

Info

This note, that [was found here](#), as a part of [a collection](#) is written (completely with human hands) by [Rupadarshi Ray](#), was created on March 22, 2023 4:55:04 PM, was last modified on January 4, 2025 12:32:42 PM, and was exported on September 7, 2026 3:31:11 PM.

Tangent vector fields on a smooth manifold

Rough tangent vector field X on a smooth manifold M is a function

$$\begin{aligned} X : M &\rightarrow \coprod_{p \in M} T_p M \\ p &\mapsto X_p \in T_p M \end{aligned}$$

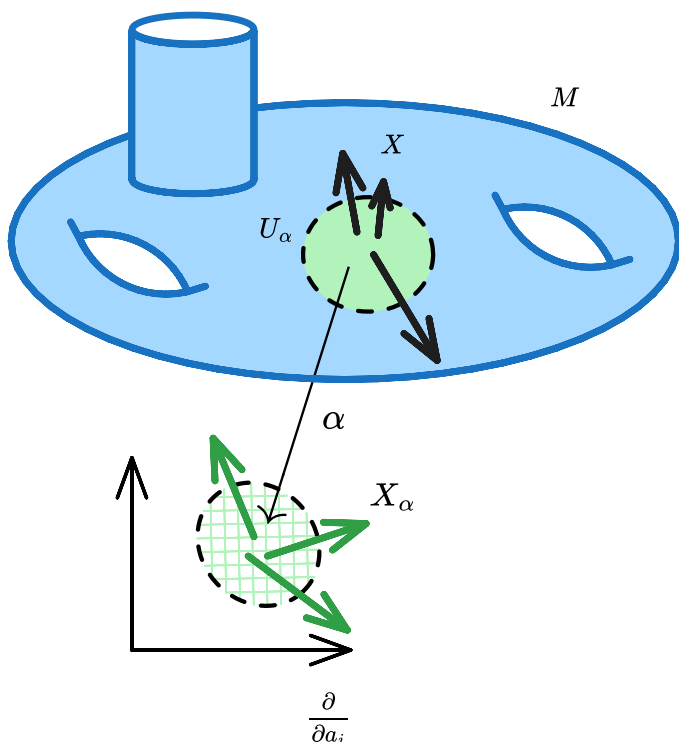
It is *continuous/smooth* if for all charts $(U_\alpha, \underbrace{\alpha}_{U_\alpha \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\dim M}})$, $p \in U$, X_p written in the coordinate basis for $T_p M$ given by α

$$X_p = \sum_{i=1}^{\dim M} X_{\alpha,i}(p) \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_i} \Big|_p$$

makes the map

$$\begin{aligned} X_\alpha : U_\alpha &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \\ p &\mapsto \begin{bmatrix} X_{\alpha,1} \\ X_{\alpha,2} \\ \vdots \\ X_{\alpha,\dim M} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

is a *continuous/smooth* map, which means $X_\alpha \circ \alpha^{-1}$ must be *continuous/smooth* map on $\alpha(U)$.

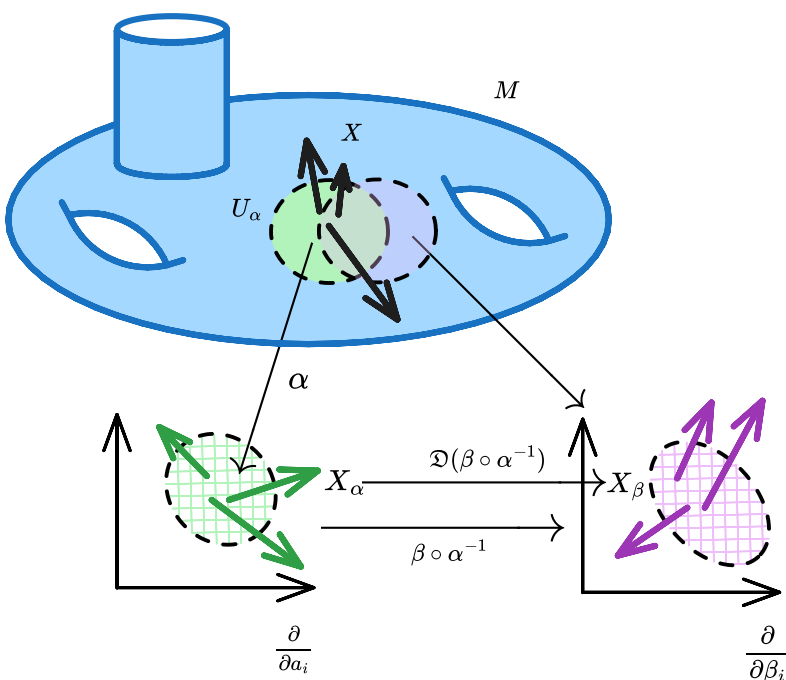


Given the collection of *rough/continuous/smooth* maps

$$(U_\alpha, \alpha) \text{ is a chart} \implies X_\alpha : U_\alpha \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\dim M}$$

is a vector field on $M \iff$

$$(U_\alpha, \alpha), (U_\beta, \beta) \text{ are two charts on } M \implies \mathfrak{D}(\beta \circ \alpha^{-1})(X_\alpha) = X_\beta \text{ on } U_\alpha \cap U_\beta$$



Definition. Tangent vector field on a smooth manifold

A **smooth/continuous/rough tangent vector field** on a smooth manifold M (with/out boundary) is a *section* of the projection $TM \rightarrow M$, that is, a *smooth/continuous/arbitrary* map

$$X : M \rightarrow TM$$

satisfying

$$\pi_{TM} \circ X = \text{Id}_M$$

space of all tangent vector fields

Definition. Smooth sections of TM

$$\Gamma(TM) := \{ \text{smooth sections } M \rightarrow TM \}$$

- *addition* $\Gamma(TM) \times \Gamma(TM) \rightarrow \Gamma(TM)$

$$(X + Y)(p) := X(p) + Y(p)$$

- $\mathbb{R}$ -multiplication $\mathbb{R} \times \Gamma(TM) \rightarrow \Gamma(TM)$

$$(\alpha X)(p) := \alpha X(p)$$

- $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$ -multiplication $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M) \times \Gamma(TM) \rightarrow \Gamma(TM)$

$$(fX)(p) := f(p)X(p)$$


 $(\Gamma(TM), +, \cdot)$ is a $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$ -module and a $\mathbb{R}$ -vector space

- Vector field on smooth manifold M as derivation of $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$
- more operations on $\Gamma(TM)$

-  **Definition.** $[X, Y]$

Given $X, Y \in \Gamma(TM)$, obtain the **Lie bracket of X and Y**

$$[X, Y] : \mathcal{C}^\infty(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$$

defined by

$$[X, Y](f) := XYf - YXf$$

-  **Definition.** Action of vector fields on $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$

If $X \in \Gamma(TM)$, $f \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$ define the multiplication

$$\Gamma(TM) \times \mathcal{C}^\infty(M) \rightarrow \Gamma(TM)$$

such that $(X, f) \mapsto Xf$ where

$$(Xf)(p) := X_p f$$

- Exponential of vector fields
- structure on $\Gamma(TM)$
 - $\mathbb{R}$ -Lie algebra

$$(\Gamma(TM), +, \cdot, [\cdot, \cdot])$$

- $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$ -module
- Index of a vector field

Current note has 4 direct children and 4 total descendants.

- structures based on sets

- manifolds

- smooth $\mathbb{R}$ -manifold

- Tangents on a smooth manifold

- Tangent space of a smooth manifold

- Tangent vector fields on a smooth manifold

- Vector field on smooth manifold M as derivation of $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$

- Exponential of vector fields

- Index of a vector field

- Lie bracket of two smooth vector fields on manifold

And it has 8 siblings.

- structures based on sets

- manifolds

- smooth $\mathbb{R}$ -manifold

- Tangents on a smooth manifold

- Tangent space of a smooth manifold

- Canonical bijection of $T_p M$ with equivalence classes of velocities

- Tangents on smooth manifolds as derivations $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

- local basis of a tangent space of a smooth manifold

- Tangent bundle TM of a smooth manifold M

- Cotangent bundle T^*M on a smooth manifold M

- Comparison of constructions with tangent vectors

- Tangent frames on smooth manifolds

- Tangent vector fields on a smooth manifold