

Worksheet 3

1. $O(n)$ = “the orthogonal group” = all choices of orthonormal basis $\{\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n\}$ of \mathbf{R}^n
= all $n \times n$ real matrices A such that $AA^T = I$.

a) $O(4)$ is the solution set of ????? equations in the variables

$$(x^1, x^2, x^3, x^4, y^1, \dots, z^1, \dots, w^1, \dots, w^4).$$

Write these equations. (Note: you can also write these variables as $(\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3, \vec{e}_4)$ where $\vec{e}_i \in \mathbf{R}^4$.)

b) Write down the 4×16 Jacobian matrix Dg :

c) Show that $Dg(A)$ has full rank (that is, its rows are linearly independent) for every $A \in O(4)$. So, by the Implicit Function Theorem, $O(4)$ is a manifold. (There is a really easy way, and a not-too-hard way.)

d) By Implicit Function Theorem, any $A \in O(4)$ is in a coordinate patch whose coordinates are chosen from (x^1, \dots, w^4) . Give a choice that will work for $A = I$. Please explain.

2. The same argument works to show $O(n)$ is a manifold. Show that $O(n)$ is $n(n-1)/2$ dimensional. Justify in two ways:

a) By the definition of $O(n)$ above.

b) By the IFT.

We conclude that any point of $O(n)$ has a patch whose coordinates are given by projection onto one of the coordinate $n(n-1)/2$ planes of \mathbf{R}^{n^2} . (Note: different coordinate $n(n-1)/2$ planes for different points!) We say “ $O(n)$ is an $n(n-1)/2$ -dimensional submanifold of \mathbf{R}^{n^2} ”.