

Given the fact that every vector field on  $\mathbf{S}^2$  must vanish somewhere (the Hairy Ball theorem), show that  $\mathbf{S}^2$  has no Lie group structure.

1. Parallelizability : Lie groups are parallelizable, meaning their tangent bundles are trivial. This is achieved by left-translating a basis of the tangent space at the identity to all points. However,  $\mathbf{S}^2$  is not parallelizable due to the Hairy Ball Theorem, which prevents the existence of a global non-vanishing vector field. Hence,  $\mathbf{S}^2$  cannot be a Lie group.
2. Euler Characteristic : The Euler characteristic  $\chi(\mathbf{S}^2)=2$ .

For compact Lie groups, the Euler characteristic must be zero (as they admit non-vanishing vector fields, leading to a zero index sum via the Poincaré-Hopf theorem). The non-zero Euler characteristic of  $\mathbf{S}^2$  directly contradicts this requirement.

Conclusion : Since  $\mathbf{S}^2$  is neither parallelizable nor has Euler characteristic zero, it cannot admit a Lie group structure.

若  $\mathbf{S}^2$  是一個 Lie group, 那麼它同時是一個流形與群, 並且滿足 :

1. 它的單位元  $e$  處的切空間  $T_e\mathbf{S}^2$  形成一個李代數  $\mathfrak{g}$ 。
2. 透過左平移 (left translation), 李代數中的每個向量都可以擴展成整個  $\mathbf{S}^2$  上的左不變向量場。
3. 關鍵事實 : 在 Lie 群上, 左不變向量場不可能在任何點上消失, 因為它們來自李代數中的基底。

矛盾。因此  $\mathbf{S}^2$  不可能成為一個 Lie 群。