# 3. Quaternions, Grassmannians and structures on the full polygon spaces 

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Finally, ${ }^{3} \mathcal{P}^{2} \simeq \mathbf{C} P^{1} /\{z \sim \bar{z}\}$ is homeomorphic, via the length-side map $\ell$, to the solid triangle

$$
{ }^{3} \mathcal{P}^{2}={ }^{3} \mathcal{P}^{3} \xrightarrow[\simeq]{\ell}\left\{\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \in \mathbf{R}^{3} \mid x_{1}+x_{2}+x_{3}=2 \quad \text { and } \quad 0 \leq x_{i} \leq 1\right\}
$$

with boundary ${ }^{3} \mathcal{P}^{1}$.

## 3. Quaternions, Grassmannians

## AND STRUCTURES ON THE FULL POLYGON SPACES

(3.1) Let $\mathbf{H}=\mathbf{C} \oplus \mathbf{C} j$ be the skew-field of quaternions; the space $I \mathbf{H}$ of pure imaginary quaternions is equipped with the orthonormal basis $i, j$ and $k=i j$, giving rise to an isometry with $\mathbf{R}^{3}$ which turns the pure imaginary part of the quaternionic multiplication $p q$ into the usual cross product $p \times q$. The space ${ }^{m} \mathcal{F}^{3}$ is thus identified with ${ }^{m} \mathcal{F}(I \mathbf{H})$ which gives rise to the canonical identifications on the the various moduli spaces (see (2.2)).

Recall that the correspondence

$$
\eta: u+v j \mapsto\left(\begin{array}{cc}
u & v \\
-\bar{v} & \bar{u}
\end{array}\right)
$$

gives an injective $\mathbf{R}$-algebra homomorphism $\eta: \mathbf{H} \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{(2 \times 2)}(\mathbf{C})$. This enables a matrix $P \in U_{2}$ to act on the right or on the left on $\mathbf{H}$. It also identifies the group $S^{3}$ of unit quaternions with $\mathrm{SU}_{2}$.
(3.2) The Hopf map $\phi: \mathbf{H} \longrightarrow I \mathbf{H}$ defined by

$$
\phi(q):=\bar{q} i q
$$

sends the 3 -sphere of radius $\sqrt{r}$ in $\mathbf{H}$ onto the 2 -sphere of radius $r$ in $/ \mathbf{H}$. (The formulae given in the original paper by Hopf [Ho, §5] actually correspond to the map $q \mapsto \bar{q} k q$.) The equality $\phi(q)=\phi\left(q^{\prime}\right)$ occurs if and only if $q^{\prime}=e^{i \theta} q$. The map $\phi$ satisfies the equivariance relation $\phi(q \cdot P)=P^{-1} \cdot \phi(q) \cdot P$. Writing $q=u+v j$ with $u, v \in \mathbf{C}$, one has

$$
\phi(u+v j)=(\bar{u}-j \bar{v}) i(u+v j)=i(\bar{u}+j \bar{v})(u+v j)=i\left[\left(|u|^{2}-|v|^{2}\right)+2 \bar{u} v j\right] .
$$

(3.3) Observe that if $q=s+t j$ with $s, t \in \mathbf{R}$, then $\phi(q)=i q^{2}$. This plane $\mathbf{R} \oplus \mathbf{R} j$ of its images is the fixed point set of the involution $a+b j \mapsto \bar{a}+\bar{b} j$ that will be used later. Its image under $\phi$ is $\mathbf{R} i \oplus \mathbf{R} k$.
(3.4) Remark. IH, with the Lie bracket $[p, q]=p q-q p=2 \operatorname{Im}(p q)$, is the Lie algebra for the group $U_{1}(\mathbf{H}) \simeq S U_{2} \simeq S^{3}$. The pairing
$\left(q, q^{\prime}\right) \mapsto-\operatorname{Re}\left(q q^{\prime}\right)=\left\langle q, q^{\prime}\right\rangle$ identifies $I \mathbf{H}$ with its dual. If $\mathbf{H} \simeq \mathbf{C} \oplus \mathbf{C}$ is endowed with the standard Kähler form, then the map $\frac{1}{2} \phi$ is the moment map for the Hamiltonian action of $U_{1}(\mathbf{H})$ on $\mathbf{H}$ (the factor $\frac{1}{2}$ can be checked by restricting the action to the $S^{1}$-action on $\mathbf{C}$ ).
(3.5) Let $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ be the space of $(m \times 2)$-matrices

$$
(a, b):=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
a_{1} & b_{1} \\
\vdots & \vdots \\
a_{m} & b_{m}
\end{array}\right) \in \mathcal{M}_{m \times 2}(\mathbf{C})
$$

such that $|a|=|b|=1$ and $\langle a, b\rangle=0 . \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ is the Stiefel manifold of orthonormal 2 -frames in $\mathbf{C}^{m}$. The group $U_{m}$ acts transitively on the left on $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ producing the diffeomorphism $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)=U_{m} / U_{m-2}$. One has the conjugation on $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ given by $(a, b) \mapsto(\bar{a}, \bar{b})$ with fixed-point space the Stiefel manifold $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right)=O_{m} / O_{m-2}$ of orthonormal 2 -frames in $\mathbf{R}^{m}$. Finally, the embedding $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \subset \mathbf{H}^{m}$ given by $(a, b) \mapsto\left(\ldots, a_{r}+b_{r} j, \ldots\right)$ intertwines the conjugation on $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ with the involution of (2.5) on $\mathbf{H}^{m}$. One thus gets an embedding $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \subset(\mathbf{R} \oplus \mathbf{R} j)^{m}$.

Using the Hopf map $\phi$ of (3.2), one defines the smooth map $\Phi: \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \mathcal{F}(I \mathbf{H}) \simeq{ }^{m} \mathcal{F}^{3}$ by the formula

$$
\Phi(a, b):=\left(\phi\left(a_{1}+b_{1} j\right), \phi\left(a_{2}+b_{2} j\right), \ldots, \phi\left(a_{m}+b_{m} j\right)\right) .
$$

The fact that $\sum \phi\left(a_{r}+b_{r} j\right)=0$ is equivalent to $\langle a, b\rangle=0$ and $|a|=|b|$. As $|a|=|b|=1$, the image of $\Phi$ is exactly $S\left({ }^{m} \mathcal{F}^{3}\right)$. By composing with the projection ${ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}^{3}-\{0\} \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{3}$, one gets a surjective smooth map $\Phi: \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{3}$. One checks that $\Phi(a, b)=\Phi\left(a^{\prime}, b^{\prime}\right)$ if and only if $(a, b)$ and $\left(a^{\prime}, b^{\prime}\right)$ are in the same orbit under the action of the maximal torus $U_{1}^{m}$ of diagonal matrices in $U_{m}$. This action is free when none of the $\left(a_{i}, b_{i}\right)$ 's vanishes, namely if and only if $\Phi(a, b)$ is a proper polygon. As $\Phi(\bar{a}, \bar{b})=\Phi(a, b)^{2}$, the restriction of $\Phi$ to the fixed points gives a smooth map $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}: \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{R} i \oplus \mathbf{R} k) \simeq{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{2}$ with analogous properties. We have thus proved

THEOREM 3.6. a) The smooth map $\Phi: \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{3}$ induces a homeomorphism $\widehat{\Phi}: U_{1}^{m} \backslash \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \xrightarrow{\simeq}{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{3}$ such that $\widehat{\Phi}(\bar{a}, \bar{b})=\Phi(a, b)^{2}$. The restriction of $\Phi$ above the space of proper polygons is a smooth principal $U_{1}^{m}$-bundle.
b) The smooth map $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}: \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{2}$ induces a homeomorphism $\widehat{\Phi}_{\mathbf{R}}: O_{1}^{m} \backslash \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \xrightarrow{\simeq} m \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{2}$. The restriction of $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}$ above the space of proper planar polygons is a principal $O_{1}^{m}$-covering.

COROLLARY 3.7. ${ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{3} \simeq U_{1}^{m} \backslash U_{m} / U_{m-2}$ and ${ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{2} \simeq O_{1}^{m} \backslash O_{m} / O_{m-2}$.
(3.8) Let $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ be the Grassmann manifold of 2-planes in $\mathbf{C}^{m}$. The map $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ which associates to $(a, b)$ the plane generated by $a$ and $b$ is the projection $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) / U_{2}$ (a principal $U_{2}$ bundle), for the natural right action of $U_{2}$ on $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \subset \mathcal{M}_{m \times 2}(\mathbf{C})$. This projection is $U_{m}$-equivariant, equivalent to the projection $U_{m} / U_{m-2} \longrightarrow U_{m} / U_{2} \times U_{m-2}$.

The map $\Phi: \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{3}$ satisfies

$$
\Phi((a, b) P)=P^{-1} \Phi(a, b) P \quad \text { for } \quad(a, b) \in \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right), P \in U_{2} .
$$

The conjugation by $P$ being an element of $S O(I \mathbf{H})$, one thus gets a map (still called $\Phi$ ) from $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ onto ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{3}$. The space ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{3}$ has a smooth structure on the open-dense subset of non-lined polygons (which is where the $\mathrm{SO}_{3}$-action was free) and, above this open-dense subset, the new map $\Phi$ is smooth. The map $\Phi$ intertwines the involutions and so restricts to a map $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}: \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{2}$, where $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right)$ is the Grassmannian of 2-planes in $\mathbf{R}^{m}$. In this case, an intermediate object is the Grassmannian $\widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right)=\mathrm{SO}_{m} / \mathrm{SO}_{2} \times \mathrm{SO}_{m-2}$ of oriented 2-planes in $\mathbf{R}^{m}$ with the smooth map $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}} \widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{2} \simeq \mathbf{C} P^{m-2}$. The action of $U_{1}^{m}$ on $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ descends to an action on $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ which is no longer effective: its kernel is the diagonal subgroup $\Delta$ of $U_{1}^{m}$, the center of $U_{m}$, isomorphic to $U_{1}$. The same holds true in the real case, replacing $U_{1}$ by $O_{1}$ (the diagonal subgroup of $O_{1}^{m}$ is also denoted by $\Delta$ ).

Using Theorem 3.6, the reader will easily prove the following

THEOREM 3.9. a) The map $\Phi: \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{3}$ induces a homeomorphism $\widehat{\Phi}: U_{1}^{m} \backslash \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \xrightarrow{\simeq}{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{3}$ such that $\widehat{\Phi}(\bar{a}, \bar{b})=\Phi(a, b)^{2}$. The restriction of $\widehat{\Phi}$ above the space of proper non-lined polygons is a smooth principal ( $U_{1}^{m} / \Delta$ )-bundle.
b) The smooth map $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}: \widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{2}$ induces a homeomorphism $\widehat{\Phi}_{\mathbf{R}}: O_{1}^{m} \backslash \widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \xrightarrow{\simeq}{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{2}$. It is a smooth branched covering and, restricted above the space of proper polygons, a principal $\left(O_{1}^{m} / \Delta\right)$-covering.
c) The map $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}: \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{2}$ induces a homeomorphism $\widehat{\Phi}_{\mathbf{R}}: O_{1}^{m} \backslash \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{m}\right) \xrightarrow{\simeq}{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{2}$. The restriction of $\widehat{\Phi}$ above the space of proper non-lined polygons is a principal $\left(O_{1}^{m} / \Delta\right)$-covering.

COROLLARY 3.10. One has homeomorphisms between the polygon spaces and the double cosets
a) ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{3} \simeq U_{1}^{m} \backslash U_{m} /\left(U_{2} \times U_{m-2}\right)$
b) ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{2} \simeq S\left(O_{1}^{m}\right) \backslash S O_{m} /\left(S_{2} \times S O_{m-2}\right)$.
c) ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{2} \simeq O_{1}^{m} \backslash O_{m} /\left(O_{2} \times O_{m-2}\right)$.
(3.11) Example. As in (2.7) the example of planar triangles ( $m=3$ and $k=2$ ) is interesting. The Stiefel manifold $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{3}\right)$ is diffeomorphic to the unit tangent bundle to $S^{2}$, in turn diffeomorphic to $\mathrm{SO}_{3}$. The oriented Grassmannian $\widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{3}\right)$ can be identified with $S^{2}$ by associating to an oriented plane its unit normal vector. The smooth map

$$
\left.\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}: S^{2} \simeq \widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{3}\right)\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{3} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{2} \simeq S^{2}
$$

is of degree 4 , branched over the 3 points. This map can be visualized as follows: tesselate $\mathbf{R}^{2}$ with equilateral triangles. Divide $\mathbf{R}^{2}$ by the subgroup of isometries which preserve the tesselation and the orientation (it thus preserves a checkerboard coloring of the triangle tesselation). This quotient is a well known orbifold structure on $S^{2}$ with three branched points. The projection $\mathbf{R}^{2} \longrightarrow S^{2}$ factors through an octahedron with a chess-board coloring of its faces. The residual map from this octahedron to $S^{2}$ is our map $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}$.

Take the pullback by $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}$ of the Hopf bundle $S^{3} \longrightarrow S^{2}$. One gets a map of degree 4 from some lens space $L$ onto $S^{3}$, with branched locus the link formed by three $\mathrm{SO}_{2}$-orbits. The lens space will be doubly covered by $\mathrm{SO}_{3}$. We thus get the map

$$
\widetilde{\Phi}: S O_{3} \simeq \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{3}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{3} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{2} \simeq S^{3}
$$

of degree 8. Finally, one has $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{R}^{3}\right) \simeq \mathbf{R} P^{2}$ and $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}$ is the quotient of $\mathbf{R} P^{2}$ by the action of $O_{1}^{3}$ on each homogeneous coordinate. This quotient is a 2 -simplex and one sees again that ${ }^{3} \mathcal{P}^{2}$ is a solid triangle.
(3.12) Orbifold structures. The maps $\widehat{\Phi}_{\mathbf{R}}$ and $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}$ provide, for the spaces ${ }^{2} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{2} \simeq S^{2 m-3}$ and ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{2} \simeq \mathbf{C} P^{m-2}$, a smooth orbifold structure. Each point has a neighbourhood homeomorphic to an open set of the quotient of $\left(\mathbf{R}^{2}\right)^{s}$ by a subgroup of $O_{1}^{s}$, where $O_{1}$ acts on each $\mathbf{R}^{2}$ via the antipodal map. Observe that the map $\Phi_{\mathbf{R}}$ is a "small cover" in the sense of [DJ]. The branched loci are $E_{m-1}{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{2}$ and $E_{m-1}{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{2}$ respectively. As for ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{2}$ we have to add the branched locus ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{1}$. The generic points of ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{1}$ have a neighbourhood modelled on the quotient of $\mathbf{C}^{m-2}$ by complex conjugation.

Analogously, the map $\Phi: \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{3}$ gives rise, for the space ${ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{3}$, to a smooth complex orbifold structure. By that we mean a space locally modelled on the quotient of $\mathbf{C}^{s}$ by a subgroup of $U_{1}^{s}$. We define the space $\mathcal{C}^{\infty}\left({ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{3}\right)$ of smooth maps from ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{3}$ to the reals as the subspace of $\mathcal{C}^{\infty}\left(\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)\right)$ which is invariant by the action of $U_{1}^{m}$.
(3.13) Riemannian and Poisson structures. Let $\mathcal{H}(m)$ be the space of Hermitian $(m \times m)$-matrices, identified with $\mathbf{u}_{m}^{*}$ via the pairing

$$
\mathcal{H}(m) \times \mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{m}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{R} \quad(H, X) \mapsto \frac{i}{2} \operatorname{tr}(H X)
$$

This identification turns the co-adjoint action of $U_{m}$ into the conjugation action on $\mathcal{H}(m)$. Consider the map $\widetilde{\Psi}: \mathcal{M}_{m \times 2}(\mathbf{C}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}(m)$ given by $\widetilde{\Psi}(a, b):=(a, b) \cdot(a, b)^{*}$. One has $\widetilde{\Psi}(Q \cdot(a, b) \cdot P)=Q \cdot \widetilde{\Psi}\left((a, b) \cdot Q^{*}\right.$ for $P \in U_{2}$ and $Q \in U_{m}$ and thus $\mathcal{C}:=\widetilde{\Psi}\left(\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)\right)$ is the $U_{m}$-orbit through $\operatorname{diag}(1,1,0, \ldots, 0)$. This proves that $\widetilde{\Psi}$ descends to a diffeomorphism $\Psi: \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathcal{C}$.

The complex vector space $\mathcal{M}_{m \times 2}(\mathbf{C})$ is endowed with its classical Hermitian structure $\langle A, B\rangle:=\operatorname{tr}\left(A B^{*}\right)$, with associated symplectic form $\omega()=,-\operatorname{Im}\langle$,$\rangle . The map \widetilde{\Psi}$ above and the map $\widetilde{\Phi}: \mathcal{M}_{m \times 2}(\mathbf{C}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}_{0}(2)$ given by

$$
\widetilde{\Phi}(a, b):=(a, b)^{*} \cdot(a, b)-\left(\begin{array}{ll}
1 & 0 \\
0 & 1
\end{array}\right)
$$

are moment maps for the Hamiltonian actions of $U_{m}$ and $U_{2}$ respectively. One has $\mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)=\widetilde{\Phi}^{-1}(0)$ and thus $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ occurs as symplectic reduction of the Hermitian vector space $\mathcal{M}_{m \times 2}(\mathbf{C})$ and thereby inherits a $U_{m}$-invariant Kähler structure, using, for instance [Ki], §1.7. (Strictly speaking, one deals in [Ki] with compact Kähler manifolds; to fulfill this condition, one can first divide $\mathcal{M}_{m \times 2}(\mathbf{C})-\{0\}$ by the diagonal action of $\mathbf{C}^{*}$ to put oneself into a complex projective space.) The residual map $\Psi: \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{H}(m)$ is a moment map for the action of $U_{m}$ on $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$.

Being thus a Kähler manifold, $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ is a Riemannian Poisson manifold. This structure descends to the complex orbifold ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{3}$ : the algebra $\mathcal{C}^{\infty}\left({ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{3}\right)$ admits a unique Lie bracket so that the projection $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{3}$ is a Poisson map.
(3.14) It is possible to endow with a Poisson structure the space ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{3}$ of configurations of all $m$-gons in $\mathbf{R}^{3}$, without fixing the perimeter to 2 . It suffices in the above construction, to replace the $U_{2}$-reduction $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)=\widetilde{\Phi}^{-1}(0) / U_{2}$ by the $S U_{2}$-reduction $\widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right):=\widetilde{\Phi}^{-1}(0) / S U_{2}$. The latter is a non-compact space, the total space of the determinant bundle over $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ with the zero
section collapsed. The trace function on $\mathcal{M}_{m \times 2}(\mathbf{C})$ descends to $\widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ and to the Casimir function "perimeter" on ${ }^{m} \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{3}$.

## 4. Polygons with given sides - Kähler structures

We now use the map $\ell:{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{k},{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{k},{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{k} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^{m}$ defined in (2.4). Recall that $\ell(\rho)$, for $\rho \in{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{k}$, is the length of the successive sides of a representative of $r$ with total perimeter 2.

For $\alpha=\left(\alpha_{1}, \ldots, \alpha_{m}\right) \in \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}^{m}$ with $\sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_{i}=2$, we define

$$
{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{k}(\alpha):=: \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{k}(\alpha):=\left\{\rho \in{ }^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{k} \mid \ell(\rho)=\alpha\right\} \subset^{m} \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{k} .
$$

The space $\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{k}(\alpha)$ is invariant under the action of $O_{k}$. We define the moduli spaces

$$
\mathcal{P}_{+}^{k}(\alpha):=S O_{k} \backslash \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{k}(\alpha)=\ell^{-1}(\alpha) \subset{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}_{+}^{k}
$$

and

$$
\mathcal{P}^{k}(\alpha):=O_{k} \backslash \widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{k}(\alpha)=\ell^{-1}(\alpha) \subset{ }^{m} \mathcal{P}^{k} .
$$

The space $\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{1}(\alpha)$ consists of a finite number of points and is generically empty. We call $\alpha$ generic if $\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}^{1}(\alpha)=\varnothing$.

THEOREM 4.1. The map $\mu:=\ell \circ \widehat{\Phi}: \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}^{m}$ is a moment map for the action of $U_{1}^{m}$ on $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$.

Proof. As seen in (3.13), the moment map $\Psi: \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right) \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}(m)$ for the $U_{m}$-action on $\mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ is induced from $\widetilde{\Psi}: \mathcal{M}_{m \times 2}(\mathbf{C}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}(m)$ given by $\widetilde{\Psi}(a, b):=(a, b) \cdot(a, b)^{*}$. A moment map $\mu$ for the action of $U_{1}^{m}$ is obtained by composing $\Psi$ with the projection $\mathcal{H}(m) \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}^{m}$ associating to a matrix its diagonal entries. So, if $\Pi \in \mathbf{G}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$ is generated by $a$ and $b$ with $(a, b) \in \mathbf{V}_{2}\left(\mathbf{C}^{m}\right)$, one has

$$
\mu(\Pi)=\left(\left|a_{1}\right|^{2}+\left|b_{1}\right|^{2}, \ldots,\left|a_{m}\right|^{2}+\left|b_{m}\right|^{2}\right)=\ell \circ \widehat{\Phi}(a, b) .
$$

A now classic theorem of Atiyah and Guillemin-Sternberg [Au, § III.4.2] asserts that the image of a moment map for a torus action is a convex polytope (the moment polytope). The restriction of the moment map to the fixed point set of an anti-symplectic involution has the same image [Du]. In our case, one gets these facts directly:

