

Next: Riemannian manifolds  $(M, g)$  as metric spaces

Idea: define metric via shortest connection with a curve.

Def.: Let  $\gamma: [a, b] \rightarrow M$  be a piecewise smooth curve segment. Then the **length of  $\gamma$**  is

$$L_g(\gamma) = \int_a^b |\gamma'(t)|_g dt. \quad (\text{recall: } |\gamma'(t)|_g = g_{\gamma(t)}(\gamma'(t), \gamma'(t))^{\frac{1}{2}})$$

Important property: independence of parametrization:

Proposition: Let  $\gamma: [a, b] \rightarrow M$  be a piecewise smooth curve segment, and  $\tilde{\gamma}$  a reparametrization, i.e.,

$$\tilde{\gamma} = \gamma \circ \varphi \quad \text{where } \varphi: [c, d] \rightarrow [a, b] \text{ is a diffeomorphism. Then } L_g(\gamma) = L_g(\tilde{\gamma}).$$

Proof: As in Analysis II; follows from change of variables formula.

With this we can def. the distance between points on  $M$ .

Def.: For  $(M, g)$  a connected Riemannian manifold,  $p, q \in M$ , we def. the **(Riemannian) distance**

from  $p$  to  $q$  as  $d_g(p, q) := \inf_{\gamma} L_g(\gamma)$ , where the inf is taken over all piecewise smooth curve segments from  $p$  to  $q$ .

$$\text{Ex.: Euclidean space } (\mathbb{R}^n, \bar{g}) : d_{\bar{g}}(x, y) = |x - y|$$

Note:  $d_g$  turns  $(M, g)$  into a metric space. In fact, we have the following nice result:

Theorem: Let  $(M, g)$  be a connected Riemannian manifold. Then  $(M, g)$  with the Riemannian distance function  $d_g$  is a metric space whose metric topology is the same as the original manifold topology.

Proof sketch: Clear:  $d_g(p, q) \geq 0$ ,  $d_g(p, p) = 0$ ,  $d_g(p, q) = d_g(q, p)$ , triangle inequality

left to show for metric space:  $d_g(p, q) > 0$  if  $p \neq q$ .

Idea: put coordinate ball of radius  $\varepsilon$  around  $p$ , consider  $t_0 = \infimum$  over all  $t$  s.t.  $\gamma(t) \notin \bar{V}$  (i.e., when the curve exits  $\bar{V}$ ).

Now use the following lemma:

Let  $g$  be a Riemannian metric on an open subset  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ . For any compact  $K \subset U$  there exist  $c, C > 0$  s.t.  $\forall x \in K$  and  $\forall v \in T_x \mathbb{R}^n$  we have  $c|v|_g \leq |v| \leq C|v|_g$ .

This shows  $L_g(\gamma) \geq c\varepsilon > 0$ .

Similarly one can use the lemma to show that the metric topology is the same as the manifold topology. □

Note: We thus have the notions of completeness and boundedness for Riemannian manifolds.

Corollary: Every smooth manifold with or without boundary is metrizable.

Proof: • Connected manifold without boundary: clear.

• If not connected: let  $\{M_i\}$  be connected components,  $p_i \in M_i$ . If  $x \in M_i, y \in M_j, i \neq j$ , then  $d_g(x, y) := d_g(x, p_i) + \underbrace{1}_{\text{"bridge" from } p_i \text{ to } p_j} + d_g(p_j, y)$  is a distance fct.

• If the manifold  $M$  has a boundary: Consider double of  $M$ :  $\mathcal{D}(M) = M \cup_{id} M$ , with  $id: \partial M \rightarrow \partial M$  the identity map, i.e.,  $M \sqcup M$  and identify boundary points in each copy.

$\mathcal{D}(M)$  is a manifold without boundary, and a subspace of a metrizable top. space is metrizable. □

Another useful feature of a Riemannian metric: Identify elements in  $TM$  and  $T^*M$ .

Def.  $\hat{g}: TM \rightarrow T^*M$  by  $\hat{g}(v)(w) = g_p(v, w) \quad \forall p \in M, v \in T_p M, w \in T_p M$ .

In terms of vector fields:  $\hat{g}(X)(Y) = g(X, Y) \quad \forall X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$

Note:  $\hat{g}$  is bijective.

In smooth coordinates:  $g = g_{ij} dx^i dx^j \Rightarrow \hat{g}(X)(Y) = g_{ij} X^i Y^j \Rightarrow \hat{g}(X) = g_{ij} X^i dx^j$

This is usually written as  $\hat{g}(X) = X_j dx^j =: X^\flat$ , with  $X_j = g_{ij} X^i$   
 "X flat" (musical notation), "lowering an index" with upper indices

Matrix of  $\hat{g}^{-1}: T^*M \rightarrow TM$  is inverse of  $g_{ij}$ , and we denote this inverse by  $g^{ij}$ , i.e.,

$$g^{ij} g_{jk} = g_{kj} g^{ji} = \delta_k^i.$$

Thus, for  $w \in \mathfrak{X}^*(M)$ :  $\hat{g}^{-1}(w) = w^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} =: w^\sharp$ , with  $w^i = g^{ij} w_j$ .  
 "w sharp"

Ex.: In the example of classical mechanics of Session 26:

If particle  $k$  has mass  $m_k > 0$ , Newton's eq. are  $M_{ij} \ddot{q}^j(t) = F_i(q(t))$ .

$M$  is a (constant-coefficient) Riemannian metric on the configuration space  $Q$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Natural isomorphism  $\hat{M}: \underbrace{TQ}_{\ni(q^i, v^i)} \rightarrow \underbrace{T^*Q}_{\ni(q^i, p_i)} \Rightarrow p_i(t) = M_{ij} \dot{q}^j(t)$ .

$$\Rightarrow \dot{q}^i(t) = M^{ij} p_j(t), \quad \dot{p}_i(t) = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial q^i}(q(t))$$

Note: With this notation we can def. the gradient as a vector field. For  $f \in C^\infty(M)$ ,

$$\text{grad } f := (df)^\# = \hat{g}^{-1}(df)$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \text{grad } f, X \rangle_g = \hat{g}(\text{grad } f)(X) = df(X) = Xf.$$

In smooth coordinates:  $\text{grad } f = g^{ij} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j}$

A few more notes about Riemannian manifolds:

- A generalization of Riemannian manifolds are pseudo-Riemannian manifolds, i.e., smooth manifolds with a pseudo-Riemannian metric  $g$ : a smooth symmetric 2-tensor field that is nondegenerate at each point ( $\hat{g}$  is an isomorphism, or, for every  $v \neq 0 \exists w$  s.t.  $g(v, w) \neq 0$ ). By basis change, the matrix of  $g$  can be made diagonal with entries  $\pm 1$ , say,  $r$  times  $+1$ ,  $s$  times  $-1$ . The pair  $(r, s)$  is called the signature of  $g$ .

Special case:  $(r, s) = (n-1, 1)$  (or  $(1, n-1)$ )  $\Rightarrow$  Lorentz metrics of General Relativity.

- Let  $(M, g)$  be an oriented Riemannian  $n$ -manifold with or without boundary,  $n \geq 1$ . Then there is a unique smooth orientation form  $\omega_g \in \Omega^n(M)$ , called the Riemannian volume form, that satisfies  $\omega_g(E_1, \dots, E_n) = 1$  for every local oriented orthonormal frame  $(E_i)$  of  $M$ .

In coordinates:  $\omega_g = \sqrt{|\det g_{ij}|} dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n$ .

With this we can define the integral of a compactly supported continuous real-valued fct.

$f$  over  $M$  as  $\int_M f \omega_g = \int_M f dV_g$ . E.g., for  $M$  compact, its volume is  $\text{Vol}(M) = \int_M \omega_g$ .