



Differential Geometry

Extension of a Riemannian metric with vanishing curvature

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Abstract

Let Ω be a connected and simply-connected open subset of \mathbb{R}^n such that the geodesic distance in Ω is equivalent to the Euclidean distance. Let there be given a Riemannian metric (g_{ij}) of class C^2 and of vanishing curvature in Ω , such that the functions g_{ij} and their partial derivatives of order ≤ 2 have continuous extensions to $\bar{\Omega}$. Then there exists a connected open subset $\tilde{\Omega}$ of \mathbb{R}^n containing $\bar{\Omega}$ and a Riemannian metric (\tilde{g}_{ij}) of class C^2 and of vanishing curvature in $\tilde{\Omega}$ that extends the metric (g_{ij}) . **To cite this article:** P.G. Ciarlet, C. Mardare, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 338 (2004).

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Résumé

Prolongement d'une métrique riemannienne à courbure nulle. Soit Ω un ouvert connexe et simplement connexe de \mathbb{R}^n tel que la distance géodésique dans Ω soit équivalente à la distance euclidienne. Soit (g_{ij}) une métrique riemannienne de classe C^2 et de courbure nulle dans Ω , telle que les fonctions g_{ij} et leurs dérivées partielles d'ordre ≤ 2 aient des extensions continues à $\bar{\Omega}$. Alors il existe un ouvert connexe $\tilde{\Omega}$ de \mathbb{R}^n contenant $\bar{\Omega}$ et une métrique riemannienne (\tilde{g}_{ij}) de classe C^2 et de courbure nulle dans $\tilde{\Omega}$ qui prolonge la métrique (g_{ij}) . **Pour citer cet article :** P.G. Ciarlet, C. Mardare, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 338 (2004).

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1. Preliminaries

An integer $n \geq 2$ is given once and for all, Latin indices and exponents vary in the set $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, and the summation convention with respect to repeated indices and exponents is used. The notations \mathbb{S}^n and $\mathbb{S}_>^n$ designate the space of all symmetric matrices, and the set of all positive-definite symmetric matrices, of order n . If Ω is an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n , we define the set

$$C^2(\Omega; \mathbb{S}_>^n) := \{C \in C^2(\Omega; \mathbb{S}^n); C(x) \in \mathbb{S}_>^n \text{ for all } x \in \Omega\}.$$

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We define as follows spaces of functions, vector fields, or matrix fields, “of class C^ℓ up to the boundary of Ω ”:

Definition 1.1. Let Ω be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n . For any integer $\ell \geq 1$, the space $C^\ell(\overline{\Omega})$ consists of all functions $f \in C^\ell(\Omega)$ that, together with all their partial derivatives $\partial^\alpha f$, $1 \leq |\alpha| \leq \ell$, can be extended by continuity to $\overline{\Omega}$. Analogous definitions hold for the spaces $C^\ell(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ and $C^\ell(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{S}^n)$. Any continuous extension to $\overline{\Omega}$ will be identified by a bar.

We also define the set

$$C^2(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{S}_>^n) := \{C \in C^2(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{S}^n); \overline{C}(x) \in \mathbb{S}_>^n \text{ for all } x \in \overline{\Omega}\}.$$

Let Ω be a connected open subset of \mathbb{R}^n . Given two points $x, y \in \Omega$, a *path joining x to y in Ω* is any mapping $\gamma \in C^1([0, 1]; \mathbb{R}^n)$ that satisfies $\gamma(t) \in \Omega$ for all $t \in [0, 1]$ and $\gamma(0) = x$ and $\gamma(1) = y$. Given a path γ joining x to y in Ω , its *length* is defined by

$$L(\gamma) := \int_0^1 |\gamma'(t)| dt,$$

where $|\cdot|$ denotes the Euclidean norm in \mathbb{R}^n .

Let Ω be a connected open subset of \mathbb{R}^n . The *geodesic distance* between two points $x, y \in \Omega$ is defined by

$$d_\Omega(x, y) = \inf\{L(\gamma); \gamma \text{ is a path joining } x \text{ to } y \text{ in } \Omega\}.$$

The following definition is in effect a mild regularity assumption on the boundary of an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n :

Definition 1.2. An open subset Ω of \mathbb{R}^n satisfies the *geodesic property* if it is connected and, given any point $x_0 \in \partial\Omega$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta = \delta(x_0, \varepsilon) > 0$ such that

$$d_\Omega(x, y) < \varepsilon \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \Omega \cap B(x_0; \delta),$$

where $B(x_0; \delta) := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n; |y - x_0| < \delta\}$.

Let a Riemannian metric $(g_{ij}) \in C^2(\Omega; \mathbb{S}_>^n)$ be given over an open subset Ω of \mathbb{R}^n . The Christoffel symbols of the second kind associated with this metric are then defined by

$$\Gamma_{ij}^k := \frac{1}{2} g^{k\ell} (\partial_i g_{j\ell} + \partial_j g_{i\ell} - \partial_\ell g_{ij}), \quad \text{where } (g^{k\ell}) := (g_{ij})^{-1},$$

and the mixed components of its associated Riemann curvature tensor are defined by

$$R_{ijk}^p := \partial_j \Gamma_{ik}^p - \partial_k \Gamma_{ij}^p + \Gamma_{ik}^\ell \Gamma_{j\ell}^p - \Gamma_{ij}^\ell \Gamma_{k\ell}^p.$$

If this tensor vanishes in Ω and Ω is simply-connected, a classical result in differential geometry asserts that (g_{ij}) is the metric tensor field of a manifold $\Theta(\Omega)$ that is isometrically immersed in \mathbb{R}^n . More specifically (see, e.g., Ciarlet and Larssonneur [2, Theorem 2] for an elementary and self-contained proof), *there exists an immersion $\Theta \in C^3(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ that satisfies*

$$\partial_i \Theta(x) \cdot \partial_j \Theta(x) = g_{ij}(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in \Omega,$$

and, if in addition Ω is connected, such an immersion is unique up to isometries in \mathbb{R}^n .

In [3] (see [4] for a complete proof), we indicated how a *manifold with boundary*, i.e., a subset of \mathbb{R}^n of the form $\Theta(\overline{\Omega})$, can be likewise recovered from a metric tensor field that, together with its partial derivatives of order ≤ 2 , can be continuously extended to the *closure* $\overline{\Omega}$ in such a way that the continuous extensions of the matrices (g_{ij})

remain positive-definite in $\overline{\Omega}$. More specifically, in [3,4] the above existence and uniqueness result is extended as follows “up to the boundary of Ω ”:

Theorem 1.3. *Let Ω be a simply-connected open subset of \mathbb{R}^n that satisfies the geodesic property (see Definition 1.2). Let there be given a matrix field $(g_{ij}) \in C^2(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{S}_>^n)$ (in the sense of Definition 1.1) that satisfies*

$$R^p_{.ijk} = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

Then there exists a mapping $\Theta \in C^3(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ (again in the sense of Definition 1.1) that satisfies (the notations $\overline{\partial_i \Theta}$ and $\overline{g_{ij}}$ represent the continuous extensions of the fields $\partial_i \Theta$ and of the functions g_{ij} , according to Definition 1.1):

$$\overline{\partial_i \Theta}(x) \cdot \overline{\partial_j \Theta}(x) = \overline{g_{ij}}(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in \overline{\Omega},$$

and such a mapping is unique up to isometries in \mathbb{R}^n .

2. Another definition of the space $C^\ell(\overline{\Omega})$

The final objective of this Note is to provide sufficient conditions guaranteeing that a Riemannian metric $(g_{ij}) \in C^2(\Omega; \mathbb{S}_>^n)$ with a Riemann curvature tensor vanishing in an open subset Ω of \mathbb{R}^n can be extended to a Riemannian metric $(\tilde{g}_{ij}) \in C^2(\tilde{\Omega}; \mathbb{S}_>^n)$ on a connected open set $\tilde{\Omega}$ containing $\overline{\Omega}$, in such a way that the Riemann curvature tensor associated with this extension still vanishes in $\tilde{\Omega}$ (see Theorem 3.1).

To this end, another characterization of the space $C^\ell(\overline{\Omega})$ is needed (see Theorem 2.2). This is why we first introduce another notion of “geodesic property”, stronger than that introduced in Definition 1.2.

Definition 2.1. An open subset Ω of \mathbb{R}^n satisfies the *strong geodesic property* if it is connected and there exists a constant C_Ω such that

$$d_\Omega(x, y) \leq C_\Omega |x - y| \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \Omega,$$

where d_Ω designates the geodesic distance in Ω (cf. Section 1).

Remarks. (1) Any connected open subset of \mathbb{R}^n with a Lipschitz-continuous boundary satisfies the strong geodesic property; for a proof, see, e.g., Proposition 5.1 in Anicic, Le Dret and Raoult [1].

(2) The strong geodesic property clearly implies the geodesic property, but not conversely; consider, e.g., a bounded open subset of \mathbb{R}^2 whose boundary is a cardioid.

The following theorem, which hinges in particular on a profound result of Whitney [7] shows that, when an open set Ω satisfies the strong geodesic property, the space $C^\ell(\overline{\Omega})$ introduced in Definition 1.1 admits a remarkably simple characterization. This result will in turn play a key role in the announced extension theorem.

Theorem 2.2. *Let Ω be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n that satisfies the strong geodesic property. Then for any integer $\ell \geq 1$, the space $C^\ell(\overline{\Omega})$ of Definition 1.1 can be also defined as*

$$C^\ell(\overline{\Omega}) = \{f|_\Omega \in C^\ell(\Omega); f \in C^\ell(\mathbb{R}^n)\}.$$

Sketch of proof. The proof, which is only briefly sketched here (see [4] for a complete proof), hinges on the following steps. Note that the assumption that Ω satisfies the strong geodesic property is not needed until part (iv).

(i) To begin with, we list some *notations* used throughout this proof. Given a multi-index $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$, we let

$$|\alpha| := \sum_i \alpha_i \quad \text{and} \quad \partial^\alpha := \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|}}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_1} \partial x_2^{\alpha_2} \dots \partial x_n^{\alpha_n}} \quad \text{if } |\alpha| \geq 1,$$

$$\mathbf{0} := (0, 0, \dots, 0) \quad \text{and} \quad \partial^{\mathbf{0}} f := f,$$

$$\mathbf{0}! := 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha! := (\alpha_1!)(\alpha_2!) \dots (\alpha_n!).$$

If $x = (x_i)$ and $y = (y_i)$ are two points in \mathbb{R}^n , we let

$$(y - x)^{\mathbf{0}} := 1 \quad \text{and} \quad (y - x)^\alpha := (y_1 - x_1)^{\alpha_1} (y_2 - x_2)^{\alpha_2} \dots (y_n - x_n)^{\alpha_n}.$$

Concurrently with the multi-index notation $\partial^\alpha f$ for partial derivatives we also use the notations

$$\partial_{i_1} f := \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{i_1}}, \dots, \partial_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} f := \frac{\partial^m f}{\partial x_{i_1} \partial x_{i_2} \dots \partial x_{i_m}},$$

with the understanding that, whenever a summation involves such indices i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m , then they range in the set $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ independently of each other.

(ii) Let Ω be a connected open subset of \mathbb{R}^n , let x and y be two points in Ω , and let $\gamma = (\gamma_i) \in C^1([0, 1]; \mathbb{R}^n)$ be a path joining x to y in Ω . Then any function $f \in C^m(\Omega)$, $m \geq 1$, satisfies the following identity, which may be viewed as a *Taylor formula along a path*:

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) = & f(x) + \frac{1}{1!} \partial_{i_1} f(x) (y_{i_1} - x_{i_1}) + \dots + \frac{1}{(m-1)!} \partial_{i_1 \dots i_{m-1}} f(x) (y_{i_1} - x_{i_1}) \dots (y_{i_{m-1}} - x_{i_{m-1}}) \\ & + \int_0^1 \left(\int_0^{t_1} \dots \left(\int_0^{t_{m-2}} \left(\int_0^{t_{m-1}} \partial_{i_1 \dots i_m} f(\gamma(t_m)) \gamma'_{i_m}(t_m) dt_m \right) \gamma'_{i_{m-1}}(t_{m-1}) dt_{m-1} \right) \dots dt_2 \right) \gamma'_{i_1}(t_1) dt_1. \end{aligned}$$

(iii) The identity established in (ii) in turn implies the following estimate, which may be viewed as a *generalized mean-valued theorem along a path*: Let Ω be a connected open subset of \mathbb{R}^n , let x and y be two points in Ω , let $\gamma \in C^1([0, 1]; \mathbb{R}^n)$ be a path joining x to y in Ω , and let a function $f \in C^m(\Omega)$, $m \geq 1$, be given. Then

$$\left| f(y) - \sum_{|\beta| \leq m} \frac{1}{\beta!} \partial^\beta f(x) (y - x)^\beta \right| \leq L(\gamma)^m \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \frac{1}{\alpha!} \sup_{z \in \gamma([0,1])} |\partial^\alpha f(z) - \partial^\alpha f(x)|^2 \right\}^{1/2},$$

where $L(\gamma)$ denotes the length of the path γ .

(iv) The strong geodesic property then allows to get rid of the dependence on the path γ in the estimate found in (iii), according to the following sharpened estimate: Let Ω be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n that satisfies the strong geodesic property and let a function $f \in C^m(\overline{\Omega})$, $m \geq 1$, be given, the space $C^m(\overline{\Omega})$ being defined as in Definition 1.1. Then, given any point $x_0 \in \overline{\Omega}$ and any number $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta = \delta(x_0, \varepsilon)$ such that

$$\left| \overline{f}(y) - \sum_{|\beta| \leq m} \frac{1}{\beta!} \overline{\partial^\beta f}(x) (y - x)^\beta \right| \leq \varepsilon |y - x|^m \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \overline{\Omega} \cap B(x_0; \delta),$$

where $\overline{f} \in C^0(\overline{\Omega})$ and $\overline{\partial^\beta f} \in C^0(\overline{\Omega})$, $1 \leq |\beta| \leq m$, denote the continuous extensions of the functions $f \in C^0(\Omega)$ and $\partial^\beta f \in C^0(\Omega)$.

(v) Let there be given a function f in the space $C^\ell(\overline{\Omega})$, $\ell \geq 1$, according to Definition 1.1. According to a deep result of Whitney [7], f is also the restriction to Ω of a function in the space $C^\ell(\mathbb{R}^n)$ if, for each multi-index α satisfying $0 \leq |\alpha| \leq \ell$, there exist functions $f_\alpha \in C^0(\overline{\Omega})$ with the following property: For any points $x, y \in \overline{\Omega}$ and any multi-index α satisfying $0 \leq |\alpha| \leq \ell$, let

$$R_\alpha(y; x) := f_\alpha(y) - \sum_{|\beta| \leq \ell - |\alpha|} \frac{1}{\beta!} f_{\alpha+\beta}(x) (y - x)^\beta.$$

Then, given any point $x_0 \in \bar{\Omega}$ and any number $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta = \delta(x_0, \varepsilon)$ such that

$$|R_\alpha(y; x)| \leq \varepsilon |y - x|^{\ell - |\alpha|} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \bar{\Omega} \cap B(x_0; \delta) \text{ and } 0 \leq |\alpha| \leq \ell.$$

To verify that this is indeed the case, let $x_0 \in \bar{\Omega}$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ be given. Then the estimate of part (iv) applied to each function $\overline{\partial^\alpha f}$, $0 \leq |\alpha| \leq \ell$, shows that there exists $\delta_\alpha = \delta_\alpha(x_0, \varepsilon)$ such that

$$\left| \overline{\partial^\alpha f} - \sum_{|\beta| \leq \ell - |\alpha|} \frac{1}{\beta!} \overline{\partial^\beta (\partial^\alpha f)}(x) (y - x)^\beta \right| \leq \varepsilon |y - x|^{\ell - |\alpha|} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \bar{\Omega} \cap B(x_0; \delta_\alpha).$$

Since $\partial^\beta (\partial^\alpha f)(x) = \partial^{\beta+\alpha} f(x)$ for all $x \in \Omega$, it also follows that $\overline{\partial^\beta (\partial^\alpha f)}(x) = \overline{\partial^{\beta+\alpha} f}(x)$ for all $x \in \bar{\Omega}$. Therefore Whitney’s theorem can be applied, with $f_\alpha := \overline{\partial^\alpha f}$ and $\delta := \min\{\delta_\alpha; 0 \leq |\alpha| \leq \ell\}$. \square

3. Extension of a Riemannian metric with a vanishing curvature

We are now in a position to prove the announced extension result. The notations are the same as in Theorem 1.3.

Theorem 3.1. *Let Ω be a simply-connected open subset of \mathbb{R}^n that satisfies the strong geodesic property and let there be given a matrix field $(g_{ij}) \in C^2(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{S}_>^n)$ that satisfies*

$$R_{.ijk}^p = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

Then there exist a connected open subset $\tilde{\Omega}$ of \mathbb{R}^n containing $\bar{\Omega}$ and a matrix field $(\tilde{g}_{ij}) \in C^2(\tilde{\Omega}; \mathbb{S}_>^n)$ such that

$$\tilde{g}_{ij}(x) = g_{ij}(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in \Omega \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{R}_{.ijk}^p = 0 \quad \text{in } \tilde{\Omega},$$

where the functions $\tilde{R}_{.ijk}^p \in C^0(\tilde{\Omega})$ denote the mixed components of the Riemann curvature tensor associated with the field (\tilde{g}_{ij}) .

Proof. Since Ω a fortiori satisfies the geodesic property and Ω is simply-connected, there exists by Theorem 1.3 a mapping $\Theta \in C^3(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ that satisfies

$$\partial_i \overline{\Theta}(x) \cdot \partial_j \overline{\Theta}(x) = \overline{g_{ij}}(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in \bar{\Omega}.$$

Since $\bar{\Omega}$ satisfies the strong geodesic property, there in turn exists by Theorem 2.2 a mapping $\tilde{\Theta} \in C^3(\mathbb{R}^n; \mathbb{R}^n)$ that satisfies

$$\tilde{\Theta}(x) = \Theta(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in \Omega.$$

Let then

$$\tilde{g}_{ij}(x) := \partial_i \tilde{\Theta}(x) \cdot \partial_j \tilde{\Theta}(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

and define the set

$$U := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; (\tilde{g}_{ij}(x)) \in \mathbb{S}_>^n\},$$

which is open in \mathbb{R}^n and contains $\bar{\Omega}$ (since $\tilde{g}_{ij}(x) = \overline{g_{ij}}(x)$ for all $x \in \bar{\Omega}$). Finally, define the set $\tilde{\Omega}$ as the connected component of U that contains $\bar{\Omega}$; hence the set $\tilde{\Omega}$ is open and connected.

Furthermore, the mixed components $\tilde{R}_{.ijk}^p$ of the Riemann curvature tensor associated with the field (\tilde{g}_{ij}) are well defined in the set $\tilde{\Omega}$ since the matrices $(\tilde{g}_{ij}(x))$ are by construction invertible for all $x \in \tilde{\Omega} \subset U$.

Because $\tilde{g}_{ij}(x) = \partial_i \tilde{\Theta}(x) \cdot \partial_j \tilde{\Theta}(x)$ for all $x \in \tilde{\Omega}$ and the restriction $\tilde{\Theta}|_{\tilde{\Omega}} \in C^3(\tilde{\Omega}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ is an immersion, the relations $\tilde{R}_{.ijk}^p = 0$ in $\tilde{\Omega}$ are simply the well-known necessary conditions that a Riemannian metric induced by an immersion satisfies. \square

A similar extension theorem for surfaces in \mathbb{R}^3 can be likewise established; see [5,6].

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