将 Levi-Civita 符号的性质推广到 3 维欧氏空间的适配体元

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本文讨论的背景均是3维欧氏空间。有些结论或可推广至任意空间,暂且不考虑。

1 右手正交归一基下的适配体元分量与 Levi-Civita 符号的对应

记 3 维欧氏空间的适配体元为 ε_{abc} , 其在正交归一基下的唯一独立分量为

$$\hat{\varepsilon}_{123} = \pm 1,\tag{1}$$

其中 + 号对应右手系, - 号对应左手系。依据其反对称性, 还有

$$\hat{\varepsilon}_{\mu\nu\sigma} = -\hat{\varepsilon}_{\mu\sigma\nu} = \hat{\varepsilon}_{\nu\sigma\mu} = -\hat{\varepsilon}_{\nu\mu\sigma} = \hat{\varepsilon}_{\sigma\mu\nu} = -\hat{\varepsilon}_{\sigma\nu\mu},\tag{2}$$

当取**右手系**时, $\hat{\epsilon}_{\mu\nu\sigma}$ 的值正与 Levi-Civita 符号完全一致。

若进行升指标操作,然后在同一正交归一基下展开,会有

$$\hat{\varepsilon}^{\mu\nu\sigma} = g^{\mu\alpha}g^{\nu\beta}g^{\sigma\gamma}\hat{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \delta^{\mu\alpha}\delta^{\nu\beta}\delta^{\sigma\gamma}\hat{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \hat{\varepsilon}_{\mu\nu\sigma},\tag{3}$$

这也与 Levi-Civita 符号相同。总之,对于 Levi-Civita 符号满足的任何式子,我们可以没有什么顾忌地将其中的 Levi-Civita 符号换成适配体元在 **右手的**正交归一基下的分量。

2 适配体元在任意坐标基下 (无论左右手定向) 的分量

根据张量分量变换法则和行列式定义,考虑式(2),我们有

$$\varepsilon_{123} = \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{\mu}}{\partial x^{1}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{\nu}}{\partial x^{2}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{\sigma}}{\partial x^{3}} \hat{\varepsilon}_{\mu\nu\sigma}
= \pm \begin{vmatrix} \partial \hat{x}^{1}/\partial x^{1} & \partial \hat{x}^{1}/\partial x^{2} & \partial \hat{x}^{1}/\partial x^{3} \\ \partial \hat{x}^{2}/\partial x^{1} & \partial \hat{x}^{2}/\partial x^{2} & \partial \hat{x}^{2}/\partial x^{3} \\ \partial \hat{x}^{3}/\partial x^{1} & \partial \hat{x}^{3}/\partial x^{2} & \partial \hat{x}^{3}/\partial x^{3} \end{vmatrix}
= \pm \begin{vmatrix} \partial \left(\hat{x}^{1}, \hat{x}^{2}, \hat{x}^{3}\right) \\ \partial \left(x^{1}, x^{2}, x^{3}\right) \end{vmatrix}$$
(4)

其中加个的坐标表示正交归一坐标,不加个的则是我们选取的任意坐标。

在欧几里得度规下,度规在任意坐标系下的分量与正交归一基底下的分量有关系:

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{\sigma}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{\rho}}{\partial x^{\nu}} \delta_{\sigma\rho},\tag{5}$$

取其行列式则得到

$$|g| = \left| \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{\sigma}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{\rho}}{\partial x^{\nu}} \delta_{\sigma \rho} \right| = \left| \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{\sigma}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \right| \left| \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{\rho}}{\partial x^{\nu}} \right| |\delta_{\sigma \rho}| = \left| \frac{\partial \left(\hat{x}^{1}, \hat{x}^{2}, \hat{x}^{3} \right)}{\partial \left(x^{1}, x^{2}, x^{3} \right)} \right|^{2}$$
 (6)

对照式(6)和式(4),可知

$$\varepsilon_{1\cdots n} = \pm \sqrt{|g|} = \sqrt{|g|} \hat{\varepsilon}_{1\cdots n}$$
 (7)

其中+和-号分别对应于右手和左手正交归一基。

类似地,我们还有

$$\hat{\varepsilon}^{\mu\nu\sigma} = -\hat{\varepsilon}^{\mu\sigma\nu} = \hat{\varepsilon}^{\nu\sigma\mu} = -\hat{\varepsilon}^{\nu\mu\sigma} = \hat{\varepsilon}^{\sigma\mu\nu} = -\hat{\varepsilon}^{\sigma\nu\mu},\tag{8}$$

目 $\hat{\epsilon}^{123} = \pm 1$ 。根据张量分量变换法则和行列式定义,我们有

$$\varepsilon^{123} = \frac{\partial x^{1}}{\partial \hat{x}^{\mu}} \frac{\partial x^{2}}{\partial \hat{x}^{\nu}} \frac{\partial x^{3}}{\partial \hat{x}^{\sigma}} \hat{\varepsilon}^{\mu\nu\sigma}$$

$$= \pm \begin{vmatrix} \partial x^{1}/\partial \hat{x}^{1} & \partial x^{2}/\partial \hat{x}^{1} & \partial x^{3}/\partial \hat{x}^{1} \\ \partial x^{1}/\partial \hat{x}^{2} & \partial x^{2}/\partial \hat{x}^{2} & \partial x^{3}/\partial \hat{x}^{2} \\ \partial x^{1}/\partial \hat{x}^{3} & \partial x^{2}/\partial \hat{x}^{3} & \partial x^{3}/\partial \hat{x}^{3} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \pm \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial (x^{1}, x^{2}, x^{3})}{\partial (\hat{x}^{1}, \hat{x}^{2}, \hat{x}^{3})} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$(9)$$

其中加个的坐标表示正交归一坐标,不加个的则是我们选取的任意坐标。

在欧几里得度规下, 度规在任意坐标系下的分量与正交归一基底下的分量有关系:

$$g^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\partial x^{\mu}}{\partial \hat{x}^{\sigma}} \frac{\partial x^{\nu}}{\partial \hat{x}^{\rho}} \delta^{\sigma\rho},\tag{10}$$

取其行列式则得到

$$|g^{-1}| = \left| \frac{\partial x^{\mu}}{\partial \hat{x}^{\sigma}} \frac{\partial x^{\nu}}{\partial \hat{x}^{\rho}} \delta^{\sigma \rho} \right| = \left| \frac{\partial x^{\mu}}{\partial \hat{x}^{\sigma}} \right| \left| \frac{\partial x^{\nu}}{\partial \hat{x}^{\rho}} \right| \left| \delta^{\sigma \rho} \right| = \left| \frac{\partial \left(x^{1}, x^{2}, x^{3} \right)}{\partial \left(\hat{x}^{1}, \hat{x}^{2}, \hat{x}^{3} \right)} \right|^{2}$$

$$(11)$$

因此

$$\varepsilon^{1\cdots n} = \pm \sqrt{|g^{-1}|} = \sqrt{|g^{-1}|}\hat{\varepsilon}^{1\cdots n} \tag{12}$$

考虑到 $\det(GG^{-1}) = \det(I) = \det(G)\det(G^{-1}) = gg^{-1} = 1$,得知 $\sqrt{|g^{-1}|} = 1/\sqrt{|g|}$,因此

$$\varepsilon^{1\cdots n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}} \hat{\varepsilon}^{1\cdots n} \tag{13}$$

其中+和-号分别对应于右手和左手正交归一基。

总之,适配体元在任意坐标基下的分量等于其在正交归一基下分量乘上系数 $\sqrt{|g|}$; 升指标后的适配体元在任意坐标基下的分量等于其在正交归一基下分量乘上系数 $1/\sqrt{|g|}$ 。

3 将 Levi-Civita 符号的性质推广到适配体元

我们知道, Levi-Civita 符号有一条重要的性质 (已经把 Levi-Civita 符号换成了右手正 交归一基下的适配体元分量)

$$\hat{\varepsilon}_{ijk}\hat{\varepsilon}^{lmn} = \delta_i^l \delta_j^m \delta_k^n + \delta_i^m \delta_j^n \delta_k^l + \delta_i^n \delta_j^l \delta_k^m - \left(\delta_i^n \delta_j^m \delta_k^l + \delta_i^m \delta_j^l \delta_k^n + \delta_i^l \delta_j^n \delta_k^m\right)$$

$$= 3! \delta_i^{[l} \delta_j^m \delta_k^n] = 3! \delta_i^{[l} \delta_j^m \delta_k^n]$$
(14)

自然地想,对于任意右手坐标基下的适配体元分量,上式是否仍成立。利用 §2 的结论,这是显然的:

$$\varepsilon_{ijk}\varepsilon^{lmn} = \sqrt{|g|} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}} \hat{\varepsilon}_{ijk} \hat{\varepsilon}^{lmn} = \hat{\varepsilon}_{ijk} \hat{\varepsilon}^{lmn}, \tag{15}$$

自然地将结果进行了推广。第二种方式则是直接算。 $\varepsilon_{ijk}\varepsilon^{lmn}$ 作为张量积 (外积) 得到的张量,只须考虑张量分量的变换法则:

$$\varepsilon_{ijk}\varepsilon^{lmn} = \left(\frac{\partial \hat{x}^{i'}}{\partial x^i} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{j'}}{\partial x^j} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{k'}}{\partial x^k} \frac{\partial x^l}{\partial \hat{x}^{l'}} \frac{\partial x^m}{\partial \hat{x}^{m'}} \frac{\partial x^n}{\partial \hat{x}^{n'}}\right) \hat{\varepsilon}_{i'j'k'} \hat{\varepsilon}^{l'm'n'} \tag{16}$$

这里我们用不带'的坐标表示任选的坐标,用带'和^个的坐标表示正交归一坐标。将式(14)代入则得到

$$\left(\frac{\partial \hat{x}^{l'}}{\partial x^{i}}\frac{\partial \hat{x}^{j'}}{\partial x^{j}}\frac{\partial \hat{x}^{k'}}{\partial x^{k}}\frac{\partial x^{l}}{\partial \hat{x}^{l'}}\frac{\partial x^{m}}{\partial \hat{x}^{m'}}\frac{\partial x^{n}}{\partial \hat{x}^{n'}}\right)\left(\delta_{i'}^{l'}\delta_{j'}^{m'}\delta_{k'}^{n'}+\delta_{i'}^{m'}\delta_{j'}^{n'}\delta_{k'}^{l'}+\delta_{i'}^{n'}\delta_{j'}^{l'}\delta_{k'}^{m'}-\delta_{i'}^{n'}\delta_{j'}^{l'}\delta_{k'}^{m'}-\delta_{i'}^{m'}\delta_{j'}^{l'}\delta_{k'}^{n'}-\delta_{i'}^{m'}\delta_{j'}^{l'}\delta_{k'}^{n'}-\delta_{i'}^{m'}\delta_{j'}^{l'}\delta_{k'}^{m'}\right)$$
(17)

对于第一项,有

First term =
$$\frac{\partial \hat{x}^{i'}}{\partial x^{i}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{j'}}{\partial x^{j}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{k'}}{\partial x^{k}} \frac{\partial x^{l}}{\partial \hat{x}^{l'}} \frac{\partial x^{m}}{\partial \hat{x}^{m'}} \frac{\partial x^{n}}{\partial \hat{x}^{n'}} \delta^{l'}{}_{i'} \delta^{m'}{}_{j'} \delta^{n'}{}_{k'}$$

$$= \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{l'}}{\partial x^{i}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{m'}}{\partial x^{j}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}^{n'}}{\partial x^{k}} \frac{\partial x^{l}}{\partial \hat{x}^{l'}} \frac{\partial x^{m}}{\partial \hat{x}^{m'}} \frac{\partial x^{n}}{\partial \hat{x}^{n'}}$$

$$= \frac{\partial x^{l}}{\partial x^{i}} \frac{\partial x^{m}}{\partial x^{j}} \frac{\partial x^{n}}{\partial x^{k}} = \delta^{l}{}_{i} \delta^{m}{}_{j} \delta^{n}{}_{k}$$

$$(18)$$

其他项依此类推。最终的结果是:

$$\varepsilon_{ijk}\varepsilon^{lmn} = \delta_i^l \delta_j^m \delta_k^n + \delta_i^m \delta_j^n \delta_k^l + \delta_i^n \delta_j^l \delta_k^m - \left(\delta_i^n \delta_j^m \delta_k^l + \delta_i^m \delta_j^l \delta_k^n + \delta_i^l \delta_j^n \delta_k^m\right)$$

$$= 3! \delta_i^{[l} \delta_j^m \delta_k^n] = 3! \delta_i^{[l} \delta_j^m \delta_k^n]$$
(19)

该式对任意右手坐标系均成立。

如果是**左手系**,是否仍成立?答案是肯定的。当换到左手系, $\hat{\epsilon}_{\mu\nu\sigma}$, $\hat{\epsilon}^{\mu\nu\sigma}$ 与 Levi-Civita 符号都差一个负号,相乘则抵消掉,结果一样。

总之,适配体元在任意坐标基下 (**不区分左右手**) 的分量都满足与 Levi-Civita 符号相同的性质。这种坐标系的不依赖实际上意味着可以用抽象指标来写:

$$\varepsilon_{abc}\varepsilon^{def} = 3!\delta^d_{\ [a}\delta^e_{\ b}\delta^f_{\ c]}.\tag{20}$$

这成为一个张量等式。

4 结语

先将右手正交归一基下的适配体元分量与 Levi-Civita 符号认同,然后论证任意坐标系下的适配体元分量与左右手的正交归一基下的适配体元分量的关系,这里有一个容易混淆的点,就是我把左手的正交归一基下的适配体元分量也写作了 $\hat{\epsilon}_{\mu\nu\sigma}$ 等的形式,因左右手的不同,其含义是有所区别的。

接着利用任意右手坐标系下的适配体元及升指标的张量的分量与右手正交归一基下的分量的关系,以及与 Levi-Civita 符号的认同,得到了任意右手坐标系下的适配体元及升指标的张量分量满足的性质,最后轻松地推广到任意左手坐标系,进而推广到任意坐标系,本文结束。

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