




Coordinate Free Calculus

Def: A normed vector space (over \mathbb{R}) is a real vector space E together with a function $\|\cdot\| : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, satisfying

- (1) $\|\cdot\|$ is positive definite: $\|e\| \geq 0 \quad \forall e \in E$ and $\|e\| = 0 \iff e = 0$.
- (2) $\|re\| = |r| \|e\|$ for all $r \in \mathbb{R}, e \in E$
- (3) the triangle inequality: $\|e+f\| \leq \|e\| + \|f\| \quad \forall e, f \in E$.

Examples: (1) \mathbb{R}^n and $\|x\| = \sqrt{\sum_i x_i^2}$ if $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ 

(2) \mathbb{R}^n and $\|x\| = \sum |x_i|$ if $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ 

(3) \mathbb{R}^n and $\|x\| = \sup |x_i|$ if $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ 

(4) $\text{Hom}(E, F)$, the vector space of linear transformations from E to F and $\|T\| = \sup_{\substack{e \neq 0 \\ \|e\|=1}} \frac{\|Te\|}{\|e\|} = \sup_{\|e\|=1} \|Te\|$

Def: Norms $\|\cdot\|_1$ and $\|\cdot\|_2$ are equivalent if there exist real numbers A and $B, A > 0, B > 0$, such that

$$A \|v\|_1 \leq \|v\|_2 \leq B \|v\|_1$$

for every $v \in E$.

Prop: $d(x, y) = \|x - y\|$ makes $(E, \|\cdot\|)$ into metric space, and hence a topological space. The topologies induced by equivalent norms are the same.

Prop: Any two norms on a finite dimensional normed vector space are equivalent.

Cor (Kolmogorov's Thm) There is a unique norm topology on a finite dimensional vector space.

Prop: (1) If V_1, \dots, V_n are finite dimensional vector spaces with the norm topology, the product topology on $V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$ is the same as the norm topology

(2) If $V \subset W$ is a subspace of a finite dimensional vector space the subspace topology on V is the same as the norm topology.

(3) If $f: V \rightarrow W$ is a linear map between finite dimensional vector spaces, then f is continuous.

Unless stated otherwise, all finite dimensional vector spaces will have their norm topology. With topological preliminaries complete, we are ready for some calculus.

Def: If $f: U \rightarrow F$, where U is an open subset of E , and E and F are finite dimensional vector spaces, the derivative of f ,

$$Df: U \rightarrow \text{Hom}(E, F)$$

is

$$Df(x)(v) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} (f(x+tv) - f(x))$$

if this limit exists at each $x \in U$.

We say f is differentiable if Df exists, and we say f is smooth if $D^n f = D(D \dots (Df) \dots)$ exists for every $n \geq 0$.

Notes: (1) If $f: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, with coordinate functions f_1, \dots, f_n (so that $f(x) = (f_1(x), f_2(x), \dots, f_n(x))$), then

$$Df(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1}(x) & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_m}(x) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1}(x) & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_m}(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n)$$

is the familiar Jacobian of f at x .

(2) Boris Mordukhovich informs me that the definition above is called the Gâteaux derivative. We will note shortly that it is also the Fréchet derivative, or best linear approximation.

(3) Since $Df: U \rightarrow \text{Hom}(E, F)$, we see that

$$D^2f: U \rightarrow \text{Hom}(E, \text{Hom}(E, F)) \cong \text{Hom}(E \otimes E, F)$$

$$D^3f: U \rightarrow \text{Hom}(E, \text{Hom}(E, \text{Hom}(E, F))) \\ \cong \text{Hom}(E \otimes E \otimes E, F)$$

etcetera. Here, the vector space $E \otimes E \otimes \dots \otimes E$ (n factors) has basis the set $\{e_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{i_n} \mid e_{i_j} \in \mathcal{E}\}$ where \mathcal{E} is a basis for E . Thus, if $d = \dim(E)$ then $d^n = \dim(E \otimes \dots \otimes E)$. This is a special case of the tensor product of modules. The isomorphism

$$\text{Hom}(E, \text{Hom}(E, F)) \cong \text{Hom}(E \otimes E, F)$$

is the correspondence $(e_i \mapsto (e_j \mapsto f_{ij})) \leftrightarrow (e_i \otimes e_j \mapsto f_{ij})$

(4) If E is n -dimensional, then $E \otimes E$ is n^2 -dimensional. We may thus think of an element of $\text{Hom}(E \otimes E, F)$ as an $n \times n$ matrix with entries in F . Equality of mixed partials for smooth functions implies that D^2f lies in the symmetric matrices.

Now, the definition of Df implicitly assumed the following Lemma.

* Lemma: $Df(x)$ is linear: $Df(x)(av+bw) = aDf(x)(v) + bDf(x)(w)$.

If f is linear, then Df is constant:

Lemma: If f is linear then $Df(x) = f$ for all x .

Our derivative can also be characterized as the Fréchet derivative. Assume f is smooth, $f: U \rightarrow F$, U open in E .

Lemma: For ^{each} $x \in U$ there is a neighborhood N and a positive constant C such that if $x+v \in N$ then

$$\|f(x+v) - f(x) - Df(x)(v)\| < C \|v\|^2.$$

For each $x \in U$, $Df(x)$ is the only linear transformation with this property.

As noted above, D^2f is symmetric. (still assuming f smooth).

Lemma $D^2f(x)(v)(w) = D^2f(x)(w)(v)$

When we construct the tangent bundle to a smooth manifold, we will need to know the derivative of the adjoint

$$\widetilde{Df} : U \times E \longrightarrow F$$

of the derivative Df , defined by $\widetilde{Df}(x, v) = Df(x)(v)$.

Prop: $D(\widetilde{Df})(x, v) : E \times E \longrightarrow F$ is $\begin{pmatrix} D^2f(x)(v) & Df(x) \end{pmatrix}$

That is,

$$D(\widetilde{Df})(x, v)(e_1, e_2) = D^2f(x)(v)(e_1) + Df(x)(e_2)$$

Proof: We simply compute

$$D(\widetilde{Df})(x, v)(e_1, e_2) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} \left(\widetilde{Df}(x+te_1, v+te_2) - \widetilde{Df}(x, v) \right)$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} \left(\widetilde{Df}(x+te_1, v) - \widetilde{Df}(x, v) + t \widetilde{Df}(x+te_1, e_2) \right)$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{1}{t} \left(Df(x+te_1)(v) - Df(x)(v) \right) + Df(x+te_1)(e_2) \right]$$

$$= D^2f(x)(e_1)(v) + Df(x)(e_2)$$

$$= D^2f(x)(v)(e_1) + Df(x)(e_2). //$$

Derivatives of linear maps are quite simple. Bilinear maps are also quite useful, and their derivatives are only a little more complicated. Recall that $B : E \times E \longrightarrow F$ is bilinear if it is linear in each variable separately:

$$B(a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2, w) = a_1 B(v_1, w) + a_2 B(v_2, w), \text{ and}$$

$$B(v, a_1 w_1 + a_2 w_2) = a_1 B(v, w_1) + a_2 B(v, w_2) \text{ for}$$

$a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}, v, v_1, v_2, w, w_1, w_2 \in E$. (In fact a bilinear map

$$B: E \times E \rightarrow F$$

is essentially the same thing as a linear map $E \otimes E \rightarrow F$, though we shall not need this.)

Lemma: $DB: E \times E \rightarrow \text{Hom}(E \times E, F)$ is

$$DB(x, y)(v, w) = B(x, w) + B(v, y)$$

Proof: B is linear in each variable separately, so it is simply

a matter of saying this precisely: $DB = (D_1 B \ D_2 B) =$

$(D(Bi_1), D(Bi_2))$, or in other words,

$$\begin{aligned} DB(x, y)(v, w) &= DB(x, y)(v, 0) + DB(x, y)(0, w) \\ &= D(Bi_1(y))(x)(v) + D(Bi_2(x))(y)(w) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$i_1(y): E \rightarrow E \times E \text{ by } i_1(y)(x) = (x, y)$$

$$\text{and } i_2(x): E \rightarrow E \times E \text{ by } i_2(x)(y) = (x, y).$$

Since $Bi_1(y)$ and $Bi_2(x)$ are linear we get

$$DB(x, y)(v, w) = Bi_1(y)(v) + Bi_2(x)(w) = B(v, y) + B(x, w). //$$

The derivative of a composite

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} U & \xrightarrow{f} & V & \xrightarrow{g} & F \\ n & & n & & \\ E_1 & & E_2 & & \end{array}$$

obeys the chain rule

Prop: $D(gf)(x) = Dg(f(x)) \circ Df(x)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_1 & \xrightarrow{Df(x)} & E_2 \\ & \searrow D(gf)(x) & \downarrow Dg(f(x)) \\ & & F \end{array}$$

Examples: (1) Let $d: E \times E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be an inner product, and hence bilinear. Let $\Delta: E \rightarrow E \times E$ be the diagonal $\Delta(e) = (e, e)$ a linear map. Let $f = d\Delta$, i.e.

$$f(e) = d\Delta(e) = d(e, e)$$

We get $Df(e)(v) = D(d\Delta)(e)(v)$

Def.

$$= Dd(\Delta(e))(D\Delta(e)(v))$$

Chain Rule

$$= Dd(\Delta(e))(\Delta(v))$$

Δ is linear

$$= Dd(e, e)(v, v)$$

Def. of Δ

$$= d(e, v) + d(v, e)$$

d is bilinear.

(2) (Another bilinear map composed with Δ) Let $p: M_n(\mathbb{R})^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

be $p(A, B) = AB^t$, where B^t is the transpose of B . Let

$f(A) = AA^t$, so $f = p\Delta$. Then

$$Df(A)(B) = Dp(A, A)(B, B) = AB^t + BA^t.$$

Examples (1) and (2) will give easy proofs that S^n is an n -manifold, and that $O(n) = \{A \in M_n(\mathbb{R}) \mid AA^t = I\}$ is an $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$ -manifold, shortly. The last example is left as an exercise:

(3) The derivative of the determinant $\det: M_n(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ at the identity $I \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$ is the trace $M_n(\mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{\text{tr}} \mathbb{R}$.

$$D(\det)(I)(M) = \text{tr}(M).$$

Finally, we shall need some theorems related to the Inverse Function Theorem of advanced calculus.

Inverse Function Theorem: Let $f: U \rightarrow F$, U open in E , E and F real vector spaces. If $Df(x)$ is invertible, for some $x \in U$, then there exist neighborhoods V of x and W of $f(x)$, such that $f|_V$ is a diffeomorphism from V to W .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & & \\ \cup & & \\ x \in U & \xrightarrow{f} & F \\ \cup & & \cup \\ x \in V & \xrightarrow[\cong]{f|_V} & W \end{array}$$

Implicit Function Theorem Let E_1 and F be finite dimensional real vector spaces, $U \subset E_1 \times E_2$ open, and $U \xrightarrow{f} F$ smooth. Let $i_1 : E_1 \times \{y\} \rightarrow E_1 \times E_2$ be the inclusion, where $y \in E_2$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (x, y) \in U \cap (E_1 \times \{y\}) & \xrightarrow{i_1} & U \xrightarrow{f} F \\ \cap & & \cap \\ E_1 \times \{y\} & \xrightarrow{i_1} & E_1 \times E_2 \end{array}$$

If $D(f \circ i_1)(x, y) : E_1 \rightarrow F$ is invertible, then there exist neighborhoods V of y in E_2 , and W of x in E_1 , and a unique function $g : V \rightarrow W$ such that $g(y) = x$ and $f(g(y), y)$ is constant for $y \in V$.

Further, g is smooth.

These are the usual inverse and implicit function theorems stated in a coordinate free fashion. Before stating our final version of these theorems, we make an observation.

Lemma: Let f be a smooth function $U \xrightarrow{f} F$ and $x \in U$.

There is a neighborhood of x on which $\text{rank}(Df)$ does not decrease.

Proof: If $\text{rank}(Df(x))$ is k , then there is a $k \times k$ minor in $Df(x)$ with non-zero determinant. This same minor will be non-zero in $Df(y)$ for y in some nhood of x , since Df and \det are continuous. //

Example: $\text{rank } Df(x)$ may increase in every nhood.

Consider $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f(x) = x^2$. Then $Df(x) = (2x)$ which has rank 0 when $x=0$, but rank 1 elsewhere. Thus, $\text{rank } Df(x)$ increases in every nhood of $x=0$.

Our final version of the inverse and implicit function theorems tells us that in many cases, a change of coordinates will transform a function into its derivative, locally. Let $E \supset U \xrightarrow{f} F$ be smooth.

Theorem: If $Df(x)$ has constant rank in some nhood of x_0 , then there exist nhoods V of x_0 and W of $f(x_0)$ and diffeomorphisms $V \xrightarrow{h} V$ with $h(x_0) = x_0$ and $W \xrightarrow{k} W$ with $k(f(x_0)) = f(x_0)$ such that

$$k \circ h(x) = f(x_0) + Df(x_0)(x - x_0).$$