
 Exterior differential, Stokes Theorem

Exercise 1 (Warm-up). Compute $d\omega$, where ω is the following n -form on \mathbb{R}^{n+1} :

$$x \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i x_i dx^0 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx^{i-1} \wedge dx^{i+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge dx^n.$$

Exercise 2 (Angle form). Let α be the 1-form $(x, y) \mapsto \frac{xdy - ydx}{x^2 + y^2}$ on $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ and let $f : (r, \theta) \mapsto (r \cos(\theta), r \sin(\theta))$ from $\mathbb{R}_+^* \times \mathbb{R}$ to \mathbb{R}^2 .

1. Compute $d\alpha$.
2. Is $f^*(\alpha)$ a closed form? Is it exact?
3. Is α exact?

Hint: consider $i^*\alpha$ where $i : \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is the canonical injection and prove that if $i^*\alpha$ was exact, then it would vanish somewhere on \mathbb{S}^1 .

Exercise 3. Let ω be a volume form on a manifold M . Prove that around any point of M there exist local coordinates (x_1, \dots, x_n) such that $\omega = dx^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx^n$.

Exercise 4 (div, rot and all that kind of things). 1. Let $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ be an oriented Euclidean space of dimension 3. Let X be a vector field on E , then $\langle X, \cdot \rangle$ defines a 1-form. We define $\text{rot}(X)$ as the only vector field such that $\text{rot}(X) \lrcorner dV = d(\langle X, \cdot \rangle) \in \Omega^2(E)$. Compute the expression of $\text{rot}(X)$ in a direct orthonormal basis of E .

2. Let M be a smooth manifold equipped with a volume form ω . Let X be a vector field on M , we define $\text{div}(X)$ as the only function such that $d(X \lrcorner \omega) = \text{div}(X)\omega$. Compute the expression of $\text{div}(X)$ in local coordinates such that $\omega = dx^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx^n$.
3. Prove that $\text{div}(X) \equiv 0$ if and only if the flow of X is volume preserving.

Exercise 5 (Stokes formula). 1. Let M be a compact oriented manifold without boundary and let $\alpha \in \Omega^{n-1}(M)$, compute $\int_M d\alpha$.

2. Is it possible for a volume form on M to be exact?
3. Is it possible on an oriented manifold without boundary that is not compact?