

Equivariant cellular structures on the flag manifold of \mathbb{R}^3 and Dirichlet-Voronoi domains

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Menu

- 1 Flag manifolds and first cellular structure on $SL_3(\mathbb{R})/B$
- 2 $SL_3(\mathbb{R})/B$ as a spherical space form
- 3 Normal homogeneous metrics and Dirichlet-Voronoi domains

$R\Gamma(X, \mathbb{Z}) \in \mathcal{D}^b(\mathbb{Z}[W])$ and equivariant cellular structures

discrete group $W \curvearrowright X$ topological space

$$\rightsquigarrow W \curvearrowright H^*(X, \mathbb{Z}) = H^*(R\Gamma(X, \mathbb{Z})).$$

Also, $R\Gamma(X, \mathbb{Z}) \in \mathcal{D}^b(\mathbb{Z}[W])$, but how to compute $R\Gamma(X, \mathbb{Z})$?

Definition

A CW-structure on X is **W -equivariant** if

- W acts on cells
- For $e \subset X$ a cell and $w \in W$, if $we = e$ then $w|_e = \text{id}_e$.

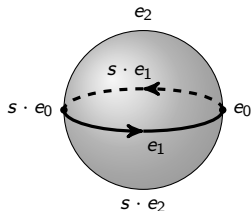
Associated **cellular chain complex**: $C_*^{\text{cell}}(X, W; \mathbb{Z}) \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{Z}[W])$.

Theorem

The complex $C_{\text{cell}}^*(X, W; \mathbb{Z})$ is well-defined up to homotopy and $C_{\text{cell}}^*(X, W; \mathbb{Z}) \cong R\Gamma(X, \mathbb{Z})$ in $\mathcal{D}^b(\mathbb{Z}[W])$.

Illustration: $\{\pm 1\} \curvearrowright \mathbb{S}^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^3$

$C_2 = \{1, s\}$ acts on \mathbb{S}^2 via the antipode $s : x \mapsto -x$. We construct a C_2 -equivariant cellular structure as follows:



Cochain complex given by

$$C_{\text{cell}}^*(\mathbb{S}^2, C_2; \mathbb{Z}) = \left(\mathbb{Z}[C_2] \langle e_0^* \rangle \xrightarrow{1-s} \mathbb{Z}[C_2] \langle e_1^* \rangle \xrightarrow{1+s} \mathbb{Z}[C_2] \langle e_2^* \rangle \right)$$

so $R\Gamma(\mathbb{S}^2, \underline{\mathbb{Q}}) \simeq \mathbb{1} \oplus \varepsilon[-2]$ and $R\Gamma(\mathbb{S}^2, \underline{\mathbb{F}}_2)$ has cohomology
 $H^*(\mathbb{S}^2, \mathbb{F}_2) = \mathbb{1} \oplus \mathbb{1}[-2]$, however, $R\Gamma(\mathbb{S}^2, \underline{\mathbb{F}}_2)$ is indecomposable...

Flag manifolds

Notation

- G a connected reductive complex algebraic group,
- B a Borel subgroup of G , $T^{\mathbb{C}} < G$ maximal torus such that $T^{\mathbb{C}} < B$.
- $W := N_G(T^{\mathbb{C}})/T^{\mathbb{C}}$ the **Weyl group**.
- **Flag manifold**: the homogeneous space $\mathcal{F}_G(\mathbb{C}) := G/B$.
- If K maximal compact subgroup of G and $T := K \cap T^{\mathbb{C}} \simeq (\mathbb{S}^1)^r$, then

$$\mathcal{F}_G(\mathbb{C}) := G/B \stackrel{\text{diff}}{\simeq} K/T \circlearrowright W = N_K(T)/T.$$

Problem

Describe $G/B = K/T$ as a W -equivariant CW-complex.

Example: type A

- $G = SL_n(\mathbb{C})$, $K = SU(n)$, $T = S(U(1)^n)$ and $W = \mathfrak{S}_n$,

- $B = \begin{pmatrix} * & * & \dots & * \\ & 0 & * & \vdots \\ & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ & 0 & \dots & 0 & * \end{pmatrix}$ Borel subgroup,

- $G/B = \{\text{flags } (0 = V_0 \subseteq V_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq V_n = \mathbb{C}^n)\},$

- $K/T = \{\text{decompositions } \mathbb{C}^n = L_1 \overset{\perp}{\oplus} \dots \overset{\perp}{\oplus} L_n\} \curvearrowright \mathfrak{S}_n,$

- $G/T^{\mathbb{C}} = \{\text{decompositions } \mathbb{C}^n = L_1 \oplus \dots \oplus L_n\} \curvearrowright \mathfrak{S}_n.$

Example

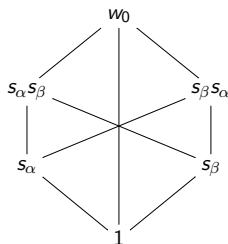
$$\mathcal{F}_{SL_2}(\mathbb{C}) \simeq U(2)/U(1)^2 \simeq \mathbb{CP}^1 \curvearrowright \mathfrak{S}_2 = \langle s \rangle, s(L_1 \overset{\perp}{\oplus} L_2) = L_2 \overset{\perp}{\oplus} L_1.$$

$$[1 : z] \cdot s = [-\bar{z} : 1] = [1 : -1/\bar{z}]$$

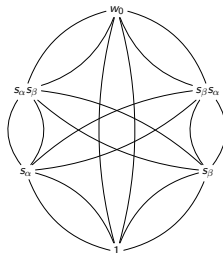
\rightsquigarrow antipode on \mathbb{S}^2 , as in the example above.

The Goresky-Kottwitz-MacPherson graph

$\{\text{vertices}\} \leftrightarrow \{T\text{-fixed points}\}, \{\text{edges}\} \leftrightarrow \{T\text{-orbits of dim } 1\},$
 each edge $\leftrightarrow \overline{T\text{-orbit}} = \mathbb{CP}^1$



(a) The GKM graph



(b) Many SL_2 situations

\rightsquigarrow 1-skeleton and part of the 2-skeleton, like for SL_2 .

Educated guess/hope

- Hope the complex has nice general combinatorial description.
- Hard to find a CW-structure. Try to guess ranks of free modules. Let

$$P_W^{\mathbb{C}}(q) := \sum_k \#\{W\text{-orbits of } k\text{-cells of } \mathcal{F}\ell_{\mathbb{C}}(G)\} q^k$$

and similarly consider $P_W^{\mathbb{R}}$ for the real points.

Constraints: $\deg(P_W^{\mathbb{C}}) = 2|\Phi^+|$ and $P_W^{\mathbb{C}}(-1) = 1$.

- Parametrization

$$\{k\text{-cells of } \mathcal{F}\ell_{\mathbb{R}}(G)\} \leftrightarrow \{k\text{-subsets of positive roots}\}.$$

k -cells parametrized by k real parameters (one for each root).

This would give $P_W^{\mathbb{R}}(q) = [2]_q^{|\Phi^+|}$.

Recall that $[k]_q = 1 + q + \dots + q^{k-1}$.

Educated guess/hope

- Missing cells in $\mathcal{F}\ell_{\mathbb{C}}(G)$: allow some parameters to take complex values.

Compatible with GKM.

Each positive root would have a multiplicity 0, 1 or 2

\rightsquigarrow multiset of positive roots with multiplicity.

This gives $P_W^{\mathbb{C}}(q) = [3]_q^{|\Phi^+|}$.

\rightsquigarrow combinatorial flavour of the de Concini–Salvetti complex.

Recall that the de Concini–Salvetti complex is a free resolution of \mathbb{Z} over $\mathbb{Z}[W]$, with W finite Coxeter group, constructed using increasing chains of subsets of simple reflections.

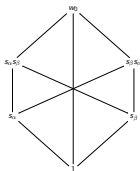
For SL_3 , $P_W^{\mathbb{R}}(q) = [2]_q^3 = q^3 + 3q^2 + 3q + 1$ and

$P_W^{\mathbb{C}}(q) = [3]_q^3 = q^6 + 3q^5 + 6q^4 + 7q^3 + 6q^2 + 3q + 1$.

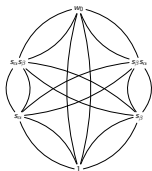
A first decomposition of $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R}) := \mathcal{F}_{SL_3}(\mathbb{R}) = SL_3(\mathbb{R})/B$

$\mathcal{O}_{\min} := SL_3(\mathbb{C}) \cdot E_{1,3}$ **minimal nilpotent orbit**, then

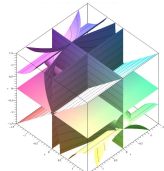
$\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{P}(\overline{\mathcal{O}_{\min}}) \subset \mathbb{P}(\mathfrak{sl}_3) \simeq \mathbb{CP}^7$, so $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R}) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{RP}^7$. Using the **GKM graph** of \mathfrak{S}_3 , construct an equivariant structure on $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$.



(a) GKM graph



(b) SL_2 situations



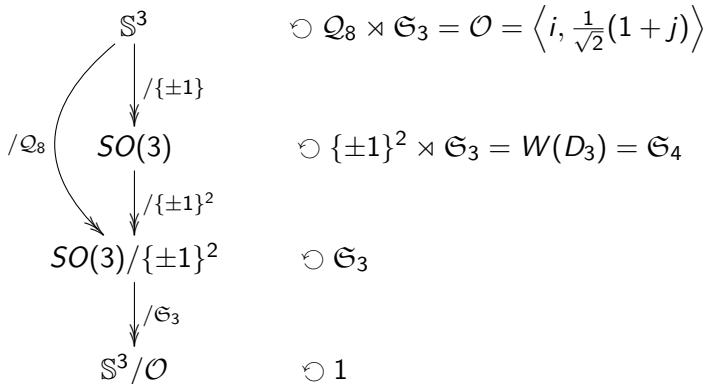
(c) 3-cells of $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$

Theorem (G. 2019)

- $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$ admits an \mathfrak{S}_3 -cellular structure whose cellular chain complex has the shape $\mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^6 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]$.
- There is an \mathfrak{S}_3 -isomorphism $\mathbb{F}_2[x, y, z]_{\mathfrak{S}_3} \rightarrow H^*(\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{F}_2)$ sending x , y and z to irreducible real algebraic 1-cocycles.

New look at $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$

Recall $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R}) = SO(3)/S(O(1)^3) = SO(3)/\{\pm 1\}^2 \circlearrowright \mathfrak{S}_3$.



where \mathcal{O} is the **binary octahedral group**. This last space is called a **spherical space form**. Construct an \mathcal{O} -cellular structure on \mathbb{S}^3 ?

Orbit polytopes

Free isometric action of a finite group $\mathcal{G} \curvearrowright \mathbb{S}^n \ni v_0$.

The **orbit polytope** of \mathcal{G} is $P_{\mathcal{G}} := \text{conv}(\mathcal{G} \cdot v_0)$.

\mathcal{G} acts freely on $P_{\mathcal{G}}$ and on its faces and the projection

$$\partial P_{\mathcal{G}} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^n$$

is a \mathcal{G} -homeomorphism.

*Theorem (Fêmina–Galves–Manzoli Neto–Spreafico (2013),
 Chirivì–Spreafico (2017))*

Assume that $\text{span}(\mathcal{G} \cdot v_0) = \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. Then there is a system F_1, \dots, F_r of orbit representatives for the \mathcal{G} -action on facets of $P_{\mathcal{G}}$ such that $\bigcup_i F_i$ is a fundamental domain for \mathcal{G} on $\partial P_{\mathcal{G}}$.

The chain complex

Theorem (Chirivì-G.-Spreafico, 2020)

The sphere \mathbb{S}^3 admits an \mathcal{O} -equivariant cellular decomposition whose associated cellular homology complex is

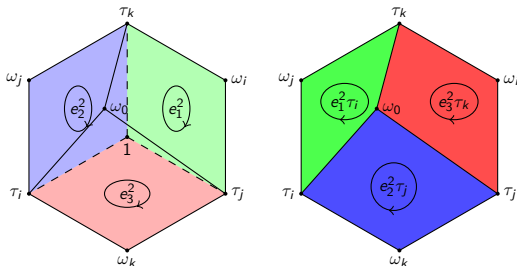
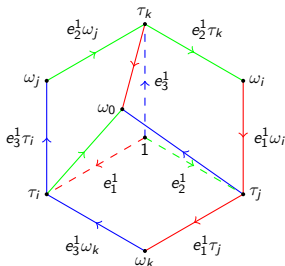
$$\mathbb{Z}[\mathcal{O}] \xrightarrow[\partial_3]{\begin{pmatrix} 1-\tau_i & 1-\tau_j & 1-\tau_k \end{pmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}[\mathcal{O}]^3 \xrightarrow[\partial_2]{\begin{pmatrix} \omega_i & 1 & \tau_j-1 \\ \tau_k-1 & \omega_j & 1 \\ 1 & \tau_i-1 & \omega_k \end{pmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}[\mathcal{O}]^3 \xrightarrow[\partial_1]{\begin{pmatrix} \tau_i-1 \\ \tau_j-1 \\ \tau_k-1 \end{pmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}[\mathcal{O}],$$

where

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1-i-j-k}{2}, \quad \omega_i = \frac{1+i-j-k}{2}, \quad \omega_j = \frac{1-i+j-k}{2}, \quad \omega_k = \frac{1-i-j+k}{2},$$

$$\tau_i = \frac{1-i}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \tau_j = \frac{1-j}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \tau_k = \frac{1-k}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

What does it look like?



The complex 1, 3, 3, 1 for $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$

Theorem

The real flag manifold $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathbb{S}^3/Q_8$ admits an \mathfrak{S}_3 -equivariant cell structure with cellular chain complex given by

$$\mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3] \xrightarrow[\partial_3]{\begin{pmatrix} 1-s_\beta & 1-w_0 & 1-s_\alpha \end{pmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^3 \xrightarrow[\partial_2]{\begin{pmatrix} s_\alpha s_\beta & 1 & w_0-1 \\ s_\alpha-1 & s_\alpha s_\beta & 1 \\ 1 & s_\beta-1 & s_\alpha s_\beta \end{pmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^3 \xrightarrow[\partial_1]{\begin{pmatrix} 1-s_\beta \\ 1-w_0 \\ 1-s_\alpha \end{pmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3],$$

$w_0 = s_\alpha s_\beta s_\alpha = s_\beta s_\alpha s_\beta$ being the longest element of $\mathfrak{S}_3 = \langle s_\alpha, s_\beta \rangle$.

Remark

The 1-cells of \mathbb{S}^3 and $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$ are **geodesics!**...

Dirichlet-Voronoi fundamental domains in general

(M, g) complete, connected Riemannian N -manifold, d geodesic distance and $W \leq \text{Isom}(M, g)$ *discrete* and $x_0 \in M$ regular point. The **Dirichlet-Voronoi** domain (centered at x_0) is

$$\mathcal{DV} := \{x \in M ; d(x_0, x) \leq d(wx_0, x), \forall w \in W\},$$

the w -**dissecting hypersurface** is $H_w := \{d(x_0, x) = d(wx_0, x)\}$.

Proposition

- \mathcal{DV} is a star-shaped fundamental domain for $W \curvearrowright M$.
- If $\mathcal{DV} \subset B_g(x_0, \rho)$ for $0 < \rho < \text{inj}_{x_0}(M)$, where $\text{inj}_{x_0}(M)$ is the **injectivity radius** of M at x_0 , then $\overset{\circ}{\mathcal{DV}}$ is a N -cell. Moreover in this case, we have a homeomorphism $\partial\mathcal{DV} \simeq \mathbb{S}^{N-1}$.

We hope to build an equivariant cell structure from \mathcal{DV} , where the lower cells should be intersections of **walls** $\mathcal{DV} \cap H_w$.

Injectivity radius

Recall that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{inj}_{x_0}(M) &= \sup\{r > 0 \text{ s.t. } \mathrm{Exp}_{x_0} \text{ is injective on } B(x_0, r)\} \\ &= \sup\{r > 0 ; \forall x \in B(x_0, r), \exists! \text{ minimal geodesic from } x_0 \text{ to } x\}.\end{aligned}$$

Hard to compute! but some estimates, e.g. using **sectional curvature** (Klingenberg, '59).

The case of flag manifolds: first result

In general, K/T admits a **normal homogeneous metric** (i.e. coming from a bi-invariant one on K , e.g. induced by the Killing form κ). We consider the Dirichlet-Voronoi domain

$$\mathcal{DV} := \{x \in K/T ; d(1, x) \leq d(w, x), \forall w \in W\}.$$

Example

For $\mathcal{F}_n(\mathbb{C}) := SU(n)/S(U(1)^n)$ and $X, Y \in \mathfrak{su}(n)$, we have $\kappa(X, Y) = 2n \operatorname{tr}(XY)$.

Conjecture: $\mathcal{DV} \subset B(1, \operatorname{inj}(K/T))$. First step:

Lemma

We have $\operatorname{inj}(\mathcal{F}_n(\mathbb{C}), \kappa) \geq \pi\sqrt{n/2}$ and $\operatorname{inj}(\mathcal{F}_n(\mathbb{R}), \kappa) = \pi\sqrt{n} = d(1, s_\alpha)$ for any $\alpha \in \Phi^+$.

A new structure on $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$

Proposition

Let $\mathcal{DV}_3 \subset \mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$ Dirichlet-Voronoi domain. Then

$$\max_{x \in \mathcal{DV}_3} d(1, x) = 4\sqrt{3} \arccos(1/2 + \sqrt{2}/4) \approx 3.7969 < 5.4414 \approx \pi\sqrt{3} = \text{inj}(\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})).$$

Theorem (G. 2021)

The walls of \mathcal{DV}_3 induce an \mathfrak{S}_3 -cell structure on $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$ with chain complex of the form $\mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^7 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^{12} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^6$.

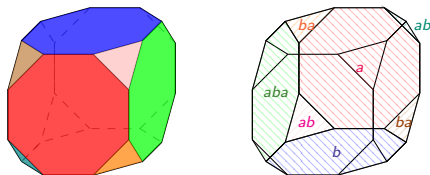


Figure: The 2-cells of $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$

A glance at the proof of $\max_{\mathcal{DV}_3} d(1, -) \approx 3.7969$

Lemma (“no antenna lemma”)

(M, g) connected and compact, $W \leq \text{Isom}(M)$ finite, $x_0 \in M$ regular and assume that $\mathcal{DV} \subset B(x_0, \text{inj}_{x_0}(M))$. If $\mathcal{DV} \cap S(x_0, \rho)$ is finite for some $0 < \rho < \text{inj}_{x_0}(M)$, then $\mathcal{DV} \subset \overline{B(x_0, \rho)}$. If moreover $\mathcal{DV} \cap S(x_0, \rho) \neq \emptyset$ then $\max_{x \in \mathcal{DV}} d(x_0, x) = \rho$.

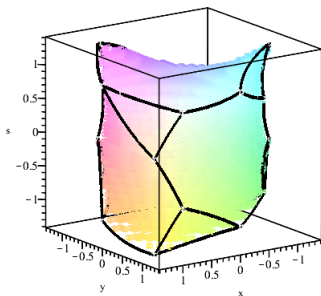
Let $\pi : \mathbb{S}^3 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_3(\mathbb{R})$. For $q = a + bi + cj + dk \in \mathbb{S}^3$ s.t. $a \geq |b|, |c|, |d|$, we have $d(1, \pi(q)) = 4\sqrt{3} \arccos(a)$. Using reflections, prove that $\pi(q) \in \mathcal{DV}_3 \Rightarrow a^2(10 - 6\sqrt{2}) \geq 1$, so $\mathcal{DV}_3 \subset B(1, \pi\sqrt{3})$. Let $a_0 := 1/2 + \sqrt{2}/4$, conditions on remaining elements of \mathfrak{S}_3 yields

$$\{\pi(q) \in \mathcal{DV}_3 ; d(1, \pi(q)) = 4\sqrt{3}a_0\}$$

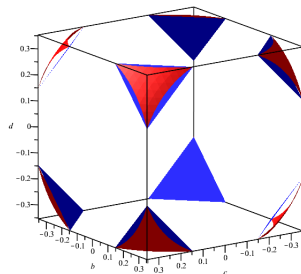
$$\approx \{(b, c, d) \in \mathbb{R}^3 ; |b|, |c|, |d| \leq \sqrt{2}/4, |b \pm c \pm d| \leq a_0, b^2 + c^2 + d^2 = 1 - a_0^2\}$$

\rightsquigarrow full truncated cube intersected with a sphere \rightsquigarrow only 24 points (the 0-cells). □

Thank you!



(a) Other view of \mathcal{DV}_3



(b) Truncated cube (blue) and sphere (red)

The complex for the first decomposition is

$$\mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^4 \xrightarrow{\partial_3} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^6 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^3 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3],$$

where

$$\partial_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1-s_\alpha & 1-s_\beta & 1-w_0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \partial_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & s_\alpha & 0 & 1 \\ -s_\beta s_\alpha & 0 & -w_0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_\beta s_\alpha & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & s_\beta s_\alpha \\ -s_\alpha s_\beta & s_\alpha s_\beta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s_\alpha s_\beta & -s_\alpha s_\beta \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\partial_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 & s_\alpha & w_0-s_\alpha s_\beta & s_\beta-s_\beta s_\alpha \\ s_\beta s_\alpha-s_\beta & s_\alpha-1 & -w_0 & w_0 & s_\alpha s_\beta & s_\alpha s_\beta \\ s_\beta & s_\beta s_\alpha & s_\alpha-1 & s_\alpha s_\beta-w_0 & -s_\beta & s_\beta s_\alpha \end{pmatrix}.$$

The complex for the third decomposition is

$$\mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3] \xrightarrow{\partial_3} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^7 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3]^{12} \xrightarrow{\partial_1} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{S}_3],$$

where

$$\partial_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & s_\beta & -s_\beta & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & s_\beta s_\alpha & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -w_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & w_0 & 0 & s_\beta & -w_0 & 0 \\ s_\beta s_\alpha & -s_\beta s_\alpha & 0 & 0 & s_\alpha & -s_\alpha & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_\beta s_\alpha & -s_\beta s_\alpha & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -w_0 & 0 & w_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & s_\beta & -s_\beta & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\partial_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & w_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -w_0 \\ 1 & -s_\alpha s_\beta & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & s_\beta & 0 & -s_\beta & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & s_\alpha & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -w_0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & s_\alpha & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -s_\beta & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -s_\beta s_\alpha & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -w_0 & 0 & -s_\beta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_\beta & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -s_\beta \\ 0 & w_0 & -w_0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -s_\beta s_\alpha & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \partial_3 := \begin{pmatrix} 1-s_\alpha \\ 1-s_\beta \\ 1-w_0 \\ 1-s_\beta s_\alpha \\ 1-s_\alpha s_\beta \\ 1-s_\beta s_\alpha \\ 1-s_\alpha s_\beta \end{pmatrix}.$$