

## ⊗ Assignment 4 solutions

### Exterior derivative

We defined  $d: \Omega^0(M) \rightarrow \Omega^1(M)$  (differential)  
:  $f \mapsto df: \mathcal{X}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^0(M)$   
:  $X \mapsto X(f)$

We wish to extend this definition to  $d: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$

Thm:  $\exists!$  collection of  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear maps, called the exterior derivative,  
 $d: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$  satisfying:

- 1) for  $f \in \Omega^0(M)$ ,  $df$  is the differential of  $f$
- 2) for  $w \in \Omega^k(M)$ ,  $\eta \in \Omega^l(M)$ ,  
 $d(w \wedge \eta) = dw \wedge \eta + (-1)^k w \wedge d\eta$
- 3)  $d^2 = 0 \Rightarrow d = 0$  by ~~Albert~~  
(~~Albert's Theorem~~).

allow for Stokes Theorem

$$\int_M dw = \int_{\partial M} w$$

Some intuition of  $d$ : (Assignment 7)

1) for  $w \in \Omega^k(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  
 $d_w p(V_1, \dots, V_{k+1}) = k+1$  coefficient in the Taylor expansion of  
 $F(t)$

defined  $F(t) := \int_{\partial V(t)} w$  where  $V(t)$  is the parallelepiped  
 with vertices  
 $p, p+tV_1, p+tV_2, \dots$

2) It shows up in Frobenius thm.

$\Delta$  is completely integrable iff  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} w \in \Omega^k(M) \\ \text{s.t. } w(x_1, \dots, x_k) = 0 \end{array} \right\}$  where  $x_1, \dots, x_k \in P(\Delta)$

is closed under  $d$

3) Generalizes notions in Vector Calculus,  
 such as gradient, divergence, curl, etc...

4)  $\exists!$  collection of linear maps  $d: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$

satisfying 1) for a function  $f$ ,  $df$  is the differential of  $f$ .

2)  $\forall f \in C^\infty(M), w \in \Omega^k(M),$

$$d(fw) = df \wedge w + f dw$$

3) for any  $f: M \rightarrow N,$

$$F^* \circ d = d \circ F^*$$

Def: An anti-derivation on a graded algebra  
 $A = \bigoplus_{k=0}^{\infty} A^k$  is an  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear map  $D: A \rightarrow A$

satisfying  $D(w \cdot t) = D(w) \cdot t + (-1)^k w \cdot D(t)$

for  $w \in A^k$ ,  $v \in A^l$ .

The antiderivation is of degree  $m$  if  $\deg(Dw) = \deg(w) + m$   
 $\forall w \in A^k$

Recall that  $\Omega^*(M)$  is the graded algebra  
of differential forms on  $M$ .

We defined  $d: \Omega^0(M) \rightarrow \Omega^1(M)$  (the differential)  
:  $f \mapsto df : X \mapsto X(f)$

In local coordinates,  $df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} dx^i$   
coordinate independent

Alternative definition of  $df$ :

Let  $f \in C^\infty(M)$ . Define  $df$  to be the 1-form s.t.  
on any chart,  $df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} dx^i$  on  $U$ . \*

This is well defined since if  $(U, \phi)$  and  $(V, \psi)$  are charts,

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} dx^i = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y^j} dy^j \quad \text{on } U \cap V.$$

So \* defines a global  
1-form on  $M$ .

Let's define exterior derivative on charts first:

Motivation:

We say  $w \in \Omega^1(M)$  is exact if  $w = df$  for some  $f \in \Omega^0(M)$ .

In assignment 6, we find a necessary condition:

$$\text{If } w \text{ is exact, then } \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x^i} - \frac{\partial w_i}{\partial x^j} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^i \partial x^j} - \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^j \partial x^i} = 0$$

on every chart.

$$\text{So } \left\{ \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x^i} - \frac{\partial w_i}{\partial x^j} = 0 \quad \text{on every chart} \right\} \quad (*)$$

We say  $w$  is closed if it satisfies  $(*)$ .

Proposition:  $w$  is closed iff  $\chi(w(y)) - \gamma(w(x)) = w([X, Y]) = 0$   
 $\forall X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ .

$\Rightarrow$  That the property  $(*)$  is coordinate independent.

(just let  $X = \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}$ ,  $Y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y^j}$ . Then left side is  $\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y^i} - \frac{\partial w_i}{\partial y^j}$ )

Remark:  $\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x^i} - \frac{\partial w_i}{\partial x^j}$  is not coordinate independent.

Exc

Since  $\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x^i} - \frac{\partial w_i}{\partial x^j}$  is antisymmetric, it can be interpreted as the  $ij^{\text{th}}$  component of a 2-form on  $U$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{On } U, \quad dw &:= \sum_{i < j} \left( \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x^i} - \frac{\partial w_i}{\partial x^j} \right) dx^i \wedge dx^j \\ &= \sum_{i,j} \left( \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x^i} dx^i \right) \wedge dx^j \\ &= dw_j \wedge dx^j \end{aligned}$$

Does this define a global 2-form on  $M$ ?

Lemma:  $dw_j \wedge dx^j$  is a coordinate independent expression:

Proof:

Method #1: by brute force.

Let  $(U, \phi = (x^1, \dots, x^n))$  and  $(V, \psi = (y^1, \dots, y^n))$  be 2 charts.

$$\text{Then on } U \cap V, \quad w = a_i dx^i = b_i dy^i$$

$$da_j \wedge dx^j = \dots = db_j \wedge dy^j$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial a_j}{\partial y^l} dy^l \right) \wedge \left( \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial y^m} dy^m \right) \dots \rightarrow \text{Exc}$$

Method #2: Let  $\eta : \mathfrak{X}(M) \times \mathfrak{X}(M) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$   
 $: (X, Y) \mapsto X(w(Y)) - Y(w(X)) - w([X, Y])$

It's easy to see that  $\eta$  is  $C^\infty$ -multilinear and alternating  
 and so it defines a smooth 2-form  $\eta \in \Omega^2(M)$  **Exc**

Notice that on  $U$ ,  $\eta = \sum_{i < j} \eta(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j}) dx^i \wedge dx^j$   
 $= \sum_{i < j} (\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x^i} - \frac{\partial w_i}{\partial x^j}) dx^i \wedge dx^j$   
 $= dw_j \wedge dx^j$   
 $= dw$

*Btw:*  
 for any k-form  $\alpha \in \Omega^k(M)$ ,  
 $\alpha = \sum_I \alpha_I dx^I$   
 $\int_I \alpha(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^I})$

On every chart,  $\eta = dw_j \wedge dx^j \Rightarrow$  The expression  
 is coordinate independent,  
 and so  $dw$  is well defined global 2-form and  $dw = \eta$

$\rightarrow$  gives us a global intrinsic formula for  $d: \Omega^1(M) \rightarrow \Omega^2(M)$

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

$$\Rightarrow w \text{ is closed iff } dw = 0 \Rightarrow d^2(f) = d(df) = 0 \Rightarrow d^2 = 0$$

Recall  $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ , let  $(U, \phi)$  be a chart,

$$X = \sum_i a^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} = X(x^i) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}$$

$$\hookrightarrow a^i = X(x^i)$$

Similarly  $w = a_I dx^I = w\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i_1}}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{i_k}}\right) dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$

Assignment 6, 5a

Method #3 (sneaky) (could be easily applied to  $\Omega^k(M)$ )

We defined  $d_w := da_i \wedge dx^j$  on  $U$ .

We find some properties of  $d: \Omega^1(U) \rightarrow \Omega^2(U)$ ,  
and then we show that  $\exists!$  operator  $d: \Omega^1(U) \rightarrow \Omega^2(U)$   
satisfying those properties.

$\Rightarrow \exists!$  2-form  $d_w$  satisfying those  
properties

Then defining  $d_w$  on charts to be  $d_w := da_i \wedge dx^i$   
defines a global 2-form  $d_w$  on  $M$ .



Def: Let  $w \in \Omega^k(M)$ . We define  $d_w \in \Omega^{k+1}(M)$  in  
the following way.

On a chart  $(U, \phi)$ , where  $w = a_I dx^I$ ,

$$d_w := da_I \wedge dx^I \quad \text{on } U.$$

$$\sum_{\substack{I = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \\ i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n}} d(a_{i_1, \dots, i_k}) \wedge dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$$

If  $k=0$ ,  $d$  is the differential on  $\Omega^0(M)$  defined earlier.

Lemma:  $d\omega$  is well defined.

Proof: Fix a chart  $(U, \phi)$ . We define  $d\omega$  on  $U$  to be  
$$d\omega = da_I \wedge dx^I$$

Then  $d: \Omega^k(U) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(U)$  satisfies the following properties:

1)  $d$  is an antiderivation of degree 0 on  $\Omega^*(U)$ .

$d$  is  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear and

$$d(\omega \wedge \eta) = d\omega \wedge \eta + (-1)^k \omega \wedge d\eta$$

$$\begin{aligned} d(a_I b_J dx^I \wedge dx^J) &= d(a_I b_J dx^{IJ}) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Leibniz rule} \\ \text{Leibniz rule} \end{array} \right\} \\ &= d(a_I b_J) \wedge dx^{IJ} \\ &= (da_I b_J + a_I db_J) \wedge dx^I \wedge dx^J \\ &= da_I \wedge dx^I \wedge (b_J dx^J) + a_I \underbrace{db_J \wedge dx^I \wedge dx^J}_{\text{Leibniz rule}} \\ &= d\omega \wedge \eta + (-1)^k a_I dx^I \wedge (db_J \wedge dx^J) \\ &= d\omega \wedge \eta + (-1)^k \omega \wedge d\eta \end{aligned}$$

2) for  $f \in \Omega^0(M)$ ,  $df$  is the differential of  $f$   
(by definition).

$$3) d^2 = 0$$



$$\begin{aligned}
d(dw) &= d(a_I \wedge dx^I) \\
&= \underbrace{d^2 a_I^0}_{=0} \wedge dx^I - a_I \wedge \underbrace{d(dx^I)}_{=0} \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{j-1} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \underbrace{d^2 x^{i_j}}_{\text{vanishes}} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

We claim that if  $D: \Omega^k(U) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(U)$  also satisfies the above properties, then  $D=d$

For  $w \in \Omega^k(U)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
Dw &= D(a_I dx^I) = D(a_I \wedge dx^I) \\
&= Da_I \wedge dx^I + a_I \cancel{D(dx^I)} \\
&= da_I \wedge dx^I + a_I \left( \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{j-1} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \underbrace{D dx^{i_j}}_{=0} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k} \right) \\
&= da_I \wedge dx^I \\
&= dw
\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow D=d$$

And so defining  $dw = da_I \wedge dx^I$  on charts defines a global  $k+1$  form  $dw \in \Omega^{k+1}(M)$

And so this defines  $d: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$

Corollary:  $\exists$  collection of  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear maps  
 $d: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$

Satisfying:

- 1)  $d$  is an antiderivation of degree 1
- 2)  $d: \Omega^0(M) \rightarrow \Omega^1(M)$  is the differential.
- 3)  $d^2 = 0$

Proof: Existence ✓

Uniqueness ✓?

$\rightarrow D: \Omega^k(U) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(U)$   
 satisfies (1)(2)(3)

Let  $D: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$  satisfying the above.

For  $w \in \Omega^k(M)$ , and  $(U, \phi)$  be a chart

nonsense  $\rightarrow$   ~~$D(w|_U) = dw|_U$~~   $\Rightarrow \underline{Dw = dw}$  on  $U$

$\rightarrow \underbrace{Dw|_U} = \underbrace{dw|_U}$   $\Rightarrow Dw = dw$

$(D-d)(w|_U) = 0$

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Lemma:  $D$  is a local operator.

(For any open  $U \subseteq M$ ,  $w \in \Omega^k(M)$ ,  
 $Dw|_U$  only depends on  $w|_U$ )

(any operator that is an antiderivation  
is a local operator.)

$$\text{Ex: } \frac{d}{dx} : C^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$$

Since  $\frac{df}{dx}|_U$  only depends on  $f|_U$

we can talk about  $\underbrace{\frac{d}{dx}|_U}_R : C^\infty(U) \rightarrow C^\infty(U)$   
 $\frac{d}{dx}$

Proof: It suffices to show that if  $w \in \Omega^k(M)$  s.t.  $w|_U = 0$ ,  
then  $Dw|_U = 0$  (for any  $U$ )

Let  $U \subseteq M$  be open. Let  $\rho$  be a bump function s.t.  $\text{supp}(\rho) \subseteq U$ ,  
let  $P \in U$   $\rho(P) = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \rho w &\equiv 0 \quad \text{and so} \quad 0 = D(\rho w) \\ &= \underline{D(\rho)} \wedge w + \underline{\rho} Dw \end{aligned}$$

by evaluating at  $P$ ,  $0 = Dw_P$

$$\Rightarrow Dw|_U = 0$$

□

Since  $D$  is a local operator, we can define

$$D|_U : \Omega^k(U) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(U)$$

$$: w \mapsto D|_U(w) := \cancel{D(\tilde{w})|_U} \quad \text{for any } \tilde{w} \in \Omega^k(M) \text{ that is an extension of } w.$$

Small mistake.  
where is it

Fix

$D|_U(w)$  defined by:  
for  $p \in U$ ,  $D|_U(w)_p = D\tilde{w}_p$  for any  $\tilde{w}$  that is an extension of  $w$  near  $p$ .

This is well defined since  $D$  is a local operator.

Verify  $D|_U : \Omega^k(U) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(U)$  satisfies ①②③

and so by uniqueness,  $D|_U = d$  on  $U$  (if  $U$  is a chart)

$\Rightarrow$  for any  $w \in \Omega^k(M)$  and  $\text{chart}(U, \phi)$ ,

$$dw|_U = D|_U(w|_U) = Dw|_U$$

$$\Rightarrow dw|_U = D_w|_U$$

$$\Rightarrow dw = Dw$$

$$\Rightarrow d = D$$

□

Thm: A fourth property:

Let  $F: N \rightarrow M$  be smooth maps

$$F^* \circ d = d \circ F^* \quad \text{on } \Omega^k(M)$$

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We found a global intrinsic formula for

$$d: \Omega^1(M) \rightarrow \Omega^2(M)$$

for  $w \in \Omega^1(M)$ ,

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

Thm: Global intrinsic formula for the exterior derivative  $d: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$ .  
( $k \geq 1$ )

Let  $w \in \Omega^k(M)$ . Then  $dw$  satisfies:

for  $X_0, \dots, X_n \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ ,

$$dw(X_0, \dots, X_n) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^{i-1} X_i \left( w(X_0, \dots, \hat{X}_i, \dots, X_n) \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{for } k=0 \\ dF(X) \\ = X(F) \end{aligned}$$

$$- \sum_{0 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq k} (-1)^{i_1} w([x_{i_1}, x_{i_2}], x_{i_3}, \dots, x_{i_{k-1}}, x_k)$$

Proof: Step 1: The right side:  $\mathbb{R}(M) \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(M)$   
is  $\mathbb{C}$ -multilinear and alternating

Step 2: (1) Define  $D: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$   
:  $w \mapsto \text{RHS}$   
→ and show it satisfies properties  
and by uniqueness, we are done.

(2) Let  $w \in \Omega^k(M)$ , let  $(U, \phi)$  be a chart.  
It suffices to show:

$$Dw\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^J}\right) = dw\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^J}\right) \text{ for any multiindex } J = \{j_1, \dots, j_{k+1}\} \text{ in } \nearrow \text{ order.}$$

Exc

## Post-lecture Practice Questions

- 1) do exercises above.
- 2) Problem 19.7
- 3) compute  $F^*(dw)$  and  $d(F^*w)$  :

a)  $M = \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $N = \mathbb{R}^3$ ,

$$F(x, y) = ((\cos y + 2) \cos x, (\cos y + 2) \sin x, \sin y)$$

$$w = y dz \wedge dx$$

b)  $M = \left\{ (a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid a^2 + b^2 < 1 \right\}$

$$N = \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$$

$$F(u, v) = (u, v, \sqrt{1 - u^2 - v^2})$$

$$w = \frac{1}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} (x dy \wedge dz + y dz \wedge dx + z dx \wedge dy)$$

- 4) Show that any antiderivation on  $\Omega^*(M)$  is a local operator.

5) Show that if  $D: \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k+1}(M)$  is a local operator, and  $U \subseteq M$  is open,

$$D|_U (w|_U) = D w|_U \quad \forall w \in \Omega^k(U)$$