



The Abdus Salam
International Centre for Theoretical Physics



SMR1665/12

Summer School and Conference on Poisson Geometry

(4 -22 July 2005)

Bihamiltonian structures of PDEs and Frobenius manifolds

(Slides 1)

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ICTP School on Poisson Geometry
Trieste, July 11-15, 2005

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Hamiltonian systems

$$\dot{x} = \{x, H\}$$

- a geometric framework for *conservative physical systems*
- simplify relationships between symmetries and conservation laws
- formulation of *integrability*
- quantization
- numerical algorithms

Integrable systems: commutative subalgebras in the Lie algebra of Hamiltonian vector fields + completeness

Modern theory of integrable systems: discovery of integrability in Hamiltonian systems with **infinite number of degrees of freedom**

Evolutionary PDEs as dynamical systems:

$$u_t = F(u, u_x, u_{xx}, \dots) \quad (1)$$

Cauchy data

$$u|_{t=0} = u_0(x)$$

Solution $u(x, t) =$ “integral curve” of the vector field (1) on the space of functions in x beginning at the point $u_0(x)$

Lecture 1

2.1. Reminders:

- Poisson brackets
- Hamiltonian vector fields, first integrals
- Poisson cohomology
- Formalism of supermanifolds

2.2. Bihamiltonian structures, Magri chains and hierarchies

P be a N -dimensional smooth manifold. A *Poisson bracket* on P is a structure of a Lie algebra on the ring of functions $\mathcal{F} := \mathcal{C}^\infty(P)$

$$f, g \mapsto \{f, g\},$$

$$\{g, f\} = -\{f, g\}, \{af + bg, h\} = a\{f, h\} + b\{g, h\}, \quad (2)$$

$$a, b \in \mathbb{R}, f, g, h \in \mathcal{F}$$

$$\{\{f, g\}, h\} + \{\{h, f\}, g\} + \{\{g, h\}, f\} = 0 \quad (3)$$

(Jacobi identity) satisfying the Leibnitz rule

$$\{fg, h\} = f\{g, h\} + g\{f, h\}$$

for arbitrary three functions $f, g, h \in \mathcal{F}$.

In a system of local coordinates x^1, \dots, x^N the Poisson bracket reads

$$\{f, g\} = \pi^{ij}(x) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x^j} \quad (4)$$

(summation over repeated indices will be assumed)

The bivector

$$\pi^{ij}(x) = -\pi^{ji}(x) = \{x^i, x^j\}$$

satisfies

$$\{\{x^i, x^j\}, x^k\} + \{\{x^k, x^i\}, x^j\} + \{\{x^j, x^k\}, x^i\} \equiv \frac{\partial \pi^{ij}}{\partial x^s} \pi^{sk} + \frac{\partial \pi^{ki}}{\partial x^s} \pi^{sj} + \frac{\partial \pi^{jk}}{\partial x^s} \pi^{si} = 0 \quad (5)$$

for any i, j, k (the Jacobi identity (3)). Such a bivector is called a *Poisson structure* on P .

Any bivector *constant* in some coordinate system is a Poisson structure. Vice versa, locally all solutions to (5) of the constant rank $2n = \text{rk}(\pi^{ij})$ can be reduced to the *normal form*

$$\pi = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\pi} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

with a constant nondegenerate antisymmetric $2n \times 2n$ matrix $\bar{\pi} = \bar{\pi}^{ab}$. I.e., locally there exist coordinates y^1, \dots, y^{2n} (coordinates on the **symplectic leaves**) and c^1, \dots, c^k (**Casimir functions**), $2n + k = N$, s.t.

$$\bar{\pi}^{ab} = \{y^a, y^b\} = \text{const}$$

and

$$\{f, c^j\} = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, k \quad (7)$$

for an arbitrary function f .

For the case $2n = N$ the inverse matrix $(\pi_{ij}(x)) = (\pi^{ij}(x))^{-1}$ defines on P a *symplectic structure*

$$\Omega = \sum_{i < j} \pi_{ij}(x) dx^i \wedge dx^j, \quad \Omega^n \neq 0.$$

For $2n < N$ one obtains on P a structure of *symplectic foliation* $P = \cup_{c_0} P_{c_0}$, $c_0 = (c_0^1, \dots, c_0^k)$, of the codimension $k = N - 2n$

$$P_{c_0} := \{x \mid c^1(x) = c_0^1, \dots, c^k(x) = c_0^k\}. \quad (8)$$

Example Let \mathfrak{g} be n -dimensional Lie algebra. The *Lie - Poisson* bracket on the dual space $P = \mathfrak{g}^*$ reads

$$\{x^i, x^j\} = c_k^{ij} x^k. \quad (9)$$

The Casimirs are functions on \mathfrak{g}^* invariant with respect to the co-adjoint action of the associated Lie group G . The symplectic leaves = the orbits of the coadjoint action with the Berezin - Kirillov - Kostant symplectic structure on them.

Linear *inhomogeneous* Poisson brackets

$$\{x^i, x^j\} = c_k^{ij} x^k + c_0^{ij} \quad (10)$$

\Rightarrow central extension of \mathfrak{g} . c_0^{ij} is a 2-cocycle

$$c_0(b, a) = -c_0(a, b), \quad c_0([a, b], c) + c_0([c, a], b) + c_0([b, c], a) = 0$$

A Poisson bracket defines an (anti)homomorphism

$$\mathcal{F} \rightarrow Vect(P)$$

$$H \mapsto X_H := \{\cdot, H\}, \quad (11)$$

$$[X_{H_1}, X_{H_2}] = -X_{\{H_1, H_2\}}.$$

X_H is called **Hamiltonian vector field**. The corresponding dynamical system

$$\dot{x}^i = \{x^i, H\} = \pi^{ij}(x) \frac{\partial H}{\partial x^j} \quad (12)$$

is called **Hamiltonian system with the Hamiltonian** $H(x)$.

- X_H is a *symmetry of the Poisson bracket*

$$\text{Lie}_{X_H}\{ , \} = 0. \quad (13)$$

- Any function F commuting with the Hamiltonian

$$\{F, H\} = 0$$

is a *first integral* of the Hamiltonian system (12). The Hamiltonian vector fields X_H, X_F commute.

Poisson cohomology of (P, π) (introduced by Lichnerowicz). Recall the *Schouten - Nijenhuis bracket*. Denote

$$\Lambda^k = H^0(P, \Lambda^k TP)$$

the space of multivectors on P . The Schouten - Nijenhuis bracket is a bilinear pairing $a, b \mapsto [a, b]$,

$$\Lambda^k \times \Lambda^l \rightarrow \Lambda^{k+l-1}$$

uniquely determined by the properties of supersymmetry

$$[b, a] = (-1)^{kl} [a, b], \quad a \in \Lambda^k, \quad b \in \Lambda^l \quad (14)$$

the graded Leibnitz rule

$$[c, a \wedge b] = [c, a] \wedge b + (-1)^{lk+k} a \wedge [c, b], \quad a \in \Lambda^k, \quad c \in \Lambda^l \quad (15)$$

and the conditions $[f, g] = 0$, $f, g \in \Lambda^0 = \mathcal{F}$,

$$[v, f] = v^i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i}, \quad v \in \Lambda^1 = \text{Vect}(P), \quad f \in \Lambda^0 = \mathcal{F},$$

$[v_1, v_2]$ = commutator of vector fields for $v_1, v_2 \in \Lambda^1$. In particular for a vector field v and a multivector a

$$[v, a] = Lie_v a.$$

Example. For two bivectors $\pi = (\pi^{ij})$ and $\rho = (\rho^{ij})$ their Schouten - Nijenhuis bracket is the following trivector

$$[\pi, \rho]^{ijk} = \frac{\partial \pi^{ij}}{\partial x^s} \rho^{sk} + \frac{\partial \rho^{ij}}{\partial x^s} \pi^{sk} + \frac{\partial \pi^{ki}}{\partial x^s} \rho^{sj} + \frac{\partial \rho^{ki}}{\partial x^s} \pi^{sj} + \frac{\partial \pi^{jk}}{\partial x^s} \rho^{si} + \frac{\partial \rho^{jk}}{\partial x^s} \pi^{si}. \quad (16)$$

Observe that the l.h.s. of the Jacobi identity (5) reads

$$\{\{x^i, x^j\}, x^k\} + \{\{x^k, x^i\}, x^j\} + \{\{x^j, x^k\}, x^i\} = \frac{1}{2}[\pi, \pi]^{ijk}.$$

The Schouten - Nijenhuis bracket satisfies the graded Jacobi identity

$$(-1)^{km} [[a, b], c] + (-1)^{lm} [[c, a], b] + (-1)^{kl} [[b, c], a] = 0, \quad (17)$$

$a \in \Lambda^k, b \in \Lambda^l, c \in \Lambda^m. \Rightarrow$ for a Poisson bivector π the map

$$\partial : \Lambda^k \rightarrow \Lambda^{k+1}, \quad \partial a = [\pi, a] \quad (18)$$

is a **differential**, $\partial^2 = 0$. The cohomology of the complex (Λ^*, ∂) is called *Poisson cohomology* of (P, π)

$$H^*(P, \pi) = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} H^k(P, \pi).$$

In particular,

- $H^0(P, \pi) =$ the ring of Casimirs of the Poisson bracket,
- $H^1(P, \pi) =$ the quotient of the Lie algebra of infinitesimal symmetries

$$v \in Vect(P), Lie_v \pi = 0$$

over the subalgebra of Hamiltonian vector fields,

- $H^2(P, \pi) =$ the quotient of the space of infinitesimal deformations of the Poisson bracket by those obtained by infinitesimal changes of coordinates (i.e., by those of the form $Lie_v \pi$ for a vector field v).

On a symplectic manifold (P, π) Poisson cohomology coincides with the de Rham one. The isomorphism is established by “lowering the indices”: for a cocycle $a = (a^{i_1 \dots i_k}) \in \Lambda^k$ the k -form

$$\sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_k} \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}, \quad \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} = \pi_{i_1 j_1} \dots \pi_{i_k j_k} a^{j_1 \dots j_k}$$

is closed. In particular, for $P = \text{ball}$ the Poisson cohomology is trivial.

In the general case $\text{rk}(\pi^{ij}) < \dim P$ the Poisson cohomology does not vanish even locally. A simple criterion of triviality of 1- and 2-cocycles:

Lemma 1.1. *Let $\pi = (\pi^{ij}(x))$ be a Poisson structure of a constant rank $2n < N$ on a sufficiently small ball U .*

1). *A one-cocycle $v = (v^i(x)) \in H^1(U, \pi)$ is trivial iff the vector field v is tangent to the leaves of the symplectic foliation (8).*

2). *A 2-cocycle $f = (f^{ij}(x)) \in H^2(U, \pi)$ is trivial iff*

$$f(dc', dc'') = 0 \tag{19}$$

for arbitrary two Casimirs of π .

Language of supermanifolds: consider $\mathbf{N} = \Pi T^*P$. Coordinates

$$x^1, \dots, x^N, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_N, \quad x^j x^i = x^i x^j, \quad \theta_j \theta_i = -\theta_i \theta_j$$

Bivector

$$\pi = \frac{1}{2} \pi^{ij}(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} \mapsto \frac{1}{2} \pi^{ij}(x) \theta_i \theta_j =: \hat{\pi}$$

(a superfunction on $\mathbf{N} = \Pi T^*P$). (Super)Poisson bracket on \mathbf{N}

$$\{P, Q\} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial \theta_i} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x^i} + (-1)^{|P|} \frac{\partial P}{\partial x^i} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial \theta_i} \quad (20)$$

$|P|$ = parity of the superfunction $|P|$.

Claim: Jacobi identity for $\pi \Leftrightarrow \{\hat{\pi}, \hat{\pi}\} = 0$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \{\hat{\pi}, \hat{\pi}\} &= \pi^{sk} \theta_k \frac{\partial \pi^{ij}}{\partial x^s} \theta_i \theta_j \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{\partial \pi^{ij}}{\partial x^s} \pi^{sk} + \frac{\partial \pi^{ki}}{\partial x^s} \pi^{sj} + \frac{\partial \pi^{jk}}{\partial x^s} \pi^{si} \right) \theta_i \theta_j \theta_k \end{aligned}$$

More generally, for multivectors $a \in \Lambda^k$, $b \in \Lambda^l$,

$$\hat{a} = \frac{1}{k!} a^{i_1 \dots i_k} \theta_{i_1} \dots \theta_{i_k}, \quad \hat{b} = \frac{1}{l!} b^{j_1 \dots j_l} \theta_{j_1} \dots \theta_{j_l}$$

the super-Poisson bracket

$$\{\hat{a}, \hat{b}\} = [a, b]$$

$[a, b]$ = Schouten - Nijenhuis bracket.

2.2. Bihamiltonian structures

Definition. A *bihamiltonian structure* on the manifold P is a 2-dimensional linear subspace in the space of Poisson structures on P .

Choosing two nonproportional Poisson structures π_1 and π_2 in the subspace we obtain that the linear combination

$$a_1\pi_1 + a_2\pi_2 \tag{21}$$

with arbitrary constant coefficients a_1, a_2 is again a Poisson bracket. This reformulation is usually referred to as *the compatibility condition* of the two Poisson brackets. It is spelled out as vanishing of the Schouten - Nijenhuis bracket

$$[\pi_1, \pi_2] = 0. \tag{22}$$

An importance of bihamiltonian structures for recursive constructions of integrable systems was discovered by F. Magri (1978) in the analysis of the so-called Lenard scheme (≤ 1974) of constructing the KdV integrals. The basic idea of these constructions is given by the following simple

Definition A sequence of functions H_0, H_1, \dots satisfying the recursion relation

$$\{ \cdot, H_{p+1} \}_1 = \{ \cdot, H_p \}_2, \quad p = 0, 1, \dots \quad (23)$$

is called **Magri chain**

Lemma 1.2.

$$\{H_p, H_q\}_1 = \{H_p, H_q\}_2 = 0, \quad p, q = 0, 1, \dots$$

Proof. Let $p < q$. Using the recursion and antisymmetry of the brackets we obtain

$$\{H_p, H_q\}_1 = \{H_p, H_{q-1}\}_2 = -\{H_{q-1}, H_p\}_2 = -\{H_{q-1}, H_{p+1}\}_1 = \{H_{p+1}, H_{q-1}\}_1.$$

Assume $q - p = 2m$ for some $m > 0$. Iterating we arrive at

$$\{H_p, H_q\}_1 = \dots = \{H_{p+m}, H_{q-m}\}_1 = 0$$

since $p + m = q - m$. Doing similarly in the case $q - p = 2m + 1$ we obtain

$$\{H_p, H_q\}_1 = \dots = \{H_n, H_{n+1}\}_1 = \{H_n, H_n\}_2 = 0$$

where $n = p + m = q - m - 1$. The commutativity $\{H_p, H_q\}_2 = 0$ easily follows from the recursion. The Lemma is proved.

Two realizations of the recursive procedure (23).

The first case: the bihamiltonian structure is *symplectic*, i.e. $N = 2n$ and the Poisson structures of the affine line (21) do not degenerate for generic a_1, a_2 . Without loss of generality one may assume nondegeneracy of π_1 . The *recursion operator*

$$\mathcal{R} : TP \rightarrow TP$$

is defined by

$$\mathcal{R} := \pi_2 \cdot \pi_1^{-1}. \tag{24}$$

The main recursion relation (23) can be rewritten in the form

$$dH_{p+1} = \mathcal{R}^* dH_p, \quad p = 0, 1, \dots \quad (25)$$

where

$$\mathcal{R}^* : T^*P \rightarrow T^*P$$

is the adjoint operator, or, for the Hamiltonian vector fields X_{H_p}

$$X_{H_{p+1}} = \mathcal{R}X_{H_p} \quad (26)$$

Theorem *The Hamiltonians*

$$H_p := \frac{1}{p+1} \text{tr } \mathcal{R}^{p+1}, \quad p \geq 0$$

satisfy the recursion (25).

Proof: exercise.

Clearly there are at most n independent of these commuting functions. We say that the bihamiltonian symplectic structure is *generic* if exactly n of these functions are independent. Let us denote $\lambda_i = \lambda_i(x)$ the eigenvalues of the recursion operator. Since the characteristic polynomial of \mathcal{R} is a perfect square

$$\det(\mathcal{R} - \lambda) = \text{const} \cdot \det(\pi_2 - \lambda \pi_1) = \prod_{i=1}^n (\lambda - \lambda_i)^2.$$

only n of these eigenvalues can be distinct, say, $\lambda_1 = \lambda_1(x), \dots, \lambda_n = \lambda_n(x)$. For generic bihamiltonian symplectic structure these are independent functions on $P \ni x$.

Theorem Let $\{ , \}_{1,2}$ be a generic symplectic bihamiltonian structure. Then

1) All the commuting Hamiltonians

$$H_p = \frac{1}{p+1} \text{tr } \mathcal{R}^{p+1} = \frac{1}{p+1} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^{p+1}(x), \quad p = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$$

generate completely integrable systems on P .

2) The eigenvalues $\lambda_i(x)$ can be included in a coordinate system $\lambda_1, \mu_1, \dots, \lambda_n, \mu_n$ reducing the two Poisson structures to a block diagonal form where the i -th block in π_1 and in π_2 reads, respectively

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda_i \\ -\lambda_i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

The last formula gives the normal form of a generic symplectic bihamiltonian structure. Therefore all such structures are equivalent w.r.t. the group of local diffeomorphisms.

Idea of the proof: check that the recursion operator has **vanishing Nijenhuis torsion**

$$[\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{R}] = 0$$

where

$$[\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{R}](X, Y) = [\mathcal{R}X, \mathcal{R}Y] - \mathcal{R}[\mathcal{R}X, Y] - \mathcal{R}[X, \mathcal{R}Y] + \mathcal{R}^2[X, Y] \quad (27)$$

for arbitrary two vector fields X, Y , or, in local coordinates

$$[\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{R}]_{jk}^i = \mathcal{R}_j^p \mathcal{R}_{k,p}^i - \mathcal{R}_k^p \mathcal{R}_{j,p}^i - \mathcal{R}_p^i (\mathcal{R}_{k,j}^p - \mathcal{R}_{j,k}^p)$$

Conversely, given a Poisson tensor π_1 and a $(1,1)$ -tensor \mathcal{R} (not a scalar) with vanishing Nijenhuis torsion $\Rightarrow \pi_1$ and

$$\pi_2 := \mathcal{R} \pi_1$$

define on P a bihamiltonian structure.

Exercise Given a $(1,1)$ -tensor \mathcal{R} such that all eigenvalues $\lambda_1(x), \dots, \lambda_N(x)$ of \mathcal{R} are pairwise distinct and $[\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{R}] = 0$ prove existence of local coordinates y^1, \dots, y^N such that \mathcal{R} becomes diagonal and

$$\mathcal{R} \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i} = \lambda_i(y^i) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

The degenerate situation.

Assume that the Poisson structure $a_1\pi_1 + a_2\pi_2$ has *constant rank* for generic a_1 and a_2 . Without loss of generality we may assume that

$$k = \text{corank } \pi_1 \equiv \text{corank}(\pi_1 + \epsilon \pi_2) \quad (28)$$

for an arbitrary sufficiently small ϵ .

Lemma 1.3 *Then the Casimirs of π_1 commute w.r.t. π_2 .*

Proof. Let $2m = \text{rank of } \pi_1$. Reduce the matrix of this bracket to the canonical constant block diagonal form. Denote (π^{ab}) the matrix of the second Poisson bracket in these coordinates. Let us choose two integers i, j such that $2m < i < j \leq N = 2m + k$ and form a $(2m + 1) \times (2m + 1)$ minor of the matrix $\pi_1 + \epsilon\pi_2$ by adding i -th column and j -th row to the principal $2m \times 2m$ minor standing in the first $2m$ columns and first $2m$ rows. The condition (28) is equivalent to vanishing of the determinants of all these minors. The determinant in question is equal to $-\epsilon \pi^{ij} + O(\epsilon^2)$. Therefore $\pi^{ij} = 0$ for all pairs (i, j) greater than $2m$.

Corollary *For a compatible pair of Poisson brackets of the constant rank $(\pi_2 - \lambda \pi_1) = \text{rank } \pi_1$, $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$,*

$\pi_2 \in H^2(P, \pi_1)$ is a trivial cocycle.

Proof. What π_2 is a cocycle w.r.t. the Poisson cohomology of (P, π_1) follows from $[\pi_1, \pi_2] = 0$. To prove triviality use commutativity of the Casimirs of the first Poisson bracket and also Lemma 1.1.

Poisson pencil:

$$\pi_\lambda := \pi_2 - \lambda\pi_1 \quad (29)$$

(marked π_1).

Poisson pencils of constant rank: the corank of π_λ equals k for $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$. The recursive construction of the commuting flows in this case is given by

Theorem 1.4 *Under the assumption (28) the coefficients of the Taylor expansion*

$$c^\alpha(x, \lambda) = c_{-1}^\alpha(x) + \frac{c_0^\alpha(x)}{\lambda} + \frac{c_1^\alpha(x)}{\lambda^2} + \dots, \quad \lambda \rightarrow \infty \quad (30)$$

of the Casimirs $c^\alpha(x, \lambda)$, $\alpha = 1, \dots, k$ of the Poisson bracket $\{ , \}_\lambda$ commute with respect to both the Poisson brackets

$$\{c_p^\alpha, c_q^\beta\}_{1,2} = 0, \quad \alpha, \beta = 1, \dots, k, \quad p, q \geq -1.$$

Proof. Spelling out the definition of the Casimirs

$$\{ \cdot , c^\alpha \}_\lambda = 0$$

for the coefficients of the expansion (30) we must have first that

$$\{ \cdot , c_{-1}^\alpha \}_1 = 0. \quad (31)$$

That is, the leading coefficients of the Taylor expansions are Casimirs of $\{ \cdot , \}_1$. For the subsequent coefficients we get the recursive relations

$$\{ \cdot , c_{p+1}^\alpha \}_1 = \{ \cdot , c_p^\alpha \}_2, \quad p = -1, 0, 1, \dots \quad (32)$$

From (32) and Lemma 1.2 it follows that

$$\{ c_p^\alpha , c_q^\alpha \}_{1,2} = 0, \quad p, q \geq -1.$$

The commutativity $\{c_p^\alpha, c_q^\beta\}_{1,2} = 0$ for $\alpha \neq \beta$ easily follows from the same recursion trick and from commutativity of the Casimirs

$$\{c_{-1}^\alpha, c_{-1}^\beta\}_2 = 0 \tag{33}$$

proved in Lemma 1.3. The theorem is proved.

Example According to triviality of the cohomology class $\pi_2 \in H^2(\pi_1)$ there exists a vector field Z such that

$$Lie_Z \pi_1 = \pi_2.$$

We say that the bihamiltonian structure is *exact* if the vector field Z can be chosen in such a way that

$$(Lie_Z)^2 \pi_1 = 0. \quad (34)$$

For an exact bihamiltonian structure the generating functions (30) of the commuting Hamiltonians $c_p^\alpha(x)$ have the form

$$c^\alpha(x; \lambda) = \exp(-Z/\lambda) c_{-1}^\alpha(x) = c_{-1}^\alpha(x) - \frac{1}{\lambda} \partial_Z c_{-1}^\alpha(x) + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \partial_Z^2 c_{-1}^\alpha(x) \dots \quad (35)$$

for every $\alpha = 1, \dots, k$ (**exercise!**).

Conversely, if, in a given coordinate system, $\{ , \}_1$ depends linearly on one of the coordinates and $\{ , \}_2$ does not depend on this coordinate then the bihamiltonian structure is exact.

In particular for the standard linear Lie - Poisson structures on the dual spaces to Lie algebras

$$\{x^i, x^j\} = c_k^{ij} x^k \mapsto \{x^i, x^j\}_\lambda = c_k^{ij} x^k - \lambda \pi^{ij}, \quad \pi^{ij} = c_k^{ij} a^k$$

$$x^i \mapsto x^i - \lambda a^i$$

(the method of argument translation).

A Poisson pencil of constant corank $k \Rightarrow k$ chains of pairwise commuting bihamiltonian flows

$$\frac{dx}{dt^{\alpha,p}} = \{x, c_p^\alpha\}_1 = \{x, c_{p-1}^\alpha\}_2, \quad \alpha = 1, \dots, k, \quad p = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (36)$$

Labels of the chains $\alpha \rightarrow$ the Casimirs c_{-1}^α of the first Poisson bracket.

The level $p \rightarrow$ the number of iterations of the recursive procedure

All the family of commuting flows organized by the above recursion procedure is called *the hierarchy* determined by the bihamiltonian structure.

Different choice of the second Poisson bracket in the pencil produces a triangular linear transformation of the commuting Hamiltonians, i.e., to the Hamiltonians of the level p it will be added a linear combination of the Hamiltonians of the lower levels.