

Tensors

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1 Overview

These are my notes on Tensor Calculus. Based primarily on the Schaum's Outlines.

2 Notation

Einstein was lazy. He didn't like writing the summation sign, \sum_i , repeatedly. He did notice that whenever an index was repeated, that it was summed. And therefore the summation could be inferred.

$$a_i x_i = a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + \dots + a_n x_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i$$

The index that is used for summation is called the dummy index. Any non-summation index is known as a free index. In the following equation, i is the free index and j is the dummy index:

$$a_{ij} x_j \tag{1}$$

Rules:

1. Free indices have the same range as dummy indices, unless specified.
2. No index may occur more than twice in any given expression.

Non-identities:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ij}(x_i + y_j) &\neq a_{ij}x_i + a_{ij}y_j \\ a_{ij}x_i y_j &\neq a_{ij}y_i x_j \\ (a_{ij} + a_{ji})x_i y_j &\neq 2a_{ij}x_i y_j \end{aligned}$$

Valid Identities:

$$a_{ij}(x_i + y_i) = a_{ij}x_i + a_{ij}y_j \tag{2}$$

$$a_{ij}x_i y_j = a_{ij}y_j x_i \tag{3}$$

$$a_{ij}x_i x_j = a_{ji}x_i x_j \tag{4}$$

$$(a_{ij} + a_{ji})x_i x_j = 2a_{ij}x_i x_j \tag{5}$$

$$(a_{ij} - a_{ji})x_i x_j = 0 \tag{6}$$

3 Linear Algebra

The first subscript in a tensor, a_{ij} , is the row (i), and the second (j) is the column. Sometimes braces $[a_{ij}]_{mn}$ are used to define the number of rows, m , and the number of columns, n . In the case of mixed indices a^i_j , the superscript is the row and the subscript is the column.

3.1 Matrices

Matrix Multiplication:

$$\begin{aligned}A &= [a_{ij}]_{mn} \\B &= [b_{ij}]_{nk} \\AB &= [a_{ir}b_{rj}]_{mk}\end{aligned}$$

Orthogonal Matrix - $A^T = A^{-1}$

Unitary Matrix - $U^*U = I$

Hermitian Matrix - $U^\dagger U = I$

3.2 Vectors

Permutation Symbol, $e_{ijk\dots w}$, is zero if the any subscripts are identical. And equals $(-1)^p$ otherwise, where p is the number subscript transpositions required to bring them to natural order.

Scalar Product:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u} &= x_i \\ \mathbf{v} &= y_i \\ \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} &= x_i y_i\end{aligned}$$

Norm (length) of a vector: $\sqrt{\mathbf{u}^2} = \sqrt{x_i y_i}$

Cross Product: $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = (e_{ijk} x_j y_k)$

3.3 Linear Systems

A system of equations written in matrix form:

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \tag{7}$$

Can be written in tensor form:

$$a_{ij}x_j = b_i, (1 \leq i \leq m) \tag{8}$$

Quadratic form: $Q = a_{ij}x_i x_j = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$

3.4 Linear Transformation

Linear Transformation: $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = A\mathbf{x}$

Alias: When a linear transformation represents a change in coordinates

Alibi: When a linear transformation represents a change in the object

Distance in the barred coordinate system:

$$d(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{\mathbf{y}}) = \sqrt{(\bar{\mathbf{x}} - \bar{\mathbf{y}})^T G (\bar{\mathbf{x}} - \bar{\mathbf{y}})} = \sqrt{g_{ij} \Delta \bar{x}_i \Delta \bar{x}_j} \tag{9}$$

where $g_{ij} = G = (AA^T)^{-1}$ and $\bar{\mathbf{x}} - \bar{\mathbf{y}} = \Delta \bar{x}_i$. If A is orthogonal (a rotation matrix), the $g_{ij} = \delta_{ij}$ and the distance formula reduces to the ordinary form:

$$d(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{\mathbf{y}}) = \sqrt{\Delta \bar{x}_i \Delta \bar{x}_j}$$

3.5 General Coordinate Transformations

A general mapping T in \mathbf{R}^n may be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{x}} &= T(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{or} \\ \bar{x}_i &= T_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \end{aligned}$$

T is a bijection or one-one mapping if it maps each pair of distinct points, $x \neq y$, to two distinct points in the mapping, $T(x) \neq T(y)$. When T is bijective, the image $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ is a set of admissible coordinates of \mathbf{x} .

If T is linear, the \bar{x}_i system is called affine. If T is a rigid motion, then \bar{x}_i is called rectangular or cartesian. Non-affine coordinate systems are called curvilinear coordinates; these include polar, cylindrical and spherical coordinates.

3.6 Chain Rule

Writing the chain rule, using the summation convention: If $w = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ and $x_i = x_i(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m)$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial u_j} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial u_j} \quad (10)$$

4 General Tensors

All future notation for coordinates will be changed to that usual of tensor calculus

4.1 Coordinate Transformations

Superscripts for Vector Components In \mathbf{R}^n , coordinates of a point/vector, will be written as (x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n) . Powers and superscripts will be separated by paranthesis, $(x^3)^2$ is the third exponent raised to the power 2. Rectangular Coordinates Coordinates in \mathbf{R}^n are called rectangular/cartesian if the distance between two points P, Q is:

$$PQ = \sqrt{\delta_{ij} \Delta x_i \Delta x_j}$$

4.1.1 Curvilinear Coordinates

Given a coordinate transformation in \mathbf{R}^n :

$$\mathcal{T} : \bar{x}^i = \bar{x}^i(x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n) \quad (11)$$

This is known as curvilinear if it is differntiable everywhere and it is not an affine transformation. Let's look at some examples:

Polar Coordinates: Let $(\bar{x}^1, \bar{x}^2) = (x, y)$ and $(x^1, x^2) = (r, \theta)$, $r > 0$

$$\mathcal{T} : \begin{matrix} \bar{x}^1 = x^1 \cos(x^2) \\ \bar{x}^2 = x^1 \sin(x^2) \end{matrix} \quad \mathcal{T}^{-1} : \begin{matrix} x^1 = \sqrt{(\bar{x}^1)^2 + (\bar{x}^2)^2} \\ x^2 = \tan^{-1}(\bar{x}^2/\bar{x}^1) \end{matrix} \quad (12)$$

Cylindrical Coordinates: Let $(\bar{x}^1, \bar{x}^2, \bar{x}^3) = (x, y, z)$ and $(x^1, x^2, x^3) = (r, \theta, z)$, $r > 0$

$$\mathcal{T} : \begin{matrix} \bar{x}^1 = x^1 \cos(x^2) \\ \bar{x}^2 = x^1 \sin(x^2) \\ \bar{x}^3 = x^3 \end{matrix} \quad \mathcal{T}^{-1} : \begin{matrix} x^1 = \sqrt{(\bar{x}^1)^2 + (\bar{x}^2)^2} \\ x^2 = \tan^{-1}(\bar{x}^2/\bar{x}^1) \\ x^3 = \bar{x}^3 \end{matrix} \quad (13)$$

Spherical Coordinates: Let $(\bar{x}^1, \bar{x}^2, \bar{x}^3) = (x, y, z)$ and $(x^1, x^2, x^3) = (\rho, \phi, \theta)$, $r > 0$

$$\mathcal{T} : \begin{matrix} \bar{x}^1 = x^1 \sin(x^2) \cos(x^3) \\ \bar{x}^2 = x^1 \sin(x^2) \sin(x^3) \\ \bar{x}^3 = x^1 \cos(x^2) \end{matrix} \quad \mathcal{T}^{-1} : \begin{matrix} x^1 = \sqrt{(\bar{x}^1)^2 + (\bar{x}^2)^2 + (\bar{x}^3)^2} \\ x^2 = \cos^{-1}(\bar{x}^3 / \sqrt{(\bar{x}^1)^2 + (\bar{x}^2)^2 + (\bar{x}^3)^2}) \\ x^3 = \tan^{-1}(\bar{x}^2/\bar{x}^1) \end{matrix} \quad (14)$$

4.1.2 The Jacobian

The Jacobian matrix can be used to define the transformation from one coordinate system to another. So, in general, if we want to go from an x coordinate system to an \bar{x} coordinate system, we use:

$$\mathbf{J} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \bar{x}^1}{\partial x^1} & \frac{\partial \bar{x}^1}{\partial x^2} & \dots & \frac{\partial \bar{x}^1}{\partial x^n} \\ \frac{\partial \bar{x}^2}{\partial x^1} & \frac{\partial \bar{x}^2}{\partial x^2} & \dots & \frac{\partial \bar{x}^2}{\partial x^n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial \bar{x}^n}{\partial x^1} & \frac{\partial \bar{x}^n}{\partial x^2} & \dots & \frac{\partial \bar{x}^n}{\partial x^n} \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

If the determinant of the Jacobian is non-zero everywhere, then the transformation is locally bijective.

4.2 First-Order Tensors

Given a vector field $\mathbf{V} = (V^i)$, on a subset of \mathbf{R}^n , let the n components of V^1, V^2, \dots, V^n of \mathbf{V} be expressible as n real-valued faunctions:

$$T^1, T^2, \dots, T^n \text{ in the } (x^i)\text{-system}$$

and

$\bar{T}^1, \bar{T}^2, \dots, \bar{T}^n$ in the (\bar{x}^i) -system

The vector field V is a contravariant tensor of order one if its components transform related to:

contravariant – vector : (16)

$$\bar{T}^i = T^r \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^r} \quad (17)$$

The vector field V is a covariant tensor of order one if its components transform related to:

covariant – vector : (18)

$$\bar{T}_i = T_r \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i} \quad (19)$$

Contravariant Example: Tangent Vector of a line:

$$x^i = x^i(t)$$

The tangent vector field is defined as:

$$T^i = \frac{dx^i}{dt}$$

The same curve in the bar system is:

$$\bar{x}^i = \bar{x}^i(x^1(t), x^2(t), \dots, x^n(t))$$

The tangent vector in the bar coordinate system is:

$$\bar{T}^i = \frac{d\bar{x}^i}{dt}$$

We can observe via chain-rule:

$$\frac{d\bar{x}^i}{dt} = \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^r} \frac{dx^r}{dt} \text{ or } \bar{T}^i = T^r \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^r}$$

Covariant Example: Gradient Vector of a scalar field:

$$\nabla F = \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial x^1}, \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^2}, \dots, \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^n} \right)$$

The barred system gradient vector is $\bar{\nabla} F = (\partial \bar{F} / \partial \bar{x}^i)$. Again, via the chain rule:

$$\frac{\partial \bar{F}}{\partial \bar{x}^i} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^r} \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i}$$

Invariants: Anything that is independent of the coordinate system used is considered an invariant. An example of an invariant is the product of a covariant vector with a contravariant vector.

4.3 Higher-Order Tensors

4.3.1 Second-Order Tensors:

Let $\mathbf{V} = (V^{ij})$ denote a matrix field. The field is a contravariant tensor of order two if it obeys the transformation law:

contravariant – tensor : (20)

$$\bar{T}^{ij} = T^{rs} \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^r} \frac{\partial \bar{x}^j}{\partial x^s} \quad (21)$$

The field is a covariant tensor of order two if it obeys the transformation law:

$$\text{covariant} - \text{tensor} : \quad (22)$$

$$\bar{T}_{ij} = T_{rs} \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^j} \quad (23)$$

The field is a mixed tensor of order two if one component transforms covariantly and the other transforms contravariantly:

$$\text{covariant} - \text{tensor} : \quad (24)$$

$$\bar{T}_j^i = T_s^r \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^r} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^j} \quad (25)$$

4.3.2 Arbitrary-Order Tensors:

The generalize vector field \mathbf{V} is a tensor of order $m = p + q$, contravariant of order p and covariant of order q , if its components $(T_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q}^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p})$ in (x^i) and $(\bar{T}_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q}^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p})$ in (\bar{x}^i) obey p contravariant transformations and q covariant transformations.

4.4 The Stress Tensor

Interestingly, it was the concept of mechanical stress that lead to the development of tensors. Given a unit cube, with three forces applied to three of its faces. Each force vector represents the stress per unit area. The orthogonal components represent pressure and the tangent components represent shearing.

4.5 Cartesian Tensors

Linear transformations that are also orthogonal, $\mathbf{J}^{-1} = \mathbf{J}^T$. Then the contravariant and covariant tensors do not distinguish themselves. Consequently, all cartesian tensors use subscripts:

allowable coordinate changes:

$$\bar{x}_i = a_{ij} x_j$$

cartesian tensor laws:

$$\bar{T}_i = a_{ir} T_r$$

5 Tensor Operations and Tests for Tensor Character

5.1 Fundamental Operations

The following is a list of basic operations on tensors that result in new tensors.

5.1.1 Sums, Linear Combinations

If T_1, T_2, \dots, T_μ are tensors of the same type and order. And if $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_\mu$ are invariant scalars, then

$$\lambda_1 T_1 + \lambda_2 T_2 + \dots + \lambda_\mu T_\mu$$

is a tensor of the same type and order.

5.1.2 Outer Product

The outer product of the tensor S and T is the tensor:

$$ST = (S^{i_1 \dots i_p}_{j_1 \dots j_q} \cdot T^{k_1 \dots k_r}_{l_1 \dots l_s})$$

which is of order $m = p + q + r + s$. Contravariant order of $p + r$, and covariant order of $q + s$.

5.1.3 Inner Product

The inner product is by setting the upper index of one tensor to the same thing as a lower index of the other tensor. The resulting sum produces the inner product.

$$ST_j^i = S^{ir} T_{rj}$$

The order of the resulting tensor is the order of the previous tensors minus 2.

Another example is that of an inner product of two tensor T_{ij} and T^{ij} :

$$T^{i\mu} T_{\mu j} = \delta_j^i$$

5.1.4 Contraction

A contraction reduces the order of a tensor, but only on a single tensor. Set one index equal to another, and the resulting sum is the contraction. As an example, given a tensor S_{rst}^{ijk} , the following is a contraction:

$$S' = S_{r\mu t}^{i\mu k}$$

5.1.5 Combined Operations

Any of the above operations can be combined together. An interesting noteworthy combination is that an inner product of two tensors is equivalent to a contraction of their outer product.

$$u^i v_i = \text{contraction}(uv_s^T) = uv_\mu^\mu$$

5.2 Tests for Tensor Character

It's found to be useful to use the Quotient Theorem for tensors as a test for tensor character. The basic version of the quotient theorem is that for a vector V , if it can be shown that the inner product TV is a tensor for all vectors V , then T is a tensor.

Tests for tensor character:

1. If $T_i V^i = E$ is an invariant for all contravariant vectors V^i , then T_i is a covariant vector (tensor of order 1).

2. If $T_{ij}V^i = U_j$ are components of a covariant vector for all contravariant vectors V^i , the T_{ij} is a covariant tensor of order 2.
3. If $T_{ij}V^iU^j = E$ are components of a covariant vector for all contravariant vectors V^i and U^j , then T_{ij} is a covariant tensor of order 2.
4. If T_{ij} is symmetric and $T_{ij}V^iV^j = E$ is invariant for all contravariant vectors V^i , then T_{ij} is a covariant tensor of order 2.

5.3 Tensor Equations

If a tensor equation is true in one coordinate system, then it is true in all coordinate systems.

Example 1: Suppose that in some coordinate system, x^i , the covariant tensor T_{ij} vanishes. The components of T in any other coordinate system, \bar{x}^i , are given by:

$$\bar{T}_{ij} = T_{rs} \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^j} = 0 + 0 + \dots + 0 = 0$$

Theorem: If T_{ij} is a covariant tensor of order two whose determinant vanishes in one coordinate system, then its determinant vanishes in all coordinate systems

Corollary: A covariant tensor of order two that is invertible in one coordinate system is invertible in all coordinate systems

6 The Metric Tensor

The section is devoted to determining distances. In non-Euclidean spaces, the pythagorean theorem does not hold. Here we will introduce the metric tensor to describe arc length in any coordinate system.

6.1 Arc Length in Euclidean Space

The following is the equation for arc length:

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{g_{ij} \frac{dx^i}{dt} \frac{dx^j}{dt}} dt \quad (26)$$

where $g_{ij} = g_{ij}(x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n) = g_{ji}$ are functions of the coordinates and L gives the length of the arc from $[a, b]$ of the curve $x^i = x^i(t)$.

The metric can be expressed in differential form, $ds^2 = g_{ij} dx^i dx^j$, for the following common coordinate systems:

Rectilinear Coordinates: $(x^1, x^2, x^3) = (x, y, z)$

$$ds^2 = (dx^1)^2 + (dx^2)^2 + (dx^3)^2 = \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

Polar Coordinates: $(x^1, x^2) = (r, \theta)$

$$ds^2 = (dx^1)^2 + (x^1)^2 (dx^2)^2$$

Cylindrical Coordinates: $(x^1, x^2, x^3) = (r, \theta, z)$

$$ds^2 = (dx^1)^2 + (x^1)^2 (dx^2)^2 + (dx^3)^2$$

Spherical Coordinates: $(x^1, x^2, x^3) = (\rho, \phi, \theta)$

$$ds^2 = (dx^1)^2 + (x^1)^2 (dx^2)^2 + (x^1 \sin(x^2))^2 (dx^3)^2$$

6.2 Generalized Metrics

Properties of the metric tensor g :

1. g is of differentiability class C^2 (all second-order partial derivatives of g_{ij} exist and are continuous)
2. g is symmetric ($g_{ij} = g_{ji}$)
3. g is nonsingular (the determinant is not zero)
4. The differential form ($ds^2 = g_{ij} dx^i dx^j$), and hence the distance, is invariant with respect to a change of coordinates

Theorem: The metric $g = g_{ij}$ is a covariant tensor of the second order.

Theorem: If the Jacobian matrix of the transformation from a given coordinate system x^i to a rectangular system \bar{x}^i is $J = \partial \bar{x}^i / \partial x^j$, then the matrix $G = g_{ij}$ of the Euclidean metric tensor in the x^i system is given by:

$$G = J^T J \quad (27)$$

6.3 Raising and Lowering Indices

It is known that if T^i is a contravariant vector, then the product $S_i = g_{ij} T^j$ will be a covariant vector. And since g_{ij} is the metric tensor, and therefore defines distance. Then S_i and T^i are the covariant and contravariant aspects of the same thing. Therefore, we don't bother with the change of symbol and instead write:

$$T_i = g_{ij} T^j \quad (28)$$

and say that taking the inner product of the vector with the metric tensor has lowered the contravariant index to a covariant index.

The matrix g_{ij} is invertible. And its inverse is written as g^{ij} . Or $(g^{ij}) = (g_{ij})^{-1}$. And the inverse metric tensor can be used to raise a covariant index to a contravariant index:

$$T^i = g^{ij}T_j \quad (29)$$

This is also called the conjugate metric tensor.

6.4 Generalized Inner-Product Spaces

So far the inner product of a vector, as we know it, has been $V_i V^i$. But what if we want to take an inner product between two covariant vectors U_i and V_i or two contravariant vectors U^i and V^i . We can use the metric tensor to define a generalized inner product. For contravariant vectors:

$$\mathbf{UV} = g_{ij}U^iV^j = U_jV^j = U^iV_i \quad (30)$$

and for two covariant vectors:

$$\mathbf{UV} = g^{ij}U_iV_j = U^jV_j = U_iV^i \quad (31)$$

6.5 Length and Angle

As usual the inner product can be used to define the length of a vector and the angle between two vectors:

$$\text{Length: } \|\mathbf{V}\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{V}^2} = \sqrt{V_i V^i} = \sqrt{g_{ij}V^i V^j} \quad (32)$$

$$\text{Angle: } \cos(\theta) = \frac{\mathbf{UV}}{\|\mathbf{U}\| \|\mathbf{V}\|} = \frac{g_{ij}U^i V^j}{\sqrt{g_{pq}U^p U^q} \sqrt{g_{rs}V^r V^s}} \quad (33)$$

7 Derivative of a Tensor

7.1 Inadequacy of ordinary differentiation

Consider a contravariant tensor $\mathbf{T} = T^i(\mathbf{x}(t))$ defined on the curve $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(t)$. Differentiating the transformation law:

$$\bar{T}^i = T^r \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^r}$$

with respect to t gives:

$$\frac{d\bar{T}^i}{dt} = \frac{dT^r}{dt} \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^r} + T^r \frac{\partial^2 \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^s \partial x^r} \frac{dx^s}{dt}$$

which shows that the ordinary derivative of \mathbf{T} along the curve is a contravariant tensor when and only when the \bar{x}^i are linear functions of the x^r .

Theorem: The derivative of a tensor is a tensor if and only if coordinate changes are restricted to linear transformations.

7.2 Christoffel Symbols of the First Kind

The Christoffel symbols of the first kind:

$$\Gamma_{ijk} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} (g_{jk}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} (g_{ki}) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} (g_{ij}) \right] \quad (34)$$

The shorthand way of writing this is to assume that the final subscript of g is the partial derivative of x with respect to that index:

$$\Gamma_{ijk} = \frac{1}{2} (-g_{ijk} + g_{jki} + g_{kij}) \quad (35)$$

Example: Let's look at the Christoffel symbols for spherical coordinates in Euclidean space:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (x^1)^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (x^1)^2 \sin^2 x^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

This gives us: $g_{221} = 2x^1$, $g_{331} = 2x^1 \sin^2(x^2)$, $g_{332} = 2(x^1)^2 \sin(x^2) \cos(x^2)$, and all other g_{ijk} are zero. This means Γ is zero for this metric.

Basic properties of the Christoffel symbols:

1. $\Gamma_{ijk} = \Gamma_{jik}$ (symmetric in the first two indices)
2. All Γ_{ijk} vanish if all g_{ij} are constant

A useful formula results from simply permuting the subscripts and summing:

$$\frac{\partial g_{ik}}{\partial x^j} = \Gamma_{ijk} + \Gamma_{jki} \quad (36)$$

The converse of property 2 follows at once:

Lemma: In any particular coordinate system, the Christoffel symbols uniformly vanish if and only if the metric tensor has constant components in that system.

Transformation Law: The transformation law for the Γ_{ijk} can be inferred from that for the g_{ij} . By differentiation,

$$\bar{g}_{ijk} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{x}^k} \left(g_{rs} \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^j} \right) = \frac{\partial g_{rs}}{\partial \bar{x}^k} \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^j} + g_{rs} \frac{\partial^2 x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^k \partial \bar{x}^i} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^j} + g_{rs} \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i} \frac{\partial^2 x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^k \partial \bar{x}^j}$$

Use the chain rule on $\partial g_{rs} / \partial \bar{x}^k$:

$$\frac{\partial g_{rs}}{\partial \bar{x}^k} = \frac{\partial g_{rs}}{\partial x^t} \frac{\partial x^t}{\partial \bar{x}^k} = g_{rst} \frac{\partial x^t}{\partial \bar{x}^k}$$

Then rewrite the expression with subscripts permuted cyclically and cancel terms gives:

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{ijk} = \Gamma_{rst} \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^j} \frac{\partial x^t}{\partial \bar{x}^k} + g_{rs} \frac{\partial^2 x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i \partial \bar{x}^j} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^k} \quad (37)$$

This shows that the Christoffel Symbols are a third order covariant affine tensor, but it is not a general tensor.

7.3 Christoffel Symbols of the Second Kind

The n^3 functions:

$$\Gamma_{jk}^i = g^{ir} \Gamma_{jkr} \quad (38)$$

are the Christoffel symbols of the second kind. It should be noted that this formula is simply the result of raising the third subscript of the Christoffel symbol of the first kind, although here we are not dealing with tensors.

Basic properties of the Christoffel symbols:

1. $\Gamma_{jk}^i = \Gamma_{kj}^i$ (symmetry in the lower indices)
2. All Γ_{jk}^i vanish if all g_{ij} are constant

Transformation Law: Starting with:

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{jk}^i = \bar{g}^{ir} \Gamma_{jkr} = \left(g^{st} \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^s} \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^t} \right) \bar{\Gamma}_{jkr}$$

substituting for $\bar{\Gamma}_{jkr}$ yields:

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{jk}^i = \Gamma_{st}^r \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^r} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^j} \frac{\partial x^t}{\partial \bar{x}^k} + \frac{\partial^2 x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^j \partial \bar{x}^k} \frac{\partial \bar{x}^i}{\partial x^r} \quad (39)$$

An Important Formula:

$$\frac{\partial^2 x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i \partial \bar{x}^j} = \bar{\Gamma}_{ij}^s \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^s} - \Gamma_{st}^r \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^i} \frac{\partial x^t}{\partial \bar{x}^j} \quad (40)$$

7.4 Covariant Differentiation

7.4.1 Differentiation of a vector

Recall the transformation law: $\bar{T}_i = T_r \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i}$. The differentiation of a covariant vector T_i yields:

$$\frac{\bar{T}_i}{\partial \bar{x}^k} = \frac{\partial T_r}{\partial \bar{x}^k} \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i} + T_r \frac{\partial^2 x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^k \partial \bar{x}^i} \quad (41)$$

Using the chain rule on the first term and the formula from the previous section on the second term, gives:

$$\frac{\bar{T}_i}{\partial \bar{x}^k} - \bar{\Gamma}_{ik}^t \bar{T}_t = \left(\frac{\partial T_r}{\partial x^s} - \Gamma_{rs}^t T_t \right) \frac{\partial x^r}{\partial \bar{x}^i} \frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{x}^k} \quad (42)$$

This is the defining law of a covariant tensor of order two. In other words, when the components of $\partial \mathbf{T} / \partial x^k$ are corrected by subtracting certain linear combinations of the components of \mathbf{T} itself, the result is a tensor and not just an affine tensor.

Definition 1: In any coordinate system x^i , the covariant derivative with respect to x^k of a covariant vector $\mathbf{T} = T_i$ is the tensor

$$\mathbf{T}_{,k} = (T_{i,k}) \left(\frac{\partial T_i}{\partial x^k} - \Gamma_{ik}^t T_t \right)$$

Remark 1: The two covariant indices are noted i and k to emphasize that the second index arose from an operation with respect to the k th coordinate.

Remark 2: The covariant derivative and the partial derivative coincide when the g_{ij} are constants (as in a rectangular coordinate system).

Definition 2: In any coordinate system x^i , the covariant derivative with respect to x^k of a contravariant vector $\mathbf{T} = T^i$ is the tensor

$$\mathbf{T}_{,k} = (T^i_{,k}) \left(\frac{\partial T^i}{\partial x^k} - \Gamma_{tk}^i T^t \right)$$

7.4.2 Differentiation of any tensor

The covariant derivative of an arbitrary tensor is a tensor of which the covariant order exceeds that of the original tensor by exactly one.

7.5 Absolute Differentiation along a Curve

Because $T^i_{,j}$ is a tensor, the inner product of $T^i_{,j}$ with another tensor is also a tensor. Suppose that the other tensor is dx^i/dt , the tangent vector of the curve $x^i(t)$. Then the inner product $T^i_{,r} \frac{dx^r}{dt}$ is a tensor of the same type and order as the original tensor T^i . This tensor is known as the absolute derivative of T^i along the curve, with components written as:

$$\frac{\delta T^i}{\delta t} = \left(\frac{dT^i}{dt} + \Gamma_{rs}^i T^r \frac{dx^s}{dt} \right), \text{ where } T^i = T^i(\mathbf{x}(t)) \quad (43)$$

It is clear that, again, in coordinate system in which the g_{ij} are constant, absolute differentiation reduces to ordinary differentiation.

7.5.1 Acceleration in General Coordinates

In rectangular coordinates the acceleration of a particle is the second time derivative of the position function $x^i(t)$:

$$\mathbf{a} = a^i = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{dx^i}{dt} = \frac{d^2 x^i}{dt^2}, \text{ where the length of the vector is: } a = \sqrt{\delta_{ij} a^i a^j}$$

The generalization of a derivative along a curve is:

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta t} \left(\frac{dx^i}{dt} \right) = \frac{d^2 x^i}{dt^2} + \Gamma_{rs}^i \frac{dx^r}{dt} \frac{dx^s}{dt}$$

Therefore the acceleration in general coordinates can be written:

$$\mathbf{a} = a^i = \frac{d^2 x^i}{dt^2} + \Gamma_{rs}^i \frac{dx^r}{dt} \frac{dx^s}{dt} \quad (44)$$

$$a = \sqrt{g_{ij} a^i a^j} \quad (45)$$

7.5.2 Curvature in General Coordinates

The curvature of a curve $x^i(s)$ in Euclidean space is defined as:

$$\kappa(s) = \sqrt{\delta_{ij} \frac{d^2 x^i}{ds^2} \frac{d^2 x^j}{ds^2}}$$

where $ds/dt = \sqrt{\delta_{ij}(dx^i/dt)(dx^j/dt)}$ gives the arc-length parameter. The obvious way to extend this concept as an invariant is again to use absolute differentiation. Writing:

$$b^i = \frac{\delta}{\delta s} \frac{dx^i}{ds} = \left(\frac{d^2 x^i}{ds^2} + \Gamma_{pq}^i \frac{dx^p}{ds} \frac{dx^q}{ds} \right), \text{ where the curvature is given by: } \kappa(s) = \sqrt{g_{ij} b^i b^j} \quad (46)$$

7.5.3 Geodesics

A geodesic is a curve for which $\kappa = 0$, that is, the "straight" lines are geodesics. For positive definite metrics, this condition is equivalent to requiring that:

$$b^i = \frac{\delta}{\delta s} \frac{dx^i}{ds} = \frac{d^2 x^i}{ds^2} + \Gamma_{pq}^i \frac{dx^p}{ds} \frac{dx^q}{ds} = 0 \quad (47)$$

The solution of this system of second order differential equations will define the geodics $x^i = x^i(s)$.

7.6 Rules for Tensor Differentiation

7.6.1 Rules for Covariant Differentiation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{sum: } (\mathbf{T} + \mathbf{S})_{,k} &= \mathbf{T}_{,k} + \mathbf{S}_{,k} \\ \text{outer product: } [\mathbf{TS}]_{,k} &= [\mathbf{T}_{,k} \mathbf{S}] + [\mathbf{TS}_{,k}] \\ \text{inner product: } (\mathbf{TS})_{,k} &= \mathbf{T}_{,k} \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{TS}_{,k} \end{aligned}$$

7.6.2 Rules for Absolute Differentiation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{sum: } \frac{\delta}{\delta t} (\mathbf{T} + \mathbf{S}) &= \frac{\delta \mathbf{T}}{\delta t} + \frac{\delta \mathbf{S}}{\delta t} \\ \text{outer product: } \frac{\delta}{\delta t} [\mathbf{TS}] &= \left[\frac{\delta \mathbf{T}}{\delta t} \mathbf{S} \right] + \left[\mathbf{T} \frac{\delta \mathbf{S}}{\delta t} \right] \\ \text{inner product: } \frac{\delta}{\delta t} (\mathbf{TS}) &= \frac{\delta \mathbf{T}}{\delta t} \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{T} \frac{\delta \mathbf{S}}{\delta t} \end{aligned}$$

Also note that $\frac{\delta}{\delta t} \mathbf{g} = 0$

8 Riemannian Geometry of Curves

8.1 Introduction

Definition: A Riemannian space is the space \mathbf{R}^n coordinatized by x^i , together with a fundamental form or Riemannian metric, $g_{ij}dx^i dx^j$, where $\mathbf{g} = (g_{ij})$ obeys the conditions from Section 6.2 Generalized Metrics.

8.2 Length and Angle under an Indefinite Metric

Definition: The norm of an arbitrary (contravariant or covariant) vector \mathbf{V} is

$$\|\mathbf{V}\| = \sqrt{\epsilon \mathbf{V}^2} = \sqrt{\epsilon V_i V^i}$$

where ϵ is the indicator function.

If $\mathbf{V}(t)$ is the tangent field of the curve $x^i = x^i(t)$, then the length formula may be written:

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{\epsilon g_{ij} \frac{dx^i}{dt} \frac{dx^j}{dt}} dt = \int_a^b \|\mathbf{V}(t)\| dt \quad (48)$$

The angle between non-null contravariant vectors is still defined by:

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{U} \mathbf{V}}{\|\mathbf{U}\| \|\mathbf{V}\|} = \frac{g_{ij} U^i V^j}{\sqrt{\epsilon_1 g_{pq} U^p U^q} \sqrt{\epsilon_2 g_{rs} V^r V^s}} \quad (49)$$

Because of the indefiniteness of the metric, we must distinguish two possibilities:

Case 1: $|\mathbf{U} \mathbf{V}| \leq \|\mathbf{U}\| \|\mathbf{V}\|$ (the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality holds for \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V}). Then θ is uniquely determined as a real number in the interval $[0, \pi]$.

Case 2: $|\mathbf{U} \mathbf{V}| > \|\mathbf{U}\| \|\mathbf{V}\|$ (the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality does not hold). Then there's an infinite number of solutions for θ , all of them complex. By convention the chosen solution:

$$\theta = \begin{cases} i \ln(k + \sqrt{k^2 - 1}) & k > 1 \\ \pi + i \ln(-k + \sqrt{k^2 - 1}) & k < -1 \end{cases}$$

that exhibits the proper limiting behavior as $k \rightarrow 1^+$ or $k \rightarrow -1^-$.

8.3 Null Curves

If \mathbf{g} is not required to be positive definite, a curve can have zero length.

A curve is null if it or any of its subarcs has zero length. Here, a subarc is understood to be nontrivial; that is, it consists of more than one point and corresponds to an interval $c \leq t \leq d$, where $c < d$. A curve is null at a point if for some value of the parameter t the tangent vector is a null vector:

$$g_{ij} \frac{dx^i}{dt} \frac{dx^j}{dt} = 0$$

The set of t -values at which the curve is null is known as the null set of the curve.

Under the above definitions, a curve can be null without having zero length (if there is a subarc with zero length); but a curve having zero length is necessarily null at every point, and hence a small curve.

8.3.1 Nonexistence of an Arc-Length Parameter

Definition: A curve is regular if it has no null points (i.e. $ds/dt > 0$)

8.4 Regular Curves: Unit Tangent Vector

A regular curve $x^i(s)$ be given in terms of the arc-length parameter; the tangent field is $\mathbf{T} = dx^i/ds$. By definition of arc length,

$$s = \int_0^s \|\mathbf{T}(u)\| du$$

and differentiation gives $1 = \|\mathbf{T}(s)\|$, showing that \mathbf{T} has unit length at each point of the curve.

When it is inconvenient or impossible to convert to the arc-length parameter, we can obtain \mathbf{T} by normalizing the tangent vector $\mathbf{U} = dx^i/dt$:

$$\mathbf{T} = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{U}\|} \mathbf{U} = \frac{1}{s'(t)} \mathbf{U}$$

Theorem: The absolute derivative $\delta\mathbf{T}/\delta s$ of the unit tangent vector \mathbf{T} is orthogonal to \mathbf{T}

8.5 Regular Curves: Unit Principal Normal and Curvature

Also associated with a regular curve is a vector orthogonal to the tangent vector. It may be introduced in two ways. 1. as the normalized $\delta\mathbf{T}/\delta s$. 2. as any differentiable unit vector orthogonal to \mathbf{T} and proportional to $\delta\mathbf{T}/\delta s$ when $\|\delta\mathbf{T}/\delta s\| \neq 0$. The latter definition is global in nature, and it applies to a larger class of curves than does the former.

8.5.1 Analytical (local) approach

At any point of the curve at which $\|\delta\mathbf{T}/\delta s\| \neq 0$, define the unit principal normal as the vector

$$\mathbf{N}_0 = \frac{\delta\mathbf{T}}{\delta s} / \left\| \frac{\delta\mathbf{T}}{\delta s} \right\| \quad (50)$$

The absolute curvature is the scale factor:

$$\kappa_0 = \left\| \frac{\delta\mathbf{T}}{\delta s} \right\| = \sqrt{\epsilon g_{ij} \frac{\delta T^i}{\delta s} \frac{\delta T^j}{\delta s}} \quad (51)$$

Calling this quantity "curvature" is suggestive of the fact that in rectangular coordinates $\|\delta\mathbf{T}/\delta s\| = \|d\mathbf{T}/ds\|$ measures the rate of change of the tangent vector with respect to distance, or how sharply the curve "bends" at each point. Substitution of the two above equations yields the Frenet equations:

$$\frac{\delta\mathbf{T}}{\delta s} = \kappa_0 \mathbf{N}_0 \quad (52)$$

While this approach is simple and concise, it does not apply to many curves we want to consider; for instance, a geodesic will not possess a local normal \mathbf{N}_0 at any point. Even if there is only one point of zero curvature and the metric is Euclidean, \mathbf{N}_0 can have an essential point of discontinuity here.

8.5.2 Geometric (global) approach

A unit principal normal to a regular curve is any contravariant vector $\mathbf{N} = N^i(s)$ such that along the curve:

1. N^i is continuously differentiable (call C^1) for each i
2. $\|\mathbf{N}\| = 1$
3. \mathbf{N} is orthogonal to the unit tangent vector \mathbf{T} , and is a scalar multiple of $\delta\mathbf{T}/\delta s$ wherever $\|\delta\mathbf{T}/\delta s\| \neq 0$

The curvature under this development is defined as:

$$\kappa = \epsilon \mathbf{N} \frac{\delta\mathbf{T}}{\delta s} = \epsilon g_{ij} N^i \frac{\delta T^j}{\delta s} \quad (53)$$

If the metric is positive definite, the Frenet equation:

$$\frac{\delta \mathbf{T}}{\delta s} = \kappa \mathbf{N} \quad (54)$$

holds unrestrictedly along a regular curve.

8.6 Geodesics as Shortest Arcs

It is possible to take a variational approach of finding the shortest path between two points. And that curve will be a geodesic. I have decided not to write down the derivation here. But it is interesting that this variational approach results in a geodesic.

9 Riemannian Curvature

9.1 The Riemann Tensor

The Riemann tensor emerges from an analysis of a simple question. Starting with a covariant vector V_i and taking the covariant derivative with respect to x^j and then with respect to x^k produces the third-order tensor

$$((V_i)_{,j})_{,k} = (V_{i,jk})$$

Does the order of differentiation matter, or does $V_{i,jk} = V_{i,kj}$ hold in general?

Standard hypotheses concerning differentiability suffice to guarantee that the partial derivative of order two is order-independent,

$$\frac{\partial^2 V_i}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} = \frac{\partial^2 V_i}{\partial x^k \partial x^j}$$

but due to the presence of Christoffel symbols, such hypotheses do not extend to covariant differentiation. The following formulat is established:

$$V_{j,kl} - V_{j,lk} = R_{jkl}^i V_i \quad (55)$$

where

$$R_{jkl}^i = \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jl}^i}{\partial x^k} - \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jk}^i}{\partial x^l} + \Gamma_{jl}^r \Gamma_{rk}^i - \Gamma_{jk}^r \Gamma_{rl}^i \quad (56)$$

The Quotient Theorem implies:

Theorem: The n^4 components defined by the above equation are those of a fourth-order tensor, contravariant of order one, covariant of order three.

R_{jkl}^i is called the Riemann (or Riemann-Christoffel) tensor of the second kind; lowering the contravariant index produces

$$R_{ijkl} = g_{ir} R_{jkl}^r \quad (57)$$

the Riemann tensor of the first kind.

In answer to our original question, we may now say that covariant differentiation is order-dependent unless the mteric is such as to make the Riemann tensor (either kind) vanish.

9.2 Properites of the Riemann Tensor

9.2.1 Two Important Formulas

The Riemann tensor of the first kind can be introduced independently via the following formula:

$$R_{ijkl} = \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jl}^i}{\partial x^k} - \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jk}^i}{\partial x^l} + \Gamma_{ilr} \Gamma_{jk}^r - \Gamma_{ikr} \Gamma_{jl}^r \quad (58)$$

It then follows:

$$R_{ijkl} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 g_{il}}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} + \frac{\partial^2 g_{jk}}{\partial x^i \partial x^l} - \frac{\partial^2 g_{ik}}{\partial x^j \partial x^l} - \frac{\partial^2 g_{jl}}{\partial x^i \partial x^k} \right) + \Gamma_{ilr} \Gamma_{jk}^r - \Gamma_{ikr} \Gamma_{jl}^r \quad (59)$$

9.2.2 Symmetry Properties

Interchange of k and l shows that $R_{jkl}^i = -R_{jlk}^i$, whence $R_{ijkl} = -R_{ijlk}$. This and two other symmetry properties are easily esatblished at this point:

first skew symmetry: $R_{ijkl} = -R_{jikl}$

second skew symmetry: $R_{ijkl} = -R_{jilk}$

block symmetry: $R_{ijkl} = -R_{klij}$

Bianchi's identity: $R_{ijkl} + R_{iklj} + R_{iljk} = 0$

9.2.3 Number of Independent Components

We shall count the separate types of potentially nonzero components, using the above symmetry properties. The first two properties imply that R_{aacd} and R_{abcc} (not summed on a or c) are zero. In the following list, we agree not to sum on repeated indices.

1. Type R_{abab} , $a < b$: $n_A = C_2 = n(n-1)/2$
2. Type R_{abac} , $b < c$: $n_A = C_2 = n(n-1)/2$
3. Type R_{abcd} or R_{acbd} , $a < b < c < d$ (for type R_{adbc} , use Bianchi's identity): $n_C = 2 \cdot C_4 = n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)/12$

Theorem: There are a total of $n^2(n^2 - 1)/12$ components of the Riemann tensor that are not identically zero and that are independent from the rest.

Corollary: In two-dimensional Riemannian space, the only components of the Riemann tensor not identically zero are $R_{1212} = R_{2121} = -R_{1221} = -R_{2112}$

9.3 Riemannian Curvature

The Riemannian curvature (or sectional curvature) relative to a given metric g_{ij} is defined for each pair of contravariant vectors U^i, V^i as:

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}) = \frac{R_{ijkl}U^iV^jU^kV^l}{G_{pqrs}U^pV^qU^rV^s} \quad (60)$$

$$\text{where } G_{pqrs} = g_{pr}g_{qs} - g_{ps}g_{qr} \quad (61)$$

This sort of curvature depends not only on position, but also on a pair of directions selected at each point (the vectors \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V}). By contrast, the curvature κ of a curve depends only on the points along the curve. Although it would seem desirable for K to depend only on the points of space, to demand this would impose severe and unrealistic restrictions.

9.3.1 Observations on the Curvature Formula

If $n = 2$, the above reduces to:

$$K = \frac{R_{1212}}{g_{11}g_{22} - g_{12}^2} = \frac{R_{1212}}{g} \quad (62)$$

Thus at a given point in Riemannian 2-space, the curvature is determined by the g_{ij} and their derivatives, and is independent of the directions \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} .

If linearly independent \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} are replaced by independent linear combinations of themselves, the curvature is unaffected:

$$K(\mathbf{x}; \lambda\mathbf{U} + \nu\mathbf{V}, \mu\mathbf{U} + \omega\mathbf{V}) = K(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}) \quad (63)$$

Therefore, at a given point \mathbf{x} , the curvature will have a value, not for each pair of vectors \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} , but for each 2-flat passing through \mathbf{x} .

9.3.2 Isotropic Points

If the Riemannian curvature at \mathbf{x} does not change with orientation of a 2-flat through \mathbf{x} , then \mathbf{x} is called isotropic.

Theorem: All points of a two-dimensional Riemannian space are isotropic

It is not immediately clear whether any metric g_{ij} could lead to isotropic points in \mathbf{R}^n , $n \geq 3$.

9.4 The Ricci Tensor

A brief look will be given a tensor that is of importance in Relativity. The Ricci tensor of the first kind is defined as a contraction of the Riemann tensor of the second kind:

$$R_{ij} = R_{ijk}^k = \frac{\partial \Gamma_{ik}^k}{\partial x^j} - \frac{\partial \Gamma_{ij}^k}{\partial x^k} + \Gamma_{ik}^r \Gamma_{rj}^k - \Gamma_{ij}^r \Gamma_{rk}^k \quad (64)$$

Raising an index yields the Ricci tensor of the second kind:

$$R_j^i = g^{ik} R_{kj} \quad (65)$$

By use of the consequence of Laplace's expansion:

$$R_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^i \partial x^j} (\ln \sqrt{|g|}) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^r} (\sqrt{|g|} \Gamma_{ij}^r) + \Gamma_{is}^r \Gamma_{rj}^s \quad (66)$$

Theorem: The Ricci tensor is symmetric

After raising a subscript to define the Ricci tensor of the second kind, $R_j^i = g^{is} R_{sj}$, and then contracting on the remaining pair of indices, the important invariant $R = R_j^j$ results, called the Ricci (or scalar) curvature.

$$R = g^{ij} \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^i \partial x^j} (\ln \sqrt{|g|}) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^r} (\sqrt{|g|} \Gamma_{ij}^r) + \Gamma_{is}^r \Gamma_{rj}^s \right] \quad (67)$$

10 Spaces of Constant Curvature; Normal Coordinates

10.1 Zero Curvature and the Euclidean Metric

Definition: A Riemannian metric $\mathbf{g} = g_{ij}$, specified in a coordinate system x^i , is the Euclidean metric if, under some permissible coordinate transformation, $\bar{\mathbf{g}} = \delta_{ij}$

Theorem: A Riemannian metric g_{ij} is the Euclidean metric if and only if the Riemannian curvature K is zero at all points and the metric is positive definite.

10.2 Flat Riemannian Spaces

Theorem: A Riemannian space is flat if and only if $K = 0$ at all points

Corollary: If $K = 0$, then $R = 0$.

10.3 Normal Coordinates

It is possible to introduce local, quasirectangular coordinates in Riemannian space the use of which greatly simplifies the proofs of certain complicated tensor identities.

Let O denote an arbitrary point of \mathbf{R}^n , and $\mathbf{p} = p^i$ an arbitrary direction (unit vector) at O . Assuming a positive-definite metric, consider the differential equations for geodesics,

$$\frac{d^2 x^i}{ds^2} + \Gamma_{jk}^i \frac{dx^j}{ds} \frac{dx^k}{ds} = 0 \quad (68)$$

along with initial conditions:

$$\left. \frac{dx^i}{ds} \right|_{s=0} = p^i \quad (69)$$

Remark: Under an indefinite metric, there could exist directions at O in which arc length could not be defined. There would then be no hope of satisfying the above with p^i arbitrary.

Theorem: If the metric tensor g_{ij} is positive definite, then, at the origin of a Riemannian coordinate system y^i , all $\partial g_{ij} / \partial y^k$, $\partial g^{ij} / \partial y^k$, Γ_{ijk} , and Γ_{jk}^i are zero.

10.4 Schur's Theorem

Remark: At an isotropic point of \mathbf{R}^n the Riemannian curvature is given by:

$$K = \frac{R_{abcd}}{g_{ac}g_{bd} - g_{ad}g_{bc}} = \frac{R_{abcd}}{G_{abcd}} \quad (70)$$

for any specific subscript string such that $G_{abcd} \neq 0$. (If $G_{abcd} = 0$, then $R_{abcd} = 0$ also)

Schur's Theorem: If all points in some neighborhood \mathcal{N} in a Riemannian \mathbf{R}^n are isotropic and $n \geq 3$, then K is constant throughout that neighborhood.

10.5 The Einstein Tensor

The Einstein tensor is defined in terms of the Ricci tensor R_{ij} and the curvature invariant R :

$$G_j^i = R_j^i - \frac{1}{2} \delta_j^i R \quad (71)$$

11 Tensors in Euclidean Geometry (Differential Geometry)

11.1 Curve Theory

Given a curve defined by a position vector:

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t)) \quad (72)$$

11.1.1 Regular Curves

The tangent vector of the curve is given by:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} = \dot{\mathbf{r}} = \left(\frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt}, \frac{dz}{dt} \right) \quad (73)$$

is said to be regular if $\dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \neq \mathbf{0}$ for each t .

11.1.2 Arc Length

Every regular curve can be parametrized by an arc length parameter $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}(s)$, such that

$$s = \int_a^t \left\| \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{du} \right\| du \quad (74)$$

or

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \|\dot{\mathbf{r}}\| \quad (75)$$

The dot means differentiation with respect to t . While a prime is differentiation with respect to s . This implies a mapping $t \rightarrow s$ and an inverse mapping $s \rightarrow t$ given by $t = \Phi(s)$, where Φ is also differentiable:

$$\frac{dt}{ds} = \Phi'(s) = \frac{1}{\|\dot{\mathbf{r}}\|} \quad (76)$$

11.1.3 The Moving Frame

The three vectors of fundamental importance to curve theory are the tangent vector, the normal vector, and the binormal.

$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{r}' = \left(\frac{dx}{ds}, \frac{dy}{ds}, \frac{dz}{ds} \right) \quad (77)$$

The principal normal is then the direction of change of the tangent. And the bitangent is $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{T} \times \mathbf{N}$. Here the three vectors written in differential form:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{T} &= \frac{\dot{\mathbf{r}}}{\|\dot{\mathbf{r}}\|} \\ \mathbf{N} &= \epsilon \frac{(\dot{\mathbf{r}}\dot{\mathbf{r}})\ddot{\mathbf{r}} - (\ddot{\mathbf{r}}\ddot{\mathbf{r}})\dot{\mathbf{r}}}{\|\dot{\mathbf{r}}\| \|\ddot{\mathbf{r}}\|} \\ \mathbf{B} &= \epsilon \frac{\dot{\mathbf{r}} \times \ddot{\mathbf{r}}}{\|\dot{\mathbf{r}} \times \ddot{\mathbf{r}}\|} \end{aligned}$$

Here, ϵ is plus or minus one, depending on the choice of \mathbf{N} .

11.2 Curvature and Torsion

The curvature κ and torsion τ of a curve are the real numbers:

$$\kappa = \mathbf{N}\mathbf{T}' \quad (78)$$

$$\tau = -\mathbf{N}\mathbf{B}' \quad (79)$$

Serret-Frenet Formulas: The derivatives of the vectors composing the moving triad are given by:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{T}' \\ \mathbf{N}' \\ \mathbf{B}' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \kappa & 0 \\ -\kappa & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{T} \\ \mathbf{N} \\ \mathbf{B} \end{pmatrix} \quad (80)$$