

Recap

A homogeneous space is a space X on which a Lie Group G act transitively.

Let $x_0 \in X$ and H be the isotropy group of x_0 .

- orbit $G \cdot x_0 = X$
- prop $G/H \cong X$

eg. $S^{n-1} \cong O_n/O_{n-1}$ $H \cong SL_2\mathbb{R}/SO_2$
 $Gr_k(\mathbb{R}^n) \cong O_n/O_{k \times O_{n-k}}$ $\mathbb{P} \cong GL_n\mathbb{R}/O_n$

Symmetric Spaces

Def A Riemannian manifold is

- a manifold X ← a topological space that locally resembles Euclidean space near each point.
- a Riemannian metric g
 - assigns to each point $p \in X$ a positive-definite inner product $g_p: T_p X \times T_p X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

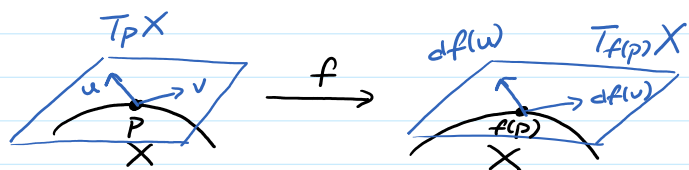
↑
tangent space of X at p
- a vector space

isomorphism
of smooth manifolds

Def An isometry of (X, g) is a mapping $f: X \rightarrow X$ (diffeomorphism) that preserves the metric.

ie. $f: X \rightarrow X$
 $p \mapsto f(p)$

$df: T_p X \rightarrow T_{f(p)} X$
 $u \mapsto df(u)$

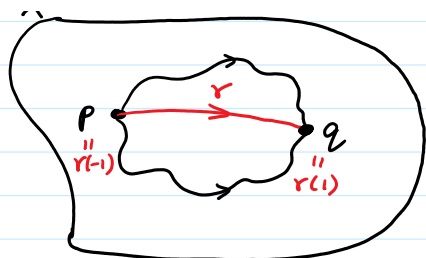


$$g_p(u, v) = g_{f(p)}(df(u), df(v))$$

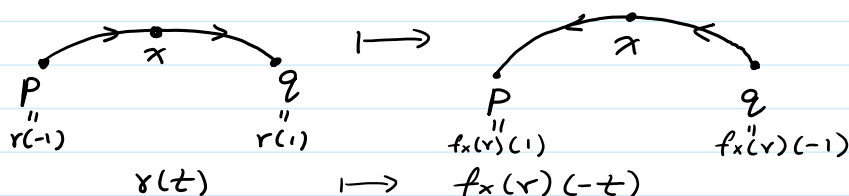
Def The isometry group of X is $I(X) = \{f: X \rightarrow X \mid f \text{ is an isometry}\}$.
 ↑ with function composition

- This is a Lie group.

Def A geodesic on (X, g) is a curve $\gamma: [-1, 1] \rightarrow X$ that is length-minimizing.

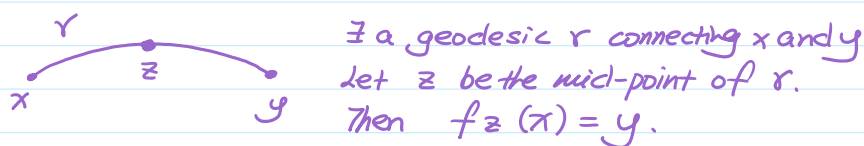


Def (X, g) is a symmetric space if for each $x \in X$, \exists isometry $f_x: X \rightarrow X \in I(x)$ that reverses geodesics through x .



Prop A symmetric space (X, g) is homogenous under the isometry group $I(X)$.

Pf Let $x, y \in X$. (Assume path connectedness)
Find $f \in I(x)$ s.t. $f(x) = y$.



If we fix a point $x_0 \in X$ and let $H = \{g \in I(x) \mid g x_0 = x_0\}$, then $X \cong I(x)/H$

EG-O $X = \mathbb{R}^n$ with the euclidean metric
 $I(x) = E(n) \leftarrow$ Euclidean group

- \mathbb{R}^n is a symmetric space since:
At any point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, point reflection $f_x(x+u) = x-u \in E(n)$
 - Let $x_0 = \text{origin}$.
Then the isotropy group of x_0 is O_n .
- So $\mathbb{R}^n \cong E(n)/O_n$.

Let us still consider our $x_0 \in X$.

Let f_x be the isometry that reverses the geodesics through x_0 .
For easier notation, let $G = I(x)$ be the isometry group of X .
Now, let us consider the following automorphism of G :

$$\alpha: G \rightarrow G$$

$$g \mapsto f_{x_0} \circ g \circ f_x$$

\leftarrow Élie Cartan
complete classification of

$$v: G \rightarrow G$$

$$g \mapsto f_x \circ g \circ f_x$$

← Élie Cartan
complete classification of
order 2 automorphism
of the isometry Lie group
of Riemannian symmetric spaces.

Note that $\alpha^2(g) = f_x \circ g \circ f_x = g \quad \forall g \in G$.

Let $G^\alpha = \{g \in G \mid \alpha(g) = g\}$ be the subgroup of G left fix by α .

G^α may contain multiple connected components. Let us denote the connected component containing the identity (ie identity component) as G_0^α .

Proposition $G_0^\alpha \subseteq H \subseteq G^\alpha$

EG-O Riemannian space \mathbb{R}^n with isometry group $G = E(n)$

Let x_0 still be the origin.

So $f_x(v) = -v$.

$$\Rightarrow \alpha(g)(v) = f_x \circ g \circ f_x(v) = f_x \circ g(-v) = -g(-v)$$

Here, $G^\alpha = O_n$ since:

(\Rightarrow)

$$\begin{array}{l|l} -g(-v) = g(v) \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n & | \Leftrightarrow \\ \Rightarrow -g(0) = g(0) & | g \in O_n \text{ is linear} \\ g(0) = 0 & | \Rightarrow -g(-v) = g(-(-v)) = g(v) \\ g \text{ is an isometry that fixes the origin} & | \\ \Rightarrow g \in O_n & \end{array}$$

So $O_n = \{g \in E(n) \mid \alpha(g) = g\} = G^\alpha$.

Recall that the isotropy group of x_0 is O_n , and the identity component of $G^\alpha = O_n$ is SO_n .

So here we indeed have the isotropy group in between $G_0^\alpha = SO_n$ and $G^\alpha = O_n$.

In fact here, G^α happens to equal to the isotropy group. But this doesn't always happen.

Recall our earlier examples of homogeneous spaces:

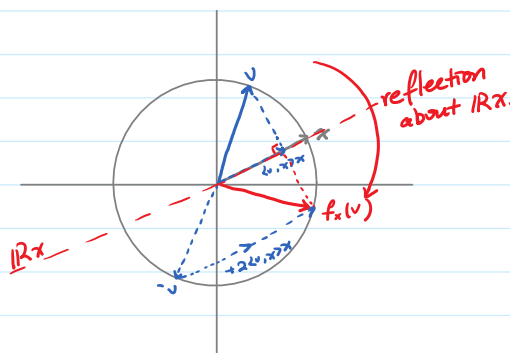
- the sphere S^{n-1} homogeneous under O_n
- the upper half-plane \mathbb{H} under $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$
- the set of symmetric, positive definite, real matrices \mathcal{P} under $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$
- the Grassmannian $Gr_k(\mathbb{R}^n)$ under O_n

These 4 spaces are all symmetric spaces as well.

EG-1 S^{n-1} under Lie group $G = O_n$.

S^{n-1} is a symmetric space since for any $x \in S^{n-1}$, there exists an isometry f_x being the reflection in the line $\mathbb{R}x$.
ie. $f_x(v) = -v + 2\langle v, x \rangle x$

For instance in S^1 :



$$\text{Fix } x_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\text{Then } f_x \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -v_1 \\ -v_2 \\ \vdots \\ -v_n \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2v_1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ -v_2 \\ \vdots \\ -v_n \end{pmatrix}$$

So f_x with respect to the standard basis is $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & -1 & & \\ & & -1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & -1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Consider $\alpha: O_n \rightarrow O_n$
 $g \mapsto f_x g f_x$.

$G^\alpha = O_{n-1} \times O_1$ since:

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -I_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -I_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \\ \Leftrightarrow & \begin{bmatrix} A & -B \\ -C & D \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \\ \Leftrightarrow & B=C=0 \text{ and } \underline{A=\pm 1, D \in O_{n-1}} \\ & \text{to ensure } g \in O_n \end{aligned}$$

Note that G^α contains 4 connected components:

$$O_{n-1} \times O_1 = SO_{n-1} \times \{\pm 1\} \cup SO_{n-1} \times \{-1\} \\ \cup (O_{n-1} \setminus SO_{n-1}) \times \{\pm 1\} \cup (O_{n-1} \setminus SO_{n-1}) \times \{-1\}.$$

The identity component G_0^α is $\{SO_{n-1}\} \times \{\pm 1\} \cong SO_{n-1}$.

Recall that the isotropy group of $x_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is $H = O_{n-1}$.

Indeed we have $SO_2 \leq O_{n-1} \leq O_{n-1} \times O_1$
ie. $G_0^\alpha \leq H \leq G^\alpha$

Complex structures on \mathbb{R}^{2n}

Def A complex structure on \mathbb{R}^{2n} is a linear transformation $J: \mathbb{R}^{2n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ such that $J^2 = -I$.

Let \mathcal{J}_n be the space of complex structures on \mathbb{R}^{2n} that preserves the inner product.

ie. if $J \in \mathcal{J}_n$, then $(J\vec{u}, J\vec{v}) = (\vec{u}, \vec{v}) \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$

ie $\mathcal{J}_n = \{J \in O_{2n} \mid J^2 = -I\}$

Lemma Let $\vec{u} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$, $J \in \mathcal{J}_n$. Then $(\vec{u}, J\vec{u}) = 0$

Proof $(\vec{u}, J\vec{u}) = (J\vec{u}, J^2\vec{u})$
 $= (J\vec{u}, -\vec{u})$
 $= -(J\vec{u}, \vec{u})$
 $= -(\vec{u}, J\vec{u})$

$\therefore 2(\vec{u}, J\vec{u}) = 0$
 $\Rightarrow (\vec{u}, J\vec{u}) = 0$

Prop Let $J \in \mathcal{J}_n$. Then \exists orthonormal basis $\{v_i\}$ of \mathbb{R}^{2n} such that
 $Jv_{2k-1} = v_{2k}, \quad Jv_{2k} = -v_{2k-1}$

ie. \exists orthonormal $\{v_i\}$ s.t.

$$J = P \begin{bmatrix} \begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 \end{array} & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 \end{array} \end{bmatrix} P^{-1} \quad \text{where} \quad P = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & & | \\ v_1 & v_2 & \dots & v_{2n} \\ | & | & & | \end{bmatrix}$$

Proof Pick $\vec{v}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ s.t. $\vec{v}_1 \neq 0$ and $\|\vec{v}_1\| = 1$.
 Let $\vec{v}_2 = J\vec{v}_1$

$V = \text{span}(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2)$ is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^{2n} .

We can split \mathbb{R}^{2n} as
 $\mathbb{R}^{2n} = V \oplus V^\perp$

Then pick \vec{v}_3 and $\vec{v}_4 = J\vec{v}_3$ from V^\perp .
 \vdots

$\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_{2n-1}, \vec{v}_{2n}\}$ is an orthonormal basis
 $\quad \quad \quad J\vec{v}_1 \quad \quad \quad J\vec{v}_{2n-1}$

since $(\vec{v}_{2k-1}, \vec{v}_{2k}) = (\vec{v}_{2k-1}, J\vec{v}_{2k-1}) = 0$ (from previous lemma)

With respect to this basis, we obtain J as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 \end{array} & & \\ & \begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 \end{array} & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \begin{array}{c|c} 0 & -1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 \end{array} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & & \\ & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

As a consequence, any two J 's are conjugate in O_{2n} , since:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } J_1, J_2 \in \mathcal{J}. \\ \text{Then } J_1 &= P A P^{-1} \text{ where } A = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}, P, Q \in O_{2n}. \\ J_2 &= Q A Q^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow J_1 &= P Q^{-1} J_2 Q P^{-1} \\ &= (P Q^{-1}) J_2 (P Q^{-1})^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

So \mathcal{J}_n is homogenous under conjugation action by O_{2n} .

Prop $\mathcal{J}_n \cong O_{2n}/U_n$

Proof:

$$\text{Let } J_0 = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} & & \\ & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

It is sufficient to show $U_n = \{g \in O_{2n} \mid g \cdot J_0 = g J_0 g^{-1} = J_0\}$

□ Consider the embedding

$$\phi: GL_n(\mathbb{C}) \hookrightarrow GL_{2n}(\mathbb{R})$$

mapping each complex entry

$$a+ib \quad \text{to} \quad \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix} \text{ 2x2 block}$$

• ϕ is a homomorphism since

$$(a+ib)(c+id) = (ac-bd) + (ad+bc)i$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c & -d \\ d & c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ac-bd & -ad-bc \\ ad+bc & ac-bd \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi(AB) = \phi(A)\phi(B)$$

• ϕ is injective since $\ker \phi = I$.

$$\square GL_n(\mathbb{C}) = \{A \in GL_{2n}(\mathbb{R}) \mid A J_0 A^{-1} = J_0\}$$

since:

$$\sim A J_0 = J_0 A$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} c & -a \\ d & -b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -b & -d \\ a & c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} c & -a \\ d & -b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -b & -d \\ a & c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow c = -b, d = a$$

$$\square \mathcal{U}_n = \{g \in O_{2n} \mid g \cdot J_0 = g J_0 g^{-1} = J_0\}$$

$$= O_{2n} \cap \{g \in GL_{2n}(\mathbb{R}) \mid A J_0 A^{-1} = J_0\}$$

$$= O_{2n} \cap GL_{2n}(\mathbb{C})$$

$$= \{A \in GL_{2n}(\mathbb{C}) \mid \phi(A) \in O_{2n}\}$$

$$\mathcal{U}^{-1} = \mathcal{U}^*$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \phi(\mathcal{U}^{-1}) = \phi(\mathcal{U}^*) \quad (\phi \text{ injective})$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \phi(\mathcal{U})^{-1} = \phi(\mathcal{U})^T \quad (\phi \text{ homomorphism and } \phi(a - ib) = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ -b & a \end{bmatrix})$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \phi(\mathcal{U}) \in O_{2n}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } \mathcal{U}_n = O_{2n} \cap GL_{2n}(\mathbb{C})$$

is the isotropy group of J_0 .

$$\therefore \mathcal{I}_n \cong O_{2n} / \mathcal{U}_n$$

Def the isotropic Grassmannian $Gr_n^{iso}(\mathbb{C}^{2n})$

$$= \{n\text{-dimensional complex subspace } W \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{2n} \mid W = W^\perp\}$$

$$\uparrow (w, w') = 0 \quad \forall w \in W \text{ where } (\cdot, \cdot)$$

is the \mathbb{C} -bilinear extension of the

inner product of \mathbb{R}^{2n} . $\nwarrow (\vec{u}, c\vec{v}) = c(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) \quad \forall c \in \mathbb{C}$.

$$\text{Prop } \mathcal{I}_n \cong Gr_n^{iso}(\mathbb{C}^{2n})$$

$$J \mapsto W = i\text{-eigenspace of } J$$