

Title: Lecture - Mathematical Physics I (Core), PHYS 777

Speakers: Nathan Haouzi

Collection/Series: Mathematical Physics I (Core), PHYS 777-004, January 5 - February 6, 2026

Subject: Mathematical physics

Date: January 07, 2026 - 4:30 PM

URL: <https://pirsa.org/26010019>

In \mathbb{Z} , $2[c] = \partial(\text{"RP}^2\text{"})$

But in \mathbb{R} ,

$[c] = \partial(\frac{1}{2}\text{"RP}^2\text{"})$

$$H_1(\mathbb{R}P^2, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}_2$$

$$H_r(K, \mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{Q}$$
$$H_r(K, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$$

$$H_r(K, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \underbrace{\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}}_{\text{"free subgroup"}} \times \underbrace{\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}}_{\text{"torsion"}}$$

no torsion with \mathbb{R} coeffs

$$\text{If } H_r(K, \mathbb{Z})$$

$$\Rightarrow H_r(K, \mathbb{R}) =$$



1.3 : Differential forms (Math Notes IV)

Def: Let M be a smooth manifold.

An r -form is a totally antisymmetric $(0, r)$ -tensor field ω :

$$\omega(X_1, \dots, X_r) = (-1)^\pi \omega(X_{\pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\pi(r)})$$

↘ vector fields

Ex: $r=0$

Ex: • $r=0$: a scalar field $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 $x \mapsto f(x)$ smooth functions on M

• $r=1$: a covector field $\alpha: \Gamma(TM) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$
 $X \mapsto \alpha(X)$
vector fields on M

(Math Notes I)

Reminder:

A tangent vector at $p \in M$ is

$$X_p: C^\infty(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$f \mapsto X_p f$$

In coord. $\{x^i\}$, $X_p f = \sum_{i=1}^r X^i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} \Big|_p$

$$X_p = \sum_{i=1}^r X^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_p$$

A vector field is

$$X: C^\infty(M) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$$

$$f \mapsto Xf$$

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^r X^i(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}$$

Co-vectors

Defined via maps from $T_p(M)$
to reals

$$\alpha_p: T_p(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

In coord. $\{x^i\}_p$

$$\alpha_p(X_p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i X^i$$
$$\alpha_p = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i dx^i|_p$$

Ex: $r=0$: a scalar field $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 $x \mapsto f(x)$ smooth functions on M

$r=1$: a covector field $\alpha: \Gamma(TM) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$
 (1-Form on M)
 $X \mapsto \alpha(X)$
 vector fields on M

$r=2$: $\omega: \Gamma(TM)$

We say $\alpha \in \Gamma(T^*M) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i(x) X^i(x)$ in coord.
 $:= \Omega^1(M)$ (Math Notes I)

Ex: $r=0$: a scalar field $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 $x \mapsto f(x)$ Smooth functions on M

$r=1$: a covector field $\alpha: \Gamma(TM) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$
 (1-Form on M) vector fields on M $X \mapsto \alpha(X)$ (Math Notes I)

$r=2$: $\omega: \Gamma(TM) \times \Gamma(TM) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$ We say $\alpha \in \Gamma(T^*M) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i(x) X^i(x)$ in coord.
 $\omega \in \Omega^2(M) (= \Gamma(\wedge^2 T^*M)) := \Omega^2(M)$

Ex:

- In Electromagnetism,
"gauge potential" A is a 1-form
"field strength" F is a 2-form
- In classical physics,
 T^*M is phase space

Notation: $\Omega^r(M)$ is the set of
r-Forms on M.

Def: $\wedge : \Omega^r(M) \times \Omega^s(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{r+s}(M)$
 $\omega, \sigma \mapsto \omega \wedge \sigma$

defined by

$$(\omega \wedge \sigma)(X_1, \dots, X_{r+s}) = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{1}{s!} \sum_{\pi \in \text{perm}(r+s)} (-1)^\pi (\omega \otimes \sigma)(X_{\pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\pi(r+s)})$$

Ex: If $\alpha, \beta \in \Omega^r(M)$,

$$\alpha \wedge \beta = \alpha \otimes \beta - \beta \otimes \alpha$$

Note $(\alpha \wedge \beta)(X_1, X_2) = \begin{vmatrix} \alpha(X_1) & \alpha(X_2) \\ \beta(X_1) & \beta(X_2) \end{vmatrix}$

Prop: $(\omega \wedge \sigma) = (-1)^{rs} (\sigma \wedge \omega)$

$(r+s)$

$$h = \frac{b-a}{n}$$

$$x_k = a + hk$$

$$k = 0, \dots, n$$

$$\sum_k = f(x_k)h - \int_{x_0}^{x_n}$$

Recall that if $f \in C^\infty(M)$,
the differential of f is

$$d: C^\infty(M) \rightarrow \Gamma(T^*M) = \Omega^1(M)$$

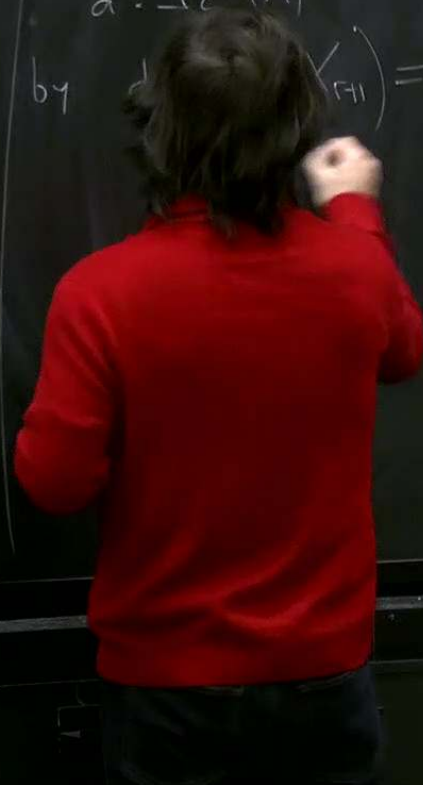
$$\Omega^0(M) = f \mapsto df$$

$$(df)(X) := XF$$

More generally,

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

$$\text{by } d \left(\sum_{a=1}^r (-1)^{a+1} X_a \left(\omega(X_1, \dots, X_r) \right) \right)$$



$\Omega^r(M)$

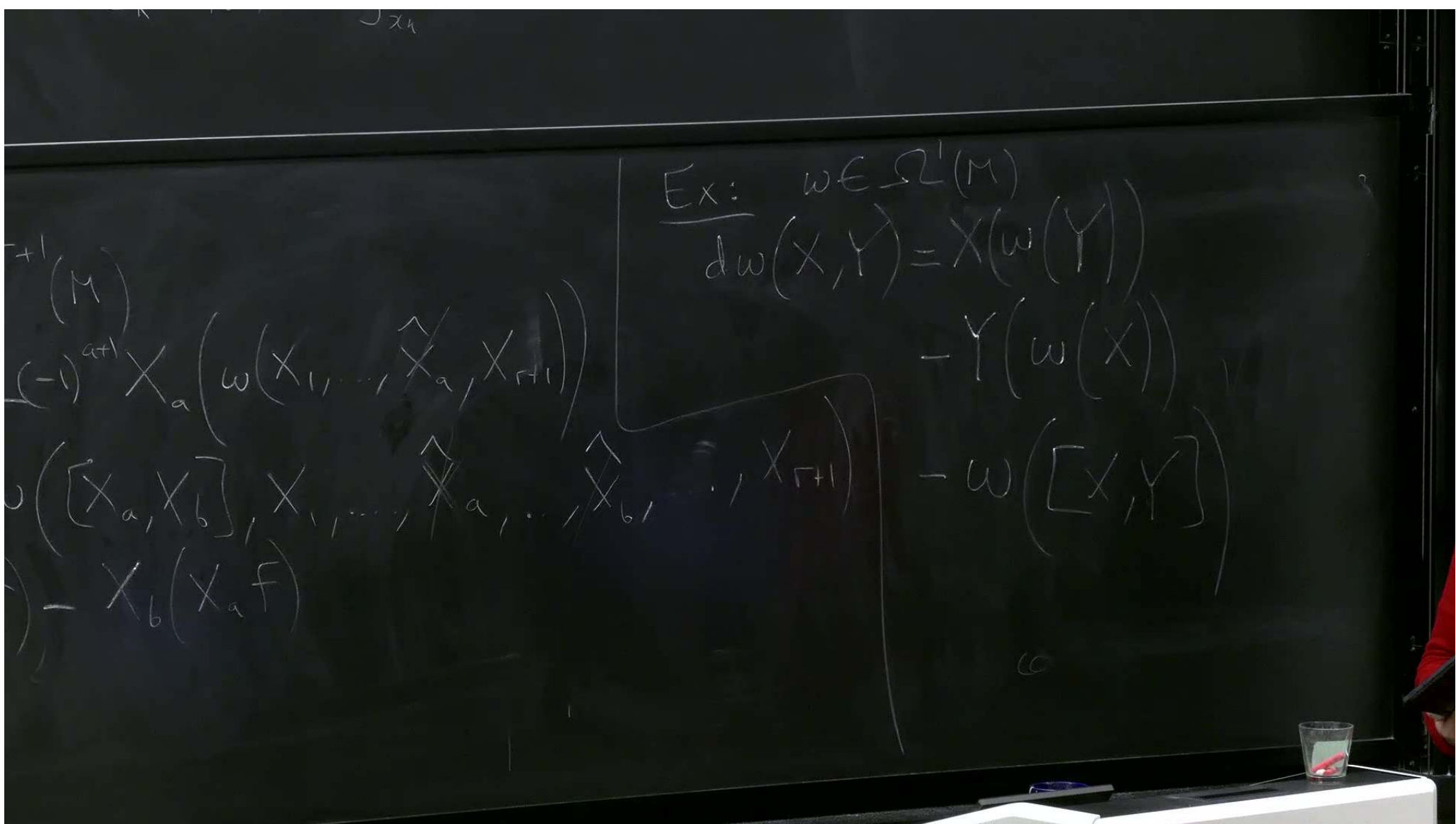
More generally,

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

$$\text{by } dw(X_1, \dots, X_{r+1}) = \sum_{a=1}^{r+1} (-1)^{a+1} X_a \left(w(X_1, \dots, \widehat{X}_a, \dots, X_{r+1}) \right) \\ + \sum_{a < b} (-1)^{a+b} w([X_a, X_b], X_1, \dots, \widehat{X}_a, \dots, \widehat{X}_b, \dots, X_{r+1})$$

$$[X_a, X_b]f := X_a(X_b f) - X_b(X_a f)$$

$$\text{Ex: } w \in \Omega^1(M) \\ dw(X$$



Ex: $w \in \Omega^1(M)$

$$dw(X, Y) = X(w(Y)) - Y(w(X)) - w([X, Y])$$

$$(-1)^{a+1} X_a(w(X_1, \dots, X_a, X_{r+1}))$$

$$w([X_a, X_b], X_1, \dots, X_a, \dots, X_b, \dots, X_{r+1})$$

$$- X_b(X_a f)$$

Notation: $\Omega^r(M)$ is the set of r -forms on M .

$C^\infty(M)$ -bilinear

Def: $\wedge : \Omega^r(M) \times \Omega^s(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{r+s}(M)$
 $\omega, \sigma \mapsto \omega \wedge \sigma$

$$\begin{aligned} & (w_1 + w_2) \wedge \sigma \\ & \quad \parallel \\ & w_1 \wedge \sigma + w_2 \wedge \sigma \\ & w_1 (\sigma_1 + \sigma_2) \\ & \quad = w_1 \sigma_1 + w_1 \sigma_2 \end{aligned}$$

defined by

$$(\omega \wedge \sigma)(X_1, \dots, X_{r+s}) = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{1}{s!} \sum_{\pi \in \text{perm}(r+s)} (-1)^\pi (\omega \otimes \sigma)(X_{\pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\pi(r+s)})$$

Ex: Γ

$$\alpha \wedge \beta =$$

Note $(\alpha \wedge \beta)$

Prop: $(\alpha \wedge \beta) \wedge \gamma =$

Ex: If $\alpha, \beta \in \Omega^1(M)$,

$$\alpha \wedge \beta = \alpha \otimes \beta - \beta \otimes \alpha$$

Note $(\alpha \wedge \beta)(X_1, X_2) = \begin{vmatrix} \alpha(X_1) & \alpha(X_2) \\ \beta(X_1) & \beta(X_2) \end{vmatrix}$

Prop: $(\omega \wedge \sigma) = (-1)^{rs} (\sigma \wedge \omega)$

$\xrightarrow{f \in C^k(M)}$
 $(f \omega \wedge \sigma) = f(\omega \wedge \sigma)$
 $= \omega \wedge (f \sigma)$

defined by

$$(\omega \wedge \sigma)(X_1, \dots, X_{r+s}) = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{1}{s!} \sum_{\Pi \in \text{perm}(r+s)} (-1)^\Pi (\omega \otimes \sigma)(X_{\Pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\Pi(r+s)})$$

Ex: Z of Maxwell's equations
are $dF=0$

Recall that if $f \in C^\infty(M)$,
 the differential of f is

$$d: C^\infty(M) \rightarrow \Gamma(T^*M) = \Omega^1(M)$$

$$\Omega^0(M) \quad f \mapsto df$$

$$(df)(X) := XF$$

$d\omega$ is antisym, $C^\infty(M)$ -multilinear

$$d(\underbrace{\omega}_r \wedge \underbrace{\alpha}_s) = d\omega \wedge \alpha + (-1)^r \omega \wedge d\alpha$$

More generally,

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

$$\text{by } d\omega(X_1, \dots, X_{r+1}) = \sum_{a=1}^{r+1} (-1)^{a+1} X_a(\omega) \\
+ \sum_{a < b} (-1)^{a+b} \omega([X_a, X_b])$$

$$[X_a, X_b]f := X_a(X_b f) - X_b(X_a f)$$

defined by

$$(w \otimes \sigma)(X_{\pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\pi(r+s)}) = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{1}{s!} \sum_{\pi \in \text{perm}(r+s)} (-1)^\pi (w \otimes \sigma)(X_{\pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\pi(r+s)})$$

Prop

Ex: 2 of Maxwell's equations are $dF=0$

$$\begin{aligned} F &= F_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \otimes dx^\nu \\ &= \frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu} (dx^\mu \otimes dx^\nu - dx^\nu \otimes dx^\mu) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu \end{aligned}$$

A general r -form can be written in basis of 1-forms

$$w = \frac{1}{r!} w_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_r}(x) dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_r}$$

(summation implied)

→ F can be written as $F=dA$ on \mathbb{R}^4 .
What if not \mathbb{R}^4 ? Not always true!

1.4. de Rham Cohomology

Def: A form $w \in \Omega^r(M)$ is

• closed if $dw = 0$

• exact if $w = d\sigma$, $\exists \sigma \in \Omega^{r-1}(M)$

in basis
of 1-forms

$\dots dx^k$

(condition implied)

on \mathbb{R}^4

is true!

Prop: $d^2 = 0$

Proof: Let $w \in \Omega^r(M)$.

In local coord.,

$$dw = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\nu} w_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_r} dx^\nu \wedge dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_r}$$

$$d(dw) = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\sigma} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\nu} w_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_r} \underbrace{dx^\sigma \wedge dx^\nu}_{\text{antisym}} \wedge dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_r}$$

symmetric

$$= 0$$

Note:

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega^0(M) \rightarrow \Omega^1(M) \rightarrow \dots$$

Note:

$$0 \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^0(M) \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^1(M) \xrightarrow{d} \dots \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^r(M) \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^{r+1}(M) \rightarrow \dots \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^{\dim(M)}(M) \xrightarrow{d} 0$$

$$\text{Ker}(d) := \{ \alpha \in \Omega^r(M) \mid d\alpha = 0 \} \subseteq \Omega^r(M)$$

$$\text{Im}(d) := \{ d\beta \mid \beta \in \Omega^r(M) \} \subseteq \Omega^r(M)$$

$$(\omega \wedge \sigma)(X_1, \dots, X_{r+s}) = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{1}{s!} \sum_{\pi \in \text{perm}(r+s)} (-1)^\pi (\omega \otimes \sigma)(X_{\pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\pi(r+s)})$$

+ prop: ...

Then $d^2 = 0 \iff \text{Im}(d) \subseteq \text{Ker}(d)$ ($d(d\beta) = 0$)

\iff "exact forms are closed" but are closed forms exact? Def

Poincaré Lemma: If $M = \mathbb{R}^n$, then closed forms are exact ($\text{Im}(d) = \text{Ker}(d)$)

Notations: $Z^r(M) = \{\omega \in \Omega^r(M) \mid d\omega = 0\}$ is the r -th cocycle group

$B^r(M) = \{\omega \in \Omega^r(M) \mid \omega = d\beta, \beta \in \Omega^{r-1}(M)\}$ is the r -th coboundary

defined by

$$(\omega \wedge \sigma)(X_1, \dots, X_{r+s}) = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{1}{s!} \sum_{\pi \in \text{perm}(r+s)} (-1)^\pi (\omega \otimes \sigma)(X_{\pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\pi(r+s)})$$

$$= \omega_1 \sigma_1 + \omega_1 \sigma_2$$

Prop: $(\omega \wedge \sigma) = (-1)^{rs} (\sigma \wedge \omega)$

Then $d^2 = 0 \iff \text{Im}(d) \subseteq \text{Ker}(d)$ $(d(d\beta) = 0)$

\iff "exact forms are closed" but are closed forms exact?

1.4. de Rham Co

Def: A form $\omega \in \Omega^r(M)$ is closed if $d\omega = 0$.
 exact if $\omega = d\beta$ for some $\beta \in \Omega^{r-1}(M)$.

Poincaré Lemma: If $M = \mathbb{R}^n$, then closed forms are exact ($\text{Im}(d) = \text{Ker}(d)$)

Notations: $Z^r(M) = \{\omega \in \Omega^r(M) \mid d\omega = 0\}$ is the r -th cocycle group

$B^r(M) = \{\omega \in \Omega^r(M) \mid \omega = d\beta, \beta \in \Omega^{r-1}(M)\}$ is the r -th coboundary group

$Z^r(M) = \{ \omega \in \Omega^r(M) \mid \omega = d\beta, \beta \in \Omega^{r-1}(M) \}$ is the r^{th} co

$$d^2 = 0 \Leftrightarrow B^r(M) \subseteq Z^r(M)$$

Def: The r^{th} de Rham COHOMOLOGY group is the vector space

$$H^r(M) := Z^r(M) / B^r(M)$$

Z closed forms ω, σ are equivalent if:

$$\omega = \sigma + d(\dots)$$

bilinear

$$\begin{aligned} (w_1 + w_2) \wedge \sigma \\ \parallel \\ w_1 \wedge \sigma + w_2 \wedge \sigma \\ \\ w_1 (\sigma_1 + \sigma_2) \\ w_1 \sigma_1 + w_1 \sigma_2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left(\prod_{\pi(1)} \dots \prod_{\pi(r+s)} \right)$$

$$d\omega = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\nu} \omega_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_r} dx^\nu \wedge dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_r}$$

$$d(d\omega) = \frac{1}{r!} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\sigma} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\nu} \omega_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_r} dx^\sigma \wedge dx^\nu \wedge dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{\mu_r}$$

symmetric
antisym

$$= 0$$

$$d^2 x^\mu = 0$$

Then

$$\text{Im}(d) := \{ \dots \}$$

$$d(\omega \wedge \sigma) = d\omega \wedge \sigma + (-1)^r \omega \wedge d\sigma$$

$$dF = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^\nu} dx^\nu$$

[