

# Crash course on differential geometry.

Differential geometry: Calculus without coordinate.  
(i.e. only Types & RULES)

• Manifold  $M$  represents a domain

•  $C^\infty(M) = \{f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$  smooth functions

• operations:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{linear combination} \quad c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2 \quad c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R} \\ \text{pointwise multiplication} \quad f_1 f_2 \end{array} \right.$

• For each  $p \in M$ , define tangent space as a collection of directional derivative operators:

$$T_p M := \left\{ X_p: C^\infty(M) \xrightarrow{\text{lin}} \mathbb{R} \mid X_p(fg) = (X_p f)g + f(X_p g) \right\} \\ \forall f, g \in C^\infty(M)$$

• Define space of vector field similarly

$$\Gamma(TM) := \left\{ X: C^\infty(M) \xrightarrow{\text{lin}} C^\infty(M) \mid X(fg) = (Xf)g + f(Xg) \right\} \\ \forall f, g \in C^\infty(M)$$

• Define  $T_p^*M =$  dual space of  $T_p M$

$\Gamma(T^*M) =$  dual space of  $\Gamma(TM)$ .

• Define  $d|_p: C^\infty(M) \xrightarrow{\text{lin}} T_p^*M$  as  $\langle d_p f | X_p \rangle = (Xf)_p$

$d: C^\infty(M) \rightarrow \Gamma(T^*M)$  as  $\langle df | X \rangle = Xf$ .

A vector space  $V$  is called a Lie algebra if it is equipped with a bilinear operator

$$[\cdot, \cdot]: V \times V \xrightarrow{\text{bilinear}} V$$

s.t. (1)  $[\vec{u}, \vec{v}] = -[\vec{v}, \vec{u}]$ , *skew symmetry*

(2)  $[\vec{u}, [\vec{v}, \vec{w}]] + [\vec{v}, [\vec{w}, \vec{u}]] + [\vec{w}, [\vec{u}, \vec{v}]] = \vec{0}$  *Jacobi identity*

## Examples

- $\mathbb{R}^3$  cross product

$$\begin{cases} \vec{u} \times \vec{v} = -\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \\ \vec{u} \times (\vec{v} \times \vec{w}) + \vec{v} \times (\vec{w} \times \vec{u}) + \vec{w} \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) = \vec{0} \end{cases}$$

- Commutators on matrices

$$[A, B] = AB - BA$$

$$\begin{aligned} [A, [B, C]] &= A(BC - CB) - (BC - CB)A \\ &= ABC - ACB - BCA + CBA \end{aligned}$$

(Check Jacobi identity)

- $\Gamma(TM)$  is a Lie algebra using commutator

$$X, Y \in \Gamma(TM) \rightsquigarrow [X, Y] := XY - YX$$

Check  $[X, Y]$  is indeed in  $\Gamma(TM)$ :

$$[X, Y](fg) \stackrel{?}{=} ([X, Y]f)g + f([X, Y]g)$$

$$\text{//}$$
$$(XY - YX)(fg)$$

$$= X((Yf)g) + X(f(Yg)) - Y((Xf)g) - Y(f(Xg))$$

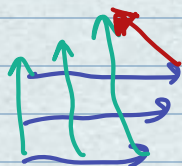
$$= (XYf)g + \underline{(Yf)(Xg)} + \underline{(Xf)(Yg)} + f(XYg)$$

$$- (YXf)g - \underline{(Xf)(Yg)} - \underline{(Yf)(Xg)} - f(YXg)$$

$$= ([X, Y]f)g + f([X, Y]g). \quad \checkmark$$

geometrically  $[X, Y]$  is a vector field describing

the net drift of  $(\text{flow by } Y) \circ (\text{flow by } X) - (\text{flow by } X) \circ (\text{flow by } Y)$



Remark: For any coord vector field  $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n$

Dual to  $dx_1, \dots, dx_n$  that are differentials of  
a coord system  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in C^\infty(M)$ ,

$$[\vec{e}_i, \vec{e}_j] = 0.$$

Conversely, if  $[X, Y] = 0$  then they "weave" into  
a coord for a submfd.

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If  $\gamma: (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow M$ , then  $\gamma'(0)$  is a tangent vector  
 $\in T_{\gamma(0)} M$   
in the sense that

$$[\gamma'(0)]f := \left. \frac{d}{dt} f(\gamma(t)) \right|_{t=0}.$$

Check  $[\gamma'(0)](fg) = ([\gamma'(0)]f)g + f([\gamma'(0)]g)$ .

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Riemannian mfd is a mfd  $M$  where each tangent space  $T_p M$  is equipped with a <sup>symmetric</sup> positive definite bilinear form

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : T_p M \times T_p M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

equivalently  $b_p : T_p M \rightarrow T_p^* M$ .

If  $x^1, \dots, x^n \in C^\infty(M)$  is a coord system

$dx^1, \dots, dx^n$  covector basis  
 $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n$  coord vectors.

Then  $b$  is represented by a matrix  $[g_{ij}]$

$$g_{ij} = \langle \vec{e}_i, \vec{e}_j \rangle.$$

• Consider variational problem:

Find  $\gamma : [0, T] \rightarrow M$ ,  $\gamma(0) = p_0$ ,  $\gamma(T) = p_T$  fixed,  
that minimizes  $S(\gamma) = \int_0^T \frac{1}{2} |\gamma'(t)|^2 dt$

Minimizers are paths of shortest length connecting  $p_0, p_T$   
and  $|\gamma'| = \text{const}$  (constant speed).

We call these minimizers geodesic paths.

Using coords:

$$S(\gamma) = \int_0^T \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \dot{x}^k(t) \dot{x}^l(t) g_{kl}(\vec{x}(t))}_{L(x^1, \dots, x^n, \dot{x}^1, \dots, \dot{x}^n)} dt$$

$$\left( \sum_j \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}^j} \dot{x}^j - L = \text{const} \Rightarrow |\gamma'| \text{ const} \right)$$

E-L eq

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}^i} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^i} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \sum_i^k \dot{x}^l g_{kl} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \dot{x}^k \dot{x}^l g_{kl,i} = 0$$

$\underbrace{\dot{x}^l g_{il}}_{\text{polarize } \frac{1}{2}(g_{ilk} + g_{ilk}) \dot{x}^k \dot{x}^l}$

$$g_{il} \ddot{x}^l + g_{il,k} \dot{x}^l \dot{x}^k - \frac{1}{2} \dot{x}^k \dot{x}^l g_{kl,i} = 0$$

↳ apply  $g^{il}$

$$\ddot{x}^k + \Gamma_{ij}^k \dot{x}^i \dot{x}^j = 0$$

↳  $g^{ij}$

$$\Gamma_{ij}^k = \frac{1}{2} g^{kl} (g_{kij} + g_{jki} - g_{jik}) \quad \text{Christoffel symbol}$$

Covariant derivative in coordinate:

Let  $\vec{v} \in \Gamma(TM)$ ,  $\vec{v} = v^i \vec{e}_i$  ↳ coord vector

and let  $\gamma: (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow M$   $\gamma(t) = (x^1(t), \dots, x^n(t))$

then the rate of change of  $\vec{v}$  along  $\dot{\gamma}$  is the vector

$$\left( \frac{\nabla}{dt} v \right)_{\vec{e}_k} = (v^k + \Gamma_{ij}^k \dot{x}^i v^j) \vec{e}_k$$

$$\left( \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} v \right)_{\vec{e}_k} = \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} v$$

Back to coord free.

The covariant derivative, or the Levi-Civita connection, is

$$\nabla_{(\#1)}^{(\#2)} : \Gamma(T_p M) \times \Gamma(TM) \rightarrow \Gamma(T_p M)$$

with properties:

$$\textcircled{1} \nabla_{c_1 X_1 + c_2 X_2} Y = c_1 \nabla_{X_1} Y + c_2 \nabla_{X_2} Y$$

$$\textcircled{2} \nabla_X (c_1 Y_1 + c_2 Y_2) = c_1 \nabla_X Y_1 + c_2 \nabla_X Y_2 \quad c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \nabla_X (fY) = (Xf)Y + f \nabla_X Y \quad f \in C^\infty(M)$$

$$\textcircled{4} \text{Torsion-free: } \nabla_X Y - \nabla_Y X = [X, Y] \text{ when both } X, Y \in \Gamma(TM).$$

$$\textcircled{5} \text{Metric: } \mathcal{L} \langle X, Y \rangle = \langle \nabla_{\mathcal{L}} X, Y \rangle + \langle X, \nabla_{\mathcal{L}} Y \rangle$$
$$\text{or } d \langle X, Y \rangle = \langle \nabla X, Y \rangle + \langle X, \nabla Y \rangle.$$

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T |\dot{\gamma}|^2 dt$$

$$\delta S|_{\gamma} [\dot{\gamma}] = \int_0^T \langle \dot{\gamma}, \overset{\nabla}{\dot{\gamma}} \rangle dt \stackrel{\text{torsion free}}{=} \int_0^T \langle \dot{\gamma}, \overset{\nabla}{\dot{\gamma}} \rangle dt$$

$$\stackrel{\text{metric}}{=} \underbrace{\int_0^T \frac{d}{dt} \langle \dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma} \rangle dt}_0 - \int_0^T \langle \overset{\nabla}{\dot{\gamma}}, \dot{\gamma} \rangle dt$$

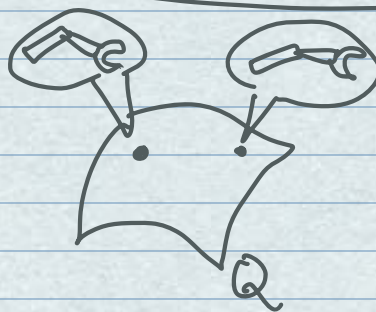
$$\Rightarrow \text{EL eq: } \nabla \dot{\gamma} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \overset{\nabla}{\dot{\gamma}} = 0.$$

(geodesic equation)

Newton's 1st Law.

$Q$  = Space of static states

Define  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  Riemannian structure  
by  $\frac{1}{2} \langle \dot{q}, \dot{q} \rangle = \text{kinetic energy}$



Then, in the absence of external forces,  $q(t)$  follows a geodesic path.

## Newton's 2nd Law (conservative force)

In addition to the setup of the 1st law, suppose there is a potential  $U \in C^0(Q)$  then

$$b \overset{\nabla}{\ddot{q}} = -dU.$$

Equivalently  $\overset{\nabla}{\frac{d}{dt}}(b \dot{q}) = -dU$

$d\langle \alpha | x \rangle = \langle \nabla \alpha | x \rangle + \langle \alpha | \nabla x \rangle$

## Constraints

A holonomic constraint is a constraint on the positions  $q$ .

If the submfd  $R \subset Q$  is given by  $R = \{g=0\}$  for some  $g: Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$   $m < n$



$$SO(3) = \{R | R^T R = I\}$$

then

$$\begin{cases} b \overset{\nabla}{\ddot{q}} = -dU - dg|_q^* \lambda \\ g(q) = 0 \quad \text{or just} \quad dg|_q[\dot{q}] = 0 \end{cases}$$

(The constraint  $g$  induces a constraint on  $\dot{q}$ )  
 as  $dg|_q \dot{q} = 0$

$$\begin{bmatrix} b \overset{\nabla}{\frac{d}{dt}} & dg^* \\ dg & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -dU \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{non-holonomic form})$$

A non-holonomic constraint is a constraint only on the velocity  $\dot{q}$ .

It is described by assigning a subspace  $A_z \subset T_z Q$  for each  $z$  as the set of admissible velocities.

$A = (A_z \subset T_z Q)_{z \in Q}$  is called a distribution (differential geometry)

which is subspace of  $\Gamma(TQ)$ .

If  $A$  cannot be written as  $\ker dg$  for some holonomic constraint  $g$ , then  $A$  is (truly) nonholonomic.

In general  $A = \ker(C)$  for some linear map  $C_z: T_z Q \xrightarrow{\text{lin}} \mathbb{R}^m$

$$\begin{bmatrix} b \frac{\nabla}{\nabla t} & C^* \\ C & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -dU \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad C_z \in \text{Hom}(T_z Q; \mathbb{R}^m)$$

### Example

[ Ball rolling on a table

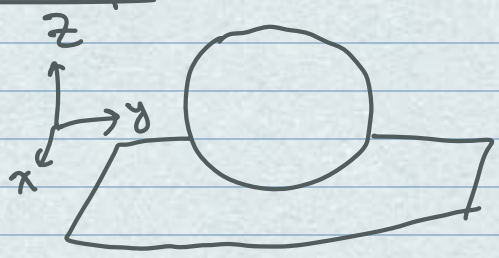
### Thm (Frobenius integrability)

A distribution  $A$  is holonomic (i.e.  $A$  is tangent to a family of non-intersecting submfd's) if and only if

$$[X, Y] \in A \text{ for all } X, Y \in \Gamma(A)$$

i.e.  $A \subset \Gamma(TM)$  is not only a linear subspace but also a Lie subalgebra

Example



$$T_{\mathbb{R}}SO(3) = \{ [\omega \times] R \mid \omega \in \mathbb{R}^3 \}$$

$$A_{\mathbb{R}} = \{ [\omega \times] R \mid \omega = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \}$$

Consider vector fields  $X \in \Gamma(A)$   $X_{\mathbb{R}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} R$  ( $\omega_x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ )

$Y \in \Gamma(A)$   $Y_{\mathbb{R}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} R$  ( $\omega_y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ )

(These are called right-invariant vector fields)

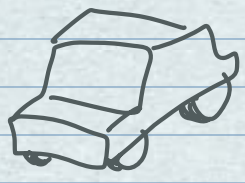
$$[X, Y]_{\mathbb{R}}$$

$$= - \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = - \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

it would be + if it is a left invariant VF.

leaving the distribution  $A$ .

Example



$Q = \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1 \times [-a, a]$   
 ((x, y),  $\theta$ ,  $\kappa$ )

center of mass  
 orientation  
 front wheel config

We can only move

$$\text{span} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\kappa} \end{bmatrix} \right) = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \\ \kappa \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_F, \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_T$$

$$[F, T] \notin \text{span} \{ F, T \}$$

$\square \rightarrow S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \omega \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \text{span} \{ F, T, [F, T] \}$

$\square \rightarrow P = \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \theta \\ \cos \theta \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \text{span} \{ F, T, S, [S, F] \}$

$\text{span} \{ F, T, S, P \} = T_{\mathbb{R}}Q \Rightarrow$  Car can go everywhere.