

Title: General Relativity for Cosmology - Lecture 11

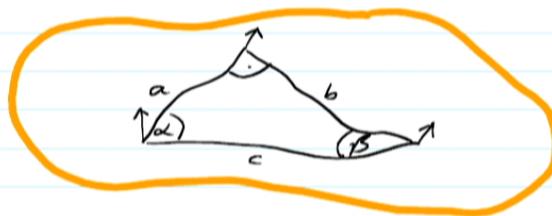
Speakers: Achim Kempf

Collection: General Relativity for Cosmology (Kempf)

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Recall: The nontrivial shape of a manifold reveals itself in several ways:



1. Violation of angle sum law,  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma \neq 180^\circ$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Can encode shape through deficit angles (used in some quantum gravity approaches)

2. Violation of Pythagoras' law,  $a^2 + b^2 \neq c^2$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Can encode shape through metric distances:  $(\mathcal{M}, g)$

3. Nontrivial parallel transport of vectors on loops.

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*This makes it hard to identify the true degrees of freedom, so that they can be quantized.*

Observe: Such local descriptions carry redundant information!

Why? Two (pseudo-)Riemannian mflds  $(M, g), (M, g')$  must be considered equivalent, i.e., they are describing the same space(-time), if there exists an isometric, i.e., metric-preserving, isomorphism:

$$e: (M, g) \rightarrow (M, g')$$

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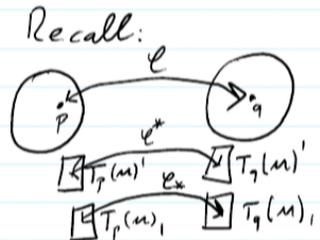
$$\mathcal{E}: (M, g) \rightarrow (M, g')$$

Here:  $\mathcal{E}$  is called metric-preserving if, under the pull-back map

$$T\mathcal{E}^*: T_p(M)_2 \rightarrow T_p(M)_2$$

the metric obeys:

$$T\mathcal{E}_*(g) = g'$$



$\Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  can then be considered to be a mere change of chart.

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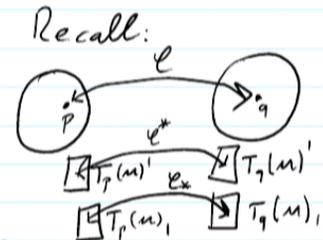
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Intuition:  $(M, g), (M, g')$  that are related by an isometric diffeomorphism are mere cd changes of another, i.e., have the same "shape".

Definition: A (pseudo-) Riemannian structure, say  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ , is an equivalence class of (pseudo-) Riemannian manifolds which can be mapped into each other via metric-preserving diffeomorphisms, i.e., via changes of coordinates.



Space(time) will need to be modelled as a (pseudo-) Riemannian structure,  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ , i.e., as an equivalence class of pairs  $(M, g)$ .

Problem: These equiv. classes are hard to handle because absence or existence of  $\mathcal{L}$  is hard to check!

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⇒ One would like to be able to reliably identify  
exactly one representative  $(\mu, g)$  per class  $\Xi$ .

□ This would be called a "fixing of gauge".

□ Why would this be useful?

A key example of when gauge fixing needed: **Quantum gravity**

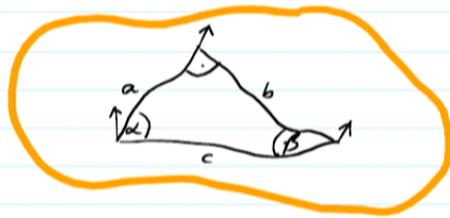
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We discussed detecting and describing shape through



- deficiency angles

- nontrivial metric distances  $(M, g)$

- nontrivial parallel transport  $(M, \Gamma)$

Recall: Quantum theory can be formulated in path integral form.

Applied to gravity:

Expect to have to handle path integrals of the type:

$$\int e^{iS(\Xi)} D\Xi$$

"all Riemannian structures  $\Xi$ "

But what we initially have is, roughly of the form:

$$\int e^{iS(g)} \delta(?) Dg \text{ or } \int e^{iS(\Gamma)} \delta(?) D\Gamma$$

"all  $g$ " "all  $\Gamma$ "

Here,  $\delta(?)$  should be such that from each equivalence class of the  $g$ 's or the  $\Gamma$ 's only exactly one contributes to the path integral.

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$$\int_{\text{"all } g\text{"}} e^{iS(g)} \delta(?) \mathcal{D}g \quad \text{or} \quad \int_{\text{"all } \Gamma\text{"}} e^{iS(\Xi)} \delta(?) \mathcal{D}\Gamma$$

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→ Much of Quantum Gravity research is concerned with working out suitable  $\delta(?)$  for  $g$ 's or  $\Gamma$ 's or other variables formed from them, such as the frame fields (see "Loop quantum gravity").

**Q:** Can one detect and describe a (pseudo-) Riemannian structure  $\Xi$  directly?

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**A:** Possibly yes, using "Spectral Geometry":

**Idea:** A manifold's vibration spectrum  $\{\lambda_n\}$  depends only on  $\Xi$ !  
Independent of coordinate systems!

Key question of the field of spectral geometry: (Weyl 1911)

Does the spectrum  $\{\lambda_n\}$  encode **all** about the shape, i.e.,  $\Xi$ ?

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## Remarks:

- It cannot, if  $M$  has infinite volume, because then the spectrum of  $\Delta$  will become (almost) completely continuous.
- The spectral geometry of pseudo-Riemannian manifolds is still very little developed.

## Theorem:

- Assume  $(M, g)$  is a compact Riemannian manifold without boundary,  $\partial M = \emptyset$ .  
↙ implies finite volume
- Then, each  $\text{spec}(\Delta_p)$  is discrete, with finite degeneracies and without accumulation points.

### Theorem:

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### In practice:

We can describe any arbitrarily large part of the universe by a compact Riemannian manifold,  $(M, g)$ .

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This allows us to describe, e.g., 3-dim. space at any fixed time (or also 4-dim. spacetime after so-called Wick rotation).

## Types of waves (incl. sounds) on $M$ :

Consider  $p$ -form fields  $w(x)$  on  $M$ , with time evolution, e.g.,:

assumed compact, no boundary

1. Schrödinger equation:  $i\hbar \partial_t w(x,t) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \Delta_p w(x,t)$

2. Heat equation:  $\partial_t w(x,t) = -\alpha \Delta_p w(x,t)$

3. Klein Gordon (and acoustic) eqn:  $-\partial_t^2 w(x,t) = \beta \Delta_p w(x,t)$

□ Each of them can be solved via separation of variables:

□ Assume we find an eigenform  $\tilde{\omega}(x)$  of  $\Delta$  on  $M$ :

$$\Delta_p \tilde{\omega}(x) = \lambda \tilde{\omega}(x)$$

□ They exist: Each  $\Delta$  is self-adjoint, w.r.t. the inner product  $(\omega, \nu) = \int_M \omega \wedge * \nu$ .

Then: Schrödinger eqn solved by:  $\omega(x, t) := e^{\frac{i\hbar}{2m} \lambda t} \tilde{\omega}(x)$

Heat eqn solved by:  $\omega(x, t) := e^{-d\lambda t} \tilde{\omega}(x)$

Klein Gordon eqn solved by:  $\omega_\pm(x, t) := e^{\pm i\sqrt{B\lambda} t} \tilde{\omega}(x)$

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## Properties of $\text{spec}(\Delta_p)$ :

□ Expectations:

The spectra  $\text{spec}(\Delta_p)$  for different  $p$  carry different information about  $\mathcal{M}$ :

E.g., scalar and vector seismic waves travel (and reflect) differently.

□ But recall also: a)  $[\Delta, *] = 0$

b)  $[\Delta, d] = 0$

c)  $[\Delta, \delta] = 0$

This will relate  $\text{spec}(\Delta_p)$  to  $\text{spec}(\Delta_{n-p})$ ,  $\text{spec}(\Delta_{p+1})$  and  $\text{spec}(\Delta_{p-1})$ :

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□ Notice that:  $\Delta$  maps exact forms  $\omega = d\nu$  into exact forms:

$$\Delta \omega = \Delta d\nu = \underbrace{d \Delta \nu}_{\text{an exact form}}$$

i.e.:

$$\Delta: d\Lambda_r \rightarrow d\Lambda_r$$

$d\Lambda_r = \text{image of } \Lambda_r \text{ under } d.$

□ Analogously:  $\Delta$  maps co-exact forms  $\omega = \delta\beta$  into co-exact forms:

$$\Delta \omega = \Delta \delta\beta = \underbrace{\delta \Delta \beta}_{\text{a co-exact form}}$$

i.e.:

$$\Delta: \delta\Lambda_r \rightarrow \delta\Lambda_r$$

□ Also:  $\Delta$  can map forms into 0, namely its eigenspace with eigenvalue 0, denoted  $\Lambda_r^0$ .  $\Lambda_r^0$  is called the space of "harmonic"  $p$ -forms.

$$\Delta: \Lambda_r^0 \rightarrow 0$$

Thus:  $\Delta$  maps  $d\Lambda_r$  and  $\delta\Lambda_r$  and  $\Lambda_r^\circ$  into themselves.

Are there any other forms that  $\Delta$  could act on? No!

Proposition ("Hodge decomposition"):

$$\Lambda_p = d\Lambda_{p-1} \oplus \delta\Lambda_{p+1} \oplus \Lambda_p^\circ$$

(Recall that  $\oplus$  implies that the three spaces are orthogonal!)

**Q:** Why useful?

**A:** It means that every eigenvector of  $\Delta_p$  is either in  $d\Lambda_{p-1}$ , or in  $\delta\Lambda_{p+1}$ , or in  $\Lambda_p^\circ$  but is never a linear combination of vectors in these spaces.

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Proof: It is clear that  $d\Lambda_{p-1} \subset \Lambda_p$  and  $\delta\Lambda_{p+1} \subset \Lambda_p$ .

We need to show the orthogonalities and completeness:

□ Show that  $d\Lambda_{p-1} \perp \delta\Lambda_{p+1}$ :

Indeed, assume  $\omega = d\nu \in \Lambda_p$  and  $\alpha = \delta\beta \in \Lambda_p$ .

$$\text{Th... } (\omega, \alpha) = (d\nu, \delta\beta) \stackrel{\text{use}}{=} (d\nu, \delta\beta) = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

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$$\text{Then: } (\omega, \alpha) = (d\nu, \delta\beta) \stackrel{\substack{\text{use} \\ -d^t = \delta}}{=} (d \overset{0}{\delta\nu}, \beta) = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Exercise:  
study the  
remainder  
of the proof.

□ Show that if  $\omega \in \Lambda_p$  and  $\omega \perp d\Lambda_{p-1}$  and  $\omega \perp \delta\Lambda_{p+1}$  then:  $\omega \in \Lambda_p^0$ .

Indeed, assume  $\omega \perp d\Lambda_{p-1}$  and  $\omega \perp \delta\Lambda_{p+1}$ . Then:

$$\forall \alpha: (d\alpha, \omega) = 0 \quad \text{i.e.} \quad -(\alpha, \delta\omega) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \delta\omega = 0$$

$$\forall \beta: (\delta\beta, \omega) = 0 \quad \text{i.e.} \quad -(\beta, d\omega) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad d\omega = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta\omega = (d\delta + \delta d)\omega = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \omega \in \Lambda_p^0 \quad \checkmark$$

□ Show that if  $\omega \in \Lambda_p$  then  $\omega \perp d\Lambda_{p-1}$  and  $\omega \perp \delta\Lambda_{p+1}$ .

Assume  $\omega \in \Lambda_p$ , i.e.,  $\Delta\omega = 0$ , i.e.,  $(\delta d + d\delta)\omega = 0$ .

$$\Rightarrow (\omega, (d\delta + \delta d)\omega) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \overbrace{(\delta\omega, \delta\omega)}^{\geq 0} + \overbrace{(d\omega, d\omega)}^{\geq 0} = 0 \Rightarrow \delta\omega = 0 \text{ and } d\omega = 0.$$

(I.e., harmonic forms are closed and co-closed but not exact or co-exact.  
Thus,  $B_p := \dim(\Lambda_p^0)$  measures topological nontriviality.  
The  $B_p$  are called the "Betti numbers".)

$$\Rightarrow \forall d \in \Lambda_{p-1}: (d, \delta\omega) = 0, \text{ i.e., } (dd, \omega) = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \omega \perp d\Lambda_{p-1} \quad \checkmark$$

$$\text{Also: } \forall \beta \in \Lambda_{p+1}: (\beta, d\omega) = 0, \text{ i.e., } (\delta\beta, \omega) = 0.$$

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Conclusion so far:

In the Hodge decomposition,  
 $\Delta$  maps every term into  
itself, i.e.,  $\Delta$  can be diagonalized  
in each  $d\Lambda_r$ ,  $\delta\Lambda_r$ ,  $\Lambda_r^\circ$  separately.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vdots \\ \Lambda_{p-1} = d\Lambda_{p-2} \oplus \delta\Lambda_p \oplus \Lambda_{p-1}^\circ \\ \Lambda_p = d\Lambda_{p-1} \oplus \delta\Lambda_{p+1} \oplus \Lambda_p^\circ \\ \Lambda_{p+1} = d\Lambda_p \oplus \delta\Lambda_{p+2} \oplus \Lambda_{p+1}^\circ \\ \vdots \end{array} \right.$$

$\Rightarrow$   $\Delta$  has eigenvectors and -values on each of these subspaces, for all  $r$ :

$$\text{spec}(\Delta|_{d\Lambda_r}) , \text{spec}(\Delta|_{\delta\Lambda_r}) , \text{spec}(\Delta|_{\Lambda_r^\circ}) = \{0\} \dots$$

These spectra are related!

Proposition:  $\text{spec}(\Delta|_{d\Lambda_r}) = \text{spec}(\Delta|_{\delta\Lambda_{r+1}})$

and for each eigenvector in one there is one in the other.

This means:

$$\begin{aligned} & \vdots \\ \Lambda_{p-1} &= d\Lambda_{p-2} \oplus \delta\Lambda_p \oplus \Lambda_{p-1}^\circ \\ & \quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{same spectrum}} \\ \Lambda_p &= d\Lambda_{p-1} \oplus \delta\Lambda_{p+1} \oplus \Lambda_p^\circ \\ & \quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{same spectrum}} \\ \Lambda_{p+1} &= d\Lambda_p \oplus \delta\Lambda_{p+2} \oplus \Lambda_{p+1}^\circ \\ & \quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}} \\ & \quad \vdots \end{aligned}$$

Re-use  $[\Delta, *]=0$ :

□ Proposition:  $*$ :  $d\Lambda_r \rightarrow \delta\Lambda_{n-r}$

i.e.:  $*$ : exact  $r+1$  forms  $\rightarrow$  co-exact  $n-r-1$  forms

Proof: Assume  $\omega = d\eta \in d\Lambda_r$

Define  $\nu := *\omega$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \nu &= *d\eta = (-1)^{r(n-r)} \overbrace{*\delta}^{\delta} **\eta \\ &= \delta\alpha \in \delta\Lambda_{n-r} \text{ for } \alpha = (-1)^{r(n-r)} *\eta \end{aligned}$$

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Proof: Exercise.

Recall:  $*$  preserves the spectrum of  $\Delta$  as we showed already.

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Summary:

$$\Lambda_{p-1} = d\Lambda_{p-2} \oplus \delta\Lambda_p \oplus \Lambda_{p-1}^\circ$$

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Now we also found:

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_p &= d \Lambda_{p-1} \oplus \delta \Lambda_{p+1} \oplus \Lambda_p^\circ \\ & \vdots \\ \Lambda_{n-p} &= d \Lambda_{n-p-1} \oplus \delta \Lambda_{n-p+1} \oplus \Lambda_{n-p}^\circ \end{aligned}$$

Annotations: "same spectrum" with arrows pointing from  $\delta \Lambda_{p+1}$  to  $\delta \Lambda_{n-p+1}$  and from  $\delta \Lambda_{p+1}$  to  $\delta \Lambda_{n-p+1}$ .

Example:  $\dim(\mathcal{M})=3$

Exercise: do same for  $\dim(\mathcal{M})=4$

$$\Lambda_0 = \delta \Lambda_1 \oplus \Lambda_0^\circ$$

$$\Lambda_1 = d \Lambda_0 \oplus \delta \Lambda_2 \oplus \Lambda_1^\circ$$

$$\Lambda_2 = d \Lambda_1 \oplus \delta \Lambda_3 \oplus \Lambda_2^\circ$$

$$\Lambda_3 = d \Lambda_2 \oplus \Lambda_3^\circ$$

Same color means same spectrum of  $\Delta$ .

Conclusion: There is relatively little independent information in the spectra of  $p$ -form waves on  $\mathcal{M}$ !  
E.g., when  $\dim(\mathcal{M})=3$ , then the spectrum of co-vector waves  $\text{spec}(\Delta|_{\Lambda_1})$  has already all information of all these spectra.

Literature: (neglecting literature on detecting boundary shapes from spectra)

Indeed: The spectra of  $\Delta$  do not contain sufficient information in general to uniquely identify the Riemannian structure from the spectra alone:

Examples: Cases have been found of pairs  $(M, g)$ ,  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  that are isospectral for  $\Delta$  on all  $\Lambda_p$  but that are not diffeomorphically isometric!

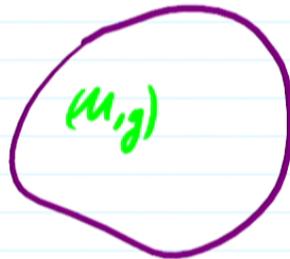
Nevertheless: All examples are of limited significance:

- manifolds that are locally, if not globally, isometric, or
- manifolds that are isospectral only w. respect to some  $\Delta$  or
- manifolds that are discrete pairs (e.g. mirror images).

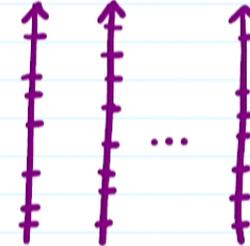
## Fresh approach to spectral geometry (AK)

Strategy: Iterate infinitesimal inverse spectral geometry

Assume both, the mfd and its spectra are given:



A compact Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  without boundary



The spectra  $\{\lambda_m^{(i)}\}$  of Laplacians  $\Delta^{(i)}$  on the manifold.

↑  
Could be Laplacians not only on forms but also on general tensors.