

Endpoint geodesics on symmetric spaces

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Symmetric spaces are among the most prominent examples of Riemannian manifolds since they exhibit many beautiful features. They can be viewed from different points of view, one of them a Lie theoretic one, which describes them as special homogeneous spaces. With this approach it is possible to find a formalism for isometric embeddings of certain symmetric spaces. Geodesics on symmetric spaces are well understood, but it is often an interesting problem to consider the geodesic equation as a boundary value problem. This endpoint geodesics problem plays an important role in many applications. With the isometric embedding mentioned above, it is possible to solve this problem. The talk will give a brief introduction to symmetric spaces and then present results on endpoint geodesics.