# The geometry of tangent conjugate connections

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#### Abstract

The notion of conjugate connection is introduced in the almost tangent geometry and its properties are studied from a global point of view. Two variants for this type of connections are also considered in order to find the linear connections making parallel a given almost tangent structure.

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# Introduction

Let F be a tensor field of (1, 1)-type on a given smooth manifold M. An interesting object in the geometry of pair (M, F) is provided by the class of F-linear connections i.e. linear connections  $\nabla$  making F parallel:  $\nabla F = 0$ . In order to determine this class, in [9] is introduced the notion of F-conjugate connection associated to a fixed (non-necessary F-connection)  $\nabla$ . By denoting  $\nabla^{(F)}$  this F-conjugate connection we have studied the geometry of  $(M, F, \nabla, \nabla^{(F)})$  until now for two cases: almost complex structures in [1] and almost product structures in [2].

The present work is devoted to another remarkable type of tensor fields of (1, 1)type, namely *almost tangent structures*. These structures were introduced by Clark and Bruckheimer [5] and Eliopoulos [10] around 1960 and have been investigated by several authors, see [3], [6]-[8], [16], [18]. As it is well-known, the tangent bundle of a manifold carries a canonical integrable almost tangent structure, hence the name. This tangent structure plays an important rôle in the Lagrangian description of analytical mechanics, [7]-[8], [12].

Recall that we are interested in the class of J-linear connections since, according to [15, p. 120], the existence of a symmetric (torsion-free) one in this class implies the

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integrability of J in the sense of G-structures as is discussed below; for example, J-linear connections of Levi-Civita type are studied in [11]. An important difference between the former structures (almost complex, almost product) and the later (almost tangent) is given by the fact that an almost tangent structure J is a degenerate tensor field due to its nilpotence  $J^2 = 0$ , see the following Section. An example where this difference is obvious is the duality property  $(\nabla^{(F)})^{(F)} = \nabla$  which holds for a non-degenerate F while for almost tangent structures we have ii) of our Proposition 2.1.

The content of paper is as follows. After a short survey in almost tangent geometry we introduce the tangent conjugate connection  $\nabla^{(J)}$  in Section 2 following the pattern of [1]-[2]. Its properties are studied following the same way as in the cited papers; for example the difference  $\nabla^{(J)} - \nabla$  is expressed again in terms of two tensor fields of (1, 2)types called *structural* and *virtual* tensor fields. We study also the behavior of the tangent conjugate connections for a family of anti-commuting almost tangent structures. In the last two Sections we generalize  $\nabla^{(J)}$ , firstly through an exponential process and secondly with a general tensor field of (1, 2)-type.

## 1. Almost tangent geometry revisited

Let M be a smooth, m-dimensional real manifold for which we denote:  $C^{\infty}(M)$ -the real algebra of smooth real functions on M,  $\Gamma(TM)$ -the Lie algebra of vector fields on M,  $T_s^r(M)$ -the  $C^{\infty}(M)$ -module of tensor fields of (r, s)-type on M. An element of  $T_1^1(M)$  is usually called vector 1-form or affinor.

Recall the concept of almost tangent geometry:

**1.1. Definition.**  $J \in T_1^1(M)$  is called *almost tangent structure* on M if it has constant rank and:

$$ImJ = \ker J. \tag{1.1}$$

The pair (M, J) is called *almost tangent manifold*.

The name is motivated by the fact that (1.1) implies the nilpotence  $J^2 = 0$  exactly as the natural tangent structure of tangent bundles. Denoting rankJ = n it results m = 2n. If in addition, we suppose that J is integrable i.e.:

$$N_J(X,Y) := [JX,JY] - J[JX,Y] - J[X,JY] + J^2[X,Y] = 0$$
(1.2)

then J is called *tangent structure* and (M, J) is called *tangent manifold*.

From [17, p. 3246] we get some features of tangent manifolds:

(i) the distribution ImJ (= ker J) defines a foliation denoted V(M) and called the vertical distribution.

**1.2. Example.**  $M = \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $J_e(x, y) = (0, x)$  is a tangent structure with ker  $J_e$  the Y-axis, hence the name. The subscript *e* comes from "Euclidean".

(ii) there exists an atlas on M with local coordinates  $(x, y) = (x^i, y^i)_{1 \le i \le n}$  such that  $J = \frac{\partial}{\partial u^i} \otimes dx^i$  i.e.:

$$J\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}, \quad J\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}\right) = 0.$$
(1.3)

We call *canonical coordinates* the above (x, y) and the change of canonical coordinates  $(x, y) \rightarrow (\tilde{x}, \tilde{y})$  is given by:

$$\begin{cases} \widetilde{x}^{i} = \widetilde{x}^{i} \left( x \right) \\ \widetilde{y}^{i} = \frac{\partial \widetilde{x}^{i}}{\partial x^{a}} y^{a} + B^{i} \left( x \right). \end{cases}$$
(1.4)

It results an alternative description in terms of G-structures. Namely, a tangent structure is a G-structure with:

$$G = \{ C = \begin{pmatrix} A & O_n \\ B & A \end{pmatrix} \in GL(2n, \mathbb{R}); \quad A \in GL(n, \mathbb{R}), B \in gl(n, \mathbb{R}) \}$$
(1.5)

and G is the invariance group of matrix  $J = \begin{pmatrix} O_n & O_n \\ I_n & O_n \end{pmatrix}$  i.e.  $C \in G$  if and only if  $C \cdot J = J \cdot C$ .

The natural almost tangent structure J of M = TN is an example of tangent structure having exactly the expression (1.3) if  $(x^i)$  are the coordinates on N and  $(y^i)$  are the coordinates in the fibers of  $TN \to N$ . Also,  $J_e$  of Example 1.2 has the above expression (1.3) with n = 1, whence it is integrable. A third class of examples is obtained by duality: if J is an (integrable) endomorphism with  $J^2 = 0$  then its dual  $J^* : \Gamma(T^*M) \to \Gamma(T^*M)$ , given by  $J^*\alpha := \alpha \circ J$  for  $\alpha \in \Gamma(T^*M)$ , is (integrable) endomorphism with  $(J^*)^2 = 0$ .

# 2. Basic properties of tangent conjugate connections

Let  $\nabla$  be a linear connection on the almost tangent manifold (M, J) and define the tangent conjugate connection of  $\nabla$  by:

$$\nabla^{(J)} := \nabla - J \circ \nabla J. \tag{2.1}$$

Remark that  $\nabla^{(J)}$  coincides with  $\nabla$  if and only if  $\nabla J \subseteq \ker J = ImJ$  which means the inclusion  $\nabla(\Gamma(TM) \times \ker J) \subseteq \ker J = ImJ$ , in particular if  $\nabla$  is a *J*-linear connection; for another case see i) of Proposition 2.3. For any  $X, Y \in \Gamma(TM)$  we get:

$$\nabla_X^{(J)} Y = \nabla_X Y - J(\nabla_X JY). \tag{2.2}$$

A first set of properties for this linear connection are given by:

**2.1. Proposition.** The tangent conjugate connection  $\nabla^{(J)}$  satisfies:

i)  $\nabla^{(J)}J = \nabla J$ , which means that  $\nabla$  and  $\nabla^{(J)}$  are simultaneous J-linear connections or not;

ii)  $\nabla^{2(J)} =: (\nabla^{(J)})^{(J)} = 2\nabla^{(J)} - \nabla$ ; more generally  $\nabla^{n(J)} = n\nabla^{(J)} - (n-1)\nabla$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ; iii) its torsion is  $T_{\nabla^{(J)}} = T_{\nabla} - J \circ d^{\nabla}J$  where  $d^{\nabla}$  is the exterior covariant derivative induced by  $\nabla$ , namely  $(d^{\nabla}J)(X,Y) := (\nabla_X J)Y - (\nabla_Y J)X$ ; iv) its curvature is

$$R_{\nabla^{(J)}}(X,Y,Z) = R_{\nabla}(X,Y,Z) - \nabla_X J(\nabla_Y JZ) + \nabla_Y J(\nabla_X JZ) - -J[\nabla_X J(\nabla_Y Z) - \nabla_Y J(\nabla_X Z) - \nabla_{[X,Y]} JZ].$$
(2.3)

In particular:

$$R_{\nabla^{(J)}}(X,Y,JZ) = R_{\nabla}(X,Y,JZ) - J[\nabla_X J(\nabla_Y JZ) - \nabla_Y J(\nabla_X JZ)].$$
(2.4)

Proof The general part of ii) follows by induction while for iii) a direct calculus yields  $T_{\nabla^{(J)}}(X,Y) = T_{\nabla}(X,Y) - J(\nabla_X JY - \nabla_Y JX).$ 

Let  $f: M \to M$  be a *tangentomorphism*, that is an automorphism of the *G*-structure defined by *J*:

$$f_* \circ J = J \circ f_*. \tag{2.5}$$

Recall that f is an affine transformation for  $\nabla$  if for any  $X, Y \in \Gamma(TM)$ :

$$f_*(\nabla_X Y) = \nabla_{f_*X} f_* Y. \tag{2.6}$$

These notions are connected by:

**2.2. Proposition.** If the tangentomorphism f is an affine transformation for  $\nabla$  then f is also affine transformation for  $\nabla^{(J)}$ .

*Proof* We have:

$$f_*(\nabla_X^{(J)}Y) = f_*(\nabla_X Y) - (f_* \circ J)(\nabla_X JY) = \nabla_{f_*X} f_*Y - J(f_*(\nabla_X JY)) = \nabla_{f_*X} f_*Y - J((\nabla_{f_*X} f_*(JY))) = \nabla_{f_*X} f_*Y - J((\nabla_{f_*X} J(f_*Y))) = \nabla_{f_*X}^{(J)} f_*Y$$

which yields the conclusion.  $\Box$ 

A second class of properties for the tangent conjugate connection is provided by:

**2.3.** Proposition. i) If J is  $\nabla$ -recurrent i.e.  $\nabla J = \eta \otimes J$  for  $\eta$  a 1-form, then  $\nabla^{(J)} = \nabla$ . ii) If  $\nabla$  is symmetric and  $\nabla J = \eta \otimes I$  then  $\nabla^{(J)} = \nabla - \eta \otimes J$  and  $\nabla^{(J)}$  is a quarter-symmetric connection.

*Proof* i) In this case we have  $J \circ \nabla J = 0$ .

ii) Recall after [1, p. 122] that the quarter-symmetry means the existence of a 1-form  $\pi$  and a tensor field F of (1,1)-type such that  $T_{\nabla^{(J)}} = F \wedge \pi := F \otimes \pi - \pi \otimes F$ . From Proposition 2.1 we have  $T_{\nabla^{(J)}}(X,Y) = T_{\nabla}(X,Y) - \eta(X)JY + \eta(Y)JX$ , and the hypothesis  $T_{\nabla} = 0$  yields the previous equation with F = J and  $\pi = \eta$ .  $\Box$ 

**2.4. Example.** Let N be a smooth n-dimensional manifold and M = TN its tangent bundle; hence m = 2n. Let  $\{x^i; 1 \le i \le n\}$  be a local system of coordinates on N and consider its lift to M given by  $\{x^i, y^i; 1 \le i \le n\}$  with  $y^i$  the coordinates on the fibres of TN. The canonical almost tangent structure J of M has the local expression (1.3) and it is integrable. Fix a general linear connection  $\nabla$  on M with local Christoffel symbols  $\Gamma$  as follows:

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \nabla_{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j}} = \Gamma_{ij}^{(1)k} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{k}} + \Gamma_{ij}^{(2)k} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{k}} \\ \nabla_{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{j}} = \Gamma_{ij}^{(3)k} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{k}} + \Gamma_{ij}^{(4)k} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{k}} \\ \nabla_{\frac{\partial}{\partial y^{i}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j}} = \Gamma_{ij}^{(5)k} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{k}} + \Gamma_{ij}^{(6)k} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{k}} \\ \nabla_{\frac{\partial}{\partial y^{i}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{j}} = \Gamma_{ij}^{(7)k} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{k}} + \Gamma_{ij}^{(8)k} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{k}}. \end{array} \right)$$

$$(2.7)$$

Then its tangent conjugate connection has the expression:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \nabla^{(J)}_{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j}} = \Gamma^{(1)k}_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{k}} + \left(\Gamma^{(2)k}_{ij} - \Gamma^{(3)k}_{ij}\right) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{k}} \\ \nabla^{(J)}_{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{j}} = \Gamma^{(3)k}_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{k}} + \Gamma^{(4)k}_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{k}} \\ \nabla^{(J)}_{\frac{\partial}{\partial y^{i}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j}} = \Gamma^{(5)k}_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{k}} + \left(\Gamma^{(6)k}_{ij} - \Gamma^{(7)k}_{ij}\right) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{k}} \\ \nabla^{(J)}_{\frac{\partial}{\partial y^{i}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{j}} = \Gamma^{(7)k}_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{k}} + \Gamma^{(8)k}_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{k}}. \end{array} \right.$$

$$(2.8)$$

A special case is important in applications: the initial connection  $\nabla$  is called *distinguished* or *d*-connection if it preserves the linear structure of the fibres of M which means that:

$$\Gamma^{(2)} = \Gamma^{(3)} = \Gamma^{(6)} = \Gamma^{(7)} = 0.$$
(2.9)

It results that  $\nabla$  is a *J*-connection and then its tangent conjugate connection is  $\nabla^{(J)} = \nabla$ .

# 3. The structural and the virtual tensor fields

Remark that the tangent conjugate connection  $\nabla^{(J)}$  of  $\nabla$  can be written in another form as:

$$\nabla^{(J)} = \nabla + C_{\nabla}^J - B_{\nabla}^J \tag{3.1}$$

where:

$$\begin{cases} C_{\nabla}^{J}(X,Y) := \frac{1}{2} [(\nabla_{JX}J)Y + (\nabla_{X}J)JY] \\ B_{\nabla}^{J}(X,Y) := \frac{1}{2} [(\nabla_{JX}J)Y - (\nabla_{X}J)JY]. \end{cases}$$
(3.2)

which we call respectively, the *structural* and the *virtual tensor field* of  $\nabla$ . We obtain also the following expressions for them:

$$\begin{cases} C_{\nabla}^{J}(X,Y) = \frac{1}{2} [\nabla_{JX}JY - J(\nabla_{JX}Y + \nabla_{X}JY)] \\ B_{\nabla}^{J}(X,Y) = \frac{1}{2} [\nabla_{JX}JY - J(\nabla_{JX}Y - \nabla_{X}JY)]. \end{cases}$$
(3.3)

We notice that they satisfy the following properties:

$$\begin{cases}
C_{\nabla}^{J}(JX,Y) = C_{\nabla}^{J}(X,JY) = -\frac{1}{2}J(\nabla_{JX}JY); & C_{\nabla}^{J}(JX,JY) = 0 \\
B_{\nabla}^{J}(JX,Y) = -B_{\nabla}^{J}(X,JY) = \frac{1}{2}J(\nabla_{JX}JY); & B_{\nabla}^{J}(JX,JY) = 0 \\
C_{\nabla}^{J}(JX,Y) = -B_{\nabla}^{J}(JX,Y)
\end{cases}$$
(3.4)

and the skew-symmetry  $(3.4_2)$  means that  $B^J_{\nabla}(J,\cdot)$  is a vectorial 2-form. Another important property is that these tensor fields are invariant with respect to *J*-conjugation of linear connections:

$$C^J_{\nabla^{(J)}} = C^J_{\nabla}; \quad B^J_{\nabla^{(J)}} = B^J_{\nabla}. \tag{3.5}$$

With respect to the invariance of these associated tensor fields under projective changes we get that only  $C^J$  is invariant:

**3.1. Proposition.** Let  $\nabla$  and  $\nabla'$  be two linear projectively equivalent connections:

$$\nabla' = \nabla + \eta \otimes I + I \otimes \eta \tag{3.6}$$

for  $\eta$  a 1-form. Then  $C_{\nabla'}^J = C_{\nabla}^J$  and  $B_{\nabla'}^J = B_{\nabla}^J + J \otimes (\eta \circ J)$  while the tangent conjugate connection  $\nabla'^{(J)}$  of  $\nabla'$  satisfies:

$$\nabla^{\prime(J)} = \nabla^{(J)} + \eta \otimes I + I \otimes \eta - J \otimes (\eta \circ J)$$
(3.7)

and so it is not invariant under projective equivalence.

*Proof* Follows form a direct computation.  $\Box$ 

#### 4. Invariant distributions

Let  $\mathcal{D} \subset TM$  be a fixed distribution considered as a vector subbundle of TM. As usually, we denote by  $\Gamma(\mathcal{D})$  its  $C^{\infty}(M)$ -module of sections.

**4.1. Definition.** i)  $\mathcal{D}$  is called *J*-invariant if  $X \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$  implies  $JX \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$ . ii) The linear connection  $\nabla$  restricts to  $\mathcal{D}$  if  $Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$  implies  $\nabla_X Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$  for any  $X \in \Gamma(TM)$ .

**4.2. Example.** The distribution  $\mathcal{D}_J = \ker J = ImJ$  is *J*-invariant.

If  $\nabla$  restricts to  $\mathcal{D}$  then it may be considered as a connection in the vector bundle  $\mathcal{D}$ . From this fact, a connection which restricts to  $\mathcal{D}$  is called sometimes *adapted to*  $\mathcal{D}$ . **4.3.** Proposition. If the distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  is *J*-invariant and the linear connection  $\nabla$  restricts to  $\mathcal{D}$  then  $\nabla^{(J)}$  also restricts to  $\mathcal{D}$ .

Proof Fix  $Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$ . Then  $JY \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$  and for any  $X \in \Gamma(TM)$  we have  $\nabla_X Y$ ,  $\nabla_X JY \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$ . Therefore,  $J(\nabla_X JY) \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$  and so  $\nabla_X^{(J)} Y = \nabla_X Y - J(\nabla_X JY) \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$ .  $\Box$ 

**4.4. Example.** Returning to Example 4.2 we have that  $\nabla_X = \nabla_X^{(J)}$  on  $\mathcal{D}_J = \ker J = ImJ$ .

A more general notion like restricting to a distribution is that of geodesically invariance [4, p. 118]. The distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  is  $\nabla$ -geodesically invariant if for every geodesic  $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow M$  of  $\nabla$  with  $\dot{\gamma}(a) \in \mathcal{D}_{\gamma(a)}$  it follows  $\dot{\gamma}(t) \in \mathcal{D}_{\gamma(t)}$  for any  $t \in [a, b]$ . The cited book gives a necessary and sufficient condition for a distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  to be  $\nabla$ -geodesically invariant: for any  $X, Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$ , the symmetric product  $\langle X : Y \rangle_{\nabla} := \nabla_X Y + \nabla_Y X$  to belong to  $\Gamma(\mathcal{D})$  or equivalently, for any  $X \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$  to have  $\nabla_X X \in \Gamma(\mathcal{D})$ .

A direct computation gives:

$$\langle \cdot : \cdot \rangle_{\nabla^{(J)}} = \langle \cdot : \cdot \rangle_{\nabla} - J \circ d^{\nabla} J \tag{4.1}$$

and then the  $\nabla$ -geodesically invariance and  $\nabla^{(J)}$ -geodesically invariance for  $\mathcal{D}$  coincides if and only if  $J \circ d^{\nabla} J$  is zero on  $\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D}$ . In particular,  $\mathcal{D}_J$  is  $\nabla$ -geodesically invariant if and only if is  $\nabla^{(J)}$ -geodesically invariant.

# 5. Affine combination of tangent conjugate connections

In what follows we shall see what happens to the tangent conjugate connection for families of almost tangent structures. Let  $J_1$ ,  $J_2$  be two almost tangent structures; conditions for their simultaneous integrability are given in [13]-[14]. Then for any a,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$  the tensor field  $J_{ab} := aJ_1 + bJ_2$  is an almost tangent structure if and only if  $J_1J_2 = -J_2J_1$ . Then its tangent conjugate connection is given by:

$$\nabla_X^{(J_{ab})}Y = a^2 \nabla_X^{(J_1)}Y + b^2 \nabla_X^{(J_2)}Y + (1 - a^2 - b^2) \nabla_X Y - ab[J_1(\nabla_X J_2 Y) + J_2(\nabla_X J_1 Y)].$$
(5.1)

**5.1. Proposition.** Let  $\nabla$  be a linear connection and  $J_1$  and  $J_2$  two anti-commuting almost tangent structures. If  $(\nabla, J_1, J_2)$  is a mixed-recurrent structure i.e.  $\nabla J_i = \eta \otimes J_j$  for  $i \neq j$  then  $\nabla$  is the average of the two tangent conjugate connections:

$$\nabla = \frac{1}{2} [\nabla^{(J_1)} + \nabla^{(J_2)}] \tag{5.2}$$

and  $\nabla^{(J_{ab})}$  is an affine combination of them:

$$\nabla^{(J_{ab})} = \frac{1+a^2-b^2}{2}\nabla^{(J_1)} + \frac{1-a^2+b^2}{2}\nabla^{(J_2)}.$$
(5.3)

*Proof* Applying  $J_i$  to  $\nabla_X J_i Y - J_i(\nabla_X Y) = \eta(X) J_j Y$  with  $i \neq j$  and the anticommuting hypothesis we obtain:

$$J_1(\nabla_X J_1 Y) = -J_2(\nabla_X J_2 Y).$$
(5.4)

Summing the expression of the tangent conjugate connections we get (5.2) and from a previous computation, the relation (5.3).  $\Box$ 

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## 6. Exponential tangent conjugate connections

For  $\theta$  a real number we define the *exponential tangent conjugate connection* of  $\nabla$  as:

$$\nabla^{(J,\theta)} := \nabla - \exp(-\theta J) \circ \nabla \circ \exp(\theta J)$$
(6.1)

where  $\exp(\pm \theta J) := \cos(\theta) \cdot I \pm \sin(\theta) \cdot J$ . Explicitly we get:

$$\nabla^{(J,\theta)} = \sin^2(\theta)\nabla - \frac{1}{2}\sin(2\theta)\nabla J + \sin^2(\theta)J \circ \nabla J = 2\sin^2(\theta)\nabla - \frac{1}{2}\sin(2\theta)\nabla J - \sin^2(\theta)\nabla^{(J)}$$
(6.2)

and then:

$$\nabla^{(J,\theta)}J = \sin^2(\theta)\nabla J + \frac{1}{2}\sin(2\theta)J \circ \nabla J.$$
(6.3)

It follows:

**6.1. Proposition.** Let  $\nabla$  be a symmetric linear connection. i) If J is  $\nabla$ -recurrent with  $\eta$  the 1-form of recurrence then:

$$\nabla^{(J,\theta)} = \sin^2(\theta)\nabla - \frac{1}{2}\sin(2\theta) \cdot \eta \otimes J$$
(6.4)

and  $\nabla^{(J,\theta)}$  is a quarter-symmetric connection. ii) If  $\nabla J = \eta \otimes I$  then:

$$\nabla^{(J,\theta)} = \sin^2(\theta) \nabla - \sin(\theta) \cdot \eta \otimes \exp(-\theta J)$$
(6.5)

and:

$$T_{\nabla^{(J,\theta)}} = \sin(\theta) \otimes \exp(-\theta J) \wedge \eta.$$
(6.6)

Proof i) Follows from the fact that the hypothesis implies  $J \circ \nabla J = 0$ . The quartersymmetry elements are F = J and  $\pi = \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) \cdot \eta$ . ii) From  $\cos(\theta) \cdot \eta \otimes I - \sin(\theta) \cdot \eta \otimes J = \eta \otimes \exp(-\theta J)$  we get:  $T_{\nabla^{(J,\theta)}} = -\sin(\theta) \cdot [\eta \otimes \exp(-\theta J) - \exp(-\theta J) \otimes \eta]$ .  $\Box$ 

### 7. Generalized tangent conjugate connections

In this section we present a natural generalization of the tangent conjugate connection.

**7.1. Definition.** A generalized tangent conjugate connection of  $\nabla$  is:

$$\nabla^{(J,C)} = \nabla^{(J)} + C \tag{7.1}$$

with  $C \in T_2^1(M)$  an arbitrary (1, 2)-tensor field.

Let us search for tensor fields C such that the duality  $(\nabla^{(J,C)})^{(J,C)} = 2\nabla^{(J,C)} - \nabla$ holds as is given by Proposition 2.1. It results that we are interested in finding solutions C to the equation:

$$J(C(X, JY)) = 2C(X, Y)$$

$$(7.2)$$

for all  $X, Y \in \Gamma(TM)$  and let us remark that: i)  $C_0 = 0$  is a particular solution of (7.2); ii) applying J to (7.2) gives that  $ImC \subseteq \ker J = ImJ$ . Then returning to (7.2) it follows from the left-hand-side that  $C_0$  is the unique solution of (7.2).

Also, we have:

$$\nabla^{(J,C)}J = \nabla^{(J)}J + C(\cdot, J\cdot) - J \circ C \tag{7.3}$$

and then:

i)  $\nabla^{(J,C)} J = \nabla J$  as in i) of Proposition 2.1 if and only if:  $C(\cdot, J \cdot) = J \circ C(\cdot, \cdot)$ , ii)  $\nabla^{(J,C)}$  is a *J*-linear connection if and only if:

$$\nabla J + C(\cdot, J \cdot) = J \circ C. \tag{7.4}$$

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