Lie Algebra of a Lie Group

Zih-Yu Hsieh, mentored by Arthur Jiang

University of California Santa Barbara

Tangent Vectors as Derivations

When embedding smooth manifolds into Euclidean Space, tangent vectors are associated with directional derivatives.

Insert geometric object

To generalize such notion 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:

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

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

Given smooth manifold M, a vector field X is a function assigning each point $u \in M$ with a tangent vector of u. More precisely:

Definition

a vector field is a map $X : M \to TM$ (where TM denotes the **Tangent Bundle** of M), 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.

insert image

An equivalent condition of saying a vector field X is smooth, is through smooth functions $f \in C^\infty(M)$: Since 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 $Xf \in C^\infty(M)$.
Based on such condition, a smooth vector field is also a **Derivation:**

Property

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

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

Vector Fields of Different Manifolds

Given M, N two smooth manifolds, and smooth map $F : M \to N$. Let $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$, it would be ideal if we can send vector field F maps X to a vector field of N. Yet, this requires F to be both injective and surjective:

Insert an example for both injectivity and surjectivity

So, we'll consider a weaker notion:

Definition

Given $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ and $Y \in \mathfrak{X}(N)$, the two are 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.

Insert another example

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. Which, 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:

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

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

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

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 $[X,Y] \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$, and 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 occuring in specific classes of 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 $L_g = P\big|_{\{g\}\times G}$, all left multiplication is a smooth map; also, since $L_{g^{-1}}$ is a smooth inverse of L_g, it's a **Diffeomorphism**. Since L_g is a diffeomorphism, 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.
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 an F-relation between manifolds. Which, such property exists for Lie Groups:

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 Left-Invariant vector fields $\mathfrak{g}$ is closed under Lie Bracket's operation.

Lie Algebra on a Lie Group

Definition

Given a vector space $\mathfrak{g}$ over $\mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{C}$, associates 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**, denoted as Lie(G).

Example

Acknowledgements

I want to thank my mentor Arthur Jiang for the effort and kindness of guiding me through the materials, and provide helpful information on the project. I'd also like to thank the UCSB Math Department Directed Reading Program for this opportunity.

References

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