Problem Set 1

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1 Problem 4

1.1 Part 1

Let $V = \mathbb{R}^n$ as a vector space, let g be a nonsingular matrix, and define a map

$$\begin{aligned} \phi : V &\to V^\vee \\ v &\mapsto (\phi_v : w \mapsto \langle v,\ gw \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

The claim is that ϕ is an isomorphism.

To see that $\ker \phi = 0$, so that only the zero gets sent to the zero map, we can suppose that $x \neq 0 \in \ker \phi$. Then $\phi_x : w \to \langle x,\ gw \rangle$ is the zero map. But the inner product is nondegenerate by definition, i.e. $\langle x,\ y \rangle = 0\ \forall y \implies x = 0$.

1.2 Part 2

2 Problem 5

2.1 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 $B \in \text{Math}(n, n)$ 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

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

2.2 Part 2

Let M be a smooth manifold with tangent bundle TM and a maximal smooth atlas $\mathcal{A}$. 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 $\mathcal{C}$, so for each i we have

$$\begin{gathered} f_i : M \to I \\ \forall p \in M, \quad \sum_{i \in I} f_i(p) = 1 \end{gathered}$$

In each copy of $\phi_i(U_i) \cong \mathbb{R}^n$, let g^i be the Euclidean metric given by the identity matrix, i.e. $g^i_{jk} \coloneqq \delta_{jk}$. We then have

$$\begin{aligned} g^i : T\phi_i(U_i) \otimes T\phi_i(U_i) &\to \mathbb{R} \\ (\partial x_i, \partial x_j) &\mapsto \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

which is defined for pairs of vectors in $T\phi_i(U_i) \cong T\mathbb{R}^n = \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}} \{\partial x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ on basis vectors as the Kronecker delta and extended linearly.

Note that each coordinate function $\phi_i : U_i \to \mathbb{R}^n$ induces a map $\tilde{\phi}_i : TU_i \to T\mathbb{R}^n$.

Let G^i be the pullback of g^i along these induced maps $\tilde{\phi}_i$, so

$$\begin{aligned} G^i : TU_i \otimes TU_i &\to \mathbb{R} \\ G^i(x, y) \coloneqq \left(\left(\tilde{\phi}_i \right)^* g^i \right)(x, y) &\coloneqq g^i(\tilde{\phi}_i(x), \tilde{\phi}_i(y)) \end{aligned}$$

Then, for a point $p \in M$, define the following map:

$$\begin{aligned} g_p : T_pM \otimes T_pM &\to \mathbb{R} \\ (x, y) &\mapsto \sum_{i \in I} f_i(p) G^i(x, y). \end{aligned}$$

The claim is that g_p defines a metric on M, and thus the family $\{g_p \mid p \in M\}$ yields a tensor field and thus a Riemannian metric on M. If we define the map

$$\begin{aligned} g : M &\to (TM \otimes TM)^\vee \\ p &\mapsto g_p \end{aligned}$$

then g can be expressed as

$$g = \sum_{i \in I} f_i G^i.$$

We can check that this is positive definite by considering $x \in T_p M$ and computing

$$\begin{aligned} g(x, x) &\coloneqq g_p(x, x) \\ &= \sum_{i \in I} f_i(p)\ G^i(v, v) \\ &= \sum_{i \in I} f_i(p)\ g^i(\tilde{\phi}_i(x), \tilde{\phi}_i(y)), \end{aligned}$$

where each term is positive semi-definite, and *at least one term* is positive definite because $\sum_i f_i(p)$ must equal 1. By part 1, this means that the entire expression is positive definite, so g is a metric. $\square$

3 Problem 6

3.1 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

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

at every point $p \in M$.

This yields a one-parameter family

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} H : M \times I &\to M \\ (p, t) &\mapsto \phi_t(p). \end{aligned}$$

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

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

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. $\square$

3.2 Part 2

The trivial bundle

$$\begin{tikzcd} \mathbb{R}^2 \arrow[r] & S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2 \arrow[d] \\ & S^2 \arrow[u, bend right, dotted, "s"'] \end{tikzcd}$$

has a nowhere vanishing section, namely

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

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

$$\begin{tikzcd} \mathbb{R}^2 \arrow[r] & TS^2 \arrow[d] \\ & S^2 \arrow[u, bend right, dotted, "s"'] \end{tikzcd}$$

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