

# Laplacian on a Riemannian manifold

## Definition. Laplacian on a Riemannian manifold

Let  $(M, g)$  be an oriented Riemannian manifold with/without boundary. Then the **Laplacian** or the **Laplace-Beltrami operator** on  $(M, g)$  is the operator

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_g : \mathcal{C}^\infty(M) &\rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\infty(M) \\ u &\mapsto \Delta_g u := \operatorname{div}_g(\operatorname{grad}_g(u)) = d_g^\dagger du\end{aligned}$$

### Proposition:

$$\Delta_g(fh) = f(\Delta_g h) + 2 \langle \operatorname{grad}_g(f), \operatorname{grad}_g(h) \rangle + h(\Delta_g f)$$

### Proposition: In local coordinates,

$$\Delta u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\det g_{ij}}} \partial_k \left( \sqrt{\det g_{ij}} g^{kl} \partial_l u \right)$$