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Volume 149

**Riemannian Geometry**

Takashi Sakai



**American Mathematical Society**

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# Riemannian Geometry

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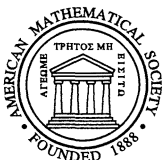
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Volume 149

## Riemannian Geometry

Takashi Sakai

Translated by  
Takashi Sakai



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# リーマン幾何学

RĪMAN KIKAGAKU

(Riemannian Geometry)

by Takashi Sakai

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ABSTRACT. The aim of this textbook is to provide to advanced undergraduate and graduate students an introduction to modern Riemannian geometry that could also serve as a reference. The book begins with an explanation of the fundamental notions of Riemannian geometry. Special emphasis is placed on understandability and readability, to guide students who are new to this area. The remaining chapters deal with various topics in Riemannian geometry, with the main focus on comparison methods and their applications.

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# Contents

Preface to the English Edition	ix
Preface	xi
Chapter I. Preliminaries from Manifolds	1
1. Vector Spaces	1
2. Manifolds	5
3. Vector Bundles and Linear Connection	15
Problems for Chapter I	19
Notes on the References	20
Chapter II. Fundamental Concepts in Riemannian Geometry	23
1. Riemannian Metric	23
2. Geodesics	32
3. Curvature	40
4. From the Point of View of the Tangent Bundle	53
5. Riemannian Measure	61
6. Riemannian Submersion and Complex Projective Space	74
Problems for Chapter II	77
Notes on the References	80
Chapter III. Global Concepts in Riemannian Geometry	83
1. Complete Riemannian Manifolds	83
2. Variation Formulas and Jacobi Fields	87
3. Approximation by Finite Dimensional Manifolds and the Index Theorem	97
4. Cut Locus	102
5. Ambrose's Theorem	112
6. Isometry Group and Holonomy Group	117
Problems for Chapter III	130
Notes on the References	132
Chapter IV. Comparison Theorems and Applications	135
1. Spaces of Constant Curvature	135
2. Comparison Theorems for Jacobi Fields	143
3. Applications of Comparison Theorems	154
4. Toponogov's Comparison Theorem	161
5. Convexity	168
6. Symmetric Spaces	175
Problems for Chapter IV	189



Notes on the References	190
Chapter V. Curvature and Topology of Riemannian Manifolds	193
1. Curvature and Fundamental Group	193
2. Compact Manifolds of Positive Curvature	201
3. Open Manifolds of Nonnegative Curvature	211
4. Manifolds of Nonpositive Curvature	221
Problems for Chapter V	237
Notes on the References	239
Chapter VI. Isoperimetric Inequality and Spectral Geometry	241
1. The Isoperimetric Inequality	241
2. The Berger Isoembolic Inequality	252
3. Eigenvalue Problem for the Laplacian	262
4. Curvature and Spectrum	275
5. Heat Kernel and Spectral Geometry	282
Problems for Chapter VI	286
Notes on the References	287
Appendices	289
1. Irreducible Decomposition of the Curvature Tensor	289
2. Homogeneous Spaces	291
3. Injectivity Radius Estimate and Closed Geodesics	294
4. Maximum Principle	300
5. Differential Forms	301
6. Gromov's Convergence Theorem and Collapsing of Riemannian Manifolds	304
Hints and Solutions to Exercises and Problems	323
Chapter I	323
Problems for Chapter I	323
Chapter II	324
Problems for Chapter II	326
Chapter III	328
Problems for Chapter III	329
Chapter IV	331
Problems for Chapter IV	332
Chapter V	333
Problems for Chapter V	333
Chapter VI	335
Problems for Chapter VI	336
Bibliography	339
Index	353

## Preface to the English Edition

This volume is an English translation of my textbook on Riemannian geometry originally written in Japanese and published in 1992 by Shokabo, Tokyo. I wrote the Japanese edition mainly because at that time there were no textbooks written in Japanese that introduced modern Riemannian geometry to advanced undergraduate and graduate students and that could also serve as a reference. On the other hand, there are many textbooks and monographs on Riemannian geometry written in Western languages at various levels and treating a variety of topics. I have consulted them, and I have been influenced especially by the books by M. Berger and A. Besse, J. Cheeger and D. G. Ebin, and W. Klingenberg.

Now let me mention the points on which I put emphasis in the present volume.

(1) After reviewing fundamentals on differentiable manifolds in Chapter I, I try to explain the fundamental notions and results of Riemannian geometry in Chapters II and III with particular emphasis placed on understandability and readability, since, in my teaching experience, many students find it difficult to grasp Riemannian geometry on their first try.

(2) In the remaining chapters, among various topics in Riemannian geometry I am mainly concerned with the comparison methods and their applications. I take an approach using Jacobi fields to comparison methods in Chapter IV, and give their applications to the relation between the curvature and topology, geometric inequalities, and spectral geometry in Chapters V and VI.

In principle, I faithfully translated the Japanese edition, except for correcting small errors and adding a few comments on further developments. However, Appendix 6 on Gromov's convergence theorem and the collapsing of Riemannian manifolds has been expanded and revised considerably. I also added more references and notes on the references to each chapter, although they are still far from being complete.

I would like to express my gratitude to K. Grove, H. Karcher, A. Katsuda, W. Klingenberg, R. Porter, and W. Tuschmann for useful suggestions and advice. I also thank K. Shimakawa for helping me with the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  typesetting.

Takashi Sakai  
May, 1995

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## Preface

In this volume we give an exposition of the fundamental concepts and results of Riemannian geometry, and explain especially the ideas called comparison methods and their applications, assuming some fundamentals on differentiable manifolds.

First we briefly mention the birth of Riemannian geometry. In his “Elements” (Stoicheia), Euclid (Eukleides) systematically arranged many facts of elementary geometry that had long been known, taking an axiomatic viewpoint for the first time. Namely, defining the notions of point, line, plane, angle, etc., and describing some of the most fundamental relationships among them as the axioms (or postulates), he systematically deduced, through strict logic, other marvelous geometric facts (propositions, theorems) based on the axioms. From an axiomatic viewpoint it had been suspected ever since the age of Euclid that the fifth postulate, which is equivalent to the statement that for a given line  $l$  and a point  $p$  in the plane there exists a *unique* line parallel to  $l$  through  $p$ , could be proven from the other axioms. After various attempts over more than 2,000 years, some people began to suspect that a new geometry might be developed by the denying the fifth postulate and leaving the remaining axioms as they stand. János Bolyai (1832) and N. I. Lobachevsky (1830) were the first who published their new geometry. Gauss himself also reached the same conclusion, but did not publish since he feared that false controversies might be caused by misunderstandings.

The discovery of non-Euclidean geometry brought about serious examinations of the foundations of geometry and the concept of space. For instance, Gauss measured the inner angles of a triangle whose vertices were the summits of three high mountains far apart in Germany, and tried to judge which geometry reflects the real world.

Under these circumstances G. F. B. Riemann proposed in 1854 an epoch-making view in his Habilitationsschrift, “Über die Hypothesen, welche der Geometrie grundliegen”, submitted to Göttingen University. Namely, instead of taking an axiomatic viewpoint, he proposed to consider more general “Mannigfaltigkeiten” (manifolds), which are locally homeomorphic to Euclidean space of a fixed dimension and “spread out” manifold. Then he discussed how to measure the length of curves, the distance between two points, the angle between vectors, etc., on a given manifold, and introduced the notion of a Riemannian metric inspired by the surface theory of Gauss. Further, Riemann defined the notion of the (sectional) curvature of a Riemannian metric in terms of the Gauss curvature of a surface. Then he noted that the sectional curvature of a Riemannian metric is constant if and only if figures are freely movable in a manifold without expansion or contraction. He also pointed out that, for manifolds of constant curvature  $k$ , the flat case (i.e.,  $k = 0$ ) describes Euclidean geometry, and the negative constant curvature case describes

the non-Euclidean geometry of Bolyai and Lobachevsky. Manifolds of positive constant curvature correspond to the elliptic non-Euclidean geometry of Riemann. It was reported that old Gauss, who attended Riemann's lecture, was deeply touched.

Thus a completely new and huge field of geometry opened. Riemann's idea was first developed by G. Ricci, T. Levi-Civita, and other people as an absolute differential calculus for tensors, which seemed rather formal. However, such tensor calculus turned out to provide a needed mathematical tool when Einstein established his general theory of relativity with a gravitation field in 1916, and Riemannian geometry was highlighted.

Subsequently Hermann Weyl and Élie Cartan took a more general view of the connection, and unified Riemann's idea and F. Klein's program interpreting geometries in terms of transformation groups. S. Cohn-Vossen, W. Blaschke, and others studied the global properties relating the metric invariants to the topology of the surface. H. Poincaré, G. D. Birkhoff, M. Morse, J. Hadamard, E. Hopf, and others worked on various properties of geodesics from different standpoints. H. Hopf studied the global properties of spaces of constant curvature, and É. Cartan originated and made an extensive study of the symmetric spaces, a remarkable class of Riemannian manifolds. Through all this essential work Riemannian geometry was linked to various fields of mathematics (e.g., dynamical systems, calculus of variations, topology), and it was recognized that the relation between local properties (e.g., curvature) determined by the metrics and global properties related to the whole structure of manifolds are important objects of the investigation. Also the notion of differentiable manifolds was defined rigorously in the terminology of modern mathematics by H. Weyl and H. Whitney, and the fundamental concepts of manifolds and Riemannian geometry were consolidated. For instance, H. Hopf and W. Rinow defined the notion of completeness of a Riemannian metric, through which the global notions were established.

In the present book, after reviewing fundamentals on differentiable manifolds in Chapter I, we treat with care some fundamental concepts and results of Riemannian geometry in Chapters II and III. Especially, we explain the notions of geodesic, Jacobi fields, and curvature together with many examples in Chapter II, and some global concepts and results of Riemannian geometry, which are mainly related to geometry of geodesics, in Chapter III. I hope that the reader may grasp Riemannian geometry in outline through Chapters II and III.

Modern Riemannian geometry has been developed in many branches from various viewpoints mainly as geometry on manifolds, and it is impossible to cover all topics in a textbook. In the present volume we are mainly concerned with the comparison methods and their applications in Chapters IV, V, and VI. A complete simply connected Riemannian manifold of positive constant curvature  $\delta$  is isometric to the sphere of radius  $1/\sqrt{\delta}$ . H. Hopf conjectured that a complete simply connected Riemannian manifold whose sectional curvature is not necessarily equal to a positive constant but remains close to a positive constant is still topologically a sphere. Then H. E. Rauch established this fact in his epoch-making paper in 1951. M. Berger and W. Klingenberg improved and developed Rauch's idea, and got the best possible sphere theorem for the case where the ratio of the minimal and the maximal value of the sectional curvature is greater than  $1/4$ . Through their work and work of D. Gromoll, J. Cheeger, E. Ruh, K. Shiohama, P. Eberlein, K. Grove,

H. Karcher, and other geometers, great progress has been made in studying the relation between metrical invariants and global properties of Riemannian manifolds. In particular, comparison methods, which compare a given Riemannian manifold with a standard Riemannian manifold of constant curvature in terms of some geometric invariants, were developed. In Chapter IV we state these comparison methods in a unified manner in terms of Jacobi fields. Then we apply these methods to the relation between curvature and topology of Riemannian manifolds in Chapter V, and to the inequalities among geometric invariants and spectral geometry in Chapter VI. On the other hand, since the fields treated in Chapters V and VI are still in rapid progress, we cannot state in detail the front line of current research in this textbook. However, in Appendix 6 we mention some of M. Gromov's ideas, which have been one of the main sources promoting the recent development of Riemannian geometry, and have inspired many excellent young geometers.

On the other hand, we cannot state in detail the applications of dynamical systems, partial differential equations, etc. to Riemannian geometry, e.g., minimal submanifold, harmonic map, heat flow, etc. For these topics the reader may consult, e.g., Hajime Urakawa's book [Ur-2].

I would like to express my gratitude to Professor S. Murakami, who invited me to write this book, and to Mr. S. Hosoki of Shokabo Publishing Company for his kind cooperation.

In concluding the preface, I would like to remember the late Professor Shigeo Sasaki, under whose guidance I began to take an interest in Riemannian geometry. Professor Sasaki was one of the pioneers of modern differential geometry in Japan, and emphasized the importance of studying global problems that are also related to other fields of mathematics. He himself did much pioneering research on Riemannian geometry. He passed away in the summer of 1987, when I began to prepare the present book. During the writing I often wished that he were still alive to advise me, and often recalled his enthusiasm for mathematics and his great personality.

Takashi Sakai  
April, 1992

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# Index

## A

adjoint representation, 14  
affine transformation, 118, 319  
    infinitesimal —, 118  
almost complex manifold (structure), 77  
almost flat manifold, 294, 317  
Ambrose theorem, 112, 129, 136, 176  
Ambrose-Singer theorem, 123, 181  
angle  
    — between vectors, 4, 23  
    — of a hinge, 161  
    — of a triangle, 138, 161, 223  
arc-length, 25  
asymptote, 174  
asymptotic, 229  
atlas, 5, 20, 70  
axiom  
    — of free mobility, 135, 332  
    — of plane, 136, 137, 164  
axis, 233

## B

base space, 15  
basic vector field, 74  
Berger  
    — isobolic inequality, 252  
    — sphere, 202, 293, 316  
Betti number, 199, 201, 316  
Bianchi identity, 34, 319  
Bieberbach theorem, 138, 317, 321  
Bishop comparison theorem, 154, 278  
Bishop-Gromov comparison theorem, 156, 157,  
    196, 221, 309  
Borel set, 63  
boundary, 70, 171  
bounded geometry, 304  
broken geodesic, 112  
bundle map, 15  
Busemann function, 174, 212, 218, 230

## C

canonical identification, 7, 53  
canonical Riemannian metric  
    — of  $\mathbf{R}^m$ , 24  
    — of  $S^m$ , 49  
    — of  $\mathbf{H}^m$ , 51  
Cartan subalgebra, 188  
Cartan theorem, 42, 136, 176  
center, 225, 233  
change of variable formula, 64  
chart, 5, 15  
Cheeger  
    — finiteness theorem, 304, 312  
    — isoperimetric constant, 244, 247, 276  
    — theorem, 160  
Cheeger-Gromoll theorem, 215, 218  
Christoffel symbol, 28  
Clifford translation, 132  
 $C_l$ -manifold, 260  
coarea formula, 67, 277, 280  
Codazzi formula, 48  
codimension, 8, 10  
collapse, 316, 320, 321  
compactification, 229  
complete  
    — Riemannian metric, 84, 119, 130  
    — vector field, 9, 13  
completely integrable, 10, 79, 125, 229  
conformal, 25, 50  
    — curvature tensor, 290  
conformally flat, 290  
conjugate point, 37, 40, 61, 99, 101, 178, 190  
    first —, 102, 107, 149, 187  
     $\mathcal{L}$ - —, 61  
conjugate value, 37  
    first —, 96, 102, 104, 149, 152  
connection map, 54  
constant curvature, 43, 46, 50, 51, 117, 135  
constant speed, 26, 32, 88  
contraction, 2  
convex function, 172, 190, 212, 221, 222,  
    223, 231  
    strongly —, 173, 174, 255  
convex hull, 224



convex set, 140, 222, 229  
 locally —, 168, 171, 190  
 strongly —, 168  
 totally —, 168, 172, 190, 213, 215  
 convexity radius, 168, 223  
 coordinate neighborhood, 5  
 cotangent bundle, 16, 57  
 covariant derivative (differentiation), 18,  
 28, 29, 48  
 critical point, 10  
 — of  $d_p$ , 204, 206, 216  
 critical value, 10  
 — of  $\varphi$ -family, 294, 300  
 curvature operator, 189, 303  
 curvature tensor, 18, 34, 41, 43, 79, 122, 189,  
 289  
 — of a conformal metric, 50  
 — of a Riemannian submersion, 75  
 — of a symmetric space, 176, 178  
 — of a submanifold, 48  
 curve  
 $C^\infty$  —, 7  
 piecewise  $C^\infty$  —, 26  
 cut locus, 104, 106, 132, 188, 208  
 tangent —, 104, 188  
 cut point, 104, 187  
 tangent —, 104

## D

deck transformation group, 138, 139, 193,  
 220, 235  
 density, 62, 64  
 derivation, 3, 7, 9, 30  
 diameter, 86, 140, 157, 204, 207, 247, 280,  
 304, 308  
 diffeomorphic (diffeomorphism), 6  
 differential form, 17, 301  
 differential of a map, 7  
 Dirichlet boundary condition, 265  
 discontinuous, 193  
 distance, 26, 77  
 — function, 26, 108, 109, 153, 204, 214,  
 222  
 distribution, 10, 54, 124, 209, 229  
 divergence, 31, 71  
 — theorem, 71  
 dual  
 — basis, 1  
 — vector space, 1  
 — vector bundle, 16, 20

## E

effective, 184  
 almost —, 184  
 eigenfunction, 265, 270  
 eigenspace, 265, 272, 273

eigenvalue  
 — of Laplacian, 265, 268, 269, 279  
 first — of Laplacian, 269, 270, 275, 276,  
 280, 304  
 Einstein manifold, 45, 46, 180  
 Einstein's convention, 2  
 embedding, 8  
 energy (integral), 87  
 Euclidean space, 46, 79, 116, 138, 238, 239  
 Euler characteristic, 285, 287, 291  
 exponential growth, 194, 195  
 exponential map  
 — of a Lie group, 14, 121, 292  
 — of a Riemannian manifold, 32, 36, 65,  
 104, 153  
 normal —, 58, 59, 72, 159, 310  
 exterior  
 — algebra, 3  
 — differentiation (differential), 17, 31, 301  
 — product, 3  
 — power, 3, 17

## F

fiber, 8, 15  
 — bundle theorem, 320  
 — metric, 20  
 first (tangent) conjugate locus, 107, 108, 131  
 first variation, 38, 89  
 — formula, 38, 89, 90, 108, 208, 225, 263  
 flat, 79, 138, 235, 236, 321  
 flow, 9, 17  
 focal  
 — point, 59, 61, 94, 95, 96, 99  
 — value, 59, 143, 152  
 foliation, 10, 187  
 foote of a perpendicular, 225  
 form, 3  
 Frobenius theorem, 10, 125  
 Fubini-Study metric, 77, 186  
 Fubini theorem, 66, 68, 73, 160, 253  
 fully reducible, 140  
 fundamental domain, 195, 196, 220, 274  
 fundamental group, 122, 139, 140, 183,  
 194, 195, 220, 235, 236, 317  
 fundamental solution, 283, 285

## G

Gauss  
 — curvature, 49  
 — formula, 48  
 — lemma, 36, 39, 60, 72, 209  
 Gauss-Bonnet formula, 138, 143, 291  
 general linear group, 13  
 geodesic, 32, 39, 40, 50, 51, 80, 90, 96, 131,  
 175, 185  
 $B$ - —, 88

closed —, 90, 160, 187, 197, 208, 260, 299  
 geodesic flow, 56, 57, 80, 253  
 geodesic hinge, 161  
   generalized —, 161  
 geodesic spray, 56, 58, 86  
 geodesic symmetry, 175, 176, 179, 184  
 geodesic triangle, 137, 161, 223  
   generalized —, 161  
 geodesically complete, 33, 52, 84  
 gradient vector field, 31, 50, 68, 73, 219, 231  
 Grassmann manifold, 43, 186  
 Green theorem, 70, 74, 121, 199, 242, 267, 275, 276  
 Gromov  
   — convergence theorem, 312  
   — precompactness theorem, 308

## H

Hadamard-Cartan theorem, 221  
 Hadamard manifold, 222  
 Hamiltonian vector field, 58  
 harmonic  
   — coordinate, 313  
   — form, 199, 303  
   — function, 31, 74, 219, 271, 287  
 Hausdorff  
   — approximation, 306  
   — convergence, 308  
   — distance, 305  
   pointed — distance, 307  
 heat  
   — equation, 264, 282  
   — kernel, 282, 285  
 Heintze-Karcher theorem, 159, 247, 250, 252  
 Hermitian metric, 77  
 Hessian  
   — of energy integral, 91, 92  
   — of function, 11, 31  
 Hodge-Kodaira theorem, 199, 302  
 holonomy endomorphism, 122, 139  
 holonomy group, 121, 126, 130, 139, 188  
   restricted —, 122  
   — of symmetric space, 180  
 homogeneous space, 14, 119, 120, 136, 175, 291  
   naturally reductive —, 292  
   normal —, 292  
 homothetic, 51, 286  
 Hopf-Rinow theorem, 84  
 horizontal  
   — lift, 54, 74, 75, 131  
   — space, 25, 54  
 horoball, 232  
 horosphere, 232, 234, 239  
 hyperbolic  
   — manifold, 142  
   — space, 52, 79, 142

hypersurface, 10, 49

## I

immersion, 8  
   minimal —, 287  
 index  
   — form, 95, 144  
   — of critical point, 11, 12  
   — of geodesic, 93, 98, 99, 101, 296  
 induced  
   — bundle, 16, 28  
   — connection, 18, 29  
   — metric, 24, 47, 64  
 injectivity radius, 110, 111, 160, 198, 202, 252, 293, 294, 305  
 inner product, 4, 23  
 integrable function (set), 63  
 integral curve, 9  
 integral submanifold, 10, 229  
   maximal —, 10, 128, 209  
 interior set, 104, 195  
 involutive (distribution), 10, 75, 209, 229  
 irreducible, 124, 129, 188  
 isometric, 24  
   — immersion, 24, 287  
 isometry, 24, 42, 43, 52, 64, 233, 238, 264  
   — group, 79, 117, 119, 120, 130, 136, 178, 184  
   elliptic —, 233  
   hyperbolic —, 233  
   local —, 24  
   parabolic —, 233, 234  
   semisimple —, 233, 234, 239  
 isomorphism  
   — of vector bundles, 15, 20  
   — of vector spaces, 1  
 isoperimetric  
   — constant, 244, 252, 286  
   — function, 243, 249  
   — inequality, 241, 243, 245  
 isosystolic inequality, 261, 262  
 isotropic, 5  
 isotropy group, 14, 119, 178, 184, 187

## J

Jacobi identity, 9  
 Jacobi field, 36, 37, 47, 50, 52, 56, 78, 92, 117, 131, 149, 152, 153, 177, 189, 209, 312  
   — of symmetric space, 177  
 $\mathcal{L}$ - —, 60  
 $N$ - —, 58, 59, 93, 143, 149  
   stable — 232  
 Jensen inequality, 255

- K**
- Kähler manifold (metric), 77, 123
- Killing
- form, 180, 293
  - vector field, 117, 118, 120, 177, 178, 180, 186, 291
- Klingenberg estimate of injectivity radius, 198
- L**
- Lagrangian subspace, 5, 19, 60, 99
- Laplacian, 31, 74, 158, 262, 263
- lattice, 13, 105, 138, 200, 272
- Law of Cosines, 138, 140
- Law of Sines, 138, 164
- left
- invariant, 12, 292
  - translation, 12
- length (of curve), 25, 78, 150
- lens space, 140, 177, 190, 316
- Levi-Civita connection, 28
- Lichnerowicz-Obata theorem, 275, 281
- Lie
- algebra, 9, 12, 118, 179, 180, 291
  - derivative, 10, 17
  - group, 12, 19, 117, 178, 292
  - compact — group, 180, 185, 190, 197
  - transformation group, 14, 117, 178
- line, 174, 218
- linear connection, 18, 28, 54, 55, 319
- Lipschitz distance, 306
- local coordinate system, 6
- locally symmetric space, 177, 210
- M**
- manifold
- $C^\infty$  —, 6
  - of nonnegative (positive) curvature, 183, 198, 201, 211, 221, 238
  - of nonpositive (negative) curvature, 184, 195, 221, 236, 237
  - with boundary, 70
- mapping theorem, 8, 67
- Margulis lemma, 315, 320, 321
- max-min theorem, 269
- maximal diameter theorem, 157, 165, 204, 276
- maximum principle, 218, 219, 300
- mean curvature, 49, 131, 159, 247
- vector, 49, 131, 287
- measurable function (set), 63
- measure, 63
- metric ball, 26, 39, 64, 155, 307
- min-max theorem, 269
- minimal geodesic, 39, 84, 102, 103, 222
- minimal submanifold, 49, 131, 238, 287
- Morse
- function, 11, 12, 99
  - index theorem, 99
  - lemma, 11, 108, 173
  - -Schoenberg theorem, 101
  - theory, 11, 12, 99, 107
- multiplicity
- of a conjugate point, 37, 60, 107
  - of an eigenvalue, 268, 270
  - of a focal point, 59, 99
- Myers theorem, 102, 155, 183, 194
- N**
- natural basis, 7
- net, 305, 306
- nilpotent Lie algebra (group), 293, 317
- nodal domain, 270, 281
- nondegenerate
- critical point, 11, 99
  - geodesic, 99
  - 2-form, 5
- normal (curve), 26
- normal bundle, 20, 47, 59, 72, 215
- normal coordinate system, 33, 37, 41, 78, 110, 263
- null set, 63
- null space, 5, 92, 98, 110
- O**
- o.n.b. (orthonormal basis), 4
- one parameter group of (local) diffeomorphisms, 9
- one parameter subgroup of a Lie group, 13
- O'Neill formula, 75
- orientable, 20, 62, 106, 123, 142, 324
- orthogonal transformation (matrix), 4, 13, 19, 198
- P**
- parallel, 29, 30, 228
- translation, 29, 31, 121, 139, 175
- partition of unity, 6, 25, 62
- $\phi$ -family, 294, 300
- (( $\delta$ -) pinched, 202
- Poincaré model (of hyperbolic space), 52, 230
- point at infinity, 230
- Poisson summation formula, 287
- polar coordinate, 65, 78
- pole, 222
- polynomial growth, 194, 195, 309
- principal curvature, 47, 49, 159, 189, 310
- projection (of vector bundle), 15
- projective space, 186, 187, 207

complex —, 76, 131, 186, 238, 286, 292  
 real —, 20, 105, 140, 186, 262, 285, 286  
 proper (map), 8, 68, 308

## R

Radon measure, 61, 63  
 rank  
 — of a manifold of nonpositive curvature, 237  
 — of a symmetric space, 188  
 Rauch comparison theorem  
 (R.C.T. (I), (II)), 149, 150, 215, 223, 244  
 ray, 174, 189, 229, 230  
 Rayleigh quotient, 266, 268, 276, 280  
 regular curve, 25, 38  
 regular value, 10  
 de Rham  
 — theorem, 302  
 — decomposition theorem, 129, 180, 182  
 representation, 14, 140  
 Ricci curvature, 44, 45, 66, 144, 155, 156, 157, 159, 183, 184, 194, 195, 218, 220, 221, 247, 249, 252, 275, 278, 280, 289, 308  
 Ricci tensor, 44, 79, 120, 121, 180, 289  
 Riemannian  
 — covering, 24, 68, 113, 116, 117, 122, 132, 139, 193, 220, 286  
 — manifold, 23  
 — manifold with boundary, 70, 265  
 — metric, 23, 24  
 — (direct) product, 24, 68, 87, 122, 129, 131, 218, 224, 237, 286  
 — submersion, 25, 56, 66, 74, 76, 131, 217, 224  
 — symmetric pair, 184  
 right translation, 12  
 rigidity theorem, 207

## S

Sasaki metric, 56, 58, 68, 79, 132, 160, 253  
 scalar curvature, 46, 66, 79  
 Schur lemma, 46  
 second fundamental form, 47, 49, 132, 146, 232, 310  
 second variation, 91  
 — formula, 90, 98, 110, 141, 198, 222, 263  
 section, 17  
 sectional curvature, 43, 44, 48, 75, 101, 144, 149, 150, 152, 153, 154, 155, 160, 176, 183, 184, 201, 212, 221, 304  
 semisimple Lie group, 180, 183, 184  
 shape operator, 47, 58, 80, 91, 143  
 shortest curve (*see also* minimal geodesic), 37, 39  
 simple point, 217

slice, 10  
 Sobolev space, 265  
 — constant, 286  
 — theorem, 265  
 soul, 217, 238, 321  
 space form, 138  
 special  
 — linear group 13  
 — orthogonal group, 13  
 — unitary group, 13  
 spectrum, 269, 284  
 sphere, 14, 19, 49, 79, 105, 123, 139, 157, 252, 270, 275, 280, 285  
 sphere theorem, 201, 210, 211  
 Grove-Shiohama —, 204  
 stationary curve, 38, 90  
 Stone-Weierstrass theorem, 272, 273  
 subbundle, 10, 15  
 subharmonic function, 218, 300  
 submanifold, 8, 19  
 submersion, 8, 14, 19  
 support function, 217, 301  
 supporting half-space, 172, 190  
 symmetric space, 175, 185  
 — of compact type, 182, 183, 207  
 — of Euclidean type, 182  
 — of noncompact type, 182, 183, 184, 187, 188  
 symplectic  
 — form, 5, 18, 57, 260  
 — group, 19  
 — manifold, 18  
 — vector space, 5, 19  
 Synge theorem, 197–198

## T

tangent  
 — bundle, 7, 20, 53, 79, 132  
 — cone, 171, 190  
 — space, 7  
 — vector, 7  
 tensor, 2  
 — bundle, 16  
 — field, 17, 30  
 — product, 1, 16  
 — space, 2  
 Toponogov comparison theorem  
 (T.C.T. (I), (II)), 161, 202, 206, 208, 212, 215  
 torsion tensor, 18, 28  
 torus, 13, 20, 105, 121, 131, 138, 199, 261, 273, 286  
 total space, 15  
 totally geodesic (submanifold), 48, 75, 79, 136, 151, 168, 171, 190, 208, 215, 235  
 totally umbilic, 147  
 transitive, 14, 120, 121, 175

transvection, 176

## U

uniformly, 194

— compact, 306

unit tangent bundle, 23, 55, 253

unitary group, 5, 13, 19

universal covering space, 117, 155, 193, 194

## V

variation, 35, 37, 88, 131

— of a curve, 35

— vector field, 37, 88, 131

— piecewise  $C^\infty$  —, 37

variational completeness, 178

vector

— bundle, 15

— field, 8

— space, 1

vertical space, 25, 53, 74

visibility manifold, 239

volume, 4, 63, 64, 68, 131, 160, 221, 241,  
243, 244, 252, 280, 284, 304

— element, 63, 80

— of a metric ball, 65, 155, 156, 189

## W

warped product, 224

Weingarten formula, 48

Weitzenboeck formula, 303

Weyl asymptotic formula, 273, 274

Whitney

— sum, 16, 20, 47

— theorem, 8, 25, 86

Wiedersehens manifold, 261

word-length, 194, 237

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