Differential Geometry II - Smooth Manifolds
Winter Term 2025/2026
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# Exercise Sheet 2

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**Exercise 1** (*Finite-dimensional vector spaces*)**:**
Let $V$ be an $\mathbb{R}$-vector space of dimension $n$. Recall that any norm on $V$ determines a topology, which is independent of the choice of norm. Show that $V$ has a natural smooth manifold structure as follows:

(a) Pick a basis $E_1, \ldots, E_n$ for $V$ and consider the map

$$E \colon \mathbb{R}^n \to V, \ (x^1, \ldots, x^n) \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^{n} x^i E_i.$$

Show that $(V, E^{-1})$ is a chart for $V$; in particular, with the topology defined above, $V$ is thus a topological $n$-manifold.

(b) Given a different basis $\widetilde{E}_1, \ldots, \widetilde{E}_n$ for $V$, show that the charts $(V, E^{-1})$ and $(V, \widetilde{E}^{-1})$ are smoothly compatible.

The collection of all such charts for $V$ defines a smooth structure, called the *standard smooth structure on* $V$.

**Exercise 2:**
Prove the following assertions:

(a) The space $M(m \times n, \mathbb{R})$ of $m \times n$ matrices with real entries has a natural smooth manifold structure.

(b) The *general linear group* $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ (i.e., the group of invertible $n \times n$ matrices with real entries) has a natural smooth manifold structure.

(c) The subset $M_m(m \times n, \mathbb{R})$ of $M(m \times n, \mathbb{R})$ of matrices of rank $m$, where $m < n$ has a natural smooth manifold structure. Similarly for $M_n(m \times n, \mathbb{R})$ when $n < m$.

(d) The space $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$ of $\mathbb{R}$-linear maps from $V$ to $W$, where $V$ and $W$ are two finite-dimensional $\mathbb{R}$-vector spaces, has a natural smooth manifold structure.

What is the dimension of each of the above smooth manifolds?

**Exercise 3** (*Product manifolds*)**:**
Let $M_1, \dots, M_k$ be smooth manifolds of dimensions $n_1, \dots, n_k$, respectively, where $k \geq 2$. Show that the product space $M_1 \times \dots \times M_k$ is a smooth manifold of dimension $n_1 + \dots + n_k$ by constructing a smooth manifold structure on it.

*Remark.* The *n-torus*

$$\mathbb{T}^n \coloneqq \mathbb{S}^1 \times \dots \times \mathbb{S}^1$$

is a smooth $n$-manifold by *Exercise* 3.

**Exercise 4** (*The real projective n-space*)**:**
Denote by $\mathbb{RP}^n$ the real projective $n$-space, where $n \geq 1$. For each $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ consider the chart $(U_i, \varphi_i)$ for $\mathbb{RP}^n$ described in Appendix A, where

$$U_i \coloneqq \big\{[x_0 : \ldots : x_n] \in \mathbb{RP}^n \mid x_i \neq 0\big\} \subseteq \mathbb{RP}^n$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_i \colon U_i &\to \mathbb{R}^n \\ [x_0 : \ldots : x_n] &\mapsto \left(\frac{x_0}{x_i}, \dots, \frac{x_{i-1}}{x_i}, \frac{x_{i+1}}{x_i}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_i}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Show that the collection

$$\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{RP}^n} \coloneqq \big\{(U_i, \varphi_i)\big\}_{i=0}^{n}$$

is a smooth atlas for $\mathbb{RP}^n$.

**Exercise 5 (to be submitted by Thursday, 25.09.2025, 16:00):**
Consider the $n$-sphere $\mathbb{S}^n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. Denote by $N = (0, \dots, 0, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ the *north pole* and by $S = -N = (0, \dots, 0, -1)$ the *south pole* of $\mathbb{S}^n$. Define the *stereographic projection from the north pole* $N$ as follows:

$$\sigma \colon \mathbb{S}^n \setminus \{N\} \to \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \sigma(x^1, \dots, x^{n+1}) = \frac{1}{1 - x^{n+1}} \, (x^1, \dots, x^n).$$

Let $\widetilde{\sigma}(x) = -\sigma(-x)$ for $x \in \mathbb{S}^n \setminus \{S\}$; it is called the *stereographic projection from the south pole.*

(a) For any $x \in \mathbb{S}^n \setminus \{N\}$, show that $\sigma(x) = u$, where $(u, 0)$ is the point where the line through $N$ and $x$ intersects the linear subspace where $x^{n+1} = 0$. Similarly, show that $\widetilde{\sigma}(x)$ is the point where the line through $S$ and $x$ intersects the same subspace.

(b) Show that $\sigma$ is bijective, and

$$\sigma^{-1}(u^1, \dots, u^n) = \frac{1}{|u|^2 + 1} \, (2u^1, \dots, 2u^n, |u|^2 - 1).$$

(c) Verify that the atlas consisting of the two charts $\big(\mathbb{S}^n \setminus \{N\}, \sigma\big)$ and $\big(\mathbb{S}^n \setminus \{S\}, \widetilde{\sigma}\big)$ is a smooth atlas for $\mathbb{S}^n$, and hence defines a smooth structure on $\mathbb{S}^n$. (The coordinates defined by $\sigma$ or $\widetilde{\sigma}$ are called *stereographic coordinates.*)

(d) Show that the smooth structure determined by the above atlas is the same as the one defined via graph coordinates in *Example 1.10*(2).