# LIE ALGEBRA OF A LIE GROUP

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## **Tangent Vectors as Derivations**

When embedding smooth manifolds into  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , tangent vectors are associated with directional derivatives. To generalize tangent vectors into abstract smooth manifold, we need an analogy:

#### Definition

Any point  $u \in M$ , a **Derivation at** u, is a linear map  $v_u : C^{\infty}(M) \to \mathbb{R}$ , that satisfies the product rule:

$$\forall f, g \in C^{\infty}(M), \quad v_u(fg) = f(u)(v_ug) + g(u)(v_uf)$$

Which, the set of all derivations at u, denoted as  $T_u(M)$ , is the **Tangent Space** of M at u, and each derivation  $v_u \in T_u(M)$  is a **Tangent Vector** of u.

## **Vector Fields & Smooth Conditions**

#### Definition

a vector field is a map  $X: M \to TM$  (TM denotes the **Tangent Bundle**), with  $X(u) = X_u \in T_u(M)$ .

Which, X is a **Smooth Vector Field**, if  $X:M\to TM$  is a smooth map. A collection of smooth vector fields on M is denoted as  $\mathfrak{X}(M)$ , which is an  $\mathbb{R}$ -vector space.

An equivalent condition of saying a vector field X is smooth, is through smooth functions  $f \in C^{\infty}(M)$ : For all  $u \in M$ ,  $X(u) = X_u \in T_u(M)$  is a derivation at u, define  $Xf : M \to \mathbb{R}$  by  $Xf(u) = X_u(f)$ , then X is a smooth vector field iff  $Xf \in C^{\infty}(M)$ . Which, a smooth vector field can be viewed as a **Derivation**:

## Property

For all  $f, g \in C^{\infty}(M)$ , given  $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ , any  $u \in M$  satisfies product rule:

$$X(fg)(u) = X_u(fg) = f(u)(X_ug) + g(u)(X_uf) = f(u)Xg(u) + g(u)Xf(u)$$

$$\implies X(fg) = f(Xg) + g(Xf)$$

### **Vector Fields of Different Manifolds**

Given M,N two smooth manifolds, and smooth map  $F:M\to N$ . Let  $X\in\mathfrak{X}(M)$ , an ideal situation is mapping X to a smooth vector field of N through F. Yet, this requires F to be bijective:

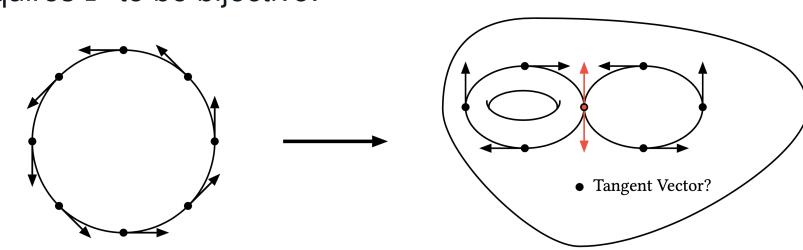


Figure 1: Example of Conflicting Tangent Vectors So, we'll consider a weaker notion:

### Definition

Given  $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$  and  $Y \in \mathfrak{X}(N)$ , the two are  $\textbf{\textit{F-related}}$ , if for all  $u \in M$ , the following is true:

$$dF_u(X_u) = Y_{F(u)}$$

Simply speaking, F maps the tangent vectors collected by X, to be compatible with tangent vectors collected by Y.

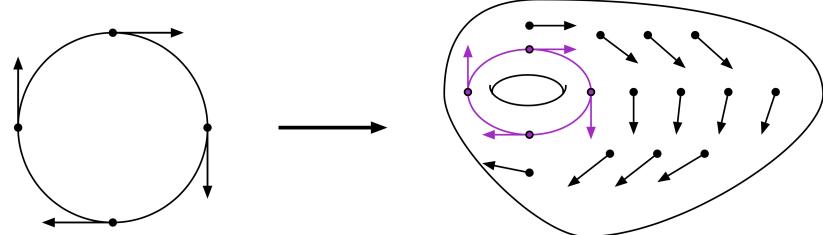


Figure 2: A demonstration of F-Relation

## Lie Brackets of Vector Fields

The initial motivation is to combine two vector fields  $X,Y\in\mathfrak{X}(M)$  to be another vector field. For all  $f\in C^\infty(M)$ , since  $Yf\in C^\infty(M)$ , then  $XYf:=X(Yf)\in C^\infty(M)$ . But, in general XY is not a derivation, hence not a vector field:

## Example

Define vector fields  $X = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ ,  $Y = x \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Take smooth functions f(x,y) = x and g(x,y) = y, then we get the following:

$$XY(fg) = X\left(x\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(xy)\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x^2) = 2x$$

But, product rule doesn't hold for this example:

$$f(XYg) + g(XYf) = x\left(X\left(x\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(y)\right)\right) + y\left(X\left(x\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(x)\right)\right) = x$$

So, we need to define a new operation on vector fields:

### Definition

The Lie Bracket  $[\cdot,\cdot]:\mathfrak{X}(M)\times\mathfrak{X}(M)\to\mathfrak{X}(M)$ , is defined as:

$$\forall X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M), \quad [X, Y] = XY - YX$$

Which, the output  $[X,Y] \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ , since it satisfies product rule:

$$\begin{split} [X,Y](fg) &= X(Y(fg)) - Y(X(fg)) = X(f(Yg) + g(Yf)) - Y(f(Xg) + g(Xf)) \\ &= f(XYg) + (Yg)(Xf) + g(XYf) + (Yf)(Xg) - f(YXg) - (Xg)(Yf) - g(YXf) - (Xf)(Yg) \\ &= f(XYg - YXg) + g(XYf - YXf) = f[X,Y](g) + g[X,Y](f) \end{split}$$

Lie Bracket also satisfies these properties:

- Bilinearity: [aX + bY, Z] = a[X, Z] + b[Y, Z]
- Antisymmetry: [X,Y] = -[Y,X]
- Jacobi's Identity: [X, [Y, Z]] + [Y, [Z, X]] + [Z, [X, Y]] = 0

Moreover, Lie Bracket inherits relation of smooth maps:

### **Property**

Given smooth map  $F: M \to N$ , if  $X_1, X_2 \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$  and  $Y_1, Y_2 \in \mathfrak{X}(N)$  are F-related respectively, then  $[X_1, X_2] \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$  and  $[Y_1, Y_2] \in \mathfrak{X}(N)$  are also F-related.

## Lie Group & Left-Invariant Vector Fields

The initial motivation is to study group structures in some smooth manifolds.

### Definition

A Lie Group G, is a smooth manifold along with group structure, such that the group operation  $P: G \times G \to G$  by P(g,h) = gh, and the inversion map  $i: G \to G$  by  $i(g) = g^{-1}$  are both smooth maps between manifolds.

For all  $g \in G$ , denote the left multiplication  $L_g : G \to G$  by  $L_g(h) = gh$ , since  $L_g = P \mid_{\{g\} \times G}$ , it is a smooth map. Hence, there's a notion of X being  $L_g$ -related to itself:

## Definition

Given any  $X \in \mathfrak{X}(G)$  and all  $g \in G$ , X is a **Left-Invariant Vector Field**, if for all  $g \in G$ , X is  $L_g$ -related to itself. Which, for all  $g \in G$ :

$$(dL_g)_e(X_e) = X_{L_q(e)} = X_g$$

So, X is uniquely determined by its tangent vector at identity,  $X_e \in T_e(G)$ . The collection of Left-Invariant vector fields  $\mathfrak{g} \subseteq \mathfrak{X}(G)$ , is a linear subspace.

Recall that Lie Bracket of vector field preserves F-relation between manifolds, so:

### **Property**

For all  $X,Y \in \mathfrak{X}(G)$  that are left-invariant, since for all  $g \in G$ , X and Y are  $L_g$  related to themselves, then the Lie Bracket [X,Y] is also  $L_g$  related to [X,Y]. Hence, [X,Y] is also left-invariant, so  $\mathfrak g$  is closed under Lie Bracket's operation.

## Lie Algebra on a Lie Group

### Definition

Given a vector space  $\mathfrak{g}$  over  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ , with a binary operation  $[\cdot, \cdot] : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \to \mathfrak{g}$ , such that the following holds:

- Bilinearity: [aX + bY, Z] = a[X, Z] + b[Y, Z]
- Antisymmetry: [X, Y] = -[Y, X]
- Jacobi's Identity: [X, [Y, Z]] + [Y, [Z, X]] + [Z, [X, Y]] = 0

Then, the pair  $(\mathfrak{g}, [\cdot, \cdot])$  is a **Lie Algebra**.

In general, Lie Algebra is non-associative, which Jacobi's Identity is an alternative condition for Lie Algebra.

Finally, we can define Lie Algebra of a Lie Group:

#### **Definition**

Given a lie group G, since the subset of left-invariant vector fields  $\mathfrak{g} \subseteq \mathfrak{X}(G)$  forms a linear subspace, while closed under Lie Bracket's operation, then the pair  $(\mathfrak{g}, [\cdot, \cdot])$  forms a **Lie Algebra** of G, denoted as Lie(G).

Here's an example of Lie Algebra on a Lie Group:

### Example

### **General Linear Group & its Lie Algebra:**

Given the group of all invertible matrices  $GL_n(\mathbb{R}) \subset M_n(\mathbb{R})$ , since  $M_n(\mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  is an open subset, it's a smooth manifold with dimension  $n^2$ . Which, since product of matrices and inversion are smooth functions,  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  is a Lie Group.

Now, consider  $\mathfrak{g}=Lie(GL_n(\mathbb{R}))$ , recall that each Left-Invariant vector field  $X\in\mathfrak{g}$  is uniquely characterized by  $X_{I_n}\in T_{I_n}(GL_n(\mathbb{R}))$ . In fact, such characterization is a 1-to-1 correspondance. As vector spaces,  $\mathfrak{g}\cong T_{I_n}(GL_n(\mathbb{R}))$ .

## Lie Algebra on $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ :

Given  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  as  $\mathbb{R}$ -vector space, and the commutator operation [A,B]=AB-BA, one can verity that the pair  $(M_n(\mathbb{R}),[\cdot,\cdot])$  forms a Lie Algebra, normally denoted as  $\mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

, with global coordinate provided by  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ , denote as  $(X_i^i)_{1 \le i,j \le n}$ 

Lie Algebra Isomorphism:

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Reference: John M. Lee, Introduction to Smooth Manifolds, 2nd Edition