

Solution 8

1. Let I be an interval and $\gamma \in C^\infty(I, S^n)$. Show that the following are equivalent:

- (i) γ is a geodesic.
- (ii) $|\dot{\gamma}|$ is constant and $\text{im}(\gamma) \subset S^n$ is a big circle, i.e. there exists a 2-plane $P \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ through the origin such that $\text{im}(\gamma) \subset P \cap S^n$.

Hint: To calculate the exponential map, use the second fundamental form $h_p(v, w) = -p\langle v, w \rangle$ calculated in exercise 3 of sheet number 5.

Solution: We can write down the geodesic equation using Exercise 3 of sheet number 5. There we calculated the second fundamental form as $h_p(v, w) = -p\langle v, w \rangle$. Thus we see $\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S^n$ to be a geodesic of velocity $c > 0$ if it satisfies

$$\ddot{\gamma}(t) = -\gamma(t)\langle \dot{\gamma}(t), \dot{\gamma}(t) \rangle = -c^2\gamma(t).$$

So γ is of the form $\gamma(t) = a \cos(ct) + b \sin(ct)$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. Requiring $\gamma(0) = p$ and $\dot{\gamma}(0) = v$ with $|v| = c$, we get for $p \in S^n$ and $v \in T_p S^n$

$$\exp_p(v) = p \cos(|v|) + \frac{v}{|v|} \sin(|v|).$$

As a sanity test, we get from $v \perp p$ that $|\exp_p(v)| = 1$ for all $v \in T_p S^n$.

Next given a 2-plane P going through 0. This can be written (in a non unique way) as $P = \text{span}(p, v)$ for some $p \in S^n$ and $0 \neq v \in T_p S^n$. Thus all points of $P \cap S^n$ are given by $q = \lambda p + \mu \frac{v}{|v|}$ for some $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ with $|q| = 1$. However, as $p \perp v$, we get $\lambda^2 + \mu^2 = |q|^2 = 1$, i.e. $P \cap S^n = \text{im}(t \mapsto \exp_p(tv))$. This proves the equivalence as any geodesic is of the form $t \mapsto \exp_p(tv)$ for some $v \in T_p S^n$. could use vector product and prove that $\gamma(t) \times \dot{\gamma}(t) = \text{const}$.

2. Let ψ be a parametrisation of the surface of revolution S , as in exercise 3 of sheet number 7. The image of ψ of the curves $s = \text{const.}$ and $t = \text{const.}$ are called *meridians* and *parallels*. Suppose that the curve γ in the definition of ψ is parametrised by arc length i.e. $|\dot{\gamma}| = 1$. Prove and discuss the following:

- a) The meridians, i.e. the curves $\psi_s(t) : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$, $\psi_s(t) = \psi(s, t)$ are geodesics on S .
- b) When is a parallel $\psi^t : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$, $\psi^t(s) := \psi(s, t)$ a geodesic?
- c) Describe the geodesics on the standard cylinder in \mathbb{R}^3 ,

$$Z := \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x^2 + y^2 = 1\}.$$

Solution:

- a) Let us use the Christoffel symbols, we calculated in sheet number 7. Namely, the only non-zero symbols are

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{11}^2(s, t) &= -\gamma_1(t)\dot{\gamma}_1(t), & \Gamma_{12}^1(s, t) &= \Gamma_{21}^1(s, t) = \frac{\dot{\gamma}_1(t)}{\gamma_1(t)} \\ \Gamma_{22}^2(s, t) &= \dot{\gamma}_1(t)\ddot{\gamma}_1(t) + \dot{\gamma}_2(t)\ddot{\gamma}_2(t). \end{aligned}$$

The geodesic equation in local coordinates says, that the curve $\psi \circ c$ is a geodesic if and only if

$$\ddot{c}^k(\tau) + \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \Gamma_{ij}^k(c(\tau))\dot{c}^i(\tau)\dot{c}^j(\tau) = 0, \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2..$$

(here we denote $s = x^1$ and $t = x^2$ for the index notation).

For $c(\tau) = (s, \tau)$, we have $\dot{c}(\tau) = (0, 1)$ and $\ddot{c}(\tau) = (0, 0)$. Since $\dot{c}^1(\tau) = 0$, most terms in the geodesic equation vanishes: For $k = 1$ everything vanishes (including $\ddot{c}^1(\tau) = 0$). The equation for $k = 2$ simplifies to:

$$\dot{\gamma}_1(\tau)\ddot{\gamma}_1(\tau) + \dot{\gamma}_2(\tau)\ddot{\gamma}_2(\tau) = 0.$$

The left hand side is the derivative of $\frac{1}{2}(\dot{\gamma}_1(\tau)^2 + \dot{\gamma}_2(\tau)^2)$ which is assumed to be constant. Thus the second geodesic equation is satisfied and the meridians are always geodesics.

- b) We consider the curve $c(\tau) = (\tau, t)$. Thus we get $\dot{c}(\tau) = (1, 0)$ and $\ddot{c}(\tau) = (0, 0)$. In particular, $\dot{c}^2(\tau) = 0$ and in the geodesic equation for $k = 1$ everything vanishes. The equation for $k = 2$ simplifies to

$$\gamma_1(t)\dot{\gamma}_1(t) = 0.$$

As our surface of revolution is embedded, we have $\gamma_1(t) \neq 0$. Therefore, a parallel is a geodesic for $t \in I$ if and only if $\dot{\gamma}_1(t) = 0$.

- c) We have that $\gamma(t) = (1, t)$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$ gives us the cylinder as surface of revolution. Therefore, we get the geodesic equations for the curve $\psi \circ c$ given by

$$\ddot{c}^1 = 0, \quad \ddot{c}^2 = 0.$$

Thus all solutions are of the form $c(\tau) = (a\tau + b, c\tau + d)$ for $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ and $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$.

3. Let $p_0 \in M^m$. We know from the lectures that there exists $\epsilon > 0$ and a neighbourhood $U_\epsilon \subset M$ of the point p_0 such that

$$\exp_{p_0} : \{v \in T_{p_0}M : |v| < \epsilon\} \rightarrow U_\epsilon$$

is a diffeomorphism. Let $\{e_i\}_{i=1, \dots, m}$ be an orthonormal basis of $T_{p_0}M$. We define a diffeomorphism $\psi : B_\epsilon(0) \subset \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow U_\epsilon$ by

$$\psi(x) := \exp_{p_0} \left(\sum_{i=1}^m x^i e_i \right).$$

- a) Show that $g_{ij}(0) = \delta_{ij}$, for $i, j = 1, \dots, m$.
b) Show that $\Gamma_{ij}^k(0) = 0$ for $i, j, k = 1, \dots, m$.

These coordinates are called *normal coordinates centered at p_0* .

Solution:

- a) We know from the lecture that $d\exp_{p_0}(0) : T_{p_0}M \rightarrow T_{p_0}M$ is the identity. Since

$$e : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow T_{p_0}M, \quad e(x) = \sum_{i=1}^m x^i e_i$$

is a linear frame, the chain rule yields:

$$d\psi(0)x = \sum_{i=1}^m x^i e_i$$

Therefore,

$$g_{ij}(0) = \left\langle \frac{\partial \psi(0)}{\partial x^i}, \frac{\partial \psi(0)}{\partial x^j} \right\rangle = \langle e_i, e_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

- b) Let $v \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be a unit vector and consider the curve $c : (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$, $c(t) := tv$. By definition of the exponential map, $\gamma : (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow M$, $\gamma(t) := \psi(c(t)) = \exp_{p_0}(tv)$ is a geodesic and hence $c(t)$ satisfies the geodesic equations

$$\ddot{c}^k(t) + \sum_{i,j=1}^m \Gamma_{ij}^k(c(t)) \dot{c}^i(t) \dot{c}^j(t) = 0.$$

At time $t = 0$ this equality gives us

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^m \Gamma_{ij}^k(0) v^i v^j = v^T A^k v = 0, \tag{1}$$

where $A^k = (\Gamma_{ij}^k(0))_{i,j=1}^m$ is a symmetric matrix. Since equality (1) must hold for any unit vector v , this implies that $A^k = 0$. One way to see this is through the identity

$$(Av + v)^T A(Av + v) - (Av)^T A(Av) - v^T Av = 2(Av)^T Av = 2\|Av\|^2.$$

for a symmetric matrix A . Thus all Christoffel symbols vanish at 0.

4. Determine the radius of injectivity at all points of the following manifolds.

- a) $T^2 := S^1 \times S^1$. b) $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$. c) S^n .

Hint: For c), use the exponential map which you should already have calculated in exercise 1.

Solution:

- a) We consider points on the torus to be given by two angles (θ, φ) modulo 2π using the map

$$\psi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow T^2, \quad \psi(\theta, \varphi) := (e^{i\theta}, e^{i\varphi}).$$

The map ψ is 2π -periodic in both variables and for open sets $U \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ with diameter smaller than 2π , the restriction $\psi|_U : U \rightarrow \psi(U) \subset T^2$ is an honest chart. For any such chart we have

$$g_{ij}(\theta, \varphi) = \delta_{ij}$$

The formula for the Christoffel symbols in Exercise 5 of Exercise Sheet 6 then implies $\Gamma_{ij}^k(\theta, \varphi) = 0$. The geodesic equation for a curve $c(t) = (\theta(t), \varphi(t))$ are thus

$$\ddot{\theta}(t) = 0, \quad \ddot{\varphi}(t) = 0.$$

In other words, $\psi(c(t))$ is a geodesic in T^2 , if and only if $c(t)$ is a straight line in \mathbb{R}^2 . From this one obtains that the exponential map is given by

$$\exp_{\psi(\theta_0, \varphi_0)} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow T, \quad \exp_{\psi(\theta_0, \varphi_0)}(x^1, x^2) = (e^{i(\theta_0+x^1)}, e^{i(\varphi_0+x^2)}).$$

The restriction $\exp|_{B_{2\pi}(0)}$ is clearly injective. Moreover, the differential

$$d\exp_{\psi(\theta_0, \varphi_0)}(x^1, x^2)[\xi^1, \xi^2] = (ie^{i(\theta_0+x^1)}\xi^1, ie^{i(\varphi_0+x^2)}\xi^2)$$

is always an isomorphism and thus $\exp|_{B_{2\pi}(0)}$ is a smooth injective map which by inverse function theorem is locally diffeomorphic. Thereby the injectivity radius is at least π . But it cannot be larger, since one has $\exp_{\psi(\theta_0, \varphi_0)}(0, \pi) = \exp_{\psi(\theta_0, \varphi_0)}(0, -\pi)$. This proves that the injectivity radius is 2π .

- b) We see that geodesics are straight lines, and that this is not a complete manifold, as any ray $t \mapsto tv$ for $t \neq 0$ and $v \neq 0$ is a geodesic which cannot be extended. Thus the injectivity radius of (x, y) is given by $|(x, y)|$.
- c) For S^n , we get the exponential map

$$\exp_p(v) = \cos(|v|)p + \sin(|v|)\frac{v}{|v|}.$$

So assume $\exp_p(v) = \exp_p(w)$. Then as $\{p, v\}$ and $\{p, w\}$ are linearly independent, we must have $\cos(|v|) = \cos(|w|)$ and $\frac{v}{|v|} \sin(|v|) = \frac{w}{|w|} \sin(|w|)$. Thus we have either that $|v| = |w| = k\pi$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ or w and v are collinear. In the collinear case, we further get that either $v = w$ or $\frac{v}{|v|} = -\frac{w}{|w|}$ and in the latter case, this then further gives for $|v| + |w| = 2k\pi$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus the biggest ball on which \exp_p is injective is $B_\pi(0)$. To see that π is indeed the injectivity radius, we need to check that the differential $d\exp_p(v)$ is injective for all $v \in B_\pi(0)$. Thus let us calculate for $v \neq 0$

$$d\exp_p(v)\hat{v} = -p \sin(|v|) \frac{\langle \hat{v}, v \rangle}{|v|} + \frac{v}{|v|} \cos(|v|) \frac{\langle \hat{v}, v \rangle}{|v|} + \frac{\hat{v}}{|v|} \sin(|v|) - \frac{v \langle \hat{v}, v \rangle}{|v|^3} \sin(|v|).$$

Thus we have that $d\exp_p(v)v = -p \sin(|v|)|v| + v \cos(|v|)$ and $d\exp_p(v)w = w \sin(|v|)$ for any vector $w \in T_p S^n$ which has $w \perp v$. So as long as $|v| < \pi$, $d\exp_p(v)$ is injective.

5. Find an example of a manifold M such that any two points $p, q \in M$ can be connected by a geodesic. Find an example of a manifold that does not have this property.

Solution: We have seen some examples in this exercise sheet. For example on S^n , T^2 or the cylinder, any two points are connected by a geodesic, whereas on $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$, the points $(1, 0)$ and $(-1, 0)$ are not connected by any geodesic.

6. Recall from Exercise Sheet 1, that $O(n)$ is a manifold with tangent spaces

$$T_g O(n) = \{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : g^\top \xi + \xi^\top g = 0\} \quad \text{for } g \in O(n).$$

- a) The euclidean inner product on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is defined by

$$\langle \xi, \eta \rangle := \text{tr}(\xi^\top \eta).$$

Verify the following formulae.

- (i) $\Pi(g)\xi = \frac{1}{2}(\xi - g\xi^\top g)$ for all $g \in O(n)$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$.
- (ii) $h_g(\xi, \eta) = -\frac{1}{2}g(\xi^\top \eta + \eta^\top \xi)$ for all $g \in O(n)$ and $\xi, \eta \in T_g O(n)$.
- b) Recall the matrix exponential given by $\exp(\xi) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\xi^k}{k!}$. Prove that the geodesic γ starting at $g \in O(n)$ with initial velocity $\dot{\gamma}(0) = \xi \in T_g O(n)$ is given by

$$\gamma(t) = g \exp(tg^\top \xi) \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{2}$$

In other words, the (geodesic) exponential map at the identity $\exp_{\mathbb{1}}$ is the (matrix) exponential map.

- c) Let $G \subset O(n)$ be a compact Lie subgroup. Prove that (2) still holds for all $g \in G$ and $\xi \in T_g G$. (A theorem from Lie theory says that closed subgroups of a Lie group are also submanifolds.)
- d) Determine

$$r_0 := \inf\{\|\xi\| : 0 \neq \xi \in \exp_{\mathbb{1}}^{-1}(\mathbb{1})\}.$$

(It is a convincing and true fact that the injectivity radius of $O(n)$ is given by $\frac{\pi}{2}$. However, the proof is quite sophisticated.)

Hint: In b) use the Gauss-Weingarten formula to deduce that $\dot{\gamma}(t)^\top \dot{\gamma}(t)$ is constant and then verify that $g \exp(tg^\top \xi)$ satisfies the same ODE as $\gamma(t)$. For c) recall that in a small neighbourhood of a point, geodesics are characterised as being length minimising curves. For d), use a base change to get a skew-symmetric matrix into its normal form with diagonal blocks $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\lambda \\ \lambda & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ or (0) for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

Solution:

- a) (i) The tangent space $T_g O(n)$ contains all ξ which are anti-symmetric with respect to the inner product defined by g . We claim that its orthogonal complement consists of all ξ which are symmetric with respect to g :

$$T_g^\perp O(n) = \text{Sym}(g) = \{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : g^\top \xi - \xi^\top g = 0\}.$$

Indeed, we have for $\xi \in T_g O(n)$ and $\eta \in \text{Sym}(g)$

$$\langle \xi, \eta \rangle = \text{tr}(\xi^\top \eta) = \text{tr}(\xi^\top g^\top g \eta) = -\text{tr}(g \xi \eta^\top g^\top) = -\text{tr}(\xi \eta^\top) = -\langle \xi, \eta \rangle$$

which implies $\langle \xi, \eta \rangle = 0$. Furthermore, an arbitrary matrix $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ decomposes into a symmetric and anti symmetric matrix (with respect to g) by the formula

$$\xi = \frac{1}{2}(\xi - g\xi^\top g) + \frac{1}{2}(\xi + g\xi^\top g) \in T_g O(n) \oplus \text{Sym}(g).$$

This establishes the claim $T_g^\perp O(n) = \text{Sym}(g)$ and directly implies the formula for $\Pi(g)$.

- (ii) The derivative of $\Pi(g)\xi = \frac{1}{2}(\xi - g\xi^\top g)$ is given by the product rule as

$$d(\Pi(g)\xi)\hat{g} = \frac{1}{2}(-\hat{g}\xi^\top g - g\xi^\top \hat{g}) = -\frac{1}{2}g(\hat{g}^\top \xi + \xi^\top \hat{g})$$

The last step uses $\xi^\top, \hat{g} \in T_g O(n)$ which yields $\hat{g}\xi^\top g = \hat{g}g^\top \xi = g\hat{g}^\top \xi$. Recall that by linearity of the differential, $d(\Pi(g)\xi)\hat{g} = (d\Pi(g)\hat{g})\xi$. We thus get for the second fundamental form the formula:

$$h_g(\xi, \eta) = -\frac{1}{2}g(\xi^\top \eta + \eta^\top \xi)$$

- b) It follows from the Gauss-Weingarten formula applied to the vector field $\dot{\gamma} \in \text{Vect}(\gamma)$ that

$$\ddot{\gamma}(t) = h_{\gamma(t)}(\dot{\gamma}(t), \dot{\gamma}(t))$$

if and only if γ satisfies the geodesic equation $\nabla \dot{\gamma} = 0$. The formula for the second fundamental form from above yields

$$\ddot{\gamma}(t) = -\gamma(t)\dot{\gamma}(t)\dot{\gamma}^\top(t)$$

Multiplying this equation by $\gamma(t)^\top$ yields

$$\gamma(t)^\top \ddot{\gamma}(t) + \dot{\gamma}(t)\dot{\gamma}^\top(t) = 0.$$

The left hand side is the derivative of $\gamma(t)^\top \dot{\gamma}(t)$ and hence $\gamma(t)^\top \dot{\gamma}(t) = \gamma(t)^{-1} \dot{\gamma}(t) \equiv \xi_0 \in T_1 O(n)$ is constant. Evaluating this at $t = 0$ yields $\xi_0 = \gamma(0)^\top \dot{\gamma}(0) = g^\top \xi$.

