261A: Lie Groups

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How strange to actually have to see the path of your journey in order to make it.

—Neal Shusterman, [Shu16]

THEME 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 August 28

Today we review differential topology. Here are some logistical notes.

- There will be weekly homeworks, of about 5 problems.
- There will be a final take-home exam.
- This course has a bCourses page.
- We will mostly follow Kirillov's book [Kir08].

1.1.1 Group Objects

The goal of this class is to study symmetries of geometric objects. As such, we are interested in studying (infinite) groups with some extra geometric structure, such as a real manifold or a complex manifold or a scheme structure. Speaking generally, we will have some category $\mathcal{C}$ of geometric objects, equipped with finite products (such as a final object), which allows us to have group objects in $\mathcal{C}$.

> **Definition 1.1** (group object)**.** Fix a category $\mathcal{C}$ with finite products, such as a final object $*$. A *group object* is the data (G, m, e, i) where $G \in \mathcal{C}$ is an object and $m\colon G \times G \to G$ and $e\colon * \to G$ and $i\colon G \to G$ are morphisms. We require this data to satisfy some associativity, identity, and inverse coherence laws.

For concreteness, we go ahead and write out the coherence diagrams, but they are not so interesting.

- Associative: the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{tikzcd} G \times G \times G \arrow[r, "\mathrm{id}_G \times m"] \arrow[d, "m \times \mathrm{id}_G"'] & G \times G \arrow[d, "m"] \\ G \times G \arrow[r, "m"] & G \end{tikzcd}$$

- Identity: the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{tikzcd} G \arrow[r, "\mathrm{id}_G \times e"] \arrow[dr, equal] & G \times G \arrow[d, "m"] & G \arrow[l, "e \times \mathrm{id}_G"'] \arrow[dl, equal] \\ & G & \end{tikzcd}$$

- Inverses: the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
& G \times G \arrow[dr, "m"] & \\
G \arrow[ur, "i\times \mathrm{id}_G"] \arrow[r] \arrow[dr, "\mathrm{id}_G \times i"'] & * \arrow[r, "e"] & G \\
& G \times G \arrow[ur, "m"'] &
\end{tikzcd}$$

Example 1.2. In the case where $\mathcal{C} = \mathrm{Set}$, we recover the notion of a group, where G is the set, m is the multiplication law, e is the identity, and i is the inverse.

Example 1.3. Group objects in the category of manifolds will be Lie groups.

1.1.2 Review of Topology

This course requires some topology as a prerequisite, but let's review these notions for concreteness. We refer to [Elb22] for most of these notions.

Definition 1.4 (topological space)**.** A *topological space* is a pair $(X, \mathcal{T})$ of a set X and collection $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ of open subsets of X, which we require to satisfy the following axioms.

- $\varnothing, X \in \mathcal{T}$.
- Finite intersection: for $U, V \in \mathcal{T}$, we have $U \cap V \in \mathcal{T}$.
- Arbitrary unions: for a subcollection $\mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$, we have $\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U \in \mathcal{T}$.

We will suppress the notation $\mathcal{T}$ from our topological space as much as possible.

Example 1.5. The set $\mathbb{R}$ equipped with its usual (metric) topology is a topological space.

Example 1.6. Given a topological space X and a subset $Z \subseteq X$, we can make Z into a topological space with open subsets given by $U \cap Z$ whenever $U \subseteq Z$ is open.

Definition 1.7 (closed)**.** A subset Z of a topological space X is *closed* if and only if $X \backslash Z$ is open.

One way to describe topologies is via a base.

Definition 1.8 (base)**.** Given a topological space X, a *base* $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ for the topology such that any open subset $U \subseteq X$ is the union of a subcollection of $\mathcal{B}$. Equivalently, for any open subset $U \subseteq X$ and $x \in U$, there is $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B \subseteq U$.

Example 1.9. The collection of open intervals $(a, b) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ generates the usual topology. In fact, one can even restrict ourselves to open intervals (a, b) where $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$, so $\mathbb{R}$ has a countable base.

Our morphisms are continuous maps.

Definition 1.10 (continuous)**.** A function $f\colon X \to Y$ between topological spaces is *continuous* if and only if $f^{-1}(V) \subseteq X$ is open for each open subset $V \subseteq Y$.

Thus, we can define Top as the category of topological spaces equipped with continuous maps as its morphisms. Thinking categorically allows us to make the following definition.

Definition 1.11 (homeomorphism)**.** A *homeomorphism* is an isomorphism in Top. Namely, a function $f\colon X \to Y$ between topological spaces which is continuous and has a continuous inverse.

Remark 1.12. There are continuous bijections which are not homeomorphisms! For example, one can map $[0, 2\pi) \to S^1$ by sending $x \mapsto e^{ix}$, which is a continuous bijection, but the inverse is discontinuous at $1 \in S^1$.

Earlier, we wanted to have finite products in our category. Here is how we take products of pairs.

Definition 1.13 (product topology)**.** Given topological spaces X and Y, we define the topological space $X \times Y$ as having $X \times Y$ as its set and open subsets given by arbitrary unions of sets of the form $U \times V$ where $U \subseteq X$ and $V \subseteq Y$ are open.

Remark 1.14. Alternatively, we can say that the topology $X \times Y$ has a base given by the "rectangles" $U \times V$ where $U \subseteq X$ and $V \subseteq Y$ are open. In fact, if $\mathcal{B}_X$ and $\mathcal{B}_Y$ are bases for X and Y, respectively, then we can check that the open subsets

$$\{U \times V : U \in \mathcal{B}_X, V \in \mathcal{B}_Y\}$$

is a base for $X \times Y$.

Remark 1.15. The final object in Top is the singleton space.

Now, group objects in Top are called topological groups, which are interesting in their own right. For example, locally compact topological groups have a good Fourier analysis theory.

Example 1.16. The group $\mathbb{R}$ under addition is a topological group. In fact, $\mathbb{Q}$ under addition is also a topological group, though admittedly a more unpleasant one.

Example 1.17. The group $S^1 := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$ is a topological group.

1.1.3 Review of Differential Topology

However, in this course, we will be more interested in manifolds, so let's define these notions. We refer to [Elb24] for (a little) more detail, and we refer to [Lee13] for (much) more detail. To begin, we note arbitrary topological spaces are pretty rough to handle; here are some niceness requirements. The following is a smallness assumption.

Definition 1.18 (separable)**.** A topological space X is *separable* if and only if it has a countable base.

The following says that points can be separated.

Definition 1.19 (Hausdorff)**.** A topological space X is *Hausdorff* if and only if any pair of distinct points $p, q \in X$ have disjoint open neighborhoods.

The following is another smallness assumption, which we will use frequently but not always.

Definition 1.20 (compact)**.** A topological space X is *compact* if and only if any open cover $\mathcal{U}$ (i.e., each $U \in \mathcal{U}$ is open, and $X = \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U$) has a finite subcollection which is still an open cover.

We are now ready for our definition.

Definition 1.21 (topological manifold)**.** A *topological manifold of dimension* n is a topological space X satisfying the following.

- X is Hausdorff.
- X is separable.
- Locally Euclidean: X has an open cover $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \kappa}$ such that there are open subsets $V_\alpha \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and homeomorphisms $\varphi_\alpha : U_\alpha \to V_\alpha$.

Remark 1.22. By passing to open balls, one can require that all the V_α are open balls. By doing a little more yoga with such open balls (noting $B(0,1) \cong \mathbb{R}^n$), one can require that $V_\alpha = \mathbb{R}^n$ always.

Remark 1.23. It turns out that open subsets $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ can only be homeomorphic if and only if $n = m$. This implies that the dimension of a connected component of X is well-defined without saying what n is in advance. However, we should say what n is in advance in order to get rid of pathologies like $\mathbb{R} \sqcup \mathbb{R}^2$.

To continue, we must be careful about our choice of U_αs and φ_αs.

Definition 1.24 (chart, atlas, transition function)**.** Fix a topological manifold X of dimension n.

- A *chart* is a pair (U, φ) of an open subset $U \subseteq X$ and homeomorphism φ of U onto an open subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$.
- An *atlas* is a collection of charts $\{(U_\alpha, \varphi_\alpha)\}_{\alpha \in \kappa}$ such that $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \kappa}$ is an open cover of X.
- The *transition function* between two charts (U, φ) and (V, ψ) is the composite homeomorphism
$$\varphi(U \cap V) \xleftarrow{\varphi} (U \cap V) \xrightarrow{\psi} \psi(U \cap V).$$
Note that there is also an inverse transition map going in the opposite direction.

Let's see some examples.

Example 1.25. The space $\mathbb{R}^n$ is a topological manifold of dimension n. It has an atlas with the single chart $\mathrm{id} : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$.

Example 1.26. The singleton $\{*\}$ is a topological manifold of dimension 0. In fact, $\{*\} = \mathbb{R}^0$.

Example 1.27. The hypersurface $S^n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ cut out by the equation

$$x_0^2 + \cdots + x_n^2 = 1$$

is a topological manifold of dimension n. It has charts given by stereographic projection out of some choice of north and south poles. Alternatively, it has charts given by the projection maps $\mathrm{pr}_i \colon S^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ given by deleting the ith coordinate, defined on the open subsets

$$U_i^{\pm} := \{(x_0, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : \pm x_i > 0\}$$

for choice of index i and sign in $\{\pm\}$.

Calculus on our manifolds will come from our transition maps.

Definition 1.28. An atlas $\mathcal{A}$ on a topological manifold X is C^k, real analytic, or complex analytic (if $\dim X$ is even) if and only if the transition maps have the corresponding condition.

Bibliography

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List of Definitions