

# Lecture 3 Dirac operators & spinors.

Last time we saw  $(d+d^*)^2 = \Delta$  <sup>Hodge</sup> Laplacian on forms has a special Dirac operator.

Bochner Laplacian:  $\nabla: \Omega^k(X) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(X)$   
is  $\nabla^* \nabla$ .

Simplest case  $-\frac{d}{dx_1^2} - \frac{d}{dx_2^2} - \dots - \frac{d}{dx_n^2} = \Delta$  (- sign so it is negative definite!).

$$\left( a_1 \frac{d}{dx_1} + a_2 \frac{d}{dx_2} + \dots + a_n \frac{d}{dx_n} \right)^2 = \Delta$$

used  $\begin{cases} a_i^2 = -1 \\ a_i a_j + a_j a_i = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow$  relations defining Clifford algebra.

Example  $[n=1] \Rightarrow a_1^2 = -1 \Rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ .

$[n=2] \quad a_1^2 = a_2^2 = -1, \quad a_1 a_2 = -a_2 a_1$   
 $a_1^2 = i, \quad a_2 = j \Rightarrow$   $\mathbb{H}$  quaternions.

Def  $(V, g)$  euclidean space. Exercise what is  $Cl(\mathbb{R}^3)$ ?

In general  $Cl(V, g) = \frac{T(V)}{\{v \otimes v = -g(v, v)\}}$   $\xrightarrow{\cong} \bigoplus_{i=0}^n V^{\otimes i}$  (This implies  $v \otimes w + w \otimes v = -2g(v, w)$ ).

Remark  $Cl(V)$  is closely related to the exterior algebra!  
 $T(V) \hookrightarrow V \otimes W + W \otimes V = 0$   
 $\{v \otimes v = 0\}$ .

$T(V, p)$  has natural filtration  $k \subseteq k \otimes V \subseteq k \otimes V \otimes V \otimes V \dots$

$\hookrightarrow Gr(Cl(V, p)) \cong \wedge^* V$  as algebras

Can think of this as a new product structure on  $\wedge^* V$ .

$$v \cdot (v_1 \wedge v_2 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k) = v \wedge v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{contraction}}}{v \lrcorner (v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k)}.$$

Rule  $Cl(V, \rho)$  is only  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ -graded! And multiplication changes even/odd by  $v$ . (2)

Def A Clifford module is  $Cl(V, \rho)^{\frac{1}{2}} S$  <sup>of the vector</sup>

Rule just need to check that the action  $v \cdot (v \cdot S) = -\rho(v) \cdot S$  for every  $v \in V$ .

Let's generalize this.  $(M, g)$  Riemannian manifold

$\Rightarrow Cl(TM, g)$  bundle of Clifford algebras.  
 $\downarrow$   
 $M$

Def A Clifford bundle is  $\downarrow$  hermitian bundle of Clifford modules  $Cl(TM, g) \sim Sp$ . <sup>+ connection  $\nabla$</sup>   
 such that

1)  $(v \cdot s_1, s_2) + (s_1, v \cdot s_2) = 0$  (the action of  $v$  is skew-adjoint).

2)  $\nabla_X^S (Y \cdot s) = (\nabla_X Y) \cdot s + Y \cdot \nabla_X^S s$  for all  $X, Y, s$ .  
<sub>Levi-Civita</sub>

Example  $Cl(TM, g) \sim \Lambda^* TM$  is a Clifford bundle.

Def The Dirac operator associated to  $(S, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, \nabla)$  is

$$D: T(S) \xrightarrow{\nabla} T(TM \otimes S) \xrightarrow{\#} T(TM \otimes S) \xrightarrow{\alpha} T(S).$$

Example The Dirac operator associated to  $Cl(TM, g) \sim \Lambda^* TM$ .

is  $d + d^*: \Omega^*(X) \rightarrow \Omega^*(X)$ . (notice it splits as  
 $\Omega^{\text{odd}} \rightarrow \Omega^{\text{even}}$   
 $\Omega^{\text{even}} \rightarrow \Omega^{\text{odd}}$ ).

Exercise check that  $D^2$  looks like a Laplace.

(3)

But we can pick different Clifford bundles!

$$\boxed{n=2} \quad \text{Cl}(\mathbb{R}^2) = \text{Hl} \sim \text{Hl} = \text{S.}$$

$$\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}.$$

$$e_1 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix} = \sigma_1$$

$$e_2 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \sigma_2$$

$$e_3 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ -i & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \sigma_3$$

Pauli matrices.

$$\rightarrow \text{Dirac is } e_1 \cdot \nabla_{e_1} + e_2 \cdot \nabla_{e_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\boxed{n=4}$  Our case of interest.

$$\text{rk}_{\mathbb{C}} S = 4. \text{ Locally } \rho \quad e_0 \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -I_2 \\ I_2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$e_i \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\sigma_i^* \\ \sigma_i & 0 \end{bmatrix} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Spin}^{\mathbb{C}} \\ \text{structure} \\ S \end{array} \right.$$

$$S^+ \otimes S^-$$

$$D: S \rightarrow S \text{ splits as}$$

$$D^+: S^+ \rightarrow S^-$$

$$D^-: S^- \rightarrow S^+.$$

Then  $S$  Clifford bundle.  $D$  is a first order, elliptic, self adjoint  
 $\hookrightarrow$  nice from the point of view of analysis.

$$\text{e.g. } Ds = 0 \Rightarrow s \in \mathcal{E}^0.$$

• dimer, double  $\leftarrow$  is false.

$$D^+ \uparrow \downarrow D^- \quad \text{are adjoint to each other.}$$

$$\text{ind}(D^+) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(D^+) - \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(D^-).$$

$$\text{Exercise } \text{ind}(d + d^*) = \chi(X).$$

• is there an operator for which  
 $\text{ind} = \sigma(X)$ ?

$$\text{Then } \text{ind } D_A^+ = \frac{1}{8} (c_2(S^+) - \sigma(X)) \quad (\text{Atiyah-Singer index theorem}).$$

Fact If  $(S, \rho)$  is  $\text{Spin}^{\mathbb{C}}$  structure  $\Rightarrow (S \otimes L, \rho \otimes \mathbb{1}_L)$  is also  $\text{Spin}^{\mathbb{C}}$  structure.

$\Rightarrow \text{Spin}^{\mathbb{C}}(X)$  is affine space over  $H^2(X; \mathbb{Z}) = \{\text{line bundles}\}.$