GEOMETRIC STRUCTURES ON MANIFOLDS: CORRECTIONS

WILLIAM M. GOLDMAN

1. RADIANCE

The definition of a *radiant vector field* in Definition 1.6.3 (p.15) needs to be stronger. A radiant vector field is required to be normalized so that the scale factor for the time-t map of the corresponding flow equals e^t .

A related misprint occurs on p.16, Exercise 1.6.5, second bullet. A vector field X is radiant \iff the covariant derivative $\nabla_Y(X) = Y$ for all vector fields Y. (It is incorrectly stated that $\nabla_Y(X) = X$.)

2. Convergent sequences of collineations

The second sentence of the proof of Lemma 2.6.2, on p.43, needs clarification. The lemma concerns two vector spaces V, V' and a sequence of linear maps $V \xrightarrow{f_n} V'$ converging to a linear map f_{∞} . The lemma asserts that for given a compact subset \widetilde{K} of the complement $V \setminus \text{Ker}(f_{\infty})$, and a fixed $\epsilon > 0$, there exists N such that n > N, then $\forall x \in \widetilde{K}$,

(1)
$$\|\widetilde{f}_{\infty}(x) - \widetilde{f}_{n}(x)\| < \frac{C\epsilon}{2}$$
$$\left|1 - \frac{\widetilde{f}_{n}(x)}{\|\widetilde{f}_{\infty}(x)\|}\right| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}.$$

There is a misprint in the second inequality, which should read:

(2)
$$\left|1 - \frac{\|\widetilde{f}_n(x)\|}{\|\widetilde{f}_\infty(x)\|}\right| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$$

since without the norm signs in the numerator, it makes no sense.

That such an N exists, independent of x, can be seen as follows. First, recall that $\epsilon, C, f_n, f_\infty$ are given. Denote by W(x, n) the set of all $x \in \widetilde{K}$ satisfying (1) and (2).

Date: March 22, 2025.

Clearly W(x,n) is an open neighborhood of x. Since the \widetilde{f}_n converge pointwise to \widetilde{f}_{∞} , there exists N(x) such that W(x,n) is an open neighborhood of x for $n \geq N(x)$.

Furthermore (1) and (2), describes an open subset of x. If $y \in \widetilde{K}$, then W(y) := W(y, N(y)) is an open neighborhood W(y) of y. Moreover (1) and (2) holds for n > N(y) and $x \in W(y)$.

Since \widetilde{K} is compact, $\exists y_1, \ldots, y_l \in \widetilde{K}$ such that

$$\widetilde{K} \subset W(y_1) \cup \ldots W(y_l).$$

Let $N := \max(N(y_1), \ldots, N(y_k))$. Then for every n > N, every $x \in \widetilde{K}$ satisfies (1) and (2) as desired.

(I am grateful to Sean Lawton for raising this point.)

3. Exponential map for $\mathsf{Aff}_+(1,\mathbb{R})$

§10.9, contains a misprint (bottom of p.234), for the translational part of the exponential map for the group $Aff_+(1,\mathbb{R})$. The correct formula is: The exponential map is:

$$\operatorname{aff}(1,\mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{\exp} \operatorname{Aff}_{+}(1,\mathbb{R})$$
$$[y \mid x] \longmapsto [e^{y} \mid \varepsilon_{y}(x)]$$

where ε_y denotes the continuous function $\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by:

(3)
$$\varepsilon_y(x) := \begin{cases} \frac{e^y - 1}{y} & \text{if } y \neq 0 \\ x & \text{if } y = 0 \end{cases}$$

instead of:

The exponential map is:

$$\operatorname{aff}(1,\mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{\exp} \operatorname{Aff}_{+}(1,\mathbb{R})$$
$$[y \mid x] \longmapsto [e^{y} \mid \varepsilon_{y}(x)]$$

where ε_y denotes the continuous function $\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by:

$$\varepsilon_y(t) := \begin{cases} \frac{e^{yt} - 1}{y} & \text{if } y \neq 0\\ t & \text{if } y = 0 \end{cases}$$