

Quantitative Geometry of Loop Spaces

Robin Elliott

April 24, 2019

Setup

- ▶ Let (X, g) be a Riemannian manifold (or finite metric simplicial complex) with basepoint.

Setup

- ▶ Let (X, g) be a Riemannian manifold (or finite metric simplicial complex) with basepoint.
- ▶ Define $\Omega X :=$ based (smooth) loops on X

Setup

- ▶ Let (X, g) be a Riemannian manifold (or finite metric simplicial complex) with basepoint.
- ▶ Define $\Omega X :=$ based (smooth) loops on X
- ▶ Define $T_\gamma \Omega X = \{\text{vector fields along } \gamma \text{ in } X\}$

Setup

- ▶ Let (X, g) be a Riemannian manifold (or finite metric simplicial complex) with basepoint.
- ▶ Define $\Omega X :=$ based (smooth) loops on X
- ▶ Define $T_\gamma \Omega X = \{\text{vector fields along } \gamma \text{ in } X\}$
- ▶ Given $V \in T_\gamma \Omega X$, have a norm $\|V\| := \max_{p \in \gamma} \|V(p)\|_{(X, g)}$.

Setup

- ▶ Let (X, g) be a Riemannian manifold (or finite metric simplicial complex) with basepoint.
- ▶ Define $\Omega X :=$ based (smooth) loops on X
- ▶ Define $T_\gamma \Omega X = \{\text{vector fields along } \gamma \text{ in } X\}$
- ▶ Given $V \in T_\gamma \Omega X$, have a norm $\|V\| := \max_{p \in \gamma} \|V(p)\|_{(X, g)}$.
- ▶ This induces:
 - ▶ metric on ΩX ,

Setup

- ▶ Let (X, g) be a Riemannian manifold (or finite metric simplicial complex) with basepoint.
- ▶ Define $\Omega X :=$ based (smooth) loops on X
- ▶ Define $T_\gamma \Omega X = \{\text{vector fields along } \gamma \text{ in } X\}$
- ▶ Given $V \in T_\gamma \Omega X$, have a norm $\|V\| := \max_{p \in \gamma} \|V(p)\|_{(X, g)}$.
- ▶ This induces:
 - ▶ metric on ΩX ,
 - ▶ a norm $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ on differential forms on X ,

Setup

- ▶ Let (X, g) be a Riemannian manifold (or finite metric simplicial complex) with basepoint.
- ▶ Define $\Omega X :=$ based (smooth) loops on X
- ▶ Define $T_\gamma \Omega X = \{\text{vector fields along } \gamma \text{ in } X\}$
- ▶ Given $V \in T_\gamma \Omega X$, have a norm $\|V\| := \max_{p \in \gamma} \|V(p)\|_{(X, g)}$.
- ▶ This induces:
 - ▶ metric on ΩX ,
 - ▶ a norm $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ on differential forms on X ,
 - ▶ notion of volume on chains in ΩX ,

Setup

- ▶ Let (X, g) be a Riemannian manifold (or finite metric simplicial complex) with basepoint.
- ▶ Define $\Omega X :=$ based (smooth) loops on X
- ▶ Define $T_\gamma \Omega X = \{\text{vector fields along } \gamma \text{ in } X\}$
- ▶ Given $V \in T_\gamma \Omega X$, have a norm $\|V\| := \max_{p \in \gamma} \|V(p)\|_{(X, g)}$.
- ▶ This induces:
 - ▶ metric on ΩX ,
 - ▶ a norm $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ on differential forms on X ,
 - ▶ notion of volume on chains in ΩX ,
- ▶ And also have length functional $Length : \Omega X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Setup

- ▶ Let (X, g) be a Riemannian manifold (or finite metric simplicial complex) with basepoint.
- ▶ Define $\Omega X :=$ based (smooth) loops on X
- ▶ Define $T_\gamma \Omega X = \{\text{vector fields along } \gamma \text{ in } X\}$
- ▶ Given $V \in T_\gamma \Omega X$, have a norm $\|V\| := \max_{p \in \gamma} \|V(p)\|_{(X, g)}$.
- ▶ This induces:
 - ▶ metric on ΩX ,
 - ▶ a norm $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ on differential forms on X ,
 - ▶ notion of volume on chains in ΩX ,
- ▶ And also have length functional $Length : \Omega X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
 - ▶ induces another notion of size on chains: supLength

Applications

Applications

Can ask for quantitative estimates on elements in $H_*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$ and $H^*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$.

Applications

Can ask for quantitative estimates on elements in $H_*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$ and $H^*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$.

▶ **Example:** $Hopf : \pi_3(S^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xleftrightarrow{\cong} Hopf \in H^2(\Omega S^2; \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}$

Applications

Can ask for quantitative estimates on elements in $H_*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$ and $H^*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$.

- ▶ **Example:** $Hopf : \pi_3(S^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xleftrightarrow{\cong} Hopf \in H^2(\Omega S^2; \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}$
Gromov's theorem that $S^3 \xrightarrow{L\text{-Lipschitz}} S^2$ has Hopf invariant $\lesssim L^4$ has analogy in this setting: the existence of a 2-form on ΩS^2 representing $Hopf$ with bounded norm.

Applications

Can ask for quantitative estimates on elements in $H_*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$ and $H^*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$.

▶ **Example:** $Hopf : \pi_3(S^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xleftrightarrow{\cong} Hopf \in H^2(\Omega S^2; \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}$

Gromov's theorem that $S^3 \xrightarrow{L\text{-Lipschitz}} S^2$ has Hopf invariant $\lesssim L^4$ has analogy in this setting: the existence of a 2-form on ΩS^2 representing $Hopf$ with bounded norm.

▶ In general,

$$\pi_n(X) \otimes \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_{n-1}(\Omega X) \otimes \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\text{Hurewicz}} H_{n-1}(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$$

Applications

Can ask for quantitative estimates on elements in $H_*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$ and $H^*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$.

- ▶ **Example:** $Hopf : \pi_3(S^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xleftrightarrow{\cong} Hopf \in H^2(\Omega S^2; \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}$
Gromov's theorem that $S^3 \xrightarrow{L\text{-Lipschitz}} S^2$ has Hopf invariant $\lesssim L^4$ has analogy in this setting: the existence of a 2-form on ΩS^2 representing $Hopf$ with bounded norm.

- ▶ In general,

$$\pi_n(X) \otimes \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_{n-1}(\Omega X) \otimes \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\text{Hurewicz}} H_{n-1}(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$$

- ▶ **Question:** Given $\phi \in H_n(\Omega X)$, which parts of the volume/supLength plane do representatives live in?

Applications

Can ask for quantitative estimates on elements in $H_*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$ and $H^*(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$.

- ▶ **Example:** $Hopf : \pi_3(S^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xleftrightarrow{\cong} Hopf \in H^2(\Omega S^2; \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}$
Gromov's theorem that $S^3 \xrightarrow{L\text{-Lipschitz}} S^2$ has Hopf invariant $\lesssim L^4$ has analogy in this setting: the existence of a 2-form on ΩS^2 representing $Hopf$ with bounded norm.

- ▶ In general,

$$\pi_n(X) \otimes \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_{n-1}(\Omega X) \otimes \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\text{Hurewicz}} H_{n-1}(\Omega X; \mathbb{R})$$

- ▶ **Question:** Given $\phi \in H_n(\Omega X)$, which parts of the volume/supLength plane do representatives live in?
- ▶ **Theorem:** S^3 triangulated with N 3-simplices, inducing cell structure on $\Omega_{PL} S^3$. Then any cellular sweepout $\Sigma \rightarrow \Omega_{PL} S^3$ requires $\gtrsim N^{4/3}$ 2-cells.

Thanks for listening!