

Problem 1 (Exercise 5.2 (Schutz)). Explain why a uniform external gravitational field would raise no tides on Earth.

Solution. If a gravitational field in the vicinity of Earth is uniform, we could choose an inertial frame in which the worldline of a particle placed in such field is described by a geodesic (i.e., the particle would be in free fall). Such particle, being in a uniform gravitational field, would not affect the Earth's own free fall (i.e., geodesic) motion. Mathematically, if we consider \vec{X} to be the vector field tangent to a smooth 1-parameter family of integral curves $\{\gamma: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathcal{M}\}$ that are geodesics (one of which is the previously mentioned particle's geodesic, and another that of the Earth), and we let \vec{Z} denote the deviation vector of the family of geodesics (so that $[\vec{X}, \vec{Z}] = 0$), then, if the gravitational field is uniform,

$$\nabla_{\vec{X}} \nabla_{\vec{X}} \vec{Z} = 0.$$

That is, there is no “push” or “pull” between any of the geodesics. In general, however, if a non-uniform gravitational field is present, we have

$$\nabla_{\vec{X}} \nabla_{\vec{X}} \vec{Z} = R(\vec{X}, \vec{Z})\vec{X},$$

where \mathbf{R} is the Riemann tensor. In coordinates,

$$X^b \nabla_b (X^c \nabla_c Z^a) = R^a_{bcd} X^b X^c Z^d.$$

□

Problem 2 (Exercise 5.7 (Schutz)). Calculate all elements of the transformation matrices $\Lambda^{\alpha'}_{\beta}$ and $\Lambda^{\mu}_{\nu'}$, for the transformation from Cartesian (x, y) —the unprimed indices—to polar (r, θ) —the primed indices.—

Solution.

$$\Lambda^{\alpha'}_{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial(\sqrt{x^2+y^2})}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial(\sqrt{x^2+y^2})}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial(\arctan \frac{y}{x})}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial(\arctan \frac{y}{x})}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} & \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} \\ -\frac{y}{x^2+y^2} & \frac{x}{x^2+y^2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{r \cos \theta}{r} & \frac{r \sin \theta}{r} \\ -\frac{r \sin \theta}{r^2} & \frac{r \cos \theta}{r^2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\frac{\sin \theta}{r} & \frac{\cos \theta}{r} \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\Lambda^{\mu}_{\nu'} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial(r \cos \theta)}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial(r \cos \theta)}{\partial \theta} \\ \frac{\partial(r \sin \theta)}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial(r \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & r \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}.$$

Indeed, they are inverse of each other:

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda^{\alpha'}_{\beta} \Lambda^{\beta}_{\nu'} &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\frac{\sin \theta}{r} & \frac{\cos \theta}{r} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & r \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta & -r \cos \theta \sin \theta + r \cos \theta \sin \theta \\ -\frac{1}{r} \sin \theta \cos \theta + \frac{1}{r} \sin \theta \cos \theta & \sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \delta^{\alpha'}_{\nu'}. \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 3 (Exercise 5.8 (Schutz)). Using results from Exercise 5.7,

- (a) Let $f = x^2 + y^2 + 2xy$, and in Cartesian coordinates $\vec{V} \rightarrow (x^2 + 3y, y^2 + 3x)$, $\vec{W} \rightarrow (1, 1)$. Compute f as a function of r and θ , and find the components of \vec{V} and \vec{W} on the polar basis, expressing them as functions of r and θ .

- (b) Find the components of $\tilde{\mathbf{d}}f$ in Cartesian coordinates and obtain them in polars (i) by direct calculation in polars, and (ii) by transforming components from Cartesian.
- (c) (i) Use the metric tensor in polar coordinates to find the polar components of the one-forms \tilde{V} and \tilde{W} associated with \vec{V} and \vec{W} .
(ii) Obtain the polar components of \tilde{V} and \tilde{W} by transformation of their Cartesian components.

Solution to (a). For f , we have

$$f(r, \theta) = (r \cos \theta)^2 + (r \sin \theta)^2 + 2r \cos \theta r \sin \theta = r^2(1 + 2 \cos \theta \sin \theta) = r^2[1 + \sin(2\theta)].$$

Now, we need to express both \vec{V} and \vec{W} in terms of the polar basis, so our first step is to transform the Cartesian basis to the polar one:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{e}_x &= \Lambda_x^r \vec{e}_r + \Lambda_x^\theta \vec{e}_\theta \\ &= \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \vec{e}_r + \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \vec{e}_\theta \\ &= \cos \theta \vec{e}_r - \frac{\sin \theta}{r} \vec{e}_\theta; \\ \vec{e}_y &= \Lambda_y^r \vec{e}_r + \Lambda_y^\theta \vec{e}_\theta \\ &= \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} \vec{e}_r + \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} \vec{e}_\theta \\ &= \sin \theta \vec{e}_r + \frac{\cos \theta}{r} \vec{e}_\theta.\end{aligned}$$

In terms of polar coordinates, but still in the Cartesian basis, the vectors \vec{V} and \vec{W} are expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{V} &\xrightarrow{\text{Cartesian}} (r^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3r \sin \theta, r^2 \sin^2 \theta + 3r \cos \theta) = (r^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3r \sin \theta) \vec{e}_x + (r^2 \sin^2 \theta + 3r \cos \theta) \vec{e}_y; \\ \vec{W} &\xrightarrow{\text{Cartesian}} \left(\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2}, \arctan \frac{1}{1} \right) = \left(\sqrt{2}, \frac{\pi}{4} \right) = \sqrt{2} \vec{e}_x + \frac{\pi}{4} \vec{e}_y.\end{aligned}$$

We need to translate this to the polar basis using the transformations derived above:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{V}_{\text{polar}} &= (r^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3r \sin \theta) \left(\cos \theta \vec{e}_r - \frac{\sin \theta}{r} \vec{e}_\theta \right) + (r^2 \sin^2 \theta + 3r \cos \theta) \left(\sin \theta \vec{e}_r + \frac{\cos \theta}{r} \vec{e}_\theta \right) \\ &= \left\{ r^2(\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) + 3r \sin(2\theta) \right\} \vec{e}_r + \left\{ 3(\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta) + r \cos \theta \sin \theta(\sin \theta - \cos \theta) \right\} \vec{e}_\theta\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{W}_{\text{polar}} &= \sqrt{2} \left(\cos \theta \vec{e}_r - \frac{\sin \theta}{r} \vec{e}_\theta \right) + \frac{\pi}{4} \left(\sin \theta \vec{e}_r + \frac{\cos \theta}{r} \vec{e}_\theta \right) \\ &= \left\{ \sqrt{2} \cos \theta + \frac{\pi}{4} \sin \theta \right\} \vec{e}_r + \left\{ \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \cos \theta - \sqrt{2} \sin \theta \right) \right\} \vec{e}_\theta.\end{aligned}\quad (2)$$

□

Solution to (b). For (i),

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathbf{d}}f &= \tilde{\mathbf{d}} \left(r^2[1 + \sin(2\theta)] \right) \\ &= \partial_r \left(r^2[1 + \sin(2\theta)] \right) \tilde{\mathbf{d}}r + \partial_\theta \left(r^2[1 + \sin(2\theta)] \right) \tilde{\mathbf{d}}\theta \\ &= 2r[1 + \sin(2\theta)] \tilde{\mathbf{d}}r + 2r^2 \cos(2\theta) \tilde{\mathbf{d}}\theta \\ &= \left(2r[1 + \sin(2\theta)], 2r^2 \cos(2\theta) \right).\end{aligned}$$

For (ii), denote $\tilde{\mathbf{d}}f$ in Cartesian coordinates as f_μ and in polars as $f_{\mu'}$. Then,

$$f_\mu = (2x + 2y, 2y + 2x)$$

and

$$f_{\mu'} = \Lambda_{\mu'}^\mu f_\mu. \quad (3)$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
f_r &= \Lambda_r^x f_x + \Lambda_r^y f_y \\
&= \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} [2r(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)] + \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} [2r(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)] \\
&= \cos \theta [2r(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)] + \sin \theta [2r(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)] \\
&= 2r[1 + \sin(2\theta)]; \quad \checkmark \\
f_\theta &= \Lambda_\theta^x f_x + \Lambda_\theta^y f_y \\
&= \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} [2r(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)] + \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} [2r(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)] \\
&= -r \sin \theta [2r(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)] + r \cos \theta [2r(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)] \\
&= 2r^2 \cos(2\theta). \quad \checkmark
\end{aligned}$$

□

Solution to (c). For (i), the metric tensor in polar coordinates is given by

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & r^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

Then, using (1) and (2),

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{V} &= V_\mu = g_{\mu\nu} V^\nu \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & r^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} r^2(\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) + 3r \sin(2\theta) \\ 3(\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta) + r \cos \theta \sin \theta (\sin \theta - \cos \theta) \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} r^2(\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) + 3r \sin(2\theta) \\ 3r^2(\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta) + r^3 \cos \theta \sin \theta (\sin \theta - \cos \theta) \end{pmatrix}; \\
\tilde{W} &= W_\mu = g_{\mu\nu} W^\nu \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & r^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2} \cos \theta + \frac{\pi}{4} \sin \theta \\ \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \cos \theta - \sqrt{2} \sin \theta \right) \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2} \cos \theta + \frac{\pi}{4} \sin \theta \\ r \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \cos \theta - \sqrt{2} \sin \theta \right) \end{pmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

For (ii), denote \tilde{V} and \tilde{W} in Cartesian coordinates as V_μ and W_μ , respectively, and their polar counterparts as $V_{\mu'}$ and $W_{\mu'}$. Also, note that in Cartesian coordinates the flat metric has components δ^μ_ν , so the one forms \tilde{V} and \tilde{W} have the same Cartesian components as their vector counterparts, namely, $\tilde{V} = (x^2 + 3y, y^2 + 3x)$ and $\tilde{W} = (1, 1)$. Now, using the transformation (3), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
V_r &= \Lambda_r^x V_x + \Lambda_r^y V_y \\
&= \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} [r^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3r \sin \theta] + \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} [r^2 \sin^2 \theta + 3r \cos \theta] \\
&= \cos \theta [r^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3r \sin \theta] + \sin \theta [r^2 \sin^2 \theta + 3r \cos \theta] \\
&= r^2(\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) + 3r \sin(2\theta). \quad \checkmark \\
V_\theta &= \Lambda_\theta^x V_x + \Lambda_\theta^y V_y \\
&= \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} [r^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3r \sin \theta] + \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} [r^2 \sin^2 \theta + 3r \cos \theta] \\
&= -r \sin \theta [r^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3r \sin \theta] + r \cos \theta [r^2 \sin^2 \theta + 3r \cos \theta] \\
&= 3r^2(\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta) + r^3 \cos \theta \sin \theta (\sin \theta - \cos \theta). \quad \checkmark
\end{aligned}$$

So we found the same components that we found in (i). Similarly for \tilde{W} :

$$\begin{aligned} W_r &= \Lambda_r^x W_x + \Lambda_r^y W_y \\ &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} \sqrt{2} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \frac{\pi}{4} \\ &= \sqrt{2} \cos \theta + \frac{\pi}{4} \sin \theta. \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} W_\theta &= \Lambda_\theta^x W_x + \Lambda_\theta^y W_y \\ &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} \sqrt{2} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \frac{\pi}{4} \\ &= -r\sqrt{2} \sin \theta + r \frac{\pi}{4} \cos \theta. \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

□



Problem 4 (Exercise 5.12 (Schutz)). For the one-form field \tilde{p} whose Cartesian components are $(x^2 + 3y, y^2 + 3x)$, compute:

- (a) $p_{\alpha,\beta}$ in Cartesian coordinates.
- (b) The transformation $\Lambda_{\mu'}^\alpha \Lambda_{\nu'}^\beta p_{\alpha,\beta}$ to polars.
- (c) The components $p_{\mu';\nu'}$ directly in polars inserting the Christoffel symbols

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_r \vec{e}_r &= 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Gamma_{rr}^\mu = 0 \quad \forall \mu; \\ \partial_\theta \vec{e}_r &= \frac{1}{r} \vec{e}_\theta \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Gamma_{r\theta}^r = 0 \text{ \& } \Gamma_{r\theta}^\theta = \frac{1}{r}; \\ \partial_r \vec{e}_\theta &= -\frac{1}{r} \vec{e}_r \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Gamma_{\theta r}^r = 0 \text{ \& } \Gamma_{\theta r}^\theta = -\frac{1}{r}; \\ \partial_\theta \vec{e}_\theta &= -r \vec{e}_r \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Gamma_{\theta\theta}^r = -r \text{ \& } \Gamma_{\theta\theta}^\theta = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

into the expression

$$p_{\alpha;\beta} = p_{\alpha,\beta} - p_\mu \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\mu. \tag{6}$$

Solution to (a). For $\beta = x$,

$$p_{\alpha,x} = (2x, 3),$$

and for $\beta = y$,

$$p_{\alpha,y} = (3, 2y).$$

Or, in matrix form,

$$p_{\alpha,\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial p_x}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial p_x}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial p_y}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial p_y}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2x & 3 \\ 3 & 2y \end{pmatrix}. \quad \square$$

Solution to (b). We need to compute $p_{\mu';\nu'} = \Lambda_{\mu'}^\alpha \Lambda_{\nu'}^\beta p_{\alpha,\beta}$, where the primed indices are in the polar basis. We tackle one component only, since the remaining ones require essentially the same calculation, so it's just tedious work...

$$\begin{aligned} p_{r,r} &= \Lambda_r^\alpha \Lambda_r^\beta p_{\alpha,\beta} \\ &= \Lambda_r^x \Lambda_r^x p_{x,x} + \Lambda_r^x \Lambda_r^y p_{x,y} + \Lambda_r^y \Lambda_r^x p_{y,x} + \Lambda_r^y \Lambda_r^y p_{y,y} \\ &= \cos^2 \theta (2r \cos \theta) + 3 \cos \theta \sin \theta + 3 \sin \theta \cos \theta + \sin^2 \theta (2r \sin \theta) \\ &= 2r (\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) + 3 \sin (2\theta). \end{aligned}$$

The remaining three components, $\{p_{r,\theta}, p_{\theta,r}, p_{\theta,\theta}\}$, are furnished by an identical calculation. □

Solution to (c). We will calculate the (r, r) component (again, the rest just follows trivially). Before starting the calculation, however, we need to express the one-form \tilde{p} in the polar basis:

$$\begin{aligned} p_r &= \Lambda_r^x p_x + \Lambda_r^y p_y \\ &= \cos \theta \left(r^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3r \sin \theta \right) + \sin \theta \left(r^2 \sin^2 \theta + 3 \cos \theta \right) \\ &= r^2 (\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) + 3 \sin \theta \cos \theta (r + 1). \\ p_\theta &= \Lambda_\theta^x p_x + \Lambda_\theta^y p_y \\ &= -r \sin \theta \left(r^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3r \sin \theta \right) + r \cos \theta \left(r^2 \sin^2 \theta + 3 \cos \theta \right) \\ &= 3r (\cos^2 \theta - r \sin^2 \theta) + r^3 (\sin^2 \theta \cos \theta - \cos^2 \theta \sin \theta). \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} p_{r;r} &= p_{r,r} - p_\mu \Gamma_{rr}^\mu \\ &= p_{r,r} - p_r \Gamma_{rr}^r - p_\theta \Gamma_{rr}^\theta \\ &= 2r \left(\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta \right) + 3 \sin (2\theta) - \left(r^2 (\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) + 3 \sin \theta \cos \theta (r + 1) \right) \cdot 0 \\ &\quad - \left(3r (\cos^2 \theta - r \sin^2 \theta) + r^3 (\sin^2 \theta \cos \theta - \cos^2 \theta \sin \theta) \right) \cdot 0 \\ &= 2r \left(\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta \right) + 3 \sin (2\theta) \\ &= p_{r,r}. \end{aligned}$$

The remaining calculations are identical (and even more tedious, with the non-vanishing Christoffel symbols!). □



Problem 5 (Exercise 5.14 (Schutz)). *For the tensor whose polar components are*

$$(A^{rr} = r^2, A^{r\theta} = r \sin \theta, A^{\theta r} = r \cos \theta, A^{\theta\theta} = \tan \theta),$$

compute

$$\nabla_\beta A^{\mu\nu} = A^{\mu\nu}_{,\beta} + A^{\alpha\nu} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\mu + A^{\mu\alpha} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\nu$$

in polars for all possible indices.

Solution. I'll do one calculation for $\beta = r$ and one for $\beta = \theta$, since, again, the remaining calculations follow trivially... For $\beta = r$,

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_r A^{rr} &= A^{rr}_{,r} + A^{\alpha r} \Gamma_{\alpha r}^r + A^{r\alpha} \Gamma_{\alpha r}^r \\ &= A^{rr}_{,r} + A^{rr} \Gamma_{rr}^r + A^{\theta r} \Gamma_{\theta r}^r + A^{rr} \Gamma_{rr}^r + A^{r\theta} \Gamma_{\theta r}^r \\ &= 2r + r^2 \cdot 0 + r \cos \theta \cdot 0 + r^2 \cdot 0 + r \sin \theta \cdot 0 \\ &= 2r. \end{aligned}$$

And similarly for $\nabla_r A^{r\theta}$, $\nabla_r A^{\theta r}$, and $\nabla_r A^{\theta\theta}$.

Now for $\beta = \theta$,

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_\theta A^{r\theta} &= A^{r\theta}_{,\theta} + A^{\alpha\theta} \Gamma_{\alpha\theta}^r + A^{r\alpha} \Gamma_{\alpha\theta}^\theta \\ &= A^{r\theta}_{,\theta} + A^{r\theta} \Gamma_{r\theta}^r + A^{\theta\theta} \Gamma_{\theta\theta}^r + A^{rr} \Gamma_{r\theta}^\theta + A^{r\theta} \Gamma_{\theta\theta}^\theta \\ &= r \cos \theta + r \sin \theta \cdot 0 + \tan \theta \cdot (-r) + r^2 \cdot \frac{1}{r} + r \sin \theta \cdot 0 \\ &= r(\cos \theta - \tan \theta + 1). \end{aligned}$$

And similarly for $\nabla_\theta A^{rr}$, $\nabla_\theta A^{\theta r}$, and $\nabla_\theta A^{\theta\theta}$. □



Problem 6 (Exercise 5.22 (Schutz)). Show that if $U^\alpha \nabla_\alpha V^\beta = W^\beta$, then $U^\alpha \nabla_\alpha V_\beta = W_\beta$.

Beweis. Consider $U^\alpha \nabla_\alpha V^\beta = W^\beta$, and multiply both sides of the equation by the metric tensor $g_{\alpha\beta}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 g_{\gamma\beta} U^\alpha \nabla_\alpha V^\beta &= \overbrace{g_{\gamma\beta} W^\beta}^{=W_\gamma} \\
 U^\alpha \nabla_\alpha (\underbrace{g_{\gamma\beta} V^\beta}_{=V_\gamma}) - V^\beta \underbrace{U^\alpha \nabla_\alpha g_{\gamma\beta}}_{=0} &= W_\gamma \\
 U^\alpha \nabla_\alpha V_\gamma &= W_\gamma \\
 U^\alpha \nabla_\alpha V_\beta &= W_\beta. \quad (\text{relabeling } \gamma \leftrightarrow \beta)
 \end{aligned}$$

On the second equality the quantity $\nabla_\alpha g_{\gamma\beta}$ vanishes because the Levi-Civita connection ∇ is, by definition, compatible with the metric tensor. \square