

Isometric embeddings in Carnot groups of step 2

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May 13, 2019

Isometric embeddings

Theorem

If $(V, \|\cdot\|)$ is a normed space with

- $\|\cdot\|$ strictly convex,

then

- geodesics $[a, b] \hookrightarrow V$ are line segments
- isometric embeddings $W \hookrightarrow V$ are affine.

Isometric embeddings

Theorem

If $(G, \|\cdot\|)$ is a sub-Finsler Carnot group with

- G step 2
- $\|\cdot\|$ strictly convex,

then

- infinite geodesics $\mathbb{R} \hookrightarrow G$ are lines
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If $(G, \|\cdot\|)$ is a *sub-Finsler Carnot group* with

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- infinite geodesics $\mathbb{R} \hookrightarrow G$ are *lines*
- isometric embeddings $H \hookrightarrow G$ are *affine*.

Carnot groups

Definition

A *sub-Finsler Carnot group* consists of

- a Lie group G ,
- a *horizontal subspace* $V_1 \subset \mathfrak{g}$, and
- a norm $\|\cdot\|: V_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

such that \mathfrak{g} is stratified:

$$V_{k+1} := [V_1, V_k] \implies \begin{cases} \mathfrak{g} = V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus V_s \\ V_{s+1} = \{0\} \end{cases} .$$

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step 2 $\iff \mathfrak{g} = V_1 \oplus V_2$

Metric and dilations

- A left-invariant geodesic metric:

$$d(g, h) = \min \left\{ \int_0^1 \|\dot{\gamma}(t)\| dt : \dot{\gamma}(t) \in V_1, \begin{array}{l} \gamma(0) = g \\ \gamma(1) = h \end{array} \right\}$$

- \mathfrak{g} stratified $\implies \exists$ dilations $\delta_\lambda : G \rightarrow G$:

$$\delta(\exp(\underbrace{X_1}_{V_1} + \cdots + \underbrace{X_s}_{V_s})) = \exp(\lambda X_1 + \cdots + \lambda^s X_s)$$

$$d(\delta_\lambda(g), \delta_\lambda(h)) = \lambda d(g, h).$$

Affinity

In a normed space V :

Definition

affine = composition of a translation and a linear map

Definition

line = $t \mapsto y + tx$

= a curve through $y \in V$ with constant derivative $x \in V$

Affinity

In a Carnot group G :

Definition

affine = composition of a left translation and a homomorphism

Definition

line = $t \mapsto g \exp(tX)$
 = a curve through $g \in G$ with constant derivative $X \in \mathfrak{g}$

The horizontal space

- V_1 generates $\mathfrak{g} \implies \exp(V_1)$ generates G :

$$g \in G \implies \exists g_1, \dots, g_m \in \exp(V_1) : g = g_1 g_2 \dots g_m.$$

Definition (Horizontal projection)

$$\pi: G \rightarrow V_1, \quad \exp(\underbrace{X_1}_{V_1} + \underbrace{X_2}_{V_2} + \dots + \underbrace{X_s}_{V_s}) \mapsto X_1$$

- The horizontal projection is a submetry

$$\pi(B_d(g, r)) = B_{\|\cdot\|}(\pi(g), r)$$

and a homomorphism

$$\pi(gh) = \pi(g) + \pi(h).$$

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In fact, in step 2:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\cdot\| \text{ strictly convex} &\iff \text{infinite geodesics are lines} \\ &\iff \text{isometric embeddings are affine} \end{aligned}$$

The immediate implications

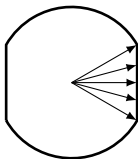
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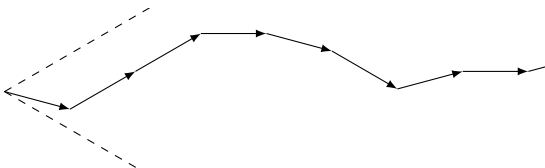
$\|\cdot\|$ **not** strictly convex $\implies \exists$ **non-line** infinite geodesics

- In a normed space:

unit ball



an infinite geodesic

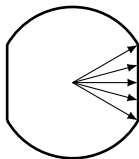


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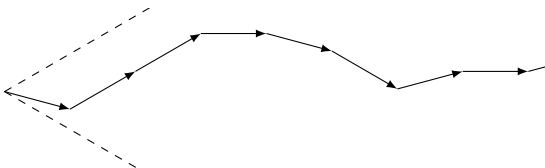
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- In a Carnot group:

geodesic in $(V_1, \|\cdot\|)$ $\xRightarrow{\text{lift}}$ geodesic in G

From geodesics to embeddings

Theorem

In every sub-Finsler Carnot group G :

infinite geodesics \implies *isometric embeddings*
 $\mathbb{R} \hookrightarrow G$ are lines $\implies H \hookrightarrow G$ are affine.

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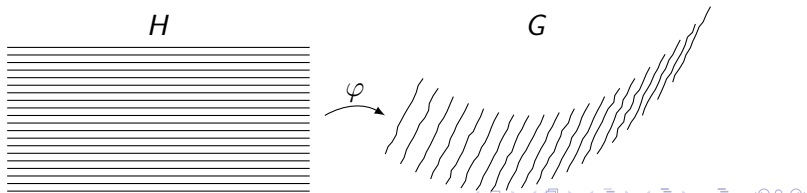
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- Idea:

- $\varphi: H \hookrightarrow G$ isometric embedding, $\varphi(1_H) = 1_G$.
- Foliate H by horizontal lines $t \mapsto h \exp_H(tX)$, $h \in H$, $X \in V_1^H$.
- Study foliation of $\varphi(H)$ by infinite geodesics $t \mapsto \varphi(h \exp_H(tX))$.



From geodesics to embeddings

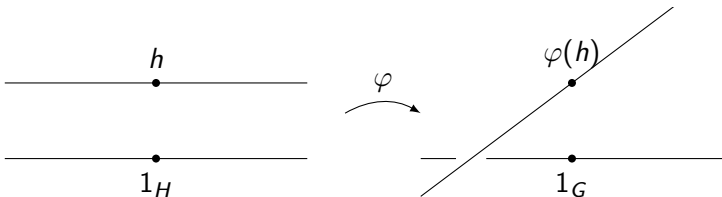
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- Geodesic linearity $\implies \varphi$ maps lines to lines:

$$\varphi(\exp_H(tX)) = \exp_G(tY), \quad Y \in V_1^G$$

$$\varphi(h \exp_H(tX)) = \varphi(h) \exp_G(tZ), \quad Z \in V_1^G.$$



From geodesics to embeddings

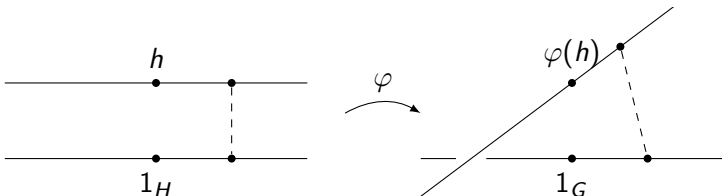
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- Consider the distance

$$d(\exp_H(tX), h \exp_H(tX)) = d(\exp_G(tY), \varphi(h) \exp_G(tZ)).$$



From geodesics to embeddings

- Parallel lines diverge sublinearly:

Lemma

In a Carnot group $\forall h \in G \forall A, B \in V_1$

$$d(\exp(tA), h \exp(tB)) = o(t) \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty \iff A = B.$$

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- $\varphi(hg) = \varphi(h) \varphi(g) \forall h \in H \forall g \in \exp(V_1^H).$

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 $\implies \varphi(h \exp_H(tX)) = \varphi(h) \varphi(\exp_H(tX)).$
- $\varphi(hg) = \varphi(h) \varphi(g) \forall h \in H \forall g \in \exp(V_1^H).$
- $\exp(V_1^H)$ generates $H \implies \varphi$ is a homomorphism.

Infinite geodesics

Theorem

$(G, \|\cdot\|)$ *sub-Finsler Carnot group of step 2.*

$\|\cdot\|$ *strictly convex* \implies *infinite geodesics* $\gamma: \mathbb{R} \hookrightarrow G$ *are lines.*

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- ④ $\|\cdot\|$ strictly convex $\implies a(t)$ has a unique maximum
 $\implies \dot{\gamma}(t) \equiv Y$

Implicit geodesic equation and linear invariants

Proposition (Step 2 sub-Finsler PMP)

For every geodesic $\gamma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$ in a step 2 sub-Finsler Carnot group, there exist

- a dual curve $a: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow V_1^*$, and
- a skew-symmetric bilinear form $B: V_1 \times V_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

such that for a.e. $t \in \mathbb{R}$:

- $\frac{d}{dt}a(t)Y = B(\dot{\gamma}(t), Y) \quad \forall Y \in V_1$
- $a(t)$ is a subdifferential of $\frac{1}{2}\|\cdot\|^2$ at the point $\dot{\gamma}(t)$.

Implicit geodesic equation and linear invariants

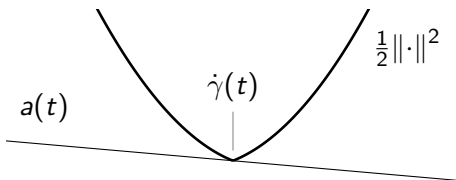
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- $Y \in \ker B \implies \frac{d}{dt}a(t)Y = 0$
 $\implies Y: V_1^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is invariant along any solution.

The asymptotic invariant

Theorem (H. - Le Donne, 2018)

G sub-Finsler Carnot group with strictly convex norm. $\gamma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$ geodesic $\implies \exists H < G$ of lower rank such that $\text{Asymp}(\gamma) \subset H$.

$\implies \exists \lambda_k \rightarrow \infty$ such that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta_{1/\lambda_k} \gamma(\lambda_k t) = \exp(tY) \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$.

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Remark (Monti - Pigati - Vittone, 2018)

γ_k geodesics, $\gamma_k \rightarrow \tilde{\gamma}$ in $L_{loc}^\infty \implies \exists$ subsequence $\gamma_k \rightarrow \tilde{\gamma}$ in $W_{loc}^{1,2}$.

$\implies \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \dot{\gamma}(\lambda_k t) = Y$ for almost every $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

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Proof part 1/3: Suffices to show $\forall t_1 < t_2$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \dot{\gamma}(\lambda_k t) \in \ker B.$$

That is:

$$B \left(\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \dot{\gamma}(\lambda t) dt, X \right) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow \infty \quad \forall X \in V_1.$$

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Lemma

$$\lambda_k \rightarrow \infty \implies Y = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \dot{\gamma}(\lambda_k t) \in \ker B$$

Proof part 2/3:

Proposition (Step 2 sub-Finsler PMP)

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- $\frac{d}{dt} a(t)X = B(\dot{\gamma}(t), X) \quad \forall X \in V_1$

$$\begin{aligned} B\left(\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \dot{\gamma}(\lambda t) dt, X\right) &= \int_{\lambda t_1}^{\lambda t_2} B(\dot{\gamma}(t), X) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda(t_2 - t_1)} (a(\lambda t_2)X - a(\lambda t_1)X) \end{aligned}$$

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Proof part 3/3:

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Proposition (Step 2 sub-Finsler PMP)

...

- $a(t)$ is a subdifferential of $\frac{1}{2}\|\cdot\|^2$ at the point $\dot{\gamma}(t)$.

$$\implies |a(t)X| \leq \|\dot{\gamma}(t)\| \|X\| = \|X\|$$

$$\implies |a(\lambda t_2)X - a(\lambda t_1)X| \leq 2\|X\|.$$

The asymptotic invariant

The asymptotic invariant

$\gamma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$ geodesic $\implies \exists \lambda_k \rightarrow \infty \exists Y \in V_1$:

- $Y = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \dot{\gamma}(\lambda_k t)$ for almost every $t \in \mathbb{R}$
- $Y: V_1^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is an invariant: $a(t)Y \equiv C$.

Subdifferentials – compactness

The asymptotic invariant

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- $a(\lambda_k t)$ is a subdifferential of $\frac{1}{2}\|\cdot\|^2$ at the point $\dot{\gamma}(\lambda_k t)$.

$\implies \exists$ subsequence $a(\lambda_k t) \rightarrow \tilde{a} \in V_1^*$ such that

- \tilde{a} subdifferential of $\frac{1}{2}\|\cdot\|^2$ at the point $Y = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \dot{\gamma}(\lambda_k t)$
- $\tilde{a}Y = C$

Subdifferentials – maximizers

For almost every $t \in \mathbb{R}$:

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$$\tilde{a}Y = \max_{\|X\| \leq \|Y\|} \tilde{a}X \quad \text{and} \quad a(t)\dot{\gamma}(t) = \max_{\|X\| \leq \|\dot{\gamma}(t)\|} a(t)X$$

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- $\|\dot{\gamma}(t)\| = 1 = \|Y\|$

$$\tilde{a}Y = \max_{\|X\| \leq 1} \tilde{a}X = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad a(t)\dot{\gamma}(t) = \max_{\|X\| \leq 1} a(t)X = 1$$

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$$a(t)Y \equiv C = \tilde{a}Y \implies a(t)Y = \tilde{a}Y = 1.$$

$\|\cdot\|$ strictly convex $\implies a(t)$ has a unique maximum
 $\implies Y = \dot{\gamma}(t)$ for almost every $t \in \mathbb{R}$
 $\implies \gamma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$ is a line

Thank you for your attention!