

STRATIFICATIONS OF INERTIA SPACES OF COMPACT LIE GROUP ACTIONS

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Dedicated to David Trotman on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

ABSTRACT. We study the topology of the inertia space of a smooth G -manifold M where G is a compact Lie group. We construct an explicit Whitney stratification of the inertia space, demonstrating that the inertia space is a triangulable differentiable stratified space. In addition, we demonstrate a de Rham theorem for differential forms defined on the inertia space with respect to this stratification.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let G be a compact Lie group acting (from the left) on a smooth manifold M . In the case where G acts locally freely on M , the orbit space $X := G \backslash M$ is an orbifold. Moreover, in this situation, the inertia space ΛX of the orbifold X can be defined as the quotient of the disjoint union $\bigsqcup_{g \in G} M^g$ of the fixed point manifolds M^g by the natural action of the Lie group G . It turns out that ΛX is an orbifold as well which in general has several connected components of varying dimension. The inertia space of an orbifold has originally been introduced by Kawasaki in [KAW78, p. 77] and subsequently used in [KAW79, KAW84]. In these papers, the inertia orbifold served as a bookkeeping device for the formulation of the topological index in an orbifold signature theorem resp. an orbifold index formula. Since Kawasaki's work, the inertia orbifold has played a major role for all formulations of index theorems on orbifolds; see e.g. [FAR92, FAR07, PFPOTA07, VERG]. In addition, the inertia orbifold has been widely studied in connection with the Chern character for orbifolds, which provides an isomorphism between the (rationalized) orbifold K -theory and the cohomology of the inertia orbifold, as well as with Chen–Ruan orbifold cohomology, which is additively isomorphic to the cohomology of the inertia orbifold; see e.g. [ADLERU, BACO, BABRMPH].

In the general case, where the action of G is no longer assumed to be locally free, the space $G \backslash M$ is not necessarily an orbifold but rather a differentiable stratified space; see [PFL, Chap. 4]. In this case, however, an analog of the inertia orbifold has appeared in connection with the study of the convolution algebra $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M) \rtimes G$ from the point of view of noncommutative geometry. More precisely, in connection with his study of the Hochschild cohomology of the convolution algebra $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M) \rtimes G$ in [BRY], Brylinsky considered the space of relative basic differential forms on an appropriately defined space which in this paper we will identify with the inertia space of the groupoid $G \ltimes M$. Similarly, Block and Getzler proved in [BLGE] that the periodic cyclic cohomology of the convolution algebra G is isomorphic to a sheaf of equivariant differential forms defined as a sheaf on G . When G is connected, this sheaf can also be understood as a sheaf of equivariant relative differential forms on the inertia space. In their paper [LUUR], Lupercio–Uribe defined for every topological groupoid G an inertia groupoid ΛG . More precisely,

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the inertia groupoid ΛG is the transformation groupoid $G \times B_0$, where B_0 is the space of loops of the groupoid G , i.e. the set of all arrows g such that the source $s(g)$ coincides with the target $t(g)$. The inertia space of G then is orbit space of the inertia groupoid ΛG or in other words the quotient space $G \backslash B_0$. If G is a proper étale Lie groupoid representing an orbifold X , the thus defined inertia space coincides with the inertia orbifold of X as defined originally by Kawasaki and subsequent authors. See also [ADGo] for recent results on the K -theory of inertia spaces of compact Lie group actions where the fundamental group of the Lie group is torsion-free and all isotropy groups have maximal rank.

With this paper, we aim at defining a general notion of the inertia space of a proper Lie groupoid and studying its fundamental properties in the basic situation where the Lie groupoid is a transformation groupoid $G \times M$ with G a compact Lie group. Under this hypothesis, we give an explicit stratification of the inertia space in Theorem 4.1. Additionally, we demonstrate a de Rham theorem for differential forms on the inertia space in Theorem 5.1. Note that (locally), the inertia space is a subanalytic set, hence is known to admit a stratification by [MASH]. However, the stratification constructed here is given explicitly in terms of local data on M and G , similar to the well-known stratification of $G \backslash M$ by orbit types.

In the case that G is a torus and M is stably almost complex, an inertia space is implicitly realized as a differentiable stratified space in [GoHoKN], where the Chen–Ruan orbifold cohomology is extended to this case. This construction differs from ours in that their inertia space is implicitly defined as a subquotient of the space $M \times \underline{G}$ where \underline{G} denotes the group G with the *discrete* topology; the inertia space then appears as the disjoint union of an infinite family of quotients of G -invariant submanifolds of M . Our construction considers the inertia space as a subquotient of the manifold $M \times G$ where G is given its usual topology as a Lie group. Hence, while these inertia spaces are the same as sets, the topology of our inertia space does not coincide with that of [GoHoKN].

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we review the notions of differentiable spaces and differentiable stratified spaces. In Section 3, we define the inertia space as well as the structure sheaf with which it is a differentiable space. In the same section, we also study the local properties of the inertia space and in particular demonstrate that it is locally contractible and triangulable. In Section 4, we explicitly describe the stratification of the inertia space; we give several examples of the main construction before proving the corresponding main result, Theorem 4.1. In Section 5, we prove Theorem 5.1, a de Rham Theorem for the inertia space.

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2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we recall the definitions of differentiable spaces and differentiable stratified spaces. Hereby, we use the notion of a differentiable space as originally introduced by SPALLEK [SPA69, SPA70, SPA71, SPA72], and follow the exposition and notation of [GOSA]; see also [BIE75, BIE80, BRE, PFL] for more details on stratified spaces.

Recall that a *locally \mathbb{R} -ringed space* (X, \mathcal{O}) consists of a topological space X equipped with a sheaf \mathcal{O} of \mathbb{R} -algebras such that at each point $x \in X$ the stalk \mathcal{O}_x is a local ring. Note that by definition there then exists for each point $x \in X$ and open neighborhood U of x an evaluation

map $e_x : \mathcal{O}(U) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f \mapsto f(x)$. A *morphism* of locally \mathbb{R} -ringed spaces $(X, \mathcal{O}) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{Q})$ is a pair (f, F) , where $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a continuous map and $F : \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow f_*\mathcal{O}$ a morphism of sheaves over Y such that for each $x \in X$ the induced map on the stalks $F_x : \mathcal{Q}_{f(x)} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_x$ is a local ring homomorphism. Obviously, locally \mathbb{R} -ringed spaces with their morphisms form a category.

We consider $\mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with the unique topology with respect to which it is a Fréchet algebra, see [GOSA, Section 2.3]. A locally \mathbb{R} -ringed space is called an *affine differentiable space*, if for some $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ there is a closed ideal $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq \mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that (X, \mathcal{O}) is isomorphic as a locally \mathbb{R} -ringed space to $(\text{Spec}_r(A), \mathcal{A})$. Here, A denotes the differentiable algebra $\mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)/\mathfrak{a}$, $\text{Spec}_r(A)$ is the *real spectrum* of A , i.e. the collection of all continuous \mathbb{R} -algebra homomorphisms $A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ equipped with the Gelfand topology, and \mathcal{A} is the structure sheaf on $\text{Spec}_r(A)$, i.e. the sheaf associated to the presheaf $U \mapsto A_U$, where U runs through the open sets of $\text{Spec}_r(A)$ and A_U is the localization of A over U . A locally ringed space (X, \mathcal{O}) is a *differentiable space*, if for each point $x \in X$ there is an open neighborhood U such that the restriction $(U, \mathcal{O}|_U)$ is an affine differentiable space. If in addition the map

$$\mathcal{O}(U) \mapsto \mathcal{C}(U), f \mapsto \hat{f} := (U \ni x \mapsto f(x) \in \mathbb{R})$$

is injective for each open $U \subseteq X$, one calls (X, \mathcal{O}) a *reduced differentiable space*. A reduced differentiable space is called a *smooth differentiable space*, if for each point $x \in X$ there is an open neighborhood U such that the restriction $(U, \mathcal{O}|_U)$ is isomorphic as a locally \mathbb{R} -ringed space to some $(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}^n}^\infty)$, where $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}^n}^\infty$ denotes the sheaf of smooth functions on \mathbb{R}^n . Examples of reduced differentiable spaces include smooth manifolds, the orbit space of a proper smooth action of a Lie group on a manifold or more generally of a proper Lie groupoid [PFPOTA11], algebraic varieties, and symplectically reduced spaces.

Let now $Y \subset X$ be a locally closed subspace of a differentiable space (X, \mathcal{O}) . Then, Y carries a natural structure sheaf $\mathcal{O}|_Y$ such that $(Y, \mathcal{O}|_Y)$ becomes a reduced differentiable space. More precisely, if $V \subseteq Y$ is relatively open and $U \subseteq X$ open with $V = U \cap Y$, we define $\mathcal{O}|_Y(U \cap Y)$ to be the quotient of $\mathcal{O}|_X(U)$ by the closed ideal of functions that vanish on $U \cap Y$, see [GOSA, Example 3.21 and Section 5.1]. Note that in general, the restricted sheaf $\mathcal{O}|_Y$ coincides with the pullback sheaf $i^*\mathcal{O}$ for the embedding $i : Y \hookrightarrow X$ only if Y is open in X .

We now recall the definitions of a decomposition and stratification of a (paracompact, second-countable Hausdorff) topological space X in the sense of Mather [MAT73], see also [PFL, Chap. 1] for further details. A *decomposition* of X is a locally finite partition of X into locally closed subspaces, the *pieces* of the decomposition, such that each piece is a smooth manifold in the induced topology and the pieces satisfy the *condition of frontier*: If R and S are pieces such that $R \cap \bar{S} \neq \emptyset$, then $R \subseteq \bar{S}$. A *stratification* \mathcal{S} of X is an assignment to each $x \in X$ the germ \mathcal{S}_x of a closed subset of X such that there is a neighborhood U of x and a decomposition \mathcal{Z} of U such that for each $y \in U$, \mathcal{S}_y coincides with the germ of the piece of \mathcal{Z} containing y .

Suppose now that (X, \mathcal{O}) is a reduced differentiable space which in addition carries a stratification. Then every stratum S of X is locally closed, hence one obtains for every stratum S the restricted sheaf $\mathcal{O}|_S$. Denote by \mathcal{C}_S^∞ the sheaf of smooth functions on the smooth manifold S . We say that (X, \mathcal{O}) is a *differentiable stratified space*, if for each stratum S of X , the sheaves $\mathcal{O}|_S$ and \mathcal{C}_S^∞ coincide. Note that this notion of a differentiable stratified space is equivalent to the notion of a stratified space with \mathcal{C}^∞ -structure as defined in [PFL, Sec. 1.3]. In particular, given an affine set U (i.e. an open subset $U \subseteq X$ such that $(U, \mathcal{O}|_U)$ is an affine differentiable space), an isomorphism of $(U, \mathcal{O}|_U)$ with $\text{Spec}_r(\mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)/\mathfrak{a})$ defines a singular chart for U in the sense of [PFL, Sec. 1.3]. Often, we denote the structure sheaf of a reduced differentiable space X or a differentiable stratified space X by \mathcal{C}_X^∞ .

To give an example of a differentiable stratified space, consider a Lie group G acting properly on a smooth manifold M . Let $\varrho : M \rightarrow G \backslash M$ be the quotient map. It is well known (cf. e.g. [PFL,

Sec. 4.3] or [DuKo, Sec. 2.7]) that the orbit space $G \backslash M$ is stratified by orbit types. Specifically, let $G_x \leq G$ denote the isotropy group of a point $x \in M$, let (G_x) denote the G -conjugacy class of G_x , and let $M_{(G_x)}$ denote the collection of $y \in M$ such that G_y is conjugate to G_x . Then the stratification of $G \backslash M$ by orbit types is given by assigning to each $x \in M$ the germ of the set $G \backslash M_{(G_x)}$. Moreover, by [PFL, Thm. 4.4.6], the orbit space carries a canonical differentiable structure which is compatible with the stratification by orbit types. In other words, $G \backslash M$ thus becomes a differentiable stratified space. The structure sheaf $\mathcal{C}_{G \backslash M}^\infty$ is given by assigning to an open subset U of $G \backslash M$ the \mathbb{R} -algebra of continuous functions on U which pull back to smooth G -invariant functions on $\varrho^{-1}(U)$, i.e.

$$\mathcal{C}_{G \backslash M}^\infty(U) := \{f \in \mathcal{C}(U) \mid f \circ \varrho|_{\varrho^{-1}(U)} \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\varrho^{-1}(U))^G\}.$$

3. THE INERTIA SPACE OF A PROPER LIE GROUPOID

Recall that by a *groupoid* one understands a small category \mathbf{G} such that all arrows are invertible, cf. [MoMR]. Denote by \mathbf{G}_0 the set of objects and by \mathbf{G}_1 the set of arrows of a groupoid \mathbf{G} . The source (resp. target) map will then be denoted by $s : \mathbf{G}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_0$ (resp. $t : \mathbf{G}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_0$), the unit map by $u : \mathbf{G}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_1$, the inversion by $i : \mathbf{G}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_1$, and finally the composition map by $m : \mathbf{G} \times_{\mathbf{G}_0} \mathbf{G}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_1$. If \mathbf{G}_1 and \mathbf{G}_0 are both topological spaces, and all structure maps continuous, the groupoid is called a *topological groupoid*. If in addition, \mathbf{G}_1 and \mathbf{G}_0 are smooth differentiable spaces, all structure maps are smooth maps, and s and t are both submersions, \mathbf{G} is called a *Lie groupoid*. Note that the arrow set of a Lie groupoid in general need not be a Hausdorff topological space.

If \mathbf{G} is a topological groupoid, and both s and t are local homeomorphisms, \mathbf{G} is called an *étale groupoid*, in case the pair $(s, t) : \mathbf{G}_1 \rightarrow |s|f\mathbf{G}_0 \times \mathbf{G}_0$ is a proper map, one says that \mathbf{G} is a *proper groupoid*.

Fundamental examples of proper Lie groupoids are given by transformation groupoids $G \ltimes M$, where G is a Lie group which acts properly on a smooth manifold M . The object space of such a transformation groupoid is given by $(G \ltimes M)_0 := M$, the arrow space by $(G \ltimes M)_1 := G \times M$, and the structure maps are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} s : (G \ltimes M)_1 &\rightarrow (G \ltimes M)_0, (g, p) \mapsto p, \\ t : (G \ltimes M)_1 &\rightarrow (G \ltimes M)_0, (g, p) \mapsto gp, \\ u : (G \ltimes M)_0 &\rightarrow (G \ltimes M)_1, p \mapsto (e, p), \\ i : (G \ltimes M)_1 &\rightarrow (G \ltimes M)_1, (g, p) \mapsto (g^{-1}, gp), \quad \text{and} \\ m : (G \ltimes M)_1 \times_{(G \ltimes M)_0} (G \ltimes M)_1 &\rightarrow (G \ltimes M)_1, ((g, hp), (h, p)) \mapsto (gh, p). \end{aligned}$$

Let now \mathbf{G} be an arbitrary proper Lie groupoid. One then defines the *loop space* of \mathbf{G} as the subspace

$$(3.1) \quad \mathbf{B}_0 := \{k \in \mathbf{G}_1 \mid s(k) = t(k)\}.$$

Sometimes, we denote the loop space also by $\Lambda(\mathbf{G}_0)$. The groupoid \mathbf{G} acts on the loop space in the following way:

$$\mathbf{G}_1 \times_{\mathbf{G}_0} \mathbf{B}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{B}_0, (g, k) \mapsto gk g^{-1}.$$

We can now define:

Definition 3.1 (cf. [LuUR]). Let \mathbf{G} be a proper Lie groupoid, and \mathbf{B}_0 its loop space. The action groupoid $\mathbf{G} \ltimes \mathbf{B}_0$ then is called the *inertia groupoid* of \mathbf{G} . It will be denoted by $\Lambda\mathbf{G}$. The quotient space $\mathbf{G} \backslash \Lambda\mathbf{G}$ will be called the *inertia space* of the groupoid \mathbf{G} . If X denotes the orbit space $\mathbf{G} \backslash \mathbf{G}_0$, we sometimes write (by slight abuse of notation) ΛX for the inertia space of \mathbf{G} .

Remark 3.2. The loop space B_0 is a closed subset of the smooth manifold G_1 , hence inherits the structure of a differentiable space. Moreover, B_0 is locally semialgebraic, hence possesses a minimal Whitney B stratification, and a triangulation subordinate to it. The inertia space ΛX inherits these properties from the loop space as well. We will elaborate on this in a forthcoming publication.

Remark 3.3. The inertia space ΛX as a topological space depends in fact only on the Morita equivalence class of the proper Lie groupoid G . So if one thinks of X as a topological space together with a Morita equivalence class of Lie groupoids having X as orbit space, the notation ΛX is fully justified. The stratification defined by Theorem 4.1 and the corresponding de Rham complex are not in general Morita invariant. For example, in the case of $SO(3)$ acting on $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$ with the restriction of the standard action, the resulting translation groupoid is easily seen to be Morita equivalent to that associated to the trivial action of $SO(2)$ on \mathbb{R} (for a compact example, one may restrict the action to the unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^3). The stratifications of the inertia space associated to these two presentations do not coincide; see 4.2.6. Other relationships between the inertia spaces of Morita equivalent groupoids will be explored elsewhere.

Let us now describe the inertia space in the particular situation, where the underlying proper Lie groupoid is a transformation groupoid $G \times M$ with G a compact Lie group and M a smooth G -manifold. The loop space B_0 then is given as the closed subspace

$$\Lambda M := B_0 := \{(k, x) \in G \times M \mid kx = x\}$$

of $G \times M$. Moreover, G acts on $G \times M$ by

$$G \times (G \times M) \rightarrow (G \times M), (g, (k, x)) \mapsto g(k, x) := (gkg^{-1}, x).$$

This action leaves ΛM invariant. The inertia space of $G \times M$ now coincides with the quotient space $\Lambda X := G \backslash \Lambda M$, where $X := G \backslash M$. Sometimes, we call ΛX the *inertia space of the G -manifold M* .

Proposition 3.4. *Let G be a compact Lie group. The inertia space ΛX of a G -manifold M carries a natural and uniquely determined structure of a differentiable space such that the embedding $\iota : \Lambda X \hookrightarrow G \backslash (G \times M)$ becomes a smooth map, where $G \backslash (G \times M)$ carries the unique differentiable structure such that the canonical projection $\varrho : G \times M \rightarrow G \backslash (G \times M)$ is smooth.*

Remark 3.5. In the following, we denote the canonical projection $M \rightarrow G \backslash M$ of a G -manifold M to its orbit space by ϱ^M . Instead of $\varrho^{G \times M}$ we often write ϱ , if no confusion can arise. The restriction of ϱ to ΛM will be denoted by $\widehat{\varrho}$, that means $\widehat{\varrho} : \Lambda M \rightarrow \Lambda X$ is the orbit map from the loop space to the inertia space.

Proof. Recall that by [GoSA, Thm. 11.17], the quotient $G \backslash (G \times M)$ is a differentiable space, and that the structure sheaf on $G \backslash (G \times M)$ is uniquely determined by the requirement that the quotient map ϱ is smooth. Since ΛM is a closed G -invariant subspace of $G \times M$, it follows from [GoSA, Lem. 11.15] that ΛX is a differentiable space. Again, the structure sheaf is uniquely determined by the requirement that the $\iota : \Lambda X \hookrightarrow G \backslash (G \times M)$ is smooth which according to [GoSA, Lem. 11.15] is the case indeed. \square

Let us briefly give a more explicit description of the structure sheaf on the inertia space. Let $U \subset \Lambda X$ be open. Then $\mathcal{C}_{\Lambda X}^\infty(U)$ is the space of all $f \in \mathcal{C}(U)$ such that there exists an open $W \subset G \times M$ and a function $F \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(W)$ which have the property that $W \cap \Lambda M = \varrho^{-1}(U)$ and that $F|_{W \cap \Lambda M} = f \circ \widehat{\varrho}|_{W \cap \Lambda M}$. In other words,

$$\mathcal{C}_{\Lambda X}^\infty(U) \cong (\mathcal{C}^\infty(\varrho^{-1}(U)))^G.$$

Hence, the structure sheaf of ΛX is given by the restriction of the smooth G -invariant functions on $G \times M$ to ΛM .

The inertia space ΛX of a G -manifold M carries even more structure. In the following considerations we will explain this in more detail.

3.1. Reduction to Slices in M . Fix a point $x \in M$, and let Y_x be a slice at x for the G -action on M . By a *slice at x* we hereby mean a submanifold $Y_x \subset M$ transverse to the orbit Gx such that the following conditions are satisfied (cf. [BRE, II. Theorem 4.4]):

- (SL1) Y_x is closed in GY_x ,
- (SL2) GY_x is an open neighborhood of Gx ,
- (SL3) $G_x Y_x = Y_x$, and
- (SL4) $gY_x \cap Y_x \neq \emptyset$ implies $g \in G_x$.

After possibly shrinking Y_x , we can even assume that Y_x is a *linear slice*, which means that

- (SL5) there exists a G_x -equivariant diffeomorphism $Y_x \rightarrow N_x$ of the slice Y_x onto the normal space $N_x := T_x M / T_x Gx$.

Note that we implicitly have used here the fact that G_x acts linearly on the normal space N_x . After choosing a G -invariant riemannian metric on M , the image $\exp(B_x)$ of every sufficiently small open ball B_x around the origin of N_x under the exponential map is a linear slice at x . We will assume from now on that all slices are linear. By (SL5) this implies in particular that there is a G_x -equivariant contraction $[0, 1] \times Y_x \rightarrow Y_x$ to the point x . Let us also recall at this point the slice theorem [Kos] which tells that the map

$$(3.2) \quad \theta : G \times_{G_x} Y_x \longrightarrow GY_x, [h, y] \mapsto hy$$

is a G -equivariant diffeomorphism between $G \times_{G_x} Y_x$ and the tube $GY_x \subseteq M$ about Gx .

Let us now examine the loop and the inertia space of the G -manifold $G \times_{G_x} Y_x$. By definition, the loop space is given by

$$\Lambda(G \times_{G_x} Y_x) = \{(g, [h, y]) \in G \times (G \times_{G_x} Y_x) \mid g[h, y] = [h, y]\}.$$

In addition, the map

$$\text{id}_G \times \theta : G \times (G \times_{G_x} Y_x) \rightarrow G \times M$$

is a $G \times G$ -equivariant diffeomorphism onto a $G \times G$ -invariant open neighborhood of (e, x) in $G \times M$. Hence the restriction

$$\Lambda\theta := (\text{id}_G \times \theta)|_{\Lambda(G \times_{G_x} Y_x)} : \Lambda(G \times_{G_x} Y_x) \rightarrow (G \times GY_x) \cap \Lambda M \subseteq \Lambda M$$

becomes a G -equivariant homeomorphism onto the G -invariant neighborhood $(G \times GY_x) \cap \Lambda M$ of (e, x) in ΛM . Moreover, it follows that $\Lambda\theta$ is an isomorphism between the differentiable spaces $\Lambda(G \times_{G_x} Y_x)$ and $(G \times GY_x) \cap \Lambda M$ by [GoSa, Lem. 11.15].

Next let us consider the loop space $\Lambda Y_x := \{(h, y) \in G_x \times Y_x \mid hy = y\}$ of the G_x -manifold Y_x . Then we have the following result, which provides a local picture of the inertia space of a G -manifold M .

Proposition 3.6. *Let Y_x be a slice at the point x of a G -manifold M for G a compact Lie group. Then the inertia space $\Lambda(G_x \backslash Y_x)$ of the G_x -manifold Y_x is isomorphic as a differentiable space to the open neighborhood $\Lambda(G \backslash GY_x)$ of the point $G(e, x)$ in the inertia space $\Lambda(G \backslash M)$.*

Proof. Consider the map $\phi : \Lambda Y_x \rightarrow \Lambda(G \times_{G_x} Y_x)$ defined as the restriction of the smooth map

$$G_x \times Y_x \rightarrow G \times (G \times_{G_x} Y_x), (h, y) \mapsto (h, [e, y]).$$

to ΛY_x . Obviously, by elementary considerations, ϕ is continuous and injective. Moreover, ϕ is a morphism of differentiable spaces since it is the restriction of a smooth map between manifolds.

Since ϕ is equivariant with respect to the canonical embedding $G_x \hookrightarrow G$, it also induces a continuous map between the quotients

$$\Phi : \Lambda(G_x \backslash Y_x) \rightarrow \Lambda(G \backslash (G \times_{G_x} Y_x)) \cong \Lambda(G \backslash GY_x), \quad G_x(h, y) \mapsto G(h, [e, y]).$$

Let us show that Φ is bijective. This will prove the claim.

To show that Φ is injective, suppose that (h, y) and (\bar{h}, \bar{y}) are elements of ΛY_x such that $\Phi(G_x(h, y)) = \Phi(G_x(\bar{h}, \bar{y}))$. Then $G(h, [e, y]) = G(\bar{h}, [e, \bar{y}])$ so that there is a $g \in G$ such that $(h, [e, y]) = g(\bar{h}, [e, \bar{y}])$. Therefore, $[e, y] = [g, \bar{y}]$ and $h = g\bar{h}g^{-1}$, so that there is an $\tilde{h} \in G_x$ such that $(\tilde{h}^{-1}, \tilde{h}y) = (g, \bar{y})$. But this implies that $\tilde{h}^{-1} = g \in G_x$ and $y = g\bar{y}$, so that $g(\bar{h}, \bar{y}) = (h, y)$ with $g \in G_x$. It follows that Φ is injective.

To show that Φ is surjective, let $(k, [g, y])$ be an arbitrary element of the loop space $\Lambda(G \times_{G_x} Y_x)$ which means that $k[g, y] = [g, y]$. Then $g^{-1}kg[e, y] = [e, y]$, so that by (SL4) $g^{-1}kg \in G_x$. Since $g^{-1}(k, [g, y]) = (g^{-1}kg, [e, y])$, it follows that $\Phi(G_x(g^{-1}kg, y)) = G(k, [g, y])$, and Φ is surjective.

Finally, we claim that Φ is even an isomorphism between differentiable spaces. To this end note first that for all $f \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\Lambda(G \backslash (G \times_{G_x} Y_x)))$ the pullback $\Phi^*(f)$ is a smooth function on $\Lambda G \backslash Y_x$, since

$$\Phi^*(f) \circ \varrho_{|\Lambda Y_x}^{Y_x} = f \circ \varrho_{|\Lambda(G \times_{G_x} Y_x)}^{G \times_{G_x} Y_x} \circ \phi,$$

where we have used the notation as explained in Remark 3.5. By surjectivity of Φ , the pullback $\Phi^* : \mathcal{C}^\infty(\Lambda(G \backslash (G \times_{G_x} Y_x))) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\infty(\Lambda(G_x \backslash Y_x))$ is injective.

To show that Φ^* is surjective, let $h \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\Lambda(G_x \backslash Y_x))$. Since ΛY_x is a closed differentiable subspace of $G \times Y_x$, there exists a smooth H on $G \times Y_x$, such that $H|_{\Lambda Y_x} = h \circ \varrho_{|\Lambda Y_x}^{Y_x}$. By possibly averaging over G_x one can even assume that H is G_x -invariant. With this, we define $\tilde{f} : G \times (G \times_{G_x} Y_x) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by setting $\tilde{f}(k, [g, y]) = H(g^{-1}kg, y)$. By G_x -invariance, \tilde{f} is well-defined and smooth. Moreover, \tilde{f} is G -invariant, hence one has

$$\tilde{f}|_{\Lambda G \times_{G_x} Y_x} = f \circ \varrho_{|\Lambda(G \times_{G_x} Y_x)}^{G \times_{G_x} Y_x}$$

for some smooth $f : \Lambda(G \times_{G_x} Y_x) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. By construction it is clear that then $\Phi^*(f) = h$, hence Φ^* is surjective. This proves that Φ is even an isomorphism of differentiable spaces. \square

In the preceding proposition, one can choose for each $x \in M$ the slice Y_x to be equivariantly isomorphic to a ball B_x in some finite dimensional orthogonal G_x -representation space V_x . Moreover, since every compact Lie group has a linear faithful representation, we can assume that G_x is (represented as) a compact real algebraic group. The loop space

$$\Lambda B_x = \{(k, x) \in G_x \times B_x \mid kx = x\}$$

then is a semi-algebraic set in $G_x \times V_x$. Since by the Proposition the inertia space $\Lambda(G \backslash M)$ has a locally finite cover by open subsets such that each of the elements of the cover is isomorphic as a differentiable space to some inertia space $\Lambda(G_x \backslash B_x)$ the inertia space of the G -manifold M is locally semi-algebraic in the sense of Delfs–Knebusch [DEKN, Chap. I].

Corollary 3.7. *The inertia space $\Lambda(G \backslash M)$ of a G -manifold M with G compact is locally semi-algebraic in a way that is compatible with its structure as a differentiable space.*

A semi-algebraic set X has a minimal \mathcal{C}^∞ -Whitney stratification according to [MAT73, Thm. 4.9 & p. 210]. As the definition of a Whitney stratification as in [MAT73, Sec. I.2] is local, and because the \mathcal{C}^∞ structure is compatible with the global differential structure of the inertia space, by the Corollary, the inertia space of a G -manifold M therefore possesses a minimal \mathcal{C}^∞ -Whitney stratification and becomes a differentiable stratified space. We will call this stratification the *canonical stratification* or the *minimal Whitney stratification* of the inertia

space. Since the canonical stratification satisfies Whitney's condition B, there even exists a system of smooth control data for the canonical stratification (cf. [MAT70] and [PFL, Thm. 3.6.9]). According to [GOR, Sec. 5] [VERO, Cor. 3.7] there exists a triangulation of the inertia space subordinate to the canonical stratification. Hence, the inertia space is triangulable and in particular locally contractible. We thus obtain the following result.

Theorem 3.8. *Let G be a compact Lie group. The inertia space ΛX of a G -manifold M is in a canonical way a locally compact locally contractible differentiable stratified space. Its canonical stratification satisfies Whitney's condition B and is minimal among the stratifications of ΛX with this property. Moreover, there exists a triangulation of the inertia space subordinate to the canonical stratification.*

That the inertia space is locally contractible can be shown directly as well. The main point hereby lies in the following result which also will be needed later to prove a de Rham Theorem for inertia spaces.

Proposition 3.9. *Let M and G be as above, and consider a point (h, x) in the loop space ΛM . Then there is a linear slice $V_{(h,x)}$ at (h, x) such that the action of scalars $t \in [0, 1]$ on $V_{(h,x)}$ leaves the set $V_{(h,x)} \cap \Lambda M$ invariant. The linearization $V_{(h,x)} \hookrightarrow B_{(h,x)} \subseteq N_{(h,x)}$ from $V_{(h,x)}$ to an open convex neighborhood of the origin in the normal space $N_{(h,x)} := T_{(h,x)}(G \times M)/T_{(h,x)}(G(h, x))$ can hereby be chosen as the inverse of the restriction $\exp|_{B_{(h,x)}}$ of the exponential map corresponding to an appropriate G -invariant riemannian metric on $G \times M$.*

Proof. Choose a G -invariant riemannian metric on M , a bi-invariant riemannian metric on G (cf. [DUKO, Prop. 2.5.2 and Sec. 3.1]), and let $G \times M$ carry the product metric. Recall that under these assumptions, the exponential map $T_{(h,x)}(G \times M) \rightarrow G \times M$ decomposes into a product $\exp_h^G \times \exp_x^M$. Moreover, the riemannian exponential map \exp^G on TG then coincides with the map

$$TG \cong G \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow G, (g, \xi) \mapsto g e^\xi.$$

Hereby, e^ξ denotes the exponential map on the Lie algebra, and the isomorphism between $G \times \mathfrak{g}$ and TG is given by $(g, \xi) \mapsto (L_g)_* \xi$, where $L_g : G \rightarrow G$ denotes the left action by g . Now let $B_{(h,x)}$ denote a sufficiently small open ball around the origin of the normal space $N_{(h,x)}$ so that the exponential map is injective on $B_{(h,x)}$, and let $V_{(h,x)} := \exp(B_{(h,x)})$.

Note that every element g of the isotropy group $H := G_{(h,x)}$ commutes with H . Hence, for $(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}$ one has $h = ghg^{-1} \in gH_{(k,y)}g^{-1}$ if and only if $h \in H_{(k,y)}$, and the same holds for each connected component of $H_{(k,y)}$. Therefore, if $(H_1), \dots, (H_s)$ denotes the collection of isotropy types for the linear H -action on $V_{(h,x)}$, which is finite by [PFL, Lem. 4.3.6], we can assume they are ordered in such a way that $h \in gH_i g^{-1}$ for each $g \in H$ and $i = 1, \dots, r$, and $h \notin gH_i g^{-1}$ for each $g \in H$ and $i = r+1, \dots, s$. Moreover, for $i = 1, \dots, r$, let H_i^h denote the connected component of H_i containing h , which implies that $h \in gH_i^h g^{-1}$ for each $g \in H$.

With this, we define

$$C = \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^r \bigcup_{g \in H} gH_i g^{-1} \setminus gH_i^h g^{-1} \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{i=r+1}^s \bigcup_{g \in H} gH_i g^{-1} \right).$$

That is, C is the union of all conjugates of isotropy groups not containing h as well as, for each isotropy group containing h , all conjugates of the connected components not containing h . Since the quotient map $H \rightarrow Ad_H \backslash H$ is closed by [TDIE, Prop. 3.6] it follows immediately that C is closed in H . By construction, C is also H -invariant. This implies that $G \setminus C$ is an Ad_H -invariant open neighborhood of h in H . Hence there exists a connected open and Ad_H -invariant neighborhood O_h of h in $G \setminus C$ small enough to be contained in a logarithmic chart

around h in the Lie algebra \mathfrak{h} of H , see [DUKO, Thm. 1.6.3]. Therefore, $O_h \times M$ is an H -invariant open neighborhood of (h, x) in $G \times M$. With this, we may shrink $V_{(h,x)}$ to assume that $V_{(h,x)} \subseteq O_h \times M$.

Now, suppose $(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)} \cap \Lambda M$ so that $ky = y$ and then clearly $k(k, y) = (k, y)$. By property (SL4) of the slice $V_{(h,x)}$, it follows that $k \in H$. Since $k \in O_h$ we have that k is not contained in any H -conjugate of H_i for $i = r + 1, \dots, s$ so that $H_{(k,y)}$ is conjugate to H_i for some $i \leq r$. Moreover, O_h is connected and does not intersect C so that k is contained in the same connected component of $H_{(k,y)}$ as h . Hence, by using logarithmic coordinates near h , we may express $k = he^\xi$ for some $\xi \in \mathfrak{h}_{(k,y)}$, the Lie algebra of $H_{(k,y)}$. Additionally, $he^{t\xi} \in H_{(k,y)}$ for $t \in [0, 1]$, so that $he^{t\xi}(k, y) = (k, y)$. Next, let $w \in T_x M$ such that $\exp_x^M(w) = y$. Then we have $\exp_{(h,x)}(\xi, w) = (k, y)$, and $(\xi, w) \in N_{(h,x)}$. Moreover, we get

$$\exp_{(h,x)}(t(\xi, w)) = \exp_{(h,x)}((t\xi, tw)) = (he^{t\xi}, y(t)),$$

where $y(t) = \exp_x^M(tw)$. However, since the action of H on the normal space $N_{(h,x)}$ is linear, and since $he^{t\xi}(k, y) = (k, y)$, it follows that $he^{t\xi}(he^{t\xi}, y(t)) = (he^{t\xi}, y(t))$ for $t \in [0, 1]$. This of course implies that $he^{t\xi}y(t) = y(t)$ so that $(he^{t\xi}, y(t)) \in \Lambda M$, proving the claim. \square

Corollary 3.10. *The inertia space $\Lambda(G \setminus M)$ of a compact Lie group action is locally contractible.*

Proof. Let $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$, $H = G_{(x,h)}$, and choose a linear slice $V_{(h,x)}$ as in the preceding Proposition. Then $GV_{(h,x)}$ is an open G -invariant neighborhood of (h, x) in $G \times M$. Define the map $\mathcal{H}: G \times_H V_{(h,x)} \times [0, 1] \rightarrow G \times_H V_{(h,x)}$ by $\mathcal{H}([g, (k, y)], t) = [g, (1-t)(k, y)]$. Then \mathcal{H} is a G -equivariant deformation retraction of $G \times_H V_{(h,x)}$ onto $G \times_H \{(h, x)\}$ which induces a retraction in the quotient onto the single orbit $G(h, x)$. Moreover, by the preceding Proposition, the map \mathcal{H} restricts to a G -invariant retraction of $(G \times_H V_{(h,x)}) \cap \Lambda M$ onto a single orbit. \square

4. THE ORBIT CARTAN TYPE STRATIFICATION

In this section, we present the explicit stratification of the inertia space ΛX . We give the definition of this stratification in Subsection 4.1 and state our first main result, Theorem 4.1. Before turning to the proof of Theorem 4.1 in Subsection 4.4, we first give several examples of the stratifications in Subsection 4.2 and establish some useful results for actions of abelian groups in Subsection 4.3.

Let G° denote the connected component of the identity of G . Recall that a *Cartan subgroup* \mathbb{T} of G is a closed topologically cyclic subgroup that has finite index in its normalizer $N_G(\mathbb{T})$ (cf. [BRDI, IV. Def. 4.1], see also [SEG]). If $g \in G$, then by [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.2], there is a Cartan subgroup \mathbb{T} of G such that $g \in \mathbb{T}$ and $\mathbb{T}/\mathbb{T}^\circ$ is generated by $g\mathbb{T}^\circ$. We will say that such a \mathbb{T} is a *Cartan subgroup associated to g* . If $g \in G^\circ$, then \mathbb{T} is a maximal torus of G° containing g ; in general, \mathbb{T} is isomorphic to the product of a torus and a finite cyclic group. We will make frequent use of [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.6], which states that the homomorphism

$$(4.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{T}/\mathbb{T}^\circ & \longrightarrow & G/G^\circ \\ t\mathbb{T}^\circ & \longmapsto & tG^\circ \end{array}$$

defines a correspondence between Cartan subgroups of G and cyclic subgroups of G/G° that induces a bijection on conjugacy classes. That is, given $g, h \in G$ and Cartan subgroups \mathbb{T}_g and \mathbb{T}_h associated to g and h , respectively, \mathbb{T}_g and \mathbb{T}_h are conjugate in G if and only if $\langle gG^\circ \rangle \leq G/G^\circ$ and $\langle hG^\circ \rangle \leq G/G^\circ$ are conjugate in G/G° . For $g, h \in G^\circ$, this corresponds to the well-known fact that all maximal tori in a compact connected Lie group are conjugate; see e.g. [DUKO, Thm. 3.7.1].

4.1. Definition of the Stratification. Let $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ and let H denote the isotropy group of (h, x) with respect to the G -action on $G \times M$. Then $H = G_x \cap Z_G(h) = Z_{G_x}(h)$ where $Z_G(h)$ denotes the centralizer of h in G and G_x denotes the isotropy group of x with respect to the G -action on M . Let $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ be a Cartan subgroup of H associated to h ; note that if G_x is connected, we have by [DuKo, Thm. 3.3.1 (i)] that $h \in (Z_{G_x}(h))^\circ = H^\circ$, so that $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ is a maximal torus of H° containing h . Choose a slice $V_{(h,x)}$ at (h, x) for the G -action on $G \times M$, and define an equivalence relation \sim on $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ by $s \sim t$ if $(GV_{(h,x)})^s = (GV_{(h,x)})^t$. Let $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$ denote the connected component of the \sim class $[h]$ containing h .

We define a stratification of ΛM by assigning to the point $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ the germ

$$(4.2) \quad \mathcal{S}_{(h,x)} = \left[G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right) \right]_{(h,x)}.$$

After applying the quotient map $\widehat{\varrho}: \Lambda M \rightarrow \Lambda X$, we can similarly define a stratification of ΛX by assigning to the orbit $G(h, x)$ the germ

$$(4.3) \quad \mathcal{R}_{G(h,x)} = \left[\widehat{\varrho} \left(G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times G \right) \right) \right) \right]_{G(h,x)}.$$

We will see below that the germs defined by Equations (4.2) and (4.3) do not depend on the choice of slice $V_{(h,x)}$ and Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$, see Lemmas 4.14 and 4.15.

The following result shows that \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{R} are stratifications of the loop space and inertia space, indeed. We call these the stratifications by *orbit Cartan type*.

Theorem 4.1. *Let G be a compact Lie group and let M be a smooth G -manifold. Then Equation (4.2) defines a Whitney stratification of ΛM with respect to which ΛM is a differentiable stratified space. Moreover, this stratification induces a stratification on ΛX by Equation (4.3) with respect to which ΛX is a differentiable stratified space fulfilling Whitney's condition B.*

An immediate consequence of this result and Theorem 3.8 is the following.

Corollary 4.2. *The orbit Cartan type stratification is in general finer than the canonical stratification of the inertia space ΛX . Moreover, there exists a triangulation of the inertia space subordinate to the orbit Cartan type stratification.*

Remark 4.3. Assume in addition that M itself is partitioned into a finite number of G - and \mathbb{T} -isotropy types for any Cartan subgroup \mathbb{T} of G . The definition of $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$ above can be modified by saying that $s \sim t$ if $(G \times M)^s = (G \times M)^t$. The modified definitions of $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ and $\mathcal{R}_{G(h,x)}$ also result in Whitney stratifications of ΛM and ΛX , respectively. The proof of this fact is identical to the proof of Theorem 4.1 below with minor simplifications. The modified stratifications are generally finer and depend on global data in $G \times M$, though they can be easier to compute in examples.

Before we prove Theorem 4.1, we provide several examples which illustrate our definition.

4.2. Examples of the Stratification.

4.2.1. *Cases Where ΛM is Smooth.* Suppose G acts freely on M . Then

$$\Lambda M = \{e\} \times M \subseteq G \times M$$

is diffeomorphic to M . Each point (e, x) has trivial isotropy group, and it is easy to see that the stratifications of ΛM and ΛX given by Equations (4.2) and (4.3) are trivial. The result in both cases is a smooth manifold with a single stratum, and hence trivially a stratified differentiable space.

Similarly, suppose L is a (necessarily normal) subgroup of G that acts trivially on M , and suppose G/L acts freely on M . Then

$$\Lambda M = L \times M \subseteq G \times M$$

is a smooth manifold. The isotropy types of elements of ΛM correspond to the isotropy types of L with respect to the G -action by conjugation; that is, elements (h, x) and (k, y) of ΛM have the same isotropy type if and only if the centralizers $Z_G(h)$ and $Z_G(k)$ are conjugate. We claim that in this case, the stratifications of ΛM and ΛX given by Equations (4.2) and (4.3) coincide with the stratifications by G -isotropy types.

Choose a slice $V_{(h,x)}$ at $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ for the G -action on $G \times M$. By construction, it is clear that $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ is a subgerm of the germ of the isotropy type of (h, x) at (h, x) . Let

$$(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in GV_{(h,x)} \cap (L \times M)$$

be a point in the orbit of this slice with the same G -isotropy type as (h, x) . Then there is a $\tilde{g} \in G$ such that $(k, y) := \tilde{g}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in V_{(h,x)}$, and hence $G_{(k,y)} \leq H = G_{(h,x)}$. However, as $G_{(k,y)} = \tilde{g}G_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}\tilde{g}^{-1}$ is conjugate to H , we have by [PFL, Lem. 4.2.9] that $G_{(k,y)} = H$. Therefore, $(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}^H$, which is connected, so that k is in the same connected component of H as h . It follows that kH° and hH° generate the same subgroup of H/H° , so that by [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.6], Cartan subgroups $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ and $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ of H associated to h and k , respectively, are conjugate in H . Hence there is a $g \in H$ such that $gk g^{-1} \in \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$; however, as $g \in H = G_{(k,y)}$, it follows that $k = gk g^{-1} \in \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$. Moreover, as $Z_L(k) = G_{(k,y)} = G_{(h,x)} = Z_L(h)$, we have that $(G \times M)^k = (G \times M)^h$ so that $(GV_{(h,x)})^h = (GV_{(h,x)})^k$ and $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$. We conclude that $(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right)$, and hence that $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ is the germ of the G -isotropy type of (h, x) in $M \times G$.

More generally, we have the following. The proof is an elementary argument applied to slices for the G -action on M using a local section of the fiber bundle $G \rightarrow G/J$.

Proposition 4.4. *Suppose the stratification of M by G -orbit types has depth zero which means that there is a $K \leq G$ such that every point has orbit type (K) . Then ΛM is a smooth submanifold of $G \times M$ that is locally diffeomorphic to $K \times M$.*

Proof. To show that ΛM is a differentiable manifold, let $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$, and let Y_x be a slice at x for the G -action on M . Without loss of generality, we can assume that $G_x = K$. Then for each $y \in Y_x$, as $G_y \leq K$ and G_y is conjugate to K , it must be that $G_y = K$. Therefore, $Y_x^K = Y_x$, and a neighborhood of G_x in M is diffeomorphic to

$$G \times_K Y_x = G/K \times Y_x$$

via the map

$$\tau : G/K \times Y_x \longrightarrow M, (gK, y) \longmapsto gy.$$

To prove that ΛM is a differentiable submanifold of $G \times M$, choose a neighborhood U of eK in G/K small enough so that the fiber bundle $G \rightarrow G/K$ admits a differentiable section on U . Let $\sigma : U \rightarrow G$ for $G \rightarrow G/K$ be a choice of such a section, and consider the map

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\tau} : G \times U \times Y_x &\longrightarrow G \times \tau(U \times Y_x) \subseteq G \times M, \\ (\hat{g}, gK, y) &\longmapsto (\sigma(gK) \hat{g} \sigma(gK)^{-1}, \sigma(gK)y). \end{aligned}$$

Since U is an open neighborhood of eK in G/K , we have that $U \times Y_x$ is an open neighborhood of (eK, x) in $G/K \times Y_x$. Therefore, $\tau(U \times Y_x)$ is an open neighborhood of x in M . Simple

computations demonstrate that $\tilde{\tau}$ is a diffeomorphism from the neighborhood $G \times U \times Y_x$ of (h, eK, x) in $G \times G/K \times Y_x$ onto the neighborhood $G \times \tau(U \times Y_x)$ of (h, x) in $G \times M$. Moreover,

$$\tilde{\tau}(K \times U \times Y_x) = (G \times \tau(U \times Y_x)) \cap \Lambda M,$$

so that $\tilde{\tau}$ restricts to a diffeomorphism between a neighborhood of (h, x) in $K \times M$ to a neighborhood of (h, x) in ΛM . \square

In this case, however, it may happen that the stratifications of ΛM and ΛX given by Equations (4.2) and (4.3) are strictly finer than the respective stratifications by isotropy types. This is the case, for instance, when ΛX is the inertia space of $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$ with its usual $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ -action; see 4.2.6 below.

4.2.2. Locally Free Actions. If the action of G on M is locally free, i.e. the isotropy group of each $x \in M$ is finite, then the quotient $X = G \backslash M$ is an orbifold. The corresponding inertia space ΛX then is an orbifold as well and is called the *inertia orbifold* of X , see e.g. [ADLERU] or [PFPOTA07]. Let us briefly sketch this within our framework and let us show that the above defined stratification of the inertia space ΛX coincides with the orbit type stratification, if the action of G is locally free.

To this end consider first the case, where G is a finite group. The loop space ΛM then is the disjoint union $\bigsqcup_{h \in G} \{h\} \times M^h$ of smooth manifolds of possibly different dimensions. Choose a G -invariant riemannian metric on M . Since G is finite, the linear slice $V_{(h,x)}$ at some point $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ can be chosen to be of the form $\{h\} \times V_x$, where $V_x \subset M^h$ is an open ball around x in M^h ; note that M^h is totally geodesic in M . Denote by H the isotropy group of (h, x) , i.e. let $H := Z_{G_x}(h)$. Because under the assumptions made the Cartan subgroups are discrete, the set germ $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ at $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ from Eq. (4.2) coincides with

$$[G(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\{h\} \times M))]_{(h,x)} = [G(\{h\} \times V_x^H)]_{(h,x)} = [\{h\} \times V_x^H]_{(h,x)}.$$

The second equality hereby follows from the fact that for every $g \in Z_G(h)$ and $y \in V_x^H$ with $gy \in V_x$ one has $gy \in V_x^H$, since $g \in H$ by (SL4). Observe that the orbit map

$$\varrho : G \times M \rightarrow G \backslash (G \times M)$$

is injective on $\{h\} \times V_x^H$ by the slice theorem, hence the set germ $\mathcal{R}_{G(h,x)}$ at $G(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ is given by

$$\mathcal{R}_{G(h,x)} = [\varrho(\{h\} \times V_x^H)]_{G(h,x)}.$$

In other words this means that the stratification by orbit Cartan type of the inertia space ΛX of a finite group action on M is given by the orbit type stratification.

Let us now consider the case where G is a compact Lie group acting locally freely on M . According to Theorem 3.8, the inertia space ΛX is a differentiable stratified space with stratification given by the canonical stratification. Recall that the canonical stratification is minimal among all Whitney stratifications of ΛX . Now observe that by Proposition 3.6 the neighborhood $\Lambda(G \backslash GY_x)$ of (e, x) in ΛX is isomorphic as a differentiable space to the inertia space $\Lambda(G_x \backslash Y_x)$, where Y_x is a slice of M at x . Since G_x is finite, it follows by the above considerations that the stratification \mathcal{R} of $\Lambda(G_x \backslash Y_x)$ coincides with the stratification by orbit types. But the latter is known to be the minimal Whitney stratification, hence $\Lambda(G_x \backslash Y_x)$ with the orbit type stratification is even isomorphic as a differentiable stratification to $\Lambda(G \backslash GY_x)$ with the canonical stratification. Since ΛX is covered by the open sets $\Lambda(G \backslash GY_x)$, $x \in X$, it follows that both the canonical stratification of ΛX and the stratification by orbit Cartan type coincide with the stratification by orbit type, and that ΛX is an orbifold, indeed.

4.2.3. *Semifree Actions.* Suppose G acts semifreely on M so that there is a collection $N = M^G$ of submanifolds of M fixed by G , and G acts freely on $M \setminus N$. Then

$$\Lambda M = [\{e\} \times (M \setminus N)] \cup (G \times N).$$

The isotropy group of (h, x) is trivial if $x \notin N$ and is equal to the centralizer $Z_G(h)$ if $x \in N$. With respect to the adjoint action Ad_G of G on itself, let $(K_1), \dots, (K_m)$ denote the isotropy types of elements of G so that the centralizer of every element of G is conjugate to some K_j . We assume that $K_m = G$ is the isotropy group of the center of G . For $j = 1, \dots, m-1$, we let Ad_G^j denote the set of elements of G with centralizer exactly K_j and let $Ad_G^{(j)}$ denote the set of elements of G with centralizer conjugate to K_j . For $j = m$, we let $Ad_G^m = Ad_G^{(m)}$ denote the set of *nontrivial* central elements of G , which may be empty. The sets Ad_G^j and $Ad_G^{(j)}$ are disjoint unions of smooth submanifolds of G by [PFL, Cor. 4.2.8]. Moreover, we have for $h \in G$ that $(G \times M)^h = Z_G(h) \times N$, so that if (h, x) and (k, y) have the same isotropy group, then h and k have the same fixed point sets in neighborhoods of the orbits $G(h, x)$ and $G(k, y)$.

Let

$$\mathcal{S}_0 := \{e\} \times (M \setminus N),$$

and for each $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, let

$$\mathcal{S}_j := Ad_G^{(j)} \times N$$

(which is empty for $j = m$ if G has trivial center), and

$$\mathcal{S}_{m+1} := \{e\} \times N.$$

Projection under the quotient map $\widehat{\varrho}: \Lambda M \rightarrow \Lambda X$ provides manifolds

$$\mathcal{R}_j := \widehat{\varrho}(\mathcal{S}_j).$$

The decompositions of ΛM and ΛX given by the connected components of the \mathcal{S}_j and \mathcal{R}_j , respectively, coincide with the stratifications defined in Equations (4.2) and (4.3).

In particular, note that this stratification is strictly finer than the stratification by orbit types in the case where G has nontrivial center. In fact, the piece $Z(G) \times N$, which consists of points of the same isotropy type, must be split into $\{e\} \times N$ and $(Z(G) \setminus \{e\}) \times N$ in order for the pieces to satisfy the condition of frontier. The reason for this is the occurrence of $\{e\}$ as the isotropy group for points of the form (e, x) with $x \in M \setminus N$. Indeed, the closure of the stratum $\mathcal{S}_0 = \{e\} \times (M \setminus N)$ is $\{e\} \times M$, and hence cannot contain the entire isotropy type of points (e, n) with $n \in N$.

As a simple, concrete example, consider the action of the circle $\mathrm{SO}(2)$ on the sphere \mathbb{S}^2 by rotations about the z -axis; this action is semifree with $N = (\mathbb{S}^2)^{\mathrm{SO}(2)}$ given by the north and south poles. It is easy to see that the isotropy types

$$A = \{(e, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{S}^2 \setminus N\}$$

and

$$B = \{(t, x) \mid t \in S^1, x \in N\}$$

do not yield a decomposition of $\Lambda \mathbb{S}^2$, as $\overline{A} \cap B = \{e\} \times N$.

Remark 4.5. As illustrated by this example, the inertia space of a G -manifold need not have a top (i.e. open, dense, connected) stratum. In particular, it is clear that any decomposition of the loop space $\Lambda \mathbb{S}^2$ must have both 1- and 2-dimensional strata that are not contained in the closures of other strata. Moreover, it follows from Proposition 3.9 that the inertia space of a G -manifold is locally homeomorphic to a cone on a stratified topological space, called the *link* (see [PFL, 1.4.1]). However, the link of some points in the inertia space cannot be chosen to be connected. In particular, the link of the north pole in the above example is the union of a

circle and two points in the loop space ΛS^2 and link of the corresponding orbit is the union of three points in the inertia space. Hence, the inertia space does not share the nice topological properties of some other singular spaces, see e.g. [SJLE, Section 5].

4.2.4. Actions of Abelian Groups. Suppose G is abelian, and let $\{H_i \mid i \in I\}$ be the (possibly infinite) collection of isotropy groups for the G -action on M . Note that the isotropy group of $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ is equal to G_x . For each $x \in M$, let $I_x \subseteq I$ be the finite subset consisting of all i such that every neighborhood of x contains points with isotropy group H_i .

Choose $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$, and note that the Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ is in this case unique. For $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$, we have $k \sim h$ if and only if h and k fix the same points in a neighborhood of x in M , or equivalently if and only if h and k are in exactly the same isotropy groups H_i for $i \in I_x$. Therefore, the equivalence class $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$ is determined by the set $I_{(h,x)} = \{i \in I_x \mid h \in H_i\}$. Specifically,

$$\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* = \left(\bigcup_{i \in I_{(h,x)}} H_i \right) \cap \left(\bigcup_{j \notin I_{(h,x)}} H_j \right)^c$$

where c denote the complement (cf. Subsection 4.3 below). The stratification of ΛM given by Equation (4.2), then, is given by sets of the form $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M_{H_i}$ where $h \in H_i$ and $x \in M_{H_i}$. Intuitively, ΛM is partitioned by isotropy types, and then further decomposed to separate the closures of nearby strata with lower-dimensional fibers in the G -direction.

As a particularly elucidating example, consider $G = \mathbb{T}^2 = \{(s, t) \mid s, t \in \mathbb{T}^1\}$ and $M = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ with action given by

$$(s, t)[z_0, z_1, z_2] = [sz_0, tz_1, stz_2].$$

Note that the points $[1, 0, 0]$, $[0, 1, 0]$, and $[0, 0, 1]$ are fixed by \mathbb{T}^2 . Near these three points, respectively, using coordinates

$$(u_1, u_2) := \left(\frac{z_1}{z_0}, \frac{z_2}{z_0} \right), \quad (v_0, v_2) := \left(\frac{z_0}{z_1}, \frac{z_2}{z_1} \right), \quad \text{and} \quad (w_0, w_1) := \left(\frac{z_0}{z_2}, \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right),$$

the action is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (s, t)(u_1, u_2) &= (s^{-1}tu_1, tu_2), \\ (s, t)(v_0, v_2) &= (st^{-1}v_0, sv_2), \quad \text{and} \\ (s, t)(w_0, w_1) &= (t^{-1}w_0, s^{-1}w_1). \end{aligned}$$

Note in particular that the action near each fixed point is different, and hence the torus \mathbb{T}^2 is partitioned into \sim classes in different ways at each. However, the strata in $\Lambda \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ whose closures contain two fixed points have torus fiber given by a subtorus of \mathbb{T}^2 whose partition into \sim classes is compatible with both.

For instance, the torus fiber over $R = \{[z_0, z_1, 0] \mid z_0, z_1 \neq 0\}$ in $\Lambda \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ is the 1-dimensional subtorus T of \mathbb{T}^2 consisting of points of the form (s, s) . Any open neighborhood of the orbit of a point in R contains points with trivial isotropy and points with isotropy T , so that $T \times R$ is partitioned into $\{e\} \times R$ and $(T \setminus \{e\}) \times R$. It is easy to see that this partition is the restriction to T of the partitions of \mathbb{T}^2 at $[1, 0, 0]$ and $[0, 1, 0]$. Though it is not compatible with the partition at $[0, 0, 1]$, this causes no difficulty as $[0, 0, 1]$ is separated from the closure of R .

Remark 4.6. In the above example, the link in the loop space $\Lambda \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ of the point

$$(e, [1, 0, 0]) \in \mathbb{T}^2 \times \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$$

can be described as follows. Let (x, y, u_1, u_2) denote coordinates for $\mathfrak{t} \times \mathbb{C}^2$ where \mathfrak{t} denotes the Lie algebra of \mathbb{T}^2 , and let $S = \{(x, y, u_1, u_2) : x^2 + y^2 + |u_1|^2 + |u_2|^2 = 1\}$ denote the unit sphere. Then the link is the set of points in S of the form $(x, y, 0, 0)$ (corresponding to the isotropy group

of the origin), $(x, x, u_1, 0)$ (corresponding to the points fixed by the circle (s, s)), $(x, 0, 0, u_2)$ (corresponding to the points fixed by the circle (s, e)), and $(0, 0, u_1, u_2)$ (corresponding to the identity element of \mathbb{T}^2). In general, the link at a point in the abelian case can be described similarly.

4.2.5. *The Adjoint Action.* Let G act on itself by conjugation. Then

$$\Lambda G = \{(h, k) \in G^2 \mid kh = hk\}$$

is the set of commuting ordered pairs of elements of G with diagonal G -action by conjugation.

The isotropy group of (h, k) is given by $Z_G(h) \cap Z_G(k)$, and the set of points fixed by $Z_G(h) \cap Z_G(k)$ is given by points of the form (l, j) where l and j are elements of the center of $Z_G(h) \cap Z_G(k)$. Similarly, $\mathbb{T}_{(h,k)}^*$ consists of elements j of $\mathbb{T}_{(h,k)}$ such that $Z_G(h)$ and $Z_G(j)$ coincide on a neighborhood of the G -orbit $G(h, k)$.

4.2.6. *The Standard Action of $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ on \mathbb{R}^3 .* Let $G = \mathrm{SO}(3)$ act on $M = \mathbb{R}^3$ in the usual way. For each point $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ with $x \neq 0$, we let $R_{x,\theta}$ with $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ denote rotation through the angle θ about the line spanned by x where we assume θ is a positive rotation with respect to an oriented basis for \mathbb{R}^3 whose third element is x . In particular, $R_{x,0} = 1$ and $R_{x,\theta} = R_{-x, 2\pi-\theta}$ for each $x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$. See [DuKo, Sec. 1.2 and 3.4] for a careful description of this action, and note that our notation differs slightly to adapt to our situation.

There are three isotropy types that occur in $\Lambda\mathbb{R}^3$: the point $(e, 0)$ has isotropy group $\mathrm{SO}(3)$, points of the form $(R_{x,\pi}, 0)$ have conjugate isotropy groups isomorphic to $O(2)$, and all other points have conjugate isotropy groups isomorphic to $\mathrm{SO}(2)$. If $(h, x) \in \Lambda\mathbb{R}^3$ such that $x \neq 0$ and $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)} = G_{(h,x)} \cong \mathrm{SO}(2)$, then any neighborhood of the orbit $G(h, x)$ small enough to not intersect $\{0\} \times \mathrm{SO}(3)$ contains only points with $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ -isotropy type $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ and $\{e\}$. Hence there are only two \sim classes, the identity and the nontrivial elements. Similarly, if $(h, x) = (R_{x,\theta}, 0)$ with $\theta \neq \pi$, it can be seen in a neighborhood of the orbit $G(h, x)$ small enough to contain no points of the form $(R_{y,\pi}, 0)$ that $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ is as well partitioned into the same two \sim classes. If $(h, x) = (R_{x,\pi}, 0)$, then as $G(h, x)$ contains $(R_{y,\pi}, 0)$ for each $y \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and as $R_{x,\pi}$ fixes $(R_{y,\pi}, 0)$ when x and y are orthogonal, the torus $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ is partitioned into the \sim classes $\{e\}$, $\{R_{x,\pi}\}$, and $\{R_{x,\theta} \mid \theta \in (0, \pi) \cup (\pi, 2\pi)\}$. It follows that the maximal decomposition of $\Lambda\mathbb{R}^3$ induced by the stratification $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ consists of four sets:

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &= \{(e, 0)\}, \\ S_2 &= \{(R_{x,\pi}, 0) \mid x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}\}, \\ S_3 &= \{(e, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}\}, \text{ and} \\ S_4 &= \{(R_{x,\theta}, x) \mid \theta \in (0, \pi) \cup (\pi, 2\pi), x \in \mathbb{R}^3\} \cup \{(R_{x,\pi}, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Note in particular that the map $\mathrm{SO}(3) \backslash \Lambda\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathrm{SO}(3) \backslash \mathbb{R}^3$ given by $\mathrm{SO}(3)(h, x) \mapsto \mathrm{SO}(3)x$ is not a stratified mapping; for $\theta \in (0, \pi) \cup (\pi, 2\pi)$, the points $\mathrm{SO}(3)(R_{x,\theta}, x)$ and $\mathrm{SO}(3)(R_{x,\theta}, 0)$ are mapped to points with different isotropy types.

Similarly, consider the restriction of the $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ -action to $M = \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$. The maximal decomposition of ΛM given by Equation (4.2) has two pieces,

$$\{(e, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}\} \text{ and } \{(R_{x,\theta}, x) \mid \theta \in (0, 2\pi), x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}\}.$$

Note in particular that in this case, ΛM is a smooth manifold with a single isotropy type, and hence that this stratification is strictly finer than the stratification by isotropy types.

To understand this phenomenon, let H be the subgroup of $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ isomorphic to $\mathrm{SO}(2)$ given by rotations about the z -axis. Then considering the H -space \mathbb{R}^3 given by the restricted action, there are two isotropy types; points on the z -axis are fixed by all of H , while points off the z -axis are fixed only by the identity. It is easy to see, then, that the partition of $\Lambda\mathbb{R}^3$ given by the

restriction of the isotropy type stratification of $\mathbb{R}^3 \times H$ does not yield a stratification of $\Lambda\mathbb{R}^3$. Hence, while the stratifications given by Equations (4.2) and (4.3) are in general not the coarsest stratifications of ΛM and ΛX , they have the benefit of giving a uniform, explicit stratification of the loop space ΛM and the inertia space for all smooth G -manifolds under consideration.

4.3. A Partition of Cartan Subgroups in Isotropy Groups. In this subsection, we prove a number of auxiliary results on topological properties of the equivalence classes of the relation \sim which has been defined in Subsection 4.1. Throughout this section, let Q be a smooth, not necessarily connected G -manifold and fix a closed abelian subgroup $\mathbb{T} \leq G$ which need not be connected. Assume that Q is partitioned into a finite number of \mathbb{T} -isotropy types. We have in mind the case $Q = GV$ where V is a slice for the G -action on $G \times M$ and \mathbb{T} is a Cartan subgroup of the isotropy group of the origin in V , but we state the results of this subsection more generally.

As above, for $s, t \in \mathbb{T}$, we say that $s \sim t$ when $Q^s = Q^t$. Let H_0, H_1, \dots, H_r be the finite collection of isotropy groups for the action of \mathbb{T} on Q . Then the \sim class $[t]$ of $t \in \mathbb{T}$ is given by

$$[t] = \bigcap_{t \in H_i} H_i \cap \left(\bigcup_{t \notin H_j} H_j \right)^c.$$

That is, each \sim class is determined by a subset of $\{1, 2, \dots, r\}$; note that a nonempty subset

$$I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$$

need not correspond to a nonempty \sim class. Using this together with a dimension counting argument the following result is derived immediately.

Lemma 4.7. *The group \mathbb{T} is partitioned into a finite number of \sim classes. Each \sim class $[t]$ is an open subset of the closed subgroup t^\bullet of \mathbb{T} defined by*

$$t^\bullet := \bigcap_{t \in H_i} H_i = \bigcap_{q \in Q^t} \mathbb{T}_q,$$

and $\overline{[t]}$ consists of a union of connected components of t^\bullet . Moreover, each \sim class has a finite number of connected components.

Also note the following.

Lemma 4.8. *Suppose $s, t \in \mathbb{T}$ such that $[s] \cap \overline{[t]} \neq \emptyset$. Then for each connected component $[s]^\circ$ of $[s]$ and $[t]^\circ$ of $[t]$ such that $[s]^\circ \cap \overline{[t]^\circ} \neq \emptyset$ the relation $[s]^\circ \subseteq \overline{[t]^\circ}$ holds true.*

Proof. Let $u \in [s]^\circ \cap \overline{[t]^\circ}$. Then $Q^s = Q^u$, and by continuity of the action, $Q^t \subseteq Q^u$. It follows that $Q^t \subseteq Q^s$, and hence that $s^\bullet = \bigcap_{q \in Q^s} \mathbb{T}_q \leq \bigcap_{q \in Q^t} \mathbb{T}_q = t^\bullet$.

Note that $[s]^\circ$ is contained in a connected component $(s^\bullet)^\circ$ of s^\bullet which is contained in a connected component $(t^\bullet)^\circ$ of t^\bullet . Similarly, $\overline{[t]}$ consists of entire connected components of t^\bullet , so $u \in \overline{[t]^\circ} = (t^\bullet)^\circ$. Then $[s]^\circ \subseteq (t^\bullet)^\circ = \overline{[t]^\circ}$, completing the proof. \square

For each $g \in G$, we let \sim_g denote the equivalence relation defined on $g\mathbb{T}g^{-1}$ in terms of its action on Q . In particular, if $g \in N_G(\mathbb{T})$, then \sim_g coincides with \sim . It is easy to verify the following.

Lemma 4.9. *Let $s, t \in \mathbb{T}$. Then $s \sim t$ if and only if $gs g^{-1} \sim_g gt g^{-1}$, i.e.*

$$[gtg^{-1}]_g = g[t]g^{-1},$$

where $[-]_g$ denotes the equivalence class with respect to \sim_g .

Similarly, the following will be important when showing that certain \sim classes are sufficiently separated.

Lemma 4.10. *Suppose $s, t \in \mathbb{T}$ such that $s \not\sim t$, and $[s]$ is diffeomorphic to $[t]$. Then $[s] \cap \overline{[t]} = \emptyset$.*

Proof. If $Q^s \subseteq Q^t$, then $\bigcap_{q \in Q^t} \mathbb{T}_q \leq \bigcap_{q \in Q^s} \mathbb{T}_q$, so that $t^\bullet \leq s^\bullet$. By Lemma 4.7, $[s]$ and $[t]$ are open subsets of s^\bullet and t^\bullet , respectively, so that as $[s]$ and $[t]$ are diffeomorphic, s^\bullet and t^\bullet have the same dimension. Additionally, $[s]$ is open and dense in each connected component of s^\bullet it intersects, and similarly $[t]$ in t^\bullet , so that $[s]$ and $[t]$ do not intersect the same connected components of the closed group t^\bullet . The claim follows, and the argument is identical if $Q^t \subseteq Q^s$.

So suppose $Q^s \not\subseteq Q^t$ and $Q^t \not\subseteq Q^s$. If $l \in \overline{[s]} \cap \overline{[t]}$, then by continuity of the action, l fixes $Q^s \cup Q^t$. Since Q^t is a proper subset of $Q^s \cup Q^t$, it follows that $l \not\sim s$. Therefore, $l \in \overline{[s]} \setminus [s]$ and $[s] \cap \overline{[t]} = \emptyset$. \square

For each $n \in N_G(\mathbb{T})$, conjugation by n induces a diffeomorphism from \mathbb{T} to itself which by Lemma 4.9 acts on the set of \sim classes. More precisely:

Lemma 4.11. *The normalizer $N_G(\mathbb{T})$ acts on the finite set of \sim classes in \mathbb{T} in such a way that for each $n \in N_G(\mathbb{T})$ and $t \in \mathbb{T}$, the submanifold $n[t]n^{-1}$ is diffeomorphic to $[t]$. Moreover, either $n[t]n^{-1} = [t]$ or $n[t]n^{-1} \cap [t] = \emptyset$.*

4.4. Proof of Theorem 4.1. In this subsection, we prove Theorem 4.1, establishing that for a G -manifold M the germs $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ and $\mathcal{R}_{G(h,x)}$ given by Equations (4.2) and (4.3) define a smooth Whitney stratification of the loop space ΛM and a smooth stratification of the inertia space ΛX , respectively.

The general strategy is to first decompose ΛM into its G -isotropy types. Roughly speaking, isotropy types consisting of smaller manifolds have larger G -fibers, so the fibers must further be decomposed as illustrated in the examples in Subsection 4.2.4. This is accomplished by first decomposing a Cartan subgroup in the G -fiber into \sim classes using the results of Subsection 4.3 and then partitioning nearby by taking the G -orbits of these pieces. A brief outline of the proof follows.

We begin with Lemma 4.12 which essentially guarantees that we can apply the results of the preceding section on the G -saturation of a (linear) slice. Then, in Lemma 4.13 we confirm that the germ $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ is that of a subset of ΛM consisting of points with the same G -isotropy type. Afterwards, we prove Lemmas 4.14 and 4.15, demonstrating that the germs $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ and hence the $\mathcal{R}_{G(h,x)}$ do not depend on the choices of the slice, the Cartan subgroup associated to h , and the representative (h, x) of the orbit $G(h, x)$. With this, we prove Proposition 4.16, showing that $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ and $\mathcal{R}_{G(h,x)}$ are germs of smooth submanifolds of $G \times M$.

With this, we are required to define a decomposition \mathcal{Z} of a neighborhood of U of each point $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$; indicating this decomposition and verifying its properties involve the main technical details of the proof. The definition of \mathcal{Z} is given in Equation (4.7) in a manner similar to the stratification; the piece containing (k, y) is defined in terms of the isotropy type of (k, y) and the \sim class $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$ of k with respect to the action near $G(k, y)$. However, this definition is given in terms of a slice at (h, x) rather than (k, y) , so that we must take into consideration the orbit of the \sim class $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$ under the action of the normalizer $N_{G(h,x)}(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)})$. In particular, the pieces of \mathcal{Z} are defined to be connected components so that, though they are G° -invariant, they need not be G -invariant. However, the G -action simply permutes the pieces of \mathcal{Z} that are connected components of the same G -invariant set.

As the definition of each piece of \mathcal{Z} involves choosing a particular point in each orbit near that of (h, x) as well as a Cartan subgroup, Lemmas 4.18 and 4.19 demonstrate that the definition is independent of these choices and the resulting partition is well-defined. We then show in

Proposition 4.20 that the germs of the pieces of the decomposition \mathcal{Z} coincide with the stratification. This in particular requires a careful description of a G -invariant neighborhood W of a (k, y) small enough not to intersect certain \sim classes in the Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$. Roughly speaking, W is formed by removing the closures of the finite collection of conjugates of $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$ by $N_{G_{(h,x)}}(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*)$ from the G -factor; it is on this neighborhood that the connected component of the stratum containing (k, y) coincides with the piece containing (k, y) . As the stratum containing (k, y) has finitely many connected components in this neighborhood, it follows that the germs coincide. With this, we demonstrate that the partition of a neighborhood of (h, x) is finite in Lemma 4.21, that it satisfies the condition of frontier in Proposition 4.22, and that it satisfies Whitney's condition B in Proposition 4.23. This completes the outline, and we now proceed with the proof.

First we assume to have fixed a G -invariant riemannian metric on M , a bi-invariant metric on G , and that $G \times M$ carries the product metric. By (h, x) we will always denote a point of the loop space ΛM , and by $V_{(h,x)}$ a linear slice in $G \times M$ at (h, x) . The isotropy group $G_{(h,x)} = Z_{G_x}(h)$ of (h, x) will be denoted by H , and the normal space $T_{(h,x)}(G \times M)/T_{(h,x)}(G(h, x))$ by $N_{(h,x)}$.

Lemma 4.12. *Let K be a closed subgroup of G , and $V_{(h,x)}$ a (linear) slice for the G -action on $G \times M$ as above. Then the K -manifold $Q := GV_{(h,x)}$ has a finite number of K -isotropy types.*

Proof. Let $\Psi : V_{(h,x)} \rightarrow N_{(h,x)}$ denote an H -invariant embedding of the slice $V_{(h,x)}$ into the normal space $N_{(h,x)}$ such that its image is an open convex neighborhood of the origin. Choose an H -invariant open convex neighborhood B of the origin of $N_{(h,x)}$ which is relatively compact in $\Psi(V_{(h,x)})$. For each point $(k, y) \in GV_{(h,x)}$ choose a slice $Y_{(k,y)}$ for the K -action on $GV_{(h,x)}$. Then the family $\{KY_{(k,y)}\}_{(k,y) \in GV_{(h,x)}}$ is an open cover of $G\Psi^{-1}(\overline{B})$ which has to admit a finite subcover by compactness of $G\Psi^{-1}(\overline{B})$. Since each $KY_{(k,y)}$ has a finite number of K -isotropy types by [PFL, Lem. 4.3.6], it follows that $G\Psi^{-1}(\overline{B})$, hence $G\Psi^{-1}(B)$ has a finite number of K -isotropy types. However, $GV_{(h,x)}$ contains the same isotropy types as $G\Psi^{-1}(B)$, since the action by $t \in (0, 1]$ on $V_{(h,x)}$ is G -equivariant, and for each $v \in V_{(h,x)}$ there is a $t \in (0, 1]$ with $tv \in \Psi^{-1}(B)$. Hence $GV_{(h,x)}$ itself has a finite number of K -isotropy types. \square

The Lemma implies in particular that the results of Subsection 4.3 apply to $Q = GV_{(h,x)}$ for each abelian subgroup $\mathbb{T} = K$ of G .

Lemma 4.13. *The set germ $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ is contained in the set germ at (h, x) of points of ΛM having the same isotropy type as (h, x) with respect to the G -action on $G \times M$.*

Proof. Suppose

$$(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M).$$

Since H fixes (k, y) and $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)} \leq H$, one obtains $ky = y$ and $(k, y) \in \Lambda M$. By G -invariance of ΛM we get $G(k, y) \subseteq \Lambda M$, hence $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ is the germ of a subset of ΛM . Now observe that $V_{(h,x)}^H = (V_{(h,x)})_H \subseteq (G \times M)_H$, where $(V_{(h,x)})_H$ and $(G \times M)_H$ denote the subsets of points having isotropy group H . Hence the isotropy group of every point in the G -orbits defining $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ is conjugate to H , and $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ is a subgerm of $(G \times M)_{(H)}$. \square

The following two lemmas demonstrate that the stratification $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ does not depend on the choice of a Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ nor on the particular choice of a slice $V_{(h,x)}$.

Lemma 4.14. *Let $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ with isotropy group $H = Z_{G_x}(h)$. The germ $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ does not depend on the choice of the Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ of H .*

Proof. Suppose $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ and $\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}$ are two Cartan subgroups of H associated to h . Then $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}/\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^\circ$ is generated by $h\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^\circ$ and $\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}/\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}^\circ$ is generated by $h\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}^\circ$, where here and in the rest of this section K° denotes the connected component of the neutral element in a Lie group K . Under the correspondence given in (4.1) both $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}/\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^\circ$ and $\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}/\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}^\circ$ then correspond to $\langle hH^\circ \rangle \leq H/H^\circ$. It follows by [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.6] that $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ and $\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}$ are conjugate, so that there is a $g \in H$ such that $g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}g^{-1} = \mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}$. Then, as $g \in H$, the space $V_{(h,x)}^H$ is left invariant by g , hence $ghg^{-1} = h$. Therefore, if $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ with $k \sim h$ as elements of $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ acting on $GV_{(h,x)}$, Lemma 4.9 implies that $gkg^{-1} \sim ghg^{-1} = h$ as elements of $\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}$ acting on $GV_{(h,x)}$. It follows that conjugation by g induces a diffeomorphism of $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$ onto $\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}^*$, so that

$$g \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right) = \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right),$$

and

$$G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right) = G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}'_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right).$$

□

Lemma 4.15. *The germ $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ is independent of the particular choice of the slice $V_{(h,x)}$ at (h,x) .*

Proof. Suppose $V_{(h,x)}$ and $W_{(h,x)}$ are two choices of linear slices at (h,x) for the G -action on $G \times M$. Let $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ be Cartan subgroup of H associated to h . By Lemma 4.14, we may assume that the stratum containing (h,x) is defined with respect to each of the two slices using this Cartan subgroup. Note that by the slice theorem and the assumptions on $V_{(h,x)}$ and $W_{(h,x)}$ the open sets $GV_{(h,x)} \cong G \times_H V_{(h,x)}$ and $GW_{(h,x)} \cong G \times_H W_{(h,x)}$ are G -diffeomorphic and hence $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ -diffeomorphic. Therefore, the \sim classes in $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ do not depend on the choice of the slice.

Letting $\mathcal{N} = \{n \in N_G(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}) : n\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*n^{-1} \neq \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*\}$, we have by Lemma 4.11 that the set

$$C = (H \setminus hH^\circ) \cup \bigcup_{n \in \mathcal{N}} n \left(\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*} \right) n^{-1}$$

is a closed subset of G disjoint from $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$. Hence $V_{(h,x)} \cap (C \times M)^c$ is an open neighborhood of (h,x) in $V_{(h,x)}$. We may therefore assume after possibly shrinking $V_{(h,x)}$ and $W_{(h,x)}$ that $V_{(h,x)} \cap (C \times M) = W_{(h,x)} \cap (C \times M) = \emptyset$. Clearly, shrinking the slice does not affect the germ of the stratum. With this, we let O denote the G -invariant open neighborhood $O := GV_{(h,x)} \cap GW_{(h,x)}$ of (h,x) and claim that

$$O \cap G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right) = O \cap G \left(W_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right).$$

Any element of $O \cap G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right)$ is in the G -orbit of some

$$(k,y) \in O \cap V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right).$$

As $(k,y) \in O$, there is a $g \in G$ such that $g(k,y) \in W_{(h,x)}$. Since $G_{(k,y)} = H$ and

$$G_{g(k,y)} = gG_{(k,y)}g^{-1} \leq H,$$

[PFL, Lem. 4.2.9] implies that $G_{g(k,y)} = H$. In particular, $g \in N_G(H)$, and $g(k,y) \in W_{(h,x)}^H$.

Now, $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \subseteq \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ by definition, so that $gkg^{-1} \in g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}g^{-1}$. As $g \in N_G(H)$, it follows that $g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}g^{-1} \leq H$. Noting that k is an element of the connected set $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \ni h$, we have that k is in the same connected component of $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ as h and so $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ is a Cartan subgroup of H associated to k as well as h . It is then easy to see that $g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}g^{-1}$ is a Cartan subgroup of H

associated to gkg^{-1} . Moreover, because $W_{(h,x)}$ is disjoint from $(H \setminus hH^\circ) \times M \subseteq C \times M$, it must be that $gkg^{-1} \in hH^\circ$. By [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.6], there is a $\tilde{h} \in H$ such that

$$\tilde{h}g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}g^{-1}\tilde{h}^{-1} = \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)},$$

and hence $\tilde{h}g \in N_G(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)})$. That $\tilde{h} \in H = G_{g(k,y)}$ implies $\tilde{h}gkg^{-1}\tilde{h}^{-1} = gkg^{-1}$, so that $gkg^{-1} \in \tilde{h}g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}g^{-1}\tilde{h}^{-1} = \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$. Moreover, as $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$, we have in addition that

$$gkg^{-1} = \tilde{h}gkg^{-1}\tilde{h}^{-1} \in \tilde{h}g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*g^{-1}\tilde{h}^{-1}.$$

Therefore,

$$g(k, y) \in O \cap W_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\tilde{h}g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*g^{-1}\tilde{h}^{-1} \times M \right).$$

However, as $W_{(h,x)} \cap (C \times M) = \emptyset$, as C contains all of the nontrivial conjugates of elements of $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$ by elements of $N_G(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)})$, and as $\tilde{h}g \in N_G(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)})$, it must be that

$$\tilde{h}g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*g^{-1}\tilde{h}^{-1} = \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*.$$

Hence,

$$g(k, y) \in O \cap W_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right).$$

Switching the roles of $W_{(h,x)}$ and $V_{(h,x)}$ completes the proof. \square

Note that if $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ and $g \in G$, then $gV_{(h,x)}$ is a slice at $g(h, x)$, $g(V_{(h,x)}^H) = (gV_{(h,x)})^{gHg^{-1}}$, and $g\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}g^{-1}$ is a Cartan subgroup of gHg^{-1} associated to ghg^{-1} . Therefore, as the \sim classes depend only on the action on $GV_{(h,x)}$, Lemmas 4.14 and 4.15 imply that $g\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)} = \mathcal{S}_{g(h,x)}$, so that in particular $\mathcal{R}_{G(h,x)}$ is well-defined.

Now we have the means to verify the following crucial result.

Proposition 4.16. *Each $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ is the germ of a smooth G -submanifold of $G \times M$, and each $\mathcal{R}_{(h,x)}$ is the germ of a smooth submanifold of $G \setminus (G \times M)$.*

Of course, $G \setminus (G \times M)$ is not itself a smooth manifold but rather a differentiable space. By a smooth submanifold of $G \setminus (G \times M)$, we mean a differentiable subspace of $G \setminus (G \times M)$ that is itself a smooth manifold.

Proof. Since the germ $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ does not depend on the choice of a particular slice by Lemma 4.15, we choose the slice $V_{(h,x)}$ at (h, x) to be the image under the exponential map of an open ball $B_{(h,x)}$ around the origin of the normal space $N_{(h,x)}$. Note that $N_{(h,x)}$ naturally carries an H -invariant inner product since we have initially fixed an invariant riemannian metric on M and a bi-invariant riemannian metric on G .

Since $(G \times_H V_{(h,x)})^H$ is a totally geodesic submanifold of $G \times_H V_{(h,x)}$ by [Mic, 6.1], the exponential map at (h, x) maps $B_{(h,x)}^H = N_{(h,x)}^H \cap B_{(h,x)}$ onto $V_{(h,x)}^H$. Similarly, as $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$ is an open subset of the closed subgroup h^\bullet of H by Lemma 4.7, the relation $T_h\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* = T_h h^\bullet$ holds true. It follows that the exponential map associated to the product metric on $G \times M$ maps the subspace

$$N_{(h,x)}^H \cap (T_h h^\bullet \oplus T_x M) \cap B_{(h,x)}$$

onto $V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right)$, which is then diffeomorphic to an open neighborhood of the origin in a linear space.

Noting that $G \times_H V_{(h,x)}^H \cong G/H \times V_{(h,x)}^H$, the G -diffeomorphism

$$\Psi: G \times_H V_{(h,x)} \longrightarrow GV_{(h,x)} \subseteq G \times M$$

induced by the exponential map restricts to a G -diffeomorphism

$$G/H \times \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right) \longrightarrow G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right).$$

Moreover, Ψ induces a map on quotient spaces which is a homeomorphism

$$G \setminus \left(G/H \times \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right) \right) \longrightarrow G \setminus \left(G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right) \right).$$

Hence,

$$V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \cong G \setminus \left(G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right) \right)$$

is a topological submanifold of $G \setminus (G \times M)$. On the differentiable space $G \setminus (G \times M)$, the structure sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{G \setminus (G \times M)}^\infty$ is locally that of G -invariant functions on $G \times M$ (see Section 3). Similarly, the G -invariant \mathcal{C}^∞ functions on $G/H \times \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right)$ are exactly the \mathcal{C}^∞ functions on $V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right)$ by [TDIE, Prop. 5.2] and [GoSa, Thm. 1.22 (5)]. Therefore, $G \setminus \left(G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap \left(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M \right) \right) \right)$, whose set germ at (h, x) coincides with $\mathcal{R}_{(h,x)}$, is a smooth submanifold of the differentiable space $G \setminus (G \times M)$. \square

In order for the germs $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ to define a stratification, one must verify that for each $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$ there is a neighborhood U in ΛM and a decomposition \mathcal{Z} of U such that for all $(k, y) \in \Lambda M$, the germ $\mathcal{S}_{(k,y)}$ coincides with the germ of the piece of \mathcal{Z} containing (k, y) . Set $U := GV_{(h,x)} \cap \Lambda M$. We now define the decomposition \mathcal{Z} of U . Given $(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in U$ there is a $\tilde{g} \in G$ such that $\tilde{g}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in V_{(h,x)}$. Put $(k, y) = \tilde{g}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$ and $K = G_{(k,y)} \leq H$, and let $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ be a Cartan subgroup in K associated to k . We define the piece of \mathcal{Z} containing (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) to be the connected component containing (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) of the set $\mathcal{U}_{\tilde{g}}^{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$ which is defined as the G -saturation of the set of points $(l, z) \in (V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)} \times M)$ such that $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ is a Cartan subgroup of K associated to l and such that the \sim class $\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*$ is conjugate to $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$ via an element of $N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$. Note that as above $\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*$ is the \sim class of l in $\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)} = \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ with respect to its action on $GV_{(l,z)}$, where $V_{(l,z)}$ is a slice for the G -action of on $G \times M$ at (l, z) . Observe that by [SCH, Proposition 1.3(2)], as the action of K on $V_{(h,x)}$ is linear, the slice representation of each point in $V_{(h,x)}$ with isotropy group K is isomorphic. It follows that the set $\mathcal{U}_{\tilde{g}}^{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$ can be written as

$$(4.4) \quad \mathcal{U}_{\tilde{g}}^{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) = G \left(\bigcup_{n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})} (V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* n^{-1} \times M) \right)$$

Observe that $(V_{(h,x)})_K$ is closed under the action of scalars $\in (0, 1]$ and open in $V_{(h,x)}^K$ as a consequence of Lemma 4.12. Moreover,

$$(V_{(h,x)})_K = V_{(h,x)}^K \setminus \bigcup_{\{(H_v) \mid v \in V_{(h,x)} \& K < H_v\}} (V_{(h,x)})_{(H_v)},$$

where the union is over the (finitely many) isotropy classes that (properly) contain K . An analogous relation holds true for $(N_{(h,x)})_K$. Since all fixed point sets $N_{(h,x)}^{H_v}$ are algebraic, the set $(N_{(h,x)})_K \cap S_{(h,x)}$ is a semialgebraic subset of $N_{(h,x)}$, where $S_{(h,x)}$ is a sphere in $N_{(h,x)}$. Hence, $(N_{(h,x)})_K \cap S_{(h,x)}$ and $(N_{(h,x)})_K$ have finitely many connected components by [BoCoRo, Sec. 2.4]. Therefore, $(V_{(h,x)})_K$ has finitely many components, too.

Next, we want to show that $(V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* n^{-1} \times M)$ for $n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$ has finitely many components as well. To this end note first that for each $(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in V_{(h,x)}$ the group element \tilde{k} lies in the same connected component hH° of H as h , since $V_{(h,x)}$ is connected. Therefore, for

any Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}$ of the isotropy group K of (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) associated to \tilde{k} , $\mathbb{T}_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}$ is conjugate to a subgroup of $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ in H . To see this, note that by [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.2] and its proof, a Cartan subgroup of K associated to \tilde{k} is generated by a maximal torus in $Z_K(\tilde{k})$ and \tilde{k} , while a Cartan subgroup of H associated to \tilde{k} is generated by a maximal torus in $Z_H(\tilde{k})$ and \tilde{k} . Say $\tilde{h}\mathbb{T}_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}\tilde{h}^{-1} \leq \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ for some $\tilde{h} \in H$. Then $(k, y) := \tilde{h}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in V_{(h,x)}$ and $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$. It follows that we can always choose a representative $(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}$ from an orbit such that $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)} \leq \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$.

Since $(V_{(h,x)})_K$ is closed under multiplication by scalars $t \in (0, 1]$ using the linear structure it inherits from $N_{(h,x)}$, each point $t(k, y)$ has isotropy group K , hence its G -coordinate lies in K . As K and hence $K \times M$ is closed, it then must be that $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} t(k, y) = (h, x) \in K \times M$, which means $h \in K$. In particular, h and k are in the same connected component of K and hence that the Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ of K associated to k is conjugate in K to a Cartan subgroup of K associated to h . It follows in particular that there is a $\tilde{k} \in K$ such that $h \in \tilde{k}\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}\tilde{k}^{-1}$. However, this implies that $\tilde{k}^{-1}h\tilde{k} \in \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$, so that as $\tilde{k} \in K \leq H$ fixes h , we have from the beginning that $h \in \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$.

Now, recall that the equivalence class $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^*$ is an open subset of the closed subgroup h^\bullet of $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$. With respect to the action of $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ on $GV_{(h,x)}$, there are a finite number of \sim classes in $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$. Hence, there is a neighborhood O of h in G which only intersects \sim classes in $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ whose closures contain h . Assume $V_{(h,x)}$ is a slice chosen small enough so that $V_{(h,x)} \subseteq O \times M$, and pick $(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}$. Then, one can choose the Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)} \leq G_{(k,y)}$ with $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ such that $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)} \leq \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$. Since the slice $V_{(k,y)}$ at (k, y) may be shrunk such that $GV_{(k,y)} \subseteq GV_{(h,x)}$, it follows from the definition of \sim that $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$ is the intersection of a union of \sim classes in $\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$ with $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$. In particular, as the closure of each such \sim classes contains h , $\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*}$ and $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ both contain h . By the proof of Proposition 4.16, the relation $T_h(n\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*}n^{-1}) = T_h(nk^\bullet n^{-1})$ holds true for all $n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$, where k^\bullet is the intersection of all isotropy groups of the $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ -action on $GV_{(k,y)}$ which contain k . It follows that the exponential map associated to the product metric on $G \times M$ maps the subspace

$$(4.5) \quad (N_{(h,x)})_K \cap (T_h(nk^\bullet n^{-1}) \oplus T_x M) \cap B_{(h,x)}$$

onto $(V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (n\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*}n^{-1} \times M)$. By construction, (4.5) is a semialgebraic subset of $N_{(h,x)}$, and invariant under the action of $t \in (0, 1]$.

Let us now describe the preimage of $(n\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*}n^{-1} \times M)$ under the exponential map. Since there are only finitely many \sim classes in $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$, one can find finitely many elements $l_1, \dots, l_\alpha \in \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ such that each group l_ι^\bullet , $\iota = 1, \dots, \alpha$ has dimension less than $\dim k^\bullet$, and such that

$$\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* = \overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*} \setminus \bigcup_{\iota=1}^{\alpha} l_\iota^\bullet.$$

This implies that \exp maps the set

$$(4.6) \quad (N_{(h,x)})_K \cap \left((T_h(nk^\bullet n^{-1}) \setminus \bigcup_{\iota=1}^{\alpha} T_h(nl_\iota^\bullet n^{-1})) \oplus T_x M \right) \cap B_{(h,x)}$$

onto $(V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1} \times M)$. But (4.6) is semialgebraic by construction, and invariant under the action of $t \in (0, 1]$. Hence, (4.6) and thus $(V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1} \times M)$ have both finitely many connected components, and are invariant under the action of $t \in (0, 1]$, too. Since G is compact, and since there are only finitely many different sets $n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1}$, when n runs through the elements of $N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$, Eq. (4.4) entails the following.

Lemma 4.17. *Suppose $V_{(h,x)}$ is given by the image under the exponential map of a sufficiently small ball $B_{(h,x)}$ in the normal space $N_{(h,x)}$, and $(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}$. Then the set*

$$\exp_{(h,x)}^{-1} \left(\mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k,y)} (G(k, y)) \right) \cap B_{(h,x)}$$

is invariant under multiplication by scalars in $(0, 1]$. Moreover, each set $\mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k,y)} (G(k, y))$ has a finite number of connected components.

At the moment, the set $\mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k,y)} (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$ appears to depend both on the choice of $(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}$ in the G -orbit of (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) and the Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$. With the following two lemmas, we will demonstrate that this is not the case, allowing us to simplify the notation.

Lemma 4.18. *The set $\mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k,y)} (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$ does not depend on the particular representative $(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}$ of the G -orbit of (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) , hence does not depend on \tilde{g} .*

Proof. Suppose $g \in G$ also satisfies

$$g(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) =: (k', y') \in V_{(h,x)}.$$

It follows that $(k', y') = g\tilde{g}^{-1}(k, y)$, so that we have $g\tilde{g}^{-1} \in H$ by (SL4), since

$$g\tilde{g}^{-1}V_{(h,x)} \cap V_{(h,x)} \neq \emptyset.$$

Let $\tilde{h} = g\tilde{g}^{-1}$. Then the isotropy group of (k', y') is $K' := \tilde{h}K\tilde{h}^{-1} \leq H$. Let $\mathbb{T}_{(k',y')}$ be a choice of a Cartan subgroup in K' associated to k' . Note that since $\tilde{h}\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}\tilde{h}^{-1}$ is clearly a Cartan subgroup of K' associated to k' as well, there exists by [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.6] a $\hat{k} \in K'$ such that $\mathbb{T}_{(k',y')} = \hat{k}\tilde{h}\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}\tilde{h}^{-1}\hat{k}^{-1}$. Moreover, by Lemma 4.9, $\mathbb{T}_{(k',y')}^* = \hat{k}\tilde{h}\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*\tilde{h}^{-1}\hat{k}^{-1}$.

Let $(\tilde{l}, \tilde{z}) \in \mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k,y)} (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$. Then there exists a $\tilde{g}' \in G$ such that $(l, z) := \tilde{g}'(\tilde{l}, \tilde{z}) \in (V_{(h,x)})_K$ and an $n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$ such that $\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^* = n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1}$. As (l, z) has isotropy group K , one has $\tilde{h}(l, z) \in (V_{(h,x)})_{K'}$. Since $\hat{k} \in K'$, we get $\hat{k}\tilde{h}(l, z) = \tilde{h}(l, z)$. Again by Lemma 4.9, we therefore obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{T}_{\tilde{h}(l,z)}^* &= \mathbb{T}_{\hat{k}\tilde{h}(l,z)}^* \\ &= \hat{k}\tilde{h}\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*\tilde{h}^{-1}\hat{k}^{-1} \\ &= \hat{k}\tilde{h} \left(n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1} \right) \tilde{h}^{-1}\hat{k}^{-1} \\ &= \hat{k}\tilde{h}n \left(\tilde{h}^{-1}\hat{k}^{-1}\mathbb{T}_{(k',y')}^*\hat{k}\tilde{h} \right) n^{-1}\tilde{h}^{-1}\hat{k}^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the fact that $n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$, a routine computation verifies that

$$m := \hat{k}\tilde{h}n\tilde{h}^{-1}\hat{k}^{-1} \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k',y')}).$$

But then $\tilde{h}(l, z) \in (V_{(h,x)})_{K'}$, and $\mathbb{T}_{\tilde{h}(l,z)}^* = m\mathbb{T}_{(k',y')}^*m^{-1}$ with $m \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k',y')})$. It follows that $\tilde{h}(l, z) \in \mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k',y')} (k', y')$. Since $\mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k,y)} (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$ is G -invariant,

$$\mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k,y)} (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \subseteq \mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k',y')} (k', y').$$

Switching the roles of (k, y) and (k', y') completes the proof. \square

Note that we may now denote $\mathcal{U}_g^{\top(k,y)} (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$ simply as $\mathcal{U}^{\top(k,y)} (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$.

Lemma 4.19. *If $(\tilde{l}, \tilde{z}) \in \mathcal{U}^{\top(k,y)} (k, y)$, $(l, z) \in V_{(h,x)}$ is in the same orbit as (\tilde{l}, \tilde{z}) , and $\mathbb{T}'_{(l,z)}$ a Cartan subgroup of $G_{(l,z)}$ associated to l , then $\mathcal{U}^{\top(k,y)} (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) = \mathcal{U}^{\top(l,z)} (\tilde{l}, \tilde{z})$. In particular, $\mathcal{U}^{\top(k,y)} (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$ does not depend on the choice of a Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ of K associated to k .*

Proof. Let $K = Z_{G_y}(k)$ as above. By Eq. (4.4), we may assume that

$$(l, z) \in (V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)} \times M),$$

and that $\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^* = n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1}$ for some $n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$. Let $\mathbb{T}'_{(l,z)}$ be a choice of a Cartan subgroup in K associated to l . Then, by [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.6], there is an $i \in K$ such that $i\mathbb{T}'_{(l,z)}i^{-1} = \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$. Recall that by Lemma 4.9, $i\mathbb{T}'_{(l,z)}i^{-1} = \mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*$.

Given $(j, w) \in (V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (\mathbb{T}'_{(l,z)} \times M)$ such that $\mathbb{T}'_{(j,w)}^* = m\mathbb{T}'_{(l,z)}^*m^{-1}$ for some $m \in N_H(\mathbb{T}'_{(l,z)})$, it is now easy to see that

$$(j, w) = i(j, w) \in i \left((V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (\mathbb{T}'_{(l,z)} \times M) \right) = (V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)} \times M).$$

In particular, $j \in \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ so that by Lemma 4.9, $\mathbb{T}_{(j,w)}^* = i\mathbb{T}'_{(j,w)}i^{-1}$. Then

$$\mathbb{T}_{(j,w)}^* = i\mathbb{T}'_{(j,w)}i^{-1} = imi^{-1}n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1}im^{-1}i^{-1}.$$

A routine computation verifies that $imi^{-1}n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$. Therefore, $(j, w) \in \mathcal{U}^{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$, so that $\mathcal{U}^{\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}}(\tilde{l}, \tilde{z}) \subseteq \mathcal{U}^{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$. Switching the roles of (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) and (\tilde{l}, \tilde{z}) completes the proof that $\mathcal{U}^{\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}}(\tilde{l}, \tilde{z}) = \mathcal{U}^{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$.

If $\mathbb{T}'_{(k,y)}$ is another choice of a Cartan subgroup of K associated to k , repeating the above argument with $(l, z) = (k, y)$ yields $\mathcal{U}^{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}}(k, y) = \mathcal{U}^{\mathbb{T}'_{(k,y)}}(k, y)$. \square

Because of the preceding considerations, the set $\mathcal{U}^{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}}(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})$ depends only on the orbit $G(k, y)$, hence we will denote it simply as $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$. For (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) in the same orbit as (k, y) , we denote by $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}^c$ or even shorter by $\mathcal{U}_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}$ the connected component of (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) in $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$. The partition \mathcal{Z} of U then can be written as

$$(4.7) \quad \mathcal{Z} = \{\mathcal{U}_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})} \in \mathcal{P}(U) \mid (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in U\}.$$

Having established that the sets $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$ are well-defined, we now confirm that the set germs of the $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$ coincide with the stratification given by Equation (4.2).

Proposition 4.20. *For each $(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in U$, the germs $[\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))]_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}$, $[\mathcal{U}_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}]_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}$ and $\mathcal{S}_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}$ coincide.*

Proof. As $\mathcal{S}_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}$ and $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$ depend only on the orbit of (\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) , it is clearly sufficient to consider the case of $(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) = (k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}$. Set $K = Z_{G_y}(k)$ and fix a linear slice $V_{(k,y)}$ at (k, y) for the G -action on $G \times M$. By [BRE, II. Corollary 4.6], we may assume that $V_{(k,y)} \subseteq V_{(h,x)}$, though it need not be the case that $V_{(k,y)}$ is the image under the exponential map of a subset of the normal space $V_{(k,y)}$. As in the proof of Lemma 4.15, we define a closed subset C of G consisting of the (finitely many) connected components of K not containing k as well as the (finitely many) nontrivial $N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$ -conjugates of $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$. Let $O = C^c$ be the complement of C in G . Then $O \times M$ is an open subset of $G \times M$ containing $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$. Hence $V_{(k,y)} \cap (O \times M)$ is an open neighborhood of (k, y) in $V_{(k,y)}$, so we may shrink $V_{(k,y)}$ to assume that $V_{(k,y)} \subseteq O \times M$. Put $Q = GV_{(k,y)}$. We now show that the set germs $[\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))]_{(k,y)}$ and $\mathcal{S}_{(k,y)}$ coincide by proving that

$$\mathcal{U}(G(k, y)) \cap Q = G \left(V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M) \right).$$

Let $(\tilde{l}, \tilde{z}) \in \mathcal{U}(G(k, y)) \cap Q$. Then there is a $\tilde{g}' \in G$ such that

$$(l, z) := \tilde{g}'(\tilde{l}, \tilde{z}) \in (V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)} \times M)$$

and an $n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$ such that $\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^* = n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1}$. In particular, $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ is a Cartan subgroup of K associated to l . As $(l, z) \in Q$, there is a $g \in G$ such that $g(l, z) \in V_{(k,y)}$. Moreover, as $G_{g(l,z)} \leq K$ and $G_{(l,z)} \leq K$, we have $G_{g(l,z)} = K$ by [PFL, Lem. 4.2.9] and hence $g \in N_H(K)$. Similarly, as $g(l, z) \in V_{(k,y)} \subseteq V_{(h,x)}$ and $(l, z) \in V_{(h,x)}$, $g \in H$ by (SL4).

As $k, glg^{-1} \in K$ and $(k, y), g(l, z) \in V_{(k,y)}$, which is disjoint from $(K \setminus kK^\circ) \times M$, k and glg^{-1} are in the same connected component of K . By [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.6], there is a $\tilde{k} \in K$ such that $\tilde{k}g\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}g^{-1}\tilde{k}^{-1} = \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$, and hence $\tilde{k}g \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$. Recalling that $l \in \mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^* = n\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1}$ for some $n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$, we have

$$\tilde{k}glg^{-1}\tilde{k}^{-1} \in \tilde{k}g\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*g^{-1}\tilde{k}^{-1} = \tilde{k}gn\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1}g^{-1}\tilde{k}^{-1}.$$

Recalling that $\tilde{k} \in K$, and K is the isotropy group of $g(l, z) = (glg^{-1}, gz)$, we have

$$glg^{-1} \in \tilde{k}gn\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1}g^{-1}\tilde{k}^{-1}.$$

However, as $g(l, z) \in V_{(k,y)} \subseteq O \times M$, which is disjoint from $C \times M$, and as $\tilde{k}gn \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$, it must be that $\tilde{k}gn\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*n^{-1}g^{-1}\tilde{k}^{-1} = \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$. It follows that $g(l, z) \in V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M)$, and hence $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y)) \cap Q \subseteq G \left(V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M) \right)$.

Conversely, if $(\tilde{j}, \tilde{w}) \in G \left(V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M) \right)$, then there is a $\hat{g} \in G$ such that

$$(j, w) := \hat{g}(\tilde{j}, \tilde{w}) \in V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M).$$

Then as $V_{(k,y)} \subseteq V_{(h,x)}$, we have

$$(j, w) \in (V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M),$$

and so $(j, w) \in \mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$ using the trivial element of the normalizer. Therefore,

$$\mathcal{U}(G(k, y)) \cap Q = G \left(V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M) \right),$$

which shows the first part of the claim.

As the set $\left(V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M) \right)$ in the right hand side of the preceding equation is connected, the set $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y)) \cap Q$ has a finite number of connected components. Since Q is a G -invariant open neighborhood of the orbit $G(k, y)$, this implies that $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$ has locally only finitely many connected components and that the germ of $\mathcal{U}_{(k,y)}$ at (k, y) coincides with the germ of $\mathcal{S}_{(k,y)}$ at (k, y) . \square

Since the $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ are germs of smooth G -submanifolds of $G \times M$, and the piece associated to a point $(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y}) \in U$ has the same set germ as $\mathcal{S}_{(l,z)}$ at $(l, z) \in \mathcal{U}_{(\tilde{k}, \tilde{y})}$, it follows that the pieces of \mathcal{Z} are smooth submanifolds of $G \times M$ invariant under the G -action.

Lemma 4.21. *The partition \mathcal{Z} of $U = GV_{(h,x)}$ given by Equation (4.7) is finite.*

Proof. The set $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$ is determined by the H -conjugacy class of $G_{(k,y)} = Z_{G_y}(k) \leq H$ as well as the connected component containing k of the \sim class of k for the $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ -action on $GV_{(k,y)}$. By Lemma 4.19, the set $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$ does not depend on the choice of a Cartan subgroup associated to k . As H acts linearly on $N_{(h,x)}$, there is a finite number of H -conjugacy classes of isotropy groups with respect to the H -action on $N_{(h,x)}$, hence on $V_{(h,x)}$.

Choose a representative K of each H -isotropy type in $V_{(h,x)}$. Then as K/K° is finite, there are a finite number of conjugacy classes of cyclic subgroups of K/K° and hence by [BRDI, IV. Prop. 4.6] a finite number of K -conjugacy classes of Cartan subgroups of K . Given a Cartan subgroup $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ of K , there are a finite number of connected components of \sim classes in $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$

with respect to the action of $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ on U . Of course, $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$ is defined with respect to the action of $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$ on a subset of U , but this implies that $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$ is given by a union of connected components of \sim classes with respect to the action on U , of which there are finitely many. It follows that there are a finite number of $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y))$. Finally, each $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y))$ has a finite number of connected components, which completes the proof. \square

We now verify that \mathcal{Z} is a decomposition indeed, cf. [PFL, Def. 1.1.1 (DS2)].

Proposition 4.22. *The pieces of \mathcal{Z} satisfy the condition of frontier.*

Proof. Suppose $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y)) \cap \overline{\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))} \neq \emptyset$ where the closure is taken in ΛM . As the pieces of \mathcal{Z} are defined to be the connected components of the $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y))$ and $\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))$, it is sufficient to show that $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y)) \cap \overline{\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))}$ is both open and closed in $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y))$. It is obvious that $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y)) \cap \overline{\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))}$ is closed in $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y))$, so we need only establish that

$$\mathcal{U}(G(k,y)) \cap \overline{\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))}$$

is open in $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y))$.

By Lemma 4.19, the piece $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y))$ may be defined in terms of any orbit it contains, so we may assume that some element of the G -orbit of (k,y) is contained in $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y)) \cap \overline{\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))}$. Then the G -invariance of these two sets implies that $G(k,y) \subseteq \mathcal{U}(G(k,y)) \cap \overline{\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))}$. By Proposition 4.20, an open neighborhood of (k,y) in $\mathcal{U}(G(k,y))$ is given by

$$G(V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M))$$

for a sufficiently small slice $V_{(k,y)}$ at (k,y) . As above, we may assume $V_{(k,y)} \subseteq V_{(h,x)}$ by [BRE, II. Corollary 4.6] so that while $V_{(k,y)}$ can then be taken to be linear, it need not be the image under the exponential map of a subset of the normal space $N_{(k,y)}$. We will show that

$$G(V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M))$$

is contained in $\overline{\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))}$.

As $GV_{(k,y)}$ must contain some element of $\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))$, we may assume again by Lemma 4.19 that $G(l,z) \subseteq GV_{(k,y)}$. Moreover, by the proof of Lemma 4.17, we may choose the representative (l,z) from the orbit $G(l,z)$ such that $(l,z) \in V_{(k,y)}$, $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(l,z)} \leq \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}$, and $k \in \overline{\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*}$. Let $K = G_{(k,y)}$ and $L = G_{(l,z)}$ so that $L \leq K$, and then $(k,y) \in V_{(k,y)}^K \subseteq (V_{(h,x)})_K \subseteq \overline{(V_{(h,x)})_L}$. Then we have

$$(k,y) \in \overline{(V_{(h,x)})_L} \cap \overline{(\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^* \times M)}.$$

In particular, note that by our choice of $(l,z) \in V_{(k,y)}$ used to define the set $\mathcal{U}(G(l,z))$, (k,y) is in the closure of the set corresponding to the trivial element of $N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)})$ in Equation (4.4).

For any $(j,w) \in V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M)$, as $j \in \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$, it follows that $(GV_{(k,y)})^j = (GV_{(k,y)})^k$. In particular, $k \in \mathbb{T}_{(l,z)} \leq L$ implies that k fixes $(l,z) \in V_{(k,y)}$ so that $j \in L$ as well. Since $V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M)$ is invariant under the action of scalar $\in [0,1]$, and k is in the same connected component of L as l , each such j is in the same connected component of L as l also. Fix a $(j,w) \in V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M)$. Then there is a $\tilde{l} \in L$ such that $\tilde{l}\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}\tilde{l}^{-1}$ is a Cartan subgroup of L associated to j . Hence $\tilde{l}^{-1}j\tilde{l} \in \mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}$, so that as $\tilde{l} \in L \leq K = G_{(j,w)}$, we have $\tilde{l}^{-1}j\tilde{l} = j \in \mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}$.

Finally, note that as $j \in \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*$, it is clear that $(GV_{(l,z)})^j = (GV_{(l,z)})^k$ for a slice $V_{(l,z)}$ chosen small enough so that $GV_{(l,z)} \subseteq GV_{(k,y)}$. Therefore $j \sim k$ as elements of $\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}$. Then as the

connected component $[k]^\circ$ of the \sim class of k as an element of $\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}$ intersects $\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*}$, we have by Lemma 4.8 that $[k]^\circ \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*}$. It follows that

$$(j, w) \in \overline{(V_{(h,x)})_L} \cap (\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*} \times M),$$

so as $(j, w) \in V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M)$ was arbitrary,

$$V_{(k,y)}^K \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* \times M) \subseteq \overline{(V_{(h,x)})_L} \cap (\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(l,z)}^*} \times M).$$

Considering the G -saturations of both sides of this inclusion, it follows that each element of $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y)) \cap \mathcal{U}(G(l, z))$ is contained in a neighborhood that is both open and closed in $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$, completing the proof. \square

Finally, we have the following.

Proposition 4.23. *The orbit Cartan type stratifications of ΛM and the inertia space ΛX both satisfy Whitney's condition B.*

The proof follows [PFL, Thm. 4.3.7].

Proof. Let $(h, x) \in \Lambda M$, $H = Z_{G_x}(h)$, and $V_{(h,x)}$ a slice at (h, x) of the form $\exp(B_{(h,x)})$, where $B_{(h,x)}$ is a ball around the origin in the normal space $N_{(h,x)}$. We work in the neighborhood $U := GV_{(h,x)}$ of (h, x) in ΛM , and show that for any stratum $S \in \overline{S}$ Whitney's condition B is satisfied at (h, x) for the pair of strata (R, S) , where R is the piece of \mathcal{Z} containing (h, x) . Recall that \mathcal{Z} is the decomposition of U given by Eq. (4.7). Recall also, that R is the connected component of $G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M) \right)$ containing (h, x) . To describe the stratum S in some more detail, consider an orbit $G(k, y)$ for $(k, y) \in S$. As in the proof of Lemma 4.17, we may choose the representative (k, y) of the orbit $G(k, y)$ such that $(k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}$, $h \in \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)} \leq \mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}$, and $h \in \overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*}$. In particular, we then have the relation $K \leq H$ for the isotropy group $K := Z_{G_y}(k)$ of (k, y) . As shown above, S coincides with the connected component of $\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$ containing (k, y) .

Suppose now that $(h_i, x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a sequence in R and $(k_i, y_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ a sequence in S , and that both sequences converge to (h, x) . Assume in addition that in a smooth chart around (h, x) the secants $\ell_i = \overline{(h_i, x_i), (k_i, y_i)}$ converge to a straight line ℓ , and the tangent spaces $T_{(k_i, y_i)} S$ converge to a subspace τ . Then we must show that $\ell \subseteq \tau$.

Note that the hypotheses imply that $(h, x) \in \mathcal{U}(G(h, x)) \cap \overline{\mathcal{U}(G(k, y))}$. By the proof of Proposition 4.22 and the choices of (k, y) and $\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)} \subseteq K$ we obtain the relation

$$(4.8) \quad V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M) \subseteq \overline{(V_{(h,x)})_K} \cap (\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*} \times M).$$

Moreover, since every element $n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$ fixes $V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M)$, it follows that

$$V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M) \subseteq n \overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*} n^{-1} \times M$$

as well, hence

$$(4.9) \quad V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M) \subseteq \overline{(V_{(h,x)})_K} \cap (n \overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*} n^{-1} \times M).$$

Denote by \mathfrak{g} the Lie algebra of G , by \mathfrak{h} the Lie algebra of H , and let \mathfrak{m} denote the orthogonal complement of \mathfrak{h} in \mathfrak{g} with respect to the initially chosen bi-invariant metric on G . Then there is a neighborhood $U' \subseteq U \cong G \times_H V_{(h,x)}$ of (h, x) in $G \times M$ such that

$$\Psi : U' \longrightarrow \mathfrak{m} \times N_{(h,x)}, [\exp|_{\mathfrak{m}} \xi, \exp_{(h,x)}(v)] \longmapsto (\xi, v)$$

is a smooth chart at (h, x) , where $\exp|_{\mathfrak{m}}$ denotes the restriction of the exponential map of the Lie group G to \mathfrak{m} , and $\exp_{(h,x)}$ the exponential function restricted to the open ball $B_{(h,x)} \subseteq N_{(h,x)}$. By shrinking U' if necessary, we have that there is an open neighborhood O of H in G such that

$$\Psi \left(O \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M) \right) \right) \subset \mathfrak{m} \times \left(N_{(h,x)}^H \cap T_{(h,x)}(\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M) \right).$$

We may assume that the sequences $(h_i, x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $(k_i, y_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ are contained in U' . Since $(k_i, y_i) \in \mathcal{U}(G(k, y))$, one knows that

$$\Psi(k_i, y_i) \in \mathfrak{m} \times H \left((V_{(h,x)})_K \cap \left(\bigcup_{n \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})} n \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* n^{-1} \times M \right) \right).$$

Recall that there are only finitely many and pairwise disjoint sets $n \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* n^{-1}$, where n runs through the elements of $N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$. Moreover, by Lemma 4.11, $n \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* n^{-1}$ is disjoint from $\overline{m \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* m^{-1}} = m \left(\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*} \right) m^{-1}$ for every $m \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$ with $n \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* n^{-1} \neq m \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* m^{-1}$. Hence, we may assume without loss of generality that

$$(k_i, y_i) \in G \left((V_{(h,x)})_K \cap \left(m_0 \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* m_0^{-1} \times M \right) \right)$$

for all i and some $m_0 \in N_H(\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)})$.

Choose $\tilde{l}_i \in G$ such that $(\tilde{k}_i, \tilde{y}_i) := \tilde{l}_i(k_i, y_i) \in (V_{(h,x)})_K$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$. Put $(\tilde{h}_i, \tilde{x}_i) := l_i(h_i, x_i)$. After possibly passing to a subsequence, $(\tilde{l}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges to some $\tilde{l} \in H$, the secant lines $\tilde{\ell}_i = \overline{(\tilde{h}_i, \tilde{x}_i), (\tilde{k}_i, \tilde{y}_i)}$ converge to a straight line $\tilde{\ell}$, and the tangent spaces $T_{(\tilde{k}_i, \tilde{y}_i)} S$ converge to a subspace $\tilde{\tau}$. By definition, and since $\tilde{l}_i T_{(k_i, y_i)} S = T_{(\tilde{k}_i, \tilde{y}_i)} S$ for all i , one obtains $\tilde{\ell} = \tilde{l} \ell$, and $\tilde{\tau} = \tilde{l} \tau$. Hence, the first claim is shown, if $\tilde{\ell} \subseteq \tilde{\tau}$. Without loss of generality we may therefore assume that for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$

$$(4.10) \quad (k_i, y_i) \in (V_{(h,x)})_K \cap (m_0 \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* m_0^{-1} \times M),$$

and then show $\ell \subseteq \tau$ for the sequences $(k_i, y_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $(h_i, x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$.

Eq. (4.10) now means in particular that

$$\Psi(k_i, y_i) \in \{0\} \times \left((N_{(h,x)})_K \cap \exp_{(h,x)}^{-1} (m_0 \mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^* m_0^{-1} \times M) \right).$$

Since by Lemma 4.7 and the above observations $m_0 \overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*} m_0^{-1}$ is an open and closed subset of a closed subgroup of G and also contains h , the set

$$V := N_{(h,x)} \cap T_{(h,x)} \left(m_0 \left(\overline{\mathbb{T}_{(k,y)}^*} \right) m_0^{-1} \times M \right)$$

is a subspace of $N_{(h,x)}$. Let W be the orthogonal complement of the invariant space V^H in V with respect to the H -invariant scalar product induced from $V_{(h,x)}$. Then the image under the chart Ψ of every element of $G(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M)) \cap U'$ and every (k_i, y_i) is contained in

$$\mathfrak{m} \times (W_K \cup \{0\}) \times V^H.$$

With respect to this decomposition, (h, x) has coordinates $(0, 0, 0)$, each element of

$$G \left(V_{(h,x)}^H \cap (\mathbb{T}_{(h,x)}^* \times M) \right)$$

has coordinates contained in $\mathfrak{m} \times 0 \times V^H$, and each sequence element (k_i, y_i) has coordinates contained in $\{0\} \times W_K \times V^H$. In particular, let

$$\Psi(k_i, y_i) = (0, w_i, v_i)$$

for every i . Then as W_K is invariant under multiplication by non-vanishing scalars, we have

$$(\xi, w, v) := \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Psi(k_i, y_i) - \Psi(h_i, x_i)}{\|\Psi(k_i, y_i) - \Psi(h_i, x_i)\|} \in \mathfrak{m} \times \overline{W_K} \times V^H$$

Now, as the unit sphere in W is compact, the sequence $\frac{w_i}{\|w_i\|}$ converges to some $\hat{w} \in SW$ after possibly passing to a subsequence. Then $w = \|w\|\hat{w}$. Since W_K is invariant by non-vanishing scalars, we have

$$\mathfrak{m} \times \text{span } \hat{w} \times V^H \subseteq \tau,$$

and

$$\ell = \text{span } (\xi, \hat{w}, v) \subseteq \tau,$$

proving the first claim.

Now let us show that the orbit Cartan type stratification of ΛX satisfies Whitney's condition B as well. To this end let us first choose a Hilbert basis of H -invariant polynomials

$$p_1, \dots, p_\kappa : (N_{(h,x)}^H)^\perp \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

of the orthogonal complement of the invariant space $N_{(h,x)}^H$ in $N_{(h,x)}$. Next let

$$p_{\kappa+1}, \dots, p_N : N_{(h,x)}^H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

with $N = \kappa + \dim N_{(h,x)}^H$ be a linear coordinate system of the invariant space. We can even choose these p_i in such a way that $p_{\kappa+1}, \dots, p_{\kappa+\dim V^H}$ is a linear coordinate system of V^H . By construction, p_1, \dots, p_N then is a Hilbert basis of the normal space $N_{(h,x)}$. Denote by $p : N_{(h,x)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ the corresponding Hilbert map. Recall that p induces a chart of ΛX over $G \setminus U$ by

$$\widehat{\Psi} : G \setminus U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N, G \exp_{(h,x)}(v) \mapsto p(v).$$

Note that by H -invariance of p and since for every orbit in U there is a representative in $V_{(h,x)}$, the chart $\widehat{\Psi}$ is well-defined indeed. A decomposition of $\widehat{U} := \widehat{\Psi}(G \setminus U)$ inducing the orbit Cartan type stratification on $G \setminus U$ is given by

$$\widehat{\mathcal{Z}} := \{\widehat{\Psi}(G \setminus GS) \mid S \in \mathcal{Z}\}.$$

Let $\widehat{S} \in \widehat{\mathcal{Z}}$ denote the stratum containing the orbit $G(h, x)$, and $\widehat{S} \in \mathcal{Z}$ a stratum $\neq \widehat{R}$ such that $G(h, x)$ lies in the closure of \widehat{S} . Now consider sequences of orbits $(G(h_i, x_i))_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ in \widehat{R} and $(G(k_i, y_i))_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ in \widehat{S} such that both sequences converge to $G(h, x)$. Moreover, assume that the sequence of secants $\overline{\widehat{\Psi}(G(h_i, x_i)), \widehat{\Psi}(G(k_i, y_i))}$ converges to a line $\widehat{\ell}$, and that the sequence of tangent spaces $T_{\widehat{\Psi}(G(k_i, y_i))} \widehat{S}$ converges to some subspace $\widehat{\tau} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$. Using notation from before, we can choose representatives (h_i, x_i) and (k_i, y_i) having coordinates in $\mathfrak{m} \times (W_K \cup \{0\}) \times V^H \subseteq N_{(h,x)}$ such that

$$(4.11) \quad \begin{aligned} \Psi(h_i, x_i) &= (0, 0, v'_i) \in \{0\} \times \{0\} \times V^H \quad \text{and} \\ \Psi(k_i, y_i) &= (0, w_i, v_i) \in \{0\} \times W_K \times V^H. \end{aligned}$$

Next observe that by the Tarski–Seidenberg Theorem and the proof of Lemma 4.17, the stratum \widehat{S} is semialgebraic as the image of the semialgebraic set $(W_K \times V^H) \cap B_{(h,x)}$ under the Hilbert map p . By the same argument, $p(W_K)$ is semialgebraic, too, and an analytic manifold, since $p(W_K) \cong N_H(K) \setminus W_K \cong H \setminus W_{(K)}$. Moreover, the equality

$$\widehat{S} = (p(W_K) \times V^H) \cap p(B_{(h,x)})$$

holds true, where we have canonically identified V^H with its image under the Hilbert map p . By Eq. (4.11), this entails that

$$(4.12) \quad \widehat{\tau} = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} T_{\widehat{\Psi}(G(k_i, y_i))} \widehat{S} = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} T_{p(w_i)} p(W_K) \times V^H.$$

Since $p(W_K)$ is semialgebraic and an analytic manifold, [LOJ65, Prop. 3, p. 103] (see also [LOJ70, Section 9]) by Łojasiewicz entails that $p(W_K)$ satisfies Whitney's condition B over the origin. This means after possibly passing to subsequences, that $\ell_{W_K} \subset \tau_{W_K}$, where ℓ_{W_K} is the limit line of the secants $\overline{p(w_i), 0}$, and τ_{W_K} the limit of the tangent spaces $T_{p(w_i)} p(W_K)$ for $i \rightarrow \infty$. By Eqs. (4.11) and (4.12) this entails that

$$\widehat{\ell} \subseteq \ell_{W_K} \times V^H \subseteq \tau_{W_K} \times V^H = \widehat{\tau}.$$

This finishes the proof. \square

Recall that $\widehat{\rho}: \Lambda M \rightarrow \Lambda X$ denotes the quotient map, which is both open and closed by [TDIE, Prop. 3.1 (iv) and Prop. 3.6 (i)]. Hence, as the sets defining the $\mathcal{S}_{(h,x)}$ consist of entire G -orbits, and as the pieces of \mathcal{Z} consist of connected components of G -orbits, Proposition 4.22 extends to the local decomposition in ΛX given by the $\mathcal{R}_{G(h,x)}$. Therefore, combining Propositions 4.16, 4.20, 4.22, and 4.23, we have completed the proof of Theorem 4.1.

5. A DE RHAM THEOREM FOR THE INERTIA SPACE

In this section, we prove a de Rham theorem for the inertia space ΛX analogous to that of [SJA] for singular symplectic reduced spaces.

5.1. Differential Forms on the Inertia Space. Before constructing differential forms on the inertia space, let us briefly recall from [PFL, Prop. 1.2.7] that a stratification (in the sense of Mather [MAT73]) of a locally compact topological space X induces a uniquely determined coarsest decomposition of X into strata. Applied to our situation, where we consider a compact Lie group G acting on a smooth manifold M , we thus obtain a coarsest decomposition \mathcal{D} of ΛM which induces the stratification from Theorem 4.1. The elements of \mathcal{D} are the strata of ΛM . It is easy to see that each stratum from \mathcal{D} is G -invariant and that the family of quotients $\{G \setminus Z \mid Z \in \mathcal{D}\}$ forms a decomposition of ΛX which induces the natural stratification of the inertia space from Theorem 4.1. Let us introduce some notation: $\iota: \Lambda M \rightarrow G \times M$ denotes the natural embedding of ΛM as a subspace and $\rho: G \times M \rightarrow G \setminus (G \times M)$ the quotient map. Moreover, for each $Z \in \mathcal{D}$, we denote by $\iota_Z: Z \rightarrow G \times M$ the inclusion and by $\rho_Z: Z \rightarrow G \setminus Z$ the restricted quotient map.

Let us construct in the following the sheaf of differential forms on the inertia space. Given $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we denote by Ω_{inv}^k the sheaf of G -invariant differential k -forms on $G \times M$ treated as a sheaf on $G \setminus (G \times M)$. That is, if U is an open subset of $G \setminus (G \times M)$, then $\Omega_{\text{inv}}^k(U)$ consists of the differential k -forms $\omega \in \Omega^k(\rho^{-1}(U))$ on $\rho^{-1}(U) \subseteq G \times M$ such that $L_g^* \omega = \omega$ for all $g \in G$, where $L_g: G \times M \rightarrow G \times M$ denotes the left action by g on $G \times M$. Similarly, we let Ω_{bas}^k denote the subsheaf of Ω_{inv}^k consisting of G -basic differential forms on $G \times M$ or any of the G -manifolds $Z \subseteq G \times M$. More precisely, $\Omega_{\text{bas}}^k(U)$ consists of all G -invariant k -forms ω on $\rho^{-1}(U)$ such that the interior product $i_{\xi_{G \times M}} \omega$ of ω with the fundamental vector field $\xi_{G \times M}$ vanishes for every $\xi \in \mathfrak{g}$ (cf. [PFL, Sec. 5.3.1]). Now let $W \subseteq \Lambda X$ be relatively open, and $U \subseteq G \setminus (G \times M)$ open such that $W = U \cap \Lambda X$. By a *differential k -form* $\widetilde{\omega}$ on W we now understand a collection of differential forms $\widetilde{\omega}_Z$ on $W \cap (G \setminus Z)$ for $Z \in \mathcal{D}$ with $W \cap (G \setminus Z) \neq \emptyset$ such that there is an $\omega \in \Omega_{\text{inv}}^k(U)$ with $\rho_Z^* \widetilde{\omega}_Z = \iota_Z^* \omega$ on its domain $\rho^{-1}(W) \cap Z$. We denote the space of differential k -forms on W by $\Omega^k(W)$. One checks immediately that Ω^k then becomes a sheaf on ΛX . This sheaf is even

fine, since by construction Ω^k is a \mathcal{C}_X^∞ -module sheaf, and \mathcal{C}_X^∞ is fine as the structure sheaf of a differentiable space.

Note that the form ω on U which represents the differential form $\tilde{\omega}$ on W need not be globally basic. We let Ω_{ibas}^k denote the subsheaf of Ω_{inv}^k consisting of k -forms ω such that for every $Z \in \mathcal{D}$ the pull-back $\iota_Z^* \omega$ is a basic form on Z . That is, for each $U \subseteq G \backslash (G \times M)$ open, we define

$$\Omega_{\text{ibas}}^k(U) = \{\omega \in \Omega^k(\rho^{-1}(U))^G \mid i_{\xi_Z} \iota_Z^* \omega = 0 \text{ for all } \xi \in \mathfrak{g} \text{ and } Z \in \mathcal{D}\}.$$

We refer to sections of Ω_{ibas}^k as *inertia-basic k -forms*. Intuitively, these correspond to k -forms that are basic on each of the strata of ΛM . A form $\omega \in \Omega_{\text{bas}}^k(G \backslash (G \times M))$ is inertia-basic, but an inertia-basic form need not be basic on all of $G \times M$.

By definition, it is clear that we have a surjective linear map

$$\Omega_{\text{ibas}}^k(U) \longrightarrow \Omega^k(W)$$

and that this map has kernel

$$\mathcal{I}^k(U) = \{\omega \in \Omega^k(\rho^{-1}(U))^G \mid \iota_Z^* \omega = 0 \text{ for all } Z \in \mathcal{D}\}.$$

Hence we obtain isomorphisms

$$\Omega^k(W) \cong \Omega_{\text{ibas}}^k(U) / \mathcal{I}^k(U).$$

In particular, when $k = 0$,

$$\Omega^0(W) \cong \Omega_{\text{ibas}}^0(U) / \mathcal{I}^0(U) = \mathcal{C}^\infty(\rho^{-1}(U))^G / \mathcal{I}^0(U),$$

where $\mathcal{I}^0(U)$ is the ideal of G -invariant smooth functions on $\rho^{-1}(U)$ which vanish on ΛM . By its definition in Section 3 the structure sheaf $\mathcal{C}_{\Lambda X}^\infty$ of ΛX can be naturally identified with the sheaf Ω^0 on ΛX .

Next let us show that the exterior derivative maps inertia-basic forms to inertia-basic forms. Suppose ω is an inertia-basic k -form on $\rho^{-1}(U)$, i.e. that $\omega \in \Omega_{\text{ibas}}^k(U)$. By Cartan's Magic Formula, we then conclude for each $Z \in \mathcal{D}$ which intersects $\rho^{-1}(U)$ and each $\xi \in \mathfrak{g}$ that

$$i_{\xi_Z} \iota_Z^* d\omega = \iota_Z^* i_{\xi_{G \times M}} d\omega = \iota_Z^* (-di_{\xi_{G \times M}} \omega + \mathcal{L}_{\xi_{G \times M}} \omega) = -d\iota_Z^* i_{\xi_{G \times M}} \omega = -di_{\xi_Z} \iota_Z^* \omega = 0.$$

Therefore, $d\omega$ is inertia-basic as well, and we obtain a complex of sheaves

$$(5.1) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\Lambda X} \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}_{\Lambda X}^\infty = \Omega^0 \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^1 \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^2 \xrightarrow{d} \dots,$$

where $\mathbb{R}_{\Lambda X}$ denotes the sheaf of locally constant \mathbb{R} -valued functions on ΛX .

5.2. The Poincaré Lemma for the Inertia Space. Let us show that the complex of sheaves (5.1) is acyclic, or in other words that a Poincaré Lemma holds true for forms on the inertia space. So suppose that ω is a k -form on $\rho^{-1}(U)$ for some open $U \subseteq G \backslash (G \times M)$, and that $d\omega \in \mathcal{I}^{k+1}(U)$. Choose a slice $V_{(h,x)}$ at $(h,x) \in \rho^{-1}(U)$ according to Proposition 3.9 so that $GV_{(h,x)} \subseteq \rho^{-1}(U)$. By possibly shrinking $V_{(h,x)}$ if necessary, we may assume by the slice theorem that $Z \cap V_{(h,x)}$ is invariant under the action of $t \in (0,1]$ for every $Z \in \mathcal{D}$. Let $H = Z_{G_x}(h)$ denote the isotropy group of (h,x) . Following [PFL, Lemmas 5.2.1 and 5.3.2], we define

$$\mathcal{H}: G \times_H V_{(h,x)} \times [0,1] \longrightarrow G \times_H V_{(h,x)}$$

by setting

$$\mathcal{H}([g, (k,y)], t) = [g, (1-t)(k,y)].$$

Then \mathcal{H} is a G -invariant retraction of $G \times_H V_{(h,x)}$ onto $G \times_H \{(h,x)\}$ which restricts to a G -invariant retraction of $(G \times_H V_{(h,x)}) \cap \Lambda M$ onto a single orbit by Proposition 3.9. Let us point out that by the slice theorem we can naturally identify $G \times_H V_{(h,x)}$ with the set $GV_{(h,x)} \subseteq \rho^{-1}(U)$.

Next, let $\mathcal{K} : \Omega^k(G \times_H V_{(h,x)} \times [0, 1]) \rightarrow \Omega^{k-1}(G \times_H V_{(h,x)})$ denote the homotopy operator which maps ω to $\mathcal{K}(\omega)$, where

$$\mathcal{K}(\omega)([g, (k, y)]) = \int_0^1 \omega([g, (k, y)], s) \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial s}, -, \dots, - \right) ds \text{ for } g \in G, (k, y) \in V_{(h,x)}.$$

One checks (see [PFL, Lemma 5.2.1]), that then

$$d\mathcal{K}\mathcal{H}^* + \mathcal{K}\mathcal{H}^*d = \mathcal{H}_1^* - \mathcal{H}_0^*,$$

where $\mathcal{H}_s = \mathcal{H}(-, s)$ for $s \in [0, 1]$. Hence we obtain for the restriction of ω to $GV_{(h,x)}$ that

$$(5.2) \quad \omega|_{GV_{(h,x)}} - d\mathcal{K}\mathcal{H}^*\omega|_{GV_{(h,x)}} = \mathcal{K}\mathcal{H}^*d\omega|_{GV_{(h,x)}}.$$

To prove that the right hand side of this equation lies in $\mathcal{I}^k(U')$, where $U' := \rho(V_{(h,x)})$, we will show that $\mathcal{K}\mathcal{H}^*$ maps $\mathcal{I}^k(U')$ into $\mathcal{I}^{k-1}(U')$. So suppose that $\eta \in \mathcal{I}^k(U')$ which means that $\iota_Z^*\eta = 0$ on $\rho^{-1}(U') \cap Z$. Let \mathcal{H}_Z denote the homotopy

$$\mathcal{H}_Z : G \times_H (Z \cap V_{(h,x)}) \times [0, 1] \longrightarrow G \times_H (\bar{Z} \cap V_{(h,x)})$$

given by restricting \mathcal{H} . Similarly, let \mathcal{K}_Z denote the restriction of the operator \mathcal{K} to

$$\Omega^k(G \times_H (Z \cap V_{(h,x)})).$$

Then the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times_H (Z \cap V_{(h,x)}) \times [0, 1] & \xrightarrow{\iota_Z \times \text{id}_{[0,1]}} & (G \times_H V_{(h,x)}) \times [0, 1] \\ \mathcal{H}_Z \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathcal{H} \\ G \times_H (\bar{Z} \cap V_{(h,x)}) & \xrightarrow{\iota_Z} & G \times_H V_{(h,x)} \end{array}$$

commutes. Since the operator \mathcal{K} clearly commutes with the restriction to Z , this entails

$$\iota_Z^*\mathcal{K}\mathcal{H}^*\eta = \mathcal{K}_Z\mathcal{H}_Z^*\iota_Z^*\eta = 0.$$

Moreover, since \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{H} commute with the G -action, we obtain for $\xi \in \mathfrak{g}$

$$i_{\xi_{GV_{(h,x)}}}\mathcal{K}\mathcal{H}^*\eta = \mathcal{K}\mathcal{H}^*i_{\xi_{GV_{(h,x)}}}\eta = 0.$$

It follows that $\mathcal{K}\mathcal{H}^*$ maps $\mathcal{I}^k(U')$ into $\mathcal{I}^{k-1}(U')$, so that the right hand side of Eq. (5.2) lies in $\mathcal{I}^k(U')$, since $d\omega \in \mathcal{I}^{k-1}(U)$ by hypothesis. But this means that the sheaf complex Ω^\bullet on ΛX is exact, or in other words that the Poincaré Lemma for forms on the inertia space holds true.

Theorem 5.1. *The cohomology of the complex $\Omega^*(\Lambda X)$ of differential forms on ΛX naturally coincides with the singular (or Čech) cohomology of ΛX . Moreover, if X is compact, the cohomology of the de Rham complex $\Omega^*(\Lambda X)$ on the inertia space is finite dimensional.*

Proof. By the Poincaré Lemma for forms on the inertia space, Ω^\bullet provides a fine resolution of the sheaf of \mathbb{R} -valued locally constant functions on ΛX . Since ΛX is locally compact and locally contractible, the cohomology of the complex $\Omega^\bullet(\Lambda X)$ of global sections then has to coincide naturally with the singular cohomology on ΛX . Since ΛX is even triangulable, the cohomology of $\Omega^*(\Lambda X)$ even coincides with the Čech cohomology. The triangulability of ΛX also implies that for every open covering of ΛX there exists a locally finite subordinate good covering (see [PFPoT11, Sec. 7]). This implies that under the assumption that X , hence ΛX is compact, the Čech cohomology of ΛX has to be finite dimensional. This completes the proof. \square

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