

Exercise 2.5 Combining rules – a solution

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1 {a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q,r,s,t,u#}::Indices(position=independent).
2
3 \nabla{#}::Derivative.
4 \partial{#}::PartialDerivative.
5
6 # rules for covariant derivatives of v
7
8 deriv1 := \nabla_{a}{v^{b}} -> \partial_{a}{v^{b}}
9          + \Gamma^{b}_{d a} v^{d}.
10
11 deriv2 := \nabla_{a}{\nabla_{b}{v^{c}}} -> \partial_{a}{\nabla_{b}{v^{c}}}
12          + \Gamma^{c}_{d a} \nabla_{b}{v^{d}}
13          - \Gamma^{d}_{b a} \nabla_{d}{v^{c}}.
14
15 # second covariant derivative of v
16
17 expr := v^{c}_{b a} -> \nabla_{a}{\nabla_{b}{v^{c}}}. # cdb (ex-0205.101,expr)
18 save := @(expr).
19
20 # apply the rules, then simplify
21
22 substitute (expr,deriv2) # cdb (ex-0205.102,expr)
23 substitute (expr,deriv1) # cdb (ex-0205.103,expr)
24 distribute (expr) # cdb (ex-0205.104,expr)
25 product_rule (expr) # cdb (ex-0205.105,expr)
26 canonicalise (expr) # cdb (ex-0205.107,expr)
27 substitute (expr,save) # cdb (ex-0205.108,expr)
```

The trick here is to introduce in line 17 a dummy left hand side, $v^{c}_{b a}$, that is invisible with respect to the substitution rules of lines 8 and 11. Thus lines 22 and 23 will only target the right hand side of `expr`.

Notice how a copy of the initial expression is made in 18. This is used later in line 27 to replace the dummy object $v^{c}_{b a}$ with $\nabla_{a}{\nabla_{b}{v^{c}}}$ but this time acting on the left hand side of the rule. The result is a rule for second covariant derivatives.

$$v_{ba}^c \rightarrow \nabla_a(\nabla_b v^c) \quad (\text{ex-0205.101})$$

$$v_{ba}^c \rightarrow \partial_a(\nabla_b v^c) + \Gamma_{da}^c \nabla_b v^d - \Gamma_{ba}^d \nabla_d v^c \quad (\text{ex-0205.102})$$

$$v_{ba}^c \rightarrow \partial_a(\partial_b v^c + \Gamma_{db}^c v^d) + \Gamma_{da}^c (\partial_b v^d + \Gamma_{eb}^d v^e) - \Gamma_{ba}^d (\partial_d v^c + \Gamma_{ed}^c v^e) \quad (\text{ex-0205.103})$$

$$v_{ba}^c \rightarrow \partial_a v^c + \partial_a(\Gamma_{db}^c v^d) + \Gamma_{da}^c \partial_b v^d + \Gamma_{da}^c \Gamma_{eb}^d v^e - \Gamma_{ba}^d \partial_d v^c - \Gamma_{ba}^d \Gamma_{ed}^c v^e \quad (\text{ex-0205.104})$$

$$v_{ba}^c \rightarrow \partial_a v^c + \partial_a \Gamma_{db}^c v^d + \Gamma_{db}^c \partial_a v^d + \Gamma_{da}^c \partial_b v^d + \Gamma_{da}^c \Gamma_{eb}^d v^e - \Gamma_{ba}^d \partial_d v^c - \Gamma_{ba}^d \Gamma_{ed}^c v^e \quad (\text{ex-0205.105})$$

$$v_{ba}^c \rightarrow \partial_a v^c + \partial_a \Gamma_{db}^c v^d + \Gamma_{db}^c \partial_a v^d + \Gamma_{da}^c \partial_b v^d + \Gamma_{da}^c \Gamma_{eb}^d v^e - \Gamma_{ba}^d \partial_d v^c - \Gamma_{de}^c \Gamma_{ba}^e v^d \quad (\text{ex-0205.107})$$

$$\nabla_a(\nabla_b v^c) \rightarrow \partial_a v^c + \partial_a \Gamma_{db}^c v^d + \Gamma_{db}^c \partial_a v^d + \Gamma_{da}^c \partial_b v^d + \Gamma_{da}^c \Gamma_{eb}^d v^e - \Gamma_{ba}^d \partial_d v^c - \Gamma_{de}^c \Gamma_{ba}^e v^d \quad (\text{ex-0205.108})$$