

# MA3429 Differential Geometry 1

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Will be essentially Differential Geometry for General Relativity. DG, in particular, tensor calculus is the mathematical framework of GR.

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## 1 Manifolds

### 1.1 Topological Space

Let  $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . A nbh<sup>1</sup> of  $p$  is any set  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $V$  contains an open solid sphere of centre  $p$ .

Properties of nbh's:

1.  $p$  belongs to any nbh of  $p$
2. If  $V$  is a nbh of  $p$  and  $V \subset U$ , then  $U$  is a nbh of  $p$ .

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<sup>1</sup>neighbourhood

3. If  $U, V$  are nbh's of  $p$ , then  $U \cap V$  is a nbh of  $p$ .
4. If  $U$  is a nbh of  $p$  there is a nbh  $V$  of  $p$  s.t.  $V \subset U$ , and  $V$  is a nbh of each of its points.

**Definition 1.** A topological space is a set of points  $M$  along with an assignment to each  $p \in M$  of collections of subsets called nbh's, satisfying properties 1-4.

## 1.2 Charts

Let  $M$  be a topological space,  $p \in M$  be some point in this space,  $U$  be an open nbh of  $p$ . A chart on  $U$  is a one-to-one (injective) map:

$$\phi : U \rightarrow \phi(U) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$$

The  $\phi(p) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  constitutes a local co-ordinate system defined in an open nbh  $U$ , we usually write  $\phi(p) = \{x^\mu\} = \{x^1(p), x^2(p), \dots, x^n(p)\}$

NB: The choice of chart is arbitrary  
 $\rightarrow$  Einstein Equivalence Principle.

## 1.3 Meshing Condition: Coordinate Transformations

Suppose we have two charts  $\phi_1, \phi_2$  on  $U \subset M$ . Since these charts are injective they are invertible e.g.

$$\phi_1^{-1} : \phi_1(U) \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow U$$

We may define

$$\phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n : \phi_1(U) \rightarrow \phi_2(U)$$

We require these maps to be smooth ( $C^\infty$ ) where they are defined. For  $p \in U$ , the map  $\phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1}(p)$  defines a co-ord transformation from the co-ords

$$\phi_1(p) = \{x^1(p), x^2(p), \dots, x^n(p)\}$$

to the co-ords

$$\phi_2(p) = \{X^1(p), X^2(p), \dots, X^n(p)\}$$

### 1.3.1 Example

Let  $M \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , let  $\phi_1$  be a map  $p$  to Cartesian coords  $(x, y)$  and  $\phi_2$  map  $p$  to a different set of cartesian coords  $(X, Y)$  obtained from the first by a rotation through the angle  $\alpha$ .

$$\phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1} : (x, y) \rightarrow (X = x \cos \alpha + y \sin \alpha, Y = -x \sin \alpha + y \cos \alpha)$$

We can define a derivative matrix

$$D(\phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial X}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial Y}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial X}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial Y}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

Where Jacobian  $J \equiv \det(D)=1$

Reminder  $J \neq 0$  implies invertible transformation.  $J$  non-singular<sup>2</sup> implies  $\phi_1, \phi_2$  are  $C^\infty$  related. Introduce another chart  $\phi_3$ , which maps  $p$  to polar co-ords  $(r, \theta)$ .

$$\phi_3 \circ \phi_1^{-1} : (x, y) \rightarrow (r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x})$$

$J = \det(D) = \frac{1}{r}$   $\phi_1, \phi_3$  are  $C^\infty$  related except at  $r = 0$ . To cover all of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , we would need at least two sets of polar co-ords with different origins.

### 1.3.2 Example: Stereographic Projection

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$$

describes a 2-sphere embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$$\phi_1(x, y, z) \equiv (w^1, w^2) = \left( \frac{2x}{1-z}, \frac{2y}{1-z} \right)$$

$$\text{maps } U : S^2 - \{0, 0, 1\} \rightarrow \phi_1(U)(\mathbb{R}^n)^3$$

## 1.4 Definition of a manifold

Informally a manifold is a set of points  $M$  that locally looks like a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The simplest example of a curved manifold is  $S^2$ . A set of  $C^\infty$ -related charts s.t. every point  $p \in M$  lies in the domain of at least one chart is a  $C^\infty$ -atlas for  $M$ . The union of all such atlases is the  $C^\infty$  maximal atlas.

**Definition 2.** We define a  $C^\infty$   $n$ -dimensional manifold by a set  $M$  along with a maximal atlas.

## 2 Tangent Vectors and Tangent Spaces

In our familiar treatment of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  they represent "directed magnitudes". This idea is no longer useful in DG, rather to each point  $p \in M$ , we have a set of all possible vectors at  $p$  known as the tangent space,  $T_p(M)$ . Prefer to describe geometry of  $M$  from intrinsic properties alone, we won't rely on embedding in a higher dimensional space.

<sup>2</sup>has no singularities

<sup>3</sup>defined for every point on 2-sphere except north pole. do the same with  $z = 1$  plane except from south pole to get entire map. (on first assignment)

## 2.1 Smooth Function

Let  $M$  be a manifold,  $f$  be a real function

$$f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

How do we define the "smoothness" of  $f$ ?

We introduce a chart  $\phi$ . We define  $F$  s.t.

$$F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, F = f \circ \phi^{-1}$$

We say that  $f$  is smooth iff  $F$  is smooth in the usual sense.

**Theorem 1.** *The smoothness of  $f$  is chart independent.*

**Proof 1.** *Let  $\phi_1, \phi_2$  be two meshing charts.*

$$F_i = f \circ \phi_i^{-1} \quad i = 1, 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= f \circ \phi_1^{-1} \\ &= f \circ \phi_2^{-1} \circ \phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1} \\ F_1 &= F_2 \circ \phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

$\phi_1, \phi_2$  are meshing charts and thus smooth. Smoothness properties of  $F_1$  are thus the same as  $F_2$ . ■

Definition of smooth functions may be generalised to a function mapping a manifold  $M$  to another manifold  $N$ .

$$f : M \rightarrow N$$

Let  $\phi_1$  be a chart in  $M$  (dim  $n_1$ )

Let  $\phi_2$  be a chart in  $N$  (dim  $n_2$ )

Define  $F = \phi_2 \circ f \circ \phi_1^{-1}$ ,  $f$  smooth iff  $F$  smooth. Easy to prove that this is chart independent.

NB<sup>4</sup>

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x^\mu} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^\mu} = \frac{\partial(\phi_2 \circ f \circ \phi_1^{-1})}{\partial x^\mu}$$

## 2.2 Smooth Curves

Let  $I = (a, b)$  be an interval of  $\mathbb{R}$ . We define a curve in  $M$  as a map

$$\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M, \gamma(s) \rightarrow p$$

The curve  $\gamma$  is smooth if its image

$$\phi \circ \gamma : T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \phi \circ \gamma(s) = \{x^1(s), x^2(s), \dots, x^n(s)\}$$

is smooth

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<sup>4</sup>the first part of the following is not really defined on manifolds but is kinda ok to write because they look locally like  $\mathbb{R}^n$

## 2.3 Tangent Space as a Space of directional Derivatives

We wish to construct the tangent space at  $p \in M$  (i.e.  $T_p(M)$ ) using only the intrinsic properties to  $M$ .

We combine the concept of smooth functions  $f$ , and smooth curves,  $\gamma$  and define

$$\mathcal{F} : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, s \rightarrow \mathbb{F}(s) = f \circ \gamma(s) \equiv f(\gamma(s))$$

i.e.  $\mathcal{F}$  evaluates  $f$  along the curve  $\gamma$

The rate at which *mathcal{F}* changes,  $\frac{d\mathcal{F}}{ds}$  gives the rate of change of  $f$  following the curve. The tangent vector to the curve  $\gamma$  at  $p$  where (w.l.o.g.<sup>5</sup>, take  $s = 0$  at  $p$ ) is the real map from the set of real functions to  $\mathbb{R}$ , defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\gamma}_p f &:= \dot{\gamma}_p f \equiv \dot{\gamma}_p(f) = \left[ \frac{d}{ds} f \circ \gamma \right]_{s=0} \\ &\equiv \left( \frac{d\mathcal{F}}{ds} \right)_{s=0} \end{aligned}$$

Claim Let  $\phi$  be a chart s.t.  $\phi : \phi(p) \rightarrow x^\mu(p)$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathcal{F}}(0) &\equiv \left[ \frac{d}{ds} (f \circ \gamma) \right]_{s=0} \\ &= \sum_{\mu=1}^n \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial x^\mu} \right)_{\phi(p)} \left[ \frac{d}{ds} x^\mu(\gamma(s)) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where  $F = f \circ \phi^{-1}$

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(s) &= f \circ \gamma = f \circ \phi^{-1} \circ \phi \circ \gamma \\ &= F \circ \phi \gamma(s) \end{aligned}$$

The function  $\gamma \circ \phi$  maps  $s$  to the coords of  $\gamma(s)$

Identify  $\mathcal{F} = F\{x^1(\gamma(s)), x^2(\gamma(s)), \dots, x^n(\gamma(s))\}$

$$\dot{\gamma}_p f = \left[ \frac{d\mathcal{F}}{ds} \right]_{s=0} = \left[ \frac{dF(x^1(\gamma(s)), \dots, x^n(\gamma(s)))}{ds} \right]_{s=0}$$

Chain Rule:

$$\begin{aligned} &\left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^1} \right)_{\phi(p)} \left[ \frac{dx^1(\gamma(s))}{ds} \right]_{s=0} + \dots + \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^n} \right)_{\phi(p)} \left[ \frac{dx^n(\gamma(s))}{ds} \right]_{s=0} \\ &= \sum_{\mu=1}^n \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^\mu} \right)_{\phi(p)} \left[ \frac{dx^\mu(\gamma(s))}{ds} \right]_{s=0} \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^\mu} \right)_{\phi(p)} \left[ \frac{dx^\mu(\gamma(s))}{ds} \right]_{s=0} \end{aligned}$$

Einstein's summation convention

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<sup>5</sup>without loss of generality

### 2.3.1 Example

Let  $M = \mathbb{R}^2$  take  $y = 2x^2 - 3$  to be a parabola in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . We parametrise this by  $x = s, y = 2s^2 - 3$  ( $\phi \circ \gamma$ )

$$\phi \circ \gamma(s) = (x(s), y(s)) = (s, 2s^2 - 3)$$

$$\mathcal{F} = F(s, 2s^2 - 3)$$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{F}}{ds} = \frac{dF}{dx} \cdot 1 + \frac{dF}{dy} \cdot 4s$$

$$= \vec{T} \cdot \vec{\nabla} F$$

where  $\vec{T} = [1, 4s]$

the RHS ( $\vec{T} \cdot \vec{\nabla} F$ ) is the rate of change of  $F$  in the direction of  $\vec{T}$  (might be familiar from fluid dynamics)

The map  $\dot{\gamma}_p : f \rightarrow \left[ \frac{d\mathcal{F}}{ds} \right]_{s=0}$  we called a tangent vector at  $p$ . We must further show that these maps live in a vector space of dimension  $n = \dim(M)$

**Theorem 2.** *The set of tangent vectors at  $p, T_p(M)$ , form a vector space*<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>(closed under vector addition, and scalar multiplication)