

# An Extrinsic Look at the Riemannian Hessian

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**Abstract.** Let  $f$  be a real-valued function on a Riemannian submanifold of a Euclidean space, and let  $\tilde{f}$  be a local extension of  $f$ . We show that the Riemannian Hessian of  $f$  can be conveniently obtained from the Euclidean gradient and Hessian of  $\tilde{f}$  by means of two manifold-specific objects: the orthogonal projector onto the tangent space and the Weingarten map. Expressions for the Weingarten map are provided on various specific submanifolds.

**Keywords:** Riemannian Hessian, Euclidean Hessian, Weingarten map, shape operator.

## 1 Introduction

This paper concerns optimization methods on Riemannian manifolds that make explicit use of second-order information. This research area is motivated by various problems in the sciences and engineering that can be formulated as optimizing a real-valued function defined on a Riemannian manifold (see, e.g., [20,16,17,12,7] for some recently considered applications), and by the well-known fact that second-order methods tend to have the edge over first-order methods in situations where an accurate solution is sought or when the Hessian gets ill conditioned (see [1] for a recent example).

The archetypical second-order optimization method is Newton's method, of which several generalizations have been proposed on manifolds. Most of them fit in the framework given in [19,5] and [2, Alg. 5]. Besides a smooth real-valued function  $f$  defined on a Riemannian manifold  $\mathcal{M}$ , the ingredients of the Riemannian Newton method [2, Alg. 5] are an affine connection  $\nabla$  on  $\mathcal{M}$  and a retraction  $R$  on  $\mathcal{M}$ . Turning the Riemannian Newton method into a successful numerical algorithm relies much on choosing  $\nabla$  and  $R$  and on computing them efficiently.

A retraction  $R$  on  $\mathcal{M}$  can be viewed as a tool that turns a tangent update vector into a new iterate on  $\mathcal{M}$ . Retractions have been given particular attention in the recent literature, in general [3] and also specifically for the important cases where  $\mathcal{M}$  is the Stiefel manifold of orthonormal matrices [15,21,13] or the manifold of fixed-rank matrices [20,18].

As for the affine connection  $\nabla$ , it is instrumental in the definition of the Hessian operator of  $f$  on  $\mathcal{M}$ . Namely, for all  $x \in \mathcal{M}$  and all  $z$  in the tangent space  $T_x\mathcal{M}$ , one defines

$$\text{Hess } f(x)[z] := \nabla_z \text{grad } f \in T_x\mathcal{M}. \tag{1}$$

While the convergence analysis of the Riemannian Newton method in [2, §6.3] provides for using any affine connection, a natural choice for  $\nabla$  is the uniquely defined Riemannian connection, also termed Levi-Civita connection or canonical connection.

In this paper, for the case where  $\mathcal{M}$  is a Riemannian submanifold of a Euclidean space  $\mathcal{E}$  (examples can be found in Section 4) and where  $\nabla$  is chosen to be the Riemannian connection, we give a formula for the Hessian (1) that relies solely on four objects: (i) the classical gradient  $\partial f(x)$  of a smooth extension  $\bar{f}$  of  $f$  in a neighborhood of  $\mathcal{M}$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ , (ii) the classical Hessian  $\partial^2 \bar{f}(x)$  of  $\bar{f}$ , (iii) the orthogonal projector  $\mathcal{P}_x$  onto  $T_x\mathcal{M}$ , (iv) the *Weingarten map*  $\mathfrak{A}_x$ , also called *shape operator*. (The symbol  $\mathfrak{A}$  is “A” in Fraktur font.) We provide expressions for  $\mathcal{P}_x$  and  $\mathfrak{A}_x$  on some important Riemannian submanifolds. These expressions yield a formula for the Riemannian Hessian where  $f$  is involved only through the classical gradient and Hessian,  $\partial \bar{f}(x)$  and  $\partial^2 \bar{f}(x)$ . These results can be exploited in various Riemannian optimization schemes, such as Newton’s method or trust-region methods, where the knowledge of the Hessian is either mandatory or potentially beneficial.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 recalls in more details the definition of the Riemannian Hessian on submanifolds of Euclidean spaces. Section 3 lays out the relation between the Riemannian Hessian and the Weingarten map. Finally, section 4 provides formulas for the Weingarten map on several specific manifolds.

An early version of Sections 2 and 3 of this paper can be found in section 6 of the technical report [4].

## 2 The Riemannian Hessian on Submanifolds

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a  $d$ -dimensional Riemannian submanifold of an  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathcal{E}$ ; see, e.g., [2, §3.6.1] or [9, §2.A.3] for details. Let  $x_0$  be a point of  $\mathcal{M}$ , let  $f$  be a smooth real-valued function on  $\mathcal{M}$  around  $x_0$ , and let  $\bar{f}$  be a smooth extension of  $f$  to a neighborhood  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $x_0$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ .

For all  $x \in \mathcal{M}$ , we let  $\partial \bar{f}(x)$  and  $\partial^2 \bar{f}(x)$  denote the (Euclidean) gradient and (Euclidean) Hessian of  $\bar{f}$  at  $x$ . In coordinates, we have

$$\partial \bar{f}(x) = [\partial_1 \bar{f}(x) \dots \partial_n \bar{f}(x)]^T$$

and

$$[\partial^2 \bar{f}(x)]_{ij} = \partial_{ij} \bar{f}(x), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, n.$$

We also let  $\mathcal{P}_x$  denote the orthogonal projector onto  $T_x\mathcal{M}$ , defined by

$$\mathcal{P}_x : T_x\mathcal{E} \simeq \mathcal{E} \rightarrow T_x\mathcal{M} : \xi \mapsto \mathcal{P}_x(\xi) \tag{2}$$

with  $\langle \xi - \mathcal{P}_x(\xi), \zeta \rangle = 0$  for all  $\zeta \in T_x\mathcal{M}$ . Examples will be given in Section 4. Once an orthonormal basis is chosen for  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_x$  is represented as a (symmetric) matrix; hence  $\mathcal{P}$  can be viewed as a matrix-valued function on  $\mathcal{M}$ . For any function  $F$  on  $\mathcal{M}$  into a vector space, and for any  $z \in T_x\mathcal{M}$ , we let

$$D_z F = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} F(\gamma(t)),$$

where  $\gamma$  is any curve on  $\mathcal{M}$  with  $\gamma(0) = x$  and  $\gamma'(0) = z$ .

We have

$$\text{grad } f(x) = \mathcal{P}_x \partial \bar{f}(x), \tag{3}$$

where  $\text{grad } f(x)$  denotes the (Riemannian) gradient of  $f$  at  $x$ ; see [2, §3.6.1] for details. Moreover, letting  $\nabla$  denote the Riemannian connection on  $\mathcal{M}$ , we have that  $\text{Hess } f(x)$ , the Riemannian Hessian of  $f$  at  $x$ , is the linear transformation of  $T_x\mathcal{M}$  defined, for all  $z \in T_x\mathcal{M}$ , by

$$\text{Hess } f(x)[z] = \nabla_z \text{grad } f \tag{4}$$

$$= \mathcal{P}_x D_z (\text{grad } f) \tag{5}$$

$$= \mathcal{P}_x D_z (\mathcal{P} \partial \bar{f}) \tag{6}$$

$$= \mathcal{P}_x \partial^2 \bar{f}(x)z + \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \partial \bar{f}(x). \tag{7}$$

Equation (4) is the definition (1). Equation (5) comes from the classical expression of the Riemannian connection on a Riemannian submanifold of a Euclidean space; see, e.g., [2, §5.3.3] or [9, §2.B.2]. Equation (6) follows from (3). Finally, (7) is an application of the product rule, observing that  $\mathcal{P}$  is a matrix-valued function,  $\partial \bar{f}$  a vector-valued function, and  $\mathcal{P}_x \mathcal{P}_x = \mathcal{P}_x$  since  $\mathcal{P}_x$  is a projector.

Expression (7) features the four ingredients alluded to in the introduction, namely  $\partial \bar{f}(x)$ ,  $\partial^2 \bar{f}(x)$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_x$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P}$ . The rest of this paper is devoted to establishing the relation of  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P}$  with the Weingarten map and to working out formulas for  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P}$  on various specific Riemannian submanifolds.

### 3 The Riemannian Hessian and the Weingarten Map

We are thus concerned with  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P}$ , where  $z \in T_x\mathcal{M}$ . In this section, we establish a relation (8) between  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P}$  and the Weingarten map, defined next. This relation does not seem to have been previously pointed out in the literature, but it is present in the technical report [4].

**Definition 1 (Weingarten map).** *The Weingarten map of the submanifold  $\mathcal{M}$  at  $x$  is the operator  $\mathfrak{A}_x$  that takes as arguments a tangent vector  $z \in T_x\mathcal{M}$  and a normal vector  $v \in T_x^\perp\mathcal{M}$  and returns the tangent vector*

$$\mathfrak{A}_x(z, v) = -\mathcal{P}_x D_z V,$$

where  $V$  is any local extension of  $v$  to a normal vector field on  $\mathcal{M}$ .

It is known [6, Prop. II.2.1] that  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z V$  does not depend on the choice of the extension  $V$ , and this makes the above definition valid. The next result confirms this fact and gives an alternate expression of  $\mathfrak{A}_x(z, v)$ . Let

$$\mathcal{P}_x^\perp = I - \mathcal{P}_x$$

denote the orthogonal projector onto the normal space to  $\mathcal{M}$  at  $x$ . It is useful to keep in mind that, in our convention,  $D$  applies only to the expression that directly follows:  $D_z FG = (D_z F)G \neq D_z(FG)$ .

**Theorem 1.** *The Weingarten map  $\mathfrak{A}_x$  satisfies*

$$\mathfrak{A}_x(z, \mathcal{P}_x^\perp u) = \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} u = \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_x^\perp u, \tag{8}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $z \in T_x \mathcal{M}$ , and  $u \in T_x \mathcal{E} \simeq \mathcal{E}$ .

*Proof.* We first show that

$$\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_x^\perp, \tag{9}$$

which takes care of the second equality in (8). Since  $\mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}^\perp = 0$ , we have  $0 = D_z \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_x^\perp + \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P}^\perp = D_z \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_x^\perp - \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P}$ . It follows that  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_x = 0$ . Hence, since  $\mathcal{P}_x + \mathcal{P}_x^\perp = I$ , we have  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} (\mathcal{P}_x + \mathcal{P}_x^\perp) = \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_x + \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_x^\perp = \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_x^\perp$ , and the claim (9) is proven.

For the first equality in (9), we have, for all extension  $U$  of  $u$ ,

$$-\mathcal{P}_x D_z (\mathcal{P}^\perp U) = -\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P}^\perp U - \mathcal{P}_x \mathcal{P}_x^\perp D_z U = -\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P}^\perp U = \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} U.$$

This concludes the proof.

A consequence of Theorem 1 for the Riemannian Hessian expression (7) is that  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \partial \bar{f}(x) = \mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P}_x^\perp \partial \bar{f}(x) = \mathfrak{A}_x(z, \mathcal{P}_x^\perp \partial \bar{f}(x))$ . Observe in particular that  $\mathcal{P}_x D_z \mathcal{P} \partial \bar{f}(x)$  depends on  $\partial \bar{f}(x)$  only through its normal component  $\mathcal{P}_x^\perp \partial \bar{f}(x)$ . In summary we have obtained the expression

$$\text{Hess } f(x)[z] = \mathcal{P}_x \partial^2 \bar{f}(x) z + \mathfrak{A}_x(z, \mathcal{P}_x^\perp \partial \bar{f}). \tag{10}$$

## 4 Projector and Weingarten Map on Specific Manifolds

We now present formulas for the projector  $\mathcal{P}$  and the Weingarten map  $\mathfrak{A}$  on various specific manifolds. All the formulas provided for  $\mathcal{P}$  and most—but apparently not all—of those provided for  $\mathfrak{A}$  can be found in the literature.

### 4.1 The Stiefel Manifold

The *Stiefel manifold* of orthonormal  $p$ -frames in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , denoted by  $\text{St}(p, n)$ , is the submanifold of the Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$  defined by

$$\text{St}(p, n) = \{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p} : X^T X = I_p\},$$

where  $I_p$  stands for the identity matrix of size  $p$ . We point out that the Riemannian metric obtained on  $\text{St}(p, n)$  by making it a Riemannian submanifold of  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$  is different from the canonical metric mentioned in [8, §2.3.1]. The orthogonal projector  $\mathcal{P}_X$  onto  $T_X \text{St}(p, n)$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_X U &= (I - X X^T)U + X \frac{1}{2}(X^T U - U^T X) \\ &= U - X \frac{1}{2}(X^T U + U^T X); \end{aligned}$$

see, e.g., [2, §3.6.1].

Let  $Z \in T_X \mathcal{M}$  and  $V \in T_X^\perp \mathcal{M}$ . Hence  $V = XS$  with  $S = S^T$  and  $Z = X_\perp K + X\Omega$  where  $\Omega = -\Omega^T$ ,  $K$  is an arbitrary  $(n-p) \times p$  matrix, and  $X_\perp$  is an orthonormal  $n \times (n-p)$  matrix such that  $X^T X_\perp = 0$ ; see [2, §3.6.1] for details. We have

$$\mathcal{P}_X D_Z \mathcal{P} V = \mathcal{P}_X \left( V - Z \frac{1}{2}(X^T V + V^T X) - X \frac{1}{2}(Z^T V + V^T Z) \right).$$

Since  $V$  and  $X \frac{1}{2}(Z^T V + V^T Z)$  belong to the normal space  $T_X^\perp \text{St}(p, n)$ , and since  $\frac{1}{2}(X^T V + V^T X) = S$ , we are left with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_X D_Z \mathcal{P} V &= -\mathcal{P}_X Z S \\ &= -Z S + X \frac{1}{2}(X^T Z S + S Z^T X) \\ &= -Z S + \frac{1}{2} X \Omega S - \frac{1}{2} X S \Omega \\ &= -Z X^T V - \frac{1}{2} X Z^T V - \frac{1}{2} V X^T Z \\ &= -Z X^T V - X \frac{1}{2}(Z^T V + V^T Z). \end{aligned}$$

In summary, for all  $Z \in T_X \mathcal{M}$  and  $V \in T_X^\perp \mathcal{M}$ , we have

$$\mathfrak{A}_X(Z, V) = -Z X^T V - X \frac{1}{2}(Z^T V + V^T Z).$$

An equivalent formula can be found in [11, §4.1].

### 4.2 The Sphere

The unit sphere  $S^{n-1}$  is the Stiefel manifold  $\text{St}(p, n)$  with  $p = 1$ . The orthogonal projector  $\mathcal{P}_x$  onto the tangent space reduces to

$$\mathcal{P}_x u = (I - x x^T)u = u - x x^T u,$$

and the Weingarten map reduces to

$$\mathfrak{A}_x(z, v) = -z x^T v.$$

### 4.3 The Orthogonal Group

The orthogonal group  $O(n)$  is the Stiefel manifold  $St(p, n)$  with  $p = n$ . The orthogonal projector  $\mathcal{P}_X$  onto the tangent space reduces to

$$\mathcal{P}_X U = X \frac{1}{2} (X^T U - U^T X),$$

and the Weingarten map reduces to

$$\mathfrak{A}_X(Z, V) = -X \frac{1}{2} (V^T Z - Z^T V).$$

### 4.4 The Grassmann Manifold

Let  $Gr_{m,n}$  denote the Grassmann manifold of  $m$ -dimensional subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , viewed as the set of rank- $m$  orthogonal projectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , i.e.,

$$Gr_{m,n} = \{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : X^T = X, X^2 = X, \text{tr} X = m\}.$$

Then, from [10, Prop. 2.1], we have that  $\mathcal{P}_X = \text{ad}_X^2$  with  $\text{ad}_X A := [X, A] := XA - AX$  and  $\text{ad}_X^2 := \text{ad}_X \circ \text{ad}_X$ . It follows that, for all  $Z \in T_X Gr_{m,n}$  and all  $V \in T_X^\perp Gr_{m,n}$ , it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_X D_Z \mathcal{P} V &= \text{ad}_X^2 (\text{ad}_Z \text{ad}_X V + \text{ad}_X \text{ad}_Z V) \\ &= \text{ad}_X^2 \text{ad}_Z \text{ad}_X V + \text{ad}_X \text{ad}_Z V \\ &= \text{ad}_X \text{ad}_Z V \\ &= -\text{ad}_X \text{ad}_V Z, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\text{ad}_A B := [A, B] := AB - BA$ . One recovers from (10) the Hessian formula of [10, (2.109)].

### 4.5 The Fixed-Rank Manifold

Let  $\mathcal{M}_p(m \times n)$  denote the set of all  $m \times n$  matrices of rank  $p$ . This is a submanifold of  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  of dimension  $(m + n - p)p$ ; see [14, Example 8.14]. Let  $X \in \mathcal{M}_p(m \times n)$  and, without loss of generality, let  $X = U \Sigma V^T$  with  $U \in St(p, m)$  and  $V \in St(p, n)$ . The projector  $\mathcal{P}_X$  onto  $T_X \mathcal{M}_p(m \times n)$  is given by [20, §2.1]

$$\mathcal{P}_X W = P_U W P_V + P_U^\perp W P_V + P_U W P_V^\perp = W P_V + P_U W - P_U W P_V,$$

where  $P_U := U U^T$  and  $P_U^\perp := I - P_U$ .

We now turn to the Weingarten map. Let  $Z \in T_X \mathcal{M}_p(m \times n)$ . Let  $\dot{U} \in T_U St(p, m)$ ,  $\dot{\Sigma}$  diagonal, and  $\dot{V} \in T_V St(p, n)$  be such that  $Z = D_{\dot{U}, \dot{\Sigma}, \dot{V}}(U \Sigma V^T) = \dot{U} \Sigma V^T + U \dot{\Sigma} V^T + U \Sigma \dot{V}^T$ . We also let  $\dot{P}_U = D_{\dot{U}} P_U = \dot{U} U^T + U \dot{U}^T$ , and likewise with  $\dot{P}_V$ . Let  $W \in T_X^\perp \mathcal{M}_p(m \times n)$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_X D_Z \mathcal{P} W &= \mathcal{P}_X (W \dot{P}_V + \dot{P}_U W - \dot{P}_U W P_V - P_U W \dot{P}_V) \\ &= \mathcal{P}_X (P_U^\perp W \dot{P}_V + \dot{P}_U W P_V^\perp) \\ &= P_U^\perp W \dot{P}_V P_V + P_U \dot{P}_U W P_V^\perp. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $W \in T_X^\perp \mathcal{M}_p(m \times n)$ , we have  $W = U_\perp L_W V_\perp^T$  with  $L_W$  arbitrary; this follows from the expression of  $T_X \mathcal{M}_p(m \times n)$  in [20, §2.1]. Hence  $U^T W = 0$ ,  $P_U^\perp W = W$ ,  $WV = 0$ ,  $WP_V^\perp = W$ . Using these equations, one obtains

$$P_U^\perp W \dot{P}_V P_V = W(\dot{V}V^T + V\dot{V}^T)P_V = W\dot{V}^T V^T P_V = W\dot{V}^T V.$$

Likewise, we obtain

$$P_U \dot{P}_U W P_V^\perp = U\dot{U}^T W.$$

In summary, we have

$$\mathcal{P}_X D_Z \mathcal{P} W = W\dot{V}^T V + U\dot{U}^T W.$$

We now seek an alternate expression where only  $X$ ,  $Z$ , and  $W$  appear. To this end, observe that the pseudo-inverse of  $X$  is given by  $X^+ = V\Sigma^{-1}U^T$ . Then, recalling that  $WV = 0$ , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} WZ^T(X^+)^T &= W(\dot{V}\Sigma U^T + V(\dot{\Sigma}U^T + \Sigma\dot{U}^T))U\Sigma^{-1}V^T \\ &= W\dot{V}\Sigma U^T U\Sigma^{-1}V^T \\ &= W\dot{V}V^T. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we obtain that

$$(X^+)^T Z^T W = U\dot{U}^T W.$$

In conclusion, we have

$$\mathcal{P}_X D_Z \mathcal{P} W = WZ^T(X^+)^T + (X^+)^T Z^T W.$$

It is interesting to note that this expression, combined with (10), provides an expression that allows to recover the Hessian formula found in [20, §2.3].

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