

## 6. Curvature of submanifolds, Lie groups

### 6.1. Liouville's theorem.

Let  $X$  be the geodesic vector field on  $TM$ .

1. Prove that  $\operatorname{div}(G) = 0$ .
2. Prove that the geodesic flow preserves the volume of  $TM$ .

### 6.2. Totally geodesic submanifolds.

Prove the following proposition.

For a submanifold  $M \subset \tilde{M}$  the following four statements are equivalent:

1. vanishing second fundamental form, i.e.  $\kappa(X, Y) = 0$  for all  $X, Y \in TM$
2. every geodesic in  $M$  is also a geodesic in  $\tilde{M}$
3. if  $v \in T_p M$  then the unique geodesic  $\tilde{\gamma}$  of  $\tilde{M}$  with initial velocity  $v$  lies initially in  $M$
4. if  $c : I \rightarrow M$  is a curve, then every  $\nabla$ -parallel vector field  $Y \in \Gamma(c^*(TM))$  is also  $\tilde{\nabla}$  parallel.

### 6.3. Pull-back connections and curvature.

1. Prove the following Proposition.

Let  $R$  be the curvature tensor of a connection  $\nabla$  on  $TM$ . For another manifold  $N$  and a smooth map  $F : N \rightarrow M$ , let  $R^F$  denote the curvature tensor of the connection  $\nabla^F$  along  $F$ , given by

$$R^F(X, Y)W := \nabla_X^F \nabla_Y^F W - \nabla_Y^F \nabla_X^F W - \nabla_{[X, Y]}^F W \in \Gamma(F^*TM)$$

for  $X, Y \in \Gamma(TN)$  and  $W \in \Gamma(F^*TM)$ . Then

$$(R^F(X, Y)W)_p = R(F_*X_p, F_*Y_p)W_p$$

for all  $p \in N$ .

Remark: the notation for the pull-back connection along a curve  $c$  used in the lectures is  $\nabla_{\partial_s}$  ( $\nabla^c$  in the notation of the proposition).

2. If  $F : (-1, 1)_s \times (0, 1)_t \rightarrow M$  is a smooth map, then  $[D/ds, D/dt]V = R(V, \gamma')V$  for  $V(t) = \partial_s F(0, t)$ ,  $\gamma'(t) = \partial_t F(0, t)$ .

### 6.4. Lie groups.

Definition: A Lie group  $G$  is a smooth manifold  $G$  which has a smooth group structure ( $m$  and  $i$  are smooth maps between smooth manifolds)

$$m : G \times G \rightarrow G \quad m(p, q) = pq$$

$$i : G \rightarrow G \quad i(p) = p^{-1}.$$

For any  $p \in G$ , the left-multiplication  $L_p : G \rightarrow G$  defined by  $L_p(q) = pq$  is a diffeomorphism. A Riemannian metric  $g$  on  $G$  is called left-invariant if  $g(v, w) = g(dL_p(v), dL_p(w))$  for all  $v, w \in TG$  and  $p \in G$ . One defines right-multiplication and right invariance analogously. A metric is called bi-invariant if it is both right- and left-invariant.

The Lie algebra  $T_e G =: \mathcal{G}$  can therefore be identified with the set of left-invariant vector fields on  $G$ .

1. Let  $X \in \mathcal{G}$  be a left-invariant vector field. Prove that the flow  $\phi_t$  of  $X$  is defined globally for all times  $t$  and that the flow lines  $\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$  with  $\gamma(0) = e$  satisfy  $\gamma(t + s) = \gamma_t \cdot \gamma_s(a)$ .

Remark: a map  $\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$  is called a 1-parameter subgroup of  $G$  if it satisfies  $\gamma(t + s) = \gamma(t) \cdot \gamma(s)$ .

2. Prove that if  $G$  has a bi-invariant metric  $g$ , then the geodesics starting at  $e$  are 1-parameter subgroups of  $G$ .

Let  $G$  be a Lie group with bi-invariant metric  $g$ . Let  $X, Y, Z \in \Gamma(TG)$  be left-invariant vector fields.

3. Show that  $\nabla_X Y = \frac{1}{2}[X, Y]$ .

Hint: show that  $\nabla_X X = 0$  for left invariant vector fields.

4. Prove using (3.) that  $R(X, Y)Z = \frac{1}{4}[[X, Y], Z]$ .

5. Prove that if  $X$  and  $Y$  are orthonormal, the sectional curvature of the plane  $\Pi$  generated by  $X$  and  $Y$  is given by  $K(\Pi) = \frac{1}{4}g([X, Y], [X, Y])$ . Conclude that if the flows of  $X$  and  $Y$  commute, the planes  $\Pi$  have vanishing sectional curvature.

Remark: this shows that the sectional curvature of a Lie group with bi-invariant metric is non-negative.