Nonlinear Signal Processing (2004/2005)

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The Tangent Bundle

Definition [Tangent vector] Let M be a smooth manifold and let p be a point of M. A tangent vector to M at p is a map

$$X_p : C^{\infty}(M) \to \mathbb{R} \qquad f \mapsto X_p f$$

which satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} X_p(af + bg) &= a(X_p f) + b(X_p g) \qquad \text{[linearity]} \\ X_p(fg) &= (X_p f)g(p) + f(p)(X_p g) \qquad \text{[Leibniz rule]}, \end{aligned}$$

for all $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ and $f, g \in C^{\infty}(M)$.

Example 1 [Euclidean space] Let $M = \mathbb{R}^n$ and $a \in M$. Choose a vector $v = (v^1, v^2, \dots, v^n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. The map

$$X_a : C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n) \to \mathbb{R} \qquad f \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n v^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} f(a)$$

is a tangent vector to \mathbb{R}^n at a.

The tangent vector X_a is also written as

$$v^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \bigg|_a.$$

Definition [Tangent space] Let M be a smooth manifold and let p be a point of M. The tangent space to M at p is denoted by T_pM and is a vector space under the operations

$$(X_p + Y_p)f = X_pf + Y_pf (aX_p)f = a(X_pf)$$

for all $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $X_p, Y_p \in T_p M$.

Example 1 [Euclidean space] The tangent space $T_a \mathbb{R}^n$ is finite-dimensional (dimension n). The map

$$\mathbb{R}^n \to T_a \mathbb{R}^n \qquad v = (v^1, v^2, \dots, v^n) \mapsto v^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_a$$

provides an isomorphism.

The ordered set

$$\left\{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^1}\Big|_a, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^2}\Big|_a, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^n}\Big|_a\right\}$$

is called the canonical basis of $T_a \mathbb{R}^n$.





$$V \to T_p V \qquad v \mapsto \frac{d}{dt} f(p+tv) \Big|_{t=0}$$

provides an isomorphism. This identification is written as $V \simeq T_p V$.

• This identification is used in practice as follows. For example, consider $S(n, \mathbb{R})$, the set of $n \times n$ symmetric matrices with real entries. Note that $S(n, \mathbb{R})$ is an n(n + 1)/2-dimensional vector space, hence a smooth manifold with the same dimension.

Let $S_0 \in \mathsf{S}(n, \mathbb{R})$ and consider a tangent vector $\Delta_{S_0} \in T_{S_0}\mathsf{S}(n, \mathbb{R})$. Note that, by definition, Δ_{S_0} is a certain kind of differential operator on $\mathsf{S}(n, \mathbb{R})$.

However, the identification

$$T_{S_0}\mathsf{S}(n,\mathbb{R})\simeq\mathsf{S}(n,\mathbb{R})$$

allows you to represent Δ_{S_0} by a much nicer object: a symmetric matrix ! Within this representation, if you have to compute later the action of Δ_{S_0} on a given smooth function $f : S(n, \mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$ you calculate

$$\Delta_{S_0} f = \frac{d}{dt} f(S_0 + t\Delta_{S_0}) \Big|_{t=0}$$

Note that in the above equation, the symbol Δ_{S_0} is given two different meanings (which come from the identification): in the left hand-side it represents an element of $T_{S_0}\mathbf{S}(n,\mathbb{R})$ (a certain differential operator) whereas in the right hand-side it represents an element of $\mathbf{S}(n,\mathbb{R})$ (an $n \times n$ symmetric matrix). To illustrate: consider the smooth function

$$f : \mathsf{S}(n,\mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$$
 $f(S) = \mathsf{tr}(S^2) - \mathsf{tr}(S).$

Let $\Delta_{S_0} \in T_{S_0} \mathsf{S}(n, \mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathsf{S}(n, \mathbb{R})$. Then,

$$\begin{split} \Delta_{S_0} f &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} f(S_0 + t \Delta_{S_0}) \right|_{t=0} \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \operatorname{tr} \left((S_0 + t \Delta_{S_0})^2 \right) - \operatorname{tr} (S_0 + t \Delta_{S_0}) \right|_{t=0} \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \operatorname{tr} (S_0^2) - \operatorname{tr} (S_0) + t \operatorname{tr} (S_0 \Delta_{S_0} + \Delta_{S_0} S_0 - \Delta_{S_0}) + t^2 \Delta_{S_0}^2 \right|_{t=0} \\ &= \left. \operatorname{tr} (S_0 \Delta_{S_0} + \Delta_{S_0} S_0 - \Delta_{S_0}). \end{split}$$

• For another example, consider

$$\mathsf{L}(n,\mathbb{R}) = \{ X \in \mathsf{M}(n,\mathbb{R}) : X_{ij} = 0 \text{ for } i < j \}$$

the set of $n \times n$ lower-triangular matrices with real entries. Note that $L(n, \mathbb{R})$ is an n(n + 1)/2-dimensional vector space, hence a smooth manifold with the same dimension.

Let $L_0 \in \mathsf{S}(n, \mathbb{R})$ and consider a tangent vector $\Delta_{L_0} \in T_{L_0} \mathsf{L}(n, \mathbb{R})$. The identification

$$T_{L_0}\mathsf{L}(n,\mathbb{R})\simeq\mathsf{L}(n,\mathbb{R})$$

allows you to represent Δ_{L_0} by a nice object: a lower-triangular matrix ! Again, with respect to this representation, if you have to compute later the action of Δ_{L_0} on a given smooth function $f : \mathsf{L}(n,\mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$ you calculate

$$\Delta_{L_0} f = \frac{d}{dt} f(L_0 + t \Delta_{L_0}) \bigg|_{t=0}.$$

Definition [Push-forward] Let $F : M \to N$ be a smooth map between smooth manifolds. For each $p \in M$, we define the push-forward map

$$F_* : T_p M \to T_{F(p)} N \qquad (F_* X_p) f = X_p (F^* f)$$

where $F^*f = f \circ F$ is the pull-back of $f \in C^{\infty}(N)$ by F (note that $F^*f \in C^{\infty}(M)$).

Note that F_* is a linear map:

$$F_*(aX_p + bY_p) = aF_*(X_p) + bF_*(Y_p)$$

for all $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ and $X_p, Y_p \in T_p M$.

Example 1 [Interpretation of push-forwards in Euclidean spaces] Let $F : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ be a smooth map. Let $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $q = F(p) \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Consider the canonical basis for the tangent spaces $T_p \mathbb{R}^n$ and $T_q \mathbb{R}^m$ given by

$$\left\{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^1}\Big|_p, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^n}\Big|_p\right\} \quad \text{and} \quad \left\{\frac{\partial}{\partial y^1}\Big|_q, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial y^m}\Big|_q\right\},$$



respectively.

With respect to those bases, the linear operator $F_* : T_p \mathbb{R}^n \to T_q \mathbb{R}^m$ is given by the derivative matrix of $F = (F^1, \ldots, F^m)$ at p:

$$DF(p) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F^{1}}{\partial x^{1}}(p) & \frac{\partial F^{1}}{\partial x^{2}}(p) & \cdots & \frac{\partial F^{1}}{\partial x^{n}}(p) \\\\ \frac{\partial F^{2}}{\partial x^{1}}(p) & \frac{\partial F^{2}}{\partial x^{2}}(p) & \cdots & \frac{\partial F^{2}}{\partial x^{n}}(p) \\\\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\\\ \frac{\partial F^{m}}{\partial x^{1}}(p) & \frac{\partial F^{m}}{\partial x^{2}}(p) & \cdots & \frac{\partial F^{m}}{\partial x^{n}}(p) \end{pmatrix}$$

Equivalently, this means that, under the canonical identifications

$$T_p \mathbb{R}^n \simeq \mathbb{R}^n$$
 and $T_{F(p)} \mathbb{R}^m \simeq \mathbb{R}^m$

corresponding to

$$a^{i}\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i}}\Big|_{p}\mapsto(a^{1},a^{2},\ldots,a^{n})\quad\text{and}\quad b^{j}\frac{\partial}{\partial y^{j}}\Big|_{F(p)}\mapsto(b^{1},b^{2},\ldots,b^{m}),$$

respectively, the push-forward F_* : $T_p\mathbb{R}^n \to T_{F(p)}\mathbb{R}^m$ is represented by the linear map

$$F_*: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m \qquad F_*(\Delta) = DF(p)\Delta.$$

Lemma [Properties of push-forwards] Let $F : M \to N$ and $G : N \to P$ be smooth maps between smooth manifolds.

- (a) $(G \circ F)_* = G_* \circ F_* : T_p M \to T_{G(F(p))} P$
- (b) $\mathsf{id}_{M*} = \mathsf{id}_{T_pM} : T_pM \to T_pM$

(c) If F is a diffeomorphism, then $F_*: T_pM \to T_{F(p)}N$ is an isomorphism.

Proposition [Tangent vectors are "local" objects] Let M be a smooth manifold and $p \in M$. If $f, g \in C^{\infty}(M)$ coincide on some open subset containing p, then $X_p f = X_p g$.

Proposition [Tangent spaces to open submanifolds] Let M be a smooth manifold, $U \subset M$ an open submanifold and $\iota : U \to M$ the inclusion map. For any $p \in U$, the map $\iota_* : T_pU \to T_pM$ is an isomorphism. In particular, $T_pM = \iota_*(T_pU)$. This identification is written as $T_pU \simeq T_pM$ and $\iota_*X_p \simeq X_p$.

Example 1 [Tangent spaces to open submanifolds of vector spaces] Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space, hence a smooth manifold. Let U be an open submanifold of V and $p \in U$. The last proposition offers the isomorphism

$$T_p U \simeq T_p V.$$

On the other hand, we also have the isomorphism

$$T_p V \simeq V.$$

Concatenating the two isomorphisms we have

 $T_p U \simeq V.$

That is, any tangent vector $\Delta_p \in T_p U$ can be represented by an element of the vector space V. Within this representation, the action of Δ_p on a smooth function $f : U \to \mathbb{R}$ is given by

$$\Delta_p f = \frac{d}{dt} f(p + t\Delta_p) \bigg|_{t=0}.$$

• As an example, consider the set

$$\mathsf{P}(n,\mathbb{R}) = \{ X \in \mathsf{S}(n,\mathbb{R}) : X \text{ is positive-definite} \}.$$

Note that $\mathsf{P}(n,\mathbb{R})$ is an open submanifold of the smooth manifold $\mathsf{S}(n,\mathbb{R})$. Let $P_0 \in \mathsf{P}(n,\mathbb{R})$. We have the isomorphism

$$T_{P_0}\mathsf{P}(n,\mathbb{R})\simeq\mathsf{S}(n,\mathbb{R})$$

which means that any tangent vector $\Delta_{P_0} \in T_{P_0} \mathsf{P}(n, \mathbb{R})$ can be represented by a symmetric matrix ! Again, within this representation, if you have to compute the action of Δ_{P_0} on a given smooth function $f : \mathsf{P}(n, \mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$ you calculate

$$\Delta_{P_0} f = \frac{d}{dt} f(P_0 + t \Delta_{P_0}) \bigg|_{t=0}.$$

• For another example, consider

$$\mathsf{L}^+(n,\mathbb{R}) = \{ X \in \mathsf{L}(n,\mathbb{R}) : L_{ii} > 0 \text{ for all } i \}.$$

Note that $L^+(n, \mathbb{R})$ is an open submanifold of the smooth manifold $L(n, \mathbb{R})$. For $L_0 \in L^+(n, \mathbb{R})$ we have the isomorphism

$$T_{L_0}\mathsf{L}^+(n,\mathbb{R})\simeq\mathsf{L}(n,\mathbb{R})$$

meaning that any tangent vector $\Delta_{L_0} \in T_{L_0} \mathsf{L}^+(n, \mathbb{R})$ can be represented by a lower-triangular matrix !

Example 2 [Cholesky decomposition] The Cholesky decomposition asserts that for any $P \in P(n, \mathbb{R})$ there is an unique $L \in L^+(n, \mathbb{R})$ such that

$$P = LL^T$$
.

In this example, we consider the map

$$F : \mathsf{L}^+(n,\mathbb{R}) \to \mathsf{P}(n,\mathbb{R}) \qquad F(L) = LL^T.$$

We already know that F is bijective. The map F is also smooth (why?). The goal of this example is to compute the push-forward map

$$F_* : T_{L_0} \mathsf{L}^+(n, \mathbb{R}) \to T_{F(L_0)} \mathsf{P}(n, \mathbb{R})$$

at a given point $L_0 \in L^+(n, \mathbb{R})$. Thanks to the isomorphisms

$$T_{L_0}\mathsf{L}^+(n,\mathbb{R})\simeq\mathsf{L}(n,\mathbb{R})$$
 and $T_{F(L_0)}\mathsf{P}(n,\mathbb{R})\simeq\mathsf{S}(n,\mathbb{R})$

the push-forward can be represented by a linear map

$$F_* : \mathsf{L}(n,\mathbb{R}) \to \mathsf{S}(n,\mathbb{R}).$$

We want to find out this linear map.

Let $\Delta_{L_0} \in T_{L_0} \mathsf{L}^+(n, \mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathsf{L}(n, \mathbb{R})$. Note that

$$F_*(\Delta_{L_0}) \in T_{F(L_0)}\mathsf{P}(n,\mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathsf{S}(n,\mathbb{R})$$

is characterized by its action on smooth functions $f\,:\,\mathsf{P}(n,\mathbb{R})\to\mathbb{R}$ as follows:

$$F_*(L_0)f = \frac{d}{dt}f(F(L_0) + tF_*(\Delta_{L_0}))\Big|_{t=0}.$$

Now, take a smooth function $f : \mathsf{P}(n, \mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$. We have

$$F_{*}(\Delta_{L_{0}})f = \Delta_{L_{0}}(F^{*}f)$$

$$= \Delta_{L_{0}}(f \circ F)$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt}(f \circ F)(L_{0} + t\Delta_{L_{0}})\Big|_{t=0}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt}f\left((L_{0} + t\Delta_{L_{0}})(L_{0} + t\Delta_{L_{0}})^{T}\right)\Big|_{t=0}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt}f\left(L_{0}L_{0}^{T} + t(L_{0}\Delta_{L_{0}}^{T} + \Delta_{L_{0}}L_{0}^{T}) + t^{2}\Delta_{L_{0}}^{2}\right)\Big|_{t=0}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt}f\left(L_{0}L_{0}^{T} + t(L_{0}\Delta_{L_{0}}^{T} + \Delta_{L_{0}}L_{0}^{T})\right)\Big|_{t=0}.$$

We conclude that

$$F_*(\Delta_{L_0}) = L_0 \Delta_{L_0}^T + \Delta_{L_0} L_0^T.$$

Example 3 [Smooth charts provide local bases for tangent spaces] Let M be an n-dimensional smooth manifold and (U, φ) a smooth chart on M. Since $\varphi : U \subset M \to \varphi(U) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is a diffeomorphism, the map

$$\varphi_* : T_p U \simeq T_p M \to T_{\varphi(p)} \varphi(U) \simeq T_{\varphi(p)} \mathbb{R}^n$$

is a linear isomorphism. Thus,

$$\left\{\varphi_*^{-1}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^1}\Big|_{\varphi(p)}\right),\varphi_*^{-1}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^2}\Big|_{\varphi(p)}\right),\ldots,\varphi_*^{-1}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^n}\Big|_{\varphi(p)}\right)\right\}$$

is a basis for $T_p U \simeq T_p M$.



For example, consider the unit-circle

$$\mathsf{S}^{1}(\mathbb{R}) = \{ (x^{1}, x^{2}) \in \mathbb{R}^{2} : (x^{1})^{2} + (x^{2})^{2} = 1 \}$$

and the point $p = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$.

The point p is contained in the smooth chart $(U,\varphi),$ where

$$U = \{ (x^1, x^2) \in \mathsf{S}^1(\mathbb{R}) \ : \ x^2 > 0 \}$$

and

$$\varphi : U \to (-1,1) \qquad \varphi(x^1,x^2) = x^1.$$

The one-dimensional tangent space $T_{\varphi(p)}\mathbb{R}$ is spanned by

$$\frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Thus, the one-dimensional tangent space $T_p \mathsf{S}^1(\mathbb{R})$ is spanned by

$$E_{1p} = \varphi_*^{-1} \left(\frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=\frac{1}{2}} \right).$$

Example 4 [Computation of $X_p f$ in coordinates] Let M be an ndimensional smooth manifold and (U, φ) containing $p \in M$. Let $X_p \in T_p M$ be given by

$$X_p = a^i E_{ip}$$
 where $E_{ip} = \varphi_*^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_{\varphi(p)} \right).$

For a smooth function $f : M \to \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$X_{p}f = a^{i}E_{ip}f$$

$$= a^{i}\varphi_{*}^{-1}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i}}\Big|_{\varphi(p)}\right)f$$

$$= a^{i}\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i}}\Big|_{\varphi(p)}f \circ \varphi^{-1}$$

$$= a^{i}\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i}}\Big|_{\varphi(p)}\widehat{f}$$

$$= a^{i}\frac{\partial\widehat{f}}{\partial x^{i}}(\varphi(p)).$$

Example 5 [Computation of F_* in coordinates] Let $F : M \to N$ be a smooth map of smooth manifolds (dim M = m and dim N = n). Let $p \in M$ and $q = F(p) \in N$. Let (U, φ) and (V, ψ) denote smooth charts around p and q, respectively, with $F(U) \subset V$.



Let $\{E_{1p}, \ldots, E_{mp}\}$ and $\{F_{1q}, \ldots, F_{nq}\}$ be basis for T_pM and T_qN , respectively, where

$$E_{ip} = \varphi_*^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_{\varphi(p)} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad F_{jq} = \psi_*^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y^j} \Big|_{\psi(q)} \right).$$

With respect to those bases, the linear operator F_* : $T_pM \to T_qN$ is given by the derivative matrix of the map \widehat{F} : $\varphi(U) \to \psi(V), \ \widehat{F} =$ $\psi \circ F \circ \varphi^{-1} = \left(\widehat{F}^1, \dots, \widehat{F}^m\right)$ which represents F in those coordinates :

$$D\widehat{F}(\varphi(p)) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial \widehat{F}^{1}}{\partial x^{1}}(\varphi(p)) & \frac{\partial \widehat{F}^{1}}{\partial x^{2}}(\varphi(p)) & \cdots & \frac{\partial \widehat{F}^{1}}{\partial x^{n}}(\varphi(p)) \\\\ \frac{\partial \widehat{F}^{2}}{\partial x^{1}}(\varphi(p)) & \frac{\partial \widehat{F}^{2}}{\partial x^{2}}(\varphi(p)) & \cdots & \frac{\partial \widehat{F}^{2}}{\partial x^{n}}(\varphi(p)) \\\\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\\\ \frac{\partial \widehat{F}^{m}}{\partial x^{1}}(\varphi(p)) & \frac{\partial \widehat{F}^{m}}{\partial x^{2}}(\varphi(p)) & \cdots & \frac{\partial \widehat{F}^{m}}{\partial x^{n}}(\varphi(p)) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Definition [Smooth curves] A smooth curve in a smooth manifold M is a smooth map

 $\gamma : (a,b) \subset \mathbb{R} \to M \qquad t \mapsto \gamma(t).$

The tangent vector to γ at $t_0 \in (a, b)$ is the vector

$$\dot{\gamma}(t_0) = \gamma_* \left(\frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t_0} \right) \in T_{\gamma(t_0)} M.$$

Example 1 [Smooth curves in Euclidean spaces] Let

$$\gamma : (a,b) \to \mathbb{R}^n \qquad \gamma(t) = \left(\gamma^1(t), \gamma^2(t), \dots, \gamma^n(t)\right)$$

be a smooth curve in \mathbb{R}^n .

Thus, $\dot{\gamma}(t_0)$ is an element of $T_{\gamma(t_0)}\mathbb{R}^n$ and, therefore, it can be expressed as

$$\dot{\gamma}(t_0) = c^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \bigg|_{\gamma(t_0)}$$

for some constants $c^i \in \mathbb{R}$. Each constant c^i can be found by the usual



trick: $c^i = \dot{\gamma}(t_0) x^i$. That is,

$$c^{i} = \dot{\gamma}(t_{0})x^{i}$$

$$= \gamma_{*}\left(\frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t_{0}}\right)x^{i}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t_{0}}(\gamma^{*}x^{i})$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t_{0}}(x^{i}\circ\gamma)$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t_{0}}\gamma^{i}(t)$$

$$= \frac{d\gamma^{i}}{dt}(t_{0}).$$

The conclusion is

$$\dot{\gamma}(t_0) = \frac{d\gamma^i}{dt}(t_0) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_{\gamma(t_0)}.$$

For a specific example, let $\gamma(t) = (t^2 - 2, \sin(\frac{t}{2}), e^t)$. Then,

$$\dot{\gamma}(\pi) = 2\pi \frac{\partial}{\partial x^1} \bigg|_{(\pi^2 - 2, 1, e^{\pi})} + e^{\pi} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^3} \bigg|_{(\pi^2 - 2, 1, e^{\pi})}.$$

Lemma [Geometrical interpretation of tangent spaces] Let M be a smooth manifold and $p \in M$. Every $X_p \in T_pM$ is the tangent vector to some smooth curve in M.



Definition [Tangent bundle] The tangent bundle of a smooth manifold M is the disjoint union of all the tangent spaces of M:

$$TM = \coprod_{p \in M} T_p M.$$

An element of TM is denoted by (p, X) where $p \in M$ and $X \in T_pM$, or, simply by X_p .

The canonical projection is the map

$$\pi : TM \to M \qquad X_p \mapsto p.$$



Lemma [Tangent bundle is a smooth manifold] Let M be an n-dimensional manifold. Then, TM can be given a smooth structure making it a 2n-dimensional smooth manifold such that $\pi : TM \to M$ is a smooth map and, for each smooth chart (U, φ) in M, $(\pi^{-1}(U), \Phi)$ is a smooth chart in TM where

$$\Phi : \pi^{-1}(U) \to \mathbb{R}^{2n} \qquad v^i E_{ip} \mapsto (\varphi^1(p), \dots, \varphi^n(p); v^1, \dots, v^n)$$

and

$$E_{ip} = \varphi_*^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_{\varphi(p)} \right).$$





Definition [Smooth vector field] Let M be a smooth manifold. A smooth vector field is a smooth map

$$X : M \to TM \qquad p \mapsto X_p$$

such that the following diagram commutes



 \triangleright Intuition: the vector field X picks a representative in each tangent space

Lemma [Characterization of smooth vector fields] Let M be a smooth manifold and X a vector field on M, that is, a map $X : M \to TM$ such that $\pi \circ X = id_M$. The following are equivalent:

- (a) X is a <u>smooth</u> vector field
- (b) The components of X with respect to any chart on M are smooth
- (c) The function

$$Xf : M \to \mathbb{R} \qquad p \mapsto X_p f$$

is smooth, for each $f \in C^{\infty}(M)$.

Example 1 [Euclidean space] The vector field

$$X = \underbrace{-4x^1 \cos(x^1 + 3x^2)}_{\text{smooth}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^1} + \underbrace{\left(e^{x^1 - x^2} + 3x^2\right)}_{\text{smooth}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^2}$$

is smooth.

References

[1] J. Lee, Introduction to Smooth Manifolds, Springer-Verlag, 2000.

