Problem Set 1

D. Zack Garza

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Contents

1 Problem 5

1.1 Part 1

Let $A \in \mathrm{Mat}(n, n)$ be a positive definite $n \times n$ matrix, so

$$\langle v, \ Av \rangle > 0 \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

and $B \in \mathrm{Math}(n, n)$ be positive semi-definite, so

$$\langle v, \ Bv \rangle \geq 0 \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

We'd like to show

$$\langle v, \ (A + B)v \rangle \geq 0 \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

which follows directly from

$$
\begin{aligned}
\langle v, \ (A + B)v \rangle &= \langle v, \ Av \rangle + \langle v, \ Bv \rangle \\
&> \langle v, \ Av \rangle + 0 \\
&\geq 0 + 0 \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}
$$

1.2 Part 2

Let M be a smooth manifold with a maximal smooth atlas $\mathcal{A}$, and choose a covering of M by charts $\mathcal{C} = \{(U_i, \phi_i) \mid i \in I\} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ such that $M \subseteq \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i$.

Then choose a partition of unity $\{f_i\}_{i \in I}$ subordinate to $\mathcal{C}$. In each copy of $\phi_i(U_i) \cong \mathbb{R}^n$, choose the metric given by the identity matrix, $g^i_{jk} := \delta_{jk}$

2 Problem 6

2.1 Part 1

Let $M = S^2$ as a smooth manifold, and consider a vector field on M,

$$X : M \to TM$$

We want to show that there is a point $p \in M$ such that $X(p) = 0$.

Every vector field on a compact manifold without boundary is complete, and since S^2 is compact with $\partial S^2 = \emptyset$, X is necessarily a complete vector field.

Thus every integral curve of X exists for all time, yielding a well-defined flow

$$\phi : M \times \mathbb{R} \to M$$

given by solving the initial value problems

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \phi_s(p) \Big|_{s=t} = X(\phi_t(p)),$$
$$\phi_0(p) = p$$

at every point $p \in M$.

This yields a one-parameter family

$$\phi_t : M \to M \in \mathrm{Diff}(M, M).$$

In particular, $\phi_0 = \mathrm{id}_M$, and $\phi_1 \in \mathrm{Diff}(M, M)$. Moreover ϕ_0 is homotopic to ϕ_1 via the homotopy

$$H : M \times I \to M$$
$$(p, t) \mapsto \phi_t(p).$$

We can now apply the Lefschetz fixed-point theorem to ϕ_0 and ϕ_1. For an arbitrary map $f : M \to M$, we have

$$\Lambda(f) = \sum_k \mathrm{Tr}\left(f_* \Big|_{H_k(X;\mathbb{Q})} \right).$$

where $f_* : H_*(X;\mathbb{Q}) \to H_*(X;\mathbb{Q})$ is the induced map on homology, and

$$\Lambda(f) \neq 0 \iff f \text{ has at least one fixed point.}$$

In particular, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\Lambda(\mathrm{id}_M) &= \sum_k \mathrm{Tr}(\mathrm{id}_{H_k(X;\mathbb{Q})}) \\
&= \sum_k \dim H_k(X;\mathbb{Q}) \\
&= \chi(M),
\end{aligned}$$

the Euler characteristic of M.

Since homotopic maps induce equal maps on homology, we also have $\Lambda(\phi_1) = \chi(M)$.

Since

$$H_k(S^2) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & k = 0, 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

we have $\chi(S^2) = 2 \neq 0$, and thus ϕ_1 has a fixed point p_0, thus

$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\phi_t(p_0)\big|_{t=1}$ so

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi_t(p) &= p \\
\implies \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\phi_t(p) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t}p = 0 & \text{by differentiating wrt } t \\
\implies \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\phi_t(p)\Big|_{t=1} &= 0\Big|_{t=0} = 0 & \text{by evaluating at } t = 0 \\
\implies X(\phi_1(p_0)) := \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\phi_t(p)\Big|_{t=1} &= 0 & \text{by definition of } \phi_1
\end{aligned}$$

so $X(\phi_1(p_0)) = 0$, which shows that p_0 is a zero of X. So X has at least one zero, as desired. $\qquad\square$

2.2 Part 2

The trivial bundle
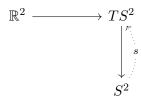
$$\mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$$
$$\downarrow{\scriptstyle s}$$
$$S^2$$

has a nowhere vanishing section, namely

$$s : S^2 \to S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$$
$$\mathbf{x} \to (\mathbf{x}, [1, 1])$$

which is the identity on the S^2 component and assigns the constant vector $[1, 1]$ to every point.

However, as part 1 shows, the bundle

$$\mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow TS^2$$
$$\downarrow s$$
$$S^2$$

can *not* have a nowhere vanishing section. $\quad\square$