PSEUDODIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS ON MANIFOLDS WITH FIBRED BOUNDARIES

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Respectfully dedicate to Professor M. Sato on the occasion of his 70th birthday

Abstract. Let X be a compact manifold with boundary. Suppose that the boundary is fibred, $\phi : \partial X \longrightarrow Y$, and let $x \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ be a boundary defining function. This data fixes the space of 'fibred cusp' vector fields, consisting of those vector fields V on X satisfying $Vx = O(x^2)$ and which are tangent to the fibres of ϕ; it is a Lie algebra and $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ module. This Lie algebra is quantized to the 'small calculus' of pseudodifferential operators $\Psi^*_\Phi(X)$. Mapping properties including boundedness, regularity, Fredholm condition and symbolic maps are discussed for this calculus. The spectrum of the Laplacian of an 'exact fibred cusp' metric is analyzed as is the wavefront set associated to the calculus.

Introduction

Algebras of pseudodifferential operators can be used to investigate local regularity of solutions to partial differential equations and to relate such local matters to more global properties. On a compact manifold with boundary there are a number of different natural algebras of pseudodifferential operators which generalize the 'standard' algebra of pseudodifferential operators on a compact manifold without boundary. Amongst these are the calculus of b-pseudodifferential operators [11] (b=boundary), [14], the scattering calculus [15] and the uniformly degenerate (or zero) calculus [7] and [9]. The distinction between the terms 'calculus' and 'algebra' is not great here. The former is preferred because all of the algebras we discuss have natural, and useful, extensions to somewhat larger spaces of operators in which not every pair of elements can be composed. If the manifold has more structure, for example if its boundary admits a fibration, then there are other possibilities, such as the edge calculus [8] which interpolates between the b and uniformly degenerate calculi. In this paper we shall discuss another algebra of this general type; it is associated to a fibration of the boundary and a choice of boundary defining function up to second order at the boundary, or more precisely to a trivialization of the conormal bundle to the boundary over each fibre. The extreme cases, in terms of the fibre dimension of the fibration, of this algebra correspond to the 'cusp' algebra, of operators naturally associated to (finite volume) hyperbolic cusps, and the scattering algebra, of operators associated to Euclidean scattering theory.

The purpose of this paper is to give a concise yet complete treatment of this 'fibred-cusp' algebra, along with a few of the most basic consequences. More sophisticated applications will be taken up elsewhere. In this introduction we shall

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give an outline of some of the salient features of the algebra which will be proved in full later in the paper.

Let X be a compact $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ manifold with boundary and suppose that the boundary has a smooth fibration

$$\phi : \partial X \longrightarrow Y, \tag{1}$$

where Y is the space of fibres. Suppose also that $x \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ is a choice of boundary defining function, i.e. $x \geq 0$, $\partial X = \{x = 0\}$ and $dx \neq 0$ at ∂X. In particular, x fixes a trivialization of the conormal bundle to the boundary. Associated with this structure is the space of *fibred cusp* vector fields

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X) = \big\{V \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X; TX); Vx \in x^2\mathcal{C}^\infty(X) \text{ and } V_p \\ \text{is tangent to } \phi^{-1}(\phi(p)) \ \forall\ p \in \partial X\big\}. \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

As shown below, $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ is a Lie algebra and $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ module which is projective in the sense that there is a $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ vector bundle ${}^\Phi TX$ over X with natural vector bundle map $\iota_\Phi : {}^\Phi TX \longrightarrow TX$, which is an isomorphism over $X^\circ = X \setminus \partial X$, and is such that

$$\mathcal{C}^\infty(X; {}^\Phi TX) = \iota_\Phi \circ \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X).$$

That is, $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ can be naturally identified with $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X; {}^\Phi TX)$. The identifier '$\Phi$' will be used to denote objects which are naturally associated to $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$. Note that $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ determines the map ϕ, but does not completely determine the defining function x.

There are two extreme cases to keep in mind as a guide to this discussion, occurring when ϕ is one of the 'trivial' (or universal) fibrations. The first is when $Y = \{\mathrm{pt}\}$ and the second when $Y = \partial X$. In the former case, $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ determines, and is determined by, the defining function x up to the equivalence $x' \sim x$ if $x' = cx + x^2 g$, where $c > 0$ is constant and $g \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$. This will be called the *cusp algebra.* In the latter case, the Lie algebra is independent of the choice of x and is called the *scattering algebra.* The algebra of pseudodifferential operators associated to it is discussed in [15] and [19] and in local form on $\mathbb{R}^n$ goes back at least to Shubin [22]. When X is the upper half-sphere, the interior of which may be identified with $\mathbb{R}^n$ via stereographic compactification $\mathbb{R}^n \hookrightarrow \mathbb{S}^n_+$, the scattering algebra is generated by the translation-invariant vector fields.

Since $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ is a Lie algebra and $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ module it is natural to consider the enveloping algebra, $\mathrm{Diff}^*_\Phi(X)$, consisting of those operators on $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ which can be written as finite sums of products of elements of $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ and $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$. It is filtered by the subspaces $\mathrm{Diff}^k_\Phi(X)$ which have elements expressible as sums of products involving at most k factors from $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$. Let ${}^\Phi T^*X$ be the dual bundle to ${}^\Phi TX$ and let $P^k({}^\Phi T^*X) \subset \mathcal{C}^\infty({}^\Phi T^*X)$ be the space of functions which are homogeneous polynomials of degree k on the fibres. The principal symbol map extends from the interior to $\sigma_{\Phi,k} : \mathrm{Diff}^k_\Phi(X) \longrightarrow P^k({}^\Phi T^*X)$. This map is multiplicative and gives a short exact sequence delineating the filtration

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathrm{Diff}^{k-1}_\Phi(X) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Diff}^k_\Phi(X) \xrightarrow{\sigma_{\Phi,k}} P^k({}^\Phi T^*X) \longrightarrow 0. \tag{3}$$

We *microlocalize* this algebra of differential operators to obtain the filtered algebra of fibred-cusp, or Φ-, pseudodifferential operators

$$\mathrm{Diff}^k_\Phi(X) \subset \Psi^k_\Phi(X)$$

where $\Psi_\Phi^m(X)$ is defined for each $m \in \mathbb{R}$. Again there is a multiplicative symbol map delineating the filtration

$$0 \longrightarrow \Psi_\Phi^{m-1}(X) \hookrightarrow \Psi_\Phi^m(X) \xrightarrow{\sigma_{\Phi,m}} S^m({}^\Phi T^*X)/S^{m-1}({}^\Phi T^*X) \longrightarrow 0 \tag{4}$$

where $S^m(E)$, for any vector bundle E, is the space of symbols of order m. The construction of $\Psi_\Phi^m(X)$ is effected geometrically. More specifically, these spaces of operators are characterized by the regularity properties of their Schwartz' kernels. These, in turn, are defined as conormal distributions on a space, X_Φ^2, which is a resolution of X^2. This resolution is obtained from the ordinary 'double space' through a sequence of blow-ups. One of the main facts about $\Psi_\Phi^*(X)$, that it is closed under composition, is proved using a resolution X_Φ^3 of the ordinary triple space X^3, as we shall explain later.

Whether a particular element in $\Psi_\Phi^*(X)$ acts as a Fredholm operator, say on L^2, is no longer determined solely by the invertibility of its image under the symbol map (3) or (4). In fact, there is a second symbol map, the range of which is in general no longer a commutative algebra. To introduce this *normal operator*, we first describe the space of operators in which it lies.

If F is any compact manifold without boundary and W is a real vector space, then the space $\Psi^m(F \times W)$ of all pseudodifferential operators on the $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ manifold $F \times W$ is well defined. This is not an algebra because we have imposed no growth restrictions on the kernels. A special subclass consists of those elements which are invariant under translation in W, and therefore loosely speaking act by convolution in the W factor and as ordinary pseudodifferential operators in F. Now consider

$$\Psi^m_{\mathrm{sus}(W)}(F) \subset \Psi^m(F \times W) \tag{5}$$

consisting of those translation invariant operators with convolution kernels on $F^2 \times W$ which are rapidly decreasing with all derivatives at infinity. These spaces form a filtered algebra in the usual way and we call them the 'W-suspended pseudodifferential operators on F', even though they act on functions on $F \times W$. They are invariant under diffeomorphisms of F and linear transformation of W. This means that we can define $\Psi^m_{\mathrm{sus}(W)-\phi}(X'; W)$, where $\phi : X' \longrightarrow Y$ is any fibration, $W \longrightarrow Y$ a vector bundle, and $G = X' \times_Y W$ the fibre product, where elements are defined as in (5) on the fibres of G and depend smoothly on the base variable in Y.

If $\phi : \partial X \longrightarrow Y$ is the fibration (1), and $\iota_\Phi : {}^\Phi TX \longrightarrow TX$ is the natural inclusion map, set

$${}^\Phi N_p\partial X = \left\{v \in {}^\Phi T_pX,\ p \in \partial X; \iota_\Phi(v) = 0\right\}. \tag{6}$$

Although this is defined as a bundle over ∂X, in fact it is the lift to ∂X of a bundle, ${}^\Phi NY$, over Y,

$${}^\Phi N\partial X = \phi^*({}^\Phi NY), \tag{7}$$

and hence is of the form just described. The *normal homomorphism*, which we will define later, takes values in the corresponding space of suspended operators, and there is a multiplicative short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow x\Psi_\Phi^m(X) \hookrightarrow \Psi_\Phi^m(X) \xrightarrow{N_\Phi} \Psi^m_{\mathrm{sus}({}^\Phi NY)-\phi}(\partial X) \longrightarrow 0.$$

The symbol and normal operator together are sufficient to capture the Fredholm property for these differential or pseudodifferential operators.

Theorem 1. *An element $P \in \Psi^0_\Phi(X)$ is Fredholm as an operator on $L^2(X)$ if and only if it is fully elliptic in the sense that its symbol $\sigma_{\Phi,0}$ is invertible and in addition its normal operator $N_\Phi(P)$ is invertible as an element of $\Psi^m_{\mathrm{sus}({}^\Phi NY)-\phi}(\partial X)$.*

We will state and prove a more general result for pseudodifferential operators of any order acting on sections of a vector bundle. This raises the following fundamental

Problem 1. *Find an explicit index formula for fully elliptic Φ-pseudodifferential operators in terms of the symbol and normal operator.*

This has been done in full generality in only one case, where $Y = \partial X$, i.e. for the scattering calculus. This is discussed briefly in [17], where it is reduced to the Atiyah-Singer theorem. In the other extreme case, where $Y = \{\mathrm{pt}\}$, the calculus is essentially that of manifolds with cylindrical ends. The index theorem in this setting for Dirac operators is that of Atiyah, Patodi and Singer [1]. There is a somewhat non-explicit index formula for general fully elliptic pseudodifferential operators here due to Piazza [20]. In [16] a definition of the eta invariant in this context is given, and [18] contains an index formula in terms of it.

Beyond these index questions, another reason for developing these calculi of operators is to analyze the regularity of solutions to related differential equations. We formalize this process using the notion of a *wavefront set*, which is defined by microlocal invertibility properties of Φ-pseudodifferential operators. In the analytic category the wavefront set (singular spectrum) was introduced by Sato, see [21]; in the $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ category it is due to Hörmander [6].

To describe this consider again the structure bundle ${}^\Phi TX$ and its dual ${}^\Phi T^*X$. The stereographic compactification of a vector space to a ball, or half-sphere, is linearly covariant, and so we can define the fibrewise compactification any vector bundle. Since X is a manifold with boundary the compactification ${}^\Phi\overline{T}^*X$ is a manifold with corners up to codimension two. The restriction to the boundary of the bundle ${}^\Phi T^*X$ has as quotient ${}^\Phi N^*\partial X$ which is, as noted above, naturally the lift of a bundle ${}^\Phi N^*Y$ over the base Y. This is the parameter space for the normal operator. The disjoint union of the part 'at infinity' of the bundle ${}^\Phi\overline{T}^*X$ and the compactification, ${}^\Phi\overline{N}^*Y$,

$$C_\Phi = {}^\Phi S^*X \sqcup {}^\Phi\overline{N}^*Y,$$

is the carrier of the Φ-wavefront set

$$\mathrm{WF}_\Phi(u) = \mathrm{WF}^\sigma_\Phi \sqcup \mathrm{WF}^\partial_\Phi \subset C_\Phi.$$

It has properties and utility similar to the usual wavefront set.

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1. Fibred cusp algebras

We begin our more detailed discussion by analyzing the space of vector fields defined by (2). Thus, X is a compact $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ manifold with boundary and as in (1), ϕ is a fibration of the boundary. If the boundary is not connected we denote by $M_1(X)$ the set of boundary components. Then each boundary hypersurface $H \in M_1(X)$ has a specified fibration $\phi_H : H \longrightarrow Y_H$. There need be no relationship between these fibrations. For the most part we shall simplify the discussion by supposing that ∂X is connected, but when confusion might arise in the general case we make a precise statement.

In addition to the fibration, we also suppose that a boundary defining function $x \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ is given. As will be discussed shortly, the structure we describe does not depend on all the information in x. Consider $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ defined by (2) which should now be written more carefully as

$$\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X) = \big\{V \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X;TX); Vx \in x^2\mathcal{C}^\infty(X) \text{ and } V_p \\ \text{is tangent to } \phi_H^{-1}(\phi(p)) \ \forall\ p \in H,\ \forall\ H \in M_1(X)\big\}.$$

Lemma 1. *Suppose $p \in \partial X$ and $y_1, \dots, y_\ell$ are local coordinates in Y near $\phi(p)$. Let $\widetilde{y}_1, \dots, \widetilde{y}_\ell \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ be functions satisfying $\widetilde{y}_j = \phi^*(y_j)$ on ∂X near p and choose $k = n - \ell - 1$ functions $z_1, \dots, z_k$ such that $x, \widetilde{y}_j, z_i$ give local coordinates in X. Then near p, $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ is spanned by*

$$x^2\frac{\partial}{\partial x},\ x\frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{y}_j},\ \frac{\partial}{\partial z_i}. \tag{1.1}$$

Proof. Since the differentials of x and the $\widetilde{y}_j$ must be independent at p there do indeed exists functions z_i completing them to a coordinate system. A general vector field on X is locally

$$V = a\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} b_j \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{y}_j} + \sum_{i=1}^{k} c_i \frac{\partial}{\partial z_i}$$

for $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ coefficients a, b_j, c_i. Then $Vx = a$, so the first condition on V in (2) is that $a = O(x^2)$, i.e. $a = x^2 a'$ where a' is $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ near p. Locally the fibres of ϕ are the surfaces $\tilde{y}$ =const, in $x = 0$. Thus if $V \in \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ then $b_j = x b'_j$. This shows that the elements in (1.1) span $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ locally over $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$. □

Lemma 1 actually shows that $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ is projective, and this means that we can interpret this space of vector fields as the full set of sections of some vector bundle. For any $p \in X$ let $\mathcal{I}_p(X) \subset \mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ be the ideal of functions vanishing at p. Then denote by $\mathcal{I}_p \cdot \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X) \subset \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ the finite linear span of products, aV, for $a \in \mathcal{I}_p(X)$ and $V \in \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$, and set

$${}^\Phi T_p X = \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)/\mathcal{I}_p \cdot \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X).$$

Lemma 2. *For each $p \in X$, ${}^\Phi T_p X$ is a vector space of dimension $\dim X$, and the disjoint union*

$${}^\Phi TX = \bigsqcup_{p \in X} {}^\Phi T_p X$$

has a natural structure as a smooth vector bundle over X. There is a natural linear map $\iota_p : {}^\Phi T_p X \longrightarrow T_p X$ which is an isomorphism when $p \in X^\circ = X \backslash \partial X$; these maps define a smooth bundle map $\iota : {}^\Phi TX \longrightarrow TX$ with the property that for every $\tilde{V} \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X; {}^\Phi TX)$ there is a unique $V \in \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X) \subset \mathcal{C}^\infty(X;TX)$ such that

$$\iota_p \tilde{V}_p = V_p\ \forall\ p \in X^\circ.$$

Conversely, each $V \in \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ defines a section $\tilde{V} \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X; {}^\Phi TX)$.

Proof. Over the interior of X the elements of $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ are unconstrained, and so ${}^\Phi T_pX \equiv T_pX$ for $p \in X^\circ$. We write this identification as $\iota_p : {}^\Phi T_pX \longrightarrow T_pX$. Near a boundary point p we have shown that $V \in \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ has a unique smooth decomposition in terms of the vector fields (1.1). Thus $V' \in \mathcal{I}_p \cdot \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ if and only if its decomposition has coefficients vanishing at p. This means that (the residue classes of) $x^2\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$, $x\frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{y}_j}$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial z_i}$ give a basis of ${}^\Phi T_pX$, and therefore this vector space has dimension $\dim X$. In fact, these sections clearly give ${}^\Phi TX$ the structure of a vector bundle near p, where any smooth section is (locally) given by an element of $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ and conversely. It remains only to show that this vector bundle structure is independent of the choice of the local coordinates. This follows simply by inserting the change of coordinate formula for vector fields into the basis (1.1). □

Generally we shall ignore the map ι and identify $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ with $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X; {}^\Phi TX)$ as this lemma permits us to do. As noted in the introduction

Lemma 3. *The space $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ is a Lie subalgebra of $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X;TX)$.*

Proof. If V, $W \in \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$, then by definition they are tangent to the fibres of ϕ in ∂X. Because tangency to a submanifold persists for commutators, $[V,W]$ also has this property. Similarly, since $Vx = x^2a$ and $Wx = x^2b$ for some functions $a, b \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$,

$$\begin{aligned}[V,W]x &= V(Wx) - W(Vx) = V(x^2a) - W(x^2b) \\ &= x^2(Va - Wb) + 2x(a-b)(V-W)(x) = x^2(Va - Wb) + 2x^3(a-b)^2.\end{aligned}$$

□

As noted above, the algebra $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ is determined by ϕ and the choice of a boundary defining function. Conversely, $\mathcal{V}_\Phi$ determines ϕ but it does not completely determine x. In fact two boundary defining functions x and x' determine the same Lie algebra $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$, and hence the same 'boundary structure' relative to ϕ, if and only if $x' = \alpha x$, with $\alpha|_{\partial X} \in \phi^*\mathcal{C}^\infty(Y)$. Thus if we let $\mathcal{C}^\infty_\phi(X) \subset \mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ be the space of smooth functions on X which are constant on each leaf of ϕ at the boundary then this means $x' \in x\mathcal{C}^\infty_\phi(X)$.

The Lie algebra $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ has a natural ideal, consisting of those elements which vanish at the boundary as vector fields in the usual sense. In terms of the basis (1.1), it is spanned by $x^2\partial_x$ and $x\partial_{\tilde{y}_j}$ and $x\partial_{z_i}$ near each boundary point and is unconstrained in the interior. Over the boundary it spans the subbundle (6). This ideal is the span over $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ of a smaller subalgebra

$$\mathcal{W}_\Phi(X) = \{V \in \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X); V \in x\mathcal{C}^\infty(X, TX) \text{ and } Vx \in x\mathcal{C}^\infty_\phi(X)\}. \tag{1.2}$$

This latter condition is clearly independent of the choice of x defining $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$, i.e. $\mathcal{W}_\Phi(X)$ *is* an invariantly defined subspace of the latter. Since $\mathcal{W}_\Phi(X)$ is a $\mathcal{C}^\infty_\phi(X)$-module (and not a $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ module) the subbundle of ${}^\Phi T_{\partial X}X$ it defines is naturally the lift of a bundle from Y. This is the bundle ${}^\Phi NY$ in (7).

There is a direct representation of the fibre ${}^\Phi T^*_pX$, $p \in \partial X$, of the dual bundle which is useful later. For $p \in \partial X$ let $I_p(X) \subset \mathcal{C}^\infty_\phi(X)$ be the ideal of functions vanishing on the fibre through p and $J_p(X) \subset I_p(X)$ the smaller ideal of functions with restriction to $\phi^{-1}(\phi(p))$ vanishing to second order at p. Note that $I_p(X)$ only depends on the fibre through p but $J_p(X)$ depends also on the location of p within this fibre. If x is an admissible boundary defining function then there is a canonical isomorphism

$$^{\Phi}T_p^*X \equiv x^{-1}\mathcal{C}^\infty_\phi(X)/x^{-1}J_p(X)$$

given by applying $V \in \mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ and evaluating at p; this follows from (1.1).

Let $\mathrm{Diff}^m_\Phi(X)$ be the space of operators on $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ generated by $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ and products of up to m elements of $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$. The local structure of these operators is easy to determine.

Lemma 4. *In the local coordinates near a boundary point described in Lemma 1, any $P \in \mathrm{Diff}^m_\Phi(X)$ may be written*

$$P = \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta|+q\le m} p_{\alpha,\beta,q}(x,y,z)(x^2D_x)^q(xD_y)^\beta D_z^\alpha, \qquad D_t = \frac{1}{i}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}. \tag{1.3}$$

Conversely, if $P \in \mathrm{Diff}^m(X)$ and this holds in a neighbourhood of each boundary point, then $P \in \mathrm{Diff}^m_\Phi(X)$.

Proof. This follows by induction on m. Certainly (1.3) holds when $m = 0$. In general, $\mathrm{Diff}^{m+1}_\Phi(X)$ is the span of $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)\cdot\mathrm{Diff}^m_\Phi(X)$ and $\mathrm{Diff}^m_\Phi(X)$. Using the local representation of $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ given by (1.1) and the representation (1.3) for $\mathrm{Diff}^m_\Phi(X)$, the same result follows directly for $\mathrm{Diff}^{m+1}_\Phi(X)$. ☐

Note that the order of the various factors in (1.3) is immaterial, because changing it would just change the coefficients slightly. The main properties of this space of Φ-differential operators will be discussed in more detail once we have defined the space of Φ-pseudodifferential operators.

2. Φ-pseudodifferential operators

We now turn to the definition of the 'small' calculus of Φ-pseudodifferential operator. These can be thought of as 'symbolic' functions of the vector fields in $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ in the same sense that, by (1.3), the Φ-differential operators are polynomial functions in these vector fields. Our definition of this calculus is quite geometric; this has the virtue that many of the main properties we need to develop, in particular the fact that this space of operators is closed under composition, may be proved directly and also quite geometrically.

Following a general 'microlocalization' principle for algebras of this type, the operators in $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ will be characterized by the lifts of their Schwartz kernels from X^2 to a space X^2_Φ which is obtained by a resolution process, more specifically by blowing up a sequence of p-submanifolds in X^2. Here the p-submanifolds (for 'product') are those around which the manifold with corners has a product decomposition, they may be thought of as properly embedded. The point of this geometric resolution is that it encodes the approximate local homogeneities of Φ-differential operators, and so it is natural to define the Φ-pseudodifferential operators by requiring that their Schwartz kernels also have the same approximate local homogeneities, i.e. lift to well-behaved distributions on X^2_Φ. We refer to [3], [12], [9] and [4] for a discussion of the process of blowing up a p-submanifold in a manifold with corners.

As already noted, all our constructions proceed independently at each boundary hypersurface of X, and so it is sufficient to suppose that $\partial X \equiv H$ is connected.

The Schwartz kernel of any operator on $\mathcal{C}^\infty(X)$ is a distribution on X^2. Of course, we are particularly interested in the behaviour of these operators, and hence kernels, near the boundary. We use the notation

$$L(H) = H \times X, \; R(H) = X \times H$$

or simply L, R when H is understood. For any manifold with corners Z, let $M_k(Z)$ denote set of boundary components of codimension k. In particular $\{L, R\} = M_1(X^2)$. Because X is a manifold with boundary, X^2 has boundary components only up to codimension two. Amongst these, only the faces $B(H) \in M_2(X^2)$,

$$B = B(H) = H \times H \subset X^2,$$

which are the ones intersecting the diagonal, are of interest to us. The other manifold of primary importance in this discussion is the diagonal

$$D = \{(z,z) \in X^2\}.$$

An important feature of this geometry is that these submanifolds do not intersect normally. We resolve this by blowing up B to get the b-double space

$$X_b^2 = [X^2; B]; \; \beta_b^2 : \; X_b^2 \longrightarrow X^2. \tag{2.1}$$

This compact manifold with corners is obtained by taking the disjoint union of $X^2 \setminus B$ and the inward-pointing spherical normal bundle of B and endowing this set with the (unique) minimal $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ structure for which smooth functions on X^2 and polar coordinates in X^2 around B all lift to be smooth.

We next describe the lifts of the submanifolds of X^2; we shall use the same letters to denote the lifts but add a subscript 'b' when necessary to distinguish between a manifold and its lift.

First, the 'front face' of X_b^2, which is produced by the blow-up of B is denoted

$$B_b = (\beta_b^2)^{-1}(B) = SN^+B.$$

By definition it is a quarter circle bundle over B. In fact, since the fibred-cusp structure specifies the 1-jet of a defining function x for the boundary H of X, this bundle is naturally trivial over B

$$B_b = B \times [-1,1]_s. \tag{2.2}$$

To see this, note that if x and x' are the lifts to X^2 of the given boundary defining function from the left and right factors of X, respectively, then NB is spanned by ∂_x and $\partial_{x'}$. The interior normal bundle N^+B is therefore $\{(p, a\partial_x + a'\partial_{x'}); a, a' \geq 0\}$ and it is then easy to check that (2.2) follows, if we use $s = \frac{a-a'}{a+a'}$.

Next consider L and R; the inverse images of these boundary faces under β_b^2 contain B_b. We define instead their *lifts* to exclude the interior of the front face:

$$L_b = \mathrm{cl}\left((\beta_b^2)^{-1}(L) \backslash B_b\right) = \mathrm{cl}\left((\beta_b^2)^{-1}(L \backslash B)\right)$$

$$R_b = \mathrm{cl}\left((\beta_b^2)^{-1}(R) \backslash B_b\right) = \mathrm{cl}\left((\beta_b^2)^{-1}(R \backslash B)\right)$$

where cl denotes the closure. These are boundary hypersurfaces of X_b^2 and all of the boundary hypersurfaces of X_b^2 have been enumerated, so that

$$M_1(X_b^2) = \bigcup_{H \in M_1(X)} \{L_b(H), R_b(H), B_b(H)\}.$$

We also define the lifted diagonal

$$D_b = \mathrm{cl}\left((\beta_b^2)^{-1}(D \backslash D \cap B)\right) \subset X_b^2.$$

As noted earlier, the diagonal itself does not intersect the boundary normally. However, D_b is a closed embedded p-submanifold, and the only boundary hypersurfaces it meets are the diagonal front faces $B_b(H)$. In this sense the blow-up of X^2 to X_b^2 resolves the 'geometry' on X^2 consisting of the boundary faces and the diagonal. This blow-up is the basis for the direct definition of the b-calculus, see [14].

There are however further degeneracies, associated to the fibred-cusp algebra, which need to be resolved. These occur along the fibre diagonal of the front face $B = H \times H$, given by

$$\{(h, h') \in B;\ \phi(h) = \phi(h') \text{ in } Y\}.$$

Using the product decomposition (2.2) this lifts to the submanifold

$$\Phi = \Phi(H) \equiv \{(h, h', 0) \in B_b = B \times [-1, 1]_s; \phi(h) = \phi(h')\}, \tag{2.3}$$

which is an embedded, closed submanifold in the interior of B_b, hence is a p-submanifold of X_b^2. For any manifold with corners Z we denote by $\mathcal{V}_b(Z)$ the Lie algebra of smooth vector fields which are tangent to each of the boundary faces.

Proposition 1. *The Lie algebra $\mathcal{V}_b(X)$ lifts to X_b^2 from either factor to a Lie subalgebra of $\mathcal{V}_b(X_b^2)$ transversal to D_b. In each case the elements of the lift of $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ constitute the subset of the lift of $\mathcal{V}_b(X)$ consisting of those vector fields which are tangent to Φ.*

Proof. Using local coordinates x, y, z, x', y', z', as in Lemma 1, on both the left and right factors of X, gives coordinates

$$x', s = \frac{x - x'}{x + x'},\ \tilde{y}, \tilde{y}', z, z' \text{ in } X_b^2, \tag{2.4}$$

on X_b^2 valid near $s = 0$. The vector fields in (1.1) lift to

$$\frac{x'}{2}(1+s)^2 \partial_s, x' \frac{1+s}{1-s} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{y}_j}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z_j},$$

and these are clearly tangent to $\Phi = \{x' = 0,\ s = 0, \tilde{y} = \tilde{y}'\}$. On the other hand, the basic generating set of vector fields on $\mathcal{V}_b(X)$ is

$$x\partial_x,\ \partial_{\tilde{y}_j},\ \partial_{z_i}; \tag{2.5}$$

these lift to

$$\frac{1}{2}(1 - s^2)\partial_s,\ \partial_{\tilde{y}_j},\ \partial_{z_j}$$

which are clearly transversal to $D_b = \{s = 0, \tilde{y} = \tilde{y}', z = z'\}$. If such a lift is tangent to Φ then it is easily seen to be the lift of an element of $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$. $\square$

It follows from (2.4) that Φ is the flow out of ∂D_b under the lifts of $\mathcal{V}_\Phi(X)$ from the left and right factors. It is therefore the minimal submanifold to which these lifted vector fields are tangent.