

# A Laplace Operator for Poisson Manifolds

Seminar "*Geometry, Topology and Algebra*"

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Zouhair Saassai

Faculty of Applied Sciences - Ait Melloul

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- Z. Saassai     *“A Laplace operator for Poisson manifolds”*  
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## Riemannian Geometry

(Manifold) + (Riemannian metric)



- Classical Levi-Civita connection
- Laplace operator

## Riem. Geom. of Poisson Manifolds

(Poisson Manifold) + (Riem. metric)



- Contravariant Levi-Civita connection
- ?

1. Poisson manifolds at a glance
2. Riemannian geometry of Poisson manifolds
3. Completing the picture
4. Two classical techniques from Riemannian geometry
5. Some classical results & their analogues

# Poisson manifolds at a glance

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## ALGEBRIC DEFINITION

A *Poisson manifold* is a manifold  $M$  with a

$$\{\cdot, \cdot\} : \mathcal{C}^\infty(M) \times \mathcal{C}^\infty(M) \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$$

- $\mathbb{R}$ -bilinear
- $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$  (skew-symmetry)
- $\{f, gh\} = g\{f, h\} + h\{f, g\}$  (Leibniz)
- $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} = 0$  (Jacobi).

Such a  $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$  is called a *Poisson bracket*.

## EXAMPLE

If  $(M, \omega)$  is a symplectic manifold then

$$\{f, g\} := \omega(\mathcal{H}_f, \mathcal{H}_g) \quad \forall f, g \in C^\infty(M)$$

where  $\mathcal{H}_f \lrcorner \omega = -df$  is a Poisson bracket.

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For the Jacobi identity :

$$-d\omega(\mathcal{H}_f, \mathcal{H}_g, \mathcal{H}_h) = \{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\}.$$



## GEOMETRIC DEFINITION

A *Poisson manifold* is a manifold  $M$  with a *Poisson tensor*  $\pi$ , i.e.

$$\pi \in \Gamma(\Lambda^2 TM) \quad \text{s. t.} \quad [\pi, \pi]_{SN} = 0.$$

Here  $[\cdot, \cdot]_{SN}$  is the *Schouten-Nijenhuis bracket* given on bivector fields by

$$\begin{aligned} [X \wedge Y, U \wedge V]_{SN} = & [X, U] \wedge Y \wedge V - [X, V] \wedge Y \wedge U \\ & - [Y, U] \wedge X \wedge V + [Y, V] \wedge X \wedge U. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  is the usual Lie bracket.

## EXAMPLE

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a finite dim. Lie algebra. For  $a \in \mathfrak{g}^*$  define  $\pi_a \in \Lambda^2 T_a \mathfrak{g}^* \simeq \Lambda^2 \mathfrak{g}^*$  by

$$\pi_a(u, v) := a([u, v]_{\mathfrak{g}}) \quad \forall u, v \in \mathfrak{g}.$$

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If  $(e_i)$  is a basis of  $\mathfrak{g}$  with corresponding global linear coordinate system  $(x_i)$  on  $\mathfrak{g}^*$  then

$$\pi_a = \sum_{i < j} \left( \sum_k C_{ij}^k x_k(a) \right) \partial x_i \wedge \partial x_j$$

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Using (1),  $[\pi, \pi]_{SN} = 0$  iff

$$\sum_m (C_{im}^l C_{jk}^m + C_{jm}^l C_{ki}^m + C_{km}^l C_{ij}^m) = 0 \quad \forall i, j, k, l.$$

Therefore  $\pi$  is a Poisson tensor on  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ , by the Jacobi identity of  $[\cdot, \cdot]_{\mathfrak{g}}$ .

## ONE AND THE SAME

$$\pi(df, dg) = \{f, g\}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} [\pi, \pi]_{SN}(df, dg, dh) = \{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\}$$

- **Anchor**  $\pi_{\sharp} : T^*M \longrightarrow TM, \quad a \mapsto \pi(a, \cdot).$

# Elements attached to a Poisson manifold

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- **Koszul bracket**  $[\cdot, \cdot]_{\pi} : \Omega^1(M) \times \Omega^1(M) \longrightarrow \Omega^1(M),$   
 $[\alpha, \beta]_{\pi} := \mathcal{L}_{\pi_{\sharp}(\alpha)}\beta - \mathcal{L}_{\pi_{\sharp}(\beta)}\alpha - d(\pi(\alpha, \beta)).$



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- **Poisson differential**  $d_{\pi} : \mathfrak{X}^{\bullet}(M) \longrightarrow \mathfrak{X}^{\bullet+1}(M),$

$$d_{\pi}P(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{p+1}) := \sum_{i=1}^{p+1} (-1)^{i+1} \pi_{\sharp}(\alpha_i) \cdot P(\alpha_1, \dots, \widehat{\alpha}_i, \dots, \alpha_{p+1}) \\ + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p+1} (-1)^{i+j} P([\alpha_i, \alpha_j]_{\pi}, \alpha_1, \dots, \widehat{\alpha}_i, \dots, \widehat{\alpha}_j, \dots, \alpha_{p+1}).$$

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- **Poisson codifferential**  $\delta_{\pi} : \Omega^{\bullet}(M) \longrightarrow \Omega^{\bullet-1}(M),$

$$\delta_{\pi} := i_{\pi} \circ d - d \circ i_{\pi}.$$

# Riemannian geometry of Poisson manifolds

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## ANALOGY

Recall that given a Riemannian metric  $g$  on  $M$ ,

$$\exists! \nabla : \mathfrak{X}^1(M) \times \mathfrak{X}^1(M) \longrightarrow \mathfrak{X}^1(M), \quad (X, Y) \mapsto \nabla_X Y$$

1.  $\mathbb{R}$ -bilinear
2.  $\nabla_{fX} Y = f \nabla_X Y$  (tensoriality)
3.  $\nabla_X (fY) = X(f)Y + f \nabla_X Y$  (Leibniz)
4.  $T(X, Y) := \nabla_X Y - \nabla_Y X - [X, Y] = 0$  (torsionlessness)
5.  $X \cdot \langle Y, Z \rangle = \langle \nabla_X Y, Z \rangle + \langle Y, \nabla_X Z \rangle$  (compatibility with  $g$ )

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- *Riemann curvature*

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- *Ricci curvature*

$$\text{Ric}(v) := \sum_i R(v, e_i) e_i, \quad \forall v \in T_x M.$$

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$(e_i)$  being an orthonormal basis of  $T_x M$

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- *Curvature operator*

$$\mathfrak{R}^\nabla(u \wedge v) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (R(u, v) e_i) \wedge e_i.$$

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( $e_i$ ) being an orthonormal basis of  $T_x M$

- *Riemann curvature*

$$R(X, Y)Z := \nabla_X \nabla_Y Z - \nabla_Y \nabla_X Z - \nabla_{[X, Y]} Z.$$

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## A FORMULA ON THE WAY

For any  $\eta \in \Omega^p(M)$  and any  $X_1, \dots, X_p \in \mathfrak{X}^1(M)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{W}^\nabla(\eta)(X_1, \dots, X_p) &= \sum_{i=1}^p \eta(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, \text{Ric}(X_i), X_{i+1}, \dots, X_p) \\ &+ 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p} (-1)^{i+j} (\mathfrak{R}^\nabla(X_i \wedge X_j) \lrcorner \eta)(X_1, \dots, \widehat{X}_i, \dots, \widehat{X}_j, \dots, X_p) \end{aligned}$$



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For any  $P \in \mathfrak{X}^p(M)$  and any  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p \in \Omega^1(M)$ ,

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## Completing the picture

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## RIEMANN

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### Connection Laplacian

$$\Delta^{\nabla} = \sum_i (\nabla_{\nabla_{E_i} E_i} - \nabla_{E_i} \circ \nabla_{E_i})$$

$(E_i)$  is a local orthonormal frame.

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## POISSON

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### Hodge-de Rham Laplacian

$$\Delta = d \circ \delta + \delta \circ d$$

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### The operator $\Delta^{\pi, g}$

$$\Delta^{\pi, g} := d_{\pi} \circ \delta_{\pi}^g + \delta_{\pi}^g \circ d_{\pi}$$

where  $\delta_{\pi}^g := \sharp \circ \delta_{\pi} \circ \flat$  and  $\sharp, \flat$  are the musical isomorphisms.

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$$\Delta f = \Delta^\nabla f = -\operatorname{div}_g(\operatorname{grad} f)$$

for any function  $f$ .

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---

### The zero degree case

$$\Delta^{\pi, g} f = \Delta^{\mathcal{D}} f$$

for any function  $f$  ?



# The compatibility condition $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$

DOES  $\Delta^{\pi, g} = \Delta^{\mathcal{D}}$  ON  $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$ ?

## Proposition

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be oriented, with Riemannian volume element  $\mu_g$ . Then

$$\Delta^{\pi, g} = \Delta^{\mathcal{D}} - \pi_{\#}(\phi_g^{\flat}) \quad \text{on } \mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$$

where  $\phi_g$  is the unique vector field on  $M$  s. t.  $\phi_g \lrcorner \mu_g = d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g)$ .

Consequently,  $\Delta^{\pi, g} = \Delta^{\mathcal{D}}$  on  $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$  iff  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ . In which case,

$$\Delta^{\pi, g}(f) = \operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{H}_f^{\flat}) \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(M).$$

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$$\Delta^{\pi,g}(f) = \operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{H}_f^b) \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(M).$$

Here,  $\operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{D}} : \Omega^\bullet(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{\bullet-1}(M)$  is the *contravariant divergence* defined by

$$\operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{D}}(\eta)|_x := \sum_i e_i \lrcorner \mathcal{D}_{\varepsilon_i} \eta$$

where  $(e_i)$  is any basis of  $T_x M$  with dual basis  $(\varepsilon_i)$ . And,  $\mathcal{H}_f := \pi_{\#}(df)$  is the *Hamiltonian vector field* of  $f$ .

## DIVERGENCES

If  $(M, \pi, g)$  is oriented, then for any  $\eta \in \Omega^\bullet(M)$

$$\pi_{\#}(\operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{D}} \eta) = \operatorname{div}_g(\pi_{\#} \eta) - 2 \pi_{\#}(\phi_g \lrcorner \eta).$$

In particular, for any 1-form  $\alpha$

$$\operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha) = \operatorname{div}_g(\pi_{\#} \alpha)$$

provided that  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ .

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$$\operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha) = \operatorname{div}_g(\pi_\# \alpha)$$

provided that  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ .

### Theorem

If  $(M, \pi, g)$  is closed and s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$  then

$$\int_M \delta_\pi(\alpha) \mu_g = \int_M \operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha) \mu_g = 0 \quad \forall \alpha \in \Omega^1(M).$$

## SELF-ADJOINTNESS AND NON-NEGATIVITY

Let  $\langle\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle\rangle$  denote the *global inner product* defined on  $\mathfrak{X}^\bullet(M)$  by

$$\langle\langle P, Q \rangle\rangle := \int_M \langle P, Q \rangle \mu_g \quad \forall P, Q \in \mathfrak{X}^p(M).$$

### Theorem

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed and s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ . Then

1.  $\delta_\pi^g$  is the formal adjoint of  $d_\pi$  :

$$\langle\langle d_\pi P, Q \rangle\rangle = \langle\langle P, \delta_\pi^g Q \rangle\rangle \quad \forall P \in \mathfrak{X}^p(M), Q \in \mathfrak{X}^{p+1}(M).$$

2.  $\Delta^{\pi,g}$  is formally self-adjoint :

$$\langle\langle \Delta^{\pi,g}(P), Q \rangle\rangle = \langle\langle P, \Delta^{\pi,g}(Q) \rangle\rangle \quad \forall P, Q \in \mathfrak{X}^p(M).$$

3.  $\Delta^{\pi,g}$  is non-negative :  $\langle\langle \Delta^{\pi,g}(P), P \rangle\rangle \geq 0 \quad \forall P \in \mathfrak{X}^p(M).$

## Two classical techniques from Riemannian geometry

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## Lemma

*Around any  $x \in (M, g)$  there exists a local orthonormal frame  $(E_k)$  s. t.  $(\nabla E_k)|_x = 0$  for all  $k$ .*

## Lemma

Around any  $x \in (M, g)$  there exists a local orthonormal frame  $(E_k)$  s. t.  $(\nabla E_k)|_x = 0$  for all  $k$ .

Let  $M^{reg}$  denote the open dense set of  $(M, \pi, g)$  where the map

$$M \ni x \mapsto \text{rank}(\pi_{\sharp}|_x : T_x^* M \rightarrow T_x M)$$

is locally constant.

## Proposition

The following are equivalent.

1. Around any  $x \in M^{reg}$  there exists a local orthonormal co-frame  $(\theta_k)$  s. t.  $(\mathcal{D}\theta_k)|_x = 0$  for all  $k$ .
2.  $\mathcal{D}$  is an  $\mathcal{F}^{reg}$ -connection :  $\mathcal{D}_a = 0$  whenever  $\pi_{\sharp}(a) = 0$ , for all  $a \in T_x^* M$  with  $x \in M^{reg}$ .



## 1<sup>st</sup> INGREDIENT

Lemma (E. Hopf, 1927)

*Assume  $(M, g)$  to be closed. If  $f$  is a function on  $M$  s. t.  $\Delta f \geq 0$  then  $f$  is constant and  $\Delta f = 0$ .*

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### Lemma

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed and s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ . If  $f$  is a function on  $M$  s. t.  $\Delta^{\pi, g}(f) \geq 0$  then  $f$  is a Casimir function (i.e.  $\mathcal{H}_f = 0$ ) and  $\Delta^{\pi, g}(f) = 0$ .

## 2<sup>d</sup> INGREDIENT

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*On  $(M, g)$  the following formula holds good*

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Theorem

If  $(M, \pi, g)$  is s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$  then

$$\Delta^{\pi, g} = \Delta^{\mathcal{D}} + \mathfrak{W}^{\mathcal{D}}.$$

## THE RECIPE

- Start with following general formula :

$$\Delta \left( -\frac{1}{2} |\omega|^2 \right) = |\nabla \omega|^2 - \langle \Delta \omega, \omega \rangle + \langle \mathfrak{R}^\nabla \omega, \omega \rangle \quad (*)$$

for  $\omega$  a differential form.

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- Once succeeded, the R.H.S. of (\*) vanishes, implying in particular that  $\nabla \omega = 0$ .

## Some classical results & their analogues

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## 1<sup>st</sup> BOCHNER TYPE THEOREM

Recall that a *Killing vector field* on  $(M, g)$  is a vector field  $X \in \mathfrak{X}^1(M)$  verifying

$$\langle \nabla_Y X, Z \rangle = -\langle Y, \nabla_Z X \rangle \quad \forall Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}^1(M).$$

**Theorem** (S. Bochner, 1946)

Assume  $(M, g)$  to be closed. If  $\text{Ric} \leq 0$  (i.e.  $\langle \text{Ric } v, v \rangle \leq 0 \quad \forall v \in TM$ ) then every Killing vector field  $X$  is parallel, i.e.  $\nabla X = 0$ . Furthermore, if  $\text{Ric} < 0$  then there are no non-zero Killing vector field on  $M$ .

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If  $f$  is a Casimir function on  $(M, \pi, g)$  then

$$\langle \mathcal{D}_\alpha df, \beta \rangle = -\langle \alpha, \mathcal{D}_\beta df \rangle \quad \forall \alpha, \beta \in \Omega^1(M).$$

### Theorem

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed and s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ . If  $\text{Ric} \leq 0$  then, for any Casimir function  $f \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$ ,  $\mathcal{D}df = 0$ . Furthermore, if  $\text{Ric} < 0$  then there are no non-constant Casimir functions on  $M$ .

## 2<sup>d</sup> BOCHNER TYPE THEOREM

Theorem (S. Bochner, 1946)

Assume  $(M, g)$  to be closed. If  $\text{Ric} \geq 0$  then a 1-form  $\alpha$  on  $M$  is harmonic, i.e.  $\Delta \alpha = 0$ , iff  $\nabla \alpha = 0$ . Moreover, if  $\text{Ric} > 0$  then there are no non-zero harmonic 1-forms on  $M$ .

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### Theorem

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed and s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ . If  $\text{Ric} \geq 0$  then a vector field  $X$  on  $M$  is harmonic, i.e.  $\Delta^{\pi, g} X = 0$ , iff  $\mathcal{D}X = 0$ . Moreover, if  $\text{Ric} > 0$  then there are no non-zero harmonic vector fields on  $M$ .

## ANOTHER FORM OF IT

### Theorem

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed and s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ . If  $\mathcal{R}ic \geq 0$  then for any 1-form  $\alpha$

$$\mathcal{D}\alpha = 0 \quad \text{iff} \quad \begin{cases} \alpha^\sharp \text{ preserves } \pi, \text{ i.e. } \mathcal{L}_{\alpha^\sharp} \pi = 0; \text{ and} \\ \pi_\sharp(\alpha) \text{ preserves } \mu_g, \text{ i.e. } \mathcal{L}_{\pi_\sharp(\alpha)} \mu_g = 0. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, if  $\mathcal{R}ic > 0$  then every  $\mathcal{D}$ -parallel 1-form vanishes.

## MEYER-GALLOT TYPE THEOREM

Theorem (D. Meyer & S. Gallot, 1975)

Assume  $(M, g)$  to be closed. If  $\mathfrak{R}^\nabla \geq 0$  (i.e. if all the eigenvalues of  $\mathfrak{R}^\nabla$  are  $\geq 0$ ) then a  $p$ -form  $\omega$  on  $M$  is harmonic, i.e.  $\Delta\omega = 0$ , iff  $\nabla\omega = 0$ . Moreover, if  $\mathfrak{R}^\nabla > 0$  then every harmonic  $p$ -form vanishes for  $p = 1, \dots, \dim M - 1$ .

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### Theorem

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed and s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ . If  $\mathfrak{R}^{\mathcal{D}} \geq 0$  then a  $p$ -vector field  $P$  on  $M$  is harmonic, i.e.  $\Delta^{\pi, g} P = 0$ , iff  $\mathcal{D}P = 0$ . Moreover, if  $\mathfrak{R}^{\mathcal{D}} > 0$  then every harmonic  $p$ -vector field vanishes for  $p = 1, \dots, \dim M - 1$ .

## CASE OF THE POISSON TENSOR $\pi$

### Theorem

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed and s. t.  $\mathfrak{R}^{\mathcal{D}} \geq 0$ . The following are then equivalent.

1.  $\mathcal{D}$  is a Poisson connection, i.e.  $\mathcal{D}\pi = 0$ .
2.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$  and  $\pi$  is harmonic.
3.  $\mathcal{D}$  is an  $\mathcal{F}^{reg}$ -connection and  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = d(\pi' \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$  where  $\pi' := \pi_{\sharp}(\pi^{\flat})$ .

Furthermore, if any of these conditions holds, then  $\mathfrak{R}^{\mathcal{D}}$  has (at least) a vanishing eigenvalue.



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Theorem (A. Lichnerowicz, 1952)

*Assume  $(M, g)$  to be closed. For any tensor field  $T$  on  $M$ , if  $\nabla^k T = 0$  for some integer  $k \geq 2$  then  $\nabla T = 0$ .*

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Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed and s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ . For any tensor field  $T$  on  $M$ , if  $\mathcal{D}^k T = 0$  for some  $k \geq 2$  then  $\mathcal{D}T = 0$ .

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### Corollary

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed. Then  $\mathcal{D}\pi = 0$  iff  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$  and  $\mathcal{D}^k \pi = 0$  for some  $k \geq 2$ .

## LICHTNEROWICZ TYPE ESTIMATE

Theorem (A. Lichnerowicz, 1958)

Assume  $(M, g)$  to be closed. If  $\text{Ric} \geq cg$  for some  $c > 0$  (i.e.  $\langle \text{Ric } v, v \rangle \geq c \langle v, v \rangle$  for all  $v \in TM$ ) then

$$\lambda \geq c \cdot (\dim M / \dim M - 1)$$

for any non-zero eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $\Delta$  (i.e. for any  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^*$  s. t.  $\Delta f = \lambda f$  for some non-zero function  $f$ ).

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### Theorem

Assume  $(M, \pi, g)$  to be closed and s. t.  $d(\pi \lrcorner \mu_g) = 0$ . If  $\mathcal{R}ic \geq cg$  for  $c > 0$  then

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for any non-zero eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $\Delta^{\pi, g}$  (restricted to functions).

Thank you for your attention

Any questions?