

## Right vs left actions

Suppose a Lie group  $G$  acts on a manifold  $M$ , and

it is a right action:  $x(gh) = (xg)h$  for  $x \in M, g, h \in G$ .

Variation of a function  $f$  on  $M$  by  $X \in \mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$

is a function  $\delta_X f$  on  $M$  defined by

$$(\delta_X f)(x) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} f(xe^{tX}) \right|_{t=0}.$$

Show that, for  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ ,

$$\delta_X \delta_Y f - \delta_Y \delta_X f = \delta_{[X, Y]} f$$

Suppose it is a left action instead,  $(gh)x = g(hx)$ .

The variation is  $(\delta_X f)(x) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} f(e^{tX}x) \right|_{t=0}$ .

Show that, for  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$

$$\delta_X \delta_Y f - \delta_Y \delta_X f = -\delta_{[X, Y]} f$$