

Theorem: Conformal metrics $\rho^2 dz \odot d\bar{z}$ experience $K_\rho(z) = -\frac{\Delta \log(\rho(z))}{\rho^2(z)}$ Gauss curvature.

Proof: Given a two dimensional Riemannian manifold with conformal metric $(\Sigma, e^\phi(dx^1 \otimes dx^1 + dx^2 \otimes dx^2))$, we have $K = -\frac{R_{1212}}{(e^\phi)^2}$ by Gauss' Theorema Egregium. Furthermore, we know that $\Gamma_{ij}^k = \frac{1}{2}g^{kl} \left(\frac{\partial g_{il}}{\partial x^j} + \frac{\partial g_{jl}}{\partial x^i} + \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial x^l} \right)$. Now, observe that at least two of the indices of the Christoffel symbol must agree, yielding:

$$\begin{aligned} (i = j = k) &\Rightarrow \Gamma_{ii}^i = \frac{1}{2}g^{ii} \left(\frac{\partial g_{ii}}{\partial x^i} \right) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-\phi} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} (e^\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} (\phi) = \frac{1}{2}\phi_i, \\ (i = j) \neq k &\Rightarrow \Gamma_{ii}^k = \frac{1}{2}g^{kk} \left(-\frac{\partial g_{ii}}{\partial x^k} \right) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-\phi} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} (e^\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} (\phi) = -\frac{1}{2}\phi_k, \\ (j = k) \neq i &\Rightarrow \Gamma_{ij}^j = \frac{1}{2}g^{jj} \left(\frac{\partial g_{jj}}{\partial x^i} \right) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-\phi} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} (e^\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} (\phi) = \frac{1}{2}\phi_i, \\ (k = i) \neq j &\Rightarrow \Gamma_{ij}^i = \frac{1}{2}g^{ii} \left(\frac{\partial g_{ii}}{\partial x^j} \right) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-\phi} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} (e^\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} (\phi) = \frac{1}{2}\phi_j. \end{aligned}$$

With this in hand, we compute R_{1212} by definition (acquiring a formula along the way):

$$\begin{aligned} \langle R(\partial_1, \partial_2)\partial_1, \partial_2 \rangle &= \langle \nabla_{\partial_1} \nabla_{\partial_2} \partial_1 - \nabla_{\partial_2} \nabla_{\partial_1} \partial_1 - \nabla_{[\partial_1, \partial_2]} \partial_1, \partial_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle \nabla_{\partial_1} (\Gamma_{21}^1 \partial_1 + \Gamma_{21}^2 \partial_2) - \nabla_{\partial_2} (\Gamma_{11}^1 \partial_1 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \partial_2), \partial_2 \rangle \\ &= \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x^1} \Gamma_{21}^1 \partial_1 + \Gamma_{21}^1 (\Gamma_{11}^1 \partial_1 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \partial_2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x^1} \Gamma_{21}^2 \partial_2 + \Gamma_{21}^2 (\Gamma_{11}^1 \partial_1 + \Gamma_{11}^2 \partial_2), \partial_2 \right\rangle \\ &\quad \left\langle - \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x^2} \Gamma_{11}^1 \partial_1 + \Gamma_{11}^1 (\Gamma_{21}^1 \partial_1 + \Gamma_{21}^2 \partial_2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x^2} \Gamma_{11}^2 \partial_2 + \Gamma_{11}^2 (\Gamma_{22}^1 \partial_1 + \Gamma_{22}^2 \partial_2) \right], \partial_2 \right\rangle \\ &= \left[\Gamma_{21}^1 \Gamma_{11}^2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial x^1} \Gamma_{21}^2 + \Gamma_{21}^2 \Gamma_{12}^2 - \Gamma_{11}^1 \Gamma_{21}^2 - \frac{\partial}{\partial x^2} \Gamma_{11}^2 - \Gamma_{11}^2 \Gamma_{22}^2 \right] \cdot \langle \partial_2, \partial_2 \rangle \\ &= e^\phi \cdot \left[\phi_2 \cdot (-\phi_2) + 2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x^1} (\phi_1) + \phi_1 \cdot \phi_1 - \phi_1 \cdot \phi_1 - 2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x^2} (-\phi_2) - (-\phi_2) \cdot \phi_2 \right] \\ &= e^\phi \cdot \frac{1}{2} \Delta \phi \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, in the metric $e^\phi(dx^1 \otimes dx^1 + dx^2 \otimes dx^2)$, the Gauss curvature K is given by

$$K = -\frac{e^\phi \Delta \phi}{2 \cdot (e^\phi)^2} = -\frac{1}{2} e^{-\phi} \cdot \Delta \phi = -\frac{\Delta \phi}{2e^\phi}.$$

Since $\rho^2 dz \odot d\bar{z}$ was the form of our metric on Σ , $\log(\rho^2(z))$ plays the role of ϕ in the above. Hence,

$$K_\rho(z) = -\frac{\Delta \log(\rho^2(z))}{2e^{\log(\rho^2(z))}} = -\frac{\Delta \log(\rho(z))}{\rho^2(z)}$$

□