

§ 2 Lie groups & Lie algebras

Main ref. Fulton-Harris Representation theory

Goal: understand continuous groups.

Model: matrix groups (subgroups of $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$).

Ex. $U(n) = \{ X \in GL_n(\mathbb{C}) : X^t = X^{-1} \} \subset GL_{2n}(\mathbb{R})$

$$SU(n) = \{ X \in U(n) : \det X = 1 \}$$

$$SO(n) = \{ X \in GL_n(\mathbb{R}) : X^t = X^{-1}, \det X = 1 \}$$

$$T = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1 \} \text{ as}$$

- subgroup of $GL_1(\mathbb{C})$

$$- \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} z & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{z} \end{bmatrix} : z \in T \right\} \subset SU(2), \dots$$

More abstract framework: Lie groups

\equiv manifolds with smooth group structure

manifold: top. sp. s.t. neighborhoods of each point can be modelled by open sets of \mathbb{R}^n

smooth grp. str.: product & inverse maps can be locally represented by C^∞ -functions in coordinates.

Ex. $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$: open set of $M_n(\mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}^{n^2}$.

\Rightarrow admits global coord.

$\pi \cong \{ e^{it} : t \in \mathbb{R} \}$ angle coord t is locally well-defined.

Rem. we will stick to matrix groups; which include

- compact Lie groups $U(n), SO(n), \dots$

- commutative Lie groups $\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{R}, \dots$

- algebraic groups $GL_n(\mathbb{C}), SO_n(\mathbb{C}), \dots$

"only" sensible non-example: universal cover of $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$

How to understand cont. grps.

take "infinitesimal model" (Lie algebra)

given by tangent vectors of grp unit $e \in G$.

Example

rotation group $(SO(2))$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos t & -\sin t \\ \sin t & \cos t \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{deriv. at } t=0} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

how do we recover the original rotation?

how not to do: integration

$$\int_0^t \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} dx = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -t \\ t & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

how to do: combine with exponential

$$\exp\left(\int_0^t \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} dx\right) = \exp\left(t \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

$$= I_2 + t \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{t^2}{2} (-I_2) + \dots$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{t^{2k}}{(2k)!} & -\sin t \\ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{t^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} & \cos t \end{bmatrix}$$

Rem. we are computing the fundamental solution

of differential eq. $\frac{dv(t)}{dt} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} v(t)$
(vec. valued)

Quick recap on tangent vectors

M : manifold, $p \in M$

U : neigh. of p , $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ open set

$\varphi: V \rightarrow U$ homeomorphism.

\Rightarrow we can make sense of smooth functions on U :

$f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $f \circ \varphi: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is smooth

func. $F(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

tangent vector (directional derivative) at p :

$D: \{\text{smooth funcs around } p\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ linear,

$$D(f \cdot f_2) = D(f) f_2(p) + f_1(p) D(f_2)$$

"Leibniz rule at p "

Obs., $D(f)$ is a linear comb. of $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}$:

∴ if $p \mapsto 0 = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ then

$$F(x) = \underbrace{F(0)}_{f'(p)} + \sum \partial_i F(0) x_i + \underbrace{\sum h_i(x) x_i}_{\substack{h_i(0)=0 \\ \text{in ker } D}}$$

$T_p M = \{D \text{ as above}\}$

functoriality: if $\psi: M \rightarrow N$ is a smooth map

we get a lin. map $\psi_\# : T_p M \rightarrow T_{\psi(p)} N$

$$(\psi_\# D)(f) = D(f \circ \psi) \text{ for smooth func } f \text{ around } \psi(p)$$

vector field: distribution of tang. fields, i.e.

$D = (D_p)_{p \in M}$; $D_p \in T_p M$, varies smoothly

in p ($D_p(f) = \sum f^i(p) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}$ for some smooth
funcs $(f^i)_{i=1}^n$ around p)

Ex. $M = \mathbb{R}$, $D_x f = t f'(t)$

Invariant vector fields on $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$.

$$X \in M_n(\mathbb{R}) \mapsto \exp(tX) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} X^k \quad X^0 = I_n$$

we have $e^{tX} e^{sX} = e^{(t+s)X}$ etc.

for $g \in GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ we get $\tilde{X}_g^{(t)} \in T_g GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ by

$$\tilde{X}_g^{(t)}(f) = \frac{d}{dt} f(g e^{tX}) \Big|_{t=0}$$

Leibniz rule from usual diff. rule for prod. funcs.

Prop. $f_{ij}(g) = g_{ij}$ (i, j) -th component of g

then $\tilde{X}_g^{(r)}(f_{ij}) = \sum_{k=1}^n X_{kj} f_{ik}(g)$.

Proof. $\tilde{X}_g^{(r)}(f_{ij}) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} (g e^{tX})_{ij} \right|_{t=0}$
 $= \left. \frac{d}{dt} (g_{ij} + t \sum_k g_{ik} X_{kj} + t^2 \dots) \right|_{t=0}$
 $= \sum g_{ik} X_{kj} = \sum X_{kj} f_{ik}(g) \quad \square$

Consider the left product map $L_h: GL_n \mathbb{R} \rightarrow GL_n \mathbb{R}$

$g \mapsto hg$ for some fixed $h \in GL_n \mathbb{R}$

Prop. $(L_h)_\# \tilde{X}^{(r)} = \tilde{X}^{(r)}$. $((L_h)_\# \tilde{X}_g^{(r)} = \tilde{X}_{hg}^{(r)})$

Proof. $((L_h)_\# \tilde{X}_g^{(r)})(f) = \tilde{X}_g^{(r)}(f \circ L_h)$
 $= \left. \frac{d}{dt} f(hg e^{tX}) \right|_{t=0} = \tilde{X}_{hg}^{(r)}$.