are stable under the torsor law, and hence are subtorsors. Since the set $\{c, -c\} \subset \mathbb{K}^\times$ is closed under the torsor law of $\mathbb{K}^\times$, if follows that $D(c)$ also is a subtorsor. $\qquad\square$

Some, but not all, categorical notions take the usual form:

Definition 4.4. *A* subspace *of a group spherical space* $(V, \langle --- \rangle)$ *is a linear subspace* $E \subset V$ *that is stable under the ternary product (a sub-triple system).*
A subspace E *is called* direct *if there is a subspace* E' *which is orthogonal to* E *for the bilinear form* b_q *and such that* $V = E \oplus E'$.
An ideal *is a subspace* I *such that* $\langle IVV\rangle + \langle VIV\rangle + \langle VVI\rangle \subset I$.

Clearly, a subspace is a spherical space in its own right, for the restriction $q|_E$.

Lemma 4.5. *Every* 1- *and every* 2-*dimensional submodule of* V *is a subspace.*

Proof. Let $\dim E = 1$ and e a basis of E. Then $\langle re, se, te\rangle = rst\, q(e)e \in E$.
Let $\dim E = 2$ and $u, v \in E$. It follows that $\langle uuv\rangle = q(u)v = \langle vuu\rangle \in E$ and $\langle uvu\rangle = b_q(u,v)u - q(u)v \in E$. Taking a basis $e_1, e_2 \in E$, this implies as in the proof of Theorem 3.1 that E is stable under the ternary product. $\qquad\square$

Lemma 4.6. *If an ideal* I *contains invertible elements and* $\mathbb{K}$ *is a field, then* $I = V$. *If the form* q *is anisotropic, then* V *is* simple *(it contains no non-trivial ideals).*

Proof. Let $e \in I$ be invertible. For all $v \in V$, $q(e)v = \langle eev\rangle \in I$, so $v \in I$, and $I = V$. Thus, if q is anisotropic, a non-zero ideal must be equal to V. $\qquad\square$

We'll see that there is a notion of "representation", but there is no general notion of "direct sum" or "tensor product".

4.2. **Inner operators: spirations and spiflections.**

Definition 4.7. *In a group spherical space, we define linear* operators *of left, right and middle multiplication by* $\langle xyz\rangle = L_{x,y}(z) = R_{z,y}(x) = S_{x,z}(y)$. *Altogether, we refer to them as* inner operators. *We also call them* (left, right) spirations *(short from* spiral similarities*), and* symmetries (spiflections).

Every algebraic identity satisfied by the trilinear product can be rewritten, in various ways, as an operator identity. For instance, commutativity means that $L_{x,y} = R_{x,y}$ (short: $L = R$), and Kirmse (K) can be written

$$(4.2) \qquad L_{x,x} = q(x)\,\mathrm{id}_V = R_{x,x}.$$

Para-associativity implies that *the composition of two left (right) spirations is a left (right) spiration.* It follows that the linear span of all $L_{x,y}$ with $x, y \in V$ is a subalgebra of $\mathrm{End}(V)$, and likewise for R.

Definition 4.8. *We take up Def.* 3.3: *the* left (right) spiration algebra *of a group spherical space* (V, q) *is the algebra generated by all* $L_{x,y}$, *resp. by all* $R_{x,y}$, $x, y \in V$,

$$\mathbf{C}_q^L = \{\sum_i \lambda_i L_{x_i, y_i} \mid \mu, \lambda_i \in \mathbb{K}, x_i, y_i \in V\}, \quad \mathbf{C}_q^R = \{\sum_i \lambda_i R_{x_i, y_i} \mid \mu, \lambda_i \in \mathbb{K}, x_i, y_i \in V\}.$$

Theorem 4.9. *For every group spherical space* (V, q), *the inner operators satisfy:*

(1) *(right composed with right gives right):* $R_{\langle x_3 x_4 x_5 \rangle, x_2} = R_{x_5, \langle x_4 x_3 x_2 \rangle} = R_{x_5 x_4} R_{x_3 x_2}$
 (left composed with left gives left): $L_{x_1 x_2} L_{x_3 x_4} = L_{x_1, \langle x_4, x_3, x_2 \rangle} = L_{\langle x_1 x_2 x_3 \rangle, x_4}$,
(2) *(middle with left or right gives middle):* $S_{x_1, \langle x_3 x_4 x_5 \rangle} = S_{x_1 x_5} L_{x_4 x_3} = R_{x_5 x_4} S_{x_1 x_3}$
 $L_{x_1 x_2} S_{x_3 x_5} = S_{x_1 x_5} R_{x_2 x_3} = S_{\langle x_1 x_2 x_3 \rangle, x_5}$
(3) *(left and right commute):* $L_{x_1 x_2} R_{x_5 x_4} = S_{x_1 x_5} S_{x_4 x_2} = R_{x_5 x_4} L_{x_1 x_2}$

and the following: for all $a, b, c, \ldots \in V$,

$$S_{a,b} \circ S_{u,v} \circ S_{y,z} = S_{\langle avy \rangle, \langle zub \rangle}$$
$$R_{a,b}^2 = R_{\langle aba \rangle, b} = b_q(a, b) R_{a,b} - q(a) q(b) \mathrm{id}$$
$$R_{a,b} \circ R_{b,c} = q(b) R_{a,c}$$
$$R_{a,b} \circ R_{b,a} = q(a) q(b) \mathrm{id}$$
$$R_{a,b} + R_{b,a} = b_q(a, b) \mathrm{id}$$
$$S_{a,b} \circ S_{b,a} = q(a) q(b) \mathrm{id},$$

and the endomorphisms $R_{a,b}$, *resp.* $S_{a,b}$ *are invertible if, and only if,* $q(a) q(b) \in \mathbb{K}^\times$, *and then*

$$R_{a,b}^{-1} = \frac{1}{q(a) q(b)} R_{b,a}, \qquad S_{a,b}^{-1} = \frac{1}{q(a) q(b)} S_{b,a}.$$

If (V, q) *is commutative, then the left and right spiration algebras are both commutative and agree with each other.*

Proof. The composition rules are just a way of rewriting the identity of para-associativity (identity (AT2)). Similarly,

$$S_{a,b} \circ S_{u,v} \circ S_{y,z}(x) = \langle a \langle u \langle yxz \rangle v \rangle b \rangle = \langle \langle avy \rangle x \langle zub \rangle \rangle = S_{\langle avx \rangle, \langle zub \rangle}(x).$$

Polarizing $R_{a,a} = q(a) \mathrm{id}$, we get $R_{a,b} + R_{b,a} = b_q(a, b) \mathrm{id}$. Next, the relations for $R_{a,b}^2$ and $S_{a,b} S_{b,a}$ are proved as in Theorem 3.4 . By the equalities just proved, the condition for invertibility is both necessary and sufficient.

If (V, q) is commutative, then $L_{a,b} = R_{a,b}$. But left and right spirations always commute, so in this case right spirations commute among each other, and so do left spirations. □

Remark 4.1. Left- and right spirations X always satisfy a quadratic relation $X^2 + \lambda X + \mu = 0$, but spiflections in general do not. However, when V is commutative, then $S_{ab} = S_{ba}$, so $S_{a,b}^2 = S_{a,b} S_{b,a} = q(a) q(b) \mathrm{id}$.

Theorem 4.10. *Assume $e \in V$ is an invertible element. Then, for all $a, b \in V$,*

(A) $$S_{e,e} \circ L_{a,b} \circ S_{e,e} = R_{S_{e,e}(a), S_{e,e}(b)}.$$

If V is commutative,

(B) $$S_{e,e} \circ L_{a,b} \circ S_{e,e} = q(e)^2 L_{b,a},$$

so conjugation by $S_{e,e}$ is an automorphism $\sharp : \mathbf{C}_q \to \mathbf{C}_q$ sending $L_{a,b}$ to $L_{b,a}$.

Proof. The left hand side of (A), applied to an element x, gives $q(e)\langle\langle xeb\rangle ae\rangle$.

The right hand side gives $q(e)\langle xe\langle bae\rangle\rangle$. Both agree. Now cancel out the invertible factor $q(e)$.

If V is commutative, $R_{S_{e,e}(a), S_{e,e}(b)}(x) = \langle\langle eae\rangle, \langle ebe\rangle, x\rangle = q(e)^2\langle bax\rangle$, whence (B). Since $S_{e,e}^2 = q(e)^2 \mathrm{id}$, conjugation by $S_{e,e}$ thus is an (inner) automorphism sending $L_{a,b}$ to $L_{b,a}$. $\square$

Remark 4.2. When $V = \mathbb{K}^2$, then conjugation by $S_{e,e}$ is the adjugate map (which can be used to define an automorphism $\sharp$ even if q has no invertible elements).

4.3. **Link binary-ternary.** Just like a group is obtained by specifying an arbitrary base point in a torsor (Theorem A.1), we get a binary structure by specifying a base point in a group spherical space, and we can go back and forth. The following definition is more general than usual since we drop the assumption that the norm N be *non-degenerate* (see [McC], p.156, [Fa], p.54, [KMRT], p. 456), so maybe one should speak of "generalized composition algebras" (but we will omit the word "generalized"):

Definition 4.11. *An involution of a unital $\mathbb{K}$-algebra $(\mathbb{A}, 1)$ is an anti-automorphism $x \mapsto x^\sharp$ of order 2. It is called a* central involution *if, for all $x \in \mathbb{A}$, the elements $x + x^\sharp$ and $xx^\sharp$ belong to the* center *of $\mathbb{A}$ (set of elements that commute and associate with all other elements), and it is called a* scalar involution *if for all $x \in \mathbb{A}$,*

$$x + x^\sharp \in \mathbb{K}1, \qquad xx^\sharp \in \mathbb{K}1.$$

Every scalar involution is central. A (generalized) composition algebra *(over $\mathbb{K}$) is a unital algebra together with a scalar involution.*

Lemma 4.12. *In any (generalized) composition algebra $\mathbb{A}$, the map $N : \mathbb{A} \to \mathbb{K}$, defined by*

$$xx^\sharp = N(x)1$$

is a quadratic form, called the norm *of $\mathbb{A}$, and we have $x + x^\sharp = b_n(1, x)1$. If $\mathbb{A}$ is moreover* associative*, then $V = \mathbb{A}$, for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{K}^\times$, with trilinear map*

$$\langle xyz\rangle = \lambda\, xy^\sharp z$$

is a group spherical space over $\mathbb{K}$, with quadratic form $q = \lambda N$.

Proof. Let $a + a^\sharp = t(a)1$ with $t(a) \in \mathbb{K}$. Since $a^\sharp = t(a) - a$ commutes with a, we have $aa^\sharp = a^\sharp a = N(a)1$. Clearly $N(ra) = r^2 N(a)$ for all $r \in \mathbb{K}$, and

$$(N(a + b) - N(a) - N(b))1 = (a + b)(a + b)^\sharp - aa^\sharp - bb^\sharp = ab^\sharp + ba^\sharp$$

is $\mathbb{K}$-bilinear, so N is a quadratic form, and moreover $b_n(a, 1) = a + a^\sharp = t(a)1$ ("trace form"). We have the "Cayley-Hamilton equation"

$$(4.3) \qquad a^2 - t(a)a + N(a)1 = a(a - t(a)) + aa^\sharp = -aa^\sharp + aa^\sharp = 0.$$

It follows that $\langle xxy \rangle = N(x)y = \langle yxx \rangle$, so the trilinear product is q-compatible. Since the binary product is associative by assumption, and $\sharp$ is an involution, the para-associative law (AT2) holds:

$$\langle ab\langle cde \rangle \rangle = ab^\sharp cd^\sharp e = a(dc^\sharp b)^\sharp e = \langle a\langle dcb \rangle e \rangle$$

and moreover, using again associativity,

$$(4.4) \qquad N(ab) = (ab)^\sharp(ab) = (b^\sharp a^\sharp)(ab) = b^\sharp(a^\sharp a)b = N(a)b^\sharp b = N(a)N(b)$$

whence the ternary composition rule. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

The lemma has a converse, whose most subtle issues are related to *normalization*: the neutral element 1 of a composition algebra must satisfy $N(1) = 1$, so norm and unit element depend on each other, whereas the notion of group spherical space is invariant under scaling of forms.

Theorem 4.13. *There is a bijection between associative (generalized) composition algebras and group spherical spaces, up to choice of base point. More precisely, one direction is given by the preceding lemma. For the other direction, let (V, q) be a group spherical space, and fix $e \in V^\times$. Then*

(1) *the bilinear product $xz := x \cdot_e z = \dfrac{\langle xez \rangle}{q(e)}$ turns V into an associative algebra with neutral element e, and with involution $\sharp = s_e = \dfrac{S_{e,e}}{q(e)} : V \to V$,*

$$x^\sharp = s_e(x) = \frac{\langle exe \rangle}{q(e)} = \frac{b_q(x, e)}{q(e)}e - x,$$

and this algebra is a composition algebra *with respect to the* norm $N(x) := \dfrac{q(x)}{q(e)}$.

(2) *The construction from Item 1 is inverse to the construction from Lemma* *4.12:*

$$\langle xyz \rangle = q(e)x \cdot y^\sharp \cdot z.$$

(3) *The algebra $(V, \cdot_e)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{C}_q^L$, via* $V \to \mathbf{C}_q^L$, $v \mapsto L(v) := \dfrac{1}{q(e)}L_{v,e}$, *with inverse $\mathbf{C}_q^L \to V$, $f \mapsto f(e)$.*

(4) *The algebra $(V, \cdot_e)$ is anti-isomorphic to $\mathbf{C}_q^R$, via* $V \to \mathbf{C}_q^R$, $v \mapsto R(v) := \dfrac{1}{q(e)}R_{v,e}$, *with inverse $\mathbf{C}_q^R \to V$, $f \mapsto f(e)$.*

(5) *The ternary composition law follows already from the Kirmse laws and para-associativity: $[(K) \wedge (PA)] \Rightarrow (TC)$*

(6) *Assume $\mathbb{K}$ is a field. Then q is anisotropic iff $(V, \cdot, e)$ is a skew-field.*

Proof. 1. Associativity of the binary product follows directly from para-associativity of the ternary one. The element e is neutral: $x \cdot_e e = \dfrac{\langle xee \rangle}{q(e)} = \dfrac{q(e)x}{q(e)} = x = e \cdot_e x$. Let

us show that $\sharp$ is a scalar involution. By Lemma 2.2, $\sharp = \sigma_e$ is an isometry of order 2 fixing e. It is an anti-automorphism: apply para-associativity twice to get

$$y^\sharp \cdot x^\sharp = \frac{\langle\langle eye\rangle e\langle exe\rangle\rangle}{q(e)^3} = \frac{\langle e\langle xey\rangle e\rangle}{q(e)^2} = (xy)^\sharp.$$

Finally, it is a scalar involution, since

$$x + x^\sharp = \frac{b_q(x,e)}{q(e)}e \in \mathbb{K}e, \qquad xx^\sharp = \frac{\langle xe\langle exe\rangle\rangle}{q(e)^2} = \frac{q(x)q(e)e}{q(e)^2} = N(x)e \in \mathbb{K}e.$$

2. Start with a spherical quadratic space, fix the element e, and compute the ternary map (with $\lambda = q(e)$) associated to the new binary algebra:

$$\lambda(xy^\sharp)z = \lambda\frac{\langle\langle xe\langle eye\rangle\rangle ez\rangle}{q(e)^3} = \lambda\frac{\langle xyz\rangle}{q(e)} = \langle xyz\rangle.$$

Conversely, starting with a binary composition algebra with unit 1, the binary product at 1 is obviously $\lambda\langle x1y\rangle = \lambda xy$, the product we started with (up to a scaling factor λ).

3. Both maps are inverse of each other: $L(v)e = v$ and $L(L_{a,b}(e))(x) = L_{a,b}(x)$, and L is a morphism:

$$L(v \cdot_e w) = \frac{1}{q(e)^2}L_{\langle vew\rangle,e} = \frac{1}{q(e)}L_{v,e} \circ \frac{1}{q(e)}L_{w,e} = L(v) \circ L(w).$$

4. As for 3., but now $R_{\langle vew\rangle,e} = R_{w,e} \circ R_{v,e}$, so $R(v \cdot_e w) = R(w) \circ R(v)$.

5. The proof of Item 2 did not require the assumption that $\langle - - -\rangle$ satisfies the ternary composition law. Therefore, assuming (K) and (PA), we can use the bijection established in Item 3. Now, the proof of Lemma 4.12 shows that (TC) follows from the properties of an associative composition algebra.

6. This is immediate from the definitions: a form over a field is anisotropic iff $V^\times = V \setminus \{0\}$. $\qquad\square$

Remark 4.3. In general, the anti-isomorphism $\mathbf{C}_q^L \cong \mathbf{C}_q^R$ resulting from 3. and 4. depends on the choice of the base point e. Only when V is commutative it is independent of such choice, given by Theorem 4.10.

4.4. **Polarized spaces, and associative pairs.** A quadratic space (V, q) is called *polarized* if $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$ carries a direct sum decomposition into *totally isotropic* subspaces V_i of q (we won't assume that q is non-degenerate). We write $(x, y) = (x, 0) + (0, y)$. Then we have a bilinear form $b : V_1 \times V_2 \to \mathbb{K}$ given by

(4.5) $b(x, y) := q((x, y)) = q((x, 0) + (0, y)) = q((x, y)) - q((x, 0)) - q((0, y)).$

The maps b and q are the same, but in the definition of b, the domain is considered as direct product of modules.

Definition 4.14. *A* left polarized group spherical space *is a group spherical space that is a polarized quadratic space* $(V, q) = (V_1 \oplus V_2, b)$, *and such that the trilinear map* $\langle xyz\rangle$ *satisfies the following two conditions:*

(1) $\langle VVV_i\rangle \subset V_i$ *(meaning that* V_i *for* $i = 1, 2$ *are* left ideals*),*
(2) $\langle V_iV_iV\rangle = 0$, *i.e.,* $L_{V_i,V_i} = 0$ *(the left ideals operate trivially on* V *).*

In other terms, the trilinear product $V^3 \to V$ has only the following four types of possibly non-zero restriction:

(A) $V_1 \times V_2 \times V_1 \to V_1$, *and* $V_2 \times V_1 \times V_2 \to V_2$, *and*

(B) $V_1 \times V_2 \times V_2 \to V_2$, *and* $V_2 \times V_1 \times V_1 \to V_1$.

Right *polarized group spherical spaces* are defined in the same way, using a decomposition into totally isotropic right *ideals* V_i, such that $R_{V_i,V_i} = 0$.

Example 4.1. Let $V = \mathbb{K} \oplus \mathbb{K}$ with $q(x) = x_1 x_2$, so $V_1 = \mathbb{K} \oplus 0$, $V_2 = 0 \oplus \mathbb{K}$, and $b(x,y) = xy$. Recall from Example 3.1, eqn. (3.4) that $\langle xyz \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 y_2 z_1 \\ x_2 y_1 z_2 \end{pmatrix}$. Clearly, conditions 1. and 2. are satisfied for $\langle xyz \rangle$. Moreover, restrictions of Type (B) are zero, and those of type (A) correspond to the usual product rst of scalars.

Example 4.2. We decompose $V = M(2,2;\mathbb{K})$ into its two "canonical left ideals" (with E_{ij}: elementary matrix):

$$V_1 = \mathbb{K}E_{11} \oplus \mathbb{K}E_{21} = \{ \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 0 \\ x_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{K} \},$$

(matrices with second column zero) and $V_2 = \mathbb{K}E_{22} \oplus \mathbb{K}E_{12}$ (matrices with first column zero). The V_i are totally isotropic for $q(X) = \det(X)$, and $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$,

$$q(x_1 E_{11} + x_2 E_{21} + y_1 E_{12} + y_2 E_{22}) = x_1 y_2 - x_2 y_1 = [x,y]$$

is the canonical duality between two copies of $\mathbb{K}^2$. The trilinear product is given by $\langle XYZ \rangle = XY^\sharp Z$, and V_1 and V_2 are *left* ideals, whence Property 1. (If we decompose according to rows, we would get a decomposition into right ideals.) We check 2.: for $X, Y \in V_1$,

$$XY^\sharp = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 0 \\ x_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -y_2 & y_1 \end{pmatrix} = 0,$$

and likewise for $X, Y \in V_2$. (Computations are continued in Example 4.4.)

Definition 4.15. *(Cf.* [Lo75]*, II.6.15).) An* associative pair *is a pair* $(\mathbb{A}^+, \mathbb{A}^-)$ *of $\mathbb{K}$-modules together with two trilinear maps* $\mathbb{A}^\pm \times \mathbb{A}^\mp \times \mathbb{A}^\pm \to \mathbb{A}^\pm$, $(x,y,z) \mapsto \langle xyz \rangle_\pm$, *such that the* para-associative law *is satisfied:*

$$\forall x, z, v \in \mathbb{A}^\pm, u, y \in \mathbb{A}^\mp: \quad \langle \langle xyz \rangle_\pm uv \rangle_\pm = \langle x \langle uzy \rangle_\mp v \rangle_\pm = \langle xy \langle zuv \rangle_\pm \rangle_\pm.$$

Example 4.3. Let $b : U \times V \to \mathbb{K}$ be bilinear; then (U,V) is an associative pair, with $\langle xyz \rangle_+ = b(z,y)x$ and $\langle uvw \rangle_- = b(v,w)u$. Proof by direct check:

$$\langle \langle xyz \rangle_+ uv \rangle_+ = b(z,y)b(x,u)v = b(z,y)\langle xuv \rangle_+ = \langle x \langle uzy \rangle_- v \rangle_+.$$

Lemma 4.16. *The two restrictions of Type* (A) *in a left polarized group spherical space form an associative pair* (V_1, V_2)*, of the form given by the preceding example.*

Proof. Let $x_i \in V_i$, $x = x_1 + x_2$, and $z \in V_1$. The right Kirmse identity gives

$$\langle zxx \rangle = q(x)z = b(x_1, x_2)z.$$

On the other hand, $\langle z, x_1 + x_2, x_2 + x_2 \rangle = \langle zx_1 x_2 \rangle + \langle zx_2 x_1 \rangle = \langle zx_2 x_1 \rangle$, whence $\langle zuv \rangle_+ = b(v,u)z$. In the same way, with $z \in V_2$, we get $\langle zvu \rangle_- = b(v,u)z$, so (V_1, V_2) with restriction of type (A) forms indeed an associative pair of the form given in the example. $\square$

Theorem 4.17. *Let $(V, q) = (V_1 \oplus V_2, b)$ be a left polarized group spherical space. Then the ternary map of V is uniquely determined by the bilinear form b, and it is given by, writing $x = x_1 + x_2 = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}$, $x_i \in V_i$, etc.,*

$$\langle xyz \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} b(z_1, y_2)x_1 - b(z_1, x_2)y_1 + b(y_1, x_2)z_1 \\ b(y_1, z_2)x_2 - b(x_1, z_2)y_2 + b(x_1, y_2)z_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Conversely, for every bilinear form $b : V_1 \times V_2 \to \mathbb{K}$, we define a trilinear map on $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$ by the preceding formula. Then:

    (1) This trilinear map satisfies the left and right Kirmse identities.
    (2) Para-associativity of the trilinear product is equivalent to the following property (BA) of b: for all $x^1, x^2 \in V_1$ and all $y^1, y^2, y^3 \in V_2$,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \quad & b(x^1, y^1)b(x^2, y^2)y^3 - b(x^1, y^2)b(x^2, y^1)y^3 \\ & + b(x^1, y^3)b(x^2, y^1)y^2 - b(x^1, y^1)b(x^2, y^3)y^2 \\ & + b(x^1, y^3)b(x^2, y^2)y^1 - b(x^1, y^2)b(x^2, y^3)y^1, \end{aligned}$$

    and similarly for rôles of V_1 and V_2 interchanged. Condition (BA) can also be written, for $\{i, j\} = \{1, 2\}$

$$\forall y^1, y^2 \in V_i, \forall z^1, z^2, z^3 \in V_j : \quad \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_3} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) \cdot b(y^1, z^{\sigma(1)}) \, b(y^2, z^{\sigma(2)}) \, z^{\sigma(3)} = 0.$$

Proof. Assuming the Kirmse identities, we get for $x = x_1 + x_2$, $z \in V_1$:

$$\langle xxz \rangle = q(x)z = b(x_1, x_2)z,$$

$\langle x_1 x_2 z \rangle + \langle x_2 x_1 z \rangle = b(z, x_2)x_1 + \langle x_2 x_1 z \rangle$, whence

$$\langle u_2 x_1 z_1 \rangle = b(x_1, u_2)z_1 - b(z_1, u_2)x_1$$

(In particular, for $x_1 = z_1$ we see that this is alternating). Using this, we expand $\langle xyz \rangle = \langle x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2, z_1 + z_2 \rangle$ and get the formula announced in the theorem.

Conversely, for any bilinear b, letting $x = y$ or $y = z$, we get the Kirmse identities.

Para-associativity holds for all 5-tuples iff it holds for all 5-tuples of homogeneous elements. For tuples of parity type 12121 or 21212 (restriction of type (A)) it holds without using the condition on b (by Lemma 4.16). By the same type of computation, for tuples of type $\langle 21\langle 122 \rangle \rangle$, para-associativity holds without using the condition on b. For the type $\langle 12\langle 122 \rangle \rangle$, para-associativity is equivalent to the condition from the theorem, by direct computation. $\qquad\square$

Theorem 4.18. *We use notation from the preceding theorem.*

    (1) If b is of rank 1, then Condition (BA) holds.
    (2) If b is of rank greater than 2, then Condition (BA) does not hold.
    (3) Assume b is of rank 2 and non-degenerate. Then Condition (BA) holds.

Proof. 1. If b is of rank ≤ 1, then there exist linear forms $\phi_i : V_i \to \mathbb{K}$ such that $b(x, y) = \phi_1(x)\phi_2(y)$, and then each of the three individual terms (each line of the displayed equation) is zero, so (BA) holds.

2. Assume the rank of b is greater or equal than 3. Then there exist y^i and z^j, $i, i = 1, 2, 3$, such that $\det(b(y^i, z^j)_{i,j=1,2,3}) \neq 0$. Therefore the right-hand side of (BA) must be non-zero, and thus the trilinear product is not para-associative.

3. Assume b of rank 2 and non-degenerate, so V_1 and V_2 are two-dimensional. In this case, two different proofs are possible:

(a) Choosing appropriate bases in V_1 and V_2, the form b is given by $b(x, y) = x_1 y_2 - x_2 y_1 = [x, y]$. Then the formulae reduce to those from Example 4.4 below, describing the matrix algebra $M(2, 2; \mathbb{K})$ which clearly is para-associative.

(b) A different proof is given by noticing that $\det(b(y^i, z^j)_{i,j=1,2,3}) = 0$ for all choices of y^i, z^j, $i, j = 1, 2, 3$, since b is of rank 2. Since b is non-degenerate, this implies that the expression from (BA) is zero, for all choices of y^i, z^j, $i = 1, 2, 3$, $j = 1, 2$, whence para-associativity. $\qquad\square$

Example 4.4. Assume V_1, V_2 two-dimensional and $b : V_1 \times V_2$ of rank 2, given by $b(x, y) = x_1 y_2 - x_2 y_1 = [x, y]$. Using the identity $[x, y]z + [y, z]x + [z, x]y = 0$ (Remark 3.1), the formula for the trilinear product on $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$ reduces to

$$(4.6) \qquad \langle xyz \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} [z_1, y_2]x_1 + [z_1, y_1]x_2 \\ [z_2, y_1]x_2 + [z_2, y_2]x_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is indeed the formula for the triple matrix product $XY^\sharp Z$ in $M(2, 2, \mathbb{K})$. Indeed, with notation from Exemple 4.2, we compute restrictions of Type (A), $V_1 \times V_2 \times V_1 \to V_1$:

$$(4.7) \quad \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 0 \\ x_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & y_1 \\ 0 & y_2 \end{pmatrix}^\sharp \begin{pmatrix} z_1 & 0 \\ z_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = (y_2 z_1 - y_1 z_2) \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 0 \\ x_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = [z, y] \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 0 \\ x_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and of Type (B), $V_1 \times V_2 \times V_2 \to V_2$:

$$(4.8) \quad \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 0 \\ x_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & y_1 \\ 0 & y_2 \end{pmatrix}^\sharp \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z_1 \\ 0 & z_2 \end{pmatrix} = (y_2 z_1 - y_1 z_2) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x_1 \\ 0 & x_2 \end{pmatrix} = [z, y] \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x_1 \\ 0 & x_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The ternary matrix product can be decomposed in four components: write $X = X_1 + X_2$ with $X_i \in V_i$. Then

$$XY^\sharp Z = (X_1 + X_2)(Y_1 + Y_2)^\sharp (Z_1 + Z_2) = (X_1 Y_2^\sharp Z_1 + X_2 Y_1^\sharp Z_1) + (X_2 Y_1^\sharp Z_2 + X_1 Y_2^\sharp Z_2).$$

$$= [Z_1, Y_2]X_1 + [Z_2, Y_1]X_2 + [Z_2, Y_2](X_1)_2 + [Z_1, Y_1](X_2)_1,$$

and so we recover (4.6). As mentioned above, this concludes Proof (a).

Remark 4.4. What can one say in the remaining case (b of rank 2, but degenerate, so V_1 or V_2 is of dimension bigger than 2) ? One may conjecture that Condition (BA) still holds – see examples to be given next.

5. New examples: representations, and split null extensions

5.1. **Representations.** Following general ideas due to Eilenberg and Jacobson, O. Loos develops in [Lo75] his theory of Jordan Pairs by using *representations* as a tool. A *general representation of an algebraic structure A* should not be thought of as some "morphism into a matrix object", but rather as a "vector bundle over A in a suitable category", see [BeD] where this geometric approach has been developed and applied to Lie triple systems. The basic idea is already visible in the following:

Example 5.1. Let $V = \mathbb{C}$ with its usual norm and binary product, and W any complex vector space, which we write as right $\mathbb{C}$-module. Then $\mathbb{C} \oplus W$ with binary product and (degenerate) quadratic form $\widetilde{q}$,

$$(v, w) \cdot (v', w') = (vv', w'v + w\overline{v'}), \quad \widetilde{q}((v, w)) = q(v) = v\,\overline{v}$$

is again a (generalized!) composition algebra: indeed, the product is associative:

$$((v, w)(v', w'))(v'', w'') = (vv', w'v + w\overline{v'})(v'', w'') = (vv'v'', w''vv' + (w'v + w\overline{v'})\overline{v''})$$

$$= (vv'v'', w''vv' + w'v\overline{v''} + w\overline{v'}\overline{v''})$$

$$= (v, w)(v'v'', w''v' + w'\overline{v''}) = (v, w)((v', w')(v'', w''))$$

(Note that commutativity of $\mathbb{C}$ is heavily used.) With $(v, w)^\sharp = (\overline{v}, -w)$ we have

$$(v, w)(v, w)^\sharp = (v\,\overline{v}, 0) = \widetilde{q}(v, w)1, \qquad (v, w) + (v, w)^\sharp = (v + \overline{v}, 0) \in \mathbb{R}1.$$

Therefore we have a real group spherical space of real dimension $2 + 2\dim_\mathbb{C} W$. It is not commutative, unless $W = 0$.

Definition 5.1. *Let (V, q) be a group spherical space, with right spiration algebra $\mathbf{C}_q^R$. A* right (V, q)-module *is simply a $\mathbf{C}_q^R$-module W, i.e., a linear (left) action of the associative algebra $\mathbf{C}_q^R$ on V.*

The split null extension *of $V =: V_0$ by the right (V_0, q)-module $W = V_1$ is the linear space $\widetilde{V} := V_0 \oplus V_1$, together with the bilinear form $\widetilde{q} := q \oplus 0$ (i.e., $\widetilde{q}((x_0, x_1)) = q(x_0)$), and the trilinear map given by*

$$\langle (x_0, x_1) | (y_0, y_1) | (z_0, z_1) \rangle := \Big(\langle x_0 y_0 z_0 \rangle, R_{y_0, z_0} x_1 - R_{x_0, z_0} y_1 + R_{x_0, y_0} z_1 \Big).$$

Theorem 5.2. *For every* commutative *group spherical space (V, q), and right (V, q)-module W, the split null extension $V \oplus W$ is again a group spherical space. It is not commutative, unless*
  – either, V is totally symmetric, so $V = \mathbb{K}$, and W any $\mathbb{K}$-module,
  – or V is commutative but not totally symmetric, and $W = 0$.

Proof. Left and Right Kirmse (K) follow by direct but slightly tricky computation, where commutativity of (V, q) is used in essential way. A direct check of para-associativity would be rather lengthy, therefore we shall use the detour via the binary product, as in Example 5.1: fix $e \in V^\times$, without loss we may assume $q(e) = 1$, so $q = N$, and $\langle abc \rangle = ab^\sharp c = cb^\sharp a$, by commutativity, and the binary product in $V \oplus W$ at $(y_0, y_1) = (e, 0)$ is

$$(x_0, x_1) \cdot (z_0, z_1) = (x_0 z_0, x_1 z_0^\sharp + z_1 x_0).$$

As in the example, one checks by direct computation that this product is again associative, and that $\sharp$ defined by $(y_0, y_1)^\sharp = (y_0^\sharp, -y_1)$ is an anti-automorphism of order 2 which is a scalar involution, with associated norm $\widetilde{q}$. Therefore we have again a group spherical space $(V \oplus W, \tilde{q})$. Computing its ternary product $(x_1, x_2)(y_1, y_2)^\sharp(z_1, z_2)$, we get the expression of the trilinear map from Definition 5.1.

Finally, if V is totally symmetric, then necessarily $V = \mathbb{K}$ and $\langle xyz \rangle = \lambda xyz$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{K}^\times$, with trivial involution $\sharp$. Therefore the new product is again

commutative (but the new involution won't be trivial, unless $W = 0$). If V is not totally symmetric, then $\sharp$ is non-trivial, and the new product is not commutative (unless $W = 0$). $\qquad\square$

5.2. **The extended Minkowski plane.** Let us consider split null extensions of the plane described in Example 3.2: $V_0 = \mathbb{K}^2$,

$$(5.1) \qquad \langle x|y|z \rangle = \phi(x)\psi(y)z + \psi(z)\phi(y)x - \phi(x)\psi(z)y.$$

When ϕ and ψ are linearly independent, then this is a hyperbolic plane, with binary algebra isomorphic to a direct product $\mathbb{K} \times \mathbb{K}$. The two projections of this algebra define one-dimensional representations, and using these we can define representations of any dimension, thus defining split null extensions of any desired dimension. Remarkably, they can all be defined by (5.1):

Theorem 5.3. *Let V by a $\mathbb{K}$-module, ϕ and ψ be two linear forms $V \to \mathbb{K}$, and $q(x) = \phi(x)\psi(x)$. Then the trilinear product on V defined by (5.1) defines on (V, q) the structure of a group spherical space.*

It is isomorphic to the split null extension by $V_1 := \ker(\phi) \cap \ker(\psi)$ of some complementary subspace V_0 of V_1 in V.

When $\phi = \psi$, then V is commutative, else it is non-commutative, unless $V_1 = 0$.

Proof. We give a direct proof of the first statement. Left and right Kirmse identities are satisfied: letting $x = y$, two terms cancel out, and the remaining ones give $q(x)z$. Likewise for $z = y$. To prove para-associativity, compute $\langle ab\langle cde\rangle\rangle$: observing that

$$(5.2) \qquad \phi(\langle xyz\rangle) = \phi(x)\psi(y)\phi(z), \qquad \psi(\langle xyz\rangle) = \psi(x)\phi(y)\psi(z),$$

we see that from 9 terms, 4 cancel out, and the remaining 5 give

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle ab\langle cde\rangle\rangle &= \phi(a)\psi(b)\langle cde\rangle - \phi(a)\psi(\langle cde\rangle)b + \phi(b)\psi(\langle cde\rangle)a \\
&= \phi(b)\phi(d)\psi(c)\psi(e) \cdot a \\
&\quad - \phi(a)\phi(d)\psi(c)\psi(e) \cdot b \\
&\quad + \phi(a)\phi(d)\psi(b)\psi(e) \cdot c \\
&\quad - \phi(a)\phi(c)\psi(b)\psi(e) \cdot d \\
&\quad + \phi(a)\phi(c)\psi(b)\psi(d) \cdot e.
\end{aligned}$$

Computing $\langle a\langle dcb\rangle e\rangle$ and $\langle\langle abc\rangle de\rangle$, we get the same expression.

The ternary composition law holds: using (5.2), we get

$$q(\langle xyz\rangle) = \phi(\langle xyz\rangle) \cdot \psi(\langle xyz\rangle) = \phi(x)\psi(y)\psi(z) \cdot \psi(x)\phi(y)\psi(z) = q(x)q(y)q(z).$$

To describe the structure of V, recall that any 2-dimensional submodule V_0 is a group spherical subspace. Choosing V_0 complementary to the radical $V_1 = \ker(\phi) \cap \ker(\psi)$ of q, it is readily seen that the structure of V is isomorphic to the split null extension of V_0 by V_1, where V_0 acts on V_1 by $x \cdot v = \phi(v)x + \psi(v)x$. $\qquad\square$

Example 5.2. The smallest "new" example is $V = \mathbb{K}^3$ with $\phi(x) = x_1$ and $\psi(y) = y_2$, so $q(x) = x_1x_2$. Let us choose the base point $e = e_1 + e_2 = (1, 1, 0)$. Then binary

product and involution are given by

$$x \cdot_e z = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 z_1 + z_2 x_1 - x_1 z_2 \\ x_1 z_2 + z_2 x_2 - x_1 z_2 \\ x_1 z_3 + z_2 x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 z_1 \\ z_2 x_2 \\ x_1 z_3 + z_2 x_3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad x^\sharp = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ x_1 \\ -x_3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The elements such that $x_1 x_2 \in \mathbb{K}^\times$ form the group $V^\times$, which clearly is isomorphic to the solvable group of upper triangular matrices $\begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_3 \\ 0 & x_2 \end{pmatrix}$. The matrices with $x_1 x_2 = 1$ (the "unit circle") form a subgroup, which (if 2 is invertible in $\mathbb{K}$) form a subgroup isomorphic to the 2-dimensional $ax + b$-group (affine group of $\mathbb{K}$).

Remark 5.1. Theorem 5.3 suggests to define, for any $\mathbb{K}$-module V, the following *quintary structure map*

$$(5.3) \qquad \begin{aligned} \widetilde{\Gamma} : V \times V^* \times V \times V^* \times V &\to V, \\ (x, a, y, b, z) &\mapsto a(x)b(y)z - a(x)b(z)y + a(z)b(y)x. \end{aligned}$$

This is a particular instance of the structure map Γ defined in [BeKi10], where the quotient spaces $\mathbb{P}V$ and $\mathbb{P}V^*$ are considered rather than V and V^*. For a fixed pair (a, b), the map $(xyz)_{ab} = \widetilde{\Gamma}(x, a, y, b, z)$ defines a torsor structure on the projective space $\mathbb{P}(V)$.

5.3. Structure theorem for commutative group spherical spaces.

Theorem 5.4. *Assume $\mathbb{K}$ is a field of characteristic not 2. The commutative group spherical spaces (V, q) over $\mathbb{K}$ are exactly those of the following forms:*

(1) $V = \mathbb{K}$ and $q(x) = \lambda x^2$ (totally symmetric case),
(2) $V = \mathbb{K} \oplus W$, a non-trivial split null extension of the preceding type,
(3) $V = \mathbb{K}^2$ with an arbitrary non-degenerate quadratic form q.

Proof. We have seen that these spaces exist and are commutative.

It remains to show that there are no other commutative group spherical spaces. Note first that a *commutative q-compatible trilinear product on a quadratic space is unique* (Lemma 2.3: it is one half times the Jordan map D). When is it associative? By our assumption on $\mathbb{K}$, we can diagonalize the form q, and decompose $q = q_0 \oplus q_1$, where q_1 is the zero form on the radical $V_1 = \{x \in V \mid b_q(x, V) = 0\}$, and q_0 is non-degenerate on some complement V_0 of the radical. By uniqueness, the restriction of the trilinear product to the radical V_1 must be the zero product. The same argument shows that $\langle xyz \rangle = 0$ whenever two of the elements x, y, z belong to V_1. Thus only terms where at most one argument belongs to V_1 survive, and this leads to a formula of the type given in Definition 5.1. Moreover, since $b_q(V_0, V_1) = 0$, we must have $\langle abc \rangle = -\langle bac \rangle$ whenever $a \in V_0, b \in V_1$, leading to the formula given in the Definition. The space V_0, being non-degenerate and commutative, can be at most 2-dimensional: this follows from the classical theory of (non-degenerate) composition algebras, see e.g., [McC], p.164. Putting things together, V_0 is a non-degenerate composition algebra of dimension 1 or 2, and V_1 must be a (right) V_0-module. If $\dim V_0 = 2$, then commutativity implies $V_1 = 0$, and if $\dim V_0 = 1$, then V_1 can be any $\mathbb{K}$-module. $\qquad\square$

Remark 5.2. If 2 is not invertible in $\mathbb{K}$, one has to take more care with definition of radicals, and it is not quite clear if the structure theorem carries over to this case.

6. QUATERNION-CLIFFORD ALGEBRAS

6.1. **From commutative to non-commutative group spherical spaces.** There are several constructions associating to a *commutative* group spherical space another, in general non-commutative, one. Let us start with some necessary conditions.

Lemma 6.1. *Assume* $(V, q, \langle - - - \rangle)$ *is a group spherical space,* $V_0 \subset V$ *a subspace, and* $e \in V_0^\times$ *a base point, so the binary product and involution* $\sharp$ *on* V *are defined as in Theorem 4.13. Fix another element* $m \in V^\times$ *that is orthogonal to the subspace* V_0, *i.e.,* $b_q(V_0, m) = 0$. *Then we have, for all* $a, b \in V_0^\times$,

(1) $m^2 = -\frac{q(m)}{q(e)}e = -N(m)e$, $m^\sharp = -m$,
(2) $am = ma^\sharp$,
(3) $a(bm) = (ba)m$
(4) $(am)b = (ab^\sharp)m$
(5) $(am)(bm) = -N(m)ab^\sharp$

In particular, $V_0 \oplus V_0 m$ *is a subspace, and Item 3. implies that* V_0 *is necessarily commutative.*

Proof. We'll use repeatedly that, if $b_q(x, y) = 0$, then

$$\langle xyz \rangle + \langle yxz \rangle = b_q(x, y)z = 0, \text{ so } \langle xyx \rangle = -\langle xxy \rangle = -q(x)y.$$

1. In particular $m^2 = \frac{\langle mem \rangle}{q(e)} = -N(m)e$.

2. Whenever $b_q(x, e) = 0$, then $x^\sharp = \frac{\langle exe \rangle}{q(e)} = -x$. All spirations are conformal, i.e., they preserve b_q up to a factor, so in particular they preserve orthogonality. Since by assumption $b_q(a, m) = 0$, it follows that $b_q(am, e) = 0$, whence

$$am = -(am)^\sharp = -m^\sharp a^\sharp = ma^\sharp.$$

3. Since bm satisfies the same condition as m, the preceding item gives $a(bm) = (bm)a^\sharp$. Together with associativity, this implies

$$a(bm) = (bm)a^\sharp = b(ma^\sharp) = b(am).$$

On the other hand, since m is assumed to be invertible, this implies that necessarily $ab = ba$, by associativity.

4. By associativity, $(am)b = a(mb) = a(b^\sharp m) = (ab^\sharp)m$.

5. Again, by associativity, $(am)(bm) = ab^\sharp m^2 = -N(m)ab^\sharp$.
Altogether, these relations imply that $V_0 \oplus V_0 m$ is stable under taking products. $\square$

The proof of the lemma takes up arguments from [McC], p. 164/65, proving "Jacobson necessity": necessarily, a subspace having non-trivial orthogonal complement is commutative, and the extension $V_0 \oplus mV_0$ is a non-commutative subspace with relations given by the "ACD"-extension, see below.

Remark 6.1. Let us assume $q(e) = q(m)$, that is, $N(m) = 1 = N(e)$. Let $G = \{x \in V \mid N(x) = 1\}$ be the unit sphere of the norm N, and $H_0 := G \cap V_0$. Consider the subset $H := H_0 \sqcup H_1 \subset G$. The lemma implies that H is stable under taking products; more precisely :

- H_0 is a subgroup,
- $\forall u \in H_1: u^2 = -e$ (negative of the neutral element e),
- $\forall u \in H_1, \forall a \in H_0: uau^{-1} = -uau = a^{-1}$.

If such a product is commutative, then necessarily H_0 is commutative, and necessarily H then is *the generalized dicyclic group of H_0, with respect to the order-two element $-e \in H_0$*. Summing up, necessarily any group sub-sphere H_0 of G having a non-trivial orthogonal complement gives rise to a dicyclic extension $H \subset G$, which can only exist if H_0 was commutative.

6.2. **The ACD-extension.** Now we prove that the necessary rules from Lemma 6.1 are also sufficient. This is indeed a special case of the general ACD-construction (Section 7.1), which in the *commutative* case has the following interpretation in terms of matrices.

Lemma 6.2. *Let (V_0, q, e) be a commutative group spherical space, considered as commutative (generalized) composition algebra $(\mathbb{A}, e, \sharp)$. Fix $\mu \in \mathbb{K}$. Then*

$$KD(\mathbb{A}, -\mu) := \left\{ X_{a,b} := \begin{pmatrix} a & b^\sharp \\ \mu b & a^\sharp \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{A} \right\} \subset M(2, 2; \mathbb{A})$$

is an associative algebra, with central involution $(X_{a,b})^\sharp := X_{a^\sharp, -b}$, and imbedding $\mathbb{A} \to KD(\mathbb{A})$, $a \mapsto X_{a,0}$. The new norm is

$$N(X_{a,b}) = q(a) - \mu q(b).$$

The element $m := X_{0,e}$ satisfies $m^2 = \mu e$, and $am = ma^\sharp$ for all $a = X_{a,0}$.

Proof. Using commutativity, $X_{a,b} X_{a',b'} = X_{aa' + \mu b^\sharp b', ba' + ab'}$, and
$$X_{a,b}(X_{a,b})^\sharp = X_{aa^\sharp - \mu bb^\sharp, 0} = (q(a) - \mu q(b))e. \qquad \square$$

As a quadratic space, $KD(A, \mu)$ is a tensor product of (V, q) with the binary space $(\mathbb{K}^2, x_1^2 + \mu x_2^2)$. In particular, for $\mu = 1$, we have $N(X_{e,e}) = 0$, so the extension is split. However, bilinear and trilinear product are not given by tensor products of algebras. There is a link with Clifford algebras:

6.3. **The abstract Clifford algebra.** To every quadratic space (V, q), there is canonically associated a *Clifford algebra* $\mathbf{Cl}(V, q)$, together with an imbedding $i : V \to \mathbf{Cl}(V)$ such that $\forall v \in V : i(v)^2 = q(v)1$, where 1 is the unit of $\mathbf{Cl}(V)$, and $\mathbf{Cl}(V)$ is universal for this relation (see, e.g., [KMRT]). The algebra $\mathbf{Cl}(V)$ is $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$-graded, $\mathbf{Cl}(V) = \mathbf{Cl}(V)_0 \oplus \mathbf{Cl}(V)_1$. Elements of $i(V)$ are odd. The even part $\mathbf{Cl}(V)_0$ is a unital subalgebra, and the odd part $\mathbf{Cl}(V)_1$ is stable under taking the ternary product $\langle abc \rangle := abc$. If $V = \mathbb{K}^n$, then $\mathbf{Cl}(V)$ is of dimension 2^n, and $\mathbf{Cl}(V)_i$ of dimension 2^{n-1}.

Remark 6.2. In particular, if $n = 2$, then for reasons of dimension, $i(V) = \mathbf{Cl}(V)_1$, and therefore $i(V)$ is stable under the triple product $\langle abc \rangle = abc$. By the universal property, $\langle aac \rangle = a^2 c = q(a)c = \langle caa \rangle$, and so we have recovered the structure of

group spherical space on $i(V)$. Taking some care (to include the case of character-
istic 2), this can be used to give a complete proof of Theorem 3.1 (including a proof
of the ternary composition rule, which does not reduce to a triviality even with the
theory of Clifford algebras at hand).

Still with $n = 2$, the imbedding $V = \mathbb{K}^2 \to \mathbf{Cl}(\mathbb{K}^2)$ as odd part looks much
like the imbedding from Lemma 6.2 , but it is not the same: for instance, when
$q = 0$, then $\mathbf{Cl}(\mathbb{K}^2, q) = \wedge(\mathbb{K}^2)$ is the exterior algebra of $\mathbb{K}^2$, but $KD(\mathbb{K}^2)$ is the zero
product algebra. In $KD(\mathbb{A})$ with have $aa^\sharp = q(a)$, instead of the Clifford relation
$aa = q(a)$, which makes all the difference. Related to this, V imbeds into the *odd*
part of $\mathbf{Cl}(V)$, whereas we find it more convenient to consider the "original" copy of
$\mathbb{A}$ as *even* part $\mathbb{A}_0$ (subalgebra) of $KD(\mathbb{A})$. Nevertheless, whenever q has invertible
elements, replacing q by a multiple, $\mathbb{A}_0$ will become unital, and in fact Clifford and
quaternion algebra of $\mathbb{K}^2$ are isomorphic. In a way, this amounts to switching odd
and even parts.

6.4. **The "concrete Clifford-quaternion algebra".** The following construction
is kind of half way between the abstract Clifford algebra of $V = \mathbb{K}^2$ and its ACD-
double: it works for every *commutative* group spherical space V, which we realize
as odd part, to which we add as even part the spiration algebra $\mathbf{C}_q^L$. Let $\langle xyz \rangle$ be
the ternary product of V. Recall from Theorem 4.10 that the spiration algebra $\mathbf{C}_q^L$
carries an involution

$$\sharp : \mathbf{C}_q^L \to \mathbf{C}_q^L, \text{ such that } : \forall x, y \in V : (R_{x,y})^\sharp = R_{y,x}.$$

Definition 6.3. *Assume (V, q) is a commutative group spherical space. We define
its* concrete Clifford-quaternion algebra $\mathbf{H}_q$ *as the direct sum of $\mathbb{K}$-modules $\mathbf{H}_q :=$
$\mathbf{C}_q^L \oplus V$, with bilinear product*

$$(f, v) \cdot (g, w) := (f \circ g + R_{v,w}, fw + g^\sharp v).$$

By its definition, this product is $Z/2\mathbb{Z}$-graded, where $\mathbf{C}_q^L$ is the even *part (parity
0), and V the* odd *part (parity 1). We identify $v \in V$ with the odd element $(0, v)$,
and $f \in \mathbf{C}_q$ with the even element $(f, 0)$. The unit element is $1 = (\mathrm{id}_V, 0)$.*

Theorem 6.4. *The algebra $\mathbf{H}_q$ is an associative $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$-graded composition algebra
with scalar involution, again denoted by $\sharp : \mathbf{H}_q \to \mathbf{H}_q$, given by*

$$(f, v)^\sharp = (f^\sharp, -v).$$

The product of three odd elements in this algebra gives the ternary product in V:

$$(0, x) \cdot (0, y) \cdot (0, z) = (0, \langle xyz \rangle),$$

and we have the Clifford relation for odd elements v,

$$v^2 = (0, v)^2 = (R_{v,v}, 0) = (q(v)\mathrm{id}_V, 0) = q(v)1.$$

Proof. The relation for three elements and the Clifford relation follow by direct
computation from the definitions. To establish associativity $(XY)Z = X(YZ)$, we
check it in the following $2^3 = 8$ cases, according to parity of the triple (X, Y, Z). In
6 of these 8 cases, associativity follows either directly from associativity of $\langle --- \rangle$
(in the various forms given by Theorem 4.9) or from the definitions. In two cases

(even-odd-even, odd-odd-odd) we need also commutativity (of $\mathbf{C}_q^L$ or $\langle - - - \rangle$). In the following table, $f, g, h \in \mathbf{C}_q^L$, $u, v, w \in V$:

parity type	equality	proof
0 0 0	$(fg)h = f(gh)$	associativity of $\mathbf{C}_q^L$
0 0 1	$f(gv) = (fg)v$	left action of $\mathbf{C}_q^L$ on V
0 1 0	$(fv)g = f(vg)$	commutativity of $\mathbf{C}_q^L$: $f \circ g^\sharp = g^\sharp \circ f$
1 0 0	$(vf)g = v(fg)$	$\sharp$ is an involution: $(fg)^\sharp = g^\sharp f^\sharp$
0 1 1	$(fv)w = f(vw)$	true for all generators $f = R_{x,y}$ by Theorem 4.9
1 0 1	$(vf)w = v(fw)$	idem
1 1 0	$(vw)f = v(wf)$	idem
1 1 1	$(uv)w = u(vw)$	$R_{u,v}(w) = \langle uvw \rangle = R_{w,v}(u) = (R_{v,w})^\sharp u$

Next, we check that $\sharp$ is an involution. For $X = (f, v)$, $Y = (g, w)$ one sees by direct computation that $(X^\sharp)^\sharp = X$ and $(XY)^\sharp = Y^\sharp X^\sharp$ (the main point is to use that $(R_{v,w})^\sharp = R_{w,v}$). We also compute

$$XX^\sharp = (f, v) \cdot (f^\sharp, -v) = (ff^\sharp - R_{v,v}, -fv + (f^\sharp)^\sharp v)$$
$$= (ff^\sharp - q(v), 0) = (ff^\sharp - q(v))1 = X^\sharp X,$$

so the claim holds for the norm given by $N((f, v)) = ff^\sharp - q(v)$. Further,

$$X + X^\sharp = (f, v) + (f^\sharp, -v) = (f + f^\sharp, 0) = \tau(f)1.$$

so $\sharp$ is a scalar involution. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

Remark 6.3. If we replace q by λq, the product in $KD(\mathbb{A})$ is also multiplied by λ. Such scale invariance does not hold for abstract or concrete quaternion algebras: indeed, $\mathbf{C}_q = \mathbf{C}_{-q}$, so the algebra $\mathbf{H}_{-q}$ is not isomorphic to $\mathbf{H}_q$.

6.5. **Structure of non-commutative spherical quadratic spaces.** So far, we have encountered the following non-commutative group spherical spaces:

   (1) $V = \mathbb{K}^4$, a non-degenerate quaternion algebra,
   (2) $V = U \oplus W$, a non-trivial split null extension by W of a commutative space of dimension > 1.

Also, as a result of the ACD-construction, the quadratic forms on $\mathbb{K}^4 = \mathbb{K}^2 \oplus \mathbb{K}^2$ corresponding to the first case are exactly those of the form $\widetilde{q} = q \oplus \lambda q$ (orthogonal sum of a non-degenerate binary form q and a non-zero multiple of q), which are also exactly the tensor products of two non-degenerate binary quadratic forms.

   One might conjecture that a "structure theorem for non-commutative group spherical spaces" holds, as an analog of Theorem 5.4, saying that (under some assumptions on $\mathbb{K}$), these are *exactly* the non-commutative group spherical spaces. However, for the time being we have no argument ensuring that all extensions in Case 2 have to be "split": in the commutative case, the restriction of the ternary product to the radical had to be zero, by symmetry; but in the non-commutative case, we cannot use this argument, and it might be possible that some sort of "non-split extension" might exist. The following example gives some idea of that kind of complications:

Example 6.1. Let $U = \mathbb{K}^2$ with binary form $q(x) = x_1^2$. Its associated algebra is the algebra $\mathbb{K}[X]/(X^2)$ of dual numbers (Theorem 3.6). Let $W = \mathbb{K}^2$ be the "adjoint" U module, i.e., the natural action of U on itself on the right, and $\mathbb{K}^4 = U \oplus W$ be the corresponding split null extension. It is a non-commutative space, since U has non-trivial involution. In other words, it is a very degenerate quaternion algebra – in fact, it is just the exterior algebra $\wedge \mathbb{K}^2$ with its central involution and ternary product $\langle uvw \rangle = u \wedge v^\sharp \wedge w$. Its quadratic form is again x_1^2. Thus the "sphere" $\{x \in \mathbb{K}^4 \mid x_1^2 = 1\}$ has a commutative (split extension of $\mathbb{K}$) and a non-commutative (extension of U) group structure. The latter is in fact a double extension, since U is already an extension of $\mathbb{K}$. Geometrically, it is the "second tangent bundle of $\mathbb{K}$", $TT\mathbb{K}$. Also, we see that a degenerate quadratic form q may admit several, non-isomorphic, q-compatible ternary para-associative products: thus the group sphere structure is not uniquely determined by the quadratic form.

7. CAYLEY-DICKSON DOUBLING

7.1. **The ACD (Albert-Cayley-Dickson) construction.** Following the presentation given by McCrimmon ([McC], p.160 ff.), we define, for any algebra $\mathbb{A}$ with involution $\sharp$, and scalar $\mu \in \mathbb{K}$, a new algebra $KD(\mathbb{A}) := \mathbb{A}_0 \oplus \mathbb{A}_1$ (where $\mathbb{A}_i = \mathbb{A}$, for $i = 0, 1$ are two copies of $\mathbb{A}$) with new involution again denoted by $\sharp$, as follows:

$$(7.1) \qquad (x_0, x_1) \cdot (z_0, z_1) := (x_0 z_0 + \mu z_1^\sharp x_1, z_1 x_0 + x_1 z_0^\sharp),$$

$$(7.2) \qquad (x_0, x_1)^\sharp = (x_0^\sharp, -x_1).$$

We do not assume that the scalar μ be invertible. Note that for $\mu = 0$ we get the binary formula for the split null extension from the preceding subsection. If $\mathbb{A}_0$ has a unit 1, and $m = (0, 1)$ is the corresponding element of $\mathbb{A}_1$, then (7.1) is equivalent to the following (labels as in [McC]): for $a, b \in \mathbb{A}_0$,

(KD0) $am = ma^\sharp$
(KD1) $ab = ab$
(KD2) $a(bm) = (ba)m$
(KD3) $(am)b = (ab^\sharp)m$
(KD4) $(am)(bm) = \mu \, b^\sharp a$

Remark 7.1. A word of warning: the formulae in [Fa], p. 51 ff. are not the same – whereas McCrimmon considers $KD(\mathbb{A}) = \mathbb{A} \oplus \mathbb{A}m$ (writing $\mathbb{A}$ on the *left* of m), Faulkner considers it as $\mathbb{A} \oplus s\mathbb{A}$, writing $\mathbb{A}$ on the *right* of his element $s = (0, 1)$. This leads to "reverse" formulae, corresponding to our distinction between *left and right ternary products*, see below. Note also that $KD(\mathbb{A})$ is in general not associative. More precisely, for invertible μ, by the "KD Inheritance Theorem", [McC], p. 162:

Theorem 7.1. *For invertible scalars μ, the algebra $KD(\mathbb{A})$ satisfies:*

(1) *The new map $\sharp$ is always an involution, which is scalar if so was the old one. Then new norm and trace are*

$$N((x_0, x_1)) = N(x_0) - \mu N(x_1), \qquad t((x_0, x_1)) = t(x_1).$$

(2) *$KD(\mathbb{A})$ is commutative iff $\mathbb{A}$ is commutative with trivial involution,*
(3) *$KD(\mathbb{A})$ is associative iff $\mathbb{A}$ is commutative and associative,*

(4) $KD(\mathbb{A})$ is alternative iff $\mathbb{A}$ is associative with central involution.

Remark 7.2. As above, let $m = (0, 1)$. Then $N(m) = -\mu N(e)$. Therefore, starting with $N(e) = 1$, one most often takes $\mu = -1$, ensuring $N(m) = 1 = N(e)$. For $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$, this leads to the sequence $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}, \mathbb{O}$.

Definition 7.2. *With notation as above, we call*

- unarion algebra $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{K}$ *with product $xy = \lambda xy$,*
- binarion algebra $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{K}^2$, *algebra belonging to a binary quadratic form,*
- quaterninon algebra $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{K}^4 = KD(\mathbb{K}^2)$, *an extension of a binarion algebra,*
- octonion algebra $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{K}^8 = KD(\mathbb{K}^4)$, *an extension of a quaternion algebra.*

Here, to define "extensions" we admit any scalar μ, thus slightly generalizing the terminology from [McC]. The preceding theorem, slightly adapted, implies:

(1) all of these algebras have a scalar involution,
(2) a binarion algebra is commutative, associative, with non-trivial involution,
(3) a quaternion algebra is associative, and non-commutative, except freak cases,
(4) an octonion algebra is alternative, and non-associative, except freak cases.

The last case will be considered later. Let us, however, compute the *ternary product in $KD(\mathbb{A})$*, including the last case (so there are two versions of ternary product, "left" $a(b^\sharp c)$ and "right" $(ab^\sharp)c$, since $KD(\mathbb{A})$ is in general non-associative).

Theorem 7.3. *Assume $\mathbb{A}$ is an associative algebra with involution $\sharp$, and define ternary products on $\mathbb{A}$ by $\langle xyz \rangle := xy^\sharp z$ and on $KD(\mathbb{A})$ by*

$$\langle (x_0, x_1), (y_0, y_1), (z_0, z_1) \rangle_L := (x_0, x_1) \cdot \big((y_0, y_1)^\sharp (z_0, z_1)\big).$$

Then we have

$$\langle (x_0, x_1), (y_0, y_1), (z_0, z_1) \rangle_L = \Big(\langle x_0 y_0 z_0 \rangle - \mu\langle x_0 z_1 y_1 \rangle + \mu\langle y_0 z_1 x_1 \rangle - \mu\langle z_0 y_1 x_1 \rangle,$$

$$\langle x_1 z_0 y_0 \rangle - \langle y_1 z_0 x_0 \rangle + \langle z_1 y_0 x_0 \rangle + \mu\langle x_1 y_1 z_1 \rangle\Big).$$

There is a "reverse" formula, using the "dual" definition (KD') of the KD-extension (see Remark 7.1), and the "right ternary product" on $KD'(\mathbb{A})$ given by

$$\langle (x_0, x_1), (y_0, y_1), (z_0, z_1) \rangle_R := \big((x_0, x_1) \cdot (y_0, y_1)^\sharp\big)(z_0, z_1)$$

$$= \Big(\langle x_0 y_0 z_0 \rangle - \mu\langle x_1 z_1 y_0 \rangle + \mu\langle y_1 z_1 x_0 \rangle - \mu\langle z_1 y_1 x_0 \rangle,$$

$$\langle x_0 z_0 y_1 \rangle - \langle y_0 z_0 x_1 \rangle + \langle z_0 y_0 x_1 \rangle + \mu\langle x_1 y_1 z_1 \rangle\Big).$$

Proof. Direct computation. $\square$

Remark 7.3. Note that for $\mu = 0$ we get the formula for the split null extension. In this case, no product $\mathbb{A}_1 \times \mathbb{A}_1 \to \mathbb{A}_0$ is needed, and for this reason we can allow $\mathbb{A}_1$ to be a more general space. Similarly for left modules.

8. Moufang loop spheres

8.1. **From group to loop spheres.** The category of group spherical spaces is quite rigid and lacks many "usual" constructions: group spheres are "rare" in nature; there are no "direct sums" nor "tensor products". The closest analog of a direct sum is the ACD-doubling construction, but already the unit sphere of the octonions is not a group, but a *Moufang loop*, cf. [CSm]. As is well-known ([McC, Fa]), for non-degenerate forms, this follows necessarily from the composition rule. Therefore the category of *Moufang loop spheres* seems to be the most natural generalization. In a first step, we develop a *ternary concept of Moufang loops*: this is given in Appendix A, Definition A.11.

Definition 8.1. *A* right Moufang spherical space *is a quadratic space* (V, q) *such that* $V^\times$ *is not empty, with a trilinear product* $\langle xyz \rangle$ *on* V *such that:*

(1) *Ternary composition rule* $q(\langle xyz \rangle) = q(x)q(y)q(z)$,
(2) *Left and Right Kirmse* $\langle xxy \rangle = q(x)y = \langle yxx \rangle$,
(3) *The ternary product is a* right alternative triple system *in the sense of* [Lo75], *p.57: it satisfies the three identities*

    (A1) $\langle uv\langle xyz \rangle \rangle + \langle xy\langle uvz \rangle \rangle = \langle \langle uvx \rangle yz \rangle + \langle x\langle vuy \rangle z \rangle$
    (A2) $\langle \langle uvx \rangle yx \rangle = \langle uv\langle xyx \rangle \rangle$
    (A3) $\langle xy\langle xyz \rangle \rangle = \langle \langle xyx \rangle yz \rangle$

A left Moufang spherical space *is defined similarly, replacing (A1), (A2), (A3) by their "dual" identities obtained by reversing order of arguments (cf.* [Lo75]*, p.59).*

Theorem 8.2. *There is a bijection between alternative (generalized) composition algebras and right Moufang spherical spaces, up to choice of base point. More precisely, any alternative composition algebra with ternary product* $\langle xyz \rangle = x(y^\sharp z)$ *and* q *given by* $xx^\sharp = q(x)1$, *is a right Moufang spherical space. For the other direction, let* (V, q) *be a right Moufang spherical space, and fix* $e \in V^\times$. *Then*

(1) $V^\times$ *with* $(xyz) := \frac{\langle xyz \rangle}{q(y)}$ *is a ternary right Moufang loop, and every sphere is a ternary subloop of* $V^\times$,
(2) *the bilinear product* $xz := x \cdot_e z = \frac{\langle xez \rangle}{q(e)}$ *turns* V *into an alternative algebra with neutral element* e, *and with involution* $\sharp : V \to V$,

$$x^\sharp = \frac{\langle exe \rangle}{q(e)} = \frac{b_q(x, e)}{q(e)}e - x,$$

and this algebra is a composition algebra *with respect to the* norm $N(x) := \frac{q(x)}{q(e)}$.

In a similar way, alternative composition algebras also correspond to left ternary Moufang quadratic spaces.

Proof. Assume first that $(\mathbb{A}, e, \sharp)$ is an alternative composition algebra. Every such algebra gives rise to an alternative triple system via $\langle xyz \rangle = x(y^\sharp z)$ (see [Lo75], p.60). Since $x + x^\sharp = t(x)e$ with $t(x) \in \mathbb{K}$, so $x^\sharp = t(x)e - x$, from alternativity $L_x^2 = L_{x^2}$ and $R_x^2 = R_{x^2}$ we get $L_x L_{x^\sharp} = q(x)\mathrm{id}$ and $R_x R_{x^\sharp} = q(x)\mathrm{id}$, and from this both Kirmse identities follow: $\langle xxy \rangle = L_x L_{x^\sharp} y = q(x)y = y(x^\sharp x) = \langle yxx \rangle$. To prove the ternary composition law, it suffices to show that $q(ab) = q(a)a(b)$ and

$q(a^\sharp) = q(a)$. The latter follows from $aa^\sharp = q(a)e = a^\sharp a = q(a^\sharp)e$. Every alternative ring satisfies the Moufang condition $(ab)(ca) = (a(bc))a = a((bc)a)$ (cf. [Fa], Lemma 3.16). Using this,

$$(ab)(ab)^\sharp = (ab)(b^\sharp a^\sharp) = -(ab)(b^\sharp a) + t(x)(ab)b^\sharp$$
$$= -aq(b)a + t(x)aq(b) = q(b)(t(x)a - a^2) = q(b)aa^\sharp = q(b)q(a)e.$$

Putting things together, we get the ternary composition rule. As to the converse:

1. Idempotency $(xxy) = y = (yxx)$ follows from the ternary composition law, as in the proof of Theorem 4.13. Then (A2) and (A3) become the properties

(MT1) $\langle\langle uvx\rangle yx\rangle = \langle uv\langle xyx\rangle\rangle$

(MT2) $\langle xy\langle xyz\rangle\rangle = \langle\langle xyx\rangle yz\rangle$

defining a ternary Moufang loop in [BeKi14], and which are equivalent to the definition of a right ternary Moufang loop given in Appendix A, Def. A.11, cf. Remark A.1. Thus $V^\times$ becomes a right ternary Moufang loop.

2. The fact that every homotope algebra $\cdot_e$ is alternative follows directly from the defining axioms (cf. [Lo75], p.64), and proving that $\sharp$ is a central involution follows the same line of arguments as in the proof of Theorem 4.13.

All arguments remain valid with "right" replaced by "left". □

Definition 8.1 follows the axioms given by Loos [Lo75], and used in [BeKi14]. However, they are not very "geometric". The following list of properties is longer, but more conceptual, and could be used to give an equivalent definition (possibly under some assumptions on the $\mathbb{K}$-module V). The observation is simply that every identity valid for Moufang loops has a "q-analog", which inserts a term $q(u)$ if in an identity two instances of the argument u are "cancelled". For instance, the q-analog of idempotency is Kirmse (K).

Theorem 8.3. *A left Moufang spherical space has the following properties: it satisfies the ternary composition rule and the left and right Kirmse identitis, and, for invertible elements $x, y, \ldots$:*

(1) the q-analogs of the defining identities of an inverse loop:
$$\langle xy\langle\langle yxy\rangle yu\rangle\rangle = q(x)q(y)^2 u = \langle\langle yxy\rangle y\langle xyz\rangle\rangle$$
$$\langle\langle uy\langle yxy\rangle\rangle yx\rangle = q(x)q(y)^2 u = \langle\langle uyx\rangle y\langle yxy\rangle\rangle,$$
(2) the q-analog of the left Chasles relation:
$$\langle ab\langle bdx\rangle\rangle = q(b)\langle adx\rangle,$$
(3) and the q-analog of the autotopy relation from Def. A.11:
$$\langle\langle xab\rangle\langle yba\rangle\langle zba\rangle\rangle = q(a)q(b)\langle\langle xyz\rangle ab\rangle$$

Right Moufang spherical quadratic spaces have similar properties, replacing the Left by the Right Chasles relation and the autotopy relation by its right analogue.

Proof. These properties, without the terms $q(x)$, etc., are our defining properties of a left ternary Moufang loop, and therefore hold for the ternary loop structure defined in the preceding theorem. Inserting the definition $(xyz) = \frac{\langle xyz\rangle}{q(y)}$ implies the formulae from the claim. ("By density" these formulae will remain valid outside $V^\times$, and under some assumptions extend to the whole of V; we will not go into such details.) □

8.2. **Doubling: ABCD-construction, octonions, and dicyclic loop of a group sphere.** There exist *proper* Moufang spherical spaces, i.e., Moufang spheres that are not associative: starting with a non-commutative group spherical space (V, q), fixing a unit element e, the ACD-double $KD(\mathbb{A})$ of the algebra $\mathbb{A} = (V, e)$, is a non-associative octonion algebra (Section 7.1), hence defines a proper Moufang spherical space. In order to avoid the apparent dependence on the choice of base point, and the involution $\sharp$ depending on this choice, we have given in Theorem 7.3 a ternary version ("ABCD construction") of the ACD-construction.

Example 8.1. Starting with a non-zero binary quadratic form q on $\mathbb{K}^2$, we may form its concrete Clifford-quaternion algebra $\mathbf{H}_q$ (which is non-commutative and unital even if the form q did not represent 1), and then its ACD-extension $KD(\mathbf{H}_q)$ with $\mu = -1$, which is non-associative. We call it the *octonion algebra associated with a binary quadratic form.*

Theorem 8.4. *Let (V, q) be group spherical space with base point $e \in V^\times$, and $\mathbb{A}$ its homotope composition algebra at e. The Moufang loop $KD(\mathbb{A})^\times$ contains as subloop the Moufang double (Appendix B, with $\varepsilon = -1$)*

$$D(V^\times) = \mathbb{A}^\times \sqcup \mathbb{A}^\times$$

of the group of invertible elements of V. Moreover, if $\mu = -1$, then a sphere S of $KD(\mathbb{A})$ satisfies: $S_0 := S \cap \mathbb{A} \neq \emptyset$ iff $S_1 := S \cap \mathbb{A}m \neq \emptyset$, and then $S_0 \sqcup S_1$ is the dicyclic loop of $(S_0, -e)$ (Def. B.3).

Proof. The rules (KD0) – (KD4) from Section 7.1 correspond exactly to the definition of the Moufang double of a group, and therefore this Moufang double is naturally contained in $KD(\mathbb{A})$. Moreover, for $\mu = -1$, we readily get the formulae defining the dicyclic extension of S_0. $\qquad\square$

The preceding result is a kind of non-associative analog of the "dicyclic extension of a commutative group sphere" (see Remark 6.1): the "dicyclic extension of a non-commutative group" is not a group, but a Moufang loop (Appendix B). Note that this can also be formulated in terms of ternary products (Theorem B.4).

Example 8.2. We start with the binary quadratic form $q(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 - x_1 x_2 + x_2^2$ over $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Z}$. The corresponding commutative group spherical space is the lattice of *Eisenstein integers* $\mathbb{E} = \mathbb{E}_2$. Its unit sphere is $S = \{\pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm(e_1 + e_2)\}$; as a group, this is the cyclic group C_6; by the way, here $S = V^\times$.

Next, let $\mathbb{E}_4 = KD(\mathbb{E})$ with $\mu = -1$. It contains the Moufang double of $(C_6, -1)$, which is the dicyclic group Dic_3 of cardinal 12.

The final step $\mathbb{E}_8 = KD(\mathbb{E}_4)$ with $\mu = -1$ contains a "dicyclic Moufang double" of Dic_3, which is a certain Moufang loop of cardinal 24.

After scalar extension $\otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}$ from $\mathbb{Z}$ to $\mathbb{R}$, this is isomorphic to the usual octonions over $\mathbb{R}$, but not with the usual sublattice leading the usual integral octonion loop of cardinal 16 (see [CSm], Chapter 9).

8.3. **Split null extensions, and the structure of Moufang spherical spaces.** The split null extension (Def. 5.1) of a group spherical space is the special case $\mu = 0$ of the ABCD-construction mentioned above, where the second factor need

no longer be isomorphic to the first, as $\mathbb{K}$-module. Thus, by the general results on the ACD/ABCD-construction, it is Moufang spherical, and we have the following analog of Theorem 5.2:

Theorem 8.5. *For every group spherical space (V, q), and every right (V, q)-module W, the split null extension $V \oplus W$ is a Moufang spherical space. It is not associative, unless V is commutative or $W = 0$.*

As in Subsection 6.5, one might wonder if there is some kind of "structure theorem for Moufang spherical spaces", giving some rough classification: the non-degenerate spaces are octonion algebras, and the degenerate spaces iterated (split or non-split) null extensions of $\mathbb{K}$. Such degenerate Moufang spheres do exist: we have seen (Theorem 5.3) that there are non-commutative group spherical spaces of any dimension $n > 2$; taking an ACD-extension of such a space defines a non-associative group spherical space of any even dimension $2n$. It should be interesting to study in more detail such families of "degenerate octonion algebras".

9. Outlook

My interest in the topics discussed in the work comes from the interplay of "Lie- and Jordan geometries", [Be00, Be14], and which are related to "associative" and "alternative" geometries, [BeKi10, BeKi14]. Group and loop spheres there appear as "atoms" and important building blocks, and for this reason seem to deserve a name and a theory which fits into a general theoretic framework, for which the present work is a starting point. Here are some topics which I would like to enlarge upon, time permitting:

9.1. **Plane geometry over $\mathbb{K}$.** Since several years I have taught, in Nancy, the undergraduate course on "plane affine and Euclidean geometry" and among other sources I used lecture notes by Max Koecher, which later became the book *Ebene Geometrie* coedited by Aloys Krieg, [KK]. The authors take care to develop the analytic side of affine and Euclidean geometry in a detailed and intrinsic way, proving most results by explicit and base-independent formulas. In loc. cit., p.88, they notice that most formulae continue to make sense when replacing the real number field $\mathbb{R}$ by a general base field $\mathbb{K}$, and conclude: *With a convenient "geometric" interpretation, we have developed at the same time a **geometry over** $\mathbb{K}$. This already should justify our computational effort...* For the sake of pure mathematics, I think one should try to develop this approach as far as possible. One starting point of the present work was an essay to make a step into this direction, which lead to the elementary presentation of Theorem 3.1 chosen here. It would certainly be interesting to continue developing the "plane geometry over $\mathbb{K}$", in the sense of [KK], by making use of the group sphere structure.

9.2. **The Lister-Loos algebra.** Every group spherical space is in particular an *associative triple system.* Lister and Loos, [Li71, Lo72a], construct, for such triple systems, a binary "enveloping algebra" with involution given by an idempotent, such that the triple system becomes the -1-eigenspace of the involution, and the triple product becomes the product of three elements. Such an algebra is not unique, but

in case of a group spherical space, one can show that it is essentially the algebra $M(2, 2; V_e)$ of 2×2-matrices with coefficients in the homotope algebra at e.

Of course, for Moufang spherical spaces, this construction brakes down, and one rather is directed towards the general construction from [Lo75], §8, imbedding alternative pairs as Peirce 1-spaces of a Jordan pair with idempotent. Can one simplify this construction in the special case of a Moufang spherical case? One may guess that is related to the Jordan algebra $\mathrm{Herm}(3, V_e)$ of Hermitian matrices with coefficients in the alternative algebra V_e, but this remains to be worked out.

9.3. **Projective imbedding, projective geometry.** The invertible elements in the Lister-Loos algebra define what one might call the "projective group of a group spherical space" (the analog of $\mathbb{P}\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{C})$), and one can define a "projective completion of V", on which this group acts, very much in the way the Riemann sphere completes the complex plane. In the commutative case, this generalizes the theory of *Benz planes*; in the non-commutative case, the theory becomes more complicated. It should have a similar shape as the theory of *associative geometries* from [BeKi10], but it is not a special case of it, and there remain new things to be understood. In particular, combined with methods from [BeNe], this should lead to a nice "projective geometry of Benz planes".

9.4. **Jordan theory and Jordan geometries.** Since every sphere is a symmetric space, there is an "underlying functor" from group or Moufang spherical spaces to Jordan geometries (cf. Remark 2.2), and also the projective completion and the projective geometry of such spaces are particular instances of "Jordan geometries", see [Be00, Be14], which are important for the general theory.

9.5. **Pure algebra.** It is quite amazing how more and more complicated structures arise from the simple datum of binary quadratic form: starting with $q(x) = \alpha x_1^2 + \beta x_1 x_2 + \gamma x_2^2$, we can do all constructions we are used to in the case of the complex plane, leading up to the analog of the octonions, the Jordan algebra of Hermitian 3×3-matrices with octonion coefficiencts, and the "big" groups and spaces associated to it. In other terms, it appears that starting from a binary quadratic form, there arises a whole "Freudenthal's magic square" (cf. [Fa], Chapter 14), and all of of these structures depend in an explicit and functorial way on the binary quadratic form.

9.6. **Lattices, root systems.** The base ring $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Z}$ is admitted for our approach, and thus the theory works for *integral forms*, and in particular for *lattices*, which are an important object of study (cf. [CSl, CSm]). In the present work, I have not even touched upon this aspect. Via the theory of *root systems* it enters the "Jordan-Lie theory", cf. [LoNe, Lo85]. In a personal communication, O. Loos admitted to me that he would like to still better understand the description of the "Jordan-Lie functor" in terms of root systems that he gave in [Lo85], and to generalize it beyond the compact case. Possibly, the language developed here might be useful in such an attempt.

9.7. **Gauss composition.** Still concerning the base ring $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Z}$, one should expect some link of the theory presented here with the classical *Gauss composition of binary quadratic forms*, and with Bhargava's beautiful work [Bh].

9.8. **Invertible elements, pair concepts.** Since Theorem 3.1 is valid for *any* quadratic form, even without invertible elements, I tried in a first version to develop also the sequel of the theory in his generality. To a certain extent, this is possible, but tends to become quite formal, and I abandoned this try. Possibly, like in general Jordan theory, the good way to pursue this would be to replace the concept of a "triple system" by a "pair concept", see the arguments given by Loos in the introduction to [Lo75], and Section 4.4.

9.9. **Super-group spherical spaces, and the "tenfold way".** Like most algebraic concepts, the one of "group spherical space" admits a "super-version". This should be a $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$-graded $\mathbb{K}$-module, with a graded para-associative trilinear map $\langle - - - \rangle$, satisfying certain axioms: the homogenous parts V_0 and V_1 should be quadratic spaces, the Kirmse identities should be valid for triples of homogeneous elements of same parity, along with the composition formula. This would generalize the concept of "associative super division algebra", see [Baez10]. My impression is that such a concept could serve to better understand the "tenfold way" (loc.cit.), in terms of graded algebras, in much the same way as I have attempted this for Clifford algebras over rings continaing $\frac{1}{2}$, in [Be21].

Appendix A. Ternary products

A.1. **Binary and ternary products; left, right, middle.** An *n-ary magma* is a set M with an n-ary "product map" $\mu : M^n \to M$. When $n = 2$, this is a *binary product*, and we often use the notation $\mu(x, y) = x \cdot y = xy$, and when $n = 3$, it is a *ternary product*, and we often use one of the following notations for $\mu(x, y, z)$:

$$(A.1) \qquad \langle x|y|z \rangle \text{ or } \langle x, y, z \rangle \text{ or } \langle xyz \rangle \text{ or } (x|y|z) \text{ or } (xyz).$$

For a binary product, we have *operators of left and right multiplication*,

$$(A.2) \qquad L_x(y) = x \cdot y = R_y(x),$$

and for a ternary product $\langle -, -, - \rangle$, we define operators $L_{x,y} : M \to M$ of *left multiplication*, $R_{u,v}$ of *right multiplication*, and $S_{a,b} : M \to M$ of *middle multiplication*, by

$$(A.3) \qquad L_{x,y}(z) := \langle x, y, z \rangle =: R_{z,y}(x) := S_{x,z}(y).$$

Fixing one of the three arguments in a ternary product defines a binary product. If we fix the *middle* element y, we call the binary product

$$(A.4) \qquad xz := x \cdot_y z := \langle xyz \rangle,$$

the *homotope at y*. Then $L_x = L_{x,y}$ and $R_z = R_{z,y}$.

A $\mathbb{K}$-*algebra* is a $\mathbb{K}$-module together with a $\mathbb{K}$-bilinear binary product, and a *triple system*, or *ternary algebra* is a $\mathbb{K}$-module together with a $\mathbb{K}$-trilinear ternary product. (In this case we often prefer the notation $\langle -, -, - \rangle$.)

A.2. **Binary and ternary quasigroups and loops.** A *quasigroup* is given by a binary product such that all operators of left and right multiplication are bijective, and a *ternary quasigroup* is given by a ternary product such that all operators of left, right and middle multiplication are bijective.

A *loop* is a binary quasigroup together with a *unit element e*, that is, there exists e such that $L_e = R_e = \mathrm{id}_M$.

An *inverse loop* is a loop such that every element x admits an *inverse x^{-1}* satisfying $L_x^{-1} = L_{x^{-1}}$ and $(R_x)^{-1} = R_{x^{-1}}$, i.e., $x(x^{-1}y) = x^{-1}(xy) = y = (yx)x^{-1} = (yx^{-1})x$ (for $y = e$, this implies $x = (x^{-1})^{-1}$).

A *ternary loop* is a ternary quasigroup satisfying the *idempotency identity*

$$\text{(IP)} \qquad\qquad \forall x, y \in M : \qquad \langle xyy \rangle = x = \langle yyx \rangle$$

In other words, the homotope at y has y as unit element: $L_{y,y} = \mathrm{id} = R_{y,y}$. From a logical point of view, the binary loop property is an *existence requirement*, whereas the ternary one is an *identity* that holds for *all* elements. As a consequence, idempotency (IP) is not compatible with trilinearity, except for the zero product. A main thread of the present work is that, for triple systems, (IP) has to replaced by another identity, namely by the Kirmse-identity (K).

A.3. **Identities: commutativity.** Binary and ternary products may satisfy (or not) various *identities*. A binary product is called *commutative*, if it satisfies the identity $xy = yx$. A ternary product is called *commutative* if it satisfies

$$\text{(C)} \qquad\qquad\qquad (xyz) = (zyx),$$

and we say that it is *totally symmetric* if it is invariant under all 6 permutations of the three arguments. Thus our notation reflects a *choice*: often (but not always) the *outer* variables will play somewhat similar roles, whereas the *inner* variable has a different kind of role.

A.4. **Associativity, groups and torsors.** The most important identity is *associativity*. In the binary case, it reads as usual $x(yz) = (xy)z$, whereas in the ternary case, there are *two different versions*: ($\forall a, b, c, d, e \ldots \in M$): *associativity* (AT1), or *para-associativity* (AT2),

$$\text{(AT1)} \qquad\qquad \langle a, b, \langle c, d, e \rangle \rangle = \langle a, \langle b, c, d \rangle, e \rangle = \langle \langle a, b, c \rangle, d, e \rangle$$
$$\text{(AT2)} \qquad\qquad \langle a, b, \langle c, d, e \rangle \rangle = \langle a, \langle d, c, b \rangle, e \rangle = \langle \langle a, b, c \rangle, d, e \rangle$$

Example A.1. For every binary associative product $M^2 \to M$, $(x, y) \mapsto xy$, the ternary product $\langle xyz \rangle := (xy)z = x(yz)$ satisfies (AT1), and if moreover $M \to M$, $x \mapsto x^*$ is an anti-automorphism of order 2, then the new product $\langle xyz \rangle := (xy^*)z = x(y^*z)$ satisfies (AT2). In the other direction, given a ternary product satisfying (AT1) or (AT2), for any $y \in M$, the *homotope* $xz := x \cdot_y z := \langle x, y, z \rangle$. is a binary associative product on M.

Theorem A.1 (Torsors)**.** *In every group $(G, \cdot)$, we define its* torsor structure *by*

$$\text{(A.5)} \qquad\qquad\qquad (xyz) := xy^{-1}z.$$

It satisfies (IP) *and* (AT2). *Conversely, in any non-empty set G with ternary product satisfying* (IP) *and* (AT2), *for any* $y \in G$, *the homotope is a group law on G.*

Proof. Straightforward computation: the neutral element in the homotope at y is y, and the inverse is $x^{-1} = (yxy)$. $\square$

Definition A.2. *Following previous work* [BeKi10], *we will use the term* torsor *for a set with ternary product satisfying (AT2) and (IP). By* semi-torsor *we mean a ternary product satisfying (AT2), but possibly not (IP).*[3]

The preceding discussion can be summarized by the slogan: *"Torsors are for groups what affine spaces are for linear spaces."* Note that we are thus naturally lead to (AT2), and not to (AT1), and it is for this reason that (AT2) plays a more important role than (AT1).

Definition A.3. *An* associative triple system (of the first, resp. second kind) *is a triple system over* $\mathbb{K}$ *satisfying (AT1), resp. (AT2).*

See [Li71, Lo72a] for a theory of associative triple systems.

A.5. **Weakening of associativity: binary case.** The binary associative law may be weakened in several ways in order to define structures that are "close to associative". For instance, a binary product is called *alternative* if

(A.6) $\qquad L_x^2 = L_{x^2}, R_x^2 = R_{x^2} : \qquad x(xy) = (xxy), (yx)x = y(xx).$

A binary loop with unit e is an *inverse loop* if it has a unary operation "inverse" $x \mapsto x^{-1}$ such that

(A.7) $\quad L_x^{-1} = L_{x^{-1}}, R_x^{-1} = R_{x^{-1}} : \quad x^{-1}(xy) = y = x(x^{-1}y) = (yx)x^{-1} = (yx^{-1})x.$

It follows that $(x^{-1})^{-1} = x$, and the condition $xy = z$ can be written in six ways (in [CSm], Section 7.1, this is called the "hexad" of relations):

(A.8) $\qquad xy = z, x = zy^{-1}, z^{-1}x = y^{-1}, z^{-1} = y^{-1}x^{-1}, yz^{-1} = x^{-1}, y = x^{-1}z.$

In particular, inversion then is an *involution* of the binary product (anti-automorphism of order 2), and (p. 87 loc.cit.) the *flexibility relation* $L_a R_a = R_a L_a =: B_a$ holds:

(A.9) $\qquad\qquad\qquad (ax)a = a(xa) =: B_a(x),$

defining the *operator* B_a *of bimultiplication by* a. The relation $x(yz) = e$ is equivalent to $(xy)z = e$, and written as $xyz = e$, giving rise to *triality*, see Prop. A.9.

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[3]Unfortunately, there is no universally adopted terminology for these objects (categories, in fact) – other terms are *(semi)heap, principal homogeneous space, (semi)groud,...* – see [BeKi10] for some remarks concerning terminology and its history.

A.6. **Ternary inverse loops.** The ternary (para) associative law (AT2) can be weakened in many ways.

Definition A.4. *A* ternary inverse loop *is a ternary loop M such that, for each fixed $y \in M$, the binary homotope at y is an inverse loop with inverse $x^{-1} = (yxy)$, that is, the following identitites hold:*

$$L_{x,y} \circ L_{(yxy),y} = \mathrm{id} = L_{(yxy),y} \circ L_{x,y}, \quad (xy((yxy)yu)) = u = ((yxy)y(xyu)),$$
$$R_{x,y} \circ R_{(yxy),y} = \mathrm{id} = R_{(yxy),y} \circ R_{x,y}, \quad ((uy(yxy))yx) = u = ((uyx)y(yxy)).$$

It follows that, in the homotope at y, the flexibility and the automorphic inverse properties hold, that is, we have also the following identities:

(A.10) $$B_{a,y} := L_{a,y} \circ R_{a,y} = R_{a,y} \circ L_{a,y}, \qquad (ay(xay)) = ((ayx)ay),$$

(A.11) $$S_{y,y}((xyz)) = (S_{y,y}z, y, S_{y,y}x), \qquad (y(xyz)y) = ((yzy)y(yxy)).$$

Also, inversion must be of order two, $(y(yxy)y) = x$.

A.7. **Ternary left- and right half-torsors.**

Definition A.5. *A* left half-torsor *is a ternary inverse loop satisfying the* left Chasles relation:

$$L_{x,y} \circ L_{y,z} = L_{x,z}, \quad (xy(yzu)) = (xzu).$$

A right half-torsor *is a ternary inverse loop satisfying the* right Chasles relation:

$$R_{x,y} \circ R_{y,z} = R_{x,z}, \quad ((uzy)yx) = (uzx).$$

Lemma A.6. *Every left half-torsor is given by, using the homotope at e, for arbitrary e,*

$$(xyz) = x(y^{-1}z) = (xe((eye)ez).$$

Conversely, given a binary inverse loop, we can define a left half-torsor on the same underlying set by letting $(xyz) := x(y^{-1}z)$. Similar statements hold for right half-torsors given by $(xyz) = (xy^{-1})z$. In both cases, the following identities holds:

$$L_{x,y}^{-1} = L_{y,x}, \qquad R_{x,y}^{-1} = R_{y,x}, \qquad S_{x,z}^{-1} = S_{z,x}$$
$$(xy(yxu)) = u, \quad ((uxy)yx) = u, \quad (x(zux)z) = u.$$

Proof. Assume given a left half-torsor. Then $(xyz) = (xe(eyz)) = (xe((eye)ez))$, by 2. and 3. Conversely, given a binary inverse loop, $(xyz) = L_x L_y^{-1}(z)$, so $L_{x,y} = L_x L_y^{-1}$, whence $L_{x,x} = \mathrm{id}$, $L_{x,y}L_{y,z} = L_{x,z}$ and $(xey) = e$ iff $L_x(y) = e$ iff $y = L_x^{-1}e = L_e L_x^{-1}e = (exe)$, so $y = (exe)$ is the inverse of x at e.

In a left half-torsor, $(L_{x,y})^{-1}(L_x L_y^{-1})^{-1} = L_y L_x^{-1} = L_{y,x}$ and $R_{x,y}(z) = (zyx) = z(y^{-1}x) = R_{y^{-1}x,e}(x)$, whence, using the automorphic inverse property, $R_{x,y}^{-1} = R_{y^{-1}x,e}^{-1} = R_{(y^{-1}x)^{-1},e} = R_{x^{-1}y,e} = R_{y,x}$. Similarly for a right half-torsor. $\square$

The last part of the proof shows that apparently "dual" identities may have very different proofs. The remarkable properties of inverse loops are due to the fact that left and right inverse coincide, given by the same inversion map $S_{y,y}$.

Lemma A.7. *A ternary product is a torsor if, and only if, it is both a left and a right half-torsor.*

Proof. Clearly, every torsor is both a left and a right half-torsor. Conversely, if (xyz) is both a left and and right half-torsor, then, for every fixed element e, we have $(xyz) = x(y^{-1}z) = (xy^{-1})z$, by the preceding lemma. Inversion at e is of order two, so it is a bijection, so we may replace y by y^{-1} to see that the product at e is associative, and since it admits inverses, it is a group law, and $(xyz) = xy^{-1}z$ is the corresponding torsor product. $\qquad\square$

A.8. **Autotopies, triality, and binary Moufang loops.**

Definition A.8. *An* autotopy *of an n-ary product $\langle x_1 \ldots x_n \rangle$ is an $n+1$-tuple $(f_1, \ldots, f_n; f_0)$ of bijections $f_i : M \to M$, such that always*

(A.12) $$f_0(\langle x_1 \ldots x_n \rangle) = \langle f_1(x_1) \ldots f_n(x_n) \rangle.$$

The autotopies form a group, the autotopism group *of the n-ary product. (Cf. [BeKi10], where such property is rather called "structurality".) The* automorphism group *is the "diagonal subgroup", given by $f_i = f_j$ for all i, j.)*

Proposition A.9. *Let $(M, \cdot, e)$ be a binary inverse loop, and $j : M \to M$, $x \mapsto j(x) = x^{-1}$ its inversion map. Then $f = (f_1, f_2; f_0)$ is an autotopy iff any of the following is an autotopy:*

$$(jf_0j, f_1; jf_2j), \ (f_2, jf_0j; jf_1j), \ (jf_2j, jf_1j; jf_0j), \ (jf_1j, f_0; f_1), \ (f_0, jf_2j; f_1).$$

In other words, the autotopism group carries 6 automorphisms forming a group isomorphic to $\mathfrak{S}_3$. The automorphism T of order 3 with $T(f) = (jf_0j, f_1; jf_2j)$ is called the triality automorphism *of the autotopism group.*

Proof. (Cf. [CSm], Chapter 7.) The ternary relation $R \subset M^3$ given by $(x, y, z) \in R$ iff $xy = z$ is invariant under six maps that are combination of permutation of factors and applying j on certain factors: see (A.8), rewritten $(x, y, z) \in R$ iff $(jz), x, j(y)) \in R$, iff $(j(x), z, y) \in R$, etc. Conjugation by these six maps defines six automorphisms of the autotopy group. $\qquad\square$

So far we cannot guarantee the existence of non-trivial autotopies. The following axiom is going to change this:

Definition A.10. *A binary loop M is called a* Moufang loop *("Moup", cf. [CSm]) if, for all $a \in M$, the triple $(L_a, R_a; B_a)$, where $B_a = L_a \circ R_a$, is an autotopy, that is, iff the following* Moufang identity *holds:*

$$(ax)(ya) = a((xy)a)$$

Every Moufang loop is in particular alternative, flexible, and an inverse loop. The defining identity is also equivalent to each of the following:

(M1) $L_z \circ L_x \circ L_z = L_{(zx)z}$, i.e., $z(x(zy)) = ((zx)z)y$,
(M2) $R_z \circ R_x \circ R_z = R_{z(xz)}$, i.e. $((yz)x)z = y(z(xz))$

Since $jL_aj(x) = (ax^{-1})^{-1} = xa^{-1} = R_{a^{-1}}(x)$, the "hexad" of autotopies obtained from $(L_a, R_a; B_a)$ via Prop. A.9 is (cf. [CSm], p.87): the following are autotopies

(A.13) $\begin{array}{lll} (L_a, R_a; B_a), & (B_a, L_{a^{-1}}; L_a), & (R_a, B_{a^{-1}}; R_{a^{-1}}, \\ (L_{a^{-1}}, R_{a^{-1}}; B_{a^{-1}}), & (B_{a^{-1}}, L_a; L_{a^{-1}}), & (R_{a^{-1}}, B_a; R_a). \end{array}$

A.9. **Left and Right ternary Moufang loops.** Whereas a single ternary concept (torsor) corresponds to groups, there are two different ternary versions (left and right) corresponding to binary Moufang loops. Thus fixing the ternary concept involves a *choice*, between "left" and "right".

Definition A.11. *A* left ternary Moufang loop *is a left half-torsor satisfying the identity*

$$((xba)(yba)(zab)) = ((xyz)ab),$$

meaning that the quadruple $(R_{a,b}, R_{b,a}, R_{b,a}; R_{a,b})$ *is an autotopy. A* right ternary Moufang loop *is a right half-torsor satisfying the identity*

$$((abx)(bay)(baz)) = (ab(xyz)),$$

meaning that the quadruple $(L_{a,b}, L_{b,a}, L_{b,a}; L_{a,b})$ *is an autotopy.*

Theorem A.12 (Ternary and binary Moufang loops)**.**

(1) *In a left (resp., right) ternary Moufang loop, every homotope at e is a binary Moufang loop.*

(2) *Every left ternary Moufang loop can be recovered from a homotope $xz = (xez)$ via $(xyz) = x(y^{-1}z)$ in the sense of Lemma A.6, and every right ternary Moufang loop via $(xyz) = (xy^{-1})z$.*

(3) *In a left ternary Moufang loop, $(B_{a,b}, B_{a,b}, L_{a,b}; L_{a,b})$ is an autotopy; in a right ternary Moufang loop, $(R_{a,b}, B_{a,b}, B_{a,b}; R_{a,b})$ is an autotopy.*

(4) *Both left and right ternary Moufang loops are* reflection spaces *in the sense of* [Lo67] *(cf. Subsection 2.4), when equipped with the binary product*

$$\mu(x,y) := S_{x,x}(y) = (xyx) = x(y^{-1}x) = (xy^{-1})x.$$

In a left ternary Moufang loop, the set of right multiplications is stable under the composition $(f,g) \mapsto fg^{-1}f$, and a right ternary Moufang, the set left multiplications is stable under this composition.

Proof. 1. Assume (xyz) is a left ternary Moufang loop, and let $e \in M$. We show that the homotope at e is a Moufang loop. If $(f_1, f_2, f_3; f_4)$ is a ternary autotopy, so $f_4((xyz)) = (f_1(x)f_2(yf_3(z))) = f_1(x)(f_2(y)^{-1}f_3(z))$, we let $y = e$: for all $x, z \in M$,

$$f_4(xz) = f_1(x) \cdot f_2(e)^{-1}f_3(z),$$

so we get a binary autotopy $(f_1, L_{f_2(e)}^{-1} \circ f_3; f_4)$. In particular, the ternary autotopy $(R_{a,e}, R_{a,e}, R_{e,a}; R_{e,a})$ gives the binary autotopy $(R_a, B_{a^{-1}}; R_{a^{-1}})$, since

$$a^{-1}(xz) = R_{e,a}(xez) = (R_{a,e}x, R_{a,e}y, R_{e,a}z) = xa \cdot (a^{-1} \cdot za^{-1}) = R_a(x)B_{a^{-1}}(z),$$

which is one of the six versions of the Moufang identity in the "hexad" (A.13), so the binary loop is a Moufang loop. By the same computation, for $b = e = y$ in a right ternary Moufang loop, the defining identity implies $B_a(x) \cdot L_{a^{-1}}(x) = L_a(xz)$, which is again eqivalent to the Moufang identity, by the "hexad".

2. Conversely, assume M is a Mouf with unit e, and define the corresponding left half-torsor by $(xyz) := x(y^{-1}z)$. It has been shown in [BeKi14], Lemma 3.4., that every homotope is again a binary Moufang loop, thus we may compute in the

homotope at b; that is, we may assume that $b = e$. Using the "hexad" (A.13) twice, along with $(uv)^{-1} = v^{-1}u^{-1}$:

$$((xba)(yba)(zab)) = xa \cdot ((ya)^{-1} \cdot (za^{-1})) = xa \cdot (L_{a^{-1}}y^{-1} \cdot R_{a^{-1}}z)$$
$$= R_a(x) \cdot B_{a^{-1}}(y^{-1}z) = R_{a^{-1}}(x(y^{-1}z)) = R_{b,a}(xyz).$$

3. In a left ternary Moufang loop, $(xyz) = x(y^{-1}z)$; as above we may assume $b = e = y$ and use the hexad (A.13),

$$(B_{a,b}x, B_{a,b}y, L_{a,b}z) = axa \cdot (a^{-2} \cdot az) = B_a(x) \cdot a^{-1}z$$
$$= L_a(xz) = L_{a,b}(xyz),$$

so $(B_{a,b}, B_{a,b}, L_{a,b}; L_{a,b})$ is an autotopy. Similarly in a right ternary Moufang loop.

4. Loos ([Lo67], Satz 1.3) shows that every Mouf with $\sigma_x(y) = xy^{-1}x$ is a reflection space (and, moreover, that left and right multiplications are automorphisms of the reflection space).

The identities (M1) and (M2) imply that, for a binary Moufang loop, both the sets of left and of right multiplications are stable under $(f, g) \mapsto fg^{-1}f$. For a left ternary Moufang loop, $R_{a,b} = R_{b^{-1}a}$, so set of right multiplications is the same as for the binary homotope, whence the last claim. $\square$

Remark A.1. The ternary Moufang loops defined in [BeKi14], Def. 3.5, are precisely the *right* ternary Moufang loops considered here. In loc.cit., the defining identities are

(MT0) idempotency $(xxy) = y = (yxx)$
(MT1) $R_{x,y}R_{x,v} = R_{(xyx),v} : ((uvx)yx) = (uv(xyx))$
(MT2) $L_{x,y}L_{x,y} = L_{(xyx),y} : (xy(xyz)) = ((xyx)yz)$

In loc. cit., Lemma 3.4., it is shown that this definition again leads to $(xyz) = (xy^{-1})z$. Although (MT1), (MT2) involve less variables than the identities used here, their conceptual meaning is less clear, since the "duality" between right and left ternary Moufang loops remains hidden.

APPENDIX B. THE MOUFANG DOUBLE OF A GROUP

The disjoint union of two copies of a group G carries a rather natural structure of Moufang loop. This result is du to Orin Chein ([Ch]). (See also https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moufang_loop#Examples.) We generalize this result, with the aim to show that this construction is essentially equivalent to the ACD-construction, broken up into its pieces (KD0)-(KD4) (cf. Section 7.1). We also give a ternary version of this construction ("ABCD-construction"). Recall that a *central involution* $\sharp$ of a group G is an involution such that $gg^\sharp = g^\sharp g$ is always in the center of the group, as is the case for group inversion $g^\sharp = g^{-1}$. Another example is the adjugate involution of $\mathrm{Gl}(2, \mathbb{K})$.

Definition B.1. *The* double *of a set M is the union of two disjoint copies of M:*

$$D(M) := M \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = M_0 \sqcup M_1 = (M \times \{0\}) \sqcup (M \times \{1\}).$$

For $x \in M$ we let $x_i := x \times \{i\} \in M_i$. Elements of $D(M)$ are called even *if they belong to M_0 and* odd *if they belong to M_1. Assume $\cdot$ is a binary product on M.*

We want to extend it to a graded binary product $\bullet$ *on* $D(M)$*, i.e., such that always*

$$x_i \bullet y_j \in M_{i+j \mod 2}.$$

In other terms, we have to describe 4 *products on* M*, its* components, *corresponding to the* 4 *products* $M_i \times M_j \to M_{i+j \mod 2}$*: for* $x, y \in M$*, we have to define the values*

$$x_0 \bullet y_0 \in M_0, \quad x_0 \bullet y_1 \in M_1, \quad x_1 \bullet y_2 \in M_1, \quad x_1 \bullet y_1 \in M_0.$$

The trivial graded extension *is* $x_i \bullet y_j := (xy)_{i+j \mod 2}$*, i.e., all* 4 *products are equal to the original product in* M*.*

Theorem B.2. *Let* G *be a group, together with a central involution* $\sharp$*, and fix two elements* ε *and* μ *of the the center* $Z(G)$*, fixed under* $\sharp$*, and with* $\varepsilon^2 = e$*. Then we define a graded product* $\bullet$ *on* $D(G)$*, and a new map* $\sharp : D(M) \to D(M)$*, by:*

parity of x	parity of y	$x \bullet y$
0	0	$(xy)_0$
0	1	$(yx)_1$
1	0	$(xy^\sharp)_1$
1	1	$\mu\varepsilon(y^\sharp x)_0$

parity of x	$x^\sharp$
0	$(x^\sharp)_0$
1	εx_1

Then the following holds:

(1) *If* G *is commutative and* $\sharp$ *trivial, then* $D(G)$ *is a commutative group.*
(2) *If* G *is commutative but* $\sharp$ *non-trivial, then* $D(G)$ *is a non-commutative group.*
(3) *If* G *is not commutative, then* $(D(G), \bullet)$ *is a non-associative* Moufang loop.

In any case, the new $\sharp : D(G) \to D(G)$ *is again a central involution, and it is related to the inversion map via* $x^{-1} = (x^\sharp x)^{-1} x^\sharp$*, where* $(x^\sharp x)^{-1}$ *is the (group) inverse in the center of* $D(G)$*.*

Proof. (1) and (2): If G is commutative, the inversion map $g \mapsto g^{-1}$ is an automorphism of order 2, so the semi-direct product $G \rtimes C_2$ is well-defined; the elements ε, μ introduce a cocycle term, so we have a central extension of G. Conversely, assume $D(G)$ is associative and let $f, g, h \in G$. The equality $(f_0 g_0) h_1 = f_0(g_0 h_1)$ gives $(h(fg))_1 = ((hg)f)_1$, whence $fg = gf$ in G, whence G is commutative.

To prove (3) we show that the Moufang identity (M1) holds: let $x, y, z \in G$, and check (M1) for the 8 possible cases taking x_i, y_j, z_k with $i, j, k = 0$ or 1. We compute the products directly by applying definitions. For better readability, we omit the index $\ell = i + j + k \mod (2)$ in the last two columns. In Lines 3 – 6 we use that $zz^\sharp$ belongs to the center. We find that the last two columns always coincide:

parity of z_k	parity of x_i	parity of y_j	$z(x(zy))$	$((zx)z)y$
0	0	0	$zxzy$	$zxzy$
0	0	1	$yzxz$	$yzxz$
0	1	0	$zz^\sharp xy^\sharp$	$zz^\sharp xy^\sharp$
0	1	1	$\mu\varepsilon\, zz^\sharp\, y^\sharp x$	$\mu\varepsilon\, zz^\sharp\, y^\sharp x$
1	0	0	$\mu\varepsilon\, zz^\sharp\, x^\sharp y$	$\mu\varepsilon\, zz^\sharp\, x^\sharp y$
1	0	1	$\mu\varepsilon\, zz^\sharp\, yx^\sharp$	$\mu\varepsilon\, zz^\sharp\, yx^\sharp$
1	1	0	$\mu\varepsilon\, zx^\sharp zy^\sharp$	$\mu\varepsilon\, zx^\sharp zy^\sharp$
1	1	1	$\mu^2\, y^\sharp zx^\sharp z$	$\mu^2\, y^\sharp zx^\sharp z$

Clearly, e is a unit for the product, and $D(G)$ is a quasigroup (since left and right multiplications and inversion are bijections in G). Explicitly, the inverse of x_0 is its inverse $(x_0)^{-1}$ in G_0, and the inverse of x_1 is $(\varepsilon(xx^\sharp)^{-1}x)_1$. Thus $D(G)$ is a Moufang loop. The new map $\sharp : D(G) \to D(G)$ is of order 2, and it is an anti-automorphism, as is seen by distinguishing 4 cases to compute $(xy)^\sharp$ and $y^\sharp x^\sharp$. $\square$

Definition B.3. *Let G be a group and $Z \in G$ be a central element of order 2 (if G is a matrix group containing $-$id, we will take $Z = -$id). We define*
* *(1) the* dihedral loop *of G to be $Dih(G) := D(G)$, by taking on G the involution $g^\sharp = g^{-1}$ and $\mu = e$ and $\varepsilon = e$ (neutral element),*
* *(2) the* dicyclic loop *of (G, Z) to be $Dic(G, Z) := D(G)$ by taking on G the involution $g^\sharp = g^{-1}$ and $\mu = e$ and $\varepsilon = Z$.*

Note that, when G is commutative, then $Dih(G)$ is indeed the generalized dihedral group of G, and $Dic(G, Z)$ the generalized dicyclic group of (G, Z) (Remark 6.1).

Remark B.1. The dicyclic extension $Dic(\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{K}), -I)$ should be particularly interesting for the purposes of linear algebra and group theory.

Theorem B.4. *Let assumptions and notations be as in the preceding theorem. Then the "new" ternary product $\langle abc \rangle := a \bullet (b^\sharp \bullet c)$ on $D(G)$ is given by the following table, in terms of the "old" product $\langle xyz \rangle = xy^\sharp z$ living on G:*

i	j	k	$\langle x_i y_j z_k \rangle = x_i \bullet (y_j^\sharp \bullet z_k)$
0	0	0	$\langle xyz \rangle_0$
0	0	1	$\langle zyx \rangle_1$
0	1	0	$\varepsilon \cdot \langle yzx \rangle_1$
1	0	0	$\langle xzy \rangle_1$
1	1	0	$\mu \cdot \langle zyx \rangle_0$
1	0	1	$\varepsilon\mu \cdot \langle yzx \rangle_0$
0	1	1	$\mu \cdot \langle xzy \rangle_0$
1	1	1	$\mu \cdot \langle xyz \rangle_0$

In particular, when $\varepsilon = 1 = \mu$, then the ternary Moufang structure on $D(G)$ is given by permutations, depending on the tri-degree of (x, y, z), of the order in the original torsor law (xyz).

Proof. Direct computation. $\square$

Remark B.2. The warning from Remark 7.1 applies here, too: our definition of the Moufang double follows McCrimmon's conventions. By following Faulkner's convention, we get another, "dual", definition, $\bullet'$ which is adapted to the right ternary product $(a \bullet' b^\sharp) \bullet' c$.

parity of x	parity of y	$x \bullet' y$
0	0	$(xy)_0$
0	1	$(x^\sharp y)_1$
1	0	$(yx)_1$
1	1	$\mu\varepsilon(yx^\sharp)_0$

parity of x	$x^\sharp$
0	$(x^\sharp)_0$
1	εx_1

Summing up, one should distinguish a "left" from a "right Moufang double".

Example B.1. Certain sequences $G, D(G), D(D(G)), D(D(D(G)))$ are analogs of the sequence $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}, \mathbb{O}$. For instance:

(1) $G = C_2 = \{\pm 1\}$ and $\varepsilon = -1$, and $\mu = 1$. Then $D(G) = C_4$, $D(D(G)) = \mathbf{Q}$ (quaternion group of order 8), $D^3(G)$ is $\mathbf{O}$, the octonion loop of order 16.

(2) $G = C_2$, $\varepsilon = \mu = -1$, then $D(G) = C_2 \times C_2$, $D(D(G)) = D_4$ (dihedral group), and $D^3(G)$ is the split octonion loop of order 16.

(3) $G = C_3$ with $g^\sharp = g^{-1}$ and $\varepsilon = \mu = 1$, then $D(G) = D_3$, $D(D(G))$ is smallest possible non-associative Moup, of cardinal 12.

(4) $G = C_6$ with $g^\sharp = g^{-1}$ and $\mu = 1$, $\varepsilon = -1$ (element of order 2 in C_6), $D(G) = Dic_3$, $D(D(G))$ a Moufang loop of cardinal 24 (cf. Example 8.2).

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Wolfgang Bertram, Institut Elie Cartan de Lorraine,, Site de Nancy, B.P. 70239, F - 54506 Vandœuvre Cedex, France, wolfgang.bertram@univ-lorraine.fr, http://wolfgang.bertram.perso.math.cnrs.fr