

Title: Mathematical Physics Core Lecture

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Differential forms

T is a tensor $\in T^2 M$

Abuse of notation

T_a is a tensor $\in T_a^{0,2} M \rightarrow T_a: T_a M \times \dots \times T_a M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ acts on vectors

$T: U \subset M \rightarrow T^{0,2} M$ tensor field

X_1, \dots, X_s vector fields
" $T(X_1, \dots, X_s)$ " is a function

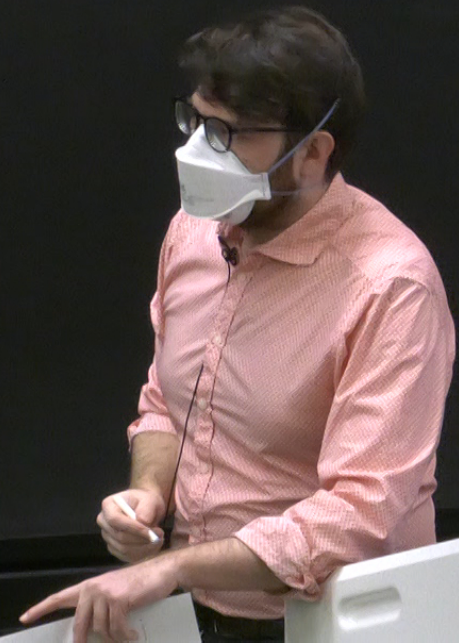
$$T(X_1, \dots, X_s)(a) = T_a(X_{1|a}, \dots, X_{s|a}) \in \mathbb{R}$$

Another abuse of notation

X vector field

Xf is function defined by $(Xf)(a) = X_a f$

Def a k -form on M is a totally antisymmetric tensor field on M of type $(0, k)$
(when acting on vector fields)



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$$S_k: \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sigma: \{1, \dots, k\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\} \text{ invertible} \\ i \mapsto \sigma_i \end{array} \right\}$$

Def

a k -form on M is a total
alternating k -linear function acting on vector fields

if $\sigma \in S_k$ is a permutation, ω

Def a k -form on M is a totally antisymmetric tensor field on M of type $(0, k)$
(when acting on vector fields)

if $\sigma \in S_k$ is a permutation, ω k -form if

$$\omega(X_{\sigma_1}, \dots, X_{\sigma_k}) = \text{sgn}(\sigma) \omega(X_1, \dots, X_k)$$

$$\downarrow = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{for even permutation} \\ -1 & \text{for odd permutation} \end{cases}$$

The set of all k -forms is denoted by $\Omega^k(M)$

|| If $(U, \varphi = (x^1, \dots, x^n))$ chart

$$W = W_{i_1 \dots i_n} dx^{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_n}$$

$$W_{i_1 \dots i_n} = \text{sgn}(\sigma) W_{i_{\sigma(1)} \dots i_{\sigma(n)}}$$

by convention, $\Omega^0(M) = C^\infty(M, \mathbb{R})$

if $(U, \varphi = (x^1, \dots, x^n))$

Wedge product

$$\Omega^p(M) \times \Omega^q(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{p+q}(M)$$

$$w_{i_1, \dots, i_{p+q}} = \text{sgn}(\sigma) w_{i_1, \dots, i_p, i_{p+1}, \dots, i_{p+q}}$$

$\alpha \otimes \beta$ not always a diff. form

$(U, \varphi = (x^1, \dots, x^n))$ chart $\omega = \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_k}$

$$\omega_{i_{\sigma(1)} \dots i_{\sigma(k)}} = \text{sgn}(\sigma) \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k}$$

$$dx^{i_1} \wedge dx^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} := \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) dx^{i_{\sigma(1)}} \otimes dx^{i_{\sigma(2)}} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_{\sigma(k)}}$$

locally generates k -forms

symbols

$$\omega = \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_k} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \omega_{i_{\sigma(1)} \dots i_{\sigma(k)}} dx^{i_{\sigma(1)}} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_{\sigma(k)}} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma} \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) dx^{i_{\sigma(1)}} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_{\sigma(k)}}$$

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port

$$W = W_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_k}$$

$$dx^{i_1} \wedge dx^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} := \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) dx^{i_{\sigma_1}} \otimes dx^{i_{\sigma_2}} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_{\sigma_k}}$$

$$\frac{1}{k!} W_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$$



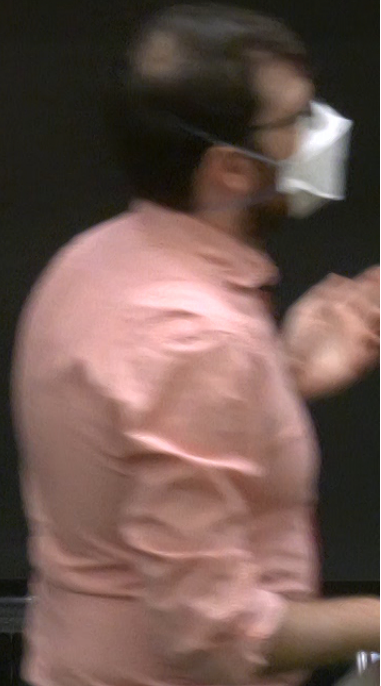
for symbols

$$W_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_k} = \frac{1}{k!} \left(\sum_{\sigma \in S_k} W_{i_1 \dots i_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) dx^{i_{\sigma_1}} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{i_{\sigma_k}} \right)$$

$$W = \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$$

$$\sigma_I \in \{1, \dots, k\}$$

$$i_{\sigma_I} \in \{i_1, \dots, i_k\}$$



$$\Rightarrow dx^{ik} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \omega_{i_{\sigma_1} \dots i_{\sigma_k}} dx^{i_{\sigma_1}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_{\sigma_k}} = \frac{1}{k!} \left(\sum_{\sigma} \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) dx^{i_{\sigma_1}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_{\sigma_k}} \right)$$

$dx^1 \otimes dx^2$ indep. $dx^2 \otimes dx^1$



locally generates k -forms

symbols

$$\omega = \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \omega_{i_{\sigma(1)} \dots i_{\sigma(k)}} dx^{i_{\sigma(1)}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_{\sigma(k)}} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma} \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) dx^{i_{\sigma(1)}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_{\sigma(k)}}$$

$dx^1 \wedge dx^2$ indep. $dx^2 \wedge dx^1$

independent ones: $i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \rightarrow \binom{n}{k}$ independent ones

k -forms and $(n-k)$ -forms have same number of generators

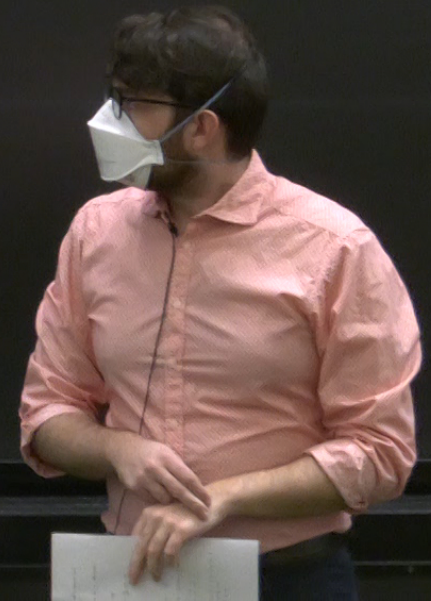
$$\omega = \omega_{i_1 \dots i_n} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_n} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \omega_{i_{\sigma_1} \dots i_{\sigma_k}} dx^{i_{\sigma_1}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_{\sigma_k}}$$

$dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots$

$$\alpha = \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_p} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p}$$

$$\alpha \wedge \beta = \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_p} \beta_{j_1 \dots j_q} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p} \wedge dx^{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{j_q} \quad (p+q) \text{ Form}$$

$$\beta = \beta_{j_1 \dots j_q} dx^{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{j_q}$$



$$\alpha = \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_p} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p}$$

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$$\alpha \wedge \beta = \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_p} \beta_{j_1 \dots j_q} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p} \wedge dx^{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{j_q}$$

(P+q) F

Properties

- \wedge linear
- associative
- $\alpha \wedge \beta = (-1)^{|\alpha||\beta|} \beta \wedge \alpha$

rank of β

$$\omega = \omega_{i_1, \dots, i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \omega_{i_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, i_{\sigma(k)}} dx^{i_{\sigma(1)}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_{\sigma(k)}} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \omega_{i_1, \dots, i_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) dx^{i_{\sigma(1)}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_{\sigma(k)}}$$

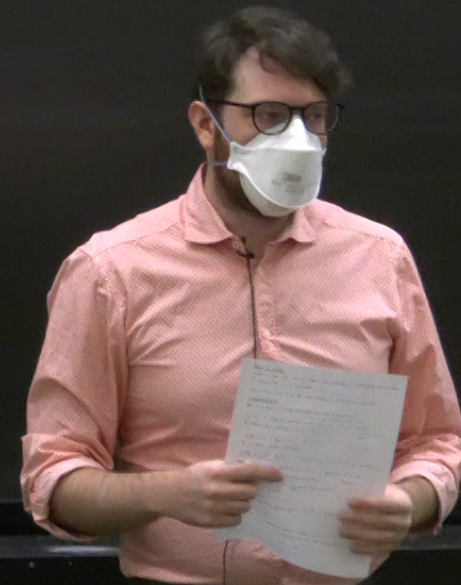
$dx^1 \wedge dx^2$ indep. $dx^2 \wedge dx^1$

$\sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_k} \omega_{i_1, \dots, i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$ (Plü) Form

$F: M \rightarrow N$ smooth

$$F^*(\alpha \wedge \beta) = (F^*\alpha) \wedge (F^*\beta)$$

↓ $|p|$ -Form



$$\omega = \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \omega_{i_{\sigma(1)} \dots i_{\sigma(k)}} dx^{i_{\sigma(1)}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_{\sigma(k)}} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum \omega_{i_1 \dots i_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) dx^{i_{\sigma(1)}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_{\sigma(k)}}$$

$dx^1 \wedge dx^2$ indep. $dx^2 \wedge dx^1$

$$i_{i_1 \dots i_p} \beta_{j_1 \dots j_q} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p} \wedge dx^{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{j_q}$$

(p+q) Form

$\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j}$ bivector

$F: M \rightarrow N$ smooth

$$F^*(\alpha \wedge \beta) = (F^*\alpha) \wedge (F^*\beta)$$

↓
|p|-form

another operation

exterior derivative

$$d: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$$

another operation

exterior derivative

$$d: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$$

- $f \in \Omega^0(M)$

$$df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} dx^i \rightarrow \text{differential of } f$$

- $\alpha = \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$

$$d\alpha = \frac{\partial \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_k}}{\partial x^j} dx^j \wedge dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$$

$\Omega^{k+1}(M)$

Properties

• Linear

• $d^2 w = 0$

• $d(\alpha \wedge \beta) = d\alpha \wedge \beta + (-1)^{|\alpha|} \alpha \wedge d\beta$

• $F^*(dw) = d(F^*w)$

↑
antiderivation

another operation

exterior derivative

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examples

• d linear

$$d(\alpha \wedge \beta) = d\alpha \wedge \beta + (-1)^{|\alpha|} \alpha \wedge d\beta$$

$$(df)(X) = Xf$$

$$d^2 f = 0$$

Properties

- linear
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examples

• d linear

$$d(\alpha \wedge \beta) = d\alpha \wedge \beta + (-1)^{|\alpha|} \alpha \wedge d\beta$$

$$(df)(x) = Xf$$

$$d^2 f = 0$$

Properties

- linear
- $d^2 w = 0$
- $d(\alpha \wedge \beta) = d\alpha \wedge \beta + (-1)^{|\alpha|} \alpha \wedge d\beta$
- $F^*(d\alpha) = d(F^*\alpha)$

Def $\alpha \in \Omega^k(M)$ is closed if $d\alpha = 0$
is exact if $\alpha = d\beta$, $\beta \in \Omega^{k-1}(M)$

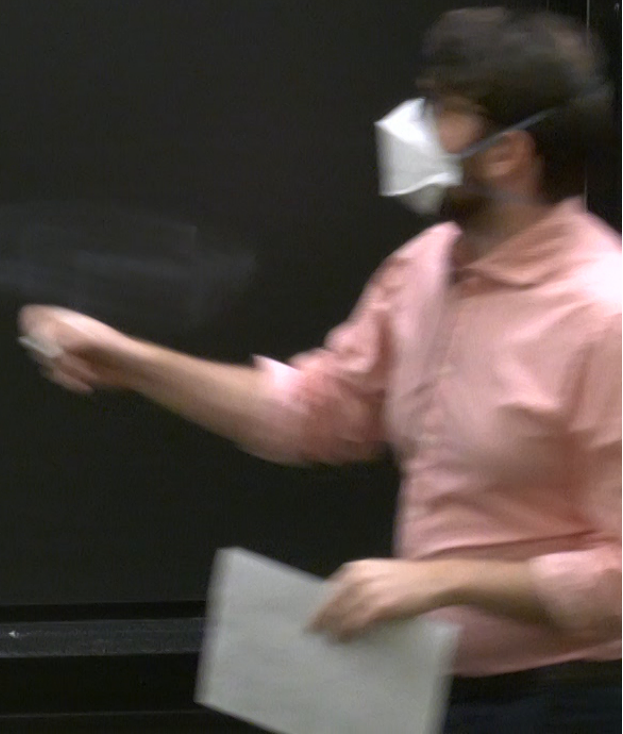
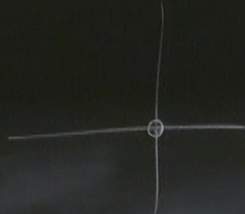
exact \Rightarrow closed

closed $\not\Rightarrow$ exact but it does on \mathbb{R}^n

\rightarrow topology of M

$$d(\beta + d\gamma) = d\beta$$

$dx' \approx dx$ indep. $dx \approx dx$



top forms # gen. $\Omega^k(M)$ is $\binom{n}{k}$

et most get $\dim(M)$ -forms

top forms

gen. $\Omega^k(M)$ is $\binom{n}{k}$

et most get

$\dim(M)$ -forms $\rightarrow \binom{n}{n} = 1$ generators

↓

top forms

$\omega = f dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n$

$$W = f dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n$$

change basis $(x^i) \rightarrow (y^i)$

$$dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n = \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial y^1} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial y^2} \dots \frac{\partial x^n}{\partial y^n} dy^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dy^n$$

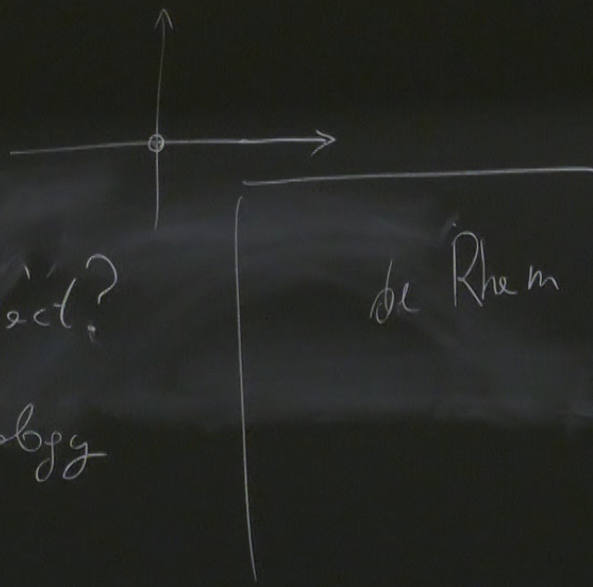
$$\dots = \det\left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial y}\right) dy^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dy^n$$

$dx^i \otimes dx^j$ indep. $dx^i \otimes dx^i$

$$\Omega^{k-1}(M)$$

$$\gamma) = d\beta$$

does closed \Rightarrow exact?
 \rightarrow depends on topology



de Rham cohomology

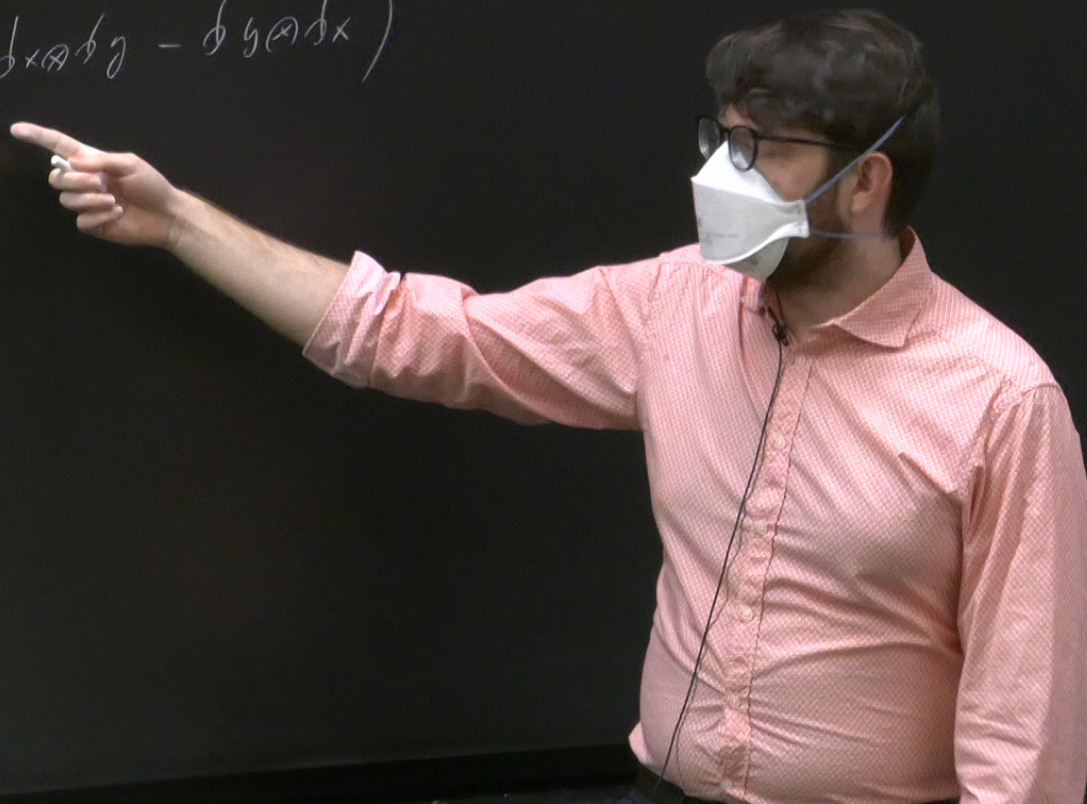


T (r, k) -tensor field

$$\text{Alt}(T)(X_1, \dots, X_k) = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) T(X_{\sigma_1}, \dots, X_{\sigma_k})$$

$$\alpha \wedge \beta = \frac{(|\alpha| + |\beta|)!}{|\alpha|! |\beta|!} \text{Alt}(\alpha \otimes \beta)$$

$$dx \wedge dy = \frac{1}{2} (\phi_x \otimes \phi_y - \phi_y \otimes \phi_x)$$



$$dx \wedge dy = \frac{1}{2} (dx^i \wedge dy^j - dy^i \wedge dx^j)$$

$$dx^i \wedge dx^j - dx^j \wedge dx^i =$$

