

• Hodge Thm: each de Rham class has a unique harmonic representative

[Idea: find ζ in a de Rham class that's orthogonal to the exact forms

$$\text{i.e. } 0 = \langle \zeta, dv \rangle = \langle d^* \zeta, v \rangle \quad \forall v \Rightarrow d^* \zeta = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta \zeta = 0]$$

new ~~prob~~ problem: $H^1(M) = \text{Ker}(\Delta^2)$

\Rightarrow show there are no harmonic 1-forms.

Step 2 "Completing the square"

• (M, g) has a Levi-Civita connection ∇

\rightsquigarrow extend this to an operator on all tensors $\nabla: T_g^p \rightarrow T_g^{p+1}$

[here, p = contravariant (dx^i 's)

q = covariant ($\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}$'s)

\rightsquigarrow when acting on forms, it has

$$\nabla: \Gamma(TM) \rightarrow T^*M \otimes \Gamma(TM)$$

$$\nabla_{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}} = dx^j \otimes \Gamma_{jk}^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k}$$

Thm (Weitzenböck formula)

$$\Delta^p = \nabla^* \nabla + R^p$$

where R^p is the curvature operator

• Why is this not unexpected?

Exercise: $\Delta(a_j dx^j) = g^{ik} \frac{\partial^2 a_j}{\partial x^i \partial x^k} dx^j + [\text{lower order terms}]$

$$\nabla^* \nabla(a_j dx^j) = \text{~~~~~}$$

• What is this curvature operator?

work locally: pick an orthonormal frame $\{e_i\}$ of vector fields

\rightsquigarrow get dual coframe $\{\eta_i\}$

These come with operators on forms

• a_i = wedging with η_i

• a_i^* = interior product with e_i

These satisfies the ~~the~~ Clifford relations $\Downarrow a_j a_k^* + a_k^* a_j = \delta_{kj}$

Define the curvature operator $R = -\sum_{i,j} a_i^* a_j R(e_i, e_j)$

$$[\text{here, } R(e_i, e_j) = \nabla_{e_i} \nabla_{e_j} - \nabla_{e_j} \nabla_{e_i} - \nabla_{[e_i, e_j]}]$$

Step 3 Pf of the theorem

- When working with one forms, $R = \text{Ric}$ (\leftarrow Exercise)
- Assume that we have nonzero $\omega \in \text{Ker}(\Delta^2)$

$$\Delta^2 \omega = \nabla^* \nabla \omega + R\omega$$

$$\text{so } (\Delta^2 \omega, \omega) = (\nabla^* \nabla \omega, \omega) + (R\omega, \omega)$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \underbrace{\|\nabla \omega\|^2}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{(\text{Ric} \cdot \omega, \omega)}_{> 0} \quad !!$$

Easy Cor: If $R^p > 0$, then $H_{\text{dR}}^p(M) = 0$ ($R^p = R$ acts on $\dim p$)

With a bit more work Cor. (1) If $\text{Ric} \geq 0$, $\dim H_{\text{dR}}^1(M) \leq \dim M$

(2) If $R^p \geq 0$, then $\dim H_{\text{dR}}^p(M) \leq \binom{\dim M}{p}$

[with equality hold iff (M, g) flat locus]

These methods can be taken to an extreme

Thm [A] (M, g) as before + $\text{Vol}(M, g) = 1$

Pick $R_0 > 0$, $K < 0$, $\exists \epsilon = \epsilon(R_0, K, \dim M) > 0$ st. if $\text{Ric} \geq R_0$ except on

$A \subseteq M$, where $\text{diam}(A) \leq \epsilon$, ~~where~~ $\text{Ric} \geq K$

then $H_{\text{dR}}^1(M) = 0$

Thm [B] (Bonnes) As in thm A, if $\pi_1(M)$ has a solvable finite-index subgroup, then $\pi_1(M)$ finite

(Elworthy & Rosenberg "Compact mfd with a little neg curv")