

# Superalgebra of differentiable functions and derived geometry

(D. Roytenberg)

## What is derived geometry?

- basic idea (Kontsevich, Kapranov, ...): "hidden smoothness". Replace singular objects with "smooth" ones in a way that retains the information about the singularities.
- singularities can be of two types:
  - quotient singularities: e.g. replace  $X/G$  by the action groupoid. I.e. we replace spaces by stacks

$$\text{ComAlg} \xrightarrow{\hookrightarrow} \text{Sets} \quad \text{ComAlg} \xrightarrow{\exists} s\text{Sets}$$

- intersection singularities: first of all  $L \times L'$  might not exist in smooth manifolds, but even if it exists it might be the wrong answer. E.g.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} * & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{R}^x \\ | & & | \\ * & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{R}^{x^2} \end{array} \quad \text{But it should really be the double/fat point.}$$

- BV formalism: computes the derived critical locus of a functional
- BFV formalism: computes the derived reduced phase space of a constrained mechanical system
- In both cases the two types of singularities occur.

- ordinary geometric objects form an ordinary category whereas derived objects form a higher category (more precisely  $(n, 1)$ -category,  $n \in \{2, 3, \dots, \infty\}$ ). Derived objects are defined up to weak equivalences.

One can glue pieces  $(U_\alpha)_\alpha$  by weak equivalences on  $(U_{\alpha\beta})_{\alpha, \beta}$  + coherence conditions further up.

Spaces	Stacks
$\text{ComAlg} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$	$\text{ComAlg} \rightarrow s\text{Sets}$
Derived spaces	Derived stacks
homotopy $\text{ComAlg} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$	homotopy $\text{ComAlg} \rightarrow s\text{Sets}$

Models for homotopy  $\text{ComAlg}$ :  $s(\text{ComAlg})$ ,  $E_\infty$ -Alg,  $dg_{\leq 0}$ -ComAlg in characteristic 0.

The above diagram was for derived algebraic geometry. What about other geometries, like e.g.  $C^\infty$ ?

It is known that the functor  $\text{Manifolds}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow (\text{Com}_{\mathbb{R}}\text{-Alg}; M \mapsto C^\infty(M))$  is fully faithful. But contrary to what happen in algebraic geometry (where  $\text{Spec}(A) \times \text{Spec}(A') = \text{Spec}(A \otimes A')$ ) this functor does NOT preserve (fiber) products. E.g.  $C^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}) \neq C^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \otimes C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ .

To fix this one needs some extra-structure: notice that if  $A = C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  then for any  $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R})$  we get an operation  $A_f : A^n \rightarrow A$ .

This leads us to the notion of an algebraic theory:

Algebraic theory (W. Lawvere): category  $\mathcal{T}$  with finite products.

- A  $\mathcal{T}$ -algebra is a product preserving functor  $\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ .
- $\mathcal{T}$  is uni-sorted if there is an object  $X$  such that any object is isomorphic to  $X^n$  for some  $n \geq 0$  (in effect  $\text{Obj}(\mathcal{T}) = \mathbb{N}$ , product  $\sqcap$  and  $\mathbb{O}$  is the terminal object).

Examples: (i)  $(\text{Com}_{\mathbb{R}} : \text{Hom}(n, 1) = \mathbb{R}[x_1, \dots, x_n])$ .  $(\text{Com}_{\mathbb{R}}\text{-Alg}$  are commutative  $\mathbb{R}$ -algebras.

(ii)  $\mathbb{C}^\infty : \text{Hom}(n, 1) = C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R})$ . A  $\mathbb{C}^\infty\text{-Alg}$  is determined by  $A_1 := A(1)$  and  $A_f : A_1^n = A(n) \rightarrow A(1) = A_1$  for any  $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R})$ .

The functor  $\mathbb{C}^\infty\text{-Alg} \rightarrow \text{Sets}; A \mapsto A(1)$  has a right adjoint (free  $\mathbb{C}^\infty\text{-Alg}$  functor), which e.g. sends the  $n$ -elements set to  $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

The coproduct of  $\mathbb{C}^\infty\text{-Alg}$  is denoted  $\oplus$  and it has the property that

$$C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \oplus C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^m) = C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}) \quad (\text{more generally } C^\infty(M) \oplus C^\infty(N) = C^\infty(M \times N)).$$

Derived version: " $\mathbb{C}^\infty$ -algebras up to homotopy".

- D. Spivak (2009): "up to homotopy simplicial  $\mathbb{C}^\infty$ -algebras":

$\mathbb{C}^\infty \rightarrow s\text{Sets}$  product-preserving up to weak equivalences.

- Borisov-Noël (2011): just strictly simplicial  $\mathbb{C}^\infty$ -algebras are enough.

- R-Carchedi: what about dg setting?

- D. Joyce: truncated version (forms a strict 2-category).

Observe that  $\text{Com}_{\mathbb{R}} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\infty$ . It admits a "superization":

- $\mathbb{S}\mathbb{C}^\infty := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \cdot \text{ objects are pairs } (n|m). \\ \cdot (n|m) \times (n'|m') = (n+n'|m+m') \\ \cdot \text{Hom } ((n|m), (1|0)) = C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \otimes \Lambda_0^m \\ \cdot \text{Hom } ((n|m), (0|1)) = C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \otimes \Lambda_1^m \\ \cdot \text{composition is given by insertion (this works because } C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \otimes \Lambda_0^m \text{ is a } \mathbb{C}^\infty\text{-algebra).} \end{array} \right.$

$\mathbb{R}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$   
for  $\text{Com}_{\mathbb{R}}$   
 $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{even part of}$

Crucial fact: if  $W$  is a nilpotent extension of  $\mathbb{R}$  (i.e.  $W = \mathbb{R} \oplus N$ ,  $N$  nilpotent)  
then for any  $\mathbb{C}$ -algebra  $A$ ,  $A \otimes W$  is canonically a  $\mathbb{C}$ -algebra (Taylor formula).

Note that  $\Lambda_0^m$  is such an extension of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

A  $\mathbb{C}^\infty$ -superalgebra is an  $\mathbb{S}\mathbb{C}^\infty$ -algebra.

A grading on an  $\mathbb{S}\mathbb{C}^\infty$ -algebra  $\xleftrightarrow{\text{def}}$  an action of the multiplicative group  $\widehat{\mathbb{G}_m}$   
(represented by  $\mathbb{R}[x, x^{-1}] = C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^\times)$ )

A differential on an  $\mathbb{S}\mathbb{C}^\infty$ -algebra  $\xleftrightarrow{\text{def}}$  an action  $\widehat{\mathbb{G}}_ad^1$  (represented by  $\Lambda^1(\mathbb{R})$ ).

A DG-structure on an  $\mathbb{S}\mathbb{C}^\infty$ -algebra  $\xleftrightarrow{\text{def}}$  action of  $\text{Aut}(\widehat{\mathbb{G}}_ad^1)$ .

Theorem [Carreich-Roytenberg]: there is a Quillen model structure on the category  $\mathbb{S}\mathbb{C}^\infty \text{Alg}_{(\text{even})}^{\text{Aut}(\widehat{\mathbb{G}}_ad^1)}$  with weak equivalence given by quasi-isomorphisms on the underlying cochain complexes, and fibrations are surjective on the underlying complexes.