

Sub-Laplacian Comparison Theorems on H-Type Foliations

Gianmarco Molino

SRGI, Université Sorbonne

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Riemannian Geometry

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- Riemannian manifolds allow for many notions of curvature
- Metric, analytic, and even topological properties can be determined from a knowledge of curvature
- How do these ideas fit in a subRiemannian setting?

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If $\kappa > 0$ then

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- *The fundamental group of \mathbb{M} must be finite.*

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Theorem (Bishop-Gromov)

Let \mathbb{M}_κ^m be the Riemannian manifold of dimension m and constant sectional curvature κ . Denote by $B_{\mathbb{M}}(p, r)$ the Riemannian ball of radius r around $p \in \mathbb{M}$. Then

$$\phi(r) = \frac{B_{\mathbb{M}}(p, r)}{B_{\mathbb{M}_\kappa^m}(p_\kappa, r)}$$

is nonincreasing on $(0, \infty)$.

Connections

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- 1 $\nabla_{fX+Y}Z = f\nabla_XZ + \nabla_YZ$
- 2 $\nabla_X(fY) = df(X)Y + f\nabla_XY$

is called a connection.

Levi-Civita Connection

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Theorem

Let (\mathbb{M}, g) be a Riemannian manifold. There exists a unique connection ∇ on \mathbb{M} such that

- 1 $\nabla_X(g(Y, Z)) = g(\nabla_X Y, Z) + g(Y, \nabla_X Z)$
- 2 $\nabla_X Y - \nabla_Y X = [X, Y]$

Curvature

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- Scalar Curvature:

$$s(X) = Tr(Y \mapsto Ric(X, Y))$$

Some Definitions

We set some notation. For a Riemannian manifold (\mathbb{M}, g) and a point $p \in \mathbb{M}$, we define the distance function

$$d_p: \mathbb{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad d_p(q) = d(p, q)$$

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Let $\gamma: [0, L] \rightarrow M$ be a minimizing geodesic. Then we define the curvatures

$$K^+(t) = \sup\{K(X_{\gamma(t)}, Y_{\gamma(t)}): \gamma'(t) \in \text{Span}(X_{\gamma(t)}, Y_{\gamma(t)})\}$$

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We define

$$\text{Hess } f(X, Y) = \nabla^2 f(X, Y) = g(\nabla_X \nabla f, Y)$$

$$\Delta f = \text{Tr}(\text{Hess } f)$$

Hessian Comparison Theorem

Theorem (Hessian Comparison)

Let $(M_i, g_i), i \in \{1, 2\}$ be Riemannian manifolds, $\gamma_i: [0, L] \rightarrow M_i$ be minimizing geodesics such that

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Let $X_i \in \Gamma(T\mathbb{M}_i)$ be such that for all $t \in [0, L]$

- $\|X_1(\gamma_1(t))\|_{g_1} = \|X_2(\gamma_2(t))\|_{g_2}$
- $g_1(X_1(\gamma_1(t)), \gamma_1'(t)) = g_2(X_2(\gamma_2(t)), \gamma_2'(t))$

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then denoting $p_i = \gamma_i(0)$, $q_i = \gamma_i(L)$,

$$\text{Hess } d_{p_1}(X_1(q_1), X_1(q_1)) \leq \text{Hess } d_{p_2}(X_2(q_2), X_2(q_2))$$

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- $K_1^+ \leq K_2^- \implies I(X_1, X_1) \leq I(X_2, X_2)$
- Theorem follows from $\nabla^2 d = \alpha I(X, X)$

Rauch Comparison Theorem

Corollary (Rauch Comparison)

Take the same assumptions as in the previous theorem. Then

$$\Delta_1 d_{p_1}(q_2) \leq \Delta_2 d_{p_2}(q_2)$$

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This presents a way to compare the behaviors of distance functions, but we still need to something to compare them to.

Model Spaces

Denote by \mathbb{M}_{κ}^m the Riemannian manifold of constant sectional curvature κ and dimension m .

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We refer to these as Model Spaces. We are able to compute Δd_p explicitly on these spaces, and use this as a basis for comparison.

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$$\text{Ric} \geq (n-1)\kappa g$$

Let $p, q \in \mathbb{M}$ and denote $r = d(p, q)$. Then

$$\Delta d_p(q) \leq \begin{cases} (n-1)\sqrt{\kappa} \cot(\sqrt{\kappa}r) & \kappa > 0 \\ \frac{n-1}{r} & \kappa = 0 \\ (n-1)\sqrt{|\kappa|} \coth(\sqrt{|\kappa|}r) & \kappa < 0 \end{cases}$$

Comparison Function

On the model spaces, the Jacobi fields can be computed explicitly using the Jacobi equation

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then the upper bound on $\Delta d_p(q)$ is given by solving an ode.

Basic Definitions

Let \mathbb{M} be a smooth manifold. We say that $(\mathbb{M}, \mathcal{H}, g_{\mathcal{H}})$ is a sub-Riemannian manifold if

- \mathcal{H} is a constant rank, bracket generating subbundle of $T\mathbb{M}$,
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A main goal of sub-Riemannian geometry is to determine adequate notions of curvature that are able to support generalizations of the comparison theorems found in the Riemannian theory.

Some History

- Li-Zelenko 2011, Lee-Li 2013, Agrachev-Lee 2015, Lee-Li-Zelenko 2016: Comparison theorems on Sasakian manifolds
- Rizzi-Silveira 2015, 2017, Barilari-Rizzi 2016: Comparison theorems in 3 Sasakian case
- Baudoin-Bonnefont-Garofalo 2014, Baudoin-Grong-Kuwada-Thalmaier 2017: Eulerian approach to comparison theorems on Sasakian and 3 Sasakian manifolds

sR Manifolds with Metric Complement

Let \mathbb{M} be a smooth manifold. We say that $(\mathbb{M}, \mathcal{H}, g)$ is a sub-Riemannian manifold with metric preserving complement or sRmc-manifold if

- (\mathbb{M}, g) is a Riemannian manifold,
- the metric orthogonally splits as $g = g_{\mathcal{H}} \oplus g_{\mathcal{V}}$,
- and $(\mathbb{M}, \mathcal{H}, g_{\mathcal{H}})$ is a sub-Riemannian manifold.

We denote by \mathcal{V} the orthogonal complement of \mathcal{H} by g .

Motivating Example: Hopf Fibration

Consider \mathbb{S}^{2n+1} foliated as

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Then setting \mathcal{H} to be orthogonal to \mathcal{V} will make $(\mathbb{S}^{2n+1}, \mathcal{H}, g)$ a sRmc-manifold.

Gromov-Hausdorff Convergence

For a sRmc-manifold $(\mathbb{M}, \mathcal{H}, g)$ we define the canonical variation of the metric

$$g_\varepsilon = g_{\mathcal{H}} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} g_{\mathcal{V}}$$

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$$(\mathbb{M}, \mathcal{H}, g_\varepsilon) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} (\mathbb{M}, \mathcal{H}, g_{\mathcal{H}})$$

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The idea is to consider the convergence of Riemannian structures to the sub-Riemannian one.

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- ③ For every $X, Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{H}), Z, V \in \Gamma(\mathcal{V})$,
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This is called the Hladky-Bott connection.

Hladky-Bott Connection

We can explicitly write ∇ in terms of the Levi-Civita connection ∇^g as

$$\nabla_X Y = \begin{cases} \pi_{\mathcal{H}} \nabla_X^g Y & X, Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{H}) \\ \pi_{\mathcal{H}} [X, Y] + A_X Y & Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{H}), X \in \Gamma(\mathcal{V}) \\ \pi_{\mathcal{V}} [X, Y] + A_X Y & Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{V}), X \in \Gamma(\mathcal{H}) \\ \pi_{\mathcal{V}} \nabla_X^g Y & X, Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{V}) \end{cases}$$

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where the tensor A is defined by

$$\langle A_X Y, Z \rangle = \frac{1}{2} ((\mathcal{L}_{X_{\mathcal{V}}} g)(Y_{\mathcal{H}}, Z_{\mathcal{H}}) + (\mathcal{L}_{X_{\mathcal{H}}} g)(Y_{\mathcal{V}}, Z_{\mathcal{V}}))$$

Bundle-like Metrics and Totally Geodesic Foliations

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- Bundle-like metric: A foliation is said to have a bundle-like metric if the metric locally splits orthogonally. This is equivalent to

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{V}}g(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H}) = 0$$

- Totally geodesic foliation: A foliation is said to be totally geodesic if the geodesics of the fibers are embedded geodesics of the total space. This is equivalent to

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{H}}g(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{V}) = 0$$

J Map

On $(\mathbb{M}, \mathcal{H}, g)$ we can associate to each vector field $Z \in \Gamma(T\mathbb{M})$ an endomorphism J_Z of $T\mathbb{M}$ defined by

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If \mathcal{V} is integrable,

$$\begin{cases} J_Z X \in \mathcal{H} & \text{if } Z \in \mathcal{V}, X \in \mathcal{H} \\ J_Z X = 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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We thus take the perspective

$$J: \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathcal{H}), \quad Z \mapsto J_Z$$

H-type Foliations

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- 1 $(\mathbb{M}, \mathcal{V}, g)$ is a totally geodesic foliation with bundle-like metric, and
- 2 for all $X, Y \in \Gamma(\mathcal{H}), Z \in \Gamma(\mathcal{V})$,

$$\langle J_Z X, J_Z Y \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} = \|Z\|^2 \langle X, Y \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$$

Parallel Torsion

We also refine the definition of H-type foliations based on the behavior of derivatives of the Hladky-Bott torsion \mathcal{T} .

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- If $\nabla T = 0$ we say \mathbb{M} has completely parallel torsion.

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- If $\nabla_{\mathcal{H}}T = 0$ we say \mathbb{M} has horizontally parallel torsion, and
- If $\nabla T = 0$ we say \mathbb{M} has completely parallel torsion.

Lemma

All H-type foliations are Yang-Mills.

J^2 condition

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The H-type groups with this property were classified by (M. Cowling, A.H. Dooley, A. Korányi, and F. Ricci '91 [4])

Metric Connections, Jacobi Equation

For the remainder of the talk, let $(M, \mathcal{H}, g_\varepsilon)$

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Metric Connections, Jacobi Equation

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but this isn't true for general connections, or in particular the Bott connection.

Adjoint Connections and the Jacobi Equation

For an arbitrary connection ∇ with torsion

$$\text{Tor}(X, Y) = \nabla_X Y - \nabla_Y X - [X, Y],$$

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In general, the adjoint of a metric connection is not metric. As a consequence, terms involving the torsion of ∇ are introduced to the Jacobi equation.

Jacobi Equation for Metric Adjoint Connections

However, in the special case that both $\nabla, \hat{\nabla}$ are metric, the Jacobi equation along a geodesic γ is

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This is a consequence of the commutation $\nabla_V \dot{\gamma} = \hat{\nabla}_{\dot{\gamma}} V$ for a Jacobi field V along a geodesic γ .

ε -invariant Metric Adjoint Connection

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From this we recover a Jacobi equation for all $\varepsilon > 0$.

The Comparison Principle

Theorem (Baudoin, Grong, Kuwada, & Thalmaier '17 [1])

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- Let $x, y \in \mathbb{M}$,
- $\gamma: [0, r_\varepsilon] \rightarrow \mathbb{M}$ a unit speed g_ε -geodesic connecting x, y , and
- W_1, \dots, W_k be a collection of vector fields along γ such that

$$\sum_{i=0}^k \int_0^{r_\varepsilon} \langle \hat{\nabla}_{\dot{\gamma}}^\varepsilon \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}}^\varepsilon W_i + \hat{R}^\varepsilon(W_i, \dot{\gamma})\dot{\gamma}, W_i \rangle_\varepsilon \geq 0$$

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then at $y = \gamma(r_\varepsilon)$ it holds that

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with equality if and only if the W_i are Jacobi fields.

- Along a geodesic γ let V satisfy the Jacobi equation

$$\hat{\nabla}_{\dot{\gamma}} \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} V - \hat{R}(V, \dot{\gamma})\dot{\gamma} = 0$$

and initial conditions $V(0) = 0, V(r) = X$

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- Then it can be shown

$$\hat{\nabla}^2 d_p(q)(X, X) = I(V, V)$$

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$$I(V, V) = \int_0^r \langle \hat{\nabla}_{\dot{\gamma}}^\varepsilon V, \nabla_{\dot{\gamma}}^\varepsilon V \rangle - \hat{R}^\varepsilon(V, \dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}, V) dt$$

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- This gives bounds on the behavior of $\text{Hess}^{\hat{\nabla}^\varepsilon}(r_\varepsilon)$

Horizontal Splitting

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Lemma

Denoting $n = \text{rk}(\mathcal{H})$, $m = \text{rk}(\mathcal{V})$, we will have

$$\dim(\mathcal{H}_{Sas}) = m, \quad \dim(\mathcal{H}_{Riem}) = n - m - 1$$

Comparison Functions

Similarly to the Riemannian case, we consider the comparison functions

$$F_{Riem}(r, \kappa) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\kappa} \cot(\sqrt{\kappa}r) & \text{if } \kappa > 0 \\ \frac{1}{r} & \text{if } \kappa = 0 \\ \sqrt{|\kappa|} \coth(\sqrt{|\kappa|}r) & \text{if } \kappa < 0 \end{cases}$$

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$$F_{Sas}(r, \kappa) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sqrt{\kappa}(\sin(\sqrt{\kappa}r) - \sqrt{\kappa}r \cos(\sqrt{\kappa}r))}{2 - 2 \cos(\sqrt{\kappa}r) - \sqrt{\kappa}r \sin(\sqrt{\kappa}r)} & \text{if } \kappa > 0 \\ \frac{4}{r} & \text{if } \kappa = 0 \\ \frac{\sqrt{\kappa}(\sqrt{\kappa}r \cosh(\sqrt{\kappa}r) - \sinh(\sqrt{\kappa}r))}{2 - 2 \cosh(\sqrt{\kappa}r) + \sqrt{\kappa}r \sinh(\sqrt{\kappa}r)} & \text{if } \kappa < 0 \end{cases}$$

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These comparison functions will correspond to the splitting of \mathcal{H} .

Hessian Comparisons

Theorem (Baudoin, Grong, M., & Rizzi '19 [3])

- Let $\gamma: [0, r_\varepsilon] \rightarrow \mathbb{M}$ be a g_ε -geodesic. Then

$$\text{Hess}(r_\varepsilon)(\dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}) \leq \frac{\|\dot{\gamma}\|^2 (1 - \|\dot{\gamma}\|^2)}{r_\varepsilon}$$

- If $\text{Sec}(X \wedge Y) \geq \rho > 0$ for all unit $X, Y \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Riem}}(\dot{\gamma})$, then

$$\text{Hess}(r_\varepsilon)(X, X) \leq F_{\text{Riem}}(r_\varepsilon, K)$$

- If $\text{Sec}(X \wedge J_Z X) \geq \rho > 0$ for all unit $X \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Sas}}(\dot{\gamma})$, then

$$\text{Hess}(r_\varepsilon)(X, X) \leq F_{\text{Sas}}(r_\varepsilon, K)$$

Where K is a constant depending on $\rho, \varepsilon, \|\nabla_{\mathcal{V}} r_\varepsilon\|$, and $\|\nabla_{\mathcal{H}} r_\varepsilon\|$.

Horizontal Ricci Curvature

We define the horizontal Ricci curvature as the horizontal trace of the Riemann tensor,

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{Ric}_{\mathcal{H}}(X, X) &= \sum_{i=0}^n \langle R^{\nabla}(W_i, X)X, W_i \rangle \\ &= \langle R^{\nabla}(Y, X)X, Y \rangle + \operatorname{Ric}_{Sas}(X, X) + \operatorname{Ric}_{Riem}(X, X)\end{aligned}$$

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Theorem (Baudoin, Grong, M., & Rizzi '19 [3])

Let $\rho > 0$. Then for unit $X \in \mathcal{H}$,

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \frac{\text{Ric}_{\text{Riem}}(X, X)}{n - m - 1} \geq \rho \implies \text{diam}_0(\mathbb{M}) \leq \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{\rho}}$$

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The first two of these are sharp, as they are achieved in the complex, quaternionic, and octonionic Hopf fibrations.

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for appropriate bases $\{W_i\}$ of \mathcal{H} and $\{Z_i\}$ of \mathcal{V} .

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$$\Delta_{\mathcal{H}} r_0 \leq \frac{n - m + 3 + C(m - 1)}{r_0}$$

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This is not sharp, but we can recover sharp estimates in each subspace.

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Thank you for your attention!