

LECTURE no 2 (A. Agrachev)

Notes by
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Recall that we showed that singular (abnormal) extremals are critical points of a map which is defined totally intrinsic through the boundary / evaluation / endpoint map.

Recall that given the curve $\gamma(t)$ we produce a lift $p(t)$ which is defined through the flow $\Phi_{\tau,t}$ which is related to the choice of the frame.

Let us show that indeed abnormal / singular depends only on the distribution.

We have that

$$D_{\bar{u}} E_{q_0}^1 = \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial u} E_v^1 \right|_{u=\bar{u}} \quad \text{at } q_0$$

In "coordinates"

⊗ Recall that

$$E_{q_0}^1 = E_v^1 \big|_{\Omega_{q_0}} \quad \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \text{endpoint} \\ \uparrow \text{evaluation map} \end{array}$$

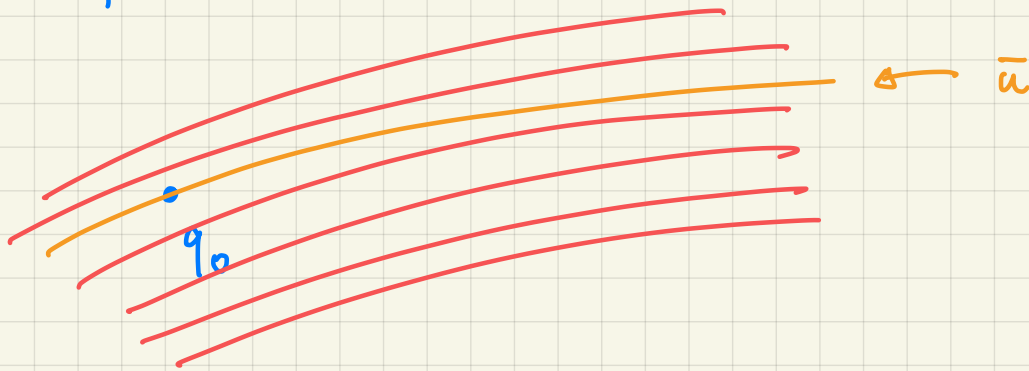
$$E_v^1 : (q_0, u(\cdot)) \rightarrow \gamma_u(q_0, 1)$$

$$E_{q_0}^1 = E_v^1(q_0, \cdot) : u(\cdot) \mapsto \gamma_u(q_0, 1)$$

In particular $\frac{\partial}{\partial q_0} E_v^1 = (\Phi_{0,1})_*$ associated to the good $\bar{u}$.

(notice that $\frac{\partial}{\partial q_0} E_v^1: T_{\bar{\gamma}(0)} M \rightarrow T_{\bar{\gamma}(1)} M$)

notice that $\frac{\partial}{\partial q_0} E_v^1 = \text{id}: T_{\bar{\gamma}(0)} M \rightarrow T_{\bar{\gamma}(0)} M$
 ($\Phi_{0,0} = \text{id}$ by construction.)



So now recall that $\bar{\gamma}$ singular trajectory
 if and only if $\exists \lambda_1$ such that

$$\lambda_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial u} E_v^1 = 0$$

the partial derivatives depends
 on coordinates. We want to
 write in terms of complete diff.

recall
 $\lambda_t = \Phi_{t,1}^* \lambda_1$
 $= \lambda_1 \circ \Phi_{t,1}^*$
 as composition of linear maps.

(*) $\lambda_1 D_{\bar{\gamma}} E_v^1 = \lambda_0 D_{\bar{\gamma}} E_v^0$ ← thanks to this identity.

Now this equation (*) is coordinate independent!

Similarly one can prove the following claim

Exercise The curve λ_t , $0 \leq t \leq 1$, is a singular (abnormal) extremal corresponding to $\bar{\gamma}$ if and only if

$$(**) \quad \lambda_t D_{\bar{\gamma}} E v^t = \lambda_s D_{\bar{\gamma}} E v^s \quad \forall 0 \leq t, s \leq 1.$$

notice that (*) is (**) specified for $\frac{t=0}{s=1}$.
(for $s=t$ is a tautology)

Now the identity (**) is coordinate independent

EXAMPLES

① (Constant curves) ↖ for any metric these have length zero $\Rightarrow$ minimizers.

A constant curve $\gamma(t) = q_0 \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$.

is singular if and only if $\Delta_{q_0} \neq T_{q_0} M$.

Indeed γ is associated with control $u=0$.

Hence we have (check as an exercise!)

$$\cdot) \quad \Phi_{\tau, t} = \text{id}.$$

$$\cdot) \quad D_0 E_{q_0}^1 [W] = \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^k w_i(t) X_i(q_0) dt$$

notice that $\lim D_0 E_{q_0}^1 = \Delta_{q_0}$.

so that λ exists $(\Leftrightarrow) \Delta_{q_0} \neq T_{q_0} M$.

Notice that when $\Delta_{q_0} = T_{q_0}M$ (Riemann. geom)
then no critical point.

Genuine SR structure

$$K < n \Rightarrow$$

constant
loop is
singular

BEFORE GOING TO NEXT EXAMPLE NEED SOME
NOTIONS : POISSON BRACKETS !

Let $g, h: T^*M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$T^*M = \{(p, q)\}$$

$$q \in M, \quad p \in T_q^*M.$$

coordinates

we introduce the

Poisson Bracket $\{h, g\}: T^*M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\{h, g\}(p, q) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial h}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial g}{\partial q_i} - \frac{\partial g}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial h}{\partial q_i}$$

The Poisson Bracket extends the Lie Bracket
in the following sense:

$$\text{if } h(p, q) = \langle p, X(q) \rangle \quad g(p, q) = \langle p, Y(q) \rangle$$

$$\text{then } \{h, g\}(p, q) = \langle p, [X, Y](q) \rangle$$

Morally we can see $\text{Vec}(M) \hookrightarrow C^\infty(T^*M)$

include as linear functions of p .

"the Poisson bracket for such a f . is the Lie bracket."

Given an Hamiltonian $h: T^*M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
we define the Hamiltonian vector field

$$\vec{h} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial h}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} - \frac{\partial h}{\partial q_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i}$$

then we have

$$\vec{h} g = \{h, g\}$$

exercise:
check this!

↑
differentiate the function g
along the vector field $\vec{h}$

Next we go to the next class of examples

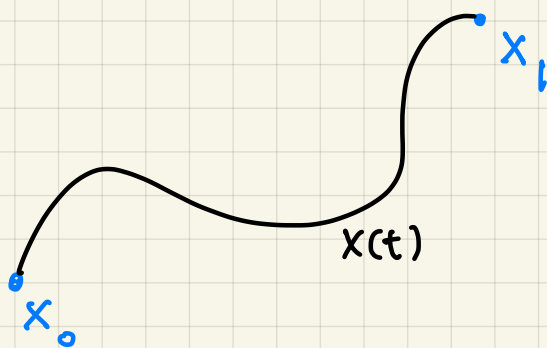
② Isoperimetric problems on $\mathbb{R}^2$

Let $\mathbb{R}^2 = \{(x_1, x_2)\}$ and we consider curves
That solves the problem.

Given $a: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$
and a constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$
we consider the problem

$$\inf \left\{ l(x(\cdot)) \mid \int_0^1 \underbrace{\langle a(x(t)), \dot{x}(t) \rangle}_{\sum_{i=1}^2 a_i(x(t)) \dot{x}_i(t)} dt = c \right\}$$

interpretation
in a 3D
space.



let us consider the curve $(x(t), y(t)) := \gamma(t)$

where

$$y(t) = \int_0^t \langle a(x(s)), \dot{x}(s) \rangle ds$$

the constant
we fixed.

then we have $y(0) = 0$ and $y(1) = c$

let $M = \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ admissible curves $\gamma(t)$
are solutions to the diff. eq.

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = u_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 = u_2 \\ \dot{y} = u_1 a_1(x) + u_2 a_2(x) \end{cases} \quad (\Rightarrow) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{y} \end{pmatrix} = u_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ a_1(x) \end{pmatrix} + u_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ a_2(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

so it is like $X_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ a_1(x) \end{pmatrix}$ $X_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ a_2(x) \end{pmatrix}$

Write $q = (x, y)$ then admissible curves are
solutions to $\dot{q} = u_1 X_1(q) + u_2 X_2(q)$

Horizontal curves that connect
 (x_0, y_0) with (x_1, y_1)

1-1 correspondence

Plane curves $x(t)$ such that $\int_0^1 \langle a(x(t)), \dot{x}(t) \rangle dt = y_1 - y_0$
in $\mathbb{R}^2$

RK: invariance wth respect to third variable.

Exercise, show that the Heisenberg group case corresponds to a sp. case of this. For which a ?

let us check the bracket-generating condition.

$$[X_1, X_2] = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{\partial a_2}{\partial x_1} - \frac{\partial a_1}{\partial x_2} \end{pmatrix} =: \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ b(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

↑ function of x which we call b .
(not of y)

All the problem is characterized by the function b . We can write

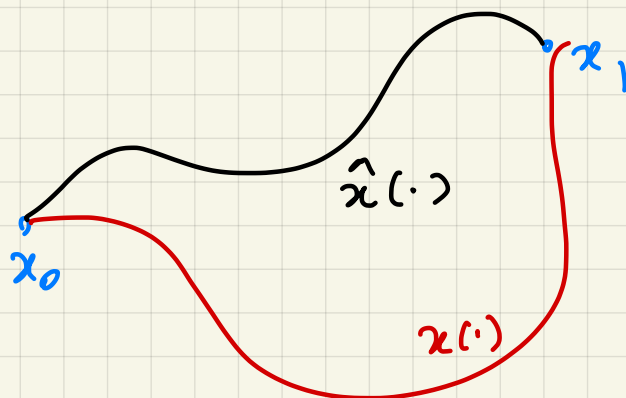
$$\int_0^1 \langle a(x(t)), \dot{x}(t) \rangle dt = \int_{\gamma(\cdot)} A$$

↑ integral of a 1-form over a curve.

where $A = a_1(x) dx_1 + a_2(x) dx_2$

RK! If we have two curves $\gamma(\cdot)$, $\hat{\gamma}(\cdot)$ connects two fixed points x_0 , x_1 and such that

$$\int_{\gamma(\cdot)} A = \int_{\hat{\gamma}(\cdot)} A$$



Then adding an exact part to A the result does not change.

$$\int_{\gamma(\cdot)} A + d\varphi = \int_{\hat{\gamma}(\cdot)} A + d\varphi$$

the value of the integral change but we have the same minimizers.

Recall that in $\mathbb{R}^2$ exact forms $(\Rightarrow)$ closed forms.

Now if we consider the isoperimetric structures associated to the form A^1 and A^2 are equiv.

if $A^1 - A^2$ is an exact form

$(\Rightarrow)$ $A^1 - A^2$ is a closed form

$(\Rightarrow)$ $dA^1 = dA^2$ (here $d = \text{exterior diff}$).

So the problem (up to translation in vert var) depends only on dA .

$$dA = d(a_1(x) dx_1 + a_2(x) dx_2)$$

$$= -\frac{\partial a_1}{\partial x_2} dx_1 \wedge dx_2 + \frac{\partial a_2}{\partial x_1} dx_1 \wedge dx_2$$

$$\text{so } dA = b(x) dx_1 \wedge dx_2$$

Now we come back to our questions.

Exercise Prove that $\Delta = \text{span}\{X_1, X_2\}$ is bracket-generating distribution if and only if at least one partial derivative of b is not zero everywhere.

$$\frac{\partial^{i_1 \dots i_k}}{\partial x_{i_1} \dots \partial x_{i_k}} b(x) \neq 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \quad i_j \in \{1, 2\}.$$

(!) In the Heisenberg group $b(x) = \text{const} \neq 0$.
so already 1 bracket is sufficient to span $\mathbb{R}^3$.

Now we compute abnormal curves, we use a very general method.

Recall that abnormal curves are characterized through the equations for $\lambda(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq 1$.

$$\lambda = (\underbrace{p_{x_1}, p_{x_2}, p_y}_p, \underbrace{x_1, x_2, y}_q) = (p, q)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\lambda}(t) &= u_1 \vec{h}_1(\lambda(t)) + u_2 \vec{h}_2(\lambda(t)) \\ h_1(\lambda(t)) &= h_2(\lambda(t)) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

abnormal equations

the second line can be differentiated and we get that $0 = \frac{d}{dt} h_1(\lambda(t)) = \frac{d}{dt} h_2(\lambda(t))$

$$0 = \frac{d}{dt} h_1(\lambda(t)) = (\vec{u}_1 \vec{h}_1 + \vec{u}_2 \vec{h}_2) (h_1) \quad \leftarrow \text{omit the evaluation at } \lambda(t)$$

$$= \{ u_1 h_1 + u_2 h_2, h_1 \}$$

use Poisson
brackets.
and linearity

$$= u_1 \{ h_1, h_1 \} + u_2 \{ h_2, h_1 \}$$

"
skew-symmetry

linear in p
associated to $[x_2, x_1]$.
"
 $b(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$

$$= -u_2(t) b(x) p_y$$

Similarly we have

$$0 = \frac{d}{dt} h_2(\lambda(t)) = \dots = +u_1(t) b(x) p_y$$

We can conclude

$$\begin{cases} u_2(t) b(x(t)) p_y(t) = 0 \\ u_1(t) b(x(t)) p_y(t) = 0 \end{cases}$$

along the trajectory $(x(t), y(t))$
assoc. to controls $u_1(t), u_2(t)$.

Claim : if $b(x) \neq 0$ everywhere then $u_1(t) = u_2(t) = 0$.
(for all t)

indeed if $p_y = 0$ we immediately

from

$$0 = h_1 = p_{x_1} - a p_y$$

$$0 = h_2 = p_{x_2} + a p_y$$

$$\Rightarrow p_y = 0 = p_{x_1} = p_{x_2}$$

not possible that $p=0$

So we have that abnormal curves
necessarily lives in the set $\{b=0\}$

Proposition A curve $(x(t), y(t))$ is abnormal
if and only if $b(x(t)) \equiv 0$

pf $\Rightarrow$ | previous discussion

$\Leftarrow$ | if $b(x(t)) = 0$ then take

$$p(t) = (a_1(x(t)), a_2(x(t)), -1)$$

| check!

More comments : interpretation as a charged
particle in a magnetic field

Indeed $A =$ magnetic potential

$$dA = \text{magnetic field} = b \, dx_1 \wedge dx_2$$

Abnormal appears where magnetic field
change sign.

Abnormal curve $x(t) \in b^{-1}(0)$.

If $b^{-1}(0)$ is a regular level set

then this set is a 1d
curve

$\nearrow$ generic by Sard lemma
condit.

But in general it might be difficult set.

More symplectic geometry

(and another character of the abnormal equation)

let M be smooth manifold.

$\Delta \subset TM$ distribution

$\Delta^\perp \subset T^*M$ subbundle of T^*M

$$\Delta_q^\perp = \{ \lambda \in T_q^*M \mid \langle \lambda, \Delta_q \rangle = 0 \} = \Delta^\perp \cap T_q^*M.$$

$$\Delta^\perp = \bigcup_{q \in M} \Delta_q^\perp \quad \text{dual object to } \Delta$$

Notice that $h_1(\lambda(t)) = \dots = h_k(\lambda(t)) = 0$

for the vector fields $X_1, \dots, X_k$

means exactly that $\lambda(t) \in \Delta_{\gamma(t)}^\perp$ $\gamma(t) = \pi(\lambda(t))$

let us introduce the tautological form in T^*M

λ 1-form in T^*M

For $\lambda \in T^*M$ $\lambda_\lambda: T_\lambda(T^*M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

linear form
on T^*M at λ

$$(\lambda_\lambda \in T_\lambda^*(T^*M))$$

defined as

$$\lambda_\lambda(w) = \langle \lambda, \pi_* w \rangle \quad (*)$$

where $\pi: T^*M \rightarrow M$ is the projection

$\pi_*: T_\lambda(T^*M) \rightarrow T_qM$ where $q = \pi(\lambda)$.

Formula (*) is well defined

$$T_\lambda(T^*M) \xrightarrow{\pi_*} T_q M \ni \pi_* W$$

$\downarrow \lambda$

Shortly

$$S_\lambda = \lambda \circ \pi_*$$

$$\mathbb{R} \ni \langle \lambda, \pi_* W \rangle$$

Exercise In coordinates ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$) we have

that if $\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i dq_i$

then $S_\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i dq_i$

same expression
meaning of "tautological"

Next we introduce the symplectic structure on T^*M

is the 2-form $\bar{\sigma} = d\sigma$

in coordinates $\bar{\sigma} = \sum_{i=1}^n dp_i \wedge dq_i$

closed 2-form
non degenerate

We formulate and we continue later.

Theorem Consider $\bar{\sigma}|_{\Delta^\perp}$ restriction of $\bar{\sigma}$ to $\Delta^\perp \subset T\Delta$

$$\lambda(t) \text{ is abnormal} \iff \begin{cases} \lambda(t) \in \Delta^\perp \\ \dot{\lambda}(t) \in \ker \bar{\sigma}|_{\Delta^\perp} \end{cases}$$