

Differential Geometry

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Exercise 1.

Build an atlas with 2 charts over the n -dimensional sphere $\mathbb{S}^n := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \|x\| = 1\}$.

Solution. Let ϵ_i be the i -th unitary vector from the standard basis, and let $R := \epsilon_{n+1}$, $-R = -\epsilon_{n+1}$ be the "north" and "south" poles of the sphere.

The atlas with two charts that we are going to build is the following. Let $U_+ := \mathbb{S}^n \setminus \{R\}$ and $U_- := \mathbb{S}^n \setminus \{-R\}$,

$$\mathcal{A} = \{(U_+, \varphi_+ : U_+ \mapsto \mathbb{R}^n), (U_-, \varphi_- : U_- \mapsto \mathbb{R}^n)\}$$

Where φ_+, φ_- are the stereographic projections of the sphere with respect to the poles $R, -R$:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall x &= (x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \in \mathbb{S}^n : \\ \varphi_+(x) &:= \left(\frac{x_1}{1-x_{n+1}}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{1-x_{n+1}} \right) \\ \varphi_-(x) &:= \left(\frac{x_1}{1+x_{n+1}}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{1+x_{n+1}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Note that $\forall x \in \mathbb{S}^n$

$$\varphi_-(x) = (\varphi_+ \circ [\epsilon_1 \ \dots \ \epsilon_n \ -\epsilon_{n+1}]) (x)$$

So we only need to prove that φ_+ is a homeomorphism.

1. Bijective: Let $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and $\|\cdot\| := \|\cdot\|_2$. We define the inverse function $\varphi_+^{-1} : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto U_+$ as it follows:

$$\varphi_+^{-1}(y) = \left(\frac{2y_1}{\|y\|^2 + 1}, \dots, \frac{2y_n}{\|y\|^2 + 1}, \frac{\|y\|^2 - 1}{\|y\|^2 + 1} \right)$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\varphi_+^{-1}(y)\|^2 &= \frac{1}{(\|y\|^2 + 1)^2} \left[(\|y\|^2 - 1)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n 4y_i^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\|y\|^4 + 2\|y\|^2 + 1} [\|y\|^4 - 2\|y\|^2 + 1 + 4\|y\|^2] \\ &= \frac{1}{\|y\|^4 + 2\|y\|^2 + 1} (\|y\|^4 + 2\|y\|^2 + 1) \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

