

3.5 Correspondence between Lie subalgebras and Lie subgroups.

We would like to address the following question:

Q: Let G be a Lie group with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} . Let \mathfrak{h} be a subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} . Is there a subgroup of G naturally associated, to \mathfrak{h} ?

Exercise 3.71

Understand why we already answered to this question in the case when \mathfrak{h} is 1-dimensional in the previous section.

We will need some additional terminology and some tool from differential geometry.

Definition 3.72 [Immersed-embedded submanifolds]

Let $p: N \rightarrow M$ be a smooth map between smooth manifolds. Then:

1) We say that p is an immersion if Δ_p .

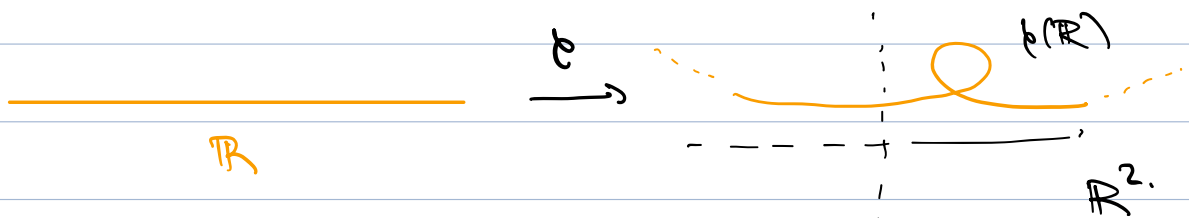
is injective $\forall p \in N$.

2) We say that $p(N)$ is an immersed submanifold of M if p is a one-to-one immersion.

3) If p is a one-to-one immersion that is also a homeomorphism onto its image then we say that p is an embedding and $p(N)$ is an embedded submanifold.

Example 3.73

This is an example of an immersion:



This is an example of an immersed submanifold:



They are not examples of embeddings.

Exercise 3.74.

Understand in which sense an embedded submanifold

is the same as a regular submanifold (see Definition 3.10).

We come back to our question and discuss an example

Example 3.75

Let $G = T^2 = S^1 \times S^1$. Then the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of G coincides with the Lie algebra of \mathbb{R}^2 , i.e., \mathbb{R}^2 with trivial bracket.

1) If $\mathfrak{h} = \mathbb{R} \cong \{0\} \times \mathbb{R} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ then \mathfrak{h} is a Lie subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} and if we let $i: S^1 \rightarrow T^2$ be defined by $i(\theta) = (0, \theta)$ then $i(S^1) = \{0\} \times S^1$ is a regular submanifold and a subgroup and $\mathfrak{h}(i(S^1)) = \mathfrak{h}$.

2) If $\mathfrak{h} = \{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : y = \sqrt{2}x \}$ then we can let $\rho: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow T^2$ be defined so $\rho(t) := (e^{it}, e^{i\sqrt{2}t})$. Then:

ρ is a one-to-one immersion and
 $\rho(\mathbb{R}) =: H$ is a subgroup of T^2 and
an immersed submanifold with.

lie algebra \mathfrak{h} . However H is
not a regular submanifold.

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The effect of the above Example 3.73 is that
in general we cannot expect the lie subgroup
associated, to a lie subalgebra to be
embedded.

Let's introduce the relevant definitions:

Definition 3.76 [lie subgroup]

Let G be a lie group. We say that
 (H, ρ) is a lie subgroup of G if

1) H is a lie group;

2) $\rho: H \rightarrow G$ is an injective lie group
homomorphism;

3) $\rho(H)$ is an immersed submanifold, i.e.,
 ρ is a one-to-one immersion.

The key theorem concerning the correspondence between Lie sub-algebras and Lie-subgroups is the following:

Theorem 3.77

Let G be a Lie group with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} . Let $\hat{\mathfrak{h}} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$ be a Lie subalgebra. Then there is a unique connected Lie subgroup (H, ρ) of G such that $D_e \rho(H) = \hat{\mathfrak{h}}$, where \mathfrak{h} is the Lie algebra of H .

Remark 3.78

Uniqueness in the statement of Theorem 3.77 is understood in the following sense. We

say that two Lie subgroups (H, ρ) and

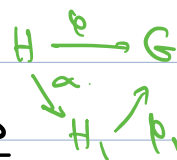
(H_1, ρ_1) of G are equivalent if

there is a Lie group isomorphism $\alpha: H \rightarrow H_1$

such that $\rho_1 \circ \alpha = \rho$.

Uniqueness has to be understood up to

equivalence.



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The proof of Theorem 3.77 relies on

an important result in differential geometry. We start by discussing some motivation.

Let M be a smooth manifold and $X \in \text{Vect}^\infty(M)$ such that $X_p \neq 0 \quad \forall p \in M$. We assume that it is complete for the sake of simplicity.

By Theorem 3.46 for every $p \in M$, we can find an integral curve $\gamma_p: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M$ of X , i.e., $\gamma_p(0) = p$ and $\gamma_p'(t) = X_{\gamma_p(t)}$ for each $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

In particular $\gamma_p: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M$ is an immersion and the tangent space of $\gamma_p(\mathbb{R})$ in M is the span of X at each point.

We would like to generalize this construction to the "higher dimensional" case.

For instance, suppose that we have

$X_1, X_2 \in \text{Vect}^\infty(M)$, then we would like to find a two-dimensional submanifold whose tangent space is spanned by

X_1 and X_2 at each point.

Exercise 3.79

Understand why such a submanifold cannot exist in general without further conditions.

Definition 3.80 [Distributions]

Let M be a smooth manifold of dimension $n+k$.

1). For each $p \in M$ consider an n -dimensional subspace $\mathcal{D}_p \subset T_p M$. Suppose that in a neighborhood U of any point $p \in M$, there are n linearly independent smooth vector fields X_1, \dots, X_n that give a basis of $\mathcal{D}_q \forall q \in U$. Then we say that \mathcal{D} is a smooth distribution of dimension n and X_1, \dots, X_n is a local basis of \mathcal{D} .

2). We say that a distribution is involutive if there exists a local basis X_1, \dots, X_n of \mathcal{D} near to each point such that

$$[X_i, X_j] \in \mathcal{D} \quad \forall 1 \leq i < j \leq n.$$

3) If \mathcal{D} is a smooth distribution on M and $p: N \rightarrow M$ is a one-to-one immersion we say that $p(N)$ is an integral submanifold of \mathcal{D} if $D_p p(T_p N) = \mathcal{D}_{p(p)}$ $\forall p \in N$.

4) We say that a distribution \mathcal{D} on M is completely integrable if it admits an integral submanifold through each point.

Example 3.8.1

• If $M = \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^k$ and $X_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$ then $\mathcal{D} = \text{Span} \{ X_1, \dots, X_n \}$ is an involutive distribution.

• If $M = \mathbb{R}^3$ then the distribution $\mathcal{D} = \text{Span} \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + x \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\}$ is not involutive.

The first key theorem regarding distributions

is the following:

Theorem 3.82 [Frobenius]

A smooth distribution is completely integrable if and only if it is involutive.

Remark 3.83

If the distribution is 1-dimensional then it is automatically involutive since $[X, X] = 0$ for any $X \in \text{Vect}^0(M)$.

Then Theorem 3.82 is a consequence of Theorem 3.46.

Definition 3.84 [Maximal integral submanifold]

A maximal integral submanifold N of an involutive distribution \mathcal{D} on a manifold M is a connected integral submanifold of \mathcal{D} whose image in M is not a proper subset of the image of any other connected integral submanifold of \mathcal{D} .

↳ with the notion of maximal integral curve

Theorem 3.85

Given an involutive distribution on a manifold M and a point $p \in M$ there exists a unique maximal integral submanifold through p .

For the proofs of Theorem 3.82 and Theorem 3.85 see for instance [Worner, Chapter 1].

We will need one last technical tool in the proof namely:

Proposition 3.86

Let M be a smooth manifold and \mathcal{D} be an involutive distribution on M . Let N be a maximal integral submanifold. If $f: M' \rightarrow M$ is a smooth map, where M' is another smooth manifold and $f(M') \subseteq p(N)$ then $f^{-1} \circ \rho: M' \rightarrow N$ is a smooth map.

See [Worner, Theorem 1.62.] for a proof.

Proof of Theorem 3.77

We define a distribution \mathcal{D} on M by setting

$$\mathcal{D}_p = \{ X_p^\perp : X \in \tilde{\mathfrak{h}} \}.$$

We claim that \mathcal{D} is a smooth distribution.

Indeed if $X_1, \dots, X_d \in \tilde{\mathfrak{h}}$ form a basis of $\tilde{\mathfrak{h}}$ then \mathcal{D} is spanned globally by the smooth vector fields $X_1^\perp, \dots, X_d^\perp$.

Moreover, \mathcal{D} is involutive, because $\tilde{\mathfrak{h}}$ is a Lie subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} . Indeed if X and Y are vector fields lying in \mathcal{D} then there are smooth functions a_i, b_i such that $X = \sum_i a_i X_i^\perp$ and $Y = \sum_i b_i X_i^\perp$.

$$\text{Hence } [X, Y] = \sum_{i,j} \{ a_i b_j [X_i^\perp, X_j^\perp] + a_i X_i^\perp(b_j) X_j^\perp - b_j X_j^\perp(a_i) X_i^\perp \}$$

belongs to \mathcal{D} since it is a linear combination of elements of \mathcal{D} at each point. \square

Let (H, p) a maximal connected integral submanifold of \mathcal{D} through e , as given by

Theorem 3.85. Let $g \in \mathfrak{p}(H)$. Since \mathcal{D} is invariant under left translations also $(H, L_{g^{-1}} \circ \rho)$ is an integral submanifold of $g \mathcal{D}$ through e . By maximality $L_{g^{-1}} \circ \rho(H) \subseteq \mathfrak{p}(H)$.

Therefore if $g \in \mathfrak{p}(H)$ and $g' \in \mathfrak{p}(H)$ then also $g^{-1}g' \in \mathfrak{p}(H)$. Therefore $\mathfrak{p}(H) < G$ and we can induce a group structure on H in such a way that $\rho: H \rightarrow G$ is a homeomorphism.

To conclude we need to check that H is a Lie group, i.e., the original smooth structure and the operations defined by pulling back those of $\mathfrak{p}(H) < G$ are compatible.

Note that the map $\beta: H \times H \rightarrow G$
 $(g, g') \mapsto \rho(g)\rho(g')^{-1}$
 is smooth by smoothness of ρ and of the operations in G . Moreover it has evenly
 valued in $\mathfrak{p}(H)$.

Then, if we denote $\alpha: H \times H \rightarrow H$
 $g, g' \mapsto g(g')^{-1}$
 we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 H \times H & \xrightarrow{\beta} & G \\
 & \searrow \alpha & \uparrow \rho \\
 & & H
 \end{array}$$

and by Proposition 3.86 we infer that α is smooth, i.e., H is a Lie group.

Therefore (H, e) is a Lie subgroup of G and by construction $\text{Dep } \rho|_H = \mathfrak{h}$.

The proof of the uniqueness part of the statement is based on a similar idea and left to the reader. For the detailed argument see [Warner, Theorem 3.19]. \square

In general, ρ is not an embedding, see Example 3.75.

Theorem 3.87

Let (H, ρ) be a Lie subgroup of a Lie group G . Then ρ is an embedding iff $\rho(H)$ is closed in G .

For a proof you can look at [Warner, Theorem 3.21].

We saw that a smooth Lie group isomorphism naturally induces a Lie algebra isomorphism in Proposition 3.39. We would like to understand whether some converse holds.

Example 3.88

Let $p: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S^1$ be defined as $p(t) := e^{it}$.

Then $D_p p: \mathfrak{Lie}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{Lie}(S^1)$ is a

Lie algebra isomorphism, and so is

$(D_p p)^{-1}: \mathfrak{Lie}(S^1) \rightarrow \mathfrak{Lie}(\mathbb{R})$. However,

$(D_p p)^{-1}$ cannot be the derivative of any isomorphism $\psi: S^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Indeed,

the image of any such isomorphism is a compact subgroup of \mathbb{R} hence trivial.

Nevertheless $(D_p p)^{-1}$ comes from a local isomorphism, namely the local inverse of p .

In **Chapter 2** we gave the definition of local homeomorphism for topological groups. For Lie groups the definition has to be adjusted on to require additionally smoothness.

Then we have the following

Theorem 3.89

1) If G and H are Lie groups and $\pi: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ is a Lie algebra homomorphism of the corresponding Lie algebras then there exists a local Lie group homomorphism $\rho: U \rightarrow H$ such that $D_x \rho = \pi$.

2). If π is a Lie algebra isomorphism then ρ is a local isomorphism.

Part 2) follows from part 1) via the following.

Lemma 3.90

If $p: G \rightarrow H$ is a local Lie group homomorphism such that $D_e p: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ is an isomorphism then p is a local isomorphism.

Proof

Since $D_e p$ is an isomorphism by the Inverse Function theorem there exist a neighborhood U' of $e_G \in G$ and a neighborhood V of $e_H \in H$ such that $p: U' \rightarrow V$ is a diffeomorphism. Then p is a local isomorphism on U' . \square

Proof of Theorem 3.89

We claim that $\text{Graph}(\pi) := \{ (x, \pi(x)) : x \in \mathfrak{g} \} \subseteq \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{h}$ is a Lie subalgebra.

Indeed if $x, y \in \mathfrak{g}$ then:

$$\begin{aligned} [(x, \pi(x)), (y, \pi(y))]_{\mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{h}} &= ([x, y], [\pi(x), \pi(y)]) \\ &= ([x, y], \pi([x, y])). \end{aligned}$$

By [Theorem 3.77](#), there exists a Lie subgroup $K \subset G \times H$ such that $\text{Lie}(K) = \text{Graph}(\pi)$ (with a slight abuse of notation).

Therefore we have:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Graph}(\pi) & \hookrightarrow & g \times h \xrightarrow{D_e \text{pr}_G} g \\ \text{and} & & \\ K & \hookrightarrow & G \times H \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_G} G. \end{array}$$

By construction $\text{pr}_G|_K : K \rightarrow G$ is a Lie group homomorphism and its derivative at e $D_e \text{pr}_G|_K = \text{pr}_g|_{\text{Graph}(\pi)} : \text{Graph}(\pi) \rightarrow g$ is a Lie algebra isomorphism.

Hence by [Lemma 3.90](#) $\text{pr}_G|_K$ is a local isomorphism, that is, there exist neighborhoods $e_K \in W \subset K$ and $e_G \in V \subset G$ such that $\text{pr}_G|_K : W \rightarrow V$ is a diffeomorphism.

We can consider then $(\text{pr}_G|_W)^{-1} : V \rightarrow W$ whose derivative $D_e (\text{pr}_G|_W)^{-1} : g \rightarrow \text{Graph}(\pi)$ is the map $x \mapsto (x, \pi(x))$ by construction.

We consider then the homomorphism

$\text{pr}_H: \mathfrak{G} \times H \rightarrow H$ and its derivative.

$\Delta_{\mathfrak{G}} \text{pr}_H = \text{pr}_H: \mathfrak{g} \times h \rightarrow h$ which is a Lie algebra homomorphism. Then:

$$\text{pr}_H \circ (\text{pr}_{\mathfrak{G}/W})^{-1}: V \rightarrow H$$

is the required local homomorphism since:

$$\Delta_{\mathfrak{G}} (\text{pr}_H \circ (\text{pr}_{\mathfrak{G}/W})^{-1})(X) =$$

$$= \Delta_{\mathfrak{G}} \text{pr}_H \circ \Delta_{\mathfrak{G}} (\text{pr}_{\mathfrak{G}/W})^{-1}(X)$$

$$= \Delta_{\mathfrak{G}} \text{pr}_H (X, \pi(X))$$

$$= \pi(X) \quad \forall X \in \mathfrak{g}. \quad \square$$

We state without proof a deep result due to Ado:

Theorem 3.9.1

Any finite dimensional real Lie algebra \mathfrak{g}

is isomorphic to a subalgebra of $\mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{R})$ for some n .

The combination of Theorem 3.91, Theorem 3.89, and Theorem 3.77 gives:

Corollary 3.92

Any Lie group is locally isomorphic to a subgroup of $\mathfrak{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ for some n .

Moreover we have the following:

Corollary 3.93

1) If G is a connected Lie group with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} then there is a simply connected Lie group \tilde{G} with Lie algebra isomorphic to \mathfrak{g} .

2) If two simply connected Lie groups have isomorphic Lie algebras then they are isomorphic.

Proof

Recall Exercise 7 Sheet 1, and check that \tilde{G} can be endowed with a unique smooth structure such that the operations lifted from G make it into a Lie group and $p: \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$ is a smooth homomorphism whose kernel is a discrete subgroup of \tilde{G} . Then $D_e p: \tilde{\mathfrak{g}} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ is a Lie algebra isomorphism. This completes the proof of 1).

In order to prove 2) let G_1, G_2 be simply connected Lie groups with isomorphic Lie algebras $\mathfrak{g}_1 \cong \mathfrak{g}_2$.

By Theorem 3.91 there exists a local isomorphism $p: U \rightarrow G_2$ where U is an open neigh of e_{G_1} . By Theorem 2.37 p extends to a homomorphism $G_1 \rightarrow G_2$. It is possible to check that the extension is a smooth covering map (Exercise). Since G_2 is simply connected, the extension

is an isomorphism. \square

We end this section with a brief discussion about Cartan's theorem on closed subgroups of Lie groups and a few related results.

Theorem 3.94

Let G be a Lie group and H be a closed subgroup of G . Then H has a unique smooth structure compatible with the induced topology which makes it into a Lie subgroup of G .

Proof sketch.

The main idea of the proof is to show that

$\mathfrak{a} := \{X \in \mathfrak{g} : \exp(tX) \in H \ \forall t \in \mathbb{R}\}$
is a subspace of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} so
then we can apply the following.

Lemmas 3.95

Let H be a subgroup of a Lie group G .

Let \mathfrak{a} be a subspace of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} .

Let $0 \in U_0 \subset \mathfrak{g}$ and $e \in V_e \subset G$ be open neighborhoods such that $\exp: U_0 \rightarrow V_e$ is a diffeomorphism. Suppose that

$$\exp(U_0 \cap \mathfrak{a}) = V_e \cap H$$

Then

1) H with the induced topology is a Lie subgroup of G .

2) \mathfrak{a} is a Lie subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} .

3) \mathfrak{a} is the Lie algebra of H .

In particular, a step of the proof of [Theorem 3.94](#) shows the following.

Corollary 3.96

Let G be a Lie group with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} and $H < G$ be a closed subgroup.

Then its Lie algebra is given by

$$\mathfrak{le}(H) = \{ X \in \mathfrak{g} : \exp_G(tX) \in H \ \forall t \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

Among the consequences of [Corollary 3.96](#) there is the following

[Corollary 3.97](#)

Let $\pi: G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ be a smooth map, with derivative $D\pi: \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_2$. Then $\text{Lie}(\text{Ker } \pi) = \text{Ker } D\pi$.

Proof

By [Corollary 3.96](#) $\text{Lie}(\text{Ker } \pi) = \{X \in \mathfrak{g}_1 : \pi(\exp_{G_1}(tX)) = e \ \forall t \in \mathbb{R}\}$

By [Proposition 3.59](#)

$$\pi(\exp_{G_1}(tX)) = \exp_{G_2}(tD\pi(X))$$

hence

$$\text{Lie}(\text{Ker } \pi) = \{X \in \mathfrak{g}_1 : \exp_{G_2}(tD\pi(X)) = e \ \forall t \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

$$= \{X \in \mathfrak{g}_1 : D\pi(X) = 0\}.$$

$$= \text{Ker } D\pi.$$

[Corollary 3.61](#)

We end this section with a definition

that will turn out to be useful later.

Definition 3.98 [Ideal]

An ideal \mathfrak{h} in a K -Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} is a vector subspace such that

$$[x, y] \in \mathfrak{h} \quad \forall x \in \mathfrak{g} \quad \forall y \in \mathfrak{h}.$$

Note: the Lie bracket on \mathfrak{g} descends to $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{h}$ to define a Lie algebra structure such that $\pi: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{h}$ is a Lie algebra homomorphism with $\ker \pi = \mathfrak{h}$.

Conversely, if $\rho: \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_2$ is a Lie algebra homomorphism then $\ker \rho$ is an ideal in \mathfrak{g}_1 . (Exercise).