USEFUL FORMULAE IN DIFFERENTIAL GEOMETRY

Differential forms:

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{p!} \alpha_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_p} dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_p}; \qquad \alpha \in \wedge^p.$$
(1)

$$\alpha \wedge \beta = (-)^{pq} \beta \wedge \alpha; \qquad \alpha \in \wedge^p, \quad \beta \in \wedge^q.$$
⁽²⁾

Exterior derivative, d:

$$d\alpha \equiv \frac{1}{p!} \partial_{[\nu} \alpha_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_p]} dx^{\nu} \wedge dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_p}.$$
 (3)

d maps p-forms to (p + 1)-forms:

$$d: \wedge^p \to \wedge^{p+1}; \qquad d^2 = 0. \tag{4}$$

Defining the components of $d\alpha$, $(d\alpha)_{\mu_1...\mu_{p+1}}$, by

$$d\alpha \equiv \frac{1}{(p+1)!} (d\alpha)_{\mu_1\dots\mu_{p+1}} dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_{p+1}},$$
(5)

we have

$$(d\alpha)_{\mu_1\dots\mu_{p+1}} = (p+1)\partial_{[\mu_1}\,\alpha_{\mu_2\dots\mu_{p+1}]},\tag{6}$$

where

$$T_{[\mu_1\dots\mu_q]} \equiv \frac{1}{q!} \Big(T_{\mu_1\dots\mu_q} + \text{even perms} - \text{odd perms} \Big).$$
(7)

Leibnitz rule:

$$d(\alpha \wedge \beta) = d\alpha \wedge \beta + (-)^p \alpha \wedge d\beta, \qquad \alpha \in \wedge^p, \quad \beta \in \wedge^q.$$
(8)

Stokes' Theorem:

$$\int_{M} d\omega = \int_{\partial M} \omega, \tag{9}$$

where M is an n-manifold and $\omega \in \wedge^{n-1}$.

Epsilon tensors and densities:

$$\varepsilon_{\mu_1\dots\mu_n} \equiv (+1, -1, 0) \tag{10}$$

if $\mu_1 \dots \mu_n$ is an (even, odd, no) permutation of a lexical ordering of indices $(1 \dots n)$. It is a tensor density of weight +1. We may also define the quantity $\varepsilon^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}$, with components given numerically by

$$\varepsilon^{\mu_1\cdots\mu_n} \equiv (-1)^t \varepsilon_{\mu_1\cdots\mu_n},$$

where t is the number of timelike coordinates. NOTE: This is the *only* quantity where we do not raise and lower indices using the metric tensor. $\varepsilon^{\mu_1...\mu_n}$ is a tensor density of weight -1. We define epsilon *tensors*:

$$\epsilon_{\mu_1\dots\mu_n} = \sqrt{|g|} \,\varepsilon_{\mu_1\dots\mu_n}, \qquad \epsilon^{\mu_1\dots\mu_n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}} \,\varepsilon^{\mu_1\dots\mu_n}, \tag{11}$$

where $g \equiv \det(g_{\mu\nu})$ is the determinant of the metric tensor $g_{\mu\nu}$. Note that the tensor $\epsilon^{\mu_1...\mu_n}$ is obtained from $\epsilon_{\mu_1...\mu_n}$ by raising the indices using inverse metrics.

Epsilon-tensor identities:

$$\epsilon_{\mu_1...\mu_n} \epsilon^{\nu_1...\nu_n} = (-1)^t \, n! \, \delta^{\nu_1...\nu_n}_{\mu_1...\mu_n} \, . \tag{12a}$$

From this, contractions of indices lead to the special cases

$$\epsilon_{\mu_1\dots\mu_r\mu_{r+1}\dots\mu_n}\epsilon^{\mu_1\dots\mu_r\nu_{r+1}\dots\nu_n} = (-1)^t r!(n-r)! \,\delta^{\nu_{r+1}\dots\nu_n}_{\mu_{r+1}\dots\mu_n} \,, \tag{12b}$$

where again t denotes the number of timelike coordinates. The multi-index delta-functions have unit strength, and are defined by

$$\delta^{\nu_1\cdots\nu_p}_{\mu_1\cdots\mu_p} \equiv \delta^{[\nu_1}_{[\mu_1}\cdots\delta^{\nu_p]}_{\mu_p]} .$$
⁽¹³⁾

(Note that only one set of square brackets is actually needed here; but with our "unitstrength" normalisation convention (7), the second antisymmetrisation is harmless.) It is worth pointing out that a common occurrence of the multi-ndex delta-function is in an expression like $B_{\nu_1} A_{\nu_2 \cdots \nu_p} \delta^{\nu_1 \cdots \nu_p}_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_p}$, where $A_{\nu_2 \cdots \nu_p}$ is totally antisymmetric in its (p-1) indices. It is easy to see that this can be written out as the p terms

$$B_{\nu_1} A_{\nu_2 \cdots \nu_p} \delta^{\nu_1 \cdots \nu_p}_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_p} = \frac{1}{p} \Big(B_{\mu_1} A_{\mu_2 \cdots \mu_p} + B_{\mu_2} A_{\mu_3 \cdots \mu_p \mu_1} + B_{\mu_3} A_{\mu_4 \cdots \mu_p \mu_1 \mu_2} + \dots + B_{\mu_p} A_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{p-1}} \Big)$$

if p is odd. If instead p is even, the signs alternate and

$$B_{\nu_1} A_{\nu_2 \cdots \nu_p} \delta^{\nu_1 \cdots \nu_p}_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_p} = \frac{1}{p} \Big(B_{\mu_1} A_{\mu_2 \cdots \mu_p} - B_{\mu_2} A_{\mu_3 \cdots \mu_p \mu_1} + B_{\mu_3} A_{\mu_4 \cdots \mu_p \mu_1 \mu_2} - \cdots - B_{\mu_p} A_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{p-1}} \Big) .$$

Hodge * operator:

$$*(dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_p}) \equiv \frac{1}{(n-p)!} \epsilon_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_{n-p}}{}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_p} dx^{\nu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\nu_{n-p}}.$$
 (14)

The Hodge *, or dual, is thus a map from p-forms to (n - p)-forms:

$$*: \qquad \wedge^p \to \wedge^{n-p}. \tag{15}$$

Note in particular that taking p = 0 in (14) gives

$$*1 = \epsilon = \frac{1}{n!} \epsilon_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_n} = \sqrt{|g|} dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n.$$
(16)

This is the general-coordinate-invariant volume element $\sqrt{|g|} d^n x$ of Riemannian geometry. It should be emphasised that conversely, we have

$$dx^{\mu_1} \wedge dx^{\mu_2} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_n} = (-1)^t \,\varepsilon^{\mu_1 \mu_2 \dots \mu_n} \, d^n x = (-1)^t \,\epsilon^{\mu_1 \mu_2 \dots \mu_n} \, \sqrt{|g|} \, d^n x \; .$$

This extra $(-1)^t$ factor is tiresome, but unavoidable if we want our definitions to be such that *1 is always the *positive* volume element.

From these definitions it follows that

$$*\alpha \wedge \beta = \frac{1}{p!} \left| \alpha \cdot \beta \right| \epsilon, \tag{17}$$

where α and β are *p*-forms and

$$|\alpha \cdot \beta| \equiv \alpha_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_p} \beta^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_p}.$$
(18)

Applying * twice, we get

$$**\omega = (-)^{p(n-p)+t}\omega, \qquad \omega \in \wedge^p.$$
⁽¹⁹⁾

In even dimensions, n = 2m, *m*-forms can be eigenstates of *, and hence can be selfdual or anti-self-dual, in cases where ** = +1. From (19), we see that this occurs when *m* is even if *t* is even, and when *m* is odd if *t* is odd. In particular, we can have real selfduality and anti-self-duality in n = 4k Euclidean-signature dimensions, and in n = 4k + 2Lorentzian-signature dimensions.

Adjoint operator, δ :

First define the inner product

$$(\alpha,\beta) \equiv \int_{M} *\alpha \wedge \beta = \frac{1}{p!} \int_{M} |\alpha \cdot \beta| \epsilon = (\beta,\alpha),$$
(20)

where α and β are p-forms. Then δ , the adjoint of the exterior derivative d, is defined by

$$(\alpha, d\beta) \equiv (\delta\alpha, \beta), \tag{21}$$

where α is an arbitrary p-form and β is an arbitrary (p-1)-form. Hence

$$\delta \alpha = (-)^{np+t} * d * \alpha, \qquad \alpha \in \wedge^p.$$
(22)

(We assume that the boundary term arising from the integration by parts gives zero, either because M has no boundary, or because appropriate fall-off conditions are imposed on the fields.)

 δ is a map from *p*-forms to (p-1)-forms:

$$\delta: \qquad \wedge^p \to \wedge^{p-1}; \qquad \delta^2 = 0. \tag{23}$$

Note that in Euclidean signature spaces, δ on *p*-forms is given by

$$\delta \alpha = *d*\alpha \quad \text{if at least one of } n \text{ and } p \text{ even,} \\ \delta \alpha = -*d*\alpha, \quad \text{if } n \text{ and } p \text{ both odd.}$$
(24)

The signs are reversed in Lorentzian spacetimes.

In terms of components, the above definitions imply that for all spacetime signatures, we have

$$\delta \alpha = -\frac{1}{(p-1)!} (\nabla_{\nu} \, \alpha^{\nu}{}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{p-1}}) \, dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_{p-1}}, \tag{25}$$

where

$$\nabla_{\nu} \alpha^{\nu \mu_1 \dots \mu_{p-1}} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \partial_{\nu} \left(\sqrt{g} \alpha^{\nu \mu_1 \dots \mu_{p-1}} \right)$$
(26)

is the covariant divergence of α . Defining the components of $\delta \alpha$, $(\delta \alpha)_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{p-1}}$, by

$$\delta \alpha \equiv \frac{1}{(p-1)!} (\delta \alpha)_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{p-1}} dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_{p-1}}, \qquad (27)$$

we have

$$(\delta\alpha)_{\mu_1\dots\mu_{p-1}} = -\nabla_{\nu}\alpha^{\nu}{}_{\mu_1\dots\mu_{p-1}}.$$
(28)

Hodge-de Rham operator:

$$\Delta \equiv d\delta + \delta d = (d+\delta)^2. \tag{29}$$

 Δ maps *p*-forms to *p*-forms:

$$\Delta: \qquad \wedge^p \to \wedge^p. \tag{30}$$

On 0-, 1-, and 2-forms, we have

0-forms:
$$\Delta \phi = -\nabla_{\lambda} \nabla^{\lambda} \phi,$$

1-forms: $\Delta \omega_{\mu} = -\nabla_{\lambda} \nabla^{\lambda} \omega_{\mu} + R_{\mu}{}^{\nu} \omega_{\nu},$
2-forms: $\Delta \omega_{\mu\nu} = -\nabla_{\lambda} \nabla^{\lambda} \omega_{\mu\nu} - 2R_{\mu\rho\nu\sigma} \omega^{\rho\sigma} + R_{\mu}{}^{\sigma} \omega_{\sigma\nu} - R_{\nu}{}^{\sigma} \omega_{\sigma\mu},$
(31)

where $R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$ is the Riemann tensor and

$$R_{\mu\nu} \equiv R^{\rho}{}_{\mu\rho\nu} \tag{32}$$

is the Ricci tensor.

Hodge's theorem:

We can uniquely decompose an arbitrary p form ω as

$$\omega = d\alpha + \delta\beta + \omega_H,\tag{33}$$

where $\alpha \in \wedge^{p-1}$, $\beta \in \wedge^{p+1}$ and ω_H is harmonic, $\Delta \omega_H = 0$.

RIEMANNIAN GEOMETRY

For a metric $ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^{\mu} dx^{\nu}$, we define a vielbein e^a_{μ} as a "square root" of $g_{\mu\nu}$:

$$g_{\mu\nu} = e^a_\mu \, e^b_\nu \, \eta_{ab},\tag{34}$$

where η_{ab} is a local Lorentz metric. Usually, we work with positive-definite metric signature, so $\eta_{ab} = \delta_{ab}$. The inverse vielbein, which we denote by E_a^{μ} , satisfies

$$E_a^{\mu} e_{\nu}^a = \delta_{\nu}^{\mu}; \qquad E_a^{\mu} e_{\mu}^b = \delta_a^b.$$
(35)

The "solder forms" $e^a = e^a_\mu dx^\mu$ give an orthonormal basis for the cotangent space. Similarly, the vector fields $E^\mu_a \partial_\mu$ give an orthonormal basis for the tangent space.

Torsion and curvature

We define the spin connection $\omega^a{}_b = \omega^a{}_{\mu b} dx^\mu$, the torsion 2-form T^a and the curvature 2-form $\Theta^a{}_b$ by

$$T^a \equiv \frac{1}{2} T^a_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu = de^a + \omega^a{}_b \wedge e^b, \tag{36}$$

$$\Theta^a{}_b \equiv \frac{1}{2}R^a{}_{b\mu\nu}dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu = d\omega^a{}_b + \omega^a{}_c \wedge \omega^c{}_b.$$
(37)

Define a Lorentz-covariant and general-coordinate covariant derivative D_{μ} that acts on tensors with coordinate and Lorentz indices:

$$D_{\mu}V_{\rho b}^{\nu a} = \nabla_{\mu}V_{\rho b}^{\nu a} + \omega_{\mu c}^{a}V_{\rho b}^{\nu c} - \omega_{\mu b}^{c}V_{\rho c}^{\nu a}, \qquad (38)$$

where ∇_{μ} is the usual general-coordinate covariant derivative:

$$\nabla_{\mu} V^{\nu}_{\rho} = \partial_{\mu} V^{\nu}_{\rho} + \Gamma^{\nu}_{\mu\sigma} V^{\sigma}_{\rho} - \Gamma^{\sigma}_{\mu\rho} V^{\nu}_{\sigma}, \qquad (39)$$

and $\Gamma^{\mu}_{\nu\rho}$ is the Christoffel connection. Demanding *metricity* for $g_{\mu\nu}$, *i.e.* $D_{\mu}g_{\nu\rho} = 0$, implies

$$\Gamma^{\mu}_{\nu\rho} = \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\sigma} \Big(\partial_{\nu} g_{\sigma\rho} + \partial_{\rho} g_{\nu\sigma} - \partial_{\sigma} g_{\nu\rho} \Big).$$
(40)

Demanding metricity for η_{ab} , *i.e.* $D_{\mu} \eta_{ab} = 0$, implies

$$\omega_{ab} = -\omega_{ba},\tag{41}$$

where $\omega_{ab} \equiv \eta_{ac} \omega^c{}_b$.

Bianchi Identities

Taking exterior derivative of (36) and (37) gives

$$DT^{a} \equiv dT^{a} + \omega^{a}{}_{b} \wedge T^{b} = \Theta^{a}{}_{b} \wedge e^{b}, \qquad (42)$$

$$D\Theta^{a}{}_{b} \equiv d\Theta^{a}{}_{b} + \omega^{a}{}_{c} \wedge \Theta^{c}{}_{b} - \Theta^{a}{}_{c} \wedge \omega^{c}{}_{b} = 0.$$

$$\tag{43}$$

In general, on Lorentz-valued p forms such as $\alpha^a{}_b$, we define the Lorentz-covariant exterior derivative by

$$D \alpha^{a}{}_{b} \equiv d \alpha^{a}{}_{b} + \omega^{a}{}_{c} \wedge \alpha^{c}{}_{b} - \omega^{c}{}_{b} \wedge \alpha^{a}{}_{c}.$$

$$\tag{44}$$

Torsion-free metric connection

With the metricity assumption, implying (41), and the assumption that the torsion vanishes, it follows that $\omega^a{}_b$ is then uniquely determined by (36) and (41);

$$d e^{a} = -\omega^{a}{}_{b} \wedge e^{b}; \qquad \omega_{ab} = -\omega_{ba}.$$

$$\tag{45}$$

Defining $c_{ab}{}^c = -c_{ba}{}^c$ by

$$de^a = -\frac{1}{2}c_{bc}{}^a e^b \wedge e^c, \tag{46}$$

it follows that ω_{ab} is given by

$$\omega_{ab} = \frac{1}{2}(c_{abc} + c_{acb} - c_{bca})e^c. \tag{47}$$

Note that the vielbein is constant with respect to the Lorentz- and general-coordinate covariant derivative defined by (38); $D_{\mu} e_{\nu}^{a} = 0$.

Symmetries of the Riemann tensor

It follows from its definition as 2-form (37) that it is always antisymmetric on the final index pair:

$$R_{ab\mu\nu} = -R_{ab\nu\mu}; \qquad R_{abcd} = -R_{abdc}, \tag{48}$$

where we can always freely convert coordinates indices to Lorentz indices, and vice versa, using the vielbein. Thus $R_{abcd} = E_c^{\mu} E_d^{\nu} R_{ab\mu\nu}$ and conversely $R_{ab\mu\nu} = e_{\mu}^c e_{\nu}^d R_{abcd}$. The metricity condition $D_{\mu}\eta_{ab} = 0$ implies $\omega_{ab} = -\omega_{ba}$, and hence $\Theta_{ab} = -\Theta_{ba}$. Thus

$$R_{abcd} = -R_{bacd}.$$
 Metricity (49)

The torsion-free condition, using (42), implies that

$$R_{a[bcd]} = 0,$$
 Torsion-free (50)

where $R_{a[bcd]} = \frac{1}{3}(R_{abcd} + R_{acdb} + R_{adbc})$. Together, (48), (49) and (50) imply

$$R_{abcd} = R_{cdab}.$$
 (51)

The Ricci tensor and scalar, and Weyl tensor

We define the Ricci tensor R_{ab} and Ricci scalar R by

$$R_{ab} \equiv R^c{}_{acb}; \qquad R \equiv R_{ab}\eta^{ab}. \tag{52}$$

Note that (51) implies that the Ricci tensor is symmetric, $R_{ab} = R_{ba}$.

The Weyl tensor C_{abcd} is defined in n dimensions by

$$C_{abcd} \equiv R_{abcd} - \frac{1}{n-2} \left(R_{ac} \eta_{bd} - R_{ad} \eta_{bc} + R_{bd} \eta_{ac} - R_{bc} \eta_{ad} \right) + \frac{1}{(n-1)(n-2)} R \left(\eta_{ac} \eta_{bd} - \eta_{ad} \eta_{bc} \right).$$
(53)

It is the "traceless" part of the Riemann tensor, in the sense that $C^c_{acb} \equiv 0$. It has the same symmetries (48)-(51) as the Riemann tensor for torsion-free connection. One may define the Weyl 2-form Ω_{ab} ,

$$\Omega_{ab} \equiv \frac{1}{2} C_{abcd} e^c \wedge e^d$$

= $\Theta_{ab} - \frac{1}{n-2} \left(R_{ac} \eta_{bd} - R_{bc} \eta_{ad} \right) e^c \wedge e^d + \frac{1}{(n-1)(n-2)} R \eta_{ac} \eta_{bd} e^c \wedge e^d.$ (54)

YANG-MILLS THEORY

If φ is a set of scalar fields in some representation R of a Lie group G, then we define φ' , the gauge-transformed field, by

$$\varphi' = h^{-1}\varphi,\tag{55}$$

where h = h(x) is a map from the base space M into the group G. The Yang-Mills covariant derivative D of φ is defined to be

$$D\varphi \equiv (d+A)\varphi,\tag{56}$$

where the Yang-Mills potential, or connection, A, taking its values in the adjoint representation of G, is defined to transform under gauge transformations as

$$A' \equiv h^{-1}Ah + h^{-1}dh. \tag{57}$$

It then follows that $D\varphi$ indeed transforms in the desired covariant manner, namely

$$(D\varphi)' \equiv D'\varphi' = h^{-1}D\varphi.$$
⁽⁵⁸⁾

The Yang-Mills field strength, or curvature, F, is defined by

$$F \equiv dA + A \wedge A. \tag{59}$$

Under gauge transformations, it transforms covariantly, as

$$F' = h^{-1}Fh. (60)$$

The infinitesimal forms of these transformations, when $h = 1 + \Lambda$, where Λ is infinitesimal, reduce to the results derived in the lectures.

Kaluza-Klein and O'Neill's formula

Given a base space M with metric ds^2 , and a principal bundle with fibre group G defined over it, with connection (Yang-Mills potential) A, we may write down a 1-parameter family of natural metrics on the bundle as

$$d\tilde{s}^2 = \lambda^2 (\Sigma_i - A^i)^2 + ds^2, \tag{61}$$

where λ is an arbitrary constant, and a summation over $i = 1, \ldots, \dim(G)$ is understood. The Σ_i are left-invariant 1-forms on the group G, which means that they satisfy

$$d\Sigma_i = -\frac{1}{2} f_{ijk} \Sigma_j \wedge \Sigma_k, \tag{62}$$

where $f_{ijk} = f_{[ijk]}$ are the structure constants of the group. Then the Riemann tensor for the metric $d\tilde{s}^2$ is given by

$$\widetilde{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} - \frac{1}{4}\lambda^2 \left(F^i_{\alpha\gamma}F^i_{\beta\delta} - F^i_{\alpha\delta}F^i_{\beta\gamma} + 2F^i_{\alpha\beta}F^i_{\gamma\delta} \right),$$

$$\widetilde{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma i} = \frac{1}{2}\lambda \mathcal{D}_{\gamma}F^i_{\alpha\beta},$$

$$\widetilde{R}_{\alpha i\beta j} = \frac{1}{4}\lambda^2 F^i_{\beta\gamma}F^j_{\alpha\gamma} - \frac{1}{4}f_{ijk}F^k_{\alpha\beta},$$

$$\widetilde{R}_{ijk\ell} = \frac{1}{4\lambda^2}f_{ijm}f_{k\ell m},$$
(63)

together with those components related to the above by the Riemann tensor symmetries (48)-(51). Here we are taking the orthonormal basis

$$\tilde{e}^{i} = \lambda(\Sigma_{i} - A^{i}), \quad (i = 1, \dots, \dim(G)),$$

$$\tilde{e}^{\alpha} = e^{\alpha}, \quad (\alpha = 1, \dots, n),$$
(64)

where e^{α} is an orthonormal basis for the base space M: thus $ds^2 = e^{\alpha}e^{\alpha}$. $R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}$ are the orthonormal components of the Riemann tensor on M, and

$$F^{i} = dA^{i} + \frac{1}{2} f_{ijk} A^{j} \wedge A^{k},$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{\gamma} F^{i}_{\alpha\beta} = D_{\gamma} F^{i}_{\alpha\beta} + f_{ijk} A^{j}_{\gamma} F^{k}_{\alpha\beta},$$

$$D_{\gamma} F^{i}_{\alpha\beta} = E^{\mu}_{\gamma} \left(\partial_{\mu} F^{i}_{\alpha\beta} + \omega^{\alpha\gamma}_{\mu} F^{i}_{\gamma\beta} + \omega^{\beta\gamma}_{\mu} F^{i}_{\alpha\gamma} \right).$$
(65)

(So D_{μ} is the Lorentz-covariant derivative, and \mathcal{D}_{μ} is the Lorentz *and* Yang-Mills covariant derivative.)