Differential Geometry

Riccardo Fantoni*
Università di Trieste, Dipartimento di Fisica, strada Costiera 11, 34151 Grignano (Trieste), Italy
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CONTENTS

[1, 2]

I. PREAMBLE ON DIFFERENTIAL TOPOLOGY

Consider a Riemannian manifold $\mathscr{M}$ of dimension n.

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* riccardo.fantoni@scuola.istruzione.it

A *curve* on $\mathscr{M}$

$$C(\lambda) \quad \lambda \text{ is an affine parameter.} \tag{1.1}$$

The tangent *vector* to C

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{u}} = \frac{dC(\lambda)}{d\lambda} = \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}}. \tag{1.2}$$

A *basis of vectors* $\{\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha\}$ with

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha = \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha} = \partial_\alpha. \tag{1.3}$$

A change of basis vectors is realized as follows

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\alpha'} = L^\alpha{}_{\alpha'}\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha, \tag{1.4}$$

where the primed indexes are for the vectors in the new basis and a summation over the repeated index is tacitly assumed here and everywhere else in these manuscript.

In a *coordinate basis*

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha = \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha} = \partial_\alpha = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha}. \tag{1.5}$$

For a transformation of coordinates $x^{\alpha'} = x^{\alpha'}(x^\beta)$

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} = \frac{\partial x^{\alpha'}}{\partial x^\alpha}\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} = \frac{\partial x^{\alpha'}}{\partial x^\alpha}\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\alpha'} = L^{\alpha'}{}_\alpha\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\alpha'}. \tag{1.6}$$

with

$$L^{\alpha'}{}_\alpha = \frac{\partial x^{\alpha'}}{\partial x^\alpha}, \quad L^\alpha{}_\beta L^\beta{}_\gamma = \delta^\alpha{}_\gamma, \tag{1.7}$$

where $||\delta^\alpha{}_\gamma|| = \text{diag}(1, 1, \ldots, 1)$ is the identity matrix and $||L^\alpha{}_\beta|| = ||L^\beta{}_\alpha||^{-1}$.

A transformation of coordinates of a vector

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{u}} = u^{\alpha'}\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\alpha'} = u^\alpha\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha = u^\alpha L^{\alpha'}{}_\alpha\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\alpha'}, \tag{1.8}$$

with

$$u^{\alpha'} = L^{\alpha'}{}_\alpha u^\alpha. \tag{1.9}$$

The *1-form* $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}$ in the dual space of the tangent vector space

$$\langle\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{u}}\rangle = \text{a real number}, \tag{1.10}$$

where $\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle$ is a bilinear two slots machine such that

$$\langle\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha\rangle = \delta^\beta{}_\alpha \tag{1.11}$$

with $\{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta\}$ a *basis of 1-forms.*

So if

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{u}} = u^\alpha\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha, \tag{1.12}$$

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \sigma_\beta\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta, \tag{1.13}$$

we will have

$$u^\alpha = \langle\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{u}}\rangle, \tag{1.14}$$

$$\sigma_\beta = \langle\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta\rangle, \tag{1.15}$$

$$\sigma_\alpha u^\alpha = \langle\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{u}}\rangle. \tag{1.16}$$

A change of basis 1-forms is realized as follows

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\alpha'} = L^{\alpha'}_\alpha\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha, \tag{1.17}$$

and for the 1-form components

$$\sigma_{\alpha'} = L^{\alpha}{}_{\alpha'}\sigma_{\alpha}. \tag{1.18}$$

A particularly important 1-form is the *gradient*, $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f$, with f a scalar (a function), defined like so

$$\langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f, \vec{\boldsymbol{u}}\rangle = \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}} f = u^{\alpha}\partial_{\alpha} f = u^{\alpha} f_{,\alpha}, \tag{1.19}$$

where we use the comma to denote a partial derivative

$$f_{,\alpha} = \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\alpha}\rangle = \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\alpha}} f = \partial_{\alpha} f. \tag{1.20}$$

So

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f = f_{,\alpha}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\alpha}. \tag{1.21}$$

In a coordinate basis

$$f_{,\alpha} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^{\alpha}}, \tag{1.22}$$

and $\{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}x^{\alpha}\}$ is dual to $\{\partial/\partial x^{\alpha}\}$

$$\langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}x^{\alpha}, \partial/\partial x^{\beta}\rangle = \partial_{\beta} x^{\alpha} = \frac{\partial x^{\alpha}}{\partial x^{\beta}} = \delta^{\alpha}{}_{\beta}. \tag{1.23}$$

A tensor $\mathbb{H}$ of rank $\binom{n}{m}$ is a linear machine with n input slots for 1-forms, $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}, \ldots, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$, and m input slots for vectors, $\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{v}}, \ldots, \vec{\boldsymbol{w}}$, which returns a real number

$$H(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}, \ldots, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{u}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{v}}, \ldots, \vec{\boldsymbol{w}}) = \text{real number}, \tag{1.24}$$

Up to here we did not use a metric at all so we woked in *differential topology*. We will introduce a metric only later. For the time being let us take a detour on *exterior calculus*.

II. EXTERIOR CALCULUS IN BRIEF

We may define a p-form pf our n-dimensional manifold $\mathscr{M}$ like so

$$\begin{aligned}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} &= \frac{1}{p!}\alpha_{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_p}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\mu_1}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\mu_2}\wedge\ldots\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\mu_p}\\ &= \alpha_{|\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_p|}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\mu_1}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\mu_2}\wedge\ldots\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\mu_p},\end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

where the vertical bars around the indexes means that the summation extends only over $\mu_1 < \mu_2 < \ldots < \mu_p$ and $\wedge$ is the *wedge product* which is defined by its action on any two 1-forms, $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ (or on any two vectors), as

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\otimes\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\otimes\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}, \tag{2.2}$$

where $\otimes$ denotes a *direct product*. So that $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = -\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}$ and $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} = 0$. Given any three 1-forms, $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$ (or any three vectors), the wedge product has the following properties

$$(a\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} + b\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}})\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} = a\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} + b\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}, \tag{2.3a}$$

$$(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}})\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\wedge(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}) = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}, \tag{2.3b}$$

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \alpha_{\mu}\beta_{\nu}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\mu}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\nu} = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_{\mu}\beta_{\nu} - \alpha_{\nu}\beta_{\mu})\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\mu}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\nu}. \tag{2.3c}$$

and if $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}$ is a p-form and $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is a q-form with p and q greater than 1, then $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (-1)^{pq}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}$.

Analogously for a p-vector we will have

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{a}} = \frac{1}{p!}a_{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_p}\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}^{\mu_1}\wedge\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}^{\mu_2}\wedge\ldots\wedge\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}^{\mu_p}. \tag{2.4}$$

A contraction of the p-form $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}$ of Eq. (2.1) and the p-vector $\vec{\boldsymbol{a}}$ of Eq. (2.4) is

$$\langle\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{a}}\rangle = \alpha_{|\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_p|}a^{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_p}. \tag{2.5}$$

For example the jacobian determinant of a set of p functions $f^k(x^1, x^2, \ldots, x^n)$ with respect to p of their arguments is

$$\left\langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f^1\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f^2\wedge\ldots\wedge\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f^p, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^1}\wedge\frac{\partial}{\partial x^2}\wedge\ldots\wedge\frac{\partial}{\partial x^p}\right\rangle = \det\left\|\left(\frac{\partial f^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\nu}}\right)\right\| = \frac{\partial(f^1, f^2, \ldots, f^p)}{\partial(x^1, x^2, \ldots, x^p)}. \tag{2.6}$$

A. Exterior derivative

The exterior derivative is defined by induction:

i. if $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}$ is a p-form $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}$ is a $(p+1)$-form;

ii. a function f is a 0-form and $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f = f_{,\alpha}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\alpha}$;

iii. if $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}$ is a p-form and $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is a q-form then $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \wedge \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \wedge \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + (-1)^p \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \wedge \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$.

It can easily be verified that $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}} = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}^2 = 0$.

B. Integration

In order to integrate a p-form in an n-dimensional manifold one should follow the following steps:

i. consider in a coordinate basis

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \sigma_{|\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_p|}(x^1, x^2, \ldots, x^n)\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}x^{\mu_1} \wedge \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}x^{\mu_2} \wedge \ldots \wedge \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}x^{\mu_p}; \tag{2.7}$$

ii. substitute a parameterization of the p-dimensional surface of the form, $x^\mu(\lambda^1, \lambda^2, \ldots, \lambda^p)$, so that

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \sigma(\lambda^1, \lambda^2, \ldots, \lambda^p)\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}\lambda^1 \wedge \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}\lambda^2 \wedge \ldots \wedge \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}\lambda^p; \tag{2.8}$$

iii. integrate

$$\begin{aligned} \int \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} &= \int \left\langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \frac{\partial}{\partial\lambda^1} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial\lambda^2} \wedge \ldots \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial\lambda^p} \right\rangle d\lambda^1 d\lambda^2 \ldots d\lambda^p, \\ &= \int \sigma(\lambda^1, \lambda^2, \ldots, \lambda^p) d\lambda^1 d\lambda^2 \ldots d\lambda^p, \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

using the elementary definition of integration.

iv. Stokes theorem

$$\int_\Omega \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \int_{\partial\Omega} \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \tag{2.10}$$

and Gauss theorem

$$\int_\Omega \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}\, {}^*\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \int_{\partial\Omega} {}^*\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \tag{2.11}$$

where $\partial\Omega$ is the closed p-dimensional boundary of the $(p+1)$-dimensional surface Ω.

C. Dual of a p-form

In an n-dimensional manifold $\mathscr{M}$, the dual of a p-form $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}$ is an $(n-p)$-form ${}^*\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}$ with components

$${}^*\sigma_{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_{n-p}} = \sigma^{|\nu_1\nu 2\cdots\nu_p|}\varepsilon_{\nu_1\cdots\nu_p\mu_1\cdots\mu_{n-p}}, \tag{2.12}$$

where ε is the *Levi-Civita tensor*, a completely antisymmetric rank n tensor. On a positively oriented basis $\{\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\mu\}$, $\varepsilon_{12\cdots n} = \varepsilon(\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_1, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_2, \ldots, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_n) = +1$ and

$$\varepsilon_{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_n} = [\mu_1, \mu_2, \ldots, \mu_n] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{unless } \mu_1, \mu_2, \ldots, \mu_n \text{ are all different} \\ +1 & \text{for even permutations of } 1, 2, \ldots, n \\ -1 & \text{for odd permutations of } 1, 2, \ldots, n \end{cases}, \tag{2.13}$$

so that given any matrix Λ

$$\varepsilon_{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_n}\Lambda^{\mu_1}_{\bar{1}}\Lambda^{\mu_2}_{\bar{2}}\cdots\Lambda^{\mu_n}_{\bar{n}} = \det ||\Lambda^{\mu}{}_{\bar{\nu}}|| \,. \tag{2.14}$$

The dual has the following property

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \wedge^{*} \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = ||\sigma||^2 \varepsilon, \tag{2.15}$$

where

$$||\sigma||^2 = \sigma_{|\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_p|}\sigma^{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_p}, \tag{2.16}$$

is the norm of the p-form.

III. THE METRIC TENSOR

Now we will introduce a metric and delve into differential geometry. The metric $\boldsymbol{g}$ is a rank 2 symmetric tensor. In its $\binom{0}{2}$ form

$$g(\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta) = \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta = g_{\alpha\beta}, \tag{3.1}$$

$$\boldsymbol{g} = \boldsymbol{ds}^2 = g_{\alpha\beta}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha \otimes \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta, \tag{3.2}$$

where in a coordinate basis $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}x^\alpha$. If $\vec{\boldsymbol{\xi}} = dx^\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha$ is a displacement vector then

$$\begin{aligned} g(\vec{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{\xi}}) = \vec{\boldsymbol{\xi}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{\xi}} &= g_{\alpha\beta}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha \otimes \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta (dx^\gamma \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma, dx^\delta \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\delta) \\ &= g_{\alpha\beta}\langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha, dx^\gamma \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma\rangle\langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta, dx^\delta \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\delta\rangle \\ &= g_{\alpha\beta} dx^\gamma dx^\delta \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma\rangle\langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\delta\rangle \\ &= g_{\alpha\beta} dx^\alpha dx^\beta \\ &= ds^2. \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

In other words

i. Interval between two unspecified displacements $\boldsymbol{ds}^2 = \boldsymbol{g}$;

ii. Interval between two unspecified displacements $ds^2 = g(\vec{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{\xi}})$;

as for

i. Unspecified direction $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f$;

ii. Specified direction $df = \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{d}}f, \vec{\boldsymbol{v}}\rangle = \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}} f = v^\alpha f_{,\alpha}$.

We use $\boldsymbol{g}$ to establish a correspondence between 1-forms and vectors

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}} \leftrightarrow \vec{\boldsymbol{u}} \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{a}}\rangle = \vec{\boldsymbol{u}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{a}} = g(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{a}}) \quad \forall\ \vec{\boldsymbol{a}}. \tag{3.4}$$

In components $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}} = u_\beta \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta$ and

$$u_\beta = \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta\rangle = g(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta) = g(u^\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta) = u^\alpha g_{\alpha\beta}, \tag{3.5}$$

so we use $g_{\alpha\beta}$ to *lower indexes*.
Also $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha$ is dual to $\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha$. Call $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{e}}^\alpha$ the 1-form corresponding to $\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha$, then

$$\langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{e}}^\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta\rangle = \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta = g_{\alpha\beta} = \langle g_{\alpha\gamma}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\gamma, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta\rangle, \tag{3.6}$$

so $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{e}}^\alpha = g_{\alpha\gamma}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\gamma = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha$.
$\boldsymbol{g}$ in its $\binom{1}{1}$ form

$$g^\alpha{}_\beta = g(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta) = \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta\rangle = \delta^\alpha{}_\beta. \tag{3.7}$$

$\boldsymbol{g}$ in its $\binom{2}{0}$ form

$$g^{\alpha\beta} = g(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta), \tag{3.8}$$

and

$$g^{\alpha}{}_{\beta} = g^{\alpha\mu} g_{\mu\beta} = \delta^{\alpha}{}_{\beta} \tag{3.9}$$

or $||g^{\alpha\beta}|| = ||g_{\alpha\beta}||^{-1}$.

Consider for example a tensor $\mathbb{H}$ of rank $\binom{1}{2}$, then

$$H(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\alpha}, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\beta}, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\gamma}) = H^{\alpha}{}_{\beta\gamma}, \tag{3.10}$$

$$\mathbb{H} = H^{\alpha}{}_{\beta\gamma} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\alpha} \otimes \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\beta} \otimes \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\gamma}, \tag{3.11}$$

$$H_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = H^{\delta}{}_{\beta\gamma} g_{\delta\alpha} \tag{3.12}$$

$$H_{\alpha'\beta'\gamma'} = L^{\alpha}{}_{\alpha'} L^{\beta}{}_{\beta'} L^{\gamma}{}_{\gamma'} H_{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \tag{3.13}$$

where the last equation is the change of basis.

A. The global (non coordinate) orthonormal frame

Through a change of basis $L^{\hat{\mu}}{}_{\mu}$ we can always diagonalize the symmetric metric tensor globally, thanks to the spectral theorem, so to realize an orthogonal frame

$$L^{\mu}{}_{\hat{\mu}} L^{\nu}{}_{\hat{\nu}} g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}. \tag{3.14}$$

Furthermore, it is always possible to rescale each vector of the orthogonal basis to get $||\eta_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}|| = \mathrm{diag}\{1, 1, \ldots, 1\}$. This at the price of having a non coordinate basis. We will call this the *global Lorentz frame* (LF) or the *global (non coordinate) orthonormal frame* and we will denote it with a hat on the indexes.

Upon taking the determinant of Eq. (3.14) we find

$$\det ||L^{\mu}{}_{\hat{\mu}}||^2 \det ||g_{\mu\nu}|| = 1. \tag{3.15}$$

We will denote

$$g = \det||g_{\mu\nu}||. \tag{3.16}$$

In Section IV B we will see that in General Relativity (GR) $\mathscr{M}$ is a pseudo-Riemannian 4-dimensional manifold with $||\eta_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}|| = \mathrm{diag}\{-1, 1, 1, 1\}$ and $\det||L^{\mu}{}_{\hat{\mu}}|| = 1/\sqrt{-g}$.

The Levi-Civita tensor in a general basis becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_n} &= L^{\hat{\mu}_1}{}_{\mu_1} L^{\hat{\mu}_2}{}_{\mu_2} \cdots L^{\hat{\mu}_n}{}_{\mu_n} \varepsilon_{\hat{\mu}_1\hat{\mu}_2\cdots\hat{\mu}_n} \\ &= \det||L^{\hat{\mu}}{}_{\mu}|| \varepsilon_{\hat{\mu}_1\hat{\mu}_2\cdots\hat{\mu}_n} \\ &= \sqrt{|g|}\, \varepsilon_{\hat{\mu}_1\hat{\mu}_2\cdots\hat{\mu}_n}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.17}$$

where in the first equality we used the fact that the Levi-Civita tensor is defined as the completely antisymmetric tensor of Eq. (2.13) only in a LF, in the second equality we used property (2.14), and in the last equality we used properties (3.15) and (1.7).

B. Commutators

Consider two vectors $\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}$ and $\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}$. We want to prove that

$$[\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{v}}] f = \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}} \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}} f - \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}} \partial_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}} f = \text{vector}, \tag{3.18}$$

for example on a scalar f.

We will prove this in a coordinate basis and then extend the result in a general non coordinate basis:

i. In a coordinate basis $\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\alpha} = \partial_{\alpha} = \partial/\partial x^{\alpha}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} [\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{v}}] &= u^{\alpha} \partial_{\alpha} (v^{\beta} \partial_{\beta}) - v^{\beta} \partial_{\beta} (u^{\alpha} \partial_{\alpha}) \\ &= u^{\alpha} v^{\beta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^{\alpha} \partial x^{\beta}} + u^{\alpha} v^{\beta}{}_{,\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\beta}} - \\ &\quad v^{\beta} u^{\alpha} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^{\beta} \partial x^{\alpha}} - v^{\beta} u^{\alpha}{}_{,\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha}} \\ &= (u^{\beta} v^{\alpha}{}_{,\beta} - v^{\beta} u^{\alpha}{}_{,\beta}) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha}}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.19}$$

where we used the commutation of the partial derivatives. For basis vectors $[\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta] = [\partial_\alpha, \partial_\beta] = 0$;

ii. In a non coordinate basis we will have instead

$$[\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta] = c_{\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma, \tag{3.20}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned}[\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{v}}] &= [u^\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha, v^\beta \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta] \\ &= (u^\beta v^\alpha{}_{,\beta} - v^\beta u^\alpha{}_{,\beta} + u^\gamma v^\beta c_{\gamma\beta}{}^\alpha) \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha.\end{aligned} \tag{3.21}$$

C. Covariant derivative

When taking a derivative on $\mathscr{M}$ we need to take care also of how the basis vectors and 1-forms change. [1] Such a derivative is called a *covariant derivative* for which we will use interchangeably the following three symbols

$$\frac{D\ldots}{\partial\lambda}\,, \quad u^\alpha \nabla_\alpha \ldots\,, \quad u^\alpha (\ldots)_{;\alpha}. \tag{3.22}$$

Let us distinguish four cases:

i. On a scalar f

$$\nabla_\alpha f = \partial_\alpha f \quad \text{or} \quad f_{;\alpha} = f_{,\alpha}. \tag{3.23}$$

ii. On a vector $\vec{\boldsymbol{v}} v^\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha$. We will prove later that

$$\nabla_\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta = \partial_\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta = \Gamma^\gamma{}_{\alpha\beta} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma, \tag{3.24}$$

where the Γ are some coefficients called *connection coefficients* for a non coordinate basis and *Christoffel symbols* for a coordinate basis.

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{v}} &= \nabla_\alpha (v^\beta \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta) \\ &= (\partial_\alpha v^\beta) \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta + v^\beta \partial_\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta \\ &= v^\beta{}_{,\alpha} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta + v^\beta \Gamma^\gamma{}_{\alpha\beta} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma \\ &= \left(v^\beta{}_{,\alpha} + v^\gamma \Gamma^\beta{}_{\alpha\gamma}\right) \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta,\end{aligned} \tag{3.25}$$

or

$$(\nabla_\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{v}})^\beta = v^\beta{}_{;\alpha} = v^\beta{}_{,\alpha} + \Gamma^\beta{}_{\alpha\gamma} v^\gamma. \tag{3.26}$$

iii. On a 1-form $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \sigma_\alpha \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\alpha$

$$\langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha \rangle = \sigma_\beta \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^\beta, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha \rangle = \sigma_\beta \delta^\beta{}_\alpha = \sigma_\alpha, \tag{3.27}$$

taking the covariant derivative of this expression

$$\nabla_\alpha \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta \rangle = \sigma_{\beta,\alpha} \tag{3.28}$$

$$\langle \nabla_\alpha \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta \rangle + \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \partial_\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta \rangle = \sigma_{\beta,\alpha} \tag{3.29}$$

$$\langle \nabla_\alpha \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta \rangle = \sigma_{\beta,\alpha} - \langle \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}, \Gamma^\gamma{}_{\alpha\beta} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma \rangle \tag{3.30}$$

$$(\nabla_\alpha \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}})_\beta = \sigma_{\beta;\alpha} = \sigma_{\beta,\alpha} - \Gamma^\gamma{}_{\alpha\beta} \sigma_\gamma, \tag{3.31}$$

where we see how the correction due to the change of the basis vector enters with a minus sign.

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[1] In other terms, when taking a derivative of a vector on $\mathscr{M}$ we come across the problem of comparing two vectors at two different points of $\mathscr{M}$. This is solved with the procedure of *parallel transport* where we simply compare the two vectors either at the initial or at the final point after having "copied" the components of the vector respect to the basis at one point on its components respect to the basis at the other point.

iv. On a tensor $\mathbb{H}$ of rank $\binom{r}{s}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
(\nabla_\alpha H)^{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_r}{}_{\nu_1\nu_2\cdots\nu_s} &= H^{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_r}{}_{\nu_1\nu_2\cdots\nu_s;\alpha} = H^{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_r}{}_{\nu_1\nu_2\cdots\nu_s,\alpha} \\
&+\Gamma^{\mu_1}{}_{\gamma\alpha}H^{\gamma\mu_2\cdots\mu_r}{}_{\nu_1\nu_2\cdots\nu_s} + \ldots + \Gamma^{\mu_r}{}_{\gamma\alpha}H^{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\gamma}{}_{\nu_1\nu_2\cdots\nu_s} \\
&-\Gamma^{\gamma}{}_{\nu_1\alpha}H^{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_r}{}_{\gamma\nu_2\cdots\nu_s} + \ldots - \Gamma^{\gamma}{}_{\nu_s\alpha}H^{\mu_1\mu_2\cdots\mu_r}{}_{\nu_1\nu_2\cdots\gamma}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.32}
$$

The connection coefficients

We now want to prove Eq. (3.24) and determine the expression of the connection coefficients in terms of the metric tensor. Start again from the definition (3.24)

$$
g(\nabla_\alpha\vec{e}_\beta,\vec{e}_\gamma) = g\left(\Gamma^\delta{}_{\alpha\beta}\vec{e}_\delta,\vec{e}_\gamma\right) = \Gamma^\delta{}_{\alpha\beta}g_{\delta\gamma}. \tag{3.33}
$$

Then consider the partial derivative of the metric tensor

$$
g_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} = g(\nabla_\alpha\vec{e}_\beta,\vec{e}_\gamma) + g(\vec{e}_\beta,\nabla_\alpha\vec{e}_\gamma). \tag{3.34}
$$

Rewrite Eq. (3.34) in the following 3 equivalent ways

$$
g_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} = g(\vec{e}_\beta,\nabla_\gamma\vec{e}_\alpha) + g(\vec{e}_\gamma,\nabla_\alpha\vec{e}_\beta) - g(\vec{e}_\beta,[\vec{e}_\gamma,\vec{e}_\alpha]), \tag{3.35a}
$$

$$
g_{\gamma\alpha,\beta} = g(\vec{e}_\alpha,\nabla_\beta\vec{e}_\gamma) + g(\vec{e}_\gamma,\nabla_\alpha\vec{e}_\beta) - g(\vec{e}_\gamma,[\vec{e}_\alpha,\vec{e}_\beta]), \tag{3.35b}
$$

$$
g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma} = g(\vec{e}_\alpha,\nabla_\beta\vec{e}_\gamma) + g(\vec{e}_\beta,\nabla_\gamma\vec{e}_\alpha) - g(\vec{e}_\alpha,[\vec{e}_\beta,\vec{e}_\gamma]), \tag{3.35c}
$$

where we used the symmetry of the metric tensor $\boldsymbol{g}$ and the definition of the commutator $[\cdot,\cdot]$. Adding (3.35a) and (3.35b) and subtracting (3.35c) we find

$$
2g(\vec{e}_\gamma,\nabla_\alpha\vec{e}_\beta) = g_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} + g_{\gamma\alpha,\beta} - g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma} - c_{\gamma\alpha\beta} - c_{\alpha\beta\gamma} + c_{\beta\gamma\alpha}. \tag{3.36}
$$

Using Eq. (3.33) we find for the connection coefficients

$$
\Gamma_{\gamma\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2}\{g_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} + g_{\gamma\alpha,\beta} - g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma} + c_{\alpha\gamma\beta} + c_{\beta\alpha\gamma} - c_{\gamma\beta\alpha}\}. \tag{3.37}
$$

In a coordinate basis all c are zero and we find the so called Christoffel symbols

$$
\Gamma_{\gamma\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2}\{g_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} + g_{\gamma\alpha,\beta} - g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma}\}, \tag{3.38}
$$

which is clearly symmetric in its last two indexes.

An important property of the metric tensor is to be covariantly constant, i.e. $\nabla\boldsymbol{g} = 0$. In fact in an orthonormal frame $g_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta}} = \eta_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta}}$ and in the next Section III D we will see that it is also always possible to choose a local coordinate orthonormal frame on $\mathscr{M}$ such that $g_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta},\hat{\gamma}} = 0$ (and of course $c_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta}\hat{\gamma}} = 0$ on the coordinate frame), then $\Gamma_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta}\hat{\gamma}} = 0$ so that $g_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta};\hat{\gamma}} = g_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta},\hat{\gamma}} = 0$.

We will now prove 3 properties of Γ:

i. Since the metric is covariantly constant

$$
\begin{aligned}
0 = g_{\alpha\beta;\gamma} &= g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma} - \Gamma^\mu{}_{\alpha\gamma}g_{\mu\beta} - \Gamma^\mu{}_{\beta\gamma}g_{\alpha\mu} \\
&= g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma} - \Gamma_{\beta\alpha\gamma} - \Gamma_{\alpha\beta\gamma},
\end{aligned} \tag{3.39}
$$

so that

$$
\frac{1}{2}g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma} = \Gamma_{(\alpha\beta)\gamma}, \tag{3.40}
$$

where the round parenthesis contain indexes on which one symmetrizes. So Γ is antisymmetric on its first two indexes in the local coordinate orthonormal frame described in the next Section III D for which $g_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta},\hat{\gamma}} = 0$.

ii. From the definition of the commutator (3.20) and the connection coefficient (3.24) follows

$$\begin{aligned}[\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha, \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta] &= \nabla_\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta - \nabla_\beta \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha \\ &= (\Gamma^\gamma{}_{\alpha\beta} - \Gamma^\gamma{}_{\beta\alpha})\vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma \\ &= c_{\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma,\end{aligned} \tag{3.41}$$

so that

$$\frac{1}{2} c_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \Gamma_{\gamma[\alpha\beta]}, \tag{3.42}$$

where the square parenthesis contain indexes on which one antisymmetrizes. So Γ is symmetric on its last two indexes in a coordinate reference frame where $c_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = 0$.

iii. Γ is not a tensor. In fact let's see how Γ transforms

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_{\alpha'} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\beta'} = \Gamma^{\gamma'}{}_{\alpha'\beta'} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\gamma'} &= \nabla_{L^\alpha{}_{\alpha'} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\alpha} (L^\beta{}_{\beta'} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta) = L^\alpha{}_{\alpha'} \nabla_\alpha (L^\beta{}_{\beta'} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta) \\ &= L^\alpha{}_{\alpha'} L^\beta{}_{\beta'} \nabla_\alpha \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta + L^\alpha{}_{\alpha'} L^\beta{}_{\beta',\alpha} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\beta \\ &= L^\alpha{}_{\alpha'} L^\beta{}_{\beta'} \Gamma^\gamma{}_{\alpha\beta} \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_\gamma + L^\alpha{}_{\alpha'} L^\beta{}_{\beta',\alpha} L^{\gamma'}{}_\beta \vec{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\gamma'},\end{aligned} \tag{3.43}$$

so that

$$\Gamma^{\gamma'}{}_{\alpha'\beta'} = L^\alpha{}_{\alpha'} L^\beta{}_{\beta'} L^{\gamma'}{}_\gamma \Gamma^\gamma{}_{\alpha\beta} + L^\alpha{}_{\alpha'} L^{\gamma'}{}_\beta L^\beta{}_{\beta',\alpha}, \tag{3.44}$$

where the last term is in general different from zero.

Useful identities

(Ex. 7.7 [1]) We will here enunciate and prove 7 useful identities:

i. From the definition (3.16) follows

$$g_{,\alpha} = g g^{\mu\nu} g_{\mu\nu,\alpha} = -g g_{\mu\nu} g^{\mu\nu}{}_{,\alpha}. \tag{3.45}$$

To prove this identity we first note that for any diagonalizable matrix A the following identity holds

$$\det A = e^{\mathrm{tr}(\ln A)}, \tag{3.46}$$

which clearly holds when A is in its diagonal form. So

$$\begin{aligned}g_{,\alpha} &= \left[e^{\mathrm{tr}(\ln ||g_{\mu\nu}||)}\right]_{,\alpha} \\ &= g[\mathrm{tr}(\ln ||g_{\mu\nu}||)]_{,\alpha} \\ &= g\mathrm{tr}[(\ln ||g_{\mu\nu}||)_{,\alpha}] \\ &= g\mathrm{tr}(||g_{\mu\nu}||^{-1} ||g_{\mu\nu,\alpha}||) \\ &= g g^{\mu\nu} g_{\mu\nu,\alpha} \\ &= -g g_{\mu\nu} g^{\mu\nu}{}_{,\alpha}\end{aligned}$$

where in the last equality we used Eq. (3.9).

All the remaining identities require a coordinate basis.

ii. Contraction of first two indexes of Christoffel symbol

$$\Gamma^\alpha{}_{\beta\alpha} = \Gamma^\alpha{}_{\alpha\beta} = \left(\ln \sqrt{|g|}\right)_\beta. \tag{3.47}$$

From Eq. (3.38) and identity [i.] follows

$$\Gamma^\alpha{}_{\beta\alpha} = \frac{1}{2} g^{\alpha\nu} g_{\alpha\nu,\beta} = \frac{1}{2} g_{,\beta}/g = \left(\ln \sqrt{|g|}\right)_{,\beta}. \tag{3.48}$$

iii. Contraction of last two indexes of Christoffel symbol

$$g^{\mu\nu}\Gamma^{\alpha}{}_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(g^{\alpha\nu}\sqrt{|g|}\right)_{\nu}. \tag{3.49}$$

From Eq. (3.38) follows

$$\Gamma^{\alpha}{}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\alpha\beta}\{g_{\beta\mu,\nu} + g_{\beta\nu,\mu} - g_{\mu\nu,\beta}\}, \tag{3.50}$$

using property [i.]

$$g^{\mu\nu}\Gamma^{\alpha}{}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\alpha\beta}\{2g_{\beta\mu},^{\mu} - g_{,\beta}/g\}. \tag{3.51}$$

On the other hand sine the contracted index is mute

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(g^{\alpha\nu}\sqrt{|g|}\right)_{\nu} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(g^{\alpha\nu}{}_{,\nu}\sqrt{|g|} + g^{\alpha\nu}g_{,\nu}/2\sqrt{|g|}\right) = g^{\alpha\nu}{}_{,\nu} + g^{\alpha\beta}g_{,\beta}/2g, \tag{3.52}$$

and using Eq. (3.9)

$$0 = (g^{\alpha\beta}g_{\beta\mu}),^{\mu} = g^{\alpha\beta}g_{\beta\mu},^{\mu} + g^{\alpha\nu}{}_{,\nu}. \tag{3.53}$$

Putting together (3.51), (3.52), and (3.53) gives identity [iii.].

iv. Divergence of a vector

$$A^{\alpha}{}_{;\alpha} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(\sqrt{|g|}A^{\alpha}\right)_{,\alpha}. \tag{3.54}$$

From the definition of covariant derivative (3.25) and identity [ii.] follows

$$\begin{aligned} A^{\alpha}{}_{;\alpha} &= A^{\alpha}{}_{,\alpha} + \Gamma^{\alpha}{}_{\beta\alpha}A^{\beta} \\ &= A^{\alpha}{}_{,\alpha} + \frac{\left(\sqrt{|g|}\right)_{,\alpha}}{\sqrt{|g|}}A^{\alpha} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(\sqrt{|g|}A^{\alpha}\right)_{,\alpha}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.55}$$

v. Divergence of a rank $\binom{2}{0}$ antisymmetric tensor

$$A^{\alpha\beta}{}_{;\beta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(\sqrt{|g|}A^{\alpha\beta}\right)_{,\beta}. \tag{3.56}$$

From the definition of covariant derivative (3.32) and identity [ii.] follows

$$\begin{aligned} A^{\alpha\beta}{}_{;\beta} &= A^{\alpha\beta}{}_{,\beta} + \Gamma^{\alpha}{}_{\gamma\beta}A^{\gamma\beta}\Gamma^{\beta}{}_{\gamma\beta}A^{\alpha\gamma} \\ &= A^{\alpha\beta}{}_{,\beta} + \Gamma^{\beta}{}_{\gamma\beta}A^{\alpha\gamma} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(\sqrt{|g|}A^{\alpha\beta}\right)_{,\beta}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.57}$$

where in the first equality we used the symmetry of the Christoffel symbol respect to its last two indexes and in the last equality we used identity [ii.].

vi. Divergence of a rank $\binom{1}{1}$ tensor

$$A_\alpha{}^\beta{}_{;\beta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(\sqrt{|g|}A_\alpha{}^\beta\right)_{,\beta} - \Gamma^\lambda{}_{\alpha\mu}A_\lambda{}^\mu. \tag{3.58}$$

From the definition of covariant derivative (3.32) and identity [ii.] follows

$$\begin{aligned} A_\alpha{}^\beta{}_{;\beta} &= A_\alpha{}^\beta{}_{,\beta} + \Gamma^\beta{}_{\mu\beta}A_\alpha{}^\mu - \Gamma^\lambda{}_{\alpha\mu}A_\lambda{}^\mu \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(\sqrt{|g|}A_\alpha{}^\beta\right)_{,\beta} - \Gamma^\lambda{}_{\alpha\mu}A_\lambda{}^\mu. \end{aligned} \tag{3.59}$$

where again in the last equality we used identity [ii.].

vii. Laplacian

$$\Box S = S_{;\alpha}{}^\alpha = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(\sqrt{|g|}S_,{}^\beta\right)_{,\beta}, \tag{3.60}$$

where S is a scalar. Since the metric is covariantly constant

$$S_{;\alpha}{}^\alpha = (S_{,\alpha})_{;\beta}\, g^{\beta\alpha} = \left(S_{,\alpha}g^{\beta\alpha}\right)_{;\beta} = \left(S_,{}^\beta\right)_{;\beta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\left(\sqrt{|g|}S_,{}^\beta\right)_{,\beta}. \tag{3.61}$$

where in the last equality we used identity [iv.].

D. The local (coordinate) orthonormal frame

(Ex. 13.3 [1]) A *local (coordinate) orthonormal frame* is "tangent" to the manifold $\mathscr{M}$ on its point $\mathscr{P}_0$. We will call this a *Local Lorentz Frame* (LLF). It is the closest thing to a global (non coordinate) orthonormal frame "near" $\mathscr{P}_0$. It satisfies the following recipes:

i. $g_{\alpha\beta}(\mathscr{P}_0) = \eta_{\alpha\beta}$;

ii. $g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma}(\mathscr{P}_0) = 0$;

iii. $g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma\delta}(\mathscr{P}_0) \neq 0$ in general;

We will now prove that it is always possible to choose a coordinate system such that [i.] and [ii.] hold at an arbitrary point.

Let's first count the number of independent components in a symmetric tensor of dimension n and rank r. For $r = 2$ we have $\binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{1} = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ independent components. For $r = 3$ we have $\binom{n}{3} + 2\binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{1} = \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{6}$. independent components. So for example in GR $n = 4$ and we find 10 for $r = 2$ and 20 for $r = 3$.

Consider now an arbitrary change of coordinates $x^{\alpha'} = f^{\alpha'}(x^\alpha)$. Taylor expand around $\mathscr{P}_0$ at the origin

$$x^{\alpha'} = f^{\alpha'}{}_{,\mu}x^\mu + \frac{1}{2}f^{\alpha'}{}_{,\mu\nu}x^\mu x^\nu + \frac{1}{6}f^{\alpha'}{}_{,\mu\nu\lambda}x^\mu x^\nu x^\lambda + \dots. \tag{3.62}$$

Then we can count the independent components of the various coefficients. For example in $n = 4$ the linear term $M^{\alpha'}{}_\mu = f^{\alpha'}{}_{,\mu}$ has $4 \times 4 = 16$ components, the quadratic term $N^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu\nu} = f^{\alpha'}{}_{,\mu\nu}$ has $4 \times 10 = 40$ components, and the cubic term $P^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu\nu\lambda} = f^{\alpha'}{}_{,\mu\nu\lambda}$ has $4 \times 20 = 80$ components. Recall that

$$L^{\alpha'}{}_\mu = \frac{\partial x^{\alpha'}}{\partial x^\mu} = M^{\alpha'}{}_\mu + N^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu\nu}x^\nu + \frac{1}{2}P^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu\nu\lambda}x^\nu x^\lambda + \dots. \tag{3.63}$$

At the origin we want $g_{\mu\nu}(\mathscr{P}_0) = \eta_{\mu\nu}$, but in general

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\mu\nu}(\mathscr{P}_0) = &\left[M^{\alpha'}{}_\mu + N^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu\nu}x^\nu + \frac{1}{2}P^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu\nu\lambda}x^\nu x^\lambda + \dots\right] \times \\ &\left[M^{\beta'}{}_\nu + N^{\beta'}{}_{\nu\lambda}x^\lambda + \frac{1}{2}P^{\beta'}{}_{\nu\mu\lambda}x^\mu x^\lambda + \dots\right] g_{\alpha'\beta'}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.64}$$

Then we conclude the following:

i. The condition on the metric requires

$$g_{\mu\nu}(\mathscr{P}_0) = \eta_{\mu\nu} = M^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu} M^{\beta'}{}_{\nu} g_{\alpha'\beta'}, \tag{3.65}$$

which can always be accommodated and for example in GR we have 10 independent components in $\eta_{\mu\nu}$ and $4 \times 4 = 16$ in $M^{\alpha}{}_{\beta}$. So we have 6 degrees of freedom left over for a Lorentz transformation (3 boosts and 3 rotations) to determine $M^{\nu}{}_{\mu}$.

ii. The condition on the first derivative of the metric requires

$$0 = g_{\mu\nu,\lambda}(\mathscr{P}_0) = M^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu} M^{\beta'}{}_{\nu} g_{\alpha'\beta',\lambda} + (N^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu\lambda} M^{\beta'}{}_{\nu} + N^{\beta'}{}_{\nu\lambda} M^{\alpha'}{}_{\mu}) g_{\alpha'\beta'}, \tag{3.66}$$

which can also be always accommodated with no degrees of freedom left. For example in GR $g_{\mu\nu,\lambda}$ has $4\times 10 = 40$ independent components then we will always be able to find the exactly 40 components of $N^{\alpha}{}_{\beta\gamma}$.

iii. The condition on the second derivative of the metric $g_{\mu\nu,\lambda\rho}(\mathscr{P}_0) = 0$ cannot in general be satisfied. For example in GR $g_{\mu\nu,\lambda\rho}$ has $10\times 10 = 100$ independent components but $P^{\alpha}{}_{\beta\gamma\delta}$ has only 80, so 20 degrees of freedom cannot be specified. We will see in Section III F that these are exactly the degrees of freedom of the Riemann curvature tensor.

So we can say that a LLF is the closest thing possible to a global orthonormal frame at a particular point $\mathscr{P}_0$ of the Riemannian manifold $\mathscr{M}$, being the tangent space to $\mathscr{M}$ at $\mathscr{P}_0$.

E. Geodesics

A *geodesic* is a curve on the manifold $\mathscr{M}$ that parallel transports its tangent vector along itself

$$\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}} \vec{\boldsymbol{u}} = 0, \tag{3.67}$$

i.e. the tangent vector $\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}$ is covariantly constant along the curve

$$u^{\alpha} u^{\beta}{}_{;\beta} = 0, \tag{3.68}$$

$$u^{\alpha}\left(u^{\beta}{}_{,\beta} + \Gamma^{\beta}{}_{\alpha\gamma} u^{\gamma}\right) = 0, \tag{3.69}$$

$$\frac{d^2 x^{\beta}}{d\lambda^2} + \Gamma^{\beta}{}_{\alpha\gamma} \frac{dx^{\alpha}}{d\lambda}\frac{dx^{\gamma}}{d\lambda} = 0, \tag{3.70}$$

where x^{α} is a coordinate system on $\mathscr{M}$ and $u^{\alpha} = dx^{\alpha}/d\lambda$ with $\lambda = a\bar{\lambda} + b$ is an affine parameter (the proper time in GR) with a and b two real numbers giving the units (of time) and the origin (of time) respectively.

The geodesic equation (3.70) is a second order differential equation. For a solution it is then necessary to give the initial conditions $x^{\alpha}(0)$ and $\dot{x}^{\alpha}(0)$, where the dot stands fro a derivative respect to λ . Through each point of $\mathscr{M}$ exists a unique geodesic in each direction.

All affine parameters are related by a linear transformation. In fact, let $\bar{\lambda} = \bar{\lambda}(\lambda)$, then $d/d\lambda = \dot{\bar{\lambda}} d/d\bar{\lambda}$ and $d^2/d\lambda^2 = \ddot{\bar{\lambda}} d/d\bar{\lambda} + (\dot{\bar{\lambda}})^2 d^2/d\bar{\lambda}^2$. So Eq. (3.70) becomes

$$\frac{d^2 x^{\beta}}{d\bar{\lambda}^2} + \frac{\ddot{\bar{\lambda}}}{(\dot{\bar{\lambda}})^2}\frac{dx^{\beta}}{d\bar{\lambda}} + \Gamma^{\beta}{}_{\alpha\gamma} \frac{dx^{\alpha}}{d\bar{\lambda}}\frac{dx^{\gamma}}{d\bar{\lambda}} = 0. \tag{3.71}$$

Since the change in the affine parameter must not change the geodetic equation then the second term in Eq. (3.71) must cancel. This occur if $\ddot{\bar{\lambda}} = 0$ or $\bar{\lambda} = a\lambda + b$.

From a variational principle

Alternatively we can define a geodesic as a curve of extremal length. The length of a curve $C(\lambda)$ is given by

$$\mathscr{S} = \int_C ds = \int_C \sqrt{g_{\alpha\beta}(x^{\gamma})\frac{dx^{\alpha}}{d\lambda}\frac{dx^{\beta}}{d\lambda}}\, d\lambda = \int \mathscr{L}_C(x^{\gamma}, \dot{x}^{\gamma})\, d\lambda, \tag{3.72}$$

where λ is any parameter along the curve. The curve of extremal length is the one obtained through the stationary variational principle $\delta\mathscr{S}[x^\gamma,\dot{x}^\gamma]=0$. We then find

$$\frac{d}{d\lambda}\left(\frac{\partial\mathscr{L}_\mathscr{C}}{\partial\dot{x}^\alpha}\right)-\frac{\partial\mathscr{L}_\mathscr{C}}{\partial x^\alpha}=0, \tag{3.73}$$

where $\mathscr{C}$ is the geodesic. We will from now on forget about this subscript. Since $\partial\mathscr{L}/\partial\dot{x}^\alpha=g_{\alpha\beta}\dot{x}^\beta/\mathscr{L}$ then Eq. (3.73) becomes

$$\frac{d}{d\lambda}\left(\frac{1}{\mathscr{L}}g_{\alpha\beta}\dot{x}^\beta\right)-\frac{1}{2\mathscr{L}}g_{\gamma\delta,\alpha}\dot{x}^\gamma\dot{x}^\delta=0, \tag{3.74}$$

or

$$-\frac{1}{\mathscr{L}^2}\frac{d\mathscr{L}}{d\lambda}g_{\alpha\beta}\dot{x}^\beta+\frac{1}{\mathscr{L}}g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma}\dot{x}^\gamma\dot{x}^\beta+\frac{1}{\mathscr{L}}g_{\alpha\beta}\ddot{x}^\beta-\frac{1}{2\mathscr{L}}g_{\gamma\delta,\alpha}\dot{x}^\gamma\dot{x}^\delta=0, \tag{3.75}$$

or, reordering terms,

$$g_{\alpha\beta}\ddot{x}^\beta+\frac{1}{2}\{g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma}+g_{\alpha\gamma,\beta}-g_{\gamma\beta,\alpha}\}\dot{x}^\gamma\dot{x}^\beta=\frac{1}{\mathscr{L}}\frac{d\mathscr{L}}{d\lambda}g_{\alpha\beta}\dot{x}^\beta, \tag{3.76}$$

recalling the definition (3.38) for the Christoffel symbol

$$g_{\alpha\beta}\ddot{x}^\beta+\Gamma_{\alpha\beta\gamma}\dot{x}^\beta\dot{x}^\gamma=\frac{1}{\mathscr{L}}\frac{d\mathscr{L}}{d\lambda}\dot{x}_\alpha, \tag{3.77}$$

On the extremal curve $\mathscr{L}=d\mathscr{S}/d\lambda=$constant so $d\mathscr{L}/d\lambda=0$ and we recover the geodesic Eq. (3.70).

F. Curvature

(Chapter 11 [1]) We will use a geometric introduction.

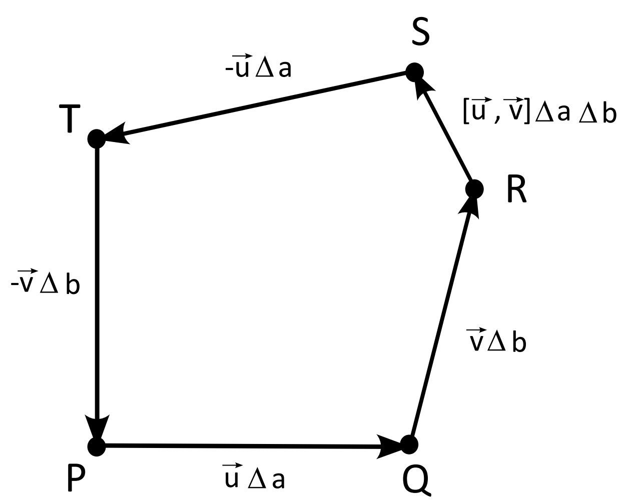

FIG. 1. Closed curve on $\mathscr{M}$ of infinitesimal area.

Consider a closed curve on $\mathscr{M}$ of infinitesimal area as in Fig. 1. We start at P then move to Q to end in R. We then move from P to T to S. The two paths are then closed by moving from R to S. We then consider the change $\delta\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}$ in a vector field $\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}^{\rm field}$ from parallel transporting itself along the path P→T→S or parallel transporting itself along the path P→Q→R and closing the gap to reach S. At P we will have a vector $\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}_P=\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}_P^{\rm field}$ where $\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}_P^{\rm field}$ is our vector field at P. When we move from P to Q we can compare the vector field at Q with the parallel transported vector at Q, $\delta_{P\to Q}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}=\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}_Q^{\rm field}-\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}_{P\overset{||}{\to}Q}=\Delta a\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}$. We then move to R to find $\delta_{Q\to R}\delta_{P\to Q}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}=\Delta a\Delta b\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}}\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}$. Going from P to T to S we find $\delta_{T\to S}\delta_{P\to T}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}} = \Delta a\Delta b\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}}\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}$. We then go from R to S to close the curve and we find $\delta_{R\to S}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}} = \Delta a\Delta b\nabla_{[\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}]}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}$. So the change of the vector field around the curve is

$$\begin{aligned}\delta\vec{\boldsymbol{A}} &= \delta_{Q\to R}\delta_{P\to Q}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}} + \delta_{R\to S}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}} - \delta_{P\to T}\delta_{T\to S}\vec{\boldsymbol{A}} \\ &= \Delta a\Delta b\left(\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}}\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}} - \nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}}\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}} - \nabla_{[\vec{\boldsymbol{v}},\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}]}\right)\vec{\boldsymbol{A}} \qquad (3.78)\\ &= \Delta a\Delta b\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{v}},\vec{\boldsymbol{u}})\vec{\boldsymbol{A}}, \qquad (3.79)\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}) = \nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}}\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}} - \nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}}\nabla_{\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}} - \nabla_{[\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}]}, \qquad (3.80)$$

is the *curvature (local) operator*.

We will now give 3 properties of this operator:

i. For any 3 vectors $\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}},\vec{\boldsymbol{w}}$, and a scalar f

$$\begin{aligned}\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})f\vec{\boldsymbol{w}} &= f\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}}, \qquad (3.81)\\ \mathscr{R}(f\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}} &= f\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}}, \qquad (3.82)\\ \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},f\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}} &= f\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}}. \qquad (3.83)\end{aligned}$$

ii. $\mathscr{R}$ is linear

$$\begin{aligned}\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{a}}+\vec{\boldsymbol{b}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}} &= \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{a}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}} + \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{b}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}}, \qquad (3.84)\\ \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{a}}+\vec{\boldsymbol{b}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}} &= \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{a}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}} + \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{b}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}}, \qquad (3.85)\\ \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})(\vec{\boldsymbol{a}}+\vec{\boldsymbol{b}}) &= \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{a}} + \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{b}}. \qquad (3.86)\end{aligned}$$

iii. $\mathscr{R}$ is local

$$\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}}+\vec{\boldsymbol{a}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}+\vec{\boldsymbol{b}})(\vec{\boldsymbol{w}}+\vec{\boldsymbol{c}}) \xrightarrow{\substack{\vec{\boldsymbol{a}}\to\vec{\boldsymbol{0}}\\ \vec{\boldsymbol{b}}\to\vec{\boldsymbol{0}}\\ \vec{\boldsymbol{c}}\to\vec{\boldsymbol{0}}}} \mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}}. \qquad (3.87)$$

These 3 properties imply that $\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{u}},\vec{\boldsymbol{v}})\vec{\boldsymbol{w}}$ is a tensor.

G. The Riemann tensor

The *Riemann tensor* $\mathbb{R}$ is defined in terms of the curvature tensor as follows

$$\mathbb{R}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}},\vec{\boldsymbol{c}},\vec{\boldsymbol{a}},\vec{\boldsymbol{b}}) = \langle\tilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}},\mathscr{R}(\vec{\boldsymbol{a}},\vec{\boldsymbol{b}})\vec{\boldsymbol{c}}\rangle. \qquad (3.88)$$

The components of Riemann are as follows

$$R^{\alpha}{}_{\beta\gamma\delta} = \qquad (3.89)$$

The Ricci tensor

The scalar curvature

The Einstein tensor

H. Cartan structure equations

I. Bianchi identities

J. Geodesics deviation

K. The 2 sphere

With a global (non coordinate) orthonormal basis

Embedded in 3 dimensional flat sppace

Curvature in a simple way

IV. PHYSICS

A. Electromagnetism

B. Gravitation

[1] C. W. Misner, K. S. Thorne, and J. A. Wheeler, *Gravitation* (W. H. Freeman, San Francisco, 1973).

[2] Alan P. Lightman and William H. Press and Richard H. Price and Saul A. Teukolsky, *Problem book in relativity and gravitation* (Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1975).