



CALTECH
Control & Dynamical Systems

Differential Forms and Stokes' Theorem

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Differential Forms

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- Basic example: differential of a real-valued function.
- **2-form** Ω : a map $\Omega(m) : T_mM \times T_mM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that assigns to each point $m \in M$ a skew-symmetric bilinear form on the tangent space T_mM to M at m .

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- A *k-form* α (or *differential form of degree k*) is a map

$$\alpha(m) : T_m M \times \cdots \times T_m M (k \text{ factors}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

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- It is *skew* (or *alternating*) when it changes sign whenever two of its arguments are interchanged

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 - Determinants and integration: Jacobian determinants in the change of variables theorem.
 - Cross products and the curl
 - Orientation or “handedness”

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- Let x^1, \dots, x^n denote coordinates on M , let
- $$\{e_1, \dots, e_n\} = \{\partial/\partial x^1, \dots, \partial/\partial x^n\}$$
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□ At each $m \in M$, we can write a 2-form as

$$\Omega_m(v, w) = \Omega_{ij}(m)v^i w^j,$$

where

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□ Similarly for k -forms.

Tensor and Wedge Products

- If α is a $(0, k)$ -tensor on a manifold M and β is a $(0, l)$ -tensor, their *tensor product* (sometimes called the *outer product*), $\alpha \otimes \beta$ is the $(0, k + l)$ -tensor on M defined by

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha \otimes \beta)_m(v_1, \dots, v_{k+l}) \\ = \alpha_m(v_1, \dots, v_k)\beta_m(v_{k+1}, \dots, v_{k+l})\end{aligned}$$

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- Outer product of two vectors is a *matrix*

Tensor and Wedge Products

□ If t is a $(0, p)$ -tensor, define the *alternation operator* \mathbf{A} acting on t by

$$\mathbf{A}(t)(v_1, \dots, v_p) = \frac{1}{p!} \sum_{\pi \in S_p} \text{sgn}(\pi) t(v_{\pi(1)}, \dots, v_{\pi(p)}),$$

where $\text{sgn}(\pi)$ is the *sign* of the permutation π ,

$$\text{sgn}(\pi) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } \pi \text{ is even ,} \\ -1 & \text{if } \pi \text{ is odd ,} \end{cases}$$

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- The operator \mathbf{A} therefore *skew-symmetrizes* p -multilinear maps.

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- If α is a k -form and β is an l -form on M , their *wedge product* $\alpha \wedge \beta$ is the $(k + l)$ -form on M defined by

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- If α is a 2-form and β is a 1-form,

$$\begin{aligned} & (\alpha \wedge \beta)(v_1, v_2, v_3) \\ &= \alpha(v_1, v_2)\beta(v_3) - \alpha(v_1, v_3)\beta(v_2) + \alpha(v_2, v_3)\beta(v_1). \end{aligned}$$

Tensor and Wedge Products

□ Wedge product properties:

(i) **Associative:** $\alpha \wedge (\beta \wedge \gamma) = (\alpha \wedge \beta) \wedge \gamma.$

(ii) **Bilinear:**

$$(a\alpha_1 + b\alpha_2) \wedge \beta = a(\alpha_1 \wedge \beta) + b(\alpha_2 \wedge \beta),$$

$$\alpha \wedge (c\beta_1 + d\beta_2) = c(\alpha \wedge \beta_1) + d(\alpha \wedge \beta_2).$$

(iii) **Anticommutative:** $\alpha \wedge \beta = (-1)^{kl} \beta \wedge \alpha,$ where α is a k -form and β is an l -form.

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□ **Coordinate Representation:** Use dual basis dx^i ; a k -form can be written

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

where the sum is over all i_j satisfying $i_1 < \dots < i_k$.

Pull-Back and Push-Forward

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- **Push-forward** (if φ is a diffeomorphism):
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- The pull-back of a wedge product is the wedge product of the pull-backs:

$$\varphi^*(\alpha \wedge \beta) = \varphi^*\alpha \wedge \varphi^*\beta.$$

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- **Product Rule-Like Property.** Let α be a k -form and β a 1-form on a manifold M . Then

$$\mathbf{i}_X(\alpha \wedge \beta) = (\mathbf{i}_X\alpha) \wedge \beta + (-1)^k \alpha \wedge (\mathbf{i}_X\beta).$$

or, in the hook notation,

$$X \lrcorner (\alpha \wedge \beta) = (X \lrcorner \alpha) \wedge \beta + (-1)^k \alpha \wedge (X \lrcorner \beta).$$

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○ \mathbf{d} is a *local operator*, that is, $\mathbf{d}\alpha(m)$ depends only on α restricted to any open neighborhood of m ; that is, if U is open in M , then

$$\mathbf{d}(\alpha|U) = (\mathbf{d}\alpha)|U.$$

Exterior Derivative

□ If α is a k -form given in coordinates by

$$\alpha = \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} \quad (\text{sum on } i_1 < \dots < i_k),$$

then the coordinate expression for the exterior derivative is

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

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□ This formula is easy to remember from the properties.

Exterior Derivative

□ Properties.

- Exterior differentiation commutes with pull-back, that is,

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- $\mathbf{d}^2 = 0 \Rightarrow$ an exact form is closed (but the converse need not hold—we recall the standard vector calculus example shortly)
- **Poincaré Lemma** A closed form is **locally exact**; that is, if $\mathbf{d}\alpha = 0$, there is a neighborhood about each point on which $\alpha = \mathbf{d}\beta$.

Vector Calculus

□ **Sharp and Flat** (Using standard coordinates in \mathbb{R}^3)

(a) $v^\flat = v^1 dx + v^2 dy + v^3 dz$, the one-form corresponding to the vector $v = v^1 \mathbf{e}_1 + v^2 \mathbf{e}_2 + v^3 \mathbf{e}_3$.

(b) $\alpha^\sharp = \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}_2 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{e}_3$, the vector corresponding to the one-form $\alpha = \alpha_1 dx + \alpha_2 dy + \alpha_3 dz$.

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□ **Hodge Star Operator**

(a) $*1 = dx \wedge dy \wedge dz$.

(b) $*dx = dy \wedge dz$, $*dy = -dx \wedge dz$, $*dz = dx \wedge dy$,
 $*(dy \wedge dz) = dx$, $*(dx \wedge dz) = -dy$, $*(dx \wedge dy) = dz$.

(c) $*(dx \wedge dy \wedge dz) = 1$.

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□ Cross Product and Dot Product

(a) $v \times w = [*(v^\flat \wedge w^\flat)]^\sharp$.

(b) $(v \cdot w) dx \wedge dy \wedge dz = v^\flat \wedge *(w^\flat)$.

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□ Gradient $\nabla f = \text{grad } f = (\mathbf{d}f)^\sharp.$

Vector Calculus

□ Gradient

$$\nabla f = \text{grad } f = (\mathbf{d}f)^\sharp.$$

□ Curl

$$\nabla \times F = \text{curl } F = [* (\mathbf{d}F^\flat)]^\sharp.$$

Vector Calculus

- **Gradient** $\nabla f = \text{grad } f = (\mathbf{d}f)^\sharp.$
- **Curl** $\nabla \times F = \text{curl } F = [*(\mathbf{d}F^\flat)]^\sharp.$
- **Divergence** $\nabla \cdot F = \text{div } F = *\mathbf{d}(*F^\flat).$

Lie Derivative

□ **Dynamic definition:** Let α be a k -form and X be a vector field with flow φ_t . The *Lie derivative* of α along X is

$$\mathcal{L}_X \alpha = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} [(\varphi_t^* \alpha) - \alpha] = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \varphi_t^* \alpha \right|_{t=0} .$$

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- Extend to non-zero values of t :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \varphi_t^* \alpha = \varphi_t^* \mathcal{L}_X \alpha.$$

- **Time-dependent** vector fields

$$\frac{d}{dt} \varphi_{t,s}^* \alpha = \varphi_{t,s}^* \mathcal{L}_X \alpha.$$

Lie Derivative

□ **Real Valued Functions.** The *Lie derivative of f along X* is the *directional derivative*

$$\mathcal{L}_X f = X[f] := \mathbf{d}f \cdot X. \quad (1)$$

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- The operator is a *derivation*; that is, the product rule holds.

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□ **Pull-back.** If Y is a vector field on a manifold N and $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$ is a diffeomorphism, the **pull-back** φ^*Y is a vector field on M defined by

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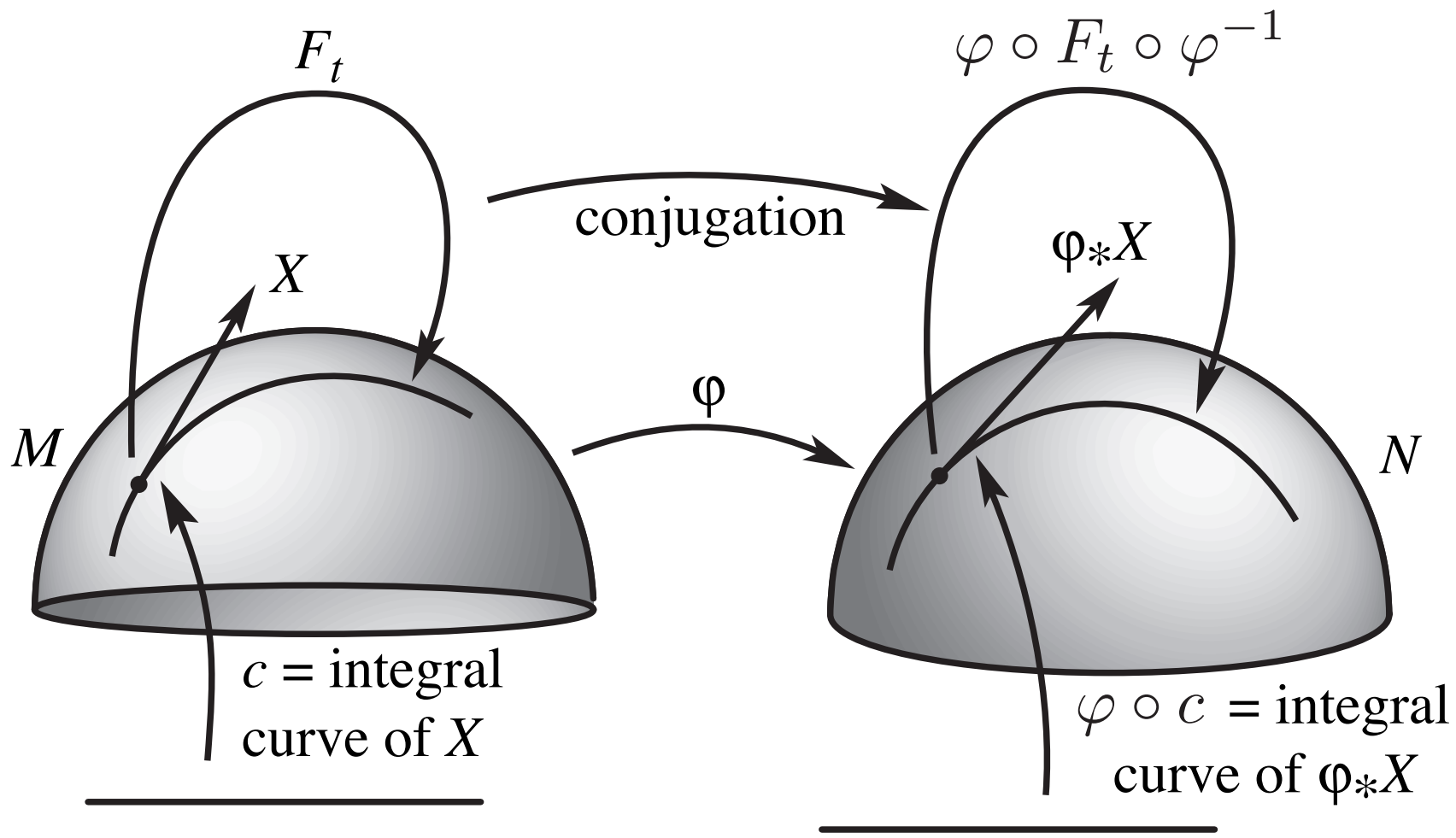
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- Flows of X and φ_*X related by conjugation.

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□ Coordinates:

$$(\mathcal{L}_X Y)^j = X^i \frac{\partial Y^j}{\partial x^i} - Y^i \frac{\partial X^j}{\partial x^i} = (X \cdot \nabla) Y^j - (Y \cdot \nabla) X^j,$$

Jacobi–Lie Bracket

- The formula for $[X, Y] = \mathcal{L}_X Y$ can be remembered by writing

$$\left[X^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}, Y^j \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} \right] = X^i \frac{\partial Y^j}{\partial x^i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} - Y^j \frac{\partial X^i}{\partial x^j} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}.$$

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- **Program:** Extend the definition of the Lie derivative from functions and vector fields to differential forms, by requiring that the Lie derivative be a derivation

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$$\mathcal{L}_X \langle \alpha, Y \rangle = \langle \mathcal{L}_X \alpha, Y \rangle + \langle \alpha, \mathcal{L}_X Y \rangle,$$

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□ More generally, determine $\mathcal{L}_X \alpha$ by

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{L}_X (\alpha(Y_1, \dots, Y_k)) \\ &= (\mathcal{L}_X \alpha)(Y_1, \dots, Y_k) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha(Y_1, \dots, \mathcal{L}_X Y_i, \dots, Y_k). \end{aligned}$$

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- The Lie derivative formalism holds for all tensors, not just differential forms.
- Very useful in all areas of mechanics: eg, the rate of strain tensor in elasticity is a Lie derivative and the vorticity advection equation in fluid dynamics are both Lie derivative equations.

Properties

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- Many other useful identities, such as

$$\mathbf{d}\Theta(X, Y) = X[\Theta(Y)] - Y[\Theta(X)] - \Theta([X, Y]).$$

Volume Forms and Divergence

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- **Oriented Basis.** A basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ of $T_m M$ is **positively oriented** relative to the volume form μ on M if $\mu(m)(v_1, \dots, v_n) > 0$.
- **Divergence.** If μ is a volume form, there is a function, called the **divergence** of X relative to μ and denoted by $\operatorname{div}_\mu(X)$ or simply $\operatorname{div}(X)$, such that

$$\mathcal{L}_X \mu = \operatorname{div}_\mu(X) \mu.$$

Volume Forms and Divergence

- Dynamic approach to Lie derivatives $\Rightarrow \operatorname{div}_\mu(X) = 0$ if and only if $F_t^* \mu = \mu$, where F_t is the flow of X (that is, F_t is *volume preserving*.)

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- Consequence: φ is volume preserving if and only if $J_\mu(\varphi) = 1$.

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- A vector subbundle (a regular distribution) $E \subset TM$ is *involutive* if for any two vector fields X, Y on M with values in E , the Jacobi–Lie bracket $[X, Y]$ is also a vector field with values in E .

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- **Frobenius theorem:** E is involutive if and only if it is integrable.

Stokes' Theorem

□ **Idea:** Integral of an n -form μ on an oriented n -manifold M : pick a covering by coordinate charts and sum up the ordinary integrals of $f(x^1, \dots, x^n) dx^1 \cdots dx^n$, where

$$\mu = f(x^1, \dots, x^n) dx^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx^n$$

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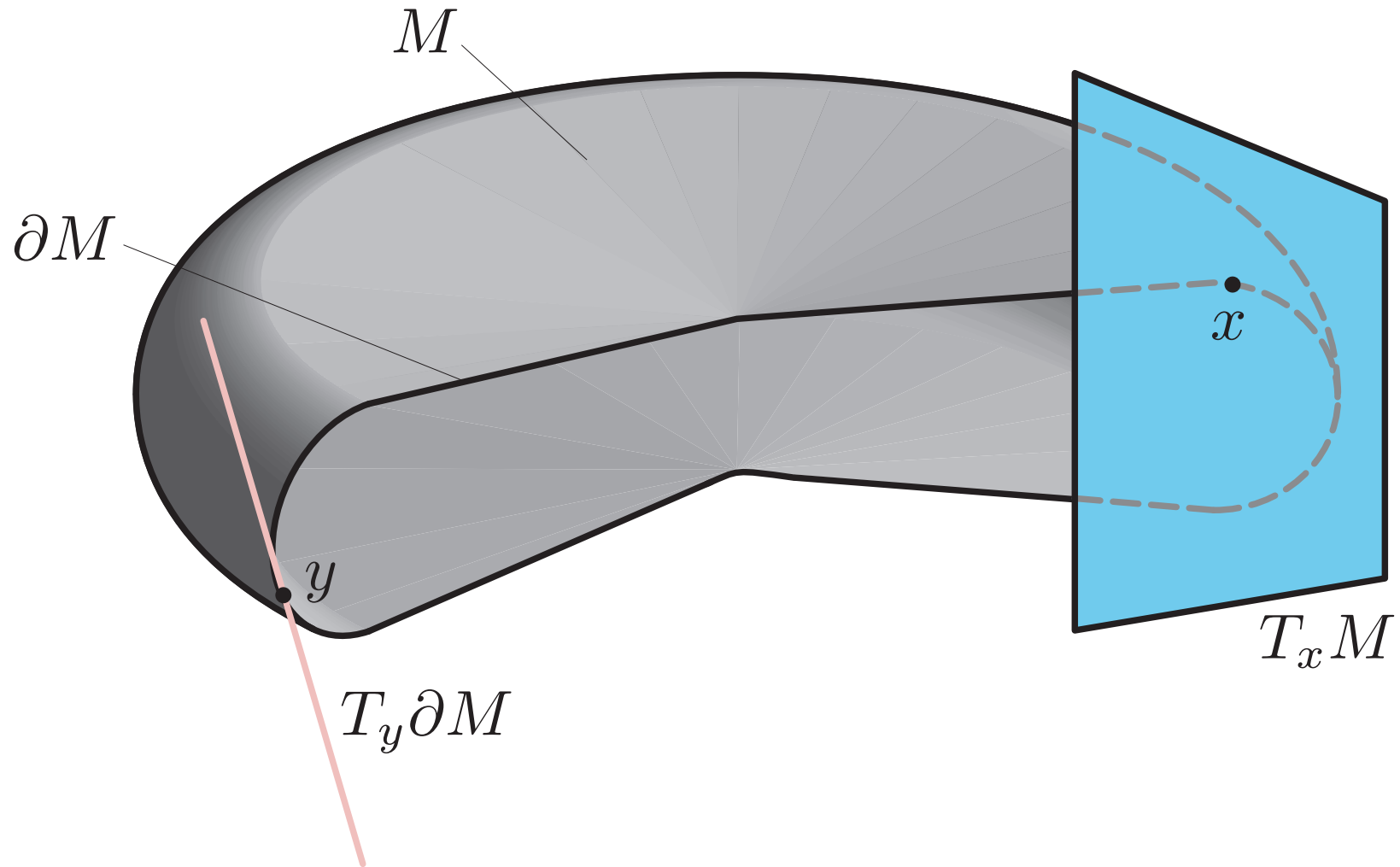
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- The change of variables formula guarantees that the result, denoted by $\int_M \mu$, is well-defined.
- **Oriented manifold with boundary:** the boundary, ∂M , inherits a compatible orientation: generalizes the relation between the orientation of a surface and its boundary in the classical Stokes' theorem in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Stokes' Theorem



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□ **Stokes' Theorem** Suppose that M is a compact, oriented k -dimensional manifold with boundary ∂M . Let α be a smooth $(k - 1)$ -form on M . Then

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- Special cases: The classical vector calculus theorems of Green, Gauss and Stokes.

Stokes' Theorem

(a) **Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.**

$$\int_a^b f'(x) dx = f(b) - f(a).$$

(b) **Green's Theorem.** For a region $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$,

$$\iint_{\Omega} \left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right) dx dy = \int_{\partial\Omega} P dx + Q dy.$$

(c) **Divergence Theorem.** For a region $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$,

$$\iiint_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{F} dV = \iint_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} dA.$$

Stokes' Theorem

(d) **Classical Stokes' Theorem.** For a surface $S \subset \mathbb{R}^3$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \iint_S \left\{ \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial Q}{\partial z} \right) dy \wedge dz \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial R}{\partial x} \right) dz \wedge dx + \left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right) dx \wedge dy \right\} \\ & = \iint_S \mathbf{n} \cdot \operatorname{curl} \mathbf{F} \, dA = \int_{\partial S} P \, dx + Q \, dy + R \, dz, \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{F} = (P, Q, R)$.

Stokes' Theorem

- **Poincaré lemma:** generalizes vector calculus theorems: if $\text{curl } \mathbf{F} = 0$, then $\mathbf{F} = \nabla f$, and if $\text{div } \mathbf{F} = 0$, then $\mathbf{F} = \nabla \times \mathbf{G}$.

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- Recall: *if α is closed, then locally α is exact; that is, if $d\alpha = 0$, then locally $\alpha = d\beta$ for some β .*

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- Recall: *if α is closed, then locally α is exact; that is, if $d\alpha = 0$, then locally $\alpha = d\beta$ for some β .*
- **Calculus Examples:** need not hold globally:

$$\alpha = \frac{xdy - ydx}{x^2 + y^2}$$

is closed (or as a vector field, has zero curl) but is not exact (not the gradient of any function on \mathbb{R}^2 minus the origin).

Change of Variables

- M and N oriented n -manifolds; $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$ an orientation-preserving diffeomorphism, α an n -form on N (with, say, compact support), then

$$\int_M \varphi^* \alpha = \int_N \alpha.$$

Identities for Vector Fields and Forms

- Vector fields on M with the bracket $[X, Y]$ form a *Lie algebra*; that is, $[X, Y]$ is real bilinear, skew-symmetric, and *Jacobi's identity* holds:

$$[[X, Y], Z] + [[Z, X], Y] + [[Y, Z], X] = 0.$$

Locally,

$$[X, Y] = (X \cdot \nabla)Y - (Y \cdot \nabla)X,$$

and on functions,

$$[X, Y][f] = X[Y[f]] - Y[X[f]].$$

- For diffeomorphisms φ and ψ ,

$$\varphi_*[X, Y] = [\varphi_*X, \varphi_*Y] \quad \text{and} \quad (\varphi \circ \psi)_*X = \varphi_*\psi_*X.$$

- $(\alpha \wedge \beta) \wedge \gamma = \alpha \wedge (\beta \wedge \gamma)$ and $\alpha \wedge \beta = (-1)^{kl}\beta \wedge \alpha$ for k - and l -forms α and β .

- For maps φ and ψ ,

$$\varphi^*(\alpha \wedge \beta) = \varphi^*\alpha \wedge \varphi^*\beta \quad \text{and} \quad (\varphi \circ \psi)^*\alpha = \psi^*\varphi^*\alpha.$$

Identities for Vector Fields and Forms

- \mathbf{d} is a real linear map on forms, $\mathbf{d}\mathbf{d}\alpha = 0$, and

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

for α a k -form.

- For α a k -form and X_0, \dots, X_k vector fields,

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{d}\alpha)(X_0, \dots, X_k) &= \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i X_i[\alpha(X_0, \dots, \hat{X}_i, \dots, X_k)] \\ &\quad + \sum_{0 \leq i < j \leq k} (-1)^{i+j} \alpha([X_i, X_j], X_0, \dots, \hat{X}_i, \dots, \hat{X}_j, \dots, X_k), \end{aligned}$$

where \hat{X}_i means that X_i is omitted. Locally,

$$\mathbf{d}\alpha(x)(v_0, \dots, v_k) = \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \mathbf{D}\alpha(x) \cdot v_i(v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_k).$$

- For a map φ ,

$$\varphi^* \mathbf{d}\alpha = \mathbf{d}\varphi^* \alpha.$$

Identities for Vector Fields and Forms

- **Poincaré Lemma.** If $\mathbf{d}\alpha = 0$, then the k -form α is locally exact; that is, there is a neighborhood U about each point on which $\alpha = \mathbf{d}\beta$. This statement is global on contractible manifolds or more generally if $H^k(M) = 0$.

- $\mathbf{i}_X\alpha$ is real bilinear in X , α , and for $h : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\mathbf{i}_{hX}\alpha = h\mathbf{i}_X\alpha = \mathbf{i}_Xh\alpha.$$

Also, $\mathbf{i}_X\mathbf{i}_X\alpha = 0$ and

$$\mathbf{i}_X(\alpha \wedge \beta) = \mathbf{i}_X\alpha \wedge \beta + (-1)^k\alpha \wedge \mathbf{i}_X\beta$$

for α a k -form.

- For a diffeomorphism φ ,

$$\varphi^*(\mathbf{i}_X\alpha) = \mathbf{i}_{\varphi^*X}(\varphi^*\alpha), \quad \text{i.e.,} \quad \varphi^*(X \lrcorner \alpha) = (\varphi^*X) \lrcorner (\varphi^*\alpha).$$

- If $f : M \rightarrow N$ is a mapping and Y is f -related to X , that is,

$$Tf \circ X = Y \circ f,$$

Identities for Vector Fields and Forms

then

$$\mathbf{i}_X f^* \alpha = f^* \mathbf{i}_Y \alpha; \quad \text{i.e.,} \quad X \lrcorner (f^* \alpha) = f^* (Y \lrcorner \alpha).$$

- $\mathcal{L}_X \alpha$ is real bilinear in X , α and

$$\mathcal{L}_X(\alpha \wedge \beta) = \mathcal{L}_X \alpha \wedge \beta + \alpha \wedge \mathcal{L}_X \beta.$$

- **Cartan's Magic Formula:**

$$\mathcal{L}_X \alpha = \mathbf{d} \mathbf{i}_X \alpha + \mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{d} \alpha = \mathbf{d}(X \lrcorner \alpha) + X \lrcorner \mathbf{d} \alpha.$$

- For a diffeomorphism φ ,

$$\varphi^* \mathcal{L}_X \alpha = \mathcal{L}_{\varphi^* X} \varphi^* \alpha.$$

If $f : M \rightarrow N$ is a mapping and Y is f -related to X , then

$$\mathcal{L}_Y f^* \alpha = f^* \mathcal{L}_X \alpha.$$

Identities for Vector Fields and Forms

- $(\mathcal{L}_X \alpha)(X_1, \dots, X_k) = X[\alpha(X_1, \dots, X_k)] - \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha(X_1, \dots, [X, X_i], \dots, X_k).$

Locally,

$$(\mathcal{L}_X \alpha)(x) \cdot (v_1, \dots, v_k) = (\mathbf{D}\alpha_x \cdot X(x))(v_1, \dots, v_k) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_x(v_1, \dots, \mathbf{D}X_x \cdot v_i, \dots, v_k).$$

- More identities:

- $\mathcal{L}_f X \alpha = f \mathcal{L}_X \alpha + \mathbf{d}f \wedge \mathbf{i}_X \alpha;$
- $\mathcal{L}_{[X,Y]} \alpha = \mathcal{L}_X \mathcal{L}_Y \alpha - \mathcal{L}_Y \mathcal{L}_X \alpha;$
- $\mathbf{i}_{[X,Y]} \alpha = \mathcal{L}_X \mathbf{i}_Y \alpha - \mathbf{i}_Y \mathcal{L}_X \alpha;$
- $\mathcal{L}_X \mathbf{d}\alpha = \mathbf{d}\mathcal{L}_X \alpha;$
- $\mathcal{L}_X \mathbf{i}_X \alpha = \mathbf{i}_X \mathcal{L}_X \alpha;$

Identities for Vector Fields and Forms

- $\mathcal{L}_X(\alpha \wedge \beta) = \mathcal{L}_X\alpha \wedge \beta + \alpha \wedge \mathcal{L}_X\beta.$

Identities for Vector Fields and Forms

- **Coordinate formulas:** for $X = X^l \partial / \partial x^l$, and

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

where $i_1 < \dots < i_k$:



$$d\alpha = \left(\frac{\partial \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_k}}{\partial x^l} \right) dx^l \wedge dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k},$$



$$\mathbf{i}_X \alpha = X^l \alpha_{li_2 \dots i_k} dx^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k},$$



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_X \alpha &= X^l \left(\frac{\partial \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_k}}{\partial x^l} \right) dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} \\ &+ \alpha_{li_2 \dots i_k} \left(\frac{\partial X^l}{\partial x^{i_1}} \right) dx^{i_1} \wedge dx^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} + \dots \end{aligned}$$