

## 6. Tensor Bundles and Tensor Fields

In this chapter we will be concerned with the study of tensors on manifolds. The first section is preliminary.

### 6.1 New Vector Bundles from old ones

The basic idea here is that given any vector bundles and a "functorial" construction we will obtain new vector bundles. Let  $\xi = (E, M, \pi)$  be a  $C^\infty$  vector bundle  $M$  a  $C^\infty$  manifold and  $f: M' \rightarrow M$  a  $C^\infty$  map. We define the induced vector bundle or pullback of  $\xi$   $f^*\xi = (E', M', \pi')$  as that  $C^\infty$  vector bundle whose total space  $E'$  is the subset of  $M' \times E$  consisting of all pairs  $(p', v) \in M' \times E$  such that

$$f(p') = \pi(v)$$

The projection map  $\pi'$  is defined by  $\pi'(p, v) = p'$ . If we define  $\tilde{f}: E' \rightarrow E$  by  $\tilde{f}(p', v) = v$ , then the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E' & \xrightarrow{\tilde{f}} & E \\ \pi' \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ M' & \xrightarrow{f} & M \end{array}$$

commutes. So as sets  $\pi'^{-1}(p') = \pi^{-1}(f(p'))$ , and we define  $\pi'^{-1}(p')$  as a vector space by giving it the same vector space structure as  $\pi^{-1}(f(p'))$ . We need to check that there is a natural way to define  $f^*\xi$  as a  $C^\infty$  manifold with the local triviality condition fulfilled. Let  $(U, \tilde{\phi})$  denote the standard coordinate chart on  $E$ . Put  $U' = f^{-1}(U)$  and define

$$h': U' \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow M' \times \pi'^{-1}(U)$$

$$h'(p', y) = (p', h(f(p'), y))$$

where  $h = g^{-1}$  is given by (4.9). Notice that  $f(p') = \pi \circ h(f(p'), y)$ , so in fact we have  $h': U' \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \pi'^{-1}(U')$ . It is easy to check that  $h'$  is

bijjective. We define the topology and differential structure on  $E'$  which makes  $h'$  a diffeomorphism. The standard chart on  $E'$  then becomes according to (4.9)  $(U, \tilde{\phi}')$  where  $\tilde{\phi}' = (\phi' \times \text{id}) \circ h'^{-1}$  and  $(U', \phi')$  is a chart on  $M'$ . We need to check that in  $U' \cap U'' \neq \emptyset$   $\phi'' \circ \phi'^{-1}: \mathbb{R}^{m'+k} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m'+k}$  ( $m' = \dim M'$ ) is a diffeomorphism. But this follows easily since the coordinate representatives of  $h'$  and  $h''$  are the identity maps. Moreover, if  $x'^i, i = 1, \dots, m'$  are coordinates for  $(U', \phi')$  and  $(x'^i, v^a) a = 1, \dots, k$  coordinates for  $E'$ , then  $\pi \circ (x'^i, v^a) = (x'^i)$  is a  $C^\infty$  submersion. The proof that  $E'$  is Hausdorff and has a countable basis is exactly as in theorem 4.4. We arrive at

Theorem 6.1: If  $\xi = (E, M, \pi)$  is a  $C^\infty$  vector bundle over  $M$  and  $f: M' \rightarrow M$  a  $C^\infty$  map of  $C^\infty$  manifolds, then the induced bundle  $f^*\xi$  has a natural structure as a  $C^\infty$  vector bundle over  $M'$ .

Exercise: Let  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi$  be two  $C^\infty$  vector bundles related by a bundle map  $(\tilde{f}, f): \xi_1 \rightarrow \xi$  such that  $\tilde{f}$  is an isomorphism on fibres. Show that  $\xi_1$  is isomorphic to the induced bundle  $f^*\xi$ .

Now let  $\xi_1 = (E_1, M_1, \pi_1)$  and  $\xi_2 = (E_2, M_2, \pi_2)$  be two vector bundles. We define the direct product  $\xi_1 \times \xi_2$  as the vector bundle with projection map  $\pi_1 \times \pi_2: E_1 \times E_2 \rightarrow M_1 \times M_2$  and fibre

$$(\pi_1 \times \pi_2)^{-1}(p_1, p_2) = \pi_1^{-1}(p_1) \times \pi_2^{-1}(p_2) = \pi_1^{-1}(p_1) \oplus \pi_2^{-1}(p_2)$$

It is easy to show that  $\xi_1 \times \xi_2$  is a vector bundle over  $M_1 \times M_2$ . Now let  $M_1 = M_2 = M$  and  $\xi_1 = (E_1, M, \pi_1)$  and  $\xi_2 = (E_2, M, \pi_2)$  two vector bundles over  $M$ . Consider the diagonal map

$$\Delta: M \rightarrow M \times M$$

defined by  $\Delta(p) = (p, p)$  for all  $p \in M$ . The induced bundle  $\Delta^*(\xi_1 \times \xi_2)$  over  $M$  is called the Whitney sum of  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$  and is written as  $\xi_1 \oplus \xi_2$ .

Another important concept is that of a subbundle. Suppose  $\xi_1 = (E_1, M, \pi_1)$  and  $\xi_2 = (E_2, M, \pi_2)$  are vector bundles over  $M$  and let  $(\tilde{f}, \text{id}): \xi_1 \rightarrow \xi_2$  be a bundle map such that  $\tilde{f}$  is a monomorphism on fibres, then  $\xi_1$  is called a subbundle of  $\xi_2$ . Notice that  $f$  on fibres simply identifies  $\pi_1^{-1}(p)$  as a sub-vector space of  $\pi_2^{-1}(p)$ ,  $p \in M$ .

Lemma 6.1: Let  $\xi_i = (E_i, M, \pi_i)$   $i = 1, 2$  be subbundles of the vector bundle  $\eta = (E, M, \pi)$ . Suppose that for all  $p \in M$  as vector spaces

$$\pi^{-1}(p) = \pi_1^{-1}(p) \oplus \pi_2^{-1}(p)$$

Then  $\eta$  is isomorphic to the Whitney sum  $\xi_1 \oplus \xi_2$ .

Proof: We define the bundle map  $(\tilde{f}, \text{id}): \xi_1 \oplus \xi_2 \rightarrow \eta$  by  $\tilde{f}(p, v_1 \oplus v_2) = (p, v_1 + v_2)$ . This is clearly an isomorphism on fibres and so  $\xi_1 \oplus \xi_2$  and  $\eta$  are isomorphic by lemma 4.3.

We now come to the main theorem of this section. Let  $\xi_i = (E_i, M, \pi_i)$   $i = 1, \dots, r$  be vector bundles over  $M$  and let  $F: V \times \dots \times V \rightarrow V$  be a covariant, contravariant, or mixed functor in  $k$  arguments. We construct a new vector space  $F(\xi_i) = (E, M, \pi)$  over  $M$  with fibre over  $p$

$$F_p = F(\pi_1^{-1}(p), \dots, \pi_k^{-1}(p))$$

Define  $E$  as the disjoint union

$$E = \bigcup_{p \in M} F_p$$

and  $\pi: E \rightarrow M$  by  $\pi(F_p) = p$ .

We will now construct coordinates on  $F(\xi_i)$  with the local triviality condition fulfilled. On  $\xi_i$  we have local diffeomorphisms.

$$h_i: U \times \mathbb{R}^{k_i} \rightarrow \pi_i^{-1}(U)$$

which provide isomorphisms  $h_i(p) = \mathbb{R}^{k_i} \rightarrow \pi_i^{-1}(p)$ . Then  $F(h_1(p), \dots, h_r(p))$ :  $F(\mathbb{R}^{k_1}, \dots, \mathbb{R}^{k_r}) \rightarrow F_p$  is an isomorphism by an exercise of chapter 5. This

defines a bijection  $h: U \times F(\mathbb{R}^{k_1}, \dots, \mathbb{R}^{k_r}) \rightarrow \pi^{-1}(U)$

$$h(p, y) = F(h_1(p), \dots, h_r(p))(y)$$

$y \in F(\mathbb{R}^{k_1}, \dots, \mathbb{R}^{k_r})$ . We put the topology and differential structure on  $E$  which makes  $h$  a diffeomorphism for all coordinate neighborhoods  $U \subset M$ . The standard coordinate chart  $(U, \tilde{\phi})$  is then constructed exactly as in (4.9), i.e.  $\tilde{\phi} = (\phi \times \text{id}) \circ h^{-1}$  where  $(U, \phi)$  is a coordinate chart on  $M$ . We need to check that in overlapping neighborhoods  $U \cap U'$   $\tilde{\phi}' \circ \tilde{\phi}^{-1}$  is a diffeomorphism. But this follows since  $h^{-1} \circ h': U \cap U' \times F(\mathbb{R}^{k_1}, \dots, \mathbb{R}^{k_r}) \rightarrow U \cap U' \times F(\mathbb{R}^{k_1}, \dots, \mathbb{R}^{k_r})$  is a diffeomorphism. It is easy to check that  $\pi$  is a  $C^\infty$  submersion and that the topology on  $E$  is Hausdorff and has a countable basis. We arrive at

Theorem 6.2: For  $C^\infty$  vector bundles  $\xi_i (i=1, \dots, r)$  over  $M$ ,  $E = F(\xi_i)$  ( $F$  a functor) has a natural differential structure which makes it a  $C^\infty$  vector bundle over  $M$ .

We can apply this theorem to construct many important new vector bundles. For example, if  $\xi$  and  $\eta$  are vector bundles on  $M$  then by applying the tensor product functor  $\xi \otimes \eta$  and  $\eta \otimes \xi$  are vector bundles on  $M$ . Similarly, by applying the duality functor  $\xi^*$  and  $\eta^*$  are vector bundles on  $M$ , thus, so are  $\xi \otimes \eta^*$ ,  $\xi^* \otimes \eta^*$ , etc. Another useful vector bundle is obtained by applying the Hom functor, so the  $\text{Hom}(\eta, \xi)$  is a vector bundle on  $M$ . We can also apply the symmetric and antisymmetric tensor product functor to a vector bundle  $\eta$  to obtain  $S^k(\eta)$  and  $\Lambda^k(\eta)$  as new vector bundles. We will devote separate sections to the study of the various tensor bundles on  $M$  obtained by taking tensor products (full, symmetric, antisymmetric) of the tangent and cotangent bundles on  $M$ .

An interesting application of this is the following: Let  $i: N \rightarrow M$  be an immersion. Then by theorem 6.1 we can construct the induced bundle  $i^*T(M)$

over  $N$ . It is easy to see that we can identify  $T(N)$  as a subbundle of  $i^*T(M)$ . Thus we can construct the quotient bundle  $i^*T(M)/T(N)$ . We call this the normal bundle  $\nu(N)$  over  $N$ . Actually as vector bundles we have an isomorphism.

$$(6.1) \quad i^*T(M) \cong T(N) \oplus \nu(N),$$

But there is no canonical isomorphism unless we specify some additional structure such as a Riemannian metric.

Exercise: Construct the Whitney sum of two vector bundles functorially using theorem 6.2.

Exercise: Let  $(f, id): \eta \rightarrow \xi$  be a bundle map. (This is sometimes called a strong bundle map). We say that  $\tilde{f}$  has constant rank if  $\tilde{f}_p = \tilde{f}|_{\pi_\eta^{-1}(p)}$  has constant rank for all  $p \in M$ , i.e.  $\text{rank } \tilde{f}_p$  is independent of  $p$ . Show that in this case  $\ker \tilde{f} = \bigcup_{p \in M} \ker \tilde{f}_p$  and  $\text{Im } \tilde{f} = \bigcup_{p \in M} \text{Im } \tilde{f}_p$  are subbundles of  $\eta$  and  $\xi$  respectively. Further, show that  $\text{Im } \tilde{f}$  is isomorphic to  $\text{coker } \tilde{f} := \eta / \ker \tilde{f}$ .

## 6.2 Tensor Bundles

We consider the mixed functor  $T_S^r(T_p(M)) = T_p(M) \otimes \dots \otimes T_p(M) \otimes T_p^*(M) \otimes \dots \otimes T_p^*(M)$  which associates to each tangent space the above tensor product. By theorem 6.2 we have a  $C^\infty$  vector bundle  $T_S^r(M)$  called the tensor bundle of type  $(r,s)$  given by

$$T_S^r(M) = \bigcup_{p \in M} T_S^r(T_p(M))$$

$$T_S^r(M) = T(M) \otimes \dots \otimes T(M) \otimes T^*(M) \otimes \dots \otimes T^*(M)$$

The tensor bundle  $T_0^r(M)$  is referred to (oddly enough) as the contravariant tensor bundle of order  $r$  and  $T_S^0(M)$  the covariant tensor bundle of order  $s$ .

Now given a chart  $(U, x)$  on  $M$  and the bases  $(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i})_p$  and  $(dx^i)_p$  for  $T_p(M)$  and  $T_p^*(M)$ , respectively, then a basis for  $T_S^r(T_p(M))$  is

$(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i_1}})_p \otimes \dots \otimes (\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i_r}})_p \otimes (dx^{j_1})_p \otimes \dots \otimes (dx^{j_s})_p$ . Any tensor  $T \in T^r_s(T_p(M))$

can be written in this basis as

$$T = \sum_{\substack{i_1 \dots i_r \\ j_1 \dots j_s}} T^{i_1 \dots i_r}_{j_1 \dots j_s} (\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i_1}})_p \otimes \dots \otimes (\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i_r}})_p \otimes (dx^{j_1})_p \otimes \dots \otimes (dx^{j_s})_p \quad (6.3)$$

Now a change of coordinate system at  $p \in M$  induces a change of basis in  $T_p(M)$ . More generally let  $F: M \rightarrow N$  be any  $C^\infty$  map given in local coordinates by

$$x'^i = (\psi \circ F \circ \phi^{-1})^i(x'_1 \dots x'_n)$$

Then from theorems (4.2) and (4.3) we have

$$F_* (\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i})_p = \sum_j (\frac{\partial x'^j}{\partial x^i})_{\phi(p)} (\frac{\partial}{\partial x'^j})_{F(p)}$$

and

$$F^*(dx'^i)_{F(p)} = \sum_j (\frac{\partial x'^i}{\partial x^j})_{\phi(p)} (dx^j)_p$$

Now suppose  $F$  is a diffeomorphism so that  $F^{-1}$  exists, then we can define a map  $F_*$  on the tensor space  $T^r_s(T_p(M))$ . We have

$$F_*(F_*^{-1})^*: T^r_s(T_p(M)) \rightarrow T^r_s(T_{F(p)}(N))$$

Defined by (writing  $F_*$  for  $F_*(F_*^{-1})^*$ )

$$F_* = F_* \otimes \dots \otimes F_* \otimes (F^{-1})^* \otimes \dots \otimes (F^{-1})^*$$

For any two diffeomorphisms  $M \xrightarrow{F} N \xrightarrow{G} L$  we write

$$F_* G_* = F_* G_* \otimes \dots \otimes F_* G_* \otimes (F^{-1})^* (G^{-1})^* \otimes \dots \otimes (F^{-1})^* (G^{-1})^*$$

then it is easy to check that (show it)

$$(FG)_* = F_* G_*$$

and identities map to identities.  $F_*(F_*^{-1})^*$  is a covariant functor. We

have in general for  $T \in T^r_s(T_p(M))$

$$F_* T = \sum_{\substack{i_1 \dots i_r \\ j_1 \dots j_s}} T_{j_1 \dots j_s}^{i_1 \dots i_r} \sum_{\substack{k_1 \dots k_r \\ \ell_1 \dots \ell_s}} \left( \frac{\partial x'^{k_1}}{\partial x^{i_1}} \right)_{\phi(p)} \dots \left( \frac{\partial x'^{k_r}}{\partial x^{i_r}} \right)_{\phi(p)} \left( \frac{\partial x^{j_1}}{\partial x'^{\ell_1}} \right)_{\phi(p)} \dots \left( \frac{\partial x^{j_s}}{\partial x'^{\ell_s}} \right)_{\phi(p)} \\ \times \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x'^{k_1}} \right)_{F(p)} \otimes \dots \otimes \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x'^{k_r}} \right)_{F(p)} \otimes (dx'^{\ell_1})_{F(p)} \otimes \dots \otimes (dx'^{\ell_s})_{F(p)} \quad (6.4)$$

In particular for a change of coordinate in  $M (= N)$ ,  $F = \text{id}$  so  $F_*$  is  $(\text{id})_*$ . Thus

if  $T_{j_1 \dots j_s}^{i_1 \dots i_r}$  are the components of  $T$  in the coordinates  $x' = (x'^1, \dots, x'^n)$  then

(6.4) gives

$$T_{1 \dots s}^{k_1 \dots k_r} = \sum_{\substack{i_1 \dots i_r \\ j_1 \dots j_s}} T_{j_1 \dots j_s}^{i_1 \dots i_r} \left( \frac{\partial x'^{k_1}}{\partial x^{i_1}} \right)_{x(p)} \dots \left( \frac{\partial x'^{k_r}}{\partial x^{i_r}} \right)_{x(p)} \left( \frac{\partial x^{j_1}}{\partial x'^{\ell_1}} \right)_{x(p)} \dots \left( \frac{\partial x^{j_s}}{\partial x'^{\ell_s}} \right)_{x(p)} \quad (6.3)$$

Remark. In order to define  $F_*: T_S^r(T_p(M)) \rightarrow T_S^r(T_{F(p)}(N))$  we need not only that  $F$  be  $C^\infty$  but that it be invertible and that  $F^{-1}$  be  $C^\infty$ , i.e.  $F$  be a diffeomorphism (local). However, if  $F$  is only  $C^\infty$  we can still define

$F_*: T_0^r(T_p(M)) \rightarrow T_0^r(T_{F(p)}(N))$  for contravariant tensors, since now  $F_* = F_* \otimes \dots \otimes F_*$ .

Similarly, we can define  $F^* = F^* \otimes \dots \otimes F^*: T_S^0(T_{F(p)}(N)) \rightarrow T_S^0(T_p(M))$ .

Now if  $(U, x)$  is a local coordinate chart on  $M$ , the corresponding standard coordinate chart on  $T_S^r(M)$  is  $(U, \phi)$ ,  $\phi = (x, t_{j_1 \dots j_s}^{i_1 \dots i_r})$ . We can then follow the proof of proposition 4.6 and arrive at

Proposition 6.1: Let  $F: M \rightarrow N$  be a local diffeomorphism. Then  $F_*: T_S^r(M) \rightarrow T_S^r(N)$

is a diffeomorphism and  $(F_*, F)$  is a bundle map, and is a global diffeomorphism.  $T_S^r(M)$  and  $T_S^r(N)$  are isomorphic.

Exercise: State and prove the analogue of proposition 4.6 for the contravariant tensor bundle  $T_0^r(M)$ .

A  $C^\infty$  (local) global section of  $T_S^r(M)$  is called a (local) global tensor field of type  $(r, s)$ . In practice tensor fields often arise in terms of  $C^\infty(M)$  multilinear

maps. So we will prove

Proposition 6.2: Tensor fields of type  $(0,s)$  can be identified with the set of  $C^\infty(M)$ -multilinear  $C^\infty$  maps  $\underline{T}(M) \times \dots \times \underline{T}(M) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$ .

Proof: Since  $\text{Hom}$  is a contravariant functor, there is by theorem 6.1 a  $C^\infty$  vector bundle  $\text{Hom}(\overset{s \text{ times}}{Tx \dots x T}, \mathbb{R})$  over  $M$ . Moreover, it follows from lemma 4.3 and an exercise of chapter 5 that this bundle is isomorphic (strongly, i.e. identity map on  $M$ ) as vector bundles to  $T_s(M)$ . Furthermore, the  $C^\infty$  sections of  $\text{Hom}(Tx \dots x T, \mathbb{R})$  are  $C^\infty(M)$ -multilinear  $C^\infty$  maps  $A: \underline{T}(M) \times \dots \times \underline{T}(M) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$ . We need only show that any such map is necessarily a  $C^\infty$  section of  $\text{Hom}(\overset{s \text{ times}}{Tx \dots x T}, \mathbb{R})$ . Define the  $C^\infty$  section  $T: M \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\overset{s \text{ times}}{Tx \dots x T}, \mathbb{R})$  by

$$T(p)(X_1(p), \dots, X_s(p)) = A(X_1, \dots, X_s)(p)$$

for  $X_i \in \underline{T}(M)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, s$ . We must show that  $T(p)$  is well defined, i.e. if  $X_i(p) = Y_i(p)$  for each  $i=1, \dots, s$ , then  $A(X_1, \dots, X_s)(p) = A(Y_1, \dots, Y_s)(p)$  or equivalently if  $X_i(p) = 0$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, s$ , then  $A(X_1, \dots, X_s)(p) = 0$ ,  $X_i \in \underline{T}(M)$ . We prove this for the case  $s = 1$  as the general case is exactly analogous. Let  $(U, x)$  be a coordinate chart about  $p \in M$  and let  $X \in \underline{T}(M)$  such that  $X(p) = 0$ , then on  $U$  we have

$$X = \sum_i X^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}, \quad X^i(p) = 0 \quad \text{on } U$$

Let  $f \in C^\infty(M)$  such that  $f = 1$  on some neighborhood  $V$  of  $p$  and  $\text{supp } f \subset U$ .

Then  $f \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}$  are global vector fields on  $M$  and putting  $Y = fX$  we have

$$A(Y) = \sum_{i=1}^n X^i A\left(f \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}\right)$$

Evaluating at  $p$ , gives  $A(Y)(p) = 0$ . But  $A(Y) = A(fX) = f A(X)$ . So

$A(X)(p) = A(Y)(p) = 0$ . Q.E.D.

Exercise: What is wrong with the following:  $A(X)(p) = \sum_i X^i(p) A\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}\right)(p) = 0$  since  $X(p) = 0$ ?



Exercise: Let  $F: N \rightarrow M$  be  $C^\infty$ . Show that  $F^* = F^* \otimes \dots \otimes F^* : T_S(M) \rightarrow T_S(N)$  is  $C^\infty$ . Show that if  $T \in T_S(M)$  then  $F^*T \in T_S(N)$ .

Exercise: Identify tensor fields of type  $(1, 1)$  with the  $C^\infty(M)$ -multilinear  $C^\infty$  maps  $\underline{T(M)} \rightarrow \underline{T(M)}$ . Generalize this to tensor fields of general type  $(r, s)$ .

It should be clear that if  $(U, x)$  is local coordinate chart for  $M$ , then a tensor field  $T$  can be written on  $U$  as

$$T = \sum T_{j_1 \dots j_s}^{i_1 \dots i_r} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i_1}} \otimes \dots \otimes \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i_r}} \otimes dx^{j_1} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{j_s}, \quad T_{j_1 \dots j_s}^{i_1 \dots i_r} \in C^\infty(U) \quad (6.6)$$

and that the transformation formulas (6.4) and (6.5) hold where now we allow  $p$  to vary over all points of  $U \cap V$ , so we write  $\frac{\partial x^i}{\partial x^j}$  instead of  $(\frac{\partial x^i}{\partial x^j})_x(p)$  and  $dx^i$  instead of  $(dx^i)_{F(p)}$ , etc. I will not bother to write down these formulas.

Recall the contraction map  $C_j^i : T_S^r(T_p(M)) \rightarrow T_{S-1}^{r-1}(T_p(M))$  defined in Chapter 5. Since this map is functorial (show it) it passes to a strong bundle map  $C_j^i : T_S^r(M) \rightarrow T_{S-1}^{r-1}(M)$  by taking  $C^\infty$  sections  $C_j^i$  passes to a  $C^\infty$  map on  $C^\infty$  sections. We thus have a tensor field  $CT$  with components in local coordinates given by

$$(CT)_{j_1 \dots j_{s-1}}^{i_1 \dots i_{r-1}} = \sum_k T_{j_1 \dots k \dots j_s}^{i_1 \dots k \dots i_r}$$

where the upper (lower)  $k$  appears in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  ( $j^{\text{th}}$ ) place.

Example 6.2: Consider the tensor field of type  $(1, 1)$   $\delta: \underline{T(M)} \times \underline{T^*(M)} \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$  defined by

$$\delta(X, \omega) = \omega(X)$$

Look at this in local coordinates  $(U, x)$  writing

$$X = \sum_i X^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}, \quad \omega = \sum_i \omega_i dx^i$$

$$\delta = \sum_{i,j} \delta_j^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \otimes dx^j$$

Then  $\delta(X, \omega) = \sum \delta_j^i X^j \omega_i = \sum X^i \omega_i$ , so the component  $\delta_j^i$  of  $\delta$  is just the familiar Kronecker delta.

We say that a tensor field  $T$  is invariant if for two arbitrary coordinate charts  $(U, x)_j, (U', x')_i$  with  $U \cap U' \neq \emptyset$ , the components of  $T$  with respect to  $x$  and  $x'$  are the same.

Exercise: Show that  $\delta$  is invariant.

### 6.3 Symmetric Bundles, Metrics

Since the construction of the symmetric tensor product is functorial (Exercise Chapter 5), it follows from theorem 6.1 that the symmetric tensor products of  $T(M)$  or  $T^*(M)$  are  $C^\infty$  vector bundles over  $M$ . We define the following vector spaces:

$$S_p^k(M) = S(T_p(M) \otimes \dots \otimes T_p(M) \text{ } k \text{ times})$$

$$S_p^k(M)^* = S(T_p(M)^* \otimes \dots \otimes T_p(M)^*)$$

It is easy to check that  $S_p^k(M)^*$  is in fact dual to  $S_p^k(M)$ . We now define the  $k^{\text{th}}$  order contra- and covariant symmetric bundles, respectively by

$$S^k(M) = \bigcup_{p \in M} S_p^k(M)$$

$$S^k(M)^* = \bigcup_{p \in M} S_p^k(M)^*$$

$C^\infty$  sections of these bundles are called symmetric contravariant and symmetric covariant tensor fields, respectively. We mention that multiplication in the symmetric algebras  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} S_p^k(M)$  and  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} S_p^k(M)^*$  is denoted by juxtaposition. We leave for the reader the task of writing down a symmetric tensor field in terms of local coordinates and the corresponding transformation formulas under  $C^\infty$  maps.

We will be especially interested in the bundle  $S^2(M)^*$ . Now clearly proposition 6.2 carries over to the symmetric case so we can identify  $C^\infty$

sections of  $S^2(M)^*$  with symmetric  $C^\infty(M)$ -multilinear  $C^\infty$  maps  $\underline{T(M)} \times \dots \times \underline{T(M)} \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$ .

In particular, a  $C^\infty$  section  $g$  of  $S^2(M)^*$  is identified with a symmetric  $C^\infty$  map

$g: \underline{T(M)} \times \underline{T(M)} \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$ .  $g$  is said to be nondegenerate if the bilinear form

$g(p)(X_p, Y_p)$  is nondegenerate at all points  $p \in M$ , where  $X_p, Y_p \in T_p(M)$ . A

nondegenerate  $C^\infty$  section  $g$  of  $S^2(M)^*$  is called a pseudo-Riemannian metric on  $M$ .

Let  $\text{sig } g: M \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  be defined by  $(\text{sig } g)(p) = \text{sig } g(p) =$  number of negative eigenvalues of  $g(p)$  viewed as a symmetric bilinear form on  $T_p(M)$ . We have

Lemma 6.2:  $\text{sig } g$  is independent of  $p \in M$ , if  $M$  is connected.

Proof: Since  $g$  is continuous,  $\text{sig } g$  is also continuous. But the continuous image of a connected space is connected. Thus  $\text{sig } g(p)$  is the same integer for all  $p \in M$ .

A pseudo-Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  is a  $C^\infty$  manifold,  $M$  together with a pseudo-Riemannian metric  $g$ . Notice that in principal different components of  $M$  can have different signatures. Notice also that if  $g$  has signature  $k$ , then  $-g$  has signature  $n-k$  and these two situations describe the same pseudo-Riemannian manifold. That is,  $(M, g)$  really refers to  $g$  up to a sign only. A pseudo-Riemannian manifold with signature 0 (or  $n$ ) is called a Riemannian manifold. This means of course that  $g$  is everywhere positive (negative) definite. A pseudo-Riemannian manifold of signature 1 (or  $n-1$ ) is called a Lorentzian manifold.

Let  $(U, x)$  be a local coordinate chart for  $M$  and let  $g$  be a pseudo-Riemannian metric on  $M$ . Then a  $C^\infty$  section  $g$  of  $S^2(M)^*$  on  $U$  can be written as

$$g|_U = \sum g_{ij} dx^i dx^j \equiv ds^2 \quad (6.7)$$

$g_{ij} = g_{ji} \in C^\infty(U)$ . Classically this is usually called  $ds^2$  and we will use this notation also. Viewed as a multilinear map  $g: \underline{T(M)} \times \underline{T(M)} \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$ ,

it follows from the proof of proposition 6.2 that we can localize  $g$ ,  
 i.e.  $g(X,X)|_u = g(X|_u, Y|_u)$ . Doing this we see that

$$g_{ij} = g\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j}\right) \quad (6.8a)$$