Estimates of the heat kernel on differential forms and the boundedness of the Riesz transform

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We study the boundedness of the Riesz transform $d\Delta^{-1/2}$ on complete noncompact manifolds. A classical result is that it is bounded on $L^p(M)$ for 1 if the Ricci curvature is non-negative, and the proof of this relies ongaussian estimate of the heat kernel on differential 1-forms, which holds if Ricciis non-negative. Here we extend the gaussian estimate to a more general class $of manifolds with the negative part of Ricci in <math>L^{n/2}$, and using this we prove boundedness results for the Riesz transform on these manifolds.