

## Chapter 2 Problems

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1. The metric of flat, three-dimensional Euclidean space is:

$$ds^2 = dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2$$

Show that the metric components  $g_{uv}$  in spherical polar coordinates  $r, \theta, \phi$  defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} r &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \\ \cos \theta &= \frac{z}{r}, \\ \tan \phi &= \frac{y}{x} \end{aligned}$$

is given by:

$$s^2 = dr^2 + r^2 d\theta^2 + r^2 \sin^2 \phi^2$$

$g_{uv}$  is a tensor of type  $(0, 2)$  and therefore transforms as:

$$g_{\mu', \nu'} = g_{\mu, \nu} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial x^{\nu'}}$$

(see page 22 for the general *tensor transformation law*). The above equation uses Einstein index notation indicating that  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are to be summed from 1 to 3 and the free indices,  $\mu'$  and  $\nu'$ , are enumerated through all possible combinations. Therefore the components that need to be calculated are:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} g_{r,r} & g_{r,\theta} & g_{r,\phi} \\ g_{\theta,r} & g_{\theta,\theta} & g_{\theta,\phi} \\ g_{\phi,r} & g_{\phi,\theta} & g_{\phi,\phi} \end{array}$$

Starting with:

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\mu', \nu'} &= \sum_{\mu=1}^3 \sum_{\nu=1}^3 g_{\mu, \nu} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\ &= \sum_{\mu=1}^3 g_{\mu, 1} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{\mu, 2} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{\mu, 3} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\ &= g_{1, 1} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{1, 2} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{1, 3} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\ &\quad g_{2, 1} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{2, 2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{2, 3} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\ &\quad g_{3, 1} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{3, 2} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{3, 3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the notation for the indices in flat, orthonormal Euclidean space:

$$\begin{aligned}
&= g_{x,x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{x,y} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{x,z} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\
&\quad g_{y,x} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{y,y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{y,z} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\
&\quad g_{z,x} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{z,y} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{z,z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x^{\nu'}}
\end{aligned}$$

The off diagonal elements of the Euclidean metric are zero:

$$g_{x,y} = g_{y,x} = g_{x,z} = g_{z,x} = g_{y,z} = g_{z,y} = 0$$

and the diagonal components are one:

$$g_{x,x} = g_{y,y} = g_{z,z} = 1$$

This reduces the above summation from nine expressions to the following three:

$$g_{\mu',\nu'} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x^{\nu'}}$$

For indices where  $\mu' = \nu'$

$$g_{\mu',\mu'} = \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \right)^2$$

Therefore the six unique components that need to be calculated to find the components of the metric in spherical polar coordinates are:

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{r,r} &= \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \right)^2 \\
g_{r,\theta} = g_{\theta,r} &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \\
g_{r,\phi} = g_{\phi,r} &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \frac{\partial z}{\partial \phi} \\
g_{\theta,\theta} &= \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \\
g_{\theta,\phi} = g_{\phi,\theta} &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial z}{\partial \phi} \\
g_{\phi,\phi} &= \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial \phi} \right)^2
\end{aligned}$$

To take the above derivatives, find an equation for  $x, y, z$  in terms of  $r, \theta, \phi$ . Starting by finding  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
r &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \rightarrow r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2, \\
\cos \theta &= \frac{z}{r} \rightarrow z = r \cos \theta, \\
\tan \phi &= \frac{y}{x} \rightarrow y = x \tan \phi
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting the second and third equation into the first gives:

$$\begin{aligned}
r^2 &= x^2 + (r \cos \theta)^2 + (x \tan \phi)^2 \\
r^2 &= x^2 + r^2 \cos^2 \theta + x^2 \tan^2 \phi \\
r^2 - r^2 \cos^2 \theta &= x^2 + x^2 \tan^2 \phi \\
(1 - \cos^2 \theta) r^2 &= (1 + \tan^2 \phi) x^2 \\
r^2 \sin^2 \theta &= (1 + \tan^2 \phi) x^2 \\
x &= r \frac{\sin \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \phi}}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore the equations for  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  in terms of  $r$ ,  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ :

$$x = r \frac{\sin \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \phi}}, \quad y = r \tan \phi \frac{\sin \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \phi}}, \quad z = r \cos \theta$$

Find all the necessary derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial x}{\partial r} &= \frac{\sin \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \phi}} \\
\frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} &= -r \frac{\cos \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \phi}} \\
\frac{\partial x}{\partial \phi} &= -r \sin \theta \frac{\tan \phi \sec^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \\
\frac{\partial y}{\partial r} &= \tan \phi \frac{\sin \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \phi}} \\
\frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} &= -r \tan \phi \frac{\cos \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \phi}} \\
\frac{\partial y}{\partial \phi} &= -r \sin \theta \frac{\sec^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \\
\frac{\partial z}{\partial r} &= \cos \theta \\
\frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} &= -r \sin \theta \\
\frac{\partial z}{\partial \phi} &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

Then compute the components of the metric in spherical polar coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{r,r} &= \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} + \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \tan^2 \phi + \cos^2 \theta \\
&= \frac{\sin^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta \tan^2 \phi}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} + \frac{(1 + \tan^2 \phi) \cos^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \\
&= \frac{\sin^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta \tan^2 \phi + (1 + \tan^2 \phi) \cos^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \\
&= \frac{\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta \tan^2 \phi + \tan^2 \phi \cos^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \\
&= \frac{1 + \tan^2 \phi}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \\
&= 1
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{\theta,\theta} &= r^2 \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} + r^2 \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \tan^2 \phi + r^2 \sin^2 \theta \\
&= r^2 \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} + r^2 \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \tan^2 \phi + r^2 \sin^2 \theta \frac{1 + \tan^2 \phi}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \\
&= r^2 \frac{\cos^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta \tan^2 \phi + \sin^2 \theta + \tan^2 \phi \sin^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \\
&= r^2 \frac{(\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) \tan^2 \phi}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \\
&= r^2 \frac{1 + \tan^2 \phi}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \\
&= r^2
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{\phi,\phi} &= r^2 \sin^2 \theta \left( \frac{1}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^3 \cos^4 \phi} + \frac{\sin^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^3 \cos^6 \phi} \right) \\
&= r^2 \sin^2 \theta \left( \frac{\cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^3 \cos^6 \phi} \right) \\
&= r^2 \sin^2 \theta \frac{1}{\left( \frac{\sin^2 \phi + \cos^2 \phi}{\cos^2 \phi} \right)^3 \cos^6 \phi} \\
&= r^2 \sin^2 \theta
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{\theta,r} = g_{r,\theta} &= g_{x,x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} + g_{y,y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} + g_{z,z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \\
&= -r \frac{\sin \theta \cos \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} - r \frac{\sin \theta \cos \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} \tan^2 \phi + r \sin \theta \cos \theta \\
&= -r \frac{\sin \theta \cos \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \phi} (1 + \tan^2 \phi) + r \sin \theta \cos \theta \\
&= -r \sin \theta \cos \theta + r \sin \theta \cos \theta \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{r,\phi} &= g_{\phi,r} = g_{x,x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \phi} + g_{y,y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \phi} + g_{z,z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \frac{\partial z}{\partial \phi} \\
&= -r \sin \theta \cos \theta \frac{\tan \phi \sec^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^2} + r \cos \theta \sin \theta \frac{\tan \phi \sec^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^2} \\
&= 0 \\
g_{\theta,\phi} &= g_{\phi,\theta} = g_{x,x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \phi} + g_{y,y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \phi} + g_{z,z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial z}{\partial \phi} \\
&= -r \frac{\cos \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \phi}} \left( -r \sin \theta \frac{\tan \phi \sec^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right) - r \tan \phi \frac{\cos \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \phi}} \left( r \sin \theta \frac{\sec^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right) \\
&= r^2 \sin \theta \cos \theta \frac{\tan \phi \sec^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^2} - r^2 \sin \theta \cos \theta \frac{\tan \phi \sec^2 \phi}{(1 + \tan^2 \phi)^2} \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore the metric components in spherical polar coordinates are:

$$g_{\mu,\nu} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & r^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & r^2 \sin^2 \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

## 1 Appendix A - Tensor Expansion

The metric is a rank (0,2) tensor so the transformation of the components between basis is given by:

$$g_{\mu',\nu'} = g_{\mu,\nu} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial x^{\nu'}}$$

This equation is a shorthand for the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{\mu',\nu'} &= \sum_{\mu=1}^3 \sum_{\nu=1}^3 g_{\mu,\nu} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\
g_{\mu',\nu'} &= \sum_{\mu=1}^3 g_{\mu,1} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{\mu,2} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{\mu,3} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\
g_{\mu',\nu'} &= g_{1,1} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{1,2} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{1,3} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\
&\quad g_{2,1} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{2,2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{2,3} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\nu'}} \\
&\quad g_{3,1} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{3,2} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{\nu'}} + g_{3,3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\mu'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{\nu'}}
\end{aligned}$$

The full expansion for  $\mu', \nu'$  is:

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{1',1'} &= g_{1,1} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{1'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{1'}} + g_{1,2} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{1'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{1'}} + g_{1,3} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{1'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{1'}} \\
&\quad g_{2,1} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{1'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{1'}} + g_{2,2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{1'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{1'}} + g_{2,3} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{1'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{1'}} \\
&\quad g_{3,1} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{1'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{1'}} + g_{3,2} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{1'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{1'}} + g_{3,3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{1'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{1'}}
\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
g_{3',3'} = & g_{1,1} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{3'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{3'}} + g_{1,2} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{3'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{3'}} + g_{1,3} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{3'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{3'}} \\
& g_{2,1} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{3'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{3'}} + g_{2,2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{3'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{3'}} + g_{2,3} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{3'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{3'}} \\
& g_{3,1} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{3'}} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial x^{3'}} + g_{3,2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{3'}} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{3'}} + g_{3,3} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial x^{3'}} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial x^{3'}}
\end{aligned}$$

The tensor transformation law for a tensor of rank (0, 2) in 3 space represents 9 components. Each components contains a summation of 9 expressions. Each expression has 3 terms. So in total the equation is representative of 243 terms.