

More exercises on covariant derivatives

Let us rethink the curved space, but we will start with the curve coordinate system for a flat space, and then put constraints to arrive a curved 2D surface. In other words, we can embed the 2D curved surface into a flat 3D space, and then do the projection. Non-trivial curvature arises from projections.

① Consider the spherical coordinate in 3D, $\vec{r} = r \hat{e}_r$

$$d\vec{r} = \hat{e}_r dr + r d\hat{e}_r = \hat{e}_r dr + r d\theta \hat{e}_\theta + r \sin\theta d\varphi \hat{e}_\varphi$$

$$\vec{r}_r = \hat{e}_r, \quad \vec{r}_\theta = r \hat{e}_\theta, \quad \vec{r}_\varphi = r \sin\theta \hat{e}_\varphi$$

$$\vec{A} = A^r \hat{e}_r + A^\theta \vec{r}_\theta + A^\varphi \vec{r}_\varphi, \quad (A^r, A^\theta, A^\varphi) \text{ transfs like a vector, but they are different from the usual definition.}$$

$$d\vec{A} = dA^r \hat{e}_r + dA^\theta \vec{r}_\theta + dA^\varphi \vec{r}_\varphi + A^r d\hat{e}_r + A^\theta d\vec{r}_\theta + A^\varphi d\vec{r}_\varphi$$

$$d\hat{e}_r = d\theta \hat{e}_\theta + \sin\theta d\varphi \hat{e}_\varphi = \frac{1}{r} d\theta \vec{r}_\theta + \frac{1}{r} d\varphi \vec{r}_\varphi$$

$$d\vec{r}_\theta = dr \hat{e}_\theta + r d\hat{e}_\theta = \frac{dr}{r} \vec{r}_\theta + r(-d\theta \hat{e}_r + \cos\theta d\varphi \hat{e}_\varphi) = -r d\theta \hat{e}_r + \frac{dr}{r} \vec{r}_\theta + \cot\theta d\varphi \vec{r}_\varphi$$

$$d\vec{r}_\varphi = dr \sin\theta \hat{e}_\varphi + r \cos\theta d\theta \hat{e}_\varphi + r \sin\theta d\hat{e}_\varphi = r \sin\theta (-\sin\theta d\varphi \hat{e}_r - \cos\theta d\varphi \hat{e}_\theta) + \left(\frac{dr}{r} + \cot\theta\right) r \sin\theta \hat{e}_\varphi = -r \sin^2\theta d\varphi \hat{e}_r - \sin\theta \cos\theta d\varphi \vec{r}_\theta + \left(\frac{dr}{r} + \cot\theta\right) \vec{r}_\varphi$$

$$d\vec{A} = \hat{e}_r [dA^r - rA^\theta d\theta - r\sin^2\theta \frac{A^\varphi}{r} d\varphi] + \hat{e}_\theta [dA^\theta + \frac{A^r}{r} d\theta + \frac{A^\theta}{r} dr - A^\varphi \sin\theta \cos\theta d\varphi] + \hat{e}_\varphi [dA^\varphi + \frac{A^r}{r} d\varphi + A^\theta \cot\theta d\varphi + A^\varphi (\frac{dr}{r} + \cot\theta d\theta)]$$

Compare parallel transport $d\vec{A} = 0 \Rightarrow$

$$A^{\mu*}(x+dx) - A^\mu(x) = dA^\mu = -\Gamma_{\nu\lambda}^\mu dx^\nu A^\lambda$$

We have in a parallel transport

$$dA^r = r d\theta A^\theta + r \sin^2\theta d\varphi A^\varphi$$

$$dA^\theta = -\frac{1}{r} dr A^\theta - \frac{1}{r} d\theta A^r + \sin\theta \cos\theta d\varphi A^\varphi$$

$$dA^\varphi = \left[-\frac{1}{r} dr A^\varphi - \cot\theta d\theta A^\varphi - \frac{1}{r} d\varphi A^r - \cot\theta d\varphi A^\theta \right]$$

Hence

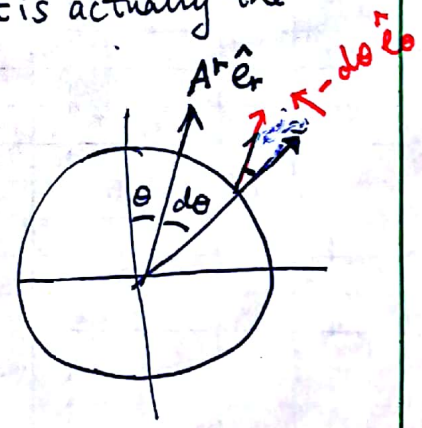
$$\Gamma_{\theta\theta}^r = -r, \quad \Gamma_{\varphi\varphi}^r = -r \sin^2\theta$$

$$\Gamma_{r\theta}^\theta = \Gamma_{\theta r}^\theta = \frac{1}{r}, \quad \Gamma_{\varphi\varphi}^\theta = -\sin\theta \cos\theta$$

$$\Gamma_{r\varphi}^\varphi = \Gamma_{\varphi r}^\varphi = \frac{1}{r}, \quad \Gamma_{\theta\varphi}^\varphi = \Gamma_{\varphi\theta}^\varphi = \cot\theta$$

The above results look quite complicated: But it is actually the parallel transport in 3D flat space:

When $A^r \hat{e}_r$ is transported along a longitude by a $d\theta$ angle, we have $dA^\theta = \frac{-d\theta}{r}$, or $dA^\theta r \hat{e}_\theta = -d\theta \hat{e}_\theta$



$$DA^\mu = dA^\mu + \Gamma_{\nu\lambda}^\mu dx^\nu A^\lambda \leftarrow \text{parallel transport.}$$

③ Polar coordinate

$$ds^2 = dr^2 + r^2 d\theta^2 \Rightarrow g_{rr} = 1, g_{\theta\theta} = r^2; g^{rr} = 1, g^{\theta\theta} = \frac{1}{r^2}$$

$$\partial_\mu g_{\nu\lambda} = 2r \delta_{\mu r} \delta_{\nu\lambda} \delta_{\lambda\theta}$$

$$\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\sigma = \frac{1}{2} g^{\sigma\lambda} (\partial_\mu g_{\nu\lambda} + \partial_\nu g_{\mu\lambda} - \partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu})$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\Gamma_{r\theta}^\theta = \Gamma_{\theta r}^\theta = \frac{1}{r}, \quad \Gamma_{\theta\theta}^r = -r}$$

or $d\vec{r} = \hat{e}_r dr + r d\hat{e}_r = \hat{e}_r dr + r d\theta \hat{e}_\theta$

$$\vec{A} = A^r \hat{e}_r + A^\theta \vec{r}_\theta, \quad \vec{r}_r = \hat{e}_r, \quad \vec{r}_\theta = r \hat{e}_\theta$$

$$d\vec{A} = dA^r \hat{e}_r + dA^\theta \vec{r}_\theta + A^r d\hat{e}_r + A^\theta d\vec{r}_\theta$$

$$d\hat{e}_r = d\theta \hat{e}_\theta = \frac{d\theta}{r} \vec{r}_\theta$$

$$d\vec{r}_\theta = dr \hat{e}_\theta + r d\hat{e}_\theta = \frac{dr}{r} \vec{r}_\theta - r d\theta \hat{e}_r$$

$$\Rightarrow d\vec{A} = \hat{e}_r (dA^r - r d\theta) + \vec{r}_\theta (dA^\theta + \frac{d\theta}{r} A^r + \frac{dr}{r} A^\theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} dA^r - r A^\theta d\theta = 0 \\ dA^\theta + \frac{1}{r} d\theta A^r + \frac{1}{r} dr A^\theta = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \Gamma_{\theta\theta}^\theta = -r \\ \Gamma_{r\theta}^\theta = \Gamma_{\theta r}^\theta = \frac{1}{r} \end{cases}$$

More generally, consider $\vec{a}(t) = a^1(t) \vec{r}_1(t) + a^2(t) \vec{r}_2(t)$ lying in the tangent plane.

$$d\vec{a} = \sum_i da^i \vec{r}_i + a^i d\vec{r}_i = \sum_i da^i \vec{r}_i + a^i \sum_j \Gamma_{ij}^k dx^j$$

$$\vec{r}_{ij} = \Gamma_{ij}^m \vec{r}_m = \Gamma_{ij}^k \vec{r}_k + L_{ij} \vec{n}, \text{ where } \vec{r}_k \text{ lies in the tangent plane, } \vec{n} \text{ is the norm.}$$

$$\Rightarrow d\vec{a} = \sum_i da^i \vec{r}_i + a^i \sum_j (\Gamma_{ij}^k \vec{r}_k + L_{ij} \vec{n}) dx^j$$

→ projected out

① For \vec{a} , \vec{r}_i only lies in the tangent plane, "i"-already projected.

pk
i j

② "k"-index, - projected

③ we also need to keep dx^j along the tangent plane.

Hence

$$d\vec{a} = \sum_i (da^i + \sum_{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^i a^\alpha dx^\beta) \vec{r}_i + \dots$$

$$D\vec{a} = \sum_i (da^i + \sum_{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^i a^\alpha dx^\beta) \vec{r}_i$$

After projection to the surface, we acquire curvature.

Example of application to Lagrange equation:

$$L = \frac{1}{2} g_{ij}(x) \dot{x}^i \dot{x}^j - V(x_i)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}^i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^i} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} (g_{ij} \dot{x}^j) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial g_{kj}}{\partial x^i} \dot{x}^k \dot{x}^j + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x^i} = 0$$

$$g_{ij} \ddot{x}^j + \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial x^k} \dot{x}^k \dot{x}^j - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial g_{kj}}{\partial x^i} \dot{x}^k \dot{x}^j = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial x^i}$$

$$g_{ij} \ddot{x}^j + (\partial_k g_{ij} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_i g_{jk}) \dot{x}^j \dot{x}^k = - \partial_i V = F_i$$

$$g_{ij} \ddot{x}^j + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_k g_{ij} + \partial_j g_{ik} - \partial_i g_{jk}) \dot{x}^j \dot{x}^k = F_i$$

$$\ddot{x}^i + \frac{1}{2} g^{il} (\partial_k g_{jl} + \partial_j g_{lk} - \partial_l g_{jk}) \dot{x}^j \dot{x}^k = F_i$$

$$\ddot{x}^i + \Gamma_{jk}^i \dot{x}^j \dot{x}^k = F_i \quad , \quad \text{define } u^i = \frac{dx^i}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{du^i}{dt} + \Gamma_{jk}^i \frac{dx^j}{dt} u^k = 0}$$

if $F_i = 0$, it's nothing but the parallel transport of the velocity u^i .

Similar to

This is also the equation of geodesic lines on a curved surface

$$L = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt \sqrt{g_{ij}(x) \dot{x}^i \dot{x}^j} = \int ds$$

$$\text{set } T = \frac{ds}{dt} = \sqrt{g_{ij} \dot{x}^i \dot{x}^j}$$

variational principle

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}^i} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial x^i} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}^i} = \frac{1}{T} g_{ij} \dot{x}^j \quad \frac{\partial T}{\partial x^i} = \frac{1}{2T} (\partial_i g_{jk}) \dot{x}^j \dot{x}^k$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{T} g_{ij} \dot{x}^j \right) = -\frac{1}{T^2} \frac{dT}{dt} g_{ij} \dot{x}^j + \frac{1}{T} g_{ij} \ddot{x}^j + \frac{1}{T} \partial_k g_{ij} \dot{x}^j \dot{x}^k$$

$$\Rightarrow g_{ij} \ddot{x}^j + (\partial_k g_{ij} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_i g_{jk}) \dot{x}^j \dot{x}^k - \frac{1}{T} \frac{dT}{dt} g_{ij} \dot{x}^j = 0$$

\Rightarrow g^{li} multiplied to both side

$$\ddot{x}^l + \frac{1}{2} g^{li} (\partial_k g_{ij} + \partial_j g_{ik} - \partial_i g_{jk}) \dot{x}^j \dot{x}^k - \frac{d \ln T}{dt} \dot{x}^l = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2 x^l}{dt^2} + \Gamma_{kj}^l \frac{dx^j}{dt} \frac{dx^k}{dt} - \frac{1}{T} \frac{dT}{dt} \frac{dx^l}{dt} = 0$$

If we use the arc length as a variable ds , then $T = \frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{1}{\frac{dt}{ds}}$

$$\frac{dT}{dt} / T = \frac{-1}{(\frac{dt}{ds})^2} \frac{d^2 t}{ds^2} \frac{ds}{dt} \cdot \frac{dt}{ds} = - \frac{d^2 t}{ds^2} / (\frac{dt}{ds})^2$$

$$\Rightarrow (\frac{dt}{ds})^2 \frac{d^2 x^l}{dt^2} + \Gamma_{kj}^l \frac{dx^j}{ds} \frac{dx^k}{ds} + \frac{d^2 t}{ds^2} \frac{dx^l}{dt} = 0$$

$$(\frac{dt}{ds})^2 \frac{d^2 x^l}{dt^2} = \frac{dt}{ds} \frac{d}{ds} \left[\frac{d}{dt} x^l \right] = \frac{dt}{ds} \left[\frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{d}{ds} x^l \frac{ds}{dt} \right) \right] = \frac{d^2}{ds^2} x^l + \frac{dt}{ds} \frac{d}{ds} x^l \frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{1}{\frac{dt}{ds}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{d^2}{ds^2} x^l - \frac{d}{ds} x^l \frac{dt}{ds} \frac{1}{(\frac{dt}{ds})^2} \frac{d^2 t}{ds^2} = \frac{d^2}{ds^2} x^l - \frac{dx^l}{dt} \frac{d^2 t}{ds^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{d^2 x^l}{ds^2} + \Gamma_{kj}^l \frac{dx^k}{ds} \frac{dx^j}{ds} = 0}$$

If on a curved surface without force tangent to the surface, the speed is a constant, hence $s = vt$. Hence, the trajectory $\vec{x}(t)$ through the Lagrange equation, is the same of the geodesic equation $\vec{x}(s)$.

* Gradient, divergence, and curl

In a curved manifold, we can use covariant derivatives to generalize the gradient, divergence, and curl. For a scalar function,

$$D_\mu \phi(x) = \partial_\mu \phi(x) \quad \text{--- the gradient remains unchanged}$$

The covariant derivative of a contravariant vector

$$D_\mu A^\nu = \partial_\mu A^\nu + \Gamma_{\mu\sigma}^\nu A^\sigma \quad \rightarrow \quad D_\mu A^\mu = \partial_\mu A^\mu + \Gamma_{\mu\sigma}^\mu A^\sigma$$

$$\Rightarrow D_\mu A^\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \partial_\mu (\sqrt{g} A^\mu) \quad = \partial_\mu A^\mu + \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \partial_\sigma \sqrt{g} A^\sigma$$

Gauss's theorem

$$\int d^d x \sqrt{g} D_\mu A^\mu = \int d^d x \sqrt{g} \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \partial_\mu (\sqrt{g} A^\mu) = \int d^d x \partial_\mu (\sqrt{g} A^\mu)$$

$$= \oint ds^\mu \sqrt{g} A^\mu = 0, \quad (\text{if } A^\mu \text{ vanishes on the boundary}).$$

Laplacian:

$$D^\mu \phi(x) = g^{\mu\nu} D_\nu \phi(x) = g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\nu \phi = \partial^\mu \phi(x)$$

$$D_\mu D^\mu \phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \partial_\mu (\sqrt{g} \partial^\mu \phi(x))$$

The divergence of a tensor

$$D_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} + \Gamma_{\mu\sigma}^\mu T^{\sigma\nu} + \Gamma_{\mu\sigma}^\nu T^{\mu\sigma}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \partial_\mu (\sqrt{g} T^{\mu\nu}) + \Gamma_{\mu\sigma}^\nu T^{\mu\sigma} \quad \text{if } T^{\mu\sigma} \text{ is antisymmetric}$$

, since $\Gamma_{\mu\sigma}^\nu$ is symmetric

$$\Rightarrow D_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \partial_\mu (\sqrt{g} T^{\mu\nu})$$

$$\Rightarrow \Gamma_{\mu\sigma}^\nu T^{\mu\sigma} = 0$$

• Curl: $D_\mu A_\nu - D_\nu A_\mu = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\lambda A_\lambda - (\partial_\nu A_\mu - \Gamma_{\nu\mu}^\lambda A_\lambda)$
 $= \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$

• For anti-symmetric tensor $A_{\mu\nu}$, we have

$$D_\lambda A_{\mu\nu} + D_\mu A_{\nu\lambda} + D_\nu A_{\lambda\mu} = \partial_\lambda A_{\mu\nu} - \Gamma_{\lambda\mu}^\delta A_{\delta\nu} - \Gamma_{\lambda\nu}^\delta A_{\mu\delta}$$

notice $A_{\mu\nu} = -A_{\nu\mu}$

$$+ \partial_\mu A_{\nu\lambda} - \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\delta A_{\delta\lambda} - \Gamma_{\mu\lambda}^\delta A_{\nu\delta}$$

$$+ \partial_\nu A_{\lambda\mu} - \Gamma_{\nu\lambda}^\delta A_{\delta\mu} - \Gamma_{\nu\mu}^\delta A_{\lambda\delta}$$

$$= \partial_\lambda A_{\mu\nu} + \partial_\mu A_{\nu\lambda} + \partial_\nu A_{\lambda\mu}$$

Hence, the Bianchi identity of EM

$$\partial_\lambda F_{\mu\nu} + \partial_\mu F_{\nu\lambda} + \partial_\nu F_{\lambda\mu} = 0 \quad \text{remains unchanged}$$

$$D_\lambda F_{\mu\nu} + D_\mu F_{\nu\lambda} + D_\nu F_{\lambda\mu} = 0. \quad \checkmark$$

* Some results on total derivatives

① For a scalar function, we arrive at a covariant vector

$$A_\mu = D_\mu \phi = \partial_\mu \phi, \quad \text{such that an anti-symmetric rank-2}$$

tensor $D_\mu A_\nu - D_\nu A_\mu = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu = \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \phi - \partial_\nu \partial_\mu \phi = 0.$

② If we start with a covariant vector A_μ , we first construct

2-nd rank anti-symmetric tensor $A_{\mu\nu} = D_\mu A_\nu - D_\nu A_\mu = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$

Then, a rank-3 anti-symmetric tensor

$$A_{[\mu\nu\lambda]} = D_\lambda A_{\mu\nu} + D_\mu A_{\nu\lambda} + D_\nu A_{\lambda\mu} = 0$$

③ This can be generalized to high ranks.

• The rank- n fully anti-symmetric tensors in n -dimensions

$T_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_n]}$. $\Rightarrow \epsilon^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} T_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_n]} = \phi(x)$ is a scalar, hence

$$T_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_n]} = \epsilon_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \phi(x)$$

*** Closed and exact forms**

Consider an fully anti-symmetric tensor $A_{\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n}$, define

$$D_{\lambda_1} A_{\lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n} = D_{\lambda_1} A_{\lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n} \pm D_{\lambda_2} A_{\lambda_3 \dots \lambda_1} + D_{\lambda_3} A_{\lambda_4 \dots \lambda_2} \pm D_{\lambda_4} A_{\lambda_5 \dots}$$

" \pm " applies for the rotation of the n -object is even or odd.

① If $D_{[\alpha} A_{\mu\nu\dots]} = 0$, then we say $A_{\mu\nu\dots}$ is closed.
 closed form.

② If an anti-symmetric tensor $A_{\mu\nu\dots}$ is exact, if it can be written as

$$A_{\mu\nu\dots} = D_{[\mu} T_{\nu\dots]} = \partial_{[\mu} T_{\nu\dots]}$$

exact form.

where T is a lower-rank fully anti-symmetric tensor.

For example, $\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{E} = -\nabla \phi$

$$F_{\mu\nu} = D_{\mu} A_{\nu} - D_{\nu} A_{\mu} = \partial_{\mu} A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu} A_{\mu}, \quad F_{\mu\nu} \text{ is exact}$$

- If a tensor is exact, then it is also closed, i.e. $D_{[\alpha} F_{\mu\nu]} = 0$.
- Every closed tensor is locally exact at least, which admits a local potential.

$$\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} F_{\lambda\rho} \Rightarrow D_\mu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = D_\mu \left(\frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} F_{\lambda\rho} \right)$$

$$D_\mu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} D_\mu F_{\lambda\rho} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} [D_\mu F_{\lambda\rho} + D_\lambda F_{\rho\mu} + D_\rho F_{\nu\lambda}] = 0$$

• Covariant differentiation along a curve

Consider a curve $x^\mu(z)$ in a space, and a vector ξ^μ defined along such a curve $\xi^\mu(x(z)) = \xi^\mu(z) \Rightarrow \xi^\mu(z+dz) = \xi^\mu(z) + dz \frac{d\xi^\mu(z)}{dz}$

If we parallelly transport $\xi^\mu(x(z))$ to $x(z+dz)$.

$$\xi^{*\mu}(z+dz) = \xi^\mu(z) - \Gamma_{\nu\lambda}^\mu \frac{dx^\nu}{dz} \xi^\lambda(z) dz$$

$$\Rightarrow \xi^\mu(z+dz) - \xi^{*\mu}(z+dz) = dz \left[\frac{d\xi^\mu(z)}{dz} + \Gamma_{\nu\lambda}^\mu \frac{dx^\nu}{dz} \xi^\lambda(z) \right] = dz \frac{D\xi^\mu(z)}{Dz}$$

Hence $\frac{D}{Dz} \xi^\mu(z) = \left[\frac{d\xi^\mu(z)}{dz} + \Gamma_{\nu\lambda}^\mu \xi^\lambda(z) \right] \frac{dx^\nu}{dz} = D_\nu \xi^\mu \frac{dx^\nu}{dz}$

Similarly $\frac{D}{Dz} T^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} = \frac{dx^\nu}{dz} D_\nu T^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}$

$$\frac{Dg^{\mu\nu}}{Dz} = \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} D_\lambda g^{\mu\nu} = 0, \quad \frac{Dg_{\mu\nu}}{Dz} = \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} D_\lambda g_{\mu\nu} = 0.$$

and $\frac{D\xi_\mu(z)}{Dz} = \frac{D}{Dz} (g_{\mu\nu} \xi^\nu) = g_{\mu\nu} \frac{D\xi^\nu}{Dz} = g_{\mu\nu} D_\lambda \xi^\nu \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} = D_\lambda \xi_\mu \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz}$