

For any Killing field K , prove that $\text{div}K=0$

1. Killing equation

A Killing vector field K satisfies $\nabla_a K_b + \nabla_b K_a = 0$, which is the condition for K to generate isometries (metric-preserving transformations).

2. Contraction with metric

Contract both sides of the Killing equation with the inverse metric g^{ab}

$$g^{ab}(\nabla_a K_b + \nabla_b K_a) = 0$$

Using the symmetry $g^{ab} = g^{ba}$, this simplifies to $2g^{ab}\nabla_a K_b = 0$

3. Divergence as trace

The divergence of K is defined as $\text{div}K = \nabla_a K^a = g^{ab}\nabla_a K_b$

From the contracted equation : $g^{ab}\nabla_a K_b \Rightarrow \text{div}K = 0$

4. **Alternative Interpretation:** The antisymmetry $\nabla_a K_b = -\nabla_b K_a$ implies $\nabla_a K_b$ is antisymmetric. Contracting a symmetric tensor (g^{ab}) with an antisymmetric tensor yields zero, confirming $\text{div}K = 0$.

A vector field K is a Killing vector field if it satisfies the Killing equation :

$$\nabla_\mu K_\nu + \nabla_\nu K_\mu = 0$$

The divergence of a vector field K is given by $\text{div}(K) = \nabla_\mu K^\mu$, this can be written as :

$$\text{div}(K) = g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\mu K_\nu$$

From the Killing equation, we have $\nabla_\mu K_\nu = -\nabla_\nu K_\mu$

$$\text{div}(K) = g^{\mu\nu}(\nabla_\mu K_\nu) = g^{\mu\nu}(-\nabla_\nu K_\mu)$$

Since $g^{\mu\nu}$ is symmetric and $\nabla_\nu K_\mu$ is antisymmetric, their contraction is zero :

$$g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\mu K_\nu = -g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\nu K_\mu$$

But $g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\mu K_\nu$ is equal to $g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\nu K_\mu$ because the indices are dummy indices and can be

relabelled. Therefore $g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\mu K_\nu = -g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\mu K_\nu$, this implies $2g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\mu K_\nu = 0$

Hence $\text{div}K=0$

Laplacian $\Delta f = \sum_i \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i^2}$, 在 Manifold 上 Δ 在座標變換上不順暢，因此考慮

$$\Delta := \text{div}(\text{grad})$$

在 Manifold M 上 $\text{grad} f$ 是一個向量場，用黎曼度量作內積 $\langle \text{grad} f(x), v \rangle = df(v)$

Div 的定義是由 $L_X(dv) = (\text{div}X)dv$ 定義 $\text{div} X$,

其中 L_X 是 Lie derivative , $dv = dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n$ 是 volume element

當然，就上文 divergence 的另一種定義是 $\text{div}X = \text{tr}(\nabla X)$

在流形上 Laplacian $f := \text{div}(\text{grad} f)$

Let ξ be a Killing field and assume that $\xi = \text{grad}f$ for some smooth function $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ Then $\nabla \xi = 0$ and $\Delta f = 0$

We have that $\langle \nabla_X \xi, Y \rangle = \text{Hess}(f)(X, Y)$ for any vector fields $X, Y \in \chi(M)$

This is skew-symmetric in X and Y since $\nabla \xi$ is skew-adjoint .

On the other hand , it is also symmetric , since torsion-free connections produce symmetric Hessian tensors .

So $\langle \nabla_X \xi, Y \rangle = 0$ for all Y implies that $\nabla_X \xi = 0$ for all X , and so $\nabla \xi = 0$

On the other hand , since $\text{Hess}(f)=0$, taking the trace we obtain $\Delta f = 0$ as well .