

Chapter (3)

Homogeneous Spaces and Connectivity of Matrix Groups

Now we will discuss homogeneous spaces as manifolds.

Section (3.1): Homogeneous Spaces

Let G be a Lie group of dimension $\dim G = n$ and $H \leq G$ a closed subgroup, which is therefore a Lie subgroup of dimension $\dim H = k$. The set of left cosets

$$\frac{G}{H} = \{gH: g \in G\}$$

has an associated quotient map

$$\pi: G \rightarrow \frac{G}{H}: \pi(g) = gH.$$

We give G/H a topology by requiring that a subset $W \subseteq G/H$ is open if and only if $\pi^{-1}W \subseteq G$ is open; this is called the quotient topology on G/H .

Lemma (3.1.1):

The projection map $\pi: G \rightarrow G/H$ is an open mapping and G/H is a topological space which is separable and Hausdorff.

Proof:

For $U \subseteq G$,

$$\pi^{-1}(\pi U) = \bigcup_{h \in H} Uh.$$

Where

$$U_h = \{uh \in G : u \in U\} \subseteq G$$

If $U \subseteq G$ is open, then each U_h ($h \in H$) is open, implying that $\pi U \subseteq G/H$ is also open.

G/H is separable since a countable basis of G is mapped by π to a countable collection of open subsets of G/H that is also a basis.

To see that G/H is Hausdorff, consider the continuous map

$$\theta: G \times G \rightarrow G; \theta(x, y) = x^{-1}y.$$

Then

$$\theta^{-1}H = \{(x, y) \in G \times G : xH = yH\}.$$

and this is a closed subset since $H \subseteq G$ is closed. Hence,

$$\{(x, y) \in G \times G : xH \neq yH\} \subseteq G \times G$$

is open. By definition of the product topology, this means that whenever $x, y \in G$ with $xH \neq yH$, there are open subsets $U, V \subseteq G$ with $x \in U, y \in V, U \cap V = \emptyset$ and $\pi U \cap \pi V = \emptyset$. Since $\pi U, \pi V \subseteq G/H$ are open, this shows that G/H is Hausdorff.

The quotient map G/H has an important property which characterises it.

Proposition(3.1.2):(Universal Property of the Quotient Topology)

For any topological space X , a function $f : G/H \rightarrow X$ is continuous if and only if $f \circ \pi : G \rightarrow X$ is continuous.

We would like to make G/H into a smooth manifold so that $\pi : G \rightarrow G/H$ is smooth. Unfortunately, the construction of an atlas is rather complicated so

we merely state a general result then consider some examples where the smooth structure comes from an existing manifold which is diffeomorphic to a quotient.

Theorem (3.1.3):

G/H can be given the structure of a smooth manifold of dimension

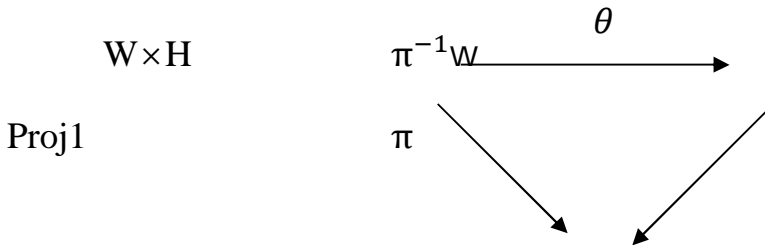
$$\dim G/H = \dim G - \dim H$$

So that the projection map $\pi: G \rightarrow G/H$ is smooth and at each $g \in G$,

$$\ker(d\pi: T_g G \rightarrow T_{gH} \frac{G}{H}) = d|_g \mathfrak{h}.$$

There is an atlas for G/H consisting of charts of the form $\theta: W \rightarrow \theta W \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ for which there is a diffeomorphism $\Theta: W \times H \rightarrow \pi^{-1}w$ satisfying the conditions

$$\Theta(w, h_1 h_2) = \Theta(w, h_1) h_2, \pi(\Theta(w, h)) = w \quad (\omega \in W, h, h_1, h_2 \in H):$$



w

The projection π looks like $\text{proj}_1: \pi^{-1}W \rightarrow w$, the projection onto W , when restricted to $\pi^{-1}w$.

For such a chart, the map Θ is said to provide a local trivialisation of π over W . An atlas consisting of such charts and local trivialisations $(\theta: W \rightarrow \theta W; \Theta)$ provides a local trivialisation of π . This is related to the important notion of a principal H -bundle over G/H .

Notice that given such an atlas, an atlas for G can be obtained by taking each pair $(\theta: W \rightarrow \theta W, \Theta)$ and combining the map θ with a chart $\psi: U \rightarrow \psi U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^k$ for H to get a chart

$$(\theta \times \psi) \circ \Theta^{-1}: \Theta(W \times U) \rightarrow \theta W \times \psi U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \times \mathbb{R}^k = \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Such a manifold G/H is called a homogeneous space since each left translation map L_g on G gives rise to a diffeomorphism

$$\bar{L}_g: G/H \rightarrow \bar{L}_g(xH) = gxH$$

for which $\pi \circ L_g = \bar{L}_g \circ \pi$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{L_g} & G \\ \pi \downarrow & & \pi \downarrow \\ G/H & \xrightarrow{\bar{L}_g} & G/H \end{array}$$

So each point gH has a neighbourhood diffeomorphic under \bar{L}_g^{-1} to a neighbourhood of $1H$; so locally G/H is unchanged as gH is varied. This is the basic insight in Felix Klein's view of a Geometry which is characterised as a homogeneous space G/H for some group of transformations G and subgroup H .

In the following we will discuss Homogeneous spaces as orbits.

Just as in ordinary group theory, group actions have orbits equivalent to sets of cosets G/H , so homogeneous spaces also arise as orbits associated to smooth groups actions of G on a manifolds.

Theorem (3.1.4):

Suppose that a Lie group G acts smoothly on a manifold M . If the element $x \in M$ has stabilizer $\text{Stab}_G(x) \leq G$ and the orbit $\text{Orb}_G(x) \subseteq M$ is a closed submanifold, then the function

$$f : G/\text{Stab}_G(x) \rightarrow \text{Orb}_G(x); f(g \text{Stab}_G(x)) = g x$$

is a diffeomorphism.

Example (3.1.5):

For $n \geq 1$, $O(n)$ acts smoothly on \mathbb{R}^n by matrix multiplication. For any nonzero vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the orbit $\text{Orb}_{O(n)}(v) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is diffeomorphic to $O(n)/O(n-1)$.

Proof:

First observe that when v is the standard basis vector e_n , for $A \in O(n)$, $Ae_n = e_n$ if and only if e_n is the last column of A , while all the other columns of A are orthogonal to e_n . Since the columns of A must be an orthonormal set of vectors, this means that each of the first $(n-1)$ columns of A has the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{1k} \\ a_{2k} \\ \vdots \\ a_{(n-1)k} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{11} & \mathbf{a}_{12} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{1n-1} \\ \mathbf{a}_{21} & \mathbf{a}_{22} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{2n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_{n-11} & \mathbf{a}_{n-12} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{n-1n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

is orthogonal and hence in $O(n-1)$. We identify $O(n-1)$ with the subset of $O(n)$ consisting of matrices of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{11} & \mathbf{a}_{12} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{1n-1} & 0 \\ \mathbf{a}_{21} & \mathbf{a}_{22} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{2n-2} & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & 0 \\ \mathbf{a}_{n-11} & \mathbf{a}_{n-12} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{n-1n-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and then have $Stab_{O(n)}(e_n) = O(n-1)$. The orbit of e_n is the whole unit sphere $S^{n-1} \subseteq R^n$ since given a unit vector u we can extend it to an orthonormal basis $u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}, u_n = u$ which form the columns of an orthogonal matrix $U \in O(n)$ for which $Ue_n = u$. So we have a diffeomorphism

$$O(n)/Stab_{O(n)}(e_n) = O(n)/O(n-1) \rightarrow Orb_{O(n)}(e_n) = S^{n-1}.$$

Now for a general nonzero vector v notice that $Stab_{O(n)}(\hat{v}) = Stab_{O(n)}(\hat{v})$ where $\hat{v} = (1/|v|)v$ and

$$Orb_{O(n)}(v) = S^{n-1}(|v|),$$

the sphere of radius $|v|$. If we choose any $P \in O(n)$ with $\hat{v} = Pe_n$, we have

$$Stab_{O(n)}(v) = P Stab_{O(n)}(e_n) P^{-1}$$

and so there is a diffeomorphism

$$\text{Orb}_{\text{O}(n)}(\mathbb{V}) \rightarrow \text{O}(n)/\text{P} \text{O}(n-1) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{O}(n)/\text{o}(n-1)$$

A similar result holds for $\text{SO}(n)$ and the homogeneous space $\text{SO}(n)/\text{SO}(n-1)$. For the unitary and special unitary groups we can obtain the homogeneous spaces $\text{U}(n)/\text{U}(n-1)$ and $\text{SU}(n)/\text{SU}(n-1)$ as orbits of non-zero vectors in \mathbb{C}^n on which these groups act by matrix multiplication; these are all diffeomorphic to S^{2n-1} . The action of the quaternionic symplectic group $\text{Sp}(n)$ on H^n leads to orbits of non-zero vectors diffeomorphic to $\text{Sp}(n)/\text{Sp}(n-1)$ and S^{4n-1} .

In the following we will discuss Projective spaces.

More exotic orbit spaces are obtained as follows. Let $k = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}$ and set $d = \dim_{\mathbb{R}} k$. Consider k^{n+1} as a right k -vector space. Then there is an action of the group of units k^\times on the subset of non-zero

vectors $k_0^{n+1} = k^{n+1} - \{0\}$:

$$z \cdot x = xz^{-1}$$

The set of orbits is denoted kP^n and is called n -dimensional k -projective space. Projective spaces Anelement of kP^n written $[x]$ is a set of the form

$$[x] = \{xz^{-1} : z \in k^\times\} \subseteq k_0^{n+1}$$

Notice that $[x] = [y]$ if and only if there is a $z \in k^\times$ for which $y = xz^{-1}$.

Remark (3.1.6):

Because of this we can identify elements kP^n with k -lines in k^{n+1} (i.e., 1-dimensional k -vector subspaces). kP^n is often viewed as the set of all such lines, particularly in the study of Projective Geometry.

There is a quotient map

$$q_n: k_0^{n+1} \rightarrow KP^n; q_n(x) = [x].$$

and we give KP^n the quotient topology which is Hausdorff and separable.

Proposition (3.1.7):

KP^n is a smooth manifold of dimension $\dim KP^n = n \dim_{\mathbb{R}} k$. Moreover, the quotient map $q_n: k_0^{n+1} \rightarrow KP^n$ is smooth with surjective derivative at every point in k_0^{n+1} .

Proof:

For $r = 1, 2, \dots, n$, set $kp_r^n = \{|x|: x_r \neq 0\}$, where as usual we write

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} \chi_1 \\ \chi_2 \\ \vdots \\ \chi_{n+1} \end{bmatrix}. \text{ Then } kp_r^n \subseteq KP^n \text{ is open. There is a function}$$

$$\sigma_r: KP_r^n \rightarrow k^n; \sigma_r(|x|) = \begin{bmatrix} \chi_1 \chi_r^{-1} \\ \chi_2 \chi_r^{-1} \\ \vdots \\ \chi_{r-1} \chi_r^{-1} \\ \chi_{r+1} \chi_r^{-1} \\ \vdots \\ \chi_{n+1} \chi_r^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Which is a continuous bijection that is actually a homeomorphism.

Whenever $r \neq s$, the induced map

$$\sigma_s^{-1} \circ \sigma_r: \sigma_r^{-1} kp_r^n \cap KP_s^n \rightarrow \sigma_s^{-1} kp_r^n \cap KP_s^n$$

is given by

$$\sigma_s^{-1} \circ \sigma_r(x) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_{s-1} \\ y_{s+1} \\ \vdots \\ y_{n+1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Where

$$y_i = \begin{cases} x_j x_s^{-1} & \text{if } j \neq r, s, \\ x_s^{-1} & \text{if } j = r. \end{cases}$$

These $(n+1)$ charts form the standard atlas for n -dimensional projective space over k .

An alternative description of KP^n is given by considering the action of the subgroup

$$k_1^x = \{z \in k^x : |z| = 1\} \leq k^x$$

on the unit sphere $S^{(n+1)d-1} \subseteq k_0^{n+1}$. Notice that every element $[x] \in KP^n$ contains elements of S^n .

Furthermore, if $x, y \in k_0^{n+1}$ have unit length $|x| = |y| = 1$, then $[x] = [y]$ if and only if $y = xz^{-1}$ for some $z \in k_1^x$. This means we can also view kP^n as the orbit space of this action of k_1^x on $S^{(n+1)d-1}$, and we also write the quotient map as $q_n: S^{(n+1)d-1} \rightarrow kP^n$; this map is also smooth.

Proposition (3.1.8):

The quotient space given by the map $q_n: S^{(n+1)d-1} \rightarrow kP^n$ is compact Hausdorff.

Proof:

This follows from the standard fact that the image of a compact space under a continuous mapping is compact.

Consider the action of $O(n+1)$ on the unit sphere $S^n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. Then for $A \in O(n+1)$, $z = \pm 1$ and $x \in S^n$, we have

$$A(xz^{-1}) = (Ax)_z^{-1}$$

Hence there is an induced action of $O(n+1)$ on $\mathbb{R}P^n$ given by

$$A \cdot [x] = [Ax].$$

This action is transitive and also the matrices $\pm I_{n+1}$ fix every point of $\mathbb{R}P^n$. There is also an action of $SO(n+1)$ on $\mathbb{R}P^n$; notice that $-I_{n+1} \in SO(n+1)$ only if n is odd.

Similarly, $U(n+1)$ and $SU(n+1)$ act on $\mathbb{C}P^n$ with scalar matrices wI_{n+1} ($w \in \mathbb{C}_1^\times$) fixing every element. Notice that if $wI_{n+1} \in SU(n+1)$ then $w^{n+1} = 1$, so there are exactly $(n+1)$ such values.

Finally, $Sp(n+1)$ acts on $\mathbb{H}P^n$ and the matrices $\pm I_{n+1}$ fix everything.

There are some important new quotient Lie groups associated to these actions, the projective unitary, special unitary and quaternionic symplectic groups

$$PU(n+1) = U(n+1)/\{\omega I_{n+1} : \omega \in \mathbb{C}_1^\times\},$$

$$PSU(n+1) = SU(n+1)/\{\omega I_{n+1} : \omega^{n+1} = 1\}$$

$$PSp(n+1) = Sp(n+1)/\{\mp I_{n+1}\}$$

Projective spaces are themselves homogeneous spaces. Consider the subgroup of $O(n+1)$ consisting of elements of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n-1} & 0 \\ a_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n-11} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \pm 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

We denote this subgroup of $O(n+1)$ by $O(n) \times O(1)$. There is a subgroup $\widetilde{O}(n) \leq SO(n+1)$ whose elements have the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n-1} & 0 \\ a_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n-11} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \omega \end{bmatrix}$$

Where

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n-1} \\ a_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ a_{n-11} & \ddots & \ddots & a_{n-1n-1} \end{bmatrix} \in o(n), w = \det \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n-1} \\ a_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ a_{n-11} & \ddots & \ddots & a_{n-1n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Similarly, there subgroup $U(n) \times U(1) \leq U(n+1)$ whose elements have the form.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{11} & \mathbf{a}_{12} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{1n-1} & 0 \\ \mathbf{a}_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_{n-11} & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{a}_{n-1n-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \omega \end{bmatrix}$$

and $\check{U}(n) \leq SU(n+1)$ with elements

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{11} & \mathbf{a}_{12} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{1n-1} & 0 \\ \mathbf{a}_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_{n-11} & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{a}_{n-1n-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \omega \end{bmatrix}$$

Where

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{11} & \mathbf{a}_{12} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{1n-1} \\ \mathbf{a}_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \mathbf{a}_{n-11} & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{a}_{n-1n-1} \end{bmatrix} \in U(n), \quad w = \det \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{11} & \mathbf{a}_{12} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{1n-1} \\ \mathbf{a}_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \mathbf{a}_{n-11} & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{a}_{n-1n-1} \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

Finally we have $\text{Sp}(n) \times \text{Sp}(1) \in \text{Sp}(n+1)$ consisting of matrices of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{11} & \mathbf{a}_{12} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{1n-1} & 0 \\ \mathbf{a}_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_{n-11} & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{a}_{n-1n-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \omega \end{bmatrix}$$

Proposition (3.1.9):

There are diffeomorphisms between

- $\mathbb{R}P^n$ and $O(n+1)/O(n) \times O(1)$, $SO(n+1)/\widetilde{O}(n)$;
- $\mathbb{C}P^n$ and $U(n+1)/U(n) \times U(1)$, $SU(n+1)/\widetilde{U}(n)$;
- $\mathbb{H}P^n$ and $Sp(n+1)/Sp(n) \times Sp(1)$.

There are similar homogeneous space of the general and special linear groups giving these projective spaces. We illustrate this with one example.

$SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ contains the matrix subgroup P consisting of its lower triangular matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} u & 0 \\ w & v \end{bmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{C})$$

This is often called a parabolic subgroup.

Proposition (3.1.10):

$\mathbb{C}P^1$ is diffeomorphic to $SL_2(\mathbb{C})/P$.

Proof:

There is smooth map

$$\psi: SL_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^1; \psi(A) = [Ae_2].$$

Notice that for $B = \begin{bmatrix} u & 0 \\ w & v \end{bmatrix} \in P$,

$$\begin{bmatrix} u & 0 \\ w & v \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{bmatrix},$$

hence $[(AB)e_2] = [Ae_2]$ for any $A \in SL_2(\mathbb{C})$. This means that $\psi(A)$ only depends on the coset $AP \in SL_2(\mathbb{C})/P$. It is easy to see that ψ is onto and that the induced map $SL_2(\mathbb{C})/P \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^1$ is injective.

In the following we will discuss Grassmannians.

There are some important families of homogeneous spaces directly generalizing projective spaces.

These are the real, complex and quaternionic Grassmannians which we now define:

Let $O(k) \times O(n-k) \leq O(n)$ be closed the subgroup whose elements have the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & O_{k,n-k} \\ O_{n-k,k} & B \end{bmatrix} (A \in O(k), B \in O(n-k))$$

Similarly there are closed subgroups $U(k) \times U(n-k) \leq U(n)$ and $Sp(k) \times Sp(n-k) \leq Sp(n)$ with elements

$$U(k) \times U(n-k): \begin{bmatrix} A & O_{k,n-k} \\ O_{n-k,k} & B \end{bmatrix} (A \in U(k), B \in U(n-k));$$

$$Sp(k) \times Sp(n-k): \begin{bmatrix} A & O_{k,n-k} \\ O_{n-k,k} & B \end{bmatrix} (A \in Sp(k), B \in Sp(n-k));$$

The associated homogeneous spaces are the Grassmannians

$$Gr_{k,n}(\mathbb{R}) = O(n)/O(k) \times O(n-k);$$

$$Gr_{k,n}(\mathbb{C}) = U(n)/U(k) \times U(n-k);$$

$$Gr_{k,n}(\mathbb{H}) = Sp(n)/Sp(k) \times Sp(n-k);$$

Proposition (3.1.11):

For $k= \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}$, the Grassmannian $Gr_{k,n}(k)$ can be viewed as the set of all k -dimensional k -vector subspaces in k^n .

Proof:

We describe the case $k = R$, the others being similar.

Associated to element $W \in O(n)$ is the subspace spanned by the first k columns of W , say w_1, \dots, w_k ; we will denote this subspace by $\langle w_1, \dots, w_k \rangle$. As the columns of W are an orthonormal set, they are linearly independent, hence $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} \langle w_1, \dots, w_k \rangle = k$. Notice that the remaining $(n-k)$ columns give rise to another subspace $\langle w_{k+1}, \dots, w_n \rangle$ of dimension $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} \langle w_{k+1}, \dots, w_n \rangle = n-k$. In fact these are mutually orthogonal in the sense that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle w_{k+1}, \dots, w_n \rangle &= \langle w_1, \dots, w_k \rangle^{\perp} \\ &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; x \cdot w_r = 0, r = 1, \dots, k\}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle w_1, \dots, w_k \rangle &= \langle w_{k+1}, \dots, w_n \rangle^{\perp} \\ &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; x \cdot w_r = 0, r = k+1, \dots, n\}, \end{aligned}$$

For a matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & O_{k, n-k} \\ O_{n-k, k} & B \end{bmatrix} \in O(k) \times O(n-k),$$

The columns in the product

$$W' = W \begin{bmatrix} A & O_{k, n-k} \\ O_{n-k, k} & B \end{bmatrix}$$

span subspaces $\langle w'_1, \dots, w'_k \rangle$ and $\langle w'_{k+1}, \dots, w'_n \rangle$. But note that w'_1, \dots, w'_k are orthonormal and also linear combinations of w_1, \dots, w_k ; similarly, w'_{k+1}, \dots, w'_n are linear combinations of w_{k+1}, \dots, w_n .

Hence

$$\langle w'_1, \dots, w'_k \rangle = \langle w_1, \dots, w_k \rangle, \langle w'_{k+1}, \dots, w'_n \rangle = \langle w_{k+1}, \dots, w_n \rangle.$$

So there is a well defined function

$O(n)/O(k) \times O(n-k) \rightarrow k$ -dimensional vector subspaces of \mathbb{R}^n

Which sends the coset of W to the subspace $\langle w_1, \dots, w_k \rangle$. This is actually a bijection.

Notice also that there is another bijection

$O(n)/O(k) \times O(n-k) \rightarrow (n-k)$ -dimensional vector subspaces of \mathbb{R}^n

Which sends the coset of W to the subspace $\langle w_{k+1}, \dots, w_n \rangle$. This corresponds to a diffeomorphism $Gr_{k,n}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow Gr_{n-k,n}(\mathbb{R})$ which in turn corresponds to the obvious isomorphism $O(k) \times O(n-k) \rightarrow O(n-k) \times O(k)$ induced by conjugation by a suitable element $P \in O(n)$.

Section (3.2): Connectivity of Matrix Groups.

In the following we will discuss connectivity of manifolds.

Definition (3.2.1):

A topological space X is connected if whenever $X = U \cup V$ with $U, V \neq \emptyset$, then $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$.

Definition (3.2.2):

A topological space X is path connected if whenever $x, y \in X$, there is a continuous path $p: [0; 1] \rightarrow X$ with $p(0) = x$ and $p(1) = y$.

X is locally path connected if every point is contained in a path connected open neighbourhood.

The following result is fundamental to Real Analysis.

Proposition (3.2.3):

Every interval $[a, b], [a, b), (a, b], (a, b) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is path connected and connected. In particular, \mathbb{R} is path connected and connected.

Proposition (3.2.4):

If X is a path connected topological space then X is connected.

Proof:

Suppose X is not connected. Then $X = U \cup V$ where $U, V \subseteq X$ are non-empty and $U \cap V = \emptyset$. Let $x \in U$ and $y \in V$. By path connectedness of X , there is a continuous map $p: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ with $p(0) = x$ and $p(1) = y$. Then $[0, 1] = p^{-1}U \cup p^{-1}V$ expresses $[0, 1]$ as a union of open subsets with no common elements. But this contradicts the connectivity of $[0, 1]$. So X must be connected.

Proposition (3.2.5):

Let X be a connected topological space which is locally path connected. Then X is path connected.

Proof:

Let $x \in X$, and set

$$X_x = \{y \in X : \exists p: [0,1] \rightarrow X \text{ continuous such that } p(0) = x \text{ and } p(1) = y\}.$$

Then for each $y \in X_x$, there is a path connected open neighbourhood U_y . But for each point $z \in U_y$ there is a continuous path from y to z via y , hence $U_y \subseteq X_x$. This shows that

$$X_x = \bigcup_{y \in X_x} U_y \subseteq X$$

is open in X . Similarly, if $w \in X - X_x$, then $X_w \subseteq X - X_x$ and this is also open. But then so is

$$X - X_x = \bigcup_{w \in X - X_x} X_w$$

Hence $X = X_x \cup (X - X_x)$, and so by connectivity, $X_x = \emptyset$ or $X - X_x = \emptyset$. So X is path connected.

Proposition (3.2.6):

If the topological spaces X and Y are path connected then their product $X \times Y$ is path connected.

Corollary (3.2.7):

For $n \geq 1$, R^n is path connected and connected.

It is also useful to record the following standard results.

Proposition (3.2.8):

Let $n \geq 2$. The unit sphere $S^{n-1} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is path connected. In $S^0 = \{\pm 1\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

The subsets $\{1\}$ and $\{-1\}$ are path connected. The set of non-zero vectors $\mathbb{R}_0^n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is path connected.

ii) For $n \geq 1$, the sets of non-zero complex and quaternionic vectors $\mathbb{C}_0^n \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$ and $\mathbb{H}_0^n \subseteq \mathbb{H}^n$ are path connected.

Proposition (3.2.9):

Every manifold is locally path connected. Hence every connected manifold is path connected.

Proof:

Every point is contained in an open neighbourhood homeomorphic to some open subset of \mathbb{R}^n which can be taken to be an open disc which is path connected. The second statement now follows from Proposition (3.2.5).

Theorem (3.2.10):

Let M be a connected manifold and $N \subseteq M$ is a non-empty submanifold which is also a closed subset. If $\dim N = \dim M$ then $N = M$.

Proof:

Since $N \subseteq M$ is closed, $M - N \subseteq M$ is open. But $N \subseteq M$ is also open since every element is contained in an open subset of M contained in N ; hence $M - N \subseteq M$ is closed. Since M is connected, $M - N = \emptyset$.

Proposition (3.2.11):

Let G be a Lie group and $H \leq G$ a closed subgroup. If G/H and H are connected, then so is G .

Proof:

First we remark on the following: for any $g \in G$, left translation map $L_g: H \rightarrow gH$ provides a homeomorphism between these spaces, hence gH is connected since H is.

Suppose that G is not connected, and let $U, V \subseteq G$ be nonempty open subsets for which $U \cap V = \emptyset$ and $U \cup V = G$. the projection $\pi: G \rightarrow G/H$ is a surjective open mapping, so $\pi^U, \pi^V \subseteq G/H$ are open subsets for which $\pi^U, \pi^V \subseteq G/H$. As G/H is connected, there is an element gH say in π^U, π^V . In G we have

$$gH = (gH \cap U) \cup (gH \cap V),$$

Where $(gH \cap U); (gH \cap V) \subseteq gH$ are open subsets in the subspace topology on gH since $U; V$ are open in G . By connectivity of gH , this can only happen if $gH \cap U = \emptyset$ or $gH \cap V = \emptyset$, since these are subsets of $U; V$ which have no common elements. As

$$\pi^{-1}gH = \{gh: h \in H\},$$

This is false, so $(gH \cap U) \setminus (gH \cap V) \neq \emptyset$; which implies that $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$; This contradicts the original assumption on U, V .

This result together with Proposition (3.2.9) gives a useful criterion for path connectedness of a Lie group which may need to be applied repeatedly to show a particular example is path connected. Recall that a closed subgroup of a Lie group is a submanifold.

Proposition (3.2.12):

Let G be a Lie group and $H \leq G$ a closed subgroup. If G/H and H are connected, then G is path connected.

Example (3.2.13):

For $n \geq 1$, $SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ is path connected.

Proof:

For the real case, we proceed by induction on n . Notice that $SL_1(\mathbb{R}) = \{1\}$, which is certainly connected. Now suppose that $SL_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})$ is path connected for some $n \geq 2$.

Recall that $SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ acts continuously on \mathbb{R}^n by matrix multiplication. Consider the continuous function

$$f: SL_n(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n; f(A) = Ae_n.$$

The image of f is $\text{im} f = \mathbb{R}^n - \{0\}$ since every vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$

can be extended to a basis

$$v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n = v$$

of \mathbb{R}^n , and we can multiply v_1 by a suitable scalar to ensure that the matrix A_v with these vectors as its columns has determinant 1. Then $A_v e_n = v$.

Notice that $P e_n = e_n$ if and only if

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} Q & 0 \\ W & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where Q is $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ with $\det Q = 1$, 0 is the $(n-1) \times 1$ zero vector and w is an arbitrary $1 \times (n-1)$ vector. The set of all such matrices is the stabilizer of

$e_n, Stab_{SL_n(\mathbb{R})}(e_n)$, which is a closed subgroup of $SL_n(\mathbb{R})$. More generally, $Ae_n = v$ if and only if

$$A = A_v P \text{ for some } P \in Stab_{SL_n(\mathbb{R})}(e_n).$$

So the homogeneous space $SL_n(\mathbb{R})/Stab_{SL_n(\mathbb{R})}(e_n)$ is homeomorphic to R_0^n .

Since $n \geq 2$, it is well known that R_0^n is path connected, hence is connected.

This implies that $SL_n(\mathbb{R})/Stab_{SL_n(\mathbb{R})}(e_n)$ is connected.

The subgroup $SL_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})/Stab_{SL_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})}(e_n)$ is closed and the well defined map

$$Stab_{SL_n(\mathbb{R})}(e_n) = SL_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-1}; \begin{bmatrix} Q & 0 \\ W & 1 \end{bmatrix} SL_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow (wQ^{-1})^T$$

is a homeomorphism so the homogeneous space $Stab_{SL_n(\mathbb{R})}(e_n) / SL_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})$ is homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^{n-1} .

Hence by Corollary (3.2.7) together with the inductive assumption, $Stab_{SL_n(\mathbb{R})}(e_n)$ is path connected. We can combine this with the connectivity of R_0^n to deduce that $SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ is path connected, demonstrating the inductive step.

Example (3.2.14):

For $n \geq 1$, $GL_n^+(\mathbb{R})$ is path connected.

Proof:

Since $SL_n(\mathbb{R}) \leq GL_n^+(\mathbb{R})$, it suffices to show that $GL_n^+(\mathbb{R})/SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ is path connected. But for this we can use the determinant to define a continuous map.

$$\det: GL_n^+(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ = (0, \infty),$$

Which is surjective onto a path connected space. The homogeneous space $GL_n^+(\mathbb{R})/SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ is then diffeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^+ and hence is path connected. So $GL_n^+(\mathbb{R})$ is path connected.

This shows that

$$GL_n(\mathbb{R}) = GL_n^+(\mathbb{R}) \cup GL_n^-(\mathbb{R})$$

is the decomposition of $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ into two path connected components.

Example (3.2.15):

For $n \geq 1$, $SO(n)$ is path connected. Hence

$$O(n) = SO(n) \cup O(n)^-$$

is the decomposition of $O(n)$ into two path connected components.

Proof:

For $n = 1$, $SO(1) = \{1\}$. So we will assume that $n \geq 2$ and proceed by induction on n . So assume that $SO(n-1)$ is path connected.

Consider the continuous action of $SO(n-1)$ on \mathbb{R}^n by left multiplication. The stabilizer of e_n is $SO(n-1) \leq SO(n)$ thought of as the closed subgroup of matrices of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} P & 0 \\ 0^T & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

With $P \in SO(n-1)$ and 0 the $(n-1) \times 1$ zero matrix. The orbit of e_n is the unit sphere S^{n-1} which is path connected. Since the orbit space is also diffeomorphic to $SO(n)/SO(n-1)$ we have the inductive step.

Example (3.2.16):

For $n \geq 1$, $U(n)$ and $SU(n)$ are path connected.

Proof:

For $n = 1$, $U(1)$ is the unit circle in \mathbb{C} while $SU(1) = \{1\}$, so both of these are pathconnected. Assume that $U(n-1)$ and $SU(n-1)$ are path connected for some $n \geq 2$.

Then $U(n)$ and $SU(n)$ act on \mathbb{C}^n by matrix multiplication,

$$Stab_{U(n)}(e_n) = U(n-1), Orb_{SU(n)}(e_n) = SU(n-1).$$

We also have

$$Orb_{U(n)}(e_n) = Orb_{SU(n)}(e_n) = S^{2n-1}$$

where $S^{2n-1} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n \cong \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ denotes the unit sphere consisting of unit vectors. Since S^{2n-1} is pathconnected, we can deduce that $U(n)$ and $SU(n)$ are too, which gives the inductive step.

In the following we will discuss the path components of a Lie group

Let G be a Lie group. We say that two elements $x, y \in G$ are connected by a path in G if there is a continuous path $p: [0,1] \rightarrow G$ with $p(0) = x$ and $p(1) = y$; we will then write $x \sim_G y$.

Lemma (3.2.17):

\sim_G is an equivalence relation on G .

For $g \in G$, we can consider the equivalence class of g , the path component of g in G ,

$$G_g = \{x \in G: x \sim_G g\}$$

Proposition (3.2.18):

The path component of the identity is a clopen normal subgroup of G , $G_1 \triangleleft G$; hence it is a closed Lie subgroup of dimension $\dim G$.

The path component G_g agrees with the coset of g with respect to G_1 , $G_g = gG_1 = G_1g$ and is a closed submanifold of G .

Proof:

By Proposition (3.2.9) G_g contains an open neighbourhood of g in G . This shows that every component is actually a submanifold of G with dimension equal to $\dim G$. The argument used in the proof of Proposition (3.2.5) shows that each G_g is actually clopen in G .

Let $x, y \in G_1$. Then there are continuous paths $p, q: [0, 1] \rightarrow G$ with $p(0) = 1 = q(0)$, $p(1) = x$ and $q(1) = y$. The product path

$$r : [0,1] \rightarrow G; \quad r(t) = p(t)q(t)$$

has $r(0) = 1$ and $r(1) = xy$. So $G_1 \leq G$. For $g \in G$, the path

$$s : [0,1] \rightarrow G; \quad s(t) = gp(t)g^{-1}$$

has $s(0) = 1$ and $s(1) = gxg^{-1}$; hence $G_1 \triangleleft G$. If $z \in gG_1 = G_1g$, then $g^{-1}z \in G_1$ and so there is a continuous path $h: [0,1] \rightarrow G$ with $h(0) = 1$ and $h(1) = g^{-1}z$.

Then the path

$$gh: [0,1] \rightarrow G; \quad gh(t) = g(h(t))$$

has $gh(0) = g$ and $gh(1) = z$. So each coset gG_1 is path connected, hence $gG_1 \subseteq G_g$. To show equality, suppose that G_g is connected by a path $k: [0,1] \rightarrow G$ in G to $w \in G_g$. Then the path $g^{-1}k$ connects 1 to $g^{-1}w$, so $g^{-1}w \in G_1$, giving $w \in gG_1$. This shows that $G_g \subseteq_g gG_1$.

The quotient group G/G_1 is the group of path components of G , which we will denote by $\pi_0 G$.

Example (3.2.19):

We have the following groups of path components:

$$\pi_0\mathrm{SO}(n) = \pi_0\mathrm{SL}_n(\mathbb{R}) = \pi_0\mathrm{SU}(n) = \pi_0\mathrm{U}(n) = \pi_0\mathrm{SL}_n(\mathbb{C}) = \pi_0\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}) = \{1\},$$

Example (3.2.20):

Let

$$T = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0 \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} : \theta \in \mathbb{R} \right\} \leq \mathrm{SO}(3)$$

And let $G = N_{\mathrm{SO}(3)}(T) \leq \mathrm{SO}(3)$ be its normalize. Then T and G are Lie subgroups of $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ and $\pi_0 G \cong \{\pm 1\}$.

Proof:

A straightforward computation shows that

$$N_{\mathrm{SO}(3)}(T) = T \cup \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -\cos\theta & \sin\theta & 0 \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} : \theta \in \mathbb{R} \right\} = T \cup \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} T.$$

Notice that T is isomorphic to the unit circle,

$$T \cong T; \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0 \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \leftrightarrow e^{\theta i}.$$

This implies that T is path connected and abelian since T is. The function

$$\varphi: G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^x; \quad \varphi([a_{ij}]) = a_{33}$$

is continuous with

$$\varphi^{-1}R^+ = T, \varphi^{-1}R^- = T \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

hence these are clopen subsets. This shows that the path components of G are

$$G_1 = T, \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} T.$$

Hence $\pi_0 G \cong \{\pm 1\}$.

Notice that $N_{SO(3)}(T)$ acts by conjugation on T and in fact every element of $T \triangleleft N_{SO(3)}(T)$ actstrivially since T is abelian. Hence $\pi_0 G$ acts on T with the action of the non-trivial coset given by

Conjugation by the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$,

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0 \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta & 0 \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0 \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

which corresponds to the inversion homomorphism on the unit circle $T \cong T$.

Example (3.2.21):

Let $T = \{x1 + yi: x, y \in R, x^2 + y^2 = 1\} \leq Sp(1)$, the group of unit quaternions. Let $G = N_{Sp(1)}(T) \leq Sp(1)$ be its normalizer. Then T and G are Lie subgroups of $Sp(1)$ and $\pi_0 G \cong (\pm 1)$.

Proof:

By a straightforward calculation,

$$G = T \cup \{xj - yk : x, y \in \mathbb{R}, x^2 + y^2 = 1\} = T \cup jT.$$

T is isomorphic to the unit circle so is path connected and abelian. The function

$$\theta: G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; \theta(t1 + xi + yj + zk) = y^2 + z^2,$$

is continuous and

$$\theta^{-1} = T, \theta^{-1}1 = jT.$$

Hence the path components of G are T, jT . So $\pi_0 G \cong (\pm 1)$.

The conjugation action of G on T has every element of T acting trivially, so $\pi_0 G$ acts on T . The action of the non-trivial coset is given by conjugation with j ,

$$j(x1 + yi)j^{-1} = x1 - yi,$$

corresponding to the inversion map on the unit circle $\mathbb{T} \cong T$.

The significance of such examples will become clearer when we discuss maximal tori and their normalizers.

In the following we will discuss another connectivity result

Proposition (3.2.22):

Let G be a connected Lie group and $H \leq G$ a subgroup which contains an open neighbourhood of 1 in G . Then $H = G$.

Proof:

Let $U \subseteq H$ be an open neighbourhood of 1 in G . Since the inverse map $\text{inv}: G \rightarrow G$ is a homeomorphism and maps H into itself, by replacing U with $U \cap \text{inv}$

U if necessary, we can assume that inv maps the open neighbourhood into itself, i.e., $\text{inv } U = U$.

For $k \geq 1$, consider

$$U^k = \{u_1 \dots u_k \in G : u_j \in U\} \subseteq H.$$

Notice that $\text{inv } U^k = U^k$. Also, $U^k \subseteq G$ is open since for $u_1, \dots, u_k \in U$,

$$u_1 \dots u_k \in L_{u_1 \dots u_{k-1}} U \subseteq U^k$$

where $L_{u_1 \dots u_{k-1}} U = L_{(u_1 \dots u_{k-1})^{-1}}^{-1} U$ is an open subset of G .

Then

$$V = \bigcup_{k \geq 1} U^k \subset H$$

satisfies $\text{inv } V = V$.

V is closed in G since given $g \in G - V$, for the open set $gV \subseteq G$, if $x \in gV \cap V$ there are $u_1, \dots, u_r, v_1, \dots, v_s \in U$ such that

$$gu_1, \dots, u_r = v_1, \dots, v_s,$$

implying $g = v_1, \dots, v_s u_1^{-1}, \dots, u_r^{-1} \in V$, contradicting the assumption on g .

So V is a nonempty clopen subset of G , which is connected. Hence $G - V = \emptyset$, and therefore $V = G$, which also implies that $H = G$.