# Problem Set 1

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## November 9, 2019

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## 1 Problem 6

#### 1.1 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

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

In particular,  $\phi_0 = \mathrm{id}_M$ , and  $\phi_1 \in \mathrm{Diff}(M, M)$ . Moreover  $\phi_0$  is homotopic to  $\phi_1$  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  $\phi_0$  and  $\phi_1$ . For an arbitrary map  $f: M \to M$ , we have

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

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

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

In particular, we have

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

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  $\phi_1$  has a fixed point  $p_0$ , thus  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\phi_t(p_0)\Big|_{t=1}$  so

$$\phi_t(p) = p$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi_t(p) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} p = 0$$
 by differentiating wrt  $t$ 

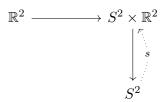
$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi_t(p) \Big|_{t=1} = 0 \Big|_{t=0} = 0$$
 by evaluating at  $t = 0$ 

$$\Rightarrow X(\phi_1(p_0)) := \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi_t(p) \Big|_{t=1} = 0$$
 by definition of  $\phi_1$ 

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.  $\square$ 

## 1.2 Part 2

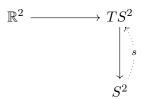
The trivial bundle



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



can not have a nowhere vanishing section.