

Ehresmann Connections Discussion

I searched far and wide for a good reference on this, from the perspective that I like. It seems like the wikipidea page on [Ehresmann connections](#) and maybe some sections of M.J.D Hamilton's "Mathematical Gauge Theory". I am otherwise open to suggestions. Also please draw many pictures. I think this talk should be mostly definitions and pictures (otherwise we need to have like a proper 4 day discussion, which we do not have time for).

- I) Explain the idea of parallel transport.
- II) What is a horizontal distribution?
- III) What is a covariant derivative in terms of the horizontal distribution?
- IV) What is a connection form and how does it encode the information about the horizontal distribution? (Think about kernel of connection form and what the image is).
- V) Write down the ODE for parallel transport in terms of the connection.
- VI) Write down the solution to the ODE (how is it different to the usual thing we see in MAT267?)
- VII) Define curvature (particularly I want you to give the definition of $F(X, Y) = dA(\pi_H(X), \pi_H(Y))$)
- VIII) Define the chern number for complex line bundles. State that this is independent of choice of connection on the line bundle.