

Problem 1. On the 2-sphere, consider the flow

$$\theta(t, \langle x, y, z \rangle) = \langle x, y \cos(t) - z \sin(t), y \sin(t) + z \cos(t) \rangle$$

Find the vector field on S^2 induced by this flow.

Define the vector field ξ on \mathbb{R}^3 as $\langle 0, -z, y \rangle$. Then the corresponding vector field on S^2 is the projection of ξ onto S^2 .

Problem 2. Consider the vector field $\xi(x) = x$ on \mathbb{R} . Show that ξ is the tangent field to a flow, and find the flow. (Hint: In classical notation, this vector field corresponds to the initial value problem $dy/dt = y, y(0) = x$.)

If we solve the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dt} = y$ we get $y = Ae^t$. Solving for initial conditions we get

$$\theta(t, x) = xe^t$$

as our flow.

Problem 3 (4). If X and Y vector fields on M then XY makes sense as an operator on smooth real valued functions on M . Show that $[X, Y] = XY - YX$ is a vector field. (This is called the “Lie bracket” of X and Y . Sometimes it is defined with opposite sign.) Also show that XY itself is not a vector field.

Proof. Let $X = a^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ and $Y = b^j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}$ be vector fields and let f be a smooth function. Then

$$XYf = a^j \frac{\partial Yf}{\partial x_j} = a^j \frac{\partial (b^i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i})}{\partial x_j} = a^j (\frac{\partial b^i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + b^i \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}) = a^j \frac{\partial b^i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + a^i b^i \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$

and similarly

$$YXf = b^j \frac{\partial a^i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + b^i a^i \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$

Then the Lie bracket of X and Y is

$$[X, Y]f = XYf - YXf = a^j \frac{\partial b^i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + a^i b^i \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} - b^j \frac{\partial a^i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + b^i a^i \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} = (a^j \frac{\partial b^i}{\partial x_j} - b^j \frac{\partial a^i}{\partial x_j}) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}$$

which shows that $[X, Y]$ is in fact a vector field. \square

From the above calculation one can see that XY is not a vector field as

$$XYf = a^j \frac{\partial b^i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + a^i b^i \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$

which is not in the proper form to be a vector field.

Problem 4 (5). Show that the Klein Bottle has an everywhere nonzero vector field. Describe the resulting flow.