

Recall: If we choose the bases $\{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu}\}$, $\{dx^\nu\}$, then:

$$\text{Eq: } L_{EM} = -\frac{1}{16\pi} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$



$$S'[g_{\mu\nu}, \psi] = \int \left(\frac{1}{16\pi G} R(g_{\mu\nu}(x)) + L_{\text{matter}}(g_{\mu\nu}(x), \psi^{(i)}(x), \dot{\psi}^{(i)}(x)) \right) g^i dx^i$$

$\frac{\delta S'}{\delta \psi^{(i)}} = 0 \Rightarrow$ Eqs. of motion of matter
(Maxwell, Klein Gordon eqns. etc)

$\frac{\delta S'}{\delta g_{\mu\nu}} = 0 \Rightarrow$ Einstein equations:

$$R^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} R = 8\pi G T^{\mu\nu}$$

What is the Einstein equation when using a frame so that

$$g_{\mu\nu}(x) = \eta_{\mu\nu} ?$$

Recall:

□ Frames $\{\theta^\mu\}, \{e_\mu\}$:

Often, one uses as the bases of $T_p(M)$, and $T_p(M)'$ the canonical bases $\{dx^\mu\}$ and $\{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu}\}$ respectively, which suggest themselves when one chooses coordinates, say (x^0, \dots, x^3) .

Thus, when changing coordinate system, $x \rightarrow \bar{x}$, one also usually automatically changes basis in $T_p(M), T_p(M)'$.

Important: The only reason why the components of a tensor can change when we change coordinates is that we can change basis in the (co-) tangent spaces, namely from one canonical basis to another canonical basis, when we change coord. system.

Recall:
a fixed vector has different coefficients in different bases:

$$\left(\frac{\partial^r}{\partial x^\mu} = g^{\nu\lambda} \frac{\partial^r}{\partial x^\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\lambda} = \tilde{g}^{\nu\lambda} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\lambda} \Rightarrow \tilde{g}^{\nu\lambda} = g^{\nu\lambda} \right)$$

$$\rightarrow \xi = \xi^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} = \tilde{\xi}^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\nu}$$

We notice: If we choose a fixed basis, say $\{\theta^\mu\}, \{e_\mu\}$ then the coefficients of tensors no longer depend on the choice of coordinates!

E.g.: $\xi = \tilde{\xi}^\mu e_\mu$ the same numbers in every coordinate system.

Conversely: Even staying with one coordinate system, we can freely change our choice of basis in the (co-) tangent spaces:

scalar functions.

$$\theta'{}^\nu = A^\nu{}_\mu \theta^\mu$$

$$e'_\mu = (A^{-1})_\mu{}^\nu e_\nu$$

So we have e.g.:

$$\xi = \xi^\mu e_\mu = \xi^\mu A^\nu{}_\mu e'_\nu = \xi'^\nu e'_\nu$$

I.e.: $\xi'^\nu = A^\nu{}_\mu \xi^\mu$

Examples: □ The curvature form: $\Omega'^\nu = A^\nu_a (A^{-1})_b{}^c \Omega^a_b$

□ But: the connection form $\omega'^\nu_a(\xi) = g^k \Gamma^{\nu}_{k\mu}$ obeys:

$$\omega'^\nu_a = A^\nu_a \omega^\alpha_b (A^{-1})_b{}^c - (dA)^{\nu}_c (A^{-1})_a{}^c$$

How to specify frames?

In an arbitrary coordinate system, we may specify the bases in terms of the canonical bases:

$$\Theta^i(x) = A_{,j}^i(x) dx^j$$

(Another possibility? Take n scalar functions f^1, \dots, f^n and define $\Theta^i := df^{(i)}$. For generic functions these $\{\Theta^i\}$ will be linearly independent almost everywhere.)

Note: the $A_{,j}^i(x)$ change nontrivially when changing the coordinate system!

Our choice now: orthonormal frames, or "Tetrads":

□ We say that a frame $\{\theta^r\}, \{e_r\}$ is orthonormal if in this frame, for all $p \in M$:

$$g(e_r, e_s) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{r,s} = \eta_{rs} \quad \text{i.e. if: } g = -\theta^r \otimes \theta^r + \sum_{i=1}^3 \theta^i \otimes \theta^i$$

□ Existence? Always: At each $p \in M$ may choose e.g. $\theta^r = dx^r$ where dx^r are canonical ON basis at centre of a geodesic cds.

□ Uniqueness?

For a given space-time, (M, g) , any ON frame yields a new ON frame by transforming the bases through

$$\theta'^r(x) = \Lambda(x)^r \circ \theta^s(x),$$

if the linear maps $\Lambda(x)$ preserve the orthonormality:

$$\eta_{rs} \theta'^r \otimes \theta'^s = \eta_{ab} \theta^a \otimes \theta^b$$

$$\text{i.e. if: } \Lambda^a{}_r \Lambda^b{}_s \eta_{rs} = \eta_{ab} \quad (*)$$

recall: this is the defining equation for Lorentz transformations.

⇒ Frames are unique up to local Lorentz transformations.

Re-express the degrees of freedom:

- o We used to specify space-times through these data: (M, g)
- o Now, let us specify space-times, equivalently, through data $(M, \{\theta^i\})$:

Namely:

Assume the $\{\theta^i\}$ are given w. resp. to a basis $\{dx^\mu\}$, through functions A^μ_ν ,

$$\theta^\mu(x) = A^\mu_\nu(x) dx^\nu$$

so that: $g_{\mu\nu} = (\partial^\mu_i \partial^\nu_j) = g_{\mu\nu}$ in the basis $\{\theta^i\}$!

Notice: knowing the $A^\mu_\nu(x)$, we can reconstruct $g_{\mu\nu}(x)$ in basis $\{dx^\mu\}$:

We use that the abstract g is the same in every basis:

$$g = \underbrace{\eta_{\mu\nu} \theta^\mu \otimes \theta^\nu}_{\text{because it's tetrad}} = \eta_{\mu\nu} \underbrace{A^\mu_a A^\nu_b}_{dx^a \otimes dx^b} dx^a \otimes dx^b = g_{\mu\nu}(x) dx^\mu \otimes dx^\nu$$

$$\Rightarrow g_{ab}(x) = \eta_{\mu\nu} A^\mu_a(x) A^\nu_b(x)$$

$\Rightarrow \{\theta^i(x)\}$ indeed determines $g_{\mu\nu}(x)$:

\Rightarrow The $A^\mu_\nu(x)$ carry all physical (here shape) info!

How then does $\tilde{A}^i_{\nu}(x)$ encode $C^i_{jk}, \omega^i_j, \Omega^i_j$?

Start with orthonormal frame:

$$\Theta^i(x) = A^i_j(x) dx^j \quad (\star)$$

1.) How do the $A^i_j(x)$ determine the $C^i_{jk}(x)$?

Recall from lecture 11:

$$d\Theta^i(x) = -\frac{1}{2} C^i_{jk}(x) \Theta^j(x) \wedge \Theta^k(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Here: } d\Theta^i(x) &= A^i_{j,k}(x) dx^k \wedge dx^j \quad \text{because of } (\star) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} C^i_{ab} \Theta^a \wedge \Theta^b = -\frac{1}{2} C^i_{ab} A^a_k A^b_j dx^k \wedge dx^j \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow A^i_{j,k} = -\frac{1}{2} C^i_{ab} A^a_k A^b_j$$

$$\Rightarrow C^i_{ab}(x) = -2 A^i_{j,k}(x) (A^{-1}(x))_a^j (A^{-1}(x))_b^k$$

2.) The $C^i_{jk}(x)$ yield the $\Gamma^i_{jk}(x)$ through:

$$\Gamma^i_{kj} := \frac{1}{2} \left(C^i_{\mu j} - g_{ij} g^{\mu i} C^s_{\nu j} - g_{ik} g^{\mu k} C^s_{ij} \right) \quad (\text{lecture 11})$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu j} (g_{ijk} + g_{jki} - g_{kij}) \quad \begin{matrix} \leftarrow \text{These all vanish} \\ \text{because } g_{\mu\nu} = 0 \text{ now} \end{matrix}$$

Notice: This simplifies for orthonormal frames with $g_{\mu\nu}(x) = \delta_{\mu\nu}$!

3.) The $\Gamma^i_{kj}(x)$ yield the $\omega^i_j(x)$:

$$\omega^i_j(x) := \Gamma^i_{kj}(x) \Theta^k(x)$$

4.) Recall the 2nd structure equation:

$$\Omega^i_j(x) := d\omega^i_j + \omega^i_k \wedge \omega^k_j$$

\Rightarrow We have: $A^i_j \rightarrow \Theta^i \rightarrow C^i_{jk} \rightarrow \Gamma^i_{jk} \rightarrow \omega^i_j \rightarrow \Omega^i_j$

Recall important identities: (torsionless case)

□ Structure eqn. I :

$$\Theta^i = D\theta^i = d\theta^i + \omega_{;1}^i \theta^i = 0$$

□ Structure eqn II :

$$\Omega_{;j}^i = dw_{;j}^i + \omega_{ik}^i \omega_{;k}^j$$

□ Bianchi identity I :

$$\Omega_{;j}^i \theta^j = 0$$

□ Bianchi identity II :

$$D\Omega_{;j}^i = 0$$

(Ordinary: $\theta^i = dx^i \Rightarrow d\theta^i = 0$
and $\omega_{;1}^i \theta^i = 0 \Rightarrow \Gamma_{jk}^{i'} = \Gamma_{kj}^i$)

(Recall: $R_{ijk}^l = \Gamma_{ij}^{l'} + \Gamma_{jk}^{l'} + \Gamma_{ki}^{l'} - \Gamma_{kk}^{l'}$)

And, in the case of ON frames :

$$\omega_{\mu\nu} + \omega_{\nu\mu} = 0$$

Tetrad formulation of GR:

Consider the action, for now, without cosmological constant
and without matter:

$$S_{\text{grav}} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int_B R \sqrt{g} d^4x$$

Recall Hodge $*$: $\int \nu = \frac{1}{p!} \nu_{i_1 \dots i_p} \theta^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \theta^{i_p}$

then $*\nu = \frac{1}{p!} \sqrt{g} \epsilon_{i_1 \dots i_p} \nu^{i_1 \dots i_p} \theta^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \theta^{i_p}$

i.e. $*: \Lambda^p \rightarrow \Lambda^{n-p}$

Thus:

$$S_{\text{grav}}' = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int_B *R$$

Aim now: Re-express $S'_{\mu\nu}$ in terms of θ^κ and Ω^κ_ν .

□ Define: "capital γ " is a $(0,2)$ tensor-valued 2-form

$$H_{\alpha\beta} := *(\theta^\kappa \wedge \theta^\beta) = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{g} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \theta^\kappa \wedge \theta^\delta$$

$$H_{\alpha\beta\gamma} := *(\theta^\kappa \wedge \theta^\beta \wedge \theta^\gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{g} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \theta^\delta$$

↑ a $(0,3)$ tensor-valued 1-form.

□ Proposition:

$$*R = H_{\mu\nu} \wedge \Omega^{\mu\nu} \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{it is a } (0,0) \text{ tensor-valued} \\ \text{4-form} \end{array} \right)$$

i.e.:
$$\boxed{S'_{\mu\nu}(\theta^\kappa) = \int H_{\mu\nu} \wedge \Omega^{\mu\nu}}$$

□ Proof:

$$\text{Use } \Omega^\kappa_\nu = \frac{1}{2} R^\kappa{}_{\nu\lambda\mu} \theta^\lambda \wedge \theta^\mu \Rightarrow$$

$$H_{\mu\nu} \wedge \Omega^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\gamma\delta} R^{\mu\nu}{}_{\kappa\lambda} \underbrace{\theta^\kappa \wedge \theta^\delta}_{\epsilon_{\kappa\lambda}} \underbrace{\theta^\lambda \wedge \theta^\mu}_{\epsilon_{\mu\delta}}$$

$$\text{Use also: } \epsilon_{\mu\nu\gamma\delta} \epsilon_{\kappa\lambda\mu} = 2 (\delta_{\nu\lambda} \delta_{\mu\kappa} - \delta_{\nu\kappa} \delta_{\mu\lambda}) \Rightarrow$$

(need later for
derivation of
the Einstein
equation)

$$H_{\mu\nu} \wedge \Omega^{\mu\nu} = \frac{4}{4} R^{\mu\nu}{}_{\mu\nu} \theta^1 \wedge \theta^2 \wedge \theta^3 \wedge \theta^4 = *R \checkmark$$

□ Proposition: $DH_{\mu\nu} = 0$

Recall the "first structure equation": $D\theta^\kappa = 0$

constant because ON basis

$$\square \text{ Proof: } DH_{\mu\nu} = D \left(\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{g} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\gamma\delta} \theta^\gamma \wedge \theta^\delta \right) = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\gamma\delta} (D\theta^\gamma \wedge \theta^\delta + \theta^\gamma \wedge D\theta^\delta)$$

The main proposition:

variation, not co-derivative

Variation of the action with respect to $\delta \Theta^r(x)$ yields:

i.e., we vary the $A^r_s(x)$ by local Lorentz transformations

$$S(*R) = (\delta \Theta^r) \lrcorner H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \Omega^{rs} + d(\text{something})$$

↓
Stokes:
 $\int_B df = \int_{\partial B} f$

It implies:

$$16\pi G \delta S_{\text{grav}} = \int_B \delta \Theta^r \lrcorner H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \Omega^{rs} + \int_{\partial B} (\text{something})$$

↑ require variation to
vanish at boundary ∂B ,
so: $= 0$

Definition: The "energy-momentum 1-form" T_r is defined as the solution to:

$$\delta S_{\text{matter}} =: \int_B \delta \Theta^r \lrcorner (*T_r)$$

⇒ The equation of motion, i.e., the Einstein equation,

$$\frac{\delta(S'_{\text{grav}} + S'_{\text{matter}})}{\delta \Theta^r} = 0$$

becomes:

$$-\frac{1}{2} H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \Omega^{rs} = 8\pi G *T_r$$

Exercise: add the cosmological constant.

Remark: The Einstein form $G_r := G_{rs} \theta^s$ obeys

$$*G_r = -\frac{1}{2} H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \Omega^{rs}$$

↙ (it is a $(0,1)$ -tensor-valued 1-form)

⇒

$$G_r = 8\pi G T_r$$

Proof of the main proposition:

$$\delta(*R) = (\delta\theta^\mu) \lrcorner H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \Omega^{\nu\sigma} + d(\text{something})$$

Indeed:

$$\delta(*R) = (\delta H_{\mu\nu}) \lrcorner \Omega^{\mu\nu} + H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \delta \Omega^{\mu\nu}$$

Consider the first term:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta H_{\mu\nu} &= \delta \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{g} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\gamma\delta} \theta^\gamma \lrcorner \theta^\delta}_{\text{const.}} \\ &= (\delta\theta^\mu) \lrcorner H_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{by definition of } H_{\mu\nu} \text{ above:} \\ &\qquad H_{\mu\nu} := \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{g} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\gamma\delta} \theta^\gamma \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta(*R) = (\delta\theta^\mu) \lrcorner H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \Omega^{\nu\sigma} + \underbrace{H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \delta \Omega^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{examine this term:}}$$

$$\delta \Omega^{\mu\nu} \xrightarrow{\text{2nd structure equation}} \delta(d\omega^{\mu\nu} + \omega^\mu{}_\gamma \lrcorner \omega^{\gamma\nu})$$

$$= d\delta\omega^{\mu\nu} + (\delta\omega^\mu{}_\gamma) \lrcorner \omega^{\gamma\nu} + \omega^\mu{}_\gamma \lrcorner \delta\omega^{\gamma\nu}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \delta \Omega^{\mu\nu} &= d(H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \delta\omega^{\mu\nu}) - (dH_{\mu\nu}) \lrcorner \delta\omega^{\mu\nu} \\ &\quad + H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \delta\omega^\mu{}_\gamma \lrcorner \omega^{\gamma\nu} + H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \omega^\mu{}_\gamma \lrcorner \delta\omega^{\gamma\nu} \\ &\stackrel{\text{by Def. of } D}{=} (\delta\omega^{\mu\nu}) \lrcorner D H_{\mu\nu} + d(H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \delta\omega^{\mu\nu}) \\ &\qquad \text{recall: } \underbrace{= 0}_{\text{by Prop. above.}} \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow Indeed:

$$\delta(*R) = (\delta\theta^\mu) \lrcorner H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \Omega^{\nu\sigma} + d(H_{\mu\nu} \lrcorner \delta\omega^{\mu\nu}) \checkmark$$

General Relativity as a "gauge theory"

Recall:

$$S_{\text{grav}}(\theta^\mu) = \int H_{\mu\nu} \wedge \Omega^{\mu\nu} \quad \text{Einstein action}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2} H_{\mu\nu\lambda} \wedge \Omega^{\mu\nu\lambda} = 8\pi G * T_\mu \quad \text{Einstein equation}$$

are now the same in all coordinate systems.

In addition:

They are the same also with any choice of ON bases in the tangent spaces, i.e., we have a local symmetry under:

$$\theta^\mu(x) \rightarrow \tilde{\theta}^\mu(x) = A^\mu_\nu(x) \theta^\nu(x)$$

The $A^\mu_\nu(x)$ are local Lorentz transformations.

Upshot: □ We can start with any matter theory that is invariant under global Lorentz transformations and, through general relativity, turn it into a theory that is invariant under local Lorentz transformations.

□ Thereby:

Derivatives become covariant derivatives.

A new field is introduced: gravity's Γ .

→ This is analogous to the gauge principle of particle physics:

- A global symmetry is "gauged" to become local.
- Derivatives become covariant derivatives
- A new field is introduced.

The gauge principle:

Action for a Dirac field (electrons, quarks etc.):

$$S[\psi] = \int \bar{\psi} \left(i g \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m \right) \psi d^4x$$

It has a global symmetry:

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow \tilde{\psi}(x) := e^{i\alpha} \psi(x), \text{ i.e., } \bar{\psi}(x) \rightarrow \bar{\tilde{\psi}}(x) = e^{-i\alpha} \bar{\psi}(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow S[\psi] \rightarrow S[\tilde{\psi}] = S[\psi]$$

However, no local symmetry:

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow \tilde{\psi}(x) := e^{i\alpha(x)} \psi(x) \quad \bar{\psi}(x) \rightarrow \bar{\tilde{\psi}}(x) = e^{-i\alpha(x)} \bar{\psi}(x)$$

$$S[\psi] \rightarrow S[\tilde{\psi}] \neq S[\psi] !$$

Gauge principle: Introduce a new field $A_\mu(x)$ that transforms so as to absorb the extra term:

$$S[\psi, A] := \int \bar{\psi}(x) \left(i g \gamma^\mu \underbrace{(\partial_\mu + i A_\mu(x))}_{\text{"covariant derivative"}} - m \right) \psi(x) d^4x$$

Now under $\psi(x) \rightarrow \tilde{\psi}(x) := e^{i\alpha(x)} \psi(x)$

$$A_\mu(x) \rightarrow \tilde{A}_\mu(x) := A_\mu(x) - i \partial_\mu \alpha(x)$$

the action obeys:

$$S[\psi, A] \rightarrow S[\tilde{\psi}, \tilde{A}]$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int \bar{\psi}(x) e^{-i\alpha(x)} \left(i g \gamma^\mu (\partial_\mu + i A_\mu - i \partial_\mu \alpha - m) \right) e^{i\alpha(x)} \psi(x) d^4x \\ &= S[\psi, A] \end{aligned}$$

Generalization to Yang-Mills theory

Gauging $\psi(x) \rightarrow e^{i\phi(x)} \psi(x)$ introduced $A_\mu(x)$.

and $A_\mu(x)$ turns out to exist: The EM 4-potential.

We "derived" the electromagnetic force!

Notice: $e^{i\phi(x)} \in U(1)$

$$U(1) = \{G \in \mathbb{C} \mid G^* = G^{-1}\}$$

Now give the Dirac particles an extra index (isospin bundle)

$$S'[\psi] = \int \bar{\psi}_a (i g^\mu \delta_{ab} \partial_\mu - m \delta_{ab}) \psi_b d^4x \quad (\sum_{ab} \text{ implied})$$

It's invariant under:

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow G_{ab} \psi_b(x) \quad (\sum_{b=1}^N \text{ implied})$$

where $G \in SU(N)$

$$SU(N) = \{G \in M_n(\mathbb{C}) \mid G^* = G^{-1}, \det(G) = 1\}$$

Now, we gauge, i.e., require invariance under:

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow G_{ab}(x) \psi_b(x) \quad \text{where } G \in SU(N)$$

→ Invariance of the action now requires new field $B_\mu(x)$:

$$S'[\psi] = \int \bar{\psi}_a (i g^\mu \underbrace{(\delta_{ab} \partial_\mu + i B_\mu(x)_a T_{ab}^*)}_{\text{"covariant derivative"}} - m \delta_{ab}) \psi_b d^4x$$

$$\text{and } B_\mu(x)_a \rightarrow \tilde{B}_\mu(x)_a = B_\mu(x)_a + \text{complicated}$$

Here: $T_{ab} \in su(N)$ are a Lie algebra basis, i.e. they are generators of infinitesimal $SU(N)$ transformations.

Upshot: $N=2$ Weak force (though mixed with $N=1$ EM)
 $N=3$ Strong force QCD.

Recall:

$$S_{\text{grav}}(\Omega) = \int H_{\mu\nu} \wedge \Omega^{\mu\nu} \quad \text{Einstein action}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2} H_{\mu\nu\lambda} \wedge \Omega^{\mu\nu\lambda} = 8\pi G * T_\mu \quad \text{Einstein equation}$$

are the same also with any choice of ON bases in the tangent spaces, i.e., we have a local symmetry under:

$$\theta^\nu(x) \rightarrow \tilde{\theta}^\nu(x) = A^\nu{}_\sigma(x) \theta^\sigma(x)$$

The $A^\nu{}_\sigma(x)$ are local Lorentz transformations.

Our covariant derivative:

$$\nabla_{e_\nu} (v^\mu(x) e_\mu) = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} v^\nu(x) \right) e_\nu + v^\mu(x) \underbrace{w^\nu{}_\sigma(e_\nu)}_{e_\sigma} e_\mu$$

Do the $w^\nu{}_\sigma$ indeed generate infinitesimal Lorentz transformations?

Plays rôle of A_μ, B_μ
but is now gravity!

→ Interpretation of the connection in ON frames:

Q: The connection 1-forms $w^\nu{}_\sigma$ are not, we know, tensor-valued 1-forms. Wherin do they take their values?

A: The connection 1-forms take values in the set of infinitesimal Lorentz transformations

Intuition?

The connection yields the change under infinitesimal parallel transport - and parallel transport preserves the metric, i.e. it preserves the lengths of vectors, i.e. the change can only be an infinitesimal "rotation", i.e. an infinitesimal Lorentz transformation.

Recall: "Lorentz transformations Λ^a " are lin. maps obeying:

$$\Lambda_a^r \Lambda_b^s \gamma_{rs} = \gamma_{ab}$$

\Rightarrow Infinitesimal Lorentz transformations

$$\mathbf{N}_a = \mathbf{\delta}_a + \mathbf{\varepsilon}_a \quad \text{with } (\mathbf{\varepsilon}_a)^2 = 0$$

obey:

$$(\delta_a^\nu + \varepsilon_a^\nu)(\delta_b^\nu + \varepsilon_b^\nu) \gamma_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{ab}$$

$$\text{i.e.: } \epsilon^{\mu}_{a} \eta_{\mu b} + \epsilon^{\nu}_{b} \eta_{\nu a} = 0$$

\Rightarrow Infinitesimal Lorentz transformations "JLT" are given by

all $\lambda_a = \delta^r{}_a + \varepsilon^r{}_a$ which obey:

Q: Are connection 1-forms JLT-valued?

Proposition:

In orthonormal frames, the 1-form ω_μ obeys

$$w_{\mu\nu} + w_{\nu\mu} = 0$$

i.e. it takes values that are infinitesimal Lorentz transformations.

Proof:

R Recall: Absolute exterior derivative: (an anti-derivation)

Thus:

$$0 = \nabla g_{\mu\nu} = Dg_{\mu\nu} = dg_{\mu\nu} - w^{\rho} \nabla g_{\mu\nu} - w^{\nu} \nabla g_{\mu\rho}$$

\downarrow \nwarrow \downarrow can drop the n because g is a 0-form.

Recall that by using a tetrad, we achieved that $g_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \eta_{\mu\nu}$ everywhere!