

Contact Geometry

a contact structure on a manifold M^{2n+1} is a special type of hyperplane field?

that is \mathcal{H} is a subbundle of TM where fibers have dimension 1 .

we give the precise definition below

contact structures, along with symplectic structures, grew out of classical mechanics but it also has connections to PDE, Riemannian geometry, geometric optics, thermodynamics, ...

in the past 20 or so years it has also had many applications to 3-manifold topology

this class will cover the basic ideas in contact geometry but focus on dimension 3 and see how to classify contact structures on several manifolds as well as Legendrian knots (a special knot in a contact manifold)

I. Introduction

let M be an oriented 3-dimensional manifold

a plane field \mathcal{F} on M is a subbundle of the tangent bundle of M such that

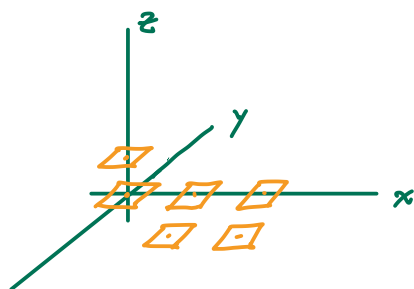
$$\mathcal{F}_p = T_p M \cap \mathcal{F}$$

is a 2-dimensional subspace of $T_p M$ for all $p \in M$

Remark: compare to the more familiar vector field

examples:

1) in \mathbb{R}^3 let $\mathcal{F} = \text{span} \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right\}$

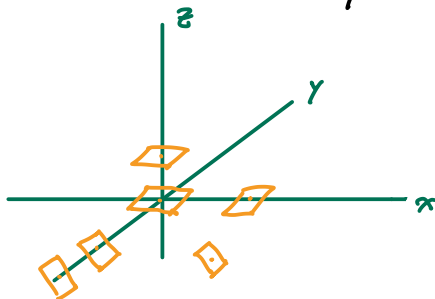


so at every $p \in \mathbb{R}^3$

$\mathcal{F}_p = \text{tangent to a parallel copy of } xy\text{-plane through } p$

2) in $M = \Sigma^2 \times S^1$ let $\mathcal{F}_p = T_x \Sigma \in T_p(\Sigma \times S^1)$
 $p = (x, \theta)$

3) in \mathbb{R}^3 let $\mathcal{F} = \text{span} \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\}$



4) let α be a 1-form on M

so $\alpha_p: T_p M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is linear

we say α is non-singular if α_p is onto \mathbb{R} for all p

assume α is non-singular

then $\xi_p = \ker \alpha_p \subset T_p M$ is a 2-plane for all p

$\therefore \xi$ is a plane field given by $\xi = \ker \alpha$

eg. in example 1) $\xi = \ker(dz)$

2) $\xi = \ker(d\theta)$

3) $\xi = \ker(dz - ydx)$

exercise:

1) all plane fields can be locally written as $\ker \alpha$
for some α

(i.e. given ξ and $p \in M$, there is some open neighborhood
 U of p and a 1-form α on U s.t. $\xi_q = \ker \alpha_q$
for all $q \in U$)

2) ξ can be written as $\ker \alpha$, for some α on M

\Leftrightarrow

\exists a vector field v transverse to ξ at all points

\Leftrightarrow

ξ is orientable

\uparrow this is called transversely orientable

(for this exercise we need to recall M is orientable)

we will assume our contact structures are oriented

Frobenius Th^m:

given an n -manifold M and
 $F \subseteq TM$ a k -plane field

can find
proof in
many Diff.
Top. books

Then

F is integrable $\Leftrightarrow F$ is closed under Lie brackets

an integral manifold of F through $p \in M$ is a one-to-one immersion $N \xrightarrow{f} M$ such that $df(\tau_x N) = F_{f(x)}$ and $p \in f(N)$

F is integrable if every point in M has an integral manifold through it

we say F is closed under Lie brackets if

$$v, w \in \underbrace{\Gamma(F)}_{\text{sections of } F} \Rightarrow \underbrace{[v, w]}_{\text{Lie bracket}} \in \Gamma(F)$$

(i.e. $\Gamma(F)$ is a Lie subalgebra of $\Gamma(TM)$)

suppose \mathcal{F} is a plane field in TM^3 , given as $\ker \alpha$ for some 1-form α

let $v, w \in \Gamma(\mathcal{F})$ so $v_p \in \mathcal{F}_p = \ker \alpha_p$ so $\alpha(v) = 0$
similarly for w .

$$\text{so } [v, w] \in \Gamma(\mathcal{F}) \Leftrightarrow \alpha([v, w]) = 0$$

Recall from Diff Top:

$$d\alpha(v, w) = v \cdot \alpha(w) - w \cdot \alpha(v) - \alpha([v, w])$$

so for $v, w \in \Gamma(\mathcal{F})$

$$[v, w] \in \Gamma(\mathcal{F}) \Leftrightarrow d\alpha(v, w) = 0$$

coupled with Frobenius Th^m we see

$$\{ \text{integrable} \Leftrightarrow d\alpha|_{\mathcal{F}} = 0$$

definition: \mathcal{F} a plane field in TM given by $\ker \alpha$

\mathcal{F} is a foliation if $d\alpha|_{\mathcal{F}} = 0$

\mathcal{F} is a contact structure if $d\alpha|_{\mathcal{F}}$ is never zero

note: \mathcal{F} contact \Rightarrow a surface $\Sigma \subset M$ can never be tangent to \mathcal{F} along an open set.

note: $d\alpha|_{\mathcal{F}} \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow$ for any v, w spanning \mathcal{F} $d\alpha(v, w) \neq 0$

let u be a vector field transverse to \mathcal{F}

$$\text{so } \alpha(u) \neq 0$$

so we have

$$\alpha \wedge d\alpha(u, v, w) = \alpha(u) \cdot d\alpha(v, w) + \text{terms with } v, w \text{ in } \alpha \therefore 0$$

$$\neq 0$$

thus we see

$\mathcal{F} = \ker \alpha$ is contact
 \Leftrightarrow
 $\alpha \wedge d\alpha$ never zero

note: a non-zero 3-form on M is a volume form so orients M

Remark: in higher dimensions M^{2n+1}

a contact structure is a hyperplane field \mathcal{F} that is, locally, $\ker \alpha$ such that $\alpha \wedge (d\alpha)^n$ never zero

this condition is called "maximally non-integrable" and implies \mathcal{F} cannot be tangent to a submanifold of dimension $k > n$ on an open set

Fact: contact manifolds must be odd dimensional since $\alpha \wedge (d\alpha)^n \neq 0$ implies that $d\alpha_p$ on \mathcal{F}_p

is a non-degenerate 2-form (i.e. $\forall v \neq 0$ in $\mathfrak{p}, \exists w \in \mathfrak{p}$ s.t. $\alpha_p(v, w) \neq 0$)

i.e. a linear symplectic structure

it is a fact that symplectic vector spaces must be even dimensional

exercise: Prove this

(you can find this in my notes on symplectic manifolds if you get stuck)

examples:

1) \mathbb{R}^3 with $\mathfrak{f} = \text{span} \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right\} = \ker \alpha$

where $\alpha = dz$

$d\alpha = d(dz) = 0$ so \mathfrak{f} is integrable

they are tangent to $\coprod_{z \in \mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R}^2 \times \{z\}$

a foliation of \mathbb{R}^3

2) $\Sigma \times S^1$ $\mathfrak{f} = \ker d\theta$

$d(d\theta) = 0$ so \mathfrak{f} is integrable

they are tangent to $\coprod_{\theta \in S^1} \Sigma \times \{\theta\}$

a foliation of $\Sigma \times S^1$

3) \mathbb{R}^3 $\mathfrak{f} = \ker \alpha$ $\alpha = dz - y dx$

$d\alpha = -dy \wedge dx = dx \wedge dy$

$\alpha \wedge d\alpha = dz \wedge dx \wedge dy$ a volume form on \mathbb{R}^3

so \mathfrak{f} is a contact structure on \mathbb{R}^3

note: if $\xi = \ker \alpha$ and $\xi = \ker \beta$ too then we must have $\alpha = f\beta$ for some non-zero function $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

exercise: Prove this

$$\begin{aligned} \text{thus } \alpha \wedge d\alpha &= f\beta \wedge d(f\beta) = f\beta \wedge (df \wedge \beta + f d\beta) \\ &= \underbrace{-f df \wedge \beta \wedge \beta}_{0} + f^2 \beta \wedge d\beta \\ &= f^2 \beta \wedge d\beta \end{aligned}$$

so we see any 1-form defining ξ will induce the same volume form on M

recall M is oriented so we can choose a volume form Ω on M inducing this orientation

since $\alpha \wedge d\alpha \neq 0$, there is some never

zero function $g: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\alpha \wedge d\alpha = g \Omega$$

(since $\Gamma(\Lambda^3 M) = C^\infty(M)$ if M oriented)

we write $\alpha \wedge d\alpha > 0$ if g is positive and

$\alpha \wedge d\alpha < 0$ if g is negative

we call a contact structure

positive if $\alpha \wedge d\alpha > 0$

negative if $\alpha \wedge d\alpha < 0$

from now on "contact structure" means
"positive contact structure"

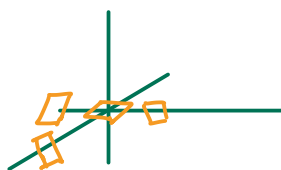
exercise: 1) if ξ is a non-transversely oriented contact structure on M^3 (recall this means we can only define ξ as $\ker \alpha$ locally), then show ξ still defines an orientation on M
so non-orientable 3-manifolds do not have contact structures

2) is this true for contact structures on M^{2n+1} ? Hint: consider parity of n

more examples: on \mathbb{R}^3 we have

1) $\alpha_1 = dz - ydx$ studied above

2) $\alpha_2 = dz + xdy - ydx = dz + r^2 d\theta$



twisting $\frac{\pi}{2}$ on
all radial lines
perpendicular to
z-axis

are $\ker \alpha_1$ and $\ker \alpha_2$ the "same"

definition:

let (M_0, ξ_0) and (M_1, ξ_1) be contact manifolds

a contactomorphism is a diffeomorphism

$$f: M_0 \rightarrow M_1$$

such that $df(\xi_0) = \xi_1$

so a diffeomorphism taking one contact structure to the other

example:

$$f(x, y, z) = \left(\frac{x+y}{2}, \frac{y-x}{2}, z - \frac{xy}{2} \right)$$

is a diffeomorphism $\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ (check this)

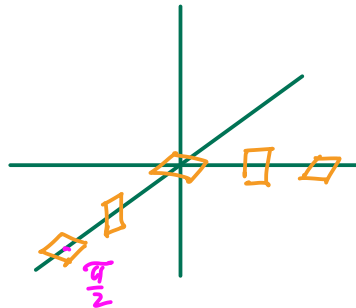
and

$$\begin{aligned} f^* \alpha_2 &= d\left(z - \frac{xy}{2}\right) - \frac{y-x}{2} d\left(\frac{y+x}{2}\right) + \frac{y+x}{2} d\left(\frac{y-x}{2}\right) \\ &= dz - \frac{1}{2}(x dy + y dx) - \frac{1}{4}(y-x)(dy+dx) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4}(x+y)(dy-dx) \\ &= dz - \underline{y dx} + \underline{0} + \underline{0} + \underline{0} \\ &= \alpha_1 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore df(\cdot) = \cdot_2$ and (\mathbb{R}^3, \cdot_1) is contactomorphic to (\mathbb{R}^3, \cdot_2)

3) $\alpha_3 = \cos r dz + r \sin r d\theta$

exercise: check $\ker \alpha_3$ is contact



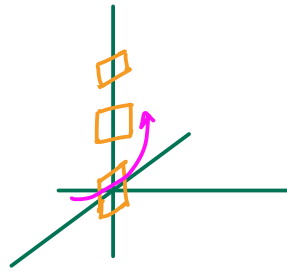
let $V_a = \{ (r, \theta, z) \mid r < a \}$

exercise: 1) show $(V_a, \ker \alpha_3)$ is contactomorphic a subset of (\mathbb{R}^3, \cdot_2) for $a < \pi$

2) show $(V_a, \ker \alpha_3)$ is not contactomorphic to a subset of (\mathbb{R}^3, \cdot_2) for $a > \pi$

Hint: 2) is very hard, maybe come back to this later.

$$4) \alpha_4 = \sin(2\pi z) dx + \cos(2\pi z) dy$$



twists infinitely
often on lines perp to
xy-plane

exercise: show $\mathcal{F}_4 = \ker \alpha_4$ is contactomorphic
to \mathcal{F}_1 and \mathcal{F}_2

example: consider $S^3 \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ the unit sphere

recall for any linear space V , $T_p V \cong V$ canonically
so multiplication by i on \mathbb{C}^2 induces multiplication
by i on all tangent spaces

$$\text{let } \mathcal{F}_p = T_p S^3 \cap i(T_p S^3) \quad \forall p \in S^3$$

Claim: \mathcal{F} is a contact structure on S^3

to see this recall $S^3 = f^{-1}(1)$ for

$$f: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} = (x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2) \mapsto x_1^2 + y_1^2 + x_2^2 + y_2^2$$

$$\text{and } T_{(x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2)} S^3 = \ker df_{(x_1, \dots, y_2)}$$

$$= \ker 2(x_1 dx_1 + y_1 dy_1 + x_2 dx_2 + y_2 dy_2)$$

$$v \in i(TS^3) \Leftrightarrow iv \in TS^3 \Leftrightarrow df(iv) = 0$$

note: $i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i}$, $i \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$

$$\text{so } (dy_i \circ i) \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \right) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad (dx_i \circ i) \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y_i} \right) = -1$$

further computation gives

$$dx_i \circ i = -dy_i \quad dy_i \circ i = dx_i, \dots$$

$$\text{so } df \circ i = 2(-x_1 dy_1 + y_1 dx_1 - x_2 dy_2 + y_2 dx_2)$$

$\therefore \alpha = (-x_1 dy_1 + y_1 dx_1 - x_2 dy_2 + y_2 dx_2) \Big|_{T S^3}$ is a 1-form defining \mathcal{F}

$$\text{now } d\alpha = (-dx_1 \wedge dy_1 - dx_1 \wedge dy_2 - dx_2 \wedge dy_1 - dx_2 \wedge dy_2)$$

$$d\alpha \wedge d\alpha = 4(dx_1 \wedge dy_1 \wedge dx_2 \wedge dy_2)$$

is the standard volume form on \mathbb{C}^2

$$\text{let } X = \frac{1}{2} \left(x_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + y_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial y_1} + x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + y_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial y_2} \right)$$

note that X is transverse to S^3 (since $df(X) > 0$)

$$L_X d\alpha = \frac{2}{2} (-x_1 dy_1 + y_1 dx_1 - x_2 dy_2 + y_2 dx_2) = \alpha$$

$$\therefore L_X (d\alpha \wedge d\alpha) = 2\alpha \wedge d\alpha$$

so if v_1, v_2, v_3 span $T_p S^3$, then

$$X, v_1, v_2, v_3 \text{ span } T_p \mathbb{C}^2$$

$$\therefore d\alpha \wedge d\alpha(X, v_1, v_2, v_3) \neq 0$$

$$= 2\alpha \wedge d\alpha(v_1, v_2, v_3)$$

and $\alpha \wedge d\alpha$ is a volume form on S^3

$\therefore \mathcal{F} = \ker \alpha$ contact as claimed!

exercise: $(S^3 - \{pt\}, \mathcal{F} \Big|_{S^3 - \{pt\}})$ is contactomorphic to $(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathcal{F}_L)$ from above

Hint: see Geiges book if too hard

this is our first example of a contact structure on a closed manifold

later we will see that all closed oriented 3-mfolds admit contact structures, for now

exercise:

1) construct a contact structure on T^3

Hint: $T^3 = \mathbb{R}^3 / \mathbb{Z}^3$

consider γ_4 on \mathbb{R}^3 above

2) construct a contact structure on the lens space

$L(p,q) = S^3 / \mathbb{Z}_p$ where $S^3 \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ unit sphere and \mathbb{Z}_p acts by $(z_1, z_2) \mapsto (e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p}} z_1, e^{\frac{2\pi i q}{p}} z_2)$

we end our examples of contact structures with two important examples

example: Jet spaces

let M be a manifold

the 1-jet space of M is

$$J^1(M) = T^*M \oplus \mathbb{R}$$

given a function $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ the 1-jet of f is

a section $J^1(M)$
 \downarrow
 M given by

$$j_1(f)(x) = (df_x, f(x))$$

so $j_1(f)$ "remembers" f and its derivatives
there is a "canonical 1-form" λ on T^*M
it is uniquely determined by the property:

$$\text{for all 1-forms } \beta \text{ on } M \quad \beta^* \lambda = \beta$$

$$\text{i.e. } \beta: M \rightarrow T^*M$$

λ a 1-form on T^*M

$\beta^* \lambda$ is the pull-back of λ to M
and this pull-back is β

Exercise: show this uniquely defines a
1-form on T^*M

let's understand λ in local coordinates

let (q_1, \dots, q_n) be local coords on $U \subset M$

these give coordinates on $T^*U = U \times \mathbb{R}^n$

$$(q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_n)$$

i.e. any 1-form on U can be written

$$\text{as } (q_1, \dots, q_n, \sum p_i dq_i)$$

Claim: $\lambda = \sum p_i dq_i$

indeed a 1-form β in local coords is of the
form

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(q_1, \dots, q_n) &= \sum u_i(q_1, \dots, q_n) dq_i \\ &= (q_1, \dots, q_n, u_1, \dots, u_n) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{now } \beta^* \lambda = \sum u_i dq_i = \beta$$

$$\text{on } J'(M) = T^*M \oplus \mathbb{R}$$

$$\text{let } \alpha = dz - \lambda$$

where z is the coordinate on \mathbb{R}

note: $d\alpha = -\sum dp_i \wedge dq_i$

$$(d\alpha)^n = n dp_1 \wedge dq_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dp_n \wedge dq_n$$

is a volume form on T^*M

so $d\alpha \wedge (d\alpha)^n$ a volume form on $J'(M)$

$\therefore \xi = \ker \alpha$ is a contact structure on $J'(M)$

eg: $M = \mathbb{R}^1$ then $T^*\mathbb{R}^1 = \mathbb{R}^2$ $\lambda = y dx$

and $J'(\mathbb{R}^1) = \mathbb{R}^3$ $\alpha = dz - y dx$

so jet spaces generalize our first example!

note: if $\phi: M \rightarrow N$ a diffeomorphism, then

$$\phi^*: J'(N) \rightarrow J'(M): (\beta, z) \mapsto (\phi^*\beta, z)$$

induces a contactomorphism check this

Open Question: are M and N diffeomorphic

\Leftrightarrow

$J'(M)$ and $J'(N)$ are contactomorphic

note: given $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$J_1(f) = (df, f)$$

$$(J_1(f))^* (dz \lambda) = df - df = 0$$

so $\Gamma_{J_1(f)} = J_1(f)(M)$ is an n -dimensional submanifold of $J^1(M)$ and

$$T\Gamma_{J_1(f)} \subset \xi$$

defⁿ: if ξ^{2n+1} is a contact structure on M^{2n+1}

if $N^n \subset M^{2n+1}$ is a submanifold such that

$$T_p N \subset \xi_p \text{ for all } p \in N$$

then N is called a Legendrian submanifold

Legendrian submanifolds are very important geometric objects in contact geometry, we will study them a lot in dimension 3 (where they are knots)

so $\Gamma_{J_1(f)}$ is a Legendrian submanifold of $J^1(M)$

note: if $\sigma: M \rightarrow J^1(M)$ any section of $J^1(M)$

then $\sigma(M)$ is Legendrian

\Leftrightarrow

$$\sigma = J^1(f) \text{ for some } f$$

indeed if $\sigma = J^1(f)$ then done from above

$$\text{if } \sigma(q_1, \dots, q_n) = (q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1(q_1), \dots, p_n(q_n), z_\sigma(q_1))$$

and $\sigma(M)$ Legendrian

$$\text{then } \sigma^*(dz - \lambda) = 0$$

"

$$dz_\sigma - \sum p_i(q_1, \dots, q_n) dq_i = 0$$

$$\text{so } \frac{dz_\sigma}{dq_i} = p_i \quad \text{i.e. } \sigma = j_1(z_\sigma)$$

↑ check this!

Fun application: a 1st order Partial Differential Equation

on \mathbb{R}^n is a function

$$F: \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

and $u: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ solves the equation

$$\text{if } F(q_1, \dots, q_n, \frac{\partial u}{\partial q_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial u}{\partial q_n}, u) = 0$$

$$\text{eg } q_1 \frac{\partial u}{\partial q_1} \frac{\partial u}{\partial q_2} + u q_1 \frac{\partial u}{\partial q_2} = q_1^2 + 3q_1 q_2 + 7$$

associated F is

$$F(q_1, q_2, p_1, p_2, z) = q_1 p_1 p_2 + z q_1 p_2 - q_1^2 - 3q_1 q_2 - 7$$

note: F defines a function

$$F: J^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

st. u solves P.D.E. iff $F \circ j_1(u) = 0$

so solving a P.D.E. is equivalent to

finding a Legendrian section σ of $J^1(M)$ st. $F \circ \sigma = 0$

geometric algebraic

Remark: Sophus Lie used this to study P.D.E.

He tried to find contactomorphisms of $J^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ that simplified the algebra

example:

let M be a manifold

fix a metric g on M

set $UM =$ unit cotangent bundle

$$= \{ \alpha \in T^*M \text{ s.t. } g(\alpha, \alpha) = 1 \}$$

↑ induced on T^*M by g

consider $v = \sum p_i \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i}$ using local coords from above

↑ fiberwise radial field

let λ be canonical form on T^*M from above

$$\underbrace{d\lambda^1 \dots \wedge d\lambda^n}_n = \text{volume form on } T^*M \text{ (from above)}$$

$$L_v(d\lambda) = \underbrace{\sum p_i dq_i}_\lambda \quad (\text{in local coords})$$

$$\text{so } L_v(d\lambda^1 \dots \wedge d\lambda^n) = n \lambda \wedge (d\lambda)^{n-1}$$

this is a volume form on any space
transverse to v

$\therefore \lambda \wedge (d\lambda)^{n-1}$ volume form on UM !

and $\zeta = \ker \lambda$ a contact structure on UM

exercise: fibers of UM are Legendrian

exercise: given ω a 2-form on \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} such that

$$\omega^n \text{ is never } 0 \text{ (i.e. at any } p \in \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} \exists v_1, \dots, v_n \text{ s.t. } \omega^n(v_1, \dots, v_n) \neq 0)$$

then $\exists!$ vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$, up to scale, s.t.

$$L_v \omega = 0$$

definition: given a contact form α on M^{2n+1}

then there is a unique vector field X_α

such that

$$\alpha(X_\alpha) = 1 \quad \text{and}$$

$$L_{X_\alpha} d\alpha = 0$$

X_α is called the Reeb vector field of α

this vector field is important to the study of $\mathcal{F} = \ker \alpha$

note:

$$L_{X_\alpha} \alpha = dL_{X_\alpha} \alpha + L_{X_\alpha} d\alpha = 0$$

↑
Lie derivative

↑
Cartan's magic formula

so the flow of X_α preserves α and hence \mathcal{F}

we get a 1-parameter family of contactomorphisms of \mathcal{F} from X_α !

examples:

1) \mathbb{R}^3 with $\mathcal{F} = \ker(\overbrace{dz - ydx}^\alpha)$

clearly $X_\alpha = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$

2) for $\alpha = \lambda|_{\cup M}$ the Reeb vector field is

$$X_\alpha = \sum p_i \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i}$$

exercise: Check this

Fun application: connection to Riemannian geometry

let $SM =$ unit tangent bundle of M

the geodesic flow on SM is

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_t: SM &\rightarrow SM \\ v &\mapsto \gamma_v'(t)\end{aligned}$$

where $\gamma_v: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M$ is a unit speed geodesic with

$$\gamma_v(0) = \pi(v)$$

$$\gamma_v'(0) = v$$

$\pi: SM \rightarrow M$
projection

note: a flow line of Φ_t projects to a geodesic in M

can see all geodesics in M via Φ_t

$$g: SM \rightarrow UM: v \mapsto g(v, \cdot)$$

is a diffeomorphism

check this!

Claim: g sends the geodesic flow to the Reeb flow

so we can study the geodesic flow, and hence much of Riemannian geometry, via contact geometry

to see the claim choose normal coordinates q_1, \dots, q_n about a point $x \in M$

this means $x = (0, \dots, 0)$ in these words

$$g_{ij}(0, \dots, 0) = \delta_{ij}$$

geodesics through x are $t \mapsto (t a_1, \dots, t a_n)$

so a geodesic flow line in SM above π is

$$t \mapsto (t a_1, \dots, t a_n, a_1, \dots, a_n)$$

and its tangent vector is

$$(a_1, \dots, a_n, 0, \dots, 0)$$

so the vector field generating the geodesic flow at $(0, \dots, 0, a_1, \dots, a_n)$

$$\text{is } \sum a_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_i}$$

we know the Reeb field at $(0, \dots, 0, a_1, \dots, a_n)$ is

$$\sum a_i \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i}$$

the diffeo $SM \rightarrow UM$ induced by g is

$$(p_i, \tilde{q}_i) \leftrightarrow (p_i, q_i)$$

$$\text{so } \sum a_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{q}_i} \rightarrow \sum a_i \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \text{ at } \pi$$

but this is true for any π